## Accessibility

- Monitoring accessibility is important because it can help identify who has access to and therefore benefits from services and who might be disadvantaged. One way of measuring accessibility is the time taken to travel to particular service locations.
- Generally, people living in rural settlements have lower overall levels of accessibility to key service locations compared with people living in urban settlements, while people living in rural areas in a sparse setting have the lowest overall accessibility.
- The average minimum travel times to reach the nearest key services was longer for people living in rural areas for all services, compared with people living in urban areas.
- More services were available on average for people living in urban areas for all service types and all journey times compared with those for people living in rural areas.
- For travel by public transport or walking:
- the average minimum travel time to a hospital was one hour in rural areas, compared with around half an hour in urban areas.
- fewer than half the users living in rural areas have access to places with 5000 or more jobs within 45 minutes, compared with around 90 per cent of users living in urban areas.
- around 41 per cent of users living in rural areas do not have access to their nearest hospital within an hours travel, compared with around 6 per cent of users living in urban areas.
- the average number of key service locations accessible to people living in rural areas was highest for primary schools and food stores with around 9 available within a 60 minute journey time.
- the services with the least average number of service locations available to people living in rural areas within a 60 minute journey time were hospitals (with one) and places with 5000 or more jobs available (with two).


## - For travel by car:

- for people living in rural hamlets and isolated dwellings in a sparse setting, average minimum journey times to centres of employment with 5000 or more jobs was over 48 minutes and it took on average over half an hour to travel to the nearest hospital.
- small proportions of users in rural areas do not have access to places with over 5000 jobs, GPs, hospitals, food stores or town centres within an hours travel by car.
- people living in rural areas had on average over four GPs available within a 15 minute journey compared with over nine GPs available for people living in urban areas.


## Average minimum travel times

- For travel by public transport or walking, cycling and by car, the average minimum travel time to reach the nearest key services was longer for people living in rural areas for all services, compared with people living in urban areas.
- For travel by public transport or walking: In rural areas the services with the lowest level of accessibility were hospitals and centres of employment with 5000 or more jobs. The average minimum travel time to a hospital was around one hour in rural areas, compared with around half an hour in urban areas. The average travel time to places with 5000 or more jobs was 56 minutes in rural areas compared with 28 minutes in urban areas. For all key service types the average minimum rural travel times were around double the average minimum urban travel times.
- For travel by car: For people living in rural areas, making the same journey by car compared with using public transport or walking, had the effect of halving the average minimum journey times. Urban areas also saw a reduction in travel times when comparing travel by car with public transport or walking but the difference was less pronounced. The average minimum travel time across all 8 services was 40 per cent higher in rural areas compared with urban areas overall. For people living in rural hamlets and isolated dwellings in a sparse setting, average minimum journey times by car to centres of employment with 5000 or more jobs was over 48 minutes and over half an hour to travel to the nearest hospital.

Average minimum travel time to reach the nearest key services by mode of travel, rural and urban areas, England, 2015

## by public transport or walking


by car


Note: The average of 8 services is calculated from the minimum journey times to medium sized centres of employment (500-4999 jobs), primary and secondary schools, further education, GPs, hospitals, food stores and tow n centres.


## Access to key services

- For travel by public transport or walking: Fewer than half the users living in rural areas have access to places with 5000 or more jobs within 45 minutes, compared with around 90 per cent of users living in urban areas. Around 41 per cent of users living in rural areas do not have access to their nearest hospital within an hours travel.
- For travel by car: All service users living in rural areas overall had access to places with 100 to 499 jobs and 500 to 4999 job, and key places of education. However small proportions of users in rural areas do not have access to places with over 5000 jobs, GPs, hospitals, food stores or town centres within an hours travel by car. Travelling by car is important where public transport links are limited, which can be especially true of rural areas.

Percentage of service users with access to key services within selected journey times by mode of travel, rural and urban classification 2011, England, 2015
by public transport or walking for journey times within 15 minutes

by car for journey times within 15 minutes


Percentage of service users with access to key services within selected journey times by mode of travel, rural and urban classification 2011, England, 2015

| Rural urban classification | Mode | Journey time (within 15, 30, 45 or 60 minutes) | Key services |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Centre of employment |  |  | Primary school | Secondary school | Further Education | GP | Hospital | Food store | Town Centres |
|  |  |  | Places with 100-499jobs | Places with 500-4999jobs | Places with 5000+jobs |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Public <br> Transport / <br> Walking | Urban | 15 minutes | 92.3 | 78.1 | 15.3 | 94.4 | 49.7 | 41.0 | 87.3 | 6.3 | 96.6 | 38.5 |
|  |  | 30 minutes | 99.9 | 99.8 | 65.0 | 100.0 | 98.7 | 95.2 | 100.0 | 45.6 | 100.0 | 95.4 |
|  |  | 45 minutes | 100.0 | 100.0 | 89.3 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 99.7 | 100.0 | 80.5 | 100.0 | 99.9 |
|  |  | 60 minutes | 100.0 | 100.0 | 96.8 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 99.9 | 100.0 | 93.8 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
|  | Rural | 15 minutes | 47.6 | 32.6 | 0.5 | 72.0 | 15.7 | 9.8 | 53.4 | 0.8 | 61.0 | 10.2 |
|  |  | 30 minutes | 85.2 | 81.6 | 14.5 | 94.5 | 66.8 | 54.2 | 88.0 | 9.9 | 89.2 | 55.3 |
|  |  | 45 minutes | 94.2 | 93.1 | 45.3 | 97.8 | 88.9 | 83.4 | 94.5 | 32.8 | 94.6 | 85.1 |
|  |  | 60 minutes | 96.8 | 96.1 | 66.9 | 99.1 | 93.7 | 91.5 | 96.6 | 58.7 | 96.6 | 92.1 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cycle | Urban | 15 minutes | 99.2 | 96.0 | 34.5 | 99.8 | 86.2 | 75.6 | 96.0 | 18.8 | 97.1 | 64.4 |
|  |  | 30 minutes | 100.0 | 100.0 | 76.6 | 100.0 | 99.9 | 98.3 | 97.4 | 66.7 | 97.4 | 95.3 |
|  |  | 45 minutes | 100.0 | 100.0 | 87.7 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 99.5 | 97.4 | 83.6 | 97.4 | 97.0 |
|  |  | 60 minutes | 100.0 | 100.0 | 92.8 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 99.8 | 97.4 | 89.8 | 97.4 | 97.4 |
|  | Rural | 15 minutes | 61.4 | 45.6 | 1.2 | 86.0 | 25.4 | 16.9 | 60.8 | 1.2 | 63.3 | 11.8 |
|  |  | 30 minutes | 93.9 | 88.4 | 16.0 | 99.6 | 70.9 | 57.2 | 91.8 | 11.3 | 90.8 | 45.8 |
|  |  | 45 minutes | 99.2 | 98.0 | 37.9 | 99.9 | 94.3 | 84.3 | 96.0 | 32.1 | 95.7 | 77.6 |
|  |  | 60 minutes | 99.8 | 99.5 | 57.1 | 100.0 | 99.2 | 95.4 | 96.3 | 53.0 | 96.2 | 91.4 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Car | Urban | 15 minutes | 100.0 | 99.9 | 64.8 | 100.0 | 99.5 | 96.5 | 97.4 | 45.7 | 97.4 | 90.1 |
|  |  | 30 minutes | 100.0 | 100.0 | 95.1 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 99.9 | 97.4 | 92.4 | 97.4 | 97.4 |
|  |  | 45 minutes | 100.0 | 100.0 | 98.6 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 97.4 | 96.8 | 97.4 | 97.4 |
|  |  | 60 minutes | 100.0 | 100.0 | 99.8 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 97.4 | 97.1 | 97.4 | 97.4 |
|  | Rural | 15 minutes | 93.3 | 88.7 | 12.8 | 99.5 | 70.2 | 55.0 | 92.7 | 8.8 | 92.4 | 44.5 |
|  |  | 30 minutes | 99.9 | 99.9 | 73.0 | 100.0 | 99.9 | 99.0 | 96.4 | 70.0 | 96.3 | 95.3 |
|  |  | 45 minutes | 100.0 | 100.0 | 94.2 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 99.9 | 96.4 | 93.2 | 96.4 | 96.3 |
|  |  | 60 minutes | 100.0 | 100.0 | 99.2 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 96.4 | 95.7 | 96.4 | 96.4 |

## Average number of key services available

- For travel by public transport or walking: The average number of key service locations accessible to people living in rural areas was highest for primary schools and food stores, with around 9 available within a 60 minute journey time. The services with the least average number of service locations available were hospitals and centres of employment with 5000 or more jobs, with none available for either service within a 15 minute journey time, and one hospital and two places with 5000 or more jobs available within a 60 minute journey time.
- More services were available on average for people living in urban areas for all service types and all journey times compared with those for people living in rural areas.
- For travel by car: Similar availability of services can be observed for travel by car. For people living in rural areas the number of GPs available within a 15 minute journey time by public transport or walking was less than one, however by car this increased to an average of over four. For people living in urban areas, the number of GPs available within a 15 minute journey time by public transport or walking was nearly three and this increased to over nine GPs when travelling by car.

Average number of sites available within selected journey times, by mode of travel, rural urban classification 2011, England, 2015
by public transport or walking for journey times within 15 minutes

by car for journey times within 15 minutes


| Rural urban classification | Mode | Journey time (within 15, 30, 45 or 60 minutes) | Key services |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Centre of employment |  |  | Primary school | Secondary school | Further Education | GP | Hospital | Food store | Town Centres |
|  |  |  | Places with 100-499 jobs | Places with 500-4999 jobs | Places with 5000+ jobs |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Public <br> Transport / <br> Walking | Urban | 15 minutes | 3.6 | 2.1 | 0.2 | 3.1 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 2.9 | 0.1 | 5.1 | 0.5 |
|  |  | 30 minutes | 9.4 | 8.5 | 1.8 | 9.5 | 4.9 | 4.4 | 8.9 | 0.6 | 9.9 | 3.0 |
|  |  | 45 minutes | 9.9 | 9.9 | 4.5 | 10.0 | 8.5 | 7.8 | 9.9 | 1.8 | 10.0 | 6.1 |
|  |  | 60 minutes | 10.0 | 10.0 | 7.0 | 10.0 | 9.7 | 9.3 | 10.0 | 3.5 | 10.0 | 8.4 |
|  | Rural | 15 minutes | 0.7 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 1.0 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 1.4 | 0.1 |
|  |  | 30 minutes | 4.2 | 3.1 | 0.2 | 5.3 | 1.2 | 0.9 | 4.0 | 0.1 | 6.3 | 0.7 |
|  |  | 45 minutes | 7.5 | 7.0 | 0.9 | 8.4 | 3.7 | 3.1 | 7.4 | 0.4 | 8.7 | 2.0 |
|  |  | 60 minutes | 8.7 | 8.6 | 2.2 | 9.2 | 6.3 | 5.5 | 8.7 | 0.9 | 9.2 | 3.9 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cycle | Urban | 15 minutes | 7.4 | 5.3 | 0.7 | 7.0 | 2.2 | 1.9 | 6.0 | 0.2 | 8.3 | 1.1 |
|  |  | 30 minutes | 9.7 | 9.4 | 3.0 | 9.8 | 7.2 | 6.4 | 9.3 | 1.1 | 9.9 | 4.0 |
|  |  | 45 minutes | 9.9 | 9.8 | 4.9 | 10.0 | 8.8 | 8.2 | 9.8 | 2.3 | 10.0 | 6.0 |
|  |  | 60 minutes | 10.0 | 10.0 | 6.3 | 10.0 | 9.4 | 9.0 | 9.9 | 3.4 | 10.0 | 7.3 |
|  | Rural | 15 minutes | 1.1 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 1.4 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 1.7 | 0.1 |
|  |  | 30 minutes | 5.2 | 3.9 | 0.2 | 6.3 | 1.6 | 1.2 | 4.1 | 0.1 | 6.2 | 0.6 |
|  |  | 45 minutes | 8.3 | 7.4 | 0.9 | 9.3 | 4.1 | 3.3 | 7.5 | 0.4 | 8.9 | 1.7 |
|  |  | 60 minutes | 9.5 | 9.1 | 1.9 | 9.9 | 6.4 | 5.4 | 9.2 | 0.8 | 9.7 | 3.2 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Car | Urban | 15 minutes | 9.6 | 9.0 | 1.8 | 9.8 | 5.5 | 4.8 | 9.1 | 0.5 | 9.9 | 2.5 |
|  |  | 30 minutes | 10.0 | 10.0 | 6.7 | 10.0 | 9.8 | 9.4 | 10.0 | 3.4 | 10.0 | 8.2 |
|  |  | 45 minutes | 10.0 | 10.0 | 8.9 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 9.9 | 10.0 | 6.9 | 10.0 | 9.8 |
|  |  | 60 minutes | 10.0 | 10.0 | 9.6 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 8.7 | 10.0 | 10.0 |
|  | Rural | 15 minutes | 5.0 | 3.6 | 0.2 | 6.4 | 1.3 | 0.9 | 4.2 | 0.1 | 6.6 | 0.6 |
|  |  | 30 minutes | 9.8 | 9.7 | 2.9 | 10.0 | 8.4 | 7.3 | 9.8 | 1.3 | 9.9 | 5.1 |
|  |  | 45 minutes | 10.0 | 10.0 | 6.7 | 10.0 | 9.9 | 9.6 | 10.0 | 4.0 | 10.0 | 9.0 |
|  |  | 60 minutes | 10.0 | 10.0 | 8.5 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 9.9 | 10.0 | 6.8 | 10.0 | 9.8 |

[^0]Source: DfT Journey Time Statistics: www.gov.uk/government/collections/iourney-time-statistics\#data-tables (files JTS0102, JTS0202, JTS0302)


[^0]:    Notes: Technical information on Journey Time Statistics can be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/iourney-time-statistics-guidance

