



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



# Statistical Digest of Rural England:

## 4 – Communities and Households

May 2024





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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 will be updated every month. The most recent updates for this theme are shown in Table 1.

Please note that in August 2023: (a) the “Crime” section from previous releases of the Digest has been split into two sections (“Police recorded crime and outcomes” and “Crime surveys: local police and businesses”); and (b) only part of the “Crime surveys: local police and businesses” analysis has been updated.

**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	March 2023	May 2023	August 2023	May 2024
Deprivation	✓	✗	✗	✗
Poverty	✓	✓	✗	✓
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](#).

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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>

Analysis of the 2021 Census will follow the release of a 2021-based rural urban classification.

# 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 (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 - key findings

Proportionally fewer Rural households are in poverty than Urban households

More of the population were in poverty in 2022/23 than in 2021/22 in Rural areas before housing costs are considered

Proportionally fewer Rural children are in poverty than Urban children

## Household expenditure - key findings

Rural households have an income on average around £20 per week more than Urban households but their expenditure is around £40 per week more

Rural households on average spend 60% of their post-tax income on household expenditure before any mortgage payments

Rural households spend on average £24 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 only £3 per week more in Rural areas than in Urban areas

## Police recorded crime and outcomes - key findings

The crime rate in England's most Rural areas is less than half the national average crime rate

There was more recorded crime in 22/23 than in 21/22 in both Rural and Urban areas, particularly for theft offences

In Rural areas theft rates are lower in 22/23 than they were in 19/20 but the rates for societal and personal crimes have stayed the same

Few recorded crimes in 2022/23 resulted in the offender getting charged or summonsed within the 3 months when the crime was reported

The recorded rate of seizures for Class B drugs in Rural areas is more than 4 times the rate for Class A drugs

There has been a 70% increase in the recorded rate of drug seizures in Rural areas between 15/16 and 21/22

The recorded rate of knife crime offences in Rural areas in 22/23 was 8 times greater than for firearms offences

Most fly-tipping incidents are on the highways and involve load sizes that fit in the boot of a typical car

## Crime Surveys: Local Police and Businesses - key findings

56% of Rural people think the police are doing a good job

More than 8 out of 10 Rural people think that the police would treat them with respect

Rural people had less confidence in the police in 2023 than they did in 2019

Two in three Rural people think the police understand local concerns

Half of Rural people think the police deal with local concerns

## 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

72 in every hundred people living in Rural areas reported feeling that they “belong” strongly or fairly strongly to their immediate neighbourhood

Just over half of people living in Rural areas thought it was important to feel that they can influence decisions affecting their local area

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

## 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.

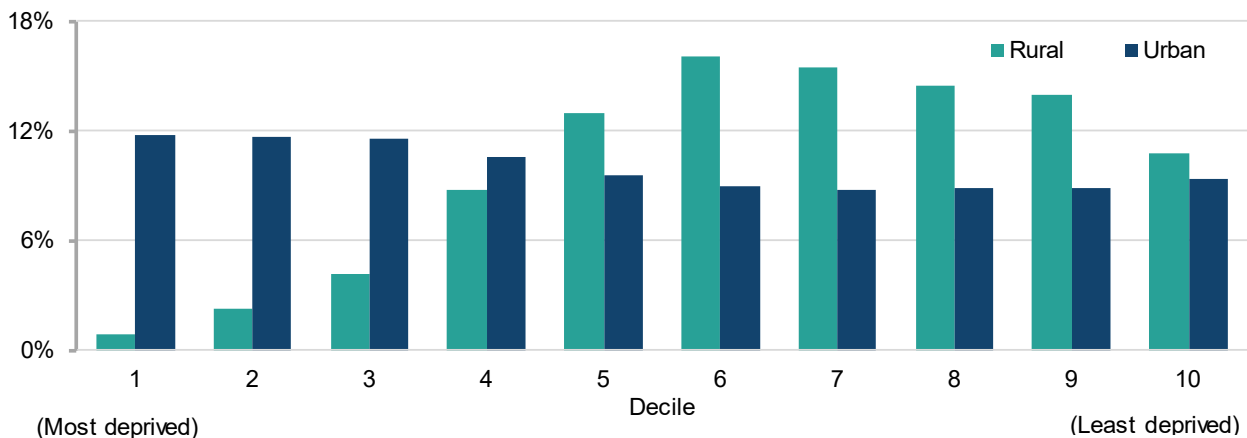


Table A-1 shows that there was limited variation within Rural areas for the most deprived areas as of 2019. 10% of people living in Rural Town and fringe areas were in the most deprived 30% compared to 4% of those living in Rural Village and dispersed areas. The proportions are higher for Rural settlements 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)**

IMD Decile	Most deprived							Least deprived			
	1 (%)	2 (%)	3 (%)	4 (%)	5 (%)	6 (%)	7 (%)	8 (%)	9 (%)	10 (%)	
<b>All Rural areas</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	
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	
<b>All Urban areas</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	
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.

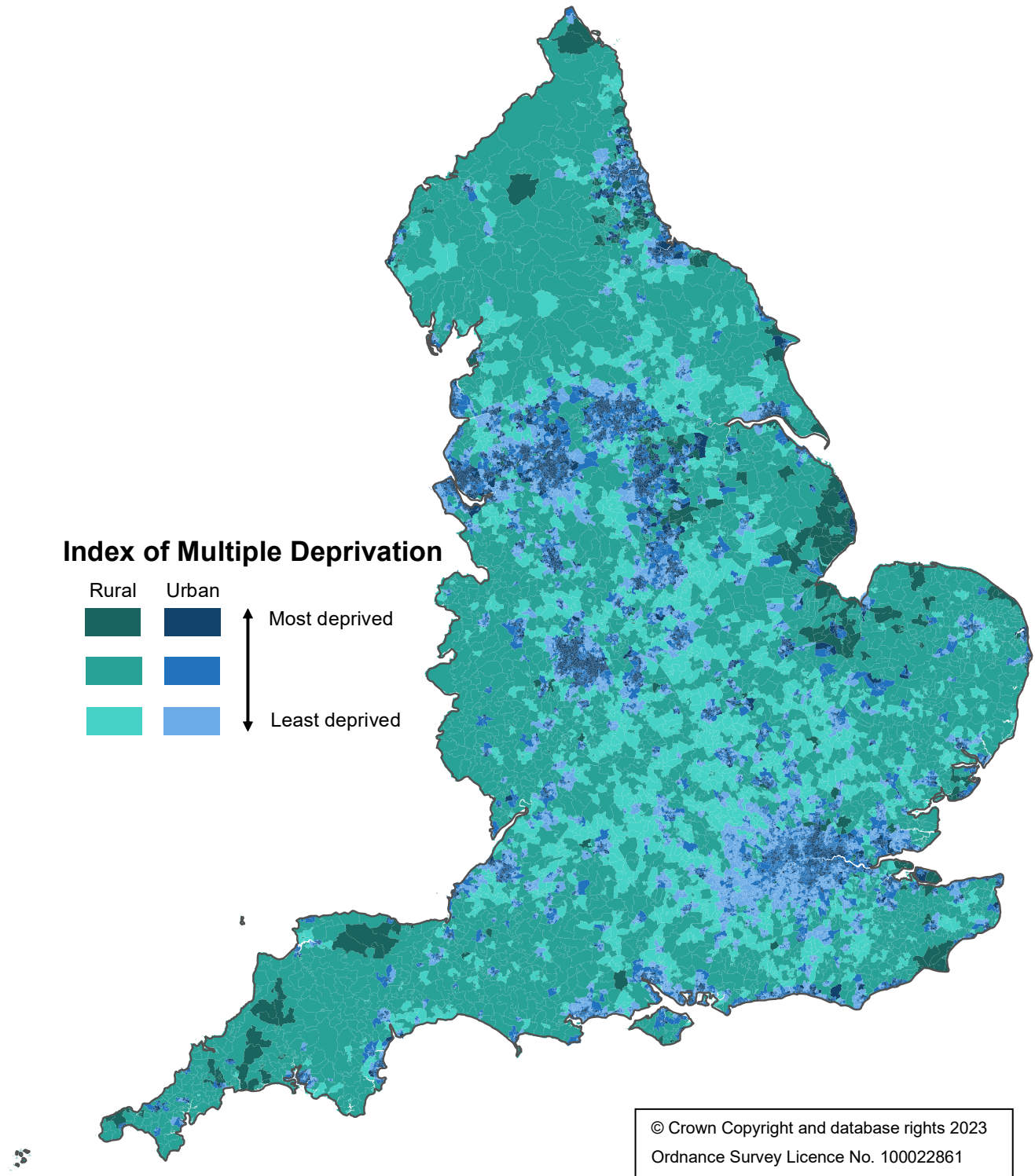
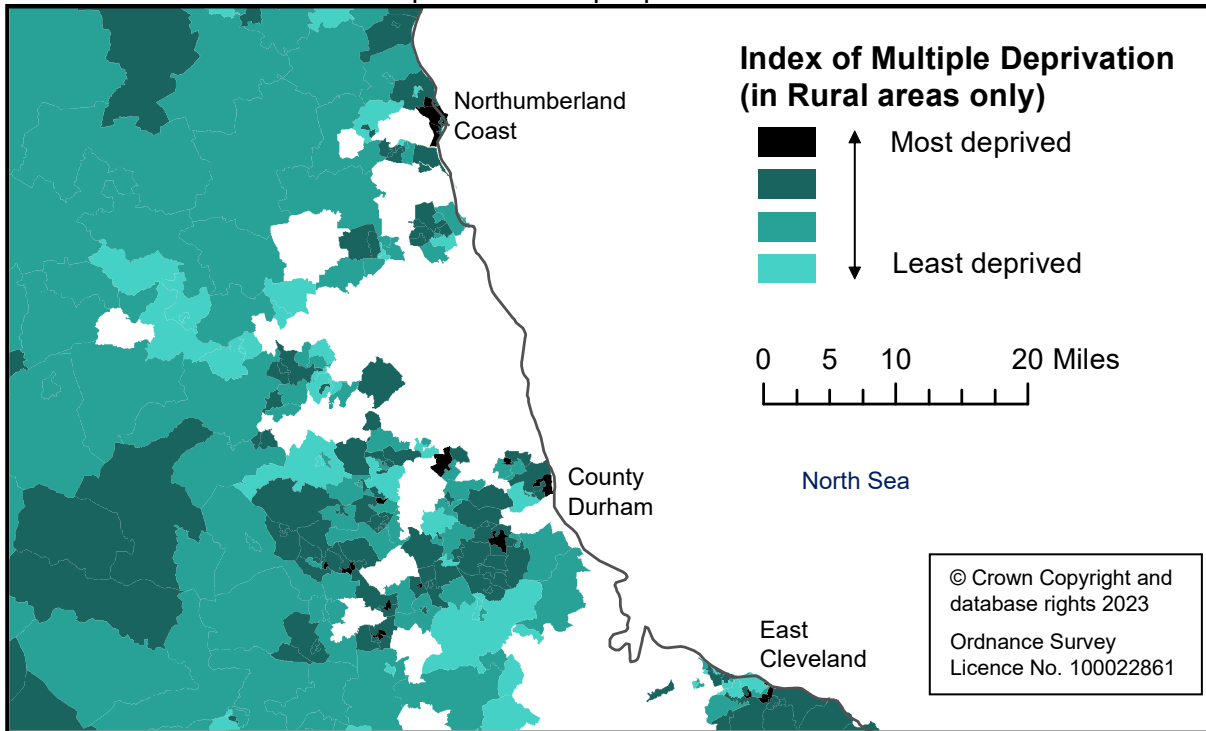


Figure A-3 zooms in on the North East of England. It is likely that areas within the most deprived 10% of areas in County Durham and on the Northumberland Coast include former coal mining communities. The loss of the major employer in a rural area, for example when a pit closed, created a surplus of 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.

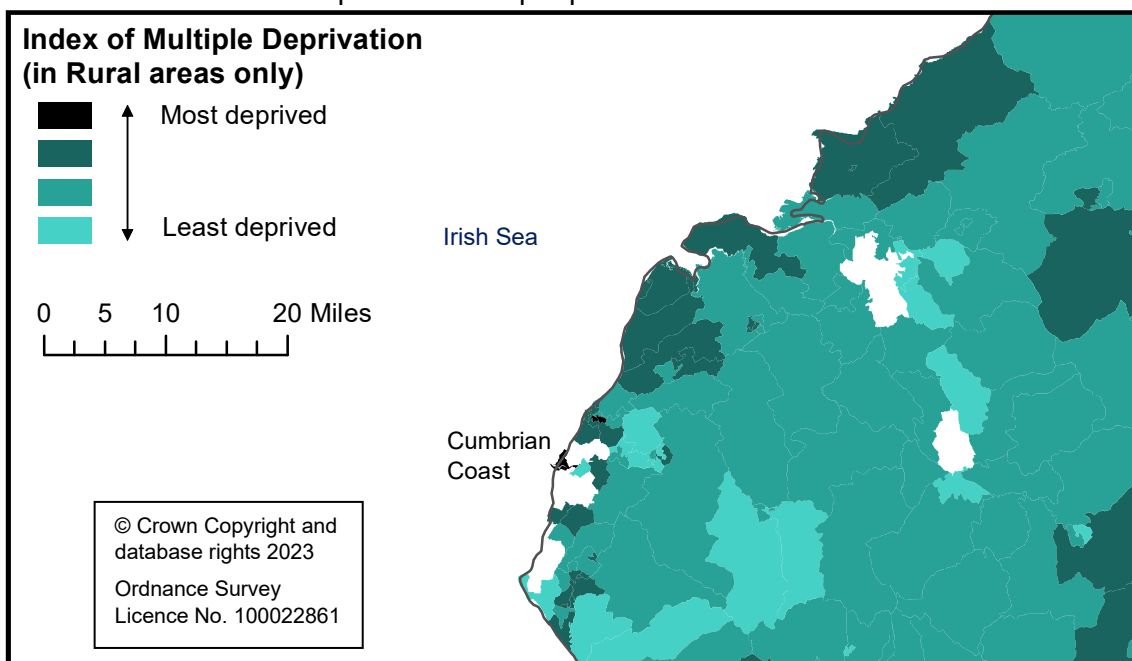
**Figure A-3: Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) deciles, by Lower Super Output Area and Rural-Urban Classification, in the North East of England (2019).**

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).**

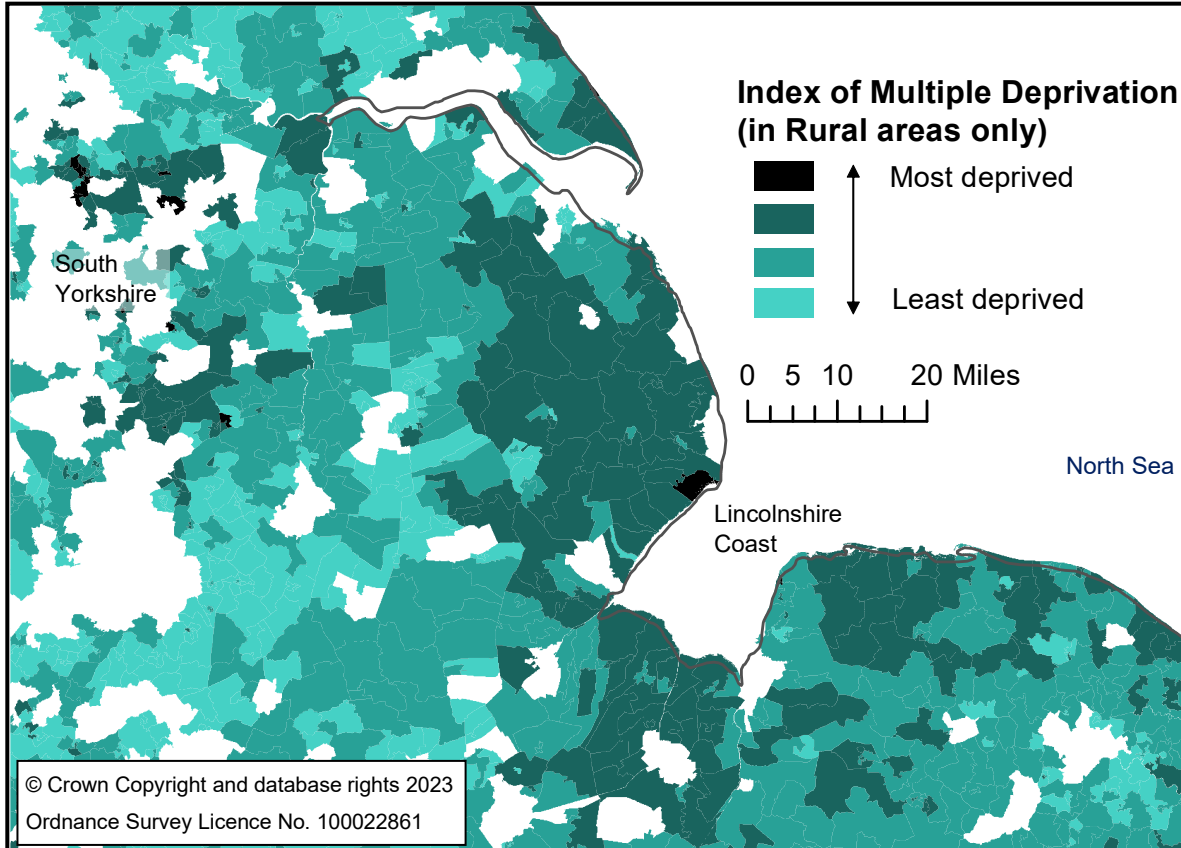
White LSOAs on the terrestrial part of the map represent Urban areas



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.

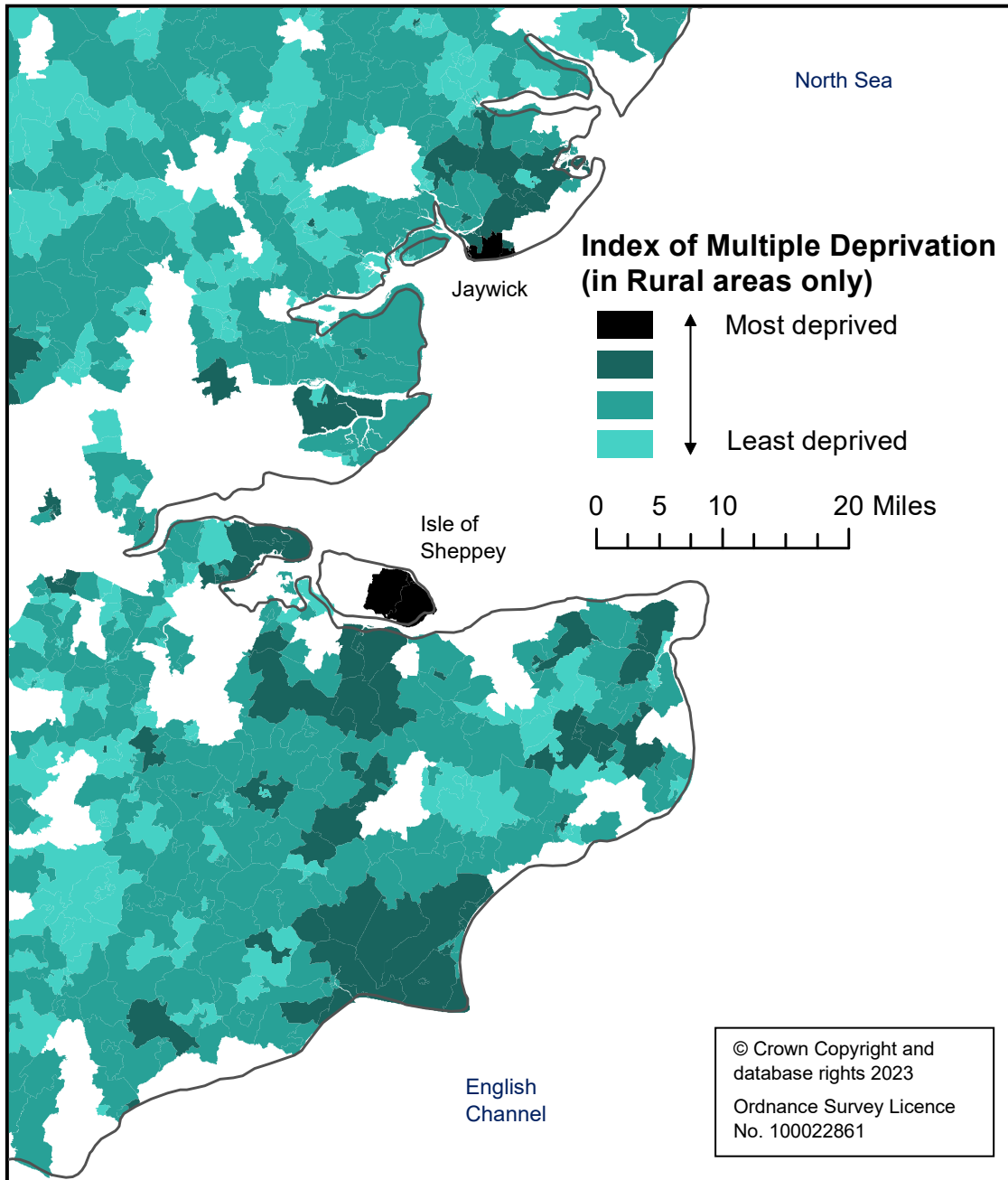


Within the South East of England (Figure A-6) areas within the 10% of most deprived areas include the Essex coast close to Jaywick and part of the Isle of Sheppey. In the case of the Isle of Sheppey the area contains multiple nature reserves and agricultural land and a single bridge onto the island. 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

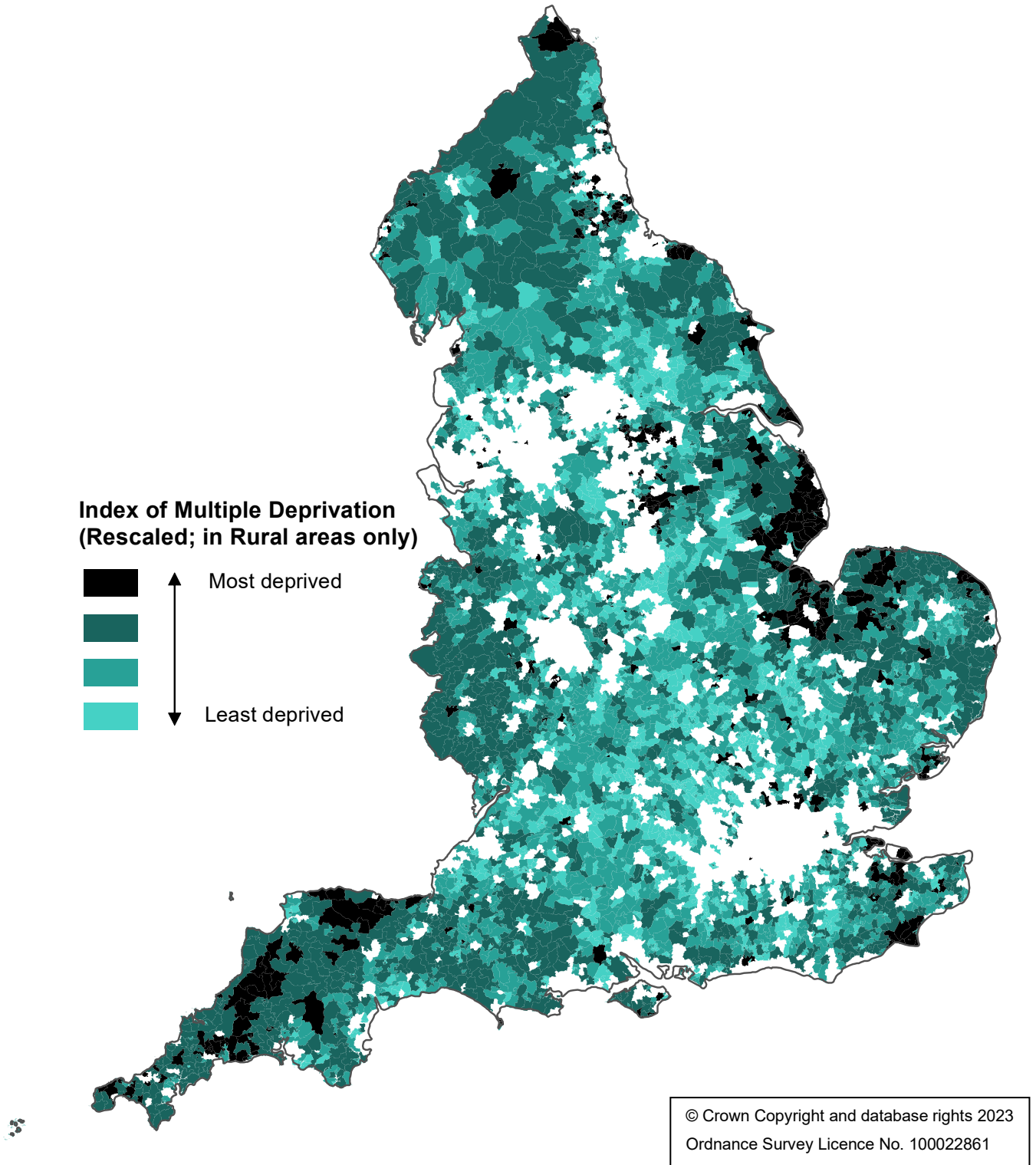
The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is intended to identify concentrations of deprivation, which tend to be found in urban areas. While deprivation occurs in rural areas it tends to be more dispersed and so a rural area that includes deprived households may not be sufficiently deprived overall to 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.



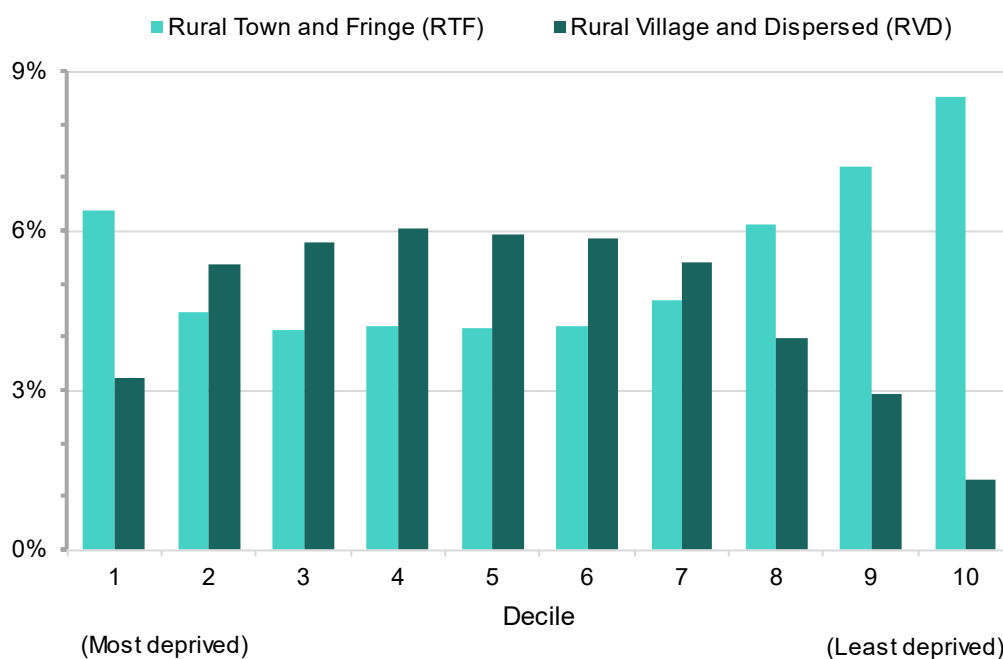
With the rescaling for rural areas only Figure A-7 shows, for example, that much of East Cleveland is within the most deprived 10% of rural areas and that there are concentrations of relative rural deprivation in Lincolnshire, County Durham, North Nottinghamshire, South Yorkshire and in the South West.

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](http://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 2022/23.**

### 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 2022/23, 14% of households in Rural areas were in relative low income before housing costs had been factored in; this compares to 17% of households in Urban areas. After housing costs, this rises to 16% of households in Rural areas and 23% in Urban areas. In Rural areas, the proportion of households in relative low income was higher in 2022/23 than in 2021/22, before housing costs had been factored in. There was no annual change after housing costs. In Urban areas, the proportion of households in relative low income stayed the same between 2021/22 and 2022/23 irrespective of whether or not housing costs had been factored in.

In 2022/23 12% of households in Rural areas were in absolute low income before housing costs had been factored in; this compares to 14% of households in Urban areas. After housing costs, this rises to 13% of households in Rural areas and 19% in Urban areas. In 2022/23 in Rural areas, the proportion of households in absolute low income was higher than in 2021/22 after housing costs had been factored in and showed no annual change after housing costs. In Urban areas, the proportion of households in absolute low income showed no change between 2021/22 and 2022/23 before housing costs had been factored in, whilst after housing costs proportions were higher.



## 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 report 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 report 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 report 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 2022/23. Table B-1 shows relative low income before housing costs are accounted for and Table B-2 shows the situation after housing costs are accounted for. They can be summarised as follows:

- The percentage of households in Rural areas in relative low income was 14% before housing costs and in Urban areas it was 17%. After housing costs, it was 16% 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 16% before housing costs and in Urban areas it was 23%. After housing costs, it was 21% in Rural areas and 32% in Urban areas.
- The percentage of pensioners in Rural areas in relative low income was 18% before housing costs and in Urban areas it was 19%. After housing costs, it was 16% 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, 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-2: 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

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, working-age people and children in relative low income before housing costs all increased between 2021/22 and 2022/23. Once housing costs had been factored in, the proportion of working-age people in relative low income decreased while for households and children it showed no change on the previous year. For pensioners, the proportion in relative low income showed an increase on the previous year both before and after housing costs.

**Table B-3: Proportion of the population in relative low income, before housing costs, by demographic and Rural-Urban Classification, 2021/22 (Note B-5)**

Before housing costs	Rural (%)	Urban (%)
Households	13	17
Working-age people	11	15
Children	14	21
Pensioners	16	19

**Table B-4: Proportion of the population in relative low income, after housing costs, by demographic and Rural-Urban Classification, 2021/22 (Note B-5)**

After housing costs	Rural (%)	Urban (%)
Households	16	23
Working-age people	15	21
Children	21	32
Pensioners	15	19

**Table B-5: Dashboard showing the percentage point change of the population in relative low income, before housing costs, between 2021/22 and 2022/23, 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 2021/22 and 2022/23, 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, working-age people, and pensions in relative low income before housing costs remained the same between 2021/22 and 2022/23 while it increased for children. Once housing costs are factored in the percentage in relative low income decreased for pensioners while it remained the same for households, working-age people and children.

### 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 2022/23. Table B-7 shows absolute low income before housing costs are accounted for and Table B-8 shows the situation after housing costs are accounted for. They can be summarised as follows:

- The percentage of households in Rural areas in absolute low income was 12% before housing costs and in Urban areas it was 14%. After housing costs, it was 13% in Rural areas and 19% 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 13% before housing costs and in Urban areas it was 19%. After housing costs, it was 17% in Rural areas and 27% in Urban areas.
- The percentage of pensioners in Rural areas in absolute low income was 15% before housing costs and in Urban areas it was also 15%. After housing costs, it was 12% in Rural areas and 13% in Urban areas.

**Table B-7: 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-8: 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

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, 2021/22 (Note B-5)**

Before housing costs	Rural (%)	Urban (%)
Households	10	14
Working-age people	9	12
Children	10	16
Pensioners	14	15

**Table B-10: Proportion of the population in absolute low income, after housing costs, by demographic and Rural-Urban Classification, 2021/22 (Note B-5)**

After housing costs	Rural (%)	Urban (%)
Households	13	18
Working-age people	12	17
Children	18	25
Pensioners	11	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 2021/22 and 2022/23 before and after housing costs respectively. In Rural areas, the proportion of households, working-age people and children in absolute low income before housing costs all increased between 2021/22 and 2022/23. Once housing costs had been factored in the proportion of children in absolute low income decreased while for households and working-age people it showed no change on the previous

year. For pensioners, the proportion in absolute low income showed an increase on the previous year both before and after housing costs.

**Table B-11: Dashboard showing the percentage point change of the population in absolute low income, before housing costs, between 2021/22 and 2022/23, 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 2021/22 and 2022/23, 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 working-age people and children in absolute low income before housing costs all increased, and once housing costs were factored in, the percentage of people in absolute low income had increased even further. The proportion of Urban households and pensioners in absolute low income remained the same before housing costs were factored in, but increased after housing costs for households.

## 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 equalisation. 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 2021/22, households in Rural areas had a higher average weekly income after tax (£819 per week) than Urban households (£801 per week). However, household expenditure was also higher for Rural households (£494 per week) than Urban households (£456 per week). The more Rural the area the higher the disposable income and the higher the household expenditure. In 2021/22, average household expenditure (excluding mortgage payments) as a proportion of disposable income was an average of 60%. Since 2014/15 this proportion has been higher in Rural areas than Urban areas in every year except 2017/18.

In 2021/22 on average Rural households spent a higher proportion of their disposable income on 'transport' (£94 per week) than they did on 'housing, water and energy' (£75 per week). Whereas for Urban areas households, on average they spent the highest proportion of their income on 'housing, water and energy' (£96 per week). Between 2014/15 and 2021/22 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 Figure C-1 shows, in 2021/22 when compared to Urban areas, households in Rural areas on average had higher weekly incomes after tax and also higher levels of expenditure.

**Figure C-1: Average weekly income after tax (top chart) and household expenditure (bottom chart), by Rural-Urban Classification, England, financial year 2021/22**

Average weekly household expenditure excludes mortgage payments ([Note E-1](#)).

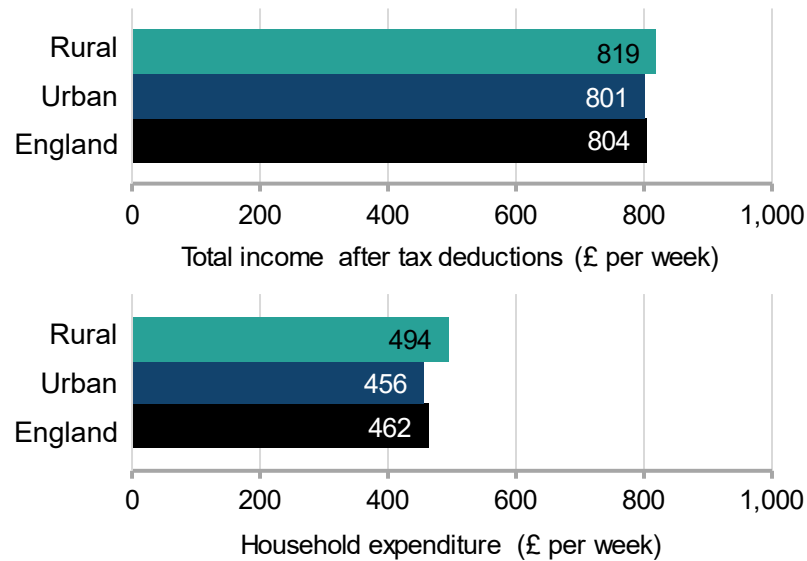
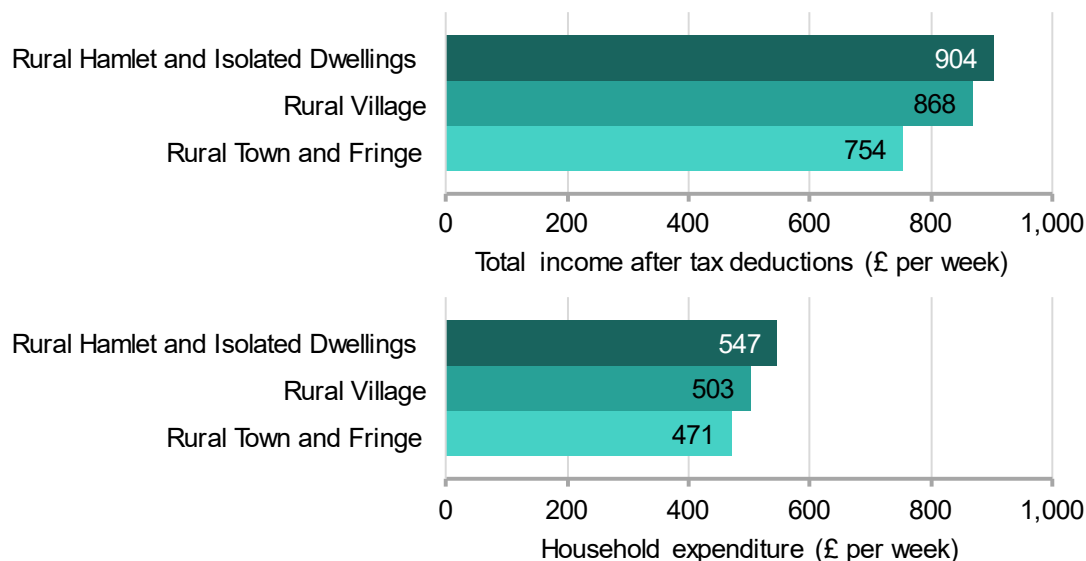


Figure C-2 shows the variation within Rural areas in average weekly household income and expenditure in the year ending March 2022. At £904 per week, households in Rural Hamlets and Isolated Dwellings had the highest weekly average incomes after tax, and their level of average expenditure was also the highest at £547. By contrast, households in Rural Town and Fringe areas had the lowest average income after tax in Rural areas; at £754 per week this average income was also lower than the average weekly income for Urban areas at £801 per week. Average expenditure for households in Urban areas at £456 was lower than the average expenditure for any of the Rural categories. Households in Rural Villages had an average income after tax of £868 - around £67 more than the Urban average - but their average weekly household expenditure was £47 higher than the average expenditure for Urban households.



**Figure C-2: Average weekly household expenditure (bottom chart) and income after tax (top chart), by Rural-Urban Classification (Rural only), England, financial year ending 2021/22**  
 Average weekly expenditure household excludes mortgage payments ([Note E-1](#)).



As shown in Table C-1, in 2021/22, average household expenditure (excluding mortgage payments) as a proportion of disposable income was an average of 57% in Urban areas compared to an average of 60% in Rural areas. Between 2014/15 and 2021/22, there was little variation across settlement types in Rural areas in the proportional average weekly expenditure.

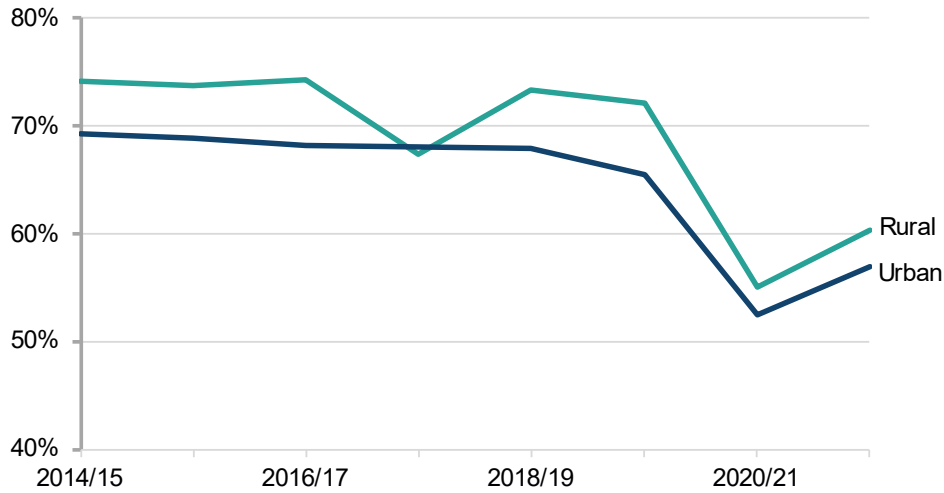
**Table C-1: Average weekly expenditure (excluding mortgage payments) as a percentage of average weekly disposable income by Rural-Urban Classification for England, financial years 2017/18 to 2021/22 ([Note E-5](#))**

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
<b>All Rural</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>60</b>
Rural Town and Fringe	68	68	73	53	57
Rural Villages	67	80	72	54	58
Rural Hamlet and Isolated Dwellings	67	71	70	54	61
<b>All Urban</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>57</b>

Figure C-3 shows the average weekly expenditure as a percentage of disposable income for Rural and Urban areas between financial years 2014/15 and 2021/22. 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.

Proportional average weekly expenditure fell slightly until 2019/20, after which there was a sharp decrease in both Rural and Urban areas of 17 percentage points and 13 percentage points respectively. 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 2021/22, proportional average weekly expenditure increased in both Rural and Urban areas.

**Figure C-3: 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 2021/22**



### Expenditure on commodity or service groups

Figure C-4 shows that in 2021/22 households in Rural areas on average spent £94 per week on transport costs, £75 per week on housing, water and energy (excluding mortgage payments), and £68 on Recreation.

Figure C-5 shows that generally, households in Urban areas spent less than those in Rural areas across the different service categories; in 2021/22, however households in Urban areas spent more on housing, water and energy (excluding mortgage payments, £96 per week on average) than any other commodity or service group.

Households in Rural areas spent less than Urban households on average in the following categories: housing, water and energy (excluding mortgage payments, £21 per week less); clothing and footwear (£1 per week less); education (£2 per week less).

**Figure C-4: Breakdown of average weekly household expenditure (excluding mortgage payments) in Rural areas, by commodity or service, financial year 2021/22**



**Figure C-5: Breakdown of average weekly household expenditure (excluding mortgage payments) in Urban areas, by commodity or service, financial year 2021/22**



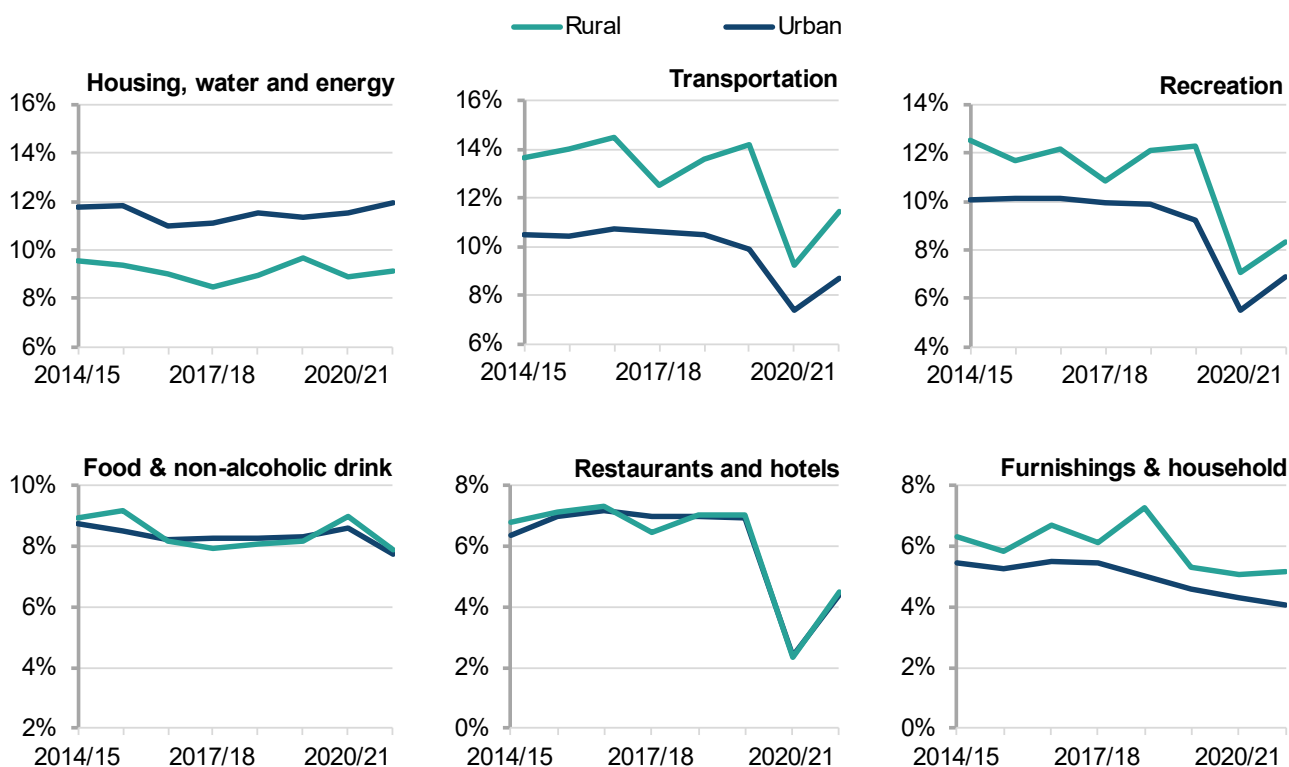
Figure C-6 shows the change in the proportional average weekly expenditure by commodity or service between 2014/15 and 2021/22. It can be summarised as follows:

- 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. Households in Rural areas spent 0.4 percentage points less in 2021/22 than in 2014/15, whereas in Urban areas, expenditure for housing, water and energy increased by 0.1 percentage points. However, it should be noted that this data does not reflect the energy cost crisis of 2022/23, nor does it include mortgage payments.
- Households in Rural areas have consistently spent a larger proportion of their disposable income on **transportation** costs or **recreation** than those in Urban areas. In all areas, transportation and recreation expenditure as percentages of income were lower in 2021/22 than they were in 2014/15, although this was likely due to the slow recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- There was little difference in the proportional weekly expenditure on **food and non-alcoholic beverages** between Rural and Urban areas from 2014/15 to 2021/22. In all areas, households spent 1 percentage point less of their disposable income on food and non-alcoholic beverages in 2021/22 than in 2014/15.
- There was little difference in the proportional weekly expenditure on **restaurants and hotels** between Rural and Urban areas from 2014/15 to 2021/22. In all areas, households spent 5 percentage points less of their disposable income on restaurants and hotels in 2020/21 owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. There was a slight recovery in 2021/22, although households still spent 2-3 percentage points less than they did in 2014/15.

In Rural areas, households have consistently spent a larger proportion of their disposable income on **furnishings and household equipment** than those in Urban areas.

**Figure C-6: 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 2021/22**

Scales differ between commodities and services and therefore caution is advised when making comparisons. 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](#).



**Notes**

- On Figure C-4 and Figure C-5 the darkest shading has been used for expenditures over £50 per week and the lightest shading for expenditures less than £20 per week. Expenditures between £20 and £50 per week have the medium shading.

**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](http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/personalandhouseholdfinances/incomeandwealth/methodologies/livingcostsandfoodsurvey))

## D. Police recorded crime and outcomes

**The recorded crime rates in Predominantly Rural areas are much lower than in Predominantly Urban areas for most crime types but there are specific crimes, such as drugs and fly-tipping that have seen increases.**

### 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 2023 police recorded 57 crimes per 1,000 population (excluding fraud) in Rural areas and 104 crimes per 1,000 population in Urban areas – a difference of 47 crimes per 1,000 population. When we grouped crimes as: (1) personal crime, (2) robbery/theft, and (3) societal crime, then the data showed 'violence without injury', 'residential burglary' and 'criminal damage and arson' were the most commonly recorded crimes for each of these three categories, respectively.

Overall, the police recorded crime rate was higher in 2022/23 than it was in the previous year (2021/22). In Predominantly Rural areas, there were 2.2 more crimes per 1,000 population recorded in 2022/23 than in 2021/22 and in Predominantly Urban areas, there were 4.3 more crimes recorded per 1,000 population in 2022/23 than in 2021/22.

Over the period 2019/20 to 2022/23 total police recorded crime rates have consistently been lower in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas. Rural recorded crime rates were close to 60 offences per 1,000 population whereas Urban recorded crime rates were around 100 offences per 1,000 population.

Relatively few incidents recorded in 2022/23 resulted in the offender getting charged/summonsed within the same three months when the crime was reported; just 7.2% of all offences resulted in a charge or summons in Predominantly Rural areas, compared with 5.4% 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 drugs per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas for all classes of drugs. Most seizures were for Class B drugs, there were 208 seizures per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas and 234 seizures per 100,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas. For the year ending March 2022, there was 733 fly-tipping incidents (illegal dumping of waste) reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas and 2,414 fly-tipping incidents in Predominantly Urban areas. There have been consistently fewer fly-tipping incidents reported in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas over the period 2012/13 to 2021/22, but the number of incidents reported in both Predominantly Rural (up 34%) and Predominantly Urban (up 45%) areas has increased over this period.

## Crime rates in 2022/23

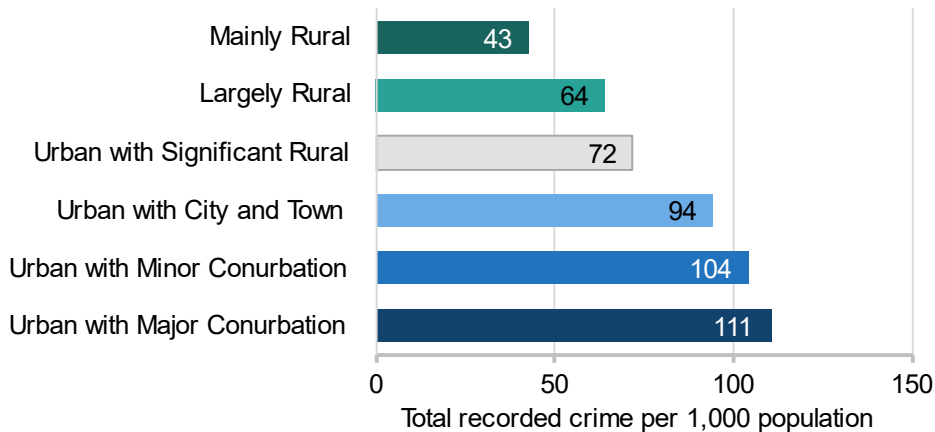
The police recorded crime rate was lower in Rural areas than in Urban areas in the period from April 2022 to March 2023. Table D-1 shows that in Predominantly Rural areas overall, the police recorded 57 crimes per 1,000 population (excluding fraud) in 2022/23; this is 47 crimes per 1,000 population less than in Predominantly Urban areas.

**Table D-1: Police recorded crimes per 1,000 population, by Community Safety Partnership area broad Rural-Urban Classification, England, 2022/23 (Note D-1, Note D-4)**

	Total recorded crime per 1,000 population
Predominantly Rural	57
Predominantly Urban	104
<b>England</b>	<b>89</b>

Figure D-1 shows that in the most Rural areas, the police recorded 68 fewer crimes per 1,000 people (excluding fraud) than in the most Urban areas (with crime rates of 43 offences per 1,000 population and 111 offences per 1,000 population respectively).

**Figure D-1: Police recorded crimes per 1,000 population, by Community Safety Partnership area detailed Rural-Urban Classification, England, 2022/23 (Note D-1, Note D-4)**



Police recorded crime is 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. We can group these further 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 as **personal crime**. The offence rate for personal crimes is shown in Figure D-2. In 2022/23, violence without injury was the most commonly recorded personal crime, with 8.7 crimes recorded per 1,000 people in Predominantly Rural areas (and 15.1 crimes per 1,000 people in Predominantly Urban areas). 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).

**Figure D-2: Police recorded personal crimes per 1,000 population, by Community Safety Partnership area Rural-Urban Classification, 2022/23 (Note D-1, Note D-2, Note D-4)**

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

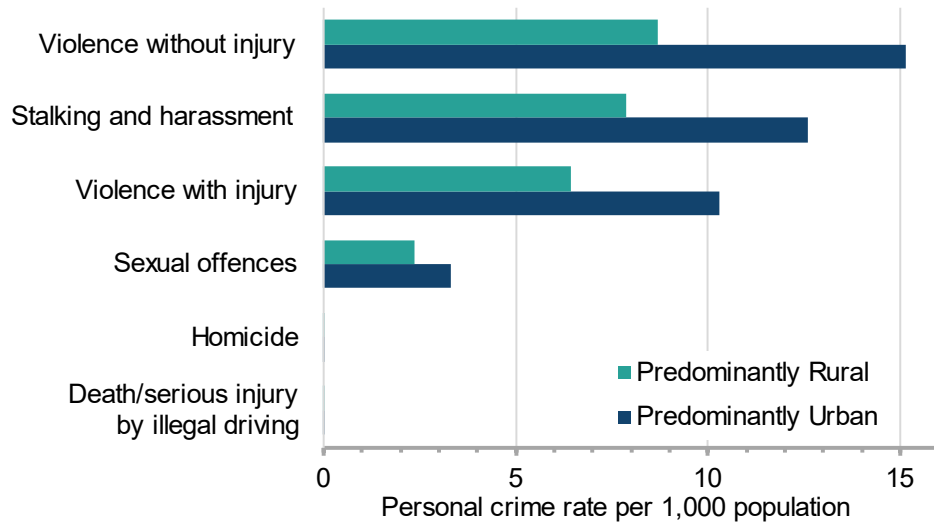


Figure D-3 shows the number of **robbery/theft** offences recorded in 2022/23. The most commonly recorded specific crime in 2022/23 was residential burglary; there were 4.3 offences recorded per 1,000 households in Predominantly Rural areas (and 9.3 per 1,000 households in Predominantly Urban areas). The least commonly recorded crime in Predominantly Rural areas was robbery, for which there were 0.3 offences per 1,000 population (1.5 fewer offences per 1,000 population than in Predominantly Urban areas).

**Figure D-3: Police recorded robbery/theft offences per 1,000 population/households, by Community Safety Partnership area Rural-Urban Classification, 2022/23 (Note D-1, 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.

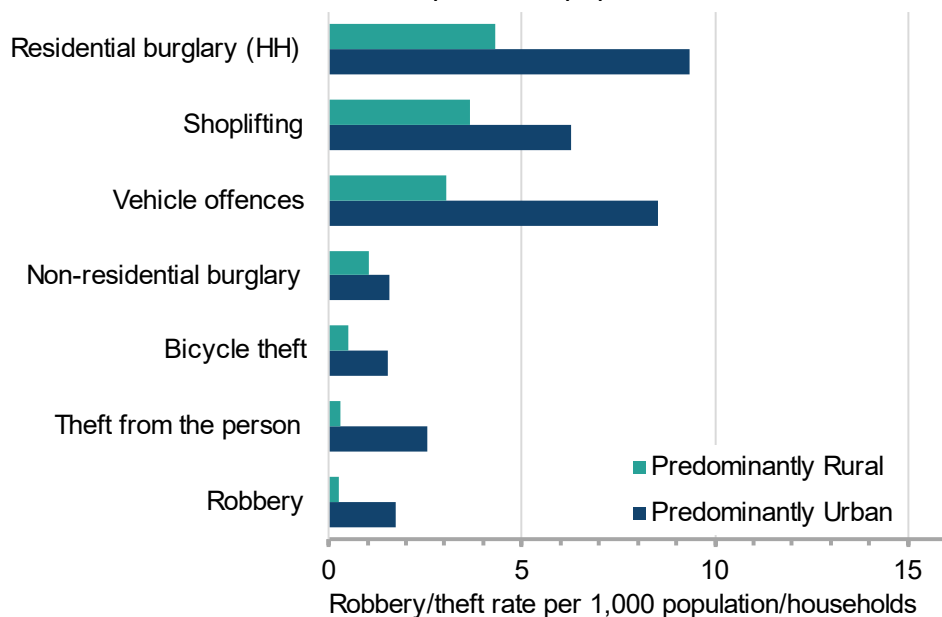
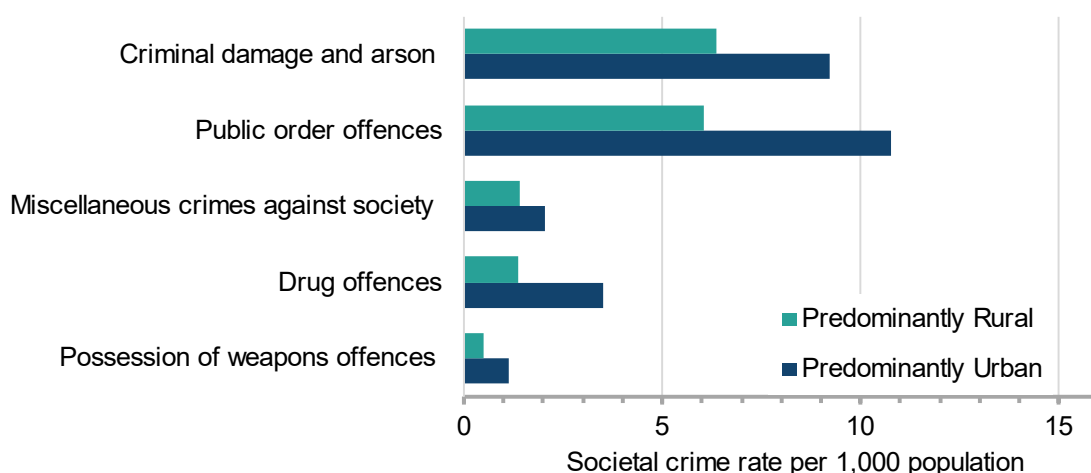




Figure D-4 shows the police recorded crime rate for **societal crimes** in 2022/23. The most commonly recorded societal crime in Predominantly Rural areas was criminal damage and arson, for which there were 6.4 crimes recorded per 1,000 population; this compares with 9.2 crimes recorded per 1,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas. The most commonly recorded societal crimes in Predominantly Urban areas were public order offences, for which there were 10.8 crimes recorded per 1,000 population (and 6.0 crimes per 1,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas). The least commonly recorded crimes were possession of weapons offences, for which there were 0.5 crimes recorded per 1,000 people in Predominantly Rural areas (and 1.1 crimes per 1,000 people in Predominantly Urban areas).

**Figure D-4: Police recorded societal crimes per 1,000 population/households, by Community Safety Partnership area Rural-Urban Classification, 2022/23 (Note D-1, Note D-4)**

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



### Crime rates: short-term trends

Overall, the police recorded crime rate was higher in 2022/23 than it was in the previous financial year (2021/22); this is shown in Table D-2. In Predominantly Rural areas, there were 2.2 more crimes per 1,000 people recorded in 2022/23 than in 2021/22. The increase in crime rate was greater in Predominantly Urban areas, where there were 4.3 more crimes recorded per 1,000 population in 2022/23 than in 2021/22. In England overall, the crime rate increased from 85.9 to 89.5 crimes per 1,000 population.

**Table D-2: Change in total police recorded crimes per 1,000 population (excluding fraud), by Community Safety Partnership area Rural-Urban Classification, England, 2021/22 to 2022/23 (Note D-1, Note D-4)**

	Total recorded crime per 1,000 population in 2021/22	Total recorded crime per 1,000 population in 2022/23	Change
Predominantly Rural	54.4	56.6	2.2 ↑
Predominantly Urban	99.5	103.8	4.3 ↑
<b>England</b>	<b>85.9</b>	<b>89.5</b>	<b>3.6 ↑</b>

**Notes**

- In Table D-2, 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 by offence groups**

Figure D-5 shows the change in the **personal crime** rate per 1,000 population from 2021/22 to 2022/23. The crime rates decreased for homicide and stalking/harassment, but increased for violence with/without injury, sexual offences, and death/serious injury by illegal driving.

The largest difference in Predominantly Rural areas was in the rate of death or serious injury by illegal driving, for which there were 29% more crimes recorded in 2022/23 than in 2021/22. The largest difference in Predominantly Urban areas was in the homicide rate, for which there were 13% fewer crimes recorded in 2022/23 than in 2021/22. However, for all settlement types there were fewer than 0.1 offences recorded per 1,000 population in both years for these crimes. In Predominantly Rural areas the rate of sexual offences increased by 3% in 2022/23 (2.4 offences per 1,000 population) compared with 2021/22 (2.3 offences per 1,000 population).

**Figure D-5: Change in police recorded personal crimes per 1,000 population, by Community Safety Partnership area Rural-Urban Classification, England, 2021/22 to 2022/23 (Note D-1, Note D-2, Note D-4)**

The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clustered columns. The percentage changes in homicides and death/serious injury by illegal driving are attributed to small numbers of offences.

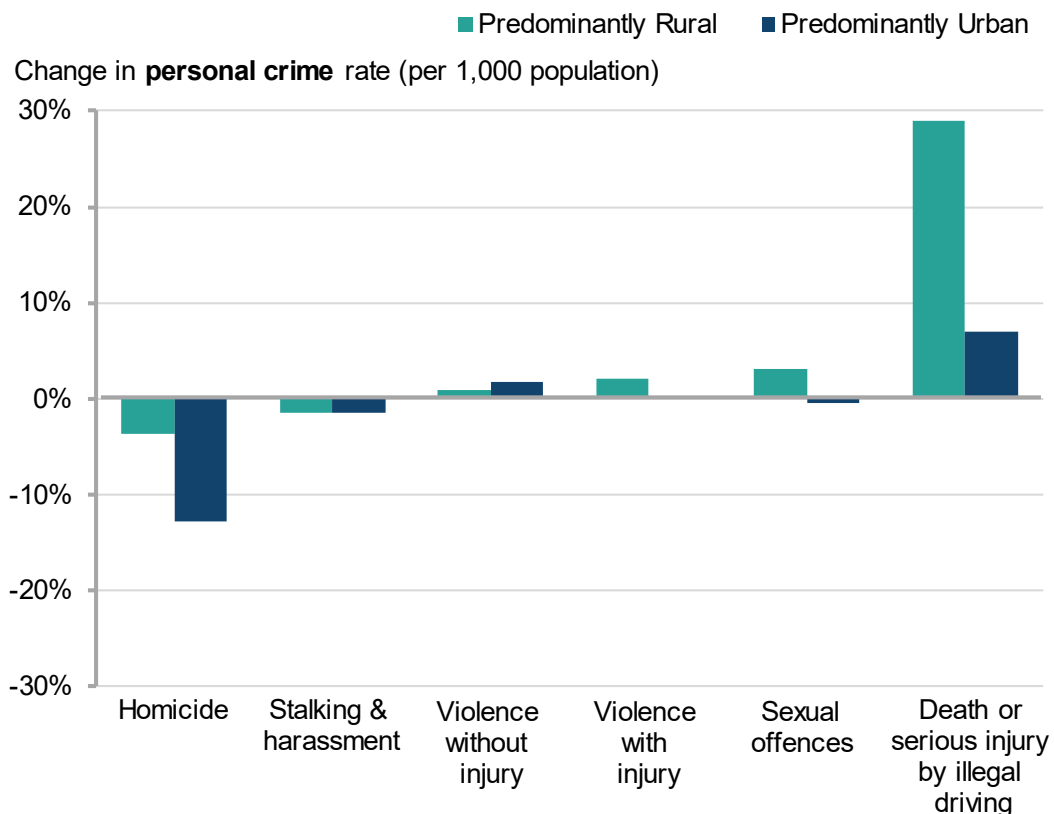


Figure D-6 shows the change in the number of **robbery/theft** related crimes per 1,000 population/households from 2021/22 to 2022/23. In Predominantly Rural areas, the police recorded crime rate increased for all robbery/theft related crimes. In Predominantly Urban areas, the police recorded crime rate increased for most crimes except for the number of bicycle thefts recorded, which decreased by 6%.

The largest difference in Predominantly Rural areas was in the number of shoplifting offences recorded, which increased by 26% between 2021/22 (2.9 offences per 1,000 population) and 2022/23 (3.6 offences per 1,000 population). The largest difference in Predominantly Urban areas was in the number of thefts from the person, which increased by 26% between 2021/22 (2.0 per 1,000 population) and 2022/23 (2.5 per 1,000 population).

**Figure D-6: Change in police recorded robbery/thefts per 1,000 population/households, by Community Safety Partnership area Rural-Urban Classification, England, 2021/22 to 2022/23 (Note D-1, Note D-4)**

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

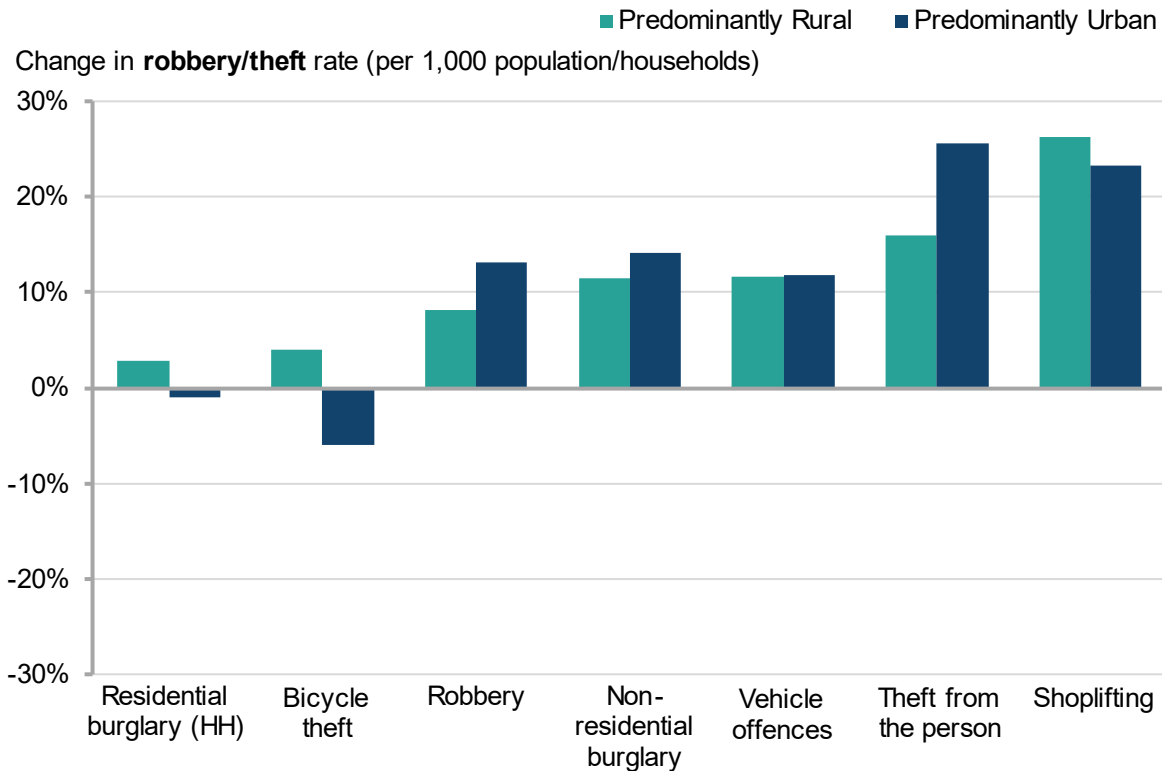
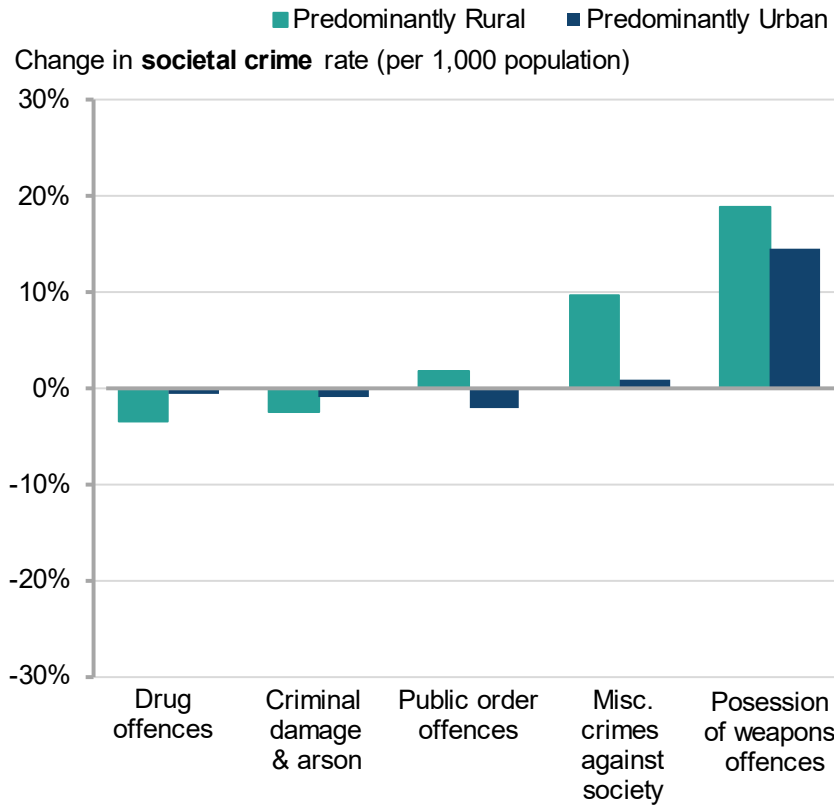


Figure D-7 shows the change in the police recorded **societal crime** rate per 1,000 population from 2021/22 to 2022/23. The recorded crime rate decreased for drug offences, criminal damage and arson in Predominantly Rural areas, but increased for public order offences, possession of weapons offences, and miscellaneous crimes against society.

In Predominantly Rural areas, the largest difference was for possession of weapons offences, which increased by 19% between 2021/22 (0.4 offences per 1,000 population) and 2022/23 (0.5 offences per 1,000 population). This was also the offence with the largest difference in Predominantly Urban areas, since there were 15% more crimes recorded in 2022/23 than in 2021/22.

**Figure D-7: Change in police recorded societal crimes per 1,000 population/households, by Community Safety Partnership area Rural-Urban Classification, England, 2021/22 to 2022/23 (Note D-1, Note D-4)**

The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clustered columns. “Misc.” refers to miscellaneous crimes against society.



### Crime rates: long-term trends

Figure D-8 shows the change in total police recorded crime rates between 2019/20 and 2022/23.

The police recorded crime rate has consistently been lower in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas; in 2022/23, there were 57 offences recorded per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas, and 104 offences recorded per 100,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas. In comparison, there were 61 offences recorded per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas in 2019/20, and 99 offences recorded per 100,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas.

The crime rate fell from 61 to 53 offences per 1,000 population between 2019/20 and 2020/21; this could be a potential effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, where government restrictions may have resulted in less opportunity for some types of crime.

Between 2020/21 and 2022/23, the crime rate slowly increased in Predominantly Rural areas, however there were still 4 fewer offences recorded per 1,000 population in 2022/23 than in 2019/20. In Predominantly Urban areas there were similar decreases to 2020/21 potentially due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however the subsequent increases resulted in there being 5 more crimes recorded per 1,000 population in 2022/23 than in 2019/20.

**Figure D-8: Change in total police recorded crimes per 1,000 population (excluding fraud), by Community Safety Partnership area broad Rural-Urban Classification, England, year ending March 2020 to year ending March 2023 (Note D-1, Note D-4)**

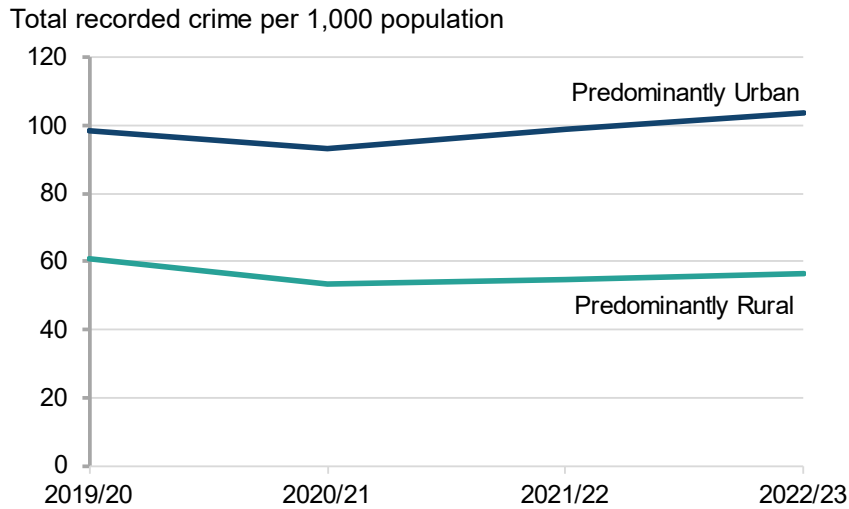
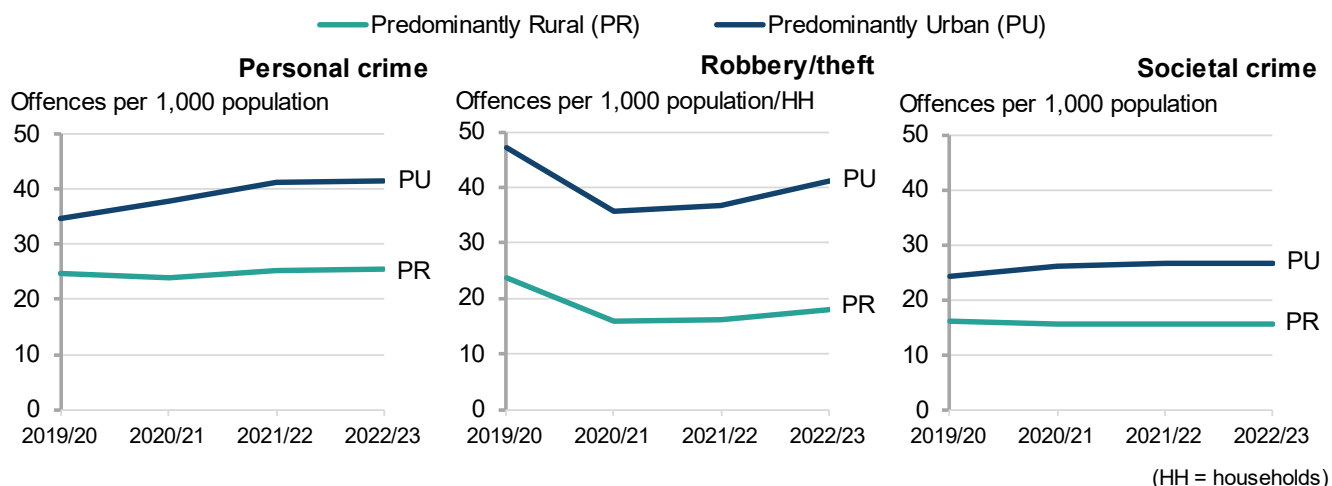


Figure D-9 shows the change in police recorded crime rates for personal crime (left chart), robbery/theft (middle chart), and societal crime (right chart) between 2019/20 and 2022/23. It can be summarised as follows:

- In terms of **personal crime** (left chart), between 2019/20 and 2020/21 there was 1 offence less recorded per 1,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas, compared with 3 more offences recorded per 1,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas. Between 2020/21 and 2022/23, the personal crime rate increased in both Predominantly Rural areas (by 1 offence per 1,000 population, to a total of 25 offences recorded per 1,000 population) and Predominantly Urban areas (by 3 offences per 1,000 population, to a total of 41 offences recorded per 1,000 population).
- There were 6 fewer **robbery/theft** offences recorded per 1,000 population/households (middle chart) in 2022/23 than in 2019/20 in both Predominantly Rural and predominantly Urban areas; the crime rate fell from 24 to 18 offences per 1,000 population/households in Predominantly Rural Police Force areas, from 47 to 41 offences per 1,000 population/households in Predominantly Urban areas. Across both Predominantly Rural and Predominantly Urban areas, there were fewest robbery/theft offences recorded per 1,000 population/households in 2020/21; this could be due to lack of opportunity throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The number of police recorded **societal crimes** (right chart) remained at around 16 offences recorded per 1,000 population between 2019/20 and 2022/23 in Predominantly Rural areas. In Predominantly Urban areas, there was an overall increase of 2 offences recorded per 1,000 population between 2019/20 and 2022/23.

**Figure D-9: Change in 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 broad Rural-Urban Classification, in England, year ending March 2020 to year ending March 2023 (Note D-1, Note D-4)**

Personal and Societal crime rates are measured per 100,000 population, whilst Robbery/theft rates are measured per 100,000 population/households due to the data given on residential burglaries.



**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).

**Crime outcomes**

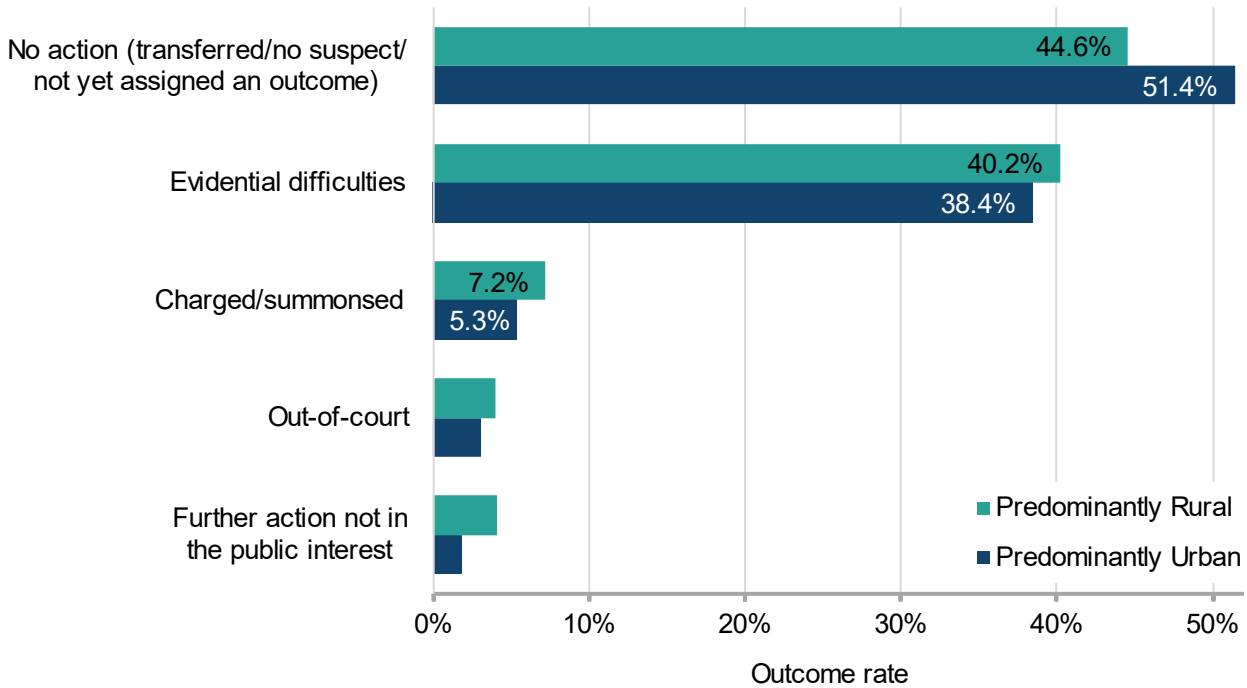
Investigative case outcomes are assigned to notifiable offences recorded by the police forces in England; this can highlight the differences in outcome between Rural and Urban areas. The data presented provide a snapshot, at the time of analysis, of the current case status of offences recorded during the year ending March 2023.

Figure D-10 shows the proportion of crimes assigned to each outcome group in 2022/23:

- In Predominantly Rural areas, 44.6% of offences recorded within each quarter of 2022/23 had not been actioned at the time of analysis; this could be because the offence was still being taken into consideration, the investigation had been transferred, no suspect had been identified, or other reasons for not yet having an assigned outcome. In Predominantly Urban areas, this was higher at 51.4%.
- 40.2% of offences in Predominantly Rural areas faced evidential difficulties (whether the victim did or did not support action) when assigning an outcome, compared with 38.4% in Predominantly Urban areas.
- In 2022/23, 7.2% of offences resulted in a charge or summons in Predominantly Rural areas, compared with 5.4% in Predominantly Urban areas.
- Less than 5% of crimes were settled out of court (formally or informally) or were not pursued further due to action not being in the public interest.

**Figure D-10: Rate 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-1, 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 labelled.



### Specific crimes

The differences in crime rates and outcomes over time for drug offences, firearm offences, knife crime, hate crime and fly-tipping between Rural and 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-3 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-3: 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

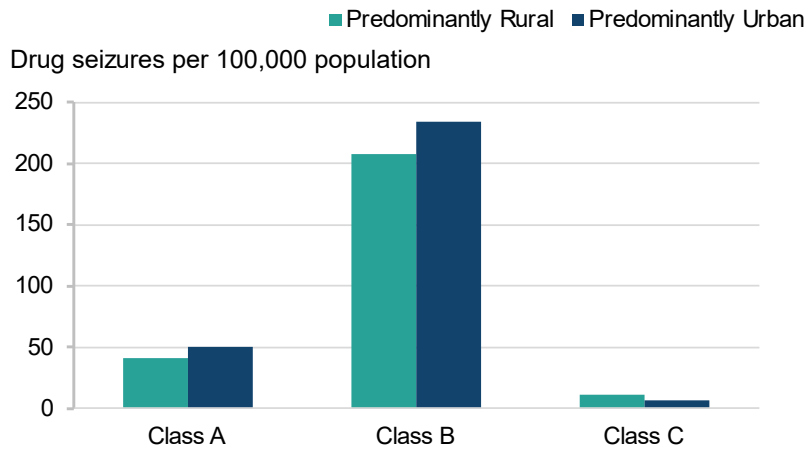
It should be noted that certain Class C controlled drugs (such as anabolic steroids, Valium, etc.) can be obtained through a legitimate doctor’s prescription and therefore seizures are only recorded when they are obtained/possessed illegitimately.

Figure D-11 shows the total number of different classes of drugs seized per 100,000 population in 2021/22. For all settlement types, more Class B drugs were seized than any other class; in

Predominantly Rural areas, there were 208 seizures of Class B drugs per 100,000 population, compared with 234 seizures per 100,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas. In 2021/22, there were 42 seizures of Class A drugs per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas, compared with 50 seizures per 100,000 population by police forces in Predominantly Urban areas. In Predominantly Rural areas there were 11.8 seizures of Class C drugs per 100,000 population, compared with 6.3 seizures per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas.

**Figure D-11: Drug seizures per 100,000 population, by drug classification and Police Force Area Rural-Urban Classification, year ending March 2022 (Note D-1, Note D-4, Note D-6)**

The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clustered columns. Table D-3 provides examples of drugs within each classification.



The change in rate of drug seizures per 100,000 population by police force in England is given in Figure D-12. There were consistently fewer drugs seized per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas between 2015/16 and 2020/21 but in 2021/22 the rates were about the same.

In 2021/22, forces made a total of around 310 drug seizures per 100,000 population in both Predominantly Rural and Predominantly Urban areas.

The rate at which police forces seized drugs increased more rapidly in Predominantly Rural areas (by 126 seizures per 100,000 population between 2015/16 and 2021/22) than in Predominantly Urban areas (33 seizures per 100,000 population).

**Figure D-12: Change in drug seizures per 100,000 population, by Police Force Area Rural-Urban Classification, in England, 2015/16 to 2021/22 (Note D-1, Note D-4, Note D-6)**

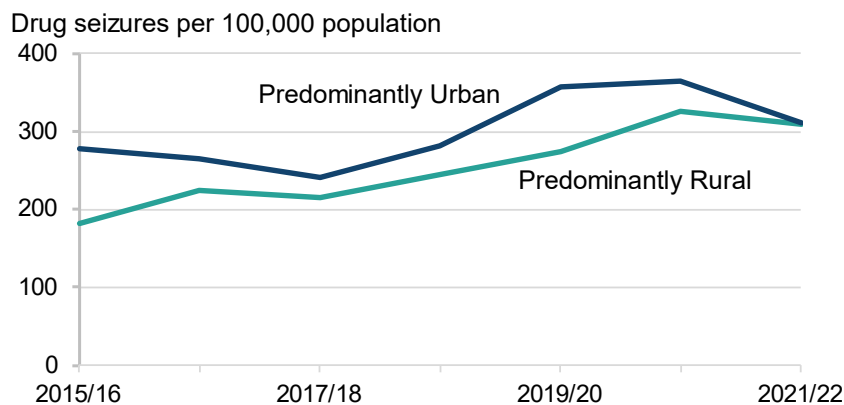
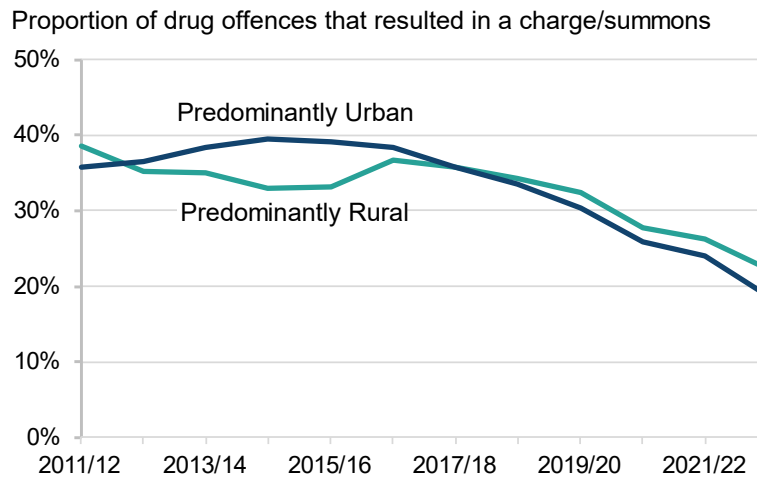




Figure D-13 shows the proportion of drug-related offences that resulted in the suspect being charged or summoned between 2011/12 and 2021/22. This includes trafficking in controlled drugs, possession of controlled drugs, and any other drug-related offences. The change in the charge/summons rate of drug offences can be summarised as follows:

- In 2011/12, 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; Predominantly Rural areas saw the lowest charge/summons rate in 2014/15 (33%).
- 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 2022/23, more drug offences resulted in a charge/summons in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas.
- In 2022/23, the charge/summons rate was 3 percentage points higher for police forces in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas for drug-related offences.

**Figure D-13: Proportion of drug offences that resulted in a charge or summons, by Police Force Area Rural-Urban Classification, 2011/12 to 2022/23 (Note D-1, Note D-4, Note D-6)**



### 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 includes 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.

Figure D-14 shows the total number of firearm offences recorded per 100,000 population between 2015/16 and 2022/23. The rate of firearm offences recorded was consistently lower for police forces in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas between 2015/16 and 2022/23. The rate of offences recorded has fluctuated more by police forces in Predominantly Urban areas, varying between 15 to 20 firearm offences per 100,000 population. There was less

variation in the number of firearm offences recorded by police forces in Predominantly Rural areas, as the recording rate remained around 5 to 6 offences per 100,000 population between 2015/16 and 2022/23.

Police forces in both Predominantly Rural and Predominantly Urban areas recorded increases in the number of firearm offences per 100,000 population since 2018/19. There was an overall increase in the number of firearm offences recorded per 100,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas (rising from 15.4 to 19.8 offences per 100,000 population), but a slight decrease from police forces in Predominantly Rural areas (falling from 4.8 to 4.5 offences per 100,000 population).

**Figure D-14: Police recorded firearm offences per 100,000 population, by Police Force Area Rural-Urban Classification, England, 2015/16 to 2022/23 (Note D-1, Note D-4, Note D-6)**

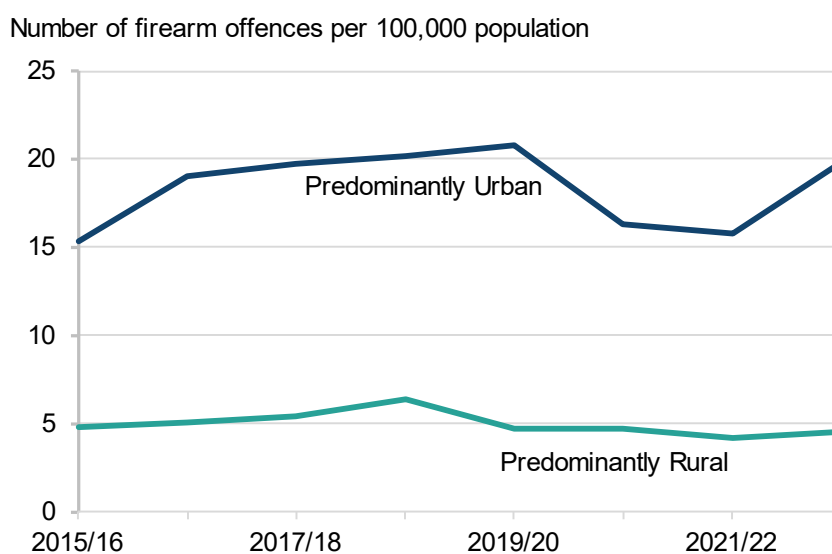


Figure D-15 shows the number of firearm offences per 100,000 population in 2022/23 by weapon category. In Predominantly Rural areas, the most commonly recorded firearm offence involved the use of imitation firearms, for which there were 2.8 offences recorded per 100,000 population. The most commonly recorded firearm offence in Predominantly Urban areas involved the use of handguns, for which there were 5.5 offences recorded per 100,000 population.

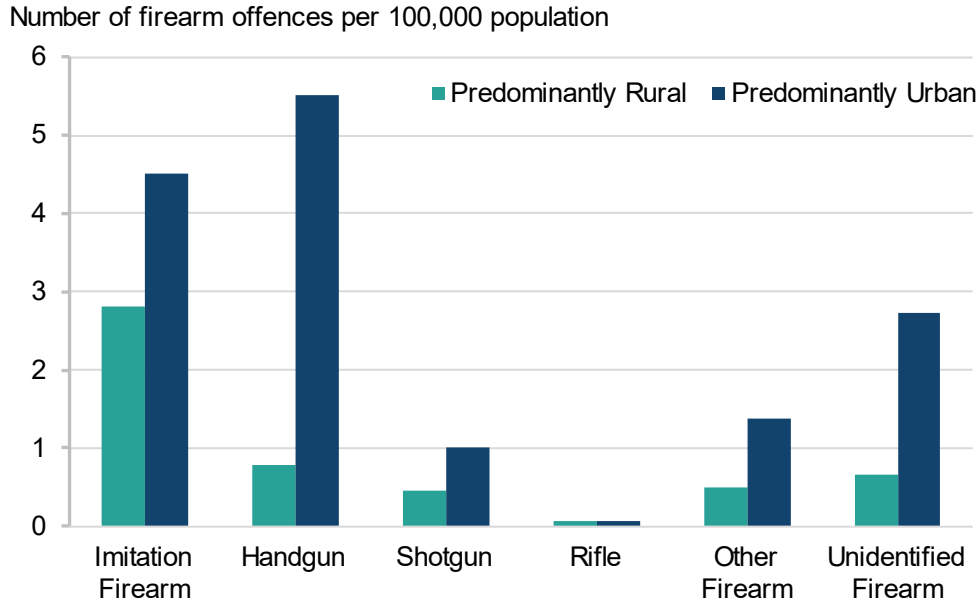
For police forces in Predominantly Rural areas, there were:

- 1.7 fewer offences recorded per 100,000 population involving **imitation firearms** than in Predominantly Urban areas,
- 4.7 fewer offences recorded per 100,000 population involving **handguns** than in Predominantly Urban areas,
- 0.6 fewer offences recorded per 100,000 population involving **shotguns** than in Predominantly Urban areas,
- the same rate of offences recorded involving **rifles** as in Predominantly Urban areas,
- 0.9 fewer offences recorded per 100,000 population involving **other firearms** than in Predominantly Urban areas,

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

**Figure D-15: Police recorded firearm offences per 100,000 population, by weapon category and Police Force Area Rural-Urban Classification, 2022/23 (Note D-1, Note D-4, Note D-6)**

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



### Knife crime

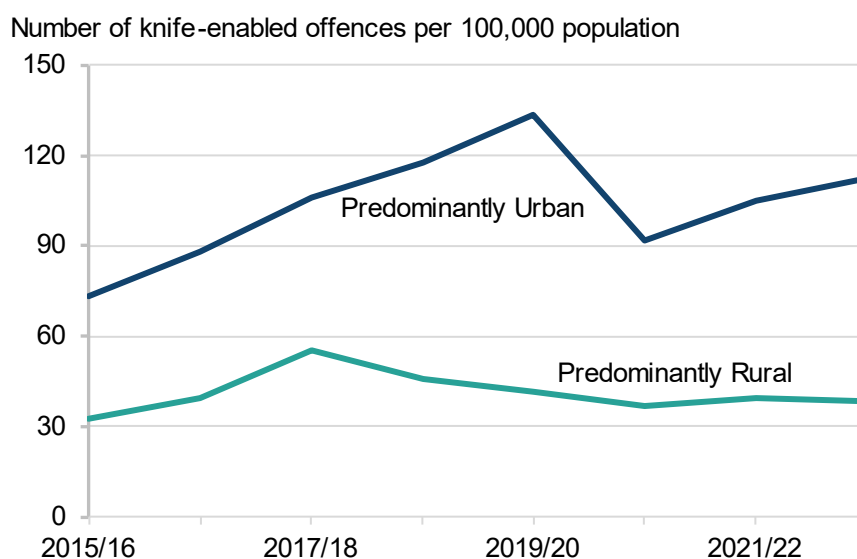
Data on offences involving knives or sharp instruments include: homicide, attempted murder, threats to kill, assault with injury/intent to cause serious harm, robbery, rape, and sexual assault. Figure D-16 looks at the number of knife or sharp instrument offences recorded by the police for these selected 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 2015/16 and 2022/23.

The recording rate of knife-enabled crime increased between 2015/16 and 2017/18 for police forces in Predominantly Rural areas (from 32.6 to 55.3 offences per 100,000 population), and then decreased to 38.1 offences per 100,000 population in 2022/23. This means there was an overall increase of 5.5 recorded offences per 100,000 population by police forces in Predominantly Rural areas between 2015/16 and 2022/23.

In Predominantly Urban areas, police forces recorded increases between 2015/16 and 2019/20 (from 73.4 to 133.3 offences per 100,000 population), followed by a decrease to 91.5 offences per 100,000 population in 2020/21. Between 2020/21 and 2022/23, the recorded rate of knife-enabled offences increased by 20.9 offences per 100,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas.

In 2022/23, there were 74.2 fewer police recorded offences per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas.

**Figure D-16: Police recorded knife-enabled offences per 100,000 population, by Police Force Area Rural-Urban Classification, England, 2015/16 to 2022/23 (Note D-1, Note D-4, Note D-6)**



## 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-17 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 in Predominantly Urban areas there were 231 offences recorded per 100,000 population. This means there were 140 fewer police recorded hate crimes per 100,000 population related to race in Predominantly Rural areas than 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-17: Police recorded hate crimes per 100,000 population, by motivating factor and Police Force Area Rural-Urban Classification, 2022/23 (Note D-1, Note D-4, Note D-6)**  
The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clustered columns.

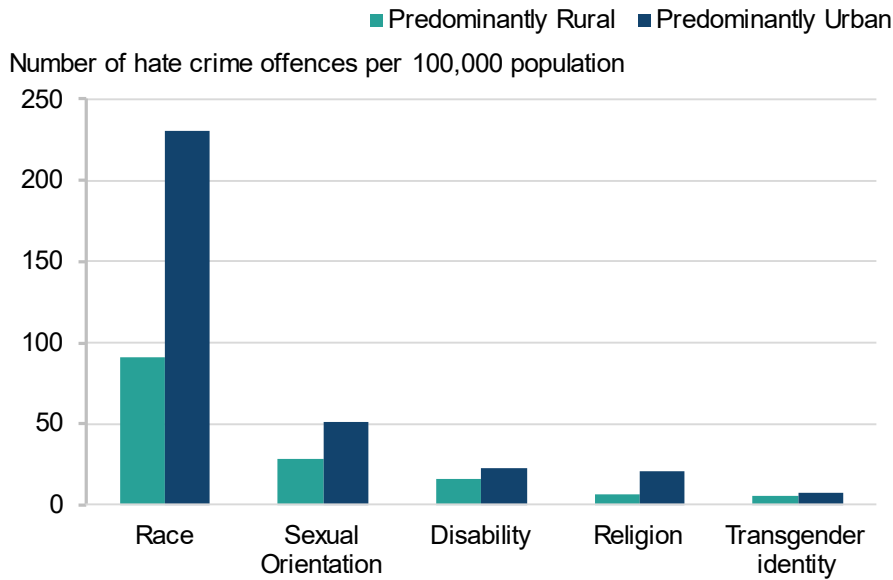
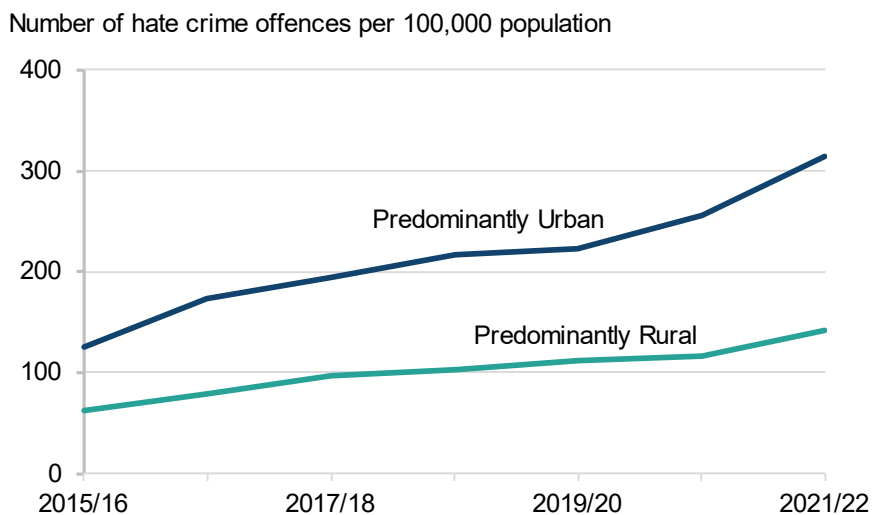


Figure D-18 shows the total number of hate crime offences recorded per 100,000 population between 2015/16 and 2021/22. There were consistently fewer police recorded hate crime offences in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas, and the gap is widening over time; in 2015/16, there 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.

**Figure D-18: Police recorded hate crimes per 100,000 population, by Police Force Area Rural-Urban Classification, England, 2015/16 to 2022/23 (Note D-1, Note D-4, Note D-6)**

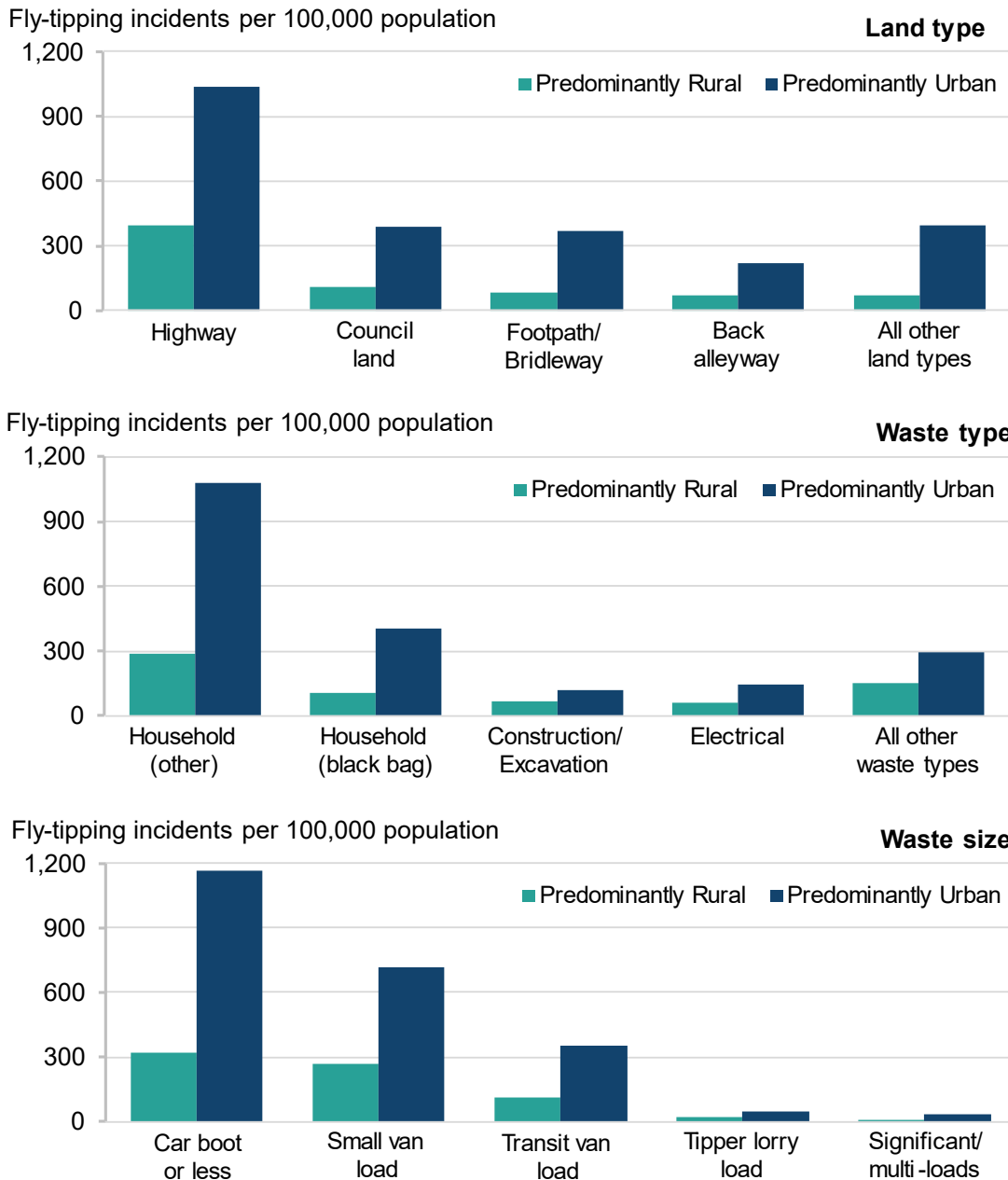


## Fly-tipping

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. Figure D-19 shows the number of fly-tipping incidents reported per 100,000 population by land type (top chart), waste type (middle chart), and size (bottom chart), in 2021/22.

**Figure D-19: Number of fly-tipping incidents reported per 100,000 population, by selected land types (top chart), waste types (middle chart), sizes (bottom chart), and Local Authority Rural-Urban Classification, England, 2021/22 (Note D-7)**

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



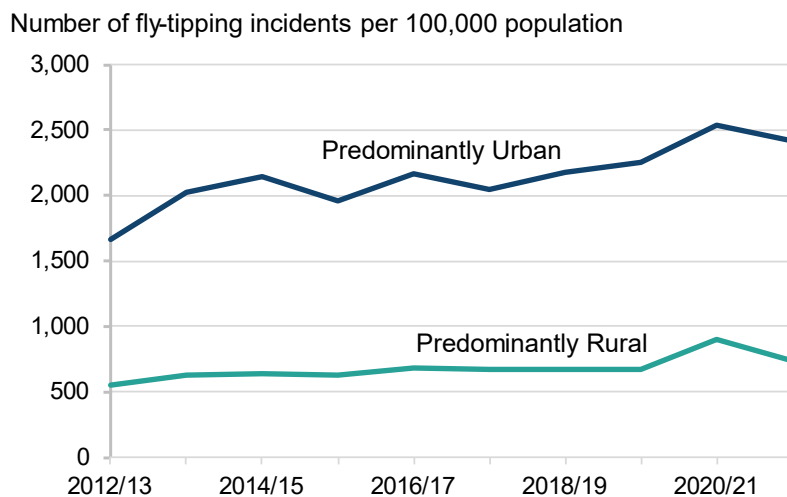
For all of the selected **land types**, there were fewer fly-tipping incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas in 2021/22. The most commonly reported land type in Predominantly Rural areas was fly-tipping onto a highway, for which there were 396 incidents reported per 100,000 population, compared to 1,036 incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas.

For all selected **waste types**, there were fewer fly-tipping incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas in 2021/22. The most commonly reported waste type was household waste, for which there were 398 incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas; of these 398 incidents, 107 were black bag deposits and 291 incidents were classed as “other household waste”. In Predominantly Urban areas, there were 1,487 reported incidents of household waste being dumped per 100,000 population; this comprises 407 incidents of black bags and 1,080 incidents of other household waste per 100,000 population.

For all **waste sizes**, there were fewer fly-tipping incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas in 2021/22. The most commonly reported load sizes were those that could fit into a car boot, or less (including single black bags or single items); in Predominantly Rural areas, there were 319 incidents reported per 100,000 population, compared with 1,169 incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas.

Figure D-20 shows the total number of fly-tipping incidents reported per 100,000 population between 2012/13 and 2021/22. There has consistently been fewer fly-tipping incidents reported per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas than in Predominantly Urban areas. The number of incidents reported in Predominantly Rural areas increased gradually until a sharp increase of 227 incidents per 100,000 population between 2019/20 and 2020/21; this could be due to the effects of COVID-19. Between 2020/21 and 2021/22, the number of fly-tipping incidents reported decreased in both Predominantly Rural and Predominantly Urban areas. However, there was an overall increase in the number of incidents reported between 2012/13 and 2021/22 (186 more reports per 100,000 population in Predominantly Rural areas and 753 more reports per 100,000 population in Predominantly Urban areas).

**Figure D-20: Total number of fly-tipping incidents reported per 100,000 population, by Local Authority Rural-Urban Classification, England, 2012/13 to 2021/22 (Note D-7)**



**Notes:**

- Data included within this section refers to financial years rather than calendar years (e.g., 2021/22 refers to the period from April 2021 to March 2022).
- Scales differ for Figures D-11, D-12, D-14, D-15, D-16, D-17 and D-18, 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 \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/crime-in-england-and-wales-qmi).

- **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 \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/crime-in-england-and-wales)
- 2 - [Crime outcomes in England and Wales 2022 to 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/crime-outcomes-in-england-and-wales-2022-to-2023)
- 3 - [Seizures of drugs in England and Wales, financial year ending 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/seizures-of-drugs-in-england-and-wales-financial-year-ending-2022)
- 4 - [Hate crime, England and Wales, 2021 to 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-in-england-and-wales-2021-to-2022)
- 5 - [Fly-tipping statistics for England, 2021 to 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/fly-tipping-statistics-for-england-2021-to-2022)

- **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](mailto:rural.statistics@defra.gov.uk) for more information.

- **Note D-7**

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.



## E. Crime Surveys: Local Police and Businesses

**Rural residents have more confidence in the police than Urban residents, but this level of confidence has fallen in recent years.**

### Summary

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

In 2022/23 the overall confidence in the local police was higher in Rural areas (73%) than in Urban areas (66%). The overall confidence in local police forces decreased between 2018/19 and 2022/23 in both Rural and Urban areas, but the decrease was smaller in Rural areas. In 2019 proportionally fewer people in Rural areas than in Urban areas felt that the police were sufficiently visible through foot patrols. However Rural residents are less worried about crime and if they were victims, they were more satisfied with the police response than those in Urban areas.

In the Commercial Victimization Survey, for all offence groups except “computer misuse” and “fraud”, there were proportionally fewer premises that were reported to have experienced crime in 2022 in Rural areas than in Urban areas. The most commonly reported offence, and the one with the biggest difference between Rural and Urban areas was theft. In 2022 12% of premises in Rural areas and 16% of Urban premises reported experiencing some kind of theft.

## Crime Survey for England and Wales: Perceptions

The Crime Survey monitors the experience of crime in England and Wales whether or not it has been reported to the police. It 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 2018/19 to 2022/23.

The survey questions asked are based on the following indicators: whether people think the police are doing a good job; whether the police can be relied on; whether people feel the police would treat them with respect/fairly; whether the police understand and deal with local concerns; the community's overall confidence in their local police.

Table E-1 shows the crime perceptions in 2018/19, followed by the responses recorded to the crime survey in 2022/23 in Table E-2. Crime perceptions in 2018/19 can be summarised as follows:

- 1 percentage point fewer of the Rural respondents felt police were doing a good/excellent job compared to Urban areas,
- 5 percentage points fewer of the Rural respondents felt police could be relied on when needed compared to Urban areas,
- There was no difference between Rural and Urban areas in terms of respondents thinking police would treat you with respect,
- 1 percentage point more of the Rural respondents felt police would treat you fairly compared to Urban areas,
- 1 percentage point more of the Rural respondents felt police would understand local concerns compared to Urban areas,
- 1 percentage point fewer of the Rural respondents felt police would deal with local concerns compared to Urban areas,
- There was no difference between Rural and Urban areas in terms of respondents' overall confidence in the police.

**Table E-1: Crime perceptions in response to the Crime Survey for England and Wales, by Rural-Urban Classification, 2018/19**

Percentages represent the proportion of respondents that agreed with each statement.

	Rural (%)	Urban (%)
Police are doing a good/excellent job	57	58
Police can be relied on when needed	54	59
Police would treat you with respect	88	88
Police would treat you fairly	68	67
Police understand local concerns	68	67
Police deal with local concerns	55	56
<b>Overall confidence in local police</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>75</b>

**Table E-2: Crime perceptions in response to the Crime Survey for England and Wales, by Rural-Urban Classification, 2022/23**

Percentages represent the proportion of respondents that agreed with each statement.

	Rural (%)	Urban (%)
Police are doing a good/excellent job	56	50
Police can be relied on when needed	54	54
Police would treat you with respect	84	80
Police would treat you fairly	62	58
Police understand local concerns	64	58
Police deal with local concerns	52	46
<b>Overall confidence in local police</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>66</b>

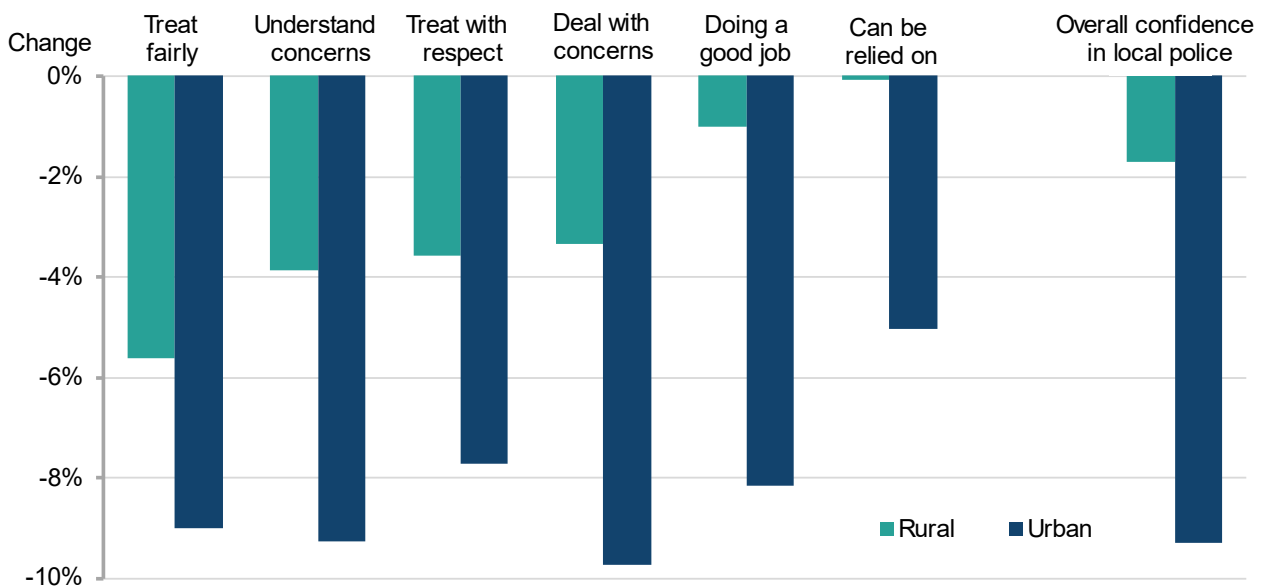
Comparison between Rural and Urban perceptions in 2022/23 (Table E-2) can be summarised as follows:

- 6 percentage points more of the Rural respondents felt police were doing a good/excellent job
- There was no difference between Rural and Urban areas in terms of respondents thinking police could be relied on when needed
- 4 percentage points more of the Rural respondents felt police would treat you with respect
- 4 percentage points more of the Rural respondents felt police would treat you fairly
- 6 percentage point more of the Rural respondents felt police would understand local concerns
- 5 percentage point more of the Rural respondents felt police would deal with local concerns
- Respondents’ overall confidence in the police was 8 percentage points higher in Rural areas than in Urban areas

Figure E-1 shows the change in local crime perceptions by Rural-Urban Classification.

**Figure E-1: Change in local crime perceptions, by Rural-Urban Classification, in England, 2018/19 and 2022/23**

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



For all of these indicators, crime perceptions decreased between 2018/19 and 2022/23. That is, fewer respondents felt that the police do a good job, can be relied on, treat others with respect and understood/dealt with local concerns in 2022/23 than in 2018/19. The largest change in perception for respondents in Rural areas was for being treated fairly; in Rural areas, the number of respondents that felt they would be treated fairly decreased by 6 percentage points between 2018/19 and 2022/23. This compares with a decrease of 9 percentage points in Urban areas.

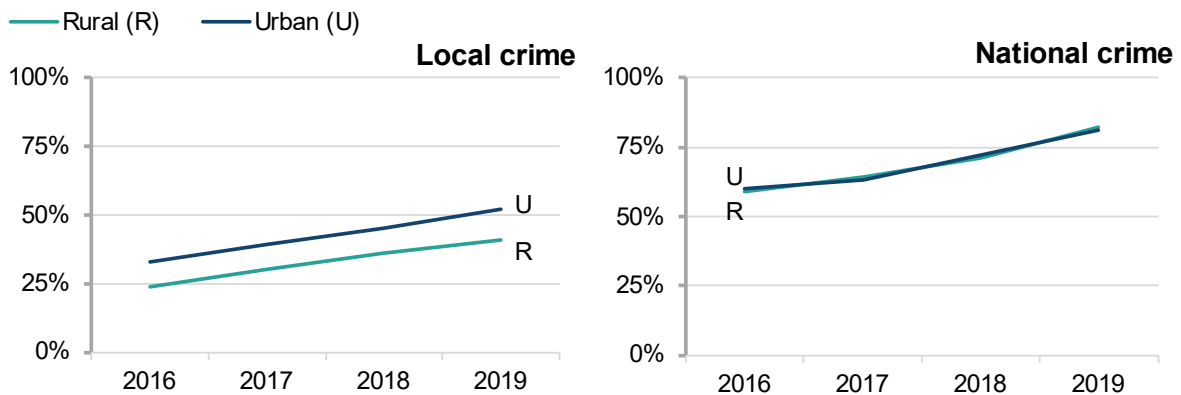
The respondents' overall confidence in the police decreased by 2 percentage points in Rural areas (and 9 percentage points in Urban areas) between 2018/19 and 2022/23.

**Please note: the following analysis has not been updated for 2022/23, and therefore we present our findings from previous years.**

The results presented in this section are based on the perceptions of the survey respondents in 2019 and cover three broad categories: (1) perceptions of crime rates (Figure E-2) (2) perceptions of the local police (Figure E-3 to Figure E-7); and (3) perceptions of specific crimes (Figure E-8).

There has been an increased perception that nationally and locally crime has gone up (Figure E-2). There is no difference between Rural and Urban areas in the perception about crime having gone up nationally. Fewer people perceive that local crime is going up, particularly in Rural areas.

**Figure E-2: Perceptions of crime levels locally (left-hand chart) and nationally (right-hand chart) based on a perception that crime has gone up “a little” or “a lot”, 2019**



There is little difference in perceptions of the local police between Rural and Urban areas overall. Figure E-3 shows that, in both Rural and Urban areas, more people felt that the police understand local concerns than felt that they deal with them. Overall, the level of satisfaction in understanding and dealing with concerns has declined over the period 2016 to 2019.

**Figure E-3: Percentage feeling that the police understand (left-hand chart) and then deal with (right-hand chart) local concerns, 2019**

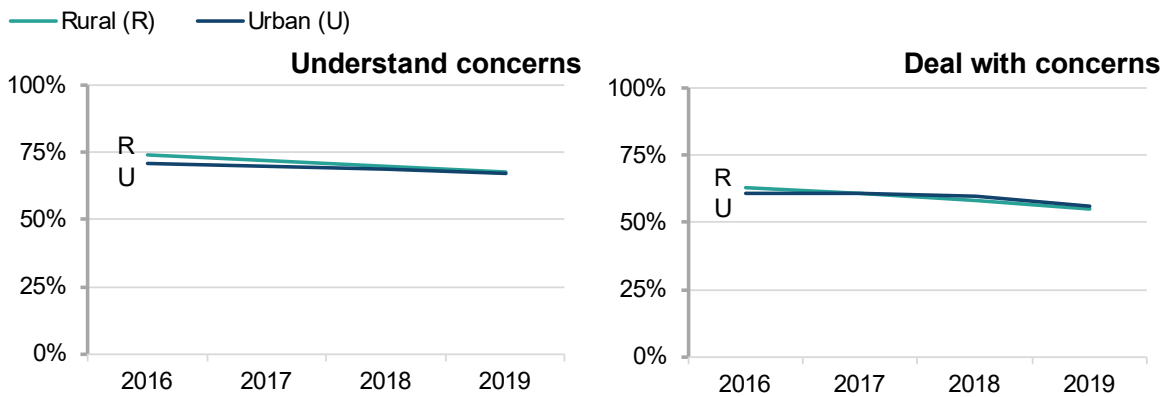
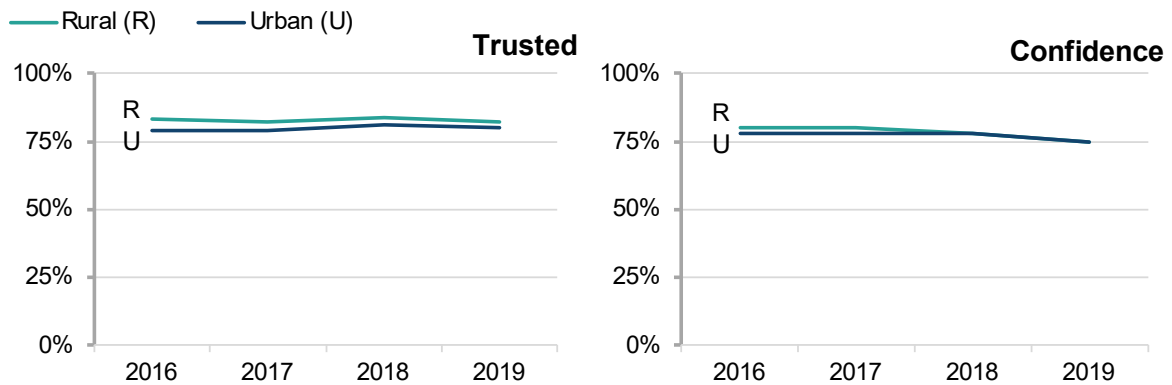


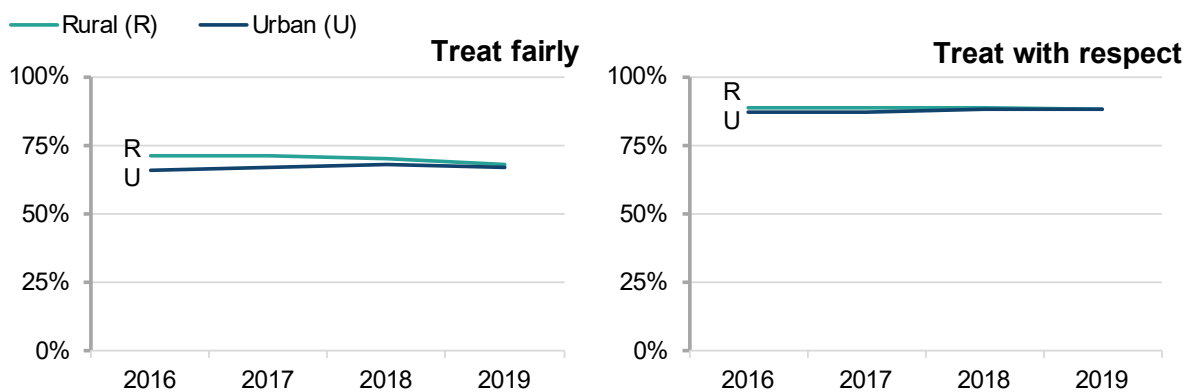
Figure E-4 shows that Rural respondents had a slightly higher level of trust in their local police than Urban respondents, but their overall level of confidence in the police differed little.

**Figure E-4: Percentage feeling that the local police can be trusted (left-hand chart) and percentage who have overall confidence in the local police (right-hand chart), 2019**



In 2016 a greater proportion of Rural respondents felt that the police treated them fairly and with respect than was the case for Urban respondents (Figure E-5). In 2019 there was no difference in these two perceptions between Rural and Urban areas. In both Rural and Urban areas more respondents felt that the police treat them with respect than felt that the police treat them fairly.

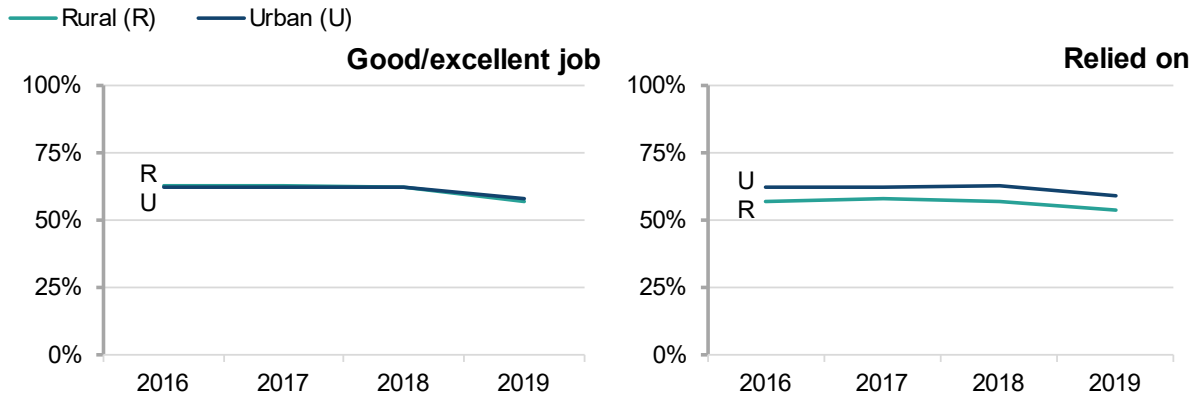
**Figure E-5: Percentage feeling that the local police treat them fairly (left-hand chart) and with respect (right-hand chart), 2019**



The proportion of respondents who thought that the police are doing a good/excellent job was similar in both Rural and Urban areas, but this proportion declined by a few percentage points over the period 2016 to 2019 (Figure E-6 – left-hand chart). A greater proportion of respondents in

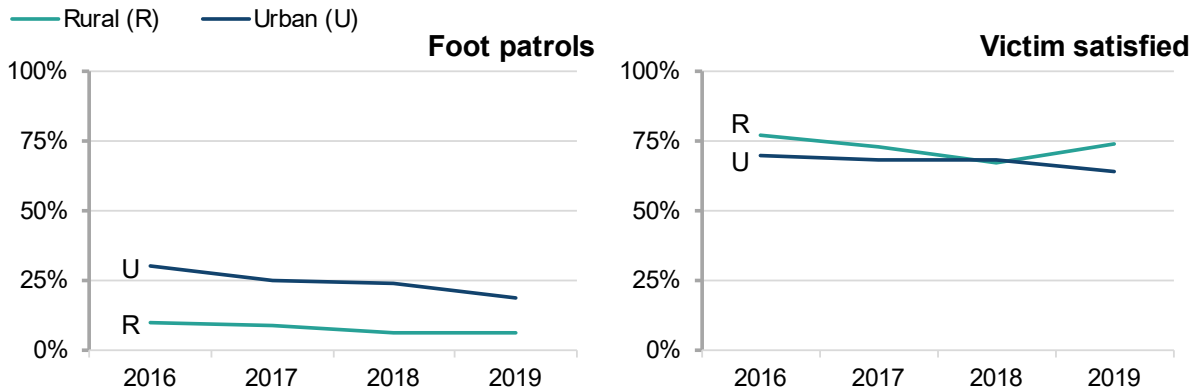
Urban areas thought that the police can be relied upon when needed than in Rural areas (Figure E-6 – right-hand chart).

**Figure E-6: Percentage feeling that the local police are doing a good/excellent job (left-hand chart) and can be relied upon when needed (right-hand chart), 2019**



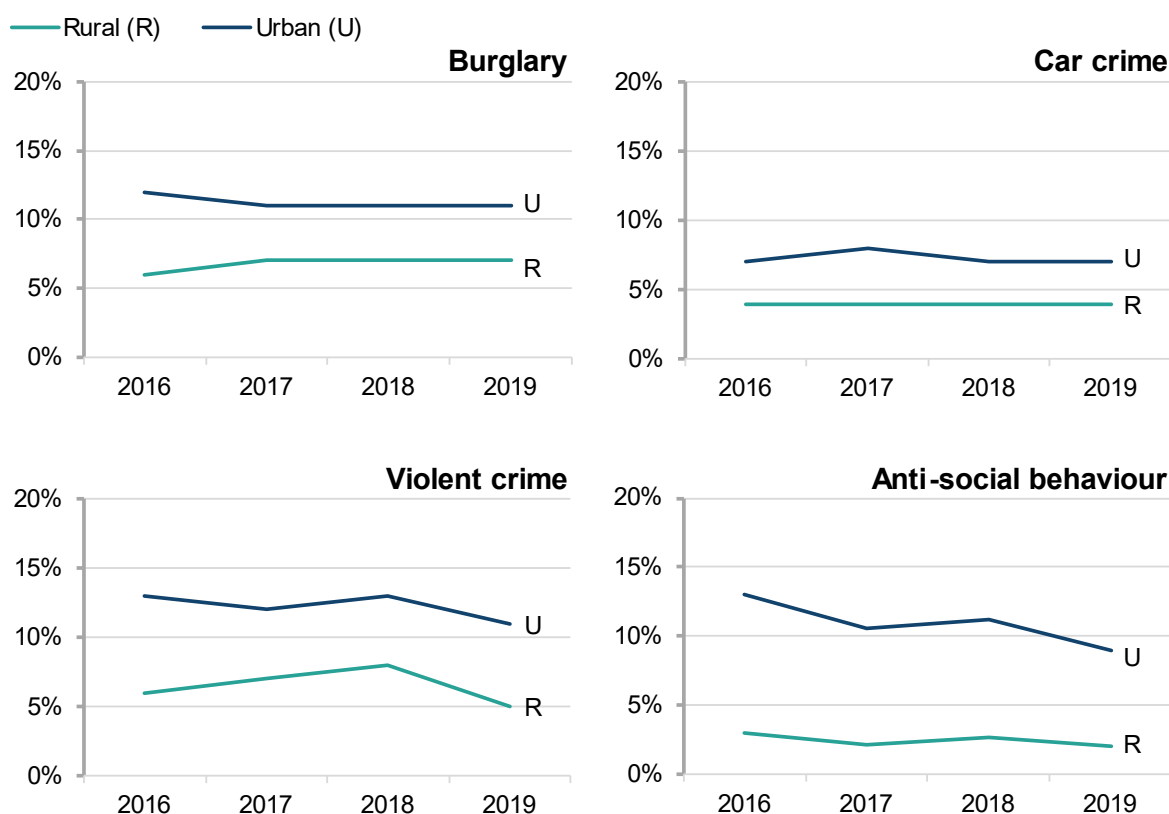
In 2016 only 10% of Rural respondents felt that the police were sufficiently visible through foot patrols and by 2019 this figure had fallen to 6% (Figure E-7 – left-hand chart). This contrasts with Urban respondents where 30% felt that there was sufficient police visibility in 2016, falling to 19% in 2019. Of course, this in part reflects that with larger geographical areas to cover in Rural areas the frequency of an officer being on any given street or road will be greater in most Urban areas than in Rural areas. Despite these perceptions, Rural victims of crime were more satisfied with the police response than Urban victims (Figure E-7 – right-hand chart).

**Figure E-7: Percentage of respondents happy with the police visibility through foot patrols (left-hand chart) and the percentage of incidents where the victims were satisfied with the response from the police (right-hand chart), 2019**



The proportions of respondents worrying about burglary, car crime and violent crime was lower in Rural areas than in Urban areas and this proportion stayed the same or declined in recent years (Figure E-8). A smaller proportion of Rural respondents were worried about high levels of anti-social behaviour than Urban respondents. In 2019 of the four specific crimes covered in Figure E-8, only burglary was worried about by more than 5% of Rural respondents.

**Figure E-8: Proportion of respondents who worry about: burglary (top left-hand chart), car crime (top right-hand chart), violent crime (bottom left-hand chart) and high levels of anti-social behaviour (bottom right-hand chart), 2019**



88% of Rural people said they felt very or fairly safe when walking alone after dark compared with 76% of people in Urban areas (Table E-3). There was strong awareness of the 101 non-emergency police number in both Rural and Urban areas. In Urban areas around 3 in every 4 respondents were aware of the 101 number, whilst in Rural areas it was 4 in every 5 respondents. However, despite strong awareness of the number, only 13% of respondents had used the number (in both Rural and Urban areas). There is greater concern about fraud in Urban areas than in Rural areas.

**Table E-3: Percentage of people who agree with the listed statement or perceptions in both Rural and Urban areas, 2019**

	Rural (%)	Urban (%)
Were aware of the 101 non-emergency police number	79	74
Had used the 101 non-emergency police number	13	13
Awareness of Police and Crime Commissioners	66	54
Worry about fraud	17	20
Felt very/fairly safe when walking alone after dark	88	76

## Commercial Victimisation Survey

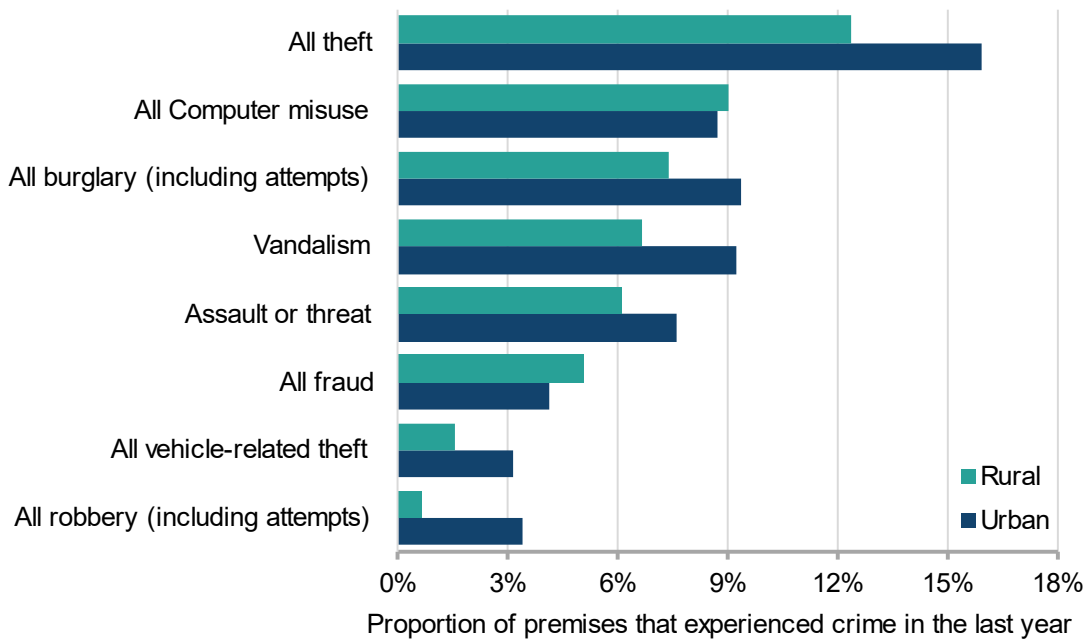
The Commercial Victimisation Survey (CVS) has been commissioned by the Home Office annually since 2012 to record the nature and extent of crime committed against business premises.

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). Figure E-9 shows the proportion of premises that experienced crime in 2022.

For all offence groups except computer misuse and fraud, there were fewer premises that were reported to have experienced crime in 2022 in Rural areas than in Urban areas. The most commonly reported offence was theft, for which 12% of premises in Rural areas and 16% of Urban premises reported experiencing some kind of theft in 2022.

**Figure E-9: Proportion of business premises that experienced crime in the last year, by Rural-Urban Classification, 2022 (Note E-1)**

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



**Please note: parts of the following analysis has not been updated for 2022/23, and therefore we present our findings from previous years.**

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 across a number of industry types in England and Wales, including agriculture, forestry and fishing, which was last surveyed in 2018.



Within the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing sector 26% of business premises experienced crime in 2018, compared with 30% in 2013. 11% of premises experienced burglary (including attempts) in 2018. As Table E-4 shows medium-sized businesses in this sector experienced a higher crime rate than smaller businesses.

**Table E-4: Proportion of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (AFF) premises that experienced crime in 2018, by number of employees from the Commercial Victimization Survey (CVS)**

	AFF with 1–9 employees (%)	AFF with 10–49 employees (%)	All AFF premises (%)
All burglary (including attempts)	11	30	11
Vandalism	8	21	9
All vehicle-related theft	3	15	3
All robbery (including attempts)	1	3	1
Assaults and threats	2	9	2
All theft	7	17	8
All fraud	4	9	4
<b>All CVS Crime</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>26</b>

Although vandalism accounted for a third of incidents in 2018 (Table E-5), only 9% of premises had experienced this crime type (Table E-4). This suggests a relatively high repeat victimisation rate or targeting of certain businesses.

**Table E-5: Number of crime incidents (000s) in 2018 from the Commercial Victimization Survey (CVS)**

	All Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing premises (000s)	Crime type as a percentage of all incidents (%)
All burglary (incl. attempts)	17	22
Vandalism	27	34
All vehicle-related theft	3	4
All robbery (incl. attempts)	2	2
Assaults and threats	5	7
All theft	12	16
All fraud	13	16
<b>All CVS Crime</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>100</b>

## Crime surveys explanatory notes

- **Note E-1**

Some business data has been suppressed for specific offence types due to low reliability or disclosure control requirements; as such, they have not been included in the offence group Rural and Urban totals.

- **Note E-2**

Sources:

1 - [Crime in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

2 - [Crime against businesses: findings from the 2022 Commercial Victimization Survey - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

## 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 DCMS Community Life Survey to consider how people feel about their neighbours and their neighbourhood.

Proportionally more people in Rural areas are satisfied with and have a stronger attachment to their neighbourhood than people in Urban areas. In 2021/22, 85% of people living in Rural areas reported that they were satisfied with their local area as a place to live, compared with 74% of those living in Urban areas. Satisfaction with the neighbourhood in Rural areas has remained 10 to 13 percentage points higher than in Urban areas throughout the 2013/14 to 2021/22 period. People living in Rural areas are proportionally slightly more engaged in civic society through participation in democratic processes, taking part in consultations about local services and getting involved in decision making about local services than people living in Urban areas.

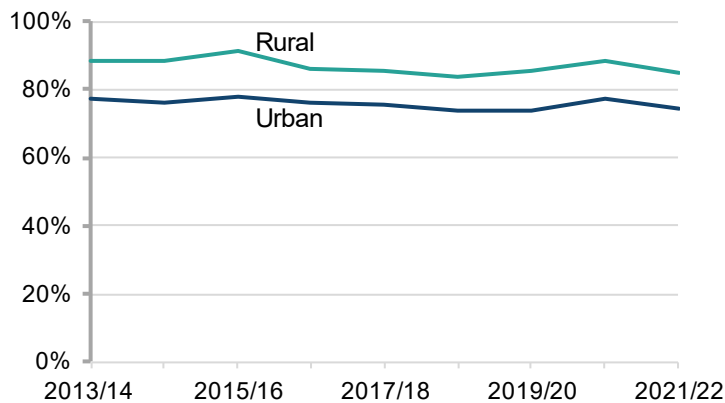
Rural people are more likely to have meaningful conversations with their neighbours than Urban people are. In 2021/22, 81% of people living in Rural areas reported that they chat to their neighbours at least once a month (more than just to say hello), compared with 70% of people living in Urban areas. These proportions have remained fairly consistent across the period 2013/14 to 2021/22.

## The neighbourhood

DCMS Community Life Survey collects data on how people feel about their neighbourhood (Note F-3). People living in Rural areas tend to report more favourable feelings about their local neighbourhood than those living in Urban areas.

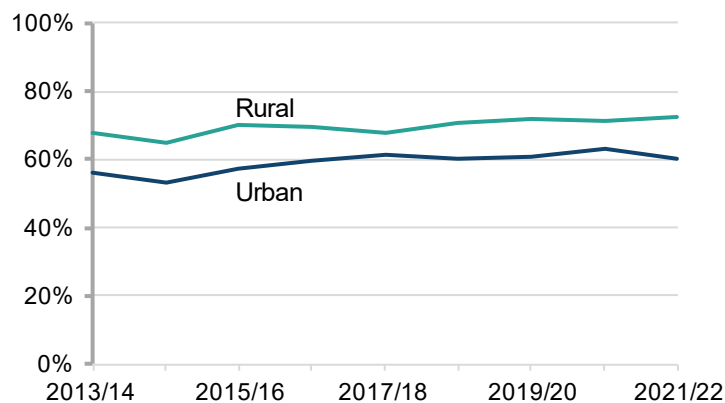
In 2021/22, 85% of people living in Rural areas reported that they were satisfied with their local area as a place to live, compared with 74% of those living in Urban areas. As Figure H-1 shows expressions of satisfaction with the local area have remained relatively consistent over time (Note F-4) with 88% of people living in Rural areas reporting this in 2013/14 compared with 77% in Urban areas. Satisfaction with the neighbourhood in Rural areas has remained 10 to 13 percentage points higher than in Urban areas throughout the 2013/14 to 2021/22 period.

**Figure F-1: Percentage of people who are very or fairly satisfied with their local area as a place to live, England, financial years 2013/14 to 2021/22**



In 2021/22, 72% of people living in Rural areas reported feeling that they “belong” strongly or fairly strongly to their immediate neighbourhood, compared with 60% in Urban areas. Figure F-2 shows the feeling of belonging rose over time in both Rural and Urban areas. Since 2013/14 the percentage of people reporting that they belong rose by 4 percentage points in Rural areas and 7 percentage points in Urban areas.

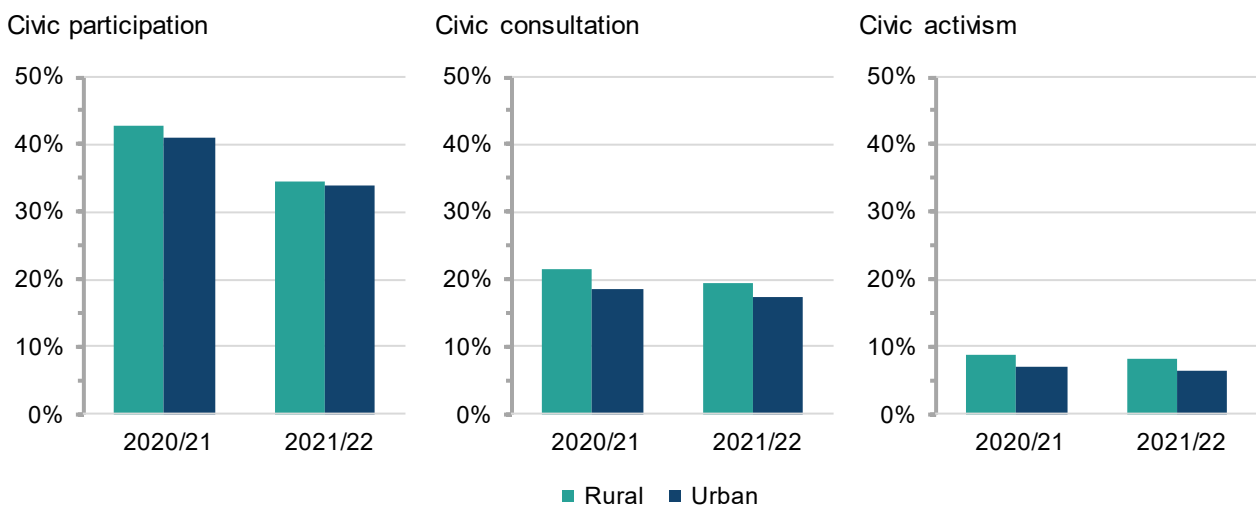
**Figure F-2: Percentage of people who feel they belong strongly or fairly strongly to their immediate neighbourhood, England, financial years 2013/14 to 2021/22**



The Community Life Survey also collects data on engagement in civic society including participation in democratic processes, taking part in consultations about local services and getting involved in decision making about local services (Note F-5). As Figure F-3 shows, the more intensive and time consuming the activity the smaller the proportion of people who were involved in in 2020/21 or 2021/22. Overall, in both years and for all 3 engagement levels there is marginally greater participation levels within Rural areas than within Urban areas.

**Figure F-3: Percentage of people engaging with civic society in Rural and Urban areas in England, financial years 2020/21 to 2021/22**

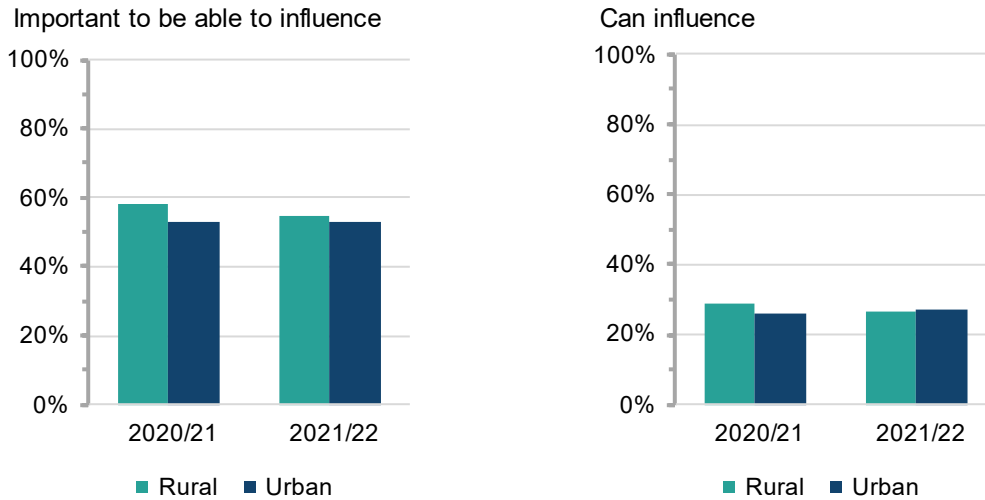
The left-hand chart shows participation in democratic processes (Civic participation), the centre chart shows taking part in consultations about local services (Civil consultation) and the right-hand chart shows getting involved in decision making about local services (Civic activism) (Note F-5). The single legend presented under the centre chart is in the same order and orientation as the cluster of columns.



In 2021/22 54% of people living in Rural areas thought it was important to feel that they can influence decisions affecting their local area (Figure F-4 – left-hand chart). This proportion is little changed from the 2020/21 figure. In Rural areas marginally more people feel it is important that that they can influence decisions affecting their local area than feel this in Urban areas. However, despite more than half of people feeling that it is important to be able to influence decisions, fewer than one in three people agree that they can influence decisions affecting their local areas. As Figure F-4 – right-hand chart shows, in 2021/22 the proportion of people who agreed that they can influence decisions affecting their local areas was similar in Rural and Urban areas ((26% and 27% respectively).

**Figure F-4: Influencing decisions affecting their local area in Rural and Urban areas in England, financial years 2020/21 to 2021/22**

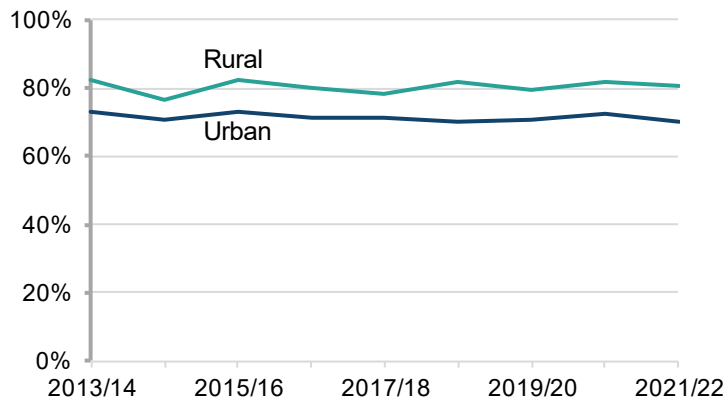
The left-hand chart shows the proportion of respondents who think it is very/quite important that they are able to influence decisions affecting their local area. The right-hand chart shows the proportion of respondents who definitely agree/tend to agree that they can influence those decisions. The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the cluster of columns.



## Neighbours

A sense of belonging often leads to a greater sense of community which can in turn lead to neighbours over time becoming friends. In 2021/22, 81% of people living in Rural areas reported that they chat to their neighbours at least once a month (more than just to say hello), compared with 70% of people living in Urban areas. Figure F-5 shows that reports of chatting regularly with neighbours has consistently remained a more common practice in Rural areas than in Urban areas. In 2013/14, 82% of people living in Rural areas reported chatting to their neighbours compared with 73% in Urban areas and these proportions remained fairly consistent across the following 9 years (Note F-4).

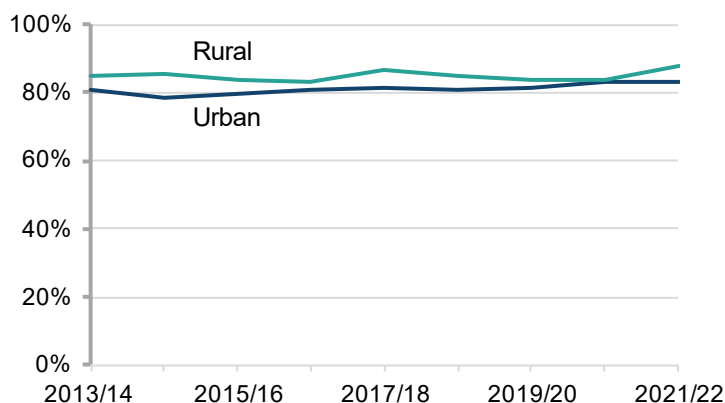
**Figure F-5: Percentage of people who chat to their neighbours (more than just to say hello) at least once a month, England, financial years 2013/14 to 2021/22**



In 2021/22, 88% of people living in Rural areas said they agreed that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together. By contrast in Urban areas 83% of people living in Urban areas agreed. With the exception of rural areas in 2021/22, reports of feeling

that the local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together have remained relatively consistent over time (Figure F-6, Note F-4) for people living in both Rural and Urban areas at around 80 to 84%.

**Figure F-6: Percentage of people agreeing that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together, England, financial years 2013/14 to 2021/22**



## Feelings about the local neighbourhood explanatory notes

- **Note F-1**

Tables showing the data behind Figure H-1, Figure F-2, Figure F-5 and Figure F-6 are available in the [Communities and Households data tables](#).

- **Note F-2**

The Community Life survey (CLS) runs according to financial years from 1 April to 31 March the following year. Any references to years within this section refer to financial years.

- **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. CLS is a sample survey and in 2020/21 and 2021/22 the rural response was typically based on 1,000 to 1,500 responses for each question. (The number varies between specific questions because missing values and don't know responses are removed.) Every estimate from CLS is subject to sampling uncertainty and the lines presented in the figures represent the best estimate for each statistic. In most cases, we are 95% confident that the true value lies within 2% to 3% of the figure represented by the lines. Thus, we can be confident that there is a difference between Rural and Urban estimates but are less confident with regard to inter-year variation in the Rural figure when the variations are smaller than 3%.

- **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
- B. Population age profile
- C. Ethnicity
- D. Internal migration
- E. Local Authority population data

## 2. [Housing](#)

- A. Housing stock: age and type
- B. Housing stock: additions
- C. House prices
- D. Housing stock: affordable housing
- E. Second and empty homes
- F. Homelessness
- G. Land use change for housing

## 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
- B. Travel behaviours
- C. Access to personal transport
- D. Access to services
- E. Home working

## 6. [Education, Qualifications and Training](#)

- A. Secondary education – GCSE Maths and English attainment
- B. School inspections
- C. Free school meals
- D. Alternative and specialist education provision
- E. Higher education
- F. Apprenticeships and on-the-job training
- G. 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. Businesses - status, structure and composition
- G. 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

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.

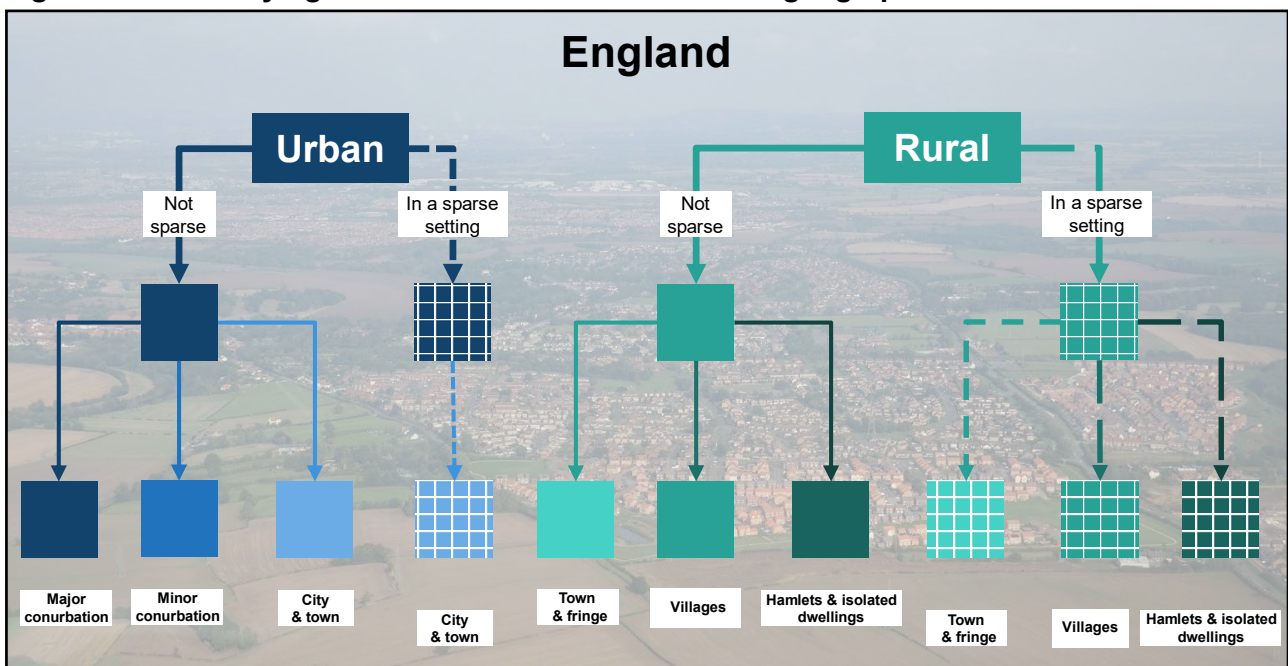
There is a further document including the individual Local Authority data tables, which have been separated for ease of use.

## 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**



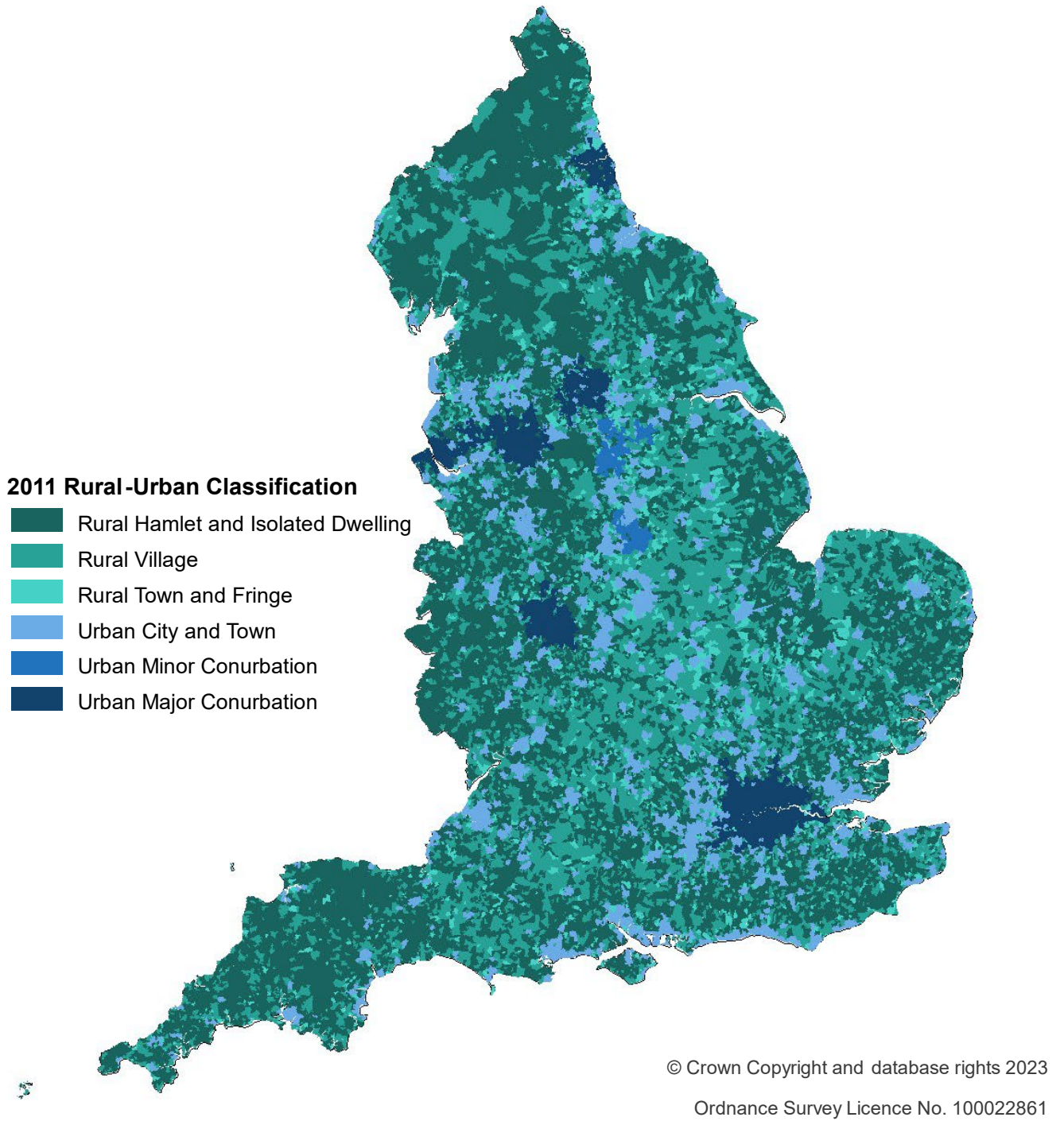
A map showing the distribution of the Rural and Urban Census Output Areas is shown in Figure X-2.

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.

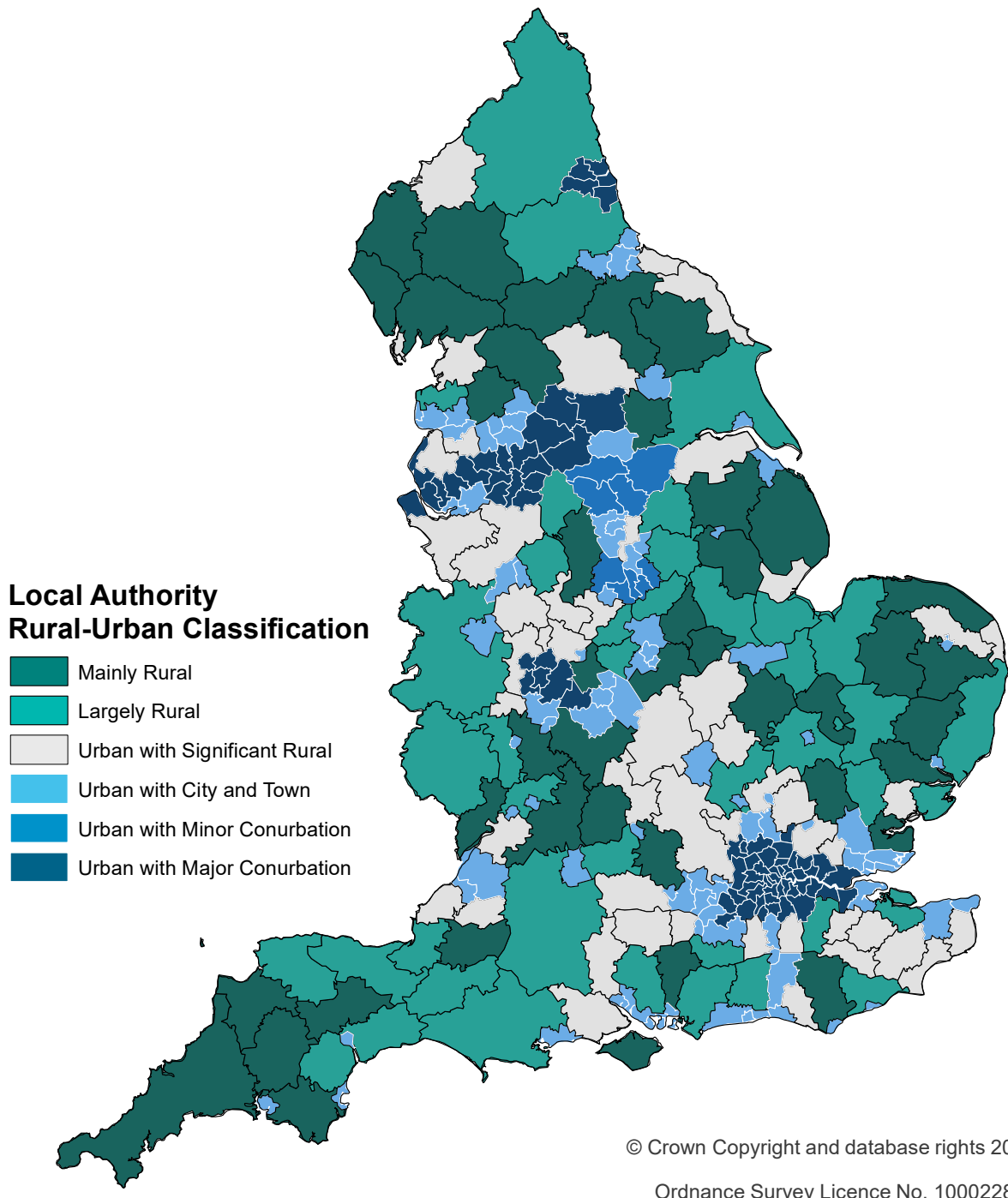
However, the Local Authority Classification also considers some Urban areas as Hub Towns (with populations of between 10,000 and 30,000). These Hub Towns have met statistical criteria (based on dwelling and business premise densities) to be considered hubs for services and businesses for a wider rural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

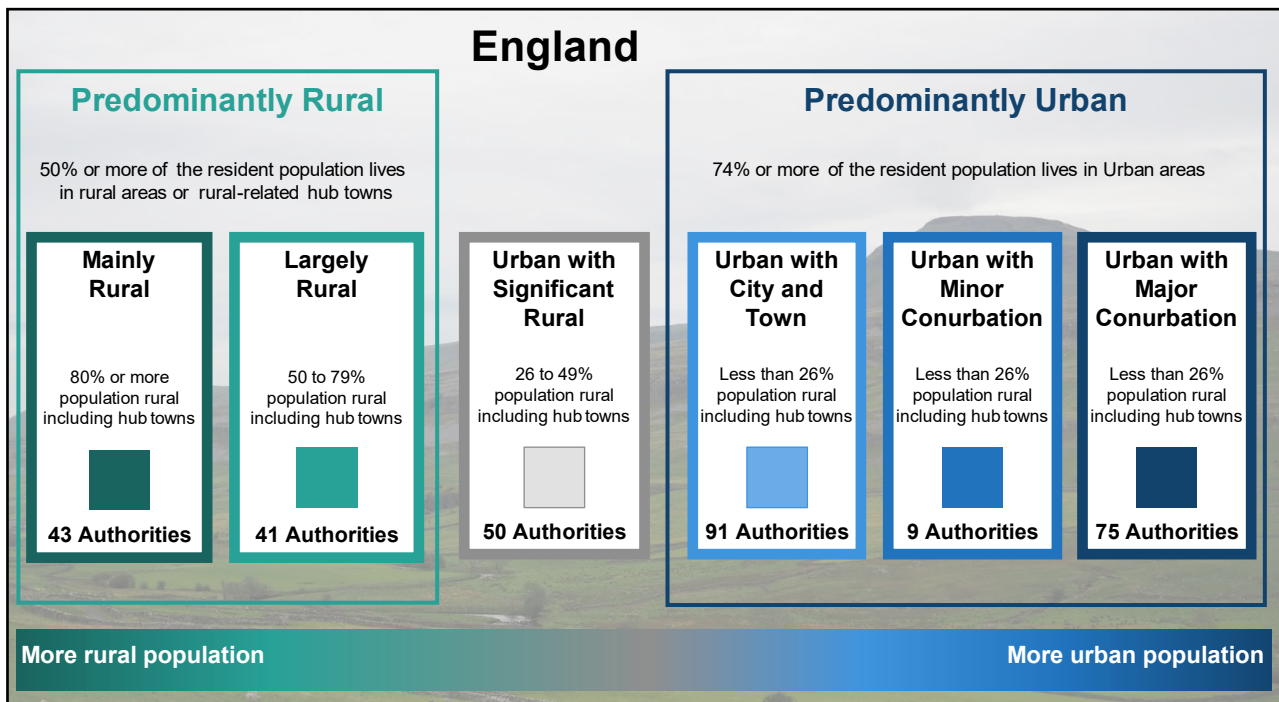


**Figure X-3: Map of the 2011 Rural-Urban Classification for Local Authority Districts and Unitary Authorities in England**



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 Authority Districts and Unitary Authorities in England**



It should be noted that the Local Authority Rural-Urban Classification is based on populations and settlement patterns, not on how much countryside there is. 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](#).

## 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](mailto:rural.statistics@defra.gov.uk)