COVID-19 and Well-being: Life in the Pandemic

THE UNITED STATES

Material well-being

Household disposable income per capita, index (2007=100)

Labour underutilisation rate

Range from best to worst OECD country

Note: Between Q4 2019 and Q4 2020, household disposable income per capita increased by 4% in the United States, and by 2% for the OECD on average.

Quality of life

Excess mortality

Share of people at risk of depression

Range from best to worst OECD country

Note: Excess mortality is expressed as the percentage change in the total number of deaths from week 11 2020 to week 19 2021, compared to the 2015-2019 average. Between March 2020 and May 2021, excess mortality averaged 23% in the United States, and 16% for the OECD 33.

Note: Risk of depression is measured using the PHQ-4 instrument. In 2020 and 2021, the share of people at risk of depression in the United States was 26% and 25% respectively, and 27% for both years for the OECD 15 on average. Data for 2014 are not strictly comparable with later years, as they come from a different source.
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Note: Risk of anxiety is measured using the PHQ-4 instrument. In 2020 and 2021, the share of people at risk of anxiety in the United States was 27% and 24% respectively, and 25% and 26% for the OECD 15 on average.

Note: Very low life satisfaction is defined as answering 4 or less on the 0-10 Cantril ladder scale. Between 2019 and 2020, the share of people reporting low life satisfaction increased from 8% to 10% in the United States, and from 11% to 12% for the OECD 35 on average.

Community relations

Note: Data refer to people reporting feeling lonely "most" or "all of the time" in the past two weeks. In April-June 2020 and February-March 2021, it was 14% and 19% respectively for the OECD 22 on average. In 2016, the share of people feeling lonely was 6% for the OECD 22 on average, but this value is not strictly comparable with later years, as it stems from a different source.

Note: Data refer to the share of people agreeing or strongly agreeing with the statement "I feel left out of society". In June-July 2020 and February-March 2021, it was 19% and 27% respectively for the OECD 22 on average. In 2016, the share of people feeling left out was 8% for the OECD 22 on average, but this value is not strictly comparable with later years, as it stems from a different source.

Sustainability

Note: Between Q4 2019 and Q4 2020, household debt decreased from 99% to 95% of gross household disposable income in the United States, and from 119% to 118% for the OECD 20 on average.

Note: Between Q4 2019 and Q4 2020, government gross debt increased from 135% to 160% of GDP in the United States, and from 81% to 95% of GDP for the OECD 27 on average.
Share of people who reported changes in health behaviour

-40% -30% -20% -10% 0% 10% 20% 30% 40%

United States
OECD 19
OECD 19
OECD 19
OECD 19
OECD 19
OECD 19
OECD 19

Note: Data refer to the share of people reporting changes in health behaviour since the start of the pandemic until October-November 2020.

Young people not in employment, education or training (NEET)

Range from best to worst OECD country

United States
OECD 30
OECD 19

Note: Between 2019 and 2020, the share of young people aged 15-29 not in employment, education or training remained stable at 13% in the United States, and increased from 13% to 14% for the OECD 30 on average.

Share of people with trust in the government

Range from best to worst OECD country

OECD 35
United States

Note: Between 2019 and 2020, the share of people answering “yes” to a question about whether they have confidence in the national government increased from 36% to 46% in the United States, and from 45% to 49% for the OECD 35 on average.

Red List Index of threatened species

Range from best to worst OECD country

OECD
United States

Note: A Red List Index value of 0 refers to all species having gone extinct, and a value of 1.0 refers to all species qualifying as “Least Concern”. Between 2019 and 2021, the Red List Index of threatened species remained stable at 0.83 in the United States, and decreased from 0.89 to 0.88 for the OECD on average.

For more information


Find the data used in this country profile, and more information about indicator definitions, sources and methodology at: www.oecd.org/wise/COVID-19-well-being-country-notes-data.xlsx.

Whenever data are available for fewer than all 38 OECD countries, the number of countries included in the calculation of the OECD average is specified in the figure and note (e.g. OECD 33).

Whenever data for the country of this note are not available, only the OECD average is shown.