

Focus on Spanish Society is published by the Social Studies Office of Funcas. The aim of this publication is to depict the Spanish social situation and provide brief insights into some of its most relevant aspects. *Focus on Spanish Society* consists of three sections. The first one, “Spain in Europe”, draws attention to recently published statistical data and puts the Spanish case in comparative perspective. The second section, “Public opinion trends”, examines in more detail one particular social issue as perceived by the Spanish public and manifested through opinion surveys. Finally, the third section “Follow-up social data” presents several social indicators related to demography and families, labour market and education, health and welfare benefits and services.

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Section I. Spain in Europe

I.1. Risks for severe coronavirus illness, age and educational factors

The different incidence of coronavirus on population groups depending on their health initial status has prompted interest in many variables, among them the prevalence of chronic diseases which affect the likelihood of severe illness (*i.e.*, requiring hospitalization or intensive care) and death. Two such chronic diseases are high blood pressure and diabetes.

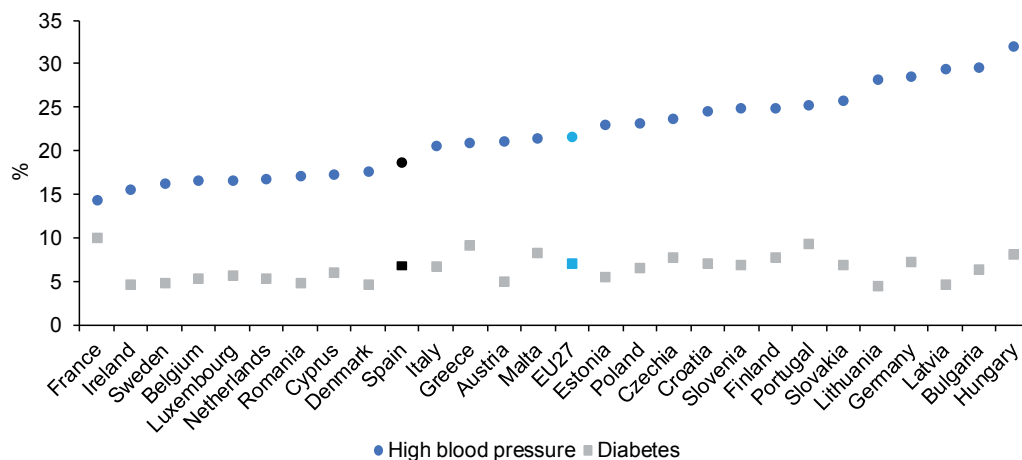
Eurostat data reveal that the incidence of both illnesses is fairly diverse in Europe, particularly as regards high blood pressure (Figure I.1). Spain registers lower percentages of persons reporting high blood pressure and diabetes than the EU-27 average and is part of the group of countries showing a comparative good performance in the first indicator.

High blood pressure and diabetes are strongly correlated with age across all countries. Thus, for example, in Spain the percentage of people suffering high blood pressure rises from less than 1% among those aged 15 to 24 to 57% among those aged 75 to 84, slightly decreasing from the age of 85. The prevalence of diabetes also increases with age: less than 4% of people aged 15 to 54 residing in Spain reported this illness in 2017, while the corresponding proportions for people aged 65 and older exceeded 20% (Figure I.2).

Education is also a crucial variable, as evidenced when controlling by age. Among people 65 and older residing in Spain, one fourth (25%) of those with lower levels of education reported diabetes in 2017, about 10 percentage points above those having attained tertiary education (14%). In the case of high blood pressure, the prevalence among people 65 and older with basic education amounted to 54%, 12 points higher than the percentage registered among people with tertiary education (42%). The impact of education on both chronic diseases is also noteworthy in the group of persons aged 25 to 64: the higher the education level, the lower the incidence of high blood pressure and diabetes (Figure I.3).

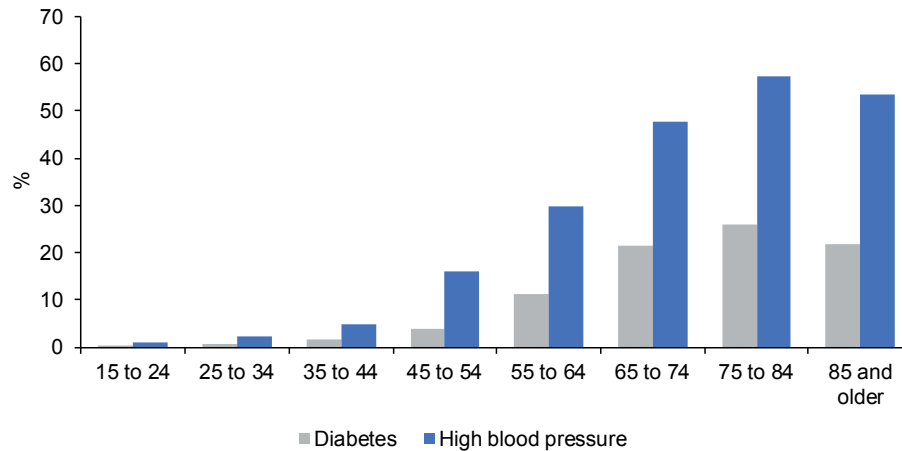
Figure I.1

Incidence of high blood pressure and diabetes in EU-countries (2014)



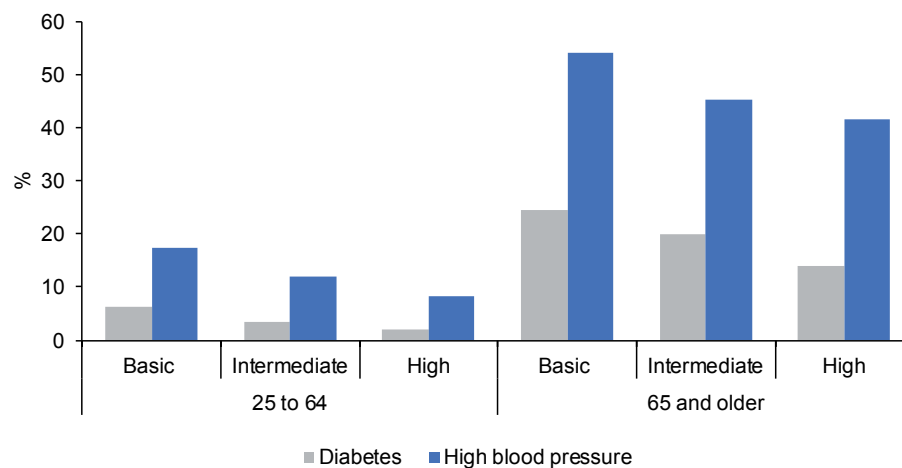
Source: Eurostat [hlth_ehis_cd1e].

Figure I.2

Incidence of high blood pressure and diabetes in Spain by age (2017)

Source: National Health Survey (www.mscbs.gob.es) and INE (www.ine.es).

Figure I.3

Incidence of high blood pressure and diabetes in Spain by age and education level (2017)

Source: National Health Survey (www.mscbs.gob.es) and INE (www.ine.es).

Thus, these chronic diseases show not only a demographic (age) pattern, but also an educational one. They affect by and large elderly people, but in particular the ones with a lower level of formal education. Despite the diverse

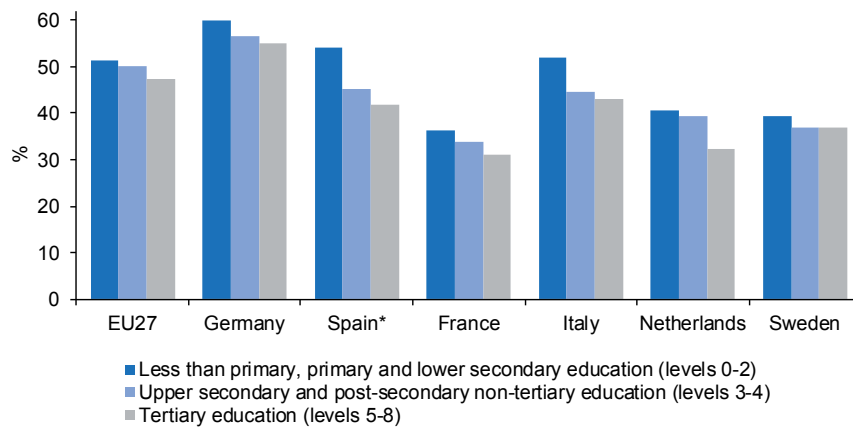
incidence of both illnesses across the EU, these age and educational patterns can similarly be observed in other European countries, as Eurostat data confirm (Figures I.4 and I.5). Since high blood pressure and diabetes have

been linked with higher risk of severe signs and symptoms of COVID-19, it can be argued that socioeconomic factors also impact the outcome of coronavirus. In fact, recently published

literature has emphasized that besides biological and epidemiological determinants, social and economic conditions are of the utmost importance to understand the pandemic.

Figure I.4

Incidence of high blood pressure among people aged 65 and older in selected EU-countries by education level (2014)

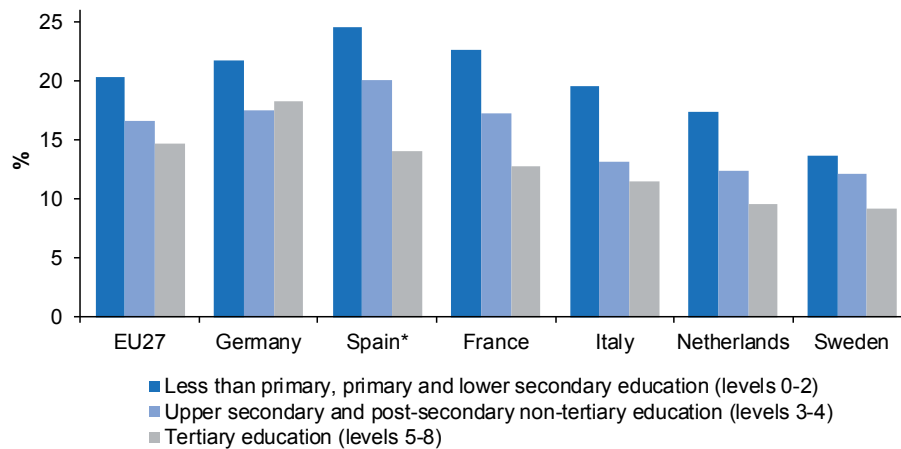


* 2017 data.

Source: Eurostat [hlth_ehis_cd1e] and for Spain National Health Survey (www.msrebs.gob.es).

Figure I.5

Incidence of diabetes among people aged 65 and older in selected EU-countries by education level (2014)



* 2017 data.

Source: Eurostat [hlth_ehis_cd1e] and for Spain National Health Survey (www.msrebs.gob.es).

1.2. Households with children: decreasing, but specifically challenged by Covid-19

The Covid-19 pandemic has posed specific challenges to households with children, among them how to organize the return to school post lockdown and summer holidays. Although the public debate has predominantly focused on the problems faced by schools and teachers in order to provide safe educational environments, the stakes are also high for households with children. Parents not only have to adapt to new rules of entry and exit of children from school, but also arrange how they will manage potential quarantines of infected children with the least impact on their jobs and work-life balance.

Even if Spain is one of the countries with the lowest fertility rates in Europe (in 2018 1.26 vs. 1.55 for the EU-27 average), the proportion of households with children (under 15 years old) over the total number of households is slightly above the European average (33% vs. 29%). Germany and

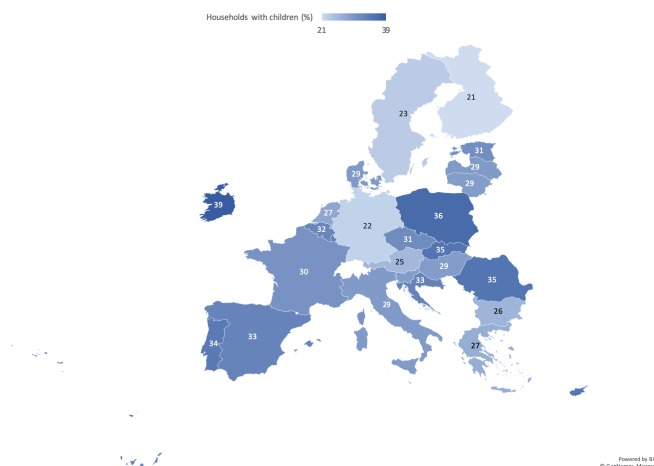
some countries in Scandinavia (Finland and Sweden) present the lowest percentages of households with children (below 25%), while Ireland and some Eastern European countries (Romania and Poland) register the highest percentages (around 40%) (Figure I.6).

The presence of children in households has decreased during the last decade in all European countries, with the exception of Denmark (Figure I.7). The EU-27 average has fallen 2 percentage points, from 31 to 29%. Even if countries with already small percentages of households with children show a declining trend, the most drastic drops have taken place in countries where the presence of children in the household was higher in 2010, such as Lithuania, Latvia, Slovenia and Malta, while it has been more moderate in countries like Germany, France, Belgium and Spain.

Still, there is considerable diversity in the types of households with children across the EU (Figure I.8). In all countries the household formed by a couple with children (nuclear family) is the most widespread. However, the presence of this household type significantly oscillates between European societies.

Figure I.6

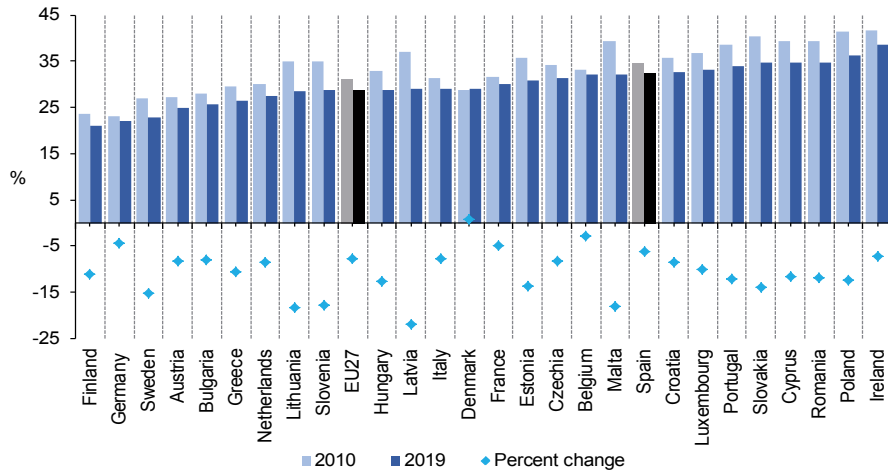
Households with children over total households (2019)



Source: Eurostat [fst_hhnty].

Figure I.7

Households with children over total households (2010 and 2019)



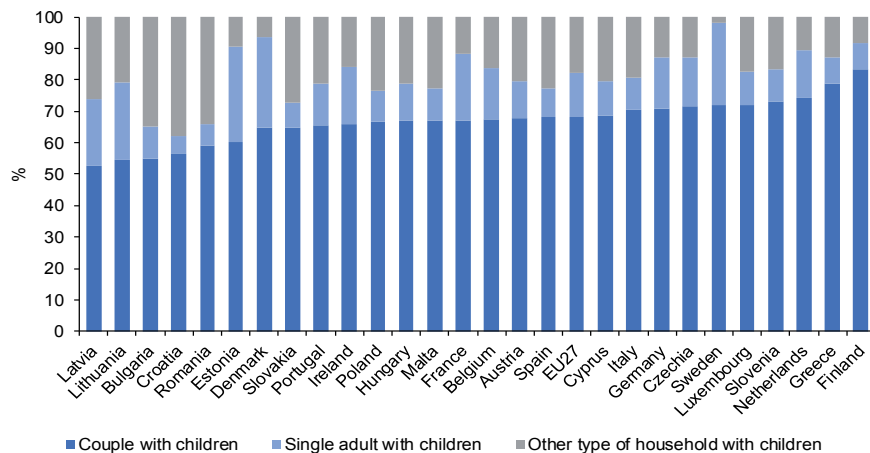
Source: Eurostat [lfst_hhhnhtych].

While Finland, Greece and Netherlands stand out for the high presence of the nuclear family (ca. 75-80% of all households with children), in the Baltic nations and other Eastern European countries the

nuclear family is much less prevalent (ca. 55%-60%). Spain appears to be very close to the EU-27 average: 68% of households with children are constituted by a couple with offspring. However,

Figure I.8

Households with children by household type (2019)



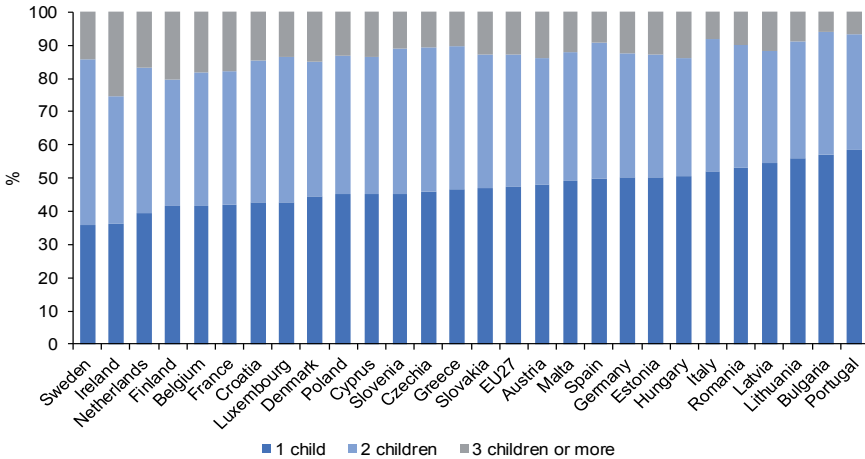
Source: Eurostat [lfst_hhhnhtych].

the percentage of households formed by a single adult with children (the more vulnerable type of household) is 5 percentage points below the EU-27 average, while the share of “other type of households with children”¹ (23%) is above the EU-27 average (18%).

Remarkable differences in the number of children living in households are also evident (Figure I.9).

Spain is among the countries with higher percentages of one-child households (50%) over the total number of households with children, with Portugal leading this group (58%). Conversely, Sweden stands out as the country with the lowest share of households with only one child and the highest share of households with two children, while Ireland records the highest share of households with three or more children.

Figure I.9
Households with children by number of children (2019)



Source: Eurostat [lfst_hhntyct].

¹ This category includes households with adult persons who do not belong to the family nucleus (being family members or not) as well as households with two or more family nuclei.

Section II. Public opinion trends

Boost in positive public opinion of healthcare

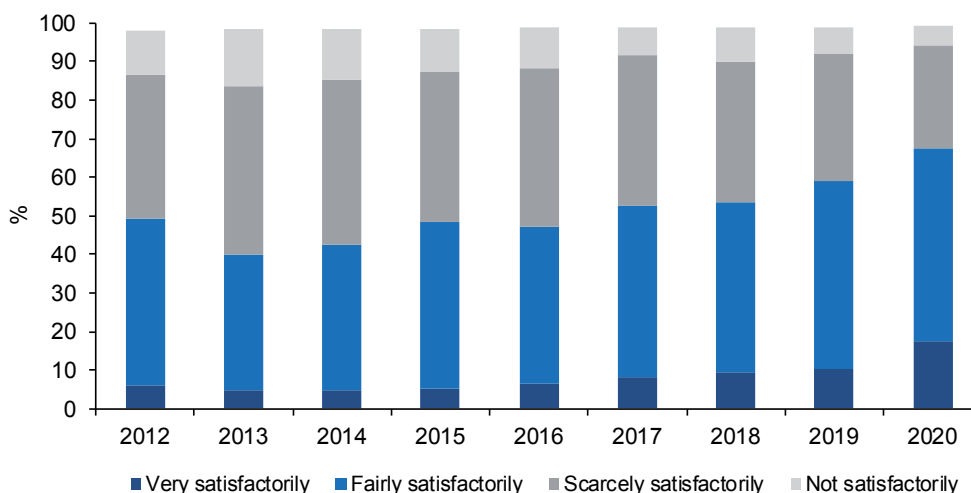
In July 2020, nearly one out of every five Spanish citizens (18%) considered that the public healthcare services in Spain worked very satisfactorily. The proportion has significantly increased since the last time it was measured (September 2019), suggesting that the fight against the pandemic has boosted positive public opinion of healthcare. Adding those interviewees who deem the functioning of healthcare services as satisfactory, the share of Spaniards with a positive opinion of healthcare amounts to two thirds (67%), the largest since the start of the data series in 2012 (Figure II.1). Thus, COVID-19 has consolidated the reputation

of the healthcare system as the “crown jewel” of the Spanish welfare state. In 2020, it is in fact the public service with the broadest level of public support, ahead of other services which customarily also enjoy massive backing, like public transportation and public safety (Figure II.2).

This approval increase is even more remarkable if we take into consideration that around three quarters of citizens (74%) think that public resources devoted to healthcare are too few. The percentage of interviewees expressing this opinion, which significantly rose during the second part of the Great Recession (2008-2013) in the context of austerity measures to curb the public deficit, has also soared after the outbreak of the pandemic, reaching its record since the beginning of the data series in the mid-1980s (Figure II.3).

Figure II.1

Satisfaction with the working of public services: healthcare (2012-2020)

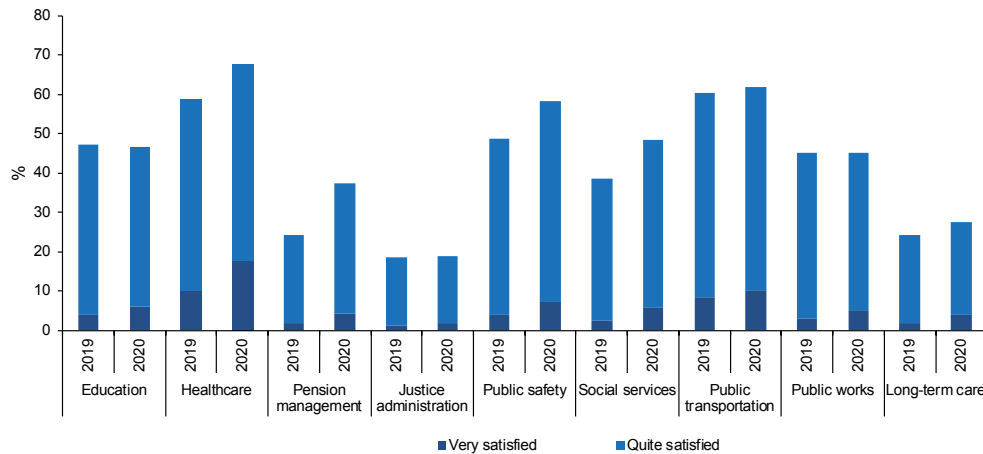


Question: “Would you say that the following public services work very satisfactorily, fairly satisfactorily, scarcely satisfactorily or not at all satisfactorily?” “Healthcare”.

Source: Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas, surveys on “Public opinion and fiscal policy” (www.cis.es).

Figure II.2

High satisfaction with the working of different public services (2019 and 2020)

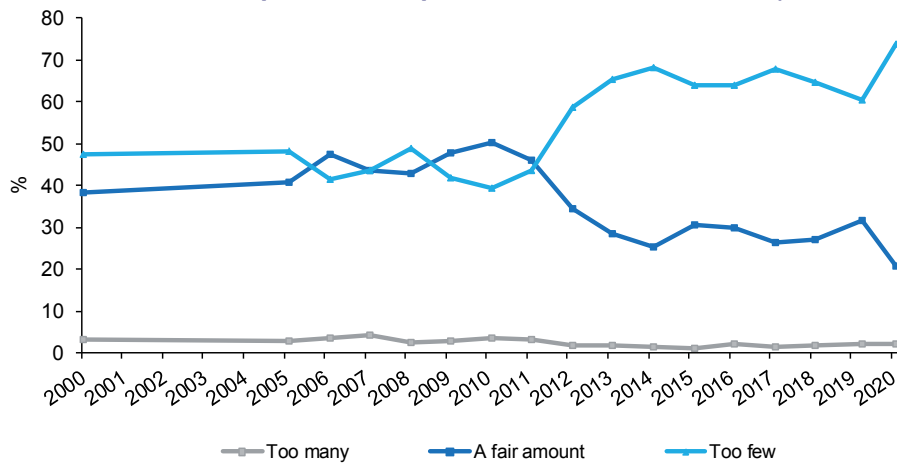


Question: "Would you say that the following public services work very satisfactorily, fairly satisfactorily, scarcely satisfactorily or not at all satisfactorily?" "Very satisfied" + "Quite satisfied".

Source: Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas, surveys on "Public opinion and fiscal policy" (www.cis.es).

Figure II.3

Opinion about the amount of expenditure in public services: Healthcare (2000-2020)



Question: "As you know, the different levels of public administration devote the money that we pay in the form of taxes to finance public services and benefits. Tell me please if you think that resources dedicated to healthcare are too many, a fair amount or too few?"

Source: Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas, opinion barometers and surveys on "Public opinion and fiscal policy" (www.cis.es).

Section III. Follow-up social data

Table III.1

Population

	Total population	Average age	65 and older (%)	Life expectancy at birth (men)	Life expectancy at birth (women)	Dependency rate	Dependency rate (older than 64)	Foreign-born population (%)	New entries (all nationalities)	New exits (born in Spain)
2008	46,157,822	40.8	16.5	78.2	84.3	47.5	24.5	13.1	701,997	33,053
2010	47,021,031	41.1	16.9	79.1	85.1	48.6	25.0	14.0	441,051	39,211
2012	47,265,321	41.6	17.4	79.4	85.1	50.4	26.1	14.3	344,992	51,666
2014	46,771,341	42.1	18.1	80.1	85.7	51.6	27.4	13.4	368,170	66,803
2015	46,624,382	42.4	18.4	79.9	85.4	52.4	28.0	13.2	417,655	74,873
2016	46,557,008	42.7	18.6	80.3	85.8	52.9	28.4	13.2	492,600	71,508
2017	46,572,132	42.9	18.8	80.4	85.7	53.2	28.8	13.3	592,604	63,754
2018	46,722,980	43.1	19.1	80.5	85.9	53.6	29.3	13.7	715,255	56,745
2019	47,026,208	43.3	19.3	80.9●	86.2●	53.7	29.6	14.4	827,052	61,338
2020●	47,431,256	43.6	19.4			53.5	29.8	15.2		
Sources	EPC	EPC	EPC	ID INE	ID INE	EPC	EPC	EPC	EVR	EVR

EPC: *Estadística del Padrón Continuo*.

ID INE: *Indicadores Demográficos INE*.

EVR: *Estadística de Variaciones Residenciales*.

Dependency rate: (15 or less years old population + 65 or more years old population)/ 16-64 years old population, as a percentage.

Dependency rate (older than 64): 65 or more years old population/ 16-64 years old population, as a percentage.

● Provisional data.

Table III.2

Households and families

Households

	Households (thousands)	Average household size	Households with one person younger than 65 (%)	Households with one person older than 65 (%)
2008	16,742	2.71	12.0	10.2
2010	17,174	2.67	12.8	9.9
2012	17,434	2.63	13.7	9.9
2014	18,329	2.51	14.2	10.6
2015	18,376	2.54	14.6	10.7
2016	18,444	2.52	14.6	10.9
2017	18,512	2.52	14.2	11.4
2018	18,581	2.51	14.3	11.5
2019	18,697	2.52	14.9	11.2
2020■	18,779	2.53		
Sources	LFS	LFS	EPF	EPF

Table III.2

Households and families (continued)

	Nuptiality					
	People getting married (per 1,000) (Spanish)	People getting married (per 1,000) (foreign population)	Divorce rate (per 1,000)	Mean age at first marriage (men)	Mean age at first marriage (women)	Same sex marriages (%)
2008	8.5	8.4	2.39	32.4	30.2	1.62
2010	7.2	7.9	2.21	33.2	31.0	1.87
2012	7.2	6.7	2.23	33.8	31.7	2.04
2014	6.9	6.5	2.17	34.4	32.3	2.06
2015	7.3	6.5	2.08	34.8	32.7	2.26
2016	7.5	6.8	2.08	35.0	32.9	2.46
2017	7.3	6.9	2.10	35.3	33.2	2.67
2018	7.1	6.6	2.04	35.6	33.4	2.90
2019●	7.0	6.6				
<i>Sources</i>	ID INE	ID INE	ID INE	ID INE	ID INE	MNP

	Fertility					
	Median age at first child (women)	Total fertility rate (Spanish women)	Total fertility rate (foreign women)	Births to single mothers (%)	Abortion rate	Abortion by Spanish-born women (%)
2008	29.3	1.36	1.83	33.2	11.8	55.6
2010	29.8	1.30	1.68	35.5	11.5	58.3
2012	30.3	1.27	1.56	39.0	12.0	61.5
2014	30.6	1.27	1.62	42.5	10.5	63.3
2015	30.7	1.28	1.66	44.4	10.4	65.3
2016	30.8	1.27	1.70	45.8	10.4	65.8
2017	30.9	1.24	1.70	46.8	10.5	66.1
2018	31.0	1.20	1.65	47.3	11.1	65.3
2019●	31.1	1.17	1.59			
<i>Sources</i>	ID INE	ID INE	ID INE	ID INE	MSAN	MSAN

LFS: *Labour Force Survey*.

EPF: *Encuesta de Presupuestos Familiares*.

ID INE: *Indicadores Demográficos INE*.

CGPJ: *Consejo General del Poder Judicial*.

MSAN: *Ministerio de Sanidad, Servicios Sociales e Igualdad*.

MNP: *Movimiento Natural de la Población*.

Marriage rate: *Number of marriages per thousand population*.

Divorce rate: *Number of divorces per thousand population*.

Total fertility rate: *The average number of children that would be born per woman living in Spain if all women lived to the end of their childbearing years and bore children according to a given fertility rate at each age*.

Abortion rate: *Number of abortions per 1,000 women (15-44 years)*.

● Provisional data.

■ Data refer to January-June.

Table III.3

Education**Educational attainment**

	Population 16 years and older with primary education (%)	Population 30-34 with primary education (%)	Population 16 years and older with tertiary education (%)	Population 30-34 with tertiary education (%)
2008	32.1	9.2	16.1	26.9
2010	30.6	8.6	17.0	27.7
2012	28.5	7.5	17.8	26.6
2014	24.4	6.1	27.2	42.3
2015	23.3	6.6	27.5	40.9
2016	22.4	6.6	28.1	40.7
2017	21.4	6.6	28.5	41.2
2018	20.5	6.4	29.2	42.4
2019	19.3	6.3	30.3	44.7
2020■	18.2	6.3	31.0	44.7
Source	LFS	LFS	LFS	LFS

Students involved in non-compulsory education

	Pre-primary education	Secondary education	Vocational training	Under-graduate students	Post-graduate students (except doctorate)
2008	1,763,019	629,247	472,604	1,377,228	50,421
2010	1,872,829	672,213	555,580	1,445,392	104,844
2012	1,912,324	692,098	617,686	1,450,036	113,805
2014	1,840,008	690,738	652,846	1,364,023	142,156
2015	1,808,322	695,557	641,741	1,321,698	171,043
2016	1,780,377	687,595	652,471	1,303,252	190,143
2017	1,767,179	676,311	667,984	1,287,791	209,754
2018●	1,750,106	667,287	675,942	1,293,892	214,528
Source	MECD	MECD	MECD	MECD	MECD

Education expenditure

	Public expenditure (thousands of €)	Public expenditure (% GDP)
2008	51,716,008	4.63
2010	53,099,329	4.91
2012	46,476,414	4.47
2014	44,846,415	4.32
2015	46,597,784	4.31
2016	47,578,997	4.25
2017	49,458,049	4.24
2018	50,807,185	4.23
Sources	MECD	INE

LFS: *Labour Force Survey.*MECD: *Ministerio de Educación, Cultura y Deporte.*INE: *Instituto Nacional de Estadística.*

● Provisional data.

■ Data refer to January-June.

Table III.4

Social protection: Benefits**Contributory benefits***

	Unemployment		Retirement		Permanent disability		Widowhood	
	Total	Total	Average amount (€)	Total	Average amount (€)	Total	Average amount (€)	
2008	1,100,879	4,936,839	814	906,835	801	2,249,904	529	
2010	1,471,826	5,140,554	884	933,730	850	2,290,090	572	
2012	1,381,261	5,330,195	946	943,296	887	2,322,938	602	
2014	1,059,799	5,558,964	1000	929,484	916	2,348,388	624	
2015	838,392	5,641,908	1,021	931,668	923	2,353,257	631	
2016	763,697	5,731,952	1,043	938,344	930	2,364,388	638	
2017	726,575	5,826,123	1,063	947,130	936	2,360,395	646	
2018	751,172	5,929,471	1,091	951,838	946	2,359,931	664	
2019	807,614	6,038,326	1,138	957,500	975	2,361,620	712	
2020■	2,126,872	6,088,348	1,158	955,971	985	2,354,595	723	
Source	INEM	INSS	INSS	INSS	INSS	INSS	INSS	

Non-contributory benefits

	Social Security			
	Unemployment	Retirement	Disability	Other
2008	646,186	265,314	199,410	63,626
2010	1,445,228	257,136	196,159	49,535
2012	1,327,027	251,549	194,876	36,310
2014	1,221,390	252,328	197,303	26,842
2015	1,102,529	253,838	198,891	23,643
2016	997,192	254,741	199,762	21,350
2017	902,193	256,187	199,120	19,019
2018	853,437	256,842	196,375	16,472
2019	912,384	259,570	193,122	14,997
2020■	1,027,019	261,783	189,907	15,553
Sources	INEM	IMSERSO	IMSERSO	IMSERSO

INEM: Servicio Público de Empleo Estatal.

INSS: Instituto Nacional de la Seguridad Social.

IMSERSO: Instituto de Mayores y Servicios Sociales.

* Benefits for orphans and dependent family members of deceased Social Security affiliates not included.

■ Data refer to January-July.

Table III. 5

Social protection: Health care**Expenditure**

	Total (% GDP)	Public (% GDP)	Total expenditure (\$ per inhabitant)	Public expenditure (\$ per inhabitant)
2008	8.29	6.10	2,774	2,042
2010	9.01	6.74	2,886	2,157
2012	9.09	6.55	2,902	2,095
2014	9.08	6.36	3,057	2,140
2015	9.2	6.51	3,180	2,258
2016	9.0	6.34	3,248	2,293
2017	8.8	6.25	3,370	2,385
2018	8.9	6.20	3,323	2,341
<i>Sources</i>	OECD	OECD	OECD	OECD

Resources

	Medical specialists per 1,000 inhabitants	Primary care doctors per 1,000 people assigned	Specialist nurses per 1,000 inhabitants	Primary care nurses per 1,000 people assigned
2008	1.8	0.8	3.0	0.6
2010	1.8	0.8	3.2	0.6
2012	1.8	0.8	3.1	0.6
2014	1.8	0.8	3.1	0.7
2015	1.9	0.8	3.2	0.7
2016	1.9	0.8	3.3	0.6
2017	1.9	0.8	3.4	0.6
2018		0.8		0.7
<i>Sources</i>	INCLASNS	INCLASNS	INCLASNS	INCLASNS

Satisfaction (0-10 scale)**Time on waiting list (days)**

	With the working of the health system	With medical history and tracing by family doctor or pediatrician	Non-urgent surgical procedures	First specialist consultations
2008	6.4	7.0	71	59
2010	6.6	7.3	65	53
2012	6.6	7.5	76	53
2014	6.3	7.5	87	65
2015	6.4	7.5	89	58
2016	6.6	7.6	115	72
2017	6.7	7.5	106	66
2018	6.6	7.5	129	96
2019			115	81
<i>Sources</i>	INCLASNS	INCLASNS	INCLASNS	INCLASNS

OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

INCLASNS: *Indicadores Clave del Sistema Nacional de Salud*.

Table III.6

Labour market

	Employment		Unemployment				Social Security affiliation		
	Men (in thousands)	Women (in thousands)	Men (in thousands)	Women (in thousands)	Rate (men)	Rate (women)	Men (in thousands)	Women (in thousands)	Foreign population (in thousands)
2008	11,805	8,665	1,320	1,276	10.1	12.8	10,884	8,121	2,052
2010	10,424	8,301	2,536	2,104	19.6	20.2	9,710	7,872	1,841
2012	9,608	8,025	3,131	2,680	24.6	25.0	9,034	7,705	1,693
2014	9,443	7,902	2,917	2,694	23.6	25.4	8,853	7,639	1,555
2015	9,760	8,106	2,559	2,497	20.8	23.6	9,154	7,864	1,608
2016	10,001	8,341	2,213	2,268	18.1	21.4	9,421	8,097	1,688
2017	10,266	8,559	1,905	2,011	15.7	19.0	9,758	8,369	1,802
2018	10,532	8,795	1,675	1,805	13.7	17.0	10,058	8,643	1,947
2019	10,746	9,034	1,528	1,720	12.4	16.0	10,286	8,903	2,092
2020	10,397■	8,747■	1,616■	1,725■	13.5■	16.5■	10,000♦	8,701♦	2,030♦
Sources	LFS	LFS	LFS	LFS	LFS	LFS	BEL	BEL	BEL

BEL: *Boletín de Estadísticas Laborales*.

LFS: *Labour Force Survey*.

■ Data refer to January-June.

♦ Data refer to January-July.

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