



# Prevalence trends of diagnosed chronic kidney disease and dialysis use in Germany

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## Abstract

### Background

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is an important population risk factor for cardiovascular events and premature death. This study aimed to describe current trends in prevalence of diagnosed CKD in Germany.

### Methods

The study used nationwide, ambulatory claims data according to § 295 SGB V. Annual prevalence of diagnosed CKD (2013-2022) was assessed in the study population of German outpatients in the age group  $\geq 40$  years for Germany as a whole stratified by age and sex and on the level of regional Associations of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians (n= 17 ASHIPs) and German districts (n= 401). Trends in dialysis use were described as the annual proportion of affected persons among the study population stratified by age and sex as well as for ASHIP regions.

### Results

Between 2013 and 2022 annual prevalence of diagnosed CKD increased by 60% from 4,43% to 7,07%. Increases in prevalence of diagnosed CKD could be observed for both sexes albeit to a greater extent among women and in all ASHIP regions, while prevalence of dialysis use showed a stagnating trend. From 2013 to 2022 the proportions of CKD patients who received diagnostic codes that specified CKD stage rose from 54% to 76%. Regional analysis indicated a higher prevalence of diagnosed CKD in East compared to West Germany.

### Conclusion

The magnitude of increases in prevalence of diagnosed CKD suggests that this trend is mostly driven by increased detection of previously undetected cases rather than rising morbidity. Regional variations in prevalence of diagnosed CKD suggest higher disease burden of CKD in Eastern Germany.

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#### Keywords

Chronic kidney disease, CKD, diagnosis prevalence, kidney failure, prevalence, regional variation, temporal development, trend

#### Citation

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