

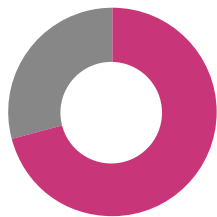
CHAPTER 2:

Living circumstances, education and employment

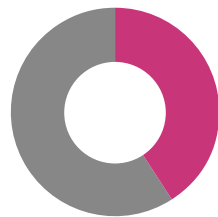
70%
of 10-19 year olds live with married or cohabiting parents

By age 25,
25%
of young women and
35%
of young men are still living at home

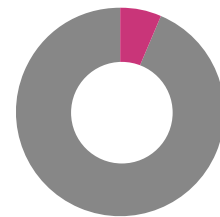
1,032,520
young people aged 11-19 in the UK live in families receiving means tested child-related income supplements



71.1%
of 16-18 year olds were in **full time education** in England 2015/2016



41 %
of English 17-20 year olds were in **higher education** in England 2014/15



6.5%
of 16-18 year olds were **not in education, training or employment (NEET)** in England 2015



52% of students at schools in England achieved 5+ GCSEs grades A*-C in 2016



33% of people on zero hours contracts are aged 16-24

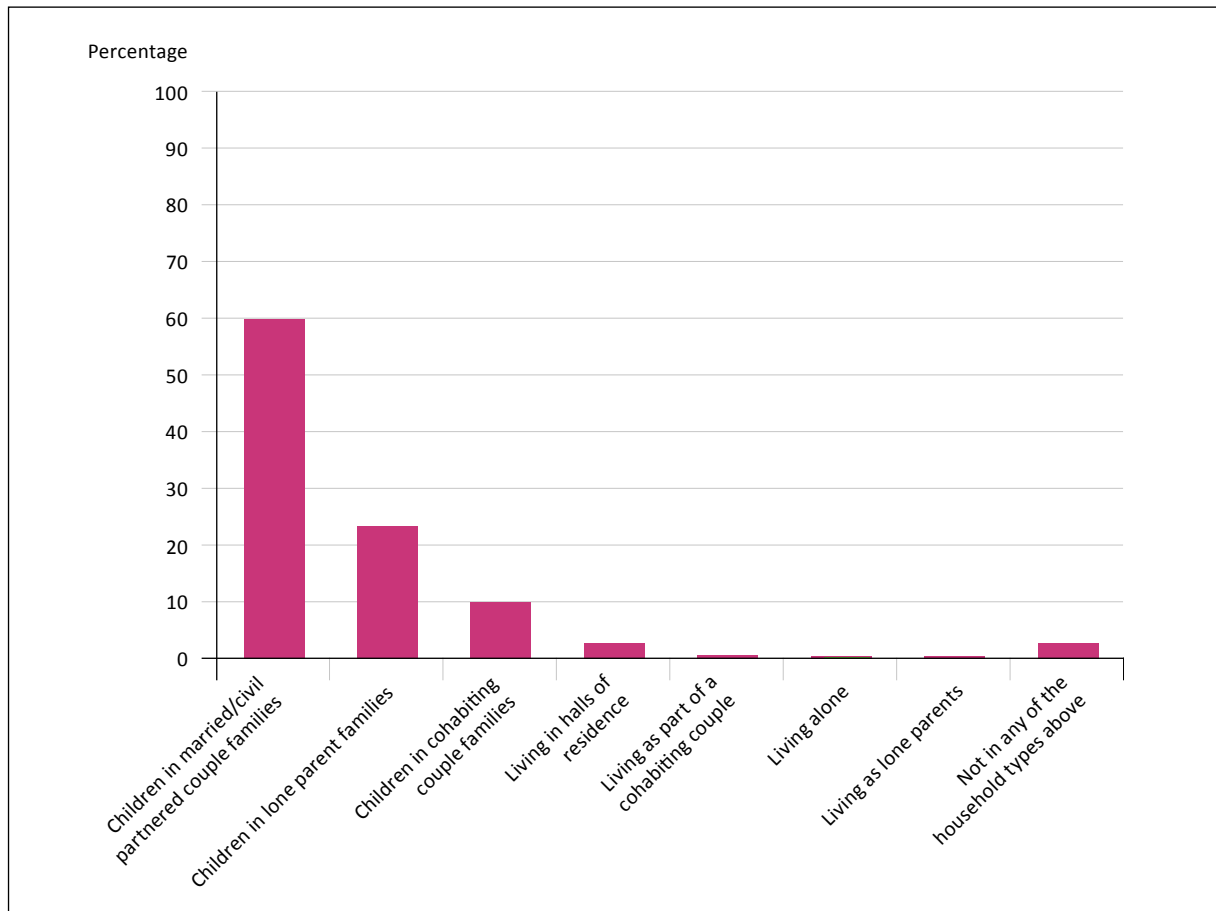
Living circumstances, education and employment

The UK's young people aged 10-24 experience a range of different living circumstances. Up to age 18 the majority are living in families and are engaged in some kind of education, but this does not apply to everyone of this age, and some are in different situations. Beyond 18 the variety of their experiences increases, with some continuing in education, and others moving into training and employment, with a significant proportion spending some time unemployed.

Family situation and living circumstances

There are approximately 27 million households in the UK, of which nearly five million (19%) contain at least one person aged 10-19 (Office for National Statistics, 2017). Indeed the majority of young people of this age are living in families. **Chart 2.1** shows that in 2016 the majority (60%) of 10-19 year olds were living with their married parents. An additional 10% were living with cohabiting parents, and 23% were with lone parents. However, 7% live in other situations, including halls of residence (3%) or in their own newly constructed families (1.5% cohabiting or married and 0.5% are lone parents themselves). The remaining 2% labelled 'none of these' were living in local authority care, hospitals, prisons, or as lodgers, in house shares or with other family members such as siblings or cousins.

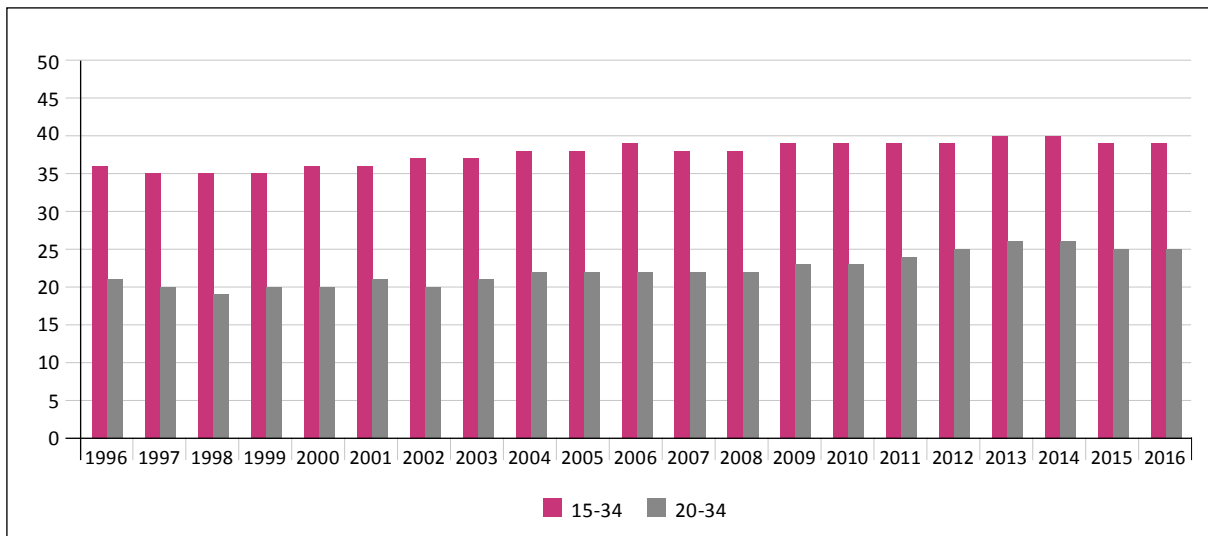
Chart 2.1: Living circumstances of young people in the UK aged 10-19, 2016



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2016 Labour Force Survey (LFS) [DOWNLOAD DATA](#)

Increasing proportions of young people continue to live at home with their families into their early 20s. **Chart 2.2** shows that the numbers of young people aged 15-34 living at home has risen by approximately 800,000 since 1996 (39% of the age group), and by 600,000 for those age 20-34 (25% of the age group). Overall, young men are more likely still to be at home at any age. By age 25, 25% of young women and 35% of young men are still at home (Office for National Statistics, Labour Force Survey, 2016).

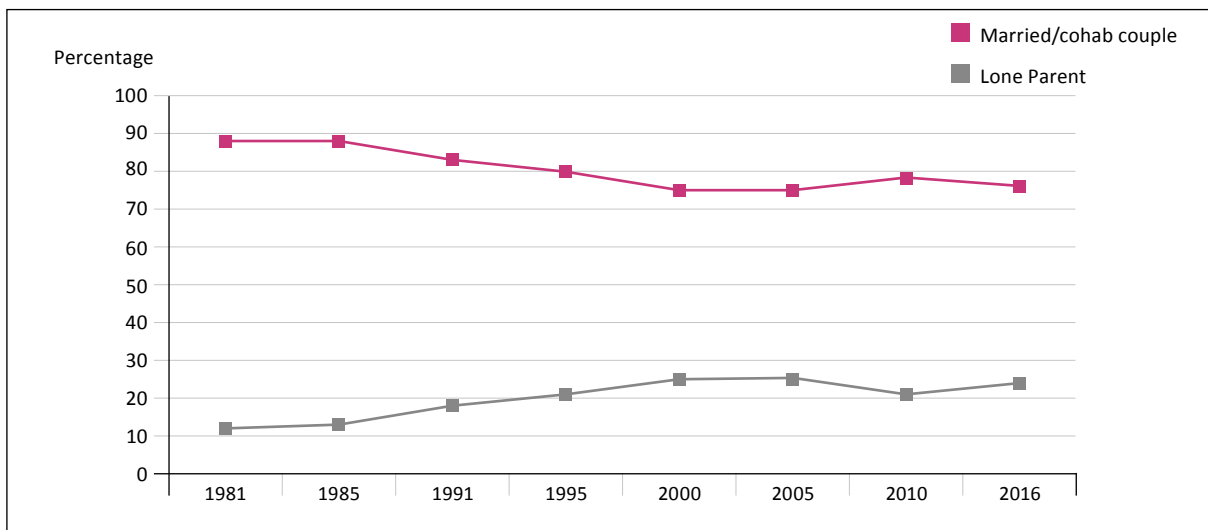
Chart 2.2: Proportion of young people aged 15-34 and 20-24 living at home with their parents, UK, 1996-2016



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2016 Labour Force Survey [DOWNLOAD DATA](#)

Although children and young adults are staying longer in the family home, these homes are more likely to be headed by lone parents than in the 1980s. However, as **Chart 2.3** shows, the proportion of young people living with lone parents is no higher now than it was in 2000. Overall, one in five young people is living with a lone parent. The majority of these are lone mothers.

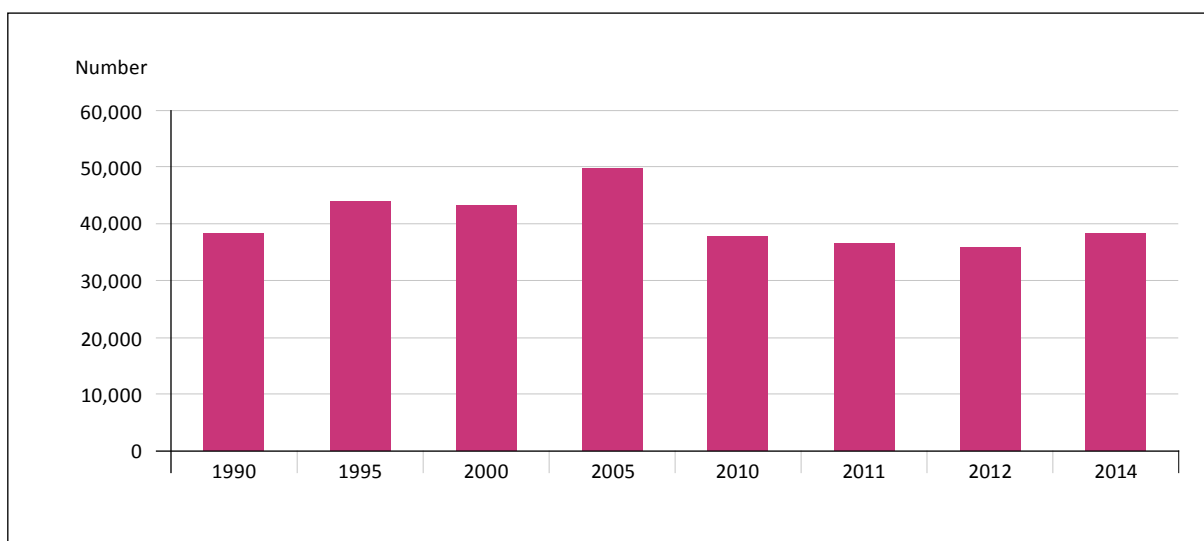
Chart 2.3: Proportion of children living in couple or lone parent families, UK, 1981-2016



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2016 Labour Force Survey [DOWNLOAD DATA](#)

Some lone families will be the result of divorce. A significant number of young people experience their parents getting divorced although this has been lower over the last five years than it was previously. The trends are shown in **Chart 2.4**, demonstrating that approximately 11,000 fewer teenagers experienced divorce in 2014 compared to 2005. In 2014 a total of 38,313 young people aged 11-15 had parents who divorced that year. Alongside the trends for marriage and divorce, it is important to note that the numbers of cohabiting couples continues to rise, and there are no data on how many young people experience the separation of cohabiting parents.

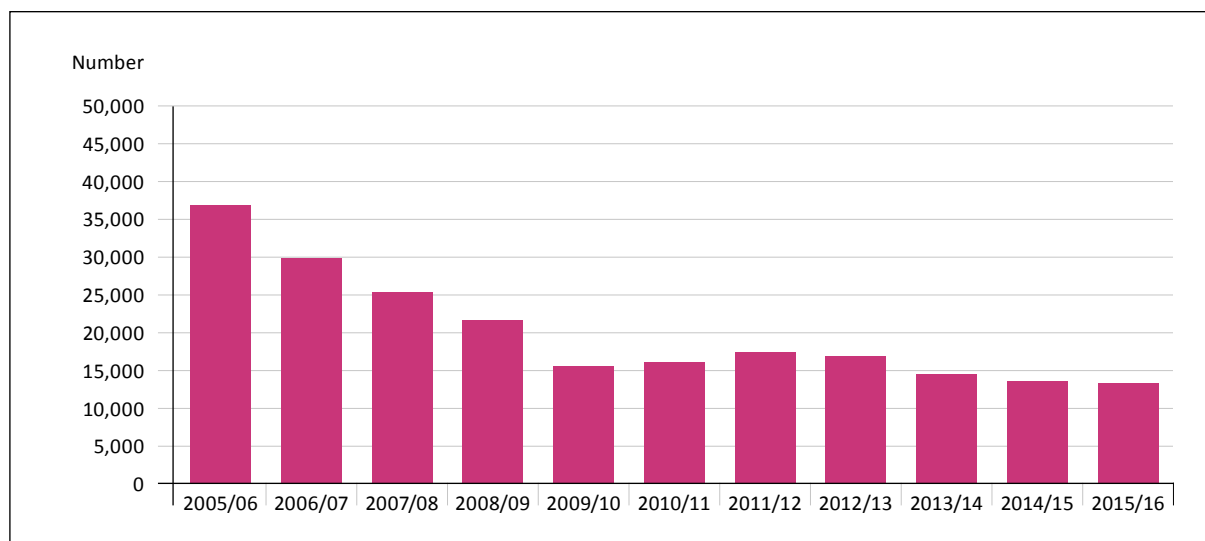
Chart 2.4: Children aged 11-15 whose parents divorced in England and Wales, 1990-2014



Source: Office for National Statistics (2014 and previous releases), Divorces in England and Wales [DOWNLOAD DATA](#)

Significant numbers of young people are also registered homeless. The UK government reported that there were 75,740 households in temporary accommodation in England at the end of December 2016, which is a 10% increase when compared to the same time in 2015. Of these 60,240 included dependent children and/or a pregnant woman. The majority of these households with dependent children were in self-contained premises. Of 5,990 households in bed and breakfast accommodation, 45% of these had dependent children or were pregnant (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2016). Figures for Scotland show that, on 30th September 2016, 3,174 households with children or pregnant women, were living in temporary accommodation, representing a total of 30% of all households in temporary accommodation (Scottish Government, 2017). Data are not available on the age of these children.

Chart 2.5 shows that the official statistics on the numbers of 16-24 year olds who were homeless has decreased since 2005. In total 12,930 households were accepted as homeless in 2016/17 where the main applicant was aged 16-24 (DCLG, 2017). However this is likely to be an underestimate, as there are significant numbers who stay temporarily with friends or sleep rough. There is evidence that more young people are approaching voluntary sector homelessness organisations for help with 68% of homelessness providers reporting an increase in young people seeking support (Homeless Link, 2015).

Chart 2.5: Households accepted as homeless where main applicant was aged 16-24 in England, 2005/6 to 2015/16

Source: Department for Communities and Local Government (2017) Homeless Statistics [DOWNLOAD DATA](#)

In some cases responsibility for young people is taken from families, and given instead to the local authority. Reasons for being looked after most commonly include neglect or other kinds of abuse, family dysfunction, acute family stress, parental illness or disability, and absent parenting. **Chart 2.6** shows the numbers of looked after children in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland on 31 March 2016. The figures for looked after children are based on a snapshot over a census week and do not reflect the numbers in care during an entire year.

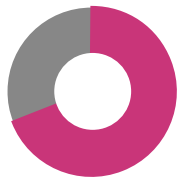
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Chart 2.6: Total looked after children in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland on 31 March 2016

Country	Number
England	70440
Scotland	15317
Wales	5660
Northern Ireland	2890

Sources: Department for Education (2016) Children looked after in England (including adoptions and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2016 and earlier releases. Government of Scotland 2016 Children's social work statistics Scotland 2015-2016, Part of Statistics, Children and Families Stats. Wales 2016 Children looked after at 31 March by local authority, gender and age. Information and Analysis Directorate 2015/2016 Children's Social Care Statistics for Northern Ireland. [DOWNLOAD DATA](#)

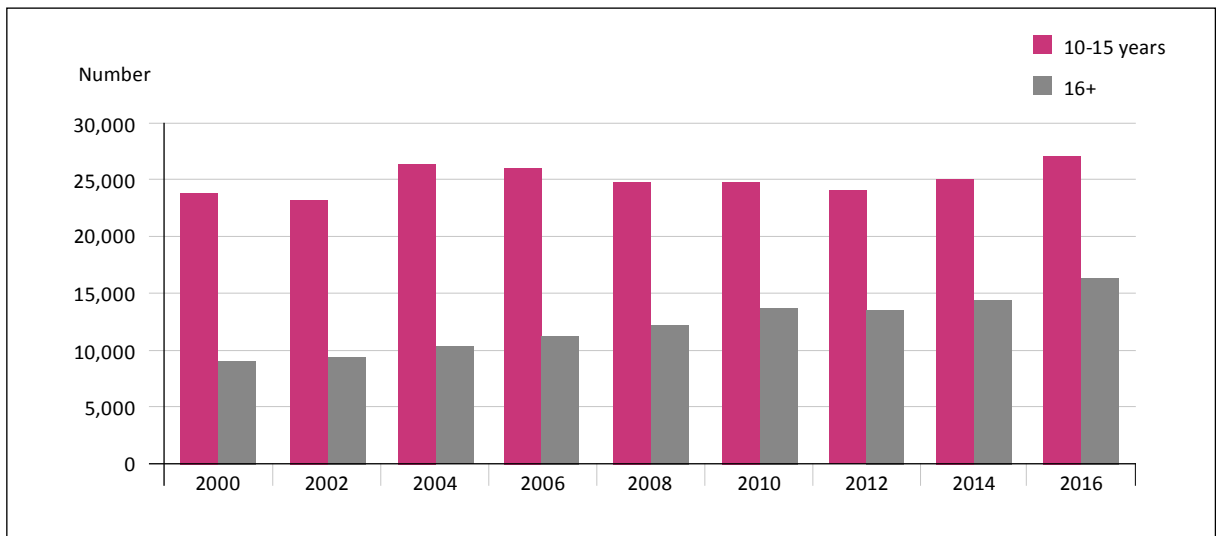
A significant proportion of looked after children (LAC) are teenagers and the proportion of older children in care has risen over the past four years. In England in 2016, 27,220 young people aged 10-15 and 16,460 young people aged 16 and over were in the looked after category at the time of the census. Overall 62% of looked after children are aged 10 or above in England (Department of Health, 2016).



62%
of looked after children
are aged 10 or over

There had been a steady rise in the numbers of looked after children in the 1990s, but as the figures in **Chart 2.7** reflect, the numbers of 10-15 year olds have remained fairly constant through the 2000s, with increases in those aged 16 and over.

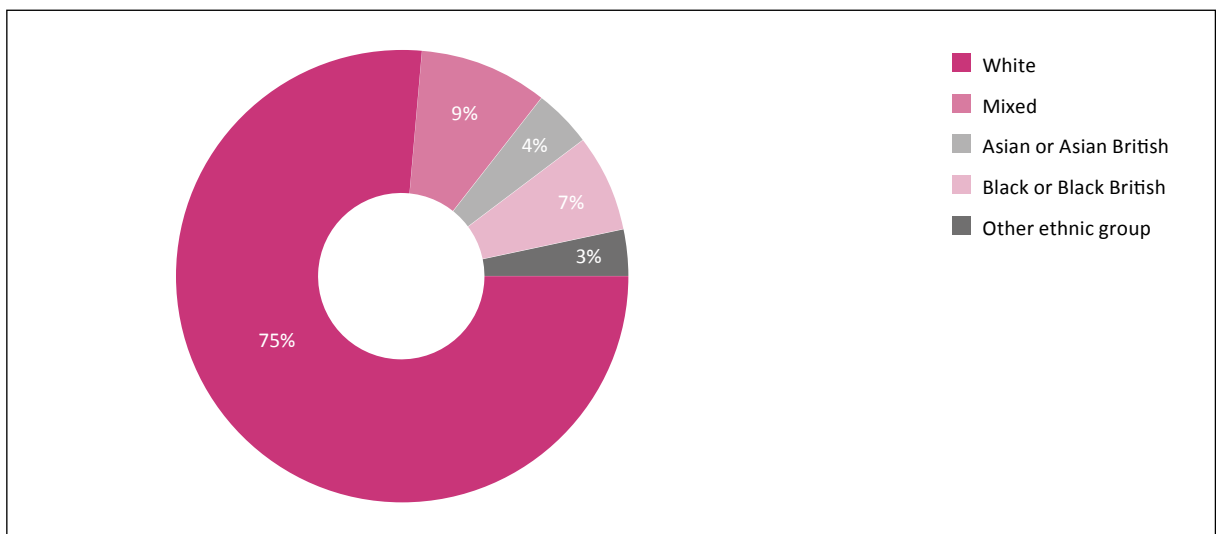
Chart 2.7: Looked after children in England age 10-15 years and 16+, 2000-2016



Source: Department of Health (2016) Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2016 and earlier releases [DOWNLOAD DATA](#)

Chart 2.8 shows that the majority (75%) of looked after children are from white British backgrounds, but there are also many from other ethnic groups.

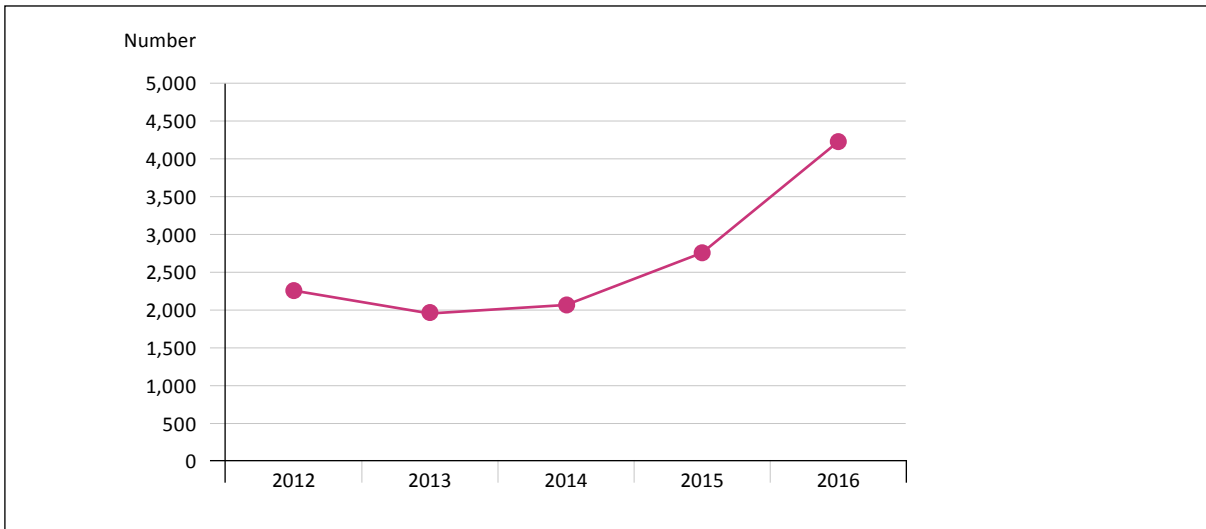
Chart 2.8: Looked after children in England by ethnic group, 2016



Source: Department of Health (2016) Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2016 and earlier releases [DOWNLOAD DATA](#)

Asylum seekers are another group potentially made vulnerable by their living circumstances. **Chart 2.9** illustrates the rise in unaccompanied asylum seeking children up to age 18 in England between 2012 and 2016, showing nearly a 100% rise over this time. In 2016 unaccompanied asylum seeking minors represented 6% of the total looked after child population in England.

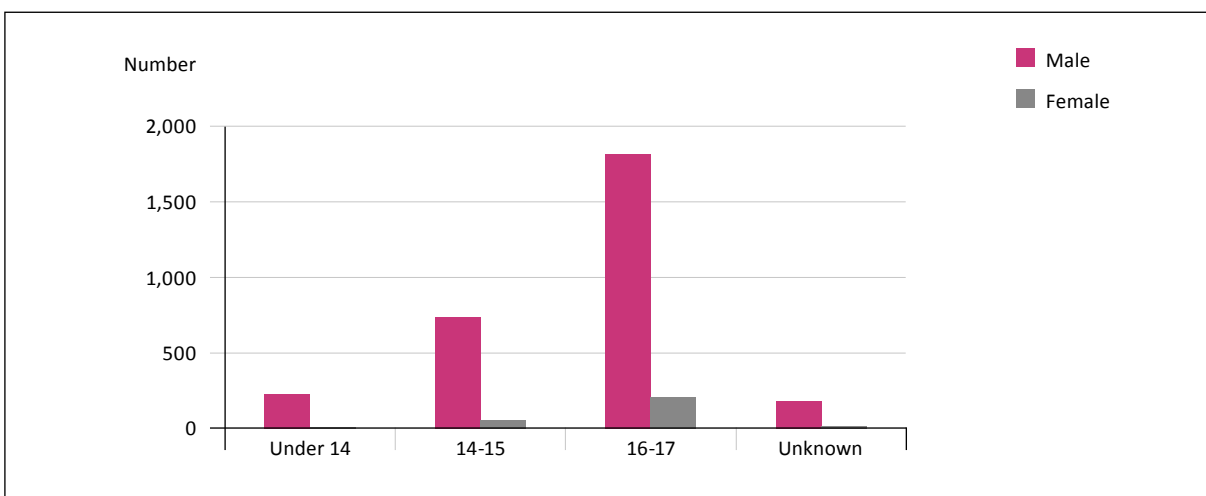
Chart 2.9: Unaccompanied asylum seeking children (up to 18 years) in England, 2012–2016



Source: Department of Health (2016) Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2016 and earlier releases [DOWNLOAD DATA](#)

The majority of asylum seeking children are young men aged 16-17, as **Chart 2.10** demonstrates. In 2015 there were 1,813 young men and 209 young women of this age seeking asylum.

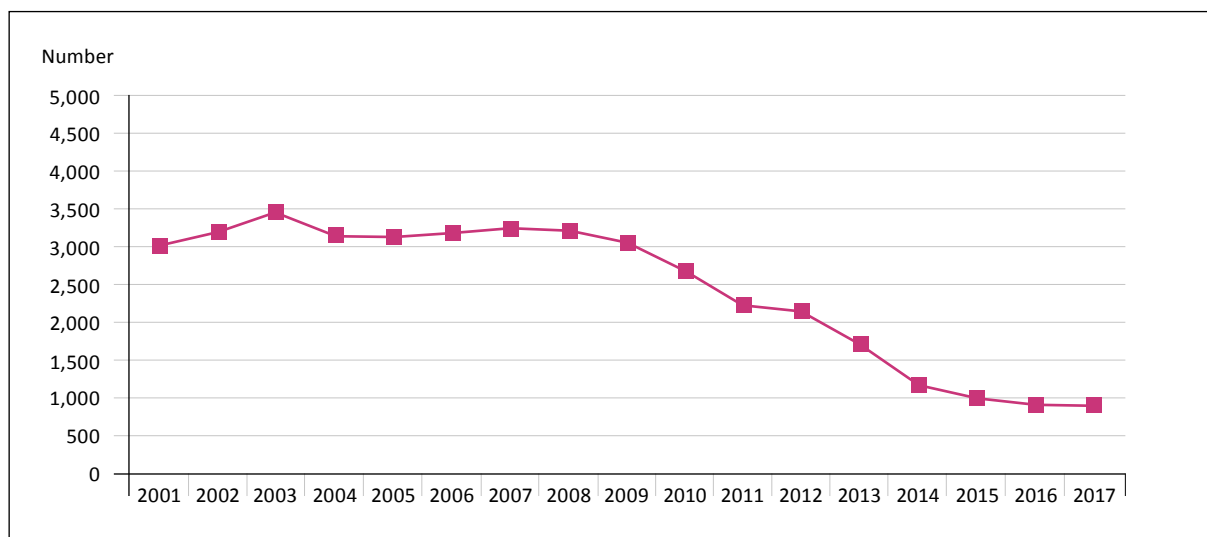
Chart 2.10: Unaccompanied asylum seeking children under 18, applications received by age and gender, UK, 2015



Source: Home Office (2015) Immigration Statistics – Asylum [DOWNLOAD DATA](#)

As well as those looked after children who are in local authority secure children’s homes, adolescents and young adults can also be resident in the criminal justice system. The number of children accommodated in secure children’s homes was 203 in England and Wales on 31 March 2017, which has decreased from 210 during the previous year (Department for Education, 2017a). **Chart 2.11** illustrates that the numbers in youth custody (11-18 years) in England and Wales rose in the early 2000s but have recently been at the lowest levels since 2000, with 909 young people in custody in April 2017. Of these, 39 were aged 10 to 14 years of age. Again this is a snapshot of the situation during one month. As the average custodial sentence served by young people is much less than one year, many more young people will pass through custody over the course of a year. Many are very vulnerable; there were 12 deaths all due to self-harm among young people aged 18-24 in prisons and youth offender institutions in 2016 in England and Wales (Inquest, 2017). However, the general trend for falling custody numbers for this age group is to be welcomed.

Chart 2.11: Secure estate custody population (under 18) in England and Wales, April 2000-April 2017



Source: Ministry of Justice and Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (2017) Youth Custody Report 2017 [DOWNLOAD DATA](#)

Family income

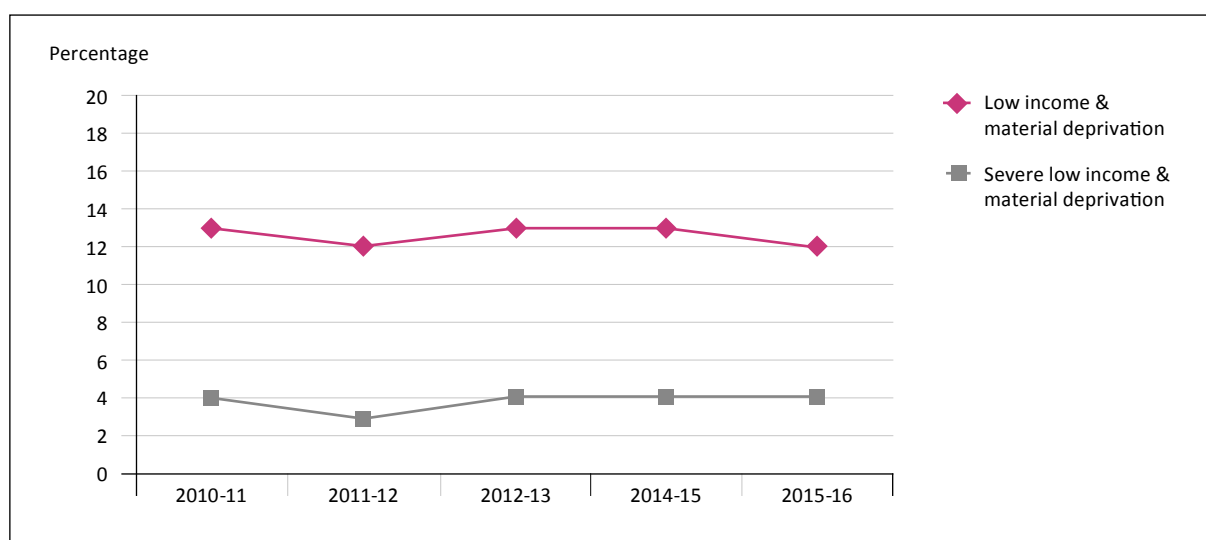
Definitions of child poverty

- Combined Low Income and Material Deprivation: Children who live in households where the income is less than 70% of the current median income and where there is lack of basic goods and services to live in the UK
- Severe Low Income and Material Deprivation: Children living in households where the income is less than 50% of the current median income and who are also experiencing material deprivation

Department for Work and Pensions

The root causes of health inequality are bound up with economic factors such as low income. **Chart 2.12** shows that, according to the Department for Work and Pension’s measure of income inequality, 12% of those aged 0-19 years in the UK in 2015/16 were living in households classified as low income and materially deprived. This measure reflects a lack of resources to meet daily needs. Within this group, 4% were living in an even more constrained situation of severe low income and material deprivation, where household income had dropped below 50% of median income. The proportion in low income households has not changed substantially in recent years.

Chart 2.12: Children and young people (0-19) falling below thresholds of low income and material deprivation in the UK, 2010/11 to 2015/16



Source: Department for Work and Pensions (2017). Households below average income 2010-2016 [DOWNLOAD DATA](#)

Chart 2.13, shows the numbers of young people aged 11-19 in families receiving means tested child-related income supplements in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. In total there were 1,032,520 young people of this age living in families whose income was being supplemented by the state.

Chart 2.13: Young people aged 11-19 in families in receipt of child tax credit (<60% median income), income support or job seeker’s allowance, England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland

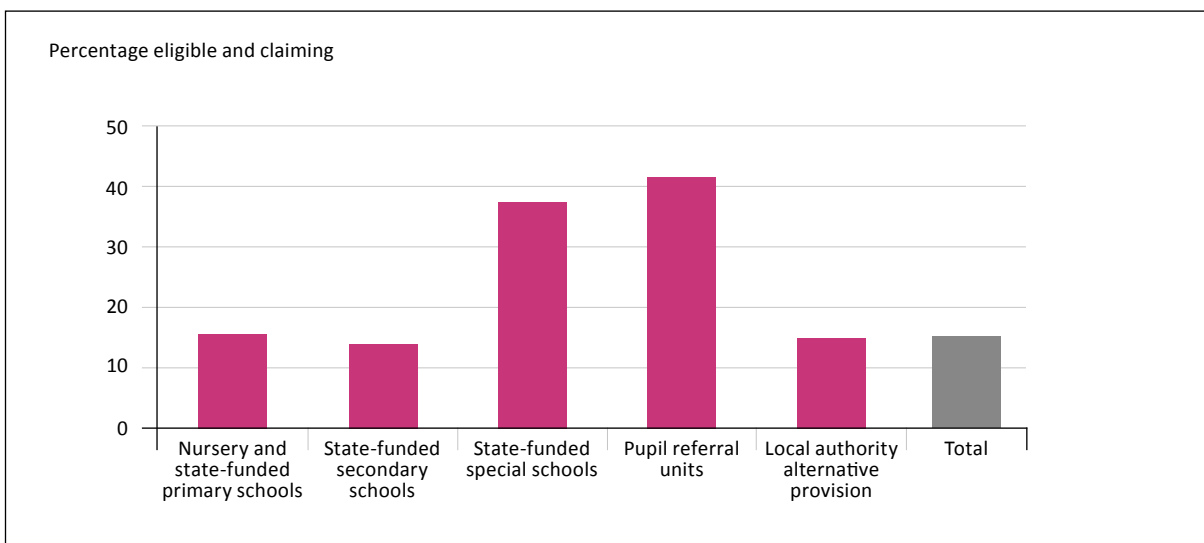
Country	11-15 years	16-19 years
England	554,345	312,700
Scotland	34,345	19,570
Wales	46,415	21,355
Northern Ireland	26,110	17,680

■ TOTAL 1,032,520

Sources: Department for Work and Pensions (2017). Households below average income 2010-2016 [DOWNLOAD DATA](#)

Another measure of income inequality is provided by receipt of free school meals. Overall, 15.2% of school children are eligible and claiming free school meals. **Chart 2.14** compares the rates for different kinds of educational provision. The highest rates are found in pupil referral units, where the rate is 41.6%. The average for state funded secondary schools is 13.9%.

Chart 2.14: School pupils in England claiming free school meals 2015

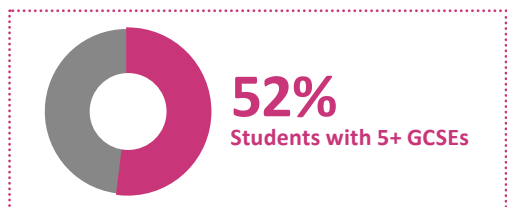


Source: Department for Education (2015) School, pupils and their characteristics SFR 16/2015 [DOWNLOAD DATA](#)

Education and training

There are links between higher levels of educational achievement and better health outcomes. There are also elements in the education system that could contribute to poor emotional health, such as examination pressures, and schools are an important site for health education. There have been rapid changes in the UK’s education systems in recent years. In England, for example, this has included the growth of the academy programme, the introduction of ‘free schools’, the extension of the age for compulsory participation in education or training to 18 years, and a raft of changes to the educational qualifications themselves.

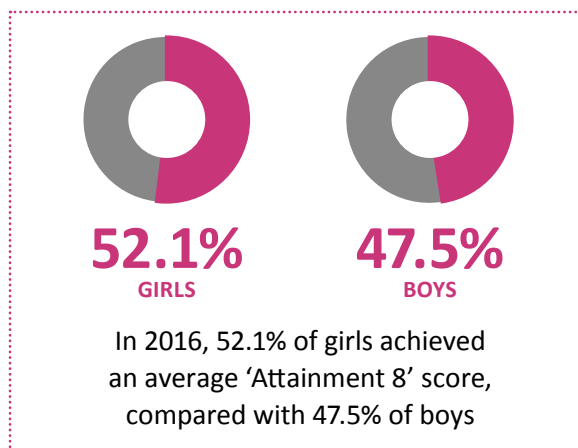
Almost all young people start on a programme of study at 14-16 (sometimes referred to as Key Stage 4) that is expected to lead to qualifications. For the majority of those in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, these will be from the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) series. In Scotland pupils sit ‘Standard grade’ or ‘Intermediate’ exams at the age of 15-16, as part of the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). This covers eight subjects including English and maths, a language and sciences.



In 2016, 52% of students at schools in England achieved 5+ GCSEs grades A*-C at GCSE including English and maths.

This is the last year that these results will be shown in this format. A new secondary school accountability system with different overall summary measures ('headline' measures) was implemented in England and Wales in 2016. In addition, from 2017 the GCSE grading system changed. The new GCSEs are graded 9–1, rather than A*–G, with Grade 9 the highest grade, set above the current A*. The new system is intended to help provide more differentiation, especially among higher achieving students. By 2019, all GCSE results will be using the new system.

A key new summary measure has been introduced called 'Attainment 8', which reports the average achievement of pupils in up to eight qualifications including English, maths, and further options from a specified list. In 2016 the Attainment 8 score for all schools in England was 48.2%. As in previous years, girls continue to do better for boys, with 52.1% of girls achieving an average Attainment 8 score, compared with 47.5% of boys (Department for Education, 2017b).



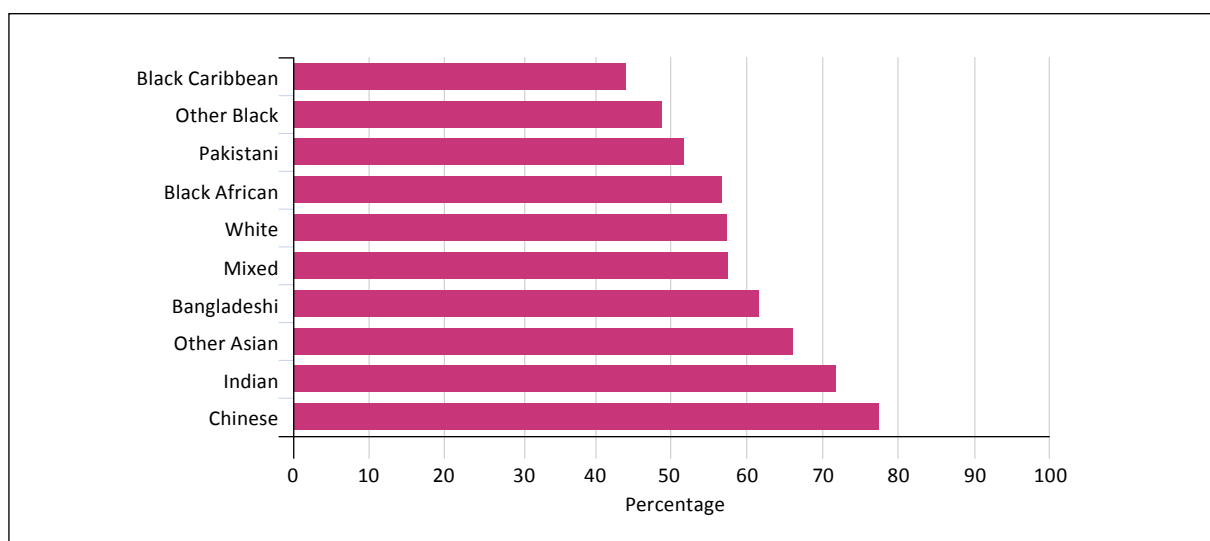
Source: Department for Education (2017) SFR03/2017 Revised GCSE and equivalent results in England 2016

Chart 2.15 shows the proportion of young people achieving 5 GCSEs graded A*–C under the old system, separately by ethnic group.

Achievement varies significantly by ethnic group.

On average, the lowest levels of GCSE attainment are for young people from Black Caribbean and Pakistani groups. The highest levels are for those from Indian and Chinese groups.

Chart 2.15: Pupils in England achieving five or more GCSEs (including English and maths) at grades A*–C, by ethnic group, 2015/16



Source: Department for Education (2017b) Revised GCSE and equivalent results including pupil characteristics in England 2015 to 2016, SFR 03-2017 [DOWNLOAD DATA](#)

Note: 'Attainment 8' = pupil average attainment in up to 8 qualifications including English and maths

The examination achievement of children looked after by the local authority has long been a cause for concern, and once again the latest figures are not encouraging, although they are a slight improvement on 2014. **Chart 2.16** shows that only 13.8% of children in Year 11 who had been continuously looked after by the local authority for 12 months or more achieved five good GCSEs, compared with 57.4% of their classmates.

Chart 2.16: GCSE (5+ A*-C including English and maths) achievements of looked after children in England, 2008-2016



Source: Department for Education (2017b) Revised GCSE and equivalent results including pupil characteristics in England 2015 to 2016, SFR 03-2017 [DOWNLOAD DATA](#)

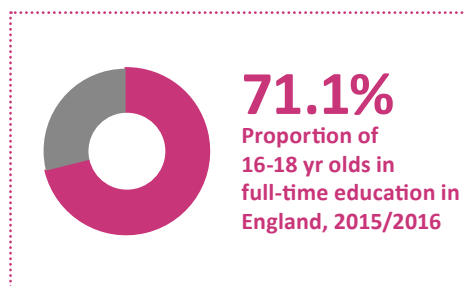
Definition of a Disadvantaged Child

Pupils are defined as disadvantaged if they are known to have been eligible for free school meals in the past six years (from Year 6 to Year 11), if they are recorded as having been looked after for at least one day or if they are recorded as having been adopted from care.

GCSE achievements are also reported for disadvantaged children (see box for definition). In 2016, 27.7% of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 (age 14-16) were classified as disadvantaged. Their attainment is lower than for all other pupils across the new ‘headline’ measures. **Chart 2.17** compares achievement for five GCSEs including English and maths, and for the English Baccalaureate. The English Baccalaureate allows people to measure how many pupils obtain a C grade and above at Key Stage 4 level, in five core subjects that include maths, English, history or geography, the sciences and a language.

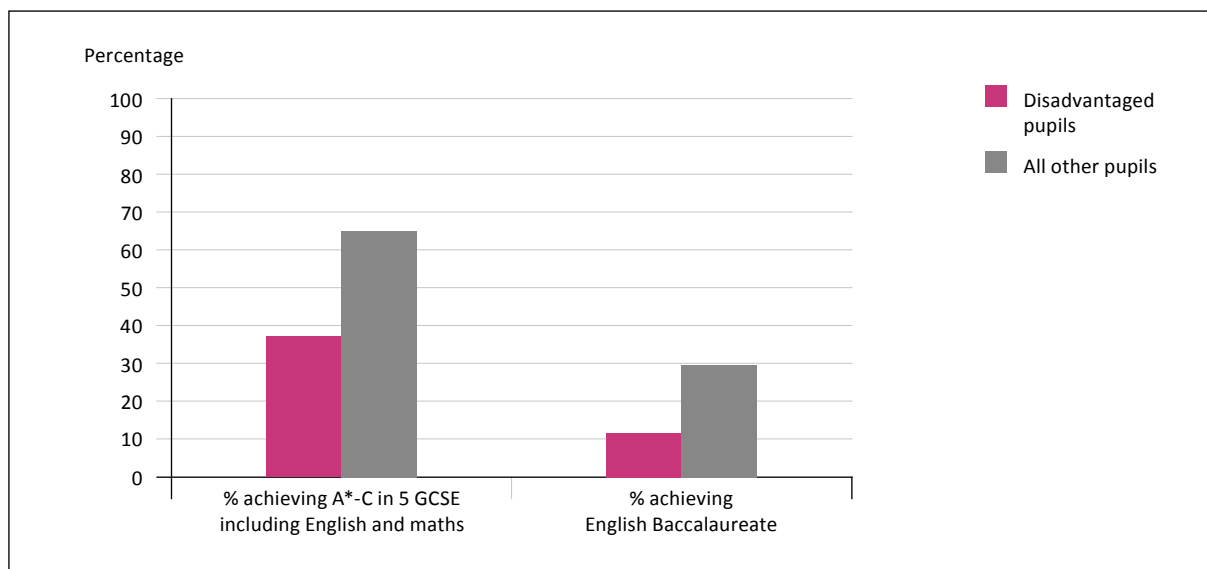
Being excluded from school clearly impacts on educational attainment and acts as a marker for a range of problems. Over the years, successive governments have made strenuous attempts to keep down the numbers permanently excluded. **Chart 2.18** shows the trends since 2000/1, reflecting a slight rise to the middle of the 2000s and then a fall. However the latest available figures from 2014/15 show a slight rise again. It is too early to tell if this is a trend. The most common age for exclusion is age 14, and many more boys than girls are excluded across the whole of secondary school (Department for Education, 2016).

After formal examinations at age 16, there is now a legal requirement on young people in England and Wales to continue with some kind of education or training until they are 18. In Scotland the school leaving age remains at 16. A number of choices are open to 16 year olds in the UK at this age, depending on their examination achievements. The majority remain in full time education, usually pursuing academic qualifications, but others move into flexible pathways including various combinations of education, training and employment.



Source: Department for Education (2016) Participation in Education, Training and Employment by 16-18 year olds in England: End 2015

Chart 2.17: Comparison of A*-C in 5 GCSEs including English and maths between disadvantaged children and all other pupils 2015/2016



Source: Department for Education (2017) Revised GCSE and equivalent results including pupil characteristics in England 2015 to 2016, SFR 03-2017 [DOWNLOAD DATA](#)

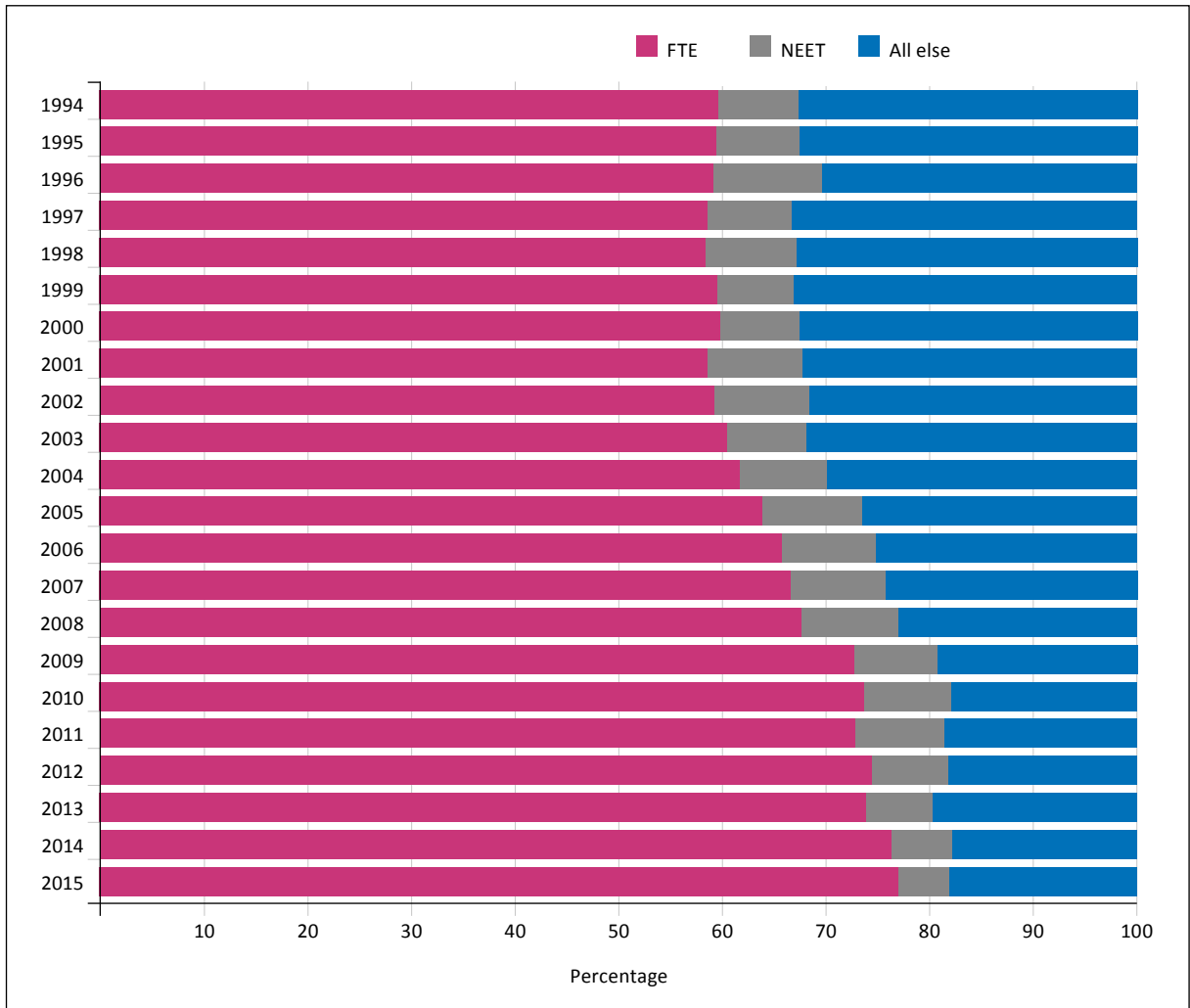
Chart 2.18: Permanent exclusions from secondary schools in England, 2000/1 to 2014/15



Source: Department for Education (2016) Permanent and fixed period exclusions by type of school state-funded primary, state-funded secondary and special schools SFR26,2016 [DOWNLOAD DATA](#)

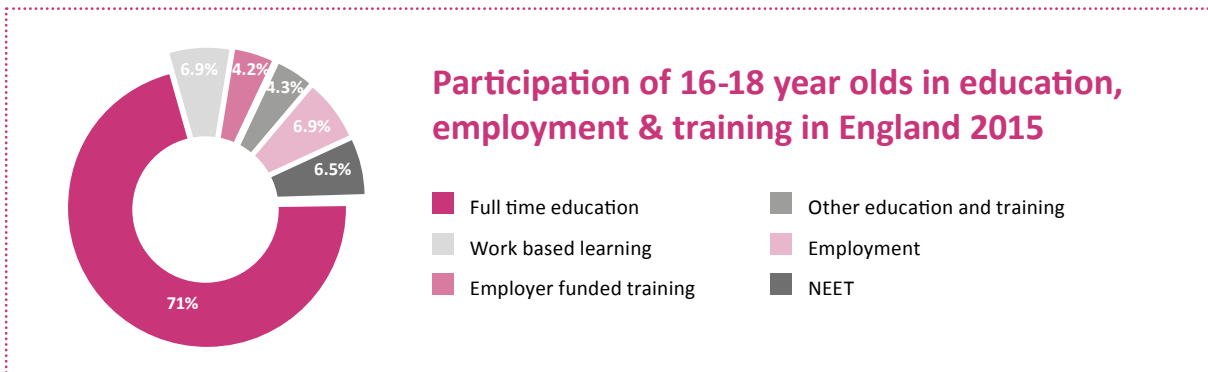
Chart 2.19 shows the time trends for participation in education and training at age 17 in England, from 1994 until 2015, demonstrating the social change that has impacted on this age group in particular. The proportion in full time education has risen in particular.

Chart 2.19: Trends in participation in education and training at age 17, England 1994-2015



Source: Department for Education (2016) Participation in Education, Training and Employment by 16-18 year olds in England, end 2015 SFR 22/2016 [DOWNLOAD DATA](#)

Overall, for 16-18 year olds in England, only 6.9% were in employment in 2016 (Department for Education, 2017c).

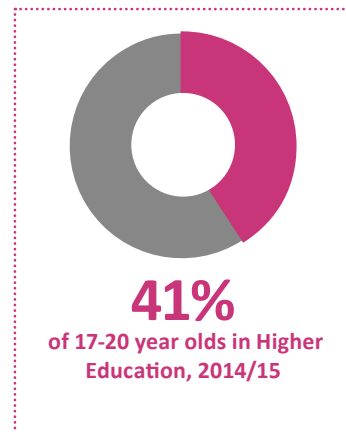


Source: Department for Education (2015). Participation in education, training and employment

Scottish statistics show where their school leavers (16-18) are a year after leaving. By March 2017, 91.4% of Scottish school leavers from 2015/16 were in a positive follow-up destination, consisting of education, employment or training. Two thirds of young people were staying until the year they turned 18 (Scottish Government Education Statistics, 2017).

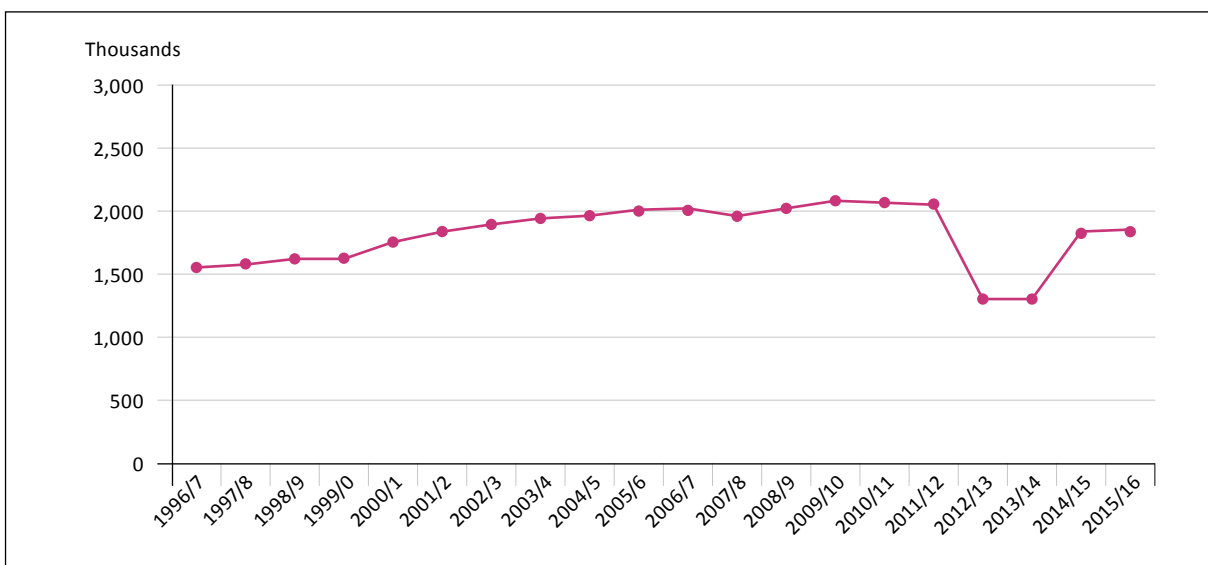
After age 18, nearly half of this age group now go on to higher education, particularly to study a degree at university.

Chart 2.20 shows that participation of domiciled students in the UK in higher education institutions (largely universities) has increased in 2015/2016 to 1.8 million when compared to 1.3 million two years ago in 2012/2013. However the participation number is lower when compared with 2011/2012.



Source: Department for Education (2016) Initial participation rates in higher education at UK institutions by English domiciled students, by age & gender, 2008/9-2014/15 SFR45-2016

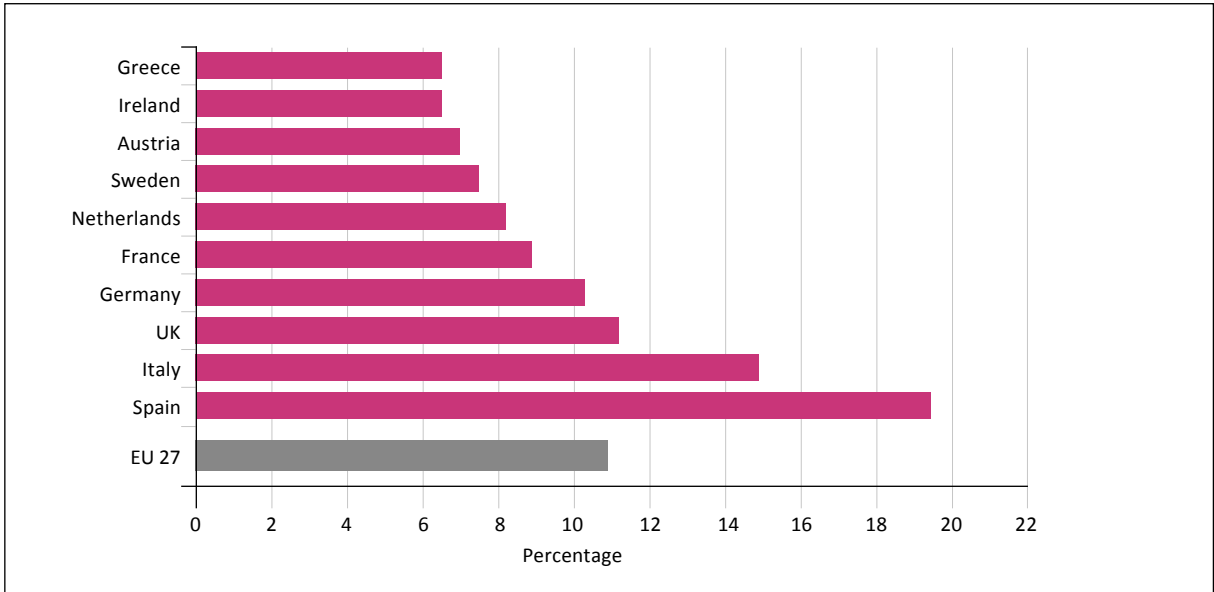
Chart 2.20: UK domiciled students in UK Higher Education Institutions 1996/7 to 2015/16



Source: Department for Education (2017c) Higher education student enrolments and qualifications obtained at higher education providers in the United Kingdom 2015/16 [DOWNLOAD DATA](#)

Clearly not everyone goes on to further education or training. Evidence from Eurostat makes it possible to compare rates of early leavers from education and training across the European Union. **Chart 2.21** shows that the UK has the third highest percentage (11.2%) of early leavers aged 18-24 from education and training in the EU, who have at most lower secondary education.

Chart 2.21: Early leavers from education and training in the EU: % population 18-24 years with, at most, lower secondary education and not in further education or training, 2016



Source: Eurostat (2017) Early leavers from education and training [DOWNLOAD DATA](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Early_leavers_from_education_and_training)
http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Early_leavers_from_education_and_training

Youth employment

For those young people who are in employment, there is a concern that they are disadvantaged by working practices such as zero hour contracts. Young people on zero hour contracts receive a lower weekly pay compared to those who are not and work fewer hours on average. The prevalence of such contracts is higher among young people than any other age groups, with 33% of 16-25 year olds in employment with such contracts compared to 20% of those aged 25-34 (Department for Work and Pensions, 2017).

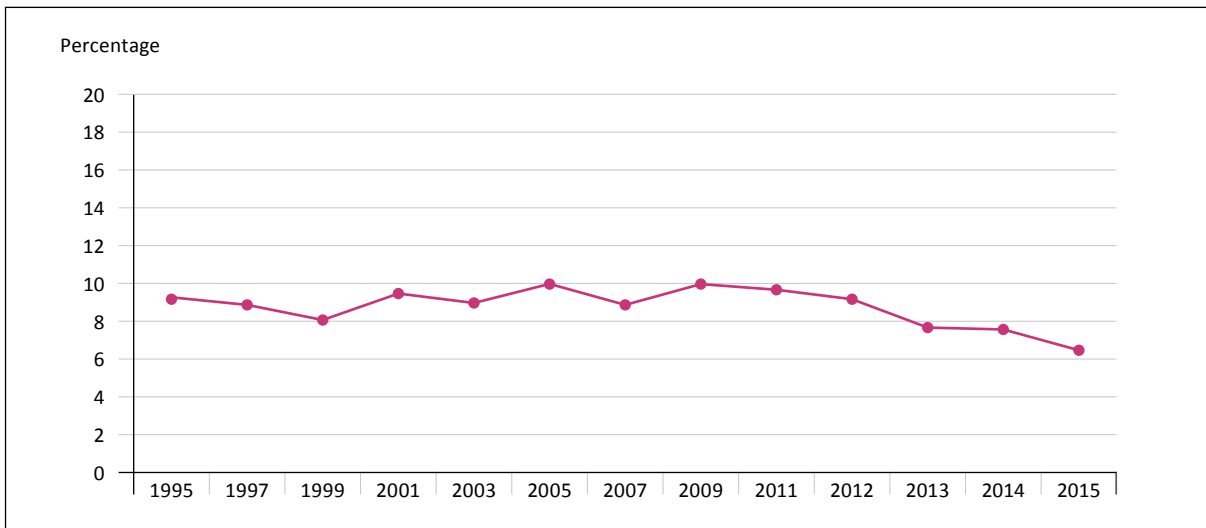


33% of people on zero-hours contracts are aged 16-24 compared with 12% for all people in employment.

Source: Office for National Statistics (2017) ONS Labour Force Survey, Contracts that do not guarantee a minimum number of hours: May 2017

Chart 2.22 portrays the percentage of 16-18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) in the UK. The rate of NEET 16-18 year olds has slowly been decreasing since 2009 in the UK and stood at 6.5% in 2015.

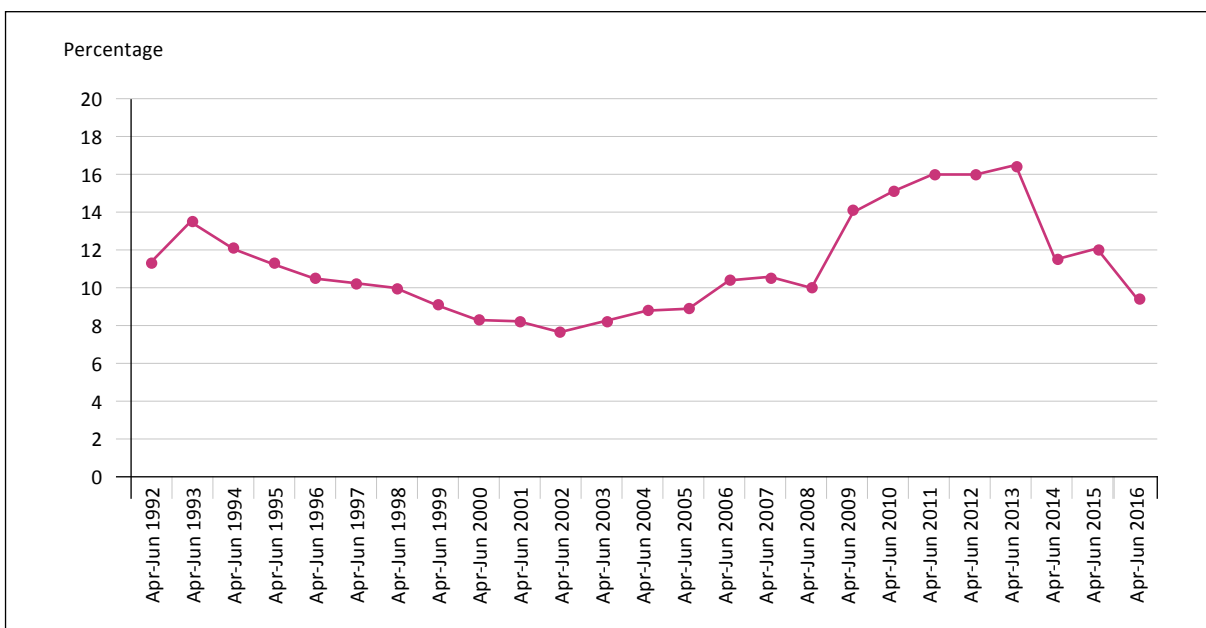
Chart 2.22: 16-18 year olds not in education, training or employment (NEET) in England, 1995-2015



Source: Department for Education (2016) Participation in Education, Training and Employment by 16-18 year olds in England: End 2015 [DOWNLOAD DATA](#)

Chart 2.23 also demonstrates that the unemployment rate amongst 18-24 year olds in the UK has been decreasing. Data from April-June 2016 show an unemployment rate of 9.6% down from 12.1% at the same time in 2015.

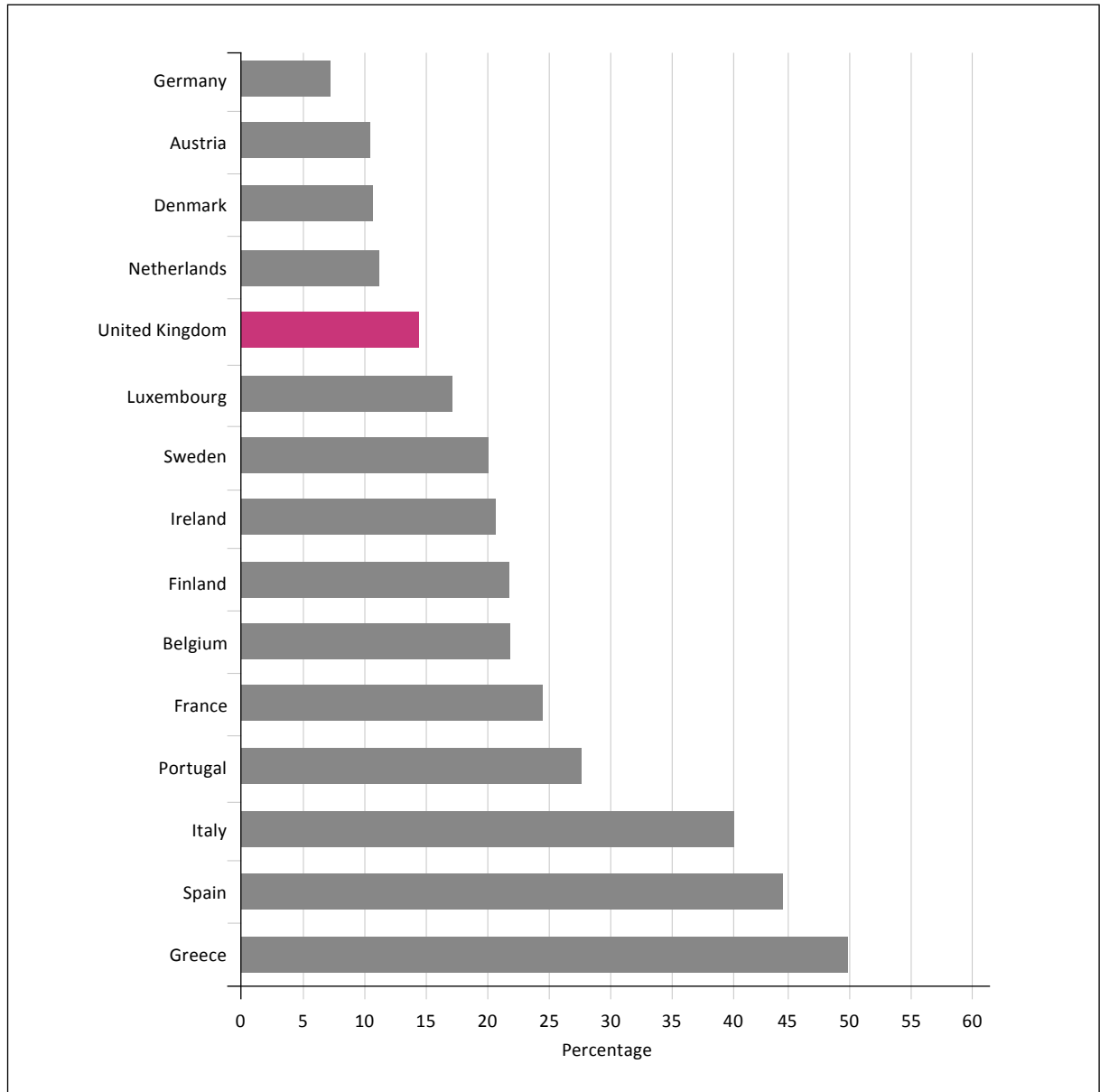
Chart 2.23: Unemployment rate for young people aged 18-24 in the UK 1992-2016



Source: Office for National Statistics, UK Labour Market 2016 [DOWNLOAD DATA](#)

Eurostat enables us to compare youth unemployment amongst 15-24 year olds across the EU. **Chart 2.24** shows that the UK has the fifth lowest unemployment rate amongst 15-24 year olds in Europe, with a rate of 14.2% in this age group.

Chart 2.24: Percentage of young people age 15-24 unemployed, OECD comparisons, 2015



Source: <https://data.oecd.org/youthinac/youth-not-in-employment-education-or-training-neet.htm> [DOWNLOAD DATA](#)

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