

Use of medical services

Poles almost universally declare using medical services. During the six months preceding the survey, 88% of respondents at least once consulted a physician, used the services of a dentist or prosthetist, or had tests at a diagnostic laboratory because of their own illness or their child's condition.

The vast majority of Poles are patients of public health service. In the first half of this year, four fifths of all respondents (80%) used some benefits available under the national health insurance policy at least once. Most people visited a general practitioner at that time.

Compared to the same period of 2016, the proportion of users of health services financed by the National Health Fund has changed little.

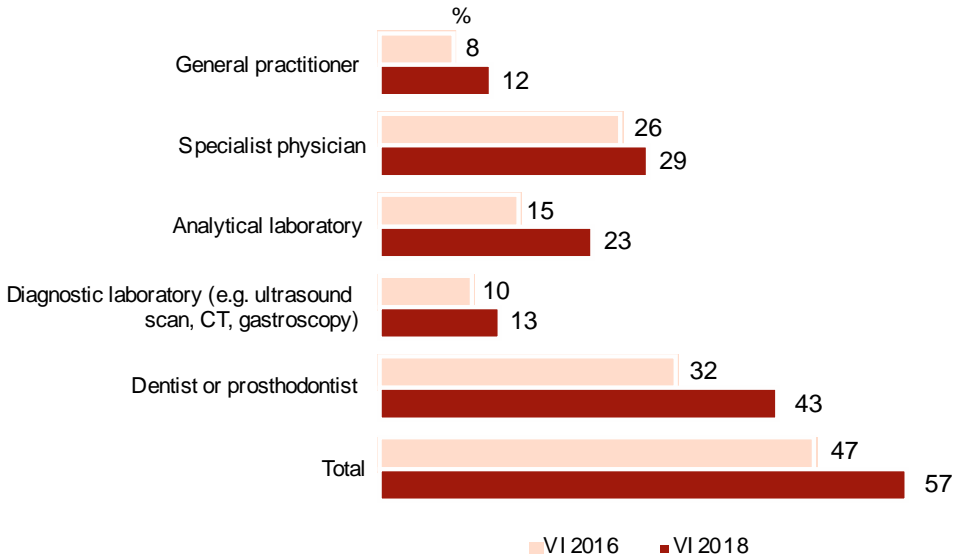
Users of services in public healthcare system in previous six months



Regardless of the use of public health care, a large group of respondents (57% of the total) received treatment outside of the public system in the first half of 2018. Poles usually paid for dental services on their own or from additional health insurance. A relatively large number of people covered the cost of a visit to a specialist privately or from additional voluntary health insurance in the first half of 2018. Almost one in four people paid extra for laboratory tests.

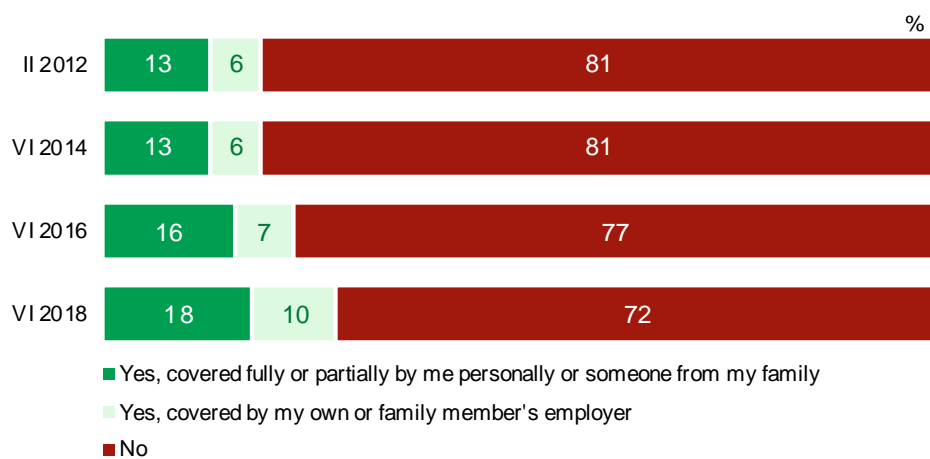
Compared to the same period in 2016, the number of beneficiaries of additional paid benefits increased by as much as 10 points (from 47% to 57%). We have registered an increase in the number of people using additional paid services in all categories of medical services listed in the study. Above all, a lot more people than two years ago decided this year to finance the services of a dentist or prosthodontist out of their own pocket or from additional health insurance (an 11-point increase). There has also been a large increase in the frequency of privately paid laboratory tests (an increase of 8 points).

Users of medical services in previous six months outside of public healthcare system



Since 2014, we have noted a systematic increase in the proportion of people covered by additional, voluntary health insurance. More than a fourth of adult Poles have an additional health insurance, in which 18% of the total pay for it by themselves (from the household budget), and a tenth has insurance fully or partially financed by the employer.

Have you got additional, voluntary health insurance?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Use of Healthcare Services and Insurance", July 2018. Fieldwork for national sample: June 2018, N=989. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.