

## Life Expectancy at Birth: 2005-07

### Background

On October 30<sup>th</sup> 2008 the Office for National Statistics (ONS) released local authority life expectancies at birth and at age 65 based on mortality data for 2005-07, with annual data back to 1991-93. National Interim Life Tables 2005-07 for the UK and constituent countries were also released. The data for 2005-07 have been based on the ONS mid-2006 population estimates. Full data and supporting documentation are available at the following links:

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

<http://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, expectation of life at birth has increased over the last decade; for males there has been an increase of 3.0 years between 1995-97 and 2005-07 to reach 77.3 years, while for females the increase has been more modest at 2.1 years, reaching 81.5 years. In 1995-97 female life expectancy was 5.2 years more than for males; in 2005-07 this gap had closed to 4.3 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, while the highest are in the south. 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 76.0 years for males and 80.4 years for females – a low value shared with the North East. However these values are higher than those for Scotland. The highest regional life expectancies are in the South East for males (78.9 years) and in the South West for females (82.9 years). The interregional differences in England in 2005-07 were therefore 2.9 years for males and 2.5 years for females. These ranges are both higher than the equivalent differences in 1995-97. Life expectancy in London has risen by 3.8 years for males to 77.9 years. For females the rise is 2.7 years to 82.4 years.

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 2005-07 is higher than the highest regional value in 1995-97. The regional differentials between male and female life expectancy have closed by between 0.7 and 1.1 years. The level of the differential is between 3.8 and 4.5 years. The largest regional increases in expectancy for both males and females were in London, where the gender gap also closed by the greatest amount. However the gender gap is still greatest in London, together with the West Midlands.

**Table 1: Life Expectancy at Birth (years), UK, constituent countries and Greater London: 1995-97 and 2005-07**

		United Kingdom	England & Wales	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Greater London
<b>Males</b>	<b>1995-97</b>	74.27	74.49	74.61	73.84	72.26	73.86	74.10
	<b>2005-07</b>	77.27	77.54	77.65	76.77	74.85	76.25	77.86
	<b>Change</b>	3.00	3.05	3.04	2.93	2.59	2.39	3.76
<b>Females</b>	<b>1995-97</b>	79.44	79.61	79.69	79.11	77.90	79.26	79.70
	<b>2005-07</b>	81.54	81.74	81.81	81.19	79.75	81.26	82.38
	<b>Change</b>	2.10	2.13	2.12	2.08	1.85	2.00	2.68
<b>Difference</b>	<b>1995-97</b>	5.17	5.12	5.08	5.27	5.64	5.40	5.60
	<b>2005-07</b>	4.27	4.20	4.16	4.42	4.90	5.01	4.52
	<b>Change</b>	-0.90	-0.92	-0.92	-0.85	-0.74	-0.39	-1.08

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**Table 2: Life Expectancy at Birth (years) by region: 1995-97 and 2005-07**

	Males			Females			Difference		
	1995-97	2005-07	Change	1995-97	2005-07	Change	1995-97	2005-07	Change
<b>North East</b>	73.1	76.3	3.2	78.4	80.4	2.0	5.3	4.2	-1.1
<b>North West</b>	73.2	76.0	2.8	78.5	80.4	1.9	5.3	4.4	-0.9
<b>Yorkshire and The Humber</b>	74.1	76.9	2.8	79.2	81.1	1.9	5.1	4.2	-0.9
<b>East Midlands</b>	74.8	77.6	2.8	79.7	81.6	1.9	4.9	4.0	-0.9
<b>West Midlands</b>	74.2	76.9	2.7	79.4	81.4	2.0	5.2	4.5	-0.7
<b>East of England</b>	75.9	78.7	2.8	80.5	82.6	2.1	4.6	3.9	-0.7
<b>London</b>	<b>74.1</b>	<b>77.9</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>79.7</b>	<b>82.4</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>-1.1</b>
<b>South East</b>	75.8	78.9	3.1	80.5	82.7	2.2	4.7	3.8	-0.9
<b>South West</b>	75.8	78.7	2.9	80.8	82.9	2.1	5.0	4.2	-0.8

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Across all local authority areas the lowest expectation of life in England and Wales for males is found in Blackpool (73.2 years) and the highest in Kensington & Chelsea (83.7 years). For females the lowest expectation of life is in Hartlepool (78.1 years) with the highest also in Kensington & Chelsea (87.8 years). Glasgow has the lowest values of all UK authorities: 70.8 years for males and 77.1 years for females.

**Table 3: Life Expectancy at Birth (years): London boroughs<sup>1</sup> : 1995-97 and 2005-07**

	Males			Females			Difference		
	1995-97	2005-07	Change	1995-97	2005-07	Change	1995-97	2005-07	Change
<b>Barking and Dagenham</b>	73.0	76.3	3.3	78.8	80.3	1.5	5.8	4.0	-1.8
<b>Barnet</b>	76.4	79.5	3.1	80.4	83.6	3.2	4.0	4.1	0.1
<b>Bexley</b>	75.9	78.7	2.8	80.3	82.7	2.4	4.4	4.0	-0.4
<b>Brent</b>	74.3	78.5	4.2	80.0	83.8	3.8	5.7	5.3	-0.4
<b>Bromley</b>	76.3	79.5	3.2	81.1	83.5	2.4	4.8	4.0	-0.8
<b>Camden</b>	72.6	76.9	4.3	80.0	82.2	2.2	7.4	5.3	-2.1
<b>Croydon</b>	75.1	78.3	3.2	79.8	82.0	2.2	4.7	3.7	-1.0
<b>Ealing</b>	74.3	78.2	3.9	79.5	83.0	3.5	5.2	4.8	-0.4
<b>Enfield</b>	75.5	78.5	3.0	80.7	82.4	1.7	5.2	3.9	-1.3
<b>Greenwich</b>	73.3	74.9	1.6	78.8	81.4	2.6	5.5	6.5	1.0
<b>Hackney</b>	71.9	75.7	3.8	79.0	82.1	3.1	7.1	6.5	-0.6
<b>Hammersmith and Fulham</b>	72.0	78.0	6.0	79.3	84.0	4.7	7.3	6.1	-1.2
<b>Haringey</b>	72.9	76.1	3.2	78.9	82.8	3.9	6.0	6.7	0.7
<b>Harrow</b>	75.9	79.6	3.7	81.4	83.6	2.2	5.5	4.0	-1.5
<b>Havering</b>	75.1	78.3	3.2	80.0	82.1	2.1	4.9	3.8	-1.1
<b>Hillingdon</b>	75.4	78.0	2.6	79.9	82.7	2.8	4.5	4.8	0.3
<b>Hounslow</b>	74.4	76.9	2.5	79.7	81.2	1.5	5.3	4.3	-1.0
<b>Islington</b>	72.2	75.1	2.9	78.9	80.8	1.9	6.7	5.7	-1.0
<b>Kensington and Chelsea</b>	74.1	83.7	9.6	81.4	87.8	6.4	7.3	4.0	-3.3
<b>Kingston upon Thames</b>	76.1	79.3	3.2	81.0	83.0	2.0	4.9	3.7	-1.2
<b>Lambeth</b>	71.6	75.8	4.2	78.4	80.6	2.2	6.8	4.8	-2.0
<b>Lewisham</b>	72.2	76.0	3.8	78.4	80.8	2.4	6.2	4.8	-1.4
<b>Merton</b>	75.4	79.7	4.3	80.8	83.0	2.2	5.4	3.3	-2.1
<b>Newham</b>	71.6	75.7	4.1	77.9	79.8	1.9	6.3	4.1	-2.2
<b>Redbridge</b>	75.8	78.3	2.5	80.4	82.4	2.0	4.6	4.1	-0.5
<b>Richmond upon Thames</b>	75.9	80.0	4.1	81.3	83.8	2.5	5.4	3.8	-1.6
<b>Southwark</b>	72.3	77.0	4.7	78.7	82.0	3.3	6.4	5.0	-1.4
<b>Sutton</b>	75.5	78.7	3.2	80.3	82.6	2.3	4.8	3.9	-0.9
<b>Tower Hamlets</b>	71.3	75.3	4.0	77.6	80.4	2.8	6.3	5.1	-1.2
<b>Waltham Forest</b>	74.0	75.9	1.9	79.5	81.0	1.5	5.5	5.1	-0.4
<b>Wandsworth</b>	73.3	76.9	3.6	79.1	81.4	2.3	5.8	4.5	-1.3
<b>Westminster</b>	73.9	81.5	7.6	80.5	84.6	4.1	6.6	3.1	-3.5

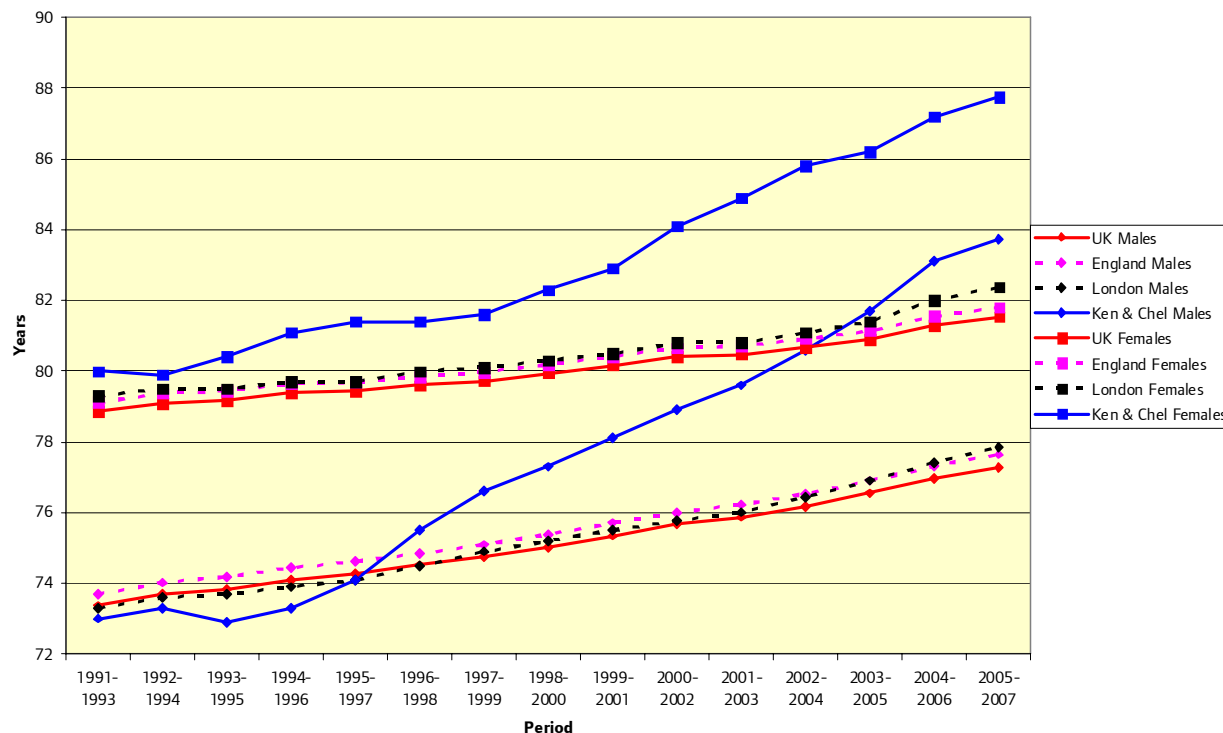
<sup>1</sup> City of London excluded from results because of the small number of deaths and the small population.

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Since 1995-97 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 9.6 years in ten years, more than three times the national average change and over 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, most critically, 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 1995-97 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.

**Chart 1: Male and Female Life Expectancy at Birth (years): UK, England, London and Kensington & Chelsea: 1991-93 to 2005-07**



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 2000-02 that are the top two in England and Wales and are over 5 standard deviations above the mean of all local authorities. For females Kensington & Chelsea and Hammersmith & Fulham had seen the most rapid increases in England and Wales with the former being between 4 and 5 standard deviations above the mean rate of change and the latter between 2 and 3 standard deviations above. On the other hand, the rates of improvement for Greenwich (males) and Harrow (females) are the lowest in London and are the only boroughs where the improvements are more than one standard deviation below the means across all local authorities.

## GLA Life Tables

The GLA plans to produce borough and borough group life tables in early 2009 using its own mid-2006 population estimates and detailed mortality data from 2005-07. These will be used in future GLA population projections.

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