

ENGAGE : Supporting the Children
LONDON : and Young People's Voluntary
: and Community Sector

Young People Count

Young person's data

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Young Person's Data
Engage London 2015

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Introduction

This report contains a brief guide to the different data sources that are available on the problems that young people face in the United Kingdom. Drawn from official figures, such as the Office of National Statistics, and independent research by community and voluntary organisations, it covers the subjects of; health, youth employment, housing, crime, education, participation, poverty, and general population data.

What is interesting, and the source of possible difficulties in youth policy, is the overlap and interaction between each of these problems. The interlinked nature of these topics like housing, education and poverty make the situation incredibly complex. Yet, the only thing that is clear is the difficulties and inequality young people still face.

On the topics of employment, housing, poverty and crime – young people are affected greater than the rest of the population. Facing discrimination, worse employment opportunities and more crime, young people have been the worst impacted by the recession. This, coupled with a lack of affordable housing, makes one of the hardest situations facing the next generation to face in decades.



General population data

- There are 7.4 million 10-19 year-olds currently living in the UK, 12% of the total population
- They live in 4.8 million households, 59% with married parents, 8% with cohabiting parents and 25% with lone parents
- A total of 37,808 young people aged 11-15 years had parents who divorced in 2011¹
- The UK has a higher percentage of households with three or more children than three-quarters of European Union countries
- There were 7.7 million families with dependent children in the UK in 2012, 1 in 7 of which had three or more dependent children²
- In 2009, the average age of first marriage had increased to 32 years-old for men and 30 for women³

London Data

- In 2013, London had 1,413,332 young people under-25, of which 1,309,746 were female and 2,658,255 male⁴
- In 2015, 20.2% of London were aged 0-15, with the average age of London being 35.8⁵

Health

Obesity

- 31% of young men and 37% of young women aged 11-18 years-old are overweight or obese⁶
- In 2012, 28% of children in England aged 2 to 15 were overweight or obese
- Children aged 11 to 15 years had a higher prevalence of being overweight, including obese 35%⁷
- Only 63% of 16-19 year olds participated in a sport once a week in 2011/12⁸
- Consumption of 'five a day' portions of fruit and vegetables is low for 11-18 year-olds who, on average, only eat three portions⁹

Smoking

- In 2011, approximately one in ten 15 year olds were regular smokers. This doubles to one in five of those aged 16-24¹⁰
- In 2012, 67% of pupils reported being exposed to second hand smoke with 55% experiencing second hand smoke in other people's homes and 43% in their own home¹¹
- It is estimated that each year around 207,000 children in the UK start smoking¹²

Cancer

- An estimated 2,200 young people aged 15-24 get diagnosed with cancer each year
- Around 310 young people aged 15-24 die of cancer each year¹³

Alcohol

- In 2012, 43% of school pupils aged 11-15 said that they had drunk alcohol at least once
- The number of alcohol-related hospital admissions of 15 to 24 year-old male patients increased by 57%, from 18,265 to 28,747 during 2002-10
- The number of hospital admissions of 15 to 24 year-old female patients increased at faster rate (76%), from 15,233 in 2002 to 26,908 in 2010
- Almost one in ten boys and around one in eight girls aged 15 to 16 have unsafe sex after drinking alcohol
- Almost half of young people excluded from school in the UK are regular drinkers

- In a sample of over 2000 15-16 year-olds from the UK, 11% had had sex under the influence of alcohol and regretted it¹⁴

Other substance abuse

- The number of young people attending specialist substance misuse services during 2012-13 was 20,032
- During 2012-13, 13,581 under-18s presented to specialist services with cannabis as their main problem drug
- Mephedrone has become a more popular drug in recent years: cases went up from 1,065 in 2011-12 to 1,788 in 2012-13¹⁵
- 10.2% of 16-24-year-olds are dependent on drugs other than alcohol¹⁶
- In 2011/12 there were 6,173 admissions to hospital with a primary diagnosis of a drug-related mental health and behavioural disorder¹⁷

Disability

- In 2011/12, 6% of children were disabled (0.8 million)
- The annual cost of bringing up a disabled child is 3 times greater than that of bringing up a non-disabled child
- Disabled young people are less likely to participate in exercise, sport, the arts and leisure activities – facing a lot or a little prejudice that remains unchanged since 1998
- Children in families with at least 1 disabled person are almost twice as likely to live in low income households than those in families with none (33% compared to 19%)
- It is widely anticipated that the proportion of children and young people who are disabled will increase. It is estimated that there will be over 1.25 million children reporting a disability by 2029¹⁸

Sexual health

- The cost of teenage pregnancy to the NHS alone is estimated to be £63 million a year¹⁹
- The average age of first heterosexual intercourse is 16 years
- In 2011, the lowest rate of conceptions was reported in the under-18 age group since 1969, but the UK still has a relatively high birth-rate among 15-24 year-olds compared with other countries

Race and sexual health

- The rate of sexually transmitted infections is higher in people from BME backgrounds
[STI annual data tables](#) – Public Health England

- In 2012 23% of those aged 16-19 had visited an NHS community contraceptive clinic
- The lowest levels of contraceptive use are found in the 16-19 year olds. 66% of 16-19 year olds are 'at risk' of pregnancy and 10% of those with a partner did not use contraception
- The highest rates of sexually transmitted infections are among those aged 15-24 years. Those under 25 accounted for 64% of all new chlamydia diagnoses in 2012²⁰
- The average cost per chlamydia screening episode (including follow up of positive clients, overheads and local coordination) was found to be £45²¹

Other health issues

- A quarter of secondary school children report they do not get enough sleep²²
- Approximately 800,000 teenagers in the UK suffer from asthma
- Diabetes affects approximately 29,000 under-18s
- Hospital admissions for epilepsy in 10-19 year olds have risen 19% from 2002 to 2009
- One in seven 11-15 year olds have a long term illness or disability²³

Mental Health

- 1 in 10 children and young people aged 5 - 16 suffer from a diagnosable mental health disorder
- Between 1 in every 12 and 1 in 15 children and young people deliberately self-harm
- There has been a big increase in the number of young people being admitted to hospital because of self-harm. Over the last ten years this figure has increased by 68%
- Over 8,000 children aged under 10 years-old suffer from severe depression
- 35% of young people with mental health problems were not referred on to adult services.
- Half of all lifetime cases of psychiatric disorders start by age 14 and three quarters by age 17
- Surveys show that around 13% of boys and 10% of girls aged 11-15 have mental health problems
- The overall quality of life losses for this group amount to around £0.71bn²⁴
- The largest cause of hospital admissions is from eating disorders among young women aged 15²⁵

- 2011–12 in the UK, 8 out of 10 boys (79%) reported being relatively happy with their appearance. Fewer than 7 out of 10 girls (68%) reported the same²⁶

Race and mental health

- Black groups are up to 32% more likely to be detained under the Mental Health Act and are 55% more likely to be admitted to medium and high secure wards compared to the average
- The risk of being referred to mental health services by police or by the courts is almost double for Black Caribbean and Black African groups
- Rates of admission into hospital are two to six times higher for black and white-black mixed groups compared with the average.
- Men from the Black Caribbean, Black African, Other Black and Indian groups were up to 90% more likely than average to be secluded

[Mental Health](#) – Mary Seacole House

- Children and young people from black and minority ethnic communities are less likely to engage with services which could intervene early to prevent mental health problems escalating

[Understanding ethnic inequalities in housing: Analysis of the 2011 census](#) Race Equality Foundation

LGBT Mental Health

- 34% of young LGB people had attempted suicide, compared to 18% of heterosexual people
- 48% of transgender people had attempted suicide compared to 26% cisgender young people
- Lesbian and transsexual women were more likely to drink hazardous amounts of alcohol, or have a dependency issue

Source: [RARE Research Report 2015](#)

London Health

- Only 53% of London's five year olds reach a good level of development at this age²⁷
- Almost 25% of children in reception, and more than 33% of children in Year 6 are overweight or obese²⁸
- Around 19% of London children are obese,²⁹ in some parts of London 25% leaving primary school are obese³⁰
- Just 55% of London's children are physically active³¹
- An average of 67 children starts smoking everyday in London³²
- In 2011-13 pregnancy rates of under-18s totalled 10,356, 25.5% rate across the group, with 62% of those having abortions in 2011
- In 2011-13 pregnancy rates of under-16s totalled 1,945, 4.8% across the group, with 69% leading to abortions³³
- In 2012, 31% of London school pupils aged 11 to 15 years had drunk alcohol, and the weekly amount consumed by young people in the capital was 9.4 units a week³⁴
- In 2009/10 there were 2,286 alcohol-related calls-outs involving under 18 year olds for three ambulance services in London³⁵
- On average the mean number of teeth, missing decayed or filled in 5 year-olds in London was 1.66, above the average 1.47 in England³⁶

London Mental Health

- One in ten children and young people aged 5–16 have a diagnosable mental health disorder, or more than 100,000 across London³⁷
- Around 1 in 12 deliberately self-harm in London – admissions to hospital have increased by 68% in 10 years³⁸
- 7.2% of children aged 11-16 in the UK reported that they had tried to harm or kill themselves at some point³⁹
- Impacts of childhood psychiatric disorders cost London's education system £200 million a year⁴⁰
- 45% of looked after children between 5 and 17 experience a mental health disorder⁴¹

Youth employment

Unemployment and NEETs

- For January to March 2015, the unemployment rate for 16 to 24 year-olds was 15.9%⁴²
- The cost of youth unemployment over the next decade has been estimated at £28 billion with just under £4.2 billion for 2012's total benefit bill for youth unemployment⁴³
- During 2002-12 the unemployment rate for those aged 16 or 17 increased from 19% to 37%
- 71% of UK businesses surveyed by the Princes Trust admit that jobless young people face stigma from employers, while 69% warn of a culture where unemployed young people and those without a degree are unfairly overlooked in the jobs market⁴⁴
- Between 2002-12, the percentage of young people who were active in the labour market decreased from 54% to 37%
- 955,000 young people in the UK were Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET) in 2014⁴⁵
- Each NEET costs the taxpayer £97,000 during their lifetime, costing £3.65 billion annually⁴⁶
- In 2013, 56% of NEETs have given up looking for work, deemed "inactive"⁴⁷

Unemployment among young women

- There are many more women than men as NEETS and this has been the case for more than a decade. Women are NEET for longer and the impact is deeper, with the effects sometimes lasting for a lifetime.
- 61% of female apprentices work in just five sectors, whilst the same proportion of men work in more than 10 sectors.
- Young women who are NEET are more likely to have caring responsibilities. More than 180,000 young women NEET say they are not looking for work because they are caring for children or other family members. Just 10,000 young men are NEET for the same reason.

[Youth Employment](#)

Race and employment

- Unemployment rates for black people are twice as high as those for their white peers and even black and minority ethnic graduates from Russell Group universities still experience lower levels of employment early in their careers than their white peers. [When Education Isn't Enough](#) Runnymede Trust (2014)
- The number of young people from ethnic minority backgrounds who have been unemployed for more than a year has risen by almost 50% since 2010. [50% rise long-term unemployment](#) The Guardian

Insecure employment and pay

- The number of 16 to 24-year-olds on zero hours contracts rose from 35,000 in 2008 to 76,000 in 2012⁴⁸
- Only 24% of low-skilled vacancies found for the study offered full-time, daytime work⁴⁹
- At the median, young people under-30 were paid more than 10% less than their predecessor six years earlier; for 16-19 year-olds the drop was around 20%, and was approaching 30% for the worst paid of these
- Full-time weekly earnings cumulatively fell more than 15% for men and women in their late 20s and even larger ones for those aged 16-19

The mental impact on NEETs

- 13% of young people feel too anxious to leave the house and this increases to 35% among NEETs
- 36% often feel anxious about everyday situations, rising to 52% of NEETs
- 20% claim they “fall apart” emotionally on a regular basis. This increases to 33% of NEETs.
- 56% of respondents did not receive any help after their last setback in life, rising to 71% among those who didn’t have anyone to talk to about their problems while growing up
- 50% of respondents claim that they lost confidence in themselves following a setback, increasing to 59% amongst those who are NEET
- As a result of a setback in life, 47% of NEETs felt that even if they tried, they would not succeed. This compares to 31% of all young people.

Source: [Youth Index 2015](#) – The Princes Trust

- Full-time employment for those of working age fell by a total of more than 10% for men and nearly 8% for women aged 20-24 between 2006-08 and 2013⁵⁰

Skills gap

- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) found a 12.6% gap in literacy in England and Northern Ireland, double the OECD average of 6.5%
- There was a 9.6% difference between the problem-solving skills of UK NEETs and young people in work⁵¹
- In an survey of 616 senior directors of businesses in the UK with over 500+ employees, the Prince’s Trust found that⁵²
 - 65% believe there are already skills shortages impacting the UK
 - 53% admit that they are facing difficulties in filling vacancies
 - 79% believe that skills shortages will limit the growth of the UK economy within the next three years
 - 60% of employers are struggling to recruit the leaders of tomorrow

London Employment

- In 2012 25% of economically active young adults in London were unemployed, compared with 20% for young adults in the rest of England⁵³
- Regardless of the level of qualification held, young people in London were more likely to be unemployed than young people in the rest of England in 2011
- There is a stark gap in employment rates between young people from ethnic minorities and White British young people
- In 2014, 3.4% of 16 to 18 year olds are not in employment, education or training
- Full-time employment for those of working age fell by a total of more than 10 percentage points for men and nearly 8 points for women aged 20-24 between 2006-08 and 2013
- Full-time weekly earnings cumulatively fell more than 15 per cent for men and women in their late 20s and even larger ones for those aged 16-19
- Individual and household incomes also dropped most significantly for those aged 16-24⁵⁴
- In a survey 50% said they know a little about internships, and 15% said they know nothing. Furthermore, when asked if they could undertake an unpaid internship, 73% said no⁵⁵

Housing

- In the UK an estimated 63% (4.6 million) of all those aged 16-24 were living in the parental home in 2012⁵⁶
- In the UK, in 2012, there were more men than women aged 16-24 living with their parents at 69% and 57% respectively⁵⁷
- One in five children (2.3 million children) were living in 'bad housing' in Britain
- Children who lived in acutely bad housing were over twice as likely to have visited A&E more than once in the last year compared to children who did not live in bad housing
- Sandel and Wright (2007) argue that the psychological stress associated with poor housing contributes to adverse physical health outcomes, such as asthma
- Three-quarters of severely overcrowded families also strongly agreed that their children's health was affected by their living conditions⁵⁸
- Across England, there were 42,185 homes advertised that had at least two bedrooms and were affordable for families earning the median income in the local area. This was only 16.9% of all homes advertised in the country, and only 18.4% of homes that have at least two bedrooms⁵⁹

Housing in minority ethnic communities

- In 2011, there were 1.1 million overcrowded households in England and Wales, almost half (47.9%) of these households were from a minority ethnic group
- Households with an HRP from the Bangladeshi ethnic group included a higher percentage (30.2%) of overcrowded households than those with an HRP of any other ethnic group
[Overcrowding and Under-Occupation by Ethnic Group](#) – ONS 2011
- Around 327,000 minority ethnic households lived in a home classified as poor housing
- The estimated total annual treatment cost to the NHS is around £52 million per year
[The housing conditions of minority ethnic households in England](#) – Race Equality Foundation

Homelessness

- At least 75,000 young people experienced homelessness in the UK in 2006–07, this number is expected to have risen greatly since⁶⁰ with 1 in 100 young people in the UK now expected to experience homelessness⁶¹
- One in five of those who present as homeless get accommodated. The remaining four young people in every five do not receive assistance⁶²
- Only one in five local authorities offer advocacy support for homeless young people⁶³
- 57% of homeless young people are not in education, training or employment⁶⁴
- 14,000 young people across 161 local authorities sought help from their council

- Research suggests local authorities were able to prevent homelessness amongst 16-17 year-olds in 41% of cases
- Six out of ten young people become homeless because of a breakdown of a relationship⁶⁵

Future of housing for young people

- It is anticipated that the total number of young people owning their own properties in 2020 will decrease by approximately 1.1 million to 1.3 million in 2020
- The total number of young people living in their own Private Rented Sector (PRS) tenancies in 2020 is predicted to increase by approximately 1.3 million to 3.7 million
- The number of young people living with parents in owner-occupied accommodation will increase by approximately 550,000 to 3.7 million in 2020
- The number of young people aged 18–24 following a chaotic housing pathway (including homelessness) will increase from 75,000 to 81,000 between 2008 and 2020⁶⁶

Children and young people in care

- There are currently 93,000 children in care in the UK, with more than 10% of children are taken into care because of abuse or neglect
- The number of children in care has been increasing over the past few years⁶⁷
- 1 in 10 of care-leavers enter higher education, compared to the 40% average⁶⁸
- 50% of the young people in prison have been in the care system⁶⁹
- Children in care are four times more likely to have a mental health disorder
- Young people in care are five times less likely to achieve five good GCSEs, and eight times more likely to be excluded from school and less likely to go to university
- They are three times more likely to be cautioned or convicted of an offence
- One in five homeless people are care leavers⁷⁰

London Housing

- In London there were only 43 homes with at least two bedrooms that were affordable for a family on a typical income, representing 0.1% of the homes advertised in London⁷¹
- The average rent in London is £1,436 per month, but the UK average rent when London is excluded is £760 per month – nearly half⁷²
- London was the most expensive area in the UK for average house prices in 2013, at £428,000⁷³ and is the most expensive city in the world to live and work in⁷⁴
- As such children in low income households lack enough bedrooms for every child over ten and for a different gender. 40% lacking in London, compared to 24% in England⁷⁵
- 391,000 children (24%) in London are overcrowded – an 18% rise since 2008. The biggest rise is in the social rented sector, where 43% of children are overcrowded⁷⁶
- As a result of the overall benefit cap, a workless family with three children whose rent was at the lower quartile for the private rented sector would not get housing benefit that covered the rent anywhere in London. Two parents with two children would also be in that situation almost everywhere except the eastern and south-eastern boroughs⁷⁷
- A YouGov poll, commissioned by the National Housing Federation, found that 4 out of 5 (81%) parents with children living at home were concerned about them being able to afford to live in London in the future⁷⁸
- 15% of households in the capital are low quality, more often used by young people in the private rented sector, which can cause respiratory problems, cardiovascular disease and accidents in the home⁸⁰

Crime

- Young people are more likely to be victims of crime than older people, with 16-24 year olds constituting 25% of victims of crime in 2013/14⁸¹
- 12% of children aged 10 to 15 in the UK reported being a victim of crime in 2013/14, half of whom were victims of violent crime⁸²
- Young people aged 10 to 17 were responsible for 23% of police recorded crime in 2009/10⁸³
- In 2014, the APPG found that encounters between young people and the police are often characterised by poor and unconstructive communications and a lack of mutual respect⁸⁴
- In 2009-13, across 26 police forces, over one million stop and searches were carried out on children under the age of 18. This made up between 13 to 28% of all stop and searched across all police forces and between one fifth and one quarter of all stop and searches⁸⁵
- As of the end of August 2014, the number of young people in custody in England and Wales stood at 1024 males and 44 females
- Young adults make up just over a quarter of the prison population. However half of all those who had offended in a given year will have recently been a victim of personal crime⁸⁶
- In 2012/13, 167,995 young people were arrested in England and Wales. Of these, criminal proceedings were commenced against 57,881 of them and 33,661 people received out of court sanctions
- In 2012/13, 29,343 young people were given community sentences. And 2780 were given custodial sentences, for an average length of 13.5 months
- In 2011/12, the overall re-offending rate for young people stood at 35.5%, with an average of 2.88 re-offences per re-offender⁸⁷

Mental Health Custody Link

- 33% of young people in custody have a mental health disorder 3 times higher than the general population
- 60% of young people in custody have significant speech, language or communication difficulties
- Around a quarter have a learning disability
- Many have a history of abuse or bereavement

Source: [Children in trouble with the law](#)

Abuse

- Number of children on child protection registers or subject to a child protection plan at 31 March 2014 (or 31 July 2014 in Scotland): 56, 231 in the UK, 48, 300 in England⁸⁸
- 1 in 14 children have been physically abused⁸⁹
- 48,300 in England abused with 4,760 of those physically abused
- 16 to 19 year olds are more likely to experience abuse from their partners than any other age group⁹⁰
- Over 1,700 victims of FGM were referred to specialist clinics in the last two years⁹¹
- The total cost of looked after children in England in 2009-2010 was £2,425,900,000 with the average cost per child £37,669⁹²

Abuse, the mental impact

- 12% of young people say their childhood was “traumatic”
- 9% were physically attacked at home during their childhood
- 17% witnessed emotional abuse at home during their childhood
- 12% report being scared of the adults in their childhood
- 25% didn’t have anyone to talk to about their problems while growing up

[Youth Index 2015](#)

Child sexual abuse

- One third of sexual offences recorded by the police are against children⁹³
- Child sexual abuse costs the UK £3.2bn a year⁹⁴
- Over ,500 sexual offences were recorded against children under 11 last year⁹⁵
- The cost to the criminal justice services of dealing with young offenders in 2008/9 was £4bn⁹⁶
- 16,500 children and young people were experiencing or at risk of child sexual exploitation by groups or gangs⁹⁷
- Sexually abused children can suffer a range of psychological and emotional problems especially if the abuse is never uncovered⁹⁸
- 152 children were trafficked for sexual exploitation last year⁹⁹

Sexual exploitation and assault

- Females aged between 16 and 19 were at the highest risk of being a victim of a sexual offence (8.2 per cent) and as age increased the risk of victimisation reduced¹⁰⁰
- Sexual violence is even more prevalent for younger women as one in three teenage girls has experienced some form of sexual violence from a partner
- 25% of young women (aged over 13) experience physical violence and 72% experience emotional abuse in their own relationships¹⁰¹
- In 2013, the police recorded at least 1,052 reports of sexual violence in schools, of which 134 were reported as rape¹⁰²
- A third of female students in Britain have endured a sexual assault or unwanted advances at university
- 43% of the women who had experienced sexual assault or abuse at university, did not report their ordeal, even to friends or family¹⁰³
- 24.1% of young adults has experienced sexual abuse (including contact and non-contact), by an adult or by a peer during childhood¹⁰⁴
- 60 per cent of young people have been asked for a sexual image or video of themselves¹⁰⁵

Race and crime

- Black young adults are four times as likely as white young adults to be in prison and six times as likely as Asian young adults
[Young person statistics on crime](#)
- Young people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds, or those from disadvantaged inner city areas more likely to be stopped and searched than other young people
[Children and the Police](#)
- During 2014-15, 40% of prisoners aged under 18 were from black, Asian, mixed race or "other" ethnicity backgrounds (BME)
[Youth Custody Data](#)
- Children and young people from black and minority ethnic communities are less likely to engage with services which could intervene early to prevent mental health problems escalating
[Understanding ethnic inequalities in housing-](#) Foundation
- 44,480 race hate crimes recorded in 2013/14- an increase of 5% on the 2012/13 figures
Home Office (2014) Hate Crimes, England and Wales, 2013/14 Home Office Statistical Bulletin

London Crime Data

- In 2012/13, 30% of young people in custody were from London¹⁰⁶
- In London, 9,542 young people were involved in the youth justice system in 2011-12 and over 20,000 offences were recorded¹⁰⁷
- London's ambulance service reveal paramedics were called to 973 victims under the age of 25 suffering a gun or knife wound in 2013¹⁰⁸
- 12,540 children 11 to 17 years of age in London who have experienced contact sexual abuse during the past year¹⁰⁹
- The total number of young people estimated to be at risk of sexual exploitation across London was 1,002, suggesting that some London boroughs may be under-identifying young people at risk by up to 80%¹¹⁰
- The Metropolitan police has identified a total of 3,495 individual gang members, of 224 known gangs, with 183 gangs linked to more than one offence in the last 12 months, and 58 considered particularly active
- 70% of the individuals are aged between 17 and 23 years of age and 77% being BME
- A total of 93% had a previous sanction, such as conviction, caution, warning or reprimand
- Gang members were 15 years old when convicted of their first offence
- 61% of all gang members have been a victim of any crime¹¹¹
- In a 2012 survey, 43% of young women in London (aged 18-24) reported having experienced sexual harassment in public places (such as in the street, in a parks or on public transport) in the previous year, and almost twice as many women as men reported feeling unsafe on public transport¹¹²

Education

- 8.4 million Pupils enrolled in state-funded and independent schools in England
- 2.7 million Pupils enrolled in academies in England in January 2015¹¹³
- UK educational attainment is ranked globally for reading, for Maths and for Science¹¹⁴
- In 2010, the number of 16–24-year-olds not in employment or full-time education increased to 1.4 million¹¹⁵
- 7% of young people do not achieve five or more GCSE's and find their life chances significantly impacted¹¹⁶
- By 16, children receiving free school meals achieve 1.7 grades lower at GCSE than their wealthier peers¹¹⁷
- In 2014 GCSE attainment fell and socio-economic gaps opened up for lower attainers.
- The proportion of secondary schools rated as having 'inadequate' leadership is also rising and almost doubled between 2012 and 2014
- 27.4 Average one-teacher infant class size in state-funded primary schools in England¹¹⁸
- GCSE results are strongly linked to social-economic determinants with, for example, only 14.5% of looked after young people achieving five or more A*-C grade GCSEs
- The 5 A*-C level the attainment of students on FSM fell 27.7% points¹¹⁹
- In 2015 it costs an average of £115.45 to send a child aged under two to nursery for 25 hours a week in Britain, a total of £6,003 per year, £1,533 more than in 2010¹²⁰

Bullying

- More than ,000 young people are absent from school due to bullying¹²¹
- Around 1 in 8 children (12%) aged 10 to 15 in the UK reported being frequently bullied physically, in other ways, or both in 2011–12¹²²
- 62% of 16-25 year olds have been bullied at school, with 10% of that lasting more than five years

- More than 24% were physically attacked, while 94% were emotionally or verbally abused
- 13% experienced cyber bullying
- 22% did not attend school as a result of being bullied¹²³
- 1 in 4 children have experienced something upsetting on a social networking site¹²⁴
- A of children have been a victim of cyber-bullying¹²⁵

Homophobic bullying in schools

- 86% of secondary and 45% of primary school teachers surveyed say pupils in their schools have experienced homophobic bullying
- 55% of secondary and 42% of primary school teachers say they don't challenge homophobic language when they hear it
- Only 17% of secondary school teachers say their school stocks library books and information about LGBT people
- 8% of primary schools or 17% in secondary have received specific training on tackling homophobic bullying
- 29% of secondary and 37% of primary school teachers don't know if they are allowed to teach LGBT issues
- Over half of lesbian, gay and bisexual young people have experienced homophobic bullying at school

Source: [Teachers report 2014](#) – Stonewall

London Education

- In 9 boroughs over 40% of schools were at or above capacity and all of them were in Outer London.
- 16% of Inner London 19 year olds lacked a level 2 qualification in 2012, equal to the average for the rest of England and down from around 40% in 2005. In Outer London the drop was from 31% to 13%
- Around 290,000 people aged 10 or over in London, around 4%, were not able to speak English well. This rate was lower among younger people (less than 1% of people aged under 19) and higher among older women (around 6% for women aged 35 and over)¹²⁶
- Over five years to 2012, the proportion of Inner London 16 year-olds entitled to free school meals who failed to get five 'good' GCSEs came down 20 percentage points (to 47%)¹²⁷
- The main spoken language for pupils in London is 60.5% is English¹²⁸

Participation

Politics

- The turnout of 18 to 24 year-olds at the last election was around 58%¹²⁹
- Nearly three quarters of the 6.8m young people in the UK registered to vote in the 2015 General election - 14% more than in 2010
- 66% of young people felt that they would be more likely to vote if they could vote online¹³⁰
- Only 28% of all strategic health plans specifically referenced children's participation¹³¹
- 48% of 18-24 year olds disagreed that most unemployed people receiving benefits were 'for the most part unlucky rather than lazy' - whilst those over 65 only 25% disagreed¹³²

LGBQ Participation

- LGBQ young people are twice as likely not to feel accepted in the area where they currently live, compared to heterosexual non-trans young people
- 59% of LGBQ young people that would be interested in joining a religious organisation have stopped or reduced their involvement owing to their sexuality or gender identity
- Over a third of LGBQ young people (34%) are not able to be open about their sexuality or gender identity at a sports club they are involved in.

[Youth Chances](#) – Metro

Society

- There are 410,117 young carers aged 10-25 in England and Wales¹³³
- 24% of 18-24 year-olds disagreed that it's important to get to know your neighbors. Young people were also more likely to disagree that they were proud to be British
- 22% strongly agreed with the statement 'I like finding out about what's going on in my local area' this was a higher percentage than any other age group except those over 55¹³⁴

Disabled participation

- Only 57 out of 71 local authorities who responded indicated that disabled children and young people had participated in social care service decisions
- Franklin and Sloper's (2006, 2007, 2009) study illustrated that disabled children's participation was very fragile and often rested on a few specific individuals with a passion

[Literature review](#) - Viper

Media representation

- 76% of press coverage of young people is negative
- 85% of teen boys said newspapers portray them in a bad light
- 79% of children and young people feel that adults see them in a negative light¹³⁵
- In a survey by Demos, 81% of young people feel they are unfairly represented in the media. 85% go on to argue that negative stereotypes are affecting their chances of getting a job¹³⁶

Charity and volunteering

- Those aged 16-24 are the least likely to be involved in charitable giving or social action, with only 42% having participated in any of the activities during the previous month
- Despite an apparent online and social media focus, young donors are actually much more likely than average to give cash 66% compared to 55% overall¹³⁷
- Young people give a over £100 million per year to charity, with children aged between 9-11 years old giving nearly £20 million a year, and young adults aged 16-18 giving nearly £100 million
- When 1000 9-11 and 16-18 year olds were surveyed, 78% agreed with the statement: "I think charities play an important role in our country"
- While 68% agreed with: ""Young people should give up some of their time to help others"
- And 61% of young people said 'school arranging for us to do some work for a charity' would encourage them¹³⁸
- 65% of young people wanted to develop their skills, 48% because it made them feel good, 41% because it is fun and 46% to make new friends
- Over two thirds of volunteers aged between 16-24 see volunteering as a way of enhancing their career prospects¹³⁹
- 66% of charity trustees are aged 50+, only 0.5% of trustees aged between 18 and 24¹⁴⁰

Poverty

- 30% of young people aged 14-24 living in the UK are living in poverty, approximately 2.7 million
- 13% of young people live in families that are unable to keep their accommodation warm enough
- Among children aged 14 and over, 8% do not have local access to outdoor space in which to play
- At 30% the poverty rate among young people is higher than any other age group
- 380,000 young people in poverty have a long standing illness or disability
- Just under 1.1 million young people in poverty live in private rented accommodation, compared to 960,000 in social rented and 680,000 in owner-occupied
- 5.9 million young people in poverty are classed as 'working age adults' : 540,000 are in working, 420,000 are unemployed, 380,000 are inactive and 440,000 are students¹⁴¹

Disability and poverty

- Disabled people are roughly twice as likely to live in poverty as non-disabled adults.
- Disabled people's day-to-day living costs are 25% higher than those of non-disabled people.
- More than 55% of people with disabilities reportedly have no savings, compared with 12% of the general population

[Disabled facts](#) – Livability

Child poverty

- There are 3.5 million children living in poverty in the UK today. That's 27% of children, more than one in four¹⁴²
- There are even more serious concentrations of child poverty at a local level: in 100 local wards, for example, between 50 and 70% of children are growing up in poverty¹⁴³
- Child poverty is estimated to cost the wider economy at least £29 billion a year¹⁴⁴
- 22% of 11-15 year-olds were living in families with the lowest levels of income¹⁴⁵
- Nearly 25% of those in arrears are between 16 and 24¹⁴⁶
- The UK has the highest rate of under-17 year olds living in households with income less than 50% the national median in Western Europe¹⁴⁷
- Individual and household incomes dropped most significantly for those aged 16-24¹⁴⁸
- The UK has the highest rate of under-17s living in households with income less than 50% the national median in Western Europe¹⁴⁹

London Poverty

- The child poverty rate in Inner London fell by 10% over the last decade and now stands at 43%. In Outer London it has remained steady at 33%
- Over 20% of children on a low income in London lack 6 of the 10 items in the government's measure of material deprivation, compared with 3 items for the rest of England
- In 2012, 37,730 young people in England aged over 10 were being looked after by local authorities, usually for reasons of neglect or abuse
- There are 370,000 children in poverty in working families
- 57% of adults and children in poverty are in working families¹⁵⁰
- In London 19% of children are dependent in an out of work households¹⁵¹

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- ⁴⁴ [Skills Crunch](#) – Princes Trust
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- ⁴⁸ [Youth Statistics on employment](#) – UK Youth
- ⁴⁹ [Disadvantaged young People looking for work](#) – Joseph Rowntree Foundation
- ⁵⁰ [Falling behind, getting ahead, the changing structure of inequality in the UK 2007-2013](#) – Trust for London
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