

Life Expectancy in Kent 2020-2022

The 2020-2022 life expectancy data were released by the Office for National Statistics on 2nd November 2023. They include revisions from 2010-2012 to 2018-2020 data in light of 2021 Census

NOTE: Within this bulletin, "Kent," refers to the Kent County Council (KCC) area which excludes Medway

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This bulletin presents estimates of period life expectancy for males and females at birth and at age 65 in Kent as at 2020-2022. A revised 10-year time series of change is also presented.

Summary

- Males born in Kent between 2020/22 have a life expectancy of 79.0 years, whilst for females it is 83.0 years. 4.0 years longer than males. The England average is 78.9 years for males and 82.8 years for females, 4.0 years longer than males.
- Over the past ten years, life expectancy at birth in Kent has decreased for both for males by -0.8 years and for females by -0.3 years.
- Nationally, life expectancy at birth for males has decreased by -0.2 years and by -0.1 for females over the last 10 years.
- In Kent, a male resident aged 65 between 2020/22 can expect to live another 18.4 years and for females it is 21.0 years. The England average is 18.7 years for males and 21.1 years for females.
- Over the past ten years, life expectancy at age 65 in Kent has decreased for both for males by -0.3 years and for females by -0.1 years. Nationally, there has been no change in life expectancy at age 65 for males or females.

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Introduction

Life expectancy is the estimated number of years a person would be expected to survive if he or she continued to experience the area's mortality rate at that time throughout the rest of their life. The figures reflect mortality of those living in an area at that point in time rather than those born in the area.

All figures are three-year averages, produced by aggregating the number of deaths and mid-year population estimates across each three-year period. This provides large enough numbers to ensure that figures presented are sufficiently robust and eliminates any effects of extremely large numbers of births or deaths in any one year.

Two sets of figures are presented. Life expectancy at birth and life expectancy at age 65:

- Life expectancy at birth is the number of years a person living in an area could be expected to survive if they were to experience that area's mortality rates for all people for the rest of their life.
- Life expectancy at age 65 is the number of years a person aged 65 to 69 living in an area could expect to live if they were to experience that area's mortality rates for people aged 65 to 69. Therefore, if the life expectancy at birth of someone born in an area is 80 the life expectancy of a person aged 65 may exceed or fall lower than 15 years because the mortality rates applied are different.

Life expectancy at birth

English regions

A male born in England between 2020/22 has an estimated life expectancy of 78.9 years and a female born at the same time has an estimated life expectancy of 82.8 years. Life expectancy estimates vary across the regions by as much as 3 years for men and 2.8 years for women.

Babies born within the South East, the South West, East of England, and London, have greater life expectancies than the England average. The South East region has the highest male life expectancy (80.1 years), and the South West has the highest female life expectancy (83.9 years) of all the regions. The North East has the lowest life expectancy for males (77.2 years) and females (81.2 years) of all the regions. See Table 1 for details.

Table 1: Life expectancy at birth (years): England and the regions

Region	Males	Females	Difference
South East	80.1	83.8	3.7
South West	80.0	83.9	3.9
East of England	79.8	83.5	3.7
London	79.1	83.6	4.5
England	78.9	82.8	4.0
East Midlands	78.6	82.4	3.8
West Midlands	78.1	82.2	4.2
Yorkshire & The Humber	77.9	81.9	4.0
North West	77.3	81.3	4.1
North East	77.2	81.2	4.0

Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS),©;Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council.Table ranked on male life expectancy.

South East counties

Within the counties in the South East region, there are further variations in life expectancy at birth. There is a difference of 2.2 years between the highest and lowest life expectancy for males and 1.8 years difference between the highest and lowest life expectancy for females.

Hampshire has the highest life expectancy for both males and females born between 2020/22 at 81.2 years and 84.4 years, respectively. In Kent, males have a life expectancy of 79.0 years and females have a life expectancy of 83.0 years.

Although both figures are slightly higher than the national figure, they rank lowest out of all the counties within the South East region. See Table 2 for details.

Table 2: Life expectancy at birth (years): South East counties

County	Males	Females	Difference
Hampshire	81.2	84.4	3.2
Oxfordshire	81.1	84.8	3.7
Surrey	81.1	84.7	3.5
West Sussex	80.3	84.2	3.9
East Sussex	79.8	83.4	3.7
Kent	79.0	83.0	4.0

Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS),©;Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

English Local Authority Districts

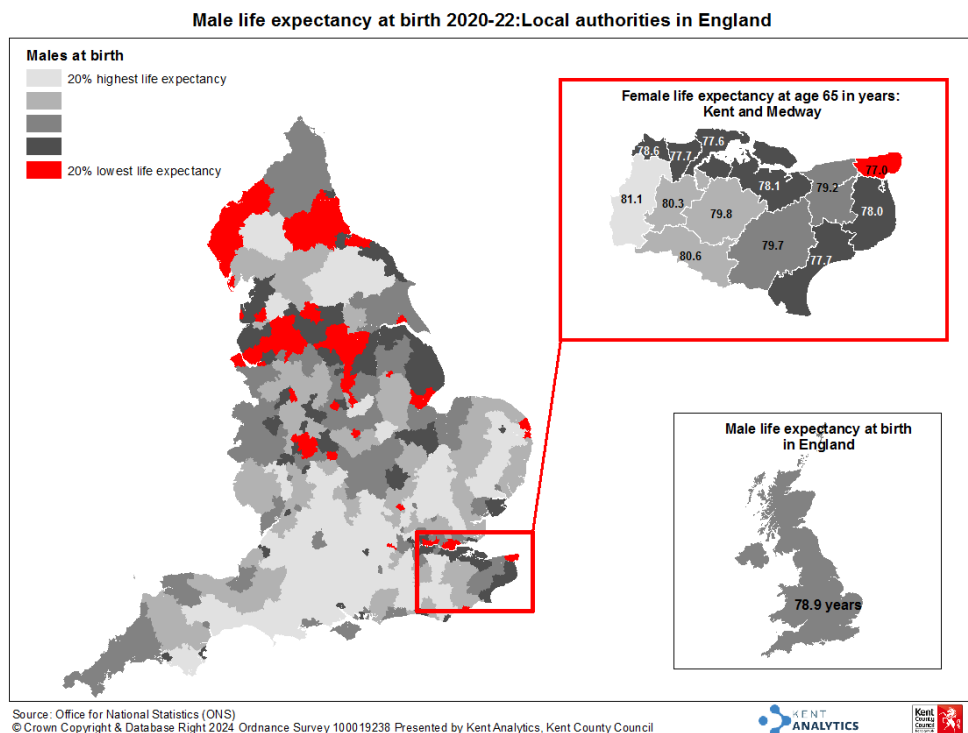
Within the English local authority districts and unitary authorities, the difference between the highest and lowest male life expectancy at birth is 10.3 years. Hart local authority in Hampshire, has the highest with 83.7 years and Blackpool Unitary Authority in the North West, has the lowest with 73.4 years.

The difference between the highest and lowest female life expectancy is 7.4 years. Kensington & Chelsea, in London, has the highest with 86.3 years and Blackpool in the North West, has the lowest with 79 years.

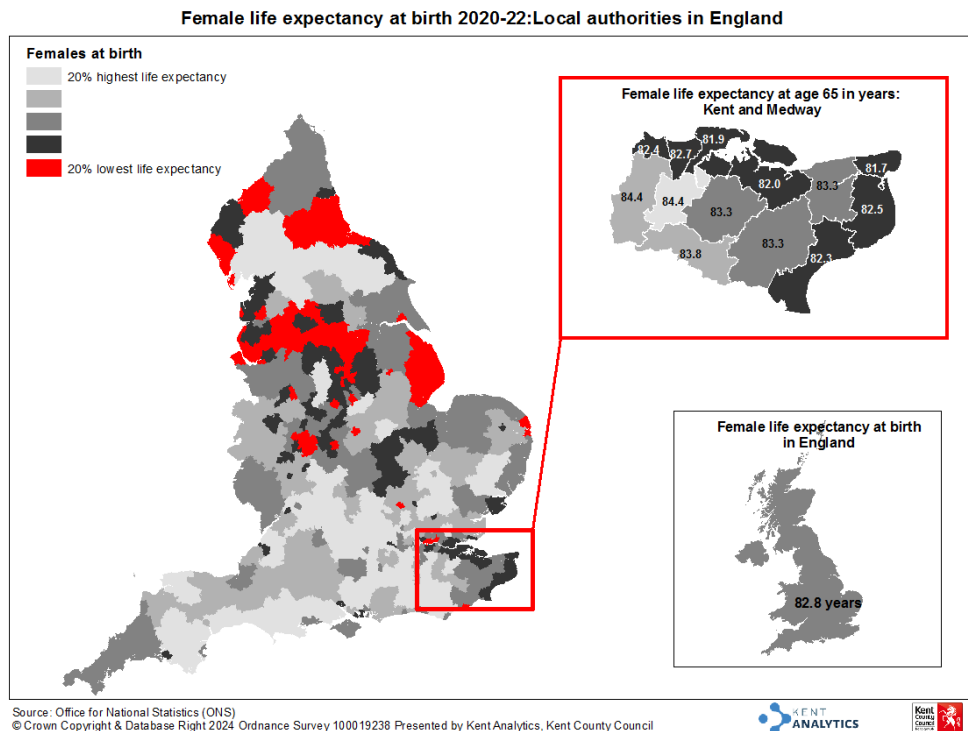
Within Kent local authority districts the difference between the highest and the lowest male life expectancy at birth is 4.1 years and for females at birth is 2.7 years.

Although the range between the highest and lowest life expectancy within Kent is smaller than that for England, Kent has areas which fall within the 20% highest and lowest life expectancy in England. Sevenoaks is in the 20% of areas with the highest male life expectancy at birth, and Tonbridge & Malling is in the 20% of areas with the highest female life expectancy at birth. Thanet is in the 20% of areas with the lowest male life expectancy at birth. See Maps 1 and 2 for details.

Map 1: Male life expectancy at birth 2020/22



Map 2: Female life expectancy at birth 2020/22



Within the Kent local authority districts, Sevenoaks has the highest male life expectancy at birth at 81.1 years. Sevenoaks and Tonbridge & Malling both have the highest female life expectancy at birth at 84.4 years. Both figures are higher than the national, regional, and county figures.

Thanet has the lowest life expectancy from birth for both males and females. Life expectancy for males at birth here is 77.0 years and for females at birth is 81.7 years.

Kent has six local authorities where life expectancy for both males and females at birth are lower than the national average. These are Dartford, Dover, Folkestone & Hythe, Gravesham, Swale and Thanet.

The highest difference between male and female life expectancy is in Gravesham where females born between 2020/22 can expect to live +4.9 years longer than males born at the same time. Tunbridge Wells has the lowest difference between the sexes with females born between 2020/22 having a life expectancy that is +3.1 years longer than males born at the same time. See Table 3 for details.

Table 3: Male life expectancy at birth (years): Kent local authority districts & Medway Unitary Authority

Local Authority	Male life expectancy (years)	Male Rank*	Female life expectancy (years)	Female Rank*	Difference between male and female life expectancy (years)
Sevenoaks	81.1	40	84.4	63	3.3
Tunbridge Wells	80.6	72	83.8	114	3.1
Tonbridge & Malling	80.3	90	84.4	60	4.1
Maidstone	79.8	121	83.3	157	3.5
Ashford	79.7	132	83.3	148	3.7
Canterbury	79.2	154	83.3	158	4.1
Dartford	78.6	189	82.4	200	3.8
Swale	78.1	208	82.0	226	3.9
Dover	78.0	213	82.5	195	4.5
Gravesham	77.7	231	82.7	187	4.9
Folkestone & Hythe	77.7	233	82.3	206	4.6
Thanet	77.0	261	81.7	241	4.7
Medway U.A.	77.6	235	81.9	228	4.3

Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS), ©; Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council. Table ranked on male life expectancy. * Rank out of 307 English local authorities. A rank of 1 represents the highest life expectancy, 307 represents the lowest.

Time series of life expectancy at birth

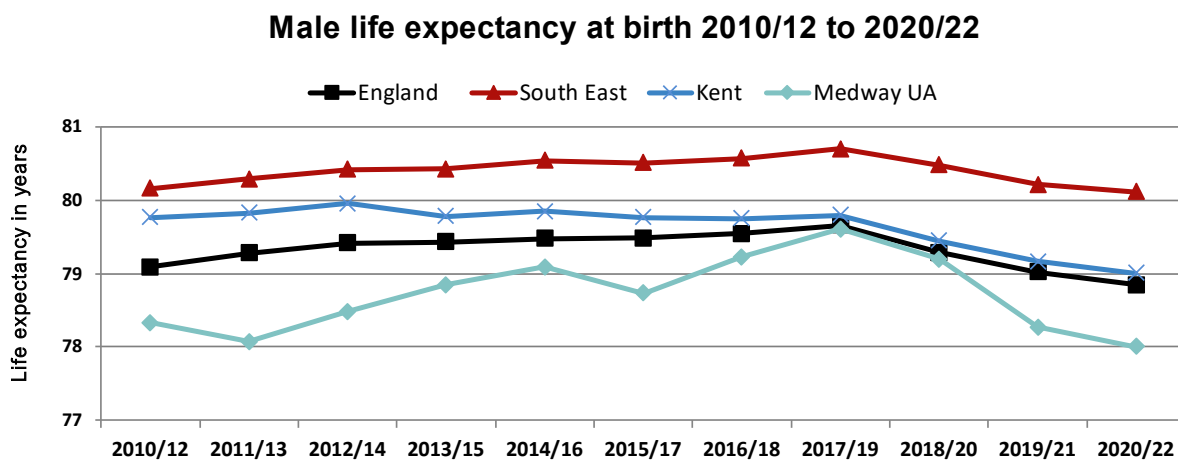
The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic led to increased mortality in 2020/2021, and the impact of this is seen in the life expectancy estimates for 2020/2022. A fall in period life expectancy does not mean that a baby born in 2020/2022 will go on to live a shorter life than a baby born in 2010/2012; average lifespan will be determined by changes in mortality rates across their lifetime and if mortality rates improve, then period life expectancy will go back up.

Despite increases in life expectancy for males at birth during the first 5 years of the past decade, life expectancy at birth for males has decreased from 79.1 years to 78.9 years, (-0.2 years), in England since 2010/12.

It has remained the same in the South East while in Kent it has decreased from 79.8 years to 78 years, (-0.8 years), and in Medway Unitary Authority from 78.3 years to 78 years, (-0.3 years).

See Chart 1 and Table 4 for details

Chart 1: Male life expectancy at birth 2010/12 to 2020/22



Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS)© Crown Copyright. Chart produced by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Over the past decade all local authorities in Kent have seen a decline in male life expectancy at birth. The highest difference of -1.6 years was seen in Folkestone & Hythe and Gravesham where life expectancy at birth for males has decreased from 79.2 years to 77.7 years in Folkestone & Hythe and from 79.4 years to 77.7 years in Gravesham since 2010/12.

Table 4: Change in life expectancy for males at birth: Kent Local Authorities

Area	2010/12 to 2014/16	2015/17 to 2021/22	10-year change
England	0.4	-0.6	-0.2
South East	0.4	-0.4	0.0
Kent	0.0	-0.8	-0.8
Medway U.A.	0.4	-0.7	-0.3
Ashford	-0.2	-1.1	-1.3
Canterbury	-0.8	-0.1	-0.9
Dartford	-0.1	-0.4	-0.5
Dover	-0.1	-1.0	-1.1
Folkestone & Hythe	-0.3	-1.3	-1.6
Gravesham	0.2	-1.9	-1.6
Maidstone	0.6	-0.7	-0.1
Sevenoaks	0.6	-0.8	-0.2
Swale	-0.1	-1.0	-1.1
Thanet	0.1	-0.6	-0.5
Tonbridge & Malling	0.2	-0.4	-0.1
Tunbridge Wells	-0.1	-0.5	-0.7

Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS),©;Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Despite increases in life expectancy for females at birth during the first 5 years of the past decade, life expectancy at birth for females has decreased from 82.9 years to 82.8 years, (-0.1 years), in England since 2010/12.

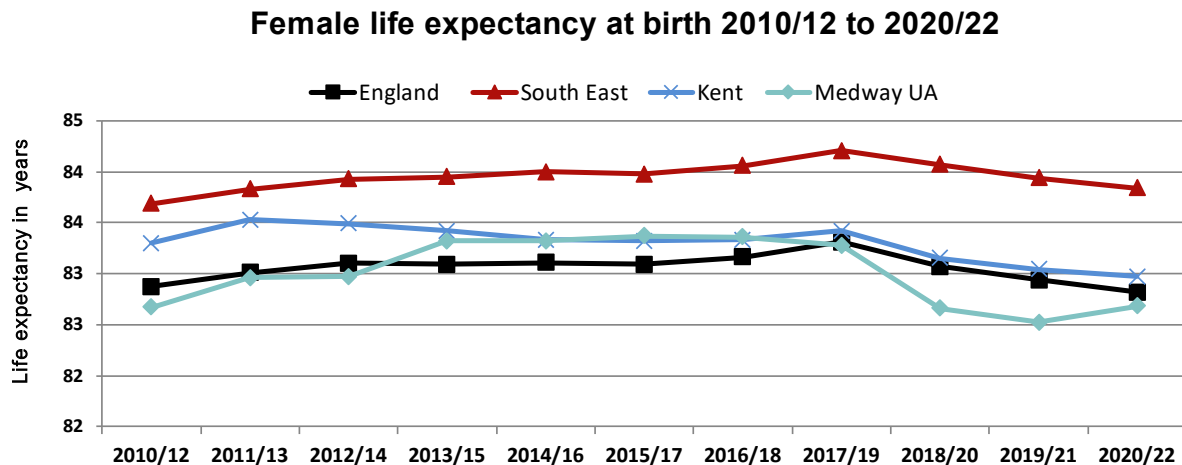
It has decreased from 83.3 years to 83 years, (-0.3 years), in Kent, and remained the same at 82.7 years in Medway Unitary Authority in the past decade.

There has been an increase female life expectancy at birth from 83.7 years to 83.8 years (+0.1 years) in the South East

Over the past decade six local authorities within Kent have seen a growth in female life expectancy at birth. Sevenoaks has seen the greatest increase of +0.8 years from 84.4 years to 85.3 years.

Ashford, Folkestone & Hythe, Gravesham, Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells have seen a decline in female life expectancy at birth over the past ten years.

Female life expectancy at birth has remained the same in Dover See Chart 2 and Table 5 for details

Chart 2: Female life expectancy at birth 2010/12 to 2020/22


Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS)© Crown Copyright. Chart produced by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 5: Change in life expectancy for females at birth: Kent Local Authorities

Area	2010/12 to 2014/16	2015/17 to 2021/22	10-year change
England	0.2	-0.3	-0.1
South East	0.3	-0.1	0.2
Kent	0.0	-0.3	-0.3
Medway U.A.	0.7	-0.7	0.0
Ashford	0.5	-0.6	-0.2
Canterbury	0.6	-0.1	0.6
Dartford	0.1	0.2	0.3
Dover	0.7	-0.7	0.0
Folkestone & Hythe	0.7	-0.6	0.1
Gravesham	-0.2	-0.7	-0.8
Maidstone	0.2	0.2	0.3
Sevenoaks	1.1	-0.2	0.8
Swale	0.2	0.0	0.2
Thanet	-0.2	0.1	-0.2
Tonbridge & Malling	-0.2	-0.0	-0.2
Tunbridge Wells	0.2	-0.4	-0.2

Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS),©;Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Life expectancy at age 65

English regions

A male aged 65 in England between 2020/22 has an estimated life expectancy of 18.4 years and a female aged 65 has an estimated life expectancy of 20.9 years. Life expectancy varies across the regions by as much as 1.7 years for men and 1.8 years for women.

Men aged 65 between 2020/22 within the South West, the South East, and the East of England, have greater life expectancies than the England average. The South West region has the highest male life expectancy (19.2 years), and the South West has the highest female life expectancy (21.7 years) of all the regions.

The North West has the lowest life expectancy for males (17.6 years) and females (20.0 years) of all the regions. See Table 6 for details.

Table 6: Life expectancy for males at age 65 (years): England and the regions

Region	Males	Females	Difference
South West	19.2	21.7	2.5
South East	19.1	21.6	2.6
East of England	18.8	21.3	2.5
England	18.4	20.9	2.5
London	18.3	21.3	3.0
East Midlands	18.2	20.6	2.4
West Midlands	18.0	20.6	2.6
Yorkshire & The Humber	17.9	20.4	2.4
North East	17.6	19.9	2.3
North West	17.6	20.0	2.4

Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS), ©; Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council. Table ranked on male life expectancy.

South East counties

Within the counties in the South East region, there is a difference of 1.2 years between the highest and lowest life expectancy for both males and females

Within the South East region, Hampshire has the highest life expectancy for males (19.7 years) and Oxfordshire has the highest life expectancy for females at age 65 (22.3 years) between 2020/22

In Kent, male life expectancy at age 65 is 18.4 years and female life expectancy at age 65 is 21.0 years. Although both figures are higher than the national figure, they rank lowest out of all the counties within the South East region. See Table 7 for details.

Table 7: Life expectancy at age 65 (years): South East Counties

County	Males	Females	Difference
Hampshire	19.7	22.0	2.4
Oxfordshire	19.7	22.3	2.6
Surrey	19.5	22.0	2.4
West Sussex	19.2	21.9	2.7
East Sussex	19.1	21.6	2.5
Kent	18.4	21.0	2.6

Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS), ©; Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council. Table ranked on male life expectancy.

English Local Authority Districts

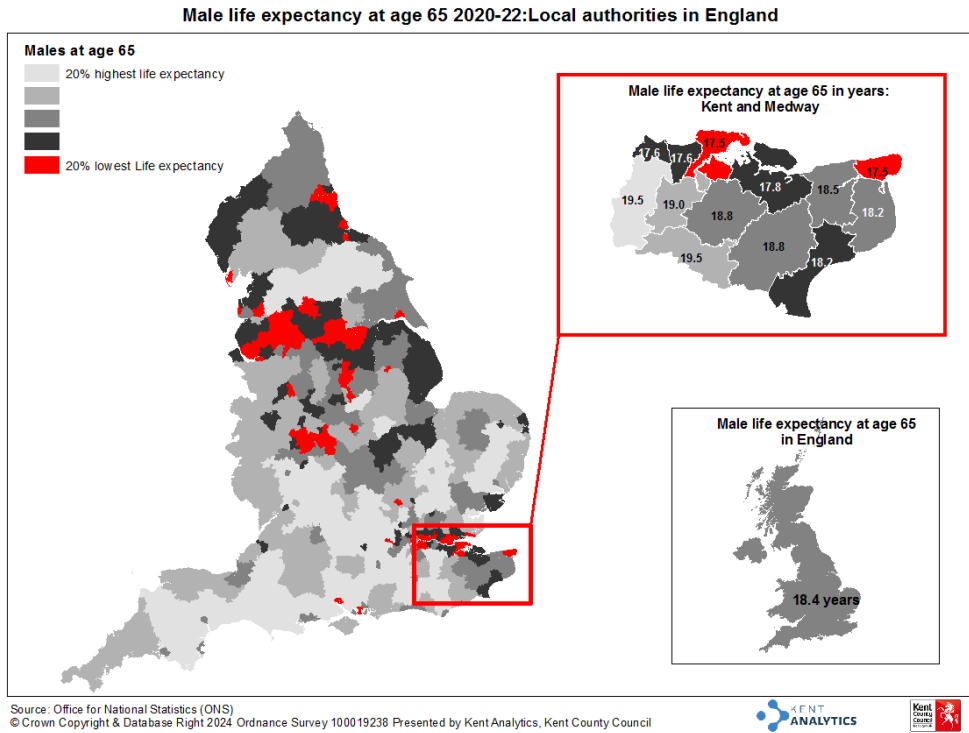
As with life expectancy at birth, life expectancy at age 65 also varies greatly across the English local authorities. There is a difference of 4.2 years between the highest and lowest life expectancy for males at age 65. Hart in Hampshire has highest with 21.2 years and Manchester, a district within Manchester Metropolitan County, has the lowest with 15.8 years.

The difference between the highest and lowest life expectancy for females is 5.1 years. The London borough of Kensington & Chelsea has highest with 23.3 years, and Manchester a district within Greater Manchester Metropolitan County, has the lowest with 18.2 years.

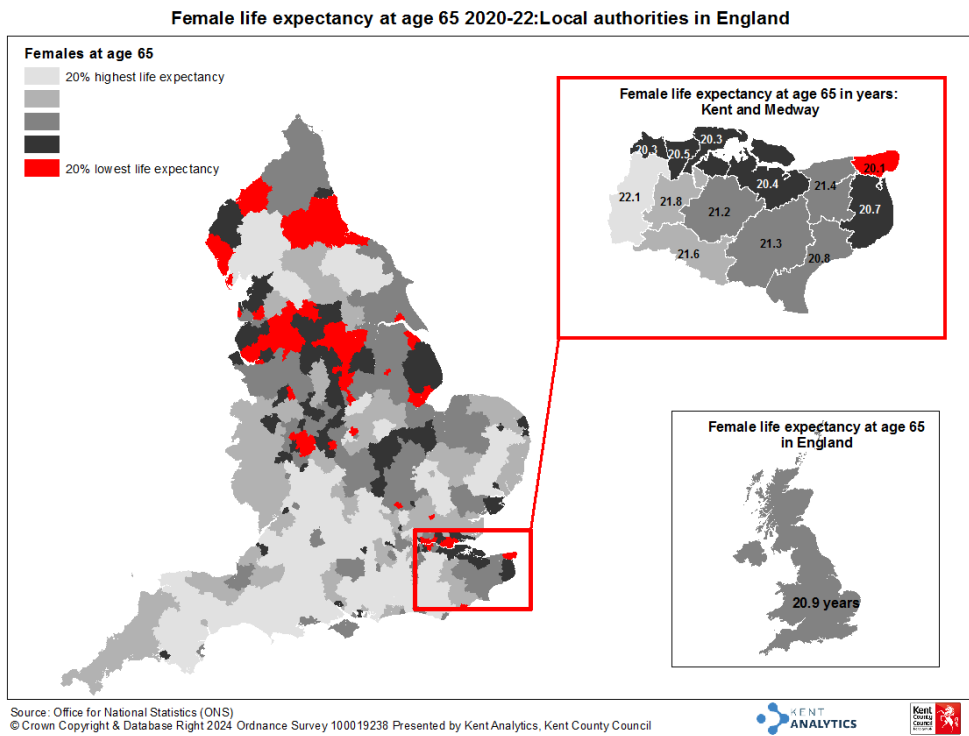
Within the Kent local authority districts the difference between the highest and lowest life expectancy at age 65 for both males and females is 2 years.

Although the range between the highest and lowest life expectancy is smaller than seen nationally, Kent has areas which are within the 20% highest and lowest for life expectancy at age 65 in England. Sevenoaks is in the 20% of areas with the highest male life expectancy at age 65, and Thanet is in the 20% of areas with the lowest male life expectancy at age 65. See Maps 3 and 4 for details.

Map 3: Male life expectancy at age 65: 2020/22



Map 4: Female life expectancy at age 65: 2020/22



Within Kent's local authorities, Sevenoaks has the longest life expectancy for both males and females at age 65, at 19.5 years and 22.1 years, respectively. These figures are higher than the national, regional, and county figures.

Thanet has the shortest life expectancy for both males and females at age 65, at 17.5 years and 20.1 years, respectively.

The highest difference between male and female life expectancy is in Canterbury where females aged 65 between 2020/22 have a life expectancy that is 2.9 years longer than males aged 65.

Tunbridge Wells has the lowest difference between the sexes with females aged 65 between 2020/22 having a life expectancy that is 2.1 years longer than males aged 65 at the same time. See Table 8 for details.

Table 8: Life expectancy at age 65: Kent local authorities and Medway Unitary Authority

Local Authority	Male life expectancy (years)	Male Rank*	Female life expectancy (years)	Female Rank*	Difference between male and female life expectancy (years)
Sevenoaks	19.5	59	22.1	46	2.6
Tunbridge Wells	19.5	62	21.6	97	2.1
Tonbridge & Malling	19.0	103	21.8	75	2.8
Maidstone	18.8	129	21.2	145	2.4
Ashford	18.8	131	21.3	141	2.5
Canterbury	18.5	155	21.4	123	2.9
Dover	18.2	184	20.7	195	2.4
Folkestone & Hythe	18.2	185	20.8	183	2.6
Swale	17.8	225	20.4	215	2.7
Dartford	17.6	240	20.3	227	2.7
Gravesham	17.6	241	20.5	211	2.9
Thanet	17.5	246	20.1	251	2.6
Medway U.A.	17.5	248	20.3	231	2.8

Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS), ©; Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council. * Rank out of 307 English local authorities.

Time series of life expectancy at age 65

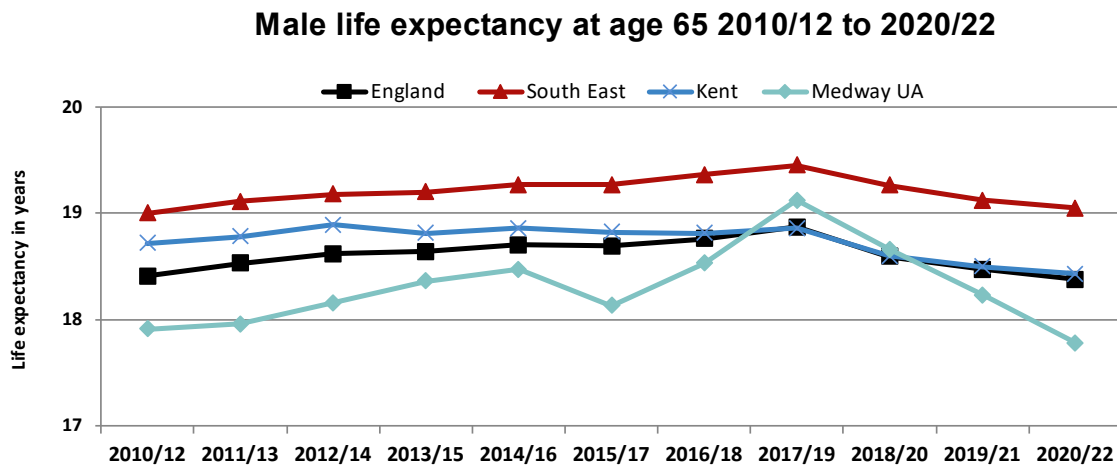
Over the past decade male life expectancy at age 65 has remained at 18.4 years in England.

In Kent it has decreased from 18.7 years to 18.4 years, (-0.3 years), in Medway Unitary Authority from 17.9 years to 17.8 years, (-0.1 years) over the past decade.

Male life expectancy at age 65 has increased slightly from 19 years to 19.1 years in the South East during the past decade.

See Chart 7 and Table 9 for details

Chart 7: Change in Male life expectancy at age 65 between 2010/12 to 2020/22



Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS)© Crown Copyright. Chart produced by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Over the past decade ten local authorities in Kent have seen a decline in male life expectancy at age 65.

The highest difference of -1 years was seen in Gravesham where life expectancy at age 65 for males has decreased from 18.6 years to 17.6 years

Within Kent, life expectancy for males at age 65 has increased in Maidstone from 18.6 years to 18.8 years, (+0.3 years). Tonbridge & Malling saw a small increase of +0.1 years. All remaining local authorities in Kent have seen a decline in male life expectancy at age 65.

Table 9: Change in male life expectancy at age 65 between 2010/12 to 2020/22

Area	2010/12 to 2014/16	2015/17 to 2021/22	10-year change
England	0.3	-0.3	0.0
South East	0.3	-0.2	0.1
Kent	0.1	-0.4	-0.3
Medway U.A.	0.2	-0.3	-0.1
Ashford	-0.1	-0.5	-0.6
Canterbury	0.1	-0.4	-0.3
Dartford	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2
Dover	-0.6	0.1	-0.5
Folkestone & Hythe	-0.1	-0.5	-0.5
Gravesham	0.0	-1.1	-1.0
Maidstone	0.4	-0.2	0.3
Sevenoaks	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3
Swale	0.4	-0.9	-0.5
Thanet	0.3	-0.5	-0.2
Tonbridge & Malling	0.4	-0.3	0.1
Tunbridge Wells	0.1	-0.1	-0.1

Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS), ©; Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council. * Rank out of 307 English local authorities.

Over the past decade female life expectancy at age 65 has remained at 20.9 years in England.

In Kent it has decreased from 21.2 years to 21 years, (-0.1 years) and in Medway Unitary Authority it has decreased from 20.8 years to 20.7 years, (-0.1 years) over the past decade.

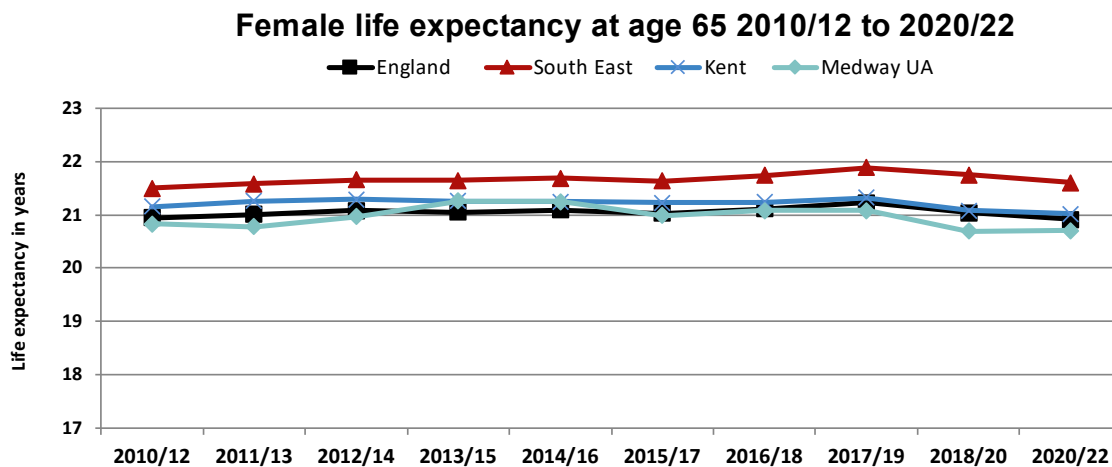
Female life expectancy at age 65 has increased slightly from 21.5 years to 21.6 years in the South East during the past decade.

Over the past decade seven local authorities in Kent have seen a decline in female life expectancy at age 65. The highest difference of -0.7 years was seen in Tunbridge Wells where life expectancy at age 65 for females has decreased from 22.4 years to 21.6 years

Of the five local authorities in Kent that have seen an increase in female life expectancy at age 65, the highest difference of +0.5 years was seen in Dartford where life expectancy at age 65 for females has increased from 19.8 years to 20.3 years

See Chart 8 and Table 10 for details

Chart 8: Change in Female life expectancy at age 65 between 2010/12 to 2020/22



Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS)© Crown Copyright. Chart produced by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 10: Change in female life expectancy at age 65 between 2010/12 to 2020/22

Area	2010/12 to 2014/16	2015/17 to 2021/22	10-year change
England	0.1	-0.1	0.0
South East	0.1	0.0	0.1
Kent	0.1	-0.2	-0.1
Medway U.A.	0.2	-0.3	-0.1
Ashford	-0.3	-0.3	-0.6
Canterbury	0.2	0.1	0.3
Dartford	0.4	0.2	0.5
Dover	-0.1	0.1	-0.0
Folkestone & Hythe	-0.3	-0.4	-0.6
Gravesham	0.3	-0.7	-0.4
Maidstone	0.3	-0.2	0.1
Sevenoaks	0.5	-0.1	0.4
Swale	0.2	-0.4	-0.2
Thanet	-0.1	-0.5	-0.6
Tonbridge & Malling	0.7	-0.7	0.1
Tunbridge Wells	-0.9	0.2	-0.7

Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS),©; Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council.

Related documents

Information about the population and the 2021 Census can be found on our [Population & Census](#) webpages.