

Health Professionals Report 2022 (Beta version): Capacity, Accessibility and Production

Speciality of Interest: General Practitioner

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Introduction

Introduction

This report provides a comprehensive overview per medical specialty working within the Belgian health insurance system, within hospital and ambulatory settings.

Professional perspective:

 Aspects covered are: capacity, production (numbers and financials), subspecialties, replacement rates. Those aspects are described by gender, age, geographical distribution, type of activity, workplace, evolution.

Patient perspective:

• Accessibility and frequentation are described by gender, age, social status, geographical distribution, evolution.

Data Sources & Transformations

This report draws insights from the "Doc P" database, encompassing patients who sought care in Belgium and claimed insurance reimbursement. The database spans from accounting years:

- 2012 to 2022 for health professionals
- 2018 to 2022 for health professionals subspecialties
- 2018 to 2021 for insured coverage and patient frequentation

Each studied year N is coupled with socio-demographic data on providers as of December 31 N. Provider activity is estimated converting reimbursement amounts into hourly workload, with those surpassing a certain reimbursement threshold being treated as 1 FTE.

To address GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) compliance for small cell data, numbers from fewer than 5 registered providers have been hided.

Additional information

For official information regarding the number of healthcare providers :

NIHDI : please click <u>here</u>
MOH : please click here

Contact

appropriatecare@riziv-inami.fgov.be

Key Variables & Metrics

Healthcare professional perspective (specialty is determined by grouping NIHDI competency codes):

- <u>Demographic characteristics</u> are age (groups by 10Y), sex (M/F), contact address (not working place), communication language (Dutch/French), convention status (full, partly), activity status (>1 intervention/year), type of prestation (see <u>NIHDI nomenclature</u>).
- <u>Numeric characteristics</u> are number of professionals (all providers registered within INAMI-RIZIV), number and cost of (reimbursed) prestation. Evolution is available since 2012 for professionals figures and since 2018 for the study of their activity.
- <u>FTE (full-time equivalent)</u> is calculated to determine the workload of a healthcare provider (= total reimbursements by provider in a given year divided by the median amount of reimbursements for providers aged 45 to 54 in the same specialty, see Annex 1). FTE values are capped at 1. The FTE for employed doctors in medical homes was estimated at 0.81 per doctor because the actual FTE cannot be evaluated given the absence of activity registration. Medical homes are not included in the productivity calculation. General practitioners with "Fee for Service" in the title specifies that doctors and patients in medical homes are excluded from the analysis.
- Working place: distinction is made between private, polyclinic, day hospitals, or hospital stays, depending on the place of prestation.
- <u>Subspecialty Clusters</u>: Healthcare providers within a specialty can be clustered based on ([sub] group of similar) nomenclature codes reimbursed or working place.
- Indicators of Density: FTE/10.000 insured; total activity/FTE; reimbursement/FTE, number of patients/FTE.

Patient perspective:

- <u>Demographic characteristics</u> are age (group by 10Y), sex (M/F), address of residence (not treatment place !) (by region, province, etc.), social status (normal and preferential regime [BIM])), type of specialty contacted during the year.
- <u>Patients Indicators</u>: insured coverage (% at least 1 contact) (N.B. Specialist in training included), insured frequentation (number of contacts/insured), patient frequentation (number contacts/patient).

A KPI (Key Performance Indicator) color system is used in this report. It is shown as

- Grey for contextual information
- Green for positive performance compared to starting year
- Red for negative performance compared to starting year

Limitations & Assumptions

- Professional density: contact address and working place can be in different regions, provinces, etc. which can explain differences in density between Brussels region (working place) and peripherical contact address (Brabant). By standardizing the metrics to a consistent population size, it enables fair comparisons across different regions or provinces. It has not been done in this report.
- Patient analysis uses actual care years, not accounting years, unlike other analyses. If the analysis year is N, the last available year for patient analysis is N-1 in order to present relevant data.
- The calculation of FTEs may be impacted by modifications of competency codes over the years. A change within a specialty affects the median of reimbursements and thus generates breaks in the evolution of FTEs (see the recognition of nephrologists since 2022 for internal medicine). The median value changes depending the year (see Annex 1). In addition it is not adjusted for inflation.



Speciality Metrics and Comparison : General Practitioner and Medical group except diagnosis

This sheet compares the specialty of interest (left) with a larger but similar group (right).

General Practitioner			
Code Competence	Description		
10003	Recognised general practitioner		
10004	Recognised general practitioner + ECG		

	General Practitioner	Medical group except diagnosis
# N SubSpecialities	1	15
# N Total	17,872	29,765
# N Active	14,042	23,637
# Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)	9,419	15,865
€ Expenses per FTE	€ 208,844	€ 252,659
65+	% Active % FTE 36% 21%	% Active % FTE 32% 17%
	% Active % FTE	% Active % FTE
Convention	90% 90%	88% 89%
Accreditation	84% 95%	84% 93%

Medical group except diagnosis

Profession

Cardiologist Endocrinologist

Gastroenterologist General Internal

Medicine

General Practitioner

Geriatrician

Haematologist

M Physical

Medical Oncologist

Neurologist

Neuropaediatrician

Paediatrician

Pneumologist

Psychiatrist

Rheumatologist

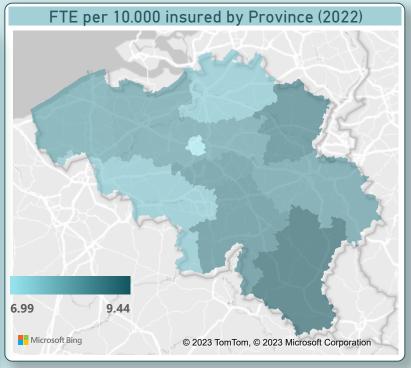


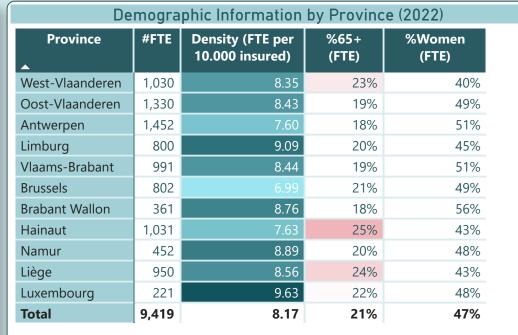
Geographical Accessibility (2022): General Practitioner

Geographical accessibility is measured by density, calculated by dividing the number of FTE (Full Time Equivalent) per 10.000 insured and comparing the results between provinces and regions.

<u>Indicators</u>:

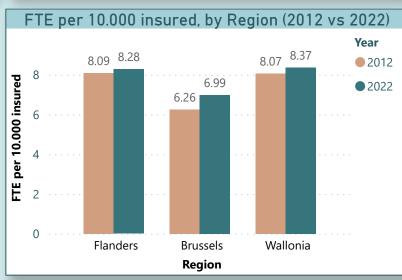
- Geographical distribution which enables to check for homogeneity;
- Evolution since 10 years and growth rate within the time period;
- Comparison between FTE density and insured density to detect correlation.

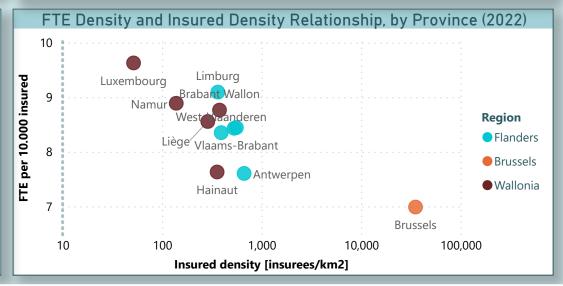




FTE per 10.000 insured in Belgium (2022)

8.18 2012: 7.90 (+3.56%)







Financial Accessibility (2022): General Practitioner

Financial accessibility is measured by the number of conventioned FTE (Full time equivalent) by 10.000 insured.

Convention means that the professional is committed to respect prices determined in the NIHDI convention. This agreement can occur partly (at specific hours during the week) or totally (all the working hours).

Indicators:

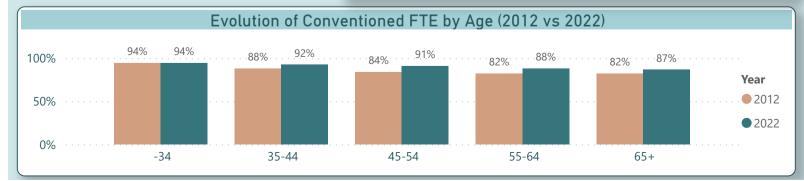
- % FTE meeting the criteria / total FTE
- Financial accessibility is gauged by conventioned FTE (Full Time Equivalent) per 10,000 insured.

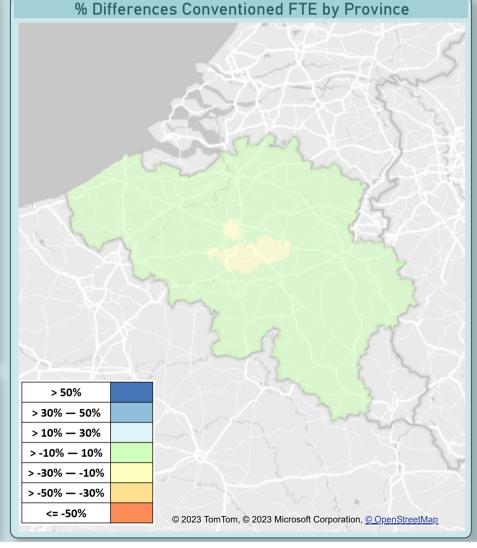
% Conventioned FTE (2022) 90% 2012: 85% (+6.69%)

% Conventioned FTE by Language and Regime

3 3 3					
Language	Part	Full	Total		
FR	1%	86%	87%		
NL	1%	92%	93%		
Total	1%	90%	90%		

Demographic Information by Province				
Province	Density (FTE per 10.000 insured)	Density (Conventioned FTE per 10.000 insured)	% Conventioned FTE	
West-Vlaanderen	8.35	8.01	96%	
Oost-Vlaanderen	8.43	8.05	95%	
Antwerpen	7.60	6.63	87%	
Limburg	9.09	8.94	98%	
Vlaams-Brabant	8.44	7.47	89%	
Brussels	6.99		81%	
Brabant Wallon	8.76	6.69	76%	
Hainaut	7.63	6.67	87%	
Namur	8.89	8.56	96%	
Liège	8.56	7.86	92%	
Luxembourg	9.63	7.94	83%	
Total	8.17	7.37	90%	







Continous Professional Development (2022): General Practitioner

CPD (continuing professional development) is measured by accreditation criteria.

Accreditation means that the professional meets several CPD (continuous professional development) criteria (which indicates the will for quality of care).

Indicator:

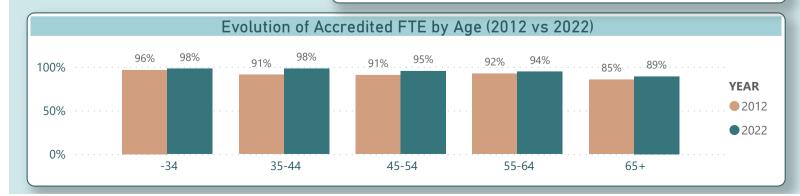
• % FTE meeting the criteria / total FTE

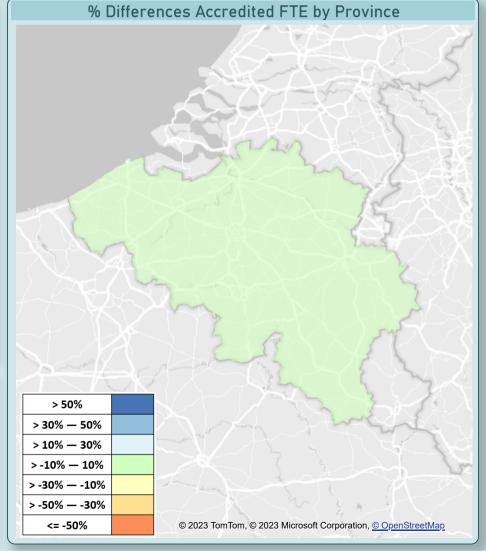
% Accredited FTE (2022) 95% 2012: 91% (+4.09%)

% Accredited FTE by Language and Gender					
Language F M Total					
FR	95%	89%	91%		
NL	99% 96% 97%				
Total 97% 93% 95%					

Demographic information by Province				
Province	Density (FTE per 10.000 insured)	Density (Accredited FTE per 10.000 insured)	% Accredited FTE	
West-Vlaanderen	8.35	8.14	97%	
Oost-Vlaanderen	8.43	8.21	97%	
Antwerpen	7.60	7.41	97%	
Limburg	9.09	8.88	98%	
Vlaams-Brabant	8.44	8.10	96%	
Brussels	6.99		91%	
Brabant Wallon	8.76	7.98	91%	
Hainaut	7.63	7.01	92%	
Namur	8.89	8.29	93%	
Liège	8.56	7.73	90%	
Luxembourg	9.63	9.10	94%	
Total	8.17	7.75	95%	

Demographic Information by Draving







Subspecialties Activity and Working Place (2022): General Practitioner Fee for Service

Total reimbursement (2022)

€ 1,800.87M 2012: € 1,185.08M (+51.96%)

Reimbursement by FTE (2022)

€ 208,844 2012: € 143,134 (+45.91%)

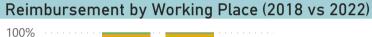
The level of activity is measured by the total reimbursement amount of the specialty. The distribution of the reimbursement by specialty allows to distinguish different types of activity which are grouped to study what kind of procedures they are doing and where. The type of activity is described by 2 criteria: the place of work and the nature of the activity:

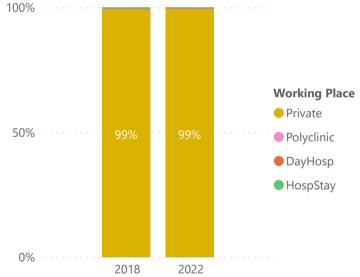
- The place of work is the place where the activity takes place (private, polyclinic, day hospital, hospital stay).
- The nature of the activity is described according to 2 logics of grouping. The traditional distribution of reimbursements within NIHDI (N01 contacts, N20 surgery, etc.) and a specific, more detailed breakdown to identify sub-specialties within the specialty (i.e. cardiac surgery within surgery).

Indicators:

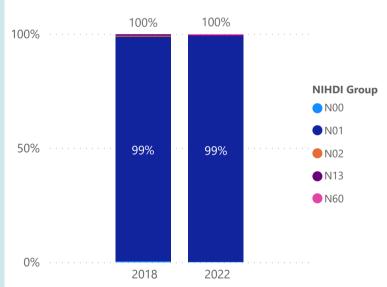
- Reimbursement (in [Million] Euros) for the specialty
- Reimbursement (in Euros) / FTE
- % Reimbursement (in Euros) by category / total reimbursement (in Euros)

The evolution provides information on the stability of the patterns of the activity comparing year N with N-4.

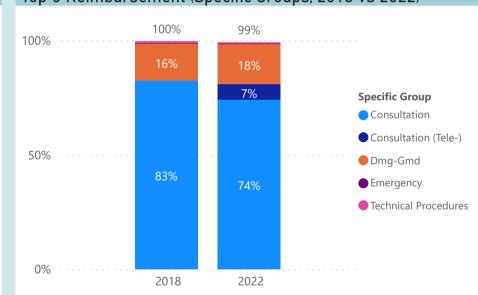




Top 5 Reimbursement (NIHDI Groups, 2018 vs 2022)



Top 5 Reimbursement (Specific Groups, 2018 vs 2022)



NIHDI Group	Description
N00	Supervision of hospitalized beneficiaries
N01	Consultations visits and medical advices
N02	Technical medical benefits in kind - ordinary benefits in kind
N13	General special dispensations and punctures
N60	Clinical biology - Article 24§1 + pseudocodes

Specific Group	Description
Consultation	Consultation
Consultation (Tele-)	Consultation (Tele-)
Dmg-Gmd	Dmg-Gmd
Emergency	Emergency
Technical Procedures	Technical Procedures



Subspecialties Activity and Working Place (2022): General Practitioner Fee for Service

Subspecialties are identified by their working place and type of activity (see previous page): the assignment of a health care provider to a sub-specialty depends first on the type of activity exercised. An active provider with at least 10% of reimbursements in a type of activity is considered specialized in this activity. However, the most complex activities (eg transplantation) are not subject to a minimum threshold. If no particular activity has been identified for the specialty, the assignment is made on the criterium of the workplace: hospital, polyclinic, private. If there is no clear distinction between the different locations, then the cluster is named "Mixed". Clusters less than 5 FTE or less than 0,5% of total FTE are left out. Comparison of clusters helps to understand differences in nature of work.

• % type of activity (in Euro) / total reimbursement (in euro) by cluster

Subspeciality				
Subspecialty	#FTE Cluster	% Total FTE	Median Reimb	
Palliative	332	4%	€ 198K	
Private (with DMG-GMD)	6684	84%	€ 185K	
Mixed	79	1%	€ 119K	
Private	870	11%	€ 115K	

FTF and median Reimburgement by



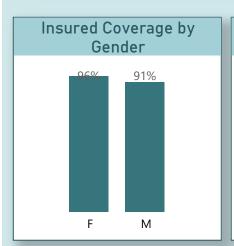
Accessibility, Insured Coverage (2021): General Practitioner

Disparities in insured coverage can help to understand accessibility.

Indicator:

• Percentage of insured persons having at least one contact per year with the specialty (by category of patient) (N.B. Specialist in training included)

Comparison between categories of patients helps to identify possible disparities in accessibility by criterium (gender, age group, geographical or socio-economic status).





94% 2018: 84% (+10.75%)

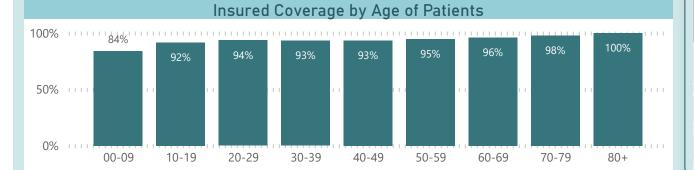
Ratio Women/Men (2021)

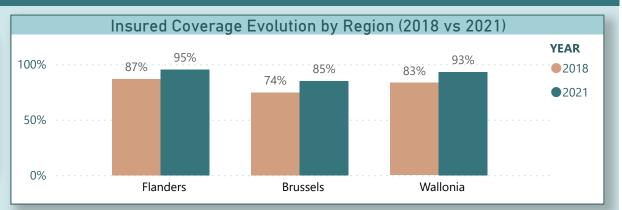
2018: 1.09 (-3.89%)

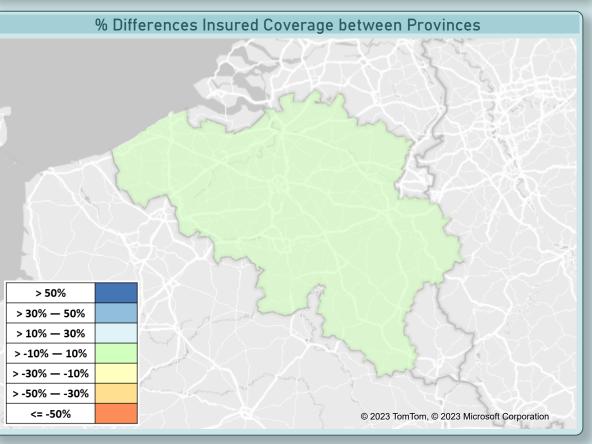
Ratio Bim/Standard (2021)

1.01

2018: 1.06 (-4.99%)









Accessibility, Patient Frequentation (2021): General Practitioner Fee For Service

Frequentation of patients (number of contacts) is a complementary measure to understand accessibility.

<u>Indicator</u>: number of contacts (by category op patient) is respectively divided

- per insured
- per patient (insured who at least has one contact with health provider)

Category of patients are defined by several criteria: gender, social status, age group, geographic residence, evolution.

Insured Frequentation (2021)

2018: 4.37 (+23.57%)

Insured Coverage (2021)

2018: 81% (+10.51%)

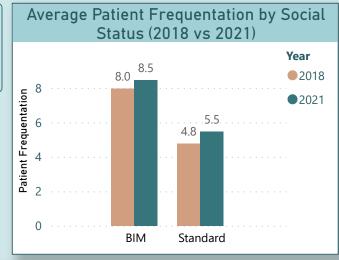
Patient Frequentation (2021)

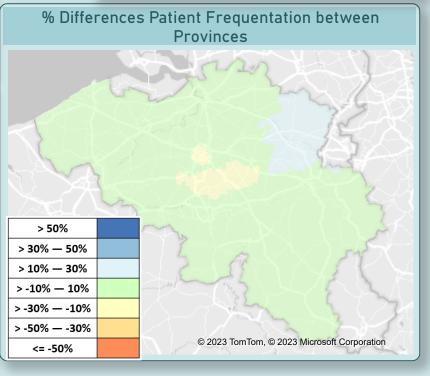
6.0

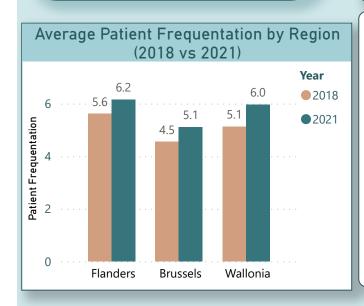
2018: 5.4 (+11.8%)

Age Class Patients	Insured Frequentation	Insured Coverage	Patient Frequentation
00-09	3.06	78%	3.9
10-19	3.44	85%	4.0
20-29	4.17	88%	4.7
30-39	4.72	88%	5.3
40-49	5.09	89%	5.7
50-59	5.77	91%	6.3
60-69	6.38	93%	6.8
70-79	7.76	96%	8.1
80+	11.51	99%	11.6

Province	Insured Frequentation	Insured Coverage	Patient Frequentation
West-Vlaanderen	6.27	96%	6.5
Oost-Vlaanderen	5.69	92%	6.1
Antwerpen	5.39	92%	5.8
Limburg	6.63	96%	6.9
Vlaams-Brabant	5.22	90%	5.8
Brussels	3.54	69%	5.1
Brabant Wallon	4.64	88%	5.3
Hainaut	5.36	90%	5.9
Namur	5.81	92%	6.2
Liège	5.15	84%	6.1
Luxembourg	5.64	93%	6.0









Workload (2021): General Practitioner Fee For Service

Workload by specialty provides insights into the work volume per year of the specialty by FTE and their patient base population (Individual patients are allocated to one single professional per specialty per year to build the patient base population for each single professional/ provider) (N.B. Specialist in training are excluded).

Indicators (by province)

- Workload : contacts / FTE
- Patient base population: Patients / FTE
- Patient base population turnover : Providers/ patient
- Contacts per patient per provider
- Average age of total contacts per FTE

Limitation: contact address of health professionals can be different than the location of patients. This can explain differences in workload results (contact/FTE, patients/FTE) and lead to misinterpretation for geographical criteria (province) especially for small numbers of working professionals. Also if the number of FTE by cell is inferior to 5, contacts per FTE and patients per FTE have been hided.

Average Contacts per FTE (2021)

7,076 2018: 5,718 (+23.75%)

Average Patients per FTE (2021)

1,176

2018: 1,063 (+10.68%)

Average Providers per Patient (2021)

1.8

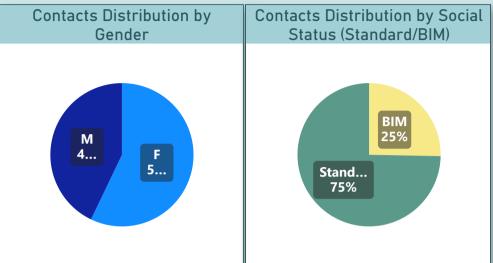
2018: 1.6 (+10.43%)

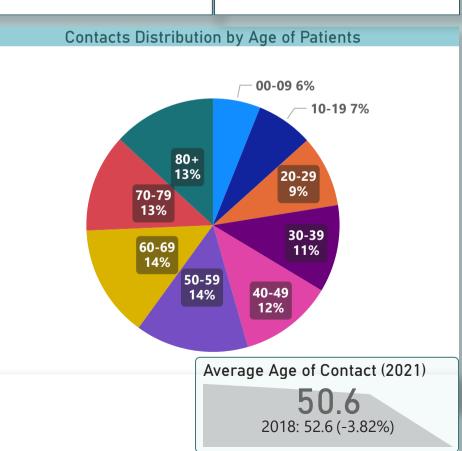
Average Contacts per Patient and Provider (2021)

3.4

2018: 3.4 (+1.24%)

Province	Contacts per FTE	Patients per FTE	Contacts per Patient and Provider
West-Vlaanderen	7397	1138	3.6
Oost-Vlaanderen	6647	1084	3.3
Antwerpen	6882	1178	3.1
Limburg	7137	1036	3.3
Vlaams-Brabant	6035	1049	3.2
Brussels	4986	976	3.3
Brabant Wallon	5264	1001	3.3
Hainaut	7075	1194	3.9
Namur	6531	1046	3.7
Liège	5984	977	3.8
Luxembourg	5877	987	3.4





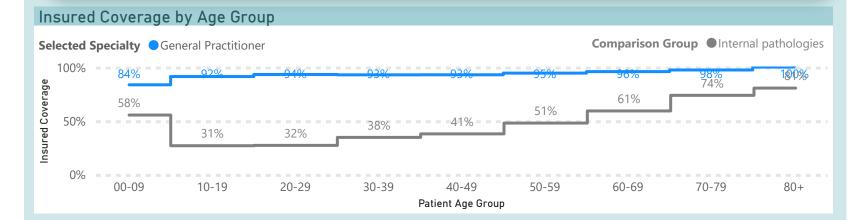


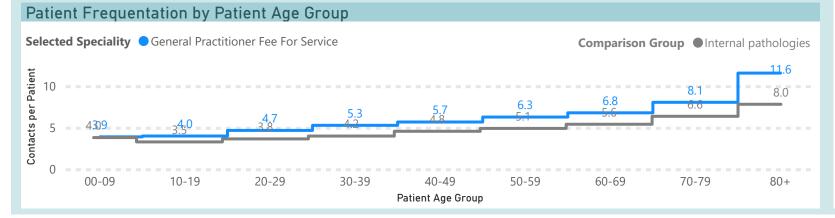
Complementarity with its similar group (2021): General Practitioner Fee For Service

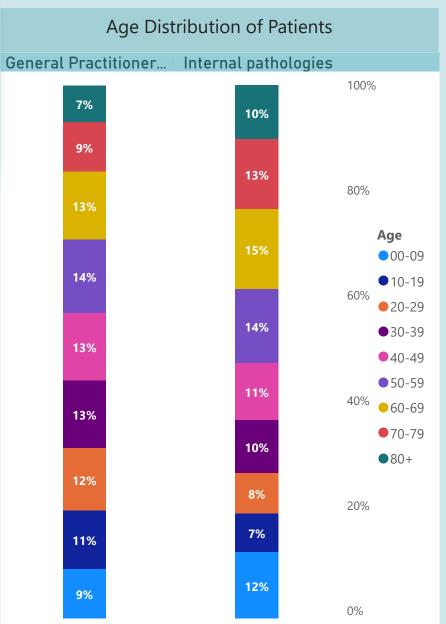
Complementarity compares the similarities in attendance (by age group of the insured/patient) between the reference specialty and the selected group of specialties considered close to the discipline.

Indicators:

- Insured coverage
- Patient frequentation









Evolution of the Workforce Demography (2022): General Practitioner

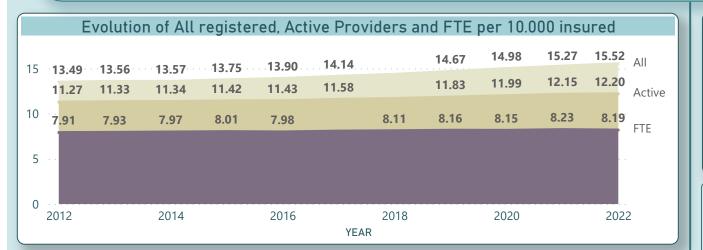
Healthcare workforce demographics presents active professionals engaging in more than one activity per year on the <u>left side</u> of the page, while Full-Time Equivalents (FTE) are displayed on the <u>right side</u>. The analysis spans the past decade and is segmented by professional characteristics such as age class, gender, and language.

Active indicators (Left):

- Number of Actives (>1 prestation /accounting year) and its % growth rate
- Replacement Rate: Active professionals above 55 years compared to those below 55 years.
- Inactivity: % of inactive professionals in relation to the total.
- New Active Providers per Year: Annual influx of new providers (derived from linear regression to estimate the average rate)

FTE indicators (Right):

- Equal proportion of gender: Indicates the percentage of women FTE in relation to the total FTE.
- Average FTE: Indicates the level of activity by dividing the FTE below 65 years with the total active workforce.



% Growth Rate of Active Providers

1.3%

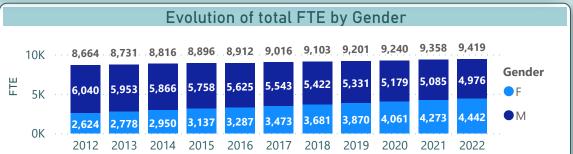


1.13 × 2012: 0.99 (+14.3%)

% of persons inactive < 65y (2022)

2% 2012: 12% (+0.27%) New Active Providers per Year

169

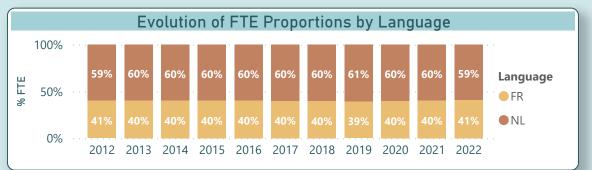


Avg FTE per active provider < 65y (2022)

2012: 0.73 (+0.34%)

% Women of total FTE (2022)

4 / **%** 2012: 30% (+55.73%)



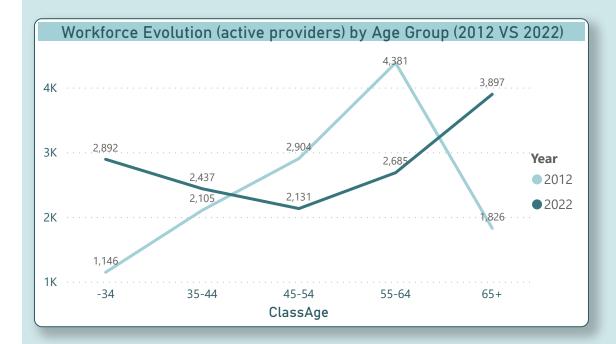


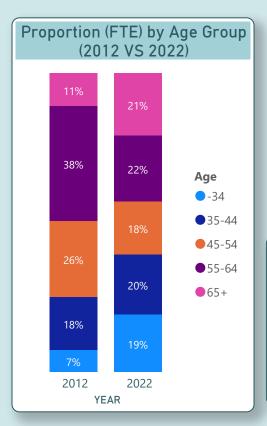
Demographic Evolution by Age Group (2022): General Practitioner

Demographic evolution by age group and activity of older professionals (provides information on the demographic stability).

Indicators:

- Trend in agegroup distribution (active/FTE),
- Age FTE: calculates the average of a professional's age multiplied by their corresponding Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) value.
- Contribution of older practitioners to the overall activity: % 65+ FTE/ Total FTE





Average Age of a FTE (2022)

50.4

2012: 52.6 (+4.13%)

% of 65+ activity of total FTE (2022)

2 1 %
2012: 11% (+90.36%)

FTE detailed by Language and Gender Gender **Total** #FTE | %65+ | #FTE | %65+ | #FTE | %65+ Language (FTE) (FTE) (FTE) 2,052 FR 1,793 35% **3,845** 23% 8% NL 2,649 5% 2,925 **33% 5,574** 20% 4.442 6% 4,976 34% 9,419 21% Total



Annex 1: FTE Details (2022): General Practitioner Fee for Service

FTE (full-time equivalent) is calculated to determine the workload of a healthcare provider (= total reimbursements by provider in a given year divided by the median of reimbursements for providers aged 45 to 54 in the same specialty).

The median amount of reimbursement for providers aged 45 to 54 is calculated each year. See the evolution over the ten past years. It is not adjusted for inflation.

FTE values are capped at 1. See the the comparison per active providers by sex, language and age group.

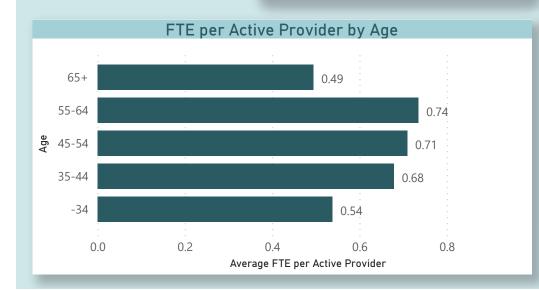
N.B. The FTE for employed doctors in medical homes was estimated at 0.81 per doctor because the actual FTE cannot be evaluated given the absence of activity registration.

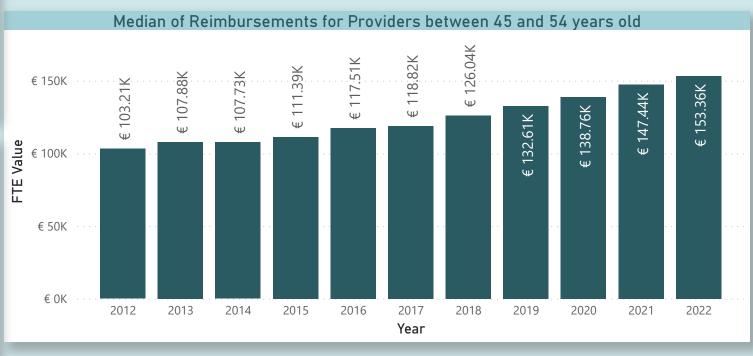
Avg FTE per Active Provider (2022)

2012: 0.67 (-8.31%)

detailed by Language and Gender				
Language	F	M	Total	
FR	0.47	0.57	0.52	
NL	0.68	0.70	0.69	
Total	0.58	0.64	0.61	

Ava FTE per Active Provider







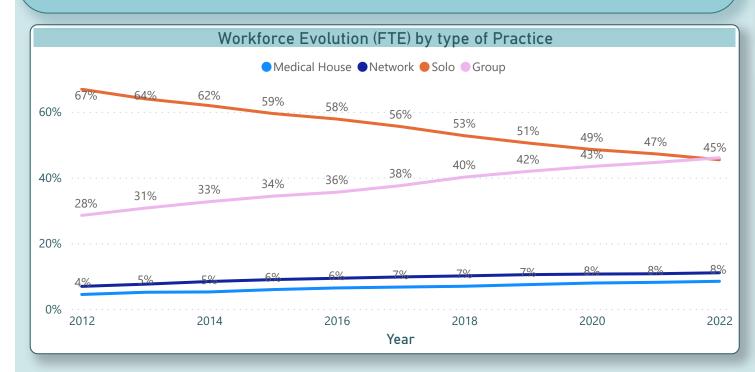
Annex 2: Type of Practice of General Practitioners (2022)

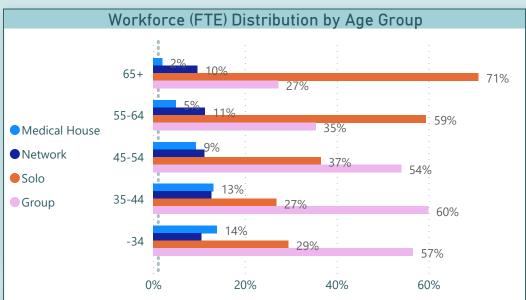
Type of practice for general practitioners (FTE by age group and region). Evolution and trends

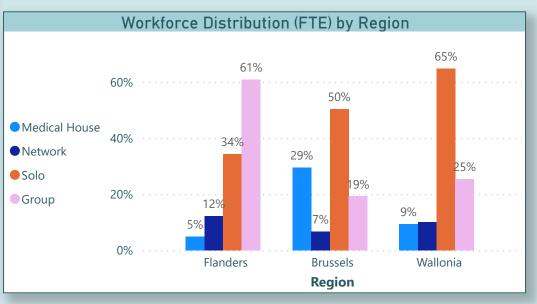
4 types of practices exist:

- MH (Medical House): Medical House Practice refers to a type of group practice paid by capitation (lump sum).
- Group practice: several general practitioners work in the same place. Fee-for-service.
- Practice in Network: general practitioners who do not work in the same place but who collaborate closely. Common computerization. Fee-for-service.
- Solo: general practitioners who have not declared one of the 3 previous practices. Fee-for-service.

N.B. The total may be greater than 100% because group practices can also be part of a network.









info8

Annex 3: Informatisation of General Practitioners (2021)

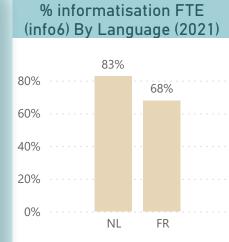
% info6 FTE (2021) **77%** 2019: 55% (+39.21%)

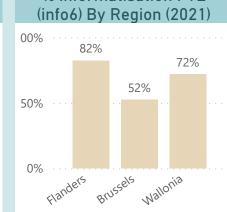
(2021)			
Info Groups	% FTE		
info6	77%		
info7	57%		
info8	25%		

% FTE by info groups

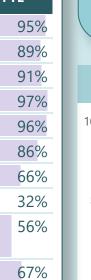
% FTE by e-services (2021) **E-Services (threshold)** % FTE Recip-e (25%) 95% MyCareNet Chapter IV (50%) 89% info7 info6 MyCareNet eFact (20%) 91% Informed Consent (25%) 97% MyCareNet DMG Management 96% MyCareNet eAttest (5%) 86% Sumehr (25%) 66% CEBAM Evidence Linker (5 times) 32% Schéma de médication -56% Medicatieschema (5 times) Medic-e Disability Assessment (3 times) 67%

This sheet shows the % of FTE who reached the threshold per e-service in 2021. It allows to assess the growth of informatisation, identify the types of tools being utilized and explore potential differences based on the characteristics of General Practitioners. Info6 (Patient oriented criteria or POC) is a combination of these 6 e-services: Recip-e, Chapter IV, eFact, Informed Consent, DMG-GMD (global medical file) and eAttest. **Info7** combines POC with Medical standard exchange criteria. It combines info6 with Sumehr (Summarized Electronic Health Record). Info8 combines info7 with CEBAM Evidence





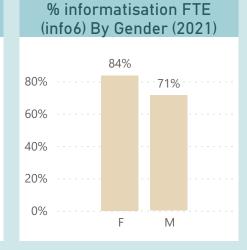
% informatisation FTE

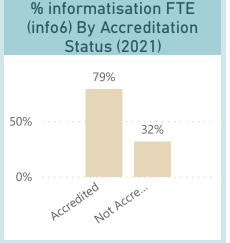


Linker.



% informatisation FTE (info6) By Age







Annex 4: General Practitioners Fee for Service vs Medical Houses (2021)

2018: 1.02 (-0.35%)

Insured Coverage comparison between General Practitioners Fee for Service and General Practitioners from Medical Houses. Insured Coverage is the percentage of insured persons having at least one contact per year.

Fee for Service

Insured Coverage (2021) **89%**2018: 81% (+10.51%)

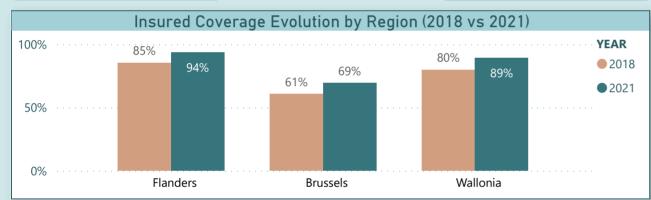
Ratio Women/Men (2021)

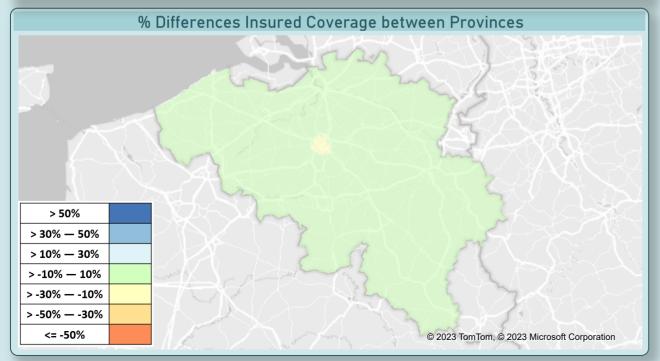
1.05 2018: 1.09 (-4.03%)

Ratio Bim/Standard (2021) 0.94 2018: 0.99 (-5.06%) Avg Age of Patient (2021)

43.4

2018: 44.1 (-1.59%)





Medical Houses

Ratio Women/Men (2021)
1.01
Ratio Bim/Standard (2021)
2.81

2018: 3.22 (-12.79%)

Insured Coverage (2021) 5%

2018: 4% (+21.71%)

Avg Age of Patient (2021)

34.6

2018: 33.2 (+4.07%)

