

Blackburn with Darwen in Summary

This summary pulls together key information from the different sections of the JSNA Overview document. Information is presented under sub headings which reflect the four sections the JSNA Overview has been split into. These sections are not mutually exclusive in describing the life journey of residents.

Setting the Scene

Blackburn with Darwen is located in the east of Lancashire. It is made up of compact urban areas predominately located around the towns of Blackburn and Darwen, which are surrounded by countryside featuring a number of small rural villages and hamlets.

With a resident population of 154,739, it is the largest lower tier (district and unitary) local authority within the Lancashire area and has a young population. At 22.8%, the borough has the highest proportion of 0-15's in the North West, the fifth highest in England and at 28.3% the sixth highest proportion of 0-19 year olds in England. Conversely, although growing, the proportion of older people is lower than the England average, with 14.5% aged 65 and overⁱ.

The borough is ethnically diverse. Around 60.4% of residents are from a White ethnic group (including 56.9% White British, 2.9% other White) and 35.7% from an Asian/Asian British ethnic group (including 17.8% Asian/Asian British Pakistani and 15.8% Asian/Asian British Indian)ⁱⁱ. The majority of borough residents are either Christian (38.0%) or Muslim (35.0%), with just over 21.1% having 'no religion'.ⁱⁱⁱ

Data from the 2019 Index of Deprivation highlights that the borough contains some of the most deprived areas in England, ranking 9th most deprived of the lower tier local authorities in the country (based on rank of average score). However, there is significant variation across the borough, with 33 small areas falling within in the most deprived decile in England and 10 small areas within the 30% least deprived in England (one within the least deprived decile).^{iv}

Taking into account the age structure of the borough, 20.7% of borough residents are disabled and have their day-to-day activities limited a lot, or a little, higher than the national average of 17.7%.^v Life expectancy for borough residents falls below the national average. In 2018-2020, the borough had the 8th equal lowest life expectancy for males (76.3 years) and the 7th equal lowest for females (80.3 years) amongst lower-tier authorities in England.^{vi}

Over two fifths (43.4%) of the borough's housing stock is made up of terraced properties^{vii} and over a quarter of households have four or more people per household, the highest proportion in the North West.^{viii} The proportion of private rented homes has increased and currently stands at 20.2% on a par with the England average (20.6%).

Employment levels in the borough (65.2% of the working age population) is significantly lower than the national average (75.5%). Similarly, unemployment levels in the borough (5.5% of those 16 and over) are higher than the national average (3.8%) with the borough having higher levels of female economic inactivity, meaning there is a higher proportion of households with only one adult in work.^{ix}

Start Well

There are in the region of 12,700 children (aged under 16) in the borough living in relative low income families, as of the end of March 2021. This equates to 37.6% and places Blackburn with Darwen the 3rd highest in the North West.^x

A high proportion of babies born to mothers from Blackburn with Darwen have a low birth weight. The proportion of low birth weight amongst term babies was 4.8% in 2020. This is significantly worse than both national (2.9%) and the regional (2.7%) average.^{xi}

The latest data (2021-22) looking at the percentage of five year olds with visually obvious dental decay^{xii} showed that the borough has the fourth highest rate of tooth decay amongst upper tier authorities in England (from councils with available data). This is an improvement from the previous period, where the borough had the worst rate nationally.

Data from 2021/22 National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP), shows over 1 in 5 children (20.2 %) in reception (4-5 year olds) and just under 4 in 10 children (39.5%) in Year 6 in Blackburn with Darwen were overweight or living with obesity.^{xiii} As with national trends, obesity levels in the borough tend to be highest in the most deprived areas, and lowest in the least deprived.

Blackburn with Darwen has the highest rate of children killed or seriously injured on England's roads in 2018-20. This increased from a rate of 50.1 per 100,000 in 2017-19 to 55.0 per 100,000 in 2018-20, compared to the England average of 15.9 per 100,000.^{xiv}

Educational attainment of young people in the borough is measured at various points. For Key Stage 2, the end of primary school, 60% of Blackburn with Darwen pupils achieved the 'expected standard' in reading, writing and maths in 2021-22, slightly above the national average (59%).^{xv} With girls, pupils from an Asian/Asian British ethnicity and pupils not receiving free school meals amongst the categories who, on average, performed better.

Live well

Levels of physical activity among adults in continue to be lower in the borough compared to the national average. In 2020/21, 57.8% of adults in the borough stated they were physically active compared to 65.9% of adults nationally.^{xvi}

Alcohol consumption has been a major public health problem for the borough. From 2017-19, the rate of alcohol-specific mortality among Blackburn with Darwen residents was 16 per 100,000, significantly higher than England (10.9 per 100,000).^{xvii} Although, in 2020 the borough saw a 56.3% completion rate for those in alcohol treatment, significantly higher than the England average of 35.3% and the second highest rate of the upper tier local authorities in England.^{xviii}

Health outcomes in the borough tend to be worse than national averages. Deaths from cardiovascular diseases are significantly higher among Blackburn with Darwen residents. Whilst deaths from cardiovascular disease deaths (CVD) in people aged under 75 has been declining in the last two decades, in 2017-19, it ranked 17th highest out of 150 upper-tier authorities in England.^{xix} GP reported diabetes prevalence in Blackburn with Darwen patients is 8.8%, significantly higher than England rate (7.1%) in 2021.^{xx}

In 2021-22, 16.2% of Blackburn with Darwen patients aged 18 or over were recorded on their GP's 'QOF' register as having depression^{xxi}. This is higher than the England average of 12.7%, and means that the borough ranks 13th highest rate across English upper tier authorities.

Age well

Take up of a number of screening services was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, with the percentage of people taking up bowel cancer, breast and cervical screening below national levels. However, data for NHS Health Checks identifies that during the 2021/22 period, 5.9% of the eligible population received a health check compared to the England average of 3.5%.^{xxii}

As of the 31st March 2020, there were around 750 patients over the age of 65 in the borough that were registered with the Council as blind or partially sighted.^{xxiii} In comparison to other upper tier authorities, the borough has the 3rd highest rate of 65-74 years old registered blind or partially sighted and 8th highest rate amongst those aged 75+.

Data from 2021/22 has highlighted the rate of hospital admissions of residents aged 65 and over for hip fractures at 679 per 100,000; significantly higher than the England rate of 551 per 100,000 and the highest in England.^{xxiv}

As at July 2022, GP practices in Blackburn with Darwen had a total of 1,066 patients, aged 65 or over who had been formally diagnosed with dementia.^{xxv} NHS Digital estimates the true total (whether diagnosed or not) to be nearer 1,568, so this means that 68% of those affected have received a diagnosis (England average is 62%). The target is for at least two-thirds of people with dementia to have a formal diagnosis.

For the period 2018-2020, healthy life expectancy from birth in Blackburn with Darwen is 58.8 years for males and 59.7 years for females.^{xxvi} When healthy life expectancy is divided by total life expectancy, figures suggest that males in Blackburn with Darwen can expect to spend 77% of their life in good health (England 79.5%), and females 74.3% of their life in good health (England 76.9%).

Over time, for people of all ages, a greater proportion of the borough's residents die in hospital compared to England, and a lower proportion die in care homes. Focusing specifically on older people, a greater proportion of people aged 85 and over die in hospital compared to England (44.1% compared to 38.8%). For residents aged 65 to 84, the proportion who die in a hospital is 56.9% compared to 47.9% nationally.^{xxvii}

- ⁱ Office for National Statistics (2022). 2021 Census – Age by single year TS007 and Sex by single year of age TS009. Available from <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/articles/demographyandmigrationdatacontent/2022-11-02#demography-unrounded-population-estimates>
- ⁱⁱ Census 2021 (2022) Table TS021 – Ethnic group. Available from https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/census_2021_ts
- ⁱⁱⁱ Census 2021 (2022) Table TS030 – Religion. Available from https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/census_2021_ts
- ^{iv} Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2019). English Indices of Deprivation 2019. Available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>
- ^v Census 2021 (2022) Table TS038ASP – Disability – Age-standardised proportions. Available from https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/census_2021_ts
- ^{vi} Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (2022). Public Health Outcomes Framework – downloadable data. Available from <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/public-health-outcomes-framework/data#page/0/gid/1000049/pat/6/par/E12000002/ati/102/are/E06000008/iid/90366/age/1/sex/1/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yr/3/cid/4/tbm/1>
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- ^{viii} Census 2021 (2022). TS017 – Household size. Available from https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/census_2021_ts
- ^{ix} Annual Population Survey (2022) Economic Inactivity and reasons (July 2021- June 2022) Available from [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk)
- ^x End Child Poverty (2022). Poverty in your area. Available from <https://endchildpoverty.org.uk/>
- ^{xi} Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (2022). Child and Maternal Health Profiles. Available from <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/child-health-profiles>
- ^{xii} Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (2023). Oral health survey of 5 year old children 2022. Available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/oral-health-survey-of-5-year-old-children-2022>
- ^{xiii} Ibid.
- ^{xiv} Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (2022). Child and Maternal Health – school-age children. Available from <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/child-health-profiles#page/1/gid/1938133224/pat/15/ati/402/are/E06000008/iid/93701/age/169/sex/4/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yr/1/cid/4/tbm/1>
- ^{xv} Department for Education (2022). Key stage 2 attainment. Available from <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/>
- ^{xvi} Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (2022). Physical Activity – key indicators. Available from <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/physical-activity/data#page/1/gid/1938132899/pat/6/par/E12000002/ati/402/iid/93014/age/298/sex/4/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yr/1/cid/4/tbm/1>
- ^{xvii} Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (2022). Local alcohol profiles – Key Indicators. Available from <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/local-alcohol-profiles/data#page/1/gid/1938132984/ati/402/iid/93763/age/1/sex/4/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yr/1/cid/4/tbm/1>
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- ^{xix} Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (2022). Public Health Outcomes Framework – Healthcare and premature mortality. Available from <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/public-health-outcomes-framework#page/1/gid/1000044/pat/15/par/E92000001/ati/402/are/E06000008/yr/1/cid/4/tbm/1>
- ^{xx} NHS Digital (2022). National Diabetes Audit (NDA) 2021-22 quarterly report for England, Clinical Commissioning Groups and GP practices – PROVISIONAL. Available from <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/national-diabetes-audit/nda-core-e4-21-22/nda-core-e4-21-22>
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- ^{xxvii} Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (2022). Palliative and End of Life Care Profiles – Place of death. Available from <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/end-of-life/data#page/1/gid/1938132883/pat/6/par/E12000002/ati/402/iid/93474/age/1/sex/4/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yr/1/cid/4/tbm/1>