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 (2019) The State of Women's
 Health in Leeds, Leeds City
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6. Health status of women in Leeds

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6.1 Introduction

The overall health status of women is most often related to life expectancy as this indicates the average age that death can be expected, a healthier population should

mean a longer life expectancy. Knowing the causes of death (mortality) and the trends that are occurring can give useful indication as to the health challenges facing women in society. As seen in Section 5 there are many factors that can impact on health and wellbeing, with deprivation seen as one of the most important contributor to the risk of premature death.

6.2 Life expectancy

Life expectancy for women and for men has been increasing year on year, however, the rate of improvement has been decreasing across the UK (Figure 23). For Leeds we are now in a position where the life expectancy for both women and men has been static since 2012-2014, and in 2013-2015 actually fell for women and men but has since slightly risen for women and fallen further for men.

Life expectancy is currently 82.1 years for women in Leeds and 78.2 for men (Figure 1) (ONS 2018a). For men this is 1.4 years below that across England and for women 1 year, with the difference greater than seen in 2001-2003 (0.1 years females, 0.3 years males).

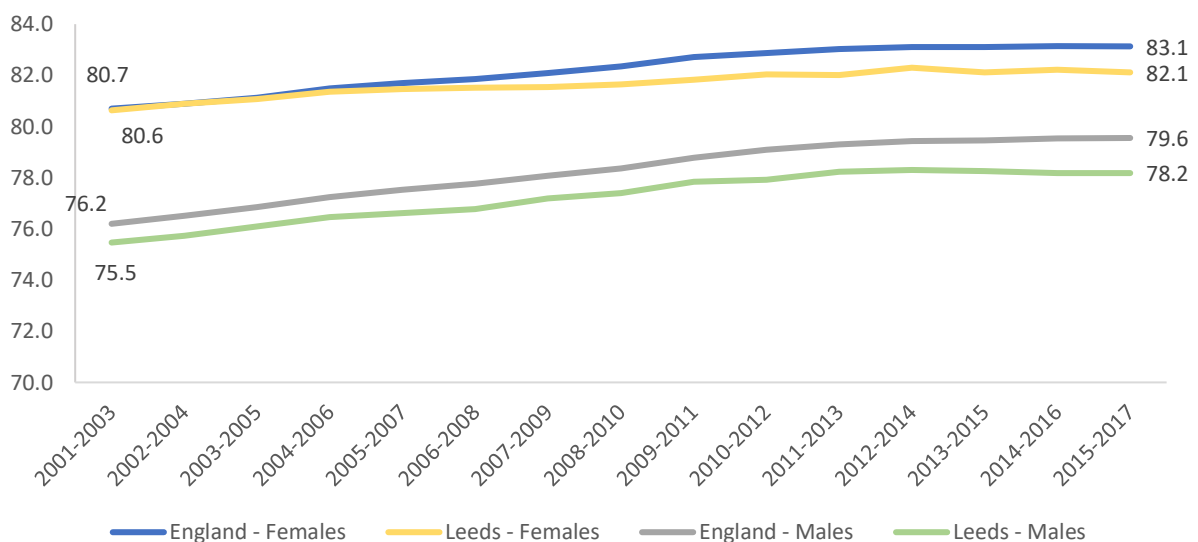


Figure 1 Life Expectancy at birth, by sex, England and Leeds, 2001-2003 to 2015-2017

The life expectancy at age 65 has also seen a divergence from the national figures, with the gap growing to 0.7 of a year between 2014-2016 and 2015-2017. In 2015-2017, a woman in Leeds would expect to live another 20.3 years from her 65th birthday (17.9 years for a man) (Figure 2). This is lower than the national average – 21.1 years for a woman and 18.8 years for a man (ONS 2018a).

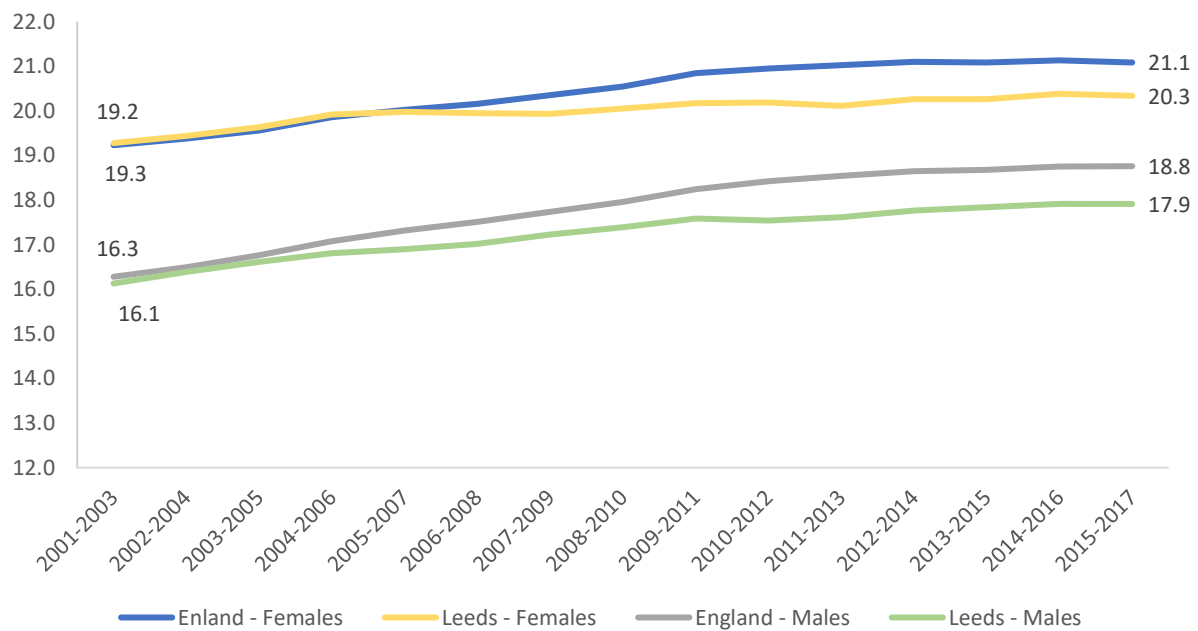


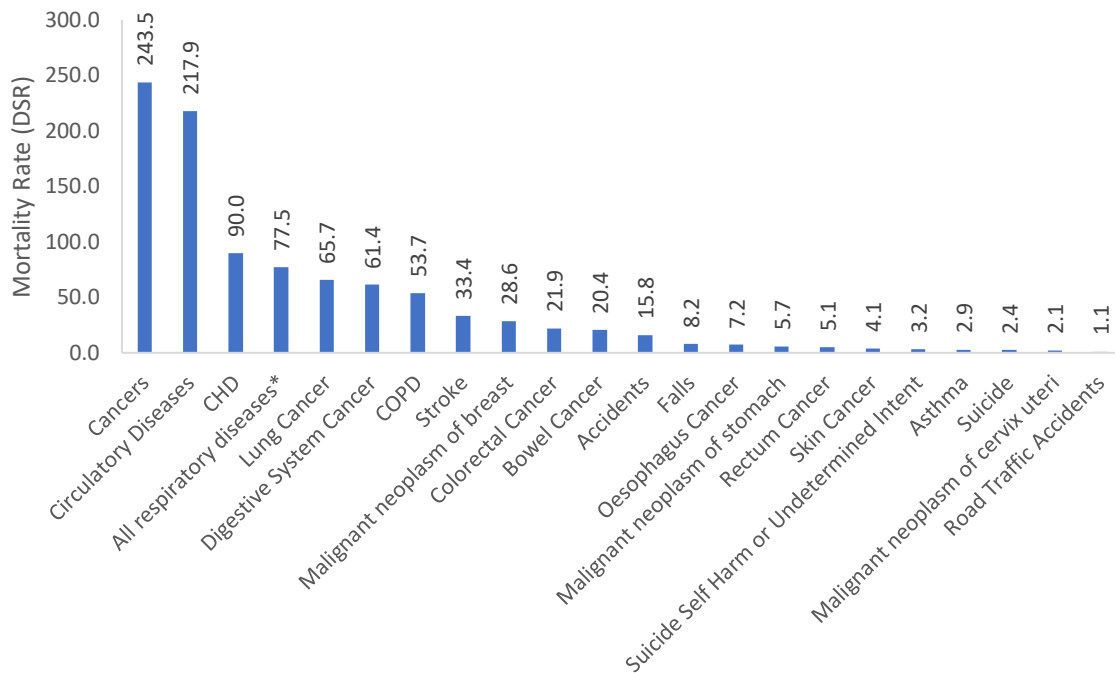
Figure 2 Life Expectancy at age 65, by sex, for England and Leeds, 2001-2003 to 2014-2017

As the majority of deaths occur in older age, the most common age of death for those born in 2014 to 2016 for a woman will be 88.9 years and for men 86.4 years (ONS 2017a).

Healthy life expectancy is the length of time an individual can expect to live in good health, and for a child born in Leeds in 2014-2016 a female can expect to live 63.0 years in good health (60.3 years for males) (ONS 2017b). However, with the longer overall life expectancy this means women tend to live longer but not with good health (19.2 years women, 17.9 years men).

6.3 Mortality

The biggest overall cause of death for women of all ages in Leeds is cancer at 243.5 deaths per 100,000 women, followed by deaths as a result of circulatory disease (217.9 deaths per 100,000) (Figure 3).



*(excluding pneumonia and influenza)

Figure 3 Mortality rate by cause (DSR) for females (all ages) in Leeds (2014-2016)

This has changed in the last 6 years, as before 2010 cardiovascular disease was the main cause of female death and there has been a welcome reduction of 27% in mortality from cardiovascular disease over the last 10 years (Figure 4).

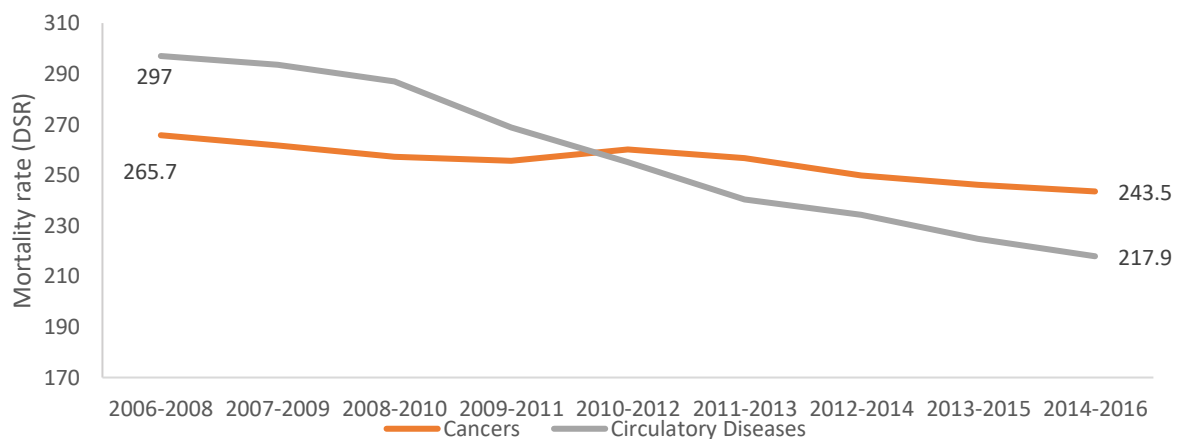


Figure 4 All Ages Mortality for cancer and circulatory disease, 2006-2008 to 2014-2016, Females, Leeds

For women under the age of 75 years, the greatest cause of mortality is cancer at 124 deaths per 100,000, with cardiovascular disease (the next highest) being less than half that at 49.5 deaths per 100,000.

For women, dementia is most common cause of mortality, with a rate of 942.8 per 100,000 deaths in females and 856.1 per 100,000 in males across Leeds in 2016, with 741 female deaths in 2016 (as compared to 402 males) - dementia is now recognised as the highest single cause of female deaths across England and Wales (ONS 2018b).

6.1.1 Effect of deprivation on mortality

The mortality rate in females living in the more deprived areas of Leeds was 40% higher than that for those living in the wealthier areas. For females under the age of 75 years, the mortality rate was nearly double (Figure 5).

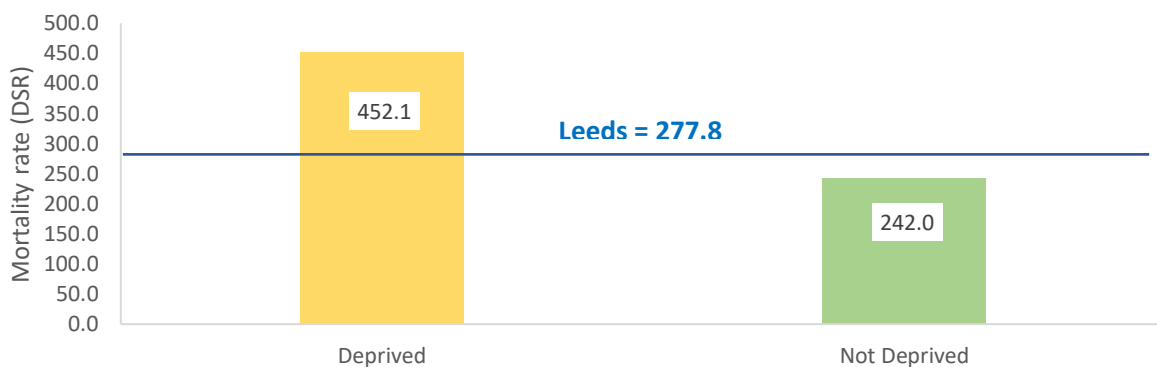


Figure 5 All-Cause Mortality Rate for Females (U75) Compared by Deprivation

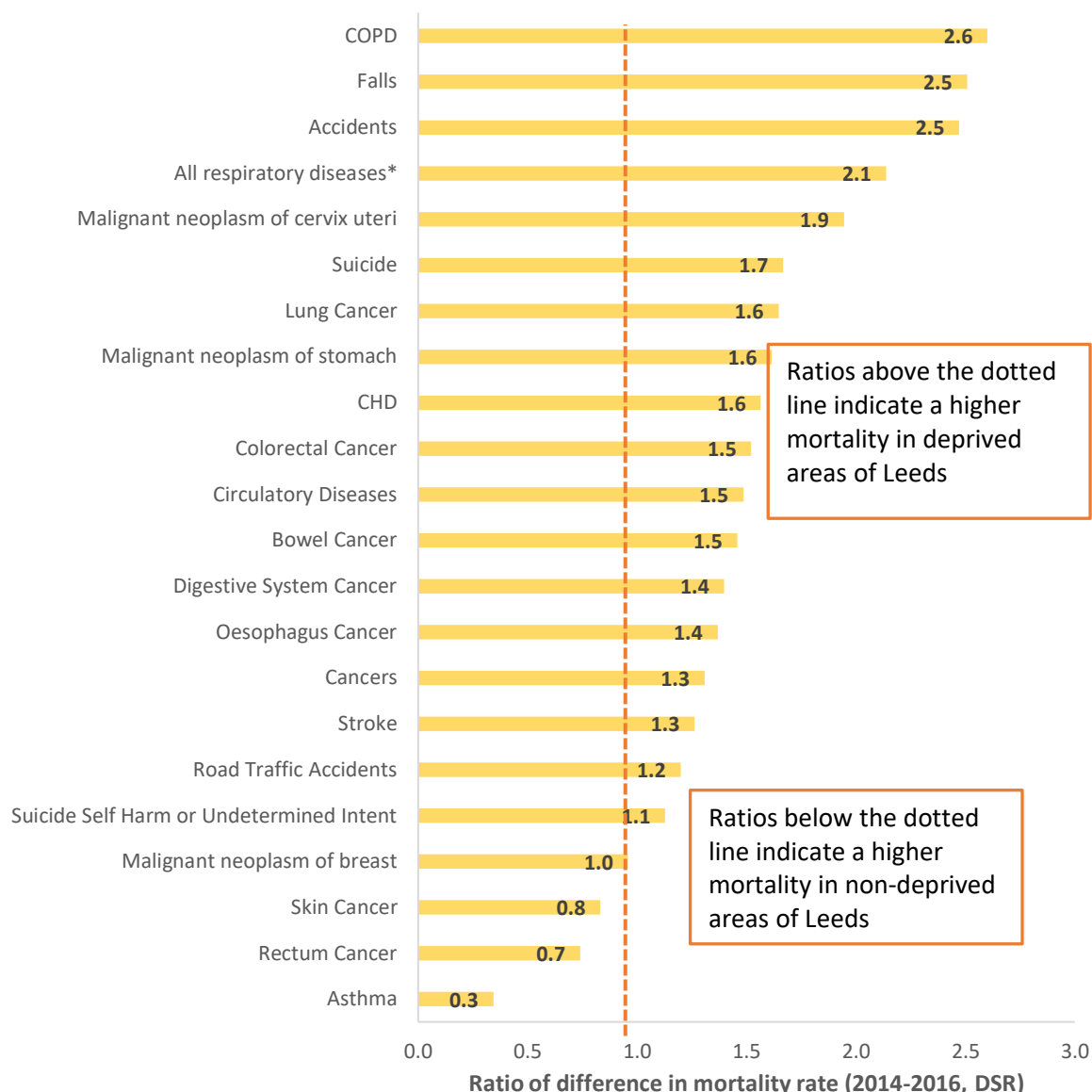


Figure 6 Mortality rate by cause (2014-2016, DSR) for females (all ages) ranked by deprivation ratio

The biggest differences in mortality between women living in deprived vs. non-deprived areas are among Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) at 2.6x higher rate of death, falls (2.5x) and accidents (2.5x) (Figure 6).

References

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