



Thursday, 26th June 2014

A set of new health and wellbeing profiles have been published today on the [Understanding Glasgow](#) website. There are 60 profiles in total, covering Glasgow as a whole, the three sub-sectors of Glasgow's Community Health Partnerships (North East, North West and South Glasgow) and 56 neighbourhoods across the city.

Each profile comprises 27 indicators, covering a variety of themes: population; cultural factors; environment and transport; socioeconomic factors; education; poverty; and, health.

These profiles provide Glasgow with a comprehensive new set of health and wellbeing data to inform action at neighbourhood level to support local communities. They highlight differences in health and life circumstances across the city on a wide range of indicators.

Main findings

- Overall Glasgow's population has remained relatively unchanged in the last 16 years, but there have been notable population changes locally within the city.
- Glasgow has become a more ethnically diverse city. In 2011, 12% of Glasgow's population were from a minority ethnic group, a figure which is nearly three times higher than the Scottish average.
- In the last 13 years, increases in life expectancy for men have been greater (+4 years) than for women (+2.7 years) in Glasgow.
- As a result, the gender gap in life expectancy has narrowed in Glasgow from 7.2 years to 6 years.
- There is a 15 year gap in male life expectancy at birth across Glasgow's neighbourhoods and an 11 year gap in female life expectancy. The width of this gap has reduced slightly for women but not appreciably for men in the last decade.
- Changes in life expectancy in many of Glasgow's neighbourhoods may have been driven in part by changes in local populations resulting from immigration, house building and demolition, and changes in relative deprivation. This is a focus of further study.
- The profiles provide a range of indicators which help to put this into context and show what else is going on in local areas.

NEWS RELEASE

Population changes

There has been little change in Glasgow's overall population in recent years – Glasgow's population decreased marginally by -0.6% between 1996 and 2012. However, underlying this were more significant changes within age groups: there were reductions in the numbers of children (-18%) and older adults (-13%) {defined as aged 65 years or over}, while the working age population, particularly those aged 45-64 years increased.

At a local level, there have been large changes in population in some neighbourhoods. For example, over the period 1996-2012, the neighbourhood population rose by 174% in Robroyston and Millerston, by 36% in Calton and by 33% in Yorkhill and Anderston, while over the same period there have been population decreases of 24% in Easterhouse and of 22% in Parkhead and Dalmarnock, Drumchapel, Ruchill and Possilpark and Corkehill and North Pollok.

Ethnicity

The proportion of Glasgow's population from a minority ethnic group rose from 5% in 2001 to 12% in 2011, a percentage which is nearly three times higher than the Scottish average. Within Glasgow, people from a minority ethnic group make up 53% of the population of Pollokshields East, 37% within Pollokshields West and 33% in Govanhill (based on 2011 Census data). In other neighbourhoods, particularly in the east of the city, minority ethnic groups make up less than 5% of the overall population.

Life expectancy

Life expectancy in Glasgow has increased for both men and women in Glasgow over recent years. Over the period 1995-99 and 2008-12, estimated male life expectancy at birth in the city increased by 4 years (from 68.3 years to 72.3 years) and by 2.7 years for females (from 75.5 years to 78.2 years). As a result of this differential health improvement, the gap between female and male life expectancy has narrowed from 7.2 years to 6 years.

The likelihood of a 15 year old Glaswegian living to their 65th birthday has increased over this period to 75% for boys and 85% for girls.

Inequalities in health across Glasgow are very apparent. There is a 15 year gap in male life expectancy at birth across Glasgow's neighbourhoods: male life expectancy was estimated to be 81.7 years in Cathcart and Simshill in the period 2008-2012 compared to 66.2 years in Ruchill and Possilpark.

The gap in female life expectancy across Glasgow's neighbourhoods is slightly less. In Ruchill and Possilpark, female life expectancy at birth was estimated to be 73.1 years in the period 2008-2012, while in Kelvindale and Kelvinside and in Cathcart and Simshill life expectancy was estimated to be 84.3 years, representing an 11 year gap.

Bruce Whyte, Public Health Programme Manager at the **GCPH** and the main author of the profiles, said: *"These profiles highlight demographic and health changes in Glasgow over the last 10-15 years. While there have been improvements in health across Glasgow, health inequalities in the city remain stark. It is notable that the wide gap in life expectancy across the city's neighbourhoods – 15 years for men and 11 years for women – remains. Many different approaches across the policy spectrum are needed at a national and local level to address the fundamental causes of these inequalities in Glasgow. These new profiles enable better understanding of a whole range of indicators and changes for individual neighbourhoods, so that action can be tailored to local circumstances"*.

Notes:

1. The [Glasgow Centre for Population Health](#) (GCPH) is a research and development organisation, set up in 2004 to add value to health improvement in Scotland. GCPH generates insights and evidence, creates new solutions and provides leadership for action to improve health and tackle inequality. GCPH is a partnership between NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Glasgow City Council and the University of Glasgow, supported by the Scottish Government.
2. The health and wellbeing profiles are published in a new section of the [Understanding Glasgow website](#). This project has been developed by the GCPH with support from a range of partners, including Glasgow City Council, Glasgow Community Planning, Community Safety Glasgow, Glasgow Life, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, University of Glasgow and the International Futures Forum.
3. Each profile comprises 27 indicators shown in a variety of chart formats accompanied by interpretation. The indicators cover a variety of themes: population; cultural factors; environment and transport; socioeconomic factors; education; poverty; and health. Trend charts illustrate how life expectancy, population and ethnic diversity within each area has changed over the last 10-15 years. The profiles are provided as online web pages, PDFs and within an Excel workbook.
4. The [Understanding Glasgow website](#) was established to develop a set of inter-related indicators in order to improve understanding of health and its determinants in Glasgow. The site contains in excess of 150 indicators falling across twelve main domains and a further seven domains specific to children. These are presented via 600+ graphs and maps, which illustrate trends and comparisons, and have accompanying interpretation. Other recent additions to the Understanding Glasgow website include a film section with 10+ short films relating to Glasgow, an assets section containing case studies of assets-based community initiatives and a learning zone which provides guidance on use of the site as an academic resource. The domain model of indicators provides a dynamic interlinked view of the city and a strategic overview of trends and inequalities, as well as facilitating comparison with other UK cities.

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