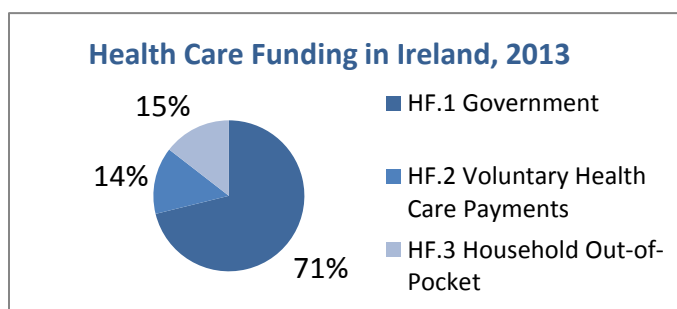


System of Health Accounts Results

New Publication on Health Expenditure

On the 3rd of December 2015 the Central Statistics Office released [“Ireland’s System of Health Accounts, Annual Results 2013 \(Preliminary\)”](http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/sha/systemofhealthaccounts2013/) on the CSO website.

This represents the first reporting of health expenditure according to the System of Health Accounts international methodology. See <http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/sha/systemofhealthaccounts2013/>



What’s new?

This new approach to estimating health care expenditure in Ireland has resulted in a number of changes from previous estimates:

- A detailed breakdown of current spending by 3 classifications (funders, providers and services); while previously only high level aggregates were reported.
- Review of Irish data has led to inclusion of wider range of services as health care than previously reported.
- Main changes – more long-term care for older people and people with a disability now included under the definition of health care.

Remind Me What the System of Health Accounts is?

The System of Health Accounts (SHA) is designed to provide information about health care systems:

- How much is spent on health care provision?
- Where does the money to finance the health system come from?
- Who does the money go to?
- What kinds of services are performed and what type of goods are purchased?



Who sets out the rules for the SHA?

The SHA was devised by the OECD and consists of a set of tables for reporting on health care expenditure. It facilitates the compilation of comparable international data as well as providing an aid for national policy making. The approach taken to compiling the tables enables comparability over time and across countries. A detailed manual sets out the definitions and concepts to be used by all countries. This manual has been agreed among the OECD, Eurostat and the WHO. The Central Statistics Office and the Department of Health in conjunction with the Health Service Executive have implemented the System of Health Accounts (SHA) in Ireland. More information on the SHA is available at <http://www.oecd.org/health/health-systems/a-system-of-health-accounts-9789264116016-en.htm>



2013 Results

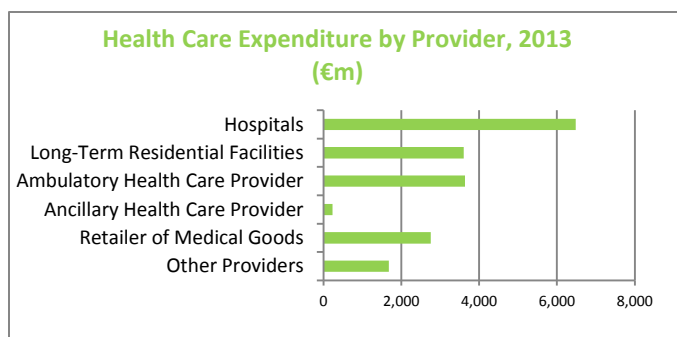
Ireland's current health expenditure was €18.4 billion in 2013. This represented 10.2% of gross domestic product (GDP) or 12.4% of gross national income (GNI).

Who Funds Health Care in Ireland?

The majority of health expenditure (€13,082 million or 71%) was financed by government. Most of this related to expenditure of the Health Service Executive but also included other government expenditure such as Department of Social Protection transfer payments to households and Treatment Benefit payments from the Social Insurance Fund.

The remaining expenditure was financed in almost equal parts by household out-of-pocket payments at €2,667 million and voluntary health care payments, the majority of which related to voluntary health insurance (€2,177 million). Other voluntary payments came from income such as car-parking, restaurant receipts and fund-raising.

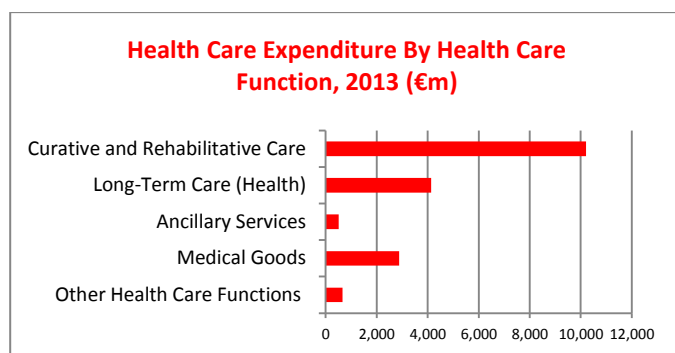
Who Provides Health Care in Ireland



Just over one-third of health expenditure happened in hospitals with a further 20% in long-term residential facilities such as nursing homes and residential disability services. Ambulatory health care providers, which were predominantly made up of GPs and dentists, also accounted for 20% of expenditure. Retailers of Medical Goods (predominantly pharmacies) accounted for a further €2,758 million or 15% of all health care expenditure.

What Types of Services are provided?

The majority of health expenditure related to curative and rehabilitative care (€10,204 million) and nearly half of this is for inpatient care (€4,354 million). The next largest category was long-term care which amounted to 22% of expenditure again with inpatient services the largest component of this (€2,567 million). Pharmaceuticals and other medical non-durables made up the next largest category. Administration of the health care system (public and private) amounted to €390 million in 2013 (2% of current health expenditure).



Further Analysis

The SHA approach also allows for deeper analysis of the data and answers the following questions:

- **What services are being provided by whom?**
- **Who funds which providers?**
- **Who funds which services?**

Tables 4 to 6 in the CSO's statistical release presents the answers to these questions.

<http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/sha/systemofhealthaccounts2013/>

International comparisons can also be seen at

<http://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/surveysandmethodologies/surveyforms/documents/nationalaccounts/pdfdocs/SHAPressBriefing.pdf>

Feedback please!

We hope you find this new data source interesting and helpful. We would also appreciate your feedback on this data (see contact details below).

If you would like **further information** on the System of Health Accounts Project in Ireland or would like to provide **feedback** on our preliminary results for 2013, please contact the Project Manager, Ciara O'Shea at sha@cso.ie