CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY

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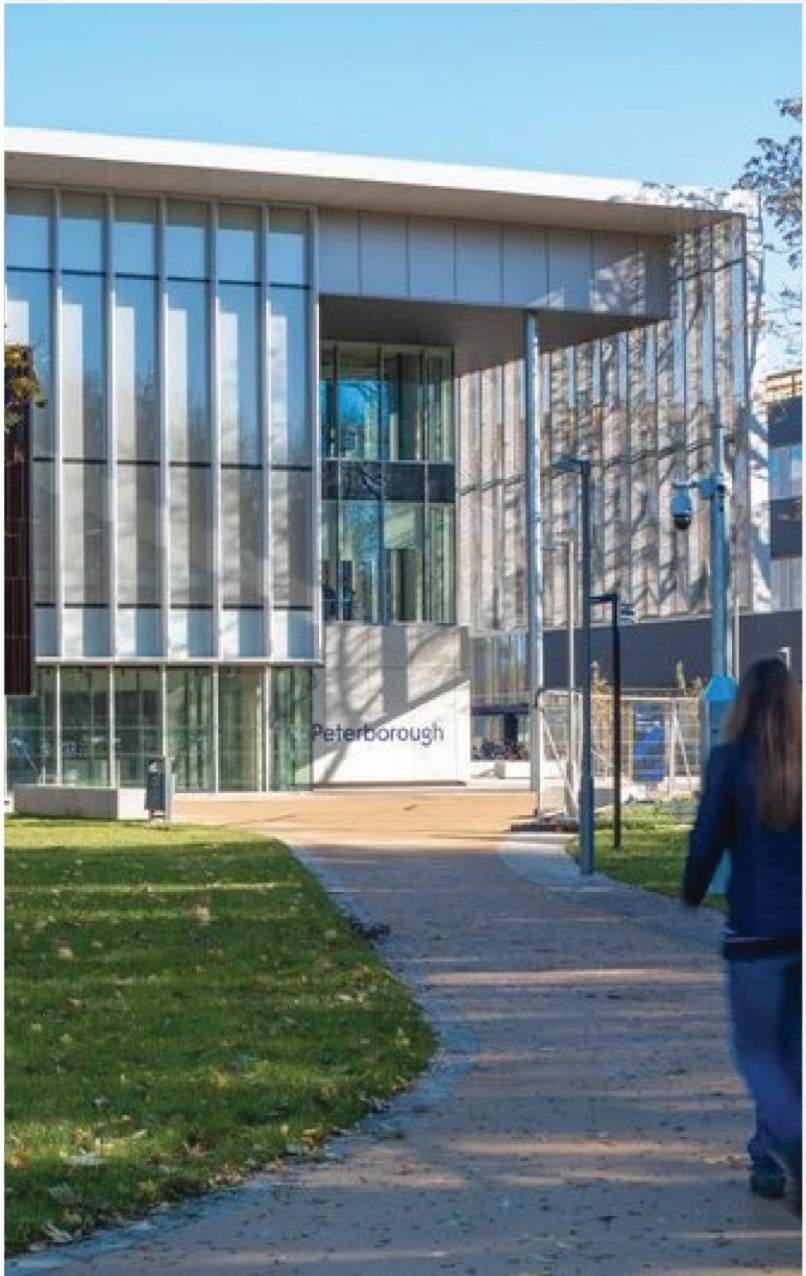
Tackling Inequality

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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Tackling Inequality

This chapter examines inequality through the sub-themes of hardship, economy, health, and childhood inequality. The findings unveil disparities across incomes, employment, and life expectancy amongst several other headline metrics that together underscore the need for targeted policy intervention.

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (C&P) region has a complex landscape of socioeconomic inequalities with significant variations throughout different areas of the region, according to the insights reported in this *Tackling Inequality* domain. For example, the C&P region's average income inequality ratio[1] of 3.1 was nearly the same as England's 3.0, meaning the top 20% of earners in C&P earned at least 3.1 times the amount of the bottom 20% of earners in C&P. In Cambridge, income inequality was much higher at 4.2, while in Fenland it was considerably lower than England overall, at 2.6. Gender pay disparities were also evident. While the average gender pay gap[2] in C&P of £8,700 exceeded that of England's gender pay gap of £6,500, there were further inequalities within C&P. For instance, South Cambridgeshire's gender pay gap widened to £14,500 in 2024 to nearly double that of all the other local authority areas in C&P.

Fuel poverty[3] affected 9.2% of households in the C&P region in 2023, below the England rate of 11.4%, yet with significant local variations ranging from 2.9% to 22.7% at the LSOA level. Food bank usage[4] has increased across all local authorities since 2017-18, with Peterborough and Cambridge distributing the highest number of food parcels per centre, most recently. Moreover, in C&P overall, the total number of distributed food parcels more than doubled from 2017-18 to 2024-25.

Life expectancy[5] disparities between the most and least deprived C&P areas averaged around four years. Fenland and Peterborough had the highest rate of premature mortality in C&P in 2023 and were both above England's rate. Cambridge showed the largest disparity of up to nearly nine years for females. In Peterborough, for males, the disparity was almost eight years, whilst much lower in South Cambridgeshire at 1.4 years. The infant mortality rate[6] at the latest period (2021-23) in the C&P region ranged between 1.9 and 6.0 per 1,000 live births across the local authority areas compared to the rate for England of 4.1. Peterborough's rate was higher than England's rate, whilst Huntingdonshire's was lower.

Nonetheless, the C&P region contrasts favourably to national figures across a number of areas. For instance, in 2023-24, Childhood obesity rates in Year 6 children[7] were 19.2% in C&P compared to England's higher rate of 22.1%. However, the favourable comparison to England masks the variance across smaller geographies in C&P where obesity amongst children is much higher, such as MSOAs in Fenland (up to 34.2%).

[1] ONS, 2022. Admin-based income statistics, data for individuals, England and Wales. [Link to source]
[2] ONS, 2024. Gender pay gap. [Link to source]
[3] DESNZ, 2024. Fuel poverty statistics. [Link to source]
[4] Trussel Trust, 2024. End of Year Stats. [Link to source]
[5] OHID, 2025. Public Health Profiles: Life Expectancy Inequality. [Link to source]
[6] OHID, 2025. Public Health Profiles: Infant Mortality Rate. [Link to source]
[7] OHID, 2025. Public Health Profiles: Obesity. [Link to source]

Summary of key findings

Metric	Section	Findings
Income Equality	1.1	• Across the C&P region, the average income inequality ratio was 3.1, meaning the top 20% of earners earned at least 3.1 times the amount of the bottom 20%. This was almost the same as England, which had an income inequality ratio of 3.0.
Gender Pay Gap	1.2	• The average gender pay gap for local authorities within C&P was £8,700 in 2024, which was higher than England's gender pay gap of £6,500. • South Cambridgeshire's gender pay gap widened to £14,500 in 2024 to nearly double that of all the other local authority areas in C&P.
Low & Unskilled Employment Rate	1.3	• Low and unskilled work in C&P had a downward trend between 2014 and 2024, despite increasing to 3.5% in 2024 from 3.1% the previous year. • In 2014, the rate was 4.5%, one per cent higher than the most recent rate.
Long-term Conditions	1.4	• In 2024, the employment rate gap between those with and those without a health condition or illness lasting more than 12 months was 13.8% in C&P, higher than England's 11.8%. • Peterborough was the only local authority area that had an increase as of 2024 on 2014, at 4.1% higher.
Employment Access	1.5	• The average score for employment access in C&P was 1.55, lower than England's score of 1.89 and indicating that C&P residents were more likely to travel further to work on average. • Cambridge and Peterborough had many more people who worked within 10km of their home compared to those who travelled further than 10km to work.
Fuel Poverty Rate	2.1	• Across the C&P region as of 2023, 9.2% of households were in fuel poverty, which was below the England rate of 11.4%. • Fenland had the highest fuel poverty rate at 10.4 %.
Food Parcels per Food Bank	2.2	• The number of food parcels per food bank in C&P increased by 154% between 2017-18 and 2024-25, much higher than the increase of England (102.3%).
Life Expectancy	3.1	• Cambridge had the largest inequality in life expectancy years, locally, in every year for females.
Health Deprivation	3.2	• Overall, the majority of the LSOAs in the C&P region had a particularly low Health Deprivation and Disability Domain rank (Indices of Deprivation), with 20% having a rank of below 30,000 (least deprived). • Areas within Fenland, Peterborough and Cambridge generally had higher ranks (most deprived) than the wider areas of each local authority area.
Premature Mortality Rate	3.3	• Fenland and Peterborough had the highest rate of premature mortality in C&P in 2023 and were higher than England, overall. • South Cambridgeshire had the lowest rate of 238 per 100,000 population under 75 years of age, followed by East Cambridgeshire (261) and Huntingdonshire (288), all lower than England's rate of 342.

Infant Mortality Rate	4.1	• As at the latest period (2021-23), the infant mortality rate in the C&P region ranged between 1.9 and 6.0 per 1,000 live births across the local authority areas compared to the rate for England of 4.1. • Peterborough's rate was higher than England's rate, whilst Huntingdonshire's was lower.
Children in Low Income Families	4.2	• In 2024, 32.1% of children in Peterborough and 26.1% of children in Fenland were in relatively low income families. • In comparison, only 9.3% of children in South Cambridgeshire were in relative low income.
Childhood Obesity	4.3	• In 2023-24, Childhood obesity rates in Year 6 children were 19.2% in C&P compared to England's rate of 22.1%. • However, the favourable comparison to England masks the variance across smaller geographies in C&P where obesity amongst children is much higher, such as MSOAs in Fenland (up to 34.2%). • Obesity rates amongst reception aged children in Peterborough (10.3%) and Fenland (9.8%) were above England's rate (9.7%).
Young Carers	4.4	• All local authority areas in the C&P region had a comparable or lower percentage of young carers, aged 5-24, than England's 2.5%, except Fenland (2.9%). • Both Peterborough (5.3%) and Fenland (5.2%) were above the England average (4.6%) for the percentage of young carers aged 18-24.

1 Economic

1.1 Income Equality

ONS data for admin-based income statistics for England and Wales[8] included data for experimental gross and net individual income statistics using administrative data from Pay-As-You-Earn, Self-Assessment and benefit systems. The *Income Equality* metric measures the difference between the lowest and highest earners within a region. It was calculated by dividing the average incomes of the 80th percentile of workers by the average income of the 20th percentile of workers. The 80th percentile was the value below which 80% of the working-age population earned, and the 20th percentile was the value below which 20% of the working-age population earned. The indicator was calculated as the ratio of the annual net (post-tax) income of the 80th percentile of earnings to that of the 20th percentile.

Figure 1-1 charts the net inequality ratio for each local authority area in C&P using the net individual income dataset with the 80:20 ratio. Across the C&P region, the average income inequality ratio was around 3.1, meaning that the top 20% of earners earned at least 3.1 times the amount of the bottom 20%. This was similar to the average across England, which was 3.0. Overall, most local authority areas in the C&P region had an income inequality ratio that was below the average for England, since Fenland (2.6), Peterborough (2.8), Huntingdonshire (2.8) and East Cambridgeshire (2.9) had ratios below 3.0. Fenland had a particularly low ratio whilst Cambridge had the highest income inequality ratio at 4.2.

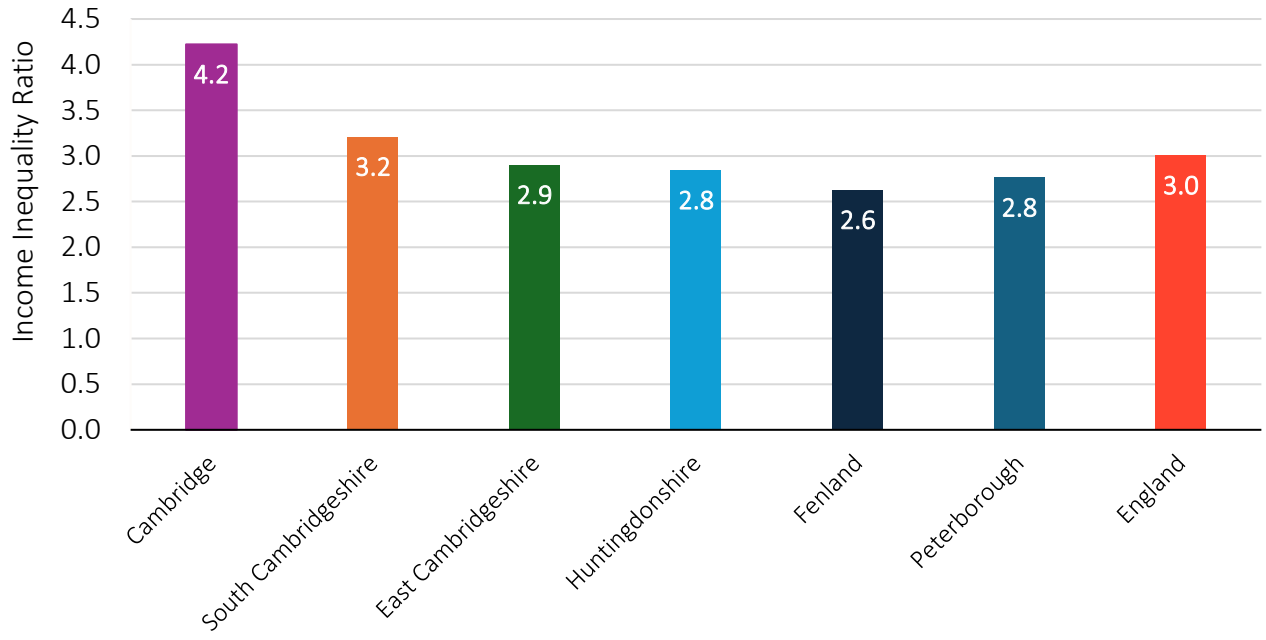


Figure 1-1: Income Inequality (Ratio) by Local Authority Area and England in 2018

1.2 Gender Pay Gap

The *Gender Pay Gap*[9] is the difference in annual full-time wages between male and female employees. This measure used median wages, the amount below which 50% of values lie, when calculating the gender pay gap. Note, in the years 2022 and 2023, the data had missing values for East Cambridgeshire since the estimates were considered unreliable for practical purposes or were

[8] ONS, 2022. Admin-based income statistics, data for individuals, England and Wales. [Link to source]
[9] ONS, 2024. Gender pay gap. [Link to source]

unavailable. It should also be noted that the data does not show differences in rates of pay for comparable jobs.

Figure 1-2 plots the gender pay gap for each local authority area in the C&P region between 2017 and 2024. The average gender pay gap for local authorities within C&P was £8,700 in 2024, considerably higher than England's gender pay gap of £6,500. The gender pay gap was highest in South Cambridgeshire at £14,500, where the difference in pay was almost twice the average calculated across the other five local authority areas in C&P (£7,500). Peterborough had the second highest gap in pay between males and females in C&P, reaching £9,200 in 2024, whereas Huntingdonshire had the lowest disparity in pay between males and females in 2024, at £4,800. Moreover, Huntingdonshire was the only local authority area in C&P that had a decline in pay variation between 2017 and 2024.

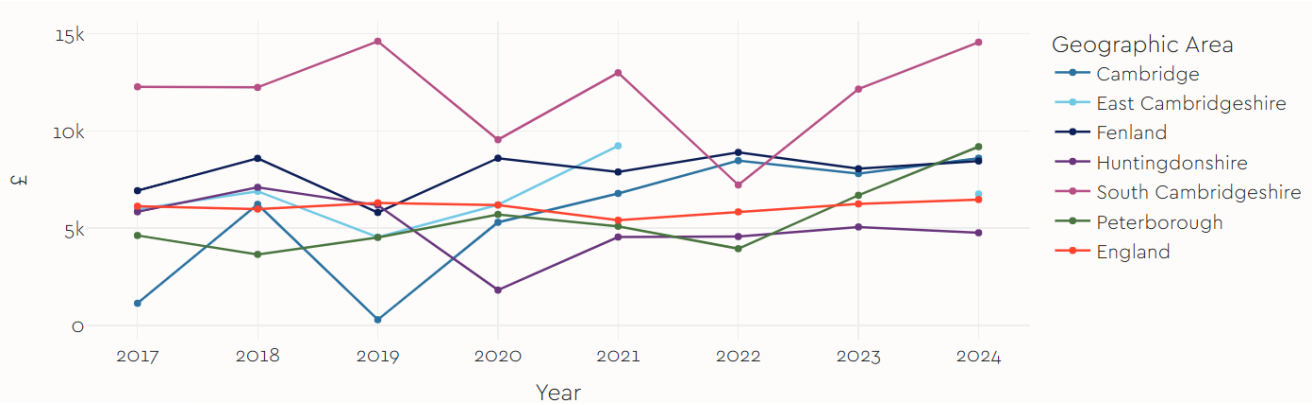


Figure 1-2: Gender Pay Gap (£) by Local Authority Area & England and by Year

1.3 Low & Unskilled Employment Rate

A person is defined as low or unskilled if they do not hold an RQF-regulated qualification. This dataset contains the proportion of the total population aged 16-64, and separately for males and females, who were in employment but did not hold an RQF-regulated qualification[10]. Since RQF estimates replaced NVQ estimates in 2022, the data prior to 2022 pertains to the analogous NVQ qualifications framework, with the employment rate relating to the proportion of people not holding an NVQ-regulated qualification. Note that for some areas, there were data gaps in the data release due to being statistically unreliable.

The interpretation of the employment rate amongst both the low-skilled and unskilled workers depends upon the wider economy. A healthy economy supports a low unemployment rate across all skill levels with support mechanisms, such as education and training to help workers transition from low-skilled to higher-skilled jobs. A higher employment rate of low-skilled and unskilled workers can highlight that people without advanced qualifications have still found employment. However, it could also show that there is a lack of upskilling and economic transformation.

Figure 1-3 plots the available data for the C&P region from 2014 to 2024. It shows that across the C&P region, 3.5% of those in employment aged 16-64 held no RQF-regulated qualifications in 2024, slightly up from 3.1% in 2023 yet down from the rate of 4.5% in 2014. Similar changes are observed at a national level as the percentage of those aged 16-64 in employment with no RQF-regulated qualifications rose to 3.6% in 2024, up marginally from 3.3% in 2023 but fell from 4.9% in 2014.

[10] ONS, 2025. Annual Population Survey. [Link to source]

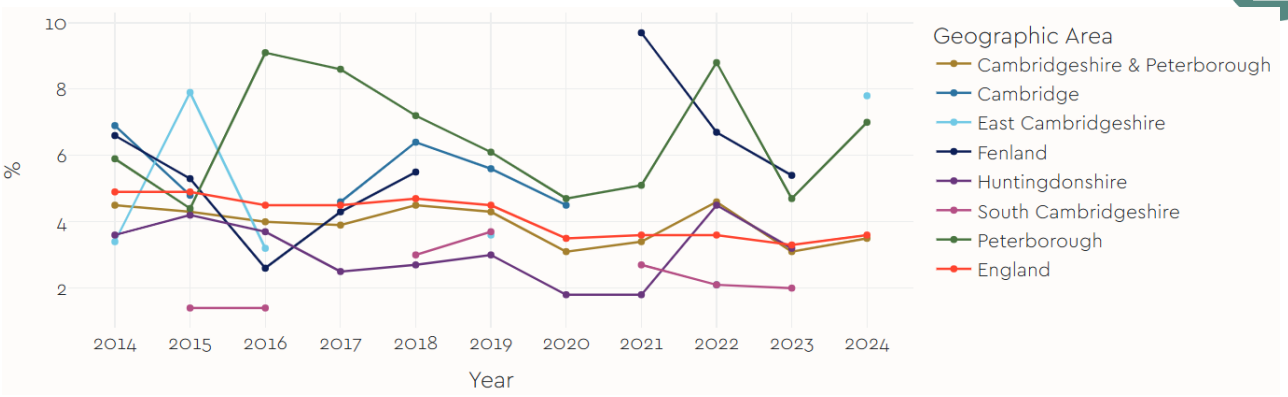


Figure 1-3: Low & Unskilled Employment Rate (%) by Local Authority Area & England and by Year

Where data was available, the lowest rate across the local authority areas in C&P was generally South Cambridgeshire, most recently at 2% in 2023, with the highest rate in East Cambridgeshire at 7.8% in 2024. Overall, the data suggests that the level of low and unskilled work has largely declined across the C&P region.

1.4 Long-term Conditions

The *Long-term Conditions* indicator compares the difference in employment rate between those with and those without a health condition or illness lasting more than 12 months. The ONS published data on the percentage of the population (aged 16+) who were in employment and who identified as having a long-term health condition[11]. This indicator was calculated by subtracting the percentage of people with a long-term health condition who were employed from the percentage of the total employed population, both covering the population aged 16+. As such, an overall employment rate of 80% and a long-term condition employment rate of 40% would result in a percentage point difference (employment gap) of 40%. It is important to note that is not possible to disaggregate the data by age. This needs to be considered when interpreting the data as long term conditions are often associated with older age, yet this remains obscured in the available data.

Figure 1-4 plots the gap between the employment rate of those with a long-term health condition and the overall employment rate, both aged 16+, in the C&P region from 2015 to 2024. None of the areas had a long-term condition employment rate equal to the overall employment rate, suggesting a gap between the two populations. In 2024, the gap in C&P was 13.8%, higher than England's 11.8%. Whereas the rate for England dropped slightly between 2023 and 2024 (albeit by just 0.1%), C&P's rate grew by one percentage point. However, across C&P's local authority areas, Peterborough was the only local authority area that had an increase in 2024 on 2014 (at 4.1% higher), reaching 14.1% in 2024. Nonetheless, both Huntingdonshire and Cambridge had a rate higher than Peterborough in 2024, 15.1% and 15% respectively. East Cambridgeshire had the lowest rate of 5.2%, with a notably sharp drop from 19.7% in the previous year of 2023. Fenland had the second lowest rate of 12.9%, yet considerably higher than East Cambridgeshire.

[11] ONS, 2025. Annual Population Survey. [Link to source]

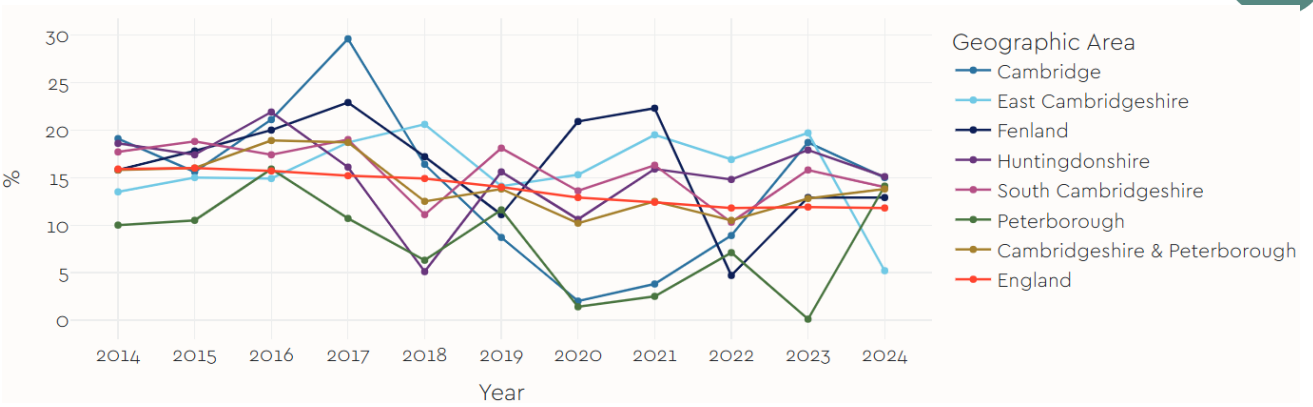


Figure 1-4: Employment Rate Gap (%) between those with and those without a Long-Term Health Condition (aged 16+) by Local Authority Area & England and by Year

1.5 Employment Access

The 2021 Census captured the distance travelled to work by gathering home and work addresses of those employed in the UK. Distances were measured in a straight line between the two addresses. The statistics were then aggregated into two categories of distance less than and greater than 10 km. The *Employment Access*[12] The indicator represents the ratio between the population counts within each of these two categories, so that a ratio of two denotes that two-times as many people worked within 10 km of their homes as worked more than 10 km from their homes. Note that these categories did not account for home or offshore working. The data aims to provide a better understanding of the working patterns within the C&P region and the impact of job availability within each area on travel. It focuses on the distance travelled to work, but not the skills needed and availability of the population.

Figure 1-5 charts the employment access inequality ratio at the latest reading, in 2021. The average score for C&P of 1.55 was lower than England's score of 1.89, indicating that C&P residents were more likely to travel 10km or more to work. C&P's overall score masked significant variation within the C&P region. The data shows that four times as many people in Cambridge worked within 10km of their home compared to those who travelled further than 10km to work. This was closely followed by Peterborough, with a ratio of 3, indicating that three times as many people in Peterborough worked within 10km of their home, compared to those who travelled more than 10km to work. This contrasted with East Cambridgeshire (0.8), Huntingdonshire (0.96), Fenland (1.03) and South Cambridgeshire (1.09).

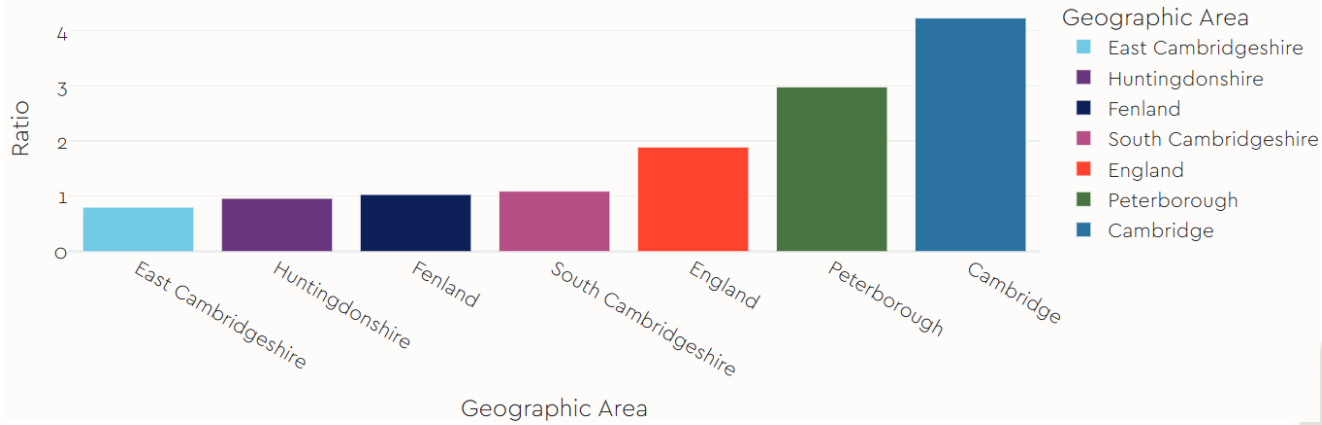


Figure 1-5: Employment Access Inequality (Ratio) by Local Authority Area & England in 2021

In C&P, patterns of commuting vary across the region according to the data. Urban areas such as Cambridge and Peterborough tend to have a higher proportion of residents working within

[12] ONS, 2021. Distance travelled to work. [Link to source]

shorter distances of their homes, while in rural parts, a greater share of the population travels over 10km to work as reflected in a ratio below one. Although this trend may be linked to increased travel time and costs, it's important to note that commuting behaviours are shaped by a range of factors, including local employment opportunities, transport infrastructure, and individual preferences.

2 Hardship

2.1 Fuel Poverty Rate

Fuel poverty[13] concerns the inability of households to afford adequate heating and energy services to maintain a comfortable and healthy living environment. Fuel poverty in England is measured using the Low-Income Energy Efficiency (LILEE) fuel poverty metric. The LILEE metric considers a household to be fuel poor if:

- It is living in a property with an energy efficiency rating of band D, E, F or G
- Its disposable income would be below the poverty line

It should be noted that fuel poverty was measured based on required energy bills rather than actual spending to ensure that households that were actively reducing their energy bills by not heating their homes (e.g. to limit costs) were not overlooked.

Combined Authority Comparators

According to the data, across the C&P region, 35,000 households were in fuel poverty as of 2023, representing 9.2% of all C&P's households. As plotted in Figure 2-1, the proportion of households in fuel poverty in C&P was lower than the comparator combined authority areas with SYMCA's rate of 15%, and WYCA's rate of 14.6% sizeably higher, whilst WECA's rate of 9.4% was marginally higher. However, all three combined authority comparator areas, along with C&P and England, had a drop in their fuel poverty rate in 2023 from the previous year of 2022.

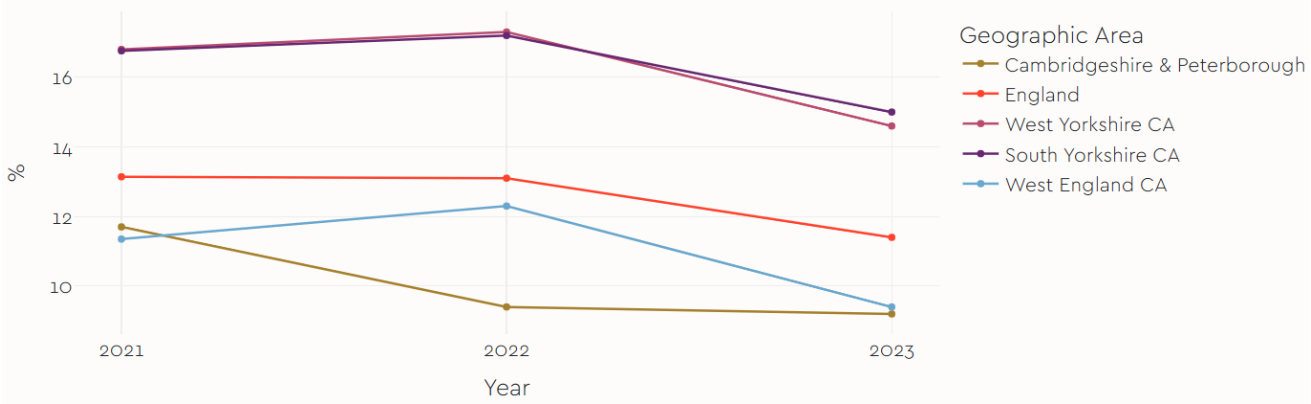


Figure 2-1: Proportion of all Households in Fuel Poverty (%) by Combined Authority Area & England and by Year

Local Authority Comparison

Figure 2-2 plots the percentage of households that were in fuel poverty by local authority area in C&P. It shows that in 2023, Fenland had the highest fuel poverty rate at 10.4 %, though it was below England's rate of 11.4%. East Cambridgeshire had the second highest percentage of households in fuel poverty, at 10.1%. South Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire both had the lowest fuel poverty rate in the C&P region at 8.4%. Cambridge was the only other local authority area in C&P that had an increase in the fuel poverty rate in 2023, reaching 9.2% from 8.9% the previous year.

[13] DESNZ, 2024. Fuel poverty statistics. [Link to source]

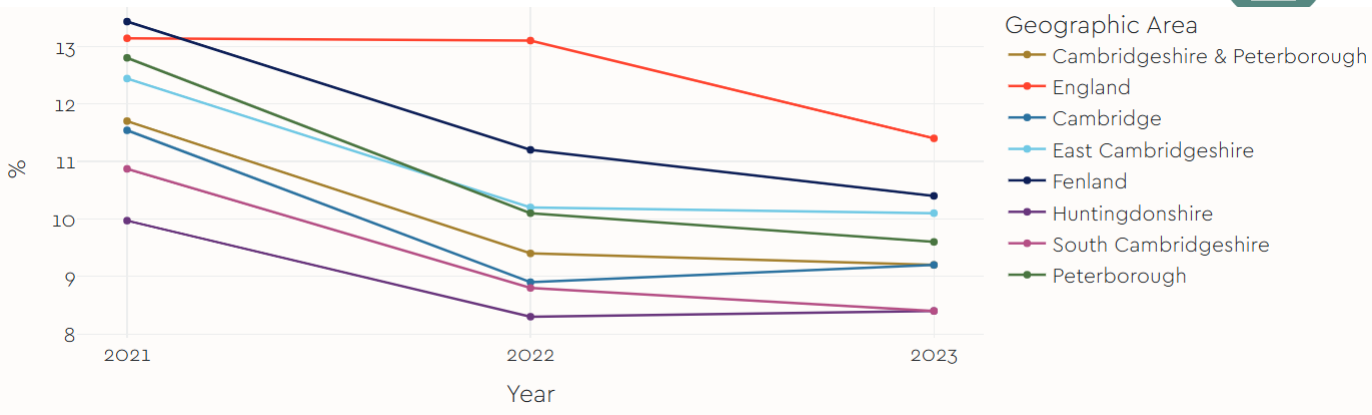
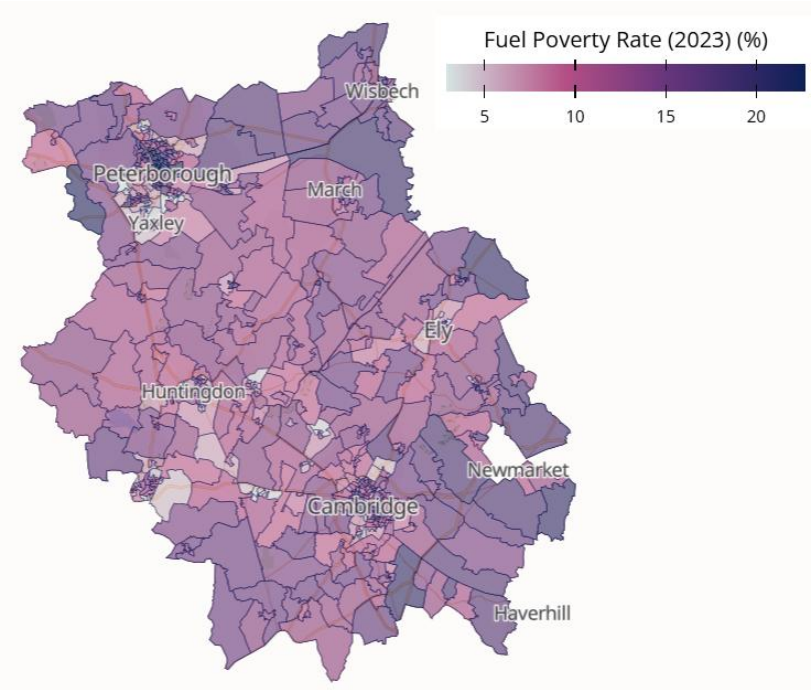


Figure 2-2: Proportion of all Households in Fuel Poverty (%) by Local Authority Area & England and by Year

Figure 2-3 maps the fuel poverty data in 2023 by LSOA in C&P. The map shows that the majority of LSOAs in the C&P region had a fuel poverty rate between 7% and 11% across all households. As might be expected, there is a spatial pattern similarity with the areas with a high proportion of EPC ratings above a C. There were some LSOAs within which the proportion of households in fuel poverty was significantly above the average of 9.2% across the C&P region, the highest of which was 22.7%.



The two LSOAs with a fuel poverty rate above 20% were located in central Peterborough. It is also interesting to note that there were some LSOAs in the C&P region with a particularly low fuel poverty rating. These were located in the outer areas of Peterborough and Cambridge, with several LSOAs (for example, around Orton Wistow and Cambourne) having a fuel poverty rating of 3% or less.

Figure 2-3: Fuel Poverty Rate (%) by C&P LSOA in 2023

2.2 Food Parcels per Food Bank

Food banks provide emergency food assistance to individuals and families experiencing financial hardship and are unable to afford an adequate supply of food. The Trussell Trust, as an anti-poverty charity and community of food banks, releases statistics annually reporting the number of food parcels that it delivers and the number of food banks within each local authority area[14]. The number of food parcels per food bank was calculated by dividing the number of food parcels distributed within the C&P local authority areas by the number of food banks within the corresponding local authority area. Note that, whilst the Trussell Trust is the largest chain of food

[14] Trussel Trust, 2024. End of Year Stats. [Link to source]

banks in the UK, there are over 1,000 independent food banks in the UK, whose data is not included in this metric. Therefore, the number of food parcels per food bank rescaled the Trussell Trust data to provide a measure that is likely indicative of activity observed by both the Trussell Trust and other food bank operators. A food parcel constitutes a three- or seven-day supply of food for one person, being either an adult or a child. Both sizes of food parcel are included in the data. A family of four would receive four food parcels each time they visit the food bank.

The data of the number of food parcels per food bank is plotted in Figure 2-4. Across all C&P's local authority areas, the total number of food parcels per number of food banks increased between 2017-18 and 2024-25 from 628 to 1,595. The percentage increase across the C&P region was 154% over the eight-year period. It is notable that the rate peaked in 2022-23 at 1,719 food parcels. In this period, the total number of food parcels within the data in the C&P region was 51,600. The local authority areas with the highest number of food parcels per centre were Peterborough and Cambridge, with 3,301 and 2,221, respectively.

South Cambridgeshire had a notably lower count of parcels per centre than the other local authority areas in C&P, making up only 6.7% of the total food parcels in 2024-25, with 3,522. However, South Cambridgeshire was the local authority area with the greatest year-on-year increase in total food parcels between 2023-24 and 2024-25, at 38.7%. Comparably, Huntingdonshire had a decrease of 13.1% whilst Peterborough had a decrease of 6.5%. The divergence in movement resulted in South Cambridgeshire reaching its highest total of distributed food parcels in 2024-25 since 2017-18, when the data began. In 2017-18, South Cambridgeshire's total distributed food parcels were 843, whilst in 2024-25 the total grew to 3,522 distributed food parcels, which was a 317.8% increase. Over the same period of data available, East Cambridgeshire had the lowest increase at 10.9%.

Of note, the number of distribution centres in C&P increased by one in 2024-25 to 33, and moreover, whilst the number of food parcels grew by around 1,000 in South Cambridgeshire alone, the number of food banks in South Cambridgeshire reduced by one.

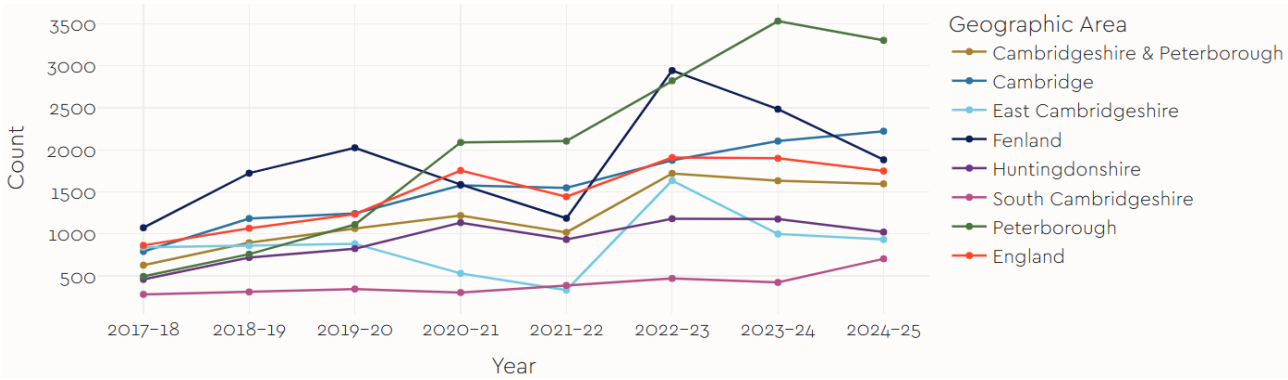


Figure 2-4: Food Parcels per Food Bank (Count) by Local Authority Area & England and by Year

3 Health Inequality

3.1 Life Expectancy

Inequality in *Life Expectancy*[15] at 65 is a measure of how life expectancy compares between the most and least deprived areas across local areas. It measures how much life expectancy varies with deprivation, that is, the relationship between life expectancy and deprivation across all deprivation deciles. Life expectancy at 65 represents the average number of years a person would expect to live based on contemporary mortality rates in relation to the age-specific mortality rates for each area. It is important to note that for this indicator, comparisons should only be made between comparable geographical levels. For example, no local authority areas should be compared to regional or national levels. Furthermore, the slope index of inequality is subject to confidence intervals.

Figure 3-1 and Figure 3-2 plot the estimated number of years for males and females independently. The inequalities in life expectancy years is based on the life expectancy at 65 and therefore does not account for the impacts of early life mortality before the age of 65.

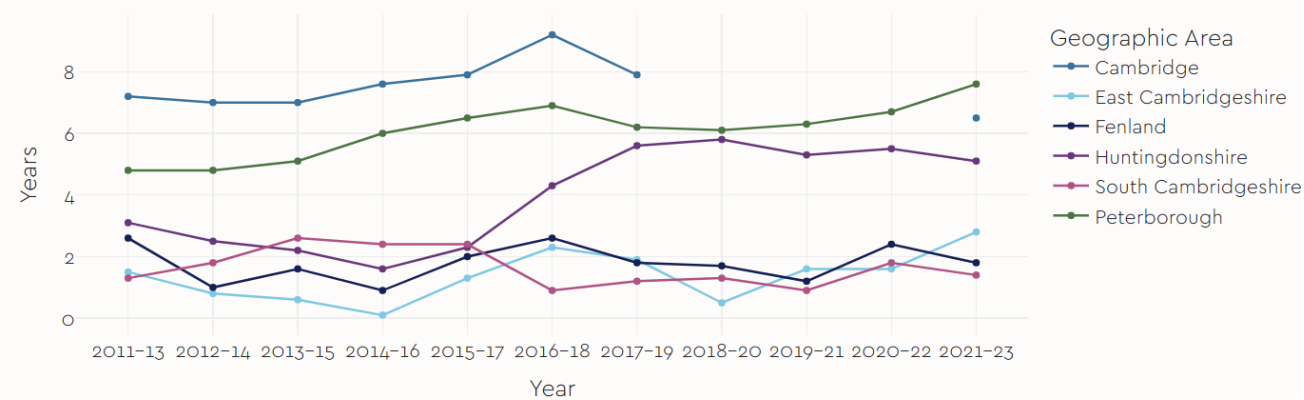


Figure 3-1: Male Life Expectancy Inequality (Years) by Local Authority Area & England and by Year

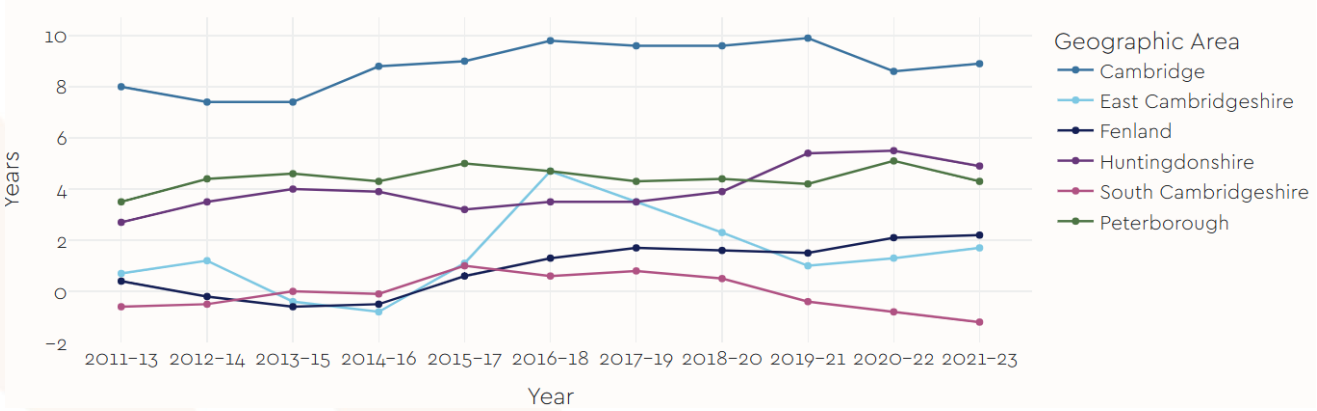


Figure 3-2: Female Life Expectancy Inequality (Years) by Local Authority Area & England and by Year

Cambridge had the largest inequality in life expectancy years, locally, in every year for females. Females in the least deprived areas of Cambridge were expected to live around nine years longer than females in the most deprived areas of Cambridge. Furthermore, in several years, the inequality of life expectancy for females in Cambridge was much higher than all of C&P's other local authority areas. For males, in recent years, there was a grouping of lower life expectancy inequality with East Cambridgeshire, Fenland and South Cambridgeshire having the least disparity in life expectancy in the C&P region. Notably, for females, the same grouping

[15] OHID, 2025. Public Health Profiles: Life Expectancy Inequality. [Link to source]

existed, yet South Cambridgeshire's values moved into negative territory in the last three years of data. Most recently, South Cambridgeshire had a life expectancy inequality of minus 1.2 years.

3.2 Health Deprivation

The Indices of Deprivation[16] provided a set of relative measures of deprivation for all LSOAs within England, based on seven domains of deprivation. The Health Deprivation and Disability Domain measured the risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health. Each LSOA was assigned a score, which was then ranked across all LSOAs in England. In the case of the Health Deprivation and Disability Domain, the absolute score was not meaningful; the use of the rank was favoured when comparing deprivation across different areas. A rank of 1 indicated that the LSOA was the most deprived LSOA in England, whilst the rank of 32,844 was assigned to the least deprived LSOA. Therefore, the higher the rank represented by a lower number, the more deprived the LSOA was. It is important to consider that the Indices of Deprivation was produced in 2019 and that an update to the indices is anticipated to be released toward the end of 2025.

Whilst the Indices of Deprivation assigned scores to each LSOA in England, the scores may be aggregated to a local authority level. The analysis, performed by the MHCLG, weighted the average Health Deprivation and Disability Domain score of LSOAs within a local authority according to its population. Figure 3-3 charts the Health Deprivation and Disability Domain rank by local authority area in C&P. Fenland had the highest rank at 61, whilst Peterborough had the second highest at 70. South Cambridgeshire and East Cambridgeshire both had the lowest average rank out of C&P's local authority areas at 304 and 241, respectively. South Cambridgeshire had a particularly low rank amongst all the 317 local authority areas in England; only 13 ranks above the least deprived local authority area across the entire country.

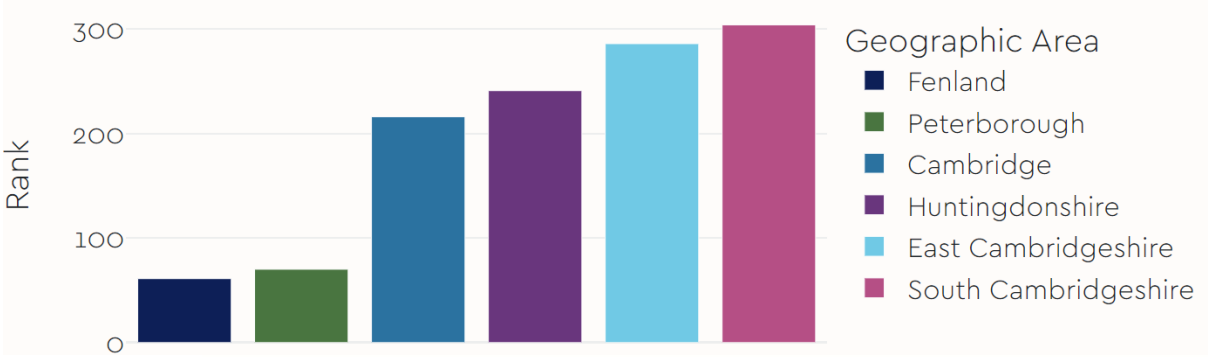


Figure 3-3: Health Deprivation and Disability Domain Score by Local Authority Area in 2019

Figure 3-4 maps the spatial distribution of ranks across all LSOAs in C&P. Overall, the majority of the LSOAs in the C&P region had a particularly low Health Deprivation and Disability Domain rank, with 20% having a rank of below 30,000 (least deprived). Most of these LSOAs are located in the southern areas of the region in South Cambridgeshire, East Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire and Cambridge.

Fenland overall had a high rank on the Health Deprivation and Disability Domain (high deprivation) with an average LSOA rank of 9,437. Peterborough also had a relatively high average rank of 11,008. Moreover, some LSOAs had particularly high rankings, including one near Westwood with a rank of 313. Indeed, the central areas of both Peterborough and Cambridge generally had higher ranks than the wider areas of each local authority area, along with areas within Fenland.

[16] DLUHC, 2019. English Indices of Deprivation 2019 - Summaries at Local Authority Level. [Link to source]

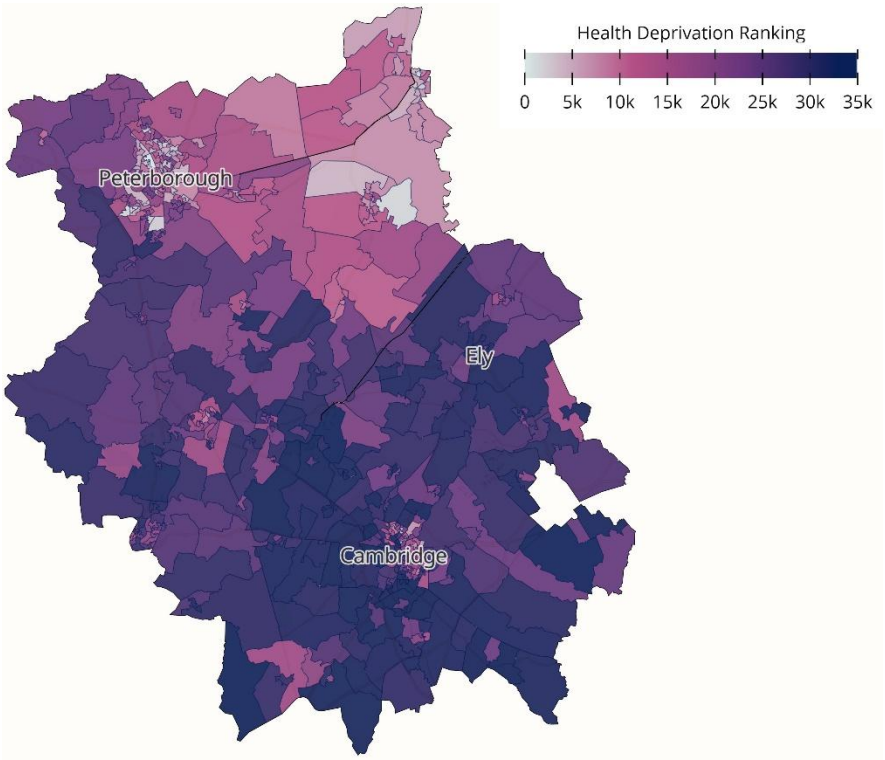


Figure 3-4: Health Deprivation and Disability Domain Rank by C&P LSOA in 2019

3.3 Premature Mortality Rate

Premature mortality[17] was defined as any death under the age of 75, which is positively correlated with other determinants of health. The dataset provided the age-standardised rate of premature deaths per 100,000 of the under-75 population. Age-standardised means that the overall premature mortality rate was not affected by a higher number of deaths from an age group with a higher number of people of a particular age. Therefore, age standardisation adjusts for differences in the age distribution of populations to allow for fair comparisons. It is important to note that rates 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 3-5 plots the estimated premature mortality rate for C&P's local authority areas between 2001 and 2023. It illustrates that the premature mortality rate for four of C&P's local authority areas was below that of England. Most recently, in 2023, South Cambridgeshire had the lowest rate of 238 per 100,000 population under 75 years of age, followed by East Cambridgeshire (261) and Huntingdonshire (288), all lower than England's rate of 342 per 100,000 population under 75 years of age. Additionally, both Fenland and Peterborough consistently had the highest levels of premature mortality in the C&P region and above that of England.

[17] OHID, 2025. Public Health Profiles. Indicator: Under 75 Mortality Rate from All Causes. [Link to source]

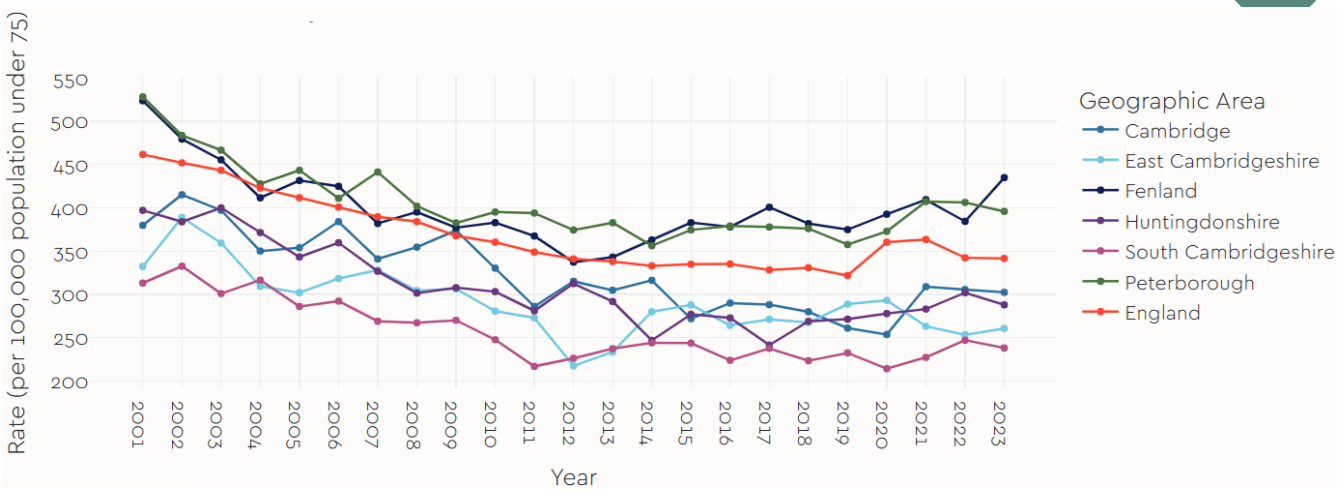


Figure 3-5: Premature Mortality Rate (per 100,000 population under 75) by Local Authority Area & England and by Year

The data were plotted by sex, females and males separately, in Figure 3-6 and in Figure 3-7 shows that the premature mortality rate was higher for males than it was for females. The plots also show that the same groupings across the local authority areas for all premature mortality also generally existed for both males and females, separately. That is, Peterborough and Fenland generally had the highest rate and above England in most years.

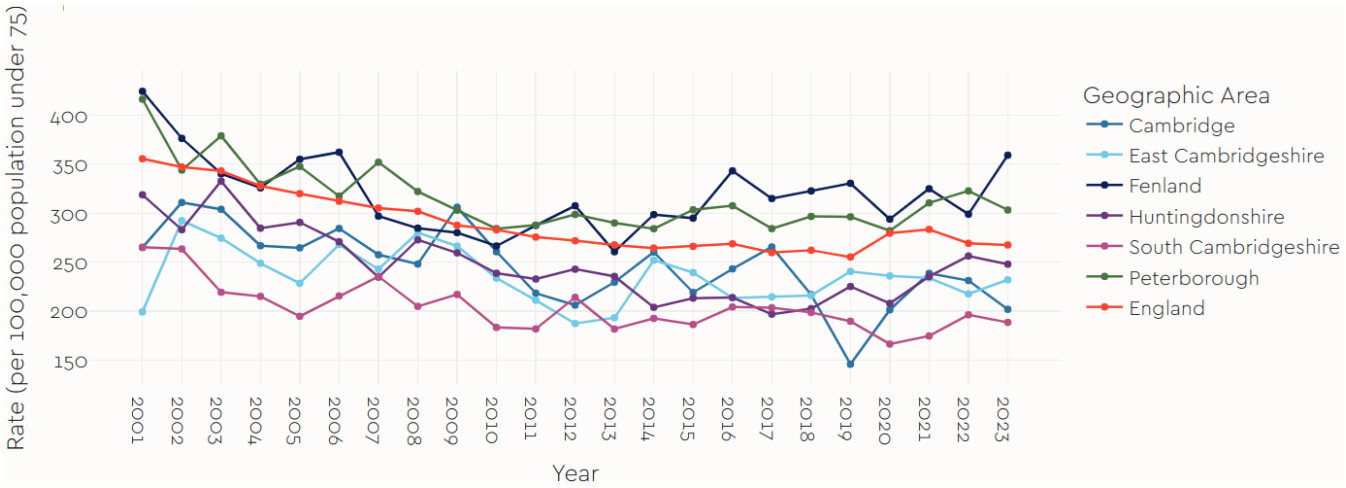


Figure 3-6: Premature Mortality Rate for Females (per 100,000 population under 75) by Local Authority Area & England and by Year

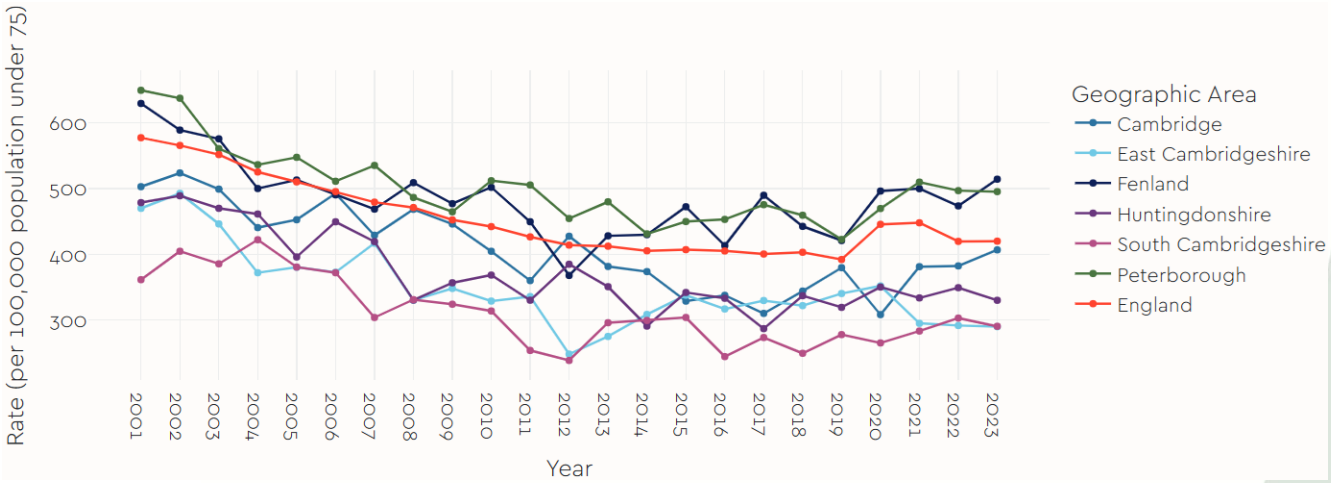


Figure 3-7: Premature Mortality Rate for Males (per 100,000 population under 75) by Local Authority Area & England and by Year

4 Childhood Inequality

4.1 Infant Mortality Rate

Infant mortality provides an indication of the general health of an entire population. The *Infant Mortality Rate*[18] was defined as the number of deaths of children under 1 year of age, per 1,000 live births. Figure 4-1 plots the infant mortality rate for each local authority area in the C&P region. It should be noted that each data point covered two-year periods and therefore no single year. It is important to note that rates 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.

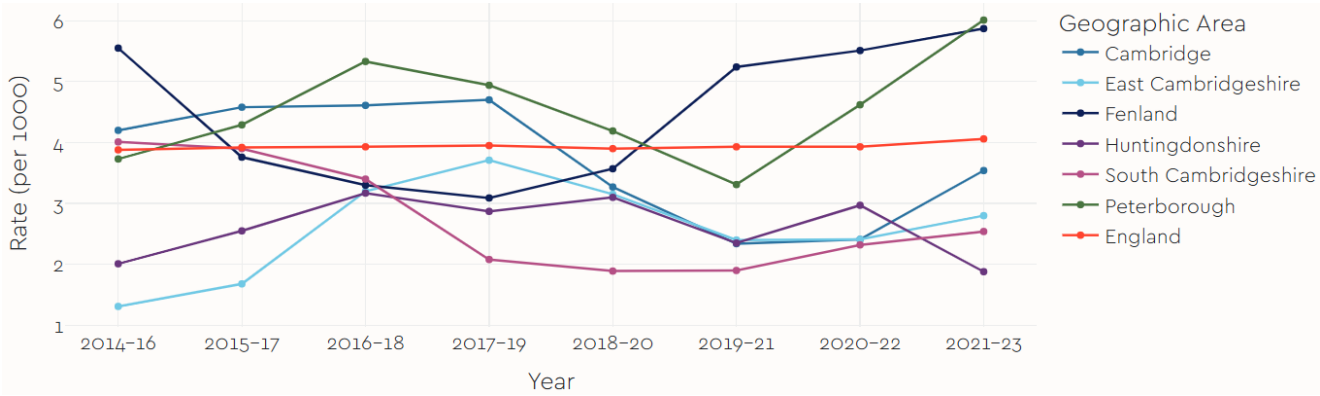


Figure 4-1: Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) by Local Authority Area & England and by Year

As at the latest reading (2021-23), Huntingdonshire had the lowest infant mortality rate at 1.9 deaths per 1,000 live births, followed by South Cambridgeshire, which had 2.5 deaths per 1,000 live births. Peterborough and Fenland had the highest rates at 6.0 and 5.9 deaths per 1,000 live births, respectively, compared to England's rate of 4.1. Furthermore, Peterborough and Fenland had the highest rates in each of the most recent four data points. In most years, South Cambridgeshire was either the lowest or second lowest local authority area regarding the infant mortality rate.

4.2 Children In Low Income Families

This indicator provides insight into the number of children in the C&P region living in low-income families. Data supplied by the Department for Work and Pensions[19] calculated the percentage of children aged under 16 living in families with relatively low income in each local authority area. A low-income family was defined as a single parent, married or cohabiting couple living with any dependent children with an income 60% below the median income in that year.

Figure 4-2 plots the percentage of children in relatively low-income families for the C&P region from 2015 to 2024 by local authority area. The data shows that in every year of data, Peterborough and Fenland had the greatest proportions of children in relatively low-income families compared to the other local authority areas in the C&P region, and above the rate for the United Kingdom overall. In 2024, 32.1% (16,000 in total) of children in Peterborough and 26.1% (4,700 in total) of children in Fenland were in relatively low-income families. In comparison, only 9.3% (3,100 in total) of children in South Cambridgeshire were in relatively low-income families, the lowest of all C&P's local authority areas. Furthermore, South

[18] OHID, 2025. Public Health Profiles: Infant Mortality Rate. [Link to source]
[19] DWP, 2025. Children in low income families: local area statistics. [Link to source]

Cambridgeshire had the lowest rate of children in low-income families, locally, in each of the last eight years of data.

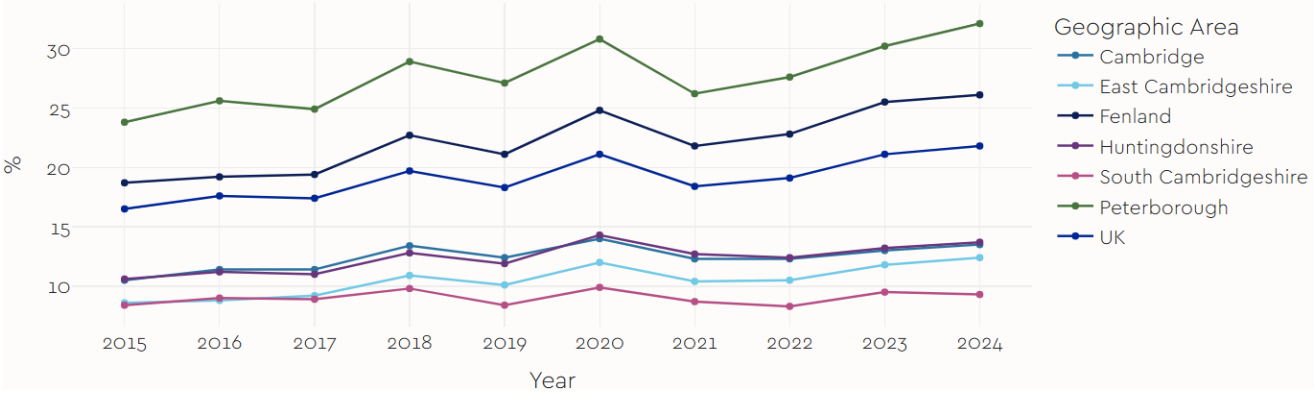


Figure 4-2: Children in Low Income Families (%) by Local Authority Area & United Kingdom and by Year

Over the full time series of the data, the percentage of children in relatively low-income families increased from 23.8% (10,200 in total) to 32.1% (16,000 in total) in Peterborough and from 18.7% (3,200 in total) to 26.1% (4,700 in total) in Fenland. Elsewhere, South Cambridgeshire had the lowest increase between 2015 and 2024, rising from 8.4% (2,500 in total) in 2015 to 9.3% (3,100 in total) in 2024.

4.3 Childhood Obesity

Children who remain obese later into childhood face a higher risk of obesity-related health issues in adulthood. Overweight and obesity are defined as having a BMI above the 85th and 95th centiles of 1990 values, respectively. Data was collected from mainstream state schools in England for two age groups: Reception (ages 4–5) and Year 6 (ages 10–11), showing the percentage of obese children by local area[20]. Due to COVID-19 school closures, data collection ceased in March 2020, reducing measurements to 75% of previous years. Participation dropped in 2020–21, leading to suppression of unreliable local data, though national figures were still published.

Year 6

Figure 4-3 plots the data of the percentage of children classified as obese in Year 6 by local authority area in C&P, noting the data gap in the 2020-21 period. Data shows that the prevalence of obesity in Year 6 increased over time. In 2006-07, the prevalence was 15.9% in C&P, below the England rate of 17.5%. The C&P rate increased to 19.2% in 2023-24, though it remained below the England rate of 22.1%. However, the favourable comparison to England masks the variance across smaller geographies in C&P where obesity amongst children is much higher, such as MSOAs in Fenland (up to 34.2%). This compared to the lowest rate amongst C&P's MSOAs, of 4.8% in West Chesterton (Cambridge). Peterborough and Fenland both had the highest rates of obesity in Year 6, between 23.5% and 24% in 2023-24. South Cambridgeshire, meanwhile, had the lowest rate at 13.2%.

[20] OHID, 2025. Public Health Profiles: Obesity. [Link to source]

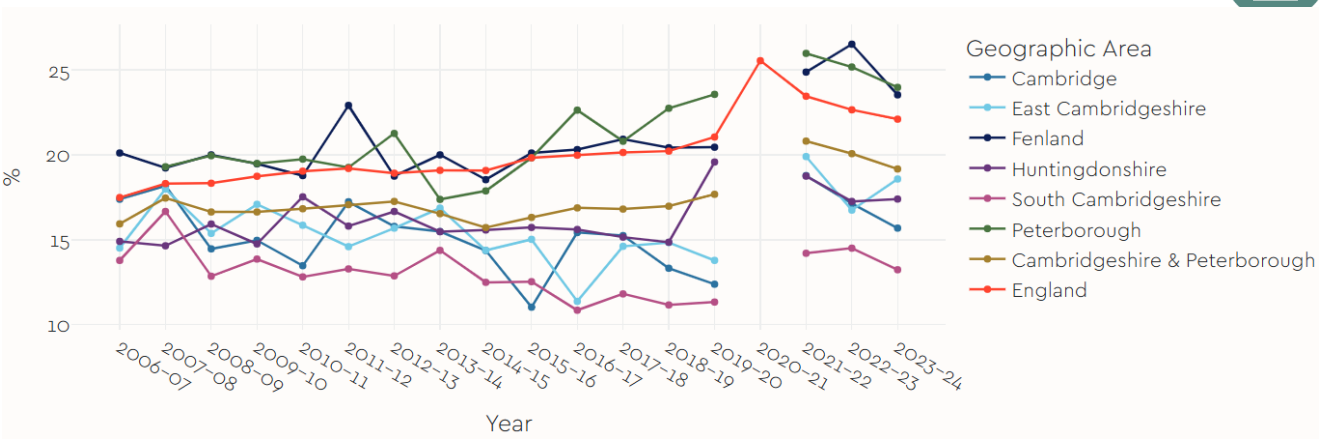


Figure 4-3: Year 6 Obesity Prevalence (%) by Local Authority Area & England and by Year

Reception

Figure 4-4 plots data of the percentage of children classified as obese in reception by local authority area, by year. In 2006-07, the prevalence of obesity among reception-aged children in the C&P region was 8.2%, lower than the England rate of 9.9%. In 2023-24, the prevalence decreased to 7.6% in C&P compared to England's higher rate of 9.7%. In the latest data covering 2023-24, obesity rates amongst reception aged children in Peterborough (10.3%) and Fenland (9.8%) were above England's rate (9.7%). South Cambridgeshire had the lowest rate across C&P's local authority areas, at 4.7%, followed by Cambridge (5.2%) and East Cambridgeshire (5.3%).

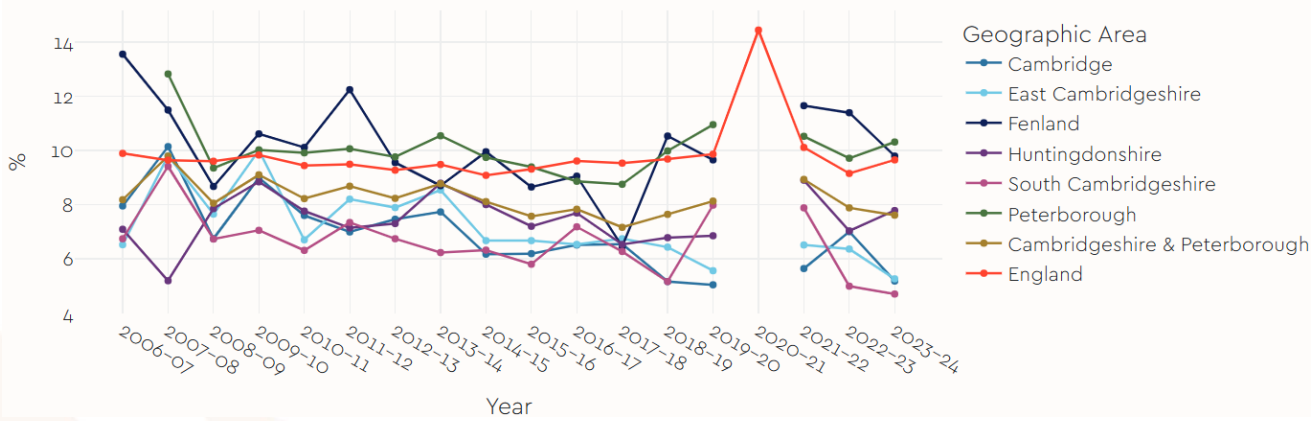


Figure 4-4: Reception Obesity Prevalence (%) by Local Authority Area & England and by Year

Forecasts

The Local Government Association[21] published local authority level forecasts for the annual prevalence of child obesity, cited as being produced by NHS Digital. The forecasts were developed through extrapolating historical trends and were provided for both Year 6 and reception-aged children separately. Figure 4-5 charts the forecasts of childhood obesity prevalence, for the entire period 2019-20 to 2039-40. Forecasts were not available for district-level local authorities; therefore, only Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and England are plotted.

For children in reception, Cambridgeshire is forecast to see falling levels of childhood obesity to 3% by 2039-40. Prevalence in Peterborough is forecast to remain broadly static at approximately 11% throughout the forecast period. In both cases, the prevalence and trends, locally, are expected to be more favourable than in England as a whole, which is forecast to see a two-percentage point increase to 12% by 2039-40.

[21] The Local Government Association, 2022. Future health challenges: public health projections - childhood obesity. [Link to source]

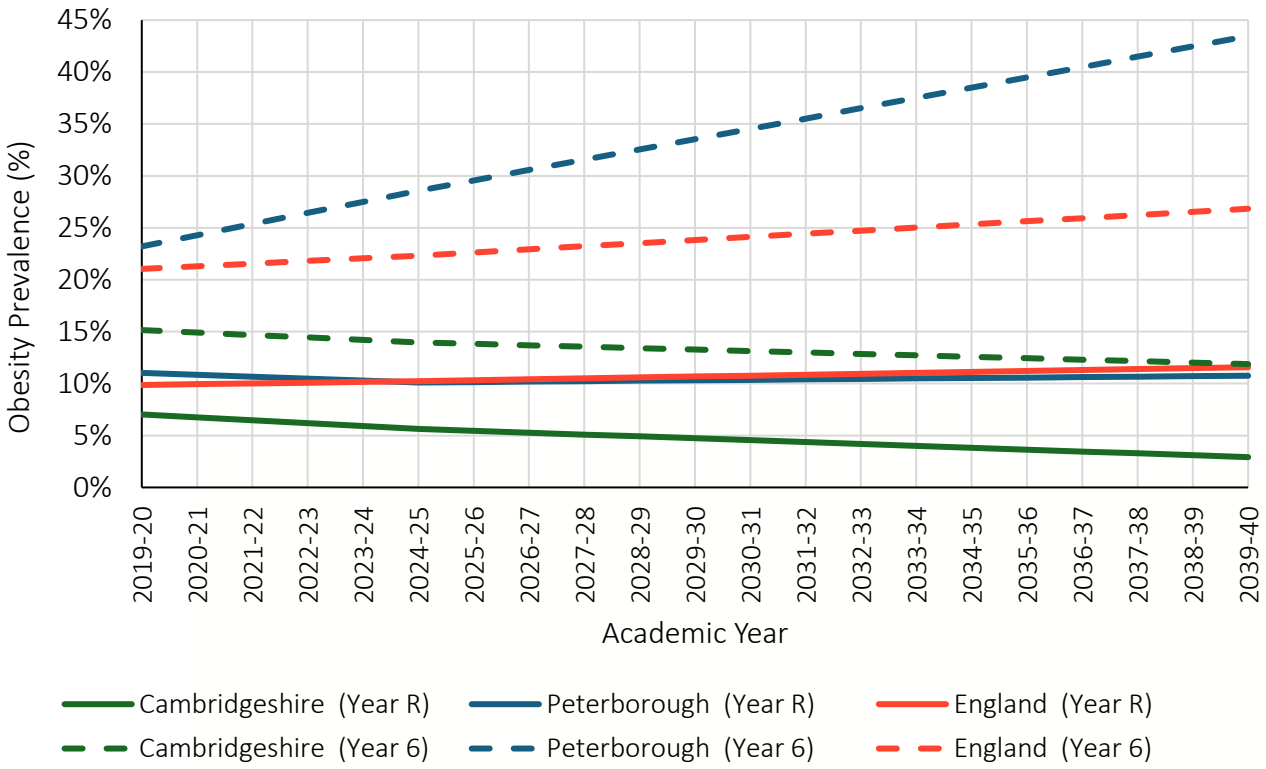


Figure 4-5: Childhood Obesity Forecast (%) for Year 6 and Reception aged Children by Area and Year

Conversely, for Year 6 children, the picture is mixed. Both within the C&P region and England, obesity is more prevalent in Year 6 children than in those in reception throughout the entire forecast period. In Cambridgeshire, the prevalence of obesity in Year 6 children is consistently 7 to 8 percentage points greater than within reception-level children, though also with a reducing trend. Peterborough is forecast to have a rapidly increasing prevalence, almost doubling over the course of the forecast period with 43% of Year 6 children forecast to be obese by 2039-40. This forecast sizably outpaces the trend for England as a whole, which will have a more modest rate of increase, resulting in a prevalence of 27% by 2039-40.

4.4 Young Carers

A young carer is a person aged 25 or under who cares for another person who, due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction, is not able to fully support themselves. Data for this indicator was gathered as part of the 2021 Census[22]. The dataset provides the count of young carers, aggregated in age groups of 5-17 years old, 18-24 years old and 5-24 years old, as a percentage of the total population count in the corresponding age group.

Figure 4-6, Figure 4-7 and Figure 4-8 chart the data on young carers by age group as at the 2021 census. The data is aggregated by local authority area, alongside the rate for England. Considering carers aged 5-24, all local authorities in the C&P region had a comparable or lower percentage of young carers than England (2.5%), except Fenland (2.9%). South Cambridgeshire had a rate of 1.9%, the lowest in the C&P region.

Young carers in the age range 5-17 were most prominent in Fenland, continuing to have the highest rate in young carers across the C&P region, at 1.8%, compared to England's rate of 1.4%. The proportion of young carers in the age range 18-24 was highest in Peterborough at 5.3% followed closely by Fenland at 5.2%. Both Peterborough and Fenland were therefore

[22] ONS, 2023. Unpaid care by age, sex and deprivation, England. [Link to source]

above the rate of England (4.6%). Cambridge had the lowest percentage of young carers in this age range at 3.3%.

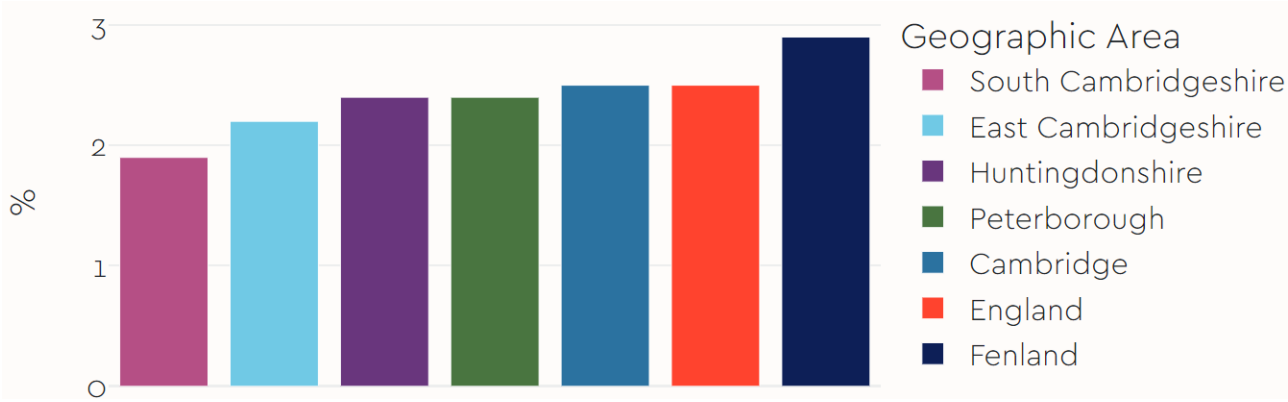


Figure 4-6: Young Carers Aged 5-24 (%) by Local Authority Area and England in 2021

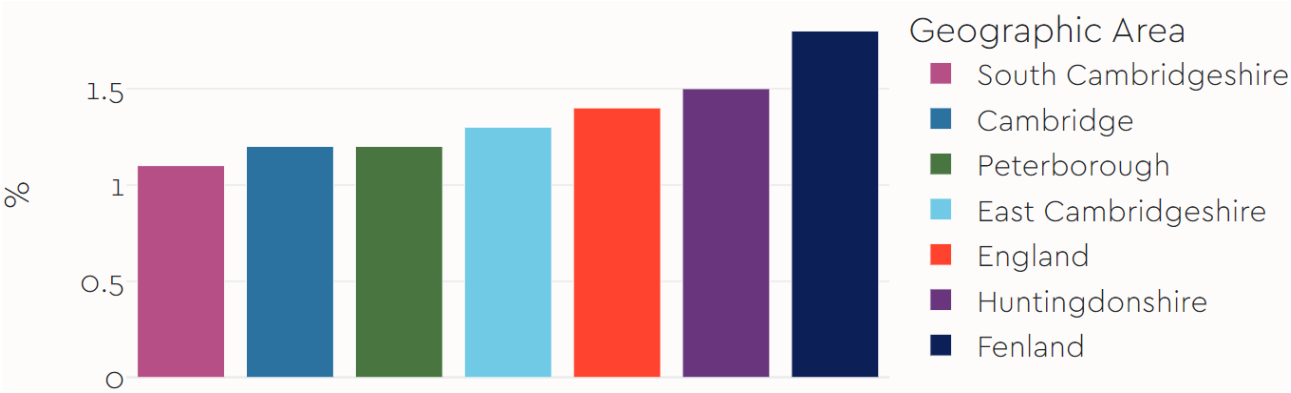


Figure 4-7: Young Carers Aged 5-17 (%) by Local Authority Area and England in 2021

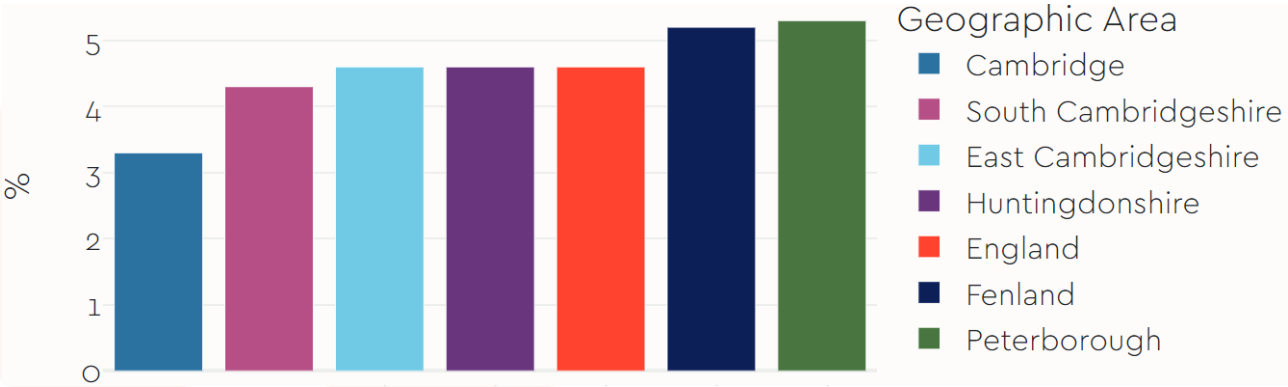


Figure 4-8: Young Carers Aged 18-24 (%) by Local Authority Area and England in 2021