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Country: Poland

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Function:

- 1. Head of the Hospital Infection Control Team**
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Main expertise: pharmacoeconomics, epidemiology, public health



Healthcare providers perspectives from three different EU countries on their **country's respective vaccination recommendations and strategic plans for older adults**. Barriers and opportunities for the future **POLAND**

Marcin Czech, PhD, MD, MBA

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Adult Immunization Board (AIB)
Technical meeting:

Advancing vaccination strategies for the older adults: insights into epidemiology, immunity, and implementation

Conflict of interest

I declare no conflict of interest

Poland – country profile

Demographic and socioeconomic context in Poland, 2022

Demographic factors

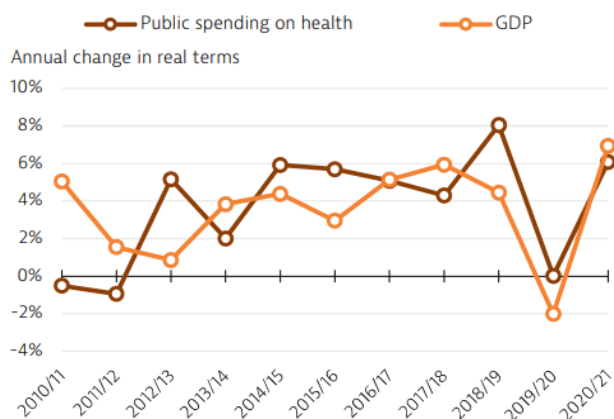
	Poland	EU
Population size	37 654 247	446 735 291
Share of population over age 65 (%)	19.1	21.1
Fertility rate ¹ (2021)	1.3	1.5

Socioeconomic factors

	Poland	EU
GDP per capita (EUR PPP ²)	28 044	35 219
Relative poverty rate ³ (%)	13.7	16.5
Unemployment rate (%)	2.9	6.2

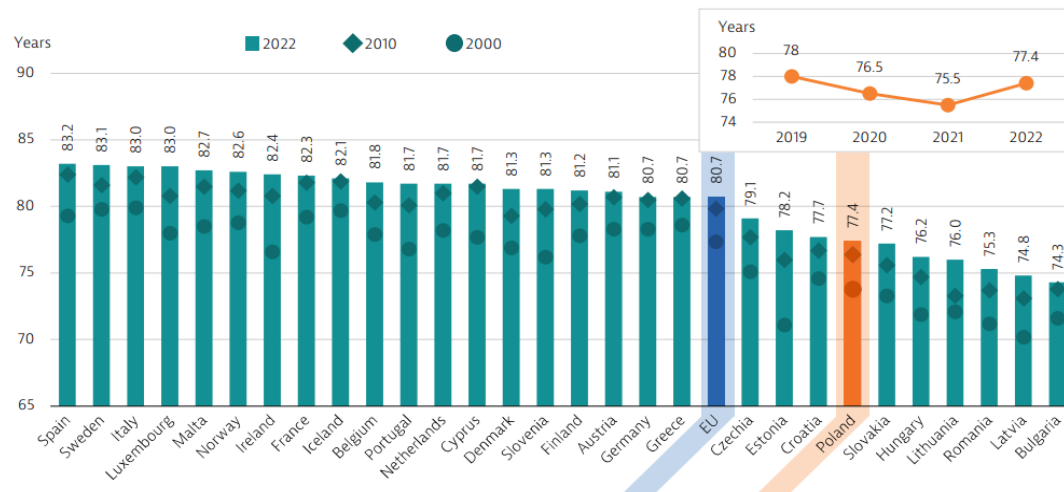
1. Number of children born per woman aged 15-49. 2. Purchasing power parity (PPP) is defined as the rate of currency conversion that equalises the purchasing power of different currencies by eliminating the differences in price levels between countries. 3. Percentage of persons living with less than 60 % of median equivalised disposable income. Source: Eurostat Database.

Figure 18. After a decline in 2020 public spending on health grew again in 2021



Source: OECD Health Statistics 2023.

Figure 1. Life expectancy at birth in Poland is approximately three years below the EU average

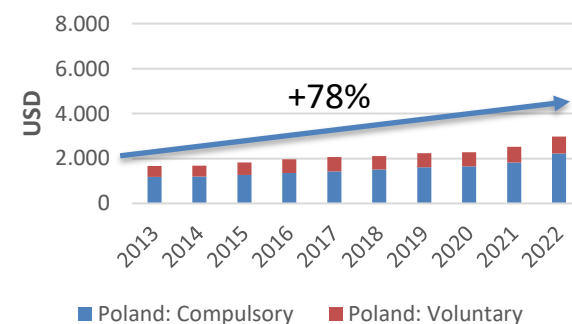
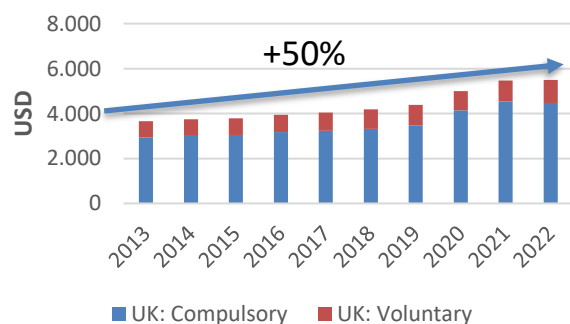
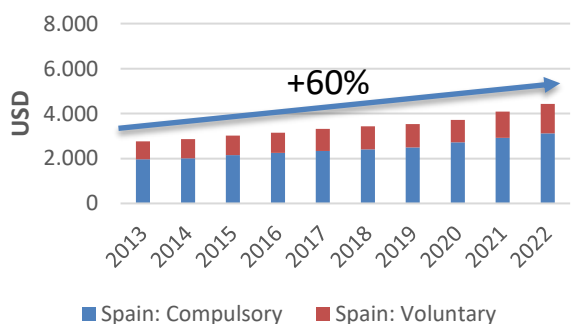
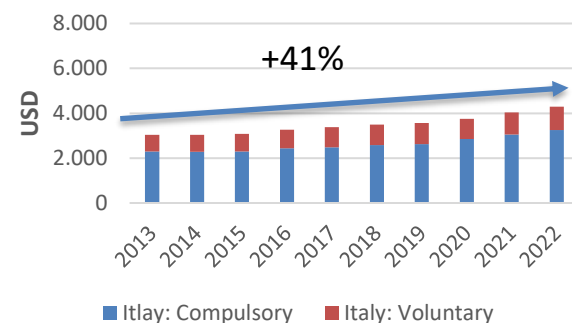
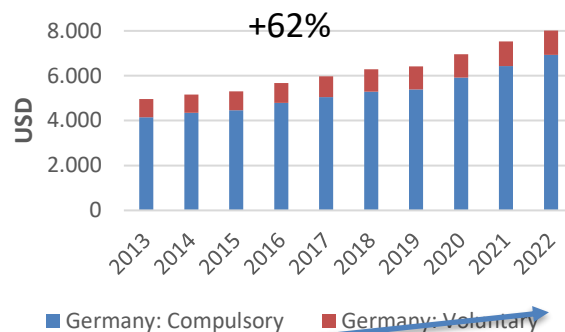
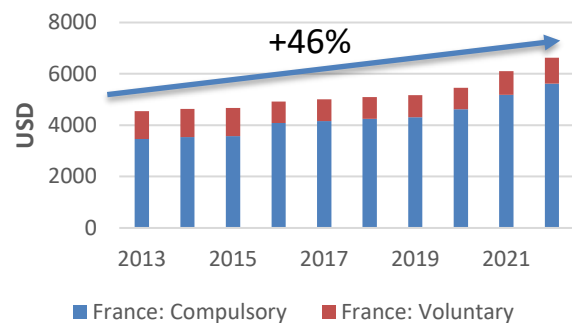


Notes: The EU average is weighted. The 2022 data are provisional estimates from Eurostat that may be different from national data and may be subject to revision. Data for Ireland refers to 2021.

Source: Eurostat Database.

Budget dedicated to HC – USD/capita

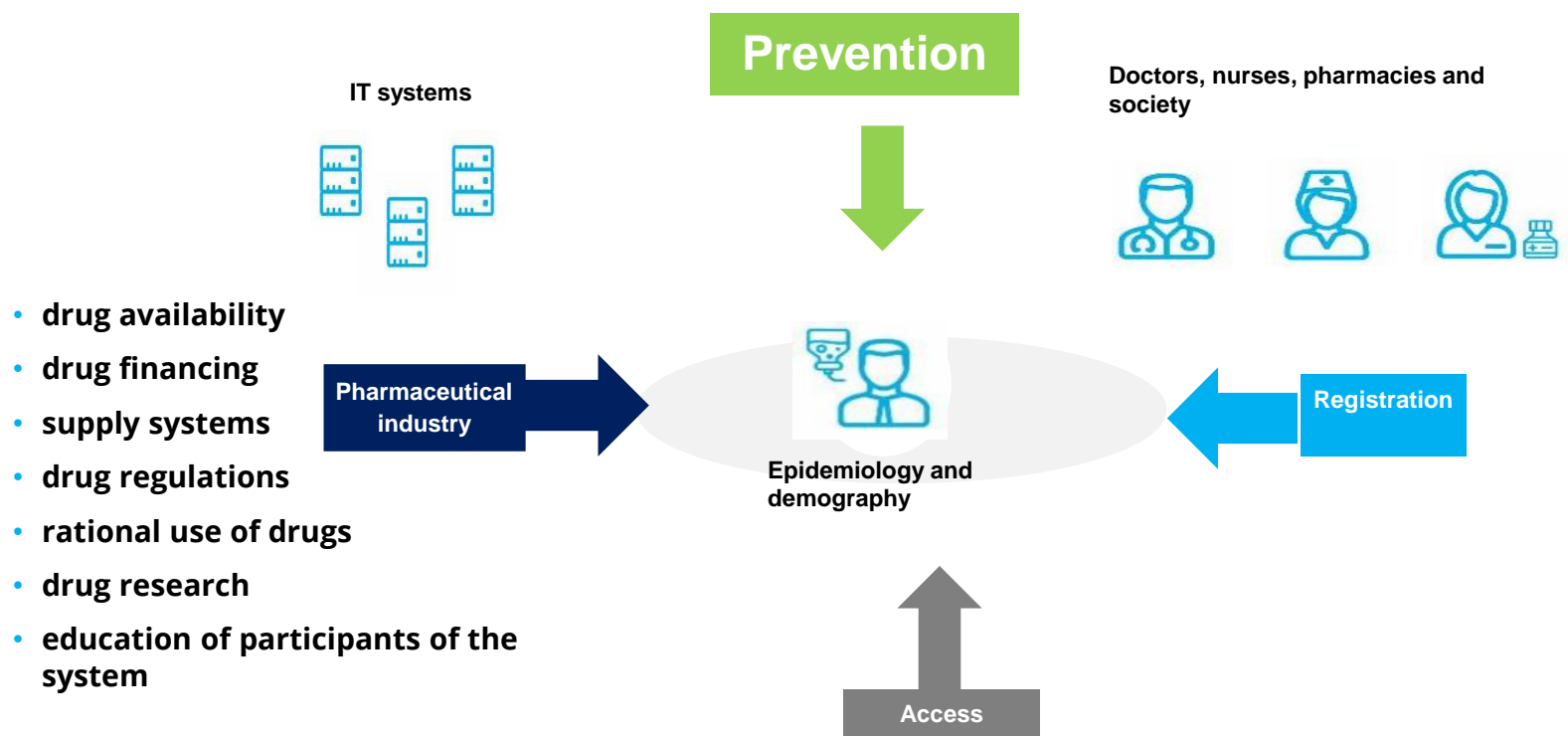
Percentage increase from 2013 to 2022



OECD data

The % growth of HC expenditures in Poland is as high as in Germany and above that of the other countries.

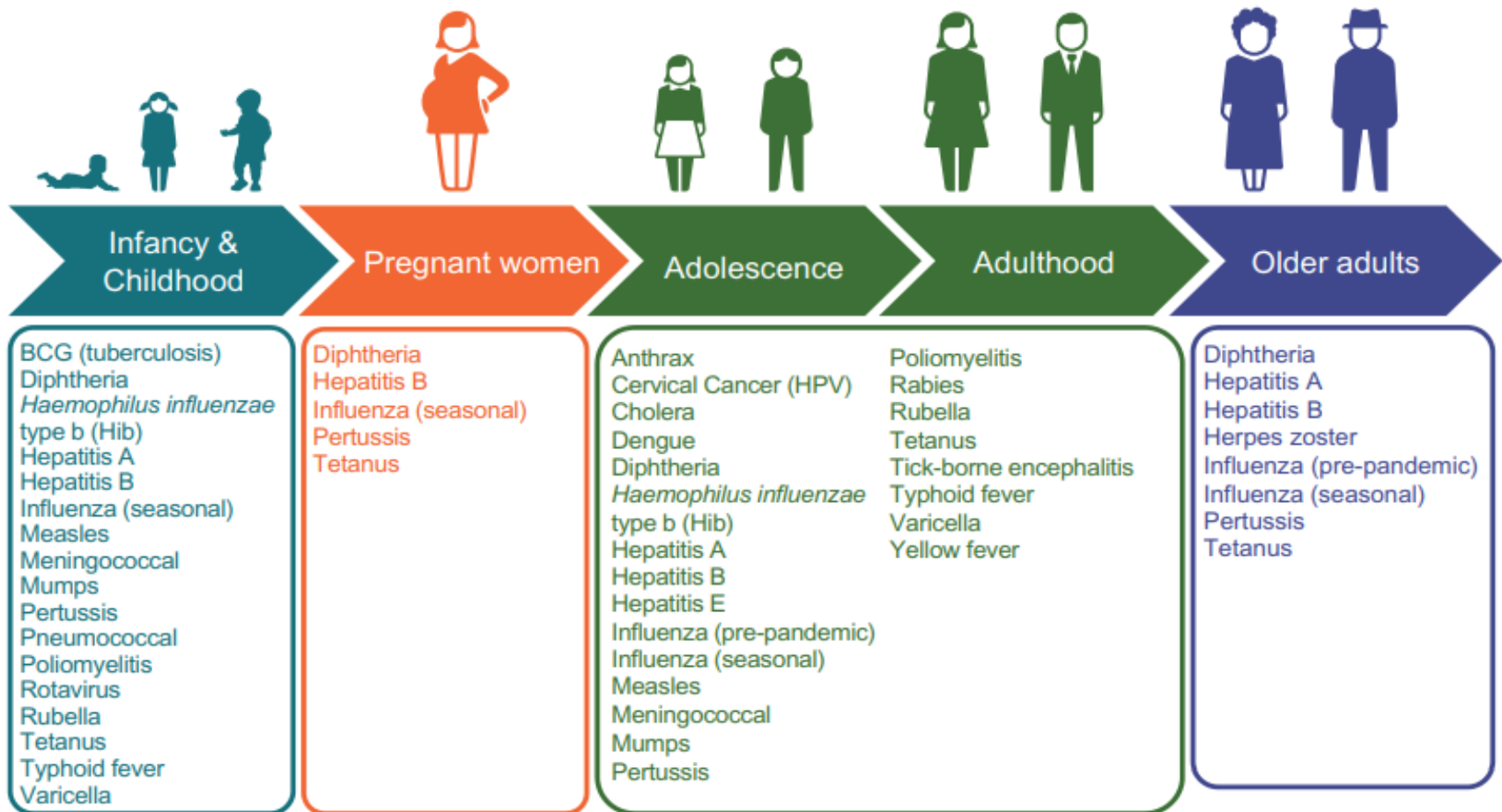
Vaccines in Polish Drug Policy 2018-2022



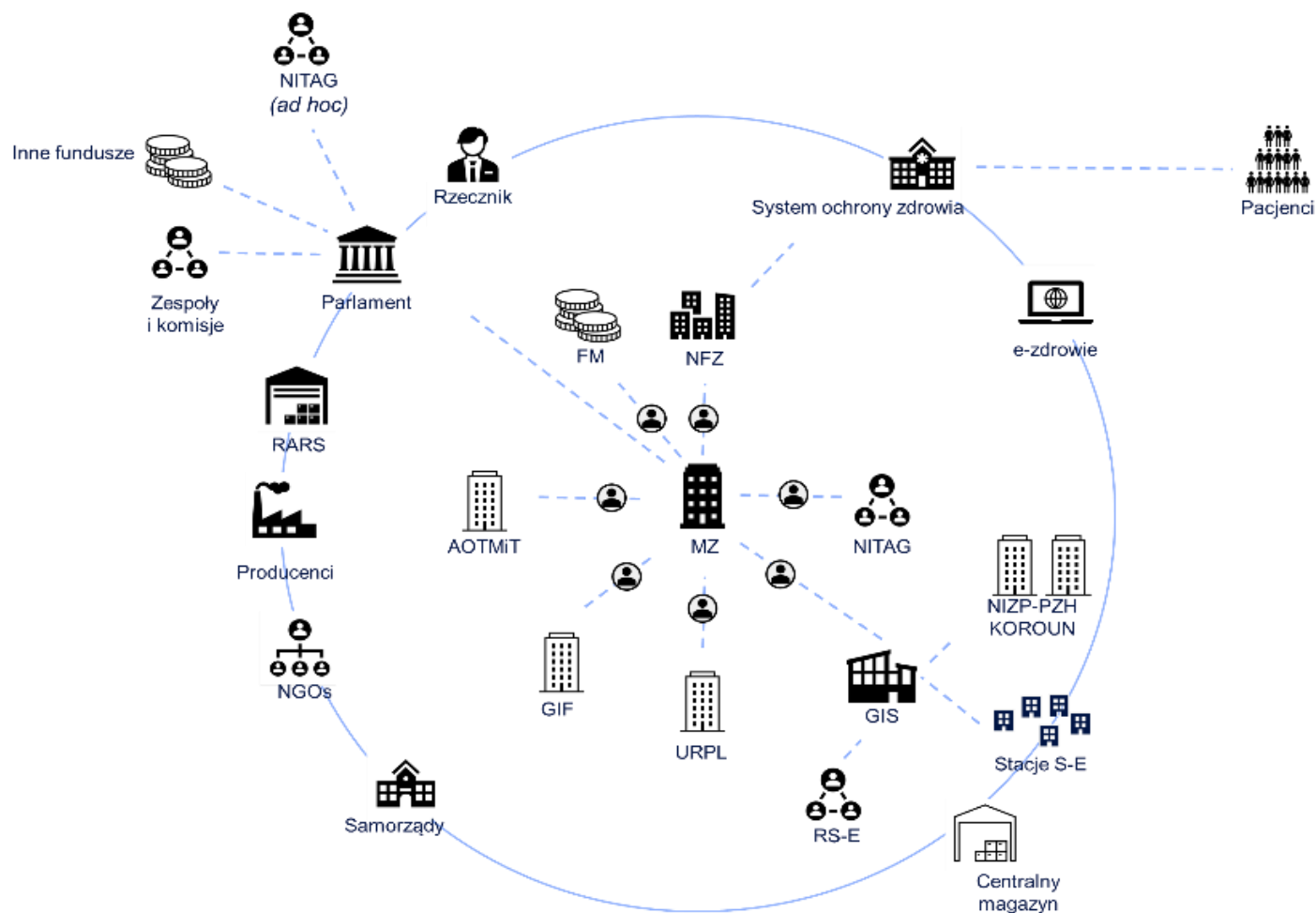
Regulatory Foundations and the Role of Pharmacists in Immunization – Polish Context

- In Poland, pharmacists were authorized to administer (selected, 26!) adult vaccinations starting in 2021, based on the COVID-19 pandemic emergency
- The legal basis includes amendments to the **Pharmaceutical Law and the Act on the Professions of Physician and Pharmacist**
- As of 2023, pharmacists can conduct vaccinations in pharmacies **after completing accredited training**
- Pharmacists are also authorized to **qualify adult patients for certain vaccinations** (e.g., flu, COVID-19), in accordance with regulation by the Ministry of Health
- There is a universal system of reimbursement for adults' vaccinations administered in pharmacies

Modern approach to vaccines reflected in GPs/MDs attitudes









Pathways for vaccine assessments and national decision-making proces in Poland are complicated





Article

Improving Vaccine Assessment Pathways and Decision Making in the Polish Immunization Program

Marcin Czech ^{1,2,*}, Ewa Augustynowicz ³, Michał Byliniak ⁴, Teresa Jackowska ⁵, Mikołaj Konstanty ^{6,7}, Ernest Kuchar ⁸, Agnieszka Mastalerz-Migas ^{9,10}, Maciej Niewada ¹¹, Aneta Nitsch-Osuch ¹², Iwona Paradowska-Stankiewicz ³, Jarosław Pinkas ¹³, Jakub Szulc ¹⁴ and Jacek Wysocki ¹⁵

<https://www.mdpi.com/2076-393X/12/3/286>



Key focus areas of the Polish Presidency

“Security, Europe!” – this is the motto of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Four key areas:

- health security
- digitisation of healthcare
- health promotion and disease prevention
- mental health of children and adolescents

POLISH PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL
OF THE EUROPEAN UNION 2025

WHITE PAPER

**Healthcare Policy
Recommendations**

Policy paper of the Polish Academy of Science

Pharmaceutical security. Focus on Vaccines.

3 dimensions:

- security understood as the availability and accessibility of medicinal products and medical devices
- safety of drug use in patients
- preparation for crisis situations (e.g. natural disasters, pandemics, wars) together with solutions and remedial actions

Authors

(in alphabetic order)

1. Marcin Czech
2. Jakub Gierczyński
3. Maciej Niewada
4. Iwona Paradowska-Stankiewicz
5. Bolesław Samoliński



Adult vaccination in Poland from patients' perspective

Key Focus areas

Main access challenges based on the patients' organisation report¹:



Awareness – education regarding vaccination necessity regardless of age should be a priority; educational materials should be provided by doctors and nurses in all medical centres



Simplification – current patient journey is complicated (prescription, vaccine purchasing, specific storage, multiply visits) and requires changes e.g. fast prophylaxis pathway



Spendings – vaccine cost is still a challenge for patients therefore 0% co-pay for the 65+ and 18- population is needed

1. <https://mypacjenci.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/raport-szczepienia-FINAL.pdf>
2. <https://szczepienia.pzh.gov.pl/szczepionki/grypa/?strona=7#jaki-jest-stan-zaszczepienia-przeciw-grypie-w-polsce> ; NHF reimbursed data, GUS data

Thank you!

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<https://chatgpt.com/c/66f2c5a9-d2ec-8002-b4ef-8f94e98e1bb6>