



Allergies, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, coronary heart disease and stroke – RKI presents new data in the Journal of Health Monitoring

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Press release

Around one third of adults were affected by allergies other than allergic asthma during the past twelve months. Women with lower levels of education were significantly more liable to suffer from coronary heart disease during this time than women with higher levels of education (7.3 % vs. 1.2 %). 1.6 % of adults in Germany reported having had a stroke or chronic consequences of stroke during the past 12 months. 7.7% of men and women reported diabetes mellitus.

Based on a comprehensive health interview survey of more than 20,000 participants, the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) has published new data on hypertension, diabetes mellitus, allergies, coronary heart disease and stroke. As Lothar H. Wieler, President of the RKI, emphasised, “these diseases are of particular relevance for public health.”

The data was collected recently in the context of the 2014/2015 German health update survey (GEDA) which is regularly conducted by the RKI. GEDA results have been published in issue 1/2017 of the Journal of Health Monitoring and are presented in the form of compact Fact sheets. Further results of the survey will be published in the upcoming three issues of the journal.

The GEDA survey is part of the RKI’s health monitoring to constantly collect and analyse population health data. Participants in the GEDA survey were aged 18 and over and could fill out questionnaires either online or printed out in writing. GEDA complements the more complex examination survey DEGS (German Health Interview and Examination Survey for Adults).

In addition to the Fact sheets on five chronic diseases, the new issue contains a Focus article on health monitoring in Europe. Since 2013, in the context of the European Health Interview Survey (EHIS), all EU member states have committed to collecting data on health, healthcare provision, health determinants and socio-economic conditions. The current GEDA survey for the first time integrated the entire EHIS questionnaire. The RKI is the link to European health monitoring. As Lothar H. Wieler stressed, “National and European level monitoring data provide the evidence basis for health and research policy decisions”.

In the new section Concepts & Methods, the journal provides an overview article on the GEDA survey methods and the background, concept and prospects of diabetes surveillance currently being developed at the RKI. Moreover, this issue contains a further Focus article, “Health and healthcare provision to asylum seekers and refugees in Germany”.

The Journal of Health Monitoring is an online journal published by the Robert Koch Institute. The Journal provides information on the health of the German population and in particular analyses from the RKI’s health monitoring. It is published quarterly in German and English and can be accessed free of charge at www.rki.de/journalhealthmonitoring-en.

Publisher

Robert Koch Institute
Nordufer 20
D-13353 Berlin
Germany

www.rki.de
Twitter: @rki_de

Press Office

Susanne Glasmacher
(Press officer)
Günther Dettweiler
(Deputy press officer)
Heidi Golisch
Claudia Paape
Judith Petschelt

Contact details

Phone: +49 (0)30-18754-
2239, -2562 or -2286
Email: presse@rki.de

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