



Press release

Statistics Netherlands

PR00-124
31-5-2000
9:30 AM

Cost of Dutch health care in 1999

The cost of Dutch health care in 1999 did not grow as fast as the year before. In 1999 the costs rose by 5.5% to 68.2 billion guilders (30.9 billion euro). In 1998 the cost rose by nearly 6%, while in the preceding years it had been more around 4%. The rise in health care costs in 1999 is partly due to higher wages in intramural health care, and rate increases for specialists and physiotherapists. The higher consumption of medicines also raised the costs.

Preliminary figures by Statistics Netherlands show that the rise in the cost of health care has been growing slightly faster than the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) since 1998. The share of compulsory health insurance funds in financing health care fell. The share of the AWBZ (Exceptional Medical Expenses Act) in financing stayed about the same.

Share GDP about the same

The cost of health care in 1998 went up by 5.9% and in 1999 by 5.5%. According to the preliminary figures for 1998, GDP rose by 5.6% in 1998 and 4.9% in 1999. This development made that the share of health care costs in the Gross Domestic Product remained about the same.

Cost of intramural care up 5.0%

The cost of intramural health care, excluding psychiatric hospitals, went up by 5% in 1999 to almost 32.2 billion guilders (14.6 billion euro). This is about half of the total cost of health care according to Statistics Netherlands. The cost for institutions for the mentally weak increased by more than 4%, for nursing homes by 5.5% and for hospitals by slightly more than 5%. The rising costs are mainly caused by wage increases in these sectors.

Cost of extramural care up more than 6%

The cost of extramural health care, excluding regional mental health care institutions increased by more than 6% to almost 27.9 billion guilders (12.7 billion euro). In the health practices the cost increases vary from 3.6% in GP and dentist practices to 7.4% in specialist practices and 9.4% in the practices of physiotherapists. Rate increases play a

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dominant role in the latter two categories. The cost of medicines increased by almost 8%, mainly because of increased use and more expensive medicines. The cost of home care increased by 6.4% due to the fact that more human resources and financial means were made available to reduce waiting lists.

Share of Health Insurance Funds down

The largest amount in financing health care comes from the Health Insurance Funds. The payments they make only went up by 4% in 1999 according to Statistics Netherlands. This modest growth rate was caused primarily by the fact that there was only a 2% rise in the payments for hospital care.

The costs bearing on the AWBZ went up by 5.6% in 1999. The costs for the government increased by 5% to 2.9 billion guilders (1.3 billion euro).

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