



IN-PATIENT, OUT-PATIENT AND OTHER HEALTH CARE ESTABLISHMENTS AS OF 31.12.2023

1. Health establishments and beds in health establishments

The number of health establishments for hospital aid as of 31.12.2023 was 341 with 55 724 beds as the number of establishments has not changed, and the number of beds has increased by 1 017, or by 1.9% compared to the previous year.

The number of hospitals was 319 with 53 472 beds as for 203 of them the type of ownership is public and for 116 - private. The distribution of hospitals by form of ownership has remained relatively constant in recent years. However, there is an increase in the beds in privately-owned establishments and as of December 31, 2023, 29.6% of the beds are in such hospitals.

Table 1. Health establishments as of 31.12.2023

Types of health establishments	(Number)	
	Establishments	Beds
Health establishments for hospital aid	341	55724
Hospitals	319	53472
Multi-profile hospitals	181	39168
Specialized hospitals	138	14304
Dermato-venereological centres	3	30
Complex oncological centres	7	1203
Mental health centres	12	1019
Out-patient health establishments	2237	1307
Diagnostic and consulting centres	113	293
Medical centres	834	922
Dental centres	67	9
Medical-dental centres	67	83
Independent medical-diagnostical laboratories and medical-technical laboratories	1156	-
Other health establishments	149	1742
of which:		
Hospices	45	1252
Integrated care centres for children with disabilities and chronic illnesses	10	70

The number of **multi-profile hospitals** was 181 with 39 168 beds. These establishments represented 56.7% of all hospitals, and in them were concentrated 73.2% of the total hospital beds in the country.

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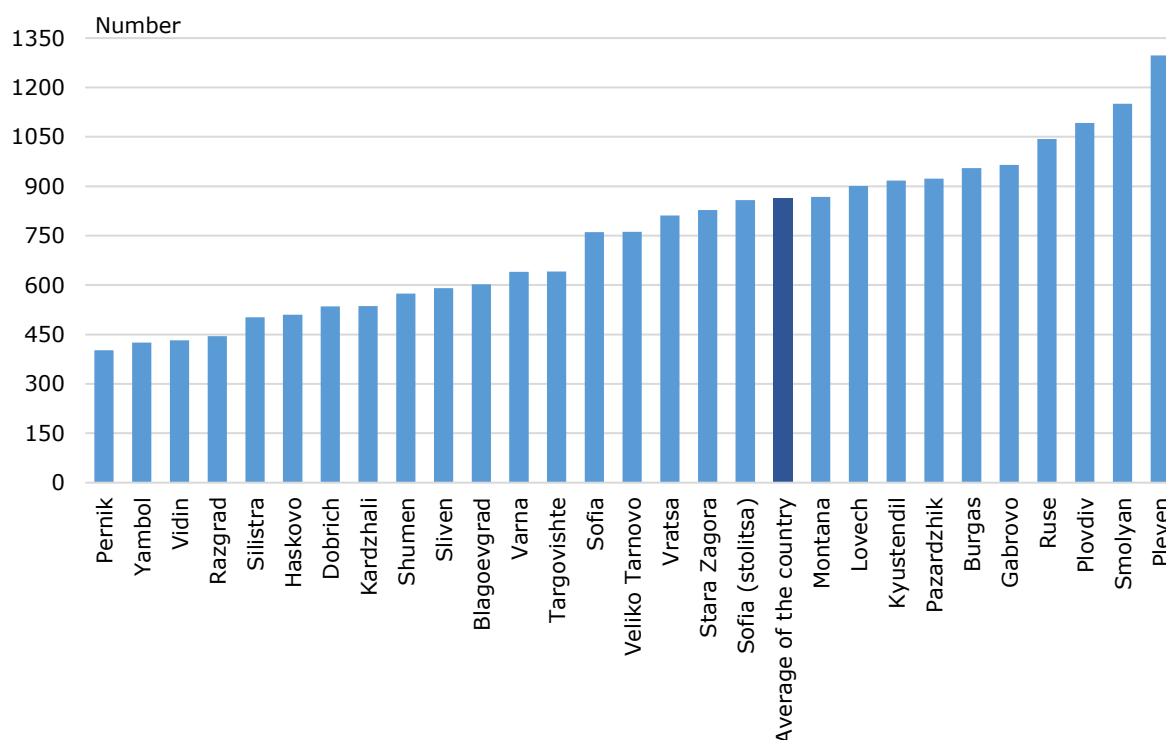
The number of **specialized hospitals** was 138 with 14 304 beds in them. Their distribution by type was as follows:

- For active treatment - 71 with 4 419 beds;
- For long-term medical treatment - one with 145 beds;
- For long-term medical treatment and rehabilitation - 18 with 2 161 beds;
- For rehabilitation - 36 with 5 497 beds;
- Psychiatric hospitals - 12 with 2 082 beds.

The number of hospital beds at the end of 2023 was 864.5 per 100 000 persons of the total population.

The highest values of that indicator were registered in districts Pleven (1 297.0 per 100 000 persons of the population), Smolyan (1 150.8) and Plovdiv (1 092.0), and the lowest - in Pernik (402.6), Yambol (425.1) and Vidin (431.9) (See Figure 1).

Figure 1. Hospital beds per 100 000 persons of the total population as of 31.12.2023 by district



As of 31.12.2023, the number of **out-patient health establishments** was 2 237 with 1 307 beds for short-term treatment.

Among **out-patient health establishments** with activities in clinical medicine, the largest number is the medical centers - 834 establishments with 922 beds, followed by diagnostic-

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consultation centers - 113 with 293 beds. There are 67 dental centers with 9 beds, and medical-dental centers - 67 with 83 beds.

At the end of 2023, the number of **other health establishments** was 149 with 1 742 beds in them.

2. Medical personnel

At the end of 2023, 29 911 physicians were in practice under a basic labour contract in health establishments (See Table 2). Dentists were 7 607, as 6 583 of them worked in practices that had signed a contract with National Health Insurance Fund. Health care professionals and other medical specialists who worked on a basic labour contract in health establishments were 44 523. 28 570 of them were nurses and 3 253 - midwives.

Table 2. Medical personnel

Medical personnel	2022	2023	2022	2023
	Number		Per 10 000 persons of the population	
Physicians	29599	29911	45.9	46.4
Dentists	7602	7607	11.8	11.8
Health care professionals and other medical specialists	44493	44523	69.0	69.1
Doctors' assistants	1733	1717	2.7	2.7
Midwives	3285	3253	5.1	5.0
Nurses	28827	28570	44.7	44.3
Laboratory assistants (medical and X-ray)	5933	6066	9.2	9.4
Dental mechanics	1628	1679	2.5	2.6
Other professionals and medical specialists	3087	3238	4.8	5.0
Population per one				
Physicians	218	215	x	x
Dentists	848	847	x	x

- 17 825 physicians and 37 dentists practice in in-patient health establishments (hospitals and centres with stationaries). The health care professionals and other medical specialists were 25 928, 17 977 of which were nurses.
- 10 033 physicians and 7 183 dentists work under basic labour contract in out-patient health establishments. This group covers all physicians (6 554) and dentists (6 583), which were working in individual or group practices under agreement with the National Health Insurance Fund. The health care professionals and other medical specialists were 6 948, with 55 of them working on a main contract in outpatient establishments for individual and group healthcare.
- 2 053 physicians and 387 dentists were working in other health care establishments (incl. crèches and medical consulting rooms in the schools) under a basic labour contract.

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Practicing physicians by sex and age

The distribution of practicing physicians by sex and age as of 31.12.2023 is as follow - 13 260 (44.3%) were males and 16 651 (55.7%) females.

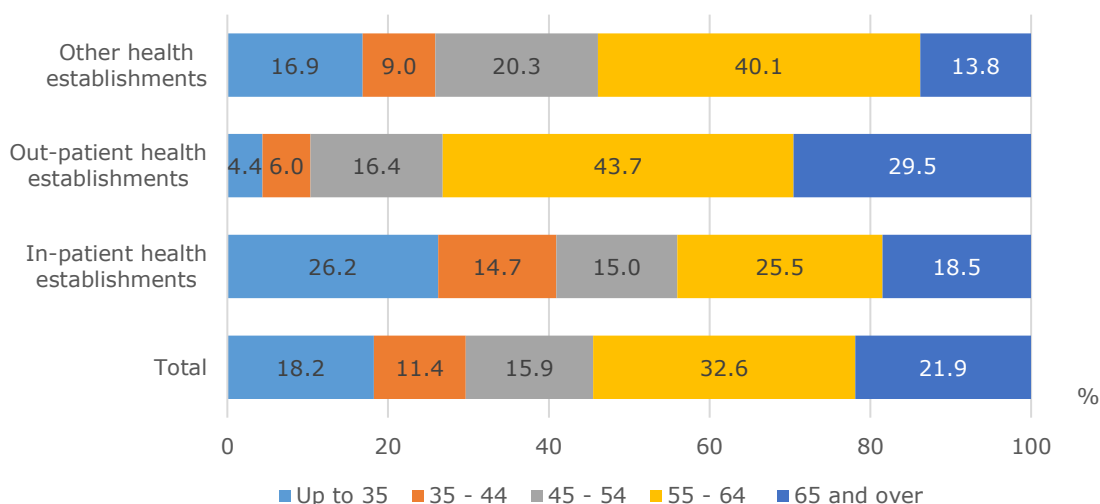
In the structure of physicians by age, the highest number and share of physicians is in the age group 55 - 64 years - 9 755 persons, or 32.6%. At second place, is the group of elderly (aged 65 and over) - 6 545, or 21.9%. The young practicing physicians, aged up to 35 years, were 5 457 persons, or 18.2% (See Table 3).

Table 3. Practicing physicians by sex and age as of 31.12.2023

Age (in complete years)	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	Structure - %	Number	Structure - %	Number	Structure - %
Total	29911	100.0	13260	100.0	16651	100.0
Up to 35	5457	18.2	2384	18.0	3073	18.4
35 - 44	3412	11.4	1562	11.8	1850	11.1
45 - 54	4742	15.9	2064	15.5	2678	16.1
55 - 64	9755	32.6	4615	34.8	5140	30.9
65 and over	6545	21.9	2635	19.9	3910	23.5

The distribution of practicing physicians by age groups and types of establishments (See Figure 2) shows that the largest share of young doctors practicing under a basic labour contract is in health establishments for hospital aid (26.2%), and the smallest - in out-patient health establishments (4.4%). More than two-thirds of the physicians practicing under a basic labour contract in out-patient health establishments are over 55 years old (73.2%).

Figure 2. Physicians practicing under a basic labour contract in health establishments by type of establishments and age as of 31.12.2023



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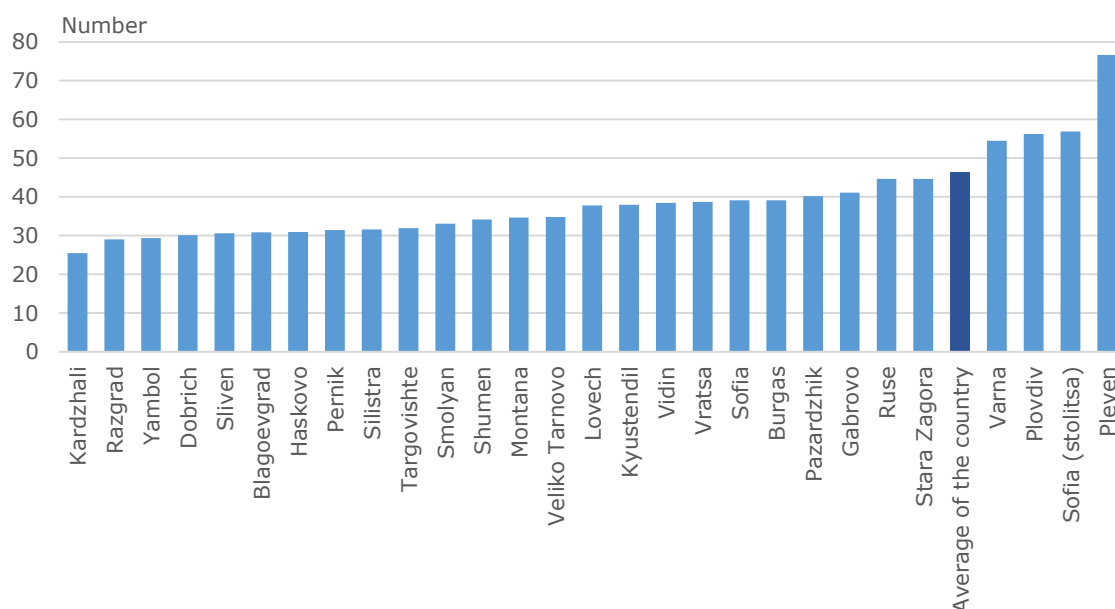
Practicing physicians by specialties

In the structure of physicians by specialties¹, the highest was the share of 'General practitioners' - 3 790 persons, or 12.7% of all physicians practicing in the country, followed by specialists, practicing: 'Cardiology' - 6.4%, 'Obstetrics and Gynecology' - 5.9%, 'Anesthesiology' - 5.8%, 'Surgery' - 5.0%, 'Pediatrics' - 4.8%, and 'Neurology' - 4.7%.

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 2023 was 46.4 and the number of dentists per 10 000 persons of the total population was 11.8.

**Figure 3. Physicians per 10 000 persons of the total population as of 31.12.2023
by districts**



The number of physicians per 10 000 persons of the population² by districts varied from 25.5 to 76.7 per 10 000 as the highest values of that indicator were registered in districts with Medical universities and Universities' hospitals (See Figure 3) - Pleven (76.7 per 10 000 persons of the population), Sofia (stolitsa) (56.9), Plovdiv (56.3) and Varna (54.5). The lowest values were registered for the districts: Kardzhali (25.5 per 10 000 persons of the total population), Razgrad (29.0), Yambol (29.3) and Dobrich (30.1).

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 has been included in the total number but has been not distributed by specialties.

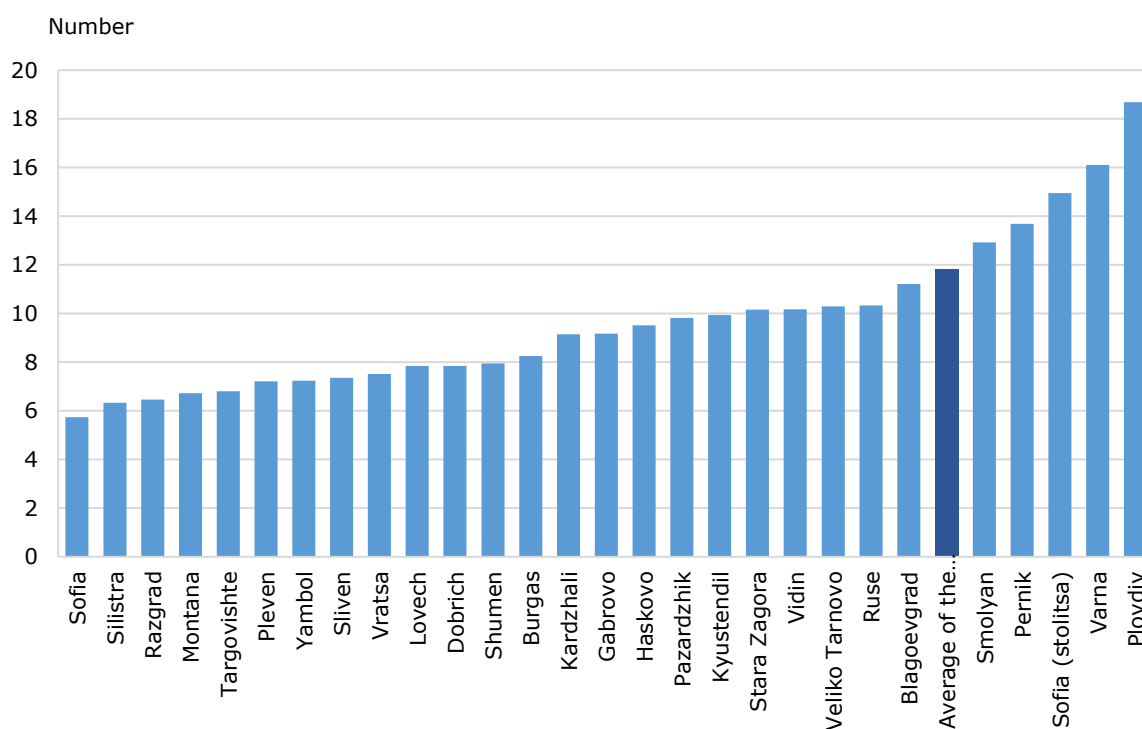
² The indicator for the country is calculated by taking into account the total number of physicians practitioners working in individual or group practices under a contract with the National Health Insurance Fund in more than one district.

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The number of dentists per 10 000 persons of the total population¹ was 11.8.

The highest values were registered in districts: Plovdiv (18.7 per 10 000 persons), Varna (16.1), Sofia (stolitisa) (14.9) and Pernik (13.7). The lowest values of the number of general practitioners per 10 000 persons of the total population were registered in districts: Sofia (5.7), Silistra (6.3), Razgrad (6.5), and Montana (6.7 per 10 000 persons of the total population) (See Figure 4).

Figure 4. Dentists per 10 000 persons of the total population as of 31.12.2023 by districts



¹ 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. It is carried out in accordance with the Regulation (EU) 2022/2294 of the Commission as regards statistics on healthcare facilities, healthcare human resources and healthcare utilisation, in strict compliance with the definitions laid down in the regulatory document.

Data are presented according to the status as of 31st of December 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 less than six months. Hospital beds for temporary use are excluded.

The place for short stay is specifically defined in the regulations for the structure, activity and internal order of the Health establishments for hospital aid, a separated and designated area/territory/space in a clinic/ward with or without beds for patient accommodation, specially equipped with the necessary household and technical equipment for carrying out certain medical activities of diagnosis and treatment, which require a stay of the patient no longer than 12 hours.

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 on medical servicing have to be taken into consideration. The health establishments are not directly connected to the servicing of 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 from 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.

In the territorial distribution of the medical specialists working in practices under a contract with the NHIF, which served the population in more than one district, respectively

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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. 51 of 13 June 2023) and it is according to their practicing specialty. Those who are working in practices under a contract with the NHIF practicing more than one specialty are included in the total number of physicians but not distributed by specialty.

The indicators per 10 000 and 100 000 of the population are calculated based on data on total population as of the end of the year.

The population estimate as of 31 December 2022 reflects the changes in population numbers and structure recorded in the Census 2021. In this regard, there is a break in the time series for all coefficients for 2022. 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'.