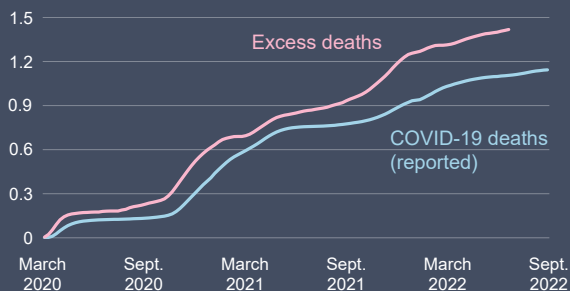


The severe human cost of COVID-19

Over 1.1 million people in the EU have died from COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic, and excess mortality has been even higher.

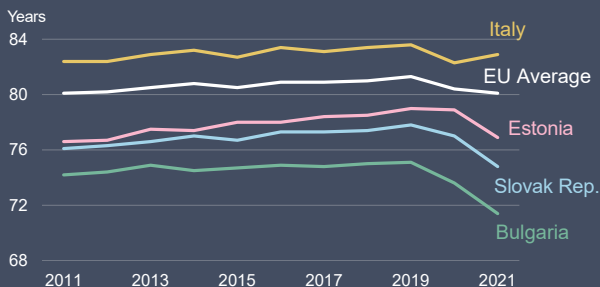
Cumulative number of deaths across EU countries, millions



Source: ECDC (COVID-19 deaths) and OECD based on Eurostat (excess deaths)

COVID-19 has reduced life expectancy in almost all European countries

Between 2019 and 2021, life expectancy in the EU fell by more than a year, reaching levels last seen a decade ago. Some countries experienced even larger declines.

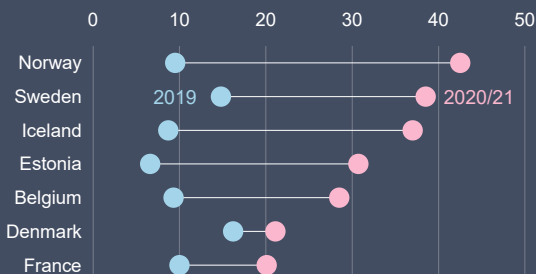


Source: Eurostat

The pandemic had a major impact on young people's mental health

The rate of depressive symptoms among young people (18-29) more than doubled in several countries.

% of young people with depressive symptoms, 2019 vs 2020/21

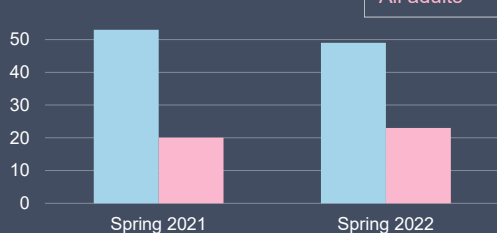


Source: National surveys, see Figure 1.1 for methodology

Too many young people are not receiving the mental health support they need

Around half of young people (18-29) in the EU reported unmet needs for mental health care services in spring 2021 and spring 2022, more than double the share for all adults.

% of respondents in the EU reporting unmet needs for mental health care



Source: Eurofound

The pandemic has disrupted health services for non-COVID patients



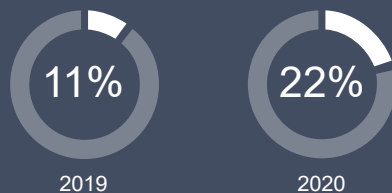
The number of surgical procedures across EU countries was 16% lower in 2020 compared to 2019 (i.e. 1 in 6 people didn't get surgery). These missing interventions have contributed to longer waiting times.



Source: OECD Health Statistics 2022

Teleconsultations helped offset the drop of in-person visits to the doctor

The share of teleconsultations doubled during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, from 11% in 2019 to 22% in 2020 (on average across EU countries).



Source: Health at a Glance: Europe 2022