



Developing The Public Health Observatory For Wales
Datblygu Arsyllfa Iechyd y Cyhoedd i Gymru

Powys Teaching

Local Health Board

> Demography Profile



Powys Teaching Local Health Board (LHB), covering a quarter of the landmass of Wales¹, is the most sparsely populated LHB area. 4.5 percent of the Welsh population live in Powys and it is the only Local Health Board whose boundaries have not changed in 2009.

The area's **age and sex profile** differs to that of Wales (Fig. 1). The proportion of young working age people (20-39 years) is substantially lower than that of Wales and the proportion aged 50 and over is larger. This variation is greatest within the rural areas where there are relatively high numbers of elderly people. Although the 2001 Census reported that one percent of the population came from a black and ethnic minority background⁴, the effect of migration since this time is more difficult to quantify.

Across Wales and the UK, the **general fertility rate**, the number of births per 1,000 women of child bearing age, had been falling until 2001/2002. However, it has been slowly rising since (Fig. 2). The Powys Teaching LHB area general fertility rate is currently higher than the Wales

Key Statistics	Wales	Powys Teaching LHB
Area size ^[1]	20,779 km ²	5,196 km ²
Total population ^[2]	2,980,000	132,000
Life expectancy at birth - males ^[3]	76.8 years	78.6 years
Life expectancy at birth - females ^[3]	81.2 years	82.2 years
Persons per km ² ^[1, 2]	143.4	25.4
% population from ethnic minority background (2001) ^[4]	2.1%	0.9%
Total number of births ^[5]	34,572	1,308
Number of deaths ^[6]	32,148	1,478
% lower super output areas (LSOAs) in most deprived 5th of Wales ^[7]	20%	4%

> **Fig 1: Population Pyramid Powys Teaching LHB and Wales**
Data source: Office for National Statistics, mid year estimates 2007

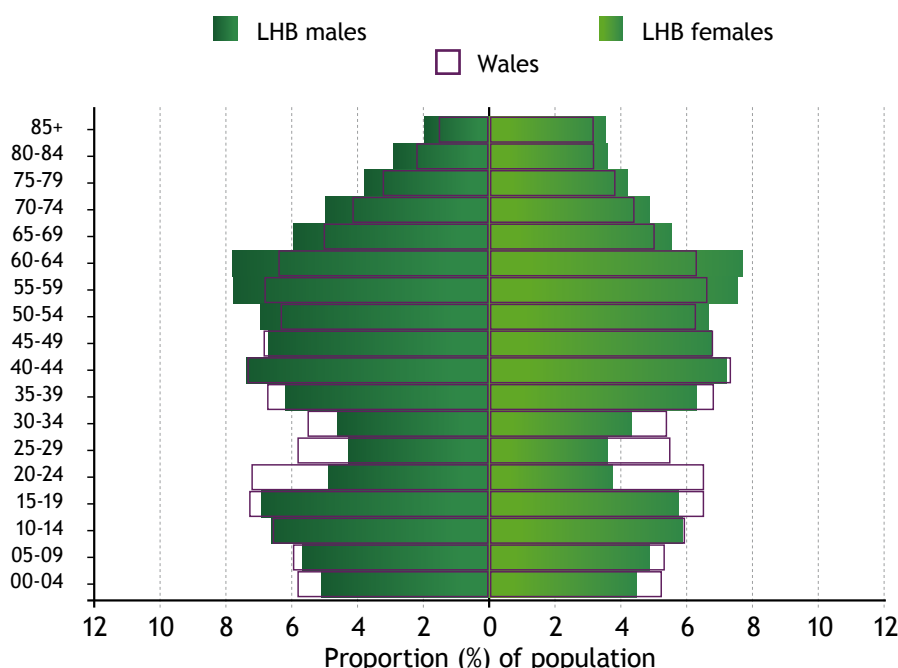
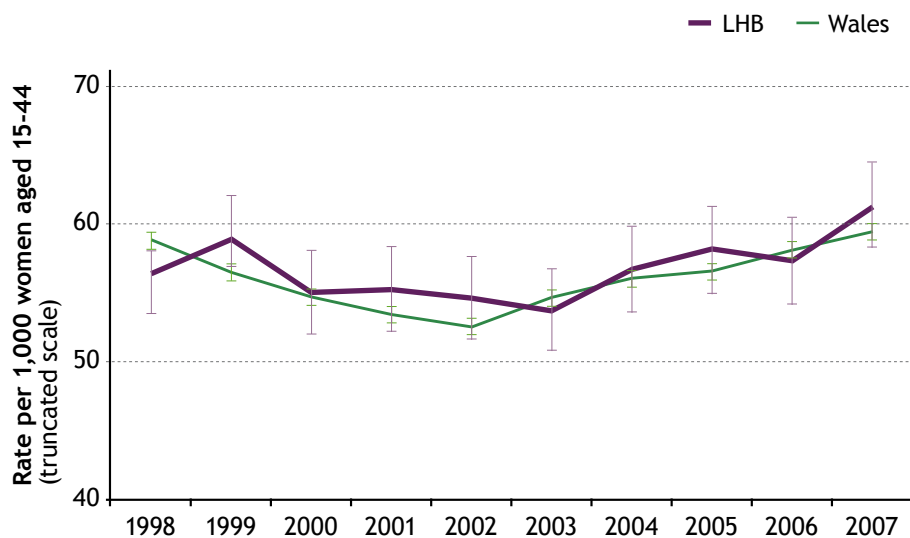


Fig 2: General Fertility Rate trend, Powys Teaching LHB and Wales, 1998 - 2007

Data source: Office for National Statistics, Annual District Births Extract, mid year estimates



Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals. These reflect how random variation might influence the rate shown. This variation is greater in smaller populations, giving rise to wider intervals (for further details see website).

Fig 3: Under 75 mortality rate trend, Powys Teaching LHB and Wales 1998 -2007

Data source: Office for National Statistics, Annual District Deaths Extract, mid year estimates



*EASR: European age standardised rate. Age standardisation allows comparison of rates across populations or time periods even when the age structures in these populations/time periods are different.

- Office for National Statistics, 2007 geography.
- Office for National Statistics, 2007 mid year estimates (rounded to the nearest 100).
- Office for National Statistics, 2005-07 deaths registration and mid-year population estimates data.
- Office for National Statistics, 2001 Census.

- Office for National Statistics, Annual District Births Extract.
- Office for National Statistics, Annual District Deaths Extract.
- Welsh Assembly Government (Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation domains: income employment, health, education, access to service, housing, physical environment, community safety).

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rate and is broadly similar to the Welsh pattern⁵.

In the Powys Teaching LHB area, the under 75 age standardised mortality rate dropped by 31 percent between 1998 and 2007 (Fig. 3). It has remained consistently below the Wales rate. This fall is likely to reflect not only the activities of health services, but also improvements in living standards in Powys during the latter part of the 20th century.

The greatest causes of death in people aged under 75 among Powys Teaching LHB residents are cancer, circulatory disease and respiratory disease, accounting for 42%, 29% and 8% of approximately 400 deaths respectively during 2007⁶.

Geographically based deprivation measures can be used to show inequalities in health and suggest areas likely to most need measures to improve health and manage ill-health. The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2008 is produced at a small area level called Lower Super Output Area (LSOA), and is derived from a broad range of factors⁷.

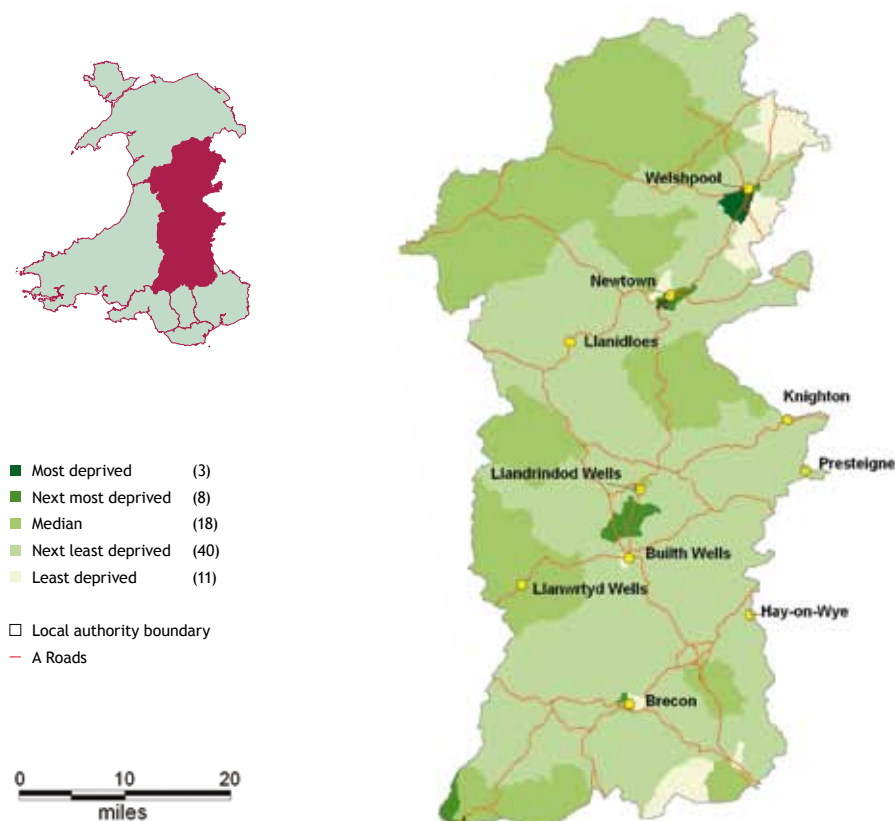
Within the LHB there are areas of deprivation, particularly in the more urban areas of Welshpool and Newtown (Fig. 4). Three out of the 80 LSOAs in the LHB area (4 percent) are among the most deprived fifth in Wales with 11 (14 percent) in the least deprived fifth. However, within less deprived areas there are often pockets of hidden deprivation.

Current projections see a rise in the older population (75 years and over) of Powys Teaching LHB

Fig 4: Overall Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2008

Fifths of deprivation, Lower Super Output Areas.

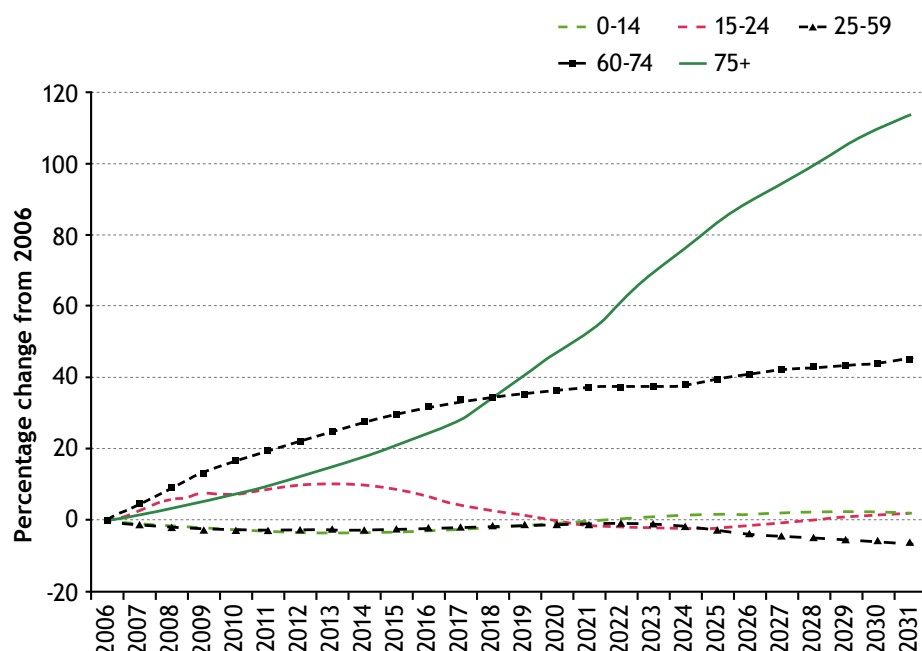
Data source: Welsh Assembly Government



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Fig 5: Population projections, Powys Teaching LHB

Data source: Derived from LA Population Projections (2006-based)
Welsh Assembly Government



residents from 13,000 (10% of the total population) in 2006 to 28,000 (18% of the total population) in 2031 (Fig. 5). These estimates are based on assumptions about births, deaths and migration. The increase in the number of older people is likely to cause a rise in chronic conditions such as circulatory and respiratory diseases and cancers. Meeting the needs of these individuals will be a key challenge for the LHB. In the current economic climate, the relative (and absolute) increase in economically dependent and, in some cases, care-dependent populations will pose particular challenges to communities.

> Further Information:

More detail on the demography of the residents of Powys Teaching LHB and Wales to accompany this profile is available at www.wch.wales.nhs.uk. This includes information at small area level, local variations in mortality and further resources to support LHB work.

This profile presents information for use by the newly formed Local Health Boards of Wales. It has been produced as the first of a series of information products made available by the newly created Public Health Observatory for Wales, a collaboration between the Wales Centre for Health and the National Public Health Service for Wales. LHB requirements will direct future profile development.

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