

Germany Country Profile

1. Key Statistics

	2015	2016	2017
Asylum Seekers ¹	476. 649	745. 545	222. 683
Refugees	211.052 ²	452.023 ³	602.538 ⁴
Migrants (Third Country Nationals) with valid residence permits	1.054.900 ⁵	517. 500 ⁶	N/A
Irregular migrants	<i>no exact numbers available (between 100.000-550.000)</i> ⁷	100.000 - 550.000	100.000 - 550.000

The most prominent nationalities among migrants/refugees in Germany are:

Migrants⁸:

2017: A breakdown of the most prominent nationalities among migrants is represented in the latest data provided by the German statistics for migrants. In total 18.6 million migrants were registered, whereas migrants from Turkey (1.5mill.), Poland (783.058) and Syria (637.845) were the most prominent.

Refugees:

2017: Most prominent refugee seeking nationalities in 2017 were: Syria/Arab. Rep., Iraq and Afghanistan, Eritrea and Iran.⁹

¹ http://www.bamf.de/SharedDocs/Anlagen/DE/Downloads/Infothek/Statistik/Asyl/aktuelle-zahlen-zu-asyl-maerz-2018.pdf?__blob=publicationFile

² https://www.bamf.de/SharedDocs/Anlagen/DE/Publikationen/Broschueren/bundesamt-in-zahlen-2015.pdf?__blob=publicationFile

³ https://www.bamf.de/SharedDocs/Anlagen/DE/Publikationen/Broschueren/bundesamt-in-zahlen-2016.pdf?__blob=publicationFile

⁴ http://www.bamf.de/SharedDocs/Anlagen/DE/Publikationen/Broschueren/bundesamt-in-zahlen-2017-asyl.pdf;jsessionid=4A8AF91DF04176475A405AF32F904157.1_cid294?__blob=publicationFile

⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/images/c/c5/Immigration_by_citizenship%2C_2015_YB17-de.png

⁶ http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/images/f/f6/Immigration_by_citizenship%2C_2016_.png

⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/11a_germany_apr_part2_en.pdf

⁸ <https://www.destatis.de/EN/FactsFigures/SocietyState/Population/MigrationIntegration/MigrationIntegration.html>

2. Priority Health Conditions

The main challenges in terms of healthcare access and/or health issues of migrants/refugees identified are:

General barriers for migrants may potentially exist in regard to communication problems. Insufficient German language skills may e.g. hamper access to health care and hinder migrants from acquiring an adequate health literacy (Schaffler 2016). There is also no general legal regulation in regard to the cost coverage for the use of interpreters in medical/therapeutic settings. Further barriers may exist due to cultural differences regarding health issues (e.g. taboos, different

Data on migrant health status in Germany is fragmented and scarce. Nevertheless, there is some evidence, that specific sub groups depending on their social status, living conditions or depending on the country of origin are facing more difficulties than non-migrants in regard to specific health issues like adiposities in children stemming from Turkey etc¹⁰.

The vast majority of asylum seekers in Germany is being limited in entitlement towards healthcare- above all chronic diseases and mental health issues (Razum et al., 2008; Knipper and Bilgin, 2009, Lindner 2015, Macherery, Bozorgmehr et al., 2015). There is evidence that up to 40-50 % of refugees may have experienced traumatic events with potential high prevalence rates of PTSD, depression etc.

Undocumented migrants are a vulnerable sub group which is in risk of deportation due to health care assistance duty to report their stay. In consequence, there exists a very heterogeneous support system in Germany regarding treatment of undocumented migrants, dependent on individual and local decisions and commitment (e.g. single NGOs like e.g. Malteser/Medinetz or single doctors providing treatment).

⁹ www.bamf.de/SharedDocs/Anlagen/DE/Publikationen/Flyer/flyer-schluesselfzahlen-asyl-2017.html?nn=1694460

¹⁰ https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/Gesundheitsmonitoring/Gesundheitsberichterstattung/GesInDtld/gesundheit_in_deutschland_2015.html?nn=2379316

3. Legislation Description

Brief description of the legislation concerning access to health care¹¹ for migrants/refugees.

There are no differences in regard to legislation concerning access to health care between non-migrants and legal migrants.

Asylum seekers access to medical care is limited by the German 'Asylum Seekers Benefits Act' (AsylbLG) §4 and §5 with restricted coverage of the first 15 months of their stay in Germany or at least as long their application is not accepted. This coverage only includes necessary medical and dental treatment (only acute pain and illness), selected vaccinations and maternal care in case of pregnancy and maternity. After this period of 15 months (or in case their application is granted) asylum seekers get access to the same welfare services as regular residents and get access to a GKV statutory health insurance card.

Not explicitly covered are chronic diseases and mental illnesses, though §6(1) emphasizes on special needs of medical care to prevent (dangerous) exacerbation which in individual cases may grant access to treatment.

Persons in special conditions and children, victims of sexual/psychological violence etc. are also covered by §6 and may get access to treatment.

Undocumented migrants are theoretically also covered by AsylbLG but this bears the risk of being detected. They are dependent on the charity of individual health care staff or NGOs willing to treat undocumented persons. (MIPEX).

¹¹ on access itself also see https://publications.iom.int/system/files/mrs_52.pdf