

Life Expectancy in Scottish Areas 2015-2017

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This statistical report details life expectancy estimates for areas within Scotland, including council areas, NHS health boards and Scottish Parliamentary constituencies. It also includes break-downs of life expectancy figures by deprivation and urban-rural classification

Life expectancy has increased in Scotland but stalled in recent years

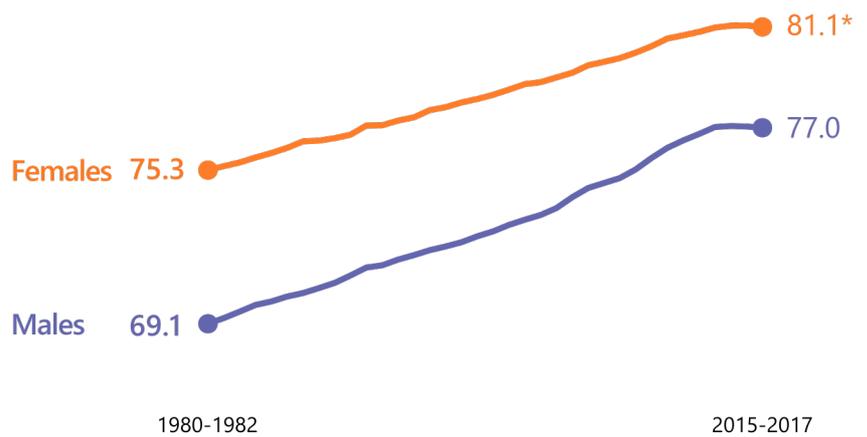
Since the 1980s life expectancy has increased by 5.8 years for females and 7.9 years for males.

However, the most recent estimate shows a small decrease in life expectancy for both females and males.

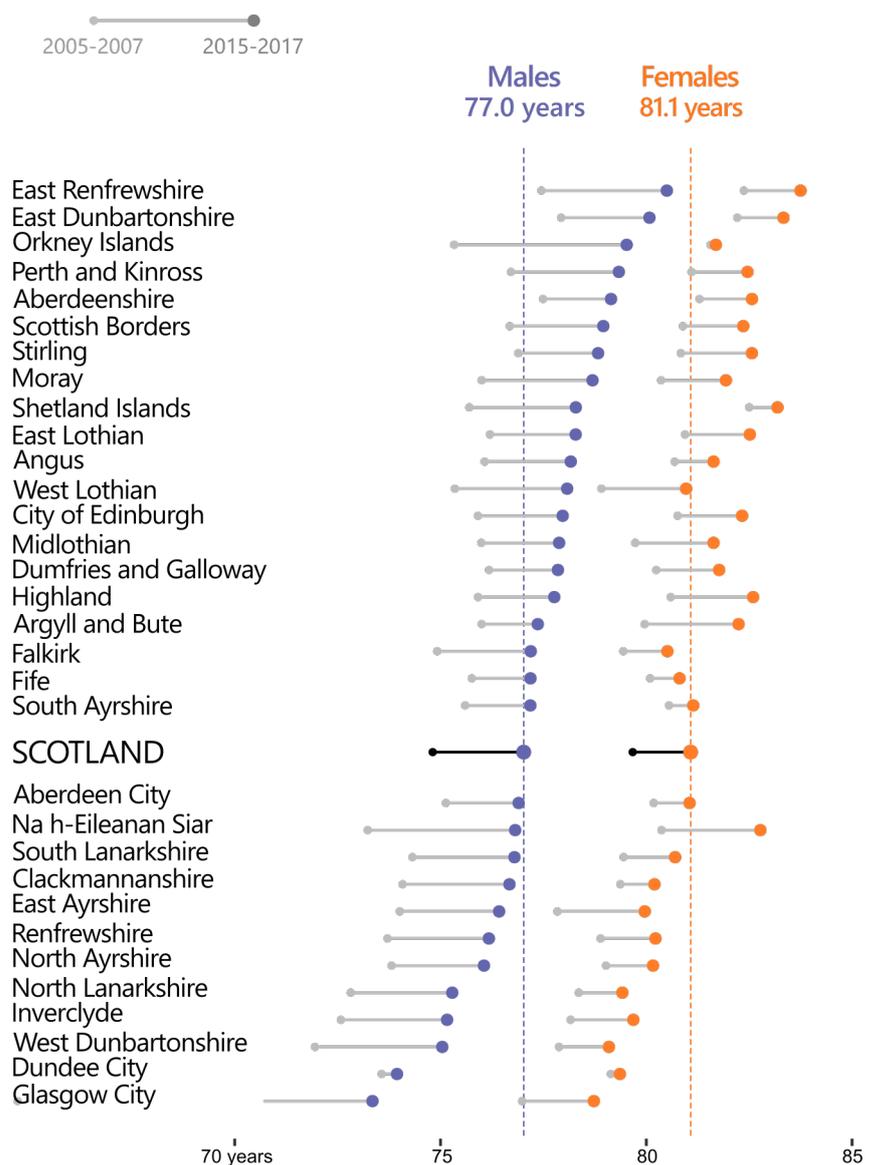
All council areas have seen an increase in life expectancy since 2005-2007

Over the last year however, more than half of Scotland's council areas have experienced a stall or decrease in life expectancy.

Life expectancy at birth (years)



Life expectancy at birth (years)



* These are the definitive life expectancy figures for Scotland from the national life tables. Scotland figures elsewhere in this publication are calculated differently for comparison to subnational figures.

Life expectancy varies among council areas within Scotland

Life expectancy at birth was highest in East Renfrewshire at 80.5 years for males and 83.7 years for females.

It was lowest in Glasgow city at 73.3 years for males and 78.7 years for females.

Life expectancy is higher in rural than urban areas

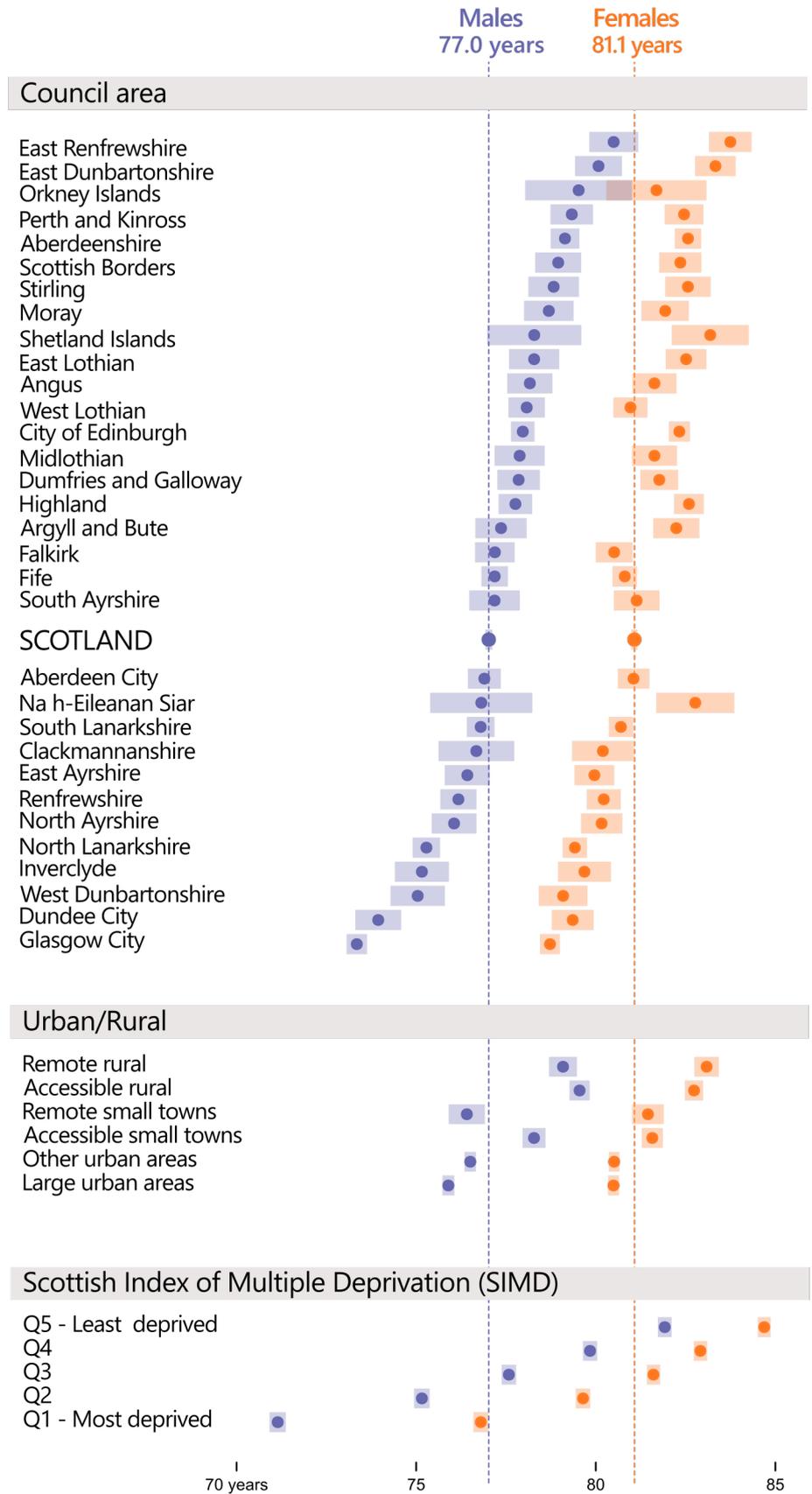
For both males and females, life expectancy was shortest in 'Large Urban' areas.

Life expectancy is lower in more deprived areas

The life expectancy gap between the 20% most and least deprived areas of Scotland was 10.8 years for males and 7.9 years for females.

Life expectancy at birth (years), 2015-2017

Average (●) and 95% confidence interval (■)



Q1-Q5 refer to SIMD Quintiles, 20% groupings of areas from most to least deprived

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1. Main Points

- In 2015 to 2017 Scottish life expectancy at birth was 77.0 years for males and 81.1 years for females.
- Scotland has one of the lowest life expectancies in western Europe for both males and females.
- Within Scotland, life expectancy was highest in East Renfrewshire council area where males could expect to live for 80.5 years and females for 83.7 years. By contrast, Glasgow City council area had the lowest life expectancy for both males (73.3 years) and females (78.7 years).
- Orkney and Shetland NHS boards had the highest life expectancy at birth for males and females respectively, while Greater Glasgow and Clyde NHS board area was lowest for both sexes.
- Across Scotland there was a difference of 13.0 years of life expectancy between males born in the 10% most deprived areas compared with the 10% least deprived areas. For females, the equivalent difference was 9.6 years.

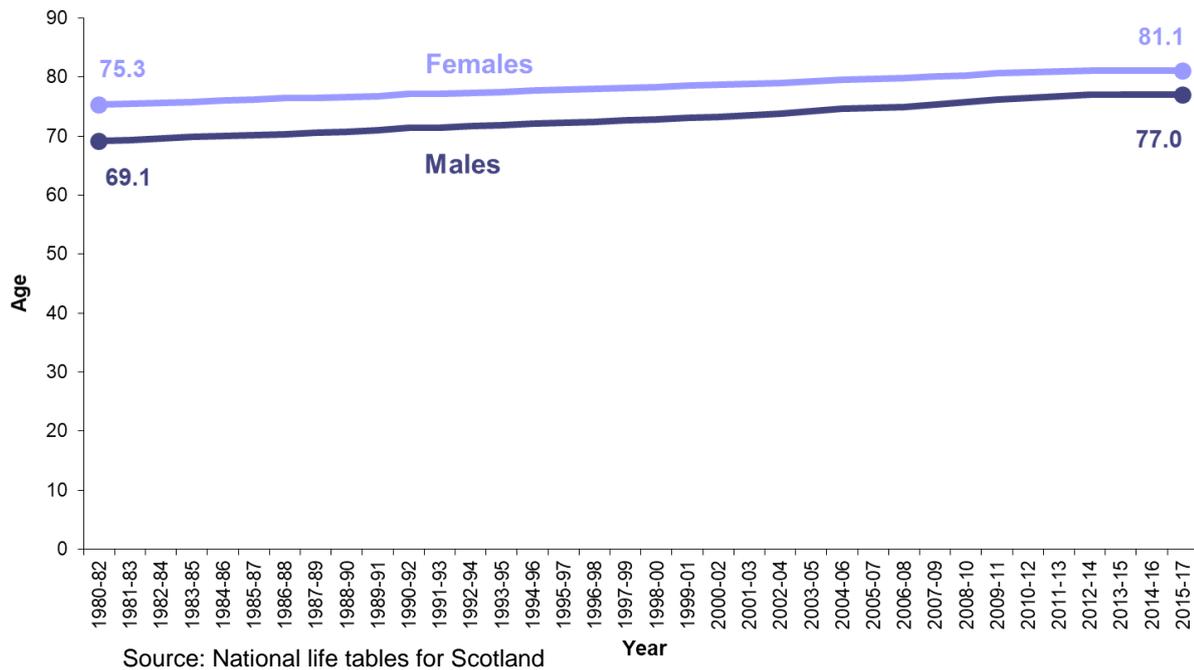
2. Introduction

Life expectancy refers to the number of years that a person could expect to survive if the current mortality rates for each age group, sex and geographic area remain constant throughout their life. This is referred to as 'period life expectancy' and does not usually reflect the actual number of years that a person will survive. This is because it does not take into account changes in health care and other social factors that may occur through someone's lifetime. However, life expectancy is a useful statistic as it provides a snapshot of the health of a population and allows the identification of inequalities between populations. Throughout this publication, subnational life expectancy estimates are reported alongside 95% confidence intervals which are quoted in brackets for instance 81 (± 0.7) years. These represent the intervals within which the estimate is likely to lie, and not the full range of people's life spans. The wider the confidence intervals, the less accurate the estimate is likely to be.

3. Life expectancy at birth in Scotland

The headline life expectancy figure for life expectancy at birth in Scotland is taken from the national life tables, which were published by Office for National Statistics (ONS) and National Records of Scotland (NRS) in September 2018. These showed that boys born in Scotland in the period 2015 to 2017 could expect to live for an average of 77.0 years, while girls had on average 81.1 years to live. [Figure 1](#) illustrates how life expectancy at birth has changed over the past few decades. Since 1980 to 1982, male life expectancy has increased by 7.9 years and female life expectancy has increased by 5.8 years. In recent years however, increases in life expectancy have stalled. Since 2012 to 2014, Scottish life expectancy has remained virtually unchanged and between 2014 to 2016 and 2015 to 2017, both males and females have seen a decrease of around 0.1 years.

Figure 1. Life expectancy at birth, Scotland, 1980 to 1982 to 2015 to 2017, males and females

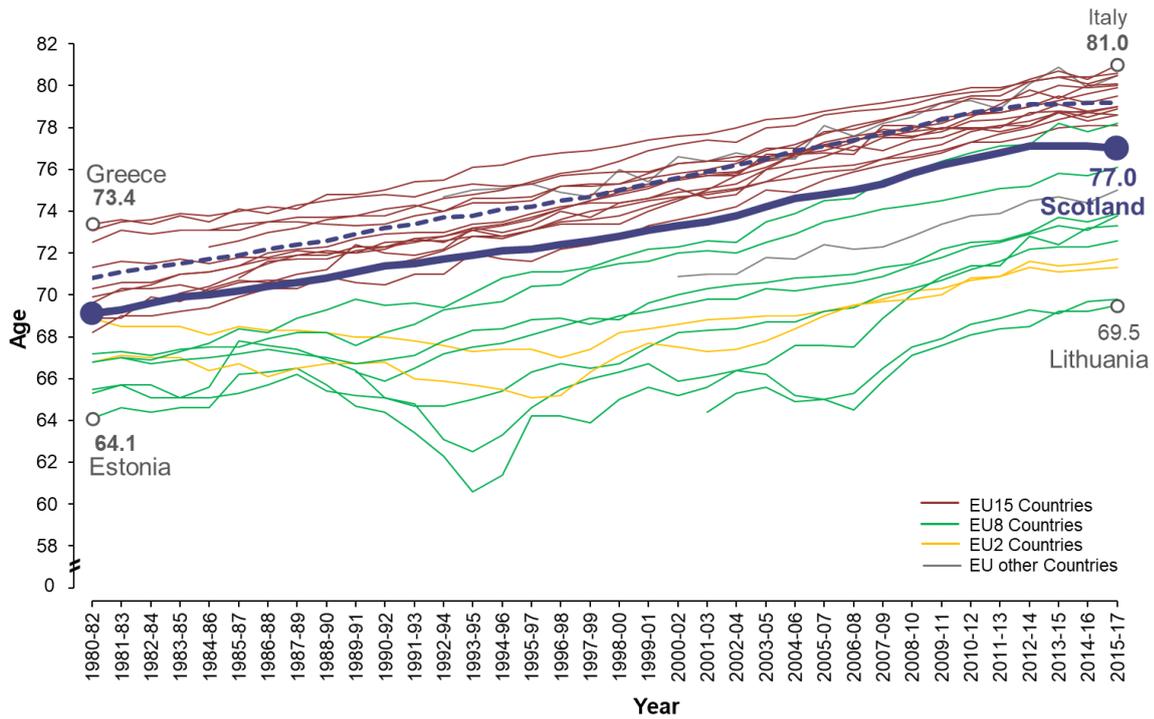


4. Scottish Life expectancy in a European context

Figure 2a and Figure 2b show Scottish life expectancy at birth compared with that of other European countries for males and females respectively. Scotland's life expectancy has been consistently lower than the other UK constituent countries and also lower than all of the countries in the 'EU 15' group since 1999 to 2001. This is especially pronounced for females. In 2015 to 2017, the country with the highest male life expectancy at birth was Italy (81.0 years) and the country with the highest female life expectancy was Spain (86.3 years). These figures were higher than Scottish life expectancy by 4.0 years for males and 5.2 years for females.

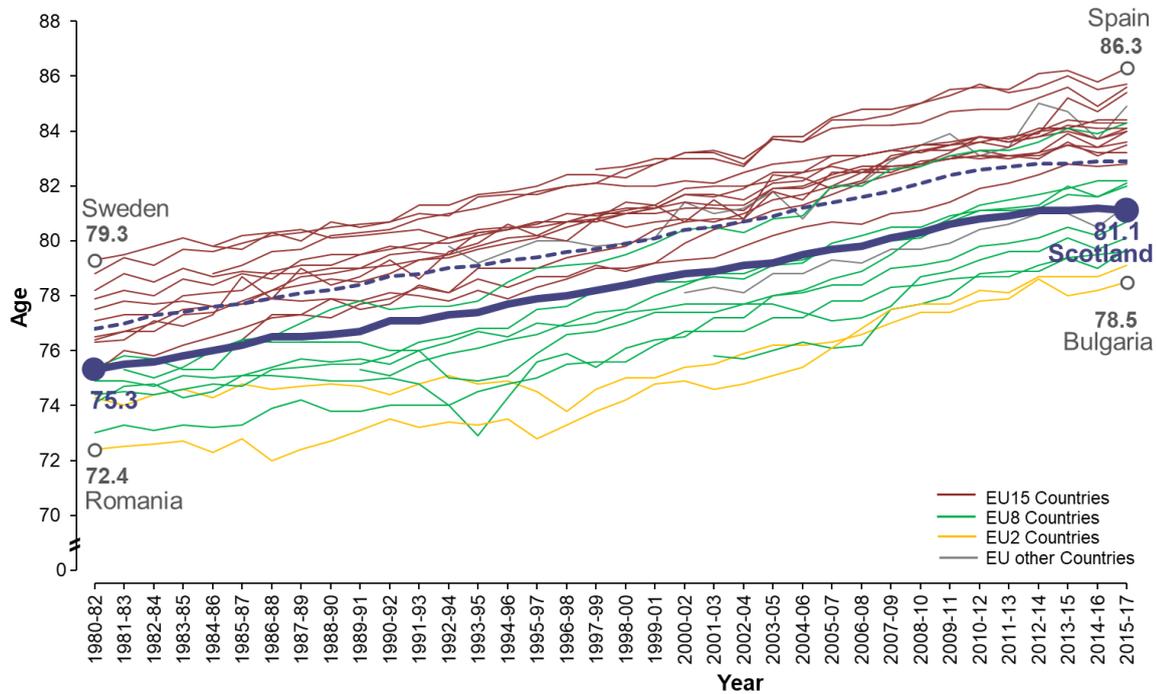
Figure 2a and Figure 2b also show that several other European countries have also experienced a recent slowdown in life expectancy, although many others have not.

Figure 2a. : Life expectancy at birth in European Union countries, 1980 to 1982 to 2015 to 2017, males



Source: : Office for National Statistics and Eurostat (tps00025)
 Note: The scale differs from the corresponding female figure

Figure 2b. Life expectancy at birth in European Union countries, 1980 to 1982 to 2015 to 2017, females



Source: : Office for National Statistics and Eurostat (tps00025)
 Note: The scale differs from the corresponding female figure

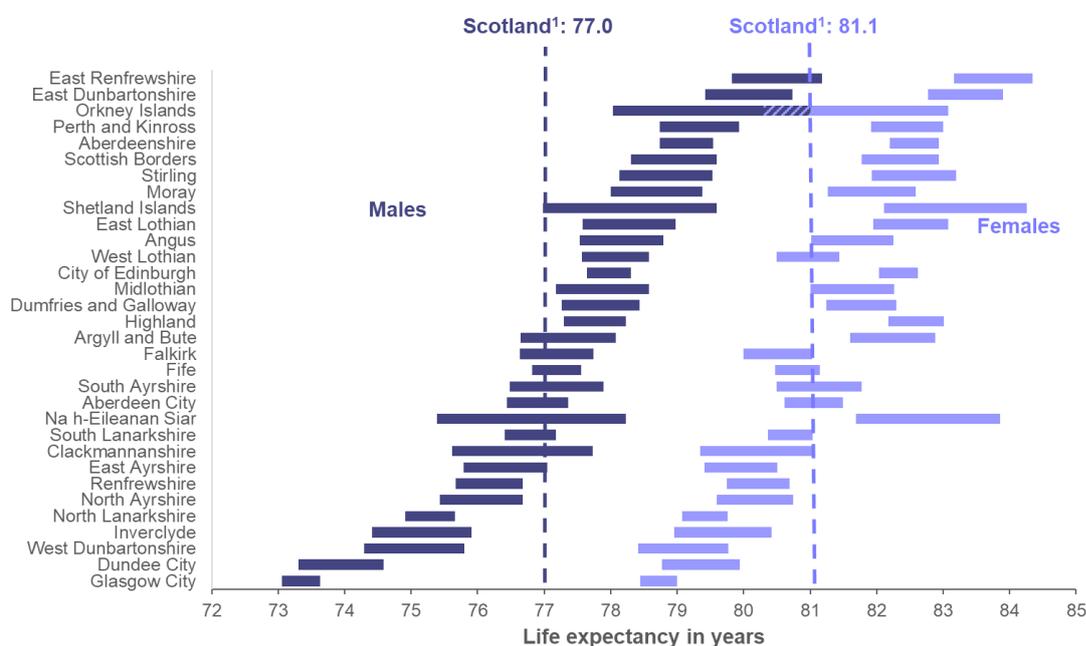
5. Life expectancy at birth in Scottish Council areas

Life expectancy at birth

Life expectancy at birth varies widely across local areas in Scotland. Figure 3 shows average life expectancy at birth for the 32 council areas that make up Scotland. The averages are displayed with 95% confidence intervals which illustrate the range within which the 'true average' is likely to lie and is especially important for the less populated council areas (for example, Na h-Eileanan Siar). For both males and females, the highest average life expectancy was in East Renfrewshire and the lowest was in Glasgow City. Figure 3 shows that life expectancy in East Renfrewshire was approximately 80.5 (± 0.7) years for males and 83.7 (± 0.6) years for females. These figures are around 3.5 and 2.7 years respectively higher than the comparable figures for Scotland (77.0 years for males and 81.1 years for females.) In Glasgow City, life expectancy at birth was 73.3 (± 0.3) years for males and 78.7 (± 0.3) years for females. These figures are lower than the comparable figures for Scotland by 3.7 years for males and 2.3 years for females.

In all council areas, female life expectancy was greater than that of males, apart from in Orkney Islands where the confidence intervals overlapped by a fairly large margin (0.7 years). The council area with the largest difference between males and females was Na h-Eileanan Siar where female life expectancy was 6 years higher than for males.

Figure 3. Life expectancy at birth in Scottish Council areas, 2015 to 2017, males and females



1) Please note that the Scotland-level life expectancy estimate shown here is for use only as a comparator for the corresponding sub-Scotland-level figures. The definitive Scotland-level life expectancy estimate is published in the National Life Tables for Scotland

Change in life expectancy over time

Female and male life expectancy at birth has increased over the last ten years in all of Scotland's council areas. Table 1 shows that the greatest increase was for males

in Orkney islands, where life expectancy at birth has increased by 4.2 years between 2005 to 2007 and 2015 to 2017. The largest increase for females was in Na h-Eileanan Siar where life expectancy at birth increased by 2.4 years from 2005 to 2007. The increase over ten years was greater for males than for females in all council areas other than Argyll and Bute and Highland where it was greater for females and Midlothian where both males and female life expectancy increased by 1.9 years.

Table 1. Change in life expectancy at birth and age 65 to 69, 2005 to 2007 to 2015 to 2017, by council area, males and females

	Males (years)				Females (years)			
	Life expectancy at birth 2015-2017	change from 2005-2007 to 2015-2017	Life expectancy at 65-69 2015-2017	change from 2005-2007 to 2015-2017	Life expectancy at birth 2015-2017	change from 2005-2007 to 2015-2017	Life expectancy at 65-69 2015-2017	change from 2005-2007 to 2015-2017
Scotland¹	77.0	2.2	17.4	1.4	81.1	1.4	19.7	1.0
Aberdeen City	76.9	1.8	17.3	1.3	81.1	0.9	19.8	0.8
Aberdeenshire	79.1	1.7	18.2	0.7	82.6	1.3	20.4	0.8
Angus	78.2	2.1	18.0	1.2	81.6	0.9	20.6	1.2
Argyll and Bute	77.4	1.4	17.6	0.7	82.2	2.3	20.7	1.4
City of Edinburgh	78.0	2.1	18.0	1.4	82.3	1.6	20.5	0.8
Clackmannanshire	76.7	2.6	17.6	2.2	80.2	0.8	19.0	0.5
Dumfries and Galloway	77.9	1.7	18.0	1.2	81.8	1.5	20.1	1.3
Dundee City	73.9	0.4	16.7	0.5	79.4	0.2	19.0	0.0
East Ayrshire	76.4	2.4	16.9	1.5	80.0	2.1	18.7	1.0
East Dunbartonshire	80.1	2.1	19.3	2.1	83.3	1.1	21.1	1.1
East Lothian	78.3	2.1	18.0	1.7	82.5	1.6	20.4	1.2
East Renfrewshire	80.5	3.1	19.0	1.8	83.8	1.4	21.1	0.9
Falkirk	77.2	2.3	17.4	1.6	80.5	1.1	19.2	1.1
Fife	77.2	1.4	17.6	1.0	80.8	0.7	19.7	0.7
Glasgow City	73.4	2.6	15.2	1.3	78.7	1.7	18.1	0.9
Highland	77.8	1.9	18.3	1.6	82.6	2.0	20.8	1.4
Inverclyde	75.2	2.6	16.1	1.0	79.7	1.5	19.3	1.1
Midlothian	77.9	1.9	17.5	1.2	81.6	1.9	19.8	1.6
Moray	78.7	2.7	17.9	1.6	81.9	1.6	20.2	1.3
Na h-Eileanan Siar	76.8	3.6	17.5	1.8	82.8	2.4	21.0	1.1
North Ayrshire	76.1	2.3	17.3	1.8	80.2	1.1	19.3	0.9
North Lanarkshire	75.3	2.5	16.2	1.3	79.4	1.1	18.5	0.8
Orkney Islands	79.5	4.2	19.5	2.9	81.7	0.1	20.1	0.6
Perth and Kinross	79.3	2.6	19.1	1.8	82.5	1.4	20.9	1.3
Renfrewshire	76.2	2.5	16.6	1.5	80.2	1.3	18.9	1.0
Scottish Borders	79.0	2.3	18.6	1.8	82.4	1.5	20.6	1.2
Shetland Islands	78.3	2.6	17.4	-0.4	83.2	0.7	20.3	-0.5
South Ayrshire	77.2	1.6	18.0	1.3	81.1	0.6	20.1	1.0
South Lanarkshire	76.8	2.5	17.2	1.8	80.7	1.3	19.1	0.8
Stirling	78.8	1.9	18.1	1.6	82.6	1.7	20.7	1.8
West Dunbartonshire	75.0	3.1	16.4	1.4	79.1	1.2	18.5	1.0
West Lothian	78.1	2.7	17.5	1.6	81.0	2.1	19.3	1.7

1) Please note that the Scotland-level life expectancy estimate shown here is for use only as a comparator for the corresponding sub-Scotland-level figures. The definitive Scotland-level life expectancy estimate is published in the National Life Tables for Scotland

Probability of reaching age 90+

Another way to look at variation in life expectancy is to compare the probability of reaching old age. [Table 2](#) shows that one in 6.1 males born in Scotland in 2015 to 2017 could expect to reach the age of 90. For females, this rises to one in 3.8. Amongst council areas, this figure varies from one in three females in East Renfrewshire, to one in 10.5 males in Glasgow city.

Table 2: The number of people expected to live until age 90 or older by council area, 2015 to 2017, males and females

Council Area	Number of people expected to live until age 90 or older	
	Males	Females
Scotland¹	1 in 6.1	1 in 3.8
Aberdeen City	1 in 6.4	1 in 3.8
Aberdeenshire	1 in 5.2	1 in 3.4
Angus	1 in 5.2	1 in 3.6
Argyll and Bute	1 in 6.1	1 in 3.4
City of Edinburgh	1 in 5.2	1 in 3.2
Clackmannanshire	1 in 6.3	1 in 4.3
Dumfries and Galloway	1 in 5.6	1 in 3.5
Dundee City	1 in 7.3	1 in 4.1
East Ayrshire	1 in 7	1 in 4.7
East Dunbartonshire	1 in 4	1 in 3.1
East Lothian	1 in 5.3	1 in 3.3
East Renfrewshire	1 in 4.2	1 in 3
Falkirk	1 in 6.5	1 in 4.1
Fife	1 in 6	1 in 3.8
Glasgow City	1 in 10.5	1 in 4.8
Highland	1 in 5.1	1 in 3.2
Inverclyde	1 in 7.9	1 in 4.2
Midlothian	1 in 6	1 in 3.9
Moray	1 in 4.8	1 in 3.5
Na h-Eileanan Siar	1 in 5.6	1 in 3.2
North Ayrshire	1 in 6.7	1 in 4
North Lanarkshire	1 in 8.5	1 in 4.8
Orkney Islands	1 in 3.7	1 in 3.5
Perth and Kinross	1 in 4.2	1 in 3.1
Renfrewshire	1 in 7.6	1 in 4.4
Scottish Borders	1 in 4.8	1 in 3.3
Shetland Islands	1 in 6.6	1 in 3.5
South Ayrshire	1 in 5.6	1 in 3.8
South Lanarkshire	1 in 6.5	1 in 4.3
Stirling	1 in 4.9	1 in 3.4
West Dunbartonshire	1 in 7.4	1 in 4.6
West Lothian	1 in 5.8	1 in 4.4

1) Please note that the Scotland-level life expectancy estimate shown here is for use only as a comparator for the corresponding sub-Scotland-level figures. The definitive Scotland-level life expectancy estimate is published in the National Life Tables for Scotland

Life expectancy at older ages in Scottish Council areas

There was also a lot of variation in life expectancy at older ages between the council areas of Scotland in 2015 to 2017. The greatest life expectancy at age 65 to 69 was found in Orkney Islands for males (19.5 ± 0.9 years) and in East Renfrewshire for females (21.1 ± 0.4 years). Glasgow City had the lowest life expectancy at age 65 to 69 for both males (15.2 ± 0.2 years) and females (18.1 ± 0.2 years).

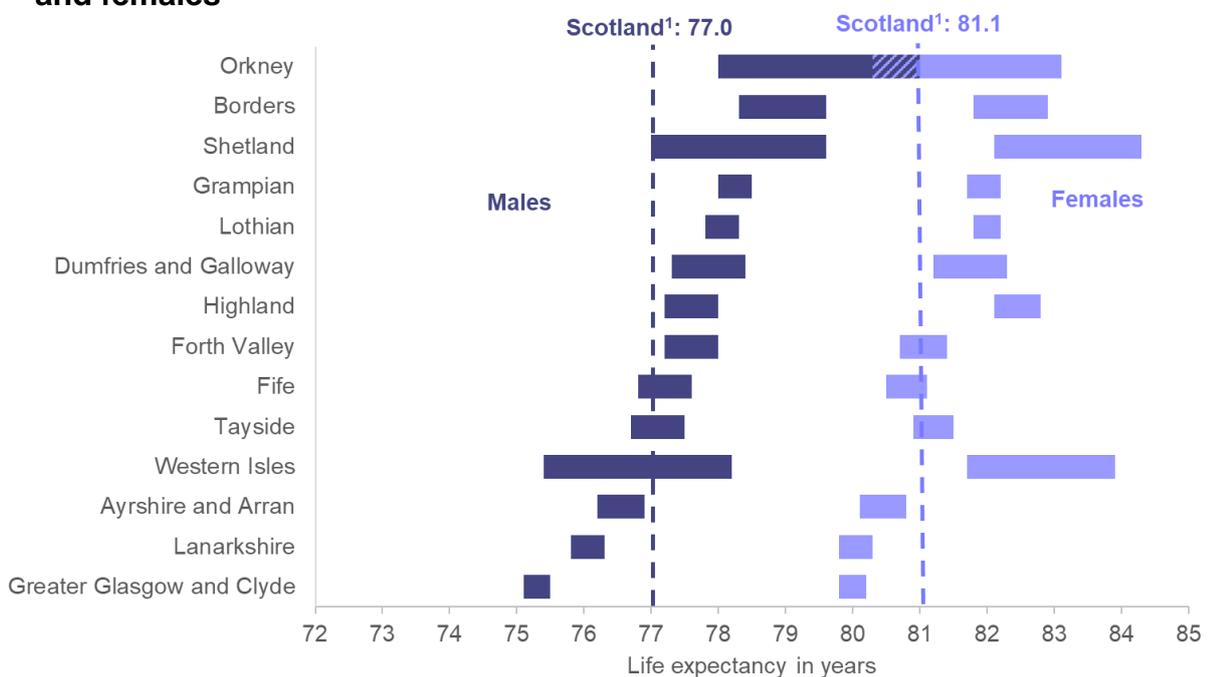
The average life expectancy at age 65 to 69 across all of Scotland was 17.4 years for males and 19.7 years for females.

6. Life expectancy at other Scottish geographies

NHS health boards

Figure 4 shows life expectancy at birth in 2015 to 2017 across NHS health boards with confidence intervals for males and females. For males, life expectancy was highest in Orkney (79.5 ± 1.5 years) while females had the greatest life expectancy in Shetland (83.2 ± 1.1 years). It is important to note that the confidence intervals are large around these estimates as the populations in both Shetland and Orkney are small and life expectancy estimates tend to fluctuate more year on year than in larger areas. Greater Glasgow and Clyde had the lowest life expectancy at birth for males (75.3 ± 0.2 years) and for females Greater Glasgow and Clyde and Lanarkshire had the joint lowest life expectancy (both 80.0 ± 0.2 years.)

Figure 4. Life expectancy at birth in NHS health boards, 2015 to 2017, males and females



1) Please note that the Scotland-level life expectancy estimate shown here is for use only as a comparator for the corresponding sub-Scotland-level figures. The definitive Scotland-level life expectancy estimate is published in the National Life Tables for Scotland

Scottish Parliamentary constituencies

Figure 5a and Figure 5b illustrate the range of life expectancy at birth in Scottish parliamentary constituencies (SPCs) by presenting the five SPCs with the highest and lowest life expectancy estimates. For males there was a gap of 10.2 years between the highest (Eastwood) and lowest (Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn) SPC. For females the difference was 7.2 years between the highest and lowest SPC (these were the same SPCs as for males). Because SPCs have small populations compared to health boards and council areas, the life expectancy figures and rank order tends to vary a lot year on year.

Figure 5a Scottish Parliamentary constituencies with the five highest and lowest life expectancy at birth, 2015 to 2017, males

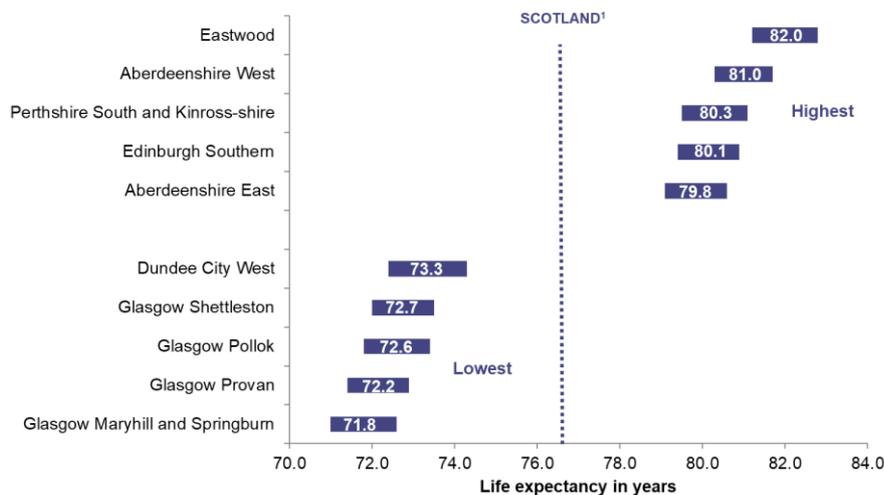
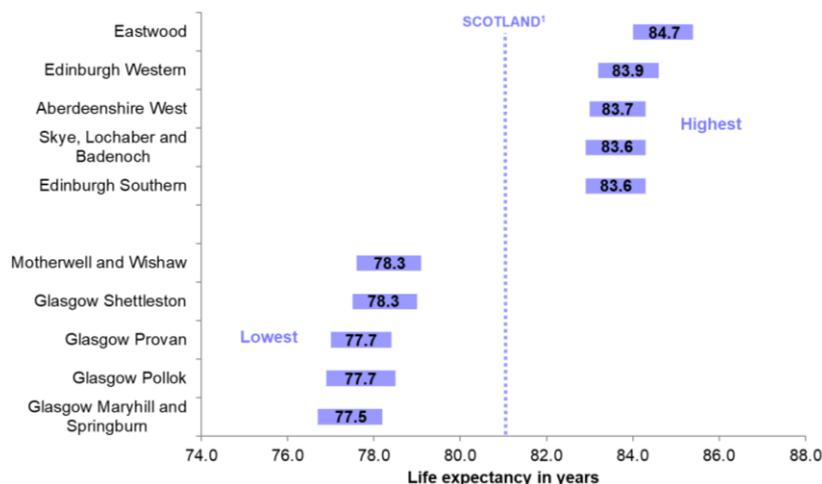


Figure 5b Scottish Parliamentary constituencies with the five highest and lowest life expectancy at birth, 2015 to 2017, females



1) Please note that the Scotland-level life expectancy estimate shown here is for use only as a comparator for the corresponding sub-Scotland-level figures. The definitive Scotland-level life expectancy estimate is published in the National Life Tables for Scotland

7. Life expectancy at birth by deprivation

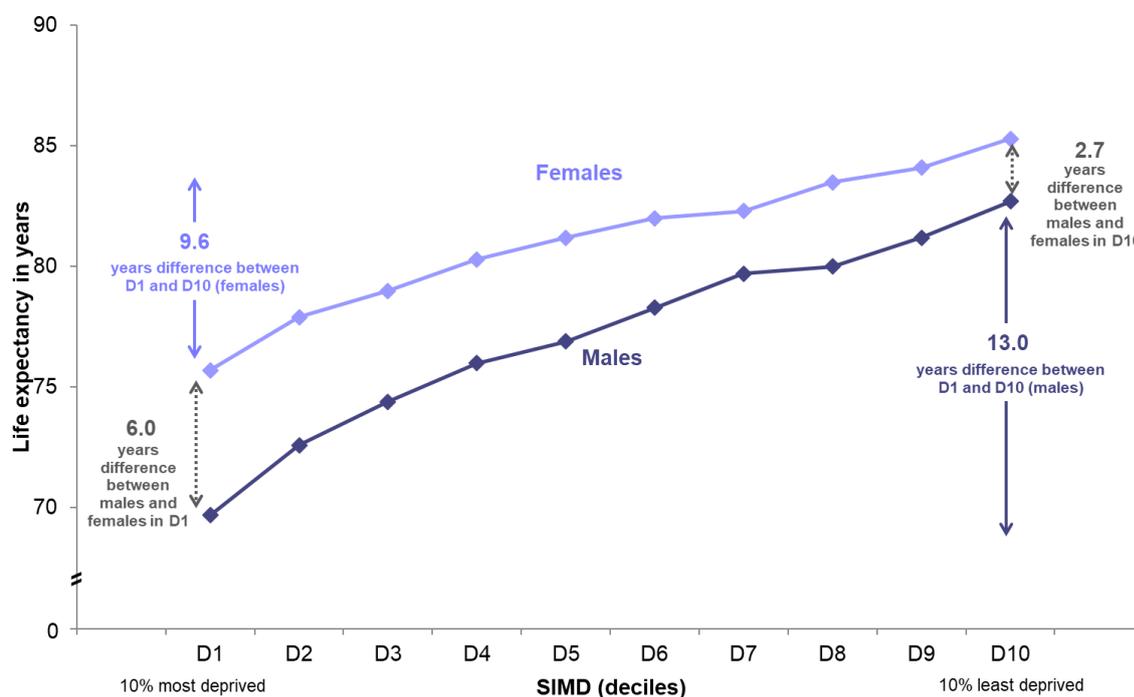
Life expectancy by deprivation within Scotland

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) ranks data zones using 38 indicators of deprivation from most deprived to least deprived across Scotland. SIMD 2016, the most recent version of SIMD, is used throughout this publication when analysing life expectancy by deprivation.

There is a strong relationship between deprivation and life expectancy with people living in more deprived areas expected to have shorter lives. Figure 6 shows life expectancy at birth by SIMD decile (data zones aggregated into ten groups from the 10% most to 10% least deprived.) Life expectancy for males born in 2015 to 2017 in decile one (most deprived) was 69.7 (± 0.3) years, 13 years lower than in decile ten (least deprived) where males could expect to live on average 82.7 (± 0.3) years. Life expectancy for females born in decile one was 75.7 (± 0.3) years, 9.6 years lower than females born in decile ten where females had an average life expectancy of 85.3 (± 0.2) years. The difference in life expectancy between males and females is greatest in decile one (6.0) and smallest in decile ten and decile seven (2.7).

Figure 6 also shows that the largest difference in life expectancy between consecutive deciles is between decile one and decile two for both males and females.

Figure 6: Life expectancy at birth in Scotland, 2015 to 2017, by SIMD¹ deciles, males and females



1) SIMD 2016

Because the boundaries of deprivation deciles change with different iterations of SIMD, it is complicated to compare across periods of time. However, the last three life expectancy estimates have all used SIMD 2016 and these show that the gap between the most and least deprived areas has grown in recent years. Between the 2013 to 2015 and 2015 to 2017 estimates, the difference in life expectancy between

decile one and ten has grown from 12.2 to 13.0 years for males and 8.6 to 9.6 years for females.

Life expectancy at birth for SIMD quintiles (five groups of 20%) are also available in the tables that are published alongside this report.

Life expectancy by deprivation within council areas

NRS also produce life expectancy by deprivation estimates for within council areas which are published in table 11 in the accompanying tables. In order to calculate these figures from small populations, we pool five years of data (in this publication, 2013 to 2017) and use SIMD quintiles rather than deciles. In spite of this, great caution should be exercised in interpreting these data especially for smaller council areas, as the confidence intervals are very large.

For Males, some of the largest differences between the 20% most deprived and 20% least deprived are found in Inverclyde, Glasgow City, City of Edinburgh and Dundee city, all of which had deprivation gaps of greater than 11 years. For females, some of the largest differences were found in Renfrewshire, North Ayrshire, Inverclyde, Glasgow City and City of Edinburgh which all had deprivation gaps greater than eight years. The equivalent differences for all of Scotland for 2013 to 2017 are 9.4 years for males and 6.6 years for females.

In some rural or sparsely populated areas there may be relatively little variation in deprivation so the difference between the most and least deprived areas are much smaller than they would be in a large city. For example, in the Shetland Islands and Na h-Eileanan Siar council areas, the confidence intervals overlap between the 20 per cent most and least deprived areas. This indicates that it is not possible to compare life expectancies by deprivation in these more sparsely populated areas.

8. Life expectancy at birth by urban-rural classification

People who live in more rural areas in Scotland have higher life expectancy than those in more urban areas. This is something which is seen in all areas of the UK. It is thought to be associated with lower levels of air pollution in more rural areas, contributing to lower incidences of respiratory disease¹. There may be an effect of people generally having healthier, more active life styles in the countryside, but there may also be an association of other factors that influence life expectancy (for example, income) with where people live. It may also reflect the movement of people in ill health into towns and cities for easier access to health care².

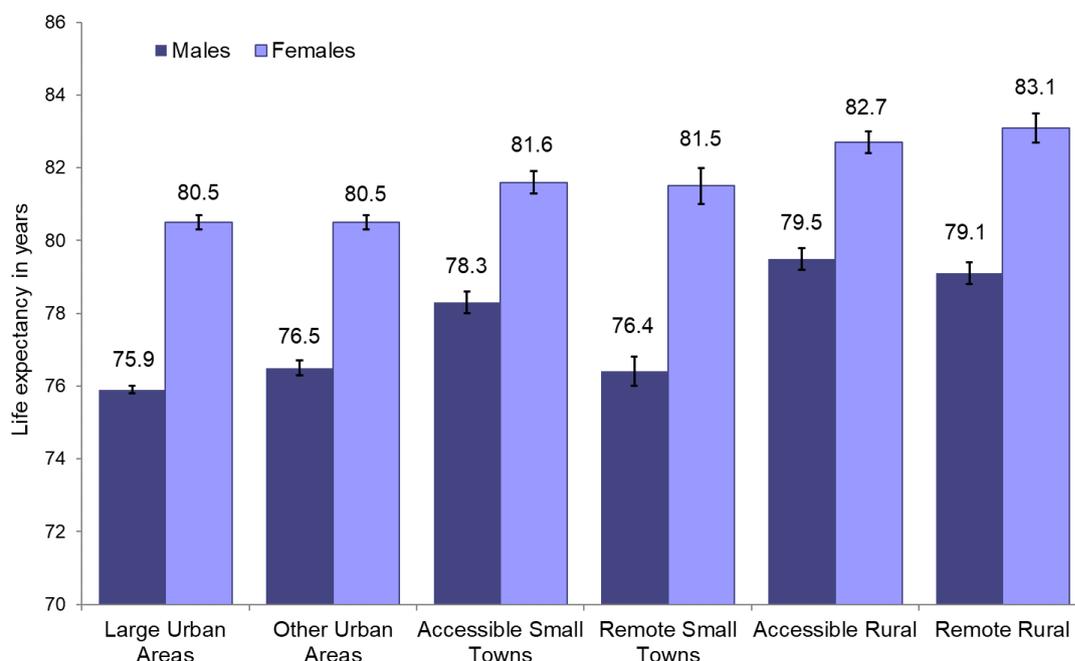
Figures here use the 2016 six fold urban rural classification which groups data zones into six categories based on their proximity to large settlements. More information can be found on the Scottish Government urban-rural web page.

[Figure 7](#) shows that in 2015 to 2017, life expectancy at birth was highest for females living in 'remote rural' areas (83.1 ± 0.3 years) although there was an overlap of confidence intervals with females living in 'accessible rural' areas, suggesting there is no significant difference between the two. Life expectancy was lowest for females living in 'large urban' and 'other urban' areas (80.5 ± 0.2 years). Female life expectancy in 'accessible small towns' and 'remote small towns' was intermediate at $81.6 (\pm 0.3)$ and $81.5 (\pm 0.4)$ years respectively (confidence intervals overlap).

For males, the patterns in life expectancy by urban-rural classification is slightly different. Life expectancy at birth is highest in 'accessible rural' areas where a boy would be expected to live for $79.5 (\pm 0.3)$ years. Similar to females, there is an overlap of confidence intervals with 'remote rural' areas so it is likely the figures are not significantly different. Life expectancy is lowest for males in 'large urban' areas

(75.9 ± 0.2 years) however, the confidence intervals overlap with 'remote small towns' (76.4 ± 0.5 years). Males in 'accessible small towns' had intermediate life expectancy estimates which did not overlap with any other group.

Figure 7: Life expectancy at birth in Scotland, 2015 to 2017 by urban-rural¹ areas, males and females



1) Urban-Rural 2016

1. [Iversen, L, Hannaford, P. C, Price, D. B, Godden, D. J. 2005. Is Living in a Rural Area Good for Your Respiratory Health? Chest 128\(4\):2059-2067](#)

2. Ilbery, B. 1998. The Geography of Rural Change. Addison Wesley Longman Limited.

9. Healthy life expectancy

Healthy life expectancy is an estimate of how long a person could expect to live in good health and is a useful comparison to the life expectancy estimates. Healthy life expectancy estimates for Scotland and council areas are currently available on the Health and Life expectancies section of the ONS website.

10. Further information

Time series

Accompanying this publication are life expectancy time series for council areas and NHS health boards from 1991 to 1993 to the most recent estimates in 2015 to 2017. These figures use the corrected population estimates for 2001 to 2010 which were published in 2018 following the identification of a previous error.

Past data

Previous NRS publications covering life expectancy in administrative areas (Council and NHS board) and special areas (Community Health Partnership, Urban/Rural and

Deprivation) within Scotland can be found in the Life Expectancy in Scottish Areas (archives section) of the NRS website.

National life tables

The definitive life expectancy figures for Scotland are produced by ONS and published in the National Life Tables, UK publication. NRS also produce a statistical bulletin containing the national life tables with some additional commentary on the Scottish National Life Tables section of the NRS website.

Period and cohort life expectancy

The life expectancy figures quoted in this publication are period life expectancies which are calculated using the age-specific mortality rates for a given period (either a single year, or aggregated years) and make no allowance for any later actual or projected changes in future mortality. Cohort life expectancies are calculated using age-specific mortality rates which allow for known or projected changes in mortality in later years. Period and cohort life expectancies based on projected mortality rates from the 2014-based national population projections can be accessed from the ONS website. Period life expectancy projections are also available on the ONS website.

Methodology

Life expectancy for areas within Scotland is calculated by NRS using the Chiang II method. For more details please refer to the methodology paper published on the NRS website.

EU countries (2015 to 2017)

The EU 15 countries refers to the countries that were members of the EU prior to 2004: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the UK.

The EU 8 countries refer to a group of eight of the 10 countries that joined the European Union in 2004: Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

The EU 2 countries are Bulgaria and Romania which joined the EU in 2014.

The EU 'other' countries are Cyprus and Malta which joined the EU in 2004 but are usually counted separately to the EU8 because they have different per capita income levels.

11. Notes on statistical publications

National Statistics

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority (UKSA) has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in line with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics (available on the UKSA website).

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is NRS' responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still

meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

12. Information on background and source data

Further details on data source(s), timeframe of data and timeliness, continuity of data, accuracy, etc can be found in the About this Publication document that is published alongside this publication on the NRS website.

National Records of Scotland

We, the National Records of Scotland, are a non-ministerial department of the devolved Scottish Administration. Our aim is to provide relevant and reliable information, analysis and advice that meets the needs of government, business and the people of Scotland. We do this as follows:

Preserving the past – We look after Scotland’s national archives so that they are available for current and future generations, and we make available important information for family history.

Recording the present – At our network of local offices, we register births, marriages, civil partnerships, deaths, divorces and adoptions in Scotland.

Informing the future – We are responsible for the Census of Population in Scotland which we use, with other sources of information, to produce statistics on the population and households

You can get other detailed statistics that we have produced from the Statistics section of our website. Scottish Census statistics are available on the Scotland’s Census website.

We also provide information about future publications on our website. If you would like us to tell you about future statistical publications, you can register your interest on the Scottish Government ScotStat website.

You can also follow us on twitter @NatRecordsScot

13. Enquiries and suggestions

Please contact our Statistics Customer Services if you need any further information.

Email: statisticscustomerservices@nrscotland.gov.uk

If you have comments or suggestions that would help us improve our standards of service, please contact:

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