

Vulnerable individuals and groups profile

Liverpool City Region

March 2021

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Contents

Acknowledgements.....	1
Infographic Summary.....	3
Introduction.....	5
1. Deprivation in the Liverpool City Region.....	6
2. Housing and digital exclusion.....	7
3. Children and families.....	9
4. Older people.....	12
5. Long term health conditions.....	13
6. Mental health.....	15
7. Key protected characteristics.....	16
8. Inclusion health and vulnerable groups.....	19
References.....	23
Additional data tables.....	25

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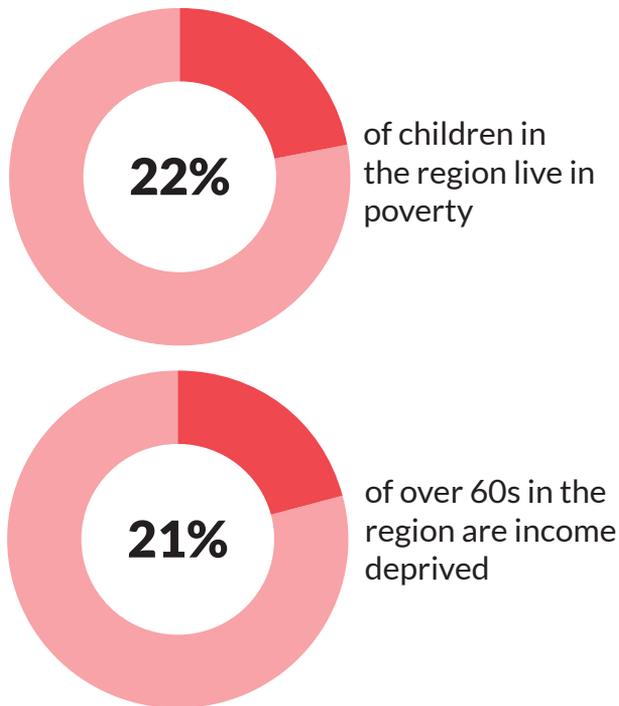


Champs is the public health collaborative led by the Directors of Public Health for the nine local authorities in Cheshire and Merseyside:
Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St. Helens, Wirral, Cheshire West & Chester, Cheshire East and Warrington

Vulnerable groups in Liverpool City Region

Key statistics on deprivation, protected characteristics and health issues

Deprivation in the Liverpool City Region



Deprivation scores across all of the LCR local authorities are significantly higher than the England national average.

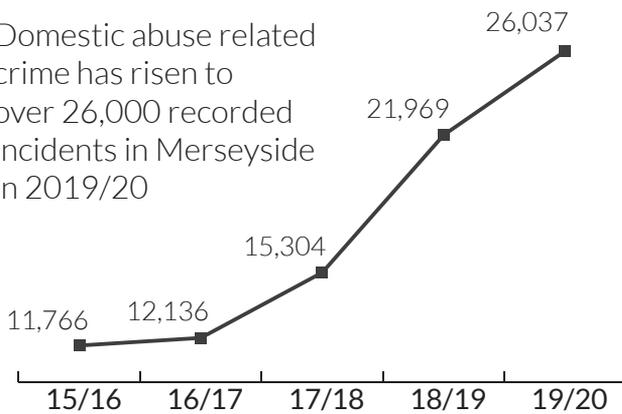


More than 75,000 adults **claimed benefits** in August 2020. Equivalent to 8% of the LCR population and the highest proportion in the last 20 years.

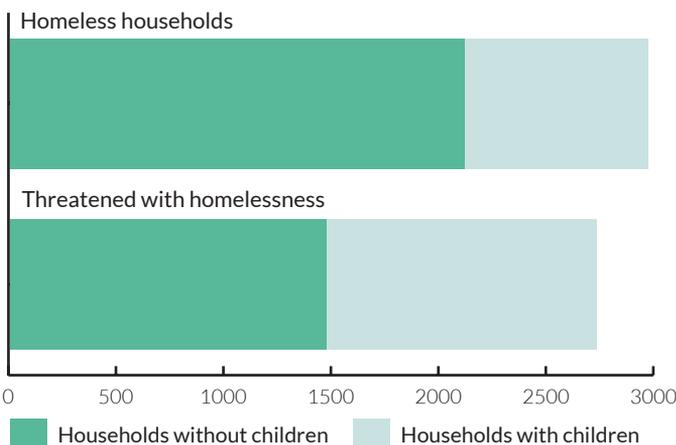
Over 46,000 school children **receive free school meals.**



Domestic abuse related crime has risen to over 26,000 recorded incidents in Merseyside in 2019/20



In 2019/20, 5,692 households were owed a prevention or relief duty in the first instance from an LCR local authority*



*Data from Halton is missing/incomplete

Protected characteristics

67,000 people (5.4%) are from a **black and minority ethnic (BAME)** background.

An estimated 38,936 people **self identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual.**

An estimated 115,754 people have a **sensory impairment.** 94,612 have deafness or hearing loss and 21,140 are blind or partially sighted.

Almost 6,000 adults with **learning disabilities** are receiving long term support from their local authority.

Statistical significance compared to England:



This work is based on the latest published data as of December 2020, and was commissioned by the Cheshire & Merseyside Public Health Intelligence Network and Champs Public Health Collaborative.

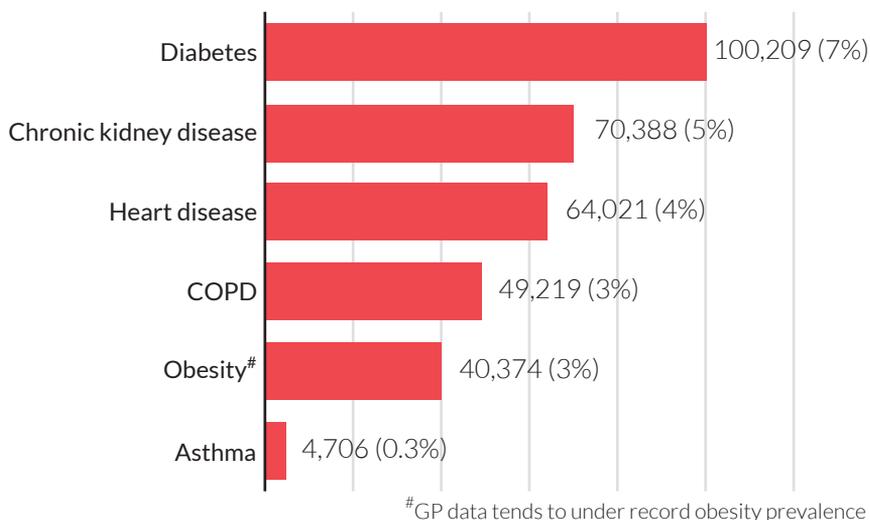
For more information and data sources please contact the Public Health Institute LJMU; email: phi@ljmu.ac.uk.

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Vulnerable groups in Liverpool City Region

Key statistics on deprivation, protected characteristics and health issues

Long-term health issues

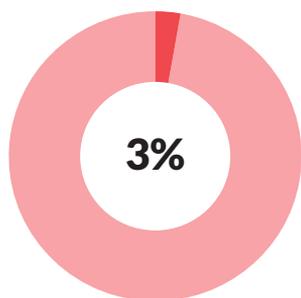


People with long term health conditions are at an increased risk of long-term complications from COVID-19.

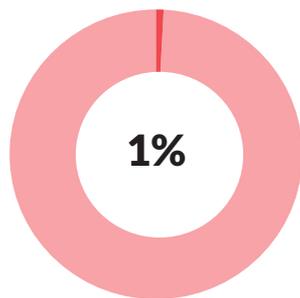
Health outcomes in LCR are among the poorest in England. There is a high prevalence of long term conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD), asthma, heart disease and diabetes.

Mental health

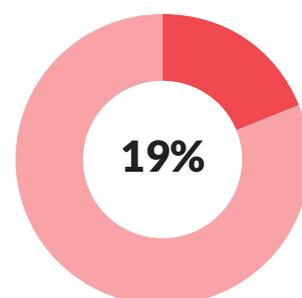
A range of mental health problems are expected to be exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The prevalence of mental health needs and mental health problems were high in LCR before the pandemic.



of school children have social, emotional & mental health needs

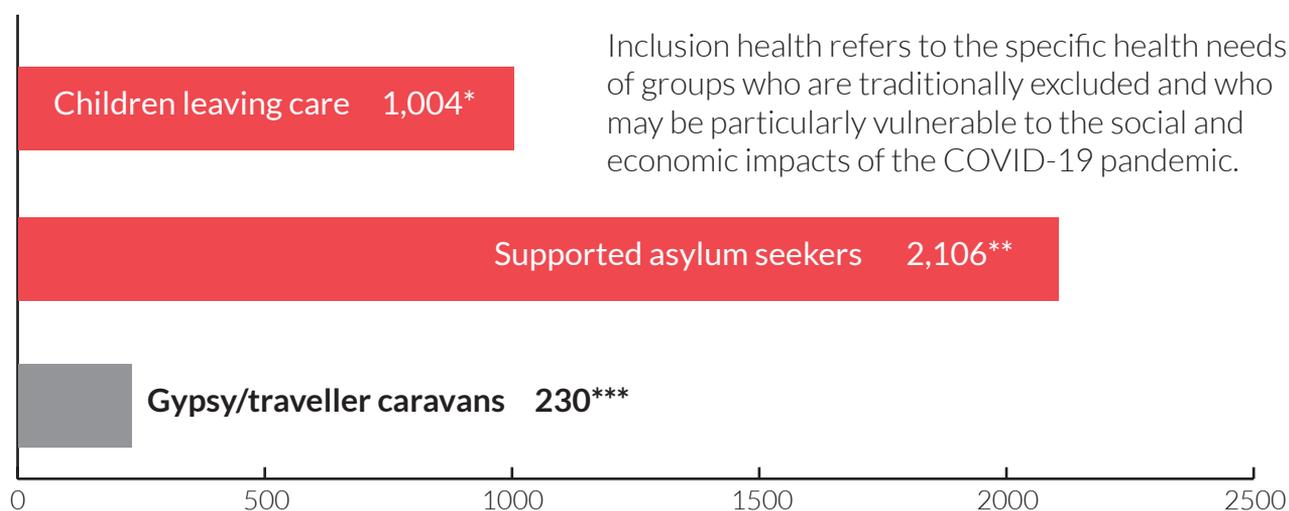


of adults have severe mental health problems



of adults have a common mental health disorder

Inclusion health & other vulnerable groups



Inclusion health refers to the specific health needs of groups who are traditionally excluded and who may be particularly vulnerable to the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Data for 2019/20; **Data for 2018 Q2; ***Jan 2020

Introduction

This Liverpool City Region (LCR) profile provides an overview of vulnerable individuals and groups in the population. The LCR includes the local authority areas Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St. Helens and Wirral, as shown in the map on the previous page. The profile is based on the latest published data as of December 2020.

This report is one of a suite of products that has been produced on behalf of Champs, including a Children and Young Person's profile (links: [CYP LCR](#) & [CYP Cheshire & Warrington](#)) and an Older People's Profile (links: [OP LCR](#) & [OP Cheshire & Warrington](#)). The profiles offer a baseline for assessing the impact of COVID-19 on local communities. More generally, they provide a means of monitoring key outcomes that contribute to continuing health inequalities.

There are various vulnerable groups in society who experience health inequalities and who have been identified as suffering disproportionately from the health and social impacts of COVID-19. Alongside this, there are various groups with underlying health conditions which increase their vulnerability to severe COVID-19. A recent report by the Health & Equity in Recovery Plans Working Group examined the impacts of COVID-19 on the 'wider determinants of health' (Jones et al, 2020). The indicators detailed in this profile can be used to support planning to mitigate health inequalities at a local level, including the unequal impacts of COVID-19. They can be used in this way alongside these profiles. The vulnerable groups selected for inclusion in this profile were identified from the PHE report '*COVID-19: Suggestions for mitigating the impact on health inequalities at a local level*' (PHE, 2020), and include:

- Unpaid carers
- People experiencing domestic violence and abuse
- Vulnerable migrants including asylum seekers
- Homeless people
- Gypsy, Roma, Traveller communities
- Substance/Alcohol misuse service users
- Race/ethnicity/BAME communities
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) communities

The types of underlying health conditions that increase vulnerability to COVID-19 were identified in a recent government publication on prioritising groups to receive the COVID vaccine (DHSC 2020). This profile includes data on people in the following priority groups:

- Chronic respiratory disease, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and asthma
- Chronic heart disease
- Chronic kidney disease
- Diabetes
- Morbid obesity
- Severe mental illness

The profile will serve as a starting point for a consideration of the needs of vulnerable groups. There are some for which recent data is not readily available (e.g. gambling prevalence, sex workers, people with Down's syndrome and some more complex health issues) and others that have been covered in the previous profiles on Children and Young People and Older People (see links at the start of this section).

1. Deprivation in the Liverpool City Region

This section presents a range of measures of deprivation. The 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation scores for Knowsley (43.0) and Liverpool (42.4) are the second and third highest in the North West. Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool and St. Helens are all in the worst 20% of local authorities in England. Sefton has the lowest IMD score in LCR (27.0), but deprivation scores in all LCR local authorities are significantly higher than the national average of 21.7 (Table 1).

The measure of child poverty presented is the proportion of children aged under 16 in families with a relatively low income¹. Around 62,000 children in LCR are living in poverty. The level of child poverty in LCR, 21.9%, is significantly higher than the national average of 18.4%. Levels are highest in Liverpool and lowest in Wirral. Only Wirral has levels of child poverty statistically significantly lower than the England average (Table 1). The income deprivation affecting older people index (IDAOPI) shows that the proportion of over 60s who are income deprived in LCR local authorities are some of the highest nationally. Liverpool and Knowsley are among the 20% of local authorities with the highest levels of IDAOPI in England, with as many as 30% of older people living in deprivation (Table 1) (LCR n=83,536).

In January 2021, 7.4% of the working age LCR population were claiming benefits (72,790 people), which is significantly more than the England average of 6.2%. The August 2020 figure of 7.8% in LCR was the highest figure for more than 20 years (75,890 people). Within LCR, with the exception of Wirral, all local authorities had levels higher than the national average (Table 1).

Table 1. Data relating to deprivation for LCR compared to England

Quintiles: Best  Worst

GREEN significantly better **YELLOW** similar **RED** significantly worse than England average

	England	LCR	Halton	Knowsley	Liverpool	Sefton	St. Helens	Wirral
Deprivation score (IMD 2019)	21.7	34.9	32.3	43.0	42.4	27.0	31.5	29.6
Child poverty, % under 16s, relative poverty, 2018/19	18.4	21.9	19.3	23.5	27.6	18.2	20.9	17.7
% Older people in deprivation, IDAOPI 2019	16.5	21.4	18.1	29.4	30.0	16.9	16.8	16.6
*Benefit claimants, % aged 16-64, January 2021	6.2	7.4	6.7	8.4	8.6	6.8	6.7	6.3

Source (except*): Public Health England. Public Health Profiles. 2020 <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2020

Accessed December 2020

*Source: NOMIS

¹ Relative low income sets a threshold as 60% of the UK average (median) income https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/child-health-profiles/data#page/6/gid/1938133228/pat/6/par/E12000002/ati/202/are/E06000007/iid/93700/age/169/sex/4/cid/4/tbm/1/page-options/ovw-do-0_car-do-0

2. Housing and digital exclusion

This section looks at a number of factors related to housing that have an influence on health. This includes the number of households that are homeless in each of the LCR local authority areas, as well as households who are currently in temporary accommodation, and those who are overcrowded. There are a number of health inequality risks associated with housing, which will be exacerbated by COVID-19, such as unhealthy homes that are cold, damp otherwise hazardous and overcrowded homes, where social distancing is difficult (PHE 2020). This section also examines digital exclusion across the LCR, which is especially important during the pandemic, as children and many workplaces are expected to continue studying or working remotely (PHE 2020).

Homelessness and overcrowded households

The legal definition of homelessness is that a household has no home available and reasonable to occupy. In addition to people who are sleeping rough, homelessness includes those in temporary accommodation such as shelters, as well as people who live in insecure housing. This includes people with insecure tenancies, people who are experiencing domestic violence, and those who are 'sofa surfing', i.e. staying with friends or family (Gov.uk, 2020). Table 2 shows that there were lower rates of households assessed as homeless in five of the six LCR local authority areas compared to the national average (LCR n=2,966). Rates of households threatened with homelessness were significantly high in Knowsley and St. Helens (LCR n=2,726). Rates of households living in temporary accommodation were significantly lower than the England average in all six areas (LCR n=149).

Table 2 also shows that the percentage of people who live in overcrowded housing, which means there are fewer bedrooms than needed, was also lower than the national average of 4.8% in all in LCR local authority areas, according to 2011 census statistics (LCR n=22,625).

Table 2. Homelessness in LCR compared to England

GREEN significantly better/lower **YELLOW** similar **RED** significantly worse/higher than England average

	England	LCR	Halton	Knowsley	Liverpool	Sefton	St. Helens	Wirral
*Households assessed as homeless, rate per 1,000 households, 2019/20	5.9	4.7**	NA***	6.2	5.5	2.3	3.9	5.3
*Households threatened with homelessness within 56 days, rate per 1,000 households, 2019/20	6.3	4.3**	NA***	8.8	3.6	3.1	7.0	3.0
Statutory homelessness: households in temporary accommodation, rates per 1,000, 2017/18	3.4	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1
People who live in overcrowded housing, %, 2011	4.8	3.5	3.0	4.2	4.5	3.0	2.9	2.3

Source (except*): Public Health England. Public Health Profiles. 2020 <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2020
Accessed December 2020

*Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government; **Merseyside (exclud.. Halton); ***Missing/incomplete data.

People who are digitally excluded

Digital forms of communication are important in today’s society, but this can lead to people without the skills, means, or ability to access digital technology being disadvantaged. A range of factors, including age, levels of deprivation, disability, housing, receipt of benefits, and unemployment, can influence digital exclusion. Although broadband coverage is generally good across the LCR (almost all premises have the capacity to access superfast broadband) not all households that could potentially access superfast broadband actually do so. Only 52% of premises have taken up superfast broadband in the region. Take up is lowest in Liverpool (48%) and highest in Halton (58%), compared to an England average of 51% (Ofcom Connected Nations, 2019) (Table 3).

A proportion of LCR residents lack basic digital skills. Around 1 in 4-5 do not have the five Basic Digital Skills listed in ‘GO ON UK’s Basic Digital Skills Framework’ (gov.uk online a), which include managing information; communicating; transacting; problem-solving; and creating. Table 3 shows that, when all local authorities in England are ranked into 5 quintiles, Halton falls into the fourth of the five quintiles, whilst Knowsley falls into the fifth and worst/lowest quintile. Sefton, St. Helens and Wirral fall into the third quintile, whilst Liverpool falls into the first (best) quintile.

Table 3. Digital inclusion in LCR

Rank out of all local authorities in England: quintiles:



	England	LCR	Halton	Knowsley	Liverpool	Sefton	St. Helens	Wirral
% of premises that have Superfast broadband*	51	52	58	57	48	54	56	49
% of premises that have Ultrafast broadband**	3	3	4	4	3	3	4	3
% who have all 5 digital skills	N/A	N/A	76	75	79	77	77	77

Source: Ofcom Connected Nations, 2019
 *30 Mbit/s or greater; **100 Mbit/s or greater.

3. Children and families

This section covers a number of measures that relate to child health. This includes a brief overview of the population of children and young people in the LCR and then builds on the measures of child poverty presented in Section 2. Further information can be found in the [Child Health Profiles for the Liverpool City Region](#).

Children and young people aged 0-24 years represent 29.6% of the total LCR population, similar to the England average (29.8%). Among LCR local authorities, Liverpool has the highest proportion of children and young people (33.1%) and Sefton has the lowest (26.4%). There are slightly smaller proportions of females compared to males aged 0-24 years in each local authority. Just over one in five children in Liverpool (26.6%) belong to a black, Asian or minority ethnic group, which is far more than in any other local authority in LCR, but still lower than the national average (33.0%²).

Children living in poverty

Children and young people in LCR face a difficult start in life. As shown in Section 2 of the report, there are higher levels of deprivation and child poverty in each local authority compared to the national average. Especially in Knowsley and Liverpool, where levels are the top two or three highest across the North West. The proportion of children growing up in lone parent families (LCR n=62,275), and the proportion of school children taking up free school meals (LCR n=49,950) are also higher than the national average in all LCR local authorities, as shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Vulnerable children in LCR compared to England

GREEN significantly better **YELLOW** similar **RED** significantly worse than England average

	England	LCR	Halton	Knowsley	Liverpool	Sefton	St. Helens	Wirral
Lone parent families: % of households, 2011	7.1	9.5	10.1	11.9	10.2	7.8	8.5	9.1
Free school meals: % uptake, all pupils school age, 2018	13.5	20.6	26.0	29.0	24.0	15.2	15.8	16.9

Source: Public Health England. Public Health Profiles. 2020 <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2020
Accessed December 2020

² [Fingertips Child Health Profile for Liverpool](#)

Children and young people requiring safeguarding

The proportion of children in care is higher than the England average in all LCR local authorities, as shown in Table 5. The rate in Liverpool is the highest of all areas, with 148 looked after children per 10,000 population (LCR n=3,880). Rates of children leaving care are higher than the national average in LCR (n=1,004). In addition, the indicator for children who ‘started to be looked after due to family stress or dysfunction or absent parenting’, shows that rates are higher than the national average in Knowsley and Sefton (LCR n=392). There were 58 unaccompanied asylum seeking children looked after in LCR in 2018.

There is a higher proportion of children in the youth justice system than the national average in Knowsley and Liverpool. The proportion is similar to the national average in Sefton and St. Helens, and lower in Halton and Wirral. Rates are highest in Liverpool (7.6 per 1,000) and lowest in Wirral (2.9 per 1,000) (Table 5) (LCR n=1,112).

Table 5. Children in care, asylum seekers and in the youth justice system in LCR

GREEN significantly better **YELLOW** similar **RED** significantly worse than England average

	England	LCR	Halton	Knowsley	Liverpool	Sefton	St. Helens	Wirral
Children in care: rate per 10,000 children aged under 18, 2020	67	NA	97	91	148	105	135	120
Children leaving care: rate per 10,000 children aged under 18, 2017/18	25.2	32.1	28.9	26.4	38.8	30.5	26.7	31.2
Children who started to be looked after due to family stress or absent parenting: rate per 10,000 children aged under 18, 2017	9.3	12.6	10.6 [#]	15.6	11.2	19.3	11.8 [#]	9.2 [#]
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children looked after: count, 2018	4,480	58	*	0	49	*	*	9
Children in the youth justice system, rates per 1,000 aged 10-18, 2018	4.5	4.6	3.8 [*]	6.2	7.6	4.2	4.5	2.9

Source: Public Health England. Public Health Profiles. 2020 <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2020
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*Value suppressed due to small count; #Value excludes contribution from areas with suppressed values

School aged outcomes

Levels of school readiness, as measured at the end of reception year, are worse in all LCR local authorities than the national average, as shown in Table 6. Rates are lowest in Liverpool, where 64.9% of children achieved the expected level. Educational attainment was worse than the national average in Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton and St. Helens, although it was similar to the national average in Wirral.

The proportion of pupils with special educational needs (SEN) at both primary school and secondary school age is higher than the national average in four of the six local authority areas, but lower in Sefton and similar in Wirral (LCR n=37,545).

Table 6. School aged outcomes in LCR compared to England

GREEN significantly better **YELLOW** similar **RED** significantly worse than England average

	England	LCR	Halton	Knowsley	Liverpool	Sefton	St. Helens	Wirral
School readiness age 5, 2018/19	71.8	67.5	66.1	67.8	64.9	68.8	70.2	69.3
Average Educational Attainment 8 score, aged 15-16, 2019/20	50.2	44.2	47.8	43.6	46.7	48.7	47.6	50.6
Pupils with SEN, % school age, 2018	14.4	16.6	16.5	18.8	18.3	12.1	17.0	16.6
Pupils with SEN, % primary school age, 2018	13.8	15.7	16.3	16.6	17.8	12.1	16.2	14.7
Pupils with SEN, % secondary school age, 2018	12.3	13.7	13.4	17.3	14.8	8.6	14.8	14.6

Source: Public Health England. Public Health Profiles. 2020 <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2020
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4. Older people

Older people have been particularly vulnerable during the COVID-19 pandemic (PHE 2020). Further information on the health of older people can be found in the [Liverpool City Region profiles for older people](#).

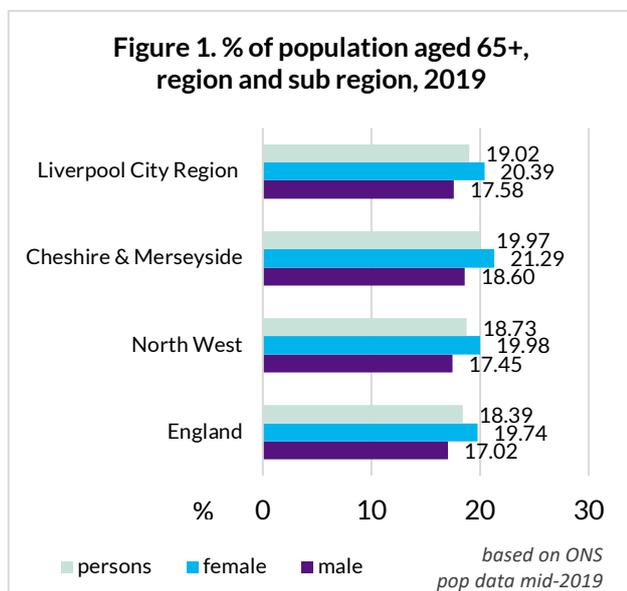


Figure 1 shows that LCR has slightly higher proportions of older people (both males and females) than the North West and England averages, except in males aged 85+.

Within LCR, there are large differences between local authorities in the proportion of older people aged 65+, ranging from 23.6% in Sefton (the highest in Cheshire and Merseyside and higher than the national average of 18.4%), to 14.7% in Liverpool (ONS population data mid-2019).

As with the national older population, the LCR 65+ population is predicted to increase as a proportion of the total population, with the largest increases expected in the 75-79 age groups.

Older people living in care homes or adapted housing

Table 7 shows permanent admissions to residential and nursing care homes in each LCR local authority for people aged 65+. Rates per 100,000 are higher than the England average (580 per 100,000) in all local authorities, apart from Wirral, where they were similar to the England average. Rates are highest in Sefton (800 per 100,000) and lowest in Wirral (609 per 100,000) (LCR n=2,059).

Table 7. Older people living in care homes in LCR compared to England

GREEN significantly better **YELLOW** similar **RED** significantly worse than England average

	England	LCR	Halton	Knowsley	Liverpool	Sefton	St. Helens	Wirral
Permanent admissions to residential and nursing care homes per 100,000 aged 65+, 2018/19	580	705	731	678	727	800	682	609

Source: Public Health England. Public Health Profiles. 2020 <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2020
Accessed December 2020

5. Long term health conditions

People with long term health conditions are at an increased risk of severe COVID-19 disease. Vaccine priority groups have been outlined by the government and include those with a range of underlying health condition, as follows (DHSC 2020):

- Chronic respiratory disease, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), cystic fibrosis and severe asthma
- Chronic heart disease (and vascular disease)
- Chronic kidney disease
- *Chronic liver disease
- *Chronic neurological disease including epilepsy
- *Down's syndrome
- *Severe and profound learning disability
- Diabetes
- *Solid organ, bone marrow and stem cell transplant recipients
- *People with specific cancers
- *Immunosuppression due to disease or treatment
- *Asplenia and splenic dysfunction
- Morbid obesity
- Severe mental illness

This profile presents prevalence data for some of these groups where data were readily available and had been recently updated. The groups marked with a star* have not been included. Under respiratory illnesses, COPD and asthma have been included, but not cystic fibrosis. People with learning disabilities have been included under Section 6.

Coronary heart disease

Coronary heart disease (CHD) is the single most common cause of premature death in the UK.. Quality Outcomes Framework (QOF) prevalence data is the percentage of patients with a health condition, as recorded on practice disease registers. The CHD QOF prevalence in LCR as a whole (3.8%, n=64,021) is significantly higher than the national average of 3.1% (Table 8 and also Additional Table 17 for estimated numbers in each local authority/).

Diabetes mellitus

Diabetes mellitus is a common disease that affects all age groups. There are an estimated 100,209 people in LCR with diabetes (Table 8 and also Additional Table 17 for estimated numbers of each local authority). Diabetes prevalence increased both nationally and across LCR between 2009/10 and 2019/20. For example in Halton, which has the highest levels in Cheshire and Merseyside, prevalence increased from 6.7% to 8.4%.

Obesity

The vaccine priority groups include people who are classed as 'morbidly' obese, defined as people with a BMI of 40kg/m² or higher (NHS Digital, 2020). Obesity continues to be a major national health issue, with 28% of adults classified as obese and 3% morbidly obese in the latest Health Survey for England (NHS Digital, 2019).

The only data available locally is from QOF, which gives lower levels of obesity. QOF levels of obesity amongst adults are significantly higher than the national average in LCR, at 12.8% compared to 10.5% (Table 8). A more realistic assessment of obesity levels may be gained by using the Health Survey for England 2018 estimate of 28% and applying this to the general practice adult population. This gives a higher number, with a crude estimate of 376,823 obese adults in LCR, and 40,374 morbidly obese adults (Additional Table 17).

Chronic kidney disease

There are around 70,000 people with chronic kidney disease (CKD) in LCR, significantly higher than the England average (Table 8 and also Additional Table 17).

Respiratory illness

Around four out of 100 people with asthma have severe asthma, (Asthma UK online). The QOF prevalence for asthma in LCR of 7.04% is significantly higher than the national average of 6.48% (Table 8). It can be crudely estimated that around 4,706 people in LCR have severe asthma (Additional Table 17).

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a serious lung disease for which smoking is the biggest preventable risk factor. There are 49,219 people in LCR with COPD, according to general practice registers. Levels in LCR (2.9%) are significantly above the national average of 1.9% (Table 15 and also Additional Table 17).

Table 8. Health data for LCR compared to England

GREEN significantly better **YELLOW** similar **RED** significantly worse than England average

Quintiles: Best  Worst

	England	LCR	Halton	Knowsley	Liverpool	Sefton	St. Helens	Wirral
CHD QOF prevalence (% all ages), 2019/20	3.1	3.8	4.2	4.2	3.2	4.2	4.4	3.9
Diabetes, % aged 17+, 2019/20 (QOF prevalence)	7.1	7.4	8.4	8.1	6.6	7.4	8.0	7.4
Overweight or obese, % aged 18+, 2018/19	62.3	67.4	70.6	73.7	66.9	66.4	69.2	66.0
*Obesity, % aged 18+, 2019/20 (QOF prevalence)	10.5	12.8	14.4	15.2	12.5	11.8 [#] 10.5 [#]	11.9	12.0
CKD, % aged 18+, 2019/20 (QOF prevalence)	4.0	5.3*	3.9	5.1	5.6	6.7 [#] 5.4 [#]	4.2	5.1
Asthma: QOF prevalence, % all ages, 2019/20	6.48	7.04	7.60	6.46	6.20	7.20	8.26	7.61
COPD: QOF prevalence (% all ages), 2019/20	1.9	2.9	2.9	3.6	3.1	3.0 [#] 2.1 [#]	3.0	2.6

Source (except *): Public Health England. Public Health Profiles. 2020 <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2020
 Accessed November 2020

*Source for this indicator is NHS Digital; # Data for Sefton: South Sefton and Southport & Formby CCGs
 See Additional Data Table 17 for numbers by local area

6. Mental health

The COVID-19 pandemic is predicted to have wide ranging impacts on both mental and physical health (PHE 2020). For those with more serious mental health conditions, PHE has noted that their situation may be worsened by not being able to access treatment as well as other stressors.

In LCR, more than 3% of schoolchildren have social, emotional and mental health needs, significantly higher than the national average (Table 9). It is estimated that almost one in five (19.4%) of the LCR population aged 16+ has a common mental disorder (Table 9), also significantly higher than the national average (16.9%). In Liverpool and Knowsley, estimated levels of common mental disorders are the second and third highest in the North West, respectively. Just over 18% of adults in LCR have depression or anxiety. Knowsley, Liverpool and Halton have the highest levels in the North West (Table 9).

Table 9 also shows the percentage of patients of all ages with severe mental health problems (schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorder and other psychoses), as recorded on practice disease registers (QOF prevalence). In LCR as a whole, levels are significantly high, with a prevalence of 1.2%, but significantly low in Halton (See Additional Table 18 for estimated numbers with mental health conditions by local authority).

Table 9. Mental health: data for LCR compared to England

GREEN significantly better **YELLOW** similar **RED** significantly worse than England average

	England	LCR	Halton	Knowsley	Liverpool	Sefton	St. Helens	Wirral
% of school pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs, 2020	2.70	3.45	3.57	3.16	3.52	2.43	3.15	4.40
Estimated prevalence of common mental disorders: % of population aged 16+, 2017	16.92	19.35	19.34	20.96	21.74	17.05	18.42	17.43
Depression and anxiety: % of respondents aged 18+ 2016/17	13.74	18.07	19.17	21.45	19.21	16.74	15.71	16.83
*(Severe) Mental Health problems: QOF prevalence (% all ages) 2019/20	0.93	1.18	0.88	1.07	1.35	1.25	1.02	1.10

Source (except**): Public Health England. Public Health Profiles. 2020 <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2020, Accessed November 2020

**source for this indicator is NHS Digital; See Additional Data Table 18 for numbers by local area

7. Key protected characteristics

In this section, statistics are presented on key protected characteristics. Under protected characteristics legislation, it is against the law to discriminate against anyone because of various factors including disability, race and sexual orientation (Gov.uk online b). People with protected characteristics are traditionally disadvantaged and amongst the group to be disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic (PHE, 2020).

Disability

There is no local data available on disability in general. Data on disability-free life expectancy reflects the prevalence of those living without a disability and mortality among those living in an area (PHE online). Disability free life expectancy in LCR as a whole is significantly lower than the national average, for males and females (Table 10). In Wirral, levels are similar to the national average.

Sensory impairment

Amongst those with a disability, those with a sensory impairment are thought to be particularly vulnerable during the COVID-19 pandemic (PHE 2020). GP survey data from 2020 showed that the percentage of people reporting deafness or hearing loss is significantly higher in LCR than the national average (7.4% compared to 6.2%, Table 10). The prevalence in Liverpool, Sefton and St. Helens is similar to the national average. Across LCR as a whole, proportions of people reporting blindness or partial sight are similar to the national average, at 1.66%. A total of 115,754 people aged 16+ were estimated to have a sensory impairment in LCR in 2020 (94,614 with deafness or hearing loss and 21,140 with blindness or partial sight) (Table 10, and numbers for each local authority in Additional Table 19).

Table 9. Disability in LCR compared to England

GREEN significantly better **YELLOW** similar **RED** significantly worse than England average

	England	LCR	Halton	Knowsley	Liverpool	Sefton	St. Helens	Wirral
Disability-free life expectancy at birth, all ages, 2016-18, males	62.94	59.85	59.08	59.53	58.35	60.54	58.95	62.56
Disability-free life expectancy at birth, all ages, 2016-18, females	61.88	57.98	57.22	56.24	55.48	59.34	56.36	60.96
% reporting deafness or hearing loss, aged 16+, 2020	6.15	7.43	8.71	8.79	6.27	7.78	7.51	7.75
% reporting blindness or partial sight, aged 16+, 2020	1.52	1.66	1.65	1.98	1.37	1.70	1.96	1.75

Source: Public Health England. Public Health Profiles. 2021 <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2020

Accessed February 2021

See Additional Data Table 19 for numbers by local area

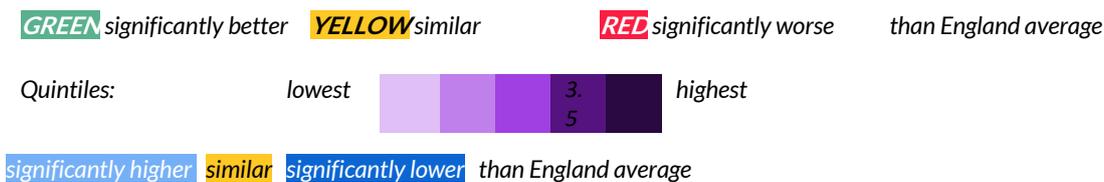
Learning disability

People with a learning disability are particularly vulnerable to the effects of COVID-19, as they may experience changes to their care and support and may lack the capacity to understand and safeguard themselves during the virus outbreak (PHE 2020). Those with a severe learning disability are included in the government’s list of priority groups to receive the COVID vaccine (DHSC 2020).

According to Mencap, around 1.2 million people in England have a learning disability (2.16% of adults: Mencap online), of whom at least an estimated 23.3% will have a severe learning disability (NHS Health A-Z, online). Levels of learning disability in LCR (based on QOF prevalence) are significantly higher than the national average (Table 11 n=9,403). The QOF figure is likely to be an underestimate, compared to Mencap’s estimate of 2.16% of all adults, which would give a figure of 26,833 people aged 18 plus in LCR with learning disability. It could then be estimated that at least 6,252 aged 18 years and older in LCR would have a severe learning disability (based on the NHS Health A-Z estimate).

The proportion of people with learning disabilities who are getting long-term support from local authorities is significantly higher than in the national average in each of the LCR local authorities (LCR n=5,905). Although not an indicator of intensity, the measure reflects the need for ongoing support.

Table 10. People with learning disabilities in LCR compared to England

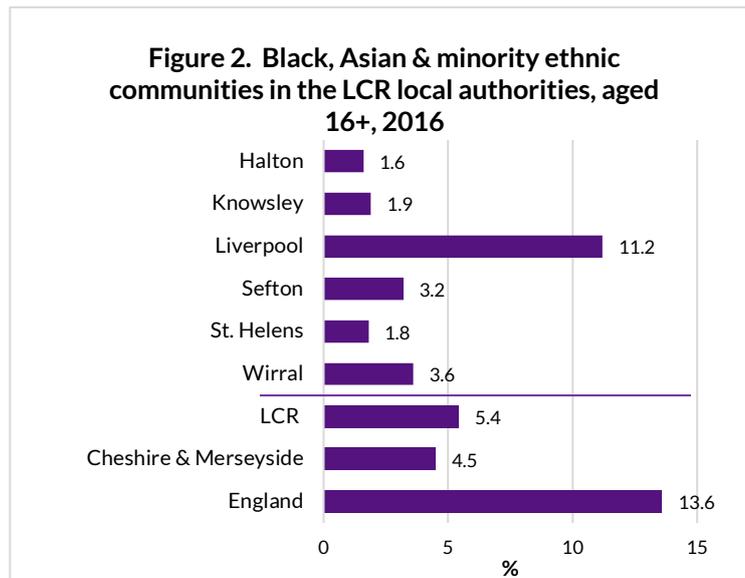


	England	LCR	Halton	Knowsley	Liverpool	Sefton	St. Helens	Wirral
*Learning disability (QOF prevalence), % all ages, 2019/20	0.51	0.56	0.56	0.69	0.49	0.48	0.51	0.71
Adults with learning disability getting long-term support from local authorities, per 1,000 population aged 18+, 2019/20	3.46	4.75	5.86	6.32	4.18	4.50	4.91	4.64

Source (except*): Public Health England. Public Health Profiles. 2020 <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2020, Accessed November 2020
 *Source: NHS Digital

Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities

The most recent data available on ethnicity is from the 2016 Annual Population Survey, which provides the percentage of the population aged 16+ who are from black, Asian and ethnic minority (BAME) groups by local authority. This percentage was lower in all LCR local authorities than the national average (13.6%), as shown in Figure 2. The highest proportion of people from BAME groups reside in Liverpool (11.2%), and the lowest proportion reside in Halton (1.7%). There are an estimated 67,000 people from BAME groups in LCR, 44,000 of whom live in Liverpool.



People who self identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB)

There have been two recent reviews (Semlyen et al, 2016; Meads et al, 2012) evaluating health inequalities among sexual orientation groups, which concluded that levels of mental health and wellbeing are likely to be lower in people who self identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual. Statistics that show the number of people who are LGBTQ in LCR are limited. PHE carried out a synthesis of available evidence focused on the LGB population (Van Kampen et al, 2017) and further work is needed to include transgender and intersex people.

Table 12 shows the number of people who are estimated to self-identify as LGB in each LCR local authority (a total of 38,936 in LCR as a whole). In the North West of England, 2.51% of the population are estimated to self identify as LGB, compared to 2.50% for England as a whole. PHE estimate that 3.10% of males and 1.92% of females self-identify as LGB.

Table 11. Estimated numbers of people who self identify as LGB in LCR local authorities

	Males	Females
Halton	1,956	1,273
Knowsley	2,223	1,520
Liverpool	7,710	4,787
Sefton	4,126	2,752
St. Helens	2,759	1,758
Wirral	4,865	3,208
LCR	23,638	15,298

Source PHE (Van Kampen et al, 2017). Based on ONS 2019 population estimates for males and females.

8. Inclusion health and vulnerable groups

Inclusion health refers to the specific health needs of groups who are traditionally excluded and particularly vulnerable to the effects of the pandemic (PHE 2020). Data on inclusion health presented in this profile includes unpaid carers, domestic violence victims, asylum seekers and members of the travelling community. Local data on gambling prevalence, on people who are sex workers and people released from prison was not available.

Offenders/People who are in prison

There are 79,235 prisoners in England and Wales as of 30 September 2020³. The total prison population was 5% lower than at the same point in the previous year. There are two male prisons within LCR, HMP Liverpool and HMP Altcourse, and no female prisons. Female prisoners from within the region are usually sent to HMP Styal. At time of writing no data was available for inclusion in the report on prison numbers in LCR.

Table 13 shows that rates of first time offending were highest in Liverpool (348 per 100,000), and lowest in Wirral (258 per 100,000). All LCR local authorities have rates that were higher than the England average (211 per 100,000) (LCR n=4,052). The percentage of offenders who go on to re-offend is highest in Liverpool (32.8%) and lowest in Knowsley (25.0%) (LCR n=4,973).

Table 12. First time offenders and re-offenders in LCR compared to England

Rank out of all local authorities, quintiles:



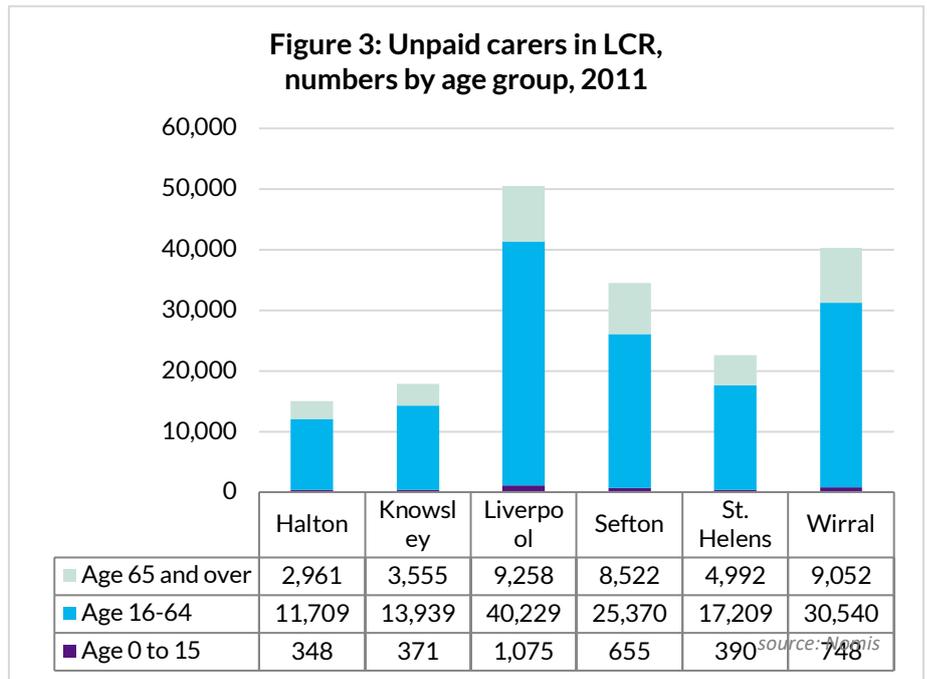
	England	LCR	Halton	Knowsley	Liverpool	Sefton	St. Helens	Wirral
First time offenders: rates per 100,000, 2018	211	297	321	276	348	295	233	258
Re-offending levels: % of offenders who re-offend, 2017/18	29.1	31.0	29.0	25.0	32.8	30.3	30.9	31.7

Source: Public Health England. Public Health Profiles. 2020 <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2020
Accessed November 2020

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/offender-management-statistics-quarterly-april-to-june-2020/offender-management-statistics-quarterly-april-to-june-2020>

People who are unpaid carers

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed a greater burden on unpaid carers (PHE 2020). There is no recent data on numbers of unpaid carers. Data from the 2011 Census has been included here, to give an idea of the numbers of carers that might be affected. Across LCR there were a total of 180,923 unpaid carers of all ages in 2011. Numbers by age group are shown in Figure 3.



People who are substance and alcohol users

Table 14 shows the proportions of the population who are in treatment at drug and alcohol misuse services. Levels are significantly high for both services across LCR, especially in Liverpool and Wirral for drug misuse, at more than twice the national average, and in Wirral for alcohol misuse (LCR drug misuse services n=10,228; LCR alcohol misuse services n=3,497).

Table 13. Adults in treatment at specialist drug and alcohol misuse services in LCR compared to England

GREEN significantly better/lower **YELLOW** similar **RED** significantly worse/higher than England average

	England	LCR	Halton	Knowsley	Liverpool	Sefton	St. Helens	Wirral
Adults in treatment at specialist drug misuse services: rate per 1000 population 18+, 2017/18	4.40	8.30	5.31	7.41	9.58	7.60	6.78	9.35
Adults in treatment at specialist alcohol misuse services: rate per 1000 population aged 18+, 2017/18	1.73	2.84	2.96	2.61	2.38	2.80	2.87	3.62

Source: Public Health England. Public Health Profiles. 2020 <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2020, Accessed December 2020

See Additional Data Table 20 for numbers by local area

People who are asylum seekers or refugees

Table 15 shows that the rate of supported asylum seekers is highest in Liverpool (33.8 per 10,000 population), where it was significantly higher than the England average (6.3 per 10,000). Rates in Knowsley and in St. Helens are similar to the national average. Rates in Sefton and St. Helens are lower than the national average (LCR n=2,106).

A Doctors of the World publication estimates that there are 5,123 recently settled refugees in the UK in 2019 (excluding the vulnerable children resettlement scheme: Sturge and Wilkins 2020). The publication also estimates that there are 15,091 newly recognised refugees in the UK in 2019 (this includes grants of asylum, grants of humanitarian protection and grants of an alternative form of leave; ONS, 2020).

Table 14. Supported asylum seekers in LCR compared to England

GREEN significantly better **YELLOW** similar **RED** significantly worse than England average

	England	LCR	Halton	Knowsley	Liverpool	Sefton	St. Helens	Wirral
Supported asylum seekers, rate per 10,000 population, 2018 Q2	6.3	14.9	*	6.5	33.8	4.4	6.1	3.7

Source: Public Health England. Public Health Profiles. 2020 <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2020, Accessed December 2020
*Suppressed due to small count

Gypsy/traveller communities

Some gypsy/traveller communities are thought to be particularly vulnerable and have the potential to be disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. An estimate of the size of gypsy/traveller communities is available from the ONS count of traveller caravans. In England in January 2020 there were 22,710 gypsy/travellers caravans.

Table 16 presents local data on people who are gypsy/travellers. In LCR in January 2020 there were 222 gypsy/traveller caravans, the majority of which were rented rather than privately owned. Of these 222 caravans, 25 were on sites that were 'unauthorised' (9 in Sefton and 16 in St. Helens). The number of traveller caravans is highest in Halton and lowest in Knowsley and Wirral, where there were no caravans as of January 2020.

Table 16. Gypsy/traveller communities in LCR compared to England

	England	LCR	Halton	Knowsley	Liverpool	Sefton	St. Helens	Wirral
Count of traveller caravans, including socially rented and private caravans, Jan 2020	22,710	222	82	0	24	48	68	0

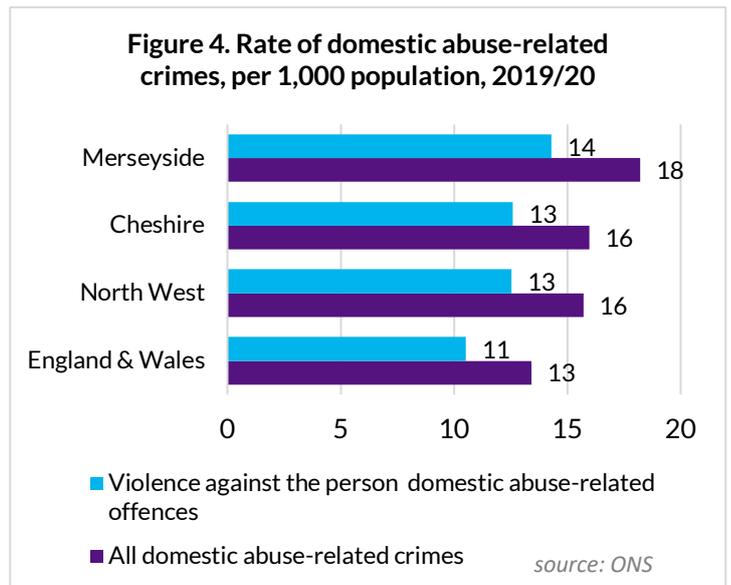
Source: Count of Traveller caravans from ONS, 2020 statistics. Local authority boundaries as of Jan 2020

People who are experiencing domestic abuse

There has been an increase in cases of domestic abuse during the COVID pandemic (PHE 2020). ONS publishes data on domestic abuse-related crimes recorded in each police force area. Merseyside police force records higher rates of domestic abuse related crime compared to the average for England and Wales, and also for the North West and Cheshire (Figure 4)

The number of domestic abuse related crimes has increased locally and nationally over the last five years. In Merseyside, numbers have risen from 11,766 in 2015/16 to 26,037 in 2019/20.

Note: Merseyside police force data does not cover Halton. For data including Halton, see the report 'Vulnerable individuals and groups profile, Cheshire and Warrington'.



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Additional data tables

Table 15. Numbers with long term health conditions in LCR

	LCR	Halton	Knowsley	Liverpool	Sefton	St. Helens	Wirral
CHD QOF prevalence data 2019/20 (all ages)	64,021	5,555	6,753	18,134	11,719	8,638	13,222
Diabetes: QOF prevalence data (17+), 2019/20	100,209	8,924	10,791	29,993	17,125	12,984	20,392
#Obesity: QOF prevalence data (18+), 2019/20	171,701	15,121	20,039	56,151	25,801	19,854	34,735
Obesity crude estimate ages 20+ (28%, Health Survey for England 2018) ^{##}	337,370	27,420	31,866	108,016	60,777	39,252	70,039
Morbid obesity crude estimate ages 20+ (3%, Health Survey for England 2018) ^{##}	36,147	2,938	3,414	11,573	6,512	4,206	7,504
CKD: QOF prevalence data (18+) 2019/20	70,388	4,058	6,705	25,167	13,998	6,718	13,742
Asthma QOF prevalence data, 2019-20 all ages	117,652	10,142	10,844	34,174	20,342	16,404	25,746
Estimated number with severe asthma ^{###}	4,706	406	434	1,367	814	656	1,030
COPD QOF prevalence data, 2019-20 all ages	49,219	3,856	6,037	17,177	7,280	6,048	8,821

Sources: Public Health England. Public Health Profiles. 2020 <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2020, accessed November 2020

[#]QOF data gives lower estimates of obesity than the Health Survey for England

^{##}applied to ONS mid-2019 population estimates aged 20+

^{###}[Severe asthma estimate](#) of 4% (Asthma UK online) applied to general practice asthma register data.

Table 16. Numbers with mental health needs in LCR

	LCR	Halton	Knowsley	Liverpool	Sefton	St. Helens	Wirral
School pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs, 2020	7,942	683	652	2,597	843	960	2,207
Common mental disorders, aged 16+, 2017	244,787	19,755	24,958	88,596	38,718	27,000	45,760
(Severe) Mental Health: QOF prevalence data (all ages) 2019-20	19,690	1,169	1,797	7,451	3,540	2,027	3,706

Sources: Public Health England. Public Health Profiles. 2020 <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2020
Accessed November 2020 & NHS Digital

Table 19. Estimated numbers with sensory impairment in LCR

	LCR	Halton	Knowsley	Liverpool	Sefton	St. Helens	Wirral
Number with deafness or hearing loss, age 16+, 2020	94,614	9,011	10,584	25,757	17,748	11,065	20,422
Numbers reporting blindness or partial sight, aged 16+, 2020	21140	1707	2388	5622	3882	2890	4626
Total with sensory impairment aged 16+, 2020	115754	10718	12971	31379	21630	13956	25049

Estimates based on applying GP survey percentages to ONS mid-2019 population data aged 16+. GP survey source: Public Health England. Public Health Profiles. 2021 <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2020 Accessed February 2021

Table 17. Numbers in contact with drug and alcohol misuse services in LCR

	LCR	Halton	Knowsley	Liverpool	Sefton	St. Helens	Wirral
Adults in treatment at specialist drug misuse services: rate per 1000 population 18+, 2017/18	10,228	527	857	3,811	1,680	968	2,385
Adults in treatment at specialist alcohol misuse services: rate per 1000 population 18+, 2017/18	3,497	294	302	948	619	410	924

Source: Public Health England. Public Health Profiles. 2020 <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk> © Crown copyright 2020, accessed December 2020