



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

Key Statistics for Blaenau Gwent

Abstract

This paper provides key statistics for Blaenau Gwent Local Authority area and Assembly Constituency, under a number of topic headings.

In general, information for constituencies is of limited availability. But as Blaenau Gwent is also a local authority there is a wider range of statistics available.

The Members' Research Service intends to produce profiles for all Assembly Constituencies during 2006.

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Key Statistics for Blaenau Gwent

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Executive Summary

The following points provide a brief overview of Blaenau Gwent, 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 70 thousand people live in Blaenau Gwent, which is more than four times as densely populated as Wales as a whole. The constituency's population fell by 5% between 1993 and 2003, compared with a rise of 2% in Wales.
- ◆ In the 2005 UK General election, Peter Law, previously a Labour Welsh Assembly Member, won Blaenau Gwent from Labour, standing as an independent candidate.
- ◆ The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2005 ranks specific small areas in Wales in terms of deprivation. Overall, 89% of Blaenau Gwent's 47 areas are more deprived than the Wales average.

In Blaenau Gwent, relative to Wales:

- ◆ People are on the whole less qualified: School examination performance is below the Welsh level, and a higher proportion of the working age population have no qualifications.
- ◆ Fewer working-age people are economically active (working, or available and looking for work), and a higher proportion of these are unemployed.
- ◆ There are fewer jobs per working-age person, and nearly twice as large a share of employee jobs are in the manufacturing sector (with less in the services sector).
- ◆ More people or households claim benefits related to low income, unemployment and ill-health.
- ◆ People are on the whole less healthy: more people have a limiting long-term illness, and more adults report that they are being treated for specific illnesses such as arthritis and mental illnesses.
- ◆ Life expectancy at birth is currently around two years shorter, and death rates from all causes are higher.
- ◆ Total inpatient admissions are higher due to a higher rate of emergency admissions, and more people are waiting for their first outpatient appointment, inpatient admission and day case treatment.
- ◆ Teenage conceptions are more common.
- ◆ There are more looked after children, but fewer on the child protection register.
- ◆ A lower proportion of homes are owner occupied, and a higher proportion are rented from the Local Authority.
- ◆ Relatively fewer people are homeless.
- ◆ Average house prices are much lower, but are rising at a faster rate.
- ◆ The rate of road accidents and casualties per length of road is higher, but the rate of casualties is lower per head of the population.

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Key Statistics for Blaenau Gwent

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

This paper provides key statistics for Blaenau Gwent Assembly Constituency and Local Authority area¹, under a number of topic headings. The Members' Research Service will produce a similar profile of each Assembly constituency during 2006, but this first profile has been prepared in advance due to the by-election in Blaenau Gwent on 29 June 2006. The full set of profiles will be updated periodically, as new statistics are released.

1.2 Structure of this paper

The preceding executive summary provides a brief overview of the key similarities and differences between Blaenau Gwent and Wales as a whole. This introduction is followed by chapters of narrative and reference tables on statistics for eight topic areas. The information in each table is drawn from several different sources, and the metadata² shown in the tables is kept to a minimum for ease of presentation. Details on the sources (including links for further information) and definitions in use are included in the first annex. The second annex shows a map of the Blaenau Gwent including key features.

1.3 Statistics on constituencies

Blaenau Gwent is a local authority area as well as a constituency¹, but this is not the case for the majority of constituencies in Wales. Constituencies do not form a standard statistical geography, and so the availability of data at this level is limited; data are more readily available on local authorities. The format of other constituency profiles will therefore differ from this paper due to the smaller set of statistics available, and due to any feedback on this paper's content.

The amount and quality of constituency-level data available varies between topic areas, so this profile cannot cover all relevant subjects. For example, crime statistics recorded by police tend to be presented at police force areas, whereas demographic information from the Census is published for constituencies.

In some cases it may be difficult to attribute statistics to a particular constituency. For example, in education, a pupil's home will often be in a different constituency to the school they attend. So, despite the availability of information on school performance, reliable information on educational achievement within a particular constituency depends on the accurate recording of children's home addresses.

1.4 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 report³ of key statistics from the Census 2001 for Assembly constituencies (and electoral regions);
- ◆ the official labour market statistics website 'nomis'⁴ provides electronic labour market profiles of constituencies;
- ◆ the neighbourhood statistics website⁵ provides local area information on a range of topics.

¹ The Local Authority boundary of Blaenau Gwent was changed in 2001 and now differs very slightly from the constituency area (see Annex 2 and <http://www.wales.gov.uk/organicabinet/content/statements/2001/Tafarnaubach.rtf>). This has negligible effect on statistics in this profile.

² Metadata are data used to describe other data, such as definitions and reference periods.

³ <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=10219&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422>

⁴ <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

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

2 Population and Vital Statistics

The population of Blaenau Gwent is around 70 thousand people, and the constituency is more than four times as densely populated as Wales as a whole, with over 640 people per square kilometre. The size of its population dropped by 5% between 1993 and 2003, compared with a rise of 2% in Wales.

The distribution of its population in terms of age and sex is similar to that of Wales, but there is a lower proportion of people from a non-white ethnic group. Over 90% of Blaenau Gwent's population were born in Wales compared to around 75% of the Welsh population. People in Blaenau Gwent are less than half as likely to have skills in the Welsh language as Welsh residents in general.

Life expectancy at birth is currently around two years shorter than the Welsh equivalent for both males and females in Blaenau Gwent. Death rates from all causes are higher, as are the Standardised Mortality Ratios (which take account of age profiles).

Table 1: Population and Vital Statistics

Data are for 2001 unless another year is given

Ref	Blaenau Gwent	Wales	Units	
Population:				
a	Total population	70,064	2,903,085	Number
b	Change in population, 1993-2003	-5.0	1.9	Per cent
c	Population density	644	140	Number per sq km
Population groups:				
d	Males	48.5	48.4	Per cent
	Females	51.5	51.6	Per cent
	Aged 0-15	21.3	20.0	Per cent
	Working age	59.2	59.7	Per cent
	Retirement age	19.5	20.1	Per cent
	Non-White Ethnic Group	0.8	2.1	Per cent
Place of birth:				
e	Wales	92.1	75.4	Per cent
	Other UK	6.8	21.4	Per cent
	Elsewhere in EU	0.5	1.3	Per cent
	Non-EU	0.7	1.9	Per cent
Religion:				
a	Christian	64.2	71.9	Per cent
	Muslim	0.2	0.7	Per cent
	Other	0.5	0.8	Per cent
	No religion/Not stated	35.1	26.6	Per cent
Marital status:				
a	Single (never married)	27.2	28.0	Per cent
	Married	51.0	52.0	Per cent
	Separated or divorced	11.4	10.6	Per cent
	Widowed	10.5	9.4	Per cent
Welsh:				
f	Can speak Welsh	9.1	20.5	Per cent
	One or more skills in Welsh	13.3	28.4	Per cent
	Identified as Welsh	12.0	14.4	Per cent
Life expectancy at birth, 2002-04:				
g	Males	73.8	75.8	Years
	Females	78.4	80.3	Years
Deaths from all causes, 2003:				
h	Persons	13.7	11.5	Rate per 1,000
	Males	13.3	11.2	Rate per 1,000
	Females	14.1	11.7	Rate per 1,000
Standardised Mortality Ratio, 1999-2003:				
i	Persons	124	100	Ratio for those aged under 75
	Males	151	125	Ratio for those aged under 75
	Females	99	77	Ratio for those aged under 75
Births:				
j	Live births, 2005	54.1	56.1	Rate per 1,000 females 15-44
k	Still births, 2002	8.9	5.4	Rate per 1,000 births

3 Electoral Statistics

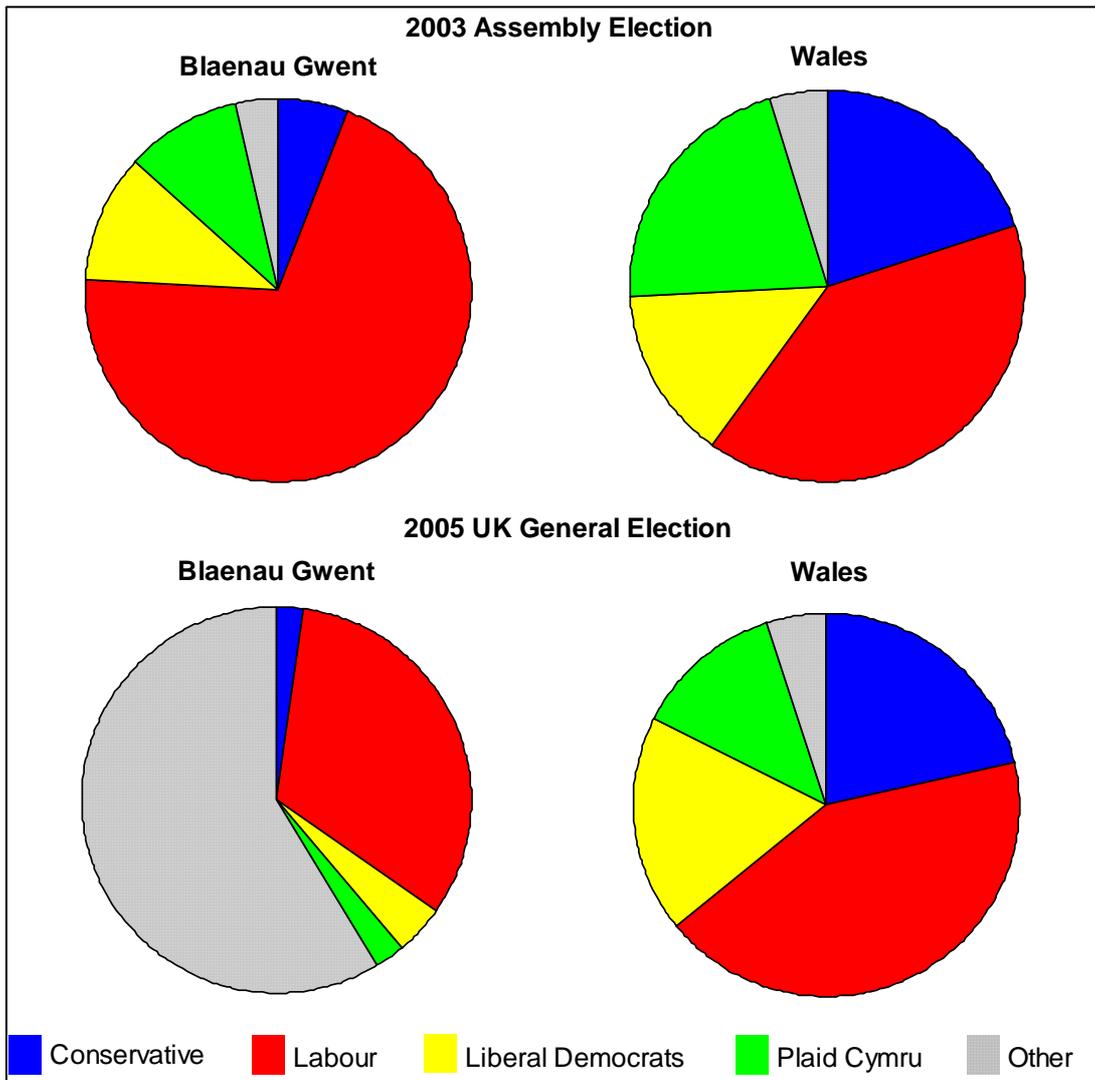
There are over 50 thousand electors in Blaenau Gwent. Turnout for the 2003 Welsh Assembly election was similar to Wales as a whole at just under 40%, whilst turnout for the 2005 UK General election was nearly two-thirds, slightly higher than for Wales.

Figure 1 shows results of the 2003 Assembly and 2005 UK General elections, for Blaenau Gwent and for Wales.

The 2003 results show that all parties except Labour had a lower share of the vote in Blaenau Gwent compared to Wales as a whole. Labour had over 70% of the share of the vote in Blaenau Gwent, compared to 40% in Wales.

In 2005, Peter Law (formerly a Labour Party member and Assembly Member for Blaenau Gwent) stood as an independent candidate for Blaenau Gwent's Parliamentary seat. He won the seat with nearly 60% of the vote, and Labour retained just over 30% of the vote.

Figure 1: Election results in Blaenau Gwent & Wales, 2003 &



Source: House of Commons Library

Table 2: Electoral Statistics

Ref	Blaenau Gwent	Wales	Units
a The Electorate, 2005:			
Electors	53,081	2,236,808	<i>Number</i>
Attainers	807	25,200	<i>Number</i>
b Welsh Assembly Election, 2003:			
Turnout	37.4	38.2	<i>Per cent</i>
Share of votes:			
Conservative	5.7	19.9	<i>Per cent</i>
Labour	70.2	40.0	<i>Per cent</i>
Liberal Democrats	10.9	14.1	<i>Per cent</i>
Plaid Cymru	9.6	21.2	<i>Per cent</i>
Other	3.6	4.7	<i>Per cent</i>
Change in share of votes (1999-2003):			
Conservative	0.2	4.1	<i>Percentage points</i>
Labour	8.4	2.4	<i>Percentage points</i>
Liberal Democrats	-0.6	0.7	<i>Percentage points</i>
Plaid Cymru	-11.6	-7.2	<i>Percentage points</i>
c UK General Election, 2005:			
Turnout	66.1	62.6	<i>Per cent</i>
Share of votes:			
Conservative	2.3	21.4	<i>Per cent</i>
Labour	32.3	42.7	<i>Per cent</i>
Liberal Democrats	4.3	18.4	<i>Per cent</i>
Plaid Cymru	2.4	12.6	<i>Per cent</i>
Other	58.7	5.0	<i>Per cent</i>
Change in share of votes (2001-2005):			
Conservative	-5.2	0.4	<i>Percentage points</i>
Labour	-39.7	-5.9	<i>Percentage points</i>
Liberal Democrats	-5.0	4.6	<i>Percentage points</i>
Plaid Cymru	-8.8	-1.7	<i>Percentage points</i>
Other	58.7	2.7	<i>Percentage points</i>

4 Economic and Labour Market Statistics

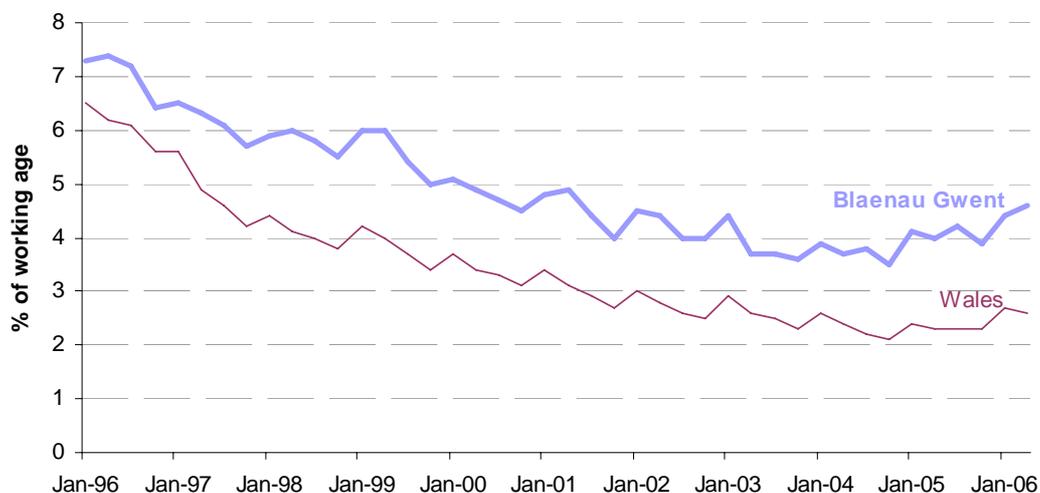
Around two-thirds of Blaenau Gwent's working age population is economically active, compared to around three-quarters nationally, and a higher proportion of the economically active are unemployed. There are an estimated 0.5 jobs per working-age person in Blaenau Gwent, compared to 0.8 for Wales as a whole.

In terms of the National Statistics socio-economic classification, relatively fewer people in Blaenau Gwent than in Wales are classed as managerial and professional, or as intermediate workers. Relatively more are classed as routine and manual workers, or as 'never worked and long-term unemployed'.

In Blaenau Gwent, nearly twice as high a percentage of employee jobs are in the manufacturing sector, and relatively fewer in services, which accounts for 78% of jobs nationally. Within the services sector, the main difference arises in the 'Finance, IT and other businesses' category, which accounts for around 5% of employee jobs in Blaenau Gwent, and around 12% nationally (not included in the reference table).

A higher proportion of the working age population of Blaenau Gwent are claiming Job-Seekers' Allowance: 4.6% compared to 2.6% nationally. Figure 2 shows the rate over time (not included in the reference table). Although the claimant rate for Blaenau Gwent shows a decline between 1996 and 2002, since then there is no clear trend in the rate, which is consistently higher than that for Wales. In Blaenau Gwent, a higher proportion of claimants are in the 18-24 age group, and relatively more claimants have been claiming for a longer duration (over 6 months).

Figure 2: Job Seekers' Allowance claimants in Blaenau Gwent & Wales



Source: Department for Work and Pensions

In general, higher proportions of people or households in Blaenau Gwent claim other benefits than in Wales. These include:

- ◆ incapacity benefit and/or severe disablement allowance (corroborated by the higher rates of limiting long-term illness shown in chapter 5);
- ◆ income support, linked to pay which is on average lower in Blaenau Gwent compared with Wales;
- ◆ pensions credit.

Table 3: Economic and Labour Market Statistics

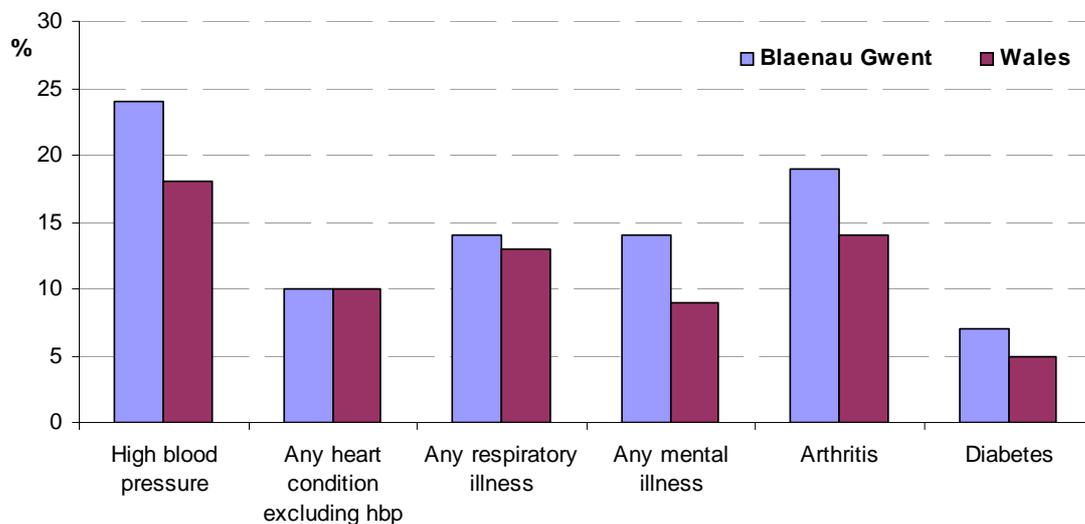
Ref	Blaenau Gwent	Wales	Units	
a	Economically active, 2004-05:	68.3	74.8	<i>Per cent of the working age</i>
	In employment	63.3	71.3	<i>Per cent of the working age</i>
	Employees	59.4	61.9	<i>Per cent of the working age</i>
	Self employed	3.3	8.8	<i>Per cent of the working age</i>
	Unemployed	7.3	4.7	<i>Per cent of economically active</i>
a	Economically inactive, 2004-05:	31.7	25.2	<i>Per cent of the working age</i>
	Wanting a job	9.6	5.7	<i>Per cent of the working age</i>
	Not wanting a job	22.1	19.5	<i>Per cent of the working age</i>
b	National Statistics Socio-economic Classification, 2001:			
	Managerial and professional	14.2	22.0	<i>Per cent of those aged 16-74</i>
	Intermediate	10.0	15.1	<i>Per cent of those aged 16-74</i>
	Routine and Manual	39.3	30.0	<i>Per cent of those aged 16-74</i>
	Never worked and long-term unemployed	5.3	3.8	<i>Per cent of those aged 16-74</i>
	Not classifiable	31.3	29.1	<i>Per cent of those aged 16-74</i>
a	Employee jobs by sector, 2004:			
	Manufacturing	28.6	15.3	<i>Per cent of employee jobs</i>
	Construction	4.1	4.6	<i>Per cent of employee jobs</i>
	Services	67.3	78.3	<i>Per cent of employee jobs</i>
	Tourism-related	5.5	8.7	<i>Per cent of employee jobs</i>
a	Jobs density, 2004	0.5	0.8	<i>Jobs to working-age people</i>
c	Pay, 2005:			
	Median gross weekly pay	307.70	320.90	£, p
	Median gross annual pay	15,719	17,287	£
a	Job-Seekers' Allowance claimants, 2006:			
	Persons	4.6	2.6	<i>Per cent of the working age</i>
	Males	6.8	3.9	<i>Per cent of the working age</i>
	Females	2.2	1.3	<i>Per cent of the working age</i>
	Aged 18-24	39.3	35.0	<i>Per cent of all claimants</i>
	Aged 25-49	47.0	48.8	<i>Per cent of all claimants</i>
	Aged 50+	13.0	15.0	<i>Per cent of all claimants</i>
	Up to 6 months duration	60.1	69.4	<i>Per cent of all claimants</i>
	Over 6 up to 12 months duration	20.9	18.2	<i>Per cent of all claimants</i>
	Over 12 months duration	19.0	12.4	<i>Per cent of all claimants</i>
d	Claimants of other benefits, 2005:			
e	Incapacity Benefit and/or Severe Disablement Allowance:			
	Persons	18.5	12.1	<i>Per cent of the working age</i>
	Males	20.3	13.5	<i>Per cent of the working age</i>
	Females	16.5	10.7	<i>Per cent of the working age</i>
f	Income Support claimants	13.9	10.5	<i>Per cent of households</i>
g	Pensions Credit claimants:			
	Guarantee credit only	8.0	7.1	<i>Per cent of retirement age</i>
	Guarantee & savings credit	19.4	14.6	<i>Per cent of retirement age</i>

5 Health and Social Services Statistics

On the whole, adults in Blaenau Gwent have slightly less healthy lifestyles than adults in Wales. There are higher rates of smoking, binge-drinking and overweight/obesity, and a lower proportion of adults meeting guidelines for physical activity and eating fruit and vegetables.

Around 28% of Blaenau Gwent's population have a limiting long-term illness, compared to 23% of all Welsh residents. Relatively more people in Blaenau Gwent described their general health as 'not good'. Figure 3 shows the percentage of adults being treated for specific illnesses; high blood pressure, mental illnesses, and arthritis are all considerably higher in Blaenau Gwent. Scores for physical and mental health and well-being are on average lower for adults in Blaenau Gwent than the national results.

Figure 3: Adults who reported being treated for illnesses in Blaenau Gwent & Wales, 2003/04



Source: Welsh Health Survey

Compared to Wales, there are higher death rates among residents of Blaenau Gwent aged under 75 due to cancer, heart disease and especially respiratory disease, where the rate is more than twice as high for both males and females.

Conception in 13-15 years old girls is more common in Blaenau Gwent: around 1.3% compared to Wales's 0.8%. For all live births, there are slightly more occurrences both of low birth weight and of infant mortality (death under 1 year of age) in Blaenau Gwent than in Wales.

Table 4: Health and Social Services Statistics

Ref	Blaenau Gwent	Wales	Units	
a	Key health information, 2001:			
	Limiting long-term illness	28.3	23.3	<i>Per cent of the population</i>
	General health 'not good'	16.5	12.5	<i>Per cent of the population</i>
	Providing unpaid care for 50+ hours a week	3.8	3.1	<i>Per cent of the population</i>
b	Currently being treated for, 2003/04:			
	High blood pressure	24	18	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>
	Any heart condition excluding high blood pressure	10	10	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>
	Any respiratory illness	14	13	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>
	Any mental illness	14	9	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>
	Arthritis	19	14	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>
	Diabetes	7	5	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>
c	SF-36 (higher scores mean better health), 2003/04:			
	Physical Component Summary Score	46.5	48.8	<i>Mean for those aged 16+</i>
	Mental Component Summary Score	46.9	49.8	<i>Mean for those aged 16+</i>
d	Deaths from selected causes (European standardised rate), 2003:			
	Female breast cancer	40.3	23.0	<i>Rate per 100,000 under 75</i>
	Lung cancer:			
	Males	40.3	33.9	<i>Rate per 100,000 under 75</i>
	Females	22.5	20.6	<i>Rate per 100,000 under 75</i>
	All malignant neoplasms:			
	Males	147.6	140.5	<i>Rate per 100,000 under 75</i>
	Females	132.0	112.4	<i>Rate per 100,000 under 75</i>
	Myocardial infarction:			
	Males	54.7	43.4	<i>Rate per 100,000 under 75</i>
	Females	20.8	15.0	<i>Rate per 100,000 under 75</i>
	Respiratory disease:			
	Males	40.6	14.8	<i>Rate per 100,000 under 75</i>
	Females	57.0	28.3	<i>Rate per 100,000 under 75</i>
e	Health-related lifestyle, 2003/04:			
f	Smoker	28	26	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>
g	Binge-drinking at least once in the past 7 days	23	20	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>
h	Met fruit and vegetable guidelines the previous day	35	39	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>
i	Met physical activity guidelines over the past 7 days	26	29	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>
j	Overweight or obese	59	54	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>
	Vital statistics:			
k	Teenage (under 16) conceptions, 2002-04	13.1	8.0	<i>Rate per 1,000 females 13-15</i>
l	Infant mortality, 2001	6.9	5.4	<i>Rate per 1,000 live births</i>
m	Low birth weight, 2004	9.0	7.2	<i>Per cent of live births</i>

5 Health and Social Services Statistics (continued)

There are fewer GPs and dentists per head of the population in Blaenau Gwent than in Wales, but adults in the constituency are more likely to have talked to a GP in the past two weeks, although less likely to have been to the dentist in the past year, relative to Wales. Although a similar proportion to Wales have been an inpatient during the past year, total inpatient admissions are higher in Blaenau Gwent, due to a higher rate of emergency admissions (154 per 1,000 people, compared to 113 nationally).

Compared to Wales, relatively more people from Blaenau Gwent are waiting for their first outpatient appointment, inpatient admission and day case treatment. Also, higher proportions of patients are waiting longer for these services (over 3 or over 6 months).

There are relatively more looked after children in Blaenau Gwent, but fewer on the child protection register. There is a higher rate of assessment, provision of community-based services and nursing home care for older people in the constituency, but a lower proportion receiving residential care.

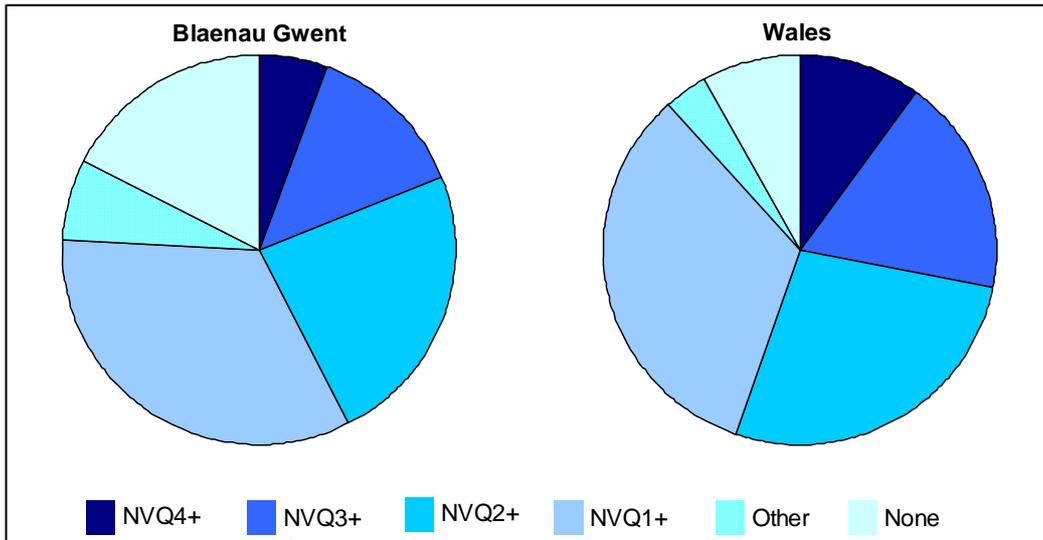
Table 4: Health and Social Services Statistics (continued)

Ref	Blaenau Gwent	Wales	Units
b	Use of health services, 2003/04:		
Family doctor (GP) in the past two weeks	19	16	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>
Outpatient department in the past three months	20	19	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>
Inpatient in the past year	9	10	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>
Pharmacist in the past year	78	80	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>
Dentist in the past year	61	66	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>
Optician in the past year	46	46	<i>Per cent of those aged 16+</i>
n	Health facilities, 2005:		
General Practitioners (GPs)	5.1	6.4	<i>Rate per 10,000 people</i>
Average GP list size	2,019	1,650	<i>Number of patients</i>
General dental practitioners	3.4	3.6	<i>Rate per 10,000 people</i>
o	GP prescribing, 2004-05:		
Average number of prescription items	21.1	18.3	<i>Number per person</i>
Average cost of prescriptions	221.30	195.39	<i>£,p per person</i>
p	Waiting lists, 2006:		
Waiting for:			
First outpatient appointment	800.1	678.6	<i>Rate per 10,000 people</i>
Inpatient admission	159.8	124.3	<i>Rate per 10,000 people</i>
Day case treatment	115.8	108.8	<i>Rate per 10,000 people</i>
Waiting more than 3 months for:			
First outpatient appointment	49.6	44.2	<i>Per cent of total waiting</i>
First inpatient or daycase treatment	48.7	47.4	<i>Per cent of total waiting</i>
Waiting more than 6 months for:			
First outpatient appointment	26.3	20.2	<i>Per cent of total waiting</i>
First inpatient or daycase treatment	24.9	21.4	<i>Per cent of total waiting</i>
q	Hospital activity, 2004-05:		
Inpatient admissions:			
Elective	40.6	45.5	<i>Rate per 1,000 people</i>
Emergency	153.7	113.3	<i>Rate per 1,000 people</i>
Total	194.3	158.8	<i>Rate per 1,000 people</i>
Day case admissions	33.8	39.2	<i>Rate per 1,000 people</i>
Total inpatient and day case admissions	228.1	198.0	<i>Rate per 1,000 people</i>
r	Social Services for children aged under 18, 2005:		
Looked after children	12.4	6.7	<i>Rate per 1,000 children</i>
On child protection register at 31 March	26.5	34.8	<i>Rate per 10,000 children</i>
r	Social Services for people aged 65+, 2004-05:		
Assessment	213.1	121.8	<i>Rate per 1,000 aged 65+</i>
Community based services	173.3	150.4	<i>Rate per 1,000 aged 65+</i>
Residential care	23.1	27.0	<i>Rate per 1,000 aged 65+</i>
Nursing home care	23.1	13.6	<i>Rate per 1,000 aged 65+</i>

6 Education and Training Statistics

A relatively higher proportion of the working age population of Blaenau Gwent have no qualifications: almost one in three compared to less than one in five in Wales. Figure 4 shows the spread of the highest qualification held, using categories equivalent to NVQ levels (for example five GCSEs would be equivalent to NVQ level 2 and above, and a degree would be equivalent to NVQ level 4 and above). Less than half as many working age people in Blaenau Gwent hold the highest category of qualification, relative to Wales.

Figure 4: Qualifications of working age people in Blaenau Gwent & Wales, 2003-04



Source: Local area Labour Force Survey

GCSE and A level examination performance in Blaenau Gwent are below Wales as a whole. Around 40% of pupils achieve 5 or more GCSEs grade C and above, compared to around half of Welsh pupils. 60% of pupils achieve 2 or more A levels (or equivalent) grade C and above, compared to around 70% of Welsh pupils.

Pupil teacher ratios and average class sizes in Blaenau Gwent are similar to those of Wales. But class sizes for the school years 12 and 13 are smaller in Blaenau Gwent: 8.3 compared to 10.5 nationally.

Table 5: Education and Training Statistics

Data are for 2004/05 unless another year is given

Ref		Blaenau Gwent	Wales	Units
a	Qualifications, 2003-04:			
	NVQ4 and above	9.5	22.5	<i>Per cent of working age</i>
	NVQ3 and above	23.3	40.2	<i>Per cent of working age</i>
	NVQ2 and above	41.1	60.3	<i>Per cent of working age</i>
	NVQ1 and above	57.9	74.2	<i>Per cent of working age</i>
	Other Qualifications	11.7	8.0	<i>Per cent of working age</i>
	No Qualifications	30.4	17.8	<i>Per cent of working age</i>
b	GCSE Examination Performance:			
c	5+ GCSE Grades A*-C	42	51	<i>Per cent</i>
c	5+ GCSE Grades A*-G	81	85	<i>Per cent</i>
c	Average GCSE / GNVQ points score	34	40	<i>Score</i>
b	A Level Examination Performance:			
d	2+ A Level / Equivalent Grades A-C	60	71	<i>Per cent</i>
d	2+ A Level / Equivalent Grades A-E	94	96	<i>Per cent</i>
e	Average A Level / Equivalent points score	17	20	<i>Score</i>
f	Pupil teacher ratios:			
	Primary schools	21.3	20.7	<i>Ratio</i>
	Secondary schools	16.5	16.7	<i>Ratio</i>
	Special schools	6.4	6.3	<i>Ratio</i>
f	Average Class Sizes:			
	Primary KS1	24.6	24.3	<i>Number of pupils</i>
	Primary KS2	26.4	25.0	<i>Number of pupils</i>
	Secondary Years 7-11	22.3	22.5	<i>Number of pupils</i>
	Secondary Years 12-13	8.3	10.5	<i>Number of pupils</i>

7 Housing Statistics

There are around 30 thousand households in Blaenau Gwent, with an average size of 2.3 people. A slightly higher percentage of households consist of a lone parent with dependent children, and a considerably higher percentage of households include at least one person with a limiting long-term illness compared to Wales.

In terms of housing tenure, a lower proportion of homes are owner occupied in Blaenau Gwent than in Wales, and a higher proportion (nearly a quarter) of homes are rented from the Local Authority. Relatively fewer of the Blaenau Gwent population are homeless⁶ compared to Wales as a whole.

Average house prices in Blaenau Gwent are well below the Wales average; in 2004 the figures were around £70 thousand and £130 thousand respectively. However average house prices are rising at a faster rate than for Wales: the change between 2003 and 2004 was around a 45% increase compared to less than 25% of an increase in the Wales average.

Table 6: Housing Statistics

Data are for 2001 unless another year is given

Ref	Blaenau Gwent	Wales	Units
a Households:			
Total	29,585	1,209,048	Number
Average size	2.3	2.4	Number of members
One person	30.1	29.1	Per cent
Lone parent with dependent children	9.0	7.3	Per cent
Pensioner	25.2	25.6	Per cent
One or more person with limiting long-term illness	50.3	42.4	Per cent
No central heating	2.5	7.5	Per cent
a Household spaces:			
Total household spaces	31,387	1,275,816	Number
Vacant	5.6	4.0	Per cent
Second home/holiday accommodation	0.1	1.2	Per cent
a Tenure:			
Owner Occupied	62.6	71.3	Per cent
Local Authority	24.3	13.7	Per cent
Housing Association/Registered Social Landlord	4.5	4.2	Per cent
Private Landlord	6.1	7.4	Per cent
Other	2.4	3.3	Per cent
b Homelessness, 2004:			
Eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need	1.2	3.4	Per 1,000 population
c Average house prices, all dwellings:			
2003	47,635	104,650	£
2004	69,422	129,396	£
Change 2003-04	45.7	23.6	Per cent

⁶ Eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need.

8 Transport and Environment Statistics

In Blaenau Gwent over one third of households do not have a car or van, compared to around a quarter nationally. Compared to Wales, a higher percentage of people travel to work by car, and a lower percentage of people travel to work by public transport.

The rate of accidents and casualties per length of road is higher in Blaenau Gwent than in Wales, although the rate of casualties from road accidents is lower per head of the population.

The proportion of municipal waste recycled or composted is slightly higher in Blaenau Gwent than in Wales as a whole. However, lower percentages of river length were classified as being of good chemical and good biological quality compared to Wales.

Table 7: Transport and Environment Statistics

Data are for 2004 unless another year is given

Ref	Blaenau Gwent	Wales	Units
Transport			
a Use of transport, 2001:			
Households without a car or van	35.1	26.0	Per cent of households
Households with 2 or more car/vans	19.7	28.5	Per cent of households
Travel to work by car	76.0	70.7	Per cent of 16-74 in employment
Travel to work by public transport	4.3	6.5	Per cent of 16-74 in employment
b Road accidents:			
Accidents	38.7	28.1	Rate per 100km road
Casualties	56.9	40.3	Rate per 100km road
Casualties - slight	322.5	411.5	Rate per 100,000 population
Casualties - killed or seriously injured	27.6	52.1	Rate per 100,000 population
c Volume of traffic (billion vehicle km)	0.9	0.8	Per 1,000 km of road
d Years of life lost by death due to motor vehicle accident, 1999-2003	12.9	17.7	Per 10,000 population
Environment			
e Municipal waste recycled or composted, 2004-05	22.3	21.7	Per cent
f Chemical river quality			
Good quality	75.5	94.3	Per cent of river length
Good or fair quality	82.7	98.4	Per cent of river length
f Biological river quality			
Good quality	22.9	78.8	Per cent of river length
Good or fair quality	100.0	99.2	Per cent of river length

9 Deprivation Statistics

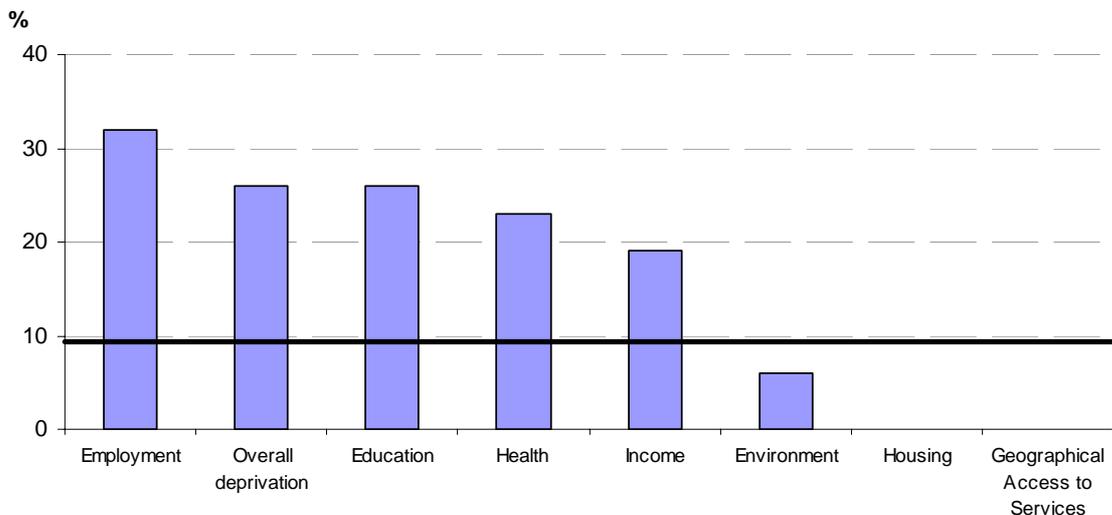
The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2005 (WIMD⁷) is a measure of deprivation for small areas in Wales. It ranks statistical geographies known as Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in terms of deprivation across various domains such as health and employment, as well as providing an overall deprivation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

In Blaenau Gwent (which has 47 LSOAs):

- ◆ All of its LSOAs fall within the 61% most deprived LSOAs in Wales;
- ◆ 26% of its LSOAs fall within the 10% most deprived LSOAs in Wales;
- ◆ 89% of its LSOAs are more deprived than the Wales average.

Figure 5 shows that there are above average proportions (i.e. above 10%) of Blaenau Gwent's LSOAs in the 10% most deprived in Wales for all domains except Environment, Housing, and Geographical access to services.

Figure 5: The % of LSOAs in Blaenau Gwent that are in the 10% most deprived LSOAs in Wales, 2005



Source: Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation

For more details please see the source of these statistics, the WIMD reports⁸ for local authorities.

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

⁸ <http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/wimd2005/results/analysis-revised>

Annex 1: Sources and notes

Table - ref	Source & Notes
Table 1: Population and Vital Statistics	
1-a	ONS, Census 2001 http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=10219&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422
1-b	ONS, Key Population and Vital Statistics 2004 http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/KPVS31_2004/KPVS2004.pdf
1-c	ONS, Census 2001 and Standard Area Measurements 2004 http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=10219&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422 http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/sam.asp
1-d	ONS, Census 2001 http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=10219&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422 <i>Working age is 16-64 for males, 16-59 for females. Retirement age is 65+ for males, 60+ for females.</i>
1-e	ONS, Census 2001 http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=10219&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422 <i>The EU is as defined on Census day (29 April 2001).</i>
1-f	ONS, Census 2001 http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=10219&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422 <i>One or more skills in Welsh means speaks, reads or writes Welsh. 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-g	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-h	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-i	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-j	ONS, Births (provisional) 2005 http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14408
1-k	StatsWales Table 002135 http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=2135

Table - ref	Source & Notes
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Table 2: Electoral Statistics

2-a	ONS, UK Electoral registers 1 December 2005; Parliamentary electors http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/ssdataset.asp?vlnk=9233 <i>Electors are people registered to vote in parliamentary elections in the UK. Attainer is the term used to describe a person who attains the age of 18 during the currency of the register, and is entitled to vote at an election held on or after his or her eighteenth birthday.</i>
2-b	House of Commons Library, Welsh Assembly Elections: 1 May 2003 http://www.parliament.uk/commons/lib/research/rp2003/rp03-045.pdf <i>Figures for Wales are based on the constituency ballot.</i>
2-c	House of Commons Library, General Election 2005 http://www.parliament.uk/commons/lib/research/rp2005/rp05-033.pdf <i>'Other parties' for 2003 includes the independent candidate Peter Law.</i>

Table 3: Economic and Labour Market Statistics

3-a	NOMIS, Constituency Profiles (as at June 2006) http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/pca/2030043677/report.aspx <i>Information on economically active/inactive is from the Annual Population Survey April 2004-March 2005. Information on employee jobs is from the Annual Business Inquiry employee analysis 2004. Information on jobs density is from Jobs density 2004. Information on JSA claimants is from the claimant counts for April 2006.</i>
3-b	NOMIS, 2001 Census - Census Area Statistics http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/home/census2001.asp <i>The National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (3 class version) is used, for further details please see the link below: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/nsbase/methods_quality/ns_sec/downloads/NS-SEC_User.pdf</i>
3-c	ONS, 2005 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/ASHE_2005/2005_res_pc.pdf
3-d	Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Tabulation Tool http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp
3-e	DWP, Incapacity Benefit/ Severe Disablement Allowance - combined information, November 2005 http://193.115.152.21/100pc/ibsdac/ccparlc/ccsex/ccgor/a_carate_r_ccparlc_c_ccsex_p_ccgor_wales_nov05.html <i>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>
3-f	DWP, Income Support, November 2005 http://193.115.152.21/100pc/is/ccparlc/ccsex/ccgor/a_carate_r_ccparlc_c_ccsex_p_ccgor_wales_nov05.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.</i>
3-g	DWP, Pension Credit, November 2005 http://193.115.152.21/100pc/pc/ccparlc/pctype/ccgor/a_carate_r_ccparlc_c_pctype_p_ccgor_wales_nov05.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).</i>

**Table -
ref** **Source & Notes**

Table 4: Health and Social Services Statistics

4-a	ONS, Census 2001 http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=10219&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422
4-b	Welsh Health Survey, 2003/04 http://new.wales.gov.uk/legacy_en/keypubstatisticsforwales/content/publication/health/2005/hs2003-04/hs2003-04.htm <i>Figures for Blaenau Gwent are provisional, and based on a sample of around 670 adults. Results are age-standardised, to take account of possible differences in the age distributions of areas being compared. 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>
4-c	See source and notes at 4-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
4-d	Health Statistics Wales 2005 (chapter 1) http://new.wales.gov.uk/legacy_en/keypubstatisticsforwales/content/publication/health/2004/hsw2005/hsw2005-e.htm <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>
4-e	See source and notes at 4-b.
4-f	<i>The figure includes daily and occasional smokers.</i>
4-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>
4-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>
4-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>
4-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>
4-k	ONS, Conceptions in England and Wales, 2004, in Health Statistics Quarterly 29 http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/ssdataset.asp?vlnk=9226 <i>Numbers and rates for 2004 conceptions are provisional.</i>
4-l	Health Statistics Wales 2003 (chapter 1) http://new.wales.gov.uk/legacy_en/keypubstatisticsforwales/content/publication/health/2002/hsw2003/hsw2003-intro-e.htm <i>Infant mortality is the death of an infant under 1 year of age. Information for Blaenau Gwent for 2002 and 2003 was suppressed to protect confidentiality, and so the latest information available is from 2001.</i>

**Table -
ref** **Source & Notes**

Table 4: Health and Social Services Statistics (continued)

4-m	<p>ONS, Infant and perinatal mortality 2004, in Health Statistics Quarterly 27 http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/ssdataset.asp?vlnk=9079&Pos=1&ColRank=1&Rank=272 <i>Percentage of live births with a stated birthweight of under 2,500g.</i></p>
4-n	<p>Health Statistics Wales 2006 (chapter 5), and ONS, Census 2001 http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/publications/hsw2006/?lang=en http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=10219&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422 <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.</i></p>
4-o	<p>Health Statistics Wales 2006 (chapter 5) http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/publications/hsw2006/?lang=en <i>Prescriptions in the year ending 31 March 2005.</i></p>
4-p	<p>Health Statistics Wales 2006 (chapter 6) http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/publications/hsw2006/?lang=en <i>Waiting lists for all specialities, at 31 March 2006</i> <i>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></p>
4-q	<p>Health Statistics Wales 2006 (chapter 8) http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/publications/hsw2006/?lang=en <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></p>
4-r	<p>Social Services Statistics Wales 2004-05 (appendix 2) http://www.dataunitwales.gov.uk/eng/Project.asp?nc=PLVM&id=1202 <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.</i> <i>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></p> <hr/>

**Table -
ref** **Source & Notes**

Table 5: Education and Training Statistics

5-a	NOMIS, Constituency Profiles (as at June 2006) http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/pca/2030043677/report.aspx <i>Information from the Local Area Labour Force Survey, March 2003 - February 2004. The link above provides detailed definitions of the qualification levels.</i>
5-b	Schools in Wales: Examination Performance, 2005 http://new.wales.gov.uk/docrepos/40382/40382313/403824/schools-2006/40382110141/swep2005-ch4.pdf?lang=en
5-c	<i>GCSE/GNVQ data relate to the examination achievements of full-time pupils (aged 15 on 31 August 2004) of maintained schools, achieved during the academic year, and any examinations taken at an earlier age.</i>
5-d	<i>These A Level / Equivalent results relate to the examination achievements of pupils of any age, in maintained schools, achieved during the academic year.</i>
5-e	<i>The Average A Level / Equivalent points score are for pupils (aged 17 at 31 August 2004) who entered two or more A/AS levels or achieved vocational equivalent. Includes results for pupils, in maintained schools, achieved during the academic year, and any examinations taken at an earlier age.</i>
5-f	Schools in Wales: General Statistics, 2005 http://new.wales.gov.uk/legacy_en/keypubstatisticsforwales/content/publication/schools-teach/2006/siwgs2005/siwgs2005-ch11/siwgs2005-ch11.htm <i>Results for maintained schools, at January 2005. Primary KS1 includes reception and mixed nursery/reception classes.</i>

Table 6: Housing Statistics

6-a	ONS, Census 2001 http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=10219&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422 <i>A household comprises one person living alone, or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address with common housekeeping - that is, sharing either a living room or sitting room or at least one meal a day. Total households refers to households with residents; total household spaces refers 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>
6-b	Welsh Housing Statistics 2005 (chapter 7) http://new.wales.gov.uk/legacy_en/keypubstatisticsforwales/content/publication/housing/2005/whs2005/whs2005-ch7/whs2005-ch7.htm
6-c	Welsh Housing Statistics 2005 (chapter 8) http://new.wales.gov.uk/legacy_en/keypubstatisticsforwales/content/publication/housing/2005/whs2005/whs2005-ch8/whs2005-ch8.htm <i>Open market value, residential sales only. Excluding non-open market value sales like Right to Buy sales or transfers under Compulsory Purchase Order. Excluding sales below £10,000 or over £1 million in value.</i>

Table - ref	Source & Notes
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Table 7: Transport and Environment Statistics

7-a	ONS, Census 2001 http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vInk=10219&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422
7-b	2004 Road Casualties Wales (chapters 3 and 5) http://new.wales.gov.uk/legacy_en/keypubstatisticsforwales/content/publication/transport/2005/rcw2004/rcw2004.htm <i>Total road length is as at 1 April 2004, excluding green lanes and footpaths.</i>
7-c	2004 Road Casualties Wales (chapters 3 and 12) http://new.wales.gov.uk/legacy_en/keypubstatisticsforwales/content/publication/transport/2005/rcw2004/rcw2004.htm <i>Road length taken from table 3.6 and traffic volume from 12.1 (excludes pedal cycles).</i>
7-d	Health Stats Wales 2005 (chapter 1) http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/publications/hsw2006/?lang=en <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>
7-e	Key Environment Statistics for Wales, 2006 http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/env-2006/hdw200601262/?lang=en <i>The data are derived from the Municipal Waste Management Survey for 2004-05 and exclude abandoned vehicles. Note that this is different to the definition used in the National Assembly for Wales Performance Indicators (NAWPIs) where other waste items are also excluded i.e. beach cleansing waste, incinerator residues and rubble. Note that municipal waste refers to household waste plus waste collected from non-household sources. Recycling/composting includes waste sent or collected for recycling/composting from household and nonhousehold sources plus waste collected by private and voluntary organisations.</i>
7-f	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, River Quality Database (as at June 2006) 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 Blaenau Gwent may be affected by factors outside the borders of the authority. The same will be true to a lesser extent for Wales.</i>

Annex 2: Map of Blaenau Gwent

