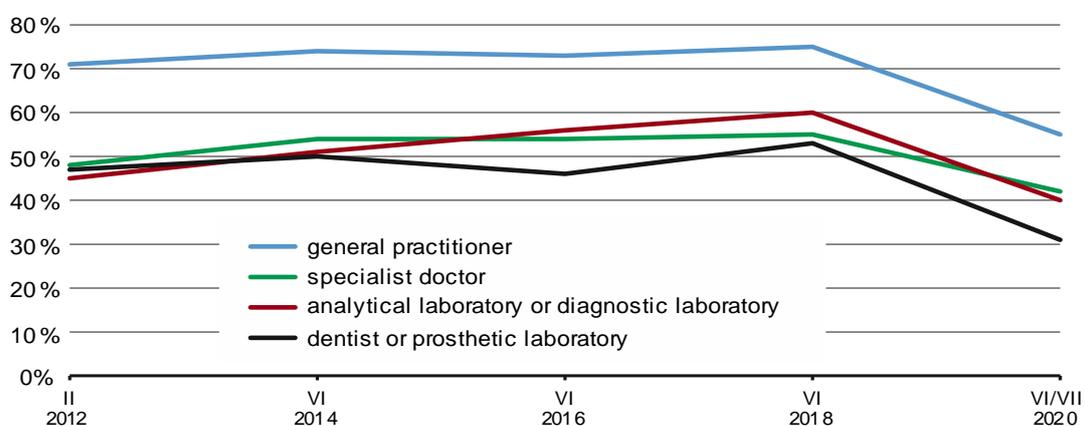


Use of medical services

In the first half of 2020, due to the coronavirus epidemic, Poles used health services much less frequently than two years ago. Back then, 88% of respondents used some form of medical assistance, while currently 70% did. The decrease concerns all the listed benefits. The percentage of respondents who used the services of a general practitioner decreased by 20 percentage points, and the percentage of those who consulted a specialist doctor at least once fell by 13 points. It should be noted that in previous years the percentages of patients treated by primary care physicians and specialists were stable (between 73% and 75% consulted primary care physicians in 2014-2018 and between 54% and 55% consulted a specialist doctor in the same period). Compared with two years ago, far fewer people used the services of an analytical laboratory or a diagnostic laboratory (a decrease from 60% to 39%), although in previous years there was an increase in the use of diagnostic tests (from 51% to in 2014 to 60% in 2018). Compared to 2018, the number of people using the services of a dentist or prosthetic laboratory decreased significantly (from 53% to 31%).

Proportion of respondents who in the six months preceding the survey used the services of:

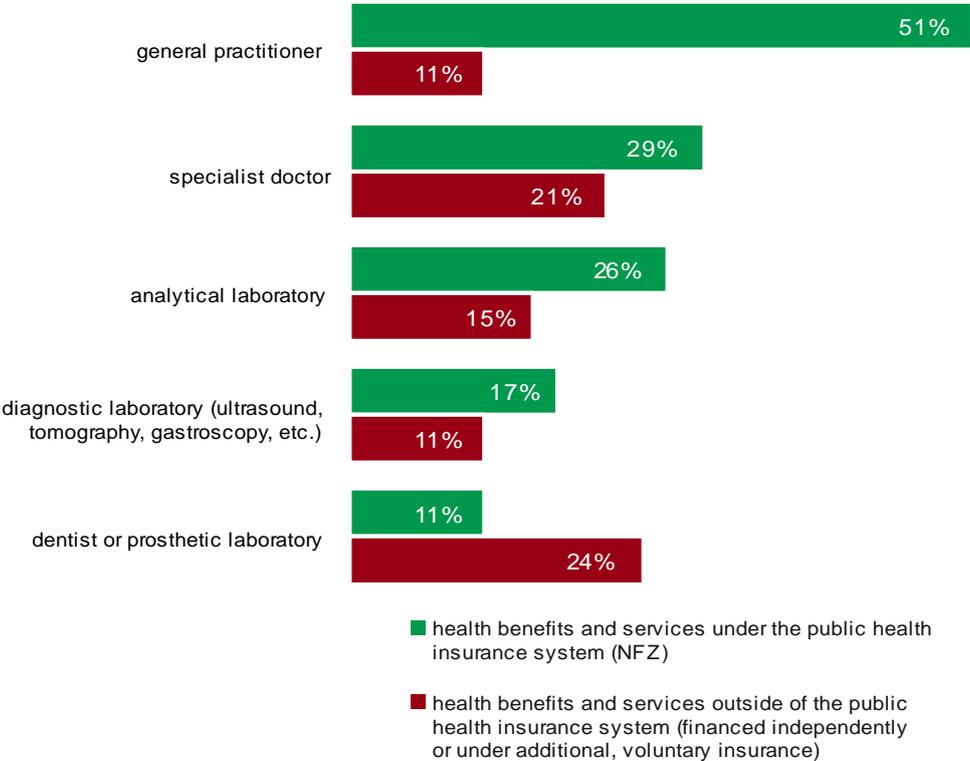


The decrease in the percentage of people using health services concerns both benefits under the public insurance system (NFZ, decrease from 80% in 2018 to 59% in 2020) and medical services offered outside this system (from 57% to 39%).

In the last six months, over half of Poles (51%) consulted a primary care physician and / or paediatrician under the public health insurance. Nearly three out of ten respondents (29%) consulted a specialist doctor, more than one in four (26%) used an analytical laboratory, whereas less than one in five (17%) had other diagnostic tests, e.g. X-ray, ultrasound, tomography, gastroscopy. A smaller number of people, at 11%, used the services of a dentist or prosthetist funded by public medical insurance.

In the last six months, outside of the public health insurance system, Poles most often used the services of a dentist or prosthetic laboratory (24%), or consulted a specialist (21%). Less often, they paid for laboratory tests (15%), consulted a general practitioner (11%) or the services of a diagnostic laboratory (11%) under additional voluntary insurance.

Percentage of users, in the six months preceding the survey of ...



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Use of Healthcare Services and Insurance", August 2020. Fieldwork for national sample: July 2020, N=1339. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.