Japan

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

How does Japan perform overall?

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

Health status

Key indicators:
Life expectancy was 84.5 years, 4.2 years above the OECD average. Preventable mortality was 85 per 100,000 (lower than the OECD average of 158); with treatable mortality at 49 per 100,000 (lower than the OECD average of 79). 13.6% of people rated their health as bad or very bad (OECD average 7.9%). Diabetes prevalence was similar to the OECD average.

Japan perfoms better than the OECD average on 76% of indicators

(Based on 17 indicators, data missing for 2 indicators)

Risk factors

Key indicators:
Smoking prevalence, at 16.7%, was close to the OECD average of 16.0%. Alcohol consumption was lower than the OECD average; at 6.6 litres per capita versus 8.6. Obesity prevalence was 4.6%, lower than the OECD average of 25.7%. There were 31.3 deaths from air pollution per 100,000 population (OECD average 28.9).

Japan perfoms better than the OECD average on 56% of indicators

(Based on 9 indicators, data missing for 4 indicators)

Quality of care

Key indicators:
Acute care: 30-day mortality after stroke was 2.9% (OECD average 7.8%), and 8.3% after AMI (OECD average 6.8%). Primary care: Data on avoidable admissions was not available. Safe prescribing: Japan prescribed less antibiotics than on average in the OECD. Preventive care: 45% of women were screened for breast cancer, less than the OECD average of 55%.

Japan perfoms better than the OECD average on 73% of indicators

(Based on 11 indicators, data missing for 22 indicators)

Access to care

Key indicators:
All of the population is covered for a core set of services. 76% 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 12% of health expenditure, was lower than the OECD average of 18%. No comparable data is available on unmet needs.

Japan perfoms better than the OECD average on 67% of indicators

(Based on 9 indicators, data missing for 9 indicators)

Health system resources

Key indicators:
Japan spends $5251 per capita on health, similar to the OECD average of $4986 (USD PPP). This is equal to 11.5% of GDP, compared to 9.2% on average in the OECD. There are 2.6 practising doctors per 1,000 population (OECD average 3.7); and 12.1 practising nurses (OECD average 9.2). Japan has 12.6 hospital beds per 1,000 population, more than the OECD average of 4.3.

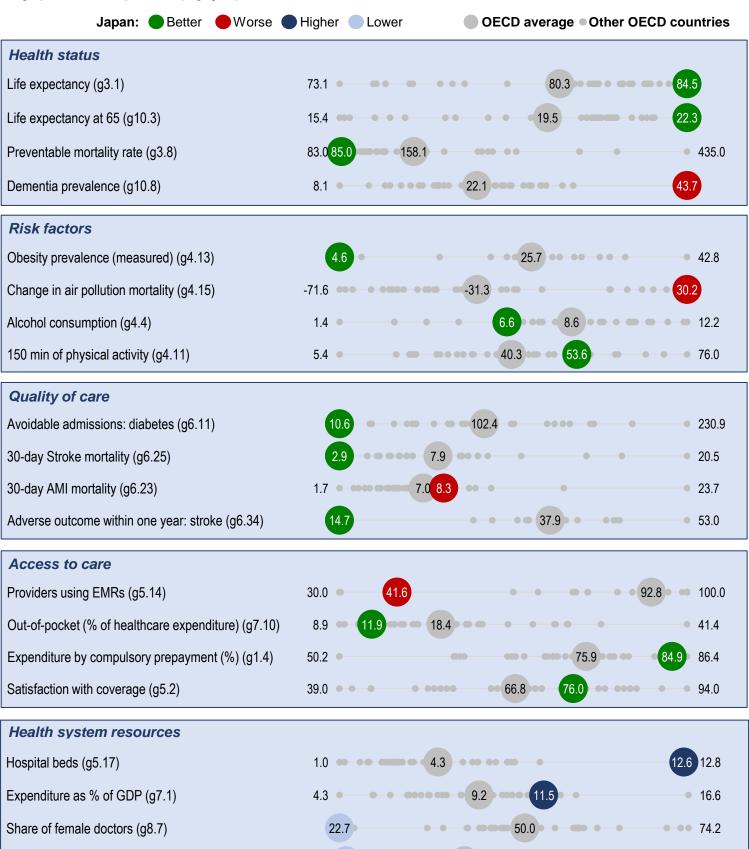**Japan is above the OECD average on 63% of indicators**

(Based on 27 indicators, data missing for 5 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 Japan perfom well or badly?

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

Japan: ● Better ● Worse ● Higher ● Lower | ● OECD average ● Other OECD countries

Health status

Indicator	Min	OECD avg	Japan
Life expectancy (g3.1)	73.1	80.3	84.5
Life expectancy at 65 (g10.3)	15.4	19.5	22.3
Preventable mortality rate (g3.8)	83.0	158.1 / 85.0	435.0
Dementia prevalence (g10.8)	8.1	22.1	43.7

Risk factors

Indicator	Min	OECD avg	Japan
Obesity prevalence (measured) (g4.13)	4.6	25.7	42.8
Change in air pollution mortality (g4.15)	-71.6	-31.3	30.2
Alcohol consumption (g4.4)	1.4	8.6 / 6.6	12.2
150 min of physical activity (g4.11)	5.4	40.3 / 53.6	76.0

Quality of care

Indicator	Min	OECD avg	Japan
Avoidable admissions: diabetes (g6.11)	10.6	102.4	230.9
30-day Stroke mortality (g6.25)	2.9	7.9	20.5
30-day AMI mortality (g6.23)	1.7	7.0 / 8.3	23.7
Adverse outcome within one year: stroke (g6.34)	14.7	37.9	53.0

Access to care

Indicator	Min	OECD avg	Japan
Providers using EMRs (g5.14)	30.0	92.8 / 41.6	100.0
Out-of-pocket (% of healthcare expenditure) (g7.10)	8.9	18.4 / 11.9	41.4
Expenditure by compulsory prepayment (%) (g1.4)	50.2	75.9 / 84.9	86.4
Satisfaction with coverage (g5.2)	39.0	66.8 / 76.0	94.0

Health system resources

Indicator	Min	OECD avg	Japan
Hospital beds (g5.17)	1.0	4.3 / 12.6	12.8
Expenditure as % of GDP (g7.1)	4.3	9.2 / 11.5	16.6
Share of female doctors (g8.7)	22.7	50.0	74.2
Medical graduates (g8.20)	6.8 / 7.2	14.2	27.3

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