

## **Life Expectancy 2016-2018**

### **Introduction**

National Records of Scotland (NRS) publish Life Expectancy for Areas within Scotland on an annual basis. The publication includes life expectancy estimates for council areas, NHS Board areas and Scottish Parliamentary constituencies.

Life expectancy refers to the number of years that a person could expect to survive if the current mortality rates for each age group, sex and geographic area remain constant throughout their life. This is referred to as 'period life expectancy' and does not usually reflect the actual number of years a person will survive. This is because it does not take into account changes in health care and other social factors that may occur through someone's lifetime. However, life expectancy is a useful statistic as it provides a snapshot of the health of a population and allows the identification of inequalities between populations.

### **Methodology**

Life expectancy figures are produced by aggregating deaths and population data for a three year period, usually the three years prior to publication. Three years of data are needed to provide large enough numbers to ensure that the figures published are sufficiently robust. It is important to note that life expectancy is an estimate which is subject to a margin of error. Further information on the methodology can be found on the National Records of Scotland website <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/life-expectancy/life-expectancy-in-scottish-areas>.

### **Life Expectancy in Scotland**

Life expectancy for males born in Scotland between 2016 and 2018 was 77.0 years while life expectancy for females born at the same time was 81.1 years. Scotland life expectancy is the lowest of all UK countries for both males and females and has been the lowest since the early 1980s. Life expectancy in all UK countries has increased at a steady rate from 1980-1982, however in recent years, the rate of increase has stalled. Since 2012-2014, life expectancy in Scotland has remained virtually unchanged for both males and females.

### **Life Expectancy in Council Areas**

East Dunbartonshire has the second highest life expectancy at birth in Scotland for both males (80.4 years) and females (83.4 years). For both males and females, the highest life expectancy at birth was

in East Renfrewshire 80.7 years and 83.6 years respectively. In contrast, life expectancy was lowest in Glasgow City Council, where males could expect to live for 73.4 years and females for 78.7 years. This represents 7.3 fewer years for males and 4.9 fewer years for females compared with the highest life expectancy in East Renfrewshire.

### Change in Life Expectancy Over Time

Between 2001-2003 and 2012-2014, life expectancy in Scotland increased by around 17 weeks each year for males and 10.5 weeks each year for females. Between 2012-2014 and 2016-2018, life expectancy in Scotland fell by around 0.3 weeks each year for males and increased by 0.1 week each year for females. This stall in life expectancy growth has been seen all across Scotland, however, in some areas the change has been greater than others.

The table below shows life expectancy for males and females in East Dunbartonshire and Scotland over the past few years. The 2016-2018 figures show that life expectancy for males in East Dunbartonshire was 80.4 years, 3.4 years longer than Scotland, and female life expectancy was 83.4 years, 2.3 years longer than Scotland as a whole. Male life expectancy in East Dunbartonshire remained unchanged between 2014-16 and 2015-17. There has been a slight rise between 2015-2017 and 2016-2018. Between 2014-16 and 2015-17, female life expectancy decreased slightly and increased very slightly in 2016-2018.

Life Expectancy						
	Males			Females		
	2014-2016	2015-2017	2016-2018	2014-2016	2015-2017	2016-2018
Scotland	77.1 years	77.0 years	77.0 years	81.1 years	81.1 years	81.1 years
East Dunbartonshire	80.1 years	80.1 years	80.4 years	83.5 years	83.3 years	83.4 years

### Further Information

Further information, along with the full publication of Life Expectancy for Areas within Scotland can be found by visiting the National Records of Scotland website ([www.nrscotland.gov.uk](http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk)).