

MID AND UPPER NITHSDALE LOCALISED DATA PROFILE

Document Purpose

This document has been prepared as part of work to support development of an updated Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) for Dumfries and Galloway. It has been prepared as part of a proposed series, to provide a standardised data profile for localities in Dumfries and Galloway Community Planning Partnership areas, that are emerging as priority areas to be supported by a locality plan.

The document is intended to be used to support discussion and engagement with local partners from a range of organisations, and members of our communities.

The indicators included are based on data available nationally and are only part of the story. For local community planning to work to best effect, the data shown here should be supplemented with local knowledge and interpretation.

For the purposes of community planning, localities must either correspond with an electoral ward, or an area within the Local Authority area that has a population of no more than 30,000. This is to support consideration of the needs of and priorities for communities in different parts of the Local Authority area. To prepare community profiles for Dumfries and Galloway, considering how data are collected and available, we have defined communities for statistical purposes as being comprised of groups of “intermediate zones.” Intermediate zones were designed to have populations of between 2,500-6,000 residents, and to fit within Local Authority areas (at the time of the 2011 Census). They represent a relatively stable geography that can be used to analyse change over time, with changes only occurring after a census. Following the update to intermediate zones using 2011 census data, there are 1,279 Intermediate Zones covering the whole of Scotland (40 in Dumfries and Galloway). Intermediate zones (and smaller units on which they are based, called data zones) are widely used for statistical reporting.

To enable comparison of locality-level indicators with Dumfries and Galloway and Scotland as a whole, we have used standardised rates where possible. However, it is also important to consider that some rates can be based on relatively small numbers of people or events (in particular this applies to the section on children and young people), so comparisons should still be made with caution. Confidence intervals around rates can be used as a guide to whether there is likely to be a true difference between areas in relation to a particular indicator.

Whilst confidence intervals are not presented within the body of the report, these are provided (where available) within the appendix document.

Introduction

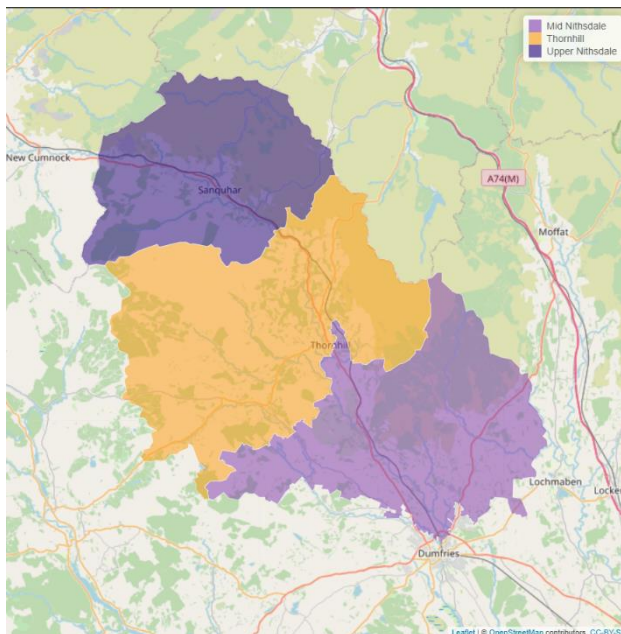
For the purposes of this profile, this locality is defined as being comprised of 3 Intermediate Zones:

Mid Nithsdale, Thornhill, and Upper Nithsdale.

Situated to the north of Dumfries and Galloway, the **Mid and Upper Nithsdale Locality had an estimated population of 13,000** residents in 2021.

Data is presented primarily as percentages, averages or as an age and gender standardised rate, allowing for broad comparisons amongst the intermediate zones and with Dumfries and Galloway and Scotland.

Where numerators are small, the measures are combined over multiple years.



Main Points

Whilst Upper Nithsdale may not be statistically significantly different across all measures, there is significance in the consistency that Upper Nithsdale has poorer outcomes.

Economy

- 22% of Upper Nithsdale residents are in receipt of out of work benefits. This is over twice the rate of Mid Nithsdale where 9% of residents are in receipt of this benefit. The percentage of residents claiming in Upper Nithsdale is higher than Thornhill, Dumfries and Galloway and Scotland.
- Upper Nithsdale has a higher rate of cases across a range of other benefits. This rate has been twice that of Mid Nithsdale and 1.6 times that of Thornhill. The rates include Carers Allowance, Pension Credit Cases, Personal Independence, and Universal Credit
- Aside from Attendance Allowance, Upper Nithsdale has higher rates than Scotland for these measures.

Relative deprivation within the intermediate zones varies

- The use of Scottish Index Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) enables comparison of deprivation throughout Scotland. Based on this methodology, 45% of the population of Upper Nithsdale are classified as living in the most deprived quintile. This compares to 8.7% across Dumfries and Galloway.
- Within the different domains of the SIMD Calculation, access is a key issue within Mid Nithsdale 100% of population in 15% most 'access deprived' areas. It is estimated that over 50% of residents amongst the Mid and Upper Nithsdale Locality are classified as being access deprived.
- Housing, Crime and Education domains rank relatively positively within the Mid and Upper Nithsdale Locality
- Average travel time to access GP (General Practitioner) services by public transport (2015) in Mid Nithsdale and Thornhill is above Dumfries and Galloway and Scotland mean travel time.

Upper Nithsdale has a range of ill health, behaviours, and injury indicators higher than Mid Nithsdale, Thornhill, Dumfries and Galloway and Scotland

- The rate of hospitalisations for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) in Upper Nithsdale is 485 per 100,000. This is more than twice that of Mid Nithsdale where rate is 173 per 100,000. The difference between rates in these areas has widened in recent years.
- The overall emergency hospitalisation rate within Upper Nithsdale is 9,282 per 100,000. This is around 1.3 times higher than Mid Nithsdale, Dumfries and Galloway and Scotland. This rate is 1.5 times higher than Thornhill where the rate is 6,153 per 100,000.
- The rate of multiple emergency hospitalisations for residents aged greater than 65 in Upper Nithsdale was 7,019 per 100,000. This is almost twice the rate of Thornhill where there was a rate of 3,736 per 100,000.
- Whilst comparatively positive against Scotland and Dumfries and Galloway, the rate of alcohol related hospital admissions in Upper Nithsdale is higher than Thornhill and Mid Nithsdale.

Babies, Children and Mothers

(Please note: some of these indicators relate to relatively small numbers of people or events, which may influence the reliability of comparisons)

- 22% of children in Upper Nithsdale are living in poverty. This compares to 18.4% for Dumfries and Galloway, 15% for Scotland.
- Less than 10% of babies in Upper Nithsdale were exclusively breastfed in the 2019/20 to 2021/22 range, compared to 46% in Mid Nithsdale and 45% in Thornhill.
- Development concerns at 27-30 months in Upper Nithsdale are consistently higher than other areas. 25% of children between 2017/18 and 19/20 displayed development concerns in Upper Nithsdale. This compares to 3% in Thornhill and 11% in Mid Nithsdale.

Community Safety

- 35% of Upper Nithsdale residents live within 500m of a derelict site.
- Crime rate is in line with that of Dumfries and Galloway and Scotland. In Mid Nithsdale, the rate is around half that of Dumfries and Galloway.
- The rate of road traffic accident casualties within Upper Nithsdale is 117 per 100,000. This is almost twice that of Mid Nithsdale and Thornhill with a 60 per 100,000.

Population estimates indicate an ageing population. Over 23% of people living in each intermediate zone are over 65.

- 18% of the total population within the Mid and Upper Nithsdale Locality are within the 50-59 age bracket. This is an estimated 2,300 out of around 13,000 total population.
- The next largest age group suggests an aging population. 15% of the population are aged 60-69. This is an estimated population of 2,000.
- Average life expectancy for males in Mid Nithsdale is 80.5 years. This is almost 7 years higher than Upper Nithsdale.
- Female life expectancy is relatively consistent across areas.
- Death rates in Upper Nithsdale residents aged 15-44 were three times higher in 2019-21 than in Mid Nithsdale

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Main Points	1
Glossary.....	5
Regional Overview.....	6
Summary Tables	7
Deeper dive into trends and comparators	10
Further Analysis.....	11
Context.....	11
Population.....	11
Population Pyramid.....	11
Population Change between 2016 and 2021.....	12
SIMD Analysis.....	13
Breakdown by Domain	13
SIMD Deprivation Quintile Map.....	14
Population Health.....	15
Children and Young People.....	15
Children Living in Poverty	15
Developmental Concerns at 27-30 months.....	16
Child Dental Health in Primary 1.....	17
Child Dental Health in Primary 7.....	18
10,000 Voices Consultation.....	18
Annual Participation (16 – 19 year olds).....	19
Ill Health, Behaviours and Injury	20
Emergency Hospitalisations	20
Multiple Emergency Hospitalisations aged >65.....	21
Alcohol Related hospital admissions.....	22
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) admissions	23
Bowel Screening Uptake.....	23
Life Expectancy and Mortality	25
Female Life Expectancy.....	25
Male Life Expectancy.....	25
Death rates – all ages.....	26
Environment and Access	27
Crime Rate	27
Police.....	27

Fire	28
Population living within 500m of a derelict site	30
Tobacco and Alcohol Outlet density	30
Average House Sales Price.....	31
Twenty-minute neighbourhood.....	31
Economy.....	33
Population in receipt of out of work benefits	33
Employment by industry	33
Limitations and Reflections.....	35
Sources and Indicators.....	35
Appendix.....	36
1. SIMD breakdown by Data zone – Decile	36

Glossary

PHS: Public Health Scotland

NRS: National Records of Scotland

ScotPHO: Scottish Public Health Observatory

DWP: Department of Work and Pensions

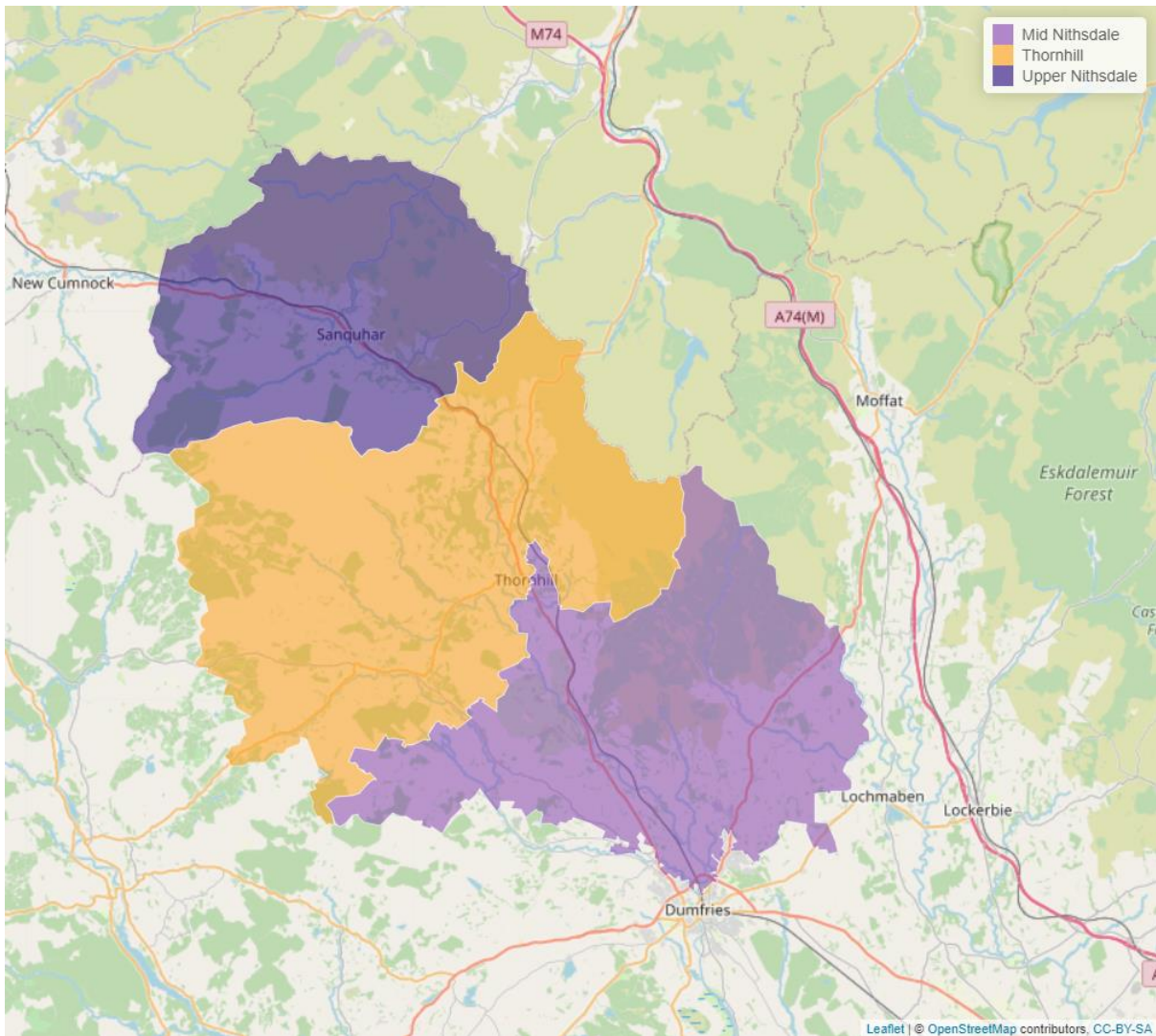
SIMD: Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

Data Zone: A geographic boundary, typically between 500 and 1,000 household residents. These are aggregates of Census Output Areas.

Intermediate Zone: A statistical geography that sit between Data Zones and council areas, designed to meet constraints on population thresholds. These are typically between 2,500 - 6,000 household residents.

Age Sex standardised rate: Technique to create standard population profiles, so that comparisons can be made across a range of geographies. The rate is quoted as per 100,000 population, with standardised age bandings and gender.

Regional Overview



Map 1: Intermediate Zones within Nithsdale Wellbeing Community

This image represents the Intermediate Zones of the Mid and Upper Nithsdale Locality. Definition of an Intermediate Zone, taken from the Statistics.gov website is as follows:

“Intermediate Zones are a statistical geography that sit between Data Zones and council areas. Intermediate Zones are often used for the dissemination of statistics that are not suitable for release at the Data Zone level because of the sensitive nature of the statistic, or for reasons of reliability.

Intermediate Zones were designed to meet constraints on population thresholds (2,500 - 6,000 household residents), to nest within council areas, and to be built up from aggregates of Data Zones. Intermediate Zones also represent a relatively stable geography that can be used to analyse change over time, with changes only occurring after a Census.”¹

¹ <https://statistics.gov.scot/atlas/resource?uri=http://statistics.gov.scot/id/statistical-geography/S92000003>
January 2023

Summary Tables

Indicator	Data Type	Time Period	Mid Nithsdale	Thornhill	Upper Nithsdale	Dumfries and Galloway	Scotland
Population							
Total population	count	2021	4,487	4,095	4,583	148,790	5,479,900
Gender ratio male: female	ratio	2021	1:0.94	1:1.08	1:1.02	1:1.06	1:1.05
Working age population (16-65 years)	%	2021	61	59	60	60	65
Population over 65 years old	%	2021	25	28	23	25	18
Population living in most deprived SIMD quintile	%	2021	0	0	45	9	20
Housing							
Total number of households	count	2020	2,051	2,093	2,283	75,297	2,653,521
Occupied households	%	2020	95	91	94	94	96
Households with single occupant tax discount	%	2020	26	36	37	36	38
Occupied households exempt from council tax	%	2020	1	1	2	1	3
Households in council tax bands A-C	%	2020	47	61	89	61	60
Households in council tax bands F-H	%	2020	21	14	2	11	13
Mean House Sales Price	£	2021	217,410	183,158	121,825	167,255	201,160
Children and Young People							
Children living in poverty (previously low income families)	%	2020/21	17	16	22	18	16
Children in households receiving child benefits**	%	2018	78	81	90	87	80
Premature births	%	2019/20-2021/22	9	6	5	7	8
Maternal obesity	%	2019/20-2021/22	22	25	22	28	26
Healthy birth weight	%	2019/20-2021/22	72	80	85	81	84
Babies exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks	%	2019/20-2021/22	47	45	10	27	32
Immunisation uptake at 24 months - 6 in 1	%	2019-2021	95	100	99	98	97

Indicator	Data Type	Time Period	Mid Nithsdale	Thornhill	Upper Nithsdale	Dumfries and Galloway	Scotland
Immunisation uptake at 24 months - MMR	%	2019-2021	95	97	97	97	94
Developmental concerns at 27-30 months	%	2018/19-2020/21	10	5	30	16	15
Child healthy weight in primary 1	%	2019/20	70	73	82	75	76
Child dental health in primary 1	%	2021/22 SY*	68	85	81	73	73
Child dental health in primary 7	%	2019/20 SY*	89	82	53	76	75
Uptake of the HPV vaccine in S3 girls	%	2017/18-2019/20 SY*	76	80	86	86	85
Average highest qualification score	mean	2018/19-2020/21	6	6	5	6	6
First time mothers aged under 19	%	2016/17-2018/19	5	8	15	9	7
Young adults (16-19 year olds) participating in education, training or employment	%	2022	95	95	89	93	92
III Health, Behaviours and Injury							
Coronary heart disease (CHD) patient hospitalisations per 100,000	rate	2019/20-2021/22	407	310	493	369	342
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) patient hospitalisations per 100,000	rate	2019/20-2021/22	173	215	485	188	207
Asthma patient hospitalisations per 100,000	rate	2019/20-2021/22	47	82	128	68	68
Emergency patient hospitalisations per 100,000	rate	2019-2021	7,180	6,153	9,282	7,334	7,234
Multiple emergency hospital admissions, aged >65 years per 100,000	rate	2019-2021	5,066	3,736	7,019	4,488	4,998
Alcohol-related hospital admissions per 100,000	rate	2021/22	119	278	475	442	611
Bowel screening uptake	%	2019-2021	69	71	65	69	66
Road traffic accident casualties per 100,000	rate	2019-2021	70	39	77	69	55
Life Expectancy and Mortality							
Life expectancy, females	mean	2017-2021*	80.1	83.2	79.2	81.2	80.8
Life expectancy, males	mean	2017-2021*	80.8	78.6	75.0	77.4	76.6
Deaths all ages per 100,000	rate	2019-2021	1,212	1,081	1,389	1,100	1,181

Indicator	Data Type	Time Period	Mid Nithsdale	Thornhill	Upper Nithsdale	Dumfries and Galloway	Scotland
Deaths, aged 15-44 years per 100,000	rate	2019-2021	55	73	189	137	117
Early deaths from cancer, aged <75 years per 100,000	rate	2019-2021	119	133	145	134	150
Early deaths from coronary heart disease (CHD), aged <75 years per 100,000	rate	2019-2021	31	53	58	43	53
Economy and Benefits							
Population in receipt of out of work benefits	%	May 21	9	13	22	16	16
Attendance Allowance - cases with entitlement (per 1,000 65+ pop)	rate	May 22	113	111	163	133	132
Carers Allowance - cases with entitlement (per 1,000 16+ pop)	rate	May 22	31	25	56	34	27
Pension Credit Cases (per 1,000 60+ pop)	rate	May 22	57	78	129	86	88
Personal Independence Payment - cases with entitlement (per 1,000 16+ pop)	rate	Oct 22	56	64	124	79	72
People on Universal Credit (per 1,000 16+ pop)	rate	Oct 22	54	73	129	96	103
% of Roles in businesses located in area that are full time	%	2021	68	60	70	63	66
Number of roles in business located in area	count	2021	1,060	1,080	1,555	57,750	
Environment, Access, and Crime							
People living in 15% most 'access deprived' areas	%	2017	100	59	10	32	15
Average travel time to GP by public transport in minutes	mean	2015	20	15	10	13	10
Average travel time to primary school by car in minutes	mean	2015	4	4	3	3	3
Population within 500 metres of a derelict site	%	2021	2	1	36	26	27
Crime rate per 10,000	rate	2020/21	232	462	410	445	452
Total alcohol outlets per 1000 persons	rate	2020	2	3	4	4	
Total tobacco outlets per 1000 persons	rate	2020	1	2	3	2	

*AS = August Snapshot, SY = School Year

** Children in households receiving child benefits has been calculated from rounded data zone values and will not be a true value and may be an over or underestimation.

Deeper dive into trends and comparators

Summary of indicators chosen for a deeper dive. Majority of data extracts were taken in January 2023, across a variety of publicly available sources, including:

- ScotPHO (Scottish Public Health Observatory): [ScotPHO profiles \(shinyapps.io\)](https://shinyapps.io)
- NRS (National Records of Scotland): [Statistics and Data | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://nrscotland.gov.uk)
- CPOP (Improvement Service Community Planning Outcomes Profile): [CPOP \(shinyapps.io\)](https://shinyapps.io)
- DWP Stat-Xplore: [Stat-Xplore - Log in \(dwp.gov.uk\)](https://dwp.gov.uk)
- Scottish Government: statistics.gov.scot

To enable comparisons between intermediate zones, Dumfries and Galloway and Scotland, age gender standardised rates are applied. Within the collation of this data, the European Standard Population has been applied.²

Consolidating these sources into a Community Profile has enabled a summary profile using quantitative measures to be delivered for local engagement and to support the working group to understand inequalities that groups of people within the Mid and Upper Nithsdale Locality face.

Care and consideration has been made around population sizes used for analysis, balancing data availability against the important requirement to managing risks around disclosure. Throughout the analysis, comparisons have been made against communities locally, Dumfries and Galloway, and Scotland.

² <https://www.isdscotland.org/Products-and-Services/GPD-Support/Population/Standard-Populations/> accessed November 2022

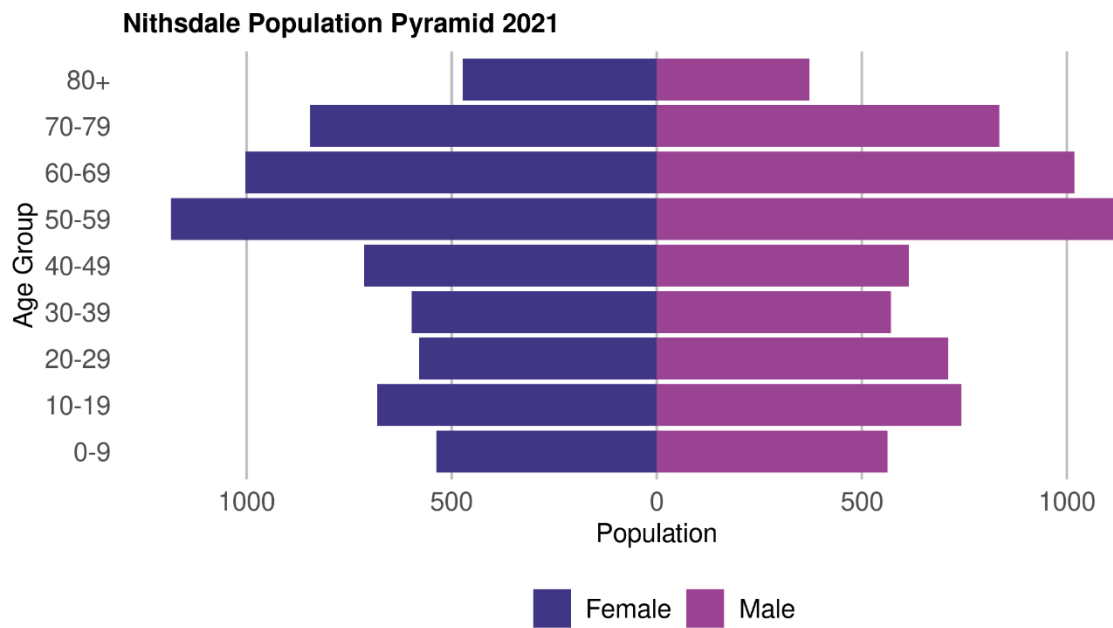
Further Analysis

Context

Within this section of the report, a variety of different graphs are presented summarising difference aspects of the region. Based on measure these are presented at a region level, by intermediate zone, or within aspects of SIMD analysis, at data zone level.

Population

Population Pyramid



Source: National Records of Scotland

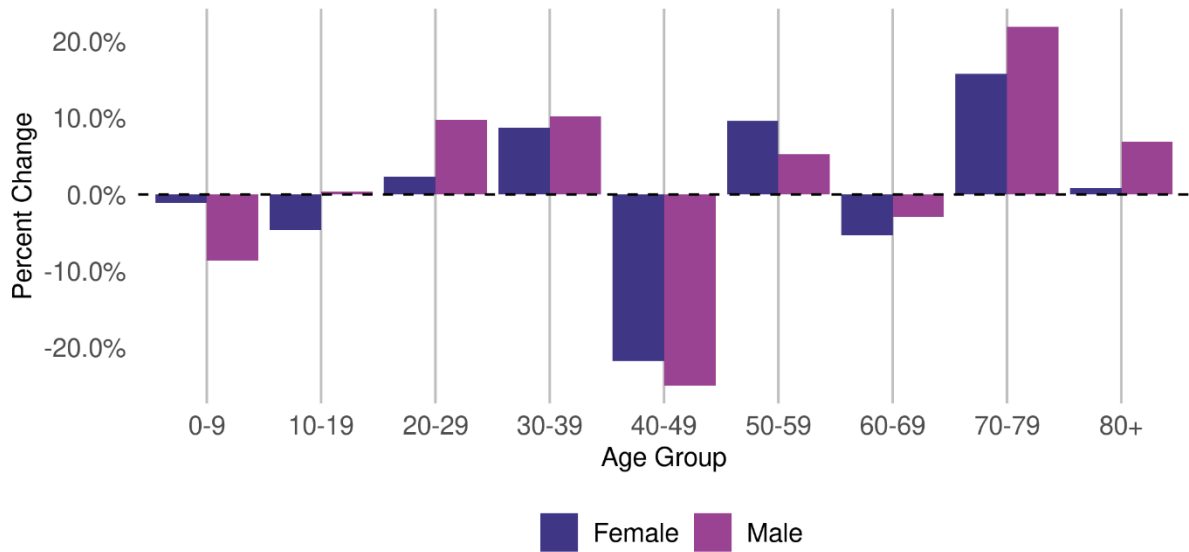
Above is a representation of the age gender make up of the Mid and Upper Nithsdale Locality, by age bands and brackets. As of 2021 population estimates 18% of the total population within the region are within the 50-59 age bracket (2,307 out of 13,165)

Population Estimate	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+	Grand Total
Female	537	682	580	598	713	1,184	1,003	845	473	6,615
Male	563	743	711	571	614	1,123	1,018	835	372	6,550
Grand Total	1,100	1,425	1,291	1,169	1,327	2,307	2,021	1,680	845	13,165

Population Change between 2016 and 2021

Analysing change in population can give a steer for changing needs of services.

Percent Change in Population from 2016 to 2021 by Age and Sex



Source: National Records of Scotland

This graph indicates the percentage changes within each age gender group between 2016 and 2021. Whilst there are some sizeable percentage changes, consideration needs to be made with interpreting these graphs based on the base population of each cohort. The 25% reduction in Males 40-49 between 2016 and 2021 is a reduction from 818 to 614 (-204). The 22% increase in Males 70-79 is an increase of 150, from 685 to 835 residents.

The largest absolute increase is Females aged 50-59 which has increased 10%, from 1,080 to 1,184 (+104)

Overall, the Mid and Upper Nithsdale locality population has remained stable between 2016 and 2021, from 13,113 to 13,165 (+52)

SIMD Analysis

Health inequalities occur as a result of wider inequalities experienced by people in their daily lives. These inequalities can arise from the circumstances in which people live and the opportunities available to them. Reducing health inequalities involves action on the broader social issues that can affect a person’s health and wellbeing. People from minority communities or with protected characteristics are also known to be more likely to experience health inequalities.

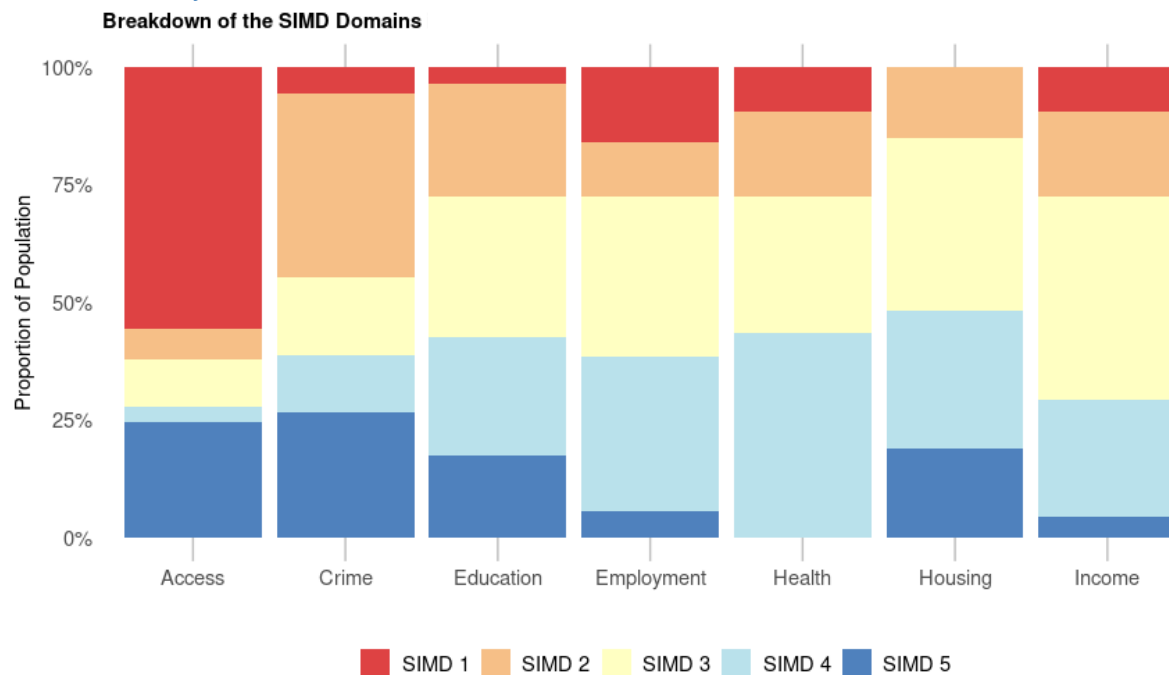
The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is a tool used by the Scottish Government to identify deprived communities across Scotland. SIMD considers seven distinct aspects of deprivation: income, employment, housing, education, crime, health, and access to services. SIMD can be used to look at the impact of inequalities by comparing communities considered to be the most deprived to those considered to be the least deprived.

The overall SIMD classification is weighted through the following domains:

Domain	Percentage of overall SIMD 2020
Income	28%
Employment	28%
Health	14%
Education, skills and training	14%
Geographic access to services	9%
Crime	5%
Housing	2%

Whilst there is cross over in the types of metrics used throughout this report with SIMD (Alcohol Admissions, Universal Credit Claimants etc), different time periods and measurements are applied within SIMD.

Breakdown by Domain



The above image illustrates the proportion of the population within Upper Nithsdale, Mid Nithsdale and Thornhill that reside in each 2020 SIMD quintile (fifths) by domain in 2021.

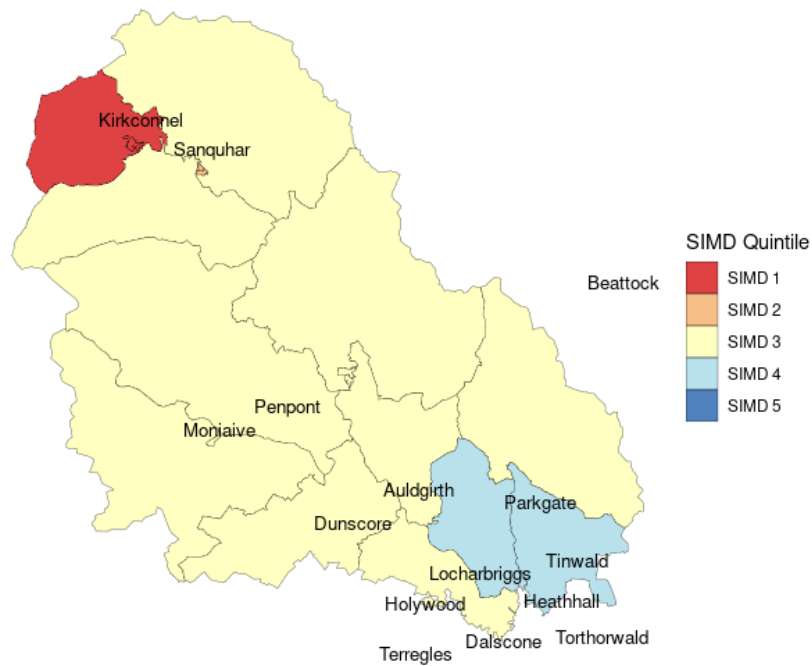
Access is the largest domain inequality amongst residents of the Mid and Upper Nithsdale locality, with lower than average deprivation on Crime, Education and Housing.

SIMD data is collated and summarised at a Data zone Level within the SIMD tool. With an estimate of 500 - 1,000 household residents with each.

Data zone level breakdowns of the rank of each domain are available in [Appendix 1](#), showing relative positive and negative domains based on the data zone Rank across Scotland. Note, this analysis is undertaken at Decile level (10ths). Data zone S01007566 (Upper Nithsdale) Domain splits:

Data Zone	Intermediate Zone	Total pop	Working Age pop	Domain							
				SIMD2020v2 Decile	Income	Employment	Health	Education	Access	Crime	Housing
S01007566	Mid Nithsdale	742	426	4	3	2	5	4	10	2	7

SIMD Deprivation Quintile Map



Source: Scottish Government, Public Health Scotland

The above image illustrates the data zones with higher deprivation from the SIMD model (deep Red) to data zones of lower deprivation (deep blue)

Population Health

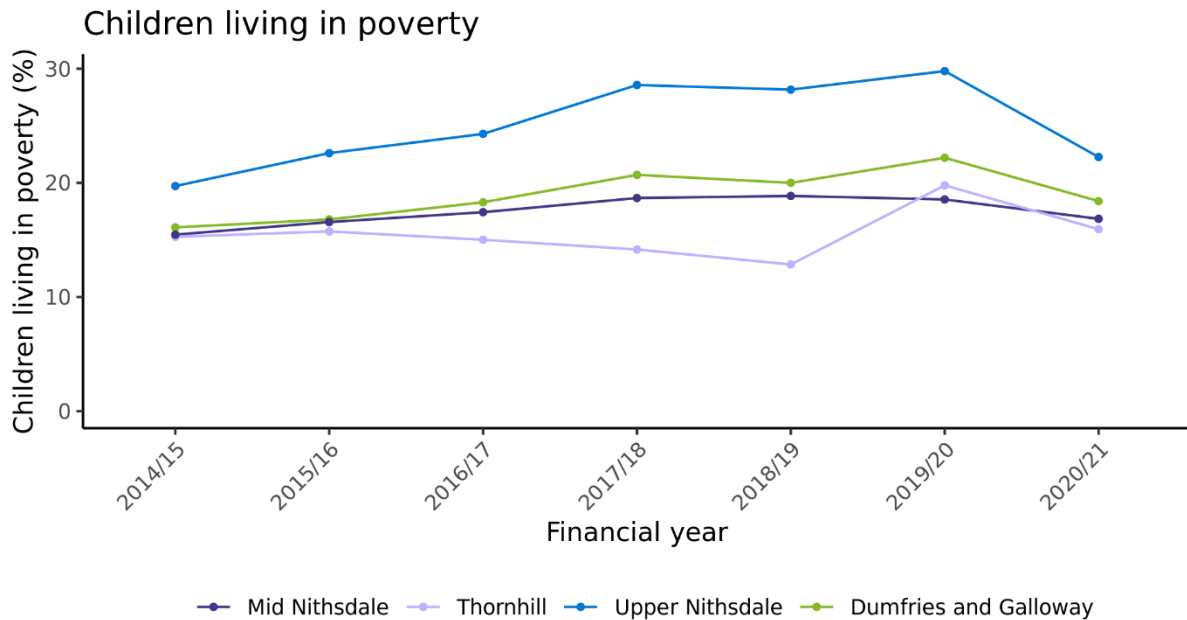
The use of standardised rates allows comparison to be made across a range of geographies. A confidence interval gives an indication of the degree of uncertainty of a rate. This is particularly illustrative in cases of small numerators. The ends of the vertical lines within the below graphs illustrate the upper and lower confidence levels that the numerator is expected to be within. This is 95% expectation that the value exists within this range. ³⁴

Children and Young People

Indicators and trends are shared, however given population sizes across each intermediate zone, the numerators involved for children are likely to be small, often less than 10. Consideration should be made with interpretation of the results.

Children Living in Poverty

Measurement of Children Living in Poverty is produced by the DWP and HRMC, measuring Children aged under 15 in relative low income.



Source: Improvement Service

Percentage of children living in poverty in Upper Nithsdale, whilst reduced in 2020/21, has remained higher than comparator regions and Dumfries and Galloway, with latest percentage of 22.3%, down from 29.8% in 2019/20. Thornhill have 16% of their children living in poverty, with Mid Nithsdale at 16.8%, Dumfries and Galloway at 18.4% and Scotland at 15.5%

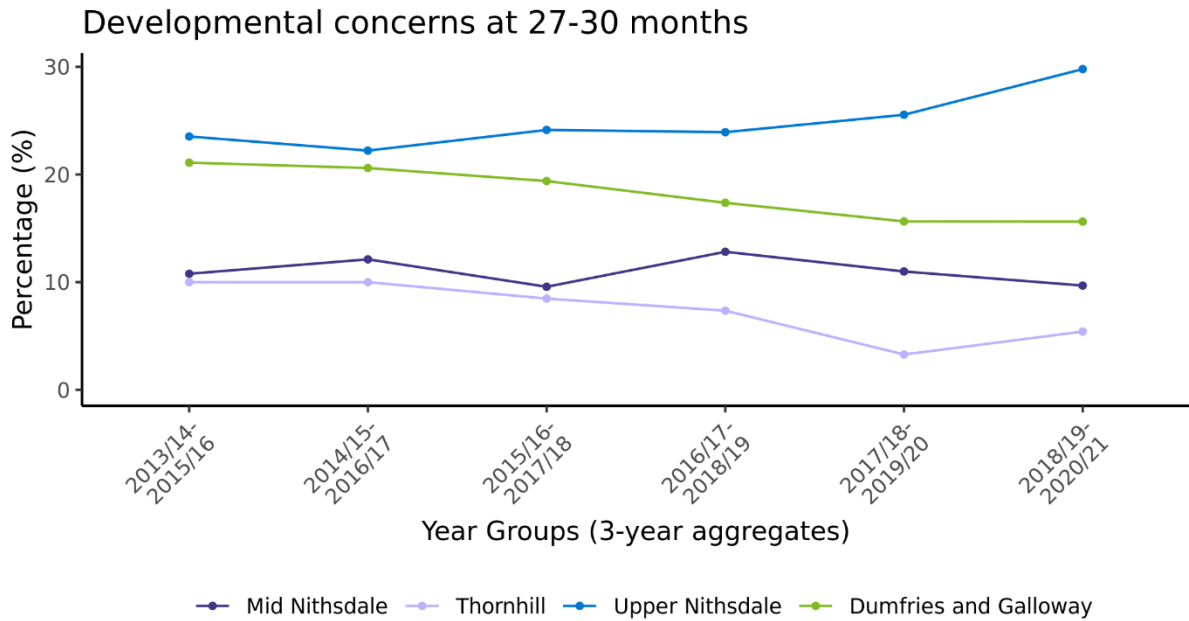
³ <https://www.scotpho.org.uk/opt/Reports/HWP-2015-technical-report-17072015.pdf>. Section 3. Accessed March 2023.

⁴

<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/documents/APHO%20Tech%20Briefing%203%20Common%20PH%20Stats%20and%20CIs.pdf> accessed March 23

Developmental Concerns at 27-30 months

Definition: Children with one or more developmental concerns at 27-30 month review; 3-year rolling average number and percentage of all children reviewed.



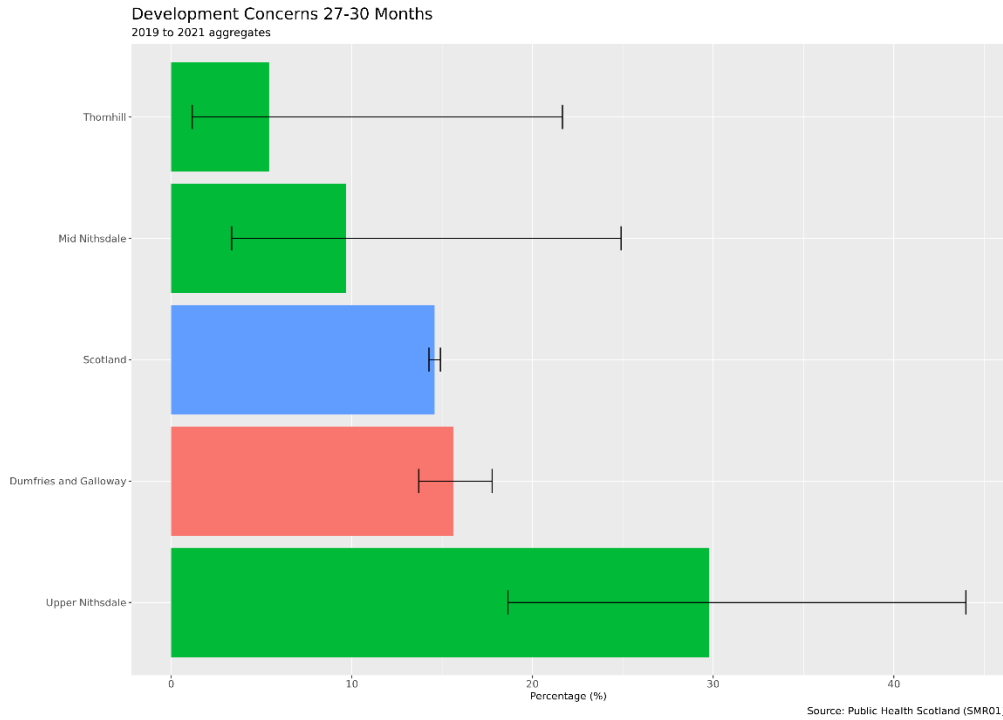
Source: Child Health Systems Programme Pre-school (CHSP-PS), Public Health Scotland

The gap between Development Concerns at 27-30 months in Upper Nithsdale, and Thornhill increases. 25% of children reviewed in Upper Nithsdale in 17/18 to 19/20 had development concerns.

In the latest period for Upper Nithsdale, this equated to 14 children with one or more development concerns. Whilst the ranges are wide based on small denominator, this is statistically significantly higher for Upper Nithsdale (30%) than Dumfries and Galloway (16%).

Statistically significant variance compared to Dumfries and Galloway exists across Stranraer, where the 95% confidence intervals (black bars) do not overlap with those of Dumfries and Galloway. The use of standardised rates allows comparison to be made across a range of geographies. A confidence interval gives an indication of the degree of uncertainty of a rate. This is particularly illustrative in cases of small numerators. The vertical ends of the horizontal lines within the below graph illustrate the upper and lower confidence levels that the numerator is expected to be within.

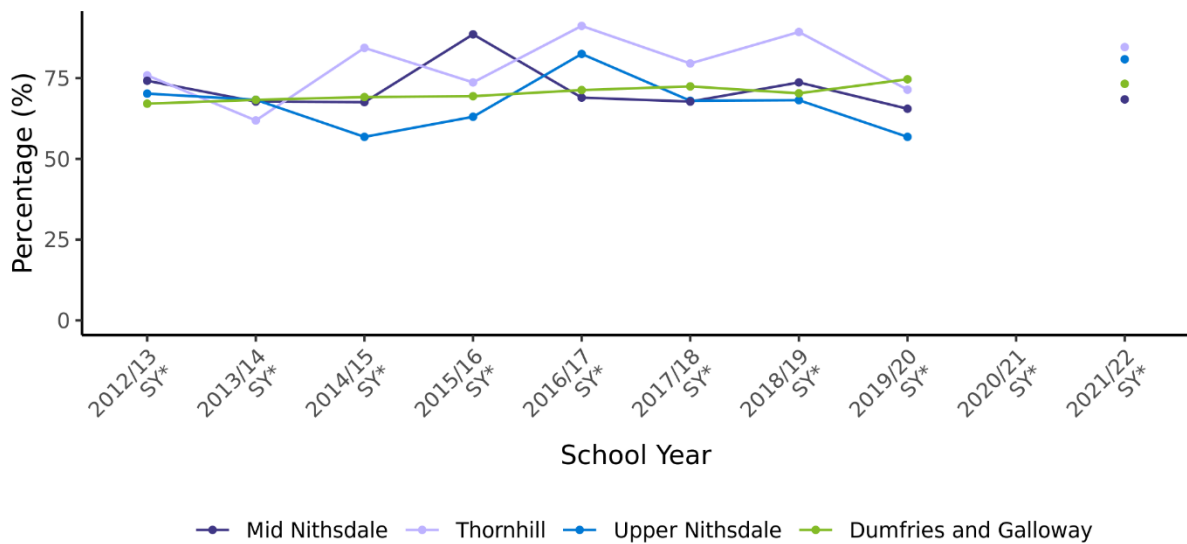
This is 95% expectation that the value exists within this range. ⁵⁶



Child Dental Health in Primary 1

Definition: Percentage of Primary 1 children receiving a letter 'C' (no obvious decay experience but should continue to see the family dentist on a regular basis) at basic inspection.

Child dental health in primary 1 Due to COVID, no Survey conducted in 2020/21



Source: National Dental Inspection Programme Basic Inspection, Public Health Scotland

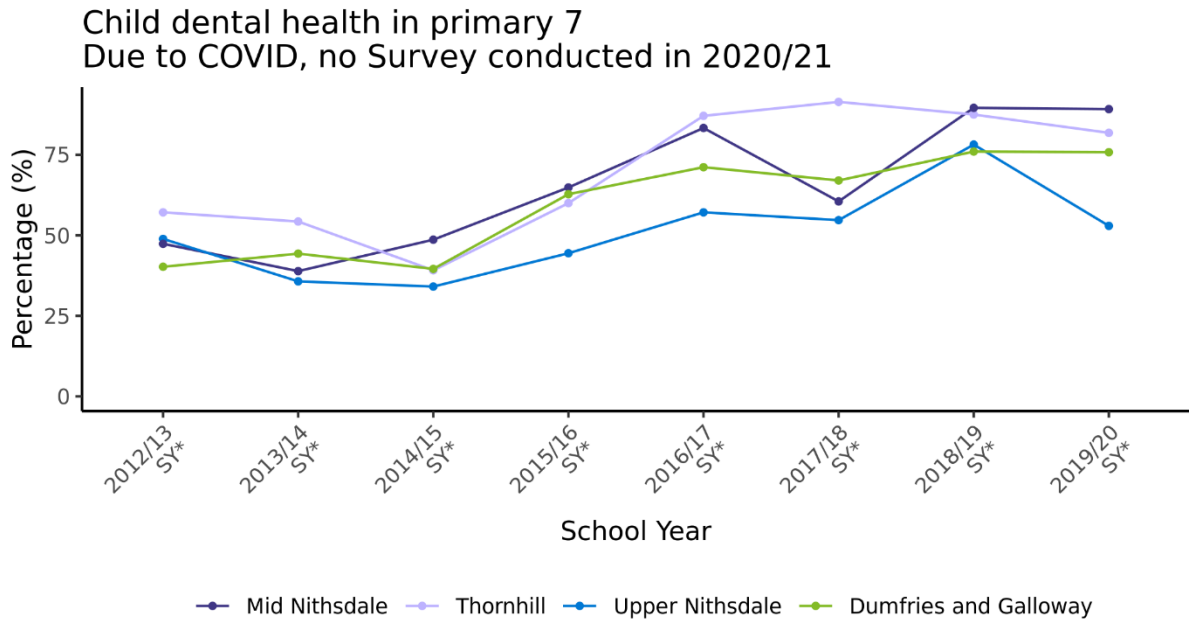
Whilst no survey undertaken in 2020/2021 school year due to Covid, Thornhill has tended to score higher dental health compared to Mid and Upper Nithsdale. At latest data point of 2021/22, Upper Nithsdale scored a higher percentage of dental health (81%) compared to Dumfries and Galloway (73.3%)

⁵ <https://www.scotpho.org.uk/opt/Reports/HWP-2015-technical-report-17072015.pdf>. Section 3. Accessed March 2023.

⁶ <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/documents/APHO%20Tech%20Briefing%203%20Common%20PH%20Stats%20and%20CIs.pdf> accessed March 23

Child Dental Health in Primary 7

Definition: Percentage of Primary 7 children receiving a letter 'C' (no obvious decay experience but should continue to see the family dentist on a regular basis) at basic inspection.



Source: National Dental Inspection Programme Basic Inspection, Public Health Scotland

Child dental health in Primary 7 in Upper Nithsdale from 2019/2021 school year, whilst a single data point, fell to 53%, compared to 76% for Dumfries and Galloway and 89% for Mid Nithsdale.

Compared to Dumfries and Galloway, this is significantly lower in Upper Nithsdale and significantly higher in Mid Nithsdale.

10,000 Voices Consultation

In 2018, as part of Dumfries and Galloway’s Year of the Young People plan, a consultation was carried out, called ‘10,000 voices’. This collection of views across the region, where participants were aged between 10 and 25 years old and were living, working, and/or studying in Dumfries and Galloway.

10,642 young people participated in the 2018 consultation, gathering the views, at that time, of 46.9% of the population within this age group. The 2023 research involved 10,828 young people aged between 10 and 25 years old, which is 51.7% of the young people living, working and studying in Dumfries and Galloway. ⁷

The results were summarised by Multi Member Ward, of which this profile covers Mid and Upper Nithsdale. Whilst there is a high degree of overlap with this report, it is not an exact match of geography. 462 participants across this Ward regions provided context and feedback, which will cover views of young people, including within Mid Nithsdale, Thornhill and Upper Nithsdale.

Region	1	2	3	4	5
Mid and Upper Nithsdale	Smoking / Vaping (46%)	Diet / Body Image (32%)	Bullying (26%)	Mental Health (26%)	Alcohol use, Misuse or Addiction (21%)
Dumfries and Galloway	Smoking / Vaping	Diet / Body Image	Mental Health	Bullying	Money / Budgeting

⁷ <https://dumfriesgalloway.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s51046/10000%20Voices%20Consultation%202023%20Appendix%20FINAL.pdf> accessed July 2023

The issues individuals reported on have similarities with those results collated at the totality of Dumfries and Galloway.

Respondents raised the following issues as requesting more information and support:

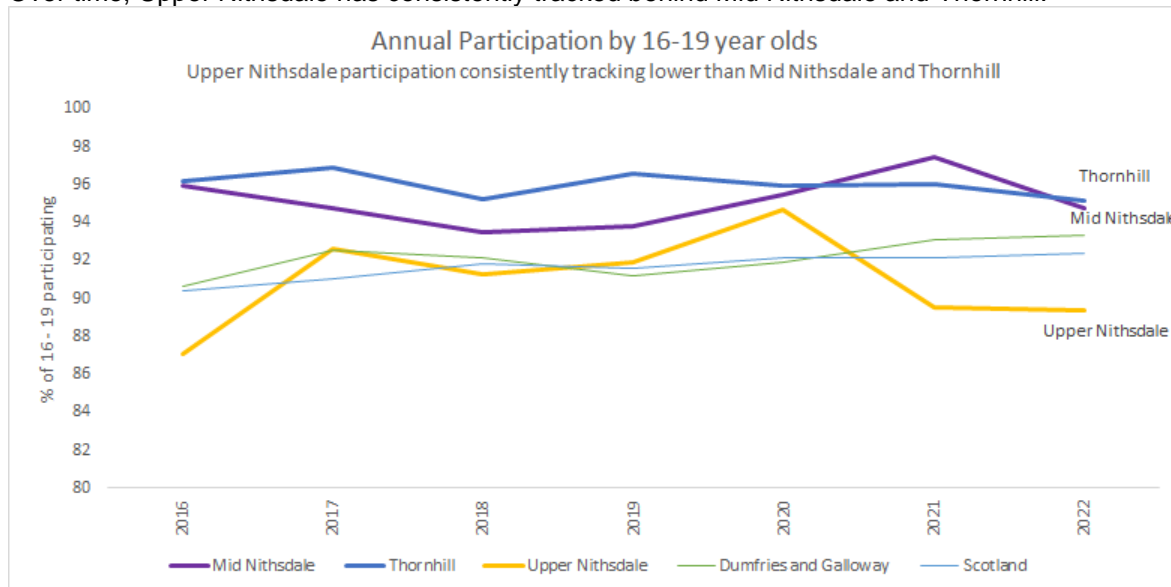
Region	1	2	3	4	5
Mid and Upper Nithsdale	Diet / Body Image (27%)	Smoking / Vaping (23%)	Bullying (23%)	Money / Budgeting (22%)	Disability (20%)
Dumfries and Galloway	Mental Health	Smoking / Vaping	Diet / Body Image	Money / Budgeting	Bullying

Annual Participation (16 – 19 year olds)

Participation levels are measured through Skills Development Scotland, in relation to Scottish Government’s Opportunities for All commitment. This commitment offers a place in learning or training to every 16-19 year old who is not in employment, education, or training. The annual participation calculation is the percentage of young adults (16-19 year olds) participating in education, training, or employment.

Upper Nithsdale has tracked behind Mid Nithsdale and Thornhill. Until 2021, the rate of participation for Upper Nithsdale had been relatively consistent with Scotland and Dumfries and Galloway.

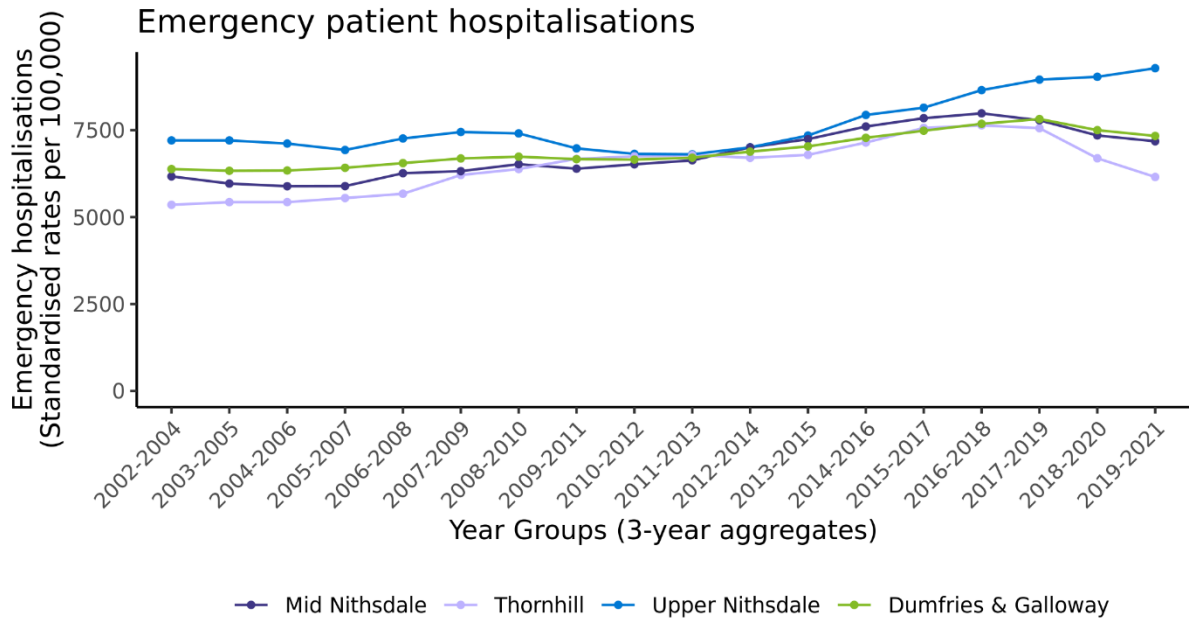
Over time, Upper Nithsdale has consistently tracked behind Mid Nithsdale and Thornhill.



Source: Skills Development Scotland

III Health, Behaviours and Injury

Emergency Hospitalisations

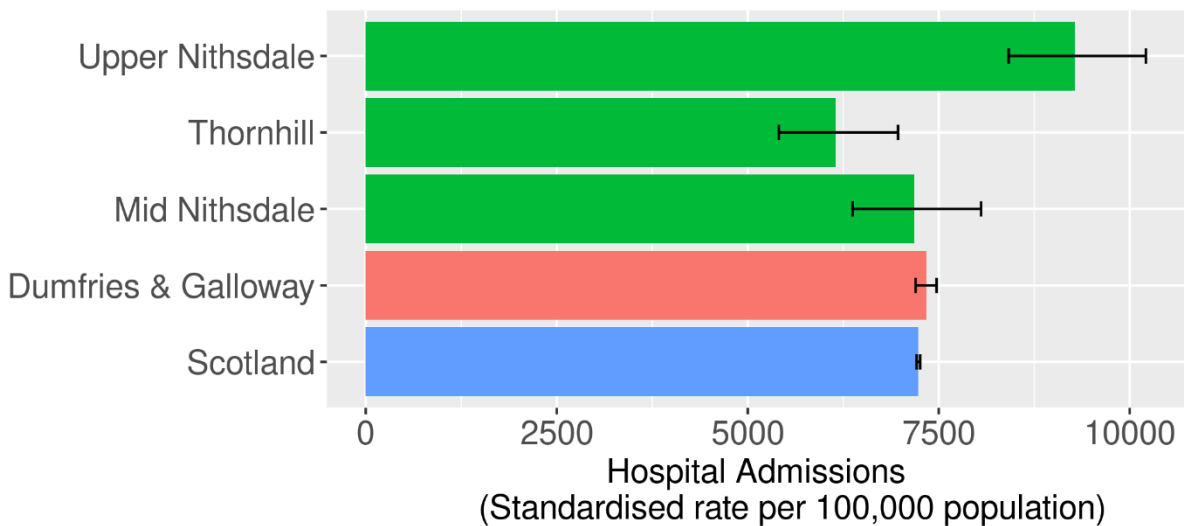


Source: Public Health Scotland (SMR01)

Whilst the rate of Emergency Hospitalisations is relatively consistent, clear trend for increase in Upper Nithsdale, compared to Dumfries and Galloway, Mid Nithsdale, and Thornhill.

At the latest data point, the rate of admissions for Upper Nithsdale was 9,282 per 100,000, Thornhill at 6,153 per 100,000. Numerator for Upper Nithsdale over a three-year aggregate was 448 emergency hospitalisations, compared to Thornhill of 288.

Emergency patient hospitalisations, 2019 to 2021

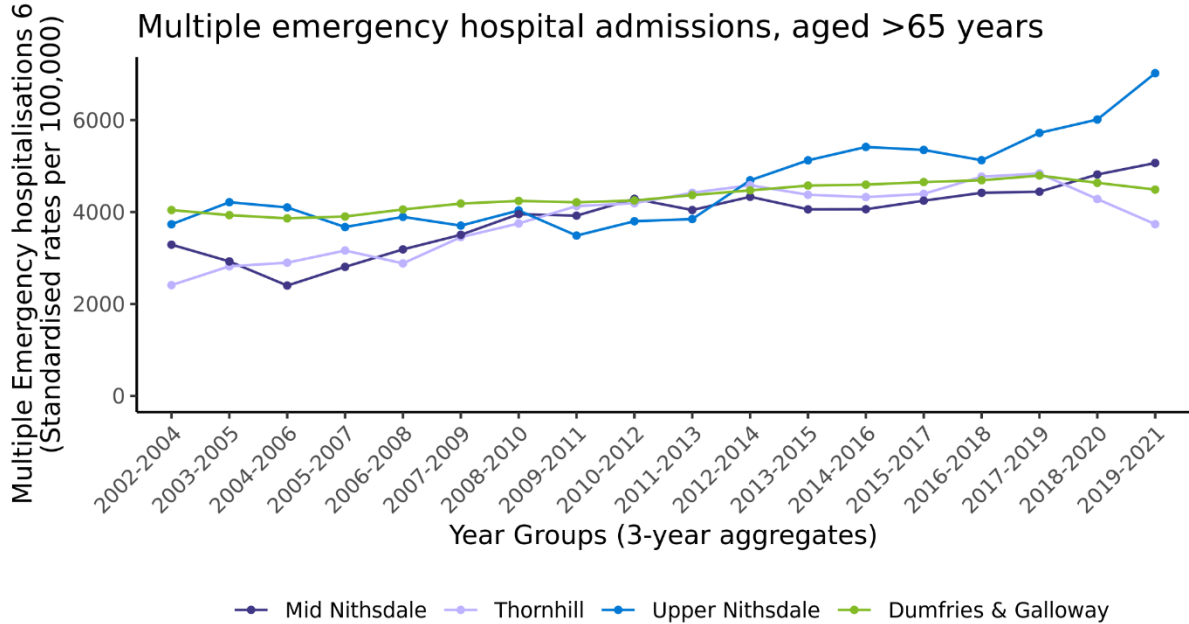


Public Health Scotland (SMR01)

The confidence intervals for Upper Nithsdale are outside of the range for comparator regions. Therefore, can state Upper Nithsdale has a statistically significant rate of emergency hospitalisations compared to Thornhill and Mid Nithsdale.

Multiple Emergency Hospitalisations aged >65

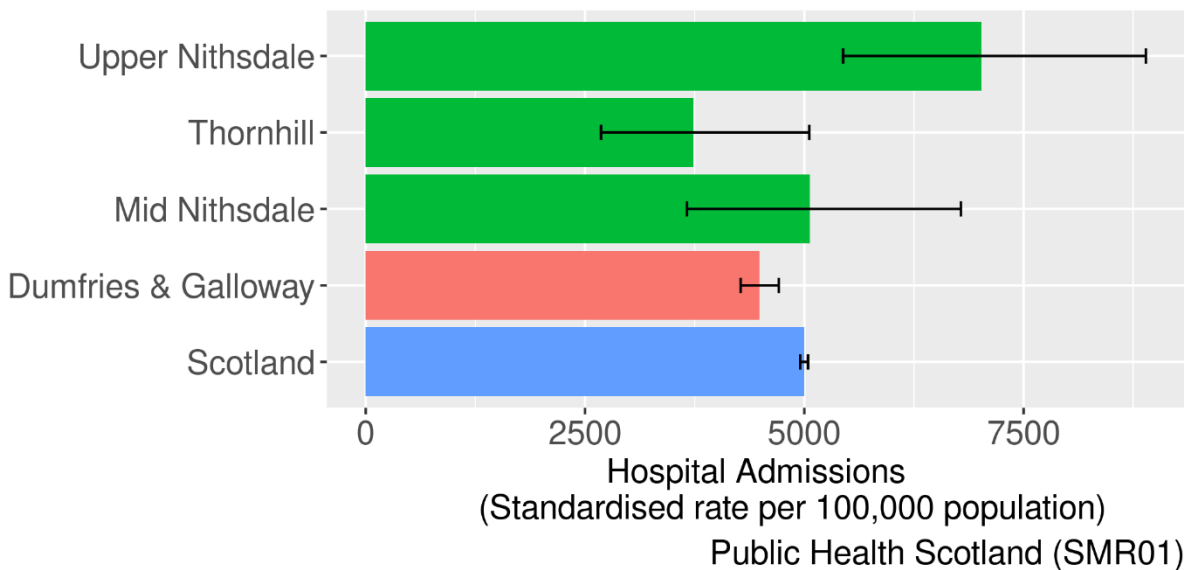
Definition for Multiple Emergency Admissions: Patients aged 65+ years with 2 or more emergency hospital admissions, discharged from hospital: 3 year rolling average number and directly age-sex standardised rate per 100,000 population.



Source: Public Health Scotland (SMR01)

Rate of admissions within Upper Nithsdale, and the gap to comparator regions has increased in recent years, with latest 3 year aggregate rate of 7,019 per 100,00. This equates to 73 admissions over the 3 year aggregate, over double the number of admissions seen in 2000's and early 2010s, where 3 year range admissions ranged between 33-35. Upper Nithsdale rate is almost twice that of Thornhill (3,736 per 100,000)

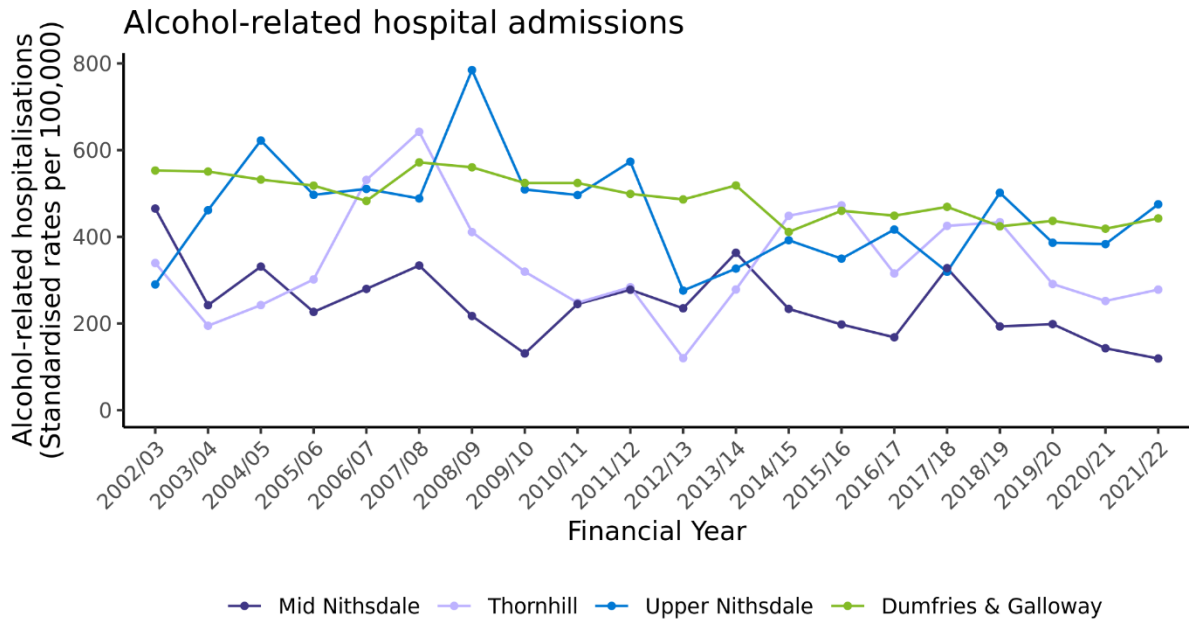
Multiple emergency hospital admissions aged >65 years (2019 to 2021 aggregates)



Public Health Scotland (SMR01)

The rate of admissions for Upper Nithsdale is statistically significant against Thornhill, but not against Mid Nithsdale.

Alcohol Related hospital admissions

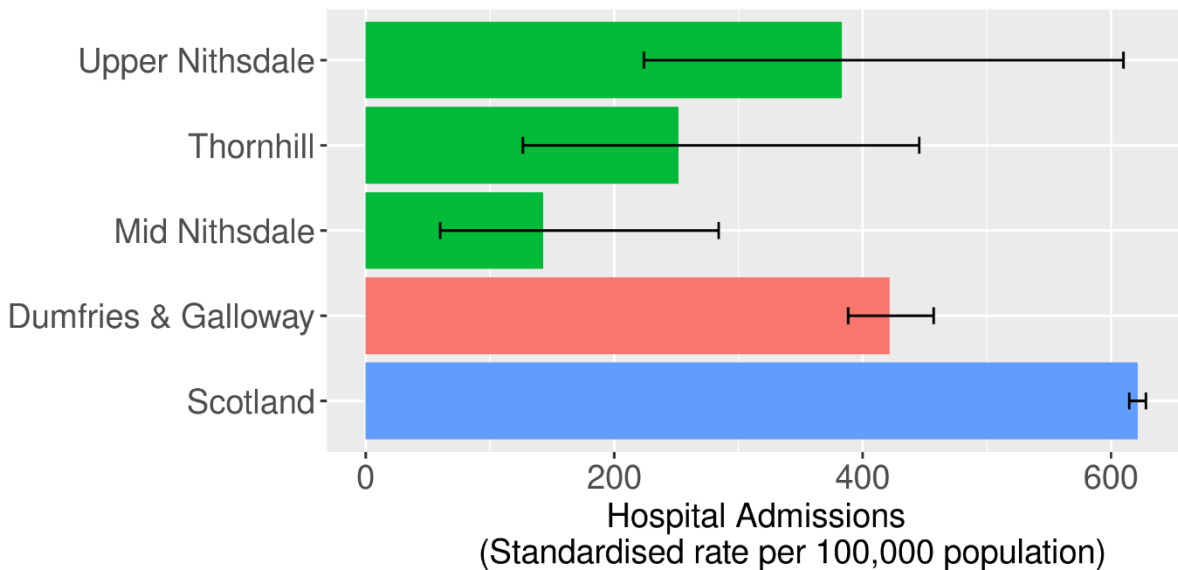


Source: Public Health Scotland (SMR01)

In comparison to Scotland and Dumfries and Galloway, the rate of Alcohol Related Hospital Admissions is relatively low. There is a range between Mid Nithsdale and Upper Nithsdale that can be seen over time. The most recent rate for Upper Nithsdale is 383 per 100,00 in 2020/21 (n=18), compared to Mid Nithsdale of 142 per 100,000 (n=9)

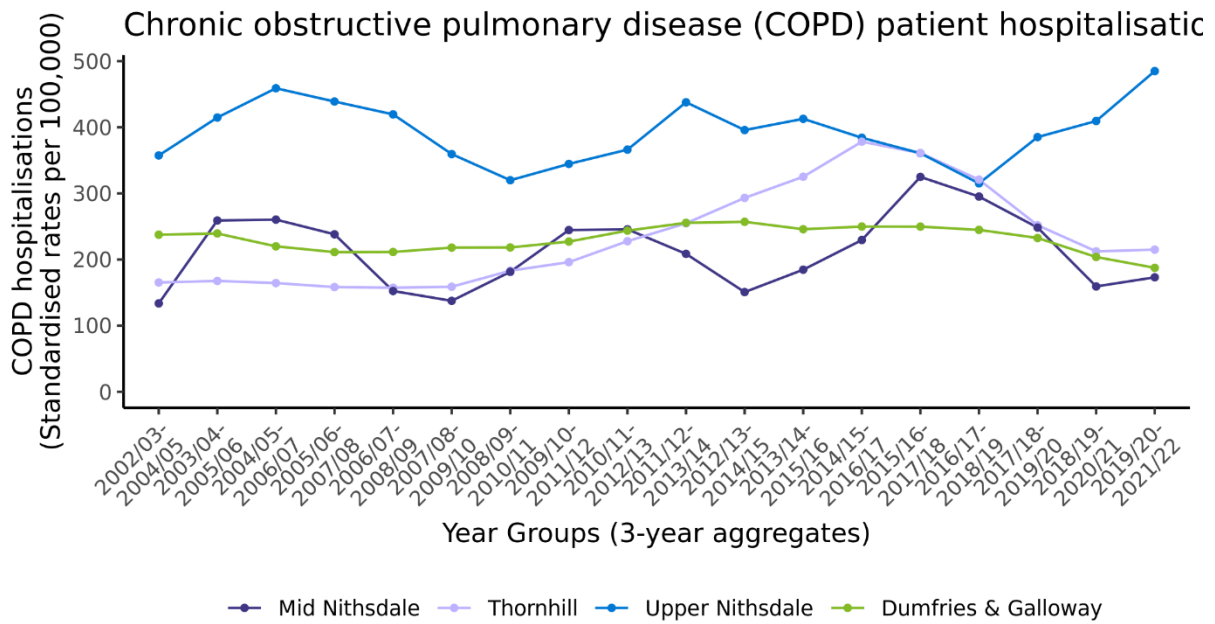
Numerator within Upper Nithsdale is consistent, averaging 19 per year for past 10 years.

**Alcohol-related hospital admissions
2020/21 FY**



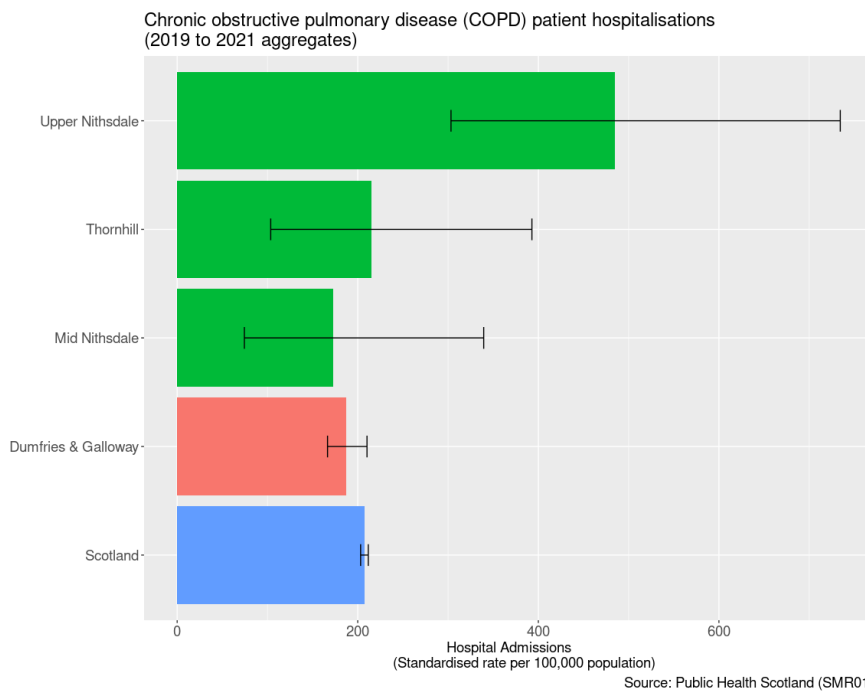
Within the three intermediate zones, the confidence interval ranges overlap.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) admissions



Source: Public Health Scotland (SMR01)

The difference in rate of hospitalisations due to COPD in Upper Nithsdale to rest of comparator regions has increased in recent years, despite tracking in line with Thornhill in mid 2010's. The admissions rate of 485 per 100,000 over the 3 year aggregate equates to 22 residents, for 2019/20 to 2021/22.



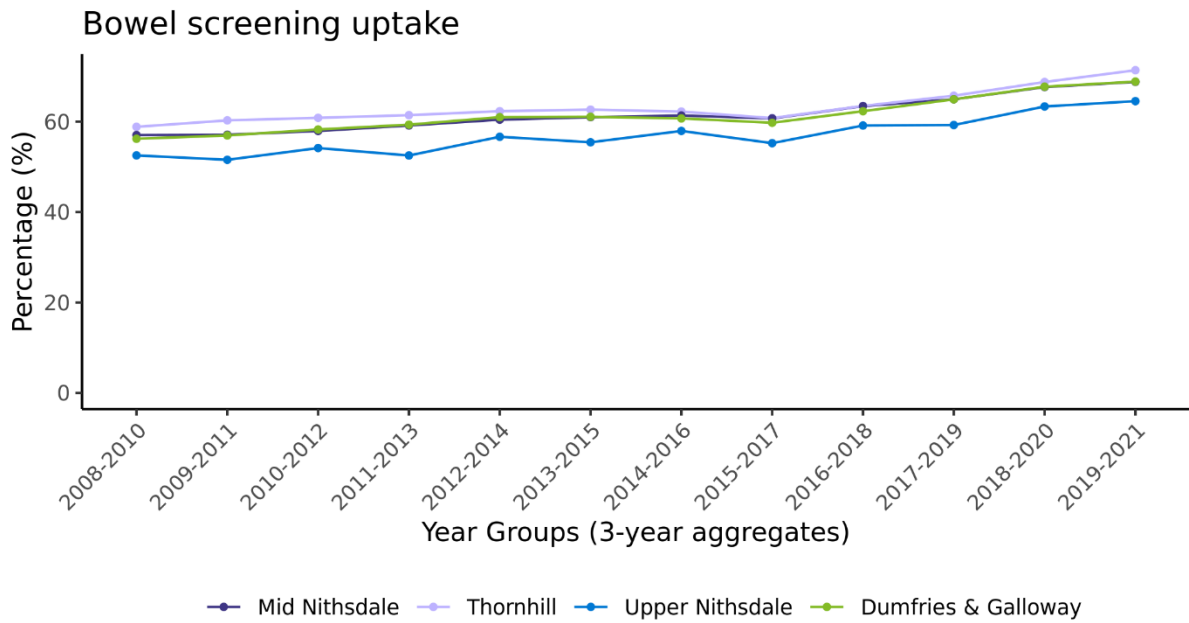
Source: Public Health Scotland (SMR01)

Over 2019 to 2019, Upper Nithsdale has a rate of COPD hospitalisations of 484 per 100,000. An lower confidence interval of 303, and upper confidence of 734. It can be interpreted a statistically difference compared to Dumfries and Galloway and Scotland.

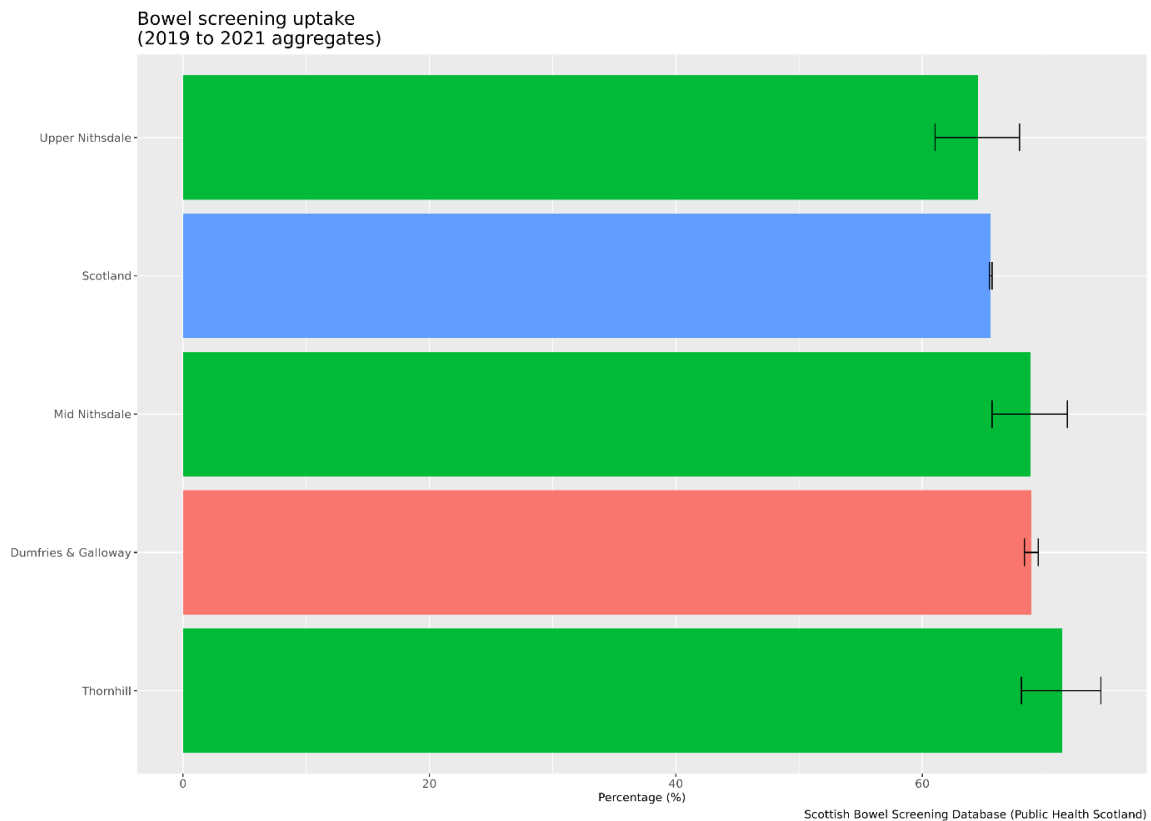
Bowel Screening Uptake

The Scottish Bowel Screening Programme invites those aged 50 to 74 to be screened every two years. Participants are sent a test kit to their home and return a sample from a bowel motion to the

Bowel Screening Laboratory. Those with a positive test result are referred to their health board of residence for follow-up, with the majority receiving a colonoscopy. The programme was paused in March 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and resumed in October 2020. As a result, the screening population for 2020 will be smaller than previous years.



Upper Nithsdale has consistently tracked behind comparator regions. In the 2019-2021 period, uptake was 65%, compared to 71% in Thornhill and 69% in both Mid Nithsdale and Dumfries and Galloway.

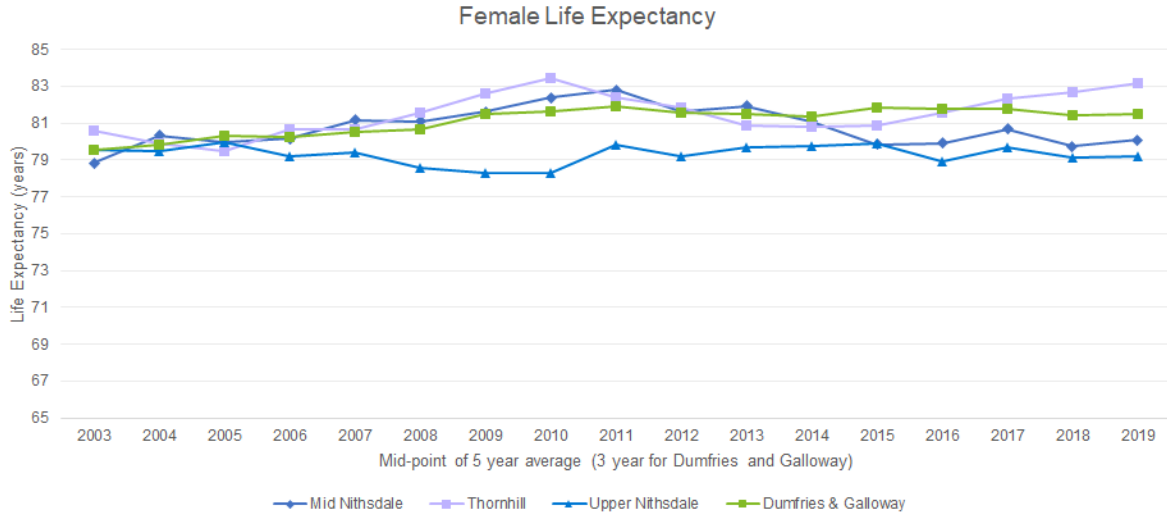


Upper Nithsdale is statistically significantly lower than Dumfries and Galloway.

Life Expectancy and Mortality

Female Life Expectancy

Definition: Estimated female life expectancy at birth in years, multi-year average (over 3 years for NHS Boards and Local Authorities, 5 years for Intermediate zone)

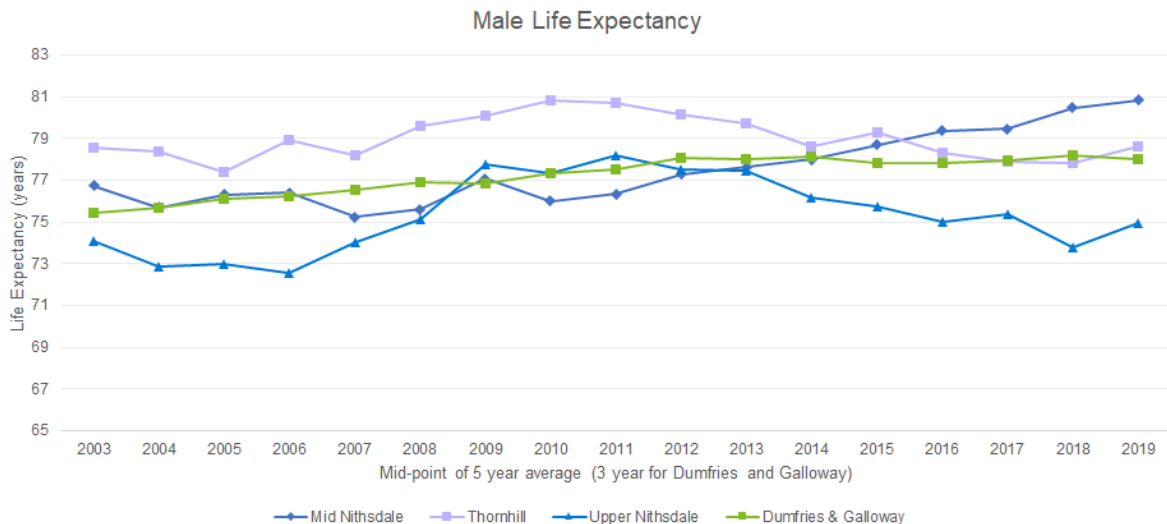


Female life expectancy in Thornhill has tracked ahead of Mid Nithsdale and Upper Nithsdale over a number of years. Female life expectancy in Mid Nithsdale tracked in line with Dumfries and Galloway, until 2012 to 2016 (2014 on graph) and has been tracking behind.

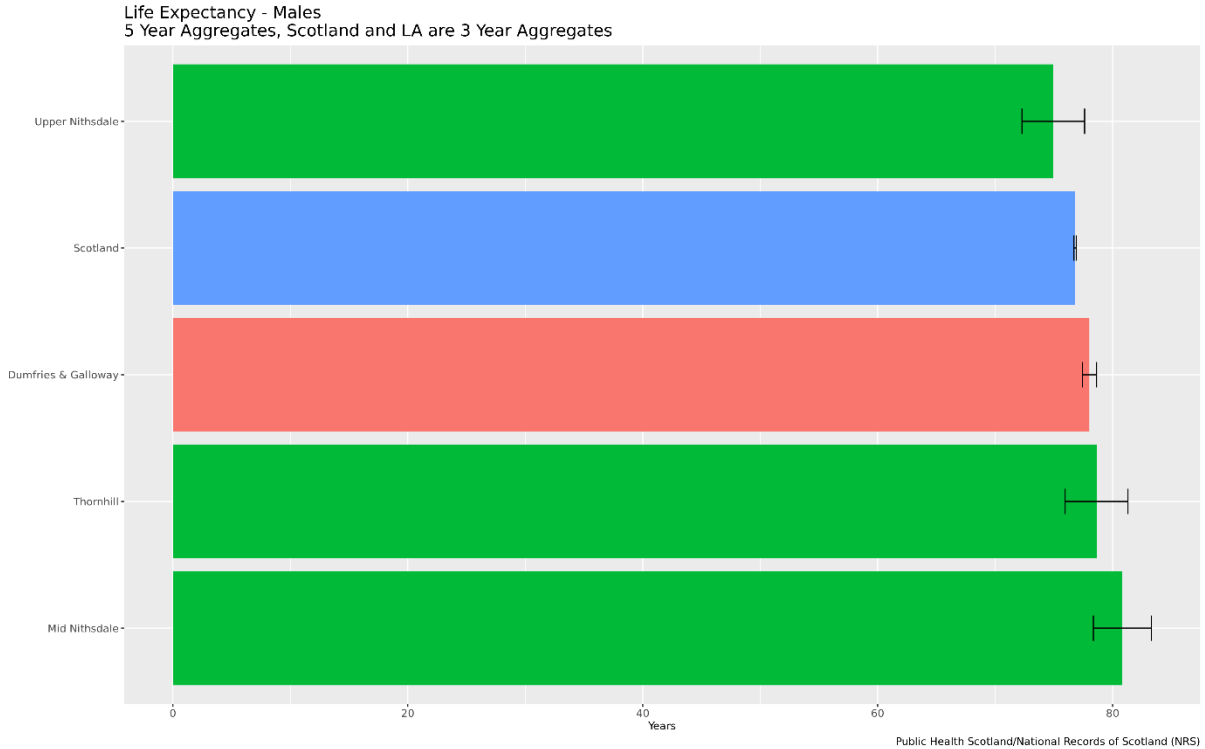
Latest female life expectancy (2017-2021) for Upper Nithsdale is 79.2 years, 80.1 years for Mid Nithsdale and 83.2 for Thornhill. Dumfries and Galloway female life expectancy is 81.2 years.

Male Life Expectancy

Definition: Estimated male life expectancy at birth in years, multi-year average (over 3 years for NHS Boards and Local Authorities, 5 years for Intermediate zone)



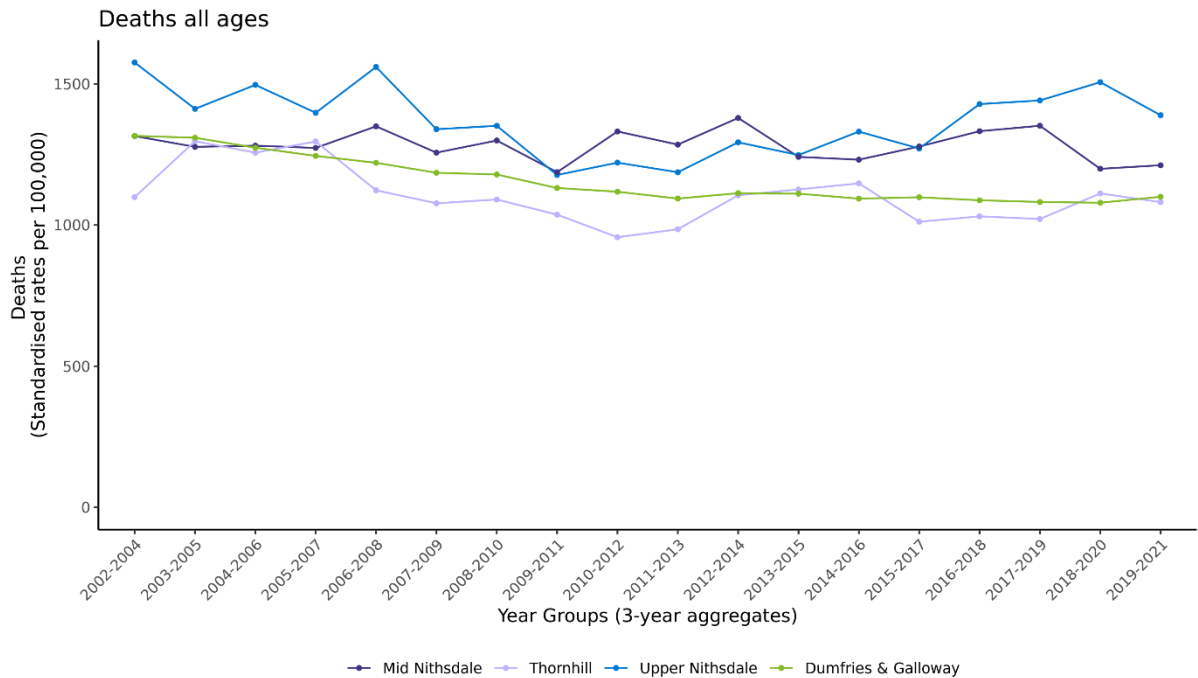
Male life expectancy in Upper Nithsdale has tracked behind comparator regions since 2013 data point (2011 to 2015 aggregation). Mid Nithsdale male life expectancy has steadily increased compared to Dumfries and Galloway. Thornhill male life expectancy, after a period of time positive to Dumfries and Galloway is now tracking in line with this life expectancy.



At the most recent data point (2017 to 2021), male life expectancy in Mid Nithsdale (80.8years) is statistically significantly positive to comparator data point for Dumfries and Galloway (77.4 years). Thornhill male life expectancy is 78.6 years, with Upper Nithsdale male life expectancy 75.0 years.

Death rates – all ages

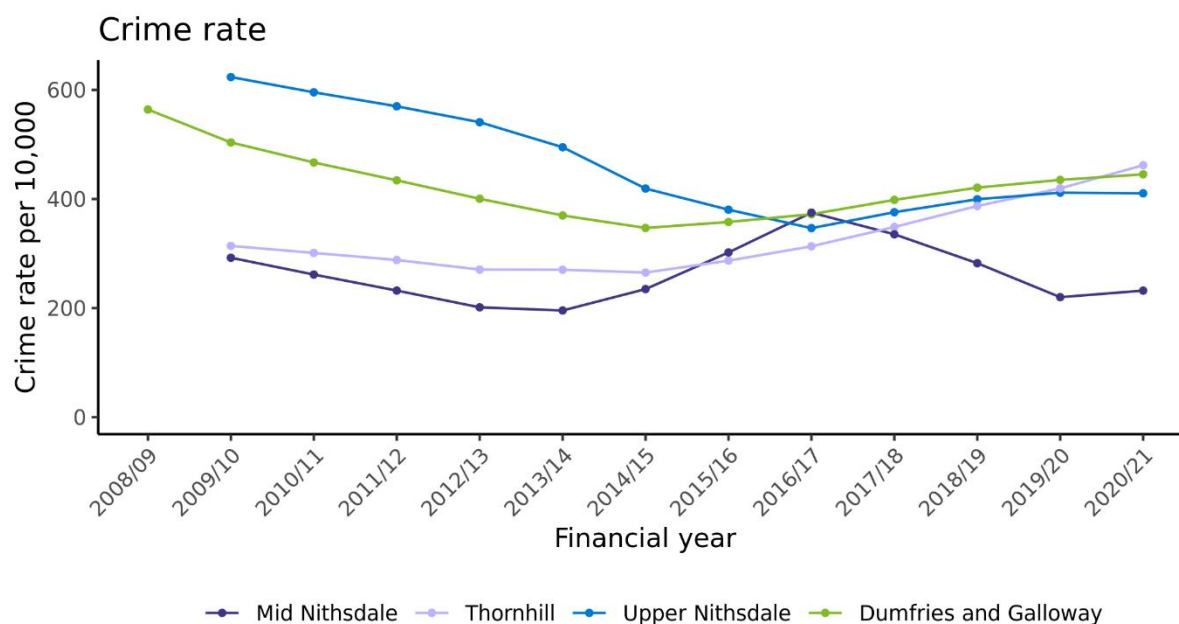
Definition: Deaths from all causes (all ages), 3 year rolling average directly age sex standardised rate per 100,000 population. Scottish residents only assigned to a year based on death registration date



The rates of deaths across each area are generally consistent and comparable to each area. The rate for Upper Nithsdale has been higher in recent time periods, with latest rate of 1,389 deaths per 100,000. This equates to 67 persons, which is a similar value to Thornhill and Mid Nithsdale.

Environment and Access

Crime Rate



Crime Rate within Mid Nithsdale has been tracking lower than comparator regions in recent years, with rate of 232 per 10,000 in 2020/21 compared to 445 per 100,000 for Dumfries and Galloway. The rate within Thornhill has trended upwards over the past 6 years.

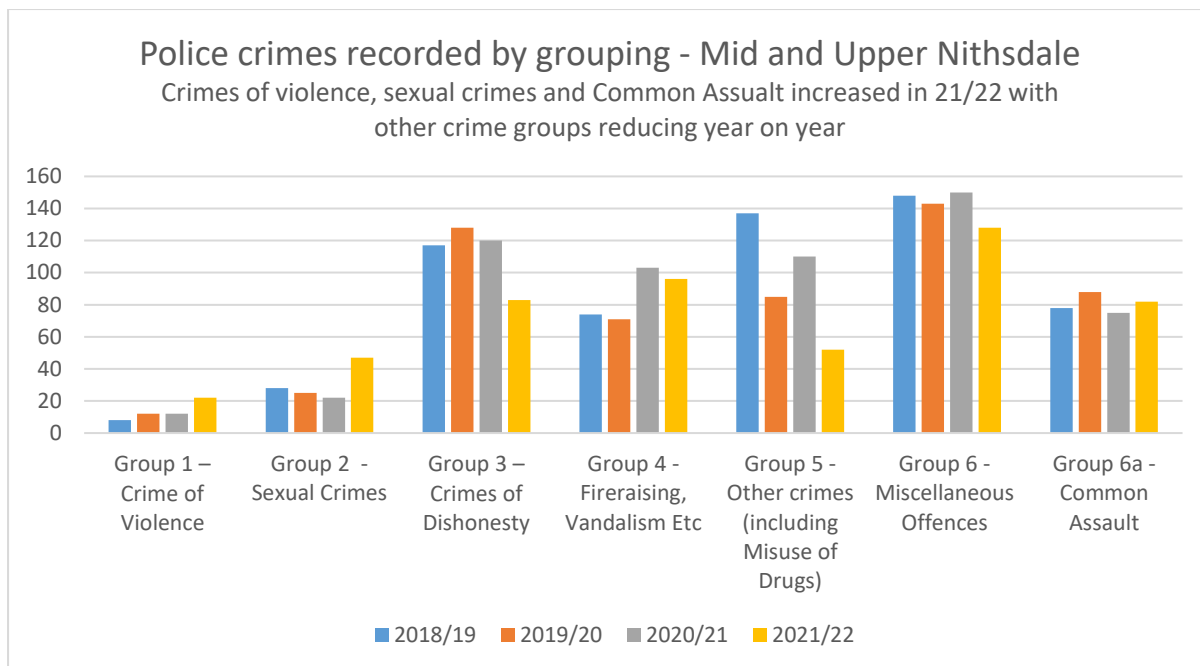
Police

Boundaries used within Police Scotland mean that it is not possible to provide breakdown by areas consistent with other areas of this report. For the purpose of this profile, the Multi Member Ward area of Mid and Upper Nithsdale is used.

Mid and Upper Nithsdale	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Group 1 – Crime of Violence	8	12	12	22
Group 2 - Sexual Crimes	28	25	22	47
Group 3 – Crimes of Dishonesty	117	128	120	83
Group 4 - Fireraising, Vandalism Etc	74	71	103	96
Group 5 - Other crimes (including Misuse of Drugs)	137	85	110	52
Group 6 - Miscellaneous Offences	148	143	150	128
Group 6a - Common Assault	78	88	75	82

Source: Police Scotland
Note 2022/23 data embargo until 9th June.

Trending this over time, can see that across a range of groups, there is variability over the years, with general reduction in total crimes recorded over the past year. Increases are seen year on year in crimes of violence, sexual crimes, and common assault.



Proportionally compared to Dumfries and Galloway, Mid and Upper Nithsdale has a higher proportion of Group 4 (fireraising, vandalism etc). Mid and Upper Nithsdale has a lower proportion of Group 3 (Crimes of Dishonesty) and Group 5 (other crimes including misuse of drugs)

Proportion of crimes recorded (2021/22)	Dumfries and Galloway	Mid and Upper Nithsdale	Variance
Group 1 – Crime of Violence	2%	4%	2%
Group 2 - Sexual Crimes	5%	9%	4%
Group 3 – Crimes of Dishonesty	20%	16%	-4%
Group 4 - Fireraising, Vandalism Etc	12%	19%	6%
Group 5 - Other crimes (including Misuse of Drugs)	20%	10%	-10%
Group 6 - Miscellaneous Offences	26%	25%	-1%
Group 6a - Common Assault	14%	16%	2%

Source: Police Scotland

Fire

Similar to Police Scotland, the boundaries used within Scottish Fire and Rescue it is not possible to provide breakdown by areas consistent with other areas of this report. For the purpose of this profile, the Multi Member Ward area of Mid and Upper Nithsdale is used.

The annual report⁸ (1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022) details the activity totals. Summary table below indicates the number of incidents, with the rate per 10,000 population in square brackets.

Across the range of indicators, volumes of incidents recorded in Mid and Upper Nithsdale are low.

⁸ <https://dumfriesgalloway.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s44819/SFRS%20Performance%20-%20Appendix%20A.pdf> accessed May 2023

Number of Incidents (April 2021 to March 2022)	Mid and Upper Nithsdale
Accidental dwelling fires	5
Accidental dwelling fire casualties	0
Road traffic collisions casualties	8
Deliberate fire setting	3
Non-domestic fire safety	3
Unwanted fire alarm signals	25
Unintentional injury or harm	4

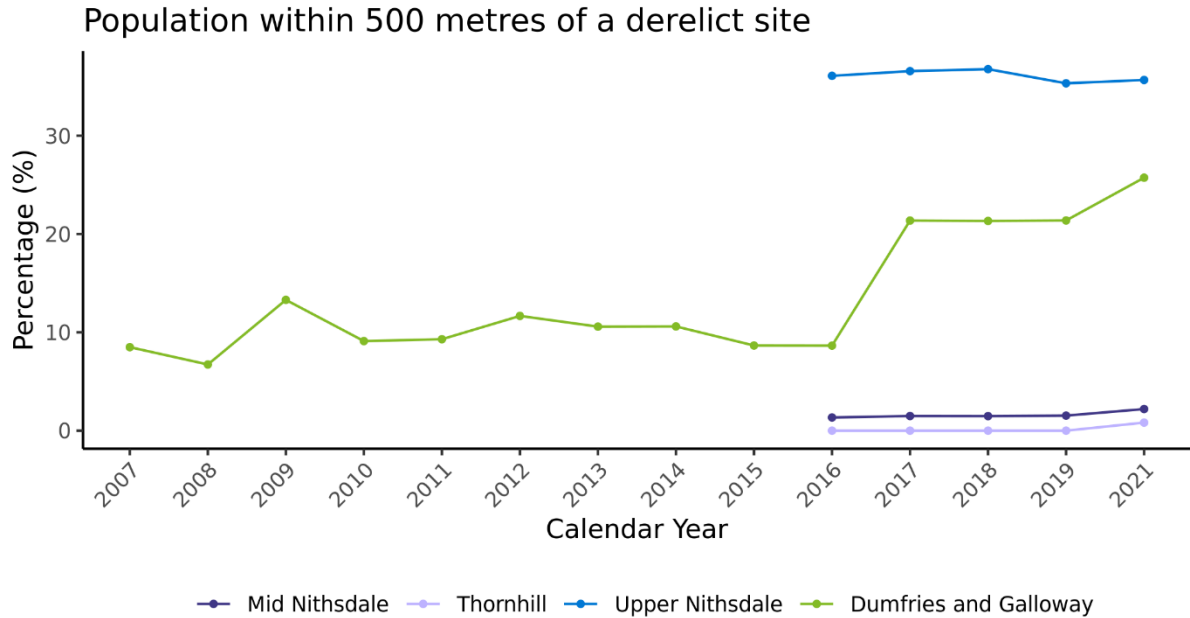
To allow comparison across Dumfries and Galloway rates per 10,000 can be applied. Aside from unintentional injury or harm (n=4), rate of incidents in Mid and Upper Nithsdale are lower than Dumfries and Galloway.

Rate of Incidents (per 10,000) (April 2021 to March 2022)	Mid and Upper Nithsdale	Dumfries and Galloway	Highest Ward (per 10,000 population)
Accidental dwelling fires	4.8	5.7	9.0 Nith
Accidental dwelling fire casualties	0	0.2	1.3 Annandale South
Road traffic collisions casualties	3.9	6.5	24.5 Annandale East and Eskdale
Deliberate fire setting	2.9	13.1	52.1 North West Dumfries
Non-domestic fire safety	2.9	3.4	7.1 Annandale East and Eskdale
Unwanted fire alarm signals	24.2	33.1	112.8 Nith
Unintentional injury or harm	3.9	2.3	4.0 Stranraer and the Rhins

Consideration needs to be made in relation to road traffic collisions as road use in Dumfries and Galloway is not always reflective of population density areas. Many of the trunk routes pass through the region and where road traffic collisions occur, these often involve transient road users from out with the region.

Population living within 500m of a derelict site

Using data from the Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Survey (SDVLS) ⁹, it is estimated that 46% of residents of Upper Nithsdale reside within 500m of a derelict site. This equates to approximately 1,600 residents. This compares to 2% in Mid Nithsdale, 1% in Thornhill, 25% in Dumfries and Galloway and 27% in Scotland.

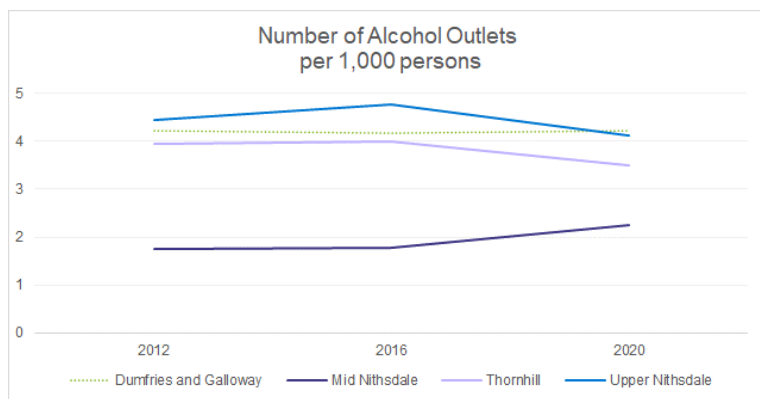


Source: Scottish Government (SDVLS)

Tobacco and Alcohol Outlet density

Utilising information from CRESH (Centre for Research on Environment, Society and Health) ¹⁰, recent data illustrates the density of tobacco or alcohol outlets, represented per 1,000 residents

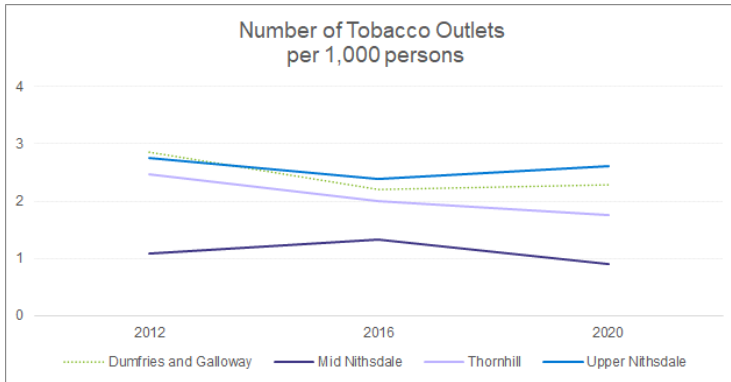
Whilst currently three data points, the data points towards variance in the availability of alcohol within region. Mid Nithsdale having a lower density of outlets compared to rest of region.



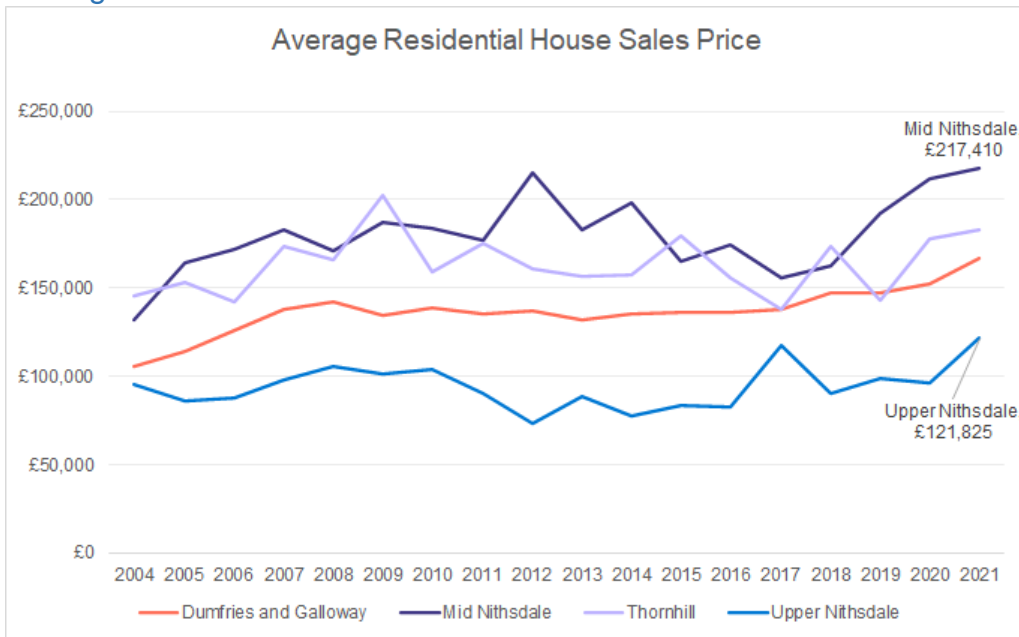
Whilst the variance isn't a marked as Alcohol Outlets, Mid Nithsdale have a lower density of tobacco outlets per 1,000 persons, with 2.6 tobacco outlets per 1,000 persons in Upper Nithsdale.

⁹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-vacant-and-derelict-land-survey---site-register/>

¹⁰ <https://cresh.org.uk/webmap/> accessed July 2023



Average House Sales Price



Source: Scottish Government

Based on residential sales data, on property sales between £20,000 and £1,000,000, on the date of registration. This can give indicative affordability of properties within these communities. Average sales value within Upper Nithsdale has consistently tracked lower than comparator regions.

Twenty-minute neighbourhood

The 20 minute neighbourhood¹¹ concept aims to provide access to the majority of daily needs within a 20 minute walk, wheel or cycle.

Research shows that 20 minutes (roughly 10 minutes out and the same to return home) is generally the threshold time-period that people are willing to walk to access key destinations. The distance covered in a 20 minute round trip, by walking, will vary according to multiple conditions and factors. The quality of surrounding environment, the different circumstances, age and ability of individuals and their communities, the location, and the topography, are contributory factors in the distance people are willing or able to travel actively to access service.

¹¹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/local-living-20-minute-neighbourhoods-planning-guidance/pages/4/> Accessed July 2023

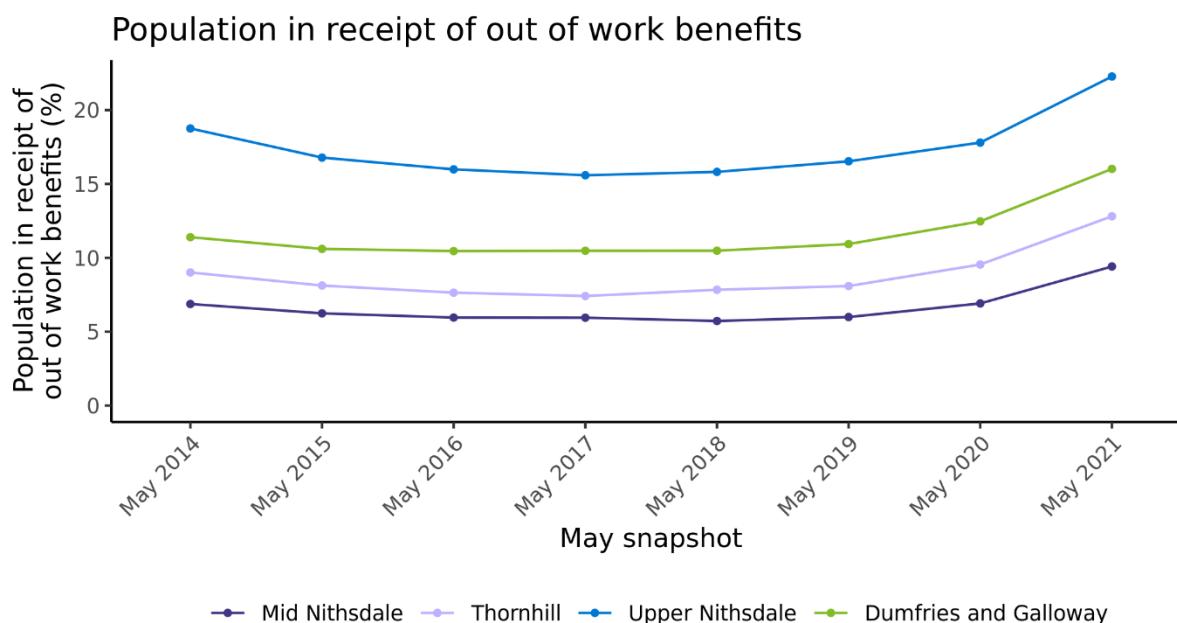
Access to this is available through the Scottish Living Locally Data Portal ¹², and summarised as the percentage of residential locations that have access to each domain within 800m (average 10 minute walk)

Domain	Mid Nithsdale	Thornhill	Upper Nithsdale	Dumfries and Galloway
Healthy Food Outlets	1	28	22	27
Public Transport (Bus, light rail, tram, metro and underground stations)	57	68	80	76
High frequency public transport (>= five stops an hour)	25	31	35	38
General Practitioner (GP) surgery or National Health Service (NHS) walk-in-centre.	4	27	35	29
Recreational resources	22	39	53	58
Primary school (Age 4–11 years).	18	33	39	43
Cash machines, Banks and building societies or Post offices.	17	44	63	51
Pharmacy	0	28	40	32
Accessible public open spaces	27	50	73	63
Social and cultural space	22	54	77	56
Restaurants and cafes.	0	36	10	38
Households with superfast broadband	63	58	78	76

¹² <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/b6d90343136149299a8f66d8f546c81a> Accessed July 2023

Economy

Population in receipt of out of work benefits



As at May 2021, 22% of population in Upper Nithsdale are in receipt of out of work benefits, with degree of consistency in the gap between regions for proportion of population claiming this benefit over time. In May 2021, 9.4% of Mid Nithsdale population were in receipt, compared to 16% of Dumfries and Galloway and 15.8% for Scotland.

Employment by industry

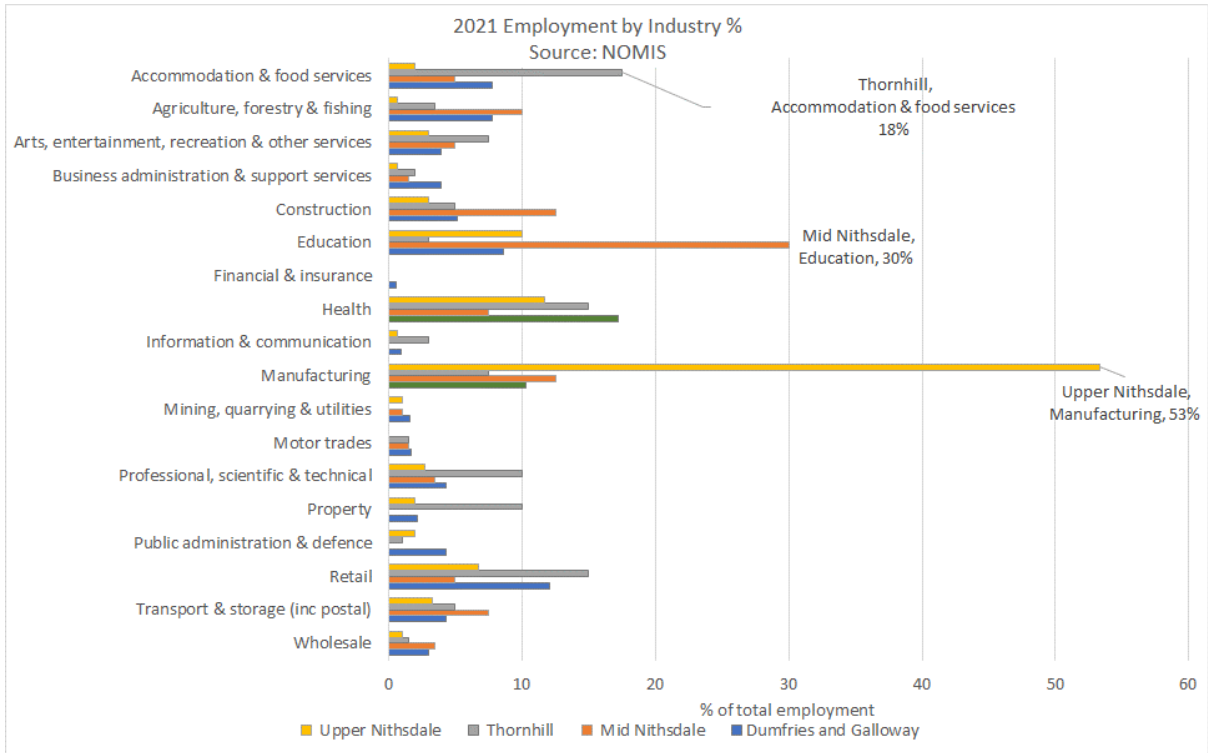
Utilising the Office of National Statistics Business Register and Employment Survey, this records the location of an employee workplace. Whilst employee movement will occur within these areas and outwith Nithsdale Community, gives an indication of types of skills within an area.

Within Upper Nithsdale, significant employment provided within the manufacturing sector.

	Estimated Employees	FTE %	1	2	3
Mid Nithsdale	1,060	68%	Education (30%)	Construction (13%)	Manufacturing (13%)
Thornhill	1,080	60%	Accommodation & food services (18%)	Health (15%)	Retail (15%)
Upper Nithsdale	1,555	70%	Manufacturing (53%)	Health (12%)	Education (10%)
Dumfries and Galloway	57,750	63%	Health (17%)	Retail (12%)	Manufacturing (10%)

Source: NOMIS Business Register and Employment Survey 2021 (NEWBRES6PUB)

To ensure confidentiality of business data, while maximising the detail of estimates available to users, the Business Register and Employment Survey applies rounding rules to estimates.



As of 2021, 70% of roles within Upper Nithsdale are full time. This full-time employment proportion is 68% in Mid Nithsdale and 60% in Thornhill. The full-time proportion in Dumfries and Galloway is 63%.

Limitations and Reflections

A wealth of indicators are available from sources such as ScotPHO and National Records of Scotland. Certain indicators, such as suicides, mental health and hospitalisations related to drugs are not available at Intermediate Zone level. These are only available at a higher granularity, typically Council Area or Health Board.

With the use of relatively small geographical regions, it is challenging to identify measures that are statistically significant.

Sources and Indicators

ScotPHO – Male and Female Life Expectancy, Deaths (Aged 15-44, All ages, Early deaths from cancer, Early deaths from coronary heart disease), Bowel screening uptake, Hospitalisations (Asthma, CHD, COPD, Emergency), Multiple emergency admissions aged >65, Alcohol-related hospital admissions, Road traffic accident casualties, Population prescribed medication for anxiety, depression and psychosis, Healthy birth weight, Child dental health in P1 and P7, Child healthy weight in P1, Babies exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks, Children in low income families, Immunisation uptake at 24 months – 6 in 1 and MMR, Developmental concerns at 27-30 months, Live births, Maternal obesity, Premature births, Update of HPV vaccine in S3 girls, People in 15% most 'access deprived' areas, Population within 500 metres of a derelict site, Healthy Birth Weight

National Records of Scotland (NRS) – Population (Total, Gender ratio, Working age, Over 65, Living in most deprived SIMD quintile) and Households (Total, Occupied, Single Occupant tax discount, Exempt from council tax, Council tax bands A-C and F-H)

Improvement Service – Children living in poverty, Population in receipt of out-of-work benefits, Crime Rate.

Scottish Government – Educational attainment of school leavers, Child benefit, First time mothers aged under 19, Average travel time to a GP and primary school, Children in households receiving child benefits, Highest qualification score

DWP Stat-Xplore – Universal Credit, Personal Independence Payment, Attendance Allowance, Pension Credit, Carers Allowance

NOMIS – Employment by Industry, Proportion of employment by Full Time

Skills Development Scotland – Annual Participation

Police Scotland – Crimes Recorded

Scottish Fire and Rescue – Fire Incidents

Centre for Research on Environment, Society and Health – Alcohol Outlets, Tobacco Outlets

Scottish Living Locally Data Portal – 20 Minute Neighbourhood indicators

Appendix

1. SIMD breakdown by Data zone – Decile

Data Zone	Intermediate Zone	Council area	Total pop	Working Age pop	SIMD2020v2 Decile	Income	Employment	Health	Education	Access	Crime	Housing
S01007552	Upper Nithsdale	Dumfries and Galloway	835	535	9	8	9	8	8	8	8	6
S01007553	Upper Nithsdale	Dumfries and Galloway	782	481	9	9	9	9	8	6	7	7
S01007554	Upper Nithsdale	Dumfries and Galloway	429	245	10	10	10	10	10	4	7	8
S01007555	Upper Nithsdale	Dumfries and Galloway	524	316	4	5	5	4	4	6	7	2
S01007556	Upper Nithsdale	Dumfries and Galloway	508	259	7	7	8	7	8	1	8	6
S01007557	Upper Nithsdale	Dumfries and Galloway	1075	644	7	7	7	7	7	1	7	6
S01007558	Upper Nithsdale	Dumfries and Galloway	453	281	6	4	4	4	5	10	5	4
S01007559	Thornhill	Dumfries and Galloway	667	430	5	3	3	3	3	10	10	6
S01007560	Thornhill	Dumfries and Galloway	931	497	5	6	5	6	5	2	6	3
S01007561	Thornhill	Dumfries and Galloway	727	357	5	6	5	6	5	2	4	2
S01007562	Thornhill	Dumfries and Galloway	814	516	5	6	5	4	2	10	2	4
S01007563	Thornhill	Dumfries and Galloway	865	474	5	6	4	4	2	9	4	3
S01007564	Mid Nithsdale	Dumfries and Galloway	719	434	5	5	3	4	4	10	2	4
S01007565	Mid Nithsdale	Dumfries and Galloway	1017	625	6	5	5	4	5	10	8	5
S01007566	Mid Nithsdale	Dumfries and Galloway	742	426	4	3	2	5	4	10	2	7
S01007567	Mid Nithsdale	Dumfries and Galloway	574	382	4	2	3	3	3	10	2	1
S01007568	Mid Nithsdale	Dumfries and Galloway	630	399	4	3	4	4	2	10	2	2
S01007569	Mid Nithsdale	Dumfries and Galloway	788	464	5	4	4	5	6	10	5	6