

Australia

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

How does Australia perform overall?

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

Health status



Key indicators:

Life expectancy was 83.3 years, 3 years above the OECD average. Preventable mortality was 97 per 100,000 (lower than the OECD average of 158); with treatable mortality at 47 per 100,000 (lower than the OECD average of 79). 3.7% of people rated their health as bad or very bad (OECD average 7.9%). Diabetes prevalence was similar to the OECD average.

Australia performs better than the OECD average on 93% of indicators

(Based on 15 indicators, data missing for 4 indicators)

Risk factors



Key indicators:

Smoking prevalence, at 11.2%, was lower than the OECD average of 16.0%. Alcohol consumption was higher than the OECD average; at 9.5 litres per capita versus 8.6. Obesity prevalence was 30.4%, higher than the OECD average of 25.7%. There were 7.1 deaths from air pollution per 100,000 population (OECD average 28.9).

Australia performs better than the OECD average on 42% of indicators

(Based on 12 indicators, data missing for 1 indicator)

Quality of care



Key indicators:

Acute care: 30-day mortality after stroke was 4.8% (OECD average 7.8%), and 3.3% after AMI (OECD average 6.8%). Primary care: There were 654 avoidable admissions per 100,000 population, more than the OECD average of 463. Safe prescribing: Australia prescribed more antibiotics than on average in the OECD. Preventive care: 47% of women were screened for breast cancer, less than the OECD average of 55%.

Australia performs better than the OECD average on 58% of indicators

(Based on 26 indicators, data missing for 7 indicators)

Access to care



Key indicators:

All of the population is covered for a core set of services. 71% of people were satisfied with the availability of quality healthcare (OECD average 67%). Financial coverage, with 72% of spending covered by mandatory prepayment, was lower than the OECD average of 76%. Out-of-pocket spending, at 15% of health expenditure, was lower than the OECD average of 18%. No comparable data is available on unmet needs.

Australia performs better than the OECD average on 54% of indicators

(Based on 13 indicators, data missing for 5 indicators)

Health system resources



Key indicators:

Australia spends \$6372 per capita on health, more than the OECD average of \$4986 (USD PPP). This is equal to 9.6% of GDP, compared to 9.2% on average in the OECD. There are 4.0 practising doctors per 1,000 population (OECD average 3.7); and 12.8 practising nurses (OECD average 9.2). Australia has 3.8 hospital beds per 1,000 population, less than the OECD average of 4.3.

Australia is above the OECD average on 73% of indicators

(Based on 26 indicators, data missing for 6 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 Australia perform well or badly?

The graphs below show selected indicators from *Health at a Glance 2023* where the performance of Australia 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).

Australia: ● Better ● Worse ● Higher ● Lower ● OECD average ● Other OECD countries

