

# German Medical Association

Federation of the German Chambers of Physicians



## National report: Germany

23<sup>rd</sup> Symposium  
of the Central and Eastern European Chambers of Physicians  
(ZEVA)

Sofia, 29 – 30 September 2016

Dr Max Kaplan

Vice-President of the German Medical Association

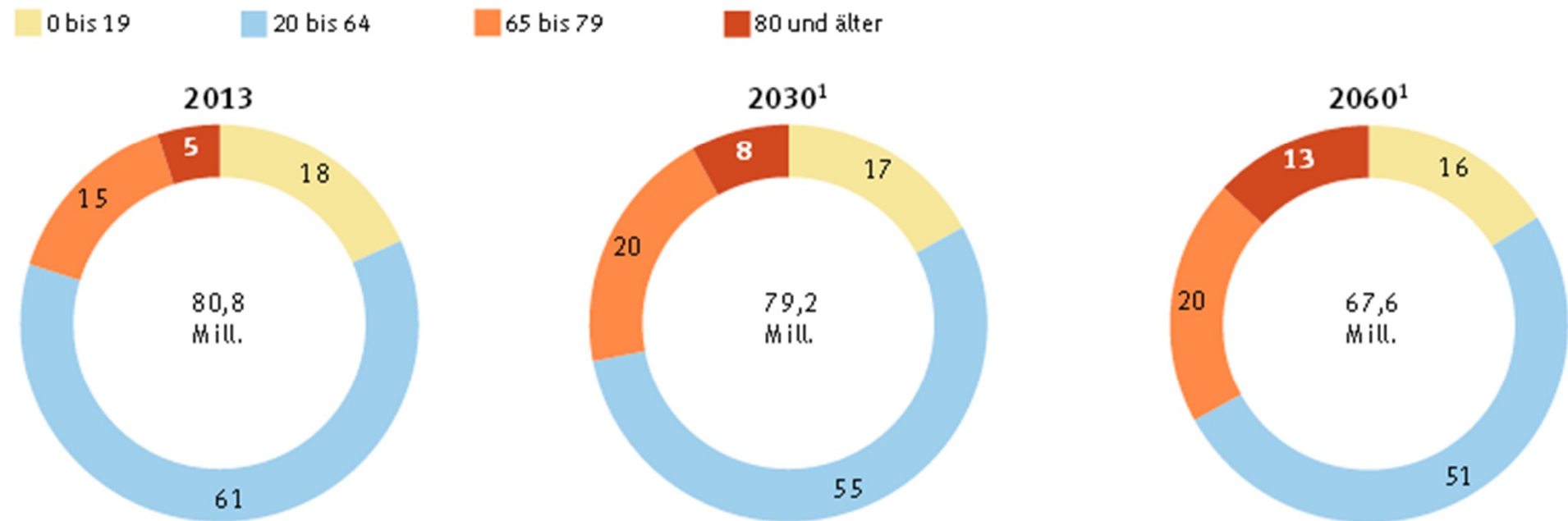
President of the Bavarian State Chamber of Physicians

# National report: Germany

## Aging of physicians and society



### Bevölkerung nach Altersgruppen in %

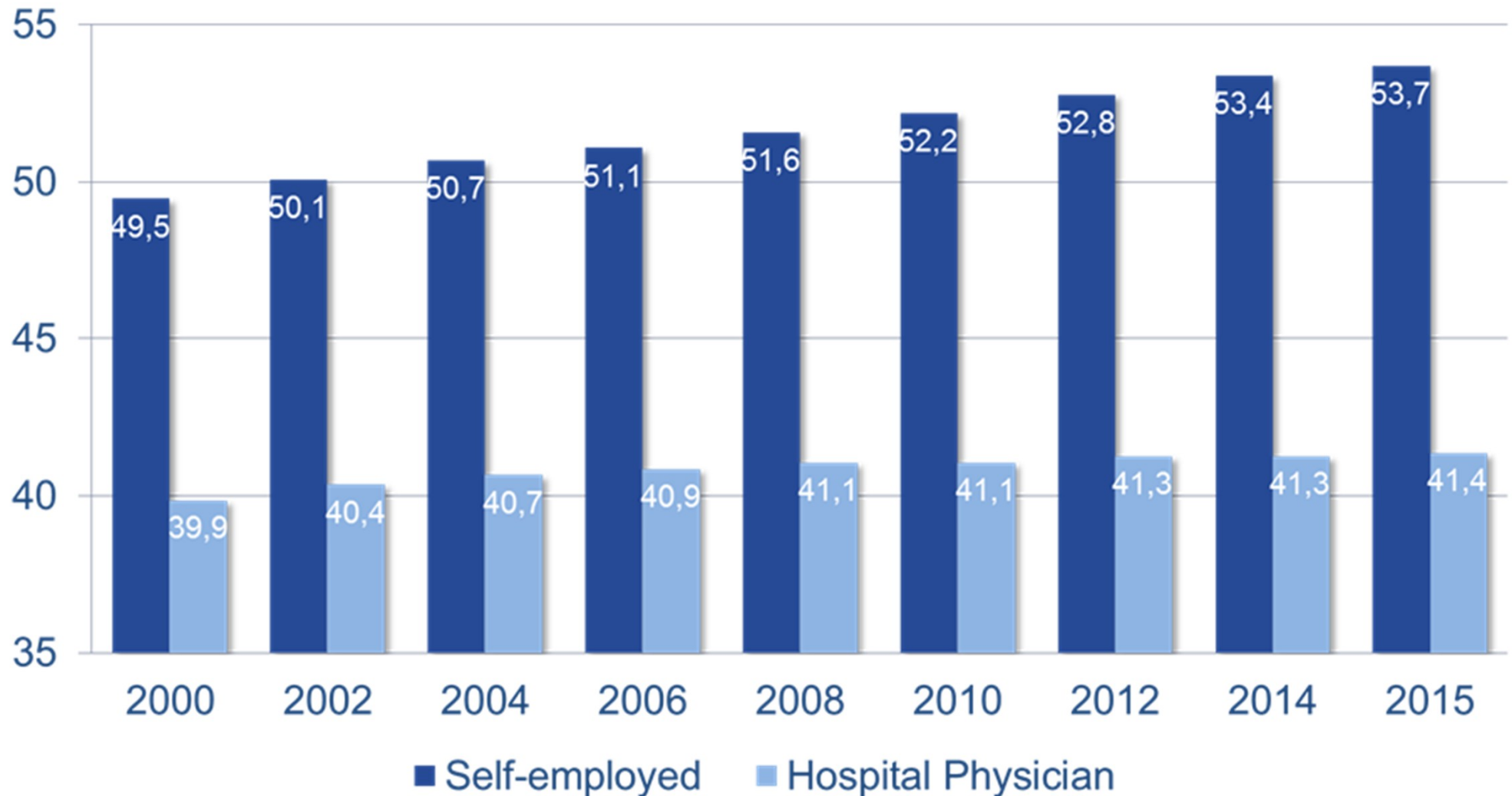


1 13. koordinierte Bevölkerungsvorausberechnung. Variante 1: Kontinuität bei schwächerer Zuwanderung.

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## Aging of physicians and society



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## Remuneration of doctors



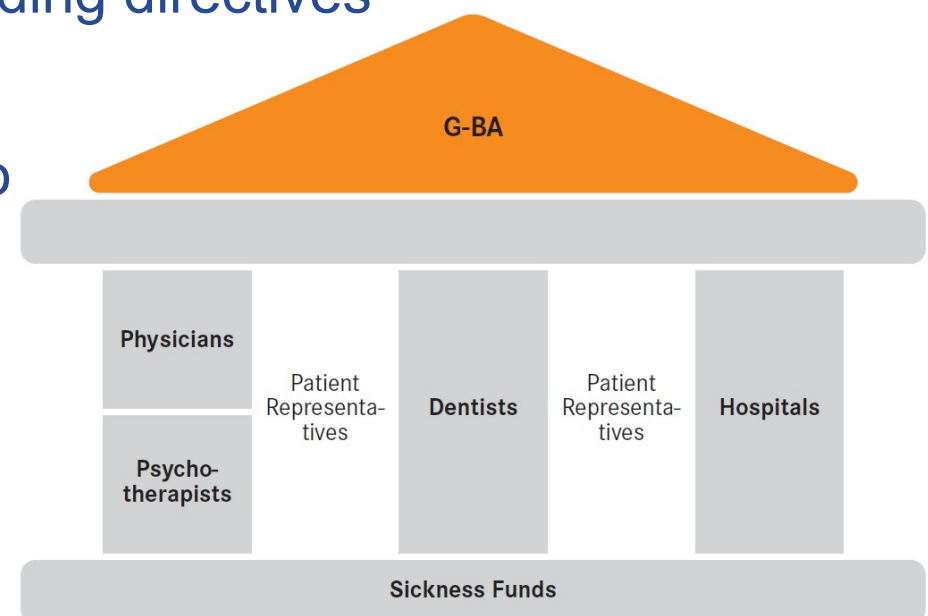
- Doctors paid in different ways depending on how patient is insured
- Nearly 90% of the population is covered by statutory health insurance
  - Contribution rate approx. 15.5% of gross income, paid partly by employee and partly by employer
- SHI membership is mandatory for employees whose monthly gross income does not exceed € 4,237.50
- The remaining approx. 10% of the population is privately insured
  - Self-employed individuals, civil servants, employees with monthly gross income exceeding € 4,237.50

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## Remuneration of doctors



- The **Federal Joint Committee** is the main decision-making entity of the self-governing bodies of service providers and health insurance funds
- Formulates and implements in detail which services will be provided and under what conditions → benefits catalogue
- Authorised by law to issue legally binding directives
- Established in 2004, however predecessor committees date back to the 1920s
- Represents physicians, hospitals, health insurance funds and patients.



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## Remuneration of doctors



- Benefits for private patients determined by the physician fee schedule for privately reimbursed medical services
- Catalogue negotiated between the GMA and private insurance companies, represented by their umbrella organisation, and must then be confirmed by the German Bundestag
- In the process of being renegotiated, but the complexity of the catalogue has led to delays

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## Disciplinary procedures



The licence to practise medicine can only be issued and revoked by the competent health authority in each state.

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## Disciplinary procedures



- The State Chambers of Physicians can
  - Conduct disciplinary proceedings on the basis of the professional code and issue the following sanctions in cases of proven misconduct:
    - Warning
    - Reprimand
    - Fine
    - Withdrawal of committee votes for a fixed period
    - Determination that the individual is unfit to practise
  
- The Associations of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians can
  - Conduct disciplinary proceedings against practice-based physicians who are members of their organisations
  - Revoke authorisation to treat patients in the statutory health insurance system in cases of proven misconduct



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## Physicians and the media



- A doctor's privacy rights are protected in the same way and to the same extent as the rights of every other citizen (Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany)
- If privacy rights are violated in the media, a physician can demand an injunction, rectification and monetary compensation
- The German Criminal Code protects against insults, slander and defamation
- Decision about whether to publish the name of a doctor under investigation depends on whether his or her right to privacy outweighs the public interest, or vice versa



# Thank you!

Dr Max Kaplan

Vice-President of the German Medical Association  
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