

Life Expectancy at Birth

Expectation of life at birth, 2003-2005

On 21st November 2006, the Office for National Statistics released expectation of life at birth figures for 2003-05. These were published for all health and local authorities in the UK, and for regions and countries.

Nationally, expectation of life at birth has increased over the last decade: for UK males there has been an increase of 2.77 years between 1993-95 and 2003-05, while for females the increase has been 1.75 years, showing that the gender gap is closing. In 1993-95 female life expectancy was 5.33 years greater than that for males; in 2003-05 this gap had reduced to 4.31 years.

For both males and females, the lowest expectation of life is found in Scotland, where life expectancy is significantly lower than the next lowest areas, Wales for females and Northern Ireland for males.

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

	United Kingdom	England & Wales	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Greater London ¹
Males							
1993-1995	73.84	74.06	74.18	73.42	71.87	73.12	73.7
2003-2005	76.61	76.87	76.92	76.15	74.24	76.10	76.9
Change	2.77	2.81	2.74	2.73	2.37	2.98	3.2
Females							
1993-1995	79.17	79.37	79.44	78.99	77.47	78.75	79.5
2003-2005	80.92	81.10	81.14	80.56	79.23	80.88	81.4
Change	1.75	1.73	1.70	1.57	1.76	2.13	1.9

¹ Data for Greater London are produced to 1 decimal place.

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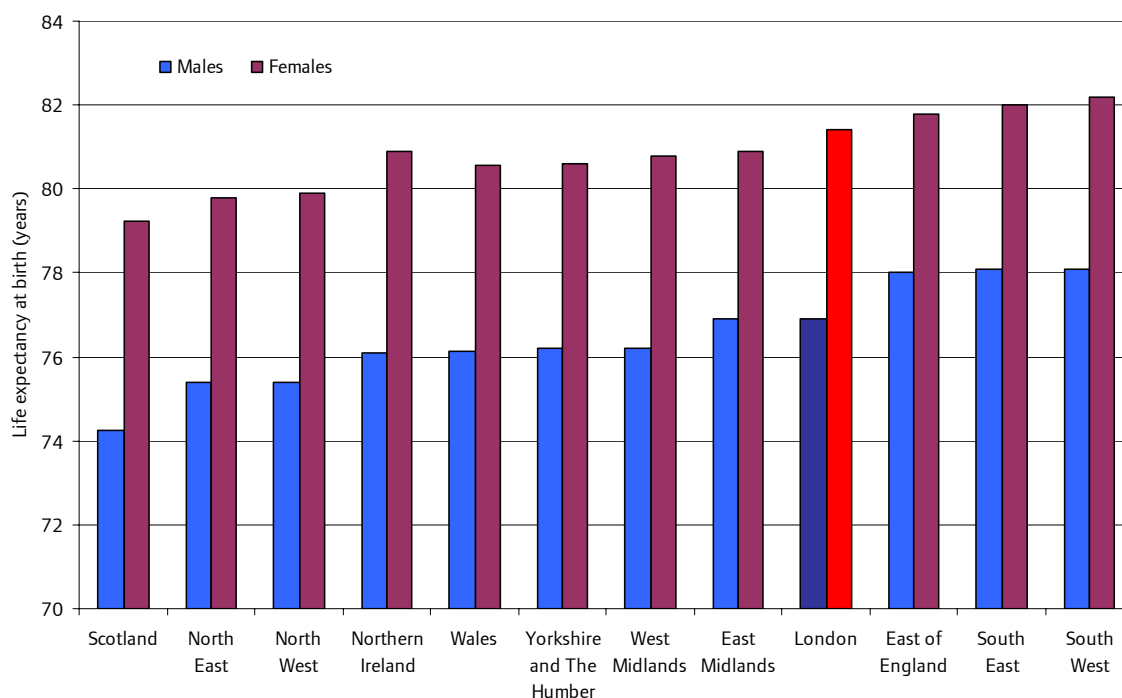
Within England the lowest life expectancies are in the North of England, while the highest are in the South. In the North East expectation of life is 75.4 for males and 79.8 for females, while in the South West it is 78.1 and 82.2 respectively. All regions have seen an increase in life expectancy over the decade, the largest being in the East of England for males (3.2 years) and Northern Ireland for females (2.2 years).

As with the UK as a whole, the gender gap is closing for all regions and constituent countries. The greatest difference between male and female life expectancy is in Scotland at 5.0 years, followed by Northern Ireland at 4.8 years and the West Midlands at 4.6 years. London has seen the greatest reduction in gender gap – falling 1.3 years from 5.8 years in 1993-95.

Across local authority areas, the lowest expectation of life at birth is found in Glasgow City – 69.9 years for males and 76.7 years for females. Kensington and Chelsea had the highest life expectancy for both males (82.2 years) and females (86.2 years).

Since 1993-95 all local authorities have seen an increase in life expectancy with the exception of Pendle and Blaenau Gwent where there were no changes for women.

Chart 1: Life expectancy at birth by region and country, 2003-05.



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The largest increase in life expectancy was in Kensington and Chelsea – 9.3 years for males and 5.8 years for females. The gender gap remains large despite this relatively high increase in males life expectancy at 4.0 years, however this gap had fallen in the last decade from 7.5 years in 1993-95

The GLA produces life tables, and hence figures for expectation of life at birth, for use in GLA work, in particular the projection models. These calculations are based on ONS figures for deaths and the mid-year estimates of population. The most recent GLA calculations were produced in early 2005, for the period 2000-02 (full details of the results and explanation of the methods of calculation are available in *DMAG Briefing 2005/10 Borough Life Tables 2000-02*). On the whole, the ONS life expectancies (see Table 2) are higher than those produced by the GLA, however, much of that can be explained by the difference in time period; the increase in expectation of life is a general trend (See *Update 2005/13* for a comparison).

The ONS life tables are constructed using the mid-year estimates, which are under review following a project to better allocate international migrants to different areas of the country. Any major change to the mid-year estimates will therefore alter to these figures. The GLA plans to produce new life tables in 2008 based on the 2006 mid-year estimates and mortality data from 2005-07.

Fully detailed tables of data for the UK and constituent countries, Government Office Regions and local and health authorities are available through the ONS website, as well as the November 21 2005 Press Release and information on the methodology used;

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

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

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_other/GSSMethodology_No_33.pdf

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Table 2: Life expectancy at birth, London Boroughs¹

	Males	Females
Barking and Dagenham	75.3	79.4
Barnet	78.6	82.9
Bexley	78.3	81.9
Brent	77.4	82.8
Bromley	78.6	82.6
Camden	75.7	81.6
Croydon	77.5	81.0
Ealing	76.9	81.6
Enfield	77.1	81.3
Greenwich	74.8	80.3
Hackney	75.1	81.5
Hammersmith and Fulham	76.8	82.4
Haringey	75.2	80.9
Harrow	78.7	82.6
Havering	77.8	81.4
Hillingdon	77.3	81.6
Hounslow	76.2	80.2
Islington	74.6	79.6
Kensington and Chelsea	82.2	86.2
Kingston upon Thames	78.5	82.1
Lambeth	74.9	79.8
Lewisham	75.1	79.6
Merton	78.0	82.5
Newham	74.9	78.8
Redbridge	77.5	81.6
Richmond upon Thames	79.3	82.7
Southwark	75.5	80.9
Sutton	77.9	81.7
Tower Hamlets	74.9	79.9
Waltham Forest	75.4	80.3
Wandsworth	76.3	80.8
Westminster	78.9	83.1

¹ City of London is excluded from the results because of the small number of deaths and population in this area
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