

Mind the gap!

Jubilee+

How can churches respond to **health inequality** in the UK?

July 2023



Learn.

Women living in the most deprived 10% of areas die almost eight years younger than women living in the least deprived 10% of the country. For men, this life expectancy gap increases to over nine years' difference.¹

The number of GPs per 10,000 people is lower in deprived areas compared to affluent areas.²

30% of people most severely affected by chronic pain live in the most deprived areas, compared to 15% who lived in the least deprived areas.³



Teach.

Jesus' words recorded in Luke 4:16-21 show us that poverty and justice are matters that God cares about and therefore as Christians so should we.

Jesus makes it clear that in His Kingdom people are lifted out of poverty, receive freedom from anything holding them captive, are healed of sickness, and oppression over them is broken.

So as followers of Christ, we should be troubled by the increasing health inequalities that exist in our society and stirred into action to play our part in reducing them.



Act.

- **Pray:** for health leaders and decision-makers.
- **Healing prayer:** offer prayer for the sick.
- **Volunteer:** to help those struggling to access healthcare.
- **Support:** local healthcare workers.
- **Lobby:** your local MP for a long-term strategy to tackle health inequalities.
- **Advocate:** on behalf of patients.
- **Financial support:** show generosity to those unable to access free healthcare.



Pray.

- For health inequalities in the UK – for the gap to shrink.
- That the Holy Spirit would move in a powerful way to bring healing to those experiencing poor physical, mental and emotional health around us.

(1) <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/what-are-health-inequalities>

(2) <https://bjgpopen.org/content/5/5/BJGPO.2021.0066>

(3) <https://versusarthritis.org/media/23782/chronic-pain-report-june2021-print-friendly.pdf>