

30 June 2010

## Registered Health Professionals Statistics Year 2009

**The number of registered doctors stands at 4.76 per 1,000 inhabitants, and that of registered nurses at 5.55**

**Women account for 45.1% of doctors and 83.5% of registered nurses**

The number of doctors registered in Spain stood at 219,031 in the year 2009, with a 2.4% increase as compared with the previous year.

In turn, the number of graduates in nursing was 255,445, that is, 2.1% more than in 2008. Of the latter, 7,354 were qualified midwives (1.9% more than the previous year).

In relative terms these figures imply that **per 1,000 inhabitants there were 4.8 doctors and 5.6 nurses** registered with their professional bodies in 2009. Within the group for nurses, those who were qualified, registered midwives accounted for 0.6 per 1,000 women of childbearing age.

### Evolution of Registered Health Professionals

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Doctors	194,668	199,123	203,091	208,098	213,977	219,031
Odontologists and Stomatologists	21,055	22,150	23,300	24,515	25,697	26,725
Pharmacists	57,945	59,251	60,581	61,300	61,975	63,593
Veterinarians	25,604	25,827	26,502	27,594	28,188	28,403
Chiropodists	3,719	4,158	4,554	4,909	5,027	5,263
Physiotherapists			26,343	28,720	31,229	33,288
Graduates in Nursing	225,487	231,001	237,050	243,000	250,139	255,445
Qualified Midwives [1]	6,698	6,774	6,868	7,057	7,216	7,354

[1] Data for Graduates in Nursing qualified as midwives may be underestimated as it is not a legal requirement to be registered in said specialisation in order to practise it

In 2009 all professional health bodies grew somewhat less than the average for the last five years, except *Pharmacists*, who experienced an increase of 2.6%, the greatest since 2003.

The groups whose registered members increased the most in 2009 as compared with the previous year were *Physiotherapists* (6.6%), *Chiropodists* (4.7%) and *Odontologists and Stomatologists* (4.0%).

In relative terms, in the year 2009 there were 1.4 *Pharmacists* per 1,000 inhabitants; 0.7 *Physiotherapists*; 0.6 *Odontologists and Stomatologists* and 0.1 *Chiropodists*.

## Registered health professionals by sex and age

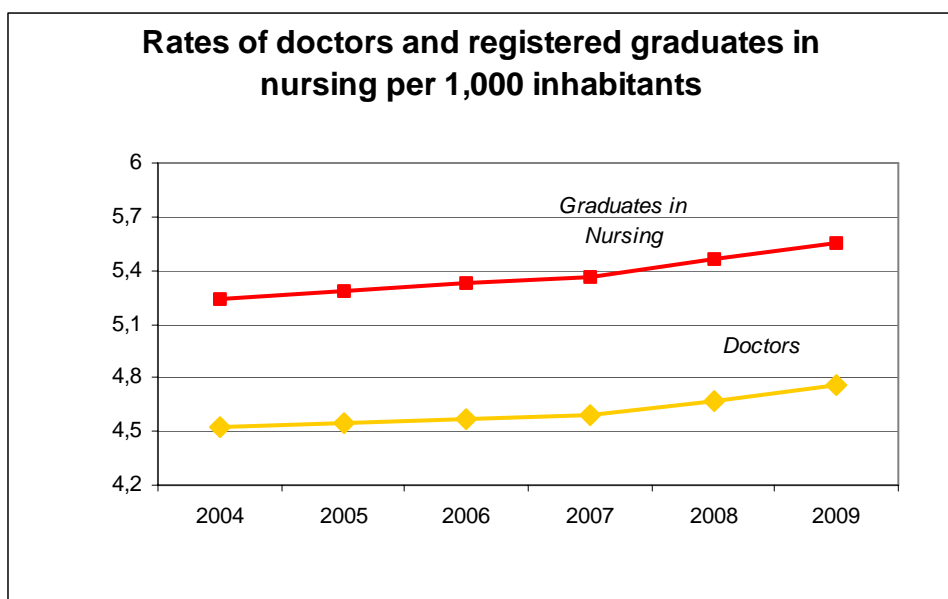
There was a significant presence of women among registered health professionals. As a matter of fact, in 2009 they exceeded 40% among *Doctors, Odontologists and Stomatologists* and *Veterinarians*. Furthermore, they represented the majority in all other professional health bodies.

This female presence was more noticeable in the youngest age groups. Thus, at least two out of three of those registered with all professional bodies under the age of 35 years old were women.

## Evolution of the rate of health professionals

The rate of registered health professionals increased in all groups analysed, largely due to the fact that the number of registered professionals grew more than the population in 2009.

Specifically, the rate of *Doctors* per 1,000 inhabitants increased from 4.67 in 2008 to 4.76, whereas the rate of *Graduates in Nursing* rose from 5.46 to 5.55.



## Data by Autonomous Community

The Autonomous Communities with the highest rates of registered doctors in the year 2009 (both those not retired and those retired) were Aragón (with 5.96 per 1,000 inhabitants) and Comunidad de Madrid (5.82). Conversely, Castilla–La Mancha (3.96) and Andalucía (3.99) presented the lowest rates.

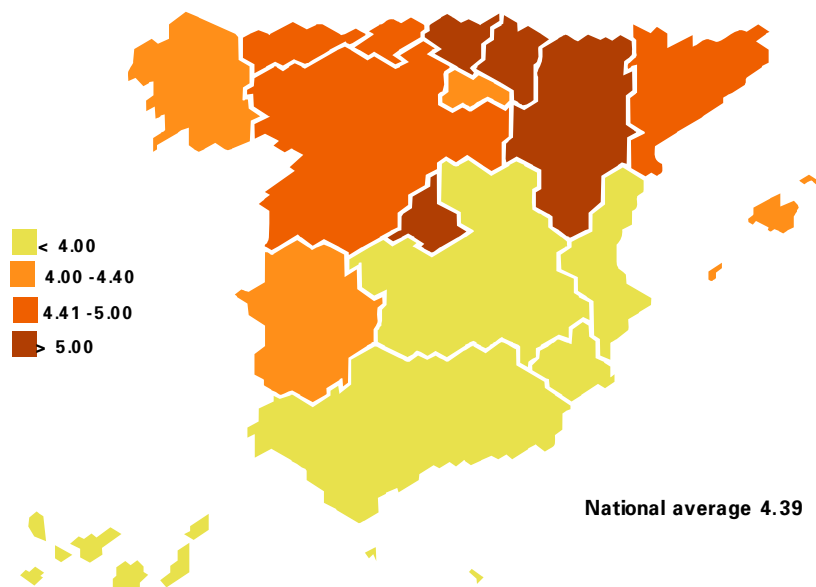
As regards registered nurses, Comunidad Foral de Navarra registered the highest number of registered professionals per inhabitant (9.54 per 1,000), followed by Cantabria (6.80).

The Communities with the highest rates of registered *Pharmacists* were Comunidad Foral de Navarra and Galicia (with 2.12 and 1.63 per 1,000 inhabitants, respectively), whereas those presenting a greater proportion of *Odontologists and Stomatologists* registered with their Council were Comunidad de Madrid (0.89) and País Vasco (0.72).

Comunidad de Madrid and Cataluña showed the highest rates of *Physiotherapists* registered (1.05 and 0.97 per 1,000). Extremadura presented the highest rate of *Chiropodists* (10.8 per 1,000), followed by Comunidad de Madrid (0.17).

If we consider the situation by Community of the rate of doctors who are not retired, the map would not change substantially. In this case, the national average was 4.39 registered doctors who had not retired per 1,000 inhabitants. The two Communities with the highest rate were, once again, Aragón (5.44) and Comunidad de Madrid (5.40). The two Communities with the greatest number of registered professionals per inhabitant were also Andalucía (3.61) and Castilla–La Mancha (3.71).

## Registered doctors who are not retired per 1,000 inhabitants



For further information see [INEbase-www.ine.es/en/welcome\\_en.htm](http://inebase-www.ine.es/en/welcome_en.htm) All press releases at: [www.ine.es/en/prensa/prensa\\_en.htm](http://www.ine.es/en/prensa/prensa_en.htm)

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### **Methodological note**

Registered Health Professionals Statistics investigate the number and features of professionals in the scope of health registered in their respective Professional Bodies or Councils. It has been prepared continuously by the National Statistics Institute since the year 1953. Beginning in the year 2003, the publication was amended as a result of the adaptation of the questionnaire to the requirements of different international organisations.

These are annual structural statistics. Data refers to December 31st and provides results on a national level and by Autonomous Communities and provinces.

The information it currently provides refers to doctors, dentists and stomatologists, pharmacists, veterinarians, chiropodists, physiotherapists and registered nurses. In so doing, the province in which the professional is registered, the sex, age and employment situation (retired or not retired) are collected<sup>1</sup>.

The information referring to doctors and graduates in nursing is collected via the respective Provincial Professional Associations, whereas in the case of odontologists and stomatologists, pharmacists, veterinarians, chiropodists and physiotherapists it is carried out via the General Councils of the respective Professional Bodies.

The questionnaires are sent out by email and regular post to the General Councils and Professional Bodies. There are three questionnaire models depending on who will answer them:

1. General Councils of Professional Associations: Odontologists and Stomatologists, Pharmacists, Veterinarians, Chiropodists and Physiotherapists.
2. Provincial Medical Associations.
3. Provincial Associations of Graduates in Nursing, also incorporated are those registered professionals with a specialist nursing qualification in this questionnaire.

As the completed questionnaires are received, the appropriate verifications are undertaken and complaints are sent out if required, controlling the reception of information.

After verifying the consistency of the information provided in the questionnaires, data is published nationally and by Autonomous Communities / Provinces. In the case of Graduates in Nursing, the Obstetrics-Gynaecology (Midwife) specialisation is published.

This investigation provides information to different international organisations such as the OECD and the EU via its Statistics Office (EUROSTAT).

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<sup>1</sup> The General Council of Official Colleges of Odontologists and Stomatologists provides as registered professionals the total number of registered professional who are not retired