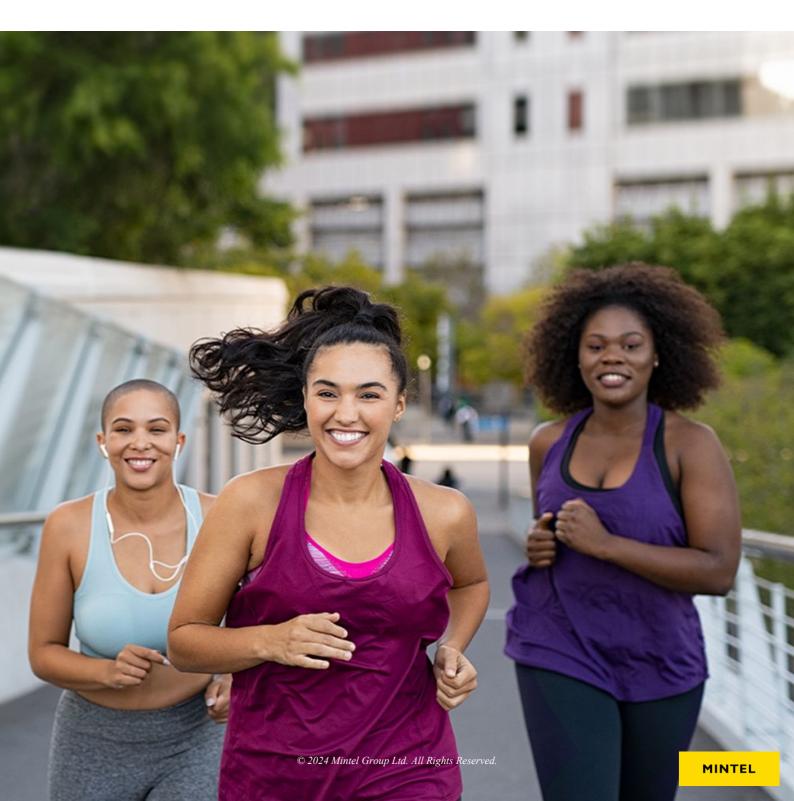
# HEALTHY LIFESTYLES – GERMANY – 2022

While over half of Germans say they lead a healthy life, this is at odds with high obesity and mental illness rates. This disparity calls brands, businesses and governments to take immediate action by fostering a deeper understanding of holistic health.



Dr. Christina Wessels, Category Director, Lifestyles, Health & Wellbeing, Household Care & Leisure, Germany



# Healthy Lifestyles - Germany - 2022

### This report looks at the following areas:

- The short-, medium- and long-term impact of COVID-19 on healthy lifestyles
- The state of the nation's health and the amount of effort people put into staying healthy
- Factors that would encourage Germans to lead a healthier lifestyle
- Sources of health information
- Health in the workplace: how consumers feel and what consumers want

#### Overview

Just 16% of German consumers describe their health as very or somewhat unhealthy. In fact, 55% of German consumers say they lead a healthy life.

Given the high obesity levels in the German population, German consumers seem to show an overly positive attitude when it comes to their health. It seems that Germans are unaware of their unhealthy habits, which potentially points towards a lack of knowledge on what living a healthy life means.

This underlines the need for a holistic understanding of health. Brands are well placed to put exercise and nutrition in the spotlight as they have a significant influence on both mental and physical health.



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The pandemic caused many Germans to think more profoundly about their health, making eating healthily and being active higher priorities as consumers learn how dependent their susceptibility to COVID-19 is on their physical health. However, the lockdown in 2020 saw activity levels decrease, and exacerbated mental health concerns. In fact, 58% of Germans say they care more about their mental health than they did pre-COVID19. Correspondingly, 51% of Germans actively seek ways to reduce stress, and brands can take advantage of this and put mental health more into focus with significant opportunities for the wellbeing and meditation app market.

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# Report Content

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### Key issues covered in this Report

- Overview
- · Healthy lifestyles continue to be under pressure

#### Market context

- · High obesity rates ask for concerted efforts
- · Mental health in the spotlight

#### **Opportunities**

- · Foster a deeper understanding of holistic health
- · Create better-for-you campaigns to help older consumers lead a healthier lifestyle
- Prioritise mental health
- · Invest in flexible working policies
- · Quick download resources

#### **MARKET DRIVERS**

#### German economy

- · German economy hit hard by COVID-19 disruptions
- · Strong post-COVID-19 bounceback followed by a period of slower growth
  - Graph 1: key economic data, in real terms, 2019-23
- · The impact of the economy on healthy lifestyles

#### Obesity

- · The extent of Germany's obesity epidemic
  - Graph 2: trends in body mass index (BMI), 1999-2017
- Obesity epidemic in Germany aggravated by COVID-19

#### Physical activity

- · Physical activity is multifarious
- COVID-19 led to lower exercise levels

#### Ageing population

- Demographic reality takes shape
  - Graph 3: share of maximum adult population projections, by age group, 2020-30

An ageing population challenges future physical activity

#### **Nutrition**

• Nutri-Score ratings system helps people lead healthier lifestyles

#### Mental health

- · Growing awareness and acceptance of mental illnesses
- · Mental health in the spotlight among the young

#### WHAT CONSUMERS WANT AND WHY

#### General health perception

- Over half of Germans say they lead a healthy lifestyle
- · Most Germans feel they have a balanced approach to health
- · Foster a deeper understanding of holistic health
- · Health declines with age
  - Graph 4: people's perception of their general health, by age, 2021
- · Put older consumers in the spotlight

#### Drivers of leading a healthy lifestyle

- · Drivers of leading a healthier lifestyle are influenced by lifestage
  - Graph 5: factors that would encourage consumers to lead a healthier lifestyle, 2021
- · Sector-specific opportunities to prevent health issues
- F&D: stand out on-shelf with immune support claims of VMS
- F&D: target the needs of seniors in VMS
- · Leisure sector: promote exercise among older consumers with a prevention angle...
- · ...and focus on outdoor activities that can be done with the entire family
- Leisure sector: leverage appearance-focused benefits of exercise to target younger consumers
- BPC: encourage an inside-out approach to improve appearance among the young
- BPC: beauty from the inside out

#### Sources of health information

- Expert advice is needed especially for mental health
  - Graph 6: sources of information German consumers would use for advice, 2021
- · Younger consumers want help from family and friends for mental health...
- · ...but empowerment is needed
- · Please disturb me! Help from family and friends is important
- · Be inspired by Zimbabwe
- · Mental Health Week to further raise awareness
- A sweet spot for wellbeing apps to foster mental health

## Healthy Lifestyles – Germany – 2022

- Graph 7: whether health/wellbeing apps would be used for advice on each of the following, by age, 2021
- · Leverage the power of influencers
- F&D: fostering mental health through a healthy diet
- · BPC: highlight the mental benefits of using skincare products

#### Health in the workplace: how consumers feel

- A satisfying work-life balance is key to a healthy lifestyle
  - Graph 8: effects of work-related habits on consumer health, % yes, by satisfaction with work/life balance, 2021
- · A satisfying work-life balance is key to a healthy lifestyle
- · Help younger consumers with their sleep
- · Leisure sector: promote offline wellness courses as a compliment to online sources

#### Health in the workplace: what consumers want

- · Employers in the spotlight
- · Flexible hours central to health and wellbeing
  - Graph 9: factors that the workforce thinks would be most beneficial to their health and wellbeing, 2021
- · Flexible hours central to health and wellbeing
- · Flexible working hours to keep older workers healthy
- Invest in wellness initiatives
- · Leisure sector: social events with a focus on health

#### **APPENDIX**

- Abbreviations
- Consumer research methodology
- · A note on language

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