

MORTALITY Fact Sheet

Background

Information and intelligence about patterns of mortality in our population are extremely valuable in contributing to our understanding of how and how long we are living, and the main causes of ill health.

Mortality data enable us to monitor the prevalence of major chronic diseases, such as circulatory, cancer and respiratory disease. Analysis of the ages that people die, and the differences between geographical areas within the borough, helps us understand variations in mortality and focus on where this could be avoided. This provides an insight into inequalities in the health and wellbeing of our population and where to best target resources.

The Local Picture

Overall, **Fig. 1** shows that mortality rates have been progressively improving. Sutton ranks as one of the healthier boroughs in England, with mortality rates lower than the averages for England and for London. 1,527 Sutton residents died in 2016, 714 male and 813 female.

Fig. 1: Trend in mortality from all causes

However, **Fig. 2** shows that beneath this overall profile there are variations within the borough. The more disadvantaged electoral wards tend to have higher mortality rates. Mortality ranged from 28% lower in Nonsuch to 19% higher in Sutton South than the national rate. Two Sutton wards, Wandle Valley and Sutton South, had a significantly higher mortality rate than the average for England, whilst eight had a significantly lower rate (Beddington North, Belmont, Carshalton South, Worcester Park, Carshalton Central, Nonsuch, Sutton North and Carshalton South and Clockhouse, based on data for 2010-14).

Fig. 2: Mortality from all causes by Sutton electoral ward 2010-14

Preventable Mortality

The basic concept of preventable mortality is that deaths are considered preventable if, in the light of the understanding of the determinants of health at the time of death, all or most deaths from the underlying cause could potentially be avoided by public health interventions in the broadest sense.

Fig. 3 shows that mortality rates from causes considered preventable in Sutton are declining (therefore improving) in line with both the national and regional average, though there has been some levelling out in recent years. In 2015-17 there were 800 such deaths (to people aged less than 75 years). **Fig. 4** shows that Sutton is similar overall compared with London and better (lower) than the England average.

Fig. 3: Trend in mortality from causes considered preventable

Fig. 4: Mortality from causes considered preventable, Sutton and comparators

Generally, deaths in people aged less than 75 years are often taken as an indication of avoidable mortality as many of the deaths in this age group are potentially preventable. There were 482 such deaths in 2016. **Figs. 5 and 6** show that Sutton's rates have been falling and are below regional and national averages overall, but there has been an upward trend in the most recent year (getting worse), particularly for females.

Fig. 5: Trend in Mortality from all causes, persons aged less than 75

Fig. 6: Mortality from all causes, persons in Sutton aged less than 75, compared with London

Fig. 7 profiles trends in the main causes of death for people aged under 75 in Sutton (rates per 100,000 people). Cancer continues to account for the highest proportion of deaths in this age group though there has been a reduction a decrease in the rate over time. It is of note that there has been a steep decline of cardiovascular deaths.

Fig. 7: Trend in under 75 mortality rate for main causes of death, Sutton

Fig. 8 profiles mortality for those aged less than 75 by electoral ward. Rates are highest in the northern wards and some of the central wards.

Fig. 8: Map – Deaths from all causes by ward, people aged less than 75

Child and infant mortality

Infant mortality

The definition of Infant Mortality is the death of a child in the first year of life. The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) is defined as the number of babies born alive, who die in their first year per 1,000 live births. IMR is often used as a comparative measure of a nation's health.

Nationally, infant mortality rates show large socio-economic and ethnic differences. For example, infant mortality rates for babies born in the UK range from 7.4 for Pakistani, 6.7 for Black African, 5.7 for Black Caribbean, down to 3.2 for White British and 2.2 for White Other babies per 1,000 live births (ONS, 2014).

Reducing IMR is a key national target for tackling inequalities and **Fig. 9** shows that there has been an upturn in the rate in the latest time periods which is of concern. In 2013-15 **Fig. 10** shows that Sutton ranked in the top half of all London boroughs with a rate of 3.6 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, similar compared to London (3.4) and England (3.9).

Fig. 9: Trend in Infant Mortality

Fig. 10: Infant Mortality, Sutton compared to London boroughs

Child Mortality

Deaths in childhood are very rare and of these most occur at a very young age and are due to neonatal, perinatal, congenital and inherited conditions.

Overall in the last 20 years, rates of death for children aged less than 15 years have been decreasing (improving) in Sutton in line with the national and London trend.

Fig. 11 shows that Sutton's Age Standardised Death Rate (ASDR) for children under 15 years is lower than both national and regional rates though not significantly. Sutton's Directly Standardised Rate (DSR) is 29 deaths per 100,000, compared to London DSR 32, and England DSR 35.

Fig. 11: Mortality from all causes, children aged less than 15 years

Life expectancy

Life expectancy at birth is a well recognised measure of comparative health. It is an estimate of the average number of years a newborn baby would survive if he or she experienced the age-specific mortality rates for that area and time period throughout his or her life.¹

Figs. 12 and 13 indicate that Sutton's life expectancy at birth in 2013-15 is 80.8 years for males and 83.5 years for females (compared to 80.2 for males, 84.1 for females in London, and 79.5 for males, 83.1 for females in England). Since 2001 life expectancy in Sutton has increased by 4 years for men and 3 years for women (from 2001-03 to 2013-15). This is similar to London which increased by 4 years for men and 3 years for women, and for England which increased by 3 years for men and 2 years for women.

Fig. 12: Life Expectancy comparing Sutton with London boroughs

Fig. 13: Trend in Life Expectancy

Life expectancy at age 65 is an estimate of the number of years still to be lived by a person who has reached the age of 65. For males in Sutton this is currently 19.1 years (so a 65 year old man is expected to reach 84.1 years) and for females 21.3 years (so expected to reach 86.3 years). **Figs 14 and 15** indicate that overall over time Sutton's life expectancy at age 65 has been rising (improving), though it has levelled out in the latest time periods.

Fig. 14: Life Expectancy at age 65

Fig. 15: Trend in Life Expectancy at age 65

¹ Public Health Outcomes Framework Definition of Life Expectancy at birth. Available at: <http://www.phoutcomes.info/>

Another measure, *healthy life expectancy at birth*, is defined by Public Health England as the average number of years a person would expect to live in good health based on current mortality rates and prevalence of self-reported good health.

Fig. 16 indicates that in Sutton healthy life expectancy is 63.2 years for males and 66.8 for females. Overall, this is similar to London and England for males and better for females.

Fig. 16: Healthy Life Expectancy at birth

Differences in life expectancy within Sutton

Overall, life expectancy at birth in Sutton is longer than the England average, but there is a difference of about 5 years for men and 6 years for women between electoral wards within the borough based on PHE figures for 2010-14, **Fig. 17**. Life expectancy for men ranged from 78.3 years in the Wrythe ward to 83.2 years in Nonsuch ward. For women life expectancy ranged from 80.7 years in Wandle Valley ward to 86.7 years in Nonsuch ward.

There are anomalies where life expectancy is shorter in some of the more affluent areas in Sutton, particularly for women. Previous investigations found higher mortality could be attributed to excess deaths for those aged over 75 in two electoral wards: Sutton South and Cheam. This was considered to be linked to the large nursing and residential home population concentrated there.

Fig. 17: Life expectancy at birth by sex by electoral ward, 2010-14

Slope Index and Deprivation

The Slope Index of Inequality (SII) is a measure of the social gradient in life expectancy, i.e. how much life expectancy varies with deprivation. It takes account of health inequalities across the whole range of deprivation within an area and summarises this in a single number of years. In many respects this is a better measure than just comparing the difference between electoral wards.

The Slope Index for males in Sutton for 2013-15 is 7 years. This represents the range in years of life expectancy across the social gradient within the borough, from the most to least deprived. For females the Slope Index is 5.4 years and there has been an increase in the most recent time period. The table at **Fig. 18** shows Life Expectancy for each deprivation decile by sex for the period 2013-15.

Fig. 18: Life expectancy at birth by deprivation decile, Sutton, 2013-15

Relevant indicators from the Public Health Outcomes Framework

- *Overarching Indicators:* 0.1 Healthy life expectancy and Life Expectancy at birth and at 65, 0.2 Slope index of inequality
 - *Healthcare and premature mortality:* 4.01 Infant mortality, 4.03 to 4.08 Under 75 mortality rate by disease group
- Available at: <http://www.phoutcomes.info>

Links to further information

- See Factsheets on **CIRCULATORY DISEASE, STROKE, CANCER, RESPIRATORY DISEASE, SUICIDE** and **END OF LIFE CARE**.
- Public Health England (PHE). Local Health Profiles (for Local Authorities) <http://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles>
- NHS Digital Indicator Portal. <https://indicators.ic.nhs.uk/webview/>
- Public Health England. The Segment Tool for Sutton. <http://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/segment>