

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.

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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.

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