

# JSNA newsflash

## Life expectancy in Richmond upon Thames

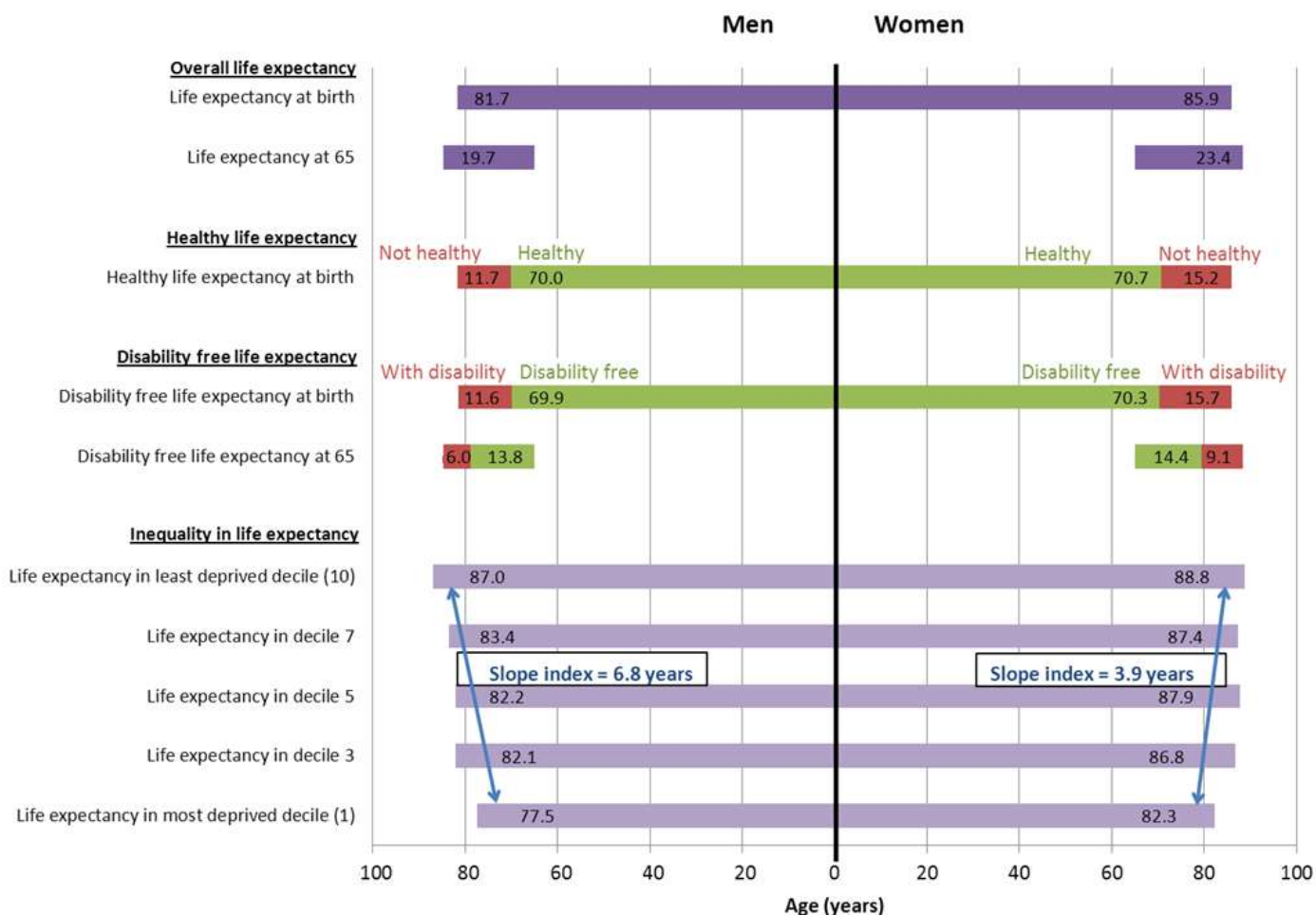
As [life expectancy](#) continues to increase, it is important to measure what proportion of these additional years of life are being spent healthy and without disability, and if there are any groups with a shorter life expectancy.

- [Healthy life expectancy](#) estimates lifetime spent in 'Very good' or 'Good' health based on how individuals perceive their health.
- [Disability free life expectancy](#) estimates lifetime free from a limiting persistent illness or disability based upon a self-rated functional assessment of health.
- [Slope index of inequality in life expectancy](#) is a measure of inequality in life expectancy across the whole population of a local authority<sup>1</sup>.

Indicators for life expectancy, healthy life expectancy and the slope index of inequality in life expectancy are included in the [Public Health Outcomes Framework](#).

### What does this mean for Richmond?

Healthy life expectancy and disability free life expectancy in men in Richmond upon Thames are the best in the country<sup>2</sup>. The figure below shows the estimates for each measure.



Data for disability free life expectancy is for 2009-11, all other data in the graph is for 2010-12.

Life expectancy and healthy life expectancy are both increasing, but [national data](#) suggests that healthy life expectancy is increasing faster. Therefore, people are spending a larger proportion of life in good health.

Since 2002, the slope index of inequality has remained stable in women and has widened for men. Inequality in life expectancy is mainly due to coronary heart disease and stroke, cancer, respiratory disease, liver disease and other digestive disease and external causes.

<sup>1</sup> The Slope Index of Inequality in life expectancy is based on a statistical model of the relationship between deprivation and life expectancy, taking into account the full range of deprivation. First, Lower Super Output Areas within Richmond upon Thames were ranked in order of deprivation (IMD 2010). They were then divided in 10 categories, "deprivation deciles", ordered from most deprived to least deprived. Life expectancy was calculated in each of these deciles. Using a statistical model, a line was fitted across the life expectancy in each deprivation decile. The Slope Index of Inequality is the gradient of that line (a steeper line means there is more inequality in life expectancy between the deprivation deciles). [More information](#)

The Slope Index of Inequality can be interpreted in the same way as the gap between the most deprived area and the least deprived area, but it takes account of inequality across the whole distribution rather than focusing only on the extremes, and gives greater weight to larger populations and less weight to smaller populations.

<sup>2</sup> In women, healthy life expectancy is the second best in the country, and disability free life expectancy is the third best in the country.

## Contact details

### Public Health Team

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We welcome feedback and are continually reviewing processes and products.

As new information becomes available, we aim to rapidly distribute with a local commentary via our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) newsflashes. We'd welcome your feedback. Please send your comments directly to [JSNA@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:JSNA@richmond.gov.uk) or to the Public Health Team.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessments for the borough of Richmond are available at [www.richmond.gov.uk/jsna](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/jsna).



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