

# **Health Inequalities**

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**Nottinghamshire  
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# **By the end of the session**

- What are they
- What causes them
- Who is affected
- The position in Nottinghamshire
- Implications for NHS
- Implications for wider system

# **What are Health Inequalities**

They are avoidable differences in health status experienced by certain population groups.

They run counter to our aspiration that 'everyone should have the opportunity to make the choices that allow them to live a long, healthy life, regardless of their income, education or ethnic background'

# **The Causes**

They arise because of inequalities in the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age. These also affect the way people look after their own health and use services throughout their life.

The lower a person's position in society (in terms of employment, income and education), the worse their health.

# The Determinants of Health



Source: Dahlgren and Whitehead, 1991

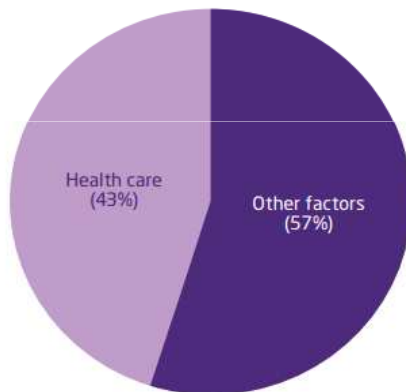


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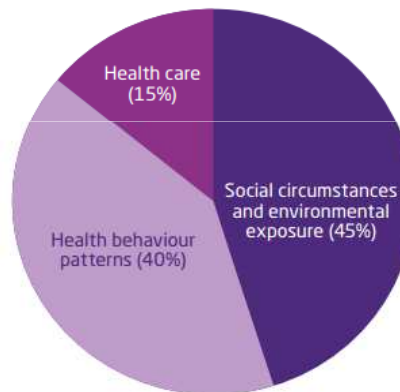
### The importance of public health

Our health is determined by our genetics, lifestyle, the health care we receive and our wider economic, physical and social environment. Although estimates vary, the wider environment has the largest impact.

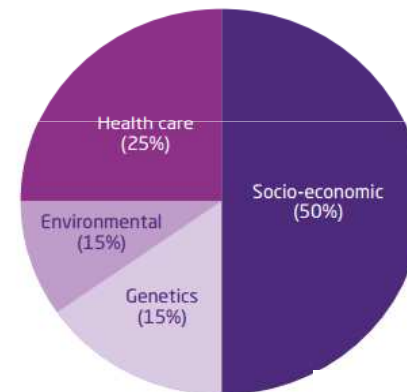
**Bunker et al (1995)**



**McGiniss et al (2002)**



**Canadian Institute of Advanced Research (2012)**



**Health Care explains between 15 – 43%**

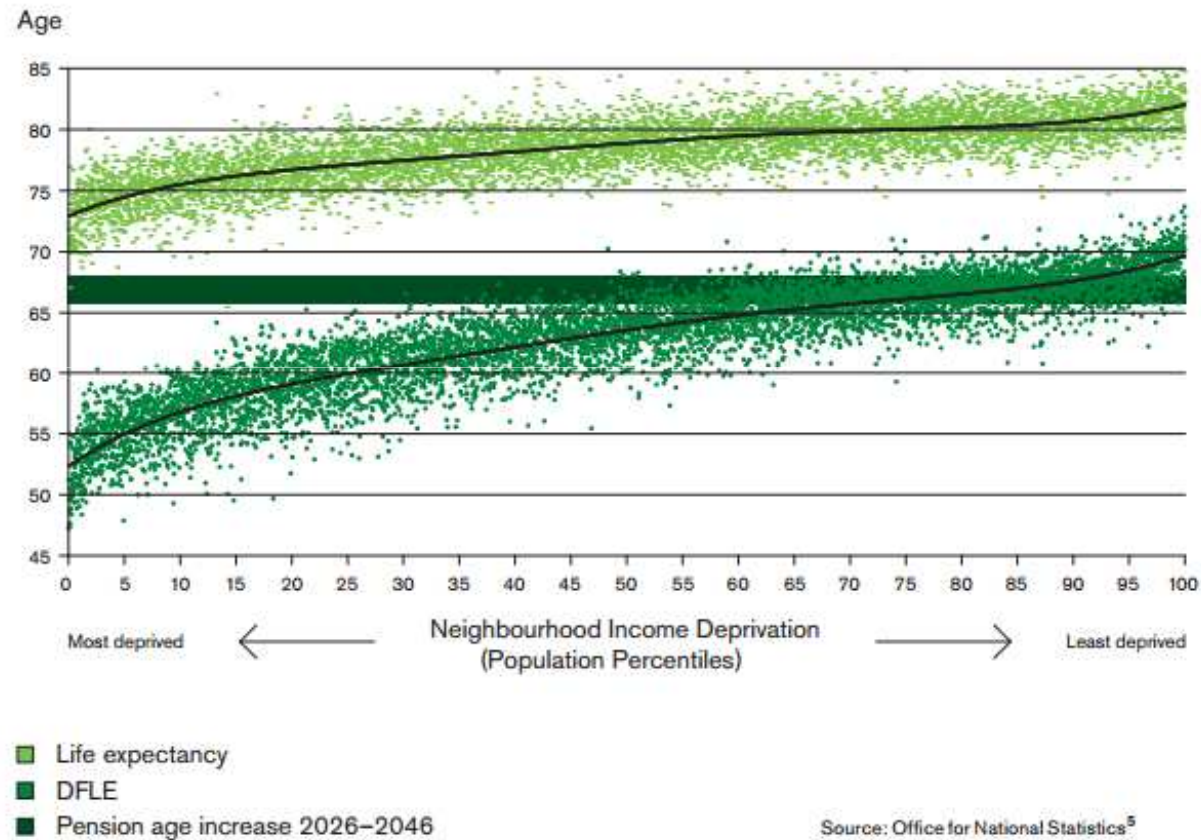
The Kings Fund  
Government  
Australia



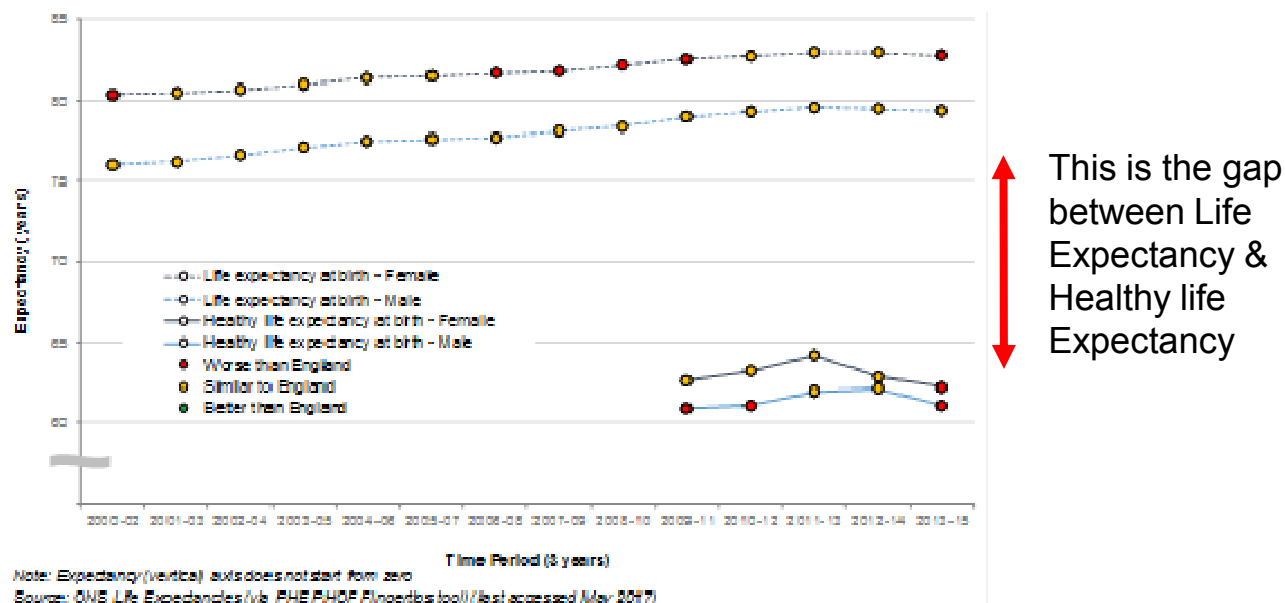
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# The 'Marmot Curve'

**Figure 1** Life expectancy and disability-free life expectancy (DFLE) at birth, persons by neighbourhood income level, England, 1999–2003



# Nottinghamshire Trends in Life & Healthy Life Expectancy



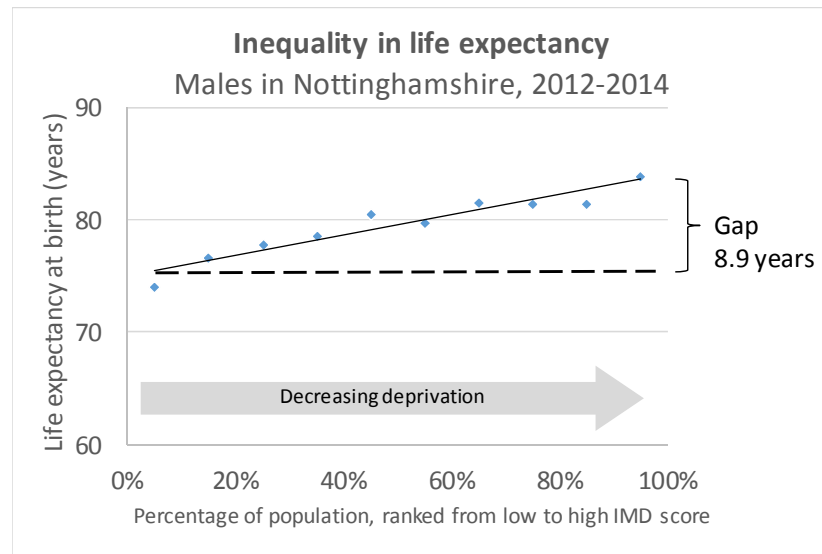
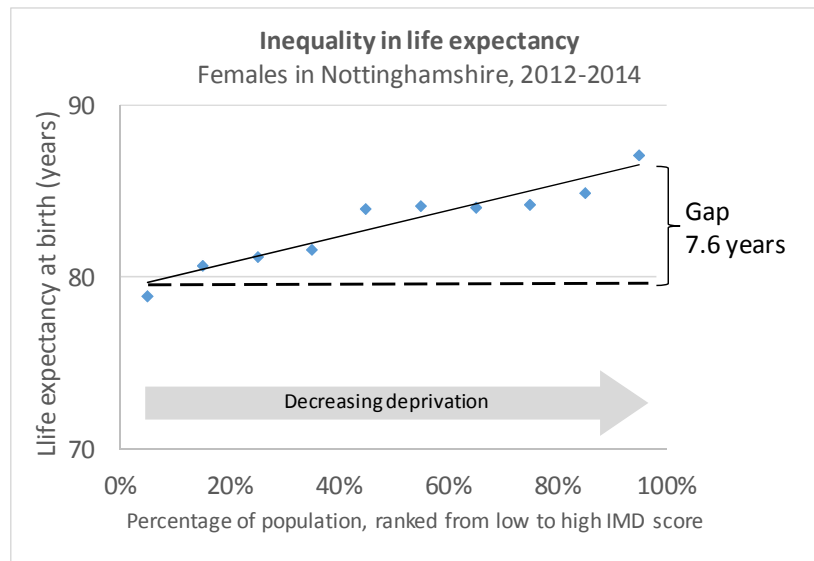
HLE is based on survey data in which individuals describe themselves as being unhealthy this includes physical and mental health



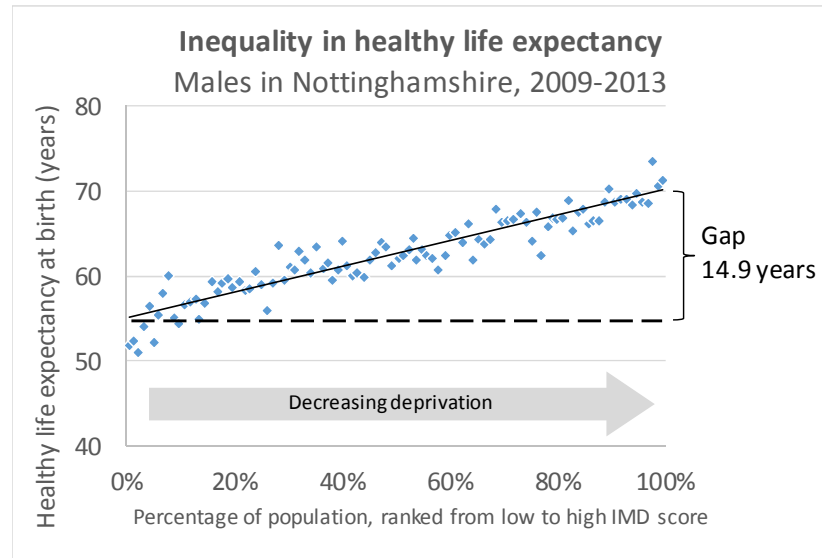
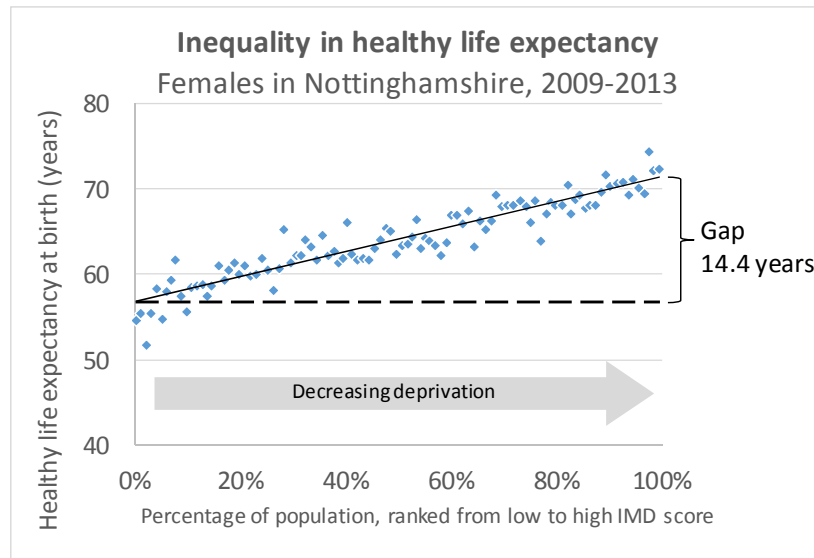
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# Inequality in Life Expectancy



# Inequality in Healthy Life Expectancy



# Implications for the NHS

**Health Service Act 2006** (as amended by the **Health and Social Care Act 2012**), introduced for the first time legal **duties** to reduce **health inequalities**, with specific **duties** on CCGs and NHS England.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/hlth-inqual-guid-comms-dec15.pdf>

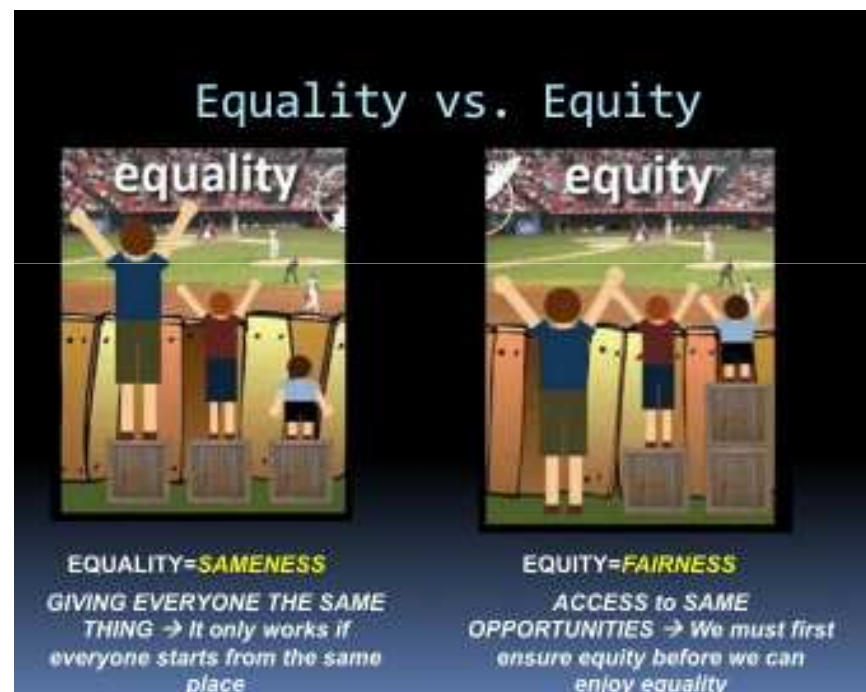
# CCGs have duties to:

- Have regard to the need to reduce inequalities between patients in access to health services and the outcomes achieved
- Exercise their functions with a view to securing that health services are provided in an integrated way, and are integrated with health-related and social care services, where they consider that this would improve quality, reduce inequalities in access to those services or reduce inequalities in the outcomes achieved
- Include in an annual commissioning plan an explanation of how they propose to discharge their duty to have regard to the need to reduce inequalities
- Include in an annual report an assessment of how effectively they discharged their duty to have regard to the need to reduce inequalities

# NHS England has duties to:

- Have regard to the need to reduce inequalities between patients in access to health services and the outcomes achieved
- Exercise its functions with a view to securing that health services are provided in an integrated way, and are integrated with health-related and social care services, where it considers that this would improve quality, reduce inequalities in access to those services or reduce inequalities in the outcomes achieved
- Include in an annual business plan an explanation of how it proposes to discharge its duty to have regard to the need to reduce inequalities
- Include in an annual report an assessment of how effectively it discharged its duty to have regard to the need to reduce inequalities
- Conduct an annual assessment of CCGs, including an assessment of how well each CCG has discharged their duty to have regard to the need to reduce inequalities, and publish a summary of the result

# The difference between Equality and Equity



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# **This Council**

- The council currently receives a Public Health ring fenced grant which is to support the authority in carrying out its public health duties.
- The grant has some nationally set conditions which includes reducing health inequalities across the life course, including within hard to reach groups.

# Implications for Health & Wellbeing Boards

Health and Social Care Act 2012 established Health & Wellbeing Boards as statutory committees of all upper tier local authorities to act as a forum for key leaders from the local health and care system to improve the health and wellbeing of the people in their area; reduce health inequalities and promote the integration of services.



# In Summary

- Reducing health inequalities requires action on the factors that shape our health and will not be achieved by focusing only on improving the health of individuals alone
- So, health and social inequalities must be considered in the planning stages of services and programmes in order to maximise their potential for contributing to reducing health inequalities.