

Welcome to the first GM Policy Hub update of 2022!

Policy@Manchester – The University of Manchester’s policy engagement unit – launched the [GM Policy Hub](#) last year to connect academics with policymakers in Greater Manchester to address regional policy agendas. Our [Hub web page](#) includes more information and links to GM specific resources.

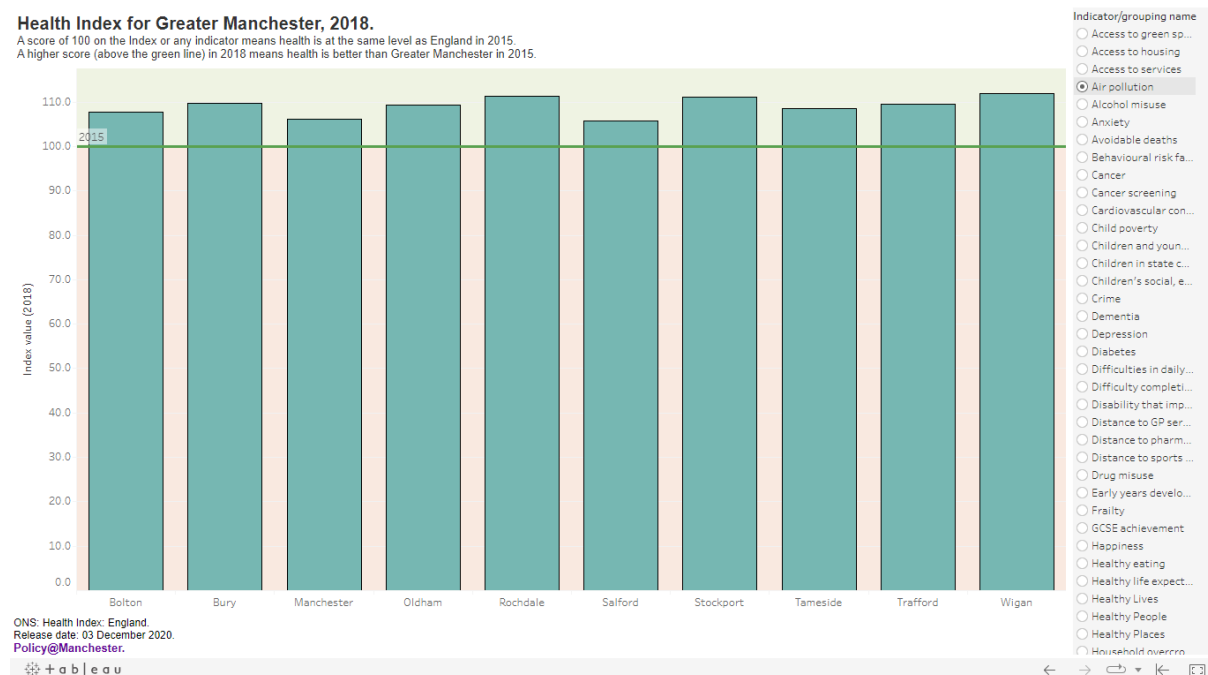
If you would like to find out more about the GM Policy Hub, register for our **Intro to Policy@Manchester and the GM Policy Hub** on Friday 4 March at 1.00-2.00pm (Microsoft Teams) by emailing [Terri Lucas](#).

This update provides information about our current and upcoming work that we believe will be of interest to you. If you are interested in learning more about any of the research featured in this update, please do get in touch with [Terri Lucas](#).

Happy, healthy communities

The 2018 Health Index shows that Greater Manchester saw improvements in some health indicators between 2015 and 2018 but deterioration in others. While public green space improved in all ten boroughs between 2015 and 2018, access to green space improved in only eight. Air quality improved in all ten boroughs. However, mental health deteriorated in all ten, and physical health conditions got worse in eight. Overall health only improved in two of the ten boroughs. Happiness and personal wellbeing both improved in six boroughs.

Figure 1: Health Index for Greater Manchester, 2018



Click on the graph image to access the online interactive graph, where you can select various health indicators and view 2018 values compared to 2015 across the ten boroughs of Greater Manchester.

Alongside this data, our recent report [Building Utopia](#) examines the interlinked challenges of urban development, health and climate change. It brings together thought leadership and expert analysis on how to build climate-resilient cities while also addressing health and social inequalities.

The articles in the publication address key urban issues including: promoting equal access to green spaces; reducing emissions from domestic water use; decarbonising domestic heating; tackling air pollution and building high-quality homes and neighbourhoods.

If you would like to speak to any of the academic experts who contributed to this report, contact [Terri Lucas](#).

Digital inequalities

The COVID-19 crisis has forced much of our daily life to shift online, but it has also exposed a widening gap in our society. As an example, 46% of people aged 75 and over have very low levels of engagement. This is significant for Greater Manchester because 202,371 people are over 75 in the region.

Our [On Digital Inequalities](#) report provides thought leadership and expert analysis on how to address the inequalities we are seeing in the digital space.

We hosted an event on digital accessibility for older people last September, and the [recording is available on our website](#).

If you would like to speak to any of the academic experts who contributed to this report, [get in touch](#).

Air quality

Air pollution kills at least 1,200 people each year in Greater Manchester and leads to 36,000 deaths every year in the UK.

The articles in our [On Air Quality](#) report explore how air pollution affects public health, economic outcomes and acts to widen existing inequalities. They also provide recommendations for policymakers on how these impacts can be addressed.

If you would like to speak to any of the academic experts who contributed to this report, [get in touch](#).

Current and upcoming areas of work

We are currently working on policy activities and resources on the following themes. If you would like to know more about this work, [get in touch](#).

- [Carbon capture and storage](#)
- [Health inequalities](#), including the [intersecting inequalities which exacerbate the impact of COVID-19 on children in the North](#)
- [Regional impacts of COVID-19](#)
- Cancer (we are releasing our On Cancer [publication](#) on 4 February)
- Psilocybin (we will soon be publishing a [policy blog](#) on this topic)

Connect with us

We have put this content in a format that we hope you will find easy to use, but please do feedback to us on this, and let us know what information you would like to see in future. If you do not want to receive these emails in future, please let us know by emailing terri.lucas@manchester.ac.uk

You can also sign up to our [weekly Policy@Manchester newsletter](#) to be kept up to date with new blogs and publications, providing academic expertise and insight on pressing policy issues, as well as contributions to evidence sessions, upcoming events, and more.