

Introduction

H *Health at a Glance: Europe 2010* presents key indicators of health and health systems in 31 European countries, including the 27 European Union member states, three EFTA countries (Iceland, Norway and Switzerland), and Turkey. It builds on the format used in the OECD's previous editions of *Health at a Glance* to provide comparable information on important public health issues in Europe. The indicators have been selected on the basis of the European Community Health Indicators (ECHI) shortlist (European Commission, 2010a; ECHIM, 2010). However, in some instances, this report deviates from the formal ECHI definitions because of issues related to data availability and comparability. Detailed information is also provided in this publication on health expenditure and financing trends, based on the OECD's long-standing data collection in this area. All indicators are presented in the form of easy-to-read figures and explanatory text.

Structure of the publication

The structure of *Health at a Glance: Europe 2010* generally reflects the structure of the European Community Health Indicators. It is divided into four chapters:

- Chapter 1 on *Health Status* highlights the variations across countries in life expectancy and healthy life expectancy, and also presents other indicators of causes of mortality and morbidity, including both communicable and non-communicable diseases.
- Chapter 2 on *Determinants of Health* focuses on non-medical determinants of health related to modifiable lifestyles and behaviours among children and adults, such as smoking and alcohol drinking, nutrition habits, physical activity, and overweight and obesity.
- Chapter 3 on *Health Care Resources, Services and Outcomes* reviews some of the inputs, outputs and outcomes of health care systems, including the supply of doctors and nurses, different types of equipment used for diagnosis or treatment, and the provision of a range of services to prevent the transmission of communicable diseases or to treat acute conditions. It concludes with a review of care related to cancer, focusing on the coverage of screening programmes and survival rates for two types of cancer: breast and cervical cancer.
- Chapter 4 on *Health Expenditure and Financing* examines trends in health spending across European countries, both overall and for different types of health services and goods, including pharmaceuticals. It also looks at how these health services and goods are paid for and the different mix between public funding, private health insurance, and direct out-of-pocket payments by households.

An annex provides some additional tables on the demographic and economic context within which different health systems operate.

Presentation of indicators

Each of the topics covered in this publication is presented over two pages. The first provides a brief commentary highlighting the key findings conveyed by the data, defines the indicator(s) and discloses any significant national variations from that definition which might affect data comparability. On the facing page is a set of figures. These typically show current levels of the indicator and, where possible, trends over time. In some cases, an additional figure relating the indicator to another variable is included. The average in the figures includes only European Union (EU) countries, and is calculated as the unweighted average of those EU countries presented (up to 27, if there is full data coverage).

Data limitations

Limitations in data comparability are indicated both in the text (in the box related to “Definition and deviations”) as well as in footnotes to charts.

Readers interested in using the data presented in this publication for further analysis and research are encouraged to consult the full documentation of definitions, sources and methods contained in *OECD Health Data 2010* for all OECD member countries. This information is available at www.oecd.org/health/healthdata.

For the six non-OECD member countries (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta and Romania), readers should consult the *Eurostat Database* at http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/statistics/search_database.

Readers interested in an interactive presentation of the ECHI indicators can also consult the SANCO health indicators tool at www.ec.europa.eu/health/indicators/indicators/index_en.htm.

Population figures

The population figures presented in the annex and used to calculate rates per capita in this publication come from the *OECD Labour Force Statistics Database* (as of May 2010) for OECD member countries, and refer to mid-year estimates. For the six non-OECD member countries, the data come from the *Eurostat Demographics Database* (as of July 2010), and refer to estimates at the beginning of the year. Population estimates are subject to revision, so they may differ from the latest population figures released by national statistical offices.

Note that some countries such as France and the United Kingdom have overseas colonies, protectorates and territories. These populations are generally excluded. The calculation of GDP per capita and other economic measures may, however, be based on a different population in these countries, depending on the data coverage.

Country codes (ISO codes)

Austria	AUT	Lithuania	LTU
Belgium	BEL	Luxembourg	LUX
Bulgaria	BGR	Malta	MLT
Cyprus ¹	CYP	Netherlands	NLD
Czech Republic	CZE	Norway	NOR
Denmark	DNK	Poland	POL
Estonia	EST	Portugal	PRT
Finland	FIN	Romania	ROM
France	FRA	Slovak Republic	SVK
Germany	DEU	Slovenia	SVN
Greece	GRC	Spain	ESP
Hungary	HUN	Sweden	SWE
Iceland	ISL	Switzerland	CHE
Ireland	IRL	Turkey	TUR
Italy	ITA	United Kingdom	GBR
Latvia	LVA		

1. *Note by Turkey:* The information in this document with reference to “Cyprus” relates to the Southern part of the Island. There is no single authority representing both Turkish and Greek Cypriot people on the Island. Turkey recognises the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). Until a lasting and equitable solution is found within the context of United Nations, Turkey shall preserve its position concerning the “Cyprus” issue.

Note by all the European Union member states of the OECD and the European Commission: The Republic of Cyprus is recognised by all members of the United Nations with the exception of Turkey. The information in this document relates to the area under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.



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