



Summary general questions

Malta

December 11, 2018

Country description

The population in Malta is estimated at 430.000, with 4,000 births each year. The average life expectancy is estimated at 80 for men and 83 for women (2016). The gross national income per capita (PPP int. \$) is 39,535 (2017). The estimated total expenditure on health per capita (Intl \$, 2014) is 3,072 and the total current expenditure on health as percentage of GDP (2014) is 9.8%.

General health and school systems

The total density of hospitals is 0.93 per 100,000 people (2013). Almost 100% of children are born in the hospital or maternity clinic and 99.8% of the births are attended by skilled personnel. Prematurely born children can be treated from 24 weeks. The average stay in the hospital is 2 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 school starts at age 3 to 5 and is obligatory at 5.

Existing prevention programmes and coverage

General Preventive Child Health Care programmes are nationally organized and are performed by GPs and nurses in child health care centers, Kindergartens and schools. The care is funded by the Ministry of Health 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		
6-8 weeks	General examination (weight, height, head circumference)	87%
6-8 weeks	DTaP, IPV, Hib	98%
4-6 year		
4-6 years	General examination	75%

All children are invited for screening. The first weeks 87% attends screening, decreasing to 75% in school children. The quality of the programme is monitored by internal audits. There is no information provided on cost-effectiveness.

Vaccinations are part of the programme. The vaccinations Diphtheria, , Tetanus and Polio are compulsory by Maltese law. The vaccinations against pertussis, HiB, hepatitis B, measles, mumps, rubella and HPV are given on the National Immunisation Schedule free of charge and are highly recommended but not compulsory. Close to 100% of the children are vaccinated with the compulsory vaccinations, and 84%-94% of the children are vaccinated with the other different vaccines.

The total costs of general screening are unknown. The average salary costs for a screening professional are 12 euros per hour.

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/immunization_monitoring/globalsummary/timeseries/tswucoveredtp3.html

World Bank (accessed August 2018):

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