

XXIII. HEALTH

According to the Statistical Law, the statistical activity in the sphere of health care is performed by the National Statistical Institute and the Ministry of Health (through the National Centre for Health Information).

Object, scope and units of survey:

Statistical survey on health care network

Object of survey are the health establishments in the country: hospitals, polyclinics, sanatoria, child health centres, centres for social services and others, including health establishments attached to some central offices. Unit of observation is each separate establishment.

Survey on medical staff

Object of observation are the medical personnel (physicians, dentists, pharmacists, medical personnel with secondary vocational medical education or higher education - 'Specialist' degree), those working in the health care establishments or privately. Unit of observation is the individual health care worker.

Survey on morbidity

Object of the population morbidity survey is the totality of the cases of illness of the persons that is the sick persons who sought medical help. Technical unit is the health care establishment where the cases are registered and which is the source of information.

Survey on the social assistance

Objects of survey are the establishments and activities in the sphere of social assistance. Units of observation are the supported persons and the establishments for social assistance.

Statistical survey on deaths by causes

Objects of survey are all death cases in the country classified according to the International Classification of Diseases of the World Health Organization.

When using data for health care network one should have in mind that the number of health establishments and the number of beds are changed not only as a result of the opening and closing of establishments, but also because of reorganization, connected with the transformation and unification of establishments. With introduction of the health insurance system and according to the Law for Health Establishments the way of registration and nomenclature of health establishments were changed.

When analyzing the data about health care network and indicators for the number of beds and personnel in the establishments, some specific characteristics of health care activities should be held under consideration. The health care establishments are not directly connected to the servicing of population of a

given settlement or even of municipality. A great part of health care establishments service the population of a given region or a group of municipalities, and the specialized health care establishments - oncological, dermato-venereological, psychiatric, pulmonary and other service the population of 2 or 3 regions. The establishments under central administration, does not matter their location, service the population from the whole country.

The health network for the country and by district is worked out according to the Law for Health Establishments and the changes in the sphere of out patient aid in 2000. The homes for medical and social care for children are included in the category of 'Other health and medical establishments' since 2000.

The hospital beds include beds in hospitals, ambulatory-polyclinic establishments and other health care establishments, hospital beds at other institutions and those in the private health care establishments. The beds in other institutions' sanatoria are included into the number of sanatorial beds.

The insurance of population with hospital and sanatorial beds is calculated according to the status at 31 December for the respective year.

The data for the registered infectious disease cases, which are under mandatory registration, are obtained on the basis of annual reports, compiled by the hygiene epidemiological inspectorates on the basis of the fast messages for illnesses with finally confirmed diagnose.

Sources of information

The main sources of information for the annual surveys are annual forms, which all health care establishments present at the Ministry of Health and the National Statistical Institute.

Data source for deaths are the forms ESGRAON-TDS - death announcements.

International classifications used

The Health Statistics in Bulgaria implements the International Classification of Diseases - IX revision. The registered illnesses and deaths by causes are coded according to it. The implementation of Revision X of the classification is managed by the Ministry of Health and is in a process of preparation.

Harmonization of the methodology and the statistical tools with Eurostat requirements and EU directives

NSI is taking part in the European Programme for development of the Health Interview Survey. This project