

Debate Pack

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International Men's Day 2022

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Summary

A debate on International Men's Day has been scheduled for Thursday 17 November. The debate will be led by Nick Fletcher MP (Conservative).

International Men's Day is celebrated annually on 19 November. In the UK, it is organised by the [Men and Boys Coalition](#) and is normally the subject of a debate in the House of Commons.

This debate pack provides an analysis of men's health, male suicide and male educational outcomes.

1

International Men's Day

International Men's Day is celebrated annually on 19 November. This iteration of the day was formally inaugurated by a lecturer, Dr Jerome Teelucksingh, in Trinidad and Tobago on 19 November 1999.¹ In a 21 October 2020 podcast interview, Dr Jerome Teelucksingh suggested the need to “promote positive male role models” was his main motivation for founding the day.²

In the UK, it is organised by the [Men and Boys Coalition](#) and is normally the subject of a debate in the House of Commons.

[During the debate last year, on 25 November 2021](#), Members drew attention to a range of issues, including men's mental health, male access to preventative healthcare, rough sleeping and male victims of violence.

International Men's Day in the UK has the same three themes each year:

- Making a positive difference to the wellbeing and lives of men and boys
- Promoting a positive conversation about men, manhood and masculinity
- Raising awareness and/or funds for charities supporting men and boys' wellbeing³

These themes are designed to help organisations and individuals consider some of the issues that affect men and boys. Set out on the International Men's Day UK website, they include a consideration of the high male suicide rate; the challenges faced by men and boys at all stages of education and work; male experience of parenting; and male survivors of abuse.⁴

These themes are also reflected in the [four reports that have been produced by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Men & Boys](#), chaired by the Member sponsoring the debate.

This debate pack provides an analysis of men's health, male suicide and male educational outcomes.

¹ International Men's Day, [History & Background](#) (accessed 14 November 2022)

² everywoman Podcast, '[International Men's Day shouldn't be in opposition to International Women's Day' – Dr Jerome Teelucksingh, founder of IMD](#), 21 October 2020

³ International Men's Day UK, [2022 Theme](#) (accessed 14 November 2022)

⁴ As above

2

Education

Schooling

At the end of key stage 2 – ie, the end of primary education, boys fare worse than girls, on most key attainment measures. For example, in 2022, a lower proportion of boys (54%) reached the expected standard in all of reading, writing and mathematics, than did girls (63%). However, when we look just at maths, boys were more likely than girls to reach both the expected standard, and also the higher standard.⁵

At GCSE level, girls once again outperform boys on all headline attainment measures. In 2022, 47% of boys attained a grade 5 (old high C/ low B grade) or above in both English and maths GCSE, compared to 53% of girls.⁶ The picture is similar at A Level. In grade terms, the average A Level grade for boys in 2022 was B-, whereas for girls, it was B.⁷

Boys also have significantly higher rates of identified special educational needs and higher permanent and fixed-term exclusion rates from school.^{8,9}

Higher education

Women are much more likely to go to university than men and this has been the case for many years. In 2020/21, by age 19, 51% of state school- educated females entered higher education, compared to 38% of males.¹⁰ Women are also more likely to complete their studies and gain a first or upper second-class degree.

However, after graduation, men are more likely to be in highly skilled employment or further study just after graduation. Male graduate average earnings are around 8% higher than female earnings one year after graduation. This earnings gap grows substantially over their early careers and reaches 32% ten years after graduation.¹¹

⁵ Department for Education, [Key stage 2 attainment: 2022](#), (provisional) updated 6 October 2022

⁶ Department for Education, [Key stage 4 performance: 2022](#) (provisional) updated 7 November 2022

⁷ Department for Education, [Key stage 5 performance: 2022](#) (provisional) published 10 November 2022

⁸ Department for Education, [Special educational needs in England](#), 2021/22, published June 2022

⁹ Department for Education, [Permanent exclusions and suspensions in England](#), 2020/21, 28 July 2022

¹⁰ Department for Education, [Widening participation in higher education 2020/21](#), 28 July 2022

¹¹ Department for Education, [Graduate outcomes \(LEO\), 2018-19 tax year](#), updated July 2022

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Health

One of the six pillars of International Men's Day is to “focus on men's health and wellbeing”.¹²

November also marks ‘[Movember](#)’ which specifically aims to raise awareness of men's health issues. It was established in 2003 in Australia and has spread globally. The [Movember Foundation](#) focuses on [mental health and suicide prevention](#), [prostate cancer](#) and [testicular cancer](#).

Call for a men's health strategy

In February 2022, the All-party parliamentary group (APPG) on issues affecting men and boys published [The case for a men's health strategy \(PDF\)](#). The report states the APPG heard compelling evidence for a “holistic, evidence-based, positive and gender-informed” men's health strategy.¹³

The report said barriers preventing men and boys accessing help for health needs include social determinants such as educational attainment; intersectional factors such as race; gender norms; “a public health system that is not male friendly”; and a lack of gender-informed campaigns.¹⁴

The APPG made the following recommendations:

1. We fully support and endorse the creation of a Men's Health Strategy in England.
2. The Government should start the process (an outline process has been included in this report) by June 2022, or soon after the Women's Health Strategy is launched (if that is earlier). It should aim to complete and publish a Men's Health Strategy by Summer 2023.
3. The Government should build on the work of the wider Men's Health Strategy campaign led by the Men's Health Forum. This includes full engagement with national and international men's health experts as well as hearing from men and boys themselves.
4. We support the aims, strategy and strategic principles behind a Men's Health Strategy that the experts put forward, including being founded on the positive ‘What Works’ approach, not a deficit model approach.
5. There must be clear and visible accountability for delivering improvements in men's health including a Government Minister with responsibility; a Men's Health Ambassador; a specific strand of work within the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities; specific

¹² International Men's Day, [Objectives of IMD](#) (accessed 14 November 2022)

¹³ APPG on issues affecting men and boys, [The case for a men's health strategy \(PDF\)](#), February 2022, p.4

¹⁴ As above, pp.10-12

accountabilities for local authorities, NHS Integrated Care Partnerships and mental health trusts.

6. Increased funding for multidisciplinary research into men's health.
7. There must be clear national and local quantitative and qualitative targets for improving men's health.
8. The creation of a National Centre for Men's Health.
9. A Men's Health Strategy should be included and be a key driver in the Government's forthcoming White Paper on Health Disparities in England.¹⁵

In March 2022, a [debate on the potential merits of a men's health strategy](#) took place in Westminster Hall. The then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Maria Caulfield, said the White Paper on health disparities would address the difference in life expectancy between men and women. She also referred to commitments in the [Long term plan](#) to improve outcomes for people with heart disease, reduce smoking, and diagnose cancer earlier.¹⁶

In August 2022, Lord Kamall said the Government has no current plans to develop a men's health strategy.¹⁷

3.1

Health Statistics

Life expectancy

The [most recent ONS data](#) shows that life expectancy at birth in 2018-20 was 79.0 years for men and 82.9 for women – a gap of almost four years. The gender gap in life expectancy at birth has fallen since the 1980s, when it was six years rather than four. Life expectancy at age 65 was 18.5 years for men and 21.0 years for women in 2018-20.

Cancer

The 2020 age-standardised cancer incidence rate was 21% higher for men than for women, but this gap has become slightly smaller over time.

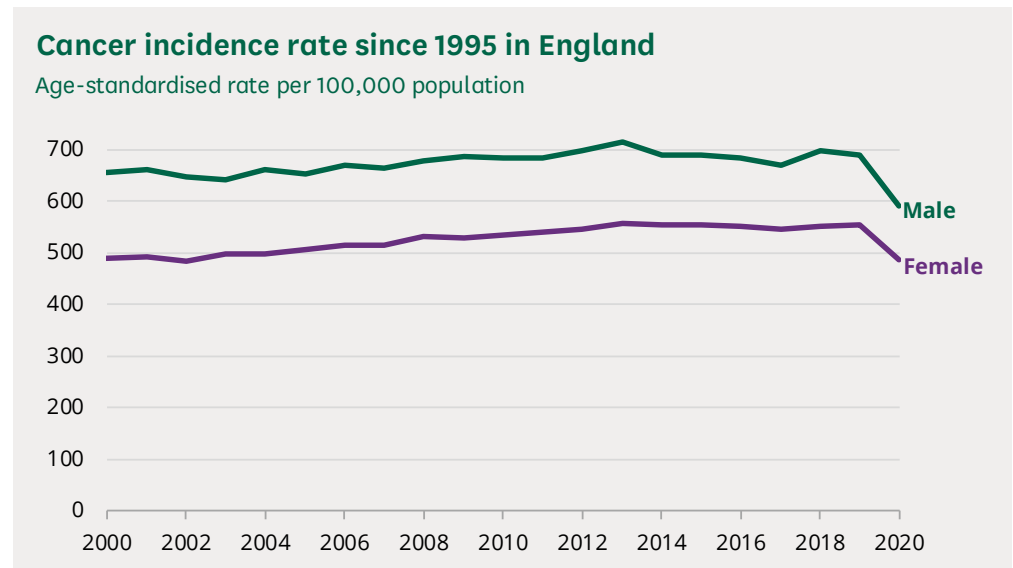
The male cancer incidence rate rose by 11% between 2020 and 2013 while the female incidence rate rose by 20%. Between 2014 and 2019, rates were relatively stable before falling in 2020 to the lowest levels recorded over the

¹⁵ APPG on issues affecting men and boys, [The case for a men's health strategy \(PDF\)](#), February 2022, p.27

¹⁶ [HC Deb 22 March 2022 \(c56WH\)](#)

¹⁷ [PQ HL2007 \[on Health Services: Males\], 21 July 2022](#)

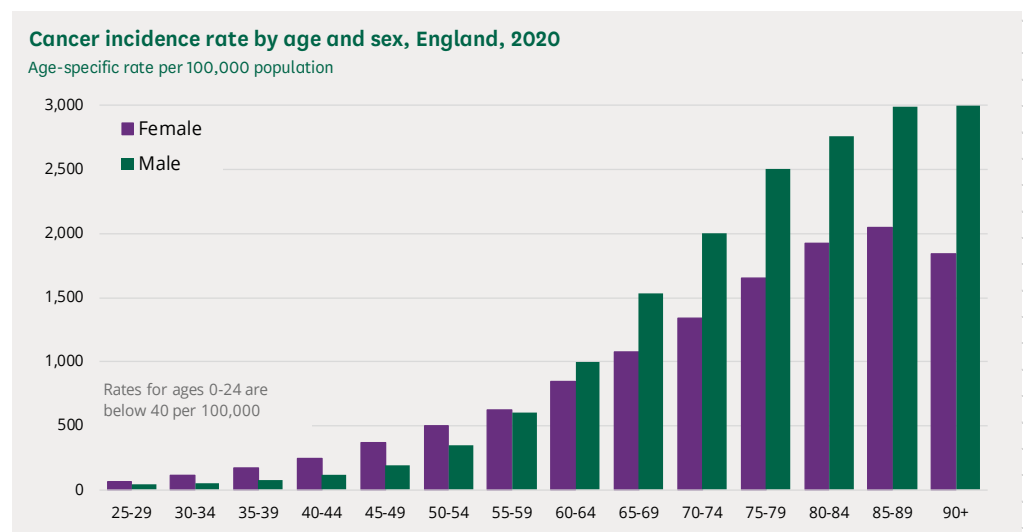
past 20 years for both males (590 cases per 100,000) and females (488 cases per 100,000).



Source: [Cancer Registration Statistics, England 2020 - NHS Digital](#)

The low rates reported in 2020 should be treated with caution. The reduction in reported new cases could be an artefact of the Coronavirus pandemic's impact on cancer testing and diagnostic services.

Cancer is more common among women than men between ages 15 and 59. Common cancers mainly affecting women (such as breast and cervical cancer), are more likely to affect younger people than some cancers affecting men (such as prostate cancer). However, among older age groups, incidence rates are around 50% more common among men than women.



Source: [Cancer Registration Statistics, England 2020 - NHS Digital](#)

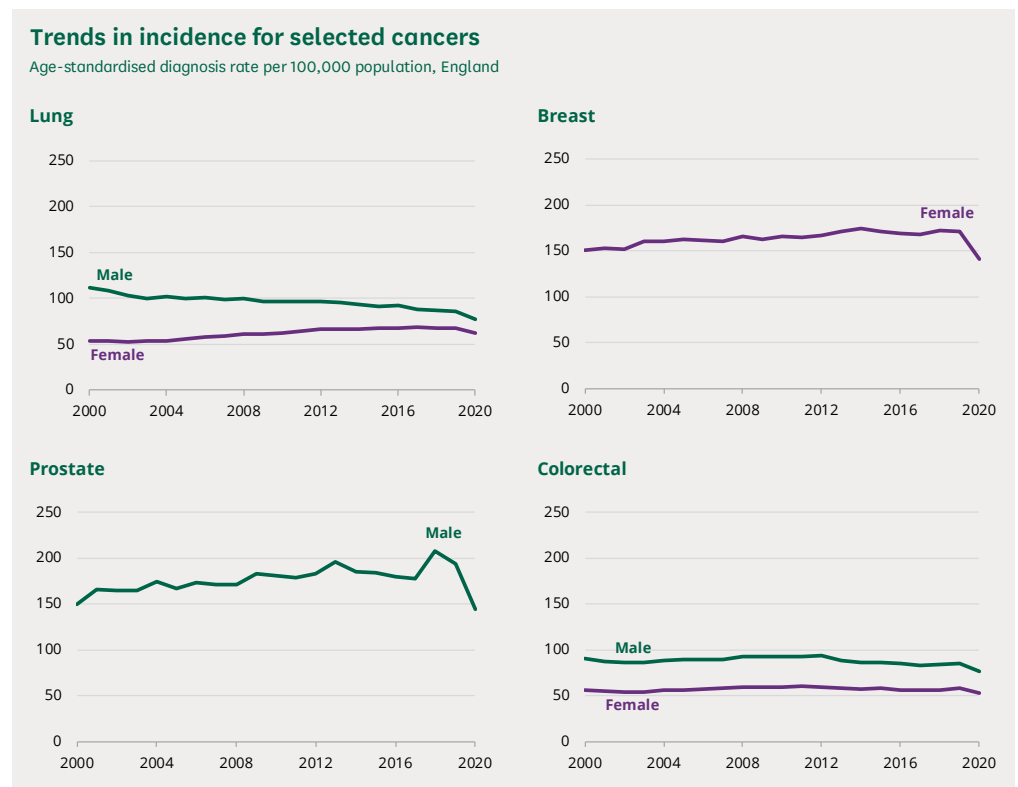
The charts below show trends in diagnosis rates for the most common cancers.

Over the past 20 years, lung cancer incidence fell by 31% for men but rose by 17% among women. However, the male rate remains 24% higher than the female rate.

Colorectal cancer rates have changed little since 2000. In 2020 male rates were 45% higher than female rates.

Breast cancer incidence among women¹⁸ and prostate cancer incidence among men, tended to increase between 2000 and 2019. Rates in both cases fell in 2020 to their lowest recorded levels over the past 20 years.

However, as previously stated, the 2020 reduction in reported new cases could be related to the Coronavirus pandemic's impact on cancer testing and diagnostic services.

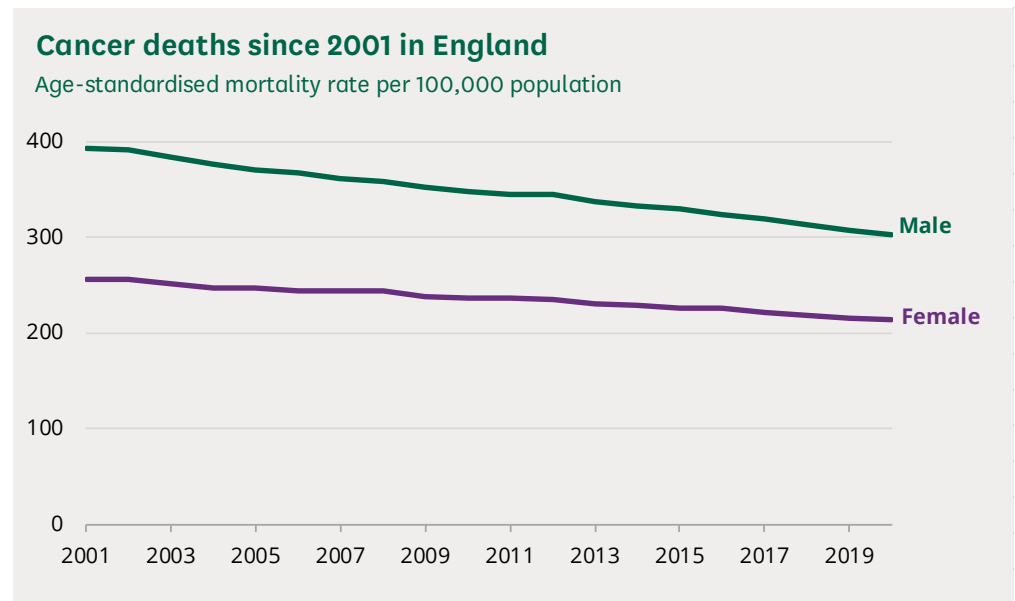


Source: [Cancer Registration Statistics, England 2020 - NHS Digital](#)

The chart below shows the age-standardised mortality rate from cancer in England since 2001. The male mortality rate is 41% higher than the female

¹⁸ Note that breast cancer does occur in males but is around 120 times less common. Male breast cancer trends are not shown on the chart.

rate, but this gap has reduced since 2001, when the male rate was 53% higher.



Source: [Cancer Registration Statistics, England 2020 - NHS Digital](#)

Heart disease

[NHS data](#) shows that in 2020/21 in England, 59% of those admitted to hospital with a primary diagnosis of heart disease were men.

A total of 48,744 men [died from heart disease](#) in 2020 in England and Wales, compared with 34,839 women.

Obesity and excess weight

Data from the [Health Survey for England 2019](#) shows that 68% of men were overweight or obese, compared with 60% of women. However, women were slightly more likely to be obese than men.

Data from the [National Child Measurement Programme 2021/22](#) shows that among reception age children (age 4-5), 10.3% of boys were obese compared with 9.9% of girls. In Year 6 (age 10-11), 26.4% of boys were obese compared with 20.4% of girls.

Smoking, drugs, and alcohol

[Data from the Annual Population Survey](#) shows that in 2020, men aged 18+ were more likely to be current smokers (13.8%) than women (10.4%).

[NHS data](#) shows that men in England were twice as likely to be admitted to hospital for a condition related to alcohol in 2020/21. Men were [almost three times as likely](#) as women to die from alcohol-specific conditions in 2020, and almost twice as likely to die from chronic liver disease.

Data on drug misuse from the [Crime Survey of England and Wales](#) shows that in 2019/20 men were more likely to say that they used an illicit drugs within the last year (11.9% of men and 6.9% of women). Men were also more likely to report having used a Class A drug within the past year, 4.4% of men compared with 2.3% of women.

Workplace deaths

[Data from the Health and Safety Executive](#) shows that fatal injuries to workers are mostly to males. In 2021/22, 94% of worker fatalities (114 deaths) involved male workers, which was a similar proportion to earlier years.

4

Male suicide

Risk factors among men

Public Health England's guidance [Local suicide prevention planning: a practice resource \(September 2020\)](#) notes that there are a range of factors associated with suicide that are particularly common in men. These include depression, especially when it is untreated or undiagnosed, including in older people; alcohol and drug misuse; unemployment; family and relationship problems; social isolation and low self-esteem.

[Research by the Samaritans](#) found that men at risk of suicide didn't see community support services as relevant to them, so chances to engage with help before they hit crisis point were missed. The men spoken to said they want inclusive services that feature peer support and help them to work towards common goals.¹⁹

Suicide prevention policy

The Government's [Suicide prevention strategy for England](#) (2012) includes young and middle-aged men as a group known to be at higher risk of suicide than the general population. The strategy highlights that gay and bisexual men are at a higher risk of experiencing suicidal ideation, self-harm and substance misuse.²⁰

The Government published its latest progress report on the suicide prevention strategy in March 2021, [Preventing suicide in England: fifth progress report of the cross-government outcomes strategy to save lives](#). The report considers the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on middle-aged men, noting that they may be more vulnerable to the effects of economic difficulties.

In 2019, the Government published a [Cross-government suicide prevention workplan](#). This was updated following the pandemic and can be found in the annexe of the fifth progress report. It includes actions aimed at combatting the high suicide risk amongst men, such as opening 15 new specialist problem gambling clinics by 2023 to 2024.²¹

In 2021-22, the DHSC [awarded £5.4 million in grant funding](#) to suicide prevention organisations in the voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors

¹⁹ Samaritans, [Out of sight, out of mind: Why less well-off middle-aged men don't get the support they need](#), April 2020

²⁰ Department of Health and Social Care, [Suicide prevention strategy for England](#), 10 September 2012

²¹ Department of Health and Social Care, [Suicide prevention in England: fifth progress report](#), Annex B – Cross-Government Suicide Prevention Workplan: Completed and ongoing actions, p.53

The Government has committed to publishing a [new, 10-year suicide prevention plan](#). This will be informed by a [discussion paper and call for evidence](#) on “what we can do to improve everyone’s mental health and wellbeing”, that ran between April and July 2022.

More detailed information can be found in the Library briefing paper on [Suicide prevention: Policy and strategy](#).

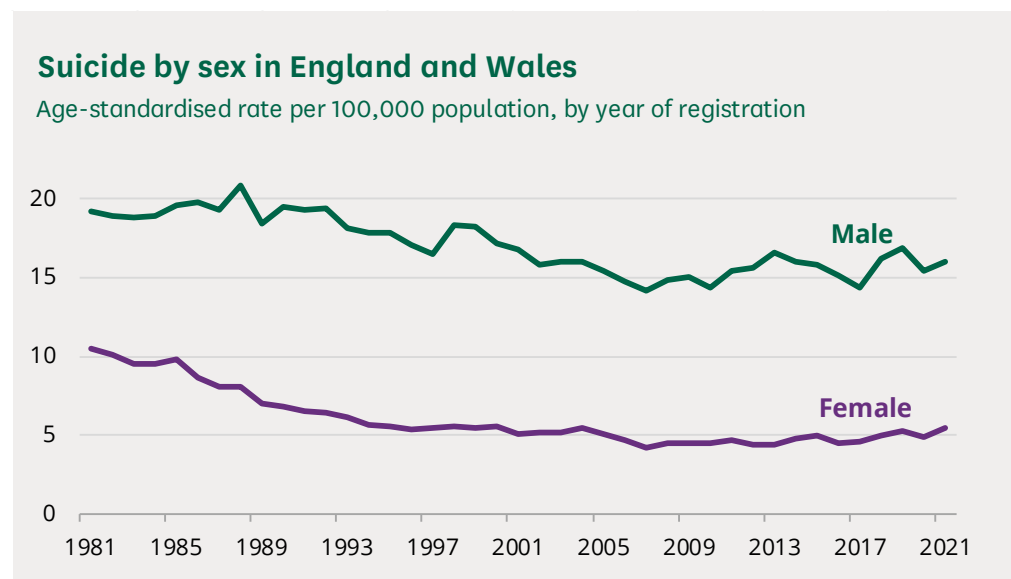
4.1

Suicide, mental health and self-harm

Suicide

Suicide in England and Wales is three times more common among men than among women. The gap between genders has increased over time.

The chart below shows trends since 1981 for each gender. The suicide rate among women has almost halved since 1981 (a 47% reduction). By comparison, the rate among men has reduced by 17%.



Source: [ONS, Suicide in England and Wales](#)

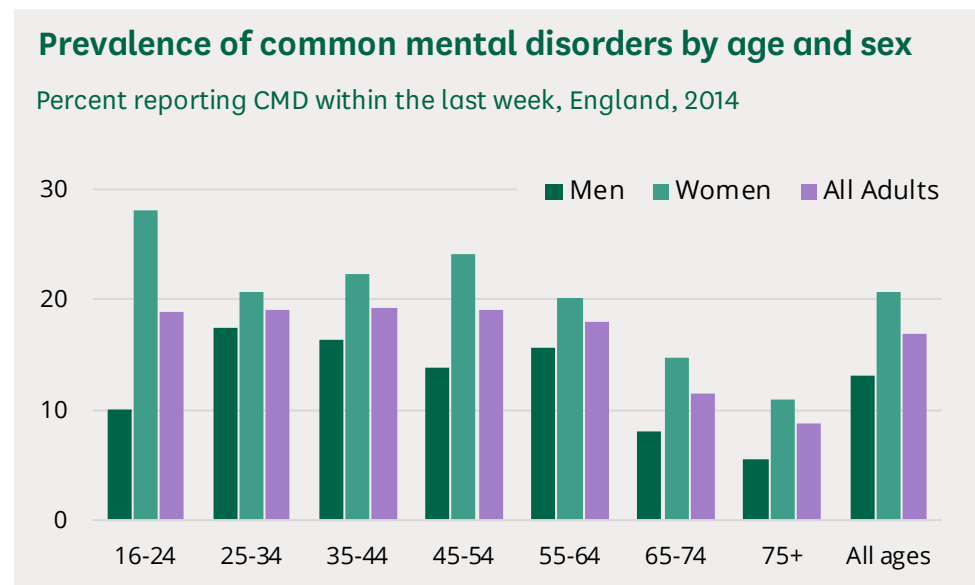
Although the suicide rate is lower among younger age groups, this should be understood in the context of much lower mortality rates among young people. Among men aged 20-34, suicide was the [leading cause of death in England and Wales](#), accounting for around a third of all (34%) deaths in that age group registered in 2021.

Mental health

Based on data from the [adult psychiatric morbidity survey 2014](#):

- Men are less likely than women to have a common mental disorder (e.g. depression or anxiety)
- Men are less likely than women to report having had recent suicidal thoughts
- Men are slightly more likely than women to screen positive for bipolar disorder
- Men are less likely than women to screen positive for post-traumatic stress disorder

The chart below shows data on the prevalence of common mental disorders by age and gender from this survey.



Data on [NHS psychological therapies](#) shows that men are less likely to access talking therapies for common mental disorders. In 2021/22, 33% of those referred were male, and 67% were female.

Self-harm

[NHS data](#) shows that young men/boys are less likely to be admitted to hospital due to self-harm than young women/girls. In 2020/21, a total of 8,845 males aged 10-24 years were admitted to hospital in England for self-harm, compared with 32,700 females in the same age group.

Over the past five years in England, males accounted for 24% of hospital admissions for self-harm among 10-24 year olds, while females accounted for 76%.

5

Parliamentary Material

Statement

[Changes to the Blood Donor Selection Criteria](#)

18 Oct 2021 | Written statements | House of Commons | HCWS312

Member: Sajid Javid

Department: Department of Health and Social Care

Debate

[Men's Health Strategy](#) – HC Deb 22 Mar 2022 – 711 cc55-61WH

[International Men's Day](#) – HC Deb 25 Nov 2021 – 704 cc159-182WH

Parliamentary questions

Health

[Health: Males](#)

Asked by: Baroness Eaton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to (1) ensuring men's health is made a ministerial priority, and (2) making improvements to men's health a specific strand of work within the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities.

Answering member: Lord Kamall | **Department:** Department of Health and Social Care

Improving the health of both men and women is a ministerial priority for the Department. Evidence suggests that men are disproportionately affected by certain conditions, such as ischemic heart disease, are more likely to smoke or engage in other health harming behaviours and are more likely to die by suicide. We have committed to reduce stroke and heart attacks and the forthcoming publication of the new Tobacco Control Plan will target groups where smoking rates are not decreasing, including men. We are also investing in measures to prevent suicide.

While there are no current plans to make men's health a specific strand of work, the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities aims to improve the health of the population regardless of socio-economic background or gender.

01 Aug 2022 | Written questions | Answered | House of Lords | HL2002

Date tabled: 21 Jul 2022 | **Date for answer:** 04 Aug 2022 | **Date answered:** 01 Aug 2022

[Human Papillomavirus: Males](#)

Asked by: Madders, Justin

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to the Answer of 27 April 2022 to Question 155796 on Human Papillomavirus: Males, what the HPV rates are for men aged 16 to 45 years old according to information obtained by the UK Health Security Agency's surveillance of the prevalence of human papillomavirus infections.

Answering member: Maggie Throup | **Department:** Department of Health and Social Care

Surveillance in this cohort, which does not include heterosexual males, is ongoing, therefore the information requested is not yet held centrally. The UK Health Security Agency anticipates that this data will be available in 2023.

26 May 2022 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 1196

Date tabled: 12 May 2022 | **Date for answer:** 16 May 2022 | **Date answered:** 26 May 2022

[Mortality Rates: Males](#)

Asked by: McVey, Esther

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to investigate excess deaths among males aged 15 to 19 in response to the ONS' finding that there had been a statistically significant increase in that number from 1 May to 24 December 2021.

Answering member: Maggie Throup | **Department:** Department of Health and Social Care

The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, in collaboration with the Office for National Statistics (ONS), investigated excess deaths in young people in 2021. On 22 March 2022, the ONS published 'COVID-19 vaccination and mortality in young people during the coronavirus pandemic', which reviewed the observation that more deaths were registered in England in 2021 for young people, compared with the average for the five years preceding the pandemic. The report is available at the following link:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/causesofdeath/articles/covid19vaccinationandmortalityinyoungpeopleduringthecoronaviruspandemic/2022-03-22>

The analysis confirmed more deaths were registered in young people aged 15 to 29 years old in England in 2021 than the average number registered in 2015 to 2019. There were 113 excess deaths in males and 66 excess deaths in females this age group in 2021. For males aged 15 to 19 years old, there were 72 excess deaths in 2021, compared with the average for 2015 to 2019. There is no evidence that these excess deaths were linked to COVID-19 vaccination and there was no increase in registrations of cardiac-related deaths. The excess death registrations in 2021 in those aged 15 to 29 years old were instead largely due to deaths from external causes and COVID-19.

The increase in death registrations in 2021 followed a fall in 2020. It is likely that the excess in 2021 was influenced by the known disruption to the operation of coroners' courts, particularly during spring 2020. For deaths of people aged 15 to 29 years old from all causes registered in 2021, 32% occurred in 2020. For this reason, the report also looked at deaths by the year in which they occurred. Deaths which occurred in 2020 increased for some causes, including accidental poisonings for males aged 15 to 24 years old. For deaths which occurred in 2021, this information is not yet available.

26 Apr 2022 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 153936

Date tabled: 14 Apr 2022 | **Date for answer:** 20 Apr 2022 | **Date answered:** 26 Apr 2022

Male Suicide

[Engagements](#)

Asked by: Bim Afolami (Hitchin and Harpenden) (Con)

Bim Afolami (Hitchin and Harpenden) (Con):

Founded in Hitchin by an inspirational man called Richard Lucas, the Govox mental wellbeing platform was started in 2018, following the sad loss of local young men to suicide. Since then, working with brilliant partners such as NHSX, King's College London and others, the technology platform and support services have grown to support the mental wellbeing and mental health of over 40,000 young people in more than 10 countries. Today, Govox is launching its campaign to offer its services free to over 1,000 state secondary schools. Will the Prime Minister welcome this initiative and perhaps go to Hitchin and meet the people from Govox? Secondly, will he set out what more we can do to help young people and young men with the problems of mental health and wellbeing?

Answered by: The Prime Minister | **Department:** Prime Minister

I thank my hon. Friend. I am very pleased to hear about the work that Govox is doing to support mental health and wellbeing, and we are putting more money into mental healthcare support—an extra £2.3 billion a year in the next financial year, which of course we can supply thanks to the decisions taken by this Government, which the Labour party opposed.

20 Apr 2022 | Prime Minister's questions - 1st Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | 712 cc157-8

Date answered: 20 Apr 2022

[Mental Health Services: Males](#)

Asked by: Hendrick, Sir Mark

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department takes to take into account the needs of men when developing mental health support policies.

Answering member: Gillian Keegan | **Department:** Department of Health and Social Care

The Department regularly engages a range of stakeholder organisations, individuals and people with lived experiences, to understand the needs of specific groups. The Equality Act 2010 places a duty on the Department to consider equality and disadvantaged groups when designing policies and delivering services. This includes age, disability, gender reassignment, marital or civil partnership status, pregnancy and motherhood, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

16 Dec 2021 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 87596

Date tabled: 06 Dec 2021 | **Date for answer:** 08 Dec 2021 | **Date answered:** 16 Dec 2021

[Suicide: Males](#)

Asked by: Fletcher, Colleen

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment he has made of suicide rates among men; what steps he is taking on male suicide prevention; and what funding his Department has invested in male suicide prevention in each of the last five years.

Answering member: Gillian Keegan | **Department:** Department of Health and Social Care

The Office for National Statistics publishes annual and quarterly data on suicide registration in England and Wales. The latest release was on 7 September 2021, looking at suicide registrations in 2020. The male suicide rate for England of 15.3 deaths per 100,000 people is significantly lower than in 2019 but consistent with rates in earlier years.

We are investing £57 million in suicide prevention through the NHS Long Term Plan by 2023/24 to assist local prevention plans and establish suicide bereavement support services. Funding for local areas is used to test different approaches to reaching and engaging men and we have issued guidance to local authorities highlighting the importance of working across all local services, including the voluntary sector, to target high risk groups such as men. Through the 'COVID-19 mental health and wellbeing recovery action plan', we are making an additional £5 million available in 2021/22 for voluntary sector organisations who work to prevent suicide and a further £1

million for NHS England and NHS Improvement's suicide prevention programme.

In March we published the latest progress report of the National Suicide Prevention Strategy and a refreshed cross-Government suicide prevention workplan, setting out a programme to reduce suicides in England.

08 Nov 2021 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 69101

Date tabled: 03 Nov 2021 | **Date for answer:** 08 Nov 2021 | **Date answered:** 08 Nov 2021

Education

[Teachers: Males](#)

Asked by: Bradley, Ben

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether his Department will take steps to increase the levels of recruitment of male primary school teachers.

Answering member: Jonathan Gullis | **Department:** Department for Education

The Department wants to attract and retain diverse, talented teachers from all backgrounds, and this includes recruiting male teachers.

The recruitment of primary school teachers remains strong. In 2021/22, 136% of the Postgraduate Initial Teacher Training target was achieved in primary. This target has been exceeded in four of the last five years.

In 2021, the Department's new application service for initial teacher training (ITT) in England, 'Apply for teacher training', was rolled out nationally. It has been designed to be as user-friendly as possible and has been extensively tested with a diverse range of potential applicants to ensure it helps remove barriers to great teachers applying for ITT courses.

The Department's recruitment campaigns are targeted at audiences of students, recent graduates, and potential career changers, regardless of their identity or background. We take every effort to

ensure that our advertising is fully reflective of this across the full range of marketing materials used.

Since September 2020, all courses offered by ITT providers have been aligned to a mandatory core content framework, published in November 2019. The framework sets out a minimum entitlement for all trainee teachers.

In September 2021, the early career framework was implemented, entitling early career teachers to a further 2 years of development support and training.

Moreover, the reforms outlined in the Government's response to the ITT market review will help us meet the commitment made in the teacher recruitment and retention strategy to create a world-class teacher development system by transforming the training and support teachers receive at every stage of their career.

To ensure that all children and young people get the very best education, it is essential that the Department has a workforce of well-trained and well-supported teachers, with the expertise needed to deliver great teaching every day.

24 Oct 2022 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 60042

Date tabled: 10 Oct 2022 | **Date for answer:** 12 Oct 2022 | **Date answered:** 24 Oct 2022

[Higher Education: Males](#)

Asked by: Phillipson, Bridget

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, for each of the last fifteen years how many young men (a) turned 18, (b) aged between 18 and 21 entered university, (c) commenced a level 6 qualification in higher education and (d) completed a level 6 qualification in higher education; and what proportion of those who (i) commenced and (ii) completed a level 6 qualification in higher education did so in STEM subjects.

Answering member: Michelle Donelan | **Department:** Department for Education

The department's annual publication 'Participation measures in higher education' provides a time series of the initial participation of students

in higher education (HE), available here: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/participation-measures-in-higher-education>. This release includes age-specific data showing the number of English domiciled entrants to higher education in the UK who participate for a minimum period of six months for the first time. It also includes age-specific population estimates for England, which were calculated from Office for National Statistics population data, available here:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/analysisofpopulationestimatestoolforuk>.

These two sources are combined to derive the Higher Education Initial Participation measure, calculated as the sum of age specific participation rates for 17 to 30-year-olds in England. Statistics are published for the 2006/07 to 2019/20 academic years.

The bespoke table below has been generated from the publication containing age and gender breakdowns for initial entrants to higher education, as well as the associated population estimates for England. The table is available here: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables/permalink/debf7f5f-9481-40d7-8f7e-0e915c21c7c6>.

This shows, for example, that the 18-year-old population estimates for England in 2019/20 were 301,745 for females and 318,390 for males. There were 163,370 female initial entrants and 134,285 male initial entrants aged 18-21 in the 2019/20 academic year.

The other breakdowns requested are not available on the same basis as the figures stated above. However, detailed statistics on entry and qualification in higher education have been published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) as far back as 1994/95.

HESA statistics refer to HE students at UK higher education providers only[1]. Explicit data mapped to National Qualifications Framework level 6 are not published by HESA, however first degrees can be selected as an indicative estimate to observe trends over time. Further details on the qualifications are available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean/list-of-qualification-levels>.

Counts of student entrants and enrolments are available by subject (including science subject areas) and sex for the academic years 2019/20 to 2020/21 in Figure 13 of HESA's Higher Education Student Data pages, available here: <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/sb262/figure-13>.

Counts for the academic years 2014/15 to 2018/19[2] are available in Table 9 of HESA's Higher Education Student Data pages:

<https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/students/table-9>. [3]

Counts of student qualifiers are available by subject (including science subject areas) and sex for the academic years 2019/20 to 2020/21 in Figure 17 of HESA's Higher Education Student Data pages:

<https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/sb262/figure-17>.

Counts for the academic years 2014/15 to 2018/19[4] are available in Figure 17 of HESA's Higher Education Student Statistics: UK, 2018/19 publication:

<https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/sb255/figure-17>. [5]

HESA's publication archive for academic years prior to 2014/15 can be found here: <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/publications#students-higher-education>.

[1] This does not include students studying higher education qualifications at further education colleges.

[2] Figures prior to the academic year 2019/20 exclude a small minority registered at Alternative Providers.

[3] A new subject classification system, the Higher Education Classification of Subjects (HECoS) was introduced in the academic year 2019/20, hence figures for 2018/19 and earlier are not directly comparable with the following years.

[4] Figures prior to the academic year 2019/20 exclude a small minority registered at Alternative Providers.

[5] A new subject classification system, the Higher Education Classification of Subjects (HECoS) was introduced in the academic year 2019/20, hence figures for 2018/19 and earlier are not directly comparable with the following years.

07 Mar 2022 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 132240

Date tabled: 01 Mar 2022 | **Date for answer:** 07 Mar 2022 | **Date answered:** 07 Mar 2022

[Education: Males](#)

Asked by: Baroness Eaton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what further steps they intend to take to improve the average education outcomes for boys to match those of girls in order to narrow the gender learning gap.

Answering member: Baroness Barran | **Department:** Department for Education

The department does not design education policy that exclusively targets certain groups of pupils with characteristics that are protected by the Equality Act 2010, including policy based on gender. We are committed to providing high quality education and training for everyone, whatever their background or personal characteristics.

Since 2010, the government has pursued a reform agenda to drive up academic standards for all and level up for the most disadvantaged pupils. When it comes to raising standards, evidence shows that teachers are the most important in-school factor affecting pupils' education. In June 2021, the department announced an investment of over £250 million in our National Professional Qualifications and Early Career Framework programmes, which are based on the best available evidence and have been developed in partnership with the Education Endowment Foundation. In addition, in October 2021, we announced a levelling up premium worth up to £3,000 tax-free for mathematics, physics, chemistry and computing teachers in years 1 to 5 of their careers. This will support recruitment and retention of specialist teachers in these subjects, and in the schools and areas that need them most. Through this, the department is committed to helping tackle the learning gap for all pupils.

01 Nov 2021 | Written questions | Answered | House of Lords | HL3279

Date tabled: 21 Oct 2021 | **Date for answer:** 04 Nov 2021 | **Date answered:** 01 Nov 2021

Committee material

[Inquiry: Mental health of men and boys: follow-up publications](#) - Women and Equalities Committee

Oral and written evidence transcripts

[Inquiry: The impact of body image on mental and physical health](#) - Health and Social Care Committee

Reports, Oral and written evidence transcripts

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Media

News articles

[Leading charities call for a men's health strategy](#)

Men's Health Forum

02 November 2022

[Let's hear it for the boys: why the real problem in schools is for males](#)

F.T.

02 May 2022

[Now, government promises mental health strategy](#)

Men's Health Forum

14 February 2022

[Single men getting poorer since 1970s](#)

Telegraph

09 November 2022

[They're just as likely to be obese as women, but studies show it puts them at greater risk of early death. Why are so few men having the weight-loss surgery that could save their lives?](#)

Daily Mail

08 November 2022

[Call for more help for older male domestic abuse victims](#)

BBC

23 August

[Male health inequality is exacerbated by a quarter of employers not offering male-specific health support](#)

HR news,

07 June 2022

[Supporting male victims of crimes considered violence against women and girls](#)

Family Law

19 April 2022

[Men need to have their say when it comes to health](#)

Times

11 February 2022

[We All Feel It campaign tackles boys' mental health and suicide](#)

NSPCC

03 January 2022

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Further reading

Library publication

[International Men's Day 2021](#)

[Cancer: summary of statistics \(England\)](#)

[Suicide statistics](#)

[Increasing the number of male primary school teachers](#)

Government

Department of Health and Social Care, [Press release: Men urged to talk about mental health to prevent suicide](#), 24 June 2022

Other organisations

[Men and mental health](#), Mental Health Foundation, 01 October 2021 (Last updated)

[How are we doing? A coproduced approach to tracking young Black men's experiences of community wellbeing and mental health programmes](#), Centre for Mental Health, August 2022

[Do boys need male role models?](#) The Open University, 09 June 2022

[Shifting the Dial: Evaluating a community programme to promote young Black men's mental health](#), Centre for Mental Health, March 2022

White, A. and Tod, M. (2022), The need for a strategy on men's health. Trends Urology & Men Health, 13: 2-8. <https://doi.org/10.1002/tre.842>

[The State of UK Boys](#), The Global Boyhood Initiative, November 2022

Rita Broberg, [Why Are Men Often Overlooked As Victims Of Domestic Abuse?](#), Centre for Social Justice, 14 June 2022

Simon M. Rice, et al, [Sexual abuse and mental ill health in boys and men: what we do and don't know](#), BJPsych Open, 09 June 2022

Tharu Tharakan et al, [Are sex disparities in COVID-19 a predictable outcome of failing men's health provision?](#), Nature Reviews Urology, 18 November 2021

Mark Brooks, [Male victims of domestic abuse and partner abuse: 55 key facts](#), ManKind Initiative, April 2021

Simon Rice, et al, [Gender norms and the mental health of boys and young men](#), Lancet, Volume 6, Issue 8, E541-E542, 01 August , 2021

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