

Life Expectancy at Birth: 2004-06

Background

On November 28th 2007 the Office for National Statistics released local authority life expectancies at birth and at age 65 based on mortality data for 2004-06, with annual data back to 1991-93. National Interim Life Tables 2004-06 for the UK and its constituent countries were also released. The data for 2004-06 have been based on the recently revised ONS mid-2005 population estimates.

- <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/expbi1107.pdf>
- <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/CCI/nugget.asp?ID=168>

Results

For the UK expectation of life at birth has increased over the last decade; for males there has been an increase of 2.86 years between 1994-96 and 2004-06 to reach 76.96 years, while for females the increase has been more modest at 1.91 years, reaching 81.29 years. In 1994-96 female life expectancy was 5.28 years more than for males; in 2004-06 this gap had closed to 4.33 years. At national level for both males and females the highest expectancies were seen in England and the lowest in Scotland.

Table 1: Life expectancy at birth, UK, constituent countries and Greater London

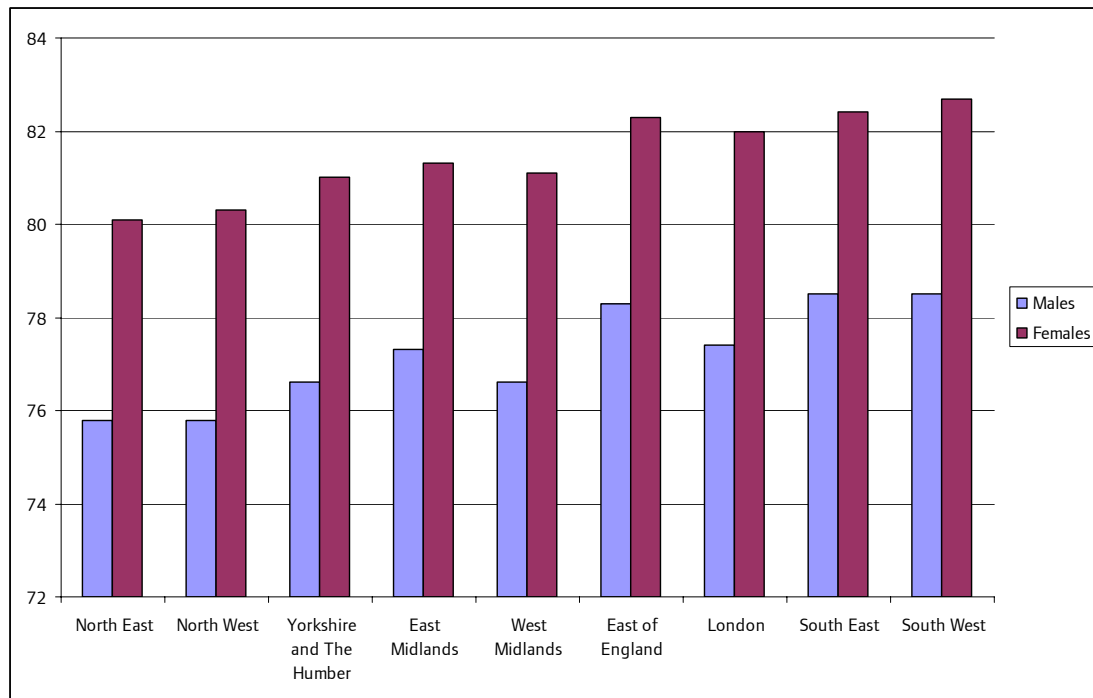
| | United Kingdom | England & Wales | England | Wales | Scotland | Northern Ireland | Greater London |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------|-------|----------|------------------|----------------|
| Males | | | | | | | |
| 1994-1996 | 74.10 | 74.32 | 74.44 | 73.72 | 72.08 | 73.51 | 73.90 |
| 2004-2006 | 76.96 | 77.22 | 77.32 | 76.64 | 74.60 | 76.09 | 77.42 |
| Change | 2.86 | 2.90 | 2.88 | 2.92 | 2.52 | 2.58 | 3.52 |
| Females | | | | | | | |
| 1994-1996 | 79.38 | 79.56 | 79.64 | 79.15 | 77.73 | 78.94 | 79.70 |
| 2004-2006 | 81.29 | 81.48 | 81.55 | 80.98 | 79.57 | 80.96 | 82.00 |
| Change | 1.91 | 1.92 | 1.91 | 1.83 | 1.84 | 2.02 | 2.30 |

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Within England the lowest life expectancies are in the North of England, while the highest are in the South. In the North East expectation of life is only 75.8 years for males and 80.1 years for females, however these values are higher than those for Scotland. In the South West values are 78.5 years and 82.7 years for males and females respectively. All regions have seen an increase in life expectancy over the decade. The largest increases for both males and females were in London. In 2004-06 London had higher life expectancies than England for both males and females.

As with the UK as a whole the gender gap is closing for all regions. London has seen the greatest reduction in the gender gap between 1994-96 and 2004-06, falling 1.22 years to 4.58 years, however, the greatest differential between male and female life expectancies remains in London.

Chart 1: Life Expectancy at birth by region, 2004-06



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Across all local authority areas the lowest expectation of life in England & Wales for males is found in Manchester (73.0 years) and the highest in Kensington & Chelsea (83.1 years). For females the lowest expectation of life is in Liverpool (78.3 years) with the highest also in Kensington & Chelsea (87.2 years). Glasgow has the lowest values of all UK authorities: 70.5 years for males and 77.0 years for females.

Since 1994-96 all local authorities have seen increases in life expectancy for both males and females.

It should be noted that these data are critically dependent upon the accuracy of the 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.

Data Availability

Interim Life Tables:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=14459>

Sub-national Life Expectancy:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=8841>

Table 2: Life expectancy at birth, 2004-06, London boroughs¹

| | Males | Females |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Barking and Dagenham | 75.9 | 79.8 |
| Barnet | 79.0 | 83.4 |
| Bexley | 78.5 | 82.5 |
| Brent | 78.2 | 83.4 |
| Bromley | 79.2 | 83.3 |
| Camden | 76.4 | 81.7 |
| Croydon | 77.8 | 81.2 |
| Ealing | 77.7 | 82.1 |
| Enfield | 77.9 | 81.9 |
| Greenwich | 75.0 | 80.7 |
| Hackney | 75.0 | 81.7 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 78.0 | 83.5 |
| Haringey | 76.0 | 82.1 |
| Harrow | 78.9 | 83.1 |
| Havering | 78.2 | 81.9 |
| Hillingdon | 77.3 | 82.2 |
| Hounslow | 76.7 | 80.6 |
| Islington | 74.9 | 80.0 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 83.1 | 87.2 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 79.0 | 82.8 |
| Lambeth | 75.1 | 80.1 |
| Lewisham | 75.7 | 80.3 |
| Merton | 79.0 | 83.1 |
| Newham | 75.0 | 79.4 |
| Redbridge | 77.9 | 82.1 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 79.4 | 83.1 |
| Southwark | 76.6 | 81.6 |
| Sutton | 78.5 | 82.5 |
| Tower Hamlets | 75.2 | 80.2 |
| Waltham Forest | 75.3 | 80.7 |
| Wandsworth | 76.6 | 81.2 |
| Westminster | 80.2 | 84.0 |

¹ City of London excluded from results because of the small number of deaths and the population.
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GLA Life Tables

The GLA plans to produce borough and borough group life tables in 2008 using its own mid-2006 population estimates and mortality data from 2005-07. These will be used in future GLA population projections.

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