



Summary general questions

Bulgaria

October 24, 2018

Country description

The population in Bulgaria is estimated at 7.1 million, with 64,000 births each year. The average life expectancy is estimated at 71 for men and 78 for women (2016). The gross national income per capita (PPP int. \$) is 20,329 (2017). The estimated total expenditure on health per capita (Intl \$, 2014) is 1,399 and the total current expenditure on health as percentage of GDP (2014) is 8.4%.

General health and school systems

Almost 100% of children are born in the hospital or maternity clinic and 99.8% of births are attended by skilled personnel. Around 10% of children are born before 37 weeks of gestational age. The average stay in the hospital is 3-5 days. The birth registration coverage is 100%. The infant mortality under the age of 5 per 1000 live births per year is 6.

The primary starts at age 6 or 7.

Existing prevention programmes and coverage

General Preventive Child Health Care Services are nationally organized. Screening is performed by pediatricians, neonatologists and nurses. The care is funded by the government and free of charge for the parents.

Health care contact moments in the first weeks and at 4-6 year

	Vaccination or tests	Coverage
First weeks		
short after birth	Hepatitis B, tuberculosis	close to 100%
1 week	General examination (weight, height, head circumference)	unknown
1 month	General examination (weight, height, head circumference)	unknown
2 months	General examination (weight, height, head circumference)	unknown
2-4 months	Hepatitis B, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, Aemophilus Influenzae B, pneumococcus	around 92%
4-6 year		
6 years	diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio	around 92%

The general Preventive Child Health Care Services are monitored by the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) and the Medical Audit Executive Agency (IA "Medical Audit") at the Ministry of Health. All children are invited by letter and around 95% attends the screenings. There is no information provided on collection of outcomes or cost-effectiveness.

In all insured persons with a selected GP, the mandatory immunizations and reimmunizations are performed by the GP after a review on the day of vaccination and are free of charge for the parents. Around 92% of the children are vaccinated. The preventive child care is obligatory, but the parents do not get a fine, when do not comply.

The total costs of general screening are unknown. The average salary costs for a pediatrician are 4000-6000 euros and for a nurse are 3000-5000 euros per year (about 2 euros per hour).

References

WHO (all accessed August 2018):

- Data on country population and economics: <http://www.who.int/countries/en/>
- Data on skilled professionals at birth: <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/view.main.1630>
- Data on birth registrations: <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/view.main.GSWCAH54v>
- Data on vaccinations: <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/view.main.UHCIMMUNIZATIONv>

World Bank (accessed August 2018):

- GDP per capita: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.PP.CD?view=chart>