

IN-PATIENT, OUTPATIENT AND OTHER HEALTH CARE ESTABLISHMENTS AS OF 31.12.2021

1. Health establishments and beds in health establishments

The number of health establishments for hospital aid as of 31.12.2021 was 341 with 54 491 beds. 319 of them were hospitals with 52 246 beds (Table 1). The number of health establishments for hospital aid has decreased by one, and the number of beds has increased by 275, or by 0.5% compared to the previous year.

The number of out-patient health establishments was 2 133 with 1 285 beds and other health establishments were 151 with 1 939 beds in them.

1. Health establishments as of 31.12.2021

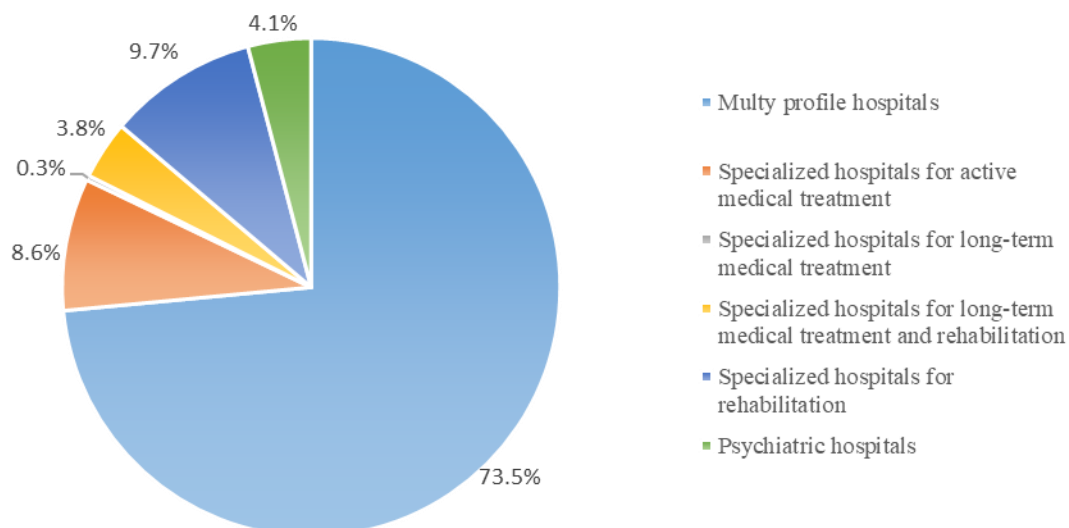
	Establishments	Beds
	(Number)	
Health establishments for hospital aid	341	54491
Hospitals	319	52246
Multi profile hospitals	182	38418
Specialized hospitals	137	13828
Dermato-venereological centres	3	30
Complex oncological centres	7	1193
Mental health centres	12	1022
Out-patient health establishments	2133	1285
Diagnostic and consulting centres	111	291
Medical centres	766	929
Dental centres	56	6
Medical-dental centres	53	59
Independent medical-diagnostical laboratories and medical-technical laboratories	1147	-
Other health establishments	151	1939
of which:		
Hospices	47	1325
Integrated care centres for children with disabilities and chronic illnesses	10	160

Health establishments for hospital aid include hospitals, dermato-venereological centres, mental health centres and complex oncological centres. According to the Law on Health establishments, hospitals are multi-profile and specialized. The number of **multi-profile hospitals** as of 31.12.2021 was 182 with 38 418 beds. These establishments represented 57.1% of all hospitals and in them are concentrated 73.5% of the total hospital beds in the country. The number of beds in these establishments varied on large scale - from 27 to 1 546. The largest is the share of multi-profile hospitals that at the end of the year has from 100 to 299 beds - 42.9%. In 35.2% from multi-profile hospitals there are up to 99 beds. 8.2% of this type of hospitals are with 500 and over beds.

The number of **specialized hospitals** as of 31.12.2021 was 137 with 13 828 beds in them. Their distribution by types was as follows:

- For active treatment - 74 with 4 487 beds;
- For long-term medical treatment - one with 145 beds;
- For long-term medical treatment and rehabilitation - 16 with 1 983 beds;
- For rehabilitation - 34 with 5 091 beds;
- Psychiatric hospitals - 12 with 2 122 beds.

Figure 1. Beds in hospitals as of 31.12.2021 by type of hospital



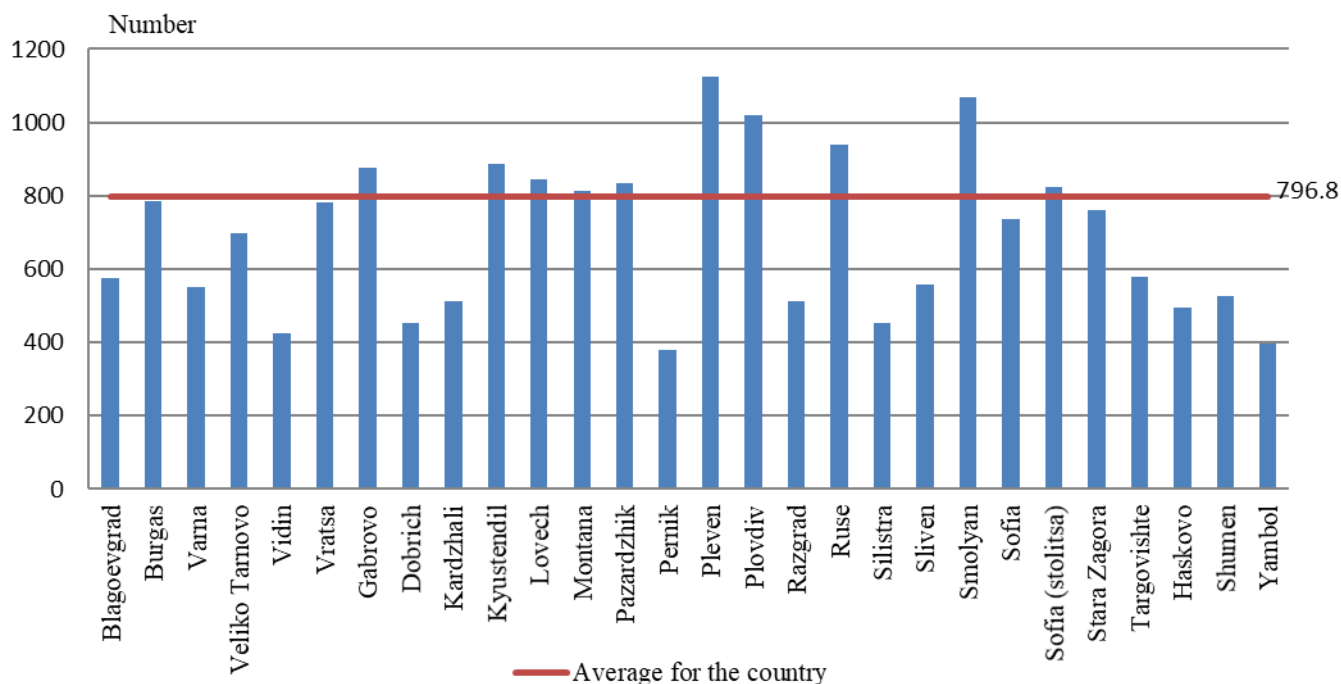
According to the methodological requirements and the applied harmonized definitions, the centres with stationaries are also referred to the health establishments for hospital aid. At the end of 2021, they were as follows:

- Dermato-venereological centres - 3 establishments with 30 beds;
- Complex oncological centres - 7 establishments with 1 193 beds;
- Mental health centres - 12 establishments with 1 022 beds.

The number of hospital beds at the end of 2021 was 796.8 per 100 000 persons of the total population and increased by 12.9 points (783.9) compared to the end of 2020 as was observed.

The highest values of that indicator were registered in districts Pleven (1 125.3 per 100 000 persons of the population) Smolyan (1 067.3) and Plovdiv (1 017.9) and the lowest - in Pernik (378.7), Yambol (395.2) and Vidin (425.1) (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Hospital beds per 100 000 persons of the total population as of 31.12.2021 by district



As of 31.12.2021, the number of **outpatient health establishments** was 2 133 with 1 285 beds for short-term treatment. In comparison with 2020, the number of these establishments has increased by 1.7%, and the number of beds has decreased by 0.8%.

The group of **other health establishments** covers Centres for emergency aid, Regional health inspections, Homes for medical and social care for children, Hospices, National centres without beds, Dialysis as well Haematological transfusion centres, Integrated care centres for children with disabilities and chronic illnesses and others. At the end of 2021, the number of these establishments was 151 with 1 939 beds in them, as the largest was the number of Hospices - 47 establishments with 1 325 beds. The total number of beds in other health establishments has increased slightly (by 0.2%) in comparison with 2020.

2. Medical personnel

At the end of 2021 29 604 physicians were in practice under the basic labour contracts in health establishments (Table 2). Dentists were 7 499, as 6 585 of them worked in practices that had signed a contract with National Health Insurance Fund. Medical specialists in 'Health cares' who worked on a basic labour contract in health establishments were 44 451. 28 816 of them were nurses and 3 264 - midwives.

- 17 179 physicians and 38 dentists practice in in-patient health establishments (hospitals and centres with stationaries). Medical specialists in 'Health cares' are 26 340, 18 352 of which are nurses.
- 10 255 physicians and 7 082 dentists work under basic labour contract in out-patient health establishments. This group covers all physicians (6 731) and dentists (6 585), which were working in individual or group practices under agreement with the National Health Insurance Fund. From other out-patient health establishments, the highest share was of physicians, working under a basic labour contract in medical centres (1 830) and Diagnostic and consulting centres (1 296).
- 2 170 physicians and 379 dentists were working in other health care establishments (incl. crèches and medical consulting rooms in the schools) under a basic labour contract as of 31.12.2021.

2. Medical personnel

	2020	2021	2020	2021
	In numbers		Per 10 000 persons of the population	
Physicians	29717	29604	43.0	43.3
Dentists	7312	7499	10.6	11.0
Medical specialists in 'Health cares'	44676	44451	64.6	65.0
Doctors' assistants	1919	1814	2.8	2.7
Midwives	3251	3264	4.7	4.8
Nurses	29160	28816	42.2	42.1
Laboratory assistants (medical and X-ray)	5909	5930	8.5	8.7
Dental mechanics	1573	1636	2.3	2.4
Other medical specialists	2864	2991	4.1	4.4
Population per one				
Physicians	233	231	x	x
Dentists	946	912	x	x

Practicing physicians by sex and age

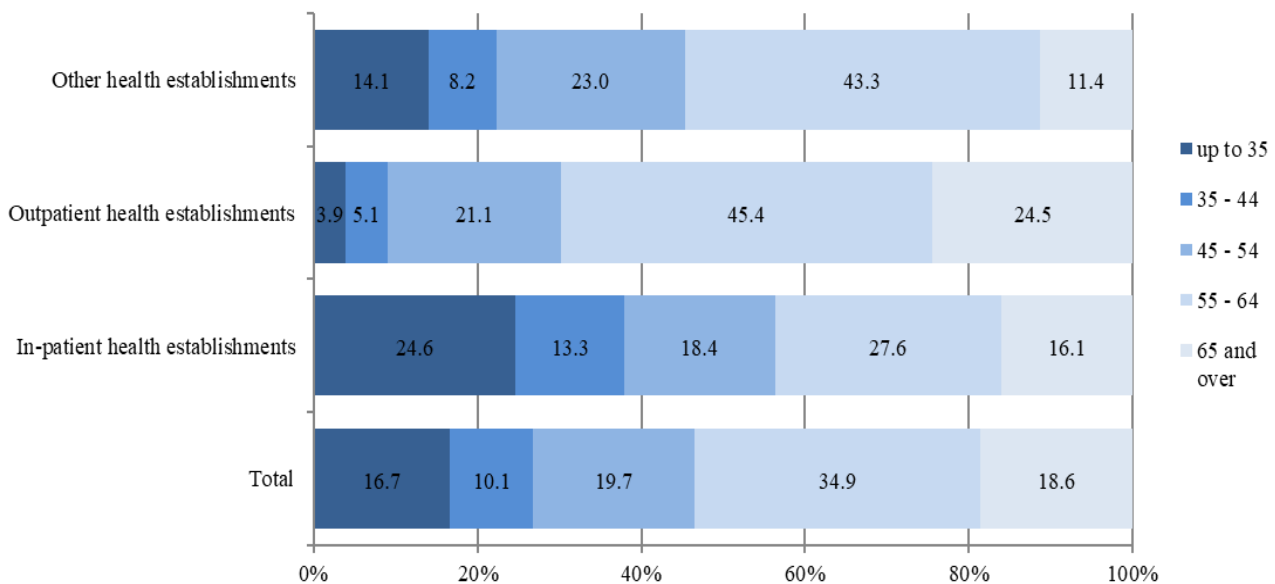
The distribution of practicing physicians by sex and age as of 31.12.2021 is as follows:

- 13 087 (44.2%) were males and 16 517 (55.8%) - females.
- The largest was the share of physicians in the age group 55 - 64 years - 10 338 persons or 34.9%.
- The young practicing physicians aged up to 35 years were 4 935 persons or 16.7%, while the elderly (aged 65 and over) - 5 521 or 18.6%.

3. Practicing physicians by sex and age as of 31.12.2021

Age (in complete years)	Total		Male		Female	
	In numbers	Structure - %	In numbers	Structure - %	In numbers	Structure - %
Total	29604	100.0	13087	100.0	16517	100.0
up to 35	4935	16.7	2121	16.2	2814	17.0
35 - 44	2982	10.1	1329	10.2	1653	10.0
45 - 54	5828	19.7	2696	20.6	3132	19.0
55 - 64	10338	34.9	4706	36.0	5632	34.1
65 and over	5521	18.6	2235	17.1	3286	19.9

Figure 3. Physicians practicing under a basic labour contract in health establishments by type of establishments and age as of 31.12.2021



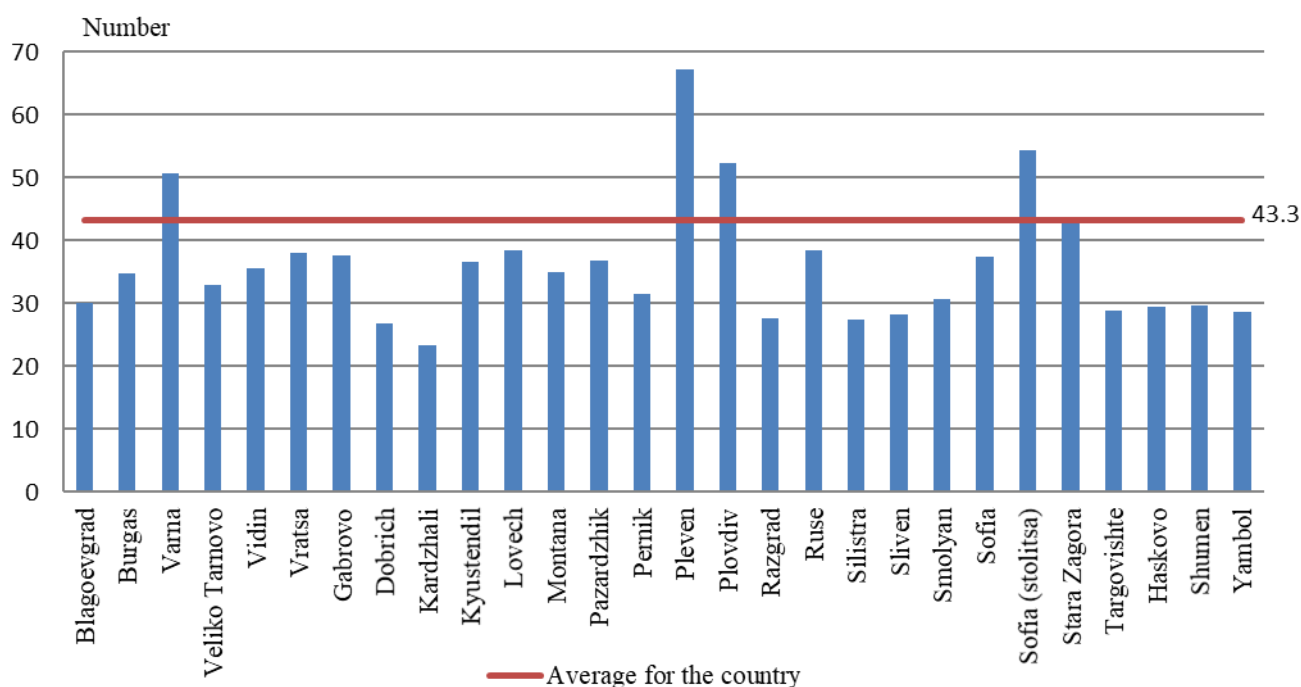
Practicing physicians by specialties

In the structure of physicians by specialties¹, the highest was the share of ‘General practitioners’ - 3 945 persons or 13.3% of all physicians practicing in the country, followed by specialists, practicing: ‘Cardiology’ - 6.2% ‘Obstetrics and Gynecology’ - 5.9%, ‘Anaesthesiology’ - 5.6%, ‘Surgery’ - 5.2%, and ‘Neurology’ - 4.9%. The number of physicians practicing ‘Pneumology’ was 596 (2.0%) and ‘Communicable diseases’ - 248 (0.8%).

Physicians and dentists per 10 000 persons of the population

The number of physicians per 10 000 persons of the total population at the end of 2021 was 43.3 and the number of dentists per 10 000 persons of the total population was 11.0. Compared to 2020, the indicator of physicians and dentists increased slightly (43.0 and 10.6 per 10 000 population).

Figure 4. Physicians per 10 000 persons of the total population as of 31.12.2021 by districts

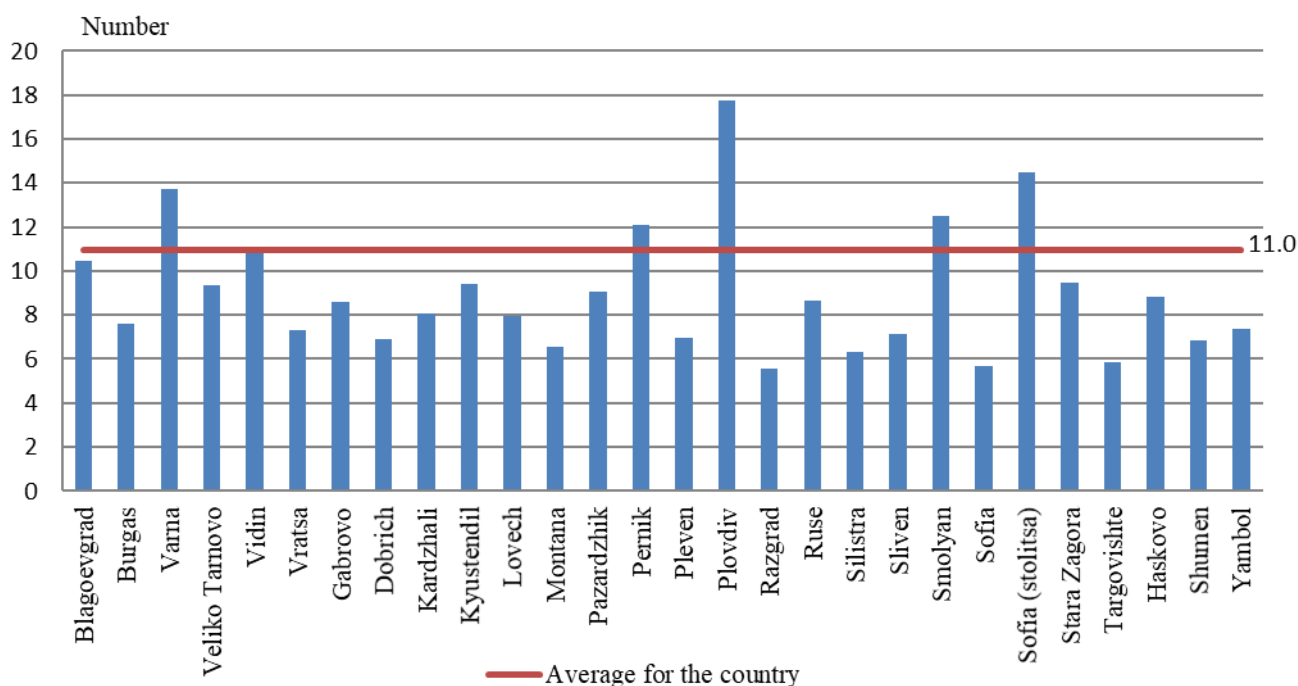


¹ The distribution of physicians by specialties is in accordance with their practicing specialty. The physicians in practices for specialized medical care are also included. The physicians practicing more than one specialty have been included in the total number but have been not distributed by specialties.

The number of physicians per 10 000 persons of the population¹ by districts varied from 23.4 to 67.3 per 10 000 as the highest values of that indicator were registered in districts with Medical universities and Universities' hospitals (Figure 4) - Pleven (67.3 per 10 000 persons of the population), Sofia (stolitsa) (54.5), Plovdiv (52.3) and Varna (50.7). The lowest values were registered for the districts: Kardzhali (23.4 per 10 000 persons of the total population), Dobrich (26.7) and Silistra (27.4).

The number of general practitioners per 10 000 persons of the total population was 5.8 and compared to 2020 remains unchanged. The highest values were registered in districts: Pleven (8.2 per 10 000 persons), Vidin (7.0) and Stara Zagora (6.8). The lowest values of the number of general practitioners per 10 000 persons of the total population were registered in districts: Kardzhali (3.2 per 10 000 persons of the total population), Targovishte (4.3) and Razgrad (4.4).

**Figure 5. Dentists per 10 000 persons of the total population
as of 31.12.2021 by districts**



The number of dentists per 10 000 persons of the total population² was 11.0. The highest values were registered in districts: Plovdiv (17.8 per 10 000 persons), Sofia (stolitsa) (14.5), Varna (13.7) and Smolyan (12.5). The lowest values of the number of general practitioners per 10 000 persons of the total population were registered in districts: Razgrad (5.6) Sofia (5.7), Targovishte (5.8) and Silistra (6.3 per 10 000 persons of the total population) (Figure 5).

¹ The indicator for the country is calculated by taking into account the total number of physician practitioners working in individual or group practices under a contract with the National Health Insurance Fund in more than one district.

² The indicator for the country is calculated by taking into account the total number of dentists practitioners working in individual or group practices under a contract with the National Health Insurance Fund in more than one district.

Methodological notes

The statistical survey on in-patient, out-patient and other health establishments provides data on health network by type of health establishments, their regional distribution as well as on medical personnel by specialties and categories. The survey methodology is in accordance with the Eurostat methodological guidelines for practicing medical specialists.

Data are presented according to the status at 31.12. of the year. Data on hospital beds include all de facto operating hospital beds as well as hospital beds temporary out of use for a period of less than six months. Hospital beds for temporary use are excluded.

When analyzing the health network data the following has to be taken into account: the number of health establishments and hospital beds has changed not only as a result of the opening or closure of establishments but also because of the reorganization or merging of establishments.

When analyzing medical service by districts, some specific particularities in medical servicing have to be taken into consideration. The health establishments are not directly connected to the servicing of the population of a given settlement or even of a municipality. A great part of health establishments serve the population of a given region or a group of municipalities, and the specialized health care establishments service the population of 2 or 3 regions. The establishments under central administration, regardless of their location, serve the population of the whole country.

The number of medical personnel (individuals working under basic labour contract) includes persons, practicing at healthcare establishments regardless of their ownership and subordination. Data on medical specialists working outside of the country, as well as on medical specialists practicing outside of the health establishments (for example, doctors working for the pharmaceutical industry) are excluded.

Since 2010, there is a break in time series with respect to the territorial distribution of physicians and dentists as well as the distribution of physicians by specialties. Medical specialists working in practices under a contract with the NHIF, which served the population in more than one district, respectively municipality has been included in the total number for the country (district) but not distributed by districts (municipalities).

The distribution of the physicians by specialties is based on the national nomenclature in accordance with the Ordinance № 1 of 22 January 2015 of the Ministry of Health (amended and supplemented, State Gazette No. 96 of 19 November 2021) and it is according to their practicing specialty. Since 2010, physicians working in specialized practices under a contract with the NHIF are allocated to the specialty they are practice. Those who practice more than one specialty are included in the total number of physicians but not distributed by specialty.

The indicators per 10 000 of the population are calculated based on data on the total population as of the end of the year.

Data on health network are elaborated at the national, district and municipality levels, while on practicing medical specialists by specialties - for national and district level.

Additional statistical information and data from the survey 'In-patient, out-patient and other health care establishments' are available in Information System Infostat.

(https://infostat.nsi.bg/infostat/pages/module.jsf?x_2=58) as well as on the NSI's website (www.nsi.bg), section 'Health'.