

**Supporters Newsletter**

**October 2023**

**Working together to improve the lives of children and Families**

**How are things for others?**

* [**Number of children in poverty living in working households on the rise**](https://www.lboro.ac.uk/news-events/news/2023/june/child-poverty-rise/)

# Number of children in poverty living in working households on the rise

5 June 2023 [Loughborough University](https://www.lboro.ac.uk/) [Society](https://www.lboro.ac.uk/news-events/news/categories/society/) [Research](https://www.lboro.ac.uk/news-events/news/categories/research/) [Children](https://www.lboro.ac.uk/news-events/news/categories/children/)

* Seven in ten children experiencing poverty are living in working households.
* End of pandemic support sees child poverty rising again.
* End Child Poverty Coalition is calling for two-child limit for those claiming Universal Credit to be scrapped, as evidence shows children with two or more siblings are more likely to be going through poverty.
* Child poverty climbing most steeply in North and Midlands.
* Analysis of official statistics carried out by Loughborough University’s Centre for Research in Social Policy (CRSP)

An end to the additional support made available during the pandemic has driven up the number of children experiencing poverty to 4.2 million last year (29 per cent of all dependent children aged 0-19), with an increasing number living in working households.

Some 71 per cent of them live in households where at least one adult works, a rise of 6 percentage points since last year.

Lone parents in work especially are struggling with more than a quarter (26 per cent) of all children going through poverty being raised by an adult in full-time employment by the same measure.

There is a clear correlation between children in receipt of disability living allowance and the rate of child poverty at a local level. Additionally, in every region of the UK, children from Black or minoritised ethic communities are more at risk of being in poverty than those with white ethnicity*.*

The analysis of official statistics, carried out by Loughborough University’s [Centre for Research in Social Policy (CRSP)](https://www.lboro.ac.uk/research/crsp/) for the End Child Poverty Coalition, also shows how children in larger families are significantly more likely to be experiencing poverty in England and Wales.

Joseph Howes, Chair of the End Child Poverty Coalition, said: “The pandemic and cost of living crisis have meant more and more children are having to go without food and a warm home. These statistics show that the trends in child poverty are particularly worrying in parts of the UK such as the North East and Midlands.

“There is one policy change that we know would make a direct and immediate difference, and that is to scrap the two-child limit for those claiming Universal Credit. The policy is unfair in the indiscriminate impact it has on children, and there is no evidence it has achieved its aims. Abolishing the two-child limit would immediately lift 250,000 children out of poverty, and the government could make this change now.

“We were encouraged to hear in January that the Labour Party is reviewing the policy, yet they must commit to scrapping it altogether ahead of the next election if they are to successfully deliver on their commitment to lead an assault on child poverty."

[Dr Juliet Stone](https://www.lboro.ac.uk/subjects/social-policy-studies/staff/juliet-stone/) from CRSP added: “Our analysis has shown the real value added by considering local circumstances and context, in helping improve our understanding of the risk of child poverty. But without addressing the wider, detrimental impact of national polices such as the two-child limit, it will be impossible to improve regional and local inequalities in the risk of child poverty.

“Our findings do not yet cover the period of the ‘cost of living crisis’ and we therefore expect that in next year’s data, the situation will almost certainly have got worse rather than better. Addressing both local and national issues that are driving up child poverty rates is vital if we are to see any improvement.”

**End of pandemic support sees child poverty rising again**

The total number of children experiencing poverty in 2021/2022, 4.2 million, is an increase on the 3.9 million recorded the previous year.

That year, 2020/21 saw a £20 uplift in the weekly payment of Universal Credit, which helped ensure the first-time levels dropped by more than 1 per cent in a decade.

Its removal has seen the number climb back from 27 per cent of all children to 29 per cent - just behind the high registered in 2019.

**Children with two or more siblings likely to be in poverty in England and Wales**

The figures show a strong correlation between family size and the probability of child poverty after housing costs across the UK, but this is highest in the North West and West Midlands.

In 2021/22, the UK poverty rate among children with two or more siblings was 42 per cent, compared with 23 per cent and 22 per cent among children in families with one or two children.

An estimated 58% of families affected by the ‘two-child limit’ policy are already in work.

**Number of children in poverty living in working households on the rise**

In 2020/21 some 65 per cent of children going through poverty lived with at least one adult with a job. That figure is now 71 per cent.

With 3.7 million people - or 12 per cent of the workforce - earning less than the real living wage, having a job is not the protection against poverty it once was.

The child poverty rate is more than a fifth - 21.5 per cent - even in the relevant households where all the adults work in the North East, for example.

**Child poverty climbing most steeply in North and Midlands**

While Tower Hamlets recorded the highest level of children experiencing poverty - 47.5 per cent last year - a dozen other local authorities have seen double digit increases since 2014/15.

On a regional basis over the same period the North East and West Midlands have seen a 9 percentage point rise with the East Midlands registering 7 percentage points and the North West climbing 5 percentage points.

**Children with disabilities and from black or minoritised ethnic communities are disproportionately affected by poverty**

Households where one or more members are disabled are more likely to experience poverty throughout the UK. There is also a clear correlation between children in receipt of disability living allowance and the rate of child poverty at a local level.

In every region of the UK, children from Black or minoritised ethnic communities are more at risk of experiencing poverty than those with white ethnicity. This association is particularly strong in London, where due to the high ethnic diversity of the region a large number of children are likely to be affected. Even in areas with low numbers of Black or Minoritised Ethnic families, children in those families are more likely to be poor than children in white families.

*\*Children in this research are age 0 to 19-years-old.*

Sophie Balmer, age 19, from Newcastle, grew up in a family on a low income with three siblings, and is an End Child Poverty Coalition ambassador. She said: “As a young person from a single-parent low-income household, I am aware of what life is like for the children in these statistics. Despite my mam having a job and working extremely hard, it is still incredibly difficult to make ends meet. The constant and overwhelming anxiety that living in a low-income household brings for young people is one that is often easily dismissed. The two-child policy makes life even more challenging for those in families with multiple siblings, like my own.”

Liv Eren, age 19, from Halton, in Cheshire, also grew up in a family on a low income and is an End Child Poverty Coalition ambassador. She said: “I am one of many young people who despite living in a working household, has still grown up in poverty. I am still haunted by the experience of growing up 'without' for lots of things that others would describe as necessities: proper school uniform, a decent packed lunch or even the having heating on in the house. It is harrowing knowing that there are so many who are deeply struggling.

“We are not just statistics, we are individual people who deserve and need support”.

**Child Poverty Needs Assessment Toolkit** Local Government Association

Child poverty fact sheet Basic Facts and Figures.

Currently there are 22% of children living in relative poverty in the UK. This represents 2.8 million children, of which 1.5 million live in families where at least one adult is in work. Some groups of children and families are at particular risk of poverty:

• Workless households: Children in workless households have a 59% chance of living in relative poverty

• Part-time working: children have a 53% risk of relative poverty in a family where at least one adult works part-time

• More than 3 children: families with 3 or more children have a 31% chance of relative poverty

• Disability: Children with one or more disabled adults have a 30% chance of being in relative poverty2

• Teenage parents: teenage mothers are 22% more likely to be living in poverty than mothers giving birth aged 24 and over, young fathers are twice as likely to be unemployed at age 30 than men who become fathers after they turn 23 and children born to teenage mothers have a 63% higher risk of living in poverty; have lower academic attainment and are at higher risk of economic inactivity in later life. Children can be in poverty if they fall into one (or more) of four groups:

• Lives in a home with absolute low income. This means that families’ income is not rising in real terms; their income is below 60% of the 1998/1999 baseline year median equivalised household income expressed in today’s prices. In 2008 / 2009 12% of all children (1.6 million children) lived in absolute poverty.

• Lives in a home of relative low income. This means that the family’s income is not keeping pace with the growth of incomes in the economy as a whole and income is below 60% of contemporary median equivalised household income. In 2008/09 this included 22% of all children (2.8 million children) Experiences material deprivation and low income combined. This means that the family has an income below 70% of contemporary median equivalised household income and experiences material deprivation. In 2008 / 2009 there were 2.2 million children growing up in low income and material deprivation (17% of all children).

Poverty has significant impacts on children’s outcomes as they grow up: • Children growing up in poverty are 13 times more likely to die from unintentional injury and 37 times more likely to die from exposure to smoke, fire or flames

• Only 26.6% of children eligible for Free School Meals receive five good GCSEs including English and Mathematics compared with 54.2% of non-FSM pupils

• More likely to be born premature, have low birth weight and die in their first year of life

• By year 6 levels of obesity are about 9.2 percentage points higher in deprived local authority areas than in the least deprived Public Sector Costs6 Child poverty costs about £12bn pounds a year to the public sector:

• 6.7% of primary education and 7% of secondary education spending is as a result of child poverty

• £1.653bn is spent on social housing (not including housing benefit) and it will cost £1.697bn to bring the existing housing stock to adequate standards

• £0.926bn spent on fire and rescue

• Estimates on crime and policing range from £1.06bn to £4.16bn Cost to the economy Child poverty is estimated to cost the economy £13bn. This is made up of a £2bn benefits bill, £3bn in lost tax and National Insurance and £8bn in net earnings lost.

**Disability facts and figures**

Scope

There are 16 million disabled people in the UK.

* 11% of children are disabled
* 23% of working age adults are disabled
* 45% of pension age adults are disabled

Source: [Family Resources Survey (2021 to 2022)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/family-resources-survey-financial-year-2021-to-2022)

## Disabled people in work

Some 5 million disabled people are in work.

The employment rate of disabled people is 53%. Compared to 82% of non-disabled people.

Disabled people are almost twice as likely to be unemployed as non-disabled people, and 3 times as likely to be economically inactive.

### The disability employment gap

The disability employment gap is 29%.

The disability employment gap measures the difference between the employment rate of disabled people, compared to that of non-disabled people.

Source: [Labour Force Survey October to December 2021](https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/datasets/labourmarketstatusofdisabledpeoplea08)

## Extra costs

The average disabled household faces £975 a month in extra costs.

Source: [Scope - The disability price tag (2023)](https://www.scope.org.uk/campaigns/extra-costs/disability-price-tag-2023/)

## Poverty

After housing costs, the proportion of working age disabled people living in poverty is 27%. Which is higher than the proportion of working age non-disabled people at 19%.  
  
Source: Scope's analysis based on [Households Below Average Income (2019 to 20)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/households-below-average-income-for-financial-years-ending-1995-to-2020/households-below-average-income-an-analysis-of-the-income-distribution-fye-1995-to-fye-2020)

## Spending power

The total spending power of families with at least 1 disabled person is estimated at £274 billion a year.  
  
Source: Scope's analysis based on [Household Below Average Income (2017 to 18)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/households-below-average-income-199495-to-201718)

## Attitudes

* 3 out of 4 disabled people (72%) have experienced negative attitudes or behaviour in the last 5 years
* 9 out of 10 disabled people (87%) who had experienced negative attitudes or behaviour said it had a negative effect on their daily lives

Disabled people and their families experience a range of different attitudes and behaviours, such as:

* making assumptions or judging their capability (33%)
* accusations of faking their impairment or not being disabled (25%)
* staring or giving looks (19%)

Source: Attitudes and disability (2022)

[UK Government disability facts and figures](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disability-facts-and-figures/disability-facts-and-figures)

[**Prisons and probation**](https://www.gov.uk/crime-justice-and-law/prisons-probation)

[**Offender Management statistics quarterly: January to March 2023**](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/offender-management-statistics-quarterly-january-to-march-2023)

* [HM Prison & Probation Service](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-prison-and-probation-service) [Ministry](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice) [of Justice](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice)

Published 27 July 2023

**Main Points**

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| **85,851 prisoners in England and Wales as at 30 June 2023** | This represented a **rise** of 6% compared to the same period in the previous year. |

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| **17,139 first receptions into prison between January and March 2023** | This was a **rise** of 12% compared to the same period in 2022. |

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| **11,888 releases from sentences between January and March 2023** | This was 5% **higher** than the same period in 2022. |

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| **45,705 adjudication outcomes between January and March 2023** | This was 23% **higher** than the same period in 2022. Additional days were awarded as punishment on 895 occasions – this was a 54% rise compared to the same period in 2022. |

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| **6,824 licence recalls between January and March 2023** | This was a 23% **increase** on the same quarter in 2022. |

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| **239,518 offenders on probation at the end of March 2023** | This number **decreased** by 1% compared to the number of offenders supervised as at 31 March 2022. |

**Statistician’s comment**

In this publication we are reporting on the prison population as at 30 June 2023, with comparisons to the same point in 2022. Over this 12-month period, the total prison population has risen by around 5,200 (which represents a 6% increase) to 85,851. The population as at 30 June 2023 was around 3,000 higher than pre-pandemic levels (for comparison, the 31 March 2020 prison population was 82,990).

The increasing remand population trend that we have seen since early 2020 has continued (a 16% increase between 30 June 2022 and 30 June 2023). There were increases over the past 12 months in both elements of the remand population - the ‘untried’ population increased by 16% and the ‘convicted unsentenced’ population increased by 15%. This likely reflects the impact of continuing court recovery following COVID-19 restrictions, resulting in an increase in the number of prisoners held on remand. The large increase in the ‘untried’ population this quarter has likely also been driven in part by strike action by the Criminal Bar Association during autumn 2022.

The remand prison population as at 30 June 2023 was 15,523. This represents the **highest level for at least 50 years** (effectively a ‘record high’).

The prisoner flows data in this publication cover the period January to March 2023 (with the comparison period being January to March 2022). The number of prisoner first receptions from January to March 2023 was around 17,100 (12% higher than the equivalent period in 2022). This represents a recovery to the level of between 17,000 and 18,000 per quarter seen pre-pandemic.

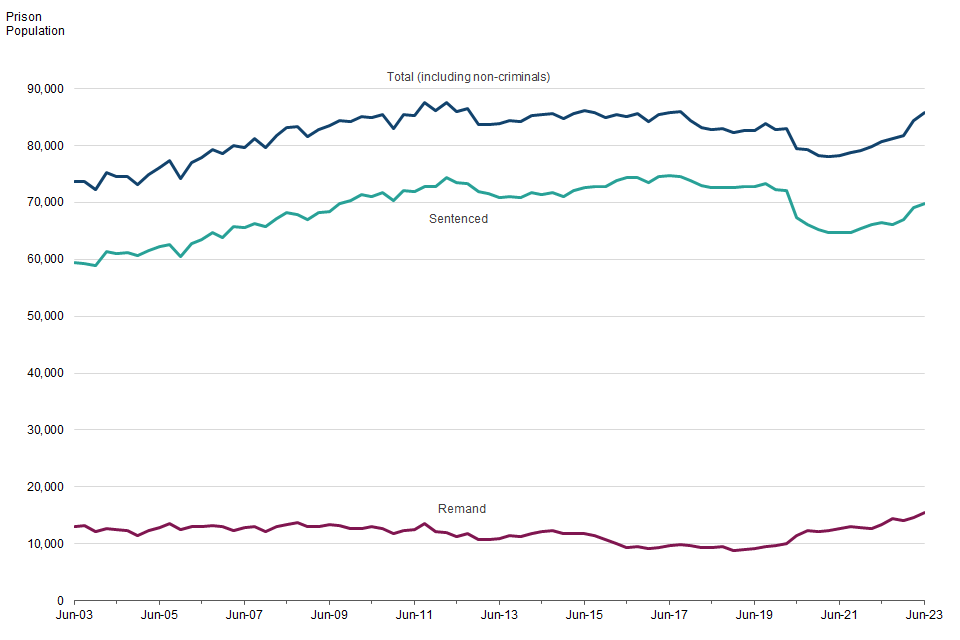
Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) continues to ‘bounce back’ following the large drop during the COVID-19 period. There were around 96,000 ROTL incidences between January and March 2023 – this is a 13% increase compared to the same quarter in 2022, but still some-way short of the pre-COVID levels of around 110,000 per quarter.

## **Population**

**The prison population stood at 85,851 on 30 June 2023**.

The sentenced prison population stood at 69,771 (81% of the total); the remand prison population stood at 15,523 (18%) and the non-criminal prison population stood at 557 (1%).

**Figure 1: Prison population, June 2003 to 2023 (Source: Table 1.1 and previous Offender Management Statistics Quarterly publications)**



### **Remand prison population**

The June 2023 remand population figure of 15,523 is 16% higher than in June 2022 and is the highest June figure in at least the last fifty years. The untried prison population rose by 16% (to 10,187) when compared to the end of June 2022 whilst the convicted unsentenced population rose by 15% (to 5,336) over the same period.

Most of those in custody on remand were being held for either: violence against the person (32% of the untried population and 20% of the convicted unsentenced population); or drug offences (22% of the untried population and 32% of the convicted unsentenced population).

While white prisoners make up 73% of the sentenced population, they make up only 66% of the remand population. All other reported ethnic groups have a larger proportional representation in the remand population than they do in the sentenced population.

### **Sentenced prison population**

### The sentenced population was 69,771 which is a 5% increase from the same point 12 months earlier. This was primarily driven by changes in the Recall and Extended Determinate Sentence populations (see below).

Most prisoners under an immediate custodial sentence have been convicted of Violence against the person (31%), Sexual offences (20%) or Drug offences (17%). All three offence groups have seen increases over the last year (8%, 11%, and 9% respectively in the 12 months to 30 June 2023). The occurrence of these offence groups in the remand population has also increased over the same period so the trend in the sentenced population may be expected to continue for some time.

## **Breaking the cycle of homelessness and reoffending Interventions Alliance** insight**11 March 2021**

Homelessness and reoffending are often intertwined – each can be the cause and effect of the other. When individuals are released from prison without a stable place to live, they are much more likely to commit a further offence. For Michael, having previously been trapped in the revolving prison door, our housing brokerage work has provided him with the stronger foundations he needed to build himself a much better, crime-free future.

Michael was a prolific offender who had been in prison 37 times and had more than 107 convictions. His most recent was for criminal damage, but he also had a history of drug offences, thefts and burglaries.

Once back out in the community, it wouldn’t take long before Michael ended up in prison again. He was a heroin addict and most of his crime was fuelled by his drug addiction.

Michael came out of prison in July during the pandemic. He was homeless. Usually, he would come out and almost immediately reoffend.

Working with our housing support and brokerage services, we found Michael a one-bedroom flat. We gave him food parcels and provided essential items to help him set up his home.

Michael said it was the longest he had been out of prison without reoffending. He is sober – hasn’t touched drugs and is on a methadone prescription which his drug treatment provider is slowly reducing.

Although he has recently got into some rent arrears, our officer is helping him to manage his debt. She has also helped him gain some discretionary payments from the council so he can stay in his flat.

Michael said:

**Housing has unlocked a lot of things for me. I’m feeling more settled and so this time around I will stay drug and crime-free. I want to have a better future than the one I’ve been living in previous years. Housing is the first step to starting my new journey.**

He also said that because he is secure and has his drug addiction under control, he is engaging with the probation services better to complete his licence.

### **Providing vital help**

Michael’s Housing and Support Worker, Sarah, knows that providing a place to live is key in helping prison leavers to create better crime-free lives for themselves.

Sarah said:

“Having previously worked with Michael, I was aware of the importance of accommodation to support him in reducing his reoffending. He is making really good progress and always speaks of a positive future.

“It has been very rewarding to see how someone with Michael’s past has been able to turn things around for the better.

I wish him all the best for his future and have no doubt he will continue to make positive changes, allowing him to lead a life free from substance misuse and offending.”

### **Accommodation – the problem**

Over 75% of homelessness services in England support clients who are prison leavers.

67% of those who slept rough or were otherwise homeless went on to commit another crime within a year. For those living in “unsettled” or temporary accommodation, the rate of reoffending was also higher, at 54%, compared with 43% for those who had either a permanent home or short-term supported housing.

Homelessness causes other problems that increase an individual’s risk of reoffending. Without an address people can lack health support, ID to set up a bank account or to apply for jobs – these are essential basics required for people to successfully reintegrate back into our local communities.

There is a considerable risk that a prison sentence might actually make the factors associated with reoffending worse. A third will lose their house while in prison, two-thirds will lose their job, over a fifth will face increased financial problems and over two-fifths will lose contact with their family.

The Homelessness Reduction Act, which came into force in October 2018, puts an obligation on prison and probation services to refer prison leavers to local authorities if they are at risk of homelessness. However, charities have pointed out that this is often just a transfer of information rather than a resolution – with many single homeless people deemed “intentionally” homeless because they had been in prison

# Over 100,000 children in England and Wales have parent in prison, analysis shows The Guardian 6 Oct 2023

More than 100,000 children have a parent in prison for the first time since records began, according to analysis of government figures.

The figures have been released as Estonia’s justice minister confirmed that his officials were in talks with the UK government over plans to accept UK prisoners amid an overcrowding crisis.

Data disclosed by the Prison Advice and Care Trust (Pact) shows that the prison population stands at 87,793.

An official Ministry of Justice estimate says that each male prisoner has, on average, 1.14 children, meaning that an estimated 100,084 children have a parent in prison, the charity said.

Many children with a parent in prison go on to lead positive and fulfilling lives. However, research shows that the children of prisoners are more likely to get involved in crime, suffer from mental health problems, homelessness and poverty later in life, Pact said.

Andy Keen-Downs, Pact’s chief executive, said the government should reconsider its prison expansion programme.

“This is a grim milestone. By imprisoning record numbers of parents we are storing up a whole raft of problems, the impact of which will be felt for decades to come.

“In a rush to get ‘tough on crime’ and imprison ever greater numbers of people, ministers seem to have given little consideration to the long-lasting damage this policy will wreak on children and families,” he said.

The prison population has risen by 80% in the last three decades and has grown substantially in the last few years, returning to levels not seen for over a decade. It is projected to rise by a further 7,400 by 2024.

The average custodial sentence has increased by 57% since the Conservatives entered power in the coalition government in 2010.

A £4bn plan to build 20,000 additional prison places by the mid-2020s [is not expected to be completed until 2030](https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/sep/29/plan-for-20000-more-prison-places-in-england-and-wales-wont-be-complete-until-2030) because of planning delays. As of last week, only 768 places were available in jails across England and Wales.

The UK government is in discussions with other European countries to rent spare prison cells, Alex Chalk, the justice secretary, said in a speech to the Conservative party conference on Tuesday.

**Adult substance misuse treatment statistics 2021 to 2022: report** Updated 4 October 2023 Office for National Statistics

## **Applies to England**

### **1.1 Trends in treatment numbers**

There were 289,215 adults in contact with drug and alcohol services between April 2021 and March 2022. This is a rise compared to the previous year (275,896).

The number of adults entering treatment in 2021 to 2022 was 133,704, which is similar to the previous 2 years’ figures (130,490 and 132,124). The numbers of people entering treatment continues to be relatively stable after falling steadily since 2013 to 2014.

### **1.2 Trends in substance use treatment**

The number of people in treatment for opiate use was very similar to last year (going down slightly from 140,863 to 140,558). Nearly half (49%) the adults in treatment were there for problems with opiates, and this remains the largest substance group. Section 2.1 has more information about what the different substance groups are.

People in treatment for alcohol alone make up the next largest group (29%) of all adults in treatment. The number of those rose by 10% from the previous year (from 76,740 to 84,697) but this increase comes after a decline from a peak of 91,651 in 2013 to 2014.

There were increases in the other 2 substance groups (a 7% increase in the non-opiate group and 12% in the non-opiate and alcohol group). This follows a similar small rise last year.

Following the pattern of last year, there has been a fall in the overall number of adults entering treatment for crack cocaine. This fall only includes people who are using crack with opiates (21,308 to 18,832). Those who are using crack without opiates saw a small increase (4,545 to 4,711).

The number of people entering treatment for crack is now at the lowest level since 2015 to 2016.

People starting treatment in 2021 to 2022 with powder cocaine problems increased by 11% (from 19,209 to 21,298). This is close to the peak number of 21,396 in 2019 to 2020.

New entrants to treatment for cannabis problems increased again this year, which saw a 4% rise (from 27,304 in 2020 to 2021 to 28,263 this year). New entrants with benzodiazepine problems fell 11% (from 4,321 in 2020 to 2021 to 3,848 this year), after increasing every year since 2018 to 2019.

Although the numbers are relatively low, there was an increase in adults entering treatment in 2021 to 2022 with ketamine problems (from 1,444 in 2020 to 2021 to 1,551 this year). This is part of a trend in rising numbers entering treatment over the last 8 years. The total is now 3.5 times higher than it was in 2014 to 2015.

### **1.3 Housing and mental ill health**

One-sixth (16%, or 20,812) of adults entering treatment last year said they had a housing problem. This proportion varied by substance group, ranging from 9% (5,031) of those starting treatment for alcohol problems alone to almost a third (29%, or 9,435) of those starting treatment for problems with opiate use. As in previous years, people starting treatment for problems with new psychoactive substances (NPS) had the highest proportion of housing need of any substance group (42%).

Over two-thirds (70%, or 93,380) of adults starting treatment said they had a mental health treatment need. This is part of a trend of rising numbers over the previous 3 years (from 53% in 2018 to 2019). Two-thirds of new starters in all substance groups needed mental health treatment. This need ranged from 66% in the opiate group to over three-quarters (76%) of the non-opiates and alcohol group.

# Young people's substance misuse treatment statistics 2021 to 2022: report Office for National Statistics 2 February 2023

## **Applies to England**

### **Trends in young people’s treatment numbers**

There were 11,326 young people (people under the age of 18) in contact with alcohol and drug services between April 2021 and March 2022. This is a 3% increase from the previous year (11,013) but a 54% reduction in the number in treatment since 2008 to 2009 (24,494).

### **Trends in young people’s substance use**

Cannabis remains the most common substance (87%) that young people come to treatment for.

Around half of young people in treatment (46%) said they had problems with alcohol, 8% had problems with ecstasy and 8% reported powder cocaine problems.

The proportion of young people seeking help for codeine is lower than last year, falling by 0.3% (1.2% compared to 0.9% this year). People seeking help for heroin was very similar to last year (0.35% compared to 0.33% this year).

This year also saw a small decrease in young people reporting a problem with benzodiazepines. However, the proportion (3%) was over 4 times the proportion in 2013 to 2014 (0.7%).

### **Vulnerabilities among young people in treatment**

The most common vulnerability reported by young people starting treatment was early onset of substance use (80%), which means the young person started using substances before the age of 15. This was followed by polydrug use (55%).

Proportionally, girls tended to report more vulnerabilities than boys, particularly self-harming behaviour (46% compared with 17%) and sexual exploitation (10% compared with 1.5%).

### **Mental health treatment need**

Nearly half (46%) of young people starting treatment this year said they had a mental health treatment need, which continues the rising trend of the last 3 years (43% in 2020 to 2021, 37% in 2019 to 2020 and 32% in 2018 to 2019). A higher proportion of girls reported a mental health treatment need than boys (60% compared to 38%).

Most young people (69%) who had a mental health treatment need received some form of treatment, usually from a community mental health team.

# As bank branches continue to close, a new Age UK report reveals that 4 in 10 over 65s with a bank account do not manage their money online Age UK 3 May 2023

**Three in four account-holders aged 65+ want to carry out at least one transaction in a branch**

**Age UK calls on the banks to accelerate the roll-out of Shared Banking Hubs to meet the high and continuing demand for face-to-face banking services**

While bank branches continue to close, creating a growing number of ‘banking deserts’ across the country, new Ipsos research for Age UK has found that four in 10 older people (39 per cent) with a bank account in Britain – equivalent to 4.09 million people – are not managing their money online and could be at high risk of financial exclusion.

The polling found a high level of support for in-person banking, with three-quarters (75 per cent) of over-65s with a bank account – equivalent to 7.86 million people – wanting to undertake at least one banking task in person at a bank branch, building society or Post Office.

The research also found that nearly a third of older people with a bank account (31 per cent) – equivalent to 3.25 million people – feel uncomfortable with online banking, despite its growing popularity in recent years.

Published today, Age UK’s new report *‘*[*You can’t bank on it anymore*](https://www.ageuk.org.uk/our-impact/policy-research/publications/reports-and-briefings/)*’* shows that age, gender, income level and social grade are all key factors in determining how comfortable people feel about online banking.

The research participants who were most likely to feel uncomfortable using online banking were those aged 85+, female, on a low income, or more disadvantaged than their counterparts. And among those who were uncomfortable, not wanting to be defrauded or scammed (31 per cent), a lack of trust in online banking services (28 per cent) and a lack of IT skills (28 per cent) were cited as the main reasons.

On hearing about Shared Banking Hubs, half the participants with a main bank account (49 per cent) – equivalent to 5.14 million people – said they would be comfortable using one as a main place to manage their money in their main account– a surprisingly high proportion, given that most of us are yet to experience one of these new settings.

*“*With swathes of local branches closing, the report argues that physical spaces – whether a bank or building society branch, Banking Hub, or alternative suitable provision – must continue to exist so people can still carry out face-to-face tasks such as withdrawing and depositing cash, applying for a loan, arranging third party access to their account or starting bereavement proceedings. The disappearance of face-to-face banking risks cutting a significant minority of the older population out of an essential service, making it difficult if not impossible for them to manage their money and maintain their independence.

*“All you get is a letter saying, ‘your nearest branch is Peterborough’, which is hopeless – you can’t park near the bank, the bus is infrequent, and the stop isn’t very near.” Woman with no online access, aged 78, interviewed by Age UK.*

Banking Hub pilots are a relatively new solution to the problem but have so far worked extremely well and are proving popular with the local communities in which they are based. Safeguarding physical banking services in this way is a positive move forward but Age UK is keen for the roll-out to speed up to avoid more communities becoming ‘banking deserts’, with no face-to-face banking services or ATMs in place, leaving many older people living there feeling isolated and disenfranchised.

**In addition to the speedy roll-out of more Banking Hubs, it is imperative that HM Treasury recognises the importance of protecting physical banking services.** With the publication of its ‘cash access policy statement’ imminent, which will set out the Government’s vision of how people will access cash and banking in the future, Age UK urges the Treasury to include provision to ensure continued access to face-to-face services. This would secure a legacy for all the hard work that has gone into developing the Banking Hub model and would send a strong signal that the Government is on consumers’ side.

With around 2.4 million older people reliant on cash, an inability to access cash locally can prevent older people from going out or using the services they rely on, resulting in them feeling frustrated and left behind. Many older people view cash as the most reliable and straightforward way to pay for goods and services, as well as an effective means of managing their weekly budget when money is extremely tight.

**La**[**Suicides in England 2021Samaritans**](https://www.samaritans.org/documents/1762/Suicide_Stats_England_2021.pdf)

The data below reflects the most up-to-date data available and will be amended as-and-when agencies provide updated statistics.

**England 2021**

[**Office for National Statistics publish suicide data for England here.**](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/datasets/suicidesintheunitedkingdomreferencetables)

* 5219 suicides were registered in 2021\*. T**his is 307 more than in 2020**.
* The overall suicide rate was 10.5 per 100,000\*\*, compared to 10.0 per 100,000\*\* in 2020, and 10.8 per 100,000\*\* in 2019.
* The male suicide rate was 15.8 per 100,000\*\*, compared to a female suicide rate of 5.5 per 100,000\*\*.
* Males aged 50-54 were found to have the highest suicide rate (22.5 per 100,000).
* There is regional variation in the suicide rates. The North East of England once again had the highest suicide rate (14.1. per 100,000\*\*), with the North West of England seeing a significant increase in suicide rate in 2021 (12.9 per 100,000\*\*), compared to 2020 (10.1 per 100,000\*\*).

\*It is important to note that suicide rates are based on date of registration of death, which happens after an inquest and can sometimes take more than a year.

\*\*Rates are age-standardised, find out more in our Using Suicide Data information [**here**](https://www.samaritans.org/about-samaritans/research-policy/suicide-facts-and-figures/understanding-suicide-statistics/)

# Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET), UK: August 2023Office of National Statistics 2023

## **Main points**

* There was a **sharp increase i**n the number of young people who were aged 16 to 24 years and not in education, employment or training (NEET) in October to December 2022, following decreases one year into the pandemic, with the total currently estimated to be 788,000, up from 724,000 in July to September 2022.
* The percentage of all young people who were NEET in October to December 2022 was estimated at 11.5%, up 0.9 percentage points on the quarter (July to September 2022), and up 0.5 percentage points compared with pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic levels (October to December 2019).
* The increase in the number of young people who were NEET was equally driven by men and women, who both saw an increase of 32,000 on the quarter (from July to September 2022).
* The number of young people who were NEET and unemployed in October to December 2022 was estimated to be 299,000, an increase of 65,000 on the quarter (from July to September 2022); this was the biggest quarterly increase since July to September 2011 and a record quarterly increase for women of 32,000.
* There were an estimated 489,000 young people in the UK who were NEET and economically inactive, a small decrease on the quarter (July to September 2022) of 1,000.

## **Total young people who were not in education, employment or training (NEET)**

An estimated 11.5% of all people aged 16 to 24 years in the UK were not in education, employment or training (NEET) in October to December 2022. This is up 0.9 percentage points on the quarter, up 1.3 percentage points compared with October to December 2021, and up 0.5% on pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic levels (October to December 2019).

An estimated 11.9% of young men (up 0.9 percentage points on the quarter) and 11.1% of young women (up 1.0 percentage point on the quarter) were NEET. There were 788,000 young people who were NEET in total, an increase of 64,000 on the quarter, which was equally driven by both men and women. Of the total number of young people who were NEET, 416,000 were men and 372,000 were women.

The total number of people aged 18 to 24 years who were NEET was 730,000, up 55,000 on the previous quarter.

The percentage of those aged 18 to 24 years who were NEET was 13.6%, which was up 1.0 percentage point on the quarter.

# Sats results 2023: Reading standards fall in Year 6 tests 11 July 2023 BBC

**Reading levels among Year 6 pupils in England have fallen, after** [**a controversial Sats paper**](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-65624697)**, which some teachers and parents said was too hard.**

Scoring was moderated so that pupils needed fewer marks to reach the expected level. Despite that, fewer pupils achieved that level in 2023 than in 2022.

Standards either increased or remained the same in other individual subjects.

But combined reading, writing and maths levels are still lower than pre-Covid.

This year, 59% of pupils reached the expected level in these three subjects combined - compared to 65% in 2019.

By 2030, the government wants 90% of children leaving primary school to reach the expected standards in reading, writing and maths.

* [**Children in England ranked fourth globally for reading**](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-65610397)

Results show 73% of pupils met the expected standards in reading, down from 75% in 2022.

Concerns were raised about the length and complexity of this summer's reading paper, the contents of which were first seen by the BBC.

One question asked 10 and 11-year-olds to find a similar word to "eat" in a passage that contained both "consume" and "feeding" - although, according to the mark scheme, both answers were acceptable.

The scoring of this year's reading paper suggests it was harder than last year's. Just 24 marks were needed to meet the expected level, compared with 29 in 2022.

The Standards and Testing Agency deemed the relative difficulty of the reading paper to be appropriate.

The Department for Education (DfE) says its tests are developed over three years, and this year's papers were trialled with around 1,000 pupils.

