



Sustainable Tourism Observatory of Malaga

Health



International Network
of Sustainable Tourism
Observatories



UNIVERSIDAD
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INSTITUTO ANDALUZ
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Plan de
Recuperación,
Transformación
y Resiliencia



GOBIERNO
DE ESPAÑA
MINISTERIO
DE INDUSTRIA
Y TURISMO



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01.

Context

Public health is a key pillar for the well-being of communities and the prosperity of a town or city.

The actions and policies implemented by competent bodies in the city of Malaga to promote overall well-being cover all areas from social determinants to equitable access to health care services, thus promoting health and preventing disease.

Furthermore, public health policies and actions in the city of Malaga are enshrined in law, according to the hierarchy of legal norms. The following specific regulations within the EU regulatory framework are applicable:

- Regulation (EC) 178/2002 on the general requirements of food law.
- Regulation (EC) 852/2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs.
- Regulation (EC) 853/2004 on specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin.
- Regulation (EC) 2073/2005 on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs.
- Regulation (EU) 2017/625 on official controls.
- Regulation (EU) 2019/624 on official controls on products of animal origin.
- Regulation (EU) 2019/627 on official controls on products of animal origin.

Within the general legal framework for health, the following laws of the state are applied:

- > Act 7/1985, of 2 April, Regulation of the Basis of Local Regimes (LRBRL), which stipulates that the Municipality shall in all cases exercise its own powers in accordance with the provisions of the legislation of the State and the Autonomous Communities in matters related to the protection of public health.
- > General Health Act 14/1986, of 25 April, Act 5/2010, of 11 June, on Local Self-Government in Andalusia, Act 2/1998, of 15 June, on Health in Andalusia, pursuant to which the
- > City Council has the authority to carry out health inspections of buildings and housing and places where people live together.
- > Act 17/2011 on Food Health and Nutrition.
- > General Public Health Act 33/2011

The following legislation is applied within the regional regulatory framework:

- > Andalusian Health Act 2/1998.
- > Andalusian Public Health Act 16/2011.

Finally, it is worth noting that Malaga City Council has been a member of the Spanish Healthy Cities Network since 23 May 1989. This association of cities was created in 1988 in the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP) as part of the European HEALTHY CITIES Project, which is a global initiative led by the World Health Organisation, whose aim is to promote health and sustainable development at a local level, as part of the “Health for All” strategy. The aim of the project is to improve the well-being and the physical, mental and social environment of citizens.



02.

Targets

- To develop the “health and tourism” product associated with cruise tourism, ensuring the provision of medical services in the port area.
- To promote and disseminate health outcomes at the destination level.
- To implement a visitor-oriented development plan for the health and wellness segment.
- To promote “comprehensive health” by encouraging active ageing, preventing bad eating habits and promoting healthy living.
- To promote healthy habits and lifestyles and prevent future diseases by creating healthy walking routes.

Results

COVID-19 situation in Malaga

“A high COVID-19 recovery rate with 103,176 people having recovered as of March 2022.”

At the height of COVID-19 in Malaga, there were a total of 105,302 confirmed cases of the disease up to 27 March 2022. Of these, 103,176 people recovered, representing a very high recovery rate. Unfortunately, 927 deaths were also recorded due to the virus. These figures reflect the significant impact of the pandemic on the city in terms of total cases.

It is also worth highlighting awareness-raising campaigns targeting major summer events in the pandemic recovery period. In addition to raising awareness about COVID-19, they sought to shine a spotlight on sexual health issues.

Accessibility to hospitals and health facilities

“There were 272 chemist’s in the city in 2023.”

La ciudad de Málaga cuenta con una infraestructura de salud sólida que abarcan diversos servicios médicos y farmacéuticos. La ciudad cuenta con un total de 26 centros de salud, fundamentales para la atención médica primaria. Además, se han establecido

2 consultorios locales que complementa la red de atención médica en áreas más específicas. Actualmente, la ciudad cuenta con 12 hospitales, que desempeñan un papel crucial en la prestación de servicios médicos especializados.

Por otro lado, se han contabilizado 272 farmacias existentes en la ciudad, garantizando un acceso conveniente a los recursos farmacéuticos necesarios, y en una relación de habitantes por farmacia, se considera de manera equilibrada, con una proporción aproximada de 2.123 habitantes por cada establecimiento farmacéutico.

First aid measures in the city of Malaga

Defibrillators

“Malaga had 681 defibrillators in 2023.” Defibrillators are crucial in urban settings to ensure quick and efficient responses to medical emergencies, especially those related to sudden cardiac arrest.

These devices are a critical component of the first aid measures that are required for the competent bodies to fulfil their social obligation.

There are currently 681 defibrillators in Malaga, distributed across different parts of the city, as a result of the “Málaga Cardioprotégida” project (Figure 1).

Sun Protection and Skin Cancer Prevention Project

Project carried out by the Costa del Sol Health Agency and Soludable, within the framework of the Andalusian Comprehensive Cancer Plan, with the aim of improving information on cancer among the general population and designing more effective strategies to ensure that fewer people are affected by cancer.

In addition, this project builds synergies with the healthy lifestyle education plans and programmes of the Ministry of Education and Sports of the Regional Government of Andalusia, and with the Andalusia Innovation Strategy 2020, whose lines of action include innovation in the tourism sector to foster the region’s leadership in research, experimentation, demonstration and technology transfer projects within the tourism industry.

The general objectives of the project are:

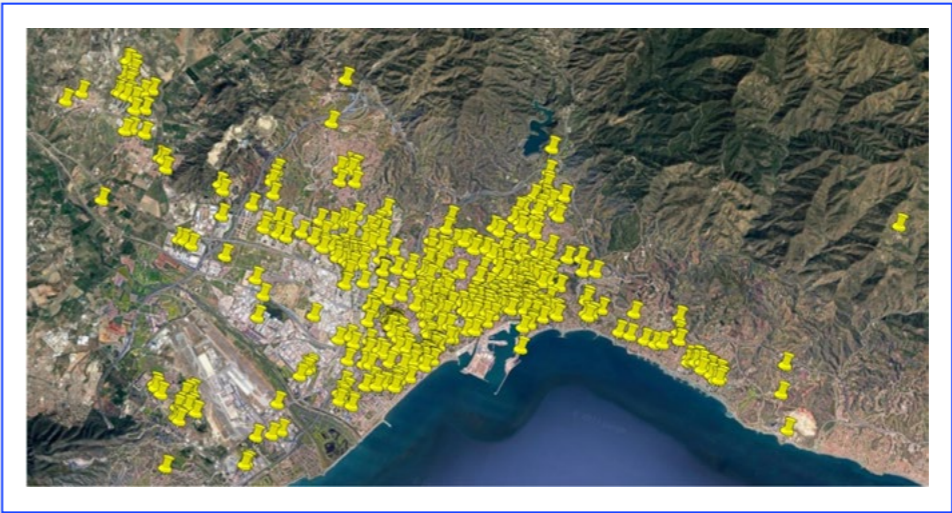
- To promote sun-healthy lifestyle habits.
- To promote sun-healthy physical and regulatory environments.
- To reduce the burden of disease associated with ultraviolet radiation.
- To promote research and innovation in sun protection.

Figure 1: COVID-19 and sexual health awareness-raising campaign at summer events (summer 2022)



Source: Malaga City Council

Figure 2: Distribution of defibrillators in the city of Malaga 2022



Source: Malaga City Council

Long-term measures of the Sun Protection and Skin Cancer Prevention Project

The project has established six measures: information and educational resources, training of professionals, certification of institutions and companies, awareness-raising campaigns, research and innovation projects and development cooperation projects.

- Information and educational resources, through the implementation of an educational website, with resources tailored to all audiences. The content is based on audiovisual formats and digital information technologies.
- Training of professionals, through specific sun protection training programs, aimed at health professionals and key stakeholders.
- Certification of institutions and companies, through sun protection certification programmes for organisations and businesses.
- Awareness-raising campaigns, aimed at different audiences in the media and social networks.
- Research and innovation projects, aimed at studying the educational needs of the population and evaluating the impact of interventions. The aim is to target the development of new environmentally friendly sunscreens, as well as new wearable technologies based on sun-smart fabrics.
- Development cooperation projects, which will put in place international cooperation measures with health institutions in order to promote development in the most vulnerable populations.

Figure 3: 2023 Soludable Project logo

The logo for the Soludable project, featuring the word "soludable" in a lowercase, sans-serif font. The "s" is light blue, the "o" is yellow, and the remaining letters "ludable" are a darker blue.

Source: Malaga City Council



Food health

Malaga City Council has the services of the Department of Health and Consumer Affairs, with one of its responsibilities being health inspections. Likewise, the functions carried out by the health inspection division cover the following activities:

- Monitoring and control of the hygiene and health conditions of retail food establishments (retail outlets without food preparation facilities).
- Monitoring and control of the health and hygiene conditions of low-risk catering establishments and school canteens (nursery schools and schools with catering).
- Dealing with complaints related to health protection.
- Dealing with health alerts on consumer products.
- Handling reports of food poisoning.
- Protecting the health of citizens by identifying and assessing risks associated with unhealthy conditions in housing or places where people live together.

Malaga Gluten-free

As part of the partnership between the Malaga Coeliac Association (ACE-MA) and Malaga City Council's Department of Business Promotion and Employment, Health and Consumer Services set up the "Malaga Gluten-free" Network, an initiative aimed at hotel, catering and food establishments, offering a variety of meals tailored to people with gluten intolerance. At present, Malaga has 69 establishments that belong to the "Malaga Gluten-free" Network.

Figure 4: Malaga Gluten-free logo 2023



Source: Malaga City Council

"Malaga had 69 establishments that belonged to the "Malaga Gluten-free" Network in 2023."

Food hygiene and health and hygiene complaints

The actions carried out in relation to food hygiene and alerts are in line with policies on practices and measures taken to ensure the safety and quality of food establishments, production and processing.

Accordingly, the Food Hygiene Department performs the following functions:

- Official monitoring of the UVESA poultry abattoir.
- Official monitoring of the MERCAMÁLAGA wholesale market.
- Monitoring and control of the health and hygiene of retail food establishments.
- Monitoring and control of the health and hygiene of catering establishments, including those whose meals are intended for at-risk populations: schools, nursing homes, medical centres, etc.
- Monitoring and control of the health and hygiene of food industries that do not require continuous supervision.
- Monitoring and control of the health and hygiene of municipal markets.
- Dealing with complaints related to health protection.
- Dealing with health alerts on consumer products.
- Handling reports of food poisoning.
- Issuing reports required to prepare health certifications and certificates for the export of foodstuffs to third countries.
- Working together with the Regional Government of Andalusia's Ministry of Health and Families on the National Food Chain Control Plan.
- Working together with the Regional Government of Andalusia's Ministry of Health and Families on the National Waste Research Plan, Biological Hazard Plan, Chemical Hazard Plan, Allergen Plan, GMO Plan, Antimicrobial Resistance Plan and Dairy Plan.
- Working together with the Spanish Food Safety Agency (AESAN) on the sampling of foodstuffs for research.
- Supervising food companies in order to audit their self-monitoring systems.
- Reports on product incidents in the area of international health.

They also have a Health and Hygiene Complaints section, which receives reports or complaints submitted by citizens or organisations regarding possible infringements of rules and regulations.

The Health and Hygiene Complaints section coordinates and manages the following procedures:

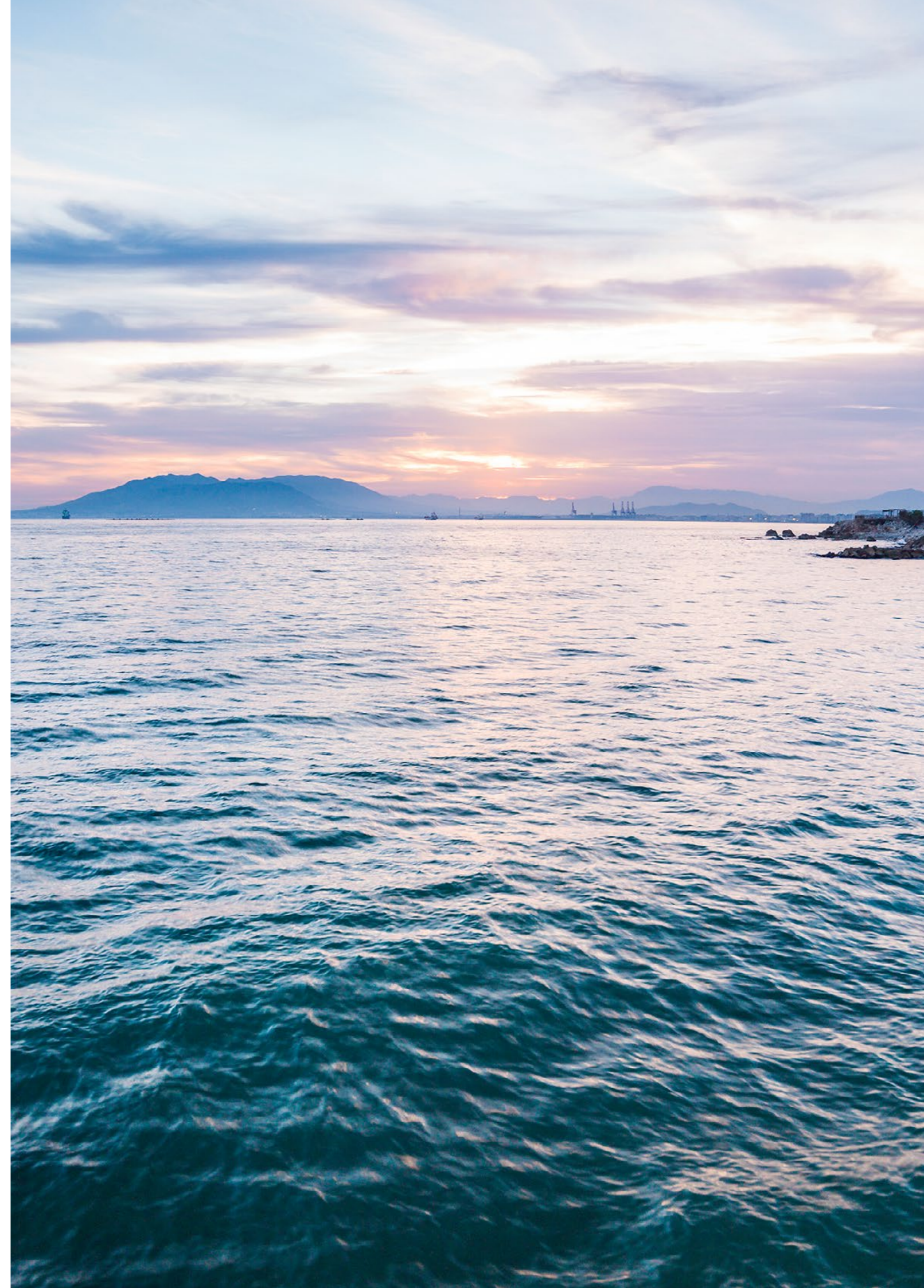
- > Registration, information and monitoring of health records and alerts.
- > Economic, administrative and personnel management of the Service.
- > Handling of disciplinary proceedings and precautionary measures.

Malaga Municipal Healthy City Plan

Through the actions related to health promotion and disease prevention to improve the well-being and quality of life of citizens, carried out by Malaga City Council's Department of Social Rights, the Malaga Municipal Healthy City Plan was launched in 2016, and its main objective is to improve the quality of life of citizens.

The plan follows a cross-cutting approach between different municipal departments, promoting a comprehensive and coordinated strategy, addressing a variety of health problems. Such a multidisciplinary approach can be effective in targeting a variety of community health solutions. Moreover, the Malaga Healthy City Development Partnership and the Health Professional Associations have also been involved, showing that this is a joint effort to achieve a common goal, which is to improve the health of the community.

The plan includes actions to promote healthy habits such as healthy walks, aimed at encouraging healthy behaviours and lifestyles. These walks last for 60 minutes and are overseen by the City Council's technical staff.



Conclusions

Public health in Malaga is underpinned by a strong regulatory framework that incorporates European, national and regional regulations, establishing legal standards in food safety, sanitation, disease prevention and health promotion.

The goals of the Malaga Health Plan are aligned with the IV Andalusian Health Plan, whose objectives are focused on increasing life expectancy, good health, reducing social inequalities in health and ensuring that the Public Health System serves the community. Regarding the latter goal, the city has a robust health infrastructure, including health centres, hospitals and chemist's. The final indicator, related to chemist's, points to a well-balanced ratio of inhabitants to chemist's.

Furthermore, there are notable projects such as "Málaga Cardioprotégida", through which defibrillators have been installed in the city, and also the "Sun Protection and Skin Cancer Prevention" project, promoting healthy lifestyles and providing information on sunscreen alternatives.

Equally noteworthy is the work done by the Department of Health and Consumer Affairs in relation to health inspections, food hygiene and measures to guarantee the safety and quality of foodstuffs. This has resulted in the "Malaga Gluten-free" initiative, which encourages establishments to cater for people with gluten intolerance.

Finally, the Malaga Municipal Healthy City Plan, an initiative launched in 2016, has adopted a cross-cutting and collaborative approach with various organisations to implement specific measures to help promote healthy habits, with the aim of improving the quality of life of the city's citizens.



<https://sto.malaga.eu/indicadores/salud/>