

STATISTICS ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK

Legal basis

The regulation of the statistical activities in respect to the statistics on public health and health and safety at work has two aspects:

1. Legal regulation as a result of the Community legislation concerning statistics on public health. This includes Regulation (EC) N 1338/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on public health and health and safety at work and the engagement and the agreement of EU-countries to apply the general conditions in respect to the public health statistics domains.
2. National legislation, which applies the Community legislation as well as the developed methodologies and guidelines on practical implementation of the Regulations. The Bulgarian National Statistical Programme includes surveys carried out by NSI as well as by the other Bodies of Statistics.

Organization of statistical activities in the field of statistics on public health

The statistical activity in the field of public health is performed by the National Statistical Institute and the "National Health Care Data and e-Health" Directorate of National Center for Public Health and Analyses (NCPHA) at the Ministry of health which are Bodies of Statistics. The activity is performed through conducting statistical surveys by the two administrations as well as by their regional offices – RSO and "Medical Activities" Directorates of Regional Health Inspections. The activity is in accordance with the Law on Statistics, Law on Health, National Statistical Programme and Ordinance No 1/27.02.2013 of the Minister of Health on providing of medico-statistical information and information on health establishments' medical activities. Through the system of statistical surveys that are included in the National Statistical Programme and carried out by the NSI and NCPHA, annually statistical information on health network by type of health establishments is provided. Statistical surveys carried out by the NCPHA provide information on medical activities of health establishments, utilization of beds, surgical operations, dispensary attendance in specialized health establishments etc. The combined usage of data provided by the both institutions, Bodies of Statistics, gives an opportunity for a general description of the system of public health as well as the activity of health establishments in accordance with the legal basis.

Health Interview Survey

The survey is a part of the European Health Survey System in the framework of the European Statistical System. The survey has been carried out every five year. The EHIS aims at measuring on a harmonised basis and with a high degree of comparability among EU Member States, the health status, life style (health determinants) and health care services use of the EU citizens. Data collection method is "face to face" PAPI interview.

The first EHIS based on a harmonized instrument in accordance with the Eurostat requirements was carried out by NSI in 2008 and the second wave of the survey – in 2014. In 2019, all Member States participated in the EHIS wave 3 in accordance with the Commission Regulation

(EU) No. 2018/255, as the BNSI carried out the survey in the period October 2019 - January 2020.

According to the character of the questions, the reference period is two or four weeks, six or twelve months, weekdays or weekend.

The topics included in the questionnaire are developed in order to meet main needs as for the management of health care systems, as well as in science. Within these needs, EHIS questions are aimed at meeting the basic needs of information at EU level. They do not cover all detailed aspects of health, which can better be carried out via specific surveys at national level.

The questionnaire consists of four modules.

- Health status;
- Health care;
- Health determinants (life style);
- Background module.

It should be keep in mind that in order to reduce the respondents' burden, the questionnaire for the three waves of the survey was changed. Therefore, when using and comparing the data from the three surveys, it should be keep in mind that for some of the indicators comparability is not complete and in some cases does not exist.

The questionnaire consists of three parts - Households part, Face to face part and Self-complete part. In the self-complete part, the questions for smoking and alcohol use are included. The reason for this is the sensitivity of these questions and with aim to reduce the share of refusals.

In accordance with the methodological recommendations, proxy interview is allowed only due to health problems of the respondent. There are two possibilities: either the respondent is unable to complete the interview due to physical or mental problems or when the person is hospitalized.

Sample selection

A two stage stratified cluster sample on national and regional level is used. The sample is stratified by using the administrative regions in the country and persons' place of residence (town, village). As a result of the stratification, 56 strata are designed. At the first stage clusters are selected with a probability proportional to their size, separately for 28 districts and for urban and village population. At the second stage, through a systematic selection households are identified. All persons aged 15 and over in selected households are interviewed.

EHIS is data source for calculation of main indicators in respect to health status of population – self-perceived health, prevalence of chronic illnesses, use of medical services, use of medicines, use of preventive care, Body mass index, smoking and consumption of alcohol.

Publicity

More health information can be found in the annual publication 'Health services', issued by NSI and the National Centre for Public Health and Analysis at the Ministry of Health. The data sources are the statistical surveys carried out by the both institutions. Main methodological explanations are also included.

Health data are included in "Statistical Reference Book" (preliminary data) as well as in "Statistical yearbook" (final data).

Main health indicators are disseminated via press releases on the NSI's website. Data are disseminated on request to users following the established in NSI rules.

Data users on health information are the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Government and other public administration bodies, National Health Insurance Fund as well as European and international organizations - Eurostat, World Health Organization, OECD, UNESCO, UNICEF etc.

The methodology of health care statistics is presented on the NSI website (www.nsi.bg), as well as basic data tables.