

PRESS RELEASE

Population Health Survey (EHIS)

December 30, 2020

POPULATION HEALTH SURVEY IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA, 2019

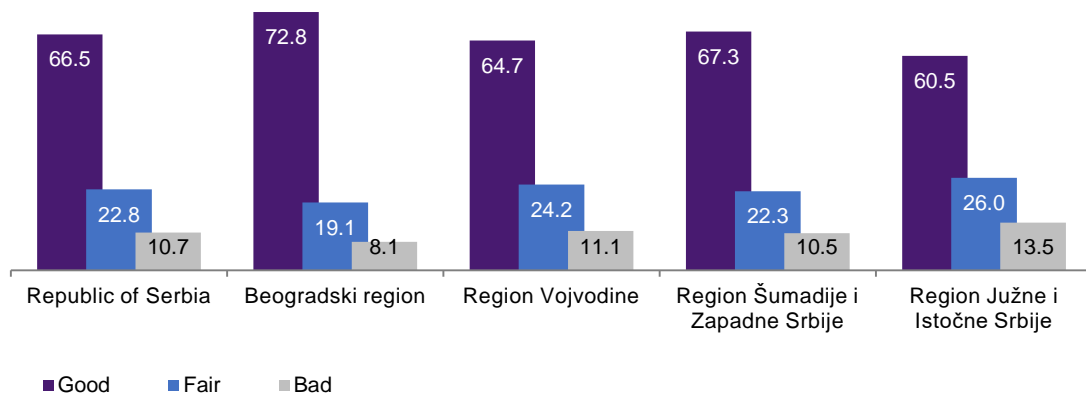
– Preliminary results –

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, in cooperation with the Institute of Public Health of Serbia “Dr Milan Jovanović Batut” and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Serbia, conducted the national Population Health Survey in 2019 (hereinafter: the Survey). The Survey was carried out according to the European Health Interview Survey - EHIS, which will enable to compare health indicators of the population of Serbia¹⁾ with those in EU countries. The data have been obtained by interviewing 14 643 respondents (13 178 aged 15 and over and 1 465 children aged 5–14) in 5 114 households. This release contains preliminary results of the Survey, and the final ones will be published in April 2021.

Population Health Status

In 2019, two thirds of the population in the Republic of Serbia perceived their health as being good (considerably more in the Beogradski Region – 72.8%, and among the active working population – 76.6%), while one inhabitant out of ten assessed own health as being bad (considerably more in the population aged 65 and over – 27.4%, and in the Region Južne i Istočne Srbije – 13.5%). Men had a more positive perception of their health in contrast to women: 71.3% men said being of good health, and so said 62.1% of women.

Chart 1. Self-perceived health status of population aged 15 and over, by regions (%)

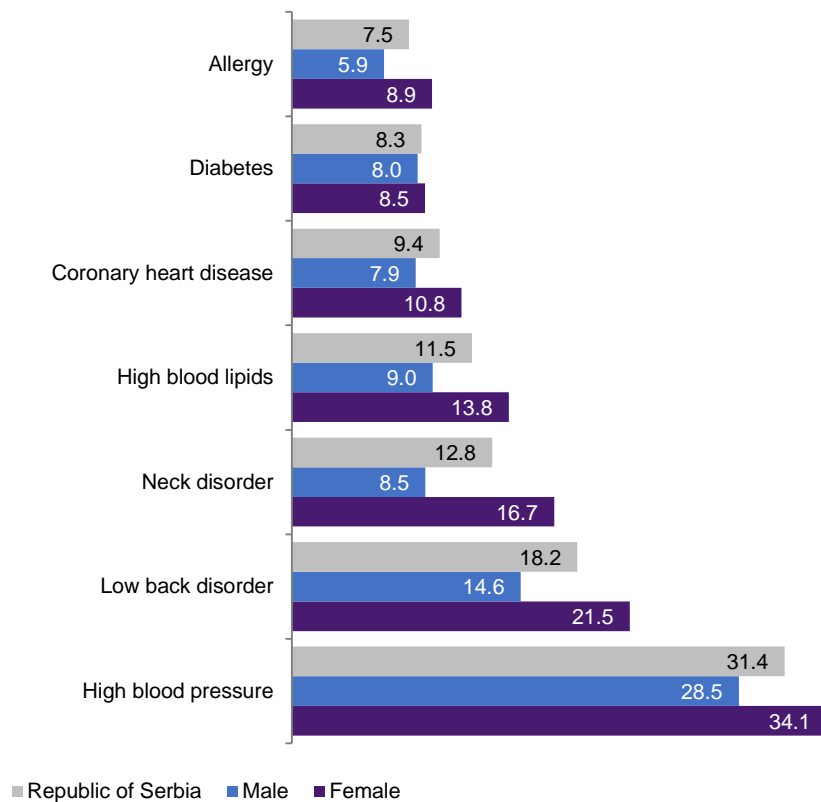


¹⁾ Without data for AP Kosovo and Metohija.

There were 43.6% of population of Serbia that reported a long-standing illness or health problem, while 20.3% reported being limited in carrying out daily activities in the last six months.

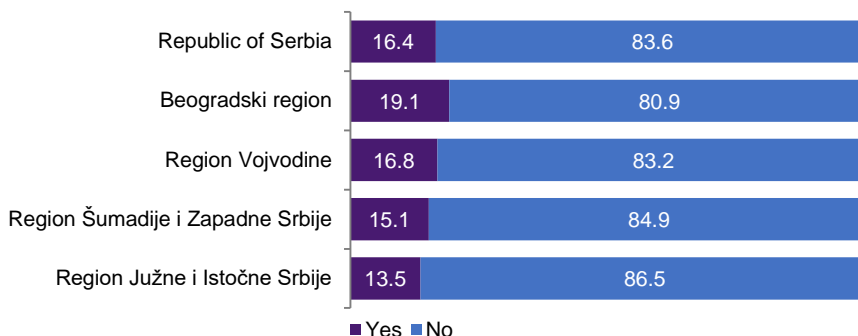
The five most frequent illnesses or conditions in the year prior to the Survey, according to the words of the adult population (aged 20 and over) were: high blood pressure (31.4%), low back disorder (18.2%), neck disorder (12.8%), high blood lipids (11.5%) and coronary heart disease or angina pectoris (9.4%), followed by diabetes (8.3%) and allergies (7.5%). A significantly higher frequency of the mentioned chronic diseases and conditions were recorded among women, except for diabetes.

Chart 2. Frequency of diseases or conditions of the population aged 20 and over, by sex (%)



One employed person out of six (16.4%) was absent from work for reasons of personal health problems, and the average absence from work amounted to 37 days. Women were considerably more absent from work because of health problems (19.6%) as well as the inhabitants of the Beogradski region (19.1%).

Chart 3. Employed persons who were absent from work for reasons of health problems, by regions (%)



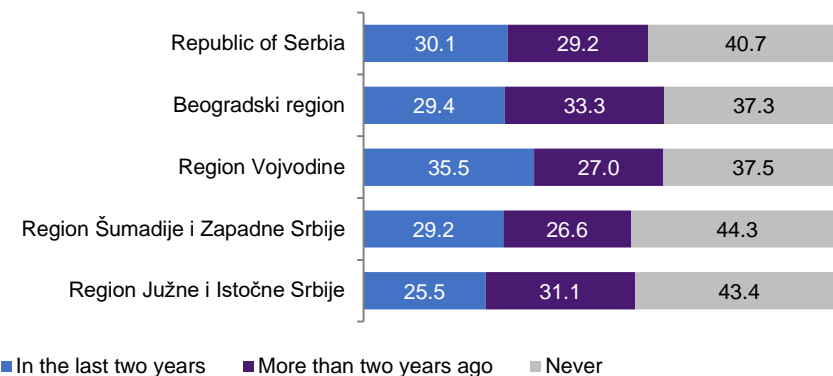
Use of health care

There were 90.6% of inhabitants who have a chosen general practitioner or pediatrician in a state health institutions, while 5.6% said having a chosen practitioner in a private practice. The data that one out of eight inhabitant (11.8%) in the Region Južne i Istočne Srbije does not have a chosen practitioner in a state health institution is worrisome. Slightly less than two thirds of population (64.9%) consulted a general practitioner or pediatrician during the year prior to the Survey, while 41.3% consulted a specialist.

In 2019, less than a third of population (28.5%) had a chosen dentist. Six times more of them would rather choose a dentist in a private practice (86.2%) than in a state health institution (13.8%). Only one inhabitant out of three in Serbia (39.4%) visited a chosen dentist during the year prior to the Survey.

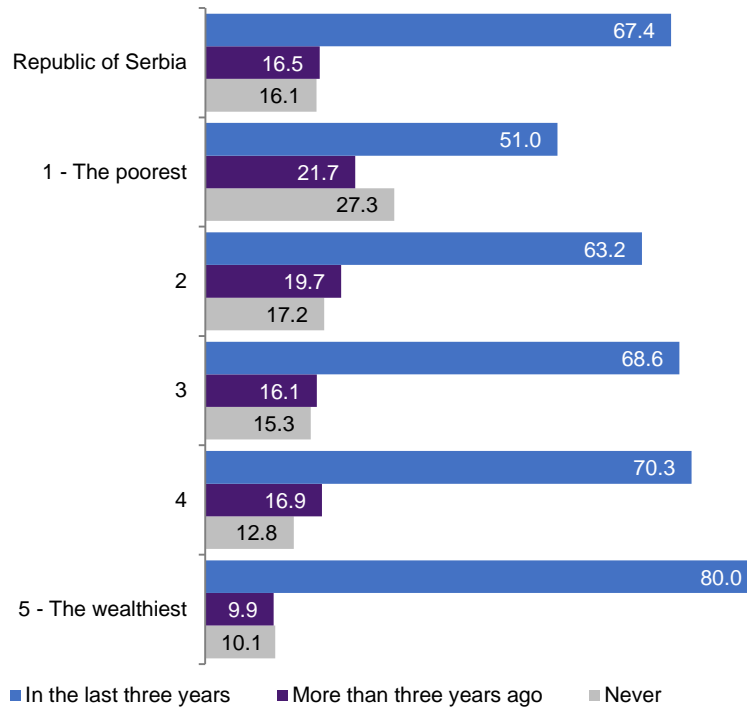
The results of the Survey indicate that one woman out of three (34.6%) reported having had a mammography. Among the target population for early detection of breast cancer (50–69 year) 30.1% of women had a mammography screening over the last two years. Observed by regions, the largest number of women did a mammography in the Region Vojvodine (35.5%).

Chart 4. Women aged 50 – 69 who did a mammography, by regions (%)



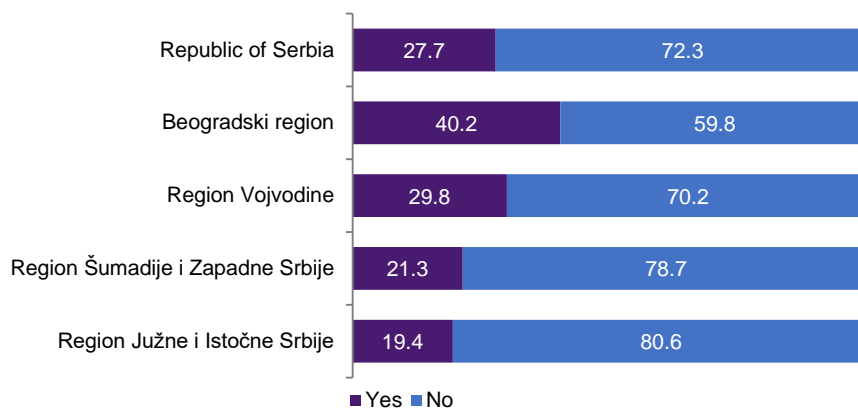
Preventive examination for early detection of cervical cancer (Pap smear test) in the last three years prior to the Survey was done by less than two thirds (67.4%) of women in Serbia, aged from 25 to 64 (target population for early detection of cervical cancer). The largest percentage of women who did the preventive examination was recorded in the category of those who, by quintiles of household wealth, had the best financial standing (80.0%).

Chart 5. Women aged 25–64 who did the Pap smear test by quintiles of household wealth (%)



Services of private practices for the purpose of diagnosis and/or treatment in the year prior to the Survey, were used by 27.7% of the population of Serbia. The largest percentage of persons who used the mentioned services in private practices was recorded in the Beogradski region (40.2%).

Chart 6. Population who used private practice services for the purpose of diagnosis and treatment, by regions (%)



Health determinants

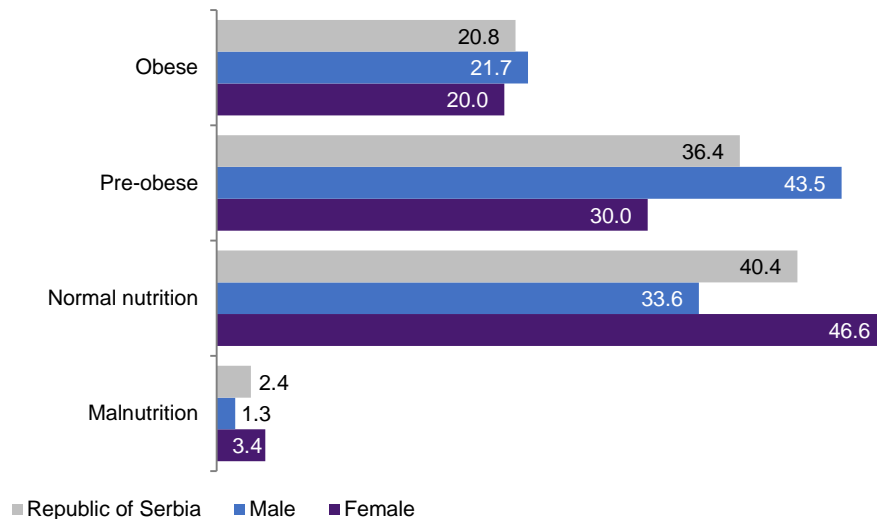
The Survey indicated that smoking habits occurred (on daily basis or temporarily) among the population aged 15 and over, amounting to 31.9% in 2019. One inhabitant out of four in Serbia smoked every day (27.1%). Just as so far, the percentage of smokers is larger among men (33.9%) than (30.0%). In the population of young people aged 15–19, one young person out of seven (14.4%) said consuming some of the tobacco products.

Nutritional status

Body Mass Index - BMI

Based on the measured value of Body Mass Index, in Serbia there were 40.4% of persons with normal nutritional status in 2019, while slightly more than a half (57.2%) were overweight, ie pre-obese (36.4%) and obese (20.8%).

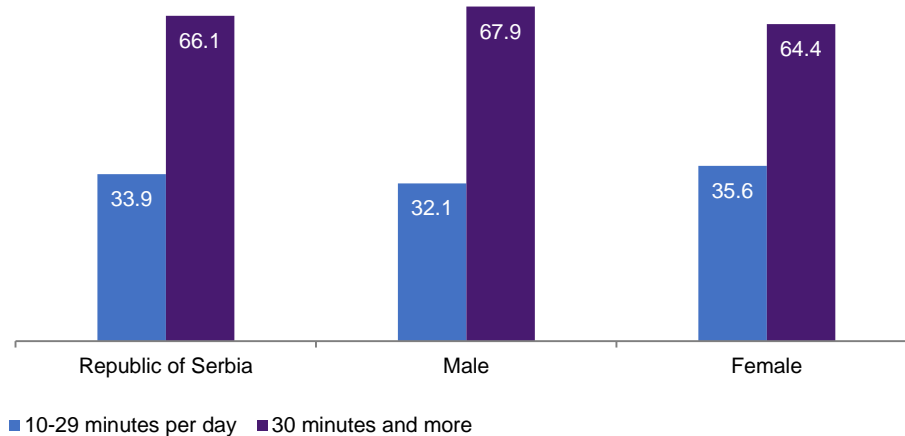
Chart 7. Population aged 15 and over by categories of nutritional status and sex (%)



Lifestyle and health

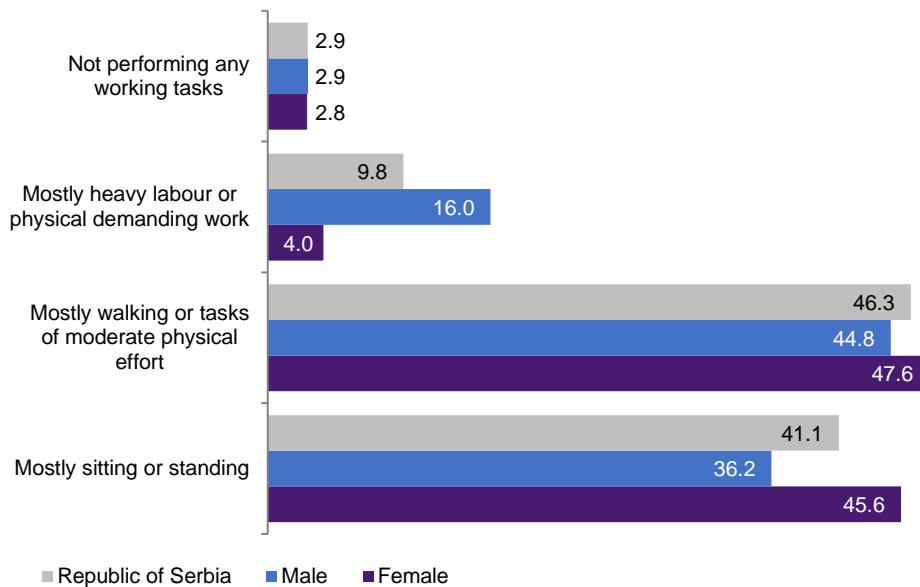
In Serbia, in 2019, every third inhabitant aged 15 and over walked continuously less than half an hour a day. The habit of daily walking occurs more among men than women.

Chart. 8. Population aged 15 and over by time spent in continuous walking during a usual day, by sex (%)



Also, two fifths of the population (41.1%), when performing any work (paid or unpaid work, housework, studying, etc.), are mostly sitting or standing (considerably more women – 45.6%).

Chart 9. Population aged 15 and over by physical activity during the day, by sex (%)



Childrens' health habits

One child out of two in Serbia aged 5–14 consumes fruits (52.3%) and vegetables (53.9%) every day, while the other children consume insufficient amount of fruits and vegetables or never.

Chart. 10. How often do children aged 5–14 consume fruits, by sex (%)

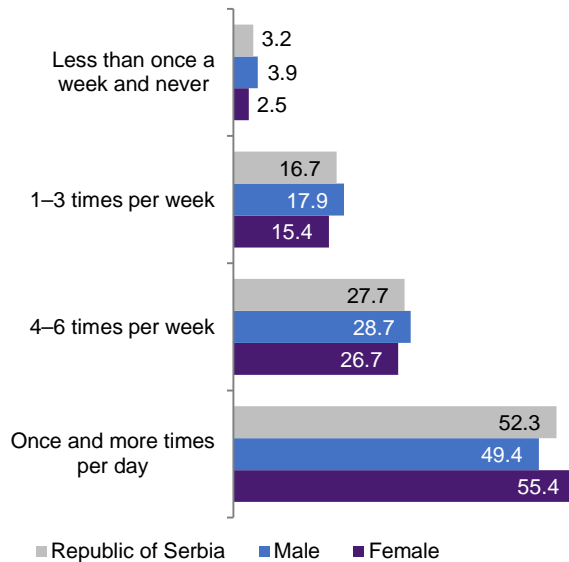
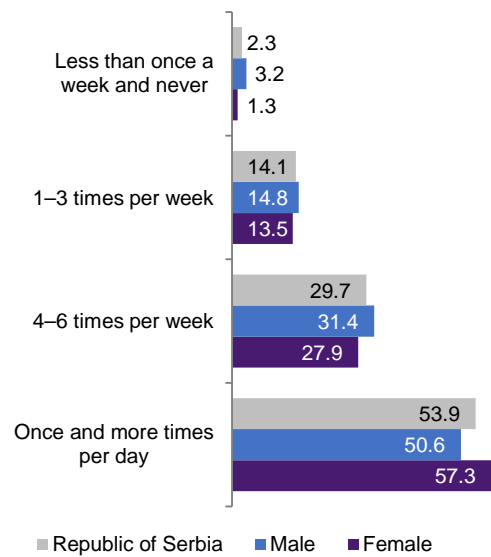
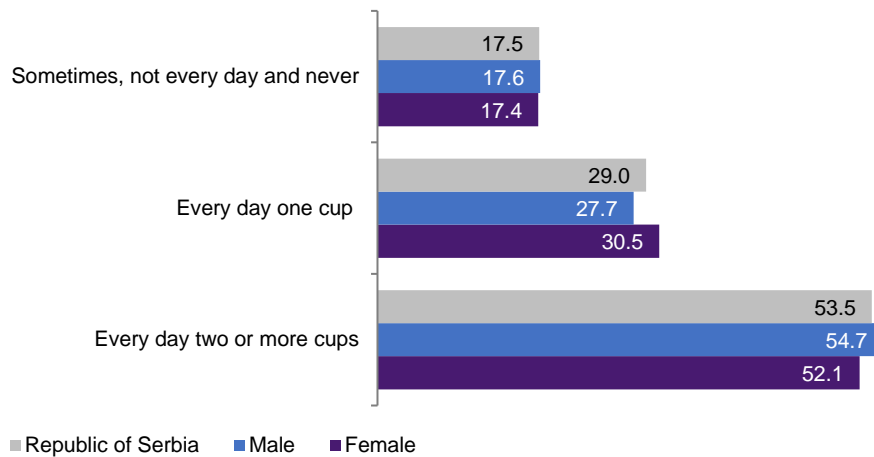


Chart 11. How often do children aged 5–14 consume vegetables, by sex (%)



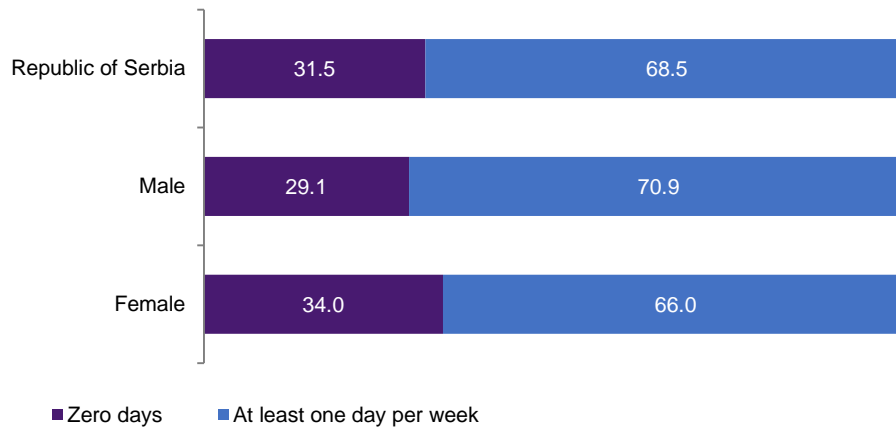
More than four fifths of children aged 5–14 (82.5%) consume every day at least one cup of milk or dairy products (yogurt, milk coffee or cocoa milk).

Chart 12. How often do children aged 5–14 consume milk and/or dairy products, by sex (%)



Somewhat more than two third of children aged 5–14 (68.5%) do at least once a week recreational physical activities in their spare time, i.e. extracurricular activities.

Chart 13. How often do children aged 5–14 have physical activities, by sex (%)



For additional methodological explanations, please contact the Institute of Public Health of Serbia, “Dr Milan Jovanovic Batut” at: kabinet@batut.org.rs.

The total value of the project EU for development of statistics is 29.75.000 euros, in which the EU participation is 20.000.000 euros.

The Project in Serbia consists in carrying out of the four “Components” that present highly important statistical surveys: 1. Population, households and dwellings Census 2021 (PC); 2. Agricultural Census 2021 (AC); 3. European Health Interview Survey (EHIS 2019); 4. Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS 2019);

The implementation of the third component, European Health Interview Survey, was supported by the EU funds in the amount of 300.000 euros, which financed activities such as: field work, control of the coverage and quality of the conducted survey, data logical control, calculation of indicators, production of statistical/press releases, results analysis and preparation of the final report on the Survey.

This publication is produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia and may in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.