

Chapter 2: Healthy Start

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Vulnerable Children

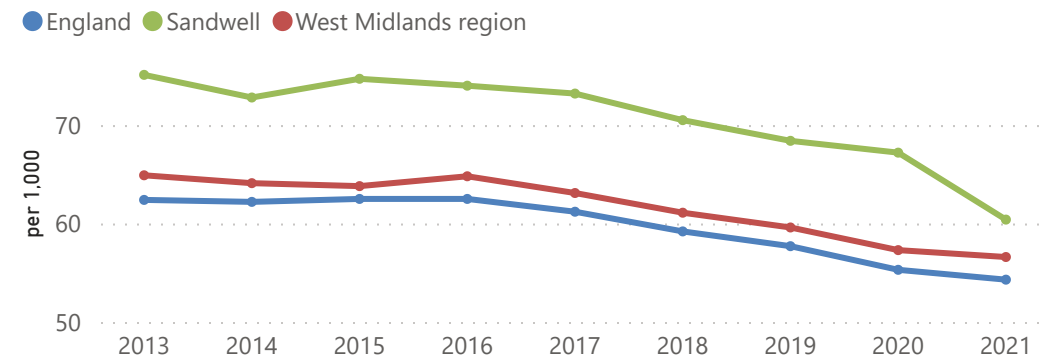
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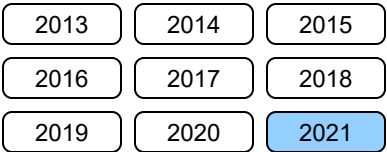
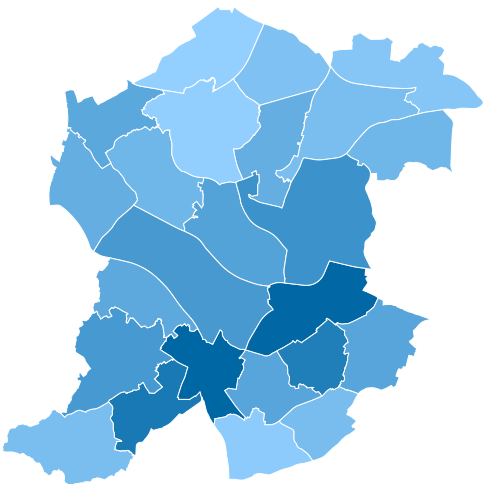
GFR for Sandwell compared to England & West Midlands



General Fertility Rate for Sandwell

Year	Births	GFR per 1,000
2021	4227	60.40
2020	4315	67.20
2019	4391	68.40
2018	4535	70.50
2017	4696	73.20
2016	4735	74.00
2015	4786	74.70
2014	4680	72.80
2013	4844	75.10

Sandwell General Fertility Rate by year and ward



Ward Name	Births	Population	GFR per 1,000
Langley	209	2837	73.70
St Pauls	282	3829	73.60
Blackheath	158	2260	69.90
Smethwick	225	3265	68.90
West Bromwich Central	214	3311	64.60
Oldbury	209	3317	63.00
Rowley	166	2641	62.90
Greets Green and Lyng	187	3068	61.00
Bristnall	139	2298	60.50
Soho and Victoria	286	4727	60.50
Princes End	174	2904	59.90
Tividale	154	2585	59.60
Hateley Heath	187	3192	58.60
Tipton Green	192	3279	58.60
Great Bridge	169	2968	56.90
Newton	131	2307	56.80
Abbey	152	2739	55.50
Cradley Heath and Old Hill	165	2984	55.30
Charlemont with Grove Vale	132	2391	55.20
Friar Park	139	2549	54.50
Great Barr with Yew Tree	146	2728	53.50
Old Warley	124	2366	52.40
Wednesbury South	154	2984	51.60
Wednesbury North	133	2589	51.40

Key Points

Background

General Fertility Rate (GFR) is the birth rate per 1,000 females aged 15-44 years. Fertility rates are closely tied to growth rates for an area and can be an indicator of future population growth or decline.

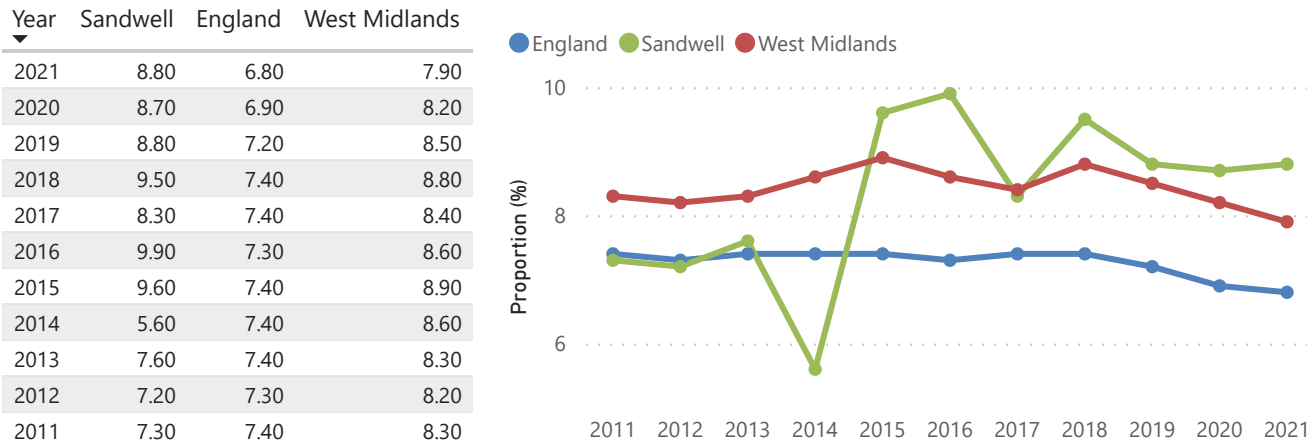
Interpretation

The GFR for Sandwell has been much higher than the national rate, with an average difference of 11.6 between 2015 and 2020. However this gap narrowed to 6.1 in 2021.

Sandwell's General Fertility Rate has decreased significantly from a high of 75.1 in 2013 to 60.4 in 2021.

At ward level, Langley and St Pauls had the highest GFR in 2021, with a rate of over 70 per 1,000. Wednesbury North and South have the lowest rates in 2021, with a GFR of less than 52 per 1000. Across the majority of the years, Soho and Victoria has had some of the highest rates, with a peak of 101.9 in 2013, however this decreased in 2021 to 60.5.

Sandwell's Low Birth Weight % compared to England & West Midlands



Key Points

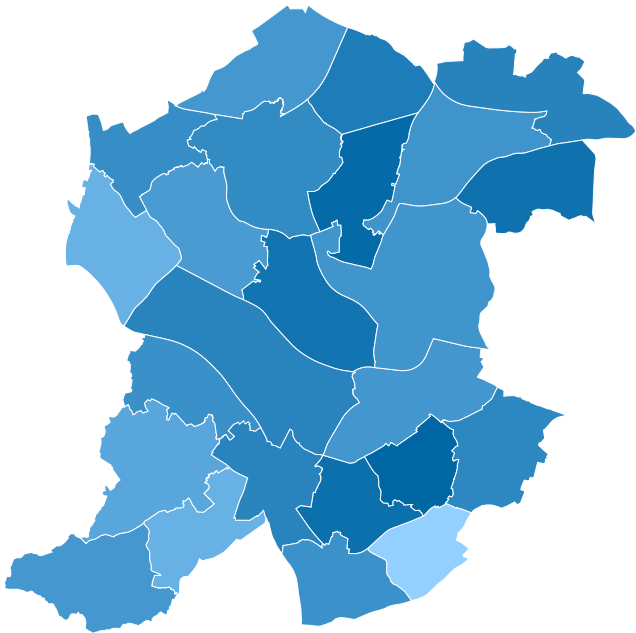
Background
Low birth weight increases the risk of childhood mortality and of developmental problems for the child, and is associated with poorer health in later life. At a population level, a high proportion of low birth weight births could indicate problems with maternity services and/or lifestyle issues of the mothers¹.

Definition
Low birth weight of all babies: All births (live and still births) with a recorded birth weight under 2500g as a percentage of all live births.

Interpretation
The percentage of low birth weight babies in Sandwell has fluctuated significantly more than England and the West Midlands, although this became more consistent between 2018 and 2021.
The difference in low birth weight percentages across the wards within Sandwell is significant, with 10 percentage points between the highest and lowest wards in 2021.

[1]RCPCH, *Why Children Die: death in infants, children & young people in the UK, May 2014*

Low Birth Weight % by Ward, 2021



Ward	LBW %
Smethwick	12.80
Hateley Heath	12.40
Bristnall	11.90
Newton	11.70
Greets Green and Lyng	11.50
Friar Park	10.60
Great Barr with Yew Tree	9.90
Langley	9.80
Oldbury	9.80
Soho and Victoria	9.50
Wednesbury South	9.10
Princes End	8.80
Sandwell	8.80
Tividale	8.60
Old Warley	8.50
Charlemont with Grove Vale	8.20
West Bromwich Central	8.10
St Pauls	7.90
West Midlands	7.90
Cradley Heath and Old Hill	7.80
Wednesbury North	7.80
Great Bridge	7.50
England	6.80
Rowley	6.40
Blackheath	5.30
Tipton Green	5.30
Abbey	2.10

Controls

Town

Oldbury

Rowley Regis

Smethwick

Tipton

Wednesbury

West Bromwich

Year

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

Key Points

Definitions

Median age of mothers at childbirth.
The percentage of births where the mother is aged between 12 and 17 years old, 5-year pooled data. Children born to teenage mothers have 60% higher rates of infant mortality and are at increased risk of low birthweight which impacts on the child's long-term health. Teenage mothers are three times more likely to suffer from post-natal depression and experience poor mental health for up to three years after the birth. Teenage parents and their children are at increased risk of living in poverty.

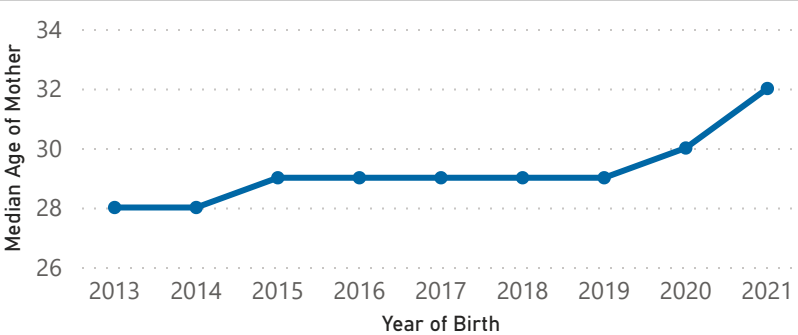
Interpretation

Between 2013 and 2021, the median age of mothers at childbirth within Sandwell has increased from 28 to 32. At ward level, there is a range of 4 years between wards with the lowest median age of 28 and the highest of 32 in 2021.
When looking at previous years, the range between wards with the highest and lowest median ages is around five years.

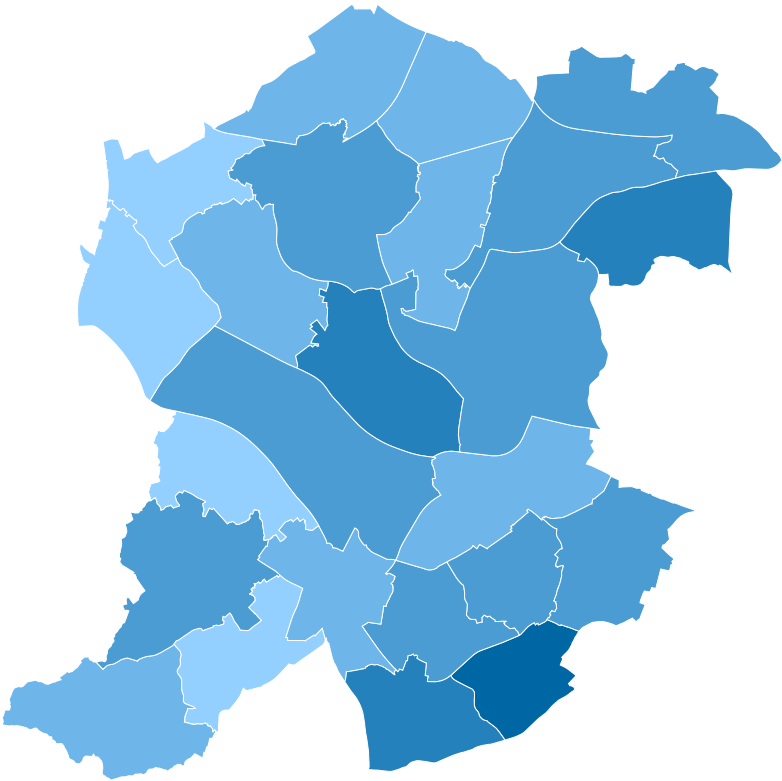
The ward with the highest percentage of teenage mothers is Friar Park with 2.5%, and the lowest is Soho & Victoria with 0.63% which is just below the national figure.

***Where there are missing values, these figures have been suppressed due to small counts.**

Mother's Median Age at Childbirth in Sandwell by Year



Mother's Median Age at Childbirth by Ward, 2021



Controls

Birth Year

20132014201520162017

2018201920202021

Town

OldburySmethwickWednesbury

Rowley RegisTiptonWest Bromwich

Ward	Mother's Median Age	% of Teenage Mothers
Abbey	32	
Greets Green and Lyng	31	1.03
Newton	31	
Old Warley	31	
Bristnall	30	1.49
Charlemont with Grove Vale	30	
Great Barr with Yew Tree	30	
Oldbury	30	0.95
Rowley	30	1.14
Smethwick	30	1.04
Soho and Victoria	30	0.63
Wednesbury South	30	1.29
West Bromwich Central	30	
Cradley Heath and Old Hill	29	1.16
Friar Park	29	2.53
Great Bridge	29	1.20
Hateley Heath	29	
Langley	29	1.12
St Pauls	29	0.70
Wednesbury North	29	2.07
Blackheath	28	
Princes End	28	1.07
Tipton Green	28	0.97
Tividale	28	1.90

% of Teenage Mothers, 2016/17 - 20/21

0.67

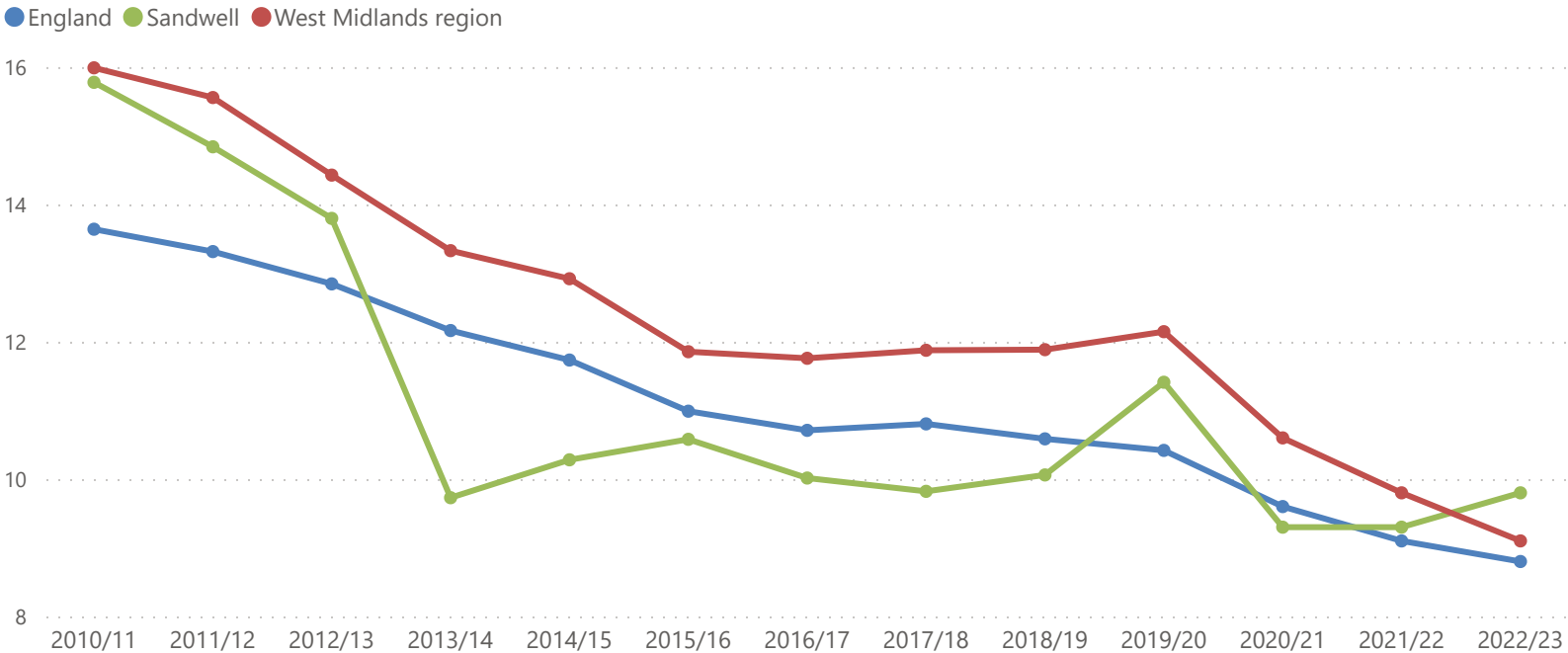
England

1.07

Sandwell



Sandwell's Smoking Status at Time of Delivery compared to England & West Midlands



Smoking Status at Time of Delivery for Sandwell

Time period	%	Lower CI 95.0 limit	Upper CI 95.0 limit
2022/23	9.8	8.9	10.7
2021/22	9.3	8.5	10.3
2020/21	9.3	8.5	10.2
2019/20	11.4	10.5	12.4
2018/19	10.1	9.2	11.0
2017/18	9.8	9.0	10.7
2016/17	10.0	9.2	10.9
2015/16	10.6	9.7	11.5
2014/15	10.3	9.4	11.2
2013/14	9.7	8.9	10.6
2012/13	13.8	12.9	14.8
2011/12	14.8	13.9	15.9
2010/11	15.8	14.7	16.9

Definition

The number of mothers known to be smokers at the time of delivery as a percentage of all maternities with known smoking status. A maternity is defined as a pregnant woman who gives birth to one or more live or stillborn babies of at least 24 weeks gestation, where the baby is delivered by either a midwife or doctor at home or in a NHS hospital.

Smoking in pregnancy has well known detrimental effects for the growth and development of the baby and health of the mother. On average, smokers have more complications during pregnancy and labour, including bleeding during pregnancy,

placental abruption and premature rupture of membranes. Encouraging pregnant women to stop smoking during pregnancy may also help them kick the habit for good, and thus provide health benefits for the mother and reduce exposure to secondhand smoke by the infant. Smoking during pregnancy can cause serious pregnancy-related health problems. These include complications during labour and an increased risk of miscarriage, premature birth, stillbirth, low birth-weight and sudden unexpected death in infancy.

Interpretation

The percentage of mothers known to be smokers at time of delivery has decreased by 6 percentage points for Sandwell between 2010/11 and 2022/23, compared to 4.8 percentage points for England. Whereas the England figure has shown a steady decline, both Sandwell and West Midlands saw an increase in 2019/20, followed by a decrease in the following years, although Sandwell saw a slight increase in 2022/23 which put it above West Midlands for the first time.

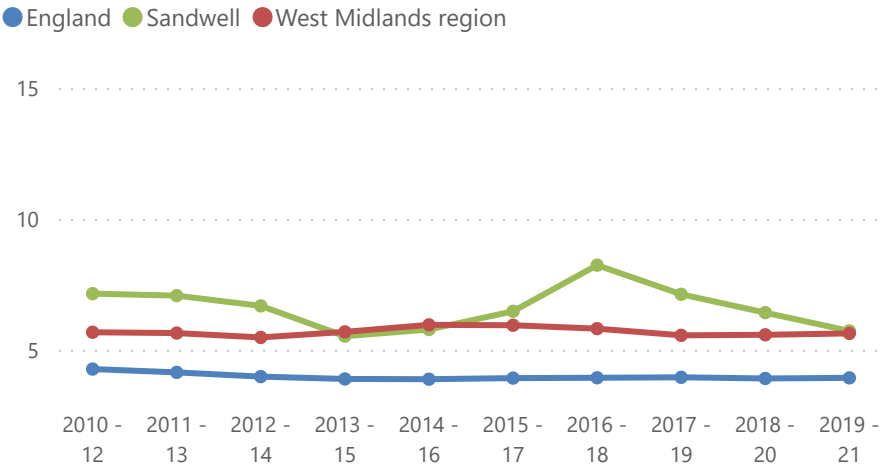


Key Points

Definition
Infant deaths under 1 year of age per 1000 live births. Infant mortality is an indicator of the general health of an entire population. It reflects the relationship between causes of infant mortality and upstream determinants of population health such as economic, social and environmental conditions. Deaths occurring during the first 28 days of life (the neonatal period) in particular, are considered to reflect the health and care of both mother and newborn.

Interpretation
The infant mortality rate for Sandwell has steadily decreased since the 2016-18 period and is now in line with the West Midlands rate. The West Midlands and England rates have remained fairly consistent since 2010, with a 2 point difference between the two rates.

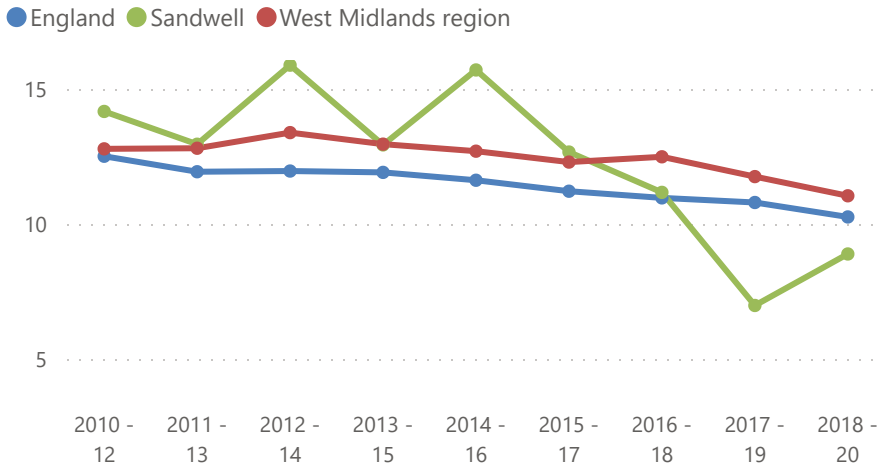
Infant Mortality Rate



Sandwell Infant Mortality Rate

Time period	Value	Lower CI 95.0 limit	Upper CI 95.0 limit
2019 - 21	15.3	13.6	17.2
2018 - 20	15.9	14.2	17.8
2017 - 19	16.6	14.9	18.6
2016 - 18	18.0	16.1	20.0
2015 - 17	16.3	14.7	18.2
2014 - 16	15.6	14.0	17.4
2013 - 15	15.1	13.5	16.9
2012 - 14	16.1	14.5	18.0
2011 - 13	16.8	15.2	18.7
2010 - 12	17.1	15.4	19.0

Child Mortality Rate (1 - 17 years)



Sandwell Child Mortality Rate

Time period	Value	Lower CI 95.0 limit	Upper CI 95.0 limit
2018 - 20	30.2	25.4	36.4
2017 - 19	29.5	25.1	35.4
2016 - 18	34.6	29.2	41.5
2015 - 17	36.2	30.4	43.4
2014 - 16	40.0	33.7	47.8
2013 - 15	37.8	32.0	45.1
2012 - 14	41.2	34.8	49.1
2011 - 13	37.7	31.8	45.1
2010 - 12	39.5	33.3	47.2

Key Points

Definition
Directly standardised rate of death due to all causes, in persons aged 1-17 years. Death in childhood represents not only a tragedy for that child's family but also a loss to wider society in terms of lost years of productive life. After the age of one year, the commonest cause of death in young people is injuries. Many of these injury related deaths are potentially avoidable. The need to provide adequate support to those children and families with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions is also recognised.

Interpretation
The child mortality rate for Sandwell dropped to match the England rate in 2016-20, and after this it has remained below the England rate. The West Midlands rate has consistently remained around one point above the England rate since 2011.



Key Points

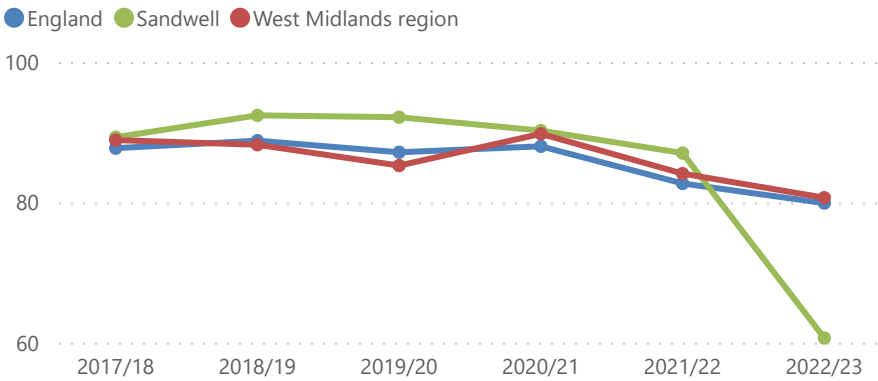
Definition

The proportion of infants receiving a new birth visit (NBV) by a Health Visitor within 14 days of birth. This visit forms part of the Healthy Child Programme (HCP), and is important to ensure a continuum of support following on from visits by a midwife, which usually end at day 10. This visit is also important in identifying any development issues with the infant (including early referral to a specialist team where needed), to promote sensitive parenting, to provide safe sleeping advice, to support feeding and to discuss concerns and worries, including maternal mental health.

Interpretation

Sandwell has remained higher than both England and West Midlands since 2017/18, however in 2022/23, the proportion of NBV's completed within 14 days decreased to 61% compared to 80% for England.

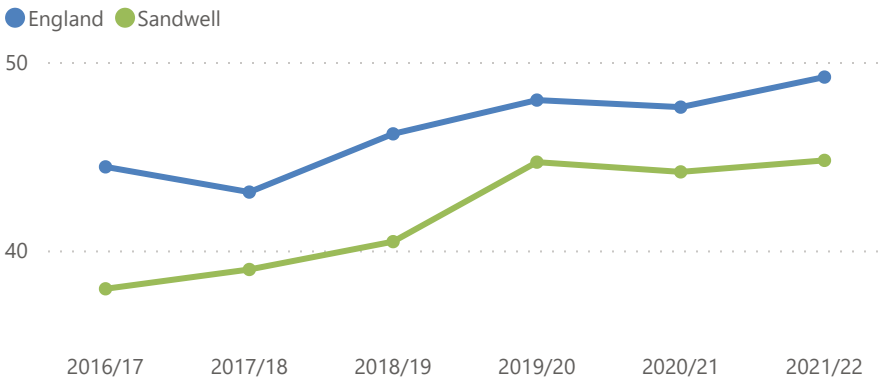
Proportion of New Birth Visits Completed within 14 days



Proportion of Sandwell New Birth Visits

Time period	Value	Lower CI 95.0 limit	Upper CI 95.0 limit
2022/23	60.7	59.2	62.1
2021/22	87.0	86.0	88.0
2020/21	90.2	89.3	91.1
2019/20	92.1	91.3	92.9
2018/19	92.4	91.6	93.2
2017/18	89.3	88.4	90.2

Breastfeeding Prevalence at 6-8 Weeks After Birth



Sandwell Breastfeeding Prevalence

Time period	Value	Lower CI 95.0 limit	Upper CI 95.0 limit
2021/22	44.8	43.2	46.4
2020/21	44.2	42.6	45.7
2019/20	44.7	43.1	46.3
2018/19	40.5	39.0	42.0
2017/18	39.0	37.6	40.5
2016/17	38.0	36.6	39.4

Key Points

Definition

Breast milk provides the ideal nutrition for infants in the first stages of life. There is evidence that babies who are breast fed experience lower levels of gastro-intestinal and respiratory infection. Increases in breastfeeding are expected to reduce illness in young children, have health benefits for the infant and the mother and result in cost savings to the NHS through reduced hospital admission for the treatment of infection in infants.

Interpretation

In Sandwell, breastfeeding prevalence has increased by 7 percentage points since 2016/17. The gap between England and Sandwell decreased to 3 percentage points in 2020/21 and increased to 4 ppts in 2021/22.

Key Points

Background

The National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) measures the height and weight of children in Reception class (aged 4-5) and year 6 (aged 10-11), to assess overweight and obesity levels in children within primary schools.

Interpretation

In the period 2020/21 - 22/23, the proportion of overweight including obesity at Year 6 was 45.9% in Sandwell compared to 36.6% for England. The 3 wards with the highest and lowest percentages were:

Abbey	39.8%
Newton	41.9%
Tividale	42.1%

Greets Green & Lyng	50.0%
Princes End	50.0%
Friar Park	51.2%

In the same period, the proportion of overweight including obesity at Reception was 25.2% in Sandwell compared to 22.1% for England. The 3 highest and lowest wards were:

Abbey	20.7%
Old Warley	21.3%
Rowley	22.6%

Tipton Green	28.3%
Friar Park	32.7%
Princes End	35.6%

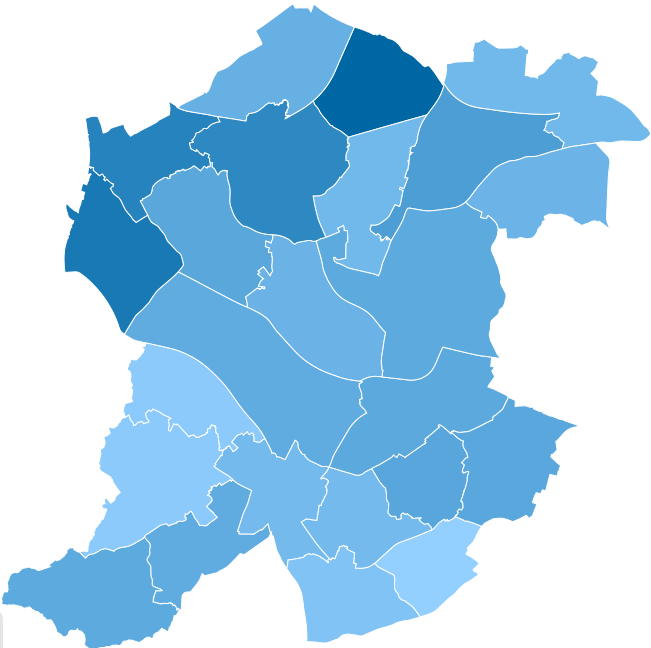
Select indicator

- ☒ Reception prevalence of obesity (including severe obesity), 3 years data combined
- ☐ Reception prevalence of overweight (including obesity), 3 years data combined
- ☐ Year 6 prevalence of obesity (including severe obesity), 3 years data combined
- ☐ Year 6 prevalence of overweight (including obesity), 3 years data combined

Select ward names to filter the chart

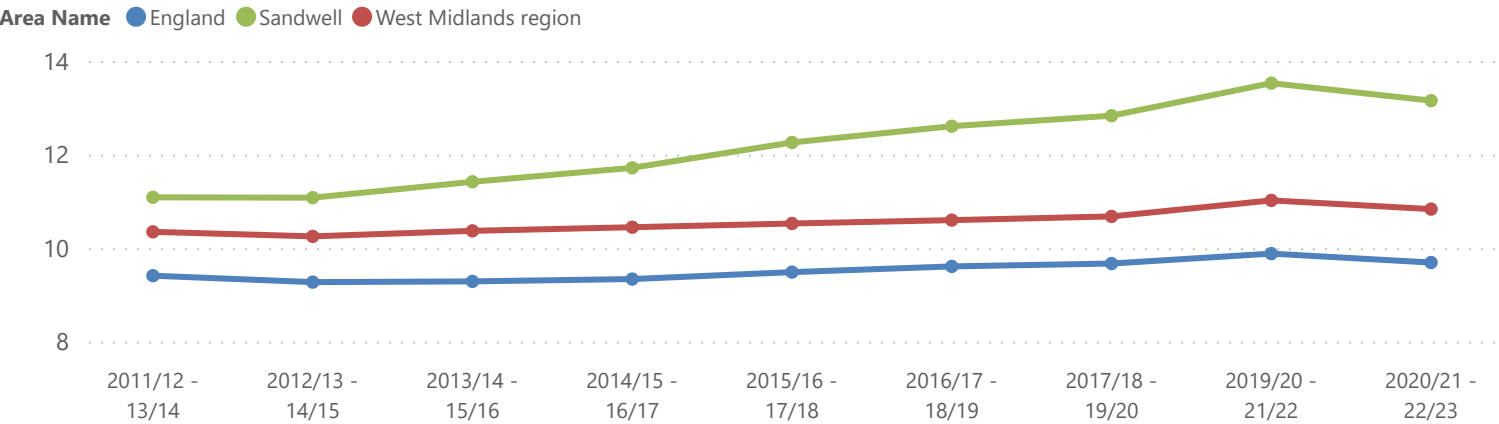
- ☒ Select all
- ☒ England
- ☒ Sandwell
- ☒ West Midlands region
- ☐ Abbey
- ☐ Blackheath
- ☐ Bristnall
- ☐ Charlemont with Grove Vale
- ☐ Cradley Heath and Old Hill
- ☐ Friar Park
- ☐ Great Barr with Yew Tree
- ☐ Great Bridge
- ☐ Greets Green and Lyng
- ☐ Hateley Heath
- ☐ Langley
- ☐ Newton
- ☐ Old Warley
- ☐ Oldbury
- ☐ Princes End
- ☐ Rowley
- ☐ St Pauls
- ☐ Smethwick
- ☐ Soho and Victoria
- ☐ Tipton Green
- ☐ Tividale
- ☐ Wednesbury North
- ☐ Wednesbury South
- ☐ West Bromwich Central

Reception prevalence of obesity (including severe obesity), 3 years data combined by Ward, 2020/21 - 22/23



 Data is missing for 2018/19 - 20/21 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reception prevalence of obesity (including severe obesity), 3 years data combined

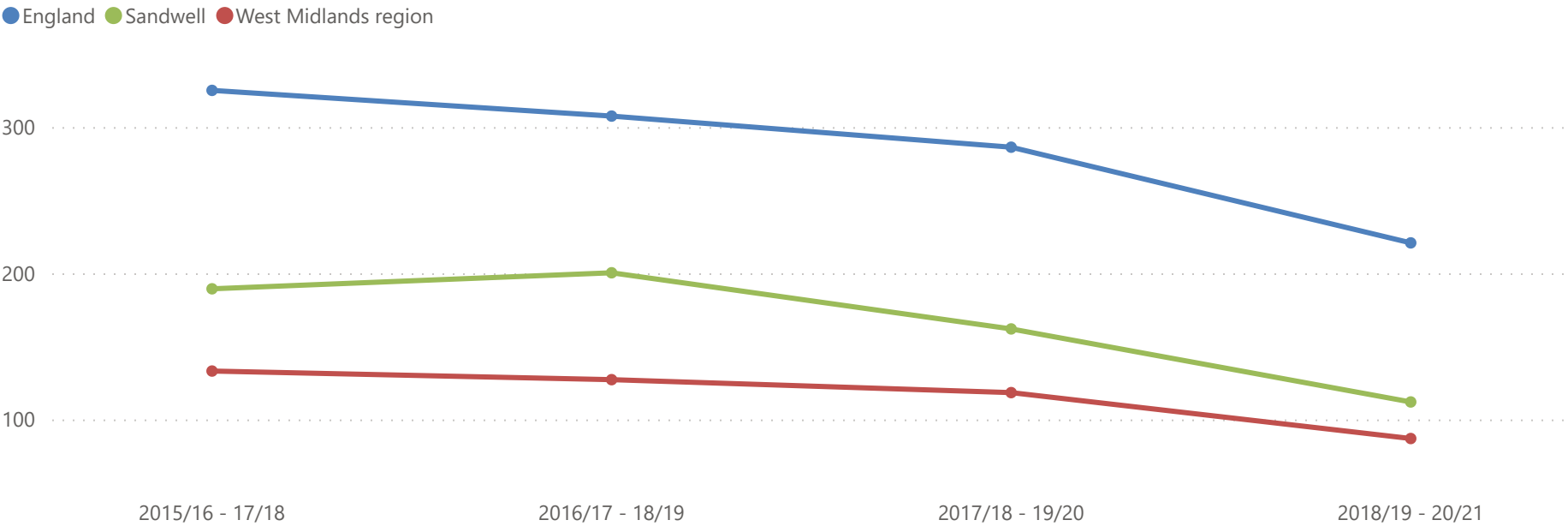


Key Points

Definition
Finished consultant episodes for dental caries among children aged 0 to 5, rate per 100,000. Dental caries (tooth decay) and periodontal (gum) disease are the most common dental pathologies in the UK. Tooth decay has become less common over the past two decades, but is still a significant health and social problem. It results in destruction of the crowns of teeth and frequently leads to pain and infection. Dental disease is more common in deprived areas, compared to affluent, communities. The indicator is a good direct measure of dental health and an indirect, proxy measure of child health and diet.

Interpretation
The Sandwell rate has decreased in line with national and West Midlands rates. The Sandwell rate is slightly higher than the West Midlands rate but much lower than the England rate. The Sandwell rate has decreased by 77.4 from the period 2015/16-17/18 to 2018/19-20/21.

Hospital Admissions for Dental Caries (0-5 years), rate per 100,000



Hospital Admissions for Dental Caries (0-5), rate per 100,000 for Sandwell

Time period	Rate	Lower CI 95.0 limit	Upper CI 95.0 limit
2018/19 - 20/21	112.0	88.5	134.3
2017/18 - 19/20	161.9	135.2	189.8
2016/17 - 18/19	200.3	172.8	233.5
2015/16 - 17/18	189.4	161.6	220.6



Key Points

Definition

Crude rate of hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in children and young people per 10,000 resident population.

Background

Injuries are a leading cause of and represent a major cause of premature mortality for children and young people. They are also a source of long term health issues, including mental health related to experience(s).

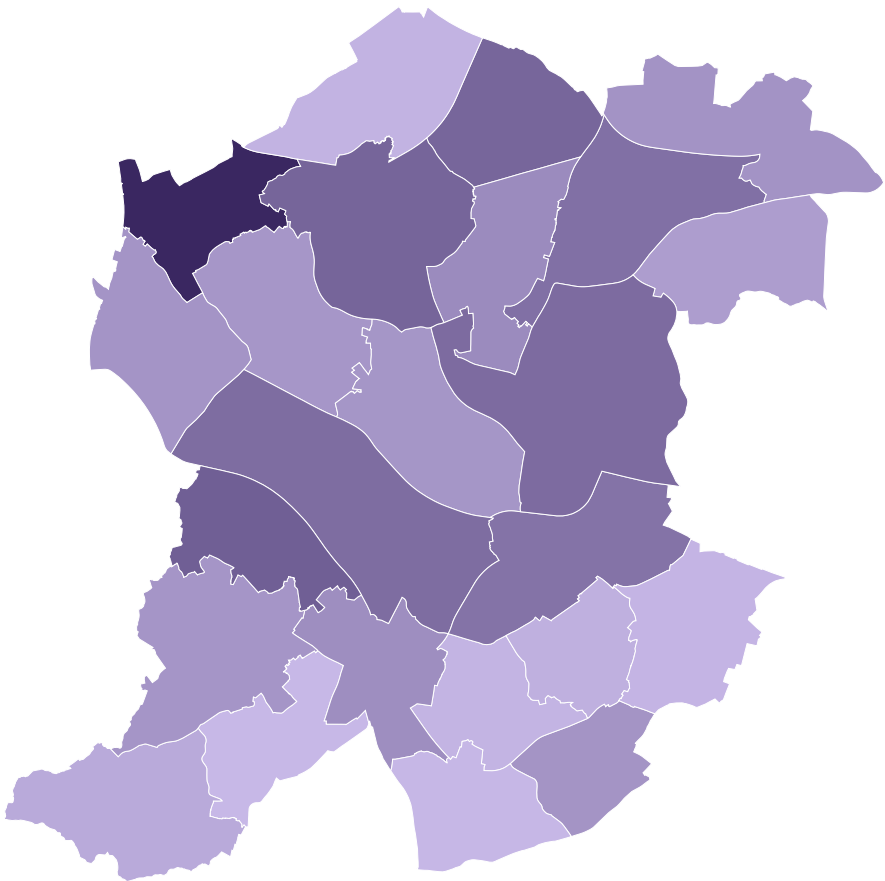
Interpretation

The rate of emergency hospital admissions for injuries in under 5's and under 15 year olds is higher for Sandwell than for England. The rate for 15-24 year olds is lower in Sandwell than England. The ward with the highest rate for injuries under 5 and under 15 years old is Princes End, with 204.3 and 131.4 respectively. Princes End is also the third highest ward for injuries in 15-24 year olds.

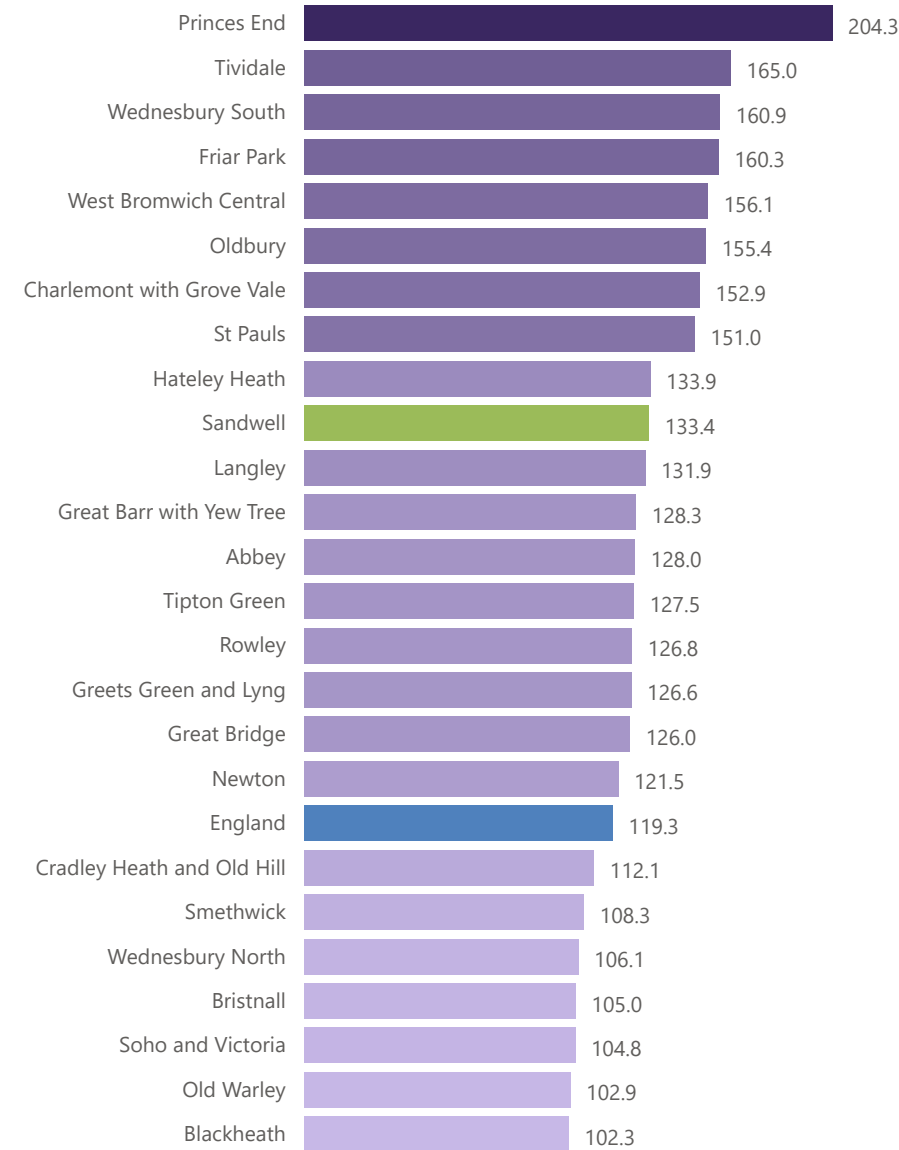
Select indicator

- ☒ Emergency hospital admissions for injuries in under 5 years old, crude rate
- ☐ Emergency hospital admissions for injuries in under 15 years old, crude rate
- ☐ Emergency hospital admissions for injuries in 15 to 24 years old, crude rate

Emergency hospital admissions for injuries in under 5 years old, crude rate by Ward, 2016/17 - 20/21



Emergency hospital admissions for injuries in under 5 years old, crude rate by Area, 2016/17 - 20/21





Key Points

Definition

The estimated number of children and young people (CYP) aged 5 to 17 who have a mental disorder (MD). This includes emotional disorders, behavioural disorders, hyperactivity disorders, and autism spectrum, eating and other less common disorders.

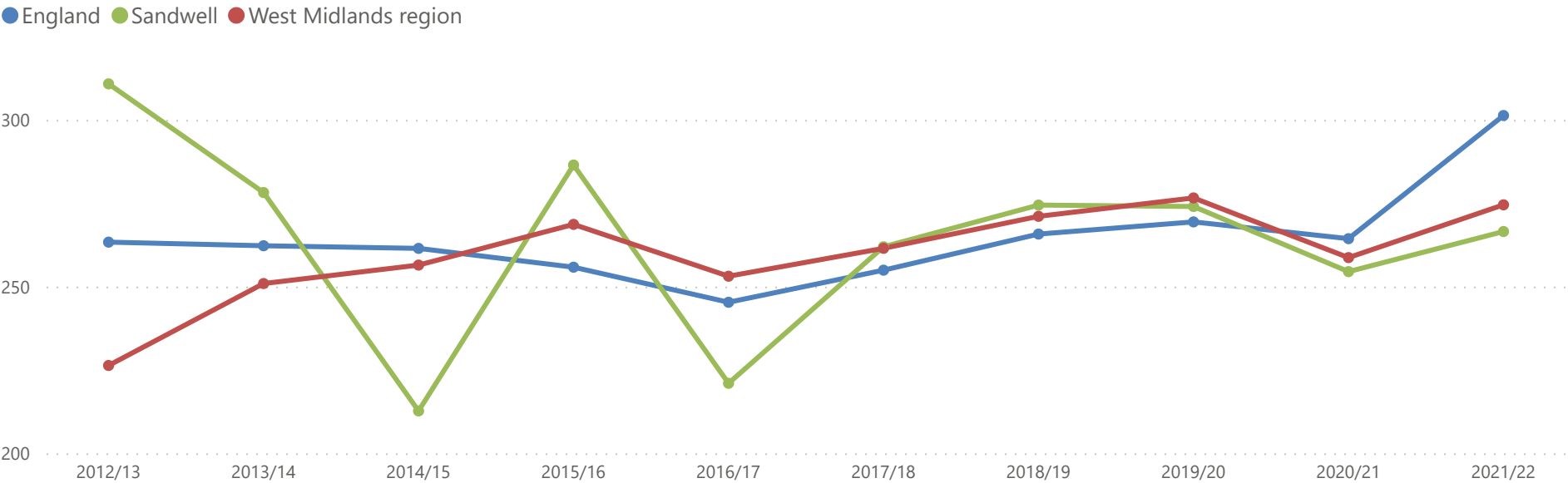
Inpatient admission rate for mental health disorders per 100,000 population aged 0-17 years. One in ten children aged 5-16 years has a clinically diagnosable mental health problem and, of adults with long-term mental health problems, half will have experienced their first symptoms before the age of 14. Self-harming and substance abuse are known to be much more common in children and young people with mental health disorders – with ten per cent of 15-16 year olds having self-harmed. Failure to treat mental health disorders in children can have a devastating impact on their future, resulting in reduced job and life expectations.

Interpretation

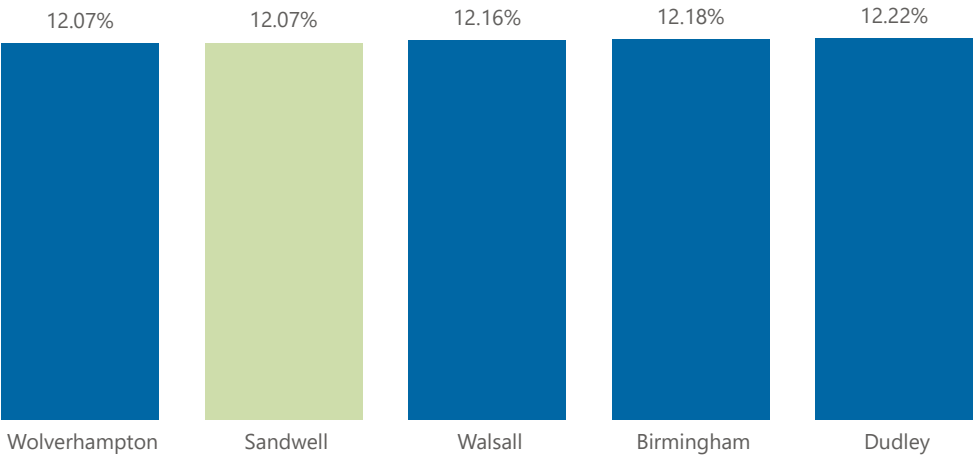
The rate of hospital admissions for mental health conditions in Sandwell was lower than both England and West Midlands in 2021/22. The rate has increased since 2020/21 by 12 percentage points. This is roughly in line with West Midlands, however the increase for England was much bigger.

The estimated number of children and young people with mental health disorders in Sandwell is 6,855, which is slightly higher than in Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton. There is currently no national data for comparison.

Hospital Admissions for Mental Health Conditions, per 100,000 population (0-17 years)



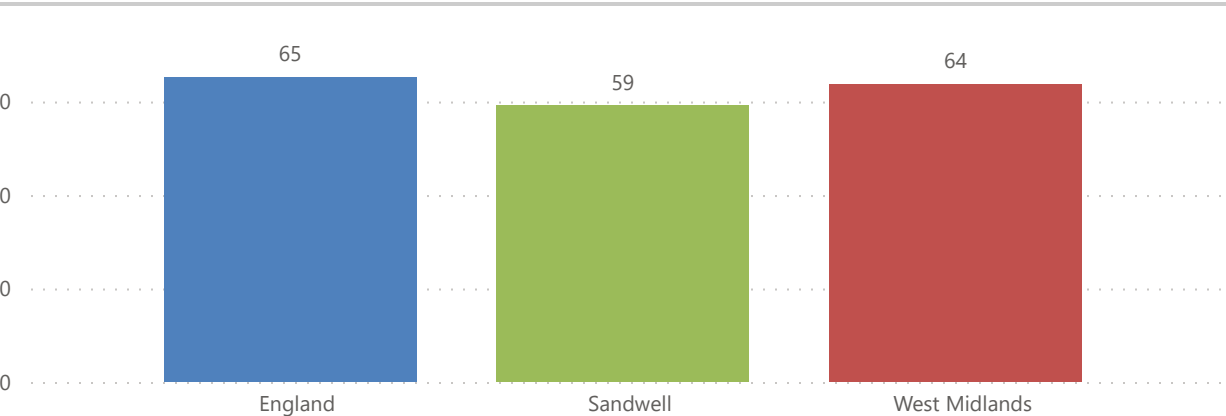
Estimated Proportion of Children & Young People with Mental Disorders (aged 5-17), 2017



Sandwell Hospital Admissions for Mental Health Conditions

Time period	Value	Lower CI 95.0 limit	Upper CI 95.0 limit
2021/22	842.4	744.9	958.1
2020/21	777.6	680.0	887.5
2019/20	820.0	718.4	934.9
2018/19	811.3	708.8	926.1
2017/18	778.4	681.2	895.5
2016/17	719.4	628.4	830.9
2015/16	811.0	708.6	934.0
2014/15	730.7	639.6	842.7
2013/14	791.4	690.0	913.9
2012/13	800.5	695.0	927.4

% Achieving a good level of development at the end of Reception, 2022



Key Points

The Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) is a teacher assessment of children's development at the end of the EYFS. Children achieving a good level of development are those achieving at least the expected level in different areas of learning.

% Achieving good level of development
EYFSP data is only available for 2022 as there is a new Early Years framework which should not be compared to the previous framework. Overall Sandwell is just below England and the West Midlands. Locally, West Bromwich North and Wednesbury are the highest performers, with Smethwick obtaining the lowest percentage.

Select boxes from the list below to compare learning communities

- ☒ England
- ☐ Oldbury
- ☐ Rowley Regis
- ☒ Sandwell
- ☐ Smethwick
- ☐ Tipton
- ☐ Wednesbury
- ☐ West Bromwich Central
- ☐ West Bromwich North
- ☒ West Midlands

Learning Communities

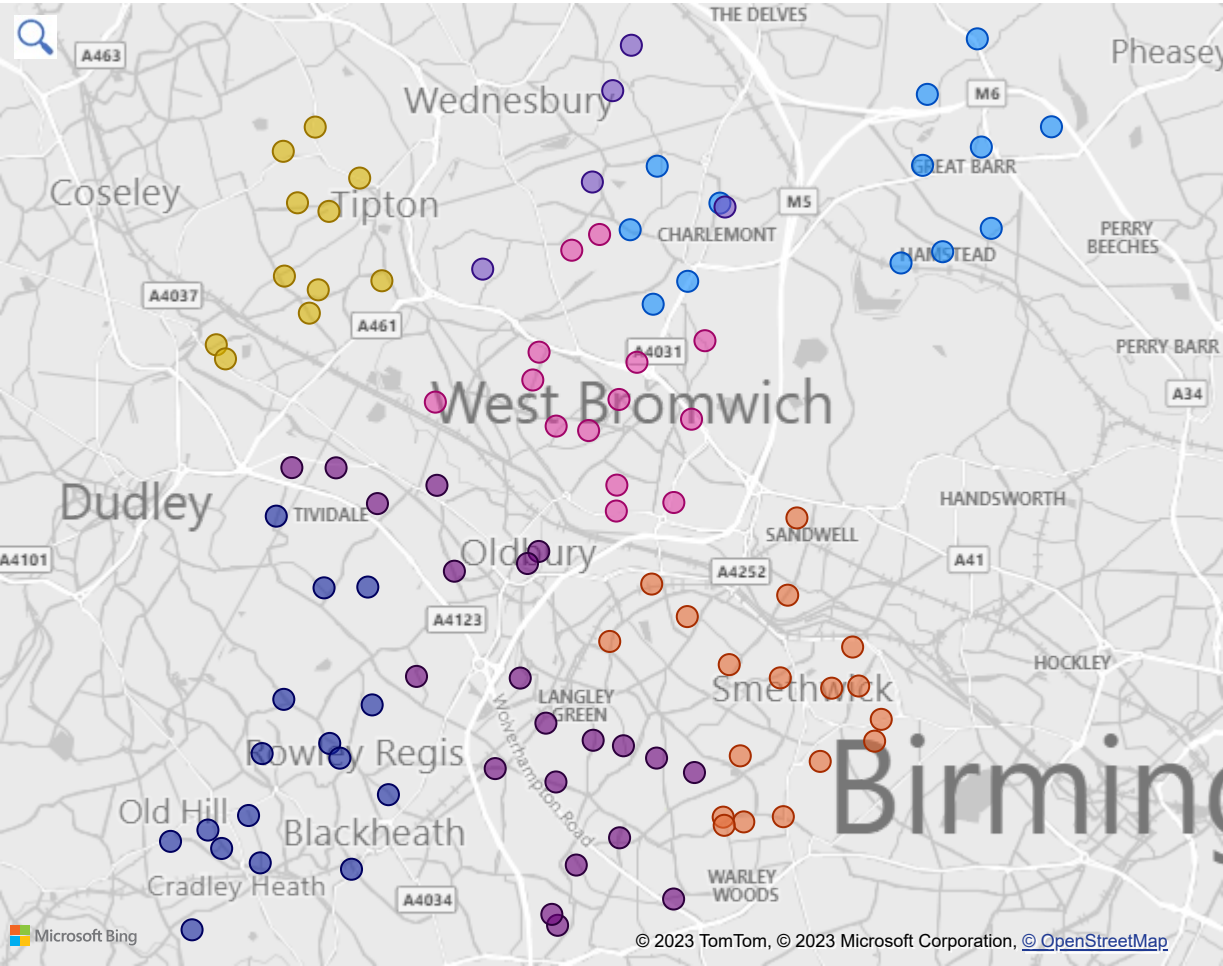
Learning Communities align roughly with the towns within Sandwell and are based around the groups of schools that actively work together.

Town Map

Select Learning Community ▼
All ▼

School locations within Learning Communities

- OLDBURY ● ROWLEY REGIS ● SMETHWICK ● TIPTON ● WEDNESBURY ● WEST BROMWICH CENT... ● WEST BROMWIC...





Key Points

Key Stage 2 data is missing for 2020 and 2021 due to statutory tests and assessments being cancelled during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Background

National curriculum assessments and teacher assessments take place at the end of KS2 (Year 6) for Reading, Writing and Maths.

The phonics screening check is taken in Year One (age 6) to check if pupils have met the expected standard in phonic decoding. The phonics screening took place in the autumn term rather than the summer in 2020 and 2021 due to the impact of the pandemic. No other Primary data was statutorily collected during that period.

Interpretation

Looking at the percentage achieving the expected level in Year One Phonics, a decrease of 9 percentage points was seen in Sandwell from 2021 to 2022. England and the West Midlands followed the same pattern, with decreases of seven percentage points each across the same period. Locally, Oldbury received the lowest in 2022 with 67% compared to 81% the previous year. West Bromwich Central retained the highest score, which was 11.8 percentage points higher than Oldbury.

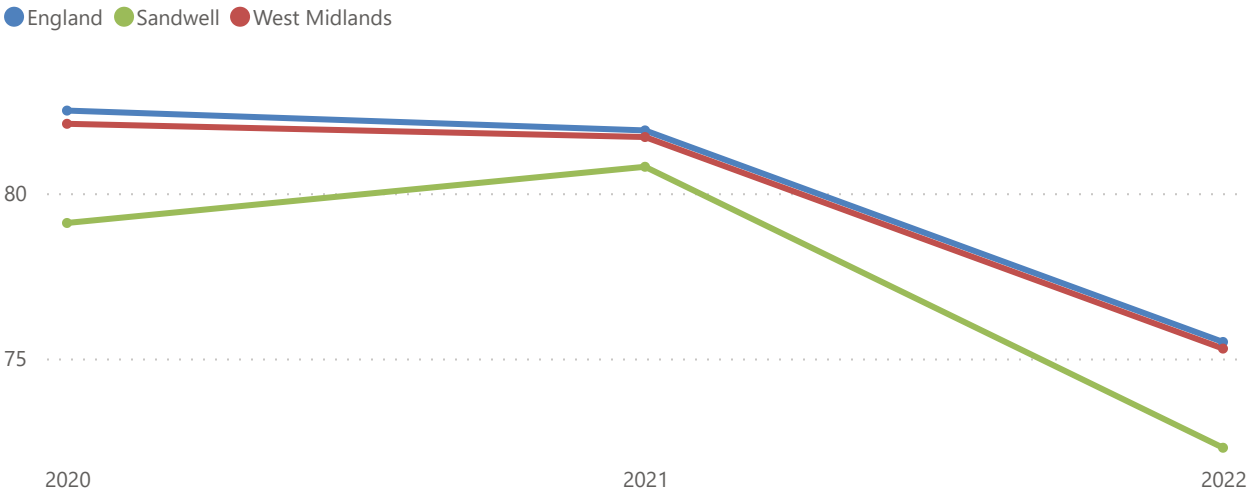
For Key Stage 2 pupils meeting the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths, nationally the percentage dropped five points from 2019 to 2022. Sandwell remained four percentage points below England in 2022. Locally, Wednesbury only dropped one percentage point from 2019 to 2022, compared to Tipton which fell 11 points. In 2019, West Bromwich North was performing better than the national average, however this dropped below this level in 2022. West Bromwich Central received the lowest score of 51% in 2022.

Select boxes from the list below to compare learning communities

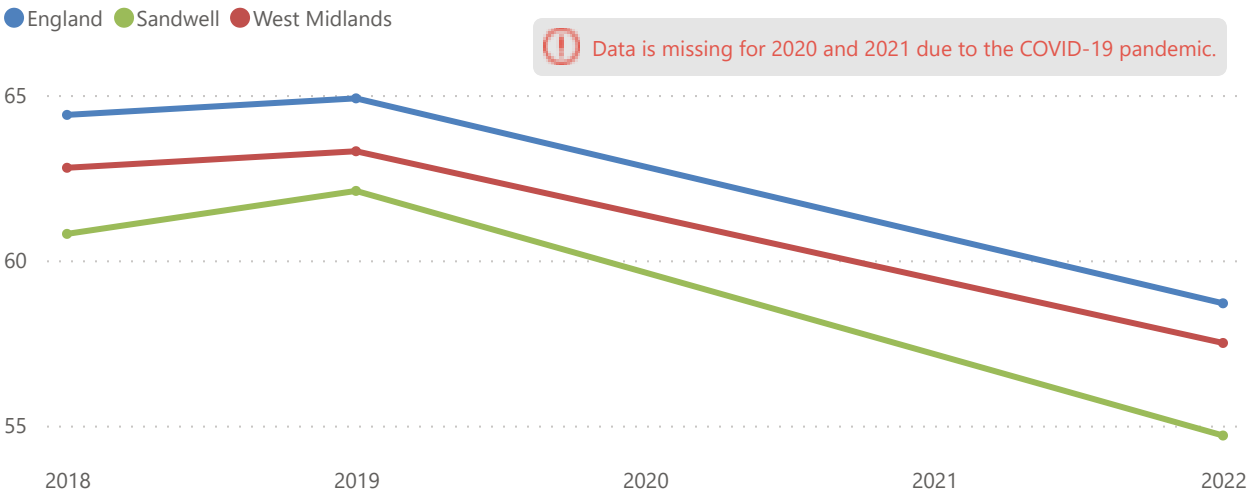
- ☒ England
- ☐ Oldbury
- ☐ Rowley Regis
- ☒ Sandwell
- ☐ Smethwick
- ☐ Tipton
- ☐ Wednesbury
- ☐ West Bromwich Central
- ☐ West Bromwich North
- ☒ West Midlands



% Achieving the expected level in Year One Phonics



Key Stage Two pupils meeting the expected standard in Reading, Writing & Maths (%)





Key Points

Teacher assessment judgements are reported for each pupil at the end of Key Stage 1 (typically age 7). Decreases can be seen across all KS1 core subjects in 2022. These follow the same pattern as for the whole of England, and may reflect the impact of the pandemic.

Reading

Wednesbury was the learning community with the highest percentage in 2022, just two percentage points lower than England. Tipton was the lowest, with 8.5 percentage points between the highest and lowest. Wednesbury and Tipton were the only learning communities whose scores decreased from 2018 to 2019, with all other areas remaining consistent or improving slightly.

Writing

West Bromwich North was the learning community with the highest percentage in 2022, matching England. Tipton was the lowest with 44.1%. There were 13.2 percentage points between the highest and lowest in 2022, compared to just 6 points between the highest and lowest in 2019.

In 2022, five of the learning communities achieved higher percentages than Sandwell overall. Tipton and Smethwick were the only ones to achieve lower percentages in 2019 compared to 2018.

Maths

West Bromwich North was the highest in 2022, being only two percentage points lower than England. The lowest was Tipton - however the gap between the highest and lowest was much smaller at only 5.8 percentage points.

Select boxes from the list below to compare learning communities

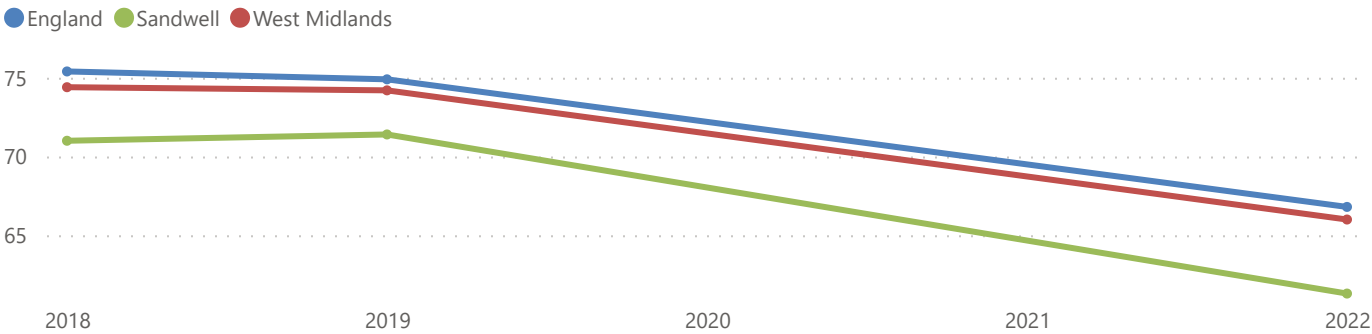
- ☒ England
- ☐ Oldbury
- ☐ Rowley Regis
- ☒ Sandwell
- ☐ Smethwick
- ☐ Tipton
- ☐ Wednesbury
- ☐ West Bromwich Central
- ☐ West Bromwich North
- ☒ West Midlands



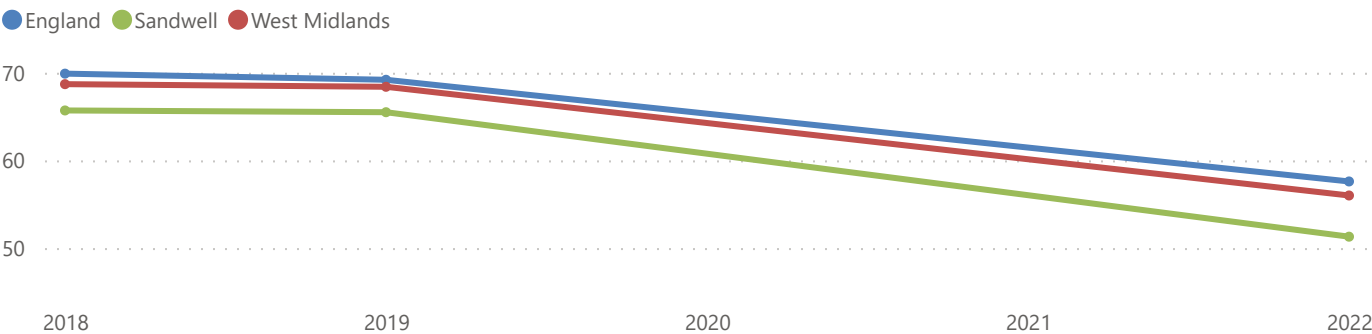
Data is missing for 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Statutory assessments were cancelled during the pandemic. Caution should be used when making comparisons between years before, after and during the pandemic.

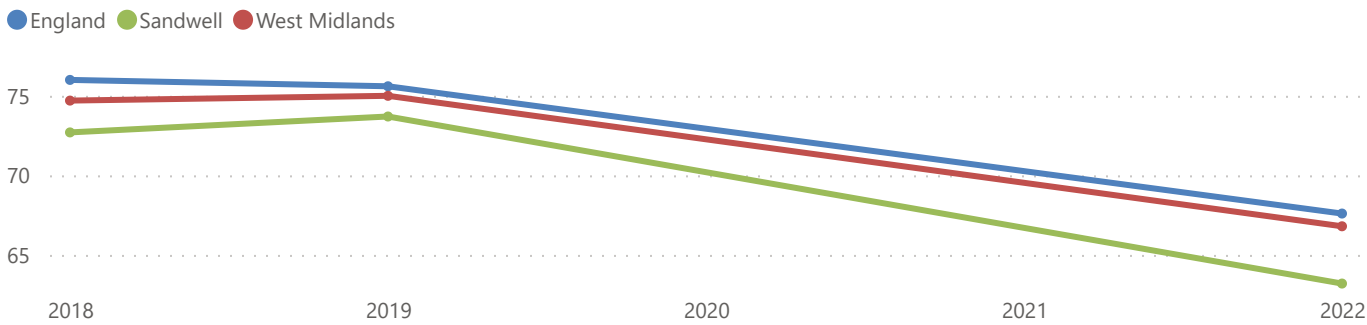
Key Stage One pupils meeting the expected standard in Reading (%)



Key Stage One pupils meeting the expected standard in Writing (%)



Key Stage One pupils meeting the expected standard in Maths (%)





Key Points

Some data is missing for 2020/2021 due to statutory tests and exams being cancelled during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Background

GCSE grading in 2022 was based on exams but adjusted to be more lenient than in 2019. This will be brought back in line with pre-pandemic grading in 2023. Data has not been included for 2020 and 2021, where grading was based on assessments rather than exams.

Interpretation

The percentage of pupils achieving grade 4 or above in Sandwell has improved from 50.7% in 2018 to 61.3% in 2022. The gap between Sandwell and West Midlands is closing with Sandwell achieving only five percentage points less in 2022.

Locally, Smethwick had the highest % achieving grade 4 or above in 2022 and Tipton the lowest, with 19 percentage points between the two. West Bromwich Central was the only area to decrease from 2019 to 2022.

The percentage of pupils achieving a grade 5 or above in Sandwell has grown year on year, from 28.4% in 2018 to 41.3% in 2022. Although lower than England and the West Midlands, the gap between these has also decreased significantly in 2022.

Locally, the percentage in all areas increased from 2019 to 2022, with Wednesbury achieving the highest percentage. Wednesbury also achieved the largest increase since 2019, with a rise of 14.8 percentage points.

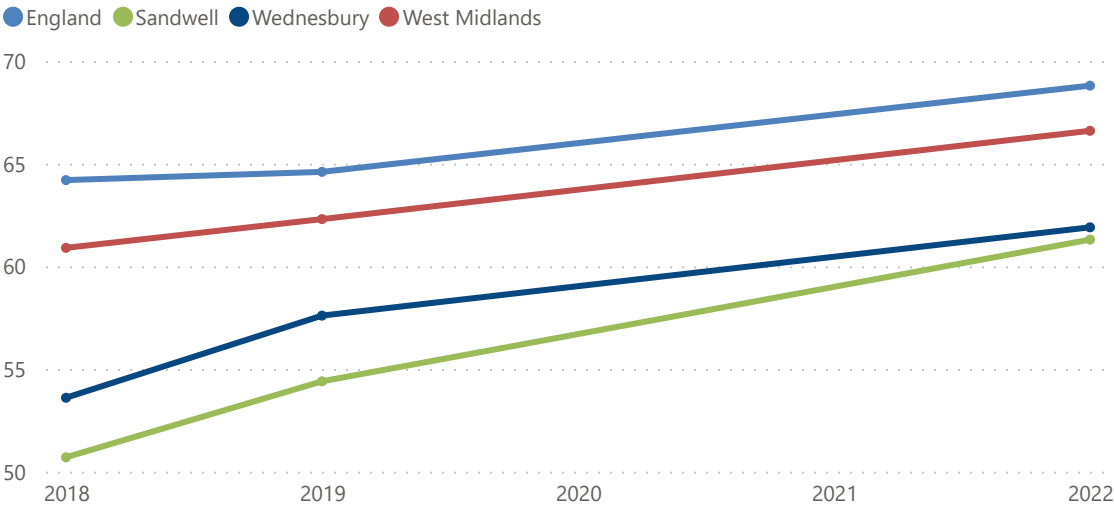
Select boxes from the list below to compare learning communities

- ☒ England
- ☐ Oldbury
- ☐ Rowley Regis
- ☒ Sandwell
- ☐ Smethwick
- ☐ Tipton
- ☒ Wednesbury
- ☐ West Bromwich Central
- ☐ West Bromwich North
- ☒ West Midlands

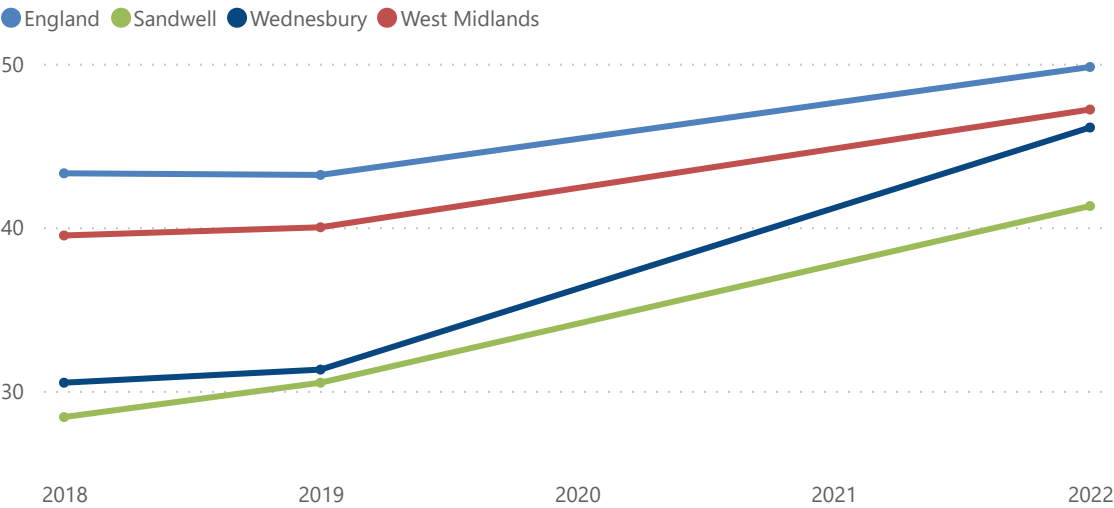


Data is missing for 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

% Achieving a grade 4 or above in GCSE English & Maths



% Achieving a grade 5 or above in GCSE English & Maths





Key Points

Some data is missing for 2020/2021 due to statutory tests and exams being cancelled during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Definitions

Attainment 8 measures the average achievement of pupils in up to 8 qualifications including English and maths.

Progress 8 aims to capture the progress a pupil makes from the end of Key Stage 2 to the end of Key Stage 4. It compares a pupils' attainment 8 score with the average of pupils nationally who had similar prior attainment. The national average score is close to zero. Scores below zero mean pupils made less progress on average.

Interpretation

The average attainment 8 score has increased by 5% from 2018 to 2022 in Sandwell. The gap between Sandwell and other areas has closed, with only two percentage points between Sandwell and England.

Locally, the average attainment 8 score increased in all areas from 2019 to 2022, apart from West Bromwich North where it decreased by one point. In 2022 there were 8 points between the highest score in Oldbury and the lowest in Tipton.

The average progress 8 score for Sandwell has improved significantly to -0.02 in 2022. This is slightly better than England and West Midlands.

Locally, the average progress 8 score has improved in all areas except West Bromwich Central and North. Tipton received the worst score of -0.7 however this has improved from the score in 2019.

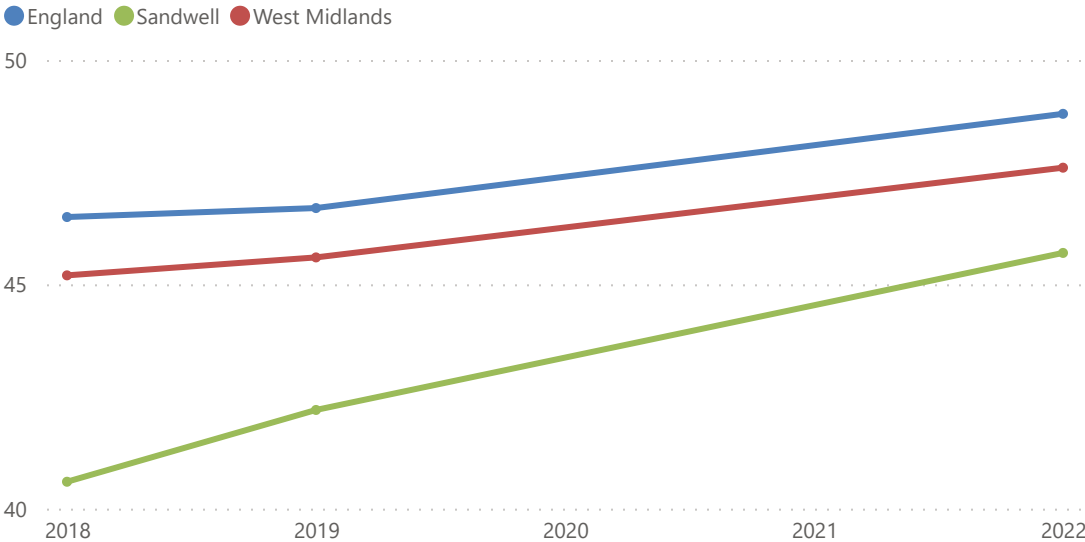
Select boxes from the list below to compare learning communities

- ☒ England
- ☐ Oldbury
- ☐ Rowley Regis
- ☒ Sandwell
- ☐ Smethwick
- ☐ Tipton
- ☐ Wednesbury
- ☐ West Bromwich Central
- ☐ West Bromwich North
- ☒ West Midlands

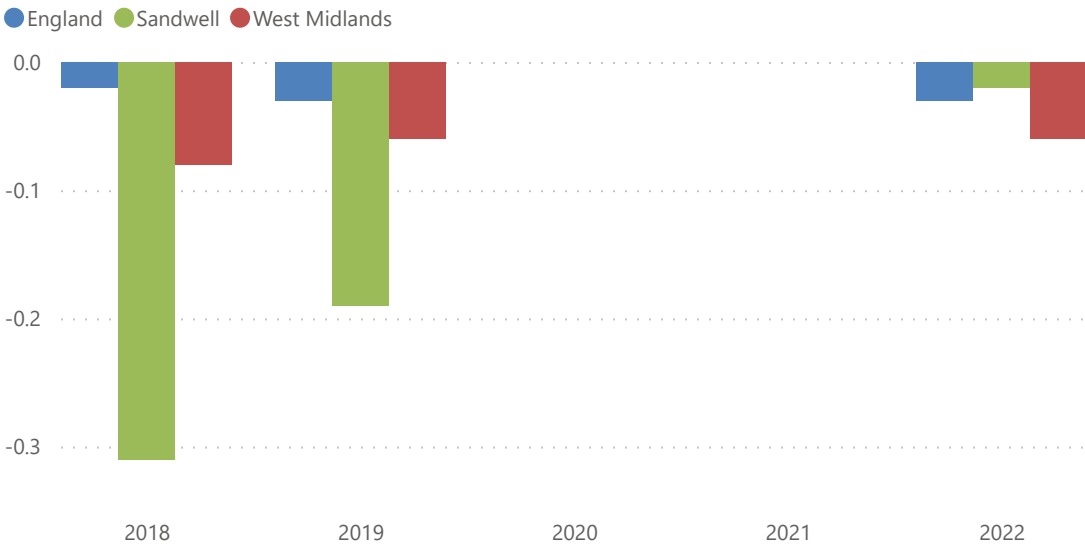


Data is missing for 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Average Attainment 8 score



Average Progress 8 score





Key Points

Total Authorised Absence from Primary Schools

The rate of authorised absences for Sandwell has remained relatively consistent since 2018, decreasing from 2.8% to 2.7% in 2021. In 2021, the level for Sandwell was slightly below that of West Midlands, and matched the national level.

Total Unauthorised Absence from Primary Schools

Unauthorised absences for all areas decreased from 2018 to 2021. Levels in Sandwell decreased from 1.5% to 1.3%. The national level was 0.4 percentage points lower in 2021, at 0.9%.

Total Authorised Absence from Secondary Schools

The national level of authorised absences from secondary schools has remained consistent since 2016, at 3.8%. For Sandwell, the level decreased in 2018 and 2019, but then increased again to 3.1% in 2021. This remains lower than nationally and for the West Midlands.

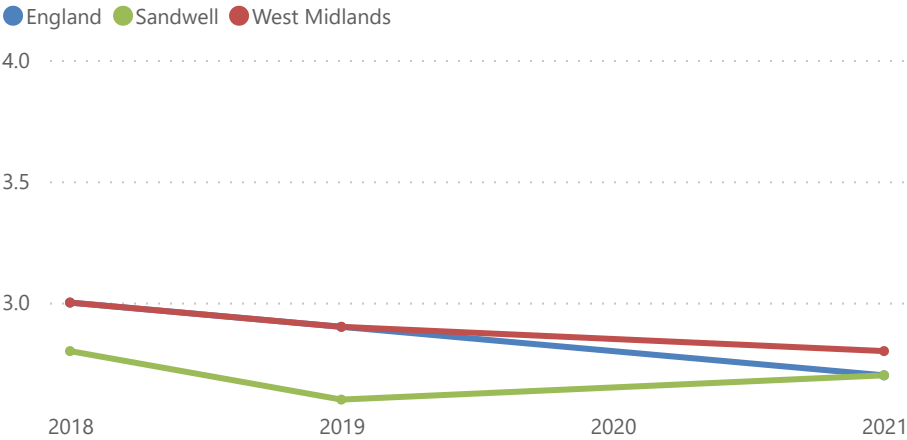
Total Unauthorised Absence from Secondary Schools

Unauthorised absence from secondary schools in Sandwell has consistently remained around 2% since 2013. This is only marginally higher than both the national and West Midlands figures.

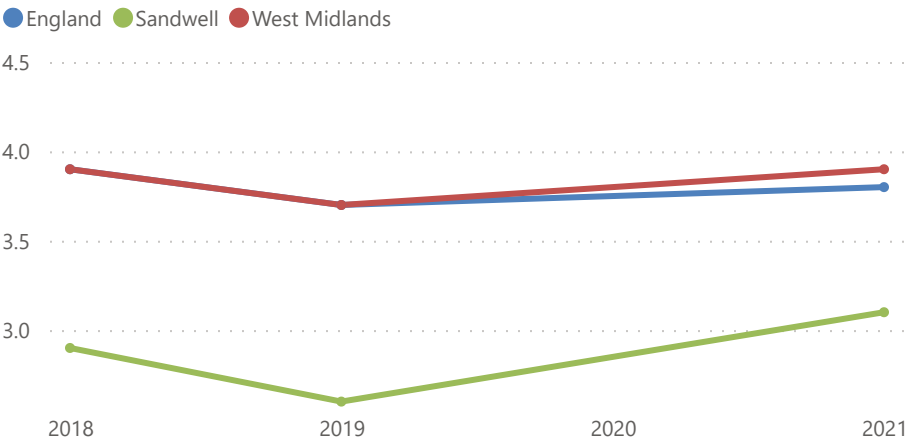


Data is missing for 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

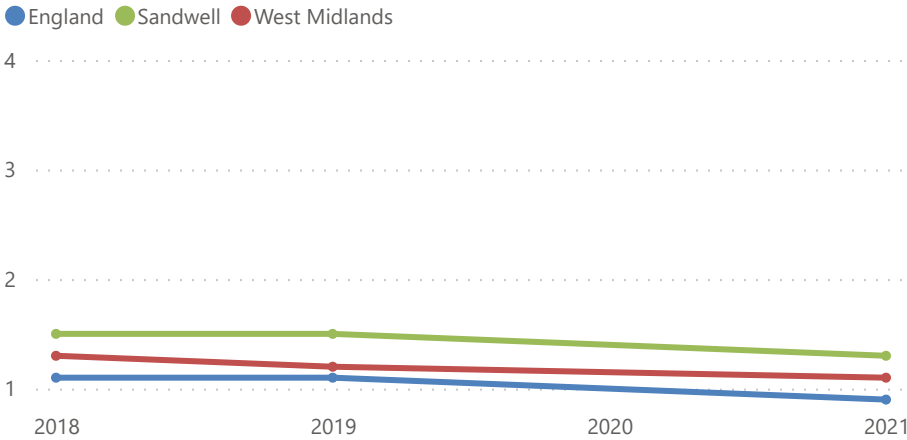
Total Authorised Absence from Primary Schools (%)



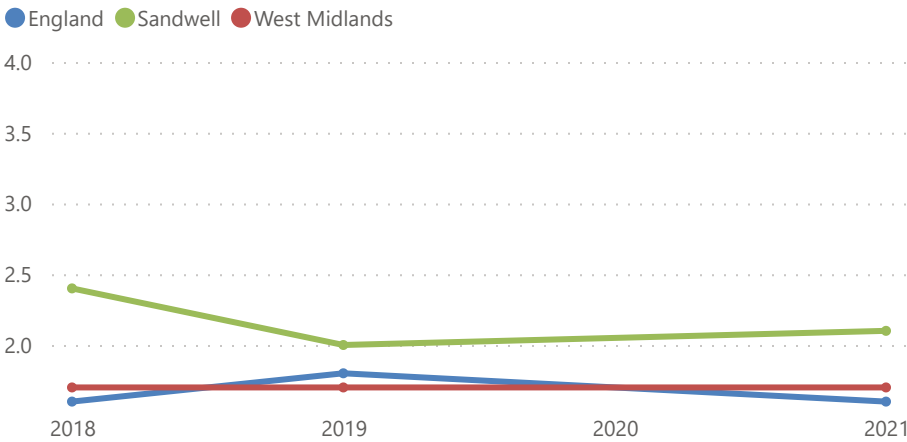
Total Authorised Absence from Secondary Schools (%)



Total Unauthorised Absence from Primary Schools (%)



Total Unauthorised Absence from Secondary Schools (%)



Controls

England

Sandwell

West Midlands

2018

2021





Key Points

Definitions

A looked after child is a child or young person being cared for by their local authority. They could be in foster, in a children's home or a different family arrangement. A child in need is one who has been assessed by Children's social care to be in need of services, which include family support, leaving care support, adoption support, or disabled children's services.

Interpretation

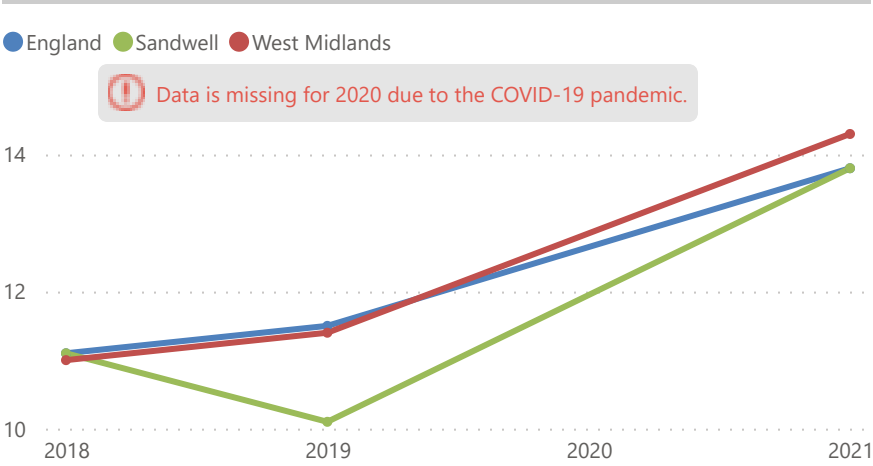
The percentage of children in need who missed sessions increased for all areas in 2021 compared to 2019. The largest increase was for Sandwell, which increased by 3.7 percentage points to 13.8% in 2021, matching the percentage for England.

The percentage of looked after children who are absent from school has increased in all areas. Nationally there has been an increase of 4 percentage points from 2019. In Sandwell, the increase was 3 percentage points, bringing Sandwell to 7% in 2021. This remains lower than England and West Midlands who are both at a level of around 9%.

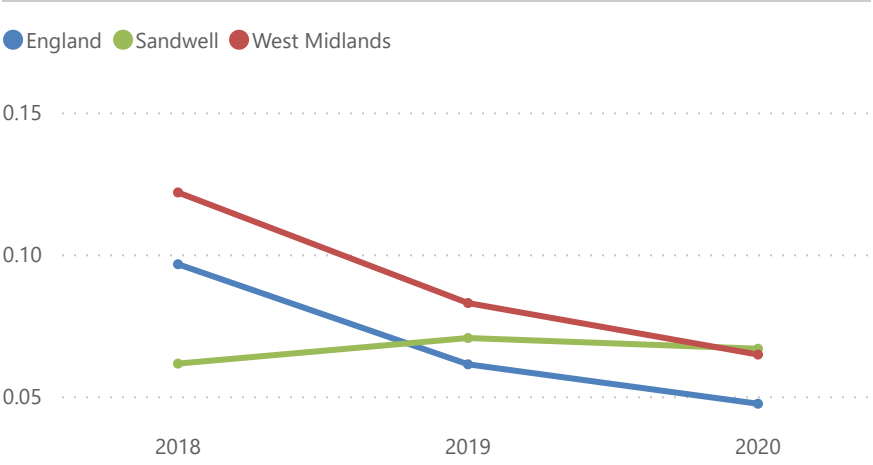
Permanent exclusions have dropped since 2018 for all areas other than Sandwell, where they have remained consistent at 0.7% of the school population. For other areas, the percentage was higher in 2018/19 and decreased in 2020 to around the same level as Sandwell.

School suspensions in Sandwell dropped to only 1.7% of the school population in 2019, but increased to 3% in 2020. This is still much lower than nationally or for the West Midlands (4.3% and 4% respectively).

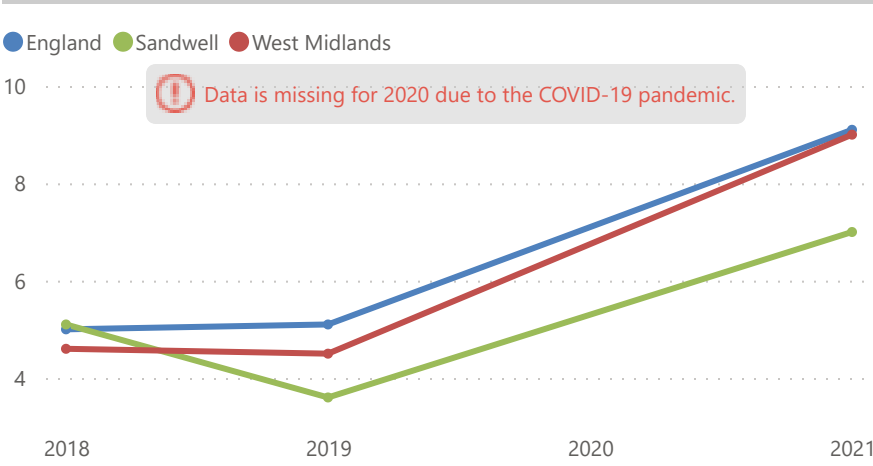
% Children in Need who missed sessions



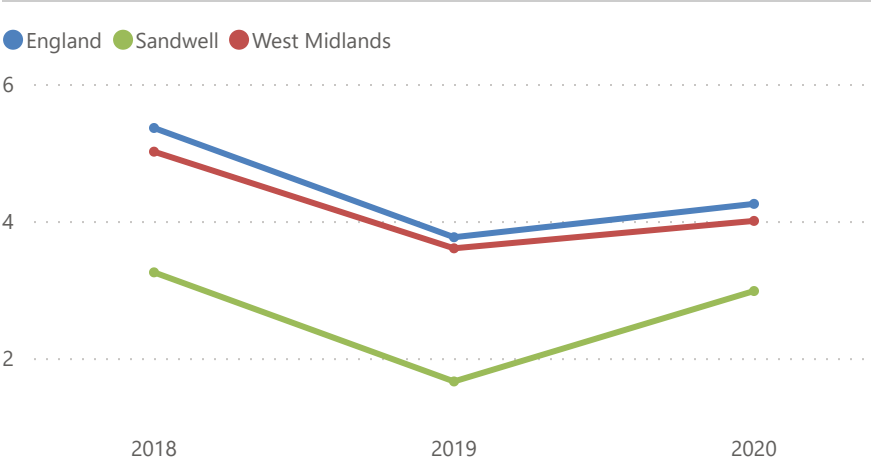
Total Permanent Exclusions as a % of School Population



% Absence from School of Looked After Children



School Suspensions as a % of School Population



Controls

2018

2021





Key Points

Definition

Pupils are identified as persistent absentees if they miss 10% or more of their own possible sessions, rather than if they reach a threshold of 15% of the standard number of possible sessions for the period.

Absence data is collected one term in arrears of the school census. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, absence data for 2019/20 was only collected for the Autumn 2019.

In recent years, autumn term absence rates have given reasonable indications of trends in the full year. However, absence in a single term can be more affected by the level of seasonal flu or other illnesses.

Interpretation

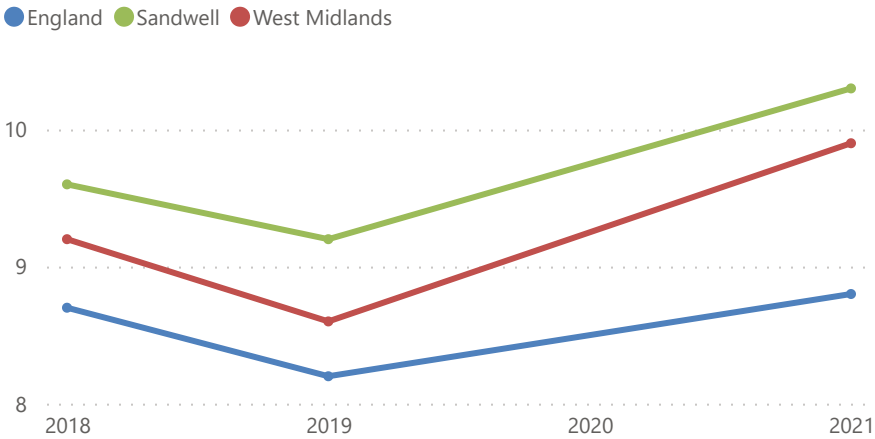
In Sandwell, the rate of persistent absence in primary schools is slightly higher than West Midlands and England. In 2021 the rate increased slightly compared to the last time it was recorded in 2019.

In Secondary schools, the rate of persistent absences for Sandwell is slightly lower than for England and West Midlands.

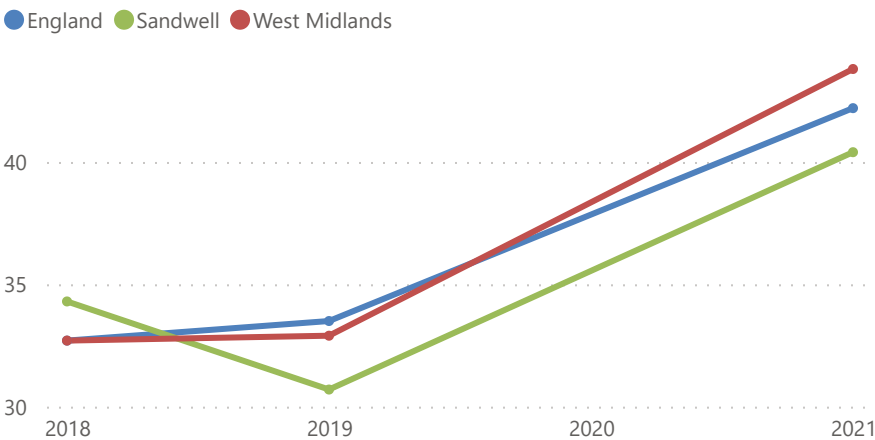
The percentage of Children in Need with persistent absence decreased to slightly below the levels of West Midlands and England in 2019, and has remained lower in 2021. A dramatic rise of around 10 percentage points was seen across all areas in 2021 compared to 2019.

The percentage of Children Looked After with persistent absence dropped to lower than the England level in 2018 and has remained lower since. There was a sharp rise in all areas between 2019 and 2021.

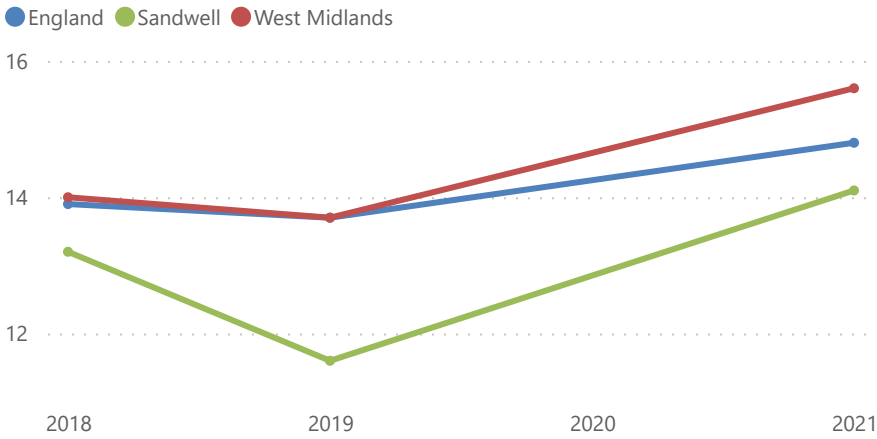
Primary Persistent Absence Rate



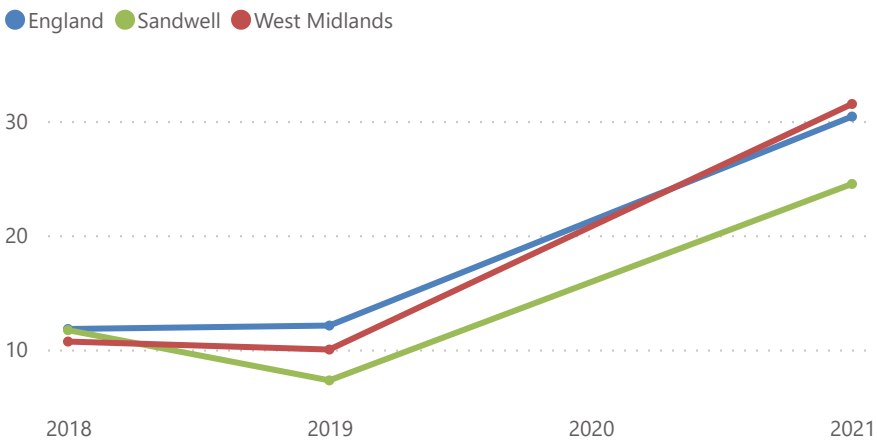
% of Children in Need who are Persistent Absentees (3 terms)



Secondary Persistent Absence Rate



% of Children Looked After who are classed as Persistent Absentees



Controls

England

Sandwell

West Midlands

2018

2021



Data is missing for 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key Points

Definitions

A child in need is one who has been assessed by Children's social care to be in need of services, which include family support, leaving care support, adoption support, or disabled children's services.

A re-referral to social care occurs when a child is referred within 12 months of a previous referral.

Care stability refers to children living in the same placement for at least 2 years, or are placed for adoption and their adoption and their adoptive placement together with their previous placement, last for at least 2 years.

Interpretation

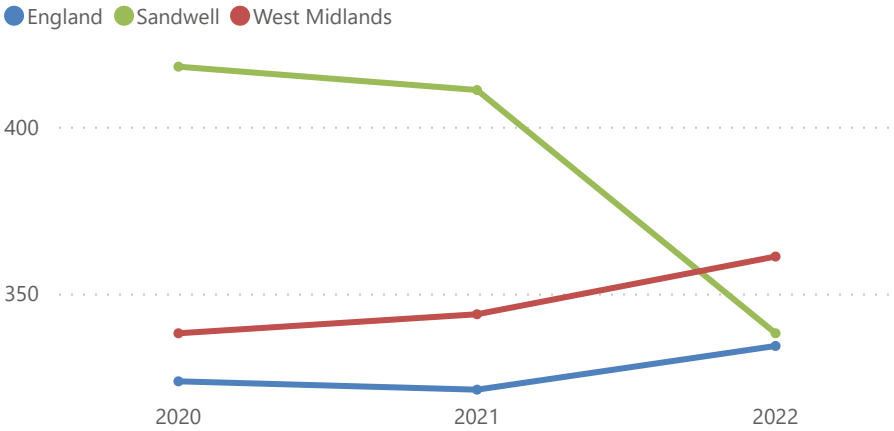
The children in need rate per 10,000 for Sandwell has reduced by 135 since 2019. The rate in Sandwell is lower than West Midlands in 2022 for the first time since 2017. The gap between Sandwell and England has closed to almost the same rate in 2022.

The rates of referrals for Sandwell have been decreasing year on year since 2019. The gap between the national rates and Sandwell has closed from 239.1 in 2020 to -1 in 2022.

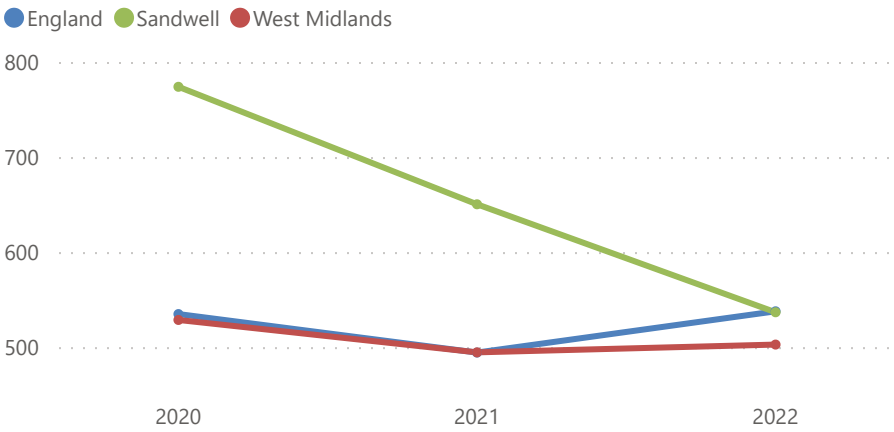
Re-referrals (within 12 months of a previous referral) are decreasing year on year in Sandwell. After a high of 24.8% in 2020, re-referrals are at 19.2% in 2022, which matches the West Midlands percentage and is lower than national.

The percentage of children living in a long-term placement in Sandwell rose from 60% in 2020 to 73% in 2022. In 2022, the percentage for Sandwell was higher than both the West Midlands and national percentages.

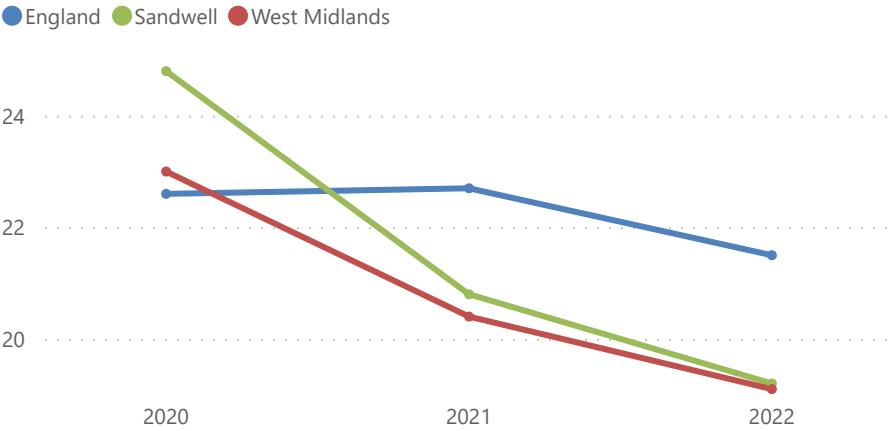
Children in Need rate per 10,000



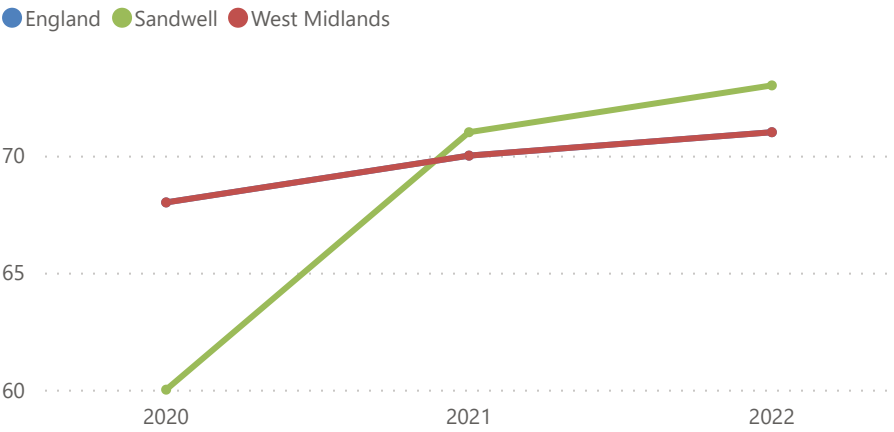
Rate per 10,000 of Referrals to Children's Social Services



Re-referrals to social care within 12 months (%)



Care stability - placement of 2 years or more (%)



Controls

England Sandwell West Midlands

2020

2022





Key Points

Definitions

A Child Protection Plan is made when a child is judged to be at risk of significant harm, at a level that affects the health, welfare and development of the child.

A looked after child is a child or young person being cared for by their local authority. They could be in foster care, in a children's home or a in different family arrangement.

Interpretation

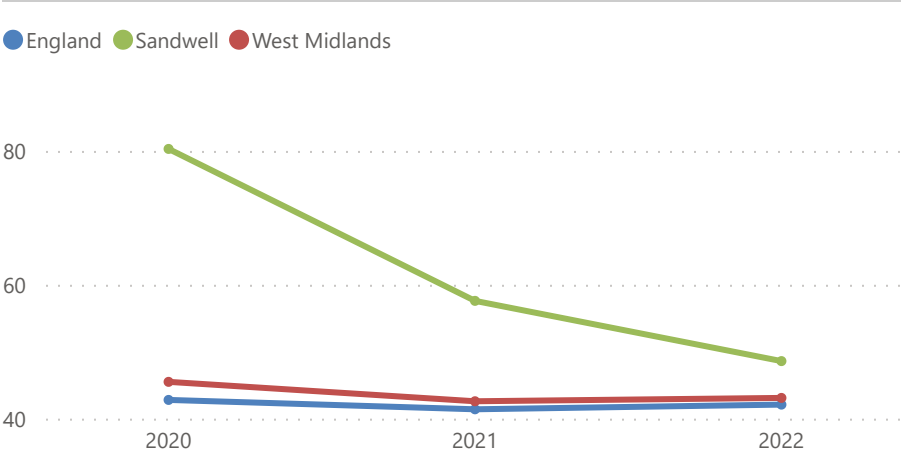
The rate of children with a CPP in Sandwell has decreased year on year since 2020, bringing the rate per 10,000 closer to the national figure.

The rate of Child Protection Plans starting during the year in Sandwell has decreased significantly, from 88.8 in 2020 to 56.9 in 2022. The rates for England and the West Midlands have also decreased in 2022, by 2 and 4 respectively. Sandwell is now more in line with the West Midlands and national rates, having a difference of just 1 per 10,000 from West Midlands and only 4 per 10,000 from England.

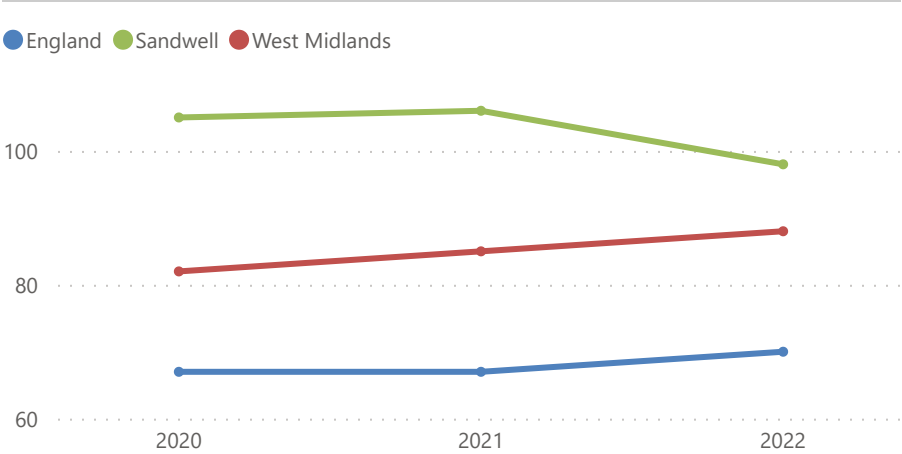
The rate of children looked after in Sandwell reached a high of 109 per 10,000 in 2019, but has dropped to 98 per 10,000 in 2022. Although this is higher than England and the West Midlands, the gap between them has decreased.

The percentage of care leavers in EET in Sandwell dipped in 2021 but in 2022 was rising again. The West Midlands region was 10 percentage points higher than Sandwell in 2022.

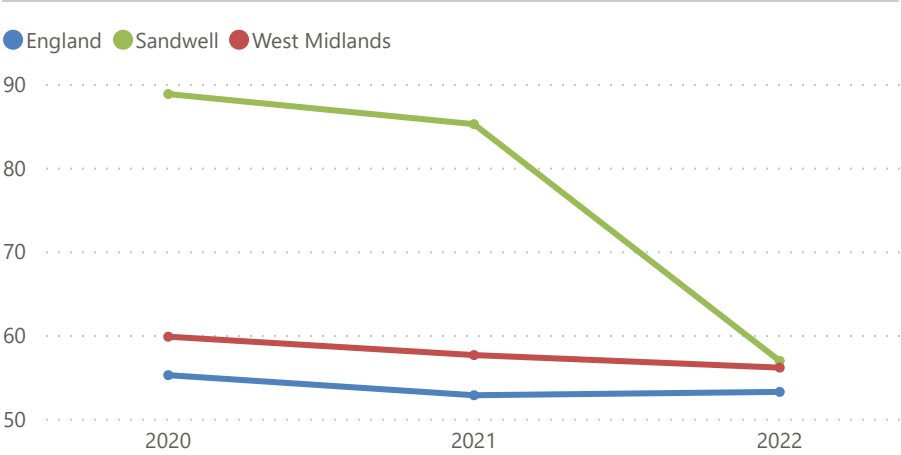
Children with a Child Protection Plan - rate per 10,000



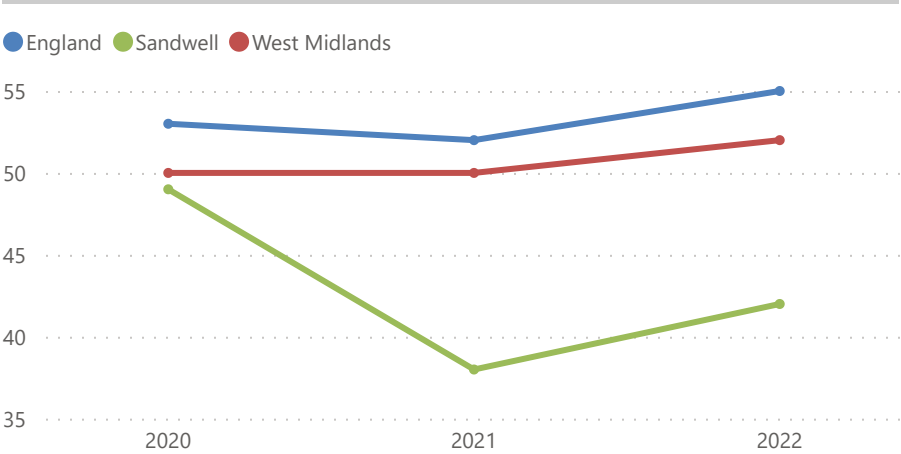
Children Looked After rate per 10,000



Child Protection Plans starting during the year - rate per 10,000



Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training (%)



Controls

England

Sandwell

West Midlands

2020

2022





Key Points

Definition

A child in need is one who has been referred to children's social care services, and who has been assessed, usually through an initial assessment, to be in need of social care services. A child can have more than one episode of need throughout the year but episodes should not overlap. If a child has more than one episode, then each is counted in the figures.

Interpretation

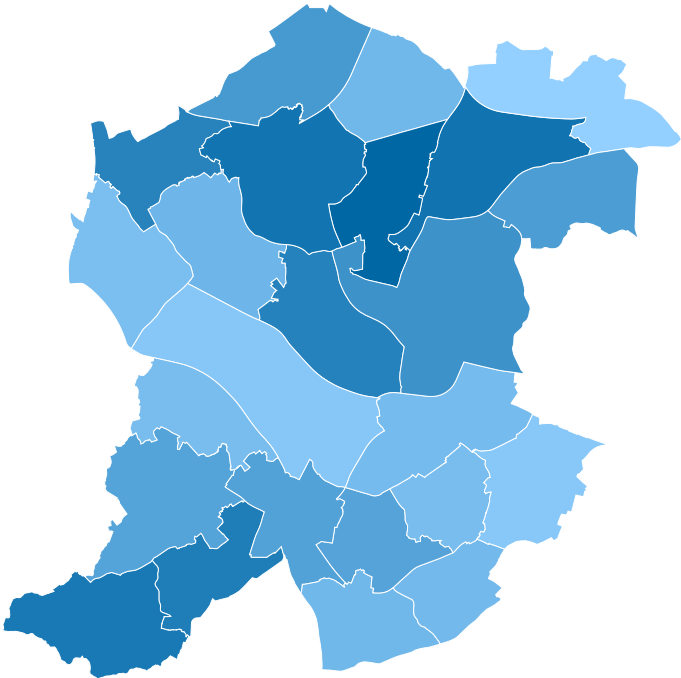
The rate of care leavers per 10,000 has decreased in most wards from 2022 to 2023. The highest rate in 2023 was Hateley Heath with 50.9 and the lowest was in Great Barr with 3.3.

Overall in Sandwell, the rate of children in care has decreased since 2021. The highest rate of children in care per 10,000 in 2023 was in Greets Green and Lyng with 167.2 and the lowest in Blackheath with 11.2. In 2021, the most children in care belonged to the 0-5 age group, however this has shifted in 2023 to 11-15.

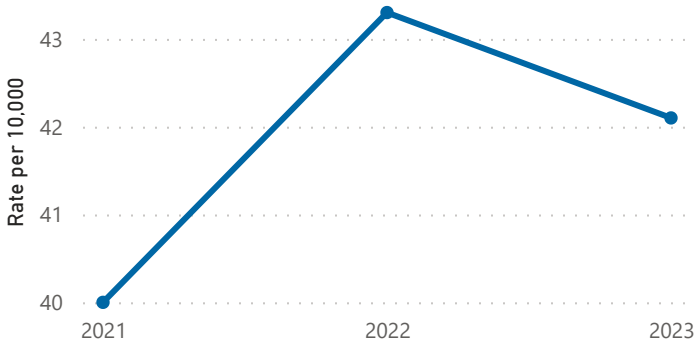
The rate of children in need in Sandwell has decreased significantly since 2021, but increased slightly from 2022 to 2023. Most wards also followed this pattern. The highest rate in 2023 was 122 per 10,000 in Cradley Heath and Old Hill, and the lowest was 31.2 in West Bromwich Central.

The rate of children with a CPP in Sandwell decreased from 2021 to 2023. At ward level, most wards saw a decrease from 2022 to 2023. Princes End was the ward with the highest rate, with 135.6 per 10,000. Abbey had the lowest rate of 10.2 per 10,000. The largest proportion of children with a CPP are aged 0-5, however the 11-15 age band is increasing year on year.

Care Leavers, rate per 10,000 by Ward, 2023



Care Leavers, rate per 10,000 in Sandwell



Controls

Indicator

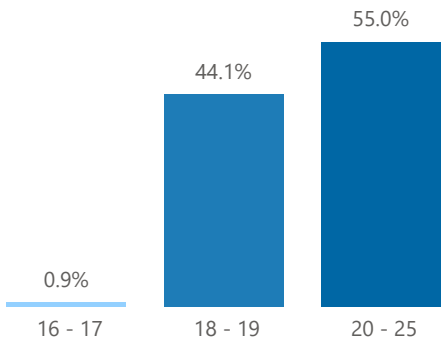
- ☒ Care Leavers, rate per 10,000
- ☐ Children in Care, rate per 10,000
- ☐ Children in Need, rate per 10,000
- ☐ Children with a Child Protection Plan, rate per 10,000

2021

2022

2023

Age Group



Gender

Female

38.0%

Male

62.0%

Ethnicity

- White British 44.7%
- Any other Asian background 8.3%
- Any other ethnic group 7.7%
- White and Black Caribbean 7.7%
- African 5.7%
- Caribbean 5.2%
- Indian 3.7%
- Any other White background 3.4%
- Pakistani 3.4%
- White and Asian 2.9%
- Any other mixed background 2.6%
- Bangladeshi 1.7%
- Any other Black background 1.1%
- White and Black African 1.1%
- Chinese 0.3%
- Traveller of Irish Heritage 0.3%

Data Sources

Pregnancy & Birth

- Fingertips - Deliveries to Teenage Mothers
- Fingertips - Low birth weight of all babies
- Fingertips - Smoking Status at Time of Delivery
- NHS Digital - Births data
- NOMIS - Live births in England and Wales: birth rates down to local authority areas, ONS Crown Copyright Reserved (accessed 29 March 2023)
- NOMIS - Live births in England and Wales for small geographic areas, ONS Crown Copyright Reserved (accessed 31 March 2023)
- NOMIS - Population estimates - small area based by single year of age - England and Wales, ONS Crown Copyright Reserved (accessed 3 April 2023)

Health in Early Years & Childhood

- Fingertips - Breastfeeding Prevalence at 6-8 weeks after birth
- Fingertips - Emergency Admissions for injuries, 0-5, 0-15 & 15-24
- Fingertips - Estimated number of children & young people with mental disorders, aged 5-17
- Fingertips - Hospital Admissions for Dental Caries (0-5 years)
- Fingertips - Infant & Child Mortality Rates
- Fingertips - Proportion of New Birth Visits completed within 14 days
- Fingertips - Reception/Year 6: Prevalence of overweight/obesity

Education

- DfE Local Authority Interactive Tool (LAIT)
- Sandwell Council - Children and Education

Vulnerable Children

- DfE Local Authority Interactive Tool (LAIT)
- Sandwell Council - Children and Education

Contact

If you have any queries or comments please contact the Public Health Research and Intelligence Team:
research_sandwell@sandwell.gov.uk



Attainment 8 Measures the average achievement of pupils in up to 8 qualifications including English and maths.

Care stability - placement of 2 years or more Children living in the same placement for at least 2 years, or are placed for adoption and their adoption and their adoptive placement together with their previous placement, last for at least 2 years.

Children in Need A child in need is one who has been assessed by Children's social care to be in need of services, which include family support, leaving care support, adoption support, or disabled children's services.

EHC Plan An education, health and care (EHC) plan is for children and young people aged up to 25 who need more support than is available through special educational needs support. EHC plans identify educational, health and social needs and set out the additional support to meet those needs.

General Fertility Rate (GFR) The birth rate per 1,000 females aged 15-44 years. Fertility rates are closely tied to growth rates for an area and can be an indicator of future population growth or decline.

Key Stage One Teacher assessment judgements are reported for each pupil at the end of KS1 (typically age 7).

Key Stage Two - Reading, Writing & Maths National curriculum assessments and teacher assessments take place at the end of KS2 (Year 6).

Looked After Children A looked after child is a child or young person being cared for by their local authority. They could be in foster care, in a children's home or a in different family arrangement.

Progress 8 Aims to capture the progress a pupil makes from the end of Key Stage 2 to the end of Key Stage 4. It compares a pupils' attainment 8 score with the average of pupils nationally who had similar prior attainment. The national average score is close to zero. Scores below zero mean pupils made less progress on average.

Re-referrals to social care A re-referral to social care occurs when a child is referred within 12 months of a previous referral.

Year One Phonics decoding The phonics screening check is taken in Year One (age 6) to check if pupils have met the expected standard in phonic decoding.

