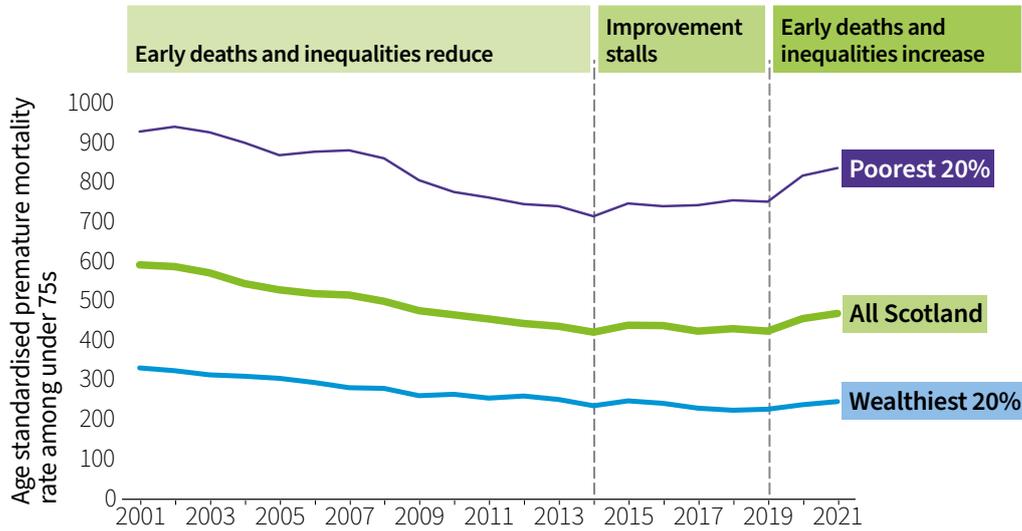


After decades of improvement, Scotland's health is worsening

- People are dying younger.
- The number of people dying early is increasing.
- People are spending more of their life in ill health.
- The gap in life expectancy between the poorest and the wealthiest is growing.



Source: National Records Scotland

The burden of disease in Scotland is forecast to increase 21% by 2043

Two-thirds of this increase will be due to increases in:

- Cancers
- Cardiovascular disease
- Neurological conditions

“Underinvestment in tackling the root causes of poverty has caused a backlog of harm – with £2.3 billion of health boards’ budgets directed at responding to the impacts of poverty.”
IPPR, 2023

Change is possible by investing in prevention

Success so far

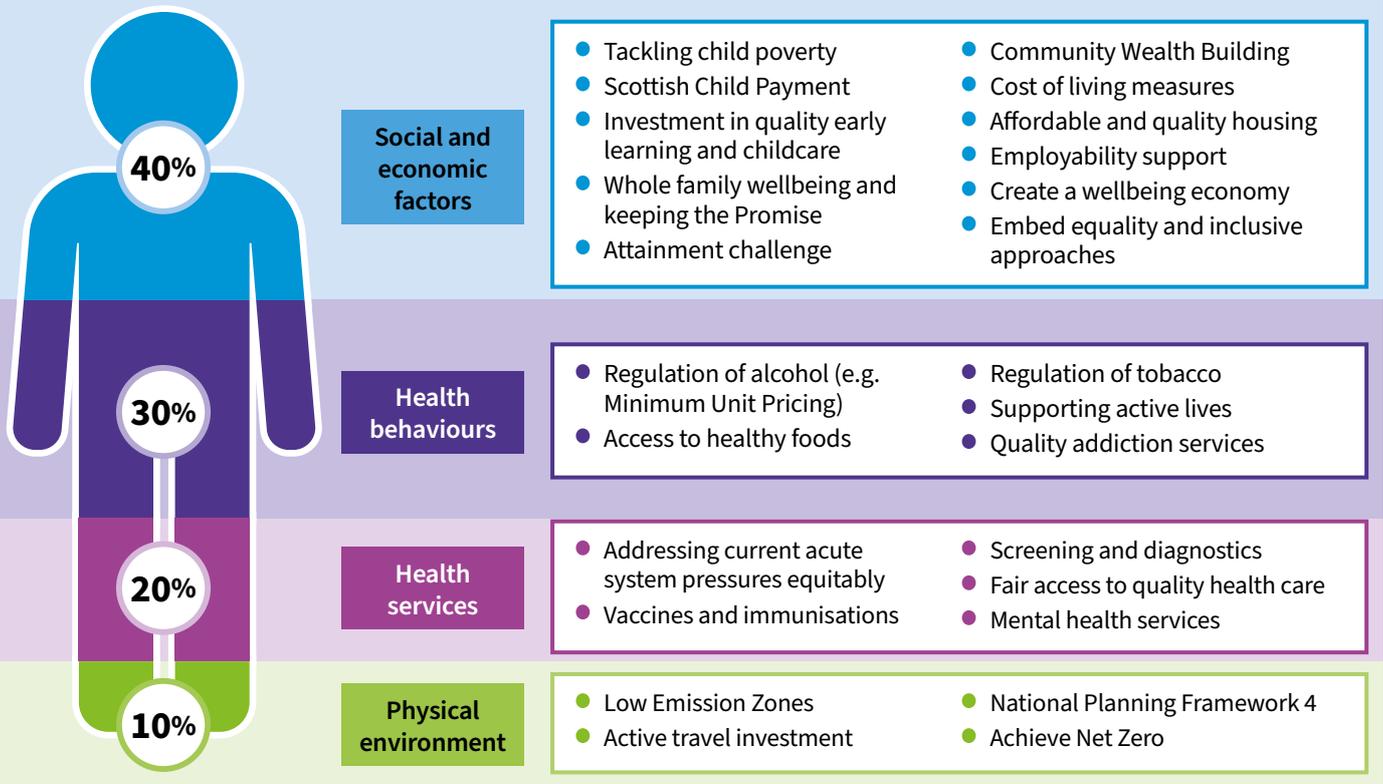
HPV vaccine: 89% reduction in pre-cancer cervical cell changes from 2008 to 2014.	Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP): reduced alcohol hospital admissions (4.1%) and deaths (13.4%) from 2018 to 2020.	Childsmile: halved tooth decay among children between 2003 and 2020.
Hepatitis C prevention: Scotland is on course to eliminate the virus.	COVID-19 vaccines: more than 27,656 deaths were directly prevented in Scotland by COVID-19 vaccines	Smoking ban: reduced admission for child asthma (18%) and heart attacks (17%).

Scotland needs collective action to improve life expectancy and reduce health inequalities

1 Protect investment in the building blocks of health

Adapted from **The Kings Fund**.

What shapes our health



2 Long-term investment in prevention: every sector has a role to play

3 Sustained collaboration: review of NPF; renewed national and local government partnership; measure what matters; stronger accountability

A budget to tackle Scotland’s health inequalities – top three asks

1 Prioritise investment in primary prevention:

To strengthen the **focus on action to tackle Scotland’s health inequalities**, the budget should take a long-term view. **Targeted and long term investment** in the building blocks of a healthy society will help to drive progress to deliver Scotland’s **shared priorities**.

2 Invest in Public Service Reform to drive true culture change:

We can protect health by working together and enabling greater flexibility in cross-organisational budgets. Introducing **greater accountability** across our public services for making progress on the long-term challenges and cross-sector delivery that will deliver improved outcomes.

3 Prioritise delivery of co-benefits:

We need to get the most out of every pound. Putting health and wellbeing at the core of our national and local response to complex issues, such as **climate change** and **addressing poverty**, will help reduce health inequalities.

To discuss further, email phs.strategicdevelopment@phs.scot