

EU Report: 'Health at a glance: Europe 2010'

The 'Health at a Glance' report is the result of collaboration between the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the European Commission. Health data from 31 countries are included in the report, namely the 27 member states of the European Union (EU) along with Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey.

The report finds that life expectancy has increased to an average of 78 years (but with considerable differences between Member States) – but the additional years are not necessarily years of good health. While risk factors such as smoking and alcohol are in decline overall, obesity rates have risen very considerably. Health expenditures have risen in all European countries, with 'sick care' - curative and rehabilitative care - accounting for over 60%, compared with 2.9% allocated to public health campaigns and preventative measures.

For further details of this publication, see:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/reports/european/health_glance_2010_en.htm

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