



**HFMA guidance map**  
Updated February 2024



# Health inequalities data sources map

A tool to enable NHS finance staff to support their organisations to tackle health inequalities

The CPD Standards Office  
CPD PROVIDER: 50137  
2022-2024  
[www.cpdstandards.com](http://www.cpdstandards.com)



# Contents

<b>Contents</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>National policy documents</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Broad health inequalities' data</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>National indices of deprivation</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>Practical tools to support health inequalities' work</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Focused health inequalities' data and reports</b> .....	<b>9</b>
Race / ethnicity .....	9
Mental health .....	9
Obesity.....	10
Smoking.....	10
Alcohol.....	11
Drug misuse.....	11
Urgent and emergency care.....	11
Elective care .....	11
Other socio-economic areas .....	12
Rural and coastal areas .....	13
<b>Useful websites</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>About the HFMA</b> .....	<b>15</b>

# Introduction


The HFMA has produced this map of health inequalities policy and data from across the four nations of the United Kingdom. It brings together key national guidance and data with useful resources to support NHS finance professionals.

As the NHS seeks to tackle the health inequalities brought into sharp focus by the Covid-19 pandemic, it is vital that NHS finance staff can support their organisations using good quality data and evidence.

Aimed primarily at NHS finance professionals in both provider and commissioner organisations, this map provides a quick reference guide to key guidance documents, national statistics and data focusing on specific areas of health inequality.






There is a vast amount of information available to support work to tackle health inequalities and this map cannot include it all. However, the items included cover key areas and provide references to other useful sources.

This forms part of a suite of maps including *NHS value and efficiency map*; *Integrated care system finance and governance guidance map*; *Mental health guidance and resources map*; *NHS environmental sustainability guidance map*; and *Health inequalities data sources map*.

The map will be updated periodically as new guidance is produced or identified, marked as . Please e-mail [policy@hfma.org.uk](mailto:policy@hfma.org.uk) with any links to further guidance or resources that may be helpful to include.






## National policy documents

The underpinning strategies that support national work to tackle health inequalities

Links to guidance		Last updated
	<b>ENGLAND NHS England: <i>National healthcare inequalities improvement programme</i></b> including links to Core20PLUS5 approach for adults and children, plus the health inequalities improvement dashboard.	2023
	<b>ENGLAND Department of Health and Social Care: <i>Women's health strategy for England</i></b> sets out the ambitions for women's health in England, recognising that women spend a greater proportion of their lives in ill health.	August 2022
	<b>ENGLAND Department of Health and Social Care: <i>The Hewitt Review: an independent review of integrated care systems</i></b> sets the direction of travel for policy including support to reducing health inequalities through prevention and alignment of financial policy.	April 2022
	<b>ENGLAND NHS England: <i>Health and justice framework for integration 2022-2025: improving lives – reducing inequality</i></b> national policy which recognises the inequalities faced by individuals who interact with the justice system.	November 2022
	<b>ENGLAND Public Health England: <i>Addressing health inequalities through collaborative action</i></b> approach to health inequalities and the action that can be taken to address them. Links to various national frameworks and tools.	September 2021
	<b>NORTHERN IRELAND Department of Health: <i>Making life better</i></b> a whole system strategic framework for public health 2013-2023.	June 2014
	<b>SCOTLAND Scottish Government: <i>Public health priorities for Scotland</i></b>	June 2018
	<b>WALES Public Health Wales: <i>Measuring the health and well-being of a nation</i></b> public health outcomes framework for Wales.	March 2016
	<b>WALES Public Health Wales: <i>Placing health equity at the heart of the Covid-19 sustainable response and recovery</i></b> report focusing on the wider effects of the pandemic on a range of issues including: poverty, deprivation and social exclusion; unemployment, education and the digital divide; harmful housing and working conditions; and violence and crime.	March 2021
	<b>WALES Public Health Wales: <i>Rising to the triple challenge of Brexit, Covid-19 and climate change for health, well-being and equity in Wales</i></b> examining a range of factors that will be impacted by the three challenges, including health, economic, social and security, mental wellbeing, environment and access to, and quality of services and highlights how this 'triple challenge' will impact on the health behaviours of the population.	October 2021

## Broad health inequalities' data

Reports and data sources that cover several areas of health inequality or review the national picture

Links to guidance		Last updated
	<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b> <a href="#">The Health Foundation: Evidence hub: what drives health inequalities?</a> source of health inequalities data across money and resources; work; housing; and transport.	August 2021
	<b>ENGLAND</b> <a href="#">Institute of Health Equity: Health inequalities, lives cut short</a> considers impact on life expectancy and mortality related to health inequalities.	January 2024
	<b>ENGLAND</b> <a href="#">Centre for Ageing Better: The state of ageing 2023-24</a> examination of inequalities that impact ageing.	2024
	<b>ENGLAND</b> <a href="#">Office for National Statistics: Health inequalities</a> collection of current patterns and trends in ill health and death by measures of socio-economic status.	January 2023
	<b>ENGLAND</b> <a href="#">PWC: A fairer future: how can the NHS tackle health and social inequities?</a> findings and recommendations on health inequalities based on interviews and polling.	November 2022
	<b>ENGLAND</b> <a href="#">NHS Providers: Rising living costs: the impact on NHS, staff and patients</a> collective view from executive directors and chairs on the cost-of-living crisis through survey results.	September 2022
	<b>ENGLAND</b> <a href="#">Public Health England: Public health outcomes framework</a> trends in public health including widerdeterminants and life expectancy, with data available to local authority level.	February 2021
	<b>ENGLAND</b> <a href="#">Institute of Health Equity: Build back fairer – the Covid-19 Marmot review</a> the pandemic and socioeconomic and health inequalities in England.	December 2020
	<b>ENGLAND</b> <a href="#">Institute of Health Equity: Marmot review 10 years on</a> review of progress in the context of deteriorating population health and widening health inequalities since 2010.	February 2020
	<b>ENGLAND</b> <a href="#">University of York: The costs of inequality: whole-population modelling study of lifetime inpatient hospital costs in the English National Health Service by level of neighborhood deprivation</a> study examining how socioeconomic inequalities interact with life expectancy and healthcare use.	May 2016
	<b>ENGLAND</b> <a href="#">Institute of Health Equity: Fair society, healthy lives (the Marmot review)</a> report from an independent review to propose the most effective evidence-based strategies for reducing health inequalities in England.	February 2010

	<b>NORTHERN IRELAND Department of Health: <i>Health inequalities annual report 2023</i></b> a comprehensive analysis of health inequality gaps in Northern Ireland.	July 2023
	<b>SCOTLAND Scottish Government: <i>Long-term monitoring of health inequalities</i></b> annual update of the long-term monitoring of health inequalities headline indicators.	March 2023
	<b>SCOTLAND University of Glasgow: <i>Health inequalities in Scotland</i></b> part of a wider collaborative research project with The Health Foundation.	November 2022
	<b>SCOTLAND Public Health Scotland: <i>Informing interventions to reduce health inequalities</i></b> practical tools and evaluation of the impact of different interventions on population health and health inequalities.	March 2021
	<b>SCOTLAND Public Health Scotland: <i>Economics of prevention</i></b> a study into cost effective approaches to preventing poor health and narrowing health inequalities.	March 2016
	<b>WALES NHS Confederation: <i>Making the difference: tackling health inequalities in Wales</i></b> suggested actions for the Welsh Government to tackle health inequalities.	April 2021







## National indices of deprivation

Indices of deprivation are relative measures that describe national deprivation of each small area when compared with the rest of the country

Links to guidance	Last updated
<p><b>UNITED KINGDOM</b> <b>Consumer Data Research Centre: <i>Index of multiple deprivation – interactive map</i></b> an interactive map providing small area measures of relative deprivation across the whole United Kingdom, using the indices of multiple deprivation from the four nations.</p>	January 2024
<p><b>ENGLAND</b> <b>Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government: <i>English indices of deprivation 2019</i></b> the indices of deprivation (IoD2019) are a suite of 39 separate indicators across seven domains: income; employment; health deprivation and disability; education, skills training; crime; barriers to housing and services; and living environment. The weighted seven domains form the index of multiple deprivation (IMD2019).</p>	March 2022
<p><b>NORTHERN IRELAND</b> <b>Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency: <i>Northern Ireland multiple deprivation measure 2017</i></b> a relative measure of multiple deprivation across seven domains: income deprivation; employment deprivation; health deprivation and disability; education, skills and training; access to services (formerly proximity to services); living environment; and crime and disorder (NIMDM2017).</p>	February 2022
<p><b>SCOTLAND</b> <b>Scottish Government: <i>Scottish index of multiple deprivation 2020</i></b> a relative measure of deprivation across seven domains: income; employment; education; health; access to services; crime; and housing (SIMD2020).</p>	February 2022
<p><b>WALES</b> <b>Welsh Government: <i>Welsh index of multiple deprivation 2019</i></b> a relative measure of deprivation across eight domains: income; employment; health; education; access to services; housing; community safety; and physical environment (WIMD2019).</p>	January 2022

## Practical tools to support health inequalities' work

The publications in this section provide practical guidance on how to use the data sources to make a difference to local health inequalities

Links to guidance		Last updated
	<b>ENGLAND HFMA: <i>Using financial incentives to tackle health inequalities</i></b> summarises financial incentives at a national level, and looks at opportunities for individual systems to use financial incentives at a local level.	January 2024
	<b>ENGLAND HFMA: <i>Considering health inequalities in business cases</i></b> looks at practical ways in which business cases can consider health inequalities, stepping through the five case model recommended by HM Treasury.	December 2023
	<b>ENGLAND Institute of Health Equity: <i>Health inequalities: improving accountability in the NHS</i></b> examines mechanisms and levers in the NHS that enable and hinder action on health inequalities.	August 2023
	<b>ENGLAND HFMA: <i>Health inequalities: establishing the case for change</i></b> explores the financial and economic case for change, the moral and social issues, and their significance to different population groups.	May 2023
	<b>ENGLAND NHS England: <i>Tackling inequalities in healthcare access, experience, and outcomes</i></b> sets out actionable insights from 32 case studies.	July 2022
	<b>ENGLAND Public Health England: <i>Health economics: a guide for public health teams</i></b> resources to help local commissioners achieve value for money by estimating the return on investment (ROI) using various tools and cost-effectiveness of various public health programmes.	August 2021



## Focused health inequalities' data and reports

This section highlights reports and data that relate to specific areas of interest when considering health inequalities


### Race / ethnicity

Links to guidance	Last updated
<b>UNITED KINGDOM NHS Race and Health Observatory: <i>Ethnic inequalities in healthcare – a rapid evidence review</i></b> findings and recommendations of a rapid review of ethnic inequalities in healthcare and within the NHS workforce.	February 2022
<b>UNITED KINGDOM NHS Race and Health Observatory: <i>Ethnic health inequalities in the UK</i></b> infographic.	November 2021
<b>ENGLAND NHS Race and Health Observatory and Nuffield Trust: <i>The elective care backlog and ethnicity</i></b> research looking at variation in treatment rates for routine hospital care, both before and after the Covid-19 pandemic.	November 2022

### Mental health

Links to guidance	Last updated
<b>UNITED KINGDOM Centre for Mental Health: <i>Poverty, economic inequality and mental health</i></b> explores the link between poverty and mental ill health.	July 2022
<b>UNITED KINGDOM Centre for Mental Health: <i>Mental health inequalities factsheet</i></b> key statistics about mentalhealth inequalities.	November 2020
<b>UNITED KINGDOM Mental Health Foundation: <i>Tackling social inequalities to reduce mental health problems</i></b> evidence review to understand what types of social inequalities negatively affect mental health and how.	January 2020
<b>ENGLAND Local Government Association: <i>Health inequalities – mental health case studies</i></b> part of the healthinequalities hub, which is funded by the UK Government.	February 2022
<b>ENGLAND NHS England: <i>Advancing mental health equalities strategy</i></b> summarises the core actions to take to bridge the gaps for communities fairing worse than others in mental health services.	September 2020


## Obesity

Links to guidance		Last updated
	<b>ENGLAND The Kings Fund: <i>Tackling obesity – the role of the NHS in a whole-system approach</i></b> how the NHS can work in partnership with local partners, includes statistical data and extensive references.	July 2021
	<b>ENGLAND NHS Digital: <i>Statistics on obesity, physical activity and diet, England 2021</i></b> statistics including hospital admissions data.	May 2021
	<b>ENGLAND Public Health England: <i>Health matters: obesity and the food environment</i></b> obesity related statistics, economic cost, and the link to health inequalities including fast food outlet density data.	March 2017
	<b>SCOTLAND NHS Health Scotland: <i>Obesity and health inequalities in Scotland</i></b> summary report focusing on inequalities in the distribution of obesity in Scotland among adults and children.	July 2017

## Smoking

Links to guidance		Last updated
	<b>UNITED KINGDOM Cancer Research UK: <i>The economic case for local investment in smoking cessation</i></b> with links to further information and tools.	2017
	<b>ENGLAND Department of Health and Social Care: <i>Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation</i></b> policy paper on prohibiting the sale of tobacco products for future generations, supporting current smokers to quit and curbing the rise in youth vaping.	October 2023
	<b>ENGLAND Office for Health Improvement and Disparities: <i>The Khan review - Making smoking obsolete</i></b> independent review into the government's ambition to make England smoke free by 2030.	June 2022
	<b>ENGLAND NHS Digital: <i>Statistics on smoking, England 2020</i></b> range of statistics including mortality, hospital admissions, and prescribing.	December 2020
	<b>ENGLAND Public Health England: <i>Cost of smoking to the NHS in England: 2015</i></b> combined data from a number of sources to assess the impact of smoking on the NHS.	July 2017


## Alcohol

Links to guidance		Last updated
	<b>UNITED KINGDOM Alcohol Change UK: <i>Alcohol statistics</i></b> statistics relating to alcohol use in the UK.	2021
	<b>ENGLAND NHS Digital: <i>Statistics on alcohol, England 2021</i></b> range of statistics including hospital admissions, prescribing, and drinking behaviours.	January 2022
	<b>SCOTLAND NHS Health Scotland: <i>Hospital admissions, deaths and overall burden of disease attributable to alcohol consumption in Scotland</i></b>	February 2018


## Drug misuse

Links to guidance		Last updated
	<b>ENGLAND NHS Digital: <i>Statistics on drug misuse, England 2020</i></b> statistics including hospital admissions data	<b>January 2021</b>



## Urgent and emergency care

Links to guidance		Last updated
	<b>ENGLAND British Red Cross: <i>Nowhere else to turn</i></b> report exploring high intensity use of accident and emergency, showing that people from the most deprived areas are more likely to attend A&E most frequently.	November 2021


## Elective care

Links to guidance		Last updated
	<b>ENGLAND The King's Fund: <i>Tackling health inequalities on waiting lists</i></b> learning from local case studies.	November 2023





## Other socio-economic areas

Links to guidance		Last updated
	<b>ENGLAND</b> <b>The King's Fund and Centre for Progressive Policy: <i>Poverty and the health and care system</i></b> explores how the health and care system can better respond to the causes and impacts of poverty.	October 2022
	<b>ENGLAND</b> <b>Building Research Establishment (BRE): <i>The cost of poor housing in England</i></b> quantifies the cost burden to the NHS caused by various hazards arising from poor quality homes in England including payback period of investment in interventions.	November 2021

## Rural and coastal areas

Links to guidance	Last updated
 <b>ENGLAND University of Central Lancashire: <i>Remote and rural health and medicine</i></b> explores the challenges and inequalities faced in rural and remote communities.	March 2022
<b>ENGLAND Department of Health and Social Care: <i>Chief medical officer's annual report 2021: health in coastal communities</i></b> an analysis of the health and wellbeing of coastal communities, which include some of the worst health outcomes in England. Includes case studies and data analysis.	July 2021
<b>ENGLAND Public Health England: <i>Health inequalities in ageing in rural and coastal areas</i></b> intended to support strategic planning, service design and commissioning. Includes case studies and links to other research.	August 2019
<b>ENGLAND Local Government Association: <i>Health and wellbeing in rural areas</i></b> population profiles of different rural areas can be very diverse in relation to their level of affluence and their health outcomes but can be masked by average statistics. This report sets out why rural communities need particular consideration.	2017

## Useful websites

Links to guidance	Last updated
 <a href="#">Health Innovation Network</a>	
 <a href="#">Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)</a>	
 <a href="#">Health Anchors Learning Network</a>	
 <a href="#">NHS England: eLearning for health care disparities and inequalities</a>	
<a href="#">NHS Equality and Health Inequalities Hub</a>	
<a href="#">NHS Futures: Healthcare inequalities improvement programme</a>	
<a href="#">National Institute of Health and Care Excellence – evidence search</a>	
<a href="#">NHS Race and Health Observatory</a>	
<a href="#">Office for Health Improvement and Disparities</a>	
<a href="#">Centre for Mental Health</a>	
<a href="#">Institute of Health Equity</a>	
<a href="#">Race Disparity Unit</a>	

## About the HFMA

The Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA) is the professional body for finance staff in healthcare. For over 70 years, it has provided independent and objective advice to its members and the wider healthcare community. It is a charitable organisation that promotes best practice and innovation in financial management and governance across the UK health economy through its local and national networks.

The association also analyses and responds to national policy and aims to exert influence in shaping the wider healthcare agenda. It has particular interest in promoting the highest professional standards in financial management and governance and is keen to work with other organisations to promote approaches that really are 'fit for purpose' and effective.

The HFMA offers a range of qualifications in healthcare business and finance at undergraduate and postgraduate level and can provide a route to an MBA in healthcare finance. The qualifications are delivered through HFMA's Academy which was launched in 2017 and has already established strong learner and alumni networks.

© Healthcare Financial Management Association 2024. All rights reserved.

While every care had been taken in the preparation of this briefing, the HFMA cannot in any circumstances accept responsibility for errors or omissions, and is not responsible for any loss occasioned to any person or organisation acting or refraining from action as a result of any material in it.

### HFMA

HFMA House, 4 Broad Plain, Bristol, BS2 0JP

T 0117 929 4789

E [info@hfma.org.uk](mailto:info@hfma.org.uk)

Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA) is a registered charity in England and Wales, no 1114463 and Scotland, no SCO41994.

HFMA is also a limited company registered in England and Wales, no 5787972. Registered office: 110 Rochester Row, Victoria, London SW1P 1JP

[www.hfma.org.uk](http://www.hfma.org.uk)