

## II COMPARISON OF RURAL AND NON-RURAL AREAS FOR MORBIDITY AND UTILISATION INDICATORS

### Standardised Mortality Rates for People Aged Under 75

A.14 The mortality rate for people aged under 75 living in rural areas is less than the Northern Ireland average and conversely, is greater for those people living in non-rural areas. There are no differences between men and women (Table A.11).

**Table A.11 Standardised mortality rates for people aged under 75: 1997 – 2001**

Area	Males	Females	All persons
Rural wards	89	89	89
Non-rural wards	102	102	102
Northern Ireland average	100	100	100

Note: Rates are standardised to the 2001 Census of Population

Source: General Register Office for Northern Ireland/ Project Support Analysis Branch

### Life Expectancy

A.15 Life expectancy for people living in rural areas is slightly higher than both the Northern Ireland average and that for people living in non-rural areas (Table A.12). The gap in life expectancy between rural wards and non-rural areas is slightly greater for males than females (0.7 and 0.5 years respectively).

**Table A.12 Life expectancy at birth: 1999 – 2001**

Area	Males	Females
Rural wards	75.5	80.3
Non-rural wards	74.8	79.8
Northern Ireland average	74.9	79.9

Note: Rates are standardised to the 2001 Census of Population

Source: General Register Office for Northern Ireland/ Project Support Analysis Branch

## Infant Mortality Rates

A.16 Infant mortality rates in rural areas are greater than the Northern Ireland average (Table A.13).

**Table A.13 Infant mortality rates (per 1,000 live births): 1997 – 2001**

Area	All persons
Rural wards	6.0
Non-rural wards	5.7
Northern Ireland average	5.7

Source: General Register Office for Northern Ireland/Project Support Analysis Branch

## Cancer Incidence Rates

A.17 **All Cancers** - Cancer incidence rates are lower in rural wards than in the rest of Northern Ireland for males and females (Table A.14).

**Table A.14 Standardised cancer incidence rates: 1993 – 1999**

Area	Males	Females	All persons
Rural wards	94	92	93
Non-rural wards	101	101	101
Northern Ireland average	100	100	100

Note: Rates are standardised to the 2001 Census of Population

Source: Northern Ireland Cancer Registry/ Project Support Analysis Branch

A.18 **Lung Cancer** - Lung cancer incidence rates are much lower in rural wards than in the rest of Northern Ireland for males and females (Table A.15).

**Table A.15 Standardised cancer incidence rates: 1993 – 1999**

Area	Males	Females	All persons
Rural wards	69	60	66
Non-rural wards	106	106	106
Northern Ireland average	100	100	100

Note: Rates are standardised to the 2001 Census of Population

Source: Northern Ireland Cancer Registry/ Project Support Analysis Branch

## Teenage Birth Rates

A.19 The teenage birth rate in the most rural areas is half that in other areas in Northern Ireland (Table A.16).

**Table A.16 Teenage birth rates per 1,000 women aged 13-19**

Areas	Teenage Birth Rate
Rural wards	9.1
Non-rural wards	18.5
Northern Ireland average	17.0

Source: General Register Office for Northern Ireland/Census of Population 2001/ Project Support Analysis Branch

## Childhood Immunisation Rates

A.20 Uptake rates in rural wards are better for all immunisations in comparison to non-rural wards and the Northern Ireland average (Table A.17). In particular, the uptake rate for the meningitis C vaccine in rural wards is 6 percentage points higher than in non-rural wards.

**Table A.17 Immunisation uptake rates for children born in 1998 (%)**

Area	Diphtheria, Tetanus & Polio	Whooping cough	Hib	Men C	MMR
Rural wards	98	97	98	89	95
Non-rural wards	97	96	96	83	93
Northern Ireland average	97	96	97	84	93

Source: Child Health System/ Project Support Analysis Branch

## Dental Registration Rates

A.21 There are no real differences in dental registration rates between rural wards, non-rural wards and the Northern Ireland average (Table A.18).

**Table A.18 Standardised dental registration rates at November 2002**

Area	Males	Females	All persons
Rural wards	99	101	100
Non-rural wards	100	100	100
Northern Ireland average	100	100	100

Source: Central Services Agency/ Project Support Analysis Branch

### Admission Rates to Acute Hospitals

A.22 Standardised admission rates for people living in rural wards are lower than in non-rural wards and Northern Ireland as a whole, particularly for emergency admissions (Table A.19). There is very little difference for elective admissions.

**Table A.19 Standardised admission rates: 2001 – 2002**

	Area	Males	Females	All persons
All inpatient admissions	Rural wards	93	96	94
	Non-rural wards	101	101	101
	NI average	100	100	100
Emergency admissions	Rural wards	89	94	91
	Non-rural wards	102	101	102
	NI average	100	100	100
Elective admissions	Rural wards	98	101	99
	Non-rural wards	100	100	100
	NI average	100	100	100

Note: Rates are standardised to the 2001 Census of Population

Source: Hospital Inpatients System/ Project Support Analysis Branch

## Waiting Times for Inpatient Admission

A.23 There is virtually no difference in the proportion of excess waiters between rural wards, non-rural wards and the Northern Ireland average (Table A.20).

**Table A.20** Proportion of inpatient elective admissions where the patient had waited more than 18 months (or 12 months for cardiac surgery): 2001 – 2002

Area	All admissions	Total waiting more than 18 months (12 months for cardiac surgery)	% Excess waiters
Rural wards	38,208	568	1.5
Non-rural wards	224,511	3,095	1.4
Northern Ireland average	262,719	3,663	1.4

Source: Hospital Inpatients System/Project Support Analysis Branch

## Ambulance Response Times

A.24 The average response time to incidents in rural wards is seven minutes greater than to those in non-rural wards (Table A.21).

**Table A.21** Average ambulance response times during September 2002

Area	Average response times (minutes)
Rural wards	15
Non- rural wards	8
Northern Ireland average	9

Source: Northern Ireland Ambulance Service/Project Support Analysis Branch