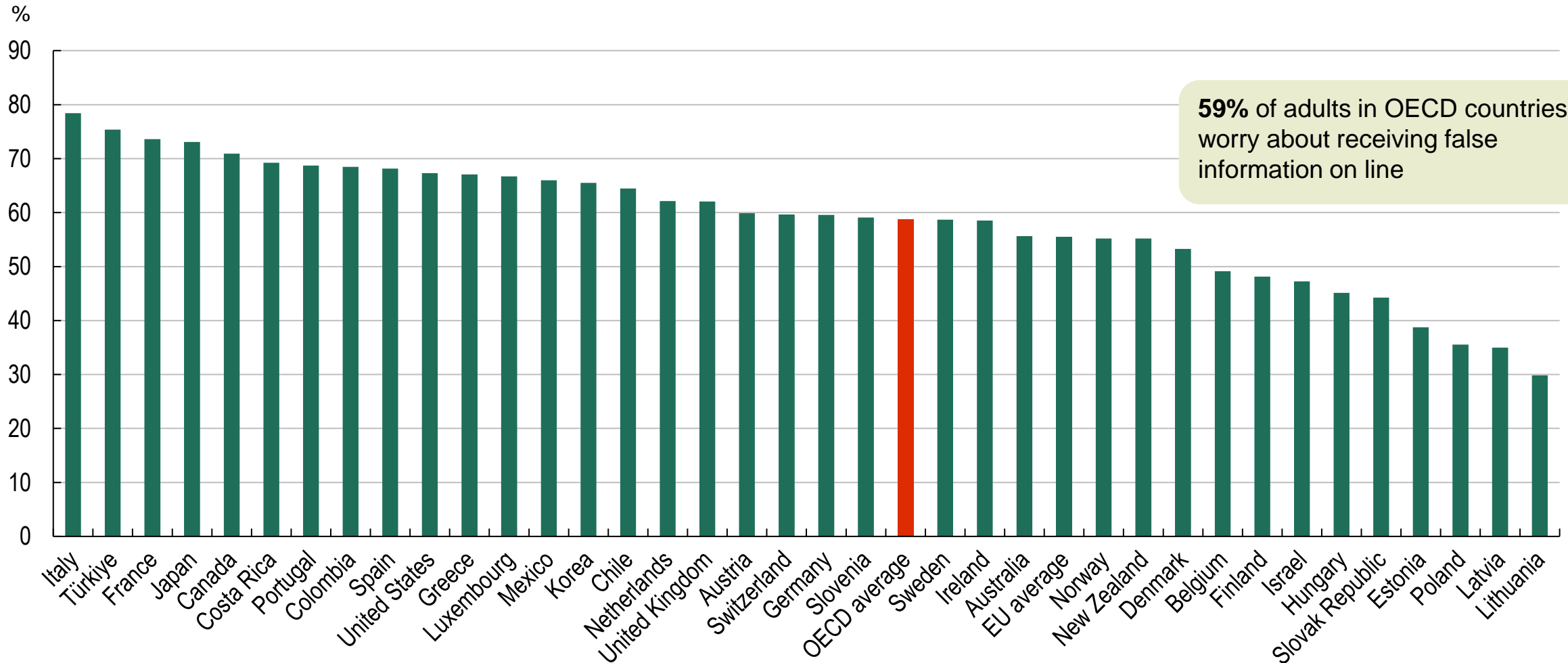# Many adults in OECD countries worry about receiving false information on line

Percentage of adults worrying about false online information and online fraud in OECD countries, 2019

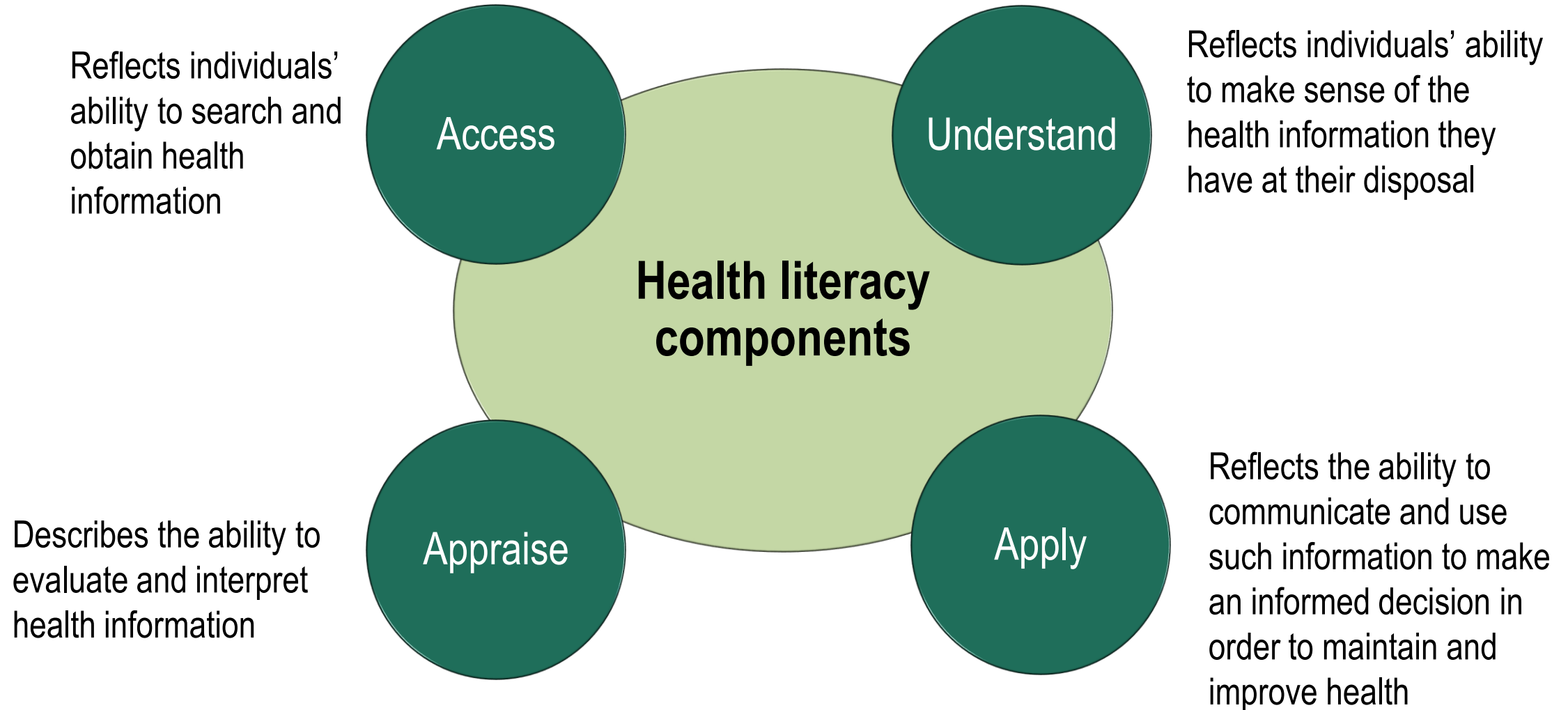**59%** of adults in OECD countries worry about receiving false information on line

Information-processing skills are critical in information-rich societies

Percentage of 16-65 year-olds who reached at most proficiency Level 1 in the PIAAC literacy and numeracy assessment in selected OECD countries


16% of adults in OECD countries participating in PIAAC had very low levels of proficiency in both literacy and numeracy

What is health literacy?

Reflects individuals' ability to search and obtain health information

Access

Reflects individuals' ability to make sense of the health information they have at their disposal

Understand

Health literacy components

Describes the ability to evaluate and interpret health information

Appraise

Apply

Reflects the ability to communicate and use such information to make an informed decision in order to maintain and improve health

Health literacy and engagement in physical activity

Differences in the percentage of adults who are heavily engaged in physical activity as a function of health literacy, by country

% point
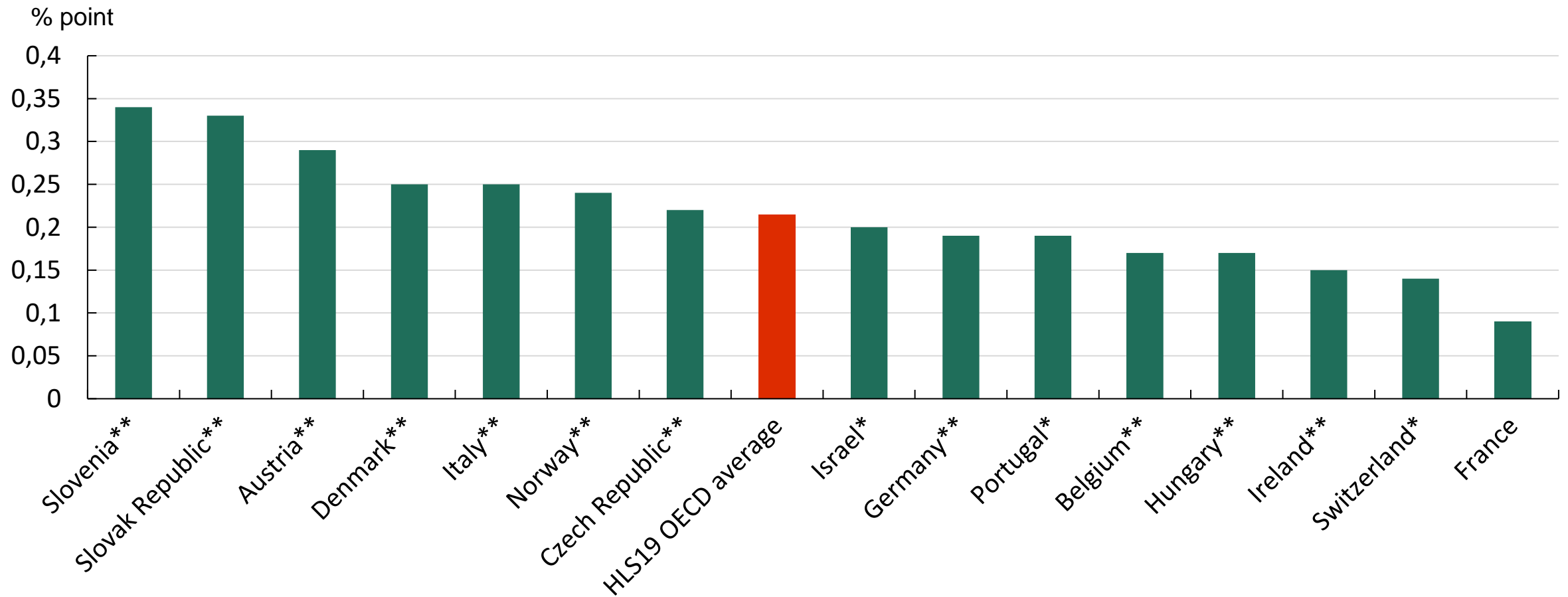
The vast majority of preventable deaths are caused by risk factors affected by levels of health literacy

Risk Factors

Share of total deaths caused by risk factors

Across OECD countries, health literacy has an impact on about 75% deaths caused by risk factors
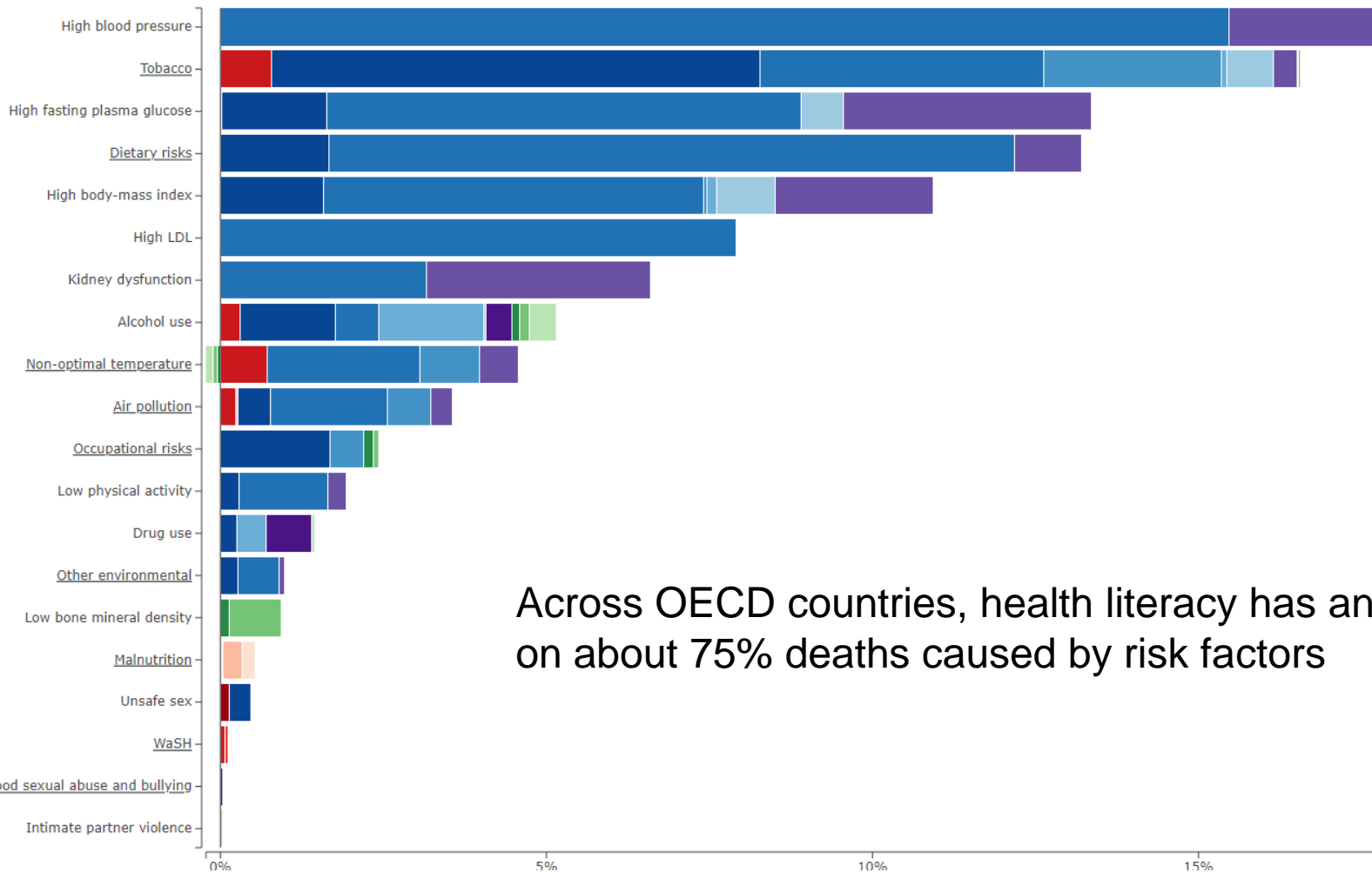
Legend:
- Self-harm & violence
- Unintentional inj
- Transport injuries
- Other non-communicable
- Musculoskeletal disorders
- Diabetes & CKD
- Substance use
- Neurological disorders
- Digestive diseases
- Chronic respiratory
- Cardiovascular diseases
- Neoplasms
- Nutritional deficiencies
- Maternal & neonatal
- Other infectious
- Enteric infections
- Respiratory infections & TB
- HIV/AIDS & STIs

Risk factors (y-axis): High blood pressure, Tobacco, High fasting plasma glucose, Dietary risks, High body-mass index, High LDL, Kidney dysfunction, Alcohol use, Non-optimal temperature, Air pollution, Occupational risks, Low physical activity, Drug use, Other environmental, Low bone mineral density, Malnutrition, Unsafe sex, WaSH, Childhood sexual abuse and bullying, Intimate partner violence

Scaling up interventions improving health literacy levels produces a significant health and economic impact

Cases of chronic diseases that can be avoided across EU27 before 2050
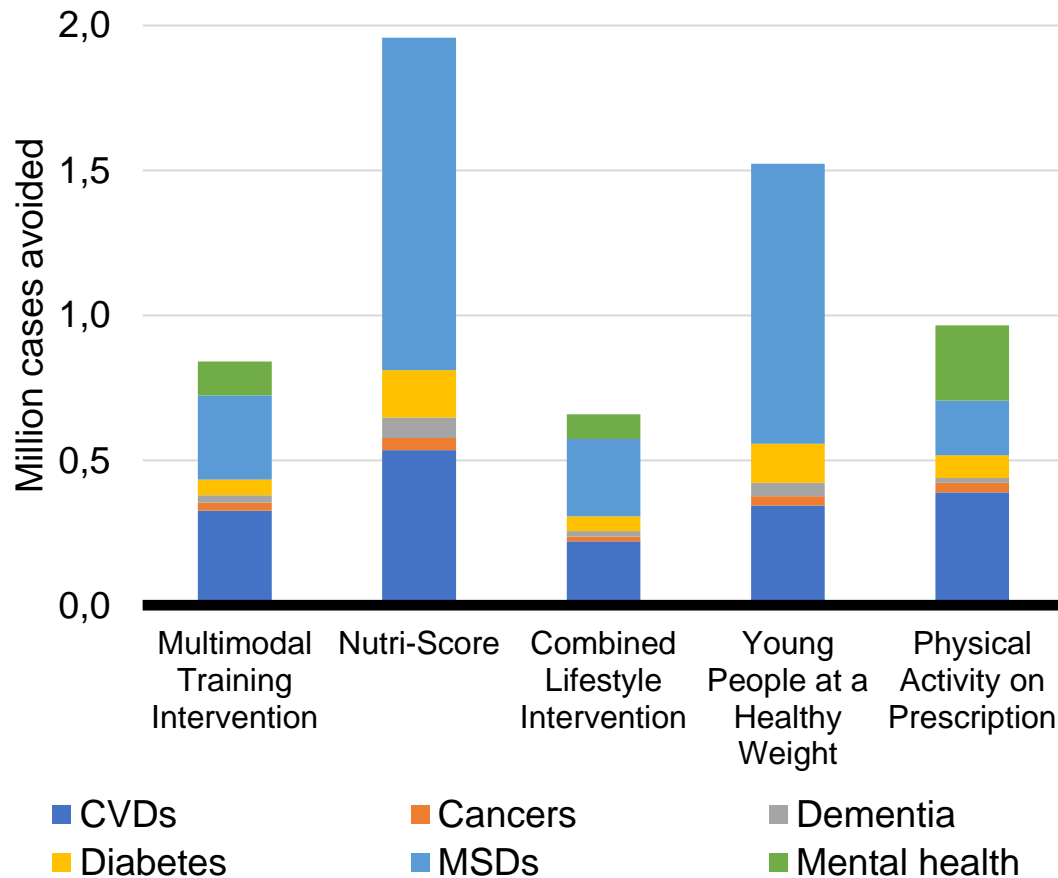
Health expenditure savings and workforce gains, Euros per capita per year across EU27

CVDs · Cancers · Dementia · Diabetes · MSDs · Mental health

Health expenditure savings · Labour market gains
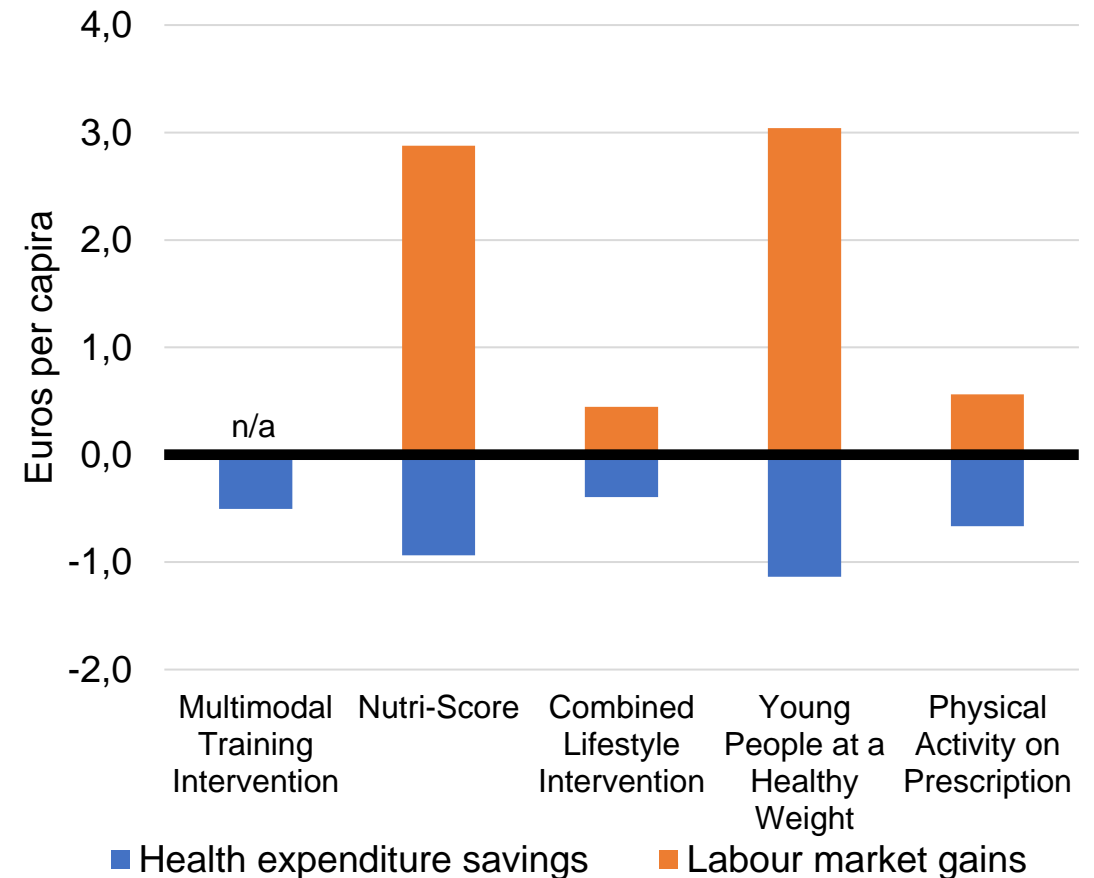
The distribution of health literacy in adult populations by task

Percentage of respondents who responded "very difficult" or "difficult" when asked to rate performing 12 health literacy tasks, selected OECD countries, 2019-20
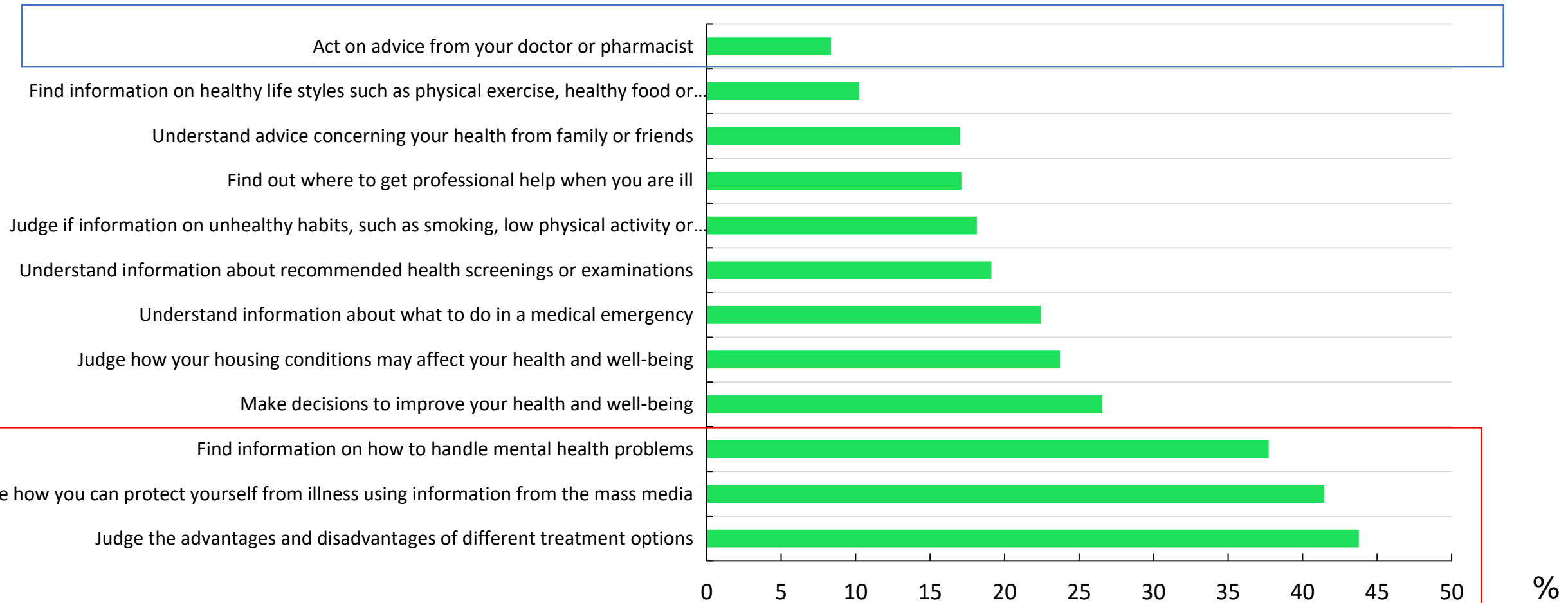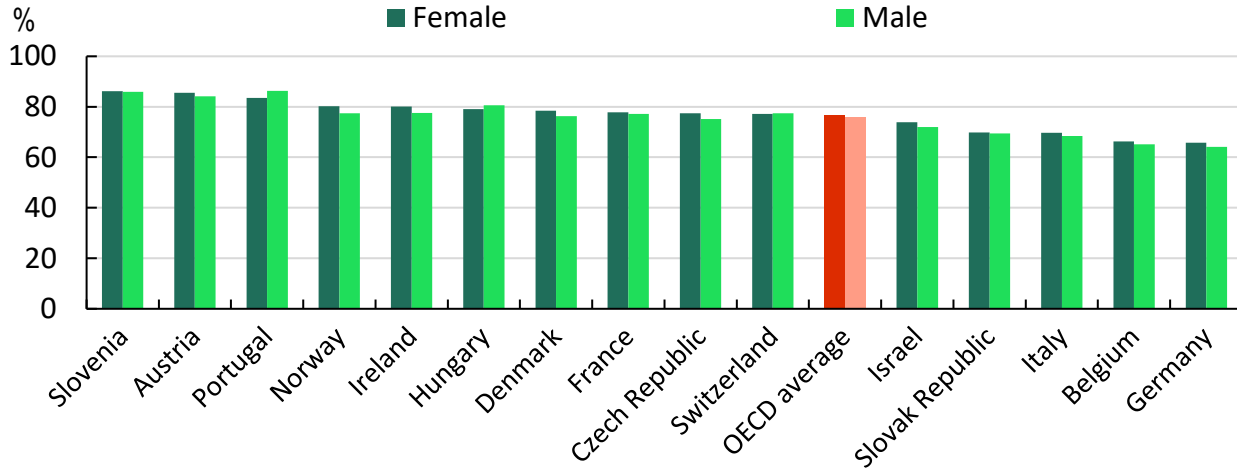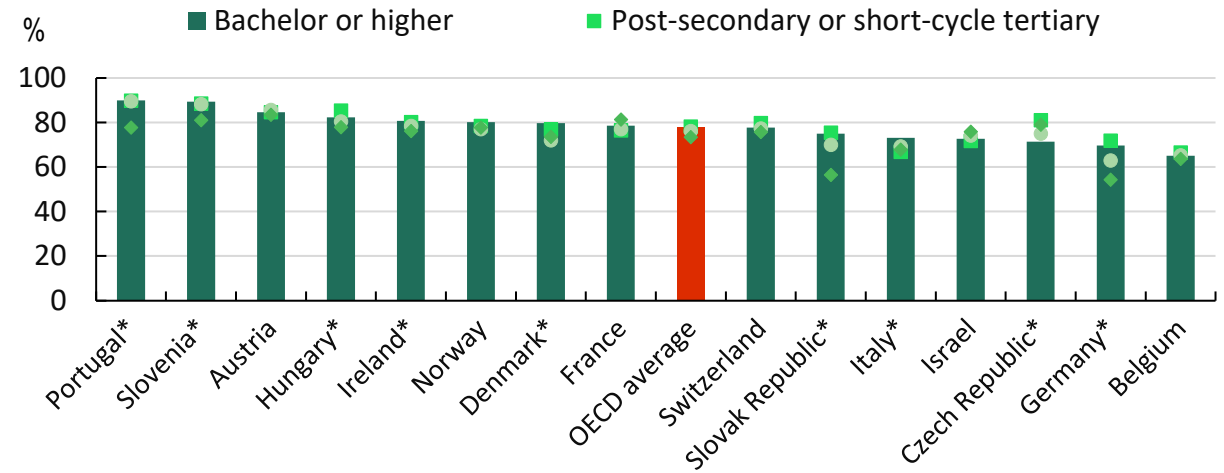
Health literacy varies little by most socio-economic characteristics

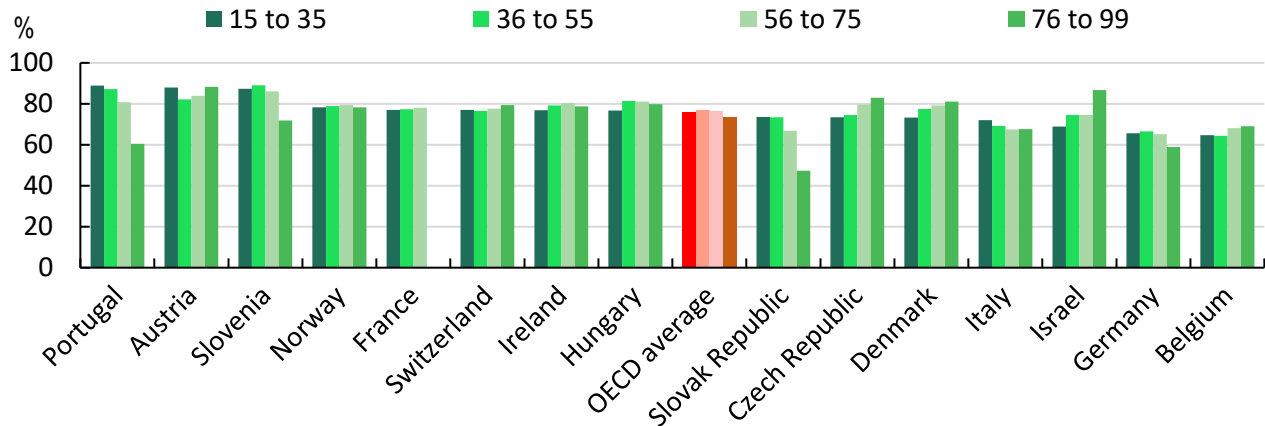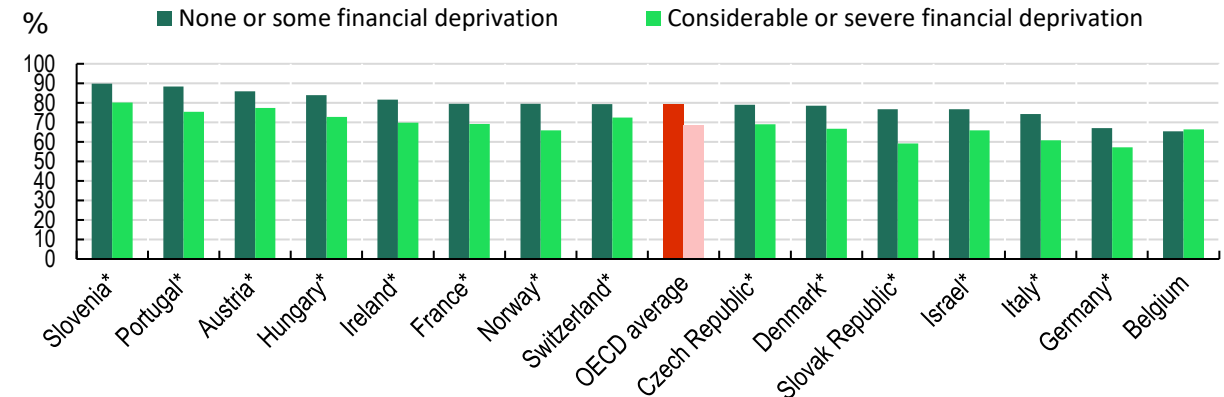## Mean score values of health literacy proficiency by:

Gender

Legend: Female, Male

Countries (left to right): Slovenia, Austria, Portugal, Norway, Ireland, Hungary, Denmark, France, Czech Republic, Switzerland, OECD average, Israel, Slovak Republic, Italy, Belgium, Germany

Education

Legend: Bachelor or higher, Post-secondary or short-cycle tertiary

Countries (left to right): Portugal*, Slovenia*, Austria, Hungary*, Ireland*, Norway, Denmark*, France, OECD average, Switzerland, Slovak Republic*, Italy*, Israel, Czech Republic*, Germany*, Belgium

Age

Legend: 15 to 35, 36 to 55, 56 to 75, 76 to 99

Countries (left to right): Portugal, Austria, Slovenia, Norway, France, Switzerland, Ireland, Hungary, OECD average, Slovak Republic, Czech Republic, Denmark, Italy, Israel, Germany, Belgium

Financial Deprivation

Legend: None or some financial deprivation, Considerable or severe financial deprivation

Countries (left to right): Slovenia*, Portugal*, Austria*, Hungary*, Ireland*, France*, Norway*, Switzerland*, OECD average, Czech Republic*, Denmark*, Slovak Republic*, Israel*, Italy*, Germany*, Belgium
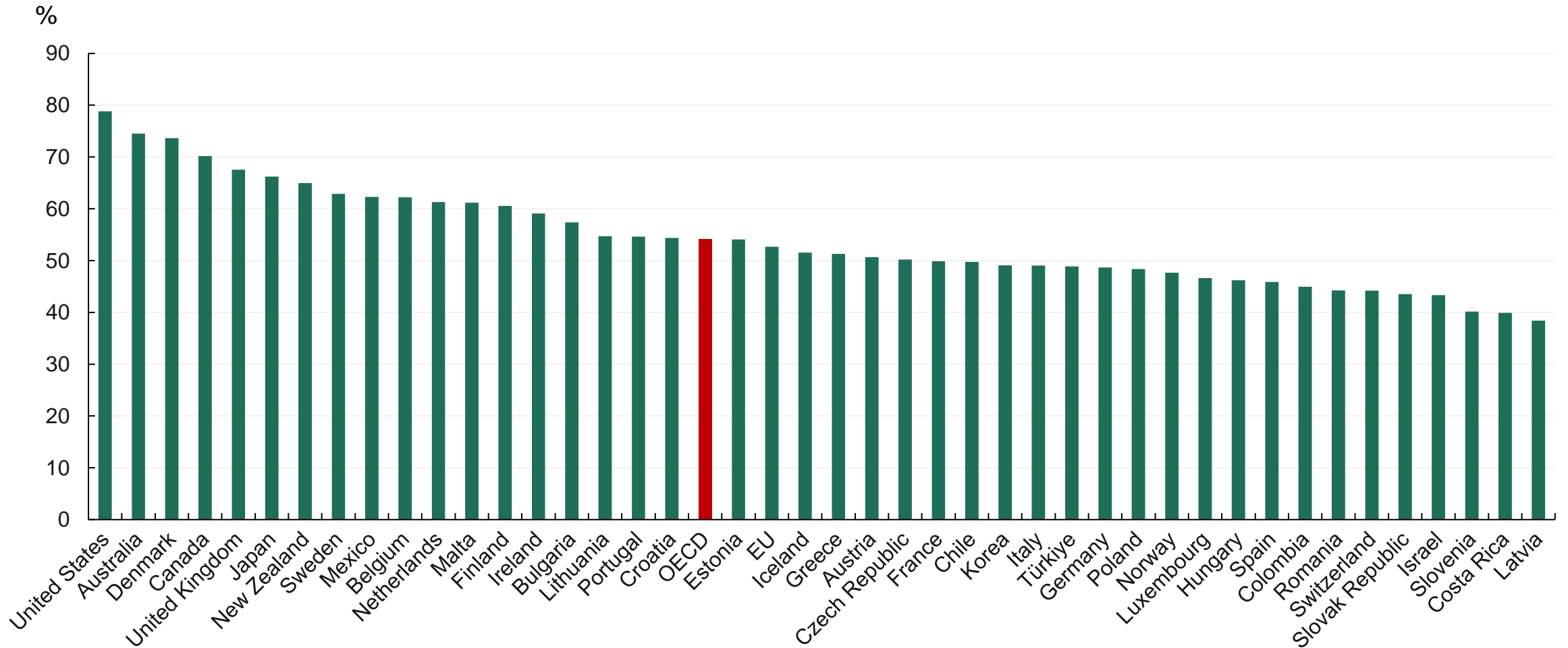
How to ensure that technological innovations lead to improved health?

Promote the development of health literacy throughout the lifecycle

Percentage of 15-year-old students who have are taught strategies to detect whether information online is subjective or biased

Improve the accessibility of health-related information by enhancing the communication skills of healthcare providers
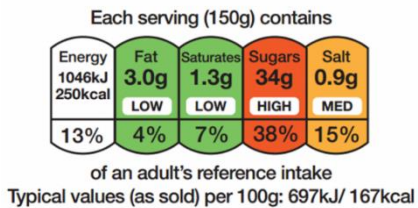
Nutriscore

Traffic light

Nutrition facts label

- Food labels are considered a crucial component of strategies to tackle unhealthy diets and overweight;

- Food labels help people understand the healthier products among different options, based on the provided information;

- OECD analyses show that easier-to-understand labels are those triggering major changes in consumption including because they can be better used by individuals with lower information-processing skills.

THANK YOU!

Contact:

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