



Summary general questions

Serbia

January 9, 2019

Country description

The population in Serbia is estimated at 8.8 million (7 million without data from Kosovo), with 65,000 births each year. The average life expectancy is estimated at 74 for men and 79 for women (2016). The gross national income per capita (PPP int. \$) is 15,090 (2017). The estimated total expenditure on health per capita (Intl \$, 2014) is 1,312 and the total current expenditure on health as percentage of GDP (2014) is 10.4%.

General health and school systems

The total density of hospitals is 1.09 per 100,000 people (2013). 98.3% of children are born in the hospital and 99.9% of births are attended by skilled personnel. The average stay in the hospital is 4 days. The birth registration coverage is 99.4%. The infant mortality under the age of 5 per 1000 live births per year is 5.8.

The primary school starts at age 6-7, but children can already attend school at age 6.

Existing prevention programmes and coverage

General Preventive Child Health Care Services are both nationally and regionally organized. Public primary health care provide services for the municipalities. The content of screenings are regulated by law. The screening is performed by pediatricians, midwives and nurses. In Serbia there are about 1328 pediatricians in primary healthcare and 2451 midwives. The care is funded by health insurance and is free of charge for the parents.

In the maternity ward the first screening is done by the midwife, and then neonatologists. A nurse from the maternity ward will arrange a home visit for mother and child the day after discharge from the hospital. The coverage of these visits is over 98%. After the first month the pediatrician performs all screenings.

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

	Vaccination or tests
First weeks	
1 day after birth (on maternity ward)	Hepatitis B (first dose), tuberculosis
1 to 5 days after birth (on maternity ward)	Screening phenylketonuria Screening hypothyroidism
1 to 5 days after birth (on maternity ward)	Hearing screening
1 to 5 days after birth (on maternity ward)	Early detection of premature retinopathy (only premature newborn)
5-15 th days after birth	Home visits of doctor/pediatrician
2 month (after 4 weeks)	Hip dysplasia – US, General examination (weight, height, head circumference, icterus, anamnesis, risk factors, etc)
3 month (after 8 weeks)	Hepatitis B (second dose), Diphtheria, tetanus, pertusis, polio, homophiles B (first dose), streptococcus pneumonia (first dose) General examination (weight, height, head circumference, icterus, anamnesis, risk factors, etc.) speech therapist check-up for children at risk
4-6 years	
4 th year	General examination - monitoring of growth and development, dental hygiene, development of psychosocial skills, checking of senses-hearing, hearing, speech, ... lab analysis logopedic testing vision screening by ophthalmologist nurse home visit
5 th year	Preventive check-up – for children with some problems

All children received between 4-6 examinations. In the second year, all children had at least one preventive review, and 73% of them reviewed 2. In the fourth year of life, 66% of children are reviewed. Before going to school, 100% of children were examined.

There is no information on quality control, collection of outcomes or cost-effectiveness.

Vaccinations are obligatory since 2016, the coverage is 82% (Measles1) to 98% (BCG), in data from 2016.

The total costs of general screening in the first year are about 30 euros per child (6 examinations, without the costs for vaccinations). In the next years the costs per child per examination are 2 to 3 euros. In 2017, the average salary costs for a pediatrician were 7320 euros and for a nurse or midwife 3200 euros bruto per year (3.6 to 1.7 euro per hour, respectively).

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>