



Lewisham



A Picture of Lewisham

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) 2026

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A Picture of Lewisham



- This document describes the population of Lewisham by looking at key health and socio-demographic characteristics including:
 - Mortality
 - Morbidity
 - Ethnicity
 - Inequalities
- The JSNA is updated with new information as it becomes available and new gaps are identified.

What is a JSNA?

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) considers and describes the current and future health and wellbeing needs of the local population.

Helps local authorities and partners fulfil their responsibility to improve health and wellbeing.

Producing a JSNA is a statutory requirement for health and wellbeing boards and is crucial for informing health and wellbeing strategies.

Highlights inequalities between different groups of the population.

Aids commissioning and strategic decision making.

JSNA process in Lewisham

- A revised JSNA process was agreed by the Health and Wellbeing Board in July 2017.
- **Read more:** [Revising Lewisham's JSNA process \[PDF\]](#).



Lewisham

The key stats



- Lewisham has a population of 301,255
- This makes it the 14th largest borough in London by population size
- And the 6th largest in inner-London.



Source: 2024 ONS Mid Year Population Estimates

Population by age and sex

- Lewisham has a young population bias.

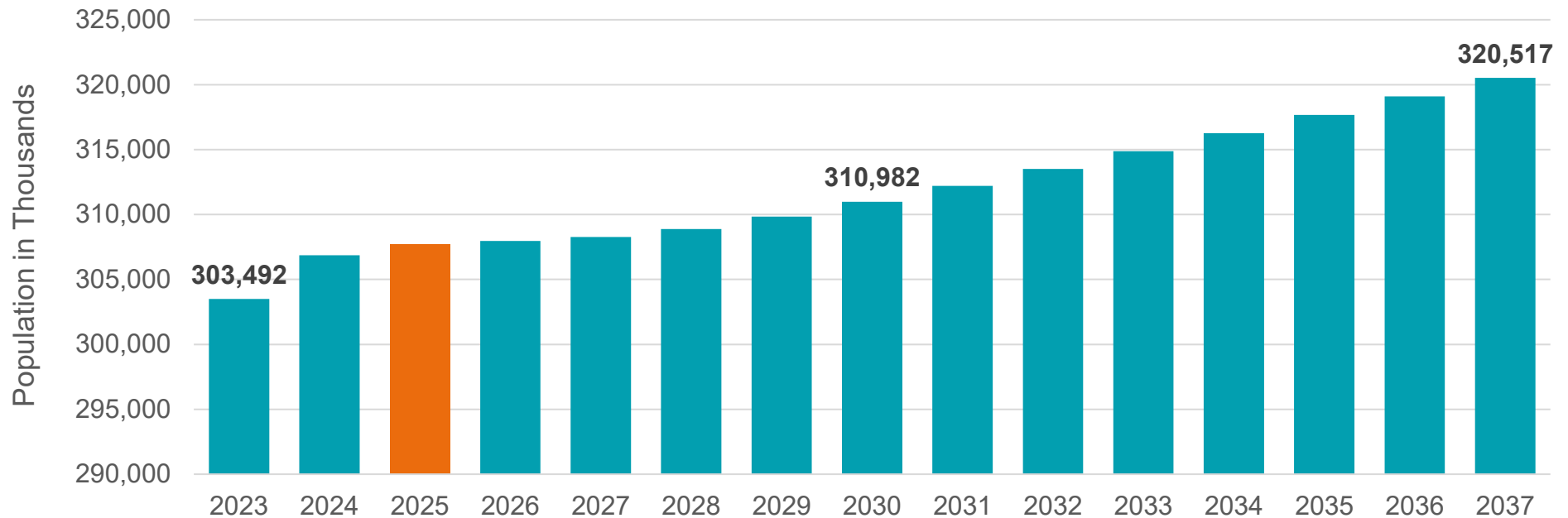
	Males	Females	Total
0-17	31,431	30,621	62,052
18-64	97,036	111,060	208,096
65+	13,798	17,309	31,107
Total	142,265	158,990	301,255

Source: 2024 ONS Mid Year Population Estimates



Population growth

- The population in Lewisham is set to continue to grow and expected to reach just under 311,000 by 2030 and 320,500 by 2037.
- This growth is through a combination of the number of births exceeding the number of deaths, migration and immigration.
- However, there are notable differences in projections between age groups, with the school aged population cohort (5-14) expected to decrease by almost 6,000 by 2030.



Population by ethnic group

Ethnic group	Population	Proportion (%)	Ethnic group	Population	Proportion (%)
Bangladeshi	1,826	0.6	White and Black Caribbean	8,726	2.9
Chinese	6,296	2.1	Other mixed or multiple ethnic group	7,394	2.5
Indian	5,046	1.7	White British	111,726	37.2
Pakistani	2,361	0.8	White Irish	5,055	1.7
Other Asian	11,398	3.8	White Gypsy or Traveller	116	0.0
Black African	37,834	12.6	White Roma	1,033	0.3
Black Caribbean	31,883	10.6	Other White ethnic group	36,819	12.3
Other Black ethnic group	10,756	3.6	Arab	1,671	0.6
White and Asian	4,359	1.5	Other ethnic group	12,480	4.2
White and Black African	3,774	1.3	Total	300,600	100

Diversity

The population of Lewisham is expected to continue to diversify over the coming decades.

Over 61,000 residents have a non-UK identity only

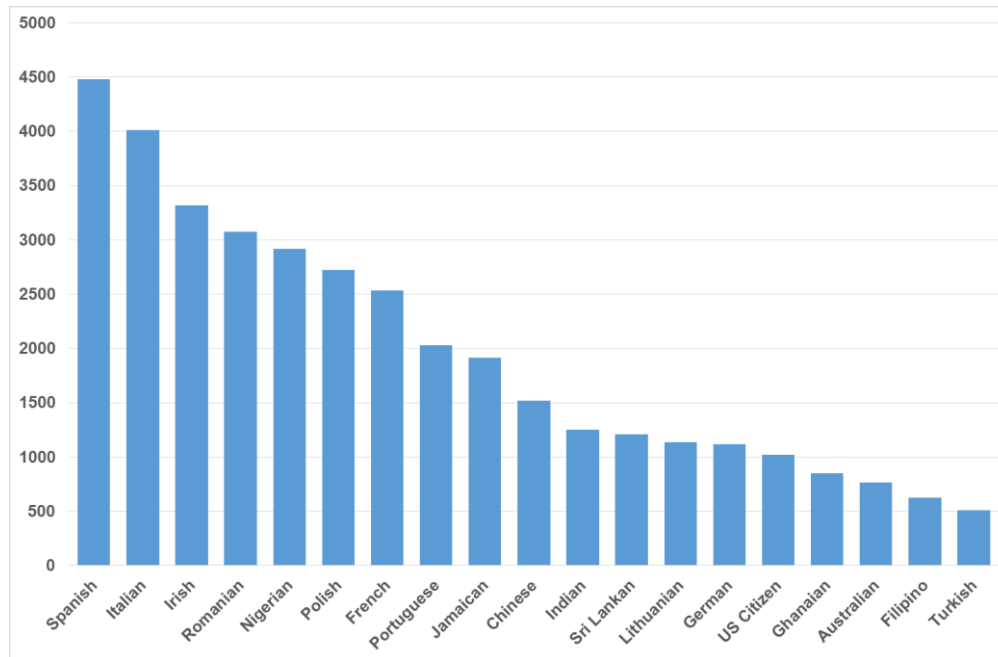
Over 30,400 residents are from an EU nation state

Spanish is now the second largest nationality after British

Nigerian is the largest non-EU nationality (and 6th largest overall)

Nationalities

- This chart shows the national identities as answered in the 2021 Census by Lewisham residents.
- Excluding British, the top ten most numerous nationalities are: Spanish, Italian, Irish, Romanian, Nigerian, Polish, French, Portuguese, Jamaican and Chinese.

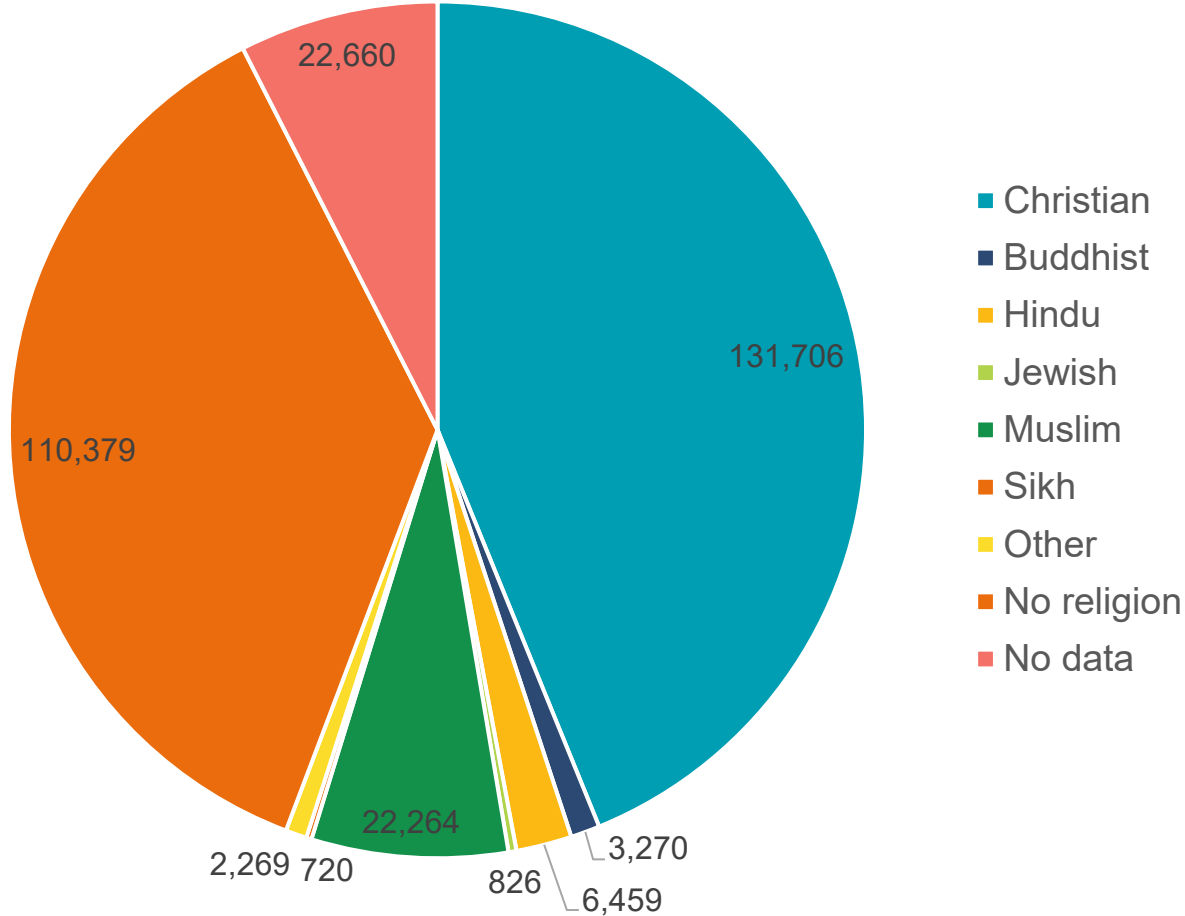


70%

of the top ten countries are in the EU. Nigeria, Jamaica and China are the only non-EU nations.

Religion

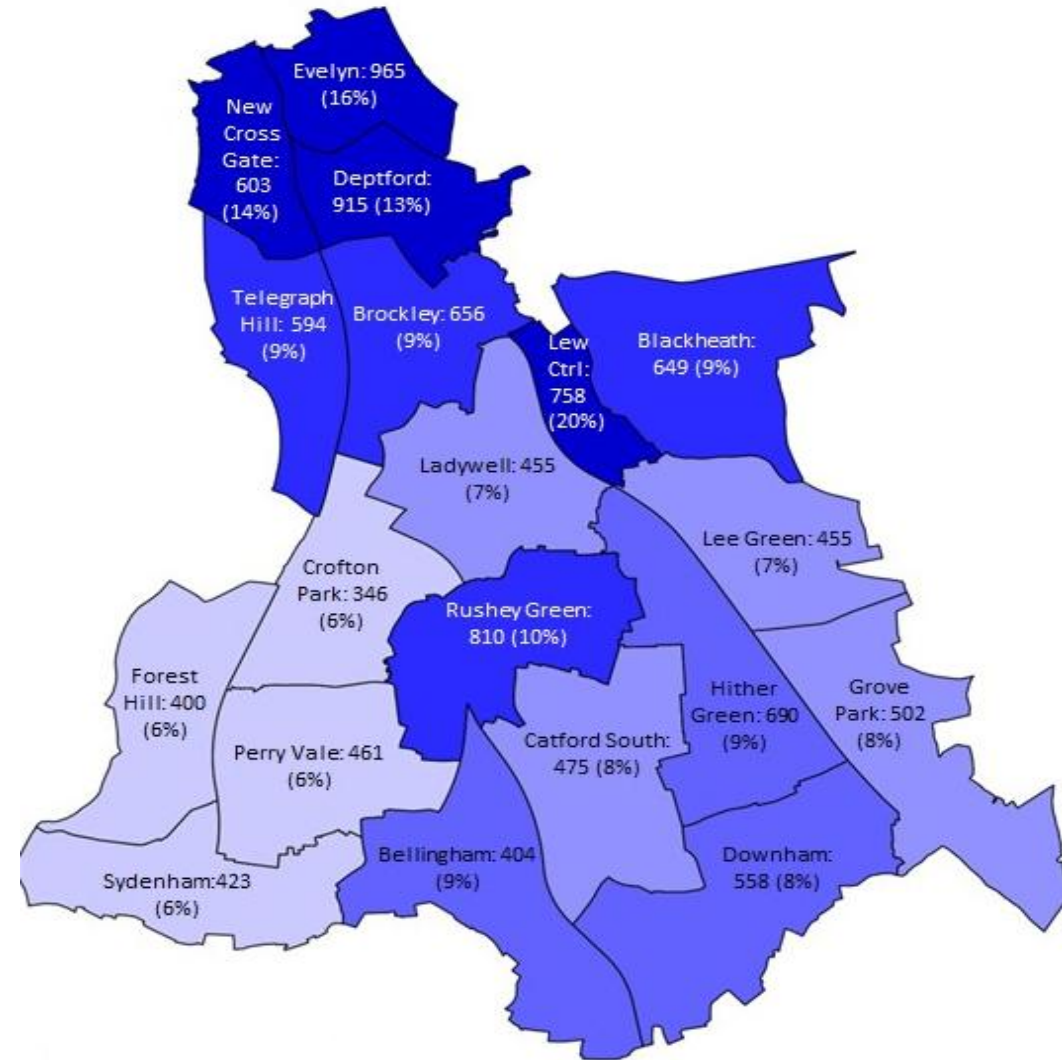
Christianity remains the most numerous faith but is 9% lower than in the 2011 Census.



Source: 2021 Census

Language

- Spanish is the most common language spoken in Lewisham after English, according to the 2021 Census. Followed by:
 - Tamil
 - Portuguese
 - Romanian
 - Italian
 - French
 - Polish
- The percentage of households where no occupant has English as their main language is generally higher in the north of the borough.



Source: 2021 Census

Deprivation

Parts of Lewisham remain among the most deprived areas in England, in relative terms.

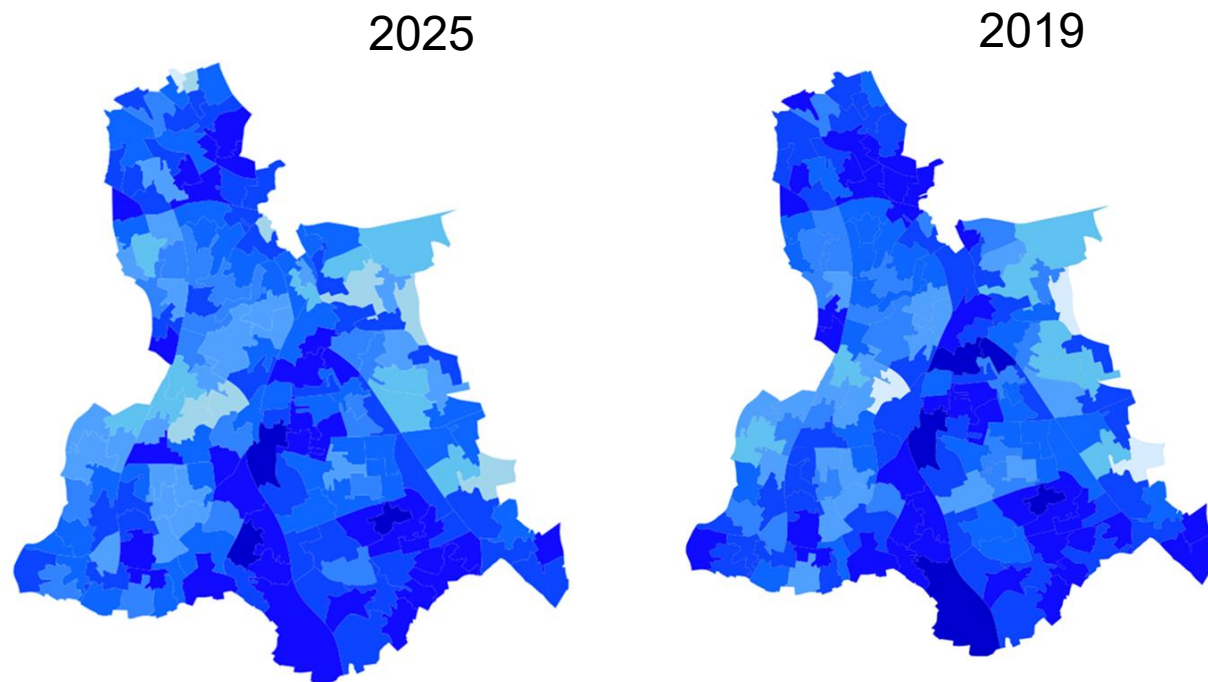
Lewisham scores 25.472 on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (the combined score for all indices).

This makes Lewisham the 75th most deprived local authority in England - out of 296 Lower Tier Local Authorities.

Therefore, Lewisham is within the 30% most deprived local authorities in England.

Lewisham is the 10th most deprived borough in London (DCLG, 2025).

Deprivation



These maps break down deprivation into smaller areas. They show that Lewisham got relatively less deprived between 2019 and 2025.

But deprivation remains comparatively high in certain areas, mostly clustered the north and south of the borough.

IMD Deciles



Disability

14.4%

14.4% of Lewisham residents are living with a long-term condition that limits their daily activities

17.3%

Lewisham is slightly below the national average of 17.3%, but this is likely due to a younger population.

13.5%

13.5% of Lewisham residents **who are in work** report having a disability that limits their daily activities.

Learning disabilities

- People with a learning disability have a shorter life expectancy than people who do not have a learning disability.
- They are disproportionately affected by certain health conditions including:
 - Coronary heart disease
 - Respiratory disease
 - Epilepsy

Lewisham Primary Care Network	Percentage of patients, where learning disability is recorded (2024/25) - QOF
Aplos Health	0.7%
Lewisham Alliance	0.6%
Lewisham Care Partnership	0.5%
Modality	0.8%
North Lewisham	0.4%
Sevenfields	0.9%
Lewisham Average	0.6%
England Average	0.6%


Sexual Orientation and gender identity

- The 2021 Census included questions on both sexual orientation and gender identity for the first time (for people aged 16 and over).
- These questions were voluntary, but almost all Census respondents completed them (over 90%).
- In Lewisham approximately 6% of respondents stated their sexual orientation was other than straight or heterosexual (this is higher than both the regional and national averages).
- About 1% of the Lewisham 16+ population stated their gender identity was different to that assigned at birth/

Source: 2021 Census



Sexual Orientation



	Straight or Heterosexual	Gay or Lesbian	Bisexual	Pansexual	Asexual	Queer	Any other sexual orientation	Not answered
Lewisham	84.12	3.00	2.33	0.51	0.06	0.17	0.06	9.75
Lambeth	82.67	5.31	2.25	0.45	0.07	0.12	0.05	9.07
Southwark	82.71	4.53	2.57	0.67	0.07	0.17	0.06	9.21
London	86.19	2.23	1.52	0.37	0.05	0.06	0.04	9.52
England	89.37	1.54	1.29	0.23	0.06	0.03	0.02	7.46

Figures are a percentage of total respondents

Source: 2021 Census

Gender identity

	Gender identity the same as sex registered at birth	Gender identity different from sex registered at birth but no specific identity given	Trans woman	Trans man	Non-binary	All other gender identities	Not answered
Lewisham	91.36	0.42	0.18	0.17	0.17	0.08	7.62
Lambeth	91.78	0.39	0.19	0.15	0.11	0.09	7.29
Southwark	91.43	0.63	0.17	0.18	0.16	0.09	7.34
London	91.21	0.46	0.16	0.16	0.08	0.05	7.88
England	93.47	0.25	0.10	0.10	0.06	0.04	5.98

Figures are a percentage of total respondents

Source: 2021 Census

Carers

- People providing high levels of care are twice as likely to have poor health compared to those without caring responsibilities ([Carers UK](#)).
- 7.1% of Lewisham residents provide at least some unpaid care each week – about 20,000 (2021 Census).
- Only 29% of adult carers have as much social contact as they would like (NHS Digital, 2023/24).

Day-to-day activities are limited to some extent

25.2%

Carers

14.1%

Non-carers

Lewisham in summary

- Although the borough's population has not seen the expected amount of population growth, its continuing **diversity must be considered** when planning and commissioning services.
- We need to **be aware of languages, culture and other levels of need** to keep services accessible.
- To make services increasingly equitable, it is crucial to **be aware of the inequalities** that currently exist.



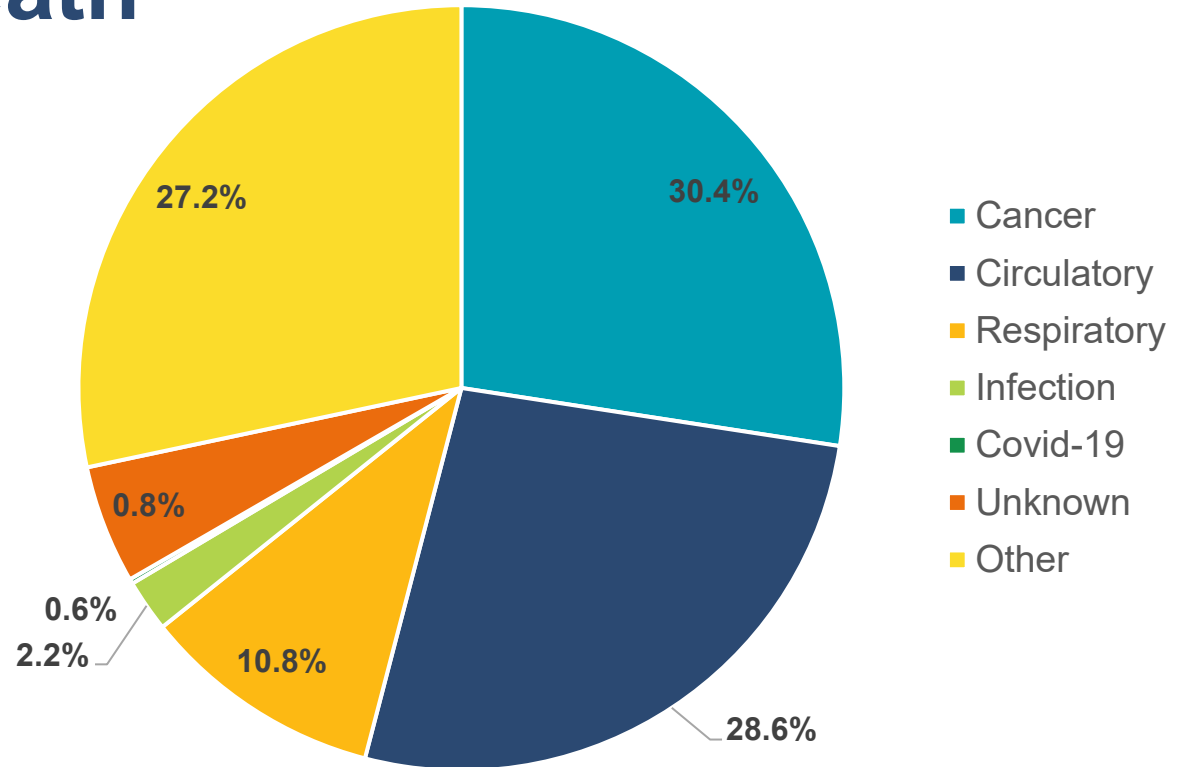
Mortality

in Lewisham



Main causes of death

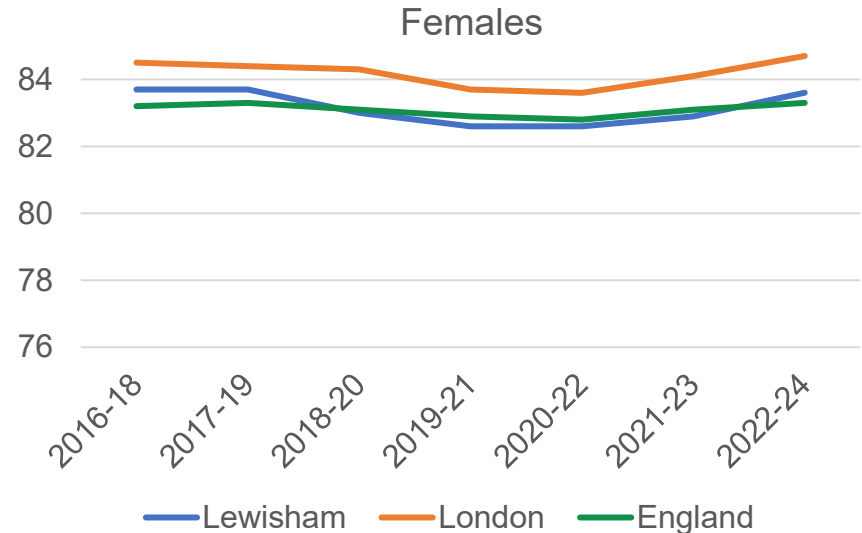
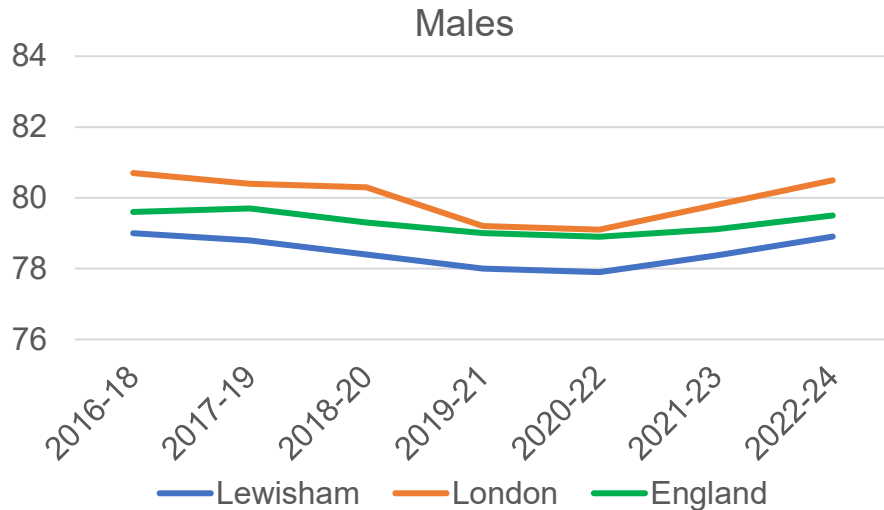
- Lewisham faces several challenges associated with the identified health priority areas, but health inequalities also exist with the borough.
- The **main cause of death in Lewisham is cancer**, followed by circulatory disease and respiratory issues.
- Lewisham's Black and Minority Ethnic communities are at greater risk of conditions such as diabetes, hypertension and stroke.
- Identifying those with disease early and treating them effectively is essential.



Source: Primary Care Mortality Database and local analysis (2025/26)

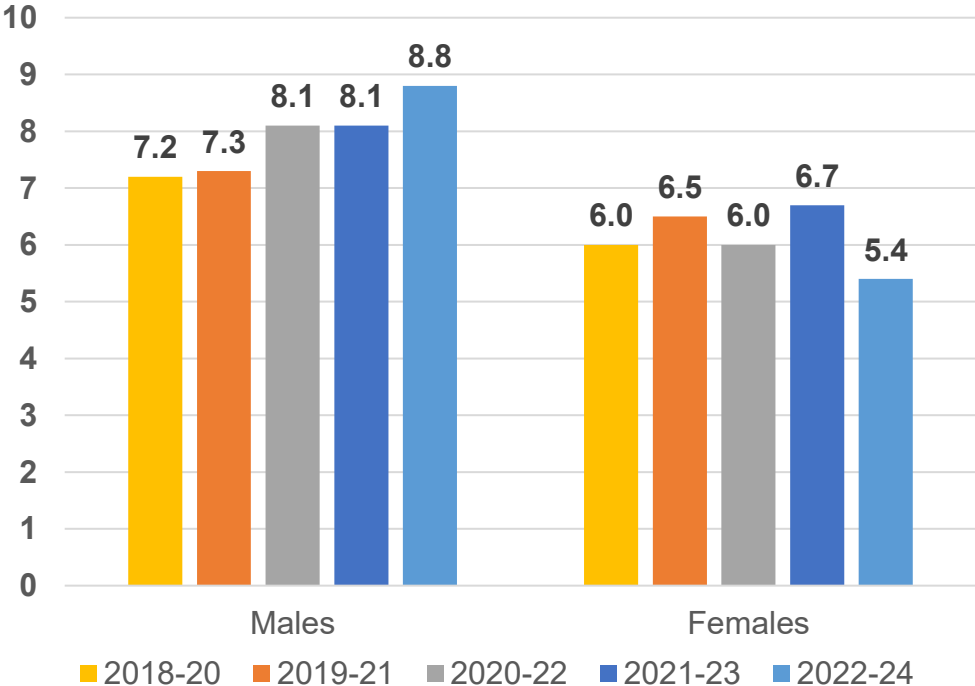
Life expectancy at birth

- Life expectancy fell nationwide due to the Covid-19 pandemic; however the last two publications of data have seen small increases locally, regionally and nationally
- For male residents in Lewisham, life expectancy remains significantly lower than the national average, with the gap remaining stable
- However, for females in Lewisham, life expectancy is now above the national average but not significantly



Inequality in life expectancy

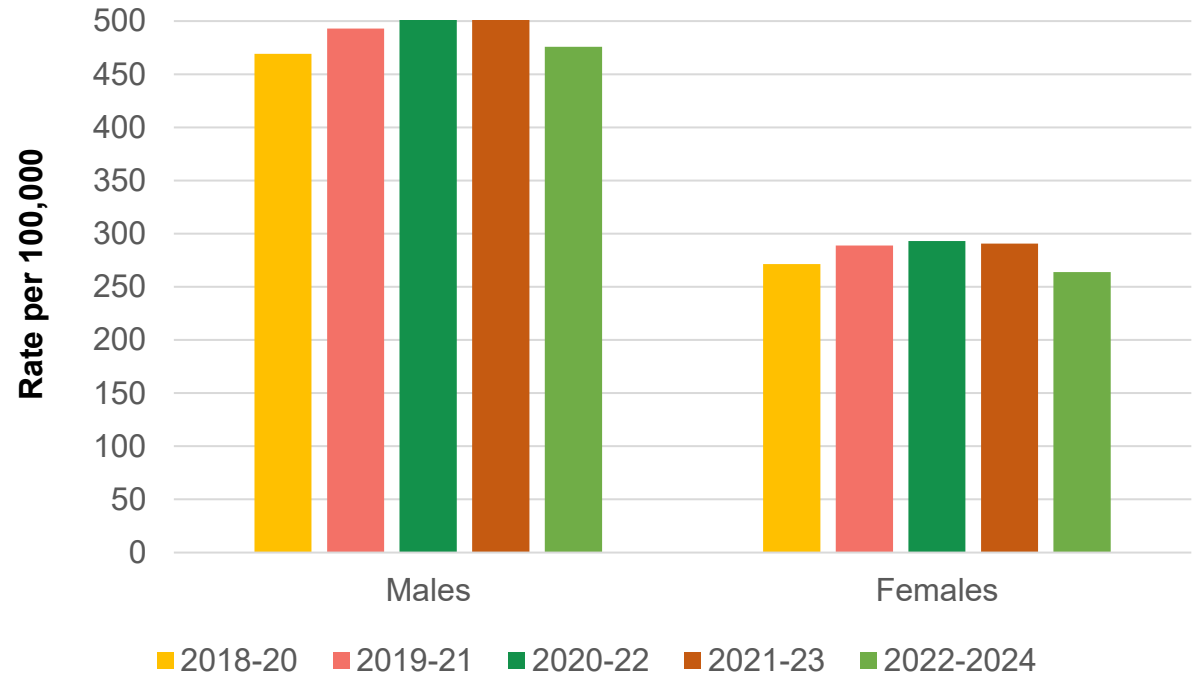
- The Slope Index of Inequality measures the difference in life expectancy (in years) between the most and least deprived sections of the local population.
- In Lewisham, men see greater inequality through the measure – men in the least deprived areas of the borough, should on average expect to live 8.8 years longer than those in the most deprived areas.
- Inequality appears to be increasing for men.
- Inequality is fluctuating for Lewisham women, but the most recent data point sees a reduction in inequality.



Source: ONS/OHID

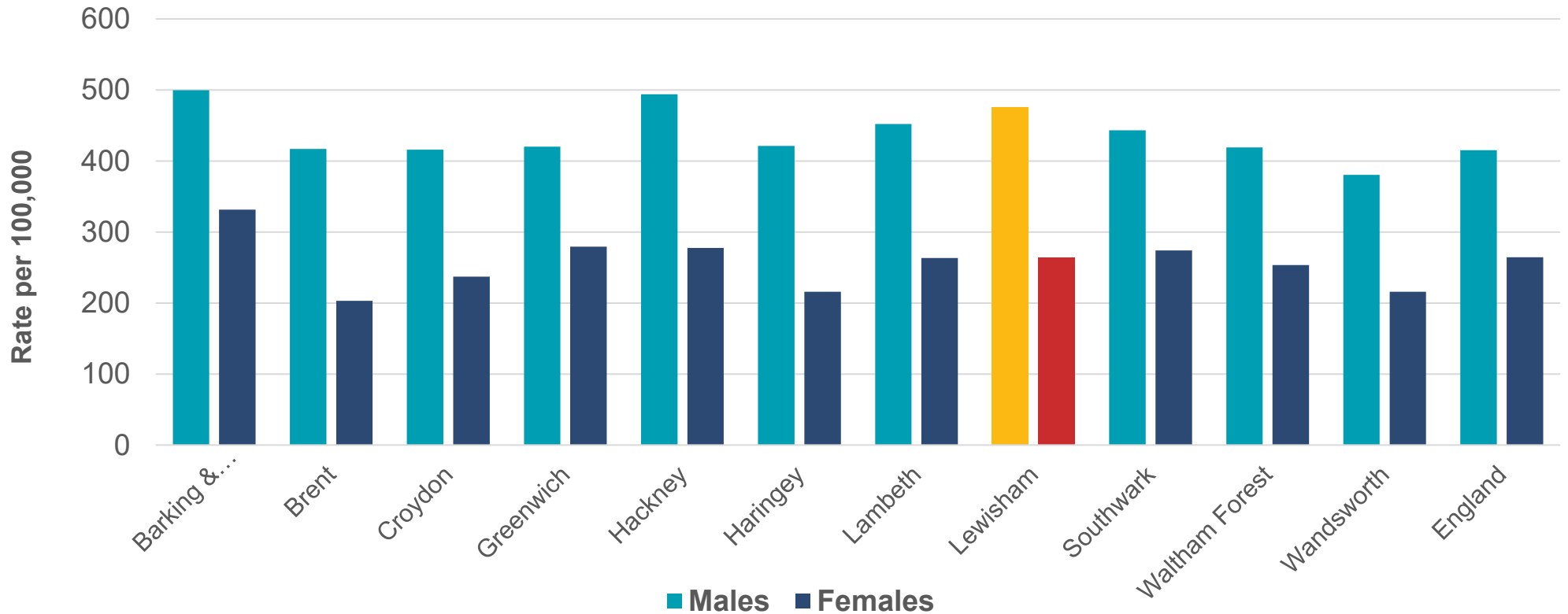
Under 75 mortality (premature deaths)

- Men see much higher rates of [premature death](#) than women.
- The latest data (2022-24) shows the Lewisham rate for males continues to be significantly higher than the England level.
- For females, the Lewisham rate is now slightly lower than the national average, but not significantly so.
- The rates for both men and women are amongst the highest in London



Benchmarking premature deaths

Premature Deaths per 100,000 population (2022-24)



Source: OHID based on ONS source data

Lewisham in summary

- Life expectancy in Lewisham has started to increase after the drop seen in the pandemic.
- Male life remains significantly worse than both the regional and national averages.
- Female life expectancy is significantly worse than the regional average.
- Concentrated areas where worse outcomes and higher deprivation persist.
- Service planning should consider how to address these inequalities and aim to spread improvements borough-wide.

Overarching health indicators

in Lewisham



Cardiovascular disease

Under 75 mortality from cardiovascular disease has decreased (as of 2024) and is inline with the regional and national averages (OHID).

Hospital admissions due to stroke have decreased but remain are statistically significantly worse than the national average (OHID).

The Lewisham NHS Health Check programme continues and has seen activity return to pre-pandemic levels (OHID).

Low birth weight of babies



The proportion of babies born at a low weight has increased and is now higher than the national average

8.6%

In 2023 (most recent data), 8.3% of all babies were born at a low birth weight – under 2,500g

3.2%

3.2% of babies born at term (at least 37 weeks' gestation) were born at a low birth weight

Long-term conditions

- Lewisham has a lower rate of many long-term conditions compared to the rest of England.
- Lewisham's younger age structure is a notable contributing factor.

Lewisham Primary Care Network	% of registered GP population who have a long-standing health condition
Aplos Health	56.9%
Lewisham Alliance	51.0%
Lewisham Care Partnership	59.6%
Modality	69.5%
North Lewisham	49.7%
Sevenfields	55.4%
England average	60.6%

Children and young people

Lewisham is home to more than 62,000 people aged 0-17.

- More than 15% of Lewisham children under 16 are [categorised as absolute low-income families](#).
- **Pupil absence** is now [below both London and the national average](#).
- **School readiness:** 7 in 10 children are [achieving a good level of development at the end of reception](#), this is in-line with London and above the national average.
- The rate of first-time entrants to the youth justice system has risen and is [now above the London and national averages](#).
- 6.5% of 16 and 17-year-olds are [not in education, employment or training](#) (NEET) - this is above the London and national average.



Older people

Uptake of flu vaccine in people 65+ is falling and well below London and national averages ([NHS, 2024/25](#)).

Hip fractures from falls in people 65+ were in-line with the regional and national average ([HES, 2023/24](#)).

The % of adults (65+) whose Long-term support needs were met by admission to residential care, is lower than England but higher than London (LG Inform, 2025).

More than 6 in 10 people 65+ who have dementia are diagnosed – similar to London and national averages ([NHS Digital, 2024](#)).



- The NHS Health Check is a check-up for adults in England aged 40-74.
- It's designed to spot early signs of stroke, kidney and heart disease, type 2 diabetes and dementia.
- In [Lewisham in Q3 2025/26](#), uptake was 41%.

Lewisham in summary

A photograph of two women walking away from the camera on a gravel path in a park. The woman in the foreground is wearing a blue and yellow floral dress and a black backpack. The woman in the background is wearing a dark blue floral top and green pants. A small brown dog is running ahead of them on the path. The background is filled with lush green trees and grass.

- Lewisham has seen improvements in certain health indicators, yet there remains work to do to reduce many inequalities
- These areas of priority have been highlighted in Lewisham's Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2025-30)

Housing

- Lewisham is the 13th most densely populated local authority in England (2021 Census)
- Along with many inner London boroughs the availability and affordability of secure and quality housing is an issue.
- The impacts on both physical and mental wellbeing are well documented.

Key Figures	Lewisham	London	England
Households owed a duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act (rate per 1,000)	13.6	17.9	13.4
Households in temporary accommodation (rate per 1,000)	20.0	17.2	4.6