Italy

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

How does Italy perform overall?

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

Health status

Key indicators:
Life expectancy was 82.7 years, 2.4 years above the OECD average. Preventable mortality was 91 per 100,000 (lower than the OECD average of 158); with treatable mortality at 55 per 100,000 (lower than the OECD average of 79). 8.1% of people rated their health as bad or very bad (OECD average 7.9%). Diabetes prevalence was similar to the OECD average.

Italy perfoms better than the OECD average on 53% of indicators

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

Risk factors

Key indicators:
Smoking prevalence, at 19.1%, was higher than the OECD average of 16.0%. Alcohol consumption was lower than the OECD average; at 7.7 litres per capita versus 8.6. Obesity prevalence was 12.0%, lower than the OECD average of 18.4%. There were 40.8 deaths from air pollution per 100,000 population (OECD average 28.9).

Italy perfoms better than the OECD average on 50% of indicators

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

Quality of care

Key indicators:
Acute care: 30-day mortality after stroke was 6.6% (OECD average 7.8%), and 5.3% after AMI (OECD average 6.8%). Primary care: There were 214 avoidable admissions per 100,000 population, less than the OECD average of 463. Safe prescribing: Italy prescribed more antibiotics than on average in the OECD. Preventive care: 56% of women were screened for breast cancer, similar to the OECD average of 55%.

Italy perfoms better than the OECD average on 80% of indicators

(Based on 25 indicators, data missing for 8 indicators)

Access to care

Key indicators:
All of the population is covered for a core set of services. 55% of people were satisfied with the availability of quality healthcare (OECD average 67%). Financial coverage, with 75% of spending covered by mandatory prepayment, was similar to the OECD average of 76%. Out-of-pocket spending, at 22% of health expenditure, was higher than the OECD average of 18%. 1.8% of the population reported unmet needs (OECD average 2.3%).

Italy perfoms better than the OECD average on 38% of indicators

(Based on 16 indicators, data missing for 2 indicators)

Health system resources

Key indicators:
Italy spends $4291 per capita on health, less than the OECD average of $4986 (USD PPP). This is equal to 9.0% of GDP, compared to 9.2% on average in the OECD. There are 4.1 practising doctors per 1,000 population (OECD average 3.7); and 6.2 practising nurses (OECD average 9.2). Italy has 3.1 hospital beds per 1,000 population, less than the OECD average of 4.3.

Italy is above the OECD average on 34% of indicators

(Based on 29 indicators, data missing for 3 indicators)

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)
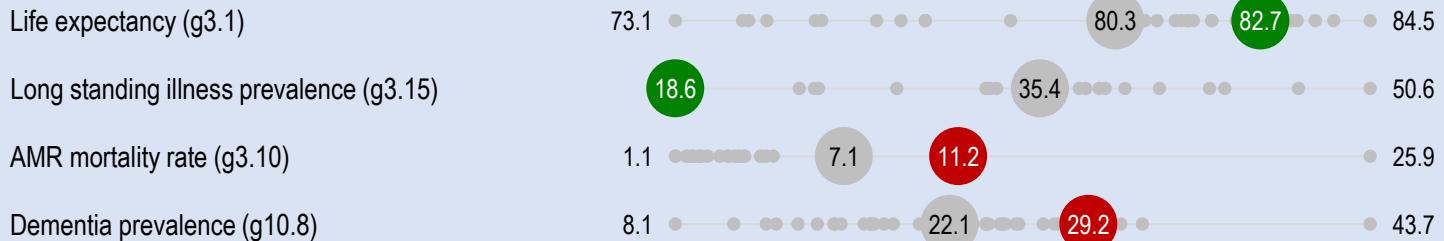
On which indicators does Italy perfom well or badly?

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

Italy: 🟢 Better 🔴 Worse 🔵 Higher 🔵 Lower   ⚪ OECD average • Other OECD countries
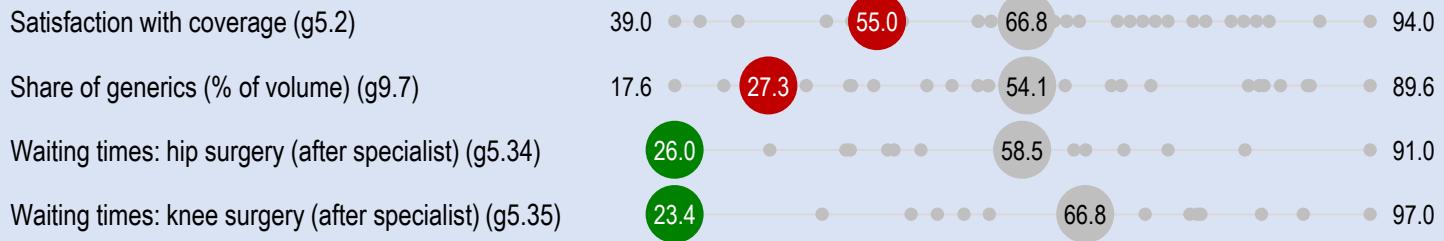
Health status

Indicator		
Life expectancy (g3.1)	73.1 ... 80.3 ... **82.7** ...	84.5
Long standing illness prevalence (g3.15)	**18.6** ... 35.4 ...	50.6
AMR mortality rate (g3.10)	1.1 ... 7.1 ... **11.2** ...	25.9
Dementia prevalence (g10.8)	8.1 ... 22.1 ... **29.2** ...	43.7

Risk factors

Indicator		
Obesity prevalence (self-reported) (g4.12)	4.3 ... **12.0** ... 18.4 ...	33.5
Heavy drinking prevalence (g4.5)	2.9 ... **4.3** ... 19.2 ...	37.0
Smoking prevalence (g4.1)	7.2 ... 16.0 ... **19.1** ...	28.0
150 min of physical activity (g4.11)	5.4 ... **19.7** ... 40.3 ...	76.0

Quality of care

Indicator		
Avoidable admissions: diabetes (g6.11)	10.6 ... **31.0** ... 102.4 ...	230.9
Amputation among diabetics (g6.13)	0.6 ... **2.5** ... 7.5 ...	33.4
Adverse outcome within one year: CHF (g6.34)	32.3 ... **50.5** ... 57.3 ...	70.2
People 75+ taking 5+ medicines (g10.11)	22.1 ... 52.2 ... **64.7** ...	86.6

Access to care

Indicator		
Satisfaction with coverage (g5.2)	39.0 ... **55.0** ... 66.8 ...	94.0
Share of generics (% of volume) (g9.7)	17.6 ... **27.3** ... 54.1 ...	89.6
Waiting times: hip surgery (after specialist) (g5.34)	**26.0** ... 58.5 ...	91.0
Waiting times: knee surgery (after specialist) (g5.35)	**23.4** ... 66.8 ...	97.0

Health system resources

Indicator		
Health expenditure as % of gov expenditure (g7.13)	9.9 ... **12.4** ... 15.5 ...	21.8
Hospital workforce (g8.18)	7.2 ... **11.0** ... 15.4 ...	26.6
Medical graduates (g8.20)	6.8 ... 14.2 ... **18.2** ...	27.3
Nursing graduates (g8.22)	8.1 ... **17.2** ... 42.8 ...	115.7