Health Inequalities in Hertfordshire

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www.hertfordshire.gov.uk
Overall, Hertfordshire generally has better health outcomes compared with the rest of the country as a whole.

This reflects the fact that Hertfordshire is a more prosperous area than average – health outcomes are closely linked with levels of deprivation.
It’s all relative…

• So when looking at variations (or inequalities) in health outcomes across the country, we get a positive picture of health in Hertfordshire…

• …but when we compare health outcomes in Hertfordshire with those in areas that have similar levels of deprivation, we start to see opportunities for improvement.

![Overall premature deaths per 100,000 for 2013-15](#)

- Lowest: Rutland
- Highest: Hertfordshire

15th out of 15 similar local authorities

HIGHEST DEATH RATE
Looking closer

- Simply looking at figures for Hertfordshire as a whole, however, masks the variations in health outcomes which are present within the county itself.

- A health statistic which looks better than average at a county level, can present a much more varied picture of outcomes when shown at district level.
Inequalities between areas

- Stark contrasts emerge when we begin to compare wealthier parts of the county with those which are less well-off:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health outcome</th>
<th>St Albans</th>
<th>Stevenage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cancer deaths</td>
<td>78 / 324</td>
<td>282 / 324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart disease deaths</td>
<td>57 / 324</td>
<td>268 / 324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung disease deaths</td>
<td>86 / 323</td>
<td>281 / 323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liver disease deaths</td>
<td>11 / 301</td>
<td>89 / 301</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- We see a clear pattern across Hertfordshire, with people living in less deprived areas generally living longer…

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Stark contrasts emerge when we begin to compare wealthier parts of the county with those which are less well off:

Life expectancy at birth (Male) - Hertfordshire, 2012 – 14 - Data partitioned by LSOA11 deprivation deciles within area (IMD2010)

- Most deprived decile: 77.1 years
- Second most deprived decile: 78.3 years
- Third more deprived decile: 78.3 years
- Fourth more deprived decile: 80.6 years
- Fifth more deprived decile: 80.7 years
- Fifth less deprived decile: 80.9 years
- Fourth less deprived decile: 81.6 years
- Third less deprived decile: 83.3 years
- Second least deprived decile: 83.4 years
- Least deprived decile: 83.1 years
Inequalities between social classes

- Health inequalities occur between different sections of the population, as well between different geographical areas.

- Across the country, we see a health gradient across the class spectrum, with those who are better off generally experiencing better health and the poorest in society experiencing the worst health outcomes...
Figure 1: Male life expectancy at birth for expanded NS-SEC classes including the unclassified and England and Wales, 1982-1986 to 2007-2011

England and Wales, Years

Source: ONS Longitudinal Study

Notes:
1. Class 1: Higher Managerial and Professional; Class 2: Lower Managerial and Professional; Class 3: Intermediate; Class 4: Small Employers Own Account Workers; Class 5: Lower Supervisory and Technical; Class 6: Semi-Routine; Class 7: Routine
Lifestyle variations between social classes

- Many of the causes of health inequalities are preventable through lifestyle change, including eating more healthily, reducing levels of drinking, becoming more physically active and quitting smoking.

- Smoking is now much more common among people in lower paid occupations and is a major cause of health inequalities:

![Smoking Prevalence in adults – England, 2015 – Data partitioned by Socioeconomic class](image)

- Managerial and professional occupations: 11.7%
- Intermediate occupations: 17.2%
- Routine and manual occupations: 26.5%
- Never worked and long term unemployed: 14.4%

England average
Inequalities between other groups

• As well as inequalities based primarily on wealth and social status, we see variations in health outcomes based on a range of other characteristics, e.g.
  – male life expectancy is consistently lower than female life expectancy
  – levels of physical activity and smoking vary significantly across ethnic groups
  – the level of overweight and obesity is significantly higher among people living with a disability compared with those who don’t have a disability

• When variations become compounded by deprivation-based inequalities between geographical areas, the differences in outcomes are even more stark; e.g.
  – male life expectancy in the Stevenage ward of Woodfield is 75.9 years
  – female life expectancy in the St Albans ward of Harpenden South is 88.6 years
### Health & Wellbeing in Hertfordshire

#### Health Profiles Tartan Rug
Hertfordshire Districts compared to Hertfordshire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Target (Significance used where no target)</th>
<th>England</th>
<th>Hertfordshire</th>
<th>Broadψmarg</th>
<th>Dacum</th>
<th>East Hertfordshire</th>
<th>Hertsmere</th>
<th>North Hertfordshire</th>
<th>StAlbans</th>
<th>Stevenage</th>
<th>Three Rivers</th>
<th>Watford</th>
<th>Welwyn Hatfield</th>
<th>Period of Data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deprivation score (IMD 2015)</td>
<td>Persons</td>
<td>All ages</td>
<td></td>
<td>21.8</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>18.4</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>15.7</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children in low income families (under 16s)</td>
<td>Persons</td>
<td>&lt;16 yrs</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>19.2</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statutory homelessness</td>
<td>Persons</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
<td>per 1000</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>0.66</td>
<td></td>
<td>2014/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCSEs achieved</td>
<td>Persons</td>
<td>15-16 yrs</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>57.3</td>
<td>64.5</td>
<td>57.9</td>
<td>60.2</td>
<td>72.0</td>
<td>67.2</td>
<td>63.8</td>
<td>76.4</td>
<td>48.9</td>
<td>68.2</td>
<td>61.4</td>
<td>60.1</td>
<td>2014/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent crime (violence offences)</td>
<td>Persons</td>
<td>All ages</td>
<td>per 1000</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>2014/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long term unemployment</td>
<td>Persons</td>
<td>16-64 yrs</td>
<td>per 1000</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking status at time of delivery - smokers</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>All ages</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>9.2</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td></td>
<td>2014/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breastfeeding initiation</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>All ages</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>74.3</td>
<td>77.6</td>
<td>71.2</td>
<td>77.1</td>
<td>80.3</td>
<td>77.1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>86.9</td>
<td>69.5</td>
<td>75.6</td>
<td>74.7</td>
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<td>2014/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obese children (Year 6)</td>
<td>Persons</td>
<td>10-11 yrs</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>20.3</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>2014/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol-specific hospital stays (under 18)</td>
<td>Persons</td>
<td>&lt;18 yrs</td>
<td>per 100,000</td>
<td>36.6</td>
<td>24.4</td>
<td>21.7</td>
<td>30.1</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>28.5</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>25.6</td>
<td>37.7</td>
<td>25.6</td>
<td>25.5</td>
<td>2012/13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 18 conceptions</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>&lt;18 yrs</td>
<td>per 1000</td>
<td>22.8</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>22.3</td>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>26.4</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking Prevalence in adults</td>
<td>Persons</td>
<td>18+ yrs</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>16.9</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>21.6</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of physically active adults</td>
<td>Persons</td>
<td>16+ yrs</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>57.0</td>
<td>58.7</td>
<td>61.1</td>
<td>53.7</td>
<td>64.5</td>
<td>61.1</td>
<td>54.4</td>
<td>65.9</td>
<td>51.5</td>
<td>59.8</td>
<td>54.4</td>
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Further information

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