Statistical Digest of Rural England:

4 – Communities and Households

May 2025

OGL

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Cover photos

		Ward 2011	Rural-Urban Classification
TL	Helmsley marketplace	Helmsley	Rural Village and Dispersed in a sparse setting
TC	Horton-in-Ribblesdale train station with Penyghent behind	Penyghent	Rural Village and Dispersed in a sparse setting
TR	St Giles Church, Skelton	Rural West York	Rural Town and Fringe
CL	Fishing Boat, Marske-by-the-Sea with Hunt cliff in the distance	St Germain's; Saltburn	Rural Town and Fringe
CR	Thornton Force Waterfall, Ingleton Waterfalls Trail	Ingleton and Clapham	Rural Village and Dispersed in a sparse setting
BL	Farmer working the fields in Knapton	Rural West York	Rural Town and Fringe
BC	Remote pub at Ribblehead viaduct	Ingleton and Clapham	Rural Village and Dispersed in a sparse setting
BR	Glamping pod in the North York Moors	Pickering East	Rural Town and Fringe in a sparse setting

All cover photos provided by Martin Fowell.

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About the Statistical Digest of Rural England

The Statistical Digest of Rural England (hereafter the Digest) is a collection of statistics on a range of social and economic topics and provides broad comparisons between Rural and Urban areas by settlement type. For more information on our classifications, including maps and diagrams explaining the classification, see Appendix 2: Defining Rural areas.

The Digest has been restructured into thematic reports and incorporates the previously separate publication the Rural Economic Bulletin.

The Digest consists of the following thematic reports:

1. Population
2. Housing
3. Health and Wellbeing
4. Communities and Households
5. Connectivity and Accessibility
6. Education, Qualifications and Training
7. Rural Economic Bulletin
8. Energy

In March 2024 the content relating to energy that was previously split across the Housing and Communities and Households chapters has been consolidated into a new Energy report. Appendix 1, shows the sub-themes within each of the 8 Digest reports. Thematic reports will be updated individually and not every report with be updated every month. The most recent updates for this theme are shown in Table 1. In May 2025, the Poverty due to low income section was updated with new data.

Table 1: Update monitor for Communities and Households subsections
where " ✔ " indicates the topic has been updated, "✘" indicates the topic has not been updated, and "New" indicates a new topic with analysis not previously included within the Digest.

Section	Mar 2023	Sep 2024	Oct 2024	Feb 2025	May 2025
Deprivation	✔	✘	✘	✘	✘
Poverty due to low income	✔	✘	✘	✘	✔
Household expenditure	✔	✘	✔	✘	✘
Police recorded crime and outcomes	✔	✔	✘	✘	✘
Crime surveys: Local Police and Businesses	✔	✔	✘	✔	✘
Feelings about the local neighbourhood	✔	✘	✘	✔	✘

Official Statistics

These statistics have been produced to the high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, which sets out eight principles including meeting user needs, impartiality and objectivity, integrity, sound methods and assured quality, frankness and accessibility.

More information on the Official Statistics Code of Practice can be found at: Code of Practice for Statistics.

This publication has been compiled by the Rural Statistics Team within the Rural and Place Team in Defra:

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There is a 2011 Census version of the Digest which looks at the data from the 2011 census and where possible makes comparisons to the 2001 census results.

This can be found at https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/2011-census-results-for-rural-england

The 2021 Rural-Urban Classification was released on 6 March 2025. Details of the 2021 Rural Urban Classification can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/rural-urban-classification. It will take some time for the Digest to be updated throughout using the new classification. Where relevant, Statistics drawing on the 2021 Census will be added to Digest thematic reports.

Communities and Households

This part of the Statistical Digest of Rural England focuses on Communities and Households, and covers the following:

- deprivation (Section A)

- poverty due to low income (Section B)

- household expenditure (Section C)

- police recorded crime and outcomes (Section D)

- perceptions of local police and commercial victimisation (Section E)

- views about local communities and neighbourhoods (Section F)

The key findings from this chapter are summarised with the following set of headline clouds:

Deprivation - key findings

Deprivation in Rural areas tends to be dispersed and is less likely to show up in standard deprivation measures.

Only 1 in 10 people living in Rural Town and Fringe areas live in the most deprived 30% of areas.

Relatively deprived rural coastal areas are found in Lincolnshire, north Norfolk and Kent

In the North East there are relatively deprived Rural areas in former mining communities

Poverty due to low income - key findings

Proportionally fewer Rural households are in poverty than Urban households

Proportionally fewer Rural households were in poverty in 2023/24 than in 2022/23 both before and after housing costs

Proportionally fewer Rural children are in poverty than Urban children

Proportionally more Urban households were in poverty in 2023/24 than in 2022/23 before and after housing costs

Household expenditure - key findings

In 2022/23, Rural households had an income on average around £86 per week more than Urban households but their expenditure was around £99 per week more

Rural households on average spend 65% of their post-tax income on household expenditure before any mortgage payments

Rural households spend on average £39 a week more on transport costs than Urban households

Rural households on average spend £21 a week less on utility bills than Urban households

The average weekly food bill is £6 per week more in Rural areas than in Urban areas

Police recorded crime and outcomes - key findings

The crime rate in England's more Rural areas is less than half that of the more Urban areas

There was more recorded crime in 2023/24 than in 2022/23 in Rural areas, but fewer in Urban areas

County Durham had the highest crime rate in Rural areas; there was 1 offence committed for every 10 people

The rate of recorded firearm offences in Urban areas was more than three times higher than in Rural areas

The rate of recorded knife-enabled offences in Rural areas was less than half of that in Urban areas

The rate of recorded hate crimes in Rural areas was less than half of that in Urban areas

Most fly-tipping incidents are on the highways and involve small van-sized loads

Crime Surveys: Local Police and Businesses - key findings

Based on survey responses, people aged 25-44 were the most likely to be victims of what are referred to as headline crime

Fewer than 1 in 10 respondents said they had been victims of household crime in 2023/24 in both Rural and Urban areas

Respondents were slightly more likely to be victims of fraud and/or computer misuse in Rural areas than in Urban areas

More than 8 out of 10 Rural respondents thought that the police would treat them with respect

Rural respondents had higher levels of confidence in the police compared to people in Urban areas

Less than half of Rural respondents felt police could be relied on when needed

Almost double the proportion of computer-owning businesses in Rural areas experienced computer misuse compared to Urban areas

Only 3 out of 100 Rural respondents reported high police visibility

Feelings about the local neighbourhood – key findings

85 in every 100 people living in Rural areas reported being satisfied with their local area as a place to live

69 in every 100 people living in Rural areas reported feeling that they "belong" strongly or fairly strongly to their immediate neighbourhood

87 in every 100 people living in Rural areas reported feeling satisfied with the green and natural spaces in their local area

Only 1 in 4 people living in Rural areas agree that they can influence decisions affecting their local areas

57 in every 100 people living in Rural areas felt that many people in their neighbourhood could be trusted; in Urban areas, it was 37 in every 100

A. Deprivation

Deprivation in Rural areas tends to be more dispersed than in Urban areas, however, deprived Rural areas are prevalent along the East coast of England, in former mining communities in the North of England, and in the South West of England.

Summary

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is a composite measure of deprivation compiled by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC). The index is a measure of relative rather than absolute deprivation. It is most effective at identifying concentrations of relative deprivation which are more likely to be found in urban areas.

In 2019, 12% of people living in Urban areas were in areas that were within the most deprived 10% of the Index of Multiple Deprivation, compared with just 1% of people living in Rural areas. However, deprivation in Rural areas tends to be more dispersed, which means that Rural areas are less likely to be regarded as relatively deprived, even though there could be residents who experience deprivation. Deprived Rural areas are more prevalent in Rural coastal communities along the East coast of England, in former mining communities in the North of England, and in the South West of England.

To better understand the distribution of deprivation in Rural areas the IMD values have been rescaled for Rural areas only to show relative rural deprivation. This additional analysis shows areas within the most deprived 10% of Rural areas and reinforces the relative deprivation in those areas identified within the IMD when considered without rescaling for rural areas only.

Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

The Index of Multiple Deprivation is compiled by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). It is an overall measure of deprivation that is based on seven domains of deprivation:

1. Income deprivation (including income deprivation affecting children and older people)
2. Employment deprivation
3. Education, skills and training deprivation
4. Health deprivation and disability
5. Crime
6. Barriers to housing and services and
7. Living environment deprivation.

DLUHC state that the indices of deprivation are "designed to identify and measure specific aspects of deprivation, rather than measures of affluence" and that the methodology is "designed to reliably distinguish between areas at the most deprived end of the distribution, but not at the least deprived end" (Note A-1). This means that differences between the least deprived areas in the country are less well defined than differences between the more deprived areas. It is important to recognise that not every person in a highly deprived area will themselves be deprived. Likewise, there will be some deprived people living in the least deprived areas". This could be particularly the case in Rural areas where the underlying area used to determine the index will be much more geographically spread out than in Urban areas. So small areas of deprivation are less likely to be identifiable amid a relatively affluent area. In Urban areas deprivation is more likely to be concentrated in an area and hence more easily reflected in the index.

Comparing deprivation in Rural and Urban areas using the IMD

As shown on Figure A-1, based on the IMD, overall Rural areas tend to be less deprived than Urban ones. In 2019, 12% of people living in Urban areas were in areas that were within the most deprived 10% of the Index of Multiple Deprivation, compared with just 1% of people living in Rural areas. The proportion of the Urban population in the most deprived 40% of areas was higher than the proportion of the Rural population.

Figure A-1: Proportion of the population within each decile of the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), by Rural-Urban Classification, England, 2019.
Decile 1 is the most deprived 10% and decile 10 is the least deprived 10%. The legend is presented in the same order as the clusters of columns.
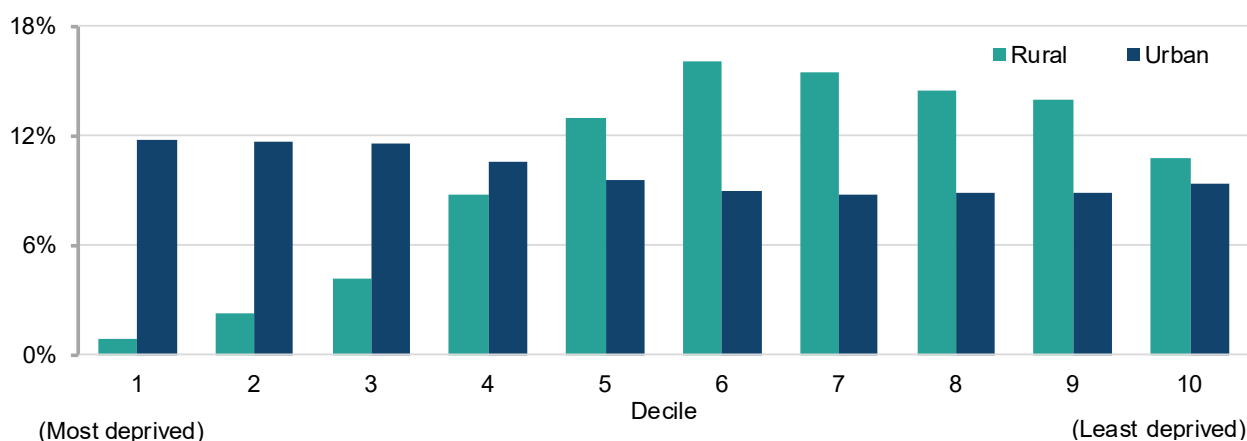
Table A-1 shows that there was limited variation within Rural areas for the most deprived areas as of 2019. 10% of people living in Rural Town and fringe areas were in the most deprived 30% compared to 4% of those living in Rural Village and dispersed areas. The proportions are higher for Rural settlements in a sparse setting, however at this level, and with so few people living in sparse areas, the data available are less likely to identify deprivation amid an area that is relatively less deprived overall.

Table A-1: Proportion of the population within each decile of the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), by Rural-Urban Classification, England, 2019 (Note A-4)

	Most deprived									Least deprived
IMD Decile	1 (%)	2 (%)	3 (%)	4 (%)	5 (%)	6 (%)	7 (%)	8 (%)	9 (%)	10 (%)
All Rural areas	**1**	**2**	**4**	**9**	**13**	**16**	**15**	**14**	**14**	**11**
Rural Town and Fringe	2	4	5	7	10	12	12	13	18	18
Rural Town and Fringe in a sparse setting	1	2	12	17	20	18	11	9	9	1
Rural Village and Dispersed	<1	1	3	9	16	21	20	17	10	4
Rural Village and Dispersed in a sparse setting	<1	1	13	33	25	14	10	5	1	<1
All Urban areas	**12**	**12**	**12**	**11**	**10**	**9**	**9**	**9**	**9**	**9**
Urban with Major Conurbation	14	15	14	11	10	8	8	8	7	5
Urban with Minor Conurbation	20	14	11	9	9	9	8	7	7	6
Urban with City and Town	9	9	10	10	9	9	10	10	11	13
Urban with City and Town in a sparse setting	13	11	14	17	16	7	7	8	8	<1

Figure A-2 shows the geographical distribution of the most and least deprived Lower Super Output Area (Note A-3) in both Rural and Urban areas. Darker areas of the map are the most deprived 30%.

Figure A-2: Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) deciles, by Lower Super Output Area and Rural-Urban Classification, in England (2019).

Deciles 1 to 3 are grouped to form "most deprived" and deciles 8 to 10 are grouped to form "least deprived". The darker the shading the more deprived an area for both Rural and Urban settings.

Index of Multiple Deprivation

Rural   Urban

Most deprived

Least deprived

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Figure A-3 zooms in on the North East of England. It is likely that areas within the most deprived 10% of areas in County Durham and on the Northumberland Coast include former coal mining communities. The loss of the major employer in a rural area, for example when a pit closed, created a surplus of labour whose skillset was no longer in demand. Those unable to retrain and

acquire new skills risked unemployment and falling into poverty. Whilst the most deprived areas in East Cleveland are not in a coal mining area historically there was both iron ore mines and steel works. The area within the most deprived 10% of areas along the Cumbrian coast (Figure A-4) are located close to the former West Cumberland coal field.

Figure A-3: Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) deciles, by Lower Super Output Area and Rural-Urban Classification, in the North East of England (2019).
White LSOAs on the terrestrial part of the map represent Urban areas.

Figure A-4: Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) deciles, by Lower Super Output Area and Rural-Urban Classification, in the North West of England (2019).
White LSOAs on the terrestrial part of the map represent Urban areas

On Figure A-5 there is a Rural area on the Lincolnshire Coast just south of Skegness that is amongst the 10% of most deprived areas. There are also several areas within South Yorkshire within the 10% most deprived areas some of these are also likely to include former mining communities.

Figure A-5: Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) deciles, by Lower Super Output Area and Rural-Urban Classification, around the Wash in the East of England (2019).
White LSOAs on the terrestrial part of the map represent Urban areas.

Within the South East of England (Figure A-6) areas within the 10% of most deprived areas include the Essex coast close to Jaywick and part of the Isle of Sheppey. In the case of the Isle of Sheppey the area contains multiple nature reserves and agricultural land and a single bridge onto the island. These factors hinder the transport infrastructure and probably mean that the areas scores relatively low within measures of deprivation covering Barriers to housing and services. The area in Lincolnshire (Figure A-5) is similarly affected by accessibility issues as are a number of coastal areas.

Although Figure A-2 showed areas in the South West amongst the most deprived 30% of areas none of these were in the most deprived 10% of areas. A zoomed in map has not been shown for this region.
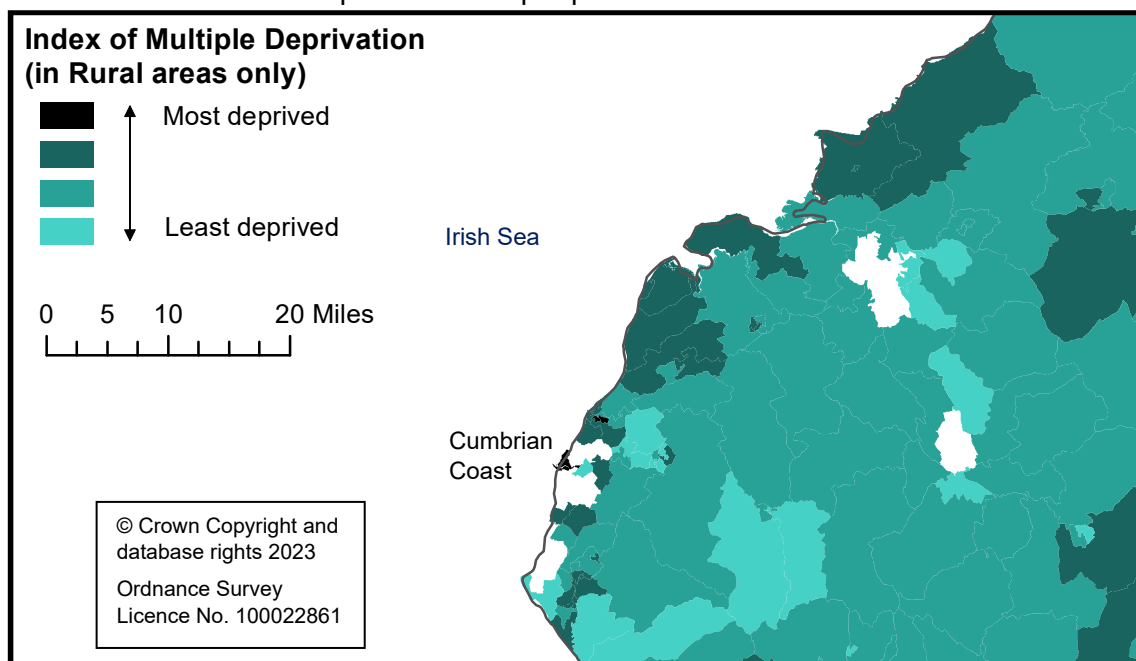
Figure A-6: Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) deciles, by Lower Super Output Area and Rural-Urban Classification, in the South East of England (2019).
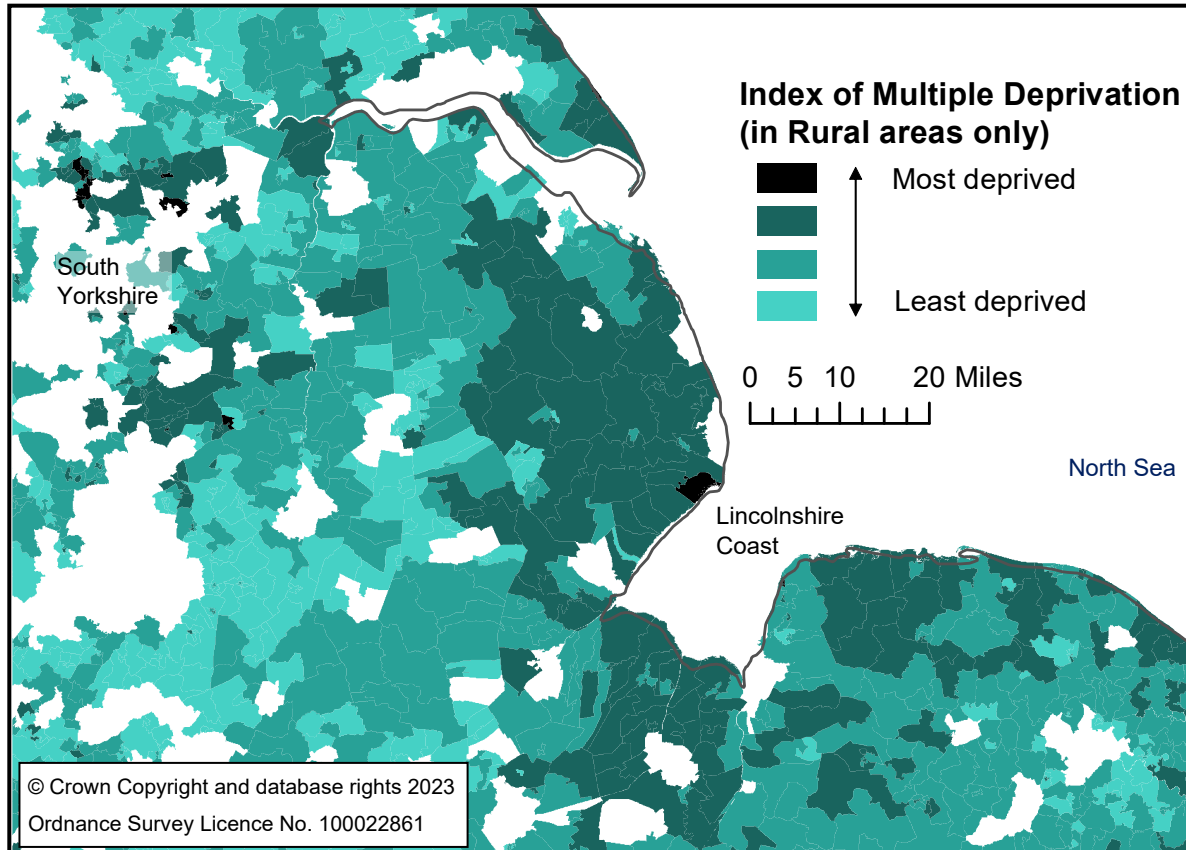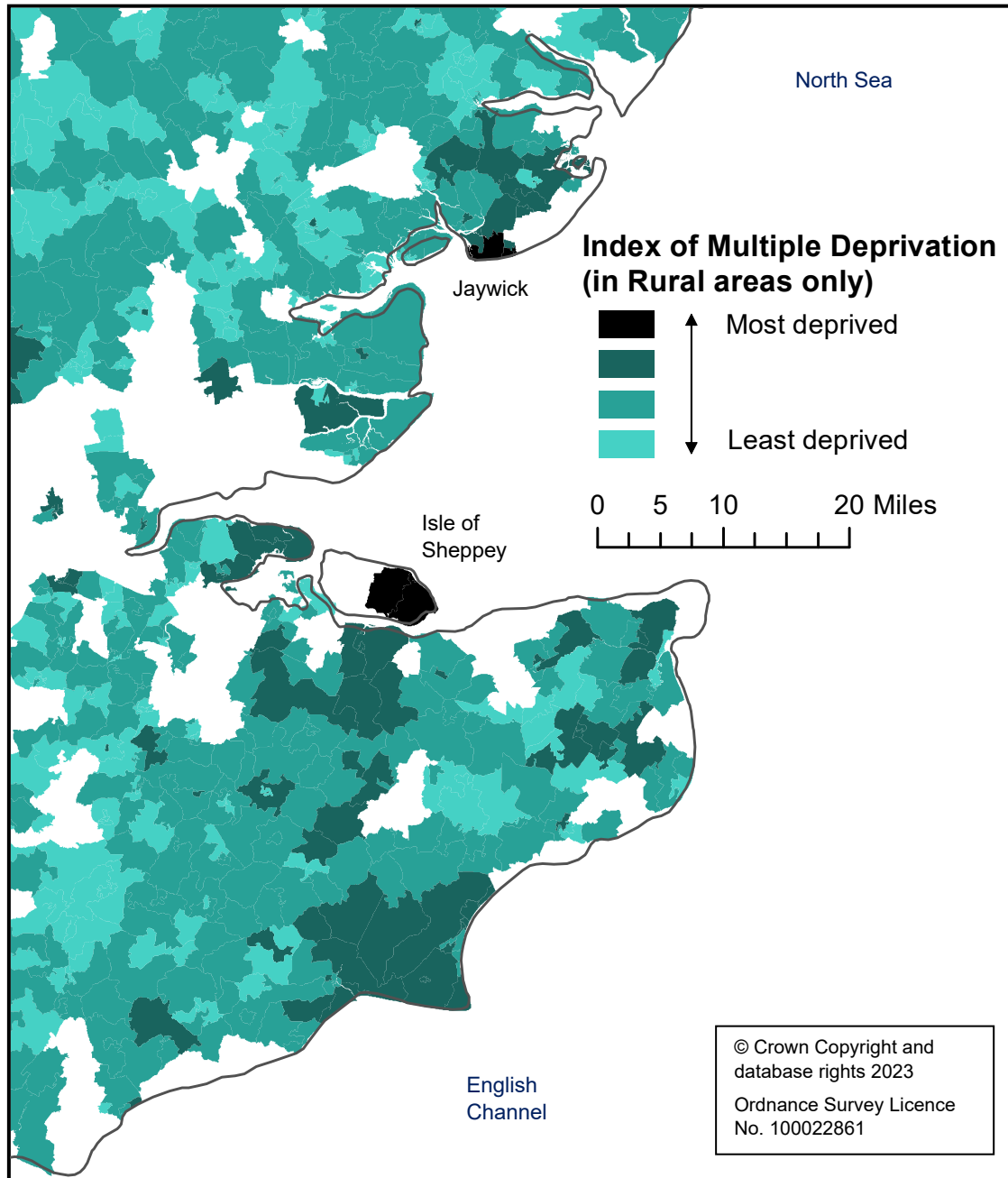 White LSOAs on the terrestrial part of the map represent Urban areas

Rescaling the IMD to evaluate deprivation in Rural areas only

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is intended to identify concentrations of deprivation, which tend to be found in urban areas. While deprivation occurs in rural areas it tends to be more dispersed and so a rural area that includes deprived households may not be sufficiently deprived overall to register as a relatively deprived area. Rural households may also score differently on the various measures of deprivation compared with urban households.

To better understand the distribution of deprivation in Rural areas those areas classed as Urban within the Rural-Urban Classification can be removed from the data and then IMD values rescaled for Rural areas only to show relative rural deprivation (still based on the IMD). Figure A-7 shows

this rescaled IMD with black now representing the most deprived 10% of Rural areas, rather than the most deprived 10% across all areas.

Figure A-7: Rescaled Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) deciles, by Lower Super Output Area and in Rural areas of the Rural-Urban Classification, in England (2019).
White LSOAs on the map represent Urban areas. Decile 1 forms "Most deprived", followed by deciles 2 to 4, 5 to 7, and 8 to 10 (all of which are grouped); deciles 8 to 10 form "Least deprived". The darker the shading the more deprived an area.

Index of Multiple Deprivation
(Rescaled; in Rural areas only)

Most deprived

Least deprived

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With the rescaling for rural areas only Figure A-7 shows, for example, that much of East Cleveland is within the most deprived 10% of rural areas and that there are concentrations of relative rural deprivation in Lincolnshire, County Durham, North Nottinghamshire, South Yorkshire and in the South West.

Figure A-7 helps to highlight that there are lots of pockets of relative rural deprivation within wider areas that are relatively less deprived, particularly in central England. This is less apparent with the inclusion of Urban areas.

In 2018 the Rural population had a 54:46 split in favour of Rural Town and Fringe areas. As Figure A-8 shows comparing different types of rural areas, there are proportionally more Rural Town and Fringe residents living in the most (and least) deprived areas than for Rural Village and Dispersed. This is to be expected as a rural town is more likely to have concentrations of deprivation.

Figure A-8: The proportion (%) of the Rural population within each decile of the rescaled (Rural) Index of Multiple Deprivation, for Rural areas, England, 2019.
The legend is presented in the same order as the clusters of columns.

Deprivation explanatory notes

- **Note A-1**

The Index of Multiple Deprivation was last produced in 2019 (https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019). The main statistical findings and a frequently asked questions file are published by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DHLUC).

- **Note A-2**

Analysis is based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019, which is based on the English indices of deprivation 2019 (www.gov.uk/government/collections/english-indices-of-deprivation). The indices are derived for Lower Super Output Areas

- **Note A-3**

A Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) is a geographic area built up from groups of census output areas. LSOAs were developed (along with Middle Super Output Areas) to help improve the reporting of small area statistics, allowing for greater precision than reporting at Local Authority level.

- **Note A-4**

"Rural Village and Dispersed" refers to the combination of "Rural Village" and "Rural Hamlet and Isolated Dwellings".

B. Poverty due to low income

Under both the relative low income and the absolute low-income poverty measures, the proportions of individuals and households living in poverty was lower in Rural areas than in Urban areas in 2023/24.

Summary

Households Below Average Income (HBAI) statistics give an insight into the standard of living of the household population of England. This publication uses two measures of poverty: (1) relative low income and (2) absolute low income. The former relates household income to the median household income and the latter relates household income to an inflation adjusted threshold value.

In 2023/24, 13% of households in Rural areas were in relative low income before accounting for housing costs; this compares to 18% of households in Urban areas. After housing costs, this rises to 15% of households in Rural areas and 23% in Urban areas. In Rural areas, the proportion of households in relative low income was lower in 2023/24 than in 2022/23, both before and after accounting for housing costs. In Urban areas, the proportion of households in relative low income increased between 2022/23 and 2023/24 before accounting for housing costs, but stayed the same after housing costs were accounted for.

In 2023/24 11% of households in Rural areas were in absolute low income before housing costs; this compares to 16% of households in Urban areas. After housing costs, this rises to 13% of households in Rural areas and 20% in Urban areas. In 2023/24 in Rural areas, the proportion of households in absolute low income was lower than in 2022/23 before housing costs and showed no annual change after housing costs were accounted for. In Urban areas, the proportion of households in absolute low income increased between 2022/23 and 2023/24 both before and after housing costs.

Statistics used to measure poverty due to low income

Households Below Average Income (HBAI) statistics give an insight into the standard of living of the household population of England. HBAI assumes that all individuals in the household benefit equally from the combined income of the household (Note B-1).

Individuals are said to be in **relative low income** if they live in a household with an income that is low relative to other households, as determined by whether the income is below 60% of median income (the income earned by the household in the middle of the distribution in a given year). This can be determined before or after housing costs. For more information on relative low income see Note B-2 .

Individuals are said to be in **absolute low income** if they live in a household with an income that is below a level that was the relative low-income threshold in 2010/11 adjusted for inflation. This can be determined before or after housing costs. For more information on absolute low income see Note B-3.

Poverty analysis technical note

Figures are presented on the percentage living in relative and absolute low income for households overall, and separately for working-age adults, children and pensioners. These statistics are one of the measures used to assess changes to living standards by examining low income, income inequality and poverty. Figures are presented as before and after housing costs.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) reports that before housing costs (Note B-1 explains what is included in housing costs) measures allow an assessment of the relative standard of living of those individuals who were actually benefiting from a better quality of housing by paying more for better accommodation, and income growth over time incorporates improvements in living standards where higher costs reflected improvements in the quality of housing.

After housing costs (Note B-1 explains what is included in housing costs) measures allow an assessment of living standards of individuals whose housing costs are high relative to the quality of their accommodation, and income growth over time may also overstate improvements in living standards for low-income groups, as a rise in housing benefit to offset higher rents (for a given quality of accommodation) would be counted as an income rise.

Both before and after housing costs measures can be used to examine relative and absolute low income for households.

DWP says that the preferred measure to examine relative and absolute low income for the working-age population (those aged between 16 and 64) is before housing costs. This is because the after housing costs measures can underestimate the true living standard of families who choose to spend more on housing to attain a higher standard of accommodation.

DWP says that the preferred measure of low income for children is based on incomes measured before housing costs, as after housing costs measures can underestimate the true living standard of families who choose to spend more on housing to attain a higher standard of accommodation.

DWP says that the preferred measure of low income for pensioners is based on incomes measured after housing costs, as a significant percentage of pensioners own their own home. The figures for both Urban and Rural areas show that the percentage of pensioners in relative or absolute low income was lower after housing costs, than before housing costs.

These Rural statistics are based on relative low income (Note B-2 and absolute low income (Note B-3). DWP also report on measures of 'low income and material deprivation' and 'persistent poverty'.

Relative low income

Table B-1 and Table B-2 show the percentage of different groups of the population in relative low income in 2023/24. Table B-1 shows relative low income before housing costs and Table B-2 shows relative low income after housing costs. They can be summarised as follows:

- The percentage of households in Rural areas in relative low income was 13% before housing costs and in Urban areas it was 18%. After housing costs, it was 15% in Rural areas and 23% in Urban areas.
- The percentage of working-age people in Rural areas in relative low income was 12% before housing costs and in Urban areas it was 15%. After housing costs, it was 14% in Rural areas and 21% in Urban areas.
- The percentage of children in Rural areas in relative low income was 14% before housing costs and in Urban areas it was 25%. After housing costs, it was 20% in Rural areas and 33% in Urban areas.
- The percentage of pensioners in Rural areas in relative low income was 16% before housing costs and in Urban areas it was 20%. After housing costs, it was 13% in Rural areas and 17% in Urban areas.

Table B-1: Proportion of the population in relative low income, before housing costs, by demographic and Rural-Urban Classification, 2023/24 (Note B-5)

Before housing costs	Rural (%)	Urban (%)
Households	13	18
Working-age people	12	15
Children	14	25
Pensioners	16	20

Table B-2: Proportion of the population in relative low income, after housing costs, by demographic and Rural-Urban Classification, 2023/24 (Note B-5)

After housing costs	Rural (%)	Urban (%)
Households	15	23
Working-age people	14	21
Children	20	33
Pensioners	13	17

The proportions of relative low income given in Table B-1 and Table B-2 can be compared with the previous year (Table B-3 and Table B-4) in order to provide an indication of the direction of change.

In Rural areas, the proportion of households, pensioners and children in relative low income before housing costs all decreased between 2022/23 and 2023/24, but the proportion of working age people in relative low income before housing costs remained unchanged. For pensioners, the proportion in relative low income after housing costs in 2023/24 was much lower than in 2022/23.

Table B-3: Proportion of the population in relative low income, before housing costs, by demographic and Rural-Urban Classification, 2022/23 (Note B-5)

Before housing costs	Rural (%)	Urban (%)
Households	14	17
Working-age people	12	15
Children	16	23
Pensioners	18	19

Table B-4: Proportion of the population in relative low income, after housing costs, by demographic and Rural-Urban Classification, 2022/23 (Note B-5)

After housing costs	Rural (%)	Urban (%)
Households	16	23
Working-age people	14	21
Children	21	32
Pensioners	16	17

Table B-5: Dashboard showing the percentage point change of the population in relative low income, before housing costs, between 2022/23 and 2023/24, by demographic and Rural-Urban Classification (Note B-5)

Before housing costs	Rural	Urban
Households	↓↓	↑↑
Working-age people	–	–
Children	↓↓	↑↑
Pensioners	↓↓	↑

Table B-6: Dashboard showing the percentage point change of the population in relative low income, after housing costs, between 2022/23 and 2023/24, by demographic and Rural-Urban Classification (Note B-5)

After housing costs	Rural	Urban
Households	↓↓	—
Working-age people	–	—
Children	↓	↑
Pensioners	↓↓	—

In Urban areas, the proportion of households, pensioners and children in relative low income before housing costs all increased between 2022/23 and 2023/24, but the proportion of working age people in relative low income before housing costs remained unchanged. So with the exception of working-age people, the proportion of each group in relative low income before housing costs moved in opposite directions in Rural and Urban areas. After housing costs the percentage in relative low income increased for children, but the increase was by a small amount. Whereas for households, working-age people and pensioners the percentage in relative low income after housing costs remained the same.

Notes
- In Table B-1, Table B-2, Table B-3, and Table B-4, figures are rounded to the nearest 1.0%.
- In Table B-5 and Table B-6 the percentage change in relative low income is described with symbols for where it increased (↑), decreased (↓) or stayed the same (—). Multiple arrows (↑↑,↓↓) indicate a change of ±6% or more. This dashboard shows the direction of change over the last year and is provided to give an indication only and may not represent a clear improvement or deterioration. Indication of change is based on a ±3% threshold.
- Increases or decreases in figures between years as noted in Table B-1, Table B-2, Table B-3, and Table B-4 and the dashboard (Table B-5 and Table B-6 may not match due to rounding and therefore these changes might not represent a clear improvement or deterioration).

Absolute low income

Table B-7 and Table B-8 show the percentage of different groups of the population in absolute income in 2023/24. Table B-7 shows absolute low income before housing costs and Table B-8 shows absolute low income after housing costs. They can be summarised as follows:

- The percentage of households in Rural areas in absolute low income was 11% before housing costs and in Urban areas it was 16%. After housing costs, it was 13% in Rural areas and 20% in Urban areas.
- The percentage of working-age people in Rural areas in absolute low income was 10% before housing costs and in Urban areas it was 13%. After housing costs, it was 12% in Rural areas and 18% in Urban areas.
- The percentage of children in Rural areas in absolute low income was 11% before housing costs and in Urban areas it was 22%. After housing costs, it was 17% in Rural areas and 29% in Urban areas.
- The percentage of pensioners in Rural areas in absolute low income was 14% before housing costs and in Urban areas it was 17%. After housing costs, it was 11% in Rural areas and 14% in Urban areas.

Table B-7: Proportion of the population in absolute low income, before housing costs, by demographic and Rural-Urban Classification, 2023/24 (Note B-5)

Before housing costs	Rural (%)	Urban (%)
Households	11	16
Working-age people	10	13
Children	11	22
Pensioners	14	17

Table B-8: Proportion of the population in absolute low income, after housing costs, by demographic and Rural-Urban Classification, 2023/24 (Note B-5)

After housing costs	Rural (%)	Urban (%)
Households	13	20
Working-age people	12	18
Children	17	29
Pensioners	11	14

The proportions of absolute low income given in Table B-7 and Table B-8 can be compared with the previous year (Table B-9 and Table B-10) in order to provide an indication of the direction of change.

Table B-9: Proportion of the population in absolute low income, before housing costs, by demographic and Rural-Urban Classification, 2022/23 (Note B-5)

Before housing costs	Rural (%)	Urban (%)
Households	12	14
Working-age people	10	13
Children	13	19
Pensioners	15	15

Table B-10: Proportion of the population in absolute low income, after housing costs, by demographic and Rural-Urban Classification, 2022/23 (Note B-5)

After housing costs	Rural (%)	Urban (%)
Households	13	19
Working-age people	12	18
Children	17	27
Pensioners	12	13

Table B-11 and Table B-12 show the change in the proportion of households, working-age people, children and pensioners in absolute low income between 2022/23 and 2023/24 before and after

housing costs respectively. In Rural areas, the proportion of households, pensioners and children in absolute low income before housing costs all decreased between 2022/23 and 2023/24. However, the proportion of working age people in absolute low income before housing costs remained unchanged. After housing costs the proportion of pensioners in absolute low income decreased while for all three other groups it showed no change on the previous year.

Irrespective of whether poverty is measured using the absolute or the relative measure, the proportion of low-income households, pensioners and children in rural areas all decreased between 2022/23 and 2023/24 before housing costs. After housing costs, pensioners were the only group where the proportion in low-income in Rural areas decreased between 2022/23 and 2023/24 with both the absolute and the relative measures.

Table B-11: Dashboard showing the percentage point change of the population in absolute low income, before housing costs, between 2022/23 and 2023/24, by demographic and Rural-Urban Classification (Note B-5)

Before housing costs	Rural	Urban
Households	↓↓	↑↑
Working-age people	—	—
Children	↓↓	↑↑
Pensioners	↓↓	↑↑

Table B-12: Dashboard showing the percentage point change of the population in absolute low income, after housing costs, between 2022/23 and 2023/24, by demographic and Rural-Urban Classification (Note B-5)

After housing costs	Rural	Urban
Households	—	↑
Working-age people	—	—
Children	—	↑↑
Pensioners	↓↓	↑↑

In Urban areas, the proportion of households, pensioners and children in absolute low income before housing costs all increased. After housing costs, the proportions in absolute low income still increased, but by a smaller amount. The proportion of Urban working age people in absolute low income remained the same as the previous year both before and after housing costs.

Notes
- In Table B-7, Table B-8, Table B-9 and Table B-10 figures are rounded to the nearest 1.0%.
- In Table B-11 and Table B-12 the percentage in absolute low income is described with symbols for where it increased (↑), decreased (↓) or stayed the same (—). Multiple arrows (↑↑,↓↓) indicate a change of ±6% or more. This dashboard shows the direction of change over the last year and is provided to give an indication only and may not represent a clear improvement or deterioration. Indication of change is based on a ±3% threshold.
- Increases or decreases in figures between years as noted in Table B-7, Table B-8, Table B-9 and Table B-10 and the dashboard (Table B-11 and Table B-12) may not match due to rounding and therefore these changes might not represent a clear improvement or deterioration.

Poverty explanatory notes

- **Note B-1**

HBAI statistics – background information

Households Below Average Income (HBAI) uses net disposable weekly household income, after adjusting for the household size and composition, as an assessment for material living standards - the level of consumption of goods and services that people could attain given the net income of the household in which

they live. In order to allow comparisons of the living standards of different types of households, income is adjusted to take into account variations in the size and composition of the households in a process known as equivalisation. The unit of analysis is the individual.

Housing costs are made up of rent (gross of housing benefit); water rates, community water charges and council water charges; mortgage interest payments (net of tax relief); structural insurance premiums (for owner occupiers); and ground rent and service charges.

Further information on HBAI statistics can be found at: Households below average income (HBAI) statistics document on GOV.UK.

- **Note B-2**

HBAI statistics – definition of relative low income

Relative low income sets the threshold as a percentage of the average income, so it moves each year as average income moves. It is used to measure the number and percentage of individuals who have incomes that are a certain percentage below the average.

The percentage of individuals in *relative* low income will increase if the average income:
- stays the same or rises and, relative to this, individuals on lowest incomes see their income fall, or rise to a lesser extent
- falls and individuals with the lowest incomes see their income fall more than the average income

The percentage of individuals in relative low income will decrease if the average income:
- stays the same or rises, while those with the lowest incomes see their income rise more than the average income
- falls and, relative to this, individuals with the lowest incomes see their income rise, fall to a lesser extent, or show no change

- **Note B-3**

HBAI statistics – definition of absolute low income

Absolute low income sets the low-income line in a given year, here in 2010/11 then adjusts it each year with inflation as measured by variants of the Retail Prices Index (RPI). This measures the percentage of individuals who are below a certain standard of living in the UK (as measured by income).

The percentage of individuals in *absolute* low income will:
- increase if individuals with the lowest incomes see their income fall or rise less than inflation and
- decrease if individuals with the lowest incomes see their incomes rise more than inflation.

HBAI uses variants of the RPI to adjust for inflation to look at how incomes are changing over real time in real terms. In accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, the RPI and its derivatives have been assessed against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics and found not to meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics. A full report can be found on the UK Statistics Authority website.

- **Note B-4**

The Child Poverty Act 2010, Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission

The relative low income target in the Child Poverty Act 2010, (section 3), is that less than 10% of children who live in qualifying households live in households that fall within the relevant income group. For the purposes of this analysis, a household falls within the relevant income group – in relation to a financial year – if its equivalised net income for the financial year is less than 60% of median equivalised net household income for the financial year.

- **Note B-4**

Source data: Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), bespoke data request.

- **Note B-5**

For this analysis DWP define the working-age population as those aged between 16 and 64. Children and Pensioners are therefore those younger than 16 and older than 64 respectively.

C.Household expenditure

Rural households have a higher average income than Urban households, but this difference is more than offset by higher household expenditure, particularly on transport.

Summary

Household expenditure can be evaluated alongside disposable income (income after tax). As long as most people are living within their means, levels of household expenditure should be strongly dependent on disposable income.

In 2022/23, households in Rural areas had a higher average weekly income after tax (£890 per week) than Urban households (£805 per week). However, household expenditure was also higher for Rural households (£580 per week) than Urban households (£480 per week). In 2022/23, average household expenditure (excluding mortgage payments) as a proportion of disposable income was an average of 65% for Rural areas and 60% for Urban areas. Since 2014/15 this proportion has been higher in Rural areas than Urban areas in every year except 2017/18.

In 2022/23 on average Rural households spent a higher proportion of their disposable income on 'transport' (13%, £111 per week) than they did on 'housing, water and energy' (10%, £92 per week). Whereas for Urban areas, the highest proportion of household disposable income was spent on 'housing, water and energy' (14%, £113 per week). Between 2014/15 and 2022/23, households in Rural areas have consistently spent a smaller proportion of their disposable income on housing, water and energy costs (excluding mortgage payments), but a larger proportion on transportation costs than households in Urban areas.
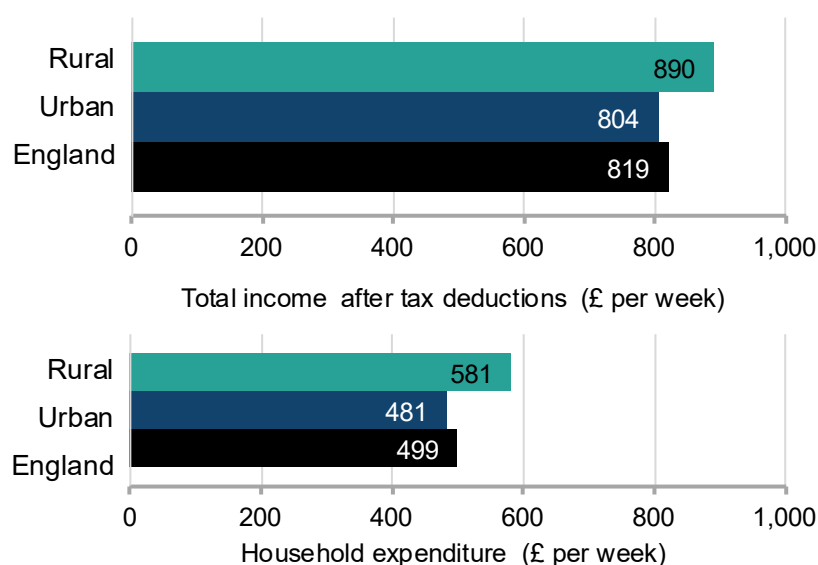
Nominal expenditure and disposable income

Levels of household expenditure should be strongly dependent on disposable income (income after tax). However, there are differences in absolute and proportional spending patterns, appearing to be affected by the types of settlements where households live.

As the bar charts in Figure C-1 show, in 2022/23 when compared to Urban areas, households in Rural areas on average had higher weekly incomes after tax, but also higher levels of expenditure. The top chart compares average weekly incomes, with Rural areas having higher household incomes than Urban areas (£890 and £804 per week respectively). For comparison, the average weekly household income for England was £819 per week. In the bottom chart showing household expenditure, we see the same pattern with Rural areas having higher levels of household expenditure than Urban areas (£581 and £481 per week respectively). For comparison, average weekly household expenditure for England was £499. In summary, households in Rural areas had an average income after tax which was around £86 higher than the Urban average - but their average weekly household expenditure was £99 higher than the average expenditure for Urban households.

Figure C-1: Bar charts showing average weekly income after tax (top chart) and household expenditure (bottom chart), by Rural-Urban Classification, England, financial year 2022/23
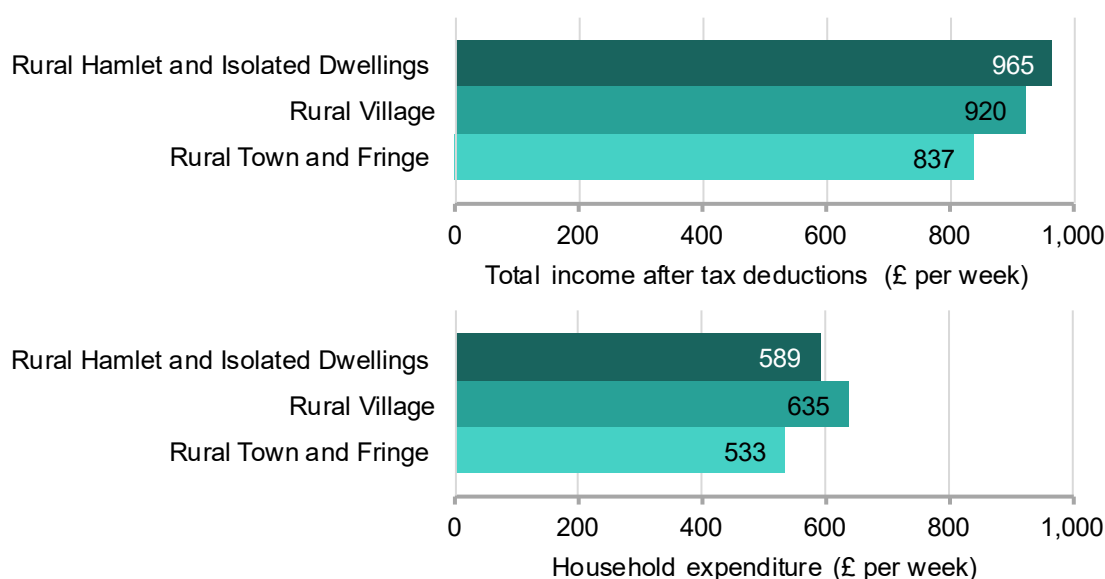The scale is the same for both charts to aid comparison.
Average weekly household expenditure excludes mortgage payments (Note C-1).

The bars charts in Figure C-2 show the variation within Rural areas in average weekly household income and expenditure for the year ending March 2023. At £965 per week, households in Rural Hamlets and Isolated Dwellings had the highest weekly average incomes after tax, while the settlement type with the highest level of average expenditure was Rural Villages at £635. Households in Rural Town and Fringe areas had the lowest average expenditure in Rural areas; at £533 per week, but they also had the lowest average income after tax in Rural areas; at £837 per week.

Figure C-2: Bar charts showing average weekly income after tax (top chart) and household expenditure (bottom chart), by Rural-Urban Classification (Rural only), England, financial year ending 2022/23

Average weekly expenditure household excludes mortgage payments (Note C-1).

Total income after tax deductions (£ per week)

Rural Hamlet and Isolated Dwellings	965
Rural Village	920
Rural Town and Fringe	837

Household expenditure (£ per week)

Rural Hamlet and Isolated Dwellings	589
Rural Village	635
Rural Town and Fringe	533

As shown in Table C-1, in 2022/23, average household expenditure (excluding mortgage payments) as a proportion of disposable income was an average of 65% in Rural areas compared to an average of 60% in Urban areas. Proportional average weekly expenditure showed a moderate drop across all settlement types in 2020/21 (likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic) but has been increasing again from 2021/22.

Table C-1: Average weekly expenditure (excluding mortgage payments) as a percentage of average weekly disposable income by Rural-Urban Classification for England, financial years 2018/19 to 2022/23 (Note C-5)

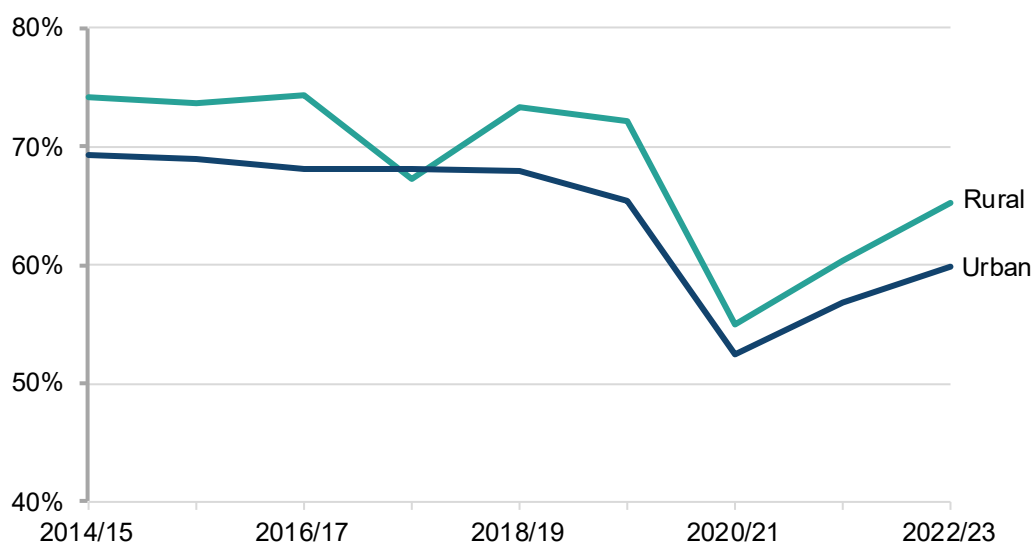|	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
All Rural	73	72	55	60	65
All Urban	68	65	53	57	60
England	**69**	**67**	**53**	**57**	**61**

Figure C-3 is a line chart that shows the average weekly expenditure as a percentage of disposable income for Rural and Urban areas between financial years 2014/15 and 2022/23. People living in Rural areas have consistently spent a higher proportion of their disposable income on goods and services than those in Urban areas, except for financial year 2017/18; during this year, the average weekly expenditure as a proportion of disposable income was 1 percentage point lower in Rural areas than in Urban areas.

At the start of the period shown (2014/15), weekly expenditure as proportion of income was on average 74% in Rural areas and 69% in Urban areas. Proportional levels of expenditure fell slightly until 2019/20, after which there was a sharp decrease in both Rural and Urban areas of 17 percentage points to 55% for Rural areas and 13 percentage points to 53% for Urban areas. This is likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, where government-enforced lockdowns in early 2020 meant people had less need or opportunity to spend their money. Between 2020/21 and 2022/23,

average weekly expenditure as a proportion of weekly income has increased in both Rural and Urban areas (to 65% and 60% respectively).

Figure C-3: Line chart showing average weekly expenditure (excluding mortgage payments) as a percentage of average weekly disposable income by Rural-Urban Classification for England, financial years 2014/15 to 2022/23

Please note, Y axis starts at 40% and not 0%.

Expenditure on commodity or service groups

Figure C-4 is a tree map chart showing that in 2022/23 households in Rural areas on average spent the greatest amount on transport costs at £111 per week, followed by £92 per week on housing, water and energy (excluding mortgage payments), and £87 on Recreation.

The tree map chart in Figure C-5 shows that households in Urban areas on average spent the greatest amount on housing, water and energy (excluding mortgage payments) at £113 per week, followed by transport costs (£72) and food and non-alcoholic beverages (£63). Generally, households in Urban areas spent less than those in Rural areas across all the different service categories apart from on housing, water and energy (excluding mortgage payments) where they spent on average £21 more per week in 2022/23.

Figure C-4: Tree map chart showing breakdown of average weekly household expenditure (excluding mortgage payments) in Rural areas, by commodity or service, financial year 2022/23

Transport costs, £111
Housing, water and energy, £92
Recreation, £87
Food and non-alcoholic beverage, £68
Miscellaneous goods and services, £52
Restaurants and hotels, £51
Furnishings and household equipment, £44
Clothing and footwear, £18
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco, £12
Health expenditure, £13
Education, £11
Communication, £21

Figure C-5: Tree map chart showing breakdown of average weekly household expenditure (excluding mortgage payments) in Urban areas, by commodity or service, financial year 2022/23

Housing, water and energy, £113
Transport costs, £72
Food and non-alcoholic beverage, £63
Recreation, £62
Restaurants and hotels, £39
Miscella… goods and services, £39
Furnishings and household equipment, £35
Clothing and footwear, £17
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco, £10
Health expenditure, £8
Education, £5
Communication, £20

Notes

- On **Figure C-4** and **Figure C-5** the darkest shading has been used for expenditures over £60 per week and the lightest shading for expenditures less than £20 per week. Expenditures between £20 and £60 per week have the medium shading.

The line charts in Figure C-6 show the change in the proportional average weekly expenditure by commodity or service between 2014/15 and 2022/23. It can be summarised as follows:

- Households in Rural areas have consistently spent a smaller proportion of their disposable income on **housing, water and energy** costs (excluding mortgage payments) than those in Urban areas. In 2014/15, households in Rural areas spent 9.5% of their disposable income on housing, water and energy rising to 10.4% in 2022/23. In Urban areas the proportion of household income spent has risen from 11.8% in 2014/15 to 14% in 2022/23. This is an increase of 0.8 percentage points in Rural areas which is less than the increase of 2.3
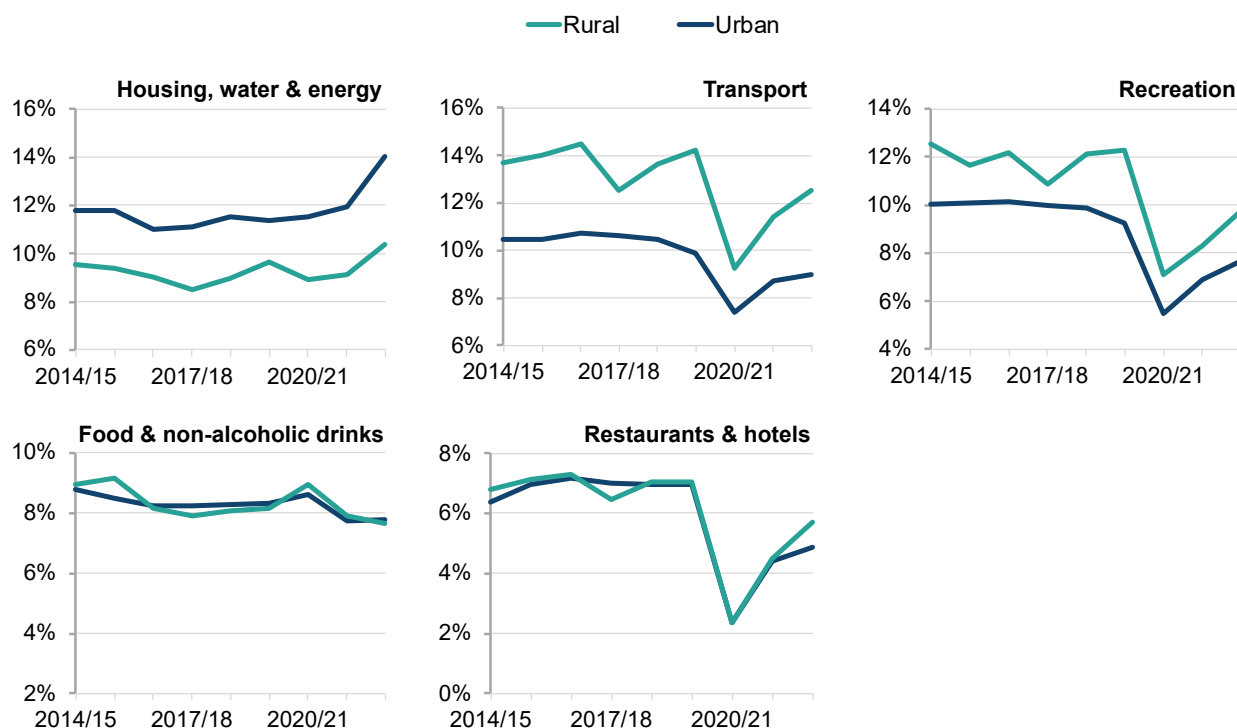
percentage points for Urban areas. It should be noted that this data does not include mortgage payments.

- Households in Rural areas have consistently spent a larger proportion of their disposable income on **transport** costs than those in Urban areas. In 2014/15, households in Rural areas spent 13.7% of their disposable income on transport, falling to 12.5% in 2022/23. In Urban areas the proportion of household income spent has fallen from 10.5% in 2014/15 to 9% in 2022/23. This is a decrease of 1.2 percentage points in Rural areas which is slightly less than the decrease of 1.5 percentage points for Urban areas.

- Households in Rural areas have consistently spent a larger proportion of their disposable income on **recreation** costs than those in Urban areas. In 2014/15, households in Rural areas spent 12.5% of their disposable income on recreation, falling to 9.7% in 2022/23. In Urban areas the proportion of household income spent has fallen from 10.1% in 2014/15 to 7.7% in 2022/23. This is a decrease of 2.8 percentage points in Rural areas which is slightly higher than the decrease of 2.4 percentage points for Urban areas.

- There was little difference in the weekly expenditure on **food and non-alcoholic beverages** as a proportion of income between Rural and Urban areas from 2014/15 to 2022/23. In 2014/15, households in Rural areas spent 8.9% of their disposable income on food and non-alcoholic beverages, falling to 7.7% in 2022/23. In Urban areas the proportion of household income spent has fallen from 8.8% in 2014/15 to 7.8% in 2022/23. This is a decrease of 1.3 percentage points in Rural areas which is slightly higher than the decrease of 1.0 percentage point for Urban areas.

- The weekly expenditure on **restaurants and hotels** as a proportion of income has been generally similar in Rural and Urban areas until 2022/23 when Rural areas spent a greater proportion of their income than Urban areas on this cost. In 2014/15, households in Rural areas spent 6.8% of their disposable income on restaurants and hotels (in Urban areas it was 6.4%). In both Rural and Urban areas, households spent 5 percentage points less of their disposable income on restaurants and hotels in 2020/21 owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. Expenditure on restaurants and hotels has started to recover following the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022/23 expenditure on restaurants and hotels was 1.1 percentage points lower than in 2014/15 in Rural areas (at 5.7%), while in Urban areas spend was 1.5 percentage points lower than 2014/15 (at 4.9%).

Figure C-6: Line charts showing average weekly expenditure (excluding mortgage payments) as a percentage of average weekly disposable income, by commodity or service and Rural-Urban Classification for England, financial years 2014/15 to 2022/23

Scales differ between commodities and services and therefore caution is advised when making comparisons. Not all Y axes start at zero. Commodities and services with expenditure less than 5% of disposable income have not been represented, but are available in the Communities and Households data tables.

Household Expenditure explanatory notes

- **Note C-1**

Average weekly expenditure does not include mortgage payments. Data come from the ONS Living Costs and Food Survey which uses the Classification Of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP) system to classify expenditure items. COICOP is an internationally agreed system of classification for reporting consumption expenditure within National Accounts and is used by other household budget surveys across the European Union. COICOP classified housing costs do not include, what is considered to be, non-consumption expenditure, for example: mortgage interest payments, mortgage capital repayments, mortgage protection premiums, council tax and domestic rates.

- **Note C-2**

The measure of income used here does not include withdrawal of savings, loans and money received in payment of loans, receipts from maturing insurance policies and proceeds from the sale of assets.

- **Note C-3**

Transport costs include the purchase and operation of personal vehicles and fares paid on public vehicles. All journeys are recorded within the transport section. Recreation costs include for example sports

equipment, admission charges, audio-visual equipment, the purchase of CDs, computer equipment and games, pets and horticultural equipment.

- **Note C-4**

The reporting period for weekly expenditure and income changed at the end of 2014 and moved from calendar year (ending in December) to financial year (ending in March). All other variables stayed the same. In this report we only present the data for financial years from 2014/15 onwards but the data for calendar years 2011 to 2014 are included in the Communities and Households data tables.

- **Note C-5**

Table E-1 shows the latest 5 years of data - the full time series can be found within our supplementary tables; the average weekly household expenditure data behind the figures in this section, broken down by Rural-Urban classification are available in available in the Communities and Households data tables.

- **Note C-6**

Source for this section, Office for National Statistics, Living Costs and Food Survey: www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/personalandhouseholdfinances/incomeandwealth/methodologies/livingcostsandfoodsurvey)

D. Police recorded crime and outcomes

The recorded crime rates in Predominantly Rural areas were generally lower than in Predominantly Urban areas; the proportion of offences resulting in a charge/summons was slightly higher.

Summary

Police recorded crime rates can supplement the information on people's experience of crime offered by the Crime Survey. They will be subject to changes in police recording and in people reporting crimes.

For the year ending March 2024, police recorded 59 crimes per 1,000 population (excluding fraud) in Rural areas and 99 crimes per 1,000 population in Urban areas outside of London – a difference of 40 crimes per 1,000 population. When crimes are grouped as: (1) personal crime, (2) robbery/theft, and (3) societal crime, then the data showed "violence without injury", "shoplifting" and "criminal damage and arson" were the most commonly recorded crimes for each of these three categories, respectively.

Overall, the police recorded crime rate in England was lower in 2023/24 than it was in the previous year (2022/23). In Predominantly Rural areas, there were 3.4 more crimes per 1,000 population recorded in 2023/24 than in 2022/23 and in Predominantly Urban areas outside of London, there were 11.2 fewer crimes recorded per 1,000 population in 2023/24 than in 2022/23.

Over the period 2020/21 to 2023/24, total police recorded crime rates have consistently been lower in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas outside of London. London has had the highest recorded crime rate since 2022/23; prior to this, it was Predominantly Urban areas outside of London.

Relatively few incidents recorded in 2023/24 resulted in the offender getting charged/summonsed within the same three months from when the crime was reported; just 9% of all offences resulted in a charge or summons in Predominantly Rural areas, compared with 6% in Predominantly Urban areas.

There are specific Digest sections covering the crime rates and outcomes over time for drug offences, firearm offences, knife crime, hate crime and fly-tipping. Police forces have seized fewer Class B drugs (the most common type) per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas. Imitation firearms were the most common weapon type involved in firearm-enabled crime (which has been consistently less prevalent in Predominantly Rural areas than Predominantly Urban areas). In 2022/23, fly-tipping occurred most commonly on highways, with general household "black bag" waste being the most commonly reported waste type, and the most commonly reported size of the deposit being a small van load.
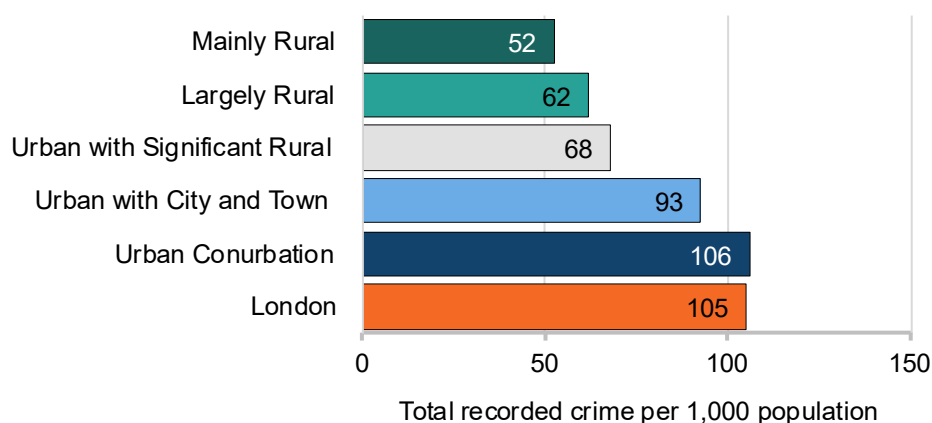
Crime rates in 2023/24

The police recorded crime rate was lower in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas in the period from April 2023 to March 2024. Table D-1 shows that in Predominantly Rural areas overall, the police recorded 59 crimes per 1,000 population (excluding fraud) in 2023/24; this is 40 crimes per 1,000 population less than in Predominantly Urban areas outside of London, and 46 crimes per 1,000 population less than in London.

Table D-1: Police recorded crimes per 1,000 population, by Community Safety Partnership area Rural-Urban Classification, England, year ending March 2024 (Note D-2, Note D-4)

	Total recorded crime per 1,000 population
Predominantly Rural	59
Predominantly Urban (excluding London)	99
London	105
England	**87**

The bar chart in Figure D-1 shows that in the most Rural areas (Mainly Rural), the police recorded 54 fewer crimes per 1,000 people (excluding fraud) than in the most Urban areas outside of London (Urban Conurbation); the crime rates for these settlement types were 52 offences per 1,000 population and 106 offences per 1,000 population respectively.

Figure D-1: Bar chart showing total police recorded crime per 1,000 population, by Community Safety Partnership area detailed Rural-Urban Classification, in England, year ending March 2024 (Note D-2, Note D-3, Note D-4)

Police recorded crimes are grouped into a number of different categories, including: violence against the person (which includes homicide, death or serious injury caused by illegal driving, violence with or without injury, and stalking and harassment); sexual offences; robbery; theft offences (which includes both residential and non-residential burglary, vehicle offences, theft from the person, bicycle theft, shoplifting, and all other theft offences); criminal damage and arson; drug offences; possession of weapon offences; public order offences; miscellaneous crimes against society. These can be combined into **personal crime**, **robbery/theft**, and **societal crime** in order to aid analysis and comparison.

All police recorded offences involving violence against the person or sexual offences have been classed in this publication as **personal crime**. The offence rate for personal crimes is shown in the bar chart in Figure D-2.

In 2023/24, "violence without injury" was the most commonly recorded personal crime, with 9.4 crimes recorded per 1,000 people in Predominantly Rural areas (and 15.7 crimes per 1,000 people in Predominantly Urban areas outside of London).

This is followed by "stalking and harassment", for which there were 7.7 offences per 1,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas and 12.7 offences per 1,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas outside of London.
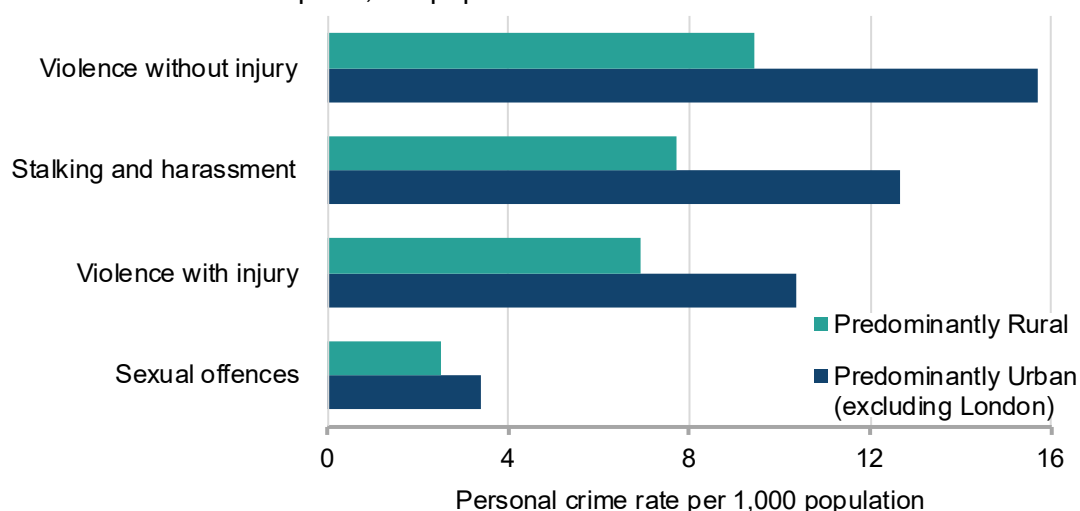
There were 6.9 occurrences of "violence with injury" per 1,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas, compared to 10.4 offences per 1,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas outside of London.

The least commonly recorded crimes were "homicide" and "death/serious injury by illegal driving", for which there were fewer than 0.1 crimes per 1,000 people in Predominantly Rural areas (Note D-2). Of the crimes that are detailed on the bar chart, the least commonly recorded crimes were "sexual offences"; there were 2.5 offences recorded per 1,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas and 3.4 offences recorded per 1,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas outside of London.

Figure D-2: Bar chart showing police recorded personal crimes per 1,000 population, by Community Safety Partnership area Rural-Urban Classification, in England, year ending March 2024 (Note D-2, Note D-3, Note D-4)
The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clustered bars.
"Homicide" and "Death/serious injury by illegal driving" have been excluded from the chart as there were fewer than 0.1 incidents per 1,000 population in 2023/24.

All police recorded offences involving robbery, burglary/theft, and vehicle offences have been classed in this publication as **robbery/theft**. The bar chart in Figure D-3 shows the number of robbery/theft offences recorded in 2023/24. The scale is the same as in Figure D-2 to enable fair comparisons.

The most commonly recorded specific crime in 2023/24 was "shoplifting"; there were 4.9 offences recorded per 1,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas (and 8.6 per 1,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas outside of London).

This is followed by "residential burglary", for which there were 4.4 offences per 1,000 households in Predominantly Rural areas and 8.4 offences per 1,000 households in Predominantly Urban areas outside of London.
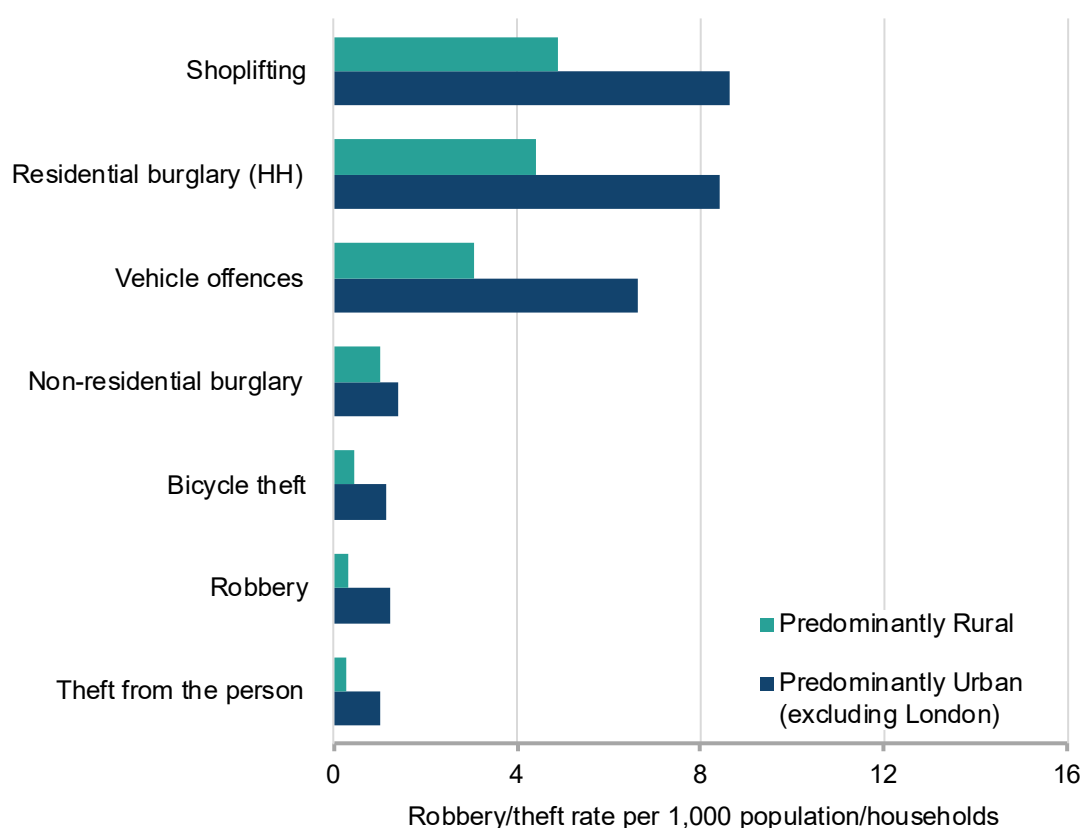
There were 3.1 "vehicle offences" per 1,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas in 2023/24, compared to 6.6 offences per 1,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas outside of London.

For "non-residential burglary", "bicycle theft", and "robbery", there were 1.0 or fewer offences per 1,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas in 2023/24. In Predominantly Urban areas outside of London, there were fewer than 1.5 offences per 1,000 population for these offence groups.

The least commonly recorded crime in Predominantly Rural areas was "theft from the person", for which there were 0.3 offences per 1,000 population (and 1.0 offences per 1,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas outside of London).

Figure D-3: Bar chart showing police recorded robbery/theft offences per 1,000 population/households, by Community Safety Partnership area Rural-Urban Classification, in England, year ending March 2024 (Note D-2, Note D-3, Note D-4)
The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clustered bars. The offence rate for residential burglary is calculated per 1,000 households – as indicated by (HH) - but for all other robbery/theft offences, the crime rate is calculated per 1,000 population.

All police recorded offences involving criminal damage, drugs, weapons, and other crimes against society are classed in this publication as **societal crime**. The bar chart in Figure D-4 shows the police recorded crime rate for societal crimes in 2023/24. The scale is the same as in Figure D-2 and Figure D-3 to enable fair comparisons.

The most commonly recorded societal crime in Predominantly Rural areas was "criminal damage and arson", for which there were 6.5 crimes recorded per 1,000 population; this compares with 9.3 crimes recorded per 1,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas outside of London. The most commonly recorded societal crimes in Predominantly Urban areas outside of London were "public order offences", for which there were 9.4 crimes recorded per 1,000 population (and 5.2 crimes per 1,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas).

In Predominantly Rural areas, there were 1.5 offences per 1,000 population for both "drug offences" and "miscellaneous crimes against society" in 2023/24. In Predominantly Urban areas outside of London, for these offence groups there were 3.4 and 2.2 offences per 1,000 population, respectively.

The least commonly recorded crimes were "possession of weapons offences", for which there were 0.6 offences recorded per 1,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas (and 1.2 offences per 1,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas outside of London).

Figure D-4: Bar chart showing police recorded societal crimes per 1,000 population, by Community Safety Partnership area Rural-Urban Classification, in England, year ending March 2024 (Note D-2, Note D-3, Note D-4)
The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clustered bars.
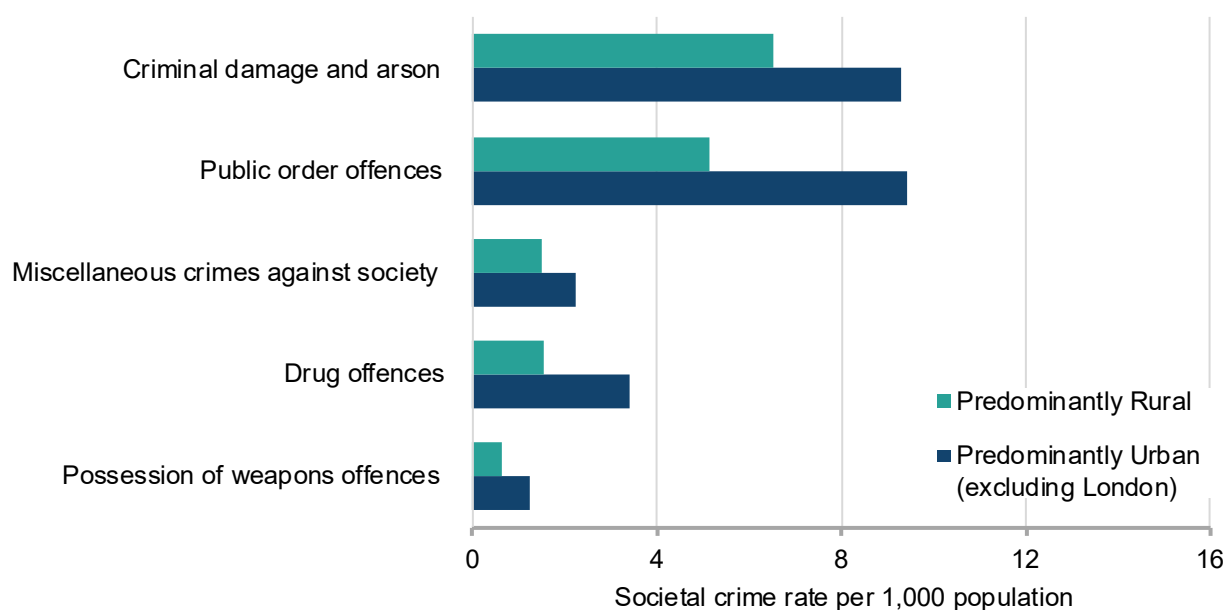

Table D-2 shows the Community Safety Partnership areas with the **highest** recorded crime rates in England, by Rural-Urban Classification, as of year ending March 2024.

County Durham had the highest crime rate in Predominantly Rural areas in 2023/24, with 98 offences recorded per 1,000 population. In Urban with Significant Rural areas, Redcar and Cleveland had the highest crime rate, with 115 offences recorded per 1,000 population.

Outside of London, Middlesbrough had the highest crime rate in Predominantly Urban areas, with 168 offences recorded per 1,000 population.

Table D-2: Community Safety Partnership areas with the highest police recorded crime rate (per 1,000 population), by broad Rural-Urban Classification, in England, year ending March 2024 (Note D-2, Note D-4)

	Area	Offences per 1,000 population
Predominantly Rural	County Durham	98
Urban with Significant Rural	Redcar and Cleveland	115
Predominantly Urban (excluding London)	Middlesbrough	168
London	Westminster	446
England	**Westminster**	**446**

Westminster had the highest crime rate in London, with 446 offences recorded per 1,000 population in 2023/24; however, as Westminster is a tourist destination, the actual population of the area at any given time is likely to be considerably higher than the resident population. Furthermore, as many of these crimes may be committed by people who are not usual residents, the offence rate in Westminster (and any other tourist destinations) should be used with caution.

Table D-3 shows the Community Safety Partnership areas with the **lowest** recorded crime rates in England, by Rural-Urban Classification, as of year ending March 2024.

Table D-3: Community Safety Partnership areas with the lowest police recorded crime rate (per 1,000 population), by broad Rural-Urban Classification, in England, year ending March 2024 (Note D-2, Note D-4)

	Area	Offences per 1,000 population
Predominantly Rural	Isles of Scilly	31
Urban with Significant Rural	Broadland	38
Predominantly Urban (excluding London)	Wokingham	46
London	Richmond upon Thames	61
England	**Isles of Scilly**	**31**

The Isles of Scilly had the lowest crime rate in Predominantly Rural areas in 2023/24, with 31 offences recorded per 1,000 population. In Urban with Significant Rural areas, Broadland had the lowest crime rate, with 38 offences recorded per 1,000 population. Wokingham had the lowest crime rate in Predominantly Urban areas outside of London (46 offences per 1,000 population). In London, Richmond upon Thames had the lowest crime rate, with 61 offences per 1,000 population.

Crime rates: short-term trends

Overall, the police recorded crime rate was lower in 2023/24 than it was in the previous financial year (2022/23), except in Predominantly Rural areas; this is shown in Table D-4. In Predominantly Rural areas, there were 3.4 more crimes per 1,000 population recorded in 2023/24 than in

2022/23. In Predominantly Urban areas outside of London, there were 11.2 fewer crimes per 1,000 population recorded in 2023/24 than in 2022/23.

Table D-4: Change in total police recorded crimes per 1,000 population (excluding fraud), by Community Safety Partnership area Rural-Urban Classification, England, year ending March 2023 to year ending March 2024 (Note D-1, Note D-2, Note D-3, Note D-4)

	Total recorded crime per 1,000 population in 2022/23	Total recorded crime per 1,000 population in 2023/24	Change	
Predominantly Rural	55.4	58.8	3.4	↑
Predominantly Urban (excluding London)	110.1	98.9	-11.2	↓↓
London	126.8	105.1	-21.7	↓↓
England	**91.4**	**87.4**	**-4.0**	↓

Notes

- In Table D-4, crime rates are rounded to the nearest 0.1 offences recorded per 1,000 population, and percentage change is rounded to the nearest 0.1%.
- The percentage change in police recorded crime rate is described with symbols for where it increased (↑), decreased (↓) or stayed the same (—). Indication of change is based on a ±3.0% threshold. Multiple arrows (↑↑,↓↓) indicate a change of ±6.0% or more.

Crime rates: long-term trends

The line chart in Figure D-5 shows the change in total police recorded crime rates between 2020/21 and 2023/24. The police recorded crime rate has been consistently lower in Predominantly Rural areas than in the rest of England.

Figure D-5: Line chart showing the change in total police recorded crimes per 1,000 population (excluding fraud), by Community Safety Partnership area broad Rural-Urban Classification, in England, year ending March 2021 to year ending March 2024 (Note D-1, Note D-2, Note D-3, Note D-4)

(e) = excluding London

In Predominantly Rural areas, there were 53 offences recorded per 1,000 population in 2020/21. This increased to 60 offences per 1,000 population in 2021/22, then fell to 55 offences per 1,000 population in 2022/23. The Rural crime rate increased to 59 offences per 1,000 population in 2023/24; this is an overall increase of 5 offences per 1,000 population since 2020/21.

In Predominantly Urban areas outside of London, there were 86 offences recorded per 1,000 population in 2020/21 (33 more per 1,000 population than in Predominantly Rural areas). This increased to 103 offences per 1,000 population in 2021/22, then increased to 110 per 1,000 population in 2022/23. The Urban crime rate fell to 99 offences per 1,000 population in 2023/24 (40 more per 1,000 population than in Predominantly Rural areas); this is an overall increase of 13 offences per 1,000 population since 2020/21.

In London, there were 83 offences recorded per 1,000 population in 2020/21. This increased to 93 offences per 1,000 population in 2021/22, then increased to 127 offences per 1,000 population in 2022/23. The London crime rate fell to 105 offences per 1,000 population in 2023/24; this is an overall increase of 22 offences per 1,000 population since 2020/21.

The line charts in Figure D-6 show the change in police recorded crime rates for personal crime (left chart), robbery/theft (middle chart), and societal crime (right chart) between 2020/21 and 2023/24. It is detailed as follows:

- In terms of **personal crime** (left chart), in 2020/21 there were 14 fewer offences recorded per 1,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas outside of London (24 and 38 crimes per 1,000 population, respectively). This gap widened in 2021/22, in that there were 18 fewer offences recorded per 1,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas outside of London. The gap widened further in 2022/23 as there were 22 fewer offences recorded per 1,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas outside of London.

  In 2023/24, there were 16 fewer offences per 1,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas outside of London (27 and 42 crimes per 1,000 population, respectively). This means that overall, there were 3 more offences per 1,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas (and 4 more offences per 1,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas outside of London) in 2023/24 than in 2020/21.

- There were 10 fewer **robbery/theft** offences (middle chart) in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas outside of London in 2020/21 (14 and 23 crimes per 1,000 population, respectively).

  This gap widened in 2021/22, in that there were 13 fewer offences recorded per 1,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas outside of London. The gap widened further in 2022/23 as there were 18 fewer offences recorded per 1,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas outside of London.

  In 2023/24, there were 14 fewer offences per 1,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas outside of London (17 and 31 crimes per 1,000 population, respectively). There were 3 more offences recorded per 1,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas (and 8 more offences per 1,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas outside of London) in 2023/24 than in 2020/21.
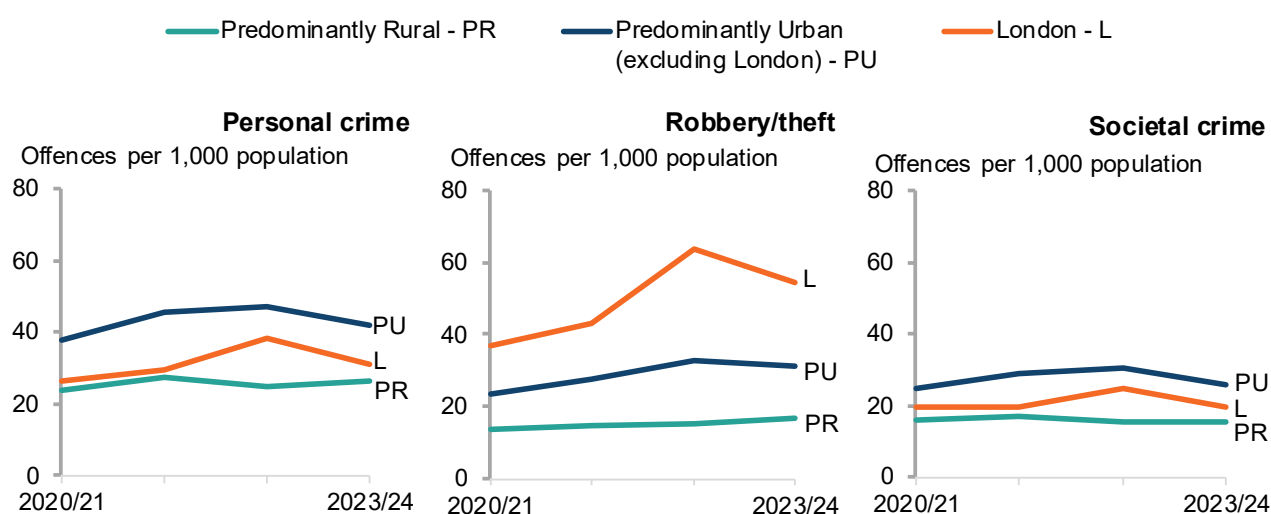
- In 2020/21, there were 9 fewer **societal crimes** (right chart) recorded per 1,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas outside of London (16 and 25 crimes per 1,000 population, respectively).

  This gap widened in 2021/22, in that there were 12 fewer offences recorded per 1,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas outside of London. The gap widened even further in 2022/23 as there were 15 fewer offences recorded per 1,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas outside of London.

  In 2023/24, there were 10 fewer offences recorded per 1,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas outside of London (15 and 26 crimes per 1,000 population, respectively). There was 1 less offence recorded per 1,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas (and 1 more offence recorded per 1,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas outside of London) in 2023/24 than in 2020/21.

Figure D-6: Line charts showing police recorded crime rates for personal crimes (left chart), robbery/theft offences (middle chart), and societal crimes (right chart), per 1,000 population/ households, by Community Safety Partnership area Rural-Urban Classification, year ending March 2021 to year ending March 2024 (Note D-1, Note D-2, Note D-3, Note D-4)

Personal and Societal crime rates are measured per 1,000 population, whilst Robbery/theft rates are measured per 1,000 population/households due to the data given on residential burglaries.

Crime outcomes

Investigative case outcomes are assigned to notifiable offences recorded by the police forces in England; this can highlight the differences in outcome between Rural and Urban areas. The data presented provide a snapshot, at the time of analysis, of the current case status of offences recorded during the year ending March 2024. The outcomes specified within this section were recorded in the same period in which the offence was recorded; this allows crimes to be traced from when they were recorded to when they were given the outcome.

Figure D-7 shows the proportion of crimes assigned to each outcome group in 2023/24:

- 41% of offences in Predominantly Rural areas (and 37% of offences in Predominantly Urban areas) were facing evidential difficulties.

- 32% of offences in Predominantly Rural areas (and 43% of offences in Predominantly Urban areas) had not yet identified a suspect.

- 9% of offences in Predominantly Rural areas (and 6% of offences in Predominantly Urban areas) resulted in a charge/summons.

- 7% of offences in Predominantly Rural areas (and 8% of offences in Predominantly Urban areas) had not yet been assigned an outcome.

- For crimes that were settled out of court, resulted in no further action, were taken into consideration, or were transferred for further investigation by another body, there were fewer than 5% of offences in each outcome group.

Figure D-7: Bar chart showing the rate of outcomes for offences recorded in each quarter, by offence group and Police Force Area Rural-Urban Classification, in England, year ending March 2023 (Note D-2, Note D-4, Note D-6)
The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clustered bars. Only outcome rates greater than 5% are presented on the chart.

Specific crimes

The differences in crime rates and outcomes over time for drug offences, firearm offences, knife crime, hate crime and fly-tipping between Predominantly Rural and Predominantly Urban areas are detailed below.

Drug offences

The Home Office reports data on the seizure of drugs in England and Wales. A single drug seizure can involve more than one type of drug. Table D-5 shows some examples of drugs included within each class, where Class A represents substances most likely to result in the most serious harm.

Table D-5: Examples of controlled drugs within each class

	Examples of drugs
Class A	Cocaine, Crack, Ecstasy (MDMA), Heroin, LSD, Methadone, Morphine
Class B	Cannabis, Amphetamines, Barbiturates, Ketamine, non-injected Mephedrone
Class C	Anabolic Steroids, Benzodiazepines, GHB, Temazepam

It should be noted that certain Class C controlled drugs (such as anabolic steroids, Valium, etc.) can be obtained through a legitimate doctor's prescription and therefore seizures are only recorded when they are obtained/possessed illegitimately.

The bar chart in Figure D-8 shows the total number of different classes of drugs seized per 100,000 population in 2022/23; there were proportionally fewer seizures of Class B drugs in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas, but there were proportionally more seizures of Class A or Class C drugs.

For all settlement types, more Class B drugs were seized than any other class; in Predominantly Rural areas, there were 202 seizures of Class B drugs per 100,000 population, compared with 213 seizures per 100,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas.
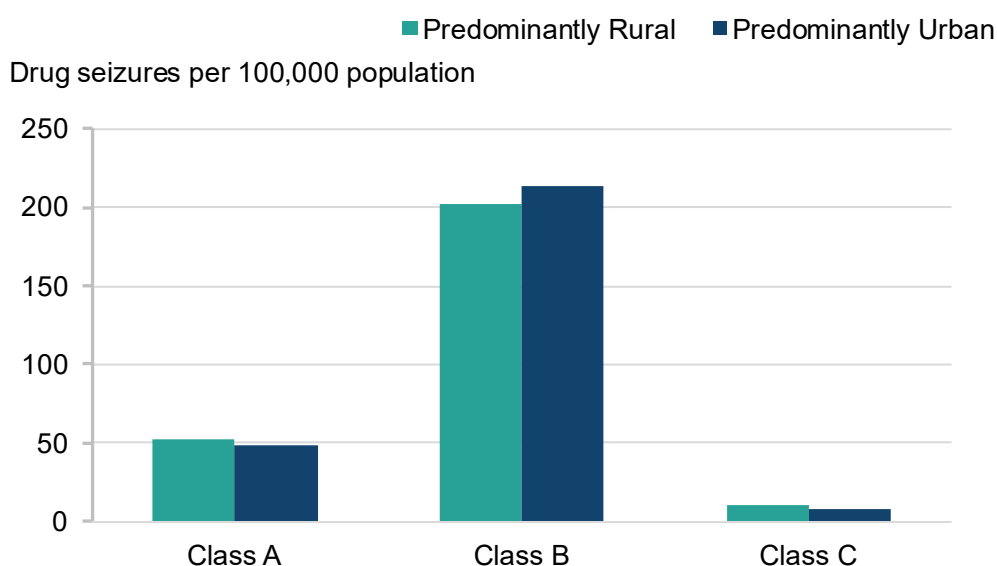
In 2022/23, there were 52 seizures of Class A drugs per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas, compared with 48 seizures per 100,000 population by police forces in Predominantly Urban areas.

In Predominantly Rural areas there were 11 seizures of Class C drugs per 100,000 population, compared with 8 seizures per 100,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas.

Figure D-8: Bar chart showing drug seizures per 100,000 population, by drug classification and Police Force Area broad Rural-Urban Classification, in England, year ending March 2023 (Note D-2, Note D-3, Note D-4, Note D-6)

The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clustered columns.

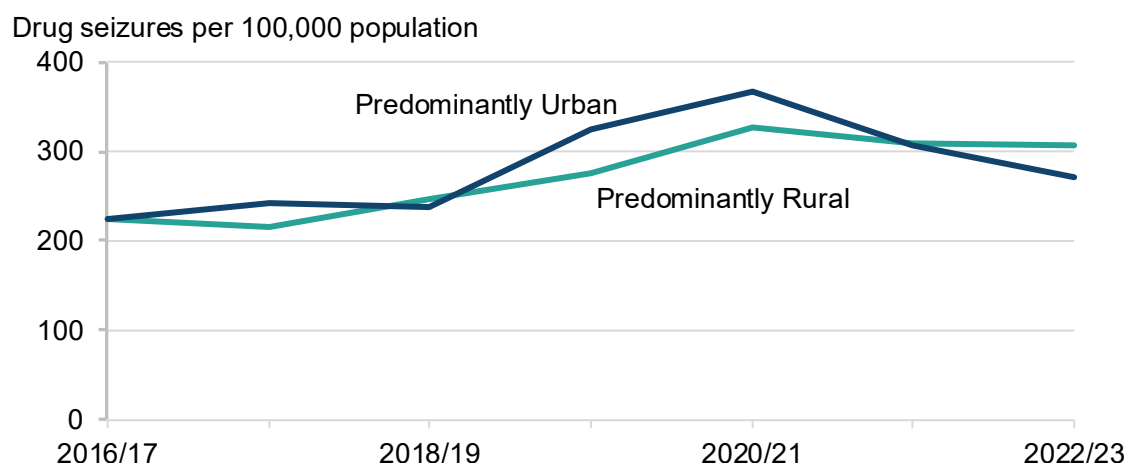Table D-5 provides examples of drugs within each classification.

The change in rate of drug seizures per 100,000 population by Police Force Area in England is presented as a line chart in Figure D-9. Generally, there were proportionally fewer seizures in

Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas throughout the time series, however this was not the case in the most recent data.

In 2016/17, there were 225 drug seizures per 100,000 population in both Predominantly Rural and Predominantly Urban Police Force Areas. There were proportionally fewer seizures in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas in 2017/18, but in 2018/19, seizure rates were similar once again. In 2019/20 and 2020/21, there were proportionally fewer drug seizures in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas (48 per 100,000 population fewer in 2019/20; 40 per 100,000 population fewer in 2020/21). In 2021/22, drug seizure rates were similar in Predominantly Rural and Predominantly Urban police forces, with 310 and 306 seizures per 100,000 population respectively.

In 2022/23, police forces in Predominantly Rural areas made 307 drug seizures per 100,000 population, compared to 271 seizures per 100,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas.

Figure D-9: Line chart showing the change in drug seizures per 100,000 population, by Police Force Area broad Rural-Urban Classification, in England, year ending March 2017 to year ending March 2023 (Note D-1, Note D-2, Note D-3, Note D-4, Note D-6)
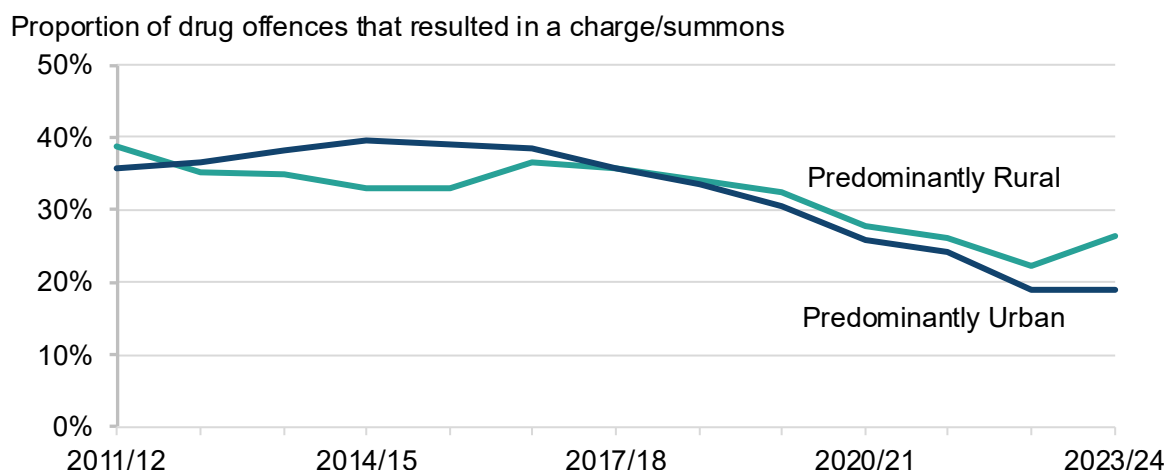

The line chart in Figure D-10 shows the proportion of drug-related offences that resulted in the suspect being charged or summonsed between 2011/12 and 2023/24. This includes trafficking in controlled drugs, possession of controlled drugs, and any other drug-related offences. The change in the charge/summons rate of drug offences can be summarised as follows:

- In 2011/12, proportionally more drug offences resulted in a charge/summons in Predominantly Rural areas (39%) than in Predominantly Urban areas (36%).

- From 2012/13 to 2016/17, fewer drug offences resulted in a charge/summons in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas.

- In 2017/18 and 2018/19, the charge/summons rate was equal in Predominantly Rural and Predominantly Urban areas (36% and 34% respectively) for drug-related offences.

- Between 2019/20 and 2023/24, proportionally more drug offences resulted in a charge/summons in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas. In 2023/24, the charge/summons rate was 7 percentage points higher for police forces in

Predominantly Rural areas (26%) than in Predominantly Urban areas (19%) for drug-related offences.

Figure D-10: Line chart showing the proportion of drug offences that resulted in a charge or summons, by Police Force Area broad Rural-Urban Classification, year ending March 2012 to year ending March 2024 (Note D-1, Note D-2, Note D-3, Note D-4, Note D-6)
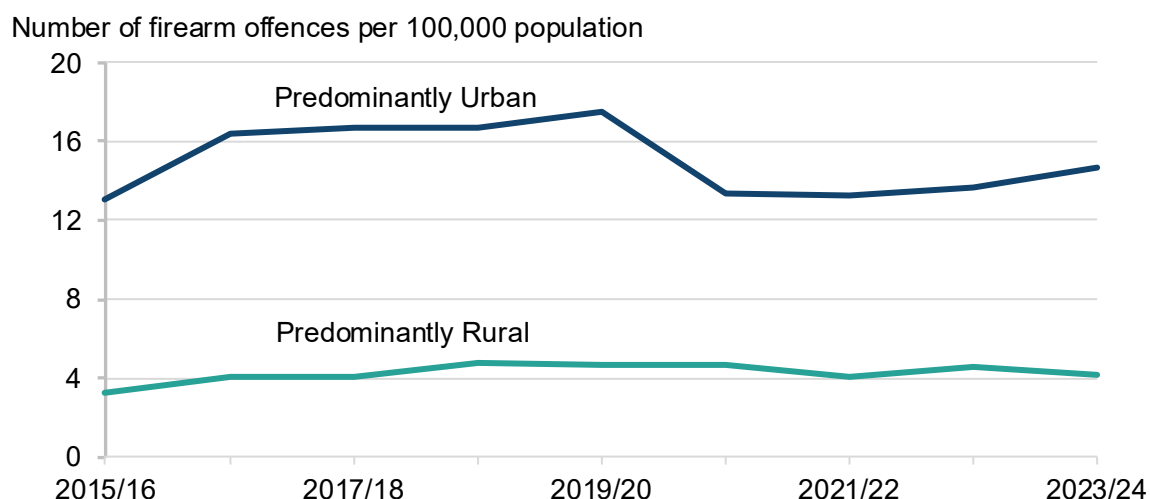
Proportion of drug offences that resulted in a charge/summons

Firearm crime

Offences involving a firearm are recorded as those where a firearm has been fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person, or used as a threat. Data also include imitation firearms, low-powered weapons which fire small plastic pellets (BB guns, soft air weapons), gas/pepper spray, stun guns and other weapons. Offences involving air weapons are not included.

The line chart in Figure D-11 shows the total number of firearm offences recorded per 100,000 population between 2015/16 and 2023/24. The rate of firearm offences recorded was consistently lower in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas.

- In 2015/16, there were 3.3 firearm offences recorded per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas, compared to 13.0 offences recorded per 100,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas.

- The gap widened in 2016/17, such that there were 12.3 fewer offences recorded per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas.

- The gap continued to widen into 2017/18,but was reduced in 2018/19 due to an increase in firearm offences recorded in Predominantly Rural areas (4.7 offences per 100,000 population).

- The gap between offences recorded was widest in 2019/20, with 12.8 fewer offences recorded per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas compared to Predominantly Urban areas; this was driven by an increase in firearm offences in Predominantly Urban areas (17.5 offences per 100,000 population), as the offence rate in Predominantly Rural areas remained the same from 2018/19 to 2020/21.

- In 2020/21, the offence rate in Predominantly Urban areas fell to 13.4 offences per 100,000 population, effectively reducing the gap between settlement types.

- Between 2021/22 and 2023/24, offence rates remained fairly stable; in 2023/24, there were 4.2 firearm offences recorded per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas, and 14.6 offences recorded per 100,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas.

Figure D-11: Line chart showing police recorded firearm offences per 100,000 population, by Police Force Area broad Rural-Urban Classification, England, year ending March 2016 to year ending March 2024 (Note D-1, Note D-2, Note D-3, Note D-4, Note D-6, Note D-7)

Number of firearm offences per 100,000 population

The bar chart in Figure D-12 shows the number of firearm offences per 100,000 population in 2023/24 by weapon category. The most commonly recorded firearm offence involved the use of imitation firearms, for which there were 2.4 offences recorded per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas, and 5.6 offences recorded per 100,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas.
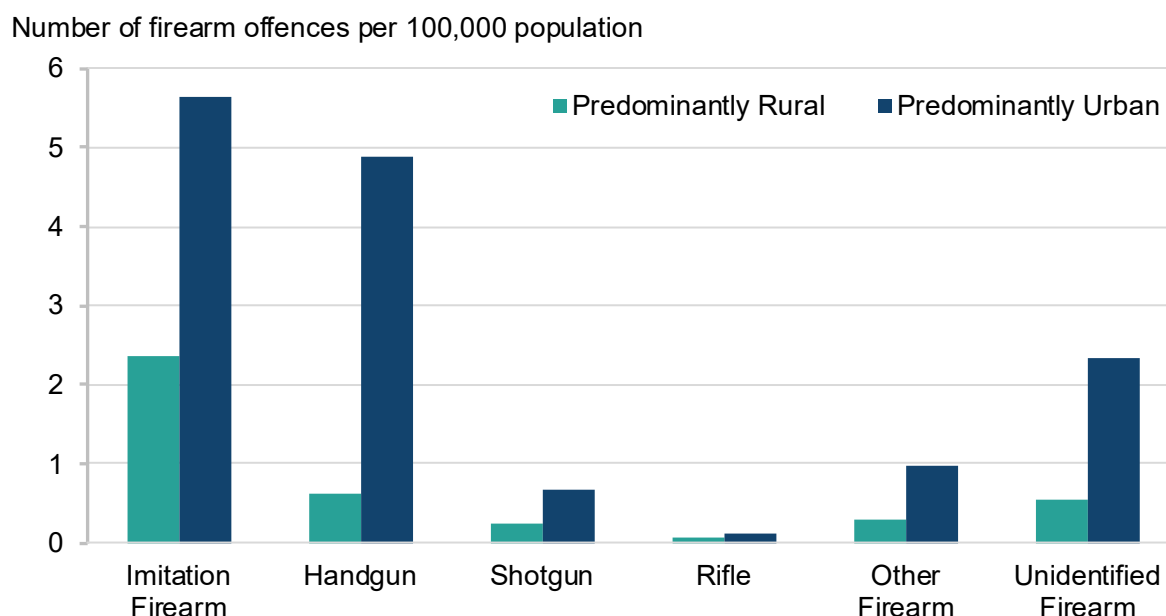
For police forces in Predominantly Rural areas, there were:

- 3.3 fewer offences recorded per 100,000 population involving **imitation firearms** than in Predominantly Urban areas,

- 4.3 fewer offences recorded per 100,000 population involving **handguns** than in Predominantly Urban areas,

- 0.4 fewer offences recorded per 100,000 population involving **shotguns** than in Predominantly Urban areas,

- A similar rate of offences recorded involving **rifles** as in Predominantly Urban areas,

- 0.7 fewer offences recorded per 100,000 population involving **other firearms** than in Predominantly Urban areas,

- 1.8 fewer offences recorded per 100,000 population involving **firearms that could not be identified** than in Predominantly Urban areas.

Figure D-12: Bar chart showing police recorded firearm offences per 100,000 population, by weapon category and Police Force Area Rural-Urban Classification, year ending March 2024 (Note D-2, Note D-3, Note D-4, Note D-6, Note D-7)

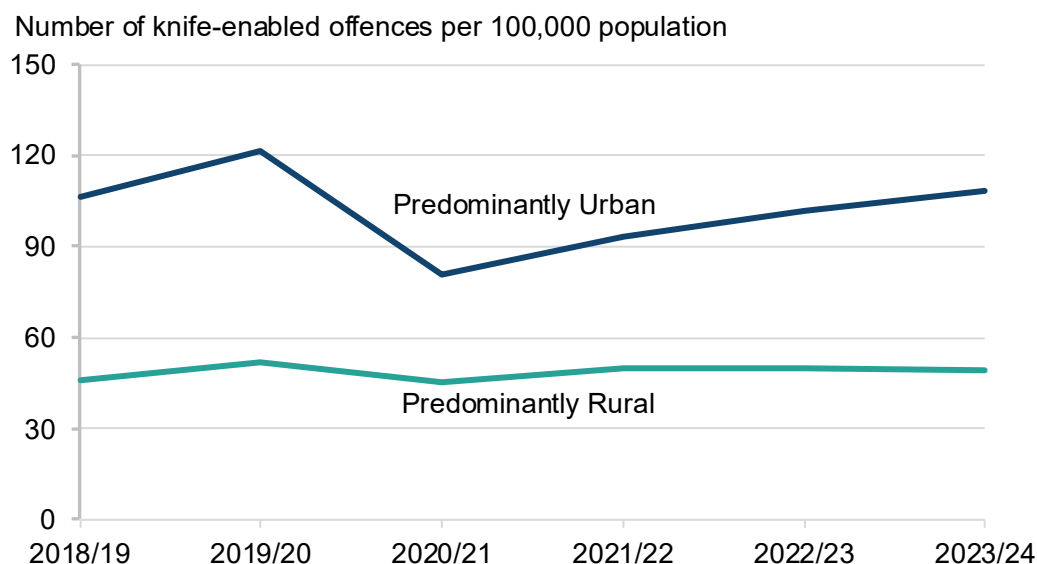The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clustered columns.

Number of firearm offences per 100,000 population

Knife crime

Data on offences involving knives or sharp instruments include: homicide, attempted murder, threats to kill, assault with injury/intent to cause serious harm, robbery, rape, and sexual assault. The line chart in Figure D-13 presents the number of knife or sharp instrument offences recorded by the police for these selected offences per 100,000 population. There were fewer knife-enabled offences recorded per 100,000 population by police forces in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas between 2018/19 and 2023/24.

The time series can be summarised as follows:

- In 2018/19, there were 46 knife-enabled offences recorded per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas, compared to 107 offences recorded per 100,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas.

- The gap between these settlement types widened in 2019/20, as there were 70 fewer offences recorded per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas.

- In 2020/21, the gap effectively halved due to a sharp decrease in the offence rate in Predominantly Urban areas; there were 45 knife-enabled offences recorded per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas, and 81 offences recorded per 100,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas.

- Between 2021/22 and 2023/24, the offence rate in Predominantly Rural areas remained fairly stable, whilst in Predominantly Urban areas there was a gradual increase over time. In 2023/24, there were 60 fewer knife-enabled offences recorded per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas (49 offences per 100,000 population) than in Predominantly Urban areas (109 offences per 100,000 population).

Figure D-13: Line chart showing police recorded knife-enabled offences per 100,000 population, by Police Force Area Rural-Urban Classification, in England, year ending March 2019 to year ending March 2024 (Note D-1, Note D-2, Note D-3, Note D-4, Note D-6, Note D-8)

Number of knife-enabled offences per 100,000 population

Hate crime

Any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic is defined as a hate crime. Figure D-14 shows the number of hate crimes recorded per 100,000 population by motivating factor (i.e., race, sexual orientation, disability, religion, transgender identity) in 2022/23. There were fewer police recorded hate crimes per 100,000 population across all selected motivating factors in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas in 2022/23.

Across all areas, **race** was the largest motivating factor for hate crime; there were 91 offences recorded per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas, and 231 offences recorded per 100,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas.
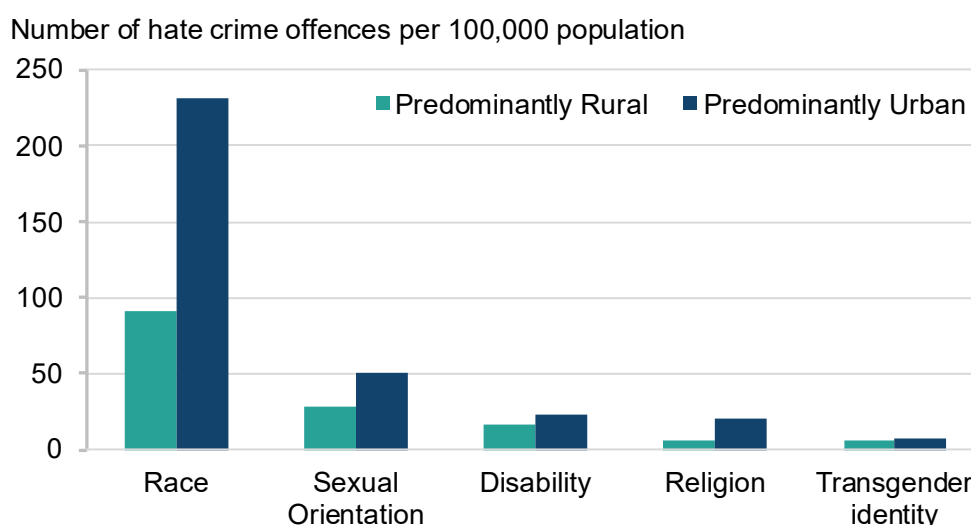
The other selected motivating factors can be summarised as follows; in 2022/23 in Predominantly Rural areas, there were:

- 22 fewer hate crimes related to **sexual orientation** recorded per 100,000 population (29 offences per 100,000 population) than in Predominantly Urban areas (51 offences per 100,000 population),

- 7 fewer hate crimes related to **disability** recorded per 100,000 population (16 offences per 100,000 population) than in Predominantly Urban areas (23 offences per 100,000 population),

- 15 fewer hate crimes related to **religion** recorded per 100,000 population (6 offences per 100,000 population) than in Predominantly Urban areas (21 offences per 100,000 population),

- 2 fewer hate crimes related to **transgender identity** recorded per 100,000 population (6 offences per 100,000 population) than in Predominantly Urban areas (8 offences per 100,000 population).
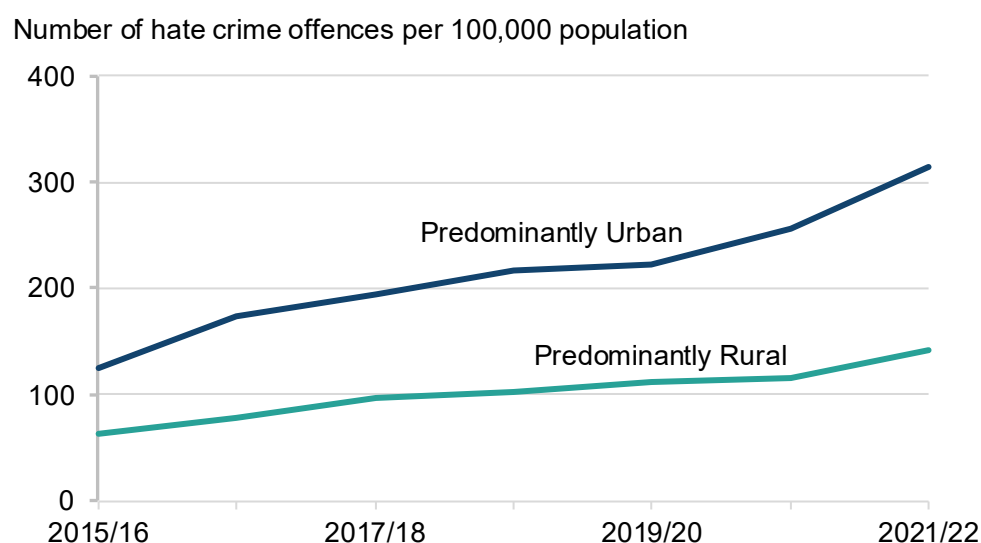
Figure D-14: Bar chart showing police recorded hate crimes per 100,000 population, by motivating factor and Police Force Area Rural-Urban Classification, year ending March 2023 (Note D-2, Note D-4, Note D-6)

The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clustered columns.

Number of hate crime offences per 100,000 population

The line chart in Figure D-15 shows the total number of hate crime offences recorded per 100,000 population between 2015/16 and 2021/22.

Figure D-15: Line chart showing police recorded hate crimes per 100,000 population, by Police Force Area Rural-Urban Classification, England, year ending March 2016 to year ending March 2023 (Note D-1, Note D-2, Note D-4, Note D-6)

Number of hate crime offences per 100,000 population

There were consistently fewer police recorded hate crime offences in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas, and the gap is widening over time; in 2015/16, there were 63 fewer offences recorded per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas, but in 2021/22, there were 172 fewer police recorded offences per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas. However, the number of hate crime offences recorded has been increasing across both Predominantly Rural and Predominantly Urban areas between 2015/16 and 2021/22.

Fly-tipping

Illegal dumping, also known as fly-tipping, is the illegal deposit of any waste on to land that does not have a license to accept it.

Land types are categorised as: highway, council land, footpath/bridleway, back alleyway, private/residential, commercial/industrial, watercourse, railway, or agricultural.

Waste type can be categorised as: household, commercial, electrical (including white goods), construction/demolition/excavation, animal carcasses, green, vehicle parts, tyres, chemical, or clinical.

The **size of the deposit** is categorised by load, e.g., a single item or black bag, up to a tipper lorry load or larger.

The bar chart in Figure D-16 shows the number of fly-tipping incidents reported per 100,000 population, by **land type** and Local Authority Rural-Urban Classification, in 2022/23.

For all of the selected land types (except for agricultural incidents), there were fewer fly-tipping incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas in 2022/23. There were 9 agricultural fly-tipping incidents per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas, compared to 5 incidents per 100,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas.

The most commonly reported land type was fly-tipping onto a highway, for which there were 372 incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas, compared to 961 incidents per 100,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas.
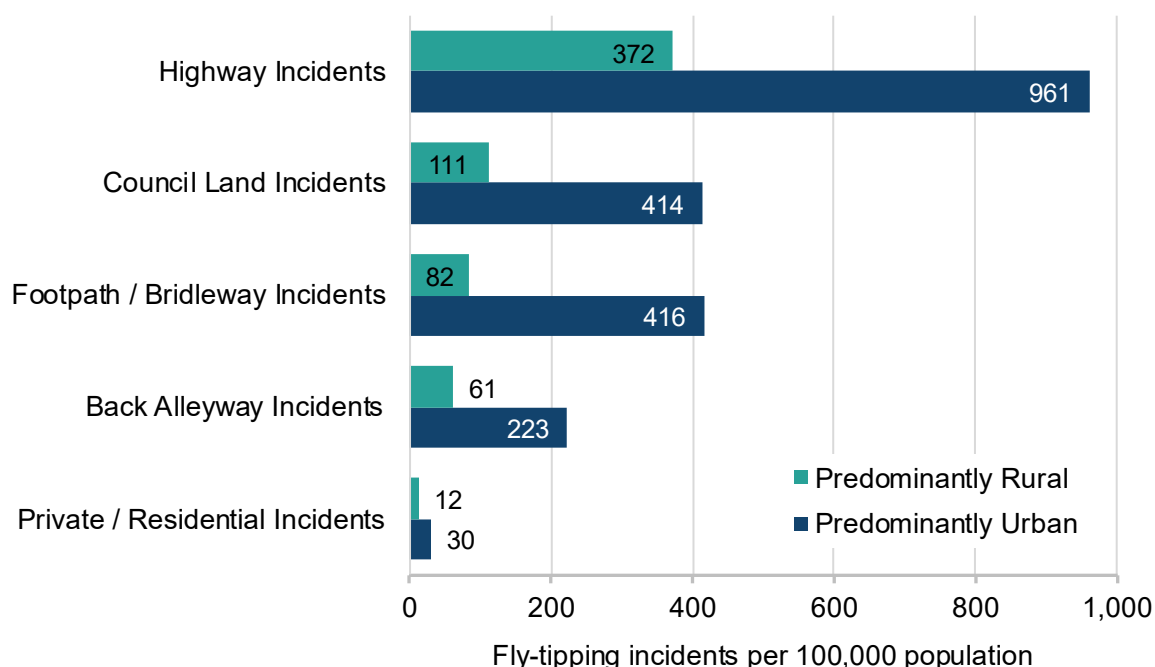
The second most commonly reported land type was fly-tipping onto council land, for which there were 111 incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas; this compares to 414 incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Urban Authorities.

The least commonly reported land type was fly-tipping onto a railway, for which there were less than 1 incident per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas, and 3 incidents per 100,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas. Of the land types specified on the chart, the least commonly reported land type was private/residential incidents; here, there were 12 incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas, compared to 30 incidents per 100,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas.

Figure D-16: Bar chart showing the number of fly-tipping incidents reported per 100,000 population, by selected land types and Local Authority Rural-Urban Classification, England, year ending March 2023 (Note D-4, Note D-9)

The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clustered bars.

"Railway incidents", "Commercial/Industrial incidents", "Watercourse Incidents", and "Agricultural Incidents" have been excluded from the chart as there were fewer than 10 incidents recorded per 100,000 population.

The bar chart in Figure D-17 shows the number of fly-tipping incidents reported per 100,000 population, by **waste type** and Local Authority Rural-Urban Classification, in 2022/23.

For all of the selected waste types (except tyres incidents and asbestos incidents), there were fewer fly-tipping incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas in 2022/23. There were 17 more tyres incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas. There were 4 more asbestos incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban Authorities.
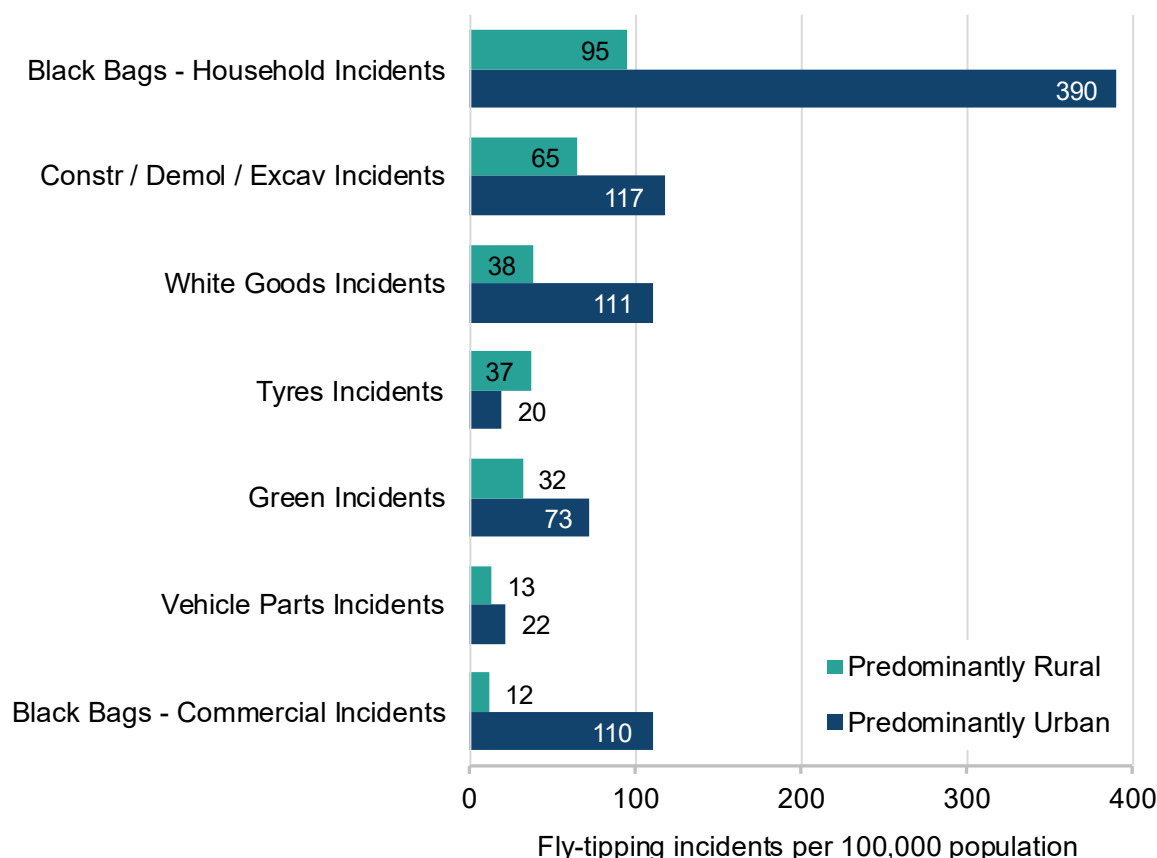
The most commonly reported waste type was household black bags; there were 95 incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas, and 390 incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas.

The least commonly reported waste type was clinical incidents; there was 1 incident reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas, compared to 3 incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas. Of the waste types specified on the chart, the least commonly reported waste type was commercial black bags; there were 12 incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas, and 110 incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas.

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Figure D-17: Bar chart showing the number of fly-tipping incidents reported per 100,000 population, by selected waste types and Local Authority Rural-Urban Classification, England, year ending March 2023 (Note D-4, Note D-9)

The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clustered bars.

"Clinical Incidents", "Animal Carcass incidents", "Asbestos Incidents", and "Chemical Drums, Oil, Fuel Incidents" have been excluded from the chart as there were fewer than 10 incidents recorded per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas.

The bar chart in Figure D-18 shows the number of fly-tipping incidents reported per 100,000 population, by **size of waste deposit** and Local Authority Rural-Urban Classification, in 2022/23.

For all selected waste sizes, there were fewer fly-tipping incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas in 2022/23.
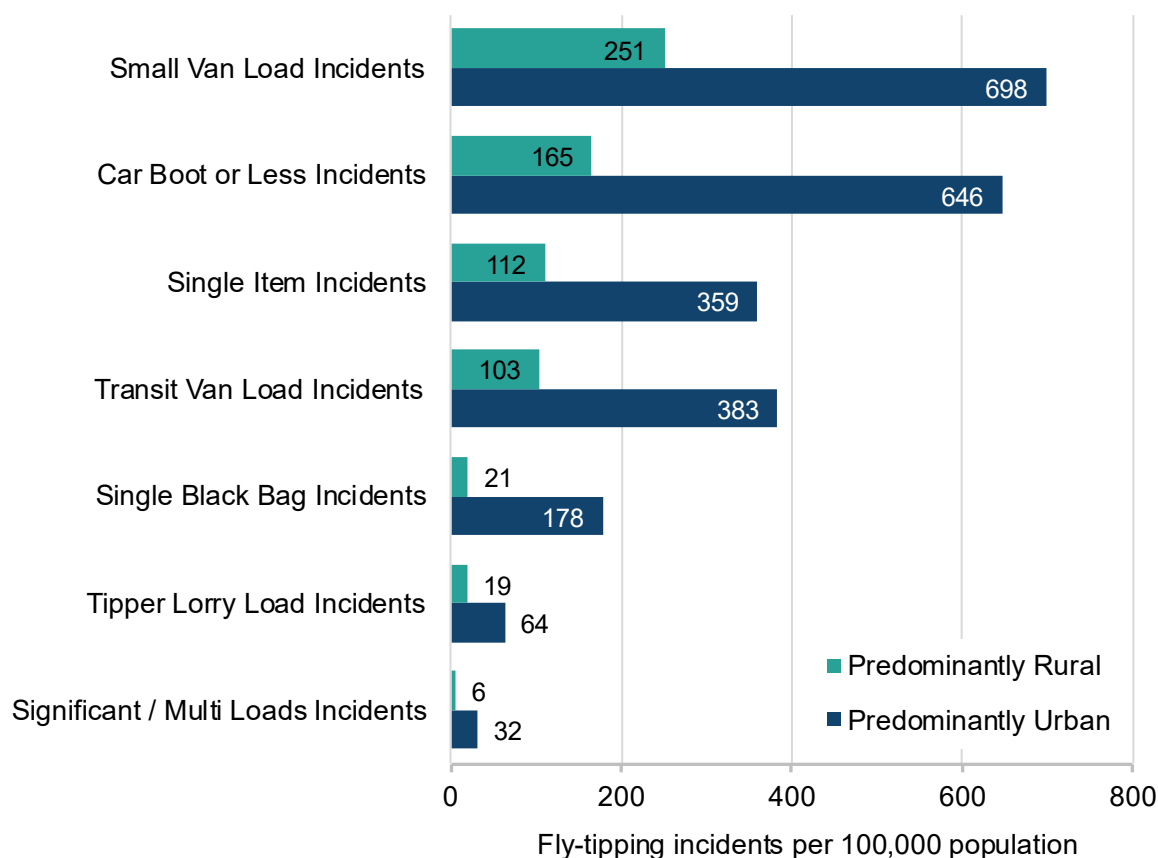
The most commonly reported waste size was small van load incidents; there were 251 incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas compared to 698 incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas.

The second most commonly reported waste size was a car boot or less; there were 165 incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas, and 646 incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas.

The least commonly reported waste size was significant or multi-load incidents; there were 6 incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas, and 32 incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas.

Figure D-18: Bar chart showing the number of fly-tipping incidents reported per 100,000 population, by size of waste deposit and Local Authority Rural-Urban Classification, England, year ending March 2023 (Note D-4, Note D-9)

The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clustered bars.

Fly-tipping incidents per 100,000 population

The line chart in Figure D-19 shows the **total number of fly-tipping incidents reported** per 100,000 population between 2019/20 and 2022/23. There have been consistently proportionally fewer incidents reported in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas.

In 2019/20, there were 643 fly-tipping incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas, compared to 2,233 incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas; this means there were 1,591 fewer incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas than Predominantly Urban areas.

The number of fly-tipping incidents reported increased in both settlement types in 2020/21; in Predominantly Rural areas, there were 876 incidents reported per 100,000 population, compared to 2,513 incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas. This was the highest level of fly-tipping incidents reported across the period.

Between 2020/21 and 2021/22, the number of fly-tipping incidents decreased such that there were 733 incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas (and 2,412 incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas).

In 2022/23, there were 1,756 fewer incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas (686 incidents per 100,000 population) than in Predominantly Urban areas (2,441 incidents per 100,000 population).

Figure D-19: Line chart showing the total number of fly-tipping incidents reported per 100,000 population, by broad Local Authority Rural-Urban Classification, England, year ending March 2020 to year ending March 2023 (Note D-4, Note D-9)

Number of fly-tipping incidents per 100,000 population

Notes:
- Data included within this section refers to financial years rather than calendar years (e.g., 2022/23 refers to the period from April 2022 to March 2023).
- Scales differ for some figures, and therefore caution is advised when making comparisons between crime rates.

Crime explanatory notes

- **Note D-1**

The way crimes are recorded by the police and the likelihood of victims reporting crimes may change over time. Figures on recorded crime may not be a reliable measure of year-on-year trends.

- **Note D-2**

Caution must be taken when interpreting small numbers of offences.
Following the implementation of a new IT system in November 2022, Devon and Cornwall Police have been unable to supply data for the quarters spanning October 2022 to March 2023. They are therefore not included in Rural totals.
The number of offences for Greater Manchester Police Community Safety Partnership area are slightly higher than expected due to some offences being incorrectly allocated to two CSPs; as a result, there may be some revisions to the source data in future once this has been rectified.

- **Note D-3**

Unlike the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), recorded crime figures do not include crimes that have not been reported to the police or incidents that the police decide not to record. It was estimated in the year ending March 2020 CSEW that around 42% of CSEW comparable crimes were reported by the public to the police, although this proportion varied considerably for individual offence types. For more information see: Crime in England and Wales QMI - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk).

- **Note D-4**

Rates per population are created using mid-year population estimates calculated by the Office for National Statistics. Rural and Urban totals do not include data for the British Transport Police as no location/classification can be assigned.

- **Note D-5**

Sources:

1 - Crime in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

2 - Crime outcomes in England and Wales 2023 to 2024 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

3 - Seizures of drugs in England and Wales, financial year ending 2023 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

4 - Hate crime, England and Wales, 2021 to 2022 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

5 - Fly-tipping statistics for England, 2022 to 2023 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

- **Note D-6**

A Police Force Area Rural-Urban Classification has been created to determine whether a police force operates over Predominantly Rural or Predominantly Urban areas; due to the large size of Police Force Area, it would not be feasible to attempt to describe rurality in more detail. Please contact rural.statistics@defra.gov.uk for more information.

- **Note D-7**

Data on firearm-enabled crime does not include figures for Devon and Cornwall; following the implementation of a new IT system in November 2022, Devon and Cornwall Police have been unable to supply data. Therefore, Predominantly Rural and England totals represent those classifications minus the Devon and Cornwall area. For more information, please visit Crime in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk).

- **Note D-8**

Data on knife-enabled crime does not include figures for Greater Manchester due to IT issues with supplying offence data. Therefore, Predominantly Urban totals and England totals represent those classifications minus the Greater Manchester area. For more information, please visit Police recorded offences involving knives or sharp instruments: methodology changes - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk) or Crime in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk).

- **Note D-9**

Data on fly-tipping incidents are derived from a variety of sources. Fly-tipping returns for some Local Authorities may be missing, incomplete or found to contain errors during Defra's quality assurance process. In these cases, some or all of the totals may be unavailable for those Local Authorities. For more information, please visit Fly-tipping statistics for England, 2022 to 2023 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

E. Crime Surveys: Local Police and Businesses

In Rural areas, residents had more confidence in the police than Urban residents, and victim rates were typically lower for all crimes except for computer misuse.

Summary

Information from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), that deals with perceptions of crime, and the Commercial Victimisation Survey (CVS) have been grouped into a single section. The CSEW monitors the experience of crime in England and Wales whether or not it has been reported to the police, whilst the CVS monitors crime against businesses.

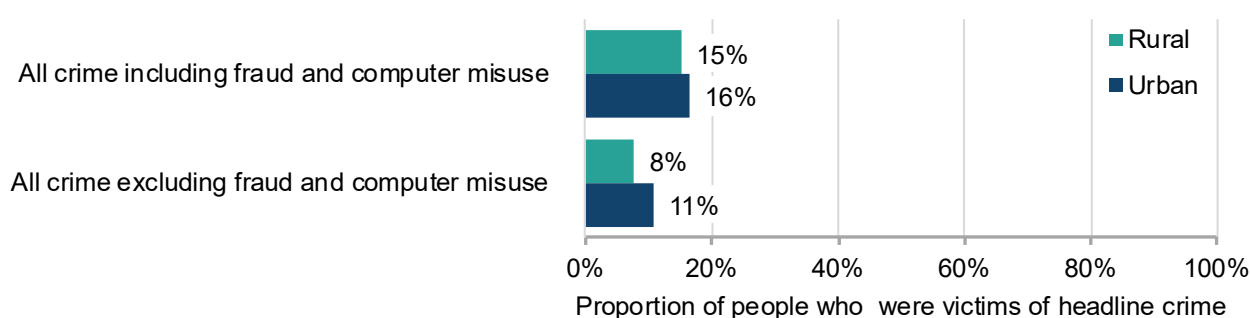For both Rural and Urban areas, 16- to 24-year-olds were the least likely to experience headline crime (this includes theft, robbery, criminal damage, violence with or without injury, and optionally, fraud and computer misuse), based on survey responses in year ending March 2024; 25- to 44-year-olds were the most likely. Respondents in Rural areas generally had more positive responses to statements regarding the local police compared to those in Urban areas. People in Rural areas had a higher level of confidence in their local police compared to those in Urban areas (68% and 65%, respectively). Just 3% of respondents in Rural areas felt that the police were sufficiently visible through foot patrols, compared to 14% in Urban areas.

For all offence groups except theft, assault or threat, and robbery, a higher proportion of business premises in Rural areas reported experiencing crime during 2023. The most commonly reported offence was computer misuse (14% of premises with computers in Rural areas; 8% in Urban areas).

Crime Survey for England and Wales

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) monitors the experience of crime whether or not it has been reported to the police; data on police recorded crime is presented in Section D. The CSEW is used to evaluate and develop crime reduction policies and provides vital information about the changing levels of crime. The results presented in this section are based on the perceptions of survey respondents from financial years 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Victims of headline crime

The CSEW provides estimates of **headline crime**; this includes theft, robbery, criminal damage, violence with or without injury, and optionally, fraud and computer misuse. The bar chart in Figure E-1 shows the proportion of respondents who were victims of headline crime in 2023/24.

Fraud and computer misuse are responsible for a large proportion of crime. When including fraud and computer misuse as headline crimes, 15% of people in Rural areas reported being victims of headline crimes at least once in the year ending March 2024; this is 1 percentage point lower than in Urban areas (16%). When excluding fraud and computer misuse as headline crimes, 8% of people in Rural areas reported being victims of headline crimes at least once in year ending March 2024; this is 3 percentage points lower than in Urban areas (11%).

Including fraud and computer misuse within the headline crimes increases the proportion of victims by 7 percentage points in Rural areas, and by 6 percentage points in Urban areas. This indicates that proportionally more people are victims of fraud and computer misuse in Rural areas than Urban areas, as of year ending March 2024.

Figure E-1: Bar chart showing the proportion of respondents who were victims of headline crime, by Rural-Urban Classification, England, year ending March 2024 (Note E-2)
The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clusters of bars.

Data from the CSEW can often be broken down by age of respondent. The bar chart in Figure E-2 shows the proportion of people who had been victims of any headline crime (including fraud and computer misuse) in Quarter 2 (Q2; April to June) 2024, by age band.

For all age bands, proportionally fewer experience crime in Rural areas than Urban areas. People aged 25 to 44, and 45 to 64, are most likely to experience crime; The victim rate was lowest for 16- to 24-year-olds, followed by the victim rates for 25- to 44-year-olds and 45- to 64-year-olds being
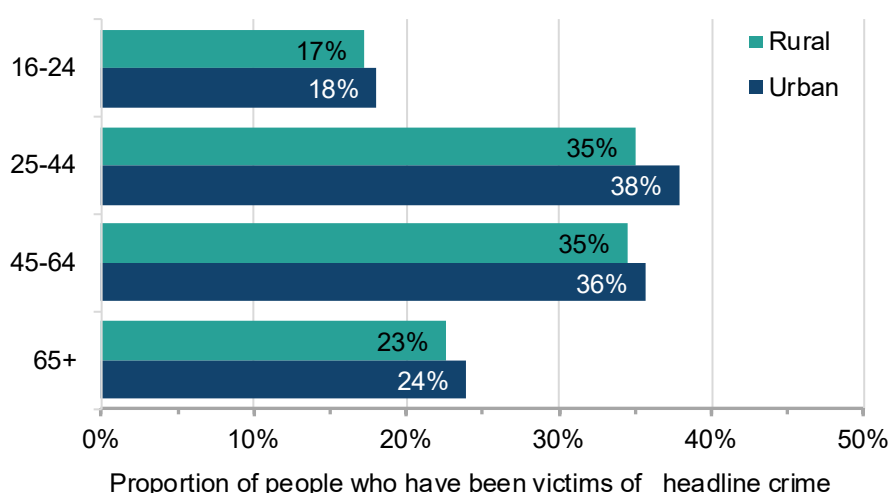
around twice as high. For people aged 65 and above, the victim rate was lower than that of 25- to 64-year-olds.

The findings for each age band are as follows:

- Similar proportions of 16- to 24-year-olds in Rural and Urban areas experienced headline crime in Q2 2024 (17% and 18%, respectively). These were the lowest proportions seen across age bands. However, this age band also had the lowest number of responses (with only 185 in Rural areas and 1,566 in Urban areas), and so the estimates are less reliable than for other age bands.

- The proportion of 25- to 44-year-olds who had been victims of headline crime in Rural areas was 3 percentage points lower than in Urban areas (35% and 38%, respectively). The proportions of 45- to 64-year-olds who experienced headline crime were similar, at 35% in Rural areas and 36% in Urban areas.

- Similar proportions of people aged 65 and over in Rural and Urban areas were victims of headline crime (23% and 24%, respectively).

Figure E-2: Bar chart showing the proportion of respondents who were victims of headline crime (including fraud and computer misuse) at least once, by age band and Rural-Urban Classification, England, Quarter 2 2024 (Note E-2)
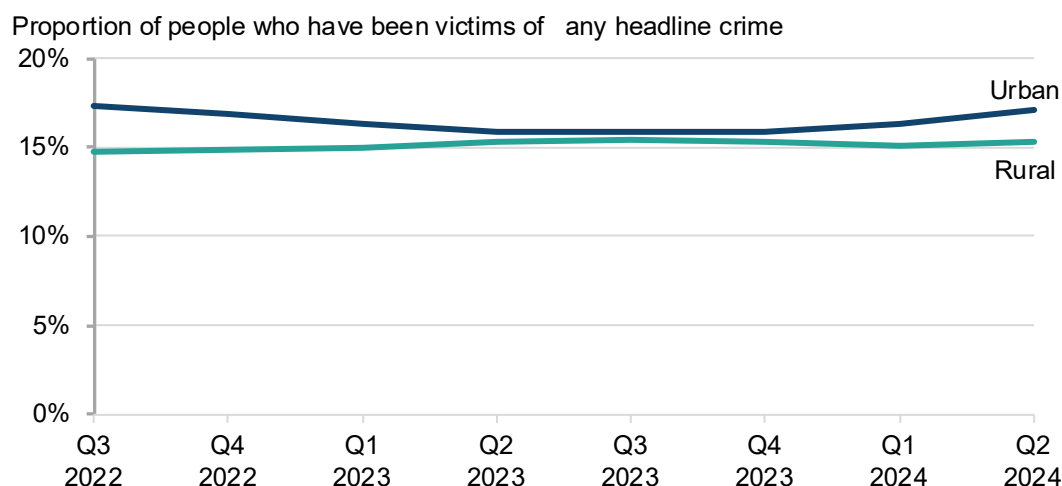The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clusters of bars.

The line chart in Figure E-3 shows the proportion of people who had been victims of any headline crime (including fraud and computer misuse) between Quarter 3 (Q3; July to September) 2022 and Quarter 2 (Q2; April to June) 2024.

There were lower victim rates for headline crime in Rural areas than in Urban areas. Headline crime victim rates remained at around 15% in Rural areas across the period (varying from 14.7% to 15.4%). In Urban areas, they decreased from 17% to 16%, and then returned to 17% (fluctuating from 17.3% to 15.8%). Whilst Urban headline crime victim rates decreased slightly to a lower rate of around 16% in Q2 2023 to Q4 2023, in Rural areas, it instead increased marginally during the same period.

Figure E-3: Line chart showing the proportion of respondents who were victims of headline crime (including fraud and computer misuse) at least once, by Rural-Urban Classification, England, Quarter 3 2022 to Quarter 2 2024 (Note E-2)

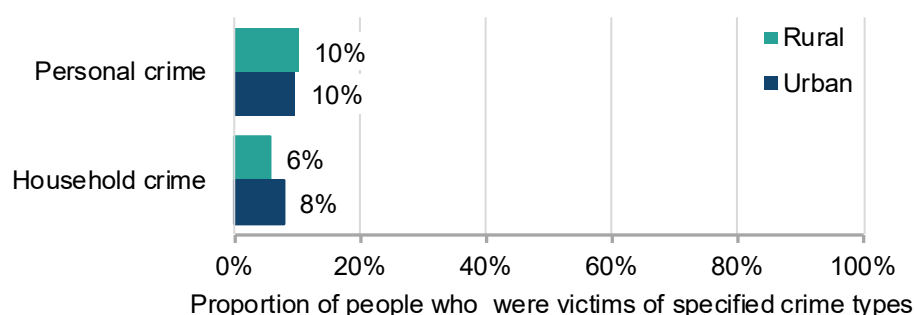Periods have been presented in short-hand; "Q3 2022" refers to Quarter 3 2022.

Headline crime can be broken down into two high-level crime types: **personal crime** (violence, robbery, theft from the person, other theft of personal property, and fraud and computer misuse) and **household crime** (domestic burglary, other household theft, vehicle-related theft, bicycle theft, and criminal damage). The bar chart in Figure E-4 shows the proportion of people who reported being victims of these specified crime types in the 2023/24 survey. It can be described as follows:

- In both Rural and Urban areas, 10% of respondents reported to have been victims of personal crime in year ending March 2024.

- In Rural areas, 6% of respondents reported to have been victims of household crime in year ending March 2024; this is 2 percentage points lower than in Urban areas.

Figure E-4: Bar chart showing the proportion of respondents who were victims of personal or household crime at least once, by Rural-Urban Classification, in England, year ending March 2024 (Note E-2)

The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clusters of bars.
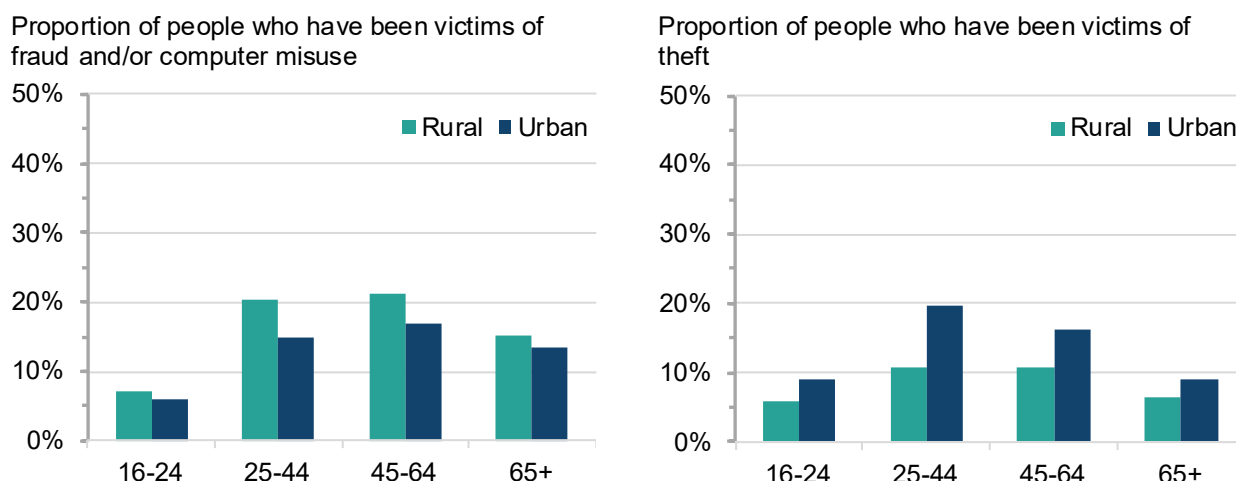

Personal crime can be broken down into specific crimes. Examples of these crimes are presented in the bar charts in Figure E-5. Further examples are presented in the Communities and Households supplementary data tables.

In Rural areas, the proportion of people who were victims of fraud and/or computer misuse was higher than those who were victims of theft, for all ages.

Figure E-5: Bar charts showing the proportion of respondents who were victims of fraud and/or computer misuse (left-hand chart), or theft (right-hand chart) at least once, by age band and Rural-Urban Classification, England, Quarter 2 2024 (Note E-2)

The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clusters of bars.

The left-hand bar chart in Figure E-5 shows the proportion of respondents who had been victims of **fraud and/or computer misuse** at least once in Quarter 2 2024, by age band. For every age band, proportionally more respondents were victims of these crimes in Rural areas compared to Urban areas; this aligns with the findings from Figure E-1. However, for some age bands, the difference was minimal.

- Similar proportions of 16- to 24-year-olds reported being victims of fraud and/or computer misuse in Rural (7%) and Urban (6%) areas in Q2 2024.

- The proportion of 25- to 44-year-olds who had been victims of fraud and/or computer misuse was 6 percentage points higher in Rural areas than in Urban areas (20% and 15%, respectively).

- The proportion of 45- to 64-year-olds who had been victims of these crimes was 5 percentage points higher in Rural areas compared to Urban areas (21% and 17%, respectively).

- The proportion of people aged 65 and over who had been victims of fraud and/or computer misuse was 2 percentage points higher in Rural areas (15%) compared to Urban areas (13%).

The right-hand bar chart in Figure E-5 shows the proportion of respondents who had been victims of **theft** at least once in Quarter 2 2024, by age band. For every age band, proportionally fewer respondents were victims of these crimes in Rural areas compared to Urban areas.
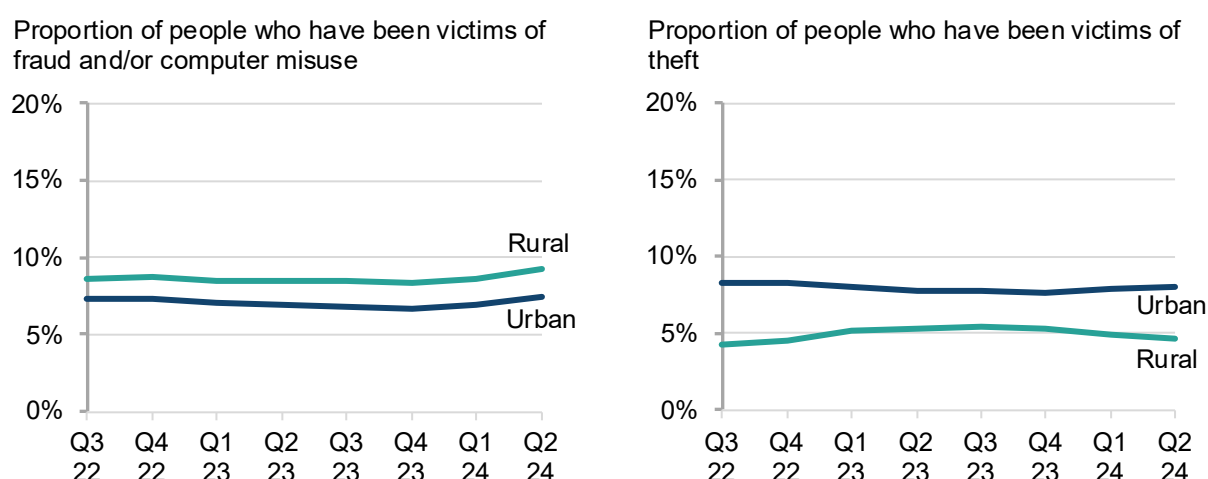
- The proportion of 16- to 24-year-olds who had been victims of theft was 3 percentage points lower in Rural areas (6%) compared to Urban areas (9%).

- The proportion of 25- to 44-year-olds who had been victims of these crimes was 9 percentage points lower in Rural areas (11%) than in Urban areas (20%).

- The proportion of 45- to 64-year-olds who had been victims of theft was 5 percentage points lower in Rural areas (11%) than in Urban areas (16%).

- The proportion of people aged 65 and over who had been victims of theft was 2 percentage points lower in Rural areas (7%) than in Urban areas (9%).

The line charts in Figure E-6 show the proportion of people who had been victims of the example crimes between Quarter 3 (July to September) 2022 and Quarter 2 (April to June) 2024.

Figure E-6: Line charts showing the proportion of respondents who were victims of fraud and/or computer misuse (left-hand chart), or theft (right-hand chart) at least once, by Rural-Urban Classification, England, Quarter 3 2022 to Quarter 2 2024 (Note E-2)
Periods have been presented in short-hand; "Q3 22" refers to Quarter 3 2022.

In the left-hand chart of Figure E-6, there were consistently higher victim rates for fraud and/or computer misuse in Rural areas than in Urban areas. Victim rates here typically fluctuated between 8% and 9% in Rural areas, and around 7% in Urban areas. The highest victim rate in both Rural and Urban areas was in Q2 2024 (9.2% and 7.4%, respectively).

In the right-hand chart of Figure E-6, there were lower victim rates for theft in Rural areas than in Urban areas. Victim rates here fluctuated around 5% in Rural areas, and around 8% in Urban areas. The highest victim rate in Rural areas was in Q3 2023 (5.5%), whereas in Urban areas, it was in Q3 2022 (8.3%).

Further time series of specific crimes (for both personal and household crimes) are presented in the Communities and Households supplementary data tables.

Victims of specific crimes

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) provides estimates of headline crime; this includes theft, robbery, criminal damage, violence with or without injury, and optionally, fraud and computer misuse.
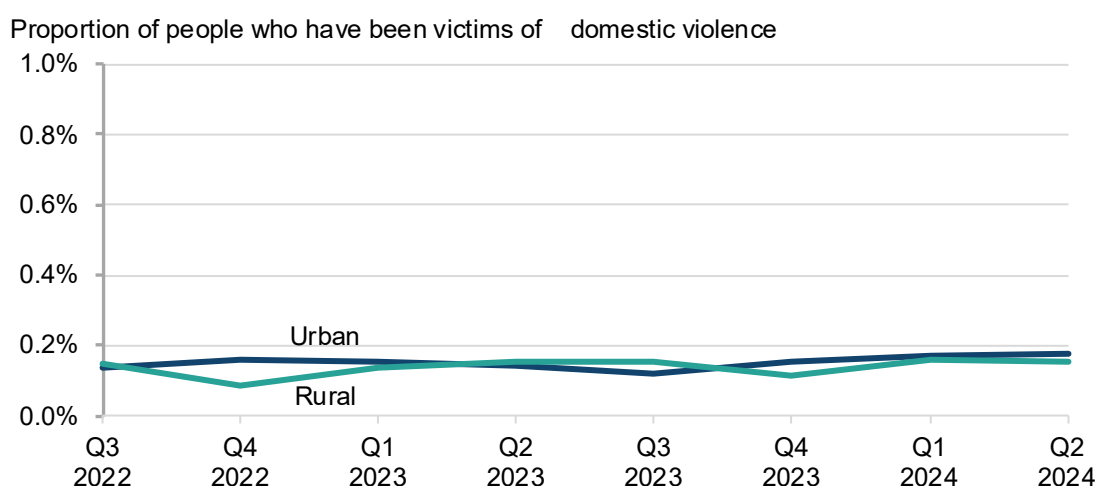
Amongst these categories, data exists on **domestic violence**. The line chart in Figure E-7 shows the proportion of respondents who were victims of domestic violence at least once in each quarter, between Quarter 3 (Q3; July to September) 2022 and Quarter 2 (Q2; April to June) 2024. Overall,

the average victim rate for each quarter between Q3 2022 and Q4 2024 was marginally lower in Rural areas (0.14%) compared to Urban areas (0.15%).

Fewer than 0.2% of respondents reported being victims of domestic violence in each quarter in both Rural and Urban areas. In Rural areas, the proportion of respondents who reported being victims of domestic violence typically ranged from 0.14% to 0.16% between Q3 2022 and Q2 2024. The exceptions to this were in Q4 2022 (where the reported rate of domestic violence was 0.09%, meaning it was lower than in Urban areas) and Q4 2023 (where the reported rate was 0.11%). Similarly, in Urban areas, the proportion of respondents who reported being victims of domestic violence typically ranged from 0.14% to 0.16% between Q3 2022 and Q2 2024; the exceptions to this were in Q3 2023 (where the reported rate of domestic violence was 0.12%, meaning it was lower than in Rural areas) and post-Q4 2023 (as the reported rate increased to 0.17% in Q1 2024 and 0.18% in Q2 2024).

Figure E-7: Line chart showing the proportion of respondents who were victims of domestic violence at least once, by Rural-Urban Classification, in England, Quarter 3 2022 to Quarter 2 2024 (Note E-2)
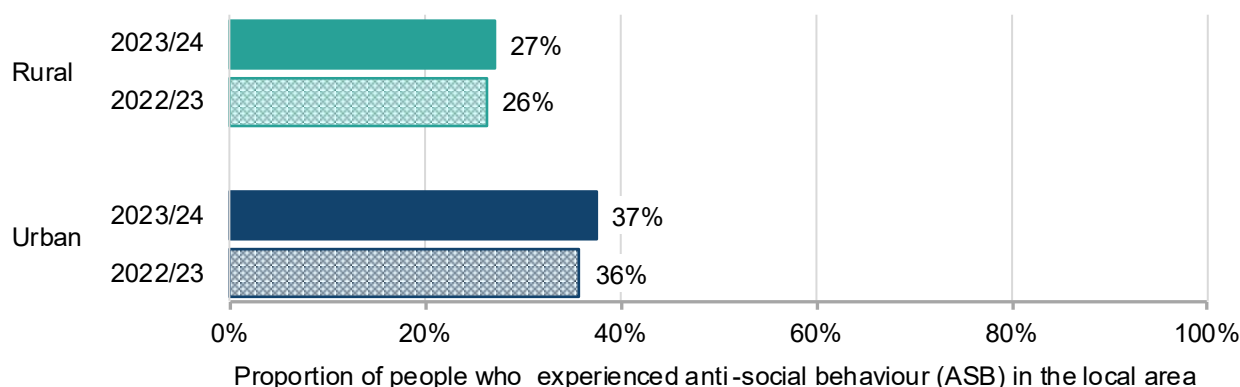Periods have been presented in short-hand; "Q3 2022" refers to Quarter 3 2022.

The bar chart in Figure E-8 shows the proportion of respondents who experienced **anti-social behaviour (ASB)** in their local area in 2022/23 and 2023/24. During both survey periods, the proportion of people who experienced ASB was lower in Rural areas than in Urban areas.

In Rural areas, 27% of respondents reported experiencing anti-social behaviour in year ending March 2024. This is 10 percentage points lower than in Urban areas (37%). In both Rural and Urban areas, the proportion of respondents who reported experiencing ASB increased by 1 percentage point between 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Figure E-8: Bar chart showing the proportion of respondents who experienced anti-social behaviour (ASB) in their local area, by Rural-Urban Classification, England, year ending March 2023 and year ending March 2024 (Note E-2)

Proportion of people who experienced anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the local area

Crime perceptions

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) monitors the experience of crime in England and Wales whether or not it has been reported to the police. The results presented in this section are based on the perceptions of crime from survey respondents.
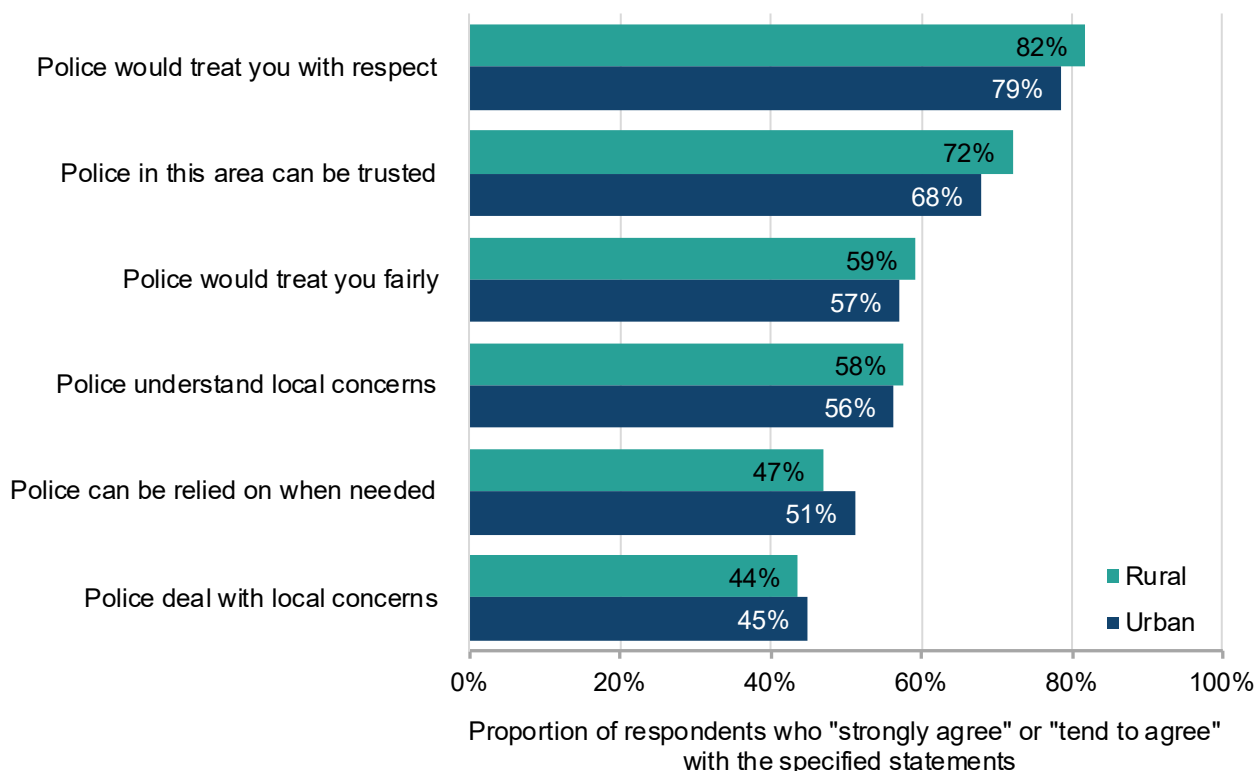
The bar chart in Figure E-9 shows the proportion of respondents who strongly agreed/tended to agree with specified statements regarding the **local police** in year ending March 2024. For most statements, people in Rural areas provided a more positive response than those in Urban areas. Data for year ending March 2023 can be found in the Communities and Households supplementary data tables.

Figure E-9 can be described as follows:

- When asked whether police would treat them with respect, 82% of respondents in Rural areas agreed; this was slightly higher than in Urban areas (79%).

- When asked whether police in their area could be trusted, 72% of respondents in Rural areas agreed; this is higher than in Urban areas (68%).

- When asked whether police would treat them fairly, 59% of respondents in Rural areas agreed; this was slightly higher than in Urban areas (57%).

- When asked whether police would understand local concerns, 58% of respondents in Rural areas agreed; this is slightly higher than in Urban areas (56%).

- When asked whether police can be relied on when needed, 47% of respondents in Rural areas agreed; this was slightly lower than in Urban areas (51%).

- When asked whether police would deal with local concerns, 44% of respondents in Rural areas agreed; this is similar to Urban areas (45%).

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Figure E-9: Bar chart showing the proportion of respondents who agreed with specified statements regarding the local police and their treatment, by Rural-Urban Classification, England, year ending March 2024

The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clusters of bars.

Proportion of respondents who "strongly agree" or "tend to agree" with the specified statements
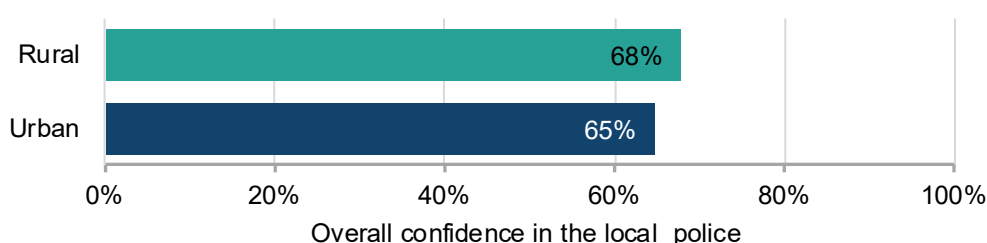
Respondents are also asked to rate their overall **confidence in the local police**; this is shown in the bar chart in Figure E-10.

In Rural areas, 68% of respondents said they had confidence in their local police in year ending March 2024; this is 3 percentage points higher than in Urban areas (65%).

Data for year ending March 2023 can be found in the Communities and Households supplementary data tables.
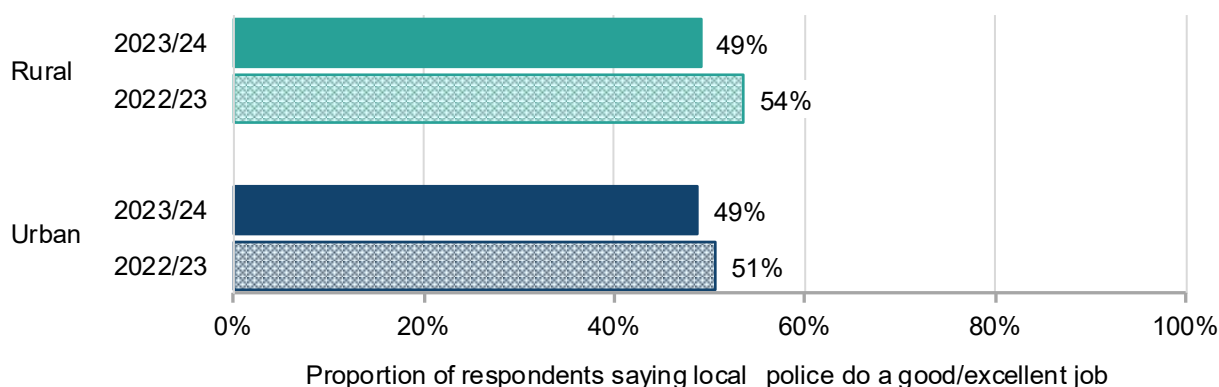
Figure E-10: Bar chart showing respondents' overall confidence in the local police, by Rural-Urban Classification, England, year ending March 2024

Overall confidence in the local police

Respondents were asked to **rate their local police**; this is shown in the bar chart in Figure E-11 for years 2022/23 and 2023/24. Similar proportions of respondents in Rural and Urban areas said that their local police did a good or excellent job in year ending March 2024 (49%). Compared to

the previous survey, these proportions decreased – by 5 percentage points in Rural areas (from 54% in year ending March 2023) and 2 percentage points in Urban areas (from 51%).
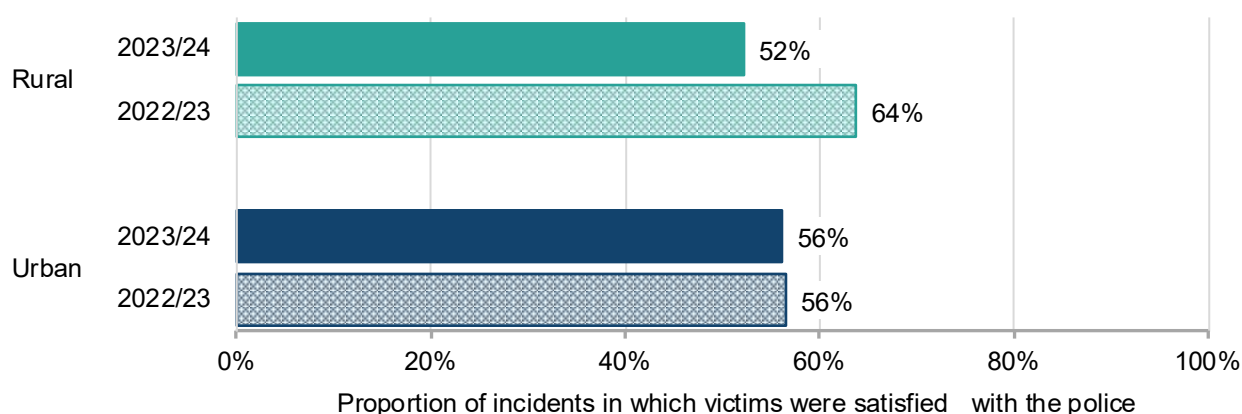
Figure E-11: Bar chart showing the proportion of respondents who said that their local police do a good/excellent job, by Rural-Urban Classification, England, year ending March 2023 and year ending March 2024

Respondents who had reported an incident were asked whether they were **satisfied with the police**; this is shown in the bar chart in Figure E-12 for years 2022/23 and 2023/24.

52% of respondents in Rural areas who reported an incident said they were satisfied with the response from the police in year ending March 2024. This is 12 percentage points lower than in year ending March 2023. In Urban areas, 56% of respondents who reported an incident said they were satisfied with the police in both year ending March 2024 and year ending March 2023.

Figure E-12: Bar chart showing the proportion of respondents who were satisfied with the police after reporting an incident, by Rural-Urban Classification, England, year ending March 2023 and year ending March 2024 (Note E-5)
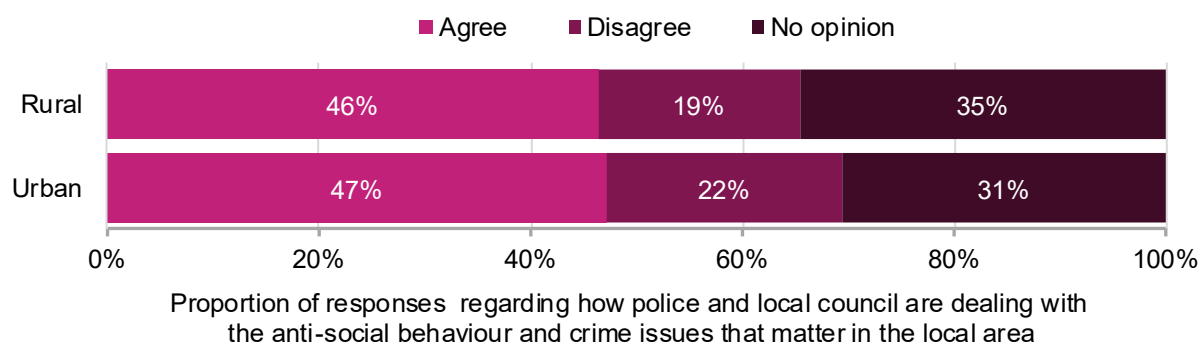

As part of the CSEW, people are asked whether they agree or disagree that police and local council are dealing with the **anti-social behaviour (ASB) and crime issues** that matter in the local area. The bar chart in Figure E-13 shows the proportion of each response.

Similar proportions of respondents in Rural (46%) and Urban (47%) areas agreed that police and local councils were dealing with ASB and crime issues that mattered in the local area.

Proportionally fewer respondents in Rural areas disagreed than in Urban areas (19% and 22%, respectively). A higher proportion of respondents in Rural areas did not offer an opinion on the matter compared to Urban areas (35% and 31%, respectively).

Figure E-13: Bar chart showing the proportion of responses regarding how police and local councils are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in the local area, by Rural-Urban Classification, England, year ending March 2024
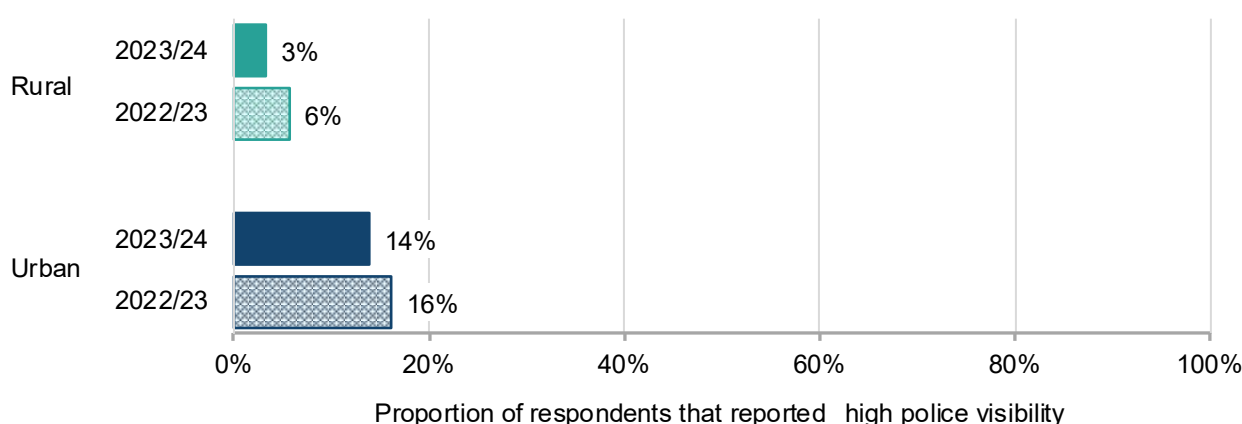The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clusters of bars.

Proportion of responses regarding how police and local council are dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in the local area

Data for year ending March 2023 can be found in the Communities and Households supplementary data tables.

Respondents were asked for their opinion on the **visibility of police foot patrols**. The proportion of respondents who reported high visibility of police is presented in the bar chart in Figure E-14 for years 2022/23 and 2023/24. In both Rural and Urban areas, the proportion of respondents reporting high police visibility was less than 20% in 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Figure E-14: Bar chart showing the proportion of respondents who reported high police visibility, by Rural-Urban Classification, England, year ending March 2023 and year ending March 2024 (Note E-6)

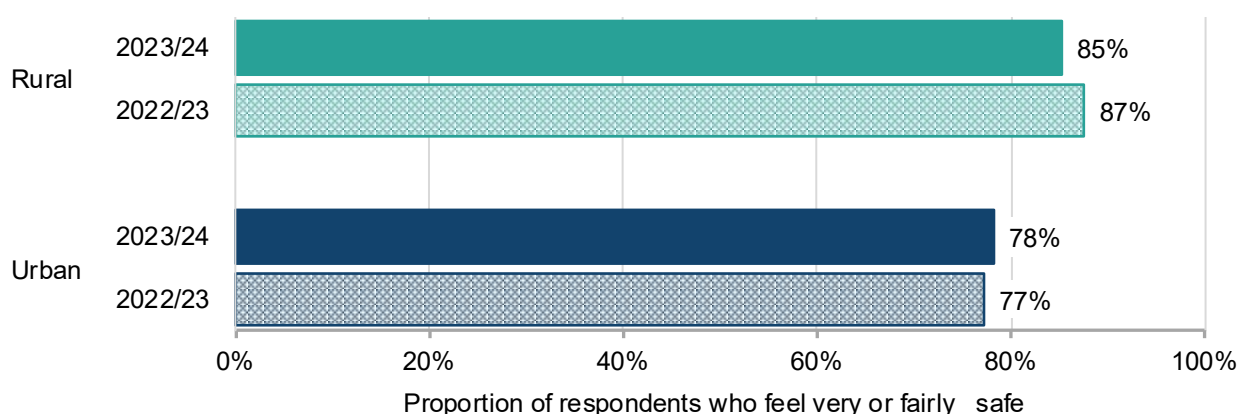Proportion of respondents that reported high police visibility

Proportionally fewer respondents reported high police visibility in Rural areas compared to Urban areas; however, Rural police forces typically cover larger geographical areas, and so people are less likely to see a police officer or Police Community Support Officer.

In year ending March 2024, 3% of respondents in Rural areas reported high visibility of police foot patrols, compared to 14% in Urban areas. In both Rural and Urban areas, the proportion of respondents reporting high police visibility was 2 percentage points lower in year ending March 2024 than in year ending March 2023 (where rates were 6% and 16%, respectively).

Respondents were asked how **safe** they felt when walking alone after dark. The bar chart in Figure E-15 presents the proportion of respondents who said they felt very safe or fairly safe in years 2022/23 and 2023/24. Proportionally more respondents reported feeling safe after dark in Rural areas compared to Urban areas.

Figure E-15: Bar chart showing the proportion of respondents who felt very or fairly safe when walking alone after dark, by Rural-Urban Classification, England, year ending March 2023 and year ending March 2024 (Note E-7)
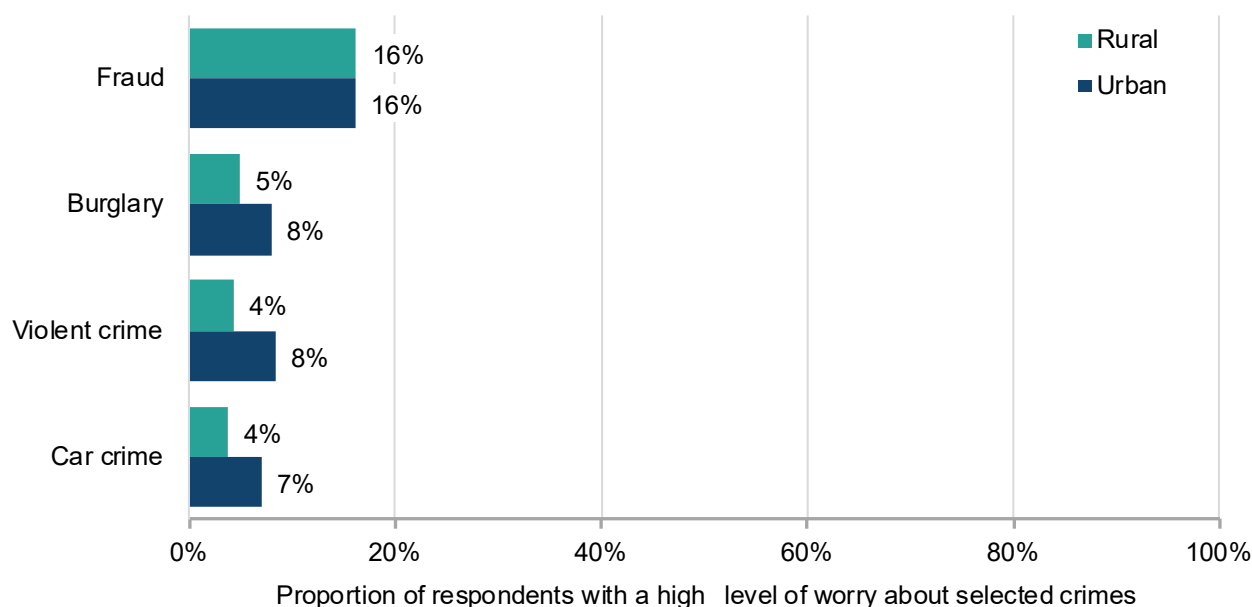

In year ending March 2024, 85% of respondents reported feeling very or fairly safe when walking alone after dark in Rural areas; this was 2 percentage points lower than in year ending March 2023 (87%). In Urban areas, 78% of respondents reported feeling safe when walking alone after dark; this was 1 percentage point higher than in year ending March 2023 (77%).

Respondents were asked how **worried** they felt about selected crimes. The bar chart in Figure E-16 presents the proportion of respondents who reported a high level of worry about burglary, car crime, fraud, and violent crime. For burglary, car crime, and violent crime in year ending March 2024, the proportion of respondents who reported being worried in Rural areas was just over half of that in Urban areas. However, in both Rural and Urban areas, fewer than 10% of respondents reported having high levels of worry about these crimes.

5% of respondents reported having a high level of worry about burglary in Rural areas, compared to 8% in Urban areas. 4% of respondents reported having a high level of worry about car crime in Rural areas, compared to 7% in Urban areas. 4% of respondents reported having a high level of worry about violent crime in Rural areas, compared to 8% in Urban areas. Fraud had the highest level of worry; in both Rural and Urban areas, 16% of respondents reported having a high level of worry about fraud in year ending March 2024.

Figure E-16: Bar chart showing the proportion of respondents with a high level of worry about burglary, car crime, fraud, and/or violent crime, by Rural-Urban Classification, England, year ending March 2024 (Note E-8)

The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clusters of bars.
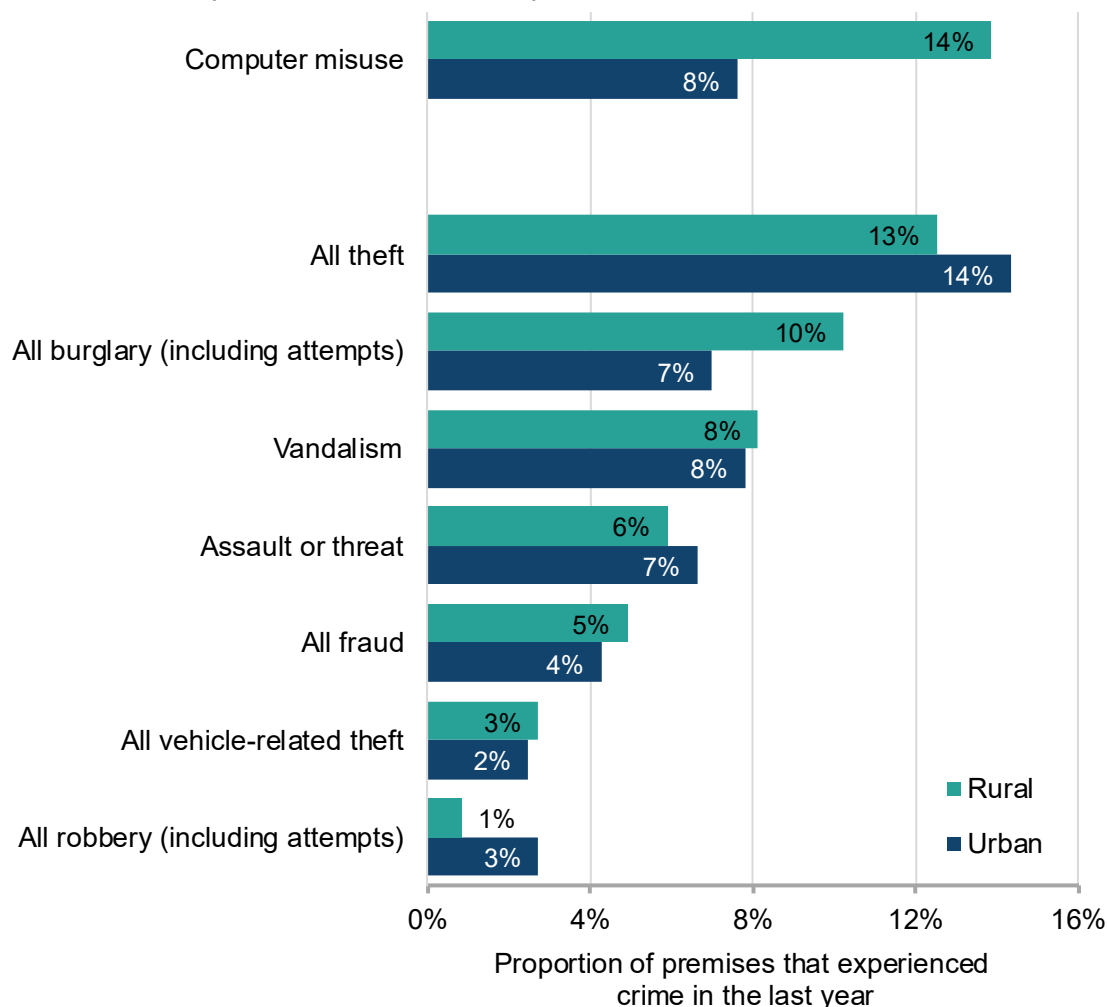

Commercial Victimisation Survey

The Commercial Victimisation Survey (CVS) has been commissioned by the Home Office annually since 2012 to record the nature and extent of crime committed against business premises. Some of the content previously published within this section has been removed as it is no longer presented within the CVS (e.g. data by sector). Data on crimes against businesses premises from within this section can be found in the Communities and Households supplementary data tables.

The categories of offences can be grouped further as follows: all burglary (including attempted burglary and burglary with entry), vandalism, all vehicle related theft (including theft of a vehicle and theft from a vehicle), all robbery (including attempts), assault or threat, all theft (including theft by a customer, by an employee, by others, or by unknown persons), all fraud (by an employee/others/unknown persons), and all computer misuse (including hacking, computer viruses, or fraudulent emails – only for respondents who owned a computer). The bar chart in Figure E-17 shows the proportion of premises that experienced crime in 2023.

For all offence groups except theft, assault or threat, and robbery, a higher proportion of business premises in Rural areas had experienced crime during 2023 compared with Urban areas. 14% of Rural business premises with a computer experienced computer misuse – the highest of all offence groups; this compares with 8% of businesses in Urban areas. The crime with the lowest rate was robbery (including attempts); 1% of Rural businesses said they had experienced this crime in 2023, compared to 3% of businesses in Urban areas. Of all the differences presented between Rural and Urban areas, only those for robbery and computer misuse were statistically significant.

Figure E-17: Bar chart showing the proportion of business premises that experienced crime in the last year, by Rural-Urban Classification, England, 2023 (Note E-9)

The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clustered bars. Computer misuse is presented separately to other crimes at it only applies to premises that owned a computer.

Crime Surveys explanatory notes

- **Note E-1**

Sources:

1 - Crime in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

2 - Crime against businesses: findings from the 2023 Commercial Victimisation Survey - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

- **Note E-2**

In Figure E-1 to Figure E-8, the measure presented is the estimated percentage of adults who had been a victim of at least one personal crime or had been resident in a household that was a victim of at least one household crime, dependent on the specific crime stated.

- **Note E-3**

For information regarding statistical significance, definitions, and any other information related to the Crime Survey for England and Wales, please see: User guide to crime statistics for England and Wales: March 2024 - Office for National Statistics

- **Note E-4**

Responses reported are from people aged 16 and over.

- **Note E-5**

In Figure E-12, satisfaction with the police represents the percentage of incidents in which the victim was "very" or "fairly" satisfied with the police.

- **Note E-6**

In Figure E-14, the question on visibility of foot patrols was only asked of a quarter of the CSEW sample. The visibility of police on foot patrols was classified as high if the respondent said they saw police officers of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) on foot patrol in their local area once a day, more than once a day, or about once a week.

- **Note E-7**

In Figure E-15, the question relating to feeling safe walking alone after dark was only asked of one quarter of the CSEW sample.

- **Note E-8**

In Figure E-16, unweighted bases refer to worry about burglary; bases for fraud and violent crime will be similar, but for car crime will be slightly lower as these are based only on those residing in households owning (or with regular use of) a vehicle.

- **Note E-9**

In Figure E-17, the question relating to computer misuse offences was asked to premises which had a computer. Due to the different base from the rest of the questions, it has been presented separately in the bar chart.

- **Note E-10**

Tables showing the data relating to this section are available in the Communities and Households supplementary data tables.

F. Feelings about the local neighbourhood

Proportionally more people in Rural areas are satisfied with, and have a stronger attachment to, their neighbourhood than people in Urban areas.

Summary

This section uses data from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) Community Life Survey to consider how people feel about their neighbours and their neighbourhood.

People living in Rural areas tend to report more favourable feelings about their local neighbourhood than those living in Urban areas. In the 2023-24 survey, proportionally more people in Rural areas felt that they belonged to their immediate neighbourhood compared to Urban areas (69% and 59%, respectively). Proportionally more people in Rural areas felt satisfied with their local area compared to those in Urban areas (85% and 71%, respectively); there was a marginal difference in the proportion of people in Rural areas (10%) than Urban areas (12%) who felt that their local area was a better place to live compared to two years prior. Proportionally more people in Rural areas than Urban areas agreed with the positive statements regarding their local neighbourhood, including attractiveness of the local area, satisfaction of green and natural spaces, and recommendation as a good place to live.

People living in Rural areas are more likely to have meaningful conversations with their neighbours than those in Urban areas; in the 2023-24 survey, 78% of people in Rural areas reported that they chat to their neighbours at least once a month (more than just to say hello), compared with 68% of people living in Urban areas. Proportionally more people in Rural areas than Urban areas agreed with positive statements regarding their neighbours, including thinking their neighbours could be trusted, the local area being a place where people from different backgrounds could get on well together, and pulling together to improve the neighbourhood.

25% of Rural respondents agreed that they personally could influence decisions, compared to 23% in Urban areas. 52% of Rural respondents thought their ability to influence was important, compared to 49% in Urban areas. Proportionally fewer people living in Rural areas tend to want more involvement in decision-making in their local area compared to those in Urban areas (25% and 28%, respectively; 2023-24).

People living in Rural areas tend to report higher levels of participation in civic and social action than those living in Urban areas. 18% of people in Rural areas said they had been involved in social action in the previous 12 months, compared to 12% in Urban areas. 35% of Rural respondents had engaged in civic participation in the previous 12 months, compared to 33% in Urban areas. 22% of Rural respondents had taken part in civic consultations in the previous 12 months, compared to 18% in Urban areas. 10% of Rural respondents reported to have been involved in civic activism in the previous 12 months, compared to 7% in Urban areas.
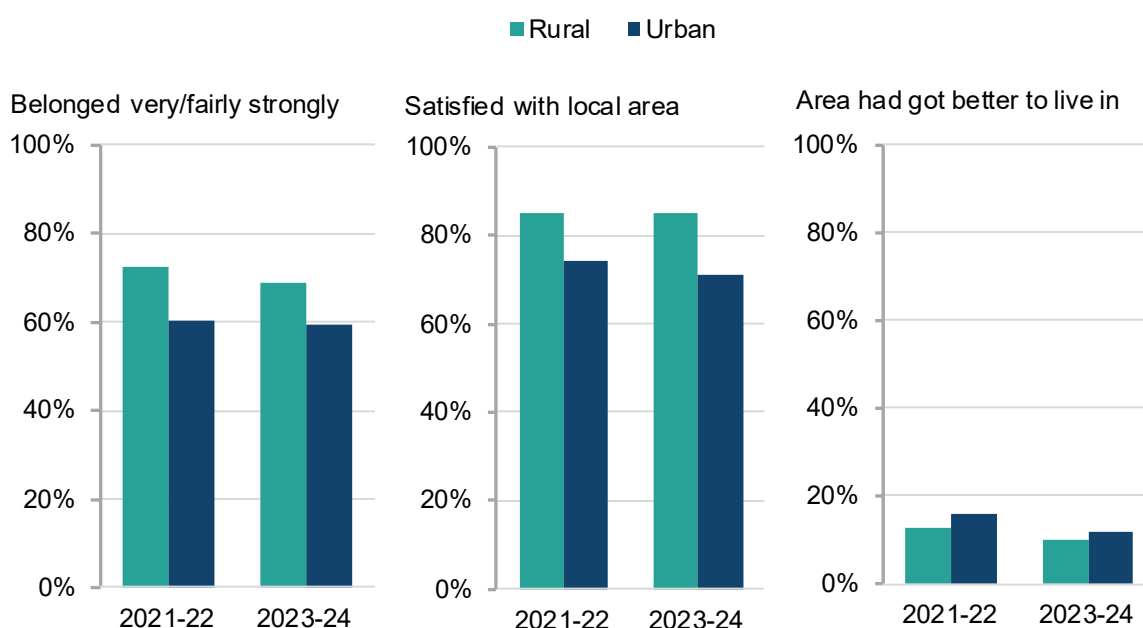
The neighbourhood

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) produces an annual publication relating to the Community Life Survey; data collected in this survey includes how people feel about their local neighbourhood (Note F-3). The 2021-22 survey relates to the period spanning October 2021 to September 2022, whilst the 2023-24 survey relates to the period spanning October 2023 to March 2024.

People living in Rural areas tend to report more favourable feelings about their local neighbourhood than those living in Urban areas. The bar charts in Figure F-1 highlight respondents' feelings about their local neighbourhood in the 2021-22 and 2023-24 surveys.

Figure F-1: Bar charts showing the proportion of respondents who felt they belonged very/fairly strongly to their immediate neighbourhood (left-hand chart), who were satisfied with their local area as a place to live (middle chart), or who thought their local area had got better to live in over the past two years (right-hand chart), by Rural-Urban Classification, England, during survey periods 2021-22 and 2023-24
The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clusters of bars.
The 2021-22 survey relates to the period spanning October 2021 to September 2022. The 2023-24 survey relates to the period spanning October 2023 to March 2024.

The left-hand bar chart in Figure F-1 shows the proportion of respondents to the survey who felt they belonged very/fairly strongly to their immediate neighbourhood. The latest findings (from October 2023 to March 2024, hereafter referred to as "2023-24") show that 69% of Rural respondents said they felt that they belonged to their immediate neighbourhood. This is higher than in Urban areas (59%). The previous survey (October 2021 to September 2022, or "2021-22") showed higher proportions in Rural areas (72%), suggesting a marginal drop in proportion of people in Rural areas who felt they belonged to their immediate neighbourhood in 2023-24 compared to 2021-22.

The middle bar chart in Figure F-1 shows the proportion of respondents who were satisfied with their local area as a place to live. In 2023-24, 85% of Rural respondents were satisfied with their

local area as a place to live; this was 14 percentage points higher than in Urban areas (71%). Compared to the 2021-22 survey, there was no significant change in the proportion of respondents in Rural areas who were satisfied, but in Urban areas, the proportion decreased by 3 percentage points (Note F-4). This suggests that proportionally fewer people in Urban areas felt satisfied with their local area as a place to live in 2023-24 compared to 2021-22, whereas the satisfaction in Rural areas remained the same.

The right-hand bar chart in Figure F-1 shows the proportion of respondents who thought that their local area had "got better to live in" over the previous two years. In 2023-24, just 10% of Rural respondents felt that their local area was a better place to live compared to two years prior. This compares to just 12% of respondents in Urban areas. In 2021-22, the agreement rate was higher in both Rural (13%) and Urban (16%) areas. This suggests that proportionally fewer people felt their local area had improved in the two years prior to the 2023-24 survey, compared to the 2021-22 survey.

Table F-1 shows the proportion of people who agree with specified statements relating to their local area during the 2023-24 survey period.

Table F-1: Proportion of respondents who agree with specified statements regarding their local neighbourhood, by Rural-Urban Classification, England, during survey period 2023-24
The 2023-24 survey relates to the period spanning October 2023 to March 2024.

Proportion (%) of respondents who…	Rural	Urban
think their local area is attractive	79	53
feel satisfied with the green and natural spaces in their local area	87	73
agree that they feel proud to live in their local area	76	56
would recommend their local area to others as a good place to live	80	63
would still like to be living in their local area in five years' time	73	58

Generally, people in Rural areas were more positive about their local area compared to those in Urban areas when evaluating responses to the 2023-24 survey:

- More than 3 in every 4 respondents in Rural areas regarded their local area as attractive (79%); this is 27 percentage points higher than in Urban areas (53%).

- In response to the question "How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the green and natural spaces in your local area", almost 9 in every 10 respondents in Rural areas said they were satisfied (87%). This was 14 percentage points higher than in Urban areas (73%).

- 3 in every 4 respondents in Rural areas (76%) said they agreed with the statement "I am proud to live in my local area"; this is 20 percentage points higher than in Urban areas (56%).

- 8 in every 10 respondents in Rural areas (80%) said they agreed with the statement "I would recommend my local area to others as a good place to live"; this is 17 percentage points higher than in Urban areas (63%).

- Almost 3 in every 4 respondents in Rural areas (73%) said they agreed with the statement "In five years' time I would like to still be living in my local area"; this is 15 percentage points higher than in Urban areas (58%).
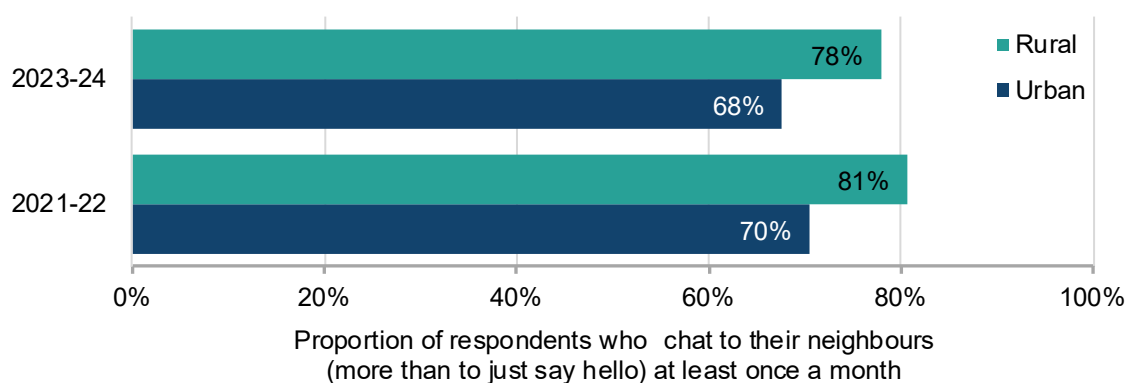
Neighbours

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) produces an annual publication relating to the Community Life Survey; data collected in this survey includes how people feel about their neighbours (Note F-3). The 2021-22 survey relates to the period spanning October 2021 to September 2022, whilst the 2023-24 survey relates to the period spanning October 2023 to March 2024.

People living in Rural areas tend to report more favourable feelings about their neighbours than those living in Urban areas. The bar chart in Figure F-2 highlights the proportion of respondents who said they chat to their neighbours frequently in the 2021-22 and 2023-24 surveys.

Figure F-2: Bar chart showing the proportion of respondents who chat to their neighbours (more than just to say hello) at least once a month, by Rural-Urban Classification, England, during survey periods 2021-22 and 2023-24
The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clusters of bars.
The 2021-22 survey relates to the period spanning October 2021 to September 2022. The 2023-24 survey relates to the period spanning October 2023 to March 2024.

Proportion of respondents who chat to their neighbours
(more than to just say hello) at least once a month

Across both survey periods shown, proportionally more Rural respondents said they chat to their neighbours regularly compared to those in Urban areas. However, across all areas, the proportion of respondents chatting to neighbours has decreased between 2021-22 and 2023-24.

In the 2023-24 survey period, 78% of people in Rural areas said they chat to their neighbours (more than just to say hello) at least once a month. This was 3 percentage points lower than the previous survey (81%, 2021-22). In Urban areas, 68% of people said they chat to their neighbours at least once a month in the 2023-24 survey. This was 2 percentage points lower than the previous survey (70%, 2021-22).

Table F-2 shows the proportion of respondents who agree with specified statements relating to their neighbours during the 2023-24 survey period. It can be described as follows:

- 57% of Rural respondents to the 2023-24 survey felt that many of the people in their local neighbourhood could be trusted; this was 20 percentage points higher than in Urban areas. This metric had the lowest rate of agreement of all neighbour-related statements.

- 86% of Rural respondents agreed that their local area was a place where people from different backgrounds could get on well together; this was 6 percentage points higher than in Urban areas.

- 72% of Rural respondents agreed that people who live in their area would pull together to improve the neighbourhood; this was 20 percentage points higher than in Urban areas.

Further analysis of the 2021-22 survey period can be found in the [Communities and Households supplementary data tables](#).

Table F-2: Proportion of respondents who agree with specified statements regarding their neighbours, by Rural-Urban Classification, in England, during survey period 2023-24
The 2023-24 survey relates to the period spanning October 2023 to March 2024.

Proportion (%) of respondents who…	Rural	Urban
think many of the people in their neighbourhood can be trusted	57	37
agree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds can get on well together	86	80
agree that people who live in the area pull together to improve the neighbourhood	72	52

Decision-making in the local area

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) produces an annual publication relating to the Community Life Survey; data collected in this survey includes how people feel able to influence decisions affecting their local area (Note F-3). The 2021-22 survey relates to the period spanning October 2021 to September 2022, whilst the 2023-24 survey relates to the period spanning October 2023 to March 2024; despite covering a shorter period, there were far more respondents to the 2023-24 survey.

The left-hand bar chart in Figure F-3 shows the proportion of respondents who agreed that they personally could influence decisions affecting their local area. In the 2023-24 survey, 25% of Rural respondents agreed that they personally could influence decisions; this was 3 percentage points higher than in Urban areas (23%). Compared to the 2021-22 survey, there was no significant change in the proportion of respondents who said they could influence decisions in Rural areas, but in Urban areas, the proportion decreased by 4 percentage points (Note F-4).

The middle bar chart in Figure F-3 shows the proportion of respondents who wanted to be more involved in the decisions made by their council that affect their local area. Based on survey responses, proportionally fewer people wanted to be more involved in decision-making in Rural areas compared to Urban areas. In the 2023-24 survey period, 25% of Rural respondents agreed that they wanted to be more involved; this was 3 percentage points lower than in Urban areas (28%). There was no significant change in the proportion of respondents who said they wanted to
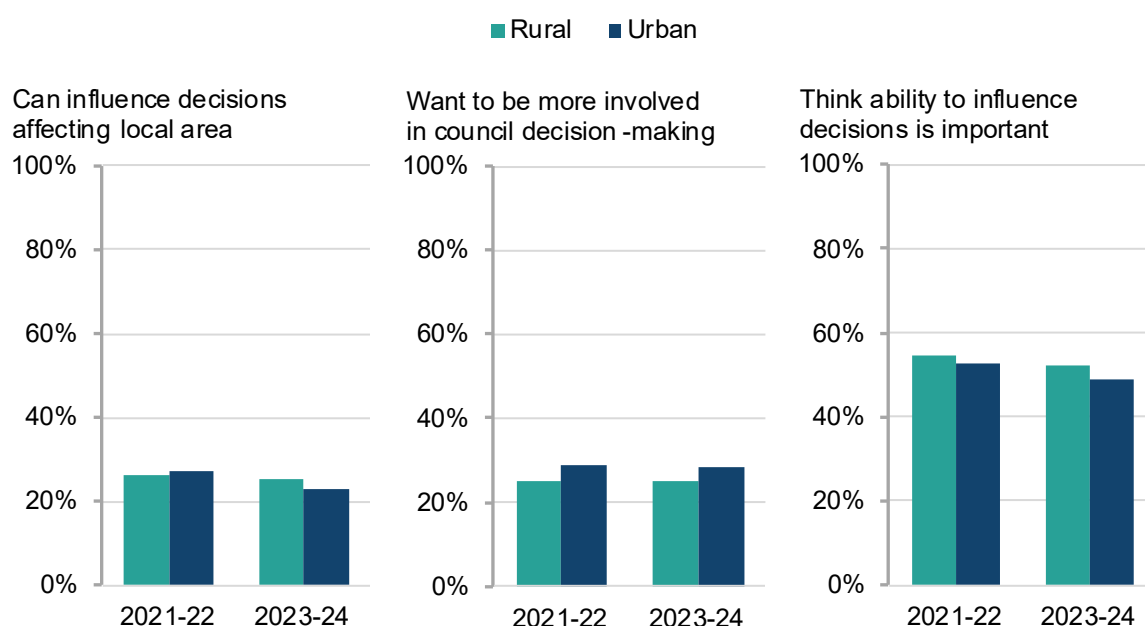
be more involved in decisions made by their council between the 2021-22 and 2023-24 surveys (Note F-4).

The right-hand bar chart in Figure F-3 shows the proportion of respondents who thought it was important for them personally to feel they could influence decisions in their local area. 52% of Rural respondents thought their ability to influence was important in the 2023-24 survey; this was 3 percentage points higher than in Urban areas (49%). Compared to the 2021-22 survey, there was no significant change in the proportion of Rural respondents who felt it was important for them to feel able to influence decisions that affect their local area (Note F-4). However, in Urban areas, the proportion decreased by 4 percentage points.

Figure F-3: Bar charts showing the proportion of respondents who said they personally could influence decisions affecting their local area (left-hand chart), who wanted to be more involved in the decisions made by their council that affect their local area (middle chart), or who thought the ability to influence decisions that affect their local area was important (right-hand chart), by Rural-Urban Classification, in England, during survey periods 2021-22 and 2023-24

The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clusters of bars.
The 2021-22 survey relates to the period spanning October 2021 to September 2022. The 2023-24 survey relates to the period spanning October 2023 to March 2024.

Social and civic action

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) produces an annual publication relating to the Community Life Survey; data collected in this survey includes how people participate in activities which improve their local area and/or community (Note F-3). The 2021-22 survey relates to the period spanning October 2021 to September 2022, whilst the 2023-24 survey relates to the period spanning October 2023 to March 2024; despite covering a shorter period, there were far more respondents to the 2023-24 survey.
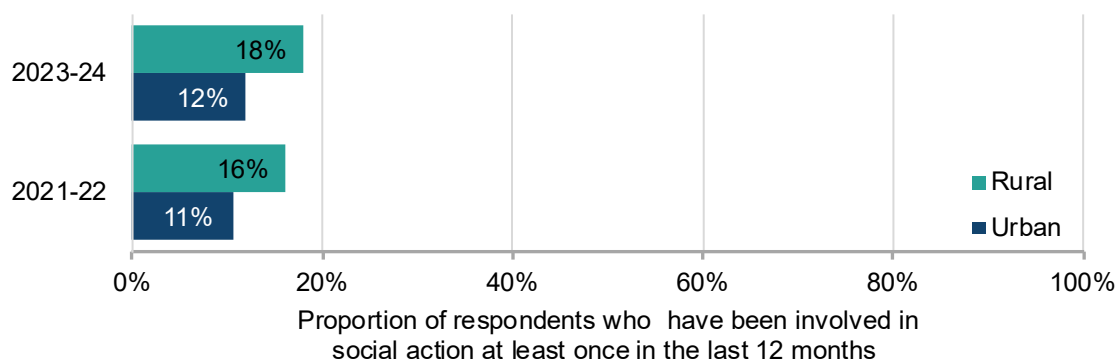
The bar chart in Figure F-4 shows the proportion of respondents aged 16 and over who had been involved in social action in the last 12 months, as reported in the 2021-22 and 2023-24 surveys; social action refers to people coming together to help improve their lives and solve the problems that are important in their communities.

Across both survey periods, proportionally more people living in Rural areas had been involved in social action compared to those living in Urban areas. In the 2023-24 survey, 18% of people in Rural areas said they had been involved in social action in the previous 12 months; this was 6 percentage points higher than in Urban areas (12%). Compared to the 2021-22 survey, there was no significant change in the proportion of respondents who said they had been involved in social action in Rural areas, but in Urban areas, the proportion had increased by 1 percentage point (Note F-4).

Figure F-4: Bar chart showing the proportion of respondents who have been involved in social action in the last 12 months, by Rural-Urban Classification, England, during survey periods 2021-22 and 2023-24
The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clusters of bars.
The 2021-22 survey relates to the period spanning October 2021 to September 2022. The 2023-24 survey relates to the period spanning October 2023 to March 2024.

The bar charts in Figure F-5 highlight the proportion of people engaging with civic society, as reported in the 2021-22 and 2023-24 surveys; see Note F-5 for the definitions of terms used.

The left-hand bar chart in Figure F-5 shows the proportion of respondents who had participated in democratic processes (civic participation) in the 12 months prior to each survey. Based on survey responses, proportionally more people had participated in Rural areas compared to Urban areas. In the 2023-24 survey period, 35% of Rural respondents had participated in the previous 12 months; this was 3 percentage points higher than in Urban areas (33%). There was no significant change in the proportion of respondents who had engaged in civic participation between the 2021-22 and 2023-24 surveys (Note F-4).

The middle bar chart in Figure F-5 shows the proportion of respondents who had taken part in consultations regarding local services (civic consultation) in the 12 months prior to each survey. In the 2023-24 survey, 22% of Rural respondents had taken part in these consultations in the previous 12 months; this was 4 percentage points higher than in Urban areas (18%). There was no significant change in the proportion of respondents who had engaged in civic consultation between the 2021-22 and 2023-24 surveys (Note F-4).

The right-hand bar chart in Figure F-5 shows the proportion of respondents who had been involved in decision-making about local services (civic activism) in the 12 months prior to each survey. In
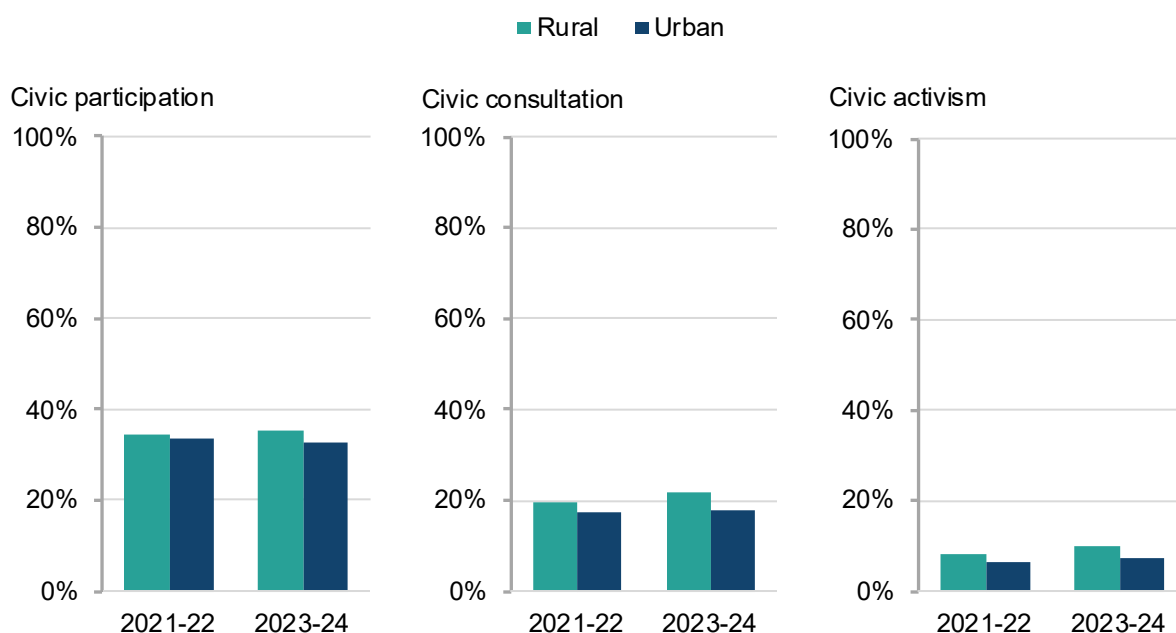
the 2023-24 survey, 10% of Rural respondents reported to have been involved in civic activism in the previous 12 months; this was 3 percentage points higher than in Urban areas (7%). There was no significant change in the proportion of respondents who had engaged in civic activism between the 2021-22 and 2023-24 surveys (Note F-4).

Figure F-5: Bar charts showing the proportion of respondents who engaged in civic participation (left-hand chart), civic consultation (middle chart), or civic activism (right-hand chart), by Rural-Urban Classification, England, during survey periods 2021-22 and 2023-24
The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clusters of bars.
The 2021-22 survey relates to the period spanning October 2021 to September 2022. The 2023-24 survey relates to the period spanning October 2023 to March 2024.

Feelings about the local neighbourhood explanatory notes

- **Note F-1**

Tables showing the data relating to this section are available in the Communities and Households supplementary data tables.

- **Note F-2**

The Community Life survey (CLS) ran throughout different periods in 2021-22 (October 2021 to September 2022) and 2023-24 (October 2023 to March 2024). Despite the shorter survey period in 2023-24, there were at least 10 (and up to 20) times more respondents to each question compared to the 2021-22 survey; for example, there were 5,838 responses to the question "How strongly do you feel about your immediate neighbourhood?" in England in 2021-22, compared to 107,311 in 2023-24. Therefore, survey results are not directly comparable but have been provided instead as an indication of change.

- **Note F-3**

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) took on responsibility for publishing results from the Community Life survey (CLS) for 2016-17 onwards. More information on the survey is available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/community-life-survey--2.

- **Note F-4**

Whilst the figures in this section might appear to show inter-year variations in the proportion of respondents expressing a certain opinion about their neighbours and neighbourhood, we have to be careful about how much emphasis is placed on these inter-year changes. DCMS provide lower and upper estimates indicating the range of values within which the true value would reside; this is often within 2 or 3 percent. Based on these estimates, they also provide the indication of change (e.g. "increase", "decrease", or "no change"). Inter-year variations are only specified within this report where they are done so in the source data tables.

- **Note F-5**

Civic participation refers to engagement in democratic processes, both in person and online, including signing a petition or attending a public rally. It does not include voting.

Civic consultation refers to taking part in consultations about local service, both in person and online.

Civic activism refers to involvement in decision-making about local services, both in person and online. Some responses options, such as being a local councillor or school governor, were not presented as options to those aged under 18.

Appendix 1: The 8 thematic reports that make up the Statistical Digest of Rural England (and the topics included within them)

1. Population

A. Population level and change: age and type
B. Population age profile
C. Internal migration
D. Local Authority population data
E. Census 2021: Population

2. Housing

A. Housing stock: age and type
B. Housing stock: additions and affordable housing
C. Housing costs: purchases and rentals
D. House purchase affordability
E. Second and empty homes
F. Homelessness
G. Land use change for housing
H. Housing quality

3. Health and Wellbeing

A. Life expectancy
B. Wellbeing
C. NHS Dentistry provision
D. General Practices
E. Childcare provision
F. Loneliness
G. Volunteering and charity

4. Communities and Households

A. Deprivation
B. Poverty due to low income
C. Household expenditure
D. Police recorded crime and outcomes
E. Crime surveys: local police and businesses
F. Feelings about the local neighbourhood

5. Connectivity and Accessibility

A. Broadband and mobile
B. Travel behaviours
C. Access to personal transport
D. Access to services
E. Home working

6. Education, Qualifications and Training

A. Schools and their workforce
B. Class sizes
C. Secondary education attainment
D. School inspections
E. Free school meals - eligibility
F. Alternative and specialist education provision
G. Progression to higher education
H. Apprenticeships and on-the-job training
I. Workforce education level

7. Rural Economic Bulletin

A. Employment
B. Earnings
C. Redundancies
D. Claimant count - Jobseeker's Allowance
E. Output and productivity measured by Gross Value Added (GVA)
F. Business demographics
G. Businesses by industry
H. Business survival and growth
I. Innovation and investment

8. Energy

A. Fuel poverty
B. Energy Performance Certificates: average Energy Efficiency Score
C. Energy Performance Certificates: achieving energy efficiency category C
D. Energy Costs
E. Energy Consumption
F. CO_2 emissions

Each of the 8 themes also has their own set of supplementary data tables that include the larger source data that could not be included in the presented document. The chapter headings above are hyperlinked to the home page for that specific digest theme. The supplementary tables can be accessed from these home pages.
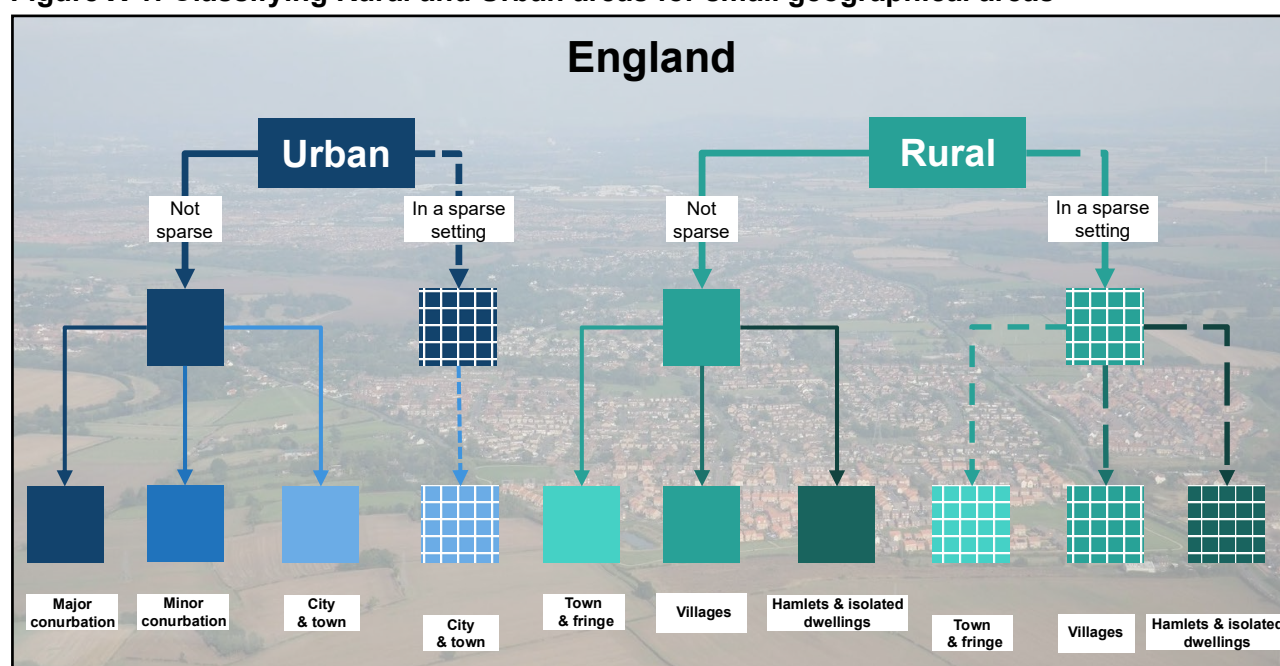
There is a further document including the individual Local Authority data tables, which have been separated for ease of use.

Appendix 2: Defining Rural areas

Wherever possible, the Rural-Urban Classification is used to distinguish Rural and Urban areas. The Classification defines areas as Rural if they fall outside of settlements with more than 10,000 resident population.

Census Output Areas are the smallest areas for which data are available from Censuses. These Census Output Areas are assigned to one of four Urban or six Rural categories (Figure X-1) based on dwelling densities. Those described as "in a sparse setting" reflect where the wider area is sparsely populated (again based on dwelling densities). From Census Output Areas, other small area geographies can be classified based on how they map to Census Output Areas (such as Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs), Wards, and postcodes – Note 1).

Figure X-1: Classifying Rural and Urban areas for small geographical areas
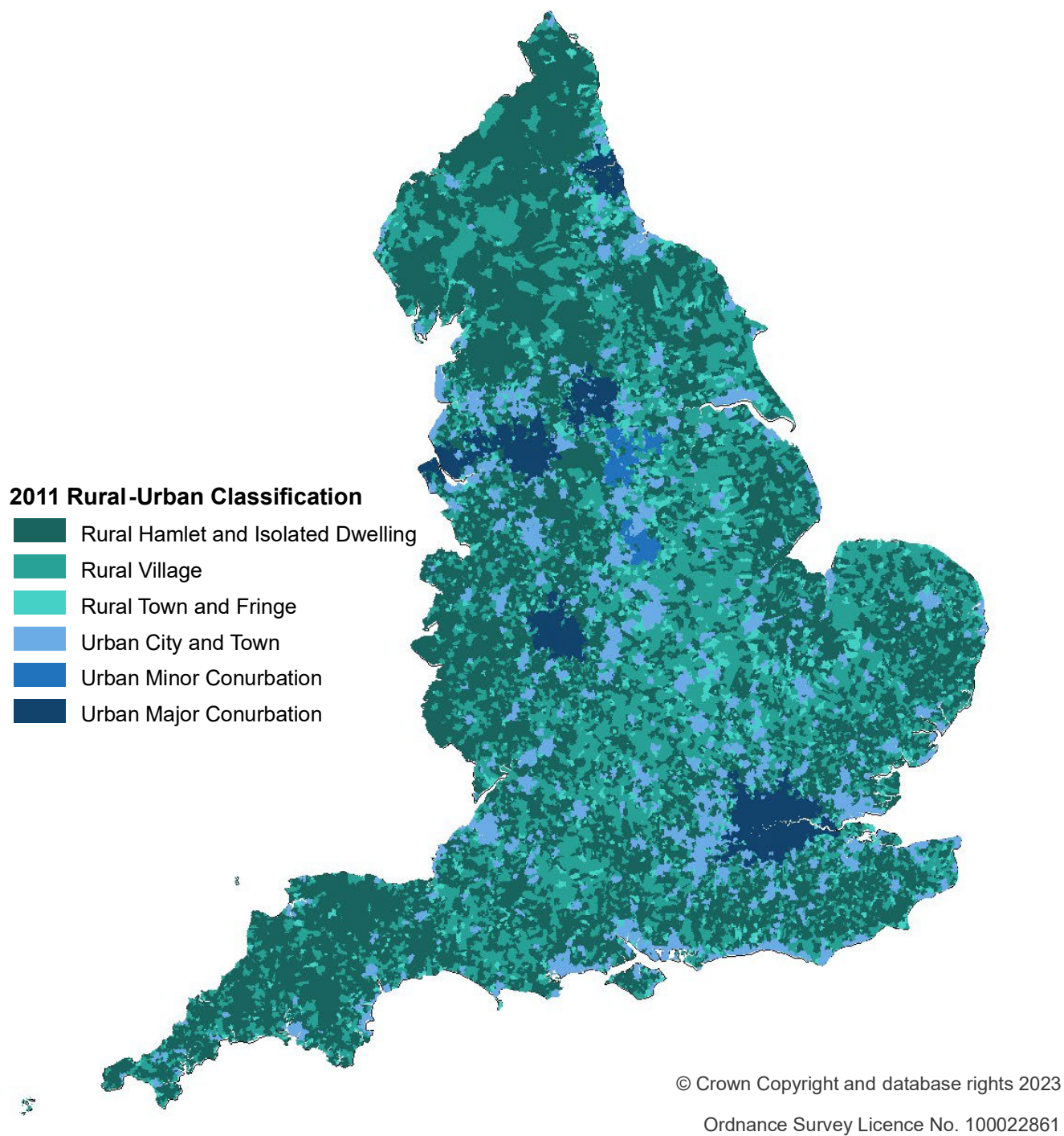

A map showing the distribution of the Rural and Urban Census Output Areas is shown in Figure X-2.
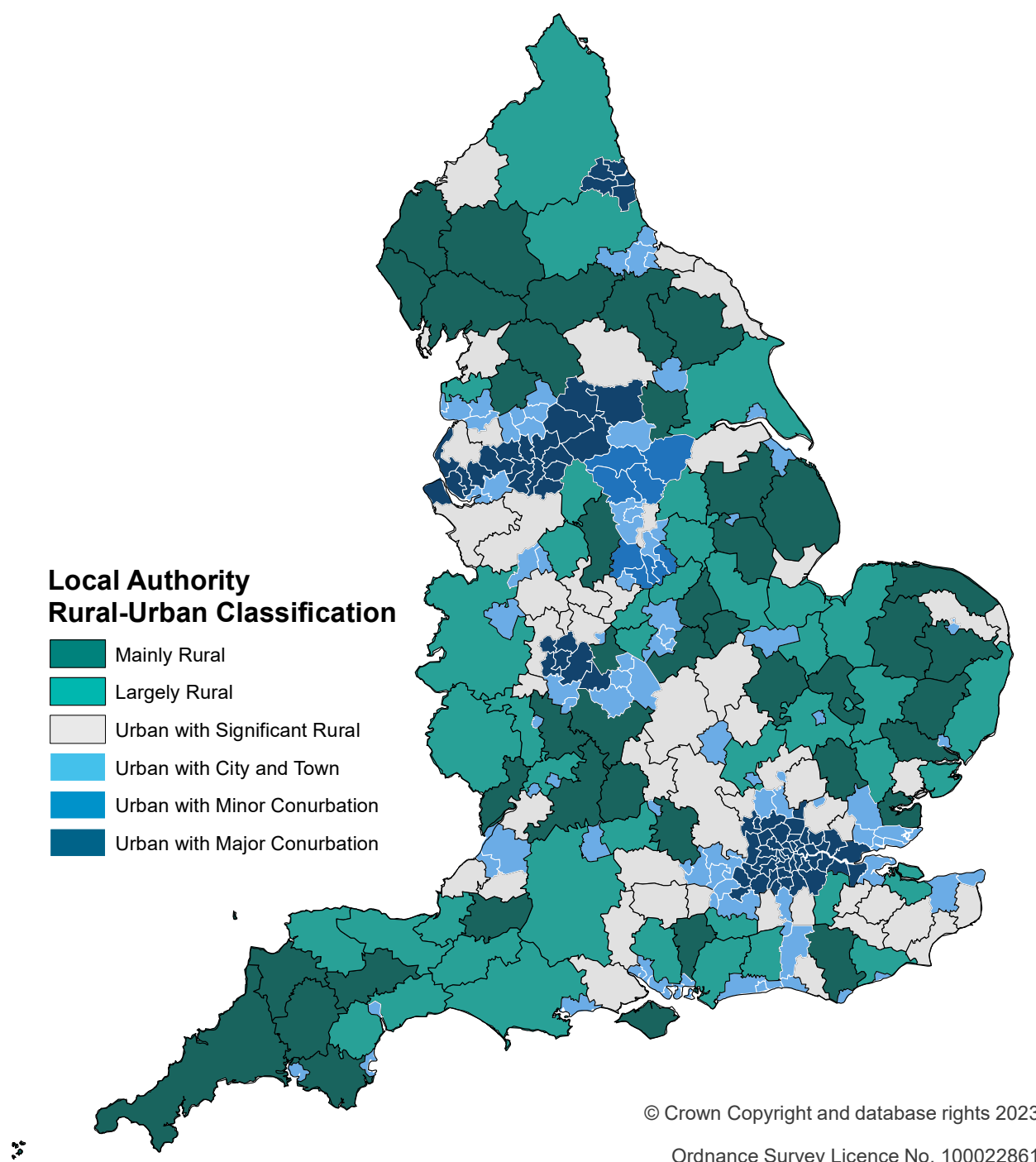
When data are not available at a small geographical scale, it may be possible to apply the Rural-Urban Local Authority Classification or a similar classification for other larger geographies. This classification categorises districts and unitary authorities on a six-point scale from Rural to Urban. It is underpinned by Rural and Urban populations as defined by the Census Output Area Classification. A map of the geographical distribution of the Rural and Urban Local Authorities is shown in Figure X-3.

However, the Local Authority Classification also considers some Urban areas as Hub Towns (with populations of between 10,000 and 30,000). These Hub Towns have met statistical criteria (based on dwelling and business premise densities) to be considered hubs for services and businesses for a wider rural hinterland and their populations are therefore classified as effectively Rural for the purposes of determining the classification of the authority.

Figure X-2: Map of the 2011 Rural-Urban Classification for Census Output Areas in England

2011 Rural-Urban Classification

- Rural Hamlet and Isolated Dwelling
- Rural Village
- Rural Town and Fringe
- Urban City and Town
- Urban Minor Conurbation
- Urban Major Conurbation

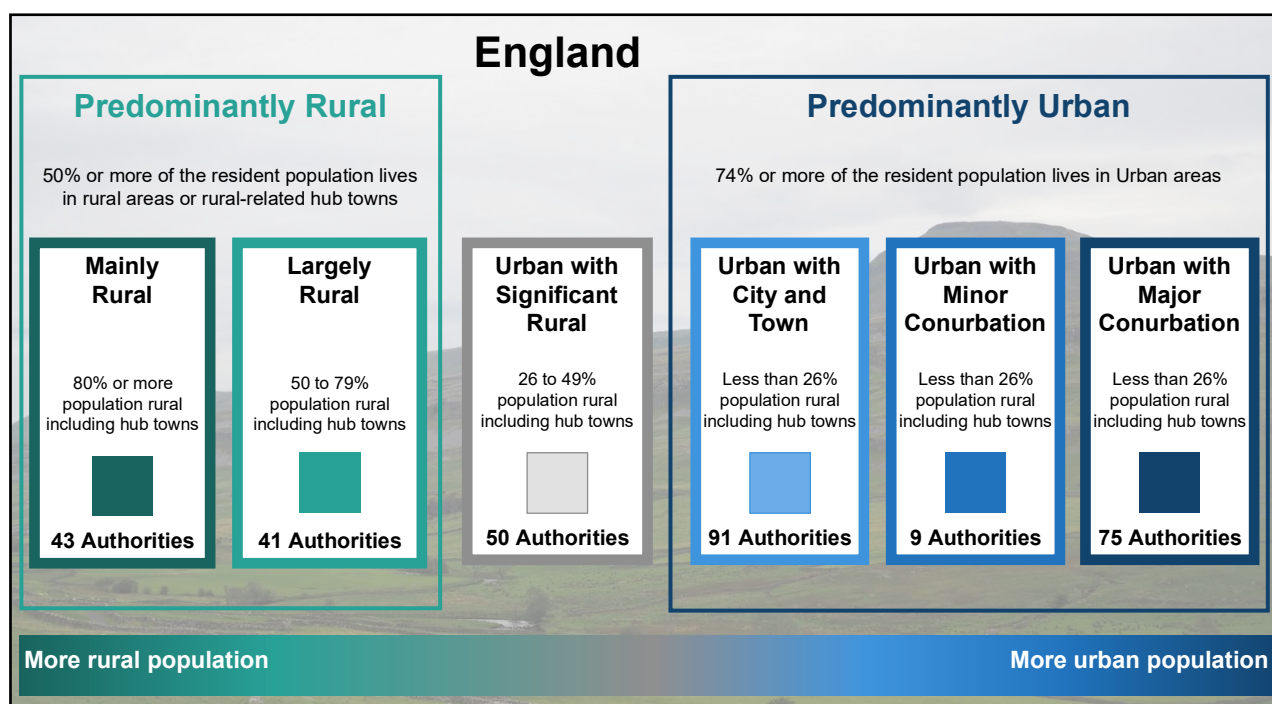© Crown Copyright and database rights 2023

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Figure X-3: Map of the 2011 Rural-Urban Classification for Local Authority Districts and Unitary Authorities in England

Local Authority
Rural-Urban Classification

- Mainly Rural
- Largely Rural
- Urban with Significant Rural
- Urban with City and Town
- Urban with Minor Conurbation
- Urban with Major Conurbation

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Under the classification, which is shown in Figure X-4, each Local Authority is assigned to one of six categories on the basis of the percentage of the total resident population accounted for by the combined Rural and Hub Town components of its population and its 'conurbation context'. The Local Authority Classification categories are frequently aggregated to 'Predominantly Rural', 'Urban with Significant Rural' and 'Predominantly Urban' as shown on Figure X-4.
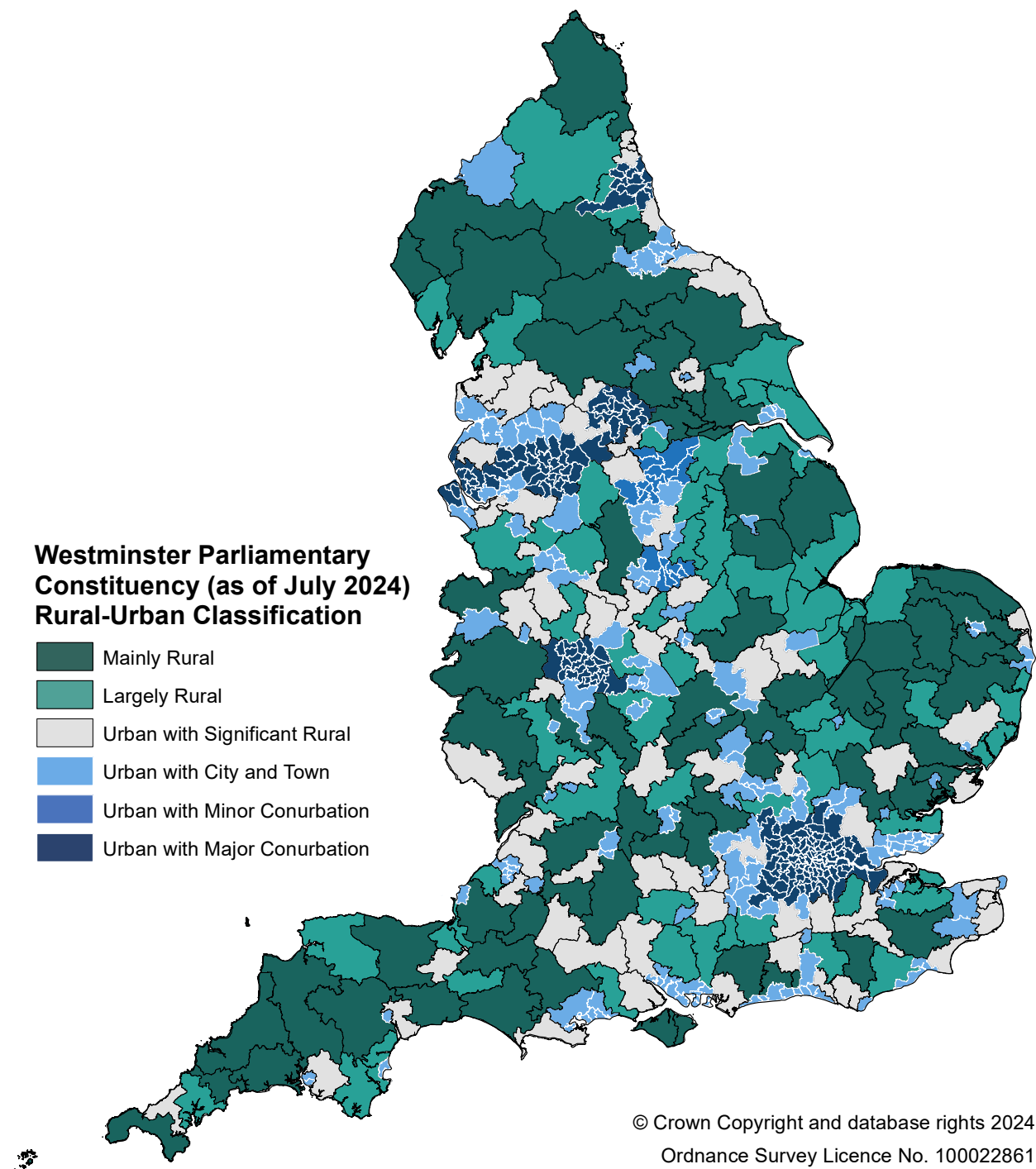
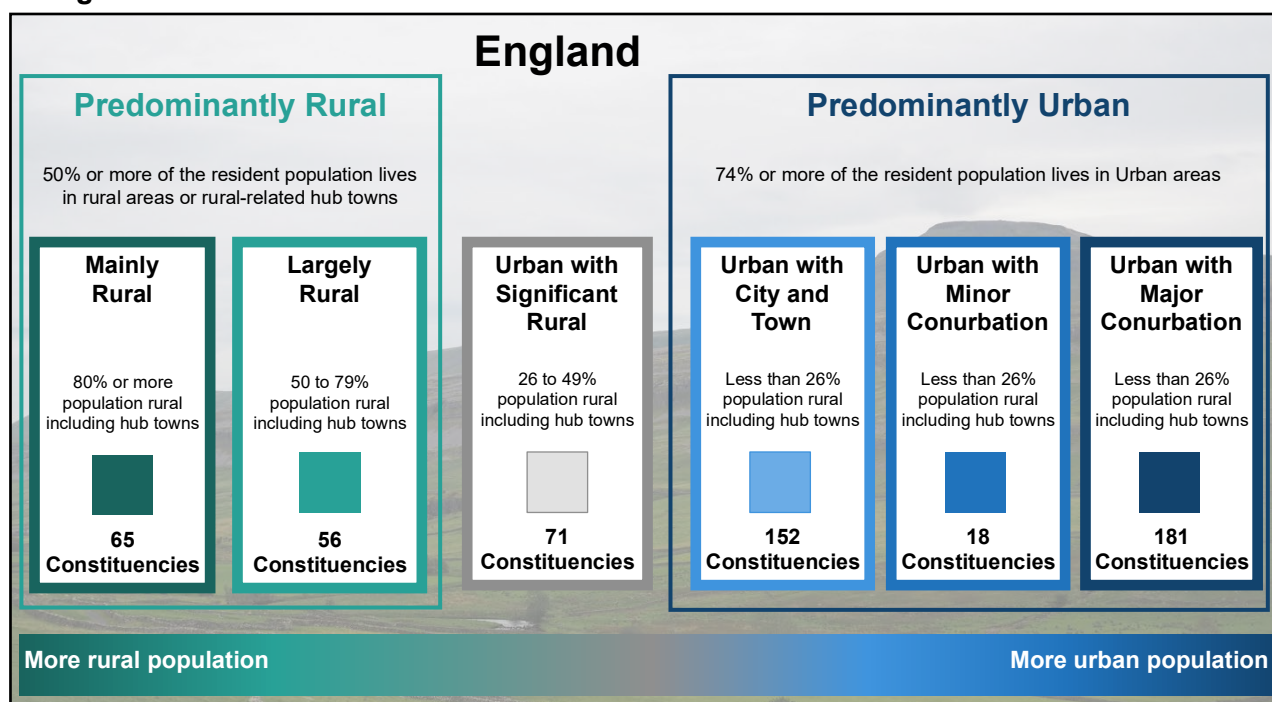**Figure X-4: 2011 Rural-Urban Classification for Local Authorities in England**

The Local Authority Rural-Urban Classification is based on <u>populations and settlement patterns, not on how much countryside there is</u>. Authorities classified as Urban may have wide areas of countryside and may have sizeable Rural populations. The classification has been made according to the proportions of the population residing in Urban settlements and outside Urban settlements. More information on the classifications can be found at: The Rural-Urban Definition.

A similar approach to that for Local Authorities was used to create a classification for Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies. Under this classification, which is shown in Figure X-5, each Parliamentary Constituency is assigned to one of six categories on the basis of the percentage of the total resident population accounted for by the combined Rural and Hub Town components of its population and its 'conurbation context'. A map of the geographical distribution of the Rural and Urban Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies is shown in Figure X-5. This map depicts a classification for the new rebalanced Parliamentary Constituencies that were introduced for 2024 General Election. The Parliamentary Constituency Classification categories are frequently aggregated to 'Predominantly Rural', 'Urban with Significant Rural' and 'Predominantly Urban' as shown on Figure X-6.

Figure X-5: Map of the 2011 Rural-Urban Classification for Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies in England

Westminster Parliamentary Constituency (as of July 2024) Rural-Urban Classification

- Mainly Rural
- Largely Rural
- Urban with Significant Rural
- Urban with City and Town
- Urban with Minor Conurbation
- Urban with Major Conurbation

Figure X-6: 2011 Rural-Urban Classification for Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies in England

Defining Rural areas explanatory notes

- **Note 1:** Defining Super Output Areas and Wards

Census Output Areas (OAs) were created for publication of the results of the recent Censuses. They cover around 125 households. In practice few datasets are produced at OA level. However, other larger geographies can be built up from OAs. These include *Lower Layer Super Output Areas* (LSOAs) which typically contain 5 OAs, so contain approximately 625 households or a population of approximately 1,500 and a minimum 1,000. Their Rural-Urban Classification is based on the majority category of OAs they contain. Some other geographies, for example postcodes are classified based on the location of their central point and the classification of respective OA.

- **Note 2:** Accessibility of Figure X-2

We accept that this map might not be accessible for all users, but it is difficult to develop a map containing six colours that will provide enough contrast between all colours to enable every user to see them, especially when the shaded areas are small. Separate maps (showing only three levels of shading) for Rural and Urban areas are available on request from: rural.statistics@defra.gov.uk