

Cymru Can Newsletter: September 2024



An appeal from Derek

Failing our future generations is not an option

The Well-being of Future Generations Act has never been more needed.

Inequalities are widening. If you are one of the 21% in poverty, your life outcomes are likely to be poorer, you will be less productive, have lower life expectancy, be less healthy, have less education, and feel less safe in your community.

[Well-being of Wales: 2024](#) takes stock of progress against the Act's 50 national indicators, alongside a range of other relevant data, and is the best overall assessment of how well we are doing in meeting Wales's seven well-being goals and delivering on the Act.

The Well-being of Wales report includes...

Reports on our national progress towards each of the well-being goals



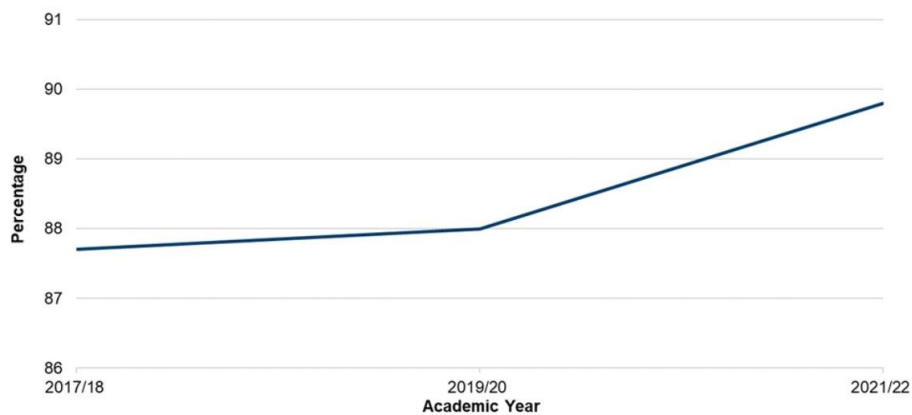
Data for the 50 national indicators

National Well-being Indicators	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	National Milestones
01 Percentage of live single births with a birth weight of under 2,500g	
02 Healthy life expectancy at birth including the gap between the least and most deprived	
03 Percentage of adults with two or more healthy lifestyle behaviours	
04 Levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO2) pollution in the air	
05 Percentage of children with two or more healthy lifestyle behaviours	✓
06 Measurement of development of young children	
07 Average capped 9 points score of pupils, including the gap between those who are eligible or are not eligible for free school meals	
08 Percentage of adults with qualifications at the different levels of the National Qualifications Framework	✓
09 Gross Value Added (GVA) per hour worked (relative to UK average)	
10 Gross Disposable Household Income per head	
11 Percentage of businesses which are innovation-active	
12 Capacity (in MW) of renewable energy equipment installed	

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The percentage of young people aged 11 to 16 with two or more healthy behaviours has improved between 2017/18 and 2021/22.

Percentage of young people aged 11 to 16 with two or more healthy behaviours, 2017/18 (academic year) to 2021/22

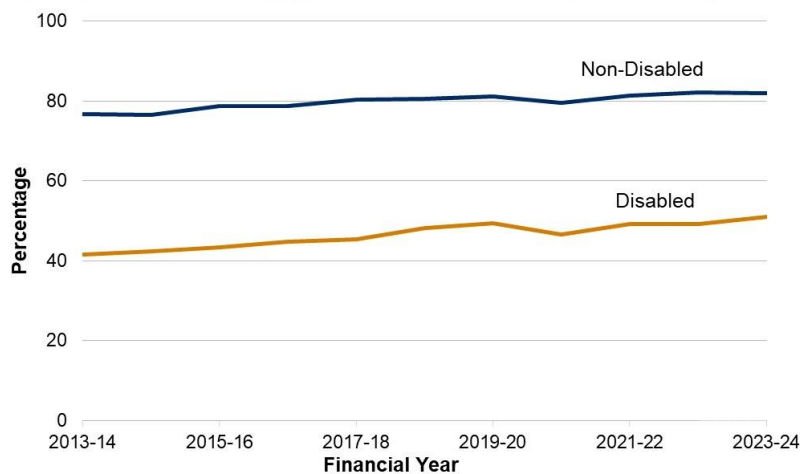


Source: School Health Research Network Student Health and Wellbeing Survey

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For the year ending 31 March 2024 the employment rate among disabled people aged 16-64 in Wales was 51.0% whilst the rate for people who are not disabled was 81.9%. The employment gap for disabled people in 2024 was 30.9 percentage points.

Employment rate (percentage of population aged 16-64) of disabled and non-disabled people in Wales by year, 2013 to 2024 (rates for year ending March)

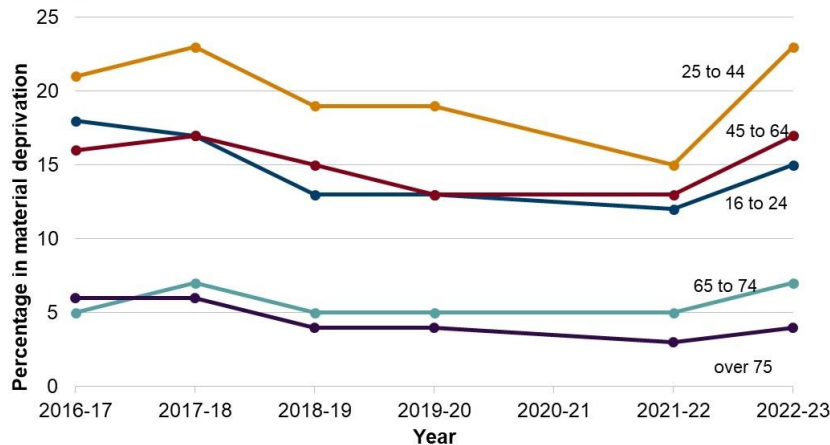


Source: Welsh Government analysis of the Annual Population Survey, Office for National Statistics

#WellbeingOfWales

Material deprivation among adults remains higher for younger age groups. In 2022-23 people aged 25-44 were most likely to live in material deprivation (23%) with those aged 75 and over being least likely (4%).

Material Deprivation in Wales by age group and year, 2016-17 to 2022-23 (year ending March)



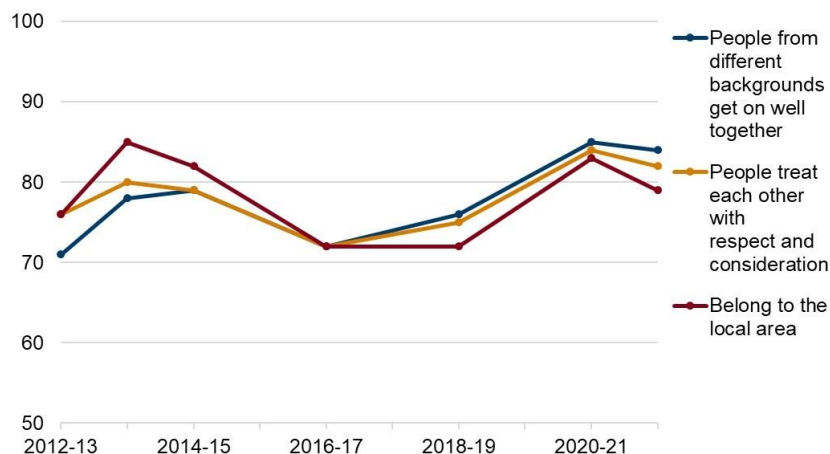
Note: The year 2020-21 has no data.

Source: National Survey for Wales, Welsh Government

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In 2021-22, 64% of people agreed with all three statements about their local area that make up the national indicator, while 95% agreed with at least one statement. These figures have been broadly stable since they were first collected in 2012 until the sizeable increase in 2020-21.

Percentage of people agreeing with statements about local area, 2012-13 to 2021-22



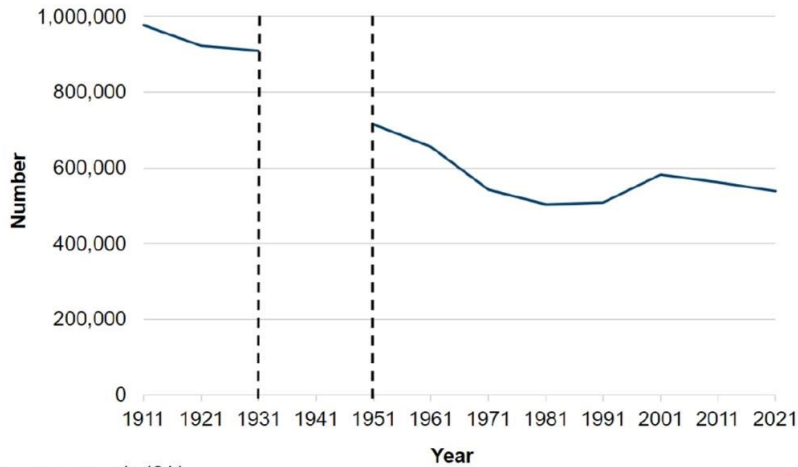
Note: The years 2015-16, 2017-18 and 2019-20 have no data associated with them.

Source: National Survey for Wales

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The decrease in both the number and percentage of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh was mainly driven by a fall among children and young people who were reported as being able to speak Welsh.

People aged three years and older able to speak Welsh, 1911 to 2021



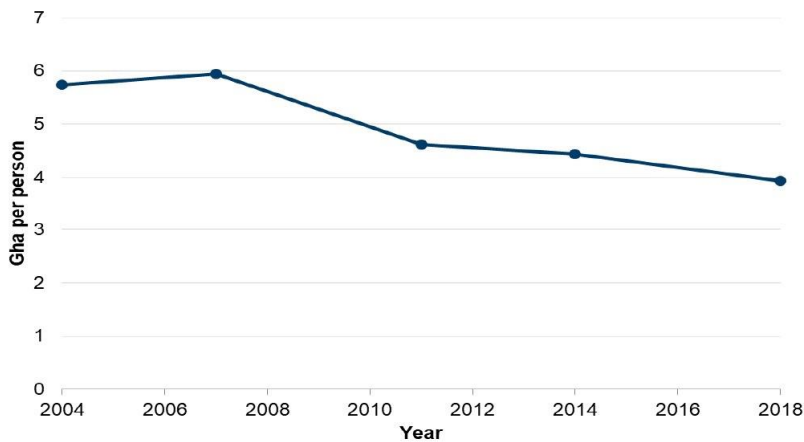
Note: There was no census in 1941.

Source: Census of Population

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Wales's global footprint has generally decreased from around 17.0 million global hectares (gha) in 2004 to 12.3 million gha in 2018. The global footprint per person has reduced by nearly a third over this time period, and stood at 3.9 gha per person in 2018.

Global footprint (gha) per person, 2004 to 2018



National
milestone

Source: Understanding the Global Environmental Footprint and Impacts of Welsh Consumption, JNCC

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The report finds that poverty is continuing to harm disadvantaged people disproportionately; and those in poorer communities can again expect to live even shorter lives.

We can't accept that worsening lives are inevitable for our most vulnerable people and their children.

This compelling report has to inspire drastic action, including a serious switch to preventative health, using all of our public services, so we don't pass on poor outcomes to future generations.

What happens next?

[I've called for Welsh Government](#) to change its spending priorities to directly respond to the challenges spotlighted in this analysis of the state of the nation, as is the approach taken in Ireland.

I also urge all public bodies to use this useful report to inform the actions they take to improve outcomes for people in their communities.

Following our input, the quality of the information has improved this year so that it is easier to track progress, and our office is here to support public bodies' next steps.

My team is bringing public bodies together on October 17 to discuss the findings. I will then provide guided advice in my statutory Future Generations Report next spring.

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Things are changing, but we need to keep going

Wales' approach to future generations thinking has achieved a great deal, from a progressive school curriculum, to a switch to a greener direction for transport and a new way to define prosperity, with a focus on people and planet, a culture shift in public services and examples of local innovation driving tangible change.

The UN has just agreed a [Declaration on Future Generations](#), influenced by Wales, and globally, [our small nation is seen as a leading example](#) of how to legislate for sustainable development. The WFGA is the solution to some of our biggest problems, and there's so much more that we can achieve together.

When I took on this role last year, I called for better implementation of the Act, and the report echoes the mission areas I've identified in my strategy [Cymru Can](#), for needing urgent change – health and well-being, climate and nature, culture and a well-being economy.

My [latest annual report](#) highlights these integrated missions and how I've been working with others to increase action which improves every aspect of our well-being in Wales.

It's an incredibly challenging time, but if we don't act, we'll have fewer choices and people's lives will continue to get harder.

Wales has a head-start on breaking the cycle of inequality with a law that demands we be good ancestors.

Please keep sharing the ways that you're making a difference. We're always looking for examples to spotlight and inspire others.

You can email us at contactus@futuregenerations.wales.



Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

Annual report 2023-2024



Change is happening - Net Zero 2035

[Wales Net Zero 2035 Challenge Group's new reports](#) show what urgent actions we must take in education, transport, our food system, energy and housing to reach net zero emissions in Wales by 2035.

The group was set up to plan a faster move to a fair and just, nature positive net zero in Wales from its current legislative target of 2050, to 2035, which would make Wales one of the most ambitious countries in the world.

The reports' recommendations, which will inform our own Future Generations Report 2025, mean big changes ahead. We need to do more to involve communities in these decisions.



Grŵp Herio Cymru
Sero Net 2035
Wales **Net Zero 2035**
Challenge Group

PATHWAYS TO A PROSPEROUS AND RESILIENT WALES in a changing future





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Sero Net 2035
Wales Net Zero 2035
Challenge Group

ENABLING THE TRANSITION TO NET ZERO

by 2035





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Sero Net 2035
Wales Net Zero 2035
Challenge Group

WHAT COULD EDUCATION, JOBS AND WORK

look like across Wales by 2035?





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Sero Net 2035
Wales Net Zero 2035
Challenge Group

HOW COULD WALES FEED ITSELF by 2035?





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Sero Net 2035
Wales **Net Zero 2035**
Challenge Group

HOW COULD WALES HEAT AND BUILD

homes and workplaces by 2035?





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Sero Net 2035
Wales Net Zero 2035
Challenge Group

HOW COULD WALES MEET ENERGY NEEDS

whilst phasing out
fossil fuels by 2035?





Grŵp Herio Cymru
Sero Net 2035
Wales Net Zero 2035
Challenge Group

HOW COULD PEOPLE AND PLACES

be connected
by 2035?



Many organisations are showing us how faster progress to a low carbon Wales is possible:

- [South Wales Industrial Cluster](#) is aiming for a net zero industry in south Wales by 2040; a 40% reduction in Wales' total CO2 emissions while also retaining 113,000 jobs and unlocking £30 billion in investment opportunities.
- [Delivering Net Zero](#) is a collaboration of 20 Welsh social landlords working with 11 local authorities and six housing associations to build 'home grown homes', zero carbon houses with Welsh timber. Developed jointly with local manufacturers, suppliers and communities, the project supports a circular economy, benefiting local people and their families.
- [Welsh Veg in Schools](#), a pilot project co-ordinated by Food Sense Wales is working with Castell Howell and vegetable growers to get organic Welsh vegetables on the plates in primary schools. After success in Cardiff, Carmarthenshire and Monmouthshire, they're planning to expand across the Welsh public sector.

- Sustrans, with Welsh Government funding, operate [E-Move](#), an electric cycle loan scheme across Aberystwyth, Rhyl, Barry, Swansea and Newtown to offer four-week loans for an electric bike, making cycling a more accessible sustainable travel option.

Embed://<iframe width="560" height="315" src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/lbZ-jCW9Atg?si=OQuDbVdB_c_4RlpS" title="YouTube video player" frameborder="0" allow="accelerometer; autoplay; clipboard-write; encrypted-media; gyroscope; picture-in-picture; web-share" referrerpolicy="strict-origin-when-cross-origin" allowfullscreen></iframe>



1 - Credit: Jonathan Bewley / Sustrans

Welsh Government and public bodies must work quickly to put the Net Zero Challenge Group recommendations into action to improve quality of life for people now and in the future.

Read the reports' findings and more examples on the Net Zero 2035 [website](#).

Making a difference – our water

Cleaning up our rivers

People are fed up with pollution warnings in our rivers, seas and beaches and it's one of the issues that I'm regularly contacted about.

We urgently need to improve how we manage our waterways for the benefit of people and nature. I've advised Huw Irranca-Davies MS, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs on how we can improve action.

Findings of research that our office commissioned, found the Welsh Government's [River Summits](#) need to focus on river health more broadly; look at urgent and scalable nature-based solutions; and improve their public communication and engagement.

The advice has been well received and I look forward to seeing the urgent changes needed to ensure clean water.

Read our full [advice and recommendations](#).



We've also been working with Anna Heslop, the Deputy Interim Environmental Protection Assessor for Wales (IEPAW), on a [call for evidence](#) on whether the laws to protect Wales' waterways are fit for purpose.

We joined a panel debate at the Royal Welsh Show on water quality which highlighted the passion and interest around this issue and held a bilingual English and Somali drop-in event in the Grangetown Pavillion to gather views from a city-centre perspective.

Our work on this issue is ongoing. The phase 1 report from the interim Environmental Protection Assessor will be published in 2025.

Get involved – free events and training

Well-being Economy Cymru Conference

Join the inaugural Well-being Economy Cymru conference we're holding with 4theRegion, Well-being Economy Cymru, Oxfam Cymru and Cwmpas to learn more about how Wales can have an economy that puts people and planet above profit.

- Monday 18 November 2024 – Swansea Arena

[Sign up to join us](#) on the day and find more information on the [Well-being Economy website](#).

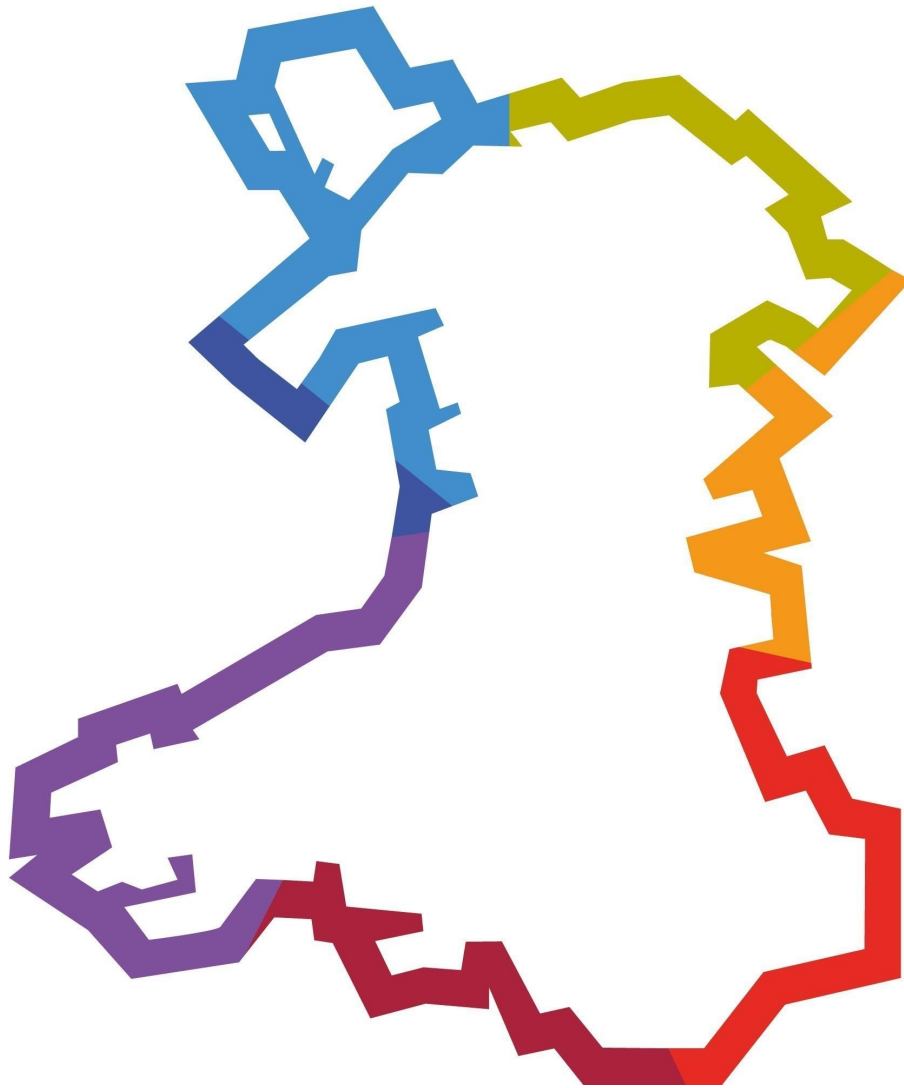


Understanding the Act

We've held more than 10 Understanding the Act sessions and in our September event, reached more than 100 individuals from across the public, private and voluntary sectors who want to learn how to implement the Act's ways of working and goals to create practical change.

- Wednesday 6 November 10am – 12.30pm (registration closes 23 October)
- Wednesday, 6 November 10am – 12.30pm (registration closes 23 October)
- Tuesday, 4 February 2025 10am – 12.30pm (registration closes 21 January 2025)

Sign up via [our survey](#) and e-mail contactus@futuregenerations.wales with queries.



Putting the Act into practice

Hear the latest behavioural science you can apply now in practical and effective ways, with the hour-long top-up sessions on the WFGA, by Welsh Government and Academi Wales.

- Thursday 10 Hydref, 10-11:30 (Cymraeg)
- Thursday 31 October, 15-16:30 (Bilingual)
- Tuesday 19 November, 13-14:30 (Bilingual)
- Monday 2 December, 10:30-12 (Cymraeg)

Sign up by emailing sustainable.futures@gov.wales.

Thinking long-term – in person training

Do you want to know more about how to think long-term and apply futures techniques to your work? Join our Hwb Dyfodol in-person sessions in Cardiff and Wrexham throughout November.

- Cardiff - 5 November, 10-13:00

- Wrexham - 13 November, 10:30-13:30
- Cardiff - 26 November, 10-13:00

Sign up via [our form](#).

Involvement event – PSBs and communities

Join Co-production Network for Wales's new involvement series event exploring how Public Services Boards can enable and empower communities - *Community well-being & involvement through the lens of community ownership*.

- Tuesday October 22, 10:30 – 12:00

Register your attendance on their [Eventbrite](#).



PROJECT DEWI INVOLVEMENT SERIES
22 October 2024
10:30 - 12:00

Community well-being and involvement through the lens of community ownership

Wales Community Foundation
Cwmni Cymunedol Cymunedau Cymru

Coming up - Leadership Academy 4.0

We've launched our fourth Future Generations Leadership Academy, and 36 young leaders from the public, private and voluntary sectors will be developing their skills, making connections and learning about the WFGA together.

Keep an eye out in our next newsletter for more information on the participants and what they'll be learning until their graduation next March.



Contact us

Want to catch up on previous issues of the newsletter? You can find them on our website [here](#).

For more information get in contact here:

futuregenerations.wales / futuregenerations2020.wales

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