Denmark

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

How does Denmark perform overall?

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

Health status

Key indicators:
Life expectancy was 81.5 years, 1.2 years above the OECD average. Preventable mortality was 120 per 100,000 (lower than the OECD average of 158); with treatable mortality at 54 per 100,000 (lower than the OECD average of 79). 7.7% of people rated their health as bad or very bad (OECD average 7.9%). Diabetes prevalence was lower than the OECD average.

Denmark perfoms better than the OECD average on 89% of indicators

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

Risk factors

Key indicators:
Smoking prevalence, at 13.9%, was lower than the OECD average of 16.0%. Alcohol consumption was higher than the OECD average; at 10.4 litres per capita versus 8.6. Obesity prevalence was 18.5%, close to the OECD average of 18.4%. There were 22.5 deaths from air pollution per 100,000 population (OECD average 28.9).

Denmark perfoms better than the OECD average on 58% of indicators

(Based on 12 indicators, data missing for 1 indicator)

Quality of care

Key indicators:
Acute care: 30-day mortality after stroke was 4.9% (OECD average 7.8%), and 4.8% after AMI (OECD average 6.8%). Primary care: There were 538 avoidable admissions per 100,000 population, more than the OECD average of 463. Safe prescribing: Denmark prescribed less antibiotics than on average in the OECD. Preventive care: 83% of women were screened for breast cancer, more than the OECD average of 55%.

Denmark perfoms better than the OECD average on 71% 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. 81% of people were satisfied with the availability of quality healthcare (OECD average 67%). Financial coverage, with 85% of spending covered by mandatory prepayment, was higher than the OECD average of 76%. Out-of-pocket spending, at 13% of health expenditure, was lower than the OECD average of 18%. 1.2% of the population reported unmet needs (OECD average 2.3%).

Denmark perfoms better than the OECD average on 94% of indicators

(Based on 17 indicators, data missing for 1 indicator)

Health system resources

Key indicators:
Denmark spends $6280 per capita on health, more than the OECD average of $4986 (USD PPP). This is equal to 9.5% of GDP, compared to 9.2% on average in the OECD. There are 4.4 practising doctors per 1,000 population (OECD average 3.7); and 10.2 practising nurses (OECD average 9.2). Denmark has 2.5 hospital beds per 1,000 population, less than the OECD average of 4.3.

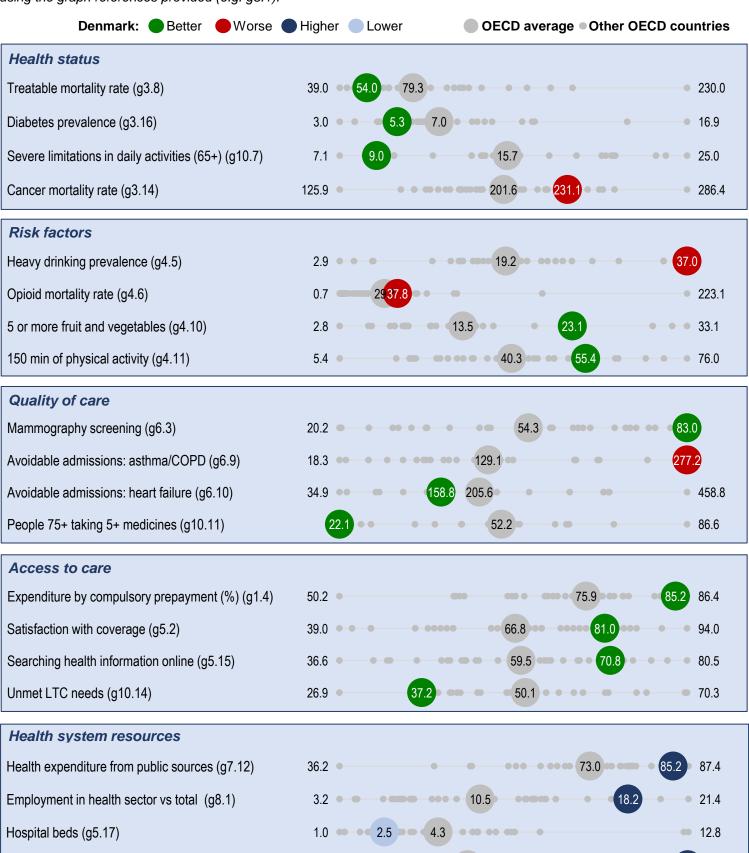**Denmark is above the OECD average on 71% of indicators**

(Based on 31 indicators, data missing for 1 indicator)

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 Denmark perfom well or badly?

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

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

Health status

Indicator	Min	Denmark	OECD avg	Max
Treatable mortality rate (g3.8)	39.0	54.0	79.3	230.0
Diabetes prevalence (g3.16)	3.0	5.3	7.0	16.9
Severe limitations in daily activities (65+) (g10.7)	7.1	9.0	15.7	25.0
Cancer mortality rate (g3.14)	125.9	201.6	231.1	286.4

Risk factors

Indicator	Min	Values	Max
Heavy drinking prevalence (g4.5)	2.9	19.2 / 37.0	
Opioid mortality rate (g4.6)	0.7	29 / 37.8	223.1
5 or more fruit and vegetables (g4.10)	2.8	13.5 / 23.1	33.1
150 min of physical activity (g4.11)	5.4	40.3 / 55.4	76.0

Quality of care

Indicator	Min	Values	Max
Mammography screening (g6.3)	20.2	54.3 / 83.0	
Avoidable admissions: asthma/COPD (g6.9)	18.3	129.1 / 277.2	
Avoidable admissions: heart failure (g6.10)	34.9	158.8 / 205.6	458.8
People 75+ taking 5+ medicines (g10.11)	22.1	52.2	86.6

Access to care

Indicator	Min	Values	Max
Expenditure by compulsory prepayment (%) (g1.4)	50.2	75.9 / 85.2	86.4
Satisfaction with coverage (g5.2)	39.0	66.8 / 81.0	94.0
Searching health information online (g5.15)	36.6	59.5 / 70.8	80.5
Unmet LTC needs (g10.14)	26.9	37.2 / 50.1	70.3

Health system resources

Indicator	Min	Values	Max
Health expenditure from public sources (g7.12)	36.2	73.0 / 85.2	87.4
Employment in health sector vs total (g8.1)	3.2	10.5 / 18.2	21.4
Hospital beds (g5.17)	1.0	2.5 / 4.3	12.8
Cost of institutional LTC (g10.25)	56.3	214.1 / 485.3	486.3