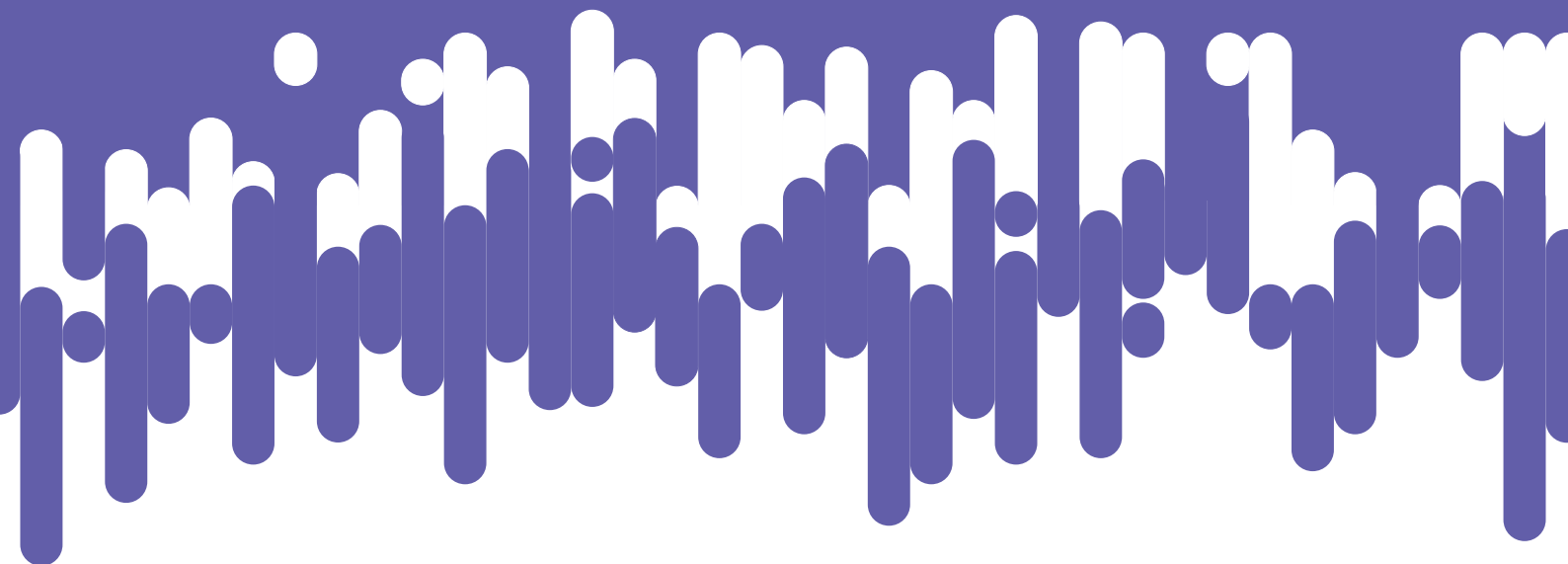




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Child Measurement Programme 2020-2021

**Swansea Bay University Health Board
and Aneurin Bevan University Health Board**



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Contents

Key Points	4
Introduction	6
Methods	8
Swansea Bay University Health Board Results	10
Aneurin Bevan Health Board Results	14

Charts and Tables

Figure 1 - Percentage of children aged 4 to 5 with obesity, Swansea Bay University Health Board and local authorities, Child Measurement Programme, 2020-21

Figure 2 - Percentage of children aged 4 to 5 with obesity, deprivation fifths, Swansea Bay University Health Board, Child Measurement Programme, 2020-21

Figure 3 - Percentage of children aged 4 to 5 with obesity, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and local authorities, Child Measurement Programme, 2020-21

Figure 4 - Percentage of children aged 4 to 5 with obesity, deprivation fifths, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Child Measurement Programme, 2020-21

Key Points

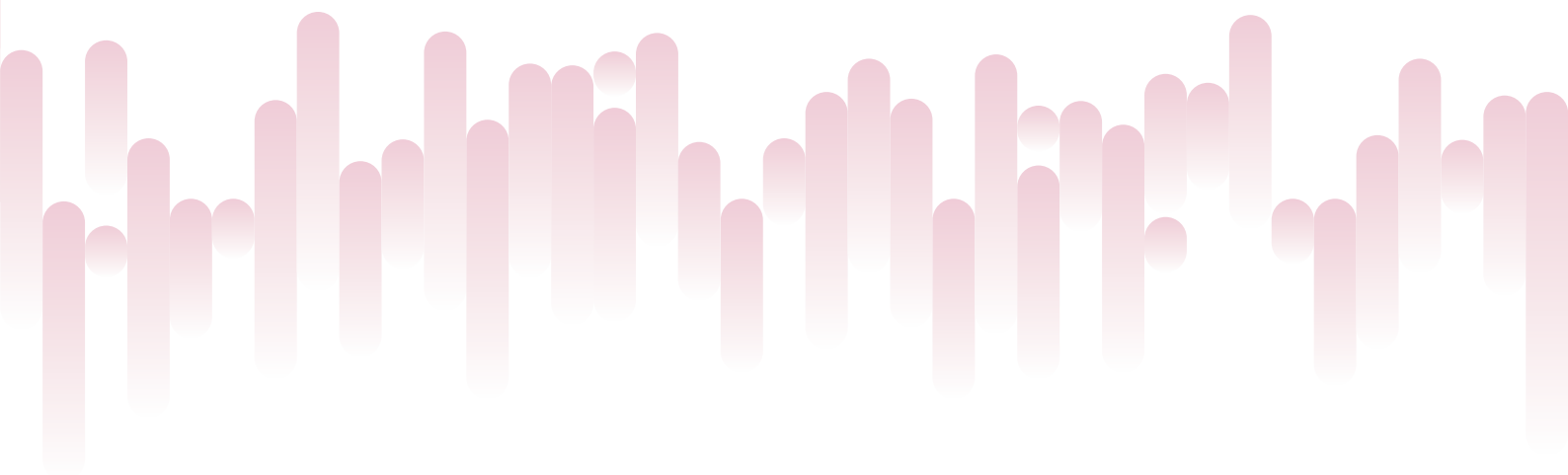


- Data collection in 2020/21 was interrupted across many parts of Wales due to school closures and prioritisation of resources in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are, therefore, only able to report data for two Health Boards - Swansea Bay and Aneurin Bevan - where we have sufficient data for reliable results. This also means we cannot provide an overall figure for Wales.
- In both Health Boards we see a significant rise in the percentage of 4/5 year olds having obesity and a significant decline in the proportion who were a healthy weight compared to 2018/19.
- It is not possible to extrapolate the findings to all Wales as Local Health Board population characteristics vary.



Introduction





This report summarises the key findings of the Child Measurement Programme (CMP) for Wales for the school year 2020-2021. Due to COVID-19 pandemic impacts on data collection we are unable to report at an all Wales level. This report is limited to Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB) and Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) regions.

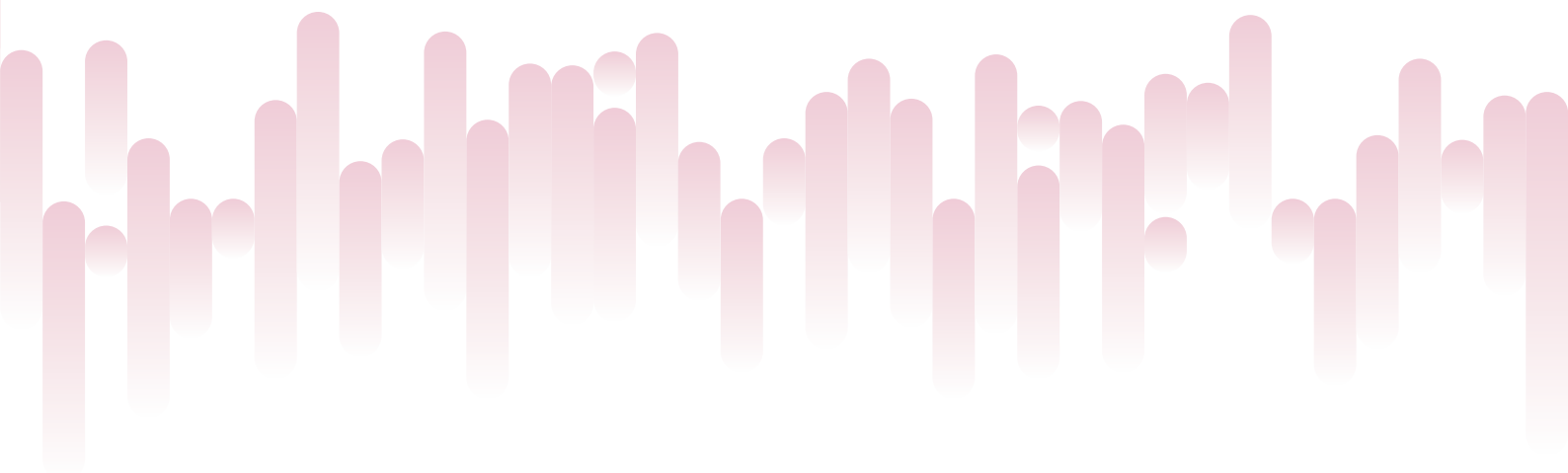
Given the limited geographical coverage the results should be interpreted with caution if extrapolating beyond SBUHB and ABUHB. In other words, the results for these areas should not be assumed to reflect the situation across Wales.

In addition to this summary, the full results including data tables are available on the Child Measurement Programme website at: [**Child Measurement Programme for Wales**](#)



Methods





This report relates to measurements taken of children resident in SBUHB or ABUHB regions who attend reception class and turned 5 during the academic year 2020-21. Detailed information explaining how measurements were taken and how data were collected and analysed is available on the website, see the downloadable document **“The Child Measurement Programme for Wales: history, legislative framework and technical aspects”**.

The results are reported separately by Health Board in two sections below. Results are given in proportion (%) of cohort followed by the corresponding 95% Confidence Interval (95%CI) in brackets. The cohort is the total number of measured children resident in the Health Board region.

Comparisons, where applicable, are made with the 2018/19 data for the same Health Boards. The 2018/19 report was selected as the comparator as it was the most recent report and the data were collected pre-pandemic. Statistically significant differences were defined when the 95% Confidence Intervals of the compared proportion results did not overlap. Gender refers to a binary variable categorised as ‘boys’ or ‘girls’.

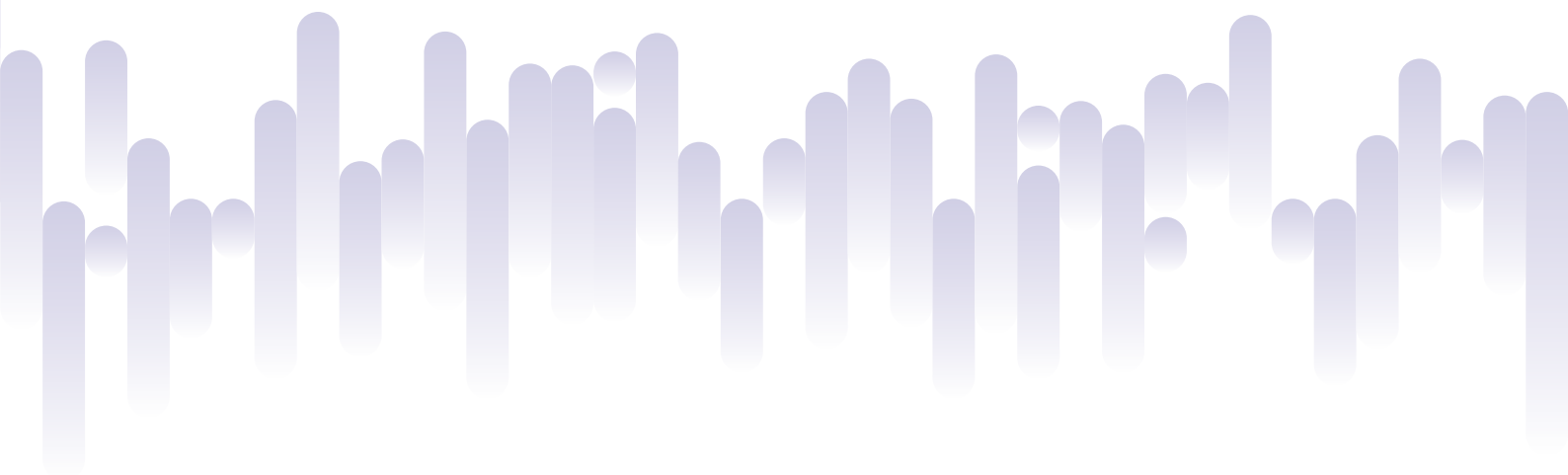
Given the limited geographical coverage of this report, there are a number of elements that are not included compared with previous all Wales level reports:

- As there were insufficient data for a 2019-2020 official statistics report, there is a data gap within the past 5 years. Analyses that are based upon 5 years reporting, such as drilling down to Middle Super Output Area level, are not available. This includes the heat maps. This also means that trends data over time are not reported.
- Analyses that rely upon national coverage for adequate numbers are not reported, including ethnicity breakdown and UK comparisons.
- Visuals requiring comparison to the National (Wales) average are not available.
- The interactive dashboard has not been updated.

Greater consideration must also be applied to the limitations of the data when interpreting. For example, deprivation breakdown is usually reported at National level. We have provided a Health Board level breakdown, however, the numbers for some quintiles categories are fewer than 100 children. Limitations for this report are also given in the data quality statement that appears on the website alongside the report.

Swansea Bay University Health Board Results





The overall participation proportion was 86.7% across SBUHB. For Swansea and Neath Port Talbot Local Authority regions the participation proportions were 86.9% and 86.3% respectively.

Underweight and Healthy Weight

The numbers of children categorised as experiencing underweight were small and represented 0.5% (95%CI 0.3 to 0.8) of the cohort. This result was similar to the 2018/19 data.

The proportion of children categorised as healthy weight was 65.5% (95%CI 63.9 to 67). This was a statistically significant reduction compared with 2018/19 data that reported a proportion of 72.2% (95%CI 70.8 to 73.6).

Overweight not obese

The proportion of children categorised as experiencing overweight not obesity was 16.4% (95%CI 15.2 to 17.7). This appeared slightly higher than the 2018/19 reported proportion of 14.2% (95%CI 13.1 to 15.3). However, this difference must be interpreted with caution as it may not be statistically significant as the 95% confidence intervals overlap.

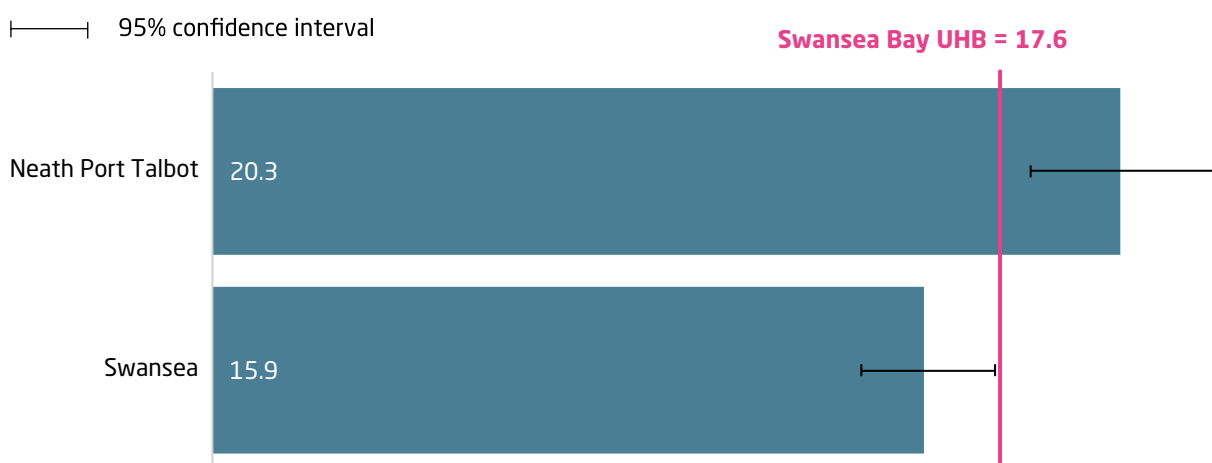
Obese

The proportion of children categorised as having obesity was 17.6% (95%CI 16.4 to 18.9). This is significantly higher than the proportion reported in 2018/19 that was 13.0% (95%CI 12.0 to 14.1). The breakdown for obesity by Local Authority region with the SBUHB overall result represented by the red line is given in Figure 1. This shows a higher proportion having obesity in Neath Port Talbot compared with Swansea. This difference was statistically significant. The proportions having obesity in Swansea and Neath Port Talbot were significantly higher than the respective 2018/19 proportions.



Figure 1 - Percentage of children aged 4 to 5 with obesity, Swansea Bay University Health Board and local authorities, Child Measurement Programme, 2020-21

Produced by Public Health Wales Observatory using CMP data (DHCW)



Gender and Deprivation

The proportions across all measurement categories were similar for boys and girls.

The obesity proportion breakdown by deprivation quintiles at LHB level are given in Figure 2. The proportion categorised as experiencing obesity varied from 20.7% (95%CI 18.4 to 23.2) for those in the most deprived fifth to 12.8% (95%CI 10.6 to 15.3) for those in the least deprived fifth. This difference was statistically significant.

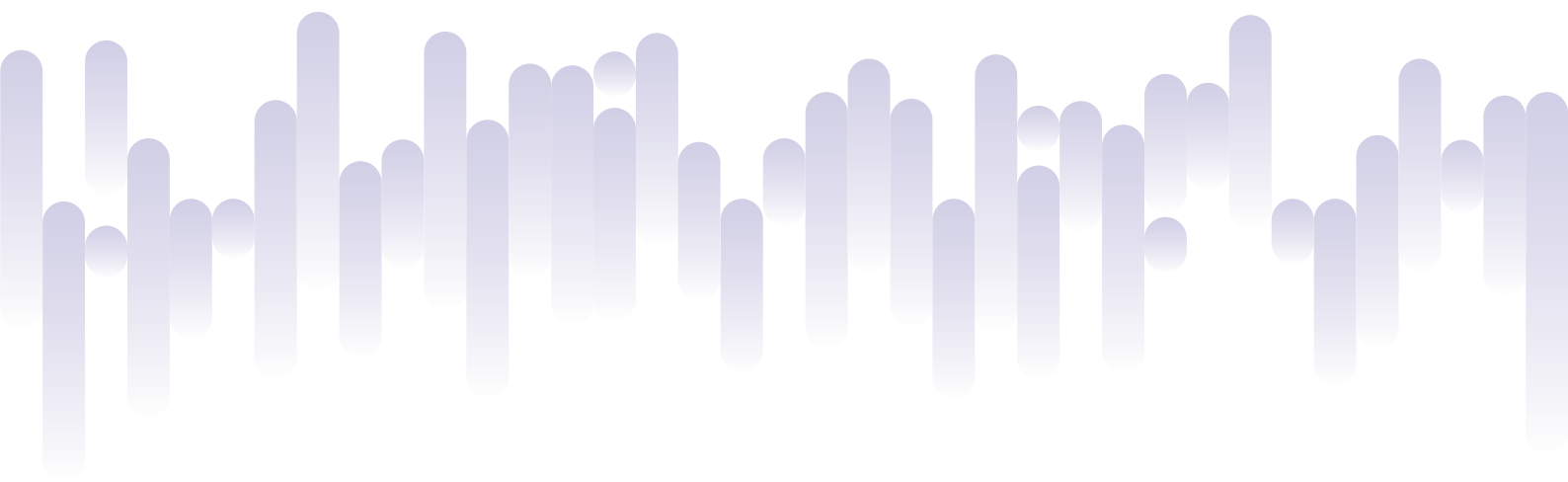
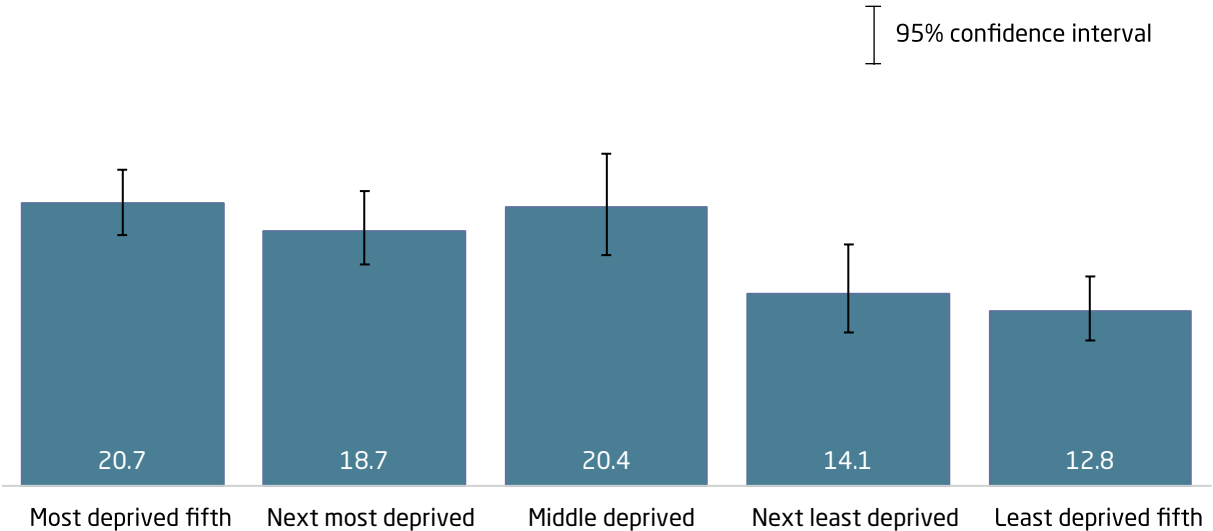


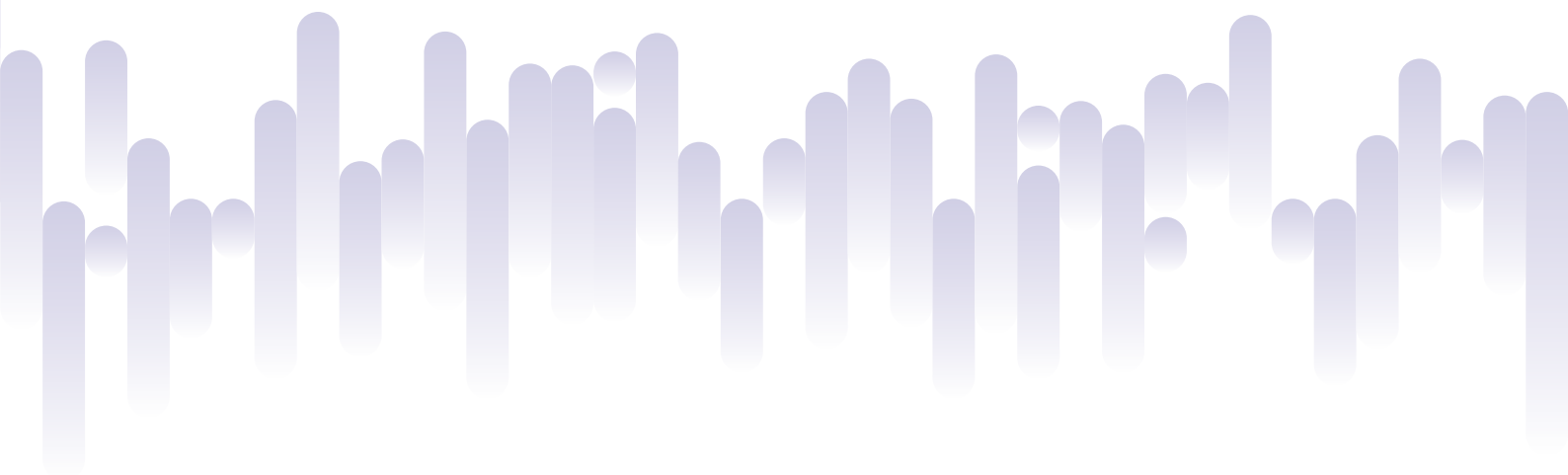
Figure 2 - Percentage of children aged 4 to 5 with obesity, deprivation fifths, Swansea Bay University Health Board, Child Measurement Programme, 2020-21

Produced by Public Health Wales Observatory using CMP data (DHCW)



Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Results





The overall participation proportion was 90.5% across ABUHB. The participation proportion breakdown by Local Authority regions were: Caerphilly 89.5%, Blaenau Gwent 91.2%; Torfaen 91.4%; Monmouthshire 90.5%; Newport 90.7%.

Underweight and Healthy Weight

The numbers of children categorised as experiencing underweight were small and represented 0.8% (95%CI 0.6 to 1.0) of the cohort. This proportion was similar to the 2018/19 data.

The proportion of children categorised as healthy weight was 66.7% (95%CI 65.5 to 67.9). This result was significantly lower than the 2018/19 proportion of 73.9% (95%CI 72.8 to 74.9).

Overweight not obese

The proportion of children categorised as experiencing overweight not obesity was 14.2% (95%CI 13.3 to 15.1), and was similar to the 2018/19 report of 13.7% (95%CI 12.9 to 14.5).

Obese

The proportion of children categorised as having obesity was 18.3% (95%CI 17.4 to 19.3). This is significantly higher than the proportion of 11.8% (95%CI 11.0 to 12.6) reported in 2018/19. The breakdown for obesity by Local Authority region with the SBUHB overall result represented by the red line is given in Figure 3. This shows that the proportion having obesity varies across Local Authorities. The lowest proportions were seen in Newport and Monmouthshire. These were statistically significantly lower than the highest proportions that were reported in Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly. The proportions having obesity in all five Local Authority regions were significantly higher compared with the reported proportions in 2018/19.

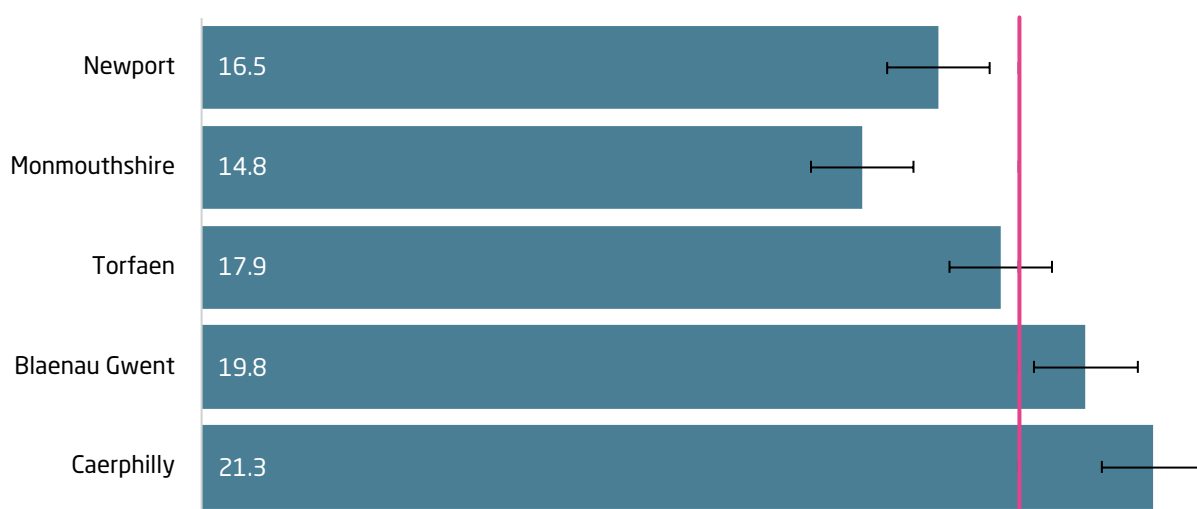


Figure 3 - Percentage of children aged 4 to 5 with obesity, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and local authorities, Child Measurement Programme, 2020-21

Produced by Public Health Wales Observatory using CMP data (DHCW)

—| 95% confidence interval

Aneurin Bevan UHB = 18.3



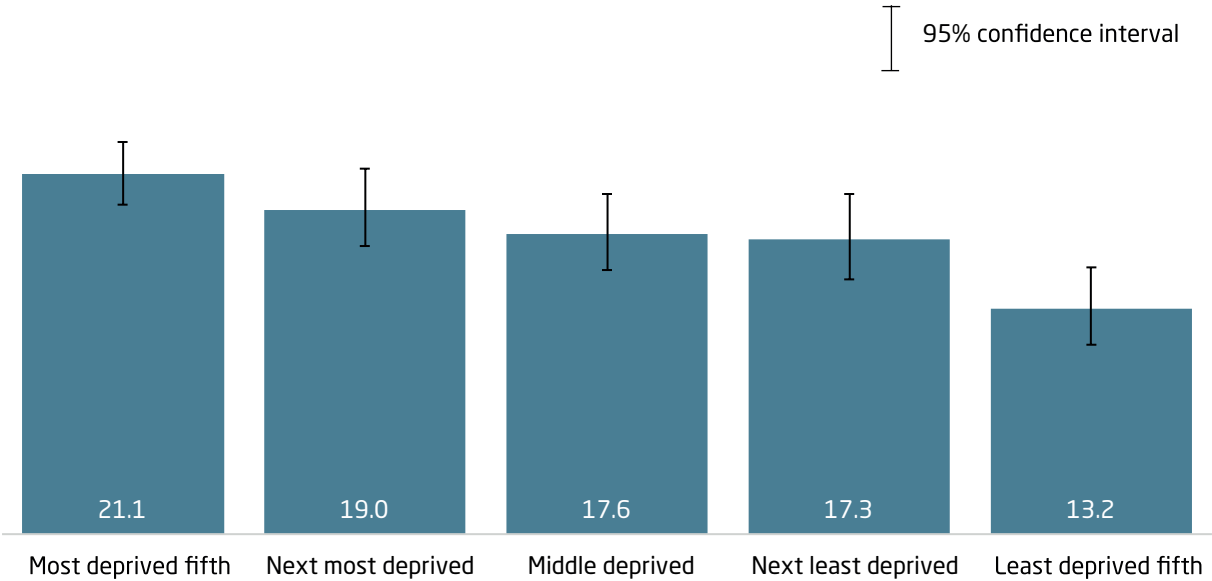
Gender and Deprivation

The proportions across all measurement categories were similar for boys and girls.

The obesity proportion breakdown by deprivation quintiles at LHB level are given in Figure 4. The proportion categorised as having obesity varies from 21.1% (95%CI 19.3 to 23.0) for those in the most deprived fifth to 13.2% (95%CI 11.1 to 15.6) for those in the least deprived fifth. This difference was statistically significant.

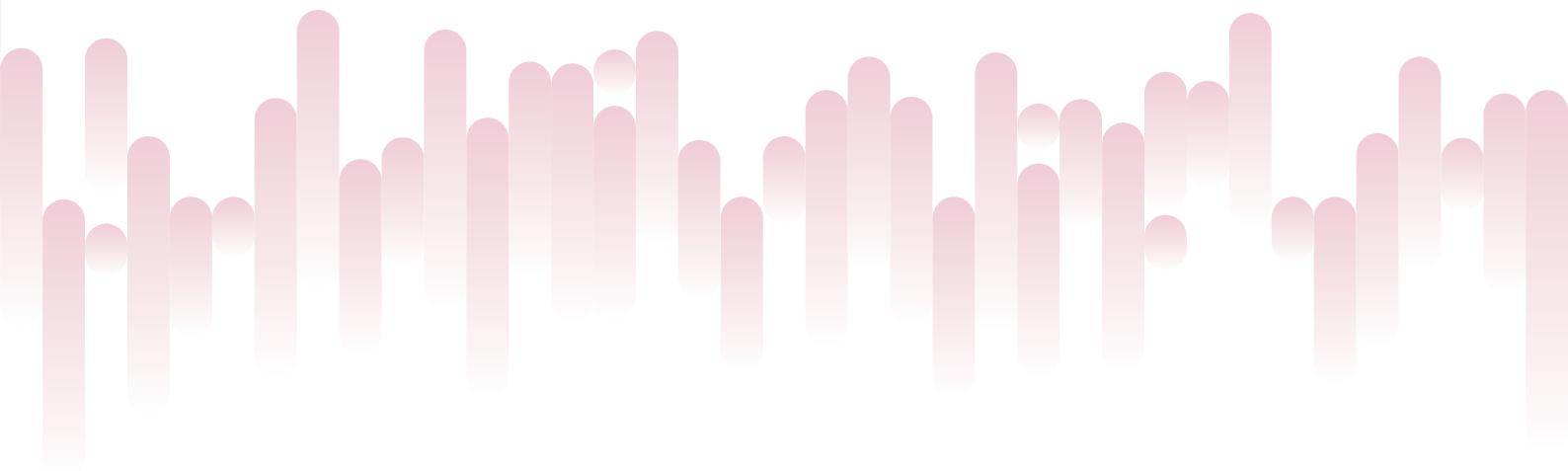
Figure 4 - Percentage of children aged 4 to 5 with obesity, deprivation fifths, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Child Measurement Programme, 2020-21

Produced by Public Health Wales Observatory using CMP data (DHCW)



More information





This report provides a brief summary of the analysis of the child measurements taken for the Child Measurement Programme. More comprehensive information displayed as tables can be found on our website at [Child Measurement Programme NHS Wales](#).

For more information about tackling childhood obesity please go to the Public Health Wales Health Improvement website at: www.everychildwales.co.uk and follow the link to the “**10 steps to a healthy weight**” information.

