



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
& PETERBOROUGH**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

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# Health & Wellbeing

## State of the Region 2025





## State of the Region Overview

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough State of the Region 2025 provides a comprehensive, evidence-based assessment of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's current economic, social, and environmental landscape. By analysing the most up-to-date data and insights from across the region, this report serves as a resource and evidence base for stakeholders, policymakers, and community leaders to understand the area's opportunities, priorities, and pathways for growth and prosperity.

The comprehensive analysis was structured with more than 140 distinct indicators across eight key themes. The resulting holistic approach reflects stakeholders' commitment to capturing a detailed and nuanced picture of the C&P region's current status and future prospects. The themes and data were selected and refined, through a process of continuous engagement with core stakeholders, ensuring they resonate with local priorities that leveraged relevant data sources.

An interactive publicly accessible data portal containing all the raw data, with interactive charts and maps can be opened from this website link [State of The Region Data Portal](#).

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## Health & Wellbeing

This chapter explores health and wellbeing through the sub-themes of health outcomes, health indicators, personal wellbeing, poverty and cost of living and crime. It highlights geographic disparities, such as differences in mortality rates and health indicators across the region. Yet, positive trends are also observed, such as declining levels of smoking prevalence.

Life expectancy estimates in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (C&P) region were above England's, with males expected to live 80.0 years and females 83.7 years<sup>1</sup>. Furthermore, C&P had the highest life expectancy for males and the second highest for females among the combined authority peer areas (South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire and West of England). However, disparities existed within the C&P region since in every year, either Fenland or Peterborough had the lowest life expectancy for females, both averaging around 82.2 years of life expectancy for the entire period of 2011 to 2023 (inclusive).

Healthy life expectancy in C&P also exceeded national averages<sup>2</sup>, but a 20-year gap in healthy life expectancy existed between the highest and lowest areas in the region. In 2023-24, estimates of inactivity levels were highest in Fenland and Peterborough, at 31.6% and 24.3% respectively<sup>3</sup>. Cambridge had the lowest levels of inactivity at 10.8%. These inter-regional contrasts were also observed in physical activity rates, with Cambridge leading at 77.3% and Fenland trailing at 51.8%<sup>4</sup>.

The rate of avoidable deaths was higher in Peterborough and Fenland compared to the other C&P local authority areas. Both areas exceeded the national average of 246 per 100,000 population in 2021-23, at 290 and 289 per 100,000, respectively<sup>5</sup>. Smoking is a leading cause of avoidable mortality. Across the C&P region in 2023, smoking prevalence estimates<sup>6</sup> ranged from 5.8% in South Cambridgeshire to 24.0% in Fenland. The rate for England was 11.6%. For females, smoking prevalence estimates ranged from 5.0% in South Cambridgeshire to 22.6% in Fenland. For males, the smoking prevalence estimates ranged from 3.4% in East Cambridgeshire to 25.5% in Fenland.

In 2024, the C&P total crime rate per 1,000 population fell to 73.8 from 78.3 the previous year and remained below the rate in England of 86.8 per 1,000 population<sup>7</sup>. Violence against persons and theft offences accounted for most crimes. The positive outcome rate for violence and sexual offences in 2024 was 12.9% in C&P, unchanged from the previous year of 2023<sup>8</sup>. Life satisfaction scores locally were generally strong, ranging between 7.0 and 8.0 out of 10, indicating that there are high levels of satisfaction in the C&P region<sup>9</sup>. Furthermore, estimates of the region's overall wellbeing scores were high between 2014 and 2023<sup>10</sup>. In 2024, the percentage of children living in poverty across C&P ranged between 7.9% in South Cambridgeshire and 28.2% in Peterborough, compared to the UK's rate of 18.7%<sup>11</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> ONS, 2024. Life expectancy for local areas of Great Britain. [\[Link to source\]](#)

<sup>2</sup> ONS, 2024. Healthy Life Expectancy. [\[Link to source\]](#)

<sup>3</sup> OHID, 2025. Public Health Profiles: Inactivity Levels. [\[Link to source\]](#)

<sup>4</sup> Sport England, 2025. Active Lives data tables. [\[Link to source\]](#)

<sup>5</sup> ONS, 2025. Avoidable Mortality Rate. [\[Link to source\]](#)

<sup>6</sup> OHID, 2025. Smoking Prevalence in adults. [\[Link to source\]](#)

<sup>7</sup> ONS, 2025. Crime in England and Wales: Police Force Area data tables. [\[Link to source\]](#)

<sup>8</sup> Cambridgeshire Constabulary, 2025 - Strategic Analysis Team. [Private communication]

<sup>9</sup> ONS, 2023. Annual personal well-being estimates. [\[Link to source\]](#)

<sup>10</sup> ONS, 2023. Annual personal well-being estimates. [\[Link to source\]](#)

<sup>11</sup> Department for Work & Pensions, 2025. Children in low-income families: local area statistics. [\[Link to source\]](#)



## Summary of key findings

Metric	Section	Findings
<b>Life Expectancy at Birth</b>	1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Across the C&amp;P region, the average life expectancy estimates in 2023 for males was 80.0 years and for females was 83.7 years, compared to the England-wide life expectancy of 79.3 years for males and 83.2 years for females.</li> <li>Life expectancy at birth was low in Fenland and Peterborough compared to the other C&amp;P local authority areas and England.</li> </ul>
<b>Avoidable Mortality Rate</b>	1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The rate of avoidable deaths was higher in Peterborough and Fenland compared to the other C&amp;P local authority areas. Both areas exceeded the national average (246 per 100,000 population) in 2021-23, at 290 and 289 per 100,000, respectively.</li> </ul>
<b>Healthy Life Expectancy</b>	1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2021-23, the healthy life expectancy estimates for males and females reached 62.6 and 62.4 in Cambridgeshire and 55.6 and 55.2 in Peterborough, respectively, compared to England's 61.5 for males and 61.9 for females.</li> <li>Since 2011-13, average healthy life expectancy declined for both sexes in C&amp;P and England. In England, it fell by 1.5 years for males and 2.1 for females, while Peterborough saw sharper drops of 4.1 and 5.2 years, respectively. Cambridgeshire's reductions were similar to Peterborough's: 3.4 years for males and 4.4 for females.</li> </ul>
<b>Air Pollution Mortality</b>	1.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall, the rate of air pollution mortality in C&amp;P was broadly in line with the rate in England (5.4% compared to 5.2%), in 2023.</li> </ul>
<b>Cancer Diagnosis at Stage 1 &amp; 2</b>	1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2021, the average percentage of cancer diagnoses at Stage 1 and 2 across the C&amp;P region was 56%, comparable to the rate for England, which was 54.4%.</li> </ul>
<b>Smoking Prevalence</b>	2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Across the C&amp;P region in 2023, smoking prevalence estimates ranged from 5.8% in South Cambridgeshire to 24.0% in Fenland. The rate for England was 11.6%.</li> </ul>
<b>Obesity Amongst Adults</b>	2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall, in the latest data, 26.0% of adults in C&amp;P were classified as obese, compared to the average for England of 26.5%.</li> <li>In 2023-24, obesity amongst adults was highest in Fenland at 34.9% followed by Peterborough with a rate of 32.2%.</li> </ul>
<b>Inactivity Levels</b>	2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2023-24, inactivity levels were highest in Fenland and Peterborough (at 31.6% and 24.3% respectively).</li> </ul>
<b>Percentage of Residents Physically Active</b>	2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2023-24, the percentage of residents regularly participating in physical activity was highest in Cambridge with 77.3% of residents. This compared to England's rate of 63.7%.</li> <li>Fenland had the lowest percentage of residents regularly participating in physical activity at 51.8%.</li> </ul>
<b>Life Satisfaction</b>	3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During the ten-year period (2014 to 2023), the life satisfaction estimates across the C&amp;P region were generally within the range of approximately 7.0 and 8.0 (out of ten); classified as high levels of life satisfaction.</li> </ul>
<b>Anxiety</b>	3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Across the C&amp;P region, estimated levels of anxiety ranged from 2.0 to 3.5 (low) during the period 2014 to 2023. This compared to score of 3.0 for England.</li> </ul>





<b>Wellbeing</b>	3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The wellbeing estimates across the region during the period 2014 to 2023 generally ranged between 7.5 and 8.2, demonstrating scores which, overall, were classed as high.</li> </ul>
<b>Feeling Lonely</b>	3.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall, within the C&amp;P region, the percentage of people feeling lonely was estimated to be 7.1%, compared to 6.8% within England.</li> </ul>
<b>Deprivation</b>	4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>About 75% of the population in the C&amp;P region resided in LSOAs ranked in the 5th-10th deciles of the IMD, indicating these areas experienced lower levels of deprivation.</li> </ul>
<b>Child Poverty</b>	4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2024, the percentage of children living in poverty across C&amp;P ranged between 7.9% in South Cambridgeshire and 28.2% in Peterborough, compared to the UK's rate of 18.7%.</li> </ul>
<b>Crime Rate by Offence</b>	5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2024, the C&amp;P total crime rate per 1,000 population fell to 73.8 from 78.3 the previous year and remained below the rate in England of 86.8 per 1,000 population.</li> </ul>
<b>Knife Crime</b>	5.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2023-24, the percentage of knife crime of all selected offences was 5.9% in C&amp;P compared to 6.6% in England.</li> <li>C&amp;P's rate was unchanged from 2022-23 but lower than the 8.3% rate two years earlier (in 2021-22).</li> </ul>
<b>Re-offending Rates</b>	5.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2022-23, the reoffending rate in C&amp;P was 26.8%, slightly higher than in England, which was 26.2% and reached its highest level since 2018-19.</li> </ul>
<b>Positive Outcomes for Violence &amp; Sexual Offences</b>	5.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The rate of positive outcomes for violence and sexual offences in C&amp;P remained at 12.9% in 2024, unchanged from the previous year of 2023.</li> <li>The highest percentage of violent and sexual crime investigations resulting in a positive outcome was in Huntingdonshire, at 14.5%, whereas Fenland had the lowest percentage of positive outcomes for these crimes at 11.4%.</li> </ul>
<b>Neighbourhood Crime</b>	5.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The neighbourhood crime rate in C&amp;P per 1,000 population fell slightly to 8.2 crimes from 9.5 crimes the previous year of 2023.</li> <li>C&amp;P's rate of 8.2 crimes in 2024 was below England's rate of 12.7 crimes.</li> </ul>
<b>Noise Complaints</b>	5.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2023-24, all C&amp;P's local authority areas experienced a reduction in the number of noise complaints per 1,000 population from the previous period of 2020-21.</li> <li>Moreover, all C&amp;P's local authority areas had a noise complaint rate below England's 5.9 per 1,000 population, in 2023-24.</li> </ul>
<b>Size of the Voluntary and Community Sector</b>	6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2024, C&amp;P had a VCS rate of 4.5% compared to England's rate of 3.8%.</li> <li>In every year between 2014 and 2024, Cambridge had the highest proportion of VCS organisations locally, with a rate of around 10%.</li> </ul>

# 1 Health Outcomes

## 1.1 Life Expectancy at Birth

*Life Expectancy at Birth* reports the average number of years a newborn infant is expected to live at the time of birth. The data, provided by the ONS, was calculated using the prevailing mortality rates at the time of birth<sup>12</sup>. It did not account for any projected changes in mortality in future years. Examining this indicator is important to provide an overall indication of the health outcomes expected within the local population.

### Combined Authority Comparison

Across the C&P region, the average life expectancy estimates in 2023 for males was 80.0 years and for females was 83.7 years, compared to the England-wide life expectancy of 79.3 years for males and 83.2 years for females. *Figure 1-1* and *Figure 1-2* plot the C&P region’s life expectancy at birth compared to the other combined authority areas in the peer group. It is important to note that the charts show point estimates only, so small differences between locations should be interpreted with caution.

The C&P region had a relatively high life expectancy in comparison to the other combined authority areas since the C&P region had the highest life expectancy for males and the second highest for females, in most years. The only combined authority area with a higher life expectancy for males was WECA at 80.2 years, in 2023. In contrast, SYCA had the lowest life expectancy for both males and females, with figures of 78.0 years and 81.7 years, respectively.

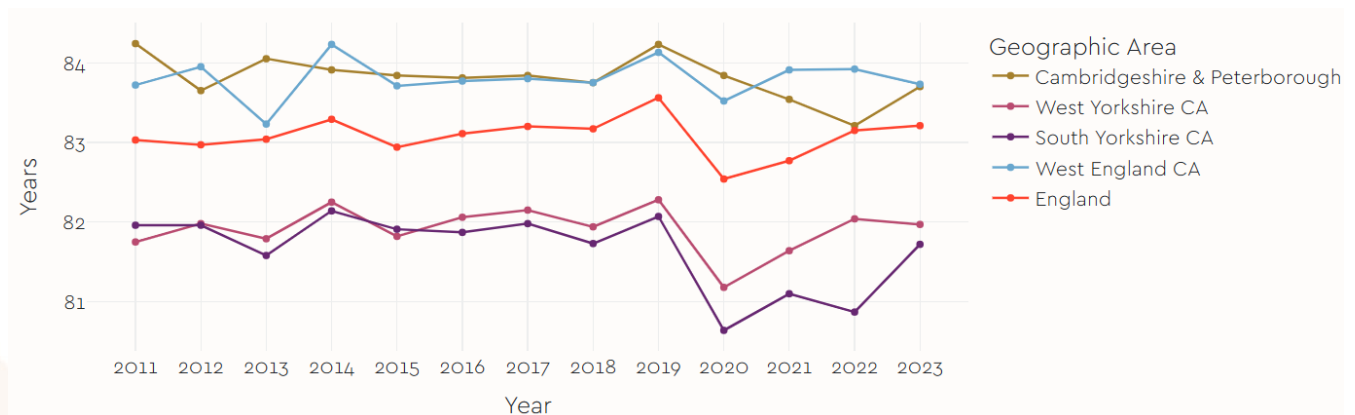


Figure 1-1: Life Expectancy at Birth of Females (Years) by Combined Authority Area & England and by Year

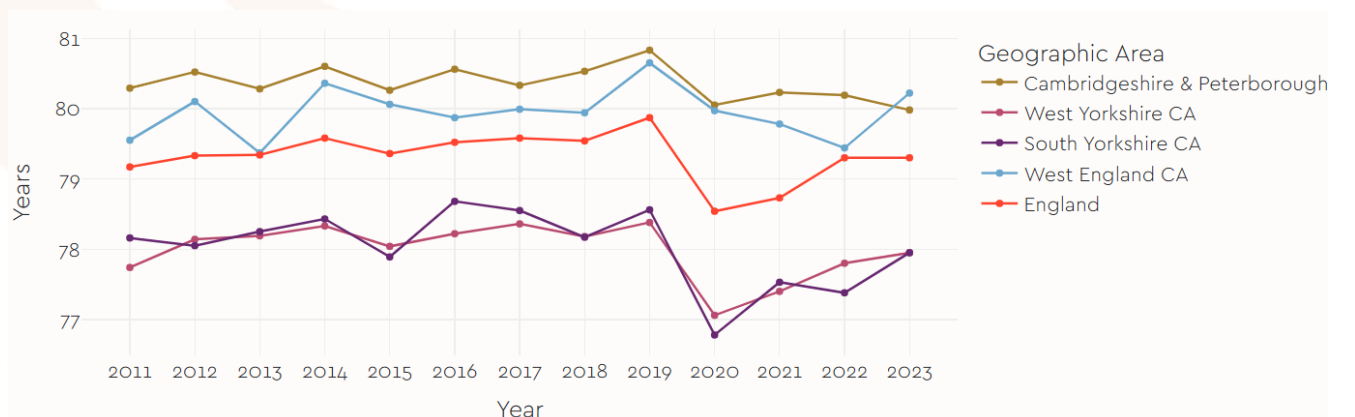


Figure 1-2: Life Expectancy at Birth of Males (Years) by Combined Authority Area & England and by Year

### Local Authority Comparison

<sup>12</sup> ONS, 2024. Life expectancy for local areas of Great Britain. [\[Link to source\]](#)



Figure 1-3 and Figure 1-4 plot the life expectancy at birth for males and females accordingly for each local authority area within the C&P region. It is important to note that the charts show point estimates only, so small differences between locations should be interpreted with caution. Overall, females had a higher life expectancy compared to males (83.7 vs. 80 years), expecting to live over three years longer. This gender gap mirrored the average for England, where females were expected to live almost four years longer (83.2 years) than males (79.3 years).

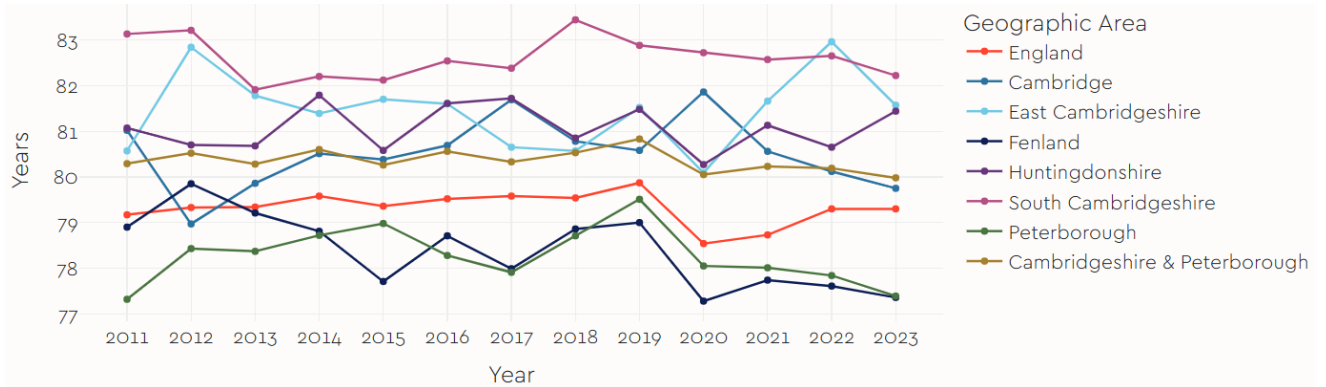


Figure 1-3: Life Expectancy at Birth of Males (Years) by Local Authority Area & England and by Year

Life expectancy at birth was low in Fenland and Peterborough compared to the other C&P local authority areas and England. In every year, either Fenland or Peterborough had the lowest life expectancy for females, both around 82.2 years of life expectancy for the entire period. Both England and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough averaged marginally above 83 years, whereas South Cambridgeshire averaged 85.5 years.

Similarly, South Cambridgeshire mostly had the highest life expectancy across C&P for females by year, most recently at 85.8 years in 2023. The local authority area with the second highest life expectancy in years, in 2023, was East Cambridgeshire with 84.4 years. Elsewhere, Fenland and Peterborough had the lowest life expectancy years for females.

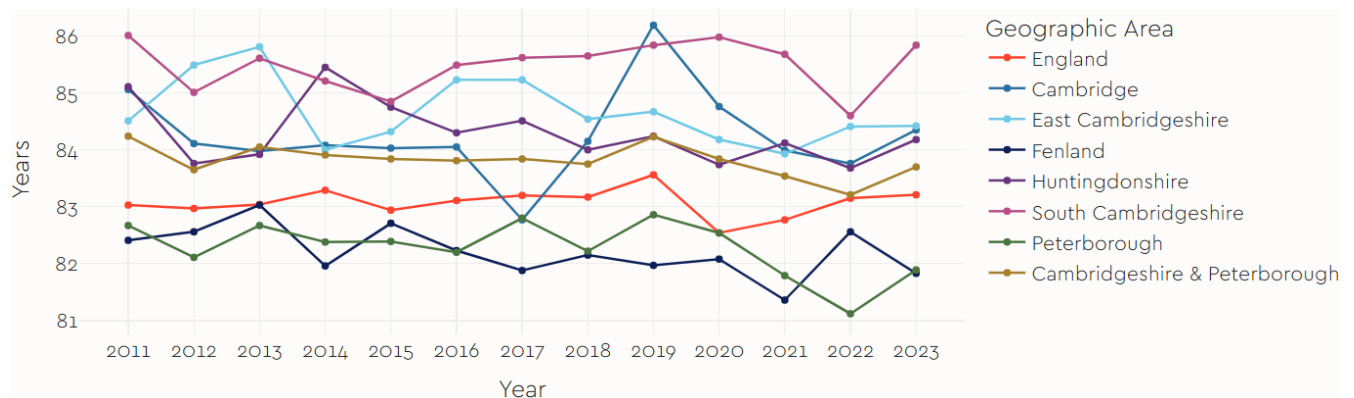


Figure 1-4: Life Expectancy at Birth of Females (Years) by Combined Authority Area & England and by Year

## 1.2 Avoidable Mortality Rate

The *Avoidable Mortality Rate* measures the rate of deaths that are considered treatable and preventable, for those aged below 75 years old<sup>13</sup>. This classification is congruent with the international avoidable mortality definition that includes deaths from several infectious diseases, diseases of the heart and digestive system, pregnancy and childbirth-related deaths, adverse effects of surgical and medical care, alcohol, and drug related deaths. This indicator is

<sup>13</sup> ONS, 2025. Avoidable Mortality Rate. [\[Link to source\]](#)



reported as the number of avoidable deaths per 100,000 population within each C&P local authority area. Figure 1-5 plots the changes in avoidable mortality rate within each local authority area in the C&P region between 2001-03 and 2021-23.

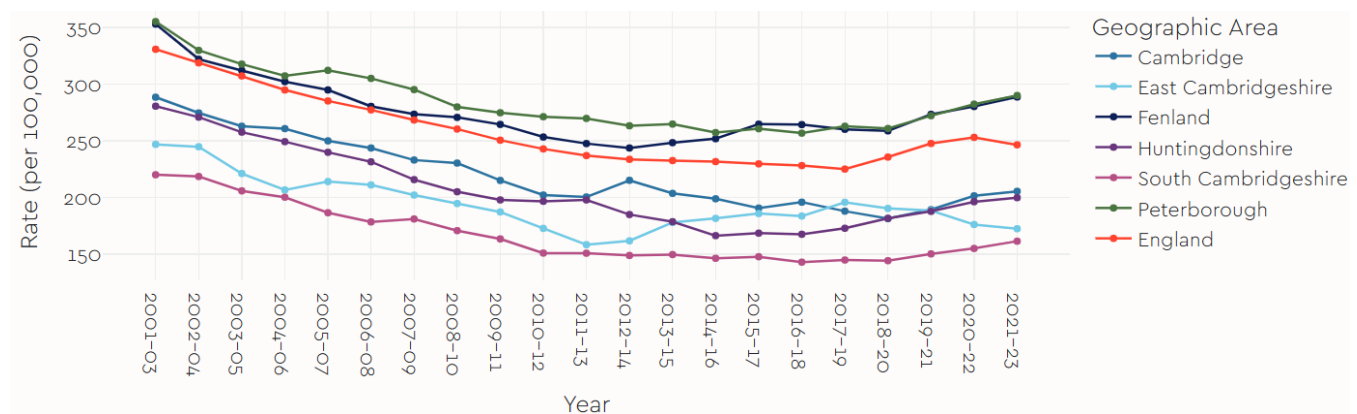


Figure 1-5: Avoidable Mortality Rate (per 100,000 Population) by Local Authority Area & England and by Year

The data shows a somewhat U-shaped type of curve in avoidable mortality rates across the C&P region over the long run. The rate of avoidable deaths was higher in Peterborough and Fenland compared to the other C&P local authority areas. Both areas exceeded the national average (246 per 100,000 population) in 2021-23, at 290 and 289 per 100,000, respectively. Comparatively, South Cambridgeshire sustained at the lowest rate of avoidable mortality, most recently at 161 per 100,000 population in 2021-23. The avoidable mortality rate in East Cambridgeshire (172 per 100,000), Huntingdonshire (200 per 100,000) and Cambridge (205 per 100,000) was also below the rate for England, in 2021-23.

### 1.3 Healthy Life Expectancy

Healthy Life Expectancy reflects the average number of years an individual can expect to live in good health. It was calculated using mortality rates and self-reported wellbeing rates<sup>14</sup>. Healthy life expectancy provides an extension to the, more familiar, life expectancy metric, helping identify at which ages major health challenges occur.

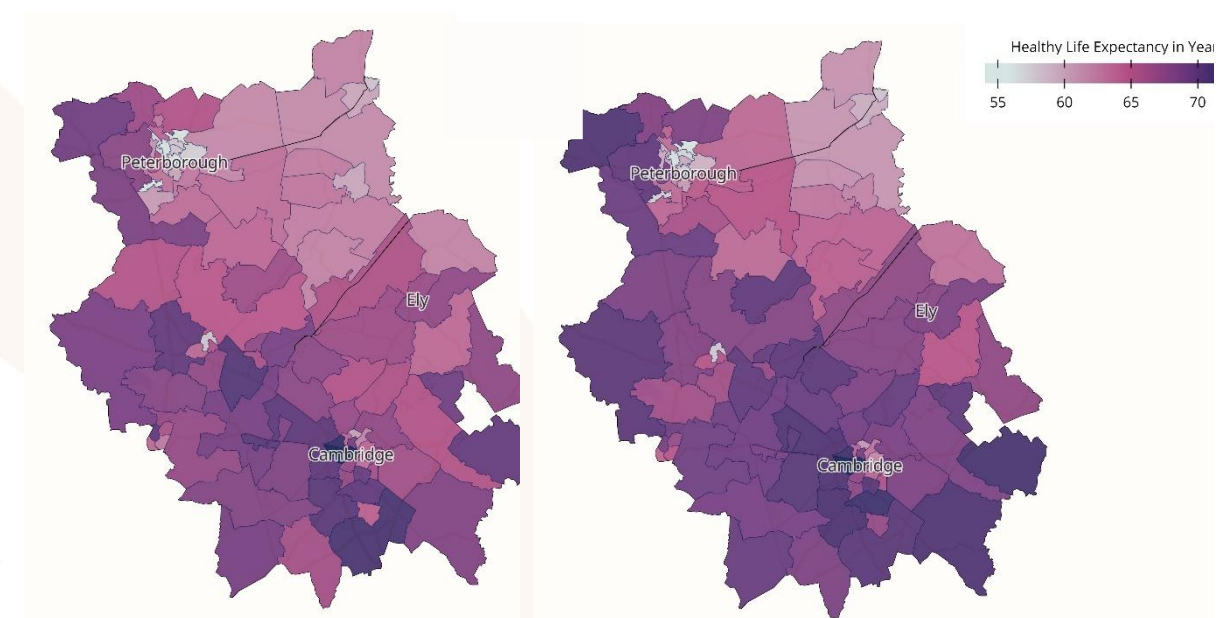


Figure 1-6: Healthy Life Expectancy for Females (Left) and Males (Right) by LSOA in 2015

<sup>14</sup> ONS, 2024. Healthy Life Expectancy. [\[Link to source\]](#)



Figure 1-6 maps the healthy life expectancy across the C&P region for males and females in 2015, which was the last recorded collection of healthy life expectancy data collected at the LSOA level. The mapping shows that, at this time, South Cambridgeshire had the highest healthy life expectancy in the region by sex, with healthy life expectancy in some LSOAs exceeding 75 years. Notably, the north of the region had a significantly lower healthy life expectancy compared to the south. Peterborough displayed the lowest healthy life expectancy for both males and females within the region, with some areas reporting a healthy life expectancy of 55 years. Fenland additionally had a lower healthy life expectancy of approximately 60 years for females and 57 years for males. The data therefore shows a discrepancy in healthy life expectancy across the C&P region, with the gap between the lowest and highest healthy life expectancies around 20 years.

More recent data on healthy life expectancy is only available at an aggregate level, encompassing the entire C&P region. Whilst this data does not provide as nuanced comparisons and conclusions within the region and is *are official statistics in development*, it still offers insight into health outcomes for the region compared to the national average. Figure 1-7 and Figure 1-8 plot the data for males and females separately. In 2021-23, the healthy life expectancy estimates for males and females reached 62.6 and 62.4 in Cambridgeshire and 55.6 and 55.2 in Peterborough, respectively, compared to England’s 61.5 for males and 61.9 for females. Females had a marginally lower healthy life expectancy in the C&P region. Since 2011-13, the average healthy life expectancy for both males and females decreased in C&P and in England, overall. However, whereas the healthy life expectancy in England reduced by 1.5 years for males and 2.1 years for females, the decline in Peterborough was 4.1 and 5.2 years, respectively. Furthermore, the reduction in Cambridgeshire was similar to Peterborough’s, at 3.4 years for males and 4.4 years for females.

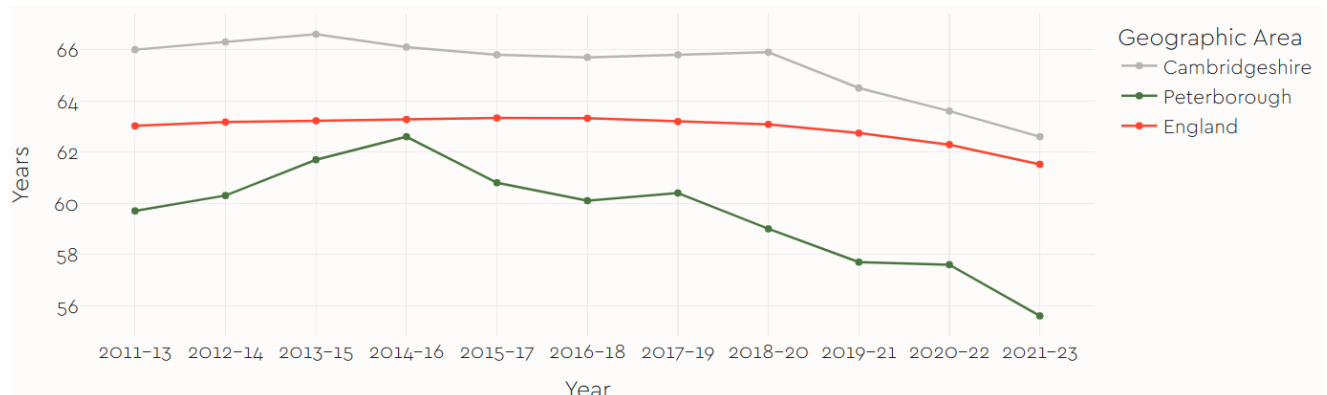


Figure 1-7: Healthy Life Expectancy for Males (Years) by Geographical Area and Year

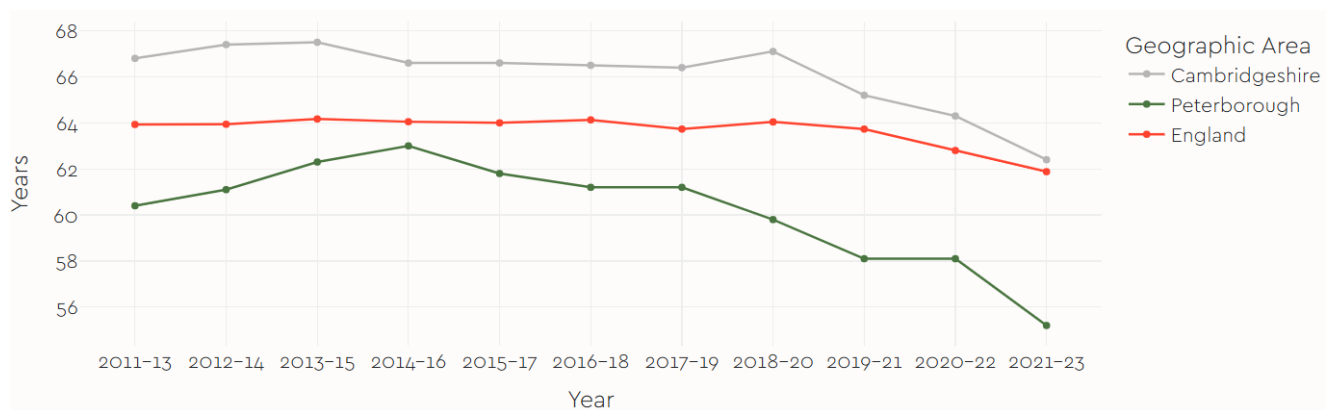


Figure 1-8: Healthy Life Expectancy for Females (Years) by Geographical Area and Year





## 1.4 Air Pollution Mortality

*Air Pollution Mortality* reports the deaths attributable to prolonged exposure to particulate air pollution, expressed as a percentage of annual deaths from all causes among the population aged 30 years or older<sup>15</sup>. Included were deaths from respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, where air pollution can be attributed to an exacerbation of the condition. Air pollution, such as that caused by high levels of vehicular traffic, can exacerbate respiratory illnesses and contribute to premature mortality. *Figure 1-9* charts the air pollution mortality rate by local authority in the C&P region between 2018 and 2023.

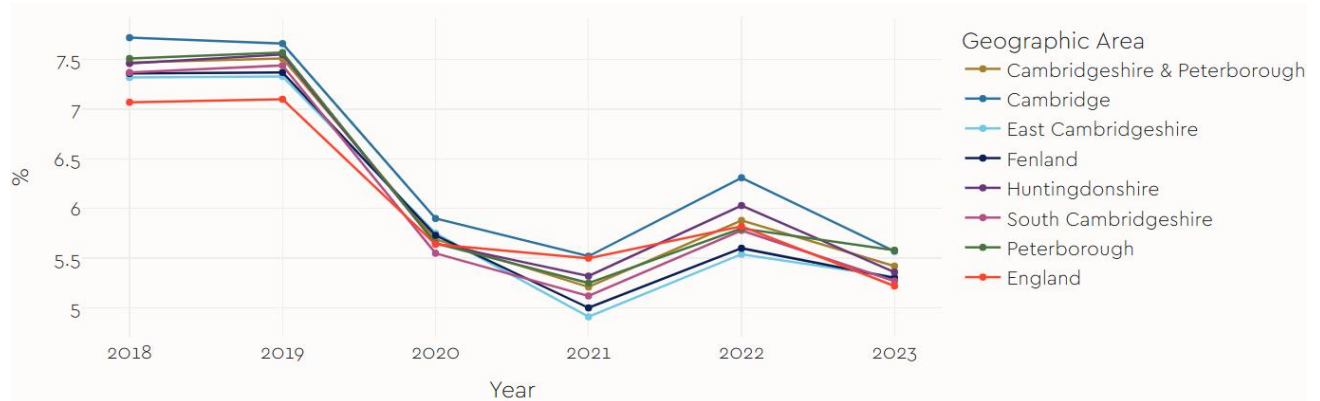


Figure 1-9: Air Pollution Mortality Rate (%) by Local Authority Area & England and by Year

In every year, the difference between the highest and lowest air pollution mortality rate amongst all C&P's local authority areas was less than 0.8%. Across the C&P region, air pollution mortality rates decreased by around two percentage points between 2018 – 2023, which was the same for England during this period. The percentages are point estimates with confidence intervals, meaning there is some uncertainty in the exact size of the effect. However, because the same scientific evidence was applied everywhere, this uncertainty does not change how areas compare with each other or how results change over time. The confidence intervals were not published, accordingly, because they would not help with comparing areas or trends over time, and could even be misleading.

## 1.5 Cancer Diagnosis at Stage 1 & 2

Cancer stage at diagnosis indicates how far a cancer has spread before it is diagnosed. Early diagnosis is important as it can maximise the treatment options and outcomes for the patient. There are a total of four stages for cancer, with Stages 1 and 2 having the best prognosis since at these two stages, the cancer is localised and has not spread to surrounding tissues. This indicator reports the number of cancers diagnosed at Stages 1 or 2, as a percentage of all cancers diagnosed across all four stages<sup>16</sup>.

*Figure 1-10* plots the percentage of cancer diagnoses within each of C&P's local authority areas where the diagnosis was at Stages 1 & 2, by year. In 2021, the average percentage of cancer diagnoses at Stage 1 and 2 across the C&P region was 56.0% and comparable with England, which was 54.4%. It is important to note that percentage values reflect point estimates such that confidence intervals apply - this means the values on the graph should be read as the best estimates, but the true figures could be slightly higher or lower.

<sup>15</sup> OHID, 2025. Public Health Profiles - Air Pollution Mortality. [\[Link to source\]](#)

<sup>16</sup> OHID, 2024. Public Health Profiles: Percentage of cancers diagnosed at stages 1 and 2, 2021. [\[Link to source\]](#)



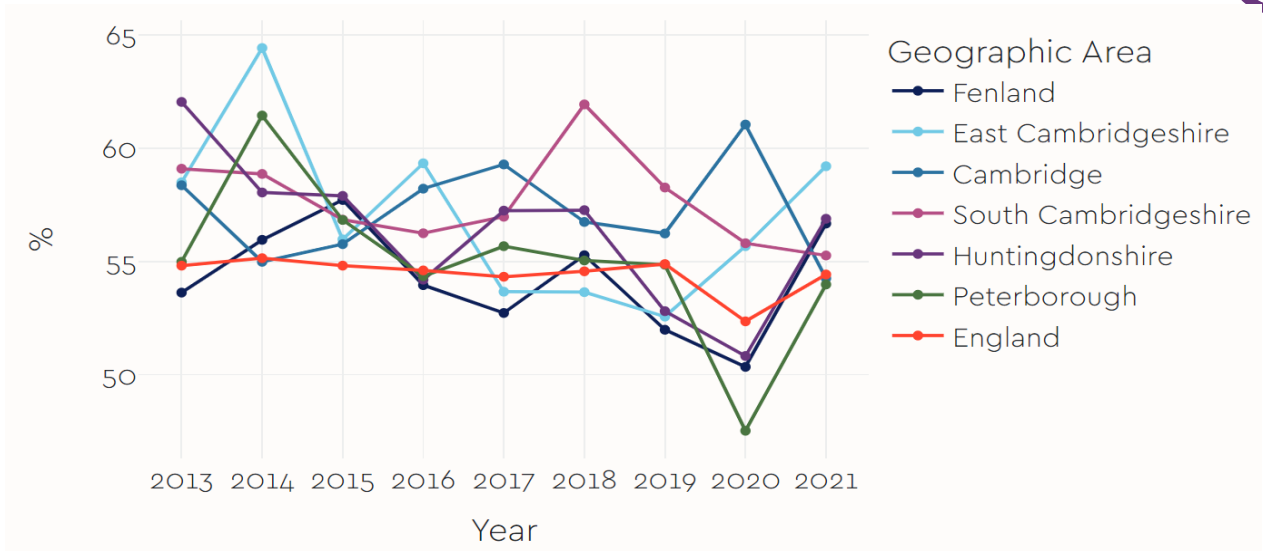


Figure 1-10: Cancer Diagnosis at Stages 1 & 2 (%) by Local Authority Area & England and by Year

## 2 Physical Health

### 2.1 Smoking Prevalence

*Smoking Prevalence* data measures the percentage of the population aged 18 and over who are self-reported smokers<sup>17</sup>. Smoking is associated with a number of longer-term health risks, including cancer, lung disease, heart disease, diabetes and stroke. Whilst recommended as a less-detrimental alternative to smoking, the long-term health effects of vaping are not fully known, and the practice may carry elevated health risks as compared to those experienced by non-vapers. This dataset currently excludes vaping prevalence. It is important to note that percentage values reflect point estimates such that confidence intervals apply - this means the values on the graph should be read as the best estimates, but the true figures could be slightly higher or lower.

Figure 2-1 plots the smoking prevalence in the C&P region since 2013. Across the C&P region in 2023, smoking prevalence estimates ranged from 5.8% in South Cambridgeshire to 24.0% in Fenland. The rate for England was 11.6%. For females, smoking prevalence estimates ranged from 5.0% in South Cambridgeshire to 22.6% in Fenland, as shown in Figure 2-2. The rate for England was 9.9%. For males, the smoking prevalence ranged from 3.4% in East Cambridgeshire to 25.5% in Fenland, as shown in Figure 2-3. The rate for England was 13.4%. Fenland had the highest levels of smoking prevalence in all years except 2017. Peterborough also had relatively high levels of smoking prevalence.

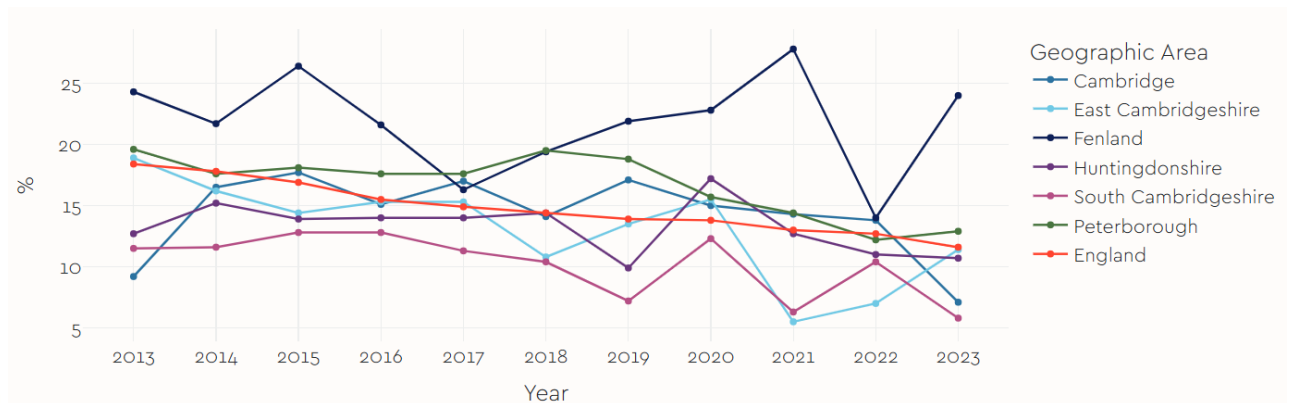


Figure 2-1: Smoking Prevalence (%) by Local Authority Area & England and by Year

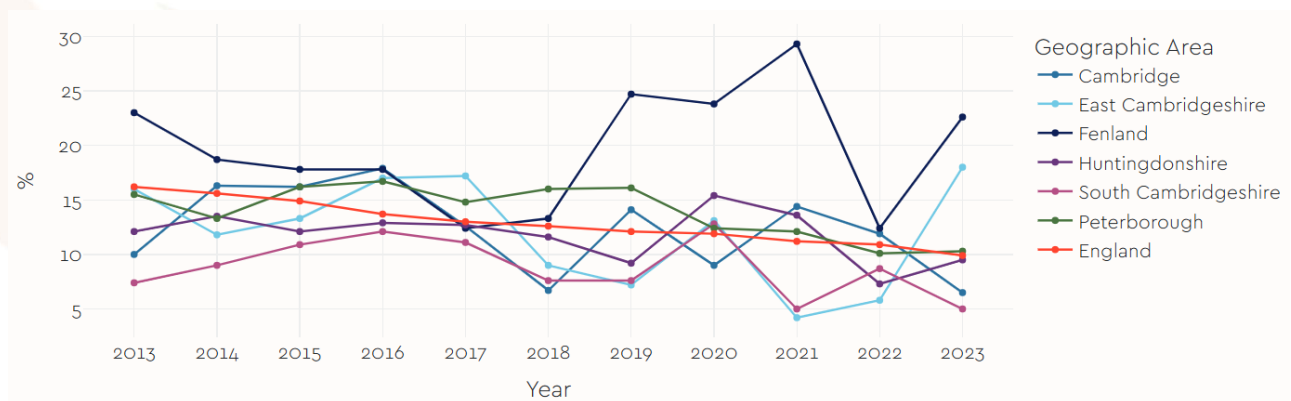


Figure 2-2: Smoking Prevalence for Females (%) by Local Authority Area & England and by Year

<sup>17</sup> OHID, 2025. Smoking Prevalence in adults. [\[Link to source\]](#)

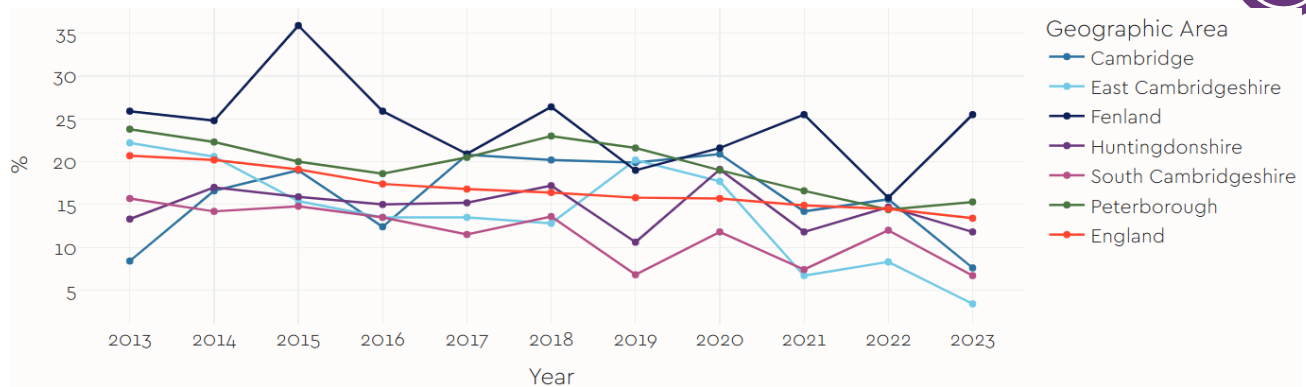


Figure 2-3: Smoking Prevalence for Males (%) by Local Authority Area & England and by Year

Smoking prevalence was generally higher amongst males compared to females until 2023, the most recent year of data, which shows the gap narrowed to a point of minimal difference between the two sexes.

## 2.2 Obesity Amongst Adults

*Obesity Amongst Adults* data measures the percentage of the population aged over 18 whose bodyweight was classified as obese according to the Body Mass Index (BMI)<sup>18</sup>. In the UK, it is estimated that around 1 in every 4 adults and 1 in 5 children aged 10 to 11 are living with obesity, according to the NHS. Obesity increases the risk of many other health conditions, including type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease, types of cancer and stroke. Living with obesity can also affect quality of life and contribute to mental health conditions.

Figure 2-4 charts the obesity amongst adults' data for the period 2015-16 to 2023-24. Overall, in the latest period, 26.0% of C&P adults were classified as obese, compared to 26.5% in England. Obesity amongst adults increased over the entire period since within C&P the percentage of adults classified as obese was 22.5% in 2015-16, whilst for England the rate was similar at 22.6%. In 2023-24, obesity amongst adults was highest in Fenland at 34.9% followed by Peterborough with a rate of 32.2%. The lowest rate within C&P was in Cambridge (16.1%), followed by South Cambridgeshire (22.4%) and East Cambridgeshire (24.8%).

Over the time series, obesity amongst adults was highest in Fenland in all but one year (2017-18). Cambridge had the lowest levels of obesity amongst adults within the region in every year, increasing by only 0.4 percentage points between 2015-16 and 2023-24. This compared to Fenland, where obesity levels increased by 5 percentage points.

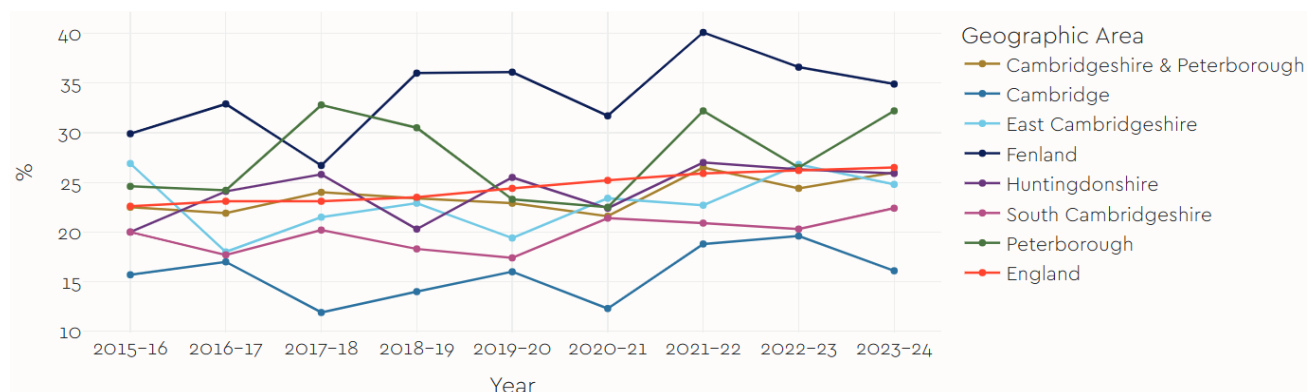


Figure 2-4: Obesity Amongst Adults (%) by Local Authority Area & England and by Year

<sup>18</sup> OHID, 2025. Public Health Profiles: Obesity. [\[Link to source\]](#)



### 2.3 Inactivity Levels

Data on *Inactivity Levels* measures the percentage of the population aged 19 and over completing less than a total of 30 moderate intensity equivalent minutes of physical activity per week<sup>19</sup>. High levels of inactivity are strongly associated with various health problems such as obesity, heart disease, diabetes, and mental health issues. Monitoring inactivity levels is important to help gauge the risk of these health conditions within C&P and implement interventions accordingly. It is important to note that percentage values reflect point estimates such that confidence intervals apply - this means the values on the graph should be read as the best estimates, but the true figures could be slightly higher or lower. Additionally, the values are based on self-reported survey data, which may overestimate physical activity due to recall and social desirability bias, but as this bias is likely consistent across groups, comparisons between populations remain valid.

Figure 2-5 plots the data on inactivity levels by local authority area from 2015-16 to 2023-24. The data shows that in 2023-24, inactivity levels were highest in Fenland and Peterborough (at 31.6% and 24.3% respectively). In Fenland, the rate of inactivity increased from 2015-16 by 6 percentage points, whereas in Peterborough, the rate was unchanged. The remaining local authority areas within C&P had inactivity rates below England's rate in 2023-24. Inactivity levels were lowest in Cambridge (10.8%). Moreover, the level of inactivity in Cambridge declined over the entire period of data (from 13.3% in 2015-16). However, amongst all C&P's local authority areas, East Cambridgeshire had the largest reduction in activity levels, falling by 9.1 percentage points since 2015-16.

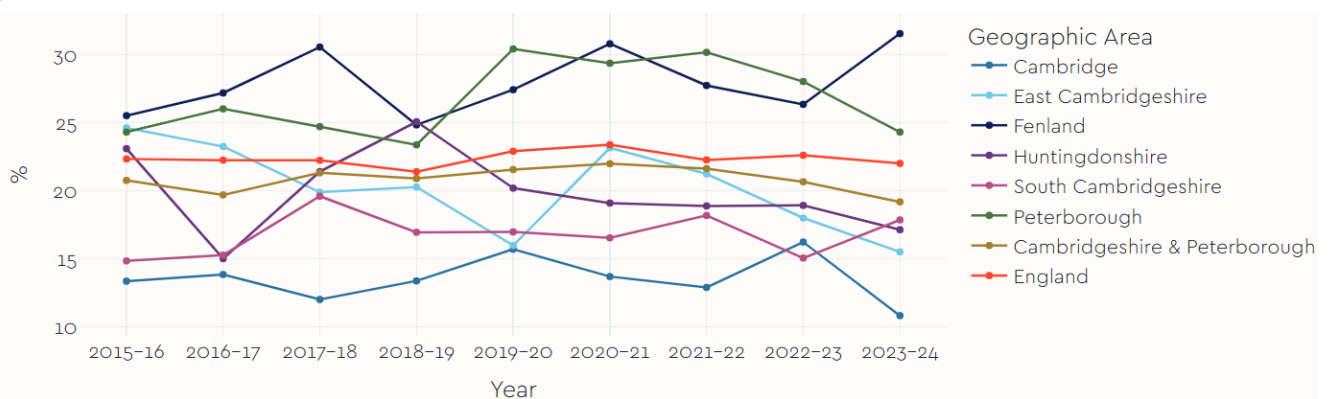


Figure 2-5: Inactivity Levels (%) by Local Authority Area & England and by Year

### 2.4 Percentage of Residents Physically Active

The *Percentage of Residents Physically Active*, plotted in Figure 2-6, evaluates the proportion of the population completing 150+ minutes of physical activities a week<sup>20</sup>. This included all exercise and fitness, sport, walking for leisure or travel, and dance. Examining levels of regular participation in physical activity is important for monitoring the health of the population and combating health risks and diseases linked to inactivity, such as obesity, heart disease and diabetes. The data can inform targeted policy or highlight areas where investment in sport facilities or active travel infrastructure may be beneficial to residents. It is important to note that percentage values reflect point estimates such that confidence intervals apply - this means the values on the graph should be read as the best estimates, but the true figures could be slightly higher or lower.

<sup>19</sup> OHID, 2025. Public Health Profiles: Inactivity Levels. [\[Link to source\]](#)

<sup>20</sup> Sport England, 2025. Active Lives data tables. [\[Link to source\]](#)



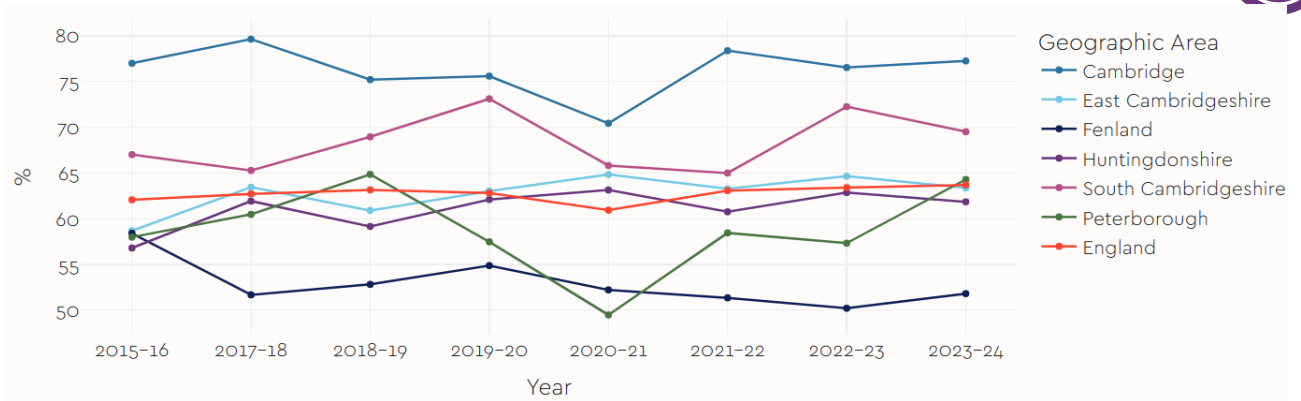


Figure 2-6: Resident Physically Active (%) by Local Authority Area & England and by Year

In 2023-24, the percentage of residents regularly participating in physical activity was highest in Cambridge, with 77.3% of residents, followed by South Cambridgeshire at 69.5%. This compared to England’s rate of 63.7%. Fenland had the lowest percentage of residents regularly participating in physical activity, at 51.8% whilst Huntingdonshire, at 61.9%, had the second lowest rate amongst C&P’s local authority areas. Subsequently, a 25.5 percentage point difference existed in physical activity participation within the region, between Cambridge (highest) and Fenland (lowest). Furthermore, of all C&P’s local authority areas, Fenland was the only area that had decreased levels of regular physical activity in 2023-24 (51.8%) on 2015-16 (58.4%). Peterborough, however, had the greatest increase by reaching 64.3% in 2023-24 from 58% in 2015-16, whereas the rate in Cambridge sustained around the 77% mark.



## 3 Personal Wellbeing

### 3.1 Life Satisfaction

*Life Satisfaction* data measured self-reported satisfaction of the population with their life overall at the current point in time<sup>21</sup>. It was captured on a scale from 0-10, where 0 indicated that the respondent was not at all satisfied with their life, whilst 10 denoted that the respondent was completely satisfied with their life. The scores were then averaged for an overall estimate of life satisfaction within each local authority area in the region. The survey classified scores between 0-4 as low, 5-6 as medium, 7-8 as high, and 9-10 as very high. It is important to note that this indicator is based on self-reported scores and did not obtain the distribution of scores among the population. Therefore, the results may not fully reflect the diversity of attitudes within the whole population. It is important to note that percentage values reflect point estimates such that confidence intervals apply - this means the values on the graph should be read as the best estimates, but the true figures could be slightly higher or lower.

Figure 3-1 plots the estimated self-reported life satisfaction scores for each local authority area in the C&P region from 2014 to 2023. During the ten-year period, the estimates across the region were generally within the range of approximately 7.0 and 8.0; classified as high levels of life satisfaction. However, Cambridge had a score of 6.5 in 2023, though the confidence interval for Cambridge in 2023 was wide with a lower limit of 4.9 and upper limit of 8.0. This means, there is less certainty about the exact value, and the true score could be quite different from the one shown.

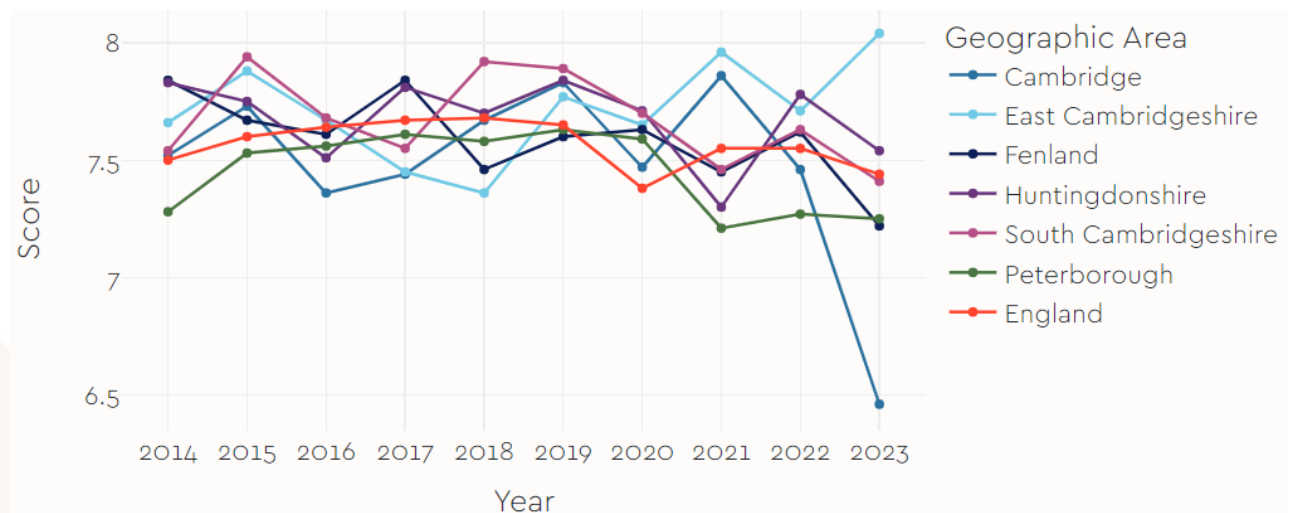


Figure 3-1: Life Satisfaction (Score 0 to 10) by Local Authority Area & England and by Year

In 2023, reported life satisfaction in East Cambridgeshire registered just above 8.0. Average life satisfaction for Huntingdonshire, Peterborough, South Cambridgeshire, and Fenland ranged from 7.2-7.5 in 2023, consistent with the score for England, overall.

### 3.2 Anxiety

The *Anxiety* indicator provides the self-reported levels of anxiety within the population at the time of data collection<sup>22</sup>. It was recorded on a scale of 0-10, where 0 indicated that the respondent did not feel any anxiety, whilst 10 denoted that the respondent experienced high levels of anxiety. The survey classified responses between 0-1 as very low, 2-3 as low, 4-5 as medium, and 6-10 as high. The data was constructed from self-reported scores and did not,

<sup>21</sup> ONS, 2023. Annual personal well-being estimates. [\[Link to source\]](#)

<sup>22</sup> ONS, 2023. Annual personal well-being estimates. [\[Link to source\]](#)





therefore, capture the distribution of scores among the population. Consequently, the results may not fully reflect the diversity of attitudes within the whole population. It is important to note that percentage values reflect point estimates such that confidence intervals apply - this means the values on the graph should be read as the best estimates, but the true figures could be slightly higher or lower.

Figure 3-2 charts the estimated self-reported anxiety scores within each local authority area in the C&P region from 2014 to 2023. Across the region, the estimated level of anxiety generally ranged from 2.0 to 3.5 during this time period. This was consistent with the England score of 3.0. Peterborough had the highest levels of anxiety in 2023 with a score of 3.6. East Cambridgeshire had the lowest recorded levels of anxiety in 2023, with a score of 2.3. The remaining scores for Huntingdonshire, South Cambridgeshire, and Cambridge ranged from 2.9 to 3.4.

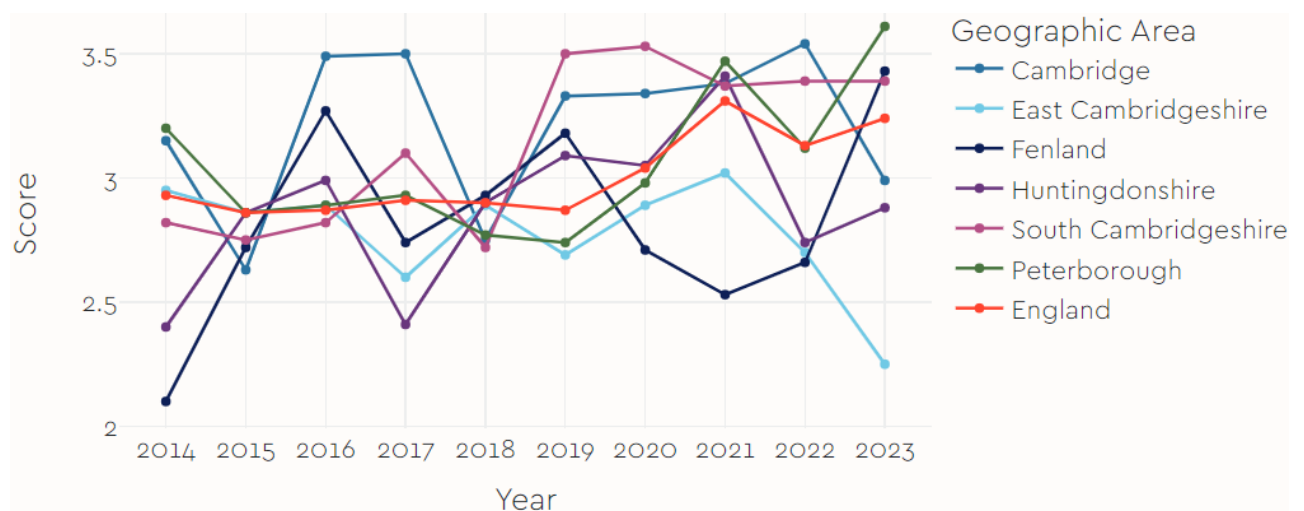


Figure 3-2: Levels of Anxiety (Score 0 to 10) by Local Authority Area & England and by Year

### 3.3 Wellbeing

Wellbeing estimated the extent to which the population believed things in their lives were worthwhile<sup>23</sup>. It was recorded on a scale of 0-10, where 0 indicated that the respondent believed things in their lives were not at all worthwhile, and 10 denoted that the respondent believed things in their life were completely worthwhile. The scores were then averaged for an overall estimate of wellbeing within each local authority area in the C&P region. The survey classified scores between 0-4 as low, 5-6 as medium, 7-8 as high, and 9-10 as very high. The data was based on self-reported scores and did not capture the distribution of scores among the population. Therefore, the results may not fully reflect the diversity of attitudes within the whole population. It is important to note that percentage values reflect point estimates such that confidence intervals apply - this means the values on the graph should be read as the best estimates, but the true figures could be slightly higher or lower.

Figure 3-3 plots the estimated self-reported wellbeing scores for each local authority area in the C&P region from 2014 to 2023. The wellbeing scores across the region during this period generally ranged between 7.5 and 8.2, demonstrating scores which, overall, were classed as high. Most recently, East Cambridgeshire had the highest reported wellbeing score (8.3) while Cambridge had the lowest reported wellbeing score (7.4).

<sup>23</sup> ONS, 2023. Annual personal well-being estimates. [\[Link to source\]](#)



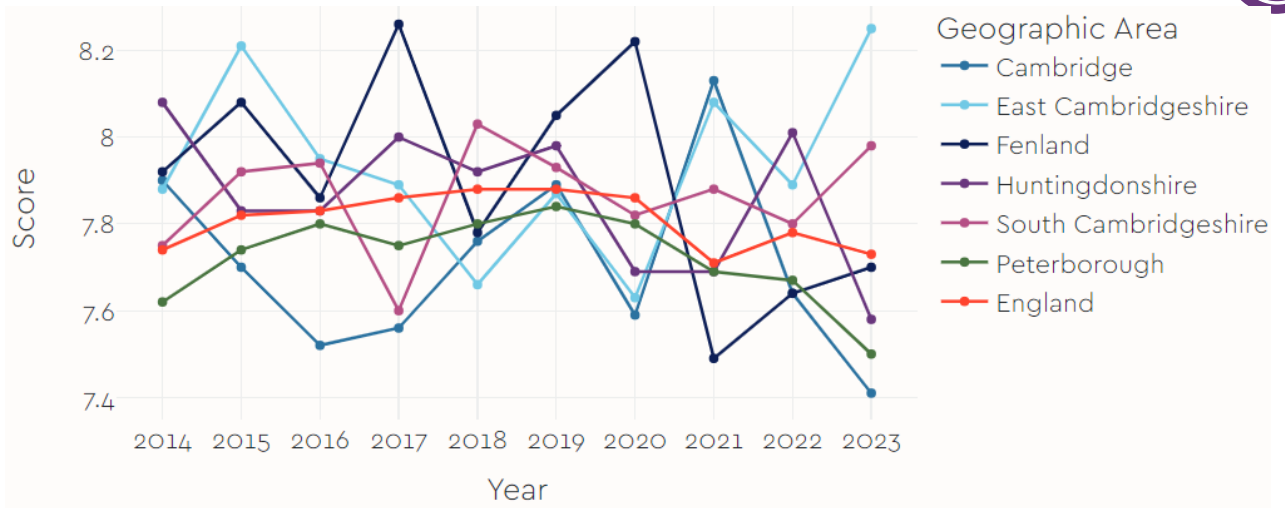


Figure 3-3: Feelings of Worthwhileness (Score 0 to 10) by Local Authority Area & England and by Year

### 3.4 Feeling Lonely

The *Feeling Lonely* indicator measured the percentage of the population, aged 16 and over, who reported feeling lonely either always or often by geographical area<sup>24</sup>. It is important to note that percentage values reflect point estimates such that confidence intervals apply - this means the values on the graph should be read as the best estimates, but the true figures could be slightly higher or lower.

Figure 3-4 charts the data reported in 2021-22 to 2022-23. Overall, within the C&P region, the percentage of people feeling lonely was estimated to be 7.1%, compared to 6.8% within England. The data shows that the percentage of the population feeling lonely differed between Peterborough and Cambridgeshire, 8.4% and 6.8% respectively. This contrasted to two periods earlier, covering 2019-20 to 2020-21, when Peterborough had a rate of 5.1%, below Cambridgeshire’s 6%. Furthermore, C&P overall had a rate of 5.8% to England’s rate of 6%. Therefore, in the two most recent periods, C&P overtook England’s rate, whilst Peterborough rose above Cambridgeshire’s rate.

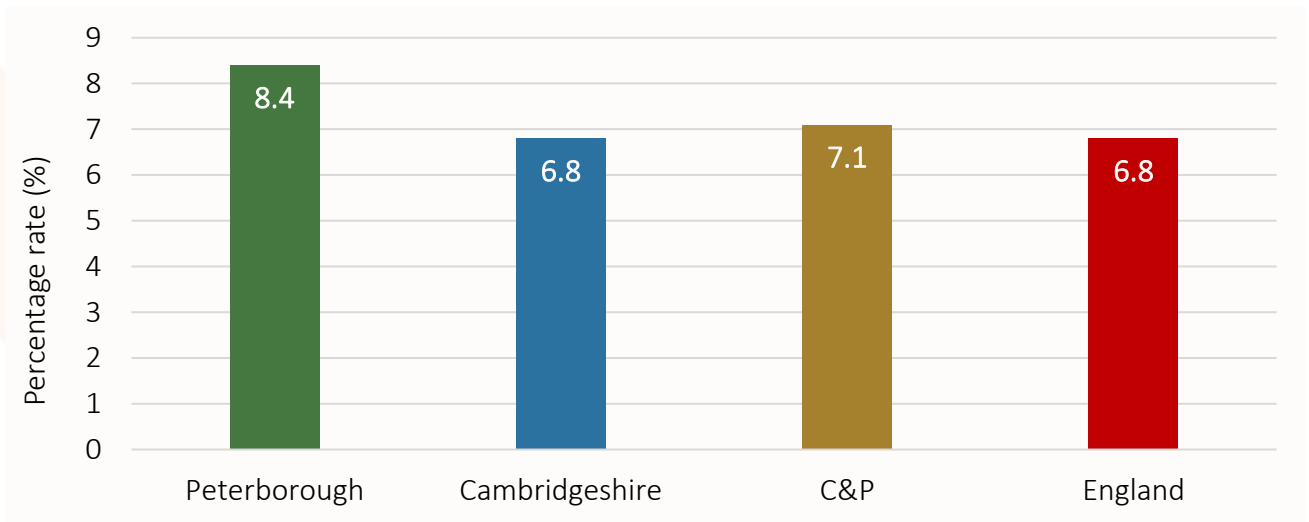


Figure 3-4: Self-Reported Feelings of Loneliness (%) by Geographical Area in 2021-22 to 2022-23

<sup>24</sup> OHID, 2020. Public Health Profiles: Loneliness. [\[Link to source\]](#)





## 4 Poverty & Cost of Living

### 4.1 Deprivation

In 2019, the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) published the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)<sup>25</sup>. It ranked the deprivation of each LSOA's population compared to all other LSOAs, according to seven domains of **Income, Employment, Education, Health, Crime, Barriers to Housing & Services, and Living Environment**. IMD data can be obtained as either a decile or a rank. **Figure 4-1** maps the data as a decile where the first decile represents areas that were the most deprived, while the tenth decile represents the areas that were the least deprived.

The data shows that approximately 75% of the population in the C&P region lived in LSOAs with an IMD in the fifth decile and above. These relate to LSOAs with an above median deprivation score. LSOAs with an IMD decile of 4 and below were mostly found in Fenland and Peterborough (more deprived than the median LSOA), although some pockets of relative deprivation were found across all the local authority areas in C&P.

The 2019 IMD rankings were the latest available. Based on the wider data reviewed throughout the State of the Region, there was no reason to expect the broad findings on relative deprivation within the region to have changed significantly since.

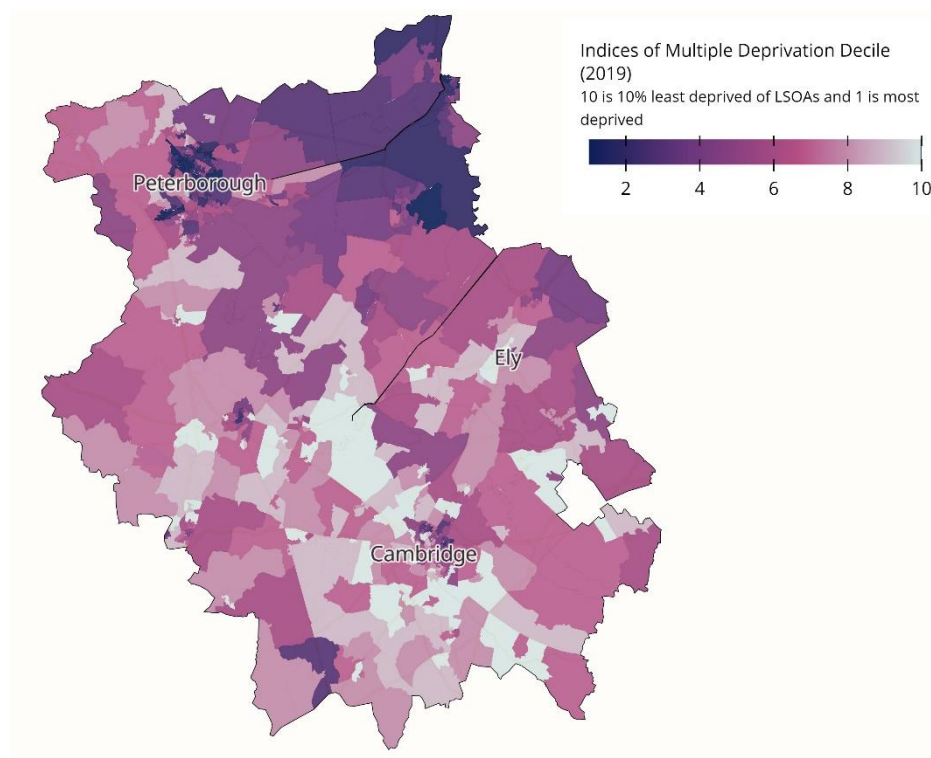


Figure 4-1: Indices of Multiple (Deprivation) Decile by C&P LSOA in 2019

<sup>25</sup> MHCLG, 2019. English indices of deprivation 2019. [\[Link to source\]](#)

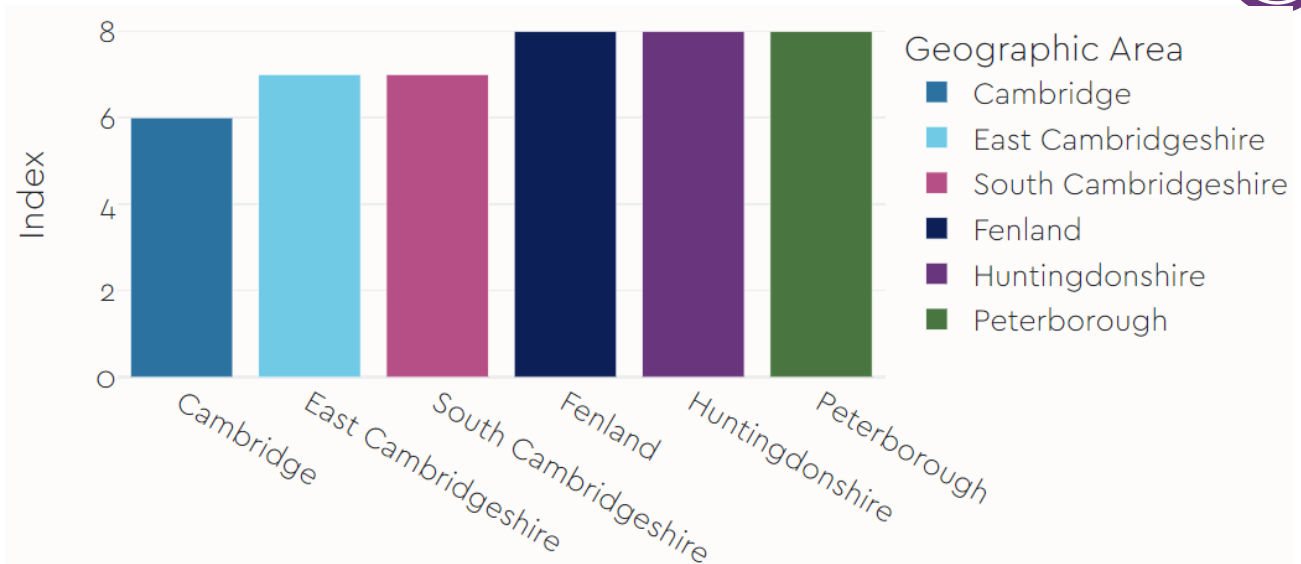


Figure 4-2: Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Decile by Local Authority Area in 2019

## 4.2 Child Poverty

*Child Poverty* measured the percentage of children living in low-income households, before housing costs<sup>26</sup>. A child was defined as a dependent individual aged under 16 years old, or an individual aged 16 to 19 years old in either full-time non-advanced education or unpaid training. Low-income families were defined as households claiming Child Benefit and at least one other household benefit (e.g. Universal Credit, Housing Benefit).

Figure 4-3 plots the percentage of children living in low-income households in the C&P region between 2015 and 2024. In 2024, the percentage of children living in poverty across C&P ranged between 7.9% (in South Cambridgeshire) and 28.2% (in Peterborough), compared to the UK's rate of 18.7%. In every year of data, Peterborough had the highest percentage of children living in poverty amongst all of C&P's local authority areas and higher than the UK. Fenland had the second-highest rate of child poverty and was also above the UK's rate. All the remaining local authority areas in C&P had a child poverty rate lower than the UK's between 2015 and 2024.

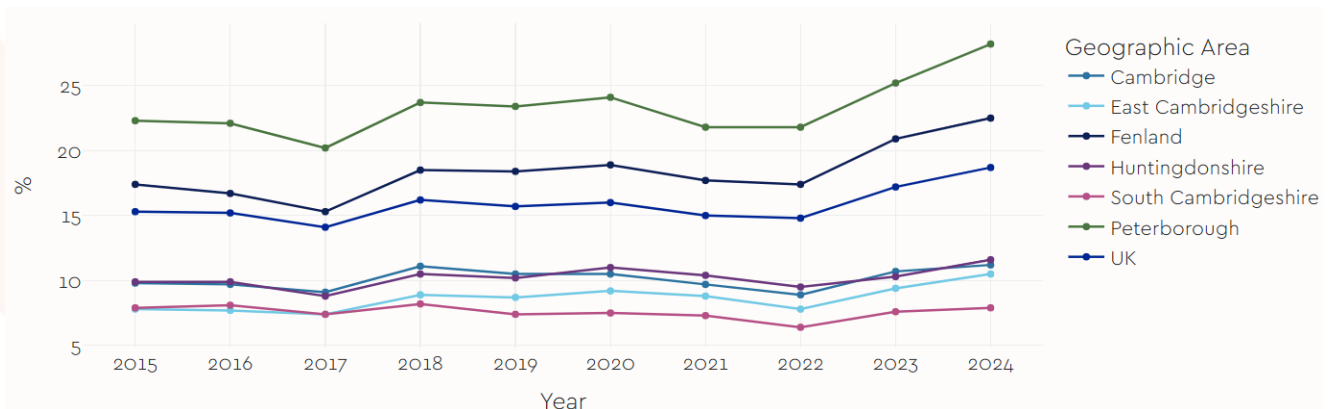


Figure 4-3: Percentage of Children Living in Poverty

The percentage of children in poverty in Peterborough was over twice that of Cambridge, East Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, and South Cambridgeshire during this period. Moreover, Peterborough had the largest increase in child poverty between 2015 and 2024, with a 5.9 percentage point escalation. Yet, South Cambridgeshire's child poverty rate remained unchanged in 2024 on 2015.

<sup>26</sup> Department for Work & Pensions, 2025. Children in low income families: local area statistics. [\[Link to source\]](#)

## 5 Crime

### 5.1 Crime Rate by Offence

The Cambridgeshire Constabulary is the local territorial police force that is responsible for the C&P region. Data collected by the police force shows the number of crimes committed by offence category annually in the region, as published by the ONS<sup>27</sup>. The recorded offences were divided into the following nine categories:

- Violences against the person
- Sexual offences
- Robbery
- Theft
- Criminal damage and arson
- Drug offences
- Possession of weapons offences
- Public order offences
- Miscellaneous crimes against society

Crime rate by offence group conveys the number of offences committed in each category, per 1,000 population. Examining the data helps to inform effective law enforcement allocation and intervention, essential for ensuring public safety.

Figure 5-1 charts the overall crime rate by offence group across C&P from 2018 to 2024. Between 2018 and 2024, the total crime rate for the C&P region decreased marginally from 75.2 in 2018 to 73.8 crimes per 1,000 population in 2024. Furthermore, the rate in C&P was notably lower than the rate in England, which was 86.8 crimes per 1,000 population in 2024. Violence against the person gradually increased in C&P from 2018, when it was 20.1 crimes per 1,000 population, to 27.1 per 1,000 population in 2024. Moreover, the rate of 27.1 per 1,000 population was the highest of all nine categories of offence within C&P in 2024. The second highest rate was theft offences, which were 24.9 per 1,000 population in 2024.

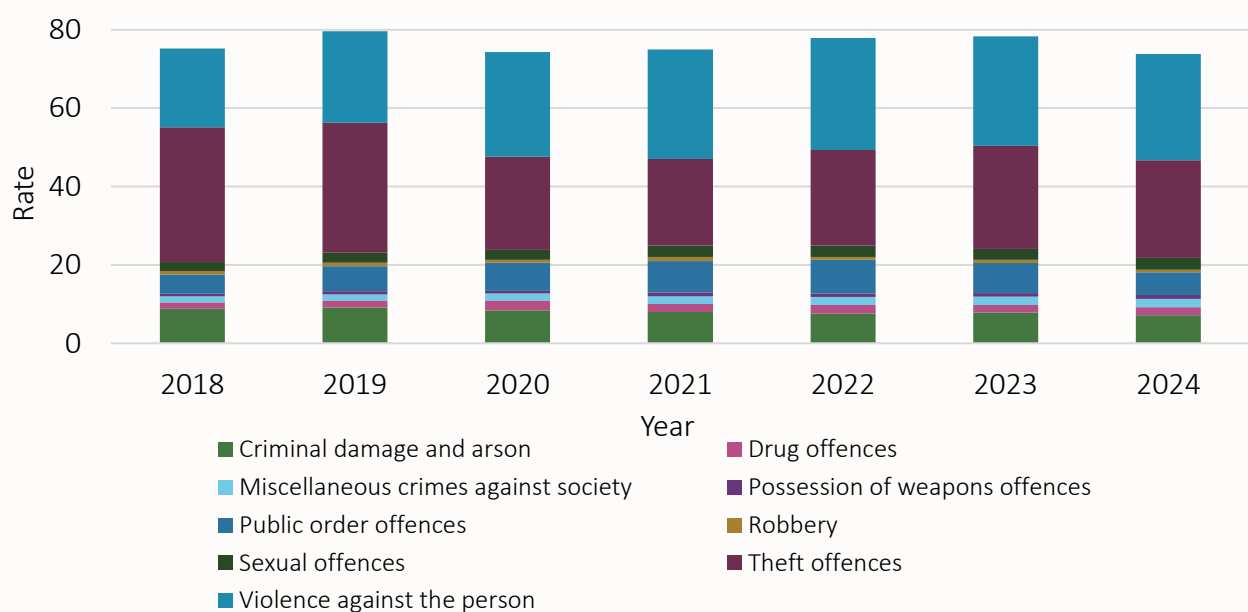


Figure 5-1: Crime Rate by Offence Group (per 1,000 population) by Geographical Area and by Year

However, theft offences per 1,000 population in C&P decreased from 34.4 in 2018 to 24.9 in 2024. The third largest offence group in C&P was criminal damage and arson, though it steadily decreased since 2018, falling to a rate of 7.2 per 1,000 population in 2024 from 8.8 per 1,000 population in 2018. Compared to England over the entire period in relative terms, the rate of violence against the person crimes per 1,000 population increased in C&P by double that of England, whereas theft offences decreased by twice as much in C&P compared to England.

<sup>27</sup> ONS, 2025. Crime in England and Wales: Police Force Area data tables. [\[Link to source\]](#)





## 5.2 Knife Crime

Knife crimes refer to any crimes where a knife was used to either threaten, attempt or cause injury, including threats, assaults, robberies or sexual offences. Data from the ONS contained annual knife crime statistics as a proportion of the selected crimes<sup>28</sup>. The offences included:

- Attempted murder
- Threat to kill
- Assault with injury
- Assault with intent to cause serious harm
- Robbery
- Rape
- Sexual Assault

Figure 5-2 plots knife crimes as a percentage of the selected offences for C&P, as well as the percentage for England. In 2023-24, the percentage of knife crime of all selected offences was 5.9% in C&P compared to 6.6% in England. C&P's rate was unchanged from 2022-23 but lower than the 8.3% rate two years earlier (in 2021-22). During the period of 2010-11 to 2023-24, the percentage of knife crimes fluctuated between 5.6% and 8.8% yearly in C&P, whilst in England, the percentage of knife crimes ranged between 5.8% and 7.6%.

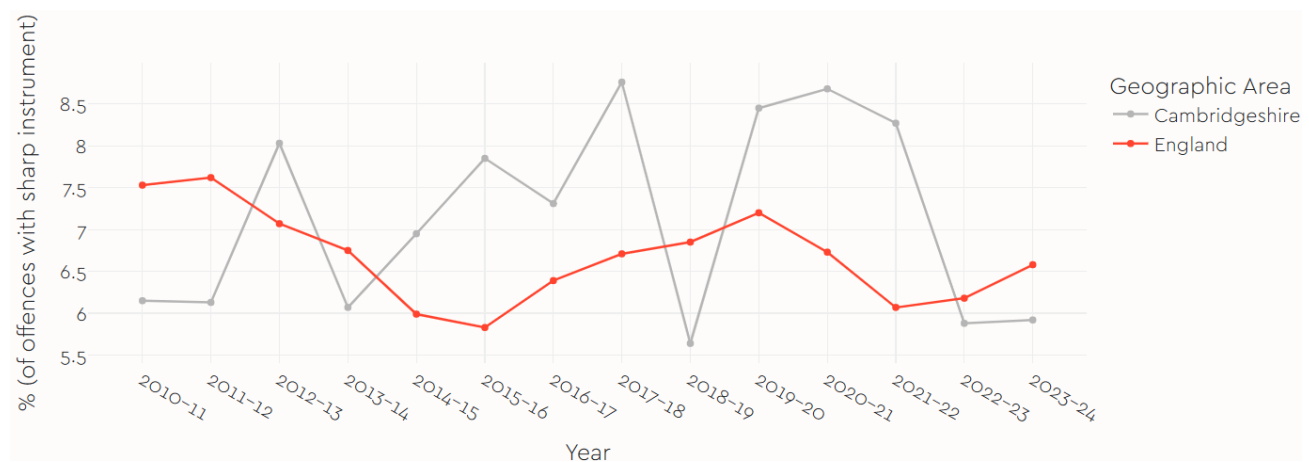


Figure 5-2: Knife Crimes (%) by Geographical Area and by Year

## 5.3 Re-offending Rates

A reoffender is defined as an offender who, after being released from prison, commits a new offence resulting in a court conviction, caution, reprimand, or warning during the one-year follow-up period after release. This indicator measures the number of offenders committing a re-offence as a percentage of overall offenders<sup>29</sup>. The data included a rate of re-offending for each local authority area in the C&P region. Examining re-offending rates is important for assessing the functionality of the prison system in terms of the rehabilitation of convicted criminals, as well as tackling crime prevention.

Figure 5-3 plots the re-offending rates for each local authority area in the C&P region between 2016-17 and 2022-23. In 2022-23, the re-offending rate in C&P was 26.8%, slightly higher than in England, which was 26.2% and reached its highest level since 2018-19. Notwithstanding, the C&P rate in 2022-23 was lower than it was in 2016-17, when it was 28.1%. The data shows that Cambridge had the highest rate of re-offending in the region, reaching a peak of 34.6% in 2019-20, before a subsequent decline to 32.7% in 2022-23. Peterborough had the second highest rate of re-offending in the region but decreased modestly from 2016-17 (31.4%) to 29.8% in 2022-23. The re-offending rates in Fenland, Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire all decreased during the entire period, to 22.5%, 22% and 18.5% respectively in 2022-23. Re-offending rates in East Cambridgeshire decreased substantially from 2017-18 (22.3%) to the lowest level recorded in the region of 15.5% in 2019-20, before it increased to 24% in 2022-23.

<sup>28</sup> ONS, 2025. Crime in England and Wales: Police Force Area data tables. [\[Link to source\]](#)

<sup>29</sup> OHID, 2025. Public Health Profiles: Reoffending Rates. [\[Link to source\]](#)



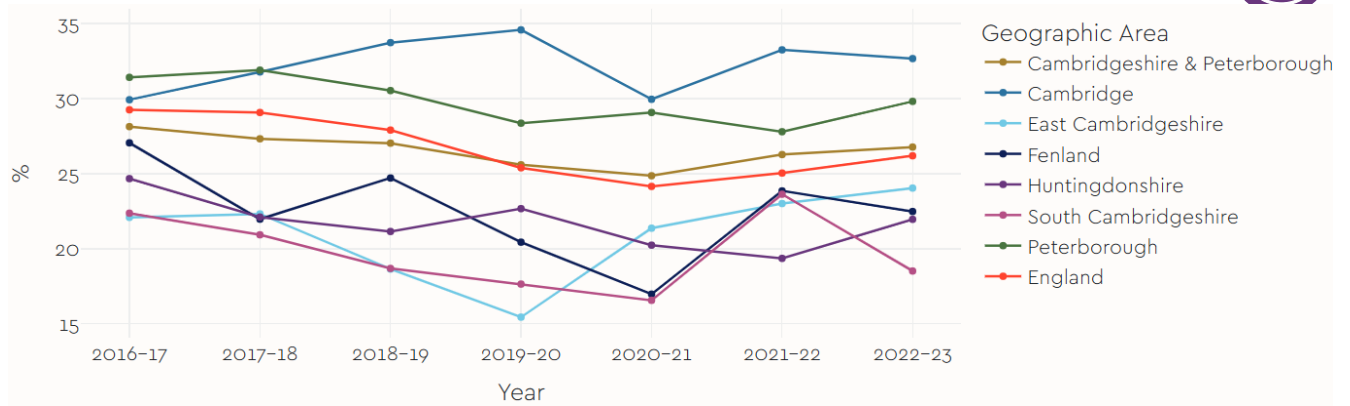


Figure 5-3: Re-offending Rates (%) by Local Authority Area & England and by Year

### 5.4 Positive Outcomes for Violence & Sexual Offences

Cambridgeshire Constabulary releases annual records of all crimes reported and the investigative outcomes of these crimes<sup>30</sup>. In this measure, positive outcomes included outcomes classified as charge/summons, youth caution, adult caution, community resolution or taken into consideration. Offences included were:

- Homicide
- Stalking and Harassment
- Rape
- Violence with Injury
- Violence without Injury
- Other Sexual Offences

Figure 5-4 charts the percentage of violent and sexual crime investigations that resulted in a positive outcome in the C&P region in 2024. Overall, the rate of positive outcomes was 12.9% across the C&P region, unchanged from the previous year of 2023. The C&P local authority area with the highest percentage of violent and sexual crime investigations resulting in a positive outcome was Huntingdonshire, at 14.5%, whereas Fenland had the lowest percentage of positive outcomes for these crimes at 11.4%.

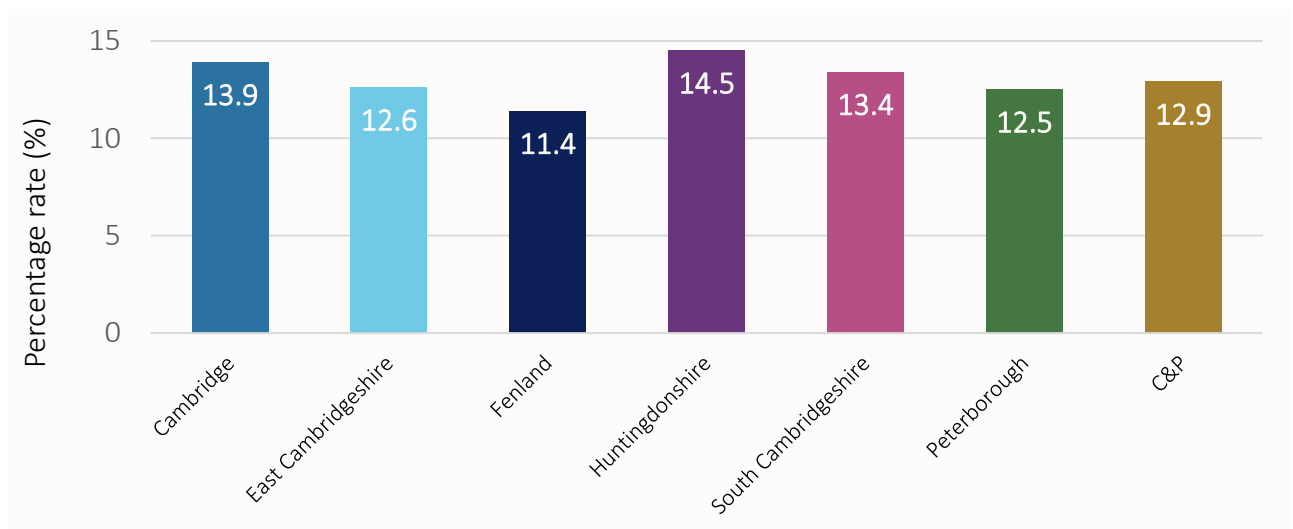


Figure 5-4: Violent and Sexual Crimes with a Positive Outcome (%) by Local Authority Area in 2024

### 5.5 Neighbourhood Crime

Cambridgeshire Constabulary publishes data on police-recorded crime across the C&P region by grouping offences according to the type of crime that was committed. Neighbourhood crime includes robbery, residential burglary, vehicle offences and theft from the person. Although, robbery also includes business burglary. Therefore, data for this indicator were gathered by summing the number of crimes in each of these categories and then standardising by population<sup>31</sup>. This produced a crime

<sup>30</sup> Cambridgeshire Constabulary, 2025 - Strategic Analysis Team. [Private communication]

<sup>31</sup> ONS, 2025. Crime in England and Wales: Police Force Area data tables. [\[Link to source\]](#)





rate per 1,000 population for the whole C&P region. The data provides insight into levels of security across the region, whilst also assessing the success of crime prevention interventions, targeted at reducing neighbourhood crime.

Figure 5-5 plots the rate of neighbourhood crime across the entire C&P region between 2016 and 2024, compared to England. In every year, C&P had a lower rate than England. The neighbourhood crime rate in C&P per 1,000 population fell slightly to 8.2 crimes in 2024 from 9.5 crimes the previous year of 2023. Moreover, C&P's rate of 8.2 crimes in 2024 was below England's rate of 12.7 crimes.

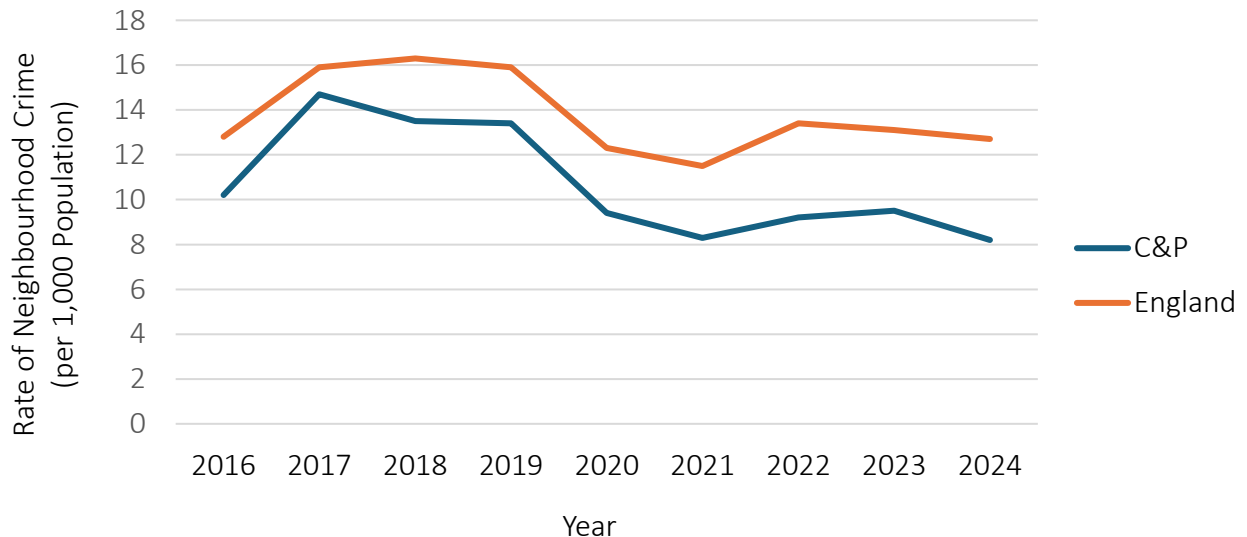


Figure 5-5: Neighbourhood Crime (per 1,000 population) in C&P and England by Year

## 5.6 Noise Complaints

Noise Complaints data collected by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health refers to grievances or reports filed for individuals or communities regarding excessive noise in their surroundings<sup>32</sup>. Complaints can arise from various sources and are indicative of a poorer quality of life. The data was aggregated to capture the number of complaints about noise per year by local authority area (per 1,000 population).

Figure 5-6 plots the rate of noise complaints (per 1,000 population) for each local authority area in the C&P region by year. In 2023-24, all of C&P's local authority areas experienced a reduction in the number of noise complaints per 1,000 population from the previous period of 2020-21 whereas only Peterborough and Cambridge saw a decline on the pre-COVID year of 2019-20. Moreover, all of C&P's local authority areas had a noise complaint rate below England's 5.9 per 1,000 population in 2023-24.

Notably, Cambridge had the largest decline, falling to 4.2 from 11.7 per 1,000 population in 2020-21. Before this in every year, Cambridge had the highest noise complaint rate, more than twice that of all the other local authority areas, though Cambridge also had a long-run downward slope from the 17.7 per 1,000 population rate in 2010-11. This is attributable to its higher population density and urban land use. As identified within the State of the Region, Cambridge has the highest percentage of land use for industry and commerce, as well as transport within the region, both leading causes of noise pollution.

Fenland replaced Cambridge as the C&P local authority with the highest rate of noise complaints in the latest period, 2023-24, albeit marginally at 4.4 per 1,000 population compared to 4.2 in Cambridge, despite being less densely populated and being mainly

<sup>32</sup> OHID, 2025. Public Health Profiles: Rate of Complaints about Noise. [\[Link to source\]](#)





comprised of rural and village land. In most years of the entire period, South Cambridgeshire had the lowest rate of noise complaints yet was replaced by Peterborough in the most recent data of 2023-24. Peterborough had a rate of 1.6 compared to South Cambridgeshire's rate of 2.4 per 1,000 population.

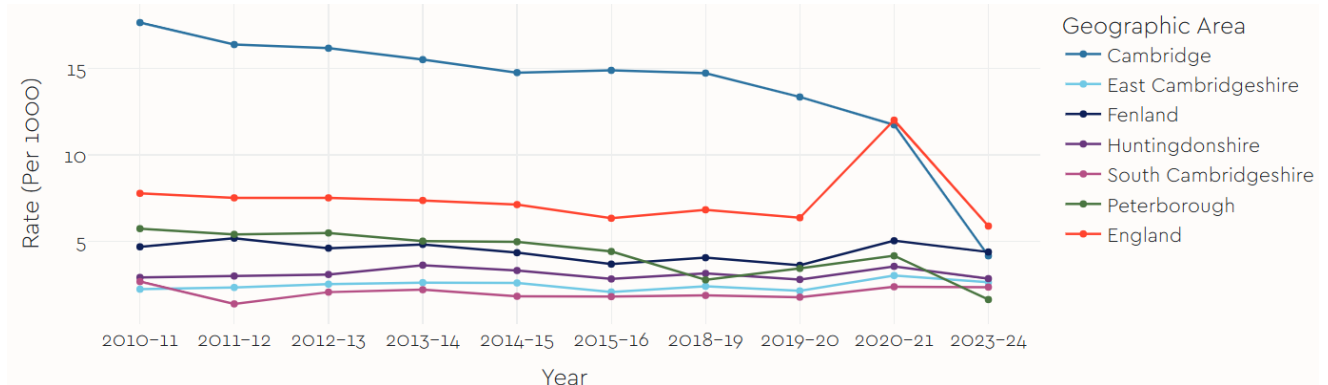


Figure 5-6: Noise Complaints (per 1,000 population) by Local Authority Area & England and by Year



## 6 Volunteering and Community Groups

### 6.1 Size of the Voluntary and Community Sector

The voluntary and community sector (VCS) plays an important role in supporting vulnerable individuals in the community through social support and service delivery, whilst also increasing community engagement and social cohesion. The size of the voluntary and community sector can be determined by the number of non-profit and mutual association businesses in an area. These denote businesses that were founded for charitable and socially beneficial purposes, rather than for the purpose of solely accumulating profit. Data collected from the UK Business Counts survey provided the percentage of total businesses that were classified in the VCS<sup>33</sup>.

Figure 6-1 plots the relative size of the VCS, based on the number of organisations operating in each local authority area in the C&P region as a percentage of the total businesses in the area, between 2014 and 2024. In 2024, C&P had a VCS rate of 4.5% compared to England’s rate of 3.8%. In every year, Cambridge had the highest proportion of VCS organisations locally, with a rate of 10% of all its businesses in 2024. The remaining local authority areas in the region all had a VCS rate of a similar proportion, at approximately 3.4 to 4% of their total businesses.

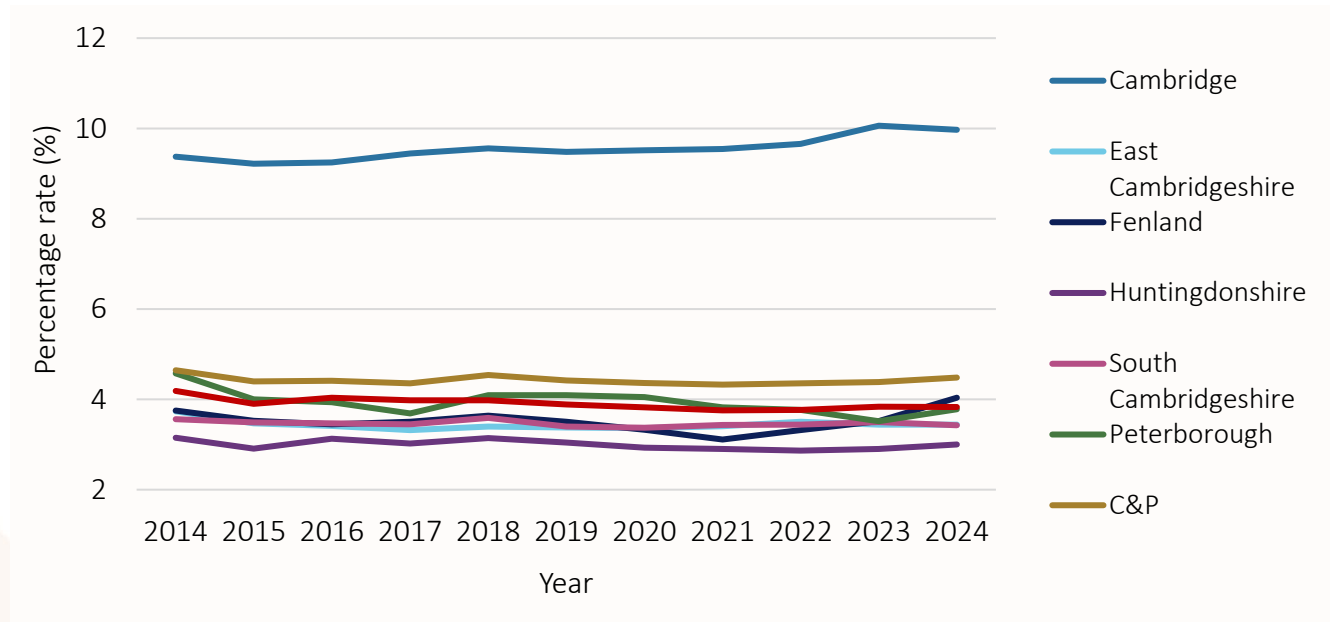


Figure 6-1: Voluntary and Community Sector Businesses (%) by Local Authority Area & England and by Year

<sup>33</sup> Nomis, 2024. UK Business Counts - Local Units. [\[Link to source\]](#)

