health at a glance provides the latest comparable data and trends on the performance of health systems in OECD countries and key emerging economies. Alongside indicator-by-indicator analysis, this edition offers a special chapter on the health impact of COVID-19.

life expectancy in Italy fell by over a year, but after a slow start COVID-19 vaccination has picked up

As of November 1, nearly 4.8 million COVID-19 infections and over 132,000 deaths from the virus had been recorded.

Life expectancy fell by 1.2 years during the pandemic, from 83.6 years in 2019 to 82.4 years in 2020 (compared to an average reduction of 0.6 years across OECD countries).

71% of the Italian population has been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, compared to 65% across the OECD on average (as of November 1).

The COVID-19 crisis has had a significant and negative impact on mental health. In Italy the prevalence of depression rose three-fold to 17.3% in early 2020, compared with the previous year.

All-cause mortality in 2020 and the first six months of 2021 rose by 12.9% compared with the 2015-2019 average.

The pandemic caused health spending as a share of GDP to rise sharply, from 8.7% in 2019 to 9.7% in 2020 (compared to an average 0.9 percentage point increase in the OECD area).

Italy had the 11th highest vaccination rate across 37 OECD countries on November 1, an increase from 21st at the beginning of July. Italy strongly incentivised vaccination by becoming the first European country to require a health pass for its entire workforce.

The pandemic resulted in delays in care, including a 38% drop in breast cancer screening in 2020 compared to 2019.

Cumulative excess mortality compared to reported COVID-19 deaths per million population, January 2020 to end June 2021
Health status is good in Italy, which has one of the oldest populations across OECD countries.

Risk factors for health are mixed, with higher-than-average smoking rates but lower alcohol consumption and overweight/obesity than the OECD average.

Population coverage is high, though satisfaction with quality of care is below the OECD average.

Many indicators of quality care are good, and primary care has helped keep avoidable hospital admissions low.

Many indicators of health resources are at or somewhat below the OECD average.

Source: Health at a Glance 2021: OECD Indicators. [https://www.oecd.org/health/health-at-a-glance.htm]