

New Zealand

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

How does New Zealand perform overall?

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

Health status



Key indicators:

Life expectancy was 82.3 years, 2 years above the OECD average. Preventable mortality was 113 per 100,000 (lower than the OECD average of 158); with treatable mortality at 66 per 100,000 (lower than the OECD average of 79). 2.1% of people rated their health as bad or very bad (OECD average 7.9%). Diabetes prevalence was lower than the OECD average.

New Zealand performs better than the OECD average on 81% of indicators

(Based on 16 indicators, data missing for 3 indicators)

Risk factors



Key indicators:

Smoking prevalence, at 9.4%, was lower than the OECD average of 16.0%. Alcohol consumption was close to the OECD average; at 8.8 litres per capita versus 8.6. Obesity prevalence was 34.3%, higher than the OECD average of 25.7%. There were 6.3 deaths from air pollution per 100,000 population (OECD average 28.9).

New Zealand performs better than the OECD average on 60% of indicators

(Based on 10 indicators, data missing for 3 indicators)

Quality of care



Key indicators:

Acute care: 30-day mortality after stroke was 5.9% (OECD average 7.8%), and 4.1% after AMI (OECD average 6.8%). Primary care: Data on avoidable admissions was not available. Safe prescribing: Data on antibiotic prescribing was not available. Preventive care: 63% of women were screened for breast cancer, more than the OECD average of 55%.

New Zealand performs better than the OECD average on 71% of indicators

(Based on 14 indicators, data missing for 19 indicators)

Access to care



Key indicators:

All of the population is covered for a core set of services. 64% of people were satisfied with the availability of quality healthcare (OECD average 67%). Financial coverage, with 80% 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%. No comparable data is available on unmet needs.

New Zealand performs better than the OECD average on 57% of indicators

(Based on 14 indicators, data missing for 4 indicators)

Health system resources



Key indicators:

New Zealand spends \$6061 per capita on health, more than the OECD average of \$4986 (USD PPP). This is equal to 11.2% of GDP, compared to 9.2% on average in the OECD. There are 3.5 practising doctors per 1,000 population (OECD average 3.7); and 10.9 practising nurses (OECD average 9.2). New Zealand has 2.7 hospital beds per 1,000 population, less than the OECD average of 4.3.

New Zealand is above the OECD average on 57% of indicators

(Based on 21 indicators, data missing for 11 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 New Zealand perform well or badly?

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

New Zealand: ● Better ● Worse ● Higher ● Lower ● OECD average ● Other OECD countries

