



Belfast: Profiling Health, Wellbeing & Prosperity

ERICA ISON



THE DATA BEHIND THE PEOPLE & THE CITY



PEOPLE

People: Belfast's demography

The population is ageing, but not to the same extent as Northern Ireland and other LGDs

Highest proportion of live births within Northern Ireland's total, but fertility is low and decreasing

- fertility is below the population replacement rate in the absence of migration

Belfast has an increasing share of Northern Ireland's international migrants

- but it has the largest percentage decrease in internal and external migration flows of all LGDs

By 2028, the population is projected to increase, but only slightly

- by the second lowest percentage increase of all LGDs

Belfast has a higher level of ethnic diversity than Northern Ireland, and the highest level of ethnic diversity among LGDs

People: risk factors, and uptake of preventive services in Belfast

High rates of adults smoking cigarettes, and of drinking and drinking above the recommended weekly limits

- but rates are decreasing

Uptake of cervical screening, of breast screening, and of bowel cancer screening are lower than in Northern Ireland and lowest among HSCTs

- but rates are increasing for breast screening

People: outcomes in Belfast

Life expectancy (LE) at birth and life expectancy at 65 years for both men and women in Belfast is lower than life expectancies for men and women in Northern Ireland

- but LE at birth in men and LE at 65 years in men and women in Belfast are increasing

Avoidable deaths, and early deaths (<75 years) from circulatory disease, and from cancer are higher than those in Northern Ireland and highest among LGDs

- but rates are decreasing

Highest admission rate for alcohol-related causes, especially in men, and 3rd highest admission rate for drug-related causes

- but rates are decreasing

People: mental health in Belfast

Equal 2nd highest mean score for levels of anxiety

Equal highest prescription rate for mood and anxiety

3rd highest admission rate for self-harm

- but rate is decreasing

Highest crude rate for deaths from intentional self-harm

- but rate is decreasing

People: poorer health and wellbeing outcomes in Belfast

Indicators

- Overweight and obesity is increasing in children and adults
- Decreasing uptake of cervical screening and of bowel cancer screening
- Increasing prescription rate for mood and anxiety, particularly in women

Poorer outcomes

- Men's health across a range of indicators
- Health of people in Belfast West and in Belfast North across a range of indicators
- Health of people in Belfast's most-deprived areas across a range of indicators
- Emergency admissions for women in Belfast East

People: outcomes within Belfast

BOX 4:

Indicators for which people in the most-deprived areas in Belfast have poorer outcomes

- Life-expectancy at birth
- Life-expectancy at 65 years
- Standardised death rate for avoidable deaths
- Standardised death rate for circulatory disease in people under 75 years
- Standardised death rate for cancer in people aged under 75 years
- Standardised admission rate for alcohol-related causes
- Standardised admission rate for drug-related causes
- Standardised prescription rate for mood and anxiety
- Standardised admission rate for self-harm
- Crude death rate for intentional self-harm
- Standardised admission rate for emergency admissions



People: outcomes within Belfast

TABLE 4:

INDICATORS FOR WHICH BELFAST WEST, BELFAST NORTH, AND BELFAST EAST HAVE POORER OUTCOMES (*shading indicates worse outcomes*)

INDICATOR	Belfast West	Belfast North	Belfast East
Life expectancy at birth			
Standardised death rate for avoidable deaths			
Standardised death rate for circulatory diseases in people aged under 75 years			
Standardised death rate for cancer in people aged under 75 years			
Standardised admission rate for alcohol-related causes			
Standardised prescription rate for mood and anxiety			
Standardised admission rate for self-harm			
Standardised admission rate for emergency admissions			Women

People: outcomes for men in Belfast

BOX 5:

Indicators revealing poorer health outcomes for men in Belfast

- Life-expectancy at birth
- Life-expectancy at 65 years
- Standardised death rate for avoidable deaths
- Standardised death rate for circulatory disease in people aged under 75 years
- Standardised death rate for cancer in people aged under 75 years
- Standardised admission rate for alcohol-related causes
- Standardised admission rate for self-harm
- Standardised admission rate for emergency admissions



People: outcomes for men in Belfast

TABLE 5:

INDICATORS FOR WHICH THERE ARE INEQUALITIES AMONG OUTCOMES FOR MEN IN BELFAST'S ASSEMBLY AREAS (*shading indicates worse outcomes*)

INDICATOR	Belfast East	Belfast North	Belfast South	Belfast West
Life expectancy at birth	Higher	Lower	Highest	Lowest
Standardised death rate for avoidable deaths	Lower	Higher	Lowest	Highest
Standardised death rate for circulatory disease in people aged under 75 years	Lower	Higher	Lowest	Highest
Standardised death rate for cancer in people aged under 75 years	Lower	Higher	Lowest	Highest
Standardised admission rate for alcohol-related causes	Lower	Highest	Lowest	Higher
Standardised admission rate for self-harm	Lower	Highest	Lowest	Higher
Standardised admission rate for emergency admissions	Lower	Highest	Lowest	Higher



THE DATA BEHIND THE PEOPLE & THE CITY

PLACE

Place: transport and travel in Belfast

Main modes of travel are active travel – walking and cycling – and public transport (Metro and Glider services), but bicycle ownership is relatively low although increasing

Within Northern Ireland:

- **Highest** frequency of use of public transport every day and at least once a week
- **Highest** percentage of people satisfied with the provision for walking and walkers in the local area, but this is decreasing
- **Highest** percentage of people likely to walk for short journeys
- **Lowest** levels of journey by car, and **lowest** levels of car ownership



Place: Belfast's housing stock

Housing stock in Belfast comprises one-fifth of that in Northern Ireland

When compared with Northern Ireland, there is:

- **Higher** percentage of apartments, terraces and semi-detached dwellings
- **Lower** percentage of owner-occupied dwellings
- **Higher** percentage of social rented sector dwellings
- **Higher** percentage of dwellings built from pre-1918 to 1965

Place: housing conditions in Belfast

When compared with Northern Ireland, there is:

- **Higher** percentage of dwellings with any disrepair
- **Higher** percentage of dwellings not meeting the Decent Homes Standard
- **Lower** percentage of dwellings deemed unfit
- **Lower** percentage of dwellings With Housing Health & Safety Rating System (HHSRS) Category 1 hazard/s, which poses a serious and immediate risk to a person's health and safety
- **Lower** percentage of dwellings deemed to be overcrowded against the bedroom standard
- **Higher** ratings of domestic energy efficiency

Place: Belfast's households

Compared with Northern Ireland:

- Similar percentages of people aged 0-75 years and older than 75 years
- **Higher** percentage of 1-person households
- **Lower** percentages of 4- and 5-plus-person households
- **Lower** average household size
- **Higher** percentages of 1-adult households and 1-adult households with children
- **Lower** percentages of 2-adult, and other households, without children, and other households with children

Place: housing supply and demand

Housing Growth Indicators for 2030

- 7,400 new dwellings will be required for Belfast LGD, representing 8.73% of Northern Ireland's total (84,800)
- 5th highest new dwelling requirement among LGDs

Belfast's share of Northern Ireland's housing completions (2019/20)

- Of 6,603 new dwelling completed in the private sector, 469 were in Belfast
- Of 710 new dwellings completed in the social housing sector, 176 were in Belfast

Total Belfast completions 645

Place: housing- related benefits

In Belfast, the percentage of households receiving a *housing-related benefit* was highest among LGDs, comprising one-quarter of households receiving such benefits in Northern Ireland

In Belfast, 39,275 households were receiving **Housing Benefit** in 2019. For household tenants of:

- the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) receiving Housing Benefit, Belfast comprised 28.15% of Northern Ireland's total
- a Housing Association receiving Housing Benefit, Belfast comprised 40.77% of Northern Ireland's total
- in the private rented sector receiving Housing Benefit, Belfast households comprised 19.37% of Northern Ireland's total

Place: social housing need in Belfast

The waiting list for social housing in Belfast (applications in a financial year) comprised more than one-quarter (27.92%) of Northern Ireland's total applications

Among Belfast households applying for social housing, the households in housing stress comprised approaching one-third (29.35%) of Northern Ireland's total in housing stress

Total allocations (including transfers) to social housing in Belfast comprised more than one-quarter (28.25%) of Northern Ireland's total allocations

Place: homelessness in Belfast

Homelessness presentations comprised 31.37% of Northern Ireland's total

Acceptances of homelessness comprised 29.36% of Northern Ireland's total

Households placed in temporary accommodation comprised 36.76% of Northern Ireland's total

Compared with other LGDs, Belfast had the highest numbers and the highest percentages of homelessness presentations and acceptances of homelessness



THE DATA BEHIND THE PEOPLE & THE CITY

PARTICIPATION

Participation: satisfaction and loneliness in Belfast

Compared with Northern Ireland:

- Satisfaction with life is lower in Belfast
- Job satisfaction is lower in Belfast
- A higher percentage of people who feel lonely in Belfast

Compared with other LGDs/HSCTs:

- Lowest satisfaction with life in Belfast
- Highest percentage of people who feel lonely in Belfast
- Lowest level of volunteering in the previous year

Participation

Participation in sport

Compared with Northern Ireland and other LGDs, Belfast has relatively low levels of:

- participation in sport at least once a week, and in the previous year
- membership of sports clubs

Public library usage

Compared with Northern Ireland, Belfast has higher levels of public library usage, and highest usage among LGDs

Engagement in the Arts

Compared with Northern Ireland, Belfast has lower levels of:

- Engagement in the Arts
- Participation in the Arts
- Attendance at Arts events

Visits to museums or science centres

Compared with Northern Ireland and other LGDs, Belfast has higher levels of visiting these venues



THE DATA BEHIND THE PEOPLE & THE CITY



PROSPERITY

Prosperity: Belfast's labour market

Jobs

Compared with Northern Ireland, Belfast has:

- **higher** percentage of jobs in the public sector (compared with private sector, but these jobs are increasing)
- **higher** percentage of full-time jobs (compared with part-time jobs)

Main industries

- Public administration, education, & health
- Banking & finance
- Distribution, hotels, & restaurants

Compared with Northern Ireland, Belfast has:

- A **lower** economic activity rate and **lower** employment rate, but both are increasing
- A **higher** economic inactivity rate, but decreasing
- A **higher** average claimant count overall, but decreasing
- A **higher** level of underemployment
- A **lower** percentage of the working-age population with a degree-level or below degree-level qualification
- A **higher** percentage of the working-age population with no qualification

Prosperity: poverty and deprivation

Poverty

In Belfast:

- **one-fifth of household income is from benefits and tax credits**
- **the proportion of weekly income from wages is decreasing**

Compared with Northern Ireland, Belfast has:

- **Lower** gross disposable household income per head and gross weekly pay (full-time median wage) by place of residence
- **Higher** relative income poverty before housing costs not only for all individuals but also for children
- **Higher** food insecurity/poverty

Deprivation

Belfast has:

- **highest** percentage of Northern Ireland's 100 most-deprived Super Output Areas (SOAs)
- **highest** percentage of SOAs in Northern Ireland's 10% most-deprived areas
- **2nd highest** percentage of SOAs in Northern Ireland's 20% most-deprived areas

Belfast West is the most-deprived parliamentary constituency in Northern Ireland

Prosperity: poorer outcomes relating to economy

People in Belfast West and in Belfast North

People in the most-deprived areas of Belfast

Children in relative income poverty before housing costs

Prosperity: occupations in Belfast's assembly areas

TABLE 2:
MAIN TYPES OF OCCUPATION OF THE WORKING-AGE POPULATION IN BELFAST'S ASSEMBLY AREAS

OCCUPATION OF WORKING-AGE POPULATION	Belfast East	Belfast North	Belfast South	Belfast West
Managers, directors & senior officials	Higher	Lowest	Higher	Highest
Professional	Higher	Lowest	Highest	Lower
Associate professional & technical	Higher	Lower	Highest	Lowest
Administrative & secretarial	Higher	Lower	Lowest	Highest
Sales & customer service	Lowest	Highest	Lower	Higher
Skilled trades	Mid-range	Highest	Lowest	Mid-range
Caring, leisure & other services	Higher	Highest	Lowest	Higher
Process plant & machine operatives	Lower	Higher	Lowest	Highest
Elementary	Lowest	Highest	Higher	Higher

Prosperity: education

When compared with Northern Ireland, **Belfast has higher percentages of:**

- Pupils with special educational needs (SEN) at Stage 1-4
- Pupils with SEN Stage 5
- Primary school pupils with free school meal entitlement (FSME), which reflects the level of deprivation in Belfast
- Pupil suspensions

When compared with Northern Ireland, **Belfast has lower percentages of:**

- School leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs Grades A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths
- FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs Grades A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths
- School leavers entering higher and further education

Prosperity: poorer education outcomes

Indicators

- Percentage of pupils with SEN Stage 5
- Percentage of pupils achieving at least 5 GCSEs Grades A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths
- Percentage of school leavers who become unemployed or whose destination is unknown

Poorer outcomes

- Pupils and school leavers in Court, Oldpark, and Titanic District Electoral Areas (DEAs)
- Pupils and school leavers in Belfast West and in Belfast North

Prosperity: poorer educational outcomes

TABLE 3:

BELFAST DEAS WITH POORER OUTCOMES FOR ONE OR MORE EDUCATION-RELATED INDICATORS

INDICATOR	Black Mountain	Collin	Court	Lisnasharragh	Oldpark	Titanic
Pupil suspensions	Higher		Highest		Higher	Higher
Pupils with SEN Stage 1-4	Higher		Higher		Highest	Higher
Pupils with SEN Stage 5	Higher	Higher	Highest	Higher	Higher	
FSME: primary pupils	Higher	Higher	Highest		Higher	Higher
School leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs Grades A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths			Lowest		Lower	Lower
FSME school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs Grades A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths					Lowest	Lower
School leavers' destinations	Unemployed or unknown: Higher		Higher education: Lower Unemployed or unknown: Highest		Higher education: Lower	Higher education: Lowest Unemployed or unknown: Higher



THE DATA BEHIND THE PEOPLE & THE CITY



PEACE

Peace: crime and its impact on quality of life in Belfast

Belfast City Policing District has highest percentages of:

- Experience of crime
- Police-recorded crime

Experience of crime

Higher percentages of experience of crime in **Belfast West, Belfast South,** and **Belfast North**

Police-recorded crime

Belfast North and Belfast West:

- Higher rates of violence, criminal damage & arson, deliberate fires, and antisocial behaviour incidents

Belfast North

- Higher rates of burglary

Belfast South

- Higher rates of burglary and theft

Peace: crime and its impact on quality of life in Belfast

Domestic abuse

- Highest rate of incidents and of recorded crimes
- 5th lowest outcome rate

Racism

- Highest rate of incidents and of recorded crimes
- 3rd lowest outcome rate

Sectarianism

- 2nd highest rate of incidents and of recorded crimes
- 4th lowest outcome rate

Homophobia

- Highest rate of incidents and equal highest rate of recorded crimes
- 3rd lowest outcome rate

Peace:
*domestic
 abuse and
 hate
 crimes in
 Belfast's
 assembly
 areas*

**TABLE 1:
 OVERVIEW OF POORER OUTCOMES FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE AND HATE CRIME IN
 BELFAST'S LOCAL POLICING AREAS**

INDICATOR	Belfast East	Belfast North	Belfast South	Belfast West
Domestic abuse: number of incidents		Higher		Higher
Domestic abuse: number of recorded crimes		Higher		Higher
Domestic abuse: outcome rate:	Lower		Lower	
Racism: number of incidents		Higher	Higher	
Racism: number of recorded crimes			Higher	Higher
Racism: outcome rate	Lower			
Sectarianism: number of incidents		Higher		
Sectarianism: number of recorded crimes	Higher	Higher	Higher	
Sectarianism: outcome rates	Lower		Lower	
Homophobia: number of incidents				Higher
Homophobia: number of recorded crimes		Higher		Higher
Homophobia: outcome rate			Lower	

Peace: crime and its impact on quality of life in Belfast

Belfast has:

- **equal highest** percentage of people who worry about crime and personal safety
- **highest** percentage of people who perceive a “great” effect of fear of crime on the quality of their lives, and 2nd highest percentage perceiving a “moderate” effect
- **2nd highest percentage** of people who perceive a high level of antisocial behaviour
- **2nd lowest** percentage of people with overall confidence in policing and police accountability arrangements in Northern Ireland
- **2nd lowest** percentage of people with confidence in local policing

Peace: interface peace lines, walls and barriers in Belfast

Belfast has the highest number, and the highest percentage share, of Northern Ireland's peace lines, walls and barriers compared with Derry, Lurgan and Portadown

Number of peace lines, walls and barriers has been increasing since 1994

Highest numbers and highest percentage shares are in 'North' Belfast and 'West' Belfast

Within Belfast, the highest percentages of people who would like peace walls to stay are in 'West' Belfast and 'East' Belfast



THE DATA BEHIND THE PEOPLE & THE CITY

PLANET

Planet: Belfast's local environment

- Lowest capacity for and generation of **electricity from renewable sources**
- 2nd lowest LGD for amount of **household waste** generated, but 2nd lowest for **amount re-used, recycled and composted**
- Highest number and rate of **noise complaints**, both of which are increasing
- Highest number and rate of **notices served for noise complaints** (>95% Northern Ireland's total), but the rate of notices served is decreasing

4 **Air Quality Management Areas**, all due to NO₂ emissions, but one subsequently amended to add PM_{2.5}

Belfast has 2 sites in UK's Automatic Urban & Rural Network:

- For **NO₂** at 2 sites, levels are decreasing
- For **PM_{2.5}** at only site, levels are decreasing

Planet: Belfast's local environment

Largest area of significant flood risk in Northern Ireland

North East River Basin:

Lowest percentage of rivers of “high” and of “good” status

Lagan Local Management Area:

For majority of sampling sites on natural water bodies, overall status is moderate

For heavily modified water bodies, ecological potential was either moderate or poor

Planet: Belfast's carbon emissions

BOX 1:

Carbon emissions indicators for which there is a decreasing trend in Belfast

- Total carbon emissions
- Total carbon emissions within the scope of influence of the local authority
- Total carbon emissions in the domestic housing sector within the scope of influence of the local authority
- Total carbon emissions in the transport sector
- Carbon emissions in the transport sector within the scope of influence of the local authority
- Total carbon emissions per capita
- Carbon emissions per capita within the scope of influence of the local authority
- Total carbon emissions: Scope 1 and Scope 2

Despite decreasing carbon emissions, the Belfast Climate Commission recognised the need for radical action to reduce carbon emissions to a level that would enable Belfast to reach net zero by 2030



Planet: climate change projections for Belfast

Climate hazards predicted to have the greatest impact on Belfast are:

1. **sea-level rise**
2. **flood risk**

By 2100, sea-level rise in Belfast will range from 0.18 to 0.64 metres (medium emissions scenario)

By 2115, 7,900 Belfast properties will be at risk of flooding, 6,050 residential and 1,860 commercial properties