Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Government Statistical Service

Statistical Digest of Rural England:

4 – Communities and Households

November 2026



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Cover photos

		Ward 2021	Rural-Urban Classification 2021
TL	Helmsley marketplace	Helmsley	Larger rural: Further from a major town or city
TC	Horton-in-Ribblesdale train station with Penyghent behind	Settle & Penyghent	Smaller rural: Further from a major town or city
TR	St Giles Church, Skelton	Rural West York	Larger rural: Nearer to a major town or city
CL	Fishing Boat, Marske-by-the-Sea with Hunt cliff in the distance	St Germain's; Saltburn	Larger rural: Nearer to a major town or city
CR	Thornton Force Waterfall, Ingleton Waterfalls Trail	Bentham & Ingleton	Smaller rural: Further from a major town or city
BL	Farmer working the fields in Knapton	Rural West York	Smaller rural: Nearer to a major town or city
BC	Remote pub at Ribblehead viaduct	Bentham & Ingleton	Smaller rural: Further from a major town or city
BR	Glamping pod in the North York Moors	Pickering	Larger rural: Further from a major town or city

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.

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

Appendix 1 shows the sub-themes within each of the 8 Digest reports. Thematic reports will be updated individually and not every report with be updated every month. The most recent updates for this theme are shown in Table 1.

In November 2026, the 'Police recorded crime' section was simplified and updated with new analysis; commentary relating to crime outcomes and specific types of crime (e.g. knife crime, firearm crime, drug crime, and hate crime) have been removed, but previously published data remain within the supplementary data tables. Fly-tipping analysis has been separated out from this section to become its own new subsection. The 'Experiences and perceptions of crime' section (previously named 'Crime surveys: Local Police and Businesses') was also updated with new analysis.

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	Feb 2025	May 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	May 2026	Nov 2026
Index of Multiple Deprivation	✕	✕	✓	✕	✕	✕
English Indices of Deprivation				New	✕	✕
Poverty due to low income	✕	✓	✕	✕	✓	✕
Household expenditure	✕	✕	✕	✕	✓	✕
Police recorded crime	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	✓
Fly-tipping						New
Experiences and perceptions of crime	✓	✕	✕	✕	✕	✓
Feelings about the local neighbourhood	✓	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕

Official Statistics

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

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

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

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The 2021 Rural-Urban Classification was released on 6 March 2025. Details of the 2021 Rural Urban Classification can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/rural-urban-classification. It will take some time for the Digest to be updated throughout using the new classification. Table 2 identifies the geography and classification used for each section.

Table 2: Geographies used within subsections of the Communities and Households report
For the specified geography, the 'boundary year' has been presented in brackets. Shorthand has been used in this table: 'LSOA' represents Lower-layer Super Output Areas from the Census; 'LA' represents Local Authorities; 'CSP' represents Community Safety Partnership Areas (broadly similar to Local Authorities). 'England' indicates data are from a survey sample. 'RUC21' represents the 2021 Census-based rural-urban classification, whilst 'RUC11' represents the older 2011 Census-based classification.

Section	Geography	Classification
Index of Multiple Deprivation	LSOA (2021)	RUC21
English Indices of Deprivation	LSOA (2021)	RUC21
Poverty due to low income	England	RUC21
Household expenditure	England	RUC11
Police recorded crime	CSP (2025)	RUC21
Fly-tipping	LA (2025)	RUC21
Experiences and perceptions of crime	England	RUC11
Feelings about the local neighbourhood	England	RUC11

Communities and Households

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

- analysis of the Index of Multiple Deprivation (Section A)
- analysis of the English Indices of Deprivation (Section B)
- poverty due to low income (Section C)
- household expenditure (Section D)
- police recorded crime (Section E)
- the illegal dumping of waste, known as ‘fly-tipping’ (Section F)
- experiences and perceptions of crime and the local police, as well as commercial victimisation (Section G)
- views about local communities and neighbourhoods (Section H)

A. Index of Multiple Deprivation

Rural neighbourhoods tend to be relatively less deprived than urban neighbourhoods; just 1% of the rural population lived in the most deprived 10% of neighbourhoods in England, compared to 12% of the urban population.

The English Indices of Deprivation 2025 include a special report on rural deprivation. The analysis below is Defra's analysis of the Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Key findings – Index of Multiple Deprivation

Rural neighbourhoods tend to be less deprived than urban neighbourhoods

- In the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025, only 1% of the rural population lived in the most deprived 10% of neighbourhoods in England, compared with 12% of the urban population.
- 9% of the rural population lived in the most deprived 30% of neighbourhoods, compared with 35% of the urban population.

Greater deprivation in rural areas lies further from major towns or cities

- In the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025, 29% of the rural population in areas further from major towns or cities lived in the most deprived 40% of neighbourhoods, compared with 14% of those nearer to towns or cities.
- The most common deprivation decile for those further from towns or cities was decile 5, compared with decile 7 for those nearer.

Larger rural settlements relatively more deprived than smaller rural settlements

- After rescaling the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025 for rural areas only, 13% of the population in larger rural settlements lived in the most deprived 10% of rural neighbourhoods, compared with 6% in smaller rural settlements.

Summary

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is a composite measure of deprivation compiled by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The index is a measure of relative rather than absolute deprivation. It is most effective at identifying concentrations of relative deprivation.

The English Indices of Deprivation 2025 include a special report on rural deprivation.

The IMD25 shows that just 1% of the rural population lived in the most deprived 10% of neighbourhoods in England, compared to 12% of the urban population. However, deprivation in rural areas tends to be more dispersed, which means that rural neighbourhoods are less likely to be regarded as relatively deprived, even though there could be residents who experience deprivation. Relative deprivation within rural areas can vary by proximity to large urban centres; the proportion of the rural population further from major towns or cities in the most deprived 40% of

neighbourhoods in England was twice that of the rural population living nearer to major towns or cities, at 29% and 14% respectively.

There have been very significant data, geography, and methodological changes to the IMD25 compared with IMD19. These changes may have contributed to the patterns of relative deprivation observed; however, there may also have been changes in the experienced deprivation of neighbourhoods over time. The proportion of the rural population residing in the most deprived 30% of neighbourhoods in England appeared to increase, from 7% at IMD19 to nearly 9% at IMD25.

To better understand the distribution of deprivation in rural areas, the IMD ranks have been rescaled for rural neighbourhoods only to show relative rural deprivation. The index shows that the proportion of the population in larger rural settlements living in the most deprived 10% of rural neighbourhoods was more than twice that of the smaller rural population, at 13% and 6% respectively. Relative rural deprivation is 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.

Background information

The Index of Multiple Deprivation is compiled by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The latest is IMD25, released in October 2025. The IMD is designed to measure multiple dimensions of deprivation consistently and is the official measure of deprivation in England. It is based on seven domains of deprivation:

1. Income deprivation,
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.

Within some of these domains are sub-domains, as follows: ‘Children and Young People’ and ‘Adult Skills’ combine to form the ‘Education, skills and training’ domain’; ‘Geographical barriers’ and ‘Wider barriers’ combine to form the ‘Barriers to housing and services’ domain; and the ‘Living environment’ domain can be considered in terms of either the ‘indoor’ or ‘outdoor’ environment. These domains and sub-domains are explored in more detail in Section B.

The statistical release from MHCLG states 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.

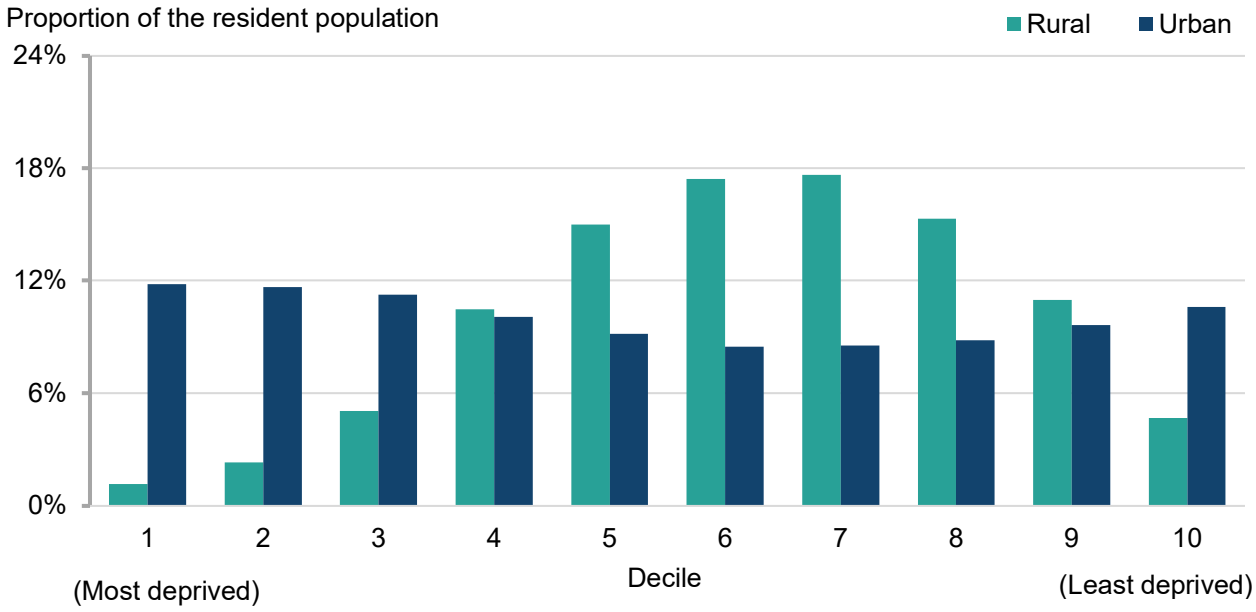
Small pockets of deprivation are less likely to be identifiable amid a relatively affluent area. In urban areas, deprivation is more likely to be concentrated in an area and hence more easily visible in the index. Data from the index are provided at Lower-layer Super Output Area (LSOA) level, based on boundaries from the 2021 Census; for the purposes of this analysis, these shall henceforth be referred to as “neighbourhoods”.

Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025

The bar chart in Figure A-1 compares the proportion of the population living in rural neighbourhoods within each decile of IMD25 to those in urban neighbourhoods; this is also explored in Chart 3.1 within the English indices of deprivation 2025: rural report. Overall, rural neighbourhoods tend to be less deprived than urban ones. The index shows that just 1% of the rural population lived in the most deprived 10% of neighbourhoods in England, compared to 12% of the urban population. The proportion of the rural population residing in the most deprived 30% of neighbourhoods in England was considerably lower than the proportion of the urban population, at 9% and 35% respectively.

Figure A-1: Bar chart showing the proportion of the population living in neighbourhoods within each decile of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025, by 2021 Rural-Urban Classification in England (Note A-1, Note A-2, Note A-5)

Decile 1 is the most deprived 10%, whilst decile 10 is the least deprived 10%. The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clusters of columns.



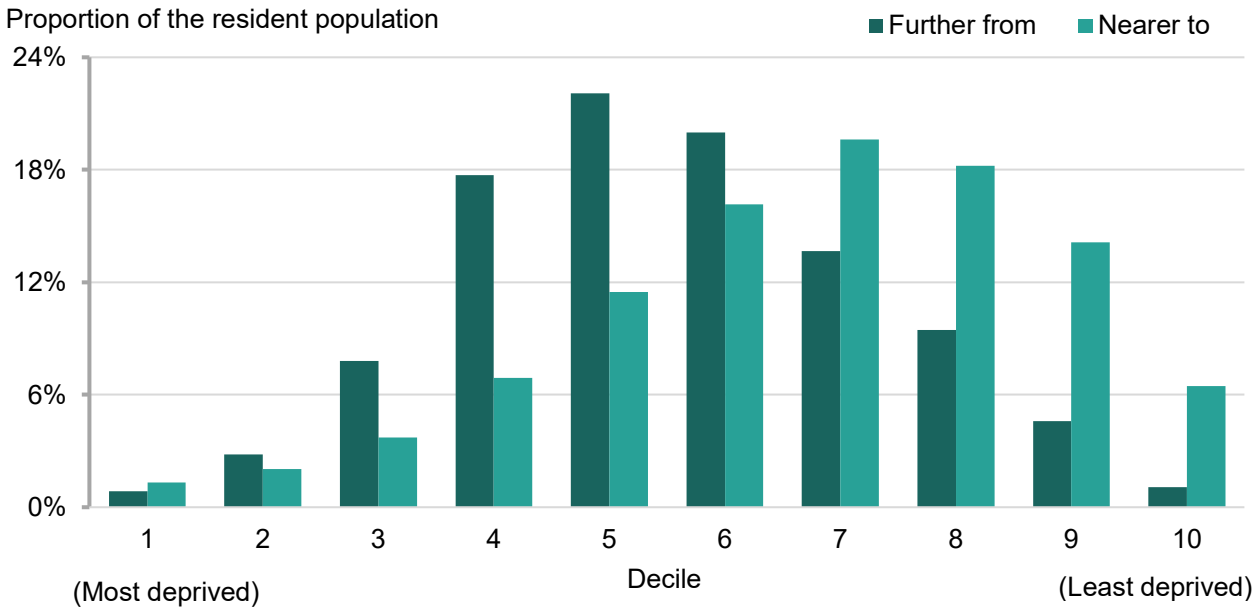
The IMD takes account of accessibility of services, and this inevitably affects deprivation in rural areas. The bar chart in Figure A-2 compares the proportion of the rural population living in neighbourhoods within each decile of IMD25 by proximity to a major town or city (Note A-3). Whilst only around 1% of both populations (whether nearer or further from a major town or city) live within the most deprived 10% of neighbourhoods in England, the relative deprivation experienced by those further from major towns or cities tends to be greater. For example, of those living further from a major town or city, the most common deprivation decile was decile 5 (i.e., living in the 40% to 50% most deprived neighbourhoods in England); in comparison, for the rural population that live

nearer to major towns or cities, the most common deprivation decile was decile 7 (in the 60% to 70% most deprived neighbourhoods, or 30% to 40% least deprived). This indicates that rural residents further from major towns or cities are more commonly found in relatively more deprived neighbourhoods.

Furthermore, the proportion of the rural population further from major towns or cities in the most deprived 40% of neighbourhoods in England was twice that of the rural population living nearer to major towns or cities, at 29% and 14% respectively.

Figure A-2: Bar chart showing the proportion of the rural population living in neighbourhoods within each decile of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025, by proximity to a major town or city from the 2021 Rural-Urban Classification in England (Note A-1, Note A-2, Note A-3, Note A-5)

Decile 1 is the most deprived 10%, whilst decile 10 is the least deprived 10%. 'Further from' represents neighbourhoods that are further from a major town or city, whilst 'nearer to' represents those within a 30-minute drive. The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clusters of columns.



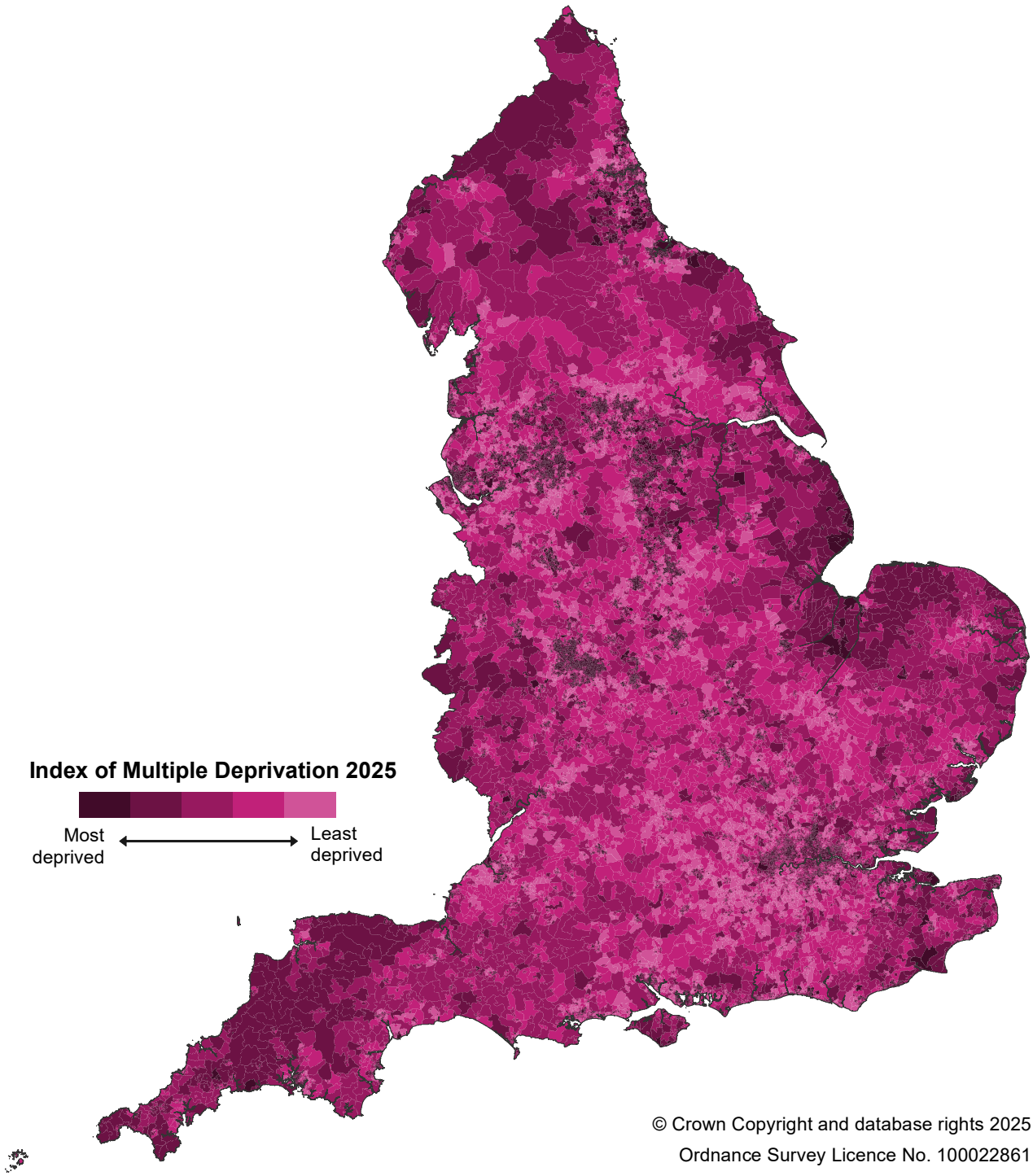
The map in Figure A-3 depicts the relative deprivation of neighbourhoods in England from IMD25; the darker the colour, the more deprived the neighbourhood is considered to be in relation to other areas. This map restructures the information presented in Map 1 within the English indices of deprivation 2025: statistical release - GOV.UK, where deciles have been combined to reduce the number of groups of neighbourhoods from 10 to 5. MHCLG have also created an interactive tool to identify deprivation in various dimensions and levels of geography.

- The North East of England shows higher levels of deprivation than anywhere else in England; here, 27% of rural neighbourhoods were within the most deprived 20% of areas in England. In comparison, 39% of urban neighbourhoods in the North East were within the most deprived 20% of areas in England; this suggests that urban areas may be relatively more deprived than rural areas within this region, and highlights the high levels of relative deprivation in former mining communities.

- The South East of England shows lower levels of deprivation relative to the rest of England; here, just 2% of rural neighbourhoods were within the most deprived 20% of areas in England. In comparison, 10% of urban neighbourhoods were within the most deprived 20% of areas in England. This suggests that even in potentially more affluent, well-connected areas, there are still pockets of deprivation in both rural and urban neighbourhoods.

Figure A-3: Map showing the distribution of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025 of neighbourhoods in England (Note A-1, Note A-5)

Each colour represents the grouping of two deciles, such that the darkest colour illustrates the most deprived 20% of neighbourhoods, and the lightest colour illustrates the least deprived 20%.



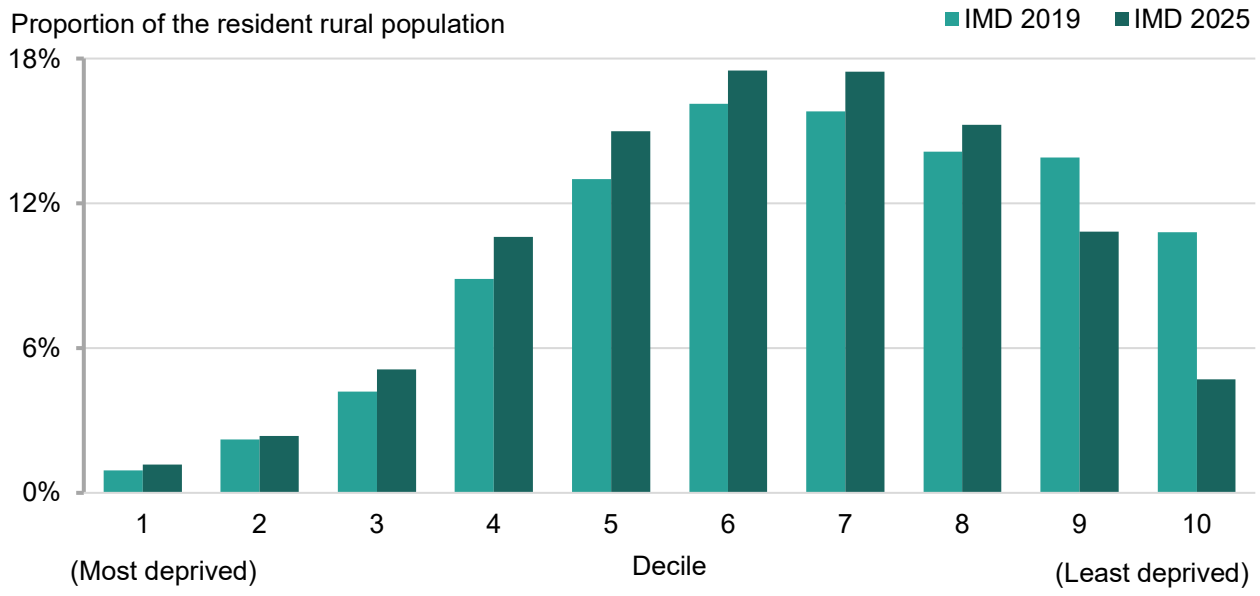
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Comparison to previous iterations of the IMD

The purpose of the Index of Multiple Deprivation is to measure the relative deprivation at small area level as a snapshot in time; it is not designed to provide 'backwards' comparability with previous versions. There have been very significant data, geography, and methodological changes in the IMD25 compared with IMD19. Changes in relative deprivation should not be considered as absolute improvement or deterioration; that is, if a neighbourhood appears to have become more deprived between the previous and latest version of the IMD, this is not necessarily a fact of experienced deprivation and may be a consequence of methodological changes. Changes in relative deprivation are explored within MHCLG's English indices of deprivation 2025: research report - GOV.UK.

The bar chart in Figure A-4 compares the proportion of the rural population living in neighbourhoods within each decile of deprivation from the 2019 and 2025 iterations of the IMD. In successive iterations of the IMD the rural population has become more relatively deprived over time; however, as previously mentioned, this could be due to both changes between indices as well as actual observed increases in deprivation levels. At IMD19, 0.9% of the rural population lived in the most deprived 10% of neighbourhoods in England. At IMD25, this was 1.2%, highlighting a greater proportion of the rural population living in the most deprived neighbourhoods. The proportion of the rural population residing in the most deprived 30% of neighbourhoods in England also appeared to increase over time, from 7% at IMD19 to nearly 9% at IMD25.

Figure A-4: Bar chart showing the proportion of the rural population, as defined within the 2021 Rural-Urban Classification, living in neighbourhoods within each decile of the Index of Multiple Deprivation at 2019 and 2025 (Note A-1, Note A-2, Note A-4, Note A-5)
Decile 1 is the most deprived 10%, whilst decile 10 is the least deprived 10%. The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clusters of columns.



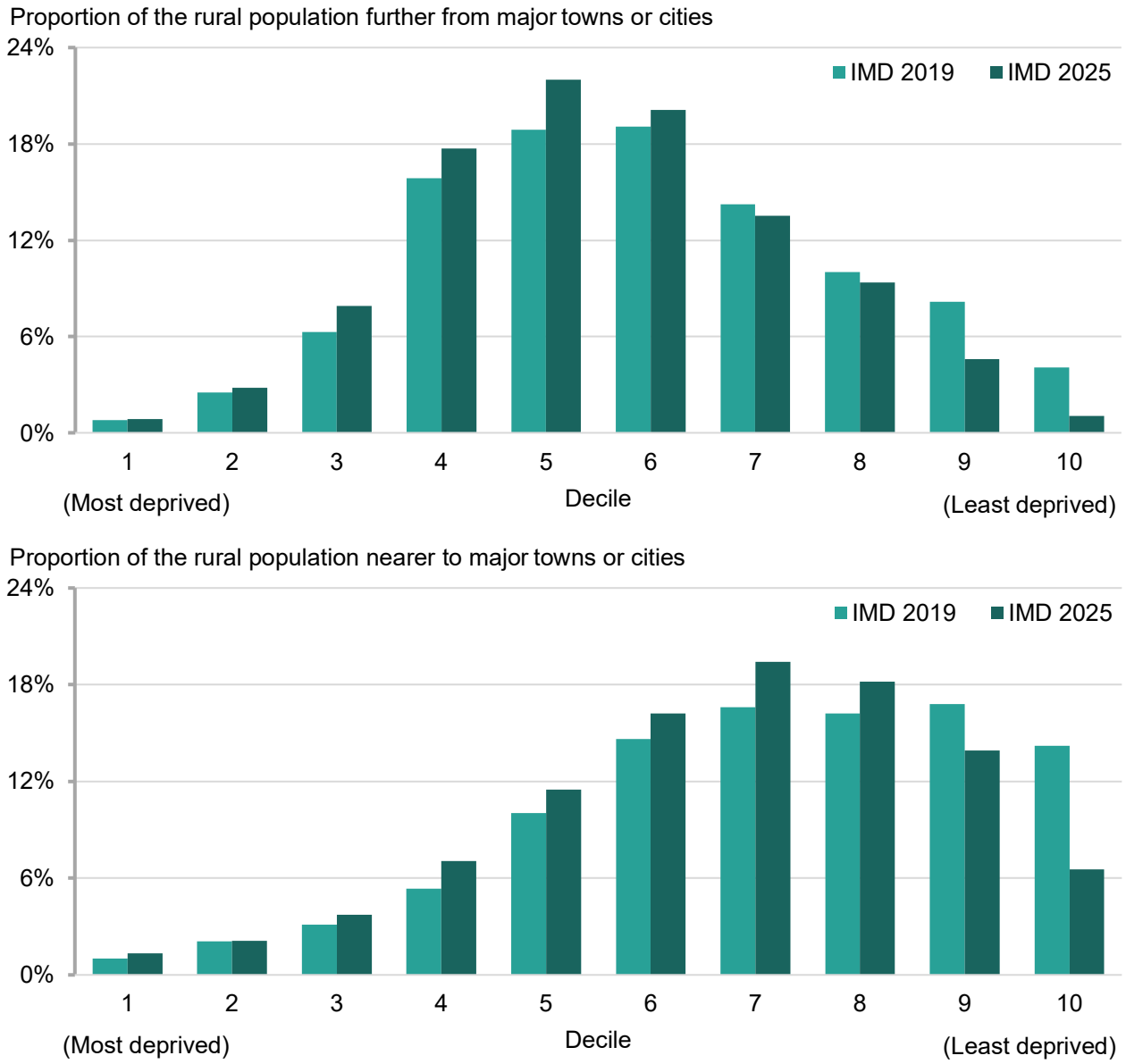
Although it is not included in the chart (and can instead be found within the supplementary data tables), the rural-urban comparison shows that urban neighbourhoods appear to have experienced little change in deprivation levels between IMD19 and IMD25.

The top bar chart in Figure A-5 compares the proportion of the rural population living in neighbourhoods further from major towns or cities within each decile from the 2019 and 2025

iterations of the IMD. The bottom bar chart in Figure A-5 instead explores these proportions of the rural population living in neighbourhoods nearer to major towns or cities.

Figure A-5: Bar chart showing the proportion of the rural population, as defined within the 2021 Rural-Urban Classification, living in neighbourhoods within each decile of the Index of Multiple Deprivation at 2019 and 2025, by proximity to a major town or city (Note A-1, Note A-3, Note A-4, Note A-5)

Decile 1 is the most deprived 10%, whilst decile 10 is the least deprived 10%. The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clusters of columns. The top chart highlights rural populations that reside further from major towns or cities, whilst the bottom chart highlights those that reside nearer to major towns or cities.



Between the two IMD releases shown in the charts (2019 and 2025), the distribution of the rural population by deprivation decile has shifted towards greater relative deprivation for both proximity groups. For areas further from major towns or cities, the proportion of the population in the most deprived 40% of neighbourhoods increased over time, while the share in the least deprived deciles declined. A similar pattern is observed for areas nearer to major towns or cities, although their distribution remains more concentrated in the least deprived deciles. These changes indicate that,

over the past decade, rural populations - regardless of proximity - are increasingly located in more deprived neighbourhoods, with the shift being more pronounced for those living further from major towns or cities; as previously stated, these differences may result from actual changes in neighbourhood deprivation or from methodological adjustments made in successive IMD releases.

Rescaling the IMD to evaluate deprivation in rural areas only

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is intended to identify concentrations of deprivation across England. While deprivation occurs in rural areas, it tends to be more dispersed, so a rural area that includes deprived households may not be sufficiently deprived relative to the areas across the country to rank highly on the overall index. 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 neighbourhoods, those areas classed as urban within the Rural-Urban Classification can be removed from the data and then IMD ranks rescaled for rural areas only to show relative rural deprivation; this is still based on the IMD, and is a legitimate use of the index as discussed within MHCLG's rural report.

The bar chart in Figure A-6 compares the proportion of the population living in neighbourhoods that are or are within smaller rural settlements to those in larger rural settlements, within each decile of the 2025 IMD, after rescaling for rural areas only. The proportion of the population in larger rural settlements living in the most deprived 10% of rural neighbourhoods was more than twice that of the smaller rural population, at 13% and 6% respectively. However, a similar proportion lived in the most deprived 40% of rural neighbourhoods, at 39% for both smaller and larger rural areas.

Figure A-6: Bar chart showing the proportion of the population living in neighbourhoods within each decile of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025 after rescaling for rural areas only, by settlement type from the 2021 Rural-Urban Classification (Note A-1, Note A-5)
Decile 1 is the most deprived 10%, whilst decile 10 is the least deprived 10%. The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clusters of columns.

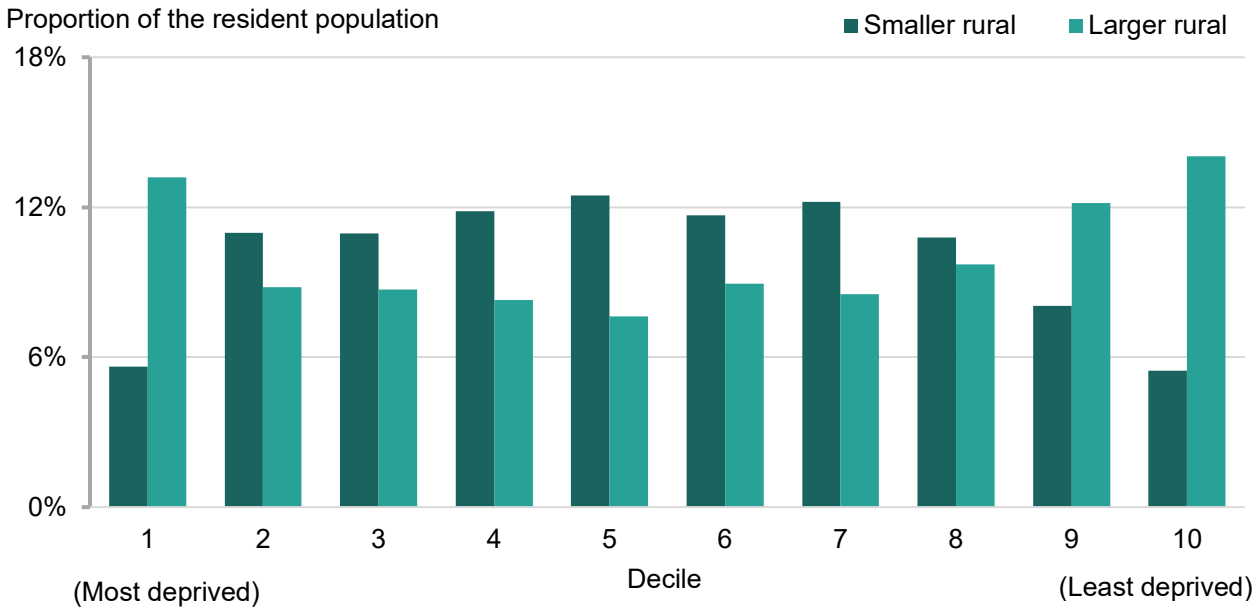
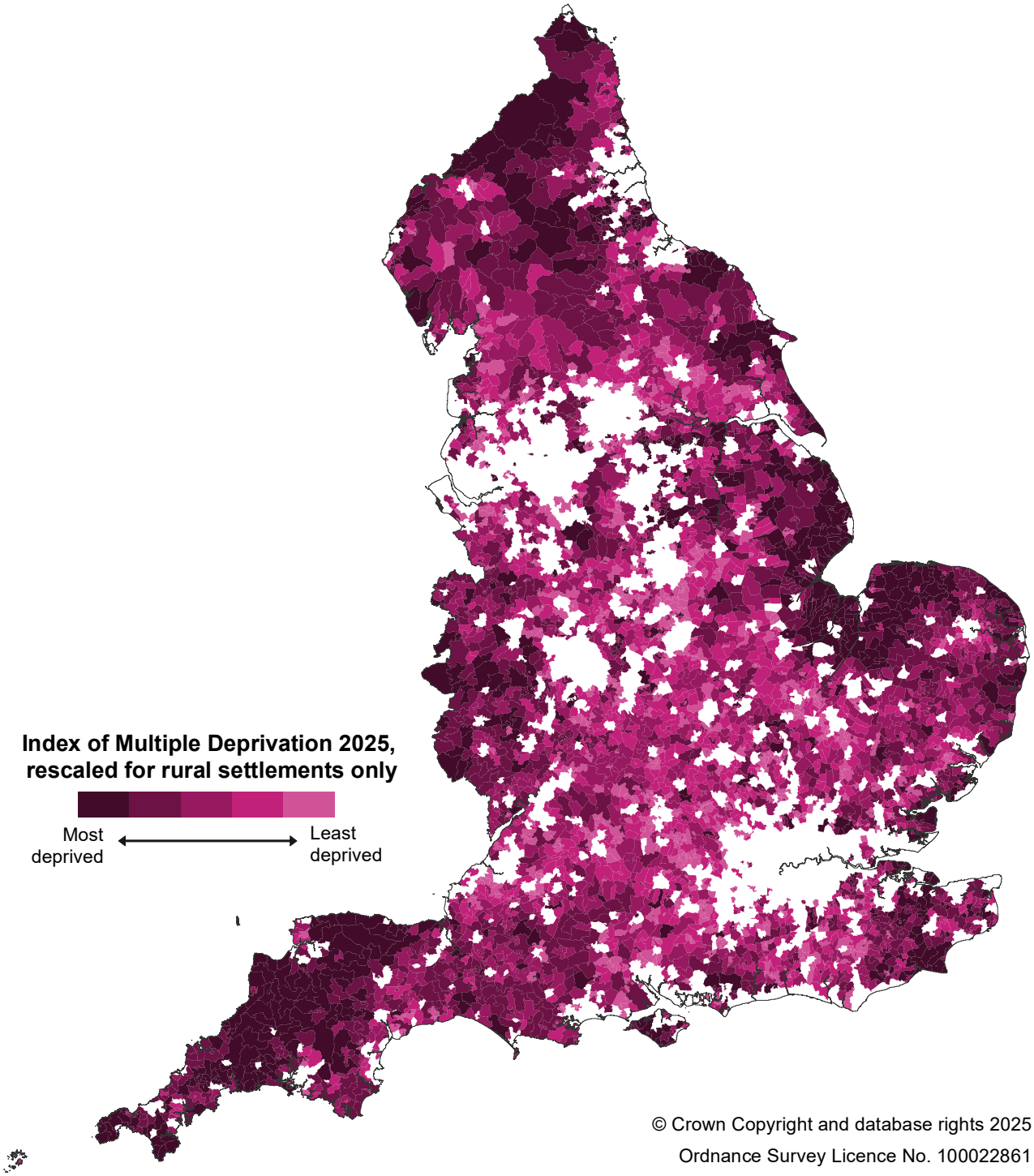


Figure A-7: Map showing distribution of rural neighbourhoods from the rescaled Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025, as defined within the 2021 Rural-Urban Classification, in England (Note A-1, Note A-5)

White areas of landmass represent urban neighbourhoods, which have been removed in order to rescale the index to measure relative deprivation in rural areas. Each colour represents the grouping of two deciles, such that the darkest colour illustrates the most deprived 20% of rural neighbourhoods, and the lightest colour illustrates the least deprived 20%.



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The map in Figure A-7 depicts the relative deprivation of rural neighbourhoods once urban areas have been removed from the IMD; the darker the colour, the more deprived the neighbourhood is considered to be in relation to other rural areas.

There were 5,554 rural neighbourhoods at IMD25, meaning the most deprived 20% of rural areas represented 1,111 neighbourhoods. 56% of neighbourhoods in the North East of England were among the most deprived 20% of rural areas at IMD 2025. In comparison, just 13% of neighbourhoods in the South East were among the most deprived 20% of rural areas in England, indicating lesser relative deprivation. Deprived rural neighbourhoods are also prevalent along the East coast of England, in former mining communities in the North of England, and in the South West of England. Analysis of relative rural deprivation in other regions can be found within the supplementary data tables.

Index of Multiple Deprivation - explanatory notes

- **Note A-1**

The latest iteration of the Index of Multiple Deprivation was last released in October 2025 by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG): English indices of deprivation 2025 - GOV.UK. Supplementary reports including a rural report (investigating deprivation in rural areas), technical report (focused on data sources and methods), and research report (focused on analysis and interpretation) were published alongside the main release. Previous iterations of the index can be found via the main collection page: English indices of deprivation - GOV.UK. MHCLG also created an interactive tool to explore local deprivation.

- **Note A-2**

The 2021 Rural-Urban Classification of LSOAs in England (based on Census 2021 boundaries) has been used to define the settlement types specified within this analysis. Information about the classification can be found via: Rural Urban Classification - GOV.UK.

- **Note A-3**

Being ‘nearer to a major town or city’ is defined as being within a 30-minute drive of a built-up area with a population of at least 75,000; conversely, being ‘further from a major town or city’ is defined as being more than a 30-minute drive away from one of these built up areas. More information regarding this definition can be found via 2021 Rural Urban Classification - Office for National Statistics, including the user guide.

- **Note A-4**

Each IMD release uses population estimates from a point in time close to the reference period of its underlying data to ensure consistency across indicators. IMD 2019 is based on mid-2015 estimates (as described in the relevant technical report), and IMD 2025 on mid-2022 estimates, aligning with the majority of administrative data used in each index.

- **Note A-5**

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) measures relative deprivation, not absolute poverty. A neighbourhood ranked as more deprived does not necessarily mean all households within it are deprived. However, the index is not designed to highlight specific, small-scale incidences of deprivation, but rather where an entire neighbourhood is deprived. Users seeking to identify deprivation at household or individual level could consider alternative sources such as income-based benefits data(e.g., Universal Credit or Housing Benefit claims), free school meal eligibility, fuel poverty datasets, or social care and housing need data.

B. English Indices of Deprivation

Rural neighbourhoods tend to be relatively less deprived (as determined by the Indices of Deprivation) than urban neighbourhoods across most domains, but face specific challenges related to access and housing quality.

The English Indices of Deprivation 2025 include a special report on rural deprivation. The analysis below is Defra's analysis of the indices.

Key findings – English Indices of Deprivation

Rural neighbourhoods are typically more deprived in terms of Geographical Barriers and Indoor Living Environment

- Within the English Indices of Deprivation 2025, in terms of Geographical Barriers to Housing and Services, 88% of the rural population lived in the most deprived 20% of neighbourhoods nationally, compared with just 7% of the urban population.
- Within the English Indices of Deprivation 2025, in terms of the Indoor Living Environment, 38% of the rural population lived in the most deprived 20% of neighbourhoods nationally, compared with 16% of the urban population.

Larger rural settlements are relatively more deprived than smaller rural settlements

- After rescaling Income Deprivation from the English Indices of Deprivation 2025 for rural areas only, 31% of the population in larger rural settlements lived in the most deprived 20% of rural neighbourhoods, compared with just 8% in smaller rural settlements.
- After rescaling Employment Deprivation from the English Indices of Deprivation 2025 for rural areas only, 29% of the population in larger rural settlements lived in the most deprived 20% of rural neighbourhoods, compared with 9% in smaller rural settlements.

Summary

The English Indices of Deprivation (IoD) are a suite of measures of deprivation compiled by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The indices are measures of relative rather than absolute deprivation. They are most effective at identifying concentrations of relative deprivation.

The English Indices of Deprivation 2025 include a special report on rural deprivation.

Overall, rural neighbourhoods tend to be less deprived than urban ones in terms of each domain of deprivation, except for the 'Geographical Barriers' sub-domain within the Barriers to Housing and Services domain, and the 'Indoors' sub-domain within the Living Environment Deprivation domain.

For example, using the Income Deprivation Domain, just 2% of the rural population lived in the most income-deprived 20% of neighbourhoods in England, compared to 24% of the urban population. However, most dimensions of deprivation in rural areas tend to be more dispersed, meaning that rural neighbourhoods are less likely to be regarded as relatively deprived, even though there could be residents who experience deprivation.

To better understand the distribution of deprivation in rural areas, in some of the analysis the IoD ranks have been rescaled for rural neighbourhoods only to show relative rural deprivation. Overall, neighbourhoods within smaller rural settlements tend to be less deprived than those within larger rural settlements in terms of each domain of deprivation. For example, 8% of the population in smaller rural settlements lived in the most income-deprived 20% of rural neighbourhoods in England, compared to 31% of the population in larger rural settlements.

Background information

The English Indices of Deprivation (IoD) are published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The IoD25 suite of resources is designed to measure relative levels of deprivation at a small area level consistently across England. The combined Index of Multiple Deprivation measure (the IMD) is the official measure of relative deprivation in England. The IoD25 include seven domains of deprivation:

1. Income deprivation,
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.

Within some of these domains are sub-domains, as follows: ‘Children and Young People’ and ‘Adult Skills’ combine to form the ‘Education, skills and training’ domain’; ‘Geographical barriers’ and ‘Wider barriers’ combine to form the ‘Barriers to housing and services’ domain; and the ‘Living environment’ domain can be considered in terms of either the ‘indoor’ or ‘outdoor’ environment.

The indices are weighted and combined to form the single Index of Multiple Deprivation, or ‘IMD’ (Section A). The weightings applied to the domains of deprivation to form the IMD are discussed within MHCLG’s technical report which accompanies the English Indices of Deprivation release.

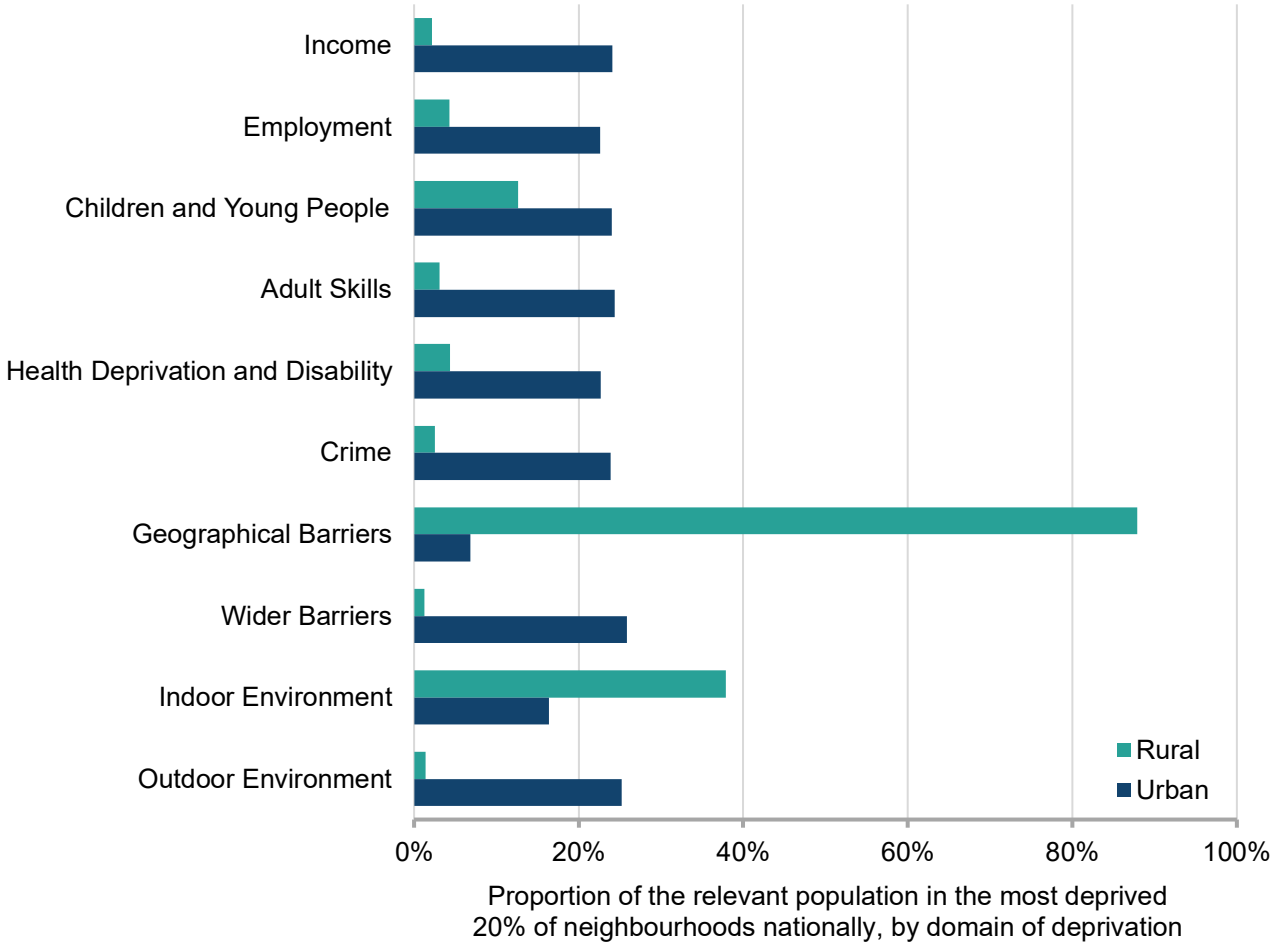
MHCLG’s statistical release states that the indices of deprivation are “designed to identify and measure specific aspects of deprivation, rather than measures of affluence” and that the methodology is “designed to reliably distinguish between areas at the most deprived end of the distribution, but not at the least deprived end” (Note B-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.

Small pockets 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 visible in the index. Data from the Indices are provided at Lower-layer Super Output Area (LSOA) level, based on boundaries from the 2021 Census; for the purposes of this analysis, these shall henceforth be referred to as “neighbourhoods”.

English Indices of Deprivation 2025

The 2025 English Indices of Deprivation (IoD25) provide a set of 7 relative measures of deprivation at neighbourhood level across England. The bar chart in Figure B-1 shows the proportion of each relevant population living within the most deprived 20% of neighbourhoods nationally, by domain or sub-domain of deprivation. The 'relevant population' is different for some domains, as the most appropriate population has been considered (Note B-3).

Figure B-1: Bar chart showing the proportion of the population living in the most deprived 20% of neighbourhoods nationally, by domain of deprivation from the 2025 English Indices of Deprivation and 2021 Rural-Urban Classification (Note B-1, Note B-2, Note B-3)
The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clusters of bars.



The bar chart in Figure B-1 can be described as follows:

- Overall, rural neighbourhoods tend to be less deprived than urban ones in terms of each domain of deprivation, except for the 'Geographical Barriers' sub-domain within the Barriers to Housing and Services domain, and the 'Indoors' sub-domain within the Living Environment Deprivation domain.
- **Income Deprivation**: Just 2% of the rural population lived in the most deprived 20% of neighbourhoods in England (in terms of income deprivation), compared to 24% of the urban population.

- **Employment Deprivation**: 4% of the working-age rural population lived in the most deprived 20% of neighbourhoods in England (in terms of employment deprivation), compared to 23% of the urban population.
- **Education, Skills and Training Deprivation – Children and Young People**: 13% of the rural dependent population aged 0 to 15 years lived in the most deprived 20% of neighbourhoods in England (in terms of young people's education deprivation), compared to 24% of the urban population.
- **Education, Skills and Training Deprivation – Adult Skills**: 3% of the rural population aged 16 to 59 years lived in the most deprived 20% of neighbourhoods in England (in terms of adult skills deprivation), compared to 24% of the urban population.
- **Health Deprivation and Disability**: 4% of the rural population lived in the most deprived 20% of neighbourhoods in England (in terms of health deprivation and disability), compared to 23% of the urban population.
- **Crime**: Just 2% of the rural population lived in the most deprived 20% of neighbourhoods in England (in terms of the 'crime' domain of deprivation), compared to 24% of the urban population.
- **Barriers to Housing and Services – Geographical Barriers**: 88% of the rural population lived in the most deprived 20% of neighbourhoods in England (in terms of geographical barriers based on access to services), compared to 7% of the urban population.
- **Barriers to Housing and Services – Wider Barriers**: Just 1% of the rural population lived in the most deprived 20% of neighbourhoods in England (in terms of wider barriers, such as housing affordability and overcrowding), compared to 26% of the urban population.
- **Living Environment Deprivation – Indoors**: 38% of the rural population lived in the most deprived 20% of neighbourhoods in England (in terms of indoor environment deprivation, such as poor housing quality), compared to 16% of the urban population.
- **Living Environment Deprivation – Outdoors**: Just 1% of the rural population lived in the most deprived 20% of neighbourhoods in England (in terms of outdoor environment deprivation, such as air quality), compared to 25% of the urban population.

Table B-1 highlights the most deprived neighbourhoods in England, in terms of each domain and sub-domain of deprivation from the English Indices of Deprivation 2025. Each neighbourhood's parent Middle-Layer Super Output Area has been named to provide geographical context. For most of the domains and sub-domains of deprivation specified, the most deprived neighbourhoods are within urban areas; specifically, they are concentrated in London and major cities, where income, employment and crime deprivation can be particularly high.

The most income deprived neighbourhood, according to the English Indices of Deprivation 2025, is within the 'Stamford Hill South' area of Hackney. South of this neighbourhood is 'Hackney Central', within which is the most employment deprived neighbourhood in England; both of these neighbourhoods in Hackney are urban. Further in the south of Hackney is the 'Shoreditch' area, within which is the most deprived neighbourhood in terms of the outdoor living environment. However, the most deprived neighbourhood in terms of the indoor living environment is further North, within the rural 'Stanhope and Weardale' area of County Durham.

The most deprived neighbourhood in terms of education, skills and training differed depending on whether the focus was on children and young people, or adult skills. The most deprived neighbourhood in terms of children and young people's education, skills and training is within the urban 'Central Doncaster and Hyde Park' area of Doncaster. The most deprived neighbourhood in terms of adult skills is further South, within the urban 'Spinney Hill Road' area of Leicester.

The most deprived neighbourhood in terms of barriers to housing and services differed depending on whether the focus was on the ‘geographical’ accessibility of key services or ‘wider’ or more broad barriers, such as access to affordable housing. The most deprived neighbourhood in terms of geographical barriers to housing and services is within the rural 'Seahouses, Belford and Wooler' area of Northumberland. The most deprived neighbourhood in terms of wider barriers to housing and services is further South, within the urban 'St Raphaels' area of Brent.

The most deprived neighbourhood in terms of health deprivation and disability is within the urban 'Birkenhead Central' area of Wirral. The most deprived neighbourhood in terms of crime is within the urban 'North Shore' area of Blackpool.

Table B-1: Most deprived neighbourhoods based on rankings from each of the English Indices of Deprivation 2025 (Note B-1)
The Rural-Urban Classification of each neighbourhood has been indicated in the ‘RUC21’ column.

Indices of Deprivation	Neighbourhood	RUC21	Parent area
Income Deprivation	Hackney 004E	Urban	Stamford Hill South
Employment Deprivation	Hackney 017D	Urban	Hackney Central
Children and Young People	Doncaster 022A	Urban	Central Doncaster and Hyde Park
Adult Skills	Leicester 017B	Urban	Spinney Hill Road
Health Deprivation and Disability	Wirral 016E	Urban	Birkenhead Central
Crime	Blackpool 006A	Urban	North Shore
Geographical Barriers	Northumberland 003B	Rural	Seahouses, Belford and Wooler
Wider Barriers	Brent 021F	Urban	St Raphaels
Indoor Environment	County Durham 042A	Rural	Stanhope and Weardale
Outdoor Environment	Hackney 033B	Urban	Shoreditch

Rescaling the Indices of Deprivation for rural areas only

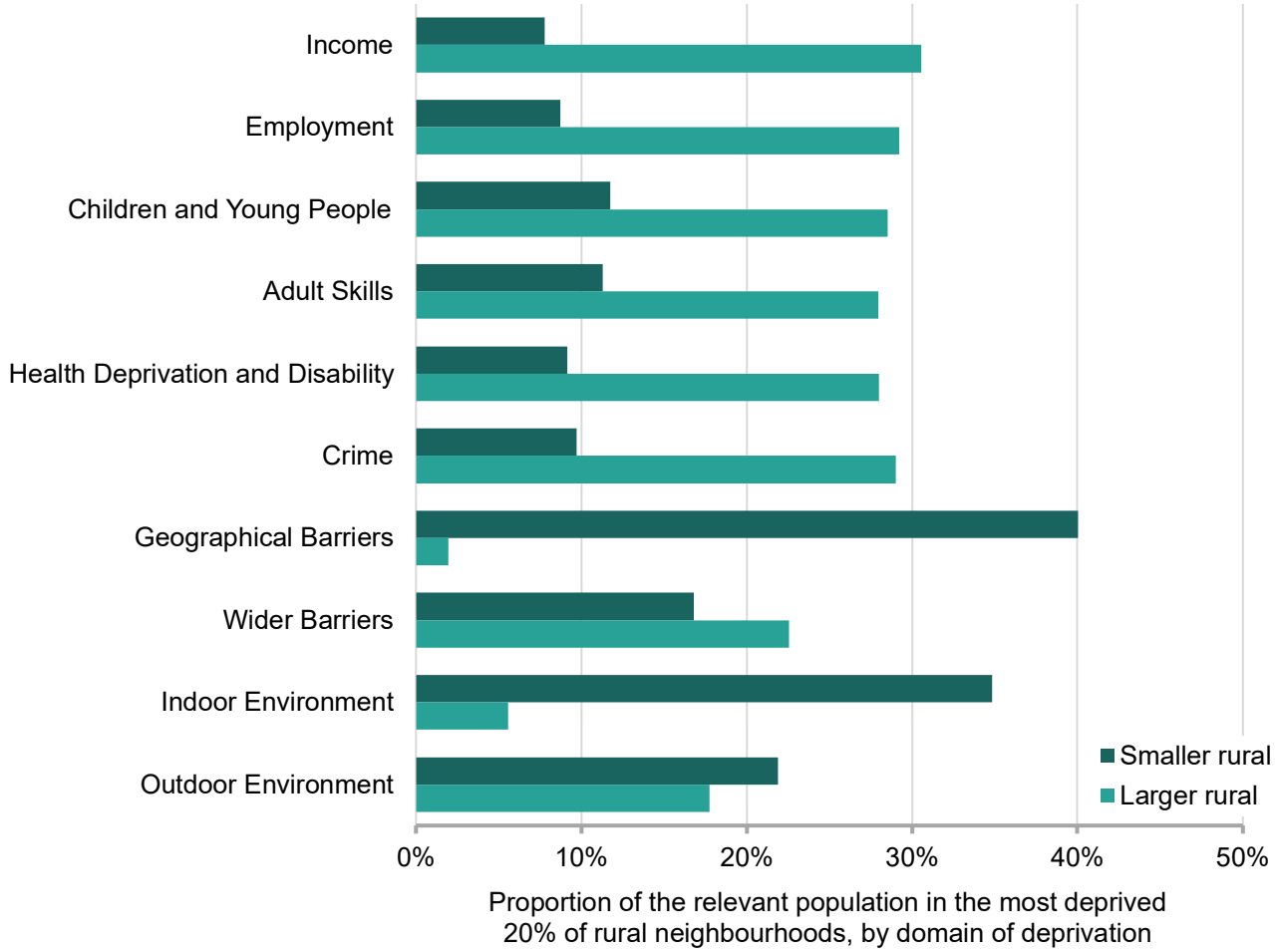
The English Indices of Deprivation (IoD) are intended to identify concentrations of deprivation across England based on the 7 different dimensions, or ‘domains’. While deprivation occurs in rural areas, it tends to be more dispersed, so a rural neighbourhood that includes deprived households may not be sufficiently deprived relative to the areas across the country to rank highly on each of the individual indices. 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 neighbourhoods, those areas classed as urban within the Rural-Urban Classification can be removed from the data and then each domain's ranks rescaled for rural areas only to show relative rural deprivation within that domain.

The bar chart in Figure B-2 shows the proportion of each relevant population living within the most deprived 20% of rural neighbourhoods in England, by domains or sub-domain of deprivation and settlement type from the Rural-Urban Classification, using the IoD25. The 'relevant population' is different for some domains, as the most appropriate population has been considered (Note B-3).

Figure B-2: Bar chart showing the proportion of the population living in the most deprived 20% of neighbourhoods after rescaling for rural areas only, by domain of deprivation from the 2025 English Indices of Deprivation and settlement type from the 2021 Rural-Urban Classification (Note B-1, Note B-2, Note B-3)

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



The bar chart in Figure B-2 can be described as follows:

- Overall, neighbourhoods within smaller rural settlements tend to be less deprived than those within larger rural settlements in terms of each domain of deprivation, except for 'Geographical Barriers' to Housing and Services, and 'Indoor' Living Environment Deprivation.
- **Income Deprivation**: 8% of the population in smaller rural settlements lived in the most deprived 20% of rural neighbourhoods in England (in terms of income deprivation), compared to 31% of the population in larger rural settlements.

- **Employment Deprivation**: 9% of the working-age population in smaller rural settlements lived in the most deprived 20% of rural neighbourhoods in England (in terms of employment deprivation), compared to 29% of the population in larger rural settlements.
- **Education, Skills and Training Deprivation – Children and Young People**: 12% of the dependent population aged 0 to 15 years in smaller rural settlements lived in the most deprived 20% of rural neighbourhoods in England (in terms of young people's education deprivation), compared to 29% of the population in larger rural settlements.
- **Education, Skills and Training Deprivation – Adult Skills**: 11% of the population aged 16 to 59 years in smaller rural settlements lived in the most deprived 20% of rural neighbourhoods in England (in terms of adult skills deprivation), compared to 28% of the population in larger rural settlements.
- **Health Deprivation and Disability**: 9% of the population in smaller rural settlements lived in the most deprived 20% of rural neighbourhoods in England (in terms of health deprivation and disability), compared to 28% of the population in larger rural settlements.
- **Crime**: 10% of the population in smaller rural settlements lived in the most deprived 20% of rural neighbourhoods in England (in terms of the 'crime' domain of deprivation), compared to 29% of the population in larger rural settlements.
- **Barriers to Housing and Services – Geographical Barriers**: 40% of the population in smaller rural settlements lived in the most deprived 20% of rural neighbourhoods in England (in terms of geographical barriers based on access to services), compared to just 2% of the population in larger rural settlements.
- **Barriers to Housing and Services – Wider Barriers**: 17% of the population in smaller rural settlements lived in the most deprived 20% of rural neighbourhoods in England (in terms of wider barriers, such as housing affordability and overcrowding), compared to 23% of the population in larger rural settlements.
- **Living Environment Deprivation – Indoors**: 35% of the population in smaller rural settlements lived in the most deprived 20% of rural neighbourhoods in England (in terms of indoor environment deprivation, such as poor housing quality), compared to 6% of the population in larger rural settlements.
- **Living Environment Deprivation – Outdoors**: 22% of the population in smaller rural settlements lived in the most deprived 20% of rural neighbourhoods in England (in terms of outdoor environment deprivation, such as air quality), compared to 18% of the population in larger rural settlements.

Table B-2 highlights the most deprived rural neighbourhoods, based on the rescaled indices where urban neighbourhoods have been removed, in terms of each domain and sub-domain of deprivation from the English Indices of Deprivation 2025. Each neighbourhood's parent Middle-Layer Super Output Area has been named to provide geographical context. For each of the domains and sub-domains of deprivation specified, the most deprived rural neighbourhoods are concentrated in the East of the country, rather than the West.

The most income deprived rural neighbourhood, according to the rescaled English Indices of Deprivation 2025, is within the 'Kinsley and Fitzwilliam' area of Wakefield.

Table B-2: Most deprived rural neighbourhoods based on rankings from each of the English Indices of Deprivation 2025 once rescaled for rural areas only, as defined within the 2021 Rural-Urban Classification, in England (Note B-1)

Indices of Deprivation	Neighbourhood	Parent area
Income Deprivation	Wakefield 039D	Kinsley and Fitzwilliam
Employment Deprivation	County Durham 025B	Easington and Hawthorn
Children and Young People	Swale 006A	Sheppey East
Adult Skills	East Lindsey 010A	Ingoldmells and Chapel St Leonards
Health Deprivation and Disability	County Durham 039D	Blackhall
Crime	County Durham 025B	Easington and Hawthorn
Geographical Barriers	Northumberland 003B	Seahouses, Belford and Wooler
Wider Barriers	Thurrock 013A	East Tilbury
Indoor Environment	County Durham 042A	Stanhope and Weardale
Outdoor Environment	Windsor and Maidenhead 011B	Datchet

Several of the most deprived rural neighbourhoods for each of the domains and sub-domains were in County Durham. The most employment deprived rural neighbourhood is within the 'Easington and Hawthorn' area of County Durham; this is also the most deprived rural neighbourhood in terms of crime. To the south of this neighbourhood is the most deprived rural neighbourhood in terms of health deprivation and disability, within the 'Blackhall' area of County Durham. To the west is the most deprived rural neighbourhood in terms of the indoor living environment, within the 'Stanhope and Weardale' area of County Durham. However, the most deprived rural neighbourhood in terms of the outdoor living environment is further South, within the 'Datchet' area of Windsor and Maidenhead.

The most deprived rural neighbourhood in terms of education, skills and training differed depending on whether the focus was on children and young people, or adult skills. The most deprived rural neighbourhood in terms of children and young people's education, skills and training is within the 'Sheppey East' area of Swale. The most deprived rural neighbourhood in terms of adult skills is further North, within the 'Ingoldmells and Chapel St Leonards' area of East Lindsey.

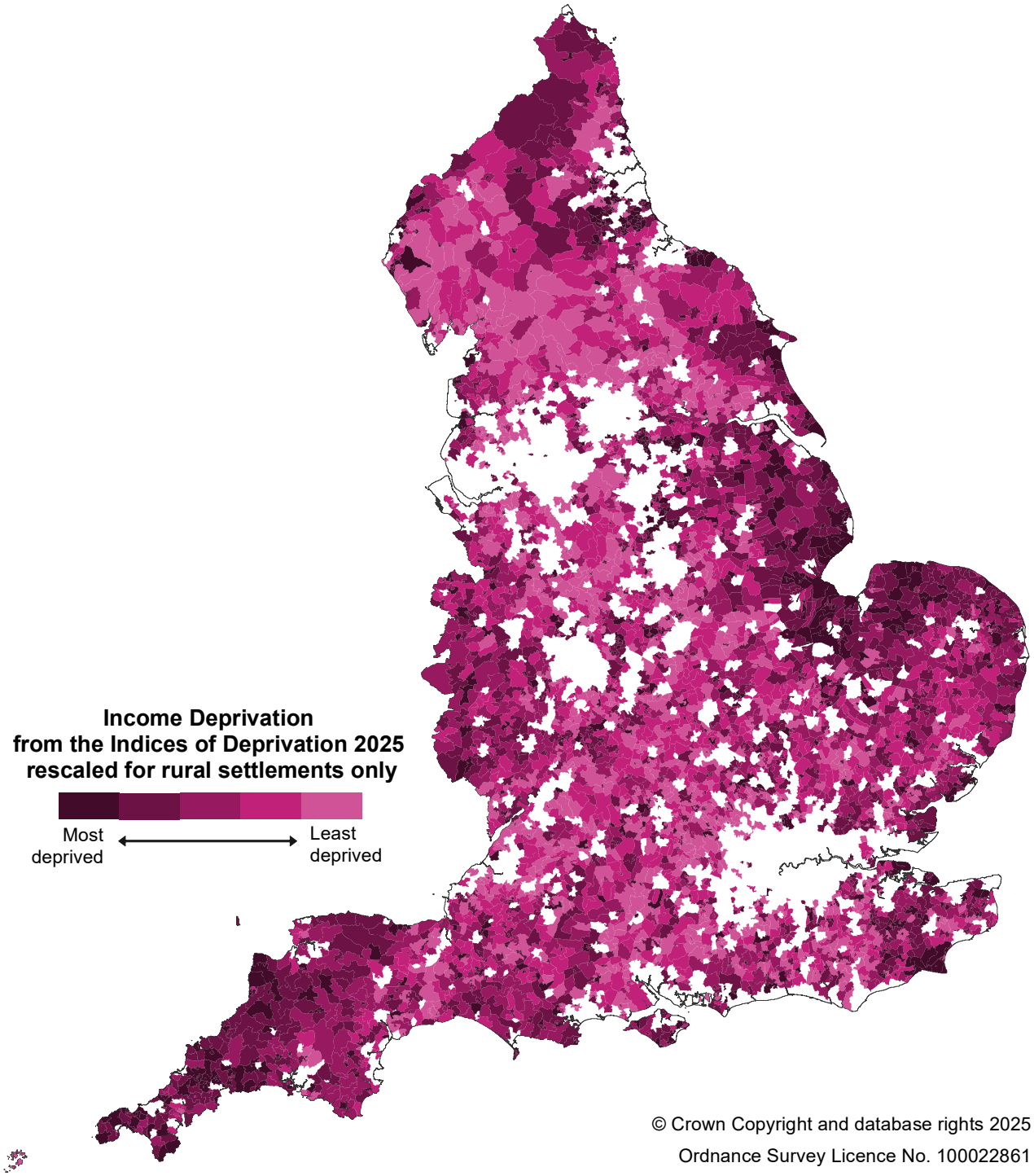
The most deprived rural neighbourhood in terms of barriers to housing and services differed depending on whether the focus was on the ‘geographical’ accessibility of key services or ‘wider’ or more broad barriers, such as access to affordable housing. The most deprived rural neighbourhood in terms of geographical barriers to housing and services is within the 'Seahouses, Belford and Wooler' area in Northumberland. The most deprived rural neighbourhood in terms of wider barriers to housing and services is further South, within the 'East Tilbury' area of Thurrock.

Again just focusing on rural areas, using the rescaled indices as produced for the purposes of this report, domains and sub-domains can be mapped to show the distribution of relative deprivation across rural neighbourhoods in England. ‘Income Deprivation’ and ‘Geographical Barriers to Housing and Services’ are shown as example maps in Figure B-3 and Figure B-4.

For each of the maps shown, the darker the colour, the more deprived the neighbourhood is considered to be in relation to other rural areas.

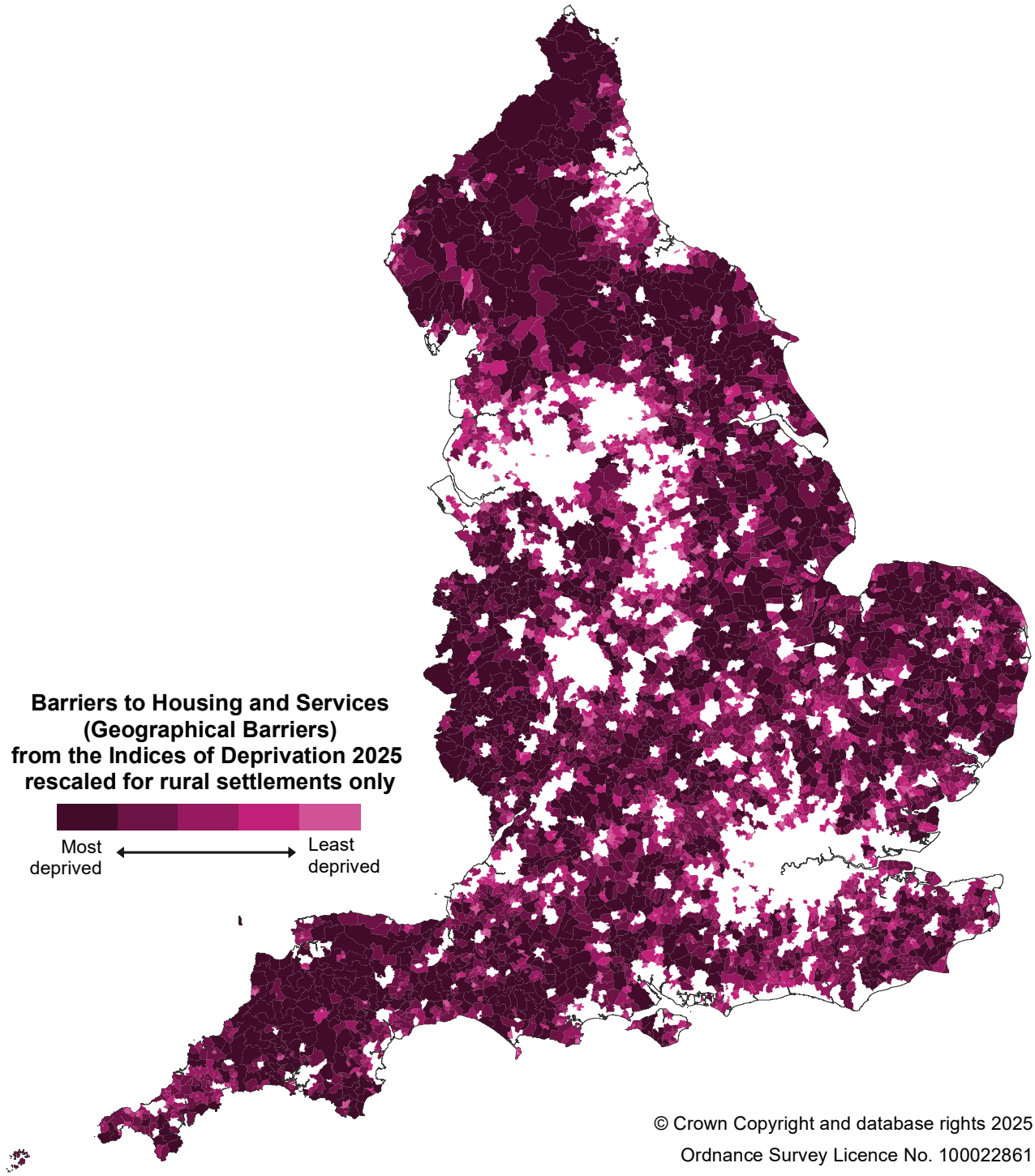
Figure B-3: Map showing the distribution of income deprivation across rural neighbourhoods, as defined within the 2021 Rural-Urban Classification, based on the rescaled English Indices of Deprivation 2025 (Note B-1)

White areas of landmass represent urban neighbourhoods, which have been removed in order to rescale the index to measure relative income deprivation in rural areas. Each colour represents the grouping of two deciles, such that the darkest colour illustrates the most deprived 20% of rural neighbourhoods, and the lightest colour illustrates the least deprived 20%.



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Figure B-4: Map showing the distribution of deprivation across rural neighbourhoods, as defined within the 2021 Rural-Urban Classification, in terms of geographical barriers to housing and services based on the rescaled English Indices of Deprivation 2025 (Note B-1)
White areas of landmass represent urban neighbourhoods, which have been removed in order to rescale the index to measure relative income deprivation in rural areas. Each colour represents the grouping of two deciles, such that the darkest colour illustrates the most deprived 20% of rural neighbourhoods, and the lightest colour illustrates the least deprived 20%.



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The map in Figure B-3 depicts the rescaled relative income deprivation of rural neighbourhoods across England once urban areas have been removed. 52% of neighbourhoods in the North East were among the most income deprived 20% of rural areas across England, compared to 15% of neighbourhoods in the South East. The map in Figure A-7 – which showed the distribution of multiple deprivation from the IMD25 – had proportionally more neighbourhoods in the North East, and proportionally fewer in the South East, among the most deprived 20% of rural areas. This shows how taking account of multiple dimensions of deprivation changes the geographic distribution. Income deprivation is more dispersed across England than perhaps some other dimensions of deprivation.

The map in Figure B-4 depicts the rescaled relative deprivation of rural neighbourhoods (once urban areas have been removed) in terms of geographical barriers to housing and services. 12% of neighbourhoods in the North East were among the most deprived 20% of rural areas across England in terms of geographical barriers to housing and services; this compares to 13% in the South East. However, 30% of neighbourhoods in the West midlands were among the most deprived 20% of rural areas across England in terms of geographical barriers to housing and services, indicating a considerably different distribution than income deprivation. Figure B-4 shows widespread high levels of deprivation in terms of the geographical barriers, reflecting the less well-connected rural settlements and poorer access to essential services by public transport.

English Indices of Deprivation - explanatory notes

- **Note B-1**

The latest iteration of the English Indices of Deprivation was last released in October 2025 by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG): English indices of deprivation 2025 - GOV.UK. Supplementary reports including a rural report (investigating deprivation in rural areas), technical report (focused on data sources and methods), and research report (focused on analysis and interpretation) were published alongside the main release. Previous iterations of the indices can be found via the main collection page: English indices of deprivation - GOV.UK. MHCLG also created an interactive tool to explore local deprivation.

- **Note B-2**

The 2021 Rural-Urban Classification of LSOAs in England (based on Census 2021 boundaries) has been used to define the settlement types specified within this analysis. Information about the classification can be found via: Rural Urban Classification - GOV.UK.

- **Note B-3**

The IoD release uses population estimates from a point in time close to the reference period of its underlying data to ensure consistency across indicators; IoD25 is based on mid-2022 estimates, aligning with the majority of administrative data used in each index.

Where analysis portrays the proportion of the population within a specified group (e.g., proportion of the population in the most income-deprived 20% of neighbourhoods), appropriate populations have been considered, as follows:

- ‘Income Deprivation’, ‘Health Deprivation and Disability’, ‘Crime’, ‘Barriers to Housing and Services’ (in terms of both geographical and wider barriers), and Living Environment Deprivation (in terms of both the indoor and outdoor environment) all use the total usual resident population.
- ‘Employment Deprivation’ uses the working-age population, aged between 18 and 66 years.
- Education, Skills and Training Deprivation of ‘Children and Young People’ uses the population of dependent children aged between 0 and 15 years.
- Education, Skills and Training Deprivation in terms of ‘Adult Skills’ uses the population aged between 16 and 59 years.

- **Note B-4**

The English Indices of Deprivation (IoD) measures relative deprivation, not absolute poverty. A neighbourhood ranked as more deprived does not necessarily mean all households within it are deprived. However, the indices are not designed to highlight specific, small-scale incidences of deprivation, but rather where an entire neighbourhood is deprived. Users seeking to identify deprivation at household or individual level could consider alternative sources such as income-based benefits data (e.g., Universal Credit or Housing Benefit claims), free school meal eligibility, fuel poverty datasets, or social care and housing need data.

C. Poverty due to low income

A smaller proportion of individuals and households in rural areas experience low-income poverty than in urban areas.

Key findings – Poverty due to low income

Proportionally fewer rural households are in poverty than urban households

- In 2024/25, 12% of households in rural settlements were in relative low income before accounting for housing costs; this compares to 17% of households in urban settlements. After housing costs, this rises to 13% of households in rural settlements and 21% in urban settlements.

Proportionally fewer rural children are in poverty than urban children

- In 2024/25, 11% of children in rural settlements were in relative low income before accounting for housing costs; this compares to 22% of children in urban settlements. After housing costs, this rises to 16% of children in rural settlements and 30% in urban settlements.

Summary

Households Below Average Income (HBAI) statistics give an insight into the standard of living of the household population of England. This publication uses relative low income as a measure of poverty, comparing household income with median household income. A separate measure, absolute low income, relates household income to an inflation adjusted threshold value. For 2024/25 analysis the reference year for measuring absolute low income changed from 2010/11 to 2024/25 meaning that for this year the two measures will be the same.

In 2024/25, 12% of households in rural settlements were in relative low income before accounting for housing costs (BHC); this compares to 17% of households in urban settlements. For all demographic groups (working-age people defined as those aged between 16 to 64, children and pensioners) the percentage that were in relative low income BHC was consistently lower in rural settlements. The demographic group with the greatest difference between rural and urban settlements for proportion of the population in relative low income BHC was children, with rural settlements 11 percentage points lower than urban settlements (11% and 22% respectively).

After housing costs (AHC) have been included, the percentage that were in relative low income was still consistently lower in rural settlements across all demographic groups (working-age people, children and pensioners). In 2024/25, 13% of households in rural settlements were in relative low income AHC; this compares to 21% of households in urban settlements. The demographic group with the greatest difference between rural and urban settlements for proportion of the population in relative low income AHC was children, with rural settlements 14 percentage points lower than urban settlements (16% and 30% respectively).

When housing costs are included, the percentage of the population in relative low income increases for all demographic groups apart from pensioners. This is because a large proportion of pensioners live in homes that are owned outright so many have minimal housing costs. In 2024/25 the percentage of children in rural settlements in relative low income increased by 5 percentage points after housing costs were included while in urban settlements the increase was 8 percentage points. Working-aged people saw a smaller increase to the percentage in relative low income after housing costs were applied (2 percentage points for rural settlements and 5 percentage points for urban). For pensioners, the percentage in rural settlements in relative low income decreased by 3 percentage points after housing costs were included while in urban settlements the decrease was 1 percentage point.

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 C-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. Relative low income is 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. Box C-1 gives more information on relative low income.

Box C-1: HBAI statistics – definition of relative low income

Households are said to be in **relative low income** if their net equivalised disposable household income is below a threshold set at 60% of median income that year.

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.

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 a specific reference year, adjusted for inflation. From 2024/25 the reference year has changed to 2024/25 following methodological changes in the production of these statistics, prior to this it was 2010/11. This means that for 2024/25 data the proportions of the household population in relative low income and absolute low

income will be the same. Absolute low income can be determined before or after housing costs. Box C-2 gives more information on relative low income and the change to the reference year.

Box C-2: HBAI statistics – definition of relative low income

Households are said to be in **absolute low income** if their net equivalised disposable household income is below 60% of the median income of a specific reference year, adjusted for inflation.

Absolute low income sets the low-income line to a given year 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).

Following the integration of administrative data into the Family Resources Survey from the March 2026 DWP HBAI publication, the reference year for absolute low income has changed from 2010/11 to 2024/25. This means that for the 2024/25 figures presented in this section the proportions for relative low income and absolute income will be exactly the same.

From the March 2026 Family Resources Survey (FRS) publication, administrative data has been integrated into the FRS to replace survey responses for the major Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) benefits. This has reduced the under-reporting of benefits that was previously seen in the FRS (and therefore HBAI) and improved data quality in both datasets. It is this integration of administrative data into the FRS that has driven the shift in reference year for absolute low income from 2010/11 to 2024/25.

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 measures (Note C-1 explains what is included in housing costs) allow an assessment of the relative standard of living of those individuals who are 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 reflect improvements in the quality of housing.

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

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

DWP says that the preferred measure to examine relative and absolute low income for both the working-age population (those aged between 16 and 64) and children is before housing costs. This

is because the after housing costs measures can underestimate the true living standard of families who choose to spend more on housing to attain a higher standard of accommodation.

DWP says that the preferred measure of low income for 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.

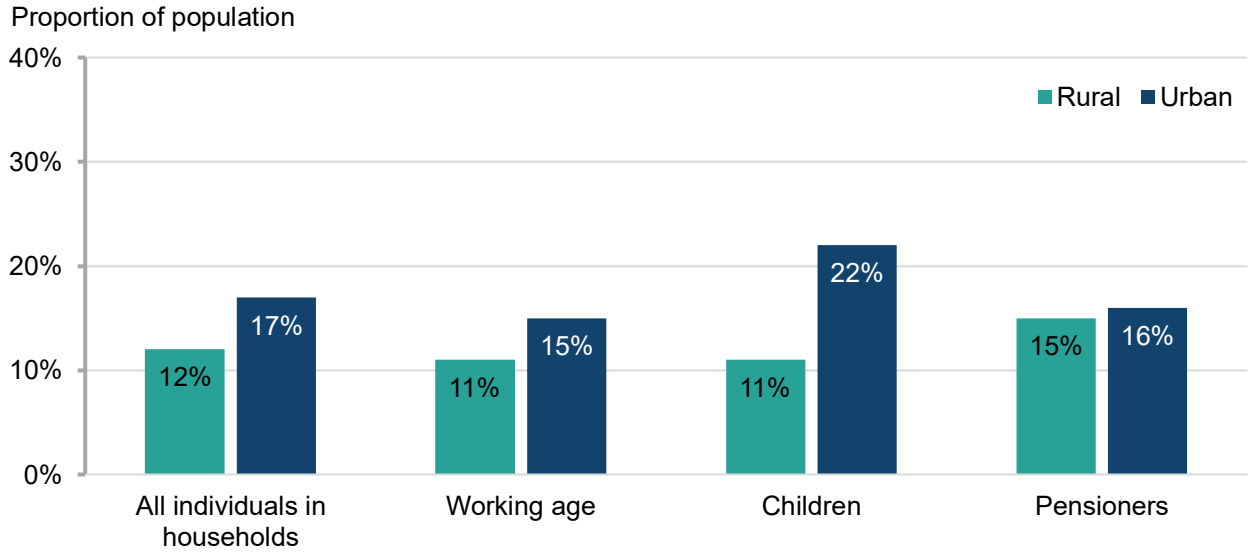
These rural statistics are based on relative low income (Note C-2) and absolute low income (Note C-3). DWP also reports on measures of 'low income and material deprivation' and 'persistent poverty'.

Relative low income before housing costs (BHC)

The bar chart in Figure C-1 shows the percentage of the population in relative low income before housing costs by demographic group for 2024/25. Rural settlements had a lower proportion of the population in relative low income (BHC) than urban settlements for all demographic groups.

Figure C-1: Bar chart showing proportion of population in relative low income for 2024/25, before housing costs, by demographic and 2021 rural-urban classification (Note C-1, Note C-3, Note C-4, Box C-1)

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



The chart can be summarised as follows:

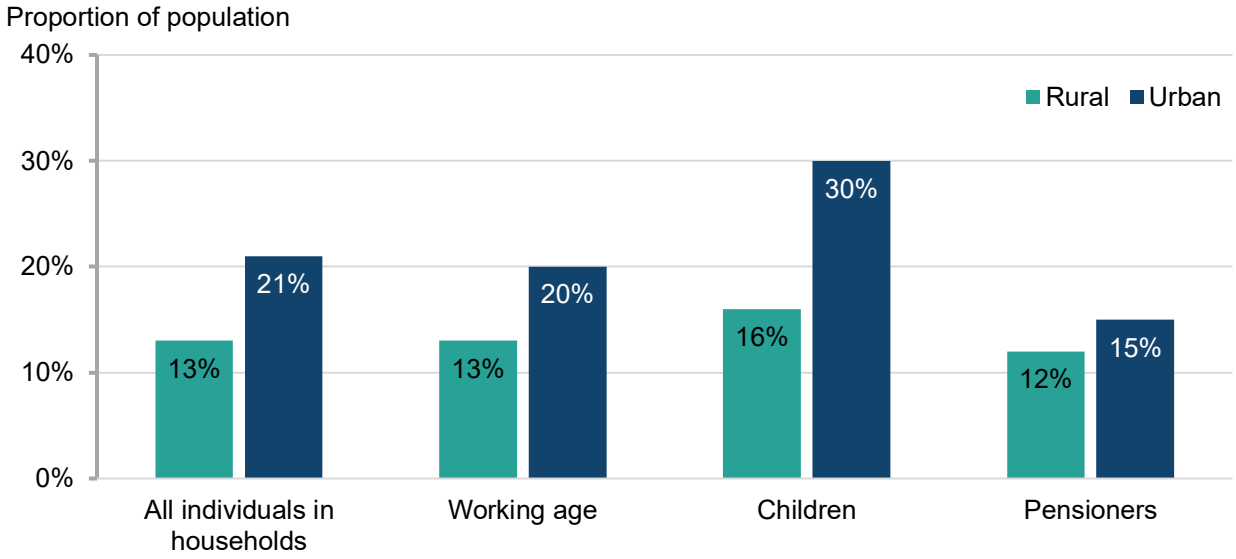
- In rural settlements, the percentage of households in relative low income was 12% (BHC) compared with 17% in urban settlements.
- The percentage of working-age people (aged 16 to 64) in rural settlements in relative low income (BHC) was 11% and in urban settlements it was 15%.
- The percentage of children in rural settlements in relative low income (BHC) was 11% and in urban settlements it was 22%. This difference of 11 percentage points between rural and urban settlements was the greatest of all the demographic groups.

- The percentage of pensioners in rural settlements in relative low income (BHC) was 15% and in urban settlements it was 16%. This difference of 1 percentage point between rural and urban settlements was the smallest of all the demographic groups.

Relative low income after housing costs (AHC)

The bar chart in Figure C-2 shows the percentage of the population in relative low income after housing costs by demographic group for 2024/25. As with relative low income before housing costs, rural settlements also had a lower proportion of the population in relative low income after housing costs than urban settlements for all demographic groups.

Figure C-2: Bar chart showing proportion of population in relative low income for 2024/25, after housing costs, by demographic and 2021 rural-urban classification (Note C-1, Note C-3, Note C-4, Box C-2)
The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the columns.



The chart can be summarised as follows:

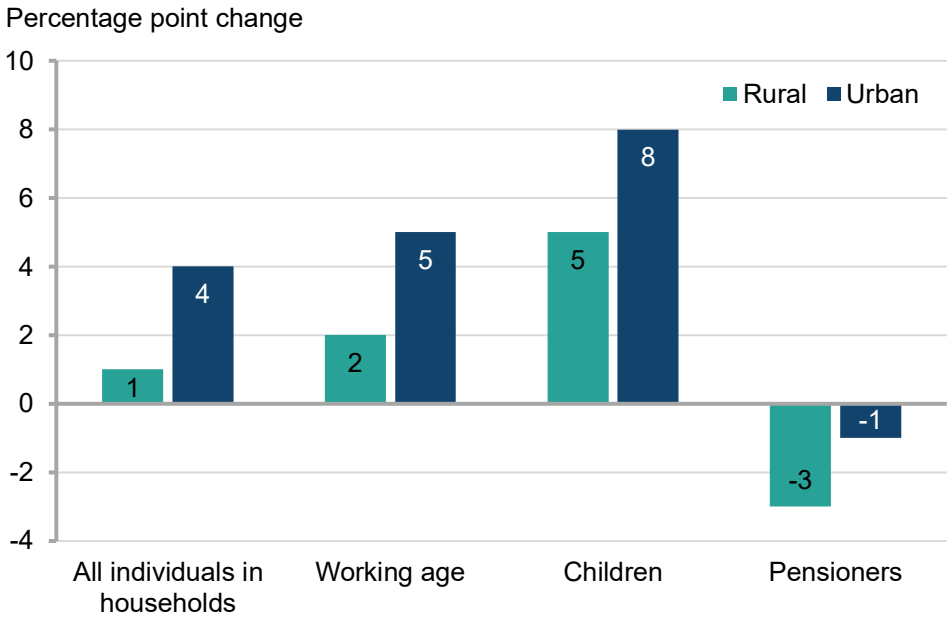
- In rural settlements, the percentage of households in relative low income was 13% (AHC) compared with 21% in urban settlements.
- The percentage of working-age people (aged 16 to 64) in rural settlements in relative low income (AHC) was 13% and in urban settlements it was 20%.
- The percentage of children in rural settlements in relative low income (AHC) was 16% and in urban settlements it was 30%. This difference of 14 percentage points between rural and urban settlements was the greatest of all the demographic groups.
- The percentage of pensioners in rural settlements in relative low income (AHC) was 12% and in urban settlements it was 15%. This difference of 3 percentage points between rural and urban settlements was the smallest of all the demographic groups.

The bar chart in Figure C-3 shows the impact of housing costs on relative low income by measuring the change, in percentage points, before and after housing costs for both rural and urban settlements by demographic group. It should be noted that the before and after housing cost measures are based relative to different thresholds, being 60% of median income levels before

and after housing costs, respectively. This shows that in most cases the inclusion of housing costs increases the proportion of the population in relative low income, and the increase is greater for urban areas. However, the reverse is true for pensioners as the proportion in relative low income decreases after housing costs have been included. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) states this is because over three-quarters of pensioners live in homes that are owned outright and therefore face minimal housing costs (compared with a quarter of working-age adults). See the DWP report 'Households Below Average Income (HBAI) statistics' for more detail.

Figure C-3: Bar chart showing impact (percentage point change) of housing costs on the proportion of population in relative low income for 2024/25 by demographic and 2021 rural-urban classification (Note C-1, Note C-3, Note C-4)

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



Positive change: Inclusion of housing costs has increased the proportion that are in relative low income.

Negative change: Inclusion of housing costs has decreased the proportion that are in relative low income.

The chart can be summarised as follows:

- In rural settlements, the percentage of households in relative low income increased by 1 percentage point when housing costs were included compared with an increase of 4 percentage points in urban settlements.
- The percentage of working-age people in rural settlements in relative low income increased by 2 percentage points after housing costs were included while in urban settlements the increase was 5 percentage points.
- The percentage of children in rural settlements in relative low income increased by 5 percentage points after housing costs were included while in urban settlements the increase was 8 percentage points. These increases of 5 and 8 percentage points respectively for rural and urban settlements showed the greatest impact following the inclusion of housing costs.
- While all other demographic groups saw an increase in the proportion of the population in relative low income after housing costs, for pensioners the inclusion of housing costs causes the proportion of population in relative low income to fall. The percentage of pensioners in rural settlements in relative low income decreased by 3 percentage points after housing costs were included while in urban settlements the decrease was 1

percentage point. This is because a large proportion of pensioners live in homes that are owned outright so they have minimal housing costs.

Poverty due to low income - explanatory notes

- **Note C-1**

HBAI statistics – background information

Households Below Average Income (HBAI) uses net disposable weekly household income, after adjusting for the household size and composition, as an assessment for material living standards - the level of consumption of goods and services that people could attain given the net income of the household in which they live. In order to allow comparisons of the living standards of different types of households, income is adjusted to take into account variations in the size and composition of the households in a process known as equivalisation. The unit of analysis is the individual.
Housing costs are made up of rent (gross of housing benefit); water rates, community water charges and council water charges; mortgage interest payments (net of tax relief); structural insurance premiums (for owner occupiers); and ground rent and service charges.
Further information on HBAI statistics can be found at: Households below average income (HBAI) statistics document on GOV.UK.

- **Note C-2**

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 C-3**

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

- **Note C-4**

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.

- **Note C-5**

Current analysis is based on the 2021 rural-urban classification and therefore is not directly comparable with poverty analysis in previous versions of the Rural Digest which use the 2011 rural-urban classification.

D. Household expenditure

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

Key findings – Household expenditure

Rural households earn more, but they have to spend more, than urban households

- In 2023/24, Rural households had an average income around £75 per week more than Urban households. However, the average expenditure for Rural households was around £88 per week more.
- Rural households on average spend 64% of their post-tax income on household expenditure before any mortgage payments. Whereas Urban households on average spend 60% of their post-tax income on household expenditure before any mortgage payments.

Rural households spend more on food and transport than urban households

- The average weekly food bill is £4 per week more in Rural areas than in Urban areas.
- Rural households spend on average £33 a week more on transport costs than Urban households.

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 2023/24, households in Rural areas had a higher average weekly income after tax (£963 per week) than Urban households (£888 per week). However, household expenditure was also higher for Rural households (£619 per week) than Urban households (£531 per week). In 2023/24, average household expenditure (excluding mortgage payments) as a proportion of disposable income was an average of 64% for Rural areas and 60% for Urban areas. Since 2014/15 this proportion has been higher in Rural areas than Urban areas in every year except 2017/18.

In 2023/24 on average Rural households spent a higher proportion of their disposable income on ‘transport’ (12%, £115 per week) than they did on ‘housing (including rent but excluding mortgage payments), water and energy’ (10%, £100 per week). Whereas for Urban areas, the highest proportion of household disposable income was spent on ‘housing (including rent but excluding mortgage payments), water and energy’ (14%, £123 per week). Between 2014/15 and 2023/24, households in Rural areas have consistently spent a smaller proportion of their disposable income on housing (including rent, but excluding mortgage payments), water and energy costs, but a larger proportion on transportation costs than households in Urban areas. These figures will be strongly affected by differences in types of tenure between Rural and Urban areas given the inclusion of rent but the exclusion of mortgage payments.

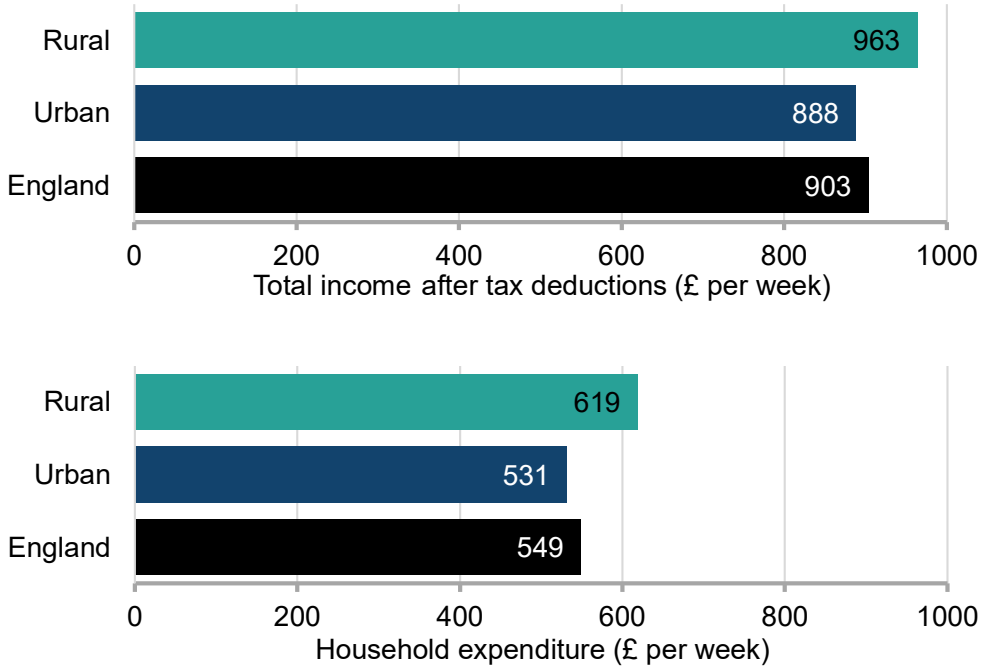
Nominal expenditure and disposable income

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

As the bar charts in Figure D-1 show, in 2023/24 when compared to Urban areas, households in Rural areas on average had higher weekly incomes after tax, but also higher levels of expenditure. The top bar chart compares average weekly incomes, with Rural areas having higher household incomes than Urban areas (£963 and £888 per week respectively). For comparison, the average weekly household income for England was £903 per week. In the bottom chart showing household expenditure, we see Rural areas having higher levels of household expenditure than Urban areas (£619 and £531 per week respectively). For comparison, average weekly household expenditure for England was £549. In summary, households in Rural areas had an average income after tax which was around £75 higher than the Urban average - but their average weekly household expenditure was £88 higher than the average expenditure for Urban households.

Figure D-1: Bar charts showing average weekly income after tax (top chart) and household expenditure (bottom chart), by 2011 Rural-Urban Classification, England, financial year 2023/24

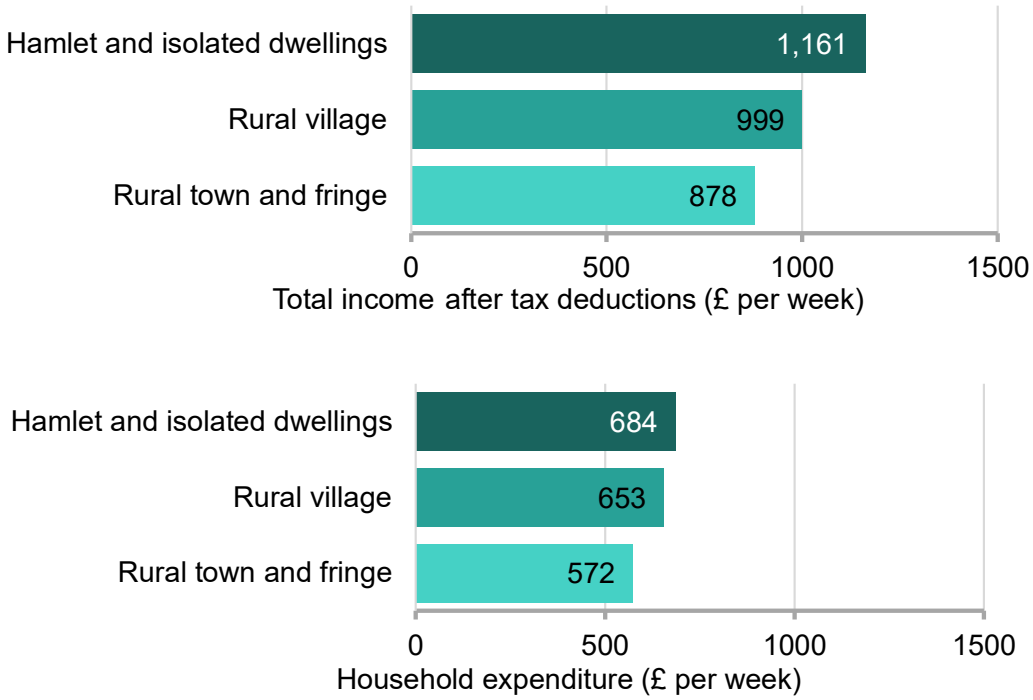
The scale is the same for both charts to aid comparison.
Average weekly household expenditure includes rent but excludes mortgage payments (Note D-1).



The bars charts in Figure D-2 show the variation within Rural areas in average weekly household income and expenditure for the year ending March 2024. Households in Rural Hamlets and Isolated Dwellings had the highest weekly average incomes after tax at £1,161 per week, but they also had the highest average expenditure at £684 per week. Households in Rural Town and Fringe areas had the lowest average income after tax in Rural areas; at £878 per week, but they also had the lowest average expenditure in Rural areas; at £572 per week.

Figure D-2: Bar charts showing average weekly income after tax (top chart) and household expenditure (bottom chart), by 2011 Rural-Urban Classification (Rural only), England, financial year ending 2023/24

Average weekly household expenditure includes rent but excludes mortgage payments (Note D-1).



As shown in Table D-1, in 2023/24, average household expenditure (excluding mortgage payments) as a proportion of disposable income was an average of 64% in Rural areas compared to an average of 60% in Urban areas. Proportional average weekly expenditure showed a moderate drop across all settlement types in 2020/21 (likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic) followed by increasing levels until 2022/23 after which it has seen a small drop in Rural areas while Urban areas have remained the same.

Table D-1: Average weekly expenditure (excluding mortgage payments) as a percentage of average weekly disposable income by Rural-Urban Classification for England, financial years 2019/20 to 2023/24 (Note D-5)

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
All Rural	72	55	60	65	64
All Urban	65	53	57	60	60
England	**67**	**53**	**57**	**61**	**61**

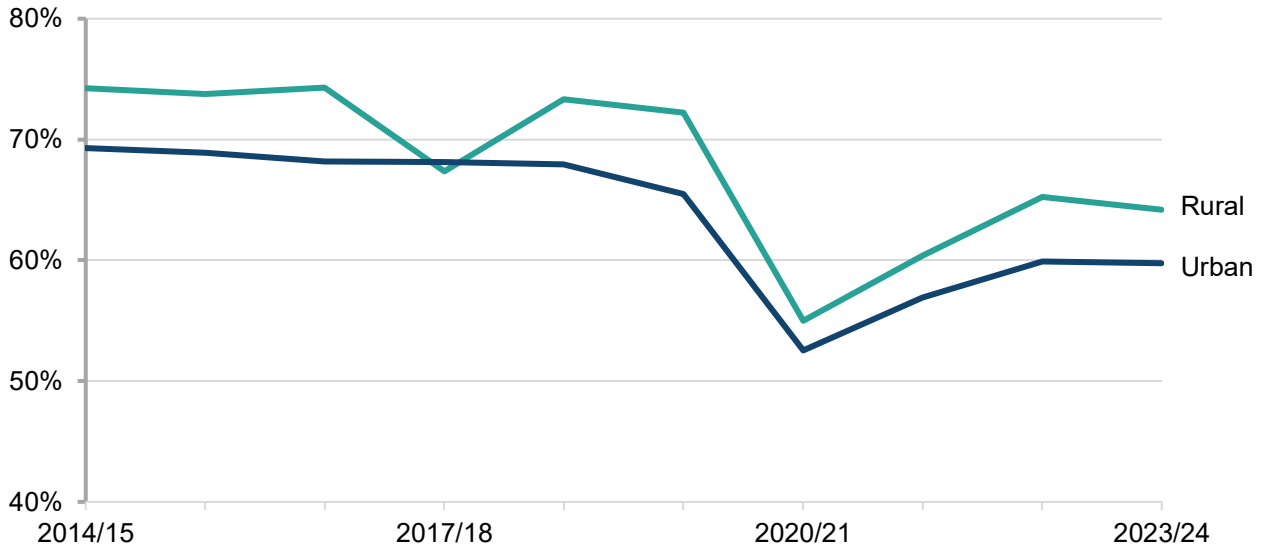
Figure D-3 is a line chart that shows the average weekly expenditure as a percentage of disposable income for Rural and Urban areas between financial years 2014/15 and 2023/24. People living in Rural areas have consistently spent a higher proportion of their disposable income on goods and services than 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.

The line chart can be summarised as follows:

- At the start of the period shown (2014/15), weekly expenditure as proportion of income was on average 74% in Rural areas and 69% in Urban areas. Proportional levels of expenditure remained stable in Rural areas and fell slightly in Urban areas until 2016/17.
- Between 2016/17 and 2017/18 weekly expenditure as proportion of income saw a sharp drop in Rural areas of 7 percentage points to 67%, increasing again to 73% in 2018/19. In Urban areas the proportion remained stable at 68% between 2016/17 and 2018/19.
- Proportions started to decline in both Rural and Urban areas between 2018/19 and 2019/20, after which there was a sharp decrease in both Rural and Urban areas of 17 percentage points to 55% for Rural areas and 13 percentage points to 53% for Urban areas (2020/21). This is likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, where government-enforced lockdowns in early 2020 meant people had less need or opportunity to spend their money.
- Between 2020/21 and 2022/23, average weekly expenditure as a proportion of weekly income increased in both Rural and Urban areas (to 65% and 60% respectively) however this is below pre-pandemic levels of expenditure for both Rural and Urban areas. Rural areas saw a small drop in average weekly expenditure as a proportion of weekly income in 2023/24 (to 64%) while the proportion for Urban areas has remained the same at 60%.

Figure D-3: Line chart showing average weekly expenditure (including rent but excluding mortgage payments) as a percentage of average weekly disposable income by 2011 Rural-Urban Classification for England, financial years 2014/15 to 2023/24 (Note D-4)

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



Expenditure on commodity or service groups

The following section uses ONS data on average household expenditure that has been grouped into 12 pre-defined commodity or service groups based on similar categories of spending.

Figure D-4 is a bar chart showing that in 2023/24 households in Rural areas on average spent the greatest amount on transport costs at £115 per week (12% of their disposable income). This was followed by £100 per week on housing (including rent but excluding mortgage payments), water and energy, and £96 on recreation and culture (both were 10% of the household's disposable income).

In Urban areas the bar chart in Figure D-4 shows that households on average spent the greatest amount on housing (including rent but excluding mortgage payments), water and energy at £123 per week (14% of their disposable income), followed by transport costs (£83, which was 9% of disposable income) and food and non-alcoholic drinks (£70, which was 8% of disposable income).

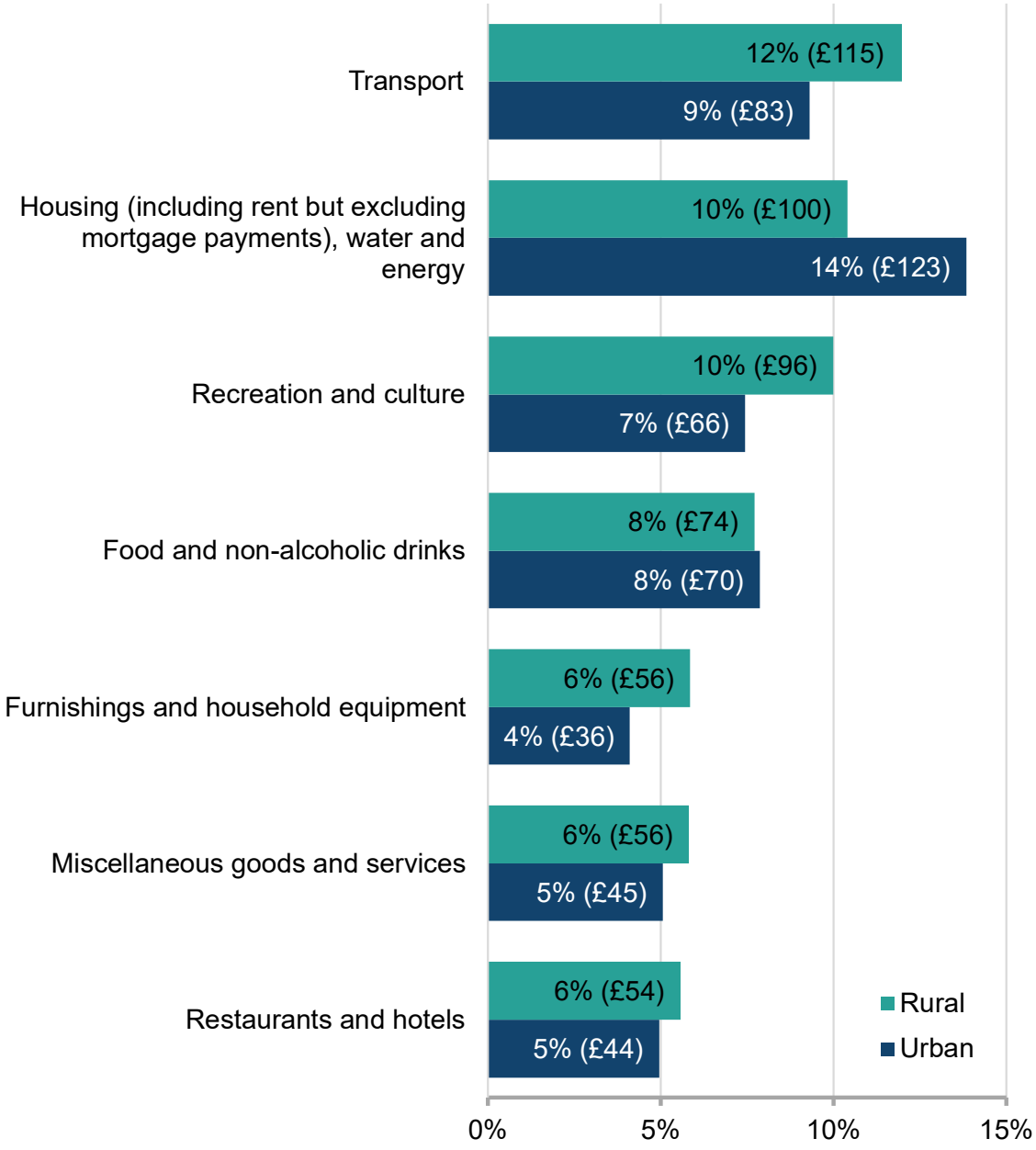
Expenditure on housing will be strongly affected by differences in types of tenure between Rural and Urban areas given the inclusion of rent but the exclusion of mortgage payments.

Generally, households in Rural areas spent more than those in Urban areas across all the different service categories apart from on housing (including rent but excluding mortgage payments), water and energy on which Rural households spent on average £23 less per week than Urban households in 2023/24, and food and non-alcoholic drinks where Rural and Urban areas spent broadly the same (£74 and £70 respectively, 8% of disposable income for both). Housing costs will be strongly affected by differences in types of tenure between Rural and Urban areas given the inclusion of rent but the exclusion of mortgage payments.

Spending on transport sees the greatest difference between Rural and Urban areas with Rural households spending on average £33 more per week on transport costs than those in Urban households in 2023/24.

Figure D-4: Bar chart showing average weekly household expenditure as a percentage of average weekly disposable income, by commodity or service and 2011 Rural-Urban Classification for England, financial year 2023/24 (Note D-3)

The legend is presented in the same order as the bars on the chart.
Average spend per category is included in the labels on the bars.
Communication, clothing and footwear, alcoholic drinks and tobacco, health, and education are not shown on the bar chart. All of these categories are 2% or below of total disposable income and have minimal differences between Rural and Urban areas.



The line charts in Figure D-5 show the change in the proportional average weekly expenditure by commodity or service between 2014/15 and 2023/24. Line charts are provided for the four commodities or services that make up the greatest proportions of average disposal income in Rural areas.

The line charts can be summarised as follows:

- Households in Rural areas spend the greatest proportion of their disposable income on **transport costs**, and have consistently spent a larger proportion of their disposable income on transport costs than those in Urban areas. In 2014/15, households in Rural areas spent 13.7% of their disposable income on transport, falling to 12.0% in 2023/24. In Urban areas the proportion of household income spent on transport has fallen from 10.5% in 2014/15 to 9.3% in 2023/24. This is a decrease of 1.7 percentage points in Rural areas which is slightly more than the decrease of 1.2 percentage points for Urban areas. The proportion of spend on transport costs fluctuated between 2014/15 and 2023/24 with Rural areas seeing a high of 14.5% in 2016/17 compared with a low of 9.2% in 2020/21. Urban areas also saw fluctuating spend on transport costs, ranging from 10.7% in 2016/17 to 7.4% in 2020/21.

- Households in Rural areas have consistently spent a smaller proportion of their disposable income on **housing (including rent but excluding mortgage payments), water and energy** costs than those in Urban areas. Housing costs will be strongly affected by differences in types of tenure between Rural and Urban areas given the inclusion of rent but the exclusion of mortgage payments.

- In 2014/15, households in Rural areas spent 9.5% of their disposable income on housing (including rent but excluding mortgage payments), water and energy rising to 10.4% in 2023/24. In Urban areas the proportion of household income spent has risen from 11.8% in 2014/15 to 13.8% in 2023/24. This is an increase of 0.9 percentage points in Rural areas which is less than the increase of 2.1 percentage points for Urban areas. The proportion of spend on housing (including rent but excluding mortgage payments), water and energy costs fluctuated between 2014/15 and 2023/24 with Rural areas seeing a low of 8.5% in 2017/18 compared with a high of 10.4% in 2022/23 and 2023/24. Urban areas also saw fluctuating spend on housing (including rent but excluding mortgage payments), water and energy costs, ranging from 11.0% in 2016/17 to 13.3% in 2022/23.

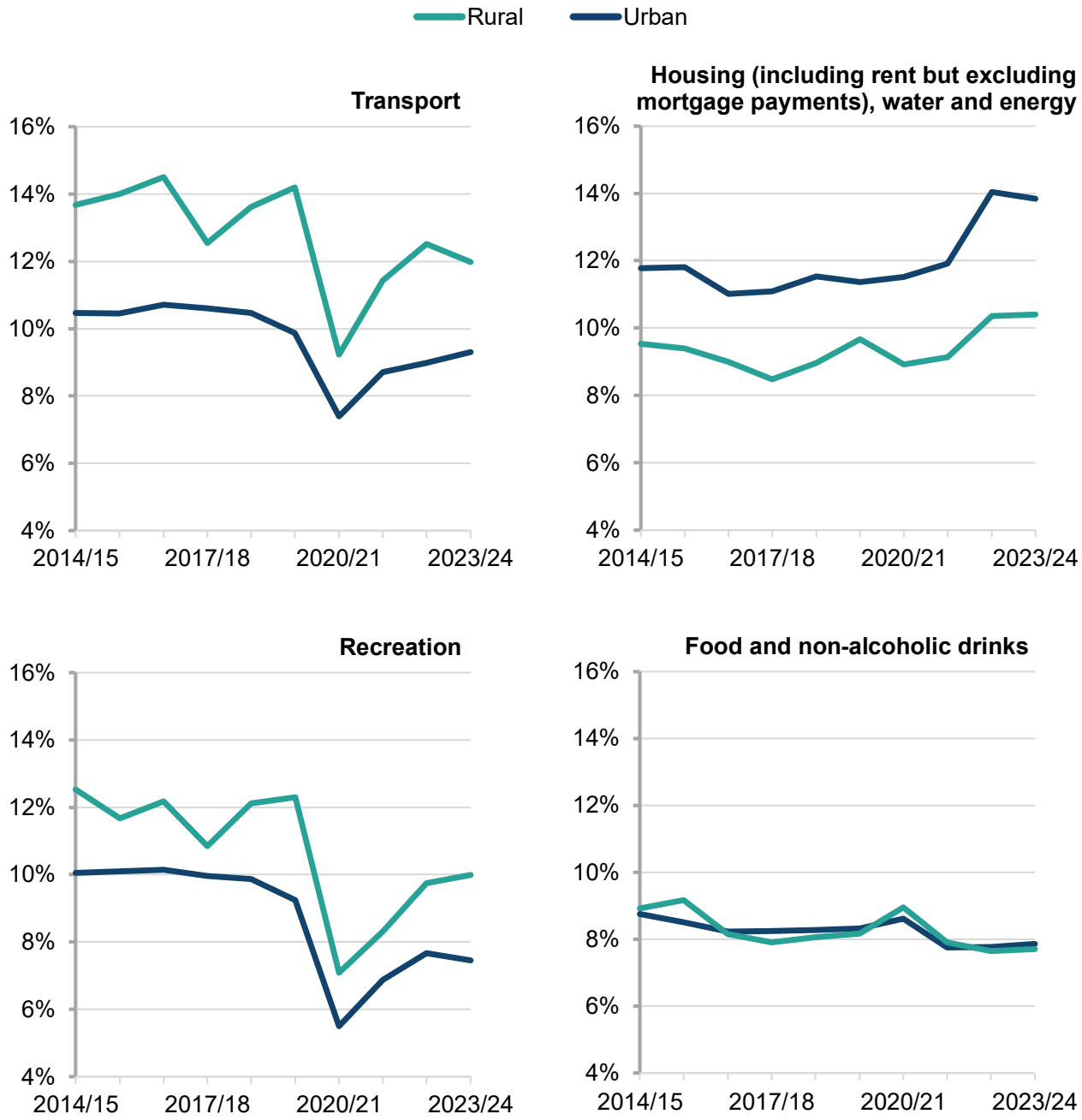
- Households in Rural areas have consistently spent a larger proportion of their disposable income on **recreation and culture** costs than those in Urban areas. In 2014/15, households in Rural areas spent 12.5% of their disposable income on recreation and culture, falling to 10% in 2023/24. In Urban areas the proportion of household income spent has fallen from 10.1% in 2014/15 to 7.5% in 2022/23. This is a decrease of 2.5 percentage points in Rural areas which is nearly the same as the decrease of 2.6 percentage points for Urban areas. The proportion of spend on recreation costs fluctuated between 2014/15 and 2023/24 with a large drop seen in 2020/21, most likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Rural areas saw a low of 7.1% in 2020/21 compared with a high of 12.5% in 2014/15. Urban areas also saw similar fluctuating spend on recreation and culture costs, ranging from a low of 5.5% in 2014/15 to a high of 10.2% in 2016/17.

- There was little difference in the weekly expenditure on **food and non-alcoholic drinks** as a proportion of income between Rural and Urban areas from 2014/15 to 2023/24. In 2014/15, households in Rural areas spent 8.9% of their disposable income on food and

non-alcoholic beverages, falling to 7.7% in 2023/24. In Urban areas the proportion of household income spent has fallen from 8.8% in 2014/15 to 7.9% in 2023/24. This is a decrease of 1.2 percentage points in Rural areas which is slightly higher than the decrease of 0.9 percentage point for Urban areas.

Figure D-5: Line charts showing average weekly household expenditure as a percentage of average weekly disposable income, by commodity or service and 2011 Rural-Urban Classification for England, financial years 2014/15 to 2023/24 (Note D-3)

Y axes start at 4% not 0%. Commodities and services that are not represented are available in the Communities and Households data tables.



Household Expenditure - explanatory notes

Note D-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. The housing cost element of household expenditure generally relates to rental costs, household repairs and energy costs (water, electricity and gas).

Note D-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 D-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 D-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 D-5
Table D-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 D-6
Source for this section, Office for National Statistics, Living Costs and Food Survey: www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/personalandhouseholdfinances/incomeandwealth/methodologies/livingcostsandfoodsurvey)

E. Police recorded crime

Overall, police record fewer crimes relative to population in majority rural areas than in urban areas across all major crime categories.

Key findings – Police recorded crime

Rates of recorded crime are lower in majority rural areas

- For the year ending March 2026, police recorded 51 crimes per 1,000 population in majority rural Community Safety Partnership areas (CSPs); in urban CSPs, the crime rate was nearly twice as high, with police recording 92 crimes per 1,000 population.

Personal crimes were generally the most common type of crime

- In the year ending March 2026, police recorded 8.7 incidences of 'violence without injury' per 1,000 population in majority rural CSPs – the most common type of crime; this was around half the rate in urban CSPs, which was 15.2 offences per 1,000 population.
- The second most commonly recorded type of crime was 'stalking and harassment', with 6.9 and 11.7 offences recorded per 1,000 population in majority rural and urban CSPs, respectively.
- There were 6.2 incidences of 'violence with injury' recorded per 1,000 population in majority rural CSPs; this compares with 9.2 offences per 1,000 population in urban CSPs.

Summary

Police recorded crime rates can supplement the information on people's experience of crime offered by the Crime Survey. Recorded crimes will be subject to changes in police recording and in people reporting crimes. Data for police record crime are based on Community Safety Partnership areas, which in most cases are broadly similar to local authorities.

For the year ending March 2026, police recorded 51 crimes per 1,000 population in majority rural Community Safety Partnership areas (CSPs); this compares to 92 crimes per 1,000 population in Urban CSPs. Amongst majority rural CSPs, 'East Lindsey' had the highest police recorded crime rate in year ending March 2026; here, there were 71 crimes recorded per 1,000 population.

When crimes are grouped as: (1) personal crime, (2) robbery/theft, and (3) societal crime, then the data showed 'violence without injury', 'shoplifting' and 'criminal damage and arson' were the most commonly recorded crimes for each of these three categories, respectively. For each of these types of crime, the police recorded crime rate in majority rural CSPs was just over half that in urban CSPs.

Background information for crime

There are two main sources of crime-related data, published quarterly by the Office for National Statistics (Crime in England and Wales):

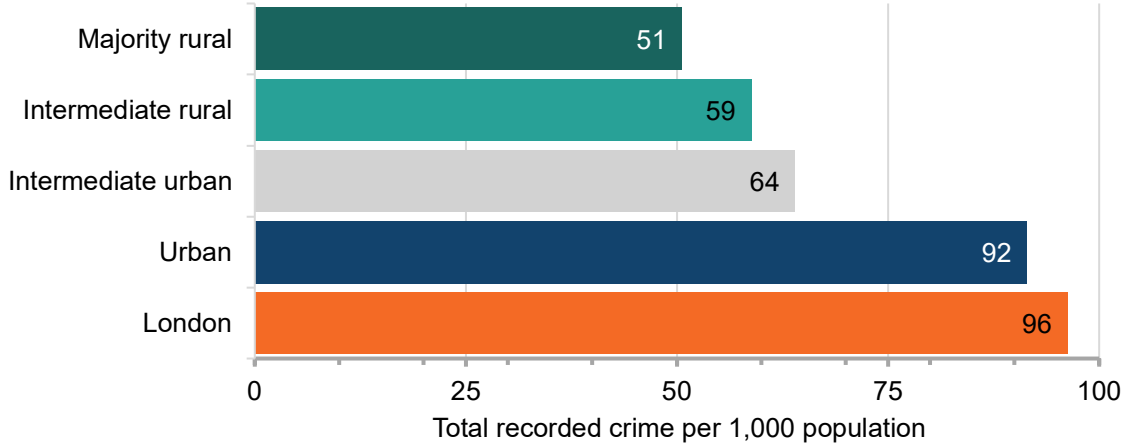
- **Police recorded crime**: Administrative crime data collected by the Home Office from police forces in England and Wales, including the British Transport Police. Police recorded crime provides the most detailed local information and covers a wider range of offences than the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW). It is particularly useful for monitoring local patterns, emerging trends and lower-volume offences such as homicide. However, it excludes crimes that are not reported to, or recorded by, the police. Trends can be affected by changes in reporting behaviour, police activity and crime recording practices.
- **Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)**: A survey measuring people's experience of selected crimes, including incidents not reported to the police. As a survey, estimates are subject to sampling uncertainty and cannot generally be produced for local areas. The CSEW does not cover all crime types or all population groups. However, because it is less affected by changes in reporting and recording practices, it is generally considered the best measure for tracking long-term trends in crime.

Within the Digest, crime statistics are based on financial years, and the latest data available are for the year ending March 2026. Police recorded crime (this section) and the CSEW (featured in Section G) each have different strengths and limitations; considered together, they provide the most comprehensive picture of crime in England and Wales.

Overall police recorded crime rate

Data for police record crime are based on Community Safety Partnership areas (CSPs), which in most cases are broadly similar to local authorities; for more information about this geography, see Community Safety Partnerships - GOV.UK. Not every crime could be assigned to a CSP; for more information, see Note E-2.

Figure E-1: Bar chart showing total police recorded crime per 1,000 population, by 2021 rural-urban classification of Community Safety Partnership areas (CSPs) in England, in the year ending March 2026 (Note E-2, Note E-3, Note E-4)
'Urban' excludes London. The underlying data for this chart can be found in Worksheet EA within the supplementary data tables.



In year ending March 2026, the police recorded crime rate was lower in majority rural CSPs than in any other area type, as shown in the bar chart in Figure E-1. There were 51 crimes recorded by the police per 1,000 population in majority rural CSPs. Police recorded around 8 more crimes per 1,000 population in intermediate rural CSPs than in majority rural CSPs. In intermediate urban CSPs, there were 64 offences recorded per 1,000 population. In urban CSPs, the average crime rate was nearly double that of majority rural CSPs, with police recording 92 crimes per 1,000 population in urban CSPs outside London.

Table E-1 shows the CSPs with the highest recorded crime rates in England, by 2021 rural-urban classification, as of year ending March 2026. London has been excluded from this table as crime rates based on resident population are less comparable in areas with high levels of tourism and commuting; for more information, see Note E-7. Data for all CSPs in England can be found in Worksheet EB within the supplementary data tables

Amongst majority rural CSPs, ‘East Lindsey’ had the highest police recorded crime rate in year ending March 2026; here, there were 71 crimes recorded per 1,000 population. Outside of London, ‘Middlesbrough’ had the highest crime rate across England, with 150 offences recorded per 1,000 population.

However, in absolute terms, police recorded more crimes in ‘County Durham’ than in ‘Middlesbrough’. Police recorded more crimes in ‘Birmingham’ than in any other CSP outside London; however, this has not been recorded in the table, as the relatively high population results in a lower crime rate than in several other urban CSPs.

Table E-1: Community Safety Partnership areas (CSPs) with the highest police recorded crime rate (per 1,000 population) for each category within the 2021 rural-urban classification, in England, in the year ending March 2026 (Note E-2, Note E-4, Note E-7)

Rural-urban classification 2021	Area	Number of police recorded offences	Offences per 1,000 population
Majority rural	East Lindsey	10,310	71
Intermediate rural	County Durham	48,960	91
Intermediate urban	Redcar and Cleveland	15,170	109
Urban (excluding London)	Middlesbrough	23,420	150
England (excluding London)	**Middlesbrough**	**23,420**	**150**

The police recorded crime rate varies across the country. Table E-2 highlights the ten majority rural CSPs with the highest recorded crime rates in year ending March 2026. Eight of the ten CSPs with the highest crime rates are covered by three police force areas (‘Cumbria’, ‘Lincolnshire’, and ‘Sussex’).

Whilst ‘East Lindsey’ had the highest crime rate of all majority rural CSPs, it did not have the highest number of police recorded crimes in absolute terms. Police recorded more crimes in ‘Cornwall’ than in any other majority rural CSP, but the relatively high population here results in a lower crime rate than in several other majority rural CSPs.

Table E-2: The ten majority rural Community Safety Partnership areas (CSPs) with the highest police recorded crime rates (per 1,000 population) in England, in the year ending March 2026 (Note E-2, Note E-4)

The police force area that covers each CSP is included for geographic context.

Rank	Area	Police Force Area	Number of police recorded offences	Offences per 1,000 population
1	East Lindsey	Lincolnshire	10,310	71
2	Allerdale	Cumbria	6,740	69
3	Copeland	Cumbria	4,400	65
4	Cornwall	Devon and Cornwall	36,590	63
5	West Lindsey	Lincolnshire	6,160	62
6	North Warwickshire	Warwickshire	4,110	61
7	Chichester	Sussex	7,800	61
8	South Holland	Lincolnshire	6,010	60
9	Eden	Cumbria	3,320	59
10	Rother	Sussex	5,530	58

Police recorded crime rate for specific categories of crime

Police recorded crimes are categorised by type. For the purposes of this publication, these are grouped as follows:

- **Personal crime**: 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 and theft**: 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).
- **Societal crime**: criminal damage and arson; drug offences; possession of weapon offences; public order offences; miscellaneous crimes against society (for example, handling stolen goods, threats to commit criminal damage, and perverting the course of justice).

Definitions for each of these crime types can be found within the Crime in England and Wales glossary.

Personal crime

The offence rate for personal crime – which includes all police recorded offences involving violence against the person or sexual offences – is shown in the bar chart in Figure E-2. In year ending March 2026, ‘violence without injury’ was the most commonly recorded personal crime, with 8.7 crimes recorded per 1,000 population in majority rural CSPs. In urban CSPs outside London, the recorded offence rate of was almost double, with police recording 15.2 crimes for every 1,000 residents.

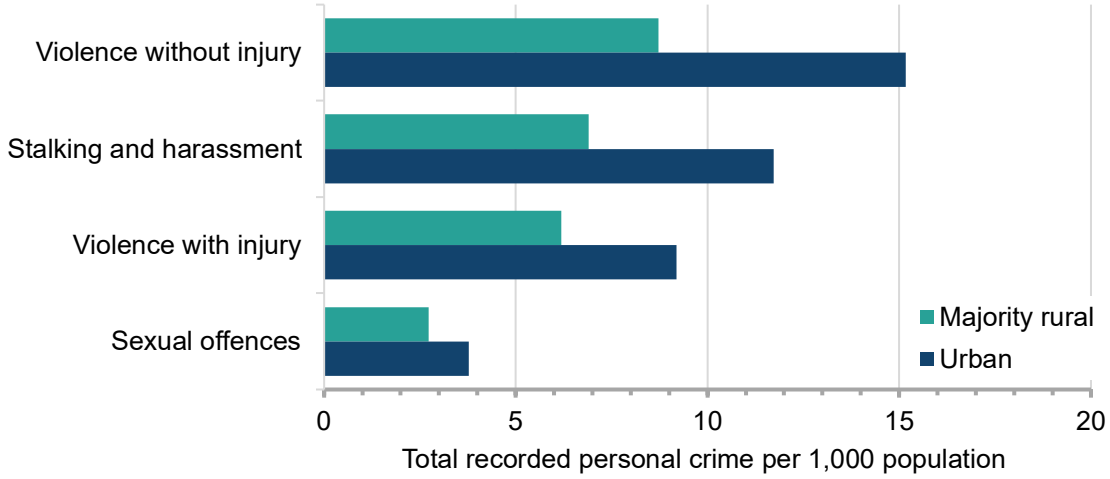
‘Stalking and harassment’ was the second most commonly recorded personal crime, with 6.9 offences recorded per 1,000 population in majority rural CSPs; in urban CSPs, the rate was again nearly double at 11.7 crimes per 1,000 population.

‘Violence with injury’ was less common than ‘violence without injury’. There were 6.2 offences recorded per 1,000 population in majority rural CSPs, compared with 9.2 crimes per 1,000 population in urban CSPs.

‘Sexual offences’ were the least common personal crimes recorded of those presented. There were 2.7 offences recorded per 1,000 population in majority rural CSPs – fewer than the 3.8 crimes per 1,000 population in urban CSPs.

Figure E-2: Bar chart showing police recorded personal crimes per 1,000 population, by 2021 rural-urban classification of Community Safety Partnership areas (CSPs) in England, in the year ending March 2026 (Note E-2, Note E-3, Note E-4)

The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clustered bars. ‘Urban’ excludes London. The underlying data for this chart can be found in Worksheet EC within the supplementary data tables. The scale differs to Figure E-3 and Figure E-4.

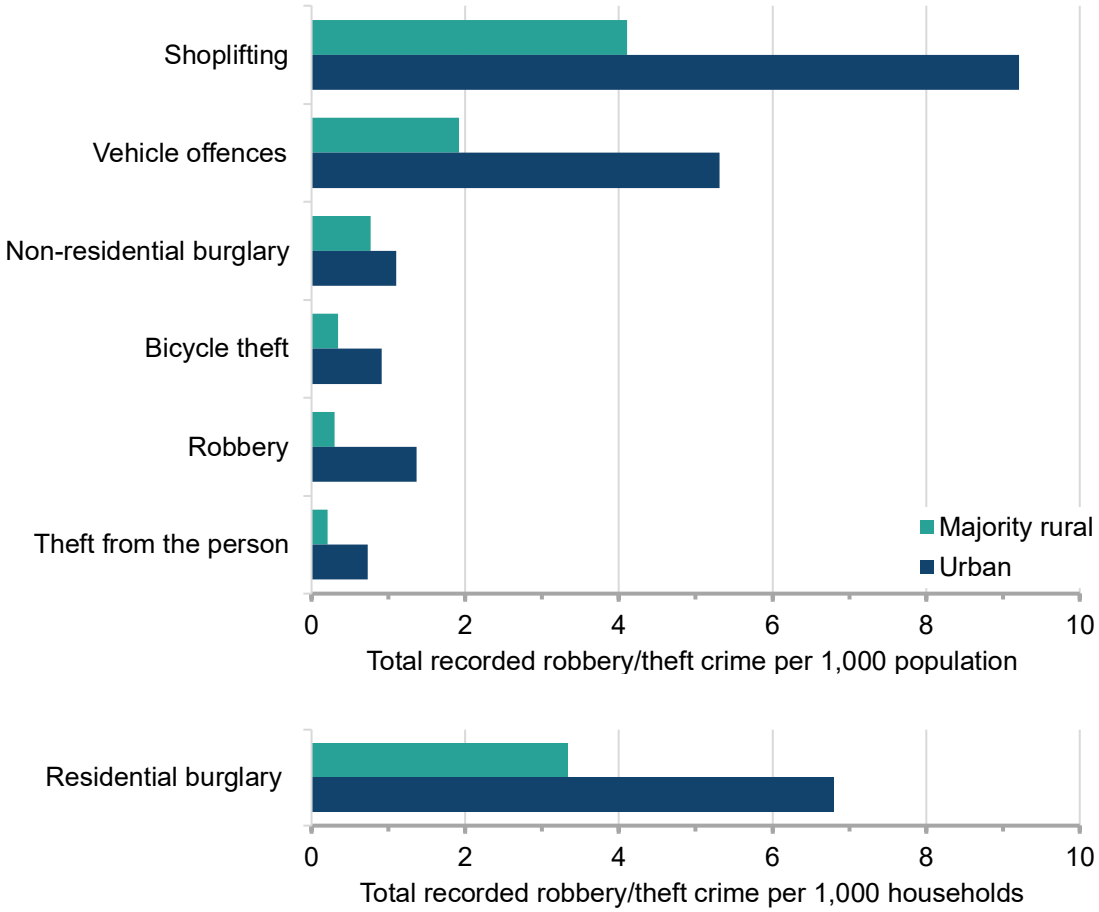


Whilst not recorded on the chart, the least commonly recorded personal crimes were ‘homicide’ and ‘death/serious injury by illegal driving’, for which there were fewer than 0.1 crimes recorded per 1,000 population in year ending March 2026 for all categories within the rural-urban classification (Note E-2). Personal crime rates in intermediate rural and intermediate urban CSPs (not presented in the chart) were between the averages of majority rural and urban CSPs.

Robbery and theft

The offence rate for robbery and theft is shown in the bar charts in Figure E-3. The top chart presents robbery and theft rates per 1,000 population, whilst the bottom chart is per 1,000 households; this only applies to residential burglary, which cannot be directly compared to the other types of crime.

Figure E-3: Bar chart showing police recorded robbery and theft offences per 1,000 population/households, by 2021 rural-urban classification of Community Safety Partnership areas (CSPs) in England, in the year ending March 2026 (Note E-2, Note E-3, Note E-4)
The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clustered bars. 'Urban' excludes London. The underlying data can be found in Worksheet ED within the supplementary data tables. The scales differ to Figure E-2, but are similar to Figure E-4.



In the year ending March 2026, 'shoplifting' was the most commonly recorded crime relating to robbery and theft, with 4.1 offences per 1,000 population in majority rural CSPs. In urban CSPs, the offence rate was more than double, with police recording 9.2 crimes for every 1,000 residents.

There were 1.9 'vehicle offences' per 1,000 population in majority rural CSPs. In urban CSPs, the rate was nearly three times higher, with police recording 5.3 crimes for every 1,000 residents.

For 'non-residential burglary', police recorded 0.8 offences per 1,000 population in majority rural CSPs in the year ending March 2026. For 'bicycle theft', 'robbery', and 'theft from the person', there were 0.3 or fewer offences recorded per 1,000 population in majority rural CSPs. The average police recorded crime rates for each of these crime types was higher in urban CSPs than in majority rural CSPs, with between 0.7 and 1.5 offences recorded per 1,000 population.

'Residential burglary' cannot be directly compared to other types of crime, as it is generally measured per household rather than per population. However, the general trend was the same as in other types of robbery and theft offences. Police recorded proportionally fewer residential burglaries in majority rural CSPs than in urban CSPs, with 3.3 and 6.8 offences recorded per 1,000 households, respectively.

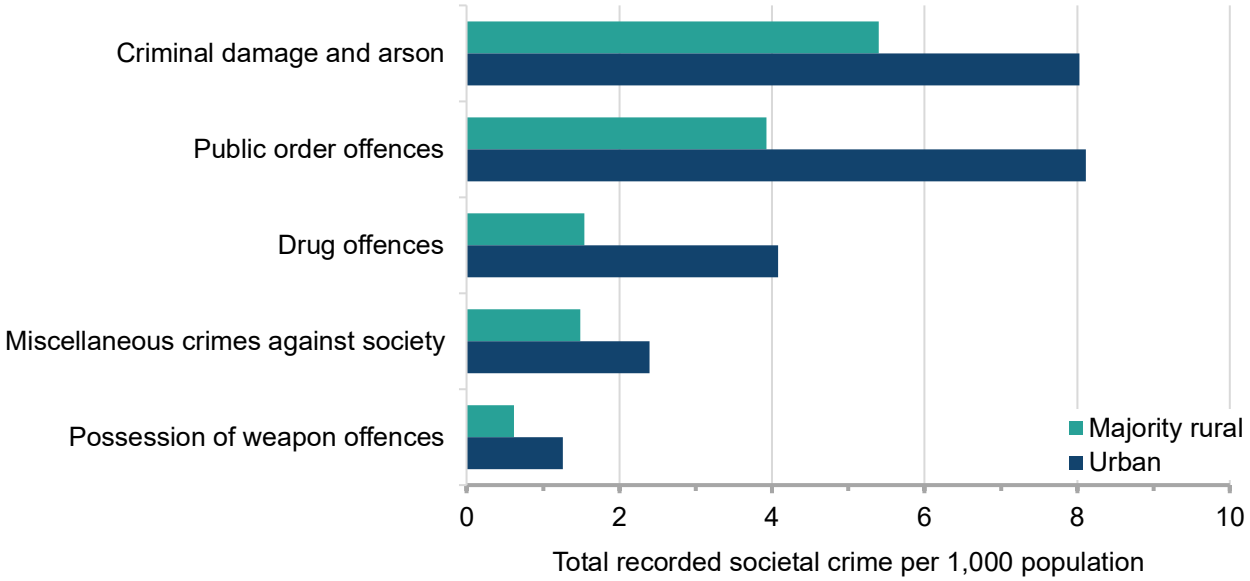
Societal crime

The offence rate for societal crime – which includes all police recorded offences involving criminal damage and arson, drugs, weapons, and other crimes against society – is shown in the bar chart in Figure E-4. In the year ending March 2026, 'criminal damage and arson' was the most commonly recorded societal crime in majority rural CSPs, with 5.4 offences per 1,000 population. In urban CSPs, the rate was higher, with police recording 8.0 offences per 1,000 population. This was similar to the recorded crime rate for 'public order offences' in urban CSPs; however, in majority rural CSPs, there were proportionally fewer crimes recorded at 3.9 offences per 1,000 population.

In majority rural CSPs, there were around 1.5 offences recorded per 1,000 population for both 'drug offences' and 'miscellaneous crimes against society'. In urban CSPs, for these offence types there were 4.1 and 2.4 offences recorded per 1,000 population, respectively.

The least commonly recorded societal crimes were 'possession of weapons offences', for which there were 0.6 offences recorded per 1,000 population in majority rural CSPs; in urban CSPs, the recorded offence rate was higher, with 1.3 crimes per 1,000 population.

Figure E-4: Bar chart showing police recorded societal crimes per 1,000 population, by 2021 rural-urban classification of Community Safety Partnership areas (CSPs) in England, in the year ending March 2026 (Note E-2, Note E-3, Note E-4)
The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clustered bars. 'Urban' excludes London. The underlying data for this chart can be found in Worksheet EE within the supplementary data tables. The scale differs to Figure E-2, but is similar to Figure E-3.



Police recorded crime - explanatory notes

- **Note E-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 E-2**

Caution must be taken when interpreting small numbers of offences.

Some offences may not have an exact location so it may not be possible to allocate an offence to a CSP; these areas are referred to as “unassigned”. Of the nearly 4.9 million offences recorded in the year ending March 2026, around 168,100 offences did not have an assigned location. Around 68,600 of these offences were recorded by the Kent Police: due to ongoing IT issues, crime data for Maidstone, Medway, Tonbridge and Malling, Dartford and Gravesham, and Tunbridge Wells are recorded under an unassigned CSP group from 2024 onwards. A further 50,400 of these unassigned offences were recorded by the Metropolitan police. The remaining 49,200 unassigned offences were distributed across almost all other Police Forces.

Caution needs to be taken when considering crime rates of city centre areas, due to the very small population and household levels in these areas. The very high reported crime rates in city centres are partly due to the use of small resident population and household figures as the denominator of the crime rate. The 'transient population' that migrates into these areas on a daily basis, either for work or leisure, will not be reflected in the resident population figures.

- **Note E-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 2026 CSEW that around 42% of CSEW comparable crimes were reported by the public to the police, although this proportion varied considerably for individual offence types. For more information see: Crime in England and Wales QMI - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk).

- **Note E-4**

Rates per population are created using mid-year population estimates calculated by the Office for National Statistics. For police recorded crime, rural-urban classification totals do not include data for the British Transport Police or Manchester airport as no location/classification can be assigned, or there is no resident population. The number of police recorded crimes have been rounded to the nearest 10 offences. The overall crime rates have been rounded to the nearest 1 offence per 1,000 population/households, whilst the specific crime rates have been rounded to the nearest 0.1 offence per 1,000 population/households.

- **Note E-5**

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

- **Note E-6**

This publication was developed using support from generative AI tools to assist with drafting. All analysis, interpretation and final wording were produced, checked and quality-assured by Defra statisticians in line with the Code of Practice for Statistics.

- **Note E-7**

London has been excluded from this table because crime rates per resident population should be interpreted with caution in areas that attract large numbers of visitors and commuters. In central London, the daytime population can be substantially higher than the resident population, and offences may involve people who are not usual residents of the area. This can result in higher recorded offence rates than would be expected based on resident population alone.

- **Note E-8**

A bespoke rural-urban classification has been created to aggregate Community Safety Partnership Areas (CSPs); as these are broadly similar to local authorities, the methodology used to create the local authority classification has been used, which involves aggregating from Census output areas. For more information about the classification, see Rural Urban Classification - GOV.UK.

F. Fly-tipping

Reported fly-tipping rates in majority rural authorities were around one-third of those in urban authorities.

Key findings – Fly-tipping

Fly-tipping rates are typically lower in majority rural authorities

- In the year ending March 2025, the total number of fly-tipping incidents reported relative to population was lower in majority rural authorities than in urban authorities, with 7.2 and 19.6 incidents respectively per 1,000 population.
- Whilst reported fly-tipping rates have somewhat increased over time, they have consistently been lower in majority rural authorities than in urban authorities. In the year ending March 2020, there were 5.4 incidents reported per 1,000 population in majority rural authorities, compared with 16.0 incidents per 1,000 population in urban authorities.

Fly-tipping was concentrated in specific areas, types, and sizes

- In the year ending March 2025, fly-tipping on highways accounted for 61% of all incidents reported in majority rural authorities; this compares with 35% in urban authorities.
- Household waste (e.g. furniture, carpets, and DIY waste, and not including general ‘black bag’ waste) accounted for 40% of incidents reported in majority rural authorities, and 48% in urban authorities.
- Small van loads and incidents of a car boot or less accounted for 62% of fly-tipping incidents cleared by majority rural local authorities; this compares to 55% in urban authorities.

Summary

Fly-tipping is a form of waste crime that can affect the quality of local environments and impose costs on local authorities through investigation and clearance activity. This section examines reported fly-tipping incidents across England, highlighting differences between authority types.

On average, majority rural authorities reported proportionally fewer fly-tipping incidents than in urban authorities. For the year ending March 2025, local authorities recorded 7.2 fly-tipping incidents per 1,000 population in majority rural authorities; this compares to 19.6 incidents per 1,000 population in urban authorities outside London. Rates have broadly increased across all types of authority, but more so in urban authorities.

Highways were the most common location for fly-tipping incidents, with majority rural authorities reporting substantially more incidents per head of population on highways than for any other land type. In both majority rural and urban authorities, ‘black bags’ of general household waste were the most frequently reported waste type. A small van load was the most commonly reported size of waste deposit, closely followed by deposits equivalent to a car boot load or less.

Background information for fly-tipping

Illegal dumping, also known as fly-tipping, is the illegal deposit of any waste on to land that does not have a licence to accept it. Fly-tipping statistics are published annually by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Fly-tipping statistics for England). Within the Digest, fly-tipping statistics are for financial years, so the latest data available are for the year ending March 2025.

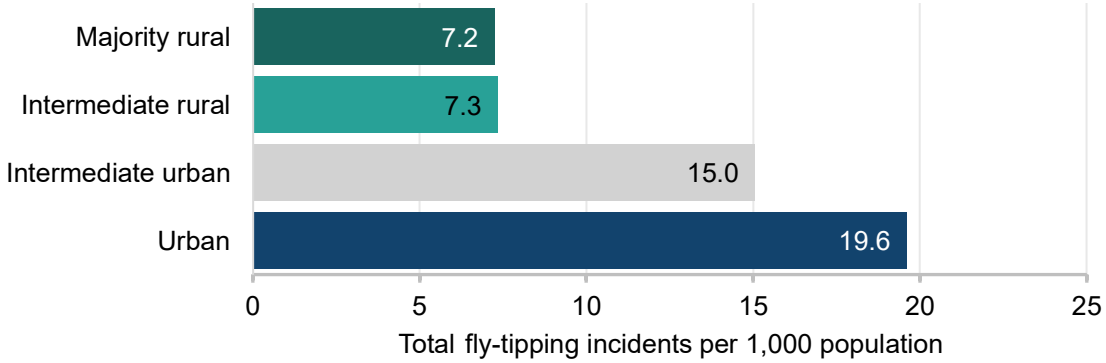
These findings are based on incidents reported by local authorities, and therefore exclude the large-scale incidents dealt with by the Environment Agency, and the majority of private-land incidents. The Environment Agency publish information on incidents reported to them: Waste crime reporting in England: heat maps for 2025.

Efforts to tackle fly-tipping and wider waste crime continue to evolve. In October 2026, the government introduced the first phase of a new digital waste tracking system in England. The system requires permitted waste sites to report waste received through an online service, creating a digital audit trail intended to help regulators identify suspicious activity and tackle waste crime, including illegal dumping and fly-tipping. For more information, see: No hiding place: new tracking system exposes waste criminals like never before - GOV.UK.

Overall rate of fly-tipping

In the year ending March 2025, the rate of fly-tipping incidents reported was lower in majority rural authorities than in urban authorities, as shown in the bar chart in Figure F-1. There were 7.2 incidents recorded by majority rural local authorities per 1,000 population; this was similar to the rate in intermediate rural authorities. In urban authorities outside London, the average fly-tipping rate was more than double, with local authorities recording 19.6 fly-tipping incidents per 1,000 population. Rates in London were substantially higher than any other type of authority, with 52.9 incidents recorded per 1,000 population; these have not been presented on the chart.

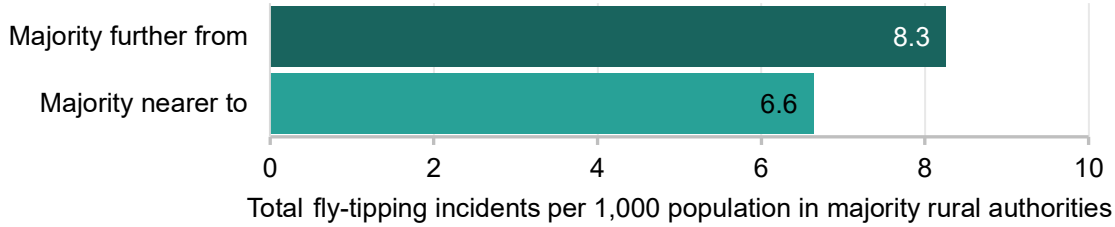
Figure F-1: Bar chart showing the total number of fly-tipping incidents reported per 1,000 population, by 2021 rural-urban classification of local authorities in England, in the year ending March 2025 (Note F-1, Note F-3)
'Urban' excludes London; 'London' has been excluded from the chart. The underlying data for this chart can be found in Worksheet FA within the supplementary data tables.



Proximity to major towns and cities has been considered in the 2021 rural-urban classification. Local authorities can be grouped depending on whether the majority of the population reside 'nearer to' or 'further from' a major town or city. For more information about the relative access

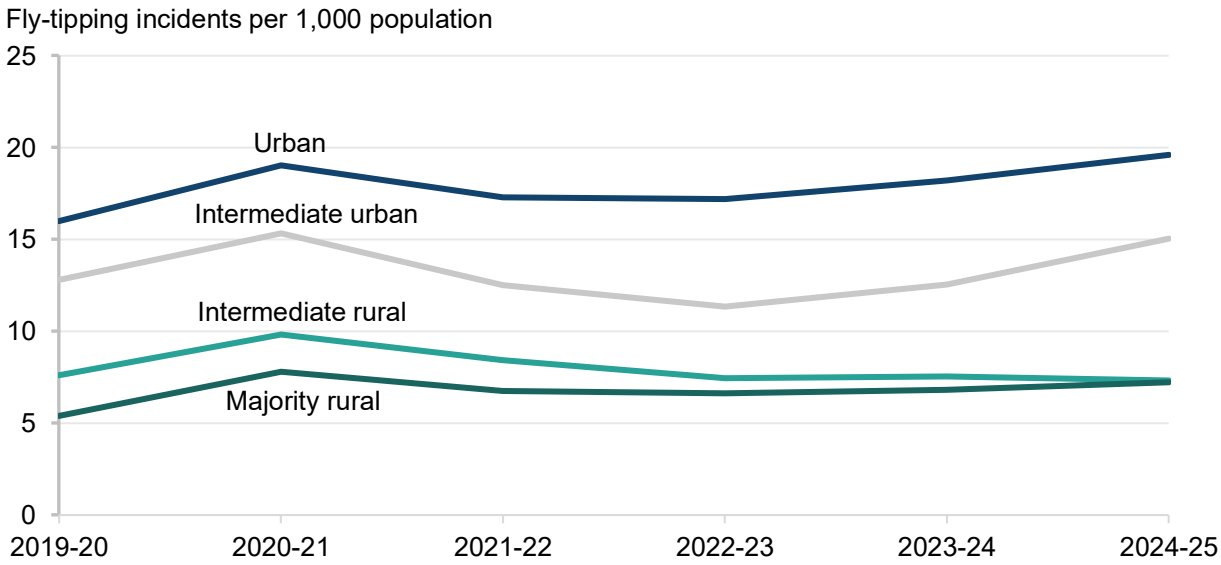
measure, see Note F-4. The bar chart in Figure F-2 shows the average rate of fly-tipping incidents in the year ending March 2025 in majority rural authorities only, by relative access. Majority rural local authorities where the majority of the population live further from a major town or city recorded proportionally more fly-tipping incidents compared with those where the majority of the population live nearer to a major town or city, with 8.3 and 6.6 incidents per 1,000 population, respectively.

Figure F-2: Bar chart showing the total number of fly-tipping incidents reported per 1,000 population in majority rural authorities as defined within the 2021 rural-urban classification of local authorities in England, year ending March 2025 (Note F-1, Note F-3, Note F-4)
'Majority further from' and 'majority nearer to' refer to majority rural authorities where the majority of the population live further from/nearer to a major town or city. The underlying data for this chart can be found in Worksheet FA within the supplementary data tables.



The rate fly-tipping incidents recorded changes over time. The line chart in Figure F-3 shows the total number of fly-tipping incidents reported per 1,000 population between the year ending March 2020 and the year ending March 2025. There have been consistently fewer incidents reported relative to population in majority rural authorities than in urban authorities.

Figure F-3: Line chart showing the total number of fly-tipping incidents reported per 1,000 population, by 2021 rural-urban classification of local authorities in England, in the year ending March 2020 to the year ending March 2025 (Note F-1, Note F-3)
'Urban' excludes London; 'London' has been excluded from the chart. The underlying data for this chart can be found in Worksheet FA within the supplementary data tables.



In the year ending March 2020, reported fly-tipping rates were substantially lower in majority rural authorities at 5.4 incidents per 1,000 population, than in urban authorities outside London, at 16.0 per 1,000 population. Rates increased across all authority types to a peak in the year ending March 2021, before declining in subsequent years. The increases seen in 2020-21 are likely due to

the COVID-19 pandemic, as explained within the Fly-tipping statistics for England, 2020 to 2021 report.

In majority rural authorities, rates fell to 6.8 incidents per 1,000 population by the year ending March 2022 and remained broadly stable through to the year ending March 2025. Rates in intermediate rural authorities continued to decline gradually, reaching a similar level to majority rural authorities by the year ending March 2025. Rates in intermediate urban authorities declined until the year ending March 2023 before increasing again, while rates in urban authorities followed a similar pattern and exceeded their previous peak by the year ending March 2025.

Categories of fly-tipping

Incidents of fly-tipping are categorised by type:

- **Land type**: highway, council land, footpath/bridleway, back alleyway, private/residential, commercial/industrial, watercourse, railway, or agricultural.
- **Waste type**: household, commercial, electrical (including white goods), construction/demolition/excavation, animal carcasses, green, vehicle parts, tyres, chemical, or clinical.
- **Waste size**: categorised by load, e.g., a single item or black bag, up to a tipper lorry load or larger.

Definitions for each of these terms can be found within the Fly-tipping statistics for England glossary.

Fly-tipping by land type

The bar chart in Figure F-4 presents the number of fly-tipping incidents reported per 1,000 population, by land type, in the year ending March 2025. For each of the land types shown, average fly-tipping incident rates were lower in majority rural authorities than in urban authorities outside London in the year ending March 2025. For most land types except for ‘highway incidents’, rates for intermediate rural authorities were between those for majority rural and urban authorities.

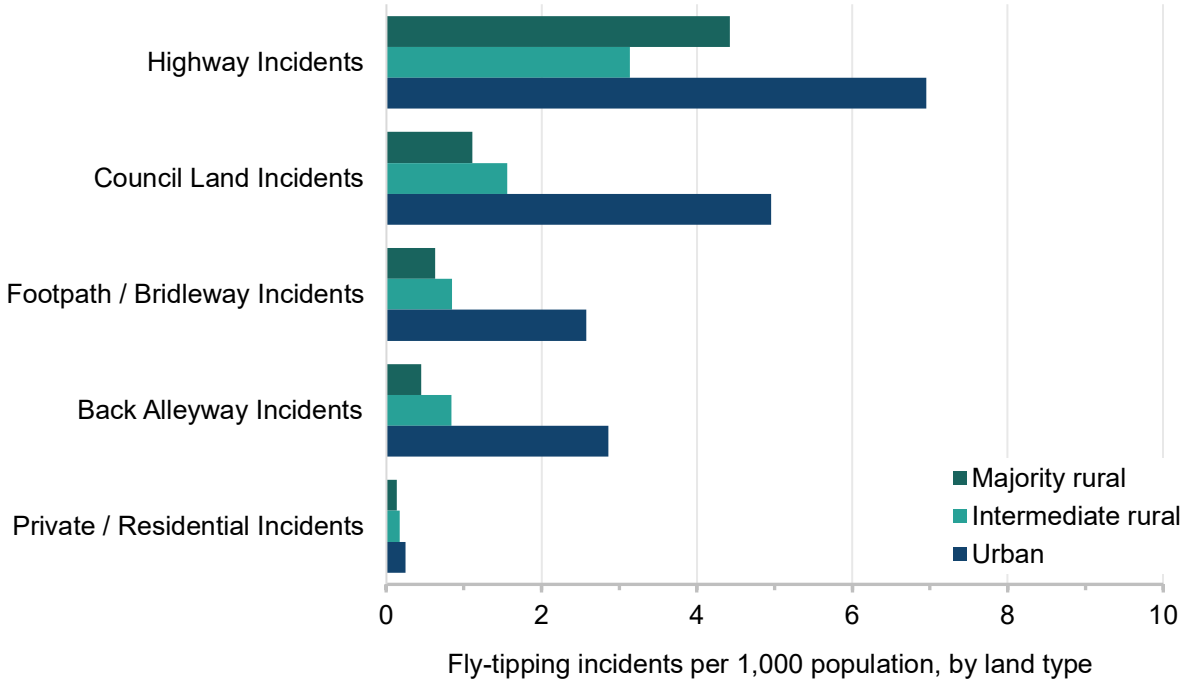
‘Highways’ were the most common location for reported fly-tipping incidents in each type of authority, with 4.4 incidents per 1,000 population in majority rural authorities compared with 7.0 per 1,000 population in urban authorities. The average rate in intermediate rural authorities was lower, with 3.1 incidents recorded per 1,000 population. ‘Highway incidents’ accounted for 61% of fly-tipping reported in majority rural authorities; this compares with 43% in intermediate rural authorities and 35% in urban authorities.

‘Council land’ was the second most common location. In majority rural authorities, there were 1.1 incidents per 1,000 population reported on council land, compared with 5.0 incidents per 1,000 population in urban authorities. In intermediate rural authorities, there were 1.6 incidents recorded per 1,000 population. ‘Council land incidents’ accounted for 15% of fly-tipping reported in majority rural authorities; this compares with 21% in intermediate rural authorities, and 25% in urban authorities.

Incident rates were substantially lower in majority rural authorities than in urban authorities for fly-tipping on ‘footpaths’ or ‘bridleways’ at 0.6 incidents per 1000 population compared with 2.6, and in ‘back alleyways’ 0.4 incidents per 1,000 population compared with 2.9.

Fly-tipping reported by local authorities on ‘private’ or ‘residential’ land was uncommon in each area type, with around 0.1 incidents per 1,000 population reported. Although not shown in the chart, incidents with an unidentified land type accounted for 0.3 incidents per 1,000 population in majority rural authorities and 1.8 incidents per 1,000 population in urban authorities. Incidents on railways, watercourses, agricultural land, and commercial or industrial land are not shown on the chart because there were fewer than 0.1 incidents recorded per 1,000 population.

Figure F-4: Bar chart showing the number of fly-tipping incidents reported per 1,000 population, by selected land types and 2021 rural-urban classification of local authorities in England, in the year ending March 2025 (Note F-1, Note F-3, Note F-5)
The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clustered bars. ‘Urban’ excludes London. The underlying data for this chart can be found in Worksheet FB within the supplementary data tables. Scales are similar between Figure F-4 and Figure F-6, but differ from Figure F-5.



Fly-tipping by waste type

The bar chart in Figure F-5 shows the number of fly-tipping incidents reported per 1,000 population, by waste type, in the year ending March 2025. For most of the waste types shown, average fly-tipping incident rates were lower in majority rural authorities than in urban authorities outside London in the year ending March 2025. Rates in intermediate rural authorities were generally similar to those in majority rural authorities.

Household waste in ‘black bags’ were the most common waste type for reported fly-tipping incidents in each type of authority, with 1.0 incidents per 1,000 population in majority rural authorities compared with 3.5 per 1,000 population in urban authorities. In intermediate rural authorities, there were 0.9 incidents reported per 1,000 population. ‘Black bags’ of household

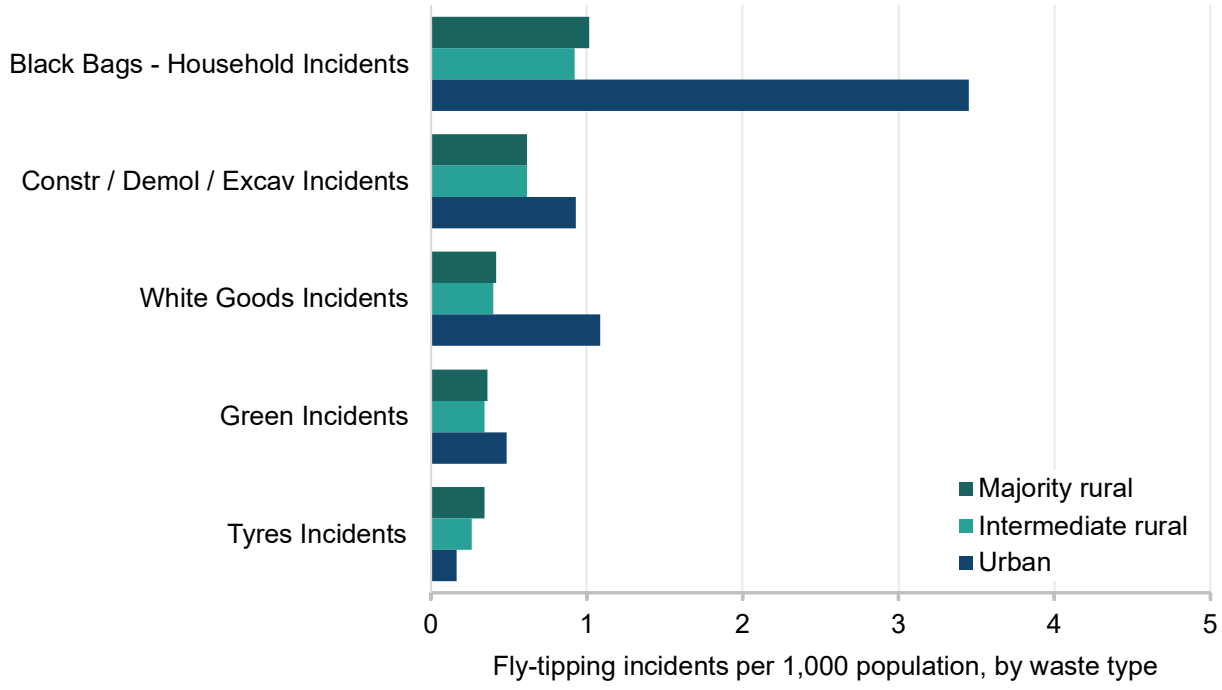
waste accounted for 14% of fly-tipping reported in majority rural authorities; this compares with 13% in intermediate rural authorities, and 18% in urban authorities.

Waste from construction, demolition, and excavation was the second most common waste type. In majority rural authorities, there were 0.6 incidents reported per 1,000 population, compared with 0.9 incidents per 1,000 population in urban authorities. Incident rates were also lower in majority rural authorities for fly-tipping 'white goods', with 0.4 incidents reported per 1,000 population compared with 1.1 incidents per 1,000 population in urban authorities. Rates for both of these waste types in intermediate rural authorities were similar to those in majority rural authorities. For green waste 'tyres incidents', there were fewer than 0.5 incidents reported per 1,000 population for each type of authority.

Although not shown in the chart, fly-tipping of other types of household waste accounted for 2.9 and 3.1 incidents per 1,000 population in majority rural and intermediate rural authorities, respectively. In urban authorities, they accounted for 9.4 incidents per 1,000 population. These incidents accounted for 40% of fly-tipping reported in majority rural authorities; this compares with 42% in intermediate rural authorities, and 48% in urban authorities.

Incidents where the waste type was not recorded accounted for 0.6 incidents per 1,000 population in majority rural authorities and 2.4 incidents per 1,000 population in urban authorities. Fly-tipping incidents of vehicle parts, black bags of commercial waste, chemical waste (including oil and fuel), animal carcasses, asbestos, and clinical waste are not shown because there were 0.1 or fewer incidents per 1,000 population.

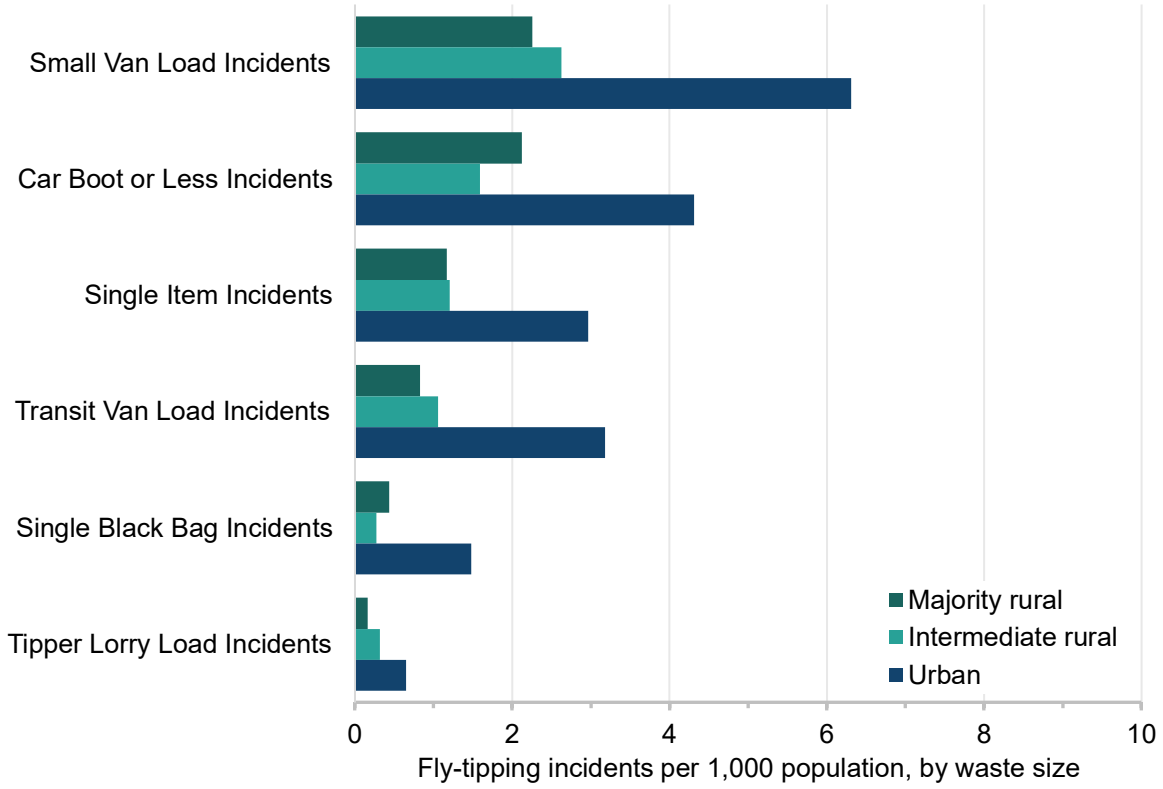
Figure F-5: Bar chart showing the number of fly-tipping incidents reported per 1,000 population, by selected waste types and 2021 rural-urban classification of local authorities in England, in the year ending March 2025 (Note F-1, Note F-3, Note F-5)
The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clustered bars. 'Urban' excludes London. The underlying data for this chart can be found in Worksheet FC within the supplementary data tables. Scales are similar between Figure F-4 and Figure F-6, but differ from Figure F-5. 'Constr / Demol / Excav' relates to waste from construction, demolition, or excavation.



Fly-tipping by waste size

The bar chart in Figure F-6 shows the number of fly-tipping incidents reported per 1,000 population, by size of waste deposit, in the year ending March 2025. For all selected amounts of waste, there were fewer fly-tipping incidents reported per 1,000 population in majority rural authorities than in urban authorities in the year ending March 2025. For ‘small van loads’ and ‘transit van loads’, the average rate for intermediate rural authorities were between those for majority rural and urban authorities. For ‘single black bag’ incidents or those which were a ‘car boot or less’, the average rate in intermediate rural authorities were lower than in majority rural authorities. For all other waste sizes, the average rates in intermediate rural authorities were similar to majority rural authorities.

Figure F-6: Bar chart showing the number of fly-tipping incidents reported per 100,000 population, by size of waste deposit and 2021 rural-urban classification of local authorities in England, in the year ending March 2025 (Note F-1, Note F-3, Note F-5, Note F-7)
The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clustered bars. ‘Urban’ excludes London. The underlying data for this chart can be found in Worksheet FD within the supplementary data tables. Scales are similar between Figure F-4 and Figure F-6, but differ from Figure F-5.



The most commonly reported waste size was ‘small van load’ incidents; there were 2.3 incidents per 1,000 population in majority rural authorities, compared to 6.3 incidents reported per 1,000 population in urban authorities. In intermediate rural authorities, there were 2.6 incidents reported per 1,000 population.

The second most commonly reported waste size was a ‘car boot or less’; there were 2.1 incidents per 1,000 population in majority rural authorities, and 4.3 incidents reported per 1,000 population in urban authorities. In intermediate rural authorities, there were 1.6 incidents reported per 1,000 population.

‘Small van loads’ and incidents of a ‘car boot or less’ accounted for 62% of fly-tipping incidents cleared by majority rural local authorities (Note F-7). This compares to 59% in intermediate rural authorities and 55% in urban authorities.

‘Single item incidents’ accounted for 1.2 incidents per 1,000 population in majority rural and intermediate rural authorities. In urban authorities, there were 3.3 incidents reported per 1,000 population.

‘Transit van loads’, represented fewer than 1.0 incidents per 1,000 population in majority rural authorities; this compares to 1.1 incidents per 1,000 population in intermediate rural authorities and 3.2 incidents per 1,000 population in urban authorities. ‘Single black bags’ and ‘tipper lorry loads’ each represented fewer than 1.0 incidents reported per 1,000 population in majority rural, intermediate rural, and urban authorities.

Significant or multi-load incidents have not been shown on the chart as there were little to no incidents reported in majority rural authorities, and fewer than 0.3 incidents reported per 1,000 population in urban authorities.

Fly-tipping - explanatory notes

- **Note F-1**

Rates per population are created using mid-year population estimates calculated by the Office for National Statistics.

- **Note F-2**

Source**:** Fly-tipping statistics for England - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

- **Note F-3**

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

- **Note F-4**

Rurality and relative access are independent dimensions of the 2021 rural-urban classification. Relative access is based on the proportion of an authority's total population living within or beyond a 30-minute drive of a major town or city (defined as a built-up area with a population of at least 75,000), regardless of whether those residents live in rural or urban areas. As a result, a local authority classified as both ‘majority rural’ and ‘majority further from a major town or city’ is not necessarily one where most of the rural population live further from a major town or city. More information regarding the 2021 Census-based rural-urban classification, including detailed data tables, can be found via: 2021 Rural Urban Classification - Office for National Statistics.

- **Note F-5**

In Figure F-4, Figure F-5, and Figure F-6, the categories (land type, waste type, and waste size, respectively) are ordered based on the rates for majority rural authorities, from largest to smallest.

- **Note F-6**

This publication was developed using support from generative AI tools to assist with drafting. All analysis, interpretation and final wording were produced, checked and quality-assured by Defra statisticians in line with the Code of Practice for Statistics.

- **Note F-7**

Incidents recorded by size category relate to those investigated and cleared by the local authority. For a number of reasons, but primarily due to incidents on private land, which an authority may not clear, total incidents by size category may not match total incidents recorded by land/waste type. Therefore, in the commentary for Figure F-6, the number of incidents have been presented as a proportion of all incidents cleared by the local authority to ensure that they sum to 100%. They are therefore not comparable to the proportions presented for Figure F-4 or Figure F-5.

G. Experiences and perceptions of crime

People in rural areas are less likely to experience crime and generally feel safer than those in urban areas.

Key findings – Experiences and perceptions of crime

The rate of headline crime is slightly lower in rural areas

- Headline crime includes theft, robbery, criminal damage, and violence with or without injury. In the year ending March 2026, 7% of people in rural areas reported being victims of headline crimes, compared with 10% in urban areas.

Rural residents are slightly more positive about their local police

- In the year ending March 2026, 69% of rural respondents reported having confidence in their local police; this compared with 67% in urban areas.
- Rural respondents were more likely to agree that their local police could be trusted and would treat them fairly when compared with those in urban areas.
- However, rural respondents were less favourable when asked about police reliability; 48% agreed the police could be relied on when needed, compared with 54% in urban areas.

Summary

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) can supplement police recorded crime and monitors the experience of crime whether or not it has been reported to the police. The Commercial Victimisation Survey (CVS) focusses specifically on crime against businesses.

People living in rural areas were less likely than those in urban areas to experience headline crime, but slightly more likely to experience fraud and computer misuse. In the year ending March 2026, 7% of people living in rural areas were victims of headline crime (i.e. theft, robbery, criminal damage, and violence with or without injury), compared with 10% of those living in urban areas. In comparison, 11% of rural residents experienced fraud or computer misuse, compared with 9% of urban residents. Between the year ending March 2023 and the year ending March 2026, headline crime victimisation rates were broadly unchanged in both rural and urban areas, whilst rates of fraud and computer misuse increased.

Rural respondents were generally less concerned about crime than those in urban areas and were more likely to report feeling safe after dark. In the year ending March 2026, 87% of rural respondents reported feeling very or fairly safe when walking alone after dark, compared with 76% in urban areas. Rural respondents were less likely to report high levels of worry about specific crimes and less likely to have experienced or witnessed anti-social behaviour in their local area.

Perceptions of local police were broadly similar in rural and urban areas, although rural respondents tended to report slightly higher levels of trust and confidence. In the year ending

March 2026, 74% of rural respondents agreed that their local police could be trusted, compared with 72% in urban areas, and 63% agreed that police would treat them fairly, compared with 59% in urban areas. However, rural respondents were less likely to be satisfied with the police response after reporting an incident (51% compared with 55%) and were much less likely to report high visibility of police foot patrols (4% compared with 14%).

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

Background information for crime

There are two main sources of crime-related data, published quarterly by the Office for National Statistics (Crime in England and Wales):

- **Police recorded crime**: Administrative crime data collected by the Home Office from police forces in England and Wales, including the British Transport Police. Police recorded crime provides the most detailed local information and covers a wider range of offences than the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW). It is particularly useful for monitoring local patterns, emerging trends and lower-volume offences such as homicide. However, it excludes crimes that are not reported to, or recorded by, the police. Trends can be affected by changes in reporting behaviour, police activity and crime recording practices.
- **Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)**: A survey measuring people's experience of selected crimes, including incidents not reported to the police. As a survey, estimates are subject to sampling uncertainty and cannot generally be produced for local areas (Note G-4). The CSEW does not cover all crime types or all population groups. However, because it is less affected by changes in reporting and recording practices, it is generally considered the best measure for tracking long-term trends in crime.

Crime statistics are based on financial years, so the latest data available are for the year ending March 2026. Data are provided aggregated to settlement types as defined within the 2011 rural-urban classification.

Police recorded crime (Section E) and the CSEW (this section) each have different strengths and limitations; considered together, they provide the most comprehensive picture of crime in England and Wales.

Not all types of crime are presented within the police recorded crime or CSEW analysis – for example, crimes against businesses. The **Commercial Victimisation Survey (CVS)** supplements the broad crime statistics and has been commissioned by the Home Office annually since 2012 to record the nature and extent of crime committed against business premises.

Crime prevalence

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) provides estimates of headline crime; this includes theft, robbery, criminal damage, and violence with or without injury. Fraud and computer misuse can be included within this group, although are presented separately within this publication.

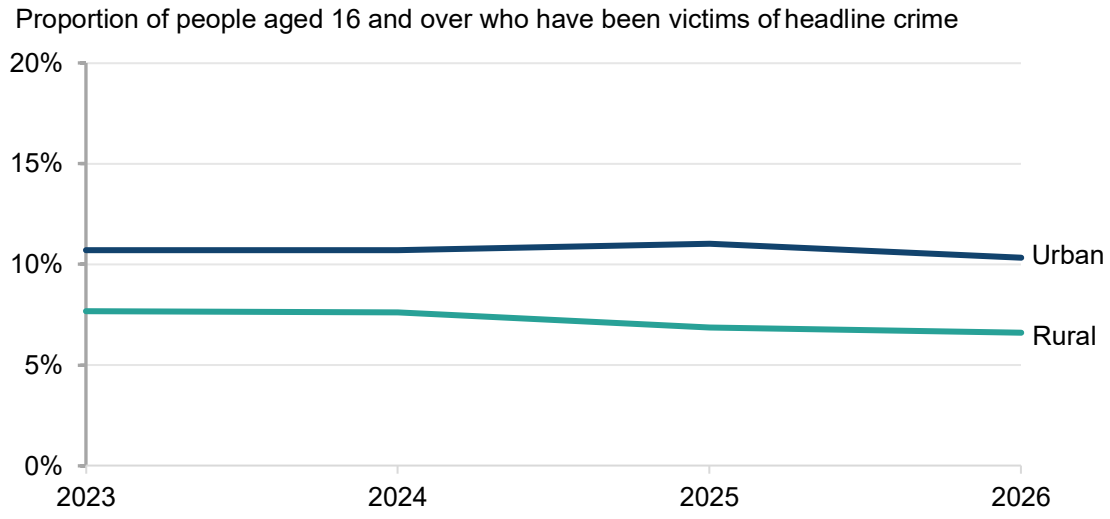
Crime prevalence relates to the proportion of respondents who had been victims of the specified type of crime at least once in the reference period, and does not consider the number of times they were victimised; this is instead presented as incidence rates within the CSEW, which are not presented within this publication.

The underlying data for this section can be found within Worksheet GA in the supplementary data tables.

Victims of headline crime

The line chart in Figure G-1 shows the proportion of people aged 16 and above who were victims of **headline crime**, by 2011 rural-urban classification, measured from the year ending March 2023 to the year ending March 2026. Throughout the period, the victimisation rate was lower in rural areas than in urban areas: in the year ending March 2026, 7% of people living in rural areas were victims of headline crime, compared with 10% of those living in urban areas. In both area types, rates remained broadly stable between year ending March 2023 and year ending March 2026.

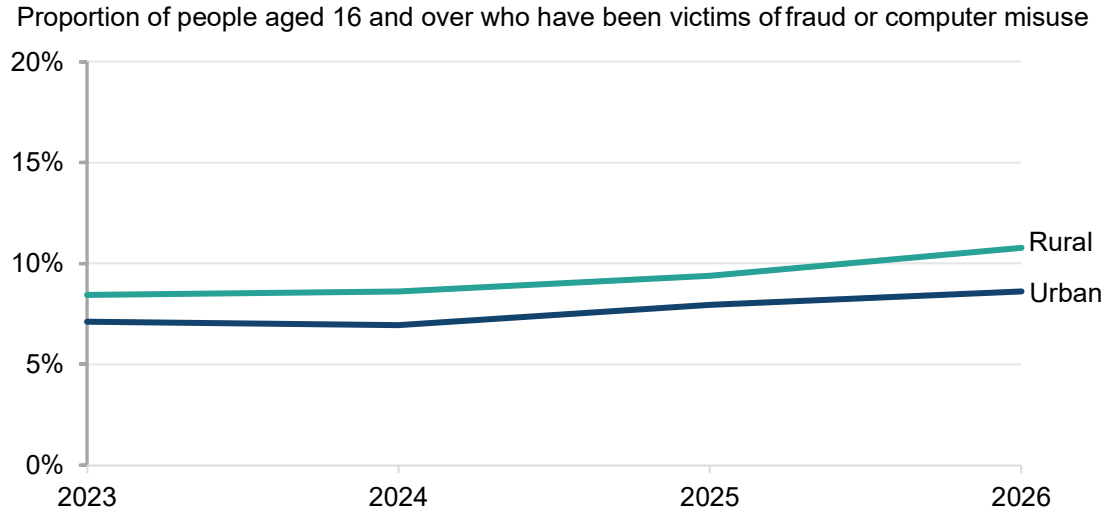
Figure G-1: Line chart showing the proportion of people who were victims of headline crime, by 2011 rural-urban classification in England and Wales, year ending March 2023 to year ending March 2026 (Note G-2, Note G-4, Note G-11)
Headline crime excludes fraud and computer misuse unless otherwise stated.



Fraud and computer misuse (including scams, hacking, and computer viruses) account for a substantial proportion of all crime and are therefore presented separately from headline crime. The line chart in Figure G-2 shows the proportion of people who were victims of fraud and/or computer misuse, by 2011 rural-urban classification, measured from the year ending March 2023 to the year ending March 2026.

In contrast to headline crime, victimisation rates for fraud and computer misuse were higher in rural areas than in urban areas throughout the period. In the year ending March 2026, around 11% of people in rural areas were victims of fraud or computer misuse, compared with around 9% in urban areas. Between the year ending March 2023 and the year ending March 2026, fraud and computer misuse victimisation increased in both rural and urban areas.

Figure G-2: Line chart showing the proportion of people who were victims of fraud and computer misuse, by 2011 rural-urban classification in England and Wales, year ending March 2023 to year ending March 2026 (Note G-2, Note G-4, Note G-11)



When fraud and computer misuse are included within the broader measure of headline crime, around 16% of rural residents were victims of crime in the year ending March 2026; this was similar to the rate in urban areas.

Victims of specific types of crime

Headline crime can be broken down into two high-level crime types:

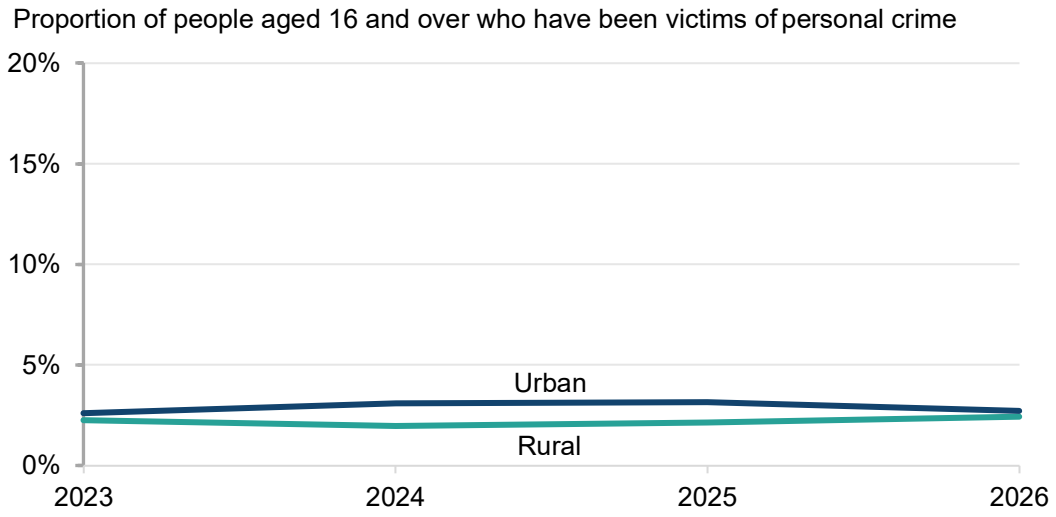
- **personal crime** (violence, robbery, theft from the person, other theft of personal property)
- **household crime** (domestic burglary, other household theft, vehicle-related theft, bicycle theft, and criminal damage).

Fraud and computer misuse are sometimes included as personal crime but have been excluded from this analysis.

The line chart in Figure G-3 shows the proportion of people aged 16 and above who were victims of **personal crime**, by 2011 rural-urban classification, measured from the year ending March 2023 to the year ending March 2026.

In the year ending March 2026, around 2% of people living in rural areas were victims of personal crime. The victimisation rate in rural areas was broadly stable between the year ending March 2023 and the year ending March 2026. In urban areas, the victimisation rate was around 3% between year ending March 2023 and year ending March 2026.

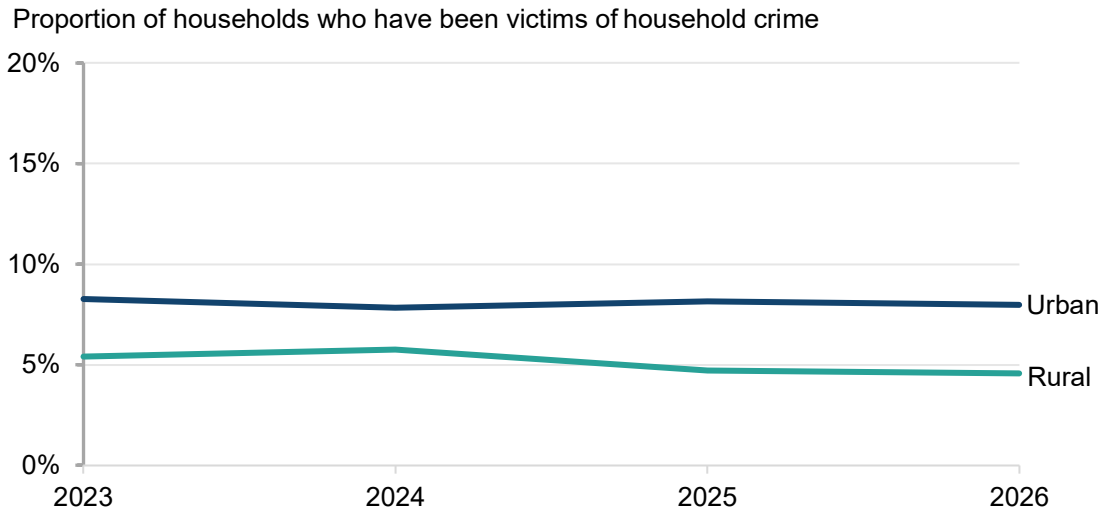
Figure G-3: Line chart showing the proportion of people who were victims of personal crime (excluding fraud and computer misuse), by 2011 rural-urban classification in England and Wales, year ending March 2023 to year ending March 2026 (Note G-2, Note G-4, Note G-11)
Scales differ between this chart and Figure G-4.



The line chart in Figure G-4 shows the proportion of households who were victims of **household crime**, by 2011 rural-urban classification, measured from the year ending March 2023 to the year ending March 2026.

Throughout the period, the victimisation rate was lower in rural areas than in urban areas, and the gap between these rates has widened over time. In the year ending March 2026, around 5% of rural residents and 8% of urban residents and were victims of household crime. Household crime victimisation rates remained broadly stable in urban areas over the period. In rural areas, rates fell between the year ending March 2024 and the year ending March 2025, and showed little change in the following year.

Figure G-4: Line chart showing the proportion of households who were victims of household crime, by 2011 rural-urban classification in England and Wales, year ending March 2023 to year ending March 2026 (Note G-2, Note G-4, Note G-11)
Scales differ between this chart and Figure G-3.



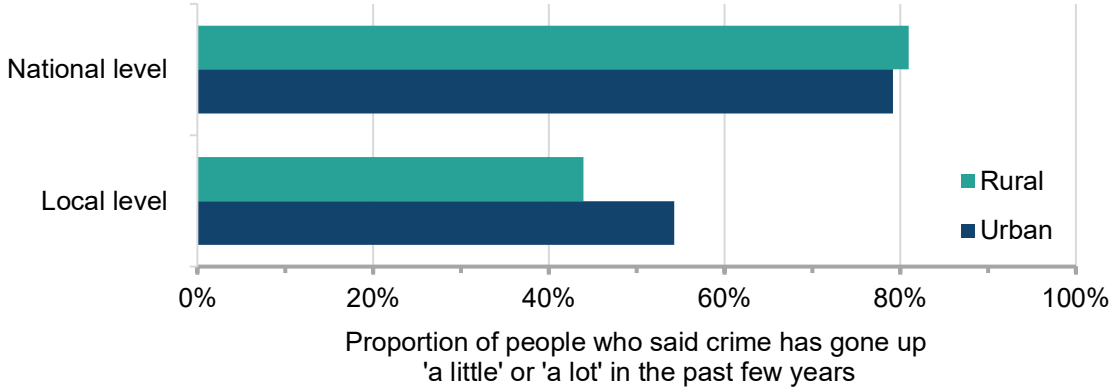
Perceptions about crime

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) monitors the experience of crime in England and Wales whether or not it has been reported to the police. The results presented in this section are based on the perceptions of crime from survey respondents. The underlying data for this section can be found within Worksheet GB in the supplementary data tables.

Respondents were asked for their perception of change in national and local crime. The bar chart in Figure G-5 shows the proportion of people who said they think crime has gone up ‘a little’ or ‘a lot’ in the past few years, by 2011 rural-urban classification, as of the year ending March 2026. Rural respondents were slightly more likely to say that national crime levels have gone up compared with respondents in urban areas, at 81% and 79%, respectively. On the other hand, rural residents were less likely to say that local crime levels have gone up when compared with those in urban areas (44% and 54%, respectively).

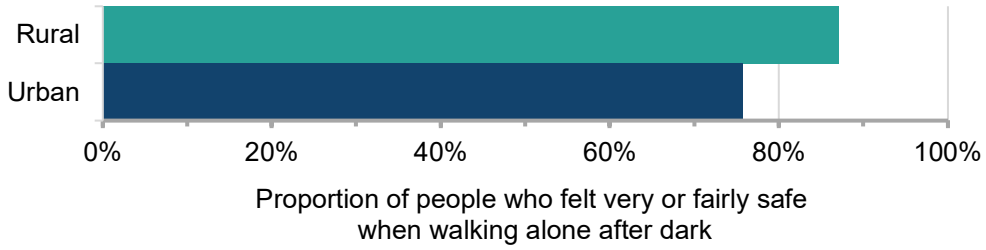
Figure G-5: Bar chart showing the proportion of people who said crime has gone up ‘a little’ or ‘a lot’ in the past few years, by 2011 rural-urban classification in England and Wales, year ending March 2026 (Note G-4)

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



Respondents were asked how safe they felt when walking alone after dark. The bar chart in Figure G-6 presents the proportion of respondents who said they felt very or fairly safe when walking alone after dark. Rural respondents were more likely to report feeling safe when walking alone after dark when compared with those in urban areas, at 87% and 76%, respectively.

Figure G-6: Bar chart showing the proportion of people who felt very or fairly safe when walking alone after dark, by 2011 rural-urban classification in England and Wales, year ending March 2026 (Note G-4, Note G-7)

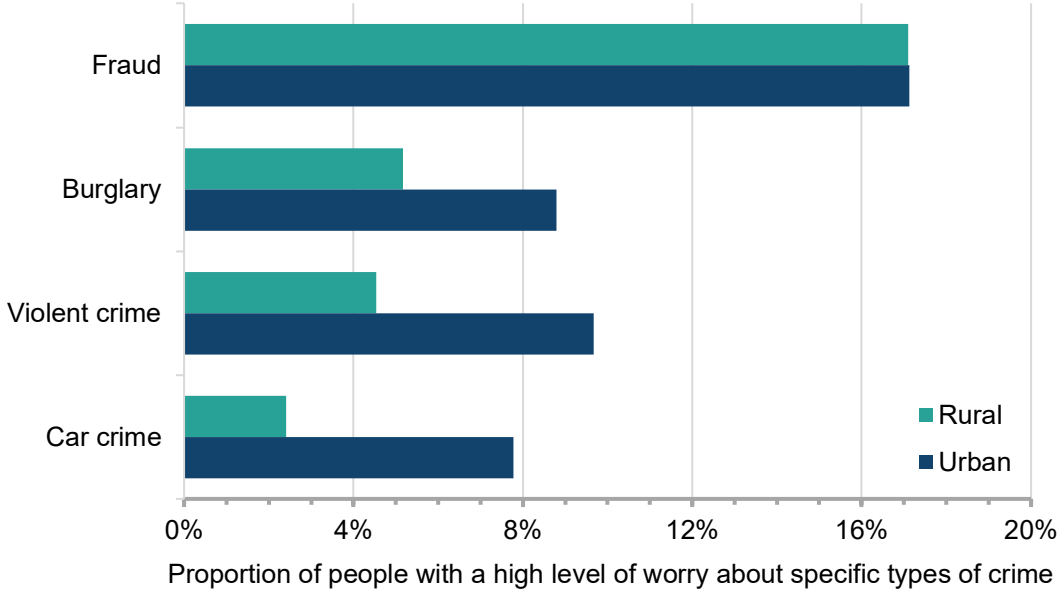


Respondents were asked how worried they felt about selected crimes. The bar chart in Figure G-7 presents the proportion of respondents who reported a 'high level of worry' about burglary, car crime, fraud, and violent crime. 17% of rural respondents reported a high level of worry about fraud; this was similar to the response in urban areas, and was also the highest response rate amongst the specific types of crime.

For burglary, violent crime, and car crime, proportionally fewer rural respondents reported having a high level of worry about these types of crime when compared with those in urban areas. 5% of rural respondents reported a high level of worry about burglary, compared with 9% in urban areas. These were similar to the rates regarding worry about violent crime. Just 2% of rural respondents reported high levels of worry about car crime, compared with 8% of those in urban areas.

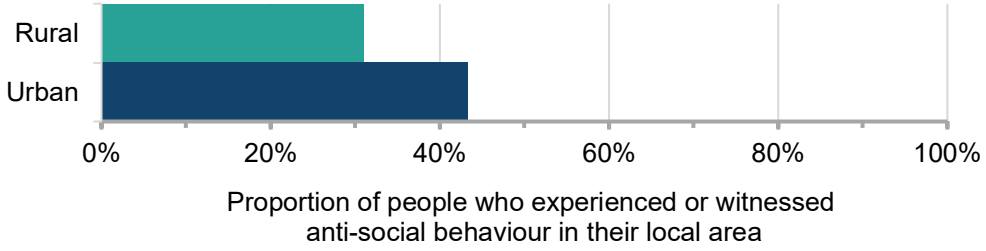
Figure G-7: Bar chart showing the proportion of people with a high level of worry about specific types of crime, by 2011 rural-urban classification in England and Wales, year ending March 2026 (Note G-4, Note G-8)

Scale differs from other charts in this section. The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clusters of bars.



Respondents were asked about their experience of anti-social behaviour in their local area, as presented in the bar chart in Figure G-8. Rural respondents were less likely to report experiencing or witnessing anti-social behaviour when compared with those in urban areas, at 31% and 43%, respectively.

Figure G-8: Bar chart showing the proportion of people who experienced or witnessed anti-social behaviour in their local area, by 2011 rural-urban classification in England and Wales, year ending March 2026 (Note G-4)

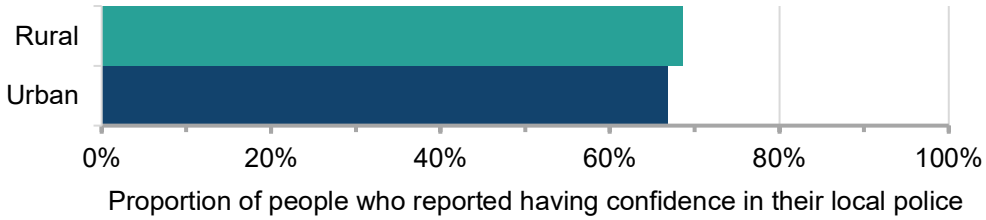


Perceptions about the police

In addition to experiences of crime, the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) collects information on public attitudes towards policing and the criminal justice system. These measures provide insight into levels of confidence, trust and satisfaction among rural and urban residents, helping to contextualise differences in reported crime and victimisation. The underlying data for this section can be found within Worksheet GC in the supplementary data tables.

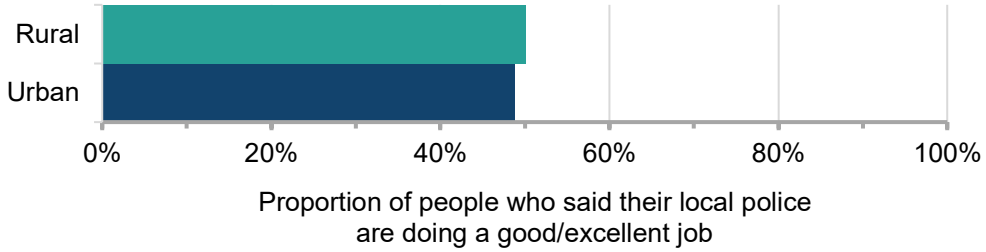
The bar chart in Figure G-9 shows responses regarding people's overall confidence in the local police. 69% of rural respondents said they had confidence in their local police in year ending March 2026; this was 2 percentage points higher than in urban areas (67%).

Figure G-9: Bar chart showing respondents' overall confidence in the local police, by 2011 rural-urban classification in England and Wales, year ending March 2026 (Note G-4)



Respondents were asked to rate their local police, as shown in the bar chart in Figure G-10. In the year ending March 2026, 50% of rural respondents said that their local police are doing a good or excellent job; this was similar to the rate in urban areas (49%).

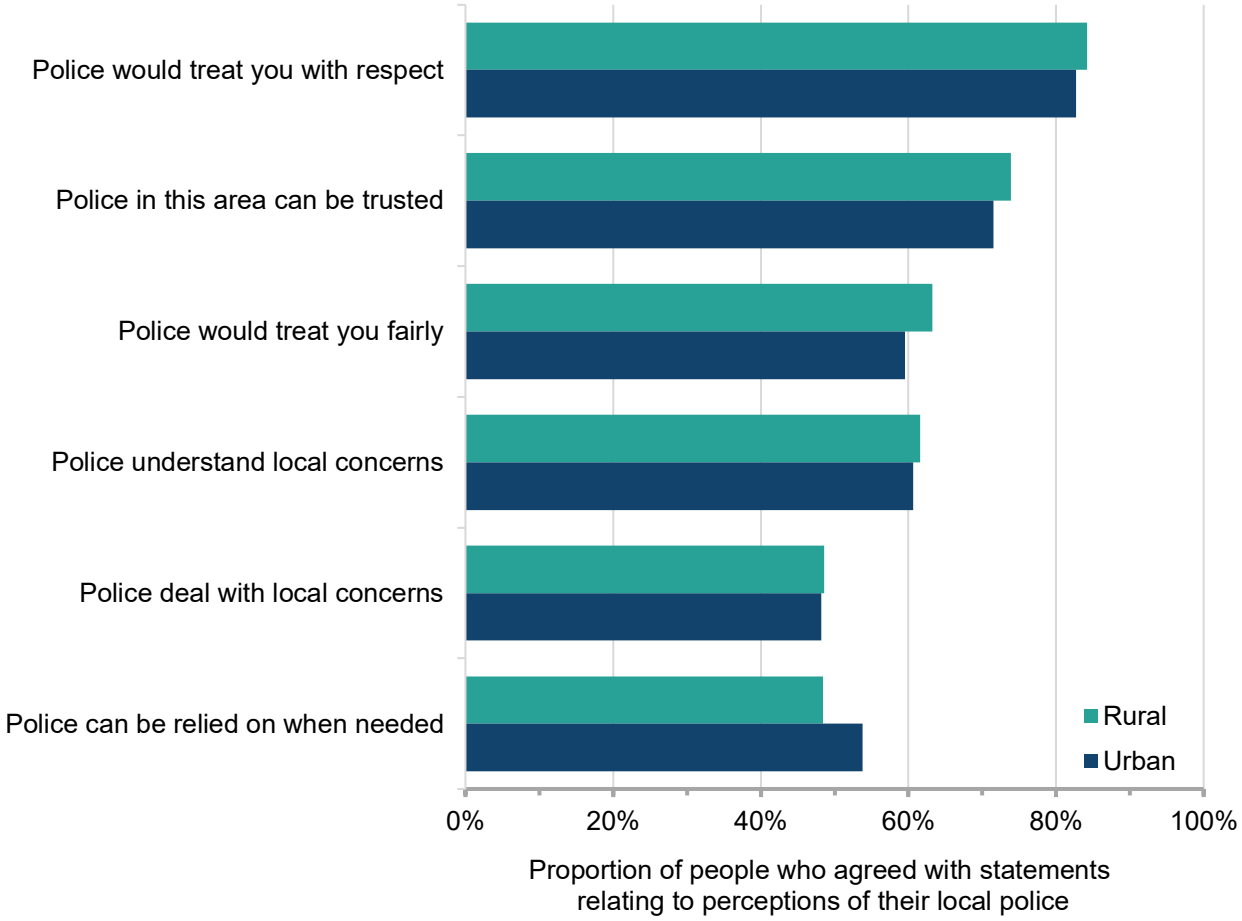
Figure G-10: Bar chart showing the proportion of people who said their local police are doing a good/excellent job, by 2011 rural-urban classification in England and Wales, year ending March 2026 (Note G-4)



The bar chart in Figure G-11 shows the proportion of respondents who strongly agreed/tended to agree with specified statements regarding the local police. For most statements, rural respondents provided a more positive (or marginally more positive) response than those in urban areas:

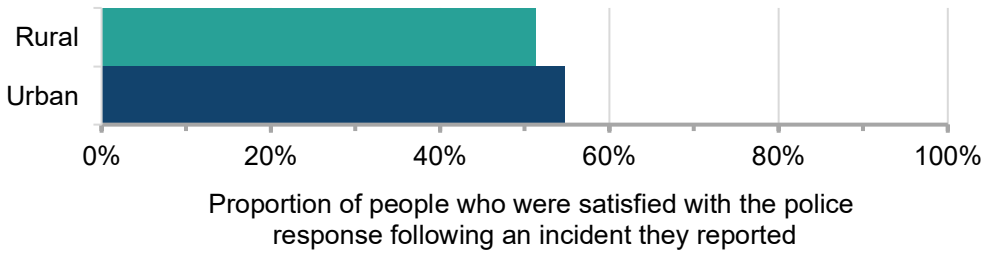
- Rural residents were more positive than urban residents on some measures of police legitimacy and trust. 74% of rural respondents agreed that the police could be trusted – 2 percentage points more than in urban areas (72%). 63% of rural respondents agreed that the police would treat them fairly – 4 percentage points more than in urban areas (59%).
- Similar proportions of rural and urban respondents agreed that police would treat them with respect (84% and 83% respectively), understand local concerns (62% and 61%), and deal with local concerns (49% and 48%).
- Rural respondents were less likely than those in urban areas to agree that police could be relied on when needed (48% compared with 54%). This was the only measure for which rural residents expressed less positive views than urban residents.

Figure G-11: Bar chart showing the proportion of people who said they 'strongly agree' or 'tend to agree' with specified statements regarding the local police and their treatment, by 2011 rural-urban classification in England and Wales, year ending March 2026 (Note G-4)
The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clusters of bars.



Respondents who had reported an incident were asked whether they were satisfied with the police response; this is shown in the bar chart in Figure G-12. 51% of rural respondents said that they were satisfied with the police response following an incident; this was a slightly lower proportion than in urban areas (55%).

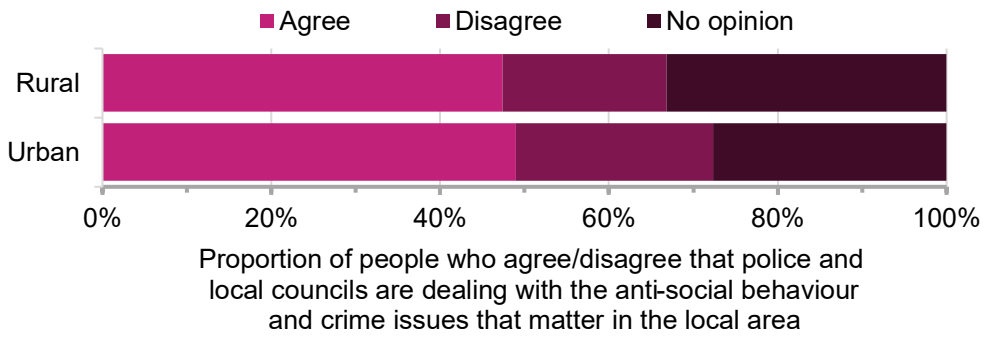
Figure G-12: Bar chart showing the proportion of people who were satisfied with the police response after reporting an incident, by 2011 rural-urban classification in England and Wales, year ending March 2026 (Note G-5)
This survey question was only asked to respondents which had been a victim of crime in the previous 12 months and had reported the incident to the police.



Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed that police and local councils were dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in the local area; this is shown in the stacked bar chart in Figure G-13. Rural respondents were less likely to offer an opinion, with 33% neither agreeing nor disagreeing, compared with 28% in urban areas. 47% of rural respondents agreed with the statement – a slightly lower proportion than in urban areas (49%). 19% of rural respondents disagreed with the statement, compared with 23% in urban areas.

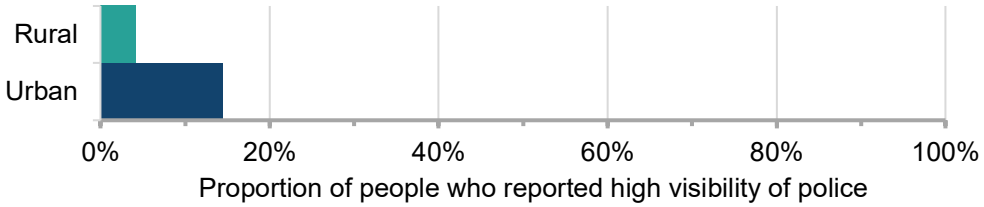
Figure G-13: Bar chart showing the proportion of people who agree/disagree that police and local councils are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in the local area, by 2011 rural-urban classification in England and Wales, year ending March 2026 (Note G-4)

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



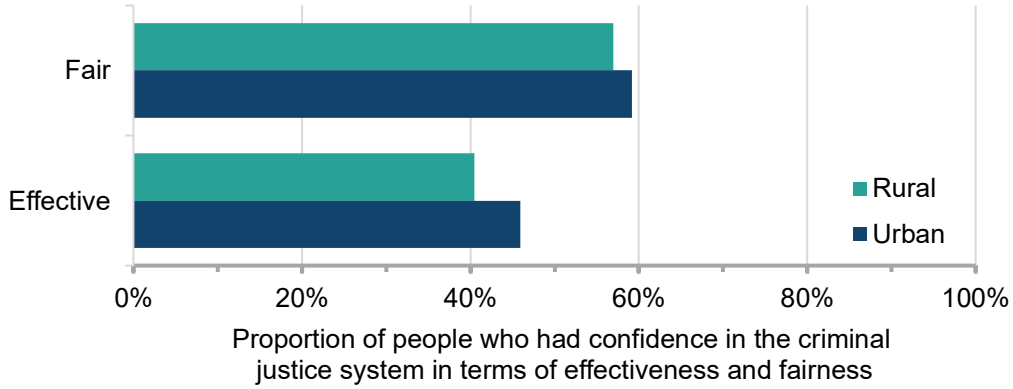
Respondents were asked for their opinion on the visibility of police foot patrols, as shown in Figure G-14. Just 4% of rural respondents reported a high level of police visibility, compared with 14% in urban areas. Rural police forces typically cover larger geographical areas, and so people are less likely to see a police officer or Police Community Support Officer.

Figure G-14: Bar chart showing the proportion of people who reported high levels of visibility of police foot patrols, by 2011 rural-urban classification in England and Wales, year ending March 2026 (Note G-4, Note G-6)



Respondents were asked about their confidence in the criminal justice system, as shown in the bar chart in Figure G-15. A slightly smaller proportion of respondents in rural areas agreed that the criminal justice system as a whole is fair when compared with responses in urban areas, at 57% and 59%, respectively. Similarly, a smaller proportion of rural respondents were confident that the criminal justice system as a whole is effective when compared with urban respondents, at 41% and 46%, respectively.

Figure G-15: Bar chart showing the proportion of people who had confidence in the criminal justice system in terms of effectiveness and fairness, by 2011 rural-urban classification in England and Wales, year ending March 2026 (Note G-4)



Crimes against businesses

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. Data on crimes against businesses premises from within this section can be found in the Communities and Households supplementary data tables.

Please note, the ONS have stated that the Commercial Victimisation Survey - the data source for this analysis - has been paused whilst they review methods used in the collection of business crime statistics. For more information, please visit Crime against businesses statistics - GOV.UK.

The categories of offences can be grouped as follows:

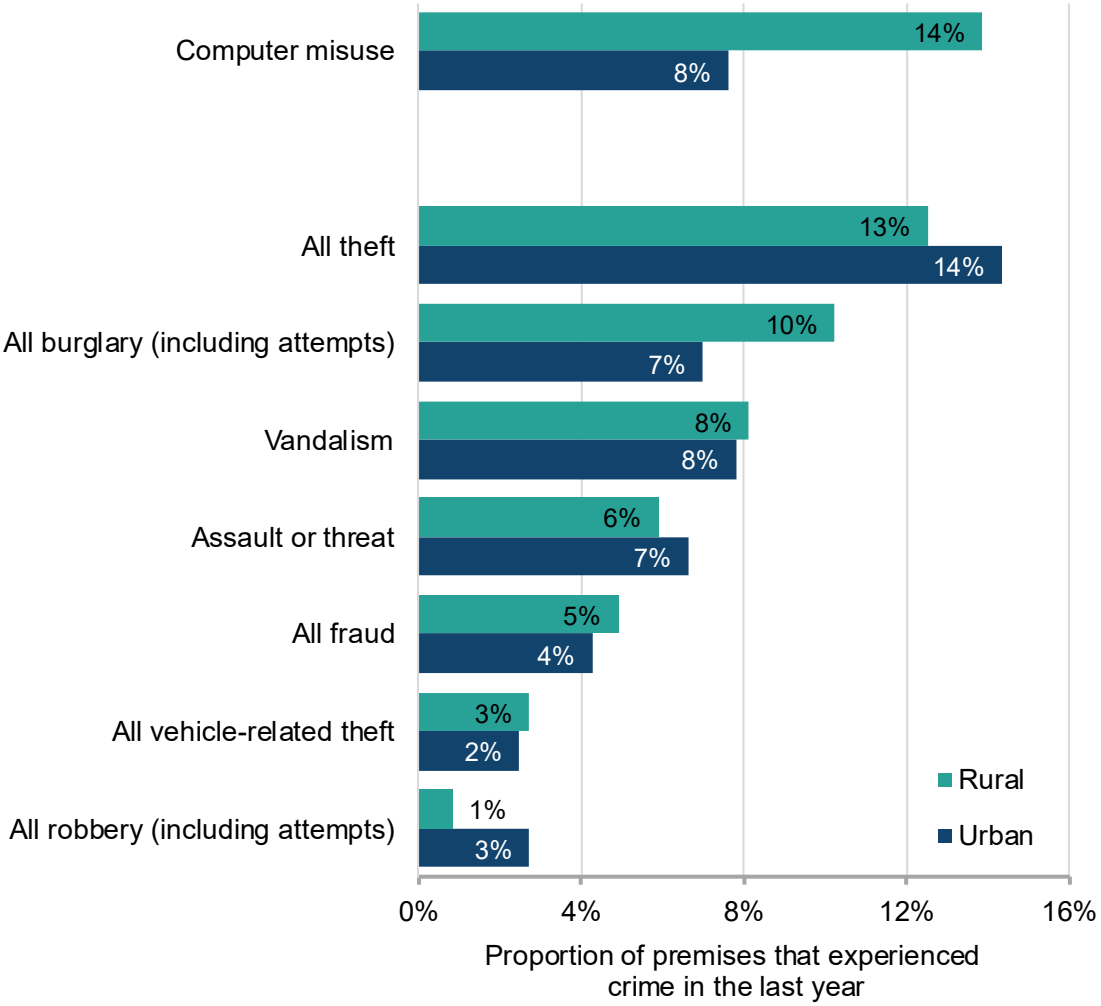
- **all burglary** (including attempted burglary and burglary with entry),
- **vandalism**,
- **all vehicle related theft** (including theft of a vehicle and theft from a vehicle),
- **all robbery** (including attempts),
- **assault or threat**,
- **all theft** (including theft by a customer, by an employee, by others, or by unknown persons),
- **all fraud** (by an employee/others/unknown persons),
- **all computer misuse** (including hacking, computer viruses, or fraudulent emails – only for respondents who owned a computer).

The bar chart in Figure G-16 shows the proportion of premises that experienced crime in 2023. For all offence groups except theft, assault or threat, and robbery, a higher proportion of business premises in rural areas had experienced crime during 2023 compared with urban areas.

14% of rural business premises with a computer experienced computer misuse – the highest of all offence groups; this compares with 8% of businesses in urban areas. The crime with the lowest rate was robbery (including attempts); 1% of rural businesses said they had experienced this crime

in 2023, compared to 3% of businesses in urban areas. Of all the differences presented between rural and urban areas, only those for robbery and computer misuse were statistically significant.

Figure G-16: Bar chart showing the proportion of business premises that experienced crime in the last year, by 2011 Rural-Urban Classification, England, 2023 (Note G-9)
The legend is presented in the same order and orientation as the clustered bars. Computer misuse is presented separately to other crimes at it only applies to premises that owned a computer.



Experiences and perceptions of crime - explanatory notes

- **Note G-1**

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

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

- **Note G-2**

Crime prevalence relates to the people/households who had been a victim of at least one incidence of the specified crime. Unlike incidence rates, prevalence rates only take account of whether a household or person was a victim of a specific crime in the reference period, not the number of times victimised. For more information, please see: User guide to crime statistics for England and Wales: March 2026 - Office for National Statistics

- **Note G-3**

For information regarding statistical significance, definitions, and any other information related to the Crime Survey for England and Wales, please see: User guide to crime statistics for England and Wales: March 2026 - Office for National Statistics

- **Note G-4**

Responses reported are from people aged 16 and over. Crime survey responses are of people's experiences of crime in the 12 months prior to interview. Therefore, responses collated for the year ending March 2026 could actually reference crimes which occurred up to March 2025.

Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimates are based on survey samples and are therefore generally not available below national level. Statistics presented in this publication are taken from the CSEW 'household and area characteristics' tables, which provide aggregated rural and urban estimates. These estimates relate to England and Wales combined and cannot be separated to produce England-only figures.

- **Note G-5**

In Figure G-12, satisfaction with the police represents the percentage of incidents in which the victim was "very" or "fairly" satisfied with the police. As this question was only asked of those who had reported an incident, responses are based on a smaller sample size. Caution is advised when comparing these findings to other responses.

- **Note G-6**

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

- **Note G-7**

In Figure G-6, the question relating to feeling safe walking alone after dark was only asked of one quarter of the CSEW sample.

- **Note G-8**

In Figure G-7, unweighted bases refer to worry about burglary; bases for fraud and violent crime will be similar, but for car crime will be slightly lower as these are based only on those residing in households owning (or with regular use of) a vehicle.

- **Note G-9**

In Figure G-16, the question relating to computer misuse offences was asked to premises which had a computer. Due to the different base from the rest of the questions, it has been presented separately in the bar chart.

- **Note G-10**

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

- **Note G-11**

Rates have been rounded to the nearest 1% and are subject to sampling variability. Statistical significance has been assessed using standard errors and 95% confidence intervals. References to changes or differences relate only to statistically significant results at the 95% confidence level.

- **Note G-12**

This publication was developed using support from generative AI tools to assist with drafting. All analysis, interpretation and final wording were produced, checked and quality-assured by Defra statisticians in line with the Code of Practice for Statistics.

H. 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.

Key findings – Feelings about the local neighbourhood

The vast majority of Rural residents are satisfied with their local area

- 85% of Rural residents reported being satisfied with their local area as a place to live; in Urban areas, 71% reported being satisfied.
- In Rural areas, 87% of residents reported feeling satisfied with the green and natural spaces in their local area; in Urban areas, 73% reported being satisfied.
- In Rural areas, 69% of residents reported feeling that they “belong” strongly or fairly strongly to their immediate neighbourhood; this proportion is 10 percentage points higher than in Urban areas.

There is a greater sense of community in Rural areas than in urban areas

- In the 2023-24 survey period, 78% of people in Rural areas said they chat to their neighbours (more than just to say hello) at least once a month. This value was 10 percentage points higher than in Urban areas.
- Trust helps to build a community and 57% of people living in Rural areas felt that many people in their neighbourhood could be trusted; in Urban areas, it was 37%.

Summary

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

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

People living in Rural areas are more likely to have meaningful conversations with their neighbours than those in Urban areas; in the 2023-24 survey, 78% of people in Rural areas reported that they chat to their neighbours at least once a month (more than just to say hello), compared with 68% of people living in Urban areas. Proportionally more people in Rural areas than Urban areas agreed with positive statements regarding their neighbours, including thinking their neighbours could be

trusted, the local area being a place where people from different backgrounds could get on well together, and pulling together to improve the neighbourhood.

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

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

The neighbourhood

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

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

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

The middle bar chart in Figure H-1 shows the proportion of respondents who were satisfied with their local area as a place to live. In 2023-24, 85% of Rural respondents were satisfied with their local area as a place to live; this was 14 percentage points higher than in Urban areas (71%). Compared to the 2021-22 survey, there was no significant change in the proportion of respondents in Rural areas who were satisfied, but in Urban areas, the proportion decreased by 3 percentage points (Note H-4). This suggests that proportionally fewer people in Urban areas felt satisfied with their local area as a place to live in 2023-24 compared to 2021-22, whereas the satisfaction in Rural areas remained the same.

The right-hand bar chart in Figure H-1 shows the proportion of respondents who thought that their local area had "got better to live in" over the previous two years. In 2023-24, just 10% of Rural

respondents felt that their local area was a better place to live compared to two years prior. This compares to just 12% of respondents in Urban areas. In 2021-22, the agreement rate was higher in both Rural (13%) and Urban (16%) areas. This suggests that proportionally fewer people felt their local area had improved in the two years prior to the 2023-24 survey, compared to the 2021-22 survey.

Figure H-1: Bar charts showing the proportion of respondents who felt they belonged very/fairly strongly to their immediate neighbourhood (left-hand chart), who were satisfied with their local area as a place to live (middle chart), or who thought their local area had got better to live in over the past two years (right-hand chart), by Rural-Urban Classification, England, during survey periods 2021-22 and 2023-24

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

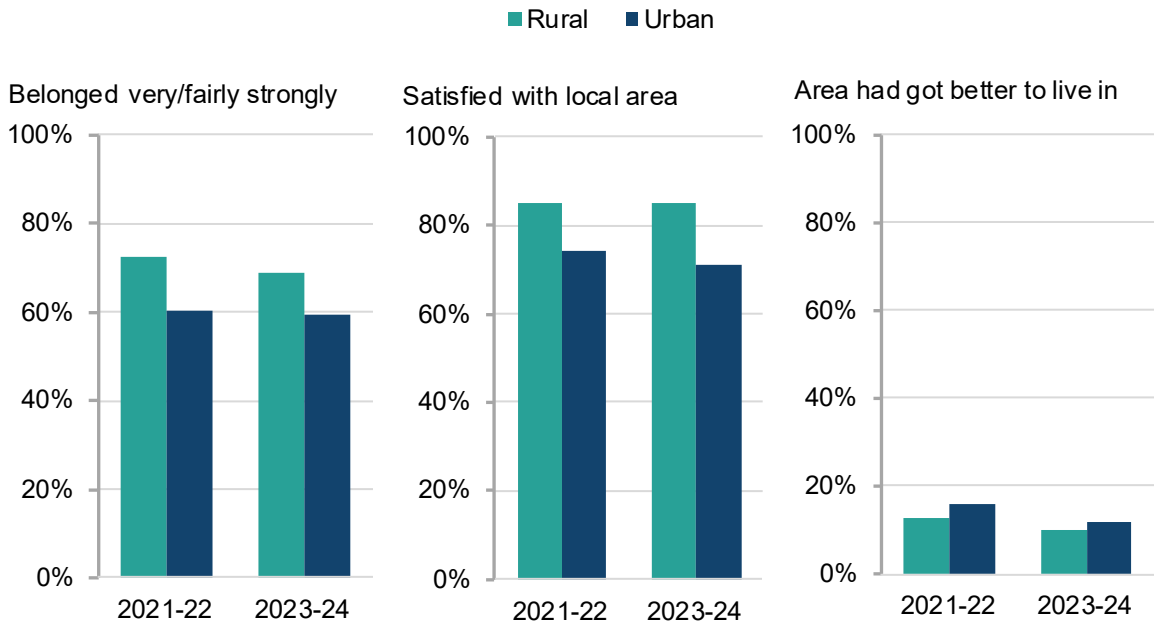


Table H-1 shows the proportion of people who agree with specified statements relating to their local area during the 2023-24 survey period.

Table H-1: Proportion of respondents who agree with specified statements regarding their local neighbourhood, by Rural-Urban Classification, England, during survey period 2023-24

The 2023-24 survey relates to the period spanning October 2023 to March 2024.

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

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

- More than 3 in every 4 respondents in Rural areas regarded their local area as attractive (79%); this is 27 percentage points higher than in Urban areas (53%).
- In response to the question “How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the green and natural spaces in your local area”, almost 9 in every 10 respondents in Rural areas said they were satisfied (87%). This was 14 percentage points higher than in Urban areas (73%).
- 3 in every 4 respondents in Rural areas (76%) said they agreed with the statement “I am proud to live in my local area”; this is 20 percentage points higher than in Urban areas (56%).
- 8 in every 10 respondents in Rural areas (80%) said they agreed with the statement “I would recommend my local area to others as a good place to live”; this is 17 percentage points higher than in Urban areas (63%).
- Almost 3 in every 4 respondents in Rural areas (73%) said they agreed with the statement “In five years’ time I would like to still be living in my local area”; this is 15 percentage points higher than in Urban areas (58%).

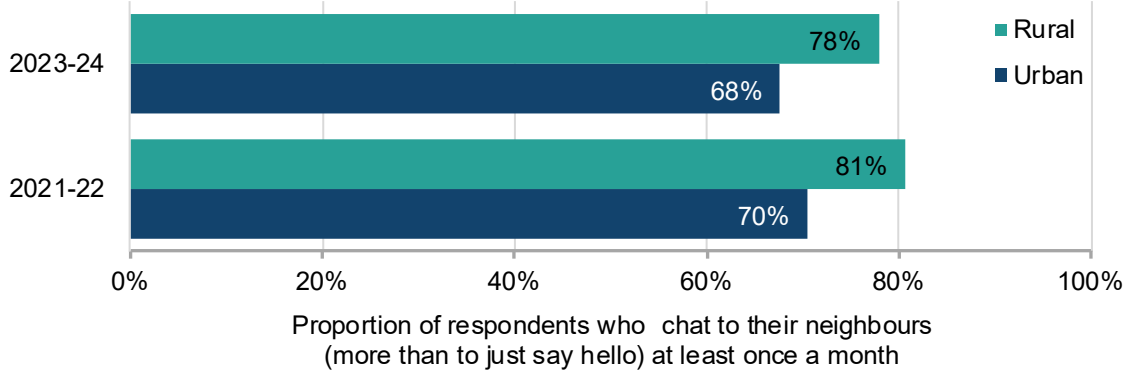
Neighbours

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

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

Figure H-2: Bar chart showing the proportion of respondents who chat to their neighbours (more than just to say hello) at least once a month, by Rural-Urban Classification, England, during survey periods 2021-22 and 2023-24

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



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

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

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

- 57% of Rural respondents to the 2023-24 survey felt that many of the people in their local neighbourhood could be trusted; this was 20 percentage points higher than in Urban areas. This metric had the lowest rate of agreement of all neighbour-related statements.
- 86% of Rural respondents agreed that their local area was a place where people from different backgrounds could get on well together; this was 6 percentage points higher than in Urban areas.
- 72% of Rural respondents agreed that people who live in their area would pull together to improve the neighbourhood; this was 20 percentage points higher than in Urban areas.

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

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

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

Decision-making in the local area

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

The left-hand bar chart in Figure H-3 shows the proportion of respondents who agreed that they personally could influence decisions affecting their local area. In the 2023-24 survey, 25% of Rural respondents agreed that they personally could influence decisions; this was 3 percentage points

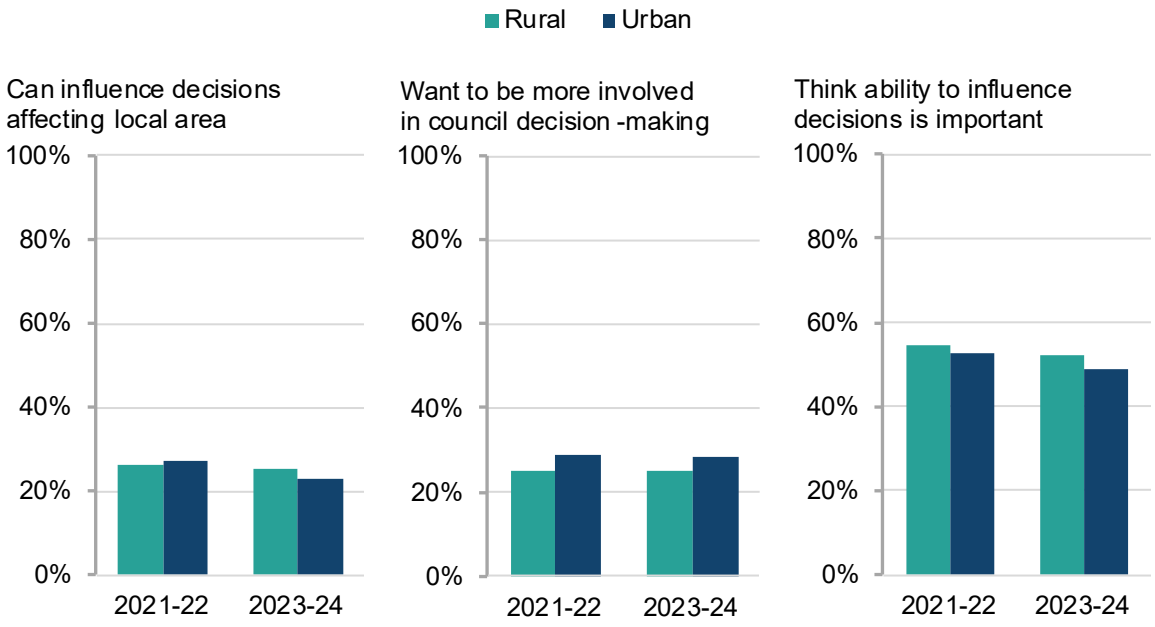
higher than in Urban areas (23%). Compared to the 2021-22 survey, there was no significant change in the proportion of respondents who said they could influence decisions in Rural areas, but in Urban areas, the proportion decreased by 4 percentage points (Note H-4).

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

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

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

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



Social and civic action

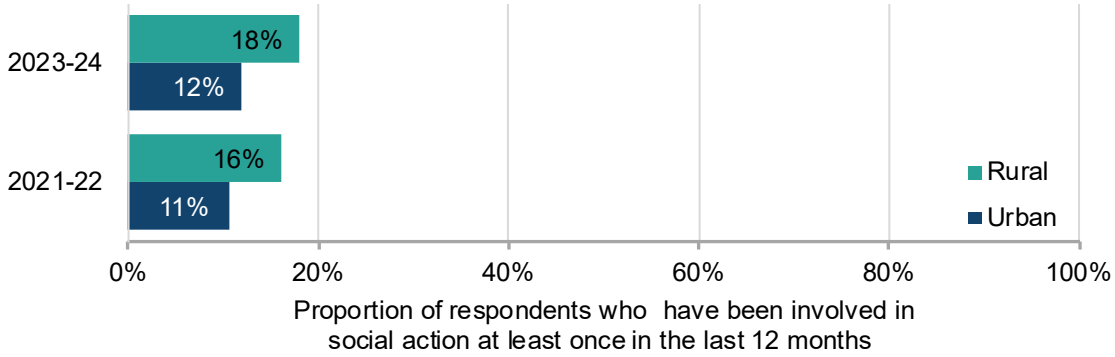
The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) produces an annual publication relating to the Community Life Survey; data collected in this survey includes how people participate in activities which improve their local area and/or community (Note H-3). The 2021-22 survey relates to the period spanning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

The bar chart in Figure H-4 shows the proportion of respondents aged 16 and over who had been involved in social action in the last 12 months, as reported in the 2021-22 and 2023-24 surveys; social action refers to people coming together to help improve their lives and solve the problems that are important in their communities.

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

Figure H-4: Bar chart showing the proportion of respondents who have been involved in social action in the last 12 months, by Rural-Urban Classification, England, during survey periods 2021-22 and 2023-24

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



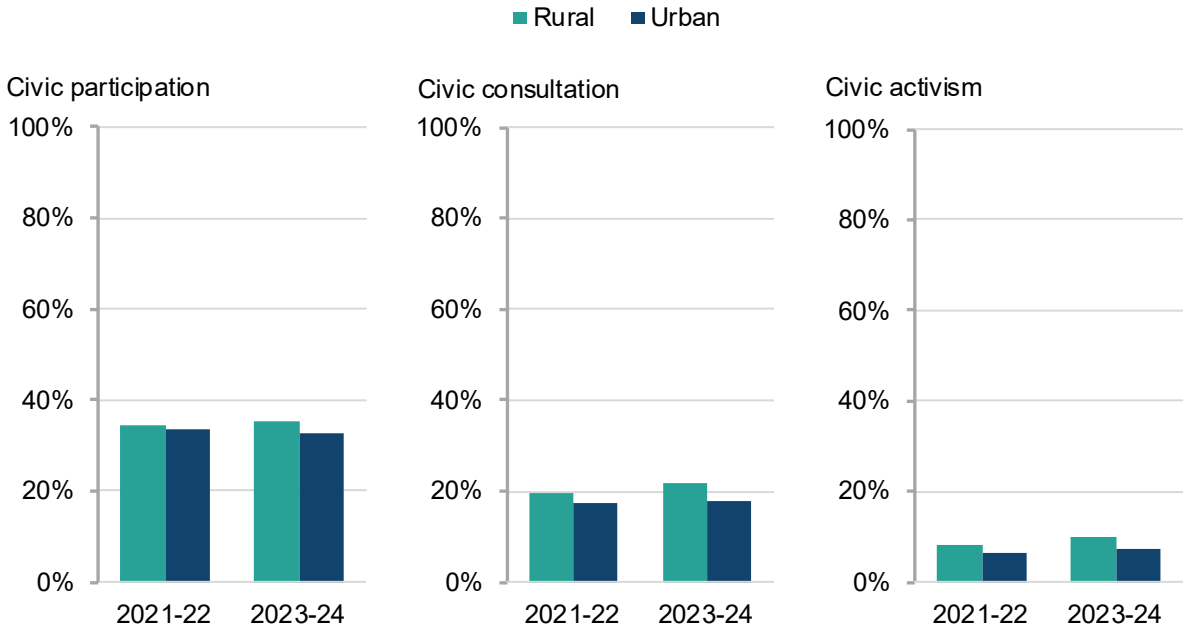
The bar charts in Figure H-5 highlight the proportion of people engaging with civic society, as reported in the 2021-22 and 2023-24 surveys; see Note H-5 for the definitions of terms used.

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

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

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

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



Feelings about the local neighbourhood - explanatory notes

- **Note H-1**

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

- **Note H-2**

The Community Life survey (CLS) ran throughout different periods in 2021-22 (October 2021 to September 2022) and 2023-24 (October 2023 to March 2024). Despite the shorter survey period in 2023-24, there were at least 10 (and up to 20) times more respondents to each question compared to the 2021-22 survey; for example, there were 5,838 responses to the question “How strongly do you feel about your immediate

neighbourhood?" in England in 2021-22, compared to 107,311 in 2023-24. Therefore, survey results are not directly comparable but have been provided instead as an indication of change.

- **Note H-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 H-4**

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

- **Note H-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: Small area-based
B. Population: Constituency-based
C. Population: Local Authority-based
D. Internal migration
E. Census 2021: Population

2. Housing

A. Housing stock characteristics from the Census
B. Housing stock characteristics from the English Housing Survey
C. Additions to the housing stock
D. Additions to affordable housing
E. Households on local authority housing registers
F. Second homes
G. Empty homes
H. Homelessness
I. Home ownership
J. Private rental market
K. Housing quality
L. Land use change for housing

3. Health and Wellbeing

A. Health outcomes
B. Wellbeing
C. NHS Dentistry
D. NHS General Practice
E. Childcare provision
F. Loneliness
G. Volunteering and charity

4. Communities and Households

A. Index of Multiple Deprivation
B. English Indices of Deprivation
C. Poverty due to low income
D. Household expenditure
E. Police recorded crime
F. Fly-tipping
G. Experiences and perceptions of crime
H. Feelings about the local neighbourhood

5. Connectivity and Accessibility

A. Broadband
B. Mobile coverage
C. Average travel patterns
D. Access to vehicles and charging infrastructure
E. Transport connectivity
F. Home working

6. Education, Qualifications and Training

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

7. Rural Economic Bulletin

A. Employment
B. Unemployment
C. Economic inactivity
D. Earnings
E. Redundancies
F. Unemployment-related benefits
G. Output and productivity measured by Gross Value Added (GVA)
H. Business demographics
I. Businesses by industry
J. Business survival and growth
K. 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. Central heating
E. Energy Consumption
F. Estimated carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions
G. Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS) take-up

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.