

Irish Health Care System

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Irish Health Care System

- Public Private mix
- Came out of colonial past
- Similar but dissimilar to UK

Irish Health Care System

- Significant dependency in history on Religious to provide hospital and social care
- Legacies still present

Irish Health Care System

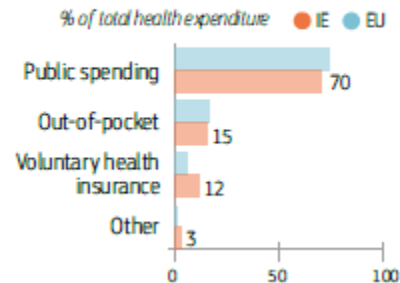
- Health Act guarantees:
 - Free Hospital care to all
 - Free General medical services to means tested group (approx. 40%)
 - For most totally free but for around 5-10% it is only for GP visit
 - Rest pay privately for GP and community services
- Medical Insurance
 - Primarily for hospital care

Irish Health Care System

Demographic and socioeconomic context in Ireland, 2015			
		Ireland	EU
Demographic factors	Population size (thousands)	4 676	509 394
	Share of population over age 65 (%)	13.0	18.9
	Fertility rate ¹	1.9	1.6
Socioeconomic factors	GDP per capita (EUR PPP ²)	51 100	28 900
	Relative poverty rate ³ (%)	8.8	10.8
	Unemployment rate (%)	9.4	9.4

Irish Health Care System

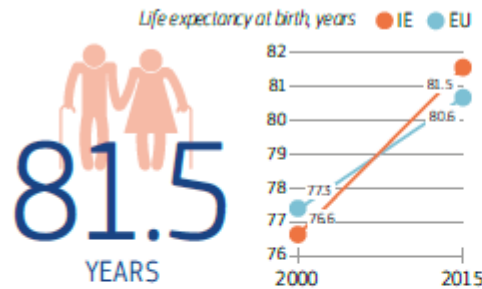
Health system



Health spending per capita in Ireland is higher than in most other EU countries. In 2015, Ireland spent EUR 3 939 per head on health care (7.8% of GDP), compared to the EU average of EUR 2 797. Around 70% of health spending is publicly-funded, which is well below the EU average. Out-of-pocket payments (15%) and voluntary health insurance (12%) also cover important parts of health spending.

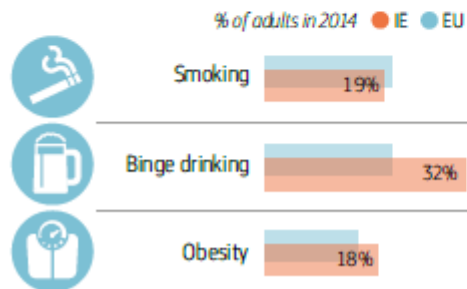
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Health status



Life expectancy at birth in Ireland was 81.5 years in 2015, up from 76.6 years in 2000 and slightly above the EU average. Women still generally live longer than men but this gap has narrowed in the last 15 years. Life expectancy gains are mainly the result of a steady reduction of premature deaths from cardiovascular diseases. Yet, ischaemic heart diseases are still the leading cause of death, followed by lung cancer and dementia.

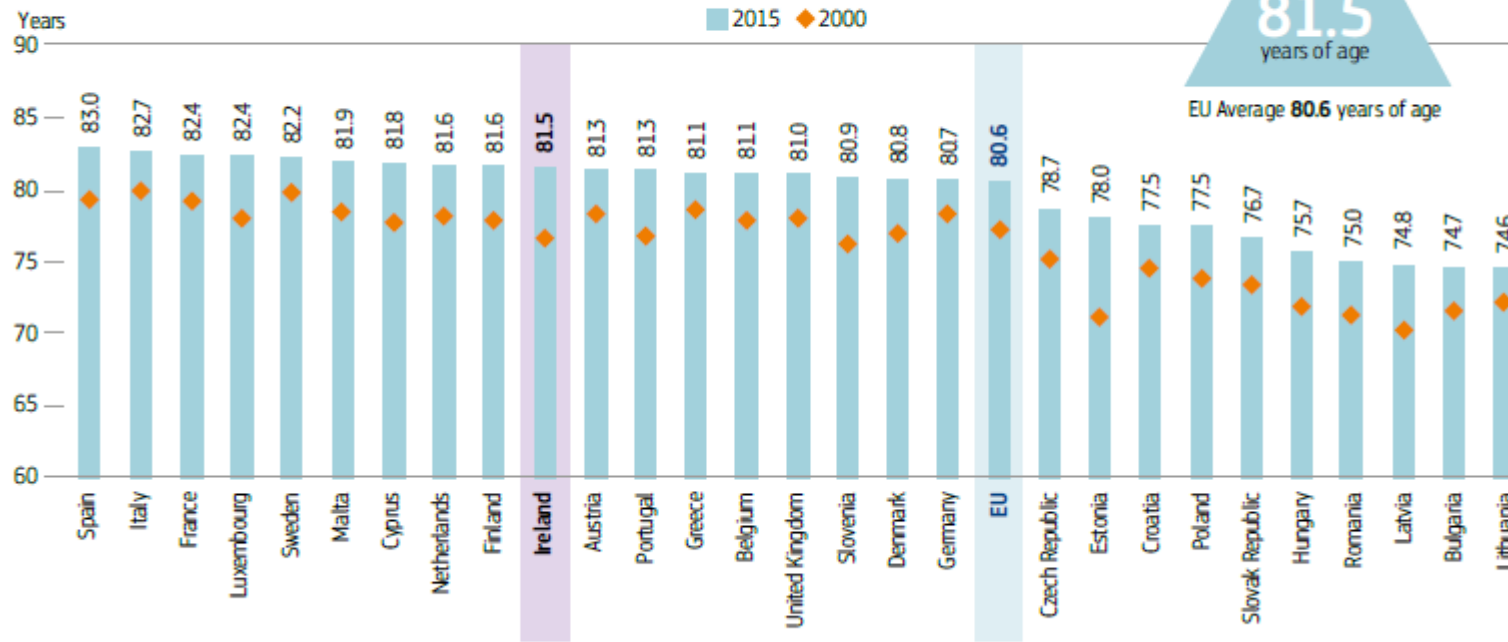
Risk factors



In 2015, 19% of adults in Ireland smoked tobacco every day, down from 24% in 2008. Excessive alcohol consumption was well above the EU average, with 32% of adults reporting having had at least six drinks in a single occasion each month in 2014. Obesity is an issue in Ireland: 18% of adults are obese based on self-reported data (and nearly one in four, 23%, based on actual measures of height and weight).

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Figure 1. Life expectancy in Ireland is increasing faster than the EU average



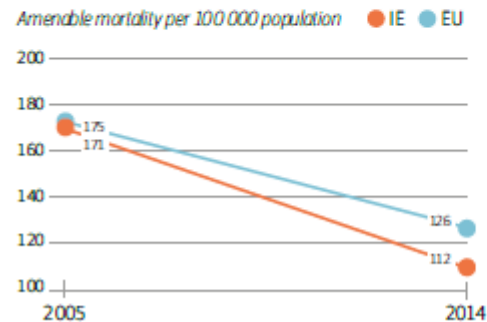
Source: Eurostat Database

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Health system performance

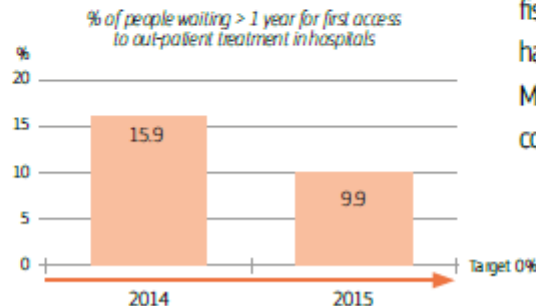
Effectiveness

Amenable mortality in Ireland is below the EU average, indicating that the health care system is relatively effective in treating people with life-threatening conditions.



Access

Ireland currently has no universal coverage for primary care representing a barrier to access for these services. Long waiting times for secondary care are also an important issue.



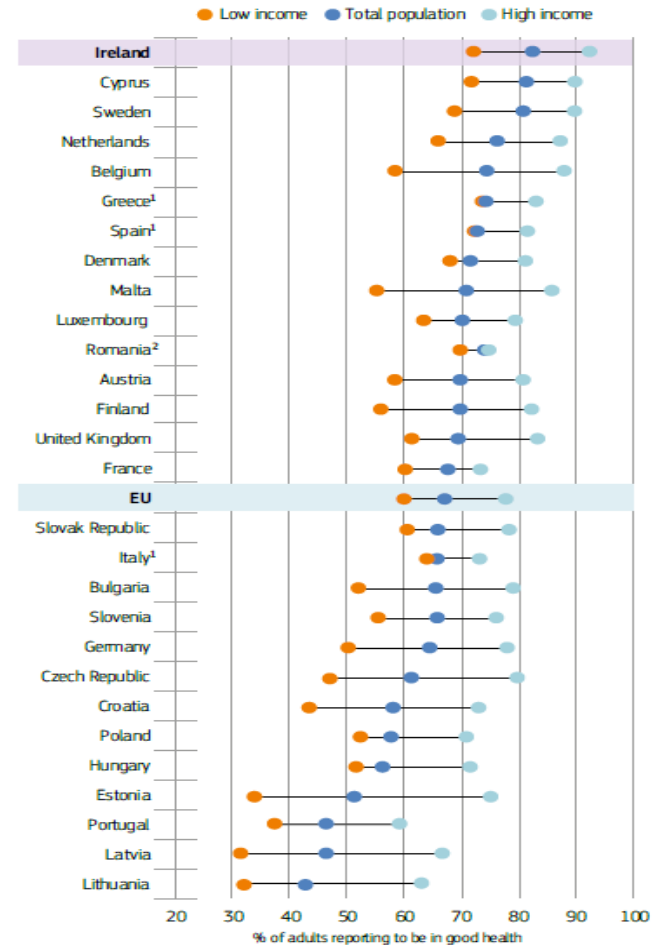
Resilience

Ireland struggled to maintain levels of health services throughout the financial crisis. Budget cuts and shortcomings in fiscal governance caused overruns, which have continued to grow in recent years. Moving care to its appropriate setting could assist in improving efficiency.



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Figure 4. Most Irish people report being in good health, although there are disparities by income group



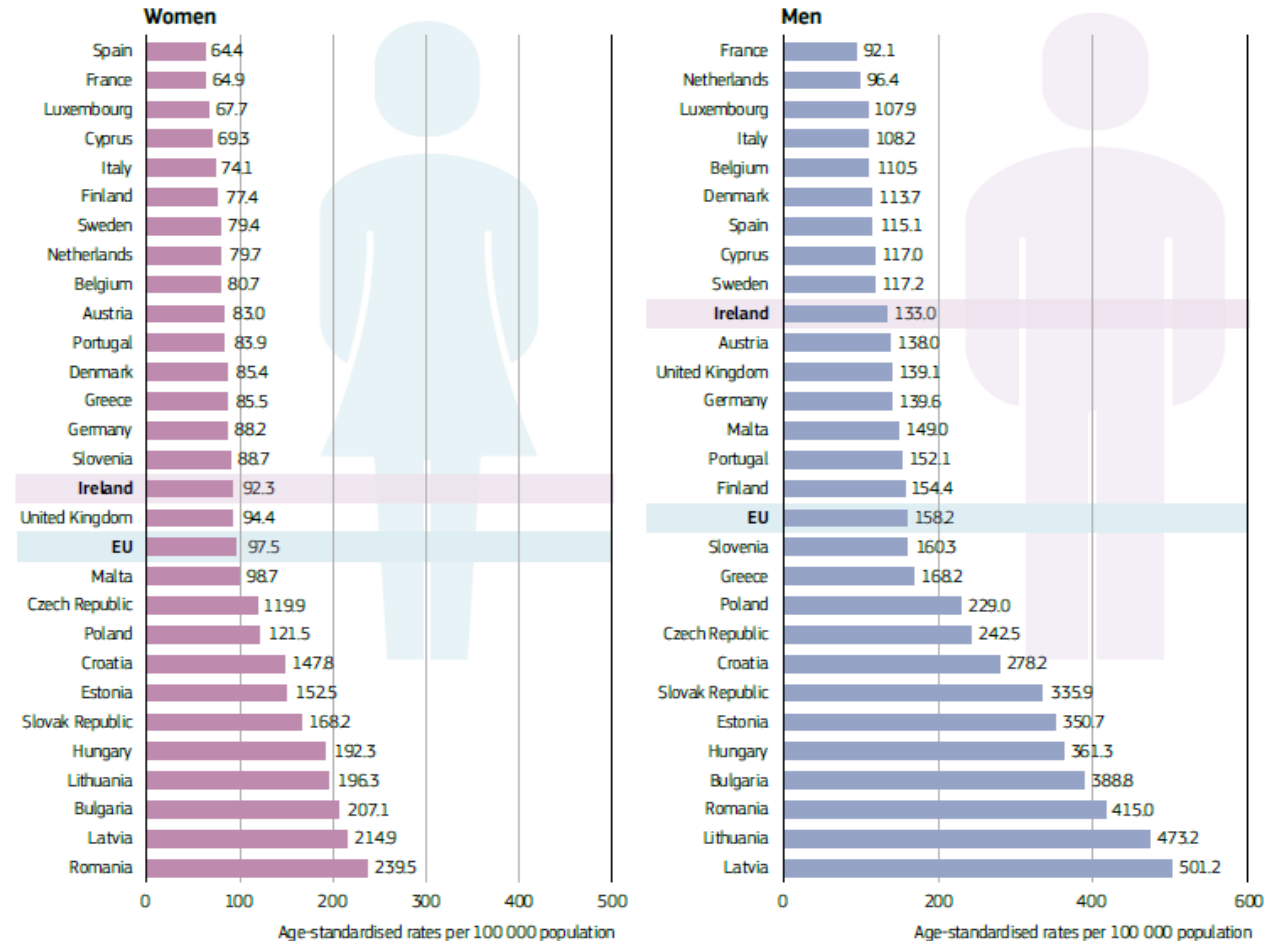
1. The shares for the total population and the low-income population are roughly the same.

2. The shares for the total population and the high-income population are roughly the same.

Source: Eurostat Database, based on EU-SILC (data refer to 2015).

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Figure 8. Amenable mortality rates in Ireland are below the EU average



Source: Eurostat Database (data refer to 2014).

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Ireland is the only Western European country that does not offer universal coverage of primary care

Relatively low capacity contributes to long waiting times



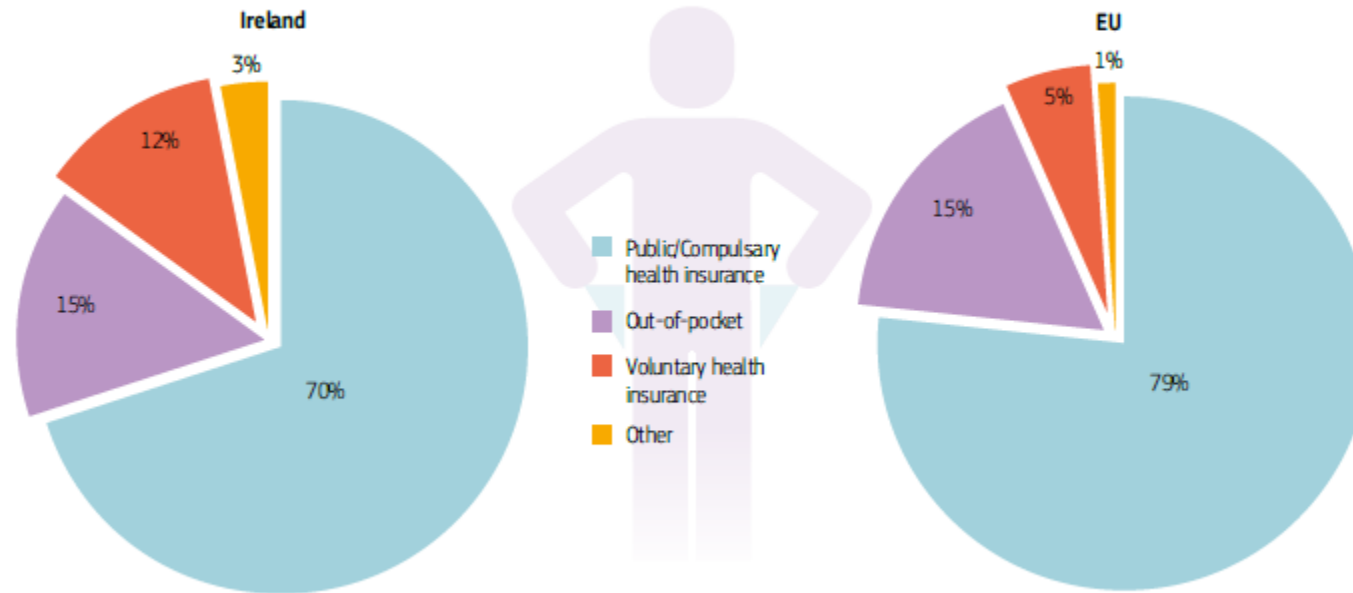
Voluntary health insurance plays an important role to get faster access to care



Out-of-pocket payment is rising due to cost-containment measures taken during the financial crisis

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Figure 11. Public share of health spending is lower in Ireland than the EU average



Sources: OECD Health Statistics, Eurostat Database (data refer to 2015).

Irish Health Care System

- Health System
 - Public
 - Private
 - "Voluntary Sector"

Irish Health Care System

- Health System - Public
 - DoH and HSE
 - Regulators

Irish Health Care System

- Health System - Public
 - HSE
 - 7 Hospital Groups
 - 9 Community Health Organisations
 - National Services
 - Public Health
 - Environmental Health
 - Screening
 - Ambulance
 - Corporate

Irish Health Care System

- Health System - Public
 - Primary care
 - GPs
 - Dentists
 - Pharmacists
 - Opticians

Irish Health Care System

- Health System - Private
 - Private Hospitals
 - GPs
 - Dentists
 - Pharmacists
 - Therapists
 - Social care