



Musculoskeletal Diseases Profile, November 2017

This summary presents the key messages from selected indicators in the Musculoskeletal Diseases Profile, November 2017.

Musculoskeletal conditions are the leading cause of pain and disability in England and account for one of the highest causes of sickness absence and productivity loss.

PHE has produced the new Musculoskeletal Diseases Profile to provide meaningful data, on a single platform, to enable the commissioning of high value musculoskeletal services.

Musculoskeletal data is essential for understanding the health needs of local populations, the number of people accessing services, the cost of services and the outcomes services deliver.

It is estimated 16.9% of people in England suffered with back pain in 2012.

The prevalence of back pain varied significantly between lower tier local authorities. Tower Hamlets had the lowest

16.9%

Back pain prevalence in people of all ages (2012)

level at 11.8% and North Norfolk the highest at 21.4%. 10.2% of people in England had severe back pain in 2012.

GP Patient Survey data suggests the percentage of people reporting long-term back pain has decreased since 2011/12

from 10.1% to 9.6% in 2015/16. The percentage of people reporting arthritis or a long-term joint problem

9.6%

% reporting a long-term back pain problem (2015/16)

in the GP Patient Survey has also significantly decreased from 13.1% in 2011/12 to 12.4% in 2015/16. From the data, it is not possible to say whether this is a real reduction in prevalence or a reduction in the reporting of these conditions.

Indicators

The tool includes **22 indicators**.

Indicators are grouped into the following domains:

Risk factors

Physical activity

Back pain

Osteoarthritis

Osteoporosis and fragility fracture

Rheumatoid arthritis

Contact us

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fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/msk

gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/musculoskeletal-disease-profile-november-2017-launch

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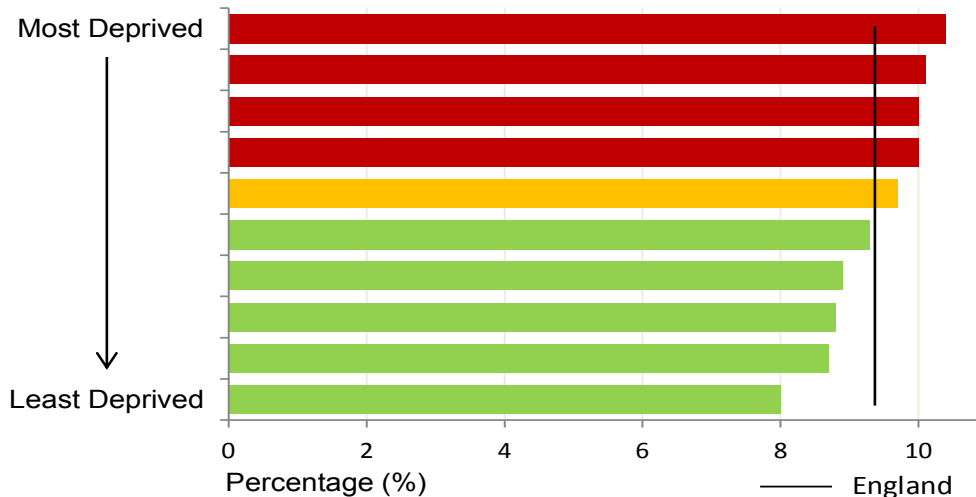
Key facts

This column includes summary information on some of the indicators in the profile.

Arrows: red = significant worsening, green = significant improving, amber = no significant change.

GP Patient Survey data shows a significantly higher percentage of those in the most deprived decile areas reporting long-term back pain, 10.4% compared with 8.0% in the least deprived decile areas. The trend was the same for those reporting arthritis or a long-term joint problems, with a significantly higher percentage in the most deprived decile areas at 13.2% compared to the least deprived decile areas at 10.4%.

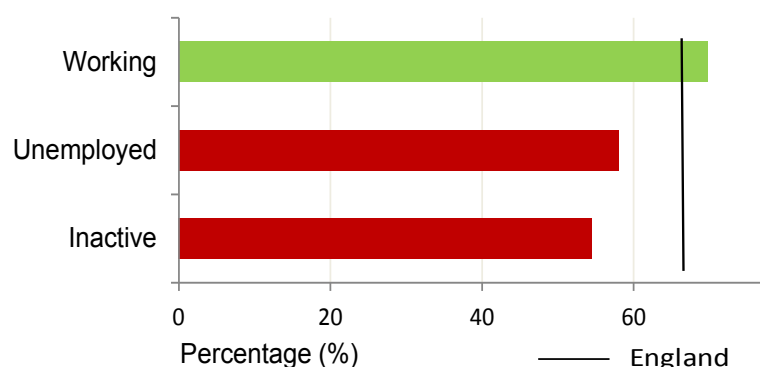
% reporting a long-term back problem 2015/16 by lower tier deprivation decile areas (IMD 2015)



The Musculoskeletal (MSK) calculator estimates **18.2% of people in England suffered with knee osteoarthritis** in 2012 and 6.1% suffered with severe knee osteoarthritis. Among lower tier local authorities, the lowest percentage was in Richmond upon Thames at 14.6% and the highest in East Lindsey at 21.4%. It is estimated that **10.9% of people in England had hip osteoarthritis** in 2012, the lowest percentage was in Kensington and Chelsea at 9.6% and the highest in East Lindsey at 12.5%.

Low levels of physical activity are a risk factor for MSK pain¹. In England during 2015/16 only **64.9% of adults** were classed as **physically active**. Physical activity levels varied significantly by working status and other population characteristics. In the working group 69.7% of people were physically active compared to 58% in the unemployed group and 54.5% in the inactive group.

% of physically active adults, 2015/16 by working status



18.2%

Prevalence of knee osteoarthritis in people aged 45+ (2012)

10.9%

Prevalence of hip osteoarthritis in people aged 45+ (2012)

589 per 100,000 ↓ 10.0 per 100,000

Hip fractures in people aged 65+ (2015/16)

61.3%

Percentage of adults (aged 18+) classified as overweight or obese – current method (2015/6)

64.9%

Percentage of physically active adults—current method (2015/16)

50.6%

Percent of adults who do any walking at least 5 times per week(2014/15)

15.5% ↓ 1.4 Percent points

Smoking prevalence rates—current smokers (APS 2016)