

Covid-19 in Italy

In 2020, the country was the first in Europe to detect Covid-19 cases and to apply emergency measures, starting from a national lockdown in the first days of March 2020.

The Italian case

The financial situation of 48% of the Italian population got worse and 42% was worried about losing their jobs.

The impact of the pandemic on the Italian economy has been extremely harsh. In 2020 Italy recorded an 8.8% loss in its GDP, which was a result of both the interruption and closure of internal social and productive activities and of the high dependence of the entire economy on services more than goods (Euler Hermes, 2022).



Consequences



Families experienced new challenges, as reorganizing living spaces and renegotiate domestic and care roles, but the mothers were still to bear greater responsibility for supervision and education of children (Rania et al., 2022).

Women were particularly affected also by job loss and the "shadow pandemic": in 2020 only, the number of calls to 1522, the emergency number for women victims of violence, increased by 79.5% compared to 2019 (Istat, 2021).

Distance learning highlighted social inequalities and the weaknesses and gaps of the Italian education system, negatively impacting the full enjoyment of the right to education due to lack of access to electronic devices or good internet connection.

Working population

Essential workers were not particularly hit economically, yet they constituted one third of the Covid-19 cases and about 13% of deaths between March and May 2020.



Caregivers, seasonal workers (especially those in the agricultural and food sector) and those workers without decent guarantees and social protection suffered from extremely precarious economic conditions as they were either unable to work because they did not have regular contracts, or they were exposed to exploitation from criminal organizations.

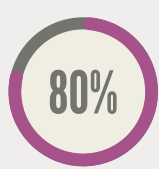
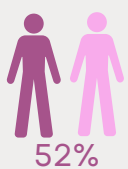


Psychological effects



Almost 50% of Italians feel a deterioration in their psychological state of health (Axa Survey)

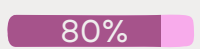
Women and young people are the most vulnerable groups regarding mental health, and financial instability, work-related stress and job loss emerge as the major vulnerability factors



During the crisis, one in two Italians (52%) perceived solidarity towards others, although 80% of them claim that Italians showed unprecedented levels of solidarity during the pandemic



73% of Italians are now more aware of the conditions of life of others



80% of Italians believe that human lives are priceless



After Covid-19 onset, 1 Italian out of 3 declares mental health as a priority, and greater openness towards external psychological help has been seen