

# **Health of The North**

The Plainsong of Manchester's Health Profile Indicators – [Char March](#)  
Public Health – [Gareth Glyn-Roberts](#)

The Plainsong of Manchester's Health Profile Indicators  
(or, Thank Goodness for all Those Rainclouds,  
or, Manchester Gets Relegated)

*(To be read with a football results intonation!)*

Here are Manchester's results – look away now if you don't want to see the scores  
Deprivation – high; GCSEs achieved – low  
Proportion of children in poverty – high; Breast-feeding initiation – low  
Statutory homelessness – high; Healthy-eating adults – low  
Apart from the incidence of malignant melanoma  
Every single indicator is worse than the England average  
Violent crime – high; Long-term unemployment – high  
Smoking in pregnancy – high; Obese children – high  
Infant deaths – high; Road injuries and deaths – high  
Acute sexually-transmitted infections – high; Under-18 pregnancy – high;

Here are Manchester's results – look away now if you don't want to see the scores  
Under-18 alcohol-specific hospital stays – high; Physically-active adults – low  
Adults smoking – high; Hospital stays for self-harm – high  
Diabetes – high; Tuberculosis – high  
Drug misuse – high; Increasing and higher-risk drinking – high  
Hospital stays for alcohol-related harm – high; Hip fracture in 65s and over – high  
Excess winter deaths – high; Smoking-related deaths – high  
Early deaths by cancer, heart disease and stroke – high  
Obese adults – average; Incidence of malignant melanoma – low  
Life expectancy – male – low; Life expectancy – female – low.

[© Char March](#)

## Public Health

I gave a public health talk in Pontefract  
By golly I read them the riot act  
But the crowd began to disperse  
Now their health goes from bad to worse

I gave a public health talk in Oldham  
I told 'em and told 'em and told 'em  
But nobody took any notice  
It was as if I had halitosis

I gave a public health talk in Rotherham  
By 'eck did I bully and bother 'em  
In front of the public health board  
But I was politely ignored

I gave a public health talk in Clitheroe  
Oh boy I went at them like Billy-o  
But the hall emptied in two seconds flat  
And all that was left was a dog and a cat

I did a public health talk in Linton-on-Ouse  
Harangued them to stay off the booze  
But my passionate pleas they did snub  
And they all went off to the pub

I did a public health talk in Holmfirth  
Chastised them for all it was worth  
But they took the whole thing as a joke  
And went outside for a smoke

I packed in public health talks up North  
Got fed up of holding forth  
And so to the South I diverted  
Now I'm preaching to the converted.

[© Gareth Glyn-Roberts](#)