



PRESS RELEASE

IPSOS GLOBAL HEALTH SERVICE MONITOR

Mental health is now the number one health problem, ahead of cancer and coronavirus.

48% across 31 countries say the quality of the healthcare in their country is good – but the picture is inconsistent.

Mental health is the top health concern for people across 31 countries, moving ahead of previous years' top concerns like cancer and coronavirus.

Drawing on five years of trend data, the Ipsos Global Health Service Monitor explores changes in the biggest health concerns, how people perceive the quality of their country's healthcare systems and the biggest challenges facing healthcare providers around the world.

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Key findings:

- Across 31 countries, 48% describe the healthcare system in their country as good, while 20% say it is poor.
- 62% say their healthcare system is overstretched. Concerns are highest in France (82%) and Great Britain (81%).
- Mental health is now seen as the number one health concern. In 2020 only 26% said mental health was one of the biggest health problems in their country; in 2023 it's 44%.
- Mental health is a greater concern for women and worry is higher across all generations compared to their male counterparts.
- Additionally stress as an issue is on the rise. 30% say it is one of the biggest problems in their country, up from 26% last year.
- Cancer is the second highest concern, with 40% saying it is a big problem. This is down from 52% before the pandemic.

Simon Atkinson, Chief Knowledge Officer, Ipsos said: "Since we started asking people what they think the biggest health issues are in their country back in 2018, concern about mental health has been on the rise. In 2018 only 27% thought it was a big issue for their country's healthcare system; now that figure is 44%, with worries about stress rising in parallel.

"In terms of coronavirus, while there does seem to be worry about the virus in Asia, the rest of the world has moved on. Only 15% think it is a big issue in 2023, behind alcohol abuse and heart disease. We can reflect on whether the increased concerns about mental health and stress are Covid's enduring legacy.

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“People are broadly happy with the quality of the healthcare they receive in their country. In all but four markets people are more likely to describe their healthcare system as good rather than poor. However, many in Europe in particular feel like their system is overstretched.”

Biggest health problems

Across 31 countries, people put mental health as the top health concern facing their country. Since the beginning of this survey in 2018, mental health worries have increased by 17 percentage points (pp), with over two-fifths (44%) worried. Additionally, worries about stress (now mentioned by 30% as an issue) are on the rise. It is now third in our list behind cancer (40%).

In Sweden and Chile, two-thirds feel that mental health is one of the biggest health problems facing their country. Canada, Spain and Australia make up the top five.

Looking at the other health concerns, India is most worried about cancer (59%), while South Koreans have the highest level of concern about stress (44%). In Mexico six in ten (62%) say obesity is a big problem with Chile second with 49%.

Looking at the differences between men and women, we find overall that men are significantly less concerned over mental health in their country than women (38% vs. 50%). And we see a similar pattern for cancer and stress. 44% of women say they worry about cancer, compared to 37% of men; 33% of women highlight stress, while 27% of men say it is an issue.

Quality of healthcare

People are mostly satisfied with the quality of their country’s healthcare system. All but four of the 31 countries surveyed – Poland, Hungary, Peru and Brazil – describe the quality of the healthcare they receive as very good or good.

Singaporeans are the most positive about their healthcare system, with 71% saying it is very good/good. Switzerland is second with 68% happy with the level of service they receive.

However, a majority in 25 countries say their healthcare system is overstretched. This goes as high as four-fifths in both France and Great Britain. Brits have always perceived their system as overworked, however the French have been gradually becoming more pessimistic, rising 12pp since 2018. France is also highest for thinking their country’s healthcare system does not have enough staff.

The only country that doesn’t think their country’s healthcare system is overstretched is Poland, where 41% don’t see it as a problem (vs. 27% who do).

A third of people globally think their country’s healthcare system does not provide the same standard of care to everyone. This sentiment is strongest in 12 countries – Hungary, Poland, Chile, Colombia, the US, Germany, Peru, Ireland, South Africa, Mexico, Brazil, Turkey – where people are more likely than not to say this is the case.



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About the Study

These are the results of a 31-country survey conducted by Ipsos on its Global Advisor online platform and, in India, on its IndiaBus platform, between Friday, July 21 and Friday, August 4, 2023. For this survey, Ipsos interviewed a total of 23,274 adults aged 18 years and older in India, 18-74 in Canada, Republic of Ireland, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa, Turkey, and the United States, 20-74 in Thailand, 21-74 in Indonesia and Singapore, and 16-74 in all other countries.

The sample consists of approximately 1,000 individuals each in Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, Spain, and the U.S., and 500 individuals each in Argentina, Belgium, Chile, Colombia, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and Turkey.

The sample in India consists of approximately 2,200 individuals, of whom approximately 1,800 were interviewed face-to-face and 400 were interviewed online.

Samples in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the U.S. can be considered representative of their general adult populations under the age of 75.

Samples in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Indonesia, Ireland, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, and Turkey are more urban, more educated, and/or more affluent than the general population. The survey results for these countries should be viewed as reflecting the views of the more “connected” segment of their population.

India’s sample represents a large subset of its urban population — social economic classes A, B and C in metros and tier 1-3 town classes across all four zones.

The data is weighted so that the composition of each country’s sample best reflects the demographic profile of the adult population according to the most recent census data.

“The Global Country Average” reflects the average result for all the countries and markets in which the survey was conducted. It has not been adjusted to the population size of each country or market and is not intended to suggest a total result.

When percentages do not sum up to 100 or the ‘difference’ appears to be +/-1 percentage point more/less than the actual result, this may be due to rounding, multiple responses, or the exclusion of “don’t know” or not stated responses.

The precision of Ipsos online polls is calculated using a credibility interval with a poll where N=1,000 being accurate to +/- 3.5 percentage points and of where N=500 being accurate to +/- 5.0 percentage points. For more information on Ipsos’ use of credibility intervals, please visit the Ipsos website.

The publication of these findings abides by local rules and regulations.

For more information, please contact:

Jamie Stinson
Content Director, Ipsos Knowledge Centre, U.K.
Jamie.Stinson@ipsos.com



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About Ipsos

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Our passionately curious research professionals, analysts, and scientists have built unique multi-specialist capabilities that provide true understanding and powerful insights into the actions, opinions, and motivations of citizens, consumers, patients, customers, or employees. We serve more than 5000 clients across the world with 75 business solutions.

Founded in France in 1975, Ipsos is listed on the Euronext Paris since July 1st, 1999. The company is part of the SBF 120 and the Mid-60 index and is eligible for the Deferred Settlement Service (SRD).

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