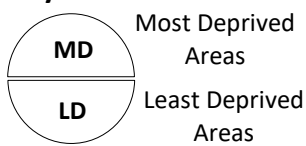


Alcohol, Smoking & Drugs

Alcohol, smoking and drugs related indicators continue to present some of the largest health inequalities in NI. The alcohol specific death rate worsened over the analysed period in all areas and the most-least deprived inequality gap widened, with the death rate in the most deprived areas now over four and a half times the rate in the least deprived areas. Inequality gaps for drinking prevalence, drinking at least once a week, and drinking three or more days a week, were all negative in that rates were higher among the least deprived than the most deprived. The gap for smoking attributable mortality seen no notable change over the analysed period however rates improved in the most and least deprived areas. The deprivation gap for drug misuse deaths widened over the analysed period and showed the largest inequality gap, where mortality in the most deprived areas was almost six times that of the least deprived.¹

Health Outcome Indicators

Key:



Positive Change

No Notable Change

Negative Change

> < Narrowing of the Gap

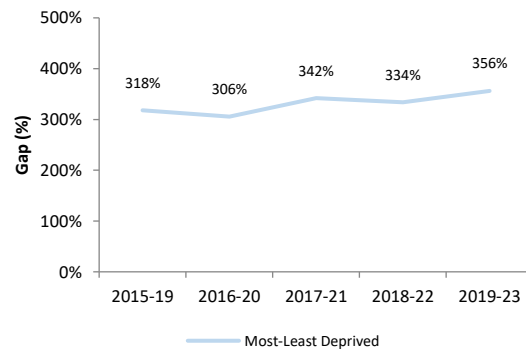
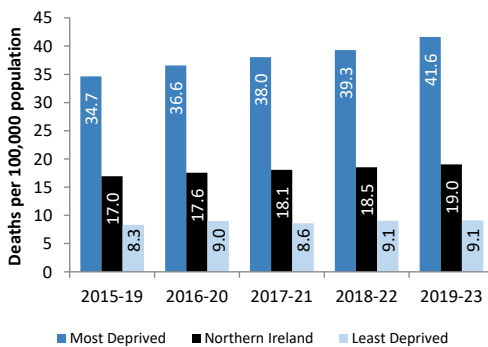
— No Notable Change in the Gap

< > Widening of the Gap

Northern Ireland: NI

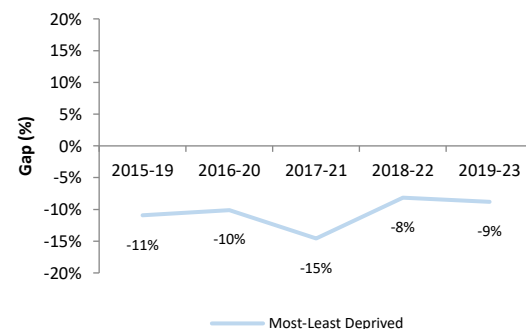
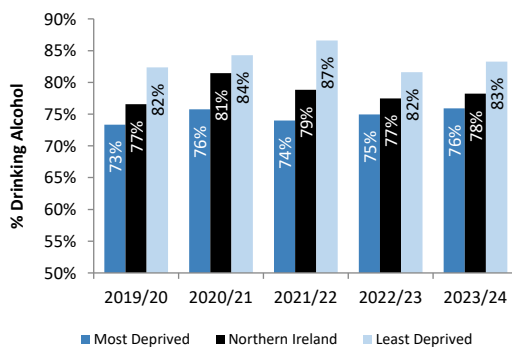
Standardised Death Rate – Alcohol Specific

NI



Drinking Prevalence

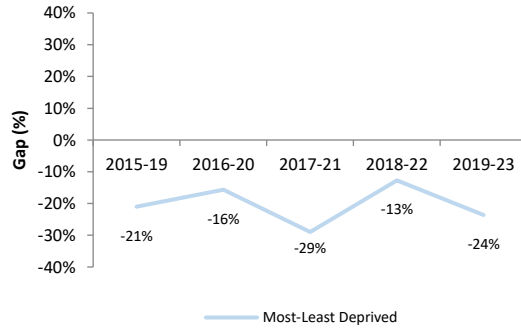
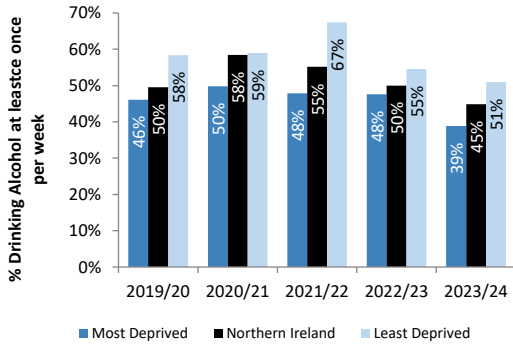
NI



¹ Please note that some observations may be due to changes in drug misuse behaviours among the population. For more information see [Appendix E: Technical Notes & Definitions](#).

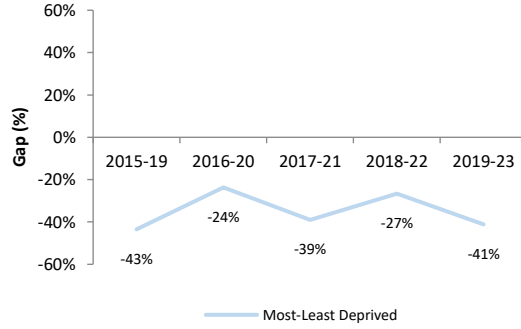
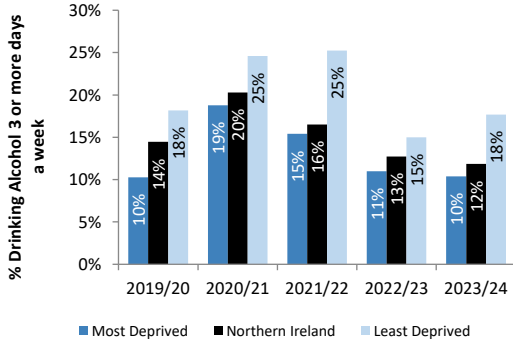
Drinking At Least Once A Week

NI



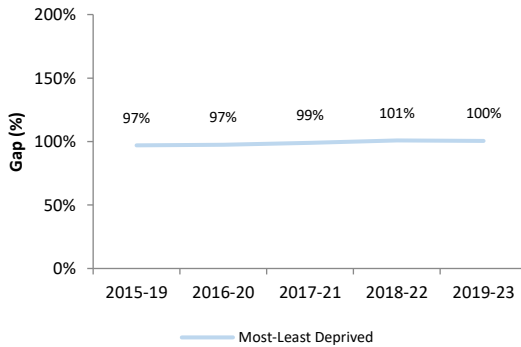
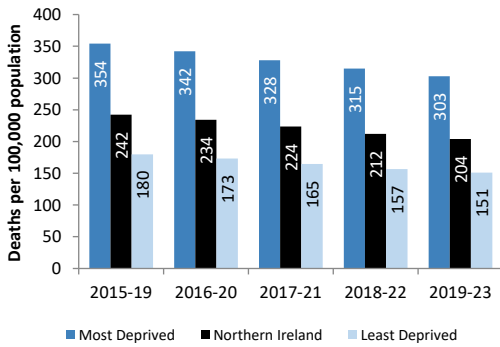
Drinking 3 Or More Days A Week

NI



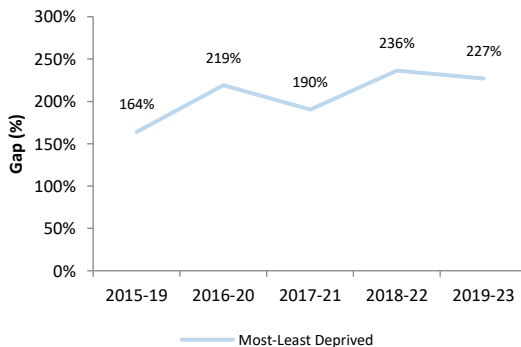
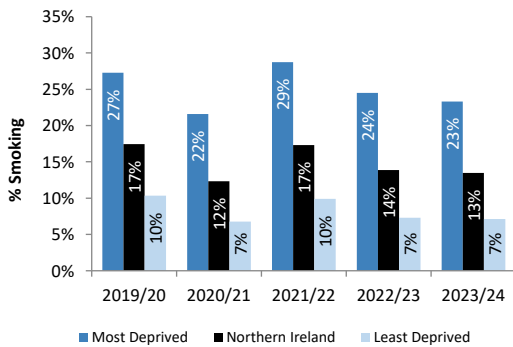
Standardised Death Rate – Smoking Attributable Causes

NI



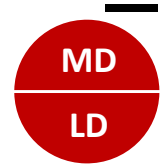
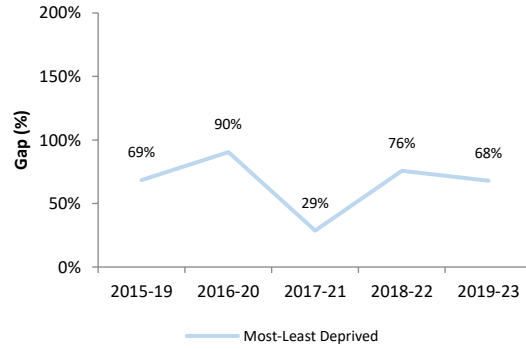
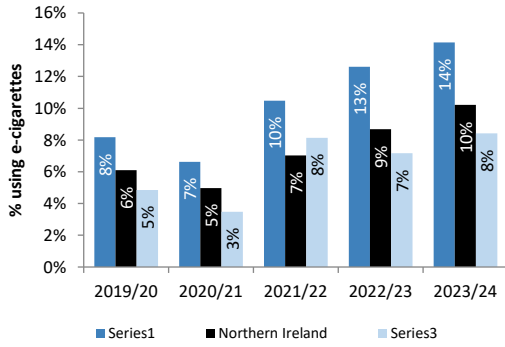
Smoking Prevalence

NI



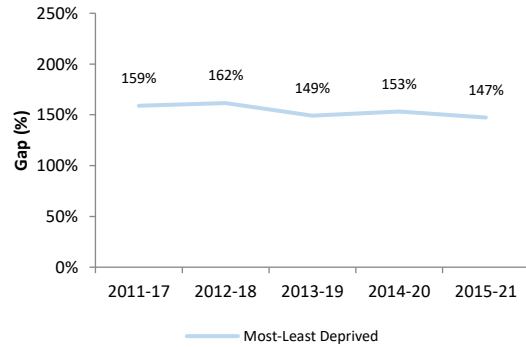
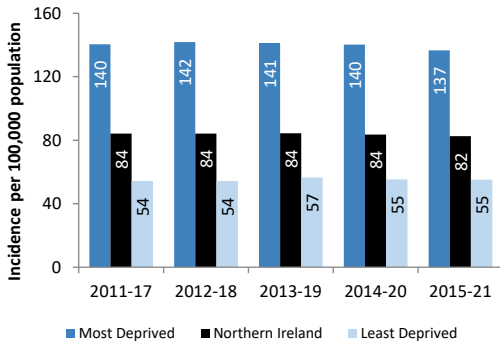
E-Cigarette Use

NI 



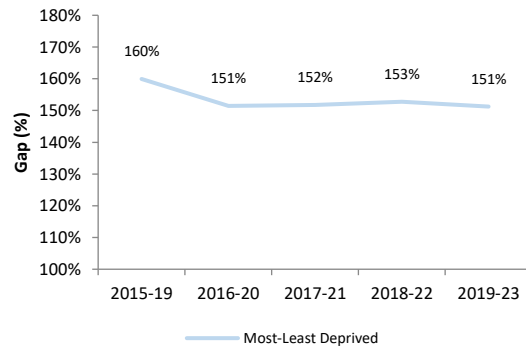
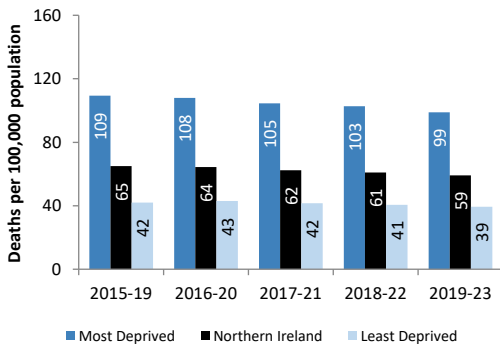
Standardised Incidence Rate – Lung Cancer

NI 



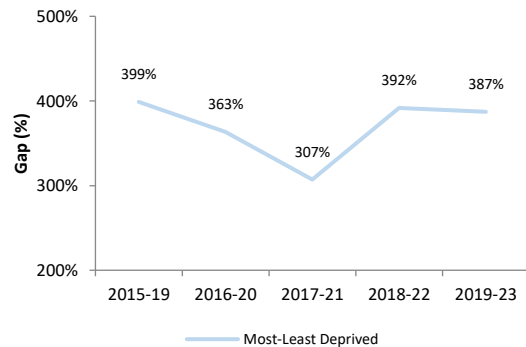
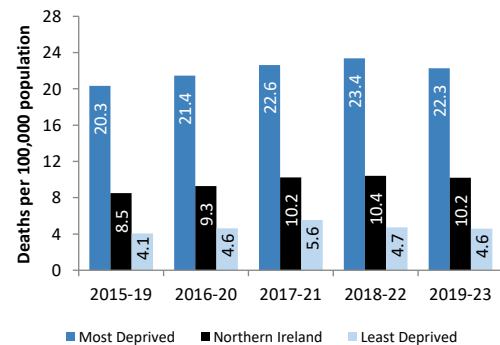
Standardised Death Rate – Lung Cancer

NI 



Standardised Death Rate – Drug Related Causes ²

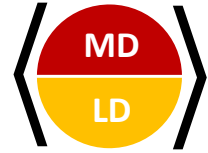
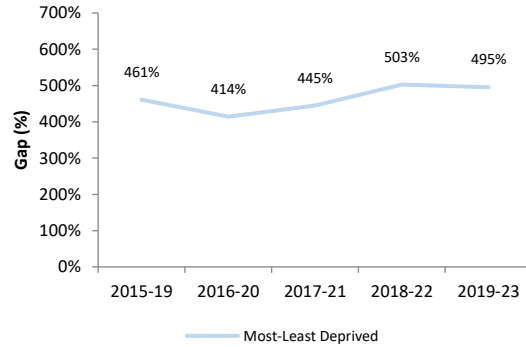
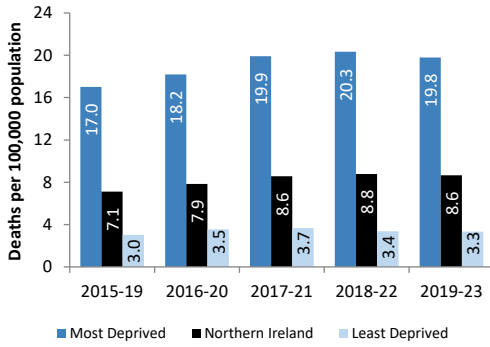
NI 



² It is important to note that registration-based figures build in delays arising from system wide processes which can drive annual fluctuations in the series. Events such as infant death, drug related deaths or suicide are usually referred to a coroner and this legal process can take some time.

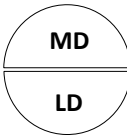
Standardised Death Rate – Drug Misuse ³

NI 



Service-based Indicators

Key:



MD Most Deprived Areas

LD Least Deprived Areas

↑ Increase

— No Notable Change

↓ Decrease

> < Narrowing of the Gap

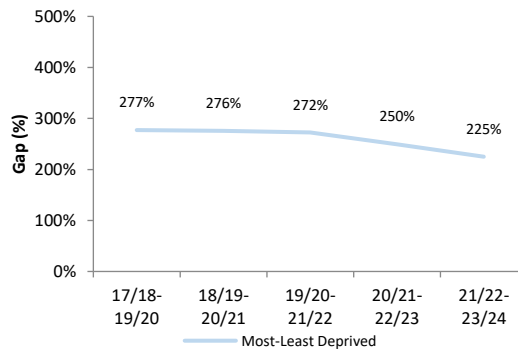
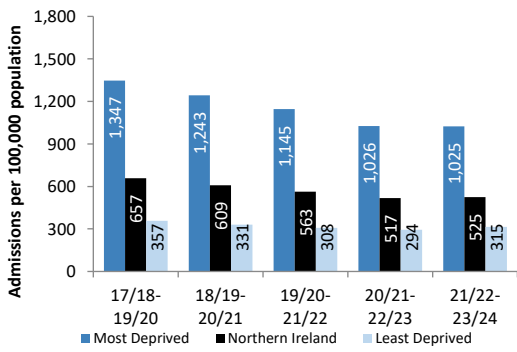
— No Notable Change in the Gap

< > Widening of the Gap

Northern Ireland: NI

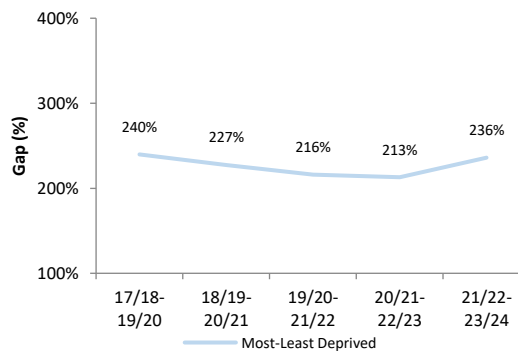
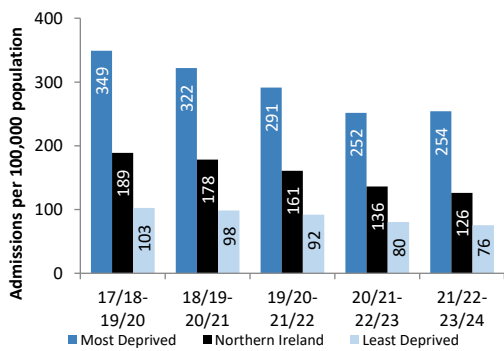
Standardised Admission Rate – Alcohol Related Causes ^{4 5 6}

NI 



Standardised Admission Rate – Drug Related Causes ^{4 5 6}

NI 



³ It is important to note that registration-based figures build in delays arising from system wide processes which can drive annual fluctuations in the series. Events such as infant death, drug related deaths or suicide are usually referred to a coroner and this legal process can take some time.

⁴ It should be noted that due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on hospital services any changes from 2020/21 should be interpreted with caution.

⁵ Alcohol and drug related admissions have been identified based on primary diagnosis field or any of the first 6 secondary diagnoses fields and relates to admissions under the 'Acute Programme of Care' only.

⁶ Admissions figures for 2023/24 should be treated with caution as they include some data that has been sourced from encompass which are considered to be 'official statistics in development', for further information see [Appendix E](#).