

Well-being of Wales

2016-17



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Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg / This document is also available in Welsh

Welsh Government supports the Sustainable Development Goals

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Well-being of Wales 2016-17

Introduction

A report presenting the progress we are making as a nation against the 7 well-being goals.

This report provides an update on progress being made in Wales towards the achievement of the 7 well-being goals. It considers the current position and progress in recent years by reference to the 46 national indicators for Wales and some additional contextual information where appropriate.

The 7 well-being goals have been put in place to improve the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales. They were agreed by the National Assembly for Wales in 2015 and are contained in law under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

This report assesses progress against those shared national goals for Wales as a whole. **It is not a report about the performance of any organisation, but the collective changes we are seeing in Wales.** The report can also be used to consider Wales' contribution towards the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals which seek to address urgent global challenges.

The report was first launched in September 2017. It is primarily an on-line resource providing narratives on progress towards the goals and data for the national indicators. We will be looking to develop both the on-line functionality and the content of the annual report in future and as we develop more information on trends from the National Survey, will be able to report more on trends and progress towards the goals. The report also does not seek to provide exhaustive analysis of the indicators as many of the indicators are analysed in detailed through our routine statistical publications that can be found on the [Welsh Government Statistics and Research pages](#).

The full list of national indicators is available at Annex A.

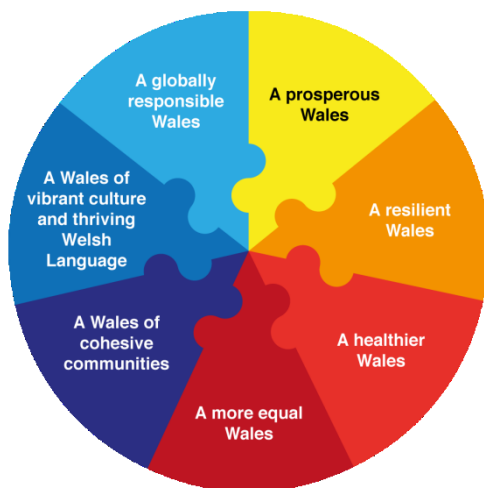
The report shows:

- Life expectancy has been broadly increasing and the amount of time spent in good health has been on the up. However inequalities remain across different groups.
- Smoking and drinking are falling, but overall one in ten people follow fewer than two good healthy lifestyle behaviours. Obesity in adults has risen over the long term.
- In terms of a healthy start to life there has been good progress in areas such as breastfeeding and dental health, but obesity in children remains a challenge.
- People are more likely than ever to be in work in Wales, although historical economic challenges remain. Whilst having a job reduces the chances of being poor, in-work poverty is increasing as more people enter work. Two-thirds of workers are considered to be in "decent work".
- As in the rest of the UK, there has been little improvement in people's incomes, although the gender pay gap has reduced and educational attainment is increasing.

- Relative income poverty has remained stubborn and is highest amongst children, although a lower percentage of the population report themselves to be in material deprivation. Socio-economic disadvantage remains a key inequality for some outcomes such as educational attainment and life expectancy.
- Inequalities persist in different indicators and across different population groups. For example, black and ethnic minorities are less likely to say that they feel they belong to the local area, and women feel less safe in their communities than men.
- People's sense of community and belonging depends on a range of factors. In general most people are satisfied with where they live, although one in five people feel lonely.
- Many adults attend and participate in culture and sports and trends are generally upwards in recent years. However participation varies according to age and background.
- One in five people speak Welsh and in recent years, data suggest that there is an increase in those speaking Welsh but not fluently whilst use of the language has remained steady.
- Water quality and air quality in Wales continues to improve and greenhouse gas emissions have fallen. However air pollution continues to be a significant health issue.
- Renewable energy generation has been on the rise. But our ecological footprint suggests that our key natural resources are being depleted faster than they can be replenished.
- Overall, biological diversity is declining, and no ecosystems in Wales can be said to have all the features needed for resilience.

Structure of the report

Figure 1: Well-being goals



The report consists of:

- a progress report against each of the 7 well-being goals illustrated in Figure 1 using data relating to relevant national indicators and additional contextual information where appropriate. This document consists of those reports
- a description and chart of recent trends against each of the 46 national indicators for Wales, providing links to the data sources. These are only available on-line through the [Well-being of Wales pages](#)
- further background information about the well-being goals and the national indicators including links to information on the quality of the data. Some background can be found in the background section of this report

The report includes some analysis of the national indicators according to socio-economic background, age or other equality groups. However, it is possible to analyse the indicators in even greater detail. Therefore the 46 on-line national indicator reports also provide links to more detailed reporting of those indicators through Statistical Releases or Bulletins produced either by Welsh Government or other departments.

We have also produced an [interactive application](#) to explore each of the 7 well-being goals and the indicators which tell us story about progress. You can also use this to explore each of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals, and find which of our national indicators for Wales tells a story about progress against the Sustainable Development Goals. These are also available as tables in Annex A and B of this report.

Children

Many of the indicators are available for children (for example, healthy lifestyles; Welsh Language; poverty; mental well-being) and these have been reported against separately in the report where possible. However the National Survey for Wales, source of many of the indicators for adults on subjective well-being (such as loneliness, volunteering or feeling safe) does not cover children aged under 16. We are currently developing new measures of well-being for children that will help us understand the matters of subjective well-being reported on here for adults. See the Background section for more detail on this work

StatsWales

The data that have been used to measure the national indicators are mostly available on the [StatsWales site](#), with additional breakdowns by geographical area or population group where this has been possible.

Feedback

We will be seeking to continuously improve this report during the year and would welcome feedback on the presentation or usability of the report using the contact details provided at the beginning of the report.

A prosperous Wales

The goal: An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.

The economy is complex and continuously changing. In order to understand what is happening it is necessary to look at a number of indicators and to focus more on trends than on short term changes, which are often temporary.

What happens to the economy in Wales depends in part on what happens to the economy across the rest of UK and the wider world, especially over the short term. However, what we do here in Wales matters a great deal for economic performance over the longer term. Furthermore the long term trends in the economy and industrial structure have a complex impact on progress towards a low carbon and environmentally efficient economy.

What does the data say about prosperity in Wales?

Since the recession, Wales, like the rest of UK, has seen little growth in average incomes.

The best indicator of peoples' incomes is the measure of Gross Disposable Household Income (GDHI) per head.

Across the UK as a whole, GDHI per head has grown only slowly in real terms (that is, after allowing for inflation) since the recession of 2008. This contrasts with steady growth over the years before the recession. The data for Wales shows that we have followed a similar pattern to the UK as a whole – Chart 1.01 shows GDHI in Wales *relative to the UK*, where there has been little change.

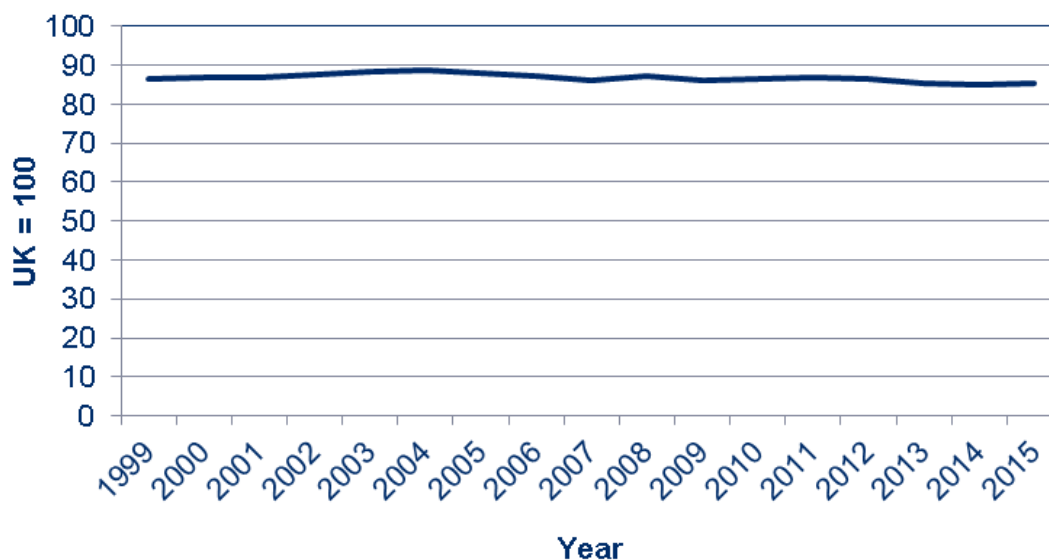
The slow growth in incomes in Wales and the UK since the recession reflects an unprecedented slowdown in the growth of productivity – or in other words, in the growth in the value of goods and services produced by each worker. This slowdown has been seen, to varying degrees, across developed countries, and the reasons for it are not clear.

Future prosperity is threatened in Wales, as it is across the whole of the UK, if productivity growth does not recover. Over the longer run, it is only productivity growth that can deliver the higher levels of income, and the increased resources for public services, that people want.

Taking the whole period since devolution in 1999, rather than just since the recession in 2008, Wales saw the sixth largest percentage increase in income per head out of the 12 UK countries and English regions, up 58.5 per cent between 1999 and 2015 before allowing for inflation, compared to a 60.8 per cent increase across the UK as a whole. In the most recent year, 2015, Wales was ranked 9th on this indicator, above Northern Ireland, Yorkshire and the Humber, and the North East of England.

Of course income from employment or from benefits isn't the only measure of prosperity. Looking more broadly at wealth, Wales does better when compared to many other parts of GB, mostly due to higher levels of home ownership and pensions (in turn partly reflecting Wales's older population).

1.01 Welsh Gross Disposable Household Income per head, 1999 to 2015



Source: Office for National Statistics

Wales performs less well on GVA than on other indicators

Gross Value Added (GVA) per head measures the average value of goods and services produced by people living in Wales. Historically Wales has had lower levels of GVA per head than other parts of the UK. However, Wales saw the fifth largest percentage increase in Gross Value Added per head of the 12 UK countries and English regions between 1999 and 2015, up 62.6 per cent before allowing for inflation, compared with a 64.2 per cent increase in the UK.

Nevertheless, Wales remains bottom of the list of UK countries and regions on this indicator, mainly reflecting a comparatively low level of productivity. Wales faces a particular challenge in performing strongly on productivity, as research shows that, when other things are equal, productivity tends to be higher in, and near, big cities. Wales has a relatively small share of its population living in, or close to, big cities.

International data also show that Wales compares better on indicators of income than on GVA. However, making such comparisons is complicated by the need to convert indicators into a common currency. Over time, large changes in the relative performance of the UK have resulted from the methods adopted to do this. This has affected all UK countries and regions, including Wales.

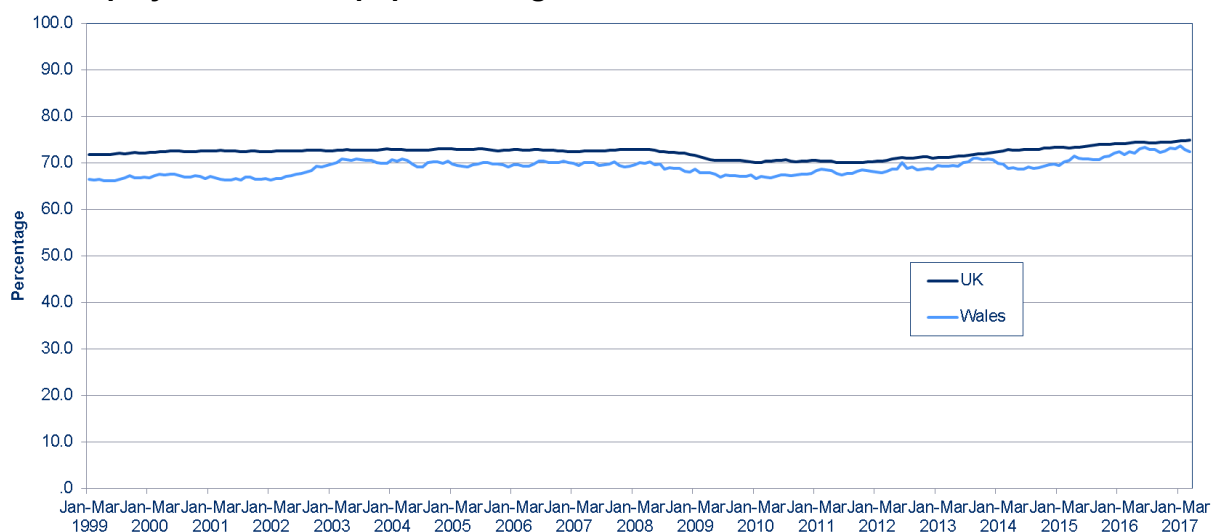
Coming up with new ideas and better ways of doing things is one of the most important ways in which productivity can be improved over the long term. The data on innovation shows a mixed picture for Wales. Despite the latest business survey of innovation showing that around half of all businesses in Wales were engaged in introducing new products or

processes, spending on research and development in Wales remains relatively low compared to many other parts of the UK¹.

There has been a big improvement in the Welsh employment rate

Work matters for many aspects of well-being – it is not just a source of income, but also promotes social interaction and both mental and physical health. The figures in Chart 1.02 show a big improvement in the employment rate in Wales over the period since devolution, with an employment rate of 72.9 per cent for the period February to April 2017, only 1.8 per cent below the UK figure. Over the latter part of the 1990s, the gap was much larger.

1.02 Employment rate for population aged 16 to 64, 1999 to 2017



Source: Office for National Statistics

However the increase in employment does not mean that the extra employment is all in “high quality” jobs.

The national indicator of the quality of employment is the percentage of people in employment who are on permanent contracts (or on temporary contracts and not seeking permanent employment) and who earn more than two thirds of the UK median wage. The most recent data shows a decrease in this percentage in Wales. However, we do not have a long run series for this new indicator so we cannot tell whether the decrease is more than a temporary effect.

Wales is ranked 10th out of the 12 UK countries and regions on the latest figures for quality of full time employment.

At the same time, other data indicates that over the long run, the share of employment in the top three occupational classes in Wales has grown strongly, although the share of employment in these top occupational classes remains lower in Wales than in many other parts of the UK.

¹ These indicators are volatile, so precise figures are not quoted.

The percentage of young people that are not in education, employment or training has fluctuated at around 10-12 per cent for the 16-18 age group for many years, although in more recent periods there are signs that this figure has been falling.

Skills and health are very important for people's chances of having a job and for their income levels

Skill and qualification levels are the biggest single influence on people's chances of being in employment and on their incomes. The skill and qualification level of the population in an area is also the single most important factor in the economic success of that area.

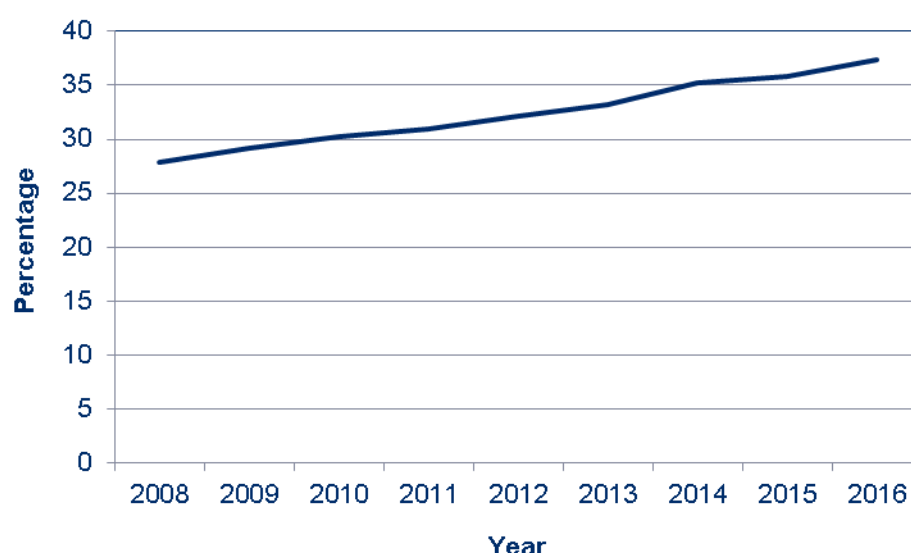
It is notable that across Wales there is only limited variation in employment rates *for people with similar qualification levels*.

The qualification profile of the Welsh population has been improving over time. For example the proportion of the working age population qualified to NQF4 or above has increased from 28 per cent in 2008 to 37 per cent in 2016 (see Chart 1.03). The proportion of the Welsh working age population qualified to this level is higher than in all English regions except London, the South East and the South West. The Welsh figure is lower than that for Scotland, but higher than for Northern Ireland.

Attainment of qualifications at the end of secondary school continues to rise - however international comparisons under the PISA assessments suggests that in terms of reading, maths and science Welsh pupils continue to lag behind the rest of the UK.

International research indicates that addressing low and very low skills is even more important than increasing high skill levels. Research suggests that, in common with the rest of the UK, Wales continues to compare less well with other countries in this respect.

1.03 Percentage of the Welsh working-age population (aged 18 to 64) who have a level 4 qualification or above, 2008 to 2016



Source: Annual Population Survey, Office for National Statistics

In general there have been improvements in the number of expected years of healthy life, avoidable mortality and some healthy lifestyle characteristics (smoking and drinking) in recent years. The evidence shows that people's health is very important, not only for their chances of being in employment but also for the progress they make once in employment. Good physical and mental health both matter a lot in the labour market, and therefore have important *indirect* effects on peoples' well-being, alongside their more direct effects.

Having a job reduces the chances of being poor, but in-work poverty is increasing

Employment is also associated with a lower risk of deep and persistent poverty. In-work poverty rates have risen in Wales and across the UK (and poverty in households where at least one person is doing some work now accounts for well over half of all working age poverty). However, research for the UK as a whole suggests that poverty rates are much lower for people who live in households where **all** adults are employees who work **full-time**. It also suggests that deep and persistent poverty (which is more damaging to the well-being of current and future generations than less severe poverty) is much less common amongst working households.

Overall, relative poverty rates in Wales have been little changed over the last few years (as is the case for the UK as a whole), but over the longer term there has been a large reduction in the rate of poverty for pensioners (again, this is similar to the UK as a whole). As a result, the poverty rate is now much lower for pensioners than other age groups. The child poverty rate has been persistently high compared to other parts of the UK.

However, poverty can be considered in a wider sense than relative income. 15 per cent of adults in Wales were materially deprived (that is, not being able to afford basic things like keeping the house warm). 5 per cent of pensioners were materially deprived and 6 per cent of parents have materially deprived children. Detailed analysis of the 2013-14 National Survey for Wales results showed that when controlling for a wide range of other factors, people are more likely to be materially deprived if they live in social housing; have low to very low life satisfaction; are separated or divorced; and are between 16-59 years old.

The gender pay gap has narrowed

The most recent data for Wales show the lowest gap in pay between genders since the survey began in 1997, although the gap has changed relatively little in recent years. For part-time employees separately, women are paid more on average, resulting in a "negative" gender pay gap.

These gaps do not take account of factors (such as education levels and experience) which vary across the genders and which will affect earning levels.

The interaction between economic growth and the goal of a low-carbon, resource efficient economy is complex and poses challenges, but there are also positive signs

There is a complex interaction between the economy and the environment in both a positive and negative manner and can depend on the nature of industry based in Wales and technological developments across the world.

For example, air quality in Wales has greatly improved since the 1970s due mainly to statutory emissions controls and a decline in heavy industry. However, pollution from other sources, such as transport, agriculture and domestic heating have become more of a concern. Since 1970, sulphur dioxide emissions (another gas harmful to health) have declined by 94 per cent with over 80 per cent of the reduction seen since 1990 due to reductions from heavy industry.

Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) emissions have also been declining but the targets for nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter are still being breached. The highest concentrations of nitrogen dioxide emissions are found in large urban areas and adjacent to the busy roads, reflecting the contribution traffic and urban activity (which are fuelled by economic activity) make to poor air quality. Average nitrogen dioxide levels where people live across the whole of Wales (10 µg/m³) are well below the annual mean limit to protect human health (40 µg/m³), however there are around 40 specific areas in Wales which local authorities have designated as Air Quality Management Areas as measurements in these areas have exceeded the 40 µg/m³ air quality objective.

Although the recovery from recession has been slow and halting, the long run trend to increased transport use has resumed, affecting all modes except buses. As in most other parts of the UK outside London, private road transport remains very much the dominant mode and accounts for the overwhelming majority of journeys to work in Wales.

UK data indicates that low carbon vehicle use is growing strongly, albeit from a low base. [Emissions of greenhouse gases have fallen by almost 20 per cent](#) between the 1990 base year and 2015, mainly due to efficiencies in energy generation and business sector heating; natural gas replacing coal; chemical industry abatement and variations in manufacturing output (e.g. in iron and steel, bulk chemical production).

Around two thirds of greenhouse gas emissions are now as a result of energy supply, business and industry. However the capacity for renewable energy generation has risen rapidly in recent years.

The scale of the continuing challenge posed by greenhouse gas emissions is shown by the size of Wales' ecological footprint, which on latest estimates is roughly five times the size of Wales.

A resilient Wales

The goal: A nation which maintains and enhances a bio-diverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example, climate change).

The natural resources of Wales - our air, land, water, wildlife, plants and soil - when cared for in the right way, can provide food and energy as well as helping us to reduce flooding, improve air quality, and provide materials for construction. They also provide a home for some rare and beautiful wildlife and iconic landscapes we can enjoy and which boost the economy. Ecosystems (the interaction of living things with their environment) can be complex and in order to understand what is happening it is important to look at a range of indicators such as those on air, water and soil quality as well as biodiversity and the extent and condition of our habitats.

What does the data tell us about how resilient Wales is?

Wales' natural landscape and coastlines are important national assets supporting a bio-diverse environment, agriculture and fishing and a thriving tourist industry

The land area of Wales covers just over 2 million hectares (ha), with the Welsh marine area extending out 12 nautical miles.

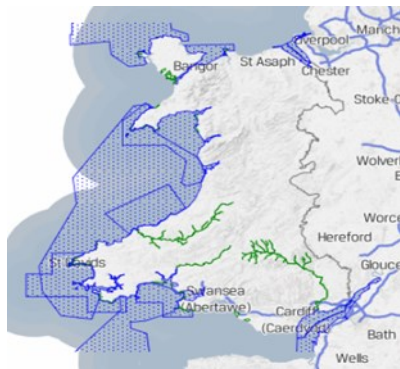
The land cover of Wales can be divided broadly into semi-natural habitats and land-cover which has been modified (such as the built environment as well as land which has been altered from its semi-natural state such as conifer plantations, improved grassland and arable land). Semi-natural habitats in Wales cover a total of 626,100 ha (30 per cent of the Welsh land surface). This varies across Wales; whilst 84 per cent of the upland area is semi-natural habitat only 17 per cent of the lowlands is semi-natural.

Wales is home to a broad range of animal and plant species and many special habitats, however the latest assessment shows that overall, biological diversity is declining, and no ecosystems in Wales can be said to have all the features needed for resilience.

Wales has 1,016 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, 21 Special Protection Areas for internationally important populations of birds and 95 Special Areas of Conservation for other threatened species and natural habitats.

These special sites and areas are designated in order to protect by law their wildlife and geology. Such sites are important in protecting ecosystems and helping to maintain a bio-diverse natural environment.

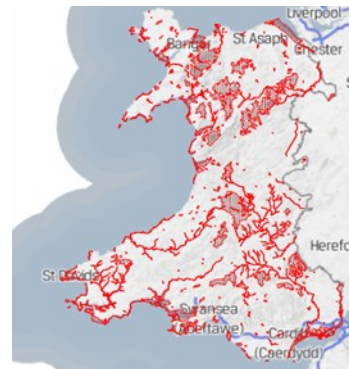
Special Areas of Conservation



Special Protection Areas



Sites of Special Scientific Interest



As an overview, according to the most recent assessment of Special Areas of Conservation published by [Natural Resources Wales](#) in 2016 roughly 25 per cent of these areas were in a favourable condition.

Trends of extent and population of terrestrial, freshwater and marine species vary enormously; with some species increasing and some decreasing. For instance, both increases and decreases can be seen in birds, bats and many pollinator species (e.g. bees and butterflies) while for many species we do not have sufficient data on which to base any conclusions. Evidence suggests the marine environment is able to support healthy populations of many species of seabirds and marine mammals

The rivers of Wales are hosts to important fish species including Sea Trout, Shad, Lamprey and Bullheads, as well as the iconic Atlantic Salmon. While all fish species are challenged, there is verifiable evidence that there has been a marked reduction in the abundance of salmon in recent years, particularly in the southern regions of the species' range which is linked to increased mortality at sea. Although stocks in many of our industrial rivers have improved in the last 30 years, most stocks in Wales remain severely challenged.

When asked in the National Survey for Wales about how concerned they were about past or future changes to the variety of species in Wales, 43 per cent of respondents indicated they were fairly or very concerned about this.

The methodology for improved monitoring of our indicators on healthy ecosystems and biodiversity in Wales is being developed alongside wider proposals for future monitoring of habitats and biodiversity and exploring use of Earth Observation technology and citizen science. In the meantime our understanding of the extent of semi-natural habitats in Wales is from a comprehensive field survey, the Habitat Survey of Wales (2010), with updated information available from more recent Glastir Monitoring Evaluation Programme (GMEP) results.

The quality of our soil is very important

Soils are crucial to terrestrial ecosystems and underpin vital ecosystem services. This is why good management of our soil is so important. Well managed soil will safeguard food production, support habitats, help to manage flood risk and reduce water treatment costs

Welsh soils are relatively unusual in a global context. There is a scarcity of high quality agricultural soil, with less than 7 per cent of the total land area in Wales made up of soils of best quality and most productive agricultural land.

The picture for soil in Wales is mixed:

- The most recent assessment indicates that soil quality has shown some improvement in woodlands and that peatlands are showing signs of recovery but soil quality has remained relatively stable under other land uses.
- According to [Natural Resources Wales](#), there is ongoing recovery from soil acidification in habitat land, however improved agricultural land has become more acidic. Soil acidification is a natural process but it can be accelerated by agriculture and use of ammonium based fertilisers, meaning that, for instance, growing crops becomes more difficult.
- There has been little or no decline in elevated levels of soil contamination from industry and transport.

Finally, another increasingly important aspect of soil is the concentration of carbon. This is because soil can hold carbon for thousands of years and therefore [help protect the earth](#) against climate change. The soils in Wales store an estimated [410 million tonnes](#) of carbon.

The concentration of carbon in our soil is generally stable. According to the [latest figures](#) from 2013-16 the concentration of carbon and organic matter in topsoil was 107.4 grams of carbon per Kg (gC per Kg). As a whole, this is not significantly different to the concentrations found in 1998 and 2007: 109.1 and 109.4 grams of carbon per kg respectively. Soil carbon remains stable in most land types apart from habitat land where a loss of carbon has recently been observed.

Water quality has been improving

Water is one of Wales' natural resources which we rely on constantly. It provides us with [951 million tonnes](#) of drinking water per day.

Both water availability and water quality are important for a range of reasons, from availability of water for our homes and industries, to growing our food, providing recreational benefits and maintaining biodiversity. We therefore need to look after our water resources, whether that is surface water which includes streams, lakes, wetlands, bays, oceans, snow and ice, or groundwater which is the water stored in soil and rocks.

Overall, according to [Natural Resources Wales](#), the water quality in rivers has generally improved over the last 25 years, mainly as a result of improvements to sewage discharges. Furthermore, upland lakes and rivers show sustained recovery from the harmful effects of acid rain.

But, even so, only 37 per cent of all freshwater water bodies (groundwater and surface water) defined by the Water Framework Directive were achieving good or better overall status in 2015.

In terms of [bathing waters](#), only one of the designated Welsh bathing waters did not meet the tougher standards set by the revised Bathing Water Directive in 2016. Of the 103 bathing waters assessed, 84 were of an excellent standard, 13 bathing waters achieved a good standard whilst 5 achieved a sufficient standard.

Air quality has greatly improved since the 1970s but some concerns remain

Public Health Wales estimates that the equivalent of around 1,600 deaths are attributed to PM_{2.5} exposure, and around 1,100 deaths to NO₂ exposure, each year in Wales (as there are overlapping health impacts of individual pollutants, it is not possible to sum these). Air pollution plays a role in many of the major health challenges of our day, and has been linked to increased morbidity and mortality from respiratory diseases including asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), stroke and heart disease lung cancer and other effects. Both emissions of particular types of gas and particulate matter (particles suspended in the air) can be hazardous to health.

It is therefore clear that clean air is vital to human health. In fact, poor air quality can affect the health of plants and animals as well as humans.

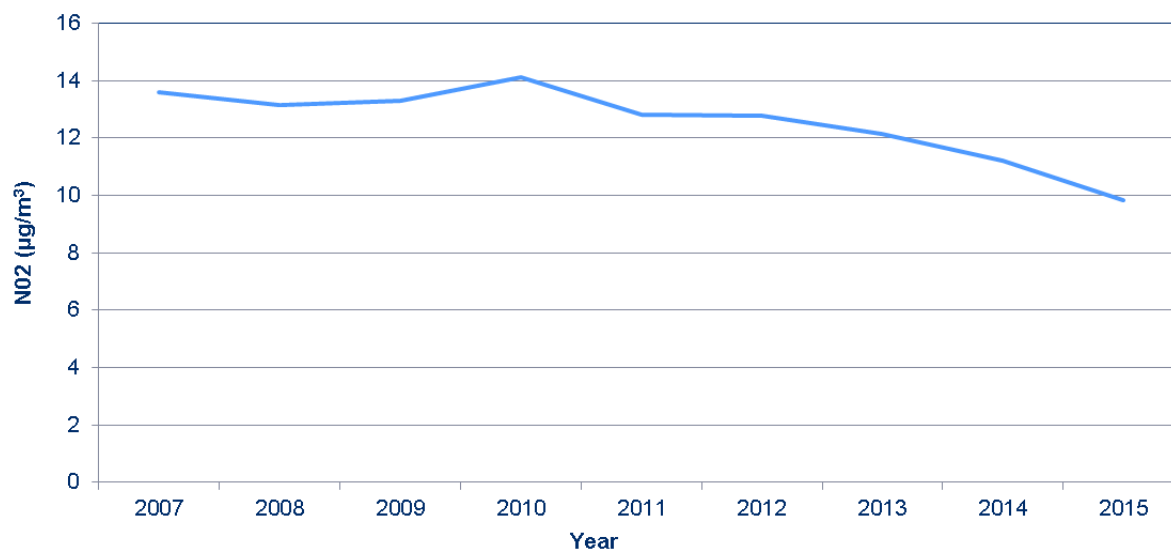
Air quality in Wales has greatly improved since the 1970s due mainly to statutory emissions controls and a decline in heavy industry. However, pollution from other sources such as transport, agriculture and domestic heating have become more of a concern.

[Natural Resources Wales](#) also report that:

- emissions of nitrogen oxides (a gas harmful to health) have declined by 48 per cent since 1990, mainly due to the fitting of three-way catalysts in road transport vehicles
- since 1970, sulphur dioxide emissions (another gas harmful to health) have declined by 94 per cent with over 80 per cent of the reduction seen since 1990 due to reductions from heavy industry
- Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) emissions have also been declining but the targets for nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter are still being breached

The highest concentrations of nitrogen dioxide emissions are found in large urban areas and adjacent to busy roads, reflecting the contribution traffic and urban activity make to poor air quality. Average nitrogen dioxide levels where people live across the whole of Wales (10 µg/m³) are well below the annual mean limit to protect human health (40 µg/m³), however there are around 40 specific areas in Wales which local authorities have designated as Air Quality Management Areas as measurements in these areas have exceeded the 40 µg/m³ air quality objective.

2.01 Average Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentrations in µg/m³

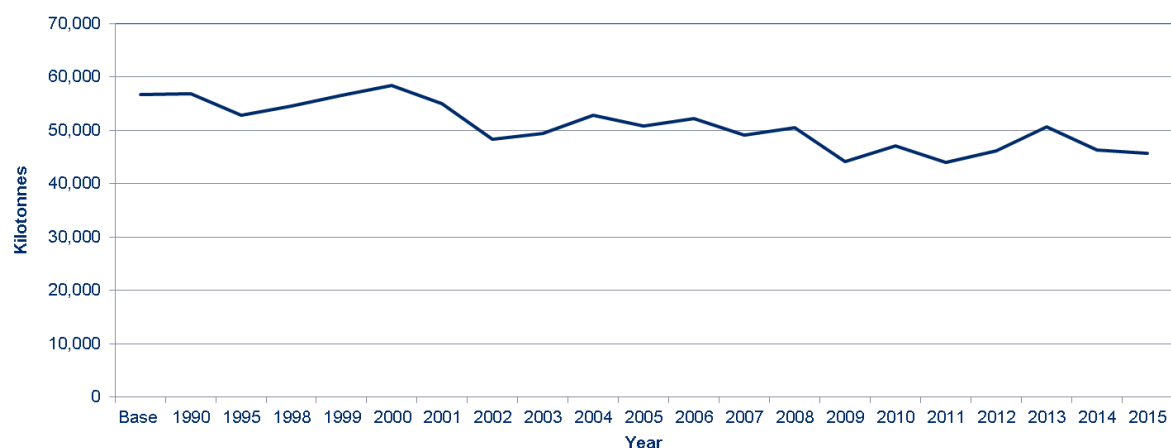


Source: Air Concentration, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Greenhouse gas emissions have reduced since the 1990s

Considering greenhouse gases, [emissions have fallen by almost 20 per cent](#) between the 1990 base year and 2015.

2.02 Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Kilotonnes)



Source: National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

The reduction of greenhouse gas emissions during this period is mainly due to:

- efficiencies in energy generation and business sector heating
- natural gas replacing coal
- chemical industry abatement
- variations in manufacturing output (e.g. in iron and steel, bulk chemical production)

Around two thirds of greenhouse gas emissions are now as a result of energy supply, business and industry.

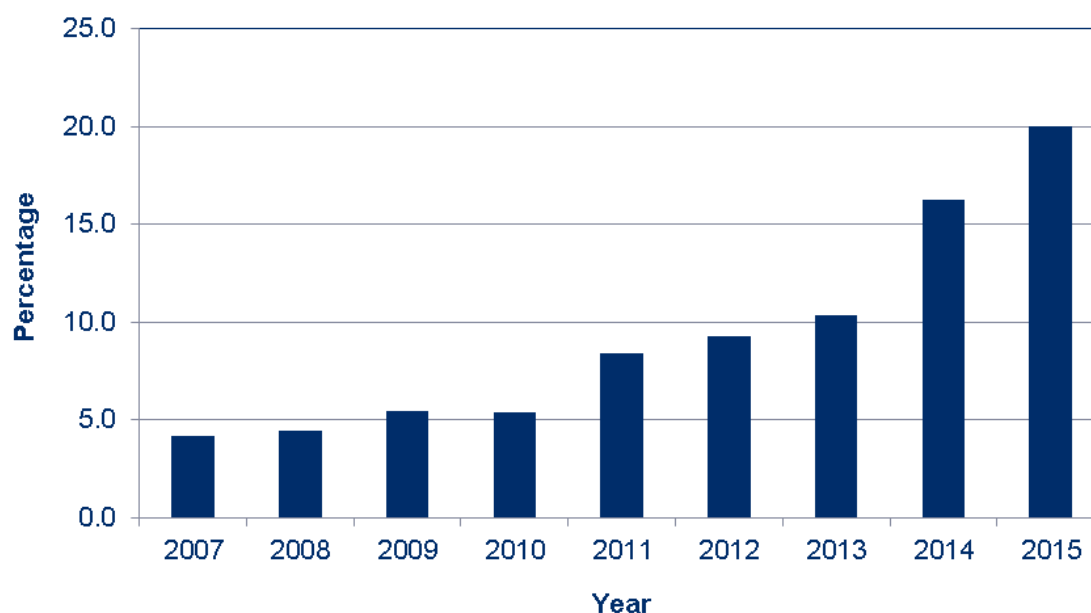
Data relating to the greenhouse gas emissions attributed to the consumption of goods and service in Wales will be produced in future in line with the requirements of section 41 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 at the end of the first carbon budgeting period.

Renewable energy generation has been on the rise and there's some evidence that homes are becoming more energy efficient.

The use of low carbon energy generation (of which renewable energy is one form) together with the more efficient use of energy helps to make us both ecologically and economically resilient to change. Reduction in demand for energy generation from fossil fuels helps limit greenhouse gas emissions which will have an impact on the environment and on future climate change.

The capacity for renewable energy generation has risen rapidly in recent years and a [low carbon energy study](#) showed that in 2014 there was 2,280 megawatts (MW) of capacity. The vast majority of this is renewable electricity (89 per cent or 2,025 MW) whilst the capacity of renewable heat installations has reached 255 megawatts (MW). Electrical generation potential from these renewable energy installations is estimated to be equivalent to just over a third of Wales's national electricity consumption.

2.03 Percentage of electricity generated in Wales that comes from renewable sources, 2007 to 2015



Source: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

The percentage of all electricity generated in Wales that comes from renewable sources has more than tripled since 2007 - reaching 20 per cent of all electricity produced in Wales in 2015.

Good energy performance in housing will not only reduce energy demand in the domestic sector but also help homeowners and tenants manage the costs of maintaining a warm home. When it comes to social housing, social landlords reported that [93 per cent of their housing stock](#) that have had their energy performance measured using the Standard

Assessment Procedure (SAP) were achieving an adequate energy performance (SAP of 65 or above) in 2016.

But social housing only represents 16 per cent of the total housing stock in Wales and we have gaps in our understanding of the private housing sector because we do not have figures for houses that have not lodged an Energy Performance Certificate (you usually only lodge one of these when building, selling or letting a property).

Our ecological footprint shows that our key natural resources are being depleted faster than they can be replenished

The ecological footprint of a country represents the area of land needed to provide raw materials, energy and food to supply that country as well as absorb the pollution and waste created. It is measured in global hectares. It serves as an indicator of the total environmental burden that a society places on the planet.

A [global hectare](#) is a biologically productive hectare with world average biological productivity for a given year. In 2013 there were estimated to be around 12 billion hectares of biologically productive land and water on Earth.

The last ecological footprint for Wales was calculated in 2011 and it was [10.05 million global hectares](#). This is roughly 5 times the size of Wales and equivalent to 3.28 global hectares per person in Wales.

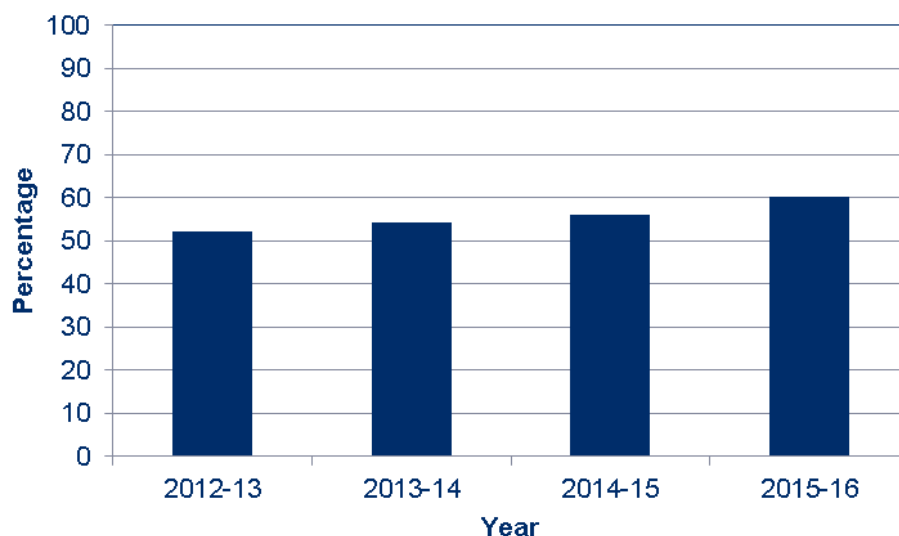
If everyone in the world were to consume the same as the average Welsh resident, it is estimated that just over 2.5 earths would be required to provide the resources and absorb the wastes. This is slightly lower than the figure for the UK, which is 2.7 earths.

Recycling rates have been on the rise

One way to decrease our ecological footprint is to reduce our use of materials. We can do this by adopting more sustainable ways of consuming and producing goods, by reducing packaging and by making better use of our waste.

Reducing and re-using waste has been a focus in Wales in recent years and there have been improvements - local authority recycling rates [have risen](#) from 52 per cent in 2012-13 to 60 per cent in 2015-16.

2.04 Percentage of local authority municipal (household and non-household) waste prepared for reuse, recycled or composted, 2012-13 to 2015-16



Source: WasteDataFlow, Natural Resources Wales

Furthermore, residual household waste per person (i.e. the amount of that waste that is not collected for recycling, re-use or composting) has fallen by around 8 per cent between 2012-13 and 2015-16.

Waste from industrial and commercial enterprises and the construction and demolition industry often need to be managed differently from household waste. Residual waste from all sectors (households, construction and demolition, industrial and commercial) is not published regularly but in 2012 the total amount of residual waste generated by all sectors stood at 2.4 million tonnes. Of this, 1.5 million tonnes (63 per cent) was industrial and commercial waste, 667,000 tonnes (27 per cent) was household waste and 240,000 tonnes (10 per cent) was construction and demolition waste.

Nearly 22,000 properties in Wales are at high risk of flooding

Being aware of the potential risks to our properties means we can try to put measures in place to mitigate the impact of any such risks and thus be more resilient to adverse events.

The latest Flood Risk Assessment identified 21,600 properties in Wales at high risk of flooding from rivers and the sea. A further 39,500 properties were identified as at medium risk of such flooding. Note, however, that there are other risks to properties of flooding – from surface water and heavy rain – which are not included in the figures above and are less easy to predict.

National Survey for Wales 2016-17 results show that whilst 1 in 4 people in Wales are concerned about the risk of flooding in their local area, only 1 in 11 people (9 per cent) are concerned about flooding of their own property. Those in rural areas are more concerned about flooding in their area than those in urban areas (34 per cent concerned compared with 21 per cent respectively).

A far more detailed review of environment data is published by the Natural Resources Wales in their 2016 [State of Natural Resources Report](#) (SoNaRR) report.

A healthier Wales

The goal: A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.

This narrative highlights some of the key statistics relating to the healthier Wales goal. It shows that while life expectancy and cancer survival have been increasing they have not kept pace with improvements in many other European countries. There are challenges, in particular around inequalities in health and healthy lifestyles. A healthy start to life is important and there has been good progress in areas such as breastfeeding and dental health, but obesity in children remains a challenge.

What progress has been made towards a healthier Wales so far?

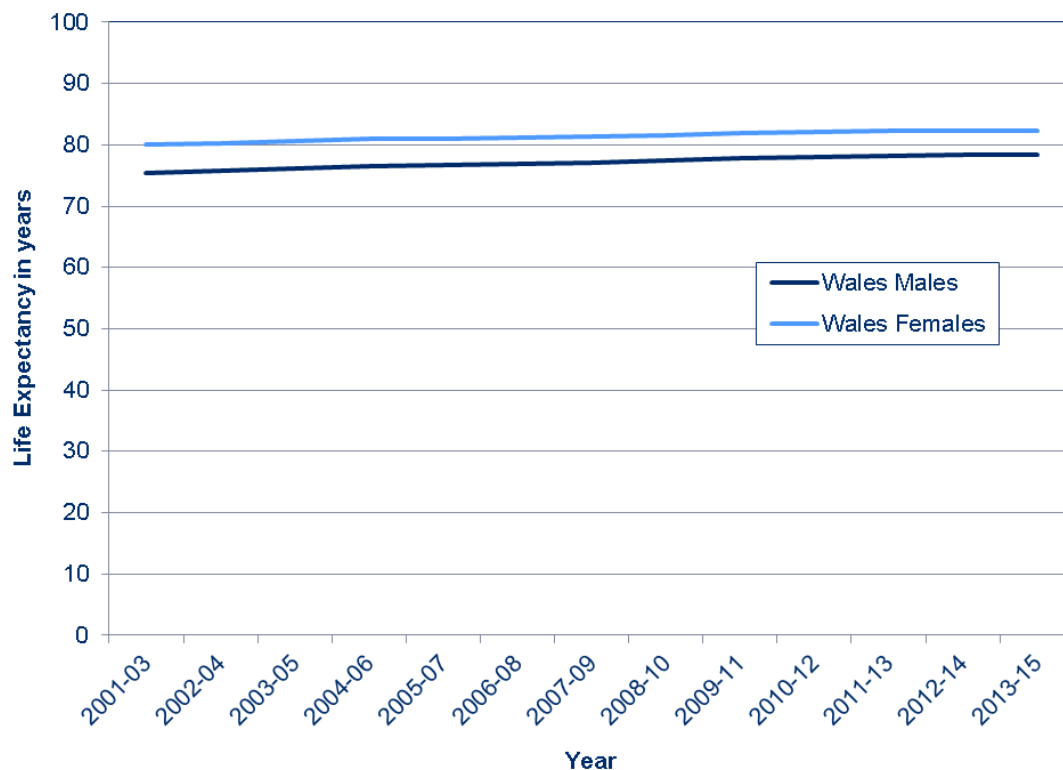
Life expectancy has been on the rise

Life expectancy has risen by 3.0 years for men and 2.2 years for women since the period 2001 to 2003, with the gap between male and female life expectancy closing.

However, recent years have seen life expectancy increasing at a slower rate and more slowly than many other EU countries.

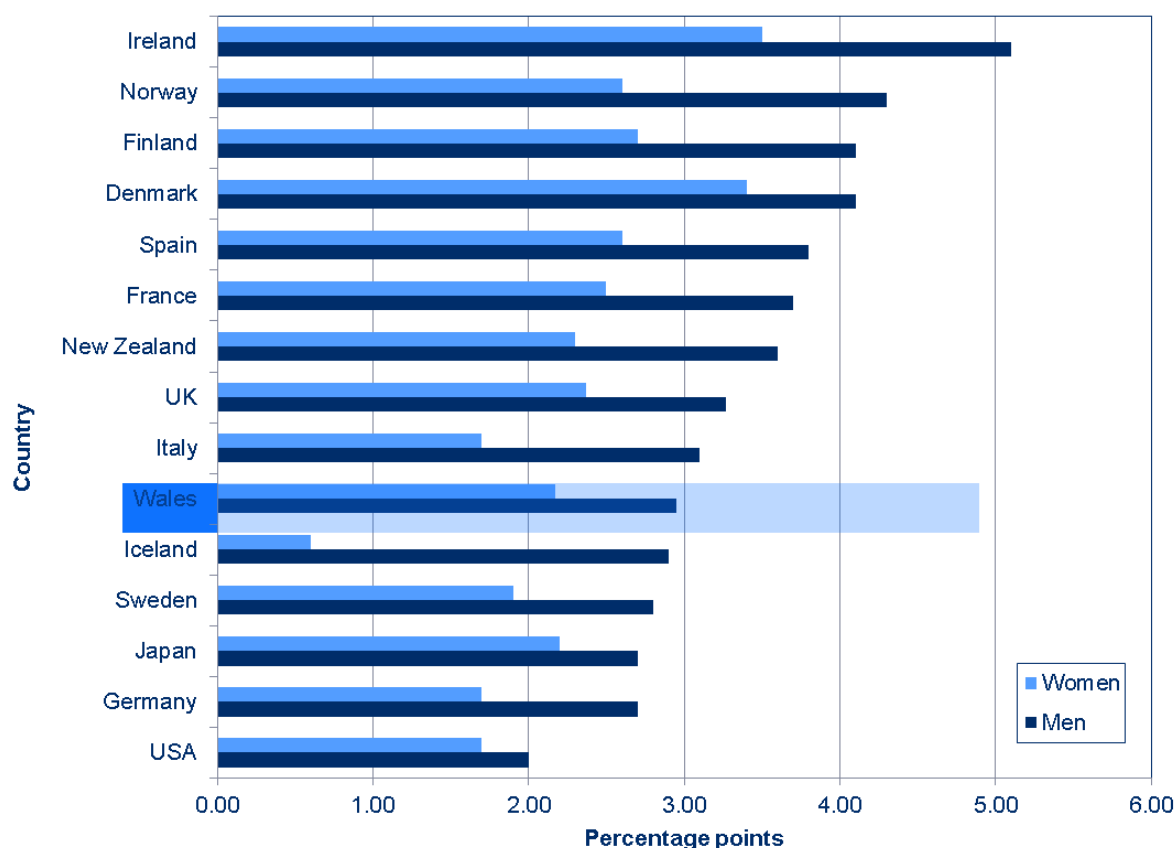
A girl born in Wales between 2013 and 2015 could expect to live to her 82nd birthday while a boy could expect to reach his 78th.

3.01 Life expectancy at birth by sex, 2001-03 to 2013-15



Source: Office for National Statistics

3.02 Increase in life expectancy at birth by sex between 2001 and 2015 for selected OECD countries



Source: Health at a glance, OECD and life expectancy, Office for National Statistics

The amount of time spent in good health has also been on the up

How long do you expect to live in good health? 60 years? 70? 80? Well, the good news is the length of time a person in Wales can expect to live in good health has been increasing (based on those who self reported that their health is good).

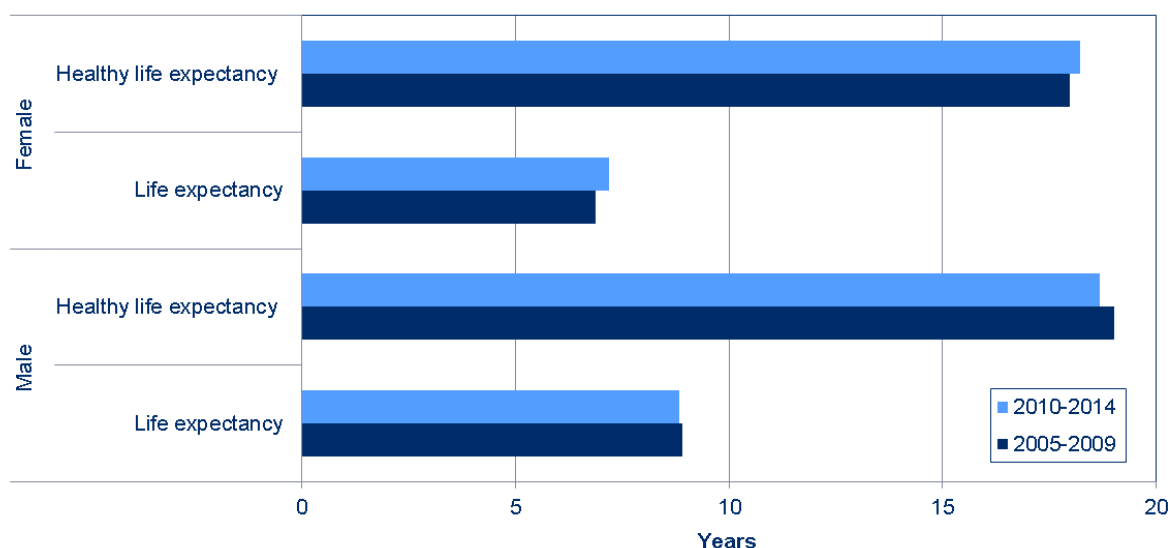
A boy born in Wales between 2005 and 2009 could expect to live 64 years in good health and a girl 65 years. Between 2013 and 2015 the figures for boys and girls were 65 and 67 years respectively.

However, because girls live longer the percentage of their life expected to be spent in good health is lower than for boys: 76 per cent of a girl's life and 78 per cent of a boys life.

Healthy life expectancy remains unequal across Wales

Deprivation is strongly linked to life expectancy – people born into deprived families will have shorter healthy life expectancy. This is reflected in the healthy life expectancy gap between the more and least deprived areas of Wales and this hasn't changed in the most recent years.

3.03 Gap in life expectancy between the most and least deprived parts of Wales, 2005 to 2014



Source: Public Health Wales Observatory

Cancer survival has increased, but remains low when compared with European countries

Five year cancer survival has increased significantly, 52.1 per cent of men diagnosed between 2005 and 2009 survived at least 5 years, up from 39.2 per cent of those diagnosed between 1995 and 1999.

For women the improvement is similar, 56.6 per cent of women diagnosed between 2005 and 2009 survived at least 5 years, up from 48.6 per cent of those diagnosed between 1995 and 1999.

However survival rates for some types of cancer do not compare well in Wales (or indeed the UK) compared with other [European countries](#). For example for lung cancer, Wales is ranked 28th out of 29 countries in Europe and 21st for breast and prostate cancer.

It is estimated that in the UK around 40 per cent of [diagnosed cancers are preventable](#), with around half of preventable cancers as a result of smoking.

Personal well-being remains the same and is closely linked to health as well as other factors

Well-being for both adults and children shows no change in recent years and it is generally similar to other UK nations.

A range of factors influence well-being, a report from the Office for National Statistics states that [health was the main factor](#) for personal well-being followed by work situation and relationship status.

In terms of employment, data show a big improvement in the employment rate in Wales over the period since devolution, with an employment rate of 72.9 per cent for the period February to April 2017, only 1.8 per cent below the UK figure. However the gap in the employment rate for those aged 16-64 between those with a long term health condition and those who do

not have one persists, and was 11.6 percentage points in 2014-15. The suicide rate for those [people who are divorced](#) is more than twice as high as those who are single, whilst those who are in a relationship have the lowest rate.

A range of other factors are also important to physical and mental well-being and many of these are included in the [public health outcomes framework](#).

Where you live is important to well-being (and health as well) with [access to green space](#) and community cohesion affecting how people feel.

In general air quality in Wales has greatly improved since the 1970s due mainly to statutory emissions controls and a decline in heavy industry. However, pollution from other sources, such as transport, agriculture and domestic heating have become more of a concern. The highest concentrations of nitrogen dioxide emissions are found in large urban areas and adjacent to busy roads. Public Health Wales estimates that the equivalent of around 1,600 deaths are attributed to PM_{2.5} exposure, and around 1,100 deaths to NO₂ exposure, each year in Wales (as there are overlapping health impacts of individual pollutants, it is not possible to sum these).

Those in good health report much higher (positive) mental well-being scores (using the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-Being Scale) than those who are not in good health.

Mental well-being scores for men are slightly higher than those for women, with older people (65 plus) having higher scores than younger people. The scores also show strong links with loneliness, with those who report being more lonely having lower mental well-being scores.

A child's early years (and even prior to birth) are a key time to help to ensure good outcomes later in life

Results from the first [Welsh Adverse Childhood Experience study](#) show that when comparing people who suffered 4 or more harmful experiences in childhood with those who suffered none, those who suffered were 4 times more likely to experience high-risk drinking in adulthood, 6 times more likely to be a smoker and 14 times more likely to be involved in violence in the last year.

The number of single babies (as opposed to twins or triplets etc) born weighing less than 2.5 kg (5 pounds, 8 ounces) has been falling over the last 10 years. The most recent statistics for 2015 showed that 5.1 per cent of births (single babies) were low birth weight in Wales.

A [range of factors](#) can result in low birth weight, for example smoking in pregnancy, anaemia, substance misuse and poor sexual health. The rate for all live births in Wales was 7.1 per cent in 2013 which was slightly above that of the [OECD average](#) (6.6 per cent). But while the OECD average has increased 0.5 percentage points between 2001 to 2013, the rate for Wales has fallen.

Low birth weights are strongly linked to deprivation. The most recent analysis, using data from 2012 to 2014, showed that the most deprived fifth were 30 per cent more likely to have a single baby with a low birth weight than the middle fifth.

Breastfeeding has health benefits for babies and their mothers. The [percentage of babies breastfed at birth](#) has risen from 55 per cent in 2006 to 61 per cent in 2016. Babies of older mothers are more likely to be breastfed than those of younger mothers.

The most recent figures on [children's dental health](#) (aged five) show an improvement. There has been a reduction in the proportion of children with decay between 2007-08 (47.6 per cent) and 2015-16 (34.2 per cent) and although the proportion of children with dental decay is higher in the most deprived areas than the least, that gap is narrowing.

Smoking and alcohol consumption has fallen but so has the number of people getting their 5 a day

10 per cent of those aged 16 or over and 12 per cent of 11 to 16 year olds showed fewer than 2 healthy lifestyle behaviours (smoking, drinking, fruit and veg consumption, physical activity and (for adults) healthy weight (excluded from children's measure)).

Smoking rates and the percentage of people consuming excess alcohol in Wales have both gone down. In fact, the smoking rate in Wales is the lowest since comparable records began in 2004.

But while there are some positive trends, challenges remain and the more deprived areas of Wales face greater challenges as 14 per cent of adults in these areas show fewer than 2 healthy lifestyle behaviours compared with only 6 per cent in the least deprived areas.

However, whilst smoking rates are much higher in deprived areas, adults were less likely to drink above weekly alcohol guidelines in the most deprived areas than the least deprived areas.

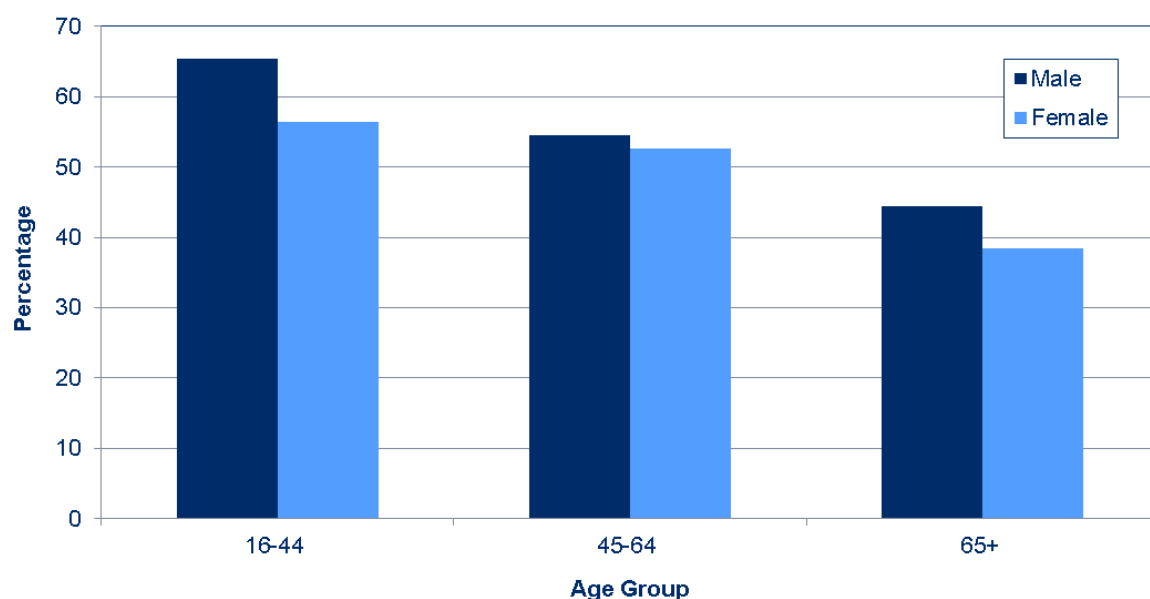
Those who are in material deprivation are more likely to struggle to afford a healthy diet, with National Survey for Wales results showing that 6 per cent of this population are in a household who has received food from a food bank in the last year and 11 per cent saying they have had at least one day in the last fortnight when they have had no substantial meal due to lack of money.

Participation in sport and physical activity reduces as you get older

While 50 per cent of children participate in sport 3 or more times a week, 29 per cent of adults (16 or over) do and participation rates reduce dramatically with age. Women are also less likely to be active than men

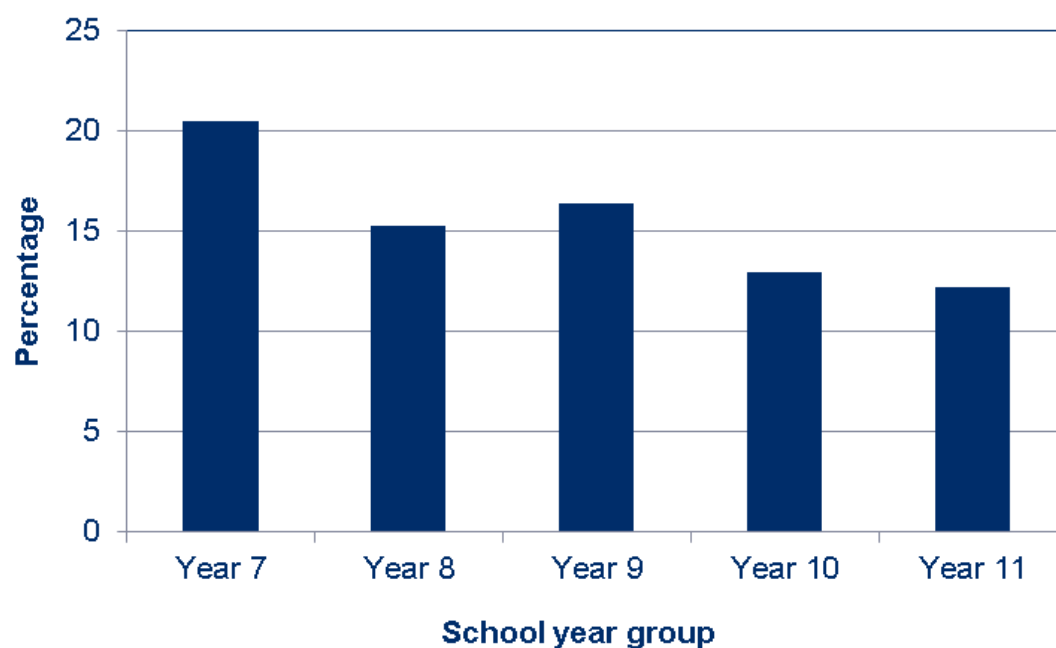
As children go through secondary school they tend to become less healthy – with physical activity dropping (particularly for girls).

3.04 Percentage of people aged 16 or over who reported meeting physical activity guidelines (150 minutes a week) in the past week, by age group and sex, 2016-17



Source: National Survey for Wales, 2016-17

3.05 Percentage of young people who reported currently completing physical activity for an hour or more, 7 days a week by school year, 2013/14



Source: Health Behaviour in School Aged Children

Obesity rates have risen over the longer term for adults but are broadly unchanged for children

Alongside those getting their 5 a day falling and physical activity remaining static, obesity rates have been on the rise in Wales for adults. The most recent survey results showed that 59 per cent of those aged 16 or over were overweight or obese in Wales in 2016/17.

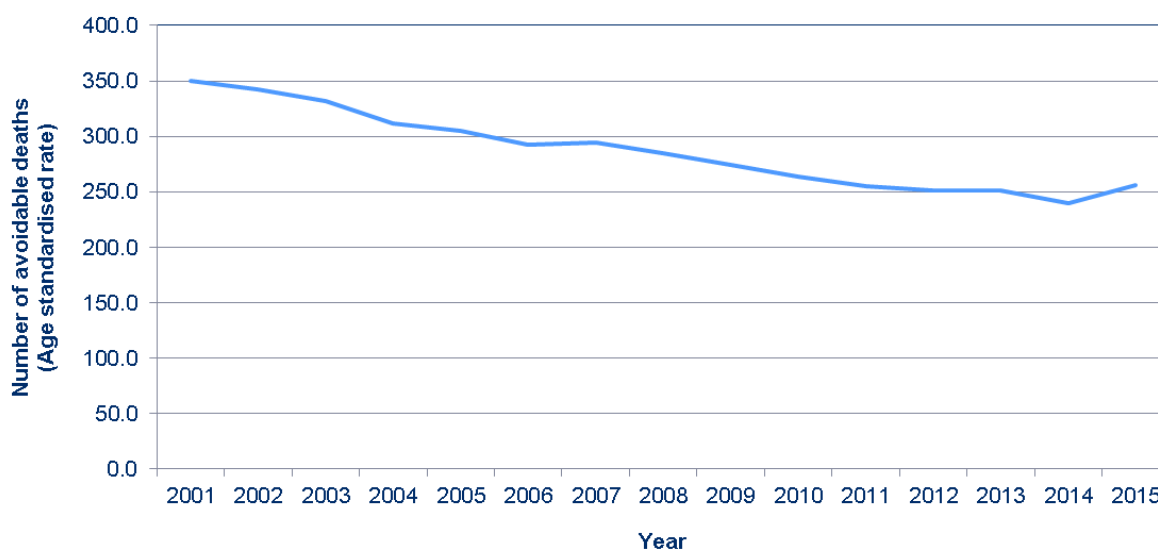
However, 73 per cent of children in reception (the first year of primary school) in 2015/16 in Wales did have [a healthy weight](#).

There is evidence that obesity is linked to deprivation as children in reception in the more deprived areas of Wales are more likely to be obese than those in the less deprived areas.

24 per cent of deaths in Wales in 2015 were considered avoidable, but this was an increase, following a long term fall

The number of avoidable deaths (i.e. deaths which are considered avoidable in the presence of timely and effective healthcare or public health interventions) in Wales had been falling for a long time, however there was an increase in 2015, mostly due to increases in respiratory deaths (e.g. lung diseases like chronic bronchitis and emphysema). Avoidable mortality is also strongly linked to deprivation. [Recent statistics](#) show that males in the most deprived decile were 3.7 times more likely to die from an avoidable cause than those in the least deprived decile. For females, the figure was 3.2.

3.06 Number of avoidable deaths per 100,000 people (this is an age standardised rate) 2001 to 2015



Source: Avoidable mortality, Office for National Statistics

Considering avoidable deaths in children and young people (aged up to 25), the biggest causes were suicide, self-inflicted injuries and accidents (with around half of accidents related to transport).

A more equal Wales

The goal: A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).

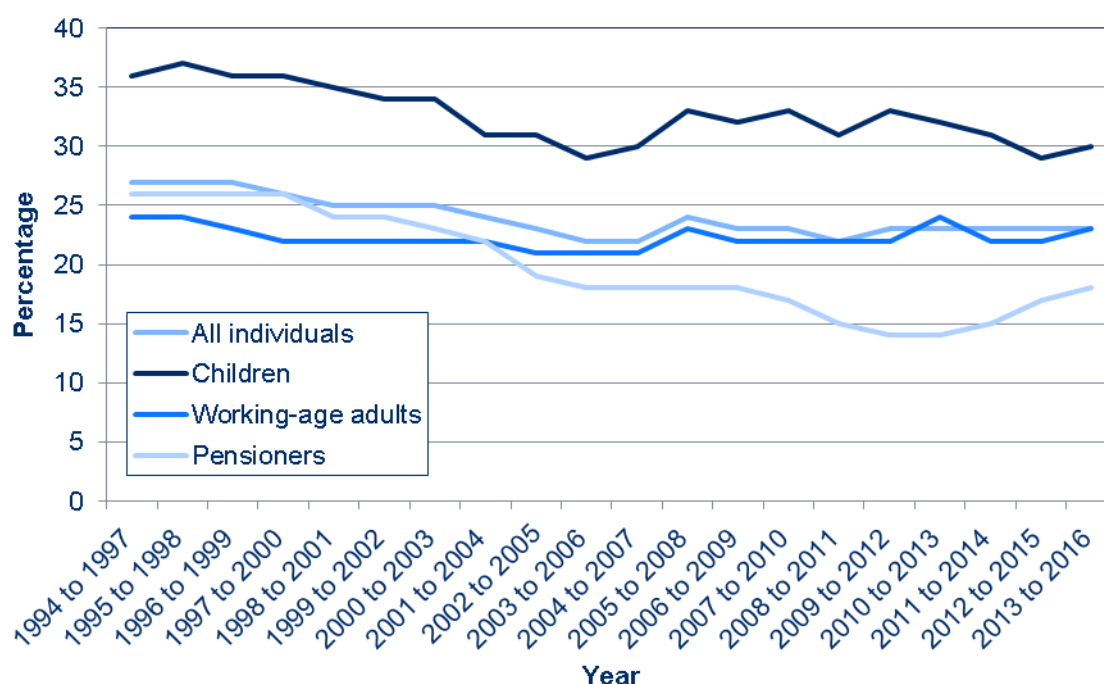
So what does the data tell us about equality in Wales?

Socio-economic disadvantage

For many years now, nearly a quarter of the people living in Wales have been living in poverty

Between 2013-14 and 2015-16, [nearly a quarter](#) of all people in Wales (23 per cent) were living in relative income poverty after paying their housing costs. This means they were living in a household where, after paying housing costs such as mortgage interest payments/rent, water rates and structural house insurance, the total household income from all sources was less than 60 per cent of the average UK household income (as given by the median).

4.01 Percentage of all people, children, pensioners and working-age adults living in relative income poverty in Wales, 1994 to 2016



Source: Households Below Average Income, Office for National Statistics

There has been little change in this figure for the past 13 years and, in line with other countries of the UK, it has stayed steady for 5 years in a row. Rates for the rest of the UK have, however, been lower than for Wales.

Children are the population group most likely to be in relative income poverty. The [most recent figures](#) (2013-14 to 2015-16) show that 30 per cent of children in Wales were living in relative income poverty after housing costs were paid. Whilst this is a slight increase from the previous year, prior to that, this figure had not been below 30 per cent since the period ending 2005-06.

In 2016-17, [15 per cent of adults](#) were classed as living in material deprivation (that is, not being able to afford basic things like keeping the house warm). Further [analysis of National Survey results in 2014-15](#) shows that, when other factors are held constant, the strongest predictors of being in material deprivation were:

- Living in social housing
- Having low to very low life satisfaction
- Being separated or divorced
- Being 16-59

People with these characteristics were around 10 percentage points more likely to be in material deprivation.

Those who are in material deprivation are more likely to struggle to afford a healthy diet, with National Survey for Wales results showing that 6 per cent of this population are in a household who has received food from a food bank in the last year and 11 per cent saying they have had at least one day in the last fortnight when they have had no substantial meal due to lack of money.

Women with children were more likely to be in material deprivation, in particular those who are divorced or separated.

Those in material deprivation are also likely to struggle to afford to heat their home well. It is estimated that 23 per cent of households in Wales were living in fuel poverty (needing to spend more than 10 per cent of their income on household fuel costs) in 2016, with 3 per cent living in severe fuel poverty (more than 20 per cent of income on household fuel costs) .

Both food poverty and fuel poverty can have an impact on health and well-being more generally.

Life expectancy is lower in more deprived areas and childhood obesity levels are higher

Socio-economic disadvantage as well as other lifestyle factors can have an impact on a person's health.

Deprivation is strongly linked to life expectancy – people living in deprived areas are likely to have shorter healthy life expectancy. This is reflected in the gap in the number of years you might expect to live in good health between the most and least deprived areas of Wales and this hasn't changed in the most recent years; the difference being more than 18 years for both men and women.

A good start in life is important and some babies born at a low birth-weight (less than 2,500g) may be more at risk of certain health problems either in the early days or later in life. Whilst the proportion of all live births that were of a low birth-weight has reduced only slightly

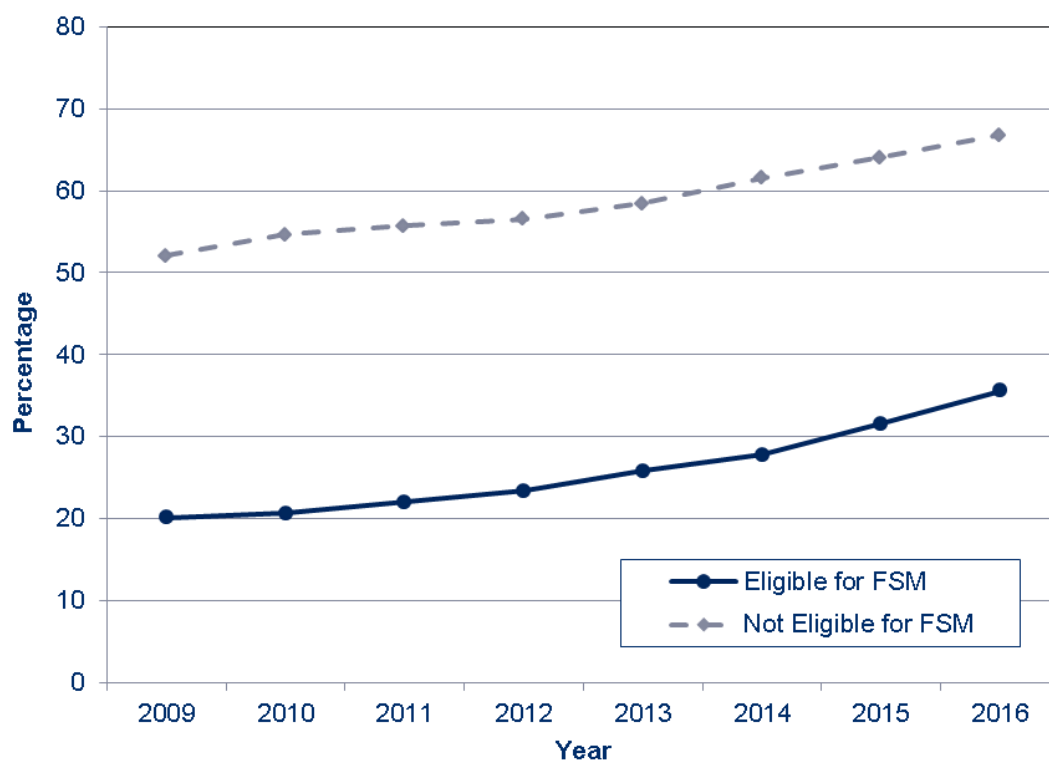
in the last ten years, for singleton babies (those not part of a multiple delivery i.e. not twins, triplets etc.) the fall has been more substantial. The latest figures (2012-14) for singleton babies continue to show a higher proportion (about 50 percent higher) in the most deprived fifth of areas in Wales compared with the least deprived fifth.

In addition, the [child measurement programme](#) shows that just over seven in every ten Welsh children have a healthy weight and that reception-age children are significantly more likely than the Welsh average to be obese if they live in areas of higher deprivation. More generally survey data tells us that a higher percentage of people in deprived areas meet fewer than two (out of the five) healthy life style behaviours recommended than in other areas.

Pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) and children in care have poorer educational outcomes in schools on average with the gap widening as pupils get older

By using eligibility for free school meals as a measure of deprivation, there is a link between deprivation and attainment levels at school. While achievement is consistently improving across all pupils, those who are eligible for FSM have poorer performance at every key stage and on [all performance measures](#). This gap increases as pupils get older. At Key Stage 4 the gap between free school meal pupils and others has narrowed in recent years. Inequalities also exist for children in care, again with the gap increasing as pupils get older. The percentage of those children in care achieving the Level 2 inclusive measure at Key Stage 4 is less than a third of the percentage for all pupils.

4.02 Percentage of pupils achieving the L2 threshold including English or Welsh first language and Mathematics at KS4, by year and free school meal eligibility, 2009 to 2016



Source: Welsh Examination Database

Gender

Life expectancy is still longer for girls than for boys but the gap is closing

Whilst in the period 2013-2015 life expectancy at birth in Wales for girls was 82.3 years and for boys was 78.4 years, healthy life expectancy (HLE) was 62.7 years for females and 61.5 years for males. Despite their slightly higher HLE, females could expect to spend a lower proportion of their life in good health than males.

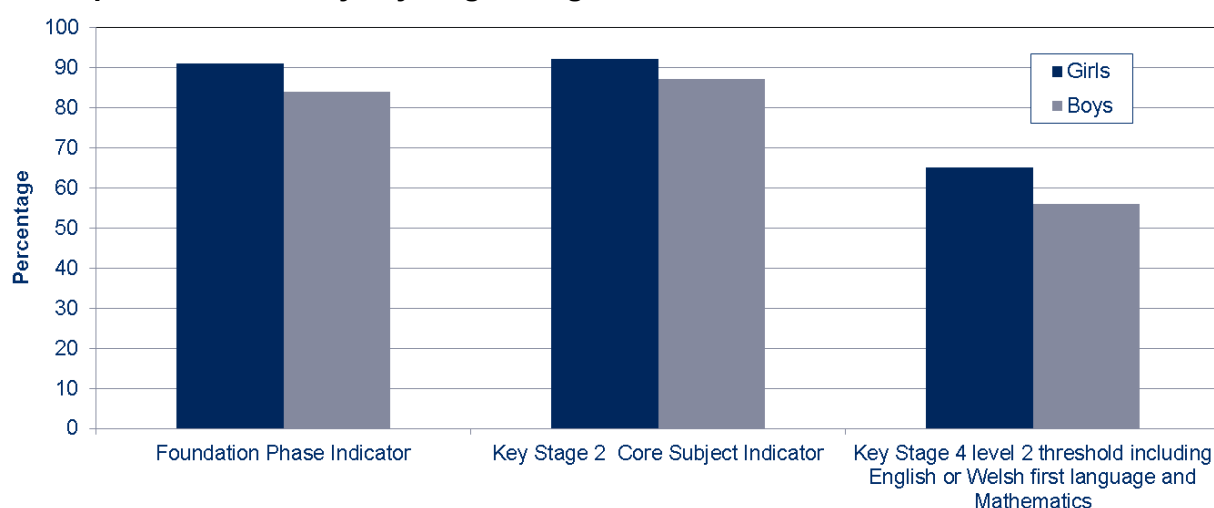
Women are more likely to suffer from ill health of varying types, including mental health conditions. However, suicide rates for men are consistently higher than for women across all age-groups and while rates do fluctuate across the life cycle, [higher rates are generally observed](#) in the 30-54 age range.

There are some [reported differences](#) in lifestyles between men and women that can affect health. Overall men are less likely to be following 2 or more healthy lifestyle behaviours. Men are more likely than women to be physically active though also more likely to drink alcohol above the recommended guidelines.. At the younger age groups boys were more likely to regularly participate in sport than girls ([52 per cent compared to 44 per cent in 2015](#)).

In education girls continue to achieve better educational outcomes than boys and are also more likely to continue their full-time education after the age or 16.

From Foundation Phase (up to 7 years old) to Key Stage 4 (15 year olds), a higher proportion of girls than boys achieve the key standard performance measures In 2016, the proportion of girls (around 16 years old) achieving the Level 2 threshold including GCSE grade A*-C in English/Welsh & Maths was 64.7 per cent, 8.6 percentage points higher than the proportion of boys.

4.03 Pupil achievement by key stage and gender, 2016/17



Source: National teacher assessment data collection, Welsh Government

Provisional 2016 data on participation in education shows that in both the 16-18 year old age group and the 19-24 age group a higher proportion of females were still in full-time education compared to males (29 per cent of females in 19-24 age group compared with 25 per cent of males).

In terms of the highest qualifications held by the working-age population while a similar proportion of males and females hold no qualifications, females are more likely to hold qualifications at Level 4 or above (higher education or equivalent level)(40 per cent of females, compared to 35 per cent of males).

The gender pay gap has narrowed

The [most recent data for Wales](#) show the lowest gap in pay between genders since the survey began in 1997, although the gap has changed relatively little in recent years. For part-time employees separately, women are paid more on average, resulting in a “negative” gender pay gap.

When taking age into consideration, the gender pay gap for full-time employees is relatively small for ages up to and including those aged 30 to 39. From age 40 upwards, the gap is much wider, with men being paid substantially more on average than women. This is likely to be connected with the fact that women who have children often take time out of the labour market.

These gaps do not take account of factors (such as education levels and experience) which vary across the genders and which will affect earning levels

Generally women feel less safe in their communities than men despite being somewhat less likely to be the victims of violent crime

There is limited evidence on any distinction between men and women when it comes to their views of their satisfaction with life, their feeling of a sense of community or their ability to influence decisions affecting their local area. Women are [less likely](#), though, to say they feel safe living in and moving around their area despite men being somewhat more likely to be victims of violent crime than women (in 2015/16, 2.2 per cent of men in Wales reported being a victim of violent crime compared to 1.7 per cent of women).

However, conversely, the [Crime Survey for England and Wales](#) shows that women are more likely than men to have experienced intimate violence, in all categories of abuse covered by this term (for example domestic abuse and sexual assault). The 2015/16 findings for Wales and England combined show that women were nearly twice as likely as men to have experienced domestic abuse (since age 16, and in the last year) and more than four times as likely to have experienced sexual assault (since age 16) .

There tends to be quite a difference in the amount and type of participation in cultural activities between males and females.

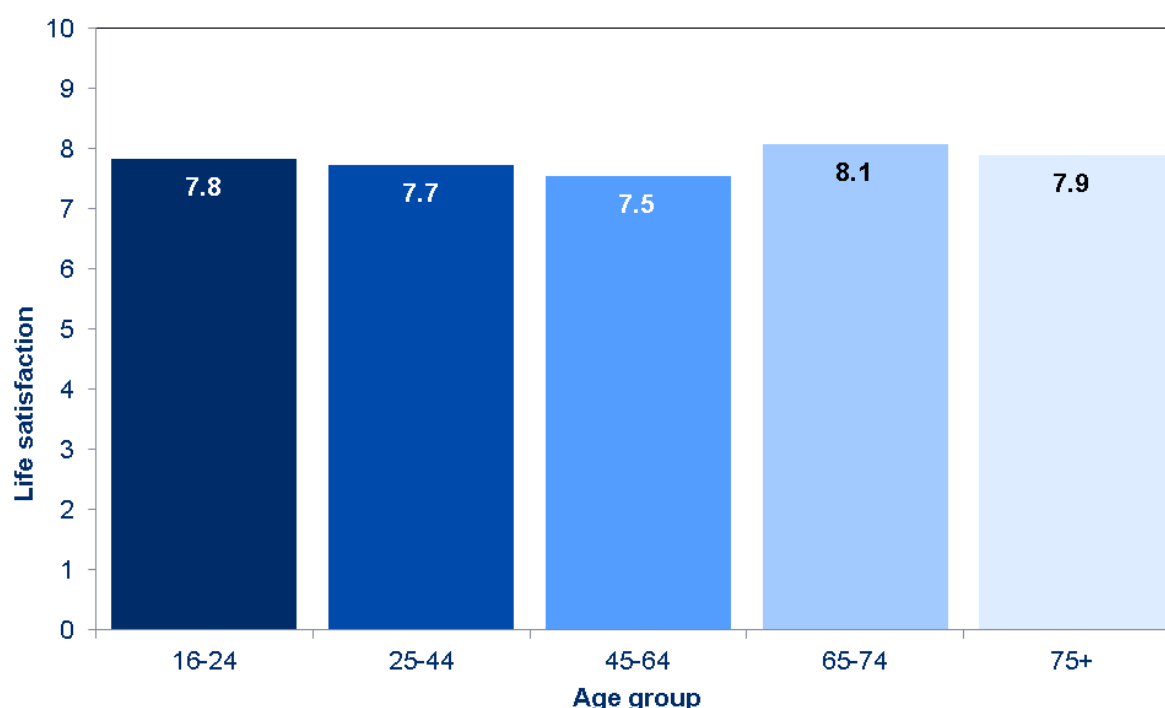
Women are slightly more likely to attend arts events than men (with the same holding true for children and adults), though there is a difference according to the type of activity. In contrast, men were more likely to participate in sporting activities 3 or more times a week.

Age disparities

Well-being tends to be higher earlier in life and in the older age groups, dipping in the 45–59 age group.

[Research](#) has demonstrated widely the U-shaped association between age and **well-being**. This means that well-being tends to peak in the earlier and later age groups (importantly, only up to age 75), while dipping in middle age. Results from the [2016-17 National Survey for Wales](#) generally follow this pattern for 'satisfaction with life', with the top mean scores observed for the 65-74 age group (8.1 out of 10 – where 10 is the highest satisfaction with life) and for the 75 and over group (7.9), and the lowest for 45-64 (7.5). Young people aged 16-24 appear to have seen a dip in their satisfaction with life in the last few years, down to 7.8 in 2016-17 from 8.1 in 2014-15.

4.04 Life satisfaction by age group, 2016-17



Source: National Survey for Wales, 2016-17

The National Survey for Wales also included a series of questions to assess levels of loneliness. Based on these, 17 per cent of people in Wales were found to be lonely. People of working age (16 to 64) are more likely to be lonely, than those aged 65 or over. People in material deprivation were more likely to feel lonely (37 per cent of those in material deprivation, compared with 14 per cent of people who aren't in material deprivation).

In general older people are more likely to have a stronger sense of community, whilst also being more likely to vote and participate in public representation.

Analysis from the National Survey for Wales also shows that older people are more likely to have a stronger sense of community (as measured by whether they feel that they belong to the local area, people in the area get on well together and treat each other with respect). Around three quarters of older people (those over 65 years old) indicate that they have

plenty of people to rely on when they have problems, a higher proportion than those in younger age groups.

There are a higher proportion of voters among the older age groups and also participation in public representation, for example, being a local councillor, is more prevalent among older people.

In recent years a higher proportion of the working-age population has been in relative poverty than pensioner households

In terms of relative income poverty, the proportion of working-age people in poverty has been relatively steady in recent years but at a higher level than for pensioner households. Living in a workless household increases the chances of being in relative income poverty but, even in households where at least one adult was working, 16 per cent of working-age adults were in relative income poverty.

Younger people aged 16-24 are least likely to feel safe walking in their local area after dark

Younger age groups are at higher risk of being victims of violent crime according to the Crime Survey for England and Wales, with the 16-24 year age group experiencing the highest rates and those aged over 55 years experiencing the lowest rates of violent crime. The National Survey for Wales results reflect this with younger people aged 16-24 being the age group who feel least safe walking in their local area after dark.

Ethnicity

The age profile of different ethnic groups can be quite different, with the White British population having a population relatively evenly spread across age groups whilst other ethnic groups are more dominated by the younger working age population. Broad comparisons of health of the population groups are therefore not relevant without taking this into account, as both physical and mental health can change across the age groups.

Some differences in educational attainment are seen for different ethnicities; attainment remains low for gypsy traveller children, whilst a higher proportion of children from Asian, Chinese or mixed ethnicities reach expected levels of achievement than those from a white background.

Mixed patterns in educational attainment have been observed for people with different ethnicities. In general, the percentage of pupils from a Mixed, Asian or Asian British, and Chinese or Chinese British background achieving the expected levels at Key Stages 2 and 3 and the level 2 inclusive at Key Stage 4 is similar or higher than the percentage of pupils achieving this from a White background.

However, within these groups there is some variation. Pupils from Gypsy/Gypsy Roma and Other white backgrounds have lower levels of achievement than the White group overall, with 24.2 per cent and 51.9 per cent of pupils respectively achieving level 2 inclusive at Key stage 4, compared with 58.8 per cent for the White group overall, in the period 2014-16. Similarly, lower levels of achievement are recorded for pupils from White & Black Caribbean and White & Black African backgrounds than the mixed ethnicity group overall. Attainment is lower for pupils from Black or Black British group than for all pupils across each key stage.

A [2014 research review on Ethnic Minority pupils](#), suggested a range of factors including socio-economic disadvantage and SEN status (for both of which differing rates are seen by ethnic group) that explain some, although not all, of the variance seen in attainment by different ethnic groups. Other factors affecting attainment that intersect with ethnicity include English language proficiency, gender, discrimination and culture

A relatively high proportion of the Black and Minority Ethnic population enrol for Higher Education in Wales

In 2015/16, [9.1 per cent of first year students](#) enrolling at Welsh Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) were from Black and Minority Ethnic group (BME) backgrounds; a higher proportion than the share of the population of that age group from BME backgrounds in Wales. [Research](#) has identified ethnic background as a 'highly significant factor' in participation in HE in Wales, finding that young people from BME and Other white backgrounds were more likely to participate than those from White British backgrounds.

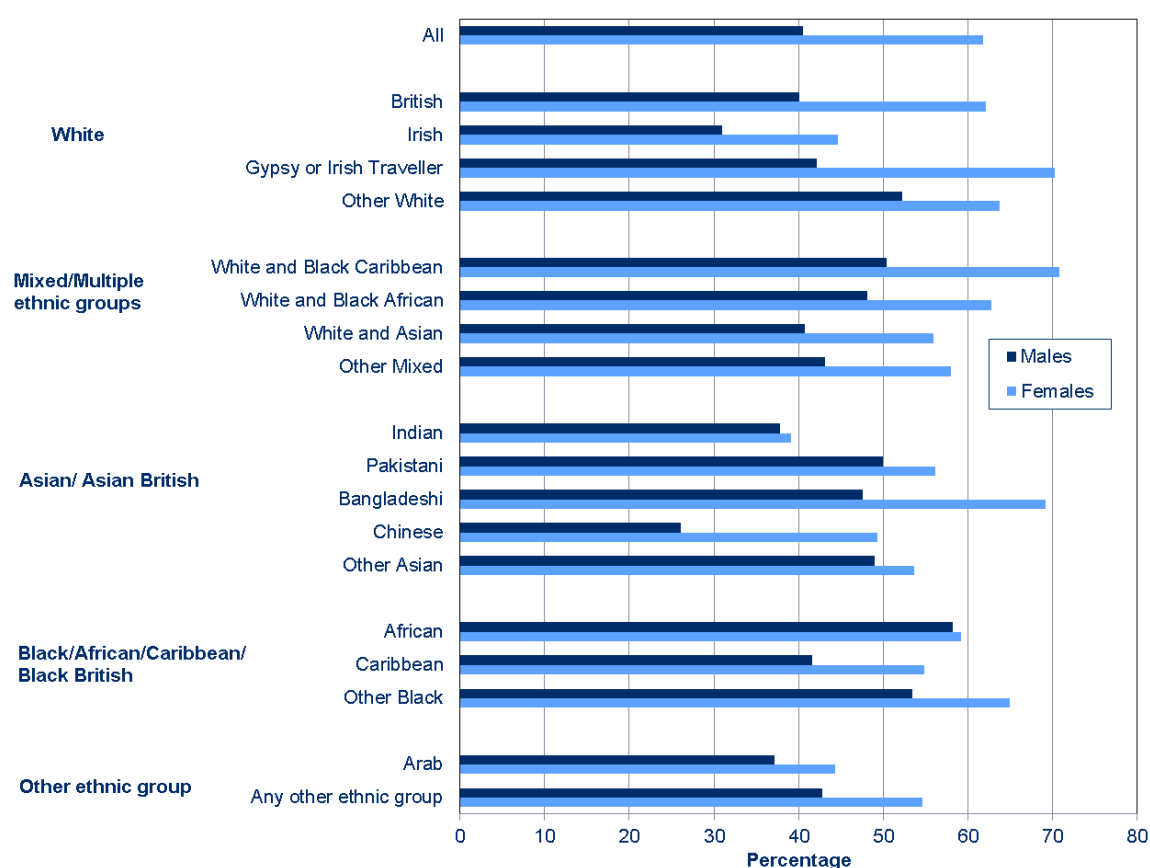
Across England and Wales, labour market statistics indicate that employment rates and economic inactivity rates differ for different ethnic groups.

From the Labour Force Survey across England and Wales, in 2014, the employment rate was 75 per cent for the White ethnic group. The Mixed/Multiple group (63 per cent) had the highest employment rate of the minority groups and the Other ethnic group (57 per cent) had the lowest employment rate.

The latest figures for Wales also reflect this pattern with the employment rates being highest for the White ethnic group, the mixed/multiple ethnic group having the highest employment rate of the minority ethnic group and the other ethnic group category (which include Arab) having the lowest employment rate. In addition economic inactivity rates were highest for Chinese and Other ethnic groups.

Looking at the 2011 Census, of those in employment in Wales, men from the Black African (58 per cent), Other Black (53 per cent) and Other White (52 per cent) ethnic groups were most likely to work in low skilled jobs. For women the most likely were White and Black Caribbean (71 per cent), Gypsy or Irish Traveller (70 per cent) and Bangladeshi (69 per cent).

4.05 Percentage of employed people in low skilled jobs, by ethnic group, Census 2011



Source: Census 2011, Office for National Statistics

Non-white ethnicity is linked with a greater likelihood of relative income poverty

In the latest period (5 year period up to 2015-16) children and working-age adults who were living in households where the head of the household was from a non-white ethnic group were more likely to be in relative income poverty compared with those where the head of the household was from a white ethnic group. 29 per cent of children living in households with a white head of household compared to 62 per cent in households with a non-white head of household; the corresponding figures for working-age adults being 23 per cent compared to 42 per cent, respectively.

The BME population have been less likely to say that they feel they belong to the local area than those who consider themselves as White British though there is some suggestion that this may be changing

Whilst data from 2012-2015 indicates there was little difference between those who live in Wales who do identify as White British and those that do not in life satisfaction and a number of elements of 'sense of community', there was a higher proportion of those from the White British group who felt they belong to the local area (81 per cent) compared with those from all other ethnic groups (71 per cent). The latest data, for 2016-017, suggests that this may be changing though further research is required into whether this is the case.

The Black and Ethnic minority population are still under-represented in local political life and less likely to vote in some elections

As far as participating in public representation and elections, surveys conducted following national elections and referenda provide an insight. Data on the 2015 General Election shows little difference between White and BME groups in the proportion who voted. However a lower proportion of those from BME backgrounds than from White backgrounds said they had voted in the National Assembly elections (50 per cent, compared with 73 per cent of the White group) and the 2016 EU referendum (reported as 74 per cent, compared with 91 per cent of the White group)

Data from the Local Government Candidates Survey 2012 indicate that ethnic minorities are under-represented in local government with only 0.6 per cent of elected councillors from ethnic minority background, none of which were female.

Race is still judged to be a motivating factor in nearly three quarters of all hate crime, and recorded race incidents have been increasing

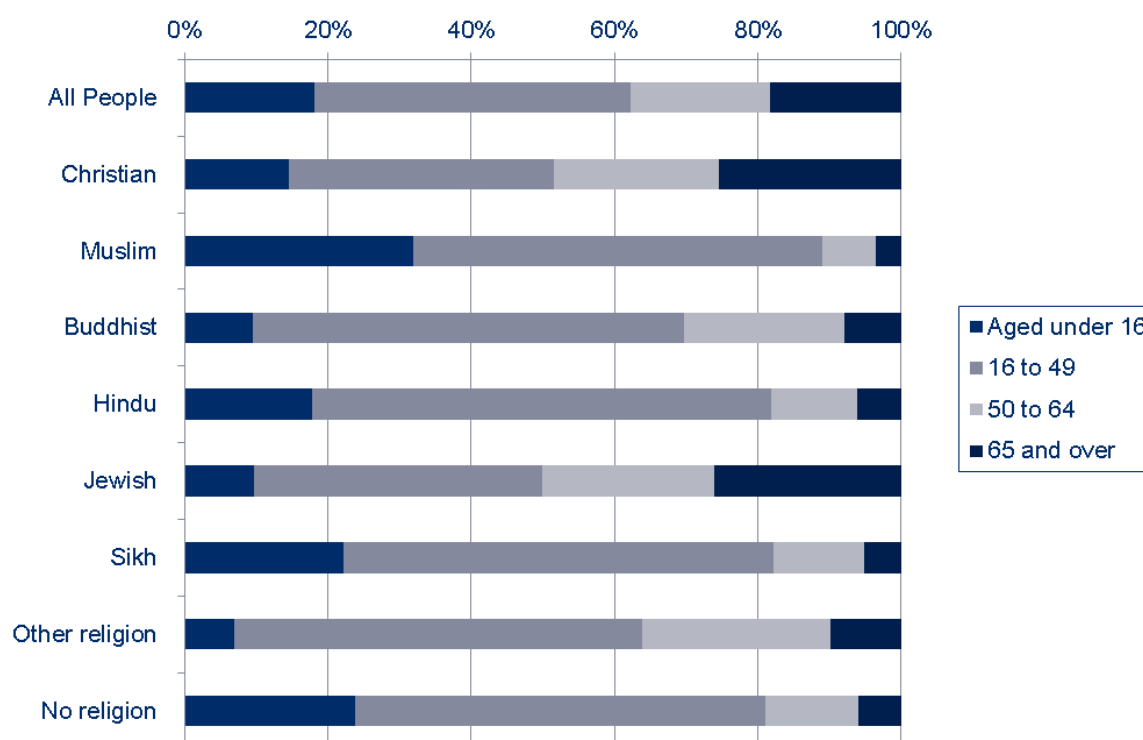
Race was judged to be a motivating factor in 73 per cent of hate crimes recorded in Wales in 2015/16; whilst sexual orientation was judged to be the motivating factor in 15 per cent of such crimes. Racist incidents in Wales recorded by police increased by 8 per cent between 2015-16 and 2016-17. Ethnic minority respondents to the [Race Equality First survey](#) were 1.5 times more likely than white respondents to think that hate crime has a negative impact on the community.

Religion

Christianity is still the largest religion in Wales [according to the 2011 Census](#), although the proportion has decreased markedly alongside a considerable increase in those stating no religion since 2001.

There was variation in the age profile of each religious group. Christians and Jews had a much older population compared to Wales overall. In contrast, Muslims had a much younger population. Those stating a minority religious group had a high proportion of people in the working age (16-64) category and those with no religion also had a much younger population than average.

4.06 Age distribution by religion, Census 2011



Source: Census 2011, Office for National Statistics

Muslims, Sikhs and those stating no religion are more likely to live in the more deprived parts of Wales, than those people identifying with other religions (e.g. Christians and Jews)

Two third (66 per cent) of Muslims and 56 per cent of Sikhs and those stating no religion lived in the most deprived half of Wales in 2011, compared to 32 per cent of Jewish people.

The National Survey for Wales data suggest a slightly lower sense of community amongst those with no religion compared with those identifying as Christians or with another religion. There is also some suggestion that those identifying as a Christian have slightly higher levels of subjective well-being and feeling that things they do in life are worthwhile than those identifying with no religion. Both these results could be affected by the age profiles of these groups (with the population identifying as Christian generally having an older age profile than others in the population).

Of all the religious groups Hindus had the highest proportion that had a degree level qualification (or above) (58 per cent with degrees) whilst those stating they had no religion had the lowest proportion with a degree level qualification

The Christian population had the highest proportion of people with no qualifications in 2011. However this may be partly due to demographic factors and their older population, since the age group most likely not to have any qualifications was those aged 65 or over. Minority religious groups had the lowest proportion of people with no qualifications.

Looking at the highest qualifications achieved, those from minority religious groups have the highest proportion of people who have achieved the equivalent of a degree level qualification or above (Level 4), including 58 per cent of Hindus. Those stating no religion have the lowest proportion of people with qualifications at degree level and the highest proportion of people with the equivalent of 1 to 4 GCSEs as their highest qualifications (Level 1).

Hindus had the highest rate of economic activity and Christian people had the lowest rate of economic activity. In all religious groups men had higher economic activity rates than women, this was most pronounced in the Muslim population.

Excluding students, in 2011, Hindus had the highest rate of economic activity and Christian people had the lowest rate of economic activity. In all the religions, when economic activity was split by gender, males had higher rates than females. This was most pronounced in the Muslim population, there being a 39 percentage points difference between male and female economic activity in the Muslim population. Within the economically inactive population, there were marked differences between genders in the reasons behind inactivity. In particular, those looking after the home or family were predominantly female and those who stated they were either long-term sick or disabled were predominantly male. This was especially evident in the Muslim population.

People from some religious groups participate more in sporting activities, though this could be a result of differing age profiles.

There are some differences in the extent to which those in different religious groups or no religious group participate in sporting activity though these are likely to be impacted by the age profile of the different groups. The [Active Adults survey 2014](#) reports on any participation in sport in the previous four weeks. Of the four groups for which data are available, the group identifying as Christian has a participation rate below average (67.8 per cent) whilst the three other groups have rates above the Wales average (72.0 per cent): no religion or agnostic (77.4 per cent), Muslim (75.9 per cent) and 'Any other religion' (79.8 per cent).

Sexual identity

[Latest official estimates](#) of the population in Wales that identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual range from 1.2 per cent to 1.8 per cent of the population. There is limited data available on the experience of the lesbian, gay or bisexual population in Wales however the latest National Survey for Wales (2016-17) suggests some difference in personal well-being between those for those who do not identify as heterosexual, compared with those who do. Lower mean scores are observed for:

- feeling happy yesterday (7.2 compared to 7.6)
- life satisfaction (7.5 compared to 7.8)
- feelings that things done in life are worthwhile (7.7 compared to 8.0)

These results are consistent with the [results for the UK](#) as a whole on personal well-being in which those who identify as heterosexual or straight tended to report the highest average levels of well-being across all four measures of personal well-being.

The National Survey for Wales data also suggests a slightly lower sense of community amongst those who do not identify as heterosexual compared to those who do.

Data on hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation shows that these hate crimes were more likely to involve offences including violence against the person than for hate crime overall, and had the highest percentage of offences involving injury (Home Office, 2016). There is also evidence to suggest lesbian, gay and bisexual people are more likely than heterosexual people to be the victim of crime (of any sort) (Hudson-Sharp and Metcalf, 2016: 37).

The limited data that is available on the experience of the transgender population in Wales is relatively dated and unlikely to represent current experience. Future reports will seek to include any further research which becomes available.

Disability

Life satisfaction is generally lower for people with disabilities than for those without disabilities.

National Survey for Wales data (2016-17) demonstrates that life satisfaction was generally lower for people with disabilities (mean score 7.1) than for those without disabilities (8.0)

Having a disability or limiting longstanding illness can negatively affect people's feeling of safety in their area and their sense of community.

Having a disability or limiting longstanding illness is one of those factors that can negatively affect people's sense of community (feeling that they belong to the local area; that people in the area from different backgrounds get on well together; and that people in the area treat each other with respect).

In addition the latest National Survey results suggest that those with a limiting long-term illness feel less safe than those without. Higher proportions of those with a limiting long-term illness reported feeling unsafe after dark at home (5 per cent, compared with 2 per cent of those without), when walking in the local area (27 per cent, compared with 17 per cent) and when travelling by public transport (31 per cent, compared with 16 per cent).

[For Wales and England combined](#) in 2015-16, both women and men with a long-term illness or disability were more likely to be victims of any domestic abuse in the last year (15.7 per cent and 7.3 per cent respectively), compared with those without a long-term illness or disability (6.2 per cent and 3.9 per cent respectively).

Whilst there remains a gap in educational attainment between children with Special Educational Needs and other children, which broadens out with age, the performance of pupils with special educational needs has consistently improved in recent years.

Special Educational Needs (SEN) can be as a result of physical or medical difficulties, or sensory impairments. In January 2016, 22.5 per cent of pupils at maintained schools in Wales had SEN, of whom 11.8 per cent had a statement of SEN (2.7 per cent of all pupils at maintained schools).

At Key Stage 4 23.3 per cent of pupils with SEN achieved the level 2 inclusive measure (5 A*-C GCSEs or equivalent including English or Welsh first language and Mathematics), compared to 58.9 per cent for all pupils.

In 2015, 20 per cent of the working-aged disabled population in Wales held no qualifications compared to 7 per cent of the working-aged population that were not disabled. People with disabilities were also less likely to have degree level qualifications: 25 per cent of the working-aged disabled population held qualifications at level 4 or above, compared to 41 per cent of the non-disabled working-aged population.

Living with a person who has a disability makes relative income poverty more likely for children and working age people

In the [latest period \(2013-14 to 2015-16\)](#), 36 per cent of children who lived in a household where there was someone with a disability were in relative income poverty compared with 27 per cent in households where no-one was disabled.

35 per cent of working-age adults who lived in a household where there was someone with a disability were in relative income poverty compared with 19 per cent of those who lived in a household where no-one was disabled.

However, the risk of a pensioner living in a household in relative income poverty was equal regardless of whether there was someone disabled in their household or not.

People with disabilities or long-term illness are less likely to take part in arts and sporting activities

The National Survey for Wales in 2016-17 reported that a lower proportion of people with a limiting long term illness or health problem had visited an arts event in the previous 12 months (50 per cent, compared with 64 per cent for people without a limiting illness) The proportion who had participated in an arts event was also lower, 23 per cent compared with 31 per cent for those without a limiting illness.

Participation in sporting activities is also lower for those with a long-term mental or physical condition or illness. The National Survey for Wales found that this group were less likely to have participated in any sporting activity in the previous 4 weeks (38 per cent, compared with 69 per cent), to be a member of a sports club (16 per cent, compared with 27 per cent), and to be a coach/volunteer (7 per cent, compared with 12 per cent)

The same [trend is observable among school children](#). For those who have any disability or impairment, rates of participation in sport at least three times a week (40 per cent) and enjoyment of extracurricular sport (45 per cent) are lower than for those without (49 per cent and 54 per cent respectively).

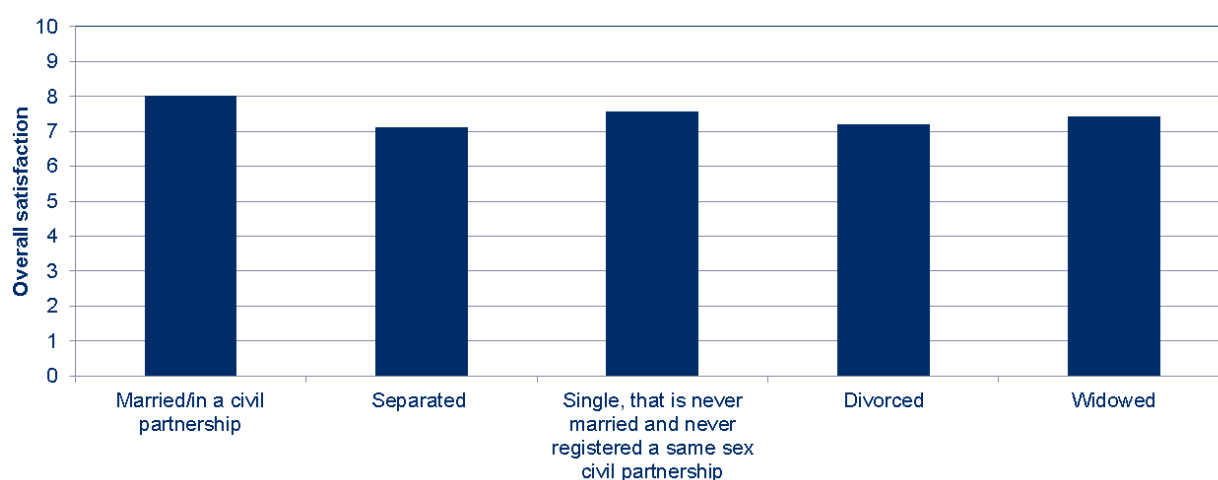
Marital Status

The [2011 Census](#) indicated that the majority of households in Wales (62.8 per cent) were one-family households; 30.8 per cent were single person households, and 6.5 per cent were other household types. Of the one-family households, just over half (52.3 per cent) were households containing a married couple or couple in a civil partnership, 15.4 per cent were household containing a co-habiting couple and 18.1 per cent are lone parent households.

Being married or in a civil partnership can be good for your well-being

National Survey for Wales results for 2016-17 show a higher proportion of the married population indicating a high 'satisfaction with life', feeling that the things they do in life are worthwhile and happiness compared to those that were never married, separated, divorced or widowed. It is those that are separated or divorced that are most likely to say they feel lonely.

4.07 Well-being - Overall Satisfaction with life (0-10 scale), 2016-17



Source: National Survey for Wales, 2016-17

Those who are married or widowed have a stronger sense of community than those who have never married or who are separated or divorced

Those who are married or widowed in Wales are more likely to say they feel they belong to a local area (77 per cent and 82 per cent respectively) compared to those who are never married or separated (63 per cent) or divorced (69 per cent). Those who are married or widowed are also more likely to agree that people from different backgrounds get on well together, that people in the area treat each other with respect and consideration, that there are people they can rely on when they have problems. Those who are widowed are the most likely to say that most people can be trusted, whilst those who are separated or divorced are the least likely. Of those that are married or widowed there are a higher proportion of older people so these differences might be as much related to age as to marital status.

A higher proportion of those who are married volunteer (either formally or informally) than other population groups.

Those who are divorced, separated or never married are more likely to struggle financially

When compared to being married or widowed, being separated or divorced is one of those factors that can be [linked to material deprivation](#). In 2016-17, whilst 25 per cent of divorced adults and 22 per cent of those separated (but still legally married) were in material deprivation compared to 9 per cent of those who were married or widowed. When asked about keeping up with bills the groups most likely to be finding this difficult are those who are separated, divorced or never married. These groups are also the most likely to indicate that they have used debt advice or food bank services in the last year.

2013-15 analysis of employment patterns indicate there were higher rates of employment for the working age population amongst those that are married (and living with a spouse) (77 per cent) and in the those who have been in a civil partnership (87 per cent) than the overall rate (74 per cent), whilst single people (those who have never married had a slightly lower employment rate (72 per cent).

Relationship breakdown is one of the key causes cited for households being threatened with, or being, homeless. In [2015-16](#), 'breakdown of a relationship with a partner' was cited as the main reason for being threatened with homelessness in 13 per cent of cases; this reason was cited in 21 per cent of cases where a household was assessed as eligible, homeless and owed a duty; and in 22 per cent of cases where the household was eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need.

Lone parents (with dependent children) and single person households accounted for 83 per cent of all households assessed as eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need in 2015-16. These household types are considerably over-represented in comparison with their share of the household population (as indicated in the 2011 Census). One parent households (with dependent children) accounted for 33.6 per cent of homelessness cases compared with 7.5 per cent of the household population in 2011; single person households accounted for 49.3 per cent of cases compared with 30.8 per cent of the household population in 2011.

Those who are separated or divorced are more likely to report having experience domestic abuse than those who are married.

The percentage of women experiencing domestic abuse in the previous year varies according to marital status, as indicated in data from the [2014/15 Crime Survey for England and Wales](#). For Wales and England combined, the highest percentages were observed for separated women (19.8 per cent) and women who are divorced /have a legally dissolved partnership (18.7 per cent), compared with the lowest (3.6 per cent) for married/ civil partnered women. The percentage of men experiencing domestic abuse varied by marital status in a similar pattern, but with lower proportions in each category. This ranged from 9.4 per cent of separated men to 2.4 per cent of married/ civil partnered men.

A Wales of cohesive communities

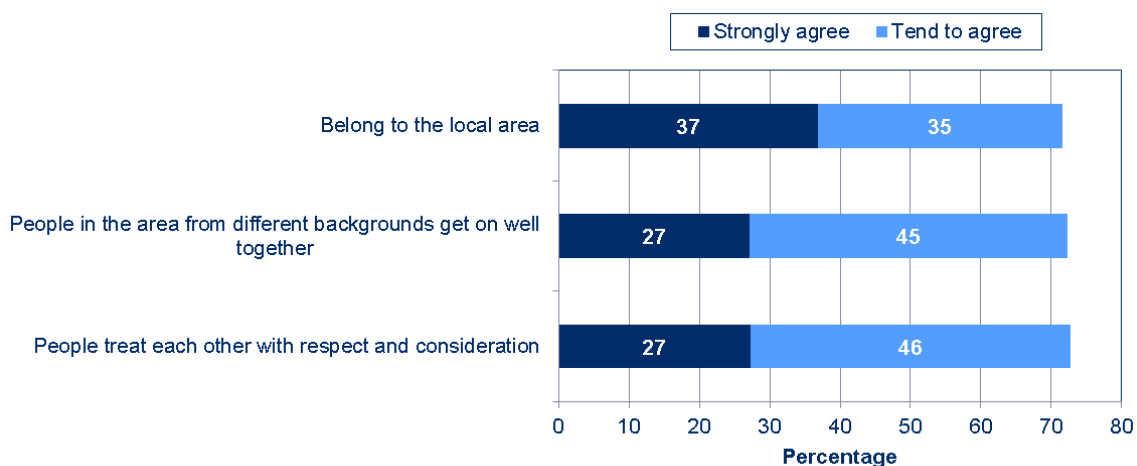
The goal: Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.

What progress has been made towards a Wales of cohesive communities so far?

Community cohesion

The national indicator is the percentage of people that agreed with three statements about their local area: they belong to the local area; people in the area from different backgrounds get on well together; and people in the area treat each other with respect. In 2016-17, 50 per cent of people agreed with all three statements while around 70 per cent agreed with any one statement.

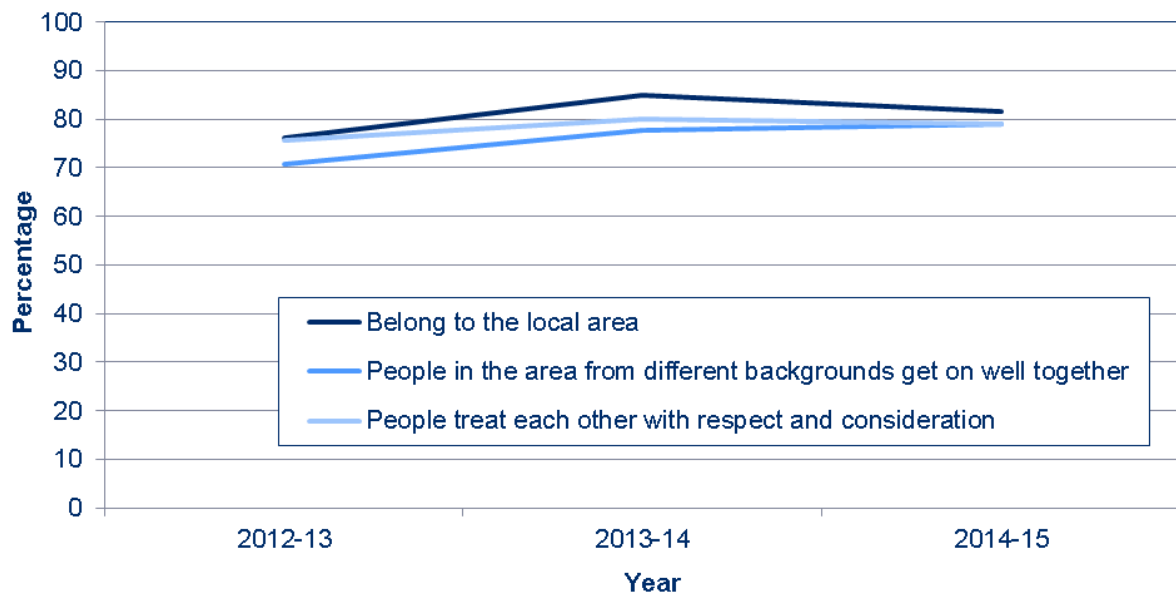
5.01 Percentage of people agreeing with statements about their local area, 2016-17



Source: National Survey for Wales, 2016-17

Because of changes in the National Survey in 2016-17 it is not possible to directly compare with data from earlier years. The figures for 2012-13 to 2014-15 suggest a generally upward trend over the period although the time series is not long enough to properly determine a trend. Throughout the period the strength of agreement was higher for people feeling that they belonged to the area (with 37 per cent strongly agreeing and 35 per cent tending to agree in 2016-17) than for feeling that people from different backgrounds got on well together or treated each other with respect (with 27 per cent strongly agreeing and around 45 per cent tending to agree in 2016-17 in each case).

5.02 Percentage of people agreeing with statements about their local area, 2012-13 to 2014 -15



Source: National Survey for Wales

[Detailed analysis of the 2013-14 results](#) showed that when controlling for a wide range of other factors, people are more likely to have a strong sense of community if they:

- are from a rural area
- are older
- have high overall life satisfaction
- speak Welsh
- are owner-occupiers
- do not have a disability or limiting longstanding illness

Which local authority people live in also makes a difference; for example, people living in Pembrokeshire were more likely to have a strong sense of community than those in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

One of the factors highlighted in the analysis was Welsh speaking and the [2011 Census](#) showed a fall in the number of small areas where the majority -either 50 per cent or more or 70 per cent or more - of the population that could speak Welsh. .

A similar detailed analysis of the 2016-17 results will be published in 2018, but also taking into account new measures collected for the first time in 2016-17. As part of the loneliness measure, 84 per cent of people reported that they could trust many people completely. As a more general measure, the average score given for the question 'Would you say that most people can be trusted?' was 6.1 out of 10.

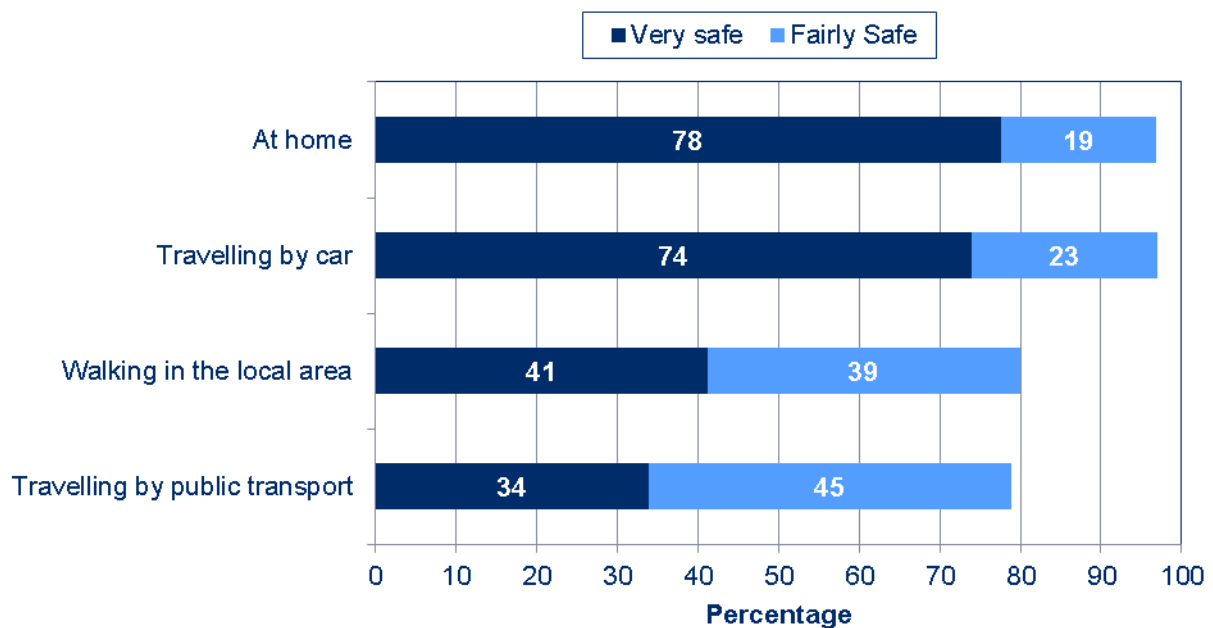
Homelessness

For every 10,000 households in Wales, 43 households approached their local authority for help with housing and were successfully prevented from becoming homeless for at least 6 months. These figures do not include the number of people estimated to be sleeping rough. In November 2016 there was just over 300 people estimated to be sleeping rough across Wales, the highest numbers were in Cardiff and Wrexham.

Feeling safe

The national indicator is the percentage of people that agreed with four statements about feeling safe after dark: at home, walking in their local area, travelling by public transport or travelling by car. In 2016-17, 73 per cent of people felt safe in all four situations. Around 80 per cent felt safe walking in the local area or travelling by public transport while for both being at home and travelling by car 97 per cent of people felt safe. For both being at home or travelling by car the vast majority of people that felt safe felt very safe, while for walking in the local area or travelling by public transport as many or more people felt fairly safe as felt very safe.

5.03 Percentage of people agreeing with statements about feeling safe after dark, 2016-17



Source: National Survey for Wales, 2016-17

Data on feeling safe when travelling by car was first collected in 2016-17. Figures for feeling safe at home, walking in the local area or travelling by public transport after dark were previously collected in 2012-13 and 2013-14 and there has been no discernable change in the results. In 2012-13, 58 per cent of people felt safe walking in the nearest town or city centre.

[Detailed analysis of the 2013-14 results](#) showed that when controlling for a wide range of other factors, people are more likely to feel safe if they:

- are male
- are in good health
- have no disability or limiting long-standing illness
- have no religion
- live in a rural area
- are educated to degree level or above
- are aged under 70
- have medium or high life satisfaction
- feel that they belong to the local area
- live in the safest communities (as measured by recorded levels of burglary, violent crime, theft, criminal damage, anti-social behaviour and fire)
- agree that the local area is free from graffiti and vandalism

Other than personal characteristics, a sense of community is an important aspect and so there are strong links to the community cohesions measures. Issues related to crime are also important and the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) collects data relating to people's experience of crime as well as their perception of crime and anti-social behaviour. Whilst the data on experience of crime in Wales shows a recent fall in the number of violent incidents experienced by adults, the perception data shows the percentage of people who believe crime is on the increase (both locally and nationally) is rising; 11 per cent of respondents in 2016-17 believe crime is going up locally, 37 per cent believe it is going up nationally.

However, in their local area there has been a fall in the percentage of people in Wales who perceive there to be a problem with:

- Vandalism & graffiti
- People using or dealing drugs
- Teenagers hanging around
- People being drunk or rowdy
- Anti-social behaviour

The quality of police recorded crime has received much attention in recent years, following a number of inspections and inquiries. As a result better recording practices have been introduced and this needs to be borne in mind when considering the police recorded crime data. In addition some increase in reporting may be due to a greater willingness for the victims of crime to come forward. Having said that, the most recent data for Wales shows a 9 per cent rise in total crime in 2016-17, with some particular offences rising faster than others: violence against the person increased by 21 per cent, sexual offences rose by 21 per cent, public order offences rose by 31 per cent and miscellaneous crimes against society by 28 per cent.

Satisfaction with local area as a place to live

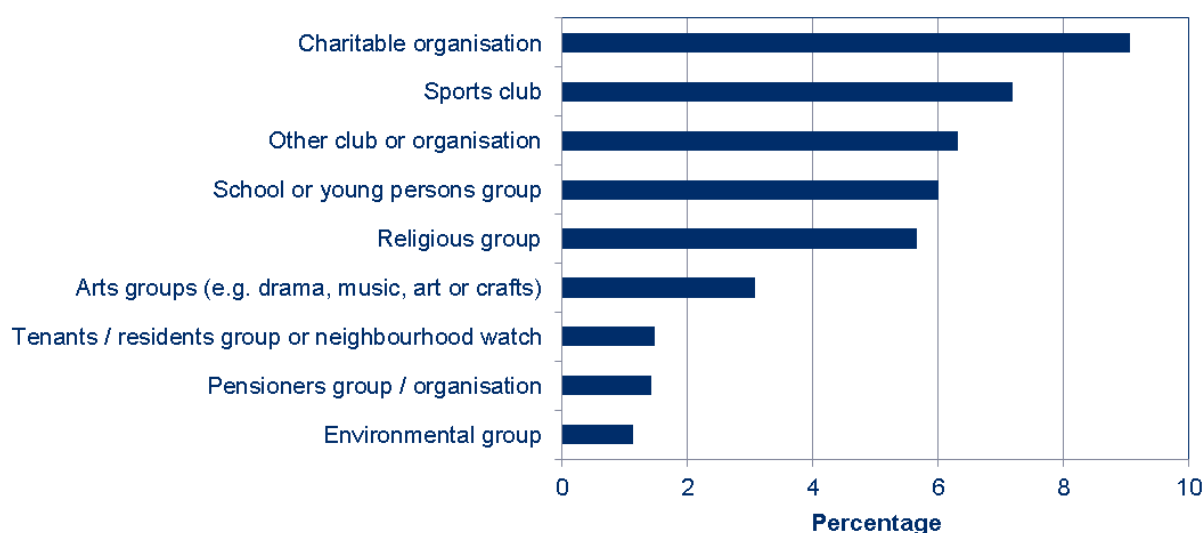
Overall, according to the 2016-17 National Survey, 85 per cent of people feel satisfied with their local area as a place to live. Within this figure there is considerable variation across Wales with 66 per cent satisfied with their local area in Blaenau Gwent and 95 per cent in Ceredigion. However, detailed analysis of survey data shows that geographic differences are often driven by compositional differences (e.g. employment status, health etc.) rather than specific local conditions. Further in-depth analysis of this indicator will be published during 2018.

Volunteering

Social interaction has been shown to be beneficial to personal wellbeing and volunteering is an aspect of social interaction that has proven positive [benefits in terms of both health and wellbeing](#).

In 2016-17 the National Survey results show that 28 per cent of people in Wales volunteered. People most commonly volunteered for charities and sports clubs.

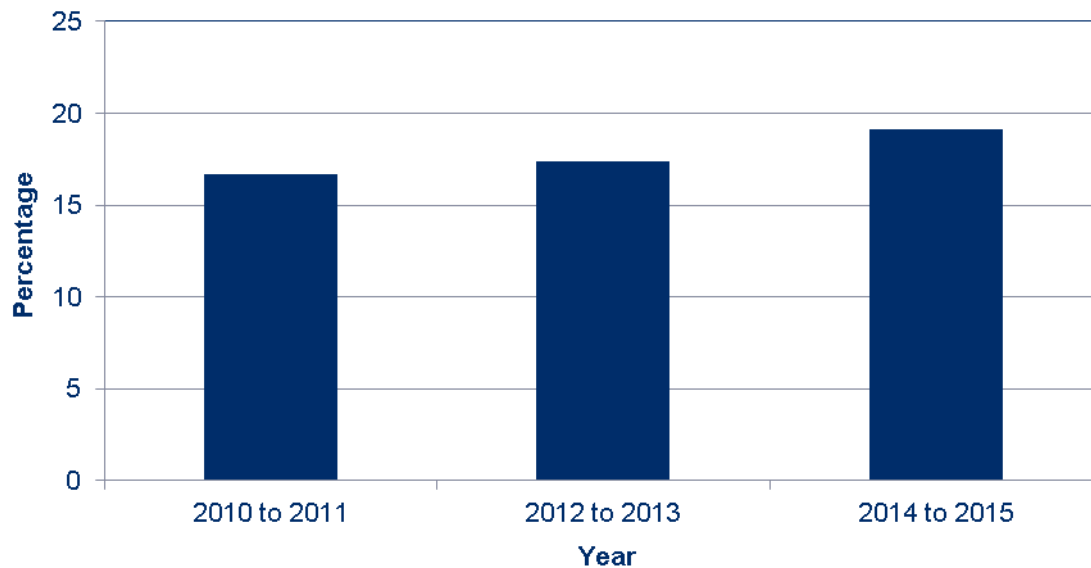
5.04 Percentage of people volunteering by type of organisation, 2016-17



Source: National Survey for Wales, 2016-17

While a time series does not yet exist for Wales, recent data for the UK as a whole shows an increase in the level of volunteering (the sources for Wales and the UK use slightly different definitions of volunteering and cover different time periods).

5.05 Percentage who volunteered more than once in the last 12 months, UK, 2010 to 2015



Source: Understanding Society: UK Household Longitudinal Study

In addition to volunteering with clubs or organisations, 32 per cent of people look after or give help and support to family members, friends, or neighbours because of long-term physical or mental health conditions.

Further analysis of the National Survey data on volunteering will be published in 2018.

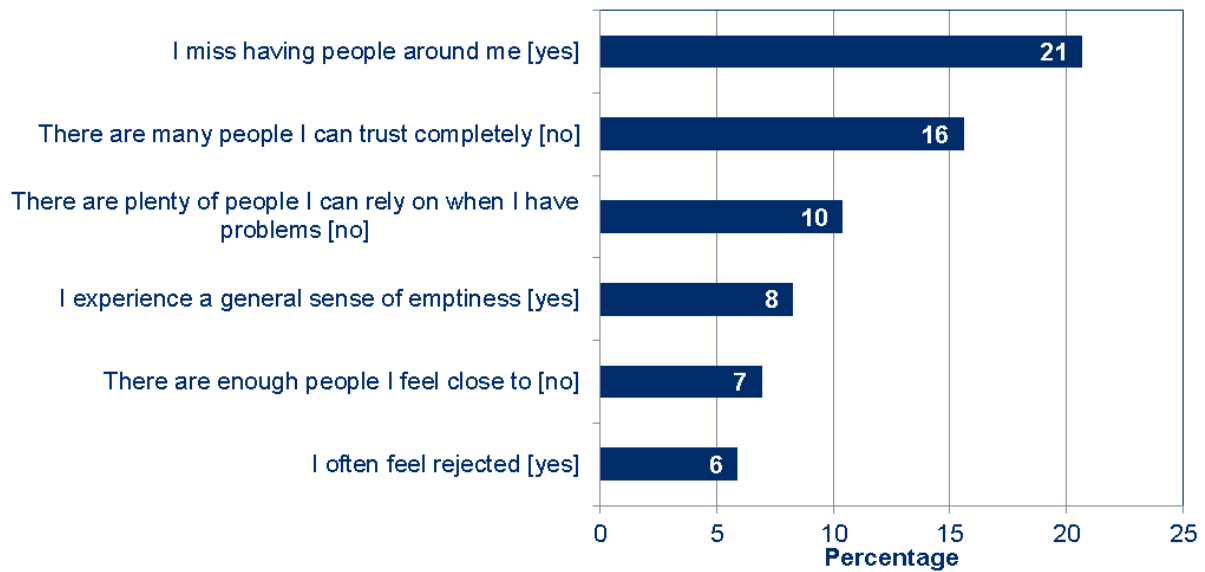
Loneliness

Loneliness is an important aspect of community cohesion but is it also strongly linked to mental health issues (research has shown a connection between being socially connected and mental health issues in later life, for example [James et al \(2011\)](#), but a recent study by [Beutel et al \(2017\)](#) also shows the impact on mental health across the age spectrum).

Loneliness is a complex issue and the 2016-17 National survey collected data using the [De Jong Gierveld loneliness scale](#) which covers both emotional and social isolation. Based on all six measures, 17 per cent of people in Wales were found to be lonely. People in material deprivation were more likely to feel lonely with 37 per cent of those in material deprivation feeling lonely compared with 14 per cent of people who aren't in material deprivation. Overall, those aged 16 to 64 reported a higher level of loneliness than those aged 65 and over.

There is a marked variation in the percentage of people feeling lonely on each of the individual measures, varying from 6 per cent who often feel rejected to 21 per cent who missed having people around. While loneliness is higher for those aged under 65 on most measures for those missing having people around the percentage was highest for those over 75 (26 per cent).

5.06 Percentage of people feeling lonely by reason, 2016-17



Source: National Survey for Wales, 2016-17

Due to the complex nature of loneliness and the degree of interaction with other variables, a detailed statistical analysis is being planned which will draw out the key factors and this will be published during 2018.

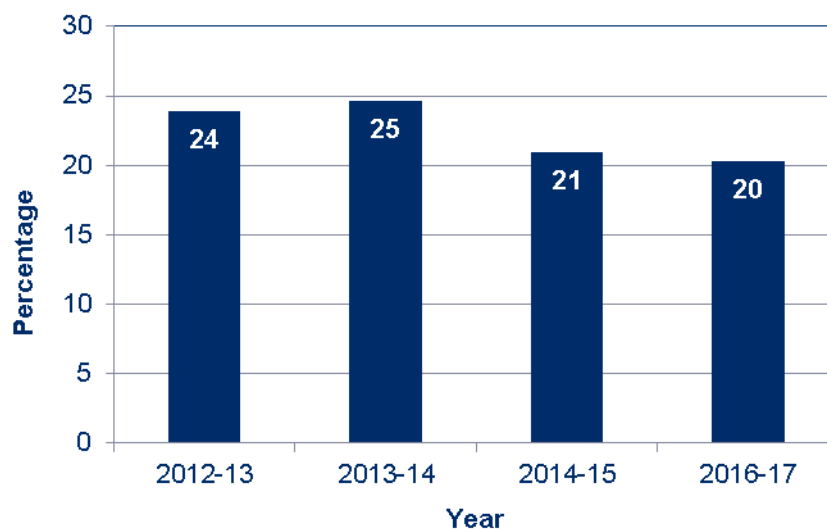
Satisfaction with ability to get to/ access facilities and services

Data for this indicator is being collected in the National Survey for 2017-18 and will be published in July 2018.

Local democracy

In 2016-17, 20 per cent of people felt that they could influence decisions affecting local area. This is very similar to the 2014-15 figure but slightly lower than 2012-13 and 2013-14.

5.07 Percentage of people who feel they can influence decisions affecting local area, 2012-13 to 2016-17



Source: National Survey for Wales

[Detailed analysis of the 2014-15 results](#) showed that when controlling for a wide range of other factors, people are more likely to feel able to influence decisions if they:

- are educated to degree level or above
- have good general health
- live in Isle of Anglesey, Caerphilly or Swansea, compared with Pembrokeshire and Blaenau Gwent
- feel that people in the area treat each other with respect
- feel in control of daily life

A similar analysis of the 2016-17 results will be published in 2018, but also taking into account new measures collected for the first time in 2016-17.

In 2016-17:

- 16 per cent of people contacted their local councillor in the previous 12 months. Of those that contacted their councillor
 - 56 per cent said they understood what their councillor does
 - 49 per cent agreed that their local councillor works closely with the local community
- 33 per cent agreed that their council lets people know how it is performing
- 35 per cent of people agree the council does all it can to improve the local area

The latest published data on [local authority elections](#) in Wales is for the 2012 election where the overall turnout was 38.6 per cent in contested seats, down from 42.6 per cent in 2008. This varies by local authority from 33.9 per cent in Newport to 48.3 per cent in Gwynedd but there is more variation at ward level with 21 wards (including 7 in Gwynedd and 5 in Ceredigion) having a turnout of over 60 per cent.

A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

The goal: A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, sports and recreation.

So what does the data tell us about culture in Wales?

Overall increase in attendance and participation at arts events in recent years

Participation in the arts and sports can have a positive impact on mental well-being and physical health, but also in terms of improving social connectedness and reduction in anti-social behaviour therefore supporting a wide range of well-being goals.

Our national indicator is to consider those that have attended or participated in arts events 3 or more times a year. The National Survey for Wales did not collect that information in 2016-17 but whilst awaiting the data for the national indicator we are able to consider attendance at the arts more generally and look at historical data on both attendance and participation.

The [2016-17 National Survey for Wales](#) (NSW) showed that 60 per cent of adults aged 16 or over attended at least one arts event in the last year, similar to the results from the previous National Survey. In total 29 per cent had participated in an arts activity in the last year.

The NSW defines an arts event as one of the following: a play or pantomime or musical, a live music event, an opera or classical music performance, a film at an arts centre a carnival or street art event or arts festival (e.g. Eisteddfod), an exhibition, an event connected with books, writing, video art or electronic art, a circus (not involving animals) and a dance performance.

For those who had not attended an arts event, the most common reason for not attending was a lack of interest.

The previous [Arts in Wales Survey 2015](#) carried out by the Arts Council of Wales had shown that attendance to arts events by adults aged 16 or over was up from 2005 but down slightly on 2010. This research defines an arts event slightly differently, with the main difference being the inclusion of seeing a film at the cinema. Overall this research found that 73 per cent of adults attended at least one type of arts event 2 or 3 times a year or more often in 2015.

The Arts Council research also gives an insight into the type of arts events attended. When comparing 2015 data with 2005 data, cinema, art galleries/exhibitions and live music have seen the largest increases in attendance.

Participation in arts activity increased between 2010 and 2015. In terms of participation, the Arts in Wales Survey showed that 41 per cent participated in an arts activity two to three times a year or more often and monthly data indicated that for the vast majority if they participated in the arts at all, it was likely to be done relatively frequently (at least monthly). Participation is highest in visual arts and crafts (for example painting, sculpting, pottery, wood-turning, jewellery making weaving or textiles) and music of any kind.

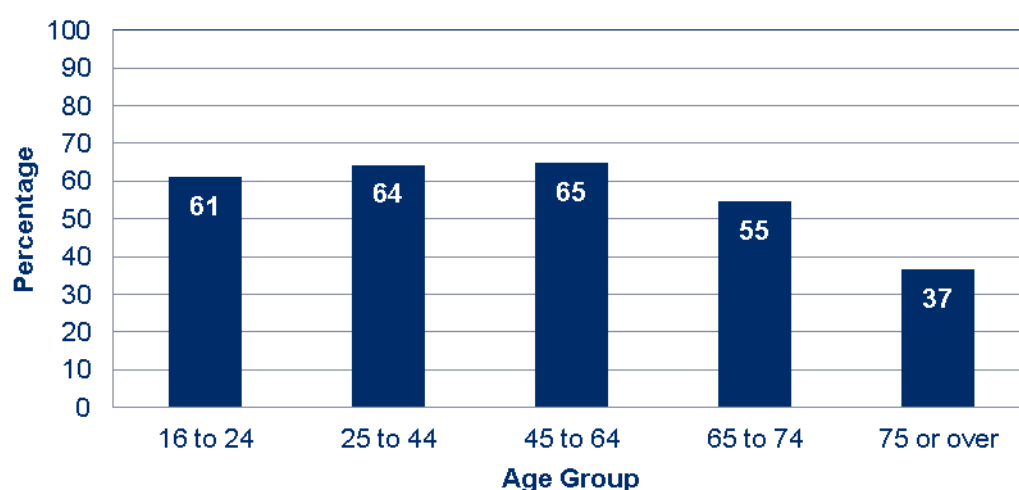
Barriers to attendance and participation include time, availability, interest and cost. But also health is a barrier, particularly for those from lower socio-economic backgrounds, and disabled people are less likely to attend or participation.

Attendance and participation at arts events differs across different groups of people

Women were slightly more likely to attend an arts event than men. According to the National Survey, 58 per cent of men and 62 per cent of women attended at least one arts event in the last year.

However, attendance differed more by age group. Attendance was lowest for the oldest age group - just 37 per cent of adults aged 75 and over attended at least one arts event in the last year. The Arts in Wales survey also showed that younger age groups were also most likely to participate in arts events.

6.01 Percentage of each age group that attended at least one arts event in the last year, 2016-17



Source: National Survey for Wales, 2016-17

Part of the difference across age groups may be attributable to children as couples with dependent children were the household type most likely to have attended an arts event in the last year.

There also appears to be a link between arts attendance with qualifications. People with higher levels of qualification were significantly more likely to have attended an arts event than those with a lower level or no qualifications. Deprivation also appears to have an impact on attendance and participation. People from the most deprived 20 per cent areas of Wales were less likely to have attended an arts event than those from less deprived areas.

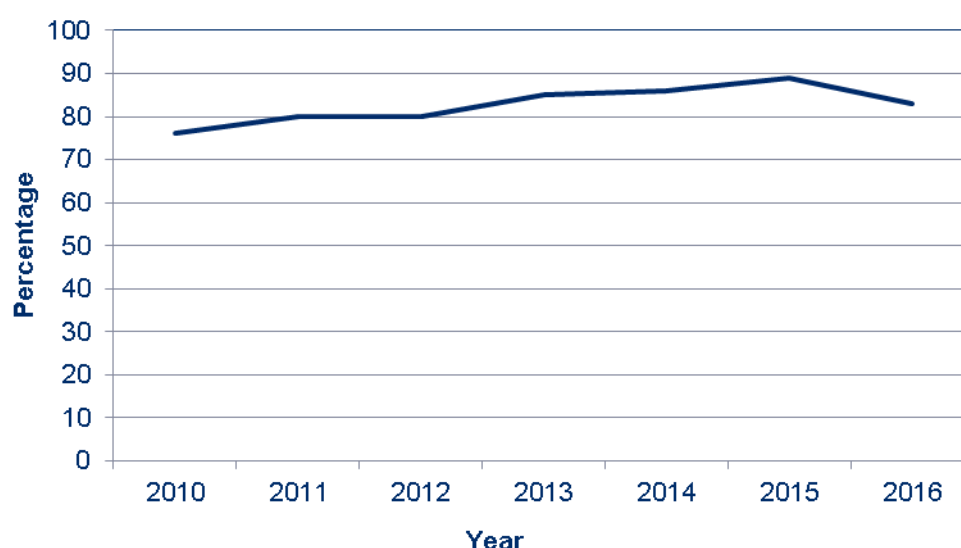
Children and young people attending arts events fell in 2016 after recent growth

Children are not included in the National Survey for Wales but recent research by the Arts Council shows that 83 per cent of those aged 7 to 18 years old attended arts events once a year or more with similar figures for participation. In general a growing percentage of children have attended arts events since 2010 but the 2016 figure is the lowest recorded since 2012.

The Arts Council of Wales' research on [children's engagement with the arts](#) asks children about their attendance at plays, musicals, opera, live music performances, dance performances, galleries or exhibitions, literature events, carnivals and street art events.

As for adults, girls and children from the higher socio-economic backgrounds were most likely to attend and participate in the arts.

6.02 Attendance to arts events once a year or more by those aged 7 to 18, 2010 to 2016

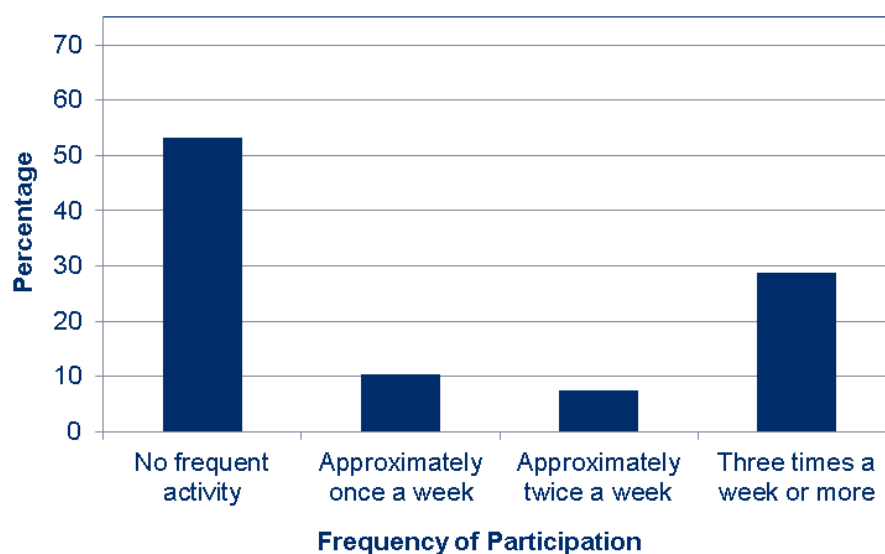


Source: Arts Council in Wales - Children's Omnibus Survey

29 per cent of adults take part in sport 3 times a week or more

According to the National Survey for Wales 29 per cent of adults took part in sport 3 times a week or more in 2016-17, but 53 per cent of adults aged 16 or over reported no frequent activity. The most common sporting activities include the gym or fitness activities, jogging, football and cycling.

6.03 Participation in sport by frequency, 2016-17



Source: National Survey for Wales, 2016-17

Men and younger age groups were more likely to take part in sport 3 or more times a week than women and older age groups respectively.

[Sport Wales research](#) from 2014 also showed that sport participation rates were linked to disability (those without a disability were more likely to participate) and income (those on higher incomes were more likely to participate).

Sporting activity amongst school pupils increasing

[Sport Wales research](#) focusing on school pupils in 2015, showed that 48 per cent of pupils in Years 3 to 11 (aged from 7 to 16) participated in sports 3 times a week. This is an increase from 40 per cent in 2013.

Age does not appear to have much of an impact on participation rates when it comes to school-age children - the rates for primary pupils (aged 7 to 11) and secondary pupils (aged 11 to 16) were very similar (49 per cent and 48 per cent respectively).

However, boys were more likely to regularly participate in sport than girls (52 per cent versus 44 per cent) and the participation rates for pupils from the least deprived schools tended to be higher than those for pupils from the most deprived schools.

19 per cent speak Welsh with 11 per cent speaking it on a daily basis

The Welsh language is a significant component of the historical culture and identity of Wales.

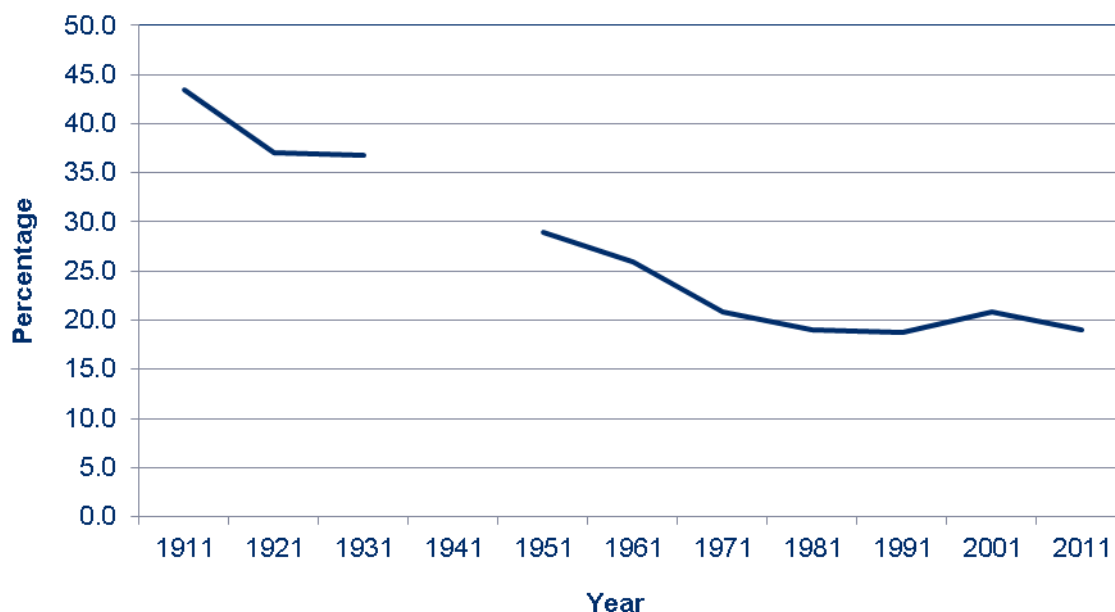
According to 2011 Census data, 19.0 per cent of the Welsh population (aged 3 and over) could speak Welsh, but this was a [slight fall](#) from the 2001 Census (20.8 per cent). In general the number and percentage of speakers had been declining through the 20th century, although the figures for 2011 remain higher than in 1991. Children are most likely to report that they speak Welsh and areas with the highest percentage of Welsh speakers are seen in Anglesey, Gwynedd and the South West. As well as a geographical link, people with higher qualifications are more likely to speak Welsh.

Further information on Welsh speakers comes from [The National Survey for Wales](#) which provides estimates of those aged 16 and over. Since 2011 estimates of those who speak more than a few words of Welsh have remained stable at 20 per cent, but there has been an increase in those who say they speak a little Welsh. This is in line with the findings of the Welsh Language Use Surveys for 2013-15.

When considering the vitality of the Welsh language it is also important to consider whether the language is being used by those who can speak it. Combining data from the Census and the 2013-15 Welsh Language Use Survey tells us that, across the whole population aged 3 or over, 10 per cent of people could speak more than just a few words of Welsh and spoke Welsh on a daily basis. This has remained relatively stable for adults over the last few years. Overall, children are more likely to use Welsh daily through usage in schools. National Survey data also suggests that people who are employed are more likely to speak Welsh daily.

National Survey data also suggest that Welsh speaking adults are more likely to feel a sense of community and indeed that people with more close family and friends are more likely to speak Welsh daily. However the [2011 Census](#) showed a fall in the number of small areas where the majority- either 50 per cent or more or 70 per cent or more - of the population that could speak Welsh.

6.04 Percentage aged 3 or over able to speak Welsh, 1911 to 2011



Source: Census, Office for National Statistics

Around a half of museums and archives have achieved UK accredited standards

33 per cent of people aged 16 or over attended a library in the last year, 58 per cent had visited a historic site and 42 per cent had visited a museum. However, to preserve Wales' cultural identity it is important that heritage assets are well maintained and accessible. As at March 2017, 95 Welsh museums and 8 archival institutions had met the high standards required for UK accreditation. Although no definitive figures are available, it is estimated this represents over a half of Welsh museums and archives and this figure has remained stable since reporting began.

The number of surveyed listed buildings in a "stable" or "improving" condition has increased slightly over recent years. Due to a succession of poor winter weather events, the number of scheduled monuments classified as stable or improving has fallen slightly over recent years. The number of monuments categorised as being "at risk" is currently 14 per cent.

Wales' natural landscape is an important national asset and vital to culture and heritage

The Welsh natural landscape is an important part of the country's culture and heritage well-being as well as being important for the tourism industry, which can in turn support economic growth. It can be impacted on by, for example, expansion of built-up areas and large developments within the natural landscape. [The 2014 Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales](#) states that Wales' National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are acknowledged as landscapes of national significance and are important national assets

which cover 25 per cent of Wales. Over 50 per cent of Wales is nationally valued for its scenic quality and character.

The State of Natural Resources Report states that natural landscape change to 2015 has been small overall with some substantial changes locally. Some key contributors to change are:

- the expansion of settlements
- commercial and industrial developments
- quarries and road improvements
- onshore wind-farms
- the felling of conifers and replanting with broadleaves
- woodland expansion

This context also extends to 2,740km of Welsh coastline both in terms of bring part of the natural landscape but also for promoting outdoor activity. Whilst coastal and marine water quality is fair, there have been improvements in water quality in recent years and increases in the numbers of designated bathing waters.

A globally responsible Wales

The goal : A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being. Goal 7 recognises that in an inter-connected world what we do to make Wales a sustainable nation can have positive and adverse impacts outside of Wales.

Global Context - United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

On 1 January 2016, the world officially began implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – the transformative plan of action based on [17 Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) – to address urgent global challenges over the next 15 years. The SDGs emphasise a universal agenda that requires all UN member states – both rich and poor alike - to take action to support sustainable development.

There are many factors which dictate whether Wales is becoming a more Globally Responsible nation.

The Well-being of Future Generations Act, with its Welsh specific well-being goals, provides a framework for Wales to make a positive contribution to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. For the most part the other six narrative reports, through their assessment of our progress towards the national well-being goals, demonstrate our overall contribution as a nation to the international sustainable development agenda. For example, we report elsewhere on our national progress on issues such as poverty, inequalities and decent work.

The UN SDG agenda also recognises that the development patterns of some countries may generate “spillovers” that may hinder the ability of other countries to achieve the SDGs. As part of the United Kingdom, Wales is part of these “spillover” effects and work at the international level has sought to identify those SDGs most relevant to countries such as the UK. This narrative on “A Globally Responsible Wales” therefore focuses on areas that are most relevant to the global agenda in particular.

We have also mapped each of the 46 National Indicators for Wales against the 17 Sustainable Development Goals to help you navigate between progress here in Wales, and the relationship to each of the SDGs.

[National Indicators - Mapping to Well-being and UN Sustainable Development Goals](#)

Note: Whilst some of the narrative is drawn from National Indicators and official statistics, some of the data presented in this section is contextual and uses data or factual statements related to specific policies or programmes, where we have considered it relevant to the overall narrative. It also includes some duplication with extracts from other goal pages. These data are not collected through official statistics sources and although reported here for context we cannot provide assurance about data quality. We will seek to report further on data quality for sources such as this in next year's report.

What does the data say about how Globally Responsible Wales is?

People in Wales are concerned about climate change

The [National Survey for Wales](#) shows that 67 per cent of people were concerned about climate change, with the vast majority considering this was partly or mainly due to human activity. 47 per cent of people asked said that they had reduced the energy used at home in the last 12 months and 25 per cent had cut down the amount they travel by car. However just 3 per cent reported they had actively volunteered to help protect the environment. In addition, with the co-operation of individual households, local authority recycling rates are continuing to rise.



67%
are concerned
about
climate change



Greenhouse gas emissions have reduced since the 1990s

Considering greenhouse gases, [emissions have fallen by almost 20 per cent](#) between the 1990 base year and 2015.

The reduction of greenhouse gas emissions during this period is mainly due to:

- efficiencies in energy generation and business sector heating
- natural gas replacing coal
- chemical industry abatement
- variations in manufacturing output (e.g. in iron and steel, bulk chemical production)

Around two thirds of greenhouse gas emissions are now as a result of energy supply, business and industry.

Renewable energy generation has been on the rise and there's some evidence that homes are becoming more energy efficient

The use of low carbon energy generation (of which renewable energy is one form) together with the more efficient use of energy helps to make us both ecologically and economically resilient to change. Reduction in demand for energy generation from fossil fuels helps limit greenhouse gas emissions which will have an impact on the environment and on future climate change.

The capacity for renewable energy generation has risen rapidly in recent years and a [low carbon energy study](#) showed that in 2014 there was 2,280 megawatts (MW) of capacity. The vast majority of this is renewable electricity (89 per cent or 2,025 MW) whilst the capacity of renewable heat installations has reached 255 megawatts (MW). Electrical generation potential from these renewable energy installations is estimated to be equivalent to just over a third of Wales's national electricity consumption.

Welsh soils are an important carbon store protecting against climate change

An increasingly important aspect of soil is the concentration of carbon. This is because soil can hold carbon for thousands of years and therefore [help protect the earth](#) against climate change. The soils in Wales store an estimated [410 million tonnes](#) of carbon. The concentration of carbon in our soil is generally stable. According to the [latest figures](#) from 2013-16 the concentration of carbon and organic matter in topsoil was 107.4 grams of carbon per Kg (gC per Kg). This is not significantly different to the concentrations found in 1998 and 2007: 109.1 and 109.4 grams of carbon per kg respectively.

Our ecological footprint shows that our key natural resources are being depleted faster than they can be replenished

The ecological footprint of a country represents the area of land needed to provide raw materials, energy and food to supply that country as well as absorb the pollution and waste created. It is measured in global hectares. It serves as an indicator of the total environmental burden that a society places on the planet.

The last ecological footprint for Wales was calculated in 2011 and it was [10.05 million global hectares](#). This is roughly 5 times the size of Wales and equivalent to 3.28 global hectares per person in Wales.

If everyone in the world were to consume the same as the average Welsh resident, it is estimated that just over 2.5 earths would be required to provide the resources and absorb the wastes. This is slightly lower than the figure for the UK, which is 2.7 earths.

Household food waste has been falling

The [Waste and Resources Action Programme \(WRAP\)](#) published data on Household Food Waste in January 2017 which reported that there is evidence that household food waste levels reduced between 2009 and 2015 (by 12 per cent on a per person basis) and are now lower than the rest of the UK (by around 9 per cent).

The WRAP report suggest a number of reasons why household food waste levels may be lower in Wales than in the rest of the UK including local authorities in Wales having more widespread and better used separate food waste collections. Around [90 per cent of Welsh households](#) have access to a separate food waste collection, compared to just over 25 per cent for the UK as a whole. Use of these collections in Wales, as measured by the proportion of household food waste collected via these collections, is also much higher in Wales than for the UK as a whole.

These data are not collected through official statistics sources and although reported here for context we cannot provide assurance about data quality.

Consumers continue to reduce the amount of Single Use Carrier Bags

Wales was the first country in the UK to introduce a Single Use Carrier Bag (SUCB) charge (in 2011) in order to reduce consumption and the associated environmental impacts of SUCB production, use and disposal. The production, consumption and disposal of carrier bags have a range of associated negative environmental and social effects. The associated environmental and social effects include emission of Greenhouse Gases (GHG) with potential to affect climate

change, emission of pollutants to the air with direct impacts on human health, litter costs and water pollution.

As part of a [post-implementation review](#) consumers were surveyed about the Single Use Carrier Bag charge. The review estimated that there had been a substantial drop in the use of SUCB since 2011. The majority of the consumers surveyed for this review were supportive of the charge and 42 per cent of consumers reported that they took fewer SUCBs from shops than before the charge was introduced and 35 per cent indicating that they had stopped taking SUCBs altogether.

Wales has three world heritage sites of outstanding universal value

World Heritage Sites are places that the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) has inscribed on a list of international sites because of their outstanding universal value, the importance of which is so great as to transcend national boundaries.

Wales [currently has three world heritage sites](#) — the Castles and Town Walls of Edward I in Gwynedd at Caernarfon, Conwy, Beaumaris and Harlech in north-west Wales; Blaenavon Industrial Landscape in south-east Wales; and Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal in north-east Wales. None of these sites are listed by UNESCO as in danger in accordance with Article 11 (4) of the Convention.

Wales' natural landscape is an important national asset and vital to culture and heritage

The Welsh natural landscape is an important part of the country's culture and heritage well-being. [The 2014 Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales](#) states that the Designated Landscapes of Wales, National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are acknowledged as landscapes of national significance and are important national assets which cover 25 per cent of Wales. Over 50 per cent of Wales is nationally valued for its scenic quality and character.

The [State of Natural Resources Report](#) states that natural landscape change to 2015 has been small overall with some substantial changes locally.

This context also extends to 2,740km of Welsh coastline both in terms of being part of the natural landscape but also for promoting outdoor activity. Whilst coastal and marine water quality is fair, there have been improvements in water quality in recent years and increases in the numbers and quality of designated bathing waters.

Schools in Wales are involved in programmes to prepare children for a changing world and to be leaders of change

The Sustainable Development goal 'Quality Education' recognises the importance of all learners acquiring the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality and global citizenship.

Eco-schools is a global programme engaging millions of children across 64 countries. It aims to improve pupils' skills, raise environmental awareness, improve the school environment and create financial savings for schools. There are currently 49,000 schools in 64 countries participating in the Eco-Schools programme. In Wales, 98 per cent of all the state schools in

2016/17 were registered on the voluntary Eco-Schools programme run by Keep Wales Tidy. Eco-schools can be awarded categories covering, bronze, silver, green and green platinum. There was a clear progression of schools towards the higher Green Flag and Platinum Awards in 2016/17, with 14 more schools achieving Green Flag status (795 in total).

The [Global Learning Programme-Wales \(GLP-W\)](#) aims to develop and embed global learning (ESDGC), in particular in developing children and young people as ethical and informed citizens of Wales and the world. Since 2014, GLP-W has recruited, trained and funded Lead Schools with expertise in Global Learning to coordinate networks where teachers from local schools share effective practice, expertise and resources. There are 49 GLP-W Lead Schools and 445 GLP-W Network Schools. These are situated all over Wales and in every local authority.

These data are not collected through official statistics sources and although reported here for context we cannot provide assurance about data quality.

People are participating in international sustainable development projects

People across Wales continue to offer their time, energy, resources and expertise to a diversity of development projects across sub-Saharan Africa.

The Welsh Government's Wales for Africa programme is intended to support people to be actively involved in International Development by working and collaborating with individuals, communities, the third sector and the public sector to make a Welsh contribution to tackling global poverty. The [Wales for Africa 10 year report](#) showed that since 2007 over 160 Welsh managers and leaders have been able to experience living and working in a developing country through the International Learning Opportunities programme, sharing 47,300 hours of expertise with African partners. Since 2006, 528 different development projects across 25 African nations have been supported.

Referrals of potential victims of modern slavery are increasing

The UN SDGs include a target on "Ending modern slavery and human trafficking". Slavery is a serious crime and a grave violation of human rights. According to the [National Crime Agency \(NCA\)](#), the recorded incidents of potential victims of slavery to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) continue to increase each year, with more referrals of survivors from the UK and Wales. The NCA judge that the scale of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking in the UK is likely to be increasing steadily but cannot disentangle increases in incidence rate from improved reporting. Therefore they are unable to quantify the overall growth of modern slavery.

In 2016, 123 referrals of potential victims of slavery were reported in Wales. This is a 8.2 per cent decrease on the previous year and represents 3.2 per cent of all UK referrals, but is substantially higher than figures in 2013 and 2014. The 123 referrals were comprised of 62 females (50.4 per cent) and 61 males (49.6 per cent). There were 102 (83 per cent) individuals referred for adult exploitation categories and 21 (17 per cent) referred for exploitation as a minor.

The Welsh language is part of a wider global context on minority languages

The [European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages](#) is the European convention for the protection and promotion of languages used by traditional minorities. The Welsh Language is in scope of this charter and sustaining the language in Wales contributes to the global protection of minority languages. Following a fall in the 2011 Census, survey data suggest that since then the numbers of Welsh speakers have remained stable, as is the percentage that speaks the language every day.

Background

What is this report?

This report provides an update on progress being made in Wales towards the achievement of the 7 well-being goals. It is a statutory report required under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. It is a report concerning the collective progress of Wales as a nation. It is not a report on the performance of an individual organisation.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act](#) is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. It is intended to make the public bodies listed in the Act think more about the long-term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach. This in turn is intended to create a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future.

The Act also puts in place seven well-being goals for a prosperous, healthier, resilient, more equal and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving welsh language, illustrated in Figure 1.

For more background information on the Act please see the [Essentials guide](#)

What are the national indicators for Wales?

The Act required Welsh Ministers to set national indicators to assess progress towards achieving the well-being goals. From September 2015 to January 2016 Welsh Government undertook a [widespread public consultation](#) to identify what small set of indicators should be developed to best measure progress against the well-being goals. These national indicators were [published in March 2016](#) and laid before the National Assembly for Wales. A full list of national indicators, mapped against the seven well-being goals, can be found in Annex A.

The national indicators are designed to represent the outcomes for Wales, and its people that will help demonstrate progress towards the 7 well-being goals. They are not intended to be performance indicators for an individual organisation.

Full description of the national indicators including their technical definition and information about their data sources and frequency can be found in the [technical document](#).

How does this relate to the UN Sustainable Development Goals?

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a transformative plan of action based on [17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) – to address urgent global challenges over the next 15 years. The United Nations' 17 global goals mean that every country on the planet will have to take action to end poverty, promote prosperity and wellbeing for all, protect the environment, and address climate change. Those goals are meant to be far-reaching, people-centred, universal and transformative. UN member states have committed to working tirelessly towards their implementation by 2030, and Wales will play its part.

Many national indicators will help tell a story of progress in Wales against more than one of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. We have mapped the indicators against the goals in tabular format (Annex A) and in an [interactive on-line format](#).

Under the globally responsible chapter of the report we have more clearly brought out some of the indicators and contextual data that directly relate to the UN SDGs from the perspective of Wales' global contribution.

Why are many of the indicators not reported for children?

Many of the indicators are reported for children. However the National Survey for Wales, the source of 14 indicators, does not cover children aged under 16. For some indicators we have used alternative, but similar, measures from other sources (for example on mental well-being or the school sports survey). We are actively seeking to develop a more systematic approach to capturing data on children's well-being. We are working closely with the Schools Health Research Network led by the Cardiff University DECIPHER team to incorporate questions in their surveys of children and young people. This will supplement the Health Behaviour of School Aged Children Survey which they also administer and which already provides data for the National Indicators. We are also planning a roundtable discussion with interested parties to coordinate survey work with children and young people across Wales.

National milestones

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act states that Welsh Ministers must set milestones in relation to the national indicators which the Welsh Ministers consider would assist in measuring whether progress is being made towards the achievement of the well-being goals. The work on national milestones is under development.

Who produced this report?

The report has been produced by Welsh Government statisticians under the responsibility of the Welsh Government's Chief Statistician. It has been produced in line with the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#) and is therefore produced independently of political influence.

Timeliness

The report has been published in September to ensure it is as close as possible to the end of the preceding financial year, but after the publication of the National Survey for Wales which is the source for 14 of the national indicators.

The data for the national indicators be kept up to date as new datasets are published for those indicators. In September of each year we will publish an updated Well-being of Wales annual report containing updated narratives for each goal.

Coverage

The coverage of the report is Wales. For some indicators, reference is made to the position relative to the UK. The narrative against the goals and for each indicator is based on national progress against the goals, and it does not seek to provide a report on progress at different geographical levels. However data for many indicators are available on [StatsWales](#), or on request, at lower levels of geographical detail.

Accessibility

This report has been produced primarily as an interactive on-line report to maximise impact and efficiency using the Welsh Government open data services, but this combined report provides an accessible, printable version of the annual well-being report.

The majority of the data underlying the report, including much more detailed breakdowns, are available on StatsWales and through the StatsWales open data services.

Are all the data Official Statistics?

Most of the indicators (32) are based on sources that have been published as Official Statistics, that is they have been published by government statisticians, or by other public bodies, under the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

28 of these indicators are based on sources that have been published as National Statistics. That is the United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This means that they meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

12 indicators are based on other sources such as administrative data held by government departments. 2 indicators currently have no data.

Although not all of the data sources used are from official statistics, the report itself has been developed and published in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Some of the narrative included in the “globally responsible” goal report are based on factual statements of policy and programme implementation. These data are not collected through official statistics sources and although reported here for context we cannot provide assurance about data quality. We will seek to report further on data quality for sources such as this in next year's report.

What else should I know about the data?

The [Quality Report](#) alongside this release provides links to quality information about each of the data sources used to measure the national indicators, or provides that information where it does not exist elsewhere.

Who are the users of this report?

It is anticipated this report will be used by Welsh Government; the National Assembly for Wales (including Assembly Members and committees); the media; and the general public to (i) help understand the Well-being of Wales (ii) progress being made against the 7 well-being goals and (iii) where Wales is making progress against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The national indicators and milestones once published can help public bodies who are subject to the future generation law understand further the nature of the change expected in achieving the well-being goals. The national indicators should be considered as useful evidence to assist public bodies in understanding the main areas where progress should be made in relation to the well-being goals

The national indicators will also have a specific role as they must be referred to by public services boards in Wales when they are analysing the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in their areas.

The report should also be used by public bodies to develop and review well-being assessments and to set and review well-being objectives required under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

The annual well-being report must also be taken into account by the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales when they prepare and publish their 'Future Generations Report'.

UK context

For the UK as a whole, the Office for National Statistics publication [“Measuring National well-being: Life in the UK”](#) provides an assessment of UK progress against a set of headline national well-being indicators.

In Scotland, the [Scotland Performs](#) website provides a broad measure of national and societal wellbeing, incorporating a range of economic, social and environmental indicators and targets

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency publish a [well-being analysis](#) based on the ONS wellbeing measures, where NI data availability allows.

Separately, work is being progressed on the development of a draft Programme for Government in Northern Ireland using an approach which sets out the outcomes to improve wellbeing for all. When finalised, this outcomes framework will be the principal mechanism for assessing societal wellbeing in Northern Ireland.

Other related links

[Well-being of Future Generations Act](#)

[Future Trends](#)

[National Survey for Wales](#)

[United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#)

Well-being of Wales

National Indicators for Wales




































The seven well-being goals for Wales

Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Goal 4	Goal 5	Goal 6	Goal 7
A Prosperous Wales	A Resilient Wales	A Healthier Wales	A More Equal Wales	A Wales of Cohesive Communities	A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language	Globally Responsible Wales

The way in which we are measuring progress

National Well-being Indicators for Wales		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
01	Percentage of live single births with a birth weight of under 2,500g							
02	Healthy life expectancy at birth including the gap between the least and most deprived							
03	Percentage of adults who have fewer than two healthy lifestyle behaviours							
04	Levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO2) pollution in the air							
05	Percentage of children who have fewer than two healthy lifestyle behaviours							
06	Measurement of development of young children							
07	Percentage of pupils who have achieved the "Level 2 threshold", including the gap between those who are eligible or are not eligible for free school meals							
08	Percentage of adults with qualifications at the different levels of the National Qualifications Framework							
09	Gross Value Added (GVA) per hour worked (relative to UK average)							
10	Gross Disposable Household Income per head							
11	Percentage of businesses which are innovation-active							
12	Capacity (in MW) of renewable energy equipment installed							
13	Concentration of carbon and organic matter in soil							
14	The Ecological Footprint of Wales							
15	Amount of waste generated that is not recycled, per person							
16	Percentage of people in employment, who are on permanent contracts (or on temporary contracts, and not seeking permanent employment) and who earn more than 2/3 of the UK median wage							

17	Gender pay difference							
18	Percentage of people living in households in income poverty relative to the UK median: measured for children, working age and those of pension age							
19	Percentage of people living in households in material deprivation							
20	Percentage of people moderately or very satisfied with their jobs							
21	Percentage of people in employment							
22	Percentage of people in education, employment or training, measured for different age groups							
23	Percentage who feel able to influence decisions affecting their local area							
24	Percentage of people satisfied with their ability to get to/ access the facilities and services they need							
25	Percentage of people feeling safe at home, walking in the local area, and when travelling							
26	Percentage of people satisfied with local area as a place to live							
27	Percentage of people agreeing that they belong to the area; that people from different backgrounds get on well together; and that people treat each other with respect							
28	Percentage of people who volunteer							
29	Mean mental well-being score for people							
30	Percentage of people who are lonely							
31	Percentage of dwellings which are free from hazards							
32	Number of properties (homes and businesses) at medium or high risk of flooding from rivers and the sea							
33	Percentage of dwellings with adequate energy performance							
34	Number of households successfully prevented from becoming homeless per 10,000 households							
35	Percentage of people attending or participating in arts, culture or heritage activities at least three times a year							
36	Percentage of people who speak Welsh daily and can speak more than just a few words of Welsh							
37	Percentage of people who can speak Welsh							
38	Percentage of people participating in sporting activities three or more times a week							
39	Percentage of museums and archives holding archival/heritage collections meeting UK accreditation standards							
40	Percentage of designated historic environment assets that are in stable or improved conditions							
41	Emissions of greenhouse gases within Wales							

42	Emissions of greenhouse gases attributed to the consumption of global goods and services in Wales							
43	Areas of healthy ecosystems in Wales							
44	Status of Biological diversity in Wales							
45	Percentage of surface water bodies, and groundwater bodies, achieving good or high overall status							
46	The social return on investment of Welsh partnerships within Wales and outside of the UK that are working towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals							

Further Information

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. If we are to collectively achieve these well-being goals we need a way of measuring progress so that we can all see if, for Wales as a whole, things are getting better. That is why the Act places a legal requirement on the Welsh Ministers to set national indicators. Whilst the indicators are set by Welsh Ministers they reflect the whole of Wales and will enable us to understand the contribution made by all.

The 46 national indicators published and laid before the National Assembly for Wales in March 2015 are to be read with the national indicators technical information document (*How to measure a nation's progress – National Indicators for Wales: Technical Document*, March 2016) published by the Welsh Government.

Many national indicators will help tell a story of progress against more than one of the well-being goals, to help you navigate these links we have, for communication purposes, highlighted a potential set of links between national indicators and well-being goals. This table has been prepared for communication and discussion purposes only and should not be considered as inferring a direct or indirect technical or legal link between the indicators and well-being goals.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015	http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/future-generations-act
Animation	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFeOYlxJbmw&feature=player_embedded
National Indicators for Wales	http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/future-generations-act/national-indicators
Future Generations Commissioner for Wales	https://futuregenerations.wales/



Agenda 2030

Wales and the Global Sustainable Development Goals



The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals



Wales

National Well-being Indicators for Wales		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
01	Percentage of live births with a birth weight of under 2,500g																	
02	Healthy life expectancy at birth including the gap between the least and most deprived																	
03	Percentage of adults who have fewer than two healthy lifestyle behaviours																	
04	Levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO2) pollution in the air																	
05	Percentage of children who have fewer than two healthy lifestyle behaviours																	

06	Measurement of development of young children.																	
07	Percentage of pupils who have achieved the “Level 2 threshold”, including the gap between those who are eligible or are not eligible for free school meals																	
08	Percentage of adults with qualifications at the different levels of the National Qualifications Framework.																	
09	Gross Value Added (GVA) per hour worked (relative to UK average).																	
10	Gross Disposable Household Income per head.																	
11	Percentage of businesses which are innovation-active.																	
12	Capacity (in MW) of renewable energy equipment installed.																	
13	Concentration of carbon and organic matter in soil.																	
14	The Ecological Footprint of Wales.																	
15	Amount of waste generated that is not recycled, per person																	
16	Percentage of people in employment, who are on permanent contracts (or on temporary contracts, and not seeking permanent employment) and who earn more than 2/3 of the UK median wage																	
17	Gender pay difference																	
18	Percentage of people living in households in income poverty relative to the UK median: measured for children, working age and those of pension age.																	
19	Percentage of people living in households in material deprivation.																	
20	Percentage of people moderately or very satisfied with their jobs.																	
21	Percentage of people in employment.																	
22	Percentage of people in education, employment or training, measured for different age groups.																	
23	Percentage who feel able to influence decisions affecting their local area.																	

[illegible]

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a transformative plan of action based on 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals – to address urgent global challenges over the next 15 years. The United Nations’ 17 global goals mean that every country on the planet will have to take action to end poverty, promote prosperity and wellbeing for all, protect the environment, and address climate change. Those goals are meant to be far-reaching, people-centred, universal and transformative. UN member states have committed to working tirelessly towards their implementation by 2030, and Wales will play its part.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is unique legislation to Wales. The Act provides a framework for us in Wales to be globally responsible and make a positive contribution to these global goals. It puts in place well-being goals, addressing many of these global challenges that are felt by people and communities across Wales. These seven well-being goals will be measured through 46 national indicators.

Many national indicators will help tell a story of progress in Wales against more than one of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, to help you navigate these links we have, for communication purposes, highlighted these above. This table has been prepared for communication and discussion purposes only and should not be considered as inferring a direct or indirect technical or legal link between the indicators and the UN SDGs. It draws on the indicators identified by the United Nations to measure the global sustainable development goals.

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