

Belfast: Profiling Health, Wellbeing and Prosperity

Erica Ison

WHO Expert Advisor



THE DATA BEHIND THE PEOPLE & THE CITY



PEOPLE

Belfast's demography

The population is ageing, but not to the same extent as Northern Ireland and other LGDs

Highest proportion of live births within Northern Ireland's total, but fertility is low and decreasing

- fertility is below the population replacement rate in the absence of migration

Belfast has an increasing share of Northern Ireland's international migrants

- but it has the largest percentage decrease in internal and external migration flows of all LGDs

By 2028, the population is projected to increase, but only slightly

- by the second lowest percentage increase of all LGDs

Belfast has a higher level of ethnic diversity than Northern Ireland, and the highest level of ethnic diversity among LGDs

Belfast's demography by assembly area

Belfast East

- Relatively small total population
- Relatively older population
- Highest median age

Belfast North

- Relatively large total population
- Higher percentage of people aged 0-15 years
- Higher percentage of people aged over 65 years

Belfast South

- Largest population
- Highest percentage of people aged 16-39 years
- Lowest median age
- Highest level of ethnic diversity

Belfast West

- Smallest population
- Higher percentage of people aged 0-15 years
- Lower median age, but the largest percentage increase between 2001 and 2020
- Lowest level of ethnic diversity

Life Expectancy in Belfast

At Birth

- Lower compared with Northern Ireland for men & women
- Lowest among LGDs for men & women
- Men do worse than women
- Time trend:
 - Increasing for men
 - Decreasing for women
 - Decreasing for men & women in most-deprived areas

At 65 years

- Lower compared with Northern Ireland for men & women
- Lowest among LGDs for men & second lowest for women
- Men do worse than women
- Time trend:
 - Increasing for men & women
 - Increasing in men in most-deprived areas
 - Decreasing for women in most-deprived areas

Life expectancy at birth by assembly area

Belfast East

Second highest for men & women

Belfast North

Lower for men & women

Belfast South

Highest for men & women

Belfast West

Lowest for men & women

Belfast's death rates

Compared with Northern Ireland

Higher standardised death rates:

- Avoidable deaths
- Early deaths from circulatory disease
- Early deaths from cancer

Compared with other LGDs

Highest standardised death rates:

- Avoidable deaths
- Early deaths from circulatory disease
- Early deaths from cancer

- **Men have higher rates than women**
- **People in the most-deprived areas have rates about twice as high as rates for Northern Ireland**
- **Time trends are favourable between Belfast & Northern Ireland, and in Belfast's most-deprived areas, especially for early deaths in cancer**

Death rates by assembly area

Belfast East

Higher rate for women:

Early death from circulatory disease

Belfast North

Higher rates for men & women:

Avoidable deaths

Early deaths from cancer

Higher rate for men:

Early deaths from circulatory disease

Belfast South

Lowest rates for men & women:

Avoidable deaths

Early deaths from circulatory disease

Early deaths from cancer

Belfast West

Highest rates for men & women:

Avoidable deaths

Early deaths from circulatory disease

Early deaths from cancer

Admission rates in Belfast

Alcohol-related causes

- Higher than Northern Ireland
- Highest among LGDs
- Higher rates in men than women – almost three times higher
- Higher rates in people from Belfast's most-deprived areas – twice that of the rate for Northern Ireland
- Decreasing trends in Belfast and Belfast's most-deprived areas

Drug-related causes

- Higher than Northern Ireland
- Third highest among LGDs
- Higher rates in people from Belfast's most-deprived areas
- Decreasing trends in Belfast and Belfast's most-deprived areas

Alcohol-related admission rates by assembly area

Belfast East

- Lower rate for men & women

Rate in men more than twice that in women

Belfast North

- Highest rate for men
- Higher rate for women

Rate in men more than three times that of women

Belfast South

- Lowest rates for men & women

Rate in men more than twice that in women

Belfast West

- Higher rate for men
- Highest rate for women

Rate in men more than twice that in women

Risk factors in Belfast

Smoking status

- Higher percentages in Belfast HSCT than Northern Ireland
- Highest percentage among HSCTs

Smoking during pregnancy

- Higher than Northern Ireland
- Highest among LGDs
- In Belfast's most-deprived areas, percentage more than double that in Northern Ireland

Alcohol status

Drinking alcohol

- Higher percentages in Belfast HSCT than Northern Ireland
- Highest percentage among HSCTs

Above recommended weekly limits

- Higher percentages in Belfast HSCT than Northern Ireland
- Highest percentage among HSCTs

Uptake of screening services in Belfast HSCT

Cervical screening	Breast screening	Bowel cancer screening
Lower coverage than in Northern Ireland	Lower uptake than in Northern Ireland	Lower uptake than in Northern Ireland
Lowest coverage among HSCTs	Lowest uptake among HSCTs	Lowest uptake among HSCTs
Below Northern Ireland Department of Health acceptable target of coverage equal to or more than 80%	Met the Northern Ireland Breast Screening Programme acceptable standard of equal to or more than 70% Below the achievable standard of 80% (as were all other HSCTs)	Below the Northern Ireland Bowel Cancer Screening Programme target of 55% (as were 3 other HSCTs)
Decreasing trend	Increasing trend	Decreasing trend

Mental health in Belfast LGD among LGDs

Equal 2nd highest mean score for levels of anxiety

Equal highest prescription rate for mood and anxiety

3rd highest admission rate for self-harm

- but rate is decreasing

Highest crude rate for deaths from intentional self-harm

- but rate is decreasing

Mental health by assembly area

Belfast East

Standardised prescription rate for mood & anxiety

Lower for men & women

Standardised admission rate for self-harm

Lower for men & women

Belfast North

Standardised prescription rate for mood & anxiety

Higher for men & women

Standardised admission rate for self-harm

Highest for men & women

Belfast South

Standardised prescription rate for mood & anxiety

Lowest for men & women

Standardised admission rate for self-harm

Lowest for men & women

Belfast West

Standardised prescription rate for mood & anxiety

Highest for men & women

Standardised admission rate for self-harm

Higher for men & women

Outcomes for men in Belfast

BOX 5:

Indicators revealing poorer health outcomes for men in Belfast

- **Life-expectancy at birth**
- **Life-expectancy at 65 years**
- **Standardised death rate for avoidable deaths**
- **Standardised death rate for circulatory disease in people aged under 75 years**
- **Standardised death rate for cancer in people aged under 75 years**
- **Standardised admission rate for alcohol-related causes**
- **Standardised admission rate for self-harm**
- **Standardised admission rate for emergency admissions**



Poorer outcomes for Belfast's most-deprived areas

BOX 4:

Indicators for which people in the most-deprived areas in Belfast have poorer outcomes

- **Life-expectancy at birth**
- **Life-expectancy at 65 years**
- **Standardised death rate for avoidable deaths**
- **Standardised death rate for circulatory disease in people under 75 years**
- **Standardised death rate for cancer in people aged under 75 years**
- **Standardised admission rate for alcohol-related causes**
- **Standardised admission rate for drug-related causes**
- **Standardised prescription rate for mood and anxiety**
- **Standardised admission rate for self-harm**
- **Crude death rate for intentional self-harm**
- **Standardised admission rate for emergency admissions**



Poorer outcomes in Belfast's assembly area

TABLE 4:

INDICATORS FOR WHICH BELFAST WEST, BELFAST NORTH, AND BELFAST EAST HAVE POORER OUTCOMES (*shading indicates worse outcomes*)

INDICATOR	Belfast West	Belfast North	Belfast East
Life expectancy at birth			
Standardised death rate for avoidable deaths			
Standardised death rate for circulatory diseases in people aged under 75 years			
Standardised death rate for cancer in people aged under 75 years			
Standardised admission rate for alcohol-related causes			
Standardised prescription rate for mood and anxiety			
Standardised admission rate for self-harm			
Standardised admission rate for emergency admissions			Women

Outcomes for men: by assembly area in Belfast

TABLE 5:

INDICATORS FOR WHICH THERE ARE INEQUALITIES AMONG OUTCOMES FOR MEN IN BELFAST'S ASSEMBLY AREAS (*shading indicates worse outcomes*)

INDICATOR	Belfast East	Belfast North	Belfast South	Belfast West
Life expectancy at birth	Higher	Lower	Highest	Lowest
Standardised death rate for avoidable deaths	Lower	Higher	Lowest	Highest
Standardised death rate for circulatory disease in people aged under 75 years	Lower	Higher	Lowest	Highest
Standardised death rate for cancer in people aged under 75 years	Lower	Higher	Lowest	Highest
Standardised admission rate for alcohol-related causes	Lower	Highest	Lowest	Higher
Standardised admission rate for self-harm	Lower	Highest	Lowest	Higher
Standardised admission rate for emergency admissions	Lower	Highest	Lowest	Higher

Poorer health and wellbeing outcomes in Belfast

Indicators

- Overweight and obesity is increasing in children and adults, especially high rates in Year 8 children and children in Belfast's deprived areas
- Decreasing uptake of cervical screening and of bowel cancer screening
- Increasing prescription rate for mood and anxiety, particularly in women

Poorer outcomes

- Men's health across a range of indicators
- Health of people in Belfast West and in Belfast North across a range of indicators
- Health of people in Belfast's most-deprived areas across a range of indicators
- Emergency admissions for women in Belfast East

Percentage of SOAs in Belfast's assembly areas in Northern Ireland's most-deprived 20%

