



Summary general questions

Germany

November 20, 2018

Country description

The population in Germany is estimated at 82 million, with 800,000 births each year. The average life expectancy is estimated at 79 for men and 83 for women (2016). The gross national income per capita (PPP int. \$) is 50,715 (2017). The estimated total expenditure on health per capita (Intl \$, 2014) is 5,182 and the total current expenditure on health as percentage of GDP (2014) is 11.3%.

General health and school systems

Around 98% of children are born in the hospital or maternity clinics and 98.7% of births are attended by skilled personnel. Prematurely born children can be treated from 24-25 weeks of gestational age, before it is discussed with the parents. The average stay in the hospital is 1-3 days. The birth registration coverage is 100%. The infant mortality under the age of 5 per 1000 live births per year is 3.

The primary school starts at age 6.

Existing prevention programmes and coverage

General Preventive Child Health Care Services are organized both nationally and regionally. Nurses, midwives and pediatricians perform the screening. The care is funded by health insurance and free of charge for the parents.

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

Note: This table focusses on the examinations and vaccinations in the first weeks after birth and between age 4 years and 6 years. This overview of general screening/health contact moments is intended to assess possible moments to add hearing or vision (amblyopia) screening. Therefore the moments shortly after birth (hearing screening) or at age 4 to 6 (amblyopia screening) are the most interesting.

	Vaccination or tests	Coverage
First weeks		
after birth	general examination	100%
3-10 days	general examination	90%
4 or 5 weeks	general examination	90%
2 months	Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, Aemophilus Influenzae, Poliomyelitis, hepatitis B, Pneumokokken, some also rotavirus	95%
4-6 year		
46-48 months	general examination	
60-64 months	general examination	
5-6 years	Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis,	

Children are invited by letter. About 90% of the children attend the screenings. The programme is monitored and several evaluation studies have been performed for hearing screening, but no information has been provided of studies on general screening.

Vaccinations are part of the programme. About 95%-99% of the children is vaccinated.

The total costs of general screening are 235 million euros per year and about 85 euros per child per year for children under age 6.

References

WHO (all accessed August 2018):

- Data on country population and economics: <http://www.who.int/countries/en/>
- Data on health infrastructure: <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/view.main.30000>
- 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>