

The Big Book of Interesting Statistics

Young Advisors



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Preword

Following a recent Sustainability Masterclass, Chris Ashcroft from Knowsley Young Advisors said it would be good if we had a fact sheet on statistics that might prove handy in your work. So, after lots of work, and some help from NYA and others, here they are!!

Local stats are always the hardest hitting though, so whilst we can give you some national stuff, why not take some time to find out what's happening in your community!

Population

In 2005 the total population for the United Kingdom was approximately 60.2 million, within which:

There were approximately 11.6 million (11,645,600) young people aged under 16, almost 6 million (5,969,800) of which were male and just over 5.5 million (5,675,900) female.

There were approximately 13 million (13,221,400) young people under the age of 18, over 6.5 million (6,779,200) of which were male and almost 6.5 million (6,441,700) were female.

There were approximately 5.5 million (5,498,200) young people aged between 13 and 19, of which almost 3 million (2,827,700) were male and over 2.5 million (2,670,600) were female.

In 2004 in England:

- There were approximately 9.7 million (9,754,400) young people aged under 16, over 5 million (5,000,200) of which were male and almost 5 million (4,754,200) were female.
- There were approximately 11 million (11,065,400) young people under the age of 18, over 5.5 million (5,674,100) of which were male and over 5 million (5,391,300) were female.
- There were approximately 4.6 million (4,577,300) young people aged between 13 and 19, of which over 2 million (2,354,700) were male and 2 million (2,222,000) were female.
- In 2007, there were 12.4 million young people aged 0 to 19. This is projected to rise to almost 12.8 million by 2017. In 2007, there were 4 million young people aged 14 to 19. This is projected to fall to just over 3.5 million by 2017.

(Source: [Children and Young People Today: evidence to support the development of the Children's Plan, Department for Children, Schools and Families, 2007](#)).

In the 2001 census Britain's minority ethnic population was recorded as 4.6 million, within which:

- 38% of the Bangladeshi community; 35% of the Pakistani community; 34% of the Muslim community, and 30% of the Black African population were aged under 16 years, compared to 20% of the White British population.
- 96% of the UK minority ethnic population lived in England, compared to 82% of the White population.
- 38 million people (nearly seven in ten) in Great Britain described their ethnicity as White British and their religion as Christian. Other large faith groups were Pakistani Muslims (686,000), Indian Hindus (471,000), Black Caribbean Christians (417,000), Black African Christians (334,000) and Indian Sikhs (307,000).

(Source: [Social Trends, No. 37, 2007; National Statistics](#))

National Statistics experimental statistics ethnic breakdown of 0-19 year-olds, England, 2005 - 83% were white. Of the remaining 17%:

Just over 1% of young people were from the Bangladeshi community.

Just over 1% of young people were black Caribbean.

1.75% were black African.

2.5% were from the Indian community.

Just over 2.5% were of the Pakistani community.

(Source: [Children and Young People Today: evidence to support the development of the Children's Plan](#), Department for Children, Schools and Families, 2007)

Poverty

Poverty is defined as a household income which is below 60% of the average income.

In 1997 there were 4.2 million children living in poverty in Great Britain. A Government progress report for 2004-5 reveals there are now 700,000 fewer children living in relative low income than in 1998-99.

(Source: [Department for Work and Pensions, Making a difference: Tackling poverty - a progress report](#), 2006).

In 2003 around 700,000 children were living in poverty in rural areas, (accounting for 18% of all poor children in the UK). In 2005 1.76 million children were living in workless households.

(Source: [Working with Children 2006-7](#), NCH/Society Guardian, 2005; [Opportunity for all: seventh annual report 2005](#), Department for Work and Pensions, 2005).

In 2007, 30 per cent of 18-21-year-olds, living in households below 60 per cent of median income, were deemed at risk of being in poverty.

In 2007, of the 1.5 million young adults aged 16-24 in low income households, 1 million were single without children.

(Source: [Household Below Average Income](#), DWP, 2007).

A 2007 report published by the Commission for Racial Equality states that rates of poverty are particularly high among children of African (56%), Pakistani (60%), and Bangladeshi (72%) origin, compared with a rate of 25% for white children.

(Source: [A lot done, a lot to do](#). Commission for Racial Equality, 2007).

Looked-after children and young people

In 2005, 77,000 children and young people under the age of 18 were in the care of local authorities in England.

(Source: [Social Trends, No. 37](#), 2007).

At 31 March 2007, 60,000 children were looked after, broadly the same as the previous year's figure of 60,300 and a decrease of 2 per cent from 2003 (61,200).

In 2007 8,000 young people aged 16 or over left care, a decrease from 8,200 in 2006.

At 31 March 2007, 44,700 (74%) of looked after children were of White British origin.

(Source: Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2007, Department for Children, Schools and Families, 2007)

In 2004, 80% of looked after children and young people in England were white; mixed origin and black or black British children and young people each accounted for 8% of those in care. These figures include the 2,800 unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

Over three-quarters (78%) of children in short-term placements are disabled; nearly two-thirds (63%) are male.

Just 1% of care leavers go to university compared with 37% of young people living with their birth parents.

At least 1 in 7 young women leaving the care system is pregnant or already a mother.

(Source: Working with Children 2006-7, NCH/Society Guardian, 2005)

Disabled young people

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) defines a disabled person as someone who "has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities".

It is difficult to be certain about the number of disabled young people in Britain, as there is a range of different statistics. The most authoritative information still comes from a survey carried out by the Office for Population, Censuses and Surveys (OPCS) in 1985, which found that around 3% of children in Britain were disabled.

(Source: Working with Children 2006-7, NCH/Society Guardian, 2005)

In 2000, Government research estimated that there were nearly 400,000 disabled children under the age of 16. This accounts for approximately one in 38 of all children in the population.

(Source: Quality Protects: Disabled Children, Numbers and Categories, Department of Health, 2000)

In 2000, 19% of boys and 17% of girls under the age of 20 reported having a mild disability, with asthma being the most common condition.

(Source: National Statistics, General Household Surveys 1990-96, 1998, 2000)

Being healthy

Mental health

In 2004, suicide accounted for one-fifth (20%) of all deaths amongst young people aged 15-24 and was the second most common cause of death after accidental death. Around 19,000 young people attempt suicide every year and about 700 of these die as a result.

(Source: MIND website)

A study published in the British Medical Journal has found that suicide rates among young men have significantly declined over the past decade. In 2005, the suicide rate for young men aged 15 -24 was almost half the peak rate (16.6 per 100,000 in 1990) at 8.5 per 100,000.

(Source: Suicide rates in young men in England and Wales in the 21st century: time trend study, University of Bristol/Office for National Statistics, 2008.)

The National Inquiry into self-harm among young people aged 11-25 years old, jointly run by the Mental Health Foundation and the Camelot Foundation, has found that 1 in 15 young people has self-harmed and that some 142,000 young people present at accident and emergency departments each year as a result of their self-harm.

(Source: Truth Hurts, Mental Health Foundation/Camelot Foundation, 2006.)

In 2004, 10% of 5 to 16 year olds living in private households in Great Britain had a clinically recognised mental disorder.

(Source: Social Trends, No. 38, 2008)

A report (2008) on problem anger by the Mental Health Foundation found that 70% of young people aged 18-24 would not know where to seek help with an anger problem.

(Source: Boiling Point: problem anger and what we can do about it, Mental Health Foundation, 2008).

Sexual health

In 2006, 39,003 young women under 18 in England became pregnant - 40.4 per 1000, (provisional figure). This represents an overall decline of 13.3% since 1998. The provisional under-16 conception rate for England in 2005 was 7.7 per 1000 girls aged 13-15. This was 13% lower than the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy's 1998 baseline rate of 8.8 conceptions per 1000 girls aged 13-15.

(Source: Teenage Pregnancy Unit, 2008)

In 2007, the under-16 abortion rate was 4.4 and the under-18 rate was 19.8 per 1,000 women, both higher than in 2006. The abortion rate was

highest at 36 per 1,000, for women age 19.

(Source: Department of Health, 2008)

In 2006-7, almost a quarter (22%) of men and 23% of women aged 16 to 19 in Great Britain reported having more than one sexual partner in the previous year.

(Source: Social Trends, No. 38, 2008)

In 2007, young people aged 16 to 24 accounted for 65% of all chlamydia diagnoses, half of genital warts and half of gonorrhoea diagnoses. The National Chlamydia Screening Programme in England performed 270,729 screens in under 25 year olds in 2007: 9.5% of screens in women and 8.4% in men were positive for chlamydia. Young people aged 16-24 account for about 11% of all HIV diagnoses each year.

(Source: Sexually transmitted Infections and Young People in the United Kingdom: 2008 Report, Health Protection Agency.)

In 2006-7, 67% of young men and 63% of young women aged 16 to 24 reported using a condom both to prevent infection and for contraceptive purposes.

(Source: Social Trends, No. 38, 2008)

In 2006, a quarter (45%) of 14 to 15 year-old young women knew about a local birth control service for young people, compared with 54% of young men who did not know about a local service.

(Source: Young People into 2007, Schools Health Education Unit, 2007)

Alcohol, drug use and smoking

Drug Use, Smoking and Drinking Among Young People in England is an annual publication containing headline figures from a survey of over 9,000 secondary schoolchildren aged 11-15 in England. The survey is carried out by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) and the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) on behalf of the NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre and Home Office. Results for the 2006 survey reveal:

- Around 9% of 11-15 years olds had taken drugs in the last month, 17% had taken drugs in the last year, compared to 19% in 2005.
- The proportion of pupils who took Class A drugs in the last year was 4%, unchanged since 2001.
- 9% were regular smokers, a proportion which has remained unchanged since 2003. Girls are more likely to be regular smokers than boys (10% of girls compared with 7% of boys).
- 21% had drunk alcohol in the last week. However, nearly half (46%) had never drunk alcohol.

(Source: <http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/smokedrinkdrug06>)

In 2006/07, 4,444 young people under the age of 16 and 14,974 16 to 24 year olds used the Talk to Frank helpline. Since it was set up in 2004, a total of 14,598 under 16s and 40,739 16 to 24 year olds have used the helpline.

(Source: Commons written answer 19/06/07).

In 2006, 12% of young men aged 16 to 24 had exceeded 4 units of alcohol on at least one day during the previous week, compared with 14% of young women.

(Source: Social Trends, No. 38, 2008)

In 2006, 37% of 14-15-year-olds had consumed at least one alcoholic drink in the previous week, compared to 41% in 2005. 14% of 14-15 year olds young men drank more than 10 units of alcohol 'in the previous week' and 9% drank on 3 days or more 'last week'. 23% of 14-15 year old young women, compared with 20% of young men, got drunk 'during the last 7 days'. The off-licence remains the most important source of purchased alcohol, especially for 14-15 year olds, followed by the supermarket.

(Source: Young People into 2007, Schools Health Education Unit, 2007)

In 2006, young men aged 16 to 24 were the most likely to binge drink, with one third (30%) having done so in the previous week, compared to a quarter (25%) of young women. Binge drinking is defined by the Department of Health as consuming twice the recommended daily limits (more than eight units of alcohol a day for men and more than six units a day for women).

(Source: Social Trends, No. 38, 2008)

In 2007, half of 12-13-year-olds and three-quarters (74%) of 14-15-year-olds said they had tried an alcoholic drink. 17% of 12-13-year-olds and over a third (37%) of 14-15-year-olds said they had been drunk in the past month.

(Source: TellUs2 survey, Ofsted, 2007).

In 2004-5 a third (33%) of young men and 21% of young women aged 16 to 24 had used drugs. Cannabis was the most commonly used drug, used by 30% of young men and 18% of young women. Ecstasy and cocaine were the most commonly used Class A drugs, each used by 7% of young men and 3% of young women.

(Source: Social Trends, No. 36, 2006)

In 2006/07, only 8% of 16-24 year olds reported use of any Class A drug in the past year. Frequent use of any illicit drug in the past year by 16-24 year olds has decreased from 11.6% in 2002/03 to 8.3% in 2006/07.

(Source: British Crime Survey 2006/07, Home Office, 2007).

In 2006, a third of young people aged 20 to 24 were smokers (33% of young men and 29% of young women), a slight decrease on 2005.
(Source: Social Trends, No. 38, 2008)

In 2004-5, nearly a quarter(22%)of young people aged 16 to 19 smoked.
(Source: Social Trends, No. 36, 2006)

In 2007, one in five (21%) of young people aged 10 to 15 said they had smoked a cigarette.
(Source: TellUs2 survey, Ofsted, 2007).

In 2006, over half (53%) of 14 to 15-year-old young men and only 44% of young women said they had never smoked.
(Source: Young People into 2007, Schools Health Education Unit, 2007)

Physical health

Between 1995 and 2006, levels of obesity among children aged two to fifteen in England increased from 11% to 17%. Among girls the proportion rose from 12% to 15%.

In 2006, around 13% of boys aged 2-15 and 14% of girls were obese.
(Source: Social Trends, No. 38, 2008)

The Chief Medical Officer recommends that adults should do moderately intense physical activity for at least 30 minutes a day on five or more days a week.

In 2007, 86% of young people aged 10 to 15 considered themselves to be quite or very healthy.
(Source: TellUs2 survey, Ofsted, 2007).

In 2006, a quarter (25%) of young women aged 14 to 15 described themselves as 'unfit' or 'very unfit'. From 1991-2006 there is an upward trend (from 10%-20%) of 14-15 year old young women that report being unfit.
(Source: Young People into 2007, Schools Health Education Unit, 2007)

In 2006, football was reported by over half (52%) of young men aged 14 to 15 as the most popular sporting activity outside of school, followed by bike riding (38%) and jogging (24%). For young women, jogging was the most popular activity (17%), followed by bike riding (13%) and netball and football (11% and 10%).
(Source: Young People into 2007, Schools Health Education Unit, 2007)

Enjoying and achieving

Education - attainment

Parental and family circumstances have an impact upon GCSE attainment.

In 2004, in England and Wales, three quarters (76%) of pupils whose parents were in higher professional occupations achieved five or more GCSEs grades A* to C (or the equivalent) compared with only a third (33%) of those whose parents were in routine occupations.

In 2006, 96.6% of 16-18 year-olds who took A-levels received a pass, with nearly a quarter (24.1%) achieving A grades.

(Source: Department for Children, Schools and Families).

In 2006, nearly two-thirds (63%) of young women aged 14 to 15, and half (51%) of young men wanted to continue with full-time education.

(Source: Young People into 2007, Schools Health Education Unit, 2007)

In 2006, 62.4% of 15-year-olds achieved a GCSE A*-C pass. 61.6% received an A*-C pass in English and 54.3% an A*-C pass in maths.

(Source: Department for Children, Schools and Families)

In January 2007 some 229,100 (or 2.8%) pupils across all schools in England had statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN), compared to over 278,300 in 2005-6. In secondary schools 22 in every 1,000 pupils of White ethnic origin had statements. These figures were similar to those for Black and Mixed pupils.

(Source: Special Educational Needs in England: January 2007 - DEpartment for Education and Skills, 2007).

Education - religion and ethnicity

According to the 2001 census, there were 371,000 school-aged (5 to 16 year old) Muslim children in England, compared with 64,000 school-aged Sikh children and 33,000 Jewish school-aged children.

(Source: National Statistics, Focus on Religion)

Young people from minority ethnic communities comprise 17% of the total number of children attending secondary schools.

(Source: A lot done, a lot to do. Commission for Racial Equality, 2007).

In 2004, over two-thirds (67 %) of Indian, almost half (48%) of Bangladeshi and 45% of Pakistani pupils gained five or more grades A* to C at GCSE (or equivalent), compared with half (52%) of White British pupils. Black Caribbean pupils (36%) and Black African pupils (43%) had the lowest levels of obtaining five passes.

(Source: Social Trends, No. 36, 2006)

31% of young British Muslims leave school with no qualifications

compared to 15% of the total population.

In 2004, a third (33%) of Muslims of working age in Britain had no qualifications - the highest proportion for any religious group. They were also least likely to have degrees or equivalent qualifications (12%). After Muslims, Sikhs are the next most likely to have no qualifications (20%). 17% of Buddhists and a similar proportion of Christians (15%), Hindus (15%) and people with no religion (14%) had no qualifications. Jewish people were the least likely to have no qualifications (7%).

(Source: National Statistics, Focus on Religion 2006)

Truancy and exclusion

In 2005-6, 9,600 children were permanently excluded from schools in Britain.

(Source: Social Trends, No. 38, 2008)

In 2006-7, the number of permanent exclusions had fallen to 8,680 (or 7%) cases in all maintained primary, secondary and special schools, a drop of 29% since 1997-98. The number of fixed period exclusions in secondary schools rose by 4% to 363,270.

Boys account for nearly four-fifths of all permanent exclusions, with pupils aged 12-14 most likely to be excluded. The most common reasons for permanent exclusions were persistent disruptive behaviour (2,700 or 31% of all permanent exclusions), physical assaults against a pupil (1,350 or 16%) and verbal abuse or threatening behaviour against an adult (900 or 10%).

(Source: Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions from Schools and Exclusion Appeals in England, 2006/07 - Department for Children, Schools and Families, 2008).

National Truancy sweeps are carried out by partnerships of Police Officers and Education Welfare Officers. Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the police have powers to pick up (but not arrest) children playing truant and take them to a designated area or, sometimes, back to school.

126 out of 150 Local Education Authorities participated in national truancy sweeps held between 13 November and 1 December 2006.

About 1,100 truancy sweeps stopped 11,713 children:

- of whom nearly 5,000 did not have a valid reason for not being at school;
- of those with no valid reason almost a quarter (23%) were primary school children and three quarters (77%) were from secondary schools;
- 37% of the truants were accompanied by an adult and
- 60% of truants were male compared to 40% who were female

(Source: Department for Children, Schools and Families website)

DfES figures break down reasons for absence. The percentages of half

days missed due to absence in all schools in England for 2005-6 were:

- Authorised absences 6.82%
- Unauthorised absences 1.42%
- Total absences 8.24%

(Source: Department for Children, Schools and Families website)

Only 6% of young people leave care with 5 GCSEs or more, compared with over half (53%) of their peers outside the care system.

(Source: Working with Children 2006-7, NCH/SocietyGuardian, 2005)

Under half, (43%) of children aged 16 or over who left care 2005-6 attained one or more GCSE/GNVQ, an increase of 2 per cent on the previous year. Over half (59%) of care leavers were in education, training or employment in 2004-5, up from 55% in 2003-4.

(Source Department for Children, Schools and Families website)

Sport and cultural opportunities

The **Taking Part survey** was commissioned by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and other partner public bodies to collect data about engagement and non-engagement in culture, leisure and sport. In 2007, 2,454 interviews were conducted with young people aged 11 to 15. Key findings include:

The most popular leisure activity among young people was spending time with their friends (89%), followed by watching television (87%). Almost all young people (99%) had engaged in at least one cultural or sporting activity during the past 12 months. Young people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds were less likely than white young people to have visited historic environment sites (62% compared to 74% of white young people), but more likely to have visited a library (83% compared to 71% of white young people). Overall, child engagement remained consistent between 2006 and 2007.

In 2007, over half (61%) of all households had an internet connection.

In 2007, young people aged 16 to 24 were more likely than any other age group to play or download games, images, films or music and look for information about education.

(Source: Social Trends, No. 38, 2008)

According to a survey of Britain's communications market by Ofcom, young people aged 18 to 24 spend an average of 37.9 hours a month online. 12-17-year-olds spend an average of 24.9 hours per month online. Almost one in six 13-to-15-year-olds have their own webcam. The proportion of young people aged 8 to 15 who listen to the radio has halved to 20% over the last two years.

(Source: Ofcom, 2007)

Staying safe

Child protection

In 2006, there were 32,100 children on child protection registers in England, compared to 27,900 in 2005. Nearly half of children (44%) had been placed on the register because of neglect. Around a fifth of boys and girls on the register had experienced emotional abuse.

(Source: [Social Trends, No. 38, 2008](#))

In 2006, over three-quarters (79%) of 14–15 year old young men 'browsed' the Internet without adult supervision. Since 2000 there has been a rise in the percentages of young people that report browsing the Internet without adult supervision.

(Source: [Young People into 2007, Schools Health Education Unit, 2007](#))

Young runaways

The Social Exclusion Unit defines a runaway as 'a child aged under 18 who spends one night or more away from home or care without permission, or who has been forced to leave by their parents or carers'. There are no official statistics on young runaways but it is estimated that in the UK, 77,000 children and young people aged under 16 run away overnight each year. Running away is most common among young people aged between 13 and 15.

(Source: [Working with Children 2006-7, NCH/Society Guardian, 2005](#))

Bullying

In 2005, more than 31,000 children and young people called ChildLine about bullying.

(Source: [ChildLine](#))

In 2006, over a quarter (26%) of young women aged 12 to 13 reported being afraid of going to school because of bullying at least sometimes. 22% of 14-15 year old young men keep bullying problems 'to themselves'.

(Source: [Young People into 2007, Schools Health Education Unit, 2007](#))

Fear of crime and anti-social behaviour

In 2006/07, 33% of people interviewed for the British Crime Survey said that young people hanging around on the streets was a big problem in their area, up from 32% in 2005/06.

In 2006/07, a third (30%) of young women aged 16 to 24 reported they were very worried about violent crime, compared to 13% of young men in the same age group. This contrasts with actual risk which for young women aged 16-24 in the 2006/07 British Crime Survey was 7%, compared with 14% for young men aged 16-24. 23% of young women aged 16 to 24 also thought that the crime rate in the country as a whole had risen a lot in the previous two years.

In 2006/07, young men, aged 16 to 24, were most at risk of being a victim of violent crime, with 13.8% experiencing a violent crime of some sort in the year prior to interview. This compares to a risk of 3.6% among the general population.

In 2006/07, over half (54% and 51%) of young men and women aged 16 to 24 were confident that the criminal justice system meets the needs of victims, compared with with 18% of men and 23% of women aged 65 to 74 years.

(Source: [British Crime Survey 2006/07, Home Office, 2007](#))

In 2006, 18% of 14-15 year old young men were 'fairly sure' or 'certain' that friends carry weapons for protection when going out.

(Source: [Young People into 2007, Schools Health Education Unit, 2007](#))

In 2007, an Ipsos MORI survey of 10-to-17-year-olds conducted for the Youth Justice Board, found that nearly two thirds (60%) would feel safer if more police patrolled the streets. Almost one in ten (38%) called for harsher punishments for young people who offend. 43% thought that boredom and a lack of things to do was the most likely reason for young people to offend.

(Source: [Youth Justice Board, 2007](#)).

In 2008, an online consultation of over 800 young people under 25, which explored the impact of gun and knife crime on young people and their local communities found:

- Over a quarter, (29%) had been affected by gun and knife crime
- 36% were worried about gangs in their area
- Only 28% said they feel very safe in their community, while 45% could not claim to feel safe at any time
- 41% know somebody who has been personally affected
- 63% stated a main reason they felt young people get involved in gun and knife crime was to protect themselves

(Source: ['Step inside our shoes': young people's views on gun and knife crime, NCH, 2008](#)).

Economic well being

Homelessness

There are no official statistics for youth homelessness. However, in 2006-07, data on the scale of homelessness (which is limited to young people who are in contact with services) indicates that at least 75,000 young people experienced homelessness in the UK.

(Source: [Youth Homelessness in the UK, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2008](#)).

In 2006-7, 6390 young people were accepted as homeless (young people are 16-17 year olds, or 18-20 year old care leavers). This is down from 8350 in 2005-6.

At the end of December 2008, around 530 16 and 17 year olds were placed in bed and breakfast by housing authorities, down from around 1000 in September 2006.

(Source: [Commons written answer 21 May 2008](#)).

During 2006-7, 73,000 households were accepted as homeless and in priority need in England, 22 per cent less than 2005-6. Half (55%) of households that were accepted as being in priority need had dependent children.

(Source: [Social Trends, No. 38, 2008](#))

Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET)

In 2007, there was a total of 189,000 young people aged 16-18 who were NEET, 0.2 percentage points lower than the same quarter last year. Of these, there were 45,000 16-year-olds, 58,000 17-year-olds and 86,000 18-year-olds.

(Source: [NEET Statistics Quarterly Brief, DCSF, 2008](#)).

In 2004, one in six (17%) of black young people and 6% of Asian young people were NEET at age 18, compared with one in eight (12%) of white young people.

(Source: [Youth Cohort Study, Department for Education and Skills, 2004](#))

Further and higher education participation

At the end of 2005, 50,000 (76%) of 16-year-olds had gone on to full-time further education, an increase of 3% since the end of 2004. A higher proportion of young women than young men of this age were in full-time education (82% compared with 72%).

In 2005/06 there were 485,500 young people aged 16 to 24 on Work Based Learning schemes in England.

(Source: [Social Trends, No. 37, 2007](#))

At end 2006, 89.7% of 16 year olds were participating in education and training, an increase of 0.9 percentage points from end 2005. The corresponding proportion at end 1994 was 90.8%. Participation in full-time education by 17 year olds was 65.0% at end 2006, an increase of 2.2 percentage points since end 2005.

At end of 2006, participation in full-time education by 18 year olds was 40.8%, an increase of 0.2% from end 2005. Participation in education and training at end 2006 was 61.1% compared to 61.5% at end 2005 and 60.9% at end 1994.

(Source: Participation in Education, Training and Employment by 16-18 Year Olds in England: 2005 and 2006 and Participation in Education and Training by 16 and 17 Year Olds in each Local Area in England: 2004 and 2005 - Department for Education and Skills, 2007).

At October 2006, there were an estimated 1.88 million learners in council-funded FE, of whom 688,000 were under the age of 19, an increase of 5% from October 2005. In 2006, an average of 22,000 young people were in learning on E2E programmes, which are aimed at young people aged 16-18 not yet ready or able to enter an Apprenticeship.

(Source: Further Education, Work-based Learning for Young People, Train to Gain and Adult and Community Learning - Learner Numbers in England, October 2006, Department for Education and Skills Statistical First Release, 2007)

In 2007, half of young people aged 10 to 15 said they had ambitions to go to university when they leave school.

(Source: TellUs2 survey, Ofsted, 2007).

Employment/unemployment

In 2007, 56% of 16-24-year-olds were employed, compared to 61% in 1997.

In 2007, the youth unemployment rate was 14%, compared with just 11% in 2004.

(Source: Jobs for Youth, OECD, 2008).

In 2007, over half (57% and 53% respectively) of 16 to 17-year-old young men and women were economically inactive (neither in employment nor unemployed), compared to 22% of 18 to 24-year-old men and between 28 and 31% of young women.

In 2007, 11% of unemployed 16 to 17-year-old young men and 5% of 16 to 17-year-old young women had been unemployed for more than 12 months.

(Source: Social Trends, No. 38, 2008).

In 1998, when the New Deal for Young People programme was introduced, 64% of young people leaving the programme found

employment. This fell rapidly thereafter, from 55% in 1999 to just 47% in 2006.

In 2007, one in five young people who found work through the New Deal for Young People programme held a job lasting less than 13 weeks.

(Source: [Jobs for Youth, OECD, 2008](#)).

In 2006, around 40% of 14 to 15-year-olds had a regular job.

(Source: [Young people into 2007, Schools Health Education Unit, 2007](#)).

Transport

In 2006, nearly a quarter (20%) of 11-16-year-olds travelled to school by car and 38% travelled by bus.

37% of young men and 31% of young women aged 17 to 20 held a driving licence.

(Source: [Social Trends, No. 38, 2008](#))

Around 5,000 children under the age of 16 die or are seriously injured on Britain's roads each year. A quarter of all 15-year-olds killed and seriously injured in road accidents are passengers in cars, with an under-21 driver.

(Source: [AA Motoring Trust website](#))

Pocket money

In 2006, almost a third (29%) of 14-15 year olds reported receiving more than £10 in pocket money.

(Source: [Young people into 2007, Schools Health Education Unit, 2007](#)).

In 2007, a survey of 3,000 young people for MTV One found the average young person receives an allowance of up to £1,000 a year. 13-year-olds receive on average, £45 a month, this rises to £80 a month for 16-year-olds and £120 for 18-year-olds.

(Source: [Guardian article 11/10/07](#))

In 2007, a survey by YouGov for Rainer of over 4,000 young people found that 90% were in debt by the age of 21. Almost half (46%) owed more than £2,000 and one in five had owed more than £10,000.

(Source: [Why Do the Young Pay More? Young People, Debt and Financial Exclusion, Rainer, 2008](#))

Making a positive contribution

Crime and anti-social behaviour

In 2006-07, the number of offences resulting in a disposal by young people aged between 10 and 17 was 295,129, a decrease of 6,731 (2.2%) from 2005/06. During 2006/07 the number of offences committed by young men fell by 2% when compared to 2003/04. However, over the same period, the number of offences committed by young women rose by 25%.

(Source: Youth Justice Annual Workload Data 2006/7, Youth Justice Board, 2008).

In 2006, 7% of the 1.42 million offenders found guilty of or cautioned for indictable and summary offences in England and Wales were aged under 18.

In 2006, just over 6% of all 17-year-old young men were found guilty of, or cautioned for, one or more indictable offences.

(Source: Social Trends, No. 38, 2008)

In June 2006, there were 8,480 young adults aged 18 to 20 and 2,350 young people aged 15 to 17 in prisons in England and Wales, a decrease of 2 per cent and 6 per cent respectively from September 2005.

(Source: Social Trends, No. 37, 2007)

At the end of May 2007 there were 9,137 sentenced young offenders, aged 15-21, in young offender institutions, including 1,894 aged under 18.

(Source: Commons written answer 18/07/07)

At April 2007, there were a total of 66 young women being held in young offender institutions.

(Source: Prison Service (Hansard-Commons 22/05/07))

In 2006, the average length of a custodial sentence for 10 - 20-year-olds for various offences was as follows:

- Violence against a person 15 months
- Burglary 11 months
- Robbery 24 months
- Sexual offences 33 months
- Drug offences 22 months

(Source: OMS Analytical Services (taken from a Commons written answer October 2008)).

In 2006, it cost £34,924 to keep a young person in a young offender institution. An annual average of £6,500 per young person. This compared with the cost of £3,800 for a young person in secondary

education.

(Source: [Hansard Lords debate 12 July 2006](#))

In 2008, the estimated cost of community sentences for young people (per person) were as follows:

- Community Rehabilitation Order £2,096
- Supervision Order £4,059
- Community Punishment Order £2,096
- Attendance Centre Order £200
- Curfew Order (90 day electronically monitored curfew) £1,300
- Reparation Order £1,458
- Action Plan Order £1,458
- Referral order £1,879

(Source: [Commons written answer 02/06/08](#)).

In 2004, under half (41.3%) of young offenders aged 10 to 17 had re-offended within one year of being released from custody, compared to 43.3% in 2000.

(Source: [Re-offending of juveniles: results from the 2004 cohort, Home Office, 2006](#))

In 2007, RESET and Rainer commissioned research to provide a case for investing in effective youth resettlement, helping young offenders move from custody back into the community. The study found that the cost of a package of resettlement support for a year costs £9,5444 for an individual with high needs, £8,074 for a young person with a medium level of need and £6,116 for someone with a low level of need. Overall annual costs to the public, criminal justice system and prisons without resettlement support is calculated as £507,260,000. Overall annual costs with resettlement support for 9 months is £427,095,500. Therefore, the potential annual savings for all persistent young offenders (those sentenced to Detention and Training Orders) is £80,164,500.

(Source: [The Costs and benefits of Effective Resettlement, RESET, 2007](#)).

In 2004-5, over four in five (83%) of victims of offences committed by convicted children and young people were offered the opportunity to participate in restorative processes, with over half (53%) choosing to do so. Of the 9,957 victims participating in these processes, nearly one-third (31%) chose direct or face-to-face restorative justice. Of those who participated, almost all (97%) reported that they were satisfied with it.

(Source: [Youth Justice Board annual review 2004-5](#))

In 2005/06, youth offending teams recorded the ethnic breakdown of all offences committed by young people that led to a pre-court disposal (Reprimand or Final Warning) or a court disposal as:

- 85.2% White
- 5.8% Black
- 3.1% Asian
- 2.8% Mixed
- 0.3% Chinese or other ethnic background

(Source: Youth justice annual statistics 2005/06, Youth Justice Board, 2006)

Headline findings from the 2006 Offending, Crime and Justice Survey:

- over three-quarters (78%) of young people aged 10 to 25 said they had not committed any of the 20 core offences covered by the survey in the last 12 months.
- just over a fifth (22%) reported they had committed at least one of the 20 core offences in the last 12 months.
- 6% of all 10 to 25-year-olds admitted committing an offence six or more times in the last 12 months (classified as frequent offenders).
- a fifth (22%) said they had engaged in at least one type of anti-social behaviour in the previous 12 months.
- the most common type of anti-social behaviour identified was having been noisy or rude in public (13%). 11% said that a neighbour had complained about their behaviour.
- only a small minority (3%) reported carrying a knife with them in the previous 12 months.
- half of those who had committed any offence in the previous 12 months had also been victims of crime, compared to a fifth (19%) of those who had not committed any offence.

(Source: Young People and Crime: findings from the 2006 offending, crime and justice survey, Home Office, 2008)

In 2006, the number of new anti-social behaviour orders issued dropped by 34% from 4,123 in 2005 to 2,706. However breach rates amongst young people had risen from 47% in 2005 to 61% in 2006. (Source: Home Office website 2008).

In 2006/07, 33% of people interviewed for the British Crime Survey said that young people hanging around on the streets was a big problem in their area, up from 32% in 2005/06.

(Source: British Crime Survey 2006/07, Home Office, 2007).

In 2004, over one in ten (12%) of young people aged 14 to 15 and 9% of 16-17-year-olds were involved in a 'delinquent youth group'. A 'delinquent youth group' is defined as:

- Young people who spend time in groups of three or more (including themselves)
- The group spend a lot of time in public places
- The group has existed for three months or more

- The group has engaged in delinquent or criminal behaviour together in the last 12 months
- The group has at least one structural feature (either a name, an area, a leader, or rules).

(Source: [Delinquent Youth Groups and Offending Behaviour: findings from the 2004 Offending, Crime and Justice Survey](#), Home Office, 2006)

Young carers

Carers UK defines a young carer as someone aged under 18 who looks after family, partners or friends who are in need of help because they are ill, frail or have a disability. The care they provide is unpaid.

There are an estimated 175,000 young carers in England and Wales, out of a total population of carers of around 5.2 million. A fifth of young carers experience educational difficulties as a result of their caring responsibilities.

In 2004, a survey of 6,178 young carers by Carers UK and the Children's Society (Young Carers in the UK: the 2004 report) found that 56% were girls and 44% boys. 84% of young carers were white. Among minority ethnic groups, black Caribbean young people were most likely to be carers at 3%. Half (49%) of young carers were caring for less than 10 hours a week; a third (33%) were caring for between 11 and 20 hours a week; and 18% for more than 20 hours.

(Source: [Working with Children 2006-7](#), NCH/SocietyGuardian, 2005)

Voluntary and community engagement

The Home Office Citizenship Survey 2001 and 2003 provide information on the extent of young people's involvement in informal volunteering, formal volunteering and civic participation. Both surveys have consistently contradicted assumptions about low levels of involvement of young people. Initial findings are also now available from the **2005 Citizenship Survey**. Statistics below have been taken from the 2003 survey and the 2005 survey where possible.

The 2003 survey sought information about volunteering in the last 12 months:

Participation in informal volunteering was highest among young people aged 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 (67% and 69% respectively compared to an average of 62%).

Young people reported close to average rates of formal volunteering (41% for 16-19s and 43% for 20-24s, compared to an average of 42% across all age groups).

Young Asian people aged 16 to 24 had one of the highest rates of formal volunteering of any group - at 46%, (second only to white people aged 25 to 49).

(Source: [Home Office Citizenship Survey 2003](#), Home Office, 2004).

The 2005 survey sought information from those who had volunteered at least once a month in the previous 12 months:

Participation in informal volunteering was highest among young people aged 16 to 19 (50%).

32% of young people aged 16-19 participated in formal volunteering.

(Source: Home Office Citizenship Survey 2005, Home Office, 2006).

Headline findings from the first three-quarters of the 2007-08 Citizenship Survey, covering April-December 2007 has found:

41% of 16 to 24-year-olds are informal volunteers (compared to 35% for all age groups), and 25% are formal volunteers. Young people aged 16 to 24 reported the highest level of involvement of all age groups (51% compared to 47% for all ages).

(Source: Citizenship Survey: April-December 2007, England and Wales. Communities and Local Government, 2007).

In 2004, just over 42,000 students volunteered through organised volunteering programmes at their higher education institutions. Each student volunteer gives an average of 82 hours per year to their community. Over half of all student volunteers are involved in projects involving children and young people.

(Source: Student Volunteering England research, 2004).

In 2007, over half (51%) of young people aged 16 to 24 were very satisfied with 'feeling part of a community'.

(Source: '2007 survey of public attitudes and behaviours toward the environment', Defra, 2007).

In 2008, a survey by v found that 70% of young people think they are negatively perceived by adults despite the fact that 44% say they do positive things for their communities and 57% give or raise money for charities. The poll of 16-25 year olds found that nearly 60% think this negative perception is unfair. 41% blamed a lack of intergenerational understanding and 39% say the public is unaware of the positive things that young people do.

(Source: v, 2008).

Political participation

Turnout at the 2005 general election was 61.4%. According to the British Election Study, under half of young people aged 18 to 24 (45%) voted, compared with just over half (53%) of those aged 25 to 34 and over 70% in each of the age groups over 34.

(Source: Social Trends, No. 37, 2007)

Self-employment

In 2003-4, The Prince's Trust Business Programme: investing in young entrepreneurs helped 3,712 young people to set up their own business and provided on-going support to a further 9,081.

(Source: Prince's Trust annual review 2004)

Statistics From Conferences

Now these are stats that have come up in conferences and events we have attended, or ones that you have sent in. You might recognize some of them!!

For ever square acre of public space, there is 40 square acres of golf courses, and just 2 metres square of 'play space' for children, that's about the size of a kitchen table! (Play England)

20% of young people no longer play out (Play England)

Young people are four times more likely to see a crime than any other section of our community, and three times more likely to be a victim of crime (Home Office 2005)

Who would you rather work with?

	Children	Adults
Smile	400	15
Laugh	150	6
Play	4-6 hours	20 Mins

In regeneration areas, the population is often younger, use the census to see how many young people there are in your area. The average across the NDC areas indicates that between 35% and 40% of the population is under the age of 21.

1

What's the most effective crime prevention initiative?

1. Playgroups
2. Restorative justice
3. Street Lights
4. Alley Gates
5. CCTV
6. ASBOs
7. Bobbies on the Beat
8. Prison

Put these randomly on your screen and ask people to rank them. The list here is tells us playgroups are the most effective, with prison the least.

For every £1 spent on early intervention, you save £17 in law enforcement and punishment. This might include playgroups, positive activities, education and places to go, when compared to police, courts, prison and probation.

Looked after children on average have 27 adults who fulfil some sort of corporate parenting role.

The cost of a youth crime is on average £2,300, the cost of a youth programme is £1,100 (Coopers and Lybrand)

Crime costs every person £1,333 each year