



Swiss Health Survey

Description

The Swiss Health Survey (SHS) provides information on the population's state of health, health behaviours and use of healthcare services. The Federal Statistical Office (FSO) has carried out this survey every five years since 1992.

Published results:

- **State of health**
General state of health, diseases and health problems, cardiovascular diseases, physical problems, mental health issues, use of medicines, dental health (every 10 years), activity limitations and functional health
- **Health behaviours and determinants**
Physical activity, diet, overweight, alcohol, tobacco and drug consumption, professional situation
- **Use of health services**
Doctors' consultations, treatment of mental health problems, allied health services, complementary medicine, hospitalisation, home care services, informal care, preventive check-ups, cancer screening, vaccination, contraception, organ donation

Methodology

Methodology used:

Sample survey of persons whose addresses were selected at random from the sample register of the FSO. This register contains data from the official registers of persons, namely the population registers of the cantons and communes.

The survey covers members of the resident population aged 15 and over living in private households.

From 1992 to 2022, SHS consisted of a telephone interview followed up by a written questionnaire (online or on paper). Face-to-face interviews were also carried out with respondents who were unable to access the survey for health or age-related reasons.

From 2027, the Swiss Health Survey will be conducted as a mixed-mode (online or telephone) survey.

Survey period:

Since 1992, every five years, from January to December

Frequency of publication:

Every five years; the initial results are published about 12 months after completion of the survey.

Basic Sample sizes:

1992 and 1997: Basic sample of 12 000 interviews plus any expansion of the sample by the cantons

From 2002: Basic sample of 10 000 interviews plus any expansion of the sample by the cantons

Interviews completed:

1992 to 1997: around 15 000 interviews

2002 to 2007: around 19 000 interviews

2012 to 2022: around 22 000 interviews

Weighting:

The published data is weighted according to the total number of people resident in Switzerland (aged 15 and over, living in private households).

When interpreting the data, it is important to consider that results derived from a limited number of observations may be subject to significant random error. Findings derived from fewer than 30 observations are presented in brackets and findings derived from fewer than 10 observations are not published.

Variables used:

- State of health (illnesses, physical disorders, mental health, limitations etc.)
- Health determinants (physical activity, nutrition, body mass index, tobacco, alcohol and drug consumption etc.)
- Use of health system services (doctor's consultations, hospital stays, check-ups, cancer screening, allied health services, home care services)
- Receiving and providing informal care or assistance, social support
- Housing conditions
- Professional situation (employment, profession, economic sector, working conditions, workload)

Degree of regionalisation:

Switzerland, major regions, linguistic regions and cantons that have increased the density of their cantonal samples

Data linkage:

- Population and Household Statistics (STATPOP)
- Business and Enterprise Register (BER)
- Buildings and Dwellings statistic (BDS)

Policy on revisions**Routine revisions:**

Questionnaire updated prior to each survey

Methodological revisions:

Methodological revisions (e.g. revision of sources) are undertaken as needed.

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Legal bases

- Ordinance of 30 April 2025 on Federal Statistics (SR 431.011)
- Ordinance of 19 December 2008 on the Federal Population Census (Census ordinance, SR 431.112.1)

Organisation**Federal Statistical Office (FSO)**

in collaboration with a specialised survey institute

Information:

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