

Directorate of Public Health

Briefing Note for Health Overview Scrutiny Panel, November 2011

Male Life Expectancy

1 Introduction

HOSP asked for information about how male life expectancy in Portsmouth compares to other cities including Bolton, Plymouth, Rosyth, Cardiff and Exeter.

Life expectancy is a frequently used indicator of the overall health of a population: a longer life expectancy is generally a reflection of better health. Reducing the differences in life expectancy is a key part of reducing health inequalities.

Life expectancy at birth is an estimate of how long, on average, people who are born today may live if the current mortality rates applied.

2 Portsmouth males

Male life expectancy at birth (77.8 years) is improving but remains significantly worse than the England rate.¹ Grouping smaller areas in the City together, life expectancy is 10.2 years lower in the most deprived areas compared to the least deprived areas.²

3 Portsmouth compared to other areas

Portsmouth is ranked 256th of 404 UK government areas for male life expectancy (where 1 = longest life expectancy).

Comparing Portsmouth to the authorities on HOSP's list, male life expectancy in Portsmouth is significantly shorter than that in Exeter and significantly longer than that in Bolton and Fife (data for Rosyth is not available). Male life expectancy is not significantly different to male life expectancy in Cardiff and Plymouth:

¹ ONS <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcn%3A77-223356> Accessed 21 October 2011)

² Community Health Profiles. Association of Public Health Observatories, Community Health Profiles

Male life expectancy, local areas requested by HOSP, 2008/10

Area	Life exp (yrs)	Ranking of 404 areas (1=longest life expectancy)	Compared to Portsmouth...
Exeter CD	79.3	154	Significantly longer than Portsmouth
Portsmouth UA	77.8	256	
Cardiff	77.8	264	Not significantly different to Portsmouth
Plymouth UA	77.6	279	
Bolton MCD	76.5	351	
Fife (Rosyth not available)	76.3	361	Significantly shorter than Portsmouth

Source: ONS <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcm%3A77-223356> Accessed 21 October 2011)

The Office for National Statistics groups comparable local authorities in terms of demography, household composition, socio-economic factors, employment and industry sector etc. Portsmouth is in the Regional Centres Group (this group does not include Cardiff, Fife and Bolton).

Male life expectancy in Portsmouth is significantly shorter than that of males in Exeter, but males in Portsmouth live significantly longer than males in Salford and Liverpool. Portsmouth male life expectancy is not significantly different to life expectancy in the remaining fifteen other local authorities:

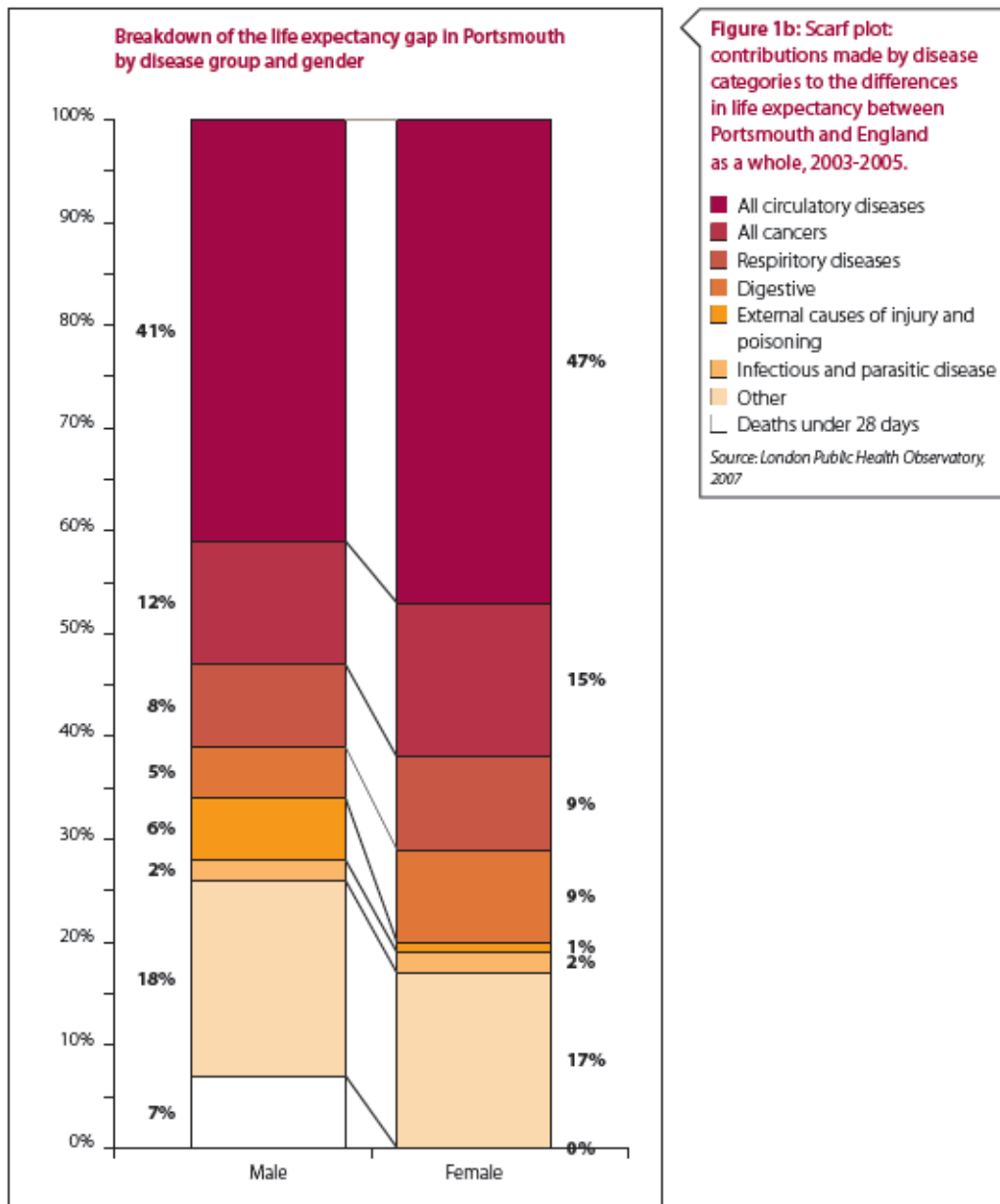
Male life expectancy at birth, local authorities in ONS Regional Centres Group, 2008/10

Area	Life exp at birth (yrs)	Ranking of 404 areas	Compared to Portsmouth...
Exeter CD	79.3	154	Significantly longer
Southampton UA	78.7	201	Not significantly different
Eastbourne CD	78.3	223	
Sheffield MCD	78.1	232	
Bournemouth UA	78.0	248	
Leeds MCD	77.9	249	
Southend-on-Sea UA	77.9	252	
Portsmouth UA	77.8	256	
Norwich CD	77.8	258	Not significantly different
Brighton and Hove UA	77.7	269	
Plymouth UA	77.6	279	
Worthing CD	77.6	280	
Bristol UA	77.5	289	
Lancaster CD	77.4	297	
Hastings CD	77.3	303	
Lincoln CD	77.2	310	
Newcastle upon Tyne MCD	76.8	333	Significantly shorter
Liverpool MCD	74.8	392	
Salford MCD	74.8	394	

Source: ONS <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcm%3A77-223356> Accessed 21 October 2011)

4 Causes of the gap in male life expectancy

The Director of Public Health's Annual Public Health Report, 2008 focused on the gap in life expectancy between areas of high and low deprivation in Portsmouth. For males, circulatory diseases cause 41% of the gap, cancers 12% and respiratory conditions 8%. The figure below is taken from the Report.



Further details are available in the Annual Public Health Report which is available from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment website at: http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/media/API_STR_JSNA_BURD_LEXP_PHAR2008.pdf

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