

Self-perceived health status, chronic (long-standing) illness condition, activity limitations for at least 6 months, and reasons for unmet need for medical care by sex and age group in Latvia, %\* (data from SILC 2017)

	Men					Women				
	Total	16–24	25–49	50–64	65+	Total	16–24	25–49	50–64	65+
<b>Self-perceived health status</b>										
Good and very good	49.9	85.3	67.5	29.2	12.3	39.7	85.8	64.4	24.5	7.8
Fair	36.1	12.7	27.2	52.6	50.3	41.0	85.8	64.4	24.5	48.3
Bad and very bad	13.9	2.0	5.2	18.2	37.4	19.3	1.1	5.9	16.3	43.9
<b>Chronic illness condition</b>										
Yes	36.9	12.8	20.7	49.8	74.5	47.4	12.7	23.1	55.0	81.9
No	63.1	87.2	79.3	50.2	25.5	52.6	87.3	76.9	45.0	18.1
<b>Reported activity limitations</b>										
Severe restrictions	8.8	2.0	3.7	9.7	24.7	11.8	1.2	2.8	9.9	27.8
Some restrictions	27.3	10.1	17.4	39.7	46.0	33.7	10.4	21.0	41.0	50.5
No restrictions	63.9	87.9	78.9	50.6	29.3	54.5	88.5	76.2	49.1	21.7
<b>Reasons for unmet need for medical care</b>										
Could not afford	37.6	41.3	32.2	42.2	39.2	47.3	42.9	43.8	55.1	44.7
Waiting list	12.7	22.0	8.1	16.1	13.2	13.0	18.8	16.6	11.8	10.7
Could not take time	10.7	4.9	16.5	10.1	1.7	10.0	...	23.0	10.2	0.8
Too far to travel/no means of transportation	3.1	...	0.9	1.9	10.6	5.2	...	0.7	5.0	9.2
Fear of doctors	2.6	...	2.5	2.2	3.8	1.7	...	1.4	...	3.3
Wanted to wait and see if problem got better on its own	30.4	31.8	35.8	26.7	25.4	17.1	32.1	12.2	13.9	21.7
Didn't know any good doctor or specialist	2.3	...	3.3	0.9	3.1	3.3	...	1.5	3.3	5.1
Other reasons	0.8	...	0.4	...	3	2.4	6.1	0.7	0.8	4.5

\*Estimated values may not sum up to the total of 100% due to rounding. Source: Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia.

## Key points:

Based on SILC 2017 data self-perceived health for men and women differs significantly, especially in terms of reported good and very good health status, where the gap between sexes produce 12.2 percent points. Similar situation has been observed for reported chronic illness and reported activity limitations, where the overall proportion of men with reported chronic illness and activity limitations exceeded proportion for women by 10,5 and 6,4 percent points respectively. A greater sex differences in reported health evaluations appear at the age of 50 and older where women start perceiving their state of health much more critically than men.

Data on reasons for unmet need for medical care supports and complements previous observations. Figures show, that men not only perceive their state of health more optimistically, but also treat it more flippantly, because 30,4% of men (for 13,3 percent points more than women) had made a choice to wait and see if problem got better on its own. The most significant reason that prevented from examination or treatment for both sexes was material problems, so 37,6% of men and 47,3% of women could not afford them. This proportion was higher for women of all age groups than for men.