



## PHC in Finland

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Steering of health and social care





## Two levels of administration

One of the duties of the public sector is to take care of the health and wellbeing of the population

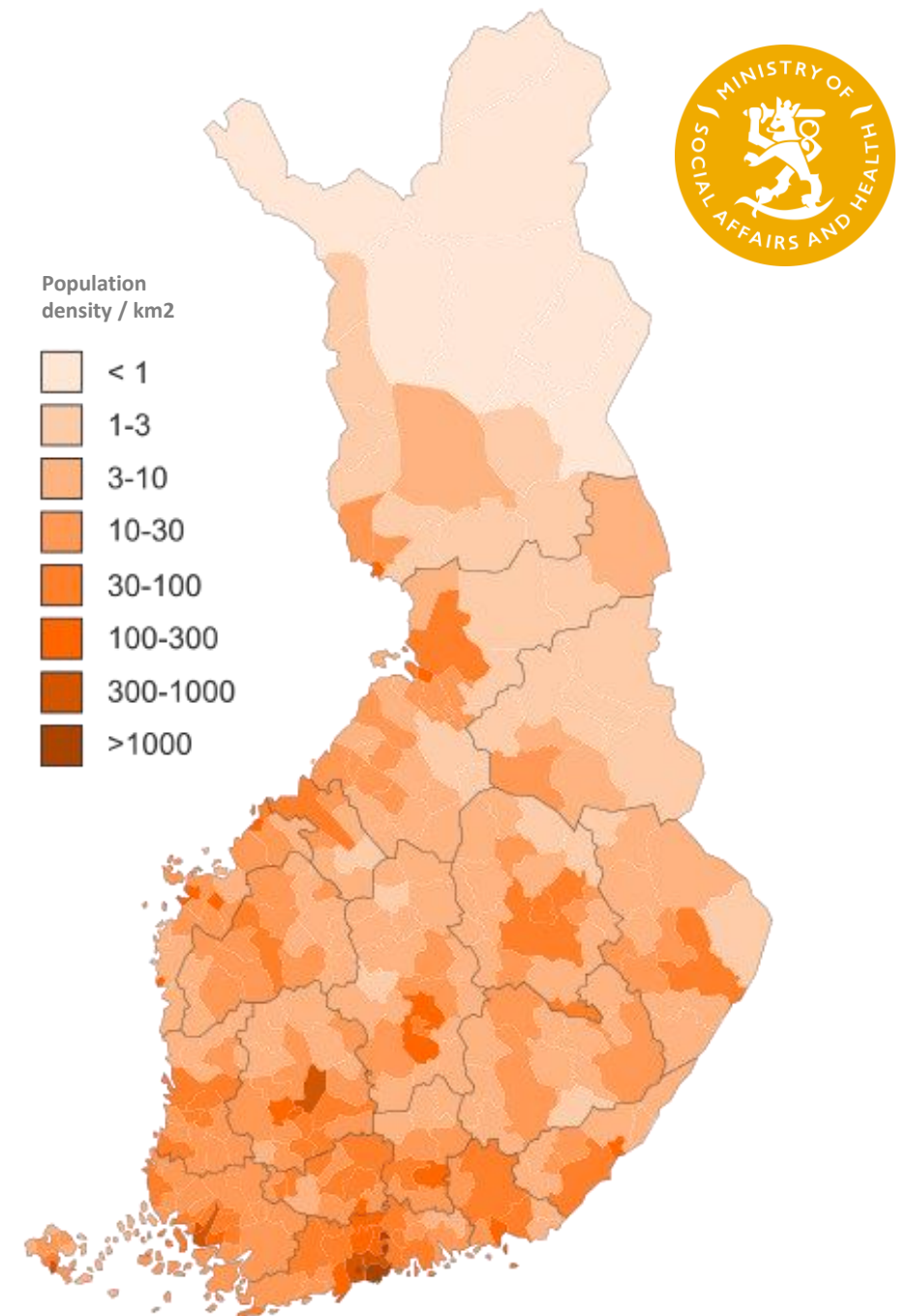
This is done in part by arranging social and health services

The responsibility for organising such services lies with local government, the municipalities.

Ministry of Social Affairs and Health is in charge of the planning, guidance and implementation of health and social policy.

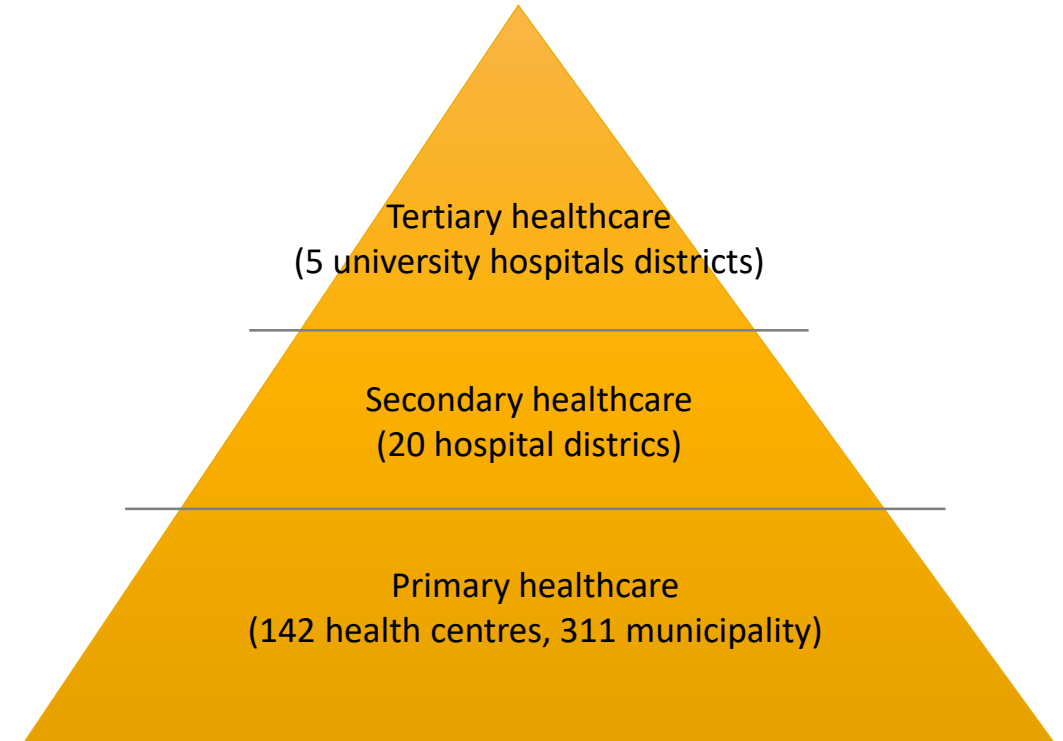
# Social and health services

- Municipalities or joint municipalities (N= 195) are responsible for funding and organising social and healthcare services.
- The services are financed by municipal tax revenue and a central government subsidy
- Municipalities can also charge user fees



# Structure of municipal healthcare

- Primary healthcare offered in health centres (142).
- Secondary healthcare by hospital districts (20) owned by the municipalities.
- Tertiary healthcare by university hospital districts (5) owned by the municipalities.





# Primary health care is delivered by health centres

- Monitoring the health of the population
- Health counselling and health checks
- Primary level outpatient medical care, and some specialist care
- Maternal care, child care, school and student care
- Dental care
- Medical rehabilitation
- Some occupational health
- Primary level mental health services and substance abuse services
- Home nursing, at-home hospital care and some long term inpatient care



# Visits and gate-keeping

- In 2019 22,9 million visits to PHC
  - 5,9 million to doctors
  - 16,9 million visit to other professionals
  - visits by 67 % of the population
- Health centers are gate-keeper to specialist care
- Only about 5% of visits to the health centres lead to referrals to specialised care



# Personnel is mostly employed

- GPs (speciality in primary care), other medical specialists
- nurses, public health nurses, midwives
- dentists
- physiotherapists
- psychologists
- nutritionists
- speech and language therapists
- occupational therapists
- social workers

increasing use of team-based care (e.g. a doctor/GP, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, psychologists and preferably also a social worker)



# Occupational healthcare

- Occupational Health Care Act
- Employers are responsible for preventive healthcare for their employees.
- Most of them arrange additional care of illnesses on a voluntary basis
- For many employees occupational health = primary care





# Private healthcare

- Private healthcare services supplement municipal services
- Municipalities or joint municipal authorities may also procure services from private service providers
- Providers range from individual practitioners to large companies operating nationwide



# Challenges for Finnish social and health services

- A growing need for services especially among the ageing population.
- Waiting times for services especially in primary care
- Costs are rising and the economic growth is slow
- Over 300 municipalities are responsible for health and social services with large degree of autonomy





# Objectives of reorganising health and social services

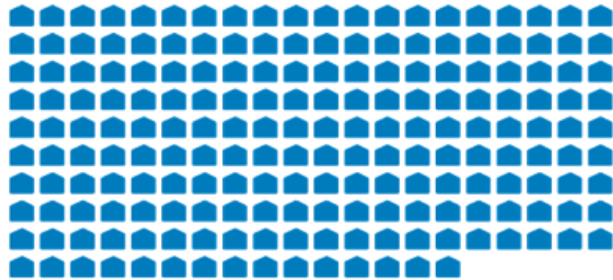
- Reducing inequalities in health and wellbeing
- Safeguarding equal and quality health and social services for all
- Improving the availability and accessibility of services, especially at the basic level
- Ensuring the availability of skilled labour
- Responding to the challenges of changes in society
- Curbing the growth of costs

Governmental proposition will be given in December 2020

# Uusi hyvinvointialuerakenne 1.1.2023

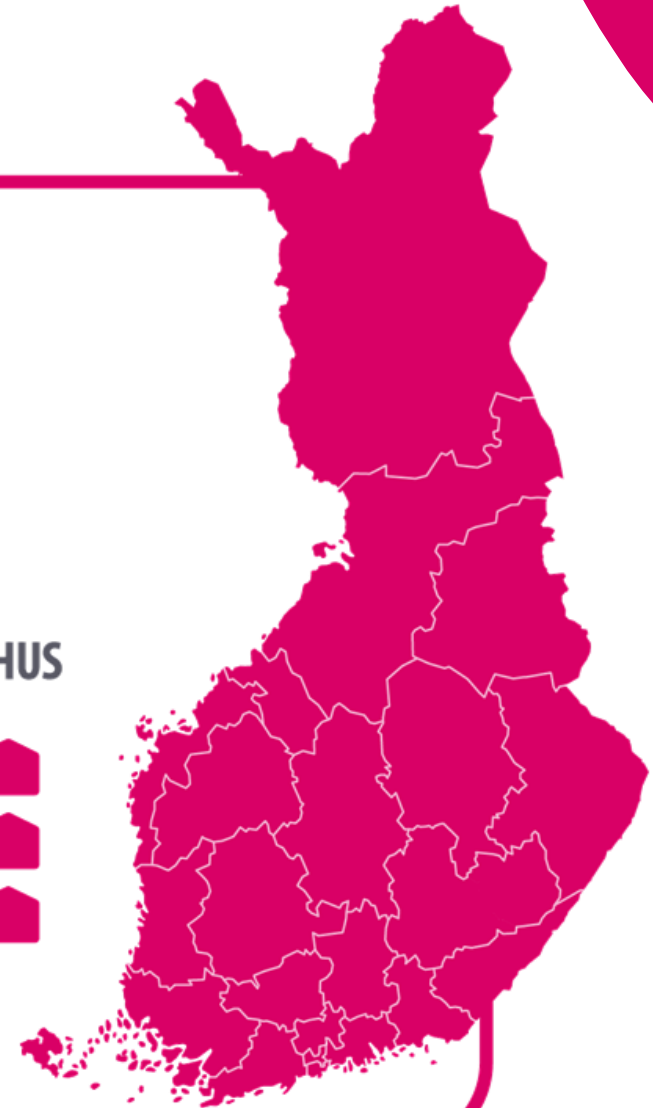
195

sosiaali- ja terveydenhuollon  
organisaatiota  
22 pelastuslaitosta



21+1

Hyvinvointialuetta  
+ Helsingin kaupunki ja HUS







# Future Health and Social Services Centres

