

IN-PATIENT, OUT-PATIENT AND OTHER HEALTH CARE ESTABLISHMENTS AS OF 31.12.2020

1. Health establishments and beds in health establishments

The number of health establishments for hospital aid as of 31.12.2020 was 342 with 54 216 beds. 320 of them were hospitals with 51 991 beds (Table 1). The number of health establishments for hospital aid has increased by one, and the number of beds by 219, or by 0.4% compared to the previous year.

The number of out-patient health establishments was 2 098 with 1 296 beds and other health establishments were 149 with 1 935 beds in them.

1. Health establishments as of 31.12.2020

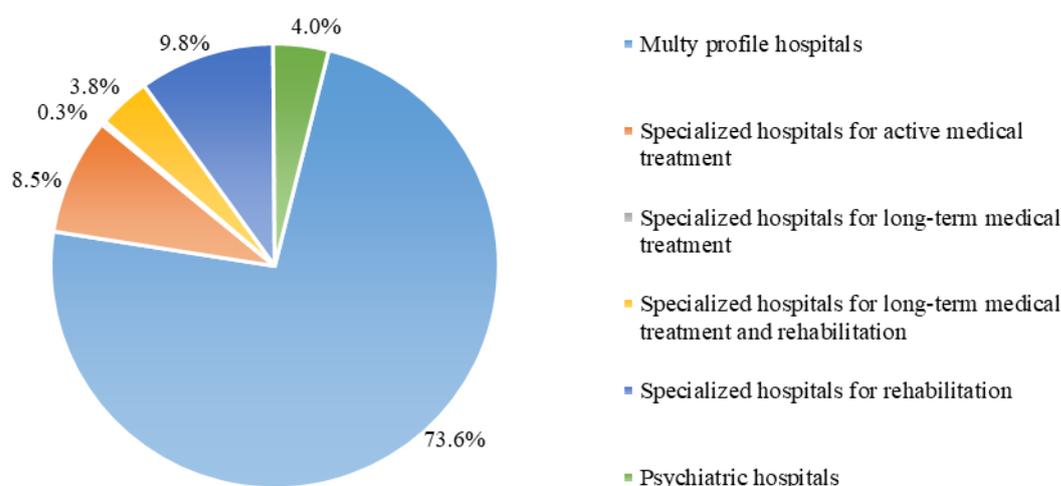
	(Number)	
	Establishments	Beds
Health establishments for hospital aid	342	54216
Hospitals	320	51991
Multi profile hospitals	183	38256
Specialized hospitals	137	13735
Dermato-venereological centres	3	30
Complex oncological centres	7	1185
Mental health centres	12	1010
Out-patient health establishments	2098	1296
Diagnostic and consulting centres	110	309
Medical centres	752	912
Dental centres	54	8
Medical-dental centres	50	67
Independent medical-diagnostical laboratories and medical-technical laboratories	1132	-
Other health establishments	149	1935
of which: Hospices	48	1220

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 31.12.2020 was 183 with 38 256 beds. These establishments represented 57.2% of all hospitals and in them are concentrated 73.6% of the total hospital beds in the country. The number of beds in these establishments varied on large scale - from 23 to 1 540. The largest is the share of multi-profile hospitals that at the end of the year has from 100 to 299 beds - 41.0%. Up to 99 beds there were in 37.2% from multi-profile hospitals. With 500 and over beds there were in 8.2% of this type of hospitals.

The number of **specialized hospitals** as of 31.12.2020 was 137 with 13 735 beds in them. Their distribution by types was as follows:

- For active treatment - 74 with 4 415 beds;
- For long-term medical treatment - one with 145 beds;
- For long-term medical treatment and rehabilitation - 16 with 1 978 beds;
- For rehabilitation - 34 with 5 083 beds;
- Psychiatric hospitals - 12 with 2 114 beds.

Figure 1. Beds in hospitals as of 31.12.2020 by type of hospital



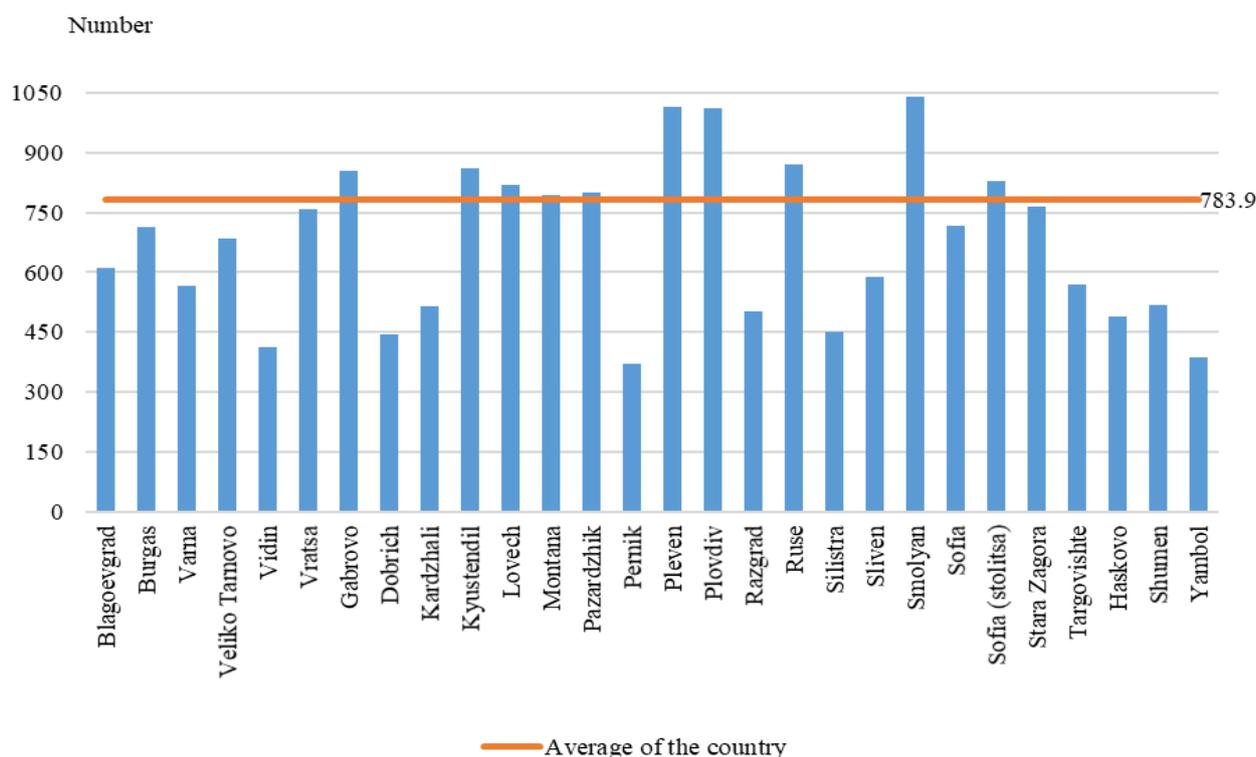
According to the methodological requirements and the applied harmonized definitions, the centres with stationaries are also referred to the health establishments for hospital aid. At the end of 2020, they were as follow:

- Dermato-venereological centres - 3 establishments with 30 beds;
- Complex oncological centres - 7 establishments with 1 185 beds;
- Mental health centres - 12 establishments with 1 010 beds.

The number of hospital beds at the end of 2020 was 783.9 per 100 000 persons of the total population and an increase by 7.1 points (776.8) compared to the end of 2019 was observed.

The highest values of that indicator were registered in districts Smolyan (1 040.4 per 100 000 persons of the population), Pleven (1 015.3) and Plovdiv (1 011.0) and the lowest - in Pernik (371.2), Yambol (388.0) and Vidin (412.5) (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Hospital beds per 100 000 persons of the total population as of 31.12.2020 by district



As of 31.12.2020, the number of **out-patient health establishments** was 2 098 with 1 296 beds for short term treatment. In comparison with 2019 the number of these establishments has increased by 0.9%, and the number of beds has increased by 6.0%.

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 as Haematological transfusion centres, and others. At the end of 2020, the number of these establishments was 149 with 1 935 beds in them, as the largest was the number of Hospices - 48 establishments with 1 220 beds. The total number of beds in other health establishments has increased by 1.1% in comparison with 2019, mainly due to the increased number of beds in Hospices.

2. Medical personnel

At the end of 2020 29 717 physicians were in practice under the basic labour contracts in health establishments (Table 2). Dentists were 7 312, as 6 454 of them worked in practices that had signed a contract with National Health Insurance Fund. Medical specialists on 'Health cares' who worked on a basic labour contract in health establishments were 44 676. 29 160 of them were nurses and 3 251 - midwives.

- In in-patient health establishments (hospitals and centres with stationaries) practiced 17 054 physicians and 38 dentists. Medical specialists on 'Health cares' were 26 589, 18 701 of which were nurses.
- In out-patient health establishments physicians practiced under a basic labour contract were 10 502 and 6 905 were dentists. This group covers all physicians (6 795) and dentists (6 454), 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 (1 913) and Diagnostic and consulting centres (1 383).
- 2 161 physicians and 369 dentists were working in other health care establishments (incl. crèches and medical consulting rooms in the schools) under a basic labour contract as of 31.12.2020.

2. Medical personnel

	2019	2020	2019	2020
	In numbers		Per 10 000 persons of the population	
Physicians	29612	29717	42.6	43.0
Dentists	7376	7312	10.6	10.6
Medical specialists on 'Health cares'	46491	44676	66.9	64.6
Doctors' assistants	2011	1919	2.9	2.8
Midwives	3269	3251	4.7	4.7
Nurses	30546	29160	43.9	42.2
Laboratory assistants (medical and X-ray)	6009	5909	8.6	8.5
Dental mechanics	1702	1573	2.4	2.3
Other medical specialists	2954	2864	4.2	4.1
Population per one				
Physicians	235	233	x	x
Dentists	942	946	x	x

Practicing physicians by sex and age

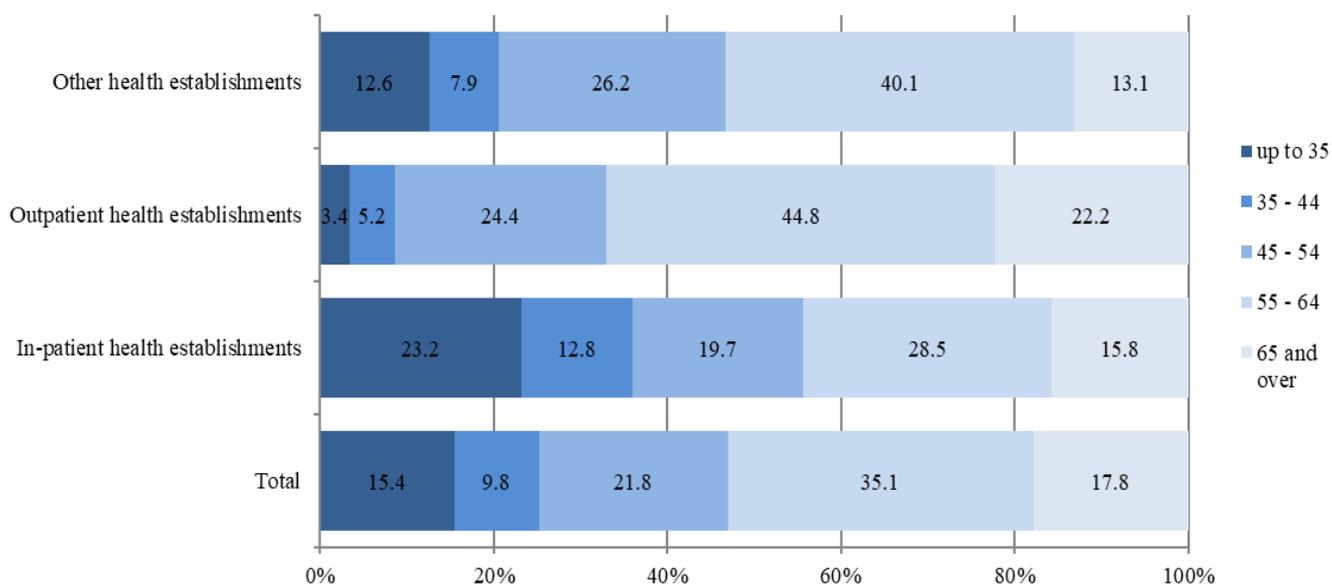
The distribution of practicing physicians by sex and age as of 31.12.2020 is as follow:

- 13 158 (44.3%) were males and 16 559 (55.7%) - females.
- The largest was the share of physicians in the age group 55 - 64 years - 10 442 persons or 35.1%.
- The young practicing physicians aged up to 35 years were 4 589 persons or 15.4%, while the elderly (aged 65 and over) - 5 299 or 17.8%.

3. Practicing physicians by sex and age as of 31.12.2020

Age (in complete years)	Total		Male		Female	
	In numbers	Structure - %	In numbers	Structure - %	In numbers	Structure - %
Total	29717	100.0	13158	100.0	16559	100.0
up to 35	4589	15.4	1984	15.1	2605	15.7
35 - 44	2905	9.8	1278	9.7	1627	9.8
45 - 54	6482	21.8	3086	23.5	3396	20.5
55 - 64	10442	35.1	4636	35.2	5806	35.1
65 and over	5299	17.8	2174	16.5	3125	18.9

Figure 3. Physicians practicing under a basic labour contract in health establishments by type of establishments and age as of 31.12.2020



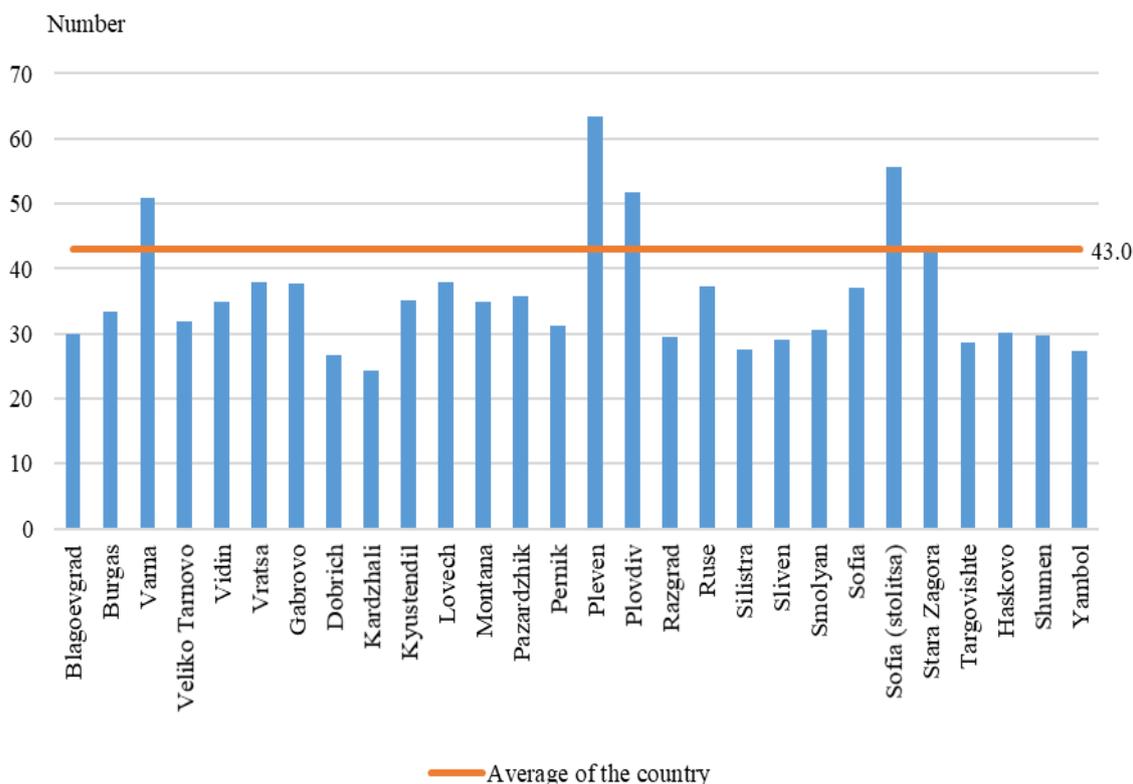
Practicing physicians by specialties

In the structure of physicians by specialties¹, the highest was the share of ‘General practitioners’ - 4 015 persons or 13.5% of all physicians practicing in the country, followed by specialists, practicing: ‘Cardiology’ - 6.2% ‘Obstetrics and Gynecology’ - 5.9%, ‘Anaesthesiology’ - 5.6%, ‘Surgery’ - 5.1%, and ‘Neurology’ - 4.9%. The number of physicians practicing ‘Pneumology’ was 601 (2.0%) and ‘Communicable diseases’ - 233 (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 2020 was 43.0 and the number of dentists per 10 000 persons of the total population was 10.6. Compared to 2019, the indicator of physicians increased slightly (42.6 per 10 000 population), and the indicator of dentists remain unchanged.

Figure 4. Physicians per 10 000 persons of the total population as of 31.12.2020 by districts

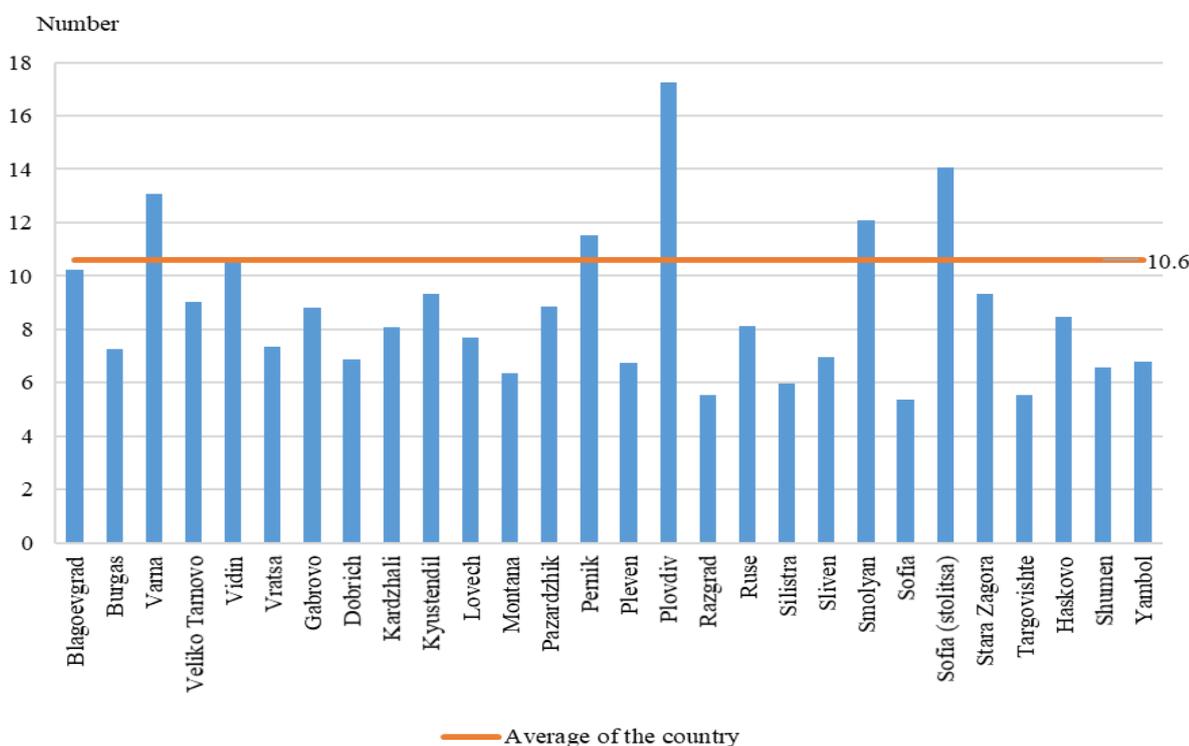


¹ The distribution of physicians by specialties is in accordance with their practicing specialty. The physicians in practices for specialized medical care are also included. The physicians practicing more than one specialty has been included in the total number but has been not distributed by specialties.

The number of physicians per 10 000 persons of the population¹ by districts varied from 24.3 to 63.4 per 10 000 as the highest values of that indicator were registered in districts with Medical universities and Universities' hospitals (Figure 4) - Pleven (63.4 per 10 000 persons of the population), Sofia (stolitsa) (55.5), Plovdiv (51.8) and Varna (50.9). The lowest values were registered for the districts: Kardzhali (24.3 per 10 000 persons of the total population), Dobrich (26.7) and Yambol (27.3).

The number of general practitioners per 10 000 persons of the total population was 5.8. The highest values were registered in districts: Pleven (8.1 per 10 000 persons), Vidin (6.9) and Kyustendil (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 (4.2) and Razgrad (4.4).

Figure 5. Dentists per 10 000 persons of the total population as of 31.12.2020 by districts



The number of dentists per 10 000 persons of the total population² was 10.6. The highest values were registered in districts: Plovdiv (17.2 per 10 000 persons), Sofia (stolitsa) (14.1), Varna (13.1) and Smolyan (12.1). The lowest values of the number of general practitioners per 10 000 persons of the total population were registered in districts: Sofia (5.4), Targovishte (5.5), Razgrad (5.6) and Silistra (6.0 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 physicians 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 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 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.

Since 2010, there is a break in time series in 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. 54 of 16 June 2020) 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 total population as of the end of the year.

Data on health network are elaborated by national, district and municipality level, 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'.