

Inform Gloucestershire

Health in Gloucestershire – an Overview

This overview summarises some of the key health information for Gloucestershire. It includes Public Health and data from Health Care Services. Further analysis of health data and intelligence about what this means for local services can be found in the [Health theme of Inform Gloucestershire](#).

Additional information for health care planners and other stakeholders, including information about the [Population](#) of Gloucestershire can also be found under the population section and in the [Adults and Older People](#) and [Children and Young People](#) sections of Inform Gloucestershire.

Overall, the health of people living in Gloucestershire is better than the England average. However, there are areas of Gloucestershire where residents experience poorer health than the England average.

Additionally, the health of people living in Gloucestershire has not been improving over time as seen in other parts of the country. For residents of Gloucestershire, although Life Expectancy at 65 Years of age is better than the England average for both males and females, it is not improving in line with the national trends for life expectancy, especially for females. For men in Gloucestershire, their Healthy Life Expectancy, the age to which an individual can expect to live with good health, has been declining since 2010¹.

Children and young people under the age of 20 years make up 22.6% of the population of Gloucestershire². The health and wellbeing of children in Gloucestershire is generally better than the England average. Infant and child mortality rates are similar to the England average³.

¹ Public Health Outcomes Framework, Public Health England, <http://www.phoutcomes.info/public-health-outcomes-framework#gid/1000049>

² Current Population, Inform Gloucestershire
<https://inform.gloucestershire.gov.uk/viewpage.aspx?c=page&page=Population-CurrentPopulation-CountyDistrictData>

³ Public Health Outcomes Framework, Public Health England, <http://www.phoutcomes.info/public-health-outcomes-framework#gid/1000049>

Children from poorer backgrounds are more at risk of poorer health outcomes. The level of child poverty is better than the England average with 14.4% of children aged under 16 years living in poverty. However this means that more than one in every 10 Gloucestershire children is living in poverty⁴.

In 2014/15, children were admitted to hospital for mental health conditions at a lower rate to that in England as a whole⁵. The rate of inpatient admissions during the same period because of self-harm was higher than the England average⁶.

Compared with the England average, Gloucestershire has a similar percentage of children who are overweight or obese at Reception age (22.2% of children aged 4-5 are obese) and a better percentage when measured in Year 6 classified as obese or overweight (32.1% of children aged 10-11 years)⁷.

School Readiness, a key measure of early years development across a wide range of developmental areas, is lower than average in Gloucestershire. A lower than average proportion of children have achieved a good level of development at the end of the foundation stage, with 64% achieving this milestone⁸.

Gloucestershire has an ageing population – this describes a population with a higher and growing number and proportion of older people. Older people are more likely to have poor health and more complex health needs. People are also living longer lives with multiple long term conditions.

The three leading causes of death in Gloucestershire are cancer (25.7%), circulatory disease (28.0%) and respiratory disease (14.6%)⁹.

The causes of death driving the difference in Life Expectancy between Gloucestershire's least and most deprived areas are listed in the table below. The table shows the top 6 causes of 'excess deaths' for males and females in Gloucestershire. This is the number of additional deaths that occur in the selected most deprived area because it has a higher mortality rate for that cause of death than the comparator area with the least deprived residents. If these deaths were

⁴ Public Health Outcomes Framework, Public Health England, <http://www.phoutcomes.info/public-health-outcomes-framework#gid/1000049>

⁵ Child Health Profile – March 2016, Public Health England, <https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiKpFv837fSAhXFuBoKHcbgA2kQFggaMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.chimat.org.uk%2Fresource%2Fview.aspx%3FRID%3D273501&usg=AFQjCNHikM8bl-QlxVKv5v8k0HdZcqURAw&sig2=qKLjoQ8x3fNaOO4Bbm4wWg&bvm=bv.148747831,d.d2s>

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ Public Health and NHS Outcomes Frameworks for Children, Public Health England, <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/cyphof/data#page/0/gid/8000025/pat/6/par/E12000009/ati/102/are/E10000013>

⁸ Early years foundation stage profile results: 2014 to 2015, Department for Education <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/early-years-foundation-stage-profile-results-2014-to-2015>

⁹ End of Life Profiles, Public Health England <http://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/end-of-life/data#page/4/gid/1938132882/pat/6/par/E12000009/ati/102/are/E10000013/iid/91569/age/1/sex/4>

prevented, then the contribution of that cause of death to the overall life expectancy gap would be eliminated.

Males		Females	
Cause of Death	Number of Excess Deaths in Deprived Quintile	Cause of Death	Number of Excess Deaths in Deprived Quintile
Coronary Heart Disease	132	Coronary Heart Disease	97
Other Cancers	121	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	73
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	79	Stroke	57
Lung Cancer	59	Other Circulatory Conditions	51
Dementia & Alzheimer's Diseases	51	Lung Cancer	49
Pneumonia	49	Dementia & Alzheimer's Diseases	43

Table 1: Top 6 Causes of Death Driving Inequality in Life Expectancy in Gloucestershire, by Gender¹⁰

The health of an individual is influenced by their lifestyle, the environment they live in – including access to health care services and their genetics. The risk of developing poor health increases with poor diet, low levels of physical inactivity, smoking and excessive alcohol consumption.

Gloucestershire is broadly in line with national and regional levels for alcohol related admissions to hospital, levels of physical activity and overweight or obese adults, although some districts have worse rates than the county as a whole, notably in the west of the county in the Forest of Dean, Gloucester City and Tewkesbury¹¹.

Smoking rates in Gloucestershire are steadily declining and are lower than counties with similar populations¹².

Good mental health and emotional wellbeing also contributes greatly to a person's health. People with severe mental health needs are more likely to die earlier than average. Adults in Gloucestershire have lower rates of diagnosed mental illness than the national average¹³.

¹⁰ Adapted from The Segment Tool. Segmenting Life Expectancy Gaps by Cause of Death. Key results for Gloucestershire. Public Health England. May 2016. http://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/segment/area-search-results/E12000009?search_type=list-child-areas&place_name=South West

¹¹ Public Health Outcomes Framework, Public Health England, <http://www.phoutcomes.info/public-health-outcomes-framework#gid/1000049>

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ GP Practice Profiles, Public Health England, <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/general-practice/data#mod,1,pyr,2016,pat,19,par,E38000062,are,L84073,sid1,2000003,ind1,-,sid2,-,ind2,->

Although Gloucestershire has had a higher rate of deaths by suicide than England for several years, this has been reducing and is now at a similar level to the England rate¹⁴.

In terms of health protection, protecting the health of the population and individuals includes childhood vaccination and vaccination for influenza (flu) and shingles for at risk groups, the control of communicable diseases, including sexually transmitted infections and protecting people from some of the environmental threats to health.

In 2015/16, almost 73% of older people received their free flu vaccination, above the England average of 71%. Vaccination rates are lower for 'at risk' groups (including people with certain health conditions and pregnant women) at 41%. This is in line with the England average¹⁵.

¹⁴ Public Health Outcomes Framework, Public Health England, <http://www.phoutcomes.info/public-health-outcomes-framework#gid/1000049>

¹⁵ Health Protection Profile, Public Health England, <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-protection/data#page/0>