

Summary Publication “Ervaringen van de inwoners van Curaçao met de gezondheidszorg: Resultaten van Enkuesta Sosial 2025”.

In September 2025, the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) conducted an omnibus survey for the first time, covering several topics, including health. This publication provides insight into **healthcare utilization, accessibility and satisfaction with healthcare services among the population of Curaçao**. It also examines the consequences of health problems, including absence from work.

Health insurance: Of the respondents, **95.9 percent** had health insurance, with more than three-quarters insured through the **Social Insurance Bank (SVB)**.

Healthcare utilization: Women had used healthcare services more recently than men; during the six months preceding the interview, they were more likely to have visited a general practitioner, medical specialist or dentist. The use of general practitioner services increased with age and was higher among respondents with lower levels of education. The opposite pattern was observed for dental care: respondents with higher levels of education had visited a dentist more recently than those with lower levels of education. During their most recent consultation with a general practitioner, a substantial proportion of respondents were referred to a pharmacy or medical laboratory.

Satisfaction: Just over half of respondents (**52 percent**) indicated that they were satisfied or very satisfied with healthcare services in Curaçao.

Accessibility: Of the respondents, **3.2 percent** reported delays in accessing healthcare due to transportation or distance-related problems. These problems were more common among women than men. In addition, **11.6 percent** reported long waiting times before they were able to obtain an appointment with a doctor.

Financial barriers also affected access to healthcare, particularly dental care, prescribed medication and medical care. **9.4 percent** of respondents reported that they had been unable to afford dental care for financial reasons, followed by **8.2 percent** for prescribed medication and **7.6 percent** for medical care. Financial barriers were more common among women and among respondents who considered their income insufficient.

Absence from work due to health problems: Furthermore, **12.9 percent** of respondents reported having been absent from work due to health problems during the twelve months preceding the interview. This proportion was higher among women than men.

Informal caregiving: **7.4 percent** of respondents provided informal care, with women providing informal care more often than men.

Conclusion: The results indicate that healthcare in Curaçao is generally accessible, although financial and socioeconomic factors continue to play an important role in obtaining care. Women, respondents with lower levels of education and those who perceive their income as insufficient experience barriers more frequently. These findings are consistent with previous international and Caribbean studies. Rising healthcare costs underline the importance of continuing to monitor the **accessibility, affordability and equity of the healthcare system**.