

# Life expectancy in Southwark JSNA Factsheet

*Southwark's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment*

Knowledge & Intelligence Section  
Southwark Public Health Division

April 2019

## GATEWAY INFORMATION

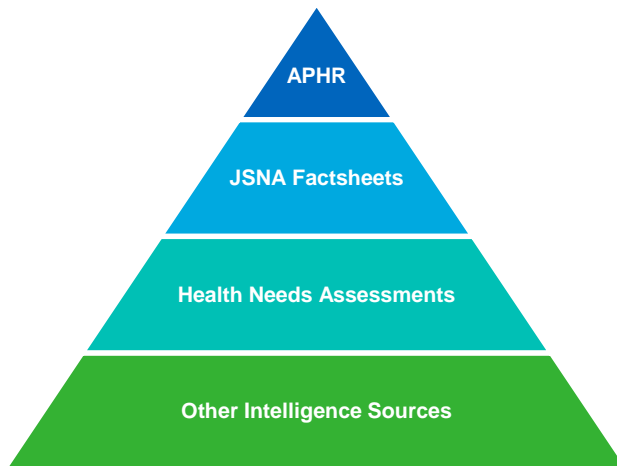
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# JSNA Factsheets forms part of Southwark's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment process

## BACKGROUND

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is the ongoing process through which we seek to identify the current and future health and wellbeing needs of our local population.

- The purpose of the JSNA is to inform and underpin the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and other local plans that seek to improve the health of our residents.
- The JSNA is built from a range of resources that contribute to our understanding of need. In Southwark we have structured these resources around 4 tiers:



**Tier I:** The Annual Public Health Report provides an overview of health and wellbeing in the borough.



**Tier II:** JSNA Factsheets provide a short overview of health issues in the borough.



**Tier III:** Health Needs Assessments provide an in-depth review of specific issues.



**Tier IV:** Other sources of intelligence include Local Health Profiles and national Outcome Frameworks.

- This document forms part of those resources.
- All our resources are available via: [www.southwark.gov.uk/JSNA](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/JSNA)

# This JSNA Factsheet provides an overview of changes in life expectancy in England and Southwark

## INTRODUCTION

**Life expectancy is often used as the over-arching measure of the health of the population, and is a key indicator within the Public Health Outcomes Framework. This factsheet provides an overview of the changes in life expectancy in Southwark. Specifically the report covers:**

- National changes in life expectancy trends
- Local changes in life expectancy trends
- Life expectancy by electoral ward (prior to boundary changes in 2018)
- Inequalities in life expectancy
- Healthy life expectancy

# Nationally and internationally we have seen a slow down in improvements in life expectancy in recent years

## NATIONAL PICTURE

**While there has been a general increase in life expectancy at birth among both males and females in England over recent decades, there has been an apparent slow down in improvement since 2011.**

- Analysis by Public Health England shows the improvement in life expectancy between 2011 and 2017 was considerably slower than in the preceding three decades, for both males and females.

Decade	Years		Weeks	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
1981 to 1990	0.22	0.17	11.4	8.8
1991 to 2000	0.24	0.15	12.5	7.8
2001 to 2010	0.31	0.23	16.1	12.0
2011 to 2017	0.07	0.04	3.6	2.1

Table 1: Average annual absolute change in life expectancy at birth in England

- In 2018, the Office for National Statistics published a report into international changes in mortality and life expectancy. They noted that:  
*“The slow down in life expectancy improvements that has been observed in the UK since 2011, is also evident in a number of countries across Europe, North America and Australia. However, the UK has experienced one of the largest slow downs in life expectancy at birth and at age 65 for males and females.”*

### Reference

1. PHE 2018. Health Profile for England: 2018.
2. PHE 2018. Recent trends in mortality in England.
3. PHE 2018. Public health matters: Why have increases in life expectancy slowed down in England?
4. ONS 2018. Changing trends in mortality: an international comparison: 2000 to 2016.

# It is likely a number of factors are influencing the slow down in improvement

## NATIONAL PICTURE

**Public Health England published a detailed analysis regarding the changing trends in mortality and life expectancy in 2018. They suggests a range of factors, operating simultaneously across age groups and geographies, are behind the slow down in improvements in life expectancy, rather than a single cause.**

- Reductions in **mortality from heart disease and stroke** have historically driven improvements in life expectancy. However there has been a slow down in improvements in recent years, seen in England and internationally, which is impacting on improvements in life expectancy.
- There was a large increase in the number of **winter deaths** in 2014-15, 2016-17 and 2017-18, seen in England and across Europe, with the circulation of Influenza A (H3N2) subtype, known to particularly affect older people.
- Whereas reductions in mortality among those aged over 60 have made the largest contribution to improving life expectancy, **mortality rates among young adults** has made almost no positive contribution to improvements in life expectancy since 2011. The cause of death that had the biggest negative impact among this group was accidental poisoning, with a large proportion due to drug misuse.
- Analysis indicates inequalities in life expectancy across England have increased since 2011, with the causes of the slow down in improvement having a **greater impact in the most deprived communities**.
- While PHE considered the impact of changes in health and social care funding, their findings were inconclusive. Evidence does indicate an association between government spending, or health and social care provision, and mortality, however there is limited evidence regarding causal mechanisms.
- While some commentators have suggested that we are reaching the limit of life expectancy, this has generally been discounted, as many countries have a higher life expectancy than we see in England.

### Reference

1. PHE 2018. Health Profile for England: 2018.
2. PHE 2018. Recent trends in mortality in England.
3. PHE 2018. Public health matters: Why have increases in life expectancy slowed down in England?
4. ONS 2018. Changing trends in mortality: an international comparison: 2000 to 2016.

# Locally, life expectancy has increased in Southwark, and we have narrowed the gap with, or overtaken, England

## LOCAL PICTURE: LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH

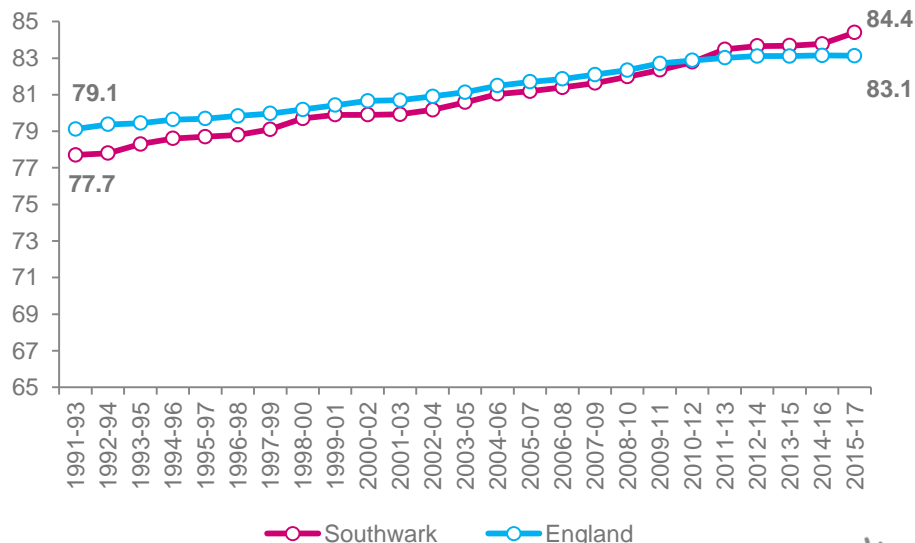
Life expectancy at birth has been increasing steadily over time, and there has been a substantial improvement in the gap between Southwark and England.

- In 2015-17, life expectancy at birth in Southwark was 78.9 years for males and 84.4 years for females.
- Since the turn of the millennium, the average number of years that a new-born baby would expect to live, based on contemporary mortality rates, increased by over 5 years for males and by 4.5 years for females.
- There has been a significant narrowing of the inequality gap between Southwark and England over time, with the male gap narrowing by almost three quarters, and the female gap overturning completely.
- However, Southwark had the fourth lowest life expectancy at birth among males in London in 2015-17.

Figure 1: Life expectancy at birth for males



Figure 2: Life expectancy at birth for females



### Reference

1. Public Health Outcomes Framework

# Similar to England, we have seen a slow down in male life expectancy, though the picture for females is less clear

## LOCAL PICTURE: LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH

While life expectancy in Southwark has been steadily increasing over time, there has been a notable slow down in improvements among males in the borough – though the picture is less clear for females.

- Our analysis shows the average annual improvement in male life expectancy in Southwark between 2011-13 and 2015-17 was considerably slower than in the preceding two decades, following the regional and national trend.
- However, changes in the average annual improvement among female life expectancy in Southwark are less clear.

Decade		Males			Females		
		Southwark	London	England	Southwark	London	England
Years	1991-03 to 2000-02	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
	2001-03 to 2010-12	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2
	2011-13 to 2015-17	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0
Weeks	1991-03 to 2000-02	13.9	14.4	13.3	12.7	8.7	8.9
	2001-03 to 2010-12	22.9	20.5	16.7	16.5	16.1	12.6
	2011-13 to 2015-17	6.2	7.8	3.4	12.0	5.9	1.4

Table 2: Average annual absolute change in life expectancy at birth in Southwark, London and England



# Male life expectancy is amongst the lowest in the capital, however female life expectancy is comparable to London

## LOCAL PICTURE: LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH

**Males in Southwark have a life expectancy more than 4 years below the best in London, with life expectancy for females over 2 years lower.**

Figure 3: Life expectancy at birth for males 2015-17

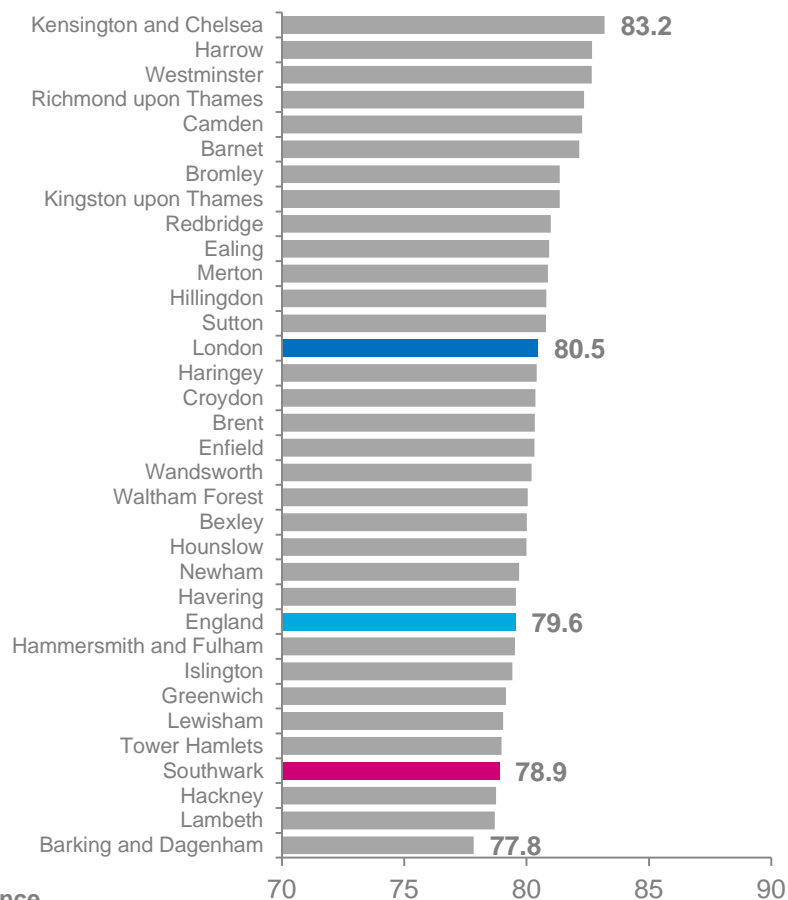
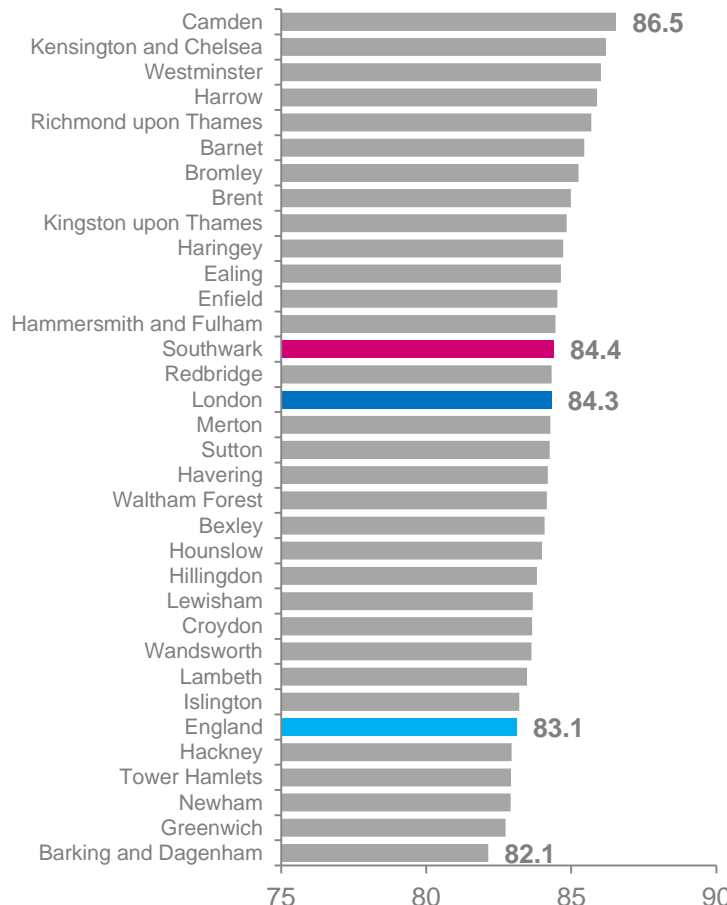


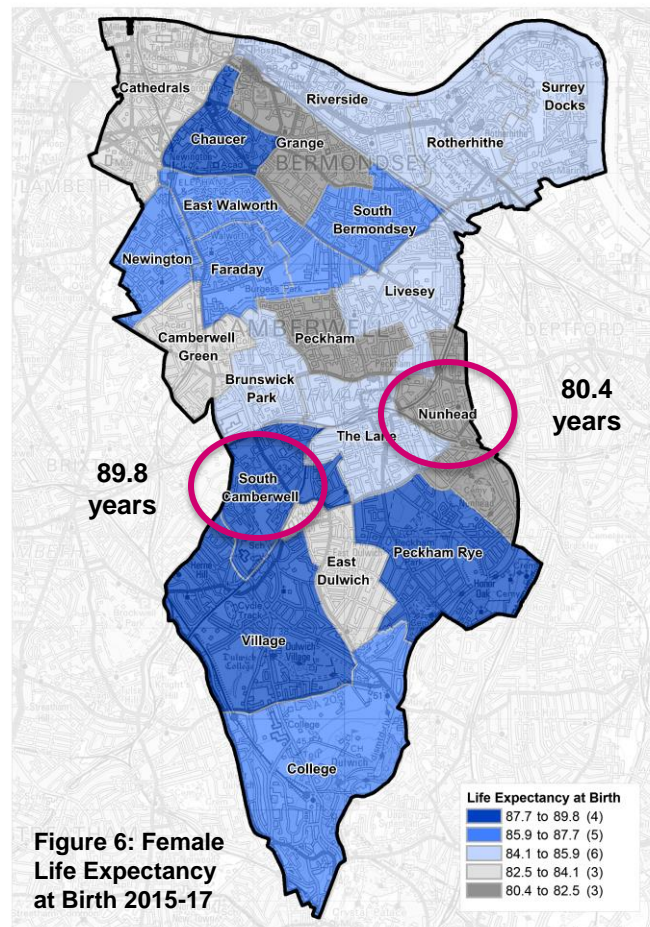
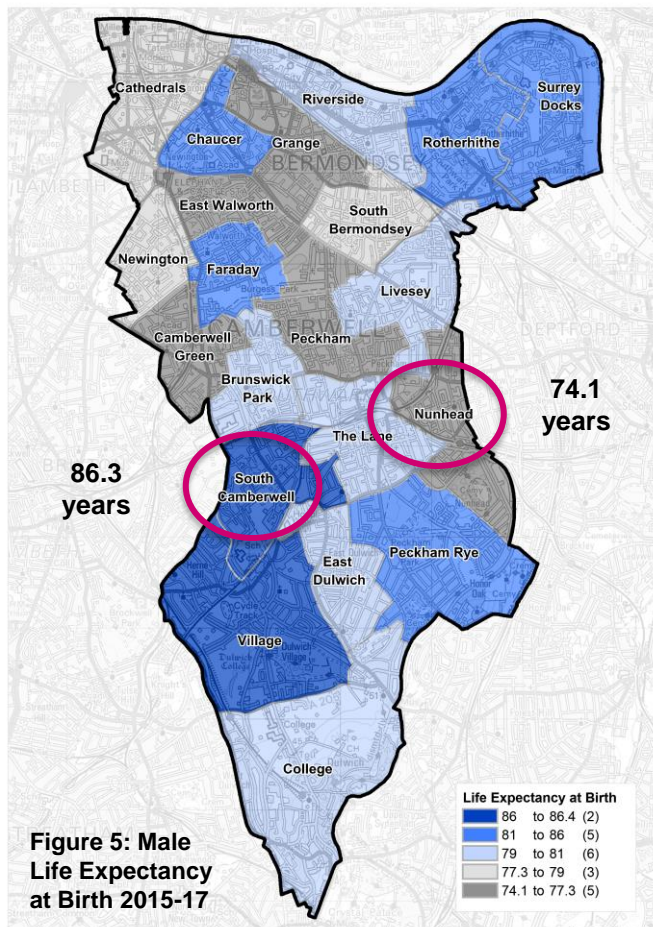
Figure 4: Life expectancy at birth for females 2015-17



# Life expectancy is highest in South Camberwell and lowest in Nunhead for both males and females

## LOCAL PICTURE: LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH

There are significant inequalities in life expectancy at birth between communities in Southwark among both males and females. Life expectancy is highest in South Camberwell and lowest in Nunhead.



### Reference

1. © OS Crown copyright & database rights 2018. Ordnance Survey (0)100019252.

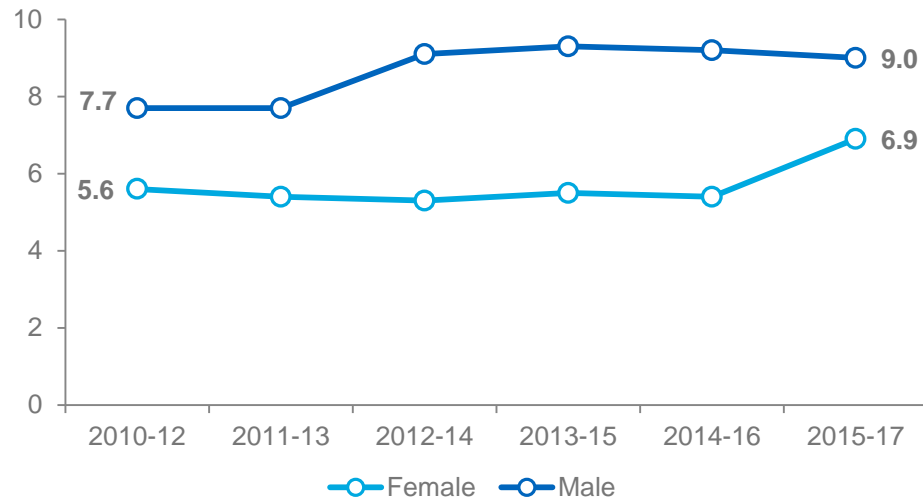
# Inequality in life expectancy at birth between our most deprived and least deprived communities has increased

## LOCAL PICTURE: GAP IN LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH

**Whilst there has been a significant increase in life expectancy in Southwark over time, this improvement has not been the same across all our communities.**

- The slope index of inequality takes account of health inequalities across the whole range of deprivation and summarises this in a single number.
- In 2015-17, it was estimated that life expectancy at birth for females living in the least deprived communities in Southwark was, on average, 6.9 years higher than those living in the most deprived communities.
- Among males, the gap in life expectancy was higher still, standing at 9 years.
- Southwark had the 5<sup>th</sup> highest level of inequality in life expectancy at birth in London in 2015-17.

Figure 7: Inequality in life expectancy at birth in Southwark



### Reference

1. Public Health Outcomes Framework, Slope index of inequality in life expectancy at birth

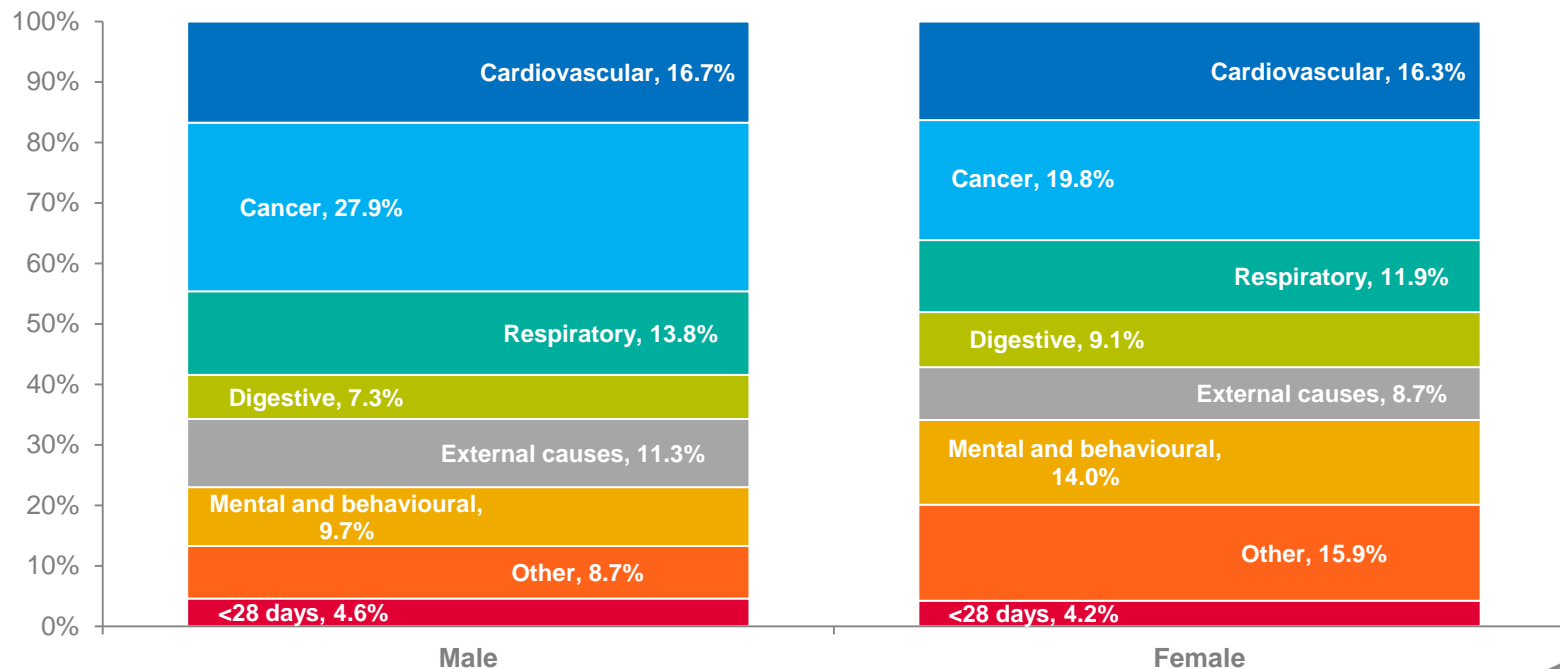
# Cardiovascular Disease, Cancer and Respiratory Disease are the main drivers behind inequalities in life expectancy

## LOCAL PICTURE: CAUSES OF THE GAP IN LIFE EXPECTANCY

**There is a significant inequality gap in life expectancy at birth between the most deprived and least deprived communities in Southwark, among both males and females.**

- Males in our least deprived communities have a life expectancy 9 years longer than their counterparts in our most deprived areas, with the gap among females being 6.9 years.
- Cardiovascular Disease, Cancer and Respiratory Disease account for 58% of the gap in life expectancy for males and 48% of the gap in life expectancy for females.

Figure 8: Gap in life expectancy in Southwark, by sex 2012-14



### References

1. Public Health England. The segmentation tool. Segmenting life expectancy gaps by cause of death. 2016.

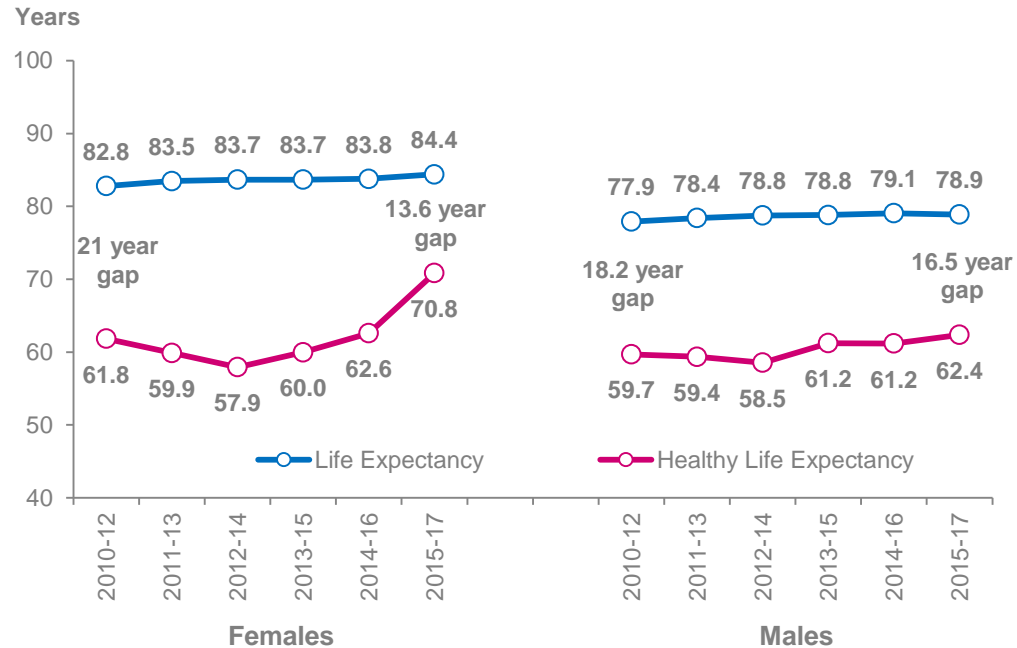
# There is well over a decade gap between life expectancy and healthy life expectancy in Southwark

## LOCAL PICTURE: HEALTHY LIFE EXPECTANCY

Healthy life expectancy is often considered a measure of whether we are adding life to years, as well as years to life. Whilst our residents are living longer, the length of the time spent living in good health is also an important factor.

- Trends indicate the gap between healthy life expectancy and overall life expectancy have narrowed, particularly among females.
- In 2015-17, there was a 16.5 year gap between life expectancy and healthy life expectancy for men and 13.6 year gap for women.
- Although healthy life expectancy among males in Southwark has remained relatively stable in recent years, there has been a statistically significant increase among females.
- In 2015-17 Southwark had the second highest healthy life expectancy among females in London, with the borough ranked 24<sup>th</sup> (out of 32) for males.

Figure 9: Gap in healthy life expectancy in Southwark, by sex



### Reference

1. Public Health Outcomes Framework
2. PHE, 2018. Public Health Matters: Why have increases in life expectancy slowed down in England?
3. PHE, 2018. Health profile for England.

# There have been significant improvements in life expectancy in Southwark, though inequalities remain

## SUMMARY

**Life expectancy is often used as the over-arching measure of the health of the population, and is a key indicator within the Public Health Outcomes Framework.**

- Life expectancy at birth has been increasing steadily over time. In 2015-17, life expectancy at birth in Southwark was 78.9 years for males and 84.4 years for females.
- Recent reports highlight a slow down in improvement in life expectancy, nationally and internationally. While this trend is evident among males in Southwark, the picture among females is less clear.
- Analysis by Public Health England suggests a range of factors are behind the slow down in improvements in life expectancy, rather than a single cause.
- There has been a significant narrowing of the inequality gap between Southwark and England over time, with the male gap narrowing by almost three quarters, and the female gap overturning completely.
- Male life expectancy continues to lag behind their female counterparts, and Southwark has the fourth lowest male life expectancy in London.
- There are significant inequalities in life expectancy at birth between communities in Southwark among both males and females. Life expectancy is highest in South Camberwell and lowest in Nunhead.
- Due to limited trends at small area level it is not possible to monitor which areas of the borough are most impacted by the slow down in life expectancy.
- In 2015-17, it was estimated that life expectancy at birth for females living in the least deprived communities in Southwark was, on average, 6.9 years higher than those living in the most deprived communities. Among males, the gap in life expectancy was higher still, standing at 9 years.
- Cardiovascular Disease, Cancer and Respiratory Disease are the main drivers behind inequalities in life expectancy in the borough.
- There is a significant gap between life expectancy and healthy life expectancy in the borough, though there has been a significant narrowing of this gap among females.

**Find out more at**  
[southwark.gov.uk/JSNA](https://southwark.gov.uk/JSNA)

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