

## Many are worried about, and want better provision, of health services

The OECD's cross-national Risks that Matter survey examines people's perceptions of social and economic risks and how well they feel their government reacts to their concerns. The survey polled a representative sample of 27 000 18-64 year-olds in 27 OECD countries to better understand what citizens want and need from social policy – particularly in the face of the cost-of-living crisis.

Respondents in Finland report relatively lower levels of concern across social issues than other countries surveyed, with the share of concerned respondents generally remaining below the RTM 2022 average.

For instance, the share of respondents in Finland who believe their financial situation has worsened in the last year is lower than in any other country participating in RTM in 2022. It stands at just below 30%, compared to the higher RTM average of 42% (Fig 1).

This is despite the fact that concerns about household finances and overall well-being have increased considerably across participating countries, and relatively more in Finland (by about 8 and 13 percentage points respectively).

The most common short-term concern

in Finland is over accessing good quality healthcare (64%) (Fig 2, Panel A), followed by not being able to pay all expenses and make ends meet (55%) and becoming ill or disabled (53%).

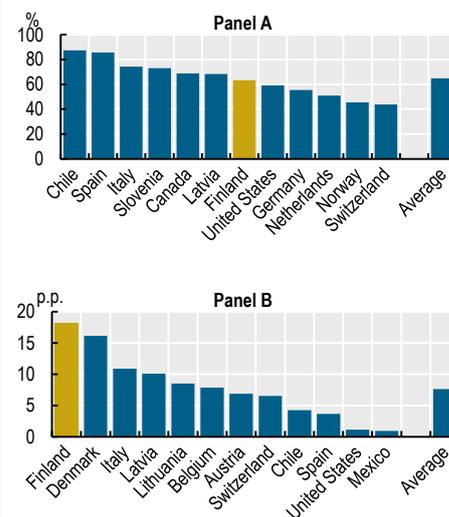
On average across RTM countries, women are more worried about access to good-quality healthcare than men; 69% compared to 61%, reflecting a gender gap of about 8 percentage points (Fig 2, Panel B).

Furthermore, with a statistically significant gender gap of 18 percentage points, the gender difference in worries about access to healthcare is greater in Finland than in any other participating country (Fig 2, Panel B).

Current concerns about health also translate into long-term concerns: almost 70% of respondents in Finland are worried about accessing good-quality healthcare and just above 60% about becoming ill or disabled in the next 10 years.

Finland stands out with high proportions of people who are satisfied with their access to good-quality and affordable public education (61%) and safety (54%). These proportions are well above cross-national averages (47%, and 44%, respectively).

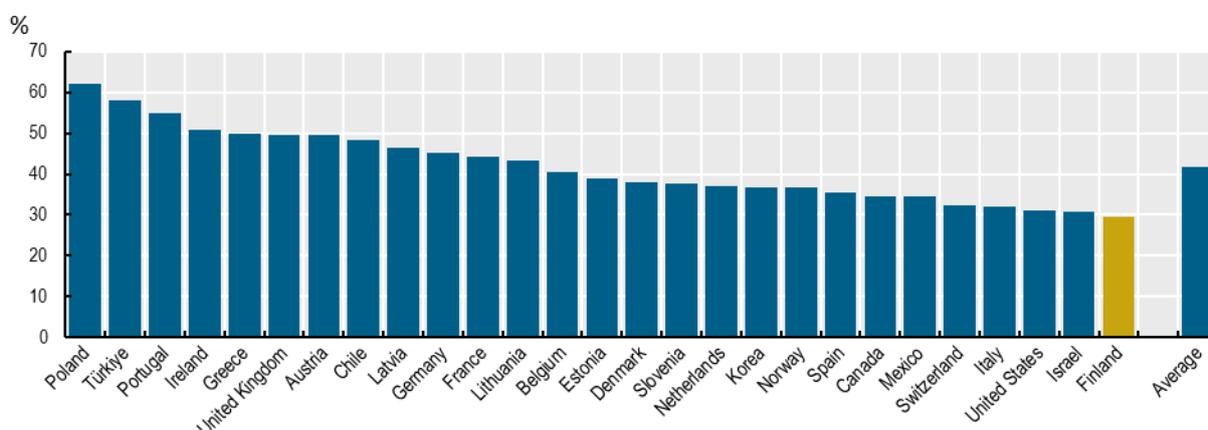
**Fig. 2. Overall share (Panel A) and gender differences in share (Panel B) of respondents concerned about access to good-quality and affordable healthcare, by country 2022**



Note: Gender differences are calculated by subtracting the share of male respondents from the share of female respondents. Average refers to the unweighted average of the 27 OECD countries for which data are available. Respondents were asked: "Thinking about the next year or two, how concerned are you about accessing good-quality healthcare?". Respondents could choose between: "Not at all concerned"; "Not so concerned"; "Somewhat concerned"; "Very concerned"; "Can't choose". Data present the share of respondents who report "somewhat concerned" or "very concerned." RTM data include respondents aged 18-64.

Source: OECD Risks that Matter Survey 2022, <http://oe.cd/rtm>.

**Fig. 1. Proportion of respondents who think that their (household's financial) situation is worse than 12 months ago, by country, 2022**



Notes: Average refers to the unweighted average of the 27 OECD countries for which data are available. Respondents were asked: "Do you think that your household's financial situation is better than, the same as, or worse than it was 12 months ago?". Respondents could choose between: "Much worse"; "Worse"; "About the same"; "Better"; "Much better"; "Don't know". Data present the share of respondents who report "much worse" or "worse". RTM data include respondents aged 18-64.

Source: OECD Risks that Matter Survey 2022, <http://oe.cd/rtm>.

In fact, similar to previous years, respondents in Finland are more satisfied with access to good-quality and affordable education than in any other participating country, perhaps reflecting its high performance in PISA (Fig 3).

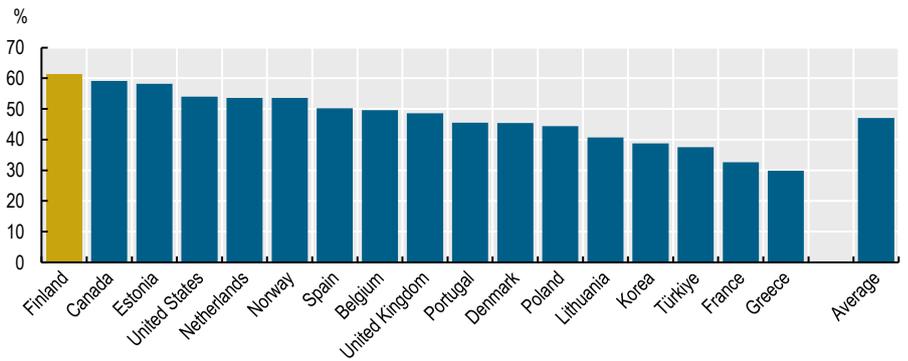
Levels of satisfaction in access to good-quality and affordable healthcare are also higher than the RTM average (45% compared to 43%). Yet, 65% of respondents in Finland believe that the government should allocate a greater portion of its budget to healthcare.

Additionally, 50% of the participants from Finland expressed their willingness to contribute 2% of their income through taxes, provided that they could enjoy improved health

services and easier access. It's noteworthy that this is higher than the average of 43% observed across multiple countries (Fig 4).

When asked about global challenges today, respondents in Finland were

**Fig. 3. Proportion of respondents who (strongly) agree that they think that their household would have access to good quality and affordable education if needed, by country, 2022**



Notes: Average refers to the unweighted average of the 27 OECD countries for which data are available. Respondents were asked to reflect their level of agreement to the statement "I think that my household and I have/would have access to good quality and affordable public services in the area of education, if needed." Respondents could choose between "Strongly disagree"; "Disagree"; "Neither agree nor disagree"; "Agree"; "Strongly agree"; "Can't choose". RTM data include respondents aged 18-64.

Source: OECD Risks that Matter Survey 2022, <http://oe.cd/rtm>.

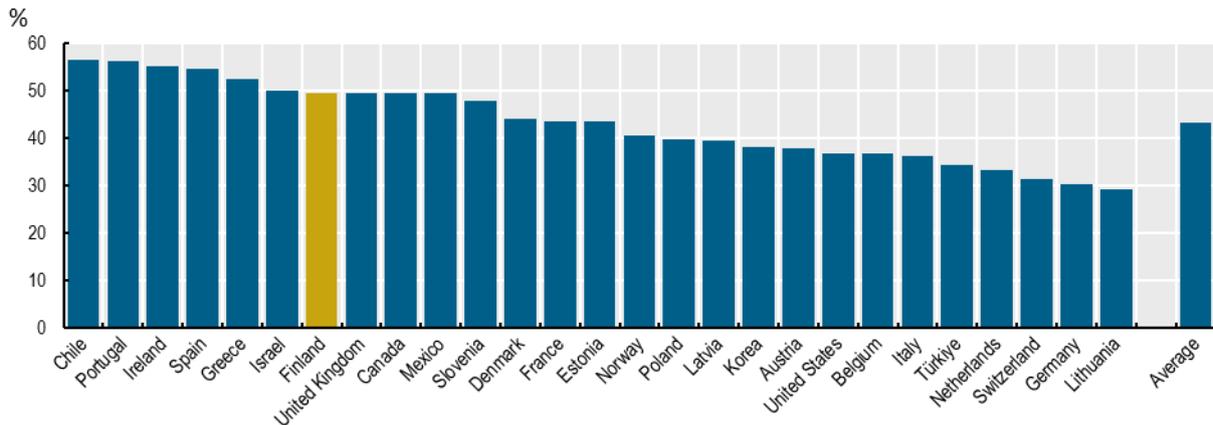
most concerned about helping vulnerable older people (64%) and helping people deal with rising costs of living (62%).

Almost half of respondents in Finland (47%) do not feel that they could easily receive public benefits if they needed them, in line

with the average across countries (46%).

Among them, a large majority (82%) report that they do not think the application process would be simple and quick, compared with 77% on average across countries.

**Fig. 4. Proportion of respondents reporting that they would be willing to pay an additional 2% of their income in taxes/social contributions to benefit from better provision of and access to health services, by country, 2022**



Notes: Average refers to the unweighted average of the 27 OECD countries for which data are available. Respondents were asked: "Would you be willing to pay an additional 2% of your income in taxes/social contributions to benefit from better provision of and access to health". Respondents could choose between: "Spend much less"; "Spend a little less"; "Spend the same as now"; "Spend a little more"; "Spend much more"; "None"; "Can't choose". Data present the share of respondents who report "a little more" or "much more".

Source: OECD Risks that Matter Survey 2022, <http://oe.cd/rtm>.

The **OECD Risks That Matter** survey is a cross-national survey examining people's social and economic concerns, how well they think government responds to their needs and expectations, and what policies they would like to see in the future. The survey was conducted for the first time in 2018, to support the OECD Social Policy Ministerial, and subsequently in 2020. The 2022 survey, conducted in October-December 2022, draws on nationally representative samples in Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Türkiye, the United Kingdom and the United States.