



# Press release

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## ***Sharp increase in spending on care in 2002***

Spending on care rose by 11.4 percent in 2002 to reach over 52 billion euro as provisional figures from Statistics Netherlands' care accounts show.

Expenditure on health care rose by 11.0 percent, while spending on public welfare rose by 13.1 percent. The increase in spending on care was, among other things, caused by higher wages for hospital staff (increased manpower and higher wages) and higher fees for independent practitioners.

### ***Care costs amount to 3,245 euro per capita***

Per head of the population, 3,245 euro was spent on care in 2002, a 10.7 percent increase on the previous year when the corresponding amount was 2,931 euro.

Proportionally, the increase in expenditure on care was substantially higher than the increase in the gross domestic product (GDP). This pushed up the share of spending on care in the GDP from 11.0 percent in 2001 to 11.8 percent in 2002. The corresponding percentage over the period 1998-2000 was approximately 10.5.

### ***Health care spending up by 11.0 percent***

Spending on health care rose by 11.0 percent in 2002 to reach 33.0 billion euro. General hospitals, the largest category within health care, accounted for a 12.5 percent rise and reached 8.7 billion euro.

Nearly 6.2 billion euro was spent on practices of independent health care professionals, such as GPs, specialists, dentists, midwives and paramedics, a 12.4 percent rise on 2001. The increase is partly due to higher fees paid to GPs, midwives and dentists. Additionally, new regulations regarding evening, night and weekend duties for GPs played a part in the increase in health care costs as did a change in the regulations concerning dental treatment for adults.

Expenditure on medicine dispensed by pharmacists and chemists rose by 9.3 percent to 4.7 billion euro in 2002.

### ***Welfare spending 13.1 percent up***

At 13.1 percent, the increase in expenditure on public welfare in 2002 was higher than expenditure on health care. The difference is mainly due to extra

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funds made available to reduce waiting lists in nursing and care institutions. Within the welfare sector, spending on home care institutions and care for mentally and physically handicapped persons rose by more than 15 percent. Spending on nursing homes, homes for the elderly and day care rose by approximately 10 percent.

### ***Shares of the various funding sources virtually unchanged***

The government and social insurance schemes financed 69 percent of the total care expenditure, almost 36 billion euro in 2002, an increase by 11.7 percent compared to 2001. Private care insurance contributed almost 6.9 billion euro, 13.7 percent up on 2001. The higher increase in private care insurance compared to the government and social insurance schemes can partly be accounted for by an increase in the number of privately insured by 4 percent as opposed to a modest decrease in the number of people covered by the health insurance fund by 1 percent.

The remaining sources contributed 9.5 billion euro to the total care expenditure in 2002, an increase of 8.7 percent compared to 2001. Households, institutions and the private sector also contributed, for instance to day care and occupational care.