CROATIA

ADRIANA VINCE
University hospital of infectious diseases Zagreb

TATJANA NEMETH BLAŽIĆ
Croatian institute of public health

VHPB BALKAN MEETING
INTRODUCTION IN THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE SERVICE
CROATIA
COUNTRY PROFILE

- Population 3,871,833 (Census 2021)
- Gross national income per capita 19,103 € (2021):
- Health spending per capita 1392 € (7%)
- Life expectancy at birth, years: 77.8 (2021)

cca. 35 845 births (2020, HZJZ)
57 000 deaths (2020, HZJZ)

excess deaths over births (negative natural increment)
>65 years: 23%
The Ministry of Health holds the stewardship role in the health system and is the main regulatory body, responsible for health policy development, planning and evaluation, public health programmes, regulatory standards and training of health professionals.

The Croatian Health Insurance Fund (CHIF) is the sole insurer and main purchaser of health services in the mandatory health insurance system. It plays a key role in contracting health services. Complementary health insurance, mainly to cover co-payments for services in the benefits package, is voluntary and purchased individually from either the CHIF or private insurers; over 60% of the population has this additional insurance.

State of Health in the EU · Croatia · Country Health Profile 2021
The Croatian Health Insurance Fund (CHIF) The CHIF provides mandatory health insurance coverage to the whole population. Dependent family members are covered through the contributions, while those who are not economically active, (such as pensioners and unemployed people) and unemployed groups are exempt from contributions and are covered through state budget contributions. The benefits package is generous. The benefits package covering most types of preventive and curative health services. Copayments apply for the most of the services except for vulnerable groups.

Primary care doctors – such as general practitioners (GPs), paediatricians and gynaecologists – are usually patients’ first point of contact with the health system, and act as gatekeepers to specialist and hospital care.
Infectious Disease service is organized within tertiary and secondary hospitals, mostly as independent departments in hospitals (18).

There is a Central University Hospital of Infectious diseases in Zagreb (230 beds, ICU) which acts as a National referral Centre for ID, also Referral Centre for diagnostics and treatment of viral hepatitis is within Hospital.

In order to get the ID service a patient has to have a referral from GP, or goes through Emergency department.
Screening and linkage to care in Croatia

- Screening activities in the population
- General practitioner
- Drug abuse clinics
- Other specialist care
- VTC

VTC, voluntary testing centre.
Vince A, personal view.
CROATIA: VIRAL HEPATITIS SERVICE

- All treatments and diagnostics for viral hepatitis 100% reimbursed by CHIF
- Viral hepatitis patients mostly treated by ID physicians (70%) and hepatologists (30%)
- Patients receive antivirals at the hospitals
The surveillance of communicable diseases is under the authority of the CIPH, as well as competent county IPHs and FEUs.

Key elements of communicable diseases (CD) surveillance system:
- General, universal
- Paper-based, at national level computerised database (300-600 records daily, without COVID-19)
- Integrated electronic system under development
- Mandatory reporting - disease notification (101 diseases)
- Enhanced surveillance for HIV, TB, malaria, legionellosis, measles-rubella-parotitis, meningococcal meningitis-sepsis, AFP, CJB, HBV&HCV
- 2012 EU case definitions*
- Since July 1st 2013 – reports sent to TESSy/WHO-ECDC (HIV/AIDS since 2008)
- All health care providers (HCPs) involved

*Definitions of notifiable communicable diseases ensure compliance with EU countries
CD reporting/surveillance

HCPs (primary care/hospital)

Field Epidemiology Unit (113)

County Public Heath Institute (21)

- PH labs

- analyse notifications weekly, monthly and yearly

- outbreak control measures

CIPH

Ref labs

CD register (CIPH)

MoH

WHO, ECDC

individual notifications / unknown disease clusters / death clusters
CROATIA
PREVENTION ACTIVITIES ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

Preventive and control activities:
- Hepatitis surveillance
- Education and information
- Counseling and testing
- Epidemiological research
- Harm reduction
- Laboratory diagnostic
- Treatment and care
- Psihosocial support

Other Ministries
WHO/EU
Hospitals
GPs
...

NGOs
Hepatos Split
Hepatos Rijeka
HUHIV
...

Ministry of Health
National Croatian Institute of Public Health
University Hospital for Infectious Diseases

NGO1
County IPH1
County IPH2
County IPH3...21
NGO2...

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