

Vienna Health Report: Key findings

- Vienna's population has grown markedly between 2015 and 2023, exceeding 2 million late 2023.
- The Viennese generally rate their lives as good. On average, quality of life received 76 out of 100 points in 2019. Life satisfaction received 7.7 out of 10 points in 2022 (on a slightly different answer scale). However, low-income earners and people from non-EU-countries score lower.
- Most Viennese people describe their state of health as good or very good. However, at 70.5% in 2022, this proportion had fallen significantly from 78.8% in 2014.
- Between 2014 and 2022, healthy life expectancy of Viennese people fell (to just under 60 years). Previously, it had been increasing since the 1990s.
- During the reporting period, mortality in Vienna fell until 2019, but increased thereafter. This is due to COVID-19 deaths.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic (2020-2022), there were repeated phases of significant excess mortality in Vienna. This particularly affected Viennese people aged 65 and over.
- In contrast, mortality from many non-communicable diseases such as heart diseases, strokes and certain types of cancer fell during the reporting period.
- The rate of new cases of common types of cancer (e.g. lung, colon, and breast) has decreased.
- In 2022, health-related limitations in everyday life affected 28% of Vienna's population. This proportion has remained roughly stable since 2014, while it has fallen to the same level across Austria.
- At 39.5%, the proportion of chronically ill people in Vienna was slightly above the Austrian figure in 2022. In 2014, both figures were still at the same level of around 36%.
- The majority of Viennese people aged 60 and over are affected by one or more chronic diseases. In 2019, 16.0% suffered from diabetes mellitus and 11.1% from COPD.
- Compared with men, women report certain health problems more frequently, including pain, depression and urinary incontinence.
- Women rate their physical and mental well-being lower than men. In 2022, their healthy life expectancy was shorter than that of men. Their 30-day mortality rate after hospitalisation for heart attack or stroke was higher during the entire reporting period.
- Men have a lower life expectancy (almost 5 years). They contract potentially fatal diseases more frequently or earlier. They are more likely to be injured in accidents at work. Their health behaviour (meat and vegetable consumption, daily smoking, alcohol) is worse.
- 10.2% of Viennese people reported depression in 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic also had a negative psychological impact on 49.1%. That is more than in Austria generally.
- In 2022, daily fruit and vegetable consumption (41.9%) and abstinence from alcohol (35.2%) were reported more frequently than in surveys from 2019 and 2014.
- Overweight (33.5%) and obesity (18.1%) affected a larger proportion of Vienna's population in 2022 than in 2014 or earlier.
- A minority (40.2%) of Viennese people rate the social support they receive from others as high. The figure is even lower for older people and those with health problems.
- Comparisons among the federal states show a mixed picture for Vienna. The number of suicides is in the lower range, while infant mortality is generally in the upper range.
- A growing proportion of residents makes use of general preventive screenings every year. In 2022, 19.1% of women and 16.8% of men did this – compared to 14.2% and 13.2% in 2015.
- The majority of residents aged 60 and over have made use of age-appropriate preventive screenings at least once in their lives. However, almost 50% have never had a colonoscopy or they had their last one more than 5 years ago.
- The number of statutory health insurance doctors (general practitioners and specialists) fell steadily between 2015 and 2023, while the number of elective doctors increased.
- In 2022, around 80% of people living in Vienna report visiting doctors in their practice during the last 12 months – with the exception of younger-aged men. They generally do this less often.
- Decreases in hospitalisations and the length of hospital stays have made it possible to reduce the number of hospital beds in most areas (with exceptions, such as in intensive care medicine).
- In the future, specialised medical facilities will increasingly provide certain routine services in order to relieve hospitals.

