The Netherlands

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

How does the Netherlands perform overall?

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

Health status

Key indicators:
Life expectancy was 81.4 years, 1.1 years above the OECD average. Preventable mortality was 113 per 100,000 (lower than the OECD average of 158); with treatable mortality at 48 per 100,000 (lower than the OECD average of 79). 5.2% of people rated their health as bad or very bad (OECD average 7.9%). Diabetes prevalence was lower than the OECD average.

The Netherlands perfoms better than the OECD average on 84% of indicators

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

Risk factors

Key indicators:
Smoking prevalence, at 14.7%, was close to the OECD average of 16.0%. Alcohol consumption was close to the OECD average; at 8.1 litres per capita versus 8.6. Obesity prevalence was 13.9%, lower than the OECD average of 18.4%. There were 26.7 deaths from air pollution per 100,000 population (OECD average 28.9).

The Netherlands perfoms better than the OECD average on 83% of indicators

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

Quality of care

Key indicators:
Acute care: 30-day mortality after stroke was 4.9% (OECD average 7.8%), and 2.9% after AMI (OECD average 6.8%). Primary care: There were 318 avoidable admissions per 100,000 population, less than the OECD average of 463. Safe prescribing: The Netherlands prescribed less antibiotics than on average in the OECD. Preventive care: 73% of women were screened for breast cancer, more than the OECD average of 55%.

The Netherlands perfoms better than the OECD average on 76% of indicators

(Based on 33 indicators, data missing for 0 indicators)

Access to care

Key indicators:
All of the population is covered for a core set of services. 83% 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 9% of health expenditure, was lower than the OECD average of 18%. 0.1% of the population reported unmet needs (OECD average 2.3%).

The Netherlands perfoms better than the OECD average on 86% of indicators

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

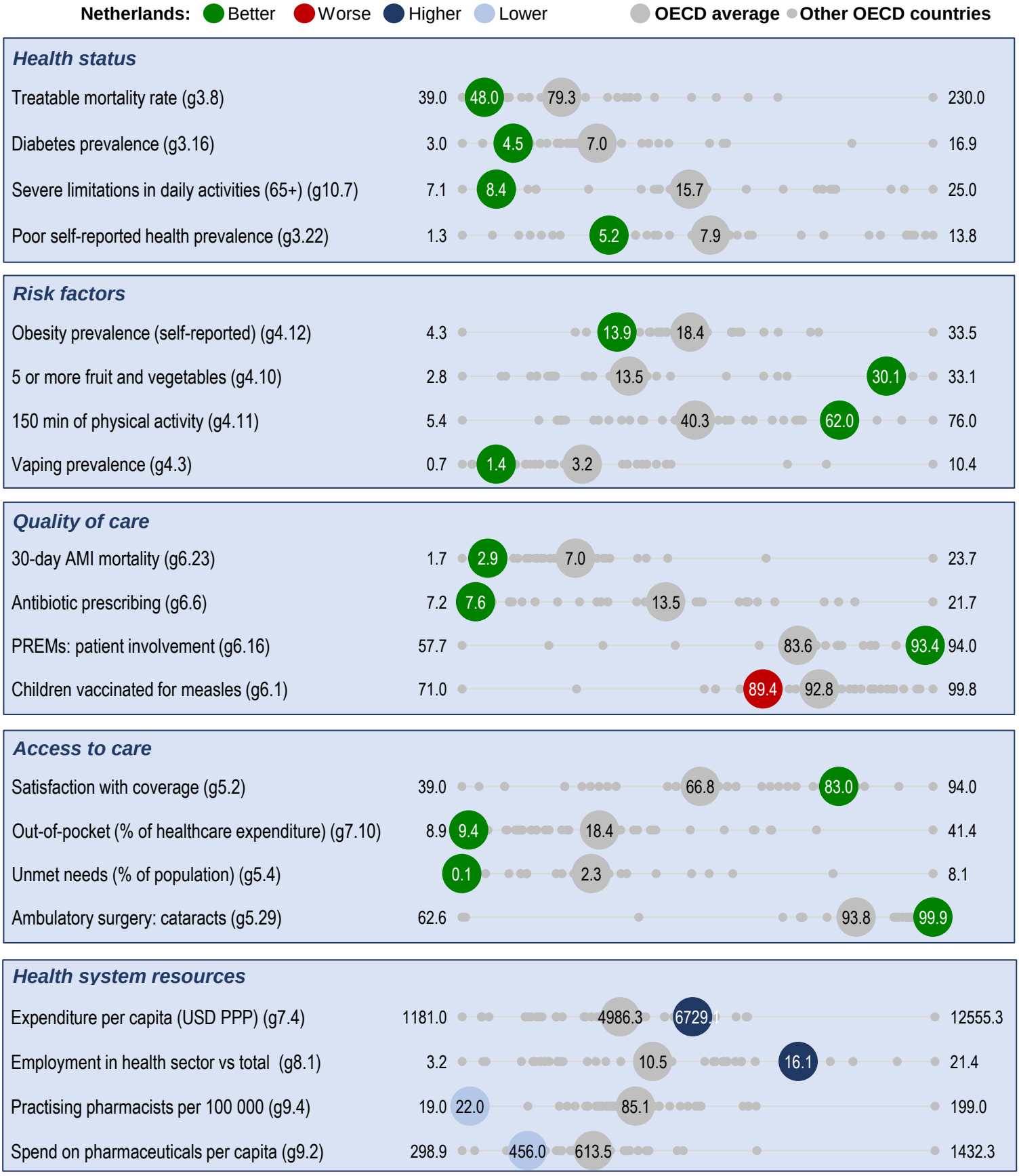
Health system resources

Key indicators:
The Netherlands spends $6729 per capita on health, more than the OECD average of $4986 (USD PPP). This is equal to 10.2% of GDP, compared to 9.2% on average in the OECD. There are 3.9 practising doctors per 1,000 population (OECD average 3.7); and 11.4 practising nurses (OECD average 9.2). The Netherlands has 3.0 hospital beds per 1,000 population, less than the OECD average of 4.3.

The Netherlands is above the OECD average on 66% of indicators

(Based on 32 indicators, data missing for 0 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 the Netherlands perfom well or badly?

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