

Health Profile for Lambeth 2022

Section 8 – Health Protection

Contents

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Findings

4th highest concentration of PM2.5 in air

Compared to London boroughs. PM2.5 is a particulate. Mean concentration is 10.2 g/m³.

HIV testing coverage decreased by 17%

From 2019 to 2020 where it reached 51%.

Low antibiotic prescribing rate in Lambeth

Second lowest out of all London boroughs at 0.43. Significantly lower than England and London rates.

Flu vaccination rate lower than national level

64.6% of over 65-year-olds vaccinated in 2020/21 compared to 80.9% average for England.

Highest detection rates for STIs

Compared to London boroughs for chlamydia, gonorrhoea, and syphilis.

TB incidence rate has fallen over time

3-year average in Lambeth for 2018-20 is 15.1 per 100,000. The rate is starting to plateau, however.

8.1 Introduction

Health protection includes the prevention and control of all types of infectious diseases, as well as chemical and environmental threats to the health of the population. Environmental threats include factors such as air pollution, climate change and flooding.

Over the past century, there has been a considerable reduction in the number of deaths from infectious diseases. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated how threats from new infectious diseases can emerge and will continue to do so due to a range of global factors. It has also demonstrated the unequal impact infectious diseases have upon our population.

It is not possible to cover all health protection issues in this report. This section presents information on:

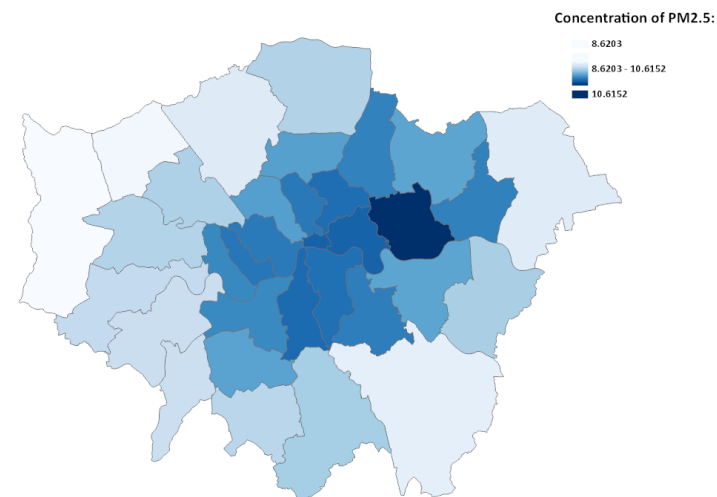
- Air pollution
- Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)
- Tuberculosis
- Vaccines and vaccine preventable infections
- Antimicrobial resistance

8.2 Air pollution

Air pollution references substances in the air that can have harmful effects on human health, welfare, plant, and animal life. In Lambeth, the main air pollutants of concern are nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter. Lambeth has the 4th highest concentrations of fine particulates in London at $10.2 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and the main source of emissions in Lambeth is road traffic.

Map 8.1 shows the areas of London with the highest concentration of human-made fine particulate matter (PM2.5) levels in 2020. There is often a strong correlation with inequalities because areas with poor air quality are also often less affluent. Long term exposure can cause lung cancer, as well as asthma and bronchitis while short term high pollution episodes can trigger exacerbation of lung and heart conditions resulting in poorer quality of life and increased deaths and hospital admissions.

Map 8.1: Concentration of PM2.5 in 2020 by London boroughs



Source: Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. Public Health Profiles: Wider Determinants of Health
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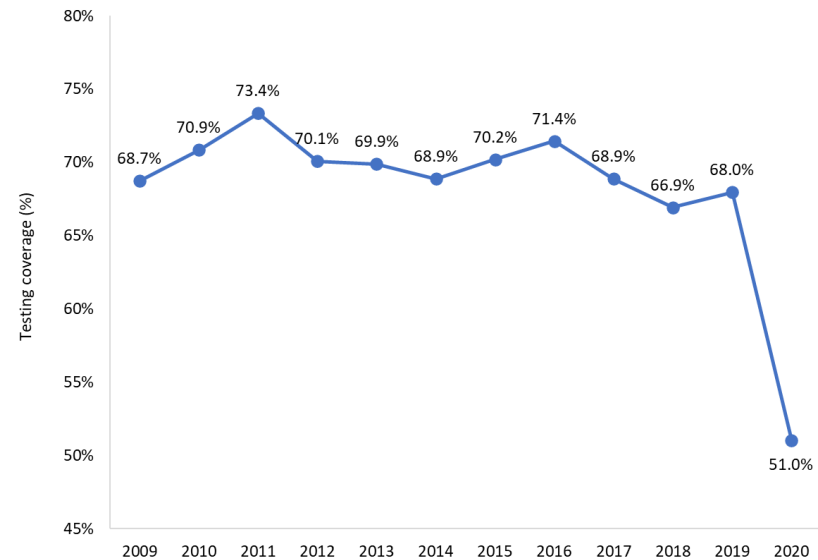
8.3 Sexually transmitted infections

The epidemiology of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) has changed markedly over the last two decades, reflecting changes in demographics, individual behaviours, surveillance techniques, diagnostics, and treatments.

8.3.1 HIV testing

HIV testing coverage decreased to 51% in 2020 from 68% in 2019 where it had been steady for 10 years, **figure 8.2**. This decrease is probably due to more limited access to healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic. The new HIV diagnosis rate for 15 years old and over has been steadily decreasing since 2009 and reached 27.5 per 100,000 in 2020. While this is good progress, Lambeth has the highest diagnosis rate out of all the London boroughs and is significantly higher than the London average of 13.1 per 100,000.²

Figure 8.2: HIV testing coverage in Lambeth over time



Source: Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. Public Health Profiles: Sexual and Reproductive Health <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2022

8.3.2 STI testing

STI testing rate in Lambeth is significantly higher than any other borough in Lambeth at 19,882 per 100,000 in 2020. This figure excludes diagnoses of chlamydia in under 25-year-olds, who are targeted via the national chlamydia screening programme. This rate also saw a significant decrease in 2020 compared to 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

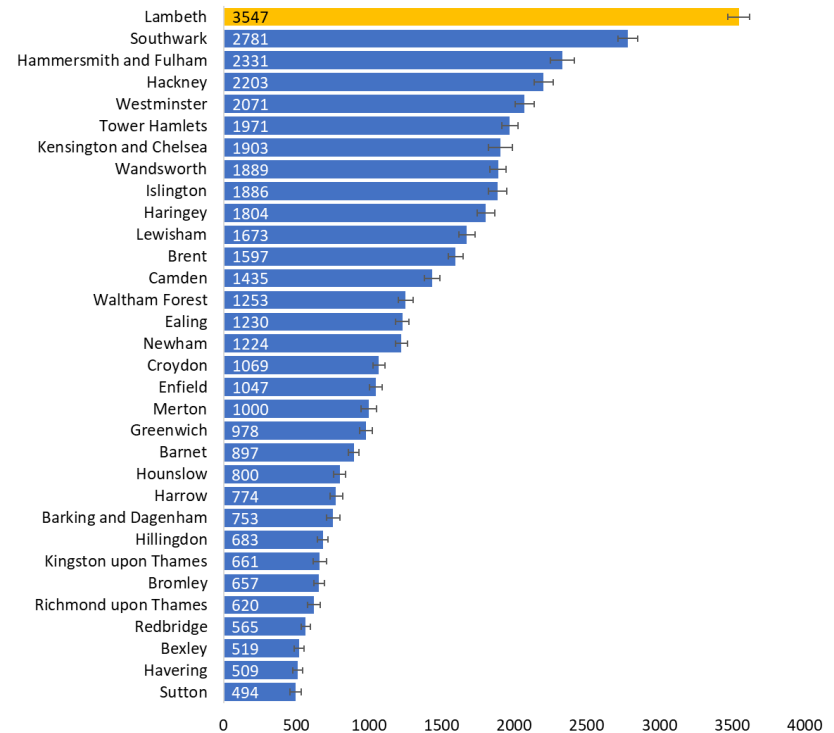
At least partly because of the high testing rate Lambeth also has the highest rate of new STI diagnosis rate excluding chlamydia in under 25-year-olds at 3,547 per 100,000, **figure 8.3**. Positivity, the proportion of tests that have a positive result, of STI tests excluding chlamydia in under 25-year-olds was 12.7% in 2020, the second highest rate out of the 32 London boroughs.²

Chlamydia detection rate in those aged 25 and over in 2020 is 1,084 per 100,000 – the highest rate seen across all London boroughs and significantly higher than both London and England’s average. This has not seen a significant change compared to 2012.²

The gonorrhoea detection rate is also the highest seen across all London boroughs at 1,024 per 100,000. This has seen a significant increase over the years.²

Syphilis diagnostic rate per 100,000 is 148 per 100,000 in 2020 which has steadily increased from 2012 where it was 76 per 100,000. This is also the highest rate seen across the 32 London boroughs.²

Figure 8.3: STI diagnosis rate per 100,000 people in 2020 by London borough



Source: Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. Public Health Profiles: Sexual and Reproductive Health <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2022

8.4 Tuberculosis

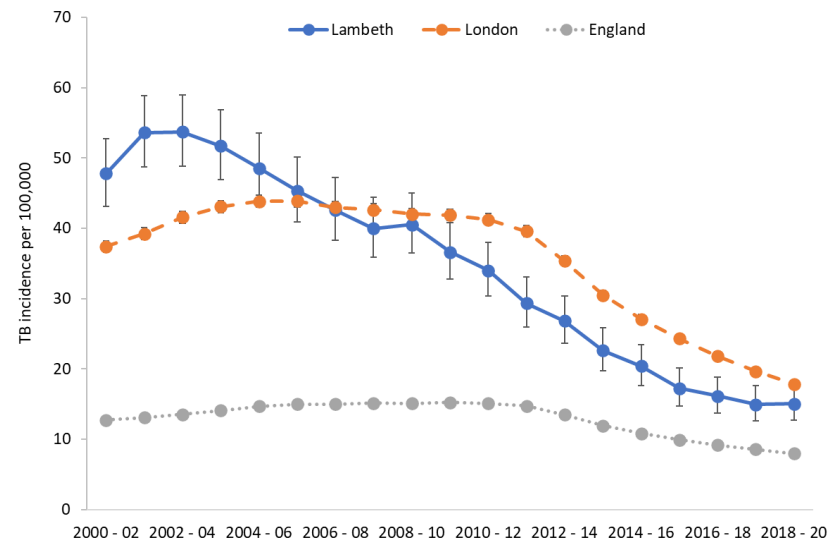
Tuberculosis (TB) is a bacterial infection spread through inhaling tiny droplets from the coughs or sneezes of an infected person. It is a potentially serious condition, but it can be cured if treated with the right antibiotics.

The number of new cases of tuberculosis (TB) have fallen dramatically in England over the last century³. However, there are parts of world with high rates of TB like Africa, South Asia, Russia, China, South America, and the West Pacific region⁴.

The 3-year average for TB incidence in Lambeth for 2018-20 is 15.1 per 100,000. This is significantly higher than the England average of 8.0 per 100,000 but slightly lower than the London average of 17.9 per 100,000. It ranks 17th out of the 32 London boroughs where 1 is the highest rate. The proportion of drug sensitive TB cases who had completed a full course of treatment by 12 months in 2019 in Lambeth was 80.5%. This was a very similar proportion of the England average but lower than London average of 84.8% and had the 9th lowest proportions out of the 32 boroughs.⁵

At a national level, there are wide inequalities in the incidence of TB. In 2019 it was higher in people born outside of the UK, particularly those of Indian, Pakistani, or Black African ethnicity, than in people born inside the UK. It was also higher in the most deprived than the least deprived areas and more than a fifth of UK born cases have a known social risk factor such as homelessness or drug use.³

Figure 8.4: 3-year average of TB incidence per 100,000 by area



Source: Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. Public Health Profiles: Health Protection <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2022

8.5 Vaccines and vaccine preventable infections

As a result of effective vaccination programmes the incidence of many diseases has reduced significantly over time. The importance of vaccination in controlling infectious diseases is highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic – discussed further in section 9.

Overall, in London, uptake rates for the flu jab in at risk individuals, and over 65-year-olds saw an increase in the winter of 2020/21 probably due to increased efforts and awareness due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of this and the social distancing measures introduced for the COVID-19 pandemic influenza-like illness was much lower in 2020 to 2021 than in other seasons⁶.

However, rates in Lambeth didn't seem the same rise in uptake and remained lower than the national and London averages. In Lambeth, influenza vaccine coverage in GP registered patients aged 65 and over was 64.6% in 2020/21 compared to 62.2% in 2019/20. In patients under 65 years in one or more clinical risk groups, coverage was 42.2% in 2020/21 compared with 41.3% in 2019/20.⁵

Childhood vaccinations are covered in section 2 around a healthy start in life.

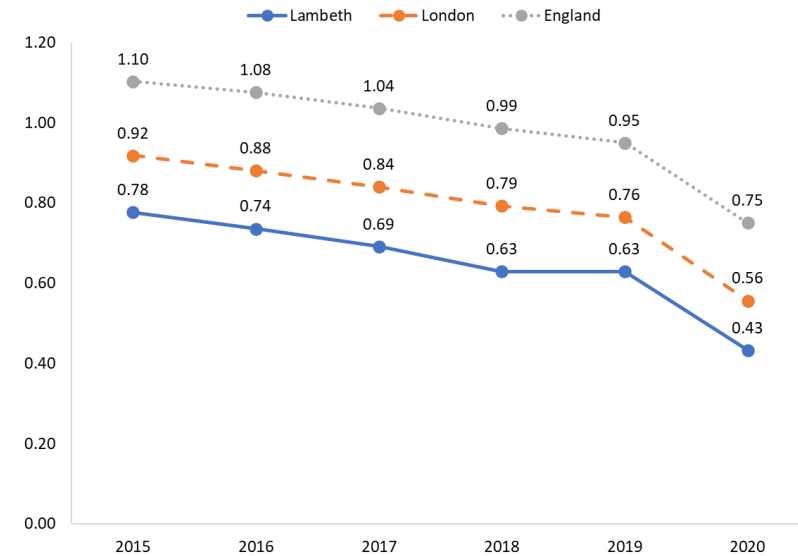
8.6 Antimicrobial resistance

Antibiotic-resistant bloodstream infections rose by an estimated 32% between 2015 and 2019 in England⁷.

Antibiotic prescribing in primary care is often measured in STAR-PU, which are weighted units to allow comparisons adjusting for the age and sex of the population.

In 2020, Lambeth's rate of antibiotic prescribing was 0.43, significantly lower than the England average of 0.75 and the second lowest out of the 32 London boroughs. Lambeth's rate has been decreasing steadily since 2015 when it had a rate of 0.78 but has been consistently lower than the England average as shown in [figure 8.5](#).⁸

Figure 8.5: Antibiotic prescribing in primary care over time



Source: Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. Public Health Profiles: Health Protection
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8.7 Appendix

1. <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/wider-determinants>
2. <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/sexualhealth>
3. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-profile-for-england-2019>
4. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/tuberculosis-tb/>
5. <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-protection>
6. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/annual-flu-reports/surveillance-of-influenza-and-other-seasonal-respiratory-viruses-in-winter-2021-to-2022>
7. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1069632/espaur-report-2020-to-2021-16-Nov-FINAL-v2.pdf
8. <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/search/92670#page/1/gid/1/pat/15/par/E92000001/ati/402/are/E09000022/iid/92670/age/1/sex/4/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yrr/1/cid/4/tbm/1/page-options/car-do-0>