

## Introduction

**H** *Health at a Glance: Europe 2012* presents key indicators of health and health systems in 35 European countries, including the 27 European Union member states, 5 candidate countries and 3 European Free Trade Association countries. The selection of indicators is based largely on the European Community Health Indicators (ECHI) shortlist, a set of indicators that has been developed to guide the reporting of health statistics in the European Union (ECHIM, 2012). It is complemented by additional indicators on health expenditure and quality of care in the related chapters.

The first edition of this report was released in 2010. This second edition includes a larger number of ECHI indicators (notably in the first chapter on health status and in the chapter on health care resources and activities), reflecting progress in data availability and comparability. There is also a new chapter on quality of care combining certain ECHI indicators with selected indicators on quality of care and patient safety developed under the OECD Health Care Quality Indicators project (OECD, 2010c).

The data presented in this publication are mostly official national statistics and have been collected through questionnaires administered by the OECD, Eurostat and WHO. The data have been validated by the three organisations to ensure that they meet standards of data quality and comparability. In certain cases, the data come from regular cross-national surveys, such as the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children surveys for the set of indicators on health risk factors among children. All indicators are presented in the form of easy-to-read figures and explanatory text, based on a two-page format per indicator.

### Structure of the publication

The publication is structured around five 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, physical activity, and overweight and obesity.
- Chapter 3 on *Health care resources and activities* reviews some of the inputs and outputs 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.
- Chapter 4 is a new chapter on *Quality of care*, providing comparisons on care for chronic and acute conditions, cancers and communicable diseases. The chapter also includes a set of indicators on patient safety, building on the developmental work and data collection carried out under the OECD Health Care Quality Indicators project.

- Chapter 5 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, as well as additional data on health expenditure trends.

## 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 discusses 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) member states, and is calculated as the *unweighted average* of those EU member states presented (up to 27, if there is full data coverage). Some weighted averages are also presented in the tables on health expenditure and GDP in the annex.

## Data and limitations

Limitations in data comparability are indicated both in the text (in the box related to “Definition and comparability”) 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 2012* for all OECD member countries, including 21 EU member states and 4 additional countries (Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey). This information is available on OECD.Stat ([http://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?DataSetCode=HEALTH\\_STAT](http://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?DataSetCode=HEALTH_STAT)).

For ten other countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia), readers should consult the Eurostat database for more information on sources and methods: [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/statistics/search\\_database](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 DG SANCO HEIDI data tool at: [http://ec.europa.eu/health/indicators/indicators/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/indicators/indicators/index_en.htm).

## Population figures

The population figures for all EU member states and candidate countries presented in the annex and used to calculate rates per capita in this publication come from the Eurostat demographics database. The data were extracted in June 2012, and relate to mid-year estimates (calculated as the average between the beginning and end of year population figures). Population estimates are subject to revision, so they may differ from the latest population figures released by Eurostat or national statistical offices.

Some member states such as France and the United Kingdom have overseas colonies, protectorates and territories. These populations are generally excluded. However, the calculation of GDP per capita and other economic measures may 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
Croatia	HRV	Montenegro	MNE
Cyprus <sup>1</sup>	CYP	Netherlands	NLD
Czech Republic	CZE	Norway	NOR
Denmark	DNK	Poland	POL
Estonia	EST	Portugal	PRT
Finland	FIN	Romania	ROU
France	FRA	Serbia	SRB
FYR of Macedonia	MKD	Slovenia	SVN
Germany	DEU	Slovak Republic	SVK
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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