



Life Expectancy at Birth: 2004-06

Background

On 28 November 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. 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 South East

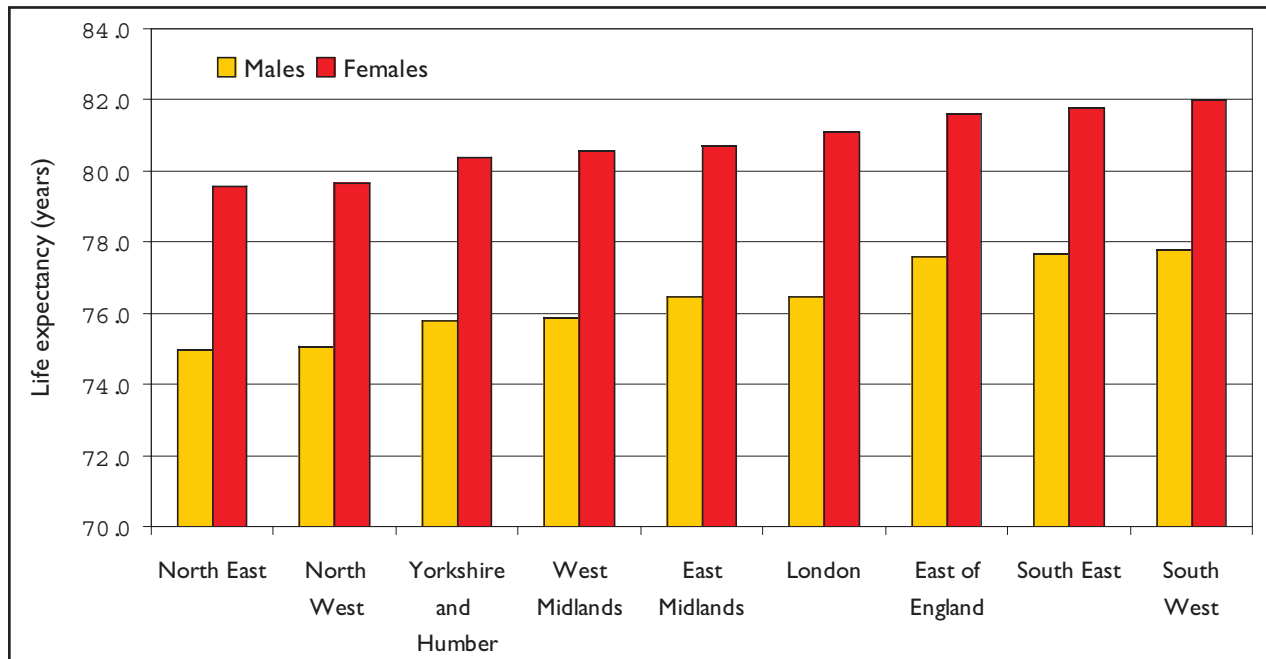
	United Kingdom	England & Wales	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	South East
Males							
1994-1996	74.10	74.32	74.44	73.72	72.08	73.51	75.70
2004-2006	76.96	77.22	77.32	76.64	74.60	76.09	78.54
Change	2.86	2.90	2.88	2.92	2.52	2.58	2.84
Females							
1994-1996	79.38	79.56	79.64	79.15	77.73	78.94	80.50
2004-2006	81.29	81.48	81.55	80.98	79.57	80.96	82.40
Change	1.91	1.92	1.91	1.83	1.84	2.02	1.90

Within England the lowest life expectancies are in the Northern regions, while the highest are in the South. In 2004-06 in the North East expectation of life was 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.

The South East has consistently higher expectancies than England with male expectancies in 2004-06 the highest of all regions, but improvements have been slightly slower than for England.

As with the UK as a whole, the gender gap is closing for all regions. In the South East the gap fell from 4.80 years in 1994-96 to 3.86 years in 2004-06. 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 this 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.

In the South East the highest expectancies are found in Hart for males (80.7 years – the third highest in the UK) and Epsom and Ewell for females (84.2 years – the sixth highest in the UK). Elmbridge, Wokingham and Guildford are also in the top ten authorities for males while New Forest and Hart are similarly placed for females.

Authorities with the lowest expectancies for males are: Hastings, Thanet, Brighton & Hove, Medway and Portsmouth (all between 75.5 and 76.4 years). For females the lowest are: Hastings, Thanet, Medway, Milton Keynes and Swale (all between 80.5 and 81.0 years).

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>

This report has been commissioned by the South East England Regional Assembly from the Greater London Authority.

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