



Is Britain Fairer?

Health and care

Fairness is important to us all in Britain. We strive to be a society in which everyone can achieve their potential and where people treat each other with dignity and respect.

But is Britain fairer in terms of health and care than it was 5 years ago?

Life expectancy has increased across the population.

However, there are still gaps:

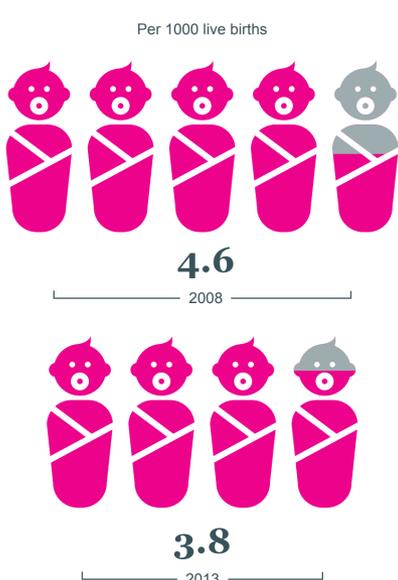
Life expectancy is lower for:

- Men than women
- People living in deprived areas than those in more affluent areas
- People with serious mental health problems than those without
- People with learning disabilities than those without
- Members of the Gypsy and Traveller communities than others
- Homeless people than others



2 And improvements have been seen in health and the care that is received.

Infant mortality has decreased

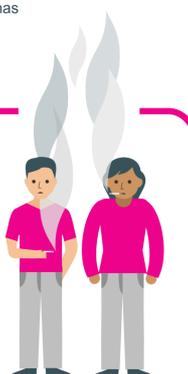


No overall change in England (between 2008 and 2012) or Wales (between 2009 and 2012) in the proportion of adults who reported bad or very bad health. Increase in Scotland (between 2008 and 2012).



Across Britain less than a third of disabled people reported bad or very bad health – however this has increased in England – but decreased in Wales

Proportion of adults who smoke has decreased in England (2008-2012) and Wales (2009-2012), but not in Scotland (2008-2012).



Decrease in the proportion of men who exceeded lower risk drinking guidelines in England and Wales and a decrease for women in England and Scotland



Improvements to end of life care



3 However there was evidence of inequality in outcomes at the end of life for some groups.



People from more disadvantaged socio-economic positions had worse outcomes at the end of life.



Between 2001-2010 a larger proportion of men died in hospital compared to women.



Evidence suggests that children often did not receive palliative care owing to lack of provision, awareness and acceptance.

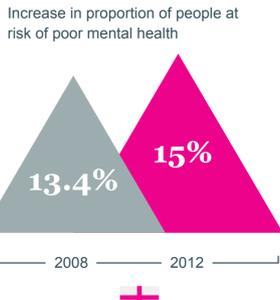


Ethnic minorities reported to have lower access to end of life care services compared to White British people.

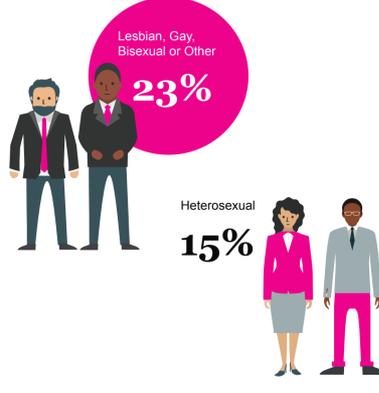
4 More adults in England were at risk of poor mental health in 2012



1 in 6 women were at risk of poor mental health in England and Scotland compared to 1 in 8 men



People from the Black/African/Caribbean/Black British ethnic group had the highest rate of contact with specialist mental health services and were more likely to have spent time in mental health units.



A higher proportion of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Other adults in England (2012) were at risk of poor mental health, compared with heterosexual adults.

5 Suicide

The overall suicide rate slightly increased between 2008 and 2013 in England and to a greater extent in Wales.

Per 100,000 inhabitants



In Scotland the overall rate decreased but remained the highest among the three countries.



In the UK, the rate for males aged 45-49 increased significantly between 2007 and 2013



6 With access to services posing a challenge for some

54.4% of disabled older people in England did not receive practical support that met their needs, compared with 9.2% of non-disabled older people



The proportion of adults who said they were not always treated with dignity and respect was highest in the youngest age group.

Using the evidence that we have gathered there are areas where Britain has improved and got fairer, and areas where it has got worse. Improvements need to be made across the board to really aim for a fairer Britain.