



Health at a Glance 2015

How does Finland compare?

KEY FINDINGS

- The quality of care in Finland is generally very good, as illustrated by high survival rates of patients admitted to the hospital following a heart attack (AMI) or stroke, or after diagnosis for different types of cancer.
- Finland also does well in avoiding hospital admissions for people with chronic conditions such as chronic respiratory problems and diabetes, which reflects the good performance of the Finnish primary care sector.
- While waiting times for some planned surgery still remains fairly long, substantial progress has been achieved in reducing planned waiting times for several interventions such as cataract surgery.

While quality of care is generally very good, there is room to improve access to care

Finland performs in the top groups on several indicators of quality of care. The Finnish health system excels in providing acute care for people having a heart attack or a stroke and preventing them from dying. The country also is a top performer in having high survival for people following diagnosis for breast, cervical and colorectal cancer.

Finland is in the top third performer group in avoiding hospital admissions for people with chronic respiratory problems such as asthma and COPD. Substantial progress has also been achieved over the past few years in reducing hospital admissions for people with diabetes, although further progress is still possible.

How Finland compares with other OECD countries on selected indicators of quality of care, waiting times and unmet care needs (2013 or nearest year)



Note: The closest the dot is to the center "target", the better the country performs. The countries in the inner circle are in the top quintile among the best performing OECD countries, while those in the outer circle are in the bottom quintile.

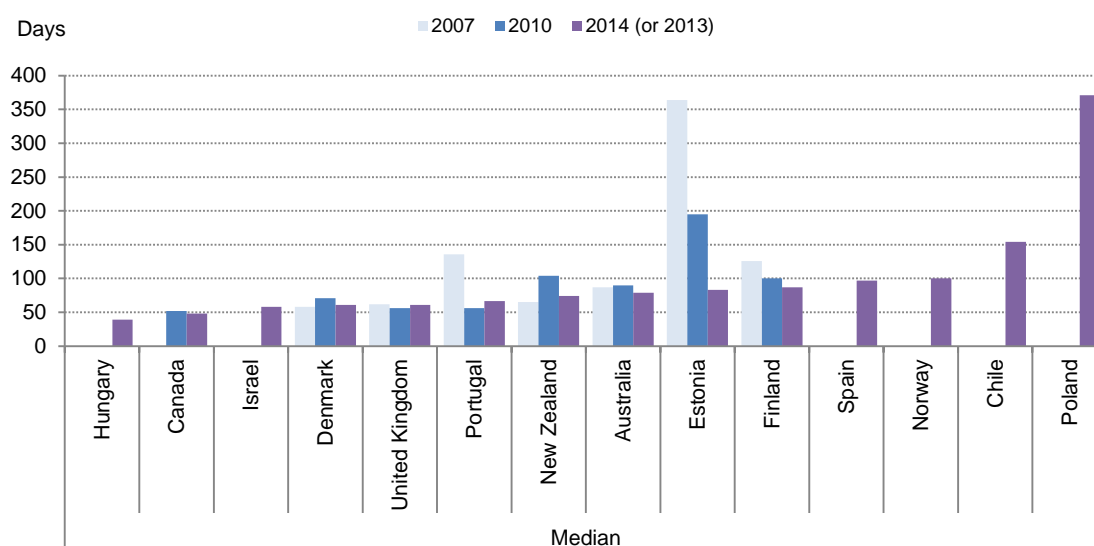
Source: OECD Health at a Glance 2015 (chart design: Laboratorio MeS).

Finland may also be able to achieve further progress in improving access to care. The country lags behind many other OECD countries in having high rates of unmet needs for medical examinations. In 2013, more than 4% of Finnish people reported unmet medical care needs due to cost, travel distance or waiting lists. This proportion is significantly higher than in Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

Substantial progress has been achieved in reducing waiting times for some elective surgery

Although Finland still has relatively long waiting times for elective surgery compared with other OECD countries, substantial progress has been achieved in reducing waiting times for some interventions since the introduction of the National Health Care Guarantee in 2005. For example, median waiting times for cataract surgery has fallen by 30% between 2007 and 2013 (from 126 days to 87 days in 2013). The reduction in waiting times for knee replacement and hip replacement has been more modest.

Cataract surgery, waiting time from specialist assessment to treatment, 2007 to 2014 (or 2013)



Source: OECD Health Statistics 2015, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/health-data-en>.

Health at a Glance 2015 provides international comparisons of health status, risk factors to health, health expenditure, access to care and quality of care. For the first time in 2015, the publication also includes a set of dashboard indicators summarising the comparative performance of OECD countries on these different dimensions of population health status and health system performance.

More information on **Health at a Glance 2015** is available at <http://www.oecd.org/health/health-at-a-glance.htm>.

For more information on OECD's work on **Finland**, please visit <http://www.oecd.org/finland>.