

Huddersfield

Huddersfield is the largest Kirklees locality, accounting for a third of the population and nearly two thirds of the population covered by the Greater Huddersfield Clinical Commissioning Group (GHCCG). There is a growing proportion of people of south Asian origin. Huddersfield South faces greater challenges across a wide range of issues than Huddersfield North. Rates of poverty for children, adults and pensioners are high and life expectancy at birth is low relative to Kirklees. There are higher rates of long-term conditions, particularly depression and diabetes. Smoking rates have fallen but remain high, and many people have multiple unhealthy behaviours. Although educational attainment has improved it is below average at all stages in Huddersfield South and worklessness is higher than the Kirklees average. In 2012 Huddersfield South had more people living with a limiting long-term condition than anywhere else in Kirklees and they were the least confident in their ability to manage such conditions.

Headlines

- 1 in 3 of the whole Kirklees population lived in Huddersfield.
- 1 in 3 of those under 18 were south Asian.
- 1 in 3 of all adults had a long-term condition and those in Huddersfield South were the least confident in Kirklees in managing their own health.
- Life expectancy in Huddersfield South was amongst the lowest in Kirklees.
- The number of children dying before their first birthday was higher than the national average.
- Levels of depression in adults were amongst the highest in Kirklees.
- Diabetes rates in adults were the highest in Kirklees.
- Smoking rates had fallen, but 1 in 5 adults in Huddersfield still smoked and smoking rates in girls were the highest in Kirklees. Half of all children in Huddersfield lived with an adult who smoked.
- 1 in 3 adults in Huddersfield South had multiple unhealthy behaviours, the highest in Kirklees.
- Overall 1 in 5 working-age people lived in poverty, 1 in 7 were claiming out of work benefits, 1 in 3 pensioners were in poverty and household incomes were below average; 1 in 3 adults had money worries.

- Huddersfield had the highest overall levels of crime, partly because of the town centre, which had particular issues with violence, theft and anti-social behaviour.
- Traffic had increased and bus use had decreased.
- Education attainment continued to improve, but Huddersfield South was below the Kirklees average at all key stages.
- The proportion of disabled children and adults with a learning disability was among the highest in Kirklees, second only to Dewsbury.

Population

Huddersfield locality includes the wards of Ashbrow, Greenhead, Lindley, Almondbury, Crosland Moor and Netherton, Dalton and Newsome.

There were 139,348 people living in Huddersfield; of these 1 in 5 (29,905) were under 18 and 1 in 6 (21,506) were over 65 years. 1 in 3 (33%) of those aged under 18 were of south Asian origin. 1 in 6 adults in Huddersfield South (16%) were south Asian, similar to the Kirklees average, whilst in Huddersfield North the proportion was higher at 1 in 5 (21%).

There were 1,961 live births in the locality in 2011, 1 in 3 (32%) of all live births in Kirklees, with the birth rate being similar to Kirklees. Of those live births 1 in 3 were to south Asian women.

There were around 55,800 **households** in Huddersfield. 1 in 5 (22%) families with dependent children felt their current home was inadequate.

Men and women in Huddersfield South had amongst the lowest life expectancy at birth of all areas in Kirklees. For men it was 76.6 years (3.4 years less than the highest average) and for women 80.7 years (2.8 years less than the highest average). Life expectancy for men (78.1 years) and women (81.1) in Huddersfield North was similar to the Kirklees average (77.7 and 81.5 respectively).

The **infant mortality rate** in Huddersfield North was 5.3 per 1,000 live births whilst in Huddersfield South it was 5.9 – both not significantly above the national rate (4.2). 1 in 12 babies were of **low birth weight** (8.1% in Huddersfield South and 8.8% in Huddersfield North), similar to the Kirklees average, but above the national rate of 1 in 14 (7.3%).

Overall the locality had higher **death rates** in those aged under 75 than the rest of Kirklees, except Dewsbury, cancer and circulatory diseases being the main causes of premature death.

Conditions

1 in 3 adults in Huddersfield had a limiting long-term condition, similar to the Kirklees average. In Huddersfield South 3 in 4 (72%) people reported feeling confident in managing their own health – the lowest in Kirklees.

Emotional wellbeing in 14-year olds was similar to Kirklees. 1 in 5 (18%) felt miserable at least weekly in the last year, 1 in 3 (29%) reported feeling angry at least weekly and 1 in 5 (19%) reported not having someone to talk to about their problems – all of which had improved since 2007.

Whilst being **bullied** was similar to Kirklees in 14-year olds (1 in 3, 38%) this had improved (from half, 45%) since the last report in 2008. Similarly, fewer of them (1 in 5, 20%) reported ever being a bully than the last report (28%). However, there was an increase in those 14-year olds who had been bullied weekly or more in the last two months, to 1 in 5 (19%), similar to the Kirklees average.

1 in 5 (22%) adults suffered **depression, anxiety or other nervous illnesses** – amongst the highest in Kirklees. 1 in 12 (8.3%) felt lonely or isolated all or most of the time.

Huddersfield North had the highest rate of **dementia** in those aged over 65 years in Kirklees, followed by Huddersfield South, but variation across Kirklees was small.

1 in 11 (8.8%) adults in Huddersfield South reported suffering from **diabetes**, similar to Dewsbury and Batley.

1 in 5 (18%) adults were **obese** and over half (53%) were overweight or obese, similar to Kirklees. 2 out of 5 (39%) women of childbearing age were either overweight or obese, both of these have improved since 2009. 1 in 9 (10.6%) 4-5 year olds in Huddersfield North were obese, rising to 1 in 5 (19%) 11-year olds.

Kirklees was one of a few areas nationally where tuberculosis (TB) rates had continued to rise – this was of particular concern in Huddersfield.

Behaviours

Breastfeeding initiation rates were 83% in Huddersfield North and 78% in Huddersfield South against a Kirklees rate of 82%. In Huddersfield North half of mothers were still breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks, the highest in Kirklees.

Fewer 14-year olds were **sexually active** (13%) compared to 2009, similar to Kirklees. Of 14-year olds having sex fewer reported not using a condom or other protection than in

2009 (down from 1 in 7 (15%) to 1 in 9 (12%)). This was better than the Kirklees average, 1 in 5 (18%).

Smoking amongst 14-year olds in 2009 was lower than in 2005 especially amongst girls, although 1 in 9 (11%) 14-year old girls in Huddersfield still smoked. 1 in 8 (13%) 14-year old girls in Huddersfield South smoked – the highest in Kirklees. Of those who smoked 1 in 4 (26%) were happy to continue – 1 in 3 (35%) in Huddersfield North. Nearly half (47%) of all 14-year olds in Huddersfield lived with an adult who smoked.

Overall smoking rates have fallen, but in 2012 1 in 5 (21%) **adults smoked** in Huddersfield South and 1 in 6 (17%) in Huddersfield North. Smoking among south Asians in Huddersfield South was high at 1 in 4 (24%) compared to other localities.

Women aged 18-44 in Huddersfield South were more likely to smoke (1 in 4, 25%) than other localities in Kirklees except for Dewsbury. In Huddersfield South 3 in 4 (75%) were drinking at increasing risk levels, higher than the Kirklees average (70%). 1 in 8 (13%) women in Huddersfield were smokers at the time of delivery of their baby.

Along with all other localities, regular **alcohol** drinking amongst 14-year olds fell, but of those who drank 1 in 5 (18%) drank weekly or more. In Huddersfield North 14-year olds were more likely to get “really drunk” at least monthly (1 in 6, 16%) than those in Huddersfield South (1 in 10). This was a particular issue in boys in Huddersfield North (1 in 5, 18%).

Levels of **physical activity** were amongst the lowest in Kirklees, 3 in 5 (62%) young people doing 60 minutes per day of intensive physical activity.

Only 1 in 3 (35%) adults did the recommended **physical activity** per week.

In Huddersfield South 1 in 3 (29%) adults had three or more unhealthy behaviours (drinking at risky level, current smoker, unlikely to eat 5 a day, achieve physical activity levels); the highest level in Kirklees.

Wider factors affecting health

Poverty existed in every area of Kirklees and 1 in 4 (25%) children in Huddersfield lived in poverty, this is higher than the Kirklees rate and is higher when compared to other areas, and equated to over 7,100 children.

Working-age poverty is linked to out of work and disability benefits. In Huddersfield 1 in 14 (6.4%) people were in receipt of job seeker benefits, and slightly more (7.6%) received disability related benefit (incapacity benefit, employment support allowance). 1 in 5 (20%)

working-age people in Huddersfield were living in poverty; this was higher than the Kirklees rate (1 in 6, 16%).

Average **household income** had risen in line with Kirklees overall, but household incomes in the locality were still below Kirklees especially in Huddersfield South. 1 in 3 (31%) adults in Huddersfield South had money worries. In Huddersfield 1 in 3 (35%) older people lived in poverty, higher than the Kirklees rate; this equates to over 7,500 older people.

Huddersfield had one of the lowest levels of **volunteering** in Kirklees, only 1 in 5 (18%) adults in Huddersfield participating in regular volunteering (i.e. at least monthly).

2 in 3 adults (63%) and 9 in 10 young people (86%) in Huddersfield felt that people of different ages **get on well together**. More than half of all adults (54%) felt people from different ethnic backgrounds get on well together. Only 1 in 3 (32%) adults believe it is a place where people pull together to improve things in the local area. Just over 1 in 3 (36%) adults believed the local area to be a place where people trust one another. Across all dimensions of social cohesion Huddersfield North was stronger than Huddersfield South.

Huddersfield had the highest levels of all type of **crime** across Kirklees, particularly in Huddersfield North. Criminal damage, other violence, theft, theft from vehicles and burglary of dwellings were the most reported crime types in the locality. Although domestic violence levels were just below average for the locality, they were high within the Ashbrow and Greenhead wards.

Levels of crime in the area were skewed by the presence of Huddersfield town centre. This particularly impacted on offence types where opportunities for crimes are higher, for example violence (night-time economy) and other thefts (town centre shops). There was also a high concentration of anti-social behaviour incidents linked both with the town centre and residential areas.

People remained very reliant on their **cars** – nearly 2 in 3 journeys were made by private car, and while rail use was increasing, bus use was decreasing. The overall level of **traffic** increased with traffic flows in Huddersfield having increased by more than 8% between 1999 and 2009. 3 in 5 (59%) vehicles entering Huddersfield town centre were cars, contributing to air quality issues.

Overall the level of **educational attainment** across the locality was slightly below the district average at each key stage. Whilst Huddersfield North was at the Kirklees average Huddersfield South was below at all key stages. At Early Years Foundation Stage attainment had continued to improve in Huddersfield South but remained the lowest in the

district – 3 in 5 (58%) achieved the required standard compared to Kirklees (7 in 10, 68%). Early Years Foundation Stage attainment had also improved in Huddersfield North and was similar to the Kirklees average (72%). At Key Stage 4 GCSE level attainment in Huddersfield had improved since 2010, with 3 in 5 (58%) achieving the required standard (5+ A*-C GCSEs including English and maths).

Huddersfield had higher rates of **disabled children** (1 in 3, 30%), along with Spennings and Dewsbury.

The overall rate of young people being not in education, employment or training (**NEET**) in Huddersfield had fallen, but some of the main geographic “hotspots” were Dalton, Rawthorpe and Kirkheaton.

The number of adults with **learning disabilities** known to adult social care services had risen in all localities across Kirklees, and the proportion of those living in Huddersfield had grown to 1 in 3.

Date this section was last reviewed