

Investing in a thriving Scotland: Public Health Scotland budget briefing

After decades of improvement, Scotland's health is worsening

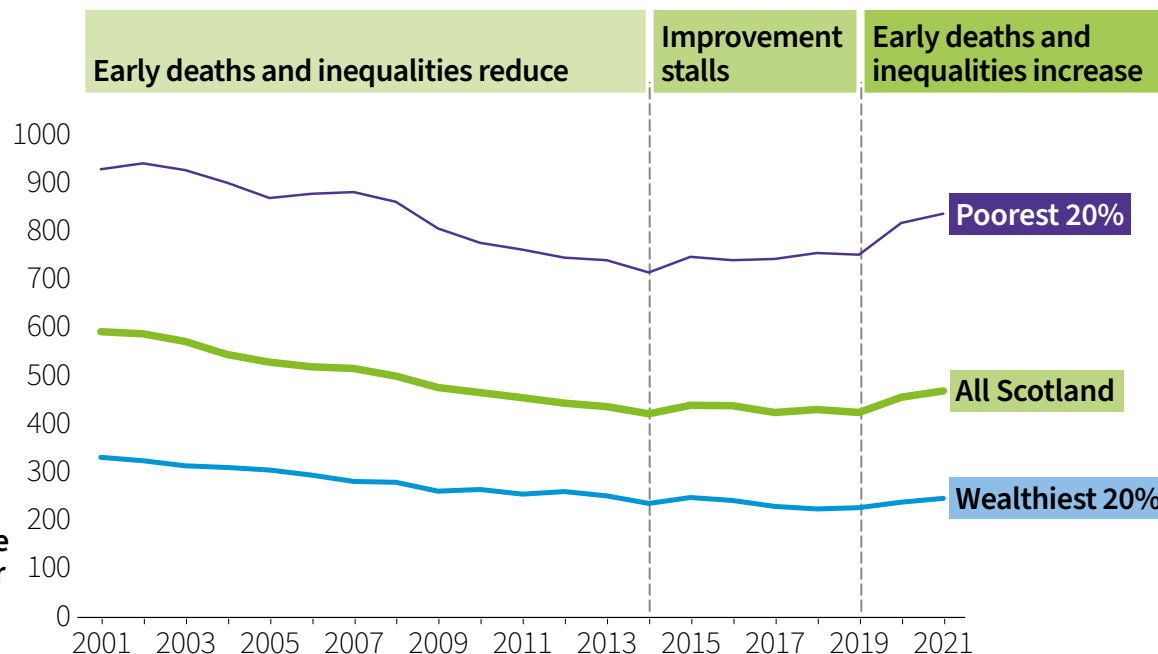
People are dying younger.

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.

Age standardised premature mortality rate among under 75s



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

Services look increasingly unsustainable



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 amongst children between 2003 and 2020.

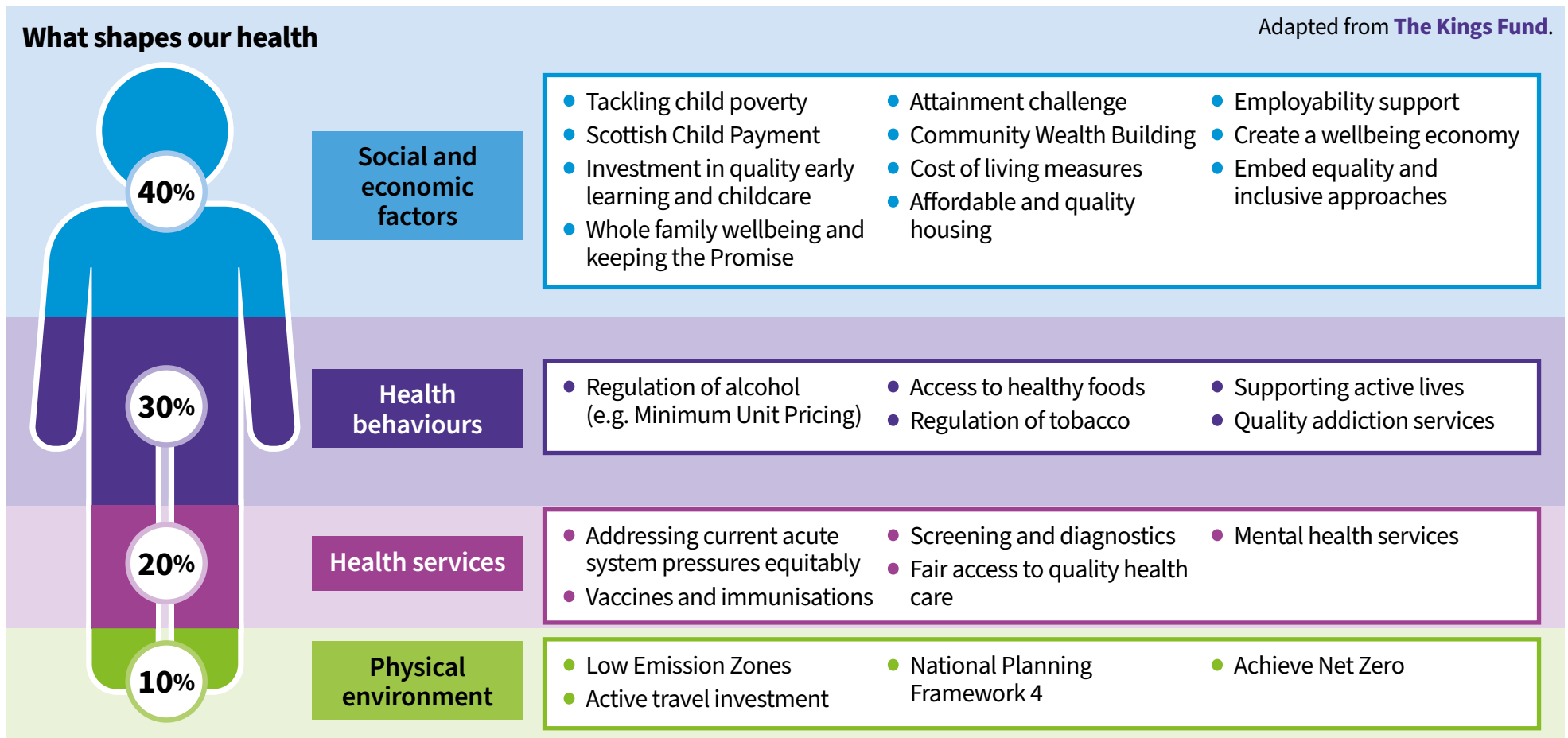
Hepatitis C prevention: Scotland is on course to eliminate the virus.

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



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.



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