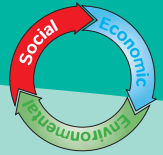




Health



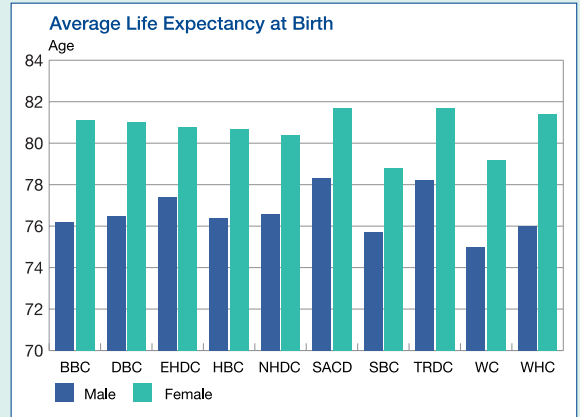
Hertfordshire already has a higher than average life expectancy rate, with figures now standing at 77 years for men and 81 years for women. This continues to mirror the national trend. Partnership working between local councils, NHS organisations and the voluntary sector is attempting to make an even healthier Hertfordshire.

This Quality of Life report covers many areas that contribute to the health of the population of Hertfordshire, many of which are key determinants of health. All the local authorities in Hertfordshire are working closely with the eight NHS Primary Care Trusts to achieve national and local health targets.

Hertfordshire overall is a very healthy county, but there are still major inequalities in health, many falling under the banner of ‘social exclusion’. Certain areas have higher rates of Coronary Heart Disease (CHD), Diabetes and mental health problems. Over recent decades, deaths from heart disease and stroke have fallen, but the overall death rate from cancer has remained constant.

INDICATOR HE1 – Life Expectancy

Life expectancy is the average number of years an individual of a certain age is expected to live on the assumption that mortality remains constant throughout the lifetime of the individual. It can be used as a proxy measure of health status, and mortality condition. In addition to these direct factors, social and economic circumstances will have an impact on life expectancy. Life expectancy varies across Hertfordshire as can be seen in the graph, and in comparison to the regional average. Life expectancy at birth is the average number of years a newborn baby is expected to live if current mortality conditions apply throughout.



Cancers account for about 25% of all deaths in Hertfordshire, yet the all ages male mortality is below the national average. The all ages female mortality rate for all cancers is exactly the same as the national rate. In Hertfordshire about 35% of all age mortality is as a result of CHD, stroke and other circulatory disease. This is despite the fact that the overall circulatory disease rate for both males and females across Hertfordshire is significantly lower than the average for England and Wales.

The Government is soon to publish its National Action Plan for Tackling Health Inequalities and local Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) together with Local Authority partners will then prepare local action plans which take local conditions and needs into account. The Strategic Health Authority is consulting on how we want our health services to develop over the next ten years. The consultation is called “Investing in your Health” – Building a better NHS for people in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.