

Life Expectancy at Birth: 2007-09

Background

On October 19th 2010 the Office for National Statistics (ONS) released local authority life expectancies at birth and at age 65 based on mortality data for 2007-09, with annual data back to 1991-93. National Interim Life Tables 2007-09 for the UK and constituent countries were also released. The data for 2007-09 have been based on the latest available mid-year estimates, which include the revised 2002 to 2008 England and Wales mid-year population estimates (published by ONS in May 2010). Full data and supporting documentation are available at the following links:

www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=8841

This *Update* presents the main national and London results and trends for life expectancy at birth together with the latest values for London boroughs, plus comparisons with all local authorities in England and Wales.

Results

For the UK, Table 1 shows that the expectation of life at birth has increased over the last decade; for males there has been an increase of 3.2 years between 1997-99 and 2007-09 to reach 77.9 years, while for females the increase has been more modest at 2.3 years, reaching 82.0 years. In 1997-99 female life expectancy was 5.0 years more than for males; in 2007-09 this gap had closed to 4.1 years. At national level for both males and females the highest expectancies were seen in England and the lowest in Scotland.

Within England the lowest life expectancies are in the northern regions, and the highest are in the south. Table 2 shows that the South East, South West, East and London have both male and female expectancies higher than those for England as a whole. In the North West expectation of life is only 76.6 years for males and 80.8 years for females. However these values are higher than those for Scotland. The highest regional life expectancies are in the South East for males (79.4 years) and in the South West and South East for females (83.3 years). The overall range of inter-regional values in England in 2007-09 was 2.8 years for males and 2.5 years for females. Life expectancy in London for males and females has risen by 3.7 years and 3.0 years, to 78.6 and 83.1 years respectively.

All English regions have seen increases in life expectancy over the decade. For males this has been more rapid and the lowest regional male life expectancy in 2007-09 (76.6) is higher than the highest regional value in 1997-99 (76.4). The gap between male and female life expectancies has closed in all regions in the last decade, ranging between 0.6 in the South West and 1.0 in Yorkshire and The Humber. In 2007-09 the male and female gap in the East of England was closer than any other region (3.7), including London, which had the highest gap of 4.5 years. Overall it appears that this gap is closing more rapidly in the northern regions than it is in London (0.7), where it closed by the second lowest amount after the South West (0.6).

Table 1: Life Expectancy at Birth (years), UK, constituent countries and Greater London: 1997-99 and 2007-09

		United Kingdom	England & Wales	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Greater London
Males	1997-99	74.75	74.98	75.09	74.31	72.66	74.29	74.90
	2007-09	77.90	78.10	78.30	77.20	75.40	76.80	78.60
	Change	3.15	3.12	3.21	2.89	2.74	2.51	3.70
Females	1997-99	79.72	79.89	79.97	79.36	78.19	79.50	80.20
	2007-09	82.00	82.20	82.30	81.60	80.10	81.40	83.10
	Change	2.28	2.31	2.33	2.24	1.91	1.90	2.90
Difference	1997-99	4.97	4.91	4.88	5.05	5.53	5.21	5.30
	2007-09	4.10	4.10	4.00	4.40	4.70	4.60	4.50
	Change	-0.87	-0.81	-0.88	-0.65	-0.83	-0.61	-0.80

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Table 2: Life Expectancy at Birth (years) by region: 1997-99 and 2007-09

	Males			Females			Difference		
	1997-99	2007-09	Change	1997-99	2007-09	Change	1997-99	2007-09	Change
North East	73.5	76.8	3.3	78.5	80.9	2.4	5.0	4.1	-0.9
North West	73.6	76.6	3.0	78.6	80.8	2.2	5.0	4.2	-0.8
Yorkshire and The Humber	74.4	77.4	3.0	79.5	81.5	2.0	5.1	4.1	-1.0
East Midlands	75.1	78.1	3.0	79.9	82.1	2.2	4.8	4.0	-0.8
West Midlands	74.6	77.5	2.9	79.7	81.9	2.2	5.1	4.4	-0.7
East of England	76.3	79.3	3.0	80.8	83.0	2.2	4.5	3.7	-0.8
London	74.9	78.6	3.7	80.1	83.1	3.0	5.2	4.5	-0.7
South East	76.3	79.4	3.1	80.9	83.3	2.4	4.6	3.9	-0.7
South West	76.4	79.2	2.8	81.1	83.3	2.2	4.7	4.1	-0.6

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Across all local authority areas the lowest expectation of life in England and Wales for males is found in Blackpool (73.7 years) and the highest in Kensington & Chelsea (84.4 years). For females the lowest expectation of life is in Manchester and Blaenau Gwent (79.1 years) with the highest also in Kensington & Chelsea (89.0 years). Glasgow City has the lowest values of all UK authorities: 71.1 years for males and 77.5 years for females.

Table 3: Life Expectancy at Birth (years): London boroughs¹ : 1997-99 and 2007-09

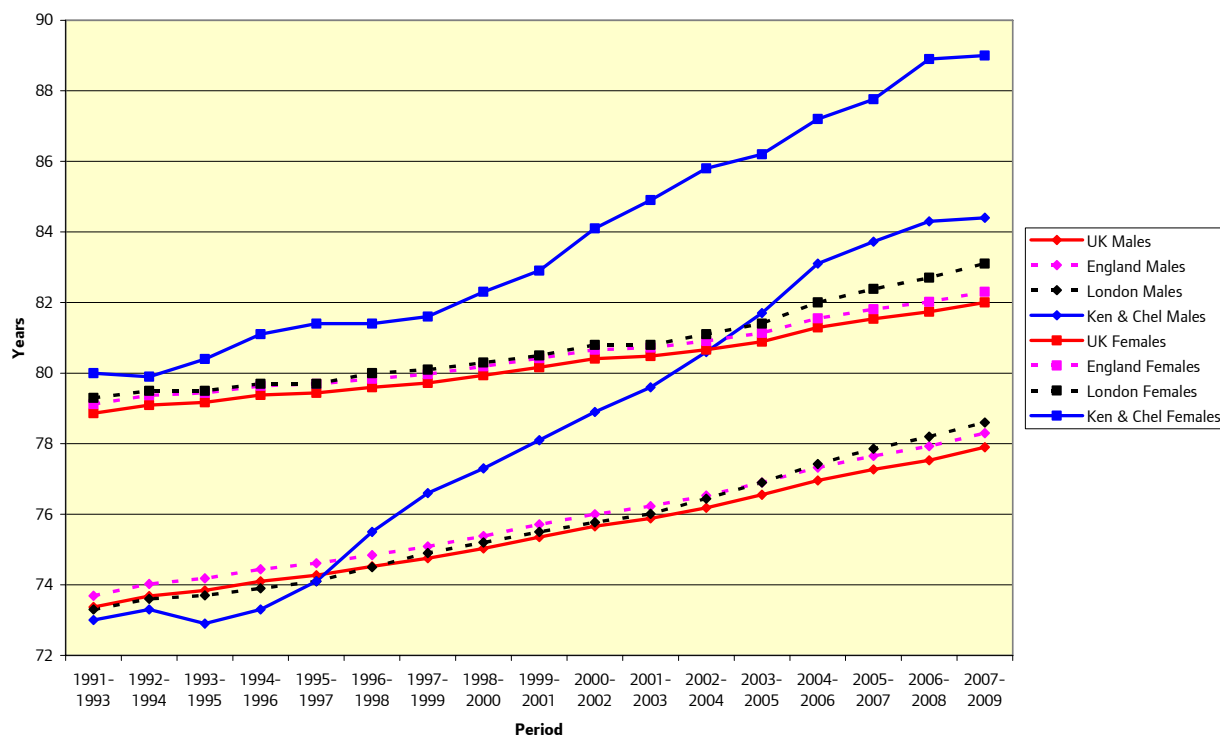
	Males			Females			Difference		
	1997-99	2007-09	Change	1997-99	2007-09	Change	1997-99	2007-09	Change
Barking and Dagenham	73.4	76.5	3.1	79.4	81.0	1.6	6.0	4.5	-1.5
Barnet	77.1	80.2	3.1	80.7	84.3	3.6	3.6	4.1	0.5
Bexley	76.1	79.4	3.3	80.6	83.1	2.5	4.5	3.7	-0.8
Brent	74.9	78.8	3.9	80.7	84.0	3.3	5.8	5.2	-0.6
Bromley	76.9	79.9	3.0	81.3	83.8	2.5	4.4	3.9	-0.5
Camden	73.1	78.0	4.9	80.2	83.3	3.1	7.1	5.3	-1.8
Croydon	75.9	79.5	3.6	80.3	82.8	2.5	4.4	3.3	-1.1
Ealing	75.1	78.9	3.8	79.9	83.3	3.4	4.8	4.4	-0.4
Enfield	75.7	79.1	3.4	81.1	82.9	1.8	5.4	3.8	-1.6
Greenwich	73.6	75.8	2.2	79.0	81.9	2.9	5.4	6.1	0.7
Hackney	72.7	77.2	4.5	79.2	82.6	3.4	6.5	5.4	-1.1
Hammersmith and Fulham	73.5	78.1	4.6	79.9	84.3	4.4	6.4	6.2	-0.2
Haringey	73.9	76.6	2.7	80.1	83.7	3.6	6.2	7.1	0.9
Harrow	76.4	81.2	4.8	82.0	84.6	2.6	5.6	3.4	-2.2
Havering	75.9	78.8	2.9	80.7	83.0	2.3	4.8	4.2	-0.6
Hillingdon	75.8	78.6	2.8	80.3	83.4	3.1	4.5	4.8	0.3
Hounslow	75.0	77.8	2.8	79.8	82.1	2.3	4.8	4.3	-0.5
Islington	72.9	75.4	2.5	79.3	81.2	1.9	6.4	5.8	-0.6
Kensington and Chelsea	76.6	84.4	7.8	81.6	89.0	7.4	5.0	4.6	-0.4
Kingston upon Thames	76.5	80.7	4.2	80.6	83.7	3.1	4.1	3.0	-1.1
Lambeth	72.6	76.4	3.8	79.2	81.1	1.9	6.6	4.7	-1.9
Lewisham	72.9	76.3	3.4	78.3	81.3	3.0	5.4	5.0	-0.4
Merton	76.1	80.5	4.4	80.6	83.8	3.2	4.5	3.3	-1.2
Newham	71.6	76.2	4.6	78.3	80.5	2.2	6.7	4.3	-2.4
Redbridge	76.2	79.4	3.2	80.9	83.0	2.1	4.7	3.6	-1.1
Richmond upon Thames	76.9	81.0	4.1	81.5	85.4	3.9	4.6	4.4	-0.2
Southwark	73.4	77.8	4.4	79.1	82.9	3.8	5.7	5.1	-0.6
Sutton	75.7	79.4	3.7	80.1	83.1	3.0	4.4	3.7	-0.7
Tower Hamlets	72.5	76.0	3.5	78.9	80.9	2.0	6.4	4.9	-1.5
Waltham Forest	74.1	77.1	3.0	79.2	81.6	2.4	5.1	4.5	-0.6
Wandsworth	74.3	77.8	3.5	79.4	82.1	2.7	5.1	4.3	-0.8
Westminster	75.9	83.4	7.5	81.1	86.5	5.4	5.2	3.1	-2.1

¹ City of London excluded from results because of the small number of deaths and the small population.
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Since 1997-99 all London boroughs have seen increases in life expectancy for both males and females. For males in Kensington & Chelsea the expectation of life has risen by an estimated 7.8 years in ten years, two and a half times the national average change and twice that of London as a whole. Chart 1 compares the trends in Kensington & Chelsea with those of London, England and the UK and shows the variance of the trends in the Royal Borough from those in other areas for both males and females.

Life expectancy estimates are dependent upon the accuracy of both the mortality data and the ONS mid-year population estimates that underpin them. If the estimates are generally (across the age groups) too high then the life expectancy at birth will also be too high, and vice versa. This is not to say that life expectancy has not risen in Kensington & Chelsea since 1997-99 but there could be problems with the consistency of the estimates of the older ages in the population and the deaths assigned to the area due to older people moving to care establishments outside the borough very late in life, leaving a relatively very healthy elderly population.

Chart 1: Male and Female Life Expectancy at Birth (years): UK, England, London and Kensington & Chelsea: 1991-93 to 2007-09



The extent of the estimated change in life expectancy in some other boroughs is also impressive. For males both Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster have increases since 1997-99 that are the top two in England and Wales (7.8 and 7.5 years). These are over 6 standard deviations above the mean of all local authorities. For females, Kensington & Chelsea and Hammersmith and Fulham have seen the most rapid increases in England and Wales with the former being over 6 standard deviations above the mean rate of change and the latter over 3 standard deviations above. On the other hand, the rates of improvement for Greenwich (males) and Hounslow (females) are the lowest in London. The improvement for Greenwich (males) is less than one standard deviation below the mean across all local authorities¹

¹Local authorities that have retained the same boundaries since the local government re-organisation on 1st April 2009