

THE A.C. OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY ALLOCATED 6.1% OF ITS GDP TO HEALTH IN 1999

Three quarters of health expenditure was covered by public contributions

The A.C. of the Basque Country spent 2,215 million euros on expenditure for goods and services related to personal health in 1999, a figure which represents 6.1% of the GDP for the same year. This expenditure represented an increase of almost 12% with regard to 1997.

These are some of the results of the Health Account of the A.C. of the Basque Country for 1999, that the EUSTAT carried out for the second time using the OECD methodology -System of Health Accounts-SHA.

As a percentage of GDP, however, expenditure fell from 6.4% to 6.1% for this period, a reduction which is explained by the sharp growth in the economy (18%) between 1997 and 1999, much higher than the growth in health expenditure.

Table 1. HEALTH EXPENDITURE AND FINANCE. (thousand euros)

FUNCTION	1997	1999	1999/97
HC.1 Curative health care	1.247.682	1.267.482	1,6
HC.2 Rehabilitation health care	34.562	37.645	8,9
HC.3 Medium and long term health care	38.369	41.404	7,9
HC.4 Auxiliary health services	107.205	167.543	56,3
HC.1 - HC.4 Individual health services	1.427.818	1.514.074	6,0
HC.5 Health products dispensed to outpatients	417.717	507.595	21,5
TOTAL INDIVIDUAL EXPENDITURE ON HEALTH	1.845.535	2.021.669	9,5
HC.6 Public health and prevention services	39.016	43.212	10,8
HC.7 Health administration and insurance.	49.589	75.885	53,0
Unclassified	7.183	12.020	67,3
TOTAL CURRENT EXPENDITURE ON HEALTH	1.941.323	2.152.786	10,9
HC.R.1 Gross capital formation	39.967	61.962	55,0
TOTAL HEALTH EXPENDITURE	1.981.290	2.214.748	11,8
Expenditure per inhabitant (in euros)	942	1.053	11,8
Expenditure on health as a percentage of GDP	6,4	6,1	-

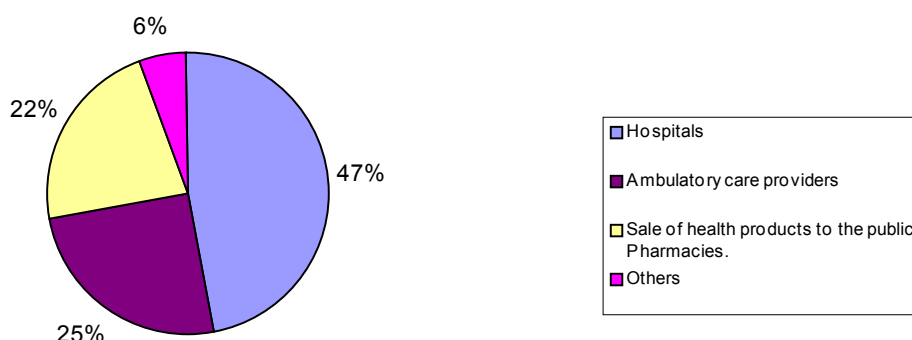
Source: EUSTAT

With regard to **finance**, most health expenditure, **76%**, was provided by **public institutions**, the most important of which were the Public Institution -OSAKIDETZA, with 51%, and the Department of Health of the Basque Government, which financed 21% of current expenditure.

Private finance accounted for **24%** of current finance, where 17% was direct finance by households.

In the **distribution of current expenditure by health functions**, most continues to correspond to curative health care, which includes almost all hospital and outpatient care, with 59% of the total, this represents a five percent decrease with regard to 1997 as a result of moderate growth (+1.6%) between these two years. Secondly, with regard to the percentage of expenditure, expenditure on health products supplied to outpatients, including pharmaceutical products and prostheses, registered the highest relative growth (+21.5%), increasing to represent 24% of the total current expenditure, two percent higher than in 1997.

Graph1. DISTRIBUTION OF HEALTH EXPENDITURE BY PROVIDERS



Source: EUSTAT

Most health expenditure took effect in hospitals with 47%. Ambulatory health care providers –health centres, medical and dental surgeries among others- were the second category in order of importance, with 25%; while in third place were suppliers of health products, mainly pharmacies with 22%.

Expenditure per inhabitant, measured in units of Purchasing Power Capacity (PPC), was 1,342, which placed our Community above countries like Portugal (1,203), Greece (1,198) and Spain (1,194), but a long way behind the values for Switzerland (2,853) or Germany (2,361).

In addition and with regard to the relative distribution of expenditure among public and private institutions, the health sector in the A.C. of the Basque Country is in line with the rest of OECD countries, where public expenditure represented 74% on average, compared with 76% for the A.C. of the Basque Country.

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