

Greater Manchester Health Inequalities Statement 2025/26,

Plain English Summary

What is the Health Inequalities Statement?

The NHS has a duty to pay particular attention to groups or sections of society where improvements in health and life expectancy are not keeping up with the rest of the population.

NHS England has a statutory duty to annually assess Integrated Care Boards (ICBs). This means ICBs have to publish information on health inequalities as part of their annual reporting to support their legal duties (section 13SA of the NHS Act 2006) to reduce inequalities in patient access to healthcare, experience and health outcomes.

This Health Inequalities Statement explains where health inequalities exist across Greater Manchester and what NHS Greater Manchester is doing to reduce them. The statement looks at differences in health, access to services and health outcomes (including looking at differences in impact of poverty, ethnicity, age and sex), and tracks whether these gaps in health outcomes are changing over time.

What are health inequalities?

Health inequalities are unfair and avoidable differences in health between different groups of people. They can be linked to where people live, deprivation, age, ethnicity, disability, and other social circumstances.

Why does this matter?

Greater Manchester has more than 3.3 million residents. Around one in four people live in some of the most deprived areas in England.

Men living in the most deprived communities live around 9.5 years less than those in the least deprived communities. For women, the gap is around 7.5 years. Healthy life expectancy is also lower than the England average.

What did the report find?

The report shows that there have been improvements in some areas, but important health inequalities remain across Greater Manchester.

Infant mortality, obesity, diabetes, suicide, alcohol-related deaths, and other health outcomes continue to vary between communities.

Deprivation remains strongly linked with poorer health outcomes, and people living in more deprived communities are more likely to experience poorer health and reduced access to some preventative services.

Access to healthcare

Access to healthcare is not equal across Greater Manchester.

Children and young people, older people and people living in more deprived communities can experience poorer access and outcomes. Uptake of some vaccinations is also lower in more deprived communities.

Key areas where inequalities remain

Differences remain in areas including cardiovascular disease, cancer, respiratory disease, mental health, maternity care, and services for people with learning disabilities.

People living in more deprived communities are also more likely to experience emergency admissions, poorer health outcomes, and lower uptake of some preventative services.

Children and young people

Children and young people continue to experience inequalities in areas including emergency care use, oral health and school readiness.

These differences can affect health and wellbeing both now and later in life.

What is NHS Greater Manchester doing?

NHS Greater Manchester is working to prevent poor health as well as treat illness, with more support focused on communities with the greatest need.

It is working with local authorities, voluntary organisations and community groups through programmes including Live Well Neighbourhood Health and CORE20PLUS5.

Key priorities and actions

- Reduce the gap in health outcomes between the most and least deprived communities.
- Improve access, experience and outcomes for communities with the greatest need.
- Focus more on prevention and early support.

- Improve the quality of information used to understand health inequalities.
- Work with local communities and partners to target support where it is most needed.

In summary

Health inequalities remain one of the biggest challenges facing Greater Manchester. Progress has been made in some areas, but many people continue to experience poorer health because of where they live or the disadvantage, they face.

NHS Greater Manchester continues to work with partners and communities to reduce these differences and improve health outcomes across Greater Manchester.

Further information

The full [25/26 Health Inequalities Statement](#) is available, published on the [NHS Greater Manchester website](#).