Health at a Glance 2021: OECD Indicators

Highlights for Switzerland


COVID-19 vaccinations have slowed down in Switzerland after a strong start

As of November 1, around 880,000 COVID-19 infections and over 11,000 deaths from the virus had been recorded. An effective vaccination campaign and introduction of the Health Pass sharply reduced COVID-19 deaths in 2021.

All-cause mortality in 2020 and the first six months of 2021 rose by 9% compared with the 2015-2019 average.

63% of the Swiss population has been fully vaccinated, compared to 65% across the OECD on average (as of November 1).

Switzerland had the eleventh-highest vaccination rate across 37 OECD countries on July 1, but had fallen to 15th-lowest as of November 1.

Life expectancy at birth fell during the pandemic, from 84 years in 2019 to 83.2 years in 2020 (compared to an average fall of 0.6 years across OECD countries).

Cumulative excess mortality compared to reported COVID-19 deaths per million population, January 2020 to end June 2021

Excess deaths per 1 million population

COVID-19 deaths per 1 million population
Health status is high in Switzerland, with life expectancy among the highest across the OECD

Life expectancy (2019 or nearest year)
Years of life at birth

Avoidable mortality (2019 or nearest year)
Deaths per 100 000 population (age-standardised)

Population ageing (2019 or nearest year)
Share of population 65 or older

Self-rated health (2019 or nearest year)
Population in poor health (% population 15+)

Overweight/obesity and deaths from particulate matter pollution are much lower than the OECD average

Smoking (2019 or nearest year)
Daily smokers (% population 15+)

Alcohol (2019 or nearest year)
Litres consumed per capita (population 15+)

Overweight/obese (2019 or nearest year)
Population with BMI>=25 (% population 15+)

Air pollution (2019 or nearest year)
Deaths due to ambient particulate matter pollution (per 100 000 population)

Population coverage is high, however out-of-pocket spending as a share of final household consumption is the highest among OECD countries

Population coverage, eligibility (2019 or nearest year)
Population eligible for core services (% population)

Population coverage, satisfaction (2019 or nearest year)
Population satisfied with availability of quality health care (% population)

Financial protection (2019 or nearest year)
Expenditure covered by compulsory prepayment (% total expenditure)

Primary care is effective, with low avoidable hospital admissions, though breast cancer screening rates are relatively low

Effective primary care (2019 or nearest year)
Avoidable COPD admissions (per 100 000 people, age-sex standardised)

Effective preventive care (2019 or nearest year)
Mammography screening within the past two years (% of women 50+)

Effective secondary care (2019 or nearest year)
30 day mortality following AMI (per 100 000 people, age-sex standardised)

Resources for health are above the OECD average, with the highest number of nurses per capita

Health spending (2019 or nearest year)
% of GDP

Long-term care spending (2019 or nearest year)
% of GDP

Doctors (2019 or nearest year)
Practicing physicians (per 1 000 population)

Nurses (2019 or nearest year)
Practicing nurses (per 1 000 population)

Hospital beds (2019 or nearest year)
Per 1 000 population