

Well-being of Wales

2017-18



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Welsh Government supports the Sustainable Development Goals

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Well-being of Wales 2017-18

Foreword by the Chief Statistician

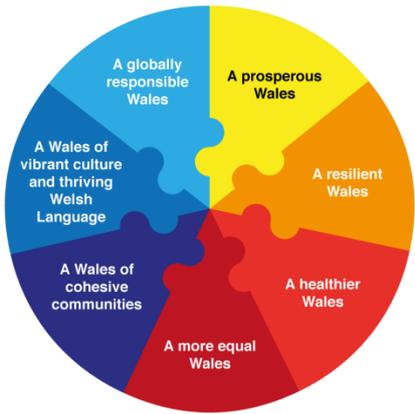
This report provides our first update to the Well-being of Wales report, first published in September 2017. It includes the latest data, some new data, updated narrative and, where appropriate, reports on progress over the last year.

As with the first year, in this report we present a mixed picture in terms of progress against the goals which is not unexpected given the vast range of subject areas and datasets covered by this report. These are also areas where progress is expected to be seen over the long-term and for some indicators we would not expect to see rapid progress on an annual basis.

There are many areas where outcomes are improving, but also continued areas of inequality across population groups. We note some areas where latest data suggest that progress may have stalled in the short-term, and areas that have remained broadly stable over the longer term. We have sought to balance short-term analysis of progress with consideration of long term trends.

The factors underlying individual well-being are complex and inter-related. In this report we have sought to make links across the goals but also this year expanded the narrative around subjective well-being and community cohesion, using National Survey for Wales statistical analysis, to identify the factors that are most important to people's well-being.

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.**



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 were 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](#). The Act includes the requirement to report annually on progress against the goals (this report).

The report shows:

- Life expectancy has been increasing over the long term but in recent years those increases have shown signs of slowing and even stopped. The amount of time spent in good health has been on the up but inequalities remain across different groups.
- Overall one in ten people follow fewer than two healthy lifestyle behaviours, and there was little change in any of the five main healthy lifestyle behaviours in the latest year.
- There has been good progress over the medium term in areas such as breastfeeding and dental health, but obesity in children remains a challenge, and increased in the last year.
- In the last year overall labour market performance in Wales has continued to be strong, with gaps in employment and inactivity rates between Wales and the UK remaining low in historical terms. In common with the wider UK economy, wages growth has remained weak in comparison with the longer term trend.
- The gender pay gap has continued to narrow and is now the lowest level on record in Wales. But our indicator shows women are less likely than men to be in good quality employment. There remains a significant gap in employment outcomes for disabled people.
- Educational attainment continues to increase and more young people are in education, employment or training. Socio-economic disadvantage remains a key inequality for some outcomes such as educational attainment.
- Relative income poverty has remained steady for over a decade, and is highest amongst children. There are fewer people estimated to be in material deprivation than in relative income poverty.
- Indicators on community cohesion are fairly new, and therefore little change is evident yet. People's sense of community and belonging depends on a range of factors, although all of the indicators are associated with socio-economic status or deprivation. In general, most people are satisfied with where they live, although almost one in five people feel lonely.
- Although increasing, black and ethnic minority people are still under-represented in political life. Race is still judged to be a motivating factor in nearly three quarters of all hate crime and recorded race incidents have been increasing.
- Many adults attend and participate in culture and sports but this varies by age and background. Although there has been a change in data source the trends for both have been upwards.
- One in five people report they can speak Welsh and this has been stable in recent years, although there is an increase in those "speaking a few words". Use of the language has remained steady.
- Whilst there is a long term trend of reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, the latest data shows an increase in emissions in 2016 compared with 2015. Air pollution continues to be a significant health issue.
- Renewable energy generation has been on the rise including in the latest year. But our ecological footprint suggests that our key natural resources are being depleted faster than they can be replenished.

- Whilst the latest evidence shows some positive trends in relation to the Welsh environment, the latest comprehensive assessment of the Welsh natural resources shows that overall, biological diversity is declining, and no ecosystems in Wales can be said to have all the features needed for resilience.

2017-18 update

The national indicator data have been kept up to date on the Well-being of Wales website as new statistics have been released during the last year. This update incorporates those new data into the narratives. This includes, for example, the latest data from the National Survey for Wales and the latest economic statistics. We have also included some more detail in some areas, or added additional contextual analysis (for example on commuting modes). Within the narratives we have referenced the source of the data for the contextual analysis. However, where the data are based on national indicators we have not provided a reference.

Our aim was always to provide a long-term view of progress against the goals and we have attempted to reinforce that by balancing a focus on the change over the year with long-term trends. In many cases it remains too early to look at progress, as only a small number of data points exist (for example on many of the indicators based on the National Survey for Wales). In others (again mainly in terms of survey-based estimates) we should be cautious to draw out trends based on a small change over a year.

In many areas the narrative is unchanged from the first report since either the broad context remains the same or new data does not exist (such as some of the environmental data, or the Census data on Welsh speakers).

Children

In response to feedback we received in consulting on the national indicators, over the past year we have been working with colleagues in Cardiff University to use the Schools Health Research Network to develop our analysis of children's well-being on areas such as loneliness and perceptions of safety. This year's report therefore includes additional analysis on children's well-being based on this source, as well as the Millennium Cohort Study and other sources such as data on children in workless households from the Annual Population Survey and the Foundation Phase on-entry assessment.

We have summarised those key findings in slides and have drawn out the relevant sections of the main report into a separate document "Well-being of Wales 2017-18: what do we know about children's well-being?"

Key findings for children are:

- There have been long-term improvements in terms of a healthy start in life, with a decline in low birth weight babies, improvements in dental health and breastfeeding take-up increasing over the decade. Vaccine uptake in young infants remains high and stable.
- New data from Foundation Phase on-entry assessments show how children have developed before entering school.
- During secondary school there are dramatic changes in children's well-being, self-reported health and lifestyles. Whilst at age 11 girls and boys report similar well-being and self-reported health, by aged 16 a gap is evident, with girls reporting lower well-being and worse health.
- Rates for smoking and drinking have fallen considerably over the years for those aged 11-16. However the number of healthy lifestyle behaviours declines rapidly as children progress through secondary school.
- Adverse Childhood Experience studies highlight the relationship between harmful experiences in childhood with negative long-term outcomes.
- Children are the population group most likely to be in relative income poverty, with the latest data showing that 28 per cent were living in income poverty. This has fallen over the past few years.
- Fewer children live in workless households, with falls in the latest year and over the medium-term.
- Attainment in primary and secondary school has risen in recent years, although there is variation between socio-economic groups.
- Participation in education, employment or training for young people post-compulsory education has been increasing in recent years.
- Attendance and participation in the arts have been increasing over the past decade.
- The highest rates of Welsh speaking ability and use is seen amongst children, although this is not maintained post-compulsory education. The percentage speaking Welsh at home has stabilised in recent years.
- A third of secondary school pupils feel lonely some of the time. Figures for Wales are similar to other parts of the UK, and girls are more likely to feel lonely than boys.
- One in ten secondary school pupils are bullied weekly, and these figures are relatively high within the UK.

Wales in a global context

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. An interactive application is available 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 a table in Annex B of this report.

The Office for National Statistics is responsible for reporting the UK's data on the global indicators developed by the United Nations to monitor progress against the Sustainable Development Goals. Their reporting platform and latest information can be found at <https://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutus/whatwedo/programmesandprojects/sustainabledevelopmentgoals>

Structure of the report

The full report package is an on-line resource providing narratives on progress towards the goals and data for the national indicators. The report 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 webpages.

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

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.

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 want to ensure that our approach to reporting against well being goals is as effective as possible and will be considering lessons learnt from this second year of reporting over the next few months. Over the past year we undertook a [user survey on the first report](#), which showed that users were broadly content with the format and content. But we welcome feedback at any time on the content or usability of the report. If you have thoughts, there is contact information at the beginning of the report.

Acknowledgements

Some of the data on young people's well-being reported in this year's report came from the 2017/18 School Health Research Network (SHRN) / Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) survey. SHRN is a partnership between Cardiff University, Welsh Government, Public Health Wales and Cancer Research UK and is led by the University's Centre for the Development and Evaluation of Complex Interventions for Public Health Improvement (DECIPHer). With the support of the partnership, SHRN has worked with secondary schools across Wales to establish a young people's health and well-being data infrastructure for Wales and the input of participating schools, staff and students into the SHRN/HBSC survey is gratefully acknowledged. We would also like to thank Gwyther Rees for his contribution in providing analysis and advice relating to the Millennium Cohort Study. Gwyther Rees has undertaken this work as a freelance researcher. He has substantial experience of research on children's well-being and is an Honorary Research Fellow at Cardiff University and an Associate Research Fellow at University of York.

Glyn Jones

Chief Statistician

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.

Author: Mark Pont, Welsh Government

What have we learnt from the data in the last year?

Many trends shown by economic indicators change only slowly over time; apparent short term changes are often temporary or reflect the volatility of data for Wales.

In the last year overall labour market performance in Wales has continued to be strong, with gaps in employment and inactivity rates between Wales and the UK remaining low in historical terms, and well below the gaps that were observed prior to devolution. In common with the wider UK economy, however, wages growth has remained weak in comparison with the longer term trend.

Revisions to previous data mean that the trend in household income in Wales, relative to the UK as a whole, has been slightly downward in recent years. The latest figures show that average disposable income per person in Wales is around 80 per cent of the overall UK value.

The gender pay gap in Wales has continued to narrow and has done so more quickly than for the UK as a whole. The gap is now at the lowest level on record in Wales.

Gross Value Added (GVA) per head, which in part reflects productivity, remains lower in Wales than in the other eleven UK countries and English regions. This is despite seeing the fourth largest increase in GVA per head between 1999 and 2016, and the second largest increase in the UK between 2015 and 2016.

Latest figures show a continued increase in the proportion of young people that are in education, employment or training.

Adult qualification levels continued to increase. For school pupils, new data are not comparable with previous years which had seen a steady increase in performance at the end of compulsory schooling.

Relative poverty rates have changed little in recent years, but are lower than in the 1990s and 2000s.

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.

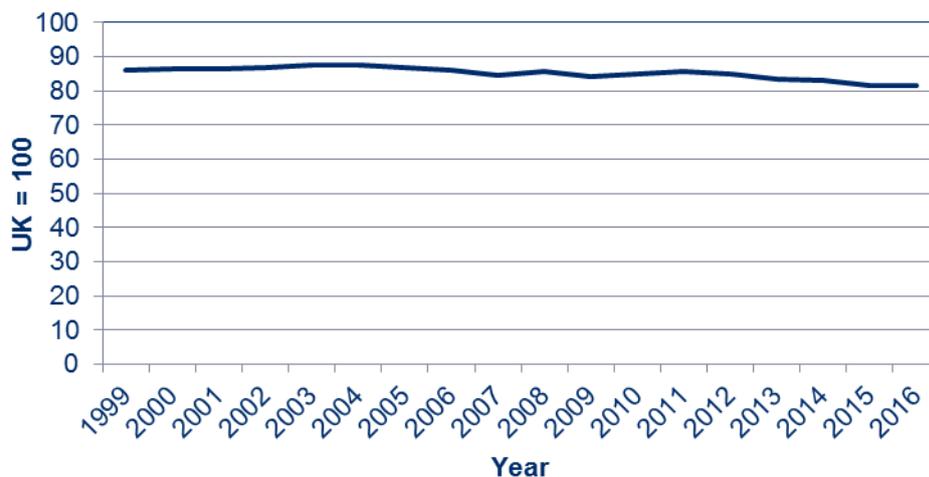
What happens to the economy in Wales depends in part on what happens to the economy across the rest of UK and the wider world, especially over the short term. However, what we do here in Wales matters a great deal for economic performance and on progress towards a low carbon and environmentally efficient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

Income per head in Wales has been growing a little more slowly than in the UK as a whole over the medium term

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

Figures for the latest year of data in 2016 were broadly flat for Wales, and since devolution in 1999 Wales has seen the third smallest percentage increase in income per head out of the 12 UK countries and English regions, up 58.8 per cent before allowing for inflation, compared with a 67.4 per cent increase across the UK as a whole. In the most recent year, 2016, Wales was ranked 10th on this indicator, above Northern Ireland and the North East of England¹. Across both Wales and 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.

1.01 Welsh Gross Disposable Household Income per head, 1999 to 2016



Source: Office for National Statistics

¹ The UK National Accounts measure of GDHI was changed recently to align with the European Commission’s definition for gross national income. Specifically, non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH), which used to be included in the GDHI measure, are no longer included. This change has been applied to the full back-series. The impact on Wales and most of the other UK countries and regions is to reduce the GDHI estimates compared with previous estimates. Consequently, the figures in this report are not directly comparable with those in the previous Well-being Report for Wales, which was published in September 2017 and included GDHI data up to 2015.

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. However, across the UK, including Wales, economic growth has been slower than in most other developed countries in recent years.

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.

Of course income from employment or from benefits isn't the only measure of prosperity. Looking more broadly at [wealth](#), for example, Wales does better when compared to many other parts of GB, partly due to higher levels of [home ownership](#)².

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 in Wales relative to the number of people resident in Wales. Historically Wales has had lower levels of GVA per head than other parts of the UK. However, [Wales](#) saw the fourth largest percentage increase in Gross Value Added per head of the 12 UK countries and English regions between 1999 and 2016, up 68.6 per cent before allowing for inflation, compared with a 69.2 per cent increase in the UK³. Wales also saw the second largest increase in the UK between 2015 and 2016.

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. The measure of GVA per head in Wales is also negatively impacted by net out-commuting, even though Welsh residents gain the income earned from the GVA they generate in England. The [evidence](#)⁴ indicates that out-commuters have higher than average earnings.

International data also show that Wales compares better with other regions in Europe on indicators of income than it does 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.

² [Wealth in Great Britain](#), Office for National Statistics, [Home Ownership & renting: demographics](#), House of Commons Library

³ [Regional gross value added](#), Office for National Statistics

⁴ [The Welsh Tax Base, Risks and Opportunities after Fiscal Devolution](#), Wales Centre for Public Policy

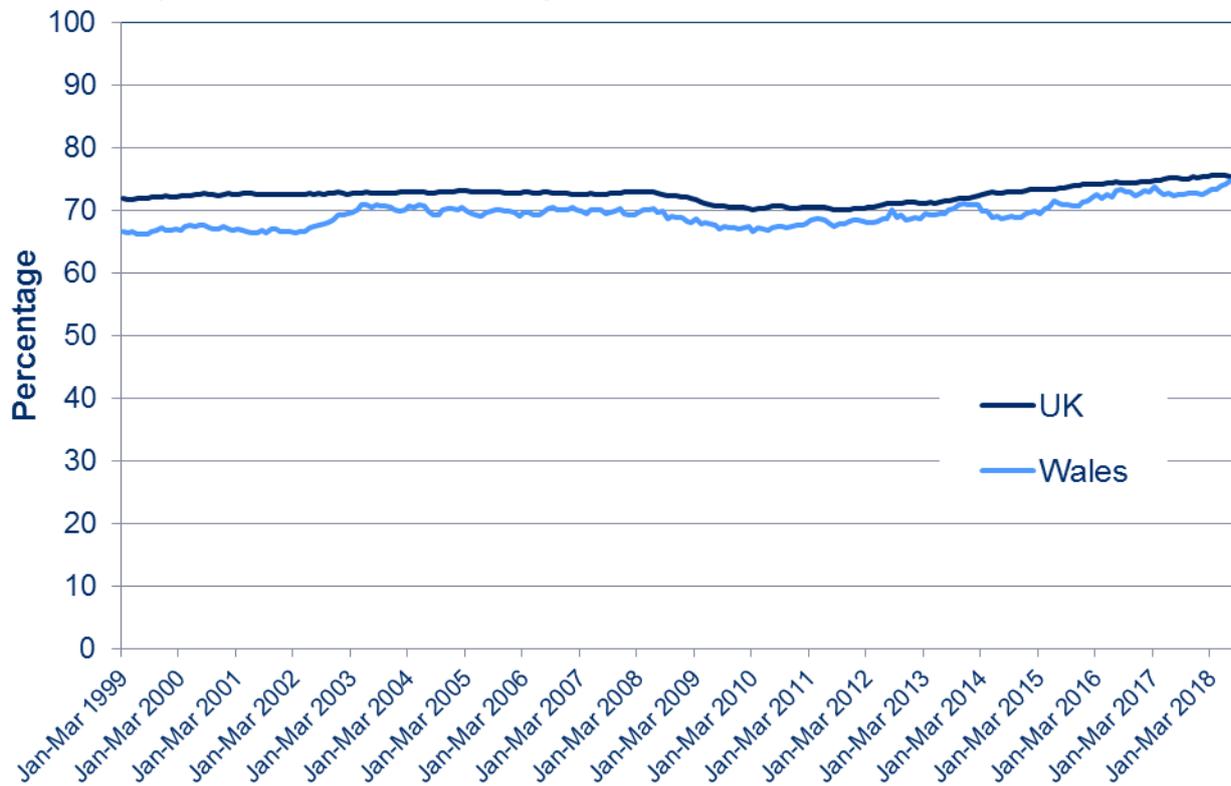
Coming up with new ideas and better ways of doing things is one of the most important ways in which productivity can be improved over the long term. [Data on innovation](#) show that in 2014-16 the proportion of businesses in Wales engaged in innovation activities (46 per cent) was lower than for the UK as a whole (50 per cent)⁵. For Wales and all but one of the other UK countries and regions the proportion fell from 2012-14, because of a decline in innovation activity in small and medium sized businesses. Spending on research and development in Wales remains relatively low compared with many other parts of the UK⁶.

The Welsh employment rate has continued to increase

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. Looking specifically at the latest year, overall labour market performance in Wales has continued to be strong, with gaps in employment and inactivity rates between Wales and the UK remaining low in historical terms, and well below the gaps that were observed prior to devolution.

Figures show a big improvement in the employment rate in Wales over the period since devolution, with an employment rate of 74.8 per cent for the period May to July 2018, 0.7 percentage points below the UK figure, and similar to a number of English regions in the north and midlands. Over the latter part of the 1990s, the gap with the UK was much larger, and Wales performed markedly worse than most English regions.

1.02 Employment rate for population aged 16 to 64, 1999 to 2018



Source: Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics

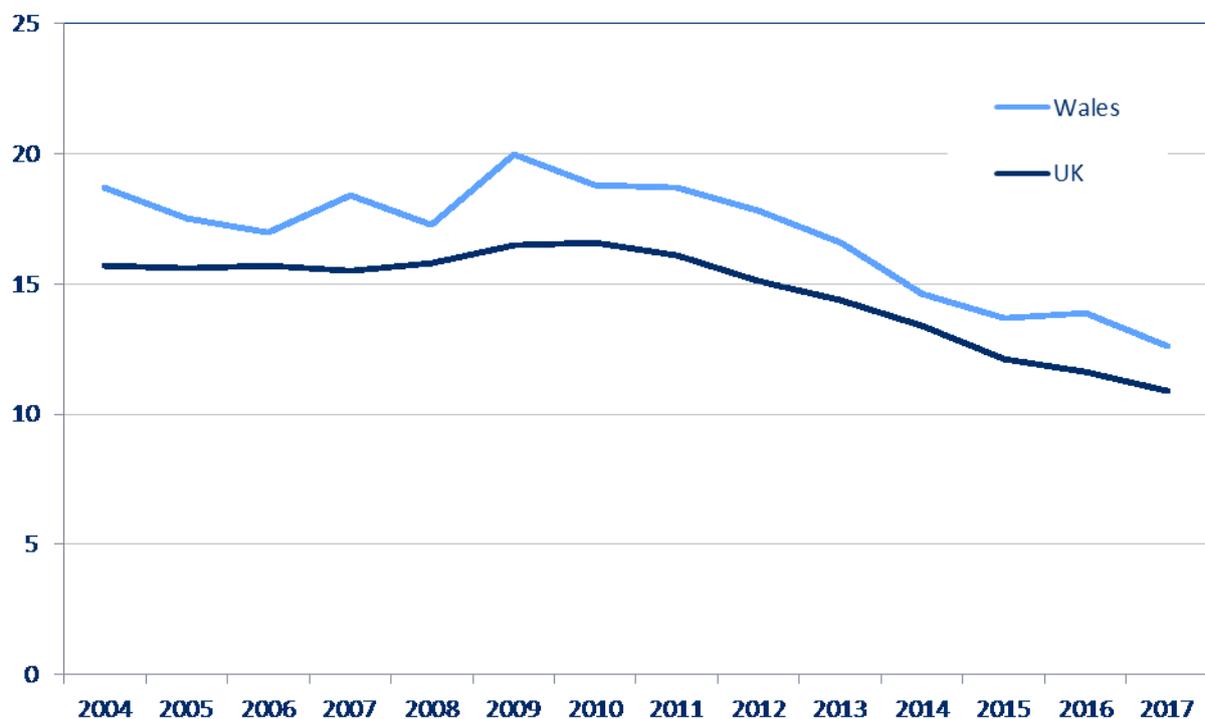
⁵ [UK innovation survey](#), Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

⁶ These indicators are volatile, so precise figures are not quoted. Latest figures are available at [UK Business Enterprise Research and Development](#)

As across the rest of the UK, [employment rates](#) in Wales are lower for women than for men – 70.6 per cent for women and 78.9 per cent for men in July 2018⁷. Economic [inactivity rates](#) are higher for women (26.7 per cent) than men (17.6 per cent)⁸. Gender differences for employment and inactivity rates are smaller in Wales than they are for the UK as a whole. Estimates of unemployment rates are more volatile, sometimes showing a lower rate for women than men, and sometimes higher; for the whole of the UK they are roughly equal.

For children, the likelihood of being in relative income poverty is strongly linked to the employment status of adults in the household. In Wales 12.6 per cent of children lived in a workless household in 2017, compared with 10.9 per cent of children in the UK. In Wales there was a decrease since 2016 (13.9 per cent), and a significant fall from a peak of 20.0 per cent in 2009. 27.2 per cent of children in Wales live in a household where at least one (but not all) adult works, and 60.3 per cent live in a household with all adults in work.

1.03 Percentage of children living in workless households, 2004 to 2017



Source: Annual Population Survey, Office for National Statistics

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 available data for the last three years show a fluctuating picture, and we do not have a long-enough series for this new indicator to discern a clear trend. At the end of 2017 63.5 per cent of people in work in Wales are in work that meets that definition. For women the proportion was significantly lower (51.8 per cent) than for men (75.2 per cent).

Wales is ranked 7th out of the 12 UK countries and regions on the latest figures for quality of full-time employment.

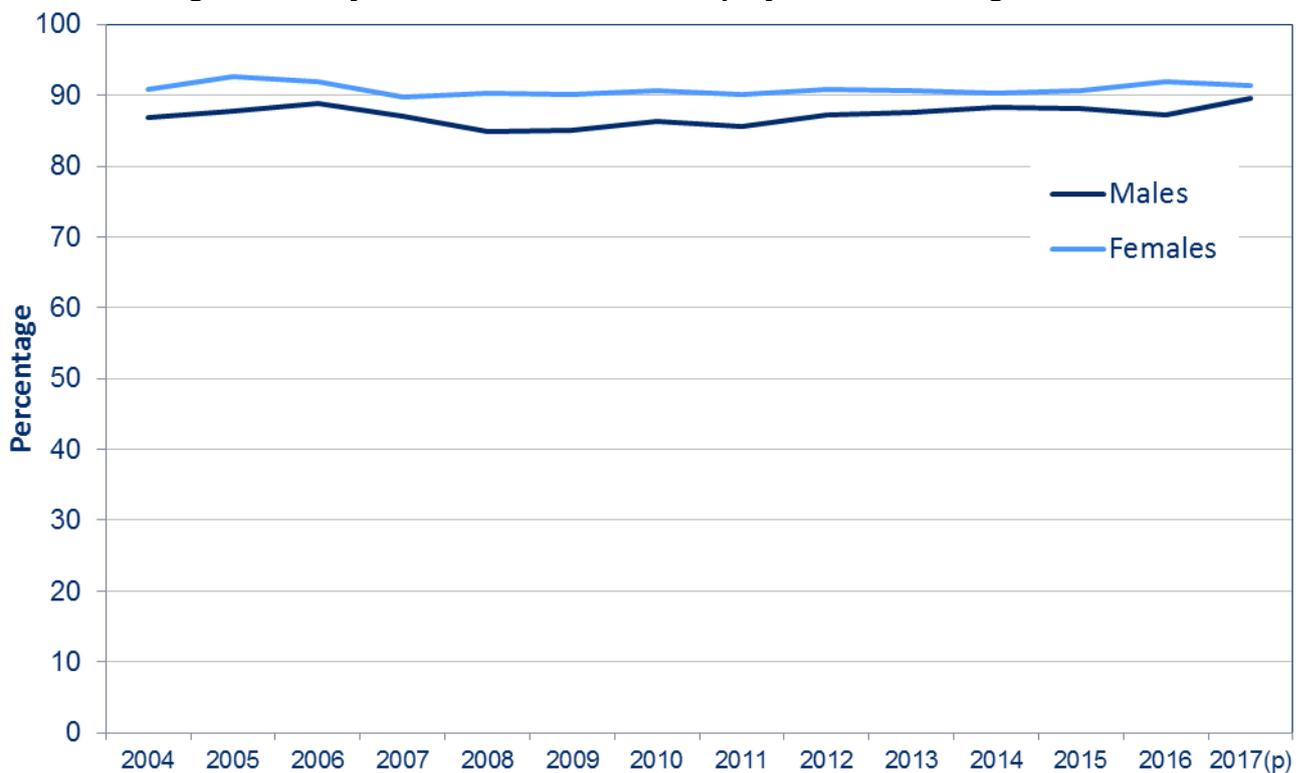
⁷ [Labour Force Survey](#), Office for National Statistics

⁸ [Labour Force Survey](#), Office for National Statistics

At the same time, other data indicates that over the long run, the share of [employment](#) in the top three occupational classes – ‘Managers, directors and senior officials’, ‘Professional’ and ‘Associate professional and technical’ occupations - 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 UK⁹.

There have been recent increases in young people in education, employment or training both amongst 16-18 year olds and 19-24 year olds. For 16-18 year olds this percentage fluctuated at just under 90 per cent for many years but in general the figures have been increasing since the recession, and in 2017 90.5 per cent of 16-18 year olds were in education, employment or training. Similarly for 19-24 year olds this figure has increased since the recession and now stands at 84 per cent, around 6 percentage points higher than in 2012.

1.04 Percentage of 16-18 year-olds in education, employment or training, 2004 to 2017



Source: Welsh Government

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

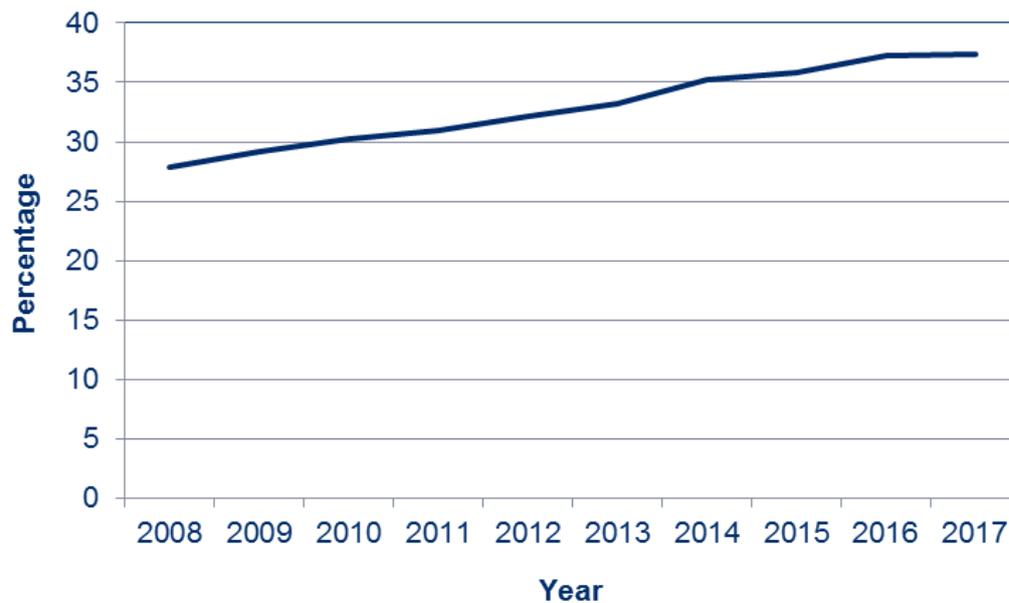
Skill and qualification levels are the biggest single influence on people’s chances of being in employment and on their incomes. The skill and qualification level of the population in an area is also the single most important factor in the economic success of that area.

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

⁹ [Labour Force Survey](#), Office for National Statistics

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 2017. There had been further incremental increases in 2017. 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.

1.05 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

Attainment in primary and secondary school has risen in recent years, although in international assessments Wales continues 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.

Results at the end of Key Stage 4 (the end of compulsory schooling) have been improving up to 2016, with the percentage of pupils achieving 5 GCSE grades A*-C including mathematics and English / Welsh rising from just over 4 out of 10 pupils in 2007 to 6 out of 10 pupils in 2016. There have recently been a number of changes to the way performance is measured which means that consistent data is not available in 2017.

However the international comparisons made under the OECD's [PISA assessments](#)¹⁰ suggest that in terms of reading, maths and science Welsh 15 year olds continue to lag behind the rest of the UK. Internationally Wales performs below the average of OECD nations.

Results have also been improving at the other key stages of education in schools over the last decade. At Key Stage 2 (end of primary schooling), the percentage of pupils achieving

¹⁰ [Achievement of 15 year olds: Program for International Student Assessment national report](#), Welsh Government

the expected level in each of the core subjects (mathematics, science and either English or Welsh) has increased over the last decade from 75 per cent to 90 per cent.

There is a clear link between deprivation and attainment levels at school. While achievement is consistently improving across all groups of pupils, those who are eligible for free school meals have poorer outcomes at every key stage. The gap increases as pupils get older.

At Key Stage 4 the gap between free school meal pupils and others has narrowed in recent years, although there was a slight increase in 2017 (to a gap of 32.3 percentage points) relative to 2016. At March 2017 the percentage of children receiving care and support achieving the Level 2 inclusive measure at Key Stage 4 is less than a quarter of the percentage for all pupils (12 per cent compared to 55 per cent).

New data are available on children's stages of development on entry into primary school

Children in Wales are assessed through the Foundation Phase Profile, during their first 6 weeks following entry into primary school (reception class). This is used to determine the stage of development and interests of the child according to the [Foundation Phase Profile and framework](#).

The data reflect the wide range of developmental maturity that we expect at this age, which is well within the normal range for children at entry to school, especially with the age variability at the point of school entry.

Around 6 in 10 pupils aged 4 are at a stage of development in mathematics and language, literacy and communication in English that would be consistent with, or greater than, their age according to the framework, with around 9 in 10 pupils within one stage of the development consistent with their age.

There is a different distribution for language, literacy and communication in Welsh, with around 1 in 3 pupils at a stage of development that is consistent with or greater than their age. This can be explained by the number of pupils from non-Welsh speaking households whose parents choose to enrol them at a Welsh medium school. To put this into context, by the end of the Foundation Phase around 90 per cent of pupils achieve the expected outcome in this area of learning.

There is a link between work and good health

In general over the medium-term there have been improvements in the number of expected years of healthy life, avoidable mortality and some healthy lifestyle characteristics (e.g reduced 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.

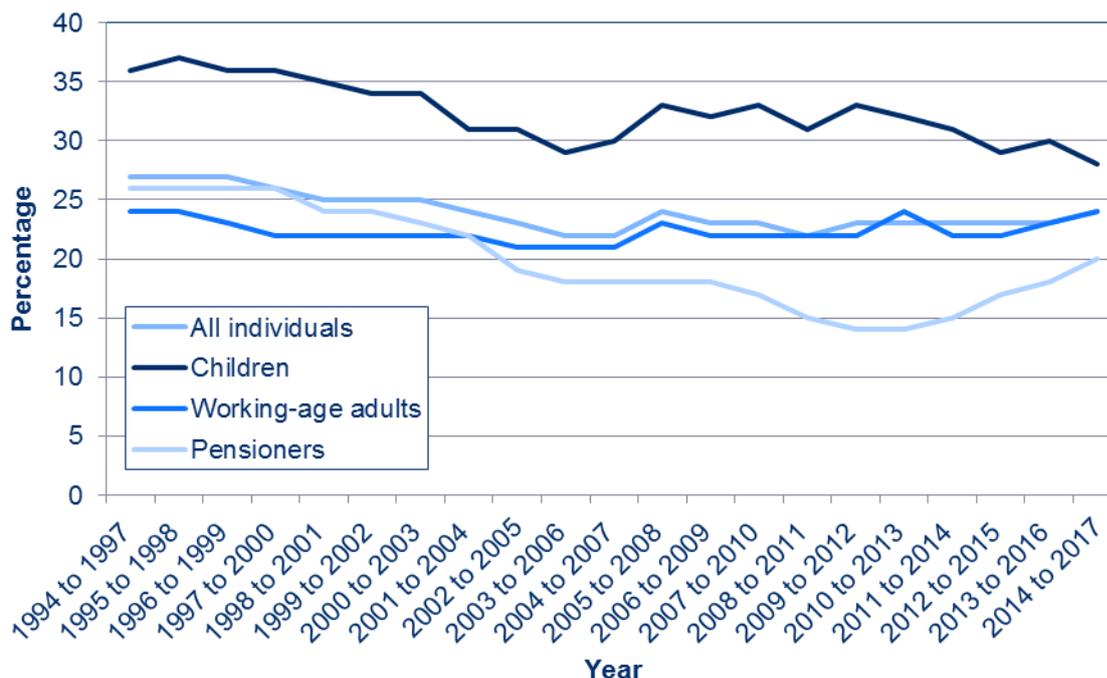
However the gap in the employment rate for those aged 16 and over between those with a long term health condition and those who do not have one persists, and was 15.9 percentage points in 2017.

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 changed little over the last few years (as is the case for the UK as a whole). 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)¹¹. However, in recent years this has begun to increase. As a result, the poverty rate is now much lower for pensioners than other age groups.

1.06 Percentage of all people, children, pensioners and working-age adults living in relative income poverty in Wales, 1994 to 2017



Source: Households Below Average Income, Office for National Statistics

¹¹ [Poverty statistics](#), Welsh Government

However, poverty can be considered in a wider sense than relative income. Latest figures are similar to previous years, with 16 per cent of adults in Wales materially deprived (that is, not being able to afford basic things like keeping the house warm, making regular savings, or having a holiday once a year). 7 per cent of pensioners were materially deprived and 7 per cent of parents have materially deprived children. The 2016-17 [National Survey for Wales](#)¹² showed (when controlling for a wide range of other factors) a wide range of factors associated with material deprivation including tenure, life satisfaction, having access to a car and the working status of the household.

Children are more likely to be in poverty than the population as a whole

Children are more likely to be living in poverty than people as a whole. This is possibly because adults with children are more likely to be out of work or in low paid work due to childcare responsibilities. Previous [evidence](#)¹³ from the 2014-15 National Survey suggested that even when parents are materially deprived, they appeared to try to protect their children from the experience of child-specific material deprivation.

Low income will be the key factor in explaining levels of child material deprivation. In addition, the 2016-17 National Survey found the characteristics associated with child material deprivation included housing tenure (if parents were in social housing they were more likely to have children who were materially deprived); parental life satisfaction and mental well-being.

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 1997¹⁴. The pay gap based on median full-time hourly earnings stood at 6.3 per cent in 2017, down from 7.9 per cent in 2016. Of the 11 UK countries and regions where men earn more than women, Wales has the smallest pay gap, while in Northern Ireland women earn more than men on average, resulting in a “negative” gender pay gap. For part-time employees in Wales, women are paid 7.0 per cent more on average than men, the third largest negative pay gap behind London and Northern Ireland.

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.

¹² [National Survey for Wales 2016-17](#), Welsh Government

¹³ [National Survey for Wales, 2014-15](#), Welsh Government

¹⁴ [Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings](#), Office for National Statistics

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

Over time, reduced car use, stable commuting times and increased use of low carbon vehicles will collectively contribute to a reduction in emissions.

Although the recovery from recession has been slow and halting, the long-run trend to increased transport use in Wales has resumed, affecting all modes except buses (where use has decreased). 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 commuting journeys in Wales. In 2016, 80 per cent of commuters in Wales used a car as their usual method of commuting, a small decrease since a peak of 84 per cent in 2013. The [proportions](#) of people walking or cycling (10-12 per cent), traveling by rail (2 per cent) and using buses (4 per cent) have remained stable over the past 15 years¹⁵.

Similarly, there is no discernable trend in average commuting times in Wales. The average commuting time has been steady at around 21-23 minutes since 2005, with little change for the various modes of travel.

UK data indicate that low-carbon vehicle use is growing strongly, albeit from a low base. Despite an increase in 2016 (largely driven by a recovery in natural gas power generation following numerous outages to implement efficiency upgrades in 2015), [emissions of greenhouse gases have fallen by almost 14 per cent](#) between the 1990 base year and 2016. The reduction in greenhouse gas emissions over the longer term is 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).

¹⁵ [Transport Statistics Great Britain](#), Department for Transport

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).

Author: Sue Leake, Welsh Government

What have we learnt from the data in the last year?

The latest evidence on the Welsh environment confirms a number of positive trends that have been taking place over the last 20-30 years with the condition of Welsh peatlands improving significantly and woodland and habitat topsoil recovering, whilst populations of butterfly species are stabilising. However, we know that at least a third of priority bird species still have declining populations and there are some recent indications of change in topsoil carbon and acidity of soil in some habitats which will need to continue to be monitored.

A new methodology based on satellite imagery has been developed to provide a new baseline for our estimate of the extent of semi-natural habitat in Wales. This provides an estimate that semi-natural habitats cover 31 per cent of the Welsh land surface, varying from 74 per cent in the upland area to 19 per cent in the lowlands.

Recycling rates continue to improve, with 64 per cent of local authority municipal waste now being recycled.

The installation of renewable energy generation capacity has increased in pace in recent years with the capacity of technologies such as solar panels more than doubling in the two years up to 2016, and onshore wind capacity showing a 50 per cent increase; Capacity for renewable heat generation has also nearly doubled in this period.

Whilst there is a long term trend of reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, the latest data shows an increase in emissions in 2016 compared with 2015, which is largely driven by a recovery in natural gas power generation following numerous outages to implement efficiency upgrades in 2015. Energy supply, business and industrial processes remain the key drivers of greenhouse gas emissions.

New data on noise pollution indicate a quarter of households are bothered by unwanted noise (either inside or outside their homes) with 45 per cent of these households bothered by noise from traffic, businesses or factories in their area.

Data on water quality and flood risk are only updated periodically and this report does not contain any new data compared the 2017 report.

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.

Wales' natural landscape, coastlines and seas are important national assets supporting a bio-diverse environment, agriculture and fishing and the 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

- land-cover which has been modified in some way
- other land, which can be considered natural/semi-natural habitats.

Land which has been modified will include the built environment and land which has been altered from its semi-natural state for productive use such as:

- conifer plantations,
- improved grassland,
- and arable land.

Wales has very few purely 'natural' habitats (that is, habitats which have not been affected in any way by human activity) therefore our national indicator is based on the extent of semi-natural habitats. Semi-natural habitats are key components of a biodiverse natural environment that delivers a wide range of ecosystem services.

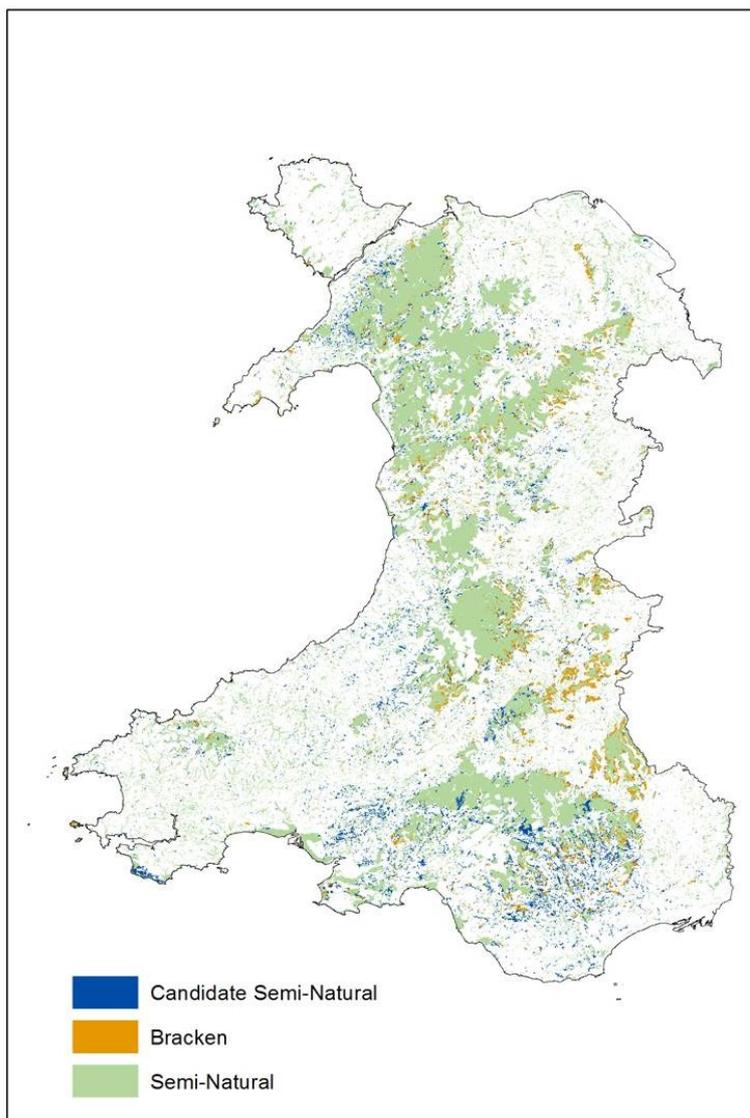
A previous estimate of the extent of semi-natural habitats in Wales was derived from a comprehensive field survey reported on in the Habitat Survey of Wales (2010). Updated information on habitats was available from more recent Glastir Monitoring Evaluation Programme (GMEP) results. Natural Resources Wales have developed a new approach using satellite imagery to update our existing understanding of the distribution and extent of habitats across Wales. This approach has been used to derive a new baseline estimate of the extent of semi-natural habitat which will be capable of being updated in the coming years using consistent data sources and methodology.

The latest estimate using this new methodology should be considered as 'experimental' at this stage as further work is intended to refine the approach and allow more detailed presentation of the results in future. The estimate of semi-natural habitat presented here includes land areas which are clearly semi-natural habitats, those which are bracken and some areas of land, here called 'candidate semi-natural' habitats, which have the potential to function more like semi-natural habitats than habitats that have been subject to intensive agricultural improvement. Given their frequent proximity to established areas of semi-natural habitat, these candidate areas might be viewed as representing opportunities for enhancing the resilience of existing ecosystems. For details see "Natural Resources Wales' Briefing Note: [A new baseline of the area of semi-natural habitat in Wales for Indicator 43](#)¹⁶.

Based on 2016-2017 satellite imagery this new method indicates that semi-natural habitats in Wales cover a total of 640,827 ha (31 per cent of the Welsh land surface). This varies across Wales; whilst 74 per cent of the upland area is semi-natural habitat only 19 per cent of the lowlands is semi-natural.

¹⁶ Briefing Note: [A new baseline of the area of semi-natural habitat in Wales for Indicator 43](#), Natural Resources Wales

Map of semi-natural habitat in Wales (including bracken and ‘candidate semi-natural’ habitats) (a)



(a) Map shows areas of habitat identified as semi-natural as well as areas identified as bracken and areas of land, here called ‘candidate semi-natural’ that have the potential to function more like semi-natural habitat than habitats that have been subject to intensive agricultural improvement. For details see Natural resources Wales Briefing Note: A new baseline of the area of semi-natural habitat in Wales for Indicator 43

The Welsh marine area forms part of a larger marine ecosystem, including the Irish sea and the Bristol Channel which make up part of the wider north east Atlantic. The Welsh coast line has a large tidal range, fast current speeds are present in the Severn Estuary and off the coast of Pembrokeshire and Anglesey with the south west part of Wales experiencing high energy waves. The coast and sea bed have variable sediment types ranging from fine muds and silts to sandy beaches, dunes and subtidal banks to rocky shores, cliffs and seabed. The different conditions support a diverse range of marine habitats and many species of seabirds and marine mammals.

Welsh waters host important habitats and populations of species including the most southerly examples of horse mussel beds, a resident community of bottlenose dolphins in Cardigan Bay and more than 60 per cent of the global breeding population of Manx shearwater.

Wales is home to a broad range of animal and plant species and many special habitats. Whilst the latest evidence shows some positive trends in relation to Welsh peatlands and the recovery or stabilisation of some soils and species (e.g. butterflies) the latest comprehensive assessment of the Welsh natural resources ([the State of Natural Resources Report](#)¹⁷) shows that overall, biological diversity is declining, and no ecosystems in Wales can be said to have all the features needed for resilience.

The Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (GMEP) was established to provide a robust evidence base to inform the management of the Welsh environment. The [latest report](#)¹⁸ confirms a number of positive trends that have been taking place over the last 20 to 30 years but continues to highlight some areas where the trends are not so positive.

On the positive side:

- The condition of Welsh peatlands has improved significantly over the last 20-30 years.
- 83 per cent of small streams sampled in the GMEP were found to be in good or high ecological condition.
- Using evidence from the Butterfly Monitoring Scheme GMEP has highlighted the stabilisation of populations of specialist and generalist butterfly species over the last 10 years.
- There has been an increase in the number of public rights of way which are easy to access, with two thirds now being considered easy to use relative to two fifths 10 years ago.
- Topsoil carbon has been stable or has increased in woodland and improved land soils over the last 30 years
- Over the last 30 years woodland and habitat topsoil appear to have recovered from the negative impact of acid deposition with pH now stable.

Less positively, results show:

- A recent decline in the number of plants which indicate good condition in habitat and improved land.
- Only 13 per cent of ponds sampled in GMEP were judged to be in good ecological condition.
- 35 per cent of priority bird species have declining populations.
- A decrease of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) in woodlands, which is partly attributable to a decrease in the rate of carbon sequestration¹⁹ due to woodlands ageing.
- A recent increase in the acidity of topsoil in improved land sampled in GMEP, supporting anecdotal evidence of a decrease in the application of lime to agricultural land in Wales.
- A recent loss of topsoil carbon across a range of habitats, including semi improved grassland (with the exception of peatland soils).

¹⁷ [State of Natural Resource Report](#), Natural Resources Wales

¹⁸ Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (GMEP), [summary of GMEP results](#)

¹⁹ Carbon sequestration is the process involved in carbon capture and the long-term storage of atmospheric carbon dioxide or other forms of carbon to mitigate or defer global warming.

Generally, 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) though for many species we do not have sufficient data on which to base any conclusions.

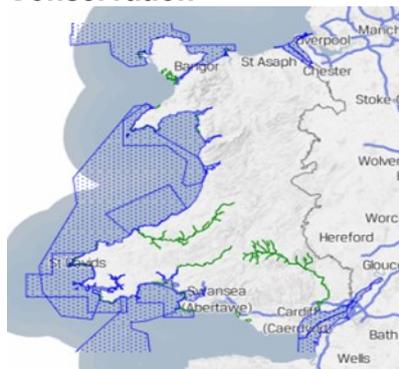
There is information on the latest population trends for breeding birds in Wales and for bats available from the [2017 Breeding Birds Survey \(BBS\)](#)²⁰ and from the [2017 National Bat Monitoring Programme \(NBMP\)](#)²¹. These show that some of our woodland birds are doing better in Wales than in other parts of the UK as a whole, although, in line with trends across the UK, some other bird species are still declining. Of the eight species of bat that are monitored in the NBMP in Wales most are either increasing or remaining stable, showing similar trends to that across the UK, with lesser horseshoe bats in Wales showing a very substantial increase.

Specially designated areas across Wales are important in protecting our ecosystems and helping maintain a bio-diverse natural environment

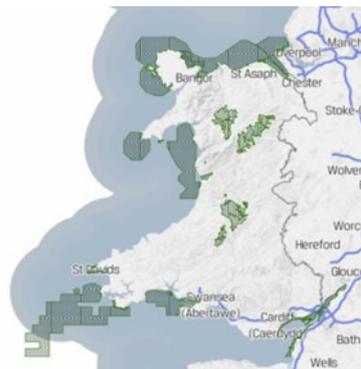
Wales has 1,016 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, 21 Special Protection Areas for internationally important populations of birds and 95 Special Areas of Conservation for other threatened species and natural habitats.

These special sites and areas are designated in order to protect by law their wildlife and geology by aiming to protect ecosystems and helping to maintain a bio-diverse natural environment. When taken together these special sites form a network which when designed and appropriately managed are intended to provide multiple benefits contributing towards ecosystem resilience. In particular, an [assessment of the network of marine protected areas in Wales in 2016](#)²² concluded the marine network is well connected, represents the majority of habitats and species present in Welsh waters in two marine ecosystems (Irish Sea, and Western Channel and Celtic Sea) and is progressing towards being well managed.

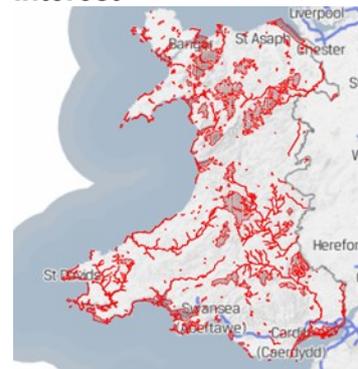
Special Areas of Conservation



Special Protection Areas



Sites of Special Scientific Interest



²⁰ [The Breeding Bird Survey 2017](#), British Trust for Ornithology(BTO)/Joint Nature Conservation Committee(JNCC)/Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

²¹ [National Bat Monitoring Programme, Annual report 2017](#), Bat Conservation Trust

²² [Assessing the contribution of Welsh MPAs towards an ecologically coherent MPA network in 2016](#), Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) (2016)

As an overview, according to the most recent assessment of Special Areas of Conservation published by [Natural Resources Wales \(NRW\)](#) in 2016 roughly 25 per cent of these areas were in a favourable condition. In 2018 NRW produced indicative [site level condition reports](#)²³ for all features in each marine SAC and SPA in Wales. Features include habitats (e.g. estuaries, caves, inlets) and species (e.g. grey seal, puffin, bottlenose dolphin). The indicative reports concluded that 46 per cent of all features in Wales – including all mammal features - were assessed as in favourable condition.

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.

Work has been commissioned through the Welsh Government ERAMMP (Environmental and Rural Affairs Monitoring and Modelling) Programme to explore the potential of the available (and primarily terrestrial) Welsh data on biodiversity in Wales to develop an appropriate Welsh biodiversity indicator for use in future monitoring.

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.
- 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.

²³ [Indicative feature condition assessments for European marine sites \(EMS\)](#), Natural Resources Wales (2018)

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 tonnes²⁴](#) 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 107.6 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 tonnes²⁵](#) 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 Wales⁴](#), 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 waters²⁶](#), only one of the designated Welsh bathing waters did not meet the tougher standards set by the revised Bathing Water Directive in 2017. Of the 104 bathing waters assessed, 80 achieved the higher European Classification of an excellent standard, 18 bathing waters achieved a good standard whilst 5 achieved a sufficient standard.

²⁴ [State of Natural Resources Report](#), Chapter 3, Natural Resources Wales

²⁵ [State of Natural Resources Report](#), Natural Resources Wales

²⁶ [Bathing water quality and beaches in Wales](#), Welsh Government website (accessed 20th August 2018)

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.

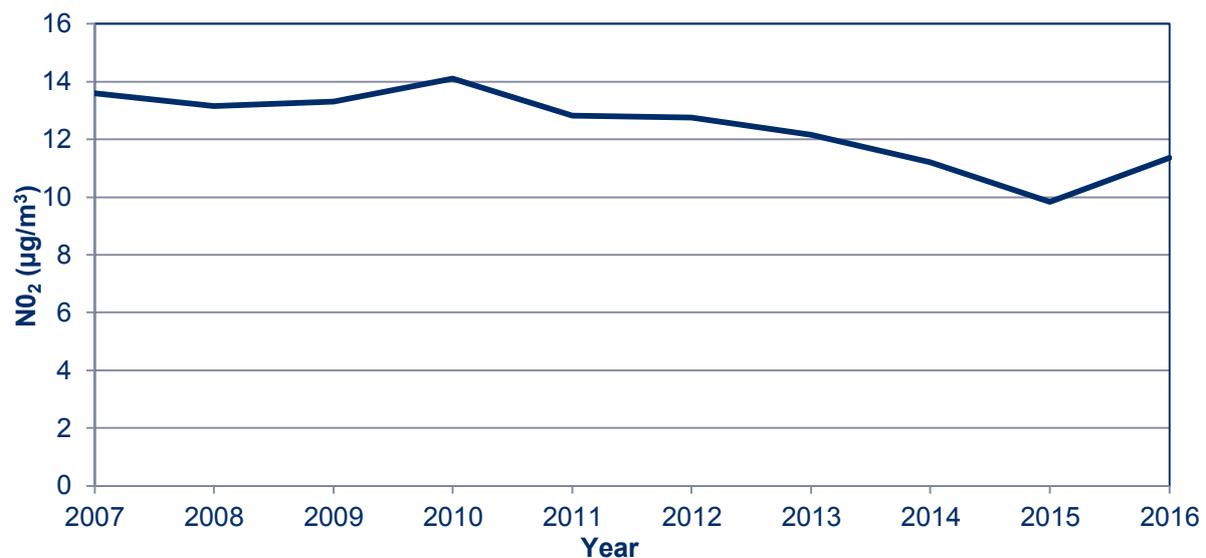
Air quality in Wales has greatly improved since the 1970s due mainly to statutory emissions controls and a decline in heavy industry. However, pollution from other sources such as transport, agriculture and domestic heating has become more of a concern.

[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 are still being breached in some areas.

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 (11 µg/m³ in 2016) 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

A quarter of households say they are regularly bothered by unwanted noise

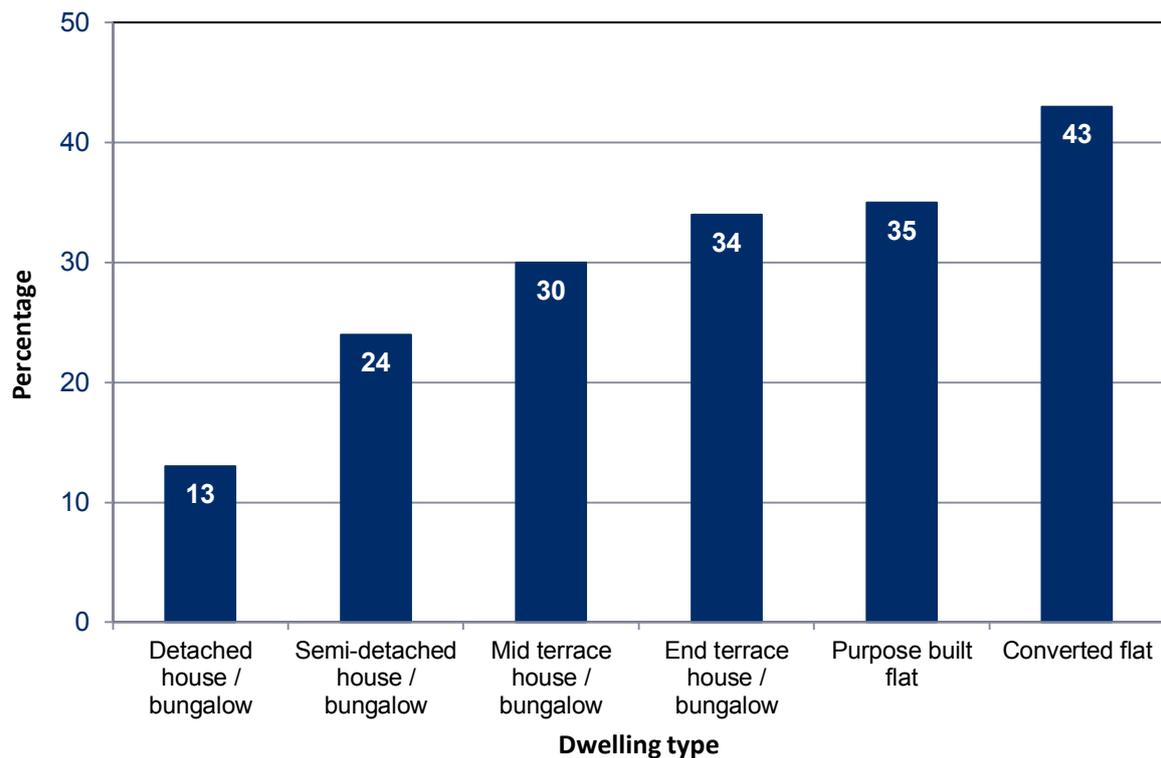
Noise can be disruptive as part of the environment in which people live and spend their lives. Some sounds can be pleasant and enhance lives whilst others, those that could be considered unwanted or harmful, can, in the short term, disrupt sleep and increase levels of stress, irritation and fatigue, as well as interfering with important activities such as learning, working and relaxing. The 2017-18 National Survey for Wales asked respondents about their experience of being regularly bothered by noise inside or outside of their homes. Nearly a quarter of households (24 per cent) said they had.

Of these:

- 36 per cent said the noise was caused by neighbours inside their homes;
- 47 per cent by neighbours outside their homes; and
- 45 per cent by traffic, businesses, or factories.

Those who lived in flats were more likely to be bothered by noise than those who lived in detached homes. People were more likely to be bothered by noise if they lived in materially deprived households or in deprived areas.

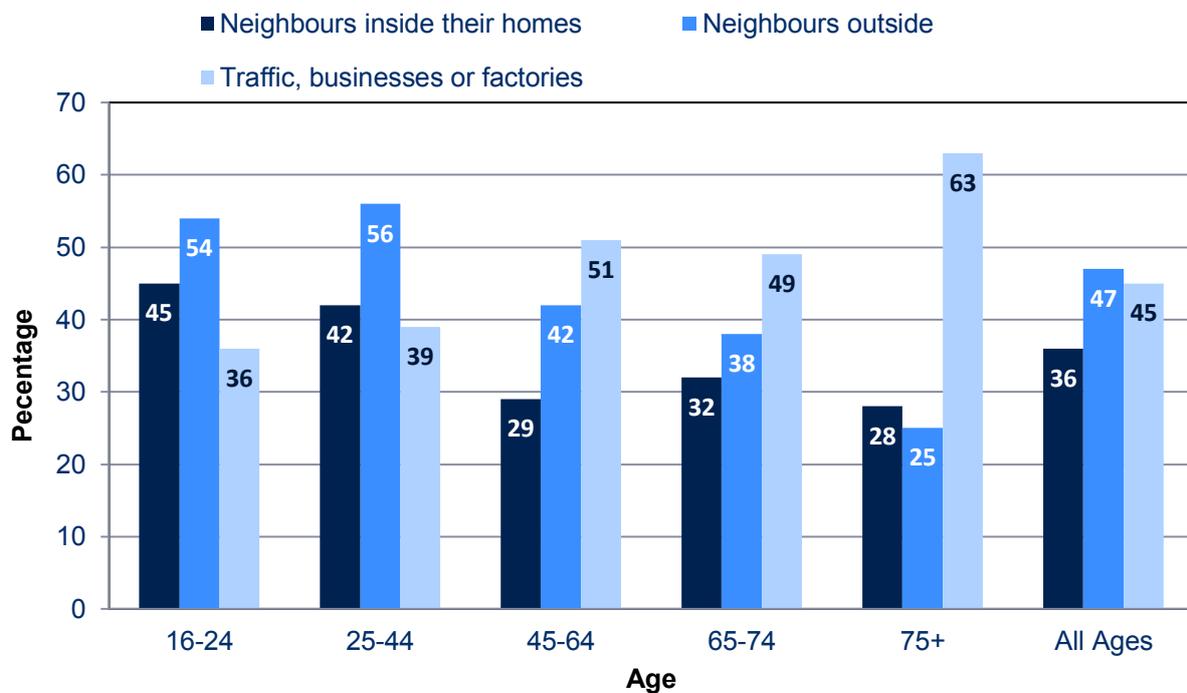
2.02 Bothered by noise, by type of dwelling, 2017-18



Source: National Survey for Wales

Younger people were more likely to be regularly bothered by noise than older people but they are more likely to be bothered by noise from their neighbours, whereas for older people it is noise from traffic, businesses or factories that is more likely to bother them.

2.03 Type of noise, by age of respondent, 2017-18



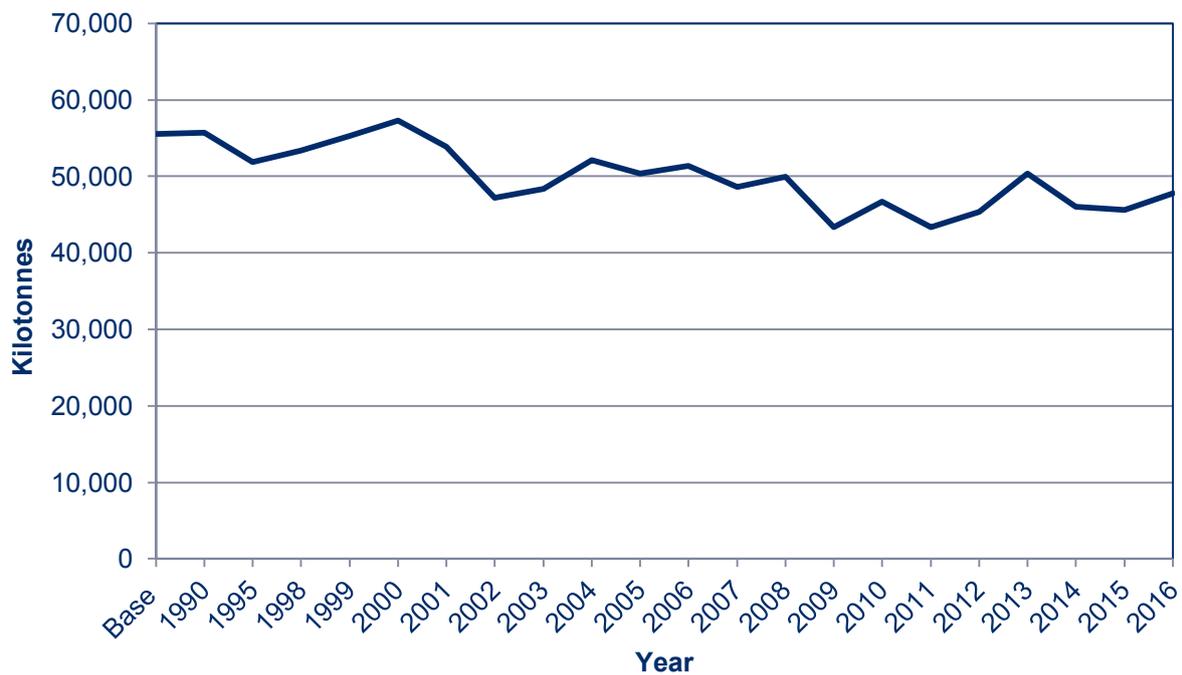
Source: National Survey for Wales

People who owned their own property were more likely to say they were regularly bothered by noise from traffic, businesses or factories than people living in social housing, but people living in social housing were more likely to be bothered by noise from their neighbours.

Greenhouse gas emissions have reduced since the 1990s despite an increase in 2016

Considering greenhouse gases, in 2016, it was [estimated that emissions totalled 47.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide \(CO₂\) equivalent](#), a fall of 14 per cent compared to the 1990 base year emissions. The latest data shows an increase in greenhouse gas emissions in 2016 compared with 2015, which is largely driven by a recovery in natural gas power generation following numerous outages to implement efficiency upgrades in 2015.

2.04 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 continue to be as a result of energy supply, business and industry.

Data relating to the greenhouse gas emissions attributed to the consumption of goods and services 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.

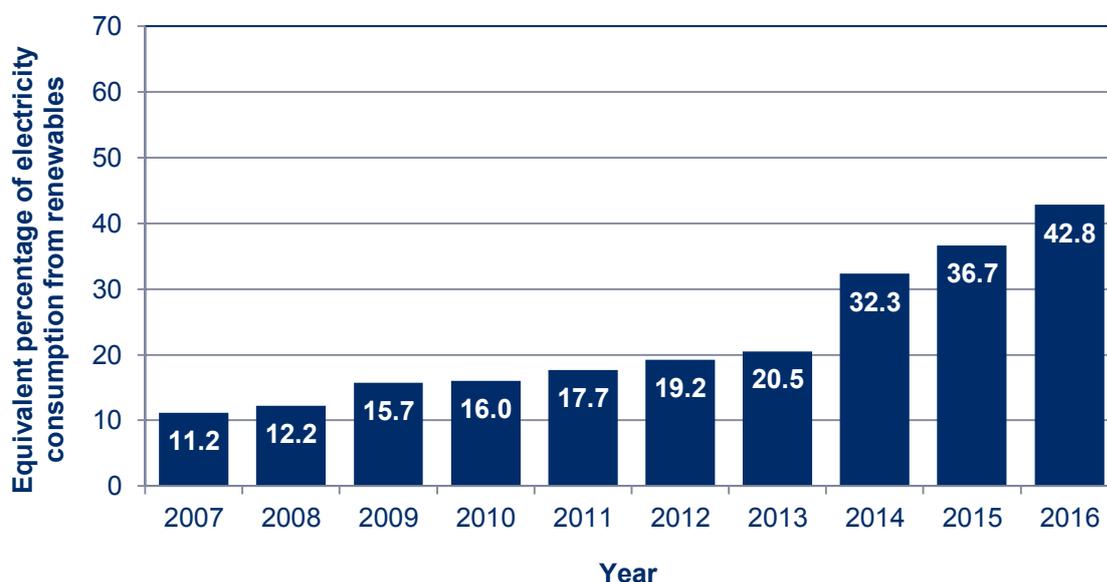
Renewable energy generation has been on the rise and there's some evidence that homes are becoming more energy efficient.

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 in the last decade with an increased pace in recent years. A recent study of [energy generation in Wales](#)²⁷ showed that in 2016 there was 3,357 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy generation capacity. The vast majority of this is renewable electricity (85 per cent or 2,854 MW) whilst the capacity of renewable heat installations has nearly doubled in the last two years to reach 504 megawatts (MW).

In terms of the types of technologies for renewable energy being installed, capacity grew most between 2014 and 2016 in solar PV panels (more than doubled) and onshore wind (a 50 per cent increase). Whilst the capacity of renewable heat installations remain small compared to renewable electricity, this period saw a 65 per cent increase in the capacity of biomass installations and a 52 per cent increase in the capacity of heat pumps.

2.05 Growth in the percentage of electricity from renewable sources in Wales, 2007 to 2016



Source: Energy Generation in Wales, 2016

Whilst approximately 17.7 per cent of total electricity generated in Wales in 2016 was from renewables, Wales is a net exporter of electricity and the electrical generation potential from renewable energy installations in Wales is estimated to be equivalent to 43 per cent of Wales's national electricity consumption.

²⁷ [Energy Generation in Wales, 2016](#). Welsh Government

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 [nearly 96 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 2017.

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 yet 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).

Further information on the energy efficiency of the Welsh housing stock will be available once the results of the [2017-18 Welsh Housing Conditions Survey](#)²⁸ are published.

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

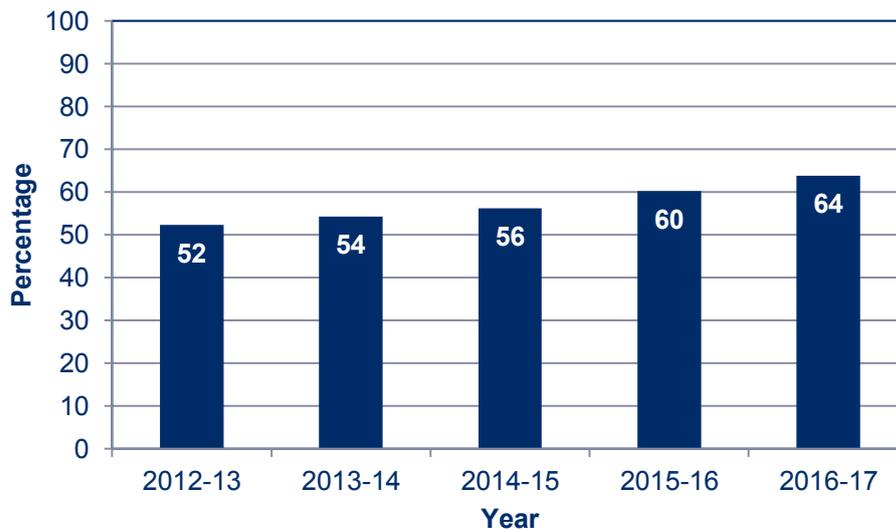
One way to decrease our ecological footprint is to reduce our use of materials. We can do this by adopting more sustainable ways of consuming and producing goods, by reducing packaging and by making better use of our waste.

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](#)²⁹ from 52 per cent in 2012-13 to 64 per cent in 2016-17.

²⁸ [Housing Conditions Evidence Programme](#), Welsh Government

²⁹ [Local Authority Municipal Waste Management Report for Wales, 2016-17](#), Welsh Government

2.06 Percentage of local authority municipal (household and non-household) waste prepared for reuse, recycled or composted, 2012-13 to 2016-17



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 11 per cent between 2012-13 and 2016-17.

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.

Whilst cars remain the dominant mode of transport for commuting, there has been an increase in registration of low-carbon vehicles such as plug-ins.

Over time, reduced car use, stable commuting times and increased use of low carbon vehicles will collectively contribute to a reduction in emissions.

Since the recession, the long-run trend to increased transport use in Wales has resumed, affecting all modes except buses (where use has decreased). 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 commuting journeys in Wales. In 2016, 80 per cent of commuters in Wales used a car as their usual method of commuting, a small decrease since a peak of 84 per cent in 2013. The proportions of people walking or cycling (10-12 per cent), traveling by rail (2 per cent) and using buses (4 per cent) have remained stable [over the past 15 years](#)³⁰.

³⁰ [Transport Statistics Great Britain](#), Department for Transport

Similarly, there is no discernable trend in average commuting times in Wales. The average commuting time has been steady at around 21-23 minutes since 2005, with little change for the various modes of travel.

The [most popular mode for children to travel to school](#)³¹ is bus or train (38 per cent), followed by walking (32 per cent) and car/motorbike (27 per cent)

UK data indicates that low-carbon vehicle use is growing strongly, albeit from a low base. In 2017-18 over 10,000 [plug-in vehicles](#) were licensed in Wales, compared to fewer than 700 in 2012-13³².

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 (2014) 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 was published by the Natural Resources Wales in their 2016 [State of Natural Resources Report](#) (SoNaRR) report.

³¹ [Health behaviour in school-aged children](#), Welsh Government

³² [Table VEH0131 Licensed plug-in cars, LGVs and quadricycles by local authority; United Kingdom](#), Department for Transport

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

Author: John Morris, Welsh Government

What have we learnt from the data in the last year?

Most headline measures for health show little or no change over the most recent year, such as life expectancy, percentage of babies born with a low birth weight and the percentage of people with fewer than two positive lifestyle behaviours.

Recent data do show that after years of sustained increases, gains in life expectancy have continued to slow and even stop. This is true across the UK and is also evident elsewhere globally. However, increases in life expectancy in the UK were small compared to a number of other countries.

There was no significant change in any of the 5 main healthy lifestyle behaviours (not smoking, not drinking over weekly guidelines, fruit and vegetable consumption, physical activity, healthy weight) between 2016-17 and 2017-18.

The picture for child health continues to be mixed, for example there have been improvements in dental health, but child obesity increased over the year and is similar to four years ago.

Measuring well-being is complex and well-being changes throughout your life course. Analysis shows that during secondary school there are some dramatic changes in children's well-being, self-reported health and lifestyles. Whilst at age 11 girls and boys report similar well-being and self-reported health, by aged 16 a gap is evident, with girls reporting lower well-being and worse health.

Mental well-being improves from younger ages until very old ages but life satisfaction dips during middle age. Girls score significantly poorer than boys on the moods and feelings scale and are more likely to self harm.

Self-reported very bad or bad health was the strongest factor associated with the poorest personal well-being for adults. Health was also the most important factor when looking at mental well-being.

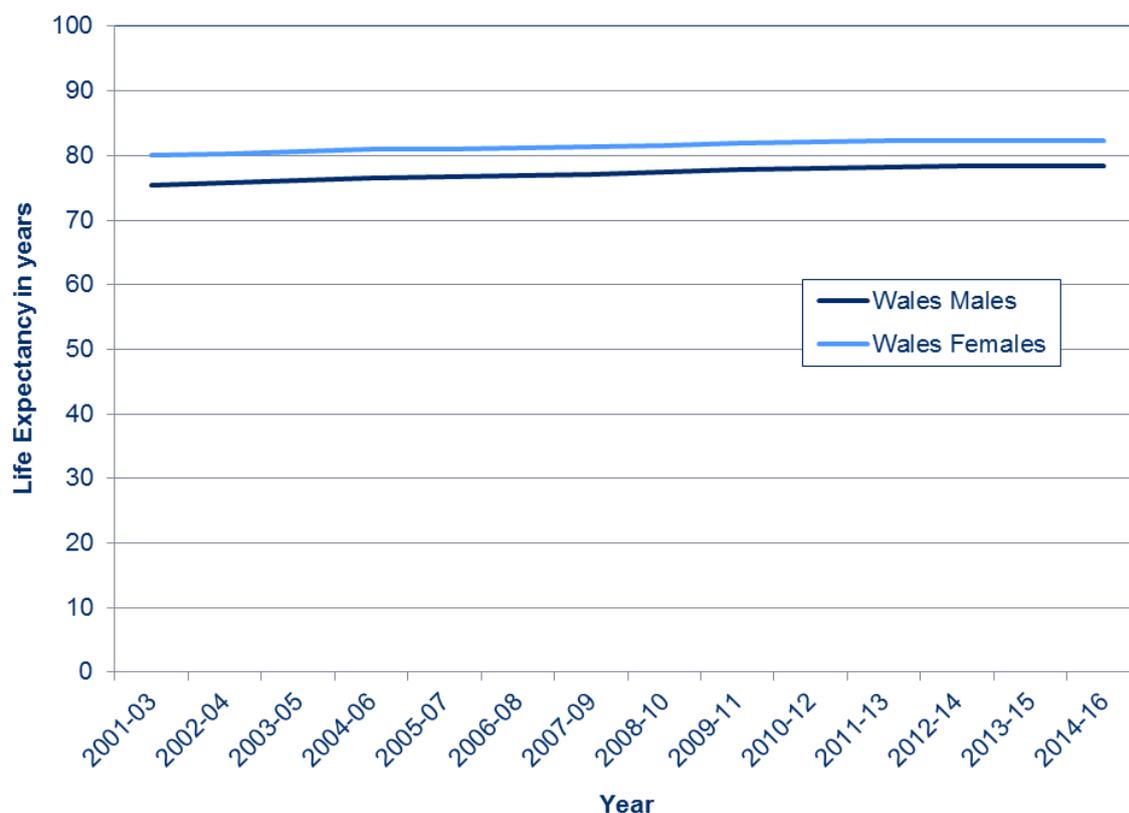
For most types of cancer, survival decreases as stage at diagnosis becomes later - the gradient of the decrease from earlier to later stages varies considerably between different cancer types. Whilst survival rates in Wales compare poorly to Europe, they are similar to England.

After years of sustained increases, improvements in life expectancy have stalled

[Life expectancy](#)³³ 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. A girl born in Wales between 2014 and 2016 could expect to live to her 82nd birthday while a boy could expect to reach his 78th.

However, the last three or four years have seen no increase in life expectancy. [Research](#) by the Office for National Statistics³⁴ shows that this is true for both England and Wales and that the slowdown in mortality improvements over the last decade affects all ages. Further [reports](#)^{35 36} [show](#) this slowdown was seen across all four UK countries (though with a greater slowdown in England & Wales). It was also evident in many other countries internationally, though the UK experienced one of the largest slowdowns. The report also noted that Japan has come through a period with low life expectancy gains and has recently experienced an acceleration of mortality improvements, showing that even after a period of slow growth a country may again return to faster improvements.

3.01 Life expectancy at birth by sex, 2001-03 to 2014-16



Source: Office for National Statistics

³³ [Health state life expectancies, UK: 2014 to 2016](#), Office for National Statistics

³⁴ [Changing trends in mortality in England and Wales: 1990 to 2017 \(Experimental Statistics\)](#), Office for National Statistics

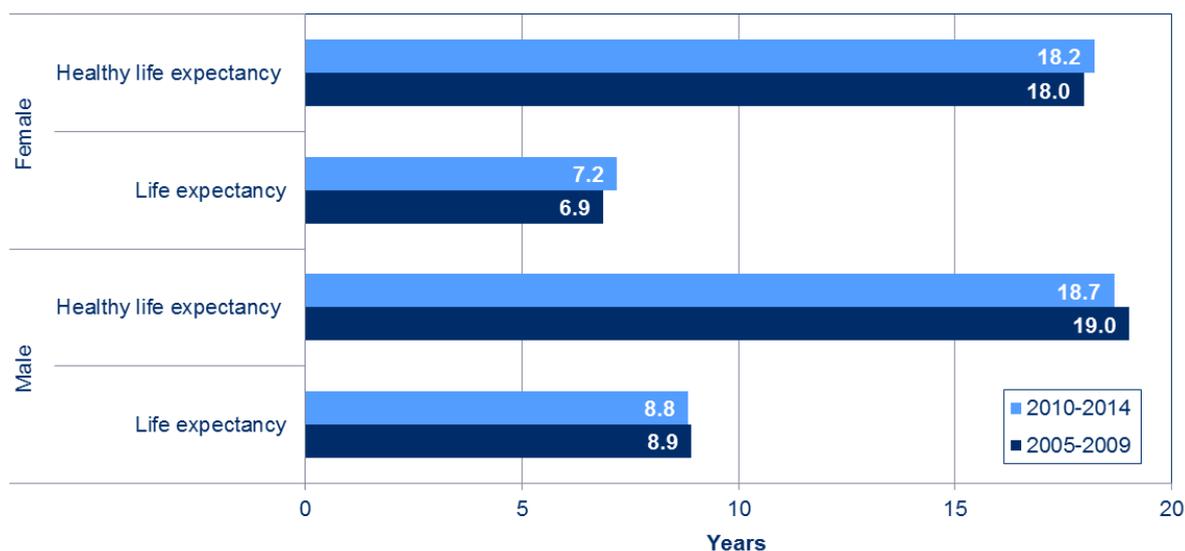
³⁵ [Changing trends in mortality: a cross-UK comparison, 1981 to 2016](#), Office for National Statistics

³⁶ [Changing trends in mortality: an international comparison, 2000 to 2016](#), Office for National Statistics

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 most and least deprived areas of Wales and this hasn't changed in the most recent years.

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



Source: Public Health Wales Observatory

More [recent analysis](#) by the Office for National Statistics³⁷ shows that the gap between the most and least deprived (using deprivation deciles rather than quintiles) remained broadly similar over recent years.

Self-reported general health changes in secondary school more for girls than boys and deteriorates significantly in later life

How long do you expect to live in good health? Well, the length of time a person in Wales can expect to live in good health was increasing (based on those who self reported that their health is good). However as with life expectancy it has stalled with little change over the last five years.

Because girls live longer, the percentage of their life expected to be spent in [good health](#)³⁸ is lower than for boys: 76 per cent of a girl's life and 79 per cent of a boy's life.

³⁷ [Health state life expectancies by national deprivation deciles, England and Wales: 2014 to 2016](#), Office for National Statistics

³⁸ [Health state life expectancies, UK: 2014 to 2016](#), Office for National Statistics

From year 9 onwards more girls [report](#) fair/ poor health than boys³⁹. At age 11 (year 7) the proportion of boys and girls reporting poor health is the same (one in seven), but by age 16 (year 11) there is a gap – with one in three girls reporting poor health compared to one in four boys. However the overall proportion of children reporting poor health has fallen – down from 26 per cent in 2002 to 22 per cent in 2018. That fall is most evident in girls, but year 11 girls have seen little change over the last 12 years.

Adults [self-reported](#) general health⁴⁰ in Wales has been improving over time for older adults, but has deteriorated slightly for younger adults (driven by more younger adults reporting being treated for mental health conditions). [Self-reported](#) health⁴¹ does deteriorate with age, with 83 per cent of 16-24 year olds reporting good or very good health compared to 49 per cent of those aged 75 or over.

Cancer survival in Wales is in line with England and new analysis shows early diagnosis is important

There are no significant differences in [five year survival](#)⁴² between Wales and England for any of the cancer types, and the same is true for nearly all cancer types for one year survival. However, survival rates are shown to be lower in Wales than most other European countries (based on [Eurocare 5](#), 2000-2007⁴³), with 5 year survival (i.e those surviving for 5 years after diagnosis of cancer) around 4 percentage points less than the European average for all cancer types.

³⁹ [Health behaviour in school-aged children](#), Welsh Government; data for 2018 is provisional; data collection moved online for 2018 which may affect comparability

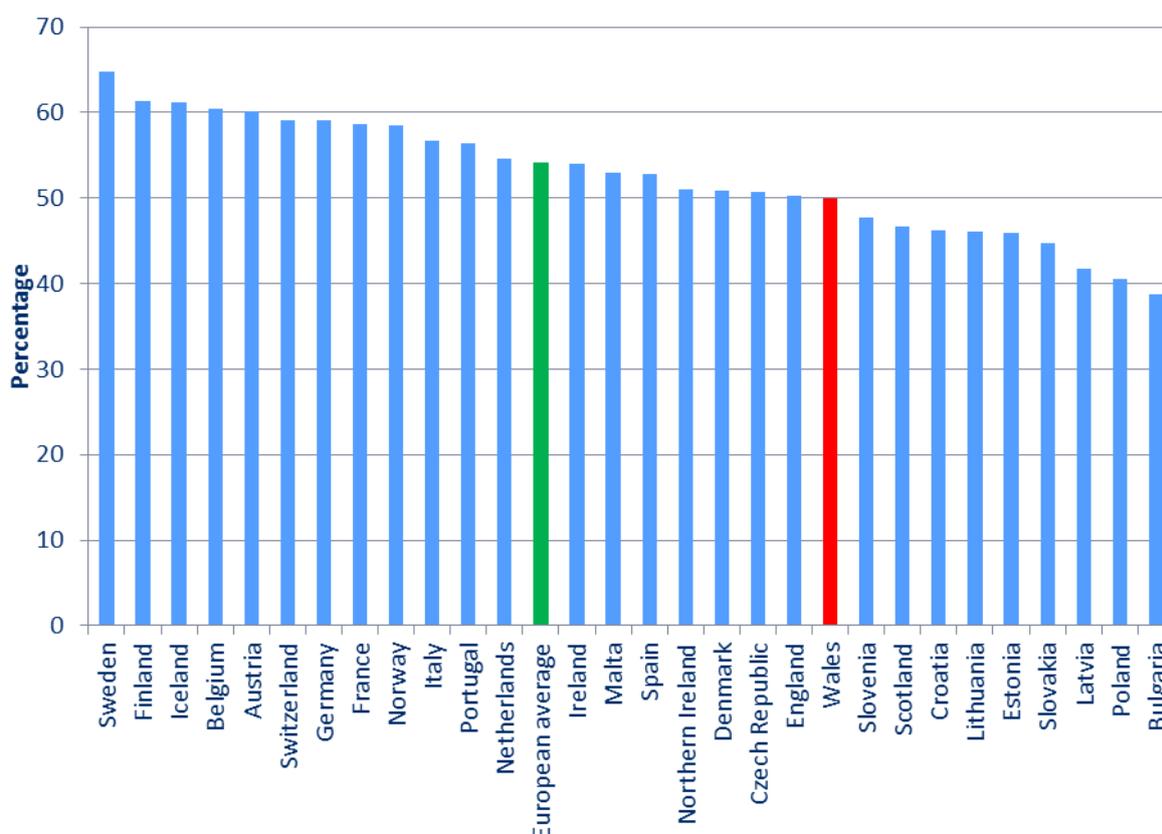
⁴⁰ [Welsh Health Survey Trends 2003/04-2015](#), Welsh Government

⁴¹ [National Survey for Wales](#), Welsh Government

⁴² [Cancer Survival in Wales](#), Public Health Wales

⁴³ [Survival of Cancer Patients in Europe The EUROCARE-5 Study](#), Istituto Superiore di Sanità

3.03 5 year cancer survival rates (2000-2007, relative, age-standardised)



Source: Eurocare 5

For most types of cancer, [survival](#) decreases as stage at diagnosis becomes later⁴⁴ - the gradient of the decrease from earlier to later stages varies considerably between different cancer types. Men have better survival than women in later or unknown stages at diagnosis for many cancers, except for lung cancer and melanoma.

Your well-being changes during your life – it deteriorates whilst you are in secondary school (especially for girls) then improves in older ages

Self-rated [life satisfaction](#)⁴⁵ decreases for girls from year 7 (aged 11) through to year 11 (aged 16) and is notably lower than boys. Overall, self-rated life satisfaction has remained at a similar level during the last decade or so, from 2002 to 2018.

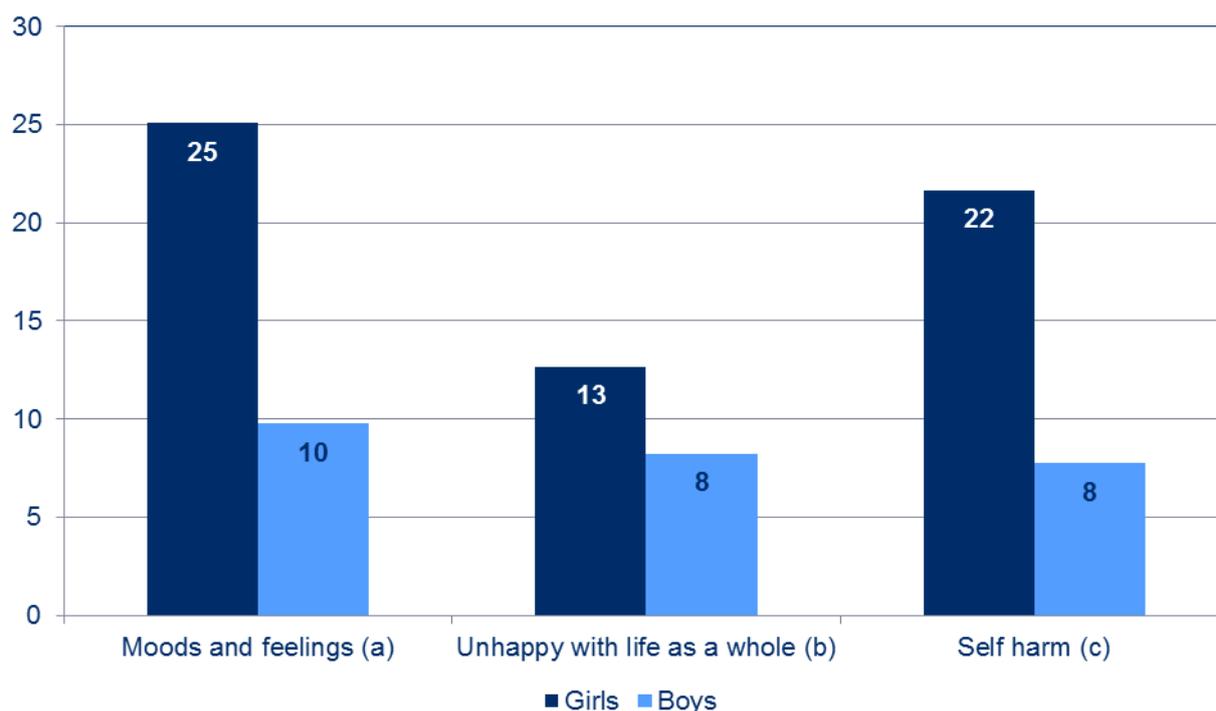
[Life satisfaction](#) for adults shows small increases over time and it is generally similar to other UK nations⁴⁶. However, in the year ending December 2017, a larger proportion of people in Wales reported low levels of life satisfaction, worthwhile and happiness compared to the UK average. For example, 4.3 per cent of people in Wales reported a score of 0 to 4 for their worthwhile ratings compared with only 3.4 per cent in the whole of the UK. However, there was no significant difference in anxiety ratings between Wales and the UK average.

⁴⁴ [Cancer Survival by Stage at Diagnosis in Wales](#), Public Health Wales

⁴⁵ [Health behaviour in school-aged children](#), Welsh Government

⁴⁶ [Personal well-being in the UK: January to December 2017](#), Office for National Statistics

3.04 Mental well-being results for boys and girls aged 14, 2015, Wales



(a) Percentage with high score (12 or more out of 26) on Moods & Feelings scale

(b) Percentage with low score (below mid-point) for happiness with life as a whole

(c) Percentage who have hurt themselves on purpose in any way in the past year

Source: Millennium Cohort Study

Girls score significantly poorer than boys on the moods and feelings scale and a higher proportion of them have self-harmed in the previous year.

Analysis of data from the School Health Research Network⁴⁷ shows that mental well-being is broadly the same for boys and girls at year 7 but by year 10 girls' mental well-being has fallen more so than for boys.

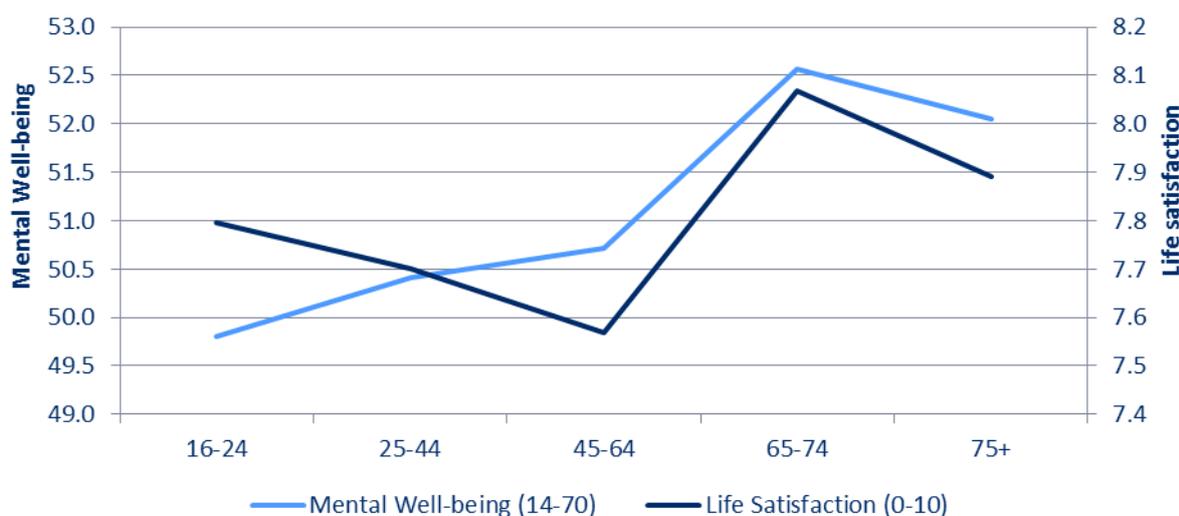
A higher percentage of boys than girls (19 per cent vs 13 per cent) reported [bullying](#)⁴⁸ another child in 2018, but this has fallen during the last decade. However, a greater percentage of girls reported being bullied than boys (38 per cent vs 33 per cent), with evidence that this has increased in the most recent years to 2018.

Overall for secondary school pupils 35 per cent had been bullied in the previous two months while 9 per cent had been bullied at least once a week.

⁴⁷ Welsh Government analysis of School Health Research Network data

⁴⁸ [Health behaviour in school-aged children](#), Welsh Government

3.05 Life satisfaction and mental well-being by age, 2016-17



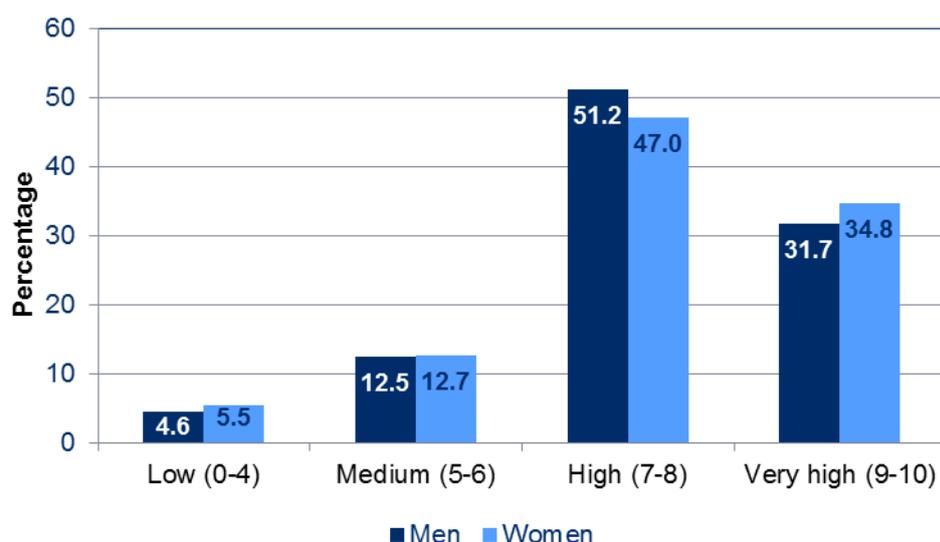
NOTE: CHART DOES NOT START AT ZERO

Source: National Survey for Wales

Whilst mental well-being continues to improve until very old ages, life satisfaction dips during middle age. The chart above shows that although young adults (16-24) have the lowest average mental well-being scores, they have higher life satisfaction scores than those aged 25-64. Average [mental well-being](#) scores for women are consistently lower than men across all age groups⁴⁹. Although life satisfaction scores are a little higher for women than men on average (7.8 vs 7.7), more women report having very low life satisfaction scores and very high life satisfaction scores as shown in the chart below.

In 2017-18, around 9 per cent of adults reported a long-standing mental disorder.

3.06 Life satisfaction by gender, 2017-18



Source: National Survey for Wales

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](#). When controlling for a range of

⁴⁹ [Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale \(WEMWBS\) by age group and gender](#), Welsh Government

factors⁵⁰, better [mental well-being](#) was found to be associated most strongly with being in good health. Not being in material deprivation and being older were also shown to be among the most important factors in good mental well-being for adults.

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 74.8 per cent for the period May to July 2018, 0.7 per cent below the UK figure. However the gap in the employment rate for those aged 16 and over between those with a long term health condition and those who do not have one persists, and was 15.9 percentage points in 2017. 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.

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 has 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.

Adverse experiences in childhood have long lasting effects, but sports participation at a young age can help resilience in later life

Results from the first Welsh [Adverse Childhood Experience \(ACE\)](#)⁵¹ study show that when comparing people who suffered four 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 [second survey](#)⁵² showed a similar pattern and that those people who have suffered four or more ACEs were 6.1 times more likely to have ever been treated for a mental illness. Having some resilience resources more than halved risks of current mental illness in those with four or more ACEs.

The ACEs report also showed that there are strong relationships between sports participation in childhood and lower lifetime mental illness. There are also associations between regular adult participation in sports and current mental illness.

⁵⁰ [National Survey for Wales, 2016-17: Further analysis of mental well-being](#), Welsh Government

⁵¹ [Public Health Wales website](#)

⁵² [Public Health Wales website](#)

The [National Survey for Wales](#)⁵³ showed that, in 2017-18, 59 per cent of people had participated in some sport or physical activity in the past 4 weeks. By far the most commonly-reported activity was to have walked more than 2 miles (33 per cent of people), followed by attending the gym or fitness classes (16 per cent), indoor swimming (13 per cent) and jogging (11 per cent). 11 per cent of adults participated in a sporting or physical activity around once a week, 8 per cent participated twice a week, and 32 per cent at least three times a week. Women were less likely to participate in sport, with 45 per cent having no frequent activity compared to 35 per cent for men.

A child's early years are a key time to help to ensure good outcomes later in life

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 decade or so. The most recent statistics for 2017 showed that 5.6 per cent of births (single babies) were low birth weight in Wales. This is the highest percentage since 2009.

A [range of factors](#)⁵⁴ 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 6.8 per cent in 2015 (this includes non singleton births) which was slightly above that of the [OECD average](#)⁵⁵ (6.5 per cent). But while the OECD average increased 0.4 percentage points between 2001 to 2015, 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](#)⁵⁶ at birth has risen from 55 per cent in 2006 to 61 per cent in 2017. Babies of older mothers are more likely to be breastfed than those of younger mothers. Breastfeeding rates have increased, although only around 60 per cent of mothers who began breastfeeding at birth are still doing so at 6-8 weeks.

The most recent figures on children's [dental health](#)⁵⁷ (aged five and twelve) both show an improvement. There has been a reduction in the proportion of children aged five with decay over the last decade or so and although the proportion of children with dental decay is higher in the most deprived areas than the least, that gap is narrowing.

For those aged twelve there have been continued reductions in the prevalence of dental caries across all deprivation quintiles between 2004 and 2017. Despite this, the ratios of dental caries for the most deprived versus the middle deprived groups appear to be widening albeit slightly.

⁵³ [National Survey for Wales](#), Welsh Government

⁵⁴ [Low Birth Weight: Review of risk factors and interventions](#), Public Health Wales

⁵⁵ [Health at a Glance 2017: Infant Health](#), OECD

⁵⁶ [Births in Wales 2006 - 2016: Data from the National Community Child Health Database](#), Welsh Government

⁵⁷ [Survey of twelve year olds oral health 2016-17](#), Cardiff University

[Teenage conceptions](#)⁵⁸ reached a record low in Wales in 2016 and have fallen dramatically since 2008. The rate for those aged under 18 has more than halved over the same time period.

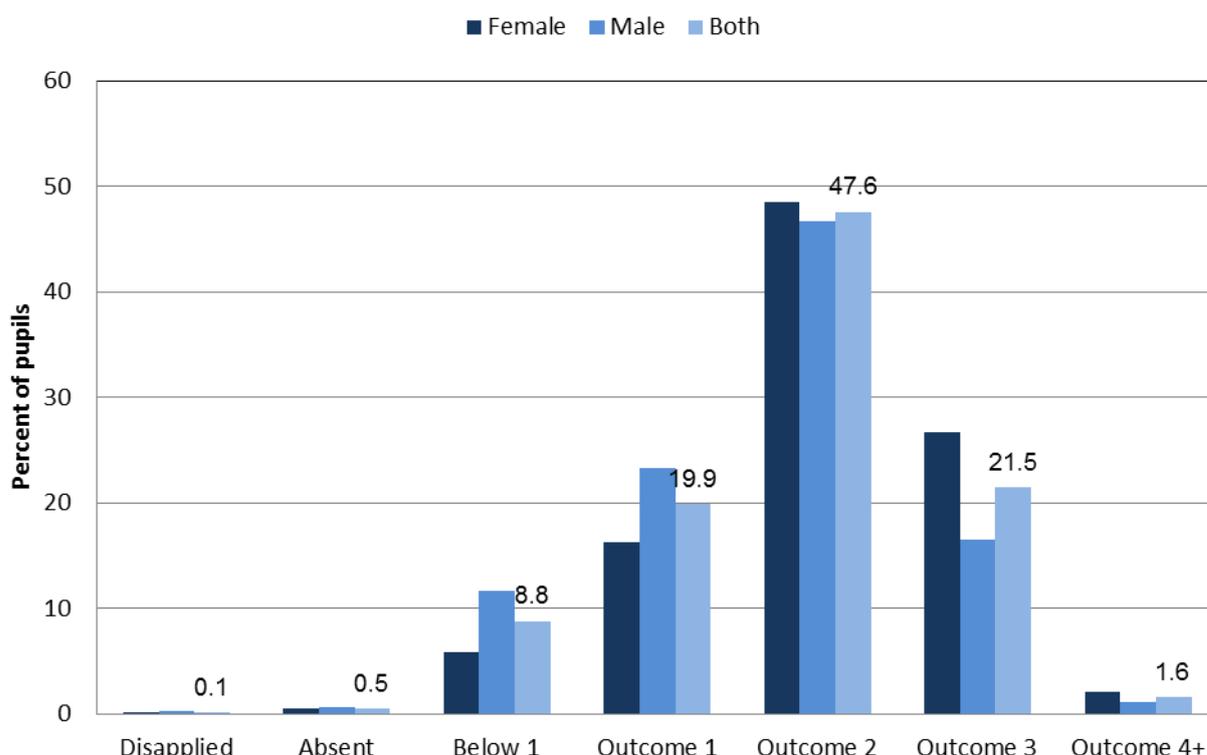
New data are available on children’s stages of development on entry into primary school

Children in Wales are assessed through the Foundation Phase Profile, during their first 6 weeks following entry into primary school (Reception Class). This is used to determine the stage of development and interests of the child according to the [Foundation Phase Profile and framework](#).

The data reflect the wide range of developmental maturity that we expect at this age, which is well within the normal range for children at entry to school, especially with the age variability at the point of school entry.

One of the areas in which children are assessed is in personal and social development, well-being and cultural diversity. Around 7 in 10 pupils aged 4 are at a stage of development in this area of learning that would be consistent with, or greater than their age according to the framework, with around 9 in 10 pupils within one stage of the development consistent with their age.

3.07 On-entry assessments of pupils in reception class: personal and social development



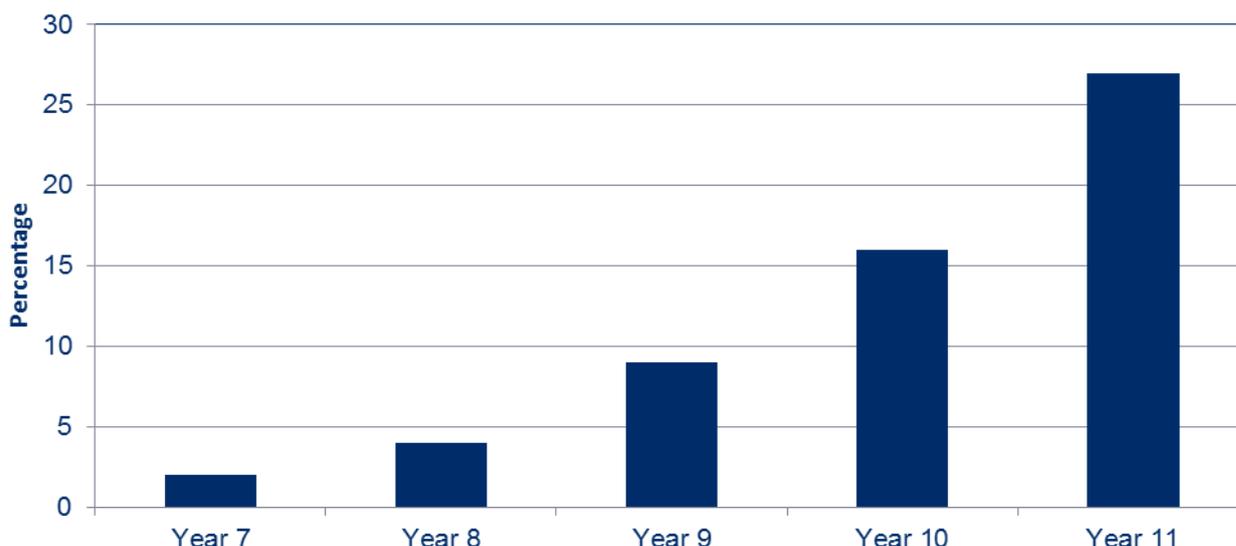
Source: On-entry assessments of pupils, Welsh Government

⁵⁸ [Conceptions in England and Wales 2016](#), Office for National Statistics

Most health behaviours begin to deteriorate in secondary school, but improve in older age

10 per cent of those aged 16 or over and 12 per cent of 11 to 16 year olds showed fewer than two healthy lifestyle behaviours (not smoking, not drinking above guidelines, consuming five fruit and veg a day, meeting physical activity guidelines and (for adults) healthy weight). For children, the number of healthy lifestyle behaviours deteriorates with age. 2 per cent of pupils in year 7 had fewer than two healthy lifestyle behaviours, increasing to 9 per cent in year 9 and 27 per cent in year 11.

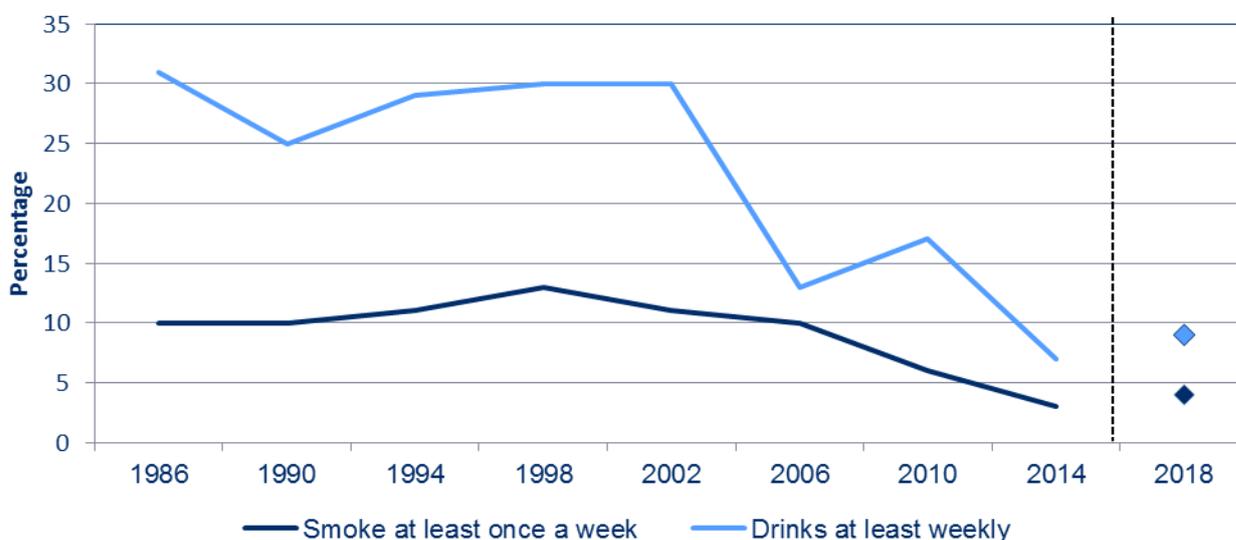
3.08 Percentage of children following fewer than two healthy lifestyle behaviours by school year, 2013/14



Source: Health Behaviour in School aged Children (HBSC)

Boys are more likely to be obese or overweight in school, with the gap widening during secondary school and until middle age, when it starts to reduce again.

3.09 Percentage of children aged 11-16 following selected health behaviours



Source: Health Behaviour in School-aged Children and School Health Research Network

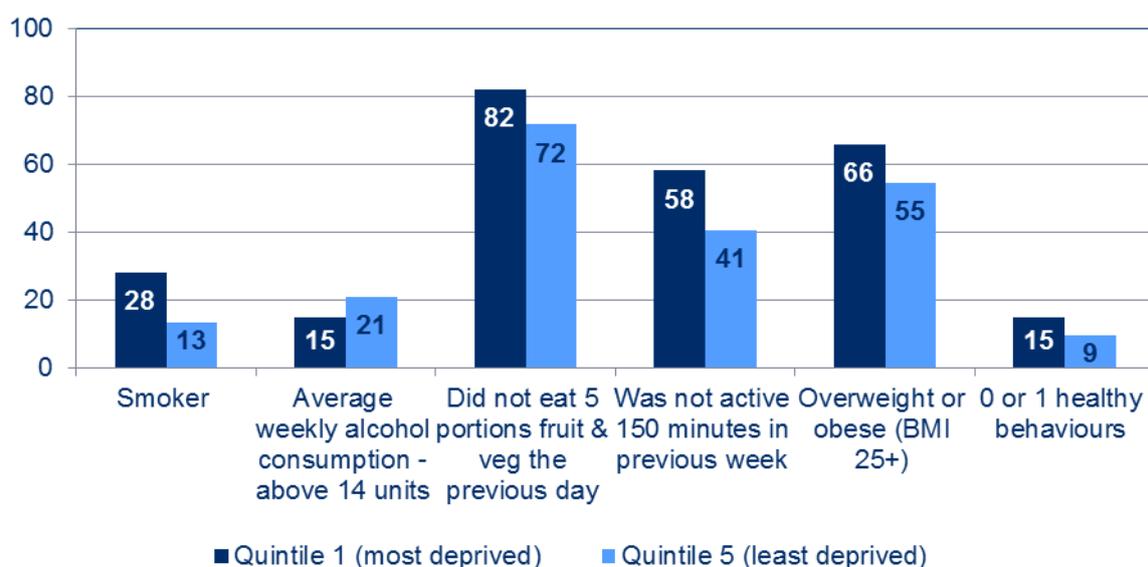
Rates of smoking⁵⁹ have declined since 1998 for 11 to 16 year olds from 13 per cent to around 4 per cent in 2017/18. Rates of drinking among young people on a weekly basis have fallen significantly between 2002 (23 per cent) and 2017/18 (9 per cent). Participation in physical activity is little changed from 2002 with boys being consistently more likely than girls to be physically active. Data for 2017/08 is provisional.

Around a third of secondary school children [walk to school](#)⁶⁰, with a slightly higher proportion of boys than girls walking to school.

[Smoking rates](#) and the percentage of people consuming excess alcohol in Wales have both gone down over time. But while there are some positive trends, challenges remain and the more deprived areas of Wales face greater challenges⁶¹. 15 per cent of adults in these areas show fewer than two healthy lifestyle behaviours compared with only 9 per cent in the least deprived areas.

Whilst almost all of the lifestyle behaviours were 'worse' in the most deprived areas, adults were less likely to drink above weekly alcohol guidelines in the most deprived areas than the least deprived areas.

3.10 Adult lifestyles by deprivation quintile, 2017-18



Source: National Survey for Wales

Those who are in material deprivation are more likely to struggle to afford a healthy diet. 2 per cent said they cannot afford to eat meals with meat, fish (or a vegetarian equivalent) at least every other day whilst 4 per cent said that there had been at least one day in the previous fortnight where they had needed to go without a substantial meal due to lack of money. Older people were less likely to be in material deprivation than young or middle-aged people.

⁵⁹ Welsh Government analysis of School Health Research Network data. Note that the figures are provisional and will be different to those which will be produced for HBSC.

⁶⁰ [Health behaviour in school-aged children](#), Welsh Government

⁶¹ [National Survey for Wales](#), Welsh Government

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).

Author: Sue Leake, Stephen Macey, Welsh Government

What have we learnt from the data in the last year?

Socio-economic disadvantage:

- There has been little change in relative poverty levels in Wales for a number of years; children are the population group most likely to be in relative poverty and whilst pensioner relative poverty has increased in the last 4 years the percentage in poverty remains well below that in the late 1990s.
- There remains a considerable gap in the educational outcomes of children in school eligible for free school meals and those who are not, with the gap widening as pupils get older. The gap at key stage 4 increased slightly in 2017.

Gender:

- In education, girls continue to achieve better educational outcomes than boys, with the gap increasing slightly amongst pupils in younger age groups in 2018.
- The gender pay gap is narrowing. But fewer women are employed in work that meets our national indicator definition of good quality employment (51.8 per cent compared with 75.2 per cent for men).
- Whilst women are more likely to volunteer and to be providing care than their male counterparts, they generally feel less safe in their communities than men.

Age:

- Latest data confirms that life satisfaction scores dip for those in their middle age (45–64), and that those aged 16 to 64 are more likely to report being lonely than those aged 65 and over.
- Those in younger age groups are more likely to be participating in arts and sporting activities but volunteering increases in the older age groups.
- Young people aged 16-24 are at a higher risk of being victims of crime (including violent crime) and are least likely to feel safe walking in their local area after dark.

Ethnicity:

- Latest data continues to show some differences in educational attainment between ethnic groups, with a higher proportion of children from Asian, Chinese or mixed ethnicities reaching expected levels of attainment than those from a White background.
- Whilst we do not have detailed breakdowns for different ethnicities, the latest data shows that non-White ethnicity is linked with a greater likelihood of relative income poverty.
- The Black and Ethnic minority population are still under-represented in local political life but appear to be engaged with arts and cultural activities.

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

Religion:

- There is limited new data this year about experiences of those of different religions in Wales. However, following the local government elections in 2017 it appears that those with no religion and those with a religion other than Christianity remain under-represented in local political life.
- There has been some increase in the number of hate crimes recorded as motivated by religion, though these still represent a small proportion of all hate crime.

Sexual orientation:

- Latest estimates show that 1.7 per cent of the Welsh population identify themselves as lesbian, gay or bisexual.
- Evidence suggests that the LGB population may have a slightly lower sense of community in their local area than others but are more likely to participate in local political life.
- One in six of all recorded hate crimes in Wales are judged to have been related to sexual orientation, though Stonewall Cymru research indicates that many such incidents are not reported to the police.

Disability:

- The employment rate among disabled adults aged 16-64 remains lower than among those who are not disabled and the gap has remained stable in recent years.
- Living with a person who has a disability continues to make relative income poverty more likely for working age people and for children.
- Living with a disability or limiting longstanding illness can negatively affect feelings of satisfaction with life, safety in a local area and sense of community.

Marital status:

- Latest data confirms that being married or in a civil partnership can be good for your well-being, with well-being indicators higher for these groups than for those who are single, separated, divorced or widowed.
- Those who are divorced, separated or never married are still more likely to struggle financially, with being separated or divorced in particular being linked to material deprivation.
- Single parent households were more likely to be in material deprivation than other types of households. Half of single parent households reported being in material deprivation in 2016-17.

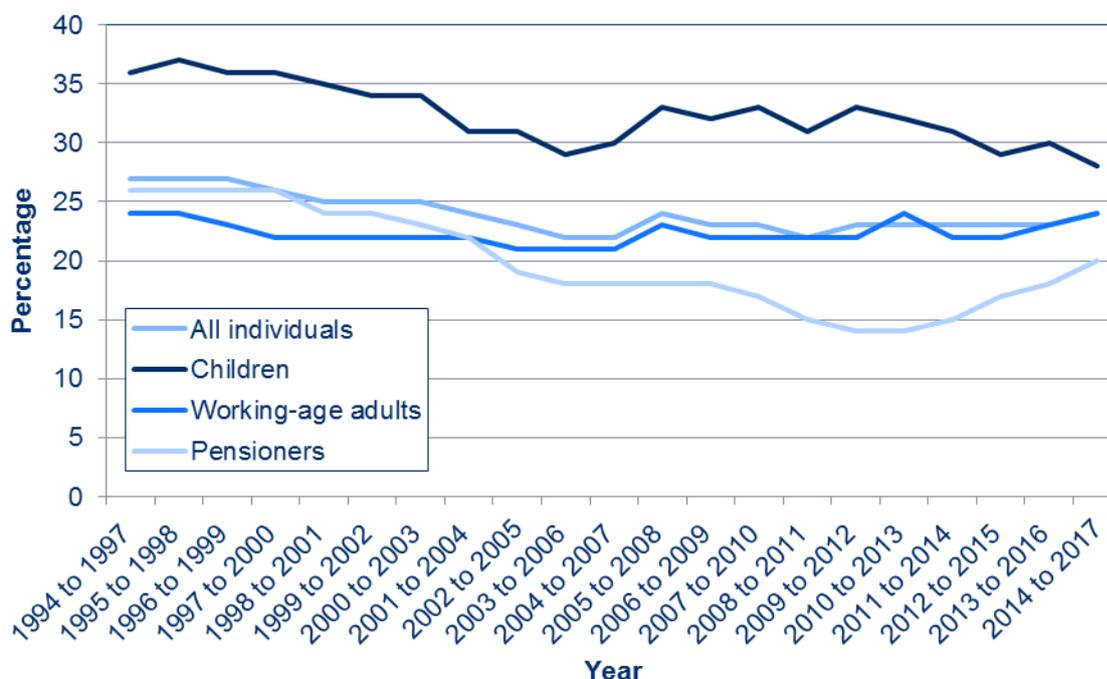
Socio-economic disadvantage

For many years now, nearly a quarter of the people living in Wales have been living in poverty and the latest data reinforces this.

Between 2014-15 and 2016-17, [nearly a quarter](#) of all people in Wales (24 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).

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.

4.01 Percentage of all people, children, pensioners and working-age adults living in relative income poverty in Wales, 1994 to 2017



Source: Households Below Average Income, Office for National Statistics

Children are the population group most likely to be in relative income poverty. The [most recent figures](#) (2014-15 to 2016-17) show that 28 per cent of children in Wales were living in relative income poverty after housing costs were paid, which equates to a two percentage point fall relative to the previous time period.

20 per cent of pensioners in Wales live in relative income poverty over the period 2014-15 to 2016-17, a two percentage point increase on the previous period, and a higher figure than that observed among the other devolved nations of the UK. The percentage of pensioners living in relative income poverty has been rising for the past 4 periods but it is still below what it was in the mid to late 1990s and also remains lower than for other age groups.

In 2017-18, 16 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), with this the case for a higher percentage of females (18 per cent) relative to males (14 per cent). Further analysis of National Survey results in 2016-17⁶² shows that, when other factors are held constant, the strongest predictors of being in material deprivation were:

- Long term limiting illness
- Living in social housing
- Unemployed/no-one working in the household
- Single adult household (with or without children)
- No qualifications

The following were also strongly linked to being in material deprivation:

- Low life satisfaction
- Low mental well-being

Single parent households were more likely to be in material deprivation than other types of households; half of single parent households were in material deprivation in 2016-17 compared to one in five households with two adults and children, and less than one in ten of households comprising two adults with no children.

Of those who are parents, 7 per cent have children who would be classed as materially deprived. Children living in social housing were more likely to be in material deprivation than those in private rented accommodation or owner occupied homes.

Those who are in material deprivation are more likely to struggle to afford a healthy diet, with the latest National Survey for Wales results showing that 12 per cent of those in material deprivation reported that they had had at least one day in the last fortnight when they had had no substantial meal due to lack of money. Last year's NSW figures (2016-17) indicated that 6 per cent of this materially deprived population were in a household that had received food from a food bank in the last year.

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.

⁶²[National Survey for Wales, 2016-17: Poverty](#)

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 born into deprived families will have shorter healthy life expectancy. This is reflected in the healthy life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived areas of Wales and this hasn't changed in the most recent years. More recent analysis by the Office for National Statistics⁶³ shows that the gap between the most and least deprived (using deprivation deciles rather than quintiles) remained broadly similar over recent years.

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, whilst figures from the 2017-18 [National Survey for Wales](#) show households in material deprivation are more likely to be overweight or obese (BMI 25+), and they are less likely to report being in very good/good general health⁶⁴.

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 30 per cent higher) in the most deprived fifth of areas in Wales compared with the middle fifth.

In addition, the 2016-17 [child measurement programme](#)⁶⁵ 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.

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. National Survey for Wales data also show that parents in multiple deprived households are less likely to be supporting their children with school work, and also have less confidence to do so.

At Key Stage 4 the gap between free school meal pupils and others has narrowed in recent years, although there was a slight increase in 2017 (to a gap of 32.3 percentage points) relative to 2016.

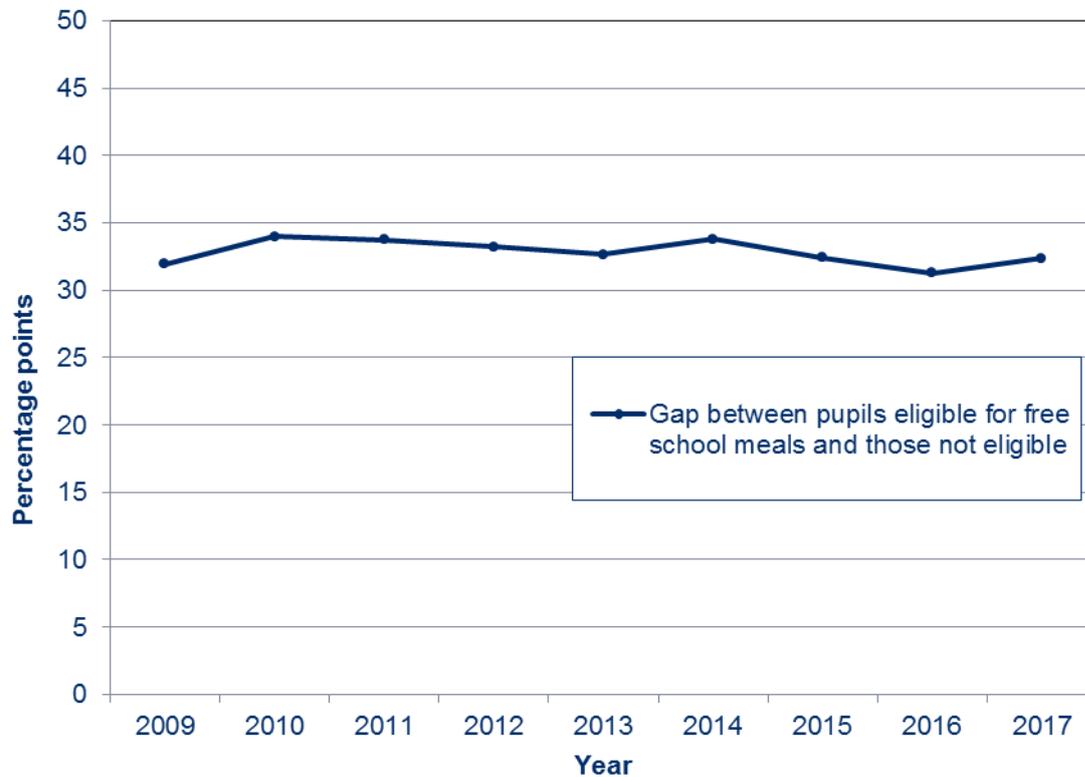
⁶³ [Health state life expectancies by national deprivation deciles, England and Wales: 2014 to 2016](#), Office for National Statistics

⁶⁴ [National Survey for Wales, 2016-17: Poverty](#)

⁶⁵ [Child Measurement Programme for Wales](#), Public Health Wales

Inequalities also exist for children receiving care and support, again with the gap increasing as pupils get older. At March 2017 the percentage of children receiving care and support achieving the Level 2 inclusive measure at Key Stage 4 (12 per cent) is less than a quarter of the percentage for all pupils (55 per cent).

4.02 Pupils achieving the L2 threshold (including English or Welsh first language and Mathematics) at KS4, by year and free school meal eligibility, 2009 to 2017



Source: Welsh Examination Database

The educational qualifications achieved before university are the single biggest factor for whether someone goes onto higher education. However recent research⁶⁶ revealed that young people from disadvantaged areas are less likely to go onto higher education even when they have the same qualifications as someone from a less disadvantaged area. The same is true for young people eligible for free school meals.

⁶⁶ [The effect of schools on school leavers' university participation](#), Journal of School Effectiveness and Improvement

Gender

Life expectancy is still longer for girls than for boys but they can expect to spend a lower portion of their life in good health

[Life expectancy](#)⁶⁷ 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. A girl born in Wales between 2014 and 2016 could expect to live to her 82nd birthday while a boy could expect to reach his 78th.

However, females can expect to spend a lower proportion of their life in good health than males, as the number of years they may expect to live in good health (healthy life expectancy) differs little (62.7 years for females compared to 61.6 years for males).

Females are more likely to suffer from ill health of varying types, including mental health conditions

From year 9 onwards more girls report [fair/poor health](#) than boys⁶⁸. At age 11 (year 7) the proportion of boys and girls reporting poor health is the same (one in seven), but by age 16 (year 11) there is a gap – with one in three girls reporting poor health compared to one in four boys.

Average [mental well-being](#) scores for women are consistently lower than men across all age groups⁶⁹. 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 range⁷⁰.

Although life satisfaction scores are a little higher for women (7.8) than men (7.7) on average, more women report having [very low](#) life satisfaction scores and [very high](#) life satisfaction scores.

Self-rated [life satisfaction](#)⁷¹ decreases for girls from year 7 (aged 11) through to year 11 (aged 16) and is notably lower than boys.

There are some [reported differences](#) in lifestyles between men and women that can affect health. Findings from the 2017-18 National Survey for Wales show 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 twice as likely to drink alcohol above the recommended guidelines and more likely to smoke than women. A higher percentage of men are overweight, whereas women are slightly more likely to be obese.

⁶⁷ [Health state life expectancies, UK: 2014 to 2016](#), Office for National Statistics

⁶⁸ [Health behaviour in school-aged children](#), Welsh Government

⁶⁹ [Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale \(WEMWBS\) by age group and gender](#), Welsh Government

⁷⁰ [User Requested Data: Suicide in England and Wales, 2015 registrations](#), Office for National Statistics

⁷¹ [Health behaviour in school-aged children](#), Welsh Government

New data are available on children’s stages of development on entry into primary school

Children in Wales are assessed through the Foundation Phase Profile, during their first 6 weeks following entry into primary school (Reception Class). This is used to determine the stage of development and interests of the child according to the Foundation Phase Profile and framework.

The data reflect the wide range of developmental maturity that we expect at this age, which is well within the normal range for children at entry to school, especially with the age variability at the point of school entry.

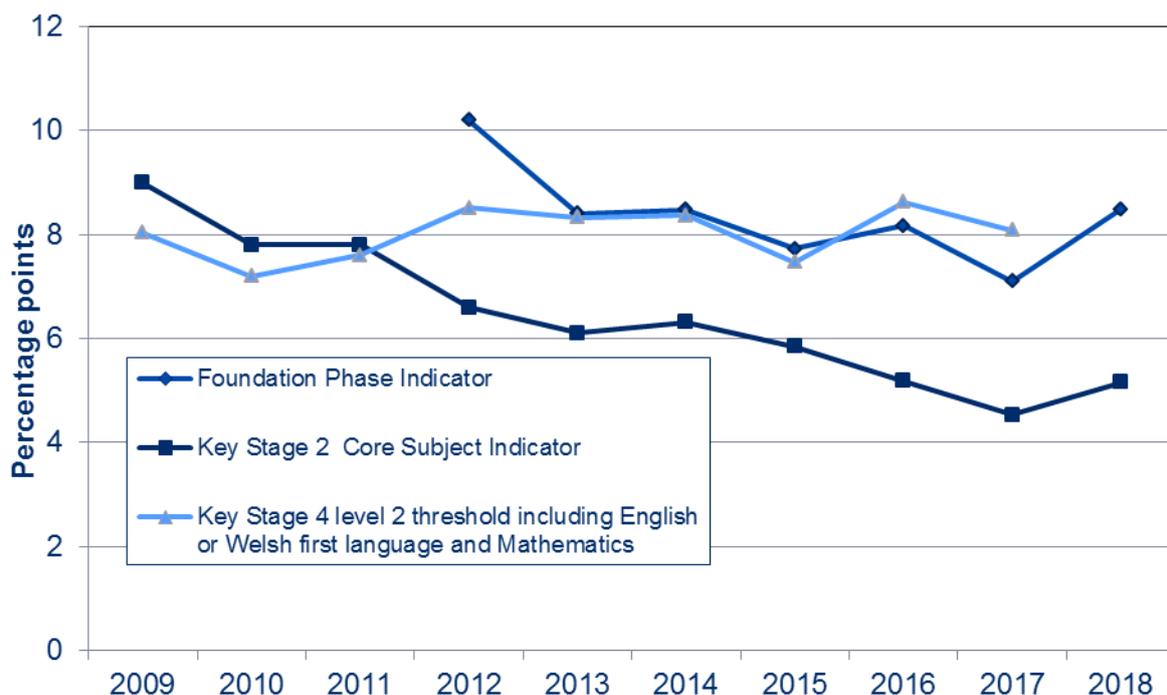
For all areas of learning there is a different distribution pattern of developmental progress for boys compared with girls as they mature at different rates and on average girls are at a higher stage of development. This is consistent with other studies such as the Millennium Cohort Study and data from the Schedule of Growing Skills collected under the Flying Start programme.

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 expected outcomes. The gap initially narrows up to Key Stage 2 but then grows as pupils get older.

At the end of the Foundation Phase in 2018 the gap was 8.5 percentage points. Traditionally, the smallest gap between boys and girls has been at the end of Key Stage 2 (the end of primary schooling), and in 2018 the gap at that point was 5.2 percentage points. At the end of Key Stage 4, the gap was 8.1 percentage points in 2017.

4.03 Gap in pupil achievement between boys and girls, by key stage, 2009 to 2018



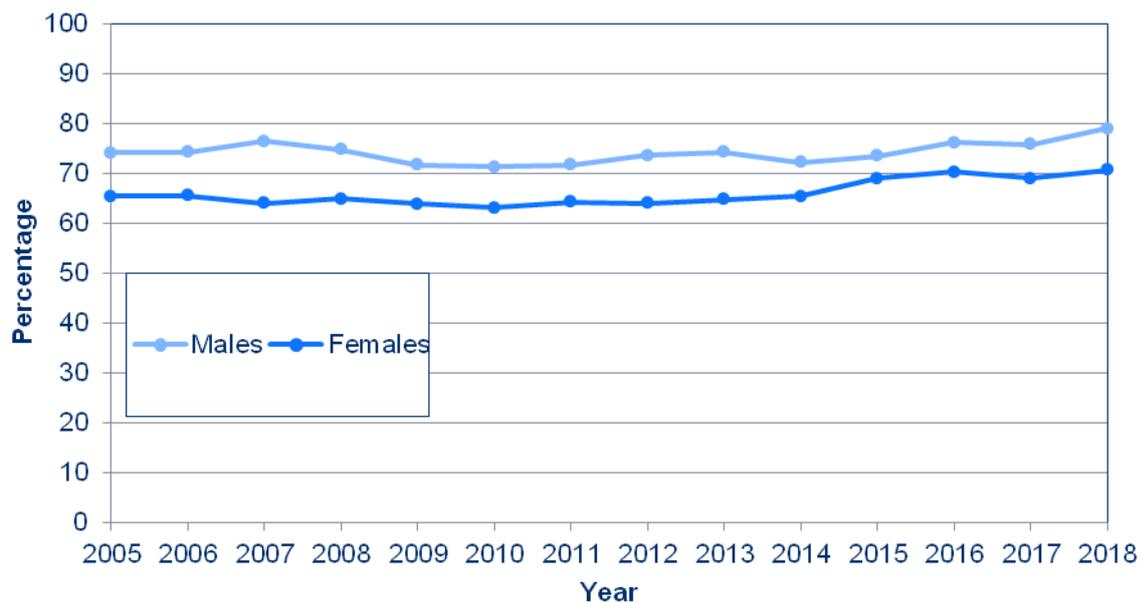
Source: National teacher assessment data collection, Welsh Government

In terms of the highest qualifications held by the working-age population while the same proportion of males and females hold no qualifications (9 per cent), 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).

As in other parts of the UK, the employment rates in Wales are lower for women than for men

As across the rest of the UK, [employment rates](#) in Wales are lower for women than for men, 70.6 per cent for women and 78.9 per cent for men in July 2018⁷². Economic [inactivity rates](#) are higher for women (26.7 per cent) than men (17.6 per cent)⁷³. Gender differences for employment and inactivity rates are smaller in Wales than they are for the UK as a whole. Estimates of unemployment rates are more volatile, sometimes showing a lower rate for women than men, and sometimes higher; for the whole of the UK they are roughly equal.

4.04 Employment rate (percentage of the population age 16-64) by gender and year, 2005 to 2018 (rates for May to July)



Source: Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics

Males had a higher self-employment rate than females for the year ending 31 March 2018, whereas with regards to part-time employment female rates were far higher than the male equivalent over this period.

In terms of 16-18 year olds, a higher proportion of females in Wales were in education, employment or training than males for each of the past 5 years (2013-17), with the opposite generally the case among individuals aged 19-24 though the gap has narrowed in recent years.

⁷² [Labour Force Survey](#), Office for National Statistics

⁷³ [Labour Force Survey](#), Office for National Statistics

The gender pay gap has narrowed

The gender pay gap has continued to narrow and has done so more quickly than for the UK as a whole.

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 available data for the last three years show a fluctuating picture, and we do not have a long-enough series for this new indicator to discern a clear trend. At the end of 2017 63.5 per cent of people in work in Wales earned more than two thirds of the UK median wage. For women the proportion was significantly lower (51.8 per cent) than for men (75.2 per cent).

The most recent data for Wales show that the [pay gap](#) between genders continues to narrow and is at its lowest since the comparable records began in 1997⁷⁴. The pay gap, based on median full-time hourly earnings, stood at 6.3 per cent in 2017, down from 7.9 per cent in 2016. Of the 11 UK countries and regions where men earn more than women, Wales has the smallest pay gap, while in Northern Ireland women earn more than men on average, resulting in a “negative” gender pay gap. For part-time employees in Wales, women are paid 7.0 per cent more on average, than men, the third largest negative pay gap behind London and Northern Ireland.

Age is an important feature of the gender pay gap. There are small pay gaps in favour of men for ages 18-29 and in favour of women for ages 30-39. From 40+ the gap opens significantly with men earning substantially more than women on average (40-49: 12.7 per cent; 50-59: 10.9 per cent; 60+: 18.2 per cent). 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.

Female applicants approaching a local authority for support with their housing are more likely to be assessed as threatened with homelessness and successfully prevented from becoming homeless than males; but of those actually assessed as homeless more than half are male applicants

The applicant was female in the majority of cases where households were both successfully prevented from homelessness (under Section 66 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014) and positively discharged (under Section 75) at 65 per cent and 68 per cent respectively. The situation was reversed however for those households assessed as homeless (under Section 73) where in 55 per cent of cases the applicant was male.

For homeless households positively discharged (found accommodation) under Section 75, this may be partly due to the fact that the most commonly stated priority need category during 2017-18 was the presence in the household of dependent children or a pregnant woman (which accounted for 45 per cent of all Section 75 assessments during 2017-18).

⁷⁴ [Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings](#), Office for National Statistics

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 2016-17, 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](#)⁷⁵ 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 2016-17 findings for Wales and England combined show that women were much more likely than men to have experienced domestic abuse (since age 16, and in the last year) and more than five times as likely to have experienced sexual assault (since age 16).

Across England and Wales a higher percentage of boys aged 10 to 15 relative to girls of the same age experienced [victimisation](#) in the last year (ending March 2018)⁷⁶ with this the case for the categories of all violence, all thefts and all crime.

The latest Home Office figures on the number of offences currently recorded as homicides in England and Wales (2016-17) shows a higher number of male victims than female victims.

Stonewall Cymru [research](#) indicates that almost one in four LGBT people (23 per cent) say they have experienced a hate crime or incident due to their sexual orientation and/or gender identity in the last 12 months; with half of trans people (52 per cent) saying they had experienced a hate crime or incident because of their gender identity in the last 12 months⁷⁷.

There tends to be quite a difference in the amount and type of participation in sporting or 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.

School Sports Surveys have shown that a higher proportion of male pupils take part in organised sports activity (i.e. extracurricular activity or club sport) regularly (three or more times a week) than female pupils (in 2015, the figures were 52 per cent of boys compared to 44 per cent of girls).

⁷⁵ [Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2018](#), Office for National Statistics

⁷⁶ [Crime in England and Wales: Annual Trend and Demographic Tables](#), Office for National Statistics

⁷⁷ [LGBT in Wales – Hate Crime and Discrimination](#), Stonewall Cymru

Women are more likely to volunteer and to be providing care to others than their male counterparts

The National Survey for Wales results (2017-18) show that women are more likely than men to volunteer (30 per cent of women volunteer compared to 26 per cent of men) though the kind of volunteering can be very different. Women were found to most likely volunteer at a charitable organisation (11 per cent) or a school or young persons group (10 per cent), whereas volunteering among men was more likely to take place at a sports club (11 per cent).

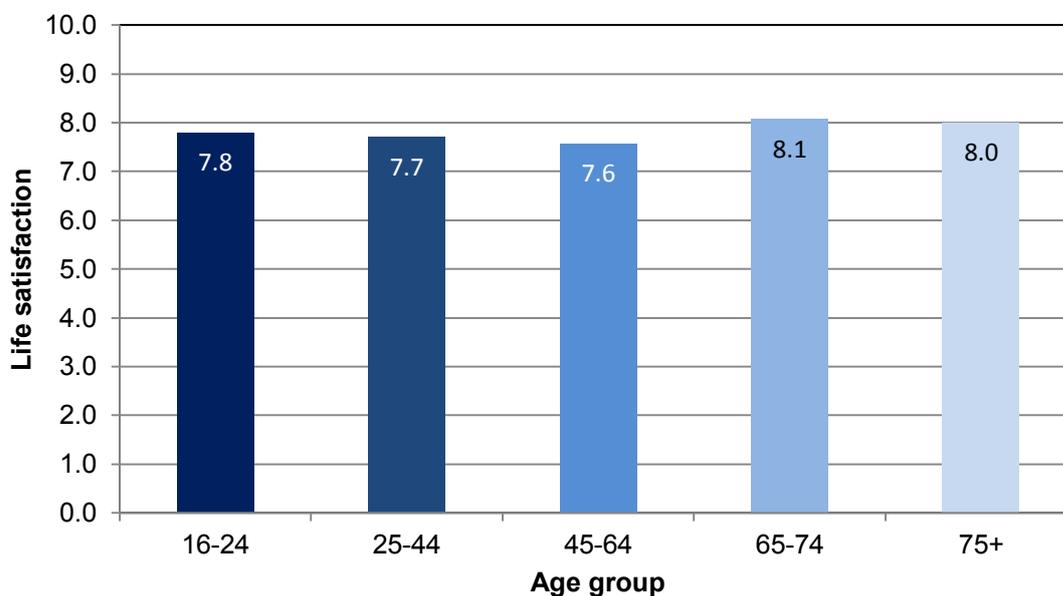
In addition, a higher percentage of women say they provide care to others (family, friends of neighbours) (27 per cent) compared to men (24 per cent).

Age disparities

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

[Research⁷⁸](#) 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 [2017-18 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 (8.0), and the lowest for 45-64 (7.6).

4.05 Life satisfaction by age group, 2017-18



Source: National Survey for Wales, 2017-18

In keeping with the above findings the age group of 65-74 also scored highest with regards to whether they felt their life is worthwhile and whether they felt happy yesterday, as well as scoring low in terms of feeling anxious yesterday.

⁷⁸ [How does getting older change the way we feel about our lives?](#), Office for National Statistics

Whilst mental well-being continues to improve until very old ages, life satisfaction dips during middle age. Although young adults (16-24) have the lowest average mental well-being scores, the chart above shows that they have higher life satisfaction scores than those aged 25-64⁷⁹.

The National Survey for Wales now includes a series of questions to assess levels of loneliness. Based on these, 16 per cent of people in Wales were found to be lonely in 2017-18. 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 12 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. Indeed the [Local Government Candidates Survey 2017](#) found that half of all candidates were aged 60 years or older, whilst among elected councillors, 47 per cent of county and 55 per cent of community councillors were aged 60 years or older

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, 17 per cent of working-age adults were in relative income poverty between 2014-15 and 2016-17.

National Survey for Wales results also reflect this distinction between working age and pensioner households. 6 per cent of pensioners were classified as materially deprived in 2016-17 compared to 19 per cent of non-pensioner adults.

⁷⁹ [Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale \(WEMWBS\) by age group and gender](#), Welsh Government

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 all crime (including violent crime) according to the [Crime Survey for England and Wales](#)⁸⁰, with the 16-24 year age group experiencing the highest rates and those aged over 65 years experiencing the lowest rates of crime in Wales during the last 12 months up to March 2018. The 2016-17 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.

Those in younger age groups are also more likely to be victims of sexual assault, with the negative relationship between age and prevalence of sexual assault holding true irrespective of gender across England and Wales in 2017. Furthermore, [research](#) by the Office for National Statistics⁸¹ shows young women in England and Wales aged between 16 and 19 years (7.6 per cent) and 20 and 24 years (7.4 per cent) were significantly more likely to have experienced partner abuse in the 12 months before interview than women aged between 45 and 54 years (5.6 per cent) and 55 and 59 years (4.4 per cent). These findings cover the period year ending March 2015 to year ending March 2017.

The employment rate is highest in the 25 to 49 age group whilst the increase previously seen in the employment rate for those aged 65 and over may now be tapering off

The employment rate in Wales for the year ending 31 March 2018 was highest among individuals aged 25 to 49, with this the case for both males and females. Amongst the working age population, employment rates were lowest in the 16 to 24 age group. In terms of employment among older age groups in Wales, the rate for those aged 65 and over was 9.2 for the year ending 31 March 2018; lower than it was two years previously (10.0) but much higher than the rates observed for 2009-10 (6.9) and 2004-05 (4.9).

General health and lifestyle indicators change throughout life, with recent evidence that those aged between 55 and 64 are most likely to drink alcohol about the recommended levels on a weekly basis

As expected, older individuals are more likely to report being in poor health or having at least one long-standing illness or disability and this is the case according to the National Survey for Wales. The 2017-18 National Survey for Wales results also show that weekly alcohol consumption above recommended levels is highest among those aged 55-64 (23 per cent) but lowest for those aged 75 or over (12 per cent) Conversely, a lower percentage of individuals aged 55+ in Wales are smokers relative to younger members of the population.

⁸⁰ [Crime in England and Wales, year ending March 2018](#), ONS

⁸¹ [Sexual Offences in England and Wales: year ending March 2017](#), Office for National Statistics

Participation in arts and sports declines in older age groups, but volunteering increases

Older individuals in Wales are less likely to attend and participate in arts events relative to younger aged individuals; with those aged 16–24 years twice as likely to have attended an arts event in the last year as those aged 75 or over. Those in older age groups are also less likely to participate in sport activities 3 or more times a week, be a member of a sports club and volunteer in sports.

Latest National Survey results show that those aged 25-44 are least likely to volunteer, with this the case for just a quarter of this age group. The prevalence of volunteering is highest among individuals aged 65-74 years, with 35 per cent of this age group saying that they volunteer, closely followed by younger adults aged 16-24 years (34 per cent of whom volunteer).

In terms of caring for other family members, friends, neighbours or others with ill health or disability, those in the 45-64 age group are the most likely to be spending time doing this (one third of them); though around a quarter of those between 65 and 74 also provide this kind of care for others.

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 21.5 per cent and 53.0 per cent of pupils respectively achieving level 2 inclusive at Key stage 4, compared with 58.7 per cent for the White group overall, in the period 2015-17. 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](#)⁸², suggested a range of factors including socio-economic disadvantage and Special Educational Need 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 2017 a higher proportion of ethnic minority adults (12 per cent) aged 18-64 possessed no qualification relative to white adults (9 per cent) of the same age. The equivalent figures in 2012 were 15 per cent and 11 per cent so both ethnicities have experienced a fall over this period.

⁸² [Ethnic minority pupils](#), Welsh Government

In 2016/17, [10.0 per cent of students](#) enrolling at Welsh Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and the Open University (OU) were from Black and Minority Ethnic group (BME) backgrounds⁸³; a higher proportion than the share of the population of that age group from BME backgrounds in Wales. [Research](#)⁸⁴ 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.

Detailed data about employment and ethnicity are not available. However, data from the 2011 Census shows, 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).

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

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. In recent years, for children the likelihood of being in relative income poverty if you are in a household with a non-white head of household is twice as much as if you were in household with a white head of household.⁸⁵

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 National Survey for Wales 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 2016-17, suggests that this may be changing though further research is required into whether this is the case.

Those who identify as White are somewhat less likely to report that they feel lonely (1 in 6 of them report feeling lonely) than those who do not identify as White (1 in 4).

⁸³ [Student enrolments, from the UK, in Wales by ethnicity, level and mode of study](#), Welsh Government

⁸⁴ [Access to Higher Education in Wales](#), Wales Institute of Social & Economic Research, Data & Methods

⁸⁵ [Poverty Statistics](#), Welsh Government

The Black and Ethnic minority population are still under-represented in local political life but appear to be engaged with arts and cultural activities

Data from the [Local Government Candidates Survey 2017](#)⁸⁶ shows that candidates from ethnic minority backgrounds are under-represented in local political life, with just 1.8 per cent of county councillors and 1.2 per cent of community councillors stated they were from non-white ethnic groups. There has been some improvement, however, as this percentage was just 0.6 per cent back in 2012.

A higher proportion of the non-White population in Wales attended or participated in an arts, culture or heritage activity at least three times in the last year (80 per cent) than those who are White (75 per cent).

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 71 per cent of [hate crimes](#)⁸⁷ recorded in Wales in 2016-17. There was a 19 per cent increase in reported race hate crimes between 2015-16 and 2016-17.

Data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales generally shows that a smaller proportion of White people reported a fear of crime compared with Asian people, Black people, and those from the Other ethnic group and that Asian people and those from the Other ethnic group had the highest levels of [fear of crime](#).⁸⁸

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.

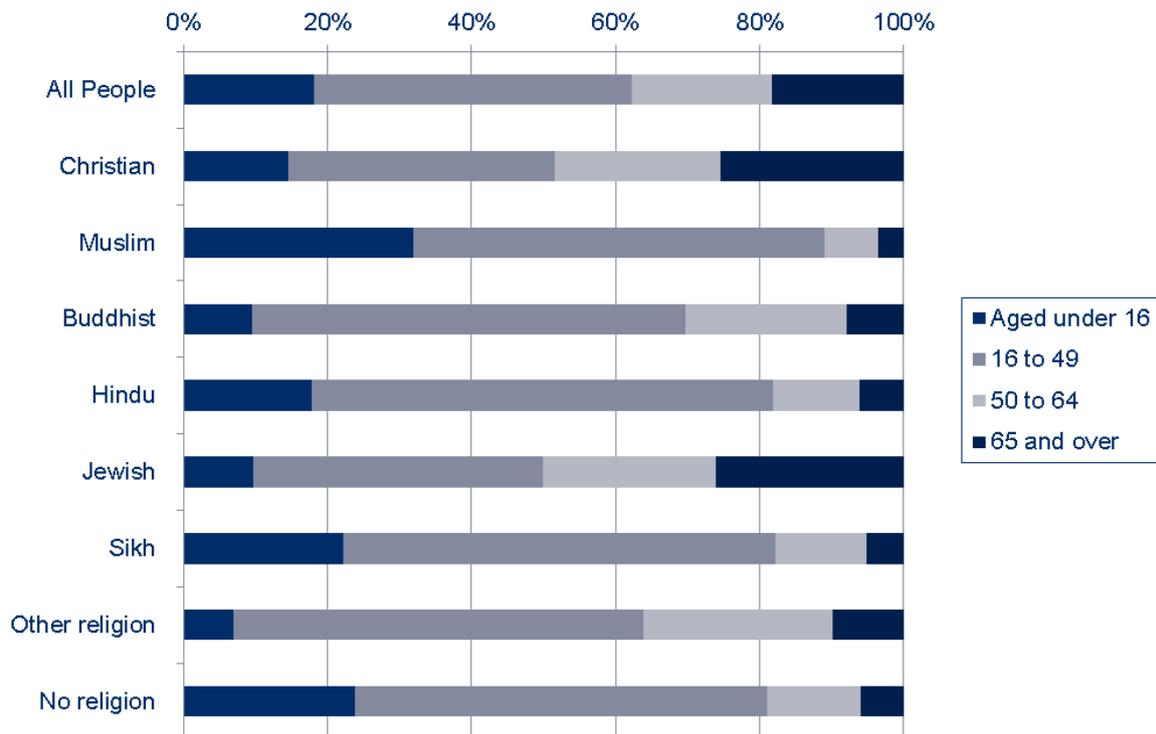
There was variation in the age profile of each religious group. Christians and Jews had a much older population compared to Wales overall. In contrast, Muslims had a much younger population. Those stating a minority religious group had a high proportion of people in the working age (16-64) category and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

⁸⁶ [Local Government Candidates Survey](#), Welsh Government

⁸⁷ Police Recorded Crime, [Open Data Tables for Hate Crime](#)

⁸⁸ [Fear of crime](#), Home Office via GOV.UK

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 2016-17 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.

There has been some increase in the number of hate crimes being recorded as motivated by religion but these still represent quite a small proportion of all hate crimes

There was a 3 per cent rise in the number of religious hate crimes recorded by the police in Wales between 2015-16 and 2016-17. Religion was judged to be a motivating factor in 4 per cent of hate crimes recorded Wales in 2016-17⁸⁹.

Those with no religion or with a religion other than Christianity appear to be under-represented in local political life, compared with their presence in the population

In the local government elections in May 2017⁹⁰, around two thirds of candidates (64 per cent) reported they were Christian (all denominations), while 34 per cent had no religion, and 2 per cent answered "other" (including Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim Sikh and 'any other' religion). The proportion of those actually elected as county councillors or community councillors saying that they were Christian was slightly higher, at 66 per cent and 69 per cent respectively. Given that 58 per cent of the population said they were Christian at the last Census (2011), those with no religion or a religion other than Christianity appear to be somewhat under-represented.

⁸⁹ [Police recorded crime ONS](#)

⁹⁰ [Local Elections in Wales, May 2017](#), The Electoral Commission

Sexual orientation

Figures for 2016⁹¹ show 95.2 per cent of the population of Wales identify as heterosexual, with 1.7 per cent identifying as lesbian, gay or bisexual.

There is limited data available on the experience of the lesbian, gay or bisexual population in Wales. The evidence that does exist from national data sources suggests that the lesbian, gay or bisexual population may have a slightly lower sense of community with their local area than others but are more likely to participate in local political life.

Whilst earlier [results for the UK](#)⁹² as a whole (2013-2015) on personal well-being indicated that 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 latest results in Wales from the National Survey show little difference.

The 2016-17 National Survey for Wales data suggests a slightly lower sense of community amongst those who do not identify as heterosexual compared to those who do. This holds true of each of the following elements of that 'sense of community':

- feeling they belong to the local area,
- agreeing that people in the local area from different backgrounds get on
- agreeing that people in their area treat each other with respect and
- agreeing that people have a sense of community

However, LGB candidates were relatively well represented in the [local government elections](#) in May 2017⁹³, with 5 per cent of candidates identifying as lesbian, gay or bisexual and 1 per cent as 'other'. In fact 7.1 per cent of county councillors elected identified as LGB and 3.7 per cent of community councillors.

One in six of all recorded hate crimes in Wales are judged to have been related to sexual orientation, though Stonewall Cymru research indicates that many such incidents are not reported to the police

The latest data on recorded hate crimes reported to the police in Wales where sexual orientation was judged to be a motivating factor show a 24 per cent increase (to 461 recorded crimes in 2016-17) compared to a year earlier. Sexual orientation was judged to be a motivating factor in 16 per cent of hate crimes recorded in Wales in 2016-17.

However [research](#)⁹⁴ undertaken by Stonewall Cymru within the LGBT community indicates that four in five LGBT people (82 per cent) who experienced a hate crime or incident didn't report the incident to the police. Their research indicates that almost one in four LGBT people (23 per cent) say they have experienced a hate crime or incident due to their sexual orientation and/or gender identity in the last 12 months.

There is some evidence from the National Survey that those adults who are lesbian, gay or bisexual feel less safe in their local area after dark or travelling on public transport after dark.

⁹¹ [Sexual orientation](#), Welsh Government

⁹² [Personal well-being and sexual identity in the UK: 2013 to 2015](#), Office for National Statistics

⁹³ [Local Government Candidates Survey](#), Welsh Government

⁹⁴ [LGBT in Wales – Hate Crime and Discrimination](#), Stonewall Cymru

[Stonewall Cymru](#) also report⁹⁵ that a third of LGBT employees in Wales hid or disguised that they are LGBT at work in the last year because they were afraid of discrimination; three in ten trans people have been the target of negative comments or conduct from their work colleagues because of their identity and one in four bi people are not out to anyone at work.

There continues to be limited data available on the experience of the transgender population in Wales, though some information is available in the [Stonewall School Report Cymru \(2017\)](#)⁹⁶ about young people's experience of bullying and self-harm.

Disability

Life satisfaction is generally lower for people with a disability or limiting long-standing illness than for those without.

National Survey for Wales data demonstrates that life satisfaction was generally lower for people with a disability or limiting long-standing illness (mean score in 2017-18 was 7.2) than for those without (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 long-standing 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 2016-17 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).

The latest data on recorded hate crimes in Wales where disability was judged to be a motivating factor show a 39 per cent increase (to 338 recorded crimes in 2016-17) compared to a year earlier. Disability was judged to be a motivating factor in one in ten hate crimes recorded Wales in 2016-17.

For [Wales and England combined](#)⁹⁷ in 2016-2017, 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 (15.9 per cent and 8.5 per cent respectively), compared with those without a long-term illness or disability (5.9 per cent and 3.7 per cent respectively). Over this period individuals in England and Wales with a long-standing illness or disability were also more likely to be a victim of all types of violence as well as sexual assault specifically, relative to individuals without any such condition. Furthermore, a higher percentage of children in England and Wales aged 10 to 15 with a long-standing illness or disability experienced victimisation in the last year (ending March 2017), whilst adults aged 16+ with a long-standing illness or disability were more likely to experience anti-social behaviour over this period.

⁹⁵ [LGBT in Wales – Work Report](#), Stonewall Cymru

⁹⁶ [School Report Cymru \(2017\)](#), Stonewall Cymru

⁹⁷ [Crime Survey for England and Wales: Domestic abuse, sexual assault and stalking](#), ONS

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 improved in recent years

[Special Educational Needs](#) (SEN) can be as a result of physical or medical difficulties, or sensory impairments. In January 2018, 22.6 per cent of pupils at maintained schools in Wales had SEN, of whom 12.2 per cent had a statement of SEN (2.8 per cent of all pupils at maintained schools)⁹⁸.

At Key Stage 4, 20.6 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) in 2017, compared to 56.0 per cent for all pupils. [Recent research](#)⁹⁹ found that a person with a known special education need is more likely to go onto higher education than someone with the same level of qualifications who doesn't have a known special education need.

In 2017, 18 per cent of the working-aged disabled population in Wales held no qualifications compared to 6 per cent of the working-aged population that were not disabled. People with disabilities were also less likely to have degree level qualifications: 26 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 \(2014-15 to 2016-17\)](#), 34 per cent of children who lived in a household where there was someone with a disability were in relative income poverty compared with 26 per cent in households where no-one was disabled.

33 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.

Evidence from the National Survey for Wales 2017-18 shows that 25 per cent of people with a limiting long-standing illness or disability report being in a household in material deprivation compared to 12 per cent of people without a limiting long-standing illness or disability. Similarly, only 62 per cent of those with a limiting long-standing illness or disability report keeping up with all bills and commitments without any difficulties, whereas this is the case for 72 per cent of people without these conditions.

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

The National Survey for Wales in 2017-18 reported that a lower proportion of people with a limiting long-term illness or health problem had attended or participated in an arts, culture or heritage activity at least three times in the last year (64 per cent, compared with 80 per cent for people without a limiting illness).

⁹⁸ [School Census results](#), 2018, Welsh Government

⁹⁹ [The effect of schools on school leavers' university participation](#), Journal of School Effectiveness and Improvement

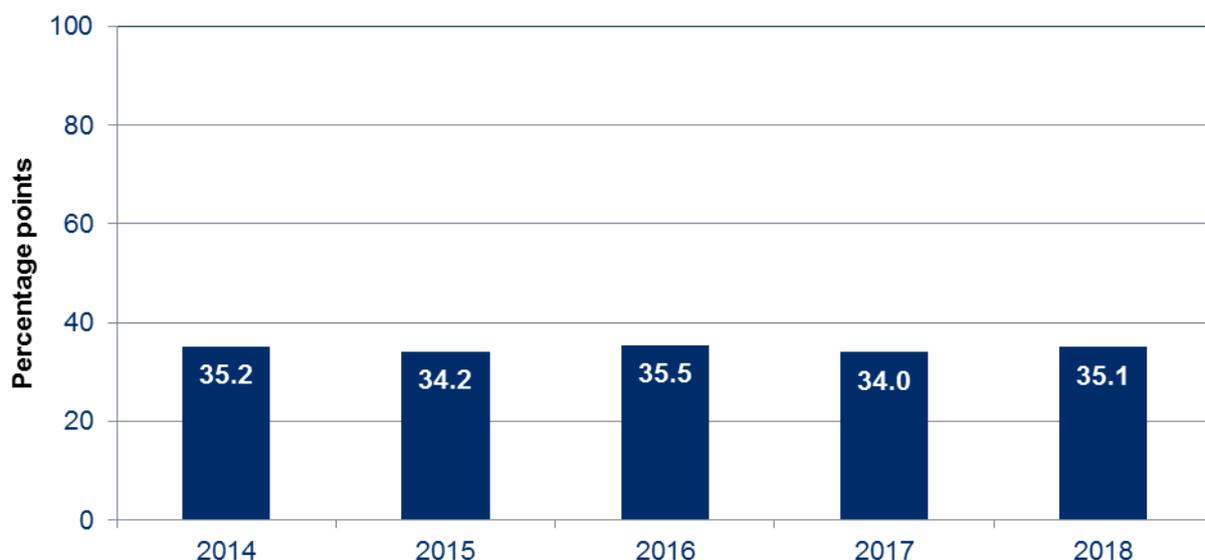
Participation in sporting activities is also lower for those with a long-term mental or physical condition or illness. The latest National Survey for Wales found that this group were less likely to have participated in a sporting activity three or more times a week; 18 per cent reported doing so compared to 39 per cent of those without a long term illness or disability.

The same [trend is observable among school children¹⁰⁰](#). For those who have any disability or impairment, rates of participation in sport in 2015 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).

The employment rate among disabled adults aged 16-64 was 45.2 per cent in March 2018, lower than the employment rate amongst those who are not disabled (80.3 per cent) and the gap has remained stable in recent years

For the year ending 31 March 2018 the employment rate among disabled people aged 16-64 in Wales was 45.2 per cent. The equivalent figure among people in Wales who are not disabled was 80.3 per cent. Hence, there was a disability employment gap in Wales of 35.1 percentage points (pp) for the year ending 31 March 2018. This disability employment gap has been broadly stable in recent years.

4.07 Disability employment rate gap, year ending March 31st 2014 to year ending March 31st 2018



Source: Annual Population Survey

Disability employment rates for males and females are very similar. However, because the employment rate is higher for non-disabled males than for females, there remains a significant difference in the disability employment gap for males (38.4pp) and females (31.5pp)

¹⁰⁰ [School Sport Survey 2015](#), Sport Wales

Across the UK as a whole the disability employment gap for the year ending 31 Mar 2018 is 29.7pp. The comparable¹⁰¹ disability employment gap for Wales (35.3pp) over this period is larger than that recorded in England (28.3pp), similar to the gap in Scotland (35.4 pp) but smaller than the gap in Northern Ireland (42.3pp).

The [Equality and Human Rights Commission](#) (EHRC) have produced figures on the disability pay gap across Great Britain¹⁰², i.e. the difference between the average hourly pay of disabled and non-disabled people, which is expressed as a percentage of non-disabled people's pay. Across all disabilities the disability pay gap in Wales in 2010-11 was 4.3 per cent, whilst by 2015-16 this figure had risen to 13.3 per cent. This change reflects the variation in median hourly earnings between 2010-11 and 2015-16, which for disabled employees in Wales decreased by 9.2 per cent, while there was a very minor increase in median hourly earnings over this period for non-disabled people. The size of the disability pay gap varies according to the nature of disability. In 2015-16 the gap in median hourly earnings was widest for those with 'vision impairments' (23.6 per cent) compared with non-disabled employees. It does not seem to be the case that the difference in the disability pay gap observed in Wales between 2010-11 and 2015-16 is the result of more economically inactive disabled people entering employment. For the year ending March 2011 the economic inactivity rate among disabled people in Wales was 49.4, whilst for the year ending March 2016 the equivalent figure was 51.6, an increase of 2.2 percentage points¹⁰³

One in five of those children receiving care and support in Wales have a disability

There are nearly 16,000 children in Wales receiving care and support and just over one in five of those (22 per cent) were recorded as having a disability. Whilst most of these (74 per cent) were receiving services primarily because of the child's disability or illness, there were 15 per cent of cases in which the primary need for care and support was recorded as risk of, or actual abuse or neglect.

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 households containing a co-habiting couple and 18.1 per cent are lone parent households.

There were a total of 13,409 marriages in Wales in 2015. Of these 13,081 (97.6 per cent) were among opposite-sex couples, with 328 (2.4 per cent) marriages involving same-sex couples.

¹⁰¹ For international comparisons a different definition of not disabled is used, being based on not Equality Act core disabled or work limiting disabled. For this reason the disability employment gap for Wales is 35.3pp when making international comparisons as opposed to the 35.1pp quoted previously

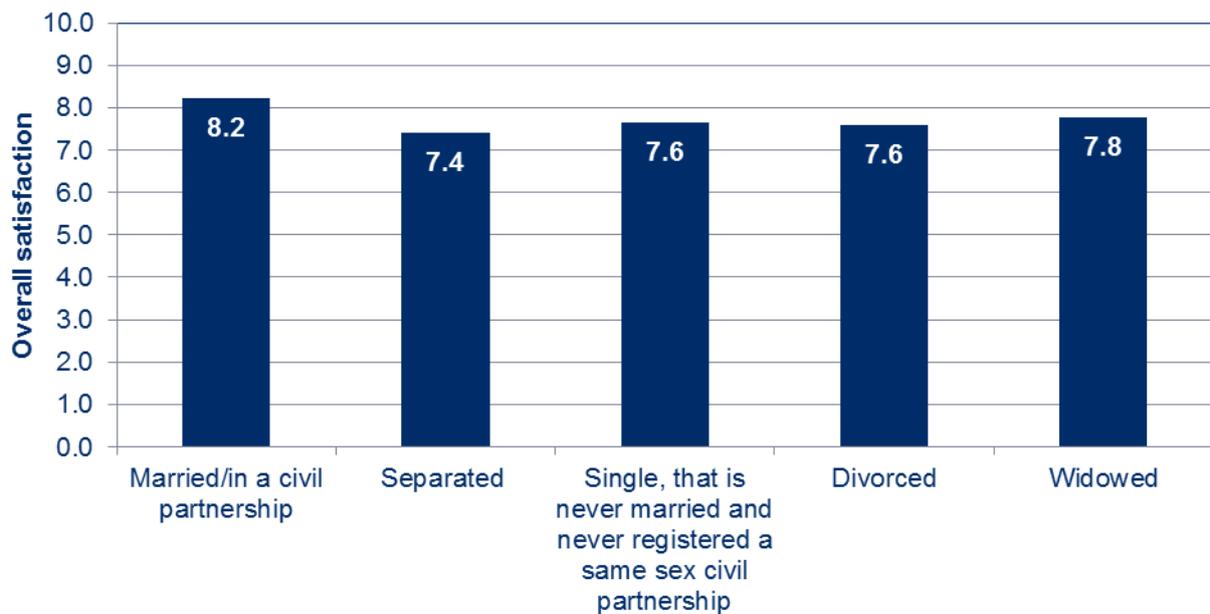
¹⁰² [Being disabled in Britain supporting data](#), Pay gap in median hourly earnings, Equality and Human Rights Commission

¹⁰³ Some caution should be taken in interpreting these figures as changes to the Labour Force Survey questionnaire (on which this data is based) in April 2013 have altered disability reporting behaviours on the LFS. Specifically, there has been a drop in reporting of disabilities caused by the questionnaire changes in April to June 2013, with fewer people identifying as disabled under the new harmonised standard definition. This effect was most pronounced in the economically active population

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

National Survey for Wales results for 2017-18 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 more likely to say they feel lonely.

4.08 Well-being - Overall Satisfaction with life (0-10 scale), 2017-2018



Source: National Survey for Wales, 2017-18

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

People who are separated or divorced were more likely to be in material deprivation than those who were married, single, or widowed. When compared to being married or widowed, being separated or divorced is one of those factors that can be [linked to material deprivation](#).

In 2017-18, 25 per cent of divorced adults and 37 per cent of those who are separated (but still legally married) were in material deprivation compared to 11 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.

Relationship breakdown is one of the key causes cited for households being threatened with homelessness and of those judged to be homeless and in priority need nearly half are single person households and a third are lone parents with dependent children

Relationship breakdown is one of the key causes cited for households being threatened with, or being, homeless. In 2017-18, 'breakdown of a relationship with a partner' was cited as the main reason for being threatened with homelessness in 12 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 2017-18. 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 33.1 per cent of homelessness cases compared with 7.5 per cent of the household population in 2011; single person households accounted for 49.8 per cent of cases compared with 30.8 per cent of the household population in 2011.

Those who are widowed and those who are divorced are the least likely to say they regularly take part in cultural activities

Whilst, in 2017-18, 78 per cent of single people and 76 per cent of those who are married say they had attended or participated in arts, culture or heritage activity at least 3 times in the last year, only 69 per cent of those who were divorced and 57 per cent of those who are widowed said that they did.

Those who are separated or divorced are more likely to report having experienced 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 Crime Survey for England and Wales. For Wales and England combined over the year ending March 2017, the highest percentages were observed for separated women (22.6 per cent) and women who are divorced/have a legally dissolved partnership (19.2 per cent), compared with the lowest (3.2 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 11.6 per cent of separated men to 2.3 per cent of married/civil partnered men¹⁰⁴.

¹⁰⁴ [Focus on Violent Crime and Sexual Offences : Year ending March 2015](#), Office for National Statistics

A Wales of cohesive communities

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

Author: Dr. Steven Marshall, Welsh Government

What have we learnt from the data in the last year?

Many of the indicators for cohesive communities have only been recently collected and it is therefore difficult to comment on changes over time. The measures relating to community cohesion and feeling safe, which have been collected for a number of years, are broadly unchanged.

Over the last year there has been a small increase in households that had approached their local authority for support and were prevented from being homeless, although the rough sleeper count data suggest there were more rough sleepers in Wales (as is the case in some other parts of the UK).

There has been a decline in people feeling that local decisions can be influenced, although, in contrast, the 2017 local elections saw an increase in turnout compared to 2012.

Most of the indicators within this goal have had detailed analysis carried out to determine the factors that are linked with differences in the level of the indicator:

- The indicators in this chapter are most commonly associated with age and disability or health in terms of equality dimensions. Where there is an association, being older or in good health / not disabled are linked with more positive values of the indicator.
- All of the indicators are associated with at least one measure to do with socio economic status or deprivation. The actual measures differ across the indicators but in each case being better off is associated with more positive values of the indicator. The one exception is that being economically inactive is linked with volunteering more, but this is mainly due to the fact that retired people are more likely to volunteer.
- There are connections between the different measures of cohesive communities, particularly in the case of loneliness which has a statistically significant link with four other measures. The associations can easily work in either direction, for example, lonely people may be less likely to volunteer but also volunteering may help to reduce loneliness. Other than loneliness, each of the indicators has a link with geographic area, even after controlling for other factors. However, it is not always the same parts of Wales.

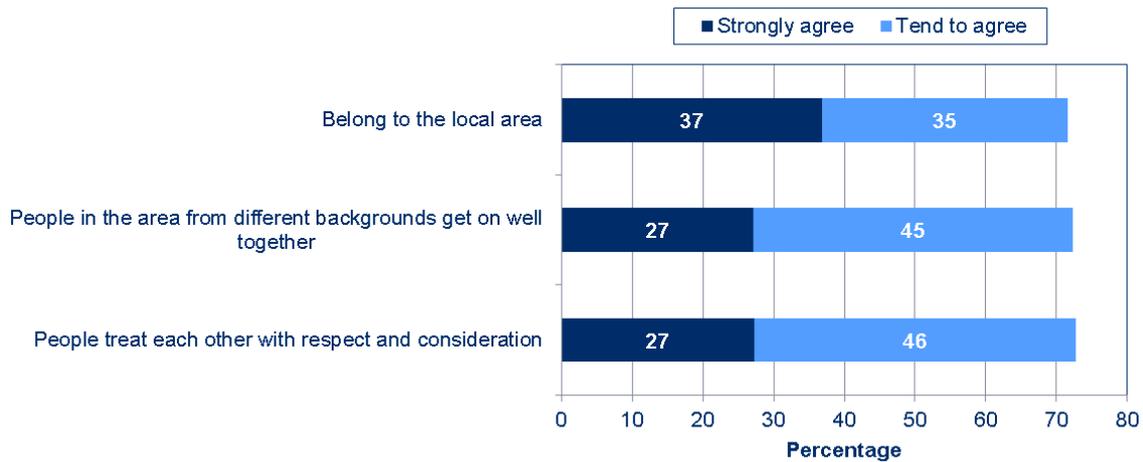
The National Survey provides data on persons aged 16 or over. While the same measures are not available for those aged under 16, this year we have analysed similar topics covered in the [Millennium Cohort Study](#) and as part the [School Health Research Network / Health Behaviour in School-aged Children](#) surveys (SHRN / HBSC).

These data show that one in ten secondary school children were bullied weekly and around a third felt lonely some of the time. Six per cent of 14 year olds did not feel safe in their local area.

Half of adults agreed with all three measures of 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. These figures are broadly stable since they were first collected in 2012.

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



Source: National Survey for Wales, 2016-17

[Detailed analysis of the 2016-17 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 older
- have a religion other than Christian
- have low or no qualifications
- are owner-occupiers
- live in less deprived areas
- have high mental well-being
- have high overall life satisfaction
- feel safe after dark
- do volunteer
- don't feel lonely
- live in particular local authority areas (people living in Ceredigion or Denbighshire were more likely to have a strong sense of community, whilst people in Newport or Wrexham were less likely to have a strong sense of community).

The 2017 results from SHRN / HBSC indicate that 68 per cent of secondary school children feel that showing respect for other people is very important. 60 per cent felt close to other people often or all of the time.

International data from the 2015 [PISA assessments](#)¹⁰⁵ showed that, along with the rest of the UK, pupils in Wales have lower reported sense of belonging in school than the OECD average. Belonging in school is higher among boys and those with high economic, social and cultural status.

Nearly half of households threatened with homelessness had dependent children

During 2017-18, for every 10,000 households in Wales, 45 households approached their local authority for help with housing and were successfully prevented from becoming homeless for at least 6 months, up from 43 households during the previous year. In the last year there was a small decrease in the rate of households considered to be threatened with homelessness.

During both 2016-17 and 2017-18, the applicant was aged between 16 and 17 in 2 per cent of all successful prevention cases. In around a further 20 per cent of cases the applicant was aged between 18 and 24.

During 2017-18, around 46 per cent of all households threatened with homelessness were families with dependent children, up slightly from 45 per cent during 2016-17.

These figures do not include the number of people estimated to be sleeping rough. In October 2017¹⁰⁶ there were 345 people estimated to be sleeping rough across Wales. This represents an increase of 10 per cent on the 313 people estimated to be sleeping rough in October 2016¹⁰⁷. [Rough sleeping](#) has also been increasing in some other parts of the UK¹⁰⁸.

Nearly three quarters of adults feel safe in various situations after dark

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. Data on travelling by car was first collected in 2016-17 but the other measures in the indicator are broadly stable since they were first collected in 2012.

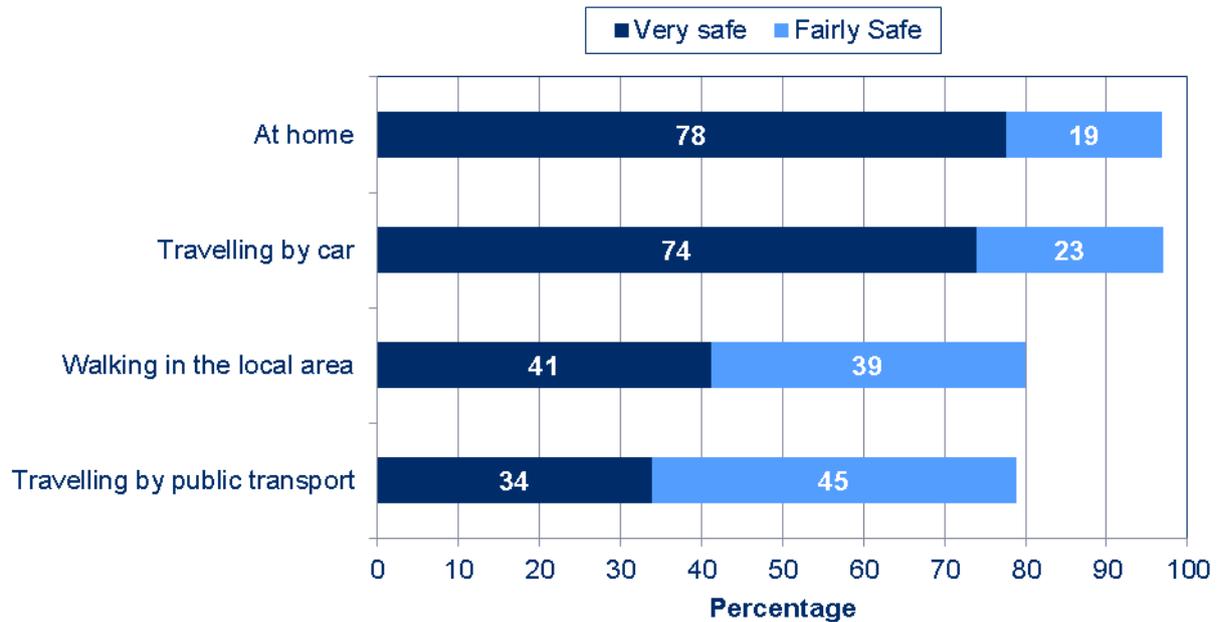
¹⁰⁵ [Programme for International Student Assessment](#) (PISA, OECD)

¹⁰⁶ Based on information gathered over a 2 week period from 16th to 29th October 2017

¹⁰⁷ Based on information gathered over a 2 week period from 10th to 23rd October 2016

¹⁰⁸ [Rough Sleeping in England: autumn 2017](#)

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



Source: National Survey for Wales, 2016-17

[Detailed analysis of the 2016-17 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
- are not materially deprived
- live in less deprived areas
- think that people in the local area treat each other with respect
- are satisfied with the local area as a place to live
- do not feel lonely
- live in a rural area

The Millennium Cohort Study asked 14 year olds in 2015 how safe is it to walk, play or hang out in this area during the day, 6.4 per cent of those in Wales did not feel safe. This was similar to the figures for Scotland and England but lower than Northern Ireland (9.9).

Most people don't experience crime. However, reporting of crime to the police and people's perception of crime have increased in the latest year.

There is [evidence](#) that trends in people's perceptions of crime are often different to trends in prevalence of crime.¹⁰⁹ It is important to recall that most people don't experience crime.

However over the past year there has been an increase in Wales in both the percentage of people who believe crime is on the increase nationally, along with an increase in crimes being **reported** to the police (but that could be due to a greater willingness of people to report crimes. An increase in the number of crimes recorded by the police does not necessarily mean the level of crime has increased).

On the other hand, in the Crime Survey for England and Wales, incidence of violent crime (which excludes robbery) in Wales hadn't increased in 2017-18.

The perception data from the Crime Survey shows the percentage of people who believe crime is on the increase nationally rose from 37 per cent in 2016-17 to 42 per cent in 2017-18. In comparison, the latest survey estimates also showed that very few adults (4 per cent) in Wales had been victims of personal crime in the previous 12 months. Across England and Wales the likelihood of being a victim has fallen considerably over the long term.

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 13 per cent rise in total crime in 2017-18, with some particular offences rising faster than others: violence against the person increased by 20 per cent, sexual offences rose by 39 per cent, public order offences rose by 38 per cent and miscellaneous crimes against society by 12 per cent¹¹⁰.

In terms of children, the [Crime Survey](#) estimated that for England and Wales, around 1 in 10 children aged 10 to 15 years were victims of at least one crime in the latest year ending March 2018. New experimental statistics from ONS showed that in 2017-18 the police in Wales flagged 3,184 crimes as involving child sexual abuse and 466 as involving child sexual exploitation¹¹¹. There were 4,085 arrests of children aged 10 to 17 for notifiable offences in Wales in 2016-17 but there was a fall of 13 per cent in the number of first time entrants to the [Youth Justice](#) System in Wales¹¹².

¹⁰⁹ [People greatly overestimate their likelihood of being robbed](#), Office for National Statistics

¹¹⁰ [Police recorded crime, police force area data tables](#), ONS

¹¹¹ [Child module, Crime Survey for England and Wales](#), ONS

¹¹² [Youth Justice annual statistics: 2016 to 2017](#), Youth Justice Board for England and Wales

One in ten secondary school pupils are bullied weekly, and these figures are relatively high within the UK

Latest data shows that for secondary school pupils 35 per cent had been bullied in the previous two months while 9 per cent had been bullied at least once a week. Cyber bullying was less prevalent with 19 per cent cyber bullied in the previous two months and 3 per cent at least once a week. 16 per cent admitted bullying others while the figure for cyber bullying was 9 per cent¹¹³.

Previous data from the study have suggested that pupils in Wales are amongst the most likely in the UK to report being bullied more than a few times a month, and this is consistent with the OECD PISA study. However analysis of bullying is highly dependent on the context of the study and the assessment materials, and international comparisons will be influenced by different approaches and perceptions of bullying in different countries.

Within the UK, according to the Millennium Cohort Study, Welsh 14 year olds reported similar rates to those in Scotland and England of having been “hurt or picked on by other children on purpose“ at least monthly.

There are differences when comparing prevalence of being bullied to pupils who report to studies they have bullied others (according to HBSC, Wales fares better internationally on the latter compared to the percentage reporting having been bullied).

Over 80 per cent are satisfied with their 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.

[Detailed analysis of the 2016-17 results](#) showed that when controlling for a wide range of other factors, people are more likely to be satisfied with their local area as a place to live if they:

- are older (75 years old and over)
- live in a less deprived area
- have high life satisfaction.
- feel safe after dark
- don't feel lonely
- live in a rural area
- live in particular local authority areas (people living in Ceredigion or Cardiff were more likely to be satisfied with their local area, whilst people in Blaenau Gwent and Flintshire were less likely to be satisfied)

Just over a quarter of adults volunteer

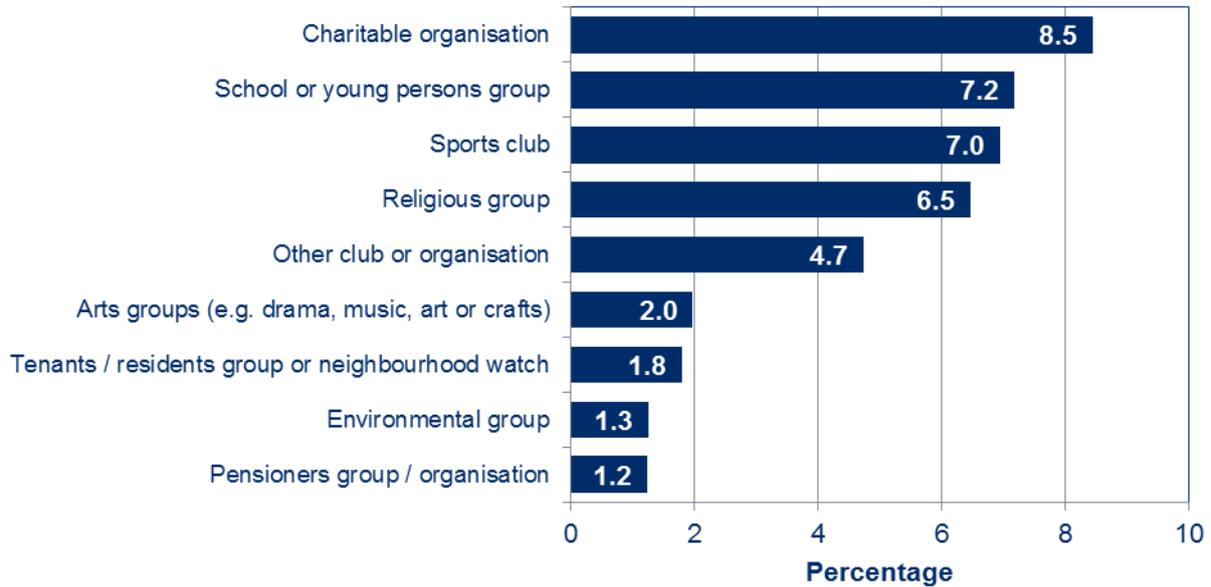
Social interaction has been shown to be beneficial to personal wellbeing and volunteering is an aspect of social interaction that has proven positive [benefits in terms of both health and well-being](#)¹¹⁴.

¹¹³ Schools Health Research Network. See accompanying ad hoc publication

¹¹⁴ [Understanding Society](#)

In 2017-18 the National Survey results show that 28 per cent of people in Wales volunteered, the same as in the previous year. People most commonly volunteered for charities and sports clubs.

5.03 Percentage of people volunteering by type of organisation, 2017-18



Source: National Survey for Wales, 2017-18

In addition to volunteering with clubs or organisations, 25 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.

[Detailed analysis of the 2016-17 results](#) showed that when controlling for a wide range of other factors, people are more likely to volunteer if they:

- are older
- have good general health
- have any religion
- have higher qualifications
- are owner-occupiers
- are economically inactive (which includes the retired)
- feel that things in life are worthwhile
- have a strong sense of community
- participate in sport
- speak Welsh
- use the internet
- which local authority people live in also makes a difference; for example, people living in Powys were more likely to volunteer than those in Denbighshire.

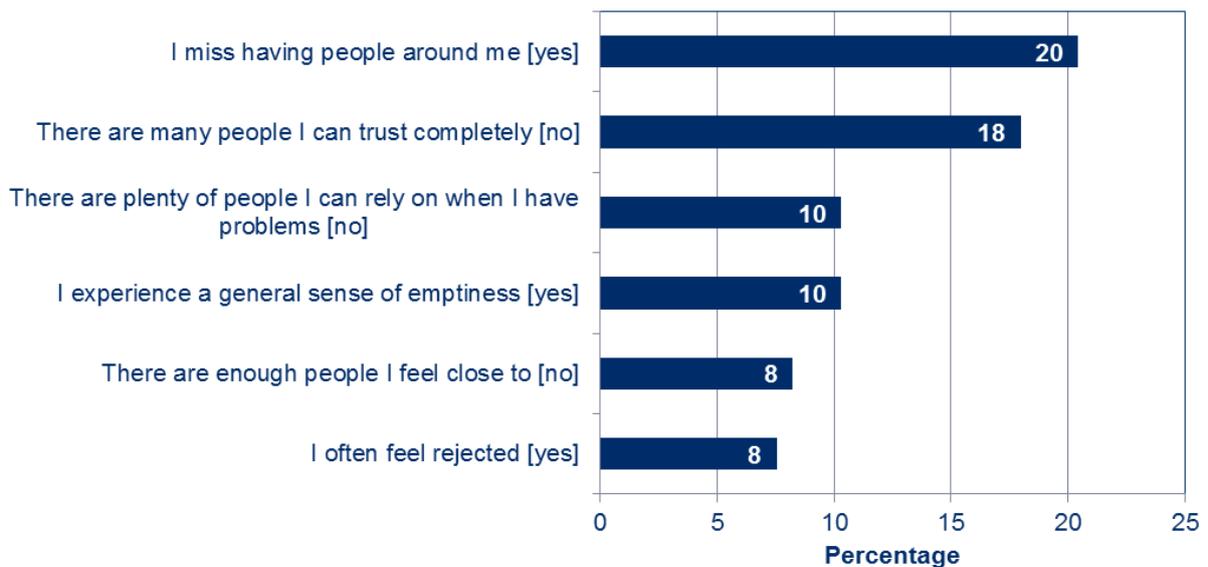
Data shows that for secondary school pupils, 7 per cent volunteered for a club or organisation at school (outside of lessons) while 18 per cent volunteered for a club or organisation outside of school¹¹⁵.

Younger people are the most lonely

Loneliness is an important aspect of community cohesion but it is 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 \(2011\)](#)¹¹⁶, but a recent study by [Beutel et al \(2017\)](#)¹¹⁷ also shows the impact on mental health across the age spectrum.

Loneliness is a complex issue and since 2016-17 the National Survey collected data using the [De Jong Gierveld loneliness scale](#) which covers both emotional and social isolation. In 2017-18, based on all six measures, 16 per cent of people in Wales were found to be lonely. There is a marked variation in the percentage of people feeling lonely on each of the individual measures, varying from 8 per cent who often feel rejected to 20 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).

5.04 Percentage of people feeling lonely by reason, 2017-18



Source: National Survey for Wales, 2017-18

¹¹⁵ Schools Health Research Network, see ad hoc publication

¹¹⁶ [Late life social activity and cognitive decline in old age](#)

¹¹⁷ [Loneliness in the general population: prevalence, determinants and relations to mental health](#)

[Detailed analysis of the 2016-17 results](#) showed that when controlling for a wide range of other factors, people are more likely to be lonely if they:

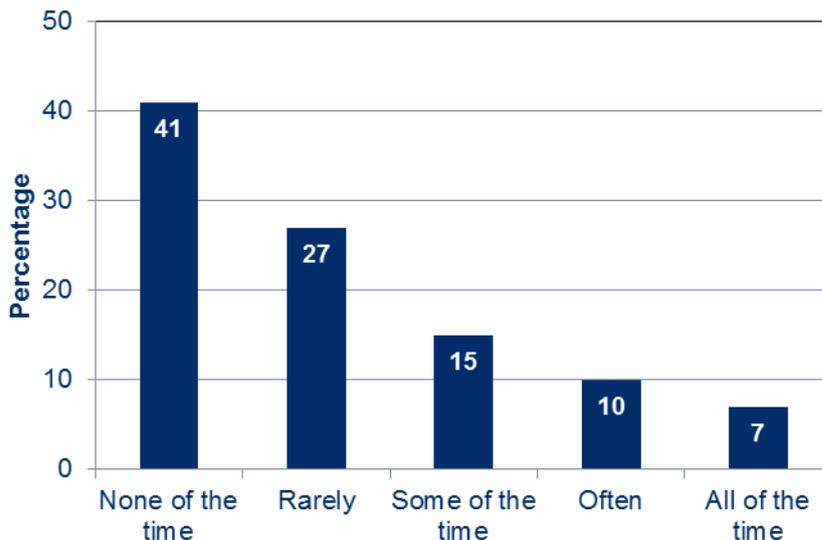
- are younger
- have a disability or limiting longstanding illness (particularly for younger adults).
- have poor general health
- are from a non-white ethnic group
- are single, separated or divorced
- are in material deprivation
- lack a sense of community
- do not feel safe after dark
- are dissatisfied with their local area
- do not volunteer
- use the internet

Data shows that for secondary school pupils, 32 per cent felt lonely at least some of the time¹¹⁸.

The Millennium Cohort Study also asks about loneliness and, in 2015, 36.3 per cent of 14 year olds felt lonely at least sometimes. This is similar to other UK nations, but higher than Northern Ireland (30.3 per cent). There was a marked difference between boys (27 per cent) and girls (46 per cent). There is no clear link with deprivation although this did come through when considering those that said there was no one they felt close to (10.5 per cent) where this was higher for the less advantaged.

The 2015 [PISA research](#) showed that pupils in Wales, as with the rest of the UK, were more likely than the OECD average to feel lonely in school¹¹⁹.

5.05 Percentage of secondary school children feeling lonely during the summer holiday, 2017



Source: SHRN / HBSC 2017

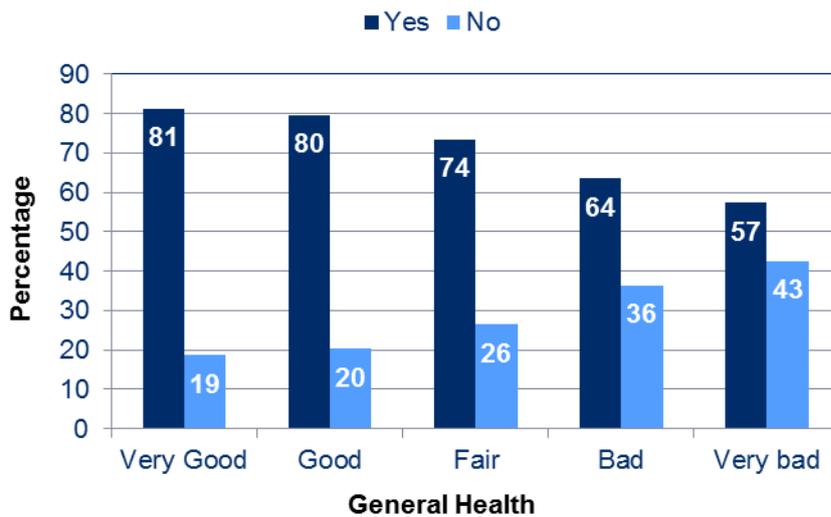
¹¹⁸ Schools Health Research Network, see ad hoc publication

¹¹⁹ [PISA 2015 Results: Students' Well-being](#), OECD

Three quarters were satisfied with their ability to get to/access facilities and services

The national indicator is the percentage of people who feel satisfied (very or fairly) with their ability to get to/access the facilities and services they need (that is, what they consider ‘good’ services). According to the 2017-18 National Survey, 77 per cent of people were satisfied that they were able to get to or access the services they need. People were least satisfied with their ability to access municipal services such as community centres, secondary schools, libraries and youth or sports clubs. In contrast, when considering connectedness via transport links, satisfaction with access to public transport links was high (86 per cent).

5.06 Ability to get to/access services and facilities by general health, 2017-18



Source: National Survey for Wales, 2017-18

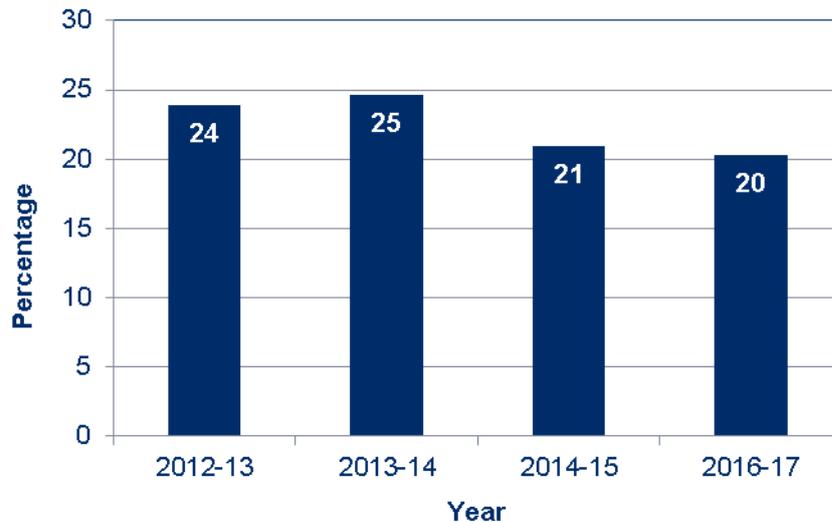
Detailed analysis of this indicator will be undertaken to understand the factors that are important in terms of getting to or accessing services and facilities.

Online services are becoming increasingly important and in 2017-18 85 per cent of households had internet access with 68 per cent of people being satisfied with their internet speed at home. 73 per cent of those that use the internet had bought goods or services online in the previous 4 weeks.

There has been a gradual decline in those feeling they can influence local decisions

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:

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

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 Wales¹²⁰ is for the 2017 election where the overall turnout was 42 per cent in contested seats, up from 39 per cent in 2012/13 but lower than the 44 per cent in 2008. This varied by local authority from 36.3 per cent in Newport and Caerphilly to 53.0 per cent in Ceredigion in 2017. Turnout increased in all local authority areas between 2012 and 2017 with the exception of Anglesey. At a ward level, turnout ranged from 17.2 per cent in Treforest (Rhondda Cynon Taff) to 69.6 per cent in Bethel (Gwynedd).

¹²⁰ [Local Elections in Wales, May 2017, The Electoral Commission](#)

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.

Author: Glyn Jones, Welsh Government

What have we learnt from the data in the last year?

In 2017-18 we captured information on the agreed national indicator for the first time which showed that 75 per cent of adults attended or participated 3 times a year or more in arts, cultural or heritage events. This indicator isn't comparable with data for previous years, but these have generally shown a rise in attendance and participation in the arts.

In terms of children, the latest Arts Council of Wales data showed an increase in arts attendance and participation in 2017, to some extent reversing the decline in 2016.

Sports participation amongst adults increased in 2017-18 compared with the first year of data for this indicator, with 32 per cent of adults having participated 3 times a week or more. There has been no new school sports survey.

The percentage of Welsh speakers, both in terms of adults and children, has remained at broadly the same level. Survey data do suggest that there has been an increase in people who state that they speak a few words of Welsh. This year we have incorporated data from the schools census on school pupils speaking Welsh at home for context. These figures have stabilised in recent years.

New data show that 86 per cent of the population agreed that the Welsh Language is something to be proud of.

There has been an increase in the numbers of accredited archives in Wales over the last year. The condition of listed buildings has remained stable, although there has been a small decline in the percentage of scheduled monuments in good or stable condition.

Three-quarters of adults attend or participate regularly in the arts, and attendance and participation has risen 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.

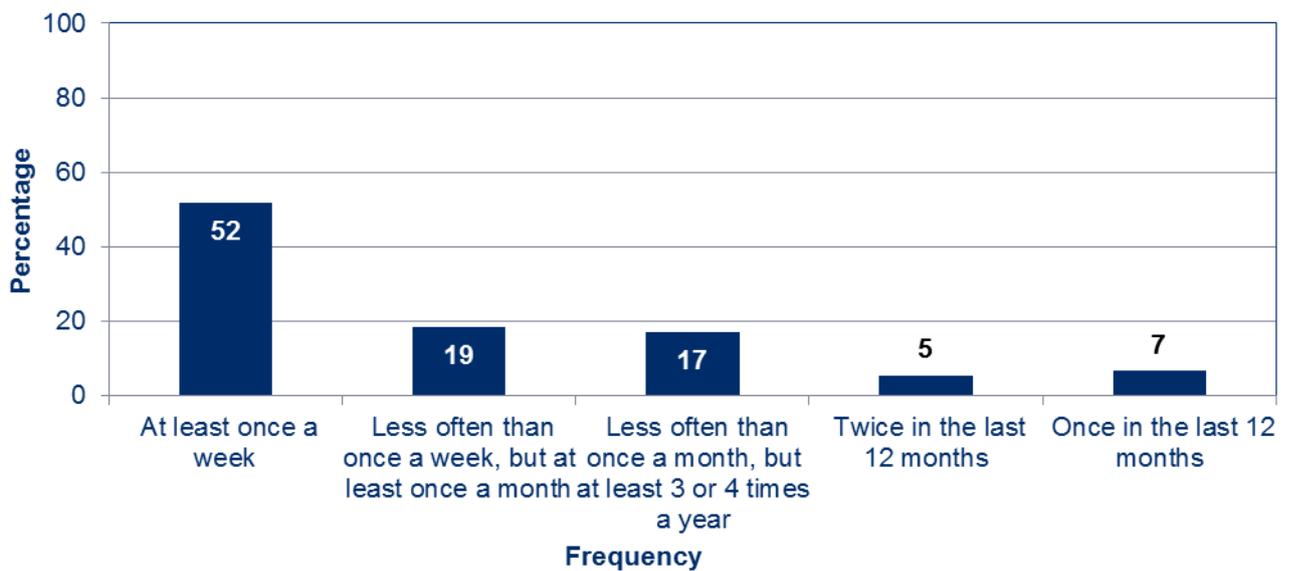
Our national indicator, collected in [the National Survey for Wales](#) for the first time in 2017-18, is to consider those that have attended or participated in arts, cultural or heritage events 3 or more times a year. For the purposes of this commentary when referring to "regular" attendance or participation we are referring to this definition. This indicator includes attendance or participation at music events, theatre, film showings, dance performance, visual arts and crafts, creative writing amongst others.

The data showed that 75 per cent of adults aged 16 or over attended or participated in arts events 3 times or more. Women were in general slightly more likely to do so.

When considering participation and attendance separately, people were far more likely to have attended arts events rather than participate. 68 per cent of adults had attended arts events, compared with 22 per cent that had participated. However, those that do participate are likely to do so on a fairly routine basis, with half of those who had participated doing so at least once a week.

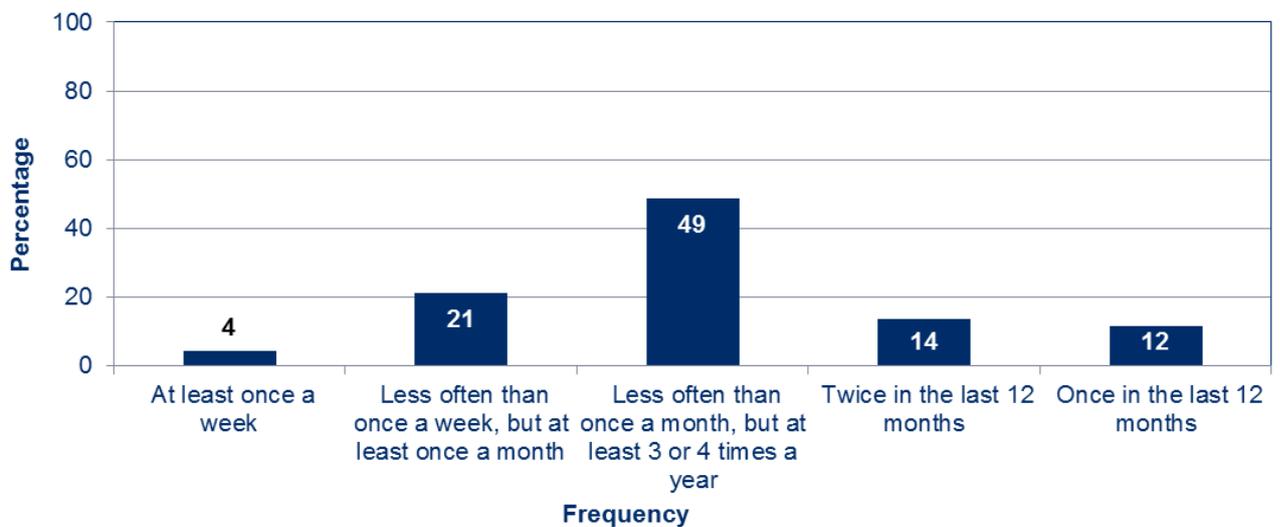
In terms of attendance, around half of adults reported that they had attended a film showing with the next most popular events being live music and theatre. Participation was highest in visual arts and crafts or music.

6.01 How often participated in arts event, in own time, in the last year, 2017-18



Source: National Survey for Wales, 2017-18

6.02 How often attended an arts event, in own time, in the last year, 2017-18



Source: National Survey for Wales, 2017-18

Data from previous years on the arts show that for those who had not attended an arts event, the most common reason for not attending was a lack of interest.

Although the national indicator itself was based on a new definition in 2017-18, we can consider longer term trends in arts and cultural participation from surveys carried out by the Arts Council of Wales.

The last [Arts in Wales Survey 2015](#)¹²¹ 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.

The Arts Council research also gives an insight into trends in 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.

The Arts Council of Wales surveys also showed that participation in arts activity increased between 2010 and 2015. 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 participate.

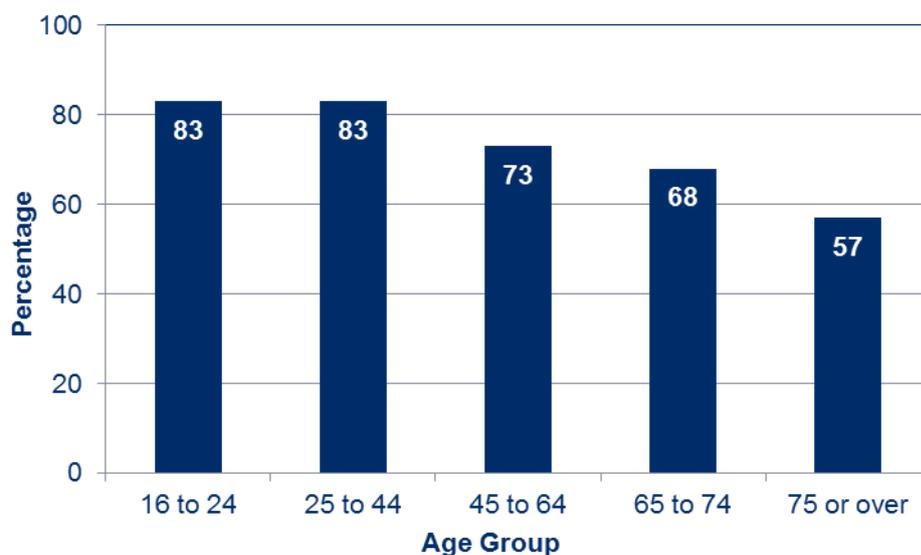
Regular attendance and participation at arts events differs across different groups of people

Women were slightly more likely to attend or participate regularly than men (77 per cent compared with 73 per cent). In terms of attendance, there was no difference across gender but more women participated regularly than men (24 per cent compared to 20 per cent).

Cultural activity differed more by age group. It was lowest for the oldest age group; 57 per cent of adults aged 75 and over attended or participated regularly in events in the last year compared with 83 per cent of those aged under 45. Trends are broadly similar across attendance and participation (i.e. young people more likely to do both). But for participation the significant difference is in the very youngest age group where 36 per cent had participated in an arts event in the last year compared with the overall figure of 22 per cent.

¹²¹ [Arts in Wales Survey 2015, Arts Council of Wales](#)

6.03 Percentage of each age group that attended or participated at least 3 times a year in arts, culture or heritage activities in the last year, 2017-18



Source: National Survey for Wales, 2017-18

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 is a strong relationship between arts and cultural activity with qualifications. People with higher levels of qualification were significantly more likely to have attended or participated regularly in arts and culture 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 has been increasing in recent years despite a dip in 2016

Children are not included in the National Survey for Wales but the Arts Council of Wales carry out an [annual survey](#)¹²² of children's involvement in the arts. Following a decline in attendance in 2016, data for 2017 showed an increase with 87 per cent of those aged 7 to 18 years old having attended arts events once a year or more. Although the latest figure remains lower than the peak seen in 2015, in general a growing percentage of children have attended arts events. Trends have been similar for participation, with the figure for 2017 reversing a decline seen in 2016 and overall participation being higher than in the early part of the decade.

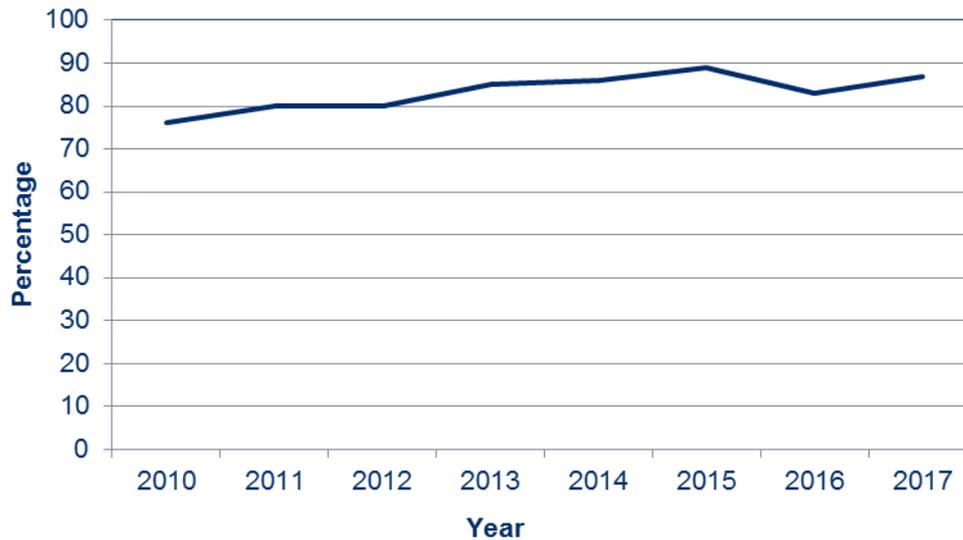
The Arts Council of Wales' research on children's engagement with the arts asks children about their attendance at plays, musicals, opera, live music performances, dance performances, galleries or exhibitions, literature events, carnivals and street art events.

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

¹²² [Children's Omnibus Survey](#), Arts Council of Wales

As expected, children have a range of opportunities to attend or participate in events through their school or college as well as in their own time. Children are most likely to have attended arts events in their own time (76 per cent of children) compared with participation (55 per cent). But participation is more likely to have been led by school or college.

6.04 Attendance at arts events once a year or more by those aged 7 to 18, 2010 to 2017



Source: Children's Omnibus Survey, Arts Council of Wales

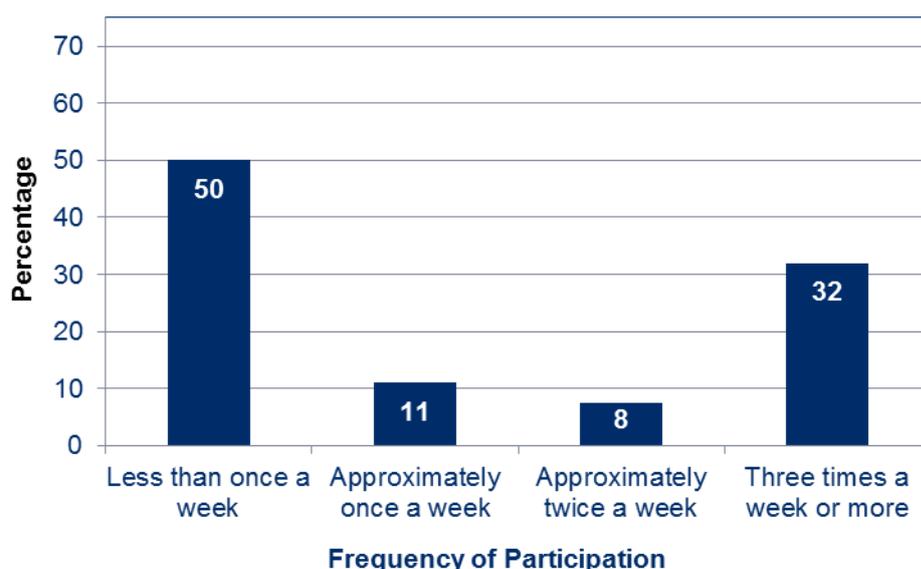
A third of adults take part in sport 3 times a week or more, up from the previous year

According to the National Survey for Wales 32 per cent of adults took part in sport 3 times a week or more in 2017-18, but 41 per cent of adults aged 16 or over reported having not participated in any sport or physical activity. This was higher than the figure for 2016-17, which was the first year that the questions were asked in the National Survey.

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.

The most common sporting activities include walking, swimming, the gym or fitness activities, jogging, football and cycling. These were the most common activities for both men and women, other than football and cycling, in which men were far more likely to participate.

6.05 Participation in sport by frequency, 2017-18



Source: National Survey for Wales, 2017-18

Sports Wales publish an annual [state of the nation report on Sport and Active Lifestyles](#)¹²³. They reported that sport participation rates are also linked to disability (those without a disability were more likely to participate), employment status (employed people more likely to participate) and deprivation (those not living in material deprivation more likely).

The latest National Survey reported that 55 per cent wanted to do more sport or physical activities. The types of activity in most demand include swimming, cycling and gym or fitness classes. Amongst both men and women the most common barriers to sports participation were work and family commitments, age and fitness (2016-17 data). However cost and local facilities were also reported as barriers. To put this into context, the latest National Survey for Wales showed that less than half of adults thought they had good access to a sports centre or club.

Sporting activity amongst school pupils increased in 2015

The latest [Sport Wales research](#)¹²⁴ on sport participation amongst school pupils was in 2015 and the latest school sports survey is taking place this year. Therefore this section remains unchanged from the first Well-being of Wales report.

The School Sports survey for 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.

There is very little difference between overall participation rates across primary and secondary schools, with 49 per cent of primary pupils (aged 7 to 11) and 48 per cent of secondary pupils (aged 11 to 16) participating 3 times a week in sports.

¹²³ [Sports and Active Lifestyles](#), Sports Wales

¹²⁴ [School Sport Survey](#), Sport Wales

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 of adults are able to speak Welsh, with 10 per cent able to speak more than a few words speaking it on a daily basis, but more people are now saying that they have “some Welsh speaking ability”

The Welsh language is a significant component of the historical culture and identity of Wales. New questions in the latest National Survey for Wales showed that 86 per cent of adults aged 16 and over agreed with the statement that the Welsh language is something to be proud of, and this figure was similar for most groups of people including amongst non-Welsh speakers (84 per cent).

According to 2011 Census data, 19.0 per cent of the Welsh population (aged three 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. The areas with the highest percentages of Welsh speakers are Anglesey, Gwynedd, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire. As well as differences across areas in Wales, people with higher qualifications, identify themselves as white, and/or are Christian are [more likely to speak Welsh](#)¹²⁵.

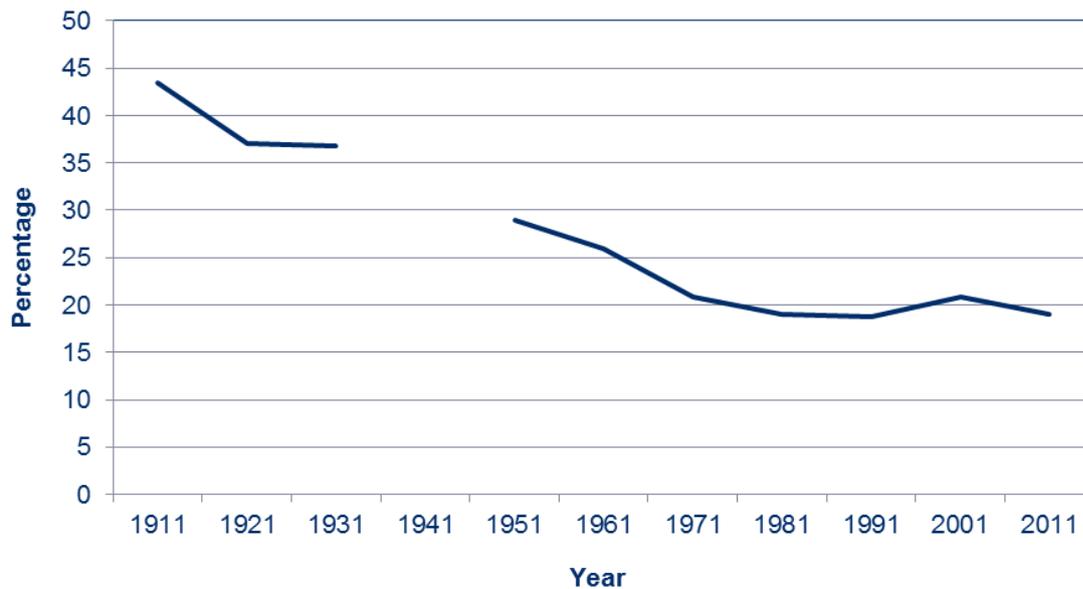
Further information on Welsh speakers comes from the [National Survey for Wales](#) which provides estimates of those aged 16 and over. Since 2011 estimates of those able to speak Welsh have remained stable at around a fifth of the adult population. But there has been an increase over recent years in those who say they have “some” Welsh speaking ability (such as speaking a few words), having increased to 12 per cent in 2017-18, from 4 per cent in 2014-15.

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 three and 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 according to National Survey data. The data suggests that people who are employed are more likely to speak Welsh daily.

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. The lower prevalence of Welsh speaking in an area can reduce the likelihood and frequency that Welsh will be used in conversation.

¹²⁵ [Who is more likely to ‘speak Welsh’ and ‘speak Welsh daily and more than just a few words’?](#), Welsh Government Research

6.06 Percentage aged three and over able to speak Welsh



Source: Census

Note: There was no census in 1941.

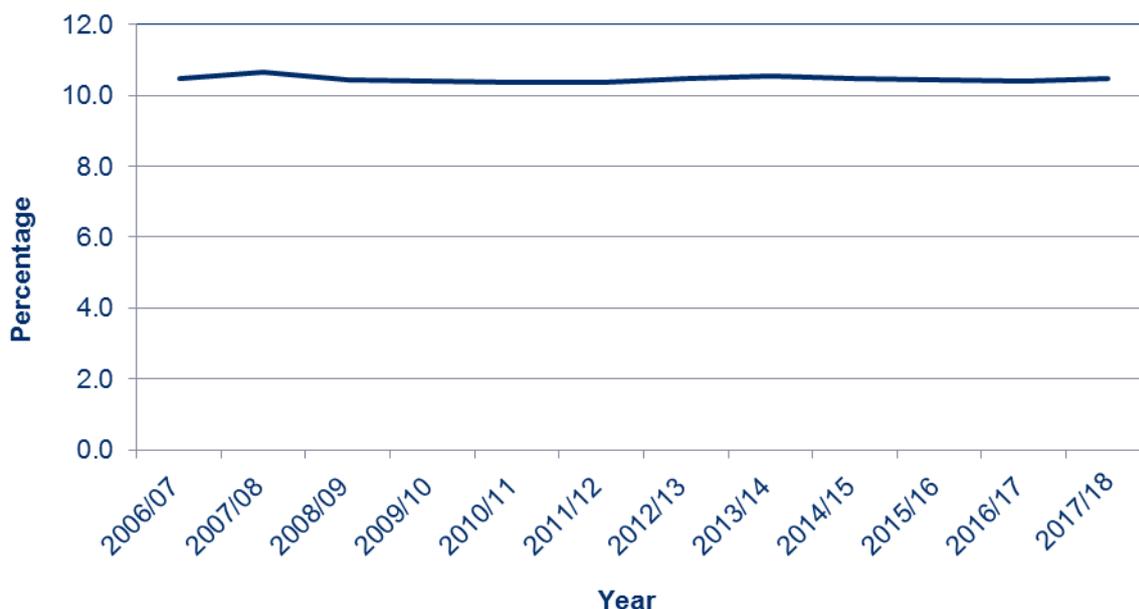
Children are the most likely age group to report that they are able to speak Welsh

Both the 2011 Census and the more recent Welsh Language Use Survey (2013-15) show that children are the most likely to report that they are able to speak Welsh, with both sources suggesting that around 40 per cent of 3-15 year olds are able to do so. Younger people beyond the age of compulsory education are less likely to report that they speak Welsh.

The Welsh Language Use Survey report gave a full analysis of the usage of Welsh language amongst children and adults. To summarise, it showed that children are more likely than adults to be fluent or to speak a fair amount of Welsh. They are also most likely to use Welsh daily, likely due to regular usage in schools. The percentage of 3 to 15 year olds who spoke Welsh daily was considerably higher than any other age group, with almost a quarter of them speaking Welsh daily. The percentage of children and young people aged 3 to 15 who spoke Welsh daily is similar to the percentage of pupils who receive their education in Welsh-medium or bilingual primary, middle and secondary schools, although we do not know if they are necessarily the same children.

Another source of information on trends in Welsh language amongst children is the annual Schools Census, which showed an increase in the percentage of children whose parents said they spoke Welsh at home in the early 2010s, but in recent years has stabilised at around 10.4 per cent. The Welsh Language Use Survey showed children were far more likely to use Welsh in school than at home or with their friends.

6.07 Percentage aged 5 or over in maintained secondary schools who speak Welsh at home, 2006 to 2017



Source: Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC)

Welsh speakers are more likely to be involved in arts or sports, and of those, fluent Welsh speakers are far more likely to attend events held in Welsh.

There is a relationship between Welsh speaking and arts or sports participation. However this may be driven by the fact that Welsh speakers are also more likely to hold higher qualifications and are on average less deprived.

In general Welsh speakers were more likely to attend or participate in the arts, with 79 per cent of Welsh speakers doing so regularly compared with 72 per cent for non-Welsh speakers.

Those statistics are related to attendance at any event, but the Welsh Language Use Survey 2013-15 analysed attendance at activities held in Welsh.

It showed that fluent Welsh speakers are far more likely to attend a social, cultural or sporting event held in Welsh than those who are less fluent. On average, adults who defined themselves as fluent Welsh speakers were twice as likely to have attended a social or cultural event held in Welsh than less fluent Welsh-speaking adults, and almost three times as likely to have attended a sporting activity held in Welsh.

In terms of young people aged 3-15, 37 per cent had attended a social or cultural event through Welsh not organised by their school (more had attended events organised by the school), and almost a quarter had attended a sporting event through Welsh not organised by their school. Again, fluent young Welsh speakers are far more likely to have attended cultural or sporting events held through the Welsh language than non-fluent speakers.

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

34 per cent of people aged 16 or over attended a library in and 40 per cent had visited a museum in 2017-18, broadly the same as in 2016-17. There was a small increase in the percentage visiting a historic site in 2017-18 (now at 63 per cent). However, to preserve Wales' cultural identity it is important that heritage assets are well maintained and accessible. As at March 2018, 94 Welsh museums and 12 archival institutions had met the high standards required for UK accreditation. 4 additional archival institutions had achieved accreditation during the last year. Although no definitive figures are available, it is estimated this represents around 60 per cent of Welsh museums and archives and this figure has remained stable since reporting began.

Of the 30,000 listed buildings in Wales, the percentage that are in a "stable" or "improving" condition has remained fairly consistent over recent years. Due to a succession of poor winter weather events, the percentage of the 4,200 scheduled monuments classified as stable or improving has fallen slightly over recent years. The proportion/percentage 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](#)¹²⁶ 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 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 of designated bathing waters.

¹²⁶ [The 2014 Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales, Natural Resources Wales](#)

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.

Updated by: Rachel Dolman, Welsh Government

What have we learnt from the data in the last year?

This year we have widened the range of information included in the narrative. However, much of the commentary is the same as last year's report, as the data are not updated on an annual basis and what was included last year is still the most relevant and up to date. We are continuing to work with the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales to consider potential data sources to include in this narrative in future.

Whilst there is a long term trend of reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, the latest data shows an increase in emissions in 2016 compared with 2015, which is largely driven by a recovery in natural gas power generation following numerous outages to implement efficiency upgrades in 2015. Energy supply, business and industrial processes remain the key drivers of greenhouse gas emissions.

The installation of renewable energy generation capacity has increased in pace in recent years with the capacity of technologies such as solar panels more than doubling in the two years up to 2016, and onshore wind capacity showing a 50 per cent increase.

Referrals of potential victims of modern slavery increased on the previous year, with 193 referrals in 2017, although it is likely that the increase this year is due to improvements in the data collection. Also, it's not possible to disentangle improved reporting on real increases in incidence.

New data showed that around one third of adults have heard of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Vaccine uptake in young infants remained high and stable. For the tenth consecutive year, uptake of both the '5 in 1' and pneumococcal conjugate vaccinations (PCV) remained above 95 per cent in children at one year of age, whilst MMR uptake was just below 95 per cent for the first dose at two years.

There were over 21,000 international students from over 160 countries at Welsh Higher Education institutions in 2016/17. This is a decrease compared with the previous year.

There was a slight fall in the number of asylum seekers in 2017, although figures have generally been increasing since 2011. Up to March 2018 a total of 720 Syrian refugees have been resettled in Wales under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme.

Global Context - United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

On 1 January 2016, the world 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’ 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 national trends on issues such as poverty, inequalities and decent work. This narrative on “A Globally Responsible Wales” therefore focuses on areas that are most relevant to the global agenda in particular.

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



Indicator	Li...
4 Levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO2) pollution in the air	
6 Measurement of development of young children	
7 Average capped 9 points score of pupils, including the gap between those who are eligible or are not eligible for free scho...	

[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. However, where possible, more information about the data can be found in the [“Quality report for contextual information”](#)

People in Wales are concerned about climate change

The 2016-17 [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](#), in 2016, it was estimated that emissions totalled 47.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalent¹²⁷, a fall of 14 per cent compared to the 1990 base year emissions. The latest data shows an increase in greenhouse gas emission in 2016 compared with 2015, which is largely driven by a recovery in natural gas power generation following numerous outages to implement efficiency upgrades in 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 continue to be as a result of energy supply, business and industry.

Data relating to the greenhouse gas emissions attributed to the consumption of goods and services 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.

¹²⁷ [Greenhouse Gas Inventories for England, Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland: 1990-2016](#)

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 in the last decade with an increased pace in recent years. A [recent study of energy generation in Wales](#)¹²⁸ showed that in 2016 there was 3,357 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy generation capacity. The vast majority of this is renewable electricity (85 per cent or 2,854 MW) whilst the capacity of renewable heat installations has nearly doubled in the last two years to reach 504 megawatts (MW).

In terms of the types of technologies for renewable energy being installed, capacity grew most between 2014 and 2016 in solar PV panels (more than doubled) and onshore wind (a 50 per cent increase). Whilst the capacity of renewable heat installations remain small compared to renewable electricity this period saw a 65 per cent increase in the capacity of biomass installations and a 52 per cent increase in the capacity of heat pumps.

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](#)¹²⁹ against climate change.

The soils in Wales store an estimated [410 million tonnes](#)¹³⁰ of carbon. The concentration of carbon in our soil is generally stable. According to the [latest figures](#)¹³¹ from 2013-16 the concentration of carbon and organic matter in topsoil was 107.6 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.

¹²⁸ [Energy Generation in Wales, 2016](#). Welsh Government

¹²⁹ [European Environment Agency, soil and climate change article](#)

¹³⁰ [The State of Natural Resources Report \(SoNaRR\)](#): Assessment of the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources. Technical Report Chapter 3 Summary of extent, condition and trends of natural resources and ecosystems in Wales

¹³¹ [Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme Summary of Results](#)

The last ecological footprint for Wales was calculated in 2011 and it was [10.05 million global hectares](#)¹³². 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 UN SDG “Responsible Consumption and Production” has a target on reducing food waste.

The [Waste and Resources Action Programme \(WRAP\)](#)¹³³ 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](#)¹³⁴ 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.

Some adults in Wales are facing food poverty and concerned about affording food

The UN SDG ‘End Hunger’ aims to end hunger and achieve food security and improve nutrition.

Research shows that in Wales, some people are reporting food poverty. The 2016-17 National Survey for Wales reported that 1 per cent of households had received food from a food bank in the last 12 months. In 2017-18, it also reported 4 per cent of adults said there was a day in the previous fortnight where they had needed to go without a substantial meal due to [lack of money](#)¹³⁵. The Food Standards Agency reported 20 per cent of people in Wales worry about running out of food, and in the past 12 months 14 per cent had run out of food before they could [afford to buy more](#)¹³⁶.

¹³² [Ecological footprint of Wales report, Welsh Government](#)

¹³³ [Household Food waste in the UK, 2015, WRAP](#)

¹³⁴ [Household Food Waste in the UK, 2015, WRAP](#)

¹³⁵ [National Survey for Wales results viewer, Welsh Government](#)

¹³⁶ [Food Security in Wales, NatCen report for Foods Standards Agency](#)

Wales has three world heritage sites of outstanding universal value

The UN SDG 'Sustainable Cities and Communities' states the importance of protecting and safeguarding the world's natural heritage.

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](#)¹³⁷ — 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.

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

The UN SDG '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 67 countries. It is designed to empower and inspire young people to make positive environmental changes to their school and wider community, while building on their key skills, including numeracy and literacy, and encompassing Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC). There are currently 51,000 schools in 67 countries participating in the Eco-Schools programme. In Wales, 97 per cent of all the state schools in 2017/18 were registered on the voluntary Eco-Schools programme run by Keep Wales Tidy. Eco-schools can be awarded Bronze, Silver, Green Flag and Platinum status. There were 784 Green Flag schools, with 381 of these reaching Platinum status in 2017/18, for long term commitment to the programme¹³⁸.

The [Global Learning Programme-Wales \(GLP-W\)](#) is designed to develop and embed global learning (Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (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, 53 per cent of pupils on roll in Wales are involved in [GLP-W](#)¹³⁹.

¹³⁷ [UNESCO World Heritage List](#)

¹³⁸ Unpublished data – statistics provided on request by Keep Wales Tidy

¹³⁹ [Education Development Trust, Annual Report, 2016-17](#)

There is limited awareness amongst adults of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

The [2017-18 National Survey for Wales](#) shows that 34 per cent of adults have heard of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The figure is similar for adults with children in the household and those without¹⁴⁰.

People are participating in international sustainable development projects

The UN SDG 'No Poverty' recognises the need to reduce the proportion of people living in poverty, including having access to basic services and building resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations.

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 participated in 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.

Examples of some of the schemes include linking professionals and organisations, to provide teaching or training to help people develop new skills and support themselves and provide solutions to poverty.

A key principle of the International Learning Opportunities Programme is to align placements with the SDGs.

Referrals of potential victims of modern slavery in Wales have increased in recent years

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. Modern slavery is the term used within the UK and is defined within the Modern Slavery Act 2015. The Act categorises offences of Slavery, Servitude and Forced or Compulsory Labour and Human Trafficking.

These crimes include holding a person in a position of slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour, or facilitating their travel with the intention of exploiting them soon after.

Although human trafficking often involves an international cross-border element, it is also possible to be a victim of modern slavery within [your own country](#)¹⁴¹.

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

¹⁴⁰ [2017-18 National Survey for Wales results viewer, Welsh Government](#)

¹⁴¹ [National Crime Agency website](#)

increases in incidence rate from improved reporting. Therefore they are unable to quantify the overall growth of modern slavery.

In 2017, 193 referrals of potential victims of slavery were [reported in Wales](#)¹⁴². This is a 57 per cent increase on the previous year, and is also higher than in previous years, although the increase in the latest year is probably due to changes in how the data are recorded. It represents 3.7 per cent of all UK referrals. The 193 referrals were comprised of 106 females (55 per cent) and 87 males (45 per cent). There were 109 (56 per cent) individuals referred for adult exploitation categories and 84 (44 per cent) referred for exploitation as a minor.

Female genital mutilation is being increasingly identified in Wales, although may not have occurred recently or within Wales

The UN SDG 'Gender Equality' has a target to eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM).

Female Genital Mutilation (sometimes referred to as female circumcision) refers to procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. The practice is illegal in the UK under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 and the Serious Crime Act 2015 and it is mandatory for staff in the NHS to report all cases in children (under 18s) to the police. It is important to note that if a patient is identified through the delivery of care from the NHS as having had FGM, this does not mean that she had FGM either recently or that the FGM was carried out in the UK.

In [2017-18](#) a total of 271 women and girls were identified and reported as having had FGM. This compares to 174 for the previous year. The increase is likely to reflect increasing recognition by health professionals¹⁴³.

Vaccinations uptake in young children continues to be high

The UN SDG Sustainable Development goal 'Good Health and Well-being' states the importance of providing access to affordable and essential medicines and vaccines. The [World Health Organisation](#) also has a global goal to eliminate measles and rubella, by 2020.

In 2017-18, vaccine uptake in young infants remained [high and stable](#)¹⁴⁴. For the tenth consecutive year, uptake of both the '5 in 1' and pneumococcal conjugate vaccinations remained above 95 per cent in children at one year of age.

The proportion of children who were up to date with their routine immunisations by four years of age remains stable, following a decrease three years in a row.

MMR uptake was just below 95 per cent for the first dose at two years.

¹⁴² [Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking: National Referral Mechanism Statistics Annual Report 2017, National Crime Agency](#)

¹⁴³ [Public Health Wales website](#)

¹⁴⁴ [Vaccine update in children in Wales, Public Health Wales](#)

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.

Wales has wide international academic and research connections, although international student numbers in Wales have declined in recent years

Wales has four universities ranked in the top 500 in the QS World University Rankings. According to the Research and Excellence Framework (REF)'s latest assessment more than three-quarters of all research submitted to REF panels was assessed as being world-leading or [internationally excellent](#)¹⁴⁵.

A large number of students from a range of countries attend Higher Education institutions in Wales. In 2016/17, there were 21,205 international students from over 160 countries, comprising 17.5 per cent of the [total student population](#). This has declined since last year and over the past 5 years. In 2011/12 there were 25,270 international students in Wales, which made up 19.3 per cent of the student population¹⁴⁶.

Wales provides support to asylum seekers and refugees

Goal 16 of the UN SDGs is to “promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”.

Complete figures for the numbers of asylum seekers and refugees who are resettled in Wales are not available. However, figures relating to the number of refugees resettled under the Syrian Resettlement Programme, and the number of those currently receiving asylum support, are published.

At the end of 2017, nearly 3,000 asylum seekers were receiving support in Wales¹⁴⁷. Although it is a slight fall compared to the previous year, the numbers have generally been increasing each year since a low in 2011, and are similar to the levels of the previous [high point in 2006](#)¹⁴⁸.

As at the end of March 2018, a total of [720 Syrian refugees](#) have been resettled in Wales under the Vulnerable [Persons Resettlement Scheme](#)¹⁴⁹.

¹⁴⁵ [Wales and the World](#). The Learned Society of Wales

¹⁴⁶ [StatsWales](#) and Welsh Government Analysis of 2016-17 HESA Student Record

¹⁴⁷ Support through the Home Office's Section 95 Scheme. See [Section 95 Support Factsheet](#).for more information.

¹⁴⁸ [Immigration statistics, year ending March 2018](#), table as 16 q, Home Office

¹⁴⁹ [Immigration statistics, year ending March 2018](#), table as 20 q, Home Office

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 first report was published in September 2017.

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 ('Current release' tab).

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.

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.

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 have we produced a separate report for children?

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). In response to feedback we received in consulting on the national indicators, over the past year we have been working with colleagues in Cardiff University to use the Schools Health Research Network to develop our analysis of children's well-being on areas such as loneliness and perceptions of safety. This year's report therefore includes additional analysis on children's well-being based on this source, as well as the Millennium Cohort Study and other sources such as data on children in workless households from the Annual Population Survey and the Foundation Phase on-entry assessment.

National milestones

As well as setting National Indicators, the Act also requires Welsh Ministers to set National Milestones to assist in measuring whether progress is being made at a national level towards the achievement of the well-being goals. In July 2018 the Cabinet Secretary for Finance confirmed plans to consult later this year on the criteria for selecting milestones and on proposals for which Indicators might have related milestones.

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 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 will 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. The annual version of the report containing the seven progress reports against the goals has also been produced as a printable PDF document.

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 (33) 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. 1 indicator currently has 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. Ahead of the 2019 publication we will be seeking to gain National Statistics designation through assessment by the Office for Statistics Regulation.

Some of the narrative included in the “globally responsible” goal report is 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. The [Quality report for contextual information](#) provides further information, where available, about the data used as contextual information in the goal narratives.

What else should I know about the data?

The [Quality report for national indicators](#) 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 has a [National Well-being Programme](#). The publication "[Measuring National well-being: Quality of Life in the UK, 2018](#)" provides an assessment of UK progress against a set of headline national well-being indicators.

In Scotland, the National Performance Framework (NPF) sets out a vision for national wellbeing and measures achievement in relation to this. The new NPF was launched on 11 June 2018 following an extensive open review process and is underpinned by statute (the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015).

A wide range of indicators are used to assess progress towards the Purpose and National Outcomes. These provide a broad measure of national wellbeing, incorporating a range of economic, social and environmental indicators.

Performance is reported on a new [NPF website](#) which is updated as soon as new data become available. It includes performance on equality groups and area based inequalities.

In Northern Ireland, the principal mechanism for assessing societal wellbeing is the wellbeing framework of 12 outcomes that was developed by the previous Executive, consulted on and refined during 2016-2017. This framework, which contains 49 supporting population indicators, overarches the [Northern Ireland Civil Service Outcomes Delivery Plan](#) and progress on the outcomes and indicators is currently reported through an [Outcomes Viewer](#).

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency continues to participate in the ONS-led Measuring National Wellbeing programme and publish a [well-being analysis](#) based on the ONS wellbeing measures, where NI data availability allows.

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	Average capped 9 points score of pupils, 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	Yellow	Orange	Grey	Grey	Dark Blue	Grey	Light Blue
13	Concentration of carbon and organic matter in soil	Yellow	Orange	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Light Blue
14	The Ecological Footprint of Wales	Yellow	Orange	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Light Blue
15	Amount of waste generated that is not recycled, per person	Yellow	Orange	Grey	Grey	Dark Blue	Grey	Light Blue
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	Yellow	Grey	Red	Red	Grey	Grey	Light Blue
17	Gender pay difference	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Red	Grey	Grey	Grey
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	Yellow	Orange	Red	Red	Dark Blue	Blue	Light Blue
19	Percentage of people living in households in material deprivation	Yellow	Orange	Red	Red	Dark Blue	Blue	Light Blue
20	Percentage of people moderately or very satisfied with their jobs	Yellow	Grey	Red	Red	Grey	Grey	Grey
21	Percentage of people in employment	Yellow	Grey	Red	Red	Grey	Grey	Grey
22	Percentage of people in education, employment or training, measured for different age groups	Yellow	Grey	Red	Red	Dark Blue	Grey	Grey
23	Percentage who feel able to influence decisions affecting their local area	Grey	Grey	Grey	Red	Dark Blue	Grey	Light Blue
24	Percentage of people satisfied with their ability to get to/ access the facilities and services they need	Grey	Grey	Red	Red	Dark Blue	Grey	Grey
25	Percentage of people feeling safe at home, walking in the local area, and when travelling	Grey	Grey	Red	Red	Dark Blue	Grey	Grey
26	Percentage of people satisfied with local area as a place to live	Grey	Orange	Red	Grey	Dark Blue	Blue	Grey
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	Grey	Orange	Red	Red	Dark Blue	Blue	Light Blue
28	Percentage of people who volunteer	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Dark Blue	Blue	Light Blue
29	Mean mental well-being score for people	Grey	Grey	Red	Red	Grey	Grey	Grey

30	Percentage of people who are lonely	Grey	Grey	Red	Red	Dark Blue	Grey	Grey
31	Percentage of dwellings which are free from hazards	Grey	Orange	Red	Red	Dark Blue	Grey	Grey
32	Number of properties (homes and businesses) at medium or high risk of flooding from rivers and the sea	Grey	Orange	Red	Red	Dark Blue	Grey	Grey
33	Percentage of dwellings with adequate energy performance	Yellow	Orange	Red	Grey	Grey	Grey	Light Blue
34	Number of households successfully prevented from becoming homeless per 10,000 households	Yellow	Grey	Red	Red	Dark Blue	Grey	Grey
35	Percentage of people attending or participating in arts, culture or heritage activities at least three times a year	Grey	Grey	Red	Red	Dark Blue	Blue	Grey
36	Percentage of people who speak Welsh daily and can speak more than just a few words of Welsh	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Dark Blue	Blue	Light Blue
37	Percentage of people who can speak Welsh	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Dark Blue	Blue	Light Blue
38	Percentage of people participating in sporting activities three or more times a week	Grey	Orange	Red	Red	Dark Blue	Blue	Grey
39	Percentage of museums and archives holding archival/heritage collections meeting UK accreditation standards	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Blue	Light Blue
40	Percentage of designated historic environment assets that are in stable or improved conditions	Grey	Orange	Grey	Grey	Grey	Blue	Light Blue
41	Emissions of greenhouse gases within Wales	Yellow	Orange	Red	Grey	Grey	Grey	Light Blue
42	Emissions of greenhouse gases attributed to the consumption of global goods and services in Wales	Yellow	Orange	Red	Grey	Grey	Grey	Light Blue
43	Areas of healthy ecosystems in Wales	Yellow	Orange	Red	Grey	Dark Blue	Blue	Light Blue
44	Status of Biological diversity in Wales	Yellow	Orange	Grey	Grey	Dark Blue	Blue	Light Blue
45	Percentage of surface water bodies, and groundwater bodies, achieving good or high overall status	Grey	Orange	Red	Grey	Dark Blue	Blue	Light Blue
46	The social return on investment of Welsh partnerships within Wales and outside of the UK that are working towards the United Nations Sustainable	Yellow	Orange	Red	Red	Dark Blue	Blue	Light Blue

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	Average capped 9 points score of pupils, 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																	

Wales and the Sustainable Development Goals

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.

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	UN Sustainable Development	https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/