

Chapter 2a: Starting Well

Pregnancy & Birth

Fertility Rate
Low Birth Weight
Mother's Age
Older Mothers
Teenage Pregnancy
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Smoking and Pregnancy

Health in Early Years

Infant Mortality
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Glossary



Summary

Pregnancy and infancy

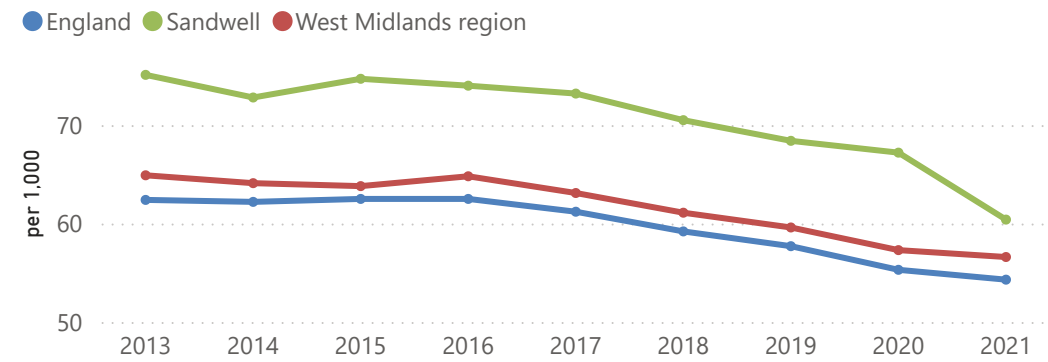
- General fertility rate is higher than the England rate, but has decreased since 2013.
- The infant mortality rate in Sandwell is higher than that for England, and between 2015 and 2019 was higher than that for the West Midlands.
- The proportion of Sandwell babies who had a low birth weight recorded has been higher than that of the West Midlands and England since 2018.
- The percentage of mothers aged 35 and over follows a growing national and regional trend but is lower than both the West Midlands and England. In 2021, the under 18s conception rate was very similar to the England rate, having decreased since 2017.
- Breastfeeding prevalence has increased since 2016 as it has nationally, but remains slightly lower than the England average.
- The proportion of mothers smoking at the start of their pregnancy was three percentage points higher in Sandwell than in England in 2018/19. There appears to be a slight increase in those who are recorded as being smokers at the time of delivery, since 2021.

Childhood

- The rate of child mortality, from the age of 1-17 years, for the most recent period recorded (2020-22) appears slightly higher in Sandwell than that of the West Midlands overall, and higher than the England average, although other West Midlands populations have higher rates.
- The crude rate of hospitalisations for accidents and injuries is higher in Sandwell than in England overall, and there appear to be some notable differences between wards.
- Around a quarter of Sandwell children at Reception age were recorded as overweight or obese during the period 2020/21 to 2022/23. This was higher than the proportion in both England and the West Midlands, and the gap appeared to be growing between 2012/13 and 2021/22. However, latest data (from 2020/21 – 2022/23) suggest a slight reduction in Sandwell.
- The percentage of children who had one MMR vaccination dose before their second birthday in 2022/23 was 85% in Sandwell, compared to 89% for England and West Midlands. This has fallen since 2013/14 (91%). The proportion of children who had two doses by age five was 80% in Sandwell in 2022/23, compared to 85% in England. This has declined since a high of 91% in 2016/17.
- The percentage of children achieving a good level of development at the end of Reception in both 2022 and 2023 was lower in Sandwell than for both the West Midlands and England overall.
- The percentage of Early Years and Nursery pupils with SEN support has increased from 6% in 2021 to almost 8% in 2023. It is not clear whether this reflects growing need, or growing recognition and capacity.



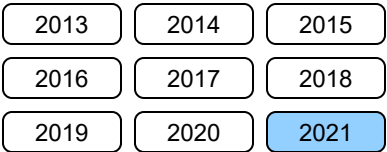
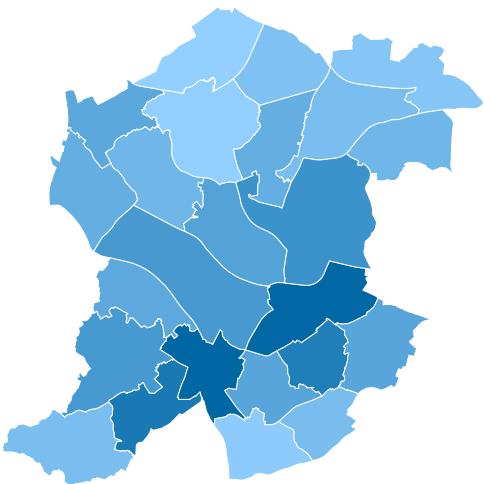
GFR for Sandwell compared to England & West Midlands



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

Definition

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

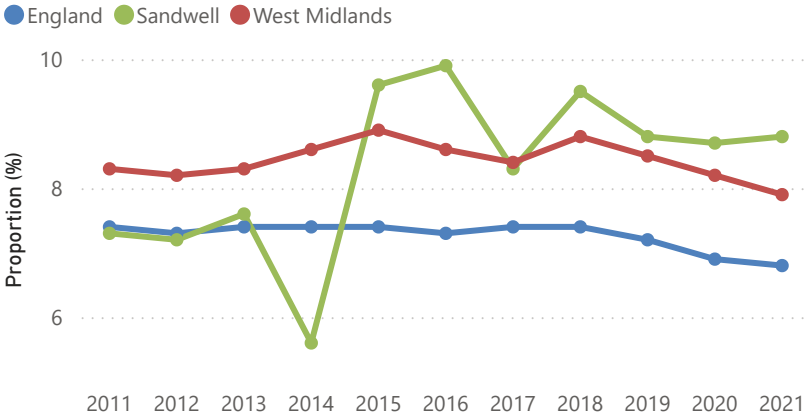
The GFR for Sandwell has been much higher than the national rate, with an average difference of 11.6 between 2015 and 2020. However this gap narrowed to 6.1 in 2021.

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

Year	Sandwell	England	West Midlands
2021	8.80	6.80	7.90
2020	8.70	6.90	8.20
2019	8.80	7.20	8.50
2018	9.50	7.40	8.80
2017	8.30	7.40	8.40
2016	9.90	7.30	8.60
2015	9.60	7.40	8.90
2014	5.60	7.40	8.60
2013	7.60	7.40	8.30
2012	7.20	7.30	8.20
2011	7.30	7.40	8.30



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.

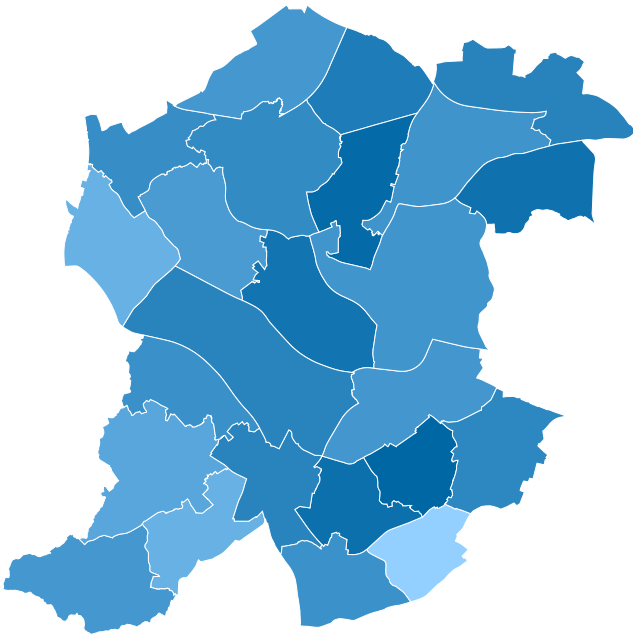
Interpretation

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



Mother's Median Age

Key Points

Definitions

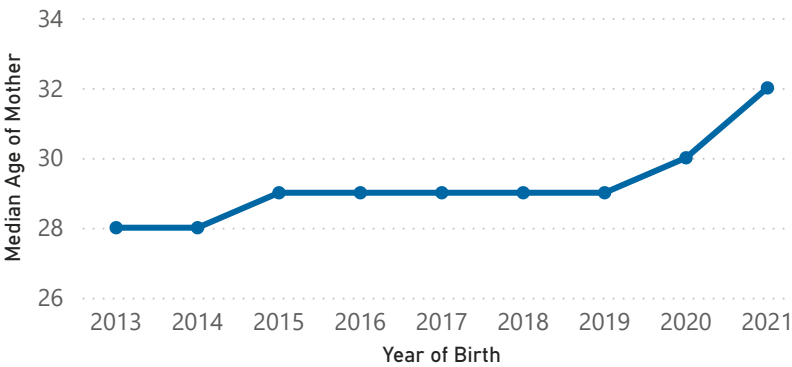
Median age of mothers at childbirth.

Interpretation

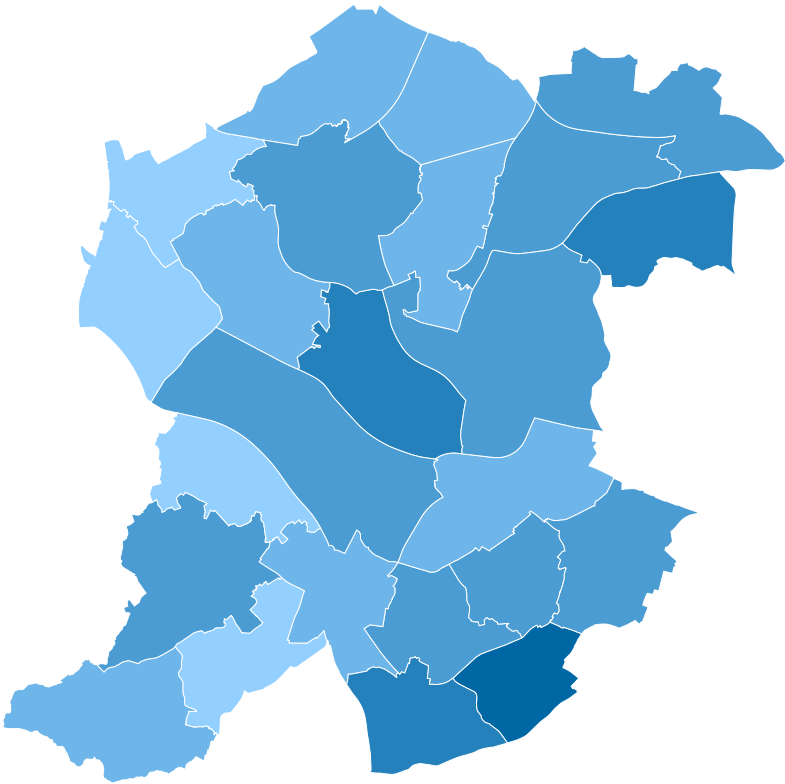
Between 2013 and 2021, the median age of mothers at childbirth within Sandwell has increased from 28 to 32. At ward level, there is a range of 4 years between wards with the lowest median age of 28 and the highest of 32 in 2021.

When looking at previous years, the range between wards with the highest and lowest median ages is around five years.

Mother's Median Age at Childbirth in Sandwell by Year



Mother's Median Age at Childbirth by Ward, 2021



Ward	Mother's Median Age
Abbey	32
Greets Green and Lyng	31
Newton	31
Old Warley	31
Bristnall	30
Charlemont with Grove Vale	30
Great Barr with Yew Tree	30
Oldbury	30
Rowley	30
Smethwick	30
Soho and Victoria	30
Wednesbury South	30
West Bromwich Central	30
Cradley Heath and Old Hill	29
Friar Park	29
Great Bridge	29
Hateley Heath	29
Langley	29
St Pauls	29
Wednesbury North	29
Blackheath	28
Princes End	28
Tipton Green	28
Tividale	28

Controls

Birth Year

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

Town

Oldbury

Smethwick

Wednesbury

Rowley Regis

Tipton

West Bromwich

Key Points

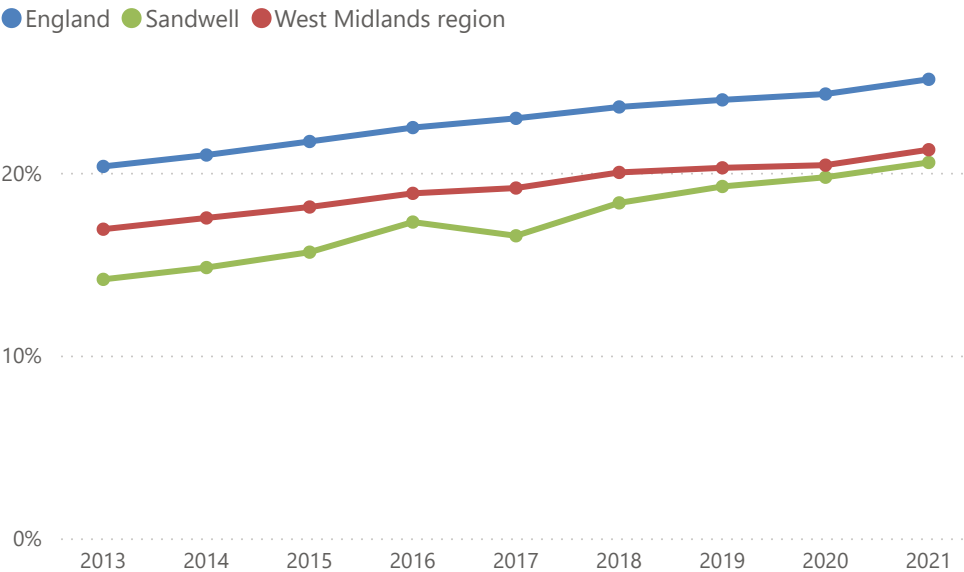
Definition
The number of live births where the mother aged 35 and over as a percentage of all live births.

Background
The definition of Advanced Maternal Age (AMA) is a woman who gives birth aged 35 years and over. Women over 40 are considered to be at a higher risk of pregnancy complications, although age is just one factor alongside others such as socioeconomic status and general health, rather than the sole determinant (BPAS, *Older Mothers*).

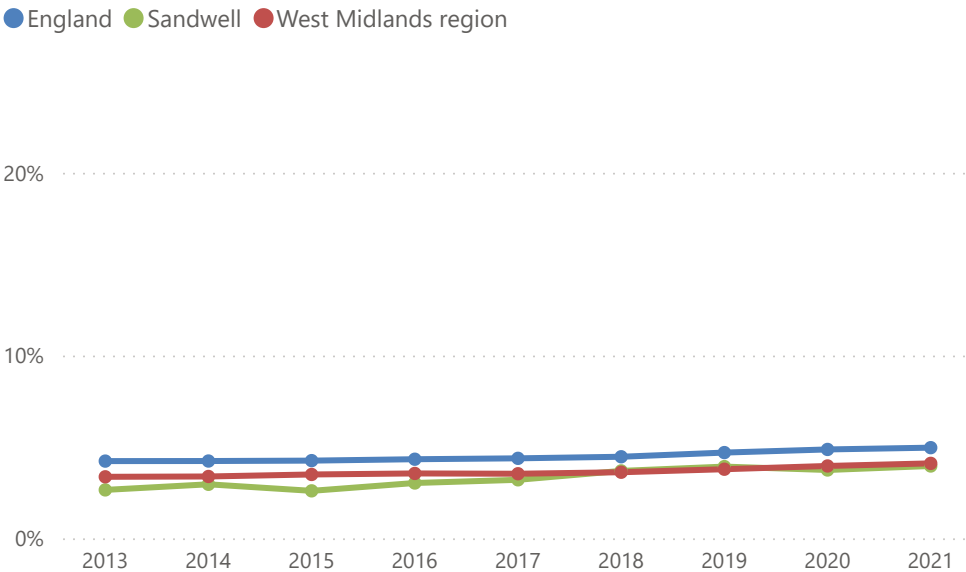
Interpretation
The percentage of live births where the mother is aged 35 or over are increasing steadily in Sandwell, following trends seen in England and the West Midlands. For Sandwell, the percentage increased by 6.4 percentage points from 2013 to 2021. This is slightly higher than for West Midlands and England where the percentage increases were 4.4 and 4.8 respectively.

The percentage of live births where the mother is aged 40 or over

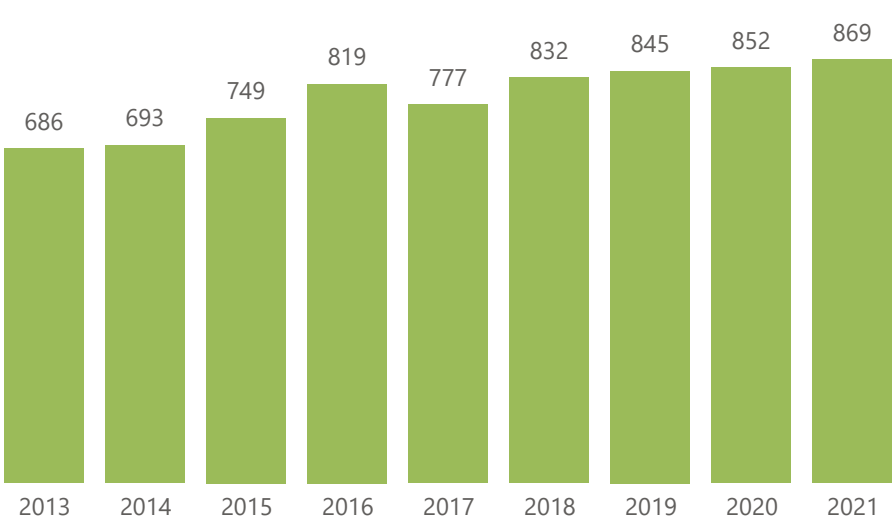
% Mothers aged 35 and over (as a percentage of all mothers)



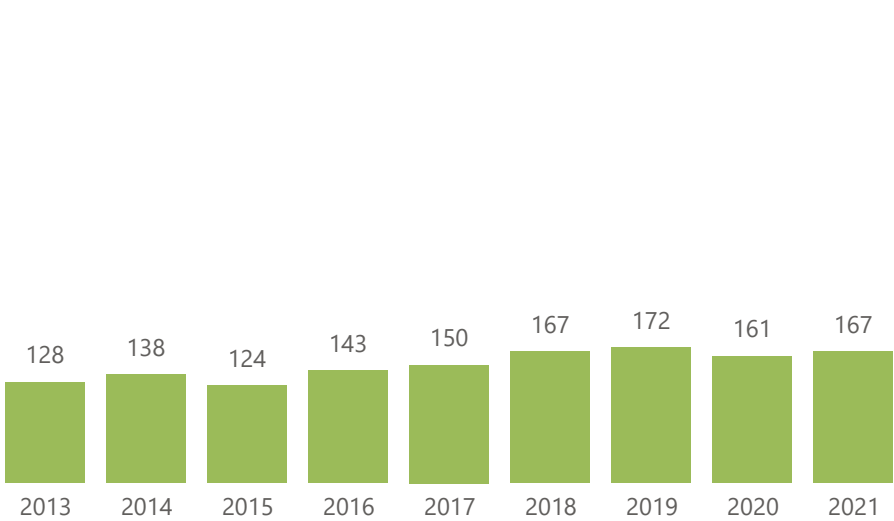
% Mothers aged 40 and over (as a percentage of all mothers)



Numbers of Mothers aged 35 and over in Sandwell



Numbers of Mothers aged 40 and over in Sandwell

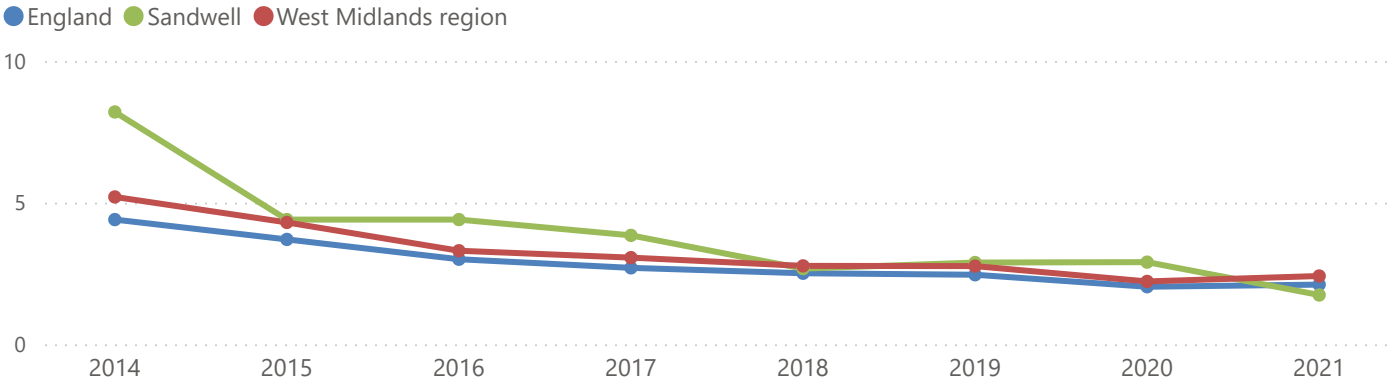


Teenage Pregnancy

Select indicator to view on chart: ▼

Under 16s conception rate / 1,000 ▼

Under 16s Conception Rate per 1,000



Teenage Mothers

Teenage Mothers measures 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 birth weight 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.

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.

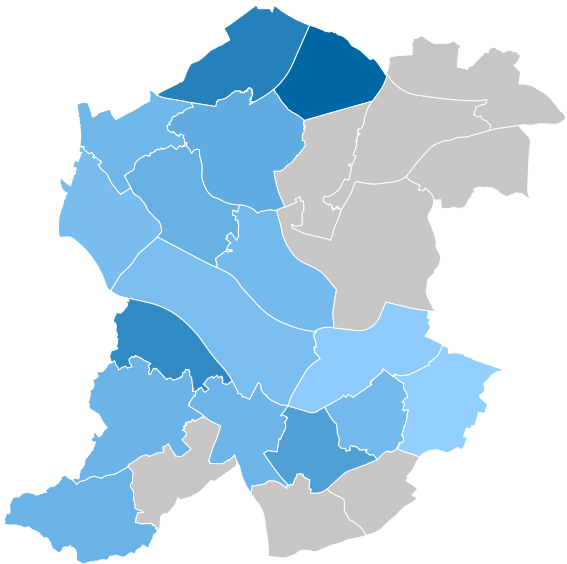
Conception Rates

Research evidence, particularly from longitudinal studies, shows that teenage pregnancy is associated with poorer outcomes for both young parents and their children.

Teenage mothers are less likely to finish their education, are more likely to bring up their child alone and in poverty and have a higher risk of poor mental health than older mothers. Infant mortality rates for babies born to teenage mothers are around 60% higher than for babies born to older mothers. The children of teenage mothers have an increased risk of living in poverty and poor quality housing and are more likely to have accidents and behavioural problems.

The under 18s conception rate in Sandwell has decreased dramatically since 2017, and in 2021 was almost the same rate at England (14.1 and 13.1 per 1,000 respectively). In 2021, the rate also dipped below West Midlands for the first time. The under 16s conception rate is in line with England and West Midlands, and in 2021 dipped below both at 1.7 per 1,000, compared to 2.1 for England and 2.4 for West Midlands. The percentage of under 18s conception leading to abortion is in line with England and West Midlands at 52.7%

% of Teenage Mothers by Ward, 2016/17 - 2020/21



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

0.67

England

1.07

Sandwell

Area Name	% of Teenage Mothers
Friar Park	2.53
Wednesbury North	2.07
Tividale	1.90
Bristnall	1.49
Wednesbury South	1.29
Great Bridge	1.20
Cradley Heath and Old Hill	1.16
Rowley	1.14
Langley	1.12
Sandwell	1.07
Princes End	1.07
Smethwick	1.04
Greets Green and Lyng	1.03
Tipton Green	0.97
Oldbury	0.95
St Pauls	0.70
England	0.67
Soho and Victoria	0.63
Abbey	
Blackheath	
Charlemont with Grove Vale	
Great Barr with Yew Tree	
Hateley Heath	
Newton	
Old Warley	
West Bromwich Central	

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

New Birth Visits & Breastfeeding

Key Points

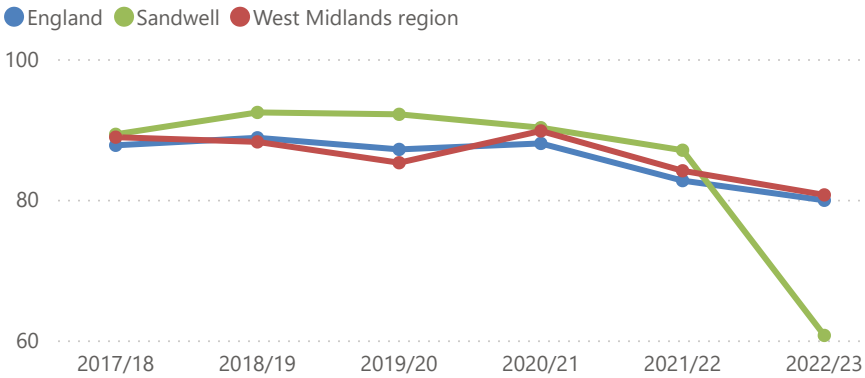
Definition

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%

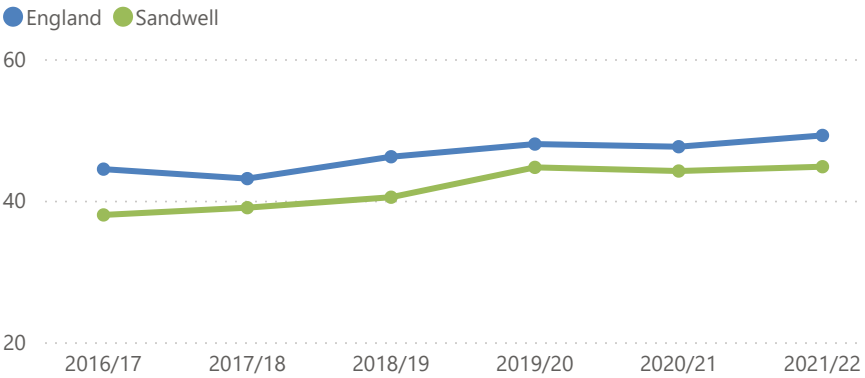
Proportion of New Birth Visits Completed within 14 days (%)



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

The percentage of infants that are totally or partially breastfed at age 6 to 8 weeks. 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

Definitions

The number of mothers known to be smokers at the time of delivery as a percentage of all maternities with known smoking status (based on pregnant women who self-reported that they were smokers). 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.

Percentage of pregnant women who smoke at the time of booking appointment with midwife (experimental).

Background

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.

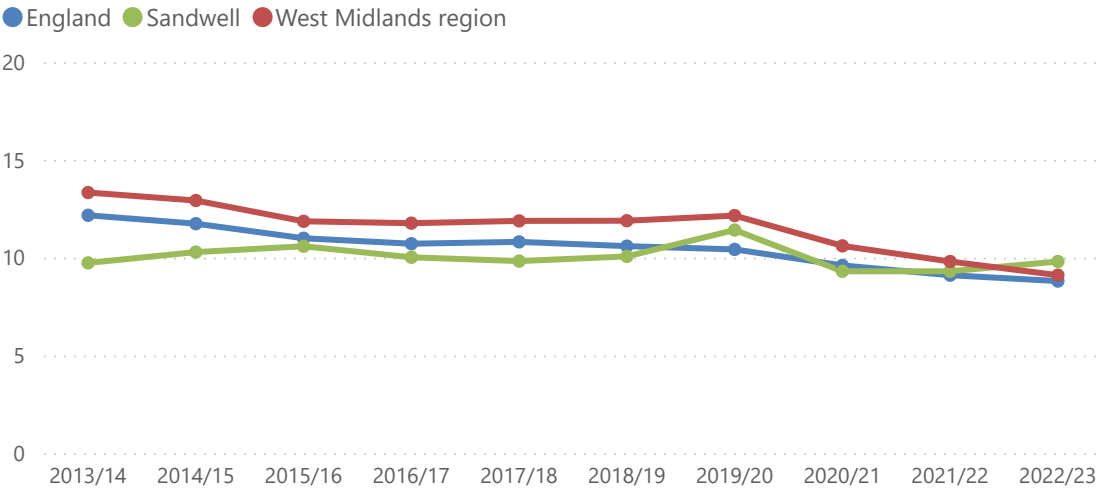
Encouraging pregnant women to stop smoking during pregnancy may also help them kick the habit for good, and thus provide health benefits for the mother and reduce exposure to second hand smoke by the infant.

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.

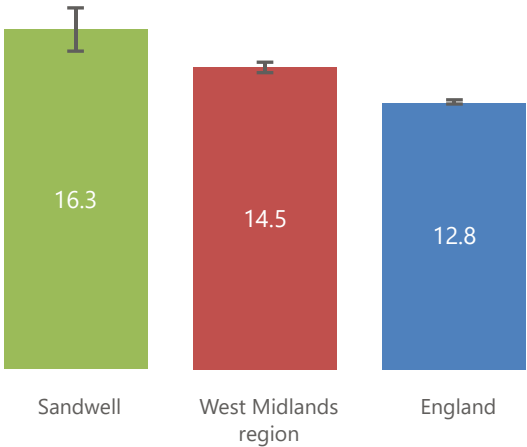
Sandwell's Smoking Status at Time of Delivery compared to England & West Midlands (%)



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

% of Pregnant Women who Smoke at the Time of Booking Appointment with Midwife, 2018/19



Modifiable risk factors in pregnancy can have health impacts on both mother and child. At booking appointment midwives will ask questions and perform tests to ascertain these risks and advise on recommended actions.

This indicator is based on self-reporting of smoking status therefore bias may remain as women may under-report smoking in early pregnancy.

The percentage of pregnant women who smoke at their booking appointment was three percentage points higher in Sandwell than in England, in 2018/19.

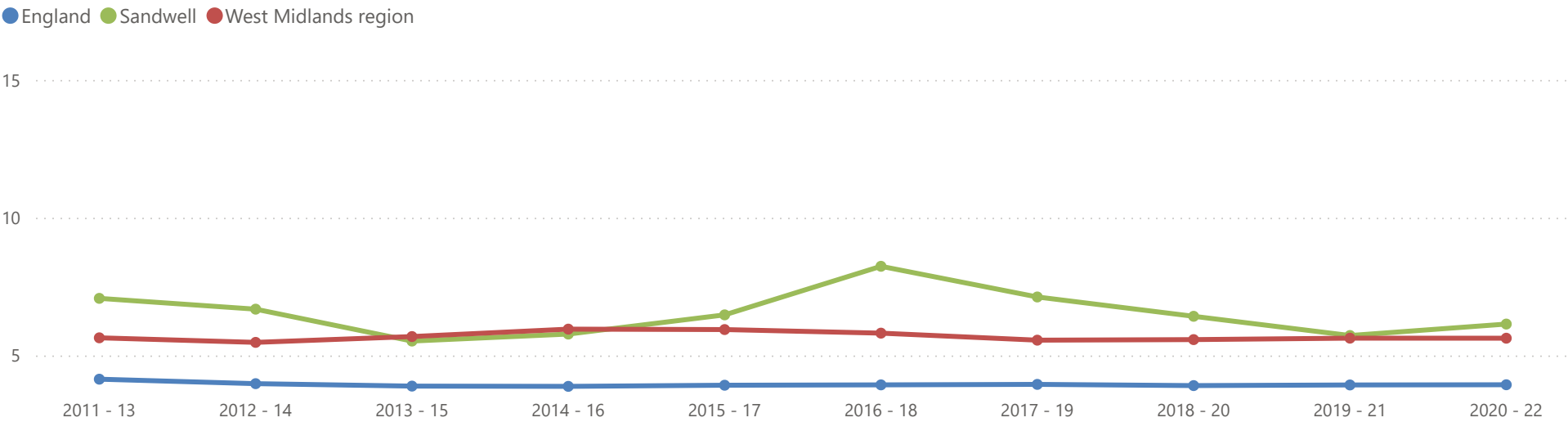
Key Points

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.

Risk factors of infant mortality include smoking, obesity, lack of breastfeeding, prematurity, low birth weight, extremes of maternal age at delivery, domestic abuse, congenital anomalies, ethnicity, social deprivation and lack of maternal education.

Interpretation
The infant mortality rate for Sandwell steadily decreased from the 2016-18 period to 2019-21, where it was in line with the West Midlands rate. The West Midlands and England rates have remained the same in the 2020-22 period, however Sandwell has seen a small increase. The West Midlands and England rates have remained fairly consistent since 2010, with a 2 point difference between the two rates. Comparing areas within the West Midlands shows that the Birmingham rate was higher in 2020-22 than Sandwell.

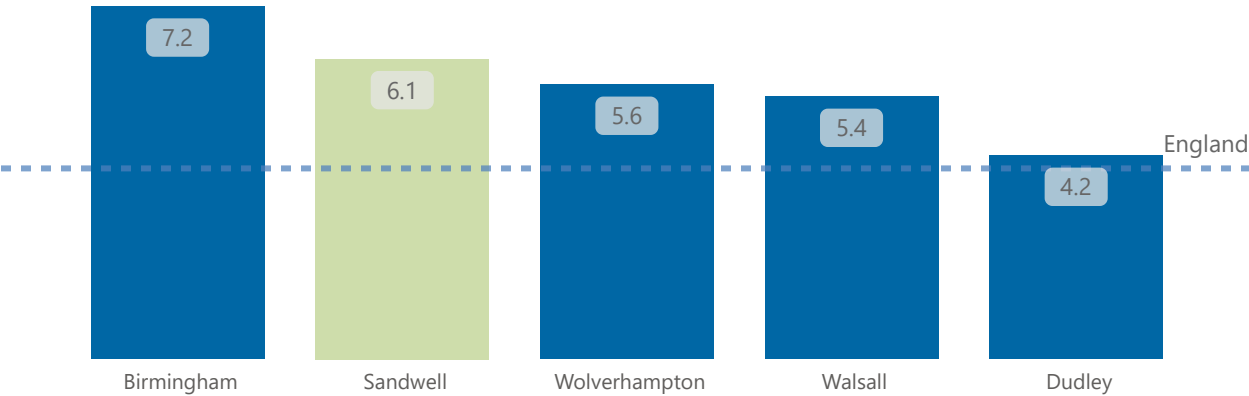
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births



Sandwell Infant Mortality Rate

Time period	Value	Lower CI 95.0 limit	Upper CI 95.0 limit
2020 - 22	6.1	4.9	7.6
2019 - 21	5.7	4.5	7.2
2018 - 20	6.4	5.1	7.9
2017 - 19	7.1	5.8	8.7
2016 - 18	8.2	6.8	9.9
2015 - 17	6.5	5.2	7.9
2014 - 16	5.8	4.6	7.2
2013 - 15	5.5	4.4	6.9
2012 - 14	6.7	5.4	8.1
2011 - 13	7.1	5.8	8.6

Infant Mortality Rate 2020-22 by Area

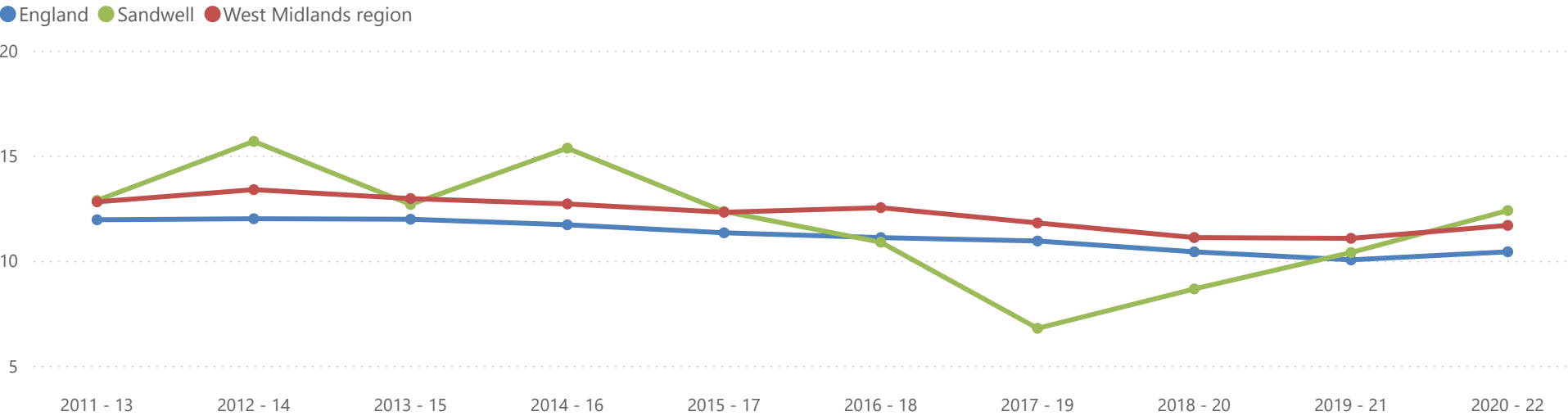


Key Points

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. Comparing areas within the West Midlands shows that Dudley and Birmingham had higher child mortality rates than Sandwell in the period 2020-22.

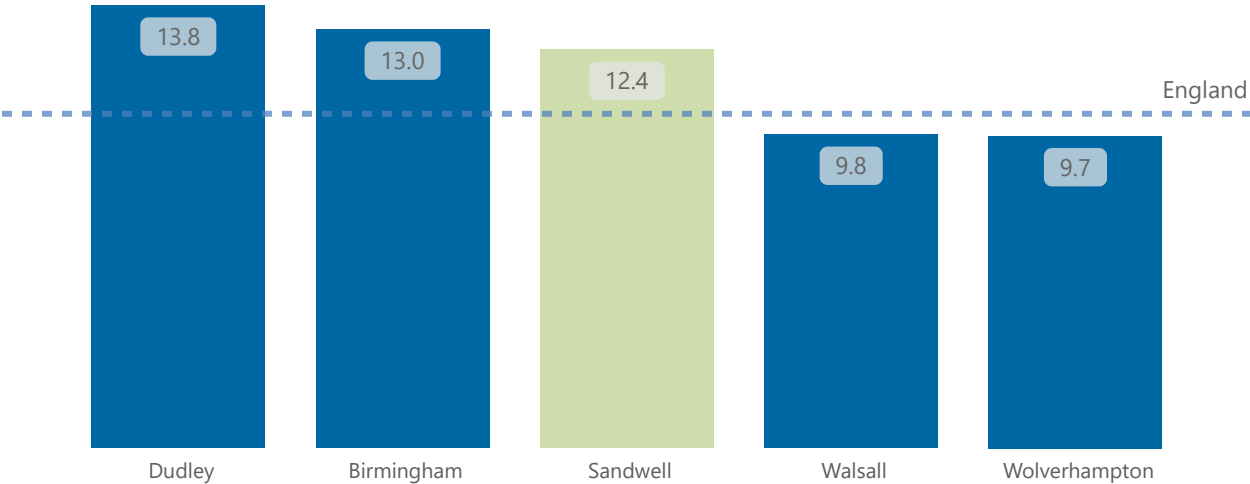
Child Mortality Rate (1–17 years), per 100,000



Sandwell Child Mortality Rate

Time period	Value	Lower CI 95.0 limit	Upper CI 95.0 limit
2020 - 22	12.4	8.4	17.7
2019 - 21	10.4	6.7	15.4
2018 - 20	8.7	5.4	13.3
2017 - 19	6.8	3.9	11.0
2016 - 18	10.9	7.0	16.1
2015 - 17	12.3	8.2	17.9
2014 - 16	15.4	10.7	21.4
2013 - 15	12.7	8.5	18.3
2012 - 14	15.7	10.9	21.9
2011 - 13	12.9	8.5	18.6

Child Mortality Rate 2020-22 by Area



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 in Sandwell was 25.2% at reception compared to 45.9% at Year 6. This is a 21 percentage point difference and compares to a 15 ppt difference for England and a 16 ppt difference for West Midlands in the same period.

In the period 2020/21 - 22/23, the proportion of obesity including severe obesity in Sandwell was 13.2% at reception compared to 31.1% at Year 6. This is a 18 percentage point difference and compares to a 13 ppt difference for England and a 14 ppt difference for West Midlands.

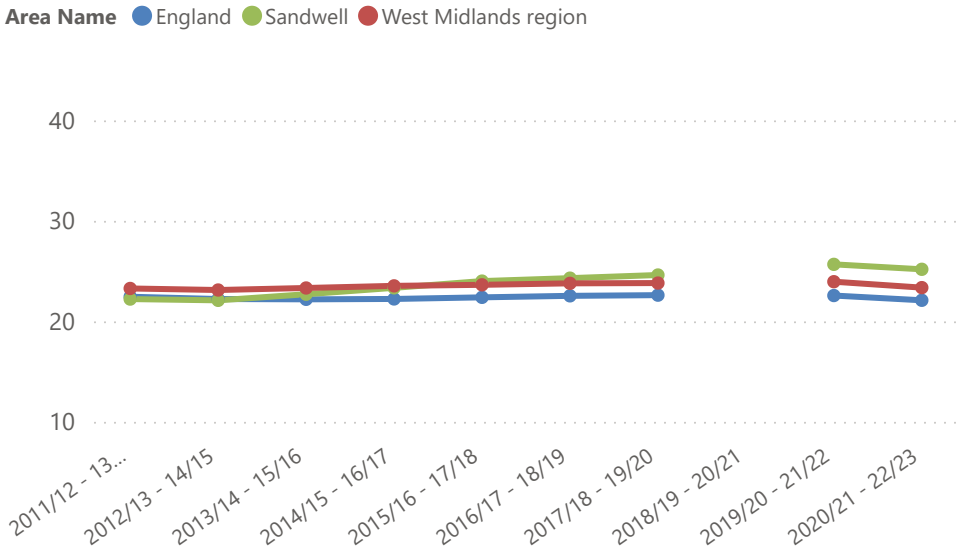


Data wasn't collected for the period 2018/19 - 20/21 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

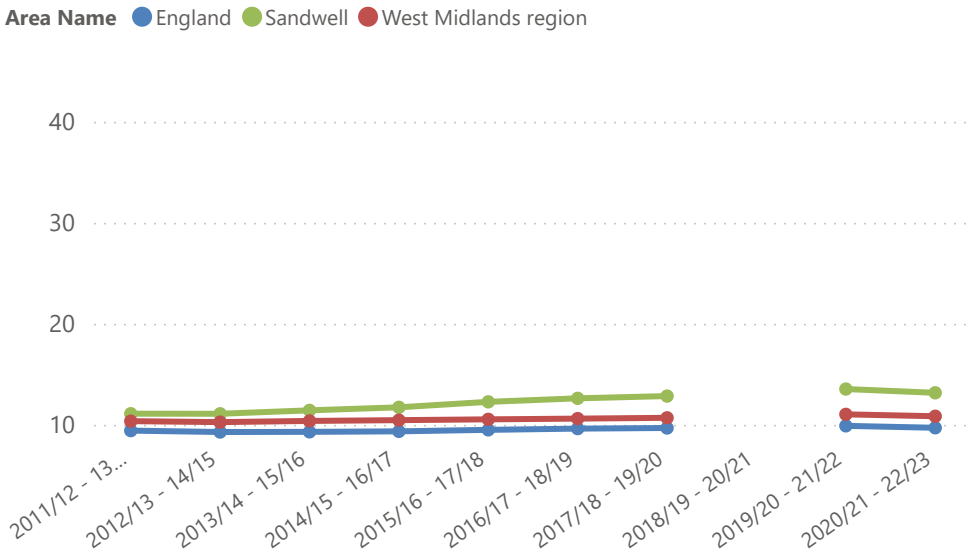
More information on Healthy Weight can be found in [Chapter 3: Healthy Living](#).

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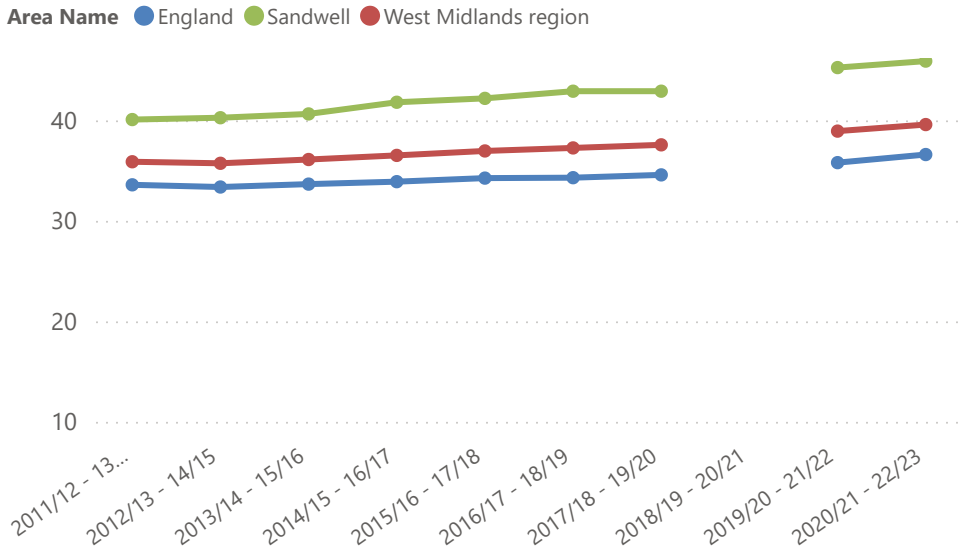
Reception prevalence of overweight (including obesity), 3 years data combined



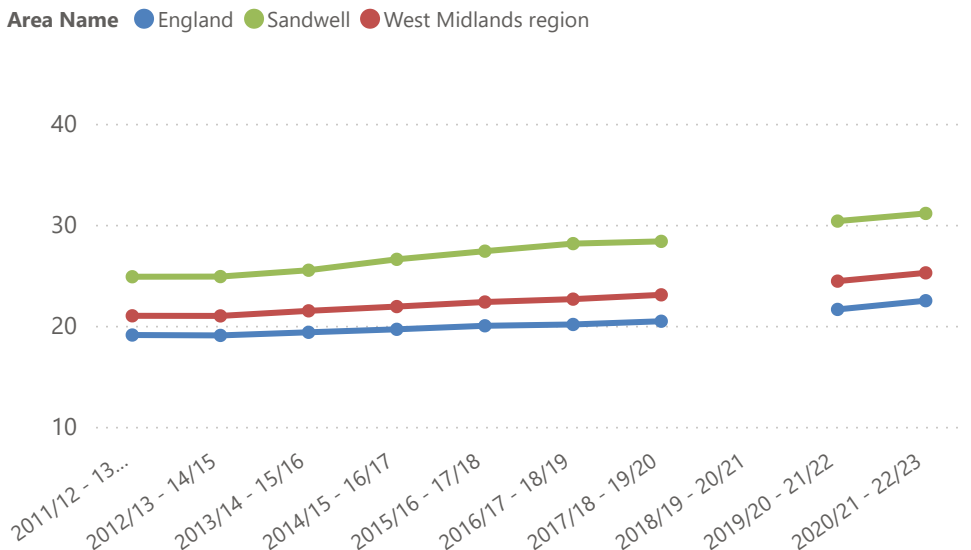
Reception prevalence of obesity (including severe obesity), 3 years data combined



Year 6 prevalence of overweight (including obesity), 3 years data combined



Year 6 prevalence of obesity (including severe obesity), 3 years data combined



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 Reception was 25.2% in Sandwell compared to 22.1% for England.

The 3 highest and lowest wards were:

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

Rowley	22.6%
Old Warley	21.3%
Abbey	20.7%

In the same period, 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:

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

Tividale	42.1%
Newton	41.9%
Abbey	39.8%

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

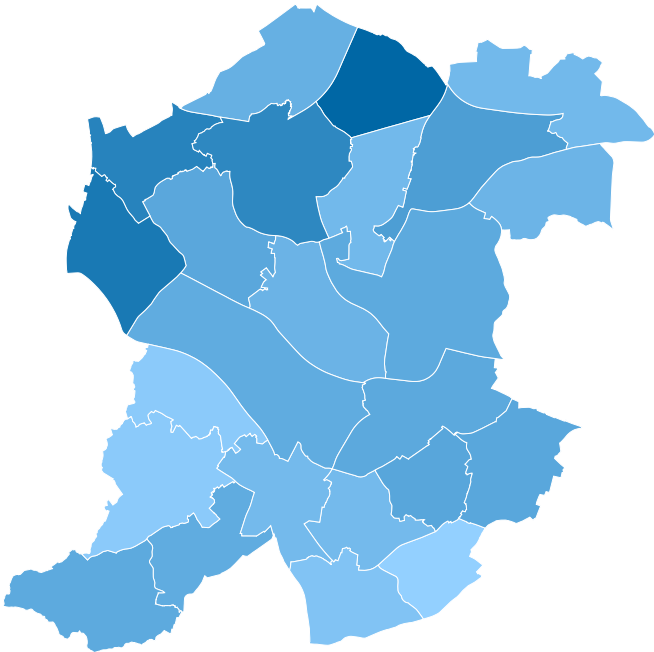
Select ward names to filter the chart

- ☐ 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



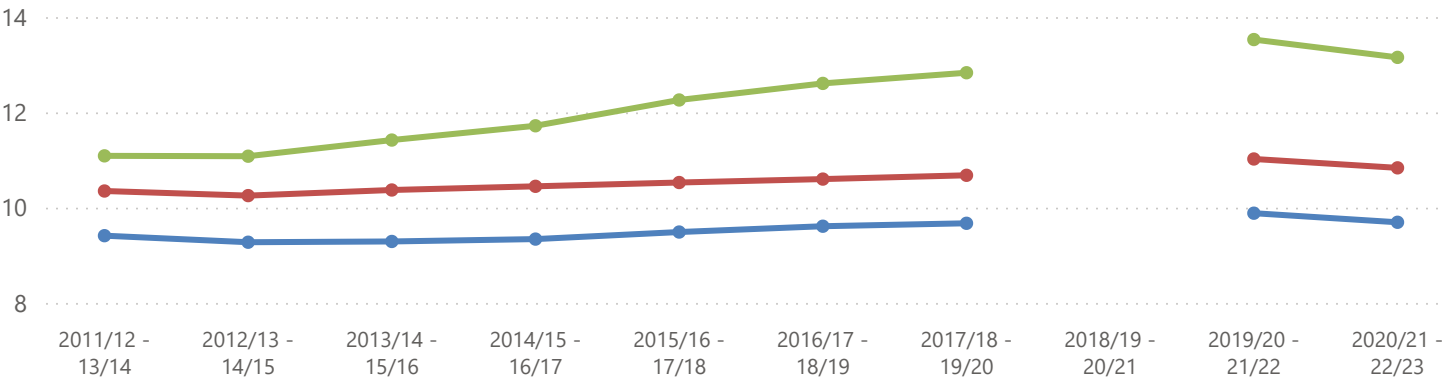
Data wasn't collected for the period 2018/19 - 20/21 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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



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

Area Name ● England ● Sandwell ● West Midlands region



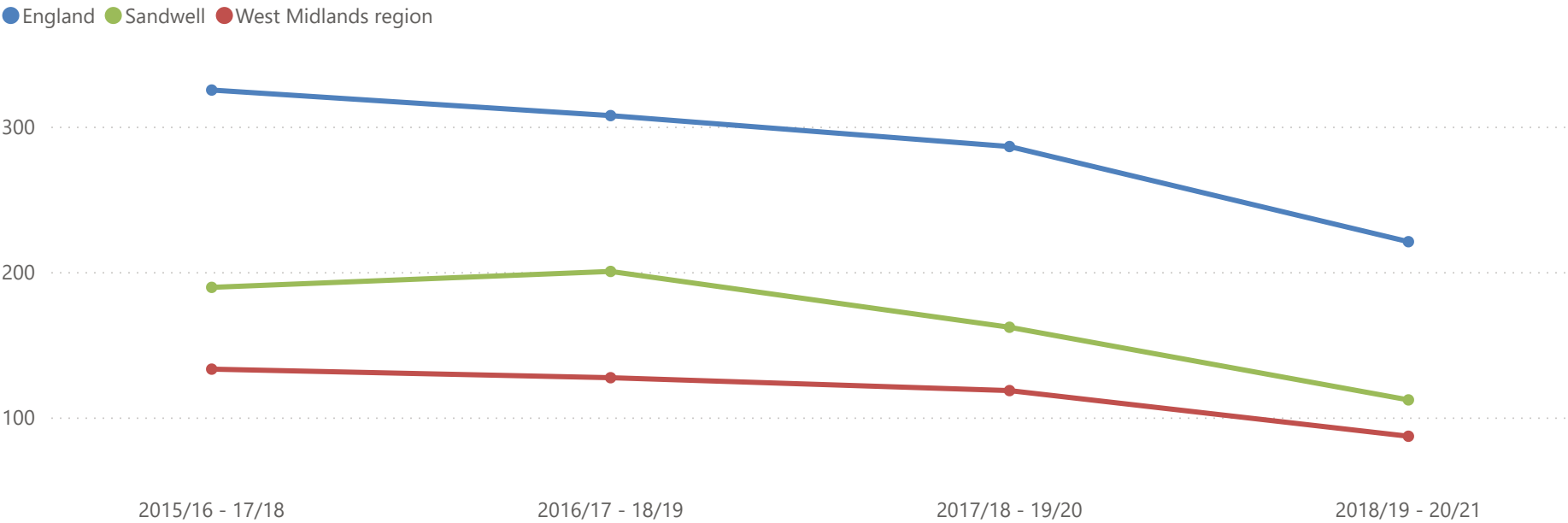
Key Points

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.

It is not clear whether the trend in hospital admissions seen in the graph reflects decreasing levels of need in the population. One of the important factors will be the capacity of dental services.

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

Accidents & Injuries (under 5 years old)

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

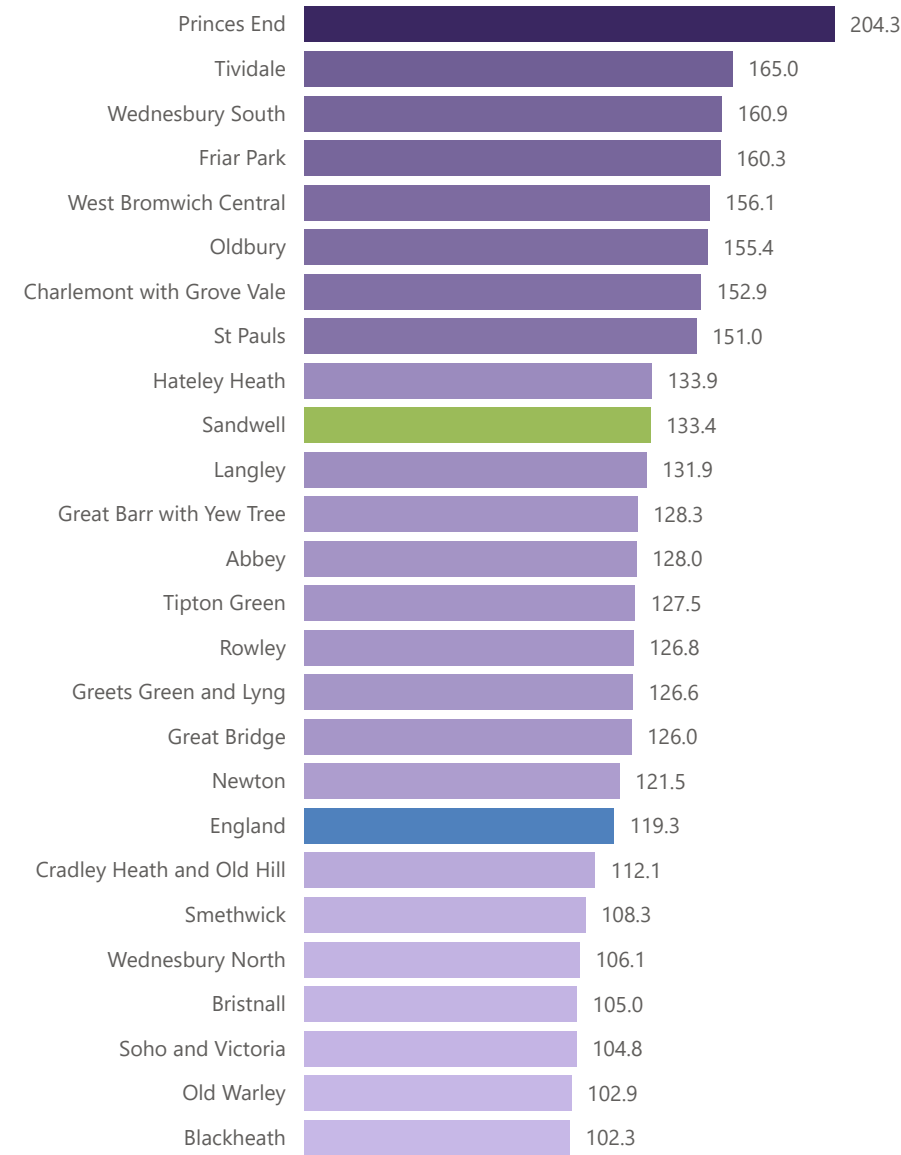
Injuries are a leading cause of and represent a major cause of premature mortality for children and young people. They are also a source of long term health issues, including mental health related to experience(s).

Interpretation

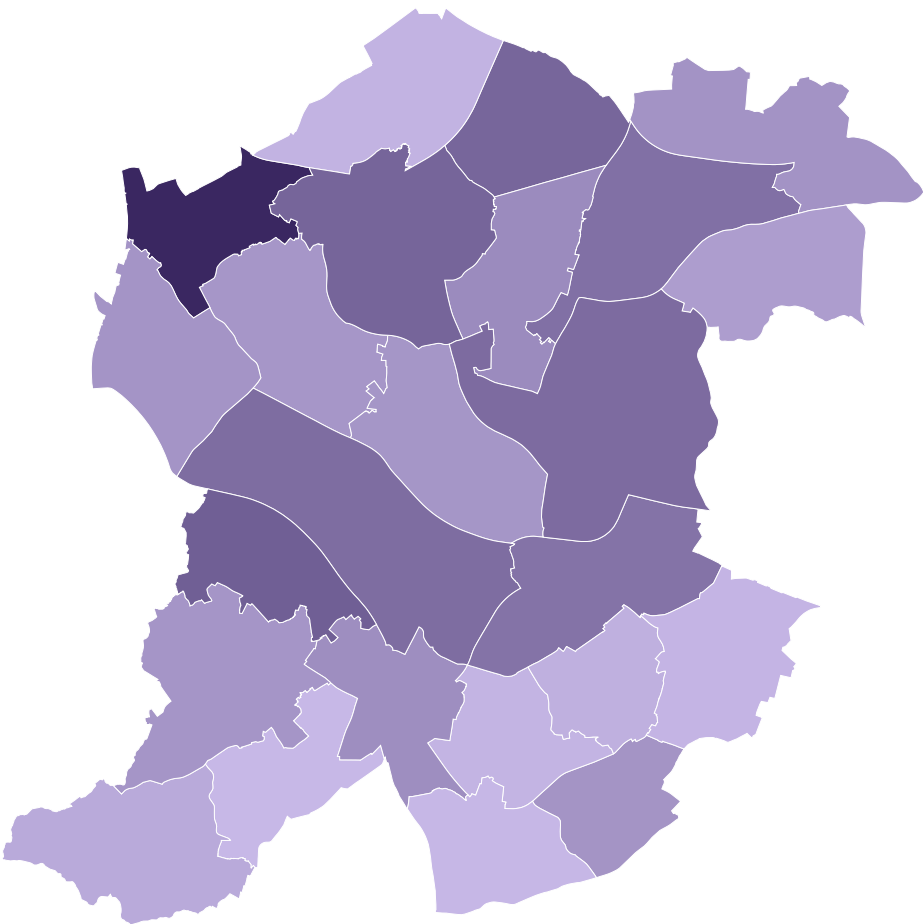
The rate of emergency hospital admissions for injuries in under 5's is higher for Sandwell than for England.

The ward with the highest rate for injuries under 5 is Princes End with 204.3. The ward with the lowest rate was Blackheath with 102.3.

Emergency hospital admissions for injuries in under 5 years old, crude rate per 10,000 by Area, 2016/17 - 20/21



Emergency hospital admissions for injuries in under 5 years old, crude rate per 10,000 by Ward, 2016/17 - 20/21



Key Points

Vaccination coverage is the best indicator of the level of protection a population will have against vaccine preventable communicable diseases. Coverage is closely correlated with levels of disease. Monitoring coverage identifies possible drops in immunity before levels of disease rise.

The charts show how the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted on vaccination uptake both locally and nationally, with percentages affected in 2020 and subsequent years.

Select button below to display information on each vaccination.

Rotavirus

DTaP IPV Hib

Flu

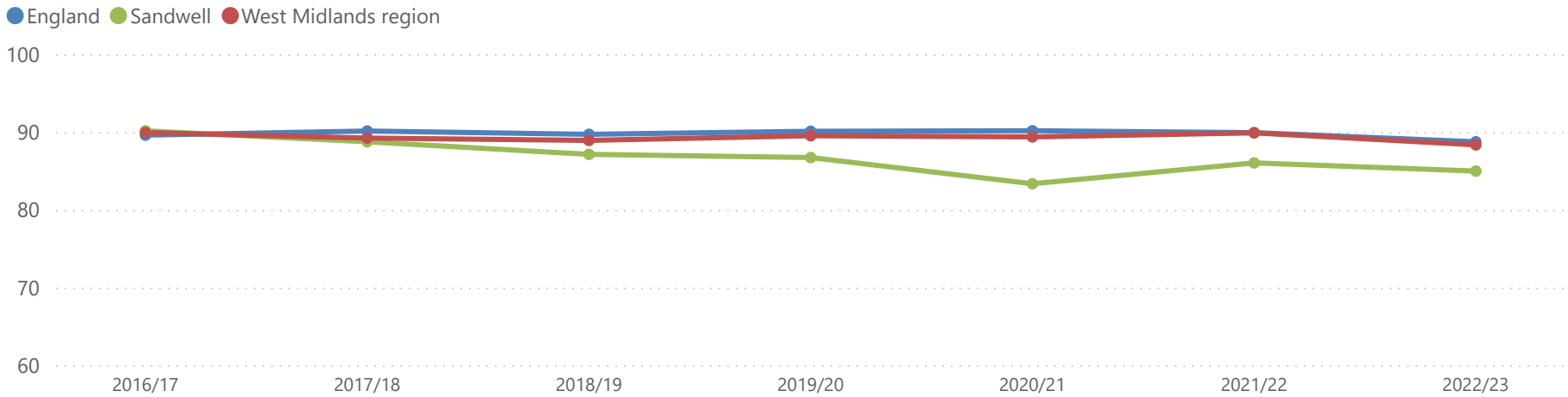
Hib & Men C

Men B

MMR

PCV

Percentage of Children Receiving the Rotavirus Vaccination (1 year old)



Definition

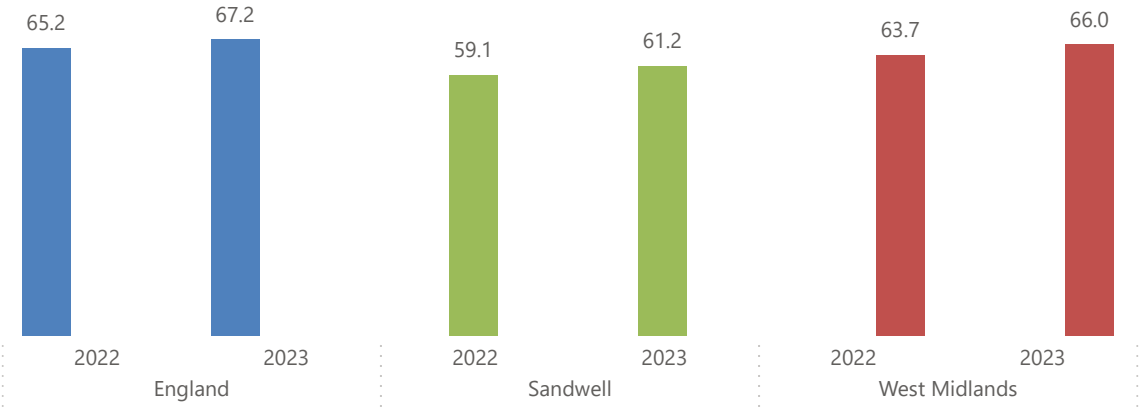
Rotavirus (1 year): Children for whom the local authority is responsible who completed a course of rotavirus vaccine at any time up to six months of age as a percentage of all children whose first birthday falls within the time period.

The rotavirus vaccine protects against gastroenteritis. The vaccine was introduced into the routine childhood immunisation programme in 2013 and is offered to children aged from 6 weeks up to 23 weeks.

Interpretation

The percentage of children receiving the rotavirus vaccination in Sandwell has dropped since 2016/17 and is now four percentage points lower than England, although this is two ppts higher than compared to 2020/21. England and West Midlands have remained relatively consistent since 2016/17, around 90%. Sandwell has dropped by five percentage points across the same period.

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



Key Points

Note: Sandwell cohort includes data for 4 private settings that don't feature in the Learning Communities.

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 and 2023 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 Oldbury are the highest performers (64%), with West Bromwich Central obtaining the lowest percentage (58%).

The 2023 percentages for England, Sandwell and West Midlands have increased by two percentage points each from 2022 figures. Most learning communities have also increased, with only Tipton and Wednesbury retaining the same percentage as 2022.

Select boxes from the list below to compare learning communities in the chart above

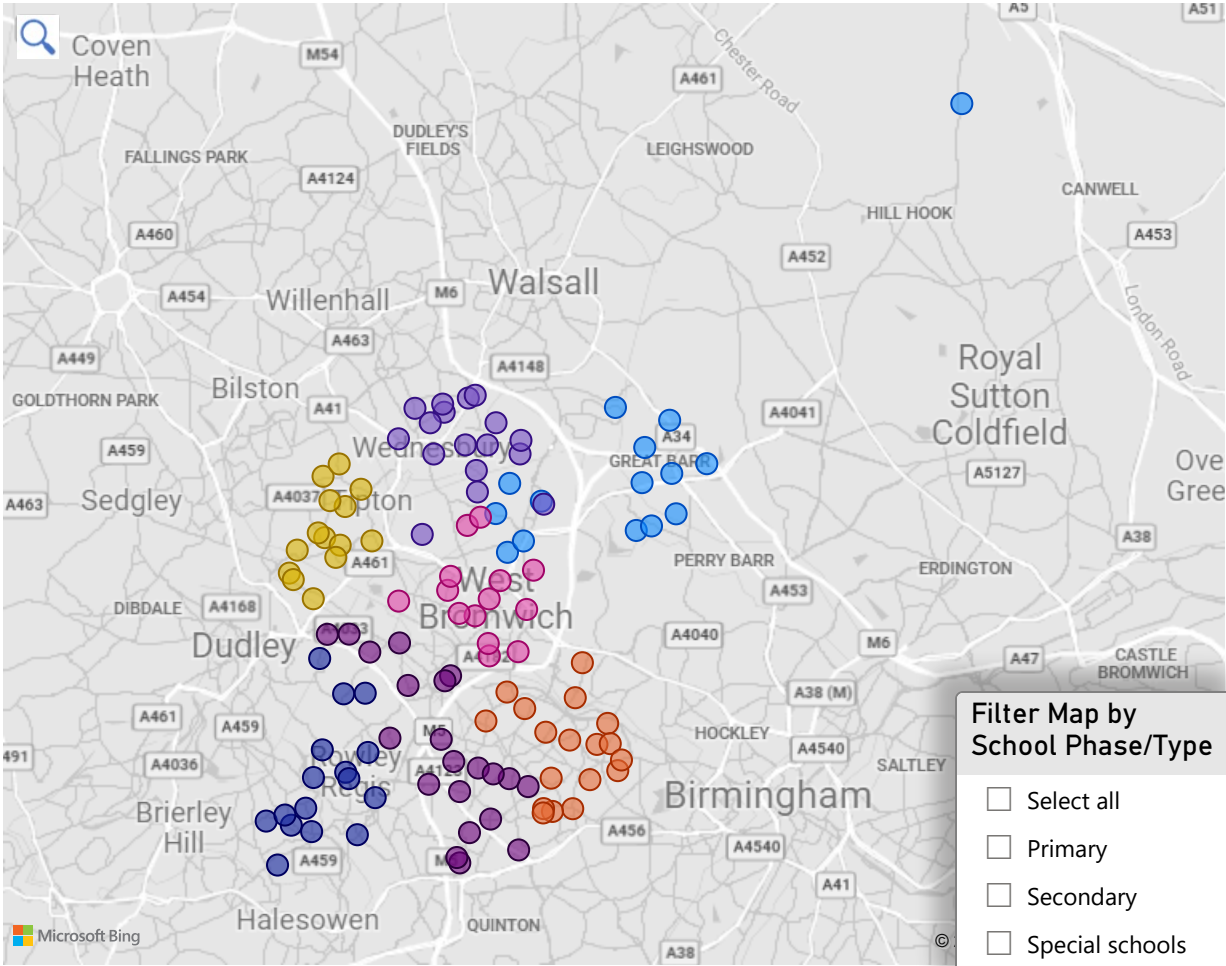
- ☒ England
- ☐ Oldbury
- ☐ Rowley Regis
- ☒ Sandwell
- ☐ Smethwick
- ☐ Tipton
- ☐ Wednesbury
- ☐ West Bromwich Central
- ☐ West Bromwich North
- ☒ West Midlands

Learning Communities

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

School locations within Learning Communities

- ☒ Oldbury
- ☒ Rowley Regis
- ☒ Smethwick
- ☒ Tipton
- ☒ Wednesbury
- ☒ West Bromwich Central
- ☒ West Bromwich North



More information on SEND can be found in Chapter 2b: Growing Well

Key Points

SEN Status by Year Group

The percentage of Early Years and Nursery pupils with SEN support has increased from 6.1% in 2021 to 7.7% in 2023. A small increase was also seen in Reception age pupils, from 8.8% to 11.8% across the same period.

EHC Plans (under 5 years old)

This data is from the SEN2 Statutory return covering EHC Plans maintained by Sandwell.
Number of EHC Plans is a snapshot taken in January and reflects the number of plans maintained by Sandwell on that day.
The number of EHC plans for under 5s nationally has increased from 2022 to 2023. For Sandwell however, the number has slightly decreased, and the gap between Sandwell and England has widened.
Fewer new EHC plans were issued in the under 5 age range than was the case regionally and nationally.

EYFS Profile

2019 data was based on a different Early Years Framework and is not directly comparable.

For pupils receiving SEN Support, 17% in Sandwell achieved a good level of development (GLD) in 2023, this is a reduction on the previous year. This places the borough below the National figure of 24% and also below the West Midlands Region (25%). This is a change of position compared to 2019 where the gap to national was closing.

Of the pupils with an EHCP, 4% achieved a GLD in Sandwell in 2023 which is in line with the national figure. GLD performance for this group in Sandwell is above the West Midlands average (2% in 2023).

SEN Status by Year Group, 2023

Year Group	% children with EHC Plans	% children with SEN Support	% children with no SEN Support
Early Years & Nursery	0.1%	7.7%	92.2%
Reception	1.0%	11.8%	87.2%

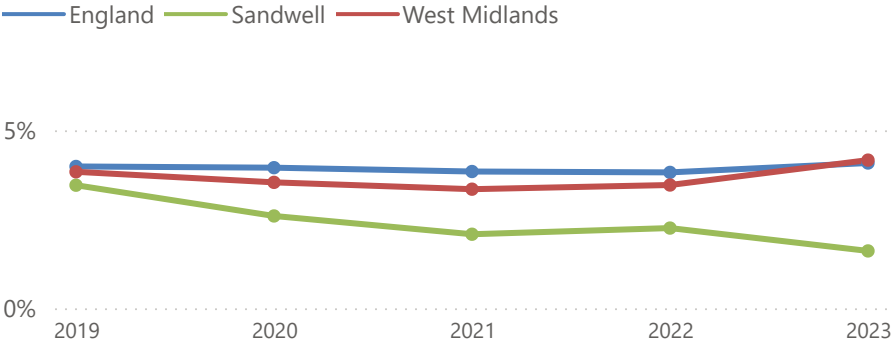
Filter table by Year

2021

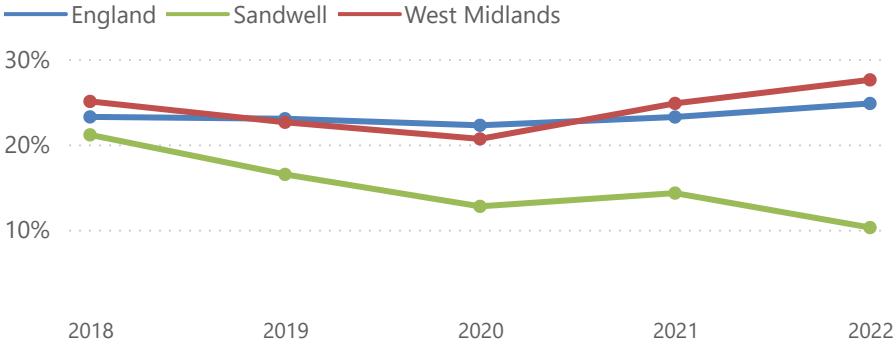
2022

2023

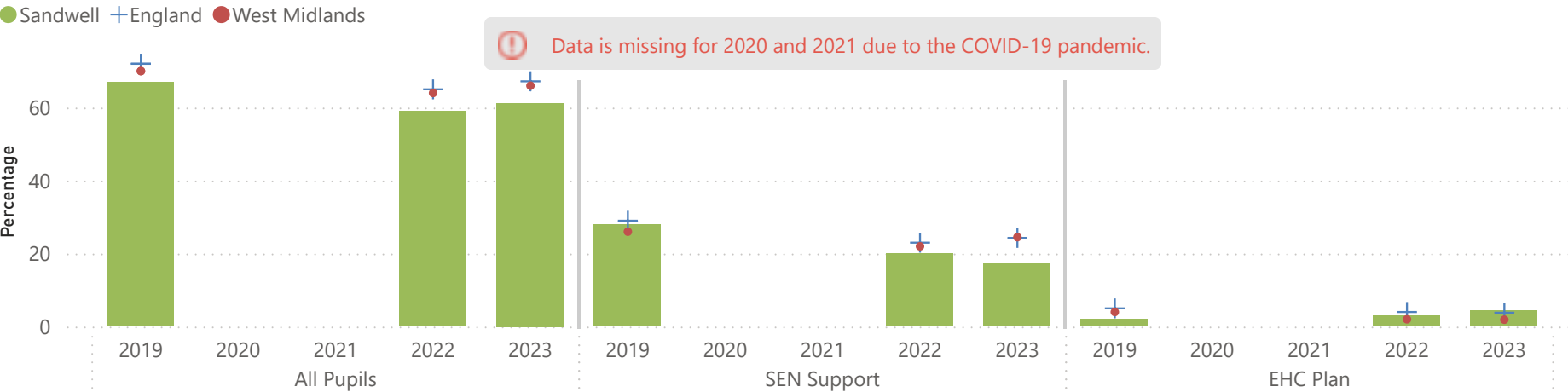
Number of EHC Plans (under 5 years old)



New EHC plans issued (under 5 years old)



Early Years Foundation Stage Profile: % Achieving a Good Level of Development



Data Sources

Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. Public Health Profiles. 2024
<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2024

Pregnancy & Birth

- Fingertips - Deliveries to Teenage Mothers
- Fingertips - Under 16s / under 18s conception rate
- Fingertips - Low birth weight of all babies
- Fingertips - Breastfeeding Prevalence at 6-8 weeks after birth
- Fingertips - Proportion of New Birth Visits completed within 14 days
- 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

- Fingertips - Infant & Child Mortality Rates
- Fingertips - Reception/Year 6: Prevalence of overweight/obesity
- Fingertips - Hospital Admissions for Dental Caries (0-5 years)
- Fingertips - Emergency Admissions for injuries (0-5 years)
- Fingertips - Population Vaccination Coverage

Education

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

SEND

- Sandwell Council - Children and Education
- DfE - School Census
- DfE - SEN2

Contact

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





DTaP IPV Hib 6-in-1 vaccine given to babies at 8, 12 and 16 weeks to help protect against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) and hepatitis B.

Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) 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.

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.

Hib & Men C Given to babies when they are 1 year old to protect them against Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib) and meningitis C.

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

Men B Protects against meningococcal group B bacteria, which are a common cause of meningitis in young children in the UK.

MMR Protects against measles, mumps and rubella (German measles). Children receive one dose after their first birthday and another when they are aged three years and four months old.

PCV Vaccine given to children at 1 year old to help protect against illnesses and conditions caused by pneumococcal bacteria, such as pneumonia and meningitis.

Rotavirus Vaccine given to babies at 8 weeks and 12 weeks to help protect babies against rotavirus (virus that infects the gut causing severe diarrhoea and vomiting).

