Outpatient health care in 2021

At the end of 2021, outpatient health care was carried out by 22.0 thousand outpatient departments and 3.8 thousand doctors and dentists practices providing services funded by public sources. During the year, 285.9 million doctors consultations and 30.7 million stomatological consultations were provided. Over 28% of total doctors consultations in primary health care were provided via telephone.

⇧ 14.1%

Increase in the number of specialised doctors consultations compared to 2020

# **Outpatient departments and medical practices**

At the end of 2021, outpatient consultations were provided by 22.0 thousand outpatient departments and 3.8 thousand doctors and dentists practices providing services funded by public sources

At the end of 2021, 25.7 thousand providers of ambulatory health care were operating –22.0 thousand outpatient departments[[1]](#footnote-1) and 0.7 thousand doctors practices and 3.1 thousand dentists practices providing services funded by public sources. 20.1 thousand providers of ambulatory health care were located in urban areas, and 5.6 thousand in rural areas.

The most outpatient departments were operating in Mazowieckie Voivodship (3 219), and the lowest – in Opolskie Voivodship (520). The highest number of practices providing health services funded by public sources was recorded in Wielkopolskie Voivodship (484), while the lowest – in Małopolskie Voivodship (126).

Chart 1. Outpatient departments by class of locality and voivodships in 2021

As of 31 December

Mazowieckie: urban areas 2 610, rural areas 609
Śląskie: urban areas 2 256, rural areas 398
Małopolskie: urban areas 1 447, rural areas 587
Wielkopolskie: urban areas 1 538, rural areas 383
Łódzkie: urban areas 1 327, rural areas 302
Dolnośląskie: urban areas 1 330, rural areas 247
Podkarpackie: urban areas 803, rural areas 483
Lubelskie: urban areas 895, rural areas 348
Pomorskie: urban areas 917, rural areas 228
Zachodniopomorskie: urban areas 828, rural areas 113
Kujawsko-pomorskie: urban areas 716, rural areas 204
Warmińsko-mazurskie: urban areas 734, rural areas 151
Podlaskie: urban areas 629, rural areas 159
Świętokrzyskie: urban areas 457, rural areas 175
Lubuskie: urban areas 484, rural areas 90
Opolskie: urban areas 395, rural areas 125As of 31 December

Chart 2. Doctors and dentists practices providing health services funded by public sources by class of locality and voivodships in 2021

As of 31 December

Wielkopolskie: urban areas 367, rural areas 117
Podkarpackie: urban areas 265, rural areas 133
Dolnośląskie: urban areas 321, rural areas 48
Lubelskie: urban areas 163, rural areas 121
Mazowieckie: urban areas 138, rural areas 106
Śląskie: urban areas 167, rural areas 64
Warmińsko-mazurskie: urban areas 185, rural areas 38
Zachodniopomorskie: urban areas 193, rural areas 21
Kujawsko-pomorskie: urban areas 164, rural areas 46
Opolskie: urban areas 151, rural areas 39
Pomorskie: urban areas 142, rural areas 42
Świętokrzyskie: urban areas 132, rural areas 33
Podlaskie: urban areas 112, rural areas 34
Lubuskie: urban areas 119, rural areas 26
Łódzkie: urban areas 89, rural areas 51
Małopolskie: urban areas 64, rural areas 62  As of 31 December

In Poland, the number of population per 1 provider of ambulatory health care amounted to 1 481 persons (by 17 less than in the previous year). The highest value was recorded in Kujawsko-pomorskie Voivodship (1 812), while the lowest – in Podlaskie Voivodship (1 248).

Map 1. The number of population per 1 provider of ambulatory health care by voivodships in 2021

As of 31 December

Dolnośląskie 1 480
Kujawsko-pomorskie 1 812
Lubelskie 1 360
Lubuskie 1 390
Łódzkie 1 366
Małopolskie 1 578
Mazowieckie 1 565
Opolskie 1 365
Podkarpackie 1 253
Podlaskie 1 248
Pomorskie 1 766
Śląskie 1 544
Świętokrzyskie 1 521
Warmińsko-mazurskie 1 268
Wielkopolskie 1 451
Zachodniopomorskie 1 452As of 31 December

# **Outpatient consultations**

In 2021, there were provided 285.9 million doctors consul-tations and 30.7 stomatological consultations in outpa-tient health care

In 2021, there were provided 316.7 million outpatient consultations – 285.9 doctors consultations (increase of 11.4% compared to the previous year) and 30.7 million stomatological consultations (by 16.1% more than a year earlier). 171.3 million doctors consultations were in primary health care[[2]](#footnote-2) (by 9.7% more than in 2020), and 114.6 million – in specialised health care (increase of 14.1% compared to the previous year).

In primary health care children and youth in age up to 18 years had 32.2 million consulta-tions (increase of 26.6% compared to the previous year), while people aged 65 years and more – 59.5 million (by 5.8% more than a year earlier). There were 13.9 million specialised consultations provided to children and youth in age up to 18 years (by 22.0% more than in 2020) and 33.5 million consultations provided to people aged 65 years and more (by 14.1% more than in the previous year).

Primary health care: 
0-17 years 18.8% 
18-64 46.5%
65 years and more 34.7%

Specialised health care:
0-17 years 12.1%
18-64 58.6%
65 years and more 29.3%

Stomatological health care:
0-17 years 27.4%
18-64 56.5%
65 years and more 16.1%Chart 3. Outpatient consultations by type of consultation and patients’ age in 2021

Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19, special provisions for medical services delivery via telephone consultations[[3]](#footnote-3) were introduced, especially in primary health care settings.

In 2021, 48.6 million doctors consultations in primary health care and 14.6 million in specialised health care were provided via telephone (by 14.4% and 10.7% respectively less than in previous year). 71.4 thousand stomatological consultations were provided remotely.

Primary health care 28.4%
Specialised health care 12.7%
Stomatological health care 0.2%Chart 4. The share of telephone consultations in outpatient consultations by type of consultation in 2021

In specialised health care, the highest share of consultations was in surgical clinic (17.3%), then in gynecological and obstetrical clinics (10.9%) and ophthalmology clinics (9.0%).

Most doctors consultations in specialised outpatient health care were provided in surgical clinics

(approximately 20 million)

Chart 5. Specialised doctors consultations by type of clinic in 2021

Surgical - total 19 835 thousand
Gynecological and obstetrical 12 541 thousand
Ophthalmology 10 301 thousand
Cardiology 7 245 thousand
Mental health 6 796 thousand
Neurologica 6 627 thousand
Otolaryngology 6 290 thousand
Dermatologica 5 910 thousand
Internal medicine 4 957 thousand
Endocrine 3 790 thousand
Urology 3 441 thousand
Allergy 3 136 thousand
Oncology 3 080 thousand
Tuberculosis and lung diseases 2 810 thousand
Diabetes 2 521 thousand
Rehabilitation 2 194 thousand
Pediatric 1 917 thousand
Rheumatology 1 787 thousand
Addiction treatment clinic 1 063 thousand
Nephrology 656 thousand
Infectious diseases 503 thousand
Sports medicine 299 thousand
Geriatric 73 thousand
Others 6 856 thousand

In 2021, the average number of outpatient consultations per capita was 8.3

In 2021, the average number of outpatient consultations per capita was 8.3. The highest value was recorded in Mazowieckie Voivodship (9.3), while the lowest – in Opolskie Voivodship (6.9).

Dolnośląskie 8.5
Kujawsko-pomorskie 8.0
Lubelskie 8.6
Lubuskie 7.0
Łódzkie 8.9
Małopolskie 8.4
Mazowieckie 9.3
Opolskie 6.9
Podkarpackie 7.4
Podlaskie 8.4
Pomorskie 8.3
Śląskie 8.6
Świętokrzyskie 7.4
Warmińsko-mazurskie 7.5
Wielkopolskie 7.9
Zachodniopomorskie 7.8Map 2. Outpatient consultations per capita by voivodships in 2021

Mazowieckie:
Primary health care 22.3 million
Specialised health care 23.2 million
Stomatological health care 5.0 million

Śląskie:
Primary health care 20.4 million
Specialised health care 14.1 million
Stomatological health care 3.7 million

Małopolskie:
Primary health care 14.1 million
Specialised health care 11.0 million
Stomatological health care 3.4 million

Wielkopolskie:
Primary health care 16.6 million
Specialised health care 8.7 million
Stomatological health care 2.2 million

Dolnośląskie:
Primary health care 13.1 million
Specialised health care 8.7 million
Stomatological health care 2.7 million

Łódzkie:
Primary health care 12.3 million
Specialised health care 7.1 million
Stomatological health care 2.1 million

Pomorskie:
Primary health care 10.3 million
Specialised health care 7.5 million
Stomatological health care 1.8 million

Lubelskie:
Primary health care 10.4 million
Specialised health care 5.7 million
Stomatological health care 1.9 million

Kujawsko-pomorskie
Primary health care 9.7 million
Specialised health care 5.5 million
Stomatological health care 1.3 million

Podkarpackie:
Primary health care 8.9 million
Specialised health care 5.0 million
Stomatological health care 1.7 million

Zachodniopomorskie:
Primary health care 7.6 million
Specialised health care 4.2 million
Stomatological health care 1.3 million

Warmińsko-mazurskie:
Primary health care 6.4 million
Specialised health care 3.3 million
Stomatological health care 0.8 million

Podlaskie:
Primary health care 5.3 million
Specialised health care 3.5 million
Stomatological health care 1.0 million

Świętokrzyskie:
Primary health care 5.4 million
Specialised health care 2.8 million
Stomatological health care 0.7 million

Lubuskie:
Primary health care 4.3 million
Specialised health care 2.2 million
Stomatological health care 0.5 million

Opolskie:
Primary health care 4.0 million
Specialised health care 2.1 million
Stomatological health care 0.5 million
Chart 6. Outpatient consultations by type of consultation and voivodships in 2021

In the case of quoting data from the Statistics Poland, please provide information: "Statistics Poland data source", and in the case of publishing calculations made on data published by the Statistics Poland, please provide information: "Own study based on Statistics Poland data".

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1. Including outpatient departments of the Ministry of National Defence and the Ministry of the Interior and Administration. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Including holiday and night time medical services. There are health care benefits in primary health care, provided from 6 pm to 8 am on the following day and 24 hours on public holidays. Including also holiday and night time medical services given as a subcontract with a hospital. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Telephone consultation - medical or psychological consultation provided by phone or with the use of other telecommunication technologies. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)