

15 October 2004

**Coverage**  
United Kingdom  
**Theme**  
Health and Care

## Geographic inequalities in life expectancy persist across the United Kingdom

Eight out of ten UK local authorities with the lowest male life expectancy at birth in 2001-2003 are in Scotland, according to new figures published today by the Office for National Statistics.

The lowest figure was for Glasgow City (69.1 years). This was the only area in the United Kingdom where life expectancy at birth was less than 70 years in 2001-2003. The local authority with the highest life expectancy for men was East Dorset (80.1 years), 11 years more than Glasgow City.

Kensington and Chelsea has the highest life expectancy for females (84.8 years), almost eight and a half years more than Glasgow City, the area with the lowest figure (76.4 years).

The report also includes results for the period 1991-1993 to 2000-2002 which have been revised using recent revisions to ONS population estimates.

The figures are three-year rolling averages based on deaths and population information for each three-year period. Two local authorities, City of London and Isles of Scilly, are excluded from the results because of small numbers of deaths and populations in these areas.

Tables showing the local authorities with the highest and lowest life expectancy results for males and females in the United Kingdom for 1991-1993 and 2001-2003 are attached.

The full report for the United Kingdom is available free on the National Statistics website:

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

Issued by  
National Statistics  
1 Drummond Gate  
London SW1V 2QQ

Telephone  
Press Office 020 7533 5702  
Email [press.office@ons.gov.uk](mailto:press.office@ons.gov.uk)  
Public Enquiries 0845 601 3034

Contact  
Myer Glickman 020 7533 5212  
Email [myer.glickman@ons.gov.uk](mailto:myer.glickman@ons.gov.uk)

Internet  
[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

## BACKGROUND NOTES

1. The report includes results on life expectancy at birth for the following local areas: Local Authorities in the United Kingdom, Health Boards in Scotland and Health and Social Service Boards in Northern Ireland. These figures are calculated using abridged life tables. To facilitate comparison, figures are also presented on this basis for the United Kingdom, England & Wales, England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.
2. Life expectancies for the United Kingdom and its constituent countries are calculated annually by the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) using complete life tables. Because of the difference between complete (single year of age) and abridged (grouped years) life tables, the national figures presented here may differ very slightly from those published by GAD.
3. Interim complete life tables for 2001-2003 are published by GAD today, 15 October 2004. GAD also intend to revise their interim life tables from 1990-1992 to 2000-2002 on 25 November 2004.
4. In addition to the reasons stated above, results from ONS and GAD for England may vary a little because of a difference in the handling of deaths of non-residents in England. ONS includes the deaths of non-residents in its annual mortality figures for England & Wales but these are excluded from the data for smaller areas (e.g. England, Wales and local authorities). GAD however include the deaths of non-residents in their mortality data for England (but not Wales).
5. Results for Government Office Regions and Strategic Health Authorities in England will be published by ONS using abridged life tables later in October.
6. Results for the United Kingdom and national and sub-national results for England and Wales are based on mid-year population estimates for 2003 and revised estimates for 2001-2002 published on 9 September 2004, and revised estimates for 1992-2000 published on 7 October 2004.
7. Life expectancy figures for health areas and local authorities in the United Kingdom for 1991-1993 to 1999-2001 were previously published in August 2003. Results for health areas and local authorities in England and Wales for 2000-2002 were previously published in November 2003. All previous results for the United Kingdom, and national and sub-national figures for England and Wales, have been revised in this report as a result of revisions to the population estimates.
8. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the press office.
9. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference. © Crown copyright 2004.

**Table 1 - Local authorities with the highest and lowest life expectancy at birth in the United Kingdom 2001-2003, and comparisons with 1991-1993.**

**Males**

<b>Highest life expectancy</b>		<b>2001-2003</b>	<b>1991-1993</b>	<b>1991-1993</b>
	<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Rank</b>
1	East Dorset	80.1	77.9	1
2	Hart	80.0	76.8	4
3	Kensington and Chelsea	79.8	73.0	301
4	Purbeck	79.7	75.6	47
5	South Cambridgeshire	79.4	76.0	24
6	Brentwood	79.4	74.8	127
7	South Norfolk	79.3	76.7	6
8	New Forest	79.3	75.8	29
9	Uttlesford	79.3	76.3	12
10	North Dorset	79.2	75.5	62

<b>Lowest life expectancy</b>		<b>2001-2003</b>	<b>1991-1993</b>	<b>1991-1993</b>
	<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Rank</b>
432	Glasgow City	69.1	68.2	432
431	Inverclyde	70.2	69.6	429
430	West Dunbartonshire	70.8	69.5	431
429	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	71.6	70.6	424
428	Manchester	71.8	69.6	430
427	Renfrewshire	71.9	70.5	427
426	North Lanarkshire	71.9	70.2	428
425	Dundee City	72.0	71.1	416
424	Blackpool	72.0	71.6	390
423	East Ayrshire	72.5	71.5	397

**Table 2 - Local authorities with the highest and lowest life expectancy at birth in the United Kingdom 1991-1993, and comparisons with 2001-2003.**

**Males**

<b>Highest life expectancy</b>		<b>1991-1993</b>	<b>2001-2003</b>	<b>2001-2003</b>
	<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Rank</b>
1	East Dorset	77.9	80.1	1
2	Mole Valley	77.1	78.3	50
3	Christchurch	76.9	78.2	58
4	Hart	76.8	80.0	2
5	Elmbridge	76.8	79.0	12
6	South Norfolk	76.7	79.3	7
7	Chelmsford	76.7	78.2	57
8	Wokingham	76.7	78.9	13
9	Waverley	76.7	78.5	39
10	Suffolk Coastal	76.6	78.3	54

<b>Lowest life expectancy</b>		<b>1991-1993</b>	<b>2001-2003</b>	<b>2001-2003</b>
	<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Rank</b>
432	Glasgow City	68.2	69.1	432
431	West Dunbartonshire	69.5	70.8	430
430	Manchester	69.6	71.8	428
429	Inverclyde	69.6	70.2	431
428	North Lanarkshire	70.2	71.9	426
427	Renfrewshire	70.5	71.9	427
426	Tower Hamlets	70.6	72.9	419
425	Moyle	70.6	76.8	188
424	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	70.6	71.6	429
423	Hammersmith and Fulham	70.8	75.8	270

**Table 3 - Local authorities with the highest and lowest life expectancy at birth in the United Kingdom 2001-2003, and comparisons with 1991-1993.**

**Females**

<b>Highest life expectancy</b>		<b>2001-2003</b>	<b>1991-1993</b>	<b>1991-1993</b>
	<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Rank</b>
1	Kensington and Chelsea	84.8	80.0	129
2	Epsom and Ewell	84.1	80.3	82
3	Guildford	83.9	81.6	7
4	Rutland	83.7	81.0	22
5	Christchurch	83.6	81.9	4
6	Hart	83.4	80.6	50
7	East Dorset	83.4	82.5	1
8	Alnwick	83.3	79.6	192
9	Cotswold	83.2	81.8	6
10	Mole Valley	83.2	81.0	23

<b>Lowest life expectancy</b>		<b>2001-2003</b>	<b>1991-1993</b>	<b>1991-1993</b>
	<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Rank</b>
432	Glasgow City	76.4	75.0	432
431	North Lanarkshire	77.4	75.9	430
430	West Dunbartonshire	77.4	77.1	404
429	Blackburn with Darwen	77.6	77.0	406
428	Liverpool	77.7	77.0	407
427	West Lothian	77.7	77.0	408
426	Dundee City	77.8	76.8	416
425	Inverclyde	77.8	75.5	431
424	Manchester	77.8	76.4	427
423	Salford	77.9	76.5	425

**Table 4 - Local authorities with the highest and lowest life expectancy at birth in the United Kingdom 1991-1993, and comparisons with 2001-2003.**

**Females**

<b>Highest life expectancy</b>		<b>1991-1993</b>	<b>2001-2003</b>	<b>2001-2003</b>
	<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Rank</b>
1	East Dorset	82.5	83.4	7
2	Stevenage	82.2	80.1	300
3	East Devon	82.0	82.8	28
4	Christchurch	81.9	83.6	5
5	Oadby and Wigston	81.8	81.5	140
6	Cotswold	81.8	83.2	9
7	Guildford	81.6	83.9	3
8	Chiltern	81.5	83.1	13
9	Waverley	81.5	82.2	57
10	Cambridge	81.4	81.7	106

<b>Lowest life expectancy</b>		<b>1991-1993</b>	<b>2001-2003</b>	<b>2001-2003</b>
	<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Rank</b>
432	Glasgow City	75.0	76.4	432
431	Inverclyde	75.5	77.8	425
430	North Lanarkshire	75.9	77.4	431
429	Easington	75.9	78.3	416
428	Burnley	76.3	78.1	418
427	Manchester	76.4	77.8	424
426	Strabane	76.5	79.3	373
425	Salford	76.5	77.9	423
424	North Ayrshire	76.5	78.5	411
423	Corby	76.7	79.2	382