The 16 countries with the world's best healthcare systems

Will Martin (/Authors/W/Will-Martin/) | 🕐 13 Jan 2017 9:19 AM | 🔥 185365

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Paddling Rahpaädno delta, Rapadalen, Northern Sweden.

The Legatum Institute, a London-based research institute underlined released its 10th annual global Prosperity Index in November, (https://lif.blob.core.windows.net/lif/docs/default-source/publications/2016-legatum-prosperity-index-pdf.pdf?sfvrsn=2) a huge survey that ranks the most prosperous countries in the world.

The organisation compares 104 variables to come up with its list, splitting those variables into nine subindexes. One of the big components of the ranking is how healthy a country's people are.

Health is measured by three key components by the Legatum Institute: a country's basic mental and physical health, health infrastructure, and the availability of preventative care.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the countries that have the best scores in the Prosperity Index, and therefore rank as the world's healthiest, are generally big, developed economies with large amounts of resources.

Britain — whose NHS pioneered free at the point of use healthcare globally — misses out on this list, finishing 20th in the Legatum Institute's health sub-index.

Take a look at the top 16 countries below:

16. Canada — Canada's 1984 Health Act entrenches in law the country's system of free at the point of access healthcare, known as Medicare. Canada's system is not perfect however, and in recent years the number of Canadians going south for private care in the USA has grown.

The Erie Otters ice hockey team sit on the bench during the first period of an OHL game against the Niagara IceDogs at the Meridian Centre on October 6, 2016 in St Catherine's, Ontario, Canada.

15. Qatar — The best standards of health in the Middle East can be found in the wealthy nation of Qatar. The nation has recently taken steps to implement a universal healthcare system across the entire country.

Pupils at the Amna Mahmoud Al Jeddah Primary Independant School for Girls wait for the arrival of the Duchess of Cornwall on day four of the Royal tour to the Middle East in Doha, Qatar.

14. France — Famed for the quality of its health services, it is not surprising to see France close to the top of the pile. The country's average life expectancy is 82.

France is welcoming British finance firms with open arms.

13. Norway — Norway, along with its Scandinavian counterparts, often comes close to global quality of life rankings, and one reason is the health of its citizens. The country's healthcare system is free for children under 16, but adults must pay for services. The country spends more per person on healthcare than any other country on earth.

A group of school children perform their Haka for the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall at the Bukekura Park in New Plymouth, New Zealand.

11. Belgium — With an average age of 81.1, Belgium's life expectancy is just outside the world's top 20. The country has universal healthcare, but also requires mandatory health insurance for all citizens.

10. Germany — Despite a love of beer and sausages, Germans are some of the world's healthiest people. The country's average life expectancy is 81.

Visitors enjoy a beer during the opening day of the 181st Oktoberfest in Munich September 20, 2014.

9. Israel — Israel is the highest ranked of any Middle Eastern state on the Legatum Institute's health sub-index, and the country has the 8th highest life expectancy on the planet, 82.5 years.

Israelis watch a fireworks show during celebrations marking Israel's 68th Independence Day in the southern city of Ashkelon, May 11, 2016. REUTERS/Amir Cohen

7. Hong Kong — The tiny city-state of Hong Kong has 11 private and 42 public hospitals to serve its population of just over 7.2 million people. In 2012, women in Hong Kong had the longest average life expectancy of any demographic on earth.

Graduated students of Hong Kong Polytechnic University have their pictures taken in front of a wall with messages of support for the pro-democracy movement in the part of Hong Kong's financial central district protesters are occupying October 31, 2014.

Reuters/Damir Sagolj

6. Sweden — As with most quality of life and health rankings, northern European countries like Sweden score highly. Swedish men have the 4th highest life expectancy of any nation, living to an average of 80.7 years.

Sarah Sjostrom, Michelle Coleman, Jennie Johansson and Louise Hansson of Sweden celebrate winning the silver medal in the Women's 4x100m Medley Relay Final on day sixteen of the 16th FINA World Championships at the Kazan Arena on August 9, 2015 in Kazan, Russia.
Getty

5. Netherlands — In 2015 the Netherlands gained the number one spot at the top of the annual Euro health consumer index, which compares healthcare systems in Europe, scoring 916 of a maximum 1,000 points

Farmworkers look for dead flowers in Dutch tulip fields in Noordwijk, the Netherlands April 24, 2010.

REUTERS/Michael Kooren

Reuters/POOL

3. Switzerland — Rich, beautiful, and incredibly healthy. Switzerland has pretty much all anyone could want from a country. Its healthcare service is universal and is based upon the mandatory holding of health insurance by all citizens.

Workers prepare a rink of shavings during the Federal Alpine Wrestling Festival (Eidgenoessisches Schwing- und Aelplerfest) in Estavayer-le-Lac August 28, 2016.

REUTERS/Ruben Sprich

2. Singapore — Another small city-state to make the top of the Prosperity Index's health sub-index. Singapore's 5.6 million citizens have an average life expectancy of 83.1 years old.

The skyline of Singapore's central business district is seen at dusk as operations continue at a PSA International port terminal in Singapore September 25, 2013. Connected to more than 600 ports in some 120 countries, Singapore is one of the world's busiest shipping hubs, and is often called the gateway to Asia. It plans to increase its total capacity dramatically as it competes with other massive ports in the region such as Shanghai, Hong Kong and Shenzhen in China and Busan in South Korea. Picture taken September 25, 2013.

1. Luxembourg — Nestled between Belgium, France, and Germany, the wealthy nation of Luxembourg tops the Legatum Institute's health sub-index. The country's average life expectancy is 82.
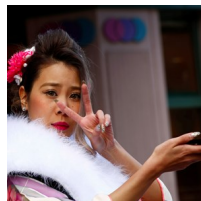
Luxembourg City in the winter.

Barbara Tasch

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