

## Polish health care finishes last

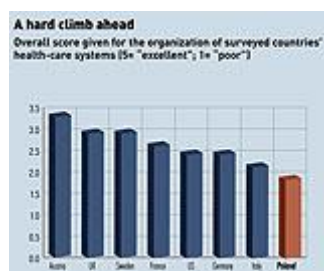
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A new report shows that health care in Poland has a lot of catching up to do

A new multinational study has revealed that Poles are more critical of the state of their country's health-care system than nationals of any other surveyed country are about their own domestic health-care systems.

The Europ Assistance Group's "Health Barometer Report 2010," which surveyed nationals in seven European countries, as well as in the US, reveals that 36 percent of Poles believe the organization of the Polish health system to be "poor."



Health Barometer Report  
2010

This is the largest vote of no-confidence for any single country's health-care system. Some 44 percent of respondents, meanwhile, said health care in Poland was "average."

By comparison, just two percent of surveyed Austrians consider health-care organization in their country to be poor, while eight percent rated it as "excellent." Just one percent of Poles believe health care in Poland to be excellent.

Poland finished with the worst score – 1.9 – in the overall weighted category for health-care organization, a long way off the highest ranking country, Austria, which attained 3.4.

A score of five means a country's health system is considered excellent, while a score of 1.0 means it is poor.

A significant number of Poles (75 percent) believe the health system does not provide equal access for all citizens, yet the majority are opposed to increasing contributions or taxes to make the system more equitable.

Regarding potential future hurdles, 89 percent of Poles thought waiting times would be a “very important” threat to the country’s health system and 77 percent said they thought a lack of public funding will be a “very important threat” in coming years. Meanwhile, 73 percent said unequal access to health care would become a very important obstacle.

“On the whole the Polish [people] feel threatened,” the authors of the report wrote. But while the figures make for gloomy reading, they are not as bad as in last year’s report.

“[Overall] scores for both GPs and hospitals remain stable, however, or have improved slightly compared to 2009, particularly in Poland,” the report’s authors concluded.

From Warsaw Business Journal by [Gareth Price](#)