



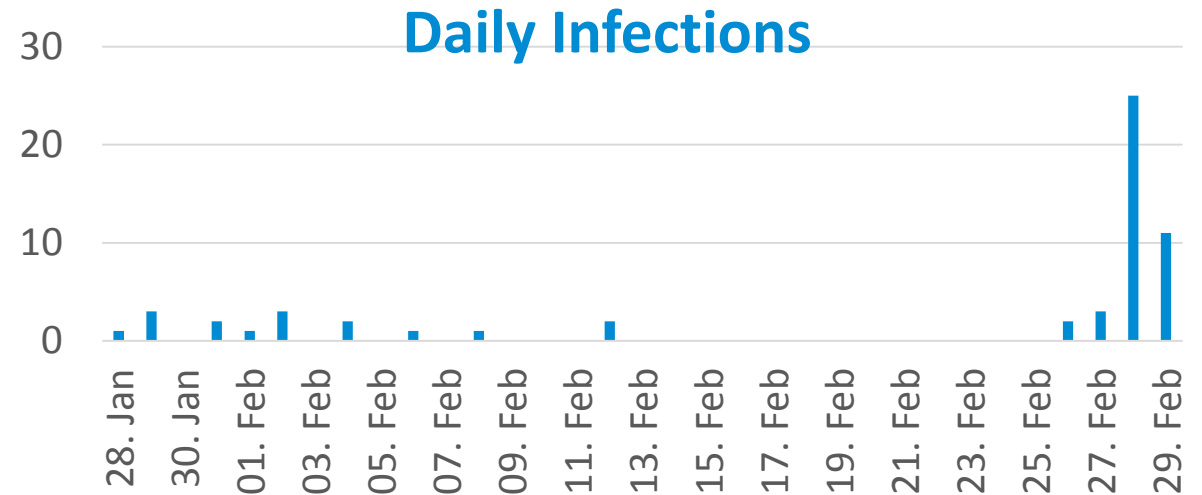
IMPACT OF CORONA PANDEMIC ON GERMANY'S HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

COVID-19 infections in Germany

Germany's starting point

- Extensive international travel
- Limited experience of population with virus epidemics
- Not common to wear protective masks in public
- Pandemic emergency plan 2012, federal public health institute RKI
- Public health responsibility of federal states; strategic reserves mostly eliminated since cold-war

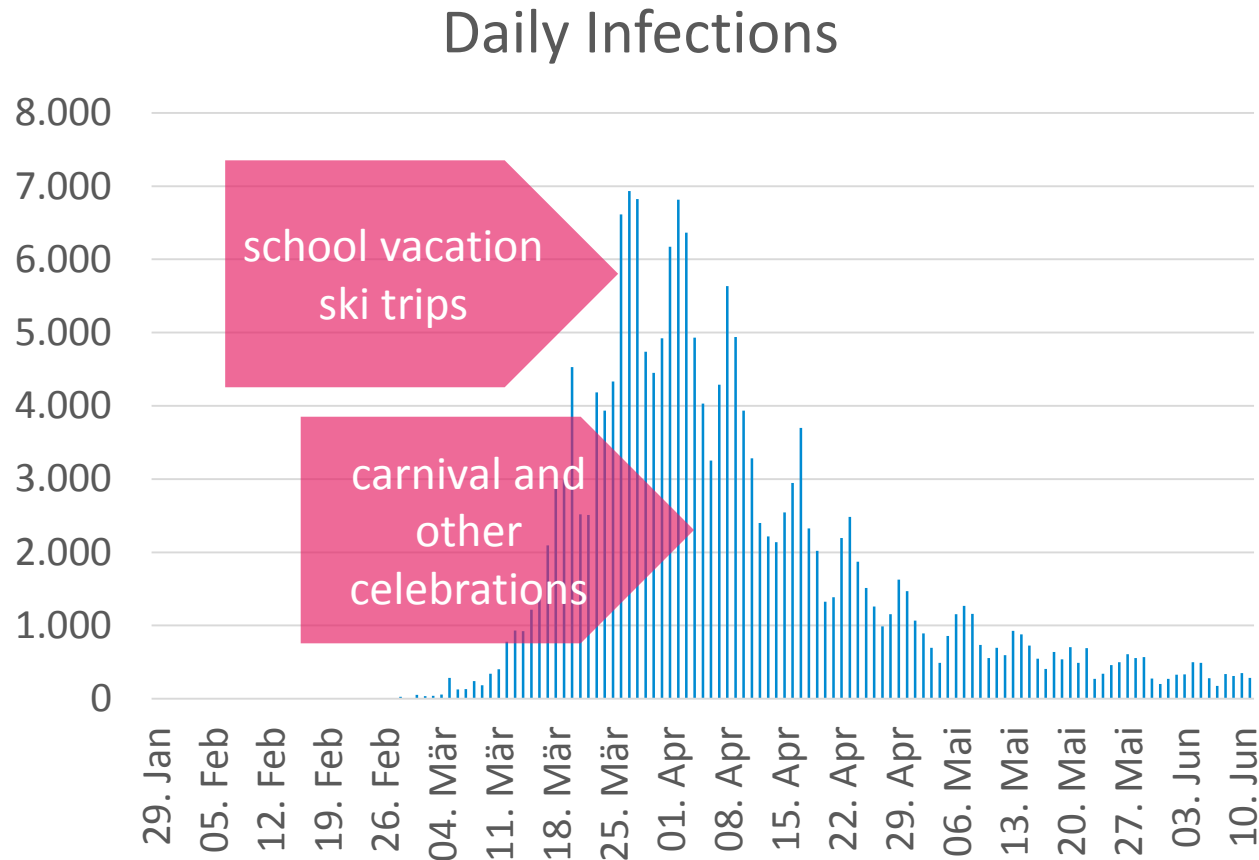
Source: statista, German Federal Ministry of Health



In January and February, common believe was that Corona would not affect the general public in Germany

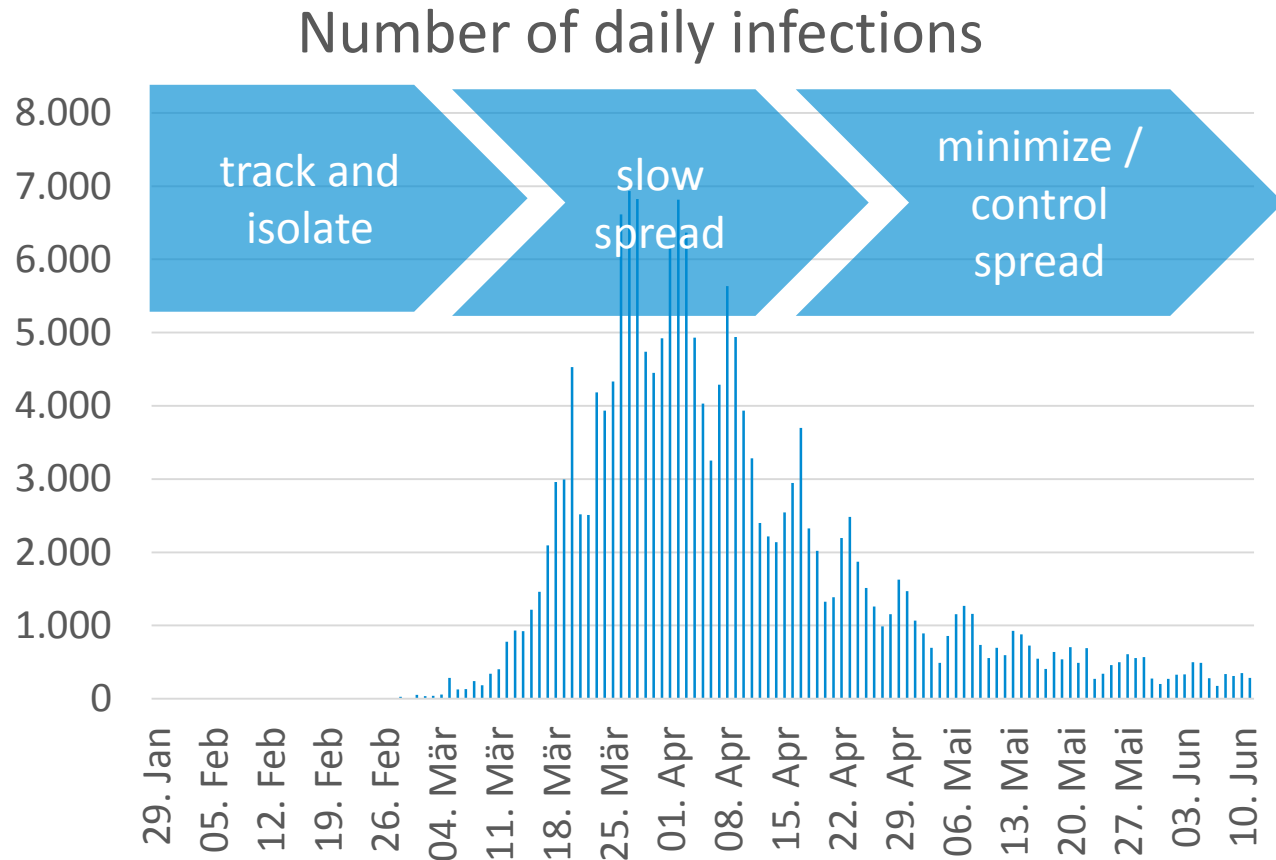
Federal Task Force formed Feb. 27, 2020

COVID-19 infections in Germany

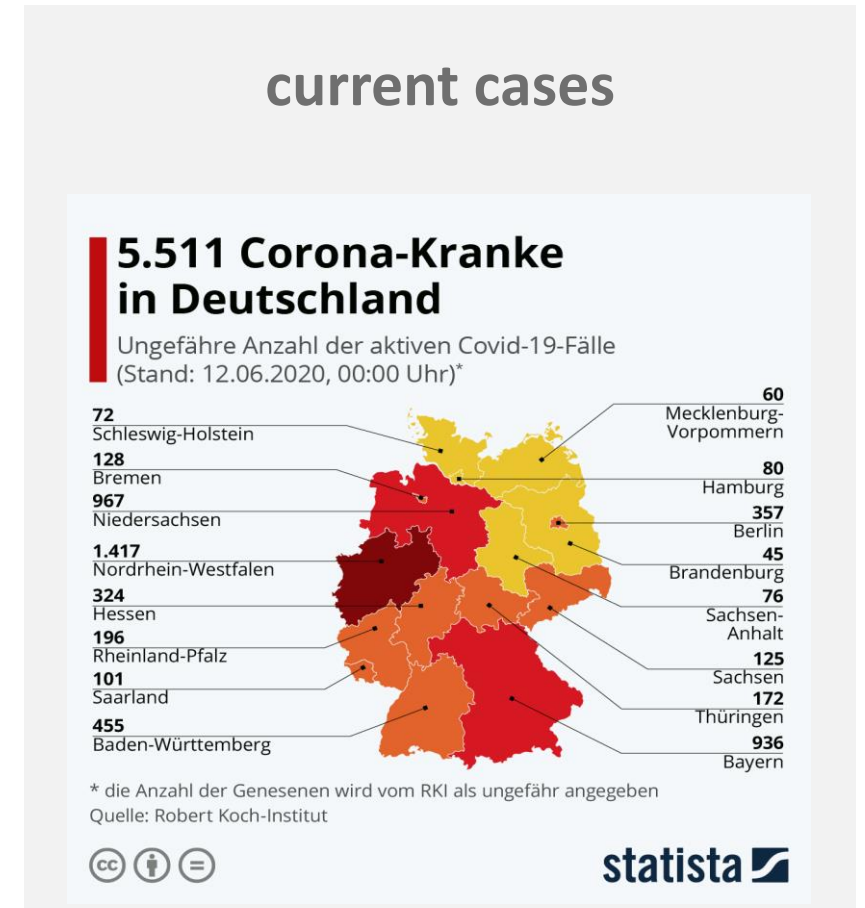


Well attended events such as parties with „superspreaders“ had catastrophic effects when vacationers from many different parts of Germany returned home

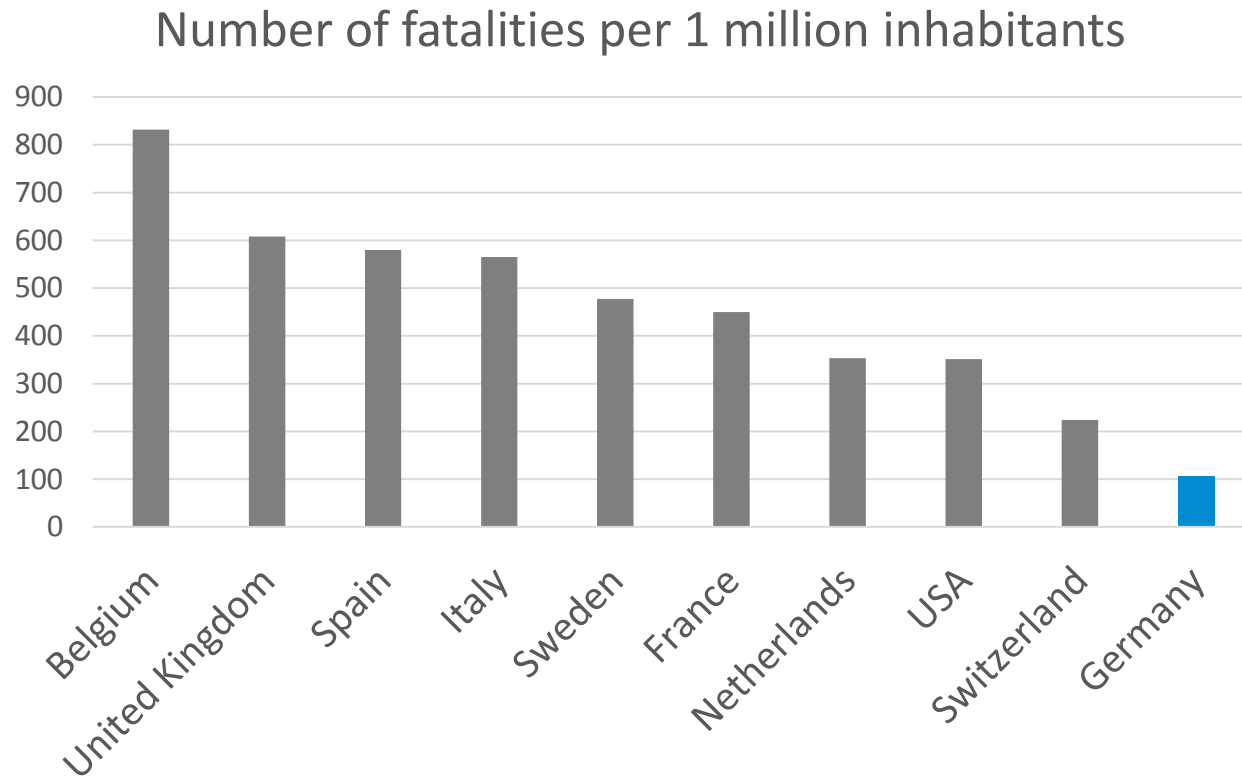
COVID-19 infections in Germany



Source: statista, June 12, 2020



Number of COVID-19 related deaths in selected countries



More than 8.800 deaths related to Covid-19 have been recorded in Germany. Still, the country was not affected as severely as other countries.

Non-medical measures (selection)

- Prohibition of large events (now partly lifted)
- Home office (work safety rules)
- Closure of retail stores, restaurants, etc. (now lifted)
- School closures (now lifted, some restrictions remain)
- Physical distancing, request to disinfect frequently
- Protective masks (still mandatory in public transport, retail stores, train stations, airports)
- Travel restrictions (partly lifted June 15)

**Political decisions guided by recommendations of
scientists at national public health institute RKI**



Measures of health care system to combat COVID-19

- Extensive testing
- Early medical attention (at no cost)
- Strict separation for testing and treatment
- Modified sick leave policy (tele-consultation)
- Capacity at hospitals (beds, ICUs, equipment)

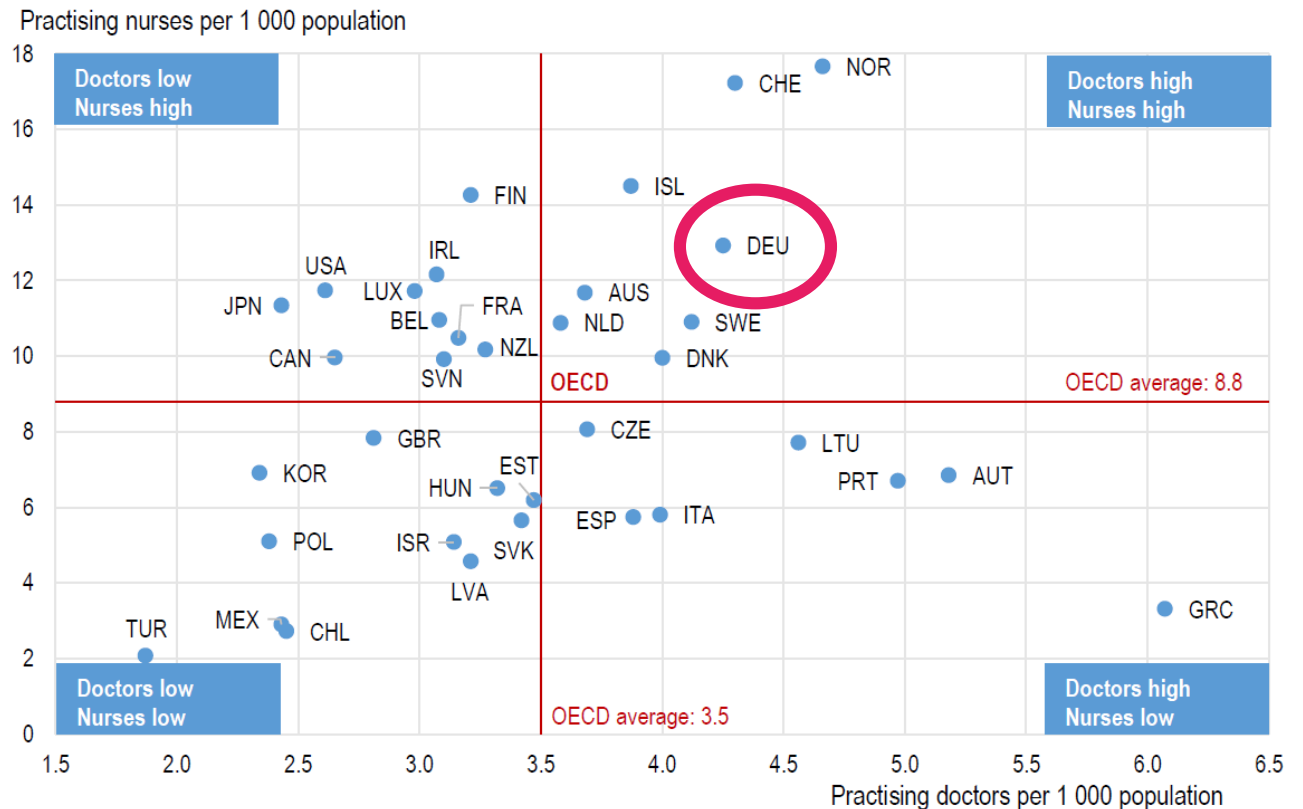
Incentives: additional equipment; delay of scheduled procedures, compensation for not utilized beds

capacity of hospitals was never exhausted





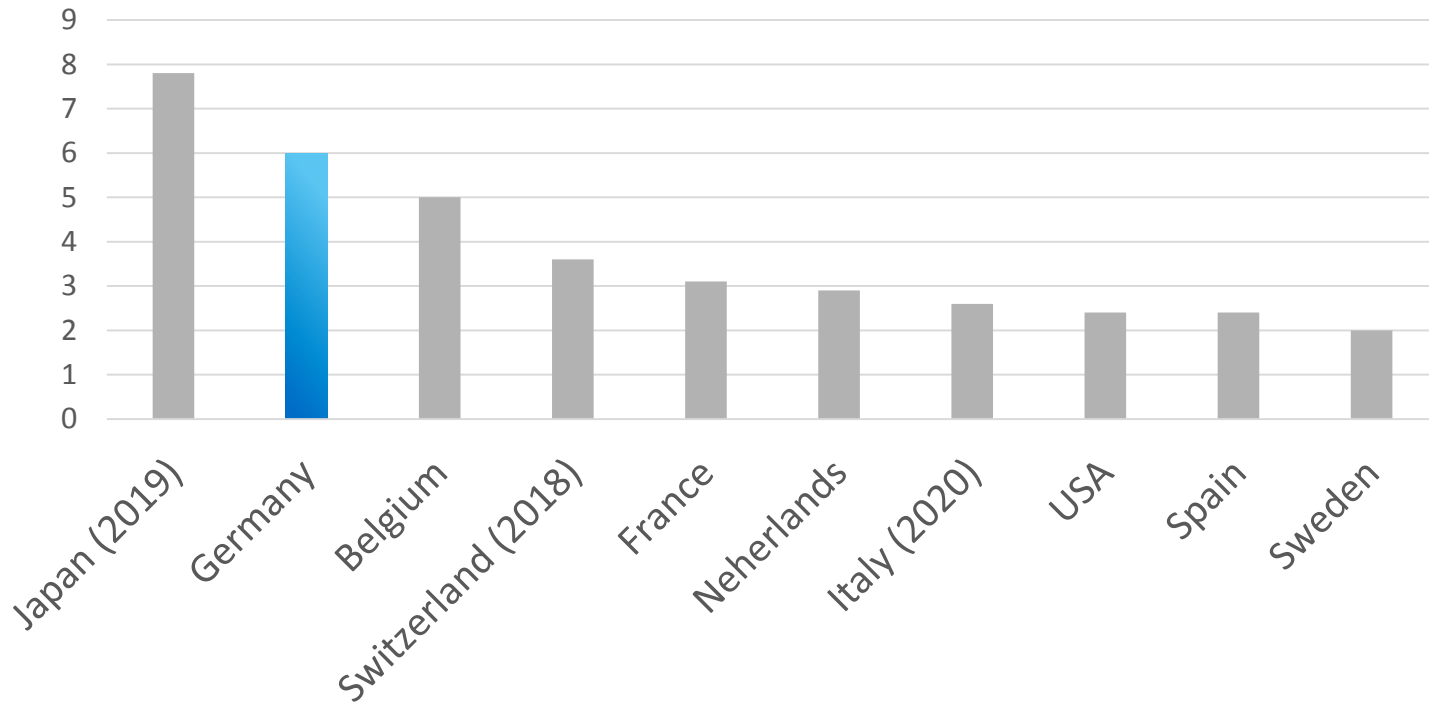
Quality indicators (1): number of doctors and nurses



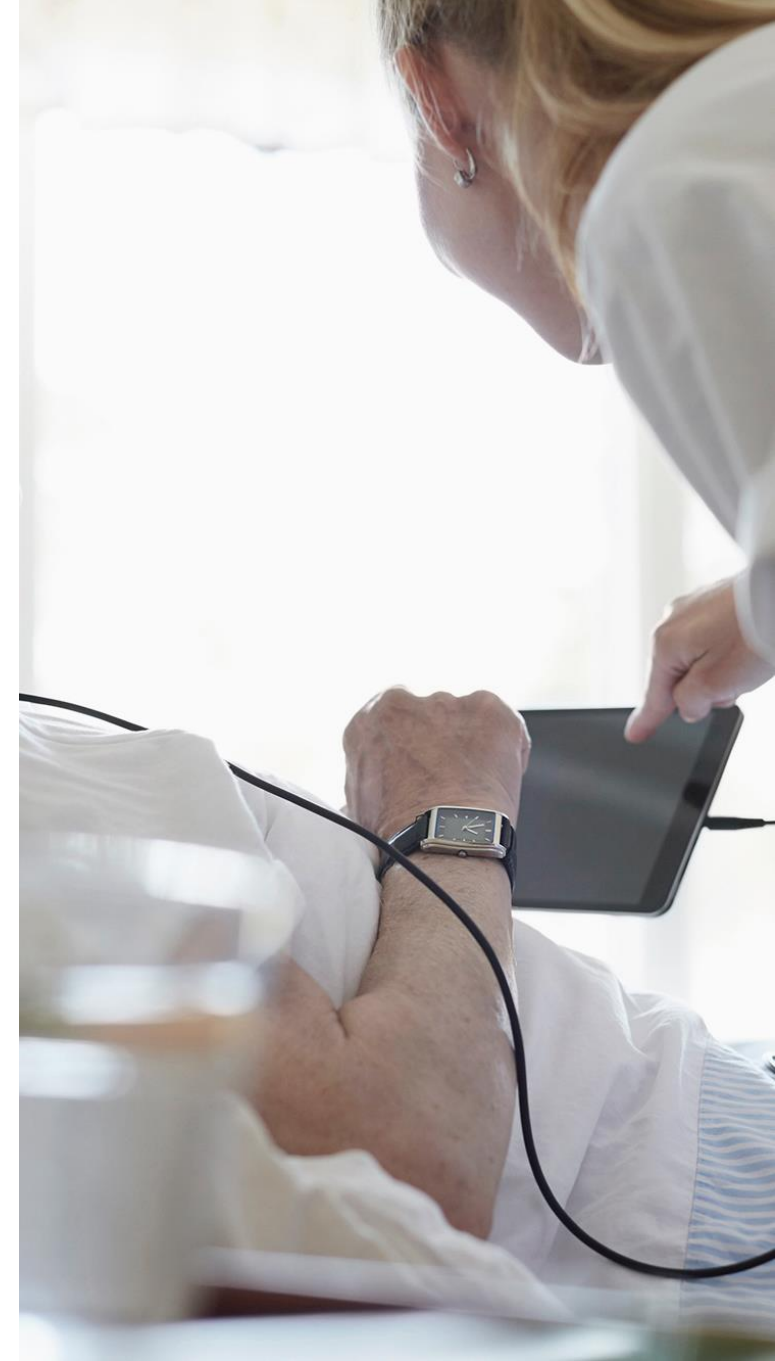
Note: In Portugal and Greece, data refer to all doctors licensed to practice, resulting in a large overestimation of the number of practising doctors (e.g. of around 30% in Portugal). In Austria and Greece, the number of nurses is underestimated as it only includes those working in hospital.

Quality indicators (2): hospital beds

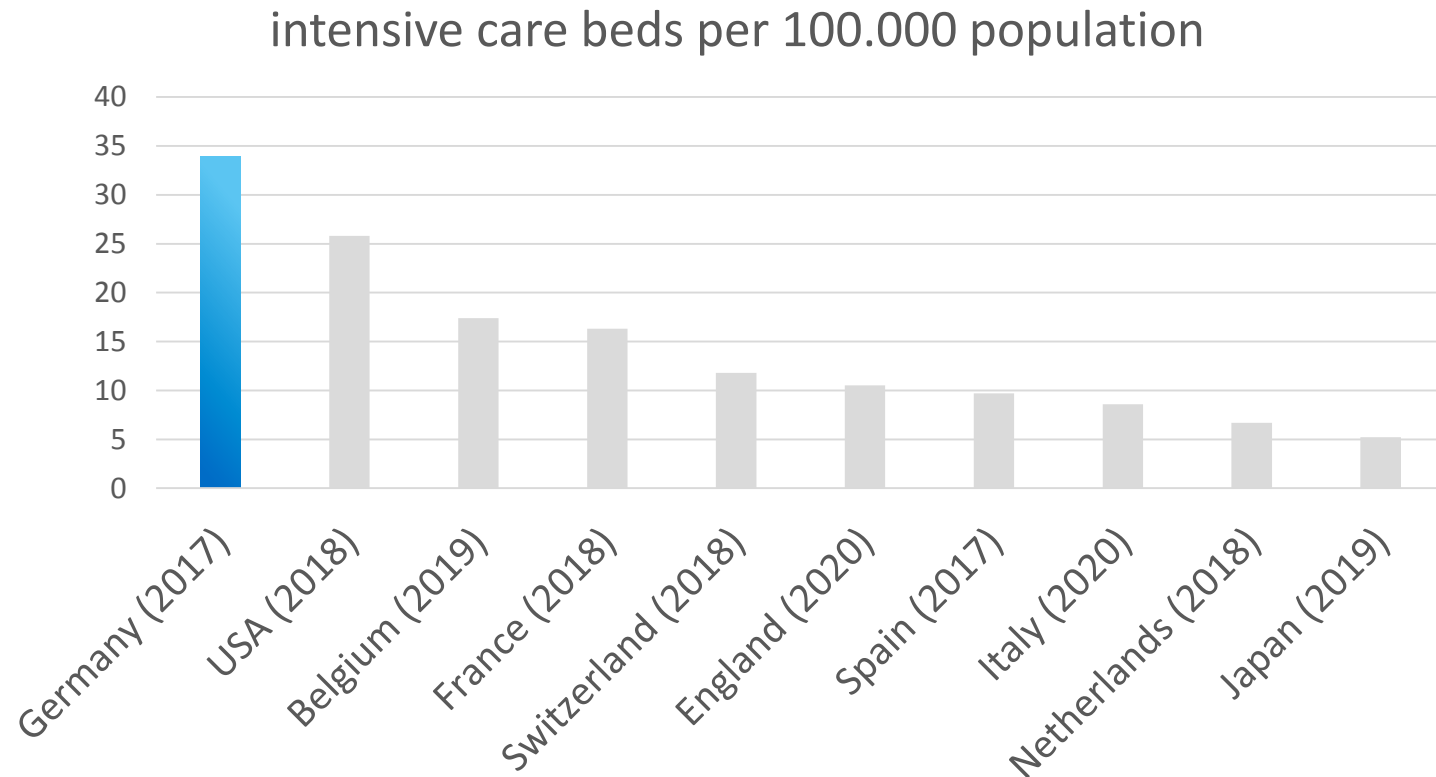
Acute care hospital beds per 1000 population



Source: OECD Report „Health systems responses to COVID-19 in the OECD“, April 2020



Quality indicators (3): ICU capacity



Source: OECD Report „Health systems responses to COVID-19 in the OECD“, April 2020



Germany has a dense network of publically and privately operated healthcare providers

Local GPs

Ambulatory
Healthcare
Centers

Hospitals

Public health
department

Laboratories

Pharmacies

Care facilities

Ambulatory
Care

Conclusion

The relatively good performance of the German healthcare system may not be based on any particular strength, but on the lack of a severe weakness.

Lessons learned

1

Further improve government structures

2

Secure supply of personal protective equipment (PPE)

3

Support further digitalization of healthcare sector



Further improve government structures / coordination

- Higher flexibility and more (contingency) resources for local public health departments
- Improve procurement processes and structures (e.g. PPE)
- Rethink responsibility and processes for national infrastructure (national railway, international airports, border control, travel)

A stack of several blue surgical masks, showing the pleated filter and the elastic ear loops. The masks are arranged in a slightly overlapping manner, with the top mask being the most prominent.

Pers. protective equipment (PPE), medicines & vaccines

- Reestablish strategic reserves for goods with high dependency on one source
in process
- Encourage local production of PPE
(see GTAI presentation for protective equipment)
incentives program published
- Support R&D and production of medical drugs and vaccines
in process



Further digitalization of healthcare sector

- Video consultations
- E-prescriptions
- Electronic patient records and exchange of data
- Big data analysis of (anonymous) patient data for public health purposes
- Big data and AI for drug development
- Medical Apps (e.g. diagnosis, corona-tracking)

Now: nation-wide roll-out and becoming standard

Healthcare incentive program €9.5 Bn. (Yen 1200 billion)

- Public health (€4 billion)
- Hospital modernization, esp. digital infrastructure (€3 billion)
- Local production of medicines and medical supplies (€1 billion)
- R&D of vaccines in Germany and for CEPI (€750 million)
- Local production of PPE and strategic reserve

Source: German Federal Ministry of Health



Contact Us

Germany Trade & Invest is the economic development agency of the Federal Republic of Germany. The company helps create and secure extra employment opportunities, strengthening Germany as a business location. With more than 50 offices in Germany and abroad and its network of partners throughout the world, Germany Trade & Invest supports German companies setting up in foreign markets, promotes Germany as a business location and assists foreign companies setting up in Germany.

Contact

Dr. Marcus C. Schmidt
T +49 (0)30 200 099-600
marcus.schmidt@gtai.com

Berlin

Friedrichstraße 60
10117 Berlin
www.gtai.com



SUPPORTED BY THE FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND ENERGY
ON THE BASIS OF A DECISION BY THE GERMAN BUNDESTAG.

© Germany Trade & Invest

All market data provided is based on the most current market information available at the time of publication.

Germany Trade & Invest accepts no liability for the actuality, accuracy, or completeness of the information provided.