



## Health Protection Summary for London Borough of Barnet

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The London borough of Barnet, situated in the north-west of London, has a population of 364,000. In common with many London boroughs it is ethnically diverse. It has the largest proportion of Jewish people in any local government area in the United Kingdom (15.5%). Barnet is a relatively affluent borough, and has a deprivation index of 5.7, which is considerably lower than the England average of 20.4. The health of people in Barnet is generally better than the England average. However about 19.9% (14,215) children live in poverty, and with 595 homeless people, the rate of statutory homelessness in adults (4.1) is also worse than the England average (2.4).

Barnet has 67 GP practices, managed within a single Clinical Commissioning Group (Barnet CCG). The people of Barnet have access to 6 local hospitals - Royal Free Hospital, Northwick Park Hospital, Chase Farm Hospital, Barnet Hospital, Edgware Community Hospital and Finchley Memorial Hospital. Of these, the latter 3 are located in the borough of Barnet.

The borough also has around 103 care homes registered with the Care Quality Commission. Barnet has 158 free early education providers / nurseries (including pre-school nurseries associated with primary schools) and 98 primary schools, 27 secondary schools and 4 special schools. This is relatively high compared with other NENCL boroughs.

In 2014 there were 45 health protection related incidents and outbreaks in Barnet, reported to the NENCL Health Protection Team. Most of these were associated with schools, nurseries and hospitals. The most common causes of incidents and outbreaks were: norovirus or gastrointestinal illnesses (12), tuberculosis (10), varicella (6), scarlet fever / rash type illness (4) conjunctivitis (2) influenza (2), and environmental exposures (4).

The total number of infectious diseases reported from Barnet to the NENCL health protection team was a higher in 2014 (773) compared with 2013 (676). This is due to a 3-fold increase in scarlet fever notifications (75 vs 26) and a doubling of mumps notifications (75 vs 38) in 2014, compared to 2013 numbers. A relatively higher number of GI infections - namely Salmonellosis (64 in 2014, 48 in 2013), Shigellosis (40 in 2014, 34 in 2013) and VTEC E.coli (15 in 2014, 9 in 2013) - were also reported in 2014, compared to 2013.

On the positive side, there has however been a considerable reduction in the number of reported measles cases in Barnet (9 cases reported in 2014, 32 cases reported in 2013), which is most likely due to improving vaccination coverage of the MMR vaccine (which may not yet be reflected in the immunisation statistics in this report).

Population rates of specific infectious disease in Barnet tend to be on the average to the low side compared with other London boroughs in NENCL, with the notable exception of Salmonellosis, where Barnet had the highest reported rate in NENCL in 2014. The Barnet rate for Salmonellosis was 17.58 per 100,000 population, and the NENCL Average was 12.32 cases per 100,000 population. This is explained by an outbreak of Salmonella infections linked with a birthday party held in 2014, where a possible source of the infection could not be identified.

## Vaccine Preventable Diseases

Rates of vaccine coverage, recorded through COVER data show that DTP/IPV/Hib coverage in Q3, 2014 in 1 year olds and 2 year olds in Barnet is below the national average and the London average. Similarly, PCV vaccination coverage and Men C vaccination coverage in 1 year olds is also below the London and national average.

MMR (1 dose) coverage at 2 years fell from 87.8% to 78.3%, and MMR (2 dose) coverage at 5 years fell from 78.1% to 71.6% in Q3, 2014. Barnet's MMR coverage for both is the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest of all NENCL boroughs in Q3, 2014, and considerably below the England average of 91.8% (1 dose) at 2 years and 88.5% (2 dose) at 5 years. It is likely that when the annual data for 2014 is compiled, these proportions for all childhood vaccinations will be higher.

Coverage of HPV vaccine for all 3 doses in Barnet (69.5%) has improved considerably compared to coverage in 2012 (62.1%). It is still the fourth lowest in NENCL and is 10% lower than the London average (80.0%) and 17% lower than the England average (86.7%).

For Influenza vaccination coverage, looking at the period between September 2014 and January 2015 - Barnet - with 70.9% coverage - performed better than the London average of 69.2%, and only slightly below the national average (72.8%). The flu vaccination coverage in at-risk groups (6 m to 65 yrs) was 48.4%, compared to a London average of 49.8% and an England average of 50.3%. The flu vaccination coverage in pregnant women in 2013/14 was 37.8%, compared to a London average of 39.9% and an England average of 44.1%.

The vaccination coverage proportion for pneumococcal vaccine in the over 65 year old age group in 2013/14 in Barnet (64.4%) is above the London average (63.3%) and close to the England average (68.9%).

Vaccine coverage of hepatitis B at 50% is considerably lower in Barnet, compared to other NENCL boroughs. Barnet has the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest coverage for this vaccine, compared to other NENCL boroughs where values are available for comparison.

It is possible that the true vaccination rates are significantly higher than those shown in the official statistics, due to problems with data uploads to the COVER system. However, it is not possible to confirm this yet, and there are on-going discussions with NHS England, which hope to resolve this issue.

## TB

The incidence of TB in Barnet (20.9/100,000) in 2013, is higher than the England average of 12.3/100,000 although significantly below the average incidence for London of 36.3 per 100,000 and one of the lowest in NENCL. TB incidence in Barnet has declined significantly since 2012, when it was 30.5/ 100,000 population (Source: London TB register).

The higher than average levels of homelessness (this is statutory homeless, not street homelessness) in Barnet may be a contributory factor to TB incidence. However, TB treatment completion rates in Barnet are among the highest rates in NENCL compared with other NENCL boroughs, and it ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 13 boroughs in NENCL. Treatment completion rates have risen slightly from from 91% in 2012, to 92% in 2013.

TB is one of the common infections in Barnet outbreaks and incidents reported to the Health Protection Team. In 2014, ten TB incidents were managed jointly by the TB team at Barnet Hospital and the NENCL Health protection team; some with the assistance from the London TB Extended Contact Tracing Team (LTBEx. TB remains a priority for the NENCL Health Protection Team, and the recently published TB Strategy for England also recognises the importance of dealing with TB nationally as a priority. The NENCL HPT will be working closely with colleagues in the Local Authority and the NHS to assist in implementing this strategy.

## STIs and HIV

In 2013, 2676 acute Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) were diagnosed in Barnet residents, and of these, there were 1440 males and 1236 females. The Acute STI rate for Barnet residents is 736.4/100,000 residents (higher in males = 812.9, than in females = 661.7), which is lower than the London (1332/100,000) and England (810.9/100,000) rates

Chlamydia detection rates in young adults aged 15-24 in Barnet are considerably lower than the England average (1098 compared with 2016) and one of the lowest of the boroughs in NENCL (the best performing borough has detection rates almost three times higher). However the detection rate in Barnet has decreased by 14% in 2013 compared with 2012 and like most other boroughs in NENCL, Barnet has not demonstrated an increase in chlamydia detection rates over this time period.

Similar to all boroughs in NENCL, Barnet has seen a rise in the number of people living with HIV over the last five years. The number of people living with HIV and known to NHS and Social Care services has increased from 640 in 2009 to 750 in 2013. This represents a 17% increase over the 5 year period. The predominant route of acquiring HIV infection in this group is heterosexual sex.

The proportion of people presenting with HIV at a late stage of infection – (proportion of adults aged 15 years or more diagnosed with a CD4 cell count less than 350 cells per mm<sup>3</sup> among all newly diagnosed adults with CD4 cell count available within 91 days of diagnosis and with known residence based information) improved in Barnet in 2013 (51.5%), compared to 2012 (when it was 55.5%), as it did in all NENCL

boroughs with one exception (LB Enfield). However, the Barnet HIV late diagnosis rate (51.5) is higher than the England average (45.0) and approximately double the rate of the best performing boroughs in NENCL (Islington rate = 25.9, and City of London rate = 23.0).

## Air Pollution

The fraction of annual all-cause adult mortality attributable to anthropogenic (human-made) particulate air pollution in Barnet is around 6.4 which is slightly higher than the average for England. This fraction has fallen from 7.0% in 2010, in line with the small decline seen in most London Boroughs and in England overall. Nevertheless this represents 162 preventable deaths for the Borough in adults aged 25+, and the loss of 1,701 life years.

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All websites listed - Last accessed 26/04/15