

Abstract

The aim of this study is to evaluate the current manpower and age structure of physicians in primary health care in the Czech Republic and outline its future development, both at national and regional levels. In the Czech Republic, the field of primary health care includes physicians in general practice, physicians practising medicine for children and adolescents, gynaecologists and obstetricians and dentists. In the first part, attention is focused on describing different variables that influence the primary health care availability, and on analyzing the regional differentiation of the number and structure of primary care physicians in the period 2000–2007. After the subsequent description of the movement of physicians within the system of primary health care, models of the input-output system, which largely generalize this movement, are compiled. Based on these models, the estimates of the future development of the number and structure of primary care physicians by 2040 are calculated. This study especially aims to point out the negative effects of demographic aging of primary health care physicians, in combination with demographic aging of the population in the Czech Republic.