

# Health at a Glance 2021: OECD Indicators

## Highlights for the United Kingdom

*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 fell by a year in the UK in 2020; COVID-19 vaccinations have plateaued despite a strong start



As of November 1, more than **9.1 million COVID-19 infections** and over **140 000 deaths** from the virus had been recorded.



**All-cause mortality in 2020 and the first six months of 2021 rose by 11.7%** compared with the 2015-2019 average.



**Life expectancy** fell by a full year during the pandemic, from 81.4 years in 2019 to 80.4 years in 2020 (compared to an average reduction of 0.6 years across OECD countries).



The pandemic caused **health spending** as a share of GDP to rise sharply, from 10.2% in 2019 to 12.8% in 2020 (compared to an average 0.9 percentage point increase in the OECD area).



**Two-thirds (67%)** of the UK population has been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, compared to 62% across the OECD on average (as of November 1).



The UK had the fifth-highest vaccination rate across 37 OECD countries on July 1, but had **fallen to 17<sup>th</sup>-highest** as of November 1.



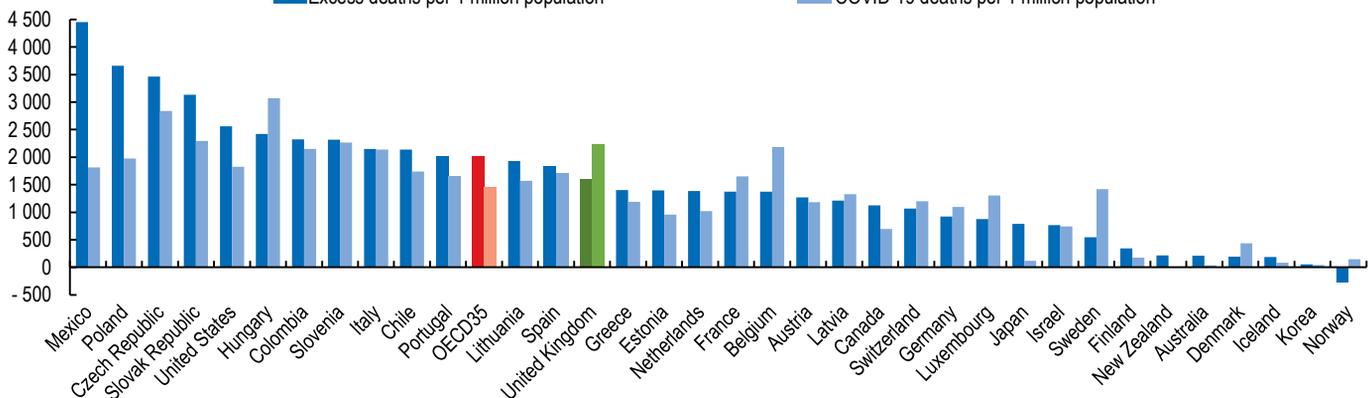
The pandemic resulted in a **fall in hospital activity**, with emergency attendance declining by more than 20% in the United Kingdom (England) in 2020 compared to the previous year.



The COVID-19 crisis has had a significant and negative impact on population mental health. The prevalence of depression more than **doubled** to 21% in early 2021, compared with 2019.

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 at a Glance 2021: How does the United Kingdom compare?

● United Kingdom
 ● OECD
 ● Highest performer
 ● Lowest performer

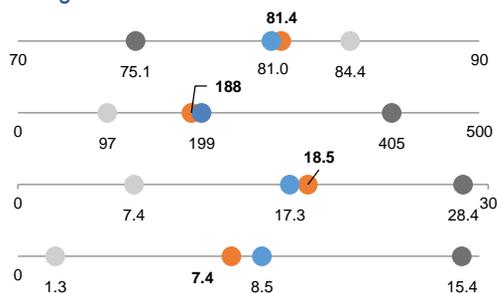
## Overall health status in the United Kingdom is close to the OECD average

**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)  
% of population 65 and older

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



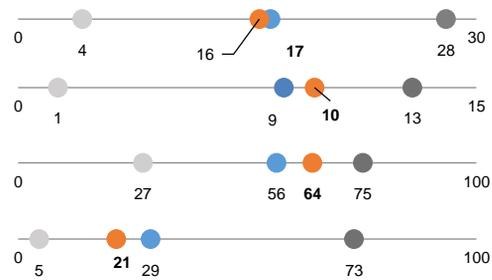
## Overweight/obesity and alcohol consumption are higher than the OECD average

**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)

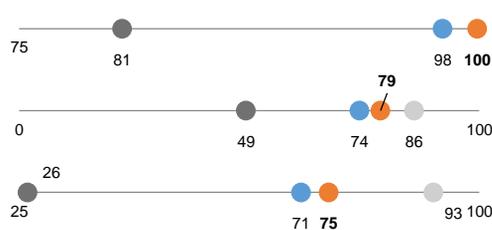


## Population coverage is high, with high satisfaction and strong financial protection

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

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

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



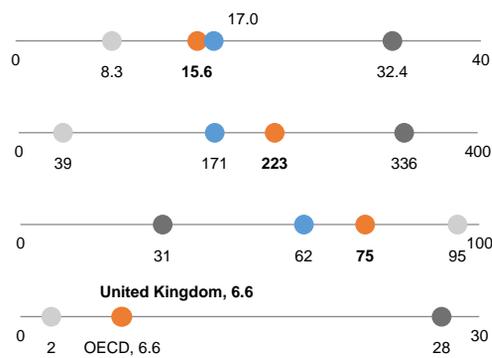
## The United Kingdom performs well on many key indicators of care quality, though avoidable hospital admissions could be further reduced

**Safe primary care** (2019 or nearest year)  
Antibiotics prescribed (defined daily dose per 1 000 people)

**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)



## Health and long-term care spending are above average, though hospital beds and the number of doctors and nurses are slightly below the OECD average

**Health spending** (2019 or nearest year)  
% of GDP

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

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

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

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

