



Social Focus in Brief: Children

July 2002

Social Focus in Brief: Children 2002

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The UK child population

UK population

There were 12.1 million children (aged under 16) in 2000: 6.2 million boys and 5.9 million girls. This is fewer than in 1971, when there were 14.3 million children.

In 2000, 30 per cent of children in the UK were under 5, 32 per cent were aged 5 to 9 years and 38 per cent were aged 10 to 15. These proportions were similar in the 1970s.

Regional differences

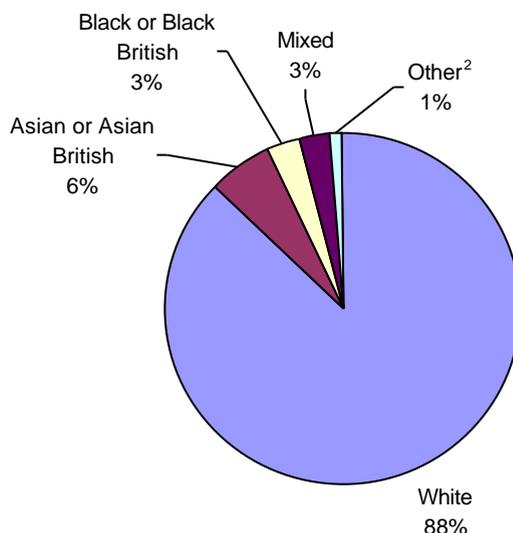
Overall, 20 per cent of the population were children in 2000. However, this proportion varied across the UK. For example, under-16s made up 24 per cent of the population of Northern Ireland compared with 19 per cent in the south west of England.

Ethnicity

Around 12 per cent of children in Great Britain were from a minority ethnic group in 2001-02. This varied in different parts of the country. For example, in London, one child in three was from a minority ethnic group.

The minority ethnic population of Great Britain is generally younger than the White population. In 2001-02, a third of the minority ethnic population was aged under 16, compared with a fifth of the White population. However, there was considerable variation between the minority ethnic groups. For example, 56 per cent of people of mixed ethnic origin were children compared with 29 per cent of both the Asian and Black groups.

Children under 16 by ethnic group, 2001-02¹
Great Britain
Percentages



- 1 Population living in private households. Combined quarters: spring 2001 to winter 2001-02.
- 2 Includes Chinese and those who did not state their ethnic group.

See Notes and definitions:

- Children

Data sources:

UK population and Regional differences – Mid-2000 Population Estimates, Office for National Statistics

Ethnicity – Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics

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The families children live in

Family type

Eight out of ten children were living in a family with two parents in Great Britain in 2001. In 1981, the figure was nearly nine out of ten.

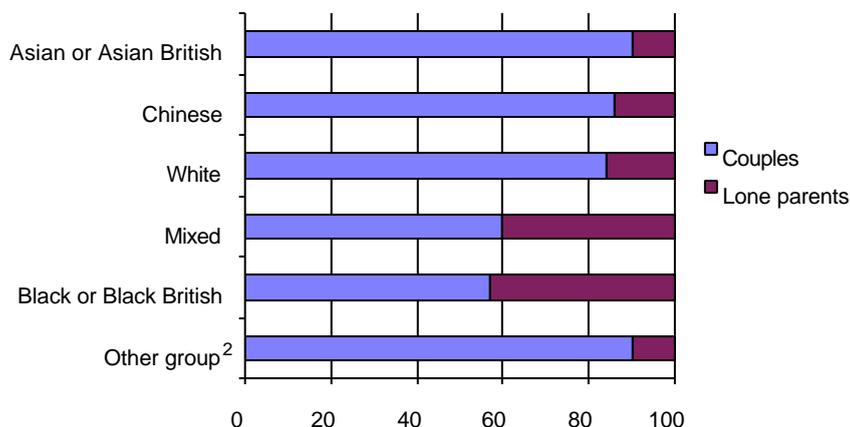
About 20 per cent of children in Great Britain lived in a lone parent family in 2001, compared with 12 per cent 20 years earlier.

The percentage of families headed by a lone parent varies by ethnic group. Around 40 per cent of families with children headed by a Black person, or someone of mixed origin, were lone parent families. This compares with 10 per cent of families headed by an Asian person.

Children are living in an increasing variety of different family structures, and these are not static. Due to changes in cohabitation, marriage and divorce patterns, children may experience a range of different family structures while growing up. Parents separating can result in one-parent families, and new relationships can create stepfamilies.

Families with dependent children¹ by ethnic group, autumn 2001

Great Britain
Percentages



1 May also include non-dependent children.

2 Includes those who did not state their ethnic group.

Teenage pregnancy

There were 8,100 conceptions to girls under 16 in England and Wales in 2000. The majority (72 per cent) were to 15 year old girls. Over half of conceptions to under-16s ended in abortion, while 3,700 led to births. The conception rate fell from a peak of 9.5 per 1,000 girls aged 13-15 in 1996 to 8.3 per 1,000 in 2000.

See Notes and definitions:

- Children
- Dependent children
- Families
- Households
- Lone parent family

Births is used here to refer to both live and still births.

Data sources:

Family type – Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics

Teenage pregnancy – Health Statistics Quarterly 13 (spring 2002) and Birth Statistics, Office for National Statistics

The homes children live in

Type of housing

In England, most children lived in semi-detached or terraced houses in 2000/01 (37 and 33 per cent respectively), while 22 per cent of children lived in detached houses. Seven per cent lived in a flat or maisonette.

Sixty six per cent of children lived in owner-occupied accommodation, with a further 25 per cent in social rented housing. Of children in social rented housing, 21 per cent lived in self-contained flats, compared with only 2 per cent of children who lived in owner-occupied housing.

In 2000/01, 57 per cent of children in lone parent households lived in social rented housing, compared with 17 per cent of children living in a couple household.

Overcrowding

Ten per cent of children in England in 2000/01 were living in overcrowded accommodation. A little over half of these children lived in social rented accommodation (54 per cent).

Children in lone parent households were more likely to live in overcrowded conditions (12 per cent), than children in couple households (8 per cent).

Households containing children were more likely to be overcrowded than those without (7 and 1 per cent, respectively) – households without children include those whose children have grown up and left home, leaving an empty room or rooms.

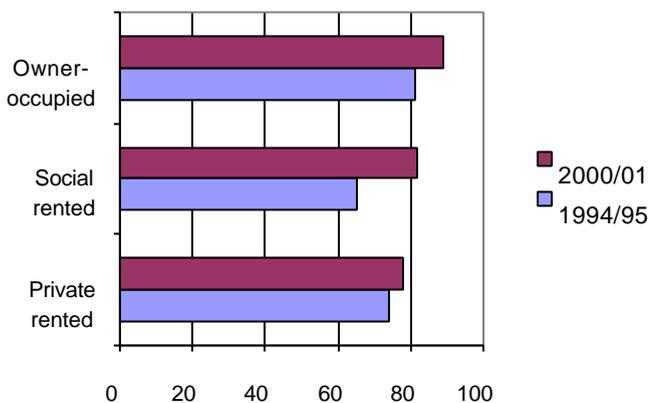
Central heating

Recent improvements in children's living standards have included increases in the proportion of homes that are fully central heated, particularly in the social sector.

The proportion of children living in social rented housing with central heating in all rooms rose from 65 per cent in 1994/5 to 82 per cent in 2000/01. However, children living in this type of accommodation are still less likely to have central heating than those in owner-occupied homes.

Children living in accommodation with central heating in all rooms, by tenure of accommodation England

Percentages



See Notes and definitions :

- Children
- Households
- Lone parent families
- Overcrowding

Data source:

Survey of English Housing 2000/01, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

Children in low-income households

In 2000/01 there were 2.7 million children living in low-income households. This represents 21 per cent of all children in Great Britain. Between 1996/97 and 2000/01 the number of children in low-income households fell by around half a million.

In the period 1996-1999, 16 per cent of children experienced persistent low income, that is they were living in low-income households for three or more years of the four-year period.

In 2000/01 around a third of children in lone parent families lived in low-income households, double the proportion of children in couple families.

Children were more likely to live in a low-income household if no one in their household worked. Of children living in households where no adult was in work, 55 per cent were in households on low income. This compared with only 14 per cent of children living in households where at least one adult was in work.

Children were more likely to experience low incomes if the household in which they lived:

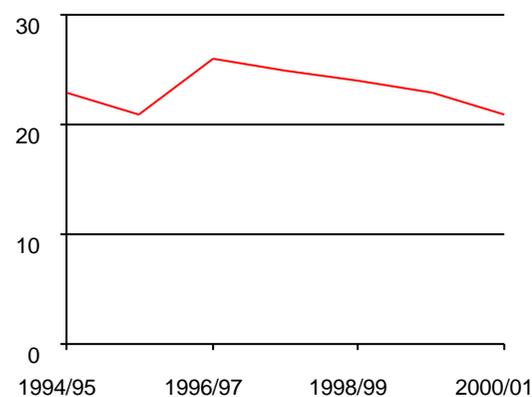
- contained no working adults;
- contained three or more children;
- contained one or more disabled adults or children;
- was headed by a lone parent;
- was headed by someone from a minority ethnic group (Pakistani/Bangladeshi households were especially at risk);
- was in the North East of England.

Low-income households

A low-income household is defined as one having less than 60 per cent of the median equivalised disposable income. Figures used on this page are on a before housing costs basis (see Notes and definitions).

Children¹ in low income² families Great Britain

Percentage



- 1 Dependent children.
- 2 Below 60 per cent contemporary median income before housing costs.

See Notes and definitions:

- Dependent children
- Households
- Lone parent families
- Low income
- Equivalised income
- Disposable income
- Housing costs

Data source:

Households Below Average Income 1994/95 to 2000/01, Department for Work and Pensions

Children in pre-school education

United Kingdom

The number of three- and four-year-olds attending schools nearly trebled between 1971/72 and 2001/02 and is now over 60 per cent.

In 2001/02, around 30 per cent of three- and four-year-olds were enrolled in non-school education settings in the private and voluntary sector, such as local playgroups.

England

As the number of under fives in schools and day nurseries has risen, the number of playgroups and pre-schools has fallen.

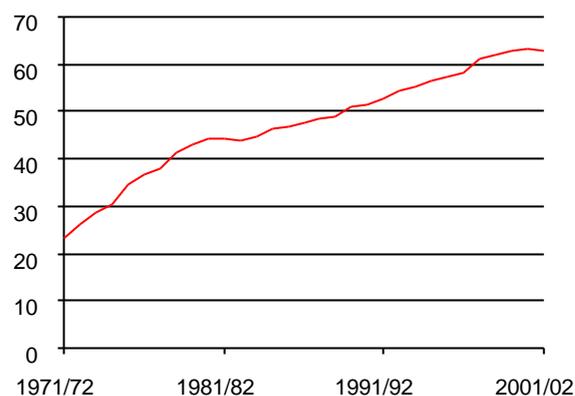
In 2001, there were 14,000 playgroups and pre-schools, with places for 330,000 children; this was a fifth lower than the 1991 peak, with 98,000 fewer places. Over the same period day nursery places nearly trebled; in 2001 there were 7,800 day nurseries providing 285,000 places.

Since 1998 all four-year-olds have been entitled to a free part-time early education place. By 2004 it is aimed that this will extend to all three-year-olds.

Children under five¹ in schools as a percentage of three and four year olds

United Kingdom

Percentages



1 Pupils aged 3 and 4 at 31 December each year. The figure for 2001/02 includes 2000/01 data for Wales and Scotland.

Schools provide education for children under five, in nursery and reception classes.

Playgroups and pre-schools provide sessional care for children aged between three and five, although some may take children aged two and a half. A playgroup session is a morning or afternoon period that lasts no longer than four hours.

Day nurseries look after under fives for the length of the adult working day. Children attend part-time or full-time depending on their parents' needs.

See Notes and definitions :

- Children
- Education
- Pre-school education

Data sources:

Department for Education and Skills

National Assembly for Wales

Scottish Executive

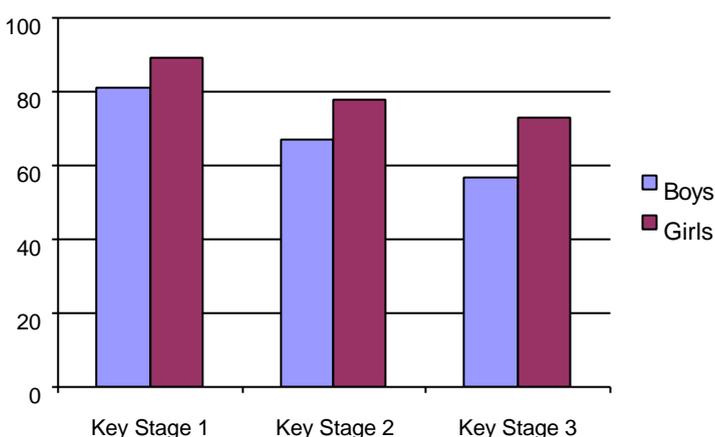
Northern Ireland Department of Education

Children's educational achievement

In England in 2001, the proportion of children reaching the required standard in each core subject was generally lower in older age groups. At key stage 1, 87 per cent of boys and 90 per cent of girls reached the expected standard in mathematics, compared with 67 and 70 per cent respectively at key stage 3.

Pupils reaching or exceeding expected standards¹ in English, 2001

England
Percentages



¹ In teacher assessments. See text box key stages and year groups.

In English, girls generally achieved higher standards than boys and the difference increased with age. There was an 8 percentage point gap between boys (81 per cent) and girls (89 per cent) in the key stage 1 teacher assessment. At key stage 3, 73 per cent of girls reached the expected standard compared with 57 per cent of boys – a difference of 16 percentage points. In mathematics and science, similar proportions of boys and girls reached the expected standards at all key stages.

Of children in Wales who took the key stage 3 assessment in Welsh, 63 per cent of boys and 78 per cent of girls reached or exceeded the expected standard. While it is compulsory for schools to teach Welsh, taking a key stage test is optional.

Key stages and year groups			
	Pupil ages	Year groups	Expected standards
Key stage 1	5-7	1-2	Level 2 or above
Key stage 2	7-11	3-6	Level 4 or above
Key stage 3	11-14	7-9	Level 5 or above
Key stage 4	14-16	10-11	GCSE

Since 1988 a National Curriculum has been progressively introduced in England and Wales. Pupils are assessed formally at 3 Key Stages before GCSE level - at the age of 7, 11 and 14.

See Notes and definitions :

- Children
- Education
- Key stages
- Schools

Data source:

Department for Education and Skills

National Assembly for Wales

Children's performance at GCSE

GCSE pass rates have risen over the last few years. In 2000/01 51 per cent of pupils in the United Kingdom gained five or more GCSEs (or their equivalent) at grades A* to C, compared with 46 per cent in 1996/97.

Although there was a similar improvement for both sexes, girls on average continued to do better than boys. In 2000/01, 57 per cent of girls gained five or more GCSEs, compared with 46 per cent of boys.

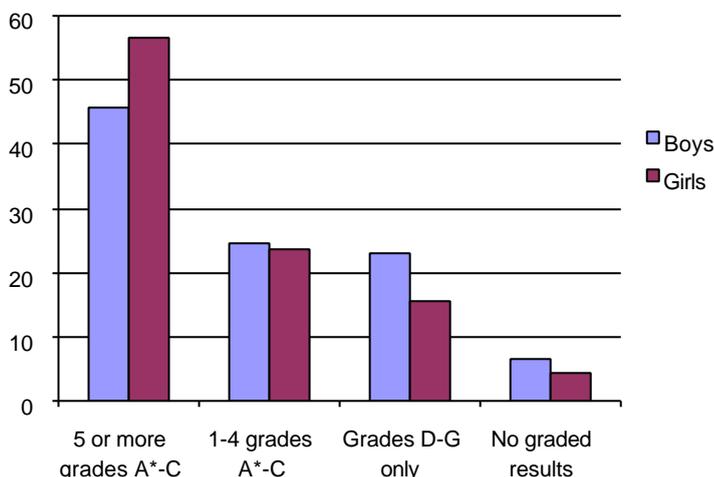
Ethnic differences

In England and Wales, a greater proportion of boys and girls from the Indian ethnic group achieved five or more GCSEs (grades A*-C) than children from any other ethnic group in 2000. Girls did as well as, or outperformed, boys in all ethnic groups.

All ethnic groups saw a rise in achievement of five or more GCSEs (grades A*-C)

between 1998 and 2000, with the exception of the Bangladeshi and Pakistani groups. There was no rise in achievement among Pakistani children and a decrease from 33 per cent in 1998 to 29 per cent in 2000 for Bangladeshi children.

GCSE or equivalent qualifications, 2000/01
United Kingdom
Percentages



GCSEs and Standard Grades

The main examination for pupils at the minimum school-leaving age of 16 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland is the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE); in Scotland it is the Scottish Certificate of Education (SCE) Standard Grade/National Qualification (NQ). GCSE grades A* to C and D to G are equivalent to Standard Grades 1 to 3, and 4 to 7.

See Notes and definitions :

- Children
- Education
- Schools

Data sources:

Department for Education and Skills
National Assembly for Wales
Scottish Executive
Northern Ireland Department of Education

Children's exclusion and absence from school

In 2000/01, almost 10 thousand children in Great Britain were permanently excluded from school.

This was a 10 per cent increase on the previous year, but the figure was still lower than in 1998/99, when about 11 thousand children were permanently excluded.

Exclusion rates vary between the sexes, with nearly five times as many boys than girls excluded in 2000/01.

Children who are excluded perform worse at GCSE than those who aren't. In 2000 only 17 per cent of those who had been excluded in years 10 or 11 in England and Wales attained five or more GCSEs (grades A* to C), compared with over half of those who had not been excluded.

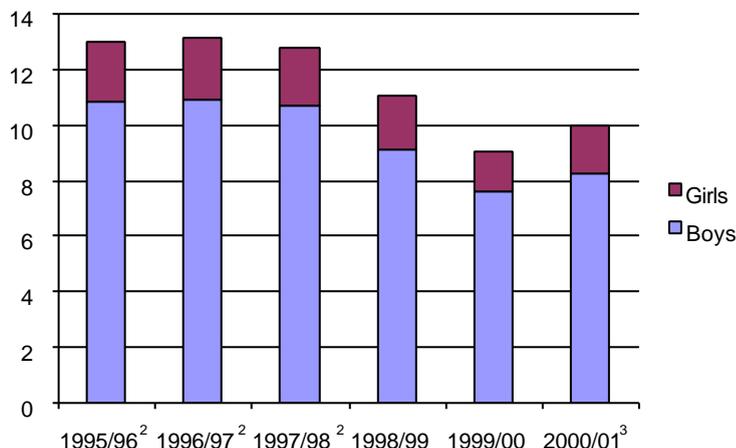
Ethnic differences

In 2000/01, permanent exclusion rates in England ranged from 38 in every 10,000 Black Caribbean pupils to only 3 in every 10,000 Indian pupils.

Authorised and unauthorised absences

In secondary schools in England, 1.1 per cent of half days were missed in 2000/01 due to unauthorised absences, and 8.0 per cent of half days due to authorised absences. In Wales, the figures were 1.6 and 8.9 per cent, while Scotland recorded figures of 1.5 and 9.8 per cent, respectively.

**Permanent exclusions from schools¹ by sex
Great Britain**
Thousands



- 1 Maintained primary, secondary and special schools. Figures for England include independent special schools.
- 2 England and Wales only.
- 3 Provisional.

Authorised and unauthorised absences

In England and Wales:

Authorised Absence: Absence with permission from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes instances of absence for which a satisfactory explanation has been provided (e.g. illness).

Unauthorised Absence: Absence without permission from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences.

In Scotland:

Descriptions for authorised and unauthorised absences can be found at:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/00143-69.asp>

Data sources:

Department for Education and Skills
 National Assembly for Wales
 Scottish Executive

See Notes and definitions:

- Absences
- Children
- Education
- Year groups
- Exclusions

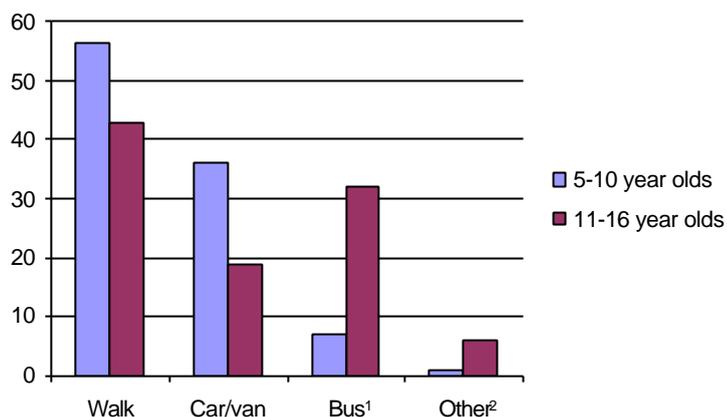
How children travel to school

In Great Britain, walking was the main way of travelling to school for children in 1998-2000, although the proportion doing so had fallen over the previous 15 years. In 1998-2000, 56 per cent of children aged 5 to 10 and 43 per cent of those aged 11 to 16 walked to school.

Older pupils tended to travel to school more by bus and less by car than younger pupils. Thirty two per cent of 11 to 16 year olds travelled to school by bus, compared with only 7 per cent of those aged 5 to 10. Conversely, only 19 per cent of secondary school children travelled by car compared with 36 per cent of primary school children.

One reason for the differences between the age groups may be the length of the journey to school. Children at secondary school travelled 3.0 miles – twice as far as those at primary school. Children aged 11 to 16 who lived in rural areas travelled the furthest to school, an average of 7.2 miles.

Trips to and from school per child by main mode, 1998-2000
Great Britain
Percentages



1 Private and local bus.

2 Includes bicycle, rail and other modes of transport.

See Notes and definitions:

- Children
- Schools

Data source:

National Travel Survey, Department for Transport

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Road deaths among children

The number of children killed on Britain's roads fell in the 20 years to 2000. In 2000, 191 children were killed, 30 fewer than in the previous year. In the early 1980s, the average was around 560 deaths a year.

Most children killed or seriously injured are pedestrians rather than car passengers or cyclists.

Children's risk of being involved in a traffic accident increases as they grow older, with a marked increase in accident rates among 10 to 13 year olds.

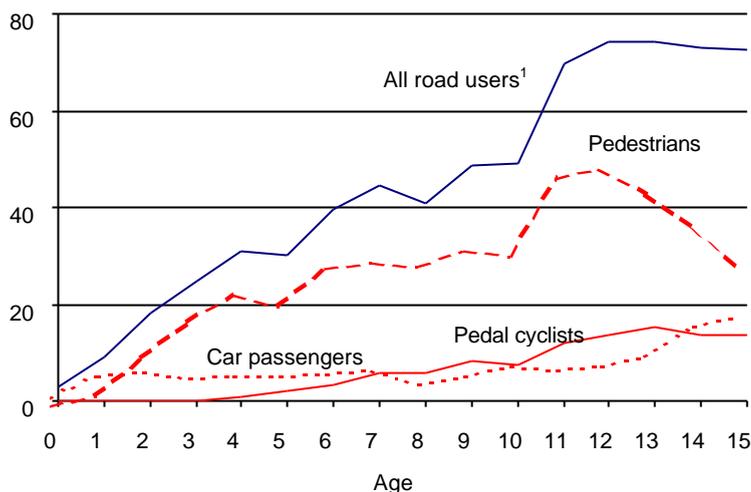
Young people aged under 16 are less likely to be involved in traffic accidents than older people, with a casualty rate of 45 per 100,000 population, compared with 78 per 100,000 for those aged 16 and over in 2000.

In 1999, the UK's record on road safety was good in comparison with other countries: the death rate for children aged under 15 was 1.9 per 100,000 population, compared with an EU rate of 2.6.

Casualty rates in children by age and mode of transport, 2000

Great Britain

Rates per 100,000 population



1 Includes casualties from other modes of road transport

Casualties is used here to refer to those killed or seriously injured.

See Notes and definitions:

- Children
- Schools

Data source:

Department for Transport

Childhood mortality

Death rates for children in the UK fell dramatically during the 20th century. One of the most striking features is that with improvements in the health of the population and its living conditions, there has been a large decrease in infant mortality.

In 1921, 84 children per 1,000 live births died before they reached the age of one. By 2000 the rate had fallen to 5.6. Improved diet, sanitation and health care, including the wider availability of vaccinations, and better access to ante- and post-natal care, contributed much to the decline.

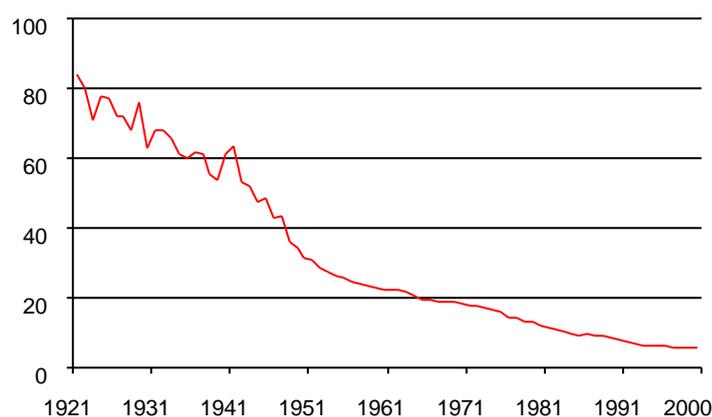
Causes of childhood death

Cancers were the most common cause of death among girls aged 5 to 15 in England and Wales in 1998-2000, accounting for 23 per cent of the total deaths in this group. It was the second most common cause among 5 to 15 year old boys – 24 per cent of the total.

Despite these figures, since the 1980s there have been notable improvements in survival from cancers among children aged 5 to 14, largely due to better medical treatment. Between 1985 and 2000 mortality rates fell by a third, even though the incidence of cancers changed little.

In 1998-2000, accidents were the most common cause of death among boys aged 5 to 15, accounting for 27 per cent of the total. Among girls in this age group, accidents were the second most common cause of death, representing 17 per cent of the total. Most of the deaths were caused by transport accidents, accounting for 61 per cent of accidental death among boys and 73 per cent among girls.

Infant mortality¹
United Kingdom
Rate per 1,000 live births



1 Deaths within one year of birth.

See Notes and definitions:

- Cause of death
- Children

Data sources:

Infant mortality - Office for National Statistics, General Register Office for Scotland, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

Childhood death - Mortality Statistics, Cause (DH2) and Mortality Statistics, Childhood, infant and perinatal (DH3), Office for National Statistics

Children who drink alcohol, smoke or take drugs

In England in 2001, over half of 11- to 15-year-olds reported that they had drunk alcohol, although fewer had taken drugs.

Alcohol

In 2001, about three fifths of boys and girls aged 11 to 15 reported that they had ever drunk alcohol, with around a quarter of both having had a drink in the last week.

Among those who had drunk alcohol, the average number of units drunk in the previous week almost doubled between 1990 and 2001, from 5.7 to 10.6 for boys, and from 4.7 to 8.9 for girls.

Tobacco

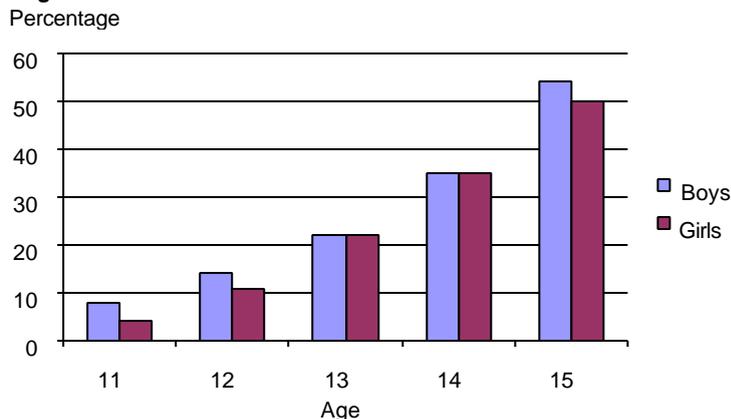
In 2001, 10 per cent of children aged 11 to 15 were regular smokers, that is they smoked at least one cigarette a week. This compares with 13 per cent in 1996. Girls aged 11 to 15 continue to be more likely to smoke than boys of the same age, with 11 per cent of girls and 8 per cent of boys in 2001 saying that they smoked at least one cigarette a week.

The prevalence of smoking increases sharply with age. Only 1 per cent of 11 year olds reported smoking regularly compared with 22 per cent of 15 year olds. Figures for 2000 showed that children were more likely to smoke if their parents or siblings smoked.

Drugs

A survey of young people in England in 2001 reported that a fifth of 11 to 15 year olds had taken illegal drugs in the previous year. Cannabis was the most commonly used drug, taken by 13 per cent of those surveyed.

Percentage of children who drank alcohol last week, by age and sex, 2001
England



See Notes and definitions:

- Children

Data sources:

Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2001, Department of Health

Children's use of computers, the Internet and mobile phones

In 2000-01, 8- to 15-year-olds in the UK spent just over 3 hours a day on sedentary activities (such as watching TV, reading and listening to music) outside school. The majority of this time was spent watching TV and videos – over 2 hours.

Around four out of five schoolchildren surveyed in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in 2000 had access to a home computer and over half were able to access the Internet at home.

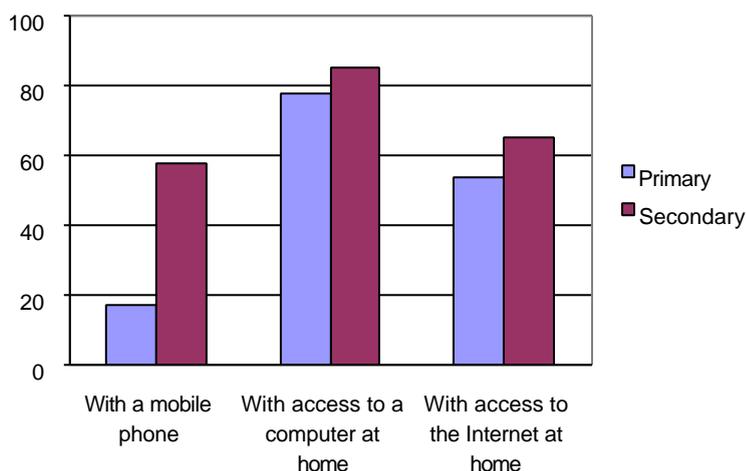
In 2000-01, 45 per cent of boys aged 8-15 accessed a computer on a weekday outside school. Among girls this figure was 20 per cent. On a Saturday or Sunday 50 per cent of boys, and 30 per cent of girls, used a computer.

A small proportion of boys used a computer for over five hours a day (1 per cent of boys on a weekday and 2 per cent on a Saturday or Sunday).

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, computer access varied little between primary and secondary school children in 2000, but there were marked differences in mobile phone ownership between the age groups. Less than 20 per cent of children of primary school age had a mobile phone, compared with 60 per cent of secondary school pupils.

Children with a mobile phone, access to a computer or the Internet, 2000
England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Percentages



See Notes and definitions:

- Children
- Schools

Data sources:

CensusAtSchool

UK 2000 Time Use Survey, Office for National Statistics

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How children spend their money

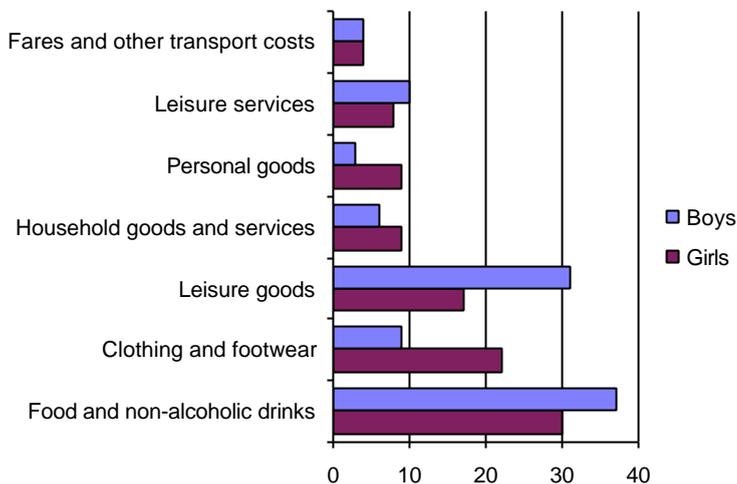
In 2000/01 children aged 7-15 spent £12.30 per week on average. Girls spent more than boys, £13.20 per week compared with £11.20.

Girls were more likely than boys to spend their money on clothing and footwear, and personal goods, such as toiletries and cosmetics.

Boys were more likely than girls to spend their money on food and non-alcoholic drink, and leisure goods, such as computer games, CDs and videos.

Children's¹ expenditure, 2000/01 United Kingdom

Percentages



1 Children aged 7 to 15.

See Notes and definitions:

- Children

Data source:

Family Expenditure Survey, Office for National Statistics

Crimes committed by children

The proportion of offenders rises to peak at 18 for boys and 15 for girls and then declines.

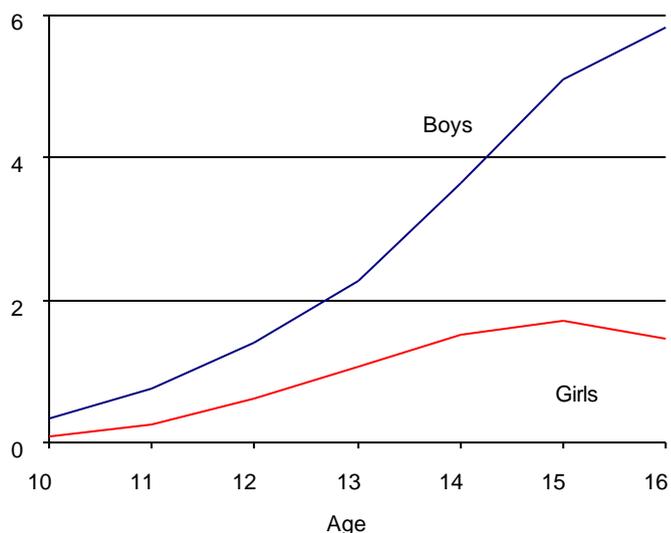
Nearly 6 per cent of all 16 year old boys in England and Wales were found guilty of, or cautioned for, indictable offences in 2000, compared with 1.5 per cent of girls of the same age. Younger children were less likely to commit offences – less than 0.5 per cent of all boys and girls aged 10.

Type of offence

In 2000, young offenders of both sexes in England and Wales were far more likely to be found guilty of, or cautioned for, theft and handling stolen goods than for any other offence.

In England and Wales over 11 thousand 15-year-olds were cautioned or found guilty of theft and handling stolen goods, compared with under one thousand 10-year-olds.

**Offenders¹ as a percentage of the population:
by sex and age, 2000**
England and Wales
Percentages



1 Young people found guilty of, or cautioned for, indictable offences in 2000.

Young offenders is used here to refer to 10- to 17-year-olds found guilty of, or cautioned for, indictable offences.

See Notes and definitions:

- Children
- Indictable offences

Data source:

Home Office

Notes and definitions

Absences

In England and Wales:

Authorised absence: Absence with permission from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes instances of absence for which a satisfactory explanation has been provided (e.g. illness).

Unauthorised absence: Absence without permission from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences.

In Scotland:

Descriptions for authorised and unauthorised absences can be found at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/00143-69.asp>

Cause of death

In England and Wales, cause of death was coded using the International Classification of Diseases Ninth Revision for the years 1998 to 2000. In 2001 ONS moved to coding cause of death using the Tenth Revision (ICD-10). This has wide ranging implications for mortality data by cause. More details can be found at: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/icd10mortality>

Children

Children refers to those aged under 16. In some cases the definition refers to **dependent children** and includes unmarried young people aged 16-18 and in full-time education. Where this is the case it is clearly stated.

Dependent children

Those aged under 16, or single people aged 16 to 18 and in full-time education.

Disposable income

Disposable income is the income that members of a household have available to spend once certain deductions have been taken into account. The income includes all flows of income into the household: principally earnings, benefits, occupational and private pensions and investments. The deductions include tax, National Insurance contributions, Council Tax, contributions to occupational pension schemes (including additional voluntary contributions), maintenance and child support payments, and parental contributions to students living away from home.

Education

(See also **schools, key stages and year groups**)

Education in the United Kingdom is compulsory for all children between the ages of 5 (4 in Northern Ireland) and 16.

Equivalised income

In order to allow comparisons between different household types, incomes are adjusted to take into account the size and composition of the household in a process known as equivalisation. This adjustment reflects the common sense notion that a family of several people requires a higher income than a single person in order for both to have a comparable standard of living. Therefore monetary amounts quoted in this type of analysis of low income are on this equivalised basis and do not reflect actual money amounts for different family types.

To get around this, and give a sense as to the value of 60 per cent of contemporary median equivalised income in cash terms in 2000/1, income for two specimen family types is presented in the following table on an unequivalised basis:

60 per cent 2000/01 median income £ per week (unequivalised)	Before Housing Costs	After Housing Costs
Couple with two children aged 5 & 11	257	225
Single with two children aged 5 & 11	188	156

Source: DWP Households Below Average Income Series

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Exclusions

An exclusion occurs when a child is permanently removed from a school register and is no longer allowed to attend school.

Families

In the **Labour Force Survey (LFS)**, a family is a married or cohabiting couple, either with or without their never-married child or children (of any age). Families include couples with no children or a lone parent together with his or her never-married child or children. A family could also consist of grandparents with a grandchild or grandchildren.

GCSEs and Standard Grades

The main examination for pupils at the minimum school-leaving age of 16 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland is the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE); in Scotland it is the Scottish Certificate of Education (SCE) Standard Grade/National Qualification (NQ). GCSE grades A* to C and D to G are equivalent to Standard Grades 1 to 3, and 4 to 7.

Great Britain

(See also **United Kingdom**)

Great Britain comprises England, Wales and Scotland.

Households

A household is a single person or group of people living at the same address who either share one meal a day or share the living accommodation.

Housing costs

Housing costs do not necessarily correspond to comparable variations in housing quality. They consist of rent, water rates, community charges, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance, ground rent and service charges. In order to take into account variations in housing costs, two measures of income are used in **Households Below Average Income** data. These are before housing costs (BHC) and after housing costs (AHC). Each measure has imperfections as a guide to differences in, and changes to, living standards, but the two are complementary. This report has used BHC data.

Indictable Offences

In England and Wales, indictable offences include more serious offences and cover those offences which must or may be tried by jury in the Crown Court.

Key Stages

(See also **education, GCSEs and Standard Grades**)

	Pupil ages	Year groups	Expected Standards
Key Stage 1	5-7	1-2	Level 2 or above
Key Stage 2	7-11	3-6	Level 4 or above
Key Stage 3	11-14	7-9	Level 5 or above
Key Stage 4	14-16	10-11	GCSE

Since 1988 a **National Curriculum** has been progressively introduced in England and Wales. Pupils are assessed formally at 3 key stages before GCSE level - at the age of 7, 11 and 14. The assessment of all three key stages covers the core subjects of English (and Welsh in Wales), mathematics and science.

Lone parent family

In the **Labour Force Survey** a lone parent family consists of a lone parent living with his or her never-married children, provided these children have no children of their own living with them. In **Households Below Average Income** data a lone parent is a non-pensioner single adult with dependent children. In the **Survey of English Housing** a lone parent family consists of one parent with dependent child(ren).

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Low-income households

A low-income household is defined in this report as one having less than 60 per cent of the median equivalised disposable income. This is a relative measure of low income in that the extent to which children are living in households with low incomes is judged in comparison to the incomes of the population as a whole, at a given point in time. **Households Below Average Income** also provides data on absolute low income – the extent to which people are experiencing low income when compared to a fixed benchmark which is updated in real terms over time.

The measure of low income uses disposable income which means that outgoings such as tax, national insurance and other types of contributions have been deducted (see disposable income). Account has also been taken of the number of people in the household (see equivalised income). Figures used in this document are on a before housing costs basis (see housing costs).

National Curriculum

See **key stages**

Non-calendar years

Financial year - eg 2000/01 means 1 April 2000 to 31 March 2001

Academic year - eg 1999/00 means September 1999/July 2000

Combined years – eg 2002-02 means data for more than one year have been combined

Time series - data covering more than one year eg 1998, 1999 and 2000 would be shown as 1998 to 2000

Overcrowding

Overcrowding is defined by the bedroom standard. This is used to estimate occupation density by allocating a standard number of bedrooms in accordance with the age/sex/marital status composition of a household and the relationship of the members to one another.

A separate bedroom is allocated to each married or cohabiting couple, any other person aged 21 or over, each pair of adolescents aged 10-20 of the same sex, and each pair of children under 10. Any unpaired person aged 10-20 is paired if possible with a child under 10 of the same sex, or, if that is not possible, is given a separate bedroom, as is any unpaired child under 10. This standard is then compared with the actual number of bedrooms (including bedsitters) available for the sole use of the household. Bedrooms converted to other uses are not counted as available unless they have been denoted as bedrooms by the informants; bedrooms not actually in use are counted unless uninhabitable.

Pre-school education

(See also **schools**)

Schools

Schools provide education for children under five, in nursery and reception classes.

Playgroups and pre-schools

Playgroups and pre-schools provide sessional care for children aged between three and five, although some may take children aged two and a half. A playgroup session is a morning or afternoon period that lasts no longer than four hours.

Day nurseries

Day nurseries look after under fives for the length of the adult working day. Children attend part-time or full-time depending on their parents' needs.

Rounding of figures

In tables and charts where figures have been rounded to the nearest final digit, there may be an apparent discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total as shown.

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Schools

(See also **pre-schools**)

Nursery schools

Nursery schools mainly provide education for children below the age of five.

Primary schools

Primary schools consist mainly of infant (for children aged 4 or 5 to 7 or 8) and junior (aged up to 11 or 12) schools. In Scotland and Northern Ireland there is generally no distinction between infant and junior schools. Many primary schools provide nursery classes for children under 5.

Middle schools

In England, some children make the transition from primary to secondary education via middle schools, which cater for various age ranges between 8 and 14.

Secondary schools

Pupils usually transfer straight to secondary school at age 11 (in England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 12 (in Scotland) and remain at least until compulsory education ends at age 16.

Units of alcohol

A unit of alcohol is 8 grams by weight or 1 cl (10 ml) by volume of pure alcohol. This is the amount contained in half a pint of ordinary strength beer or lager, a single pub measure of spirits (25 ml), a small glass of ordinary strength wine (9% alcohol by volume) or a small pub measure of sherry or fortified wine.

United Kingdom (UK)

(See also **Great Britain**)

The UK comprises England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The Channel Islands and the Isle of Man are not classified as part of the UK.

Year groups

(See also **education**)

Year groups	Pupil ages
1-2	5-7
3-6	7-11
7-9	11-14
10-11	14-16

Milestones

AGE	
0-1	Children receive the following vaccinations at 2, 3 and 4 months of age: diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough (triple vaccine); haemophilus influenza type B (Hib); meningitis C; and polio.
1	Children receive MMR vaccination against measles, mumps and rubella between the ages of 12 and 15 months.
3	Children receive the following booster vaccinations between the ages of 3 and 5: Diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough (triple vaccine); Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR); and polio.
5	Primary school education begins (4 in Northern Ireland). Key stage 1 (ages 5 - 7). Children can drink beer or wine with a meal in a restaurant, at the licensee's discretion.
7	Key stage 2 (ages 7-11).
10	Children in England and Wales can be held criminally responsible from this age onwards. Children receive Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccination against tuberculosis (TB) between the ages of 10 and 14. Following a skin test, the vaccination is given to those children who need it.
11	Secondary school education begins for children in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. In Scotland, secondary school education begins for children aged 12. Key stage 3 (ages 11 - 14).
12	Children are allowed to buy a pet.
13	Children can take part-time employment, although certain restrictions apply. Children receive the following vaccinations between the ages of 13 and 18: diphtheria and tetanus for adults and adolescents; and polio.
14	Children can own an airgun or shotgun (with a licence). Key stage 4 (ages 14 - 16) GCSEs.
16	Children can: leave full time education; drive a moped; marry (with parental consent in England and Wales); buy cigarettes; legally engage in consensual heterosexual sex; enter into legal contracts; and own property (in Scotland).

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Related links

Birth Statistics, Office for National Statistics

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=5768&More=N>

CensusAtSchool

<http://www.censusatschool.ntu.ac.uk/>

Department for Education and Skills

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics/index.html>

Family Expenditure Survey, Office for National Statistics

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=361&Pos=9&ColRank=1&Rank=272>

General Register Office for Scotland

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/>

The General Register Office (Northern Ireland)

<http://www.groni.gov.uk/>

Health Statistics Quarterly, Office for National Statistics

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=6725&More=N>

Households Below Average Income, Department for Work and Pensions

<http://www.dss.gov.uk/asd/hbai.html>

Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/themes/labour_market/lfs/default.asp

Learning Wales, National Assembly for Wales

<http://www.learning.wales.gov.uk>

Mortality Statistics - Cause (DH2) , Office for National Statistics

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=618&More=N>

Mortality Statistics - Childhood, infant and perinatal (DH3), Office for National Statistics

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=6305&More=N>

National Travel Survey, Department for Transport

<http://www.transtat.dft.gov.uk/personal>

Northern Ireland Department of Education

<http://www.deni.gov.uk>

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

<http://www.nisra.gov.uk/>

Population Estimates, Office for National Statistics

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=601&More=N>

Scottish Executive Education Department

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/whatwedo.asp?type=pub&topic=education>

Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England,
National Centre for Social Research

<http://www.doh.gov.uk/public/sddsurvey.htm>

Social Trends

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/socialtrends>

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Survey of English Housing, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
<http://www.housing.odpm.gov.uk/research/seh/index.htm>

Transport Statistics - Road Accidents, Department for Transport
<http://www.transtat.dft.gov.uk/roadsafe>

Time Use Survey, Office for National Statistics
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/timeuse>

Regional Trends
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=836>

Research Development and Statistics Directorate (RDS), Home Office
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/>