



DEBATE PACK

Number CDP 2016-0207, 16 November 2016

International Men's Day

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Summary

International Men's Day in the UK is on Saturday 19 November 2016

On Thursday 17 November MPs will debate the highlighted issues, in the House of Commons Chamber. This debate was scheduled by the Backbench Business Committee following a representation from Philip Davies.

- [Watch the debate live on Parliament TV](#)

Contents

1.	Introduction	2
2.	Male suicides	3
2.1	Deaths in custody	8
3.	Male health, life expectancy & workplace deaths	12
4.	Educational attainment	16
5.	Parental rights and issues	26
6.	Male victims' experience of violence and abuse	29
6.1	Personal crime	29
6.2	Domestic abuse	30
6.3	Sexual offences	31
7.	Marginalised men	34
7.1	Homelessness	34
7.2	Boys in care	35

The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

1. Introduction

The [International Men's Day UK](#) website describes the event as follows:

[International Men's Day \(IMD\)](#) is an annual [international event](#) celebrated in over 80 countries including the UK on 19 November. It was inaugurated in 1999 in Trinidad and Tobago and has backing from [UNESCO](#).

The UK theme for the Day continues to be "Making A Difference for Men and Boys".

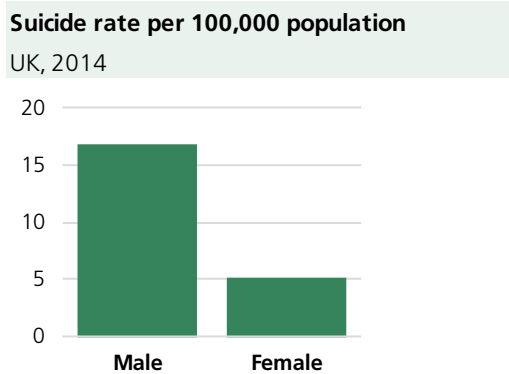
The theme is designed to help more people consider what action we can all take to "Make A Difference" by addressing some of the issues that affect Men and Boys such as:

- The high male suicide rate
- The challenges faced by boys and men at all stages of education including attainment
- Men's health, shorter life expectancy and workplace deaths
- The challenges faced by the most marginalised men and boys in society (for instance, homeless men, boys in care and the high rate of male deaths in custody)
- Male victims of violence, including sexual violence
- The challenges faced by men as parents, particularly new fathers and separated fathers
- Male victims and survivors of sexual abuse, rape, sexual exploitation, domestic abuse, forced marriage, honour-based crime, stalking and slavery
- The negative portrayal of men, boys and fathers

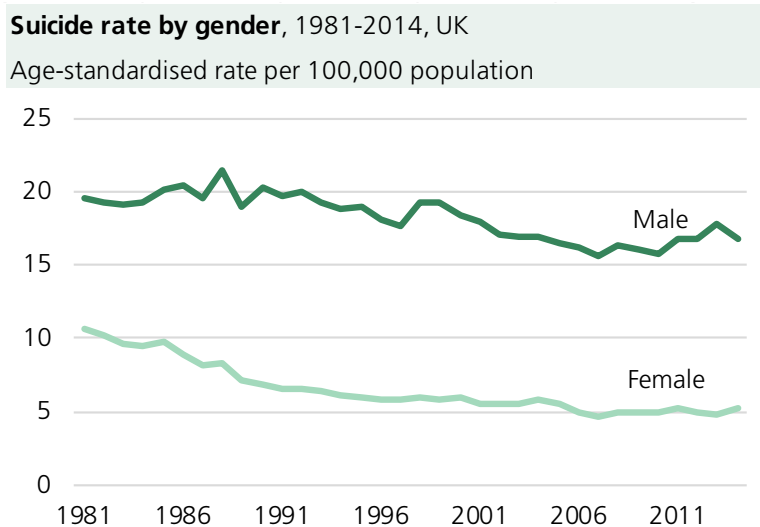
The following sections in this briefing provide background summaries and statistics from the Library and relevant parliamentary and press coverage.

2. Male suicides

The suicide rate among men in the UK is around three times higher than women.¹

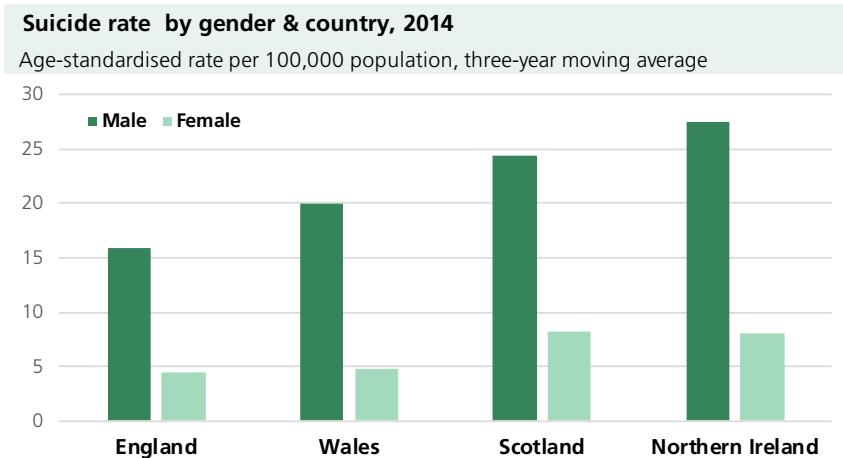


This gap has increased since 1981, when the male rate was just less than double the female rate. Since 1981, the female rate has reduced by around 50%, while the male rate has decreased by 14%.



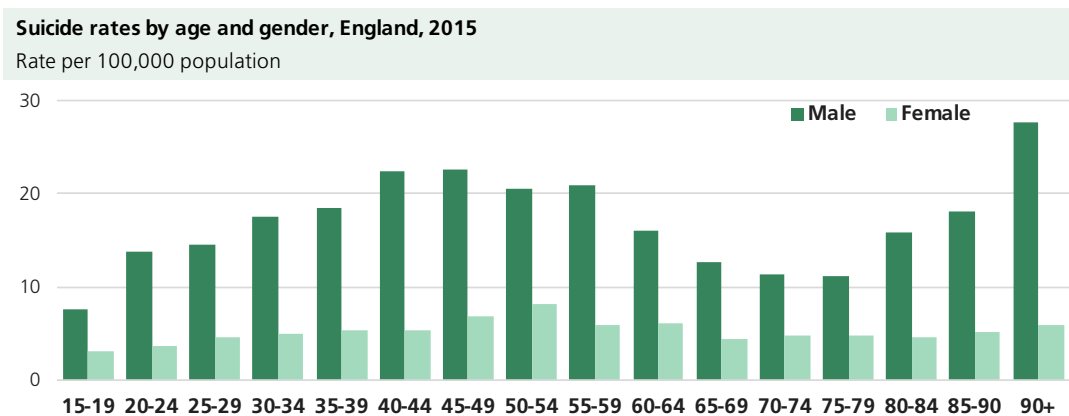
Gender differences in each UK country are shown in the chart below. Proportionally, the difference between male and female suicide rates is largest in Wales (men 4.2 times higher than women) and smallest in Scotland (men 2.9 times higher). Scotland also has the highest suicide rate among women of UK countries – around 84% higher than England.

¹ Data sources for this section:
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/suicidesintheunitedkingdom/2014registrations>
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/causesofdeath/adhocs/006086suicideinenglandandwales2015registrations>



Gender differences by age group

The following chart shows rates by age and gender in England. Among men in 2015, suicide rates were highest among those aged 40-49 and 90+. Among women, they were highest among ages 50-54. Overall, male rates vary more between age groups than female rates.



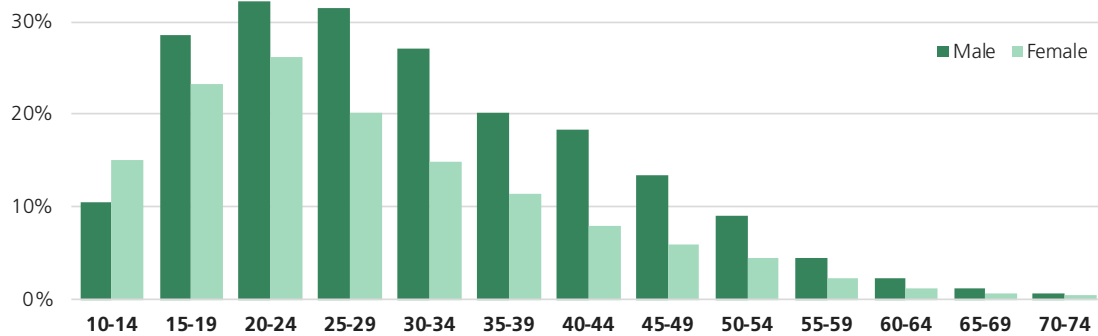
Although rates are lower among younger age groups, this should be understood in the context of much lower mortality rates among those groups. So, for instance, **among men aged 20-34, suicide is the leading cause of death** – with almost double the number of deaths compared to second most common cause (accidental poisoning).

Suicide is also the leading cause of death among men aged 35-49, just ahead of heart disease and liver disease.² Among women aged 20-34, suicide is also the most common cause of death – albeit with four times fewer deaths attributed to suicide than men of the same age group.

The chart below shows suicides as a percentage of all avoidable deaths in each age group. For men aged 20-29, suicides make up more than 30% of avoidable deaths.³

² ONS – [Causes of death by age and gender](#)

³ ONS, [Avoidable deaths by age group](#). See the data download for a list of causes of death considered avoidable.

Suicides as a percentage of all avoidable mortality, England and Wales, 2014

For more information on other aspects of suicide statistics, see the Library's briefing paper, [Suicide: summary of statistics](#), CBP-7749, 31 October 2016

Press articles

Huffington Post, 1 November 2016

[Time To Change Our Attitudes To Men And Boys](#)

Independent, 1 November 2016

[Andy Murray argues his tears at Wimbledon earned the public's respect](#)

Telegraph, 10 October 2016

[How to spot if you're suffering from mental health issues](#)

Independent, 10 September 2016

[Male suicide: It's time to face the stark truth about a growing crisis](#)

Telegraph, 10 September 2016

[My beloved son was let down by mental health services. A year on from his suicide, nothing's changed](#)

Huffington Post, 10 September 2016

[76% Of UK Suicides Are Male - Why?](#)

Telegraph, 9 September 2016

[Vain social media campaigns won't improve suicide rates - we need to listen](#)

Guardian, 10 August 2016

[Luke Ambler wants #ItsOkayToTalk to halve number of male suicides](#)

Telegraph, 26 May 2016

[Exam stress among causes of teen suicide](#)

[...]

The majority, 70 per cent, of those who died were male and suicide rates were found to rise sharply in older teenagers.

Telegraph, 23 February 2016

[Why do men wait until crisis point before asking for help?](#)

Telegraph, 4 February 2016

[ONS suicide statistics: 10 ways we can stop men killing themselves](#)

Parliamentary material

Debates

[Male Suicide and International Men's Day](#)

Backbench debate (unallotted day). Agreed to on question.

19 Nov 2015 | Backbench debates | 602 cc283-8WH

PQs

[Male Suicide](#)

Asked by: Colleen Fletcher (Coventry North East) (Lab)

What steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of men who take their own life.

Answered by: The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Jeremy Hunt)

Tragically, suicide is now the biggest single cause of death in men under 50. There are 13 suicides every day, of which three quarters are men. I am currently reviewing our suicide strategy to make sure we leave no stone unturned in trying to reduce the totally unacceptable level of these tragedies.

11 Oct 2016 | Oral questions - Lead | 906502 | 615 cc153-4

[Suicide](#)

Asked by: Berger, Luciana

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he plans to take to improve suicide prevention policies in response to the statistics on suicides in the UK, 2013 Registrations, published by the Office for National Statistics on 19 January 2016.

Answering member: Alistair Burt

The Government has invested over £1.5 million on suicide and self-harm prevention research since the National Suicide Prevention Strategy to inform and target our strategy for reducing suicide rates.

In January last year, we asked local areas to aspire to an ambition of zero suicides, to raise awareness around mental health and suicide prevention in particular.

We are in the early stages of discussions about re-invigorating the National Strategy to drive local delivery. We are developing those plans for this, and will make an announcement shortly.

The highest cause of death in young men and women in England is death through suicide, and rapid skilled response through a well-publicised access route is essential to reduce mortality. The NHS111 Mental Health Programme has been set up specifically to improve

services and NHS England is working with Mind and the Telephone Helplines Partnership to develop a training course designed by people with lived experience specifically to support 111 call handlers deliver the best possible response in times of crisis.

11 Feb 2016 | Written questions | 26293

[Fathers: Suicide](#)

Asked by: Berger, Luciana

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many men take their own lives in the first year after the birth of their child.

Answering member: Alistair Burt

We do not collect this information centrally.

29 Jan 2016 | Written questions | 24146

[Suicide: Children and Young People](#)

Asked by: Campbell, Mr Gregory

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people aged between 15 and 18 took their own lives in each of the last three years.

Answering member: Alistair Burt

The information is not available in the format requested. The table below shows the number of deaths by suicide in people aged 15-29 in the United Kingdom between 2011 and 2013. 2013 is the latest year in which statistics are available.

Age-specific deaths by suicide (15-29 years): males and females, United Kingdom, 2011 to 2013

Year	Deaths (Males)	Deaths (Females)	Deaths (Total)
2011	844	259	1,103
2012	862	214	1,076
2013	797	180	977

Notes:

1. In the United Kingdom, suicide is defined as deaths given an underlying cause of intentional self-harm or injury/poisoning of undetermined intent.

2. Figures include deaths of non-residents.

3. Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Source: Office for National Statistics, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, National Records of Scotland

19 Jan 2016 | Written questions | 21874

[Suicide: Males](#)

Asked by: McCartney, Karl

To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what steps the Government is taking to reduce the number of men who die as a result of suicide.

Answering member: Caroline Dinenage

Every death by suicide is a tragedy. That is why we asked local areas to support an ambition to work towards 'zero suicides'.

We will continue to drive the implementation of the National Suicide Prevention Strategy to address the rise in suicides, focusing on high risk groups such as men.

The Department of Health is working with partner organisations to look at ways of strengthening the National Strategy.

14 Jan 2016 | Written questions | 903015

Health Select Committee inquiry

[Suicide prevention inquiry](#)

The Health Committee has decided to undertake an inquiry into the action which is necessary to improve suicide prevention in England. When someone takes their own life, the effect on their family, friends and the wider community is devastating. The Government published [Preventing Suicide in England: A cross-governmental outcomes strategy to save lives](#), in 2012, and two updates have been published since (in [2014](#) and [2015 \(PDF 482KB\)](#)). The Health Committee seeks to examine what further action should be taken to prevent suicide.

2.1 Deaths in custody

The following tables and chart show deaths in custody and self-inflicted deaths of males in particular.

Table 1.2: Deaths in prison custody¹ by apparent cause² and gender since 1978, England and Wales

	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015		
Number of deaths																																								
MALES AND FEMALES																																								
Total	59	72	64	58	61	64	65	59	57	81	82	82	97	71	81	93	108	117	122	118	134	149	146	142	164	183	208	175	153	185	166	169	198	192	192	215	243	257		
Homicide	5	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	4	3	3	3	4	3	2	2	4	0	3	0	0	1	2	3	0	1	3	0	1	2	0	4	3	8		
Natural Causes	34	43	35	36	32	37	35	27	29	35	44	31	39	21	34	40	38	52	53	47	46	58	61	68	66	86	101	89	83	89	99	104	126	122	123	131	145	146		
Self-inflicted	16	27	27	21	27	27	27	29	21	46	37	49	51	43	41	48	61	59	65	68	83	91	81	73	95	95	96	78	66	91	61	61	58	58	61	76	89	89		
Other ³	4	1	0	0	2	0	2	3	5	0	1	2	3	4	3	2	5	3	2	1	1	0	1	1	3	1	9	5	4	4	3	4	13	10	8	4	6	14		
<i>of which</i>																																								
<i>Other/non-natural</i>	4	1	0	0	2	0	2	3	5	0	1	2	3	4	3	2	5	3	2	1	1	0	1	1	3	1	9	5	4	4	3	4	13	10	8	4	6	7		
<i>Awaiting further information</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MALES																																								
Total	54	72	63	56	60	63	62	58	55	78	82	80	95	71	78	91	107	114	118	114	130	140	136	134	152	168	188	168	147	177	161	162	190	187	188	209	231	249		
Homicide	5	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	4	3	3	3	4	3	2	2	4	0	3	0	0	1	2	3	0	1	3	0	1	2	0	4	3	8		
Natural Causes	31	43	34	35	32	36	32	27	28	33	44	31	38	21	34	39	38	51	52	46	45	54	59	66	63	85	94	87	80	88	96	100	122	119	120	127	136	144		
Self-inflicted	15	27	27	20	27	27	27	28	20	45	37	47	50	43	42	47	60	57	62	65	80	86	73	67	86	81	83	74	63	84	60	58	57	56	60	74	86	84		
Other ³	3	1	0	0	1	0	2	3	5	0	1	2	3	4	2	2	5	3	2	1	1	0	1	1	3	1	9	4	4	4	2	4	10	10	8	4	6	13		
<i>of which</i>																																								
<i>Other/non-natural</i>	3	1	0	0	1	0	2	3	5	0	1	2	3	4	2	2	5	3	2	1	1	0	1	1	3	1	9	4	4	4	2	4	10	10	8	4	6	6		
<i>Awaiting further information</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FEMALES																																								
Total	5	0	1	2	1	1	3	1	2	3	0	2	2	0	3	2	1	3	4	4	4	9	10	8	12	15	20	7	6	8	5	7	8	5	4	6	12	8		
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Natural Causes	3	0	1	1	0	1	3	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	4	2	2	3	1	7	2	3	1	3	4	4	3	3	4	9	2		
Self-inflicted	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	1	0	2	1	1	2	3	3	3	5	8	6	9	14	13	4	3	7	1	3	1	2	1	2	3	5		
Other ³	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
<i>of which</i>																																								
<i>Other/non-natural</i>	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
<i>Awaiting further information</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

(1) Deaths in prison custody figures include all deaths of prisoners arising from incidents during prison custody. They include deaths of prisoners while released on temporary license (ROTL) for medical reasons but exclude other types of ROTL where the state has less direct responsibility. In recent years, approximately one half of natural cause deaths in prison custody actually occur in hospitals or hospices.

(2) Apparent cause is based on the NOMS classification of deaths in prison custody. The self-inflicted deaths category includes a wider range of deaths than suicides. Similarly the homicide category includes a wider range of deaths than murder. When comparing figures with other sources it is important to determine whether the narrower suicide or broader self-inflicted deaths approach is in use.

(3) 'Other' is an aggregated category consisting of two existing categories - 'other/non-natural' and 'awaiting further information' (previously referred to as unclassified). The statistical reason for this is that the aggregated category is more suitable for determining trends and avoids a break in the time series.

Data Sources and Quality

These figures are derived from the NOMS Deaths in Prison Custody database. As classification of deaths may change following inquest or as new information emerges numbers may change from time to time.

Source: Home Office, *Safety in custody quarterly update to June 2016*, 27 October 2016

Table 1.5: Self-inflicted deaths in prison custody¹ and rates by gender since 1978, England and Wales

	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
PRISON POPULATION²																			
Male and Female	41,796	42,220	42,264	43,311	43,707	43,462	43,295	46,233	46,770	48,426	48,872	48,500	44,975	44,809	44,719	44,552	48,621	50,962	55,281
Male	40,409	40,762	40,748	41,904	42,381	42,072	41,822	44,701	45,163	46,722	47,113	46,736	43,378	43,250	43,157	42,991	46,810	48,983	53,019
Female	1,387	1,458	1,516	1,407	1,326	1,390	1,473	1,532	1,607	1,704	1,759	1,764	1,597	1,559	1,562	1,561	1,811	1,979	2,262
SELF-INFLICTED DEATHS																			
Male and Female	16	27	27	21	27	27	27	29	21	46	37	49	51	43	41	48	61	59	65
Male	15	27	27	20	27	27	27	28	20	45	37	47	50	43	39	47	60	57	62
Female	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	1	0	2	1	1	2	3
ANNUAL SELF-INFLICTED DEATHS PER 1,000 PRISONERS																			
Male and Female	0.38	0.64	0.64	0.48	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.63	0.45	0.95	0.76	1.01	1.13	0.96	0.92	1.08	1.25	1.16	1.18
Male	0.37	0.66	0.66	0.48	0.64	0.64	0.65	0.63	0.44	0.96	0.79	1.01	1.15	0.99	0.90	1.09	1.28	1.16	1.17
Female	0.72	0.00	0.00	0.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.65	0.62	0.59	0.00	1.13	0.63	0.00	1.28	0.64	0.55	1.01	1.33
PRISON POPULATION²																			
Male and Female	61,114	65,298	64,771	64,602	66,301	70,778	73,038	74,657	75,979	78,127	80,216	82,572	83,559	84,725	85,951	86,634	84,249	85,307	85,626
Male	58,439	62,194	61,523	61,252	62,560	66,479	68,612	70,208	71,512	73,680	75,842	78,158	79,277	80,489	81,763	82,481	80,359	81,402	81,741
Female	2,675	3,105	3,247	3,350	3,740	4,299	4,425	4,448	4,467	4,447	4,374	4,414	4,283	4,236	4,188	4,154	3,890	3,905	3,885
SELF-INFLICTED DEATHS																			
Male and Female	68	83	91	81	73	95	95	96	78	66	91	61	61	58	58	61	76	89	89
Male	65	80	86	73	67	86	81	83	74	63	84	60	58	57	56	60	74	86	84
Female	3	3	5	8	6	9	14	13	4	3	7	1	3	1	2	1	2	3	5
ANNUAL SELF-INFLICTED DEATHS PER 1,000 PRISONERS																			
Male and Female	1.11	1.27	1.40	1.25	1.10	1.34	1.30	1.29	1.03	0.84	1.13	0.74	0.73	0.68	0.67	0.70	0.90	1.04	1.04
Male	1.11	1.29	1.40	1.19	1.07	1.29	1.18	1.18	1.03	0.86	1.11	0.77	0.73	0.71	0.68	0.73	0.92	1.06	1.03
Female	1.12	0.97	1.54	2.39	1.60	2.09	3.16	2.92	0.90	0.67	1.60	0.23	0.70	0.24	0.48	0.24	0.51	0.77	1.29

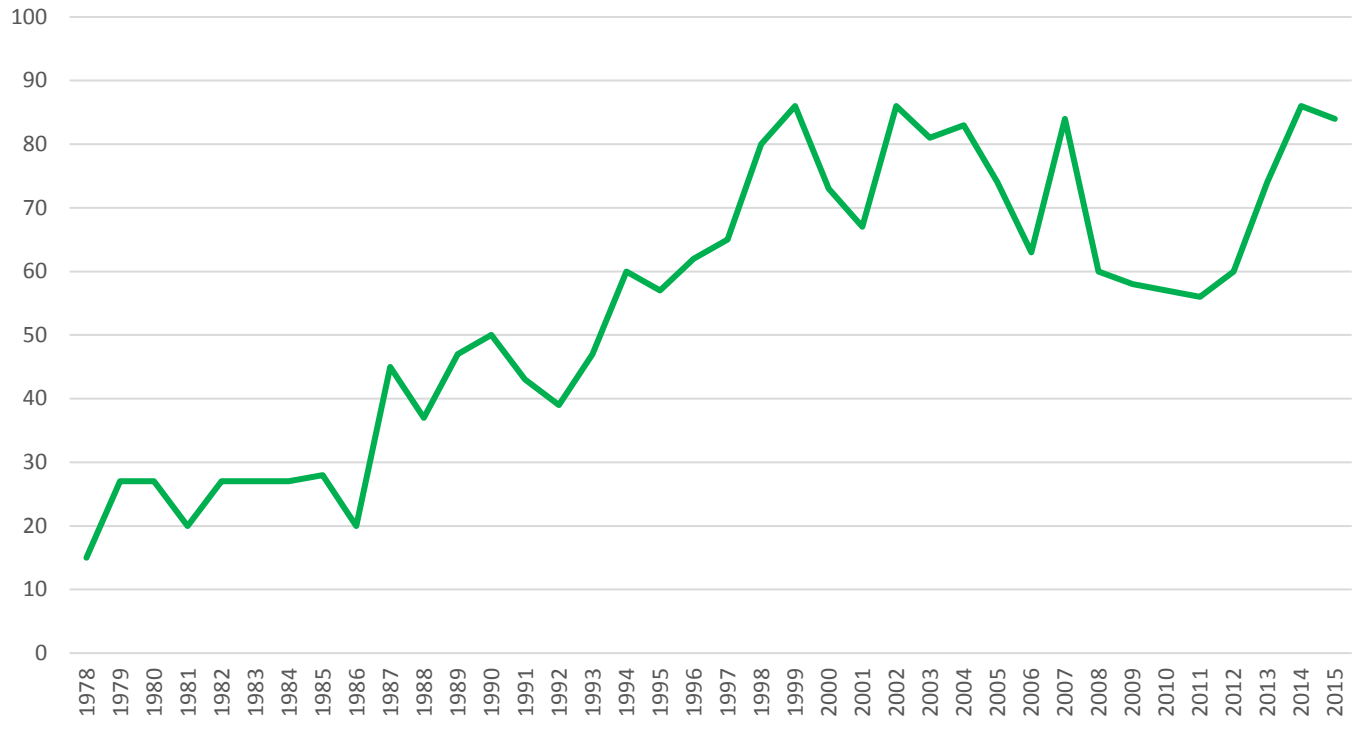
(1) Deaths in prison custody figures include all deaths of prisoners arising from incidents during prison custody. They include deaths of prisoners while released on temporary license (ROTL) for medical reasons but exclude other types of ROTL where the state has less direct responsibility.

(2) The average of the 12 month end prison populations as published in the Offender Management Statistics Quarterly bulletin. Due to technical problems relating to the supply of data for statistical purposes, month end data was not available for the period from July 2009 to February 2010, so data for the last Friday of the month has been used instead (except for December 2009, where the 18th of December was used).

Data Sources and Quality

These figures are derived from the NOMS Deaths in Prison Custody database. As classification of deaths may change following inquest or as new information emerges numbers may change from time to time.

**Deaths in prison custody by apparent cause and gender since 1978,
England and Wales**
Males, Self-inflicted



3. Male health, life expectancy & workplace deaths

In 2011 the average life expectancy for men was 79. This is around 4 years less than for women.⁴

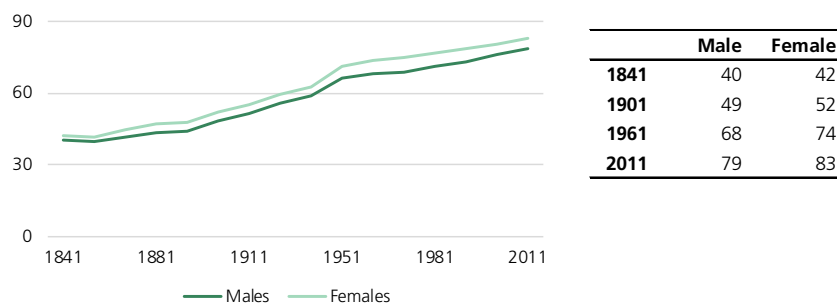
This gap peaked in around 1971 at 6 years. Since then it has narrowed. The ONS explains this as follows:

In the late 18th and early 19th centuries the gap between male and female life expectancies began to slowly widen, peaking at 6.3 in 1971. It has been narrowing since, due to faster improvements in mortality for men than for women.

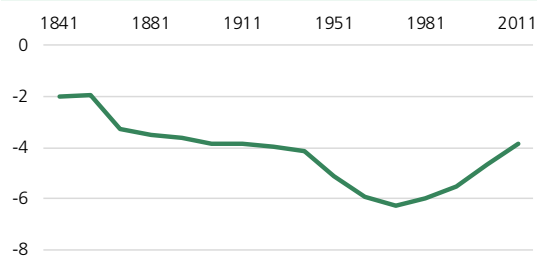
As well as men's working conditions being a factor, the widening gap can be explained by the decline in tuberculosis (TB). Deaths from the disease, which had been rife in the 17th and 18th centuries, and affected women more than men, had begun to decline in the 19th and 20th centuries. In the 20th century more women were surviving childbirth and were having fewer children, reducing their risk of dying in labour.

Since the 1970s, men have been catching women up in terms of survival. The decline of the mining industry and the move away from physical labour and manufacturing industries towards the service sector is a likely cause, along with a reduction in the proportion of men smoking.

Life expectancy at birth: UK, 1841-2011



Gap between male and female life expectancy at birth: UK, 1841-2011



Of English regions, male life expectancy is highest in the South East (80.3) and lowest in the North West. (77.7). The gap between genders

⁴ ONS life expectancy, <http://visual.ons.gov.uk/how-has-life-expectancy-changed-over-time/>

is such that male life expectancy in the South East (the highest region among men) is lower than female life expectancy in the North East (the lowest region among women).

Workplace deaths

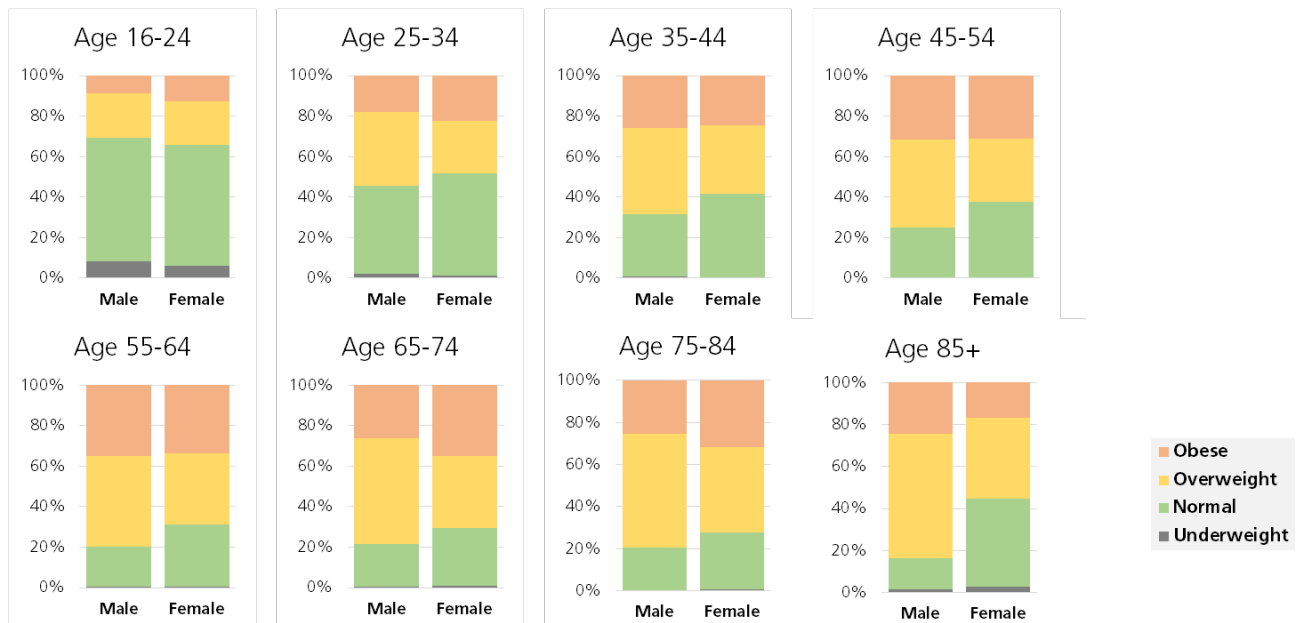
Between 2011/12 and 2015/16 there were 743 fatal injuries to workers in Great Britain. 96% of these were men.⁵

In 2015/16, three quarters of deaths were in the construction, agriculture, forestry, fishing, manufacturing, transportation, and storage industries.

Obesity rates

Men in England are more likely to be overweight or obese than women. 65% of men were overweight or obese in 2014 compared with 58% of women.⁶ Of these however, 24% of men were obese compared with 27% of women. These proportions vary by age, as the collection of charts below shows. Only among ages 16-24 are women more likely to be overweight or obese than men. The biggest gap is among 85+ year olds, with 84% of men overweight and obese compared with 55% of women.

Women are more likely to be morbidly obese than men, across all age groups. 3.6% of women were morbidly obese in 2014, compared to 1.8% of men.



⁵ Health and Safety Executive: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/index.htm#riddor>

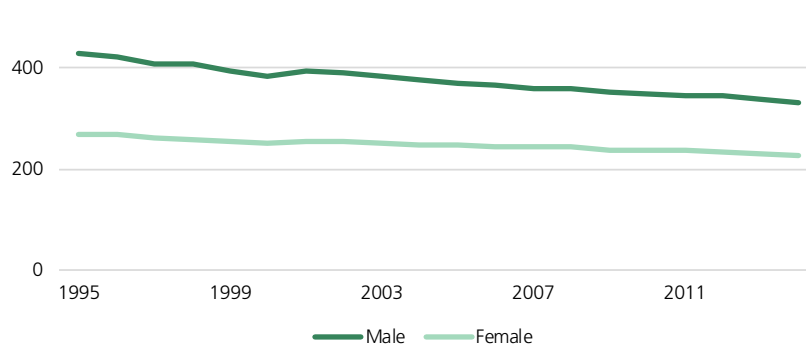
⁶ NHS Digital <http://content.digital.nhs.uk/catalogue/PUB19295>

Cancer rates

Cancer rates (age-standardised) are 23% higher among men than among women in the UK.⁷ This is the lowest that the cancer gender gap has been. In 1995 it was 38%.

Mortality from cancer among men has fallen by 22% since 1995. Among women, mortality has fallen by 15%. In 1995, male mortality was 60% higher than female mortality. The gap has since narrowed to 46%.

Age-standardised cancer mortality per 100,000 population, 1995-2014



Press articles and other reports

Guardian, 19 May 2016

[Global life expectancy increases to 71.4 years](#)

Telegraph, 11 March 2016

['Good health' gap between sexes narrows](#)

Telegraph, 12 February 2016

[Women under 65 in 2016 will spend a third of their lives in retirement, life expectancy figures show](#)

[...]

Men who reach 65 can look forward to another 19 years, a rise of 0.3 years on 2013, and can expect 12 years at 75, six years at 85 and three years at age 95.

Telegraph, 20 November 2015

[The 25-year gap in children's life chances just minutes apart](#)

Inside MAN, 3 March 2015

[97% employees who die at work are men \(2009-2014 figures\)](#)

NHS Choices

[Five health symptoms men shouldn't ignore](#)

7

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/cancerregistrationstatisticsengland/2014>

Parliamentary question

[Health: Males](#)

Asked by: Campbell, Mr Gregory

To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department is taking to change attitudes to personal health issues among men.

Answering member: Jane Ellison

We recognise that men do not seek medical help as often as women, and their health can suffer as a result and that changing their behaviours could reduce premature death, illness and costs to society. The Department does not have a separate policy approach to men's health as all policy subjects are expected to take into account equality issues as they are developed.

In 2013, Public Health England was established to protect and improve the nation's health and to address inequalities, working with national and local government, the National Health Service, industry, academia, the public and the voluntary and community sector. Local authorities are responsible for assessing the current and future health needs of their local population and targeting of interventions to reduce health inequalities. We have also given local authorities the flexibility to innovate and tailor services to meet local individual and population needs.

23 Nov 2015 | Written questions | 16895

4. Educational attainment

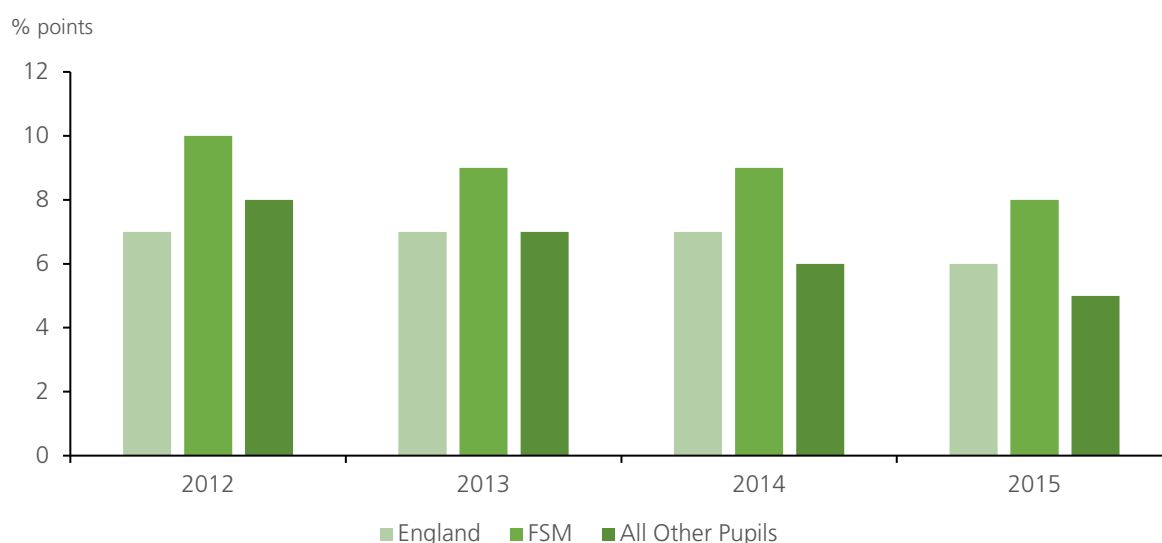
Key Stage 2

At Key Stage 2 girls generally outperform boys on the main measure of attainment -the proportion of pupils achieving level 4 and above in reading, writing and mathematics. 2015 is the last year for which full confirmed data is available. In that year, in England, 77% of boys achieved this standard compared to 83% of girls. The gap was 6 percentage points, down from 7 points in each of the previous three years.

Further information is available [here](#) on the gender gaps at key stage 2 in 2015 (pp. 12-13).

The chart below shows the gender gap by free school meal (FSM) eligibility from 2012 onwards.

Gender Gap in favour of girls achieving level 4 and above in Reading, Writing and Maths at Key Stage 2, 2012-15
England, State Funded Schools



Source: *National curriculum assessments: key stage 2, 2015 (revised)*

Since 2012, girls who are eligible for FSM outperformed boys eligible for FSM by a greater margin than those not eligible for FSM. The gap though has been reduced since 2012 from 10 percentage points to 8 points in 2015. The gender gap among pupils not eligible for FSM was 5 percentage points 2015 down from 8 percentage points in 2012.

In terms of ethnicity, in 2015, girls outperformed boys across the major ethnic groupings where the gap on the headline indicator ranged from 5 to 6 percentage points. It was smallest for Asian and Chinese students (5 points) compared to White, Mixed and Black pupils (6 percentage points). Girls outperformed boys in each ethnic subgroup in 2015.

The Government has now published some provisional data on Key Stage 2 results in 2016. This suggests that the trend of girls outperforming boys in most subjects continues.

In 2016, this provisional data suggests 57% of girls achieved the expected standard at KS2 in all of reading, writing and maths, whereas the figure for boys was 50%. This is a gap of 7%. The gender gap was highest in writing; there was no gender performance gap in maths, where 70% of boys and girls achieved the expected standard.

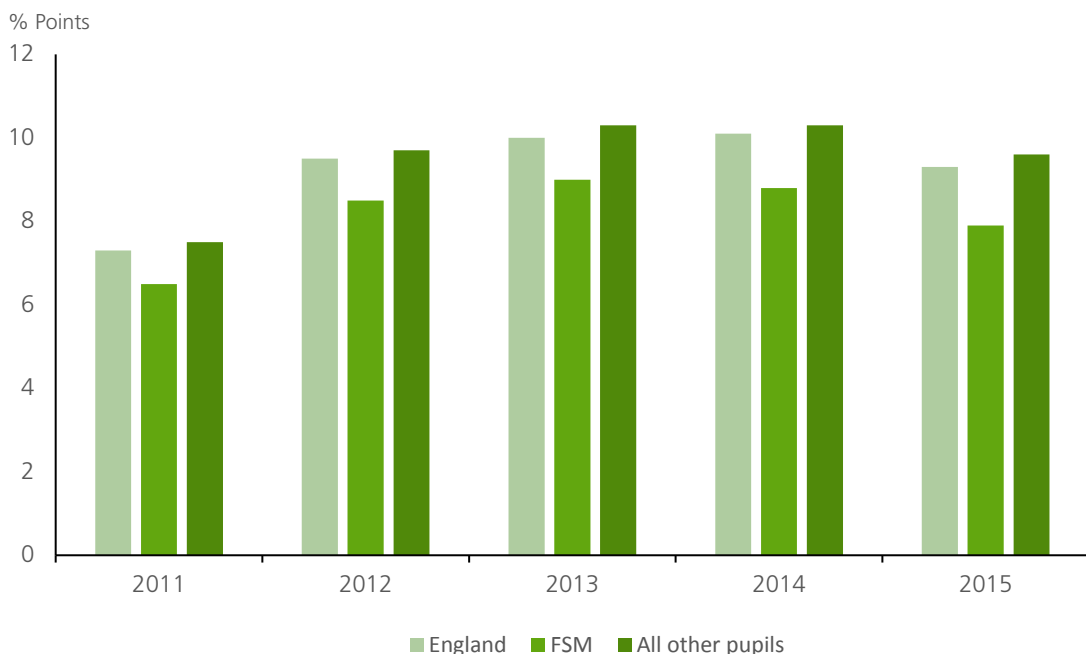
Provisional data on gender gaps at KS2 in 2016 is available [here](#) (pp. 7-8)

GCSEs

Girls also outperform boys in headline GCSE results. The gap in those achieving 5+ grades A*-C including English and Maths in state-funded schools was 7.3 percentage points in 2011 (54.6% boys and 61.9% girls) and increased to 10.0 points in 2013 (55.7% boys and 65.7% girls). In 2014 a change in the methodology was implemented which excluded many equivalent qualifications, reduced the value of others, and excluded retakes. Despite this the gap remained broadly constant at just over 10 points, before falling to 9.3 points in 2015

The chart below shows the gender gap on this headline indicator since 2011 broken down by FSM eligibility.

Gender Gap in favour of girls achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs including English & Maths
England, State Funded Schools



Sources:

Revised GCSE and equivalent results in England: 2014 to 2015

GCSE and equivalent attainment by pupil characteristics: 2014

Since 2011 the gender gap has been *smaller* among pupils eligible for FSM, but it has increased over time, from 6.5 percentage points in 2011 to a peak of 9 points in 2013. The gap among those not eligible for FSM peaked at 10.3 points in 2013 and 2014.

In 2015 girls outperformed boys on this headline indicator across all the major ethnic groupings. The gender gap ranged from 7.7 points among Asian students to 12.5 points for Chinese students. The next largest gap was for black students (11.2 percentage points) followed by white pupils (9.5 percentage points) and then those defined as mixed (7.8 percentage points). Girls outperformed boys in each the ethnic subgroup in 2015 with the largest gap among Black Caribbean students at 13.1 points.

Higher education (HE)

The [higher education White Paper](#) identified 'white males from disadvantaged backgrounds' as one of the key groups where HE participation has lagged behind; increasing participation was a priority. While there has been a growing realisation that this group has fallen behind on access for some time, this, along with similar statements in documents supporting the *HE and Research Bill*, is the highest profile call to improve access for this group. The White Paper said:

- In addition, we have asked the DFA [Director of Fair Access to Higher Education] to focus access agreements on some other key challenges including increasing participation among young white males from lower socio-economic groups, who are five times less likely to go into higher education than the most advantaged white males, and supporting participation by students with disabilities.
- ...
- In particular, we want to address disparities in outcomes (retention, degree attainment and progression to employment/further study) for students from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, and access for young White males from lower socio-economic groups.

UCAS has recently produced analysis of entry rates by multiple student characteristics for those from state schools. These are combined rates across a few years (2011 to 2015) to ensure the data are robust.

Among students from areas with overall average levels of participation they estimate that 8.9% of white males who were eligible for free school meals at age 15 entered full-time education at age 18. This was the lowest of any combination of ethnicity and gender and compares to 27.9% of students of all students from these areas. Entry rates were (not surprisingly) even lower from students with these characteristics from areas with even lower levels of past HE participation.⁸

⁸ [UCAS End of Cycle report 2015](#) (figures 96 and 97)

Press articles and other reports

Sutton Trust, 10 November 2016

["White working class boys have lowest GCSE Grades as disadvantaged Bangladeshi, African and Chinese pupils show dramatically improved results"](#)

Telegraph, 10 November 2016

[White working class boys perform worst at GCSEs, research shows](#)

Independent, 10 September 2016

[Tory MP claims boys are disadvantaged by 'over-feminised' school system](#)

Independent, 2 September 2016

[Half the boys leaving primary school lack basic numeracy and literacy](#)

Telegraph, 1 September 2016

[Most boys leave primary without basic numeracy and literacy skills, figures show](#)

Times, 18 August 2016

[Gender gap narrows for highest exam results](#)

Sky News, 17 August 2016

[University Gender Gap Reaches Record High](#)

Over 90,000 more women applied for a university course this year than men, while the number of male applicants fell.

Telegraph, 17 July 2016

[Boys should be treated 'more like girls' to stop them falling behind at school](#)

Kings College London, July 2016

[The underrepresentation of white working class boys in higher education. *The role of widening participation*](#)

Independent, 24 June 2016

[White working class boys miss out on university places because they 'choose welfare' over aspirations, says top charity founder](#)

Generating Genius founder Dr Tony Sewell told education leaders that schools must do more by way of creating clubs and societies to aid the 'continuity of intervention' in disadvantaged communities.

The Sutton Trust, 3 June 2016

[At age 13, girls more likely than boys to believe that going to university is important](#)

Telegraph, 3 June 2016

[Girls set their sight on university at 13](#)

Times Educational Supplement (TES), 3 June 2016

[University gender gap can be traced back to the age of 13](#)

As early as Year 9, girls are much more likely to think a degree is important, Oxford University study finds

Times Educational Supplement (TES), 26 May 2016

[Why let the facts get in the way of a good story? Women will always be blamed for boys' underachievement](#)

Telegraph, 12 May 2016

['Universities should set targets for recruiting men to address embarrassing gender gap'](#)

Guardian, 12 May 2016

[UK's university gender gap is a national scandal, says thinktank](#)

Report calls for efforts to recruit more male students, including a 'take our sons to university day'

Independent, 11 May 2016

[Young, white men not performing as well as women in higher education, says Hefi report](#)

Head of Ucas warns rich and poor gap 'will be eclipsed' by gender gap 'within a decade'

UCAS, February 2016

[University and college applicant numbers rise by 0.2%, UCAS reports today](#)

The difference between application rates from men and women in 2016 is the highest on record. In England, young women are 36% more likely to apply to university and when both sexes are from disadvantaged backgrounds young women are 58% more likely to apply.

Guardian, 4 February 2016

[Young men miss out as university gender gap remains at record levels](#)

Telegraph, 5 January 2016

[Our education system must stop ignoring its bias against boys](#)

Telegraph, 5 January 2016

[Boys education 'ignored by Government policy', warns Ucas chief](#)

Independent, 6 January 2016

[Head of Ucas expresses concern as recent data reveals gender gap in UK higher education is widening](#)

Comments made on same day Ucas releases data showing there to be more women than men in two thirds of courses.

Times Educational Supplement (TES), 17 December 2015

[Thousands of men 'missing' from university education](#)

Parliamentary questions

[Educational Performance: Boys](#)

Motion, That this House has considered the educational performance of boys. Sitting adjourned without Question put (Standing Order No. 10(14)).

06 Sep 2016 | Debates | Westminster Hall | 614 cc119-138WH

[Universities: Admissions:Written question – 49388](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what proportion of boys from white working class backgrounds from (a) selective, (b) non-selective and (c) state boarding schools have gone on to study at Russell Group universities in each of the last three years.

Asked on: 19 October 2016 | PQ 49388

[Pre-school Education: Males](#)

Asked by: Mackintosh, David

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the implications for her policies of the findings on the gender pay gap for early language attainment at age five in Save the Children's report, entitled The Lost Boys: How boys are falling behind in early years, published in July 2016.

Answering member: Caroline Dinenage |

The Save the Children report, The Lost Boys: How boys are falling behind in the early years, addresses the gender gap of boys falling behind in language and literacy in the early years. I would like to clarify to the Hon. Member that the report does not refer to pay. The answer to this parliamentary question therefore sets out what Government are doing to support disadvantaged children regardless of background or gender.

The Government recognises a key part of raising the standard of education for all children is to ensure they receive a good level of development in literacy and numeracy before they start school at age five. This is why in 2010 we extended the free entitlement to 15 hours for all three and four year olds, and in 2013 introduced the entitlement for two-year-olds which has increased early education take-up for children from the most disadvantaged families. We have also introduced an early years pupil premium to help providers support the learning and development of children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework sets the prime areas of learning which early years providers must follow. This includes a focus on communication and language. The Early Years Foundation stage is published on gov.uk, available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/335504/EYFS_framework_from_1_September_2014_with_clarification_note.pdf

The 2014-15 EYFS Profile results tell us that the proportion of children achieving a good level of development continues to increase – 66 % in 2015, compared to 60% in 2014 and 52% in 2013. The EYFS Profile results also show that more than 80% of children are reaching the expected communication and language skills by age five. A higher proportion of children eligible for free school meals are achieving a good level of development – 51% in 2015 compared to 45% in 2014. Although the gap between disadvantaged children and their peers is narrowing, we recognise there is still some way to go.

The quality of early education is improving, the numbers of qualified staff have risen, the numbers of graduates in the workforce continues to rise, and a record number of providers are rated good or outstanding, with 86% of providers currently on the Early Years Register judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness at 31 March 2016.

19 Sep 2016 | Written questions | 45812

[Pre-school Education: Finance](#)

Asked by: Robertson, Mr Laurence

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will ensure that the review of fair funding for early years education includes steps to close the gender attainment gap at age five.

Answering member: Caroline Dinenge

The Government published a consultation on an Early Years National Funding Formula and changes to funding for the three- and four-year old free entitlements to childcare on Thursday 11 August. The consultation focuses on a creating a fair and transparent way of distributing Government funding to childcare providers. Our proposals set out the means by which every child in receipt of the free entitlement attracts funding to meet their individual needs, regardless of their gender. We rely on the early years profession to spend the money appropriately to meet those needs.

We are making a significant investment in early years education – the expenditure on the free entitlements alone will rise by 38% over this Parliament. Our investment supports the continued increase in the number of qualified staff and the number of providers rated good or outstanding by Ofsted. More than 80% of children are reaching the expected communication and language skills by age five, but we will continue working with the sector until every child gets the high quality education they deserve.

05 Sep 2016 | Written questions | 43415

[Education: Equality](#)

Asked by: McCartney, Karl

To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what steps the Government plans to take to ensure equality of educational attainment between boys and girls at all key stages.

Answering member: Nick Gibb

Our goal is to deliver educational excellence everywhere, so that every child and young person can achieve to the best of his or her ability. Girls' key stage 2 results are better than ever and their entries to mathematics and science A levels have increased by more than 12,000 since 2010. We continue to consider what more needs to be done to support equality in educational attainment, in particular the justified concerns about white working class boys.

14 Apr 2016 | Written questions | 904445

[Education: Equality](#)

Asked by: Caulfield, Maria

To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, if she will take steps to ensure that there is equality of educational achievement between girls and boys in schools.

Answering member: Nick Gibb | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Women and Equalities

Evidence shows that girls outperform boys on average at the end of primary and secondary school. The attainment of boys has been improving in primary school: in 2015, 77% of boys achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics at the end of key stage 2, compared to 71% in 2012. Nonetheless, more remains to be done to raise levels of achievement amongst boys at all key stages.

While girls have higher attainment, they are still less likely than boys to pursue further study beyond the end of secondary school in subjects such as mathematics and physics – although the number of girls entered for A levels in these particular subjects has risen by 13 percent and 16 percent respectively since 2010.

In addressing these issues, we have placed high expectations at the heart of our school system through our new curriculum and reformed exams – and our new accountability system will reward those schools that encourage every child, boys and girls alike, to achieve their best. We are committed to delivering educational excellence everywhere so that every child, regardless of gender or background, can reach their potential.

02 Mar 2016 | Written questions | 27848

[School Attainment Levels](#)

Asked by: Will Quince (Colchester) (Con):

What assessment she has made of the difference in levels of attainment between boys and girls at school. [902381]

The Minister for Women and Equalities (Nicky Morgan): Thanks to our reforms and the hard work of teachers across the country, more pupils—boys and girls—are getting the education they deserve. Girls outperform boys on average at both primary and secondary school, but while girls have higher attainment, they are less likely to pursue subjects such as physics and maths. As Education Secretary, I am aware of all those issues and determined to tackle them.

Will Quince: I thank the Secretary of State for that response, but the sad reality is that, in 2014, 10% fewer boys attained A* to C at GCSE, including maths and English. What steps will she take as Minister for Women and Equalities and Education Secretary to close this gender gap and help boys to achieve their full potential?

Nicky Morgan: I thank my hon. Friend for raising that important issue. There is certainly more that we need to do to tackle underachievement among boys, especially among white working-class boys, I am sorry to say. The Chancellor has committed to the pupil premium, worth £2.5 billion, for the rest of this Parliament; a quarter of white British boys are eligible for that funding. We need to do more to explain to young men the careers that are out there and why they will need skills such as maths, but we also need to think about parental engagement—a lot of the messages will come from home that education is very valuable and that boys as well as girls need to focus in school.

[...]

Mr David Nuttall (Bury North) (Con): Has my right hon. Friend considered whether the disparity between the numbers of male and female teachers, especially in primary schools, is affecting the attainment level of boys?

Nicky Morgan: My hon. Friend makes an important point. Young people benefit from strong role models, and we have an excellent workforce in our primary schools, with 82% of teaching in those schools rated good or outstanding. I would like to see more male teachers; equally, I would like to see more female headteachers in our secondary schools.

26 Nov 2015 | Oral questions | 602 c1480-1

Pre-school Education: Finance

Asked by: Robertson, Mr Laurence

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will ensure that the review of fair funding for early years education includes steps to close the gender attainment gap at age five.

Answering member: Caroline Dinenge

The Government published a consultation on an Early Years National Funding Formula and changes to funding for the three- and four-year old free entitlements to childcare on Thursday 11 August. The consultation focuses on a creating a fair and transparent way of distributing Government funding to childcare providers. Our proposals set out the means by which every child in receipt of the free entitlement attracts funding to meet their individual needs, regardless of their gender. We rely on the early years profession to spend the money appropriately to meet those needs.

We are making a significant investment in early years education – the expenditure on the free entitlements alone will rise by 38% over this Parliament. Our investment supports the continued increase in the number of qualified staff and the number of providers rated good or

outstanding by Ofsted. More than 80% of children are reaching the expected communication and language skills by age five, but we will continue working with the sector until every child gets the high quality education they deserve.

05 Sep 2016 | Written questions | 43415

[Education: Equality](#)

Asked by: McCartney, Karl

To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what steps the Government plans to take to ensure equality of educational attainment between boys and girls at all key stages.

Answering member: Nick Gibb

Our goal is to deliver educational excellence everywhere, so that every child and young person can achieve to the best of his or her ability. Girls' key stage 2 results are better than ever and their entries to mathematics and science A levels have increased by more than 12,000 since 2010. We continue to consider what more needs to be done to support equality in educational attainment, in particular the justified concerns about white working class boys.

14 Apr 2016 | Written questions | 904445

5. Parental rights and issues

A new presumption of shared parenting was introduced by the then Coalition Government through the *Children and Families Act 2014*.

When a court is considering whether to make, vary or discharge a child arrangements order, which settles contact or residence, or both, the court takes into account a number of factors, such as the child's physical, emotional and educational needs, and their ascertainable wishes and feelings (considered in light of their age and understanding). Above all, the child's welfare is the court's paramount consideration under section 1(1) of the *Children Act 1989*.

Although the independent Family Justice Review, established by the Government, recommended no legislative change in its November 2011 final report,⁹ the Government stated in its response that "on careful reflection, the UK Government believes that legislation may have a role to play in supporting shared parenting and will consider legislative options for encouraging both parents to play as full a role as possible in their children's upbringing".¹⁰

In putting forward the new legislation, the then Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families, Edward Timpson, told the House that:

The perception of bias in the family courts is an issue for parents, and it can lead to proceedings becoming more adversarial ... It amends the Children Act 1989 to place a duty on the courts in cases where there are disputes about children's care to presume that the involvement of both parents in the child's life will further the child's welfare, provided that this involvement is safe ... We recognise that the court should already take account of the importance of a child's relationship with both parents, but there is currently no legislative statement to that effect. We want to reinforce by way of statute the expectation that both parents should be involved in a child's life, unless the child is at risk of harm or it is not in the child's best interests.¹¹

The 2014 Act amended section 1 of the *Children Act 1989* to include the following sub-sections in regard child arrangement orders

(2A) A court ... is as respects each parent within subsection (6)(a) to presume, unless the contrary is shown, that involvement of that parent in the life of the child concerned will further the child's welfare.

(2B) In subsection (2A) "involvement" means involvement of some kind, either direct or indirect, but not any particular division of a child's time.

and with the caveat that if "there is some evidence before the court in the particular proceedings to suggest that involvement of that parent in the child's life would put the child at risk of suffering harm whatever

⁹ Family Justice Review, *Final Report*, November 2011, p142

¹⁰ Department for Education and Ministry of Justice, *The Government Response to the Family Justice Review: A system with children and families at its heart*, February 2012, p66

¹¹ [PBC Deb 14 March 2013 c289](#)

the form of the involvement”, then the shared parenting presumption does not apply.

The amendments to the *Children Act 1989* took effect from 22 October 2014. However, it should be noted that the *Children and Families Act 2014* did not amend the existing position under the *Children Act 1989* that “the child's welfare shall be the court's paramount consideration”.

Press articles

Telegraph, 30 September 2016

[Men are suffering more from sexism, Ann Widdecombe claims](#)

Huffington Post, 7 October 2016

[Do Women Make Better Parents Than Men?](#)

Guardian, 5 April 2016

[Tiny proportion of men are opting for shared parental leave](#)

Telegraph, 4 January 2016

[10 ways to make divorce fairer for fathers](#)

New Statesman, 24 July 2014

[In the brain of the father: why men can be just as good primary parents as women](#)

Parliamentary questions

[Family Courts \(Equal Treatment\)](#)

Asked by: Mr Turner

The recent case involving a woman who ran away with her son to frustrate an order of the court is the tip of an enormous iceberg. Many children lose contact with their fathers each year, due to women wilfully obstructing child arrangements orders. Will the Minister undertake research on the impact of that on the life chances of the children affected?

Answered by: Caroline Dinenage | Department: Women and Equalities

My hon. Friend speaks about an emotive subject, but the law changed last October and now requires the family court to presume that each parent's involvement will further the child's welfare unless there is evidence to the contrary. However, the child's welfare remains a paramount consideration for the court. Where either parent breaches a child arrangements order without a reasonable excuse, the court has the power to deal with it, including by imposing community sentences or even by treating the breach as a contempt of court, punishable by imprisonment or a fine.

02 Jul 2015 | 597 c1626

[Separated Families Initiative](#)

HC Debate | 21 Oct 2014 | 586 cc205-227WH

[Relationships and Children's Well-being](#)

HC Debate | 21 Oct 2014 | 586 cc177-199WH

[Contact Orders](#)

Asked by: Mr Laurence Robertson

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what restrictions are placed on fathers who visit their children in contact centres.

Answered by: Simon Hughes | Department: Ministry of Justice

Contact centres are intended to be enabling and supportive environments for fathers and mothers, which have children as their focus. Beyond the limitations of opening times, their volunteer nature and the facilities available, there are no intrinsic limits on what a contact centre can offer. Courts may place limits on the type of contact through court orders in which case the contact centre will encourage compliance with the order.

The National Association of Child Contact Centres (NACCC) operates separate standards for supervised and supported contact and these are published on their website at:

<http://www.naccc.org.uk/standards>

21 Jul 2014 | 205865 | 584 c842W

[Family Proceedings](#)

Asked by: Mr Iain Wright

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of presumption for contact in relation to the role of fathers in the family courts; and if he will make a statement.

Answered by: Simon Hughes | Department: Justice

Section 11 of the Children and Families Act 2014 requires courts to presume that a child benefits from the involvement of each parent who can be involved in a way which does not put the child at risk of harm. This is subject to the principle that the welfare of the child must be the courts' paramount consideration. 'Involvement' may be direct or indirect and it is for courts to determine the most appropriate way for a parent to be involved in the light of the individual circumstances.

Section 11 of the Act will be commenced in the autumn. One of the aims of the policy is to encourage parents to resolve disputes without the need for court intervention. The Government therefore intends to consider the impact of the policy as part of wider work to assess the impact of the family justice provisions in the Act.

28 Apr 2014 | 194357 | 579 c609W

Debate

[Strengthening Couple Relationships](#)

HC Debate | 14 Jan 2014 | 573 cc232-257WH

6. Male victims' experience of violence and abuse

6.1 Personal crime

Men are more likely than women to be the victim of personal crime:

Table D1: Proportion of adults who were victims of all CSEW crime and personal crime by personal characteristics, year ending March 2016 CSEW

England and Wales

	All CSEW	crime	Personal crime ²
Percentage victims once or more			
<u>ALL ADULTS</u>		15.2	4.1
16-24		21.4	8.4
25-34		19.6	5.8
35-44		16.8	3.8
45-54		16.5	4.0
55-64		12.8	2.7
65-74		8.8	1.6
75+		5.5	1.1
<u>Men</u>		15.6	4.5
16-24		21.8	8.8
25-34		19.7	6.4
35-44		16.2	4.4
45-54		18.0	4.6
55-64		12.3	2.5
65-74		8.8	1.5
75+		5.2	0.7
<u>Women</u>		14.9	3.8
16-24		21.0	8.1
25-34		19.4	5.1
35-44		17.4	3.1
45-54		15.0	3.4
55-64		13.2	2.9
65-74		8.7	1.7
75+		5.8	1.4

Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales, Office for National Statistics

2. Personal crime includes violence, robbery, theft from the person, and other theft of personal property.

6.2 Domestic abuse

Press articles

Telegraph, 8 November 2016

[Until we treat male and female domestic abuse victims the same, we'll never be rid of it](#)

Independent, 19 September 2016

[Number of women convicted of domestic violence at record high](#)

The data did not specify if the women's victims were male or female, however campaigners say the statistics serve as a reminder that while the overwhelming majority of abusers are male, women can also commit serious abuse

Guardian, 7 September 2016

[Why does the CPS report on violence against women include men in the stats?](#)

Times, 11 March 2016

[The scandal of women's violence towards men,](#)

Feminists ignore the fact that aggression in the home is a female, as well as a male, problem

Parliamentary questions

[Domestic Violence: Prosecutions](#)

Asked by: Davies, Philip

To ask the Attorney General, how many cases involving female perpetrators of domestic violence have been prosecuted in each of the last 10 years; and what proportion of people prosecuted in those cases were found guilty.

Answering member: Robert Buckland

The volumes and proportions of female defendants prosecuted for domestic abuse in each of the last 10 years, together with the conviction rates, can be found within the table at Annex A.

[Annex A](#) (PDF Document, 63.76 KB)

14 Sep 2016 | Written questions | 45427

[Domestic Abuse](#)

Asked by: Jim Shannon (Strangford) (DUP)

I thank the Solicitor General for his responses so far. Domestic violence accounts for about a fifth of all crime in Northern Ireland, with police officers attending 60 domestic incidents a day. That is massive, but we still have problems with people failing to come forward, particularly men. Is the CPS considering taking steps to work alongside police forces to encourage people to report all domestic incidents?

Answered by: The Solicitor General

I am very grateful to the hon. Gentleman for raising the issue of male victims. About 15% of domestic abuse victims are, indeed, men, and proper emphasis is being placed on the need to encourage men to come forward. It is not a badge of shame for someone to admit that they are a male victim of domestic abuse, and that message needs to be heard loud and clear throughout the length and breadth of the kingdom.

14 Jan 2016 | Oral questions - Supplementary | 604 c974

6.3 Sexual offences

Press articles

BBC online, 20 March 2016

[Rape survivor wants support for men,](#)

BBC online,, 22 February 2016

[Male rape charity gets £78,000 funding to tackle 'taboo' issue](#)

BBC online, 17 November 2015

[London sex abuse charity says few male victims report crime,](#)

Telegraph, 24 March 2015

['Male victims of sexual abuse are treated as secondary'](#)

Last year, the Government set aside half a million pounds to support men and boys who had suffered sexual abuse. So why are dedicated services for male victims having to cut back on counselling

Huffington Post, 7 October 2015

[Male Rape Victims Should Never Feel 'Less Than A Man' Says SurvivorsUK As It Launches First Online Support Service](#)

Telegraph, 25 May 2015

[Why doesn't society care about male rape?](#)

Independent, 25 May 2015

[UK's biggest male rape charity Survivors UK has state funding slashed to zero despite 120% rise in men reporting sexual violence and seeking help](#)

Telegraph, 25 February 2014

['Men and boys get raped too'](#)

MoJ Press release

[£500,000 to help break the silence for male rape victims](#)

First published:13 February 2014

This news article was published under the 2010 to 2015 Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition government

Parliamentary questions

[Rape: Convictions](#)

Asked by: Davies, Philip

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the conviction rate for rape involving (a) female and (b) male victims was in each of the last five years.

Answering member: Sir Oliver Heald

The information requested is available on gov.uk using the following link <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/criminal-justice-system-statistics-quarterly-december-2015>

14 Sep 2016 | Written questions | 45426

[Victims of Crime](#)

Asked by: Richard Burgon (Leeds East) (Lab)

As has been mentioned, today's report on violence against women and girls shows an increase in prosecutions. However, victims charities remain concerned about their futures, as was stated by the chair of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners supporting victims group when asking the Ministry earlier this year to clarify what funding is available to PCCs. The Minister told my hon. Friend the Member for Wigan (Lisa Nandy) that he will be "keeping an eye on this matter". With respect, keeping an eye on the matter is not good enough. Will the Secretary of State now confirm that victims services will receive the full funding that they require?

Oral questions - Supplementary

Answering member: The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Dr Phillip Lee)

The victims services budget has increased significantly from £48 million in 2010-11 to about £95 million in the current financial year. In 2016-17, for example, we have allocated about £7 million to 99 rape support centres to provide therapeutic and practical help to male and female victims of rape and child sexual abuse. I do not recognise the description given by the shadow Secretary of State. The Government are committed to protecting victims, particularly women who have been victims of crime.

06 Sep 2016 | Oral answers to questions | 614 c193

Further reading

NHS Choices

[Domestic abuse against men](#)

Find out about domestic abuse (or domestic violence), and where to get support if it's happening to you.

ManKind Initiative, [Male victims of domestic and partner abuse 30 key facts](#), September 2016

ManKind Initiative, [CPS \(E+W\): prosecutions for domestic violence by gender](#), September 2016

Dewar Research, [Government Statistics on Domestic Abuse. Estimated prevalence of domestic abuse. England and Wales 1995-2014/15](#). March 2016

7. Marginalised men

7.1 Homelessness

Local authorities in England carry out either an annual formal count or estimate the number of rough sleepers in their areas. Counts are conducted between 1 October and 30 November each year. Estimates should be produced in consultation with agencies working with rough sleepers in the area, although a small number of local authorities have produced estimates without any external consultation.

The estimated number of rough sleepers in England has increased each year since 2010. The autumn 2010 total was 1,768 while the autumn 2015 total was more than twice as high at 3,569. The number of rough sleepers increased by 30% between 2014 and 2015, the biggest year-on-year increase since 2011.

Rough sleepers in London made up just over a quarter of the England total in 2015. The number of rough sleepers grew from 415 in 2010 to 940 in 2015, an overall increase of 127%. There was a 27% increase between 2014 and 2015. The largest year-on-year increase, of 37%, took place between 2013 and 2014.

The annual rough sleeper counts do not include a gender breakdown.

The Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN) database contains information about rough sleepers in London who have been contacted by outreach teams or who have accessed accommodation for rough sleepers in London. CHAIN is used by people working with rough sleepers in London and it is maintained by St Mungo's. The data does not include people from "hidden homeless" groups such as those "sofa surfing" or living in squats, unless they have also been in contact with an outreach team, day centre or assessment hub.

The latest financial year report, [CHAIN Street to Home Annual Report 2015-16](#), shows that a total of 8,096 rough sleepers were contacted by outreach workers or building-based teams in London during 2015/16 compared to 7,581 contacts in 2014/15; representing an increase of 7%. The year-on-year increases in the previous four periods were: 16% in 2013/14 to 2014/15; 1% in 2012/13 to 2013/14; 13% in 2011/12 to 2012/13; and 43% in 2010/11 to 2011/12.

The vast majority of rough sleepers in London are male. Over 2015-16 CHAIN recorded contact with 1,216 female rough sleepers (15%) and 6,878 male rough sleepers (85%). However, the proportion of women seen rough sleeping in London had increased from 14% in 2014-15 and 13% in 2013-14.

Press articles

Telegraph, 6 August 2016

[Homelessness is a gendered issue, and it mostly impacts men](#)

Parliamentary Material

[Homelessness](#)

Tabled by: Davies, Philip

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what proportion of homeless people were (a) men and (b) women in the latest period for which figures are available.

Department: Department for Communities and Local Government

07 Nov 2016 | Written questions | Tabled | House of Commons | 52049

[Homelessness](#)

HL Debate | 07 Sep 2016 | 774 cc1090-1105

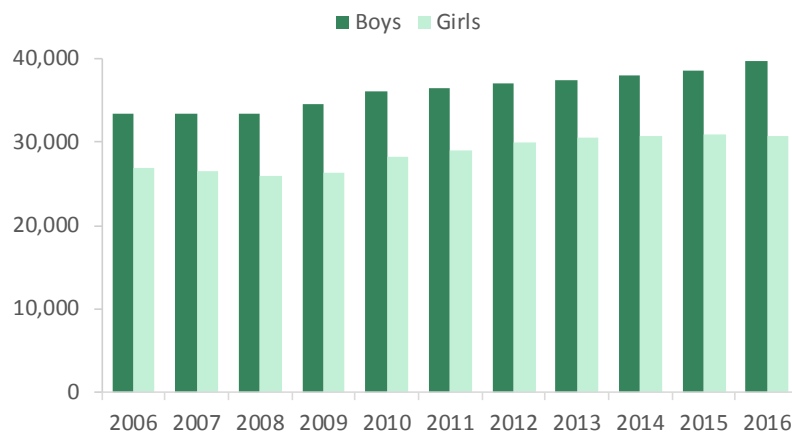
[Homelessness](#)

HL Debate | 04 Feb 2016 | 768 cc38-54GC

7.2 Boys in care

More boys than girls are looked after by local authorities. The latest data for England¹² shows that in the year ending March 2016, 56% of the looked after population were boys: 39,670 boys compared with 30,780 girls. This proportion has stayed relatively stable over the last decade.

Looked after children in England



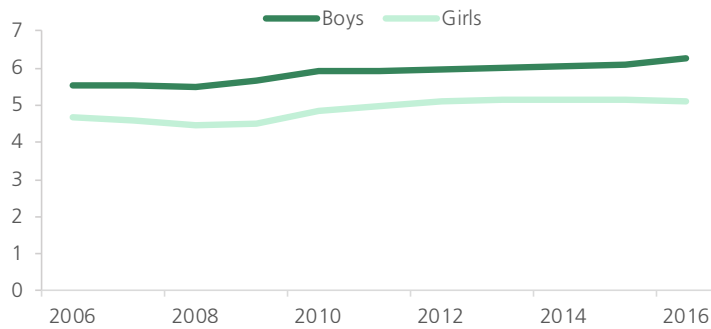
Source: [Department for Education: Children looked after in England statistics](#)

The rate of boys looked after per 1,000 population aged under 18 increased from 5.5 to 6.3 between 2006 and 2016. The corresponding increase for girls was from 4.7 to 5.1.

¹² [Department for Education: Children looked after in England, 2015 to 2016](#)

Looked after children in England

Rate per 1,000 population aged 0-18 years



Source: [Department for Education: Children looked after in England statistics](#)

Press articles

Guardian, 10 November 2016

[Lessons from Europe: how projects supporting care leavers are transforming lives](#)

Guardian, 20 May 2016

[When I left my foster home, getting support became a nightmare](#)

Telegraph, 30 March 2016

[Children's homes kids 20 times more likely to get into trouble, says report](#)

BBC News, 23 June 2015

[Offending rates among children in care investigated - BBC News](#)

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