North Hertfordshire
Health Profile 2007

This profile gives a snapshot of health in your area. With other local information, this Health Profile has been designed to support action by local government and primary care trusts to tackle health inequalities and improve people’s health.

Health Profiles are funded by the Department of Health and produced annually by the Association of Public Health Observatories.

To view Health Profiles for other local authorities and to find out how they were produced, visit www.communityhealthprofiles.info

North Hertfordshire at a glance

• North Hertfordshire is a rural area of around 121,000 people within the commuter belt of London. Population growth is expected to be higher than the regional average. The Health Profile shows a similar picture to last year.
• The level of statutorily homeless households is higher than the England average. The rate of reported violent crime is lower than the England average. GCSE achievement is higher than the England average.
• Teenage pregnancy rates are low compared to the England average. Although 4 of the 5 indicators relating to giving children and young people a healthy start are ‘data gaps’, they have been included to emphasise their importance.
• Estimated smoking rates and the proportion of adults who are obese are lower than the England average. Even so, 1 adult in 5 still smokes, and 1 in 6 is obese (these are estimates).
• Life expectancy for males and for females is higher than the England average. Over the last decade life expectancy has increased.
• The rates of early death due to cancer, heart disease and stroke, have fallen in recent years and are lower than the England rate.
• Although the death rate from smoking is relatively low, smoking still kills at least 190 people every year.
• Fewer people than average consider themselves to be in ‘poor health’. At least 4140 people are recorded as having diabetes.
• Information on local priorities can be found at: www.north-herts.gov.uk/
Income inequalities: a national perspective

This map shows variation in the percentage of people on low income, between small areas in this local authority in relation to the whole of England (2003).

National income groups

- 1 Least income-deprived fifth of areas in England
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 Most income-deprived fifth of areas in England

Income inequalities: a local perspective

This map shows variation in the percentage of people on low income, between small areas within this local authority (2003).

Local income groups

- 1 Least income-deprived fifth of areas in this local authority
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 Most income-deprived fifth of areas in this local authority

Health inequalities: a local perspective

This chart shows inequalities in life expectancy (2001-05) at birth for men and women for the five local income groups presented in the map directly above.

95% confidence interval. These indicate the level of uncertainty about each value on the graph. Longer/wider intervals mean more uncertainty. When two intervals do not overlap it is reasonably certain that the two groups are truly different.
Health inequalities: **changes over time**

Trend 1 compares the trend in life expectancy at birth for men and women in this local authority with that for England.

Trend 2 compares the trend in early death rates (all persons under 75 years) from heart disease and stroke in this local authority with that for England.

Trend 3 compares the trend in early death rates (all persons under 75 years) from cancer in this local authority with that for England.

Health inequalities: **ethnicity**

This chart compares the percentage of the population of each ethnic group in the local authority who are in routine and manual occupations. People in these occupations have poorer health than those in professional occupations, and are more likely to be smokers. The infant death rate is higher than average among babies born into this group. There are national targets to address these health inequalities.

### Percentage and number of people aged 16-74 in routine and manual occupations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnic Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White British</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>18186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Irish</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Other</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistani</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladeshi</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Other</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Caribbean</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black African</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Other</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: This chart is based on the 2001 Census. Where the total population in an ethnic group in the local authority is less than 30, no data have been presented and the number column shows n/a. Where the number is less than 5, no percentage is shown.

Confidence intervals are shown for local data.
The chart below shows a number of indicators of people’s health in this local authority. It shows the local value for each indicator compared to the England worst, England best, England average and Regional average. The circle indicating the local value is shown as amber if it is significantly better or red if it is significantly worse than the England average. An amber circle may still indicate an important public health burden. A white circle is not significantly different from the England average. For technical information about each indicator, see www.communityhealthprofiles.info

Note (numbers in bold refer to the above indicators)
1 % of residents dependent on means-tested benefits. 2003. 2 Land (hectares per capita) required to support an average resident’s lifestyle; no significance calculated. 2001. 3 % of households on local authority housing register who are statutorily homeless. 2004/05. 4 % in low-income households. 2001. 5 % achieving 5 A*-C. 2005/06. 6 Crude rate/1,000 pop 2005/06. 7 8 9 10 30 No comparable local data currently available. 11 Crude rate/1,000 female pop. aged 15-17. 2002-04. 12 13 14 16 %. Modelled estimates from the Health Survey for England. 12 13 16 2000-02. 14 2001-02. 15 %. 2005/06. 17 18 Years. 2003-05. 19 Directly age standardised rate/100,000 pop. aged 35 or over. 2003-05. 20 21 Directly age standardised rate/100,000 pop. under 75. 2003-05. 22 Crude rate/1,000 live births. 2003-05. 23 Crude rate/100,000 pop. 2003-05. 24 Directly age standardised %. 2001. 25 Crude rate claimants of benefits/allowances for mental or behavioural disorders/1,000 working age pop. 2005. 26 Directly age sex standardised rate/100,000 pop. 2005. 27 Crude rate/1,000 pop. aged 15-64; no significance calculated for lower tier authorities. 2004/05. 28 %. 2005/06. 29 Average no. of decayed, missing and filled teeth in children aged 5; data incomplete or missing for some areas. 2005/06. 30 Directly age standardised rate/100,000 pop. aged 65 and over. 2005/06.

For more information from your regional PHO, visit www.apho.org.uk
You may use this profile for non-commercial purposes provided the source is acknowledged. "Source: APHO and Department of Health. © Crown Copyright 2007."