

# Socio-Economic Profile 5:

## Health & Disability



## SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE 5 - HEALTH & DISABILITY

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**HEALTH & DISABILITY**

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This section explores data relating to the health status of the Wexford population as well as data relating to the nature and extent of disabilities within the community. A spatial spread of this data is also presented.

This report forms part of a series of 6 thematic reports on 'Economy', 'Commuting Flows', 'Demographics', 'Education and Skills' and 'Housing'. All reports are primarily derived from the results from Census 2016 but also include additional datasets from other key authoritative sources in Ireland.

## Key Facts

**1. A total of 59% of Wexford's population report their health status as 'Very Good'.** This is lower than both the State and regional figures and is the 13th highest rate in the State. A further 28% reported their health as 'Good', while 9% reported their health as 'Fair' - these results are the 13th and 11th lowest rates in the country respectively.

**2. Relative to other local authorities, Wexford has moderately high rates of its population with 'Bad' or 'Very Bad Health'.** At 1.4%, a total of 2,163 of the resident population in Wexford have 'Bad' health and 0.3% or 458 have 'Very Bad' health. These results are the 12th and 11th highest rates respectively. An important point to note here is the projected increase in elderly population (65 plus) in Wexford and the State between now and 2031. With numbers expected to increase in the region of 56% (South-East, CSO Regional Population Projections 2016-2031) there will be an increase in numbers with 'Bad' and 'Very Bad' which will result in significant pressure on health services.

**3. There were a total of 22,650 people who stated they had a disability in April 2016,** accounting for 15.1 per cent of the population - the second highest rate in the State and much higher than the State average of 13.5%. This represented an increase of 2,516 persons (12.5%) on the 2011 figure of 20,134 (13.9%). This rate of increase is higher than the State average which recorded an increase of 47,796 persons (8%) on the 2011 figure of 595,335.

**4. Of those with a disability, the most common were 'chronic illness' (16.5%),** 'substantial physical limitation' (14.5%), 'difficulty in participating in activities' (12.4%) and 'difficulty in working or attending school/college'. The least common reported disability was "blindness/impaired vision" (2.8%). Wexford has the second highest rate of reported disability in the country.

*Note: For the purpose of this report a person/people with a disability have been classified as someone who responded 'yes' to any of the 7 categories in question 16 on long-lasting conditions or 'yes' to any of the four categories in question 17 on difficulties on the Census 2016 form.*

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE 5 – GENERAL HEALTH

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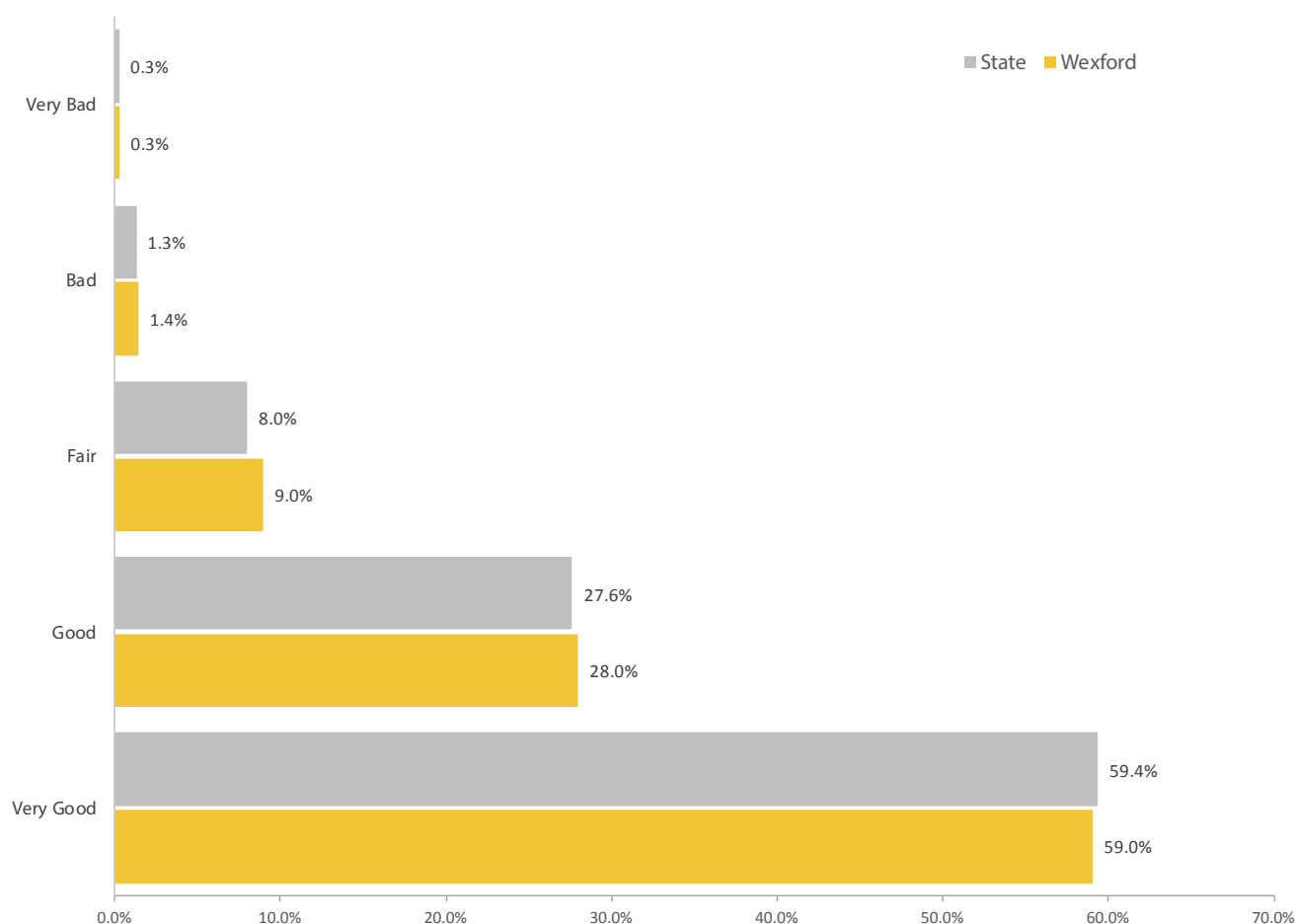


Figure 1: General Health Summary, 2016 (Source: CSO & AIRO)

A question on general health was first introduced in Census 2011 and asked respondents to select one of five categories ranging from very good to very bad. Self-perceived health provides a well validated and widely used measure of actual health, despite its subjective nature.

The naturally observed phenomenon of failing health with age is clearly reflected in the census results. Looking at health over a lifespan (in the State), almost 4 in 5 of the 15-19 age group (79%) felt they had very good health, by 40-44 years this had fallen to 58.6 per cent and by 65-69 years was down to 31.3 per cent. In those aged 85 years and over, just under 1 in 10 (9.6%) perceived they had very good health.

An important point to note here is the projected increase in elderly population (65 plus) in Wexford and the State between now and 2031. With numbers expected to increase in the region of 56% (South-East, CSO Regional Population Projections 2016-2031) there will be an increase in numbers with 'Bad' and 'Very Bad' which will result in significant pressure on health services.

Relative to other parts of the country, Wexford is a moderately healthy place with 8.7 out of every 10 respondents stating that their general health was either Good or Very Good. This rate is the 14th highest in the State.

According to the Census results, 2,621 Wexford residents identified themselves as having Bad or Very Bad health. This equates to approximately 1.8% of the total population, the 11th highest rate in the country. The graphics on the following pages outlines this distribution within Wexford.

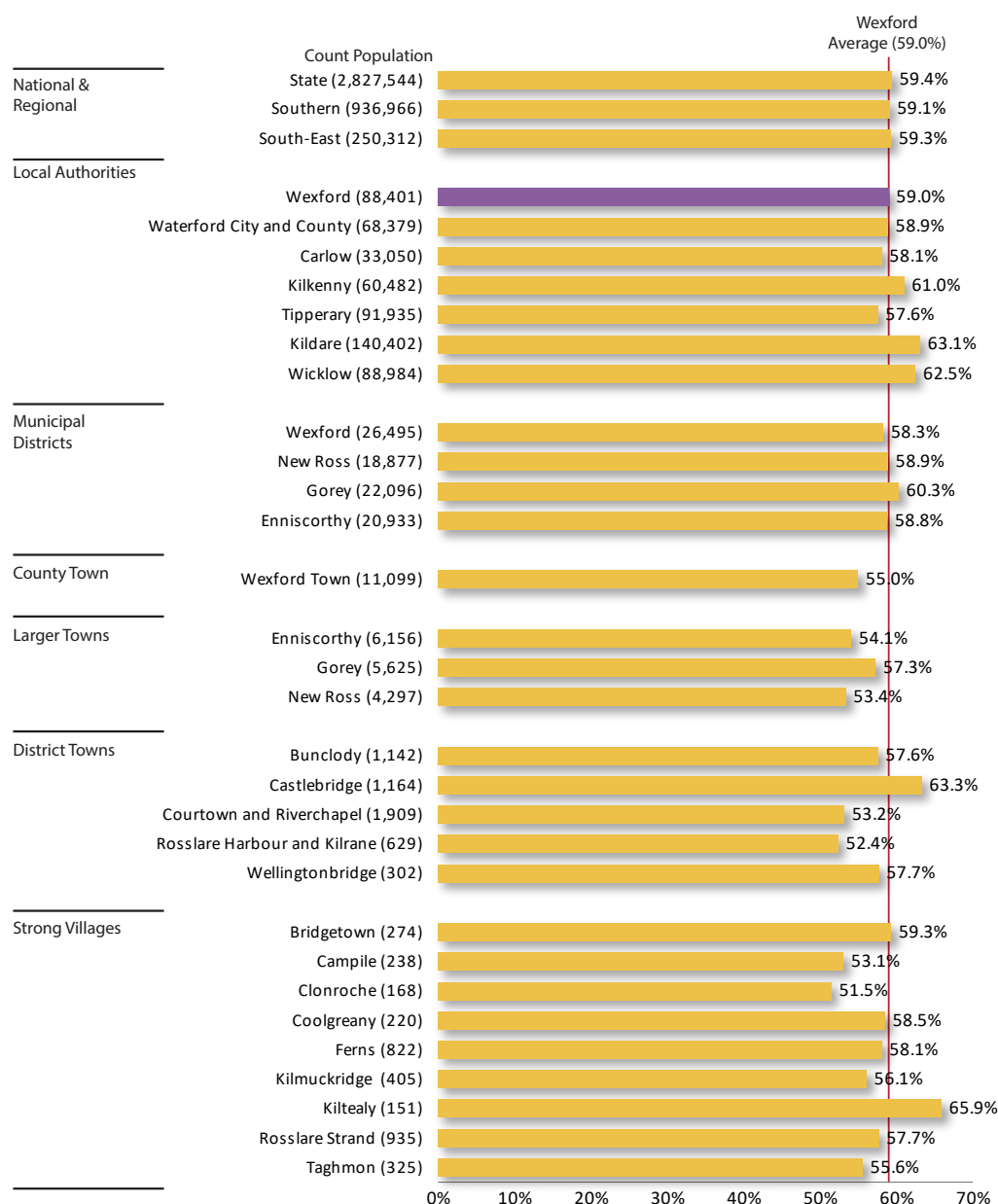


Figure 2: General Health - Very Good, 2016

How is Wexford performing?  
% Population

13/31

Local Authority  
1 is the highest, 31 is the lowest



National  
Lower than average



Southern RA  
Lower than average

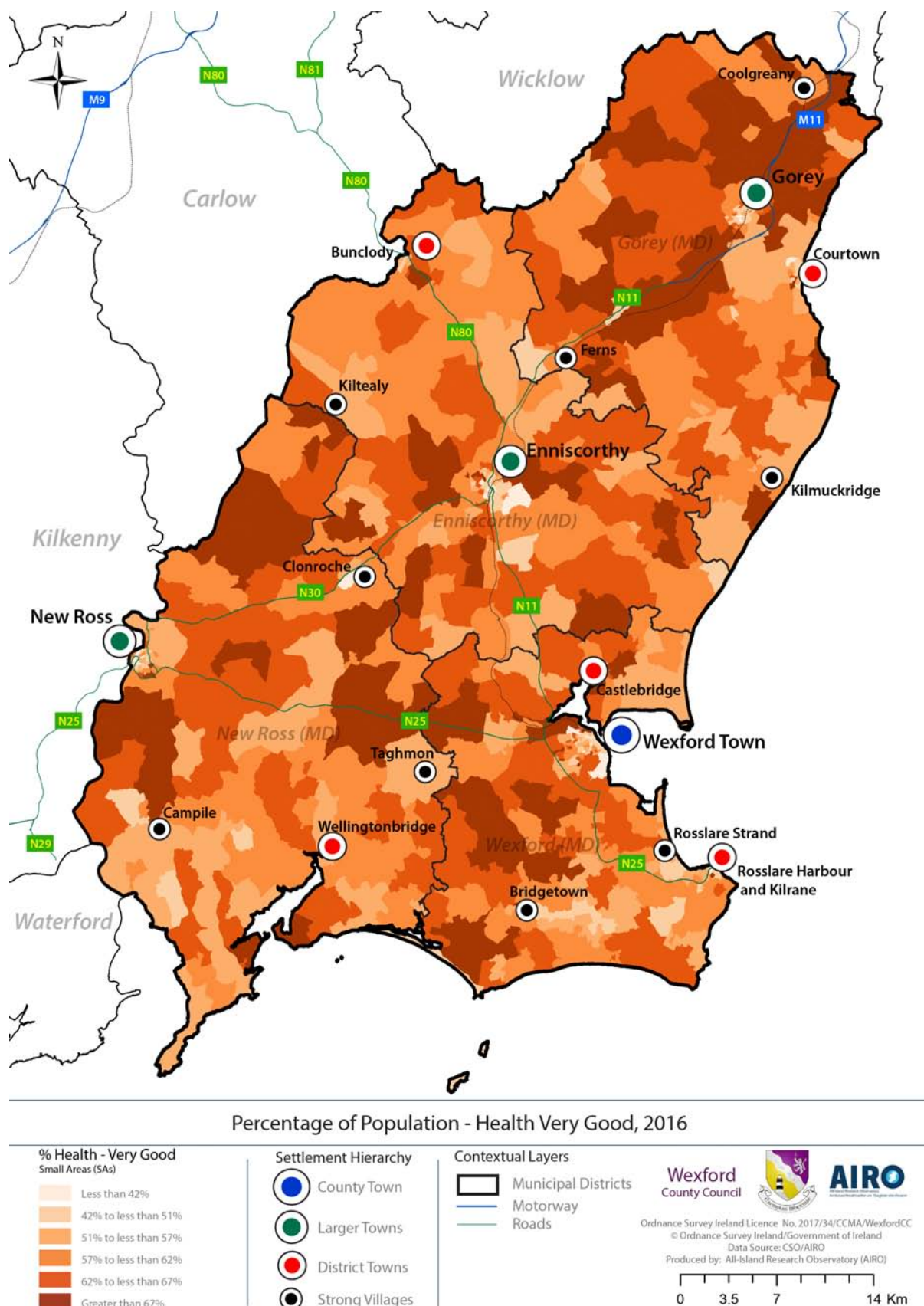
How is Wexford performing?  
Count Population

13/31

Local Authority  
1 is the highest, 31 is the lowest

- According to Census 2016, the total population experiencing 'Very Good Health' residing in Wexford is 88,401 and accounts for 59% of the total population. This rate is lower than the State (59.4%), Southern RA (59.1%) and South-East SPA (59.3%) averages.
- Relative to other local authorities, Wexford has the 13th highest number of its population experiencing 'Very Good Health' in the State and this was the 13th highest rate. The highest rates in the State are in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown (65.6%) and Meath (63.15%) and the lowest in Cork City (54.1%) and Dublin City (55.6%). Since 2011, there has been an increase of 907 (1%) of those experiencing 'Very Good Health' in Wexford.
- At the Municipal District level, a small variation is evident with the highest rate recorded in Gorey MD (60.3%). In contrast, marginally lower rates are found in New Ross MD (58.9%), Enniscorthy MD (58.8%) and Wexford MD (58.3%). Across the settlement hierarchy the highest rates are recorded in Kiltealy (65.9%), Castlebridge (63.5%), Bridgetown (59.3%), Coolgreany (58.5%), and Ferns (58.1%).





Map 2: General Health - Very Good, 2016

The map provides an illustration of the rates for 'Very Good Health' within and across the Wexford Small Areas (SAs). In general, there is a varied distribution with highest rates distributed throughout urban settlements and rural areas across the county. The areas proximate to Gorey and its hinterland area features a concentration of high rates.

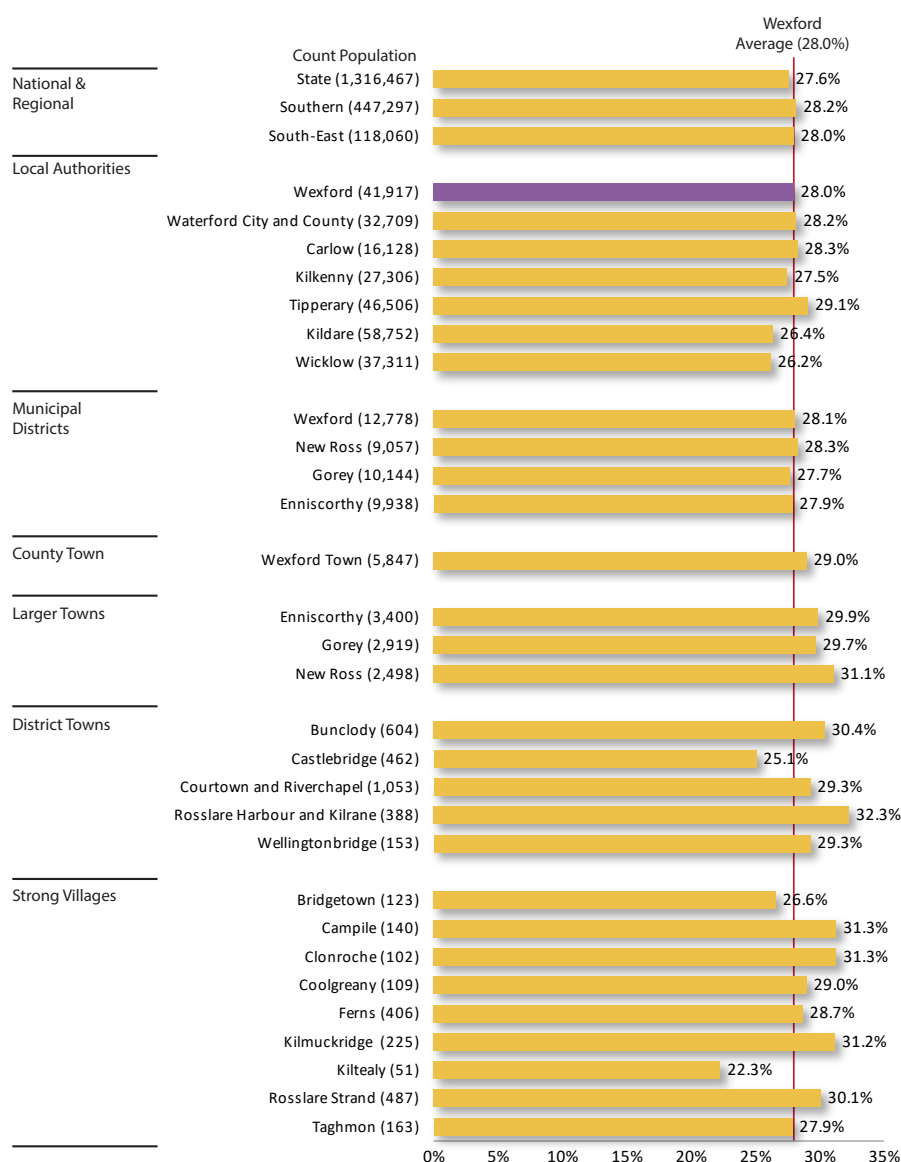


Figure 3: General Health - Good, 2016

How is Wexford performing?  
% Population

20/31

**Local Authority**  
1 is the highest, 31 is the lowest



**National**  
Higher than Average



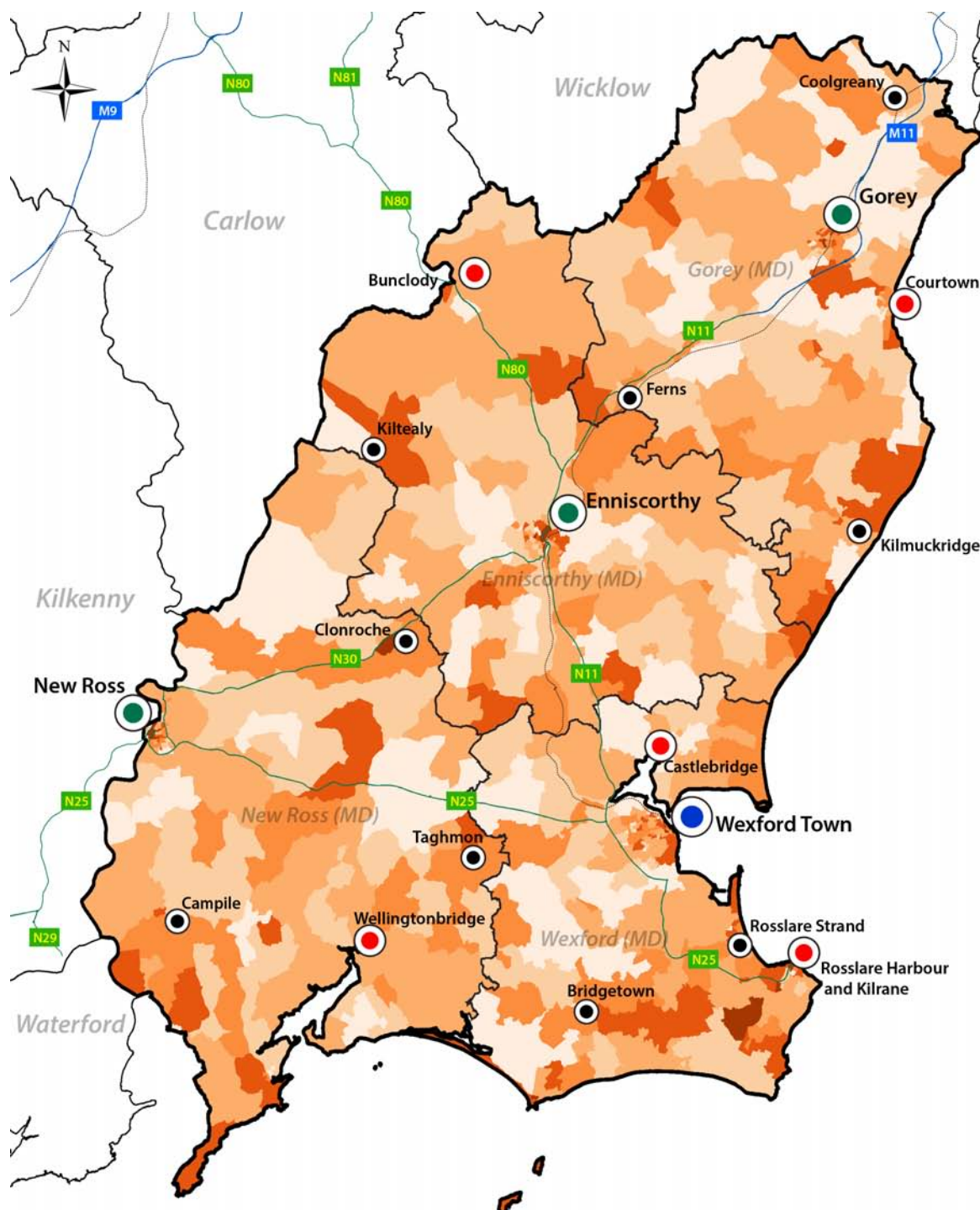
**Southern RA**  
Lower than average

How is Wexford performing?  
Count Population

13/31

**Local Authority**  
1 is the highest, 31 is the lowest

- According to Census 2016, the total population experiencing 'Good Health' residing in Wexford is 41,917 and accounts for 28% of the total population. This rate is higher than the State (27.6%) average, lower than the Southern RA (28.2%) average and in line with the South-East SPA (28%) average.
- Relative to other local authorities, Wexford has the 13th highest number of its population experiencing 'Good Health' in the State and this was the 12th lowest rate. The highest rates in the State are in Mayo (30.2%) and Kerry (29.8%) and the lowest in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (24.4%) and Wicklow (26.2%). Since 2011, there has been an increase of 1,131 (2.8%) experiencing 'Good Health' in Wexford.
- At the Municipal District level, a small variation is evident with highest rates recorded in New Ross MD (28.3%) and Wexford MD (28.1%). Marginally lower rates are found in Enniscorthy MD (27.9%) and Gorey MD (27.7%). Across the settlement hierarchy the highest rates are recorded in Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane (32.3%), Campile (31.3%), Clonroche (31.3%), Kilmuckridge (31.2%) and New Ross (31.1%).



Percentage of Population - Health Good, 2016



Map 3: General Health - Good, 2016

The map provides an illustration of the rates for 'Good Health' within and across the Wexford Small Areas (SAs). In general, there is a varied distribution with highest rates distributed throughout urban settlements and south east of Wexford Town.



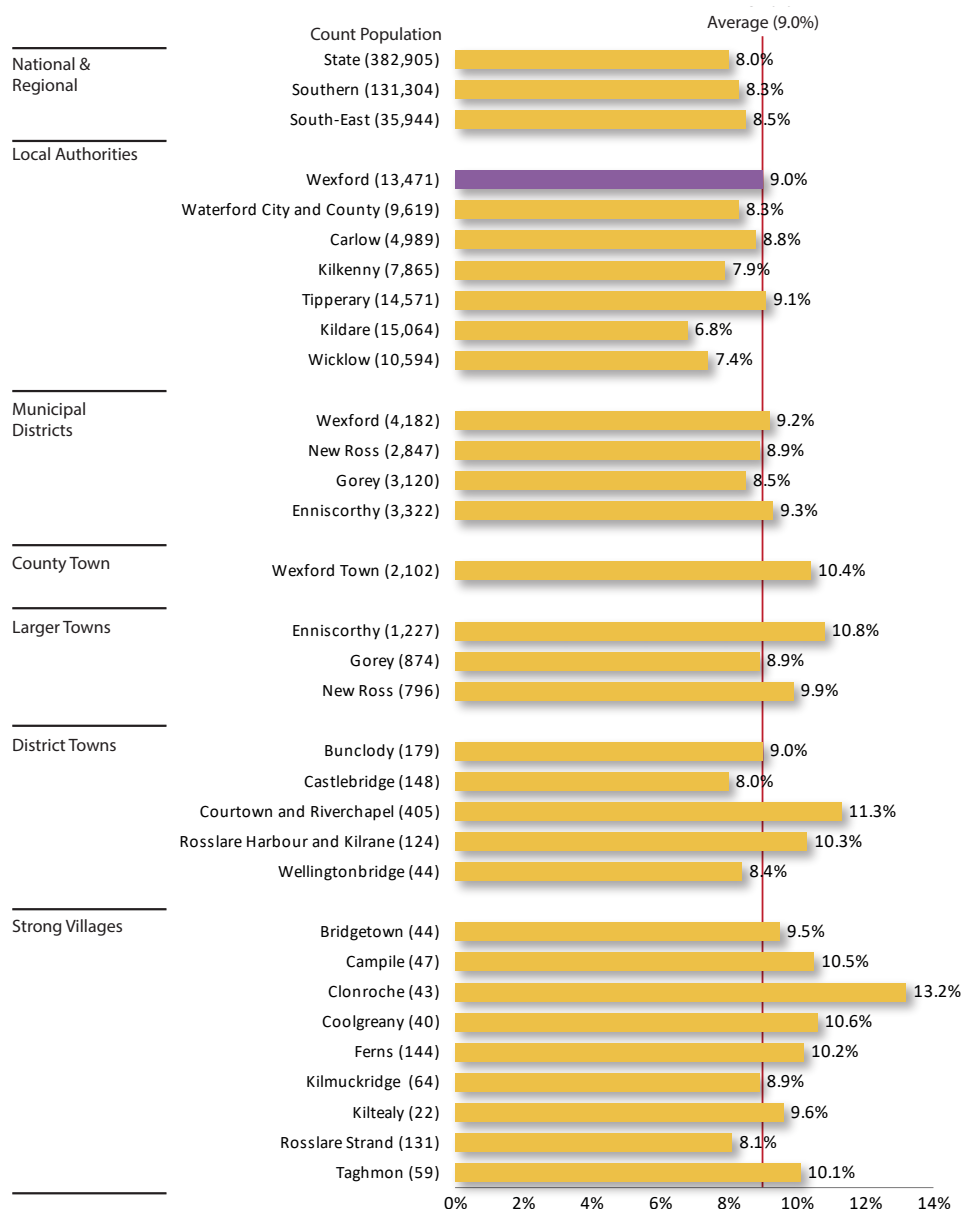


Figure 4: General Health - Fair, 2016

How is Wexford performing?  
% Population

9/31

Local Authority  
1 is the highest, 31 is the lowest

↑

National  
Higher than Average

↑

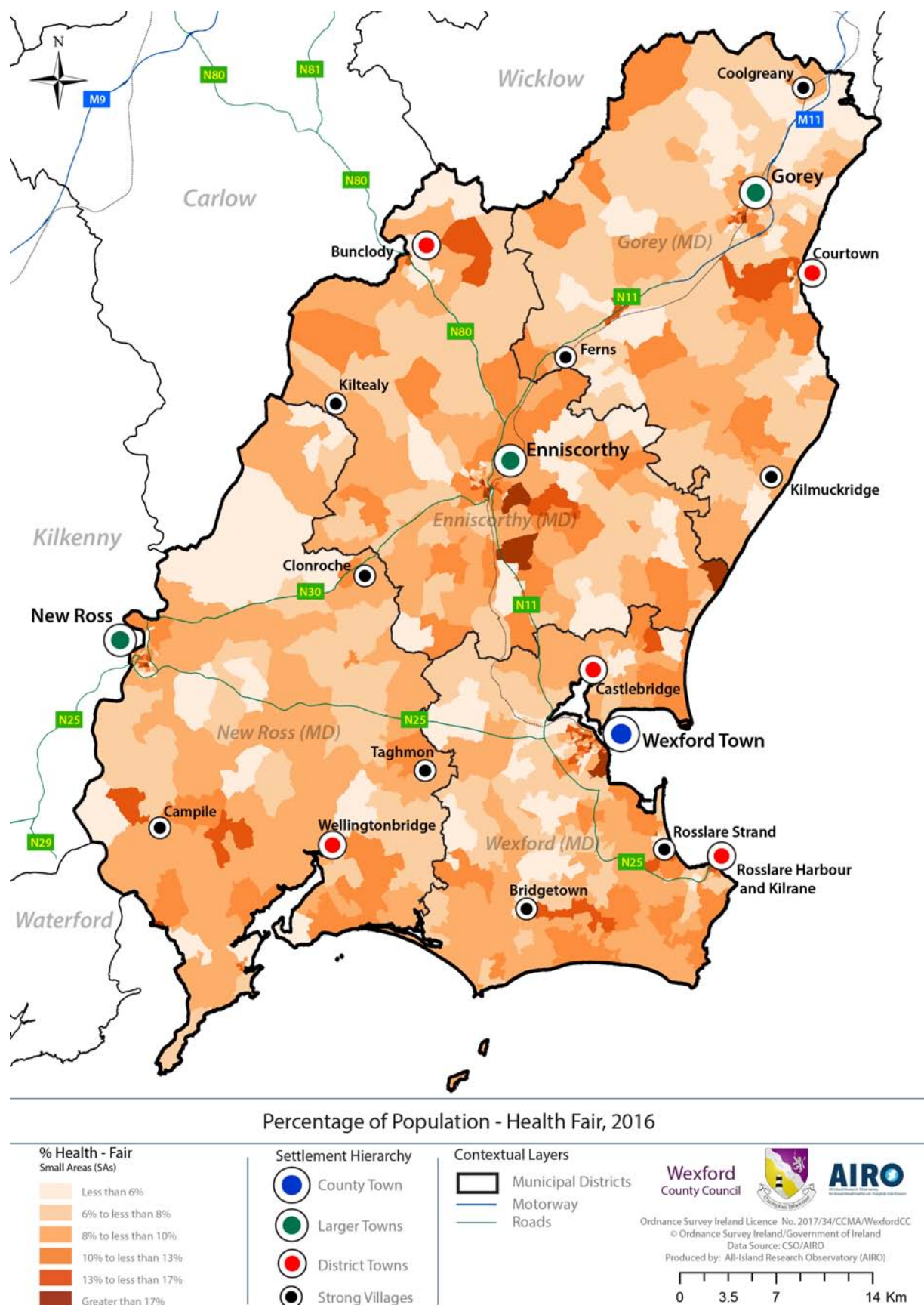
Southern RA  
Higher than Average

How is Wexford performing?  
Count Population

11/31

Local Authority  
1 is the highest, 31 is the lowest

- According to Census 2016, the total population experiencing 'Fair Health' residing in Wexford is 13,471 and accounts for 9% of the total population. This rate is higher than the State (8%), Southern RA (8.3%) and South-East SPA (8.5%) averages.
- Relative to other local authorities, Wexford has the 11th highest number of its population experiencing 'Fair Health' in the State and this was the 9th highest rate. The highest rates in the State are in Cork City (10%) and Mayo (9.9%) and the lowest in Fingal (6.2%) and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (6.4%). Since 2011, there has been an increase of 1,187 (9.7%) experiencing 'Fair Health' in Wexford.
- At the Municipal District level, a small variation is evident with highest rates recorded in Enniscorthy MD (9.3%) and Wexford MD (9.2%). In contrast, lower rates are found in New Ross MD (8.9%) and Gorey MD (8.5%). Across the settlement hierarchy the highest rates are recorded in Clonroche (13.2%), Courtown and Riverchapel (11.3%), Enniscorthy (10.8%), Coolgreany (10.6%) and Campile (10.5%).



Map 4: General Health - Fair, 2016

The map provides an illustration of the rates for 'Fair Health' within and across the Wexford Small Areas (SAs). In general, there is a varied distribution with highest rates distributed near urban settlements and some rural areas, in particular south of Enniscorthy.

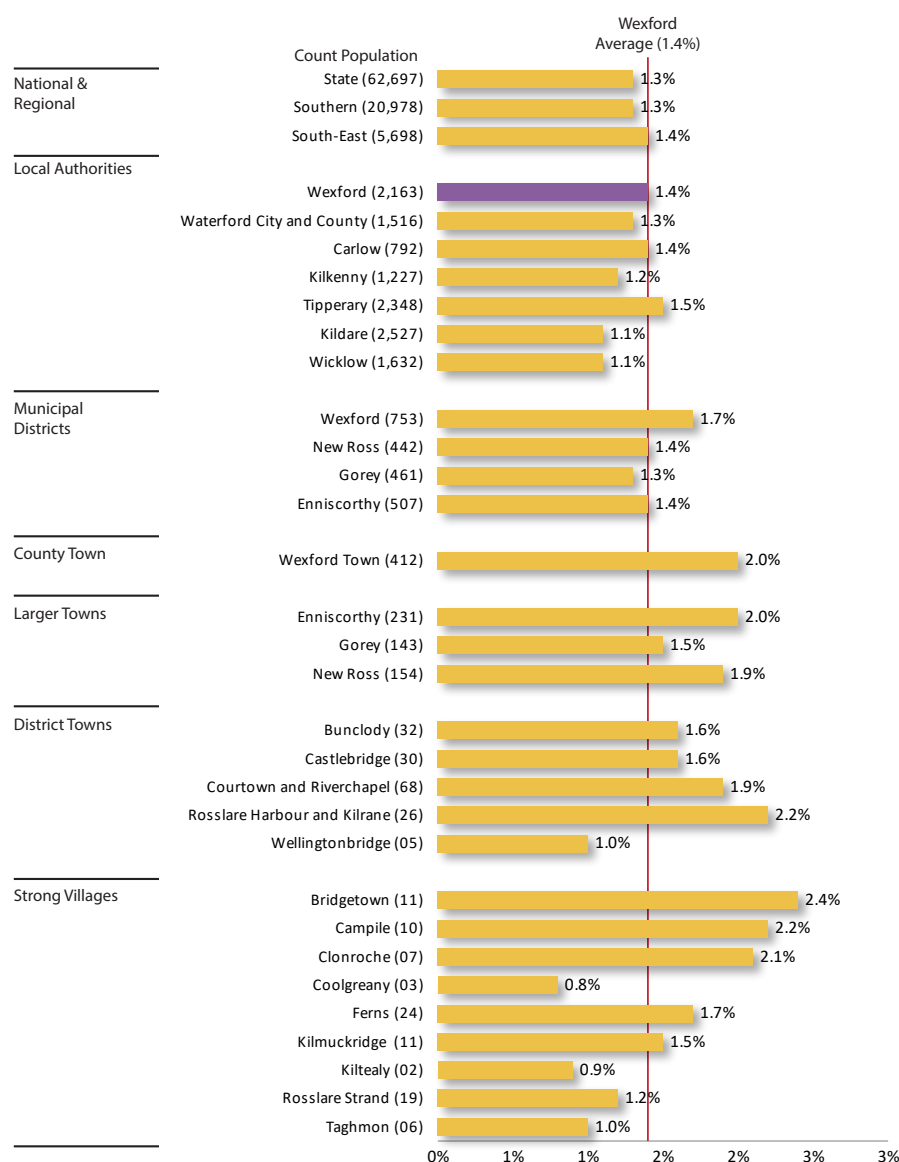


Figure 5: General Health - Bad, 2016

How is Wexford performing?  
% Population

12/31

Local Authority  
1 is the highest, 31 is the lowest

↑

National  
Higher than Average

↑

Southern RA  
Higher than Average

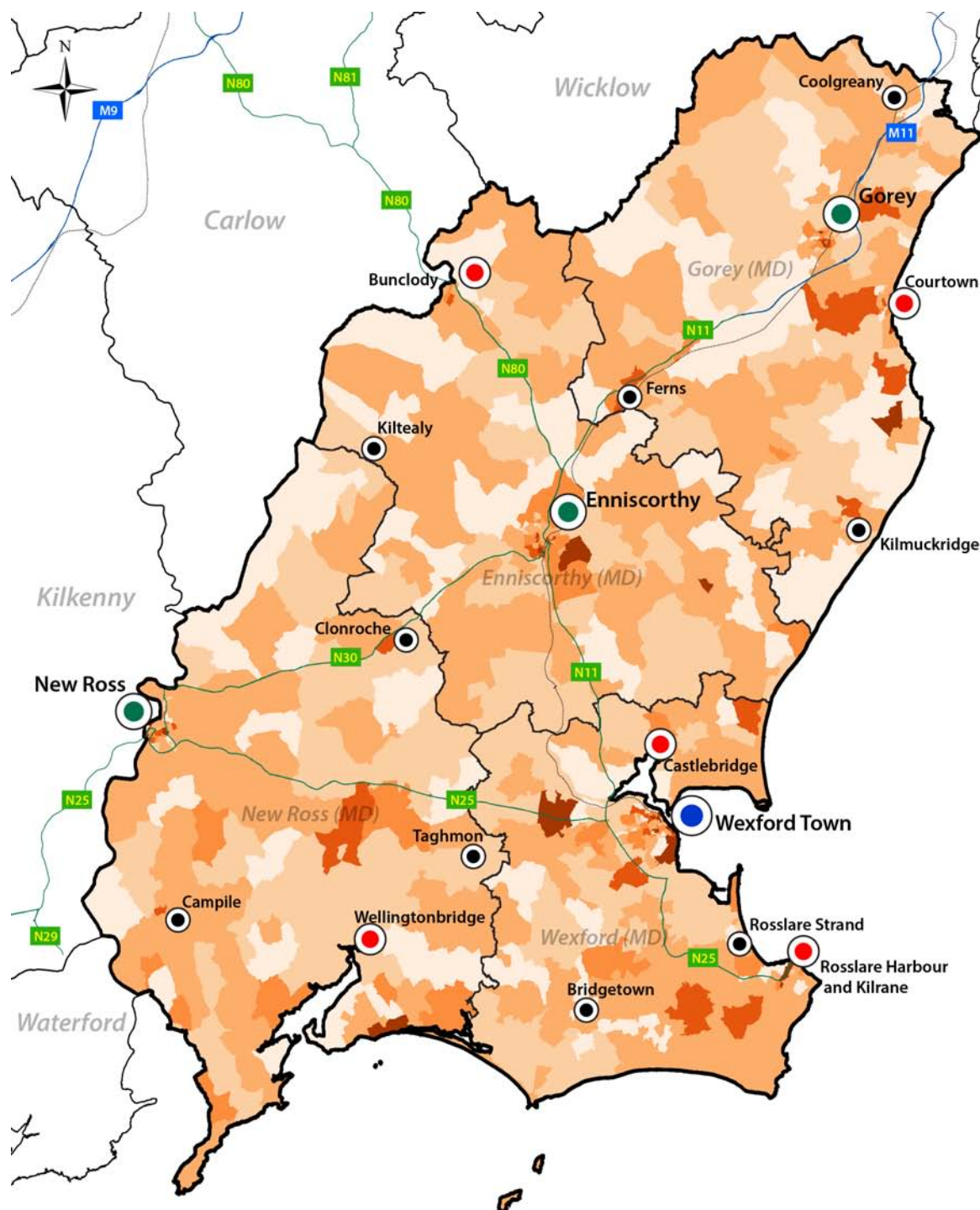
How is Wexford performing?  
Count Population

11/31

Local Authority  
1 is the highest, 31 is the lowest

- According to Census 2016, the total population experiencing 'Bad Health' residing in Wexford is 2,163 and accounts for 1.4% of the total population. This rate is lower than the State (1.3%) and Southern RA (1.3%) averages and in line with the South-East SPA (1.4%) average.
- Relative to other local authorities, Wexford has the 11th highest number of its population experiencing 'Bad Health' in the State and this was the 12th highest rate. The highest rates in the State are in Cork City (1.8%) and Longford (1.7%) and the lowest in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (1%) and Cork County (1%). Since 2011, there has been an increase of 199 (10.1%) experiencing 'Bad Health' in Wexford.
- At the Municipal District level, a small variation is evident with the highest rate recorded in Wexford MD (1.7%). In contrast, lower rates are found in New Ross MD (1.4%), Enniscorthy MD (1.4%) and Gorey MD (1.3%). Across the settlement hierarchy the highest rates are recorded in Bridgetown (2.4%), Campile (2.2%), Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane (2.2%), Clonroche (2.1%), Wexford Town and Enniscorthy (both 2%).





Percentage of Population - Health Bad, 2016



Map 5: General Health - Bad, 2016

The map provides an illustration of the rates for 'Bad Health' within and across the Wexford Small Areas (SAs). High rates are visible in the hinterland areas of Wexford Town, Gorey and Enniscorthy with further concentrations are distributed across rural Wexford which correlate with nursing homes in some cases.

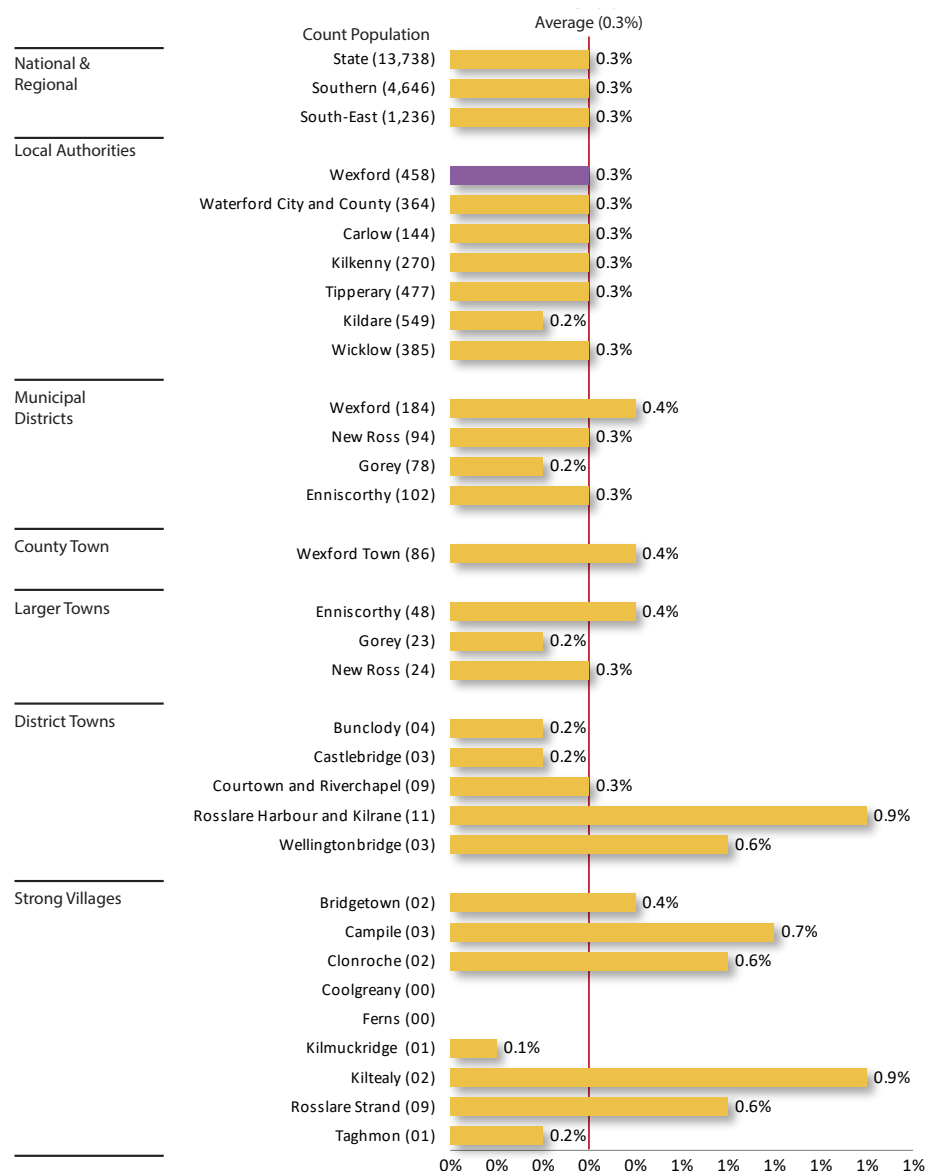


Figure 6: General Health - Very Bad, 2016

How is Wexford performing?  
% Population

11/31

Local Authority  
1 is the highest, 31 is the lowest



National  
Higher than Average



Southern RA  
Higher than Average

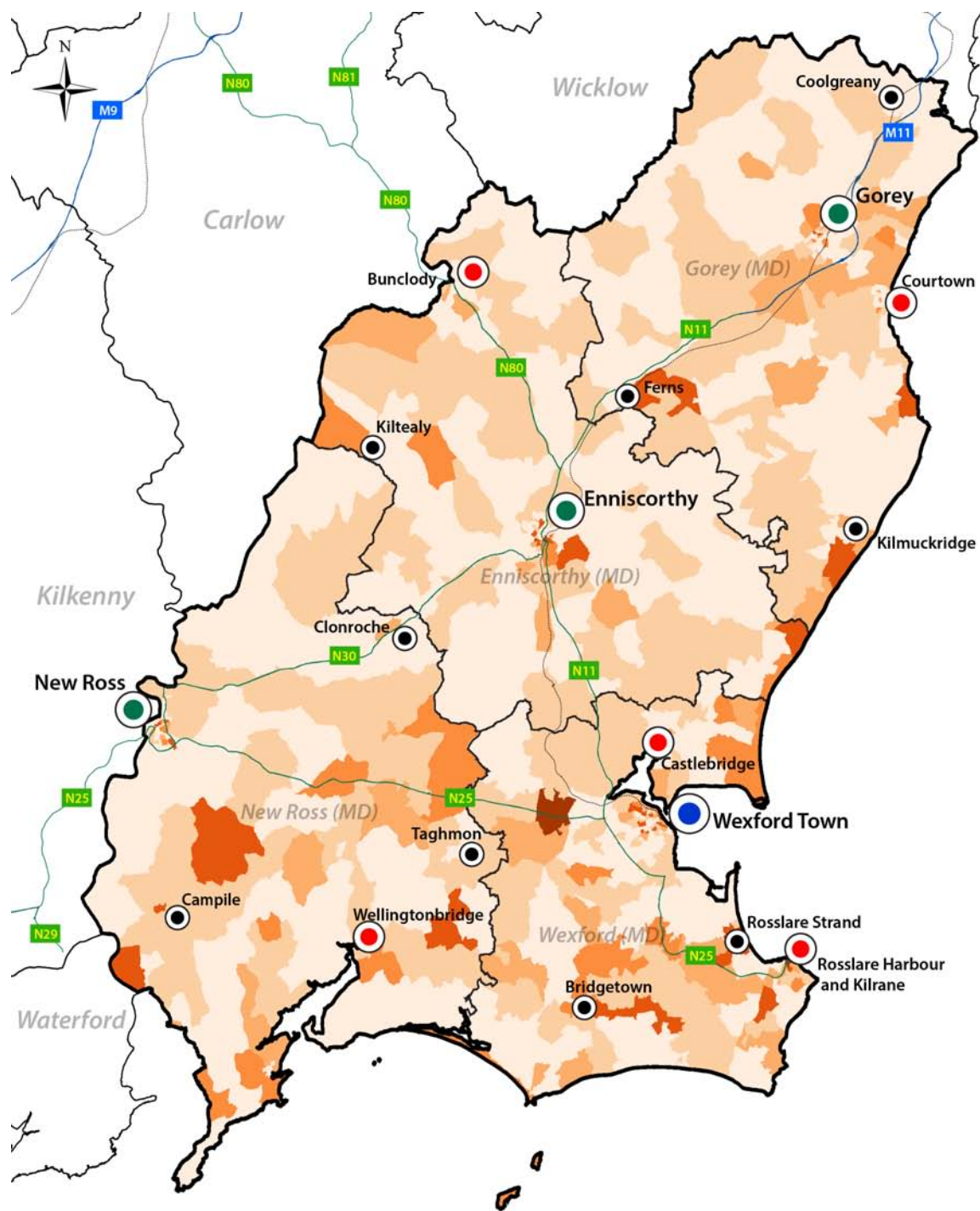
How is Wexford performing?  
Count Population

11/31

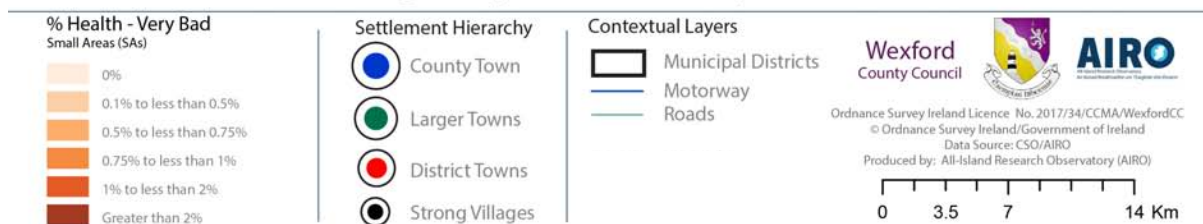
Local Authority  
1 is the highest, 31 is the lowest

- According to Census 2016, the total population experiencing 'Very Bad Health' residing in Wexford is 458 and accounts for 0.3% of the total population. This rate is in line with the State, Southern RA and South-East SPA (all 0.3%) averages.
- Relative to other local authorities, Wexford has the 11th highest number of its population experiencing 'Very Bad Health' in the State and this was the 11th highest rate. The highest rates in the State are in Cork City (0.4%) and Dublin City (0.4%) and the lowest in Meath (0.2%) and Cork County (0.2%). Since 2011, there has been an increase of 54 (13.4%) experiencing Very Bad Health in Wexford.
- At the Municipal District level, a small variation is evident with the highest rate recorded in Wexford MD (0.4%). Marginally lower rates are found in New Ross MD (0.3%), Enniscorthy MD (0.3%) and Gorey MD (0.2%). Across the settlement hierarchy the highest rates are recorded in Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane (0.9%), Kiltealy (0.9%), Campile (0.7%), Clonroche (0.6%), Wellingtonbridge (0.6%), Rosslare Strand (0.6%), Wexford Town and Enniscorthy (both 0.4%).





Percentage of Population - Health Very Bad, 2016



Map 6: General Health - Very Bad, 2016

The map provides an illustration of the rates for 'Very Bad Health' within and across the Wexford Small Areas (SAs). There is a mixed distribution of throughout the county with high rates recorded in urban settlements, small rural settlements and rural areas. High rate may correlate with nursing homes in some cases.

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE 5 – DISABILITY

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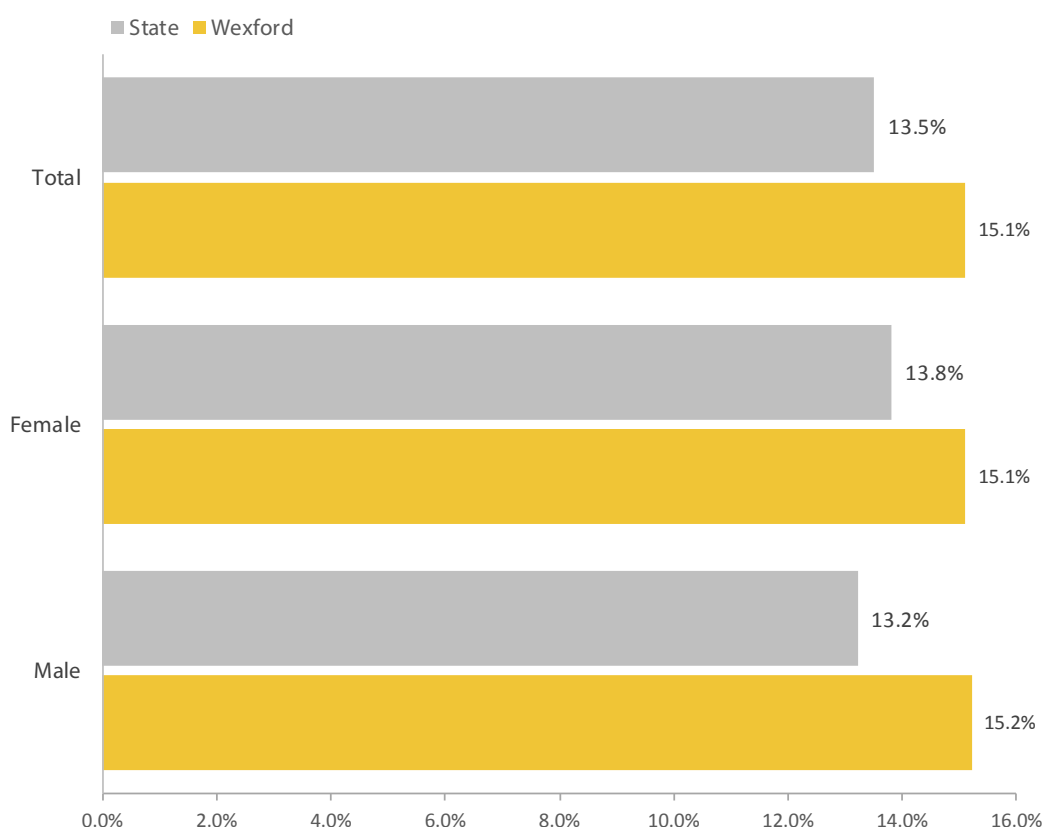


Figure 7: Population with a Disability Summary, 2016 (Source: CSO & AIRO)

There were a total of 22,650 people who stated they had a disability in April 2016, accounting for 15.1 per cent of the population - the second highest rate in the State and much higher than the State average of 13.5%. This represented an increase of 2,516 persons with a disability (12.5%) on the 2011 figure of 20,134 (13.9%). This rate of increase is higher than the State average which recorded an increase of 47,796 persons with a disability (8%) on the 2011 figure of 595,335.

The graphic above details the difference between the total, male and female rates of disability between Wexford and the State. For all three categories, Wexford records higher rates than the State average. General trends in disabilities amongst males and females in Wexford are similar to those at the State level. Disability was more common amongst males in all age categories up to age 24, peaking in the 5-9 age groups where there were almost twice as many disabled boys (14,964) as girls (7,887). Between the ages of 25 and 59, there were proportionally more females with a disability, while the ratio shifts for those in their sixties. From age 70 onwards, due to lower male life expectancy, there are significantly higher proportions of disabled persons who are female, with 69 per cent of disabled persons aged 85 years and over being female.

Of those with a disability in Wexford, the most common were 'chronic illness' (16.5%), 'substantial physical limitation' (14.5%), 'difficulty in participating in activities' (12.4%) and 'difficulty in working or attending school/college'. The least common reported disability was 'blindness/impaired vision' (2.8%).

Note: for the purpose of this report a disabled person has been classified as someone who responded 'yes' to any of the 7 categories in question 16 on long-lasting conditions or 'yes' to any of the four categories in question 17 on difficulties.

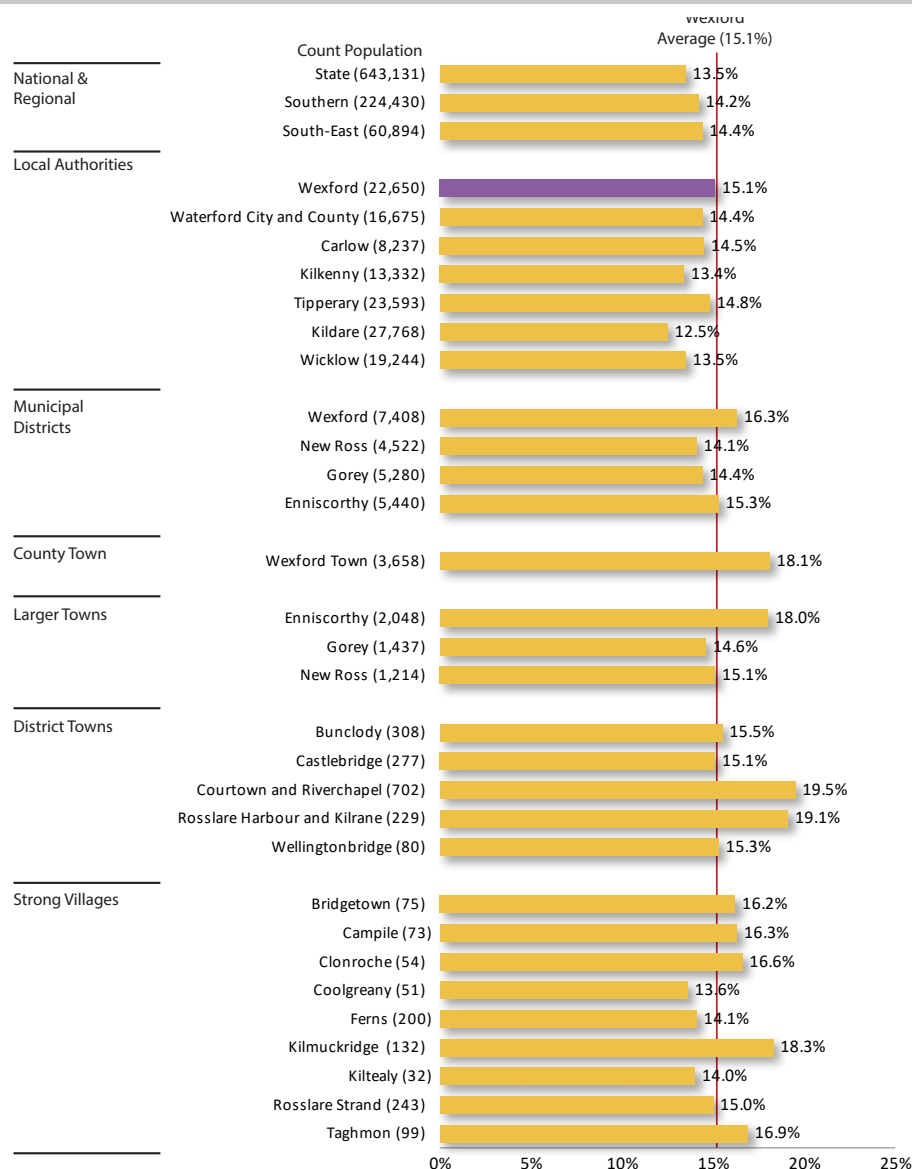


Figure 10: Population with a Disability, 2016

How is Wexford performing?  
% Population

2/31

Local Authority  
1 is the highest, 31 is the lowest



National  
Higher than Average



Southern RA  
Higher than Average

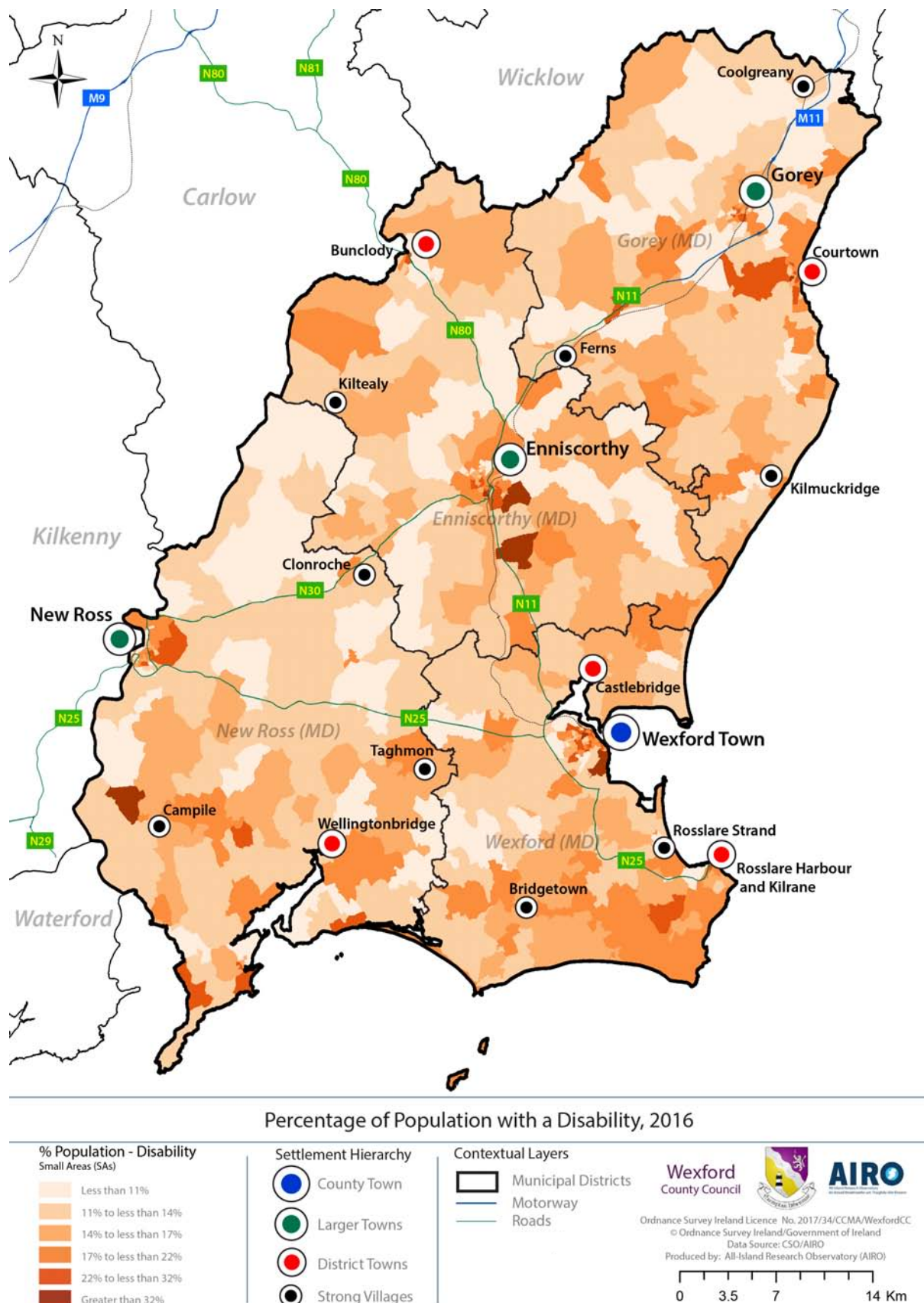
How is Wexford performing?  
Count Population

11/31

Local Authority  
1 is the highest, 31 is the lowest

- According to Census 2016, the total population with a disability residing in Wexford is 22,650 and accounts for 15.1% of the total population. This rate is higher than the State (13.5%), Southern RA (14.2%) and South-East SPA (14.4%) averages.
- Relative to other local authorities, Wexford has the 11th highest number of its population with a disability in the State and this was the 2nd highest rate. The highest rate in the State is in Cork City (18.1%) and the lowest in Fingal (10.8%) and Meath (10.6%). As disability is highly associated with age, counties with a high rate of disability have older populations. Since 2011, there has been an increase of 2,516 (12.5%) with a disability in Wexford.
- At the Municipal District level, a considerable variation is evident with highest rates recorded in Wexford MD (16.3%) and Enniscorthy MD (15.3%). In contrast, lower rates are found in Gorey MD (14.1%) and New Ross (14.1%). Across the settlement hierarchy the highest rates are recorded in Courtown and Riverchapel (19.5%), Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane (19.1%), Kilmuckridge (18.3%), Wexford Town (18.1%) and Enniscorthy (18%).





Map 10: Population with a Disability, 2016

The map provides an illustration of the rates for Total Disability within and across the Wexford Small Areas (SAs). Highest rates are found proximate to large urban settlements (Wexford Town, Gorey, Enniscorthy and New Ross) and their hinterland areas. Further concentrations are visible across southern parts of the county.

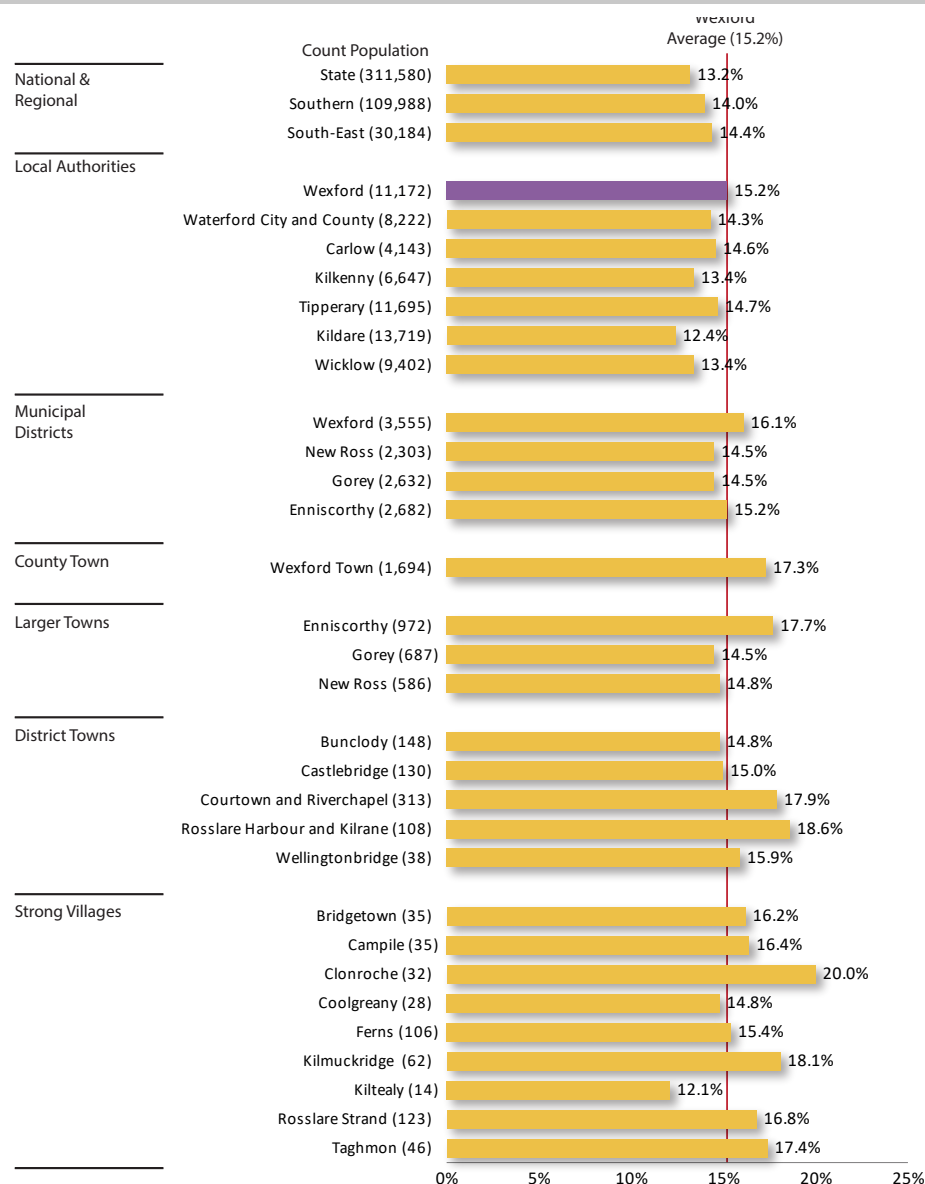


Figure 8: Male Population with a Disability, 2016

How is Wexford performing?  
% Population

2/31

**Local Authority**  
1 is the highest, 31 is the lowest

↑

**National**  
Higher than Average

↑

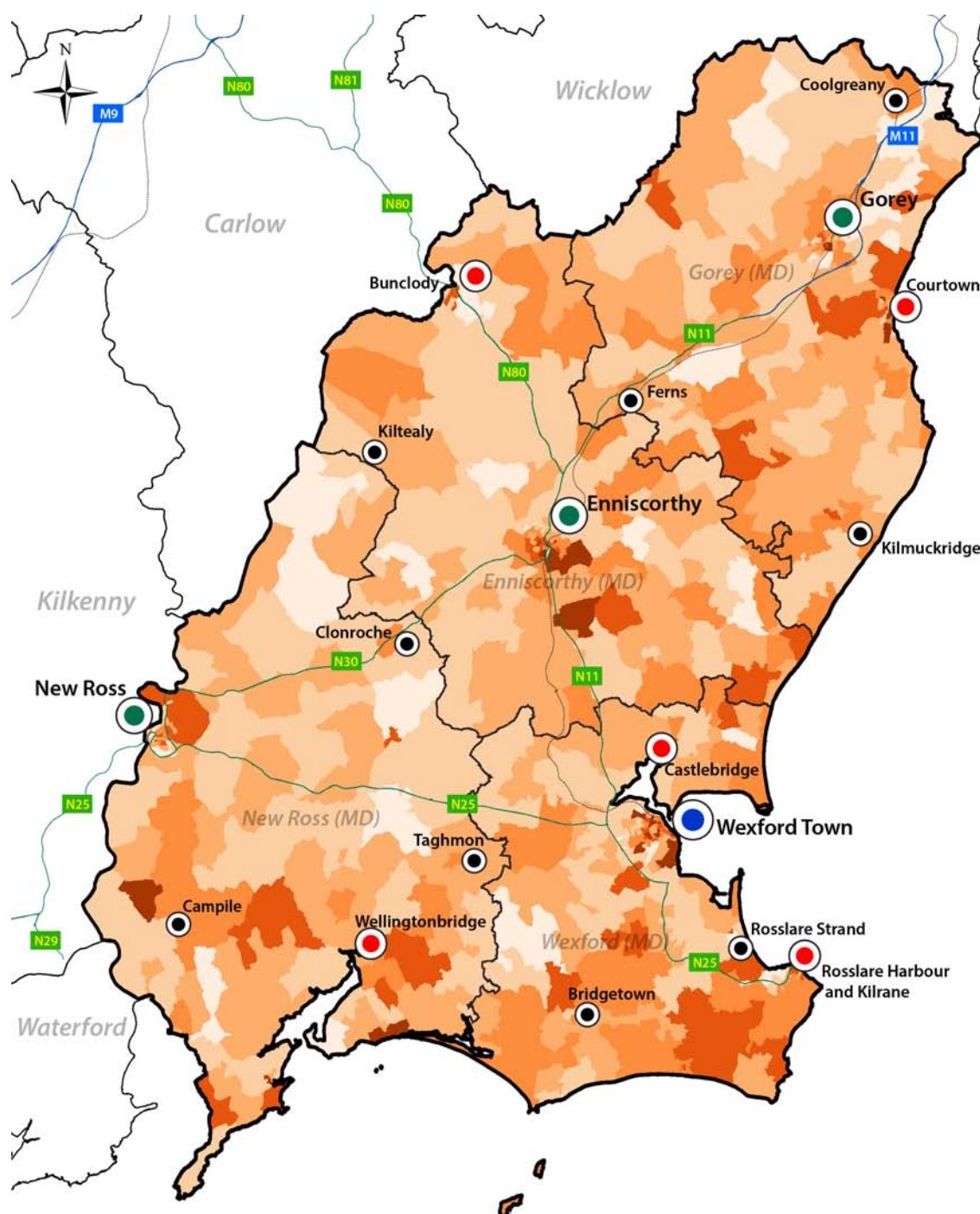
**Southern RA**  
Higher than Average

How is Wexford performing?  
Count Population

10/31

**Local Authority**  
1 is the highest, 31 is the lowest

- According to Census 2016, the total male population with a disability residing in Wexford is 11,172 and accounts for 15.2% of the total male population. This rate is higher than the State (13.2%), Southern RA (14%) and South-East SPA (14.4%) averages.
- Relative to other local authorities, Wexford has the 10th highest number of its male population with a disability in the State and this was the 2nd highest rate. The highest rate in the State is in Cork City (17.4%) and the lowest rates in Fingal (10.4%) and Monaghan (11.5%).
- At the Municipal District level, a considerable variation is evident with highest rates recorded in Wexford MD (16.1%) and Enniscorthy MD (15.2%). In contrast, lower rates are found in New Ross MD (14.5%) and Gorey MD (14.5%). Across the settlement hierarchy the highest rates are recorded in Clonroche (20%), Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane (18.6%), Kilmuckridge (18.1%) Courtown and Riverchapel (17.9%) and Enniscorthy (17.7%).



Percentage of Male Population with a Disability, 2016



Map 8: Male Population with a Disability, 2016

The map provides an illustration of the rates for 'Male' Disability within and across the Wexford Small Areas (SAs). Highest rates are found proximate to large urban settlements (Wexford Town, Gorey, Enniscorthy and New Ross) and their hinterland areas. Further concentrations are visible across the south and western parts of the county.



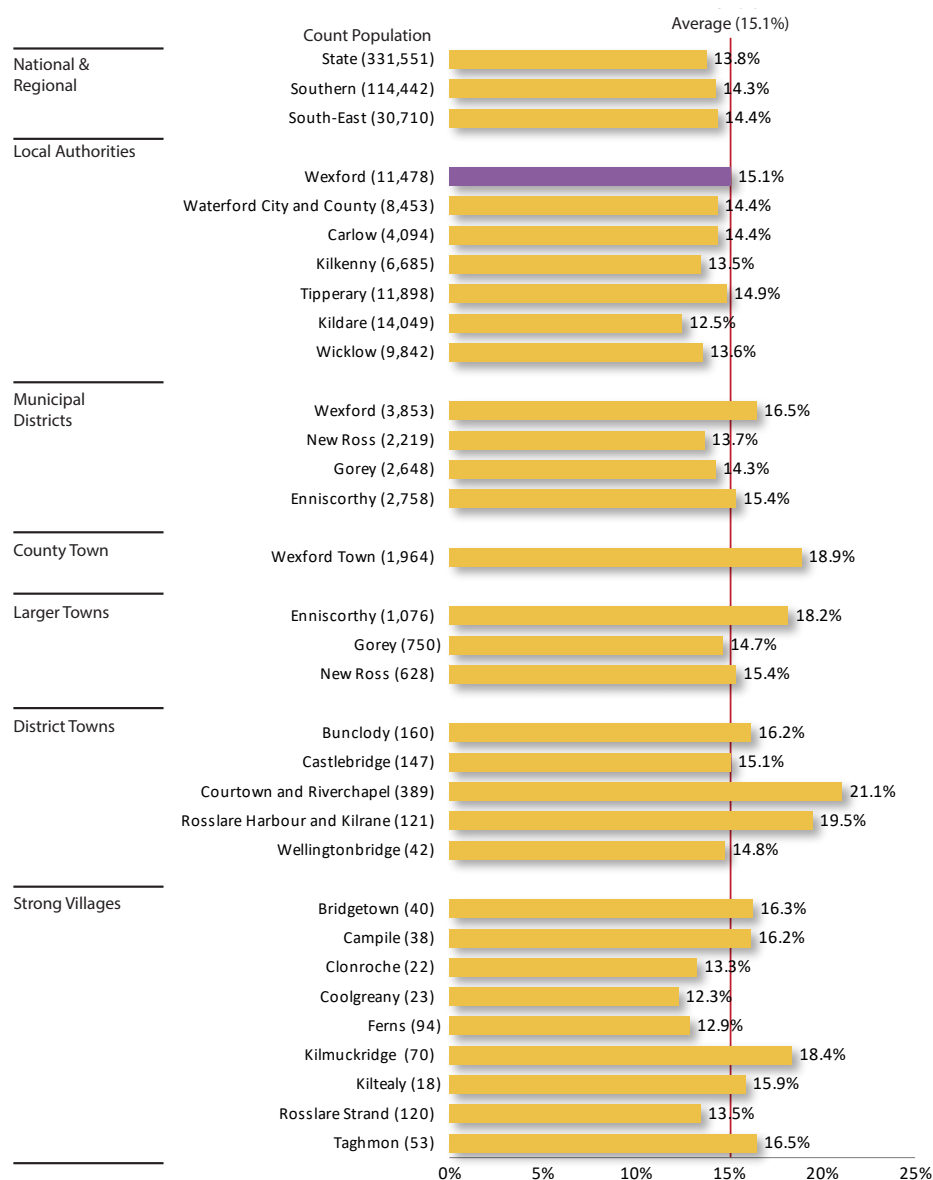


Figure 9: Female Population with a Disability, 2016

How is Wexford performing?  
% Population

4/31

**Local Authority**  
1 is the highest, 31 is the lowest



**National**  
Higher than Average



**Southern RA**  
Higher than Average

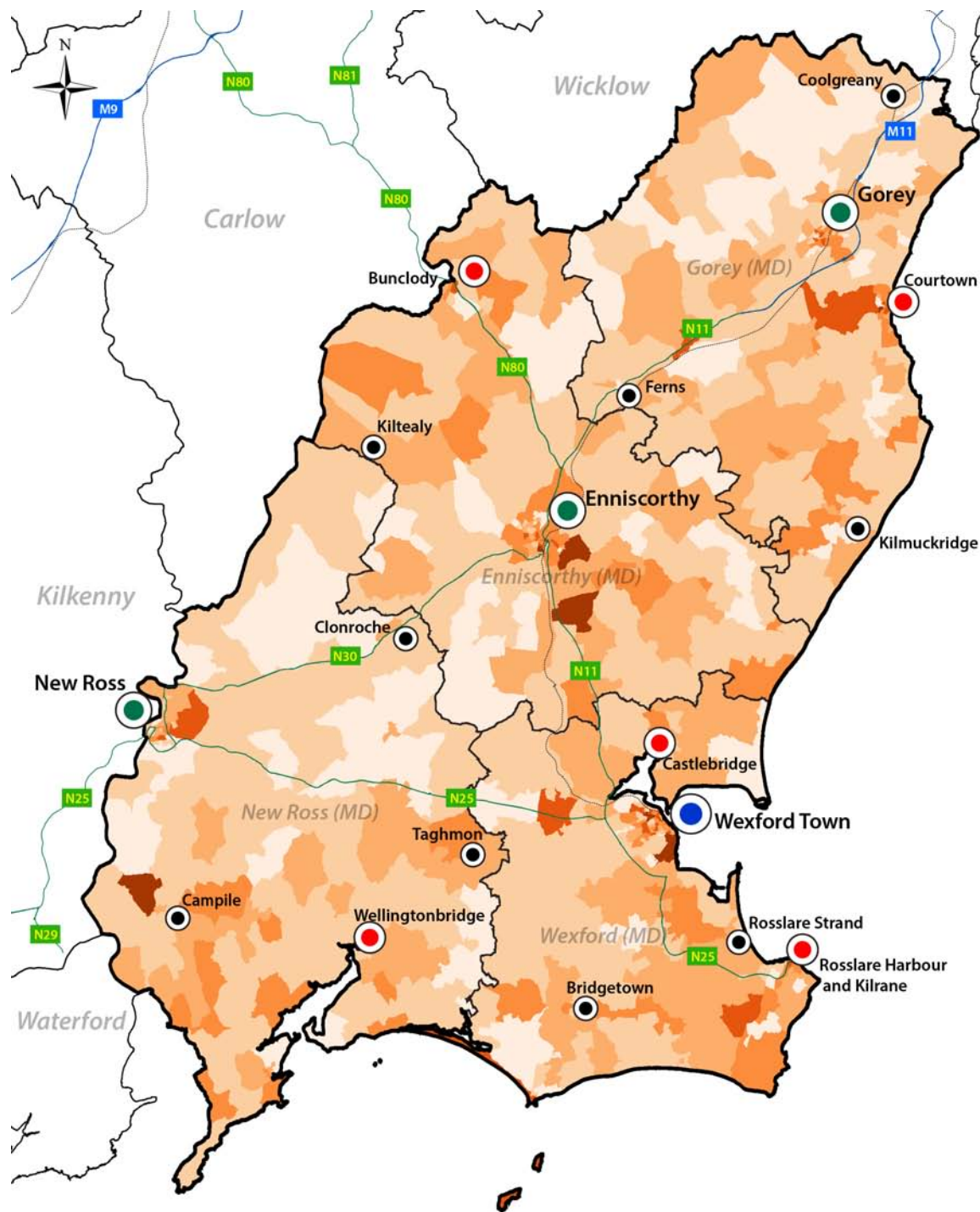
How is Wexford performing?  
Count Population

11/31

**Local Authority**  
1 is the highest, 31 is the lowest

- According to Census 2016, the total female population with a disability residing in Wexford is 11,478 and accounts for 15.1% of the total female population. This rate is higher than the State (13.8%), Southern RA (14.3%) and South-East SPA (14.4%) averages.
- Relative to other local authorities, Wexford has the 11th highest number of its female population with a disability in the State and this was the 4th highest rate. The highest rates in the State are in Cork City (18.7%) and Dublin City (15.5%) and the lowest in Fingal (11.2%) and Meath (11.7%).
- At the Municipal District level, a considerable variation is evident with highest rates recorded in Wexford MD (16.5%) and Enniscorthy MD (15.4%). In contrast, lower rates are found in Gorey MD (14.3%) and New Ross MD (13.7%). Across the settlement hierarchy the highest rates are recorded in Courtown and Riverchapel (21.1%), Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane (19.5%), Wexford Town (18.9%), Kilmuckridge (18.4%) and Enniscorthy (18.2%).





Percentage of Female Population with a Disability, 2016

% Female Population - Disability  
Small Areas (SAs)

Less than 10%
10% to less than 14%
14% to less than 18%
18% to less than 24%
24% to less than 33%
Greater than 33%

## Settlement Hierarchy

County Town
Larger Towns
District Towns
Strong Villages

## Contextual Layers

Municipal Districts
Motorway
Roads

Wexford  
County Council

AIRO

Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence No. 2017/34/CCMA/WexfordCC  
 © Ordnance Survey Ireland/Government of Ireland  
 Data Source: CSO/AIRO  
 Produced by: All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO)

0 3.5 7 14 Km

Map 9: Female Population with a Disability, 2016

The map provides an illustration of the rates for Female Disability within and across the Wexford Small Areas (SAs). Highest rates are found proximate to large urban settlements (Wexford Town, Gorey, Enniscorthy and New Ross) and their hinterland areas. Further concentrations are visible across south and western parts of the county.





