

Batley, Birstall & Birkenshaw

Batley is very different from Birstall & Birkenshaw, with a younger, more deprived population and a higher proportion of young south Asian people; Birstall & Birkenshaw has an older, more affluent and predominantly white population.

Batley has a range of health challenges. This includes higher than average infant deaths and low birth weight babies, and self-reported diabetes, heart disease and stroke continue to be a problem. Young people drink and smoke more than the Kirklees average though both have reduced since 2005. Adult male drinking levels in Batley were identified as a priority problem in 2005 and remained a concern in 2012. The health behaviours of women of childbearing age (smoking, insufficient physical activity) and heart disease, diabetes and stroke amongst older adults, including higher death rates from cancer, continue to present challenges in Batley. Birstall & Birkenshaw had the highest rate of teenage conceptions in Kirklees.

Batley has lower skills levels and higher unemployment than Birstall & Birkenshaw but educational attainment at all key stages has improved and gaps to Kirklees averages have reduced.

Headlines

- 3 out of 5 (60%) under 18s are of south Asian origin in Batley compared to 1 in 20 (5%) in Birstall & Birkenshaw, the highest in Kirklees.
- Birstall & Birkenshaw had a higher proportion of adults over 65 years, 18% compared to a Kirklees average of 15% and a lower proportion of south Asian residents than Kirklees, 2% compared to a Kirklees average of 21%.
- Life expectancy increased but remains below the Kirklees average in Batley.
- 1 in 8 babies in Batley have a low birth weight (12%) compared to 1 in 14 (7%) for Kirklees.
- Infants dying before their first birthday have reduced in Batley but remain higher than Kirklees, 8.8 per 1,000 live births.
- Nearly 1 in 3 (28%) have a limiting long-term condition in Batley and Birstall & Birkenshaw (30%).
- Birstall & Birkenshaw has the highest rate of teenage conception in Kirklees, 54 per 1,000 compared to 44 per 1,000 in Kirklees.

- There are high rates of obesity, heart disease, stroke, diabetes and respiratory illness in Batley and high rates of respiratory disease across the locality.
- Batley has an ongoing problem with overcrowding, which affects 1 in 8 (13%) of all residents.
- Poverty for children, adults and over 65s in Batley was worse than in Birstall & Birkenshaw.
- Asthma in 14-year olds in Birstall & Birkenshaw is the highest in Kirklees.
- There are lower levels of social capital and community cohesion than other parts of Kirklees in Batley.
- Birstall & Birkenshaw had high self-reported 5 a day consumption of fruit and vegetables.
- Educational attainment has improved since 2010.
- Smoking and excessive alcohol consumption was a problem for adults and women of childbearing age across the locality.
- Poor diet, lower levels of physical activity and higher numbers of overweight or obese people was a problem across the locality.
- Emotional wellbeing amongst young people was an issue across the locality.
- There are higher numbers of people suffering from back pain in Birstall & Birkenshaw than anywhere else in Kirklees.

Population

Batley, Birstall & Birkenshaw (BBB) locality includes the wards of Batley West, Batley East and Birstall & Birkenshaw.

Live birth rates were higher in Batley, 78 per 1,000, than in both Birstall & Birkenshaw, 66 per 1,000 and Kirklees overall, 67 per 1,000.

In 2011 there were approximately 55,828 people (20,810 households) living in BBB. Life expectancy at birth in Batley was 78.1 years for men and 80.6 years for women, in Birstall & Birkenshaw it was 77.8 for men and 82.2 for women. The Kirklees average was 77.7 for men and 81.5 for women. For women in Batley their life expectancy was below the national rate (82.5). The south Asian population is increasing, especially in Batley and Dewsbury where over half of those under 18 are now south Asian.

The rate of babies dying in their first year of life was 8.8 per 1,000 (2009-2011) live births in Batley, a slight increase from 2002-2004 (7.9). This was above the Kirklees average (5.3 per 1,000) and well above the national rate (4.2 per 1,000). Batley, Birstall &

Birkenshaw also had the highest rate of low birth weight babies in Kirklees (12%) that remains unchanged since 2005. It is strongly linked to low birth weight, smoking and congenital abnormality, especially parental genetic closeness.

The highest rates of breastfeeding on initiation were seen in Birstall & Birkenshaw (94%) but by 6-8 weeks only 30% were still breastfeeding, the lowest of the Kirklees localities and the Kirklees average (43%). Initiation rates in Batley were high (89%) and were better maintained at 6-8 weeks (46%).

Conditions

Specific health conditions for people in Batley were different from Birstall & Birkenshaw. Birstall & Birkenshaw had the highest level of dementia in women over 65 years. While self-reported coronary heart disease (CHD) has reduced it remains higher in Birstall & Birkenshaw affecting 1 in 14 (7%) compared to 5% in Kirklees overall.

Almost 1 in 3 in Batley (28%) and Birstall & Birkenshaw (30%) have a limiting long-term condition, similar to the Kirklees average (30%).

Almost 1 in 5 (20%) adults in Birstall & Birkenshaw suffered from back pain, the highest in Kirklees, 16%. Batley had the lowest rate, affecting 1 in 8 (13%). More people reported living with long-term pain in Birstall & Birkenshaw (16%) than the Kirklees average (15%). High blood pressure affected 1 in 5 (21%) adults in both Batley, Birstall & Birkenshaw, the same as Kirklees overall (20%). Batley had the highest rate of over 65-year olds admitted in an emergency due to stroke than anywhere else, 10.1 against 8.4 (per 1,000) Kirklees average.

Birstall & Birkenshaw had lower rates of diabetes (6%). Batley had one of the highest rates across Kirklees with 1 in 11 (9%) affected against an average of 7%, potentially linked to the high south Asian population who are at higher risk of developing diabetes. In 2009, 1 in 4 (24%) 14-year olds reported suffering from asthma in Birstall & Birkenshaw, the highest in Kirklees. Key factors are smoking and physical inactivity. Mothers smoking during pregnancy and low birth weight babies can increase the risk of asthma in childhood by 4-6 times.

1 in 6 (17%) 14-year olds in Birstall & Birkenshaw and 1 in 9 (11%) in Batley stated their life was affected by a health problem or disability compared to 1 in 8 (12%) in Kirklees overall.

1 in 4 adults in both Batley (23%) and Birstall & Birkenshaw (24%) had anxiety and depression, compared to 21% in Kirklees overall.

Emotional wellbeing in 14-year olds reflected the Kirklees picture in 2009 with 1 in 6 (17%) 14-year olds reporting feeling miserable at least weekly in the last year. 1 in 6 (16%) had problems getting to sleep because of being anxious or worried. 1 in 5 (21%) did not have someone to talk to about their problems; in Batley this was the highest in Kirklees (23%). However, 14-year olds across the locality were the least likely to feel lonely (5%). Birstall & Birkenshaw had the highest rate of 14-year olds reporting poor relationships with family (21%) and staff at school (45%). The experience of ever having been bullied amongst 14-year olds was similar to Kirklees, over 1 in 3 (39%).

1 in 5 adults were obese in both Batley (21%) and Birstall & Birkenshaw (20%), similar to Kirklees overall (19%). 1 in 5 women of childbearing age were obese in Birstall & Birkenshaw, higher than 1 in 6 (16%) in Batley and Kirklees overall (17%). 2 in 5 were at least overweight in Birstall & Birkenshaw (44%), higher than Batley (41%) and Kirklees overall (40%). This is linked to infant health and low birth weight babies.

Behaviours

In 2009 overall fewer 14-year olds smoked weekly, although Batley still had amongst the highest rates in Kirklees at 1 in 9 (11%), Birstall & Birkenshaw had amongst the lowest (6%) compared to a Kirklees average of 10%. Of those who did smoke in Batley only 1 in 5 (19%) were happy to continue, among the lowest in Kirklees, making any who smoke more likely to be receptive to behaviour change intervention.

In adults: Smoking has remained the same (approx 20%) between 2008 and 2012 in adults and women of childbearing age (WOCBA) and does not differ significantly from the Kirklees average (similar figures noted for Batley (20%) and Birstall & Birkenshaw (19%)). However, smoking status in women at delivery was significantly higher in Batley (26%) in comparison to Kirklees overall (17%).

The proportion of 14-year olds having tried alcohol fell to below the Kirklees rate (66%) in Batley, 1 in 3 (35%), the lowest rate in Kirklees. Birstall & Birkenshaw had amongst the highest, nearly 4 in 5 (78%). However, of those in Batley drinking alcohol, more than the Kirklees average drank weekly or more, 1 in 4 (27%) compared to 1 in 5 (21%); more were “really drunk” weekly or more, 1 in 10 (10%) monthly or more, 1 in 5 (22%), especially girls, 1 in 4 (27%), and more drank alone, 1 in 6 (17%). Alcohol consumption in Batley is a significant issue despite the high south Asian population. Rowdiness because of drinking

was highest in Spennings Dale and Batley (34%). 1 in 3 (33%) young people in Birstall & Birkenshaw thought that family or close friends drank too much.

Binge drinking of alcohol was more common in men in Batley with almost half (44%) bingeing compared to 1 in 3 (35%) men in Birstall & Birkenshaw. 1 in 4 (25%) women in Batley and 1 in 3 (35%) in Birstall & Birkenshaw also binge drank.

1 in 3 (34%) of women of childbearing age in North Kirklees binged, highest in Birstall & Birkenshaw.

Batley clearly has a problem with alcohol consumption because of the levels of bingeing in men, drinking in 14-year olds and levels of rowdiness.

The teenage conception rate (15-17 year olds) in Batley remains unchanged since 2005 from 47.3 per 1,000 to 47.8 per 1,000 in 2009 in Batley and is above the Kirklees rate (44 per 1,000).

In 2009 approximately 10% of 14-15 year old males and females had had sexual intercourse (lower than the Kirklees average of 13%). Sexually active 14-year olds in Birstall & Birkenshaw were the most likely in Kirklees to report always using a condom (83%) whereas those in Batley were amongst the least likely at 52%, compared to 63% in Kirklees overall.

Those consuming 5 a day did not differ significantly from the Kirklees average (BBB 65% to Kirklees 63%). Approximately a fifth of those from BBB consumed fast food at least once a week and again this was not significantly different to the overall Kirklees figure. More of those in Batley (54%) cooked from basic ingredients five or more times a week than those from Birstall & Birkenshaw (40%) (Kirklees average 50%).

Of 14-year olds in 2009, those who did not meet the recommended levels of physical activity were more likely to be from Batley, 2 in 5 (42%) than Birstall & Birkenshaw 37%, compared to 34% not meeting the recommended levels of 60 minutes a day in Kirklees overall. Birstall & Birkenshaw had the least number of inactive 14-year olds (7.5%).

Birstall & Birkenshaw had one of the least numbers of adults achieving recommended levels of physical activity, 1 in 3 (31%), compared to Batley (35%) and Kirklees overall (34%).

Over 1 in 3 (36%) women of childbearing age in Batley and 31% in Birstall & Birkenshaw reported that they were physically active enough, i.e. did more than 30 minutes of physical activity five times per week, compared to 34% in Kirklees overall. When compared to 2005, Batley has remained static at 39% but Birstall & Birkenshaw have improved from only 19% reporting they were physically active enough in 2005.

Wider factors affecting health

There are around 20,810 households in Batley, Birstall & Birkenshaw. More than 1 in 5 (21%) of all households in Batley felt their home was inadequate for their needs. In those with dependent children 1 in 4 (26%) felt their current home was inadequate in Batley. 1 in 5 of all children in Batley (23%) and 1 in 6 (16%) in Birstall & Birkenshaw live in income deprived households, compared to the overall Kirklees rate (20%) and equating to over 2,900 children.

Working age poverty affects 1 in 5 adults in Batley (19%) and 1 in 7 in Birstall & Birkenshaw (14%), compared to 1 in 6 (16%) in Kirklees overall. It is linked to out of work and disability benefits and levels of benefits claimants were similar to Kirklees overall. There were high levels of money worries in Batley with 1 in 4 people (28%) reporting worrying most or all of the time compared to 26% in Kirklees overall. Pensioner poverty affects households across Kirklees. In Birstall & Birkenshaw 1 in 3 (28%) older people lives in poverty; this increases to nearly half of older people (47%) in Batley, much higher than the Kirklees average (30%) and equating to over 3,300 older people.

Batley had higher unemployment and lower skills levels than other parts of Kirklees in 2012, with 2 in 5 (40%) people of working age having no qualifications compared to 1 in 3 (29%) for Kirklees. 1 in 4 (29%) were in routine and manual work compared to 1 in 4 (23%) in Kirklees. The overall proportion (10%) of school leavers in the locality not in education, employment or training (NEET) was similar to Kirklees.

Educational attainment across all key stages has improved in Batley, and gaps between Birstall & Birkenshaw and the Kirklees average have narrowed since 2005. Overall the proportion of children in the locality achieving at Foundation Stage had improved but was still below the Kirklees (68%) average in Batley (64%) but was better in Birstall & Birkenshaw (77%). Across the locality, at GCSE level (5+ A*-C GCSEs including English and maths) attainment continued to improve, with 60% of pupils achieving in Batley and 68% in Birstall & Birkenshaw, compared to 60% in Kirklees overall. But pupils of Asian Pakistani heritage were still one of the lowest performing groups attaining 5+ A*-C including English and maths. Attainment in Asian Pakistani heritage students in Batley was amongst the lowest in Kirklees at 51%, the same as Kirklees overall. This is an improvement since 2009 when it was 39%.

Birstall & Birkenshaw have a higher proportion of carers, with 1 in 5 adults (23%) providing care for others, potentially because of the higher proportion of older people. Batley has the lowest proportion of carers: 1 in 6 (17%).

Slightly fewer people volunteered regularly in Batley (17%) compared to Birstall & Birkenshaw (19%) and Kirklees overall (21%). In Birstall & Birkenshaw adults were less likely to agree that people from different ethnic backgrounds got on well together, 1 in 3 (30%) compared to nearly half in Batley (47%), the highest in North Kirklees and 2 in 5 in Kirklees overall (43%). Birstall & Birkenshaw were more likely to agree that people in their local area pull together to improve things, 2 in 5 (44%) compared to only 1 in 3 (29%) in Batley and 1 in 3 (38%) in Kirklees overall, in fact, Batley and Dewsbury had the lowest number. Batley had lower numbers agreeing that people from different ages got on well together (56%) compared to 64% in both Birstall & Birkenshaw and Kirklees overall. Batley had fewer adults believing they lived in an area where people treat each other with respect and consideration, nearly half (48%) compared to Birstall & Birkenshaw (55%) and Kirklees overall (54%).

In 2009 14-year olds were most likely to feel safe in Birstall & Birkenshaw in their local area (85% compared to 80% in Kirklees overall), on public transport (84% compared to 74% in Kirklees overall) and in school (95% compared to 88% in Kirklees overall). On all of these Batley closely reflected the Kirklees average.

Date this section was last reviewed

09/07/2013 (PL)