

7.1 Mortality

Preventing early death (under the age of 75 years) is an important aim for health services.

All-age, all-cause mortality is lower amongst females than males. Over the last few years it has gradually declined (with some year-to-year fluctuation) but remains higher in Walsall than regionally and nationally. Following years of steady decline, mortality rates for Walsall men increased in 2005. More recently, the fall in male mortality rates has accelerated and the gap between the local, regional and national rates has narrowed. However, the increase in 2014 for both female and male rates indicates, persistent efforts need to be made to prevent and to manage the main contributors to early deaths.

In the charts below, the Directly Standardised Rates (DSR) for Walsall trend shows a continual reduction in both male and female deaths.

The main causes of death in Walsall are cancer, coronary heart disease and pulmonary disease. The contribution of smoking and obesity cannot be underestimated and strenuous efforts must be made by all partners to reduce these determinants of health. The next JSNA sections provide detail of key local issues and the actions required to address them.

Indicators:

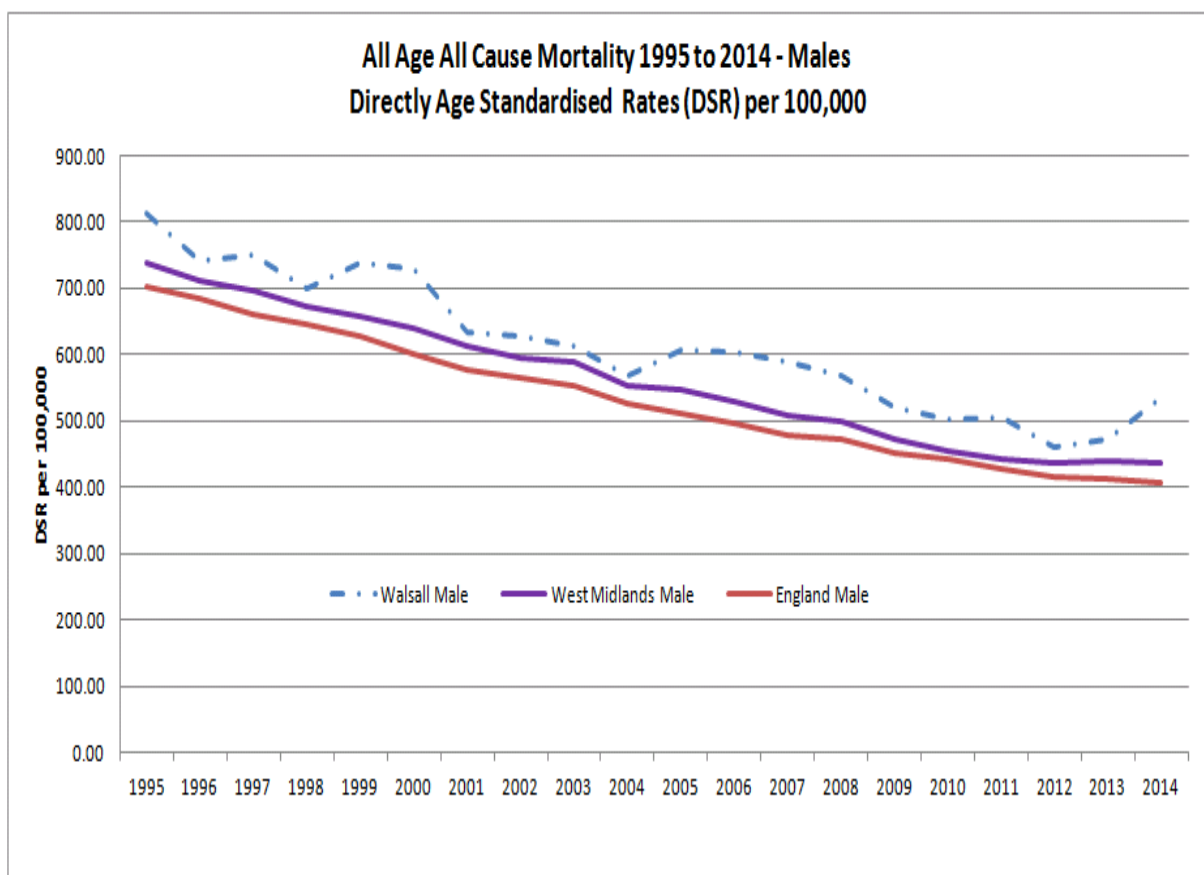


Figure 1 Male - All age all cause mortality trends 1995-2014 (Source: HSC)

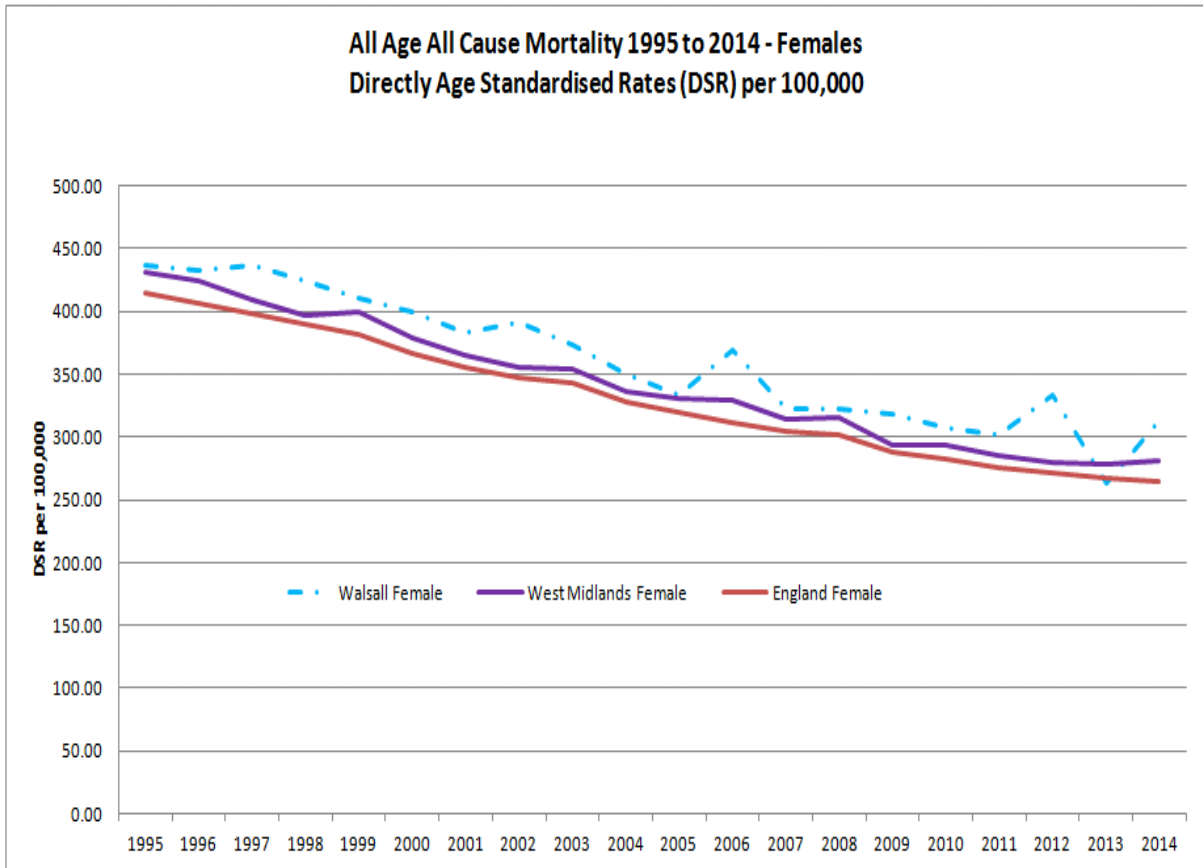


Figure 2 Female - All age all cause mortality trends 1995-2014 (Source: HSIC)

Priorities for action:

- *Partnership action to reduce the impact of smoking and obesity in the borough*
- *Robust response to the main causes of death in the borough (described below) with a focus on prevention and early detection:*
 - *Maximise opportunities to influence lifestyle choices through the Every Contact Counts initiative*
 - *Encourage participation in NHS Health Checks and national screening programmes*
 - *Robust pathways of care across all health providers*