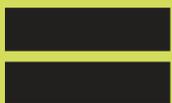


# How fair is Wales?

Equality, human rights and good relations

March 2011



Comisiwn  
Cydraddoldeb a  
Hawliau Dynol

Equality and  
Human Rights  
Commission

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# Acknowledgements

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# Foreword

This Review brings together, for the first time, evidence to answer the question **How fair is Wales?**. It offers a new perspective on some persistent inequalities and it identifies some new challenges.

In October 2010 the Commission published its first Triennial Review, **How fair is Britain?**. This is the first of a series of reviews that will be presented to Parliament every three years. It provides independent evidence to measure progress towards equality, good relations and human rights. We recommend everyone takes a look - it contains a wealth of useful data.

**How fair is Wales?** sets the Triennial Review in a Wales context. It is not a blueprint for change. It sets out evidence to help everyone focus limited resources where these will have most positive impact. Whether your interest is in housing, social care or educational attainment, using this evidence to look at the issue through the equality lens will bring new insights.

We are providing a baseline for measuring whether the decisions we take now help us to move towards a fairer society. In future years individuals and organisations will be able to see clearly where progress has been made and where more needs to be done.

Every person in Wales should have the opportunity to flourish, realise their full potential and be happy. We hope **How fair is Wales?** generates a far-reaching debate about the best way to achieve this. Our aim is that it assists in identifying the levers for change and encourages partnerships that become the catalysts for change.

We look forward to working with you to ensure everyone's needs are taken into account in building our future.



**Ann Beynon**, Commissioner for Wales

**Kate Bennett**, National Director for Wales

## Part one: An agenda for fairness

The evidence in Part three paints a powerful picture of a Wales with deeply entrenched inequalities. Whether looking at people's health, their earnings, their qualifications, their risk of being a victim of crime or their ability to make their views heard, it is clear that advantage, power and resources are not distributed evenly.

The uneven distribution of advantage in life is not random. Even with gaps in evidence in some areas, what we see through the mass of statistics are clear patterns in which some groups of people consistently secure a larger share of wealth, well-being and influence than others. Some groups are not even able to secure the basic necessities of life that others take for granted.

The inequality which dominates the landscape is socio-economic, not least because of the scale of its impact, the breadth of its influence and the depth of the inequalities created. Across the board, people from lower socio-economic groups do not, on average, enjoy the same quality of life as people from higher socio-economic groups, whether it is lower life expectancy, lower educational attainment, or lower incomes and wealth. Moreover, inequalities are proving very enduring, with many worsening in recent years despite government efforts to reduce them.

The sheer scale and challenge presented by socio-economic inequality in Wales should not, however, obscure other inequalities that exist alongside and which are interwoven with socio-economic disadvantage.

Gender inequality remains despite many changes in gender roles, with women disadvantaged in key areas of employment and income. But there are other important aspects of gender inequality too, notably in various measures of life and health in which outcomes for men are poorer than for women. Inequality associated with disability is striking, affecting employment, education and earnings. Ethnicity is complex: although on the whole ethnic minority groups have less favourable outcomes on key measures of well-being, there are marked differences within non-white groups with socio-economic difference being an important and additional factor here also.

Age, too, presents a complex picture: whilst being young brings with it lower pay and a higher risk of being a victim of violent crime, being older has risks for some of lack of employment, ill health and lack of dignity in care.

Gaps in the evidence mean relatively little is known about inequality faced by people of different religious faiths or lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, and also about Gypsy Travellers, refugees and asylum seekers. The lack of evidence and the small size of the groups concerned does not mean, of course, that there are no inequalities to be addressed. What evidence there is suggests many of these groups face inequality and discrimination, for example higher rates of bullying and harassment.

The co-existence of socio-economic inequalities alongside those associated with gender, age, race, disability, religion, sexual orientation and transgender status means that efforts to reduce socio-economic inequalities need to take account of other aspects of inequality – and vice versa. It is not sufficient to focus on lower socio-economic groups without recognising that the position of women and men, white and ethnic minority, and disabled and non-disabled people may be very different within them. Similarly, it is not sufficient to focus solely on protected groups, irrespective of their socio-economic circumstances.

So, not only must efforts to tackle socio-economic inequalities be at the centre of Welsh Assembly and UK government policies, they must be effectively integrated with efforts to promote equality between those protected groups and the rest of society.

This is no small challenge, but it is one that must be met if people in Wales are to achieve their full potential, irrespective of their background and personal characteristics.

Here we highlight the specific challenges that face Wales over the next five years. In doing so we set an ‘agenda for fairness’ for Wales.

## **Life and health**

**Reduce health inequalities between socio-economic groups - especially those affecting older and younger men.**

The socio-economic inequalities in life prospects and health are stark. There are significant differences in life expectancy and in the prevalence of limiting long-term illness, disability and poor health between socio-economic groups.

In terms of life expectancy, socio-economic inequalities combine with gender inequalities to result in particularly poor outcomes for men from working class backgrounds in Wales. Not only is life expectancy in Wales shorter than in England, a man in Wales has a life expectancy four years less than a woman and a man from a disadvantaged area has a shorter life expectancy than a man from the most prosperous parts of Wales.

To this must be added the higher risks of death from suicide and accident for those from lower socio-economic groups, with young men being at particular risk.

In terms of ill health, socio-economic group combines with age to produce poor outcomes for older people from working class backgrounds and in disadvantaged areas. This is such that in parts of Wales more than half the population over the age of 55 is disabled. Given the forecast of significant increases in the number of older people in Wales, the health status of this group is a major issue.

Tackling inequalities in health arising from socio-economic group has been a priority in Welsh Assembly Government policies, although not previously in conjunction with gender and age. Alongside the overall aim of improving the health of the people of Wales, addressing these inequalities would improve individuals' lives and reduce costs to the public purse in terms of lost productivity and calls on NHS services.

## **Education and skills**

**Close the gap in attainment between different socio-economic groups - including that of boys, black, Bangladeshi and Pakistani pupils and disabled children.**

**Reduce the incidence of young people who are not in education, employment or training.**

In education, as in health, the weight of evidence points to socio-economic group as one of sharpest divides in Welsh society.

From early years through to adulthood, people from lower groups on average have poorer educational outcomes than those from higher groups. This is not only marked in educational attainment and participation across the age spectrum, it is also apparent in related issues such as exclusion from school and being not in education, employment or training (NEET).

But although the most significant inequality affecting the largest number of people is socio-economic, it should not mask the impact of other inequalities. Three other aspects of inequality stand out.

First, the lower attainment of boys compared with girls. This is clear from school years through to adulthood, and is reflected in measures such as exclusions from school and likelihood of being NEET. Efforts to improve the educational attainment of boys need, therefore, to be an integral part of efforts to improve the attainment of lower socio-economic groups.

Second, differences between ethnic groups. Here, it is clear that the differences are much more complex than simply a distinction between white and non-white groups. Chinese and Indian children on average perform better than children from white groups at age 16, while black, Pakistani and Bangladeshi pupils on average do worse.

Third, are inequalities associated with disability. Although the evidence uses many different definitions of disability, it is nevertheless clear that disabled children are more likely to be permanently excluded from school, have lower levels of attainment and are less likely to get higher education qualifications than non-disabled children. The poorer educational outcomes of disabled children contribute to their poorer prospects in the labour market in due course. Action to improve the educational outcomes for disabled children and young people is needed.

Much more should be done to reduce socio-economic disadvantage. The needs of boys and girls, black and other ethnic minority pupils, as well as disabled learners, need to be integral to that action.

Developing skills will open up better employment and earnings opportunities for individuals and will be an essential part of Wales's future economic success.

## **Employment**

**Increase employment rates for all people, especially disabled people and older people.**

**Close gender, ethnic and disability pay gaps faster and further**

So far, the inequalities in Wales are broadly the same as those facing the UK as a whole. However, they diverge on the question of employment.

One of the most striking inequalities is not just amongst people who already have a job but between those who are employed and those who are not. The overall rate of employment in Wales is considerably lower than in Britain as a whole, particularly for men. However, much of this is attributable to the exceptionally low employment rates of disabled people and older people in Wales. Non-disabled people and people in mid-working life in Wales have virtually the same employment rate as the British average.

With the globalization of the economy and the prospect of continued economic stagnation, improving employment rates will be a tough but necessary challenge.

Amongst those who are in employment, pay gaps are one of the most significant areas of inequality. Overall, median wages in Wales are lower than the British average, the effect of which is to narrow the pay gaps between women's and men's earnings, and between disabled people's and non-disabled people's earnings. But although the gap is narrowed, it is not eradicated. The hourly wages of full-time women workers, disabled workers and Pakistani and Bangladeshi workers, are less than men's and non-disabled people's wages. This remains a deep-seated inequality.

The future changes in public sector employment (where so many women in Wales work) are likely to exacerbate the gaps because of severe financial pressures and wage restraint.

A lifetime of low income may mean poverty in old age. At the same time as tackling low pay, it should be a priority to close the current pay gaps.

## Legal and physical security

**Reduce the incidence of domestic and sexual violence and reduce homophobic, transphobic, disability-related and religiously motivated bullying and hate crime.**

Although the evidence on legal and physical security is limited by the relative absence of data, two key issues stand out.

First, the incidence and fear of violent crime. Young men and ethnic minority groups have the greatest risk of being a victim of violent crime in general, with women being by far at the greatest risk of sexual violence (including rape) and of domestic abuse. Women, disabled people, older people, ethnic minority groups and people from lower socio-economic groups are most likely to fear violent crime.

Domestic abuse results in the death of two women every week, devastates families and costs the UK economy an estimated £6bn a year. Reducing domestic abuse, sexual violence and hate crime is complex and can be resource-intensive. As public spending reductions take effect it is vital that the progress made to date continues.

Second, the question of lack of confidence in the justice system and the police. The low levels of confidence in the police in Wales (as in Britain as a whole) is striking. The police cannot effectively enforce the criminal justice system without public confidence in its work. Yet barely half the population of Wales believe that the criminal justice system is fair, with disabled people, ethnic minority groups, Gypsy Travellers, asylum seekers and transgender people all having even lower levels of confidence than the general public.

Low levels of confidence lead to significant under-reporting of hate crime and often justice is not achieved. Preventing hate crime is an essential step in building good relations between groups in society. Where hate crime occurs, increasing reporting rates is an urgent task.

## **Power and voice**

**Increase participation of protected groups in decision-making and make Wales's public, private and third sector bodies representative of the people they serve.**

The National Assembly for Wales came into being in 1999 committed to supporting people's voices in decision-making. Yet the evidence, patchy though it is, suggests that those from protected groups are yet to fully participate in decision making or to exert the same power and influence that some groups have enjoyed for decades.

## **Next steps**

The next five years in Wales will bring many complex challenges to the Welsh Assembly Government. Making progress on the challenges we have identified will make a powerful contribution to individuals' lives, to their families and to the Welsh economy.

In responding to severe pressure on public finances and to rapid shifts in Wales's communities, there must be a strong commitment to building a Wales that is fair as well as prosperous and sustainable. Fairness and equality are not optional extras, to be added in the good times and dropped in the bad, but fundamental requirements of a decent quality of life for all.

# Part two: Context

## Introduction

In many ways Wales in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is very different to thirty years ago. It is now the norm for women to have paid employment and there are now women, albeit not many, in top jobs. Wales has its first ethnic minority Assembly Member, and South Wales Police has appointed its first ethnic minority senior officer. Some Welsh politicians and sports people have 'come out' and more than 1,200 civil partnerships have been formed since 2005.

But in other ways Wales remains very similar. Women still bear the brunt of domestic responsibilities and are more likely to work part-time and earn less than men. People from ethnic minority groups, disabled people, lesbian, gay and bisexual people and transgender people are all at risk from hate crime and bullying. And people from lower socio-economic groups have significantly poorer life chances than people from higher socio-economic groups.

This Review of equality in Wales follows the review undertaken for Britain as a whole.<sup>1</sup> It identifies the key aspects of equality, using the Commission's Equality Measurement Framework and data specific to Wales, and spells out an agenda for action. Whilst the Welsh Assembly Government and Welsh public bodies do not hold all the levers for effecting change, the increasingly distinctive Welsh equality agenda and legal powers provide an opportunity for change.

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<sup>1</sup> Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) (2010) How Fair is Britain?

## The legal landscape

Equality in Wales is governed, as in Britain as a whole, by a substantial body of law which has over the years included more and more subject areas and additional groups of people. The Equality Act 2010 marks a turning point, by putting all ‘protected characteristics’ of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, gender, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, and marriage and civil partnership on generally the same footing. As well as allowing individuals to bring a discrimination claim, it puts public sector organisations under a duty to ensure equality.

Wales has, in addition, developed its own equality agenda through implementation of aspects of British law and through legislation and policy specific to Wales. The Equality Act gives Welsh Ministers the power to impose specific equality duties on Welsh public authorities. Proposed regulations<sup>2</sup> include requiring public authorities to publish a Strategic Equality Plan containing ‘equality objectives’, proposals to meet the objectives and their engagement with people with protected characteristics. Consideration must be given to whether closing pay gaps should be an equality objective. These show a markedly different approach in both ethos and detail than in England.<sup>3</sup>

In terms of specific legislation, the Government of Wales Acts of 1998 and 2006 require Welsh Ministers to have ‘due regard to the principle that there should be equality of opportunity for all people’. This requirement has underpinned a strong commitment to equality and human rights in numerous policies such as those on children, older people and refugees and asylum seekers in which strategies and plans have been produced. Sometimes, specific funding has been allocated to deliver these programmes.

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<sup>2</sup> Welsh Assembly Government (2010) Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011

<sup>3</sup> Equalities Office (2010) Equality Act 2010: The public sector equality duty

The Government of Wales Act 2006 also gave the National Assembly for Wales the power to make its own law on certain subjects, including aspects of equality. These include:

- Education (Wales) Measure 2009 – gives children the right of appeal in respect of Special Educational Needs and Disability Discrimination in schools.
- Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010 – includes increased access to advocacy services.
- Proposed Local Government Measure – includes a duty to gather data about candidates for election, rights for elected members' family absence and a duty to involve young people.
- Proposed Rights of Children and Young People measure – requires Ministers to have regard to the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Welsh Language Measure 2010 – gives equal status to the Welsh language and creates a Commissioner.

## **Changing population and public opinion**

### **Changing population and society**

The population of Wales has changed greatly in recent years and is more diverse than ever before.

Most striking is the increasing proportion of older people in the population: 18% were over the age of 65 in 2009, an increase of 9.1% since 1999. The numbers of older people are expected to rise further by 2023 as 190,000 more people reach 65.<sup>4</sup>

The prevalence of disability is also worth noting. Around a fifth of Wales's working age population was disabled in 2009, about one in ten being disabled because of mental illness.<sup>5</sup> Wales has a higher proportion of older people and disabled people than Britain as a whole.

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<sup>4</sup> Welsh Assembly Government (2010) Wales's Population – a demographic overview 2010. Available at:

<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/statistics/2010/101027walespopulationen.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Welsh Assembly Government (2008) Prevalence of Disability in Wales, 2004-2007. SB 76/2008. Disability defined as DDA

Other changes involve much smaller numbers of people but are no less significant. Just under 3% of the population in Wales is from an ethnic minority group (about 36,000 people of Asian / Asian British origin and 23,700 of mixed race).<sup>6</sup> There are about 2,000 Gypsy Travellers in Wales and 10,000 asylum seekers.<sup>7</sup> About one in five (18.5%) of the population has no religious faith – amongst those who have a religion only 2.5% are not Christian.<sup>8</sup>

A small proportion of the Welsh population (1.7%) say they are gay, lesbian or bisexual (although there is likely to be significant under-declaration).<sup>9</sup> The number of transgender people is unknown.

Welsh society has changed too. Families look very different to those of 50 years ago: fewer people are getting married than before, and more people live alone, with a partner or in 'complex' households. Women are delaying having children, have fewer children than in the past and many now do so outside marriage - more than half (56%) of all births in Wales in 2009 were to unmarried mothers.<sup>10</sup>

Many more women and fewer men work today than in the past and part-time working is now relatively common. Women have also made limited inroads into typically male jobs (and vice versa) and the gender pay gap has narrowed though not closed.

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<sup>6</sup> Welsh Assembly Government (2010) Population Estimates by Ethnic Group, 2001-2007, Statistical Bulletin 4/2010

<sup>7</sup> Winckler, V. ed. (2009) Equality Issues in Wales – a Research Review. Equality and Human Rights Commission

<sup>8</sup> Lee, R. (2007) 'A Social Audit of the Muslim Community in Wales'. *Statistical Article*. Cardiff: Welsh Assembly Government. Available

at: <http://new.wales.gov.uk/docrepos/40382/40382313/statistics/other/sa10a.pdf?lang=en>

<sup>9</sup> StatsWales Table 025006 Integrated Household Survey – Sexual Identity by Local Authority. Downloaded on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

<sup>10</sup> Welsh Assembly Government (2010) Births and Infant Mortality Statistics, 2008. SB 18/2010

Social relationships are also changing: the increase in car ownership means personal mobility is dramatically higher than in the past, whilst internet access and use has increased greatly. Nevertheless, the vast majority (85%) of people feel like they belong to their neighbourhood and four out of ten participate in a social or cultural organisation.<sup>11</sup>

Use of the Welsh language has changed too – over a fifth of the population say they can speak Welsh (58% of them fluently), a slight increase after more than a century of decline. In Gwynedd and Anglesey more than half the population speaks Welsh<sup>12</sup> and over three quarters of the speakers state that they are fluent.<sup>13</sup>

For all these changes, deep seated inequalities in Wales remain, with the gap between the most and least well-off remaining virtually the same over the last ten years.

The richest tenth of the population has about 25% of Wales's income whereas the poorest tenth has just 1.5%. This socio-economic inequality permeates all areas of Welsh society.

## **Changing attitudes and opinions**

People in Wales, like in Britain as a whole, have become more tolerant of people from different backgrounds in many ways. More than half the population (58.3%) thinks it is better for the country if there is a variety of different cultures.<sup>14</sup>

Surveys suggest that most people in Wales, as in Britain, are comfortable with people from other racial groups. More than three quarters would have no objection if a close relative married someone from a different ethnic background,<sup>15</sup> and only one in ten would think it was acceptable to turn away someone from a bed and breakfast because of their race. Most people are positive towards people with different religions, with only 8% feeling unhappy about a close relative marrying someone with a different religion.

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<sup>11</sup> Welsh Assembly Government (2009) Living in Wales Survey, 2008

<sup>12</sup> 2001 Census of Population

<sup>13</sup> Welsh Language Board (2008) The Welsh Language Use Surveys of 2004-06

<sup>14</sup> Welsh Assembly Government (2008) Living in Wales Survey 2007, Table 1

<sup>15</sup> *ibid*

Attitudes to men and women's roles in Wales are, as in the Triennial Review for Britain, mostly positive. Nine out of ten people think fathers should be just as able to take time off to care for sick children as mothers. Almost half think women are treated unfairly at work and just over half support additional training and qualifications for women.<sup>16</sup>

But it is not all good news. Attitudes to disabled people are complex: about two-thirds of disabled people feel that there is some discrimination against them as a group, and a third of all people feel that disabled people are not treated fairly.<sup>17</sup> Attitudes are especially negative towards people with mental health conditions: four out of ten people think someone who experiences depression is not suitable to be a teacher, while 37% would be unhappy about a close relative marrying someone with a mental health condition.<sup>18</sup>

Age is an issue too: many feel older people do not respect younger people, while two-thirds of younger people do not feel that they are listened to.<sup>19</sup> Attitudes to Gypsy Travellers are generally negative: 63% of people think Gypsy Travellers are unsuitable to be teachers and 38% would be unhappy about a close relative marrying a Gypsy Traveller.<sup>20</sup> Nearly two-thirds of people strongly disagree that they would have no objection to a Gypsy Traveller site being near their home.<sup>21</sup> Asylum seekers are also not well-regarded: 37% would be unhappy about a close relative marrying an asylum seeker.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> EHRC Wales (2009) Who do you see?

<sup>17</sup> Welsh Assembly Government (2009) Living in Wales Survey 2008

<sup>18</sup> EHRC Wales (2009) Who do you see?

<sup>19</sup> *ibid*

<sup>20</sup> *ibid*

<sup>21</sup> Welsh Assembly Government (2008) *op. cit.*

<sup>22</sup> EHRC Wales (2009) Who do you see?

While there has undoubtedly been progress on attitudes towards lesbian, gay and bisexual people in Wales, there is still prejudice. People in Wales are amongst the least likely in the UK to agree that anti-gay prejudice should be tackled,<sup>23</sup> a fifth (22%) think a lesbian or gay person is unsuitable to be a teacher, 17% think it is acceptable for a bed and breakfast establishment to turn down a booking from a lesbian or gay couple, and more than a quarter (26%) would be unhappy about a close relative marrying or forming a long term partnership with someone of the same sex.<sup>24</sup>

Many people in Wales are uncomfortable about transgender people. Only a third of adults say that they would be happy for a relative to have a long-term relationship with a transgender person and nearly half think a transgender person is unsuitable to be a teacher.

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<sup>23</sup> Stonewall (2007) Living Together: Britain attitudes to lesbian and gay people. London: Stonewall

<sup>24</sup> EHRC Wales (2009) Who do you see?

## Experiences of discrimination

Many people report that they experience discrimination, harassment and abuse. About 10% of the population as a whole has experienced an incident of discrimination, harassment or victimisation in the last five years.<sup>25</sup>

Some groups, such as young people, disabled people,<sup>26</sup> lesbian, gay and bisexual people,<sup>27</sup> refugees and asylum seekers,<sup>28 29</sup> transgender people,<sup>30</sup> people with mental health conditions<sup>31</sup> and older people<sup>32</sup> report very much higher levels of discrimination and harassment – up to a third of all disabled 16-39 year olds said they had been the victim of discrimination or harassment.

## Wales in the world

Wales along with the rest of Britain faces major changes in coming years which will affect the overall structure of the economy and society, as well as affecting different groups in society in different ways.<sup>33</sup>

The Triennial Review for Britain identified three major factors that will affect the relative position of different groups of people – the global economy and recession, reductions in public spending and reform of public services, and long-term demographic change particularly increased longevity and migration. These bring major challenges to efforts to reduce inequality, including the risk of new areas of inequality emerging, as well as opportunities to bring about a more equal society.

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<sup>25</sup> Welsh Assembly Government (2009) Living in Wales Survey, 2008 p67

<sup>26</sup> Welsh Assembly Government (2009) Living in Wales Survey, 2008 Chart 9.1

<sup>27</sup> Williams, M. and Robinson, A.L. 2007. *Counted In! The All Wales Survey of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual People*. London: Stonewall.

<sup>28</sup> Crawley, H. (2009) Refugees Living in Wales - A survey of skills, experiences and barriers to inclusion. Cardiff: Welsh Assembly Government

<sup>29</sup> EHRC Wales (2010) Not just another statistic

<sup>30</sup> EHRC Wales (2010) Not just another statistic

<sup>31</sup> EHRC Wales (2010) Not just another statistic

<sup>32</sup> Parry, O., Warren, E., Carnwell, R. and Baker, S. (2009) Voices of Older People in Wales - a qualitative study of health and wellbeing among the over 50s

<sup>33</sup> All data in this section is from the Annual Population Survey accessed via NOMIS unless otherwise stated.

## **Globalisation and recession**

The global recession which began in 2008 exacerbated Wales's already weak economic position. The downward trend in manufacturing employment accelerated as about 45,000 jobs were lost in just two years from major employers such as Bosch, Hoover and Hotpoint at the same time as public and private services were squeezed. Young people aged 16-24 and men experienced the proportionately greatest decrease in employment.

Mirroring the jobs lost, unemployment in Wales increased by 45% (36,000 people) to 7.7% between 2008 and 2010 and again, young people aged 16-24 and men of all ages experienced by far the largest increase in the numbers unemployed, as did unemployment amongst ethnic minority males which almost doubled over the same time. By June 2010 more than quarter of young men in Wales were out of work.

High levels of unemployment in Wales sit alongside already high levels of economic inactivity, mainly associated with sickness and disability, giving Wales the unenviable record of having the lowest employment rate of countries in Britain for all age groups, both sexes and disabled and non-disabled people. Only the employment rate for ethnic minority groups is above that of other nations.

It is imperative that full account is taken of the diversity of Wales's workforce in tackling Wales's economic problems, not least because nearly half the workforce is female, more than a quarter is over 50 years old and one in seven is disabled. Wales's ethnic minority, female, disabled and older people have a wealth of talent and experience to offer in employment.

## Public service reform

Over the next four years public spending faces unprecedented pressure. UK government departmental budgets will be reduced by an average of 19% by 2014-15, although there is considerable variation around this figure.<sup>34</sup> The Welsh Assembly Government's budget will be reduced by 7.5%, a larger reduction than Scotland or Northern Ireland.<sup>35</sup> The effect of this pressure could take several forms.

First, loss of jobs: one estimate is that 52,000 jobs could be lost – 4.3% of all employment in Wales – through the combined effect of reductions in the public sector workforce, in public contracts and the multiplier effect on the local economy.<sup>36</sup> Many forecast that the concentration of women workers in the public sector means they will be particularly affected by job losses.

Second, changes in income: although it is difficult to assess the impact of the proposed Universal Credit, and changes to Housing and Council Tax Benefit, those who claim some form of out-of-work benefit, Working or Child Tax Credit, Housing Benefit, Disability Living Allowance and Council Tax Benefit will see major changes to their incomes. There are clear equality issues here as those receiving means-tested benefits are, by definition, on relatively low incomes, with disabled people and those over the age of 55 being disproportionately reliant on benefits.

Third, changes in public services as a consequence of public spending reductions. At this stage it is not clear how services will change, but with people on low incomes, disabled people, older people and women relying most on public services there is a considerable risk they will be adversely affected by changes.

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<sup>34</sup> HM Treasury (2010) Spending Review 2010. Cm 7942.

<sup>35</sup> Welsh Assembly Government (2010) Draft Budget 2011/12.

<sup>36</sup> PWC (2010) UK Economic Outlook November 2010, Table 2.1.1.

## Demographic changes

The population of Wales is likely to change in coming years through a mixture of increased longevity and migration.

The number of people in Wales is projected to cross the 3 million mark in 2009-2010 and grow to 3.2 million by 2023. A combination of a longer life expectancy and fewer children being born will see the proportion of people aged 65 and over rise by more than a third so that by 2023 this age group will account for nearly a quarter of the total population.<sup>37</sup> The largest percentage increases are forecast to be amongst the oldest age groups: by 2031 it is estimated that 9% of the Welsh population will be aged 75-84 and 4.7% will be aged 85 and over.<sup>38</sup>

Wales's ageing population is a testament to healthier lifestyles and better health care. It also raises the challenges of:

- providing an adequate income through pensions and other sources;
- fewer workers in the economy to support people who are not working;
- providing suitable housing and other services to enable people to live independently for as long as possible;
- providing appropriate care services and support for carers.

Only about a third of the forecast increase in Wales's population between 2008 and 2023 is attributable to 'natural change' i.e. a greater number of births than deaths. The rest of the growth is estimated to come from migration into Wales.<sup>39</sup> Wales has a long history of attracting people from other countries. Today, by far the greatest 'inflow' of people is from England, with just 7,800 people moving to Wales from overseas. In-migration is offset by out-migration, with the rest of the UK being by far the main destination for those moving away, with on average 7,700 leaving for overseas destinations.

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<sup>37</sup> Welsh Assembly Government (2010) Wales's Population - A Demographic Overview 2010.

<sup>38</sup> Welsh Assembly Government (2009) Population Aged 50 and Over in Wales, 1991 to 2031, SB 31/2009

<sup>39</sup> Welsh Assembly Government (2010) Wales's Population - A Demographic Overview 2010.

The largest numbers of both in- and out-migration are aged 16-24 and 25-44, although the biggest net increase in population from in-migration is amongst those aged 45-64.<sup>40</sup>

In-migration, whether from England or overseas, can be highly contentious and raises particular issues in Wales associated with Welsh language and culture. Whilst the focus at UK-level is on capping immigration, the focus in Wales has been on integration and community cohesion, whilst protecting the rights of all groups of people. This will continue to be a challenge in the future.

The changes in the economy, population and public spending and services outlined above are major upheavals, whose potential to transform Wales's society should not be underestimated. In the midst of change, the temptation may be to focus on the challenges without recognising that they may affect different groups of people unequally and unfairly.

The rest of this Review for Wales provides an evidence base to help government, business, voluntary organisations and others in society to take stock and identify where limited resources should be deployed to tackle the key inequalities and challenges.

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<sup>40</sup> *ibid*

## Part three: The evidence

This section looks at the evidence on equality in Wales today and uses the same indicators as **How fair is Britain?**. The indicators are derived from the Equalities Measurement Framework, which identifies different areas of life that affect people's opportunities and outcomes. These are:

- life
- legal and physical security
- health
- education
- employment
- standard of living
- care and support
- power and voice

A set of 40 indicators has been developed to measure equality within these 'domains', a full list of which is in the Triennial Review for Britain. The indicators cover a mix of inequality in **outcomes**, i.e. what different groups of people in Wales achieve, and inequality in **processes**, i.e. differences in the way that people are treated.

### Data gaps

The rest of this section systematically presents the evidence on equality in Wales measured against these 40 indicators. Unfortunately, there is an immediate difficulty in doing so because of gaps in the available data.

There are three types of gap. The first is where although there is data for the Welsh population as a whole comparable with that used for Britain, the data for protected groups in Wales is either non-existent or is unreliable due to small sample sizes. However data for protected groups does exist for Britain as a whole.

The second type of gap relates to groups for whom there is little or no data at all, either in Wales or across Britain, or where what is available is unreliable. This applies to sexual orientation and transgender status, for example. It also applies to sub-groups of people – for example there is very little data on people with different impairments, Gypsy Travellers or asylum seekers and refugees.

The final type of gap relates to indicators where there is no data at all for any group in Wales, simply because it is not collected. One such example is the early years' indicator, where there is no data for Wales on development at age 5, or the characteristics of voters or politicians.

The approach taken in dealing with these gaps is therefore as follows:

- Where data for Wales is cited in the Triennial Review for Britain it is quoted and if necessary updated.
- Where data for Wales is not cited in the Triennial Review for Britain but is available from other published sources it is included.
- Where there is no data specific to Wales, data for England and Wales combined or for Britain as a whole is used. This is particularly the case for analysis by ethnicity as the ethnic minority population of Wales is relatively small.
- Where there are no robust data available or noteworthy findings for Wales or for anywhere else in Britain, the group in question is not discussed at all. Unfortunately, this occurs frequently in respect of religion, sexual orientation and transgender status. The gaps are not highlighted in the text to avoid repetition.

For the most part, the analysis of each indicator looks first at the overall position in Wales, and its comparison with England or Britain. If there are notable differences within Wales they are also highlighted. Each indicator then includes consideration, where robust data is available, of socio-economic group, gender, age, disability and race, followed by religion, sexual orientation and transgender status.

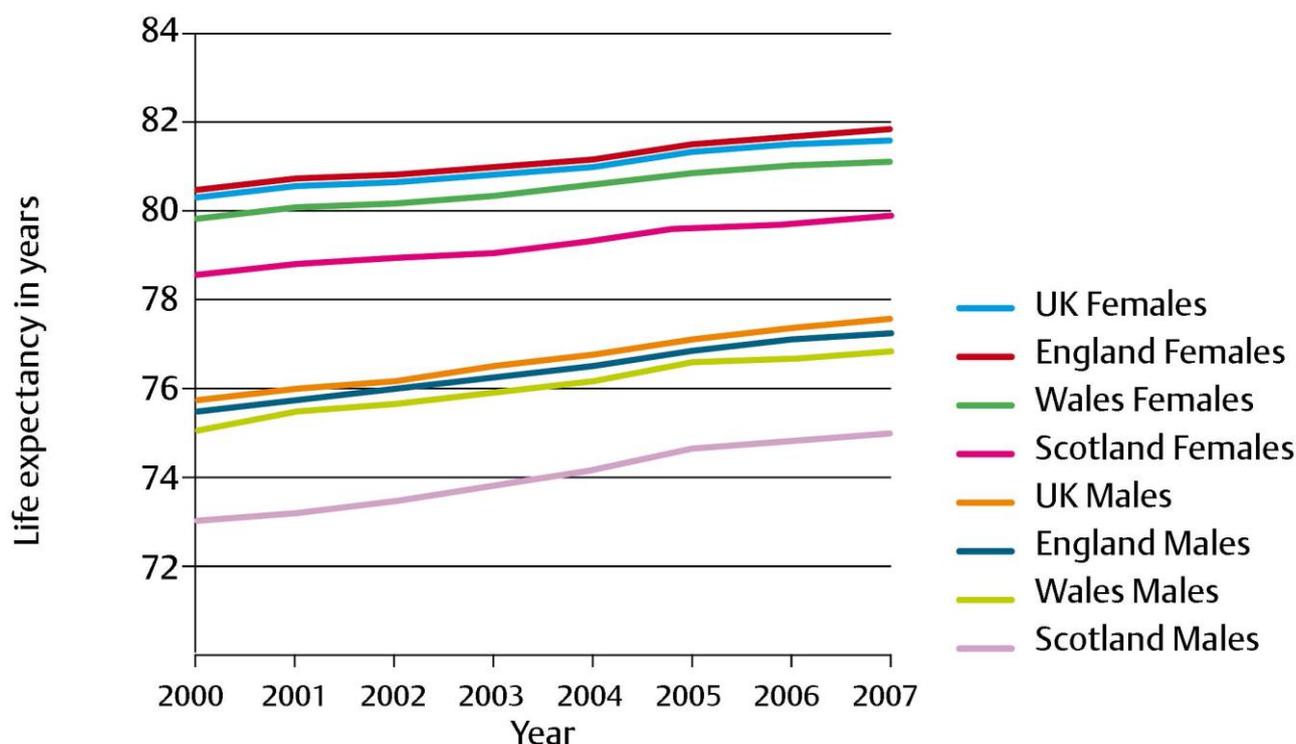
# Life

## Key points

- There remain significant differences between the life expectancies of different groups in modern Wales, some of which are linked to the cumulative impact of inequalities experienced by different groups.
- People from lower socio-economic groups have a poorer outlook with shorter life expectancy and higher premature death rates than those from higher groups.
- On every measure, men also have a poorer outlook.
- Some groups may be particularly susceptible to certain types of risks. Infants and young adults are the most likely of any age group to be the victims of murder or homicide.
- Lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) and transgender people may be more likely than average to attempt suicide or to commit acts of self-harm.

## Life expectancy

Period expectation of life at birth (years) in the UK, England, Wales and Scotland, 2000-07



Source: ONS Interim Life Tables.

Life expectancy has risen enormously in Wales as in the rest of the UK in recent decades. While these rises have been universal, they have not been uniform.

Life expectancy in Wales is, on average, lower than in England – a gap of a year for both men and women in 2007. The gap between Wales and England remained constant between 2000 and 2007.<sup>41</sup>

Within Wales, there are marked geographical inequalities. Many of the local authorities with the lowest life expectancies in 2007-09 for both genders were generally situated in the South Wales valleys, with Merthyr Tydfil, Blaenau Gwent and Rhondda Cynon Taf having the lowest of all. People in the areas with the highest life expectancy can expect to live 5.8 years longer than those with the lowest life expectancy if they are men and 5 years more if they are women.

Across England and Wales as a whole, life expectancy for people from unskilled backgrounds was seven years lower than for people from professional backgrounds. This is true for men and women. The interaction between gender and socio-economic group means that a woman from social class 1 (professional) can expect to live 12.4 years longer than a man from social class 6 (unskilled).<sup>42</sup>

Women in Wales, as in England, on average live four years longer than males - 81 years compared with 77 in 2007. The figures for England are 82 and 78 respectively.

The limited evidence that exists on disabled people and ethnic minority groups for Britain suggests they have lower life expectancy than non-disabled and white groups of people.

## **Mortal illness**

Circulatory diseases (which include heart disease and stroke) and cancer are the principle causes of death in Wales, as in Britain as a whole. Both have declined markedly in the last twenty years, but their prevalence varies between groups.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 75

<sup>42</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 76

<sup>43</sup> Chief Medical Officer for Wales (2010) Annual Report.

The rates of premature death from circulatory disease are similar in Wales and the UK, but within Wales rates are very much higher in the most deprived areas than in the least deprived areas, with the differences being especially marked for men.<sup>44</sup>

Premature death rates in Wales are substantially higher for men than women (at 64 per 100,000 for men and 26 per 100,000 for women).<sup>45</sup>

Cancer accounted for 26,000 deaths in Wales between 2006 and 2008, around a quarter of those dying being under the age of 65. The rate of premature death from cancer has declined over the last 20 years for both sexes, although the rate for women has been static for the last three and is now slightly higher than men's. Lower socio-economic groups have higher rates of premature death due to cancer, especially amongst men, although the geographic patterns are unclear.<sup>46</sup>

## **Suicide**

Suicide rates have come down across Wales in recent years, and are now close to the UK average although nevertheless higher than in England.

Within Wales, there are marked differences by deprivation of the area. The suicide rate for men in the fifth most deprived areas in Wales is 40% higher than in areas of average deprivation and 80% higher than the least deprived fifth of areas. The difference for women is much less marked.<sup>47</sup>

In Wales, the rate of suicide is much higher for men than for women: 17.4 per 100,000 men and 4.3 per 100,000 women in 2009.<sup>48</sup> The risk of suicide is much higher among younger age groups than older ages, although rates have fallen sharply in recent years. Nevertheless, in 2009 the rate for males aged 15-44 was, at 18.8 per 100,000, more than four times the rate of women of the same age (4.1 per 100,000).

The Triennial Review for Britain reports on some research into higher risks of suicide and attempted suicide among LGB people. Research suggests it is directly linked to sexual orientation.

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<sup>44</sup> Chief Medical Officer for Wales (2010) Annual Report, p.74

<sup>45</sup> Chief Medical Officer for Wales (2010) Annual Report, p.74

<sup>46</sup> Chief Medical Officer for Wales (2010) Annual Report, p.76

<sup>47</sup> Chief Medical Officer for Wales (2010) op. cit.

<sup>48</sup> Office for National Statistics (2011) Suicide Rates in the United Kingdom, 2000-2009, <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/sui0111.pdf> Accessed 07/02/2011

Some evidence from a small survey of transgender people reported that 34% of respondents had attempted suicide at least once<sup>49</sup>.

## Accidental death

The risk of accidental death has come down significantly across Wales in the last few decades,<sup>50</sup> to 19.5 accidental deaths per 100,000 people in 2008. Within Wales, the rate of accidental death is highest in the most disadvantaged areas.<sup>51</sup>

The rate of accidental death is about twice as high amongst men as amongst women (around 30 compared to around 15 per 100,000).

The Triennial Review for Britain concludes that the risks of accidental death are highest for those aged 75 and over, at around 1,070 per 100,000 men and women.<sup>52</sup>

## Homicide

In 2008/09, there were 34 homicides in Wales, a rate of 11.4 per million population. The number varies substantially from year to year, from 22 in 2005/06 to 43 in 2007/08. It is, though, very close to the English average.<sup>53</sup>

In England and Wales as a whole, 71% of homicide victims were male.<sup>54</sup> However, women are more likely than men to be killed by partners, ex-partners, or family members: in 2008/09, partner violence (including by ex-partners) accounted for 53% of female and 7% of male homicides in England and Wales.

Children under the age of 1 are more likely to die as a result of homicide than any other age group in England and Wales: one child aged under 16 died as a result of cruelty or violence each week in England and Wales in 2008/09 – two-thirds of them aged under five. However, in 2008/09, the rate had fallen to half that of a decade earlier (a rate of around 30 homicides per million). The age group with the next highest risk are 15-29 year olds, where the risk is 20 per million.

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<sup>49</sup> EHRC (2010) *How Fair is Britain?*, page 95

<sup>50</sup> EHRC (2010) *How Fair is Britain?*, page 97

<sup>51</sup> Chief Medical Officer for Wales (2010) *op. cit.*

<sup>52</sup> EHRC (2010) *How Fair is Britain?*, page 97

<sup>53</sup> Home Office Statistical Bulletin, *Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2008/09 Supplementary Volume 2 to Crime in England and Wales 2008/09*

<sup>54</sup> EHRC (2010) *How Fair is Britain?*, page 103

Ethnic minority people were the victims of around a quarter of homicides recorded (where the ethnic identity of the victim is known) in England and Wales between 2006/07 and 2008/09: just over half of these ethnic minority victims were black. This suggests a higher risk of homicide for people from ethnic minority people as they make up less than 10% of the population.

Over 70 homicides that occurred in England and Wales between 2007/08 and 2009/10 were charged as resulting from racially or religiously aggravated, transphobic, homophobic, or disability-related hate crimes.

### **Deaths in institutions**

In England and Wales in 2008/09, there were 92 deaths during or following contact with the police, compared to a peak of 120 in 2005/06. Men constitute the majority of deaths during or following contact with the police: 74 of 92 such deaths in 2008/09 were men.

Deaths do not appear to be concentrated among any particular age group: 12% of deaths following contact with police were of under 18s and a similar proportion was of over 50s.

Just over half of those who die following contact with the police had prior indications of mental health conditions, a greater proportion than those with mental health conditions in the general population. Around 10% of people who died are black, compared to only 2% of the overall population.

## Legal and physical security

### Key points

- Most people feel that the criminal justice system is fair. However some groups have lower levels of confidence in and satisfaction with the police, in particular LGBT people and people from ethnic minorities.
- Across England and Wales, people from ethnic minorities, and black people in particular, are far more likely to be stopped and searched by police than white people.
- Violent crime has fallen significantly in the last fifteen years although black people, and black men in particular, are at highest risk of homicide.
- The risk of victimisation is different between men and women. Young men in general are at a higher risk of becoming victims of violent crime than older men or women. Women are much more likely than men to be victims of domestic abuse from a partner or family member, and, along with children, are far more likely to be victims of rape.
- Wales does not have prison capacity for all those sentenced to imprisonment. There are only 50 spaces for juvenile offenders and no spaces at all for women prisoners. This results in people being placed in prisons far away from family and friends.

### Equal treatment by the justice system

Police forces in Wales carried out more than 42,000 stops and searches in 2008/09, resulting in 4,900 arrests. The number of stops and searches per 100,000 people by South Wales, North Wales and Gwent Police Forces were proportionately below the England and Wales average whilst those by Dyfed-Powys Police Force were in the average group.<sup>55</sup> Overall a slightly lower proportion of people in Wales than in England think the criminal justice system is fair (56% compared with 59%).<sup>56</sup>

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<sup>55</sup> Povey, D., ed. (2010) Police Powers and Procedures, England and Wales 2008/09, Home Office Statistical Bulletin 06/10. Available at:

<http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb0610.pdf>

<sup>56</sup> Home Office (2010) Crime in England and Wales 2008/09 Table 7.16

Young people with limiting long-term illness or disability are significantly less likely than those without to believe that the criminal justice system is fair, or that it meets the needs of victims.<sup>57</sup>

People from ethnic minority backgrounds experience disproportionately high rates of stop and search by the police.<sup>58</sup> Across England and Wales as a whole, rates of stop and search for black people are far higher than for other groups (135 incidents per 100,000 population, compared to 40 per 100,000 for Asian people and 20 per 100,000 for the rest of the population).<sup>59</sup> Ethnic minority groups are much less likely than white people to believe that their complaints about the police will be taken seriously, and are more likely to worry about police harassment.<sup>60</sup> A small scale study found that Gypsy Travellers had low confidence in the police and were therefore reluctant to report incidents. The same research found that asylum seekers were reluctant to report crimes for fear of the possible impact on their asylum claim.<sup>61</sup>

Survey data suggests that LGB people are more likely to worry about, and to experience discrimination by the police, whether they were reporting a crime or suspected of committing one.<sup>62</sup> In Wales, a slightly higher proportion of lesbian, gay and bisexual people than the population as a whole have reported an incident to the police, and there was a relatively high level of dissatisfaction with the outcome.<sup>63</sup> A small-scale study of the attitudes of transgender people suggests that while the majority expect fair treatment, around 1 in 5 felt they were treated inappropriately in their contact with the police.<sup>64</sup>

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<sup>57</sup> EHRC (2010) *How Fair is Britain?*, page 133

<sup>58</sup> EHRC (2010) *How Fair is Britain?*, page 135

<sup>59</sup> EHRC (2010) *How Fair is Britain?*, page 135

<sup>60</sup> EHRC (2010) *How Fair is Britain?*, page 138

<sup>61</sup> EHRC Wales (2010) *Not just another statistic*

<sup>62</sup> EHRC (2010) *How Fair is Britain?*, page 138

<sup>63</sup> Williams, M. and Robinson, A.L. 2007. *Counted In! The All Wales Survey of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual People*. London: Stonewall.

<sup>64</sup> EHRC (2010) *How Fair is Britain?*, page 138

## Crimes against the person – violent crime, domestic abuse and sexual assault

Overall, violent crime in England and Wales fell by a half between 1995 and 2010.

Across England and Wales as a whole, young men are at a particularly high risk of becoming a victim of violent crime. In 2009/10, 13% of 16-24 year old men were victims of a violent crime, compared to just over 4% of all men and fewer than 3% of all women.<sup>65</sup>

While ethnic minority groups are more likely than white people to be victims of violent crime, it is not ethnicity per se that explains the difference. Rather, it is a combination of the different age and socio-economic profiles of ethnic minority people compared to the white population.<sup>66</sup>

There were 69 incidents of domestic abuse per 10,000 adults in Wales in 2007/08 (equivalent to nearly 17,000 incidents). One in four women in England and Wales has experienced some form of domestic abuse since reaching the age of 16. Three-quarters of domestic abuse offences are repeat offences.

Women in Wales are twice as likely as men to be victims of sexual violence, or of non-sexual violence by their partner or family.<sup>67</sup>

Between 2006 and 2010, the Crown Prosecution Service pursued 796 rape cases, 57% of which resulted in a conviction.<sup>68</sup> The number of prosecutions is not keeping pace with the number of incidents of rape reported to police, whilst the rate of conviction is 'stubbornly low'.<sup>69</sup>

Women and children are by far the most likely to be victims of rape: 90% of offences were committed against females whilst more than a quarter of reported rapes were committed against children. More than half of reported male rapes were of children under 16 years<sup>70</sup>.

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<sup>65</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 201

<sup>66</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 197

<sup>67</sup> Finney, A. (2006) Domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking: findings from the 2004/05 Britain Crime Survey. Home Office: London. Table A.9

<sup>68</sup> BBC News report, September 2010, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-11199939>, accessed 14<sup>th</sup> February 2011

<sup>69</sup> EHRC (2010) Triennial Review Summary, p14

<sup>70</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 209

## Targeted violence

Incidents targeting people because of who they are (e.g. hate crimes) are under-reported, meaning many victims are unable to access the support they need, or to secure justice. In 2007/08, there were 4,578 prosecutions for hate crimes in Wales, of which 568 were for racially and religiously motivated crimes, 68 for homophobic and transphobic crimes and 21 for hate crimes against disabled people.<sup>71</sup> In England and Wales, the number of cases of racially and religiously motivated crime being reported to the police has fallen slightly since 2006/07.

The conviction ratio for hate crime in Wales was 72%, which is lower than the ratio for all indictable offences at 80%.<sup>72</sup> The conviction rate for racially and religiously motivated and for homophobic and transphobic crimes in England and Wales rose slightly between 2006/07 and 2008/09.<sup>73</sup>

The majority of incidents recorded by the police involve harassment, but the majority of cases that are prosecuted are crimes against the person. Incidents targeting different groups take a variety of forms: for example, religiously motivated crime affects community institutions as well as individuals; hate crime targeting LGB people can involve sexual assault; and disability related hate crime often targets people's property.

## Prison numbers and conditions

There are only four prisons in Wales (all in the south), which in August 2010 housed 2,805 prisoners.<sup>74</sup> There is no accommodation at all for female prisoners, places for just 50 juvenile offenders and one Young Offenders Institution.<sup>75</sup> As a result, around four out of ten male prisoners and all female prisoners from Wales serve their sentences in English prisons, away from their families.<sup>76</sup>

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<sup>71</sup> Crown Prosecution Service Hate Crime Report 2007-08, p. 48 Available at: [http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/docs/CPS\\_hate\\_crime\\_report\\_2008.pdf](http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/docs/CPS_hate_crime_report_2008.pdf)

<sup>72</sup> Ministry of Justice (2010) Criminal Statistics: England and Wales 2009 Statistics bulletin. Available at: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/criminal-statistics-annual-2009.pdf>

<sup>73</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 151

<sup>74</sup> Ministry of Justice (2010) Population in Custody August 2010 Table 4. Available at: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm>

<sup>75</sup> House of Commons Welsh Affairs Committee (2007) Welsh Prisoners in the Prison Estate. Third Report of the Session 2006/07. HC74

<sup>76</sup> *ibid*

In England and Wales, the number of women prisoners has doubled since 1995: around 5% of prisoners are now women. Evidence suggests that women in prison are more likely to have experienced domestic abuse than women in the population as a whole.<sup>77</sup>

On average, five times as many black people than white people are imprisoned. One in four people in prison is from an ethnic minority background.<sup>78</sup>

## **Fear of crime**

In Wales, around 1 in 10 people reported being worried about violent crime, car crime and burglary.<sup>79</sup> In 2004/05, fewer people in Wales felt very unsafe when walking alone at night than did so in England.

In England and Wales, people from lower socio-economic groups are more likely to be worried about violent crime than average.<sup>80</sup> More women feel unsafe than men (8% of 16 – 59 year old women do so compared with 1% of men), and older people feel more unsafe than younger people (20% of older women feel unsafe).<sup>81</sup>

Across England and Wales as a whole, disabled people are more likely to be worried about violent crime than non-disabled people (16% compared to 12%). They are also more likely to feel unsafe after dark (47% compared to 28%).

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<sup>77</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 167

<sup>78</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 172

<sup>79</sup> Stats Wales Table 007348 Available at:  
<http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/TableViewer/tableView.aspx>

<sup>80</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 240

<sup>81</sup> Regional Trends (2004/05) Table 9.11 – latest figures available

# Health

## Key points

- Levels of long-term illness and disability are higher in Wales than in the rest of Britain.
- The level rises with age, to a point where over half of people aged over 55 in some areas of Wales are disabled.
- Levels of poor mental health are much higher among lower socio-economic groups, and women are more likely to experience poor mental health than men.
- Patterns of healthy behaviour vary from group to group and measure to measure. For instance, people from lower socio-economic groups are more likely to smoke but less likely to exceed the recommended amount of alcohol.
- Most people in Wales feel that the health service treats them with dignity and respect. There is, though, evidence from England suggesting that LGB and transgender people have lower expectations of such treatment than the rest of the population.

## Limiting long-term illness, disability and poor health

### Long-term illness and disability

Wales has a higher proportion of adults with a limiting long-term illness and disability than in Scotland or any English region, according to the 2001 Census. Around one fifth of the population of working age is disabled according to the definition in the equalities legislation. In Wales in 2007 it was around one fifth of the working age population, three quarters of whom had a work-limiting disability.<sup>82</sup> Within Wales, the proportion of working age adults who were disabled, as defined in the Disability Discrimination Act, was 27.4% in Blaenau Gwent. This is more than twice as high as in Flintshire.

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<sup>82</sup> Welsh Assembly Government (2008) Prevalence of Disability in Wales, 2004-2007. SB 76/2008.

There is a close association between socio-economic group and limiting long-term illness or disability. According to the 2009 Welsh Health Survey, people who were long-term unemployed, or have never worked, are nearly twice as likely to report that they have a limiting long-term illness as those with professional and managerial occupations (43% compared with 23%).<sup>83</sup>

Broadly, men and women have similar levels of disability. The proportion of disabled people rises with age, with around one third of people aged between 55 and retirement age reporting as being a disabled person. Over 65 years, more than half of both men and women say they have a limiting long-term illness.<sup>84</sup> The combined age and area inequalities are stark. Among the over 55s, half or more in Blaenau Gwent, Merthyr Tydfil and Bridgend were disabled.

Most ethnic groups had a lower level of limiting long-term illness than the white British group. The younger average age of ethnic minority groups is likely to be a factor in this, as the proportion of people who are disabled or who have a limiting long-term illness rises with age.<sup>85</sup>

## Poor health

In Wales, 6% of men and women reported poor health in the 2009 Welsh Health Survey.<sup>86</sup> People in more deprived areas were more likely than people in other areas to report a range of key illnesses, including high blood pressure, diabetes and mental health problems.<sup>87</sup>

The proportion of adults reporting poor health rises with age, from 1% of 16-24 year olds to 13% of over 75s.<sup>88</sup> Disabled people are almost ten times as likely to report poor health as non-disabled people.

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<sup>83</sup> Welsh Assembly Government (2010) Welsh Health Survey 2009, Table 3.9

<sup>84</sup> Welsh Assembly Government (2010) Welsh Health Survey 2009, Table 3.7

<sup>85</sup> Welsh Assembly Government (2004) A Statistical Focus on Ethnicity, SB 53/2004

<sup>86</sup> The Poverty Site, <http://www.poverty.org.uk/61/index.shtml> accessed 10/01/2011

<sup>87</sup> Welsh Assembly Government (2010) Welsh Health Survey, 2009

<sup>88</sup> Welsh Assembly Government (2010) Welsh Health Survey, 2009

White people in Wales have the highest levels of self-reported poor health. Amongst non-white groups, poor health was highest amongst Black and Black British, Pakistani, Mixed Other and Black African groups, (all over 8%) and lowest amongst Chinese and Other ethnic groups (at 4%).<sup>89</sup>

## Poor mental health

The Welsh Health Survey 2009 shows a close association between poor mental health and socio-economic group. People who have never worked or are long-term unemployed are four times more likely to report being treated for depression, anxiety or any other mental illness than those with managerial or professional occupations (27% compared with 7%) and they also have lower SF-36 scores.<sup>90</sup> People in the most disadvantaged areas also have lower SF-36 scores than those in the most advantaged.<sup>91</sup>

The survey also shows that women consistently have a lower SF-36 score than men (a lower score indicates possible problems). There is no significant variation in SF-36 score with age<sup>92</sup> although there is more variation between age groups reporting they are being treated for mental illness.<sup>93</sup>

Disability and long-term illness is also associated with poor mental health: 52% of people with limiting long-term illness/disability have a low score which indicates poor mental health, compared to 24% of those without a limiting long-term illness/disability.<sup>94</sup>

Evidence from England suggests that Pakistani and Bangladeshi men are significantly more likely to have poor mental health than other people. This finding, though, is contested. Some argue that such findings can be explained by cultural and linguistic differences.<sup>95</sup>

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<sup>89</sup> Welsh Assembly Government (2004) A Statistical Focus on Ethnicity, SB 53/2004

<sup>90</sup> Welsh Assembly Government (2010) Welsh Health Survey, 2009 Table 3.9

<sup>91</sup> Welsh Assembly Government (2010) Welsh Health Survey, 2009 Table 3.10

<sup>92</sup> Welsh Assembly Government (2009) Welsh Health Survey, 2009 Table 3.2

<sup>93</sup> Welsh Assembly Government (2009) Welsh Health Survey, 2009 Table 3.5

<sup>94</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 276

<sup>95</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 276

## Living a healthy lifestyle

There is a mixed picture about the extent to which different groups within Wales live a healthy lifestyle.

The proportion of people who drink more than the recommended amount of alcohol per week is higher among managerial classes than manual classes, and lowest of all among those who have never worked or are long term unemployed. Over half of men and over one third of women in Wales drink in excess of guidelines. The proportion exceeding guideline amounts is highest among 35-44 year olds and lowest among over 75s.<sup>96</sup>

Smoking is more common among those who are not working (44%) than those in managerial occupations (15%). Smoking is more common among men (26%) than women (22%), most common among 25-34 year olds (34%) and least common among over 75s (9%).<sup>97</sup>

One-third of people in Wales eat at least the recommended five portions of fruit and vegetables a day. Healthy eating varies little by age or gender.<sup>98</sup>

The Triennial Review for Britain suggests that for England and Wales patterns vary substantially across groups and by different measures. People from ethnic minority groups in general were less likely to drink and more likely to eat healthily, but they were less likely to take the recommended amount of physical exercise. Levels of smoking were high among some groups, particularly Pakistani men.

People with limiting long-term illnesses and disabled people are no more or less likely to smoke than other people, but are less likely to drink in excess of the recommended amount.

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<sup>96</sup> Welsh Health Survey 2009, Tables 4.5 and 4.9

<sup>97</sup> Welsh Health Survey 2009, Tables 4.9 and 4.1

<sup>98</sup> Welsh Health Survey 2009, Tables 4.6

## Dignity and respect in health treatment

Surveys indicate that the vast majority of people feel they are treated with dignity and respect in healthcare. More than 90% of people in Wales felt staff had treated them with dignity and respect at their GP's surgery (93%) or at hospital (94%). However, a small proportion in each situation (4%) felt they were not.<sup>99</sup> Privacy and dignity accounted for a very small proportion (1%) of complaints about the NHS in 2009/10 with 'attitude of staff' accounting for 10% of complaints.<sup>100</sup>

The Living in Wales Survey 2008 found no significant difference between men and women saying they had been treated with dignity and respect when referring to and given part of the health service.<sup>101</sup>

1 in 7 transgender people who responded to a survey felt that they had been treated adversely by healthcare professionals because of their transgender status.<sup>102</sup> It also suggested that gay and lesbian people are more likely to say that they have been treated with respect in health services only some of the time or rarely.

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<sup>99</sup> Welsh Assembly Government, Living in Wales , 2007

<sup>100</sup> Welsh Assembly Government (2010) Complaints to the NHS in Wales, 2009-10. SDR 158/2010

<sup>101</sup> Welsh Assembly Government, Living in Wales , 2008

<sup>102</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 295

# Education

## Key points

- There are significant differences in participation and achievement in education by income throughout a person's life, and to a lesser extent by gender, ethnicity and disability.
- These differences are observable from a very young age. The gap in attainment between boys and girls has opened up by the age of 5. By the same age, there is a gap between poor pupils and the average.
- These differences persist through different age groups. Pupils receiving free school meals are more likely to be excluded from school as are those with SEN and some ethnic minority children. 16 year olds receiving free school meals are much less likely to get five grade A\* - C GCSEs than those not eligible.
- Compared to the rest of Britain, Wales has slightly lower attainment rates at age 16, and markedly lower rates of adult literacy. Given this, it is very notable that levels of adult participation in education are lower in Wales than in the rest of Britain, and lowest among those from routine and manual backgrounds, and those who have never worked.
- Variations between ethnic groups are much less clear, although it is clear that some groups are performing much worse such as Pakistani and Bangladeshi people. It is not, however, a case of non-white groups uniformly attaining worse outcomes than the white majority.
- Younger people are more likely to have qualifications than older people and the level of adult education participation declines with age substantially.

## Level of development at age 5

The Triennial Review for Britain<sup>103</sup> highlights considerable variation in the level of development of 5-year olds. A lower proportion of children eligible for free school meals achieve a “good” level of development than children who are not eligible (35% compared with 55%).

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<sup>103</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 304

By the age of five, girls' development in England is more advanced than boys' in 11 of 13 assessment scales on the Early Years Foundation Stage profile in social and emotional as well as cognitive areas of development. A higher proportion of pupils from Asian, Indian, Irish, Mixed White and White British ethnic backgrounds achieved a good level of development when compared to pupils from Black and Pakistani ethnic groups.

The closest available data for Wales relates to Key Stage 1, for pupils aged 7. It shows that girls were more likely to attain the expected level (level 2) in teacher assessments than boys, and that Chinese and white pupils are more likely to do so than black or Asian pupils. The difference in attainment between pupils on the SEN (Statement of Educational Needs) register and pupils not on the register is striking. 81% of pupils not on the register compared to 46% of pupils on the SEN register attain Level 2 in teacher assessments.<sup>104</sup>

## **Permanent exclusion from school**

Although rare, school exclusions have a serious detrimental effect on educational development. As a proportion of all schoolchildren, the rate of exclusion was lower in Wales (0.7%) than in England (1.1%), but higher than in Scotland (0.4%).<sup>105</sup> In 2008/09, 213 children were permanently excluded from schools in Wales. Around three quarters of those permanently excluded were boys.<sup>106</sup>

In Wales, 53% of permanent exclusions involved pupils on the SEN register. Where data was available, 93% of permanent exclusions involved pupils from white ethnic backgrounds.<sup>107</sup> Pupils from white ethnic backgrounds make up 95% of all pupils.<sup>108</sup> So this means that pupils from non-white backgrounds are at least a fifth more likely to be excluded than those from white backgrounds.

The Triennial Review for Britain shows that pupils in England eligible for free school meals were over twice as likely to be permanently excluded than the average.<sup>109</sup>

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<sup>104</sup> Welsh Assembly Government, Academic Achievement by Pupil Characteristics, 2005-2008

<sup>105</sup> Statistics for Wales, Exclusions from Schools in Wales, 2008/09

<sup>106</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 311

<sup>107</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 313

<sup>108</sup> Schools in Wales: General Statistics 2009, Statistics for Wales

<sup>109</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 312

## **Bullying, respect and support**

Being a victim of bullying detrimentally affects a child's educational development.<sup>110</sup> When asked if bullying was a problem in their school, 32% of pupils in Wales said 'yes', a lower proportion than in England (48%) or Scotland (43%). However the same proportion of pupils in Wales as elsewhere reported that they had directly experienced bullying in the previous three months (around 10% everywhere).<sup>111</sup>

The Triennial Review for Britain shows that disabled students, lesbian, gay and transgender students and those from lower socio-economic groups are all more likely to report experiencing high levels of bullying. These surveys use different methodologies and so the actual differences between groups are hard to quantify.<sup>112</sup>

## **Educational attainment at age 16**

Attainment at age 16 in Wales has long been poorer than elsewhere in the UK and indeed internationally. In 2009 47% of pupils aged 16 achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grade C or above including English or Welsh and Mathematics, a figure that has risen every year since 2001.<sup>113</sup> Though the data is not directly comparable, this proportion appears to be slightly lower than in England (51%).<sup>114</sup>

Most marked is the difference by income. Pupils that are not eligible for free school meals are two and a half times more likely to achieve A\* - C grades in the core subjects at GCSE than pupils who are eligible (52% of non-eligible pupils compared to 20% of eligible pupils).

This gap appears to have widened in recent years.<sup>115</sup> The comparable figures for England are 27% and 54%.<sup>116</sup>

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<sup>110</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 318

<sup>111</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 318

<sup>112</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 322

<sup>113</sup> EHRC, 2011, An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in Wales

<sup>114</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 327

<sup>115</sup> EHRC (2011) An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in Wales

<sup>116</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 328

Girls outperform boys in Wales. 51% of girls get 5 A\* - C core GCSEs compared to 43% of boys in 2008/09. The eight point gender gap was bigger than in England (7 percentage points) or Scotland (4 percentage points). Only 12% of children on the Statement of Educational Needs register attain 5 or more GCSEs at this threshold. Moreover this group has not shown year on year improvement in attainment, unlike other groups.<sup>117</sup>

Differences by ethnicity are notable at age 16 in Wales, as they are in England. Chinese pupils are more than twice as likely to achieve a grade C or above in all core subjects at GCSE than Black Caribbean and Black African pupils (68% compared to 31% for black pupils),<sup>118</sup> However, socio-economic background and gender are also factors in these findings.

## Higher education participation

The number of new enrolments in higher educational establishments in the UK by Welsh-domiciled students has risen by over 20% since 2000/01.<sup>119</sup> In 2008/09, 121,795 pupils enrolled in a higher educational establishment for either a part-time or full-time course, at either graduate or post-graduate level.

Just over half (57%) of all the enrolments of Welsh-domiciled students in UK Higher Educational establishments in 2009 were female. Less than one in ten enrolments of Welsh-domiciled students is by a disabled person,<sup>120</sup> although disabled people are around one fifth of the working age population.

7% of enrolments at Welsh universities were by students from ethnic minority backgrounds<sup>121</sup> although they comprise around 5% of the school age population.

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<sup>117</sup> EHRC, 2011, An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in Wales

<sup>118</sup> EHRC, 2011, An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in Wales

<sup>119</sup> StatsWales, Students in Higher Education Institutions, 2008/09, 2009

<sup>120</sup> StatsWales, Welsh domiciled HE enrolments at UK HEIs by disability, gender, mode and level of study (ethnicity, year of study, year)

<http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=24168>, accessed 01/02/2011

<sup>121</sup> Office for National Statistics, A Statistical Focus on Ethnicity in Wales, 2004

## Adults lacking literacy and numeracy skills

Data showing regional and national differences in basic skills and qualifications ranked by basic literacy for working age population

% of population	Lack functional numeracy	Lack functional literacy	No qualifications	5+ GCSE grades A*-C or equivalent	Degree level qualification*
<b>England<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>47</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>13</b>
Eastern	41	12	13	28	12
South East	41	12	10	26	15
East Midlands	49	16	14	26	12
North West	49	17	15	27	12
West Midlands	47	18	17	26	12
London	48	19	14	21	20
Yorks and Humb	51	19	15	27	11
North East	54	22	14	27	10
<b>Wales<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>53</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Scotland<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>

Source:

1. Data tables provided by Department for Business Innovation and Skills using England Skills for Life Survey 2002/03 and National Equality Panel Analysis of 2006-08 Labour Force Survey.
  2. Data tables provided by Welsh Assembly Government using Basic Skills Survey 2004 and National Equality Panel Analysis of 2006-08 Labour Force Survey.
  3. National Equality Panel Analysis of 2006-08 Labour Force Survey.
- Note: \* Degree level qualification excludes higher degrees.

Wales has higher levels of functional illiteracy than in England although around the same levels of functional innumeracy: 25% of people in Wales lack functional literacy skills (compared with 16% of those in England) and around half of adults in Wales lack functional numeracy skills.<sup>122</sup>

People in lower socio-economic groups are more likely to lack literacy and numeracy skills - 36% of those in manual occupations failed to achieve functional literacy compared with 13% of those in managerial and professional occupations. Similarly, 60% of those in working class occupations lacked functional numeracy compared with 36% of those in managerial and professional occupations.<sup>123</sup>

In Wales, there is no gender difference for literacy, but men are less likely than women to lack functional numeracy (54% compared to 39%). In terms of age, older people are more likely to lack functional literacy and numeracy skills than younger people.<sup>124</sup>

People with learning disabilities are much more likely to lack basic literacy and numeracy than the rest of the population (48% compared to 21%).

People from ethnic minority backgrounds are more likely to fail to achieve functional literacy compared to white people (41% compared to 24%). For numeracy, a similar percentage point gap exists - 69% compared to 53%. Much of this gap is accounted for by country of birth – those born outside Wales are much less likely to attain basic numeracy and literacy than those born in Wales.

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<sup>122</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 348

<sup>123</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 350

<sup>124</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 349

## Lacking qualifications

People in Wales are more likely to lack qualifications than people in Scotland or England (16% compared to 14% and 13% respectively). A lower proportion of people in Wales have a degree than in any English region bar the North East.<sup>125</sup>

There is a marked variation by socio-economic group: 6% of men and 4% of women in the lowest tenth of the income distribution have a degree level qualification. In the highest tenth, the figures are 21% and 22% respectively.<sup>126</sup>

There is only a very slight variation between the proportion of men and women with degrees.

There is, however, a larger variation with age. Younger age groups tend to be more highly qualified, having a larger proportion of graduates and a far lower percentage without any formal qualifications, than older age groups, especially those aged over 50.<sup>127</sup> This pattern is particularly evident for females.

Those reporting no disability have by far the best educational outcomes. There is a high proportion of people with no qualifications amongst those who are disabled: 35% of males and 37% of females have no qualifications. Only around 6% of this group have a degree.<sup>128</sup> These echo findings in the Triennial Review for Britain.<sup>129</sup>

There are also substantial variations between ethnic groups, with (somewhat tentative) figures for Wales<sup>130</sup> confirming the British findings that Indian and Chinese males are best qualified while Bangladeshi males and Pakistani and Bangladeshi females have the highest proportion with no qualifications. In terms of religion, Christians and those with no religion are least likely to have a degree.<sup>131</sup>

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<sup>125</sup> EHRC (2010) *How Fair is Britain?*, page 348

<sup>126</sup> EHRC (2010) *How Fair is Britain?*, page 352

<sup>127</sup> EHRC, 2011, *An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in Wales*

<sup>128</sup> EHRC, 2011, *An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in Wales*

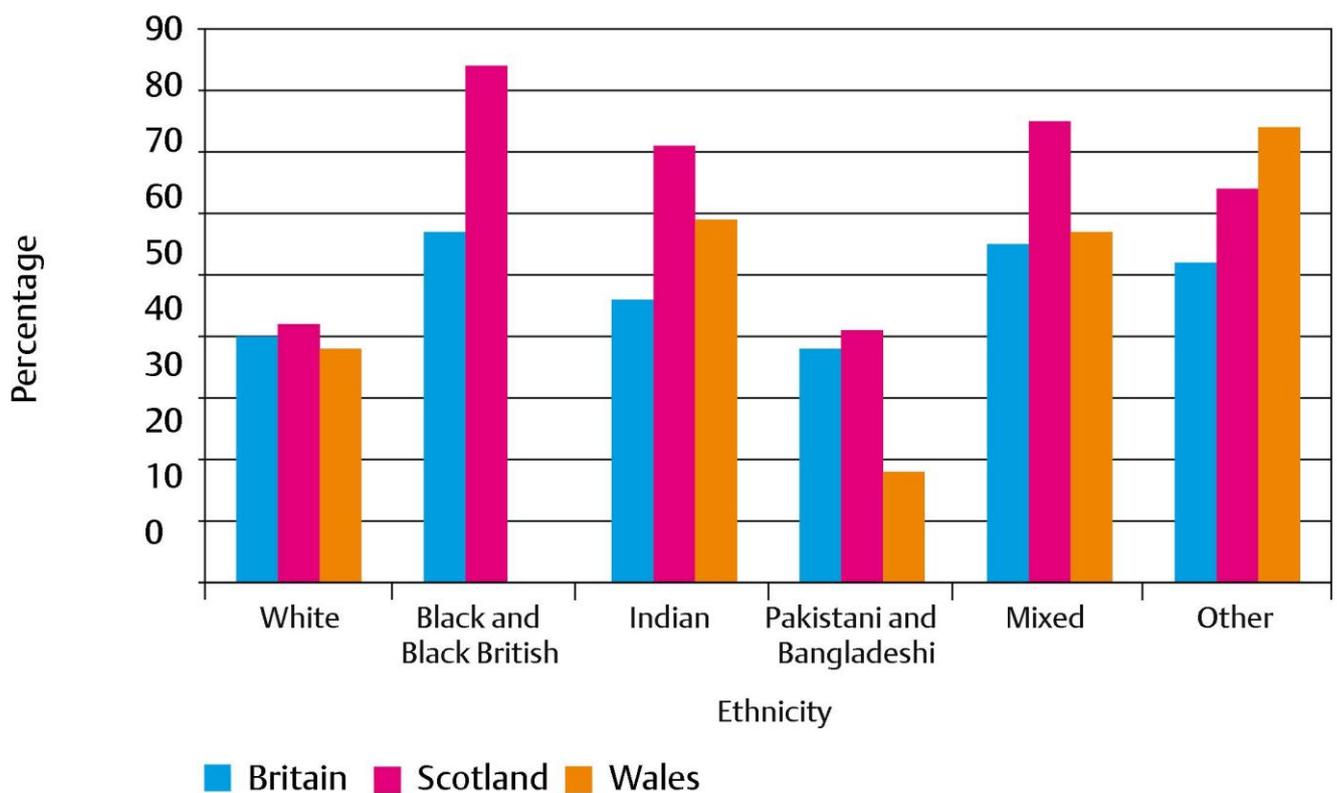
<sup>129</sup> EHRC (2010) *How Fair is Britain?*, page 353

<sup>130</sup> EHRC, 2011, *An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in Wales*

<sup>131</sup> EHRC, 2011, *An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in Wales*

## Adult learning

Participation in Adult Learning by ethnicity in Britain, Scotland and Wales, 2006/08



Source: Labour Force Survey.

The proportion of both men and women participating in adult learning in Wales in 2006-2008 was lower than the rest of Britain (37% and 40% compared to 41% on average in Britain).<sup>132</sup> Those in higher managerial and professional groups are twice as likely to participate in adult learning as those in manual or routine occupations (60% compared to 30%).

The proportion participating in adult learning declines with age in Wales as it does in the rest of Britain. 65% of 18-24 year olds and 50% of 25-44 year olds participate, compared to 35% of 45-64 year olds and around 10% of those aged over 60.

Indian adults are most likely to participate in adult learning (59%) and Pakistani or Bangladeshi adults least so (18%).<sup>133</sup>

<sup>132</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 362

<sup>133</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 367

Disabled people participate in adult education at half the rate of non-disabled people.<sup>134</sup>

## Use of the internet

Just under 70% of households in Wales had access to the internet in 2008, lower than in England but higher than in Scotland.<sup>135</sup>

Wales-specific surveys<sup>136</sup> show that while 69% of people access the internet, the proportion falls to 54% for people from social groups DE compared with 86% for those from social group AB. But the biggest gap is associated with age: a quarter of people aged 65 and over were using the internet in 2009, up from 14% in 2006. Younger age groups (16 to 24) had the highest proportion of internet connections of all age groups, at 89%.<sup>137</sup>

Across Britain as a whole, men were more likely to use the internet than women, and variation by ethnicity was less significant than by age or social class.<sup>138</sup>

While there was little data on access to the internet by disability, the report does observe that disabled people were often unable to use particular mobile devices for accessing the internet.<sup>139</sup>

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<sup>134</sup> EHRC (2010) *How Fair is Britain?*, page 366

<sup>135</sup> EHRC (2010) *How Fair is Britain?*, page 370

<sup>136</sup> Consumer Focus Wales (Nov 2009 ). *Logged in or Locked Out. Consumer access to the internet in Wales.*

<sup>137</sup> Welsh Assembly Government, *Living in Wales*, 2008

<sup>138</sup> EHRC (2010) *How Fair is Britain?*, page 369

<sup>139</sup> EHRC (2010) *How Fair is Britain?*, page 373

# Employment

## Key points

- The overall level of employment is lower in Wales than in the rest of Britain, associated with high levels of long-term sickness and disability.
- Levels of employment among men aged over 50 are much lower in Wales than in the rest of Britain.
- Wales has a slightly higher proportion of people who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) among the 16-24 year old group than England.
- Average pay is lower in Wales than in the rest of Britain. The gender pay gap is lower in Wales on account of lower male full-time pay.
- There is significant segregation within the Welsh labour market, with women concentrated into health, education and administrative work, while men were clustered into manufacturing and transport.
- The incidence of injury at work in Wales is higher than elsewhere in Britain. The rate varies between protected groups, mainly because of occupational segregation.
- Across Britain as a whole, disabled, gay, lesbian or bisexual employees are over twice as likely as other employees to report experiencing discrimination.

## Proportion in employment

The proportion of working age adults in employment in Wales in 2010 was lower than in the rest of Britain.<sup>140</sup> 70% of men and 67% of women were either employed (part-time or full-time) or self employed, compared to 75% of men and 69% of women in the rest of the UK. This means the Wales/GB employment gap was greater for men than for women.

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<sup>140</sup> EHRC, 2011, An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in Wales

There is also an employment gap between women and men within Wales, of around 3 percentage points. A higher proportion of men and women in Wales are not working due to long-term sickness or ill health compared to the rest of the UK.

8% of men and women in Wales are economically inactive due to ill health or disability, compared to 6% and 5% respectively elsewhere in the UK.<sup>141</sup>

Overall employment peaks for men and women between the ages of 35 and 39 when 88% of men and 73% of women are in employment or self employment, and decreases amongst those aged 50 - 64. Employment rates are so low that barely half of men of this age group are in employment in Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf, whilst less than half of women are in employment in Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Caerphilly, Neath Port Talbot and Rhondda Cynon Taf.<sup>142</sup>

The proportion of disabled men and women (but without a work-limiting disability) who are in employment or self employment is very similar to that of non-disabled adults. However being both disabled and having a work-limiting disability is associated with substantially reduced likelihood of being in employment compared to those with no such conditions. Males with both a work-limiting and activity-limiting disability are only 5% as likely to be in employment as males with no such conditions. The figure for women is similar at 10%.<sup>143</sup>

In terms of ethnicity, non-white men and women both have lower employment rates than their white counterparts in Wales, but this varies substantially between ethnic minority groups. Relative to white males, Bangladeshi males are 330% more likely to be in employment. In contrast, Black Caribbean and Black African men are less than half as likely to be in employment.<sup>144</sup> The employment rates of Bangladeshi and Pakistani women are particularly low, just 8% and 11% respectively work full-time.<sup>145</sup>

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<sup>141</sup> EHRC, 2011, An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in Wales

<sup>142</sup> NOMIS Labour Market Statistics for the year to June 2010, accessed 12/02/11

<sup>143</sup> EHRC, (2011), An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in Wales

<sup>144</sup> EHRC, (2011), An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in Wales

<sup>145</sup> EHRC, (2011), An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in Wales

Notwithstanding the small numbers involved, it seems that religion has far more influence on employment status than ethnicity. Muslim men and women are less likely to be in employment, and particularly full-time employment, than other religious groups.<sup>146</sup>

The Triennial Review for Britain contains some analysis of employment rates among LGB couples across Britain. It finds little difference in employment rates between the LGB population and the national average.<sup>147</sup>

## **Not in education, employment or training**

In 2009, around one in eight 16-18 year olds in Wales was not in education, employment or training (NEET)<sup>148</sup>. This was slightly higher than the previous year, but in the last decade, the proportion has always been between 13% and 11%. Over this period the rate in Wales has generally been one or two percentage points higher than England.

The Triennial Review for Britain<sup>149</sup> suggests that in England and Wales boys are more likely to be NEET between 16 and 18, but this gender difference reverses by age 22. Young disabled people are more likely to be NEET than young non-disabled people.

The picture by ethnicity is mixed, in that the proportion of non-white young adults who are NEET rises between the age of 19 and 24; among the white population the proportion does not really change. So by age 25, Black and Asian people are much more likely to be NEET than white people, a difference that was much less pronounced at younger ages.<sup>150</sup>

The Triennial Review for Britain also has data from England on differences by income and socio-economic group. Children in England who had free school meals when in Year 11 at school are more than twice as likely to be NEET at age 17 than other children. Those from routine or manual backgrounds, or whose parents did not work were up to four times more likely to be NEET aged 17 than other children.<sup>151</sup>

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<sup>146</sup> EHRC, (2011), An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in Wales

<sup>147</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 407

<sup>148</sup> Welsh Assembly Government (2010) Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) (Year to 30 June 2009), SB 59/2010

<sup>149</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 392

<sup>150</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 404

<sup>151</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 394

## Pay gaps

Earnings in Wales are, on average, lower than those in the UK and this holds true at each point of the earnings distribution.<sup>152</sup> Within Wales, amongst those in work, there are striking differences in average pay rates.

The gender pay gap in Wales – the gap between women’s median pay and men’s median pay – is smaller than in the rest of the UK. In 2010, the median hourly wage for women working full-time was 8% lower than for men working full time. In the rest of the UK, the gap was 10%.<sup>153</sup> The reason for this is that median hourly pay for men working full-time in Wales was, at £11.65, worth 90% of the UK median, where it was £13.01. Women’s median hourly pay in Wales was 92% of the UK figure, at £10.72 compared to £11.68 in the UK as a whole.

There are differences in hourly pay by age, but the distribution varies according to gender. Women’s wages peak at a younger age than men’s, both in Wales and the rest of the UK. Women’s wages peak between 35 and 39, whereas men’s hourly wages peak between 45 and 49.<sup>154</sup>

Disabled people earn less, on average, per hour than non-disabled people, with those who work full-time earning 7% less than non-disabled people.<sup>155</sup> This pattern is consistent across the UK, although the gap is smaller in Wales than elsewhere.

Patterns vary among ethnic groups in Wales: Indian men earn more than the male average and Pakistani and Bangladeshi men earn less than the male average. A similar pattern is evident among women.<sup>156</sup> However, when other factors are taken into account it is estimated that ethnicity has no significant impact on earnings in Wales.<sup>157</sup>

By religion, hourly earnings are seemingly slightly higher for Hindu and Sikh men and lower for Muslim men compared to the male average. The sample sizes in this analysis are, however, very small.<sup>158</sup>

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<sup>152</sup> EHRC, 2011, An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in Wales

<sup>153</sup> Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, ONS, 2010

<sup>154</sup> EHRC, 2011, An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in Wales

<sup>155</sup> EHRC, 2011, An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in Wales

<sup>156</sup> EHRC, 2011, An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in Wales

<sup>157</sup> EHRC, 2011, An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in Wales

<sup>158</sup> EHRC, 2011, An Anatomy of Economic Inequality in Wales

## Occupational segregation

Occupational segregation – the concentration of different groups in to specific occupations – can be horizontal, across different sectors of the job market, and vertically, between different levels of the same sector.

The review of research evidence<sup>159</sup> found marked occupational segregation in Wales across all protected characteristics, although the quality and timeliness of the data was variable. There is some evidence that occupational segregation by gender is higher in Wales than in the rest of Britain.

Women make up over two-thirds of those working in health, education, administrative or service jobs in Wales. Men make up the majority of employees in transport, manufacturing and skilled trades.<sup>160</sup>

There is some evidence that disabled people are more likely to be employed in low skilled jobs than non-disabled people. Moreover, long term illnesses were more common among those in routine occupations than those in professional occupations (31% compared to 22%).<sup>161</sup>

The proportion of ethnic minority groups working in professional careers was higher than for the white population. However, among different ethnic minority groups there is significant clustering in particular sectors: for example over half of Bangladeshi women and two-thirds of Bangladeshi men in employment work in hotels or catering.<sup>162</sup>

For Britain as a whole, evidence suggests that both men and women in same sex couples are more likely to be in professional occupations than other men or women. Much of this difference is down to higher average levels of qualifications among people in same sex partnerships.<sup>163</sup>

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<sup>159</sup> EHRC, Equality Issues in Wales, a Research Review, (2009), Winckler, V. ed.

<sup>160</sup> EHRC, Equality Issues in Wales, a Research Review, (2009), Winckler, V. ed.

<sup>161</sup> EHRC, Equality Issues in Wales, a Research Review, (2009), Winckler, V. ed.

<sup>162</sup> EHRC, Equality Issues in Wales, a Research Review, (2009), Winckler, V. ed.

<sup>163</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 430

## Illness and injury at work

Some jobs are notably more dangerous than others, and the risks vary greatly across groups. On average between 2007/08 and 2008/09, there were 950 incidents of injuries per 100,000 workers in Wales, slightly higher than the average for Britain as a whole.<sup>164</sup> In 2009/10, 1,960 workers per 100,000 in Wales reported an illness either caused by or made worse by work, again slightly higher than in England.

For Britain there is some variation between groups, much of which is explained by segregation into different types of job. Men suffer more work-related injuries than women because they are more likely to be employed in hazardous occupations. Conversely, their concentration in less hazardous work means that South Asians are less likely to be injured at work than other ethnic groups.<sup>165</sup>

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<sup>164</sup> Health and safety executive (undated) statistics of occupational ill health, safety and enforcement

<sup>165</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 440

## Discrimination in employment

Discrimination at work can manifest itself in a variety of ways, from bullying and harassment to being persistently overlooked for promotion and pay rises.

One in ten workers in Wales say they have been treated unfairly, a slightly lower proportion than in England (14%) or Scotland (12%). In Wales 4% reported experiencing discrimination, compared to 8% in England and 3% in Scotland, whilst the proportion of workers in Wales who experienced bullying or harassment was, at 7%, the same in Wales as the British average.<sup>166</sup>

The Triennial Review for Britain<sup>167</sup> as a whole concludes that disabled employees and gay, lesbian or bisexual employees are over twice as likely as other employees to report experiencing discrimination, bullying or harassment in the workplace. The intersections of different protected characteristics are also very revealing. In particular, disabled women are four times more likely to report being bullied than other employees.

Women and ethnic minority groups are more likely to report being discriminated against regarding promotion than white men.<sup>168</sup>

Small-scale studies indicate that transgender people experience particular difficulties in the workplace.<sup>169</sup>

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<sup>166</sup> Fevre, R., Nichols, T., Prior, G., and Rutherford, I., 2009. Fair Treatment at Work Report 2009: Findings from the 2008 Survey. Employment Relations Research Series 103. London: Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

<sup>167</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 443

<sup>168</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 443

<sup>169</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 443

# Standard of living

## Key points

- Wales has a similar level of average wealth to England, but a slightly lower level of overall wealth inequality. The richest decile still has around 90 times the wealth of the poorest.
- One in four Welsh children live in a household where the income is below 60% of the national average. The proportion of children in low income households is higher than working age adults or pensioners.
- Households where one of the adults is disabled are more likely to have a low income than other households.
- One in seven men and one in five women working in Wales earn a wage below 60% of national hourly pay.
- Housing quality varies, with households headed by women particularly likely to live in poor accommodation. Their accommodation is also more likely to be overcrowded than households headed by men.

## Wealth

Total wealth inequality between and within countries in Britain, 2006/08

Country/Region	Median wealth (£)	Rank in the overall distribution	90:10 ratio
GB Overall	204,500	50	97
England	210,600	50	96
Wales	205,500	50	90
Scotland	150,600	42	93

Source: Wealth and Assets Survey 2006/08.

Wealth as measured here includes savings, investments, and, very commonly, property.

The median level of household wealth in Wales is, at £205,500, very close to the median in England. It is significantly higher than the Scottish median.<sup>170</sup> The ratio of the wealth of the top 10% to the bottom 10% (the 90:10 ratio) is slightly lower in Wales than in England. However, it is still the case that the top 10% of households in Wales have 90 times the wealth of the bottom 10%. Given findings elsewhere in this report regarding pay and incomes, this lower inequality is likely to be caused by lower wealth at the top of the distribution in Wales rather than higher wealth at the bottom.

In Britain as a whole<sup>171</sup>, people accumulate wealth during their working years and draw on it as they get older, as pensioners. So, levels of wealth are highest among those aged 55-64. Inevitably, levels of wealth are highest among those in higher managerial and professional occupations.

The average wealth of ethnic groups other than White British and Indian is significantly below average. By religion, Muslims have significantly lower wealth than other religious groups.

**Low pay**

Percentage of employees with gross earnings less than 60% of the hourly median, Britain, 2006/09

	GB		England		Scotland		Wales	
	%	Total base	%	Total base	%	Total base	%	Total base
Men	10	120,469	10	86,524	10	20,473	13	13,393
Women	17	132,034	17	93,625	17	23,164	20	15,324
<b>Age:</b>								
16-34 yrs	20	79,274	20	58,049	22	12,331	25	8,702
35-54 yrs	9	130,080	9	91,848	8	23,541	11	14,809
55+	13	43,149	13	30,252	13	7,765	15	5,205
Total	14	252,503	14	180,148	14	43,637	16	28,717

Source: Annual Population Survey October 2006-September 2009.

<sup>170</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 465

<sup>171</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 466

In this report we define low pay as hourly pay below 60% of the median. In Wales in 2009, 16% of people in employment were paid less than this threshold. This figure is higher than for Britain as a whole, where the figure is 14%.<sup>172</sup>

20% of women and 13% of men in Wales are paid less than 60% of the median hourly wage for Britain. Again, both figures are higher than the British averages of 17% and 10% respectively. 25% of 16-34 year olds in Wales are low paid, compared to 11% of 35-54 year olds and 15% of employees aged over 55.<sup>173</sup>

The proportion of disabled employees who are low paid in Wales is, at 17%, no different from the average. This is a different situation than Britain as a whole, where disabled people are more likely to be low paid than people on average.<sup>174</sup>

In Britain as a whole, around one quarter of Bangladeshi and Pakistani employees are low paid, roughly twice the average. Almost one quarter of Muslim employees are low paid.<sup>175</sup>

## **Low income**

A household is defined as having a low income if its income after taxes and housing costs is below 60% of the national median for that year. Incomes are adjusted for household size and composition, in order to make comparisons across the different types of household possible.

The proportion of people living in low income households in Wales is, at 22%, broadly similar to the rest of Britain. This proportion has fallen slightly since the late 1990s, as it has elsewhere.<sup>176</sup>

Women are more likely to live in low income households than men. This is mainly because most lone parents, a group with a high risk of low income, are women.<sup>177</sup>

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<sup>172</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 475

<sup>173</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 475

<sup>174</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 478

<sup>175</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 480

<sup>176</sup> The Poverty Site, <http://www.poverty.org.uk/summary/income.htm>, accessed 10/01/11

<sup>177</sup> The Poverty Site, <http://poverty.org.uk/07/index.shtml?2>, accessed 14/02/11

In Wales, pensioners are slightly less likely to be living in low income households than working age adults or children. In the last three years on average, 22% of working age adults were living in low income households compared to 18% of pensioners.<sup>178</sup>

Households where there is at least one disabled adult are more likely to have a low income than other households. In Wales, 26% of people living in a household with at least one disabled adult have a low income, compared to 21% of people living in a household with no disabled adult.<sup>179</sup>

In Britain as a whole, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Black African households are significantly more likely to be in low income than white or Indian households.<sup>180</sup>

## **Housing and neighbourhood quality**

The proportion of households in Wales classed as overcrowded is, at 2.0%, slightly lower than the British average of 2.3%. Overcrowding is more common among households headed by younger adults, and least common among households headed by pensioners. This is true in Wales as well as the rest of Britain.<sup>181</sup>

6% of households with children in Wales headed by females are classed as overcrowded compared to 4% for male households with children. 8% of households with children in Wales headed by women, many of which are lone parent households, live in accommodation of a poor standard compared to 5% of such households headed by men.<sup>182</sup>

8% of households in Wales said there was a problem in their local area with litter and overall cleanliness of the environment. 6% said there was a problem with crime and security.<sup>183</sup>

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<sup>178</sup> The Poverty Site, <http://www.poverty.org.uk/summary/income.htm>, accessed 10/01/11

<sup>179</sup> NPI analysis of Households Below Average income dataset, 2006/07 to 2008/09 combined.

<sup>180</sup> EHRC (2010) *How Fair is Britain?*, page 481

<sup>181</sup> EHRC (2010) *How Fair is Britain?*, page 490

<sup>182</sup> EHRC (2010) *How Fair is Britain?*, page 491

<sup>183</sup> Welsh Assembly Government (2010) *Living in Wales Survey, 2008*

In Wales as elsewhere, households headed by women were more likely to rate their local areas as poor than households headed by men. Younger households were more likely to say their areas were poor than older households were.<sup>184</sup>

Sample sizes make analysis difficult, but the data suggests that ethnic minority households in Wales are much more likely to be overcrowded than the average (around 10% compared to 2%). Ethnic minority households are slightly more likely to rate their neighbourhoods as poor, but, again, the sample size is very small.<sup>185</sup>

## Financial exclusion

In 2008/09, 4% of households in Wales had no bank account at all. This rises to 5% if the Post Office Card Account (POCA, an account of limited functionality) is excluded. The proportion has come down in recent years in Wales as it has in Britain as a whole.<sup>186</sup>

Households in the poorest fifth of the income distribution in Wales are around twice as likely to lack a bank account as other households.<sup>187</sup>

Across Britain as a whole, there is little difference by gender in access to banking except among the youngest and oldest people. Young men are slightly more likely to lack a bank account (7%) than young women (5%), and older women (5%) are slightly more likely to lack a bank account than older men (3%).<sup>188</sup>

Disabled people and people in Bangladeshi and Pakistani households are particularly likely to lack a bank account. Bangladeshi and Pakistani households, together with Black Caribbean households, are half as likely to have household insurance as white households.<sup>189</sup>

In terms of access to credit, women are more likely than men to take on credit from doorstep lenders, who often charge much higher rates of interest than mainstream banks.<sup>190</sup>

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<sup>184</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 496

<sup>185</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 505

<sup>186</sup> Department for Work and Pensions Family Resources Survey, 2008/09

<sup>187</sup> The Poverty Site, <http://poverty.org.uk/w73/index.shtml> accessed 03/02/2011

<sup>188</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 511

<sup>189</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 515

<sup>190</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 512

# Care and support

## Key points

- Among older people in Wales, the number receiving care to live at home has reduced in the last decade. Such care is particularly important for over-75s.
- There are cultural differences regarding the use of and access to care for older people.
- Unpaid care by friends or relatives is more likely to be provided by women than men, and older adults are more likely to have caring responsibilities than younger adults. There are a significant number of carers of school age whose needs need to be considered from a rights perspective.

## Access to care for older people

The number of older people given help to live at home by social services is lower now than in the mid 1990s. In 2009, 20,000 older people in Wales received home care, half the number of fifteen years earlier.<sup>191</sup> Most of this fall occurred in the late 1990s and a similar trend can be seen in England.

In Britain, men are less likely than women to receive practical support to meet their needs. However it does seem that older people are more likely to get the support they need: men and women over the age of 75 are less likely to report having unmet care and support needs than those aged 50-74 years.<sup>192</sup>

There is little difference between different ethnic groups in accessing professional domiciliary care. Cultural factors, though, mean services are not always appropriate to all individuals. People from lower socio-economic groups have on average greater care needs at given ages.

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<sup>191</sup> Source: The Poverty Site, <http://poverty.org.uk/w69/index.shtml> accessed 11/01/11

<sup>192</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 528

## Use of childcare

Overall numbers of child care places in Wales have increased by 4,000 since 2003.<sup>193</sup> Two-thirds of families with children in Wales use some form of childcare.<sup>194</sup> Use varies by household income, with better off families more likely to access childcare than less well off families (75% of families with annual incomes in excess of £32,000 had accessed some form of childcare (formally or informally) in the previous year, compared to 60% of families with incomes below £10,000). Clearly, work status plays a big part in this as families where both parents are working are more likely to want childcare and more likely to be able to pay for it.

Small scale research suggests that an issue that is particular to Wales is the shortage of Welsh language childcare. This is an issue both in traditionally Welsh speaking areas, and other areas where parents would like their children to have a bilingual upbringing.

## Unpaid care responsibilities

More than one in ten of the adult population in Wales provide care to someone else -11% of the adult population compared to 12% in England and Scotland, according to the 2001 census. Seven out of ten of the local authorities with the highest percentage of carers are in Wales.<sup>195</sup>

Caring responsibilities vary by socio-economic group across Britain as a whole. People aged 55-69 from lower occupational groups are more likely to be caring for a spouse than those from higher groups. This reflects both a higher incidence of disability among lower socio-economic groups, and the lack of income to cover the costs of care.<sup>196</sup>

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<sup>193</sup> Welsh Assembly Government (2010) Child Poverty Milestones and Targets to 2020: Update

<sup>194</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 542

<sup>195</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 559

<sup>196</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 564

As in the UK as a whole, it is more common for care to be given by women than men: 10% of women provided special care, compared to 8% of men.<sup>197</sup> This proportion of adults providing care is highest among those aged 50-59, at 14%, and lowest among those aged 16-24, at 4%.<sup>198</sup>

The Welsh Health Survey found that younger adults with caring responsibilities were more likely than non-carers to report long-term health conditions or mental health problems.<sup>199</sup> Other data suggests that around 2% of children in Wales may have caring responsibilities. These responsibilities may contravene their rights as children.<sup>200</sup>

Disabled people are carers too. Of the nearly two million people aged 16-74 in England and Wales who were permanently sick or disabled according to the 2001 Census, over a quarter of a million provided some unpaid care for other people. This rate is comparable to the rate for the rest of the population.<sup>201</sup>

Bangladeshi and Pakistani adults in Wales are more likely to provide over 20 hours of care a week than adults from other ethnic groups.<sup>202</sup>

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<sup>197</sup>Welsh Assembly Government (2008), Care in Wales: Results from the Living in Wales survey 2007

<sup>198</sup> Welsh Assembly Government (2008) Care in Wales: Results from the Living in Wales survey 2007. NB a different definition of care to that used in the census is used.

<sup>199</sup> Welsh Assembly Government (2010) Welsh Health Survey 2008, Health of Carers

<sup>200</sup> Children's Commissioner for Wales (2009) Full of Care: Young Carers in Wales.

<sup>201</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 566

<sup>202</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 567

## Power and voice

### Key points

- The proportion of people voting at elections has fallen.
- The candidates that people can vote for are not always representative of the population. Only a fifth of Westminster MPs from Wales and a quarter of its councillors are female. Older men tend to dominate numerically in local authorities.
- People from protected groups have limited power and voice.

### Formal political participation

Different aspects of participation in the formal political process are considered here including voter turnout and the representativeness of key democratic institutions.

The self-reported voter turnout in Welsh elections has fallen since the establishment of the Assembly in 1999.<sup>203</sup> Over the same period, voter turnout across the UK fell for Westminster elections in 2001 and 2005 before rising slightly in 2010.

There is very little evidence on variation in turnout for different groups. The turnout among Asian voters was higher in 2005 than 1997, it was unchanged among white voters and lower among black, mixed race and Chinese voters. Some evidence suggests that young people are less likely to vote than older people.<sup>204</sup>

In terms of representation, the National Assembly for Wales is well known for women comprising almost half the 2007 – 2011 Members. But only 18% of MPs are women as are only 25% of councillors.

Information about other political representation is very limited: we know that in 2004, more than half of councillors in Wales were aged over 55; that 17% of Welsh councillors had a long-term limiting illness or were disabled (compared to 23% in the population as a whole) and less than 1% of councillors are from ethnic minority backgrounds, compared to around 2% of the overall population.<sup>205</sup>

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<sup>203</sup> EHRC (2010) *How Fair is Britain?*, page 582

<sup>204</sup> Gale, S. and Winckler, V. (2009) *Public and Political Life*, in Winckler, V. (ed) *Equality Issues in Wales – a Research Review*, Equality and Human Rights Commission

<sup>205</sup> EHRC (2010) *How Fair is Britain?*, page 596

The number of openly LGB Members of Parliament in Westminster has risen in recent years to 22.<sup>206</sup> It is difficult to compare this to the overall population but it is under-representative according to some estimates.

## **Perceptions of influence and political activity**

There is little evidence on either how people feel about their level of influence locally or their level of political activity in Wales.

In Britain, people's sense of influence in their local area has declined since 2001. Some of the more traditionally marginalised ethnic minority and religious groups are more likely than average to believe they have influence, possibly due to stronger ties within their own communities.<sup>207</sup>

There is some evidence from England that levels of political activity (defined as writing to MPs or attending public meetings) were higher among older age groups than younger ones, and higher among people from higher socio-economic groups than lower ones. White people appear to be more politically active (as defined here) than other ethnic groups.<sup>208</sup>

Stonewall Cymru found that 13% of lesbian, gay and bisexual people in its survey were involved in local politics, but there is no other data against which to benchmark this figure.<sup>209</sup>

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<sup>206</sup> BBC news report, accessed 03 /01/ 2011

<sup>207</sup> EHRC (2010) *How Fair is Britain?*, page 598

<sup>208</sup> EHRC (2010) *How Fair is Britain?*, page 609

<sup>209</sup> Williams, M. and Robinson, A.L. 2007. *Counted In! The All Wales Survey of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual People*. London: Stonewall..

## **Taking part in decision-making and campaigning organisations**

Women and men are equally likely to take part in campaigning, though in different areas. Women are more likely to volunteer for educational or childcare groups (up to 15 % of women aged under 45), whereas men are more likely to get involved in sports (up to 25% for 16-29 year olds).<sup>210</sup>

People working in professional or higher management occupations are over four times more likely to be involved in local or national campaigning activity than those in semi-routine occupations. A similar proportion of disabled (6%) and non-disabled people (7%) were involved in local or national campaigning.<sup>211</sup>

Data for England shows little difference in participation by ethnic or religious group, or sexual orientation.

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<sup>210</sup> Welsh Assembly Government, Living in Wales 2008

<sup>211</sup> EHRC (2010) How Fair is Britain?, page 617

## Addressing the data gaps

The Review contains a lot of information. In some cases, though, it highlights what we don't know. There are several ways in which we lack reliable information to tell whether the ideals of equality and fairness are being translated into a practical change for the better in people's real lives.

In some cases we lack information altogether. For instance, we do not have a reliable baseline estimate about how many people identify themselves as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

Without this information, it is hard to begin to gauge the extent to which different institutions reflect these populations or meet their needs. We also lack basic information about people who are institutionalised, and people who do not live in fixed locations. In some cases, small-scale studies and the other, limited, available evidence suggest that these may also be among some of society's most marginalised and vulnerable groups.

In other cases, we have some information about different groups, but it is not always sophisticated enough to allow us to draw useful inferences. We have some data about disabled people's experiences, for example, but in most cases the way the data are collected does not make a distinction between the experiences of (say) a 20-year-old who has been blind since birth, and an 80-year-old who has recently begun to use a wheelchair following an accident, when in fact these two people might have very different needs and expectations.

Better use of existing data sources, and more sophisticated data collection techniques, would allow us to understand better the various needs and aspirations of different people. This is prerequisite to understanding whether and how we are making progress as a society towards greater equality. We recommend, therefore, that data providers and commissioners should work together to improve the available equality data, and to use more effectively the data that are already available at local and national level. This is particularly important in Wales where there are significant gaps.

## Contact us

The Equality and Human Rights Commission aims to reduce inequality, eliminate discrimination, strengthen good relations between people, and promote and protect human rights.

This report and more can be found at:

[www.equalityhumanrights.com](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com)

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