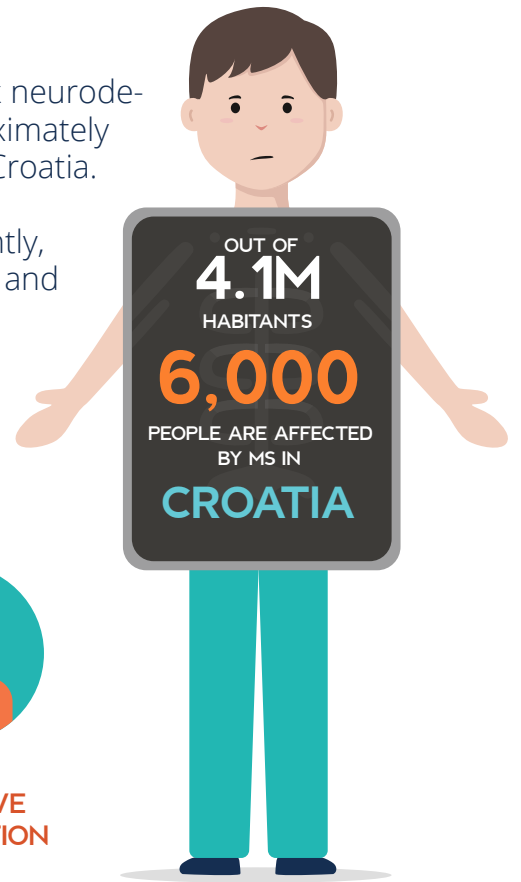


WHAT IS MS?

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a complex neurodegenerative disease affecting approximately 6,000 of the 4.1 million¹ people in Croatia.

Each person will experience this unpredictable disease differently, but common symptoms include pain, fatigue, reduced mobility and cognitive dysfunction.

There is currently no cure for MS; however, optimal treatment and support have a significant effect on disease progression and quality of life for people with MS.



PAIN



FATIGUE



REDUCED MOBILITY

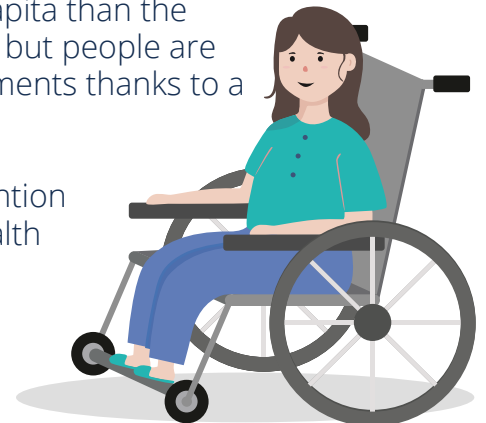


COGNITIVE DYSFUNCTION

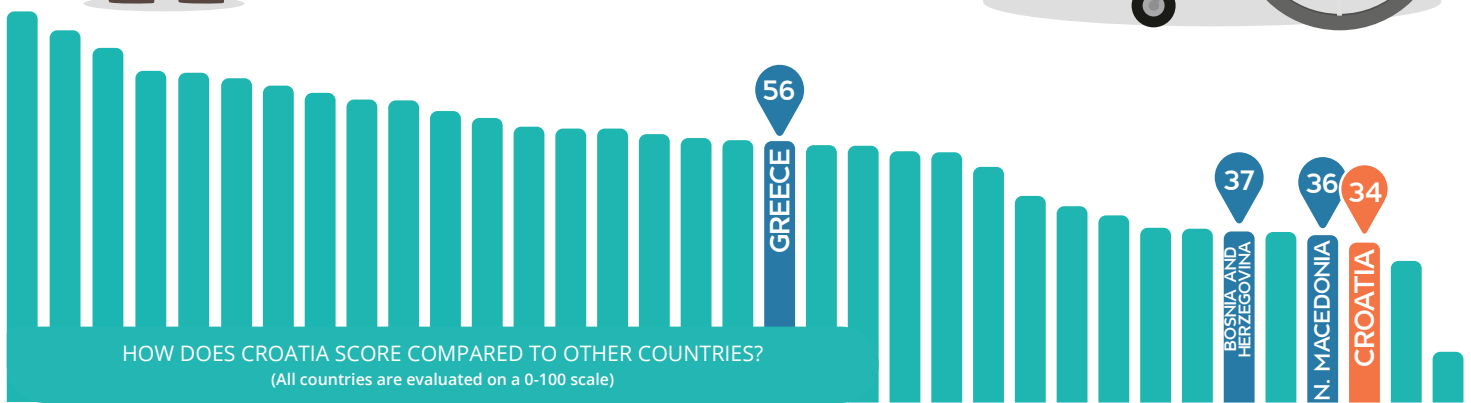
COUNTRY CONTEXT

A broad package of care is available in Croatia through the mandatory public insurance programme.² Croatia has a lower health expenditure per capita than the European Union average, but people are generally protected from high out-of-pocket payments thanks to a high proportion of public expenditure.

Long-term care, in particular, needs political attention to reduce fragmentation and improve overall health system efficiency.



COUNTRY RANKING



HOW DOES CROATIA SCORE COMPARED TO OTHER COUNTRIES?

(All countries are evaluated on a 0-100 scale)



WHAT DID THE BAROMETER FIND?



Recent years have seen some improvements to treatment accessibility, particularly for disease-modifying drugs (DMDs). This is largely due to changes within the Croatian Health Insurance Fund. However, important gaps in care persist:



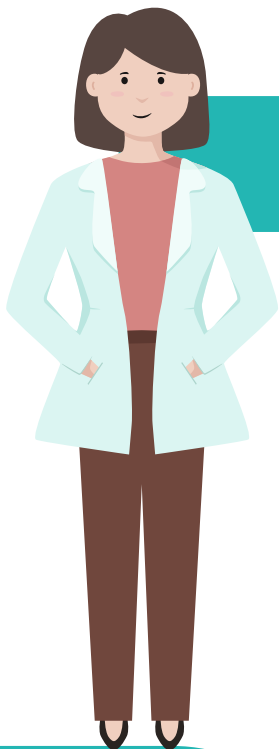
There are no specialist MS centres.



There are no multidisciplinary teams available to treat people with MS.



People with MS are entitled to a maximum of 21 days of inpatient rehabilitation each year.



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Educate decision-makers and policymakers on the value of preventive MS rehabilitation and remove Expanded Disability Status Scale (EDSS) scores from needs assessments.



Establish one dedicated MS centre with a multidisciplinary team incorporating a neurologist, paediatric neurologist, nurse and rehabilitation specialists.

Establish a national MS registry with mandatory data collection encompassing clinical, occupational and patient-reported data



More information can be found at www.emsp.org or contact sdms_hrvatske@sdmsh.hr

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