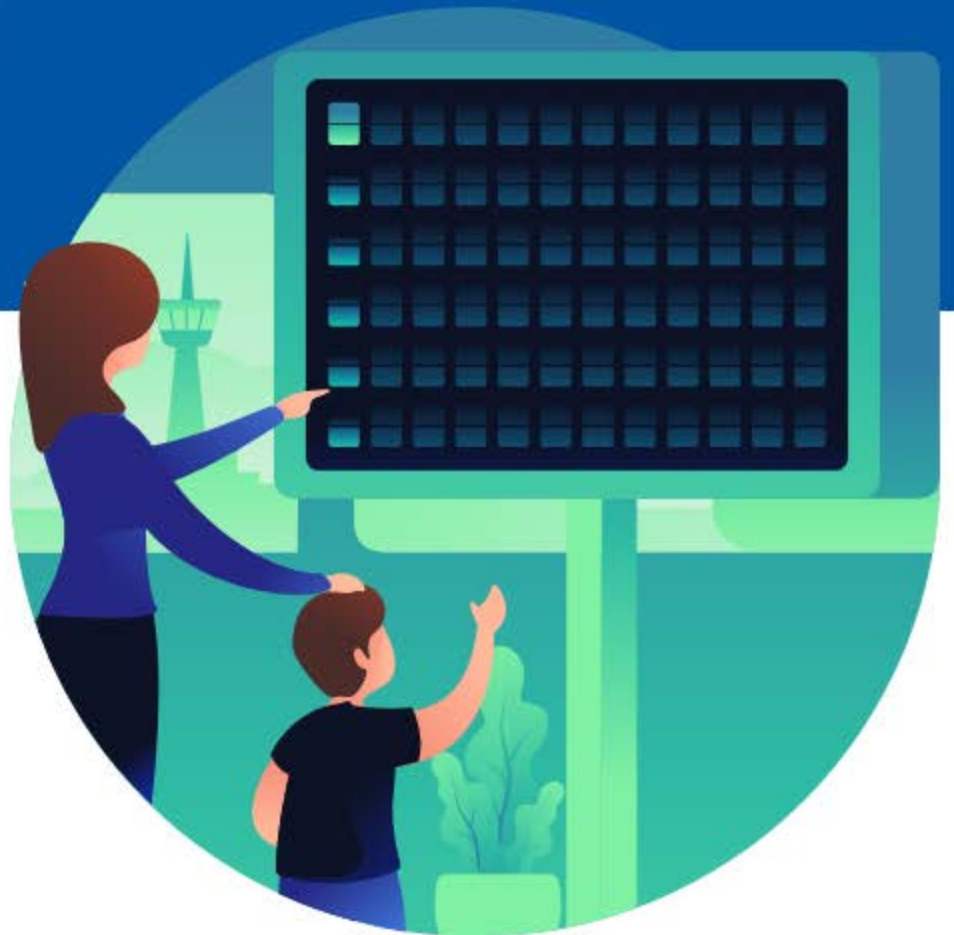


Life Expectancy in Suffolk

2021



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Statistical note:

The impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) on period life expectancy will be shown in the national life tables for 2018 to 2020, which will be published in autumn 2021. The national life tables for 2017 to 2019 were produced using data up to the end of December 2019; therefore, all data presented in this bulletin and its accompanying datasets precede the coronavirus pandemic.

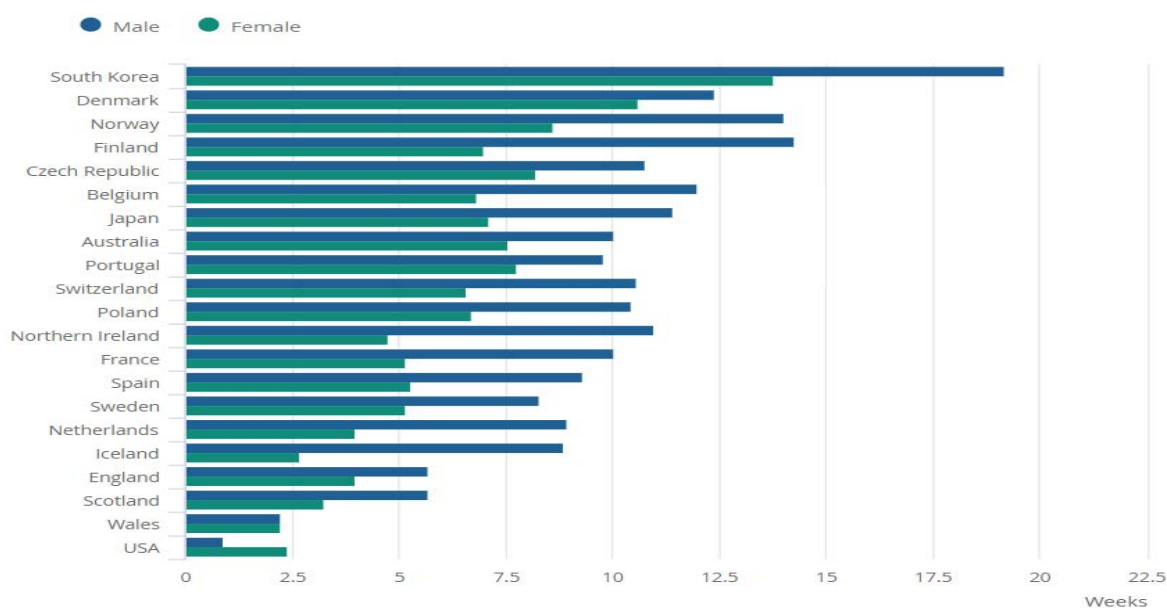
Key Points

- Life expectancy at birth in the UK in 2017 to 2019 was 79.67 years for males and 83.33 years for females; slight improvements were observed from 2016 to 2018 of 6.3 weeks and 7.3 weeks for males and females respectively, however these are not statistically significant.
- The relatively low increases in life expectancy at birth in 2017 to 2019 suggest a continuation of a trend observed since 2011, where annual life expectancy improvements have slowed down in comparison with the previous decade.
- In comparison with selected Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries for which data are available, England, Wales and Scotland have among the lowest annual improvements in life expectancy at birth for both males and females.
- Life expectancy at birth for females in Suffolk has increased from 84.21 years in 2015-2016 to 84.25 years in 2017-2019 (an increase of 2.09 weeks). Similarly, males increase from 80.86 years in 2014-2016 to 80.91 years in 2017-2019 (an increase of 2.61 weeks).
- The largest increase in life expectancy at birth in Suffolk was seen among females in Babergh where life expectancy increased from 84.17 years in 2014-2016 to 85.22 years in 2017-2019 (an increase of 54.79 weeks).
- Life expectancy at birth. Life expectancy at birth among females in Ipswich decreased from 83.28 years in 2014-2016 to 83.22 in 2017-19 (a reduction of 3.13 weeks), while life expectancy at birth among males in Ipswich decreased from 79.52 years in 2014-16 to 79.45 years in 2017-2019 (a reduction of 3.65 weeks). As with 2014-2016, Ipswich represents the lowest life expectancy at birth for in Suffolk in 2017-2019
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International comparisons of annual life expectancy improvements

The countries of the UK have seen low life expectancy improvements during 2011 to 2018 compared with selected OECD countries (see [Figure 1](#)).

Figure 1: Average annual increase in period life expectancy at birth in weeks, selected Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries, 2011 to 2018

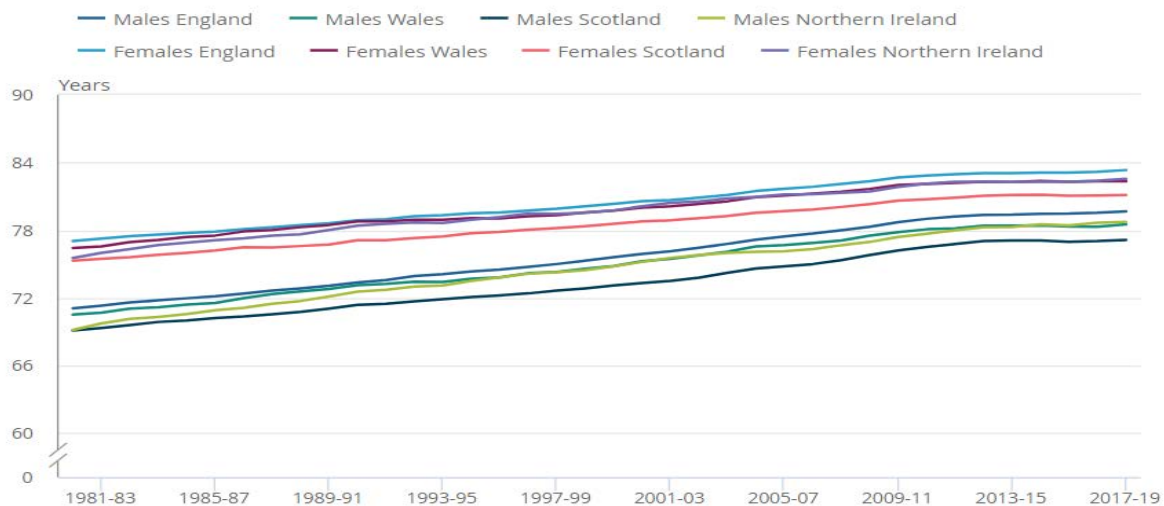


Source: Office for National Statistics, National Records of Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, and Human Mortality Database (2019)

Life expectancy at birth in UK countries

Each of the UK constituent countries experienced either an increase in life expectancy at birth in 2017 to 2019 compared with 2016 to 2018 or saw life expectancy remain unchanged when measured in years. England continued to have the highest life expectancy at birth for males and females, while Scotland continued to have the lowest for both sexes¹ (see [Figure 2](#)).

Figure 2: Life expectancy at birth, males and females, UK countries, between 1980 to 1982 and 2017 to 2019



Source: Office for National Statistics – National life tables – life expectancy in the UK: 2017 to 2019 (2020)

Life expectancy in the UK

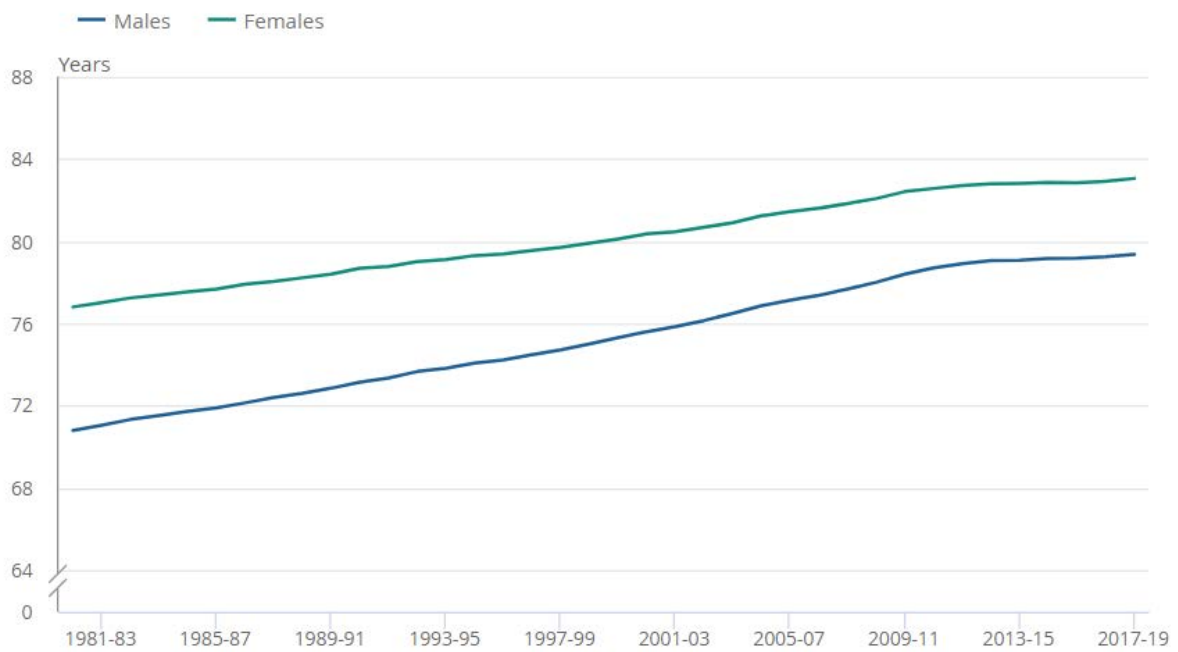
Following decades of steady increases in life expectancy in the UK, a marked slowdown in the rate of improvements has been observed since 2011. Between 2002 to 2004 and 2009 to 2011, life expectancy at birth in the UK increased each year by an average of 16.7 weeks for males and 12.7 weeks for females. In contrast, between 2010 to 2012 and 2017 to 2019, these improvements slowed to an average of 6.3 weeks and 4.2 weeks per year for males and females respectively¹.

In 2017 to 2019, life expectancy at birth in the UK was 79.7 years for males and 83.3 years for females. Although life expectancy improvements in the UK have been low since 2011 compared with previous decades, this is the highest ever observed life expectancy for both sexes (see [Figure 3](#)).

Recent improvements in life expectancy at birth have been lower relative to before 2011, but in 2017 to 2019 they were the highest observed in the last five years (see [Figure 4](#)).

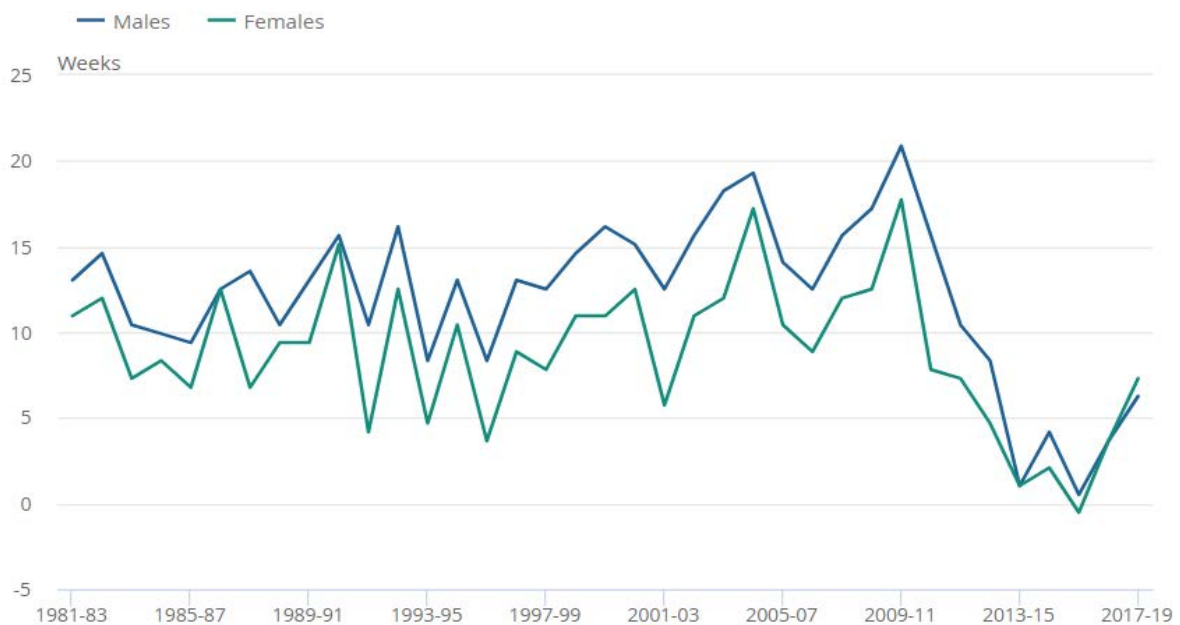
While these changes are likely to have driven greater improvements in life expectancy for males than females during the last four decades, the benefits may now be less pronounced. As a result, the gap between male and female life expectancy improvements has narrowed to a historical low. As this is the first time since the start of the published data series in 1981 to 1983 that female life expectancy improvements have been seen to exceed those for males, it is too early to say whether this is a trend that will continue in the future¹.

Figure 3: Life expectancy at birth for males and females, UK, between 1980 to 1982 and 2017 to 2019



Source: Office for National Statistics – National life tables – life expectancy in the UK: 2017 to 2019

Figure 4: Annual change in life expectancy at birth in weeks, males and females, UK, between 1981 to 1983 and 2017 to 2019



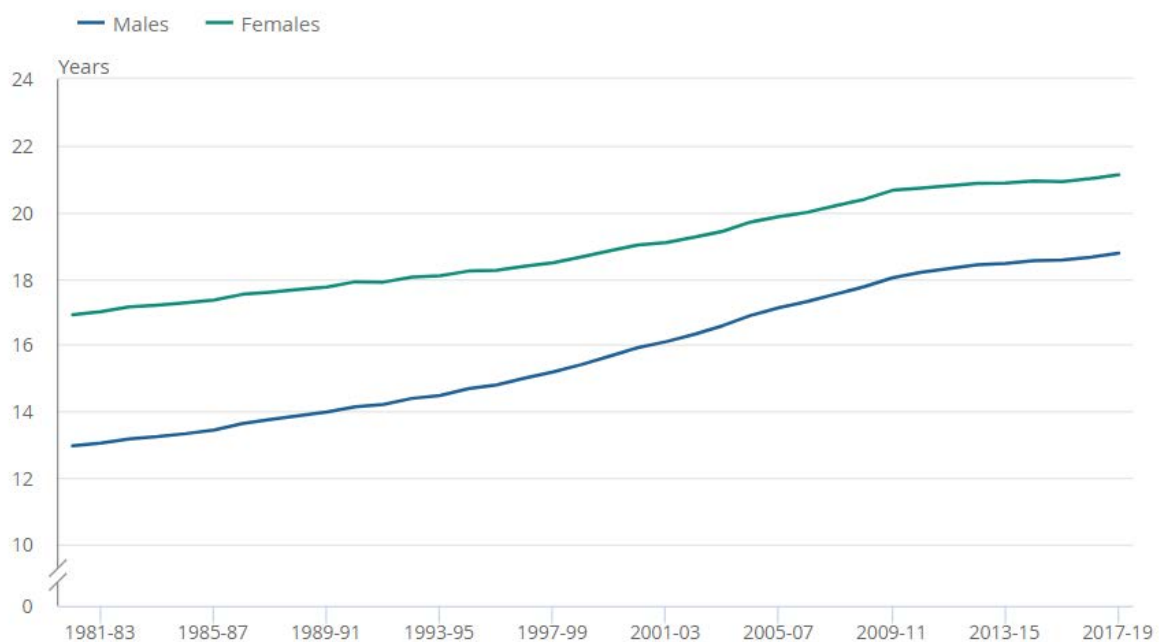
Source: Office for National Statistics – National life tables – life expectancy in the UK: 2017 to 2019

Life expectancy at age 65 years in the UK

If those aged 65 years were to experience the same age-specific mortality rates seen in 2017 to 2019 for the rest of their lives, a 65-year-old male could expect to live on average for a further 18.8 years and a female for 21.1 years, which represent the highest life expectancies at age 65 years ever observed in the UK (see [Figure 5](#)).

However, as with life expectancy at birth, life expectancy at age 65 years in the UK has been improving at a slower rate since 2011 compared with previous decades.

Figure 5: Life expectancy at birth for males and females, UK, between 1980 to 1982 and 2017 to 2019



Source: Office for National Statistics – National life tables – life expectancy in the UK: 2017 to 2019 (2020)

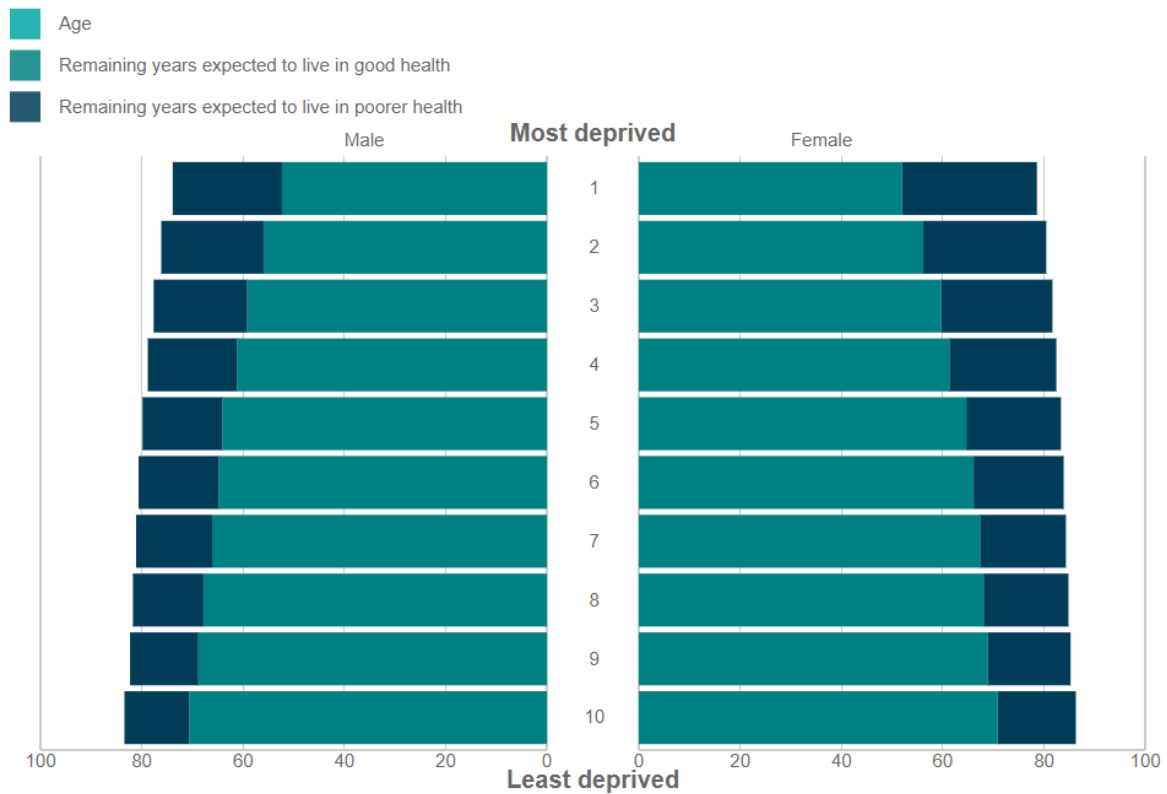
Life expectancy relating to deprivation

Many factors influence life expectancy and one of the most widely recognised is deprivation. The government measure of the relative deprivation of areas within England is known as the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). It considers seven domains: income; employment; education, skills and training; health; crime; barriers to housing and services; and living environment.

In England, males living in the most deprived areas were expected to live 73.9 years compared with those in the least deprived areas who could be expected to live 83.4 years; a difference of almost a decade (9.5 years). Respectively, this was a difference of 7.7 years for females (see [Figure 6](#)).

Figure 6: Life expectancy and healthy life expectancy by age, sex, and deprivation decile in England, 2016 to 2018

1. Notes: Combining 'remaining years expected to live in good health' and 'remaining years expected to live in poorer health' provides the estimate of overall 'life expectancy' from the age group selected.
2. The order of the stacked bars does not necessarily dictate the order in which you will experience these health states, for example, poorer health will not necessarily appear at the end of life.
3. Survey respondents who answered their general health as "very good" and "good" were classified as having good health. Those who answered "fair", "bad" and "very bad" were classified as having poorer health.



Source: ONS, Health state life expectancies by national deprivation deciles, England: 2016 to 2018 (2020)

Life expectancy at birth in Suffolk

Life expectancy at birth for females in Suffolk has increased from 84.21 years in 2015-2016 to 84.25 years in 2017-2019 (an increase of 2.09 weeks). Similarly, males increase from 80.86 years in 2014-2016 to 80.91 years in 2017-2019 (an increase of 2.61 weeks). This is lower than England; an increase of 12.00 weeks for females and 12.00 weeks for males, respectively (see [table 1](#)).

The largest increase in life expectancy at birth in Suffolk was seen among females in Babergh where life expectancy increased from 84.17 years in 2014-2016 to 85.22 years in 2017-2019 (an increase of 54.79 weeks). The second largest increase was among women in West Suffolk (an increase of 13.04 weeks between 2014-2016 and 2017-2019), while the third largest was among males in Babergh (an increase of 12.00 weeks between 2014-2016 to 2017-19).

Unfortunately, not all districts within Suffolk saw an increase in life expectancy at birth. Life expectancy at birth among females in Ipswich decreased from 83.28 years in 2014-2016 to 83.22 in 2017-19 (a reduction of 3.13 weeks), while life expectancy at birth among males in Ipswich decreased from 79.52 years in 2014-16 to 79.45 years in 2017-2019 (a reduction of 3.65 weeks). As with 2014-2016, Ipswich represents the lowest life expectancy at birth for in Suffolk in 2017-2019 (see [table 1](#)). However, this is not significantly different to England.

Table 1: life expectancy at birth between 2014 to 2016 and 2017 to 2019, Suffolk districts, Suffolk, East of England, and England

Local area	Life expectancy in 2014 to 2016		Life expectancy in 2017 to 2019		Change in weeks	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Babergh	81.53	84.17	81.76	85.22	12.00	54.79
Ipswich	79.52	83.28	79.45	83.22	-3.65	-3.13
Mid Suffolk	81.9	85.26	81.71	85.00	-9.91	-13.57
West Suffolk	81.31	84.29	81.29	84.54	-1.04	13.04
East Suffolk	80.46	84.04	80.65	83.83	9.91	-10.96
Suffolk	80.86	84.21	80.91	84.25	2.61	2.09
East of England	80.37	83.72	80.45	83.88	4.17	8.35
England	79.53	83.14	79.76	83.37	12.00	12.00

Source: Office for National Statistics – Life expectancy for local areas of the UK (2020)

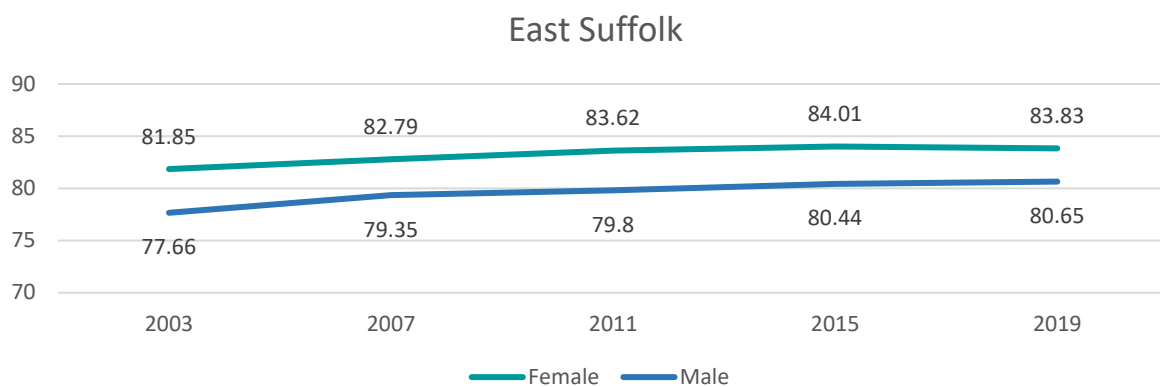
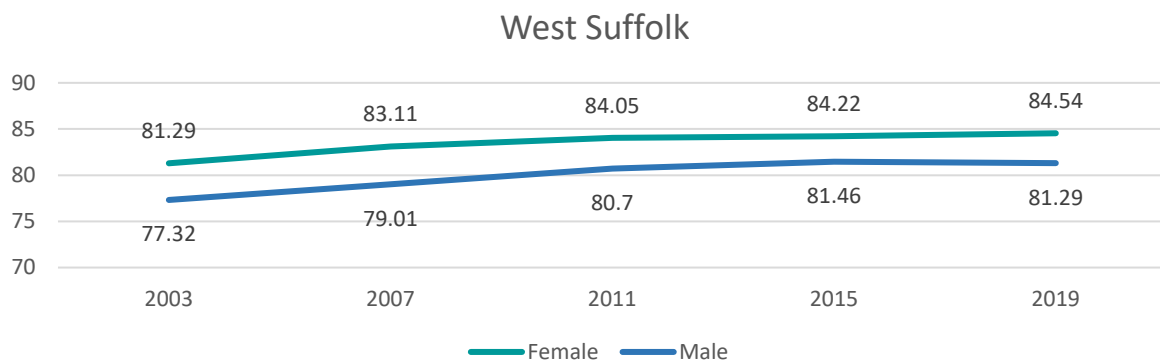
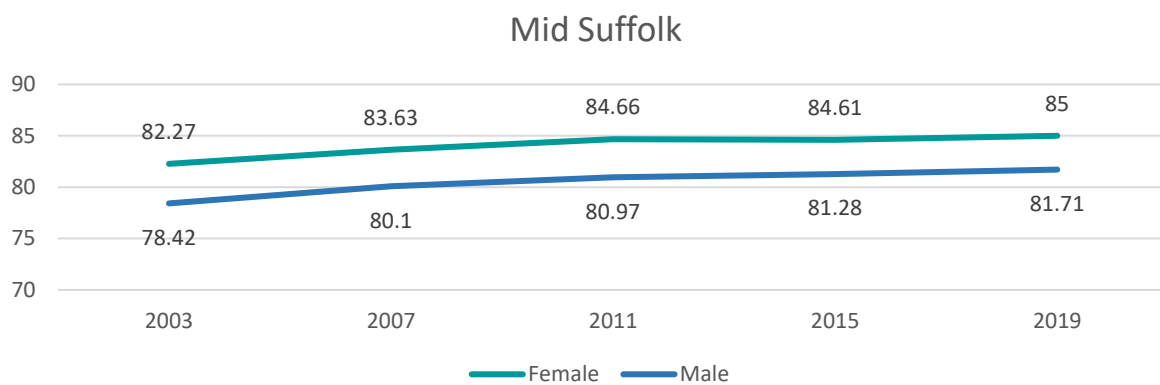
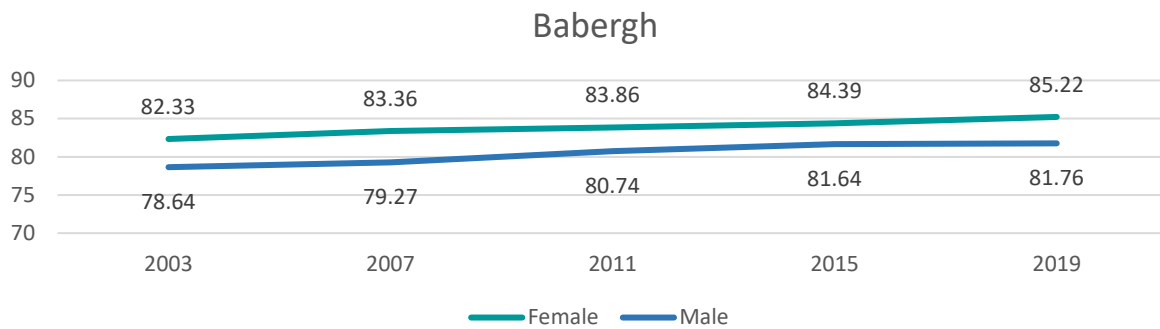
Life expectancy at birth: sex disparity in Suffolk

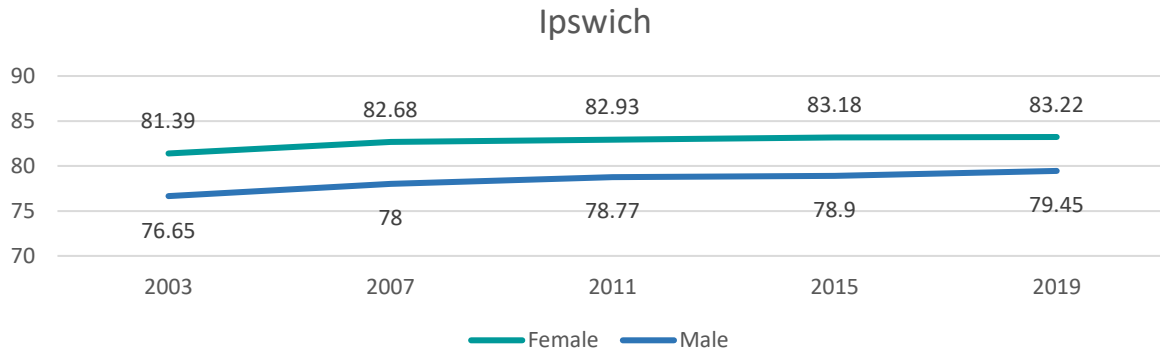
Since 2001 to 2003, the gap in life expectancy between males and females has narrowed in all Suffolk districts; but in the most recent decade (between 2009 to 2011 and 2017 to 2019), the narrowing of the gap has slowed and, in some cases, increased (see [figure 7](#)).

Ipswich continued to have the largest disparity in life expectancy between males and females in 2017-19 (3.77 years). However, this is a reduction from 4.28 years in 2013-2015.

Although Babergh had the highest life expectancy at birth in Suffolk for males and females in 2017-2019, the disparity in life expectancy between males and females has increased from 2.75 years in 2013-2015 to 3.46 years in 2017-2019. Similarly, the disparity in life expectancy between males and females in West Suffolk has increased from 2.76 years in 2013-2015 to 3.25 years in 2017-2019 (see [figure 7](#)).

Figure 7: Life expectancy in Suffolk local authorities, males and females, between 2001 to 2003 and 2017 to 2019





Life expectancy at birth: Inequality in life expectancy at birth

Inequality in life expectancy at birth is a key high-level health inequalities outcome and is core to the aims of the Department of Health. It shows inequalities within England as a whole and at within local areas, enabling a focus on the deprivation that exists everywhere at small area level. By highlighting area based inequalities, it sets the context within which local areas can assess the other indicators within the framework and set priorities, identifying the drivers of life expectancy, especially in areas where life expectancy is low.

Ipswich presented the largest disparity in life expectancy at birth for males born in the most deprived areas compared to the least deprived areas of relative deprivation (8.1 years). This reduced to 5.4 years in Babergh, which presented the smallest gap in life expectancy due to inequalities in Suffolk (see figure 8).

For females, East Suffolk presented the largest disparity in life expectancy at birth for females born in the most deprived areas compared to the least deprived areas of relative deprivation (5.7 years). This reduced to 3.5 years in West Suffolk, which presented the smallest gap in life expectancy due to inequalities in Suffolk (see figure 9).

Figure 8: inequalities in life expectancy at birth in Suffolk local authorities, males, 2017-2019

Area	Recent Trend	Count	Value	95% Lower CI	95% Upper CI
England	-	-	9.4	9.3	9.5
Suffolk	-	-	7.0	6.1	7.8
Ipswich	-	-	8.1	6.1	10.2
East Suffolk	-	-	6.3	4.8	7.8
Mid Suffolk	-	-	6.0	3.2	8.8
West Suffolk	-	-	5.8	4.0	7.6
Babergh	-	-	5.4	3.0	7.8

Source: Figures calculated by Public Health England using mortality data and mid-year population estimates from the Office for National Statistics and Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010, 2015 and 2019 (IMD 2010 / IMD 2015 / IMD 2019) scores from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Quintiles: Best Worst Not applicable

Figure 9: inequalities in life expectancy at birth in Suffolk local authorities, females, 2017-2019

Area ▲▼	Recent Trend	Count ▲▼	Value ▲▼	95% Lower CI	95% Upper CI
England	-	-	7.6	7.5	7.7
Suffolk	-	-	5.0	4.1	5.8
East Suffolk	-	-	5.7	4.3	7.1
Mid Suffolk	-	-	5.0	2.4	7.6
Ipswich	-	-	5.0	3.1	6.8
Babergh	-	-	4.7	2.4	6.9
West Suffolk	-	-	3.5	1.4	5.6

Source: Figures calculated by Public Health England using mortality data and mid-year population estimates from the Office for National Statistics and Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010, 2015 and 2019 (IMD 2010 / IMD 2015 / IMD 2019) scores from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Quintiles: Best      Worst  Not applicable

Please note: Figures calculated by Public Health England using mortality data and mid-year population estimates from the Office for National Statistics and Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010, 2015 and 2019 (IMD 2010 / IMD 2015 / IMD 2019) scores from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

References:

1. ONS. 2017to2019 @ www.ons.gov.uk. *National life tables – life expectancy in the UK: 2017 to 2019* (2020). Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/lifeexpectancies/bulletins/nationallifetablesunitedkingdom/2017to2019>.