

Access and its impact on health inequities

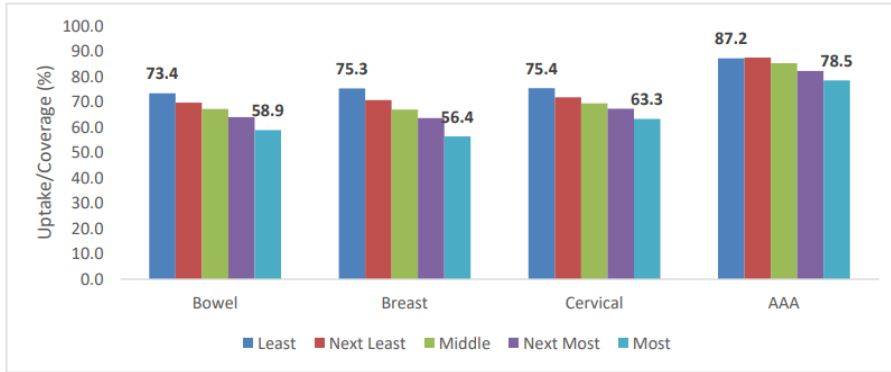
Appendix 1: Inequalities in health and care

➤ Screening uptake

In 2020/21, across all four adult screening programmes in Wales, people who live in more deprived areas had lower uptake/coverage of screening compared to people who live in less deprived areas.

Figure 5: Uptake/coverage (%) of screening programmes by deprivation quintile, 2020/21

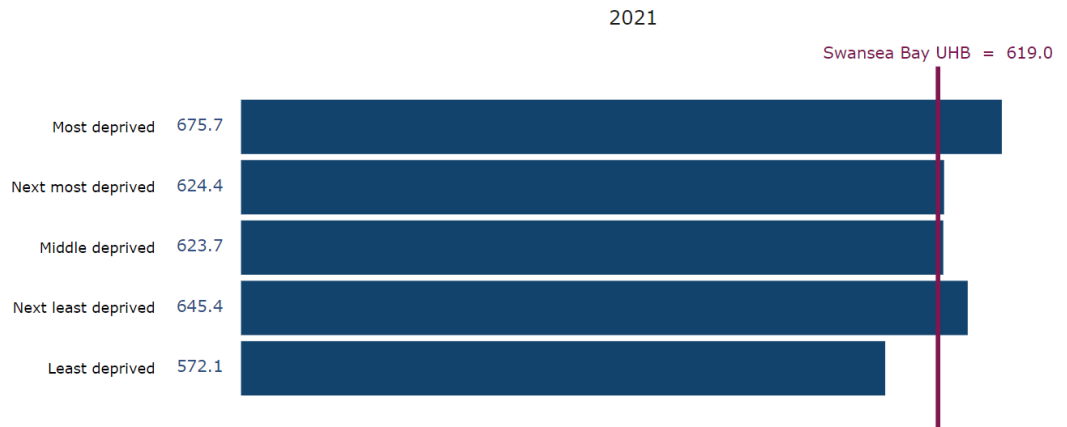
Public Health Wales (2022)



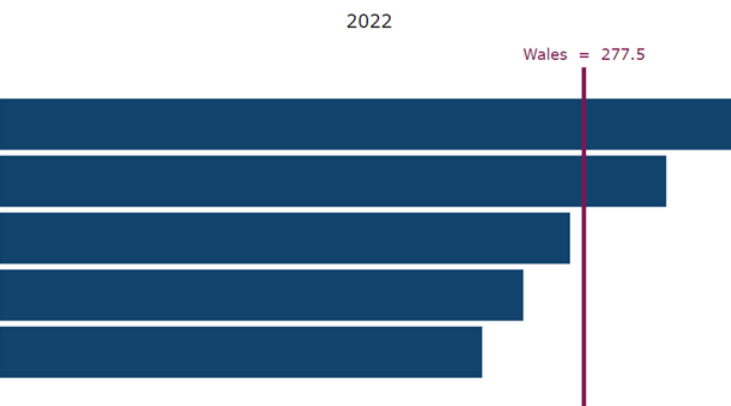
➤ Cancer Outcomes: prevalence and treatment outcomes

Inequalities impact “every stage of the cancer pathway, including prevalence of cancer risk factors, screening uptake, access to health services, and patient experience. These all contribute to stark differences in cancer incidence and outcomes in different population groups. **If you live in a more deprived community in Wales, you are more likely to get cancer and die from cancer”** ([Cross Party Group on Cancer, 2023](#)).

Cancer incidence, all cancers excluding nmsc, European age-standardised rate per 100,000, persons, all ages, Swansea Bay UHB by deprivation fifths*



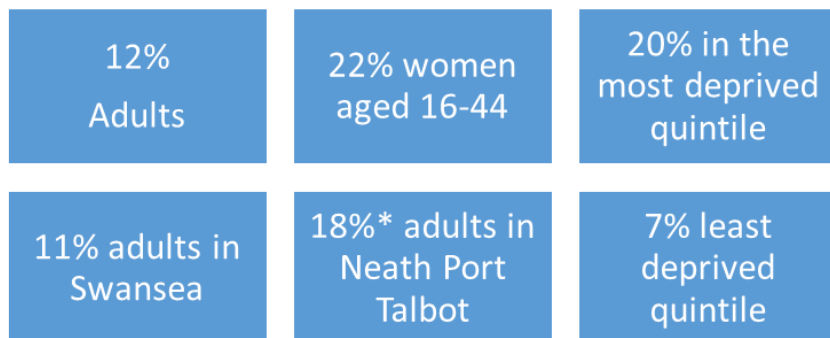
Cancer mortality, all cancers excluding nmsc, European age-standardised rate per 100,000, persons, all ages, Wales by deprivation fifths* (2022) Produced by Public Health Wales





➤ **Mental health outcomes: prevalence and inequity in access to effective treatment**

% of adults aged 16+ reporting a mental health condition in Wales unless otherwise noted (National Survey for Wales 2022-3) * = highest of all LAs in Wales



“People and communities most vulnerable to mental health inequalities face more barriers to accessing appropriate support. In many cases, the support available may appear less relevant to them, or be too inflexible in its design”.

Senedd Health and Social Care Committee in 2022:

- Improving access to and quality of mental health support for people from Black, Asian and ethnic minority communities has been identified as a priority by the Welsh Government (2022) Anti Racist Action Plan. **Improving population and service level data on ethnicity is a key enabling action in the plan to address inequalities.**
- The new Welsh Government 10-year draft cross government Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2024-34) **commits to equitable access to services for those with protected characteristics** (as described in the Equality Act 2010)

➤ **Maternal health outcomes 2024**

- **Women living in the most deprived areas** had a maternal mortality rate **twice that of women living in the least deprived areas**, emphasising the need for a continued focus on action to address these disparities
- There was a nearly **three-fold difference** in maternal mortality rates amongst **women from Black ethnic backgrounds** and an almost **two-fold difference** amongst **women from Asian ethnic backgrounds** compared to White women.

[MBRRACE-UK. Saving Lives. Improving Mothers’ Care State of the Nation Report: Surveillance findings and lessons learned to inform maternity care from the UK and Ireland Confidential Enquiries into Maternal Deaths](#)

➤ **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and access to healthcare**

Experiencing 4 or more ACEs has been evidence to profoundly impact health outcomes over the life course ([Hughes et al 2017](#)). Recent research shows that people who have experienced 4 or more ACEs have lower comfort in accessing healthcare settings and lower trust in healthcare professionals, which is likely to impact on access and outcomes from healthcare ([Ford et al. 2024](#)).

Those with 4 or more ACEs were:

- 1.6 times more likely to have **poor medication adherence** than those with 0 ACEs
- 3.6 times more likely to **perceive that professionals do not care** about their health than those with 0 ACEs
- 3.5 times more likely to **perceive that professionals do not understand** their problems than those with 0 ACEs
- 2.5 times **more likely to have low comfort in using GP surgeries** than those with 0 ACEs
- 2.4 times **more likely to have low comfort in using hospitals** than those with 0 ACEs