

'Is Britain Fairer?': Key facts and findings on young people

'Is Britain Fairer?' (2015) is the Equality and Human Rights Commission's five-yearly review of equality and human rights in Britain. This factsheet captures some of our key findings on young people.

Age is a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010. The Act prohibits unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; protects individuals from unfair treatment; and promotes a fair and more equal society. It protects young people from being discriminated against because of their age in a variety of fields, including employment. Figures from the Office of National Statistics indicate that there were **7.2 million young people** (aged 16 to 24) living in Britain in 2013.

More young people have qualifications than before



In Britain during 2013, **67.4%** of 17-24 year olds had gained a qualification in the last 12 months (most commonly A levels or degrees), or had participated in other formal or informal learning activities in the last three months.



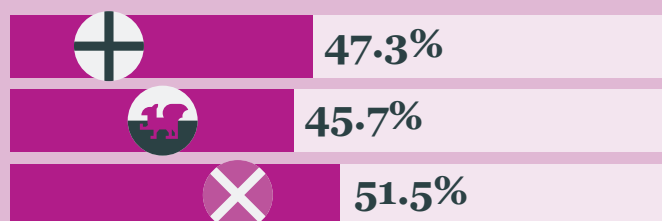
There was a fall in Britain in the percentage of young people who were **Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)**, from **10.0%** in 2008 to **8.3%** in 2013.

Despite young people attaining better qualifications, employment prospects and pay have declined, and many live in poverty



Across Britain, young people aged 16-24 experienced a larger decline in employment rates between 2008 and 2013 than those in older age groups.

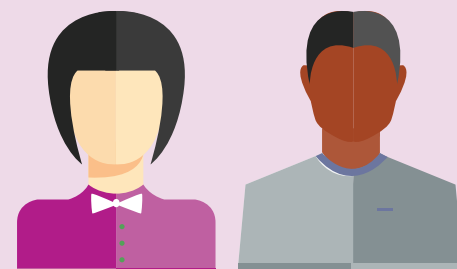
Employment rates for 16-24 year olds in 2013 were:



The 16-24 age group were less likely to be employed in 2013 than 2008, declining by five percentage points or more across Britain.

Across Britain, young people aged 16-24 are over-represented in sales and elementary occupations, such as manual labour.

Young people represented **23.8%** of those working in elementary jobs and **21.3%** of those working in sales and customer service jobs in 2013.





Average hourly earnings of young people declined (in real terms) between 2008 and 2013.

The hourly rate of 16-24 year olds declined by £0.60 per hour, from £7.40 per hour in 2008 to £6.70 per hour in 2013.

The percentage of young people aged 16-24 living in poverty in Britain increased from 27.8% in 2008 to 30.5% in 2013.

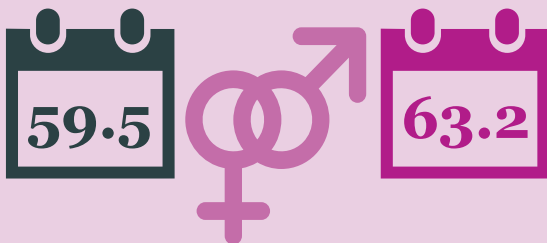


In England, young people aged 16-24 were more likely than all other age groups to live in overcrowded accommodation:

11% in 2012/13 compared with between 0.5% and 6.4% of other age groups. In Scotland, households where the highest income householder was aged 16-24 were more likely than those from some older age groups to be living in overcrowded accommodation in 2013: 7.4% compared with, for example, fewer than 0.5% of those aged 65 plus. No data are available for Wales.

Although employment prospects are deteriorating and poverty is increasing, overall health outcomes are improving for young people

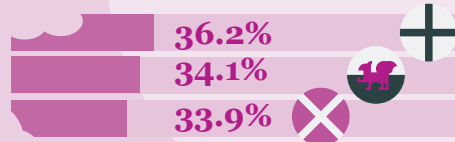
In 2011-13, a 20-year-old man in Britain could expect to live for another 59.5 years (58.4 years in 2007-09) and a 20-year-old woman could expect to live for another 63.2 years (62.4 years in 2007-09).



Across Britain, over a fifth of 16-24 year olds were recorded as smokers in 2012: 21.6% in England; 31.1% in Wales; and 24.7% in Scotland.



Across Britain, around a third of 16-24 year olds were recorded as overweight or obese in 2012:



Across Britain, over a third of 16-24 year olds drank in excess of recommended daily guidelines in 2012: 34.2% in England; 47% in Wales; and 37.8% in Scotland.

Young people feel safer from crime than older age groups, yet young men are more likely to be a victim of violent crime

In England, the percentage of 16-24 year olds who said they feel unsafe in their own home alone and/or in the local area was 29.3% in 2012/13. This was much lower than the percentage of those aged over 75 (44.1%).

In Scotland, the percentage of 16-24 year olds who said they feel unsafe being alone at home at night and/or walking alone in their local area after dark was 27.8% in 2012/13. This was much lower than the percentage of those aged over 75 (42.3%).



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In England and Wales, those aged 16-24 were more likely to report being a victim of violent crime (7.3%) than all other age groups, and men were more likely to report being a victim of violent crime (3.3%) than women (2.1%) in 2012/13.

Men in the 16-24 age group were at particular risk, with **9.4%** aged 16-24 reporting having been a victim of violent crime in 2012/13 - about twice the rate among women (4.6%) in the same age group.

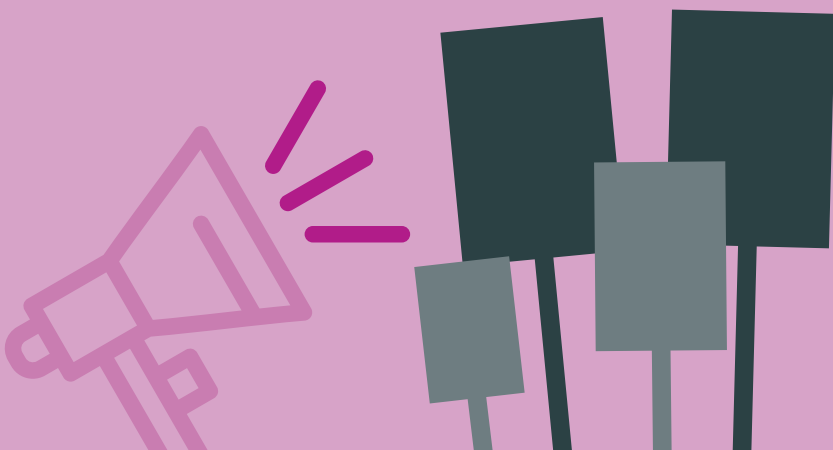
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In England/Wales, homicide offences per million inhabitants for victims aged 16 and over decreased between 2008/09 and 2013/14, from **13.3** to **10.4**. The downward trend was most evident among 16-29 year olds.

In Scotland, homicide offences per million inhabitants decreased from **22.0** in 2008/09 to **13.4** in 2013/14 for those aged 16 and over.



A lower percentage of people aged 16-24 in England were engaged in political activity such as lobbying and/or protesting in 2013/14 (**19.1%**) than those in all other age groups, except those aged 75 and over.



Scottish young people are more likely to vote than young English and Welsh people

Around two-thirds (67%) of those aged 16 and 17 in Scotland said they would have voted in the 2015 General Election if they had the opportunity, **compared with 39% in the rest of the UK.**



The greater interest may be because 16 and 17-year-old Scots could vote in the 2014 Scottish Independence Referendum. The Scottish Elections (Reduction of Voting Age) Act 2015 has also extended voting rights to 16 and 17 year olds in Scottish elections, from 2016.

People aged 16-24 (**5.5%**) were less likely than people aged 65-74 (**10.8%**) to be involved in local decision-making bodies in England in 2013/14.

Wales is one of the few countries in Europe without a national youth assembly.

