CARDIFF

in 2026

Please note: This report has been developed based on the latest data available and therefore provides a snapshot in time (June 2026).

Cardiff's Demography: An Overview



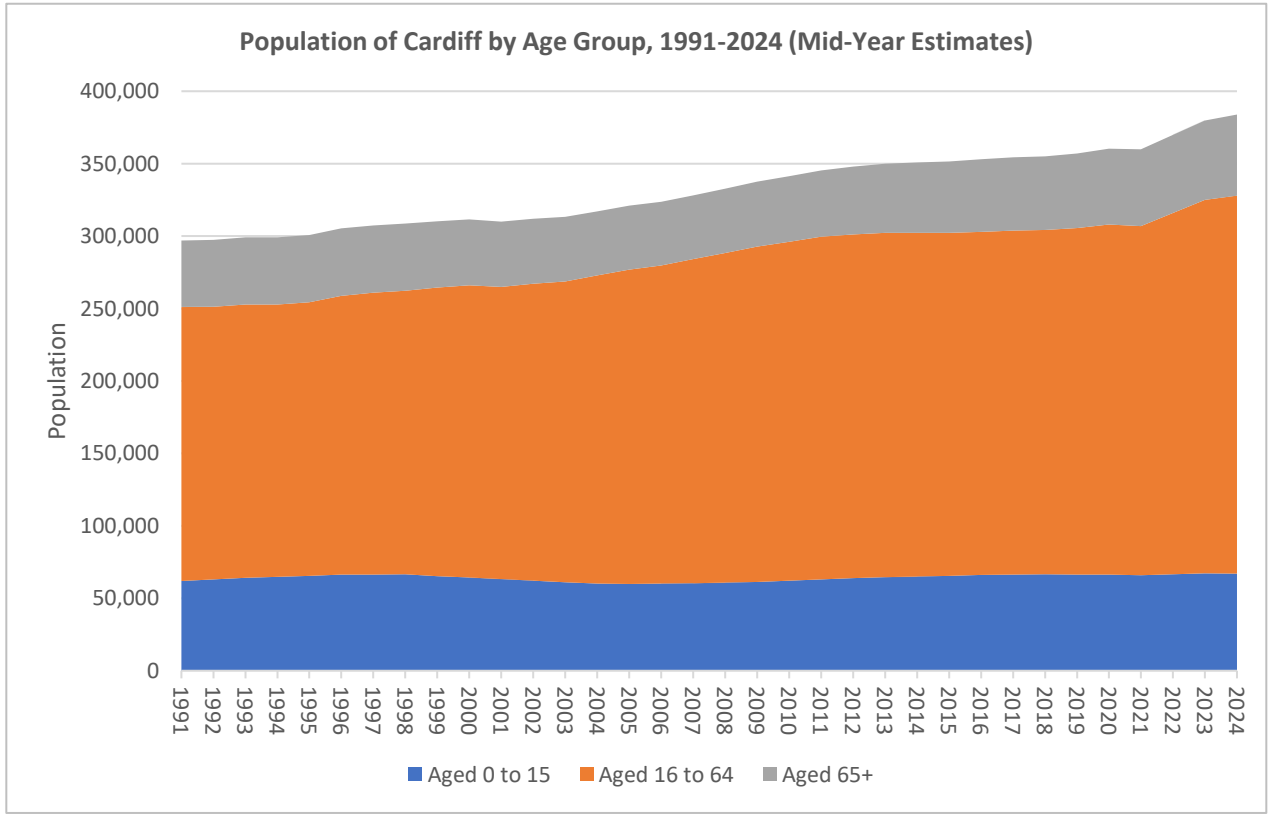
What the Data Shows: Summary

Cardiff continues to evolve as a growing, diverse and dynamic capital city. The latest population estimate indicates that 383,900 people live in Cardiff, an increase of around 87,000 since 1991. Population projections suggest that the city's population will continue to grow to around 413,000 by 2034, although at a slower rate than has been experienced in recent years. At the same time, Cardiff's population is becoming older and increasingly diverse, with people aged 65 and over projected to increase by around 10,500 over the next decade. In 2021, over a quarter of residents (26.4%) belonged to ethnically diverse groups, almost three times the Wales average.

Population Estimates by Age Group

Key Points:

- The latest (mid-2024) population estimate for Cardiff is 383.9k people, up 87k since 1991.
- Between 2011 and 2021 the population grew by just 14k compared with 35k for the previous 10-year period. However, this has been followed by a significant increase of 24k people between 2021 and 2024, including around 10k for both 2021 to 2022 and 2022 to 2023 – the largest one-year increases since records began in 1991 and more than double the largest annual increase seen between 1991 and 2021. However, the annual increase slowed to 4k for 2023 to 2024, although this was still high by historical standards.
- Since 2011, Cardiff's population aged 65+ has grown by more than a fifth (22.3%) – over three times the rate of increase seen by those aged 0-15 (6.2%) and more than twice that of those aged 16-64 (10.3%).
- In 2024, 17.5% of Cardiff's population were aged 0-15 (67k), 68.0% were aged 16-64 (261k) and 14.6% were aged 65+ (56k).

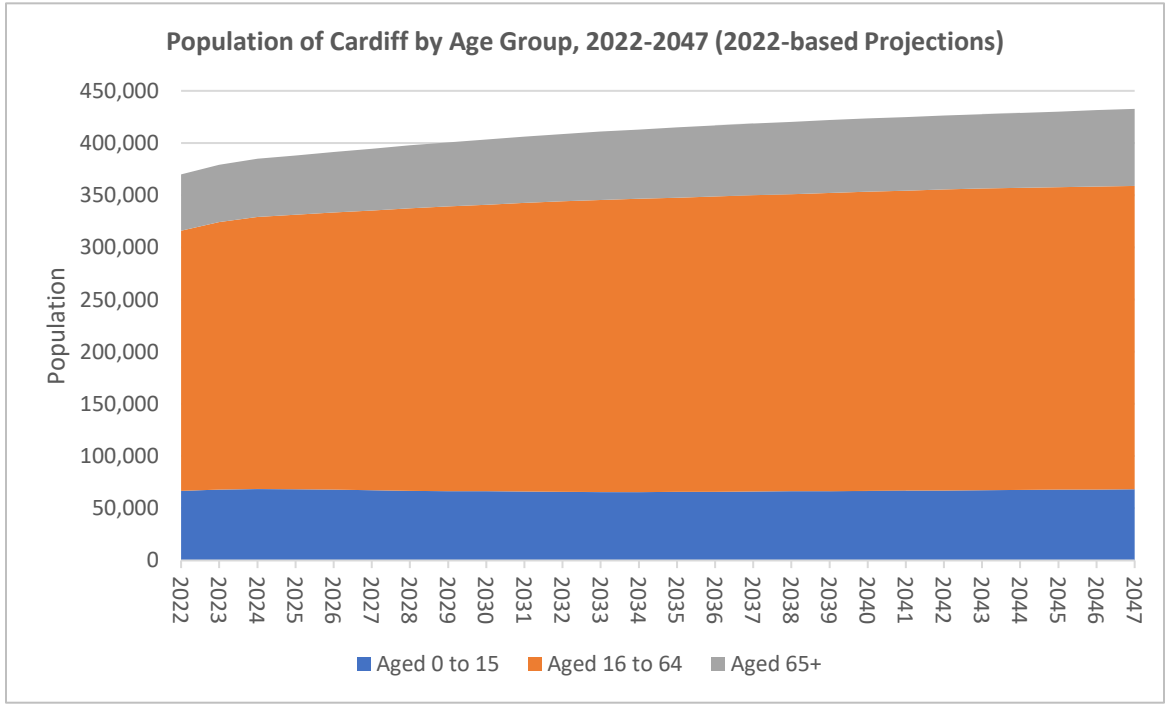


Source: Mid-Year Population Estimates, ONS

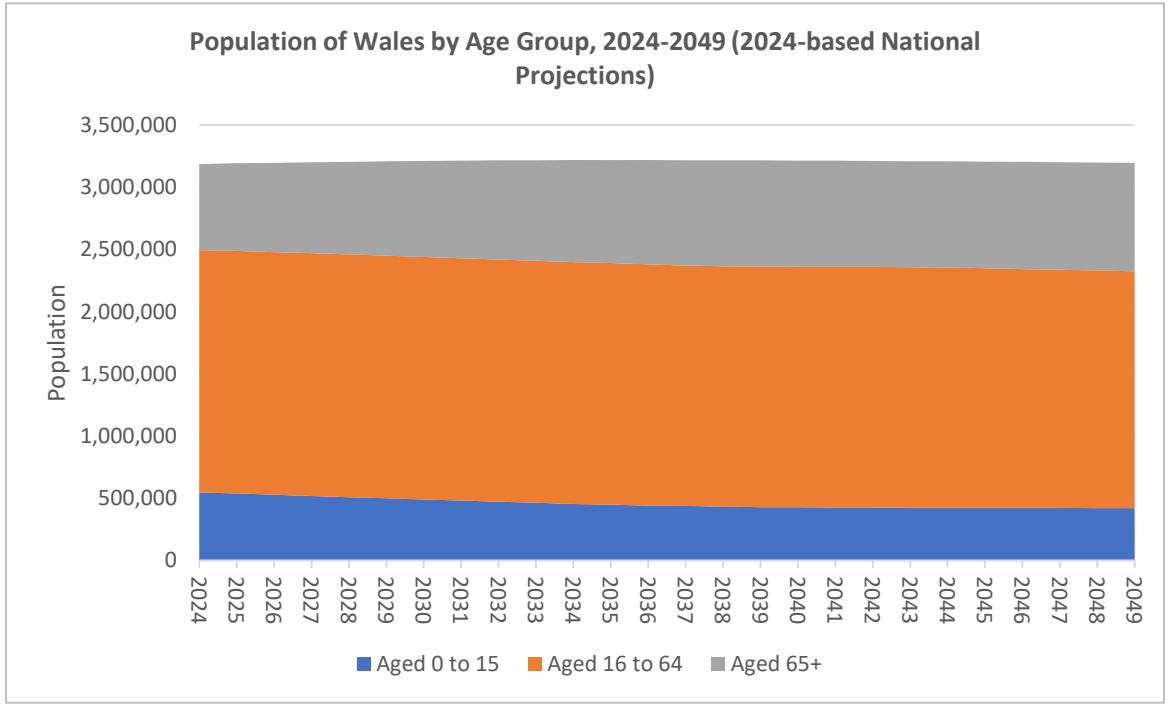
2022-based Local Authority Population Projections by Age Group

Key Points:

- The 2022-based principal population projection for Cardiff indicates that the population will continue to grow but at a diminishing rate.
- The number of residents is projected to increase by 27.9k between 2024 and 2034. This compares with an estimated population increase of 33.0k for 2014 to 2024 (based on mid-year estimates), although much of this has occurred since the pandemic.
- However, projected growth for 2024 to 2034 differs between the age groups with Cardiff projected to have an ageing population. Those aged 0-15 are projected to fall by 2.8k over the 10-year period whereas, in contrast, those aged 65+ are projected to increase by 10.5k. In 2034, 15.9% of the population are projected to be aged 0-15, 68.0% aged 16-64 and 16.1% aged 65+.
- More recent (2024-based) national projections are available for Wales and use more recent data/trends than the latest (2022-based) subnational projections. As well as an ageing population, these project diminishing year-on-year growth for Wales as a whole and indicate an annual decline in the total population from 2036 onwards.



Source: 2022-based Population Projections, Welsh Government

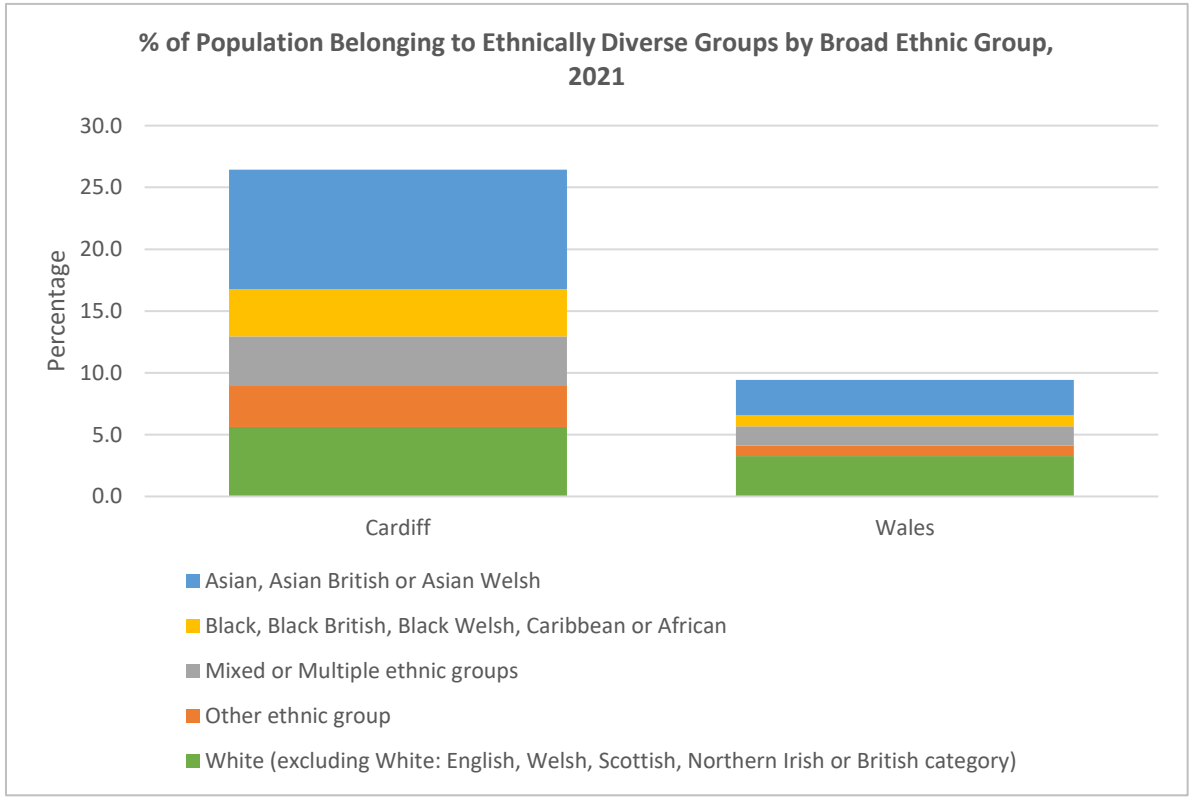


Source: 2024-based National Projections, ONS

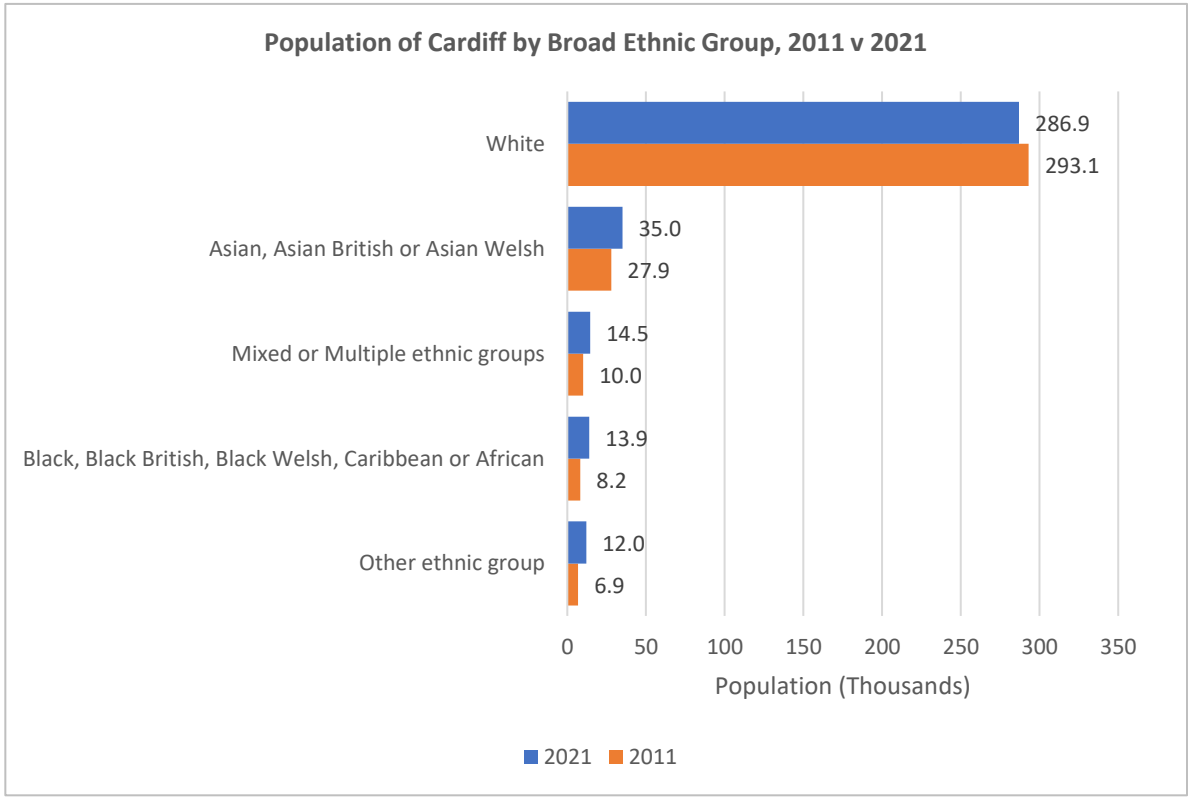
Ethnicity

Key Points:

- The 2021 Census showed that 26.4% of Cardiff's population (96k people) belonged to ethnically diverse groups, almost three times the Wales-wide proportion of 9.4%.
- Since the 2011 Census, the number of residents belonging to a White ethnic group has fallen by over 6k. In contrast, each of the non-White ethnic groups have seen numbers increase:
    - Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: +7.1k
    - Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African: +5.7k
    - Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: +4.5k
    - Other ethnic group: +5.1k



Source: 2021 Census



Source: Census

NB. Ethnically Diverse Groups include all ethnicities except White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British

Personal Well-being



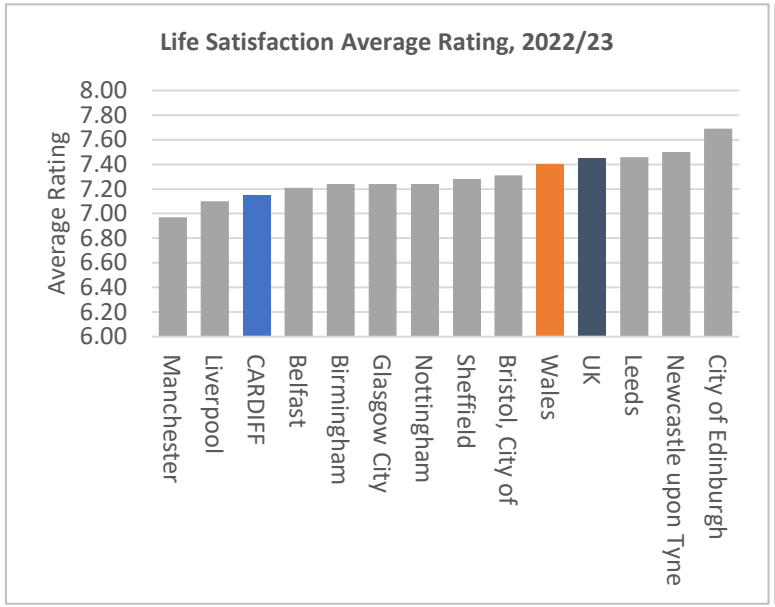
What the Data Shows: Summary

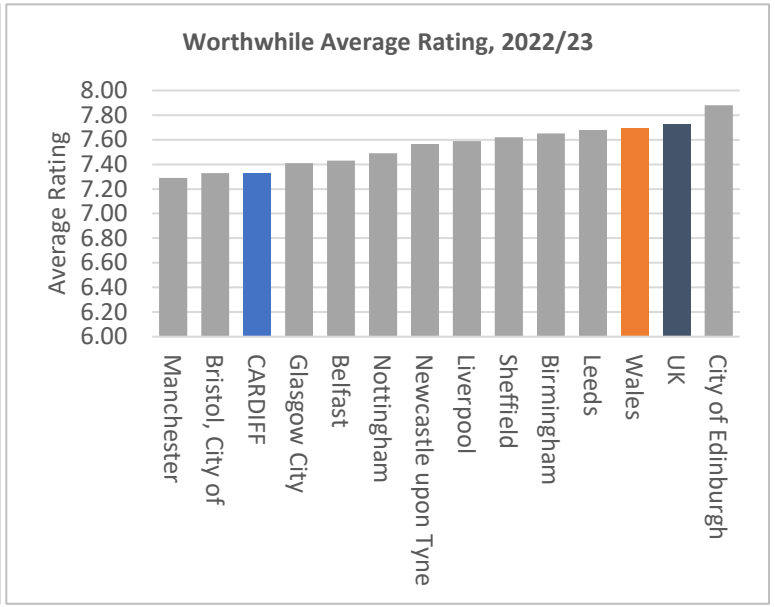
The latest available data indicates lower levels of life satisfaction, happiness and a sense that the things people do in life are worthwhile than previously recorded, alongside higher levels of anxiety. In 2022/23, all four personal wellbeing measures were at their least favourable levels since comparable records began and Cardiff compared relatively poorly with both Wales and many of the UK Core Cities. The data also indicates significant inequalities in personal wellbeing across the city. Across all measures, wellbeing tends to decline as levels of deprivation increase.

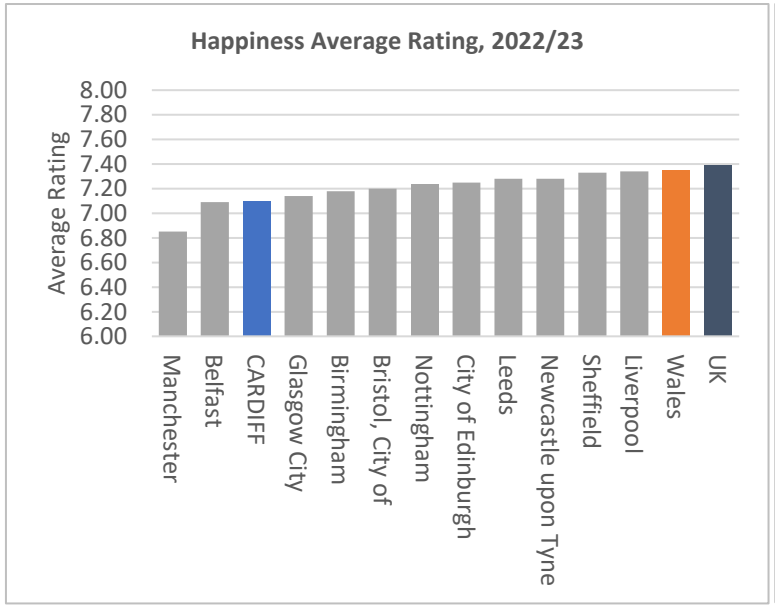
Personal Well-being: Life satisfaction, Happiness, Worthwhile, Anxiety

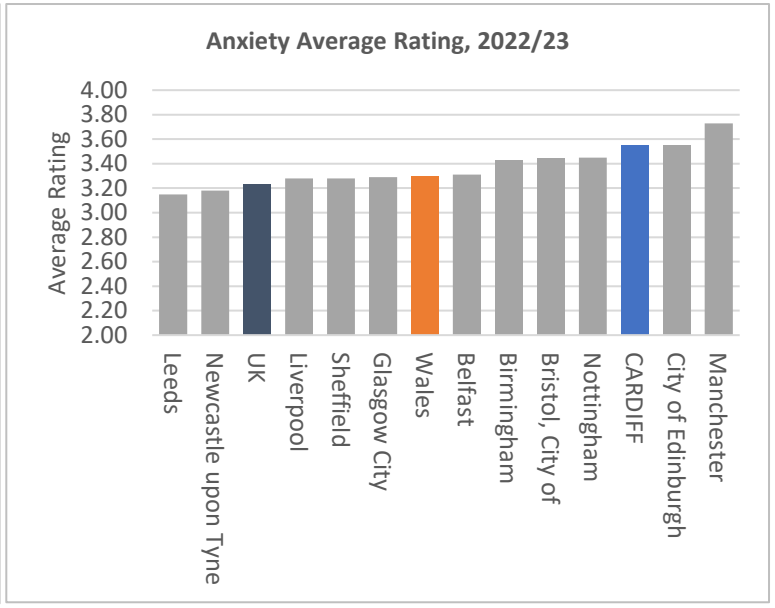
Key Points:

- In 2022/23, Cardiff ranked relatively poorly compared with the other core cities as well as both Wales and UK.
- Third lowest core city rating for Life Satisfaction and below both the Wales and UK average ratings.
- Joint-second lowest Worthwhile rating and below both the Wales and UK average ratings.
- Third lowest core city for Happiness rating and below both the Wales and UK average ratings.
- Joint-second highest 'Anxiety' level and above both the Wales and UK average ratings.









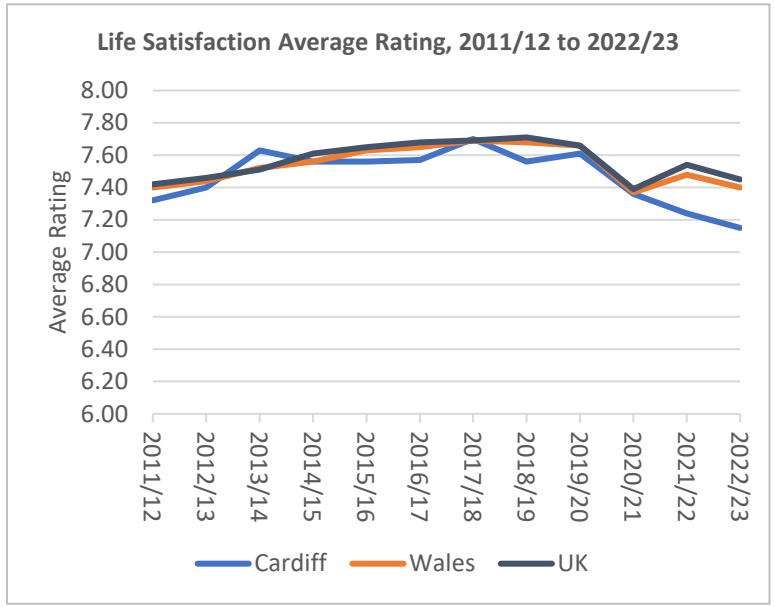
Source: ONS

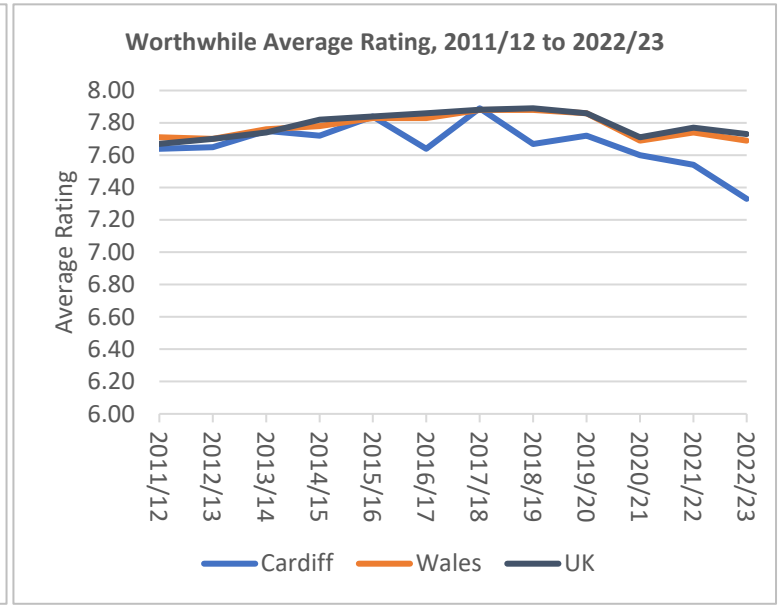
NB. Vertical axis do not start at zero

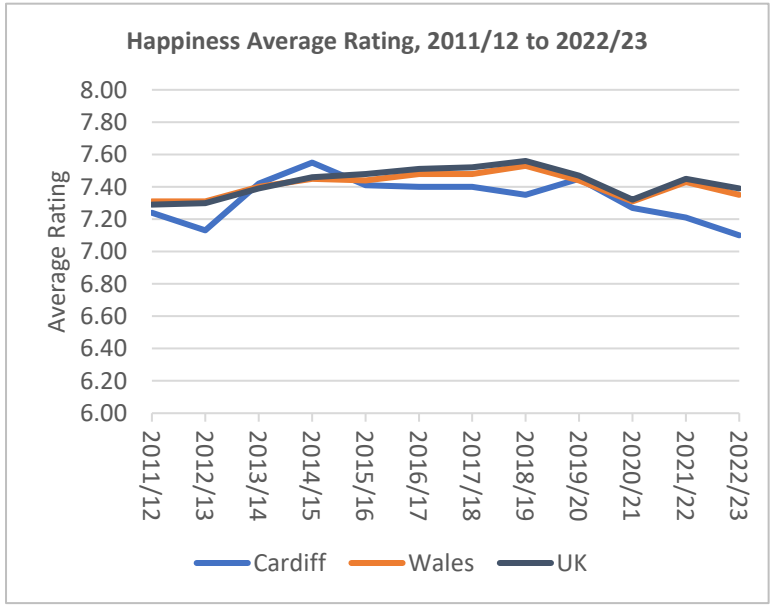
Personal Well-being: Life satisfaction, Happiness, Worthwhile, Anxiety (continued..)

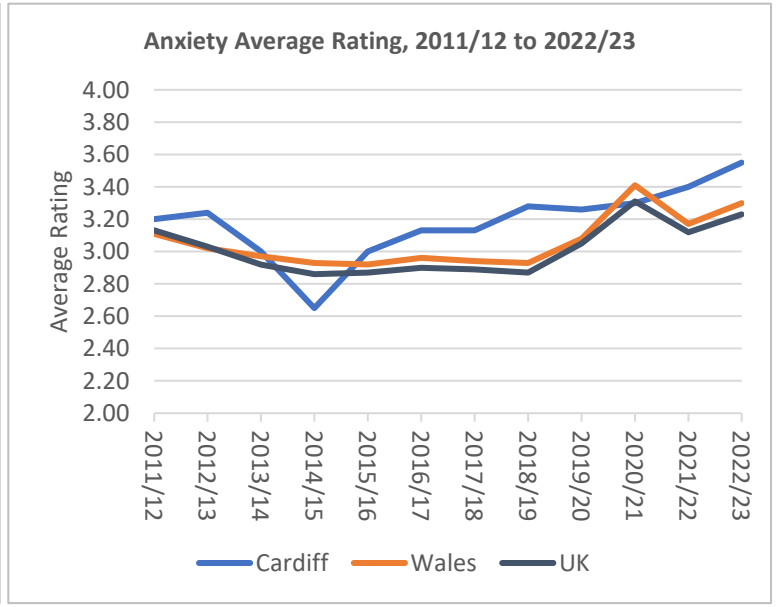
Key Points:

- Cardiff's average rating for Life Satisfaction, feeling Worthwhile and Happiness have exceeded the 7/10 mark since 2011/12.
- However, since 2019/20 all of these indicators of personal well-being have followed a downward trend, potentially as a result of events such as the pandemic and cost of living crisis, and have diverged away from the Wales and UK figures.
- Similarly, anxiety levels in Cardiff have seen an upward trend since 2019/20 and in recent years, with the exception of 2020/21, have been above both the Wales and UK averages.
- In 2022/23, all of the four indicators were at their worst levels since records began in 2011/12.









Source: ONS

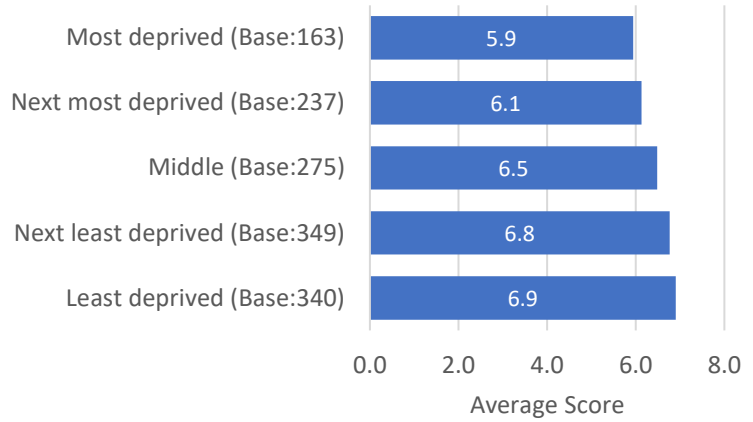
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Personal Well-being: Life satisfaction, Happiness, Worthwhile, Anxiety (continued…)

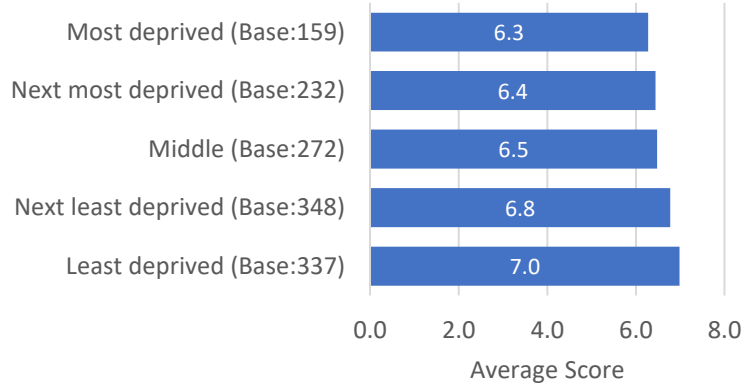
Key Points:

- Across the range of measures, personal wellbeing deteriorates as deprivation increases.

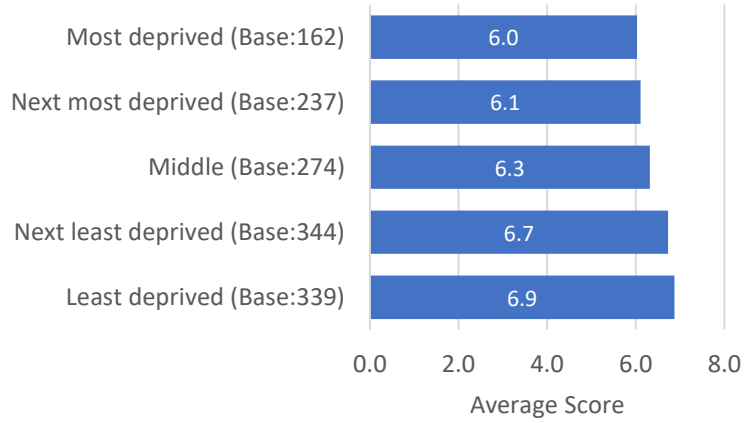
Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays? (Average Score by Deprivation Fifth), 2025 (0-10; 0=lowest, 10=highest)



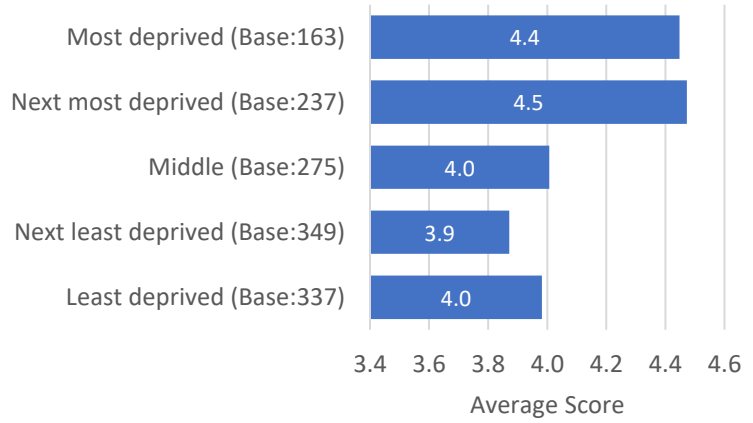
Overall, to what extent do you feel like the things you do in your life are worthwhile? (Average Score by Deprivation Fifth), 2025 (0-10; 0=lowest, 10=highest)



Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday? (Average Score by Deprivation Fifth), 2025 (0-10; 0=lowest, 10=highest)



Overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday? (Average Score by Deprivation Fifth), 2025 (0-10; 0=lowest, 10=highest)



Source: Ask Cardiff Survey, Cardiff Council

Cardiff is a great place to grow up



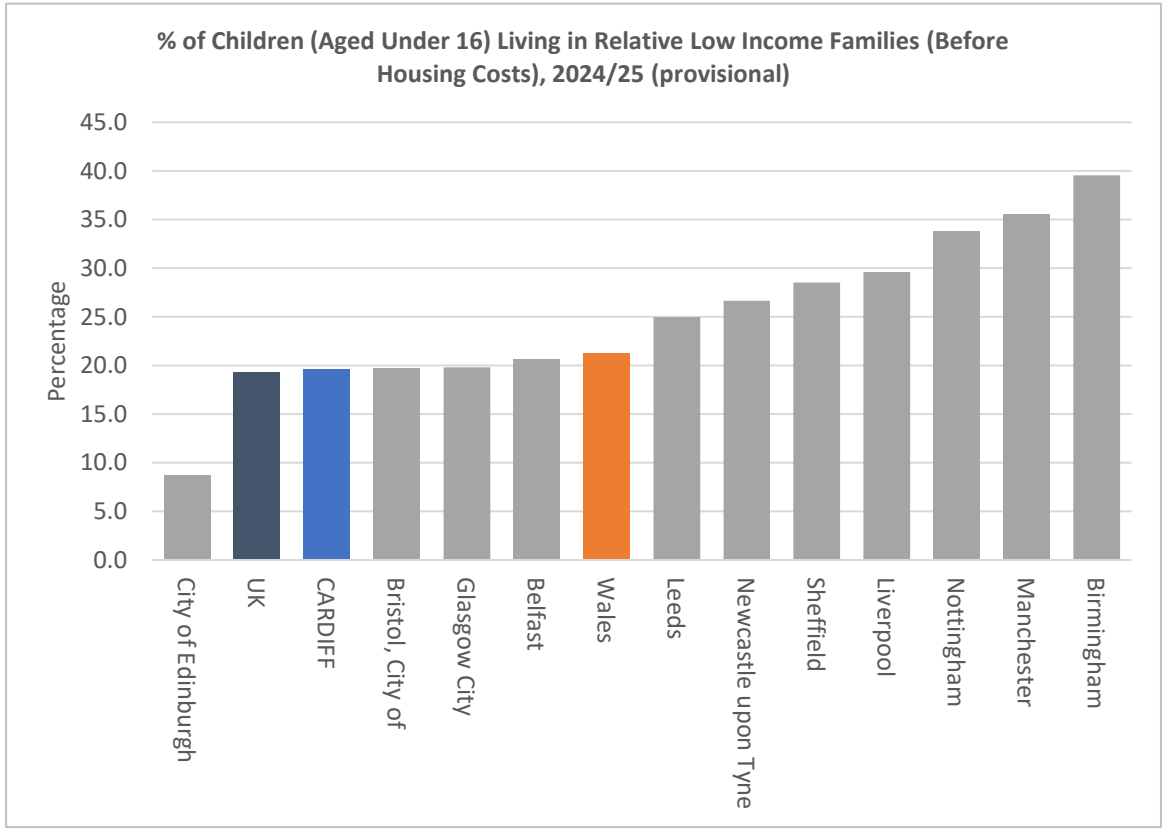
What the Data Shows: Summary

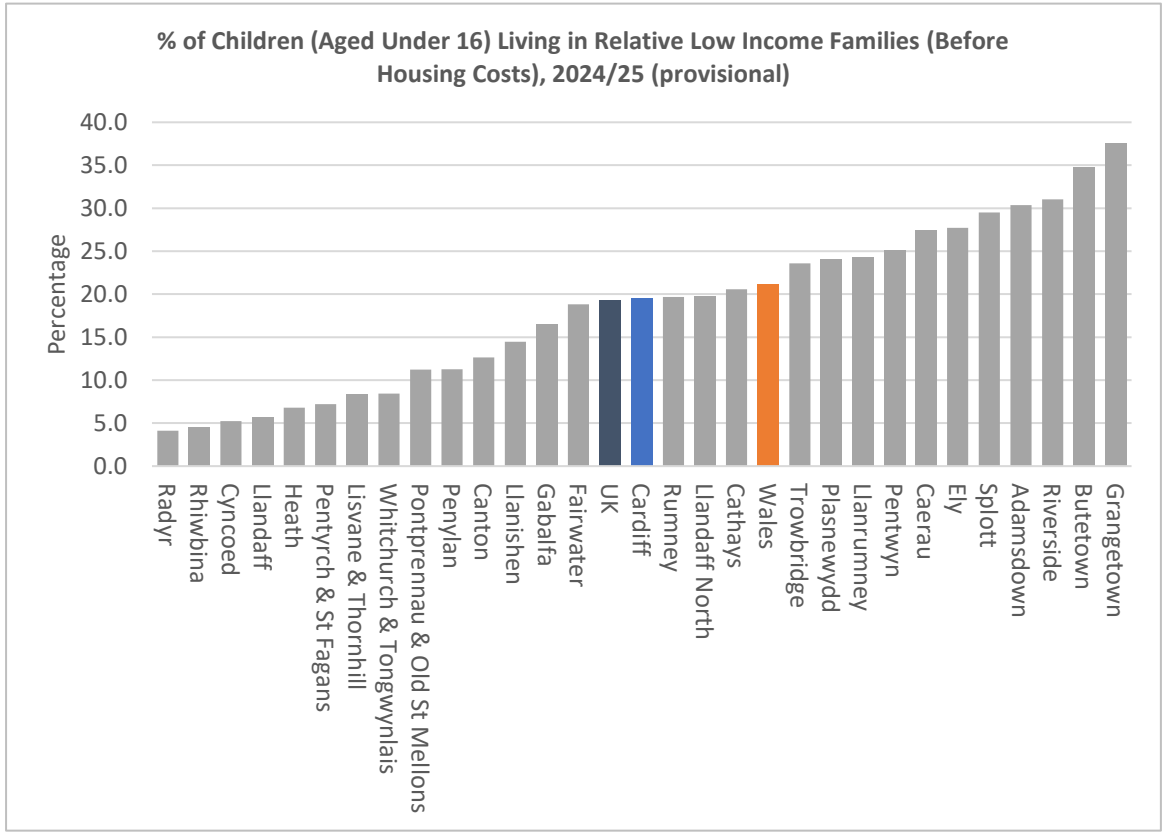
Overall, the data presents a mixed but generally positive picture for children and young people in Cardiff. There have been improvements in a number of key outcomes, including reductions in measures of child poverty and lower Year 11 NEET rates, while mental wellbeing remains above the Welsh average. Cardiff also continues to perform well in a number of areas, including youth justice outcomes. However, progress is not consistent across all indicators; despite remaining above the Welsh average, the proportion of children aged 4-5 who are a healthy weight (or underweight) declined in the latest year. In addition, Year 13 NEET has increased and vaccination uptake remains below target levels despite recent improvements. Significant inequalities also continue to shape outcomes, with many of the greatest challenges concentrated in the city's more deprived areas, including child poverty, healthy weight, physical activity, vaccination uptake and youth employment outcomes.

Percentage of Children in Relative Low Income Families (Before Housing Costs)

Key Points:

- In 2024/25, almost a fifth (19.6%) of children (aged under 16) in Cardiff were living in Relative low income families (before housing costs), down from 20.3% for 2023/24.
- This is the 2nd lowest percentage across the core cities and below the figure for Wales of 21.2%. However, it exceeds the UK average of 19.3%.
- Across Cardiff's wards, the proportion ranges ninefold from 4.1% in Radyr to 37.5% in Grangetown. The figure also exceeds a third in Butetown (34.7%).



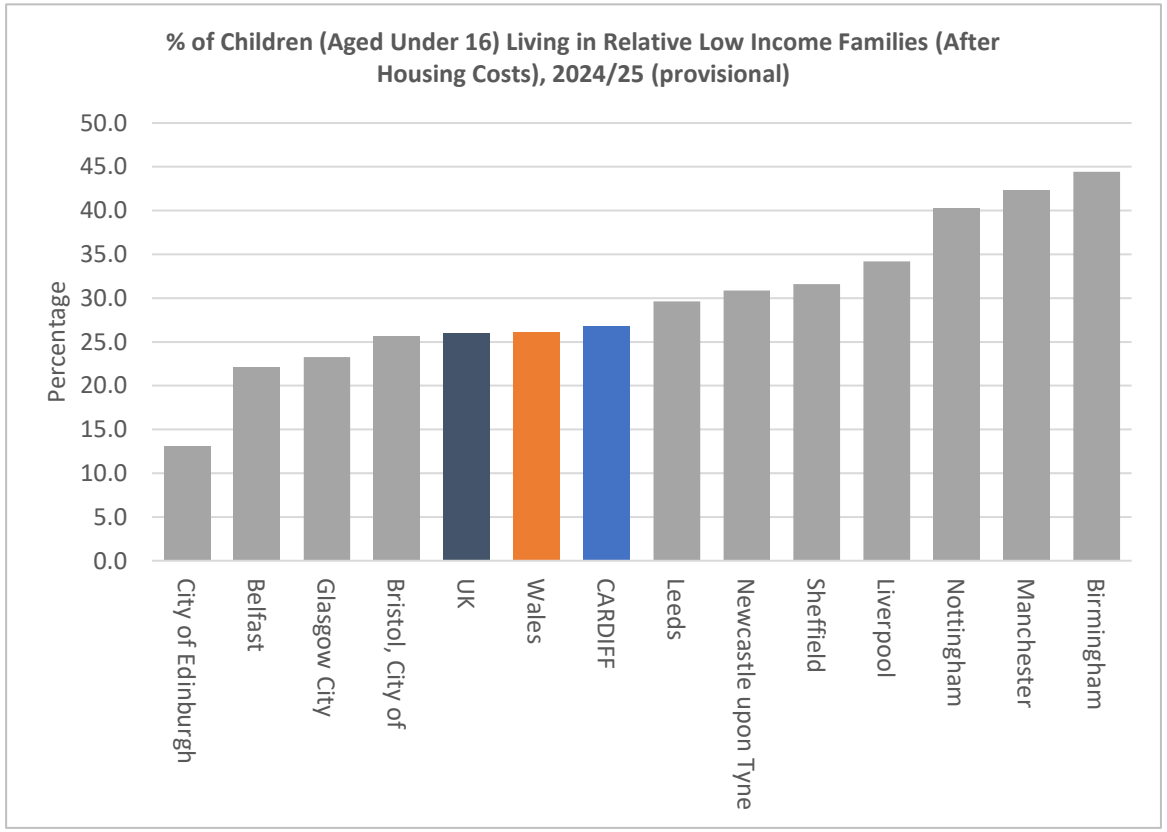


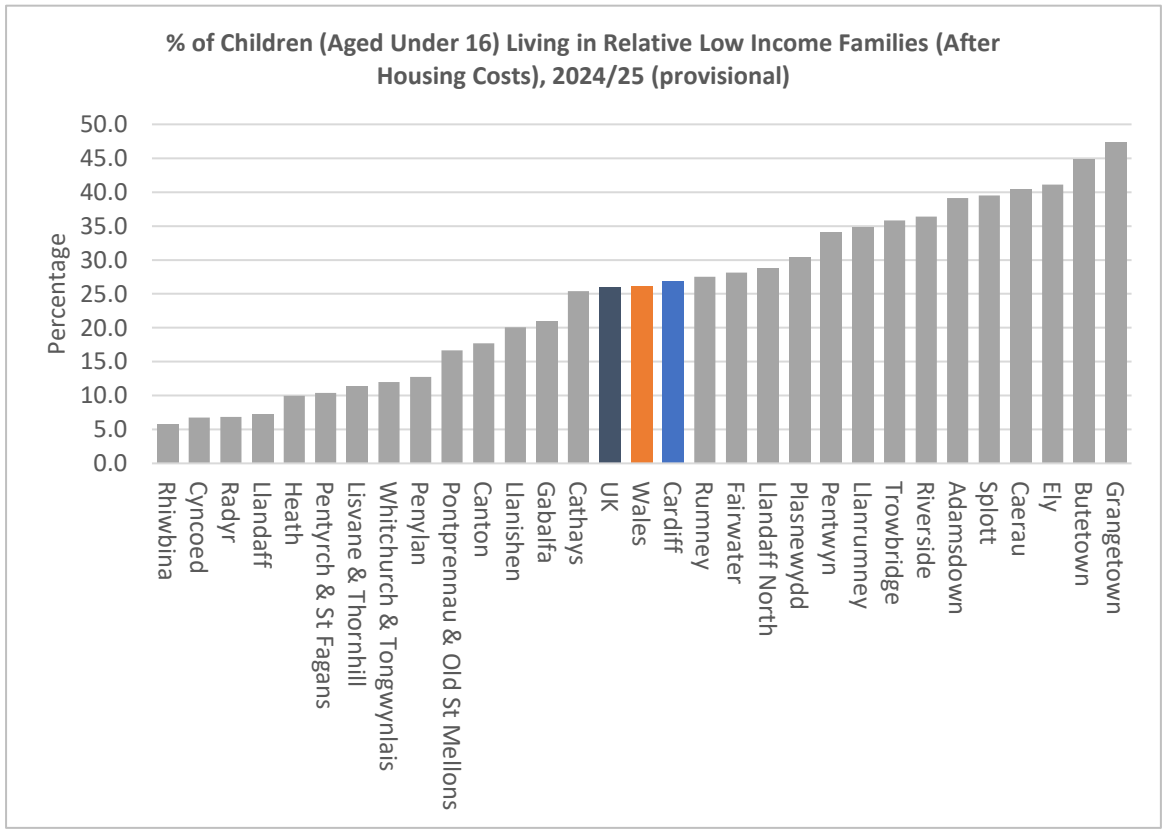
Source: Department for Work and Pensions

Percentage of Children in Relative Low Income Families (After Housing Costs)

Key Points:

- In 2024/25, over a quarter (26.8%) of children (aged under 16) in Cardiff were living in Relative low income families (after housing costs), down from 28.3% for 2023/24.
- This is the 5th lowest percentage across the core cities but slightly above the figures for Wales (26.1%) and the UK (26.0%).
- Across Cardiff's wards, the proportion ranges eightfold from 5.8% in Rhiwbina to 47.3% in Grangetown. The figure also exceeds two-fifths in Caerau, Ely and Butetown.





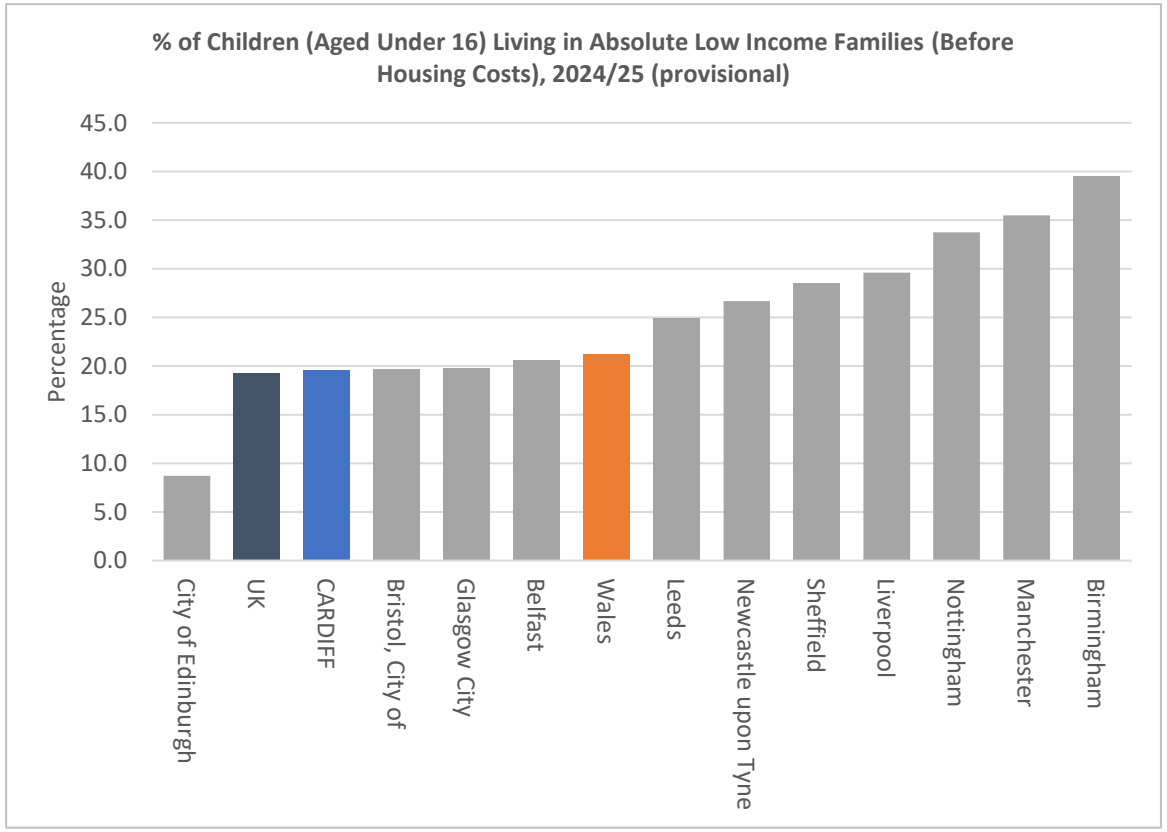
Source: Department for Work and Pensions

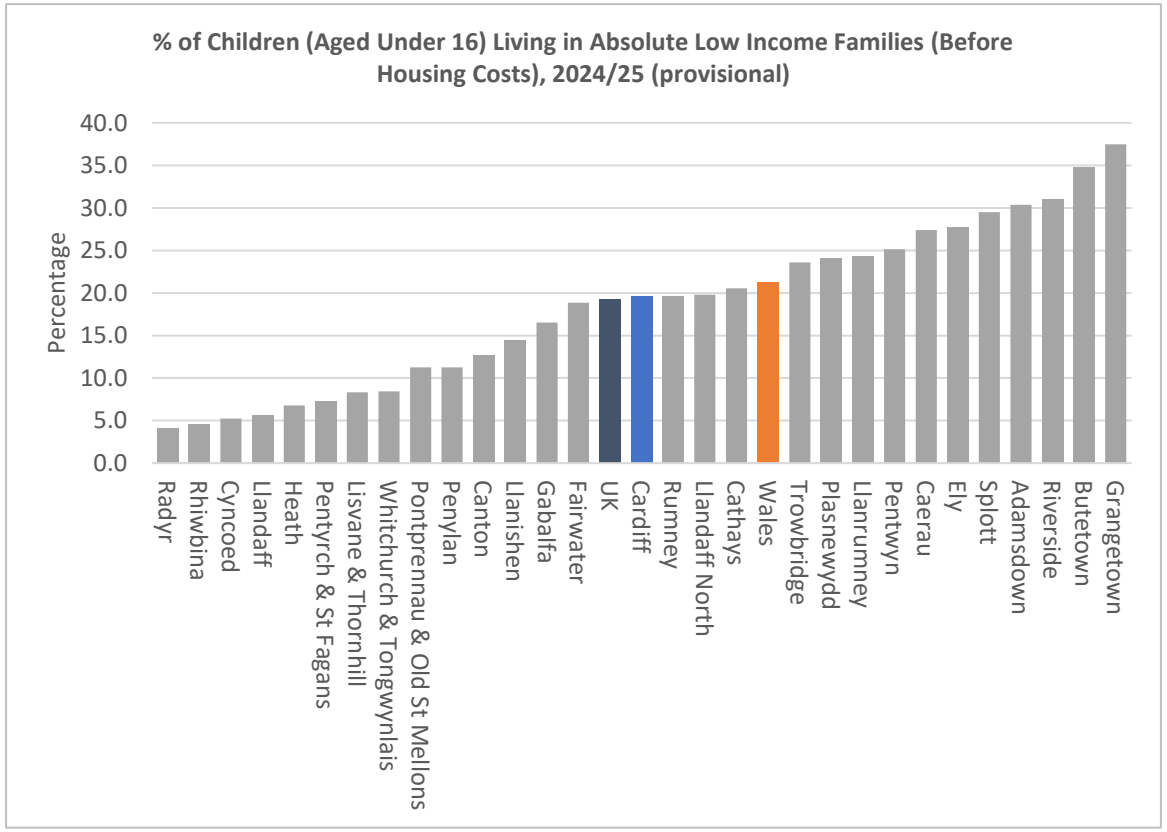
Percentage of Children in Absolute Low Income Families (Before Housing Costs)

Key Points:

- In 2024/25, almost a fifth (19.6%) of children (aged under 16) in Cardiff were living in absolute low income families (before housing costs), down from 22.2% for 2023/24.
- This is the 2nd lowest percentage across the core cities and below the figure for Wales of 21.2%. However, it exceeds the UK average of 19.3%.
- Across Cardiff's wards, the proportion ranges ninefold from 4.1% in Radyr to 37.5% in Grangetown. The figure also exceeds a third in Butetown (34.7%).

[NB. For 2024/25, the absolute low income reference year has moved from FYE 2011 to FYE 2025. Therefore, the 2024/25 figures for absolute low income are identical to those for relative low income (before housing costs).]



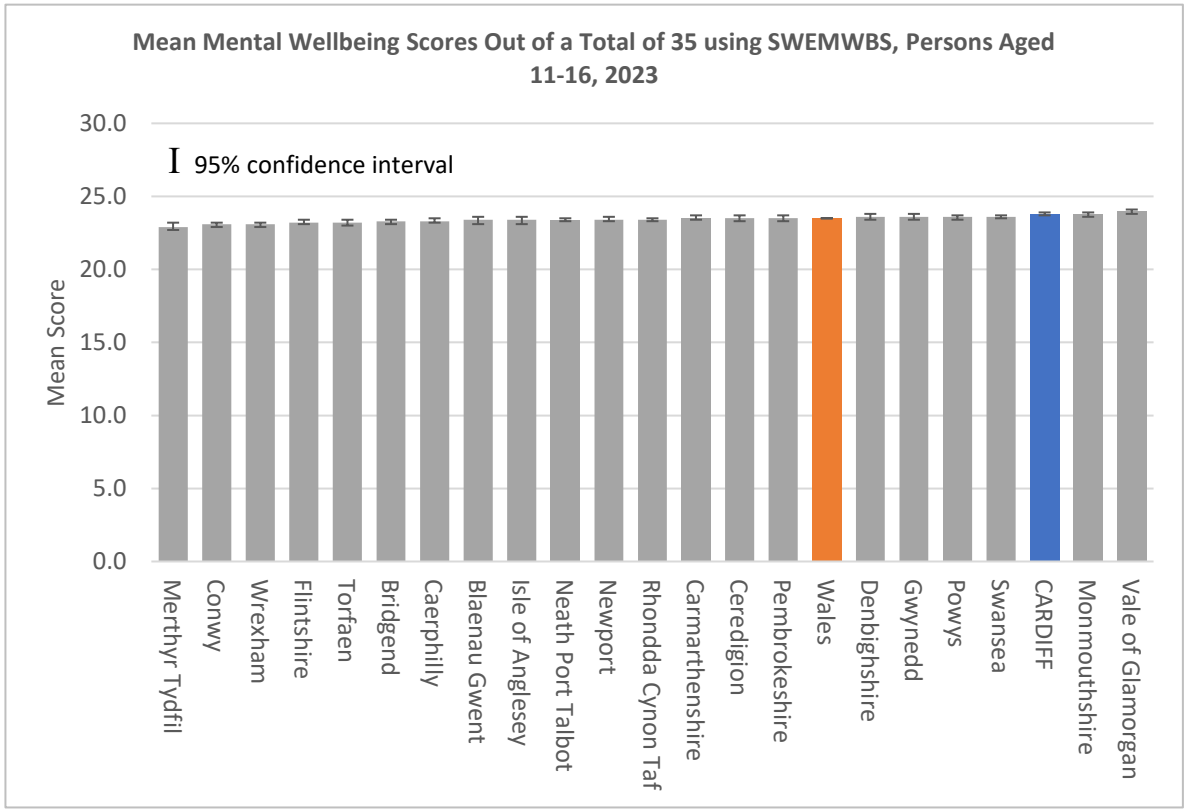


Source: Department for Work and Pensions

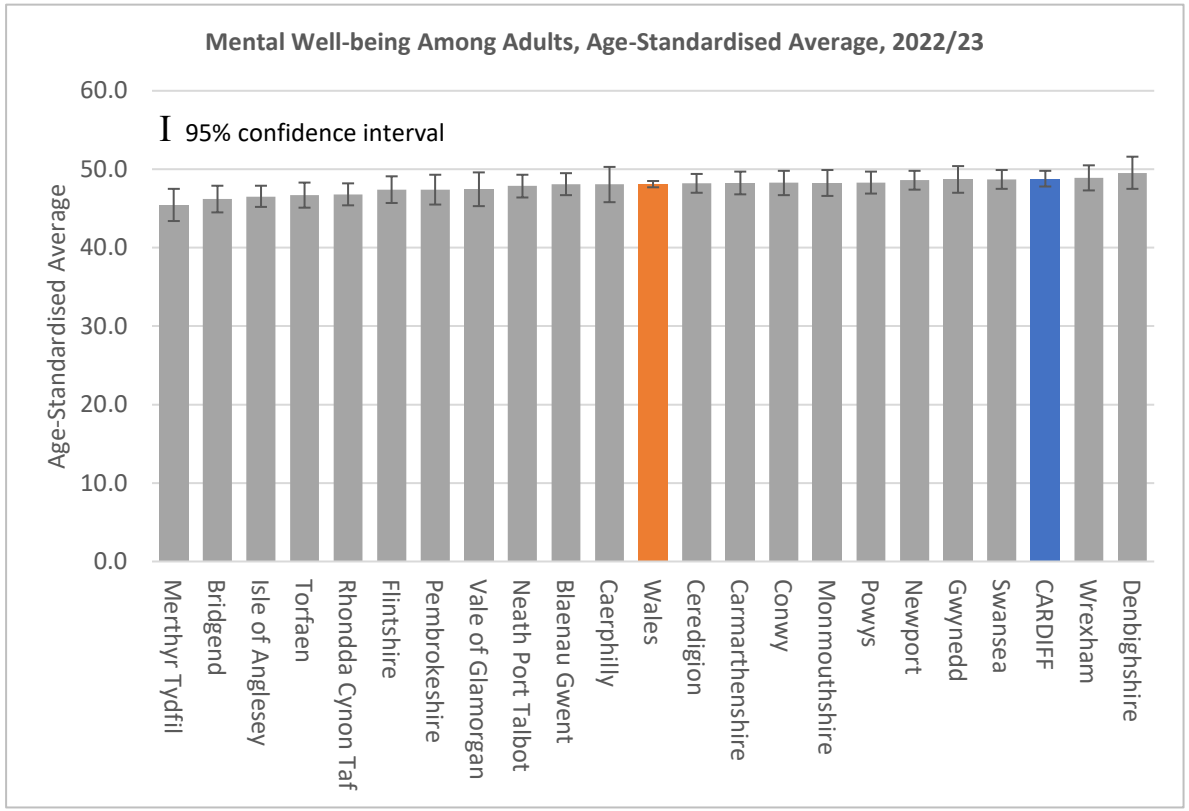
Mental Well-being: Children & Young Adults and Adults

Key Points:

- In 2023, Cardiff had the joint-second highest mean mental wellbeing score for children aged 11-16 and exceeded the Welsh average.
- In 2022/23, adult mental well-being (age-standardised average) in Cardiff was the third highest across the Welsh LAs and was above the Welsh average.



Source: Produced by Public Health Wales Observatory, using SHRN data

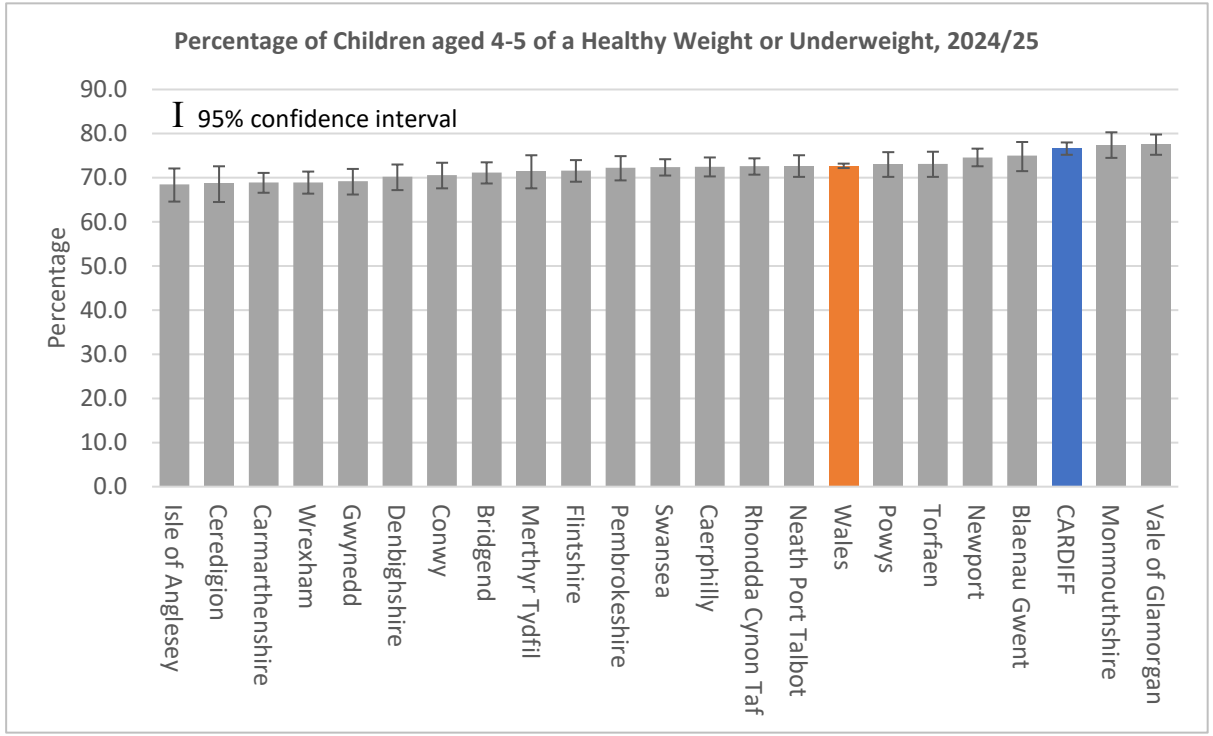


Source: Produced by Public Health Wales using NsFW (WG)

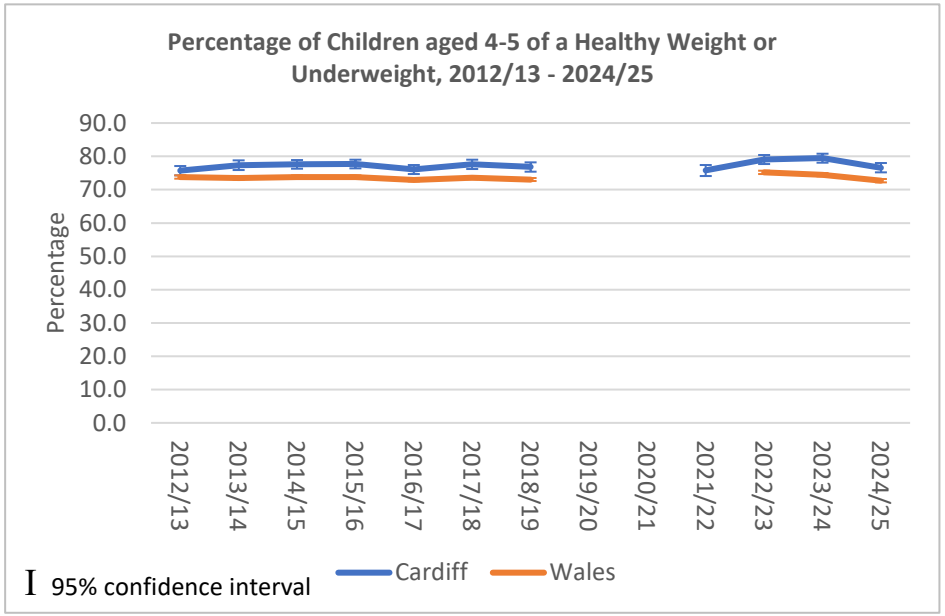
Percentage of Children Aged 4 to 5 who are a Healthy Weight

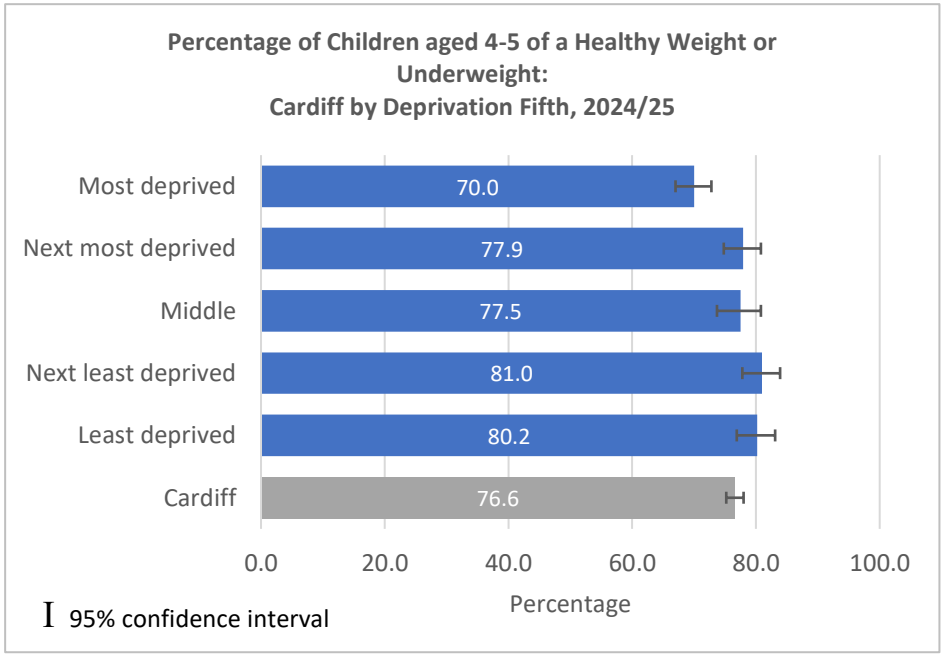
Key Points:

- In 2024/25, over three-quarters (76.6%) of children aged 4-5 in Cardiff were of a healthy weight or underweight, the 3rd highest proportion in Wales but down from 79.5% for 2023/24. The Cardiff figure has also consistently exceeded that of Wales as a whole since 2012/13.
- However, this still left almost a quarter (23.4%) of children aged 4 or 5 in Cardiff that are overweight or obese.
- There is also a 10.2 percentage point difference when comparing Cardiff's least/most deprived communities. This is up from 8.4 percentage points for the previous year and exceeds the comparative figure for Wales of 7.9 percentage points.



NB. Due to interruptions in data collection during the pandemic period, data are unavailable for 2019/20 and are incomplete for 2020/21 and 2021/22.



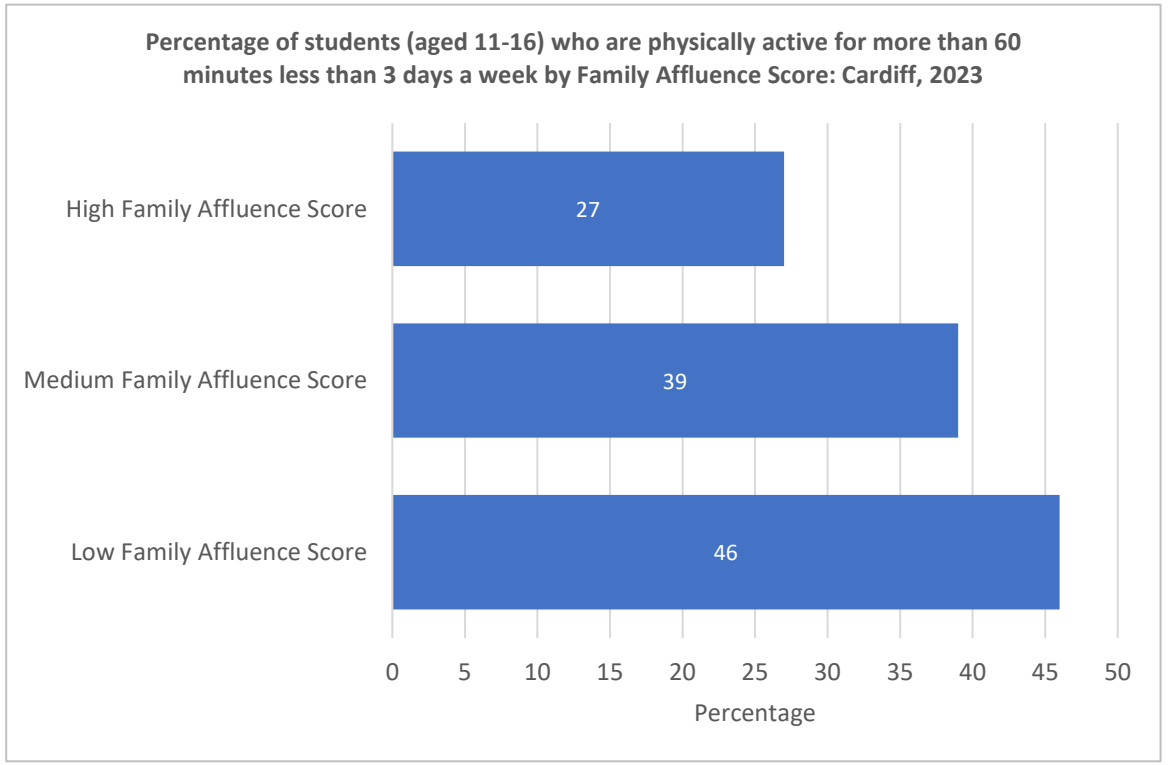


Source: Public Health Wales - Child Measurement Programme for Wales

Percentage of Students (aged 11-16) who are Physically Active for more than 60 minutes, less than 3 days a week by Family Affluence Score

Key Points:

- In 2023, almost half (46%) of students (aged 11-16) from low affluence families in Cardiff were physically active for more than 60 minutes less than three days a week. This was well above the comparative figure for high affluence families (27%).

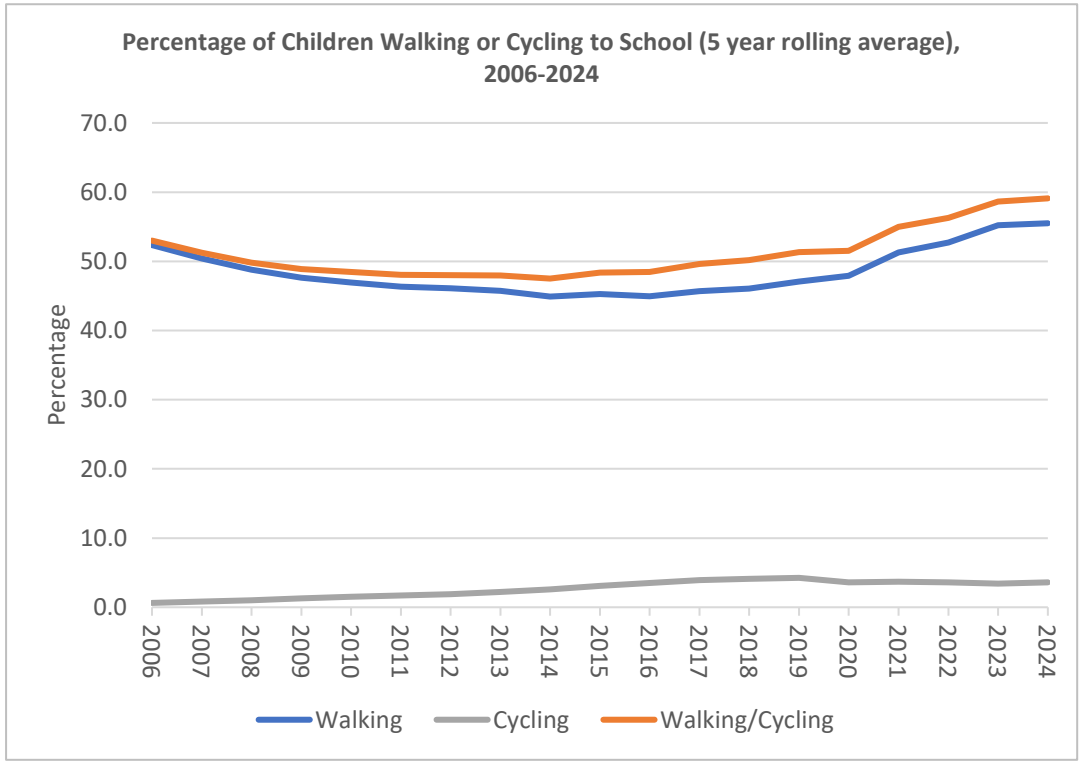


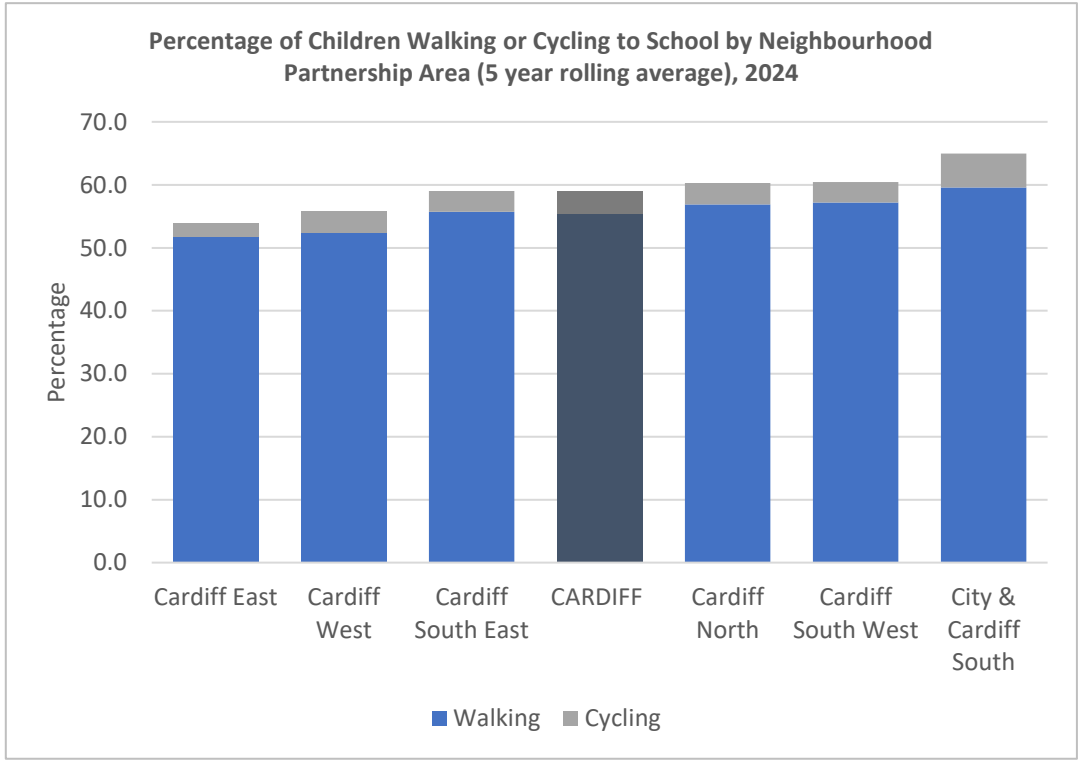
Source: Students' Health & Wellbeing Report, School Health Research Network, Public Health Wales

Percentage of Children Cycling/Walking to School

Key Points:

- Since 2014, the percentage of children cycling or walking to school has steadily increased, mainly driven by an increase in walking.
- In 2024, nearly three-fifths (59.1%) of children in Cardiff active travel to school.
- Across the city this figure ranges from 53.9% in Cardiff East to 65.0% in City & Cardiff South.





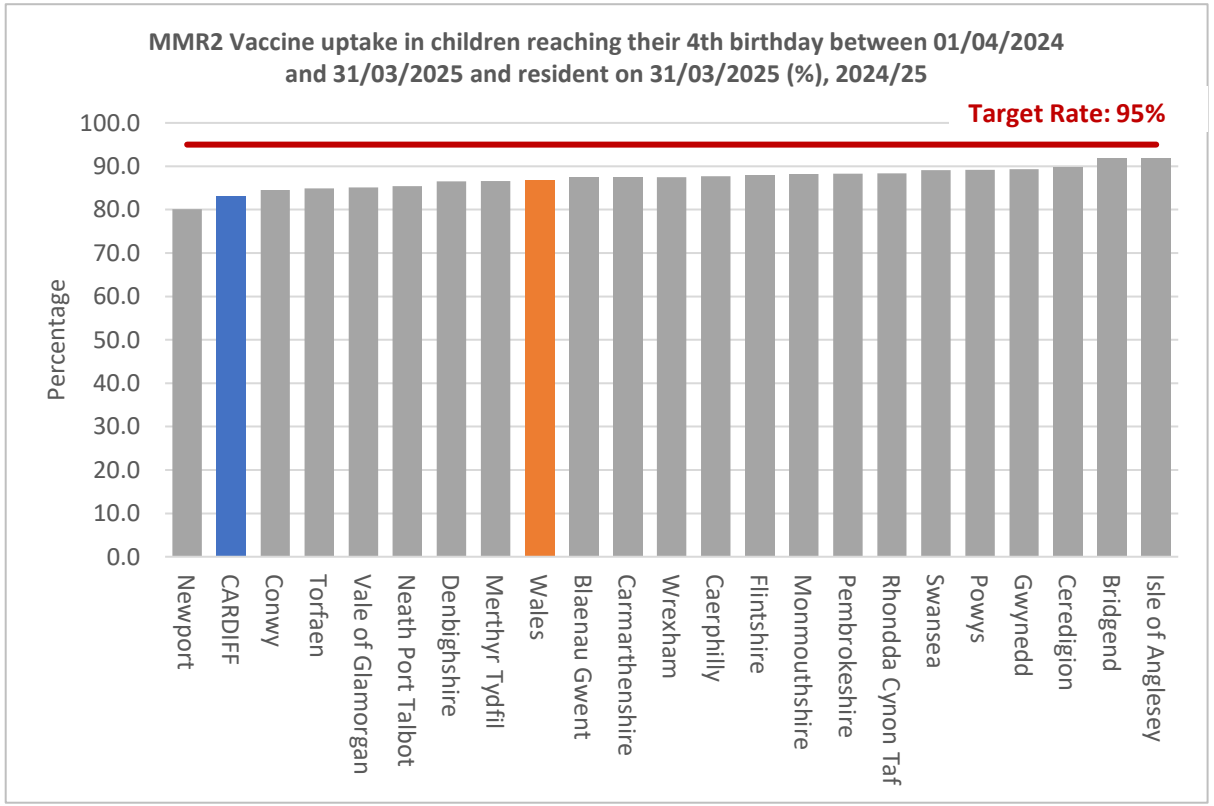
NB. Prior to 2024, Cardiff Council was responsible for collecting this data. Since then, Public Health Wales (PHW) has assumed responsibility for data collection. The PHW survey methodology differs slightly from that used by Cardiff Council, as does their sample size.

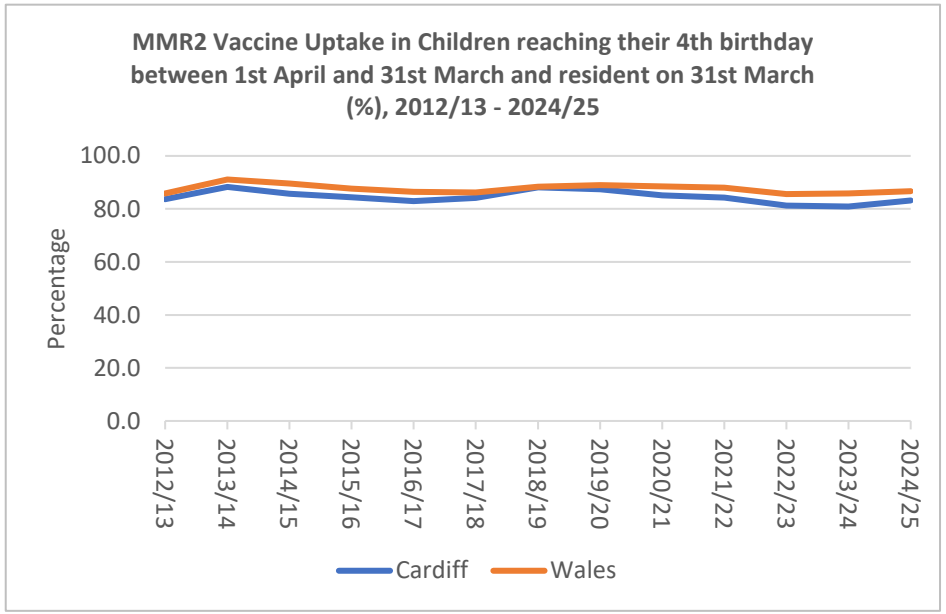
Source: Cardiff Council (Strategic Planning)/Public Health Wales

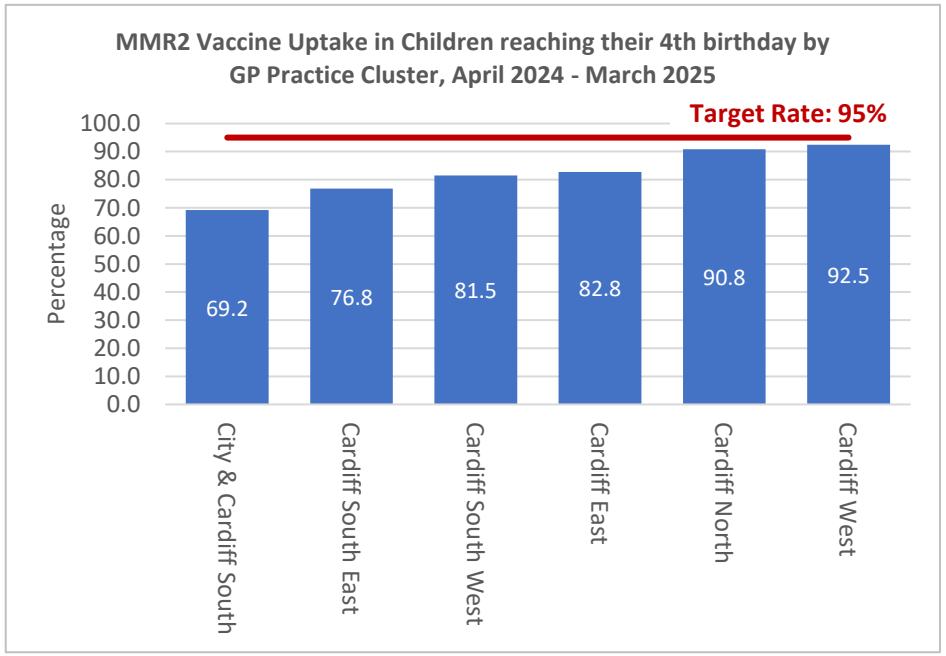
Uptake of MMR2 by Age 4

Key Points:

- The MMR2 vaccine uptake rate by age 4 increased in Cardiff in 2024/25, reversing the trend seen since the pandemic. However, it is still below the pre-pandemic level.
- In 2024/25, Cardiff (83.2%) had the second lowest MMR2 vaccination uptake rate in Wales, although this was an improvement on the previous year when it had the lowest rate. It has also consistently been below the Wales rate, which in 2024/25 was 86.7%.
- Target immunisation rate is 95%, although no local authority in Wales currently meets this target.
- Within Cardiff, the City & Cardiff South GP cluster has particularly low levels of uptake with only two-thirds (69.2%) having received their second vaccination by age 4 for the twelve months ending March 2025.
- The best performing clusters in Cardiff are still below the national target.





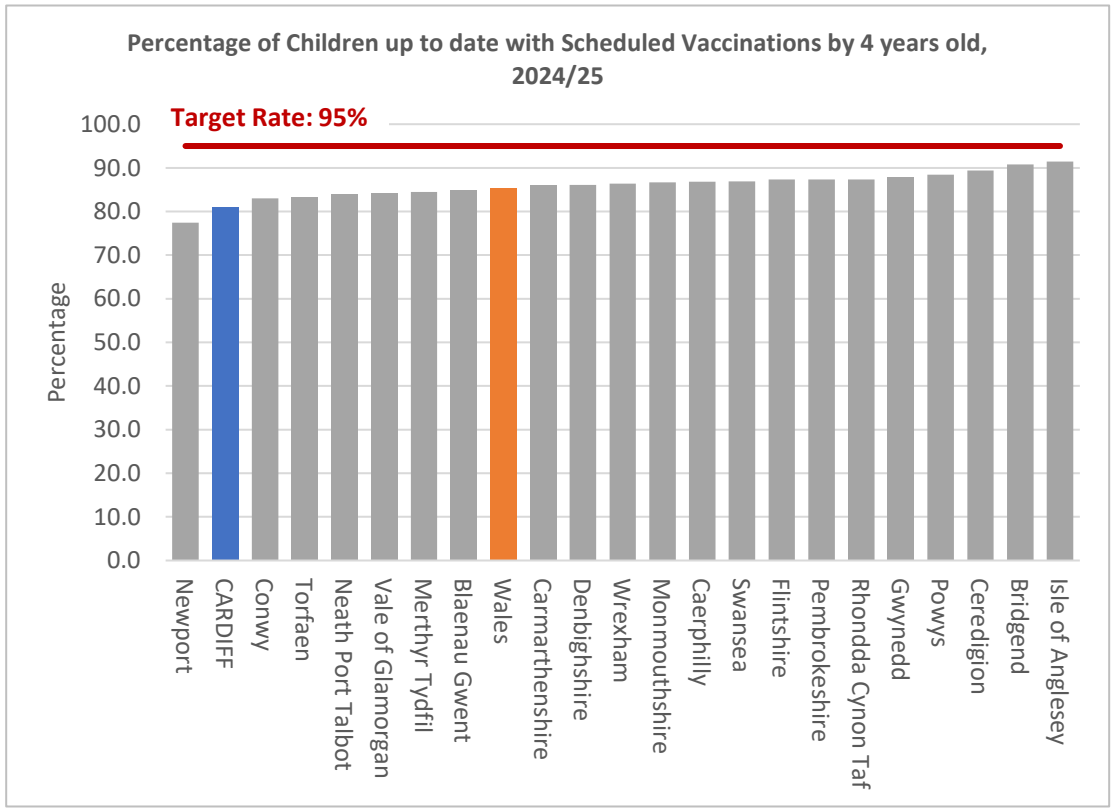


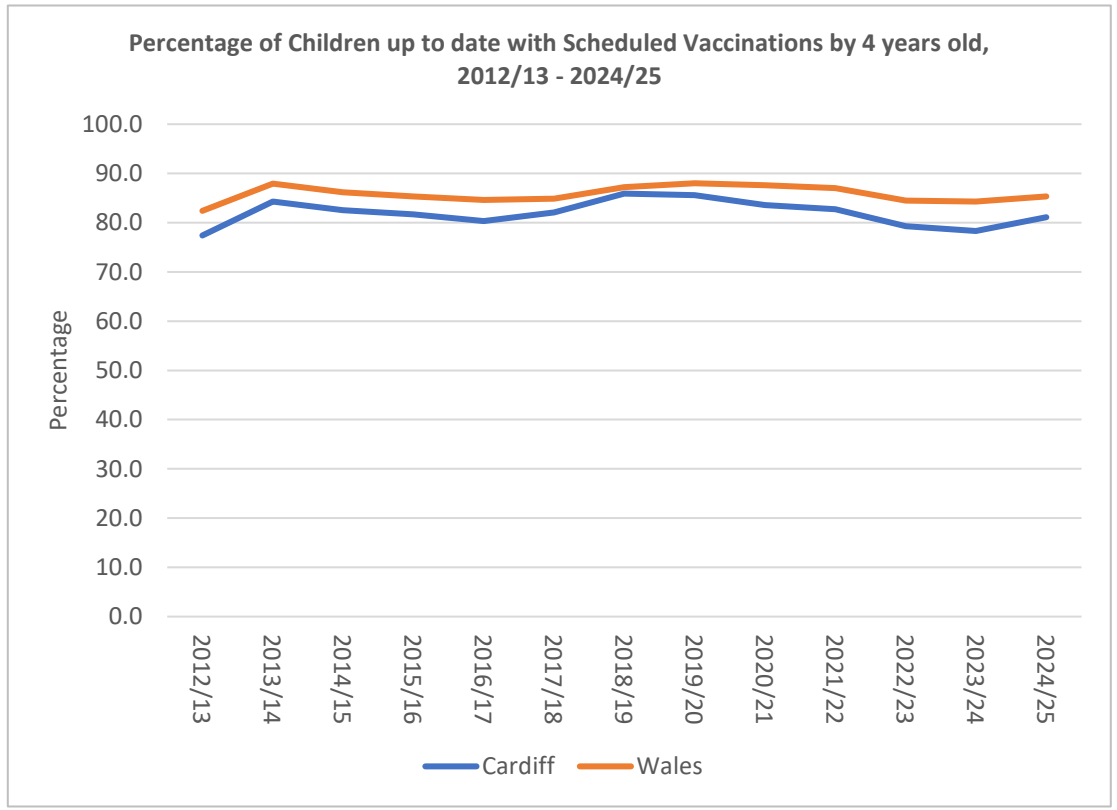
Source: Public Health Wales

Percentage of Children Up To Date with Scheduled Vaccinations by 4 years old

Key Points:

- In 2024/25, just over four-fifths (81.1%) of children in Cardiff were up to date with scheduled vaccinations by age 4, the second lowest figure in Wales and below the Welsh average of 85.3%.
- However, it was up from 78.3% in the previous year, when it had the lowest rate in Wales. This bucked the recent downturn in vaccination uptake that had been seen since the pandemic, although it was still below the pre-pandemic level.



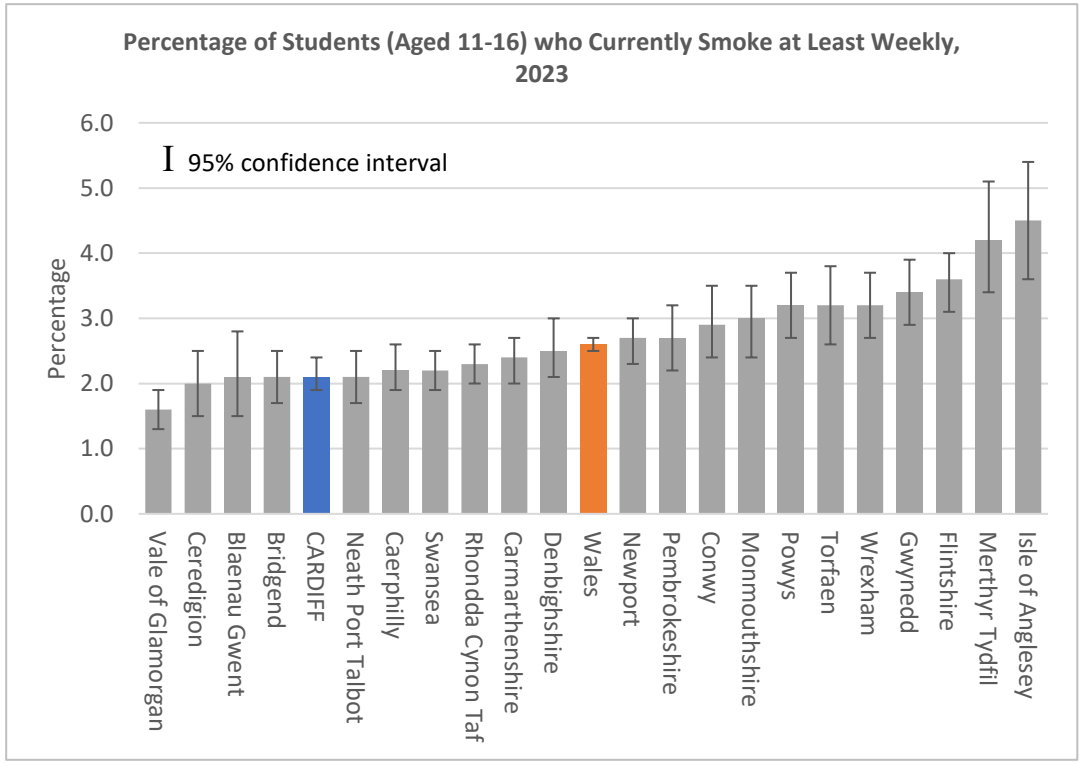


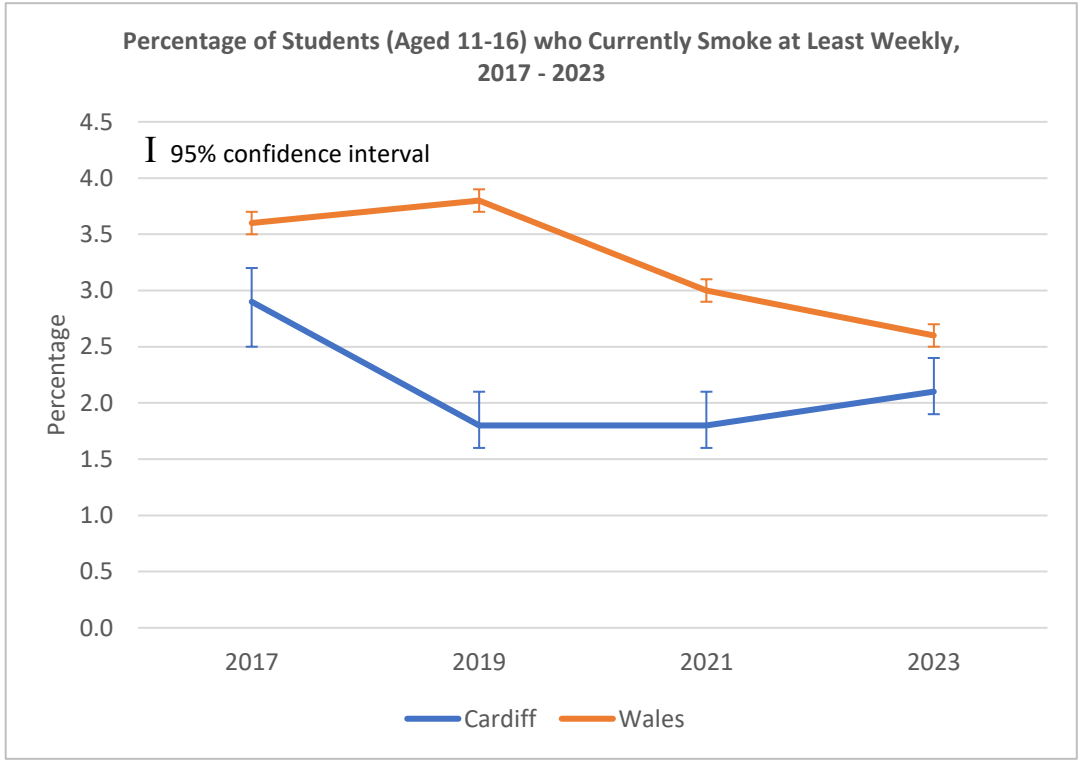
Source: Public Health Wales

Percentage of Students (aged 11-16) who Currently Smoke at Least Weekly

Key Points:

- In 2023, 2.1% of students (aged 11-16) in Cardiff smoked at least weekly – the joint-third lowest figure across the Welsh LAs and below the Welsh average of 2.6%. However, Cardiff's rate had increased from 1.8% in the previous study (2021), while, in contrast, the Wales figure had fallen from 3.0%.
- Since 2017/18, Cardiff's figure has compared favourably with that of Wales as a whole, although the gap has declined since 2019.





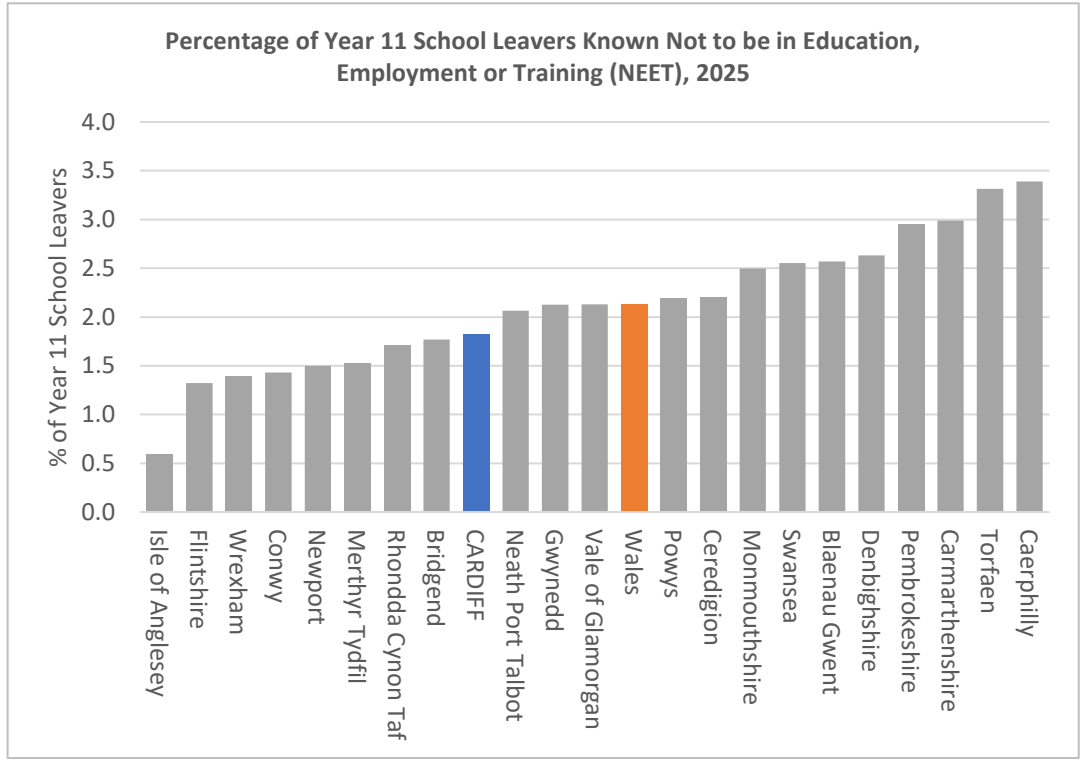
Source: Students' Health & Wellbeing Report, School Health Research Network, Public Health Wales

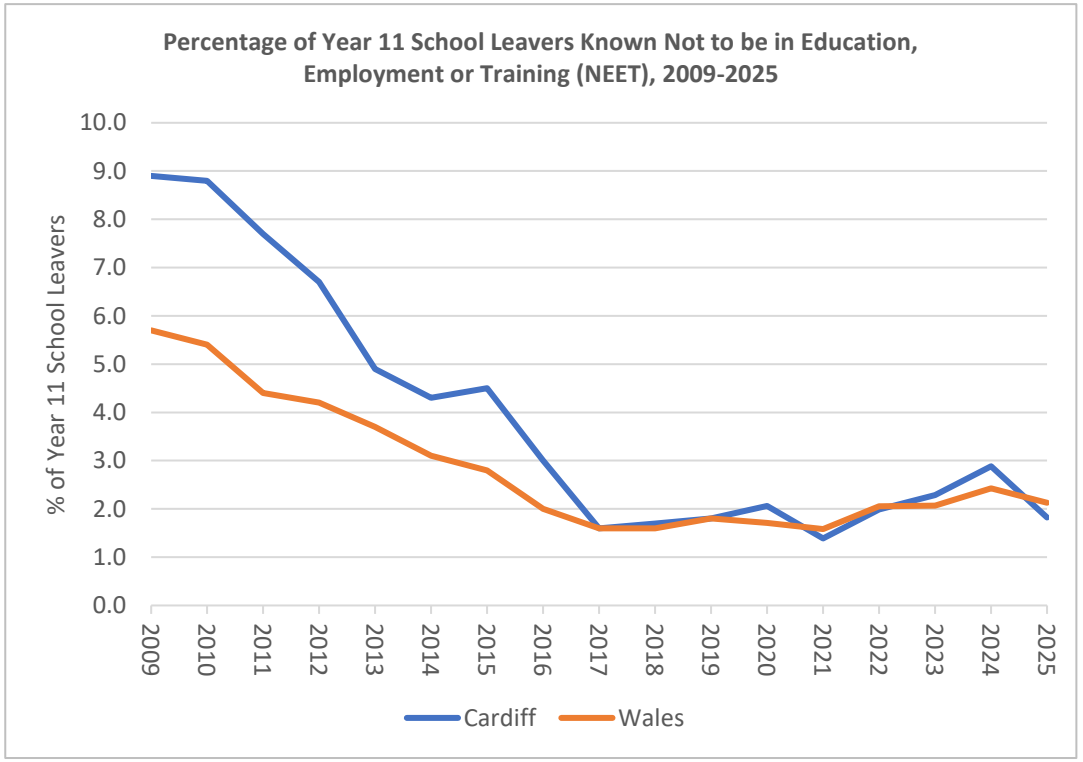
Year 11 School Leavers known not to be in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

Key Points:

- In 2025, 1.8% of Year 11 School Leavers in Cardiff were known to be NEET, the 9th lowest figure across the Welsh LAs and below the Wales average of 2.1%.
- This was down from 2.9% for 2024, reversing the upward trend seen in recent years (from a low of 1.4% in 2021), and is well below the high of 8.9% seen in 2009.

[NB. When comparing the latest data with previous years, it is important to take account of other influencing factors, in particular, the high 'No response' rate in 2018 and the absence of any external examinations in 2020 or 2021 due to the Covid pandemic.]





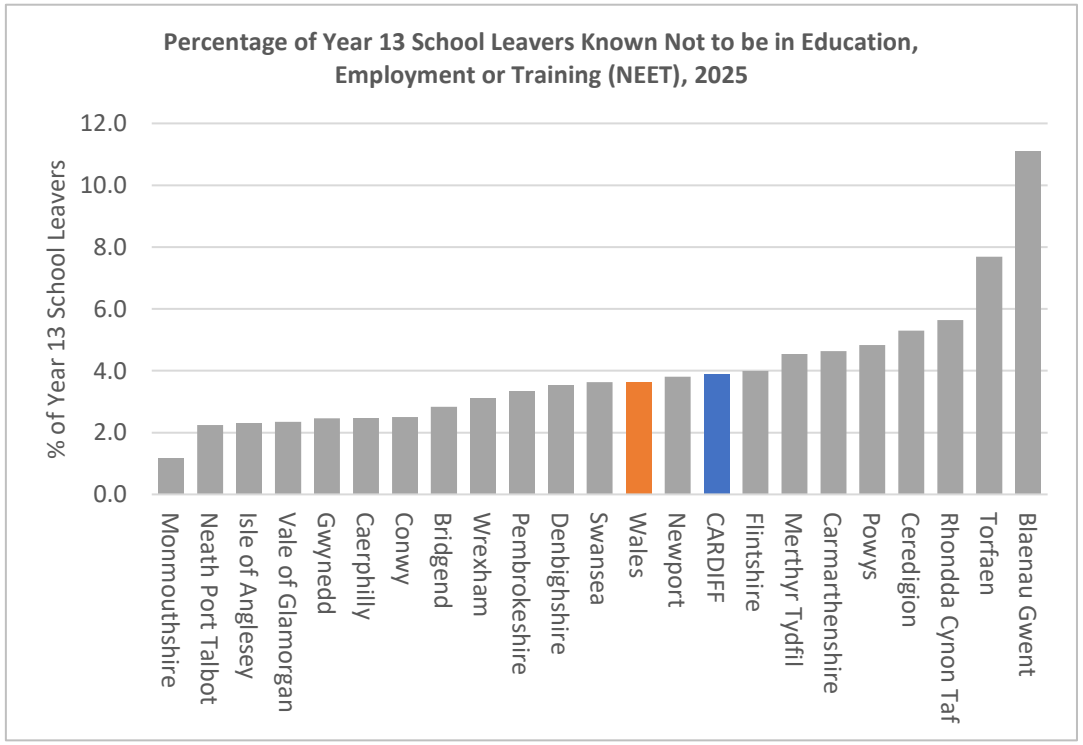
Source: Careers Wales

Year 13 School Leavers known not to be in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

Key Points:

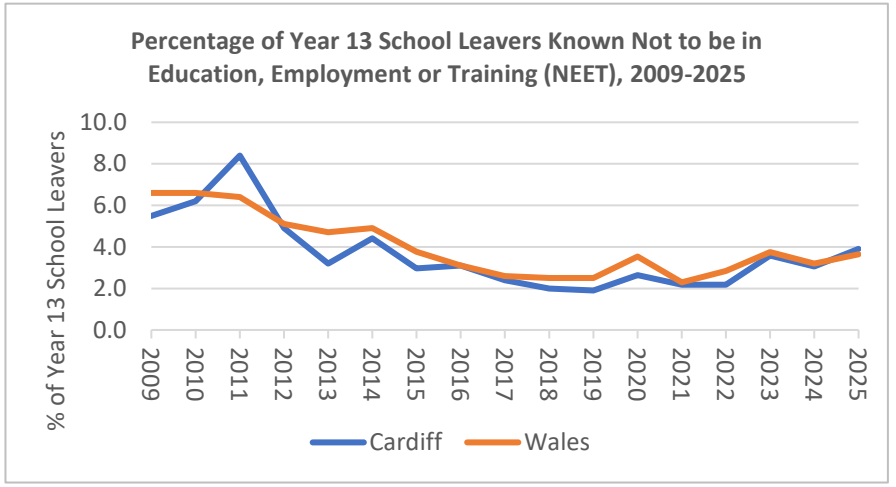
- In 2025, 3.9% of Year 13 School Leavers in Cardiff were known to be NEET, above the Wales average (3.6%).
- This was also up from 3.1% in the previous year and was the highest figure since 2014.
- In May 2026, the Claimant Count Rate for those aged 18-24 in the city's most deprived areas (10.1%) was almost six times that of the least deprived areas (1.7%).

[NB. When comparing the latest school leaver data with previous years, it is important to take account of other influencing factors, in particular, the high 'No response' rate in 2018 and the absence of any external examinations in 2020 or 2021 due to the Covid pandemic.]

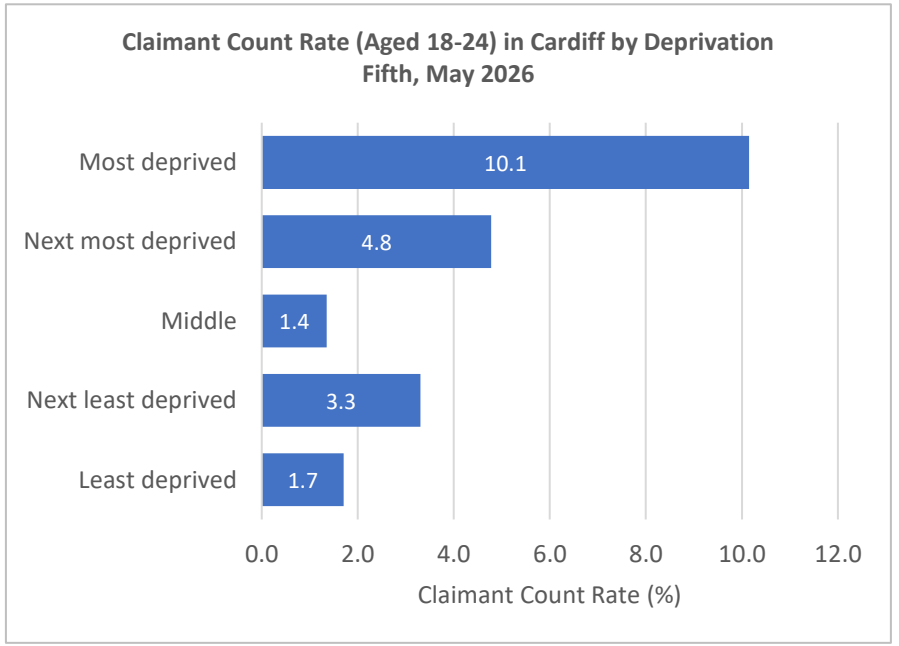


Source: Careers Wales

NB. Merthyr Tydfil and Blaenau Gwent only have tertiary colleges and proportions are based on low cohort numbers



Source: Careers Wales



Source: Calculated by Cardiff Council using ONS Claimant Count/Mid-Year Population Estimates/WIMD 2025 (Welsh Government)

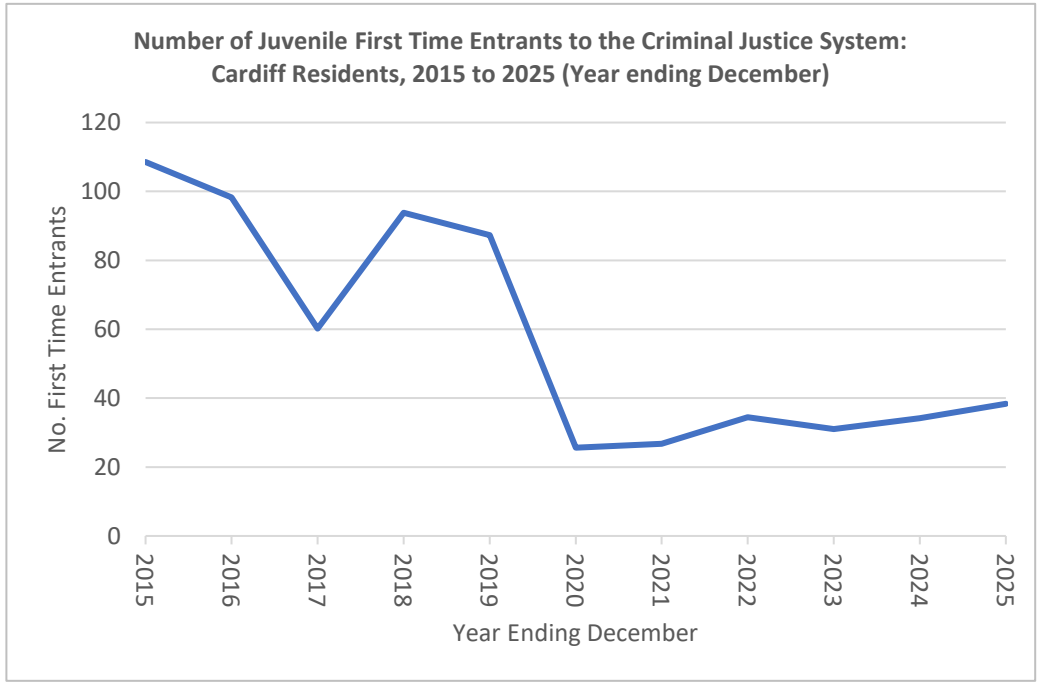
Number of First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System

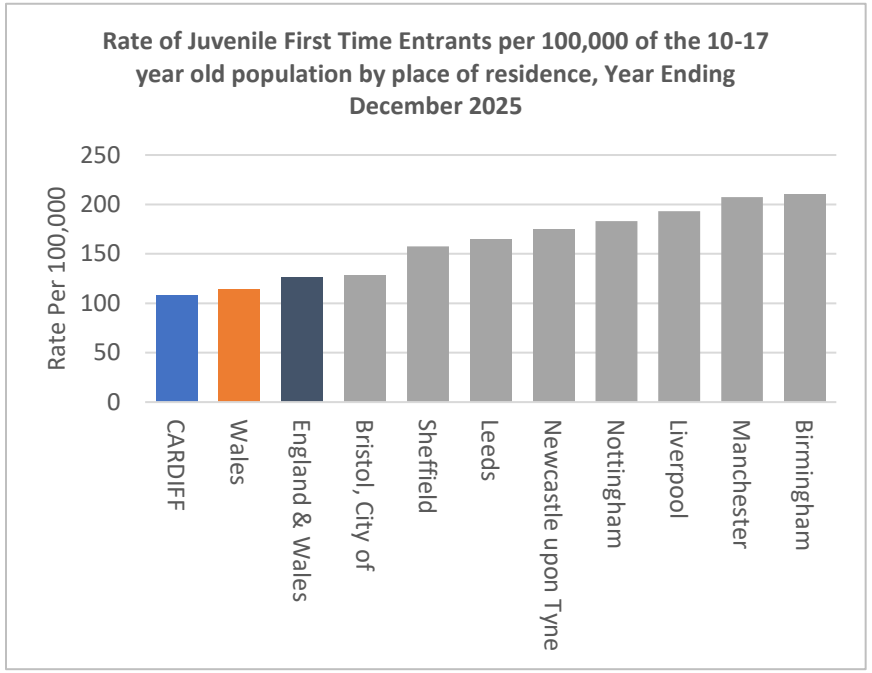
Key Points:

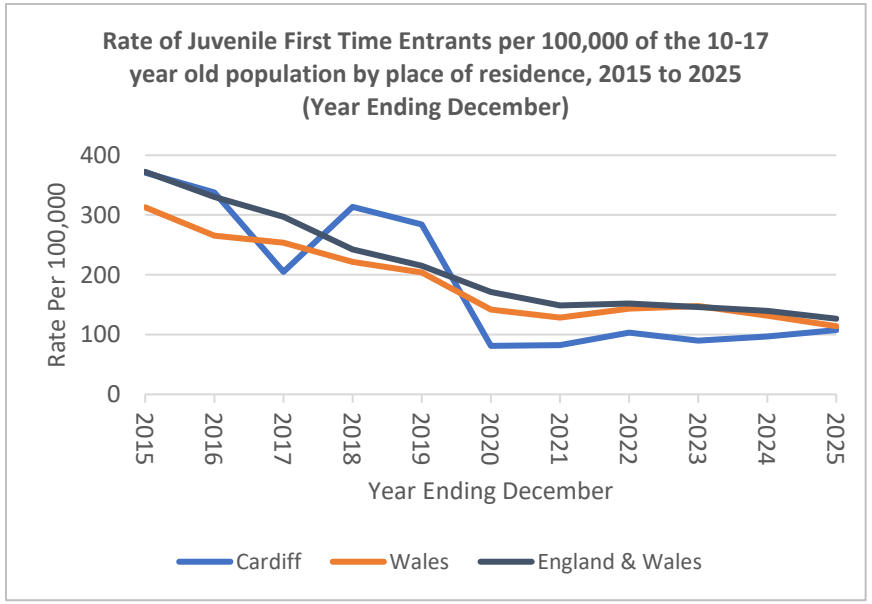
- In the year ending December 2025, there were 38 juvenile first time entrants to the Criminal Justice System by Cardiff residents. This figure has been relatively unchanged since 2020, but is down from 109 in 2015.
- Cardiff had the lowest rate (per 100,000 residents aged 10-17) amongst the core cities in England & Wales. It was also below the rates for both Wales and England & Wales, as had been the case since 2020.

[NB. These are estimated figures. Juveniles receiving their first conviction, caution or youth caution have been mapped to individual Local Authorities using the home address or postcode recorded by the police on the Police National Computer. For those with no address recorded, a model based on the patterns of offenders dealt with by police stations has been used to allocate offenders to Local Authorities. Therefore, caution must be taken when using these figures.

Figures from 2020 onwards have been impacted by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the operational restrictions imposed and the continued court backlog. Figures for 2022 will have been impacted by industrial action taken by the Criminal Bar Association.]





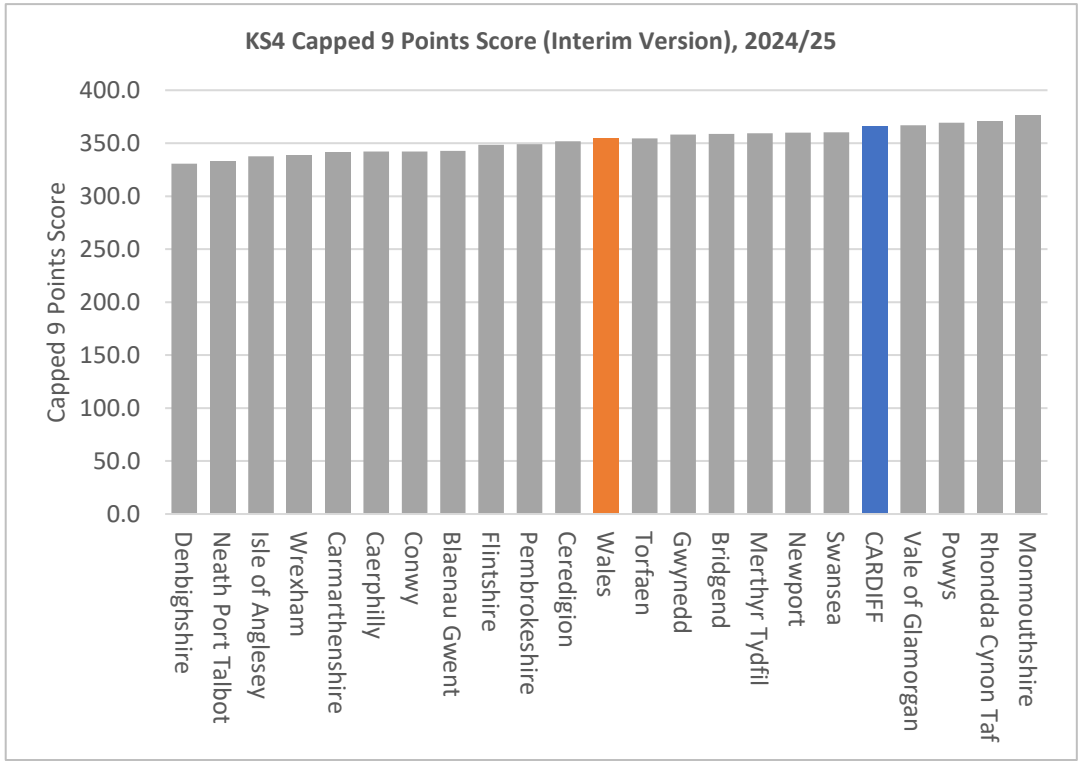


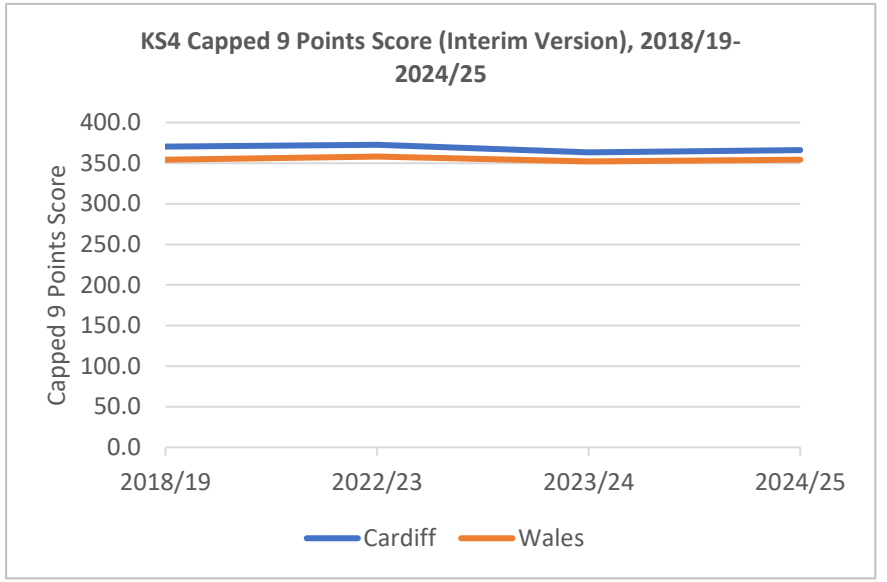
Source: Ministry of Justice

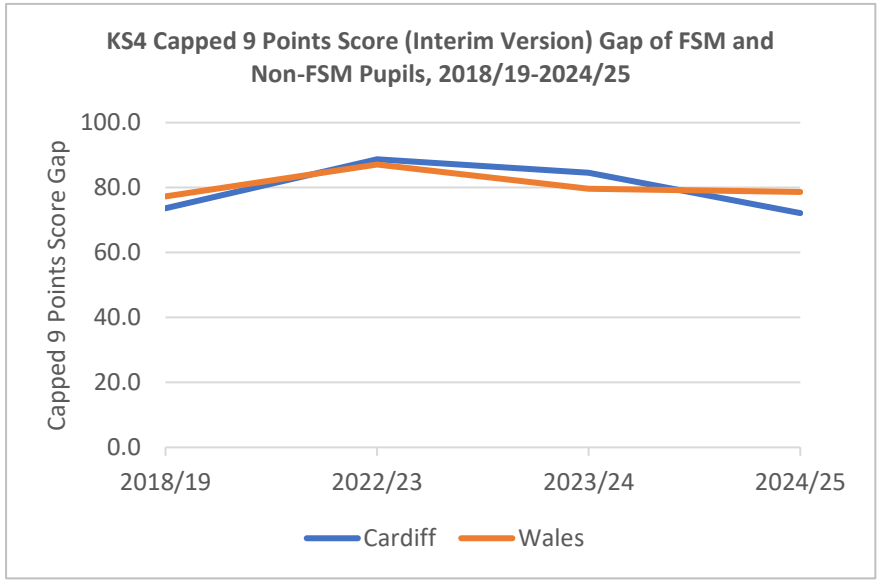
Key Stage 4: Capped 9 Points Score [including FSM v non-FSM attainment gap at LA level]

Key Points:

- In 2024/25, the average KS4 Capped 9 points score in Cardiff was 366.2, the 5th highest average across the Welsh LAs. It also exceeded the Wales figure of 354.3, as has consistently been the case since 2018/19.
- However, although it was up from 363.3 in 2023/24, it was below the high of 372.7 seen in 2022/23.
- KS4 pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM) in Cardiff had an average score of 327.0 in 2024/25, compared with 399.1 for non-FSM pupils, resulting in a gap of 72.1 points. This compared favourably with Wales, where the gap was 78.6 points, and was an improvement on 2023/24 when the gap was 84.6 points.







Source: Welsh Government

Cardiff is a great place to grow older



What the Data Shows: Summary

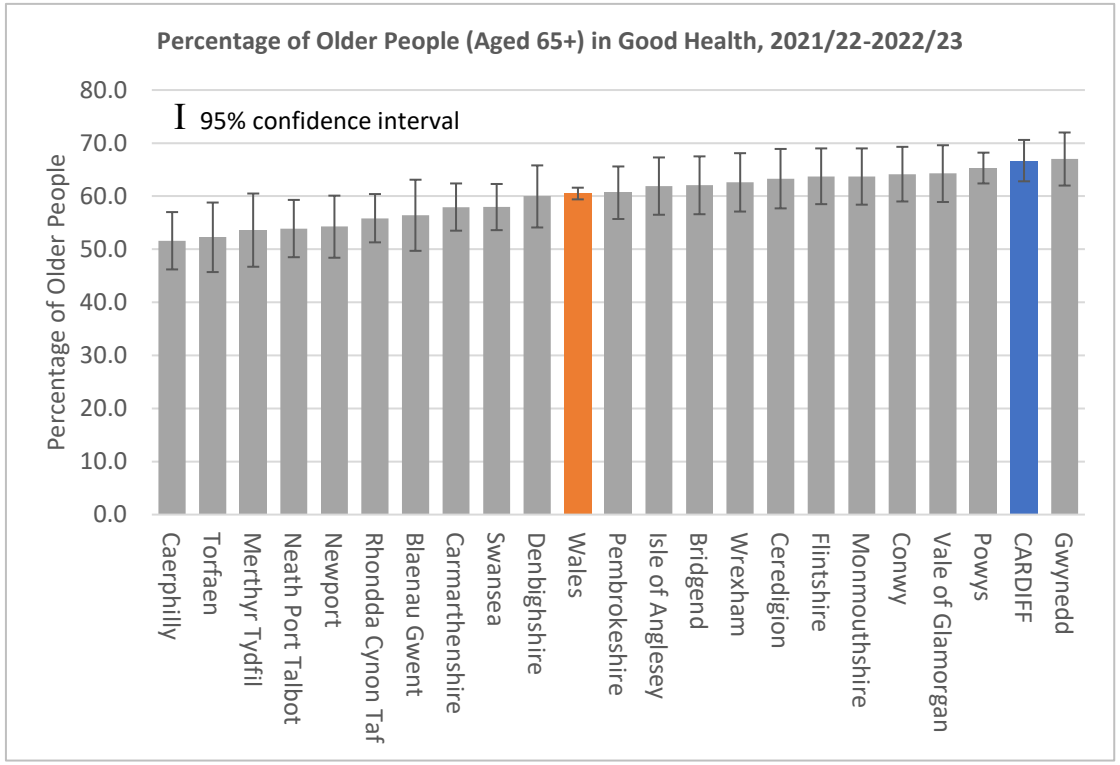
The latest available data suggests a generally positive picture for older people in Cardiff, although the available evidence is limited by the age of some indicators and changes in methodology that restrict comparisons over time. Many older people report good levels of health and wellbeing, with more than four-fifths reporting high levels of life satisfaction, alongside positive perceptions of their general health and satisfaction with their housing, care and support arrangements. However, only around two-fifths of older people are reported to be of a healthy weight.

Percentage of People Aged 65+ Reporting their General Health as being Very Good or Good

Key Points:

- For 2021/22-2022/23 combined, two-thirds (66.7%) of older people aged 65+ in Cardiff considered themselves to be in good health – the second highest figure across the Welsh LAs and above the Welsh average of 60.5%.
- ONS data for 2009 to 2013 (latest figures) showed that at ward level, the 65 year old healthy life expectancy inequality gap was 10.5 years for males and 12.1 years for females. In addition, males aged 65 in Adamsdown could expect to spend a quarter (24.8%) of their remaining life in good health compared to an expected two-thirds (65.4%) for those living in Lisvane. For females the figures were 23.5% and 56.9% respectively.

[NB. The National Survey 2020/21 was adapted due to the coronavirus pandemic. The results from 2020/21 onwards should not be compared with results from previous editions of the National Survey for Wales due to the change in survey mode (and, in some cases, the need to adapt questions). These topics can be sensitive to such changes.]



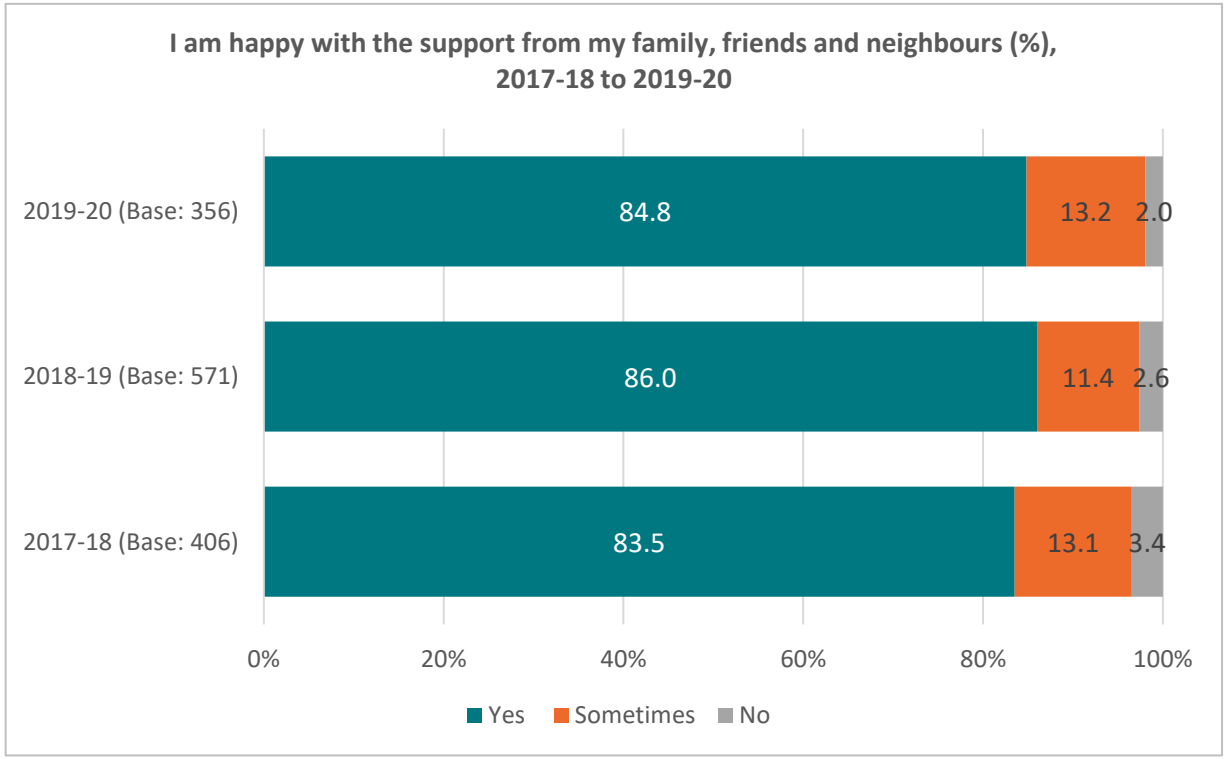
Source: Public Health Wales/National Survey for Wales

Percentage of People Aged 65+ Reporting Loneliness*

Key Points:

- In 2019/20, over four-fifths (84.8%) reported they were happy with the support from family, friends and neighbours. This compared with 83.5% in 2017-18 and 86.0% in 2018-19.

[NB. The Annual Social Services and Wellbeing Survey has not been undertaken since 2019/20 and is no longer required by Welsh Government]



Source: Social Services & Well-being Survey, Cardiff Council

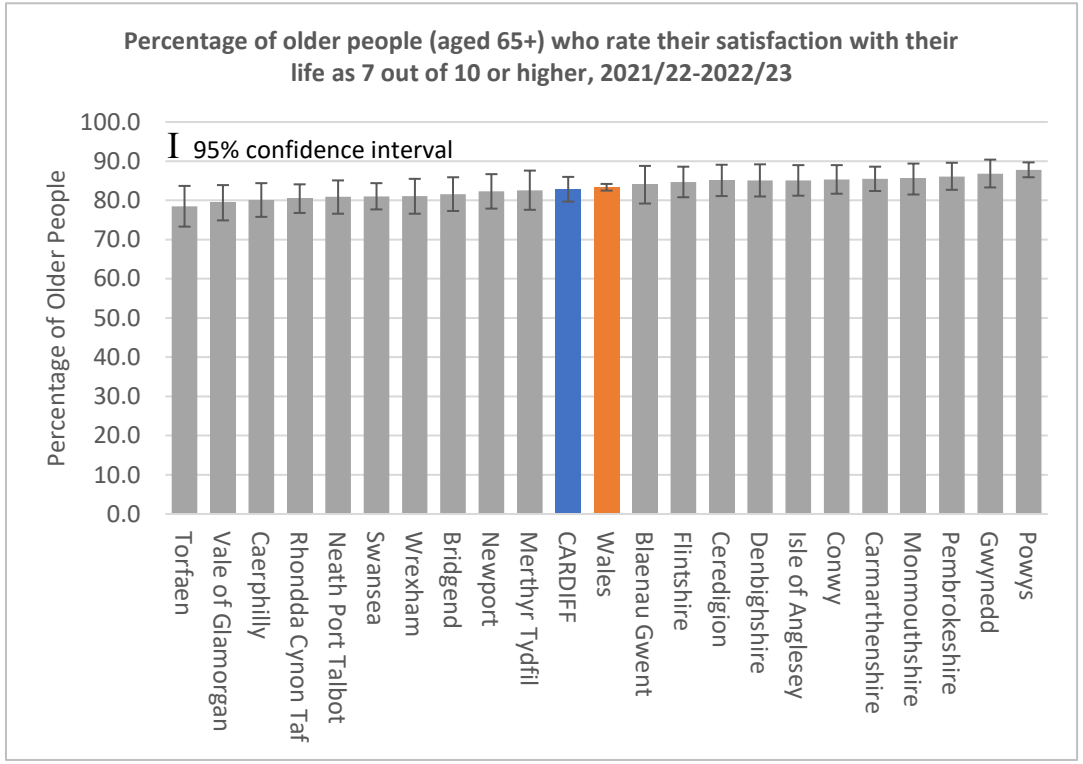
**Proxy question for Percentage of people age 65+ reporting loneliness*

Life Satisfaction Amongst Older People

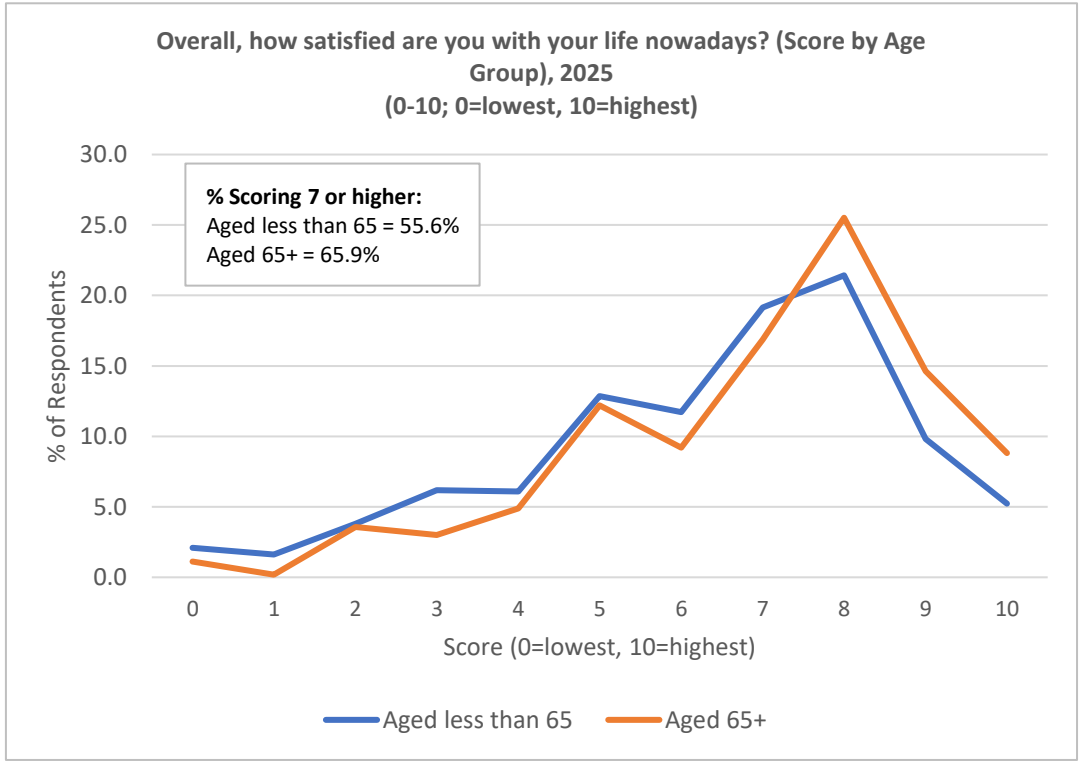
Key Points:

- For 2021/22-2022/23 combined, over four-fifths (82.8%) of older people (aged 65+) in Cardiff were satisfied with their life (i.e. rated their satisfaction as 7 or more out of 10). This was just below the Wales average (83.3%) and made Cardiff a mid-level performer across the Welsh LAs (Public Health Wales/National Survey for Wales).
- The 2025 Ask Cardiff Survey showed lower levels of life satisfaction for those aged 65+ (than for the National Survey for Wales). However, they were more likely to be satisfied than those aged less than 65.

[NB. The National Survey 2020/21 was adapted due to the coronavirus pandemic. The results from 2020/21 onwards should not be compared with results from previous editions of the National Survey for Wales due to the change in survey mode (and, in some cases, the need to adapt questions). These topics can be sensitive to such changes.]



Source: Public Health Wales/National Survey for Wales



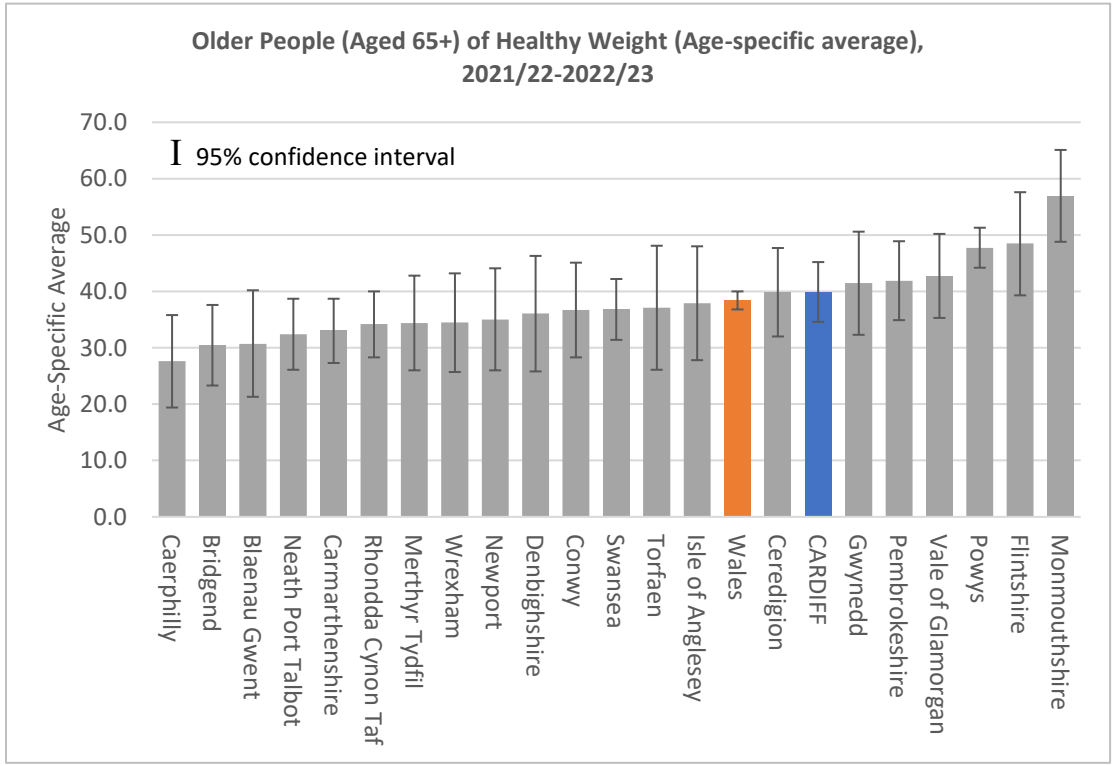
Source: Cardiff Council - Ask Cardiff Survey

Percentage of People aged 65+ of a Healthy Weight

Key Points:

- For 2021/22-2022/23 combined, only two-fifths (39.9%) of older adults (aged 65+) in Cardiff were of a healthy weight. However, this was the 7th highest figure across the Welsh LAs and compared with a Welsh average of 38.4%.

[NB. Data from the National Survey for Wales for 2020-21 onwards is not comparable with previous years due to pandemic-related changes to the methodology.]



Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework Reporting Tool
Produced by Public Health Wales using National Survey for Wales (Welsh Government)

Supporting people out of poverty



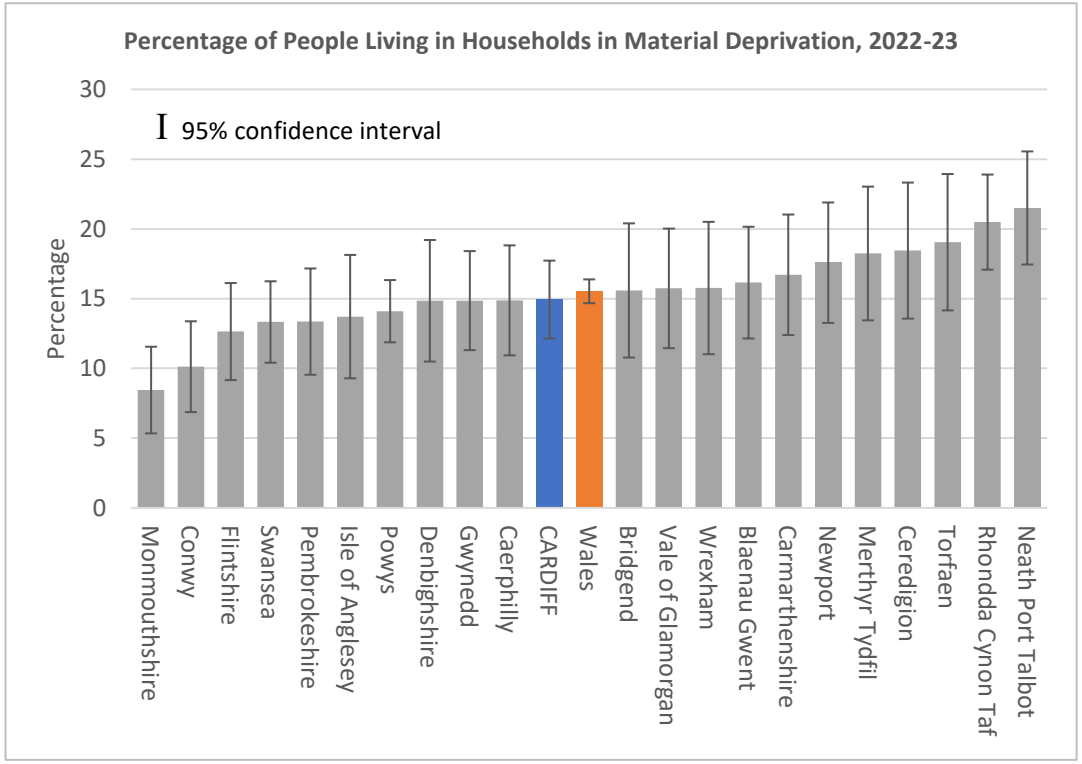
What the Data Shows: Summary

The data highlights the continuing impact of poverty, inequality and cost-of-living pressures across Cardiff, despite progress in some areas. Positive developments include improvements in low birth weight and signs of improvement across some measures of food insecurity. Cardiff also continues to maintain a strong commitment to the Real Living Wage, although growth has slowed in recent years. However, material deprivation remains a significant issue, healthy life expectancy continues to decline, while housing affordability and rough sleeping remain significant challenges. The data also highlights the extent to which deprivation continues to shape outcomes, with substantial gaps in healthy life expectancy, food insecurity, diet, physical activity and smoking prevalence between the city's most and least deprived communities.

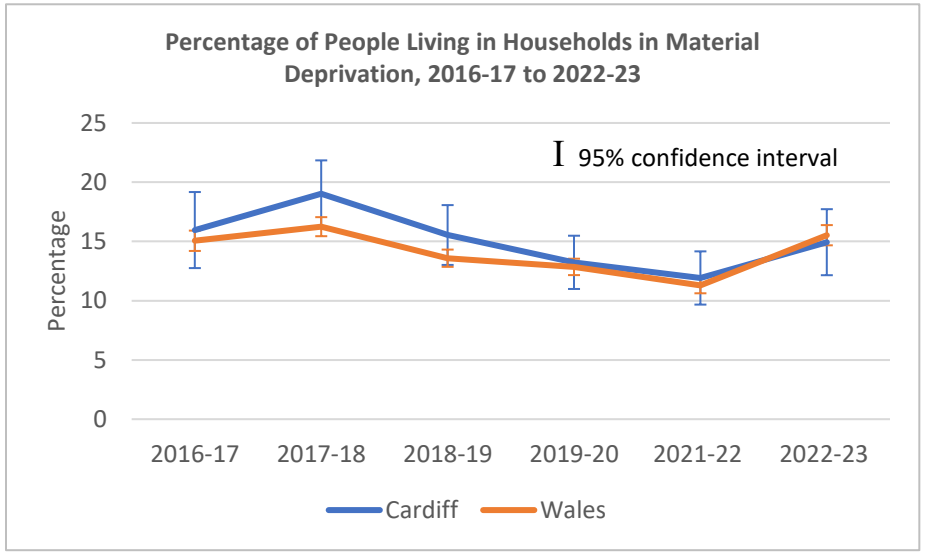
Percentage of People Living in Households in Material Deprivation

Key Points:

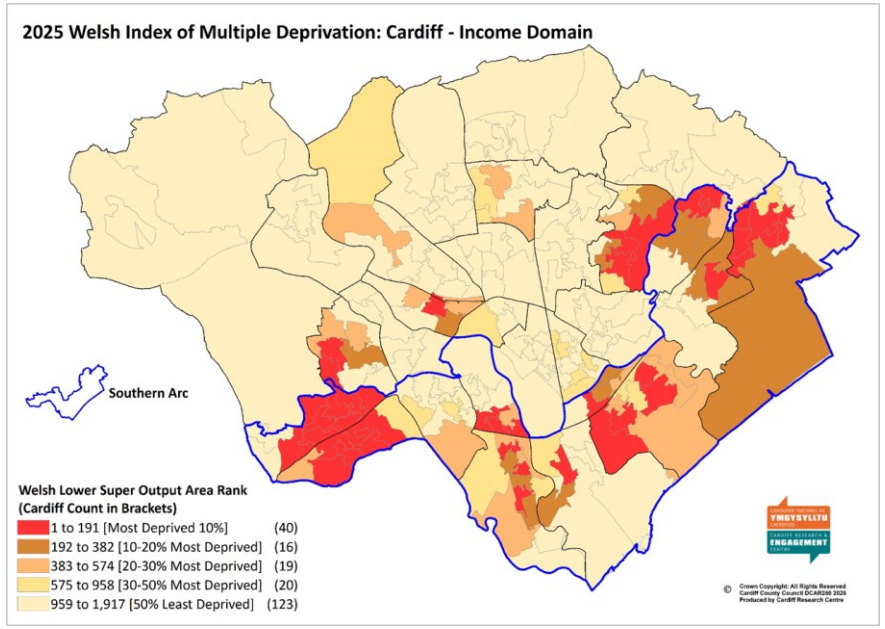
- In 2022/23, 15% of people living in households in Cardiff were in material deprivation. This was just below the Welsh average (16%) and made Cardiff a mid-ranking performer across the Welsh LAs.
- However, following several years of decline, this was up on the figure for 2021-22 of 12%.
- Income deprivation is concentrated in the 'Southern Arc' of the city, although there are pockets within other areas of Cardiff (2025 Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation).



Source: National Survey for Wales, Welsh Government



Source: National Survey for Wales, Welsh Government



Source: Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025, Welsh Government
NB. Number of LSOAs in each area is shown in brackets

Number of Accredited Real Living Wage Employers

Key Points:
- In April 2026, there were 226 accredited Real Living Wage employers in Cardiff, practically unchanged from 225 in April 2025 but up from a baseline level of 82 in 2019.
- However, it was below the Nov 2025 target of 300 employers.

Cardiff	Baseline in 2019	Position 4 Oct 22	Position 6 Feb 23	Position 4 Mar 24	Position 1 Apr 25	Position 7 Apr 26	Target for Nov 2023	Target for Nov 2024	Target for Nov 2025
Number of accredited Real Living Wage employers	82	184	197	217	225	**226**	*210*	*260*	*300*

Source: Cynnal Cymru

Number of Workers Receiving a Pay Rise onto at least the Real Living Wage

Key Points:

- In April 2026, there were 11,458 workers in Cardiff that had received a pay rise onto at least the Real Living Wage, up from 10,211 in April 2025 but below the March 2024 figure of 13,322 and compared to a baseline level of 4,524 in 2019.
- It was also below the Nov 2025 target of 13,900 workers.

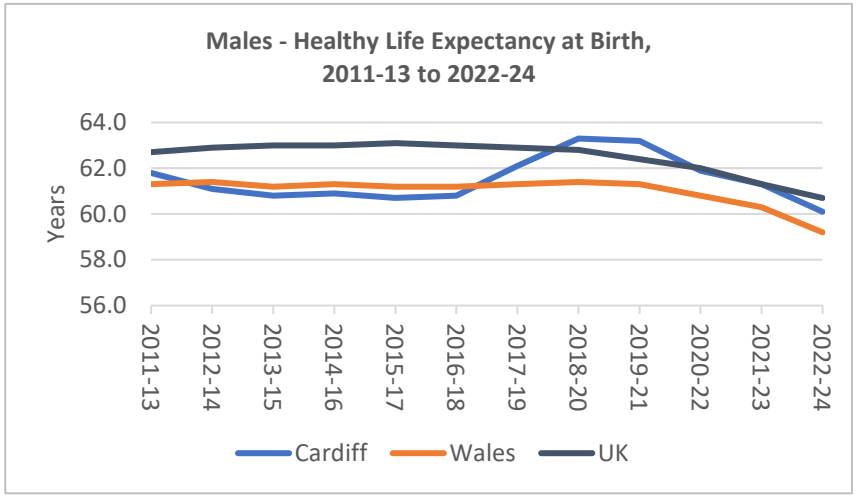
Cardiff	Baseline in 2019	Position 4 Oct 22	Position 6 Feb 23	Position 4 Mar 24	Position 1 Apr 25	Position 7 Apr 26	Target for Nov 2023	Target for Nov 2024	Target for Nov 2025
Number of workers receiving a pay rise on to at least the Real Living Wage employers	4,524	10,980	10,873	13,322	10,211	**11,458**	*11,700*	*12,800*	*13,900*

Source: Cynnal Cymru

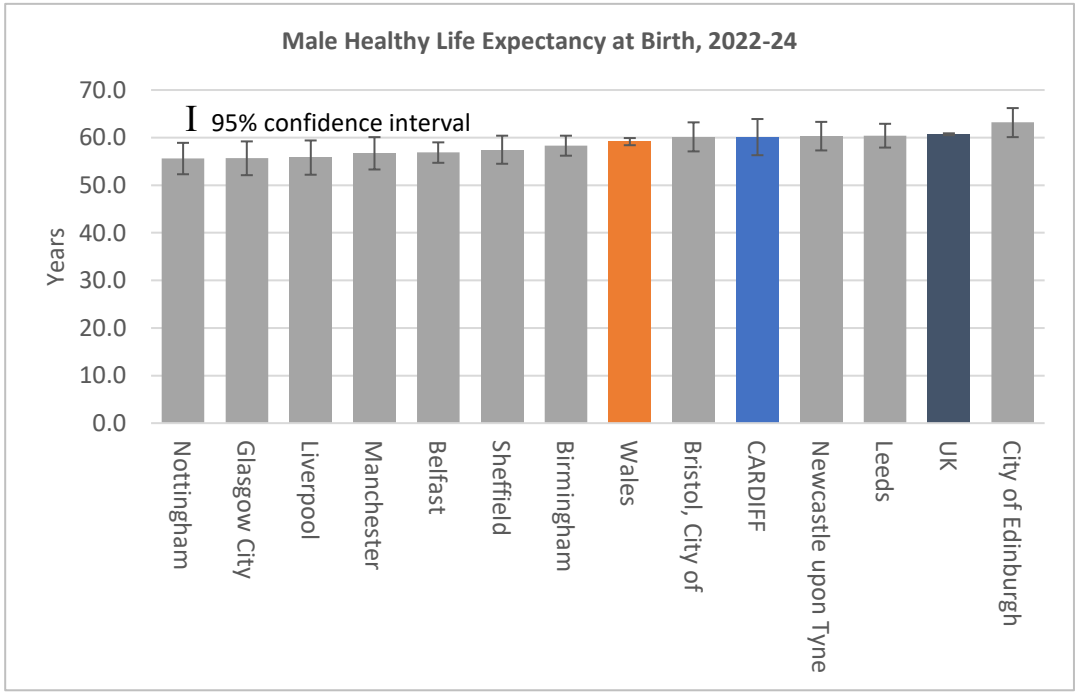
Healthy Life Expectancy at Birth (Male)

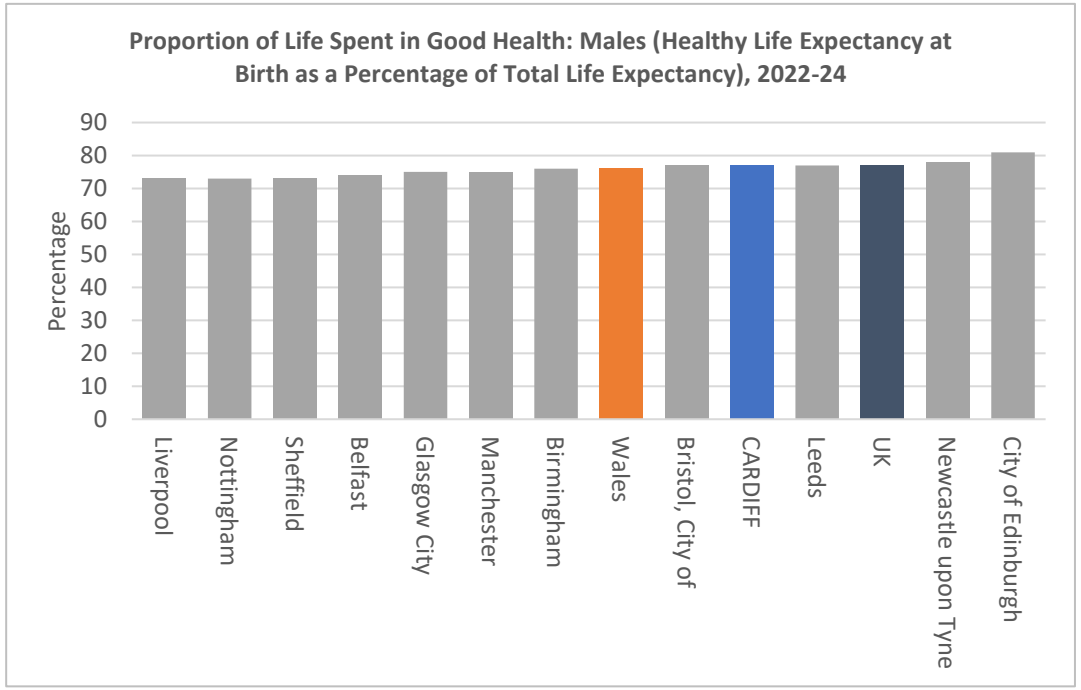
Key Points:

- For 2022-24, male healthy life expectancy (HLE) at birth in Cardiff (60.1 years) was the joint-4th highest across the core cities.
- Despite following a downward trend since 2018-20, HLE for males in Cardiff has exceeded the Welsh average in recent years and been very similar to the figure for the UK, although it dropped below it for 2022-24.
- Cardiff males (at birth) were expected to spend over three-quarters (77%) of their life in good health in 2022-24, the joint-3rd highest proportion out of the core cities.
- This figure has also declined in Cardiff in recent years but, despite this, it has exceeded the Wales figure and not been below that of the UK since 2017-19.



NB. Vertical axis does not start at zero



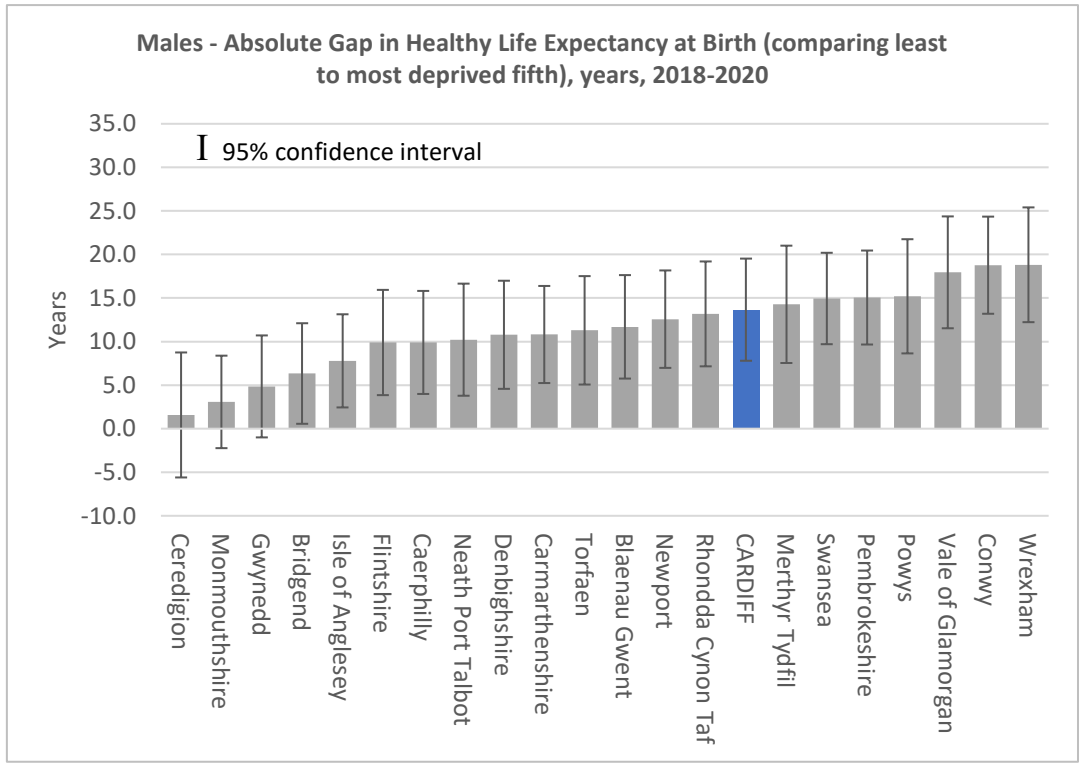


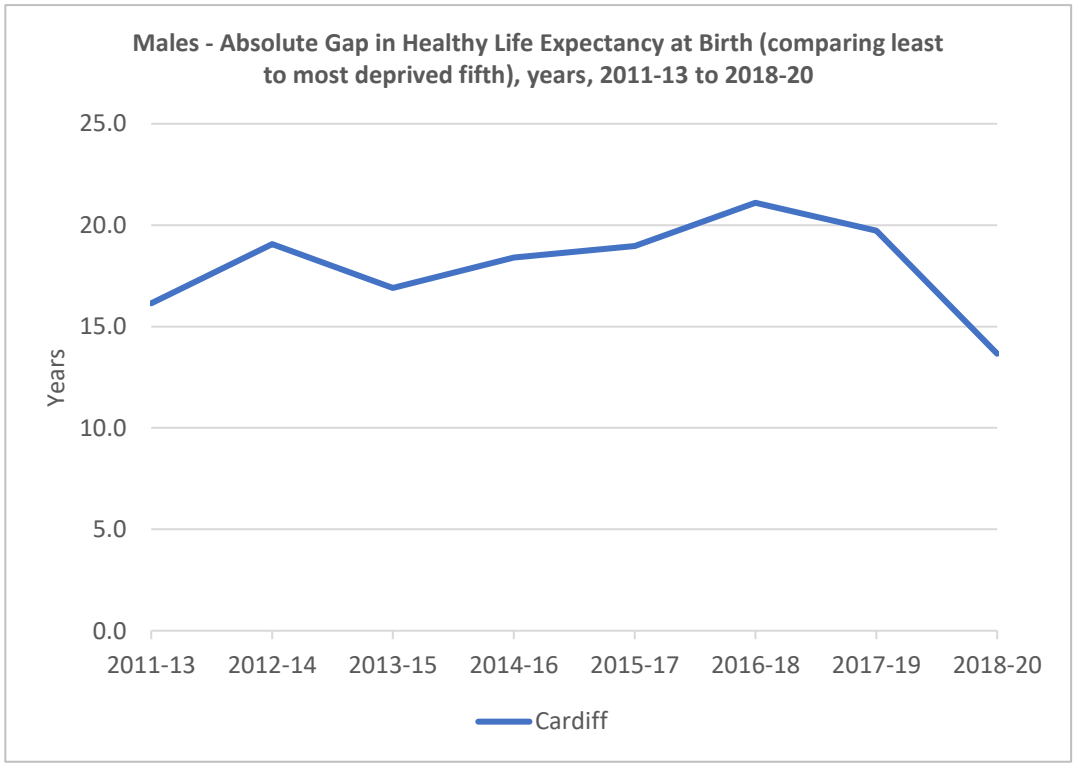
Source: Office for National Statistics

Healthy Life Expectancy at Birth: Deprivation Gap (Male)

Key Points:

- For 2018-20, male healthy life expectancy (HLE) at birth differed by 13.7 years between the least and most deprived areas in Cardiff, the 8th highest figure across the Welsh LAs.
- The deprivation gap in Cardiff increased between 2013-15 and 2016-18, reaching a high of 21.1 years. However, since this time the figure has declined and fallen to its lowest level.



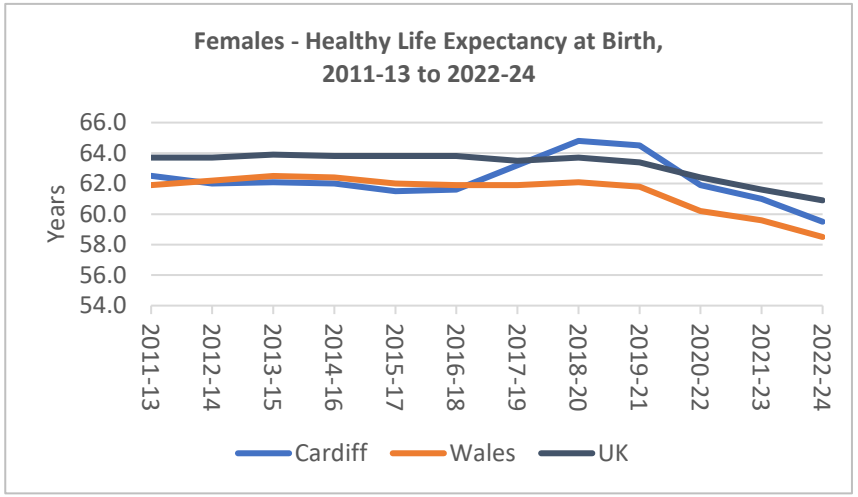


Source: Produced by Public Health Wales using APS, 2011 Census, PHM, MYE (ONS) & WIMD 2019 (WG)

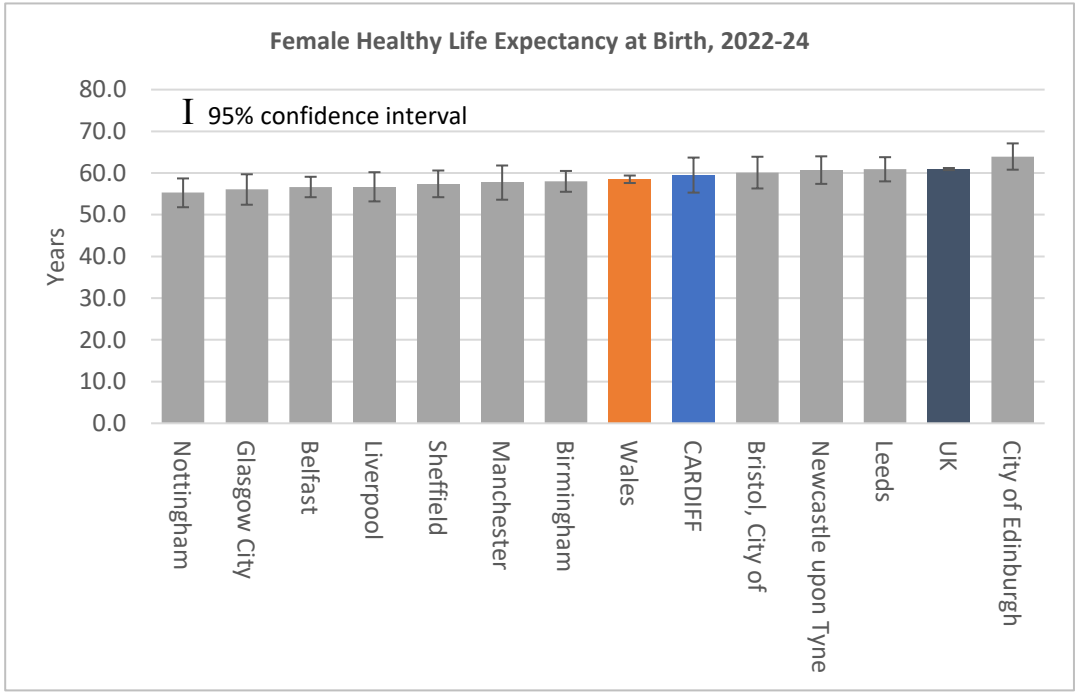
Healthy Life Expectancy at Birth (Female)

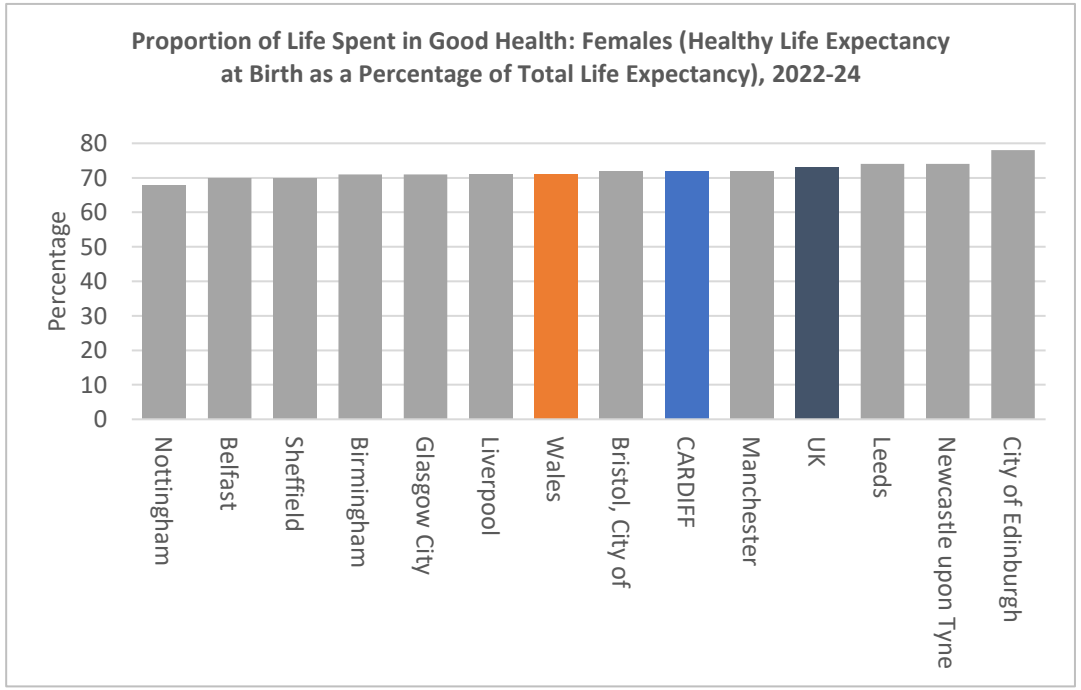
Key Points:

- For 2022-24, female healthy life expectancy (HLE) at birth in Cardiff (59.5 years) was the 5th highest across the core cities.
- Despite following a downward trend since 2018-20, HLE for females in Cardiff has exceeded the Welsh average since 2017-19. However, it has fallen below the UK figure in recent years.
- Cardiff females (at birth) were expected to spend less than three-quarters (72%) of their life in good health in 2022-24, the joint-4th highest proportion out of the core cities and above that of Wales.
- This figure has also declined in Cardiff in recent years but, despite this, it has exceeded the Wales proportion since 2017-19.



NB. Vertical axis does not start at zero



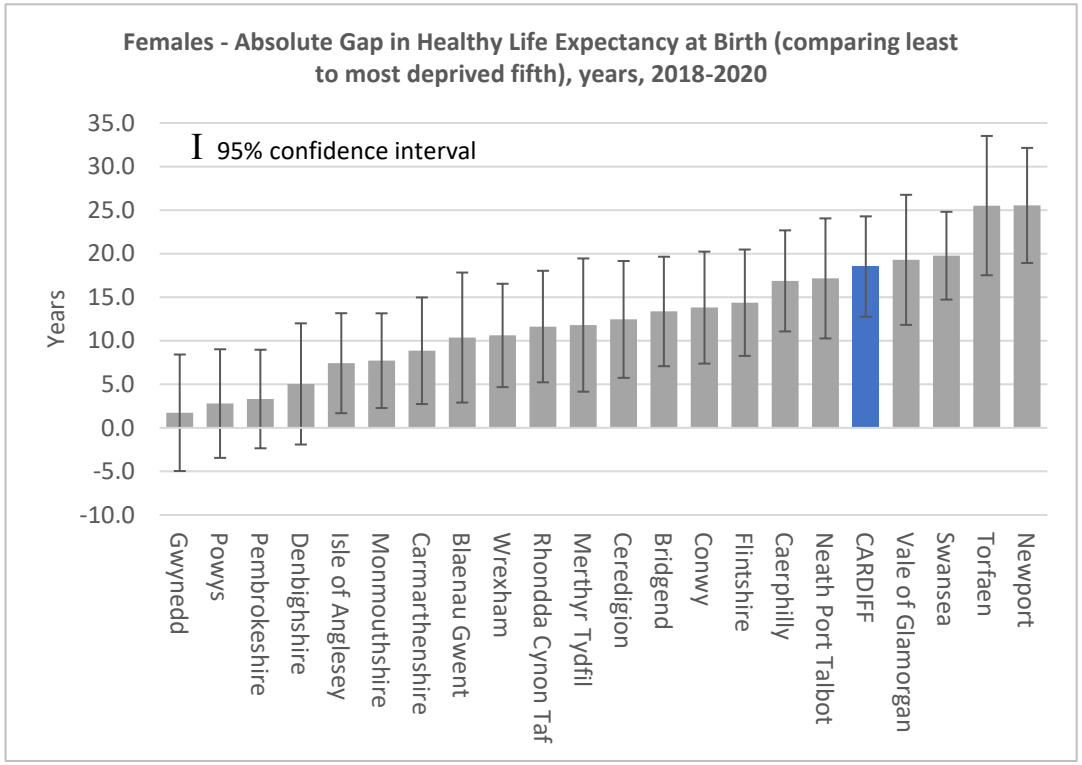


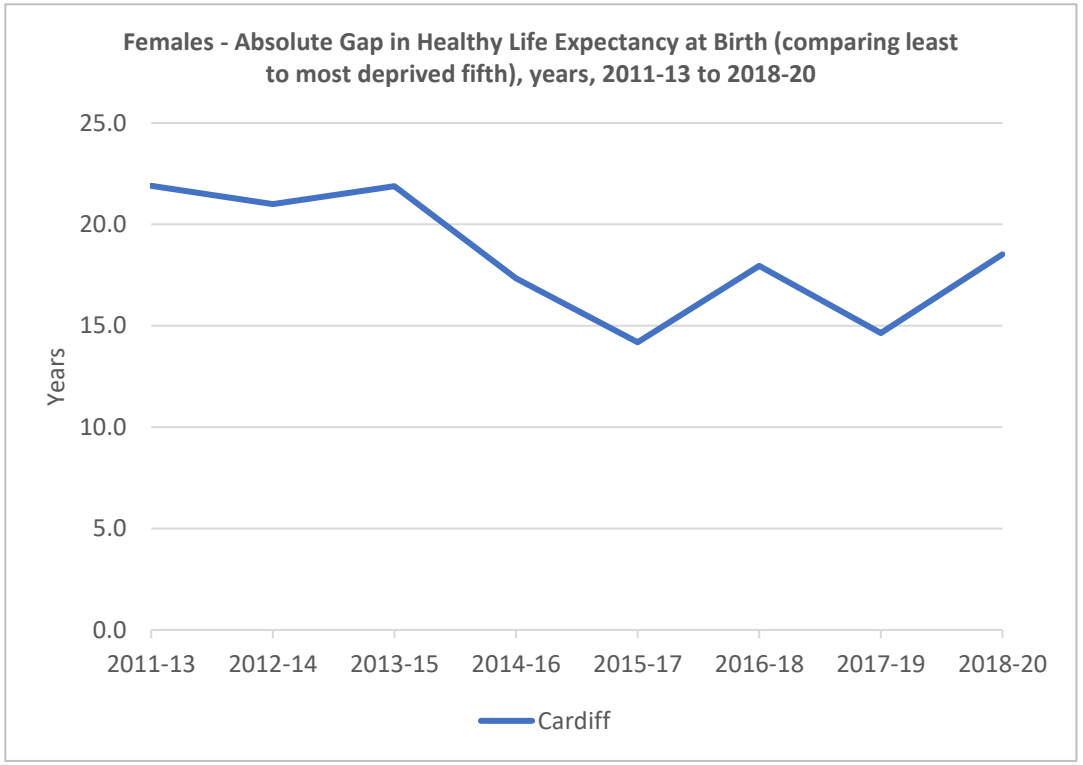
Source: Office for National Statistics

Healthy Life Expectancy at Birth: Deprivation Gap (Female)

Key Points:

- For 2018-20, female healthy life expectancy (HLE) at birth differed by 18.5 years between the least and most deprived areas in Cardiff, the 5th highest figure across the Welsh LAs.
- Cardiff's deprivation gap declined sharply between 2013-15 and 2015-17, but since this time has been more stable.



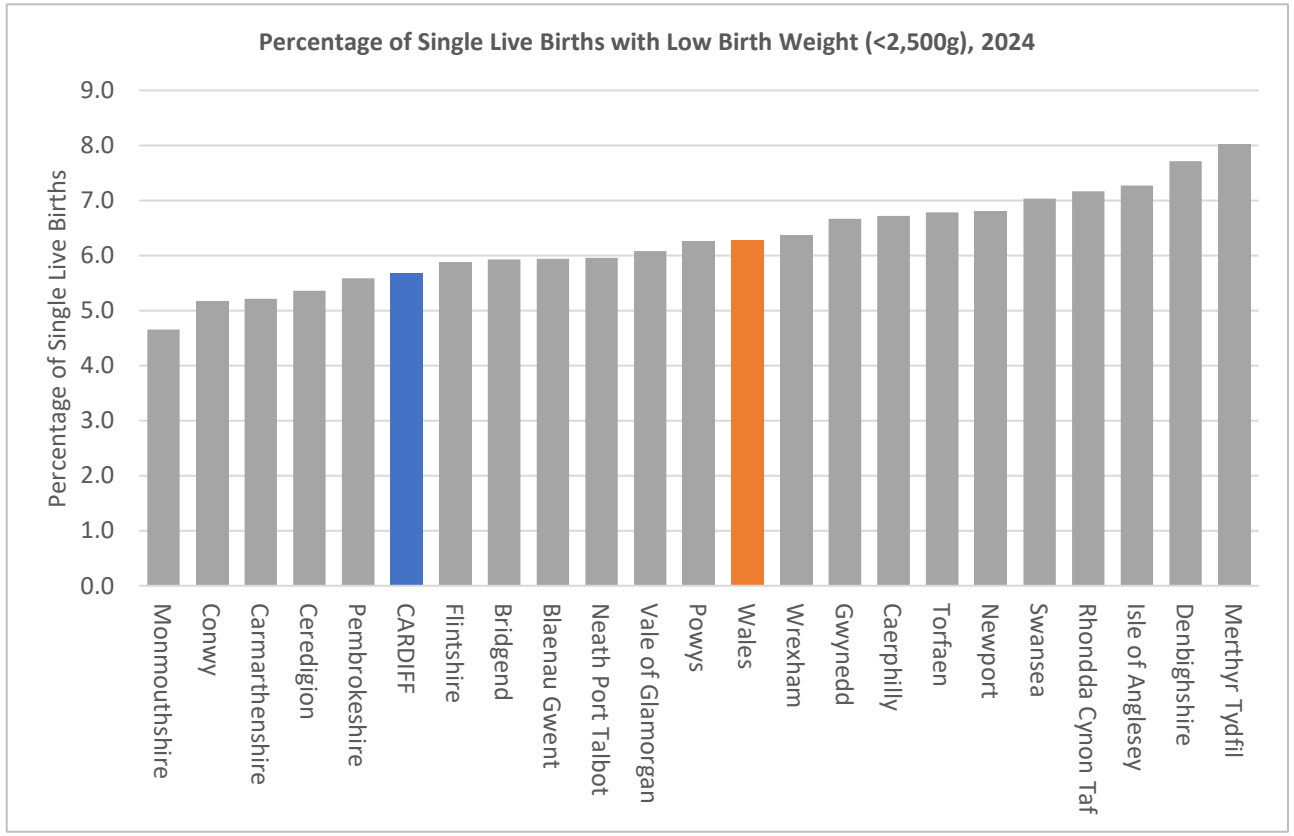


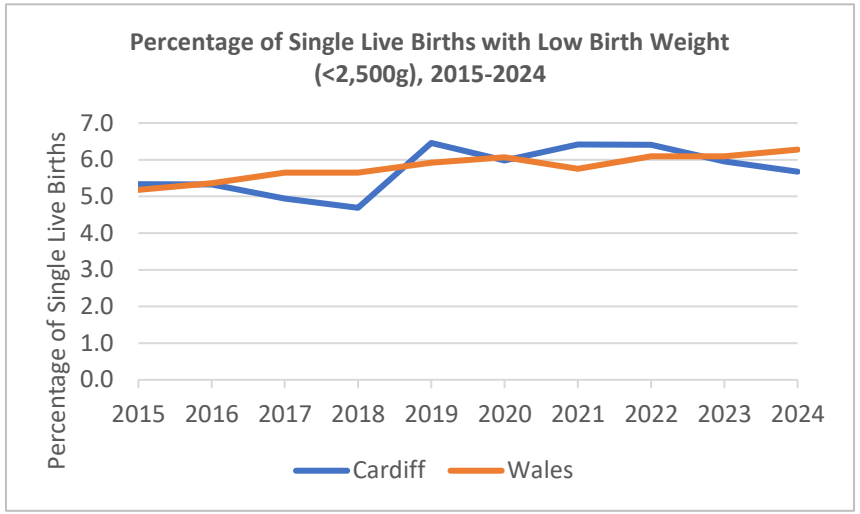
Source: Produced by Public Health Wales using APS, 2011 Census, PHM, MYE (ONS) & WIMD 2019 (WG)

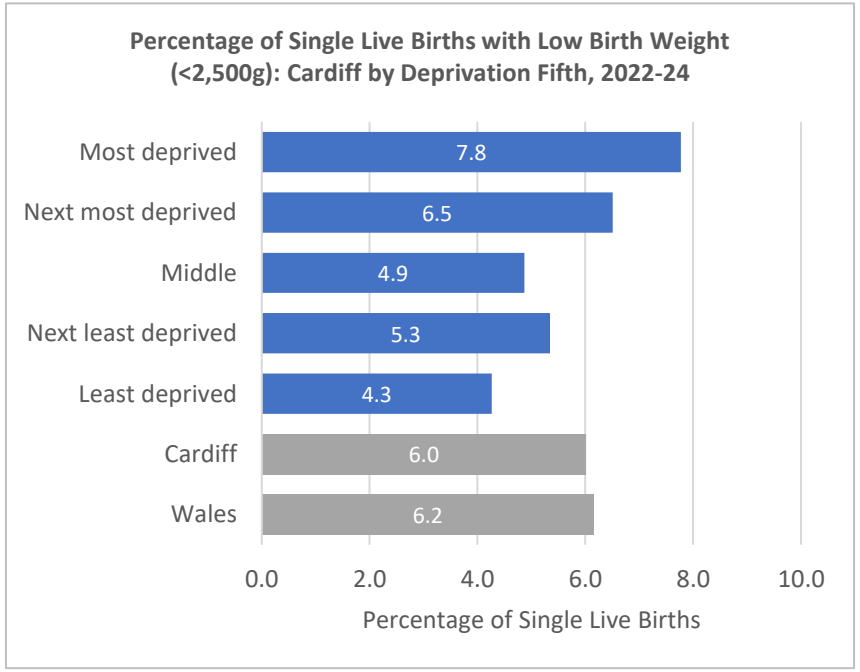
Percentage of Low-Birth-Weight Babies

Key Points:

- In 2024, 5.7% of single live births in Cardiff had a low birth weight (i.e. below 2,500g). This was the 6th lowest rate across the Welsh LAs and below the figure for Wales as a whole.
- Cardiff's rate increased between 2018 and 2019 but has gradually fallen in recent years.
- For 2022-24, the percentage of low-birth-weight babies in Cardiff's most deprived areas was 7.8%, compared with 4.3% in the least deprived areas. It also comfortably exceeded the Wales average.







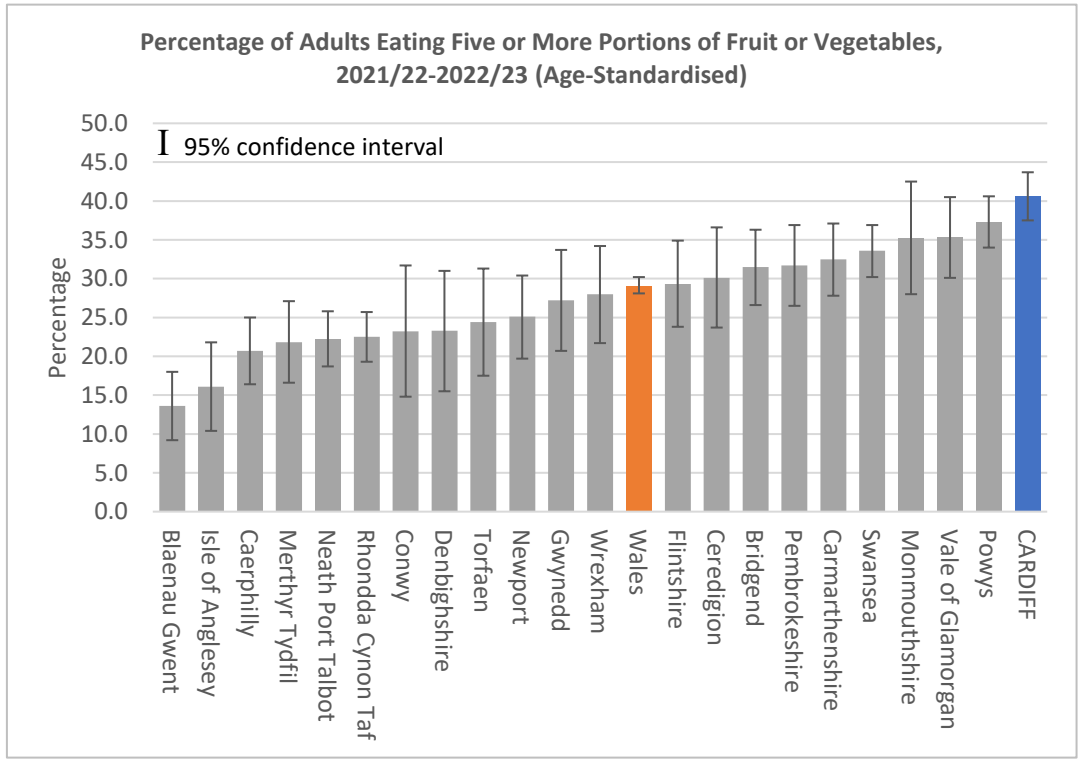
Source: Public Health Wales

Percentage of Adults Eating 5 or More Portions of Fruit and Vegetables a Day

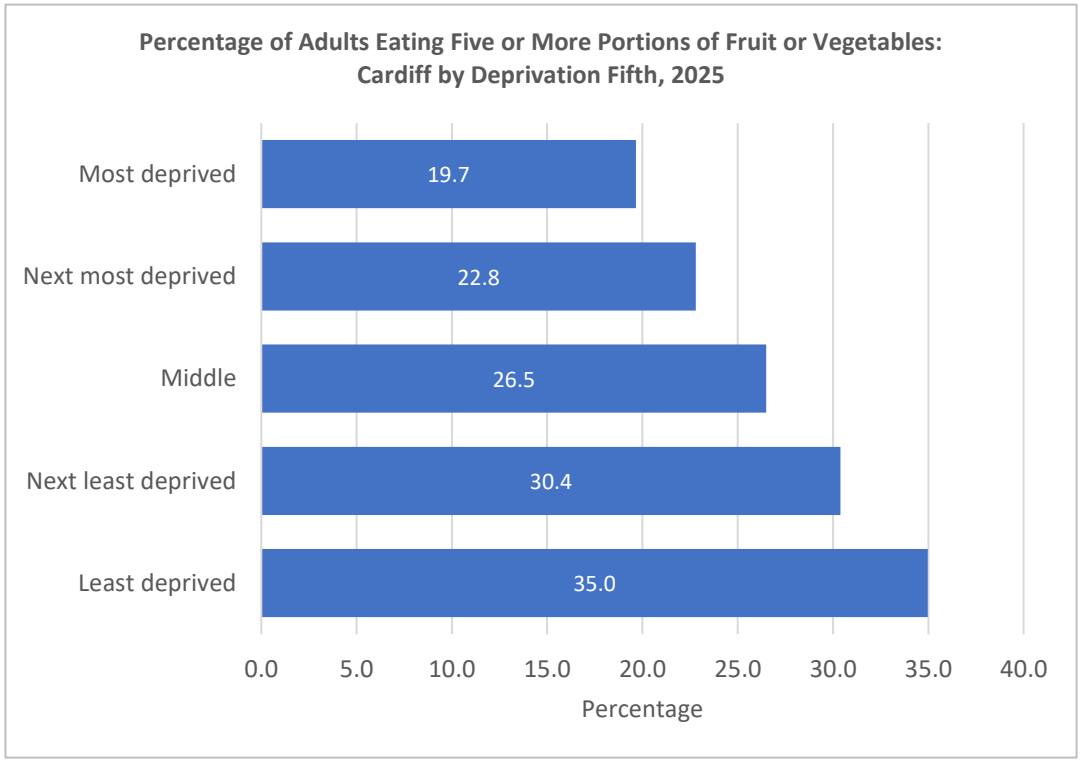
Key Points:

- Combined figures from the 2021-22 and 2022-23 National Survey for Wales show that two-fifths (40.6% - age-standardised) of adults in Cardiff eat five or more portions of fruit and vegetables a day, the highest proportion across the Welsh LAs and above the Welsh average (29.1%). However, this still means that three-fifths of adults are not eating five portions a day.
- According to the 2025 Ask Cardiff Survey, around a fifth (19.7%) of those living in the most deprived areas of the city were eating at least five portions a day, compared with over a third (35.0%) in the least deprived areas – a difference of 15.3 percentage points.

[NB. Data from the National Survey for Wales for 2020-21 onwards is not comparable with previous years due to pandemic-related changes to the methodology.]



Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework Reporting Tool
Produced by Public Health Wales using National Survey for Wales (Welsh Government)



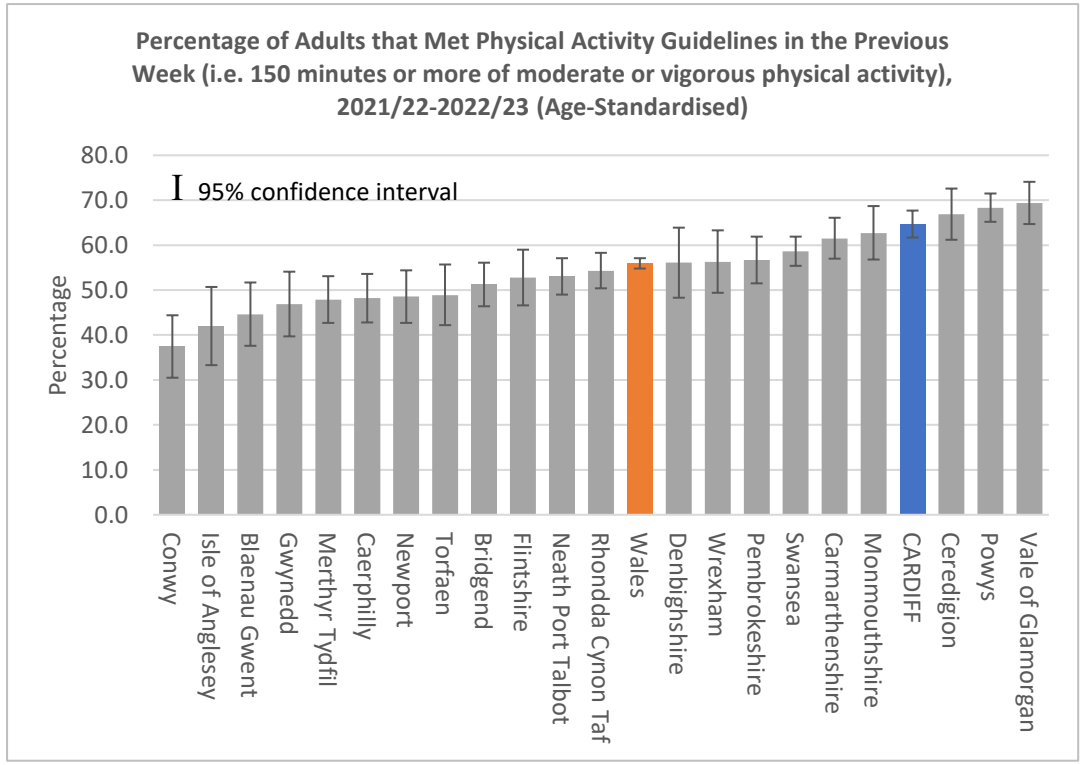
Source: Ask Cardiff Survey, Cardiff Council

Percentage of Adults Active for Less than 30 Minutes in a Week

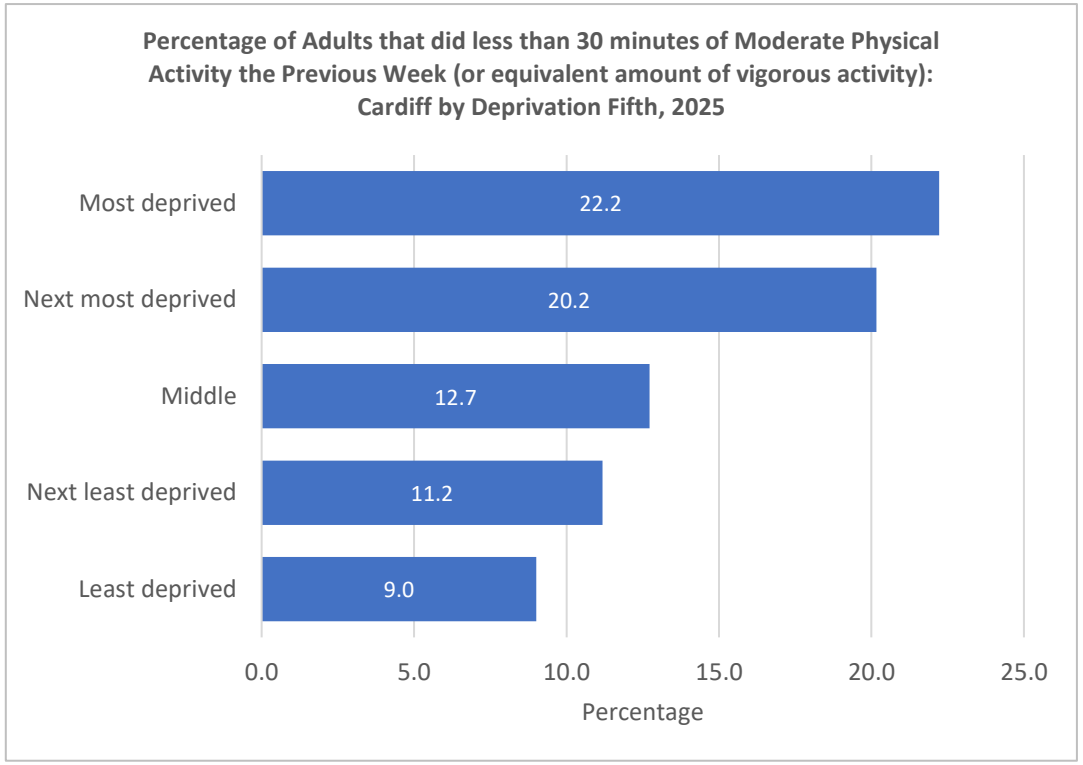
Key Points:

- Combined figures from the 2021-22 and 2022-23 National Survey for Wales show that, in a week, almost two-thirds (64.7% - age-standardised) of adults in Cardiff met the physical activity guidelines (i.e. at least 150mins of moderate/vigorous physical activity). This was the fourth highest proportion across the Welsh LAs and above the Welsh average (56.0%).
- According to the 2025 Ask Cardiff Survey, over a fifth (22.2%) of those living in the most deprived areas in Cardiff did less than 30 minutes of moderate physical activity across the week, more than double the figure for those from the least deprived areas (9.0%). This represented a deprivation gap of 13.2 percentage points, up from 11.0 percentage points in 2024.

[NB. Data from the National Survey for Wales for 2020-21 onwards is not comparable with previous years due to pandemic-related changes to the methodology.]



Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework Reporting Tool
Produced by Public Health Wales using National Survey for Wales (Welsh Government)



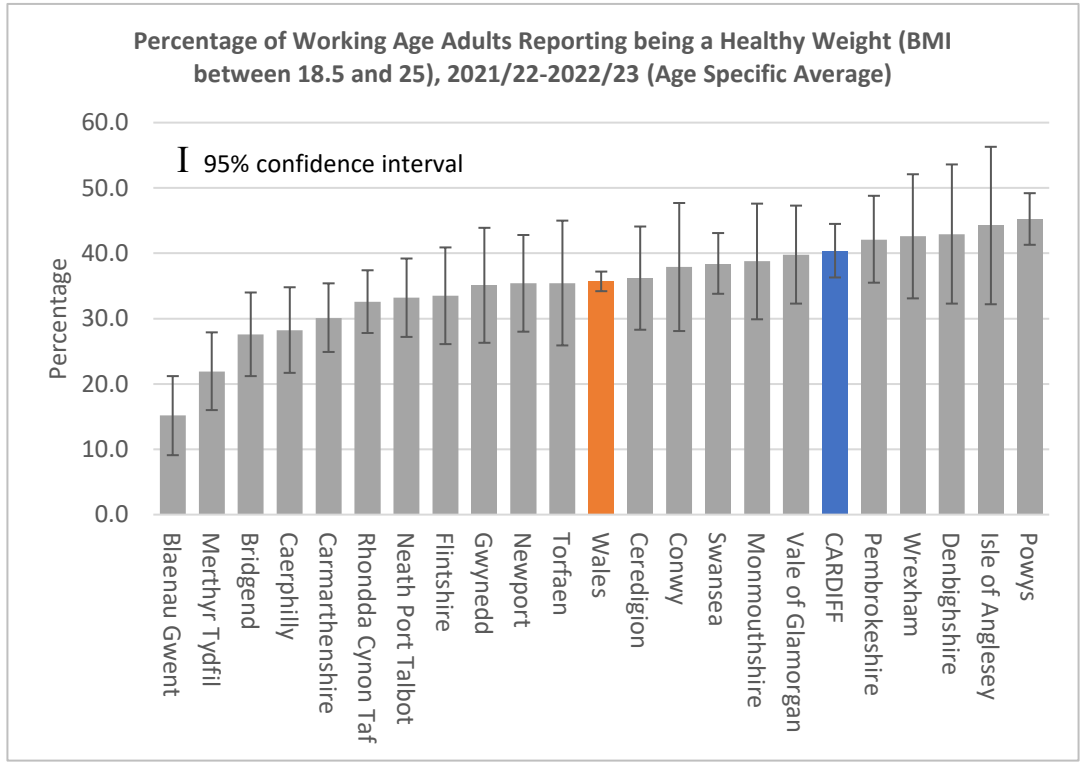
Source: Ask Cardiff Survey, Cardiff Council

Percentage of Adults Reporting being a Healthy Weight by Deprivation (Obesity by Deprivation Fifth)

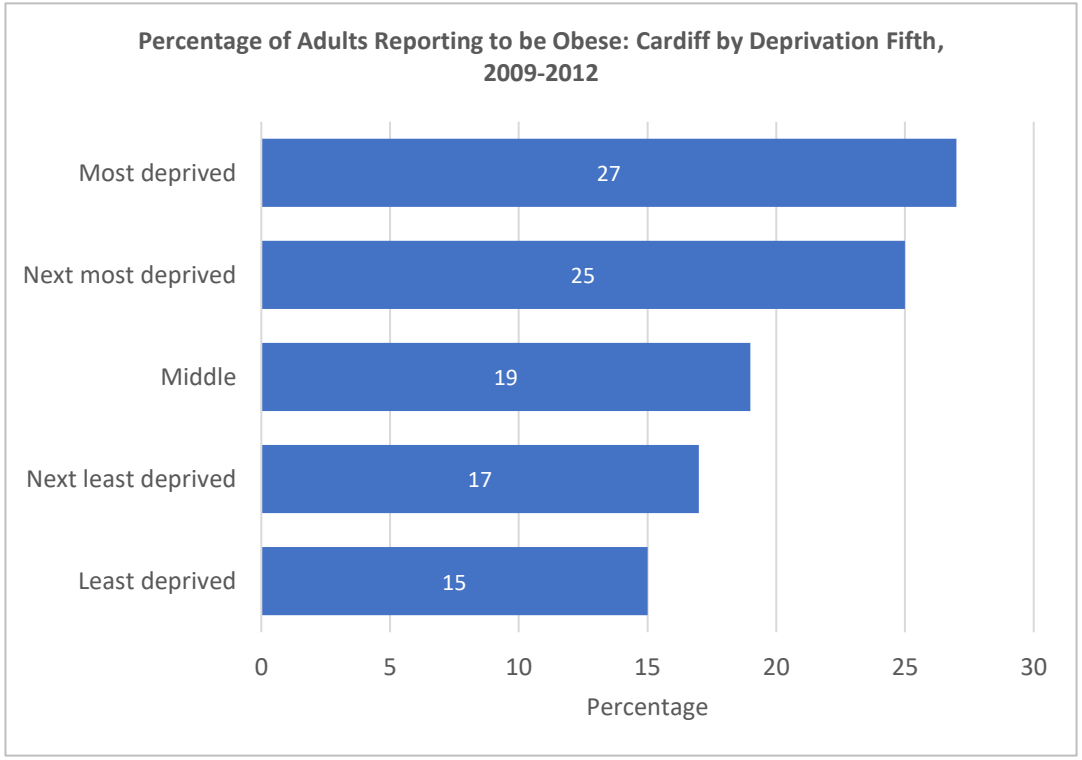
Key Points:

- Combined figures from the 2021-22 and 2022-23 National Survey for Wales show that around two-fifths (40.4%) of working age adults (aged 16-64) in Cardiff were of a healthy weight. This was the sixth highest proportion across the Welsh LAs and exceeded the Welsh average (35.7%).
- Figures for 2009-2012 indicate that adult obesity is linked to deprivation with levels in the most deprived areas in Cardiff almost double those in the least deprived areas.

[NB. Data from the National Survey for Wales for 2020-21 onwards is not comparable with previous years due to pandemic-related changes to the methodology.]



Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework Reporting Tool
Produced by Public Health Wales using National Survey for Wales (Welsh Government)



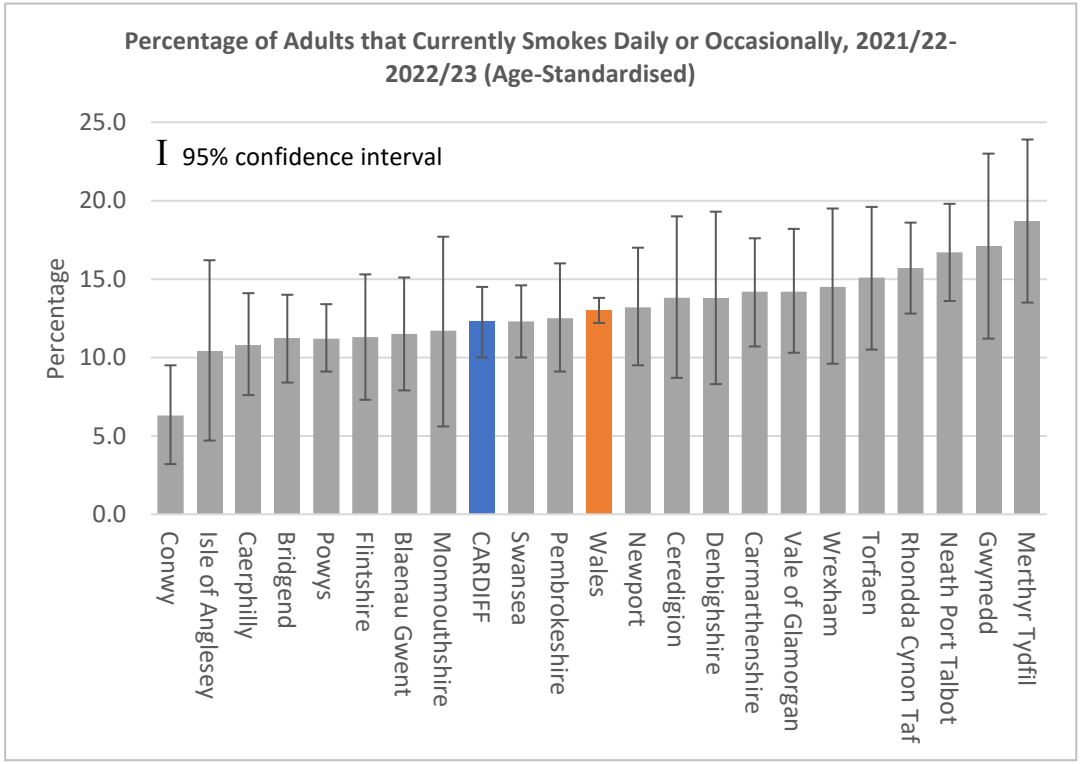
Source: Public Health Wales

Percentage of Adults who are Current Smokers

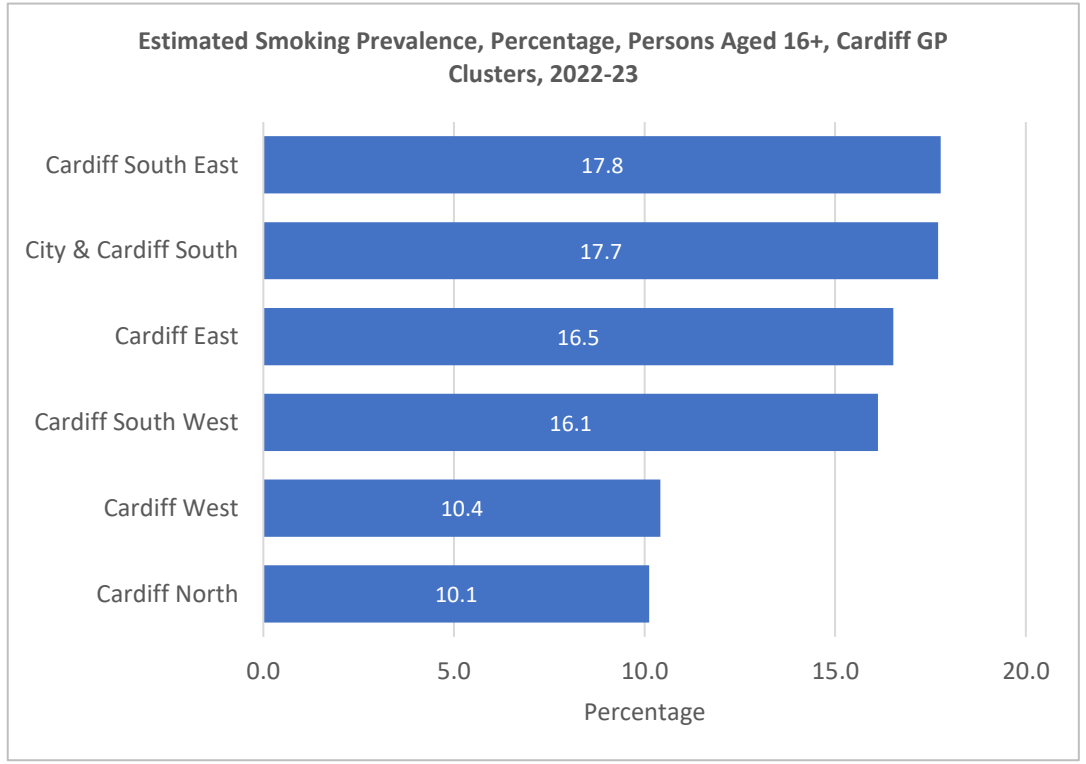
Key Points:

- Combined figures from the 2021-22 and 2022-23 National Survey for Wales show that over a tenth (12.3% - age-standardised) of adults in Cardiff are smokers. This makes it a mid-level performer across the Welsh LAs but is below the Welsh average (13.0%).
- In 2022-23, across Cardiff's GP Clusters, smoking is most prevalent in Cardiff South East and City & Cardiff South, and least prevalent in Cardiff West and Cardiff North.

[NB. Data from the National Survey for Wales for 2020-21 onwards is not comparable with previous years due to pandemic-related changes to the methodology.]



Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework Reporting Tool
Produced by Public Health Wales using National Survey for Wales (Welsh Government)

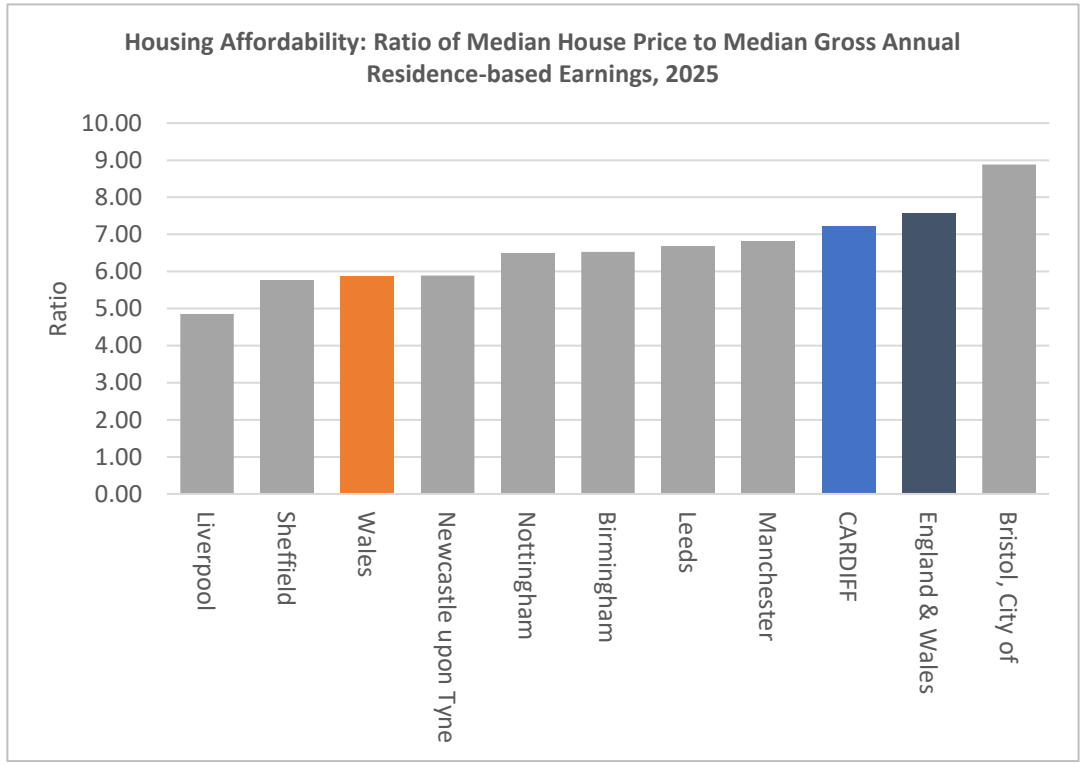


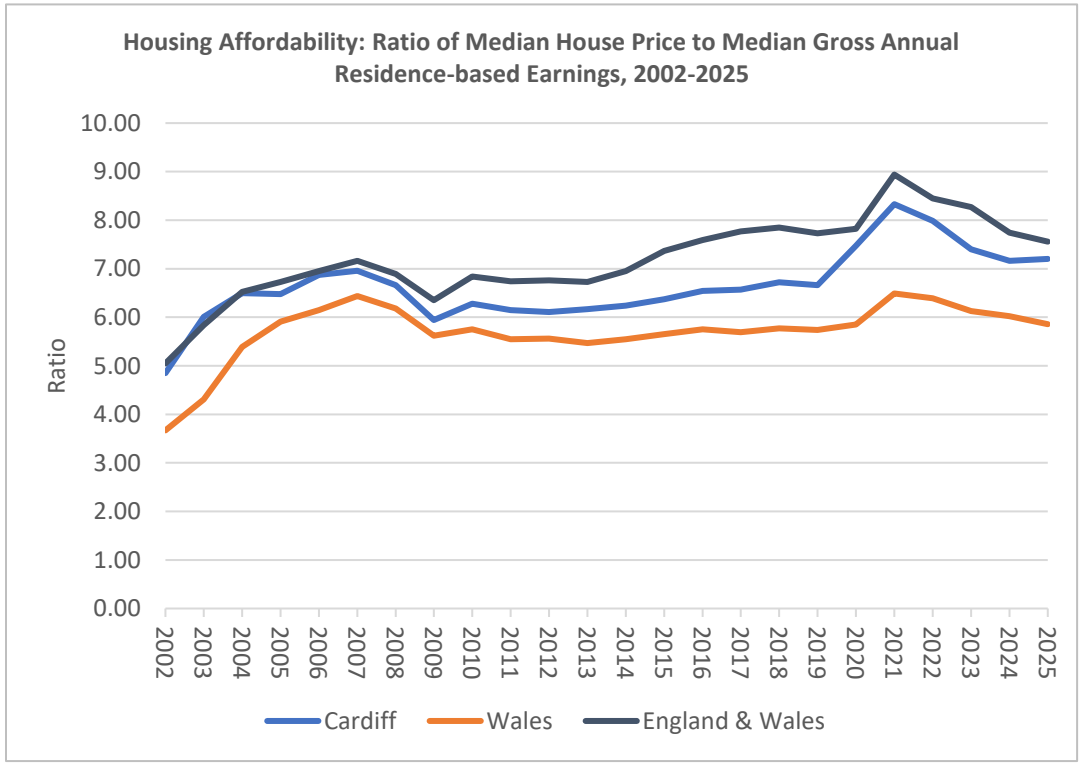
Produced by Public Health Wales Observatory, using NSW (WG), WDS (DHCW) and WIMD 2019 (WG)

Housing Affordability: Ratio of House Price to Median Gross Annual Salary (ONS)

Key Points:

- In 2025, housing in Cardiff was the second least affordable across the core cities in England & Wales, behind Bristol.
- On average, property costs over seven times the median gross annual earnings. This reached nearly eight and a half times in 2021 but, despite a small increase in 2025, has generally declined since this time.
- Since 2002, Cardiff housing has consistently been less affordable than across Wales as a whole but has predominantly been more affordable than the average for England & Wales.
- Cardiff had the second least affordable housing across the Welsh LAs in 2025, compared with the sixth least affordable in 2019.





Source: ONS

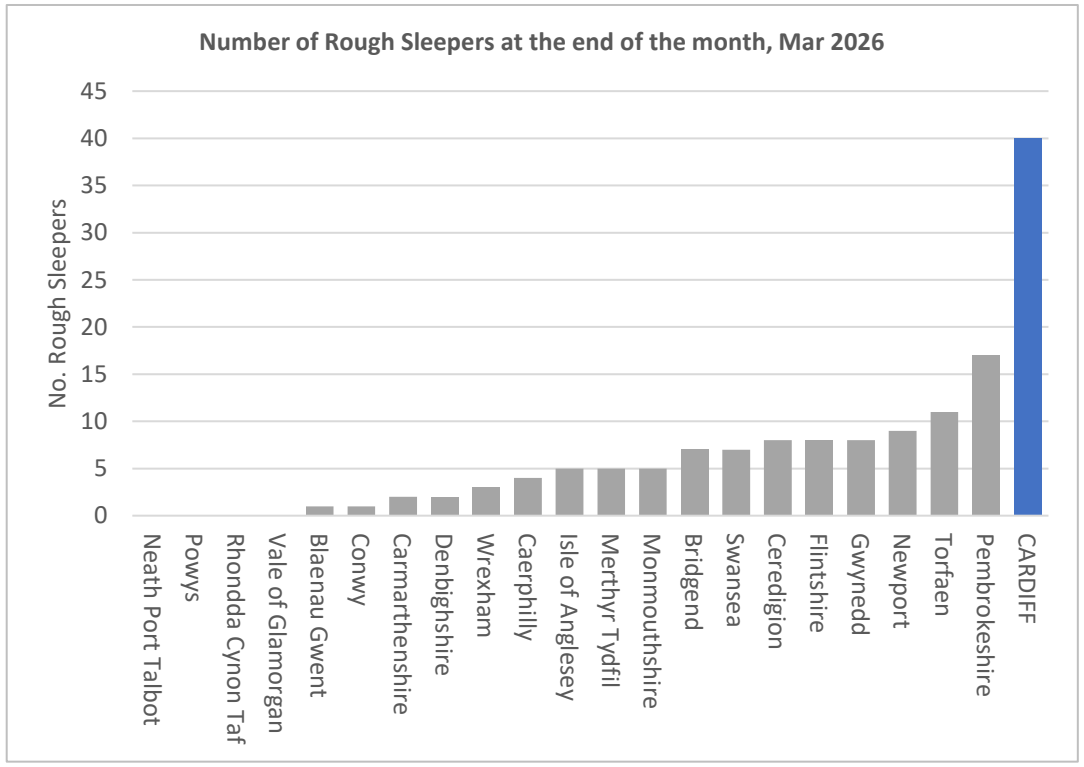
Rough Sleepers

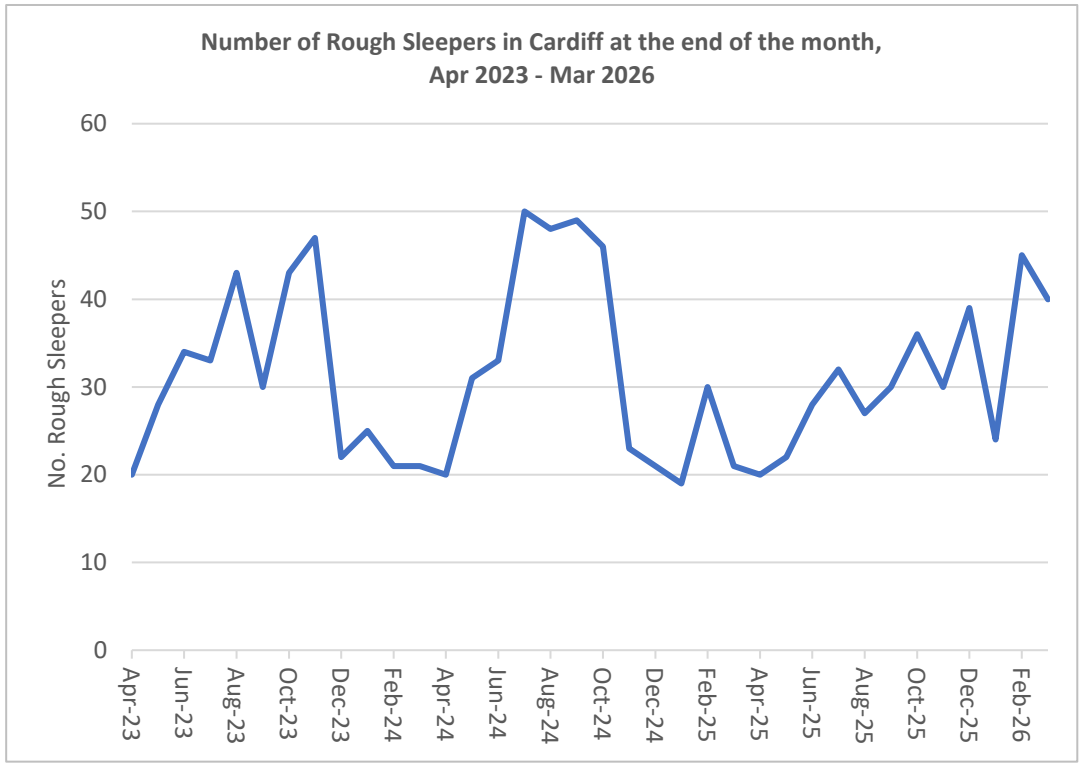
Key Points:

- At the end of March 2026, there were an estimated 40 rough sleepers in Cardiff – the highest figure across Wales. This was up from 21 in both March 2024 and March 2025 and compared with a peak of 50 in July 2024.

[NB. Welsh Government advises that month-to-month comparisons are not recommended, as there may be seasonal impacts on homelessness or other reasons for fluctuations. These may become clearer and further commentary possible as data becomes available in subsequent years.]

[NB. Between 2015 and 2019, Welsh Government carried out an Annual Rough Sleeper Count that included the 'number of rough sleepers per 10,000 persons'. However, this was suspended in 2020 due to the pandemic and has not been undertaken since. The data used for this indicator has been replaced with new monthly estimates.]



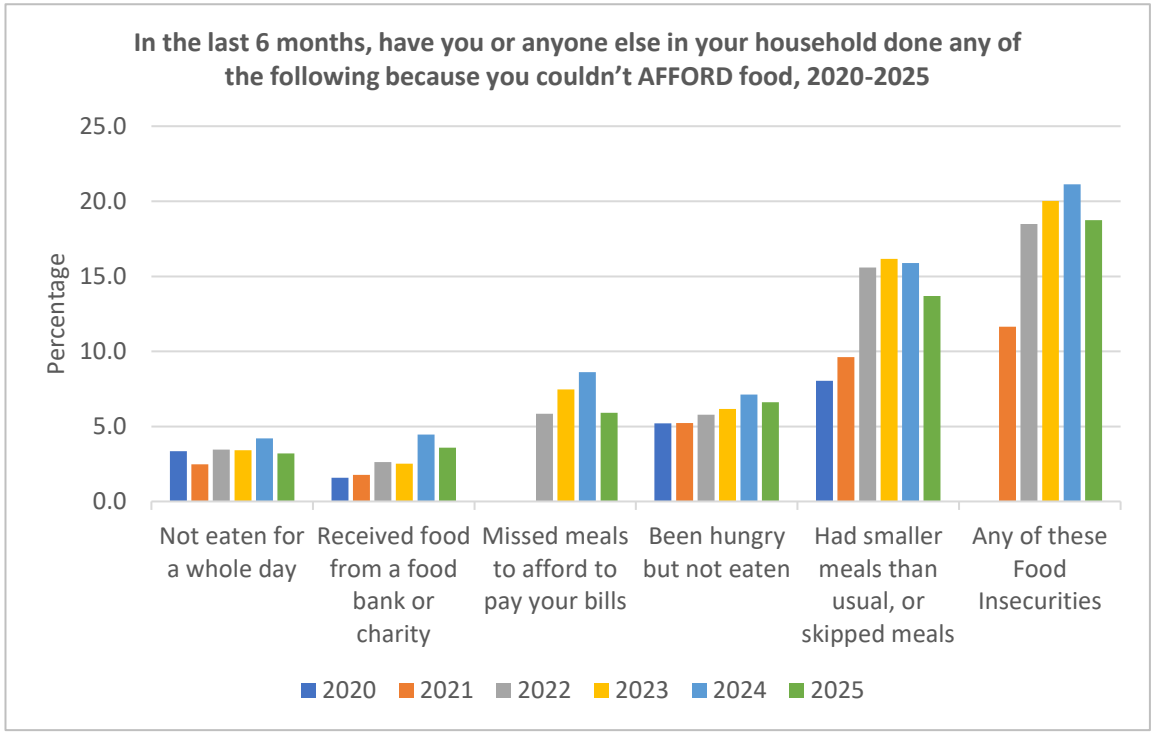


Source: Welsh Government

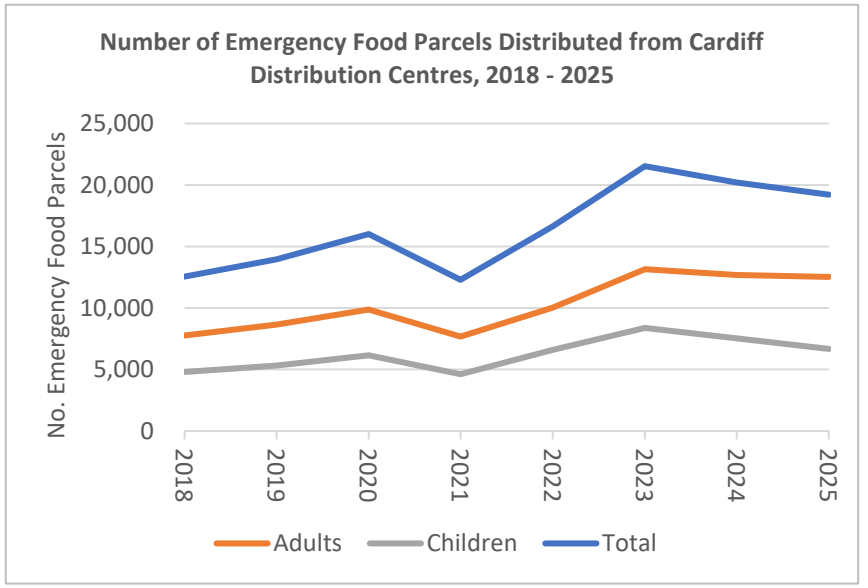
Food Poverty

Key Points:

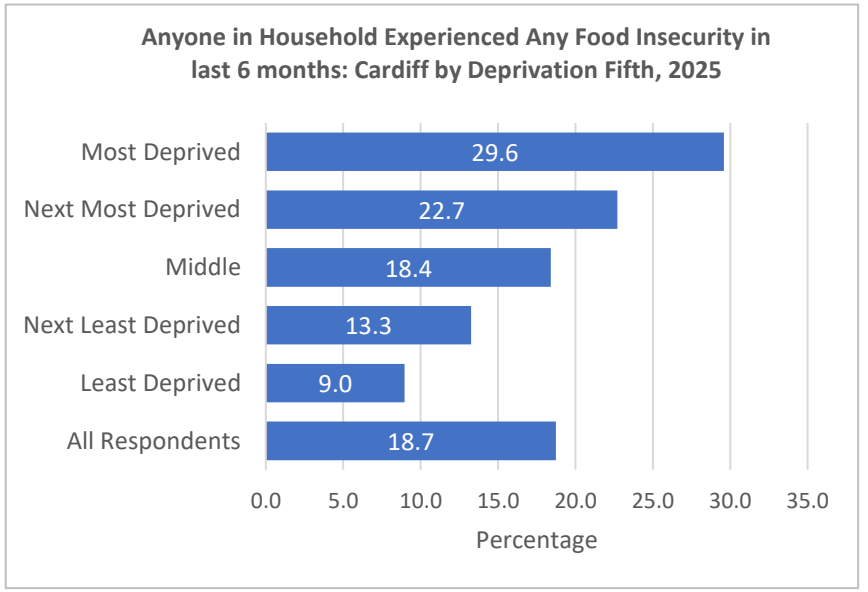
- In 2025, the Trussell Trust distributed over 19k emergency food parcels from Cardiff distribution centres. This figure rose sharply between 2021 and 2023 to a peak of 21.5k but has gradually fallen since this time.
- According to the 2025 Ask Cardiff Survey, in the previous 6 months, 13.7% of respondents had smaller meals than usual or had skipped meals, 6.6% had been hungry but not eaten, 5.9% had missed meals to afford to pay their bills, 3.6% had received food from a food bank or charity, and 3.2% had not eaten for a whole day. However, these were all below the proportions seen in 2024.
- Almost a fifth (18.7%) of respondents had someone in their household that had experienced any of these food insecurities in the previous six months, down from 21.1% for 2024.
- In the city's most deprived areas this figure was as high as 29.6%, over three times that seen in the least deprived areas where the figure was still almost a tenth (9.0%).



Source: Ask Cardiff Survey, Cardiff Council



Source: Trussell Trust

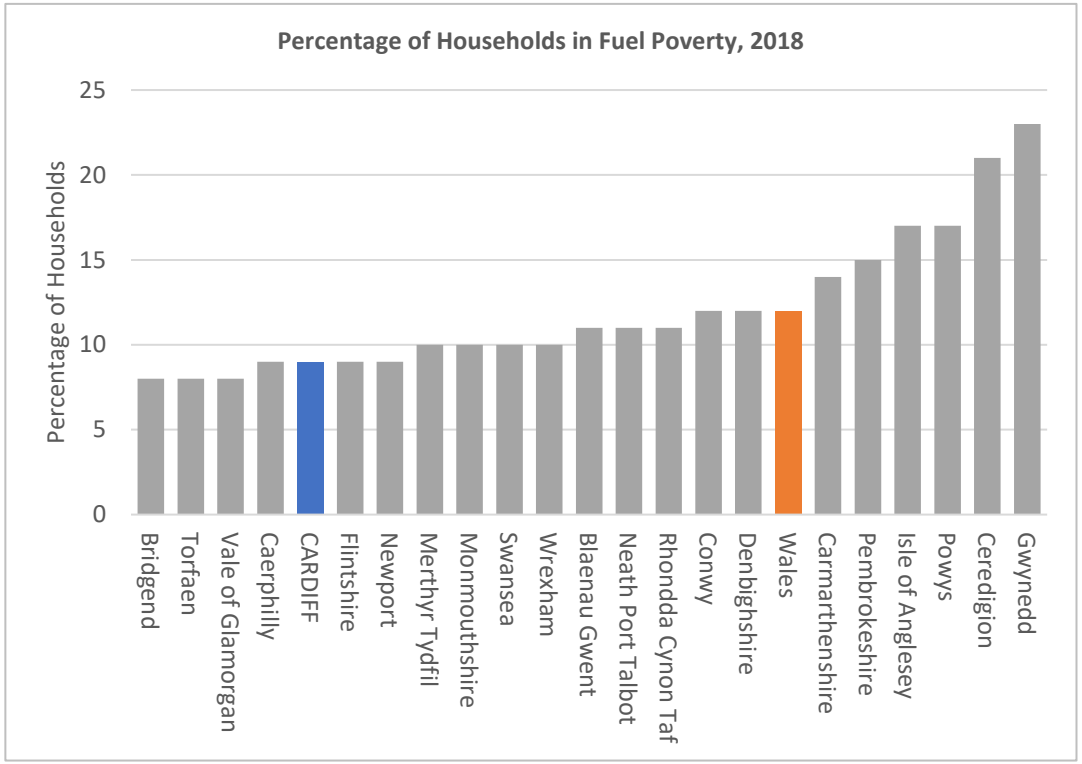


Source: Ask Cardiff Survey, Cardiff Council

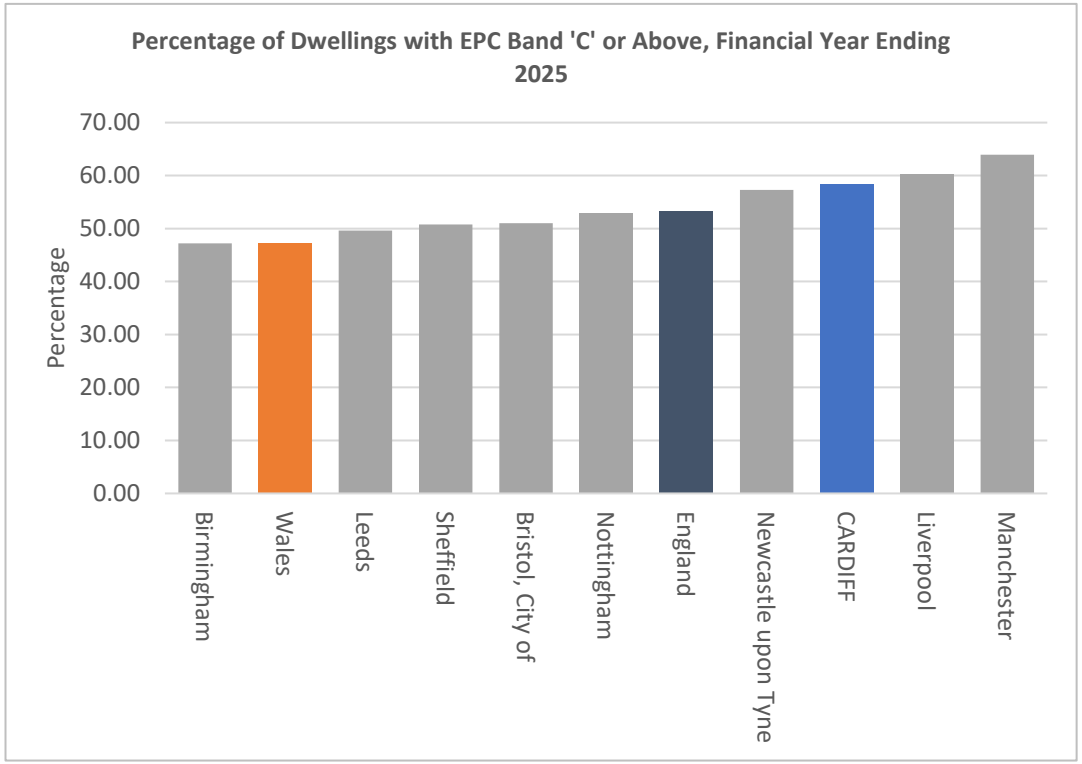
Fuel Poverty

Key Points:

- In 2018, Cardiff had one of the lowest levels of fuel poverty across Welsh LAs.
- 9% of households in Cardiff were in fuel poverty compared to 23% in Gwynedd.
- In terms of energy efficiency, nearly three-fifths (58.46%) of dwellings in Cardiff with an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) had an EPC at Band C or above for the financial year ending 2025. This was the third highest figure across the core cities in England and Wales and exceeded the proportions for both Wales and England.



Source: Welsh Government



Source: ONS

Safe, Confident and Empowered Communities



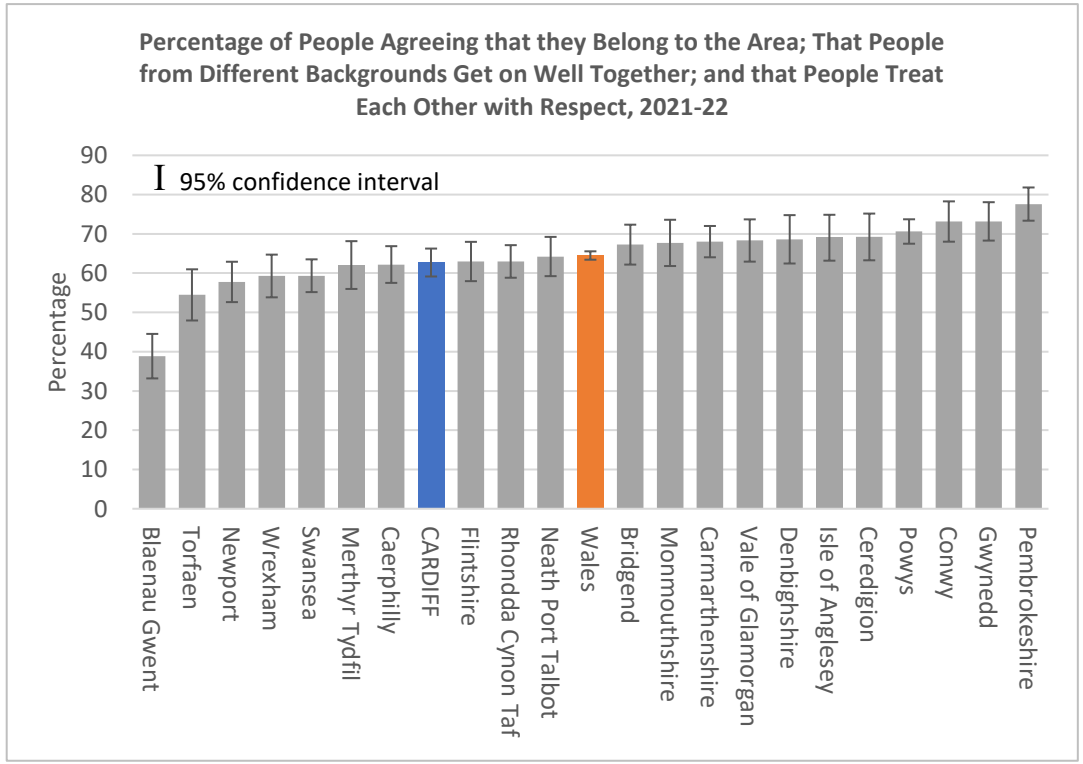
What the Data Shows: Summary

The data points to both strengths and challenges within Cardiff's communities. There are encouraging signs of community participation and resilience, reflected in residents' perceptions of their ability to influence decisions affecting their local area, levels of volunteering, and a greater proportion of people accessing substance misuse services reporting an improvement in their quality of life. However, the latest available data points to challenges in relation to community cohesion and safety, including levels of belonging, positive relationships between different groups, and feeling safe in their local area. Reoffending rates also remain comparatively high and have increased slightly in recent years. The data also suggests that experiences vary across communities and population groups, with lower levels of community cohesion and volunteering in more deprived areas, and lower perceptions of safety amongst disabled people, women and older residents.

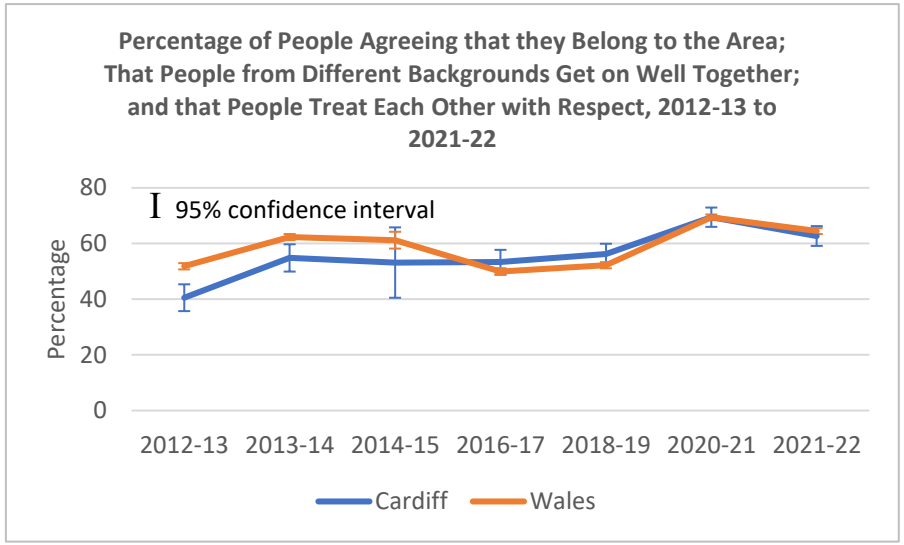
Percentage of People Agreeing that they Belong to the Area; that People from Different Backgrounds get on Well Together; and that People Treat Each Other with Respect

Key Points:

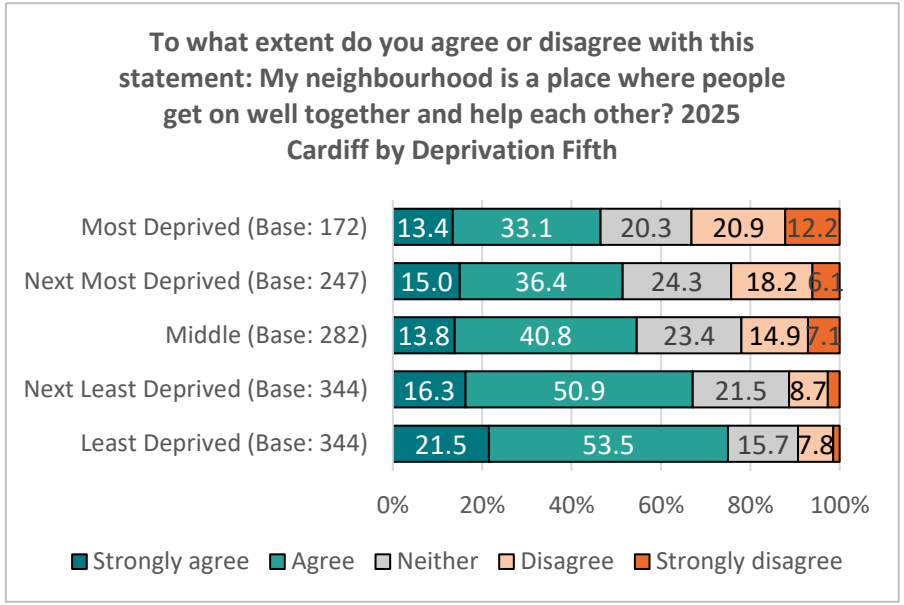
- In 2021-22, community cohesion in Cardiff was just below the Welsh average – 63% agreed that they belong to the area; that people from different backgrounds get on well together; and that people treat each other with respect (Wales 64%).
- This was down from 69% in 2020-21 but up from 41% in 2012-13.
- According to the 2025 Ask Cardiff Survey, three-quarters (75.0%) of those living in Cardiff's least deprived areas agreed that their neighbourhood was a place where people get on well together and help each other, compared with less than a half (46.5%) of those in the most deprived areas.



Source: National Survey for Wales



Source: National Survey for Wales

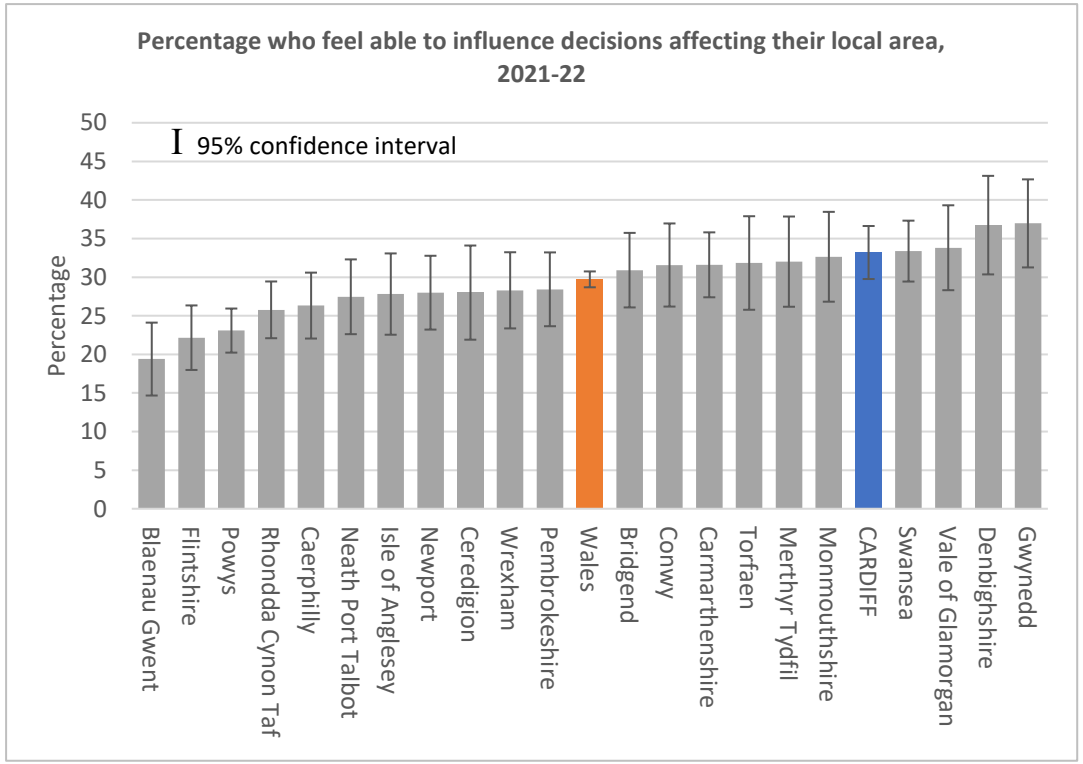


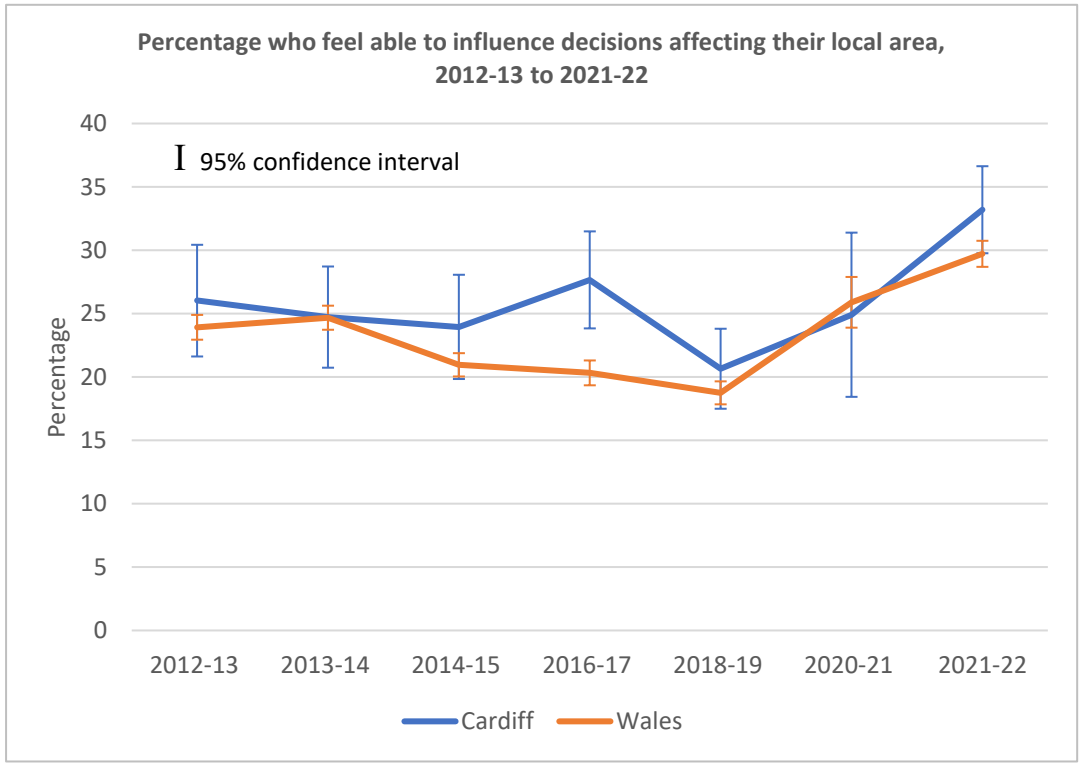
Source: Ask Cardiff Survey, Cardiff Council

Percentage who feel able to influence decisions affecting their local area

Key Points:

- In 2021-22, a third (33%) of people in Cardiff felt able to influence decisions affecting their local area – the joint-fourth highest figure across the Welsh LAs and above the Welsh average (30%).
- The Cardiff proportion fell to a low of 21% in 2018-19 but since this time has recovered to reach its highest level since the question was first asked in 2012-13.
- Between 2012-13 and 2018-19 it has predominantly exceeded the comparative figure for Wales as a whole.



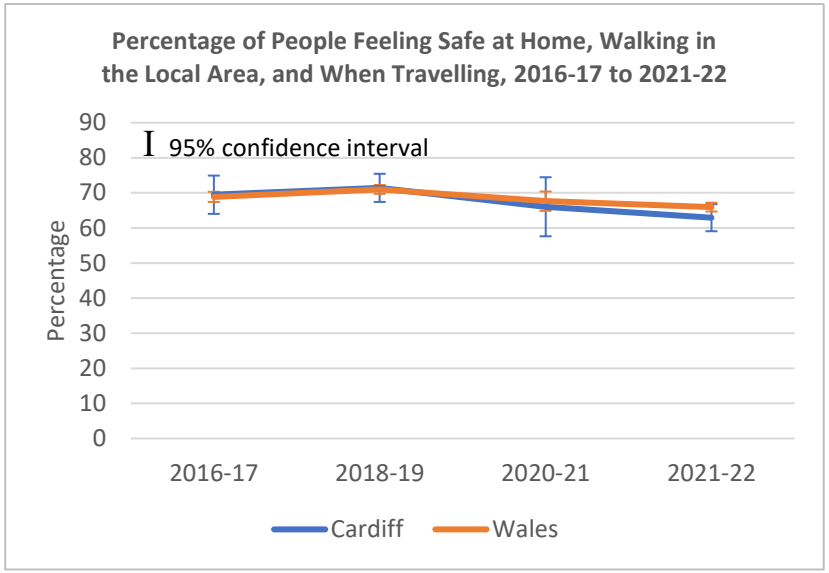


Source: National Survey for Wales

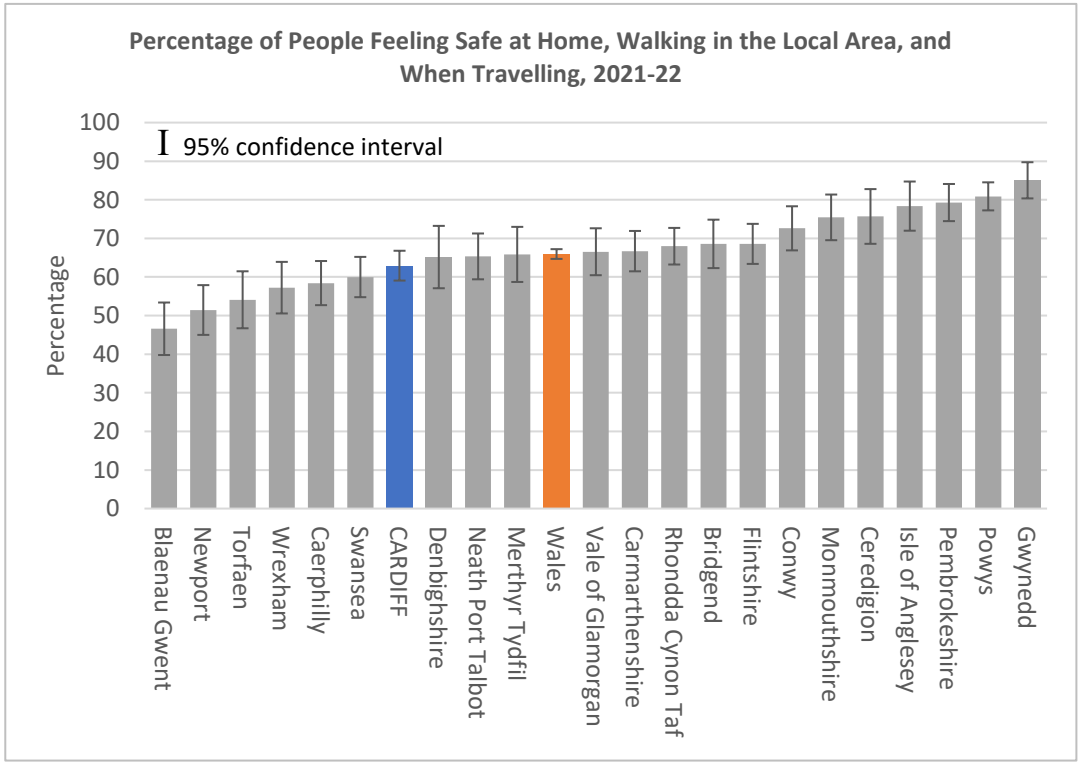
Percentage of people feeling safe at home, walking in local area and when travelling

Key Points:

- In 2021-22, less than two-thirds (63%) of people in Cardiff felt safe at home, walking in the local area, and when travelling. This was below the Welsh average (66%) and down from 71% in 2018-19.
- According to the 2025 Ask Cardiff Survey, around three-tenths (30.6%) of respondents felt safe walking in the city centre after dark, down from 33.2% in 2024.
- This figure fell to around a quarter (24.9%) for respondents identifying as disabled and less than three-tenths for females (27.4%) and those aged 55+ (28.6%).



Source: National Survey for Wales



Source: National Survey for Wales

Percentage of people feeling safe in different situations, 2025

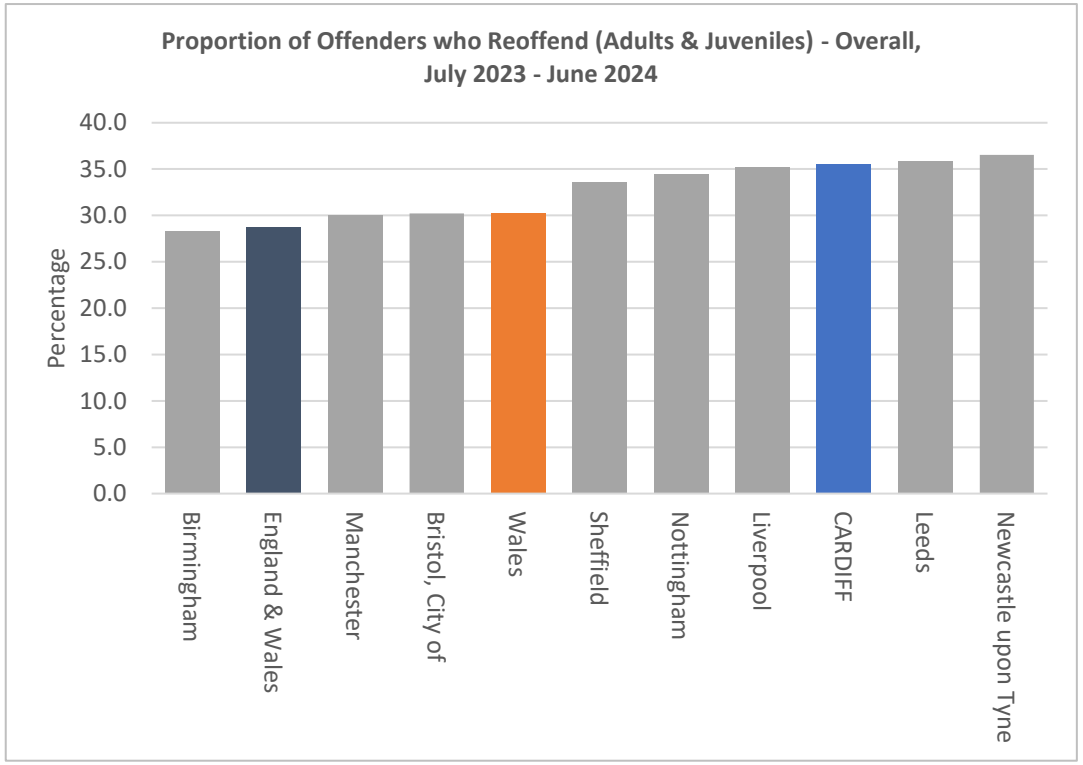
% Feeling Safe	At home		Walking in your neighbourhood		Walking in the city centre		Travelling by bus		When cycling in Cardiff	
	Daylight	*After Dark*	*Daylight*	*After Dark*	*Daylight*	*After Dark*	*Daylight*	*After Dark*	*Daylight*	*After Dark*
Overall	*96.0*	*87.1*	*91.0*	*53.8*	*79.1*	*30.6*	*92.0*	*55.6*	*63.8*	*27.4*
Under 35	*95.8*	*86.0*	*90.2*	*48.6*	*83.3*	*38.6*	*90.6*	*59.0*	*68.1*	*31.3*
55+	*98.0*	*90.3*	*93.8*	*58.6*	*81.1*	*28.6*	*94.2*	*58.8*	*61.4*	*23.3*
Female	*96.7*	*86.7*	*91.9*	*49.6*	*80.2*	*27.4*	*92.0*	*51.7*	*61.3*	*22.0*
Male	*97.2*	*90.7*	*93.4*	*65.8*	*82.2*	*39.8*	*93.2*	*67.9*	*67.2*	*35.0*
Ethnically Diverse	*94.9*	*85.0*	*91.8*	*59.4*	*89.3*	*48.5*	*91.1*	*66.1*	*72.3*	*33.3*
Identify as disabled	*95.4*	*79.6*	*88.4*	*43.3*	*68.8*	*24.9*	*85.3*	*46.5*	*48.1*	*23.0*
Welsh speaker	*95.8*	*89.9*	*92.0*	*55.6*	*76.3*	*30.8*	*93.4*	*56.5*	*61.7*	*28.0*
Southern Arc	*94.1*	*83.2*	*86.8*	*48.2*	*80.8*	*38.2*	*89.7*	*55.9*	*66.4*	*31.7*
Children in household	*96.3*	*83.8*	*90.5*	*57.6*	*75.3*	*31.8*	*89.7*	*54.0*	*67.1*	*26.5*
LGBTQ+	*95.2*	*85.3*	*90.7*	*52.2*	*77.8*	*34.6*	*90.1*	*62.3*	*65.9*	*32.1*

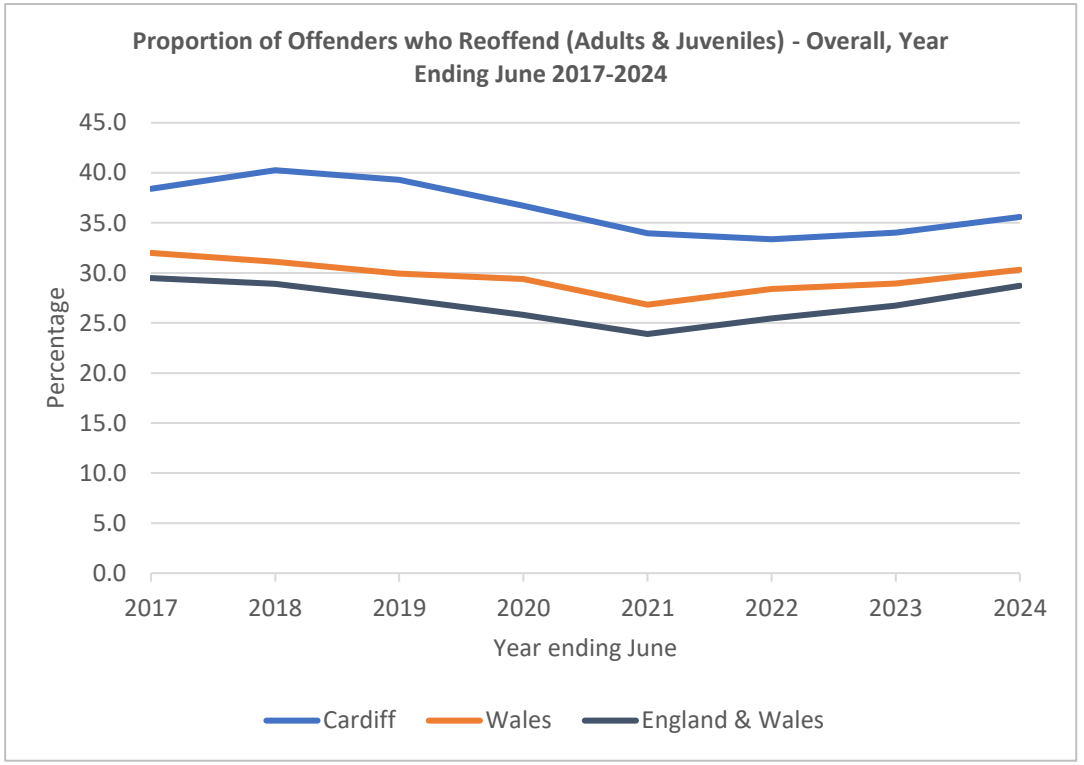
Source: Ask Cardiff Survey, Cardiff Council

Proportion of People who have Offended who Reoffend (Adults and Juveniles)

Key Points:

- For the twelve months ending June 2024, Cardiff (35.6%) had the third highest rate of reoffending across the core cities in England and Wales, as well as the third highest amongst the Welsh LAs.
- The rate has also consistently exceeded those of both Wales and England & Wales between 2017 and 2024.



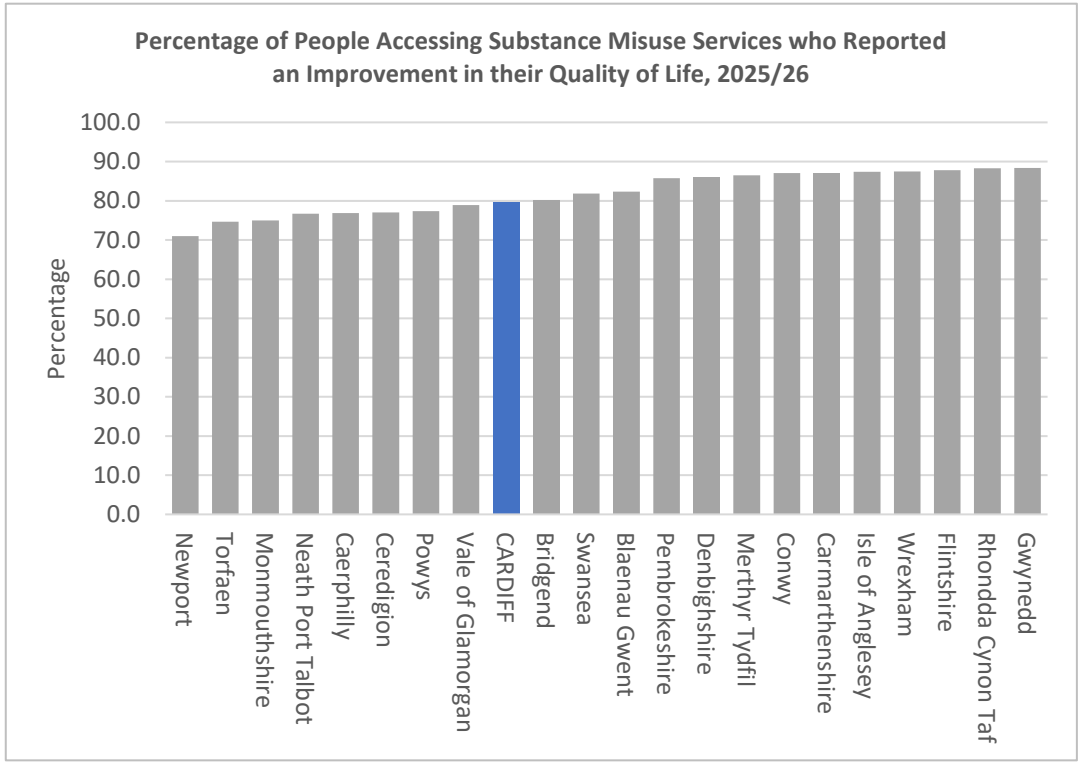


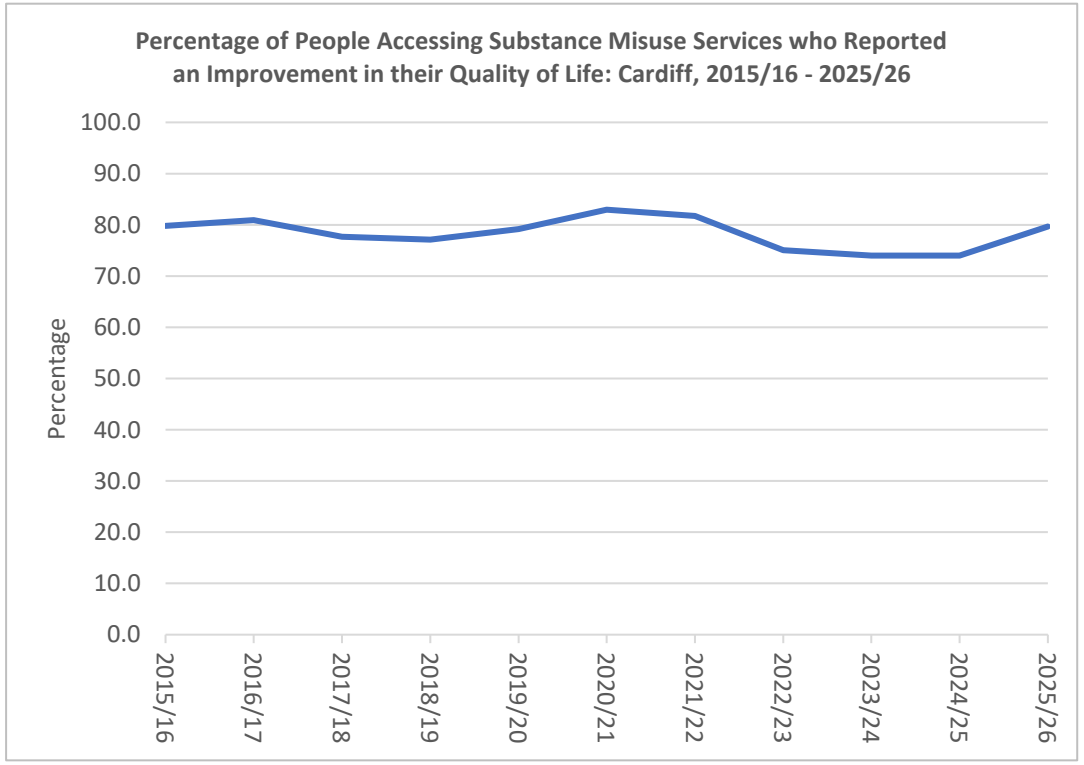
Source: Ministry of Justice

Percentage of People Accessing Substance Misuse Services who Reported an Improvement in their Quality of Life

Key Points:

- In 2025/26, around four-fifths (79.7%) of people in receipt of substance misuse services in Cardiff reported an improvement in their quality of life, the 9th lowest figure across the Welsh LAs.
- This was up from a low of 74% in both 2023/24 and 2024/25 but was below the peak of 83% seen in 2020/21.



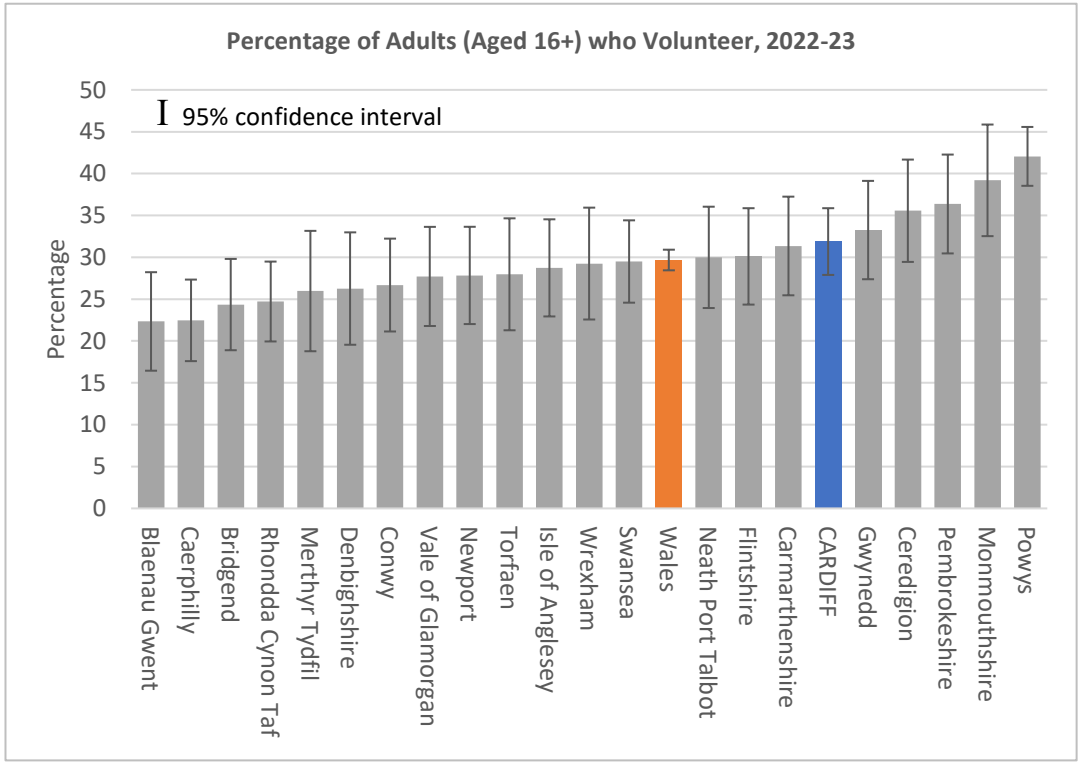


Source: Welsh National Database for Substance Misuse

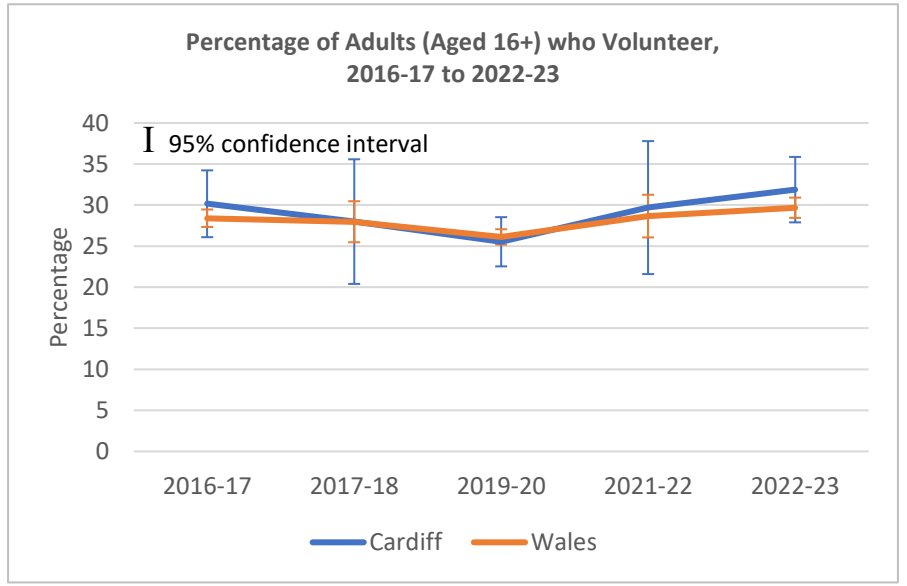
Percentage Volunteering

Key Points:

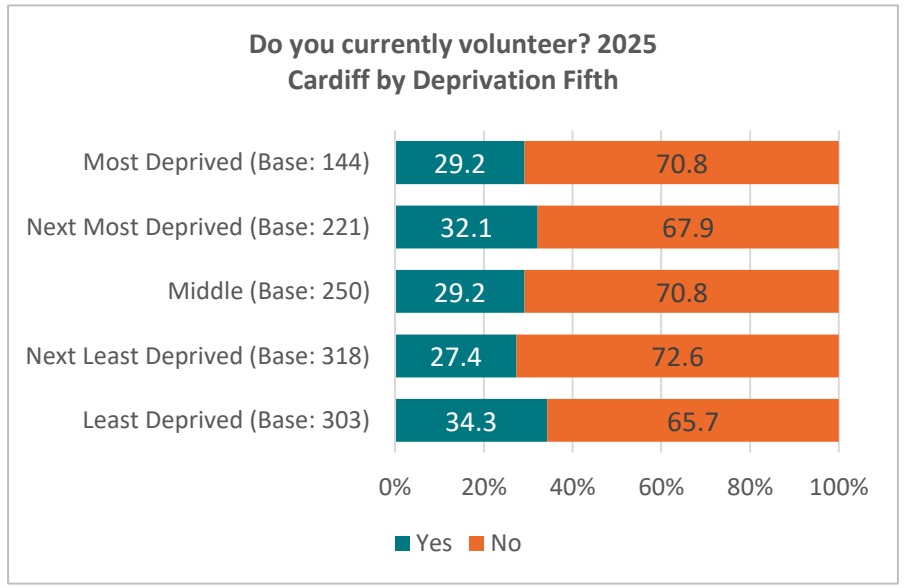
- In 2022/23, almost a third (32%) of adults in Cardiff volunteered, the sixth highest figure across the Welsh LAs and above the Welsh average (30%).
- Volunteering levels in Cardiff have increased in recent years after falling to a low of 26% in 2019-20.
- Figures from the 2025 Ask Cardiff Survey indicate that volunteering is generally more prevalent as levels of deprivation decline. Three-tenths (29.2%) of respondents from the most deprived areas of the city volunteered, compared with over a third (34.3%) in the least deprived areas. However, the disparity is not clear-cut, with the next most deprived fifth having the second highest volunteering rate of 32.1%.



Source: National Survey for Wales



Source: National Survey for Wales



Source: Ask Cardiff Survey, Cardiff Council

A Capital City that Works for Wales



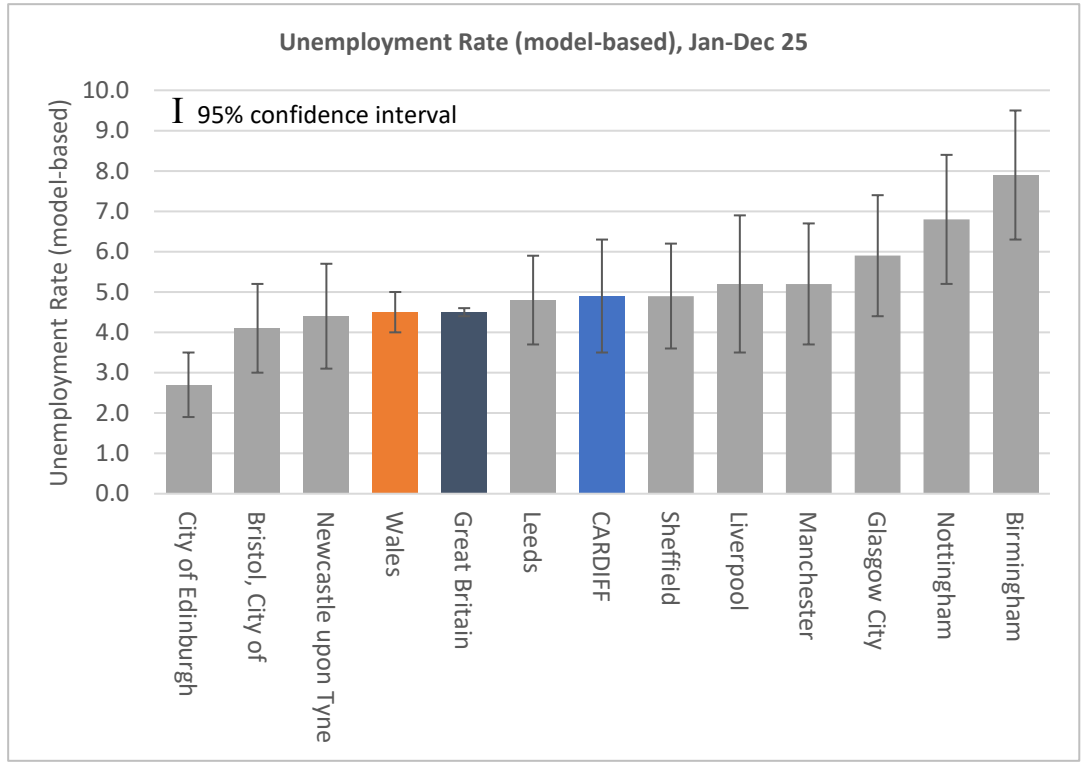
What the Data Shows: Summary

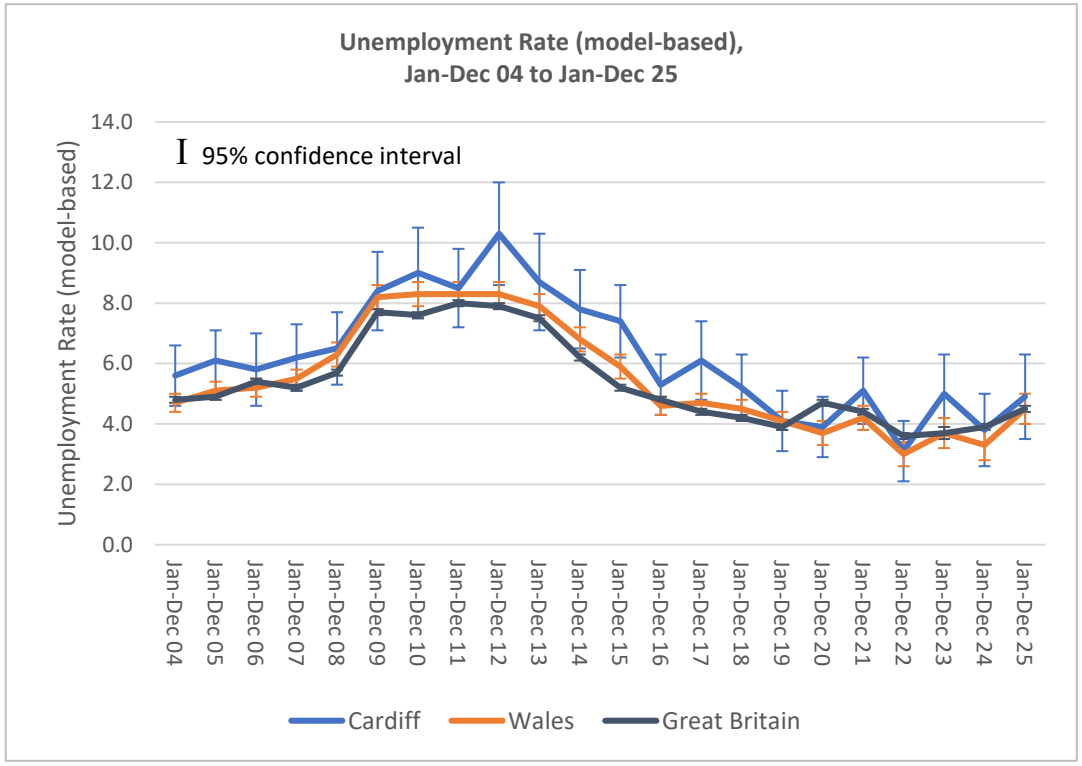
The data reflects Cardiff's continued strengths as Wales' capital city, particularly in relation to skills, culture and economic performance, while also highlighting areas of ongoing challenge. The latest available data points to strong economic performance, relatively high levels of disposable household income and high qualification levels, while Cardiff continues to perform strongly in a number of areas, including higher-level qualifications, cultural participation and the proportion of jobs paying below the Living Wage. However, unemployment remains a challenge, apprenticeship starts in the healthcare and public services sector have declined, and a significant proportion of jobs remain below the Living Wage. While the proportion of Welsh speakers in Cardiff remains below the Welsh average, longer-term trends point to continued growth in Welsh language use. The data also highlights that the benefits of economic success are not experienced equally across the city, with unemployment and participation in cultural activities varying significantly between the most and least deprived communities.

Unemployment Rate of the Economically Active Population Age 16+

Key Points:

- The unemployment rate (model based) in Cardiff for the twelve months ending December 2025 was 4.9%. This made it a mid-level performer amongst the core cities. However, it exceeded the comparative figures for both Wales and Great Britain (both 4.5%) and was the 4th highest rate across the Welsh LAs.
- After reaching a high of 10.3% for the year ending Dec 2012, unemployment in Cardiff followed a downward trend until the year ending Dec 2020. However, since this time, the rate has been more volatile, ranging between 3.1% and 5.1%. This is possibly due to issues with the dataset/response rate since the pandemic that have caused the quality of local authority data to deteriorate.



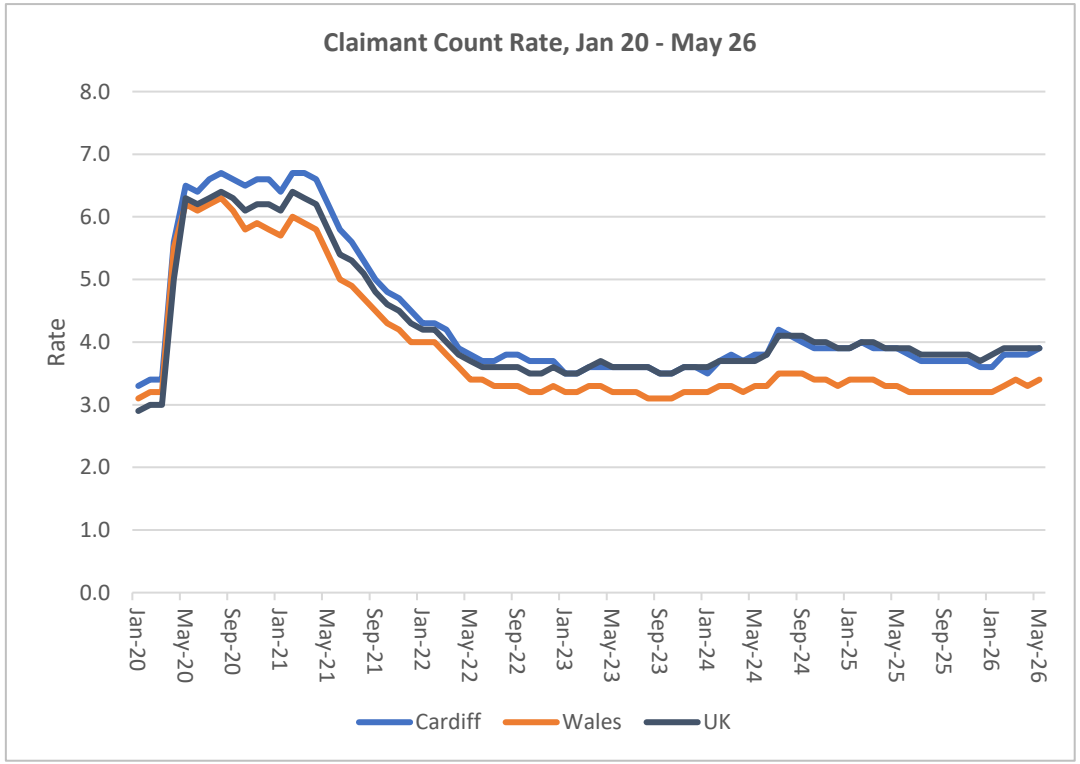


Source: Model-based Unemployment, Annual Population Survey

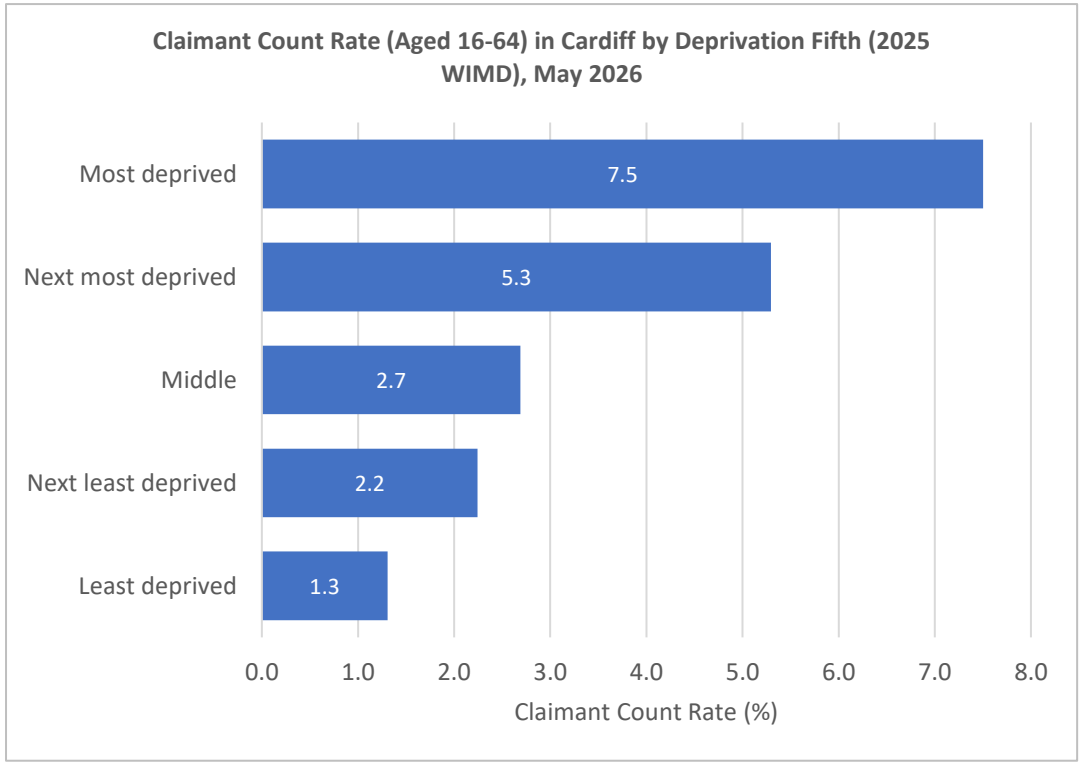
Unemployment Rate of the Economically Active Population age 16+ (Claimant Count Rate/Deprivation Fifth)

Key Points:

- The pandemic's impact on unemployment caused the claimant count rate in Cardiff to double in the spring of 2020. However, this figure then followed a downward trajectory from March 2021, falling to 3.5% in Jan 2023, although this was still above its pre-pandemic level. Since this time, the rate has been relatively stable, ranging between 3.5% and 4.2%.
- The Cardiff rate has exceeded that of Wales since the beginning of 2020. However, since August 2024, it has not been above the UK rate. In May 2026, the Cardiff rate was 3.9%, compared with 3.4% for Wales and 3.9% for the UK.
- Unemployment is not felt evenly across the city, with the claimant count rate almost six times higher for the most deprived areas of the Cardiff (7.5%) compared to the least deprived areas (1.3%).



Source: Claimant Count

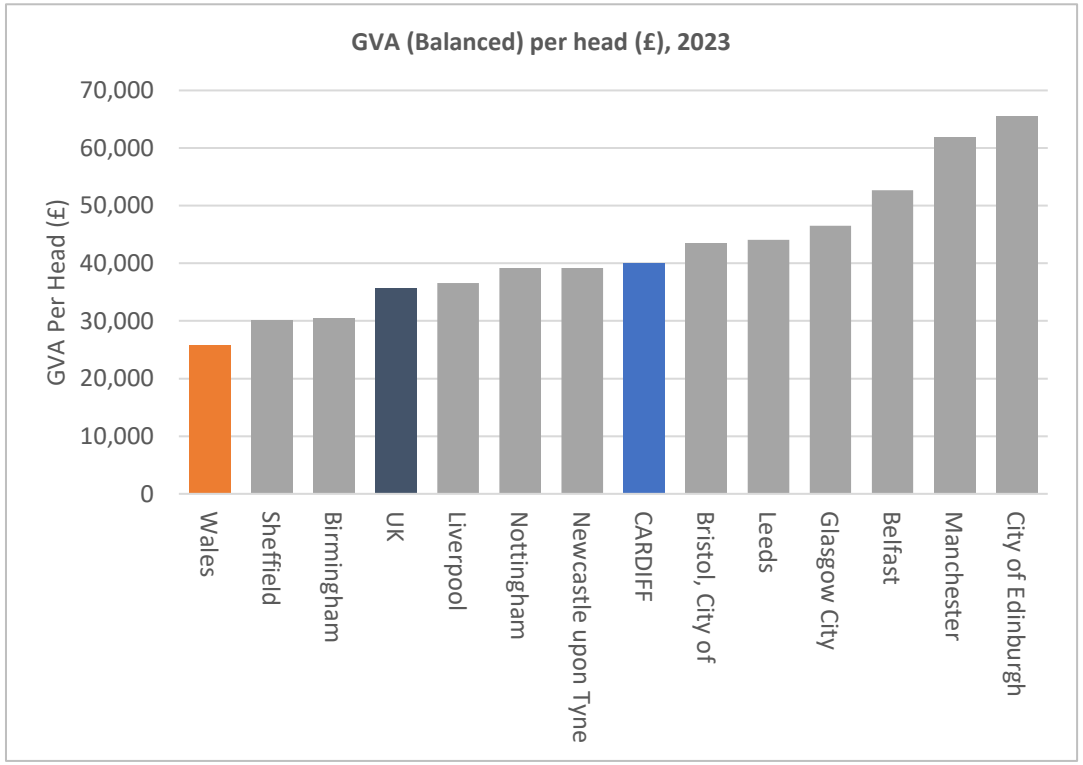


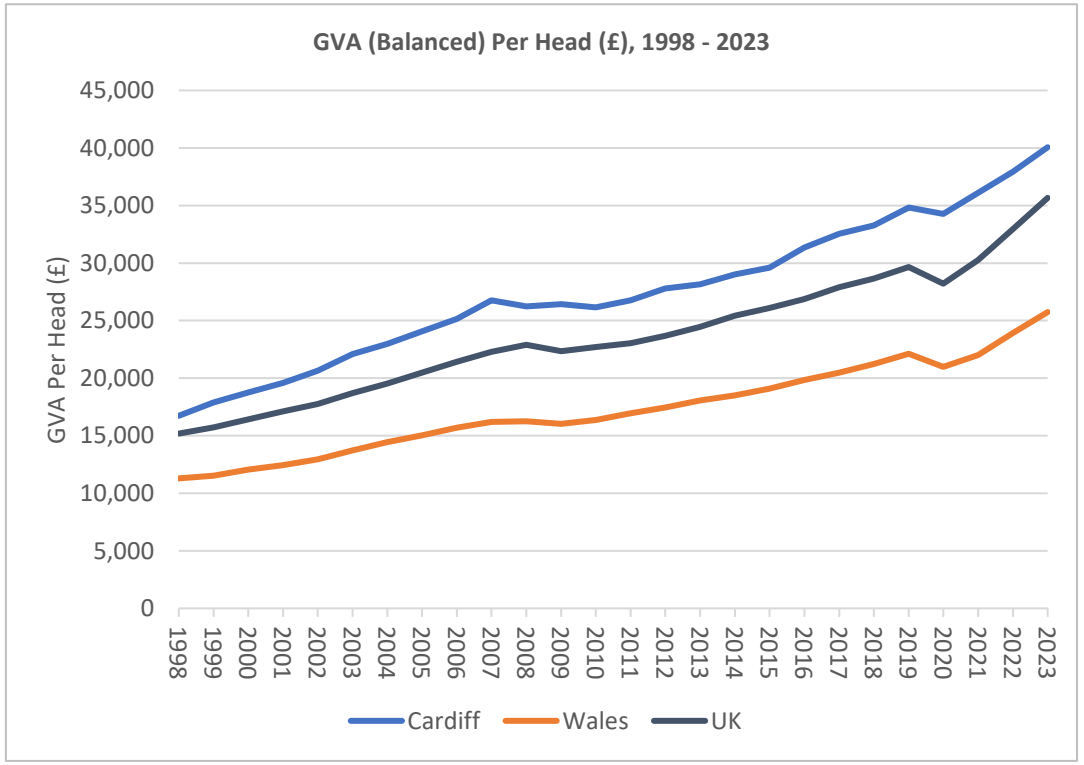
Source: Claimant Count/Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025, Welsh Government/ Mid-2024 Population Estimates, ONS

GVA per Head in Cardiff

Key Points:

- In 2023, GVA per head in Cardiff stood at £40,064, comfortably above both the comparative Wales and UK figures, as has been the case since 1998.
- However, it was only a mid-ranking performer across the core cities, and the large gap in GVA per head between Cardiff and certain cities, namely Manchester and Edinburgh, reveals that Cardiff needs to make progress in this area.
- Despite temporary declines due to the 2008 financial crisis and the covid pandemic, GVA per head has followed an upward trend in Cardiff since 1998.
- Between 2018 and 2023, GVA per head in Cardiff rose by 20.4%, although this was slightly below the increases seen across Wales (21.3%) and the UK (24.5%).





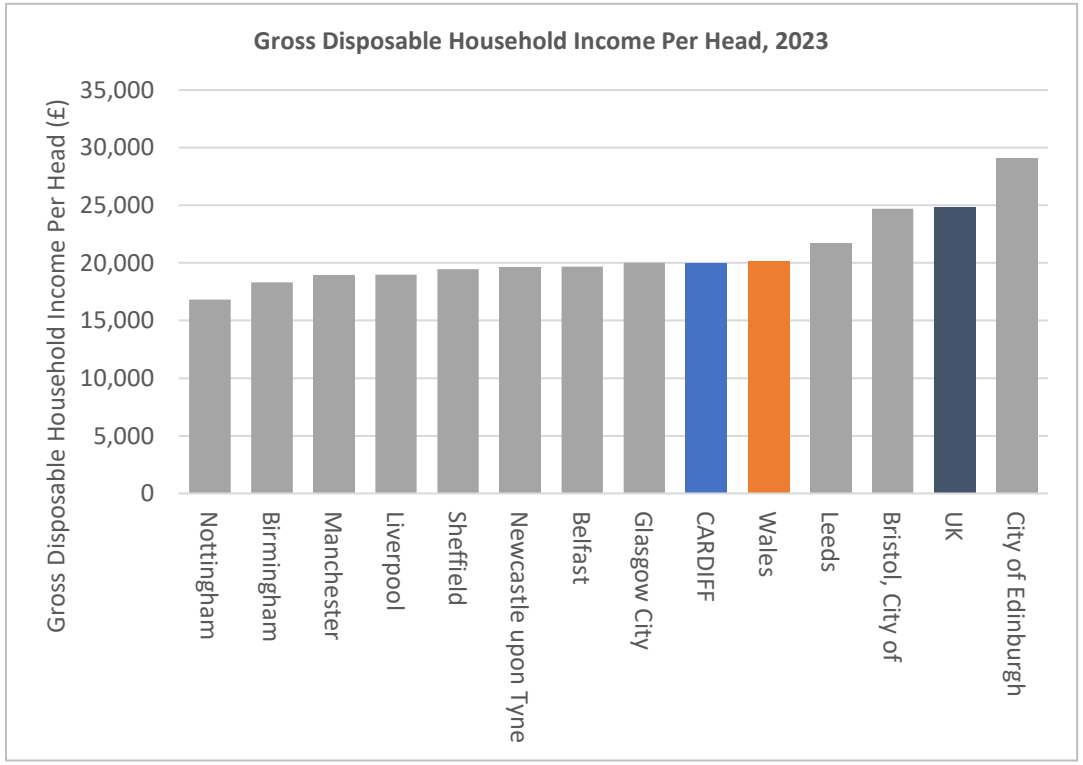
Source: ONS

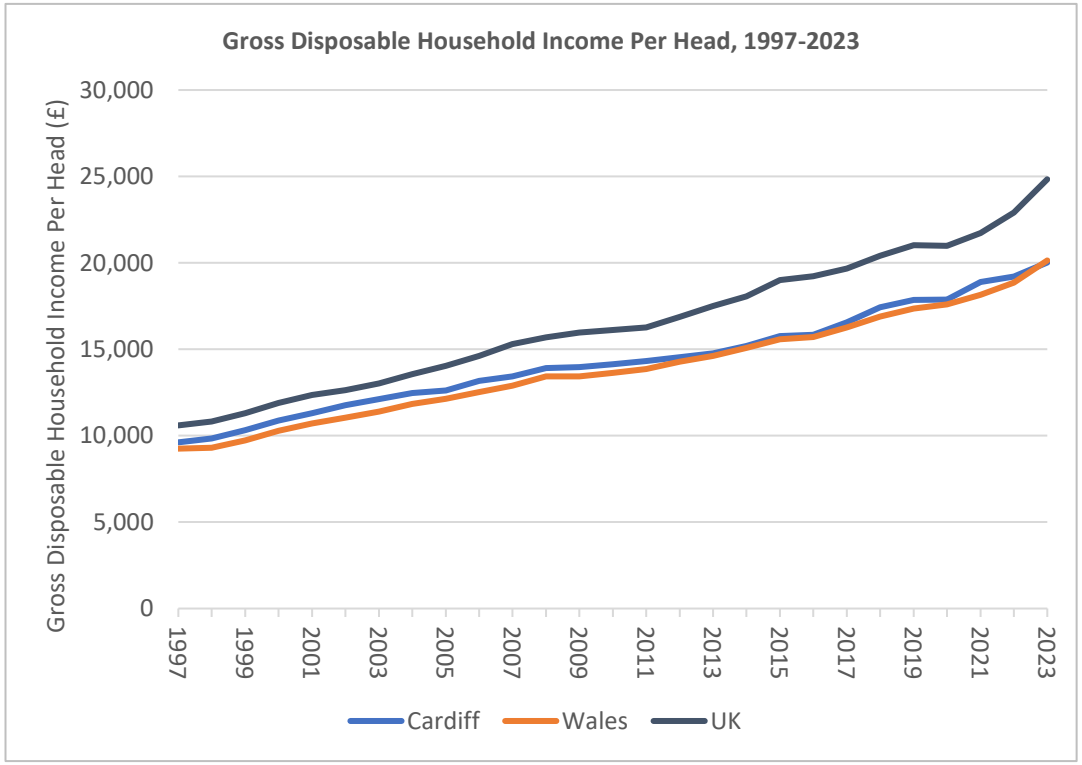
NB. GVA uses current price data. UK figure is for United Kingdom less Extra-Regio. Latest figures are provisional.

Gross Disposable Household Income per Head in Cardiff

Key Points:

- In 2023, gross disposable household income in Cardiff stood at £20,020. This was similar to the Welsh average (£20,140), but significantly lower than the UK average (£24,836) and the level seen in certain core cities, namely Bristol and Edinburgh.
- Since 1997, Cardiff's figure has followed an upward trend although the gap with the UK has tended to increase over time.





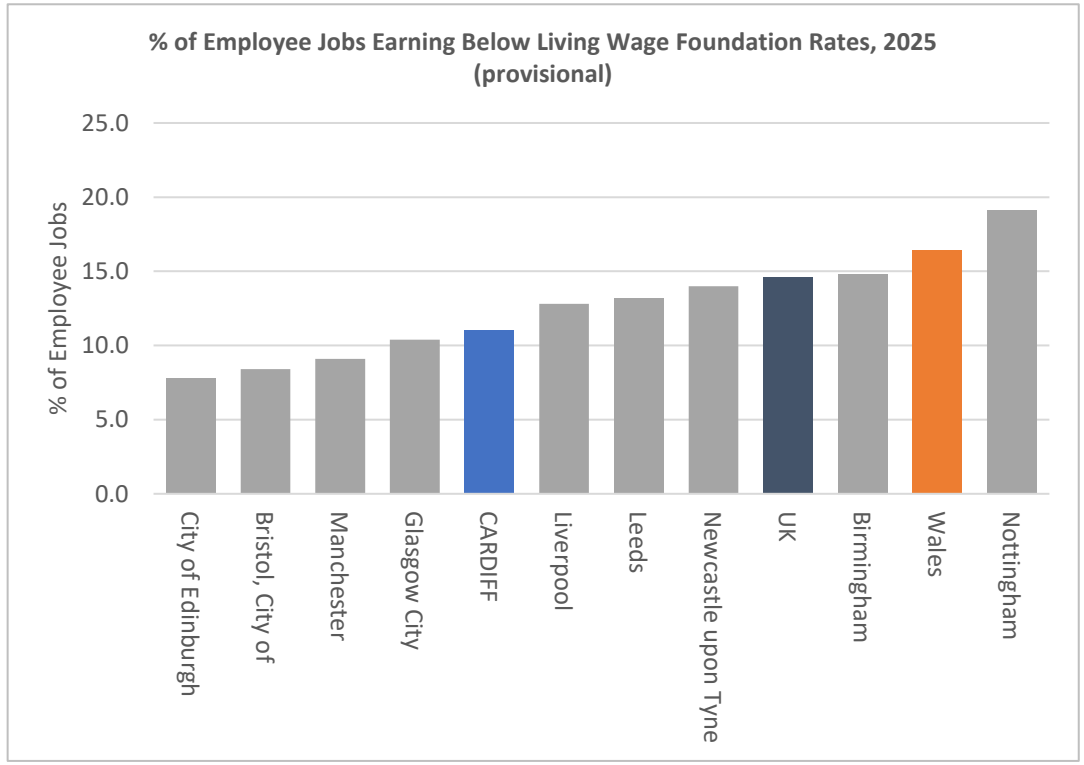
Source: ONS
NB. latest figures are provisional

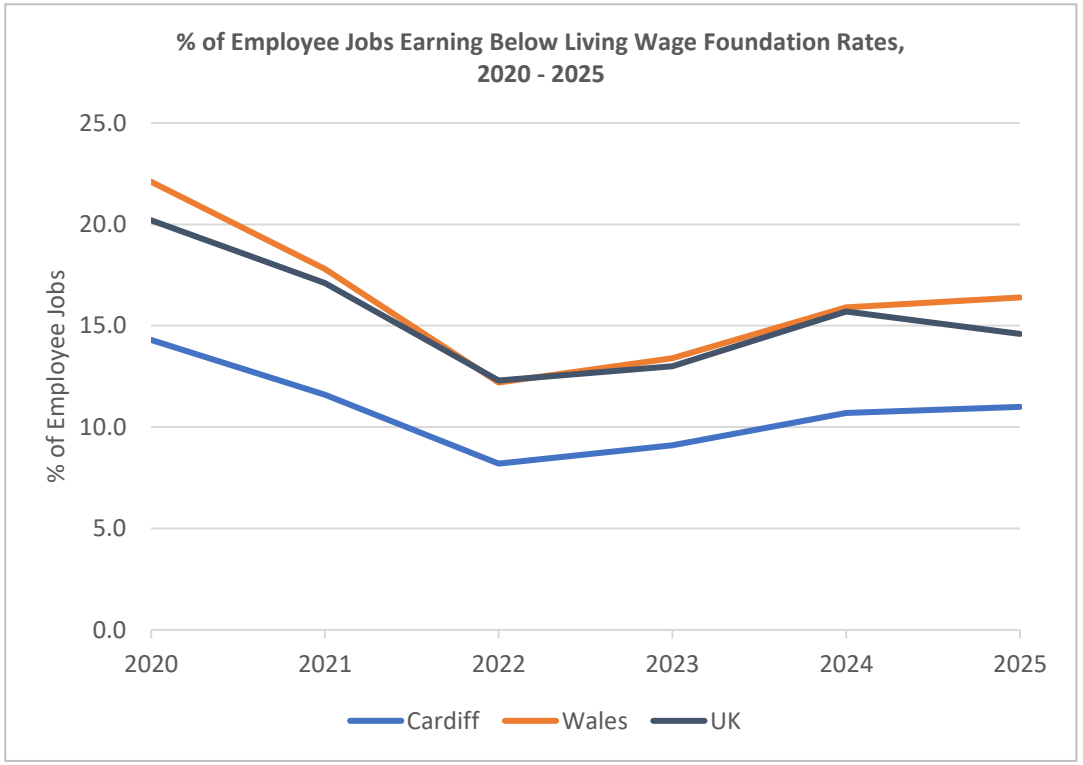
Percentage of Employee Jobs with Hourly Pay below the Living Wage

Key Points:

- Provisional results for 2025 show that 11.0% of Cardiff employees received an hourly pay below the living wage.
- This percentage is significantly below the figures for both Wales (16.4%) and the UK (14.6%), as well as many of the other core cities. It is also the lowest percentage across the Welsh LAs.
- This data reflects the success of Cardiff's Real Living Wage movement.
- However, although the Cardiff proportion fell from 14.3% in 2020 to a low of 8.2% in 2022, it has gradually increased again since this time.

[NB: Data based on number and proportion of UK employees earning below the living wage as defined by the Living Wage Foundation]





Source: ONS

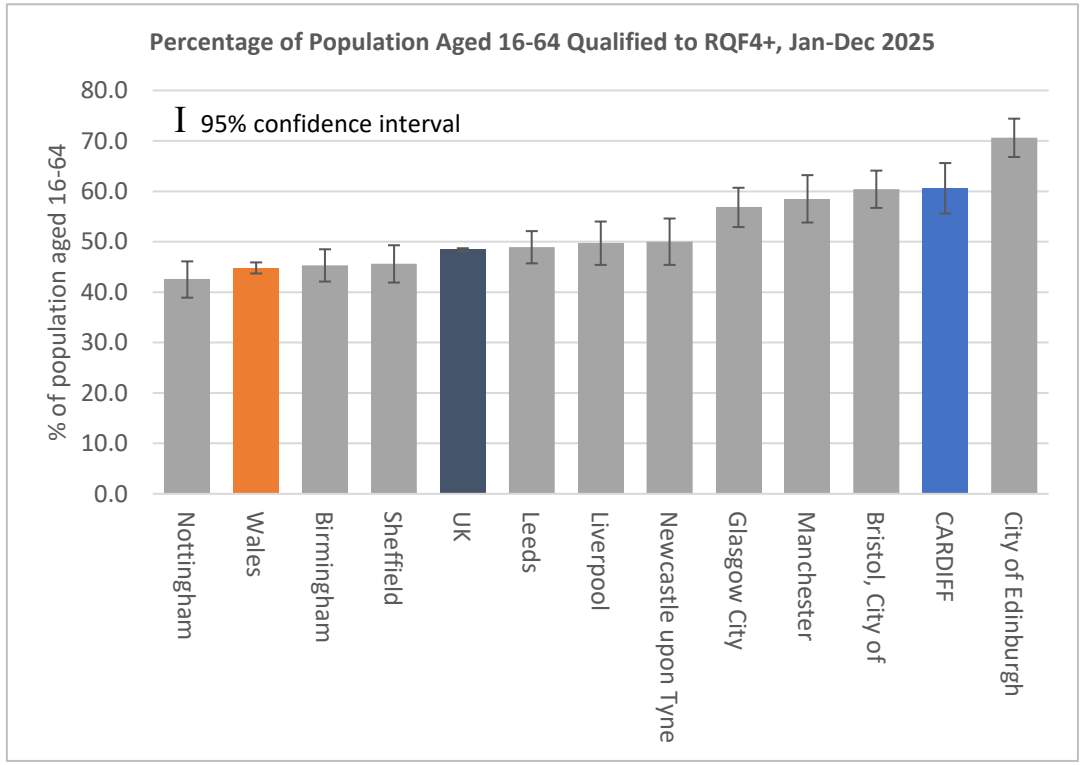
NB. Latest figures are provisional

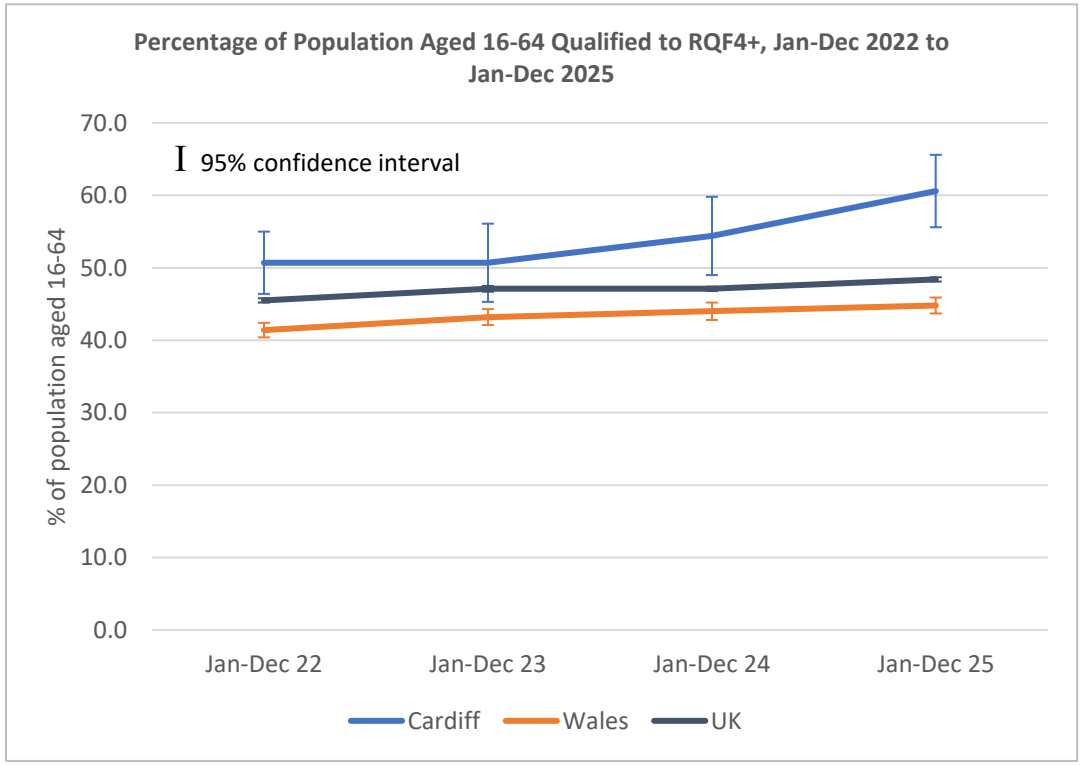
Percentage of Population Aged 16-64 Qualified to RQF4+ (Previously NVQ4+)

Key Points:

- For the twelve months ending December 2025, three-fifths (60.6%) of Cardiff's adult population were qualified to RQF level 4 and above, up from 54.4% for the previous year.
- This was the second highest figure across the core cities, as well as the highest proportion amongst the Welsh LAs. It also exceeded both the Wales (44.8%) and UK (48.4%) averages, as has been the case since 2022 (when RQF data replaced the previous NVQ dataset).

[NB. Figures for 2022 onwards are not comparable with previous years due to the changes to the qualification questions in the Labour Force Survey/Annual Population Survey. The questions, previously based on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), have been updated to reflect the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF).]



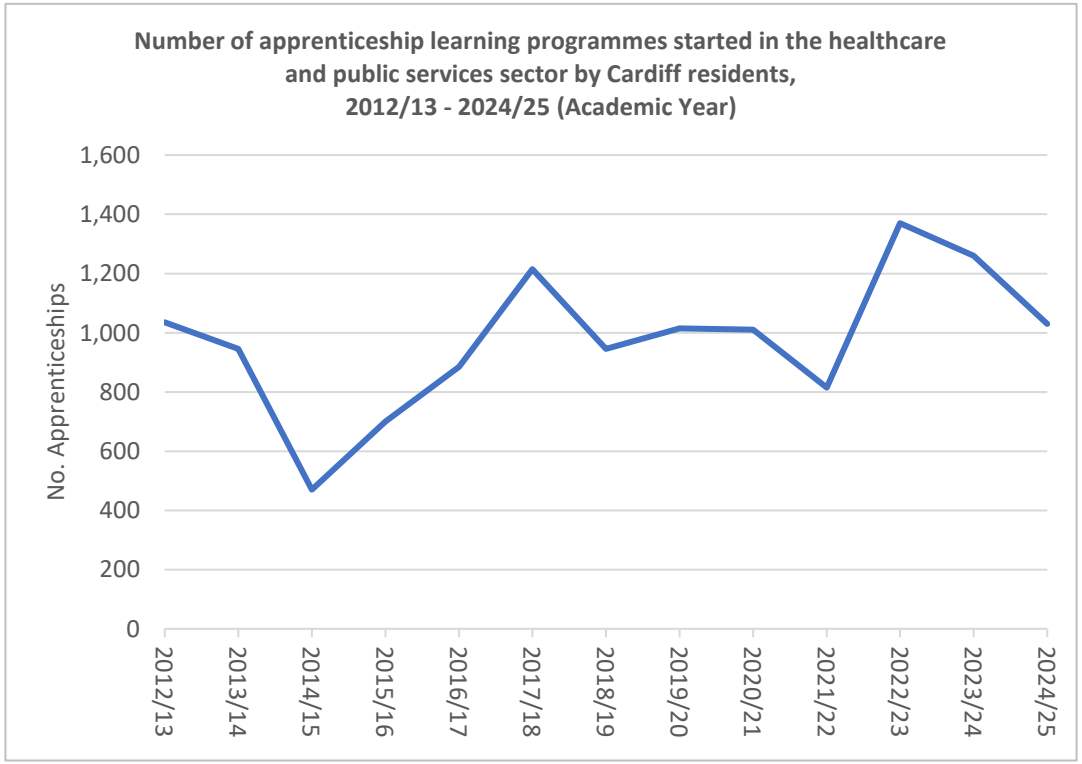


Source: Annual Population Survey

Number of Apprenticeship Learning Programmes started in the Healthcare and Public Services Sector by Cardiff Residents

Key Points:

- In the 2024/25 academic year, there were 1,030 apprenticeship learning programmes started in the healthcare and public services sector by Cardiff residents.
- This was the down from 1,260 in the previous year and compared with a high of 1,370 in 2022/23.



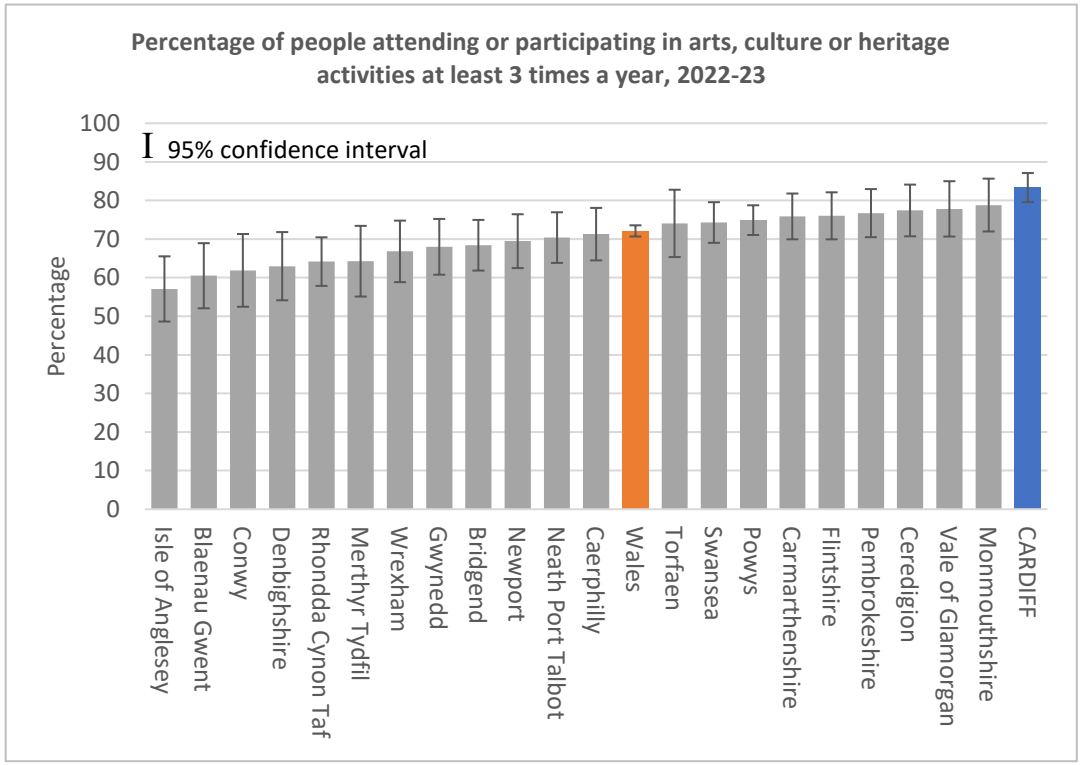
Source: Welsh Government

NB. Data is an academic year basis, which runs from 1st August - 31st July

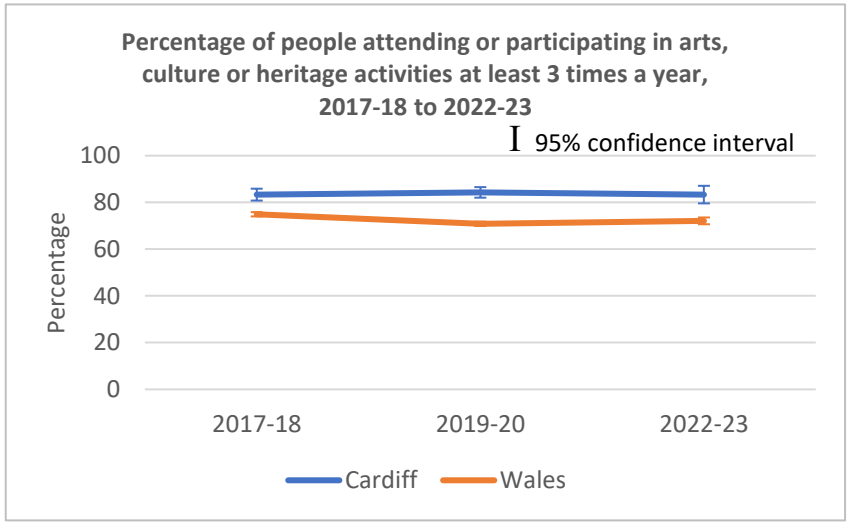
Percentage of People Attending or Participating in Arts, Culture or Heritage Activities at least 3 times in a Year

Key Points:

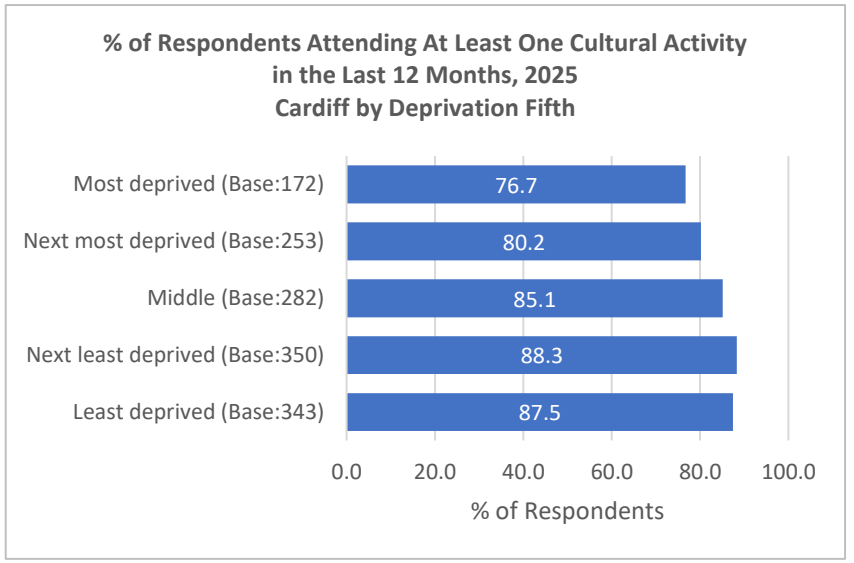
- In 2022-23, Cardiff led Wales in the percentage of its residents participating in cultural life, with 83% attending at least three events during the year.
- This rate exceeds the Welsh average by 11 percentage points but has remained broadly unchanged since 2017-18.
- Figures from the 2025 Ask Cardiff Survey show that the most (76.7%) and least deprived (87.5%) areas of Cardiff are separated by almost 11 percentage points in terms of participation in at least one cultural activity in the past year, with the latter being more likely to attend a cultural activity.



Source: National Survey for Wales, Welsh Government



Source: National Survey for Wales, Welsh Government

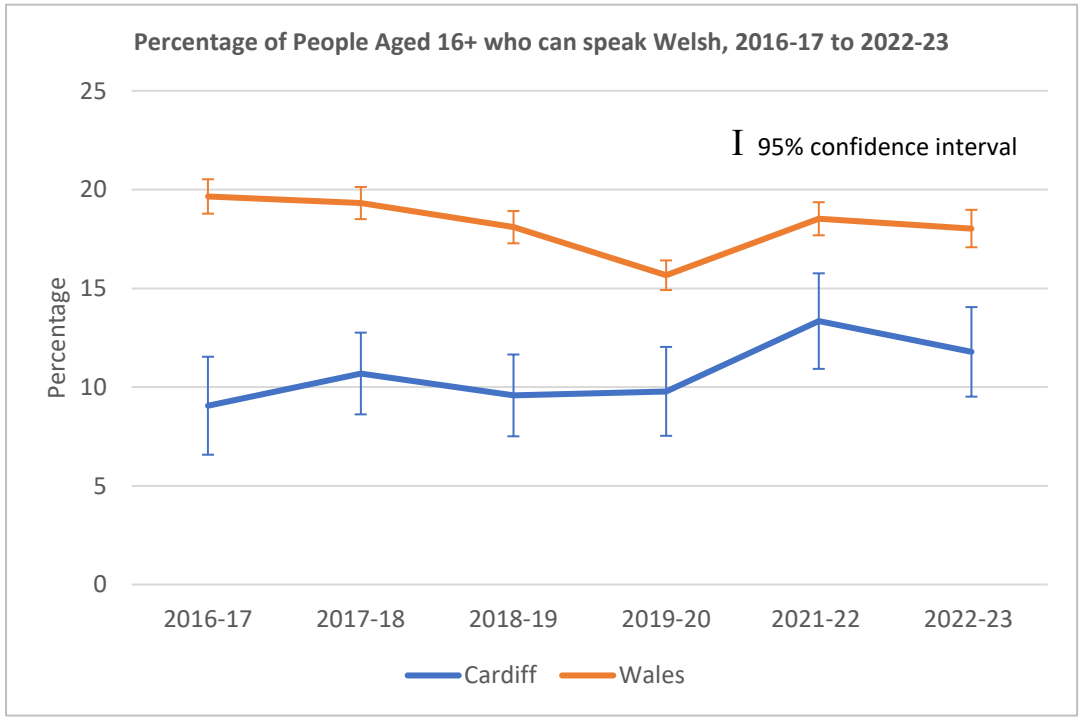


Source: Ask Cardiff Survey, Cardiff Council
NB. Activities include Theatre; Live music or concert; Museum; Art Gallery; Cinema; Other cultural activity

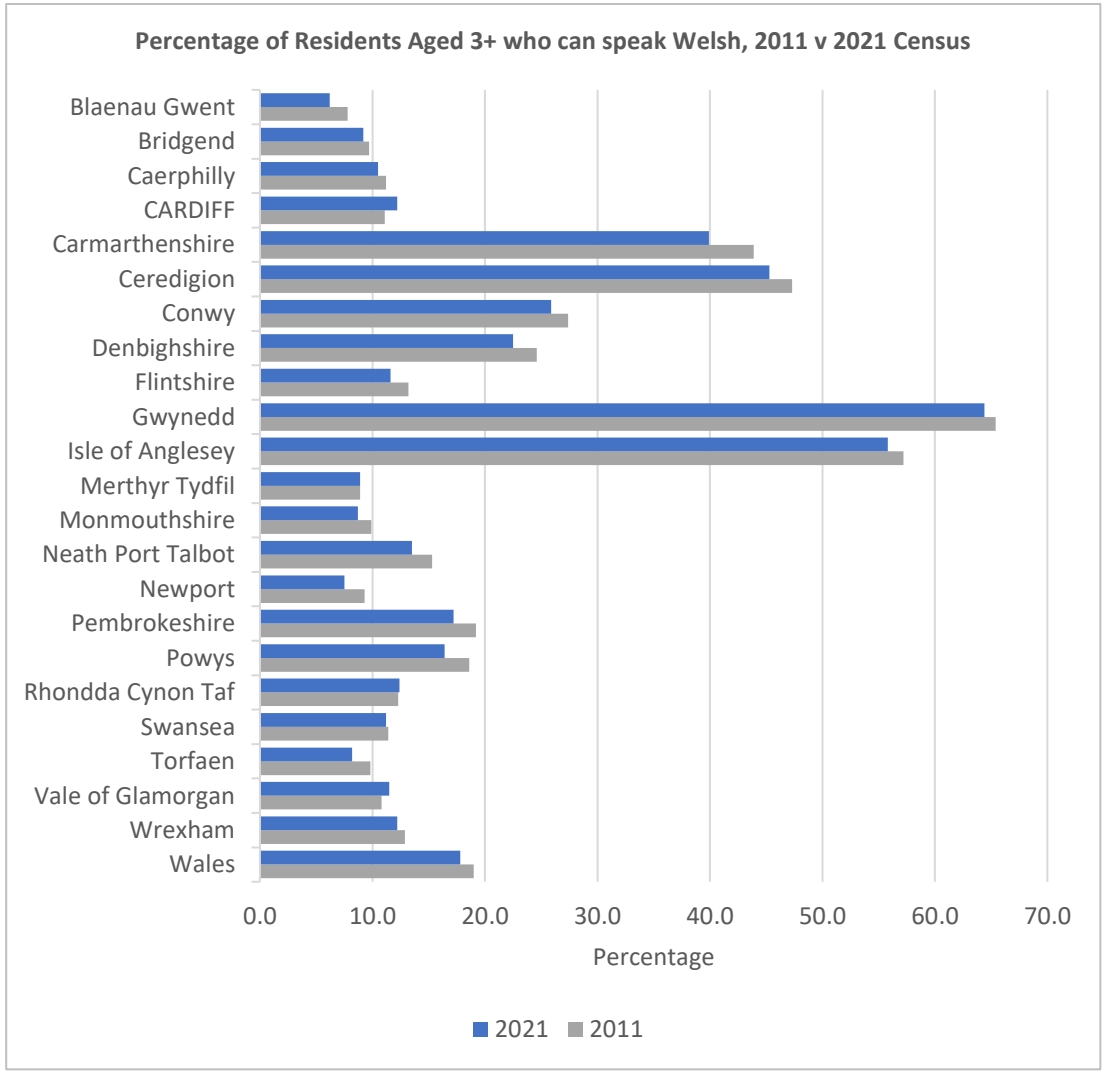
Percentage of People Aged 16+ who can Speak Welsh

Key Points:

- According to the National Survey for Wales, in 2022/23, 12% of people aged 16+ in Cardiff could speak Welsh, up from 9% in 2016-17. This proportion has consistently been below the Welsh average which, in 2022/23, stood at 18%.
- Figures from the 2021 Census showed that Cardiff was one of only four LAs in Wales to see an increase in the number of Welsh speakers (aged 3+) since 2011.
- Overall, Wales saw its number of Welsh speakers decline by nearly 24k (-4.2%) between the 2011 and 2021 Censuses, whereas Cardiff saw an increase of over 6k (+16.4%) – the largest numerical and percentage increase across the Welsh LAs.
- In 2021, 12.2% of Cardiff residents (aged 3+) spoke Welsh, up from 11.1% in 2011. For Wales, this figure fell from 19.0% to 17.8% over the same period.



Source: National Survey for Wales, Welsh Government



Source: Census

One Planet Cardiff



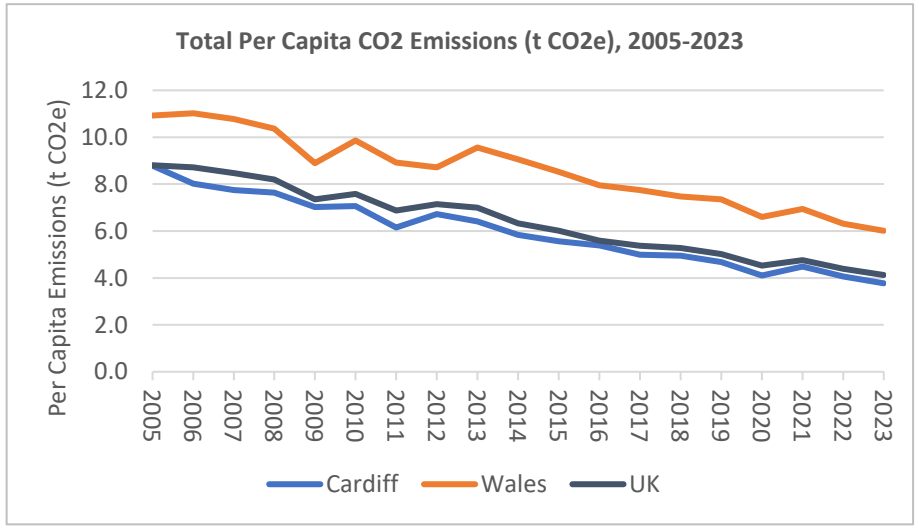
What the Data Shows: Summary

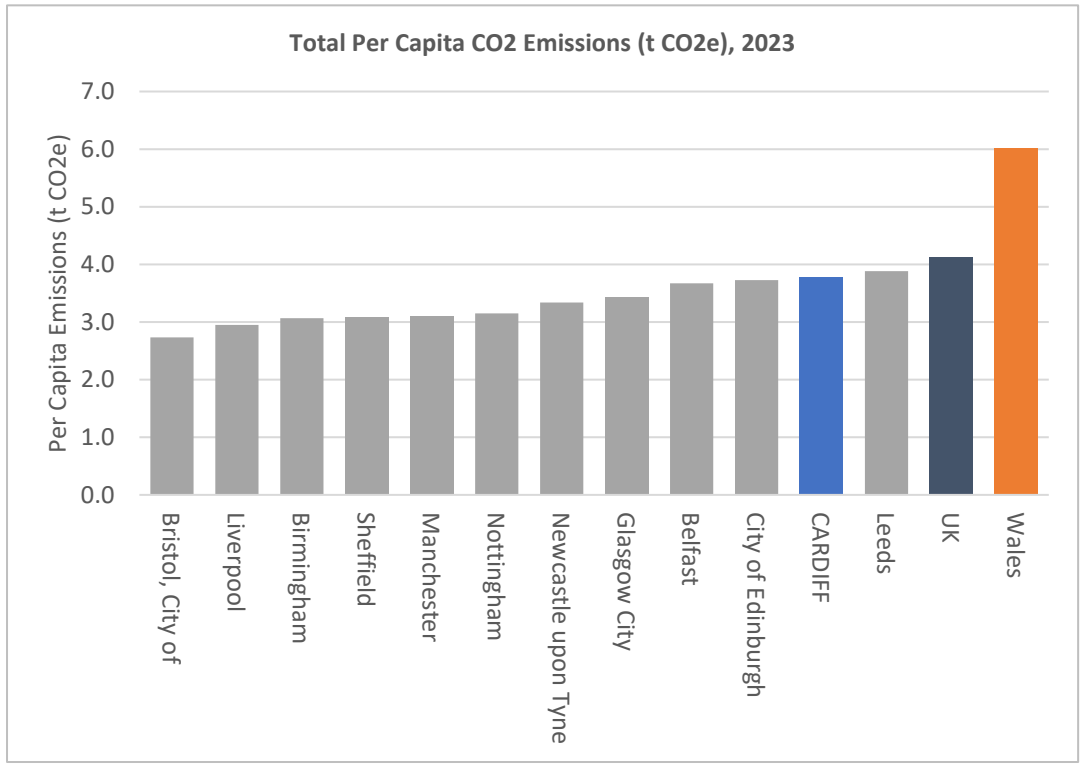
The data shows progress in a number of areas relating to climate action and the environment in Cardiff. Recent improvements can be seen in sustainable travel and recycling rates, while the latest available data indicates lower carbon emissions and improved air quality compared with previous years. Cardiff also continues to perform strongly in relation to access to green space and Green Flag accredited parks. However, significant challenges remain. Transport continues to be the largest source of carbon emissions, air pollution levels remain among the highest in Wales, recycling performance remains below Welsh Government targets, and many protected conservation features are in an unfavourable or unknown condition. The data also suggests that environmental benefits and risks are not experienced equally across the city, with lower satisfaction with parks and open spaces in more deprived communities, areas of poorer access to green space, and elevated flood risks in parts of the city's Southern Arc.

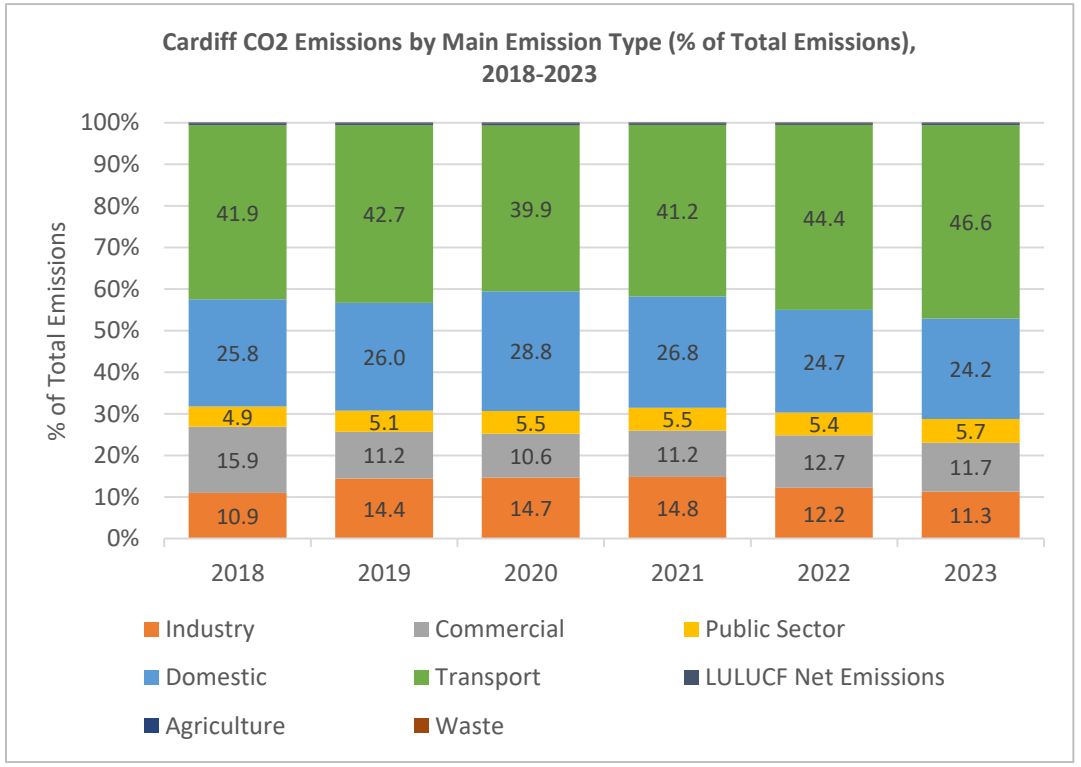
Per Capita CO2 Emissions

Key Points:

- In 2023, Cardiff (3.8t) had the second highest per capita CO2 emissions out of the UK's core cities, but was below the UK average (4.1t). Per capita emissions for Wales (6.0t) were significantly higher than in Cardiff due to the substantial emissions seen in Neath Port Talbot.
- Cardiff's emissions have generally followed a downward trend since 2005 (8.8t), reaching a low of 3.8t in 2023, and have consistently been below overall figures for the UK (except for 2005) and Wales.
- Transport (46.6%) contributed the most to CO2 emissions in 2023, followed by Domestic (24.2%), Commercial (11.7%) and Industry (11.3%).
- The proportion of all emissions that were caused by Transport increased from 41.9% in 2018 to 46.6% in 2023, although there was a decline during the pandemic, when mobility was limited.





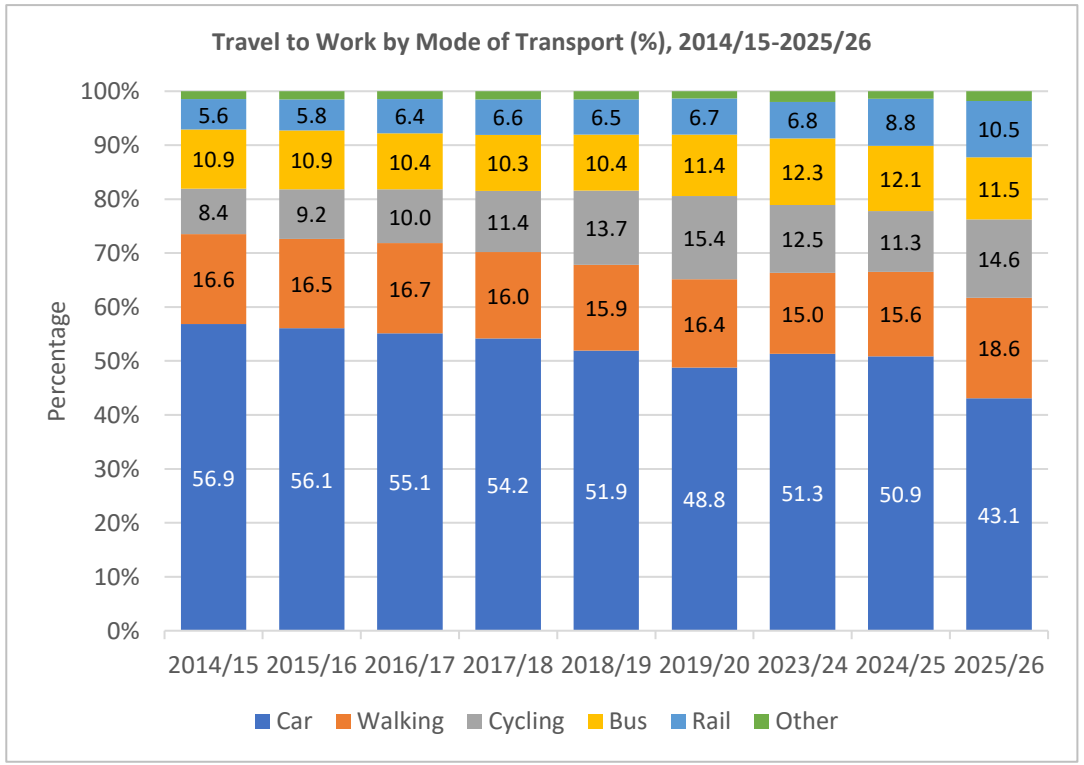


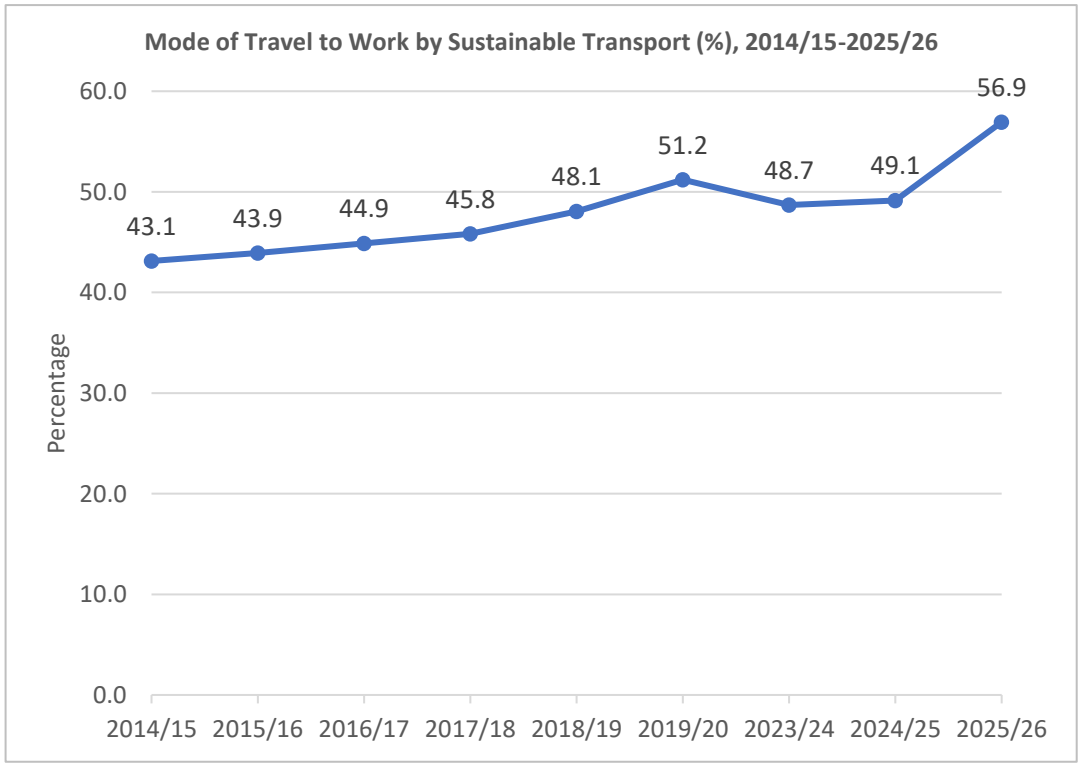
Source: BEIS

Sustainable Transport Modal Shift

Key Points:

- Figures from the Transport Survey for 2025/26 show that 56.9% of respondents travelled to work using sustainable modes of transport, up from 49.1% in 2024/25 and the highest figure on record.
- This is also above the Council's 50:50 modal split target.
- Rail use (10.5%) and walking (18.6%) were at their highest levels in 2025/26, with the former having become more popular since the pandemic. Cycling (14.6%) has also become more popular over time with its current level only exceeded during the pandemic.
- Car use (43.1%) is at its lowest rate on record, down from 50.9% for 2024/25 and a high of 56.9% for 2014/15.





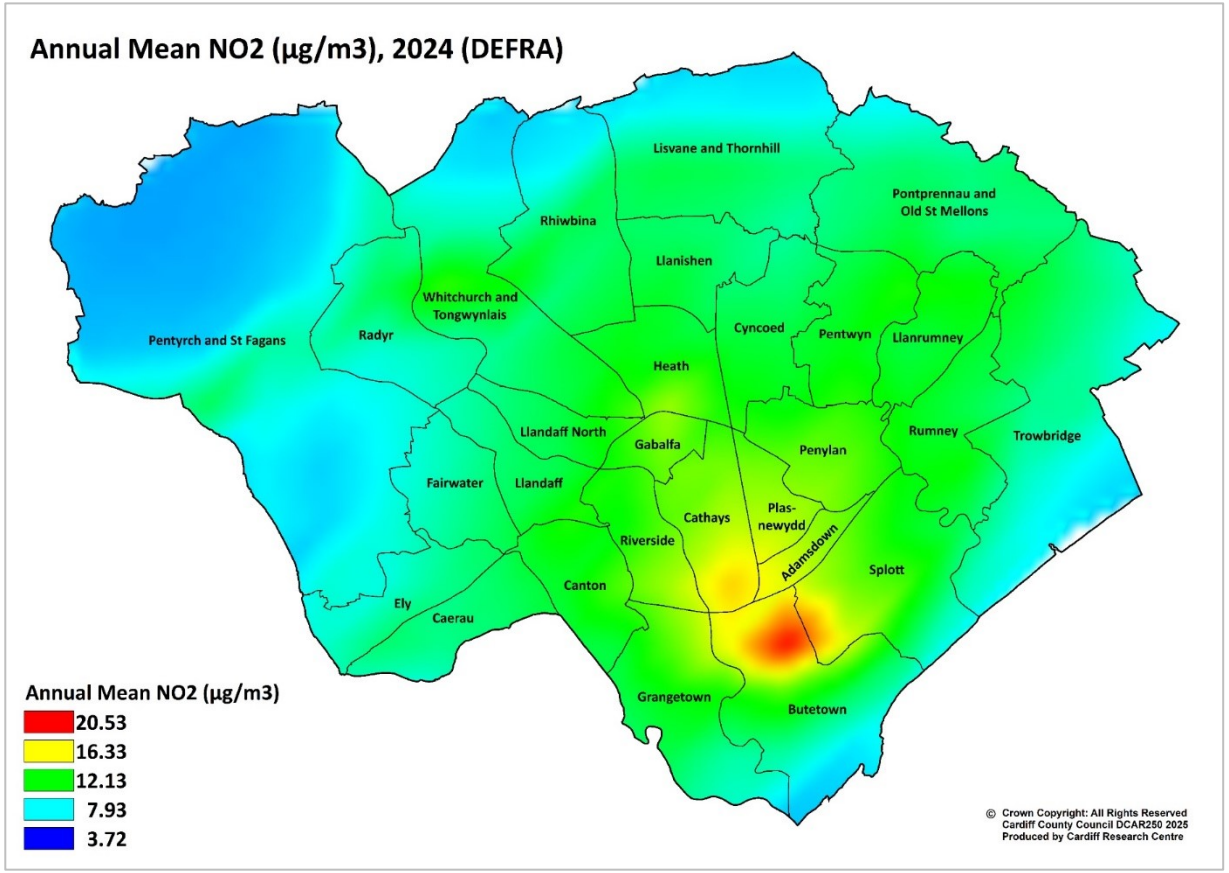
Source: Transport Survey, Cardiff Council

NB. Figures not available for 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 (no survey undertaken due to the pandemic)

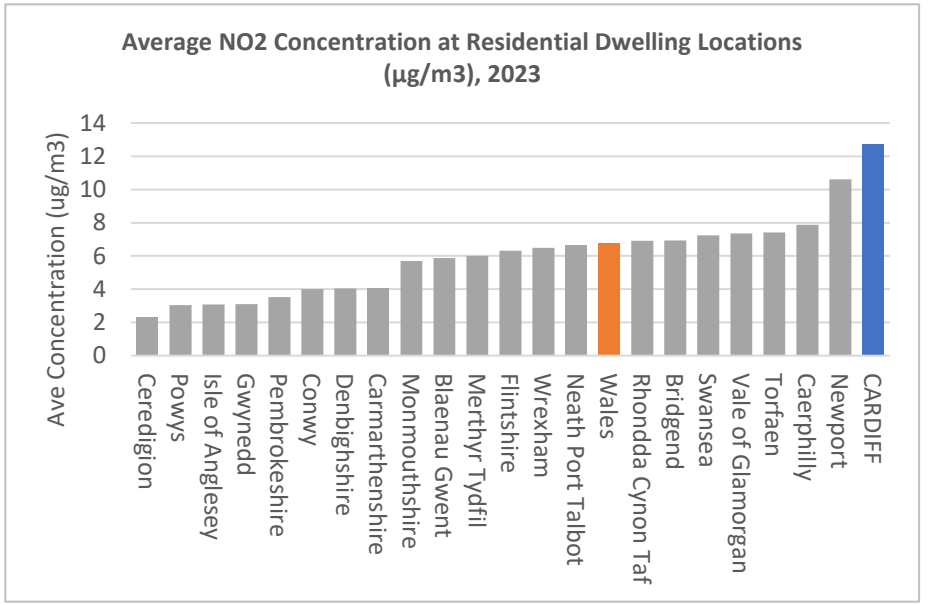
Pollution Levels in the Air: Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2)

Key Points:

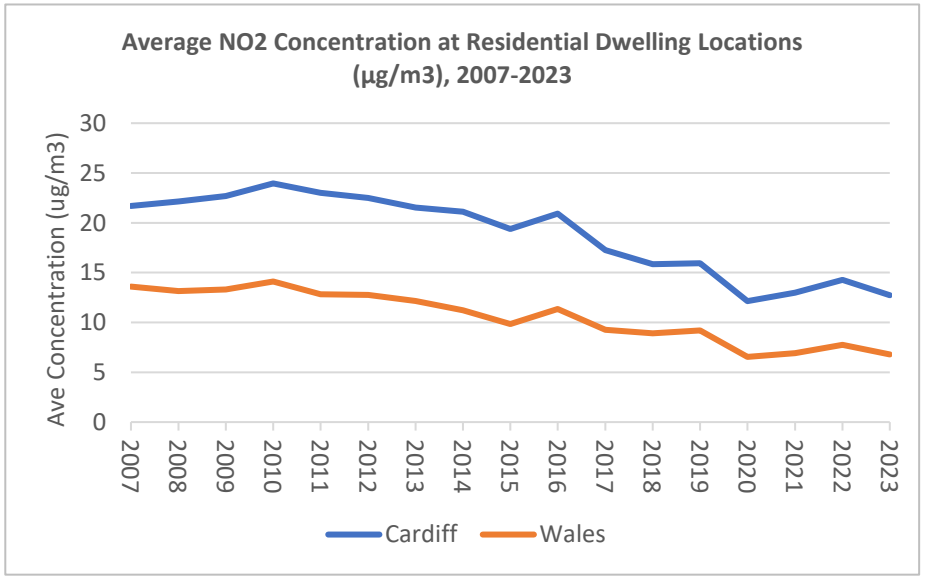
- In 2023, Cardiff (13µg/m3) had the highest NO2 pollution levels in Wales, at almost double the Welsh average (7µg/m3).
- Cardiff's NO2 levels fell from a high of 24µg/m3 in 2010 to a low of 12µg/m3 in 2020 (when figures were affected by the pandemic). NO2 has been slightly higher in subsequent years, although it is still below its pre-pandemic level.
- Modelled 2024 data from DEFRA (for 1x1km squares) shows that the highest levels of NO2 pollution in Cardiff are concentrated in north Butetown and west Splott, as well as the nearby areas of, Adamsdown, Cathays and Plasnewydd.



Source: DEFRA (modelled data for 1x1km squares)



Source: Welsh Government

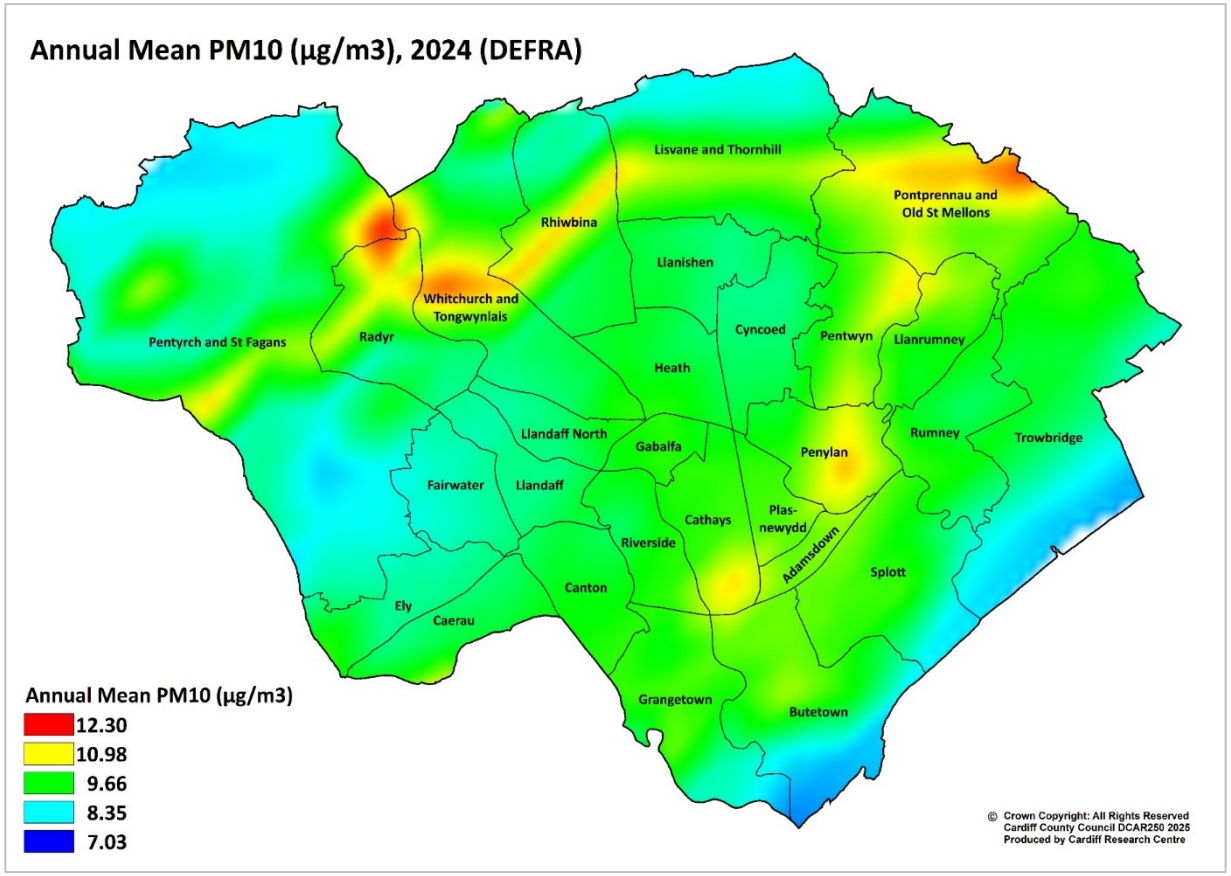


Source: Welsh Government

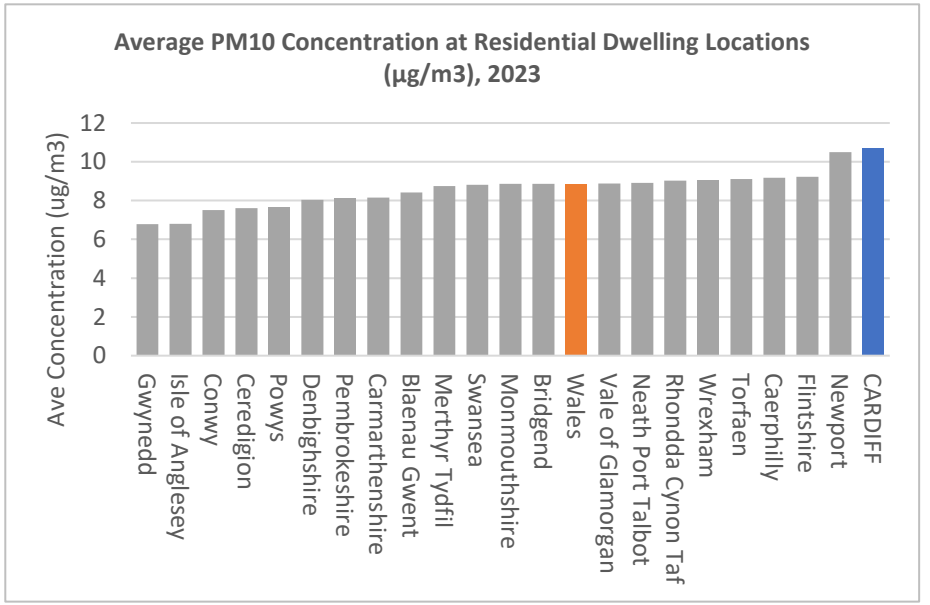
Pollution Levels in the Air: Particulate Matter (PM10)

Key Points:

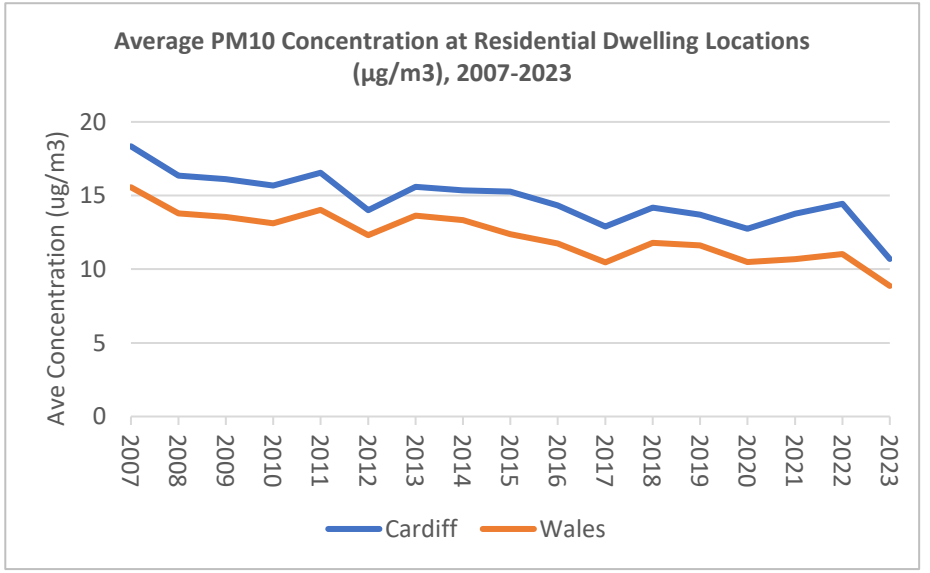
- In 2023, Cardiff (11µg/m3) had the highest PM10 pollution levels in Wales, and above the Welsh average (9µg/m3).
- However, Cardiff's PM10 is at its lowest level on record, having fallen from a 2007 peak when the level was twice as high at 18µg/m3.
- Modelled 2024 data from DEFRA (for 1x1km squares) shows that the highest levels of PM10 pollution in Cardiff are found around J32 (north west of the city) and J30 (north east of the city) of the M4. High levels can also be found elsewhere along the M4 corridor, as well as along the main roads from Pontprennau/Old St Mellons into central Cardiff (A48/A4161).



Source: DEFRA (modelled data for 1x1km squares)



Source: Welsh Government

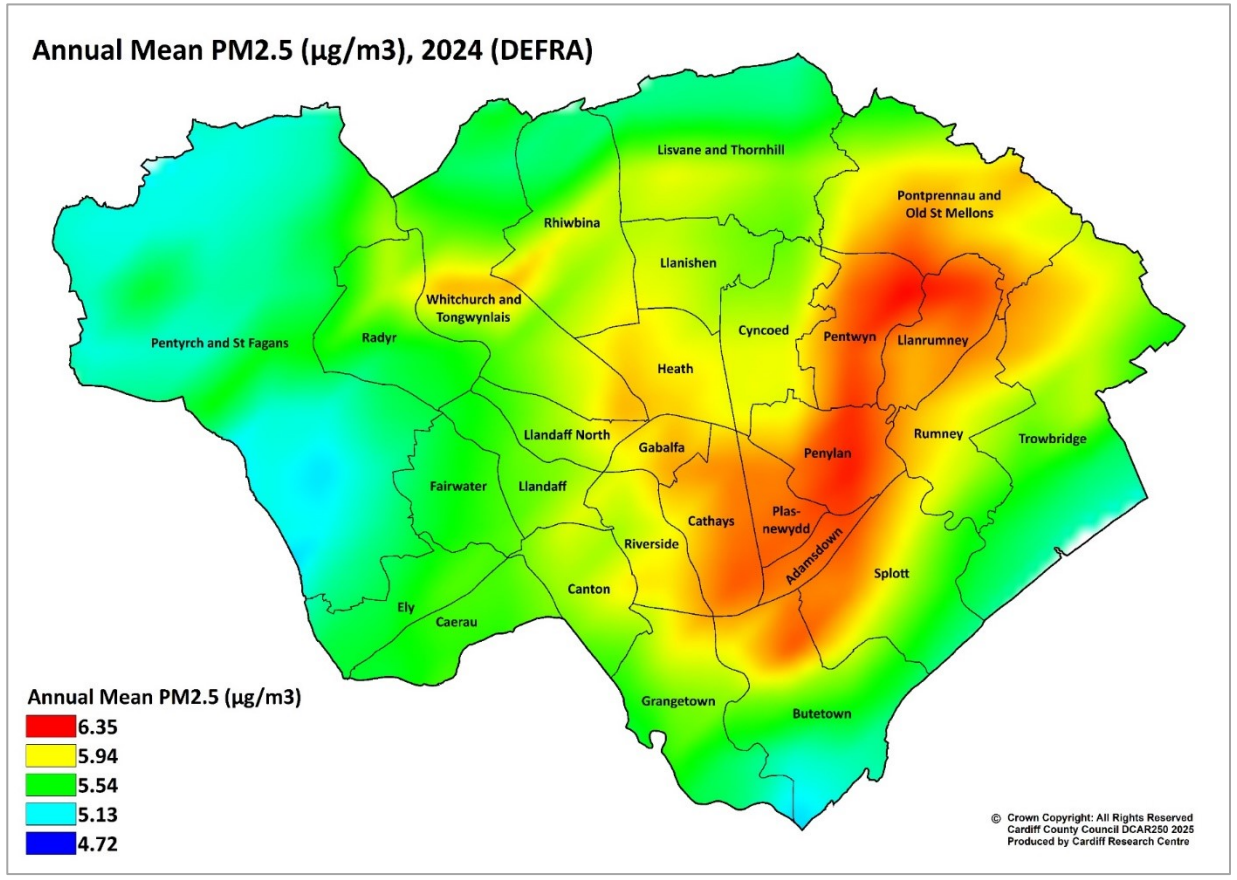


Source: Welsh Government

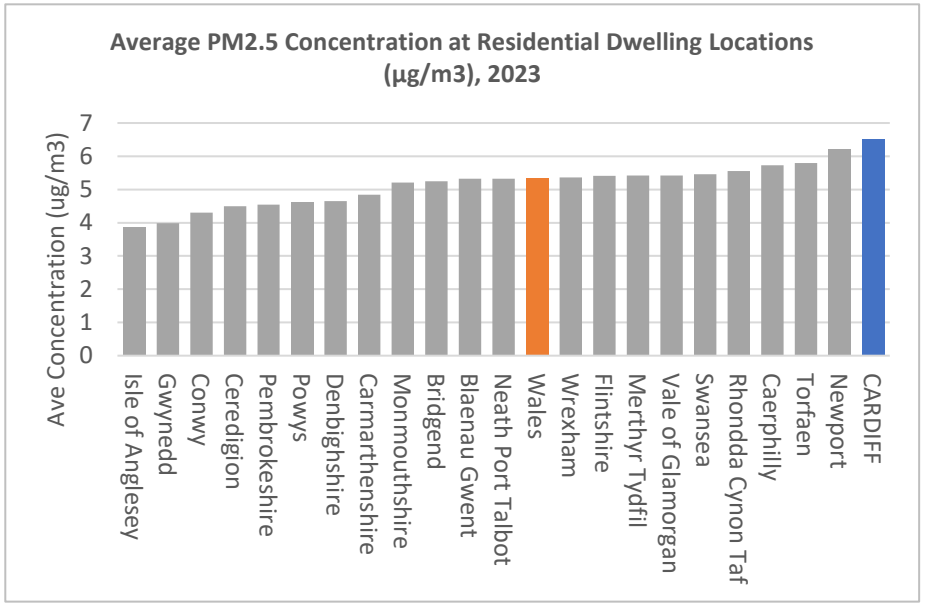
Pollution Levels in the Air: Particulate Matter (PM2.5)

Key Points:

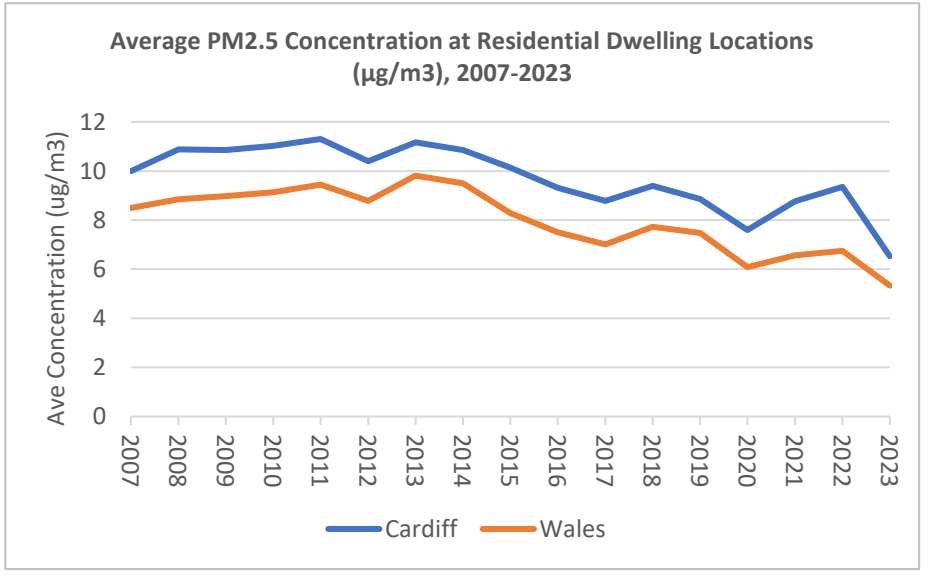
- In 2023, Cardiff (7µg/m3) had the highest PM2.5 pollution levels in Wales and exceeded the Welsh average (5µg/m3).
- However, Cardiff's PM2.5 is at its lowest level on record having followed a general downward trend over the last decade, despite an upturn immediately following the pandemic.
- Modelled 2024 data from DEFRA (for 1x1km squares) shows that the highest levels of PM2.5 pollution in Cardiff are generally found in the central and eastern parts of the city, although pockets of pollution can also be seen around J32 of the M4 in Whitchurch & Tongwynlais.



Source: DEFRA (modelled data for 1x1km squares)



Source: Welsh Government

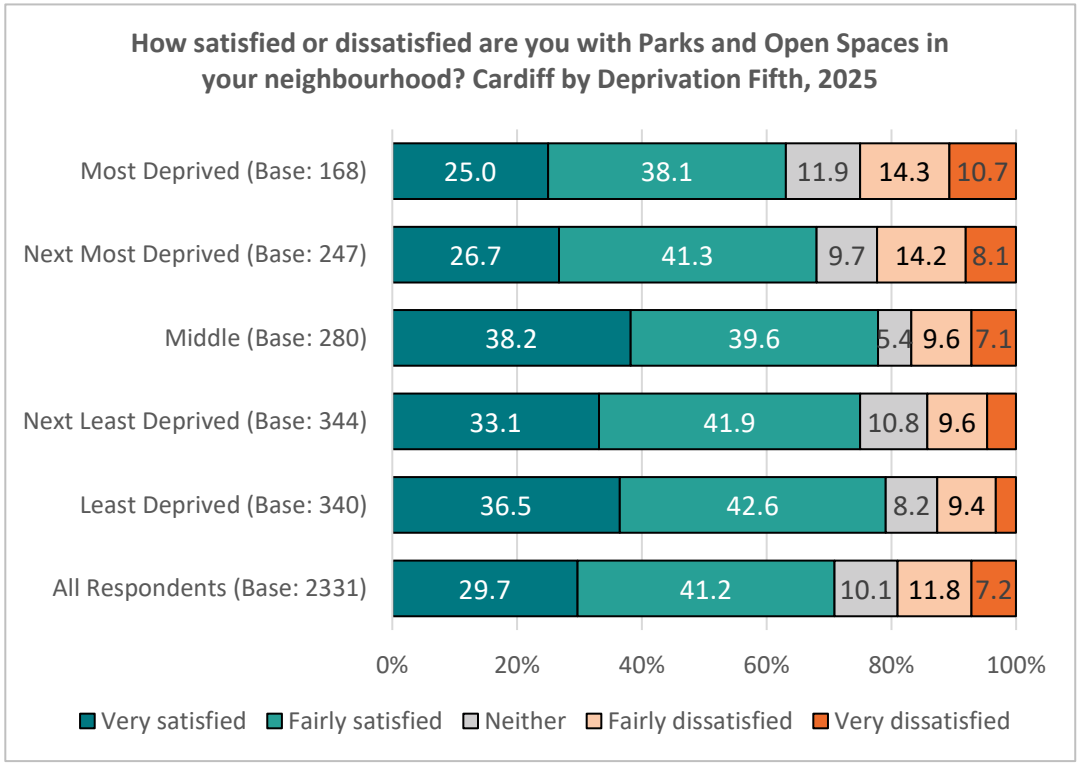


Source: Welsh Government

Green Flag Accredited Parks

Key Points:

- In terms of the Green Flag Award, Cardiff was the most decorated area in Wales for 2025/26, with 46 awarded sites in total (23 Full Awards and 23 Community Awards), up from 45 sites (22 Full Awards and 23 Community Awards) in the previous year.
- Less than three-quarters (70.9%) of all respondents to the 2025 Ask Cardiff Survey were satisfied with the city's parks and open spaces.
- In Cardiff's most deprived areas, less than two-thirds (63.1%) of respondents were satisfied with the parks and open spaces, compared with almost four-fifths (79.1%) for the least deprived areas.



Source: Ask Cardiff Survey, Cardiff Council

Green Flag Awarded and Green Flag Community Awarded Sites in Cardiff, 2025/26

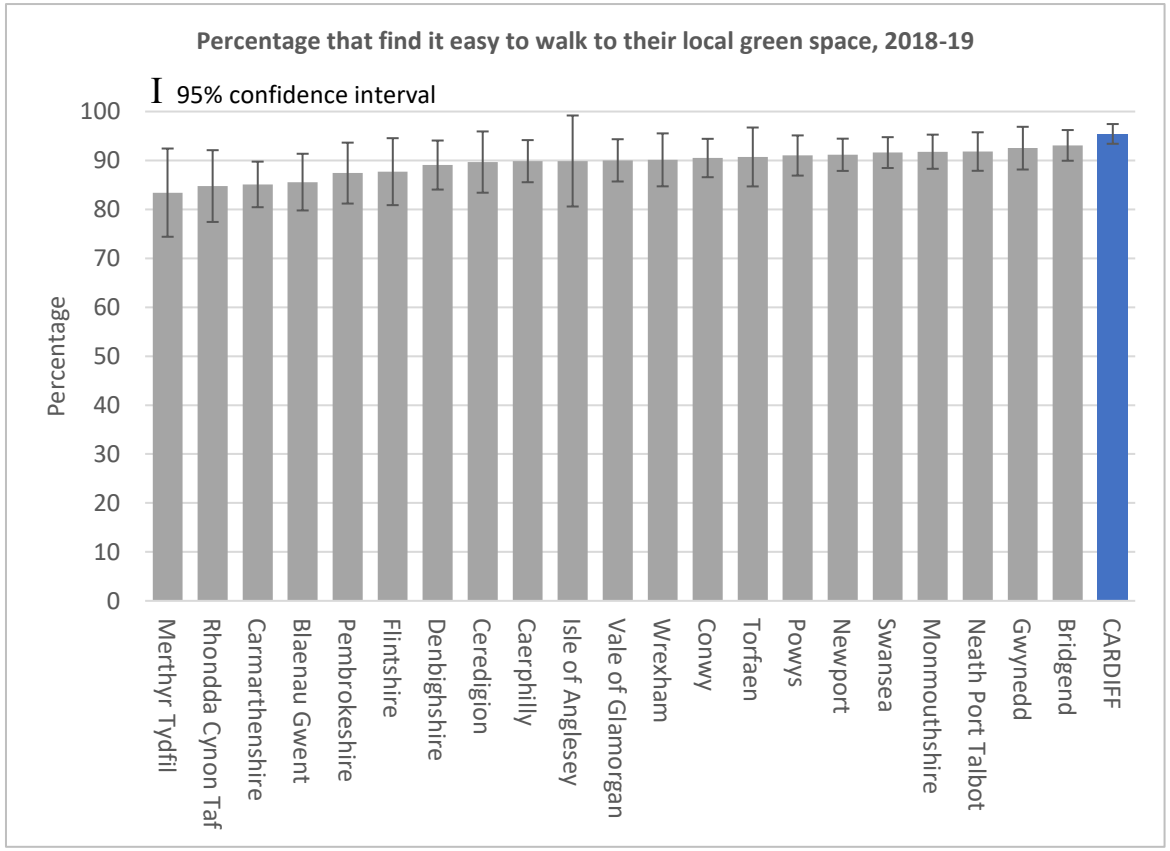
Green Flag Full Award	Green Flag Community Award
Bute Park	Ainon Baptist Church
Cardiff Bay Barrage	Canolfan Beulah Garden
Cardiff Bay Wetlands Reserve	Chapter Community Garden
Cathays Cemetery	Coed Y Felin
Cathays Park	Dusty Forge Garden
Flat Holm Island	Forest Farm Community Allotment
Forest Farm	Global Gardens Project
Grange Gardens	Grow Well Riverside
Hailey Park	Howardian Local Nature Reserve
Heath Park	Lansdowne Surgery Garden
Hendre Lake	Llwynfedw Gardens
Llandaff Fields	Old St Mellons Community Playing Fields and Park
Lisvane and Llanishen Reservoirs	Maes y Coed Community Garden
Parc Cefn Onn	Nant Fawr Community Woodlands
Parc Tredelerch	Pengam Pavilion Allotments
Parc Y Maltings	Plasnewydd Community Garden
Roath Park	Railway Garden
Rumney Hill Gardens	Riverside Community Garden
St Fagans: Natural History Museum	StarGarAllot Community Allotment
Thornhill Cemetery and Cardiff Crematorium	St Mellons Community Garden
Victoria Park	St Mellons Pantry Garden
Waterloo Gardens	St Peters Community Garden
Western Cemetery	Whitchurch Community Garden

Source: Keep Wales Tidy

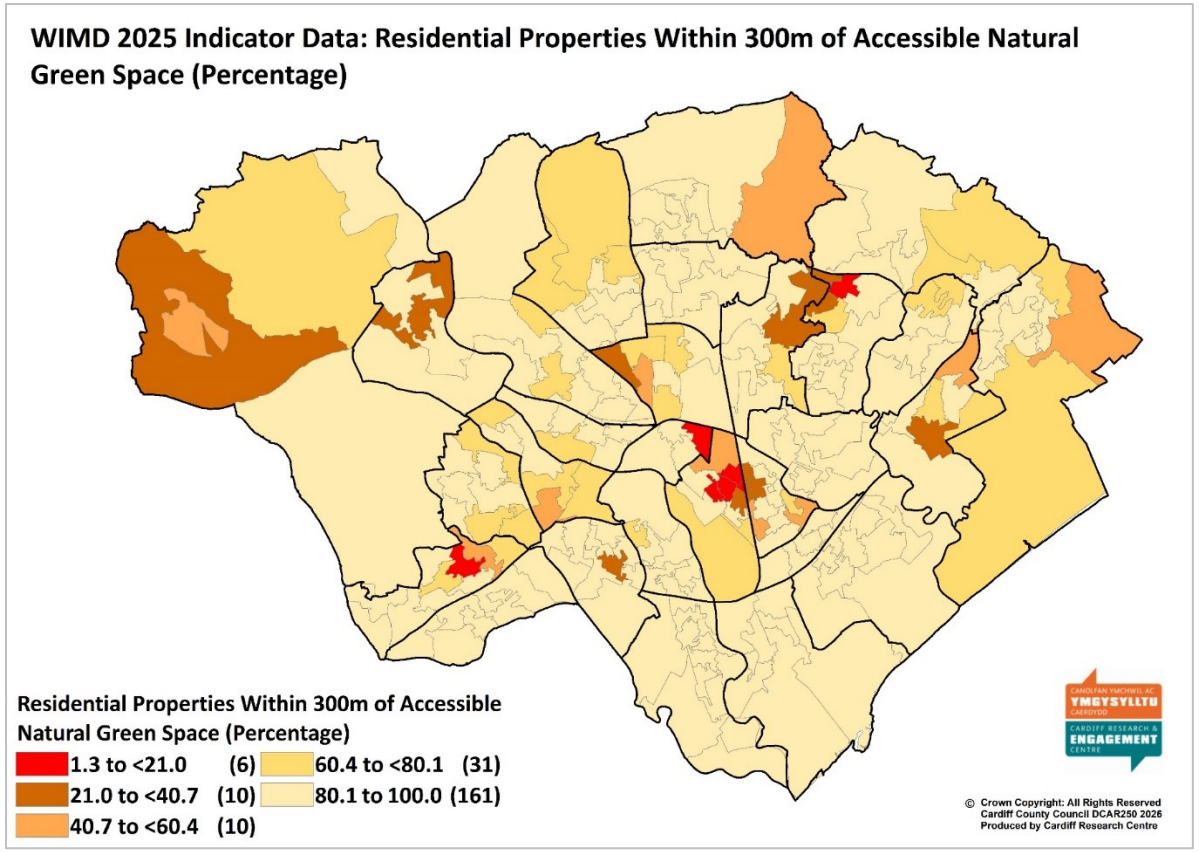
Percentage of People who Live Within Walking Distance of High-Quality Green Space

Key Points:

- In 2018-19, Cardiff was the top performer in Wales in terms of walking accessibility to local natural green space. 95% found it easy to walk to their local green space compared with just 83% in Merthyr Tydfil. [NB. This question has only been asked in the National Survey for Wales in 2018-19]
- Indicator data from the 2025 Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation on residential properties within 300m of accessible natural greenspace shows that LSOAs in Cardiff with the lowest accessibility are located in the Cathays, Ely, Gabalfa and Pentwyn wards.



Source: National Survey for Wales, Welsh Government

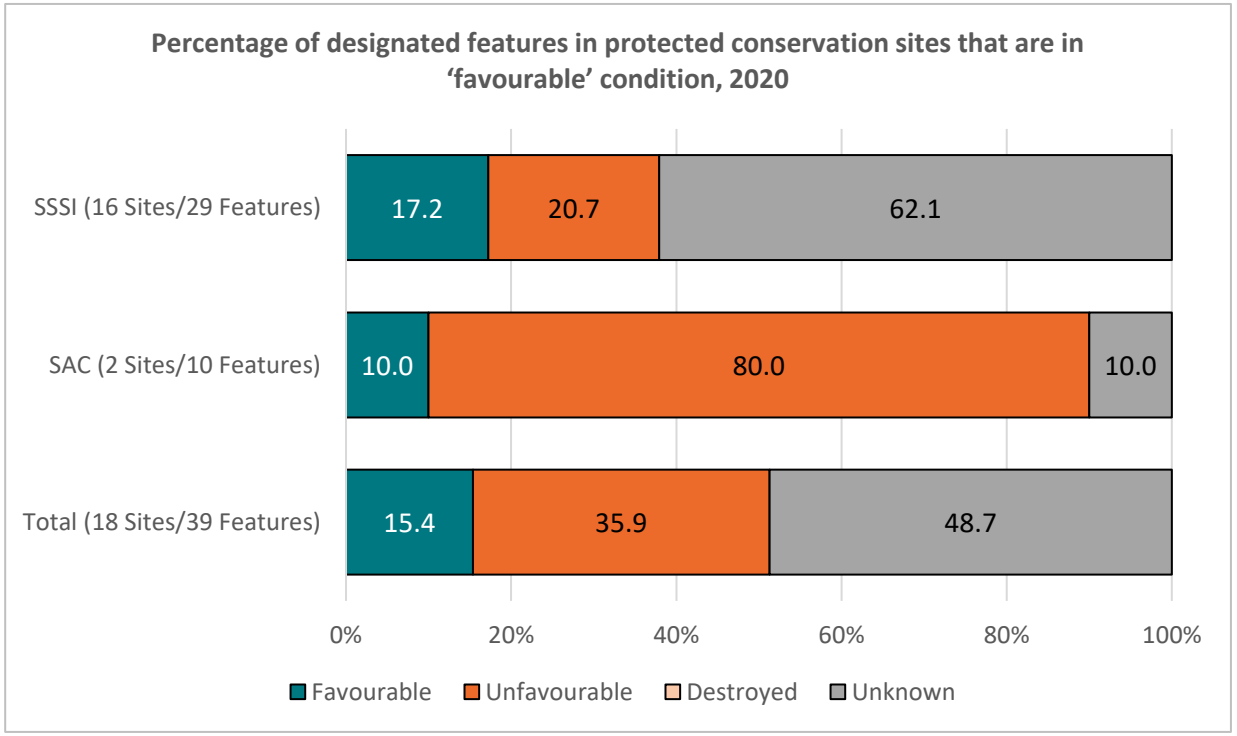


Source: WIMD 2025 Indicator Data, Welsh Government

Percentage of Designated Features in Protected Conservation Sites that are in 'Favourable' Condition. Sites include Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

Key Points:

- The 2020 Protected Sites Baseline Assessment carried out by NRW showed that just 15.4% of the 39 designated features in Cardiff (across 18 sites) were in a favourable condition. This was less than half of the proportion (35.9%) that were in an unfavourable condition. However, the condition of almost half (48.7%) the features was unknown.
- For Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), 17.2% of the 29 features (across 16 sites) were favourable and 20.7% were unfavourable. More than three-fifths (62.1%) had an unknown condition.
- 8 of the 10 features (across 2 sites) in Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) were in an unfavourable condition.

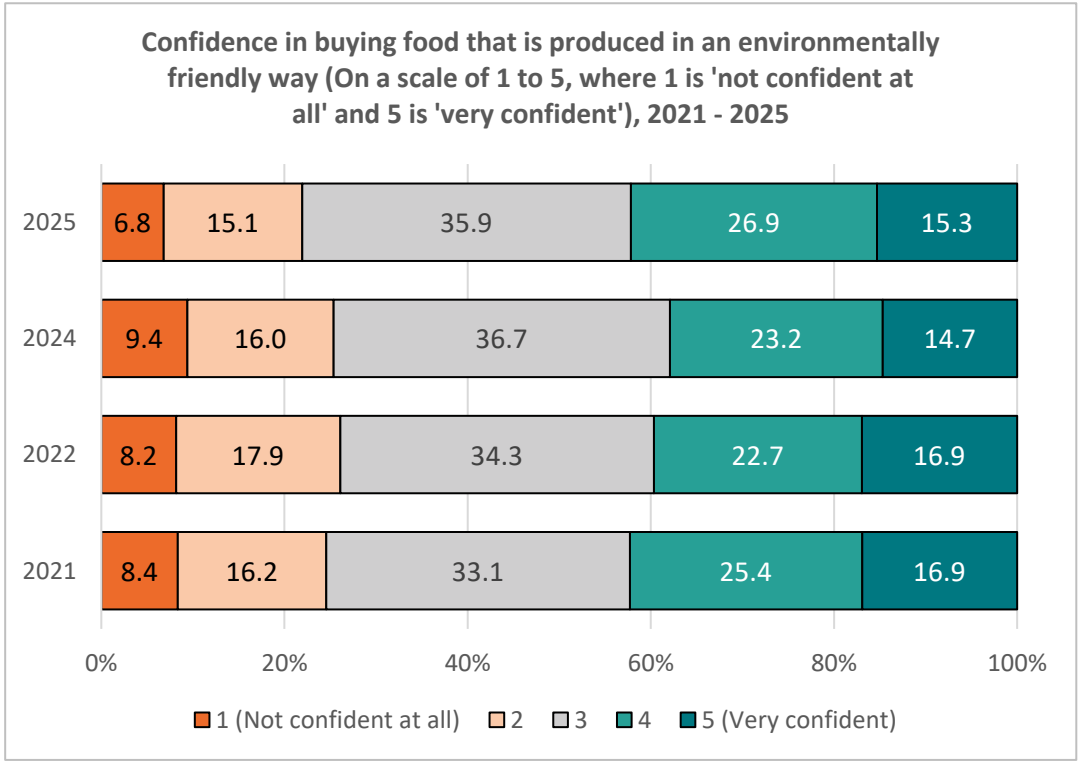


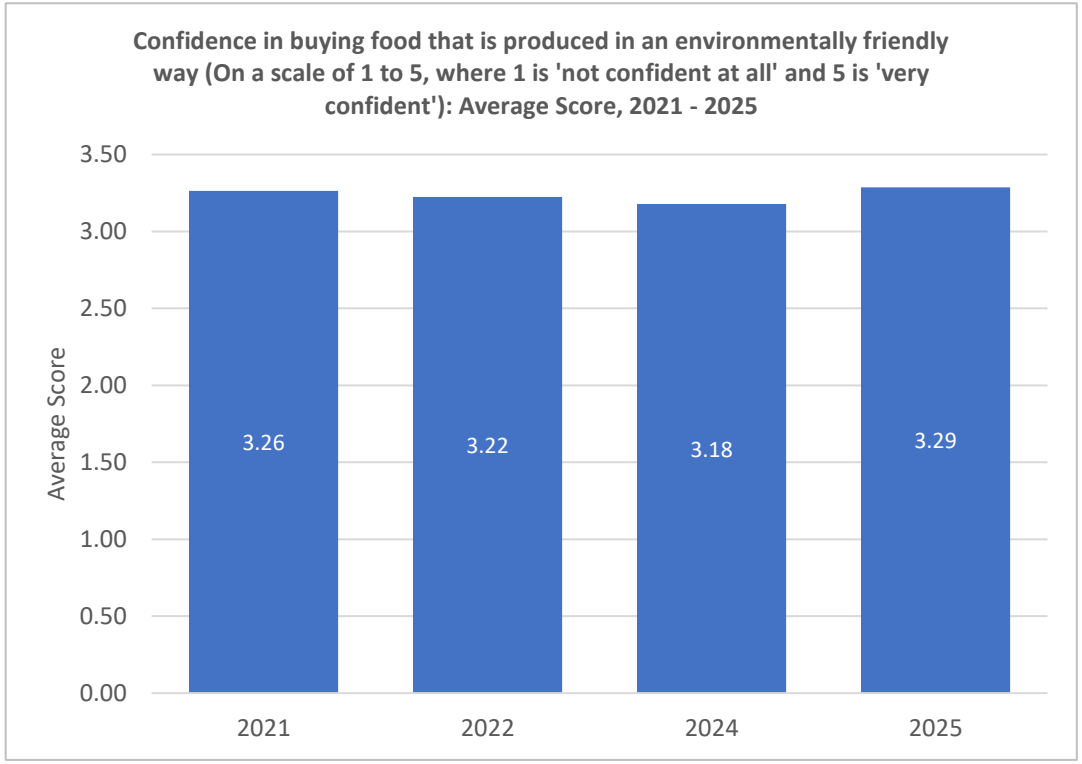
Source: Protected Sites Baseline Assessment 2020, Natural Resources Wales
NB. Sites include Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

Confidence in Buying Food that is Produced in an Environmentally Friendly Way

Key Points:

- On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is 'not confident at all' and 5 is 'very confident', just over two-fifths (42.2%) of respondents to Cardiff's 2025 Food Survey scored themselves 4 or higher, up from 37.9% in 2024 and just below the 2021 peak of 42.3%.
- The average score was at a high of 3.29 in 2025, up from 3.18 in the previous year.



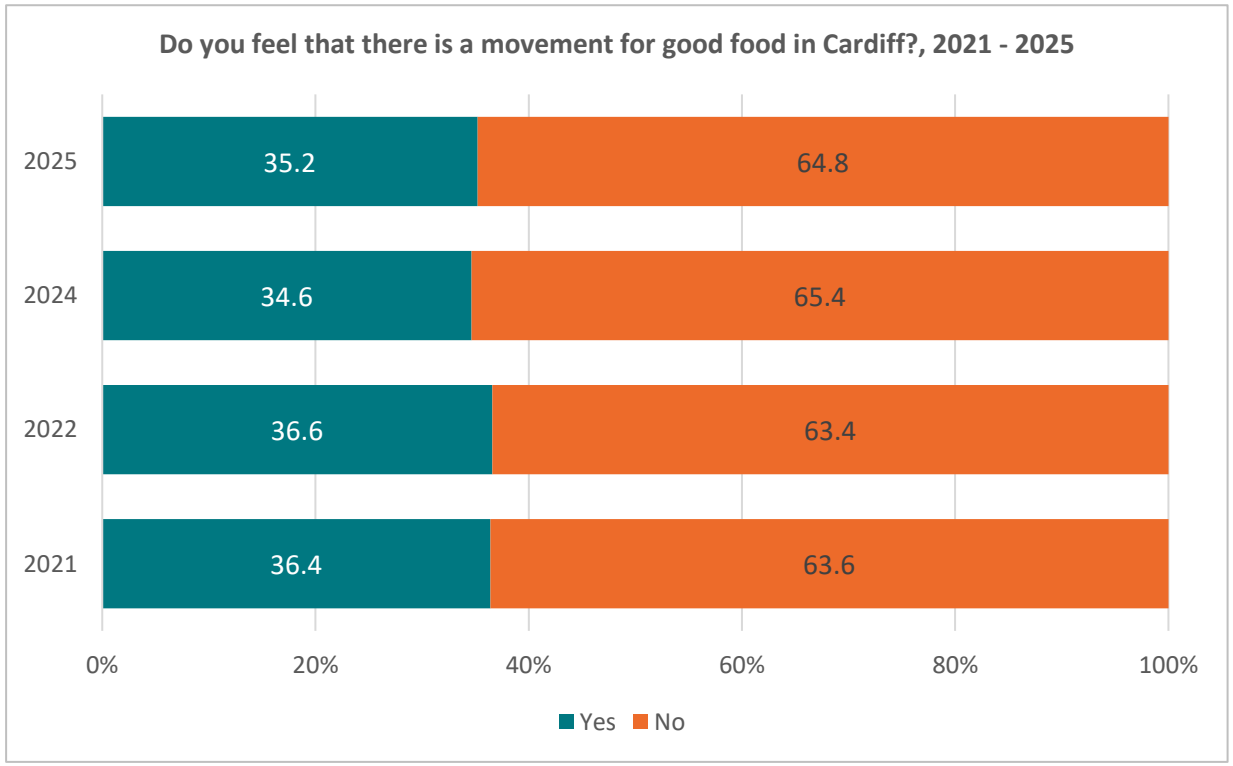


Source: Food Survey, Cardiff Council

Percentage who Feel that there is a Movement for Good Food in Cardiff

Key Points:

- In 2025, just over a third (35.2%) of respondents to Cardiff's Food Survey felt that there was a movement for good food in Cardiff.
- This was up slightly from the previous year (34.6%) but below the figures for 2021 (36.4%) and 2022 (36.6%).



Source: Food Survey, Cardiff Council

Flooding

Key Points:

- The latest (2025) NRW figures show that around 17.8k residential properties in Cardiff are at risk of flooding from rivers, 7.6k from surface water, and 12.8k from the sea.
- According to the 2025 Communities at Risk Register for Wales (managed scenario – based on the presence of defences and flood warning), 4 areas in Cardiff (Riverside, Canton, Whitchurch, Grangetown) are ranked in the 25 areas in Wales most at risk of flooding from rivers, while 1 area (Grangetown) is ranked in the 25 areas most at risk of flooding from the sea. The majority of these areas are within the city's Southern Arc'.
- As of June 2026, 8,149 addresses in at-risk areas in Cardiff are registered with NRW's Flood Warning Service; around three-tenths (31.3%) of all addresses within the target area.
- Climate change associated impacts will increase the number of properties, infrastructure and key services at risk of flooding from all sources. Places not previously at risk could become vulnerable and many currently at risk could be of greater risk. It is expected that severe events such as the 2020 storms will become more common with increased severity and frequency of flooding. Climate change impacts will also increase the risk to flood defence assets and the costs to maintain them to acceptable standards. Some of Cardiff's defences are likely to require significant improvements.
- It will not be possible to prevent all flooding; there is therefore a need to use a range of adaptive approaches. However, the rate of adaptation action needs to quicken in order to keep pace with the increasing impacts of climate change.

Properties at Risk of Flooding in Cardiff, 2025

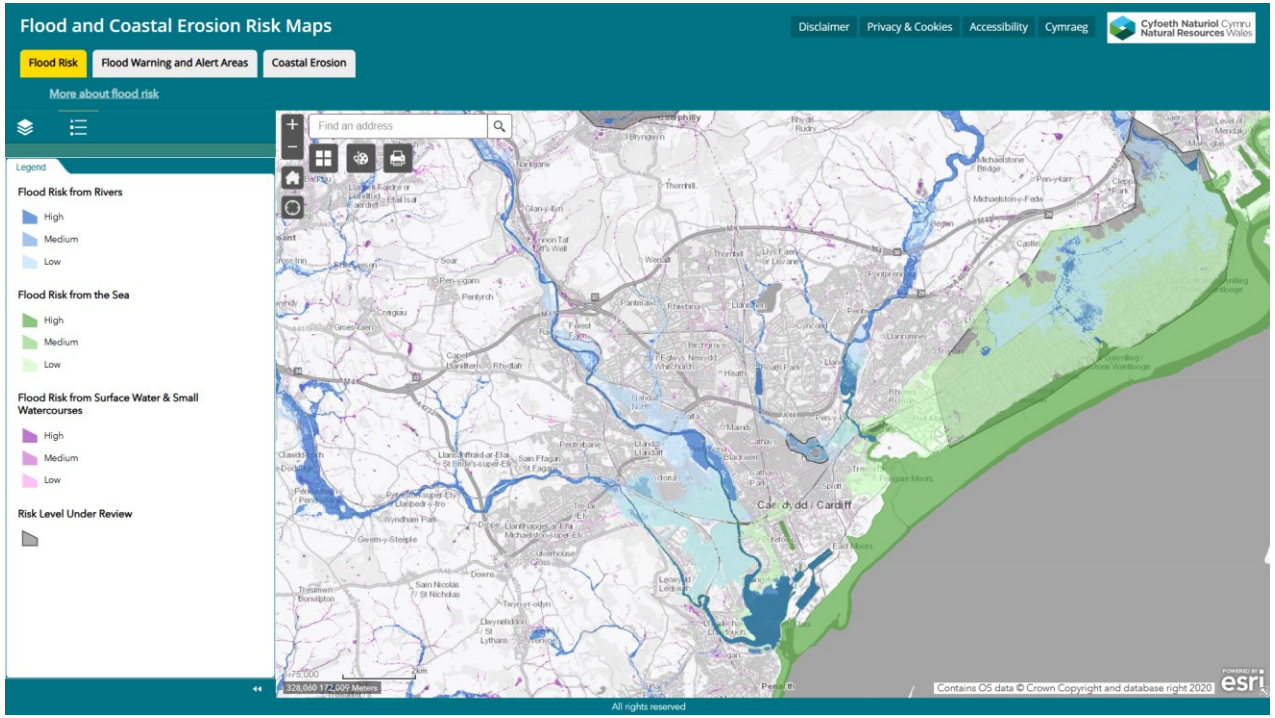
Present Day Risk (Defended)									
Local Authority	**Rivers**			**Surface**			**Sea**		
Cardiff	**Low**	**Med**	**High**	**Low**	**Med**	**High**	**Low**	**Med**	**High**
Residential	16,598	939	273	6,535	683	427	12,693	86	0
Non-Residential	2,451	125	44	773	140	58	2,041	139	1
Total	19,049	1,064	317	7,308	823	485	14,734	225	1

Properties Registered to Natural Resources Wales Flood Warning Service, June 2026

Properties Registered to Natural Resources Wales Flood Warning Service in Cardiff	
No. Registered Addresses	8,149
No. All Addresses Within a Target Area	26,012

NB. 'No. Registered Addresses' represents how many properties that have signed up to the Flood Warning Service. 'No. all addresses within a Target Area' represents how many properties are at risk within a Flood Warning Area.

Flood Risk Assessment Wales Map: Cardiff

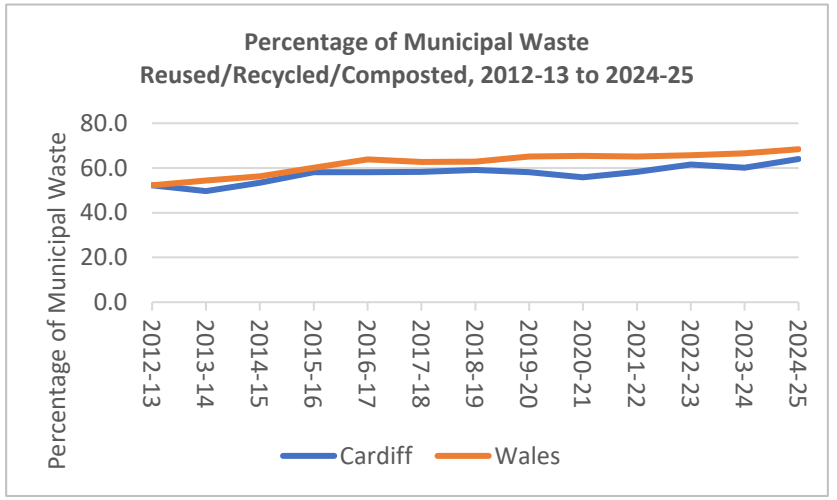


Source: Natural Resources Wales

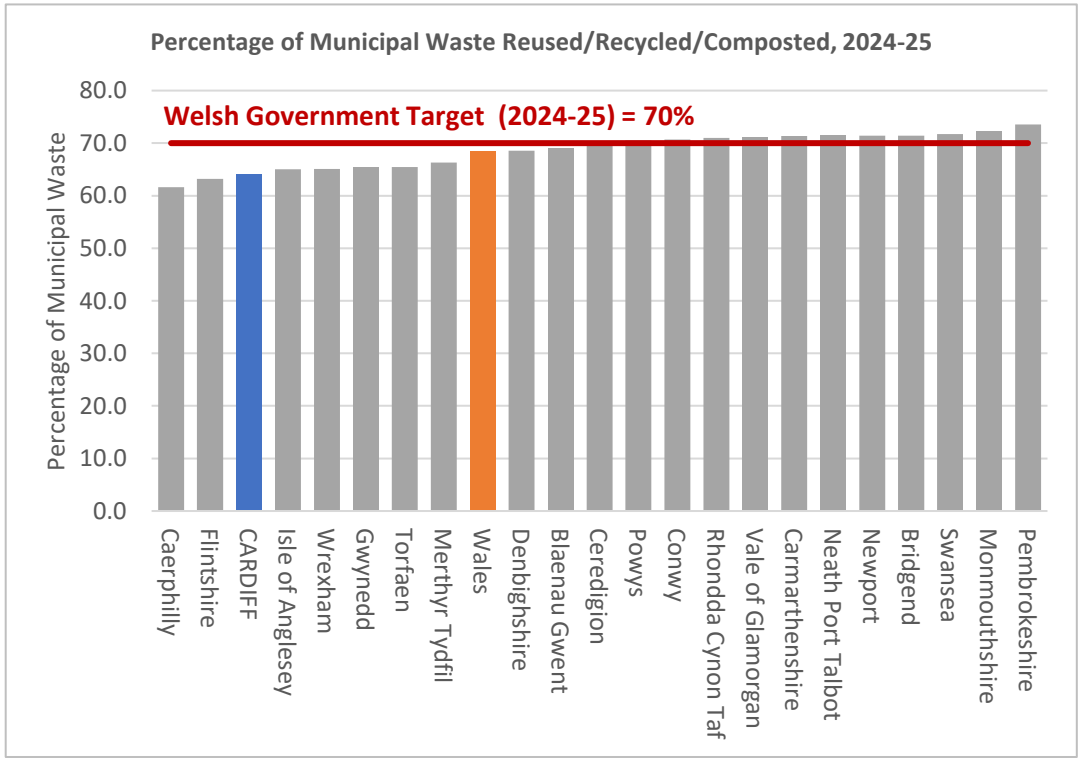
Municipal Waste Reuse/ Recycling/ Composting Rates

Key Points:

- In 2024-25, Cardiff (64.0%) was the third worst performing local authority in Wales in terms of its reuse/recycling/compost rate for municipal waste.
- Although this was below the 2024-25 Welsh Government target of 70%, it was up from up from 60.1% in the previous year, when it was the worst performing Welsh local authority, and is the highest recorded rate for Cardiff.
- Since 2012-13, the Cardiff rate has consistently compared poorly with the Welsh average, which stood at 68.4% in 2024-25.
- However, Cardiff comfortably outperforms the other core cities in Great Britain where the rates range from 17.9% in Liverpool to 44.1% in Bristol (NB. England and Scotland use different methodologies and definitions to Wales).



Source: Welsh Government



Source: Welsh Government

Area	Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting
Bristol	44.1
Manchester	38.9
City of Edinburgh	37.5
Leeds	37.3
Sheffield	31.0
Glasgow	30.6
Newcastle Upon Tyne	25.9
Nottingham	25.3
Birmingham	20.3
Liverpool	17.9

Source: DEFRA (2024/25 data – Bristol figure not yet available) and SEPA (2024 data)
NB. Local waste collection and management systems will vary. Methodologies and definitions differ between England, Scotland and Wales.

Modernising and Integrating Our Public Services



What the Data Shows: Summary

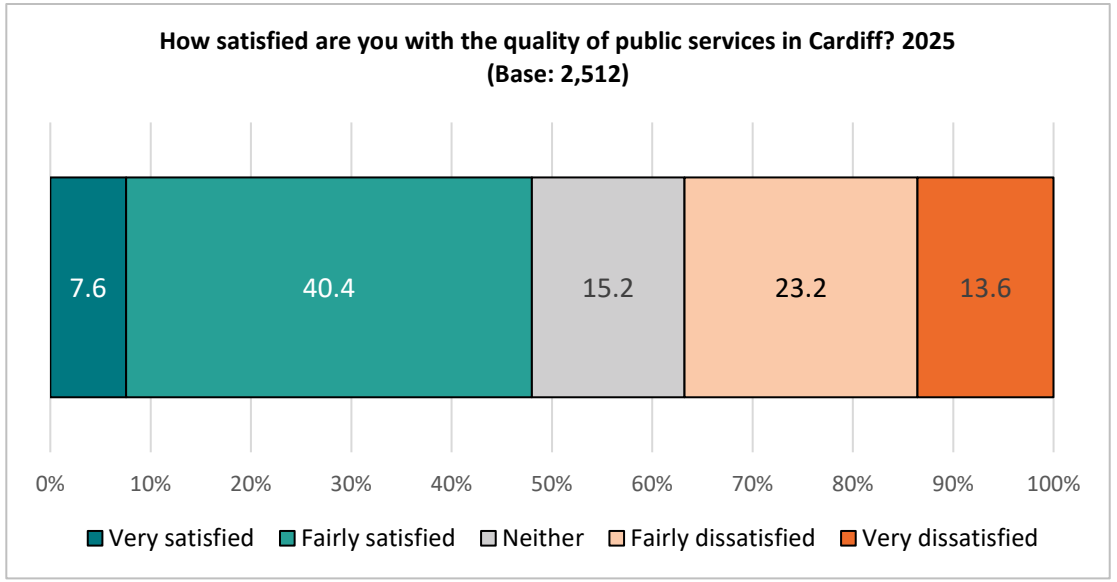
The available data presents a mixed picture of public services in Cardiff. While satisfaction with the quality of public services remains below 50%, levels have been relatively stable in recent years despite ongoing pressures on public services and public finances. At the same time, Cardiff continues to perform strongly in relation to access to services, with a high proportion of residents reporting that they are able to get to the facilities and services they need.

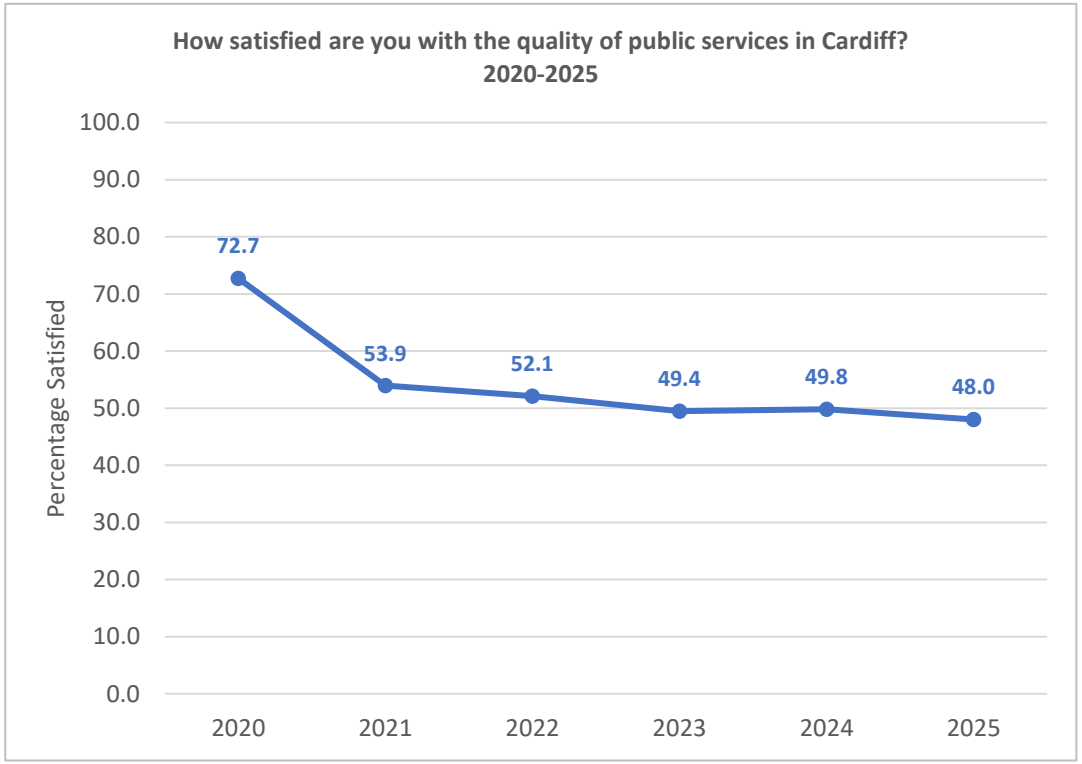
Percentage Satisfied with the Quality of Public Services in Cardiff

Key Points:

- In 2025, less than half (48.0%) of respondents to the Ask Cardiff Survey reported being either very or fairly satisfied with the quality of public services in Cardiff.
- This was the practically unchanged from the previous year (49.8%), although it was well below the high of 72.7% in 2020 (when the question was first asked).
- Over a third (36.8%) of respondents were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied in 2025, up from just 15.9% in 2020 but almost unchanged from 36.3% in 2024.
- Figures for 2020 may be higher than would normally be expected due to the pandemic potentially increasing the appreciation of public services during that year. Since this time, satisfaction levels have been fairly similar (at around 50%).

[NB. Figures from 2020 onwards are no longer comparable to previous years due to a change in the wording of the question. Prior to 2020 it was 'To what extent do you agree that the quality of public services in Cardiff is good overall?']



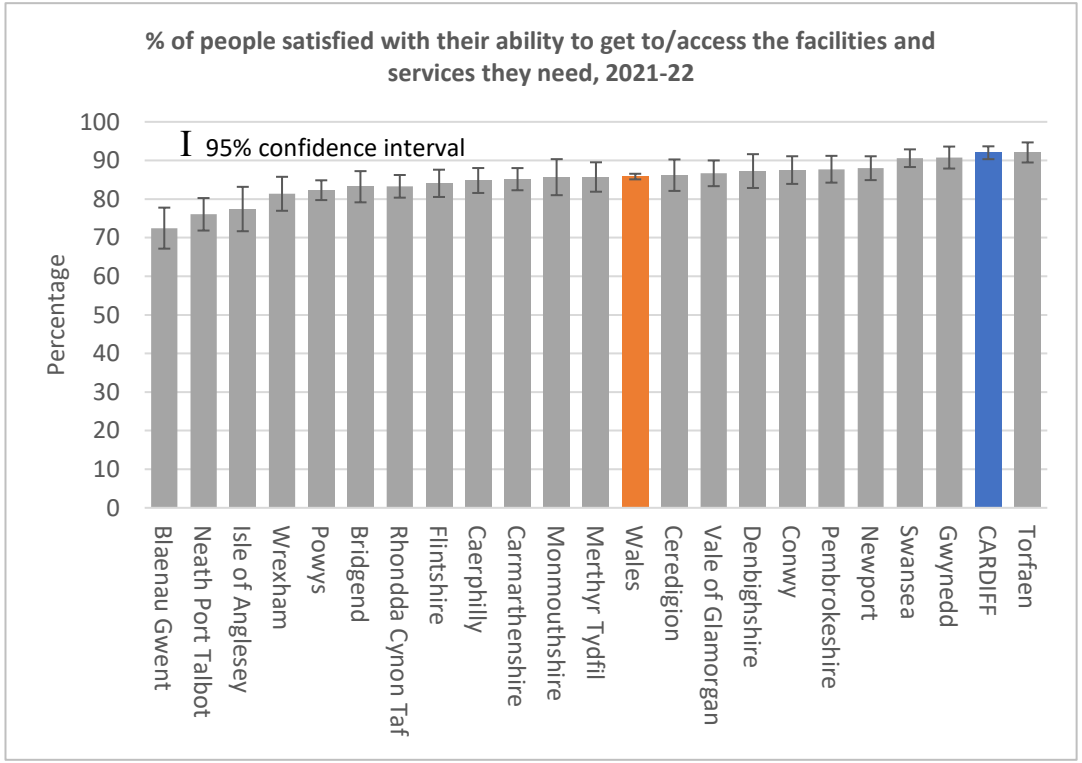


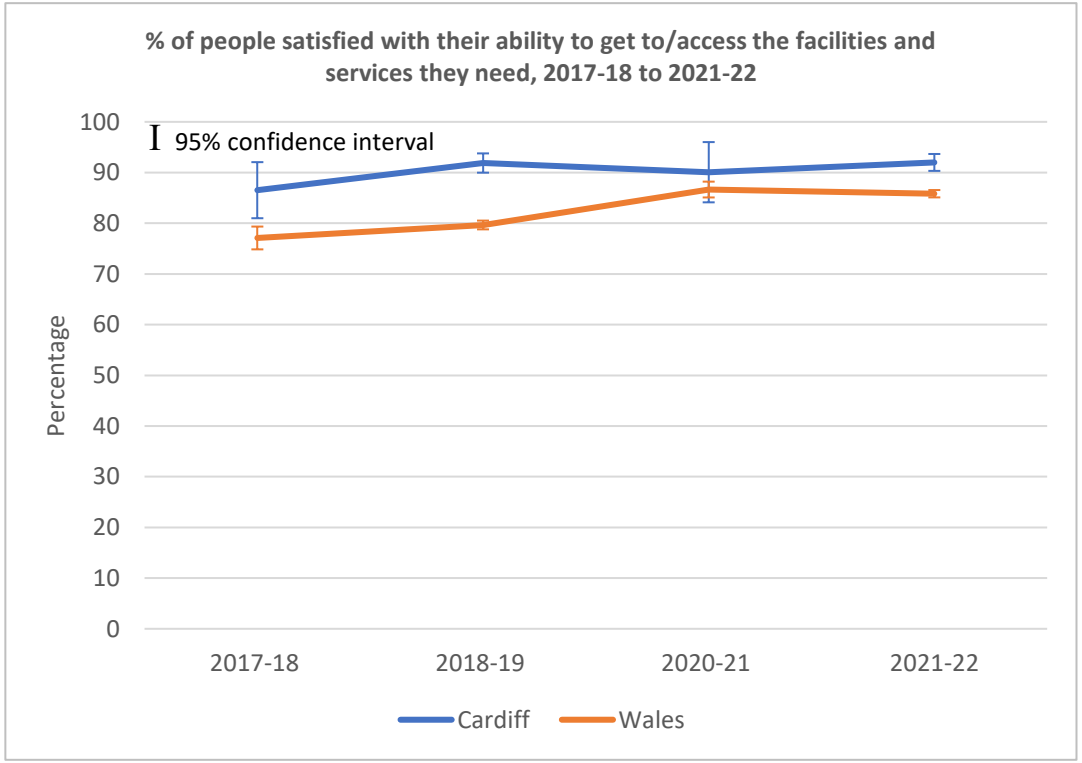
Source: Ask Cardiff Survey, Cardiff Council

Percentage of People Satisfied with their Ability to get to/Access the Facilities and Services they Need

Key Points:

- In 2021-22, 92% of people in Cardiff were satisfied with their ability to get to/access the facilities and services they need, the second highest figure across the Welsh LAs and above the Welsh average of 86%.
- Cardiff's figure has increased from 87% in 2017-18 and consistently exceeded that of Wales over the period.





Source: National Survey for Wales, Welsh Government