

Costa Rica

Health at a Glance provides the latest comparable data and trends on population health and health system performance. This Country Note shows how Costa Rica compares to other OECD countries across indicators in the report.

How does Costa Rica perform overall?

This section shows key indicators, and also how often Costa Rica is above the OECD average on relevant indicators (where data are available for Costa Rica).

Health status



Key indicators:

Life expectancy was 80.8 years, 0.5 years above the OECD average. Preventable mortality was 148 per 100,000 (similar to the OECD average of 158); with treatable mortality at 89 per 100,000 (higher than the OECD average of 79). 3.4% of people rated their health as bad or very bad (OECD average 7.9%). Diabetes prevalence was higher than the OECD average.

Costa Rica performs better than the OECD average on 75% of indicators

(Based on 16 indicators, data missing for 3 indicators)

Risk factors



Key indicators:

Smoking prevalence, at 7.8%, was lower than the OECD average of 16.0%. Alcohol consumption was lower than the OECD average; at 3.1 litres per capita versus 8.6. Obesity prevalence was 31.2%, higher than the OECD average of 25.7%. There were 18.6 deaths from air pollution per 100,000 population (OECD average 28.9).

Costa Rica performs better than the OECD average on 56% of indicators

(Based on 9 indicators, data missing for 4 indicators)

Quality of care



Key indicators:

Acute care: Data on hospital mortality was not available. Primary care: There were 278 avoidable admissions per 100,000 population, less than the OECD average of 463. Safe prescribing: Data on antibiotic prescribing was not available. Preventive care: 36% of women were screened for breast cancer, less than the OECD average of 55%.

Costa Rica performs better than the OECD average on 67% of indicators

(Based on 12 indicators, data missing for 21 indicators)

Access to care



Key indicators:

91% of the population is covered for a core set of services. 70% of people were satisfied with the availability of quality healthcare (OECD average 67%). Financial coverage, with 74% of spending covered by mandatory prepayment, was similar to the OECD average of 76%. Out-of-pocket spending, at 21% of health expenditure, was higher than the OECD average of 18%. No comparable data is available on unmet needs.

Costa Rica performs better than the OECD average on 40% of indicators

(Based on 10 indicators, data missing for 8 indicators)

Health system resources



Key indicators:

Costa Rica spends \$1658 per capita on health, less than the OECD average of \$4986 (USD PPP). This is equal to 7.2% of GDP, compared to 9.2% on average in the OECD. Costa Rica has 1.2 hospital beds per 1,000 population, less than the OECD average of 4.3.

Costa Rica is above the OECD average on 17% of indicators

(Based on 12 indicators, data missing for 20 indicators)

Note: Overall comparisons of health status, risk factors, access, quality and resources are unweighted and therefore not measures of performance; OECD averages for quality of care are based on Chapter 1 (and differ slightly from averages in Chapter 6 due to differences in country coverage)

On which indicators does Costa Rica perform well or badly?

The graphs below show selected indicators from *Health at a Glance 2023* where the performance of Costa Rica deviates markedly from the OECD on average. For more details on the data presented, please refer to the full report, using the graph references provided (e.g. g5.1).

Costa Rica: ● Better ● Worse ● Higher ● Lower ● OECD average ● Other OECD countries

