



## PRESS RELEASE

### HEALTH SURVEY: YEAR 2014

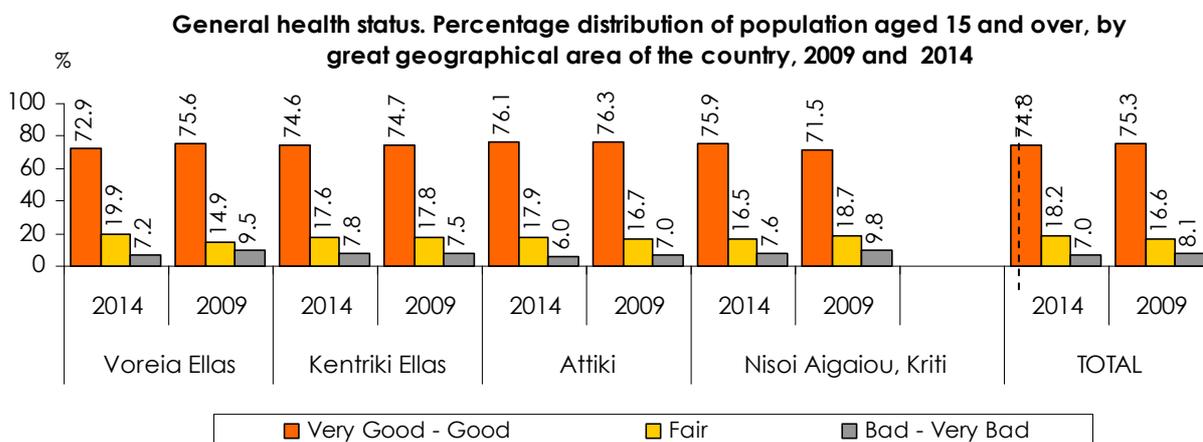
The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) announces data on the health of population aged 15 years and over. The data derive from the sampling Health Survey of the year 2014. The survey, which is conducted every five years, collects analytical data on the health of the population aged 15 years and over on the basis of demographic characteristics (age and gender), educational level and current activity status. More specifically, the survey covers issues pertaining to the health status, the use of health services, health determinants such as physical activity, consumption of fruits and vegetables, smoking, alcohol consumption and the use and provision of social support and help.

The survey was conducted for the first time in Greece in 2009 and is fully harmonized with the surveys conducted in the other EU Member States. The 2014 Health Survey was conducted on a final sample of 8,223 private households and an equal number of their members, throughout Greece. In each household of the sample, one person aged 15 years and over was randomly selected to be surveyed. The next health survey will be conducted in 2019.

The data announced in this press release concern the health status of population aged 15 years and over and the use of health services.

#### I. GENERAL HEALTH STATUS

General health status refers to the self-perceived health status of the respondent. 74.8% of the population aged 15 years and over report very good or good health, 18.2% fair health, and 7.0% bad or very bad (Tables 1 and 2). The results of the 2009 and 2014 survey, broken down by great geographical areas of Greece, are presented in the following graph.



In 2014, compared with 2009, the share of persons reporting that their health is very good or good presents a small decrease (-0.7%), while an increase (9.6%) is recorded in the share of persons reporting that their health is fair and a decrease (-13.6%) for those reporting bad or very bad health.

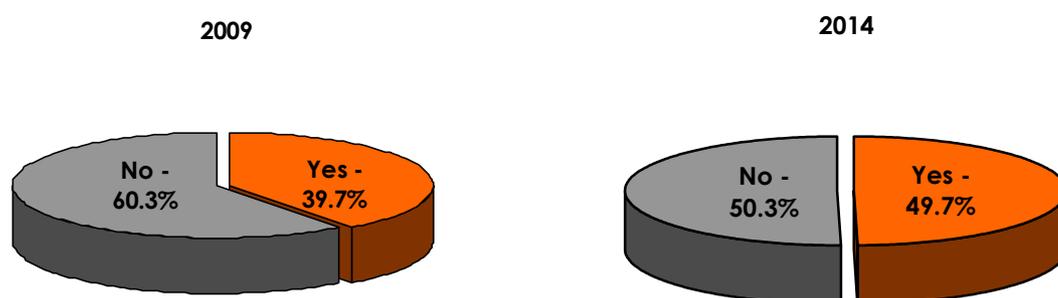
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Self-perceived chronic morbidity and limitation in activities of the population on account of health problems are two more basic health indicators.

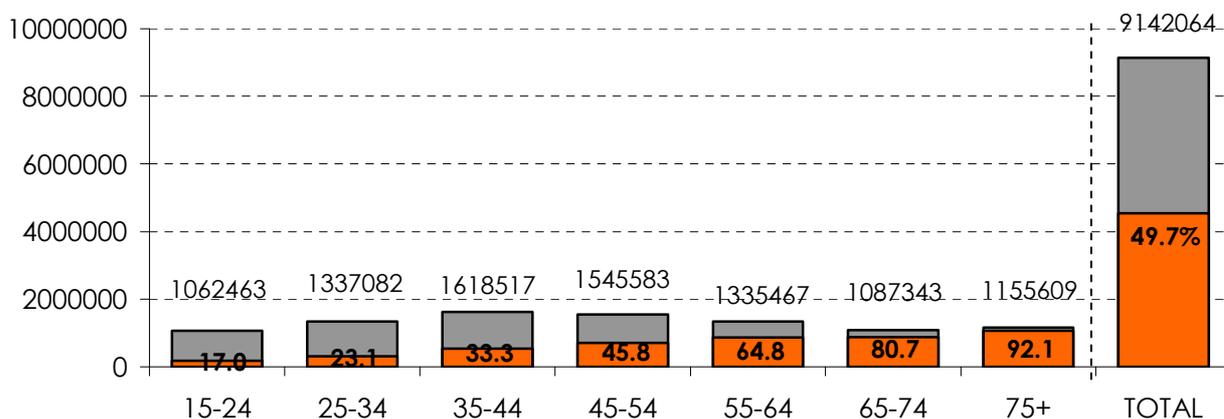
- One out of two persons (49.7%) aged 15 years and over reports suffering from a chronic illness or health problem. Chronic illness or health problem mean illnesses or health problems which have lasted, or are expected to last, for 6 months or more, with or without medication. A chronic illness or health problem is reported by five out of ten women (54.1%) and by four out of ten men (44.8%). Six out of ten persons (61.8%) that report having a chronic illness or health problem are aged 55 years and over.
- In 2014, a 25.2% increase in the share of persons that report suffering from a chronic illness or health problem is recorded in comparison with 2009 (39.7%).

**Population aged 15 and over suffering or not from chronic illness/health problem, 2009 and 2014**



The following graph presents the share of people that report suffering from a chronic illness or health problem broken down by age groups.

**Percentage of population of each age group suffering from chronic health problem or chronic disease, 2014.**

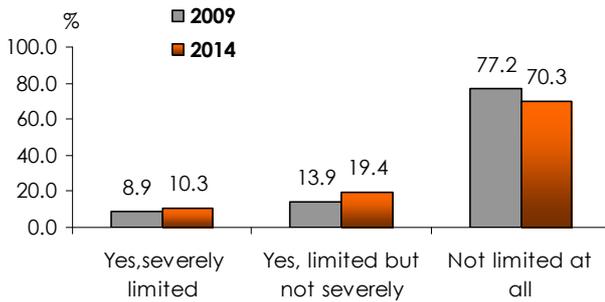


The Global Activity Limitation Indicator (GALI) assesses to what extent a respondent has been limited on account of health problems (physical, mental, psychological), illness/invalidity or age in activities people usually do. Also are included limitations because of congenital health problems or problems caused by accidents/injuries.

The indicator estimates to what extent the respondent has limited his/her activities only because of health problems and not on account of economic or other reasons.

- One out of ten persons (10.3%) aged 15 years and over is severely limited in activities people usually do, for six months or more, because of a health problem, and two out of ten (19.4%) respondents are limited but not severely.

**GALI indicator. Population aged 15 and over with activity limitation due to health problems, by degree of limitation, 2009 and 2014**



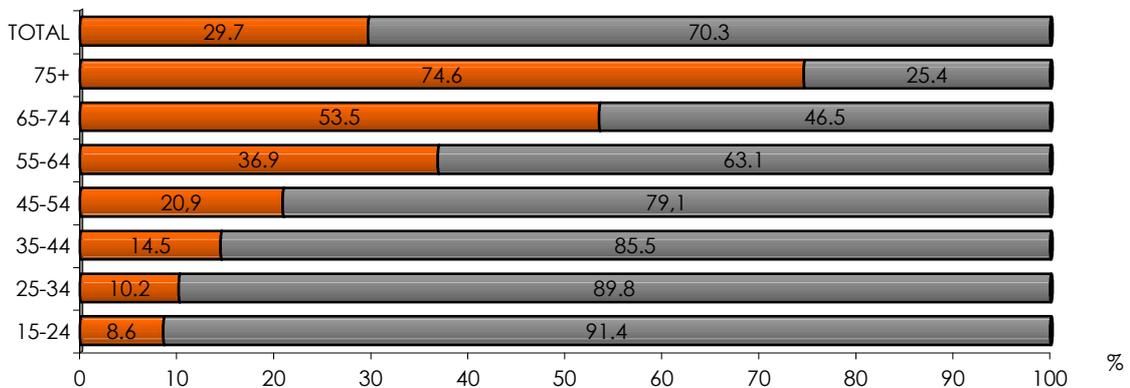
▪ 29.7% of people aged 15 years and over report having limited their activities because of health problems.

The graph depicts the Global Activity Limitation Indicator (GALI) for the years 2009 and 2014.

In 2014 compared with 2009, an increase of 15.7% and 39.6% is recorded in the share of people that is severely limited or limited but not severely in their activities, respectively.

The following graph depicts the persons that reported being limited in their activities due to health problems, broken down by age groups.

**GALI indicator. Population of each age group with activity limitation due to health problems, by degree of limitation, 2014.**



■ They face activity limitation (severely limited and limited but not severely) ■ They don't face activity limitation at all

According to the data presented in the graph, one out of two persons aged 65-74 years and almost eight out of ten persons aged 75 years and over are limited in their activities due to health problems.

## II. PREVALENCE OF DISEASES

The survey records data on the prevalence of several chronic diseases/conditions during the last 12 months preceding the survey conduct. For the purpose of the survey, persons suffering from a chronic disease/condition are those who on the day of the survey conduct had that chronic disease/condition but also those who got ill within the past 12 months before the survey conduct and on the day of the survey conduct the symptoms of the disease/condition were not present either because during that specific season of the year they do not "flare up" or due to medication.

- 4.4% of the persons aged 15 years and over reported suffering from asthma (allergic asthma included), which is almost the same percentage (4.3%) as in 2009. 61.0% of them are women and 39.0% are men.
- 2.1% of persons aged 15 years and over reported having a myocardial infarction (heart attack), recording a 50.0% increase in comparison with 2009 (1.4%). 7 out of 10 are men (69.7%) and 3 out of 10 are women (30.3%). 2.6% of persons aged 55-64 and 4.7% of persons aged 65-74 reported having a myocardial infarction.

<sup>i</sup> Prevalence rate of a disease / condition is the share of population having the disease at a given period; included are people who already have the disease at the start of the time period as well as those who acquire it during that period.

- One out of five persons aged 15 years and over reported suffering from hypertension (high blood pressure), a share (20.9%) which is increased (3.5%) compared to 2009 (20.2%). 4 out of 10 are men (43.6%) and 6 are women (56.4%). 3 out of 10 aged 55-64 and 1 out of 2 aged 65-74 reported suffering from hypertension.
- 2.1% of persons aged 15 years and over reported suffering from cerebral haemorrhage (stroke) or chronic consequences of a past stroke. This share increased by 23.5% in comparison with 2009 (1.7%). Among persons suffering women count for 52.6% while men for 47.4%). 2.5% of persons aged 55-64, 4.4% of persons aged 65-74 and 8.2% of persons aged 75+ reported suffering from cerebral stroke.
- 9.2% of persons aged 15 years and over reported suffering from diabetes, recording an increase of 16.5% in comparison with 2009 (7.9%). Among persons suffering from diabetes, women represent 54.4% and men 45.6%. More than 1 out of 10 aged 55-64 and 2 out of ten aged 65-74 reported suffering from diabetes.
- High blood cholesterol levels are reported by 15.4% of population aged 15 years and over. In 2009, 15.0% of population aged 15 years and over suffered both from high cholesterol and lipids and triglycerides disorders. 4 out of 10 are men (40.3%) and 6 are women (59.7%).

Detailed tables concerning the prevalence of chronic diseases/conditions by gender and age group are presented in the Annex (**Tables 3 and 4**).

### III. PHYSICAL AND SENSORY FUNCTIONAL LIMITATIONS

The survey has recorded data on the physical and sensory functional limitations of persons aged 15 years and over and more specifically limitations in seeing, hearing and mobility, irrespective of the fact that these limitations are due to age, diseases, accidents or the persons were born with them.

- One out of two (52.8%) persons aged 15 years and over wears glasses, contact lenses or makes use of optical or technical devices/aids. The percentage of men wearing wears glasses, contact lenses, etc is 47.8% and the corresponding percentage of women amounts to 57.5%.
- One out of ten (12.2%) persons aged 15 years and over not wearing glasses, etc, has difficulty seeing (some difficulty/ a lot of difficulty / cannot see at all).
- One out of twenty (4.1%), approximately, persons aged 15 years and over uses a hearing aid due to hearing problems
- Two out of ten (17.0%) persons aged 15 years and over not wearing a hearing aid have difficulty (some difficulty/ a lot of difficulty / cannot hear at all) hearing what is said in a conversation with one other person in a quiet or noisier room.
- Two out of ten (23.0%) persons aged 15 years and over have some kind of mobility problem (**Table 5**).

### IV. MENTAL HEALTH

The survey included questions aimed at recording the prevalence and severity of mental diseases and more specifically of depression. The recorded symptoms provide the experts with a clear image of the psychological status of the population during the last two week before the survey conduct.

- 4.7% of the population reported suffering from depression, thus recording an increase of 80.8% in comparison with 2009 (2.6%). Three out of ten are men (33.0%) and 7 are women (67.0%).
- 7.6% of persons aged 15 years and over suffer from anxiety disorders, 1.7% from other mental disorders and 1.0% from dementia or Alzheimer.

92.9% of the total population aged 15 years and over responded with clarity to all sub-questions of the mental health module of the questionnaire (they did not answer: "do not know"/ "I am not sure" / "I do not answer"). 61.7% of them gave a negative answer to all the sub-questions of the module, while 38.3% reported having been bothered by the "negative" feelings/conditions for

"several days", "more than half the days" or "nearly every day", during the last two weeks preceding the survey conduct.

During the last 12 months before the survey conduct, 4.7% of the persons aged 15 years and over visited a psychiatrist or psychologist for a health problem of theirs. Men account for 3.3% and women for 6.0% of them, respectively.

The survey included for the first time a question on suicidal ideation (suicidal thoughts) and its frequency. According to the survey data, 3.3% of persons aged 15 years and over, having answered with clarity to the specific sub-question, had thoughts such as "I had better not live" or "I had better harm myself" during the last 2 weeks before the survey conduct.

## V. USE OF HEALTH SERVICES

The survey has recorded information on:

- **in-patient hospital care** (hospitalization for at least one night or not –day care) in hospitals, clinics, therapy institutions, public or private, in Greece and abroad.
- **out-patient care** [provision of health services by medical doctors of all specializations, surgeons, dentists and orthodontists, health care services provided by physiotherapists, kinesitherapists and psychologists, as well as care services provided at home by other- except doctors- health professionals (nurses, midwives, health visitors, etc.) in the context of programmes providing care services to the elderly or to people suffering from chronic diseases or health problems. Out-patient care includes also social care at home other than medical or nursing care services]
- **use of medicines**, prescribed or not by a doctor
- **medical examinations**, preventive or not, such as vaccination against influenza, measurement of blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar, faecal occult blood test, colonoscopy examination, mammography and cervical smear test for women and rectal examination (prostate exam) for men.

As regards **in-patient hospital care**:

- 9.7% of the population aged 15 and over was hospitalized with overnight stay in a hospital during the last 12 months before the survey conduct. The number of hospitalization days ranges from 1 to 300. 49.9% of the population was hospitalized for 1 to 3 days and 35.4% for more than 3 to 10 days.
- 14.1% of the population aged 15 and over was admitted to a hospital for day-care services during the last 12 months before the survey conduct.

In comparison with the data of the 2009 survey stability is observed as regards the admissions to hospitals with overnight stay and a 28.2% increase as regards day-care admissions.

As regards **out-patient hospital care**<sup>ii</sup>, on the basis of the survey results, during the last 12 months before the survey conduct, the percentage of population aged 15 years and over that visited or consulted (face-to-face, over the phone, or electronically):

- a dentist or orthodontist amounted to 47.4%, recording a decrease (9.2%) in comparison with 2009 (52.2%). More specifically 49.4% of women and 45.3% of men visited a dentist or orthodontist (**Table 6**);
- a general practitioner or pathologist amounted to 58.8%, remaining stable in comparison with 2009 (57.8%). More specifically 62.4% of women and 54.8% of men visited / consulted a general practitioner or a pathologist (**Table 6**);
- a medical doctor of other specialization of surgeon (including maxillofacial surgeon) amounted to 46.5%, recording a slight increase (2.2%) in comparison with 2009 (45.5%). More specifically

<sup>ii</sup> *Out-patient care means the provision of medical care services by medical doctors in the doctor's practice, in the out-patient departments of hospitals, clinics, therapeutic institutions and other kind of health units, in the emergency departments of hospitals, clinics, therapeutic institutions and other kind of health units, in Health Centers or Regional health units, in health units of the National Primary Health Network (PEDY, ex-EOPYY), in the afternoon out-patient clinics of the National Health System, mobile units (ambulances, "Doctors of the World", etc.) in diagnostic, screening centres, or at the patients' home. It should be noticed that the provision of health care services provided by medical doctors during hospitalisation with overnight stay or day-care were not recorded.*

56.2% of women and 36.0% of men visited / consulted a medical doctor of other specialization or surgeon (**Table 6**);

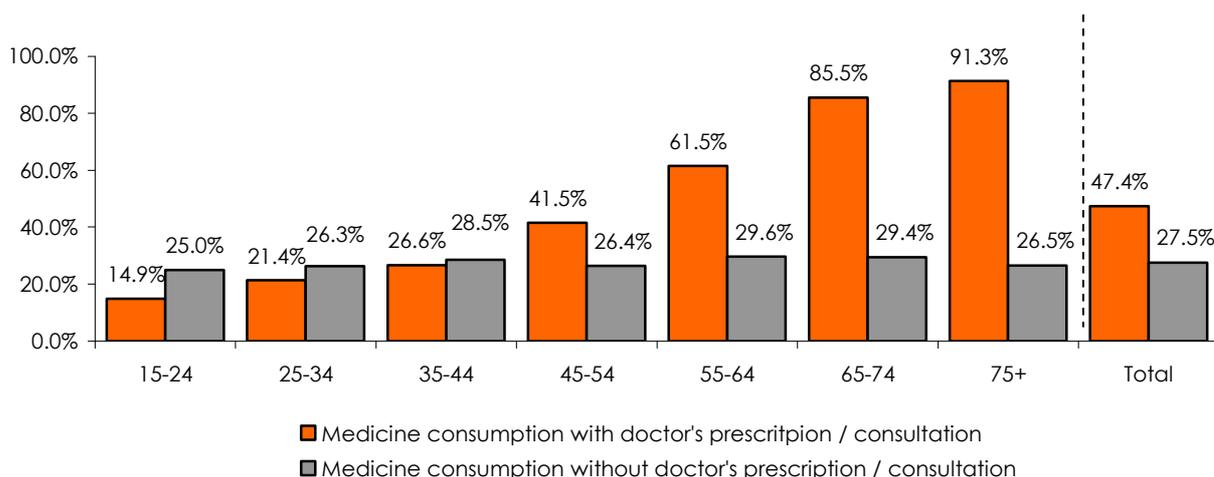
- a physiotherapist or kinesiologist amounted to 8.0%.

Care services at home by other, than doctors, health professionals (nurses, midwives, etc.), in the context of programmes providing care services to the elderly or to people suffering from chronic diseases or health problems and also social care at home other than medical care services, were provided to 3.2% of the population aged 15 years and over.

As regards **medicine use**:

- One out of two (47.4%) persons aged 15 years and over, during the last two weeks before the survey conduct, used medicines, herbal medicines or vitamins prescribed by a doctor. In comparison with 2009 (48.8%), a small decrease is recorded (2.9%). 41.5% of men and 52.8% of women used medicines, herbal medicines or vitamins prescribed by a doctor.
- Three out of ten (27.5%) persons aged 15 years and over, during the last two weeks before the survey conduct, used medicines, herbal medicines or vitamins not prescribed by a doctor. From them, approximately, seven out of ten people (64.9%) used medicines and not herbal medicines or vitamins and more specifically two of them (18.6%) used antibiotics. Not prescribed by a doctor means that the medicines, herbal medicines or vitamins were taken at the respondent's initiative or after an oral recommendation by a doctor (irrespective whether they are reimbursed by health insurance or not).
- An increase of 11.8% is recorded, in comparison with 2009 (24.6%), in the percentage of population aged 15 years and over used medicines, herbal medicines or vitamins not prescribed by a doctor.
- Nine out of ten persons (88.5%) aged 65 years and over used medicines prescribed by a doctor. The corresponding ratio, for the same age group, as regards medicines not prescribed by a doctor is three out of ten (27.9%).
- The members of younger age groups used more medicines not prescribed by a doctor than medicines prescribed by a doctor, while the opposite is observed for the older age groups, as can be seen in the following graph.

**Population of each age group using medicines with or without doctors' prescription/consultation, 2014**



The survey has collected data on vaccination against flu and on medical examinations, such as measurement of blood pressure and blood sugar, mammography and cervical smear test, prostate exam, etc.

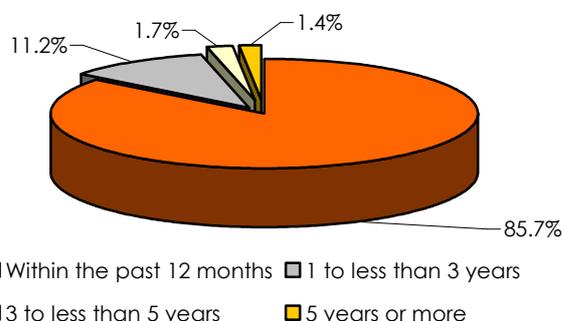
As regards **medical examinations** (for preventive reasons or not):

- 29.0% of the population aged 15 years and over was vaccinated against flu in 2014, 3.6% in 2013, 8.5% was vaccinated before 31/12/2012 and 58.9% was never vaccinated (**Table 7**). The

share of people vaccinated against flu during 2014, before the survey conduct, increased by 93.3% in comparison with the corresponding period of time in the 2009 survey, when the corresponding share was only 15.0%.

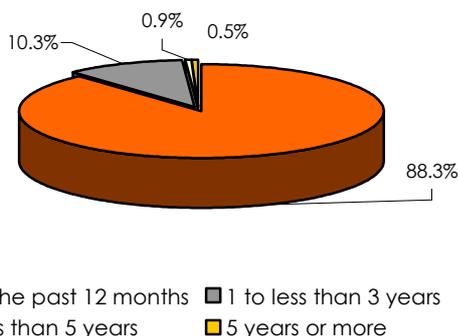
- 55.7% of persons aged 15 years and over have measured their blood pressure during the last 12 months before the survey conduct (**Table 8**).
- Seven out of ten persons (67.7%) having, whenever, measured their blood pressure (84.9%), have done so for preventive reasons.
- 85.7% of the population aged 15 years and over suffering from hypertension (20.9%) had their blood pressure measured by a health professional during the last 12 months before the survey conduct. Women seem to monitor and measure more regularly their blood pressure than men. 6 out of 10 persons suffering from hypertension and having measured their blood pressure within the 12 last months are women and 4 out of them are men.

Population aged 15 years and over suffering from hypertension and having measured their blood pressure, 2014



- 56.3% of people aged 15 years and over measured their blood sugar during the last 12 months before the survey conduct (**Table 9**).
- Eight out of ten persons (80.9%) having, whenever, measured their blood sugar, have done so for preventive reasons.

Population aged 15 years and over suffering from diabetes and having measured their blood sugar, 2014



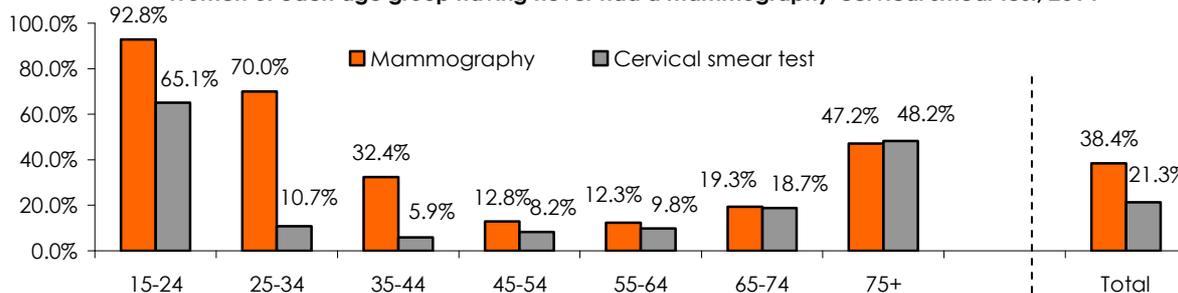
- 88.3% of the population aged 15 years and over suffering from diabetes (9.2%) had their blood sugar measured by a health professional during the last 12 months before the survey conduct.

Women, again, seem to monitor and measure more regularly their blood sugar than men; 54.3% of persons suffering from diabetes and having measured their blood sugar within the 12 last months are women and 45.7% are men.

- A decrease of 27.6%, compared with 2009, is recorded in the share of women that have never had a mammography: in 2014 the corresponding share was 38.4% while in 2009 53.0% (**Table 10**).
- A decrease of 31.9%, compared with 2009, is recorded in the share of women that have never had a cervical smear test: in 2014 the corresponding share was 21.3% while in 2009 31.3% (**Table 10**).

The following graph depicts the share of women who have never had a mammography or a cervical smear test, by age groups.

Women of each age group having never had a mammography-cervical smear test, 2014



- 85.6% of the women having had a mammography have done so for preventive reasons. In 2009, 91.6% of women reported that they had a mammography for preventive reasons, either at their own initiative or at the doctors' suggestion/recommendation or because of family record or because they participated in a preventive/screening programme;
- 87.6% of the women having had a cervical smear test have done so for preventive reasons;
- 32.3% of men had a rectal examination or other examination (PSA, ultra-sound, biopsy) for prostate. 72.8% of them had these exams for preventive reasons.

During the last 12 months before the survey conduct, a delay was experienced in getting the required and needed health care or did not get it at all by:

- 12.9% of the population aged 15 years and over, because the time needed to obtain an appointment was too long;
- 6.0% of the population aged 15 years and over due to distance or transport problems;
- 9.4% of the population aged 15 years and over due to the lack of medical specializations and health professionals.

During the past 12 months, before the survey conduct, the following health care services were needed but could not be afforded:

- medical care or treatment by 13.6% of the population aged 15 years and over;
- dental care and treatment by 15.2% of the population aged 15 years and over;
- mental health care, provided by a psychologist or a psychiatrist, by 4.2% of the population aged 15 years and over, and finally
- 11.3% of the population aged 15 years and over needed but could not afford to buy medicine prescribed by a doctor.

## ANNEX – TABLES

**Table 1.** Health status of population aged 15 and over, by gender, 2014  
%

Health Status	Men	Women	Total
Very good	43.5	34.6	38.8
Good	35.4	36.4	36.0
Fair	15.2	21.0	18.2
Bad	4.2	6.0	5.2
Very bad	1.7	2.0	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 2.** Percentage distribution of the population in each age group, by health status, 2014  
%

Health Status	Age Groups						
	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+
Very good	77.2	67.9	53.6	34.1	20.4	10.3	4.8
Good	18.9	26.4	37.4	46.8	49.3	39.9	26.1
Fair	3.5	4.7	7.5	15.6	23.3	36.0	43.2
Bad	0.0	0.6	0.9	3.0	5.0	10.1	19.6
Very bad	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.6	2.0	3.7	6.2

**Table 3.** Prevalence of chronic diseases /conditions: percentage distribution of population aged 15 and over suffering for each gender, 2014  
%

Chronic diseases / conditions	Men	Women	Total
Asthma (allergic asthma included)	3.6	5.2	4.4
Myocardial infarction	3.1	1.2	2.1
Hypertension	19.1	22.5	20.9
Stroke or chronic consequences of stroke	2.0	2.1	2.1
Diabetes	8.8	9.6	9.2
High cholesterol level in blood	13.0	17.6	15.4
Depression	3.2	6.0	4.7

**Table 4.** Prevalence of chronic diseases /conditions: percentage distribution of population in each age group suffering from chronic diseases /conditions, 2014  
%

Long - standing diseases / Conditions	Age Groups						
	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+
Asthma (allergic asthma included)	3.1	2.4	2.7	4.7	3.8	6.3	9.1
Myocardial infarction	0.0	0.0	0.2	1.6	2.6	4.7	6.9
Hypertension	0.9	1.1	4.2	12.7	30.5	51.1	57.3
Stroke or chronic consequences of stroke	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.7	2.5	4.4	8.2
Diabetes	0.4	0.9	1.9	4.5	13.5	22.9	26.0
High cholesterol level in blood	0.9	2.6	5.3	12.7	22.8	35.1	34.6
Depression	1.5	2.1	3.7	3.7	5.0	7.6	10.0

**Table 5.** Percentage of population facing mobility limitations in each age group

%

MOBILITY LIMITATIONS	Age Groups							Total population aged 15+
	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	
Difficulty in walking 500 meters on level ground	1.3	3.4	4.6	7.0	15.6	38.2	66.9	17.9
Difficulty in walking up or down 12 steps	2.2	3.1	4.9	10.2	19.1	45.2	71.8	20.5
Difficulty grasping and holding things or supporting yourself in daily activities due to upper limbs problems	1.6	1.5	2.8	5.1	11.4	27.4	53.0	13.4

**Table 6.** Percentage distribution of population aged 15 and over having used out-patient health care services by gender, 2014

%

Use of Out-Patient Health Care Services	Men	Women	Total
Visits to dentist/ orthodontist during the past 12 months	45.3	49.4	<b>47.4</b>
Visits to dentist / orthodontist 12 months ago or longer	51.0	47.6	49.2
Never visited dentist/ orthodontist	3.7	3.0	3.3
Visited or consulted a General Practitioner or Pathologist during the past 12 months	54.8	62.4	<b>58.8</b>
Visited/ consulted a General Practitioner or Pathologist 12 months ago or longer	41.4	35.8	38.4
Never visited/consulted a General Practitioner or Pathologist	3.8	1.8	2.8
Visited or consulted a medical or surgical specialist during the past 12 months	36.0	56.2	<b>46.5</b>
Visited or consulted a medical or surgical specialist 12 months ago or longer	43.3	31.8	37.3
Never visited/consulted a medical or surgical specialist	20.7	12.0	16.1

**Table 7.** Percentage distribution of population in each age group by time of receiving influenza vaccine, 2014

%

Vaccination against flu	Age Groups							Total
	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	
Population vaccinated within 2014	16.3	16.8	22.5	22.0	33.2	44.3	53.3	29.0
Population vaccinated within 2013	3.2	1.3	2.0	1.8	3.2	6.7	8.8	3.6
Population vaccinated too long ago (before 31/12/2012)	10.7	8.9	7.8	5.8	7.7	9.5	11.3	8.6
Population never vaccinated	69.7	73.1	67.7	70.5	55.9	39.5	26.6	58.9

**Table 8.** Percentage distribution of population aged 15 and over by gender and time of blood pressure measurement, 2014

%

<b>Blood pressure measurement</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Total</b>
Within the past 12 months	51.8	59.1	55.7
1 to less than 3 years	21.3	19.1	20.1
3 to less than 5 years	5.3	4.5	4.9
5 years or more	5.1	3.4	4.2
Never	16.6	13.8	15.1

**Table 9.** Percentage distribution of population aged 15 and over by gender and time of blood sugar measurement, 2014

%

<b>Blood sugar measurement</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Total</b>
Within the past 12 months	51.0	61.0	56.3
1 to less than 3 years	24.5	21.3	22.8
3 to less than 5 years	5.7	4.4	5.0
5 years or more	4.6	3.2	3.8
Never	14.1	10.1	12.0

**Table 10** – Percentage of women aged 15 and over and time of mammography and cervical smear test, 2014

%

	<b>Mammography</b>	<b>Cervical smear test</b>
Within the past 12 months	28.2	39.3
1 to less than 2 years	13.8	16.2
2 to less than 3 years	5.8	6.0
3 years or more	13.8	17.2
Never	38.4	21.3
<b>Total</b>	100	100

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

<b>Health Survey</b>	The Health Survey is part of the "European Health Interview Survey", to which all EU Member States participate. The survey is conducted every five years and it was conducted for the first time in 2009. The main purpose of the survey is to provide and study, at European and national level, analytical data on population health status, on health determinants and on the use of health services.
<b>Legal Basis</b>	The survey is conducted pursuant to <b>Regulation (EC) No 1338/2008</b> of the European Parliament and of the Council, laying down issues concerning community statistics on public health and occupational health and safety, and pursuant to <b>Implementing Regulation (EC) No 141/2013</b> laying down the basic concepts and the variables included in the survey questionnaire.
<b>Reference Periods</b>	<p>The survey was conducted in the last quarter of 2014. Reference periods vary among the questions. More specifically, they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>the day of the survey conduct</b>, for questions concerning employment status, health status, physical and sensory functional limitations, height/weight, etc.</li><li>• <b>last 12 months</b> before the day of the survey conduct, for chronic diseases/conditions, accidents and injuries, hospital health care, unmet needs for health care, etc.</li><li>• <b>last 4 weeks</b> before the day of the survey conduct, for pain, number of visits/consultations to doctors.</li><li>• <b>last 2 weeks</b> before the day of the survey conduct for medicines use, mental health.</li></ul>
<b>Coverage</b>	The survey covers all the private households throughout the country, irrespective of their size or socio-economic characteristics.
<b>Methodology-Weighting</b>	<p>The survey is a sample survey conducted on an initial sample of 9,936 households. The multi-stage stratified sampling method was applied for the survey, with primary sampling unit the surface area (one or more city blocks or a small settlement), secondary unit the household and final unit the person aged 15 years and over (target-population).</p> <p>In each Region (NUTS 2) the primary units were stratified into 8 strata on the basis of the degree of urbanization of the Municipal/Local Communes where they belong. The former Greater Athens Area and the former Greater Thessaloniki Area were divided into 47 and 11, respectively, strata of about equal size (equal number of households) on the basis of the lists of city blocks of the Municipalities that constitute them and taking into consideration socio-economic criteria. The number of strata, deriving from the application of the stratification criteria amount to 151, which are homogenous strata, in terms of the survey characteristics.</p> <p>In each homogenous stratum (final stratum), a sample of surface area units is selected with a probability which is proportionate to their size (number of households on the basis of the 2011 Population Census) from a sampling frame compiled on the data of the 2011 Population Census. The total number of the surface area units of the sample amounts to 1,265.</p> <p>Within the surface area units of the sample a sample of households is selected with equal probabilities of selection from an updated frame-list by applying the systematic sampling. Finally, within each household of the sample a person aged 15 and over is selected with equal probabilities of selection.</p> <p>The weighting coefficients were calculated taking into consideration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) the probability of selection of households and persons of the sample in each stratum, which is based on the Region and the urbanization degree of the Local Departments (151 strata)</li><li>b) the size of the household (1,2,3,4+ members) by Great Geographic Area</li><li>c) the gender and the age group of respondents (2 genders, 8 age groups) by Great Geographic Area.</li></ol>
<b>Proxy answers</b>	In case the person selected to be surveyed was not able to provide information on account of health reasons, mental retarders, etc. or because he/she was temporarily absent from the house due to educational or work-related reasons, a proxy answer was accepted (someone else responded to the questionnaire) The total share of proxy answers amounts to 3.4%. Given the fact that the questionnaire included answers for which proxy answers could not be accepted on account of the nature of the questions, such proxy answers were considered as "missing" and therefore they were not taken into account in the calculation of the data of the survey presented in this Press Release. In addition, the answers "I do not know", "I am not sure", "I do not answer", were not taken into account as well.

**Great geographical areas (NUTS 1)** **Voreia Ellas (Northern Greece):** Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki (East Macedonia and Thrace), Kentriki Makedonia (Central Macedonia), Dytiki Makedonia (West Macedonia), Thessalia (Thessaly).  
**Kentriki Ellas (Central Greece):** Ipeiros (Epirus), Ionioi Nisoi (Ionian Islands), Dytiki Ellas (Western Greece), Sterea Ellas (Central Greece), Peloponnisos (Peloponnese).  
**Attiki (Attica):** Attiki (Attica).  
**Nisoi Aigaiou, Kriti (Aegean Islands and Crete):** Voreio Aigaiο (Northern Aegean), Notio Aigaiο (Southern Aegean), Kriti (Crete).

**References** More information on the Health Survey (tables, graphs, methodology) are available on the webpage of the Hellenic Statistical Authority [www.statistics.gr](http://www.statistics.gr) "Statistics / Population and Social conditions / Health / Health Survey".