

Ireland

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

How does Ireland perform overall?

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

Health status


Key indicators:

Life expectancy was 82.4 years, 2.1 years above the OECD average. Preventable mortality was 109 per 100,000 (lower than the OECD average of 158); with treatable mortality at 63 per 100,000 (lower than the OECD average of 79). 5.2% of people rated their health as bad or very bad (OECD average 7.9%). Diabetes prevalence was lower than the OECD average.

Ireland performs better than the OECD average on 95% of indicators

(Based on 19 indicators, data missing for 0 indicators)

Risk factors


Key indicators:

Smoking prevalence, at 16.0%, was the same as the OECD average. Alcohol consumption was higher than the OECD average; at 9.5 litres per capita versus 8.6. Obesity prevalence was 23.0%, lower than the OECD average of 25.7%. There were 11 deaths from air pollution per 100,000 population (OECD average 28.9).

Ireland performs better than the OECD average on 46% of indicators

(Based on 13 indicators, data missing for 0 indicators)

Quality of care


Key indicators:

Acute care: 30-day mortality after stroke was 6.3% (OECD average 7.8%), and 5.4% after AMI (OECD average 6.8%). Primary care: There were 498 avoidable admissions per 100,000 population, similar to the OECD average of 463. Safe prescribing: Ireland prescribed more antibiotics than on average in the OECD. Preventive care: 62% of women were screened for breast cancer, more than the OECD average of 55%.

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

(Based on 24 indicators, data missing for 9 indicators)

Access to care


Key indicators:

All of the population is covered for a core set of services. 67% of people were satisfied with the availability of quality healthcare (OECD average 67%). Financial coverage, with 77% of spending covered by mandatory prepayment, was similar to the OECD average of 76%. Out-of-pocket spending, at 11% of health expenditure, was lower than the OECD average of 18%. 2% of the population reported unmet needs (OECD average 2.3%).

Ireland performs better than the OECD average on 69% of indicators

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

Health system resources


Key indicators:

Ireland spends \$6047 per capita on health, more than the OECD average of \$4986 (USD PPP). This is equal to 6.1% 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 12.7 practising nurses (OECD average 9.2). Ireland has 2.9 hospital beds per 1,000 population, less than the OECD average of 4.3.

Ireland is above the OECD average on 52% of indicators

(Based on 29 indicators, data missing for 3 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 Ireland perform well or badly?

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

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

