



6.10. Waiting time for an appointment with a specialist (A-9) [updated on 23 December 2020] [see also the old sheet below]

6.10.1. Documentation sheet

Description	Waiting time (in days) for an appointment with a specialist
Calculation	Number of days a patient has to wait for an appointment with a specialist
Rationale	Long waiting times are an important indication for accessibility problems.
Data source	HIS 2018, waiting time for generalists and specialists This is one of the indicators of the “patient experience” ¹
International comparability	No international comparison available. Wait for EHIS.
Dimension	Accessibility
Related performance indicators	Waiting time for face to face contact with mental health centre.

6.10.2. Results

The proportion of the population aged 15+ who waited more than 2 weeks to get an appointment with a specialist is 48.4% (with no major differences between regions, Table 1). The delay to get an appointment with a specialist was considered problematic by 13.5% of the patients.

Table 1 – Population (aged 15+ and over) who waited more than 2 weeks to get an appointment with a specialist (2018)

	N	%
Belgium	1609	48.4
Flanders	482	45.6
Brussels	567	42.5
Wallonia	560	55.6

Source: HIS 2018 ¹

Key points

- **The delay to get an appointment with a specialist was considered problematic by 13.5% of the patients surveyed (in the last Health Interview Survey 2018).**
- **This delay was more than 2 weeks for 48% of the patients surveyed (with a slightly higher percentage in the Walloon region). An increase is observed compared to 2013 (38%).**

1. Sciensano. Belgian Health Interview Survey – Interactive Analysis. Brussels: Sciensano. Available from: <https://www.sciensano.be/en/projects/health-interview-survey-2018> (accessed December 2020).



6.10. Waiting time for an appointment with a specialist (A-9) [Old sheet]

6.10.1. Documentation sheet

Description	Waiting time (in days) for an appointment with a specialist
Calculation	Number of days a patient has to wait for an appointment with a specialist
Rationale	Long waiting times are an important indication for accessibility problems.
Data source	HIS 2013, waiting time for generalists and specialists This is one of the indicators of the “patient experience” ¹
International comparability	No international comparison available. Wait for EHIS.
Dimension	Accessibility
Related performance indicators	Waiting time for face to face contact with mental health centre.

6.10.2. Results

The proportion of the population aged 15+ who waited more than 2 weeks to get an appointment with a specialist is 38.4% (with no major differences between regions, Table 1). The delay to get an appointment with a specialist was considered problematic by 10.2% of the patients only.

Table 2 – Population (aged 15+ and over) who waited more than 2 weeks to get an appointment with a specialist (2013)

	N	%
Belgium	1135	38.4
Flanders	308	38.6
Brussels	363	36.0
Wallonia	464	38.9

Source: HIS 2013 ¹

Key points

- **The delay to get an appointment with a specialist was considered problematic by 10.2% of the patients surveyed (in the last Health Interview Survey 2013). This delay was more than 2 weeks for 38% of the patients surveyed (with no major difference between regions)**

