



National Assembly for **Wales**
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol **Cymru**

Key Statistics for Merthyr Tydfil

Abstract

This paper provides key statistics for Merthyr Tydfil Local Authority area, under a number of topic headings.

This is one of a series of Members' Research Service profiles for all Local Authorities in Wales.

November 2006

Key Statistics for Merthyr Tydfil

Dai James, Nia Jones, Owen Lewis (Finance and Statistics Team, MRS)

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Summary

The following points provide a brief overview of Merthyr Tydfil, drawn from detailed statistics in the main body of this paper. Technical terms have been avoided, and in general the reference periods of the statistics are not mentioned (as these vary).

- ◆ Around 56 thousand people live in Merthyr Tydfil, which is three and a half times more densely populated than Wales as a whole. The area's population fell by nearly 7% between 1993 and 2003, compared with a rise of nearly 2% in Wales. ([section 2](#))
- ◆ Over 90% of Merthyr Tydfil's residents were born in Wales, and one in ten aged three or more can speak Welsh, compared to one in five across Wales. ([section 2](#))
- ◆ Life expectancy at birth for people born in Merthyr Tydfil is around two years shorter than that in Wales. ([section 2](#))
- ◆ Less than 70% of the working age population are economically active, and 3.6% claim Job-Seekers' Allowance, compared with 2.3% throughout Wales as a whole. ([section 3](#))
- ◆ The median¹ annual pay for full-time workers in Merthyr Tydfil is just over £19,300, over £2,000 less than the national median¹. ([section 3](#))
- ◆ A higher percentage of people in Merthyr Tydfil (30%) reported having a limiting long-term illness than in Wales (over 23%). ([section 4](#))
- ◆ A lower percentage of adults than in Wales met guidelines for the consumption of fruit and vegetables, while a similar proportion as in Wales met guidelines for physical activity. ([section 4](#))
- ◆ The rate of people waiting for their first outpatient appointment is higher, and the rate waiting for their first day case treatment is lower than that in Wales. ([section 4](#))
- ◆ 38% of pupils in their final year of compulsory education achieved five or more GCSEs grade A*-C (or a vocational equivalent) compared with 52% throughout Wales. ([section 5](#))
- ◆ 67% of households are owner-occupied, and the median¹ house price in 2005 was around £75,000, £50,000 less than the median¹ for Wales. At 28%, the rate of house price increase in Merthyr Tydfil is over three times that in Wales. ([section 6](#))
- ◆ The rate of accidents per length of road is greater than in Wales, but the rate of people who are killed or seriously injured in road accidents is less than one third that found across Wales. ([section 7](#))
- ◆ The rate of all recorded crime is 26.2 incidents per 1,000 people, higher than the rate for Wales. ([section 7](#))
- ◆ 21% of municipal waste in Merthyr Tydfil was recycled or composted in 2005-06, less than the equivalent percentage across Wales (26%). ([section 7](#))
- ◆ The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2005 ranks specific small areas in Wales in terms of deprivation. An above average proportion of Merthyr Tydfil's areas fall in the 10% most deprived areas in Wales, and the majority of Merthyr Tydfil's areas are more deprived than the Wales average. ([section 8](#))

¹ The median is the value with half of all values above and half below (i.e.: the middle value).

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Key Statistics for Merthyr Tydfil

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

This paper provides key statistics for Merthyr Tydfil Local Authority area, under a number of topic headings. This is part of a series of Members' Research Service profiles for all local authorities in Wales, published in November 2006. The Members' Research Service will also complete a series of profiles for Assembly constituencies before the end of this Assembly.

Profiles for constituencies and local authorities will differ from each other. Constituencies do not form a standard statistical geography, so the availability of data at this level is limited; data are more readily available on local authorities. Two local authorities (Blaenau Gwent and Isle of Anglesey) are also constituencies, so as well as the local authority profiles in this series they will have separate profiles in the series for constituencies (which will include electoral statistics).

1.2 Structure of this paper

The preceding summary provides a brief overview of the key similarities and differences between Merthyr Tydfil and Wales as a whole. This introduction is followed by chapters of narrative and reference tables on statistics for seven topic areas. The information in each table is drawn from several different sources, with details on the sources (including links for further information) and definitions in use listed in the first annex. The second annex shows a map of information on deprivation (see section eight), and the last annex shows a map of the Merthyr Tydfil area.

1.3 Sources for further information

Each statistic shown in this paper is sourced in the first annex. More information is available, and some general sources are described below:

- ◆ the Office for National Statistics has produced a report² of key statistics from the Census 2001 for local authorities;
- ◆ the official labour market statistics website 'nomis'³ provides local authority profiles;
- ◆ the neighbourhood statistics website⁴ provides local area statistics;
- ◆ the Welsh Assembly Government's Statistical Directorate⁵ publish some information for local authorities;
- ◆ the Local Government Data Unit Wales⁶ publish some information for local authorities including local government performance indicators.

² <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=10151>

³ <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

⁴ <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk>

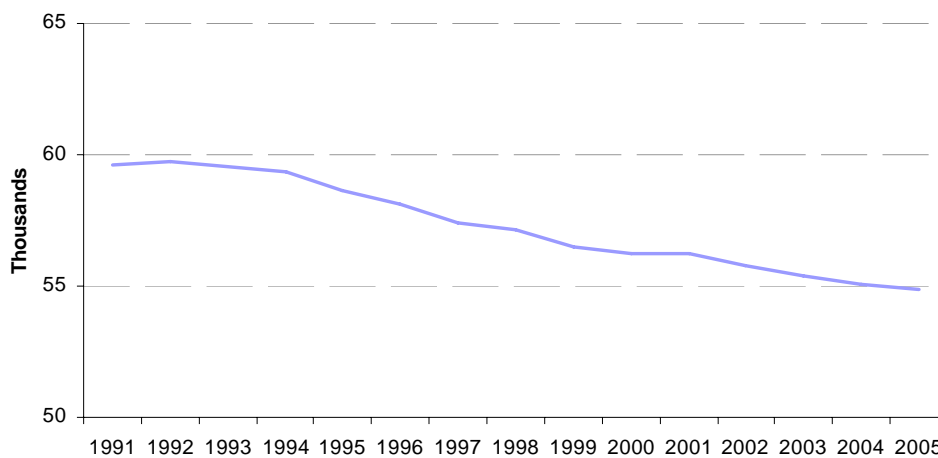
⁵ <http://www.wales.gov.uk/statistics>

⁶ <http://www.dataunitwales.gov.uk/eng/Data.asp>

2 Population and Vital Statistics

The population of Merthyr Tydfil is around 56 thousand people, and the constituency is more than three and a half times as densely populated as Wales with over 500 people per square kilometre. There are annual mid-year population estimates available for Merthyr Tydfil, and these are shown below in figure 1, from 1991. The population of Merthyr Tydfil fell by almost 7% between 1993 and 2003 compared with a rise of almost 2% throughout Wales.

Figure 1: Mid-year population estimates for Merthyr Tydfil



Source: Office for National Statistics (from StatsWales tables [003121](#) and [003122](#))

The distribution of population in the area in terms of age and sex is similar to Wales although there are proportionally more children (aged under 16 years) and proportionally fewer people of retirement age. Over 90% of the population in the local authority was born in Wales (compared with around 75% nationally), and one in ten people aged three or more in the area can speak Welsh, compared with one in five nationally.

Life expectancy at birth in Merthyr Tydfil is around two years shorter than the national average for both males and females. Death rates from all causes and age standardised mortality ratios (for the under 75s) in the area are higher than the equivalent figures for Wales among both males and females.

There is a higher prevalence of low birth weight in Merthyr Tydfil than in Wales and the rate of underage conceptions in the area is higher than the national average.

Table 1: Population and Vital Statistics

Data are for 2001 unless another year is given

Ref		Merthyr Tydfil	Wales	Units
Population:				
a	Total population	55,981	2,903,085	Number
b	Change in population, 1993-2003	-6.9	1.9	Per cent
a	Area	111	20,742	Square kilometres
a	Population density	506	140	Number per sq km
Population groups:				
a	Males	48.1	48.4	Per cent
a	Females	51.9	51.6	Per cent
c	Aged 0-15	21.5	20.2	Per cent
c	Working age	59.7	59.7	Per cent
c	Retirement age	18.8	20.1	Per cent
a	Non-White Ethnic Group	1.0	2.1	Per cent
a	Single (never married)	28.2	28.0	Per cent of those aged 16+
d	Place of birth:			
	Wales	92.0	75.4	Per cent
	Other UK	6.6	21.4	Per cent
	Elsewhere in EU	0.6	1.3	Per cent
	Non-EU	0.9	1.9	Per cent
a	Religion:			
	Christian	69.8	71.9	Per cent
	Muslim	0.3	0.7	Per cent
	Other	0.6	0.8	Per cent
	No religion/Not stated	29.4	26.6	Per cent
e	Welsh:			
	Can speak Welsh	10.0	20.5	Per cent of those aged 3+
	One or more skills in Welsh	17.7	28.4	Per cent of those aged 3+
	Identified as Welsh	16.2	14.4	Per cent of those aged 3+
f	Life expectancy at birth, 2002-04:			
	Males	73.8	75.8	Years
	Females	78.1	80.3	Years
g	Deaths from all causes, 2004:			
	Persons	12.2	10.9	Rate per 1,000
	Males	11.0	10.6	Rate per 1,000
	Females	13.3	11.1	Rate per 1,000
h	Standardised Mortality Ratio, 2000-2004:			
	Persons	125	100	Ratio for those aged under 75
	Males	149	124	Ratio for those aged under 75
	Females	103	78	Ratio for those aged under 75
Vital statistics:				
i	Live births, 2005	58.2	56.1	Rate per 1,000 females 15-44
j	Underage conceptions, 2002-04	9.8	8.0	Rate per 1,000 females 13-15
k	Low birth weight, 2004	9.2	7.6	Per cent of births

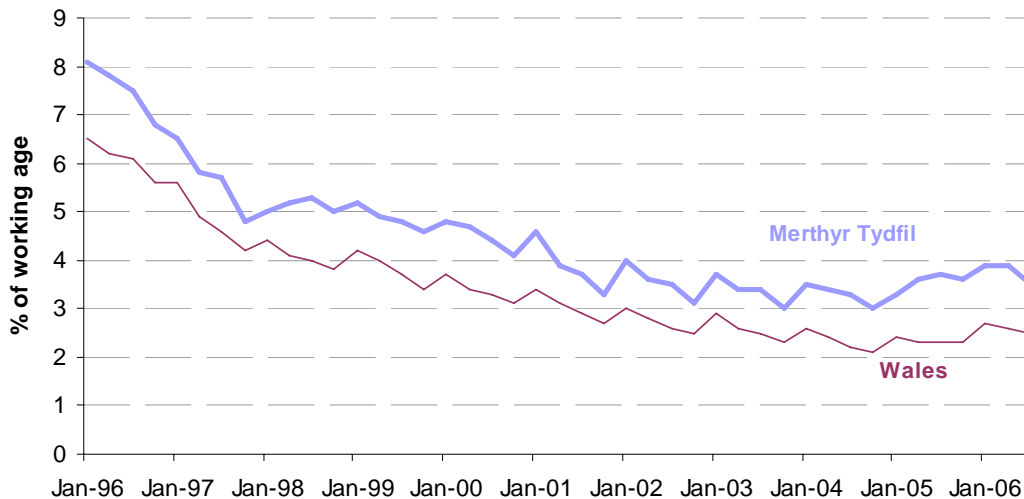
3 Economic and Labour Market Statistics

Around 68% of the working age population of Merthyr Tydfil is economically active (compared to 75% in Wales), and under 63% are in employment. One in five jobs in the area are in the manufacturing sector while a below average percentage of jobs (2%) are in the construction sector. As in Wales, the majority of jobs are within the services sector.

Median annual pay for full time employees in Merthyr Tydfil is over £2,000 less than the national median at just over £19,300.

Figure 2 shows the rate of working age people claiming Job-Seekers' Allowance over time, which is higher in Merthyr Tydfil than in Wales. Around 3.5% of the working age population in Merthyr Tydfil are claimants, and nearly one in five claimants have been receiving the allowance for more than 12 months, compared to one in eight of claimants across Wales.

Figure 2: Job Seekers' Allowance claimants in Merthyr Tydfil & Wales



Source: Department for Work and Pensions (on [NOMIS](#))

Compared to Wales, proportionally more people or households in Merthyr Tydfil claim incapacity benefits, income support, and pensions credit.

In 2005-06, 450 National Insurance Number allocations were made to foreign nationals resident in Merthyr Tydfil, which was 2.7% of the total allocations for foreign nationals resident in Wales.

Table 2: Economic and Labour Market Statistics

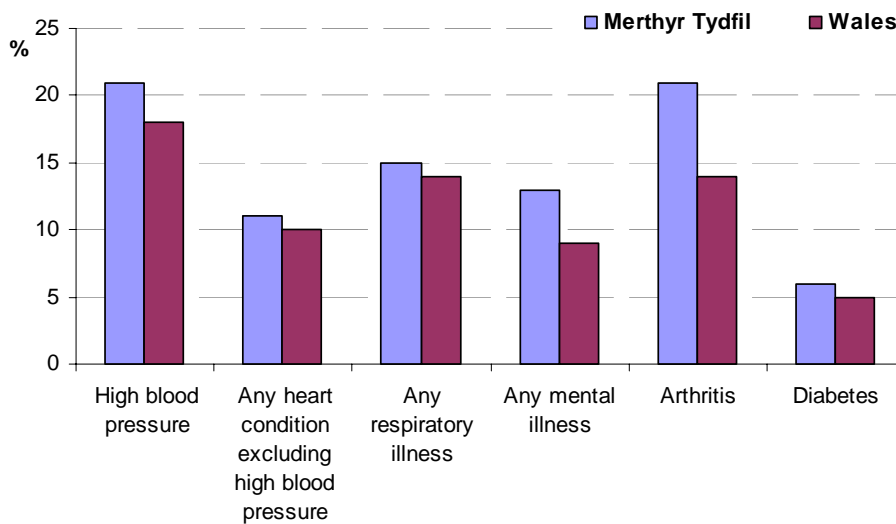
Ref	Merthyr Tydfil	Wales	Units	
a	Economically active, 2005:	67.9	75.2	<i>Per cent of the working age</i>
	In employment	62.5	71.2	<i>Per cent of the working age</i>
	Employees	57.7	62.1	<i>Per cent of the working age</i>
	Self employed	3.6	8.5	<i>Per cent of the working age</i>
	Unemployed	7.8	5.1	<i>Per cent of economically active</i>
a	Economically inactive, 2005:	32.1	24.8	<i>Per cent of the working age</i>
	Wanting a job	10.8	6.0	<i>Per cent of economically inactive</i>
	Not wanting a job	21.3	18.8	<i>Per cent of economically inactive</i>
a	National Statistics Socio-economic Classification, 2001:			
	Managerial and professional	16.8	22.0	<i>Per cent of those aged 16-74</i>
	Intermediate	12.0	15.1	<i>Per cent of those aged 16-74</i>
	Routine and Manual	32.4	30.0	<i>Per cent of those aged 16-74</i>
	Never worked and long-term unemployed	6.0	3.8	<i>Per cent of those aged 16-74</i>
	Not classifiable	32.9	29.1	<i>Per cent of those aged 16-74</i>
a	Employee jobs by sector, 2004:			
	Manufacturing	21.5	15.3	<i>Per cent of employee jobs</i>
	Construction	1.9	4.6	<i>Per cent of employee jobs</i>
	Services	76.2	78.3	<i>Per cent of employee jobs</i>
	Tourism-related	6.8	8.7	<i>Per cent of employee jobs</i>
a	Jobs density, 2004	0.69	0.76	<i>Jobs to working-age people</i>
b	Pay for full-time employee jobs, 2006:			
	Median gross weekly pay	367.80	408.00	£, p
	Median gross annual pay	19,353	21,394	£
a	Job-Seekers' Allowance claimants, 2005:			
	Persons	3.6	2.3	<i>Per cent of the working age</i>
	Males	5.4	3.4	<i>Per cent of the working age</i>
	Females	1.6	1.2	<i>Per cent of the working age</i>
	Aged 24 and under	40.8	35.7	<i>Per cent of all claimants</i>
	Aged 25-49	49.4	49.1	<i>Per cent of all claimants</i>
	Aged 50+	9.9	15.2	<i>Per cent of all claimants</i>
	Up to 6 months duration	63.4	72.5	<i>Per cent of all claimants</i>
	Over 6 up to 12 months duration	18.5	15.0	<i>Per cent of all claimants</i>
	Over 12 months duration	18.1	12.5	<i>Per cent of all claimants</i>
c	Claimants of other benefits, February 2006:			
d	Incapacity Benefit and/or Severe Disablement Allowance:			
	Persons	19.3	11.5	<i>Per cent of the working age</i>
	Males	21.4	12.8	<i>Per cent of the working age</i>
	Females	17.0	10.0	<i>Per cent of the working age</i>
e	Income Support claimants	15.5	10.4	<i>Per cent of households</i>
f	Pensions Credit claimants:			
	Guarantee credit only	9.7	7.4	<i>Per cent of those aged 60+</i>
	Guarantee & savings credit	17.1	14.8	<i>Per cent of those aged 60+</i>
g	National Insurance Number Registrations of non-UK Nationals, 2005-06	450	16,440	<i>Number</i>

4 Health and Social Services Statistics

Thirty per cent of adults in the area have a limiting long term illness, and more than one in six describe their general health as 'not good' compared with one in eight across Wales. Nearly 4% of people in Merthyr Tydfil provide 50 or more hours of unpaid care per week, which is higher than the national proportion.

Figure 3 shows the percentage of adults being treated for specific illnesses in Merthyr Tydfil. A higher proportion of adults in the area than in Wales are being treated for the illnesses shown, particularly mental illness and arthritis. The average mental and physical component summary scores of adults in Merthyr Tydfil are lower than the Welsh averages, indicating lower levels of health and well-being.

Figure 3: Adults who reported being treated for illnesses in Merthyr Tydfil & Wales, 2003/05



Source: [Welsh Health Survey](#)

Adults in Merthyr Tydfil are more likely than those in Wales to be overweight or obese, or to have been binge-drinking in the past week. A similar proportion of adults in the area as in Wales met guidelines for physical activity, but a slightly lower proportion of adults in Merthyr Tydfil met guidelines for intake of fruit and vegetables.

Table 3: Health and Social Services Statistics

Ref	Merthyr Tydfil	Wales	Units	
a	Key health information, 2001:			
	Limiting long-term illness	30.0	23.3	<i>Per cent of the population</i>
	General health 'not good'	18.1	12.5	<i>Per cent of the population</i>
	Providing unpaid care for 50+ hours a week	3.9	3.1	<i>Per cent of the population</i>
b	Currently being treated for, 2003/05:			
	High blood pressure	21	18	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>
	Any heart condition excluding high blood pressure	11	10	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>
	Any respiratory illness	15	14	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>
	Any mental illness	13	9	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>
	Arthritis	21	14	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>
	Diabetes	6	5	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>
c	SF-36 (higher scores mean better health), 2003/05:			
	Physical Component Summary Score	46.3	48.7	<i>Mean for those aged 16+</i>
	Mental Component Summary Score	47.3	49.7	<i>Mean for those aged 16+</i>
d	Deaths from selected causes (European standardised rate), 2004:			
	All malignant neoplasms:			
	Males	142.7	141.6	<i>Rate per 100,000 under 75</i>
	Females	192.0	111.0	<i>Rate per 100,000 under 75</i>
	Ischaemic heart disease:			
	Males	78.7	86.6	<i>Rate per 100,000 under 75</i>
	Females	33.7	32.2	<i>Rate per 100,000 under 75</i>
	Cerebrovascular disease:			
	Males	30.1	20.3	<i>Rate per 100,000 under 75</i>
	Females	16.4	16.5	<i>Rate per 100,000 under 75</i>
	Respiratory disease:			
	Males	59.8	31.5	<i>Rate per 100,000 under 75</i>
	Females	33.1	24.7	<i>Rate per 100,000 under 75</i>
e	Health-related lifestyle, 2003/05:			
f	Smoker	27	27	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>
g	Binge-drinking at least once in the past 7 days	22	19	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>
h	Met fruit and vegetable guidelines the previous day	38	40	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>
i	Met physical activity guidelines over the past 7 days	29	29	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>
j	Overweight or obese	58	54	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>

4 Health and Social Services Statistics (continued)

Adults in the local authority are as likely as adults in Wales to have seen their GP in the past two weeks but less likely to have seen their dentist over the past year. There are fewer General Practitioners (GPs) but more dentists per head of the population in Merthyr Tydfil than in Wales.

GPs prescribe an annual average of 22 items at a cost of £217 per person in Merthyr Tydfil compared with an average of 18 items at a cost of £195 per person throughout Wales.

A higher proportion of people in Merthyr Tydfil than in Wales are waiting for a first outpatient appointment while a lower proportion are waiting for day case treatment. In terms of hospital activity, the rates of elective inpatient and day case admission in the area are similar to those in Wales, but the rate of emergency inpatient admission is noticeably higher.

In Merthyr Tydfil, there is a higher rate of children on the child protection register and twice the rate of looked after children compared to Wales. The rate of social service assessments carried out among over 65 year olds in the area is below average, but the provision of community based social services for older adults is more prevalent.

Table 3: Health and Social Services Statistics (continued)

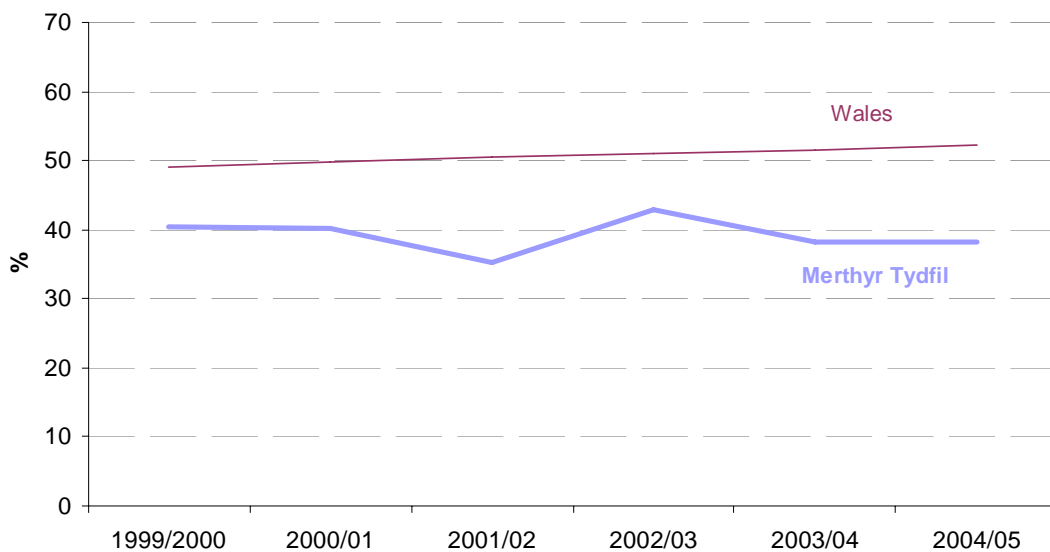
Ref	Merthyr Tydfil	Wales	Units
b Use of health services, 2003/05:			
Family doctor (GP) in the past two weeks	18	17	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>
Outpatient department in the past three months	24	19	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>
Inpatient in the past year	11	10	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>
Pharmacist in the past year	80	80	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>
Dentist in the past year	60	67	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>
Optician in the past year	46	46	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>
k Health facilities, 2005:			
General Practitioners (GPs)	5.6	6.2	<i>Rate per 10,000 people</i>
Average GP list size	1,845	1,650	<i>Number of patients</i>
General dental practitioners	4.4	3.5	<i>Rate per 10,000 people</i>
l GP prescribing, 2004-05:			
Average number of prescription items	22.3	18.3	<i>Number per person</i>
Average cost of prescriptions	217.43	195.39	<i>£,p per person</i>
m Waiting lists, 2006:			
Waiting for:			
First outpatient appointment	798.0	678.6	<i>Rate per 10,000 people</i>
Inpatient admission	126.4	124.3	<i>Rate per 10,000 people</i>
Day case treatment	72.1	108.8	<i>Rate per 10,000 people</i>
Waiting more than 3 months for:			
First outpatient appointment	45.3	44.2	<i>Per cent of total waiting</i>
First inpatient or daycase treatment	46.9	47.4	<i>Per cent of total waiting</i>
Waiting more than 6 months for:			
First outpatient appointment	21.6	20.2	<i>Per cent of total waiting</i>
First inpatient or daycase treatment	21.6	21.4	<i>Per cent of total waiting</i>
n Hospital activity, 2004-05:			
Inpatient admissions:			
Elective	45.5	45.5	<i>Rate per 1,000 people</i>
Emergency	163.3	113.3	<i>Rate per 1,000 people</i>
Total	208.8	158.8	<i>Rate per 1,000 people</i>
Day case admissions	37.8	39.2	<i>Rate per 1,000 people</i>
Total inpatient and day case admissions	246.6	198.0	<i>Rate per 1,000 people</i>
o Social Services for children aged under 18, 2005:			
Looked after children	13.4	6.7	<i>Rate per 1,000 children</i>
On child protection register at 31 March	55.2	34.8	<i>Rate per 10,000 children</i>
o Social Services for people aged 65+, 2004-05:			
Assessment	109.2	121.8	<i>Rate per 1,000 aged 65+</i>
Community based services	184.8	150.4	<i>Rate per 1,000 aged 65+</i>
Residential care	28.1	27.0	<i>Rate per 1,000 aged 65+</i>
Nursing home care	11.6	13.6	<i>Rate per 1,000 aged 65+</i>

5 Education and Training Statistics

Over 23% of adults of working age in Merthyr Tydfil hold no qualifications, compared with less than 17% of adults throughout Wales. Around one in seven in the area hold the highest level of qualification (equivalent to NVQ level four or above) compared to around one in four across Wales.

Less than 40% of pupils in their final year of compulsory education achieved five or more GCSE grades A*-C (or a vocational equivalent) in Merthyr Tydfil, compared with over 52% in Wales. Figure 4 shows this percentage over time. The average GCSE/GNVQ points score in the area is 32.8, 7.5 less than the national average.

Figure 4: % achieving 5+ GCSE grades A*-C or equivalent in Merthyr Tydfil & Wales



Source: StatsWales table [001897](#) and Statistical Directorate [Release](#)

Performance at A level or equivalent in Merthyr Tydfil is closer to that in Wales, and although a lower proportion in the local authority achieved two or more grades A-C, a slightly higher proportion achieved two or more grades A-E than in Wales.

Pupil teacher ratios in the area are higher than those found throughout Wales at both primary, secondary and special schools. The average class size for KS1 at primary schools in Merthyr Tydfil is around two and a half pupils higher than that across Wales, whereas the average class sizes at KS2 and for secondary years 7-11 are similar to the national averages.

Table 4: Education and Training Statistics

Data are for 2004/05 unless another year is given

Ref	Merthyr Tydfil	Wales	Units	
a	Qualifications, 2005:			
	NVQ4 and above	14.6	24.0	<i>Per cent of working age</i>
	NVQ3 and above	28.7	41.6	<i>Per cent of working age</i>
	NVQ2 and above	49.2	62.0	<i>Per cent of working age</i>
	NVQ1 and above	67.1	76.3	<i>Per cent of working age</i>
	Other Qualifications	9.4	7.0	<i>Per cent of working age</i>
	No Qualifications	23.2	16.6	<i>Per cent of working age</i>
b	GCSE Examination Performance:			
	5+ GCSE / Equivalent Grades A*-C	38.2	52.2	<i>Per cent</i>
	5+ GCSE / Equivalent Grades A*-G	79.7	85.2	<i>Per cent</i>
	Average GCSE / GNVQ points score	32.8	40.3	<i>Score</i>
c	A Level Examination Performance:			
	2+ A Level / Equivalent Grades A-C	63.4	67.6	<i>Per cent</i>
	2+ A Level / Equivalent Grades A-E	95.8	94.4	<i>Per cent</i>
	Average A Level / Equivalent points score	18.3	20.5	<i>Score</i>
d	Pupil teacher ratios:			
	Primary schools	21.2	20.7	<i>Ratio</i>
	Secondary schools	17.2	16.7	<i>Ratio</i>
	Special schools	8.5	6.3	<i>Ratio</i>
d	Average Class Sizes:			
	Primary KS1	26.7	24.3	<i>Number of pupils</i>
	Primary KS2	25.8	25.0	<i>Number of pupils</i>
	Secondary Years 7-11	22.2	22.5	<i>Number of pupils</i>
	Secondary Years 12-13	9.2	10.5	<i>Number of pupils</i>

6 Housing Statistics

There are around 23 thousand households in Merthyr Tydfil with an average size of 2.4 people. Over 53% of households in the area include at least one person with a limiting long term illness, compared to around 42% of households in Wales as a whole. Relative to Wales, there are more households consisting of a lone parent with dependent children.

Over 17% of homes in Merthyr Tydfil are rented from the local authority compared to less than 14% of homes throughout Wales. Just over two thirds of households in the area are owner occupied, and there are proportionally fewer homes rented from private landlords than in Wales. The median price of a house in Merthyr Tydfil in 2005 was £75,000, £50,000 less than the median price in Wales. However, the median price in the area rose at a rate of around 28% in 2004-05, three times the rate in Wales as a whole.

Nearly 6% of a total of around 24,500 household spaces in Merthyr Tydfil are vacant, which is a higher percentage than in Wales. A higher proportion of the Merthyr Tydfil population were accepted as being statutory homeless by the local authority compared to Wales as a whole. Average council tax is lower in Merthyr Tydfil at £759 compared to £832 in Wales.

Table 5: Housing Statistics

Data are for 2001 unless another year is given

Ref	Merthyr Tydfil	Wales	Units
a Households:			
Total	23,145	1,209,048	<i>Number</i>
Average size	2.4	2.4	<i>Number of members</i>
One person	28.9	29.1	<i>Per cent</i>
Lone parent with dependent children	9.6	7.3	<i>Per cent</i>
Pensioner	24.4	25.6	<i>Per cent</i>
One or more person with limiting long-term illness	53.6	42.4	<i>Per cent</i>
No central heating	4.5	7.5	<i>Per cent</i>
a Household spaces:			
Total household spaces	24,584	1,275,816	<i>Number</i>
Vacant	5.7	4.0	<i>Per cent</i>
Second home/holiday accommodation	0.2	1.2	<i>Per cent</i>
a Tenure:			
Owner Occupied	67.1	71.3	<i>Per cent</i>
Local Authority	17.4	13.7	<i>Per cent</i>
Housing Association/Registered Social Landlord	5.4	4.2	<i>Per cent</i>
Private Landlord	5.2	7.4	<i>Per cent</i>
Other	4.8	3.3	<i>Per cent</i>
b Homelessness decisions, 2004:			
Eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need	4.8	3.4	<i>Per 1,000 population</i>
c Median house prices:			
2004	58,500	115,000	£
2005	75,000	125,000	£
Change 2004-05	28.2	8.7	<i>Per cent</i>
d Average Council Tax per dwelling, 2006-07	759	832	£

7 Transport, Crime and Environment Statistics

More than 35% of households in Merthyr Tydfil are without a car or a van compared to 26% of households in Wales. Of those adults in employment, 72.5% travel to work by car and over 9% by public transport, both higher than the equivalent percentages for Wales as a whole.

The volume of traffic per unit length of road in the local authority is greater than in Wales and there is a higher rate of both road traffic accidents and casualties per length of road. However the rate of people killed or seriously injured as the result of a road traffic accident in the area is less than a third of that in Wales.

The rate of all recorded crime incidents per head of the population in Merthyr Tydfil is greater than the equivalent rate in Wales, as are the rates of criminal damage and vehicle and other theft in particular. The rate of burglary is lower than in Wales.

In 2005-06, a smaller proportion of municipal waste was recycled or composted in Merthyr Tydfil than in Wales. The chemical quality of Merthyr Tydfil's rivers is comparable to Wales', whilst a higher percentage of river length was found to be of good biological quality than nationally.

Table 6: Transport, Crime and Environment Statistics

Ref	Merthyr Tydfil	Wales	Units	
Transport				
a	Use of transport, 2001:			
	Households without a car or van	35.2	26.0	<i>Per cent of households</i>
	Households with 2 or more car/vans	20.3	28.5	<i>Per cent of households</i>
	Travel to work by car	72.5	70.7	<i>Per cent of 16-74 in employment</i>
	Travel to work by public transport	9.3	6.5	<i>Per cent of 16-74 in employment</i>
b	Road accidents, 2004:			
	Accidents	48.6	28.1	<i>Rate per 100km road</i>
	Casualties	76.1	40.3	<i>Rate per 100km road</i>
	Casualties - slight	430.4	411.5	<i>Rate per 100,000 population</i>
	Casualties - killed or seriously injured	16.3	52.1	<i>Rate per 100,000 population</i>
c	Volume of traffic (billion vehicle km)	1.14	0.80	<i>Per 1,000 km of road</i>
d	Years of life lost by death due to motor vehicle accident, 2000-2004	24.1	16.2	<i>Per 10,000 population</i>
Crime				
e	All recorded crime, Jan-Mar 2005:			
	Violence against the person	26.2	21.9	<i>Rate per 1,000 population</i>
	Burglary	5.0	4.4	<i>Rate per 1,000 population</i>
	Vehicle and other theft	1.7	2.3	<i>Rate per 1,000 population</i>
	Criminal damage	10.5	7.6	<i>Rate per 1,000 population</i>
		7.6	5.5	<i>Rate per 1,000 population</i>
Environment				
f	Municipal waste recycled or composted, 2005-06	20.7	25.9	<i>Per cent</i>
g	Chemical river quality, 2005			
	Good quality	92.7	94.6	<i>Per cent of river length</i>
	Good or fair quality	100.0	98.2	<i>Per cent of river length</i>
g	Biological river quality, 2005			
	Good quality	92.7	79.7	<i>Per cent of river length</i>
	Good or fair quality	100.0	99.2	<i>Per cent of river length</i>

8 Deprivation Statistics

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2005 (WIMD⁷) is a measure of deprivation for small areas in Wales. It ranks statistical geographies known as Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in terms of deprivation across various domains such as health and employment, as well as providing an overall deprivation rank. Although WIMD does not provide deprivation ranks for local authorities as a whole it is possible to look at the rank of LSOAs within a local authority.

In Merthyr Tydfil (which has 36 LSOAs):

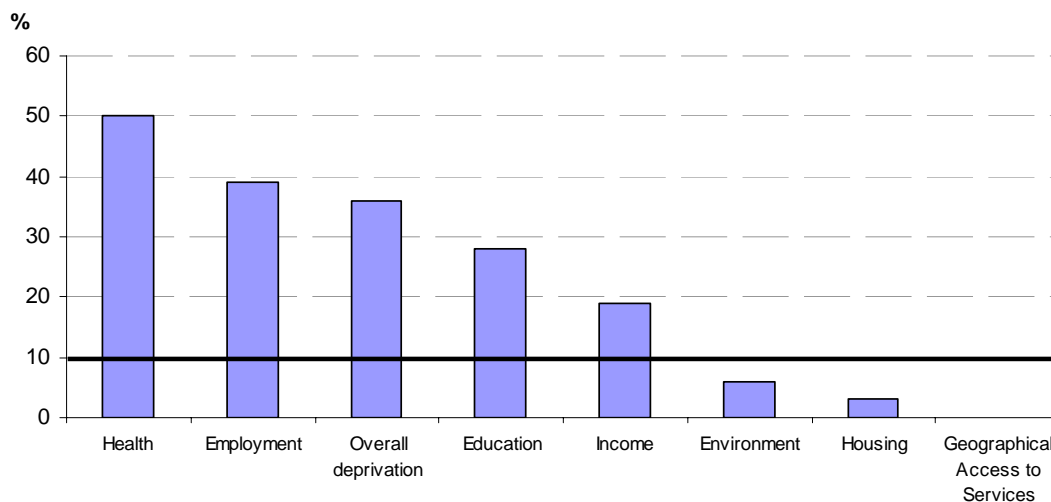
- ◆ thirteen LSOAs (36%) fall within the 10% most deprived LSOAs in Wales;
- ◆ The majority (86%) of LSOAs are more deprived than the Wales average⁸.

In relation to Wales as a whole, this means that a relatively high proportion of areas in Merthyr Tydfil are among the 10% most deprived, and overall most areas fall in the more deprived half of Wales.

The map of Merthyr Tydfil in annex 2 shows LSOAs within the area shaded according to their overall level of deprivation, seen in relation to Electoral Division boundaries.

Figure 5 shows that there are greater than average proportions (i.e. more than 10%) of Merthyr Tydfil's LSOAs in the 10% most deprived in Wales for health, employment, overall deprivation, education, and income domains.

Figure 5: The % of LSOAs in Merthyr Tydfil that are in the 10% most deprived LSOAs in Wales, for overall deprivation and by domain, 2005



Source: [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2005](#)

For more details please see the source of these statistics, the WIMD 2005 reports⁹ for local authorities.

⁷ <http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/wimd2005>

⁸ The 'Wales average' means the median area according to the WIMD 2005 ranking, so that half of all LSOAs in Wales are more deprived and half are less deprived than the 'Wales average'.

⁹ <http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/wimd2005/results/analysis-revised>

Annex 1: Sources and notes

Small discrepancies in Census statistics

In the sources listed above, similar Census statistics may be available from more than one table, and there are rare but occasional discrepancies in counts between tables. For example the counts of households in table KS16 (household spaces and accommodation type) and KS20 (household composition) differ by one or two households (out of a typical 50,000) for some local authorities. This is usually because cells in tables are randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data.

Ref	Source & Notes
Table 1: Population and Vital Statistics	
1-a	Neighbourhood Statistics, 2001 Census: Key Statistics (tables KS01, KS04, KS06A & KS07) http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/ <i>Area measurements are based on the 2001 version of the Ordnance Survey Boundary-Line data-set, amended where district boundaries have changed since 2001, and do not include inland water. Area is on Census Day 29th April 2001.</i> <i>'Non-white ethnic group' includes people from a mixed white-other ethnic group.</i>
1-b	ONS, Key Population and Vital Statistics 2004 (table 3) http://www.statistics.gov.uk/kpvs
1-c	NOMIS, 2001 Census: Census Area Statistics (table CAS002) http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/home/census2001.asp <i>Working age is 16-64 for males, 16-59 for females.</i> <i>Retirement age is 65+ for males, 60+ for females.</i>
1-d	Neighbourhood Statistics, 2001 Census: Key Statistics (table KS05) http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/ <i>The EU is as defined on Census day (29 April 2001).</i>
1-e	Neighbourhood Statistics, 2001 Census: Key Statistics (table KS06A & KS25) http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/ <i>One or more skills in Welsh means speaks, reads, writes and/or understands Welsh.</i> <i>Identified as Welsh' means those who have written 'Welsh' or 'Cymraeg' or similar in one or more of the write-in boxes in the ethnic group question.</i>
1-f	StatsWales (table 002608) http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=2608 <i>The figures are constructed from the estimated population and total deaths by single year/quinary age each year, based on a three year average. The "expected years of life" is the lifetime of a newborn person, if they were subject throughout their lives to the average recorded death rate of the three year period. Such a calculation excludes future improvements to mortality rates.</i>
1-g	StatsWales (table 001883) http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=1883 <i>Death rate is calculated as the number of deaths occurring in each calendar year per 1,000 residents, estimated at 30 June of each year.</i>
1-h	StatsWales (table 002468) http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=2468 <i>Standardised Mortality Ratios are calculated as the number of actual deaths in each area in a given period of years, as a percentage of deaths which would have been expected if the local population had experienced the age-specific mortality rates in Wales as a whole during that period.</i>
1-i	ONS, Births (provisional) 2005 http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14408

Ref	Source & Notes
1-j	ONS, Conceptions in England and Wales, 2004, in Health Statistics Quarterly 29 http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/ssdataset.asp?vlnk=9226 <i>Underage means aged under 16 years old. Numbers and rates for 2004 conceptions are provisional.</i>
1-k	Health Statistics Wales 2006 (table 1.6) http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/publications/hsw2006/ <i>Live and still births under 2,500g per 100 births with a stated birthweight.</i>
Table 2: Economic and Labour Market Statistics	
2-a	NOMIS official labour market statistics http://www.nomisweb.co.uk http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038432110/report.aspx Local Authority Profile <i>Information on economically active/inactive from the Annual Population Survey January - December 2005. Information on the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification is from Census Area Statistics table CAS042. The 3 class version is used, for further details please see the link below:</i> http://www.statistics.gov.uk/nsbase/methods_quality/ns_sec/downloads/NS-SEC_User.pdf <i>Information on employee jobs is from the Annual Business Inquiry employee analysis 2004, included in the Local Authority profile at September 2006. Tourism-related jobs are a subset of the Services category. Information on jobs density is from Jobs density 2004, included in the Local Authority profile at September 2006. Jobs density is the total number of filled jobs in an area divided by the resident population of working age in that area. The number of jobs in an area is composed of jobs done by residents (of any age) and jobs done by workers (of any age) who commute into the area. The working-age population comprises residents of working age who work in the area plus workers of working age who commute out of the area to work in other areas and those who are unemployed or economically inactive of working age. JSA claimant counts averaged over the twelve month period January - December 2005.</i>
2-b	ONS, 2006 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (tables 8.1a & 8.7a) http://www.statistics.gov.uk/ashe http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/ASHE_2006/tab8_1a.xls http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/ASHE_2006/tab8_7a.xls <i>This is the median pay for all employee jobs, including full-time and part-time jobs. The median is the value with half of all values above and half below (i.e.: the middle value).</i>
2-c	Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Tabulation Tool http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp
2-d	DWP, Working age claimants of incapacity benefits, February 2006 http://193.115.152.21/100pc/wapop/ccla/ccstatgp/a_cnpop_r_ccla_c_ccstatgp_feb06.html <i>Includes those receiving Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance. Incapacity Benefit is paid to people who are assessed as being incapable of work and who meet certain contribution conditions. Until April 2001, people who were incapable of work and did not satisfy the contribution conditions for Incapacity Benefit could get Severe Disablement Allowance.</i>
2-e	DWP, Income Support, February 2006 http://193.115.152.21/100pc/is/ccla/ccsex/ccgor/a_carate_r_ccla_c_ccsex_p_ccgor_wales_feb06.html <i>Income Support is intended to help people on low incomes who do not have to be available for employment. The main types of people who receive it are lone parents, the long and short-term sick, people with disabilities and other special groups. Rates are calculated using 2001 Census estimates of numbers of households from http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/ (table KS16).</i>
2-f	DWP, Pension Credit, February 2006 http://193.115.152.21/100pc/pc/ccla/pctype/ccgor/a_benefic_r_ccla_c_pctype_p_ccgor_wales_feb06.html <i>Pension Credit is designed to help pensioners at the lower end of the income scale by ensuring a guaranteed minimum weekly income (guaranteed credit) and, in addition, to reward those people who have made modest provision for their retirement (savings credit). Rates are calculated using mid-2005 estimates of the population aged 60+, from StatsWales table 003122.</i>

Ref	Source & Notes
2-g	DWP, National Insurance Number (NINo) Registrations of non-UK Nationals, 2005-06 <i>100% sample at 25th June 2005 from the National Insurance Recording System (NIRS). Numbers are rounded to the nearest ten. Local Authority counts are based on the most recently recorded address of the NINo recipient, assigned to an Authority by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.</i> <i>Information supplied by DWP and the Local Government Data Unit -Wales. See the following DWP report for further information on NINo allocations made to overseas nationals entering the UK.</i> http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/niall/niall_report.pdf
Table 3: Health and Social Services Statistics	
3-a	Neighbourhood Statistics, 2001 Census: Key Statistics (table KS08) http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/
3-b	Welsh Health Survey, 2003/05 http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/health-2006/hdw20060906/?lang=en <i>Figures for local authorities are based on a sample of between 1,100 and 2,200 adults.</i> <i>Results are age-standardised, to take account of possible differences in the age distributions of areas being compared.</i> <i>Data collection is through self-completion questionnaire, so results reflect people's own understanding of their health rather than a clinical assessment of their medical condition.</i>
3-c	See source and notes at 3-b. <i>The SF-36 is a standard set of 36 health status questions asking respondents about their own perception of their physical and mental health and the impact it has on their daily lives. Responses can be combined to produce summary scores for both physical and mental health. For further details, please see the Welsh Health Survey link above, or:</i> www.sf-36.org
3-d	Health Statistics Wales 2006 (table 1.13) http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/publications/hsw2006/ <i>European standardised death rates are a way of comparing death rates for populations whose age and sex distribution vary. It eliminates from the trends the increase or decrease that may be due to changes in the age/sex structure of the population. In this case they are calculated by applying the age-specific death rates for 5 year age bands and by sex for the Welsh population in a given year to a standard European population to estimate the rates for the standard population had the Welsh age-specific rates by sex applied in that standard population.</i>
3-e	See source and notes at 3-b.
3-f	<i>The figure includes daily and occasional smokers.</i>
3-g	<i>Refers to the most units drunk on any one day in the past seven days. Binge-drinking is defined as men drinking more than 8 units a day, women more than 6 units. For example, a small glass of wine is one unit, and a pint of normal strength lager is two. The proportion is based on all adults (including non-drinkers).</i>
3-h	<i>Guidelines recommend eating at least five portions of a variety of fruit and vegetables each day. Examples of portions are one apple, or three tablespoons of vegetables.</i>
3-i	<i>Guidelines currently recommend that adults do at least 30 minutes of at least moderate intensity physical activity (such as heavy gardening or fast walking), on five or more days a week.</i>
3-j	<i>The Body Mass Index (BMI) is a measure of overweight and obesity, allowing for differences in weight due to height. Adults are defined as being overweight or obese if they have a BMI of 25 or more.</i>

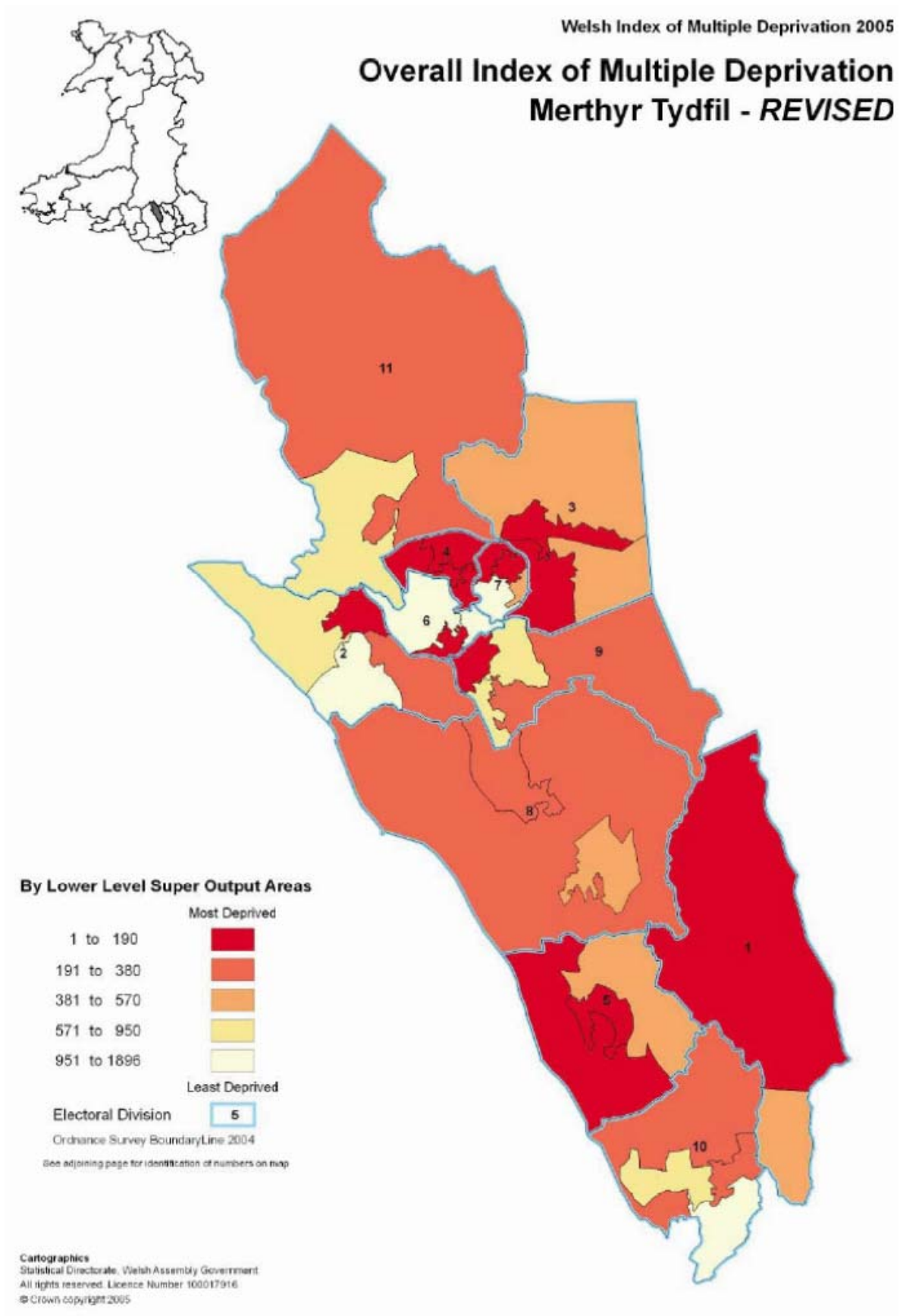
Ref	Source & Notes
3-k	Health Statistics Wales 2006 (tables 5.6 & 5.9) http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/publications/hsw2006/ <i>General Practitioners at 30 September 2005, excluding GP registrars, GP retainers, and locums. Average GP list size is the number of registered patients divided by the number of all practitioners. General dental practitioners (principals, assistants and vocational trainees) at 30 September 2005. Rates are calculated using 2005 mid-year estimates of population from StatsWales table 003122.</i>
3-l	Health Statistics Wales 2006 (table 5.16) http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/publications/hsw2006/ <i>Prescriptions in the year ending 31 March 2005.</i>
3-m	Health Statistics Wales 2006 (tables 6.2, 6.3 & 6.4) http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/publications/hsw2006/ <i>Waiting lists for all specialities, at 31 March 2006 Waiting lists reported by Local Health Boards include all those resident in the area who are waiting for NHS-funded treatment. This will include those waiting for treatment at NHS hospitals outside Wales and at private hospitals where the Local Health Board is providing funding for the treatment.</i>
3-n	Health Statistics Wales 2006 (table 8.1) http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/publications/hsw2006/ <i>Data relating to in-patients and day cases are obtained from the Patient Episode Database for Wales (PEDW). Some NHS activity undertaken using the U.K. independent sector is not included in these figures.</i>
3-o	Social Services Statistics Wales 2004-05: Authority Profiles http://www.dataunitwales.gov.uk/eng/pss.asp?cat=227&year=2005 <i>"Looked after" is the term used to describe all children who are the subject of a care order, or who are provided with accommodation on a voluntary basis for more than 24 hours. Child protection registers contain information on all children in the area who are considered to be suffering from or are likely to suffer significant harm.</i>

Table 4: Education and Training Statistics

4-a	NOMIS official labour market statistics http://www.nomisweb.co.uk <i>Information from the Annual Population Survey, January - December 2005. The link below provides detailed definitions of the qualification levels.</i> http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/tableviewer/document.aspx?FileId=690
4-b	GCSE/GNVQ and GCE A, AS and AVCE results in Wales, 2004/05 (table 2) http://new.wales.gov.uk/legacy_en/keypubstatisticsforwales/content/publication/schools-teach/2005/sdr118-2005/sdr118-2005.pdf <i>GCSE/GNVQ data relate to the examination achievements of pupils in their final year of compulsory education at maintained schools (figures for Wales include independent schools).</i>
4-c	GCSE/GNVQ and GCE A, AS and AVCE results in Wales, 2004/05 (table 6) http://new.wales.gov.uk/legacy_en/keypubstatisticsforwales/content/publication/schools-teach/2005/sdr118-2005/sdr118-2005.pdf <i>These A Level / Equivalent results relate to the examination achievements of pupils in maintained schools, aged 17 at the start of the academic year, entering two or more A/AS levels or a vocational equivalent. Figures for Wales include independent schools, but exclude further education institutions.</i>
4-d	Schools in Wales: General Statistics 2005 (tables 11.4, 11.5 & 11.6) http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/publications/swgs2005/?lang=en <i>Results for maintained schools, at January 2005. Primary KS1 includes reception and mixed nursery/reception classes.</i>

Ref	Source & Notes
Table 5: Housing Statistics	
5-a	Neighbourhood Statistics, 2001 Census: Key Statistics (tables KS16, KS18, KS19, KS20 & KS21) http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/ <i>A household comprises one person living alone, or a group of people living at the same address with common housekeeping (sharing a living room/sitting room or at least one meal a day). 'Total households' refers to households with residents; 'total household spaces' to households with or without residents. A dependent child is a person in a household aged 0-15 (whether or not in a family) or a person aged 16-18 who is a full time student in a family with parent(s).</i>
5-b	Welsh Housing Statistics 2005 (table 7.2) http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/publications/whs2005/ <i>Based on decisions taken by the local authority under Part VII of the Housing Act 1996.</i>
5-c	Department for Communities and Local Government Housing Statistics (table 586) http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1156110 <i>Median house prices based on Land Registry data. Excluded from the above figures are sales at less than market price (eg Right To Buy), sales below £1,000 and sales above £20m. The median is the value with half of all values above and half below (i.e.: the middle value).</i>
5-d	Statistical Directorate (Welsh Assembly Government), Average Council Tax per dwelling, 2006-07 <i>Average council tax per dwelling is calculated from all chargeable dwellings before disabled discounts and reductions are taken into account. Exempt dwellings are excluded."</i>
Table 6: Transport, Crime and Environment Statistics	
6-a	Neighbourhood Statistics, 2001 Census: Key Statistics (tables KS15 & KS17) http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/ <i>'Travel to work by car' means driving (or as a passenger in) a car or van, or by taxi/minicab. 'Travel to work by public transport' means by underground, metro, light rail, tram, train, bus, mini bus or coach.</i>
6-b	2004 Road Casualties Wales (tables 3.6 & 5.8) http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/publications/rcw2004/ <i>Total road length is as at 1 April 2004, excluding green lanes and footpaths.</i>
6-c	2004 Road Casualties Wales (tables 3.6 & 12.1) http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/publications/rcw2004/ <i>Volume of traffic excluding pedal cycles. Vehicle kilometre: One vehicle times one kilometre travelled. For example, 1 vehicle travelling 1 kilometre a day for a year would be 365 vehicle kilometres.</i>
6-d	Health Statistics Wales 2006 (table 1.15) http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/publications/hsw2006/ <i>The number of deaths of people aged under 75 in each 5 year age-group is multiplied by the difference between the midpoint of the age group and 74.5. The average annual years of life lost are obtained by summing across the age groups and dividing by 5.</i>
6-e	Crime in England and Wales 2004/05 (statistics by region and area) www.crimestatistics.org.uk <i>These statistics are drawn from police recorded crime figures, and have not been seasonally adjusted. Further details on crime type definitions can be found through the link above.</i>
6-f	Municipal Waste Management Survey 2005-06 http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/env-2006/hdw200610243/ <i>Data from the Municipal Waste Management Survey 2005-06 (excludes abandoned vehicles). Municipal waste is household waste plus waste from non-household sources.</i>
6-g	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, River Quality Database 2005 http://www2.defra.gov.uk/db/rq/gorlist.asp <i>These data are best estimates of monitored river water quality. River courses and catchment areas often cross local authority boundaries and therefore the quality of some river waters within a single area may be affected by factors outside the borders of the authority. The same is true to a lesser extent for Wales.</i>

Annex 2: Overall Index of Multiple Deprivation map for Merthyr Tydfil¹⁰



¹⁰ <http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/wimd2005/results/analysis-revised>

Key to map:

1. Bedlinog
2. Cyfarthfa
3. Dowlais
4. Gurnos
5. Merthyr Vale
6. Park
7. Penydarren
8. Plymouth
9. Town
10. Treharris
11. Vaynor

Annex 3: Map of Merthyr Tydfil

