

## IN-PATIENT, OUT-PATIENT AND OTHER HEALTH CARE ESTABLISHMENTS AS OF 31.12.2022

### 1. Health establishments and beds in health establishments

The number of health establishments for hospital aid as of 31.12.2022 was 341 with 54 707 beds as the number of establishments has not changed, and the number of beds has increased by 216, or by 0.4% compared to the previous year.

The number of hospitals was 319 with 52 462 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, 2022, 28.4% of the beds are in such hospitals.

#### 1. Health establishments as of 31.12.2022

	(Number)	
	Establishments	Beds
<b>Health establishments for hospital aid</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>54707</b>
Hospitals	319	52462
Multi profile hospitals	179	38144
Specialized hospitals	140	14318
Dermato-venereological centres	3	30
Complex oncological centres	7	1193
Mental health centres	12	1022
<b>Out-patient health establishments</b>	<b>2172</b>	<b>1303</b>
Diagnostic and consulting centres	111	276
Medical centres	786	948
Dental centres	64	5
Medical-dental centres	60	74
Independent medical-diagnostical laboratories and medical-technical laboratories	1151	-
<b>Other health establishments</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>1751</b>
of which:		
Hospices	43	1229
Integrated care centres for children with disabilities and chronic illnesses	10	70

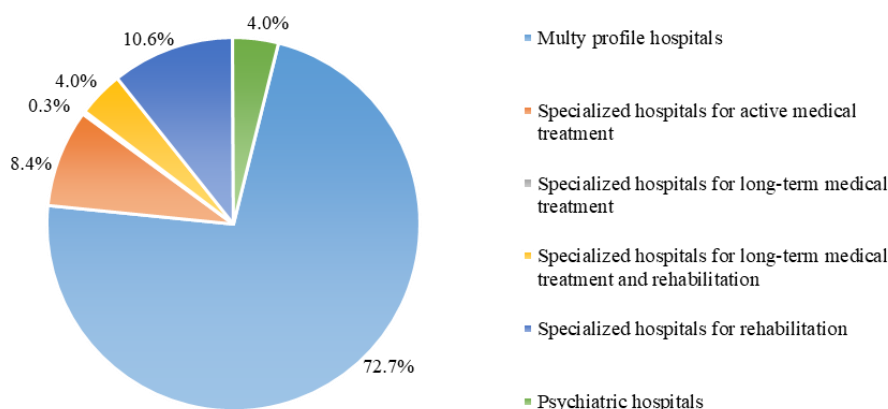
The number of **multi-profile hospitals** was 179, with 38 144 beds. These establishments represented 56.1% of all hospitals, and in them were concentrated 72.7% of the total hospital beds in the country. The number of beds in these establishments varied on a large scale - from 27 to 1 490. The largest is the share of multi-profile hospitals that, at the end of the year, had from 100 to 299 beds - 42.5%. Up to 99 beds were in 35.8% of multi-profile hospitals. With 500 or more beds, there were 8.9% of these types of hospitals.

The number of **specialized hospitals** was 140, with 14 318 beds in them. Their distribution by type was as follows:

- For active treatment - 73 with 4 433 beds;

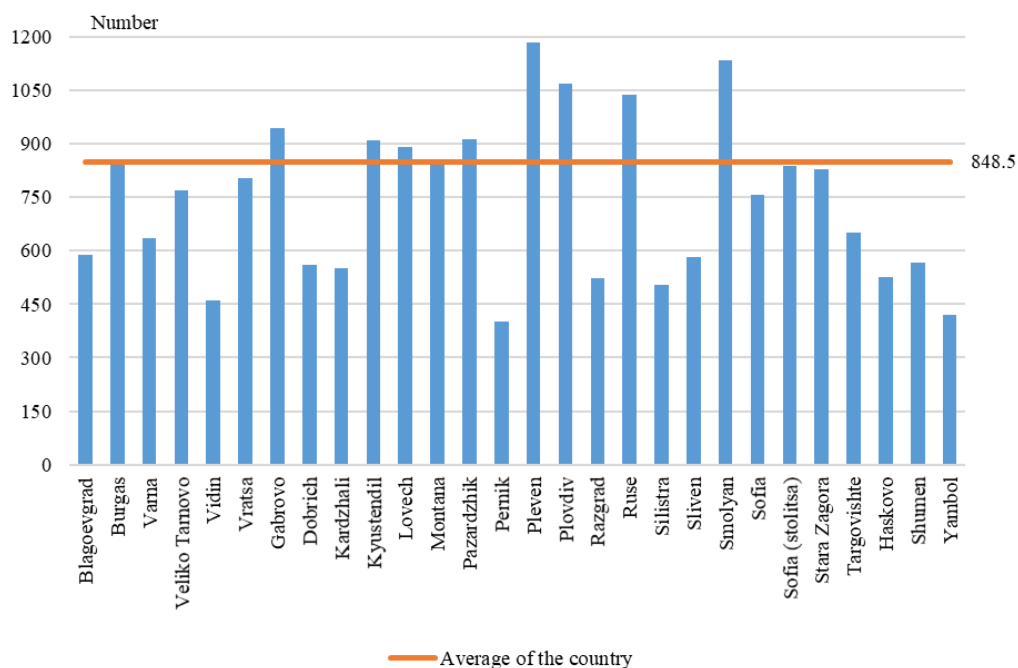
- For long-term medical treatment - one with 145 beds;
- For long-term medical treatment and rehabilitation - 17 with 2 083 beds;
- For rehabilitation - 37 with 5 575 beds;
- Psychiatric hospitals - 12 with 2 082 beds.

**Figure 1. Beds in hospitals as of 31.12.2022 by type of hospital**



The number of hospital beds at the end of 2022 was 848.5 per 100 000 persons of the total population. The highest values of that indicator were registered in districts Pleven (1 184.5 per 100 000 persons of the population), Smolyan (1 135.5) and Plovdiv (1 069.5), and the lowest - in Pernik (400.0), Yambol (420.9) and Vidin (460.5) (Figure 2).

**Figure 2. Hospital beds per 100 000 persons of the total population as of 31.12.2022 by district**



The Health establishments for hospital aid, in addition to beds, may also open Places for short stay for activities in the field of medical oncology, radiotherapy psychiatry, dialysis treatment and etc., which require a stay of the patient no longer than 12 hours. At the end of 2022, the number of places for short-term stays are 3 299.

As of 31.12.2022, the number of **out-patient health establishments** was 2 172 with 1 303 beds for short term treatment. In comparison with 2021 the number of these establishments has increased by 39 (1.8%), and the number of beds by 18 (1.4%).

Among **out-patient health establishments** with activities in clinical medicine, the largest number is the beds of medical centers - 786 establishments with 948 beds, followed by diagnostic-consultation centers - 111 with 276 beds. There are 64 dental centers with 5 beds, and medical-dental centers - 60 with 74 beds.

At the end of 2022, the number of **other health establishments** was 148 with 1 751 beds in them. The total number of beds in these establishments has decreased by 9.7% in comparison with 2021.

## 2. Medical personnel

At the end of 2022, 29 599 physicians were in practice under a basic labour contract in health establishments (Table 2). Dentists were 7 602, as 6 624 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 44 493. 28 827 of them were nurses and 3 285 - midwives.

### 2. Medical personnel

	2021	2022	2021	2022
	Number		Per 10 000 persons of the population <sup>1</sup>	
Physicians	29604	29599	43.3	45.9
Dentists	7499	7602	11.0	11.8
Medical specialists on 'Health cares'	44451	44493	65.0	69.0
Doctors' assistants	1814	1733	2.7	2.7
Midwives	3264	3285	4.8	5.1
Nurses	28816	28827	42.1	44.7
Laboratory assistants (medical and X-ray)	5930	5933	8.7	9.2
Dental mechanics	1636	1628	2.4	2.5
Other medical specialists	2991	3087	4.4	4.8
Population per one				
Physicians <sup>1</sup>	231	218	x	x
Dentists <sup>1</sup>	912	848	x	x

- 17 403 physicians and 40 dentists practice in in-patient health establishments (hospitals and centres with stationaries). Medical specialists on 'Health cares' were 26 156, 18 225 of which were nurses.

<sup>1</sup> There is a break in the time series for all coefficients for 2022 - see methodological notes.

- 10 087 physicians and 7 188 dentists work under basic labour contract in out-patient health establishments. This group covers all physicians (6 618) and dentists (6 624), which were working in individual or group practices under agreement with the National Health Insurance Fund. Medical specialists on health care are 6 721, with 48 of them working on a main contract in outpatient establishments for individual and group healthcare practices disclosed in accordance with the amendments to national legislation.
- 2 109 physicians and 374 dentists were working in other health care establishments (incl. crèches and medical consulting rooms in the schools) under a basic labour contract.

### Practicing physicians by sex and age

The distribution of practicing physicians by sex and age as of 31.12.2022 is as follow - 13 053 (44.1%) were males and 16 546 (55.9%) females.

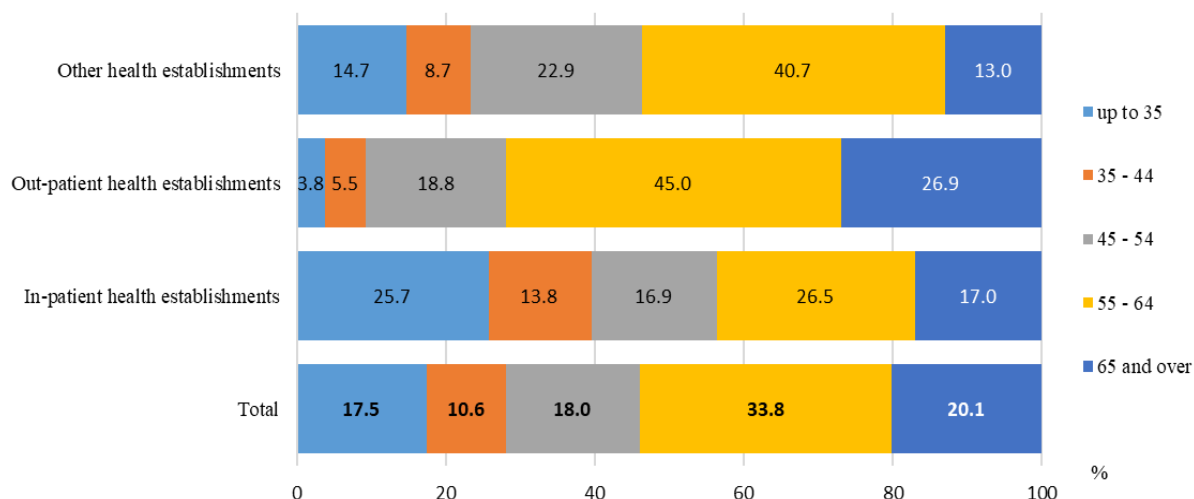
In the structure of physicians by age, the highest number and share of physicians is in the age group 55 - 64 years - 10 015 persons, or 33.8%. At second place, is the group of elderly (aged 65 and over) - 5 943, or 20.1%. The young practicing physicians, aged up to 35 years, were 5 170 persons or 17.5% (Table 3).

### 3. Practicing physicians by sex and age as of 31.12.2022

Age (in complete years)	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	Structure - %	Number	Structure - %	Number	Structure - %
<b>Total</b>	<b>29599</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>13053</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>16546</b>	<b>100.0</b>
up to 35	5170	17.5	2226	17.1	2944	17.8
35 - 44	3148	10.6	1429	10.9	1719	10.4
45 - 54	5323	18.0	2392	18.3	2931	17.7
55 - 64	10015	33.8	4594	35.2	5421	32.8
65 and over	5943	20.1	2412	18.5	3531	21.3

The distribution of practicing physicians by age groups and types of establishments (Fig. 3) shows that the largest share of young doctors practicing under a basic labour contract is in health establishments for hospital aid (25.7%), and the smallest - in out-patient health establishments (3.8%). More than two-thirds of the physicians practicing under a basic labour contract in out-patient health establishments are over 55 years old (71.9%).

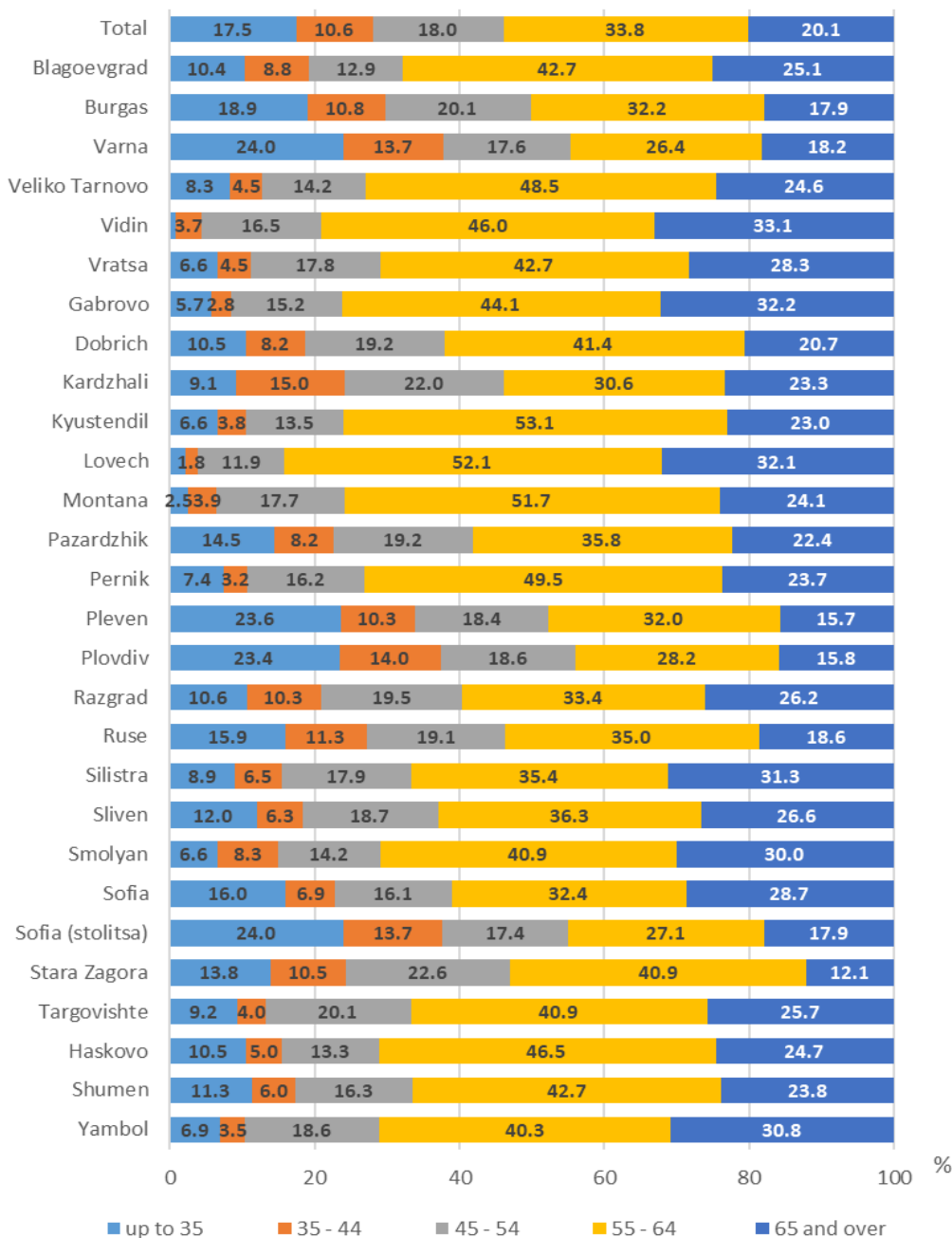
**Figure 3. Physicians practicing under a basic labour contract in health establishments by type of establishments and age as of 31.12.2022**



Territorially, only in five districts is the relative share of young physicians aged up to 35 years higher than the national share, and these are the districts with medical universities - Sofia (stolitsa) and Varna (24% each), Pleven (23.6%), Plovdiv (23.4%) and Burgas (18.9%). In all other districts, the indicator is less favourable than the national one, with Vidin, Lovech and Montana standing out in particular, where the share is 0.7%, 2.1% and 2.5%, respectively.

The highest relative share of elderly physicians, aged 65 years and over, is in the districts of Vidin (33.1%), Gabrovo (32.2%) and Lovech (32.1%), and the lowest is in the districts with Medical universities and Universities' hospitals (Fig. 4).

**Figure 4. Practicing physicians by age and district as of 31.12.2022**



### Practicing physicians by specialties

In the structure of physicians by specialties<sup>2</sup>, the highest was the share of 'General practitioners' - 3 854 persons, or 13.0% of all physicians practicing in the country, followed by specialists, practicing:

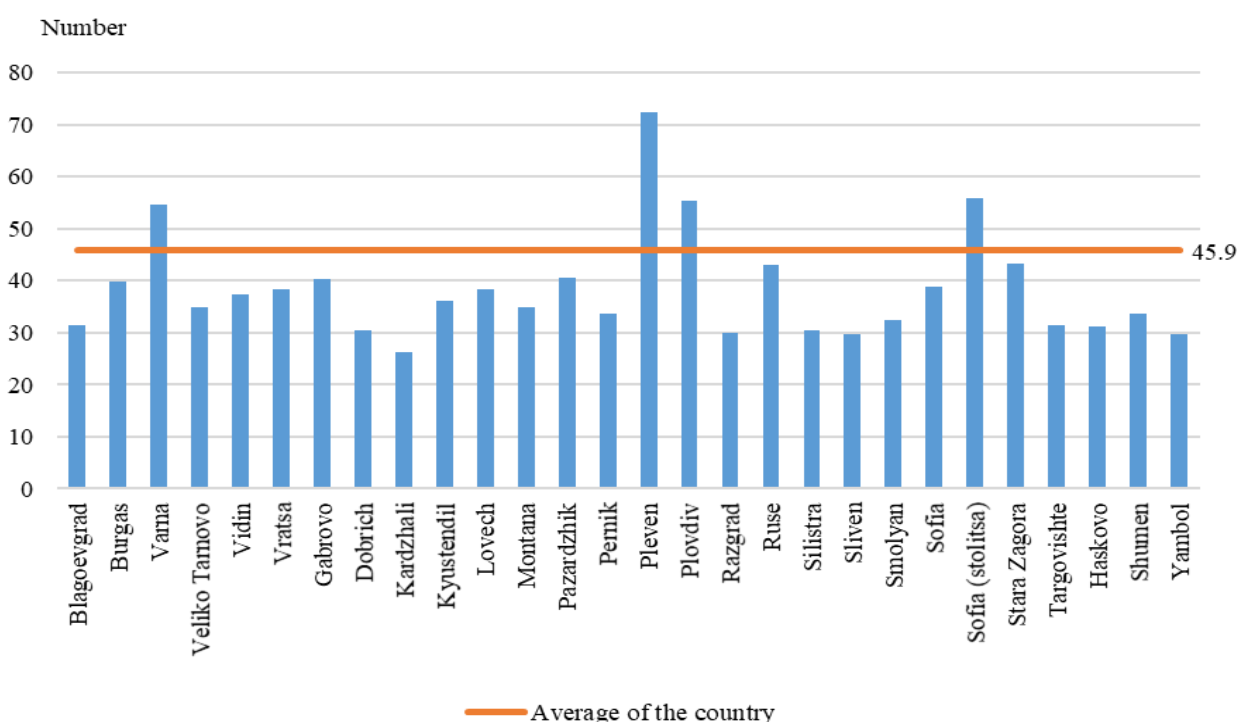
<sup>2</sup> The distribution of physicians by specialties is in accordance with their practicing specialty. The physicians in practices for specialized medical care are also included. The physicians practicing more than one specialty has been included in the total number but has been not distributed by specialties.

‘Cardiology’ - 6.3%, ‘Obstetrics and Gynecology’ - 5.9%, ‘Anaesthesiology’ - 5.8%, ‘Surgery’ - 5.1%, ‘Pediatrics’ - 4.9 and ‘Neurology’ - 4.8%.

### 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 2022 was 45.9 and the number of dentists per 10 000 persons of the total population was 11.8.

**Figure 5. Physicians per 10 000 persons of the total population  
as of 31.12.2022 by districts**



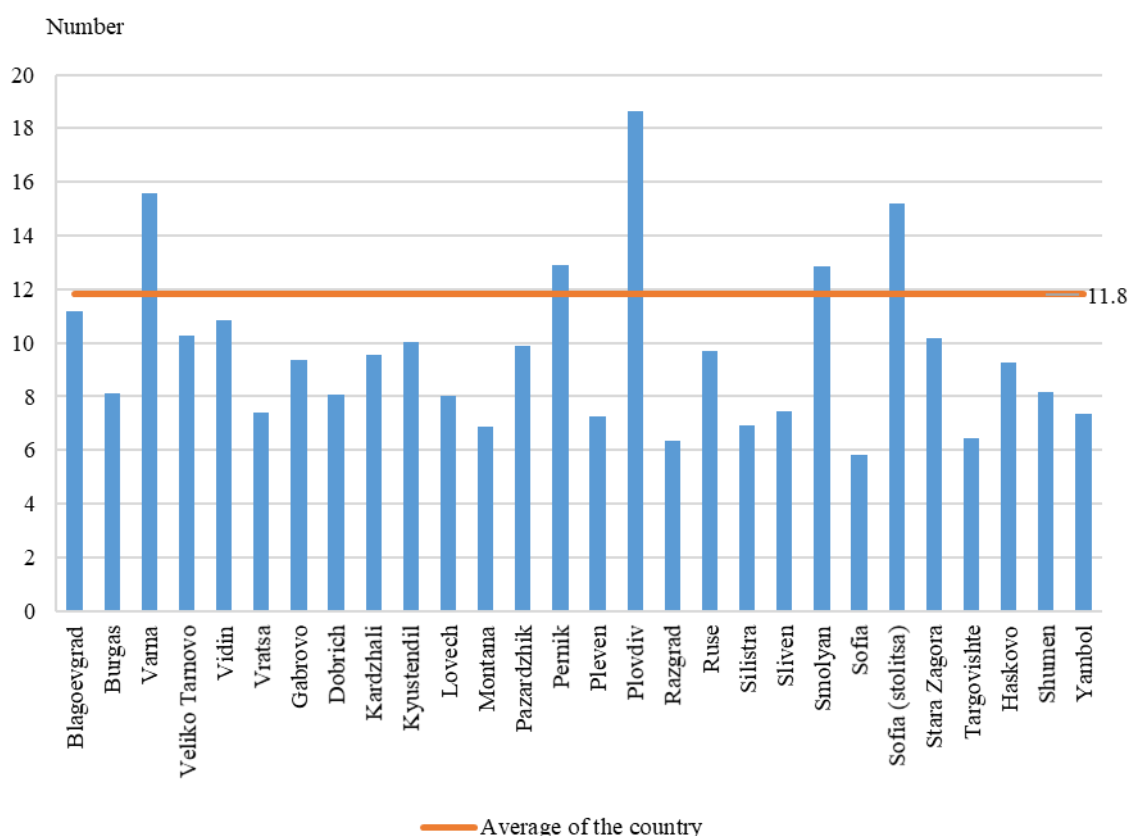
The number of physicians per 10 000 persons of the population<sup>3</sup> by districts varied from 26.2 to 72.4 per 10 000 as the highest values of that indicator were registered in districts with Medical universities and Universities’ hospitals (Figure 5) - Pleven (72.4 per 10 000 persons of the population), Sofia (stolitsa) (55.9), Plovdiv (55.3) and Varna (54.6). The lowest values were registered for the districts: Kardzhali (26.2 per 10 000 persons of the total population), Yambol (29.6), Sliven 29.7 and Разград (29.9).

The number of general practitioners per 10 000 persons of the total population was 6.0. The highest values were registered in districts: Pleven (8.2 per 10 000 persons), Vidin (7.4) and Dobrich (7.1). The lowest values of the number of general practitioners per 10 000 persons of the total population were registered in districts: Kardzhali (3.6 per 10 000 persons of the total population), Razgrad (4.3) and Ruse (4.6).

<sup>3</sup> 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.

The number of dentists per 10 000 persons of the total population<sup>4</sup> was 11.8. The highest values were registered in districts: Plovdiv (18.6 per 10 000 persons), Varna (15.6), Sofia (stolitsa) (15.2), and Pernik (12.9). The lowest values of the number of general practitioners per 10 000 persons of the total population were registered in districts: Sofia (5.8), Razgrad (6.3), Targovishte (6.4) and Montana (6.9 per 10 000 persons of the total population) (Figure 5).

**Figure 6. Dentists per 10 000 persons of the total population  
as of 31.12.2022 by districts**



<sup>4</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 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. 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



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([https://infostat.nsi.bg/infostat/pages/module.jsf?x\\_2=58](https://infostat.nsi.bg/infostat/pages/module.jsf?x_2=58)) as well as on the NSI's website ([www.nsi.bg](http://www.nsi.bg)), section 'Health'.