

# Population Needs Assessment 2025



**Community  
Planning  
Aberdeen**

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## Executive Summary

The Population Needs Assessment 2025 helps Community Planning Aberdeen and partner organisations identify, understand and respond to emerging needs and changes in the City's population. The impact of current challenges, including the transition away from the oil and gas industry, an aging population, increasing fuel poverty, and rising costs of living, particularly impacting low-income families, are clearly evident in the data.

### Key points highlighted through the PNA and related analysis are:

- Like the rest of the UK, inflationary pressures due to high energy prices have had a negative impact on the cost of living . Aberdeen has been particularly impacted with average earnings in 2024 only growing by 3% in real terms, slower than the rates in Scotland (4.3%).
- The impact of the cost of living crisis has been, and will continue to be, felt unequally across the City, contributing to greater levels of poverty, inequality and associated vulnerabilities.
- A decrease in younger age groups are projected. The largest projected population increase is for men aged 75. Rates of people who are economically active is highest in the 25-34 year (86.7%) and lowest in the 16-24 year age group (62.3%).
- The city is projected to have the slowest economic growth of any UK city, with an average annual GVA growth of less than 1%, but Aberdeen benefits from strong economic foundations and is supported by investment in key infrastructure and a focus on skills, energy transition and diversification.
- Aberdeen is making progress towards its net zero targets, but there's still a long way to go. The city is aiming for net zero emissions by 2045, and various initiatives are underway to achieve this, including investments in net zero technology and infrastructure.

Analysis of the data has identified **emerging priorities** that we need to focus on in our future plans for improvement, as well as **acute** (immediate and severe) or **chronic** (persistent and recurring) **risks** which pose threats and uncertainties to our ability to realise our ambitions for improvement.

The priorities and risks are summarised below. The challenge for Community Planning Aberdeen and partner organisations is for us is to focus resources and efforts on making changes that can have the biggest impact on priority areas, at the same time as managing and reducing the likelihood of harm.

# Summary of Priorities and Risks

## Population Demographics

The City's population is projected to increase modestly at 1.1%. This increase is expected due to inward migration, primarily coming from overseas and younger age groups, which will offset a natural decline resulting from more deaths than births. In 2023 the number of births (2092) was lower than the number of deaths (2252). Decreases are projected in the 0-14 and 15-29 age groups. The largest projected population increase (26.2%) is for men aged 75+ years by 2028.

The impact of population decline can be significant including pressure on public services, labour shortages and reduced economic activity. Ensuring Aberdeen is a city which attracts people to live and work should be a priority.

The age-standardised rate of deaths per 100,000 in the least deprived areas of the city (SIMD 5) was 61.6 compared with a rate of 229.8 in the most deprived areas of the City (SIMD 1). Addressing the underlying inequality which drives health inequality remains a key priority.

*(The risks highlighted and considered throughout this section reflect the UK Cabinet Office, Government Office for Science "Chronic Risks 2024".)*

Chronic Risks	Drivers of these risks	Potential Negative Impacts
Social	Impacts from demographic change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Exacerbated long-term public service pressures</li><li>Labour shortages due to workforce contraction driven by an increasingly ageing population</li><li>Reduction of tax base &amp; economic activity</li></ul>
	Disproportionate impacts on vulnerable persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Declining health and life expectancy among vulnerable groups</li></ul>
	Disinformation and misinformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Undermining government policies and activities</li></ul>

## Children, Families and Lifelong Learning

Giving children the best start in life is a "given" priority for ongoing action. However, based on these data, the levels of variation, often associated with deprivation across the city, requires closer consideration:

- Ensuring maternal health is an important first step in promoting infant health, across the city there is evidence for clear variation in maternal and infant health associated with deprivation in relation to smoking in pregnancy, maternal obesity, and breastfeeding. Ensuring that current and new work in each of these areas will be effective in reducing these local inequalities remains a priority.
- The increasing rate of infant deaths in Aberdeen City requires further consideration. The most recent rate of 4.2/1000 livebirths in 2019-2023 is higher than the Scottish rate (3.5/1000 livebirths), and is an increase over the rate of 2.5/1000 livebirth reported for 2016-2020.

- Ensuring we reach childhood immunisation targets and we deliver developmental checks remain important. For example, the proportion of children with one or more developmental concern varies from 1% to 18%.
- The data suggest that childhood obesity across the city is returning to pre-COVID levels. However, across the city there is clear variation in the proportion of children described as having a “healthy weight” associated with deprivation that must be addressed. Such variation is also seen in relation to the oral health of the city’s children.
- Across the city, the data suggest that levels of smoking, alcohol use, and drug use in school children are low. This needs to be maintained.
- Levels of mental health and wellbeing in children remains an area that requires a continued focus with 1 in 5 P6 & P7 and 1 in 3 S1-6 children being assessed as experiencing low mood. Also of concern is the increase in the suicide rate amongst young people aged 11 to 15 years which has increase from 6.2/100,000 population in 2016-20 to 8.2/100,000 for 2018-2022.
- Data on educational achievement against expected levels shows variation by deprivation. In Aberdeen City, in all subject areas, a smaller proportion of those in the most deprived 20% achieved the expected level than those in the least deprived 20%.

Chronic Risks	Drivers of these risks	Potential Negative Impacts
Societal	Disproportionate impacts on vulnerable persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing rates of food insecurity</li> <li>• Declining mental health and wellbeing, particularly among younger people</li> <li>• Declining health and life expectancy among vulnerable groups</li> <li>• Worse educational outcomes for children and young people</li> </ul>
	Disinformation and misinformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undermining government policies and activities</li> <li>• Inciting violence and hate crime</li> <li>• Reduced trust in institutions</li> </ul>
Technology and Cyber Security Risks	Impacts from increasing reliance on digital platforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital exclusion and increased inequality</li> <li>• Physical and mental health impacts from prolonged use</li> </ul>
Security	Changes in the nature of serious and organised crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child sexual abuse;</li> <li>• Modern slavery and human trafficking;</li> <li>• Illegal drugs.</li> </ul>



## Economic Stability

The overall data on the economic position presents a positive picture, but the data also show how not everyone in the City is benefitting from the economic potential:

- The data provides an updated picture on local social and economic inequalities, which determine wider lived experiences such as health. Place based approaches to reducing experiencing inequalities over time must remain a priority, seeking to reduce both the absolute and relative inequalities across the City.
- One in seven households in Aberdeen have no one working within them, which equates to 13,700 workless households. The data highlights that economic inactivity for people from ethnic minorities is more pronounced. Anchor organisations can play a part in terms of improving the numbers of under-represented groups in public sector employment, and continuing to expand the Real Living Wage programme, particularly within food, catering and accommodation sectors, where there are often higher numbers of people from ethnic minorities and younger people employed.
- Households with a low income are a concern, not least for the 12% of such households where some 3,600 children aged 15 years and under reside. Supporting such households through employability support, provision of free/subsidised childcare/access to community pantries are areas for further development.
- We must seek to understand and mitigate emerging risks to economic activity and employment within the city from both the use of technology and from demographic change.

Chronic Risks	Drivers of these risks	Potential Negative Impacts
Economic	Skill shortages and mis matches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased unemployment</li><li>• Lower wages</li><li>• Recruitment challenges for engineering and technology vacancies</li><li>• Regional inequality</li></ul>
Social	Impacts from demographic change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Labour shortages due to workforce contraction driven by an increasingly ageing population</li><li>• Reduction of tax base &amp; economic activity</li></ul>
Technology and Cyber Security Risks	Impacts from use and capability of artificial intelligence (AI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• AI-powered attacks (cyber or physical)</li><li>• Exacerbates skill shortage in cyber and technology sector</li><li>• Displacement and surveillance of workers</li><li>• Exacerbates biases leading to inequality and polarisation</li></ul>

## Communities and Housing

There is a continuing need to ensure that people and place are at the heart of our population need assessment: The following issues can be considered priorities:

- Social isolation and loneliness can have tangible impacts on health and wellbeing. In recent City Voice surveys participants responded to questions on social interaction, involvement in the community and influence and control. The results highlight opportunities for to enable this.



- Housing can also significantly impact on health and wellbeing. Negative impacts are likely to be more prevalent and severe in households living in poverty. Managing household expenses is also an area for prioritisation. The survey data from the City highlight that fuel and food poverty continue to be issues for many people, especially those who live with a disability, are in single households, or are from a minority community. The data identify 13 priority locations which should be the focus for developing place-based approaches to improving access to affordable food, fuel, and transport.
- Homelessness continues to be a challenge with almost 2,000 people affected by homeless applications received in 2023/24, of which almost 600 were children.

Chronic Risks	Drivers of these risks	Potential Negative Impacts
Societal	Impacts from demographic change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exacerbated long-term public service pressures</li> <li>• Reliance on unpaid care, impacting carers</li> </ul>
	Disproportionate impacts on vulnerable persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing rates of food insecurity</li> <li>• Declining mental health and wellbeing, particularly among younger people</li> <li>• Declining health and life expectancy among vulnerable groups</li> </ul>
	Disinformation and misinformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undermining government policies and activities</li> <li>• Inciting violence and hate crime</li> <li>• Reduced trust in institutions</li> </ul>

## Neighbourhood and Environment

The Paris Climate Change Declaration was clear that there can be no planetary health without human health. Within the context of the Population health assessment, the data highlight the following priority areas:

- Many of the areas that are associated with climate resilience are a focus for environmental sustainability, notably in relation to green-space, transport, air and water quality, waste management, and land use. In all of these areas the potential for human health co-benefits have been identified and the meaningful delivery of such co-benefits needs to be maximised.
- The potential for climate change to increase the impact of social and economic inequalities – leading to wider health inequalities – needs to be understood more clearly and reflected in work to move beyond mitigation of the impact of greenhouses gases (delivering net zero) and into adapting systems, services, and places that are adapted to the future climate.
- There is a clear design for place-based approaches to creating climate resilience, especially in the context of flood prevention, water quality, air quality, and dealing with extreme weather events. These are areas that should be being progressed on multi-agency basis in line with the Scottish National Adaptation Plan.

Chronic Risks	Drivers of these risks	Potential Negative Impacts
Environmental	Climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water and food insecurity</li> <li>• Storm and flooding damage to homes and critical infrastructure</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tipping points lead to cascading interconnected environmental system failures</li> <li>• Sea level rise</li> <li>• Displacement of people</li> </ul>
	Bio diversity loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infectious disease outbreak</li> <li>• Food shortages</li> <li>• Ecosystem collapse</li> <li>• Reduced environmental capabilities to mitigate the effects of climate change and pollution.</li> </ul>
	Pollution and environmental degradation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surge in non-communicable diseases due to air pollution</li> <li>• Sudden loss of ecosystem services</li> <li>• Increased disease burden in humans, plants and wildlife, leading to impacts on food supply</li> <li>• Species extinctions / Ecosystem collapse</li> <li>• Economic decline: nature degradation could reduce UK GDP due to higher healthcare costs and lower agricultural yields</li> </ul>

## Health and Social Care

- Across Scotland, life expectancy (LE) is stalling, and healthy life expectancy (HLE) is declining. Aberdeen is not immune from these changes with the most recent data suggesting that LE for Aberdeen City in 2019-21 was 76.9 years, of which HLE was 60.2 years. Variations across the population are noted, showing the close link there is to deprivation and both LE and HLE. At present our focus is on improving HLE, but do not take account of the effects of inequality in both LE and HLE. Addressing the social and economic factors that drive inequality should become a more urgent focus for our work
- This relationship between the wider social and economic determinants that drive the inequalities that create health inequality is a factor in all the data presented in relation to poor mental health associated with higher rates of prescribing, hospitalisations for mental illness, and for suicides. Taking a more preventative, population health approach to promoting and protecting mental health and wellbeing needs to be considered alongside addressing the wider social and economic determinants of mental health.
- Similarly, inequalities underpin many of the specific diseases explored in the data whether it is cancer, heart disease, or respiratory disease. Clearly there is an element of addressing the types of behaviours that are associated with health risks - smoking, obesity and physical inactivity – which contribute to such diseases and looking to preventative programmes such as cancer screening and primary care opportunistic screening, but we also need to be moving beyond a health behaviour approach alone and considering how we can support the role of place and whole-systems approaches to ensure a focus health equity as a determinant of poor health.
- Caring for older people or those with longer term conditions is also highlighted as a priority need within the presented data. Again, preventative approaches that operate across the life course to promote active ageing and support greater self-management and care amongst those with long term needs need to be further developed.

Chronic Risks	Drivers of these risks	Potential Negative Impacts
Societal	Impacts from demographic change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exacerbated long-term public service pressures</li> <li>• Reliance on unpaid care, impacting carers</li> <li>• Pressure on adult social care</li> </ul>
	Disproportionate impacts on vulnerable persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing rates of food insecurity</li> <li>• Declining mental health and wellbeing, particularly among younger people</li> <li>• Declining health and life expectancy among vulnerable groups</li> </ul>
	Disinformation and misinformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undermining government policies and activities</li> <li>• Inciting violence and hate crime</li> <li>• Reduced trust in institutions</li> </ul>

## How we will use this data

The data will be used to identify priorities for Community Planning Aberdeen and partner organisations that will form the basis of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2026-36, Locality Plans for North, South and Central 2026-36 and the underpinning strategies.



## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. What is a Population Needs Assessment?

The Population Needs Assessment (PNA) is a high-level analysis of key groups, priorities, and challenges across public services, including service performance and information available on the customer perspective. The Population Needs Assessment will identify areas where more detailed analysis is required to ensure a greater understanding of existing and potential provider strengths and weaknesses, and opportunities for improvement.

Assessing the needs of a population is not an exact science. Rather, it is a process by which we can better understand the types of things that will bring benefit to people and explore how that can be related to the services and interventions that are being provided. In this report, we start this process by considering the data that is available to us. This can focus on significant life events or the lived experiences of people, it can tell us about what services have been providing and how they are performing, and it can also tell us something about what we could be doing differently. In all these cases, there is a need to recognise that all the data we use requires interpretation.

This Population Needs Assessment will update the information provided in the [Population Needs Assessment](#) which was carried out in 2023.

Whilst it is intended that the Population Needs Assessment will provide a comprehensive overview of the state of Aberdeen across a wide range of indicators, there will be areas which are identified as out of scope for the initial assessment. Where there is an identified need for more detailed analysis, this will be planned for the future. For example, data drilling down into specific communities, service provider or market.

This document provides Community Planning Aberdeen with an important foundation to work, together with the people of Aberdeen, to better understand the city and its communities and take collective action, through our Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans, underpinning our approach to community planning and improving local outcomes. It is this process that provides the opportunity for the interpretation to take place and a population need assessment to be completed.

#### 1.1.1. Data used and limitations

Much of the data presented in this document comes from official statistics provided by, for example, the Scottish Government, National Records of Scotland, Public Health

Scotland, Office for National Statistics and NOMIS. Additional data has been provided by Council services and Community Planning Partners.

In general percentages and rates presented have been rounded to one decimal point. Some of these (e.g. life expectancy) will have a degree of error associated with them because of the way they are generated. Technically, these results should be presented with their associated Confidence Interval (usually  $\pm x\%$ ). Differences are said to be statistically significant if confidence intervals do not overlap. However, for ease of presentation, confidence intervals are not shown. A degree of caution is therefore required when interpreting some of the data – particularly for smaller geographies such as neighbourhoods or intermediate zones where there is likely to be greater imprecision around estimates and confidence intervals are likely to be broader.

### 1.1.2. Consultation

Within this Population Needs Assessment information on the Customer and Citizens perspective has been included. In most cases, this has been done using Aberdeen City Voice. Aberdeen City Voice is Aberdeen's citizens' panel. There are over 800 citizens on the panel who have agreed to give their views on a range of issues. Full access to the questionnaires and reports can be found at [Aberdeen City Voice](#).

### 1.1.3. Layout

The layout is structured around 5 themes which reflect the Social Determinants of Health. The social determinants of health contribute to the unfair and avoidable differences in outcomes seen across the city of Aberdeen. Social and economic factors, health behaviours, access to health services and the physical environment in which people live all contribute to shaping people's health.

Each section will cover data relating to the themes as follows:

- **Children, families and lifelong learning**
  - Give every child the best start in life
  - Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives
- **Economic stability**
  - Create fair employment and good work for all
- **Communities and housing**
  - Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities
- **Neighbourhood and environment**
  - Pursue environmental sustainability and health equity together
- **Health and Social Care**
  - Ensure healthy standard of living for all
  - Strengthen the role and impact of health prevention

The first section, however, will provide a demographic overview of the City.

#### 1.1.4. Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the United Nations in 2015. They recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality and support economic growth which doesn't compromise the climate and nature – issues at the core of the Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan. The goals serve as a framework to cross check against our population needs assessment to help identify any gaps.

Scotland made a commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 and there is alignment with Scotland's National Performance Framework . The 17 Sustainable Development Goals sit above a raft of detail (169 targets and 130 indicators) to drive and measure progress towards 2030. A summary table presenting the data in the Population Needs Assessment through the lens of the Sustainable Development Goals is shown in Appendix 1. The Sustainable Development Goals covered by the themes are shown at the end of each section.





## 2. Demographic overview

### 2.1. Population

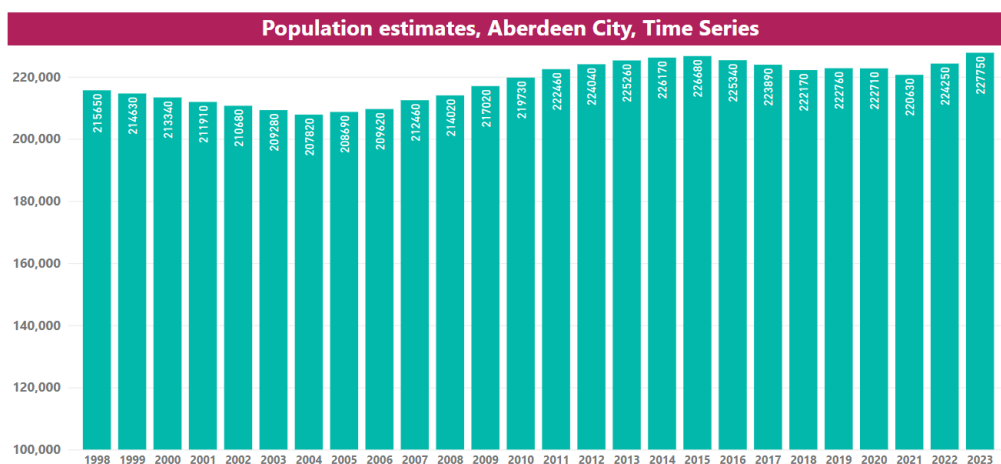
#### 2.1.1. Current population

**Population:** At 30th June 2023, Aberdeen City had an estimated population of 227,750 . This equates to 4.1% of Scotland's total population. In terms of population size, Aberdeen City is the 8th largest local authority in Scotland. There were more females (116,284) than males (111,466) in the city with females making up 51.1% of the population. Between 2013 and 2023, the population in Aberdeen City grew by 1.1% (from 225,260) compared to an increase of 3.3% for Scotland as a whole. (Normally mid-year population estimates are released in April each year, but the estimates for 2024 have been delayed and are not due until July 2025).

As yet, 2023 population estimates are not available for smaller areas of the city. However, based on 2022 mid-year estimates, the population varies considerably by neighbourhood, ranging from a low of 1,725 in Cummings Park to a high of 12,263 in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill and Seafield .

**Population trends:** Following an 11-year period of year-on-year increases, Aberdeen's population peaked in 2015 (226,170) and decreased in each of the 3 subsequent years before increasing again between 2018 (222,170) and 2019 (222,760). The population fell again in 2021 to 220,630 – its lowest level since 2010 (219,730). (The drop in population between June 2020 and June 2021 was consistent with that seen in other large cities which saw their populations fall during the pandemic while some rural areas saw their populations rise.) In the two years from 2021 to 2023 the population has increased by 7,120 and is now at its highest ever level. (Note: following the 2022 Census, rebased population estimates for 2011 to 2021 were published and differ from those previously published by National Records of Scotland.)





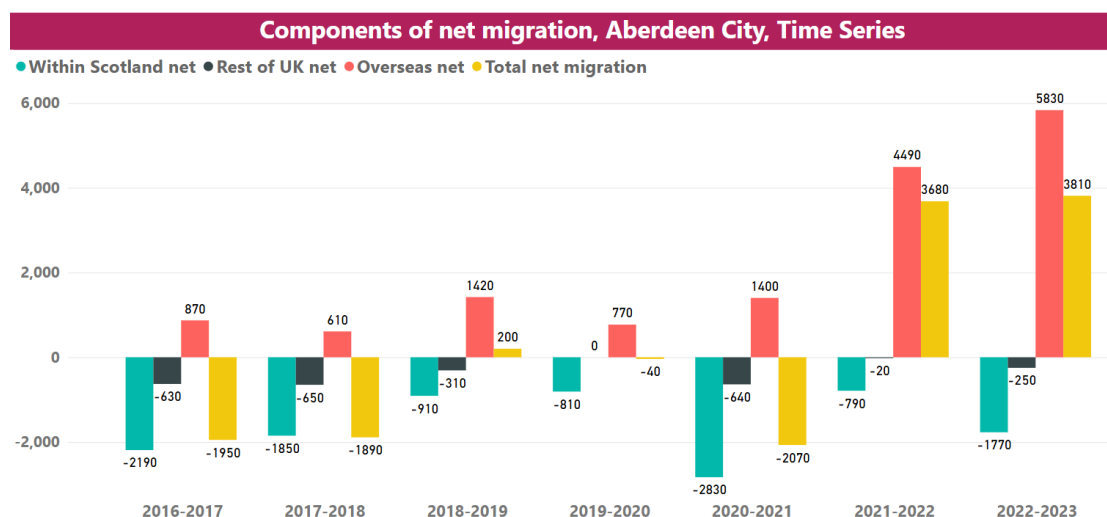
Source: National Records of Scotland, Population Estimates Time Series Data. Updated January 2025.

Note: Rebased population estimates for 2011 - 2021 were published in July 2024, so the population estimates for the years 2011-2021 will differ from those previously published here. Population figures for 2022 were revised in October 2024 so will differ from those published previously. In January 2025, the rebased population estimates published in July 2024 were amended. This chart presents these amended figures.

## 2.1.2. Population change and migration

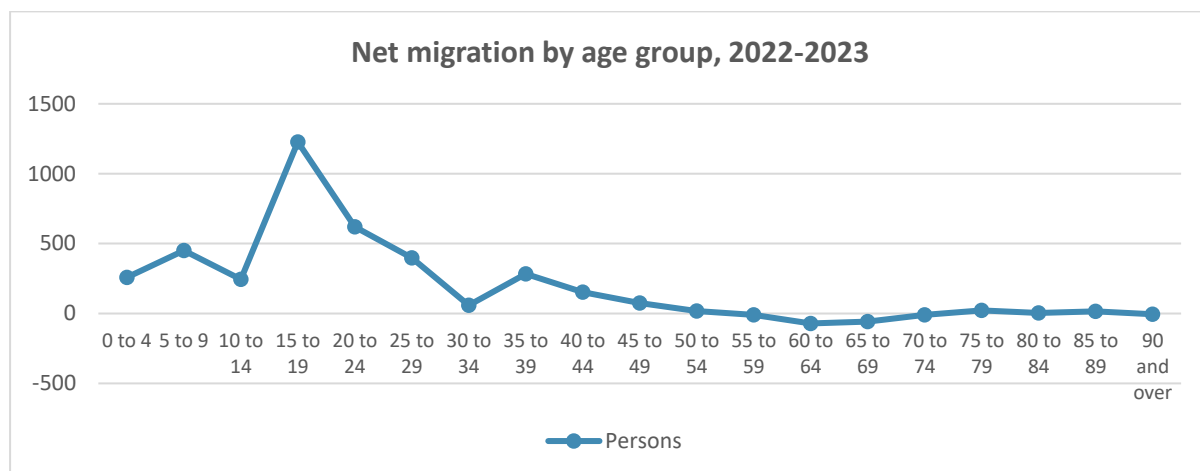
**Population change:** Population change is driven by two main components: 1) natural change (births minus deaths) and (2) net migration (the sum of migration to/from Scotland and internal migration). It also includes other changes (e.g. changes in prisoner and armed forces population) although these tend to make up a much smaller proportion of changes. Over the last two years, natural change has been negative (474 more deaths than births) with the increase in population between 2021 and 2023 in Aberdeen City being driven by positive net migration – in particular by overseas migration.

In 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, both within Scotland net migration and rest of UK net migration were negative, however these were offset by the relatively high levels of positive overseas net migration (4,490 in 2021-2022 and 5,830 in 2022-23).



Source: National Records of Scotland, Mid-year population estimates, Scotland. Updated January 2025. Note: migration figures were changed following the amended re-base of population estimates which were published in January 2025. This chart shows the amended figures.

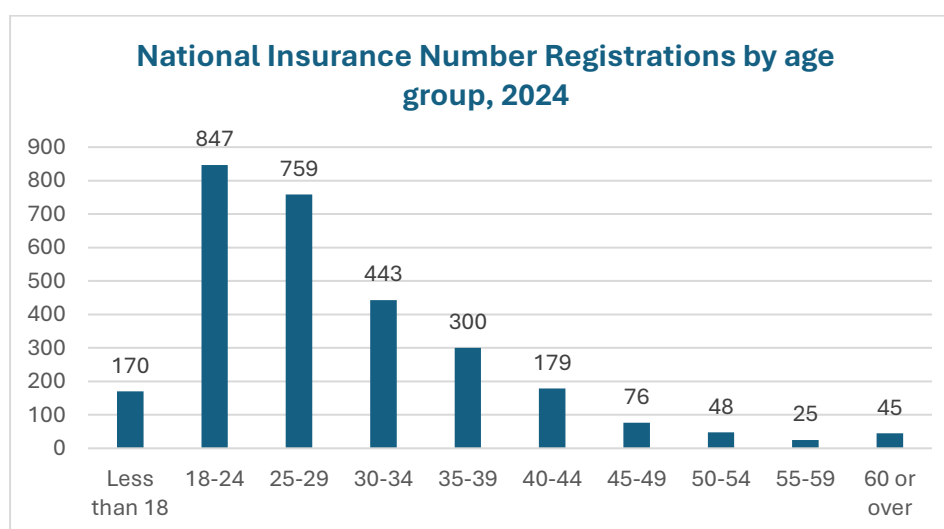
Migration to the City varies by age with most movement being in younger adults. In 2022-23, positive net migration was highest in the 15-19 and 20-24 year old age groups. The chart below shows net migration to the City by 5-year age groups .



Source: National Records of Scotland, Total Migration to or from Scotland

While there is limited data on origin/destination flows for overseas and the rest of UK migration, data on within Scotland migration for 2022-23 show that the highest levels of movement for Aberdeen were between Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire (3,024 out and 2,358 in, giving a net of -666), Aberdeen City and Edinburgh (898 out and 466 in, giving a net of -432) and Aberdeen City and Glasgow (701 out and 386 in, giving a net of -315). During 2020-21, positive net migration to Aberdeen City from other council areas in Scotland was relatively low with the highest positive net migration being from Highland (417 in and 288 out, giving a net of 129), Moray (237 in and 152 out, giving a net of 85) .

**National Insurance Number Registrations (NINOs):** These statistics show the number of adult overseas nationals registering for a National Insurance Number in order to work or to claim benefits/tax credits or apply for a student loan in the UK. In 2024 there were 2,893 National Insurance Number registrations in Aberdeen City, down from 4,885 in 2023 and 7,709 in 2022. In 2024 the most common age group for those registering for a National Insurance Number was 18-24 years .



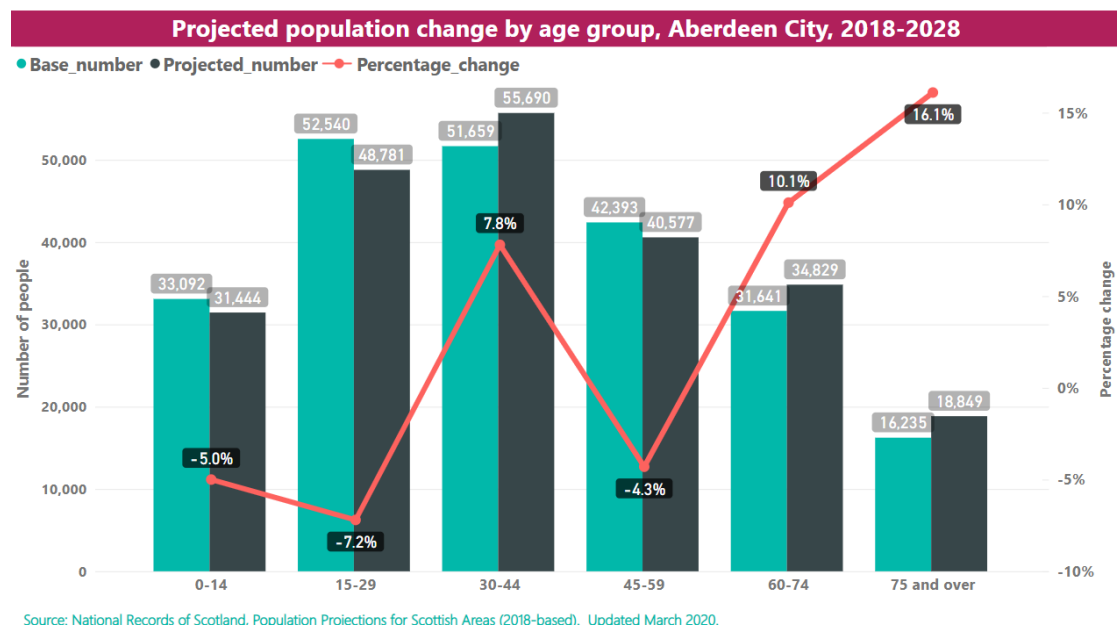
Source: Stat-Xplore: NINO Registrations to Adult Overseas Nationals Entering the UK.

## 2.2. Population projections

**Population projections:** Population projections are now very dated with the most recent being 2018-based (published in 2020). The 2018 base population for Aberdeen City at the time of publication was 227,560. However, rebased population figures published in January 2025 put the estimated population at 222,170 in 2018, so it is possible that the existing projections may not accurately reflect Aberdeen's population going forward. Newer projections (based on Census data) are not expected to be available until Summer 2025. The 2018-based population projections are given below.

Between 2018 and 2028 the population of Aberdeen is projected to increase by 1.1% to 230,170. Over the same time period, the population in Scotland is projected to increase by 1.8%. Most of the increase in Aberdeen City is projected to come from migration (1%) with natural change accounting for 0.1% of the projected increase. Across Scotland, between 2018 and 2028, 14 councils are projected to see a population decrease and 18 councils are projected to see a population increase.

**Projected change by age group:** The projected change is not consistent across all age groups. In Aberdeen City, decreases are projected in the 0-14 year age group (-5.0%), the 15-19 year age group (-7.2%) and in the 45-59 year age group (-4.3%). Increases are projected for the other age groups, with the largest increase being in the 75 years and over age group (16.1%). In terms of size, however, 30-44 years is projected to be the largest age group with the 75+ years group projected to remain the smallest group.



**Projected change by gender:** The projected change differs by gender. The male population is projected to increase by 2.5% over the period, while the female population is projected to decrease by 0.2%. This would mean that by 2022, the number of males in Aberdeen City would, in contrast to recent trends, be higher than the number of females. When looked at by age group, the largest percentage increase is projected for males aged 75 years and over .

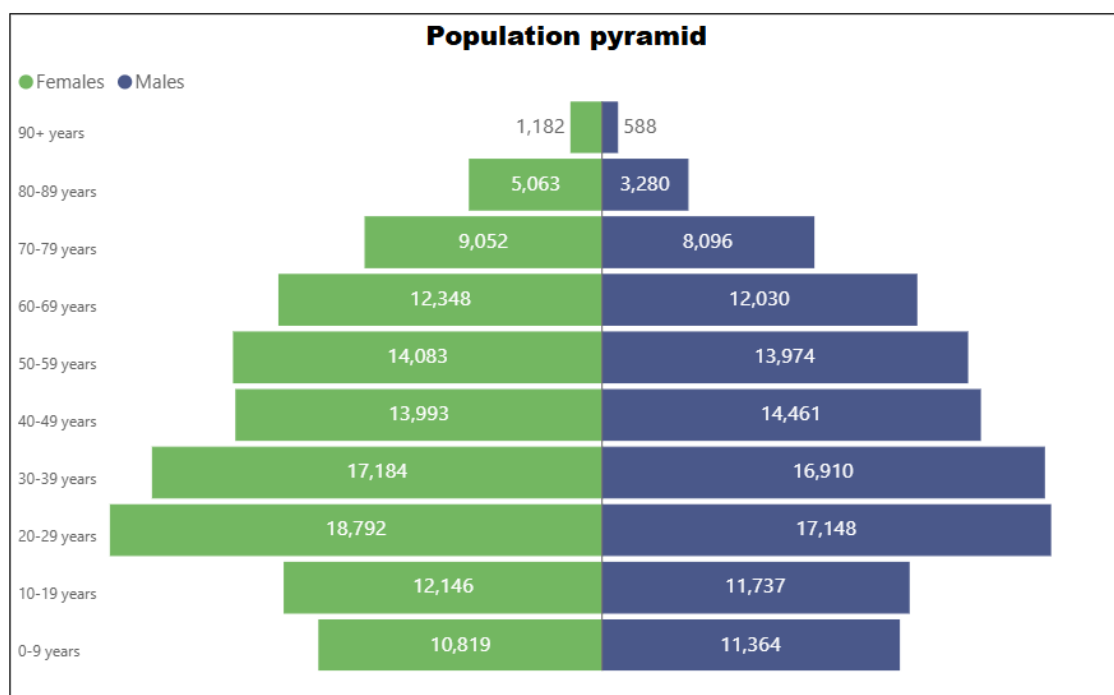
Projected change by gender by age group					
	Age group	2018	2028	Change	Percentage Change
Males	0-14	16900	16215	-685	-4.1%
	15-29	26086	24198	-1888	-7.2%
	30-44	27153	30079	2926	10.8%
	45-59	21077	20400	-677	-3.2%
	60-74	15615	17044	1429	9.2%
	75 & over	6421	8104	1683	26.2%
	All ages	113252	116040	2788	2.5%
Females	0-14	16192	15229	-963	-5.9%
	15-29	26454	24583	-1871	-7.1%
	30-44	24506	25611	1105	4.5%
	45-59	21316	20177	-1139	-5.3%
	60-74	16026	17785	1759	11.0%
	75 & over	9814	10745	931	9.5%
	All ages	114308	114130	-178	-0.2%
All	0-14	33092	31444	-1648	-5.0%
	15-29	52540	48781	-3759	-7.2%
	30-44	51659	55690	4031	7.8%
	45-59	42393	40577	-1816	-4.3%
	60-74	31641	34829	3188	10.1%
	75 & over	16235	18849	2614	16.1%
	All ages	227560	230170	2610	1.1%

Source: National Records of Scotland, Population Projections for Scottish Areas

## 2.3. Population Profile

### 2.3.1. Age structure

**Age structure:** Compared to Scotland, Aberdeen has a relatively young population. In 2023, the median age in Aberdeen was 38.7 years compared to 42.9 years for Scotland. Compared to Scotland, Aberdeen city has a higher proportion of working age people<sup>1</sup> (67.7% compared to 64.7%) and a lower proportion of people of pensionable age (16.1% compared to 19%). The proportion of people aged under 16 years was similar in Aberdeen City and Scotland (16.2% compared to 16.3%). Within Aberdeen, however, the age structure varies considerably by [neighbourhood](#). The proportion of children (0-15 years) ranges from 7% in Seaton and Old Aberdeen to 26% in Middlefield. The proportion of 16-64 year-olds ranges from 57% in Balgownie & Donmouth and Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber to 87% in Old Aberdeen and the proportion of people aged 65+ years ranges from 6% in Old Aberdeen to 28% in Balgownie & Donmouth. The population pyramid for Aberdeen City showing the distribution by 10-year age groups is given below.



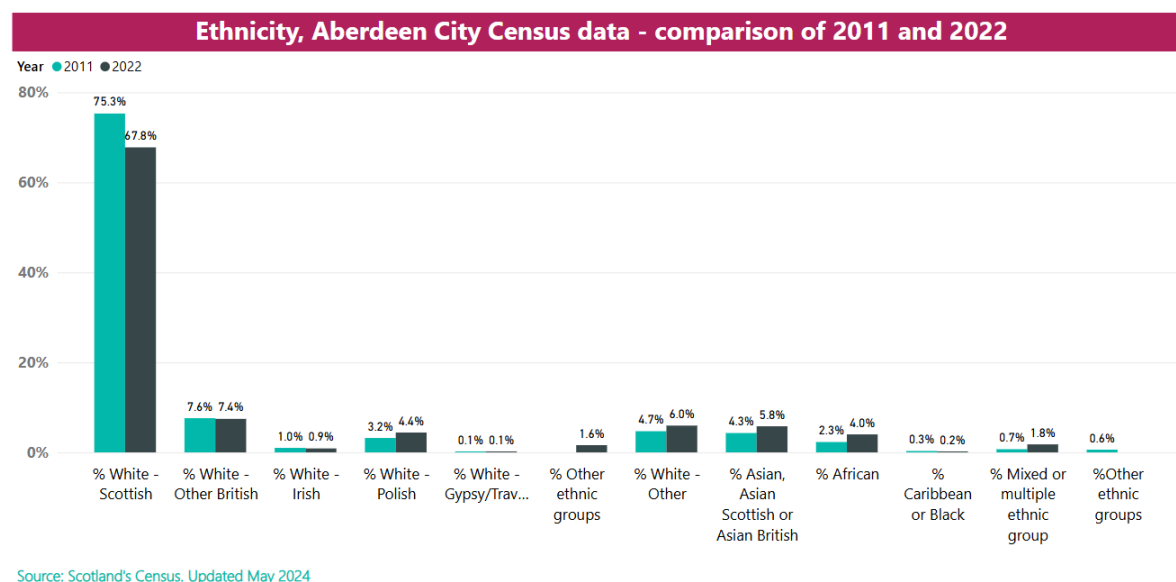
### 2.3.2. Ethnicity

**Ethnicity:** Aberdeen City has a diverse population. The most recent figures are from the 2022 Census. At March 2022, 67.8% of the city's population identified as White-Scottish

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<sup>1</sup> Working age at 30 June 2023 is defined as people aged 16 to 65 years. Pensionable age at 30 June 2023 was 66 years.

compared to 77.7% for Scotland as a whole. Other White ethnic groups (White Other British, White Irish, White Polish, White Gypsy/Traveller and Other White) made up 18.8% of the population of the city (compared to 15.2% for Scotland) giving a total of 86.6% who identified as 'White'. Other ethnic groups made up 13.4% of the city's population compared to 7.1% for Scotland. Compared to 2011, the proportion on non-white ethnic groups has increased (from 8.2% in 2011).



### 2.3.3. Census population overview

The Table below gives an overview of the population of Aberdeen City compared to Scotland from Census data.

2022 Census	Aberdeen City	Scotland
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	48.8%	48.6%
Female	51.2%	51.4%
<b>Age Group</b>		
0-15 years	15.7%	16.4%
16-24 years	13.4%	10.7%
25-44 years	29.4%	25.3%
45-64 years	24.4%	27.6%
65+ years	17.1%	20.0%
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
White: White Scottish	67.8%	77.7%
White: Other White British	7.4%	9.4%
White: Other White	11.3%	5.8%
Mixed or multiple ethnic group	1.8%	1.1%
Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British	5.8%	3.9%

African: African, African Scottish or African British	4.0%	1.1%
Caribbean or Black	0.2%	0.1%
Other ethnic group	1.6%	0.9%
Country of birth		
Europe: United Kingdom: England	7.4%	9.3%
Europe: United Kingdom: Northern Ireland	0.5%	0.7%
Europe: United Kingdom: Scotland	70.7%	79.4%
Europe: United Kingdom: Wales	0.3%	0.3%
Europe: United Kingdom: UK part not specified	0.0%	0.0%
Europe: Channel Islands and Isle of Man	0.0%	0.0%
Europe: Other Europe: EU Countries: Republic of Ireland	0.5%	0.4%
Europe: Other Europe: EU Countries: Other member countries in March 2022	8.8%	3.9%
Europe: Other Europe: EU Countries: Other EU accession countries March 2022	0.1%	0.1%
Europe: Other Europe: Non-EU countries	0.6%	0.3%
Africa	3.9%	1.3%
Middle East and Asia	5.3%	3.0%
The Americas and the Caribbean	1.6%	0.9%
Antarctica and Oceania and Other	0.3%	0.3%
Length of residence in the UK		
Born in the UK	78.9%	89.8%
Less than 2 years	4.6%	1.7%
2 years or more and less than 5 years	3.3%	1.5%
5 years or more and less than 10 years	4.2%	1.9%
10 years or more	9.0%	5.1%
General health		
Very good	49.2%	48.0%
Good	32.9%	30.9%
Fair	12.7%	14.2%
Bad	4.1%	5.3%
Very bad	1.1%	1.6%



Limiting illness		
Yes, limited a lot	8.1%	10.8%
Yes, limited a little	12.1%	13.3%
No	79.8%	75.9%
UK Armed forces veteran		
Not applicable (aged less than 16)	15.7%	16.4%
UK Armed Forces veteran	2.5%	3.2%
Not a UK Armed Forces veteran	81.8%	80.4%
Sexual orientation (16+ years)		
Heterosexual/Straight	87.3%	87.8%
Gay or Lesbian	1.9%	1.8%
Bisexual	2.6%	1.8%
Other sexual orientation	0.7%	0.5%
Not answered	7.5%	8.2%
Trans status or history (16+ years)		
No: Not trans and does not have a trans history	94.3%	93.6%
Yes: Trans or has a trans history	0.6%	0.4%
Not answered	5.1%	5.9%
Economically active (16+ years)		
Economically active - Employee	53.9%	50.6%
Economically active - Self-employed	6.1%	7.6%
Economically active - Unemployed	4.1%	2.6%
Economically inactive	35.8%	39.1%
Highest qualification		
Not applicable (aged less than 16)	15.7%	16.4%
No qualifications	10.6%	13.9%
Lower school qualifications	15.7%	15.8%
Upper school qualifications	9.6%	9.3%
Apprenticeship qualifications	5.9%	6.4%
Further Education and sub-degree Higher Education qualifications incl. HNC/HNDs	10.5%	11.1%
Degree level qualifications or above Education qualifications not already mentioned	32.1%	27.1%

(including foreign qualifications)		
National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SeC) (16+ years)		
Higher managerial, administrative and professional occupations	13.3%	12.1%
Lower managerial, administrative and professional occupations	20.1%	21.1%
Intermediate occupations	11.0%	11.7%
Small employers and own account workers	5.9%	8.0%
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	6.9%	7.1%
Semi-routine occupations	10.2%	11.2%
Routine occupations	13.1%	13.5%
Never worked and long-term unemployed	5.7%	6.8%
Full-time students	13.8%	8.5%
Household tenure		
Owned: Owned outright	25.5%	29.6%
Owned: Owned with a mortgage or loan	32.7%	35.7%
Owned: Shared ownership (part owned and part rented)	0.4%	0.2%
Owned: Shared Equity (e.g. LIFT or Help-to-Buy)	0.8%	0.6%
Social Rented: Council (LA) or Housing Association/ Registered Social Landlord	20.5%	20.3%
Private rented: Private landlord or letting agency	18.8%	12.0%
Private rented: Other	0.3%	0.5%
Lives Rent Free	1.0%	1.2%

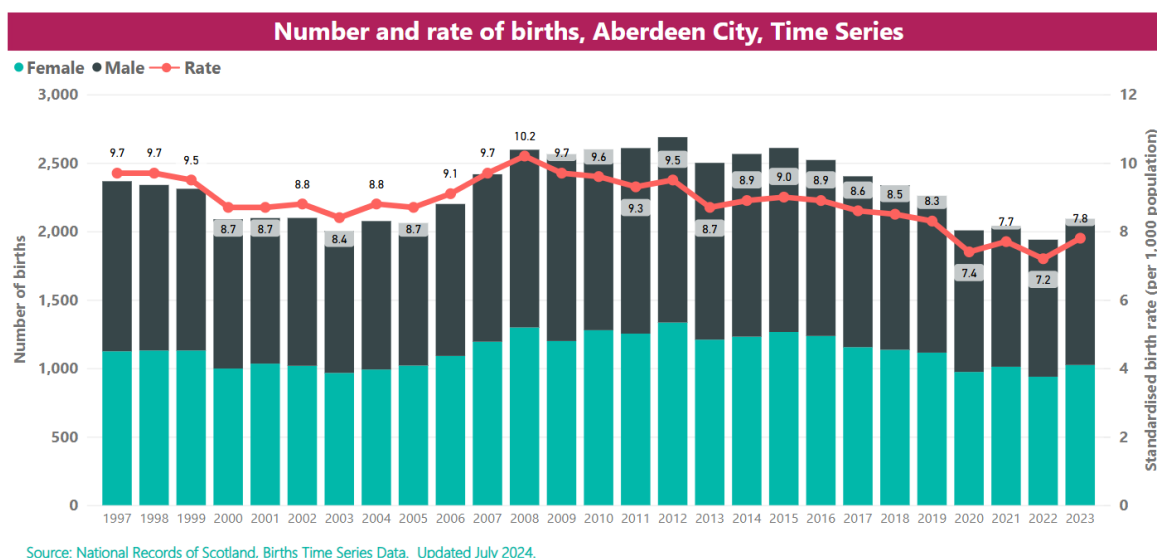
Source: Scotland's Census 2022

A more complete and granular exploration of Census Data for Aberdeen City can be found here: [Aberdeen and North East - Output Area Atlas - Community Planning Aberdeen](#)

## 2.4. Births

**Births:** In 2023 there were 2,092 births in Aberdeen City – up from 1,939 in 2022. Of these births, 1,024 (48.9%) were female and 1,068 (51.1%) were male. The standardised birth rate was 7.8 per 1,000 population (compared to 8.4 for Scotland as a whole) and is the fourth lowest rate in Scotland, with the lowest being City of Edinburgh at 6.2 per 1,000 population. In 2023, the general fertility rate<sup>2</sup> was 41.8 in Aberdeen City compared to 44.8 in Scotland. Fertility rates varied by aged group, being lowest in the 15-19 age group at 6.0 per 1,000 population and highest in the 30-34 year age group at 87.8 per 1,000 population. The total fertility rate<sup>3</sup> was 1.21 in Aberdeen compared to 1.30 in Scotland .

The most common [age group](#) for mothers is 30-34 years (773 births) and the least common age group for mothers is 0-19 years (40 births). Compared to 20 years ago, more births are now to older mothers, with the number of births to women aged 0-19 years and 20-24 years decreasing (by 77% and 41% respectively) and the number of births to women aged 35-39 years and 40 years and increasing by (by 52% and 152% respectively – although the actual number of births to women aged 40 and over is still relatively low at 116 in 2023) . The number of births varies across the city. The [Intermediate Zone](#) with the highest number of births in 2023 was Kingswells (87 births) and the Intermediate Zone with the lowest number of births was West End North (17 births). The rate of births (crude rate per 1,000 population) ranged from a low of 4.7 in West End North to a high of 14.9 in Cults, Bieldside and Milltimber West.



## 2.5. Deaths

<sup>2</sup> Total live births per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years, inclusive.

<sup>3</sup> The average number of children (per woman) that would be born to a cohort of women if they experienced, throughout their childbearing years, the age-specific fertility rates of the year in question.

**Deaths:** In 2023 there were 2,255 deaths in Aberdeen City – a slight increase from 2,248 deaths in 2022. Of these deaths, 1,124 (49.8%) were female and 1,131 (50.2%) were male. The age-standardised death rate was 11.4 per 1,000 population compared to 11.6 in Scotland. The highest number of total deaths were in the 80-89 years age group (671 deaths). For females, the most common age group for deaths was 90+ years (293 deaths) and for males the most common age group was 75-79 years (182 deaths) .

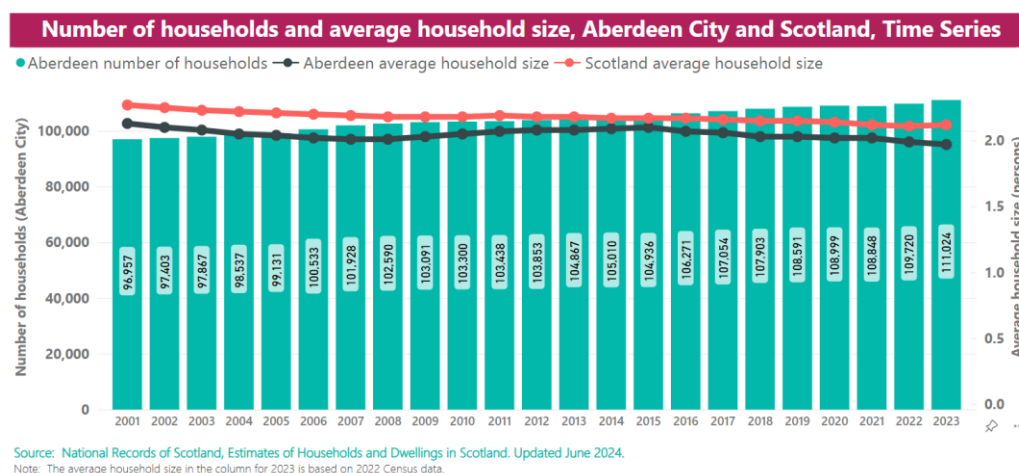
Death rates vary across the city. Based on Intermediate Zones, the most recent data is for 2021-2023 (3-year aggregate). Age-sex standardised rates range from a high of 2,188 per 100,000 population in City Centre East to a low of 720 in West End North. The equivalent rate for Aberdeen City is 1,144.

**Under 75 mortality rates:** In 2023, the age-standardised mortality rate for under 75s was 448 per 100,000 population which is slightly higher than the rate for Scotland (441.5) and the rate for 2022 (also 441.5). Under 75 mortality rates were higher for males (550.2) than females (348.0). While the rate for females was lower than the equivalent rate for Scotland of 354.7, the rate for males was higher than the equivalent rate for Scotland of 534.2 .

**Early deaths (15-44 years, all causes):** In 2021-2023, the rate (age-sex standardised per 100,000 population) for early deaths in Aberdeen City was 106 which is lower than the rate for Scotland of 112. This rate varied by deprivation, being highest in the most deprived areas. The rate for Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) quintile 1 (most deprived) was 229.8 per 100,000 population compared to a rate of 61.6 for Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 5 (least deprived). The rate for early deaths varies across the City (intermediate Zones) ranging from a low of 28 per 100,000 population in Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber East to a high of 263 per 100,000 population in Woodside .

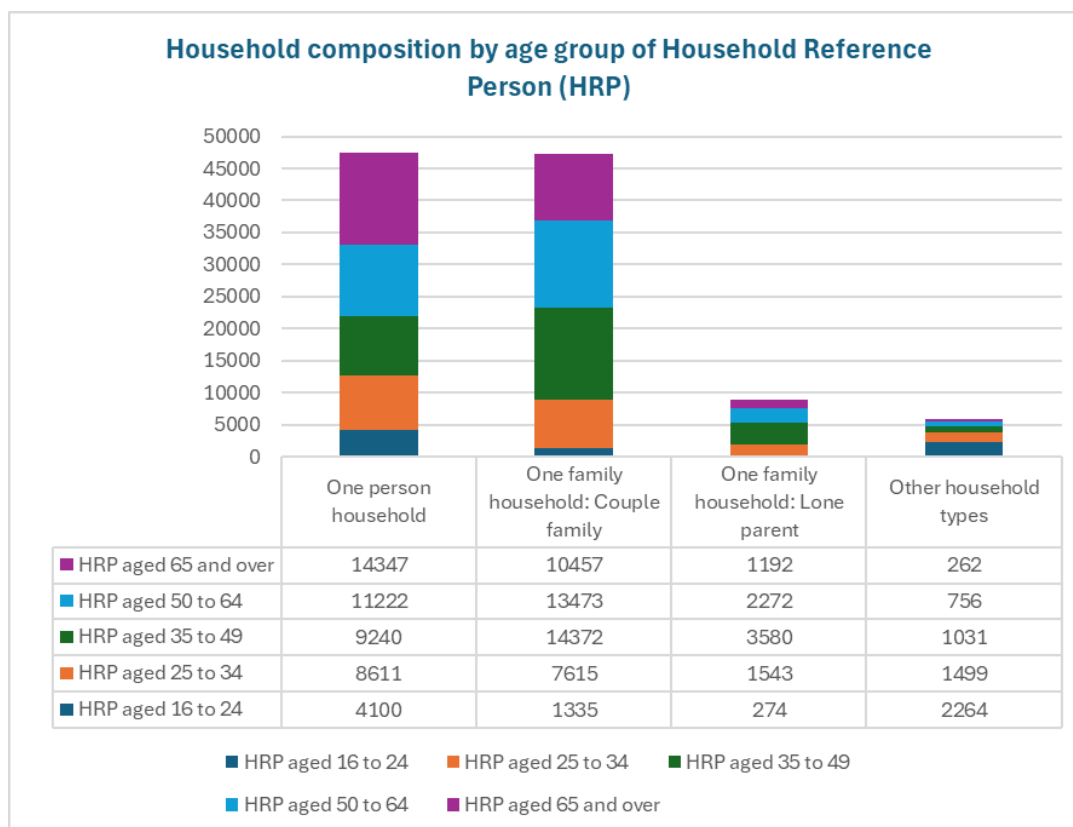
## 2.6. Households

**Households:** In 2023, there were 111,024 households in Aberdeen City – up from 109,720 households in 2022. Since 2002, the number of households in Aberdeen has increased by 13.4% (133,157 households) which is similar to the rate for Scotland of 13.6%. In 2022, the average household size was 1.97 compared to 2.12 for Scotland. In both Aberdeen City and Scotland, average household sizes have decreased over the past 20 years (from 2.13 and 2.27 respectively in 2001) .



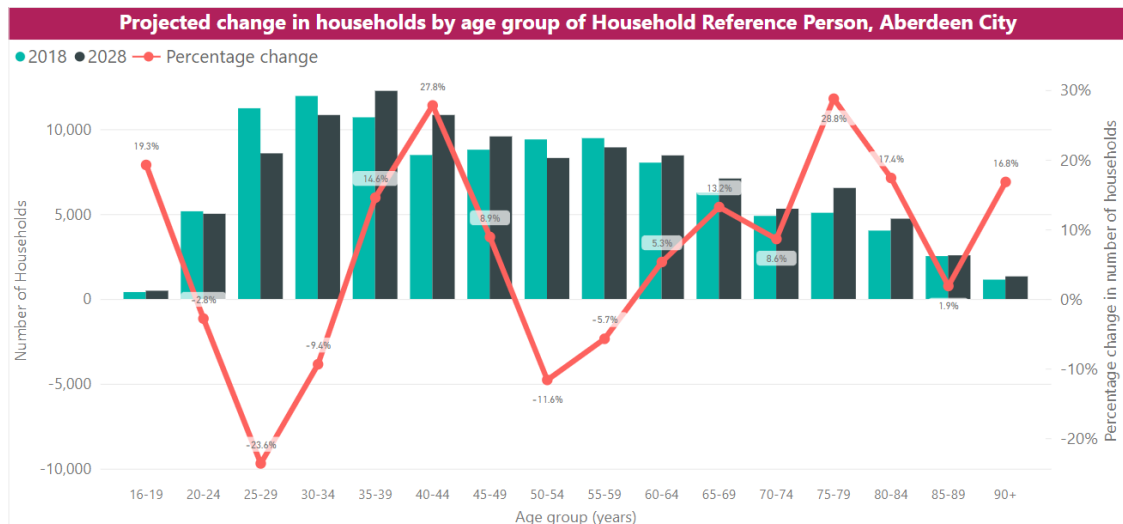
**Households Census data:** At the time of the Census in 2022 there were 109,445 households in Aberdeen City. Of these, 43.4% were one person households, 43.2% were ‘Couple family’ households, 8.1% were lone parent households and 5.3% were other household types. Further breakdown on household composition is available by the age group of the Household Reference Person (HRP). For one person households, the most common age group was 65 years and over (30.2%) followed by 50-64 years (23.6%). The table below gives the percentage of each age group within each household composition type and the chart beneath gives the total number of households in each household composition type by age group of the Household Reference Person.

	One person household	One family household: Couple family	One family household: Lone parent	Other household types
HRP aged 16 to 24	8.6%	2.8%	3.1%	39.0%
HRP aged 25 to 34	18.1%	16.1%	17.4%	25.8%
HRP aged 35 to 49	19.4%	30.4%	40.4%	17.7%
HRP aged 50 to 64	23.6%	28.5%	25.6%	13.0%
HRP aged 65 and over	30.2%	22.1%	13.5%	4.5%



**Household projections:** As with the population projections, the most recent household projections are 2018-based and so relatively dated. New projections are not expected until Summer 2025.

Between 2018 and 2028, the number of households in Aberdeen City is projected to increase from 107,586 to 110,884. This is a 3.0% increase, which compares to a projected increase of 5.0% for Scotland as a whole. In 2028, the household type “One adult” is projected to remain the most common in Aberdeen City (38.4% of all households in 2018 and 38.9% in 2028) and the household type “One adult, one or more children” is projected to remain the least common (3.7% in 2018 and 3.6% in 2028). Between 2018 and 2028, the household type “Three or more adults” is projected to see the largest percentage decrease (-5.0%) and the household type “Two or more adults, one or more children” is projected to see the largest percentage increase (5.0%). Based on 5-year age groupings, between 2018 and 2028, the 25 to 29 age group is projected to see the largest percentage decrease (-23.6%) and the 35 to 39 age group is projected to see the largest percentage increase (28.8%). In terms of size, however, 35 to 39 years is projected to become the largest age group of a Household Reference Person (HRP), compared to 30-34 years in 2018 .



Source: National Records of Scotland, Household Projections for Scotland. Updated September 2020.



## Emerging priorities

The demographic data is – as is often the case – the most difficult to interpret. In the context of community planning, the key features seem to be:

- The recent increase in overall population, but that this associated more with inward migration into Aberdeen than as a result of natural changes such as births and deaths. It is also interesting that the inward migration is primarily due to people from overseas coming to Aberdeen who tend to be from younger age groups.
- The population is projected to only increase modestly (1.1%) between 2018 and 2028. Of this the main components is expected to be due to migration.
- It should be noted that the age profile of the population is projected to see reductions in the proportion of younger men and women aged 0-14 years and 15 to 29 years. Most striking is the 26.2% increase in the population of men aged over 75 years by 2028. A similar increase is not observed for women (9.5%).
- Between 1997 and 2023 the birthrate in the city fell from 9.7/1000 population to 7.2/1000. In 2023 there were a total of 2092 births. This can be compared to 2252 deaths in the same year, meaning that for 2023 at least the number of births was lower



than the number of deaths. This is a feature of the population that needs careful monitoring.

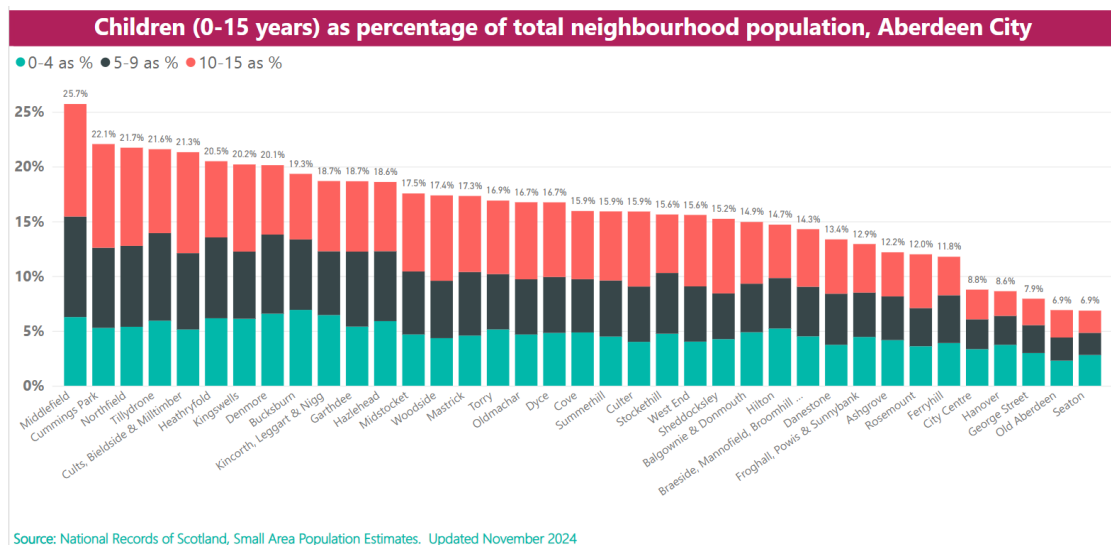
- For 2021-2023, the all-cause rate for deaths amongst people aged between 15 and 44 years is lower in Aberdeen City than for Scotland as a whole. However, this masks a clear variation associated with deprivation across the city. The age-standardised rate of deaths per 100,000 in the least deprived areas of the city (SIMD 5) was 61.6 compared with a rate of 229.8 in the most deprived areas of the City (SIMD 1). Addressing the underlying inequality which drives health inequality remains a key priority.
- Household composition has an impact on a range of factors associated with how services are delivered. In this context, the data are highlighting that over half of single occupant households are associated with people aged over 50.



## 3. Children, Families and Lifelong Learning

Ensuring that a child's life starts well, and is supported as they develop into young people, is essential in creating good population health and wellbeing throughout life. Early support to the child – and to their families or principal care givers – will have a direct impact on the future and lifelong physical and emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people. Early action can help to reduce health inequality.

**Child population:** In 2023, there were 36,898 children (0-15 years) in Aberdeen City – 16.2 % of the city's population . The number and proportion of children varies by [neighbourhood](#) (2022-based). In terms of numbers, Old Aberdeen has the smallest child population (229) while Cults, Bieldside and Milltimber has the largest (2,570). The City Centre has the smallest proportion of children (6.9% of the population of the neighbourhood) and Middlefield the largest (25.7%) .

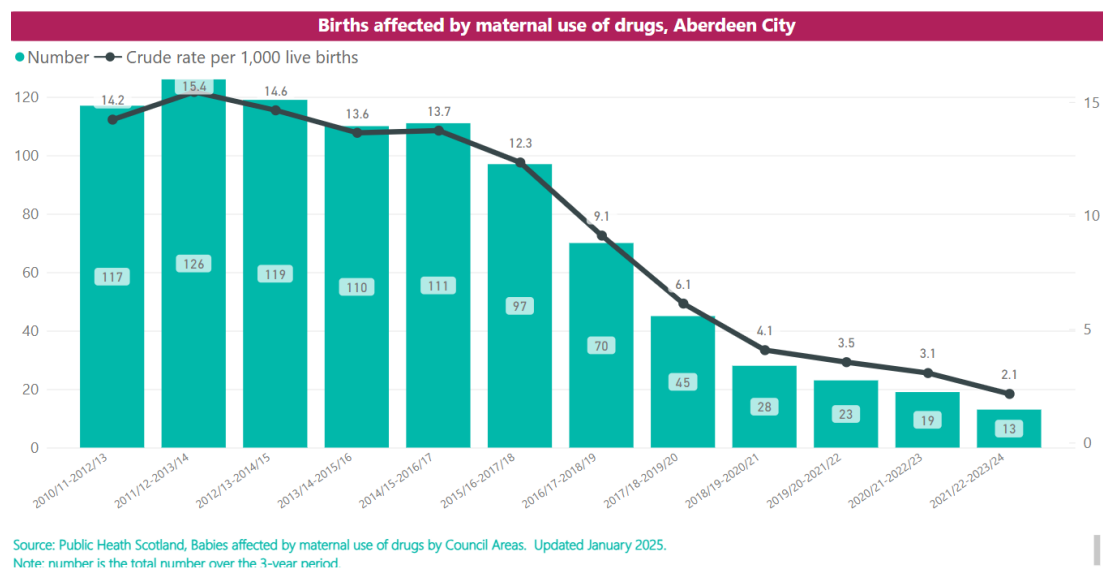


## 3.1. Give every child the best start in life

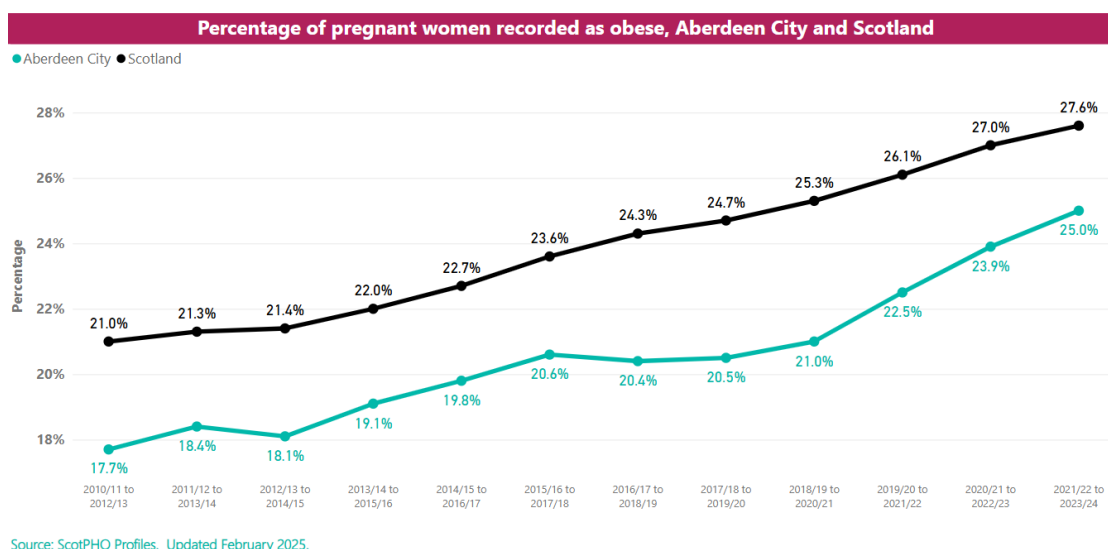
### 3.1.1. Early years

**Smoking during pregnancy** : In 2021-2023 (3-year aggregate), 9.6% of women in the City with a known smoking status were recorded as a 'current smoker' at their first antenatal appointment. Rates of smoking during pregnancy are slightly lower in Aberdeen City than in Scotland (10.7%) and have decreased gradually over the past few years (Note – new data collection method means that recent figures are not directly comparable with previous years). Rates are highest in the most deprived areas (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1) at 25% compared to 2.8% in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 5 (least deprived). Rates of smoking during pregnancy vary across the City (HSC localities, 2019/20-2021/22) at 10.9% in Aberdeen South, 12.2% in Aberdeen North and 13.1% in Aberdeen Central .

**Maternities with drug use:** In the period 2021/22-2023/24 there were 121 maternities with drug misuse recorded. This is equivalent to a rate of 20.2 (crude rate per 1,000 maternities) which is higher than the rate for Scotland of 17.9 . In the same period there were 13 babies affected by maternal use of drugs, equivalent to a rate of 2.1 (crude rate per 1,000 live births). The rate of babies affected by maternal use of drugs has fallen substantially in recent years .



**Maternal obesity:** In 2021/22 to 2023/24, 25% of pregnant women in Aberdeen City were recorded as obese (Body Mass Index (BMI) 30 and over) at their antenatal booking – lower than the rate for Scotland of 27.5%. Rates of maternal obesity have been increasing in both Aberdeen and Scotland. Rates of maternal obesity vary by deprivation being highest in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 1 (most deprived) at 32.7% and lowest in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 5 (least deprived) at 19.8%. Rates varied by [Intermediate Zone](#) being from a low of 10.4% in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill & Seafield South to a high of 42.9% in Cummings Park .



**Healthy birth weight :** In 2021/22 to 2023/24 (3-year aggregate), 82% of babies born in Aberdeen City (full-term singleton births) were a healthy birth weight compared to 80.9% in Scotland. The proportion of babies who are a healthy birth weight has remained relatively stable over the past few years. Rates vary across the City ([Intermediate Zones](#)) ranging from a low of 72.5% in Danestone to a high of 91.4% in City Centre East .

**Premature births:** In 2021/22 to 2023/24 (3-year aggregate), 8.7% of births in Aberdeen City were premature, slightly higher than the rate for Scotland of 8.3%. The rate of premature births varied across the City ([Intermediate Zones](#)) from a low of 3.2% in Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber East to a high of 15.9% in Summerhill .

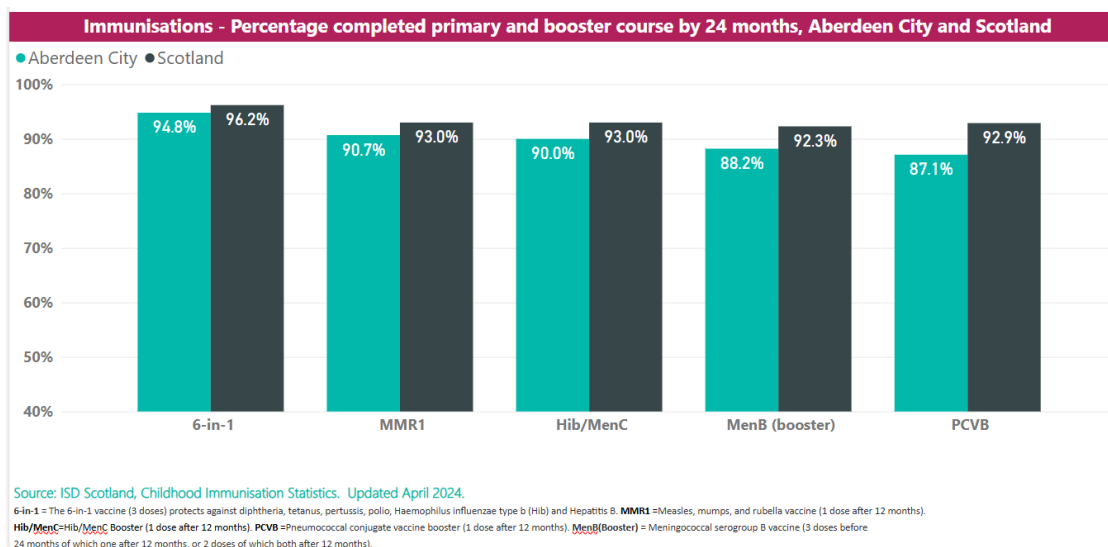
**Infant deaths :** In 2019-2023 the rate (crude rate per 1,000 live births) of infant deaths (age 0-1 years) in Aberdeen City was 4.2 – higher than the rate for Scotland of 3.5. In Aberdeen City the rate of infant deaths has increased in each of the last 3 data periods (from 2.5 in 2016-2020) .

**Breast-feeding :** In 2021/22 to 2023/24 (3-year aggregate), 43% of babies in the City were exclusively breast-fed at the time of their 6-8 week review. This is significantly higher than the Scottish average of 32.3%. While the overall rate of breastfeeding for the City has increased over the past few years, there is variation across the City (based on Intermediate Zones) with rates ranging from a low of 16.5% in Northfield to a high of 73.6% in Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber East .

**Exposure to second-hand smoke :** In 2020/21 to 2022/23 (3-year aggregate), 8% of babies were reported as being exposed to second-hand smoke at their 6-8 week review. This is higher than the rate for Scotland of 6.4%. The percentage of babies exposed to second-hand smoke has remained fairly static in Aberdeen in the last few periods while in Scotland the rate has continued to decrease .

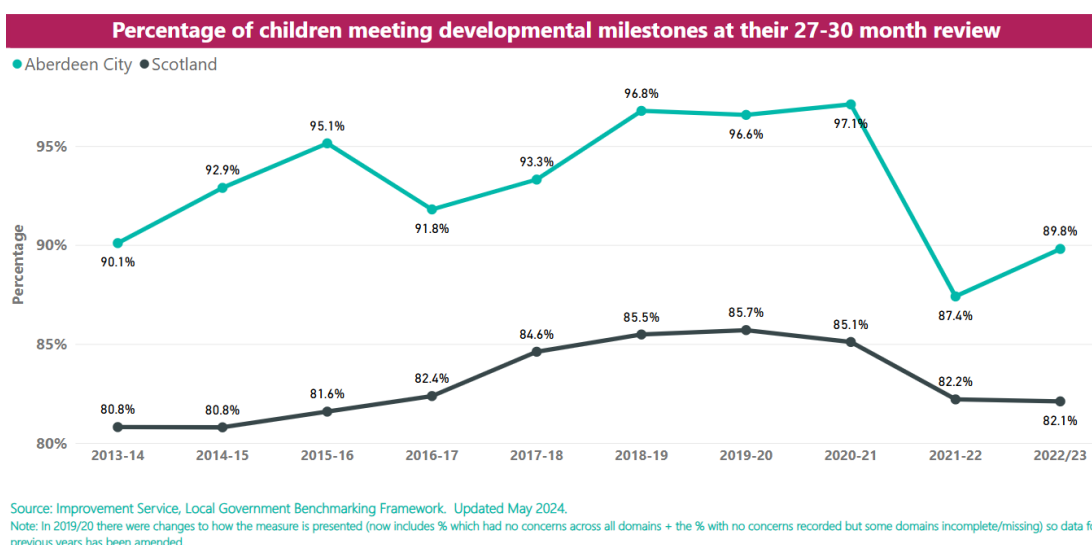
**Immunisation :** In Scotland there is a national target for 95% of children to complete courses of routine childhood immunisations by 24 months of age. In 2023, rates of babies who have completed the primary and booster courses for these immunisations by 24 months were lower in Aberdeen City than in Scotland and lower than the 95% target . Uptake of immunisation varies by Intermediate Zone. In 2021-23, percentage uptake of 6-in-1 vaccine at 24 months ranged from 76.4% in City Centre West to 99% in Culter and

uptake of Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) ranged from 69% in City Centre East to 98% in Oldmachar West. The equivalent rates for Aberdeen City (i.e. 2021-2023) were 95.1% for 6 in 1 vaccine and 90.1 for Measles, Mumps and Rubella .



**Developmental concerns at 27-30 months:** At 27-30 month reviews, the health professional (normally a health visitor) assesses children's developmental status and records the outcome (e.g. no concern, concern newly suspected as a result of the review, or concern or disorder already known prior to the review) against each of nine developmental domains (social, emotional, behavioural, attention, speech language & communication, gross motor, fine motor, vision and hearing). In 2022/23, 89.8% of children reviewed had no concerns identified at the review – lower than the figure of 97.1% in 2020-21 but slightly higher than 87.4% in 2021-22 . In 2022/23, 67.4% of children who were eligible for the 27-30 month review received a review - down from 78% in 2021/22.

In 2020/21-2022/23, the percentage of children with one or more developmental concern varied across the City (Intermediate Zones) ranging from a low of 1% in Braeside, Mannofield & Broomfield East to a high of 18% in George Street .



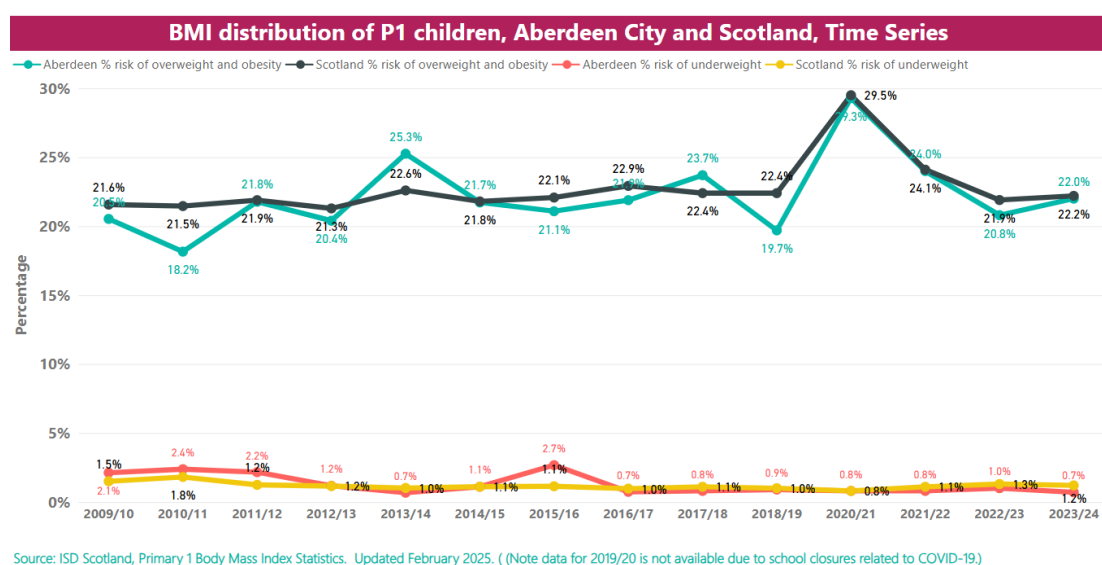
Unintentional injury in children under 5 years: In 2021/22-2023/24 there were 126 emergency hospital admissions for unintentional injury in children under 5 years (3-year rolling average number). This is equivalent to a rate (age-sex standardised) of 1,162 per 100,000 population – higher than the equivalent rate for Scotland of 916 but lower than the rate of 1,257 for the previous period .

### 3.1.2. Child health

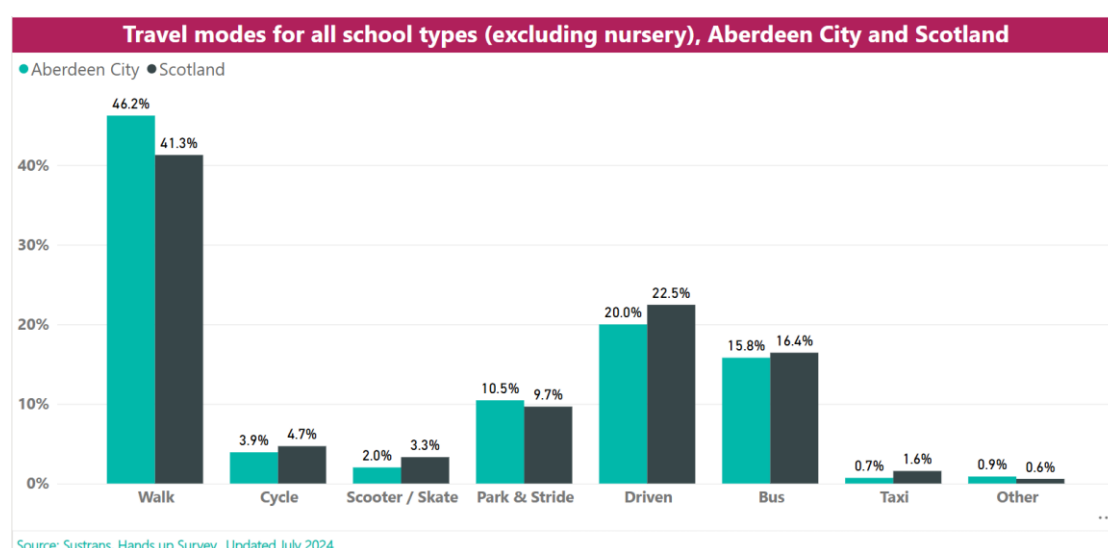
Healthy weight/Body Mass Index (BMI) : In 2023/24, valid height and weight measurements were recorded for 1,995 Primary 1 children in Aberdeen City. Of these, 77.3% were classified as ‘healthy weight’ (Body Mass Index greater than 2nd centile and less than 85th centile) – slightly higher than the figure for Scotland of 76.5% - with 11.7% being classified at risk of overweight (Body Mass Index >85<sup>th</sup> and <95<sup>th</sup> centile) and 10.5% being classified at risk of obesity (Body Mass Index >=95<sup>th</sup> centile) giving a total of 22% being classified at risk of overweight and obesity (Body Mass Index >=85<sup>th</sup> centile) .

In both Aberdeen City and Scotland the percentage of Primary 1 children classified as being at risk of overweight and obesity (Body Mass Index greater than or equal to 85th centile) spiked in the immediate post-COVID-19 period (from 19.7% in 2018/19 to 29.2% in 2020/21 for Aberdeen City). In 2021/22, the figure dropped to 24% in both Aberdeen and Scotland. The percentage of Primary 1 children classified as at risk of underweight has remained at less than 1% (Note: no data is available for 2019/20 due to COVID-19).

In 2023/24 the percentage of Primary 1 children classified as ‘healthy weight’ varied by deprivation in Aberdeen City from 72.9% in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) quintile 1 (most deprived) to 82% in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 5 (least deprived) . Based on 2021/22 data, the percentage of Primary 1 children who were a healthy weight varied across the City (Intermediate Zones) from 50% in Seaton to 100% in City Centre East and City Centre West (with the equivalent rate for Aberdeen City of 75.3%) .

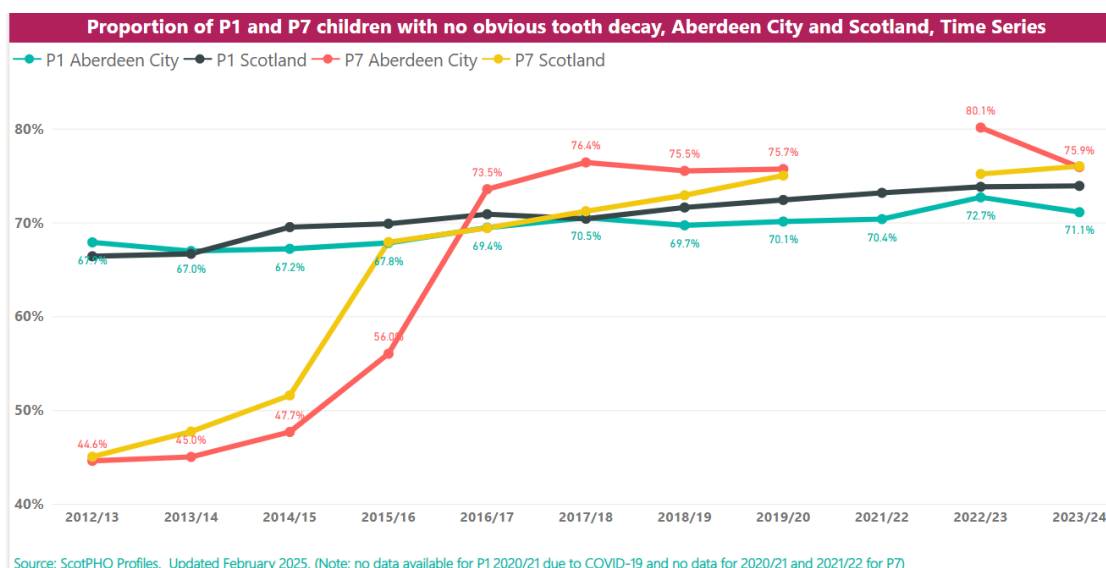


**Active travel to school:** In 2023, the most common mode of travel to school (excluding nursery) in Aberdeen City was walking (46.2%), followed by being driven (20%) and bus (15.8%). Mode of travel varied by type of school. Walking was the most common mode of travel for both primary (52.5%) and secondary (41.8%) pupils, while nursery children were most commonly driven to school (48.7%) with 36.6% walking. Pupils at SEN schools most commonly travelled by 'other' means (86.2%). The most common modes of travel for pupils at independent schools were bus (34.4%) and Park & Stride (29.4%). While still relatively high, the proportion of children who walk to school has fallen since 2020, from 50.7% to 46.2% .



**Dental health:** In 2023/24, 71.1% of Primary 1 pupils in Aberdeen had no obvious tooth decay – lower than the average rate for Scotland of 73.9% and lower than the rate for 2022/23 of 72.7%. The rate varied by deprivation, being lowest for those in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) at 56.9% and highest in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 5 (least deprived) at 80.4%. Across the City (Intermediate Zones), the proportion of [P1 pupils](#) with no obvious tooth decay ranged from a low of 39.1% in City Centre West to a high of 89.5% in both Midstocket and Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill & Seafield North.

In 2023/24 the proportion of [P7 children](#) with no obvious tooth decay was 75.9% similar to 76% in Scotland but lower than the rate of 80.1% in 2022/23. Again, there was variation by deprivation (63% in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 and 84.4% in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 5) and variation across the City with proportions ranging from a low of 50% in Dyce to a high of 100% in Hanover North .



**Uptake of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine in S3 girls** : In 2021/22-2023/24, 81.5% (3-year rolling average percentage) of S3 girls had their Human Papillomavirus vaccine – slightly lower than the rate for Scotland (83.1%) and but higher than the rate for 2021/22-2022/23 of 79.2%. Rates of the vaccine uptake varied by deprivation, being lowest at 68% in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) and highest in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 5 (least deprived) at 89.4%. Across the city (Intermediate zones) rates ranged from a low of 59.6% in Froghall, Powis & Sunnybank to a high of 97.6% in Braeside, Mannofield and Seafield East .

**Teenage pregnancies** : As in Scotland as a whole, the rate of teenage pregnancies (15-19 years) in Aberdeen City has reduced significantly over the past 10 years from 43.6 per 1,000 population (crude rate per 1,000 females aged 5-19 years) in 2010-2012 to 19.8 in 2020-2022 – lower than the rate for Scotland of 23.6. The rate of teenage pregnancies varies by deprivation from a high of 40.1 per 1,000 females age 15-19 years in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) to a low of 14 in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 5 (least deprived) . Data on teenage pregnancies is no longer available by Intermediate Zone, but is given by Health and Social Care localities (HSC). Rates in Aberdeen South and Aberdeen Central are similar (21 and 22 per 1,000 population) and are highest in Aberdeen North at 35 per 1,000 population. The rate of pregnancies for females under 16 years has also decreased in recent years - from a high of 10 per 1,000 females aged 13-15 years in 2009/11, to 1.6 per 1,000 in 2020/22 .

### 3.1.3. Smoking, alcohol, and drug use

Data on smoking, alcohol and drug use/misuse is available from the Physical Wellbeing Survey . 9,031 learners from P5-S6 completed the Physical wellbeing survey in November 2024, this is a slight decrease from 9,916 in November 2023 but an overall increase of 2,753 (43.9%) since the first survey carried out in March 2022.

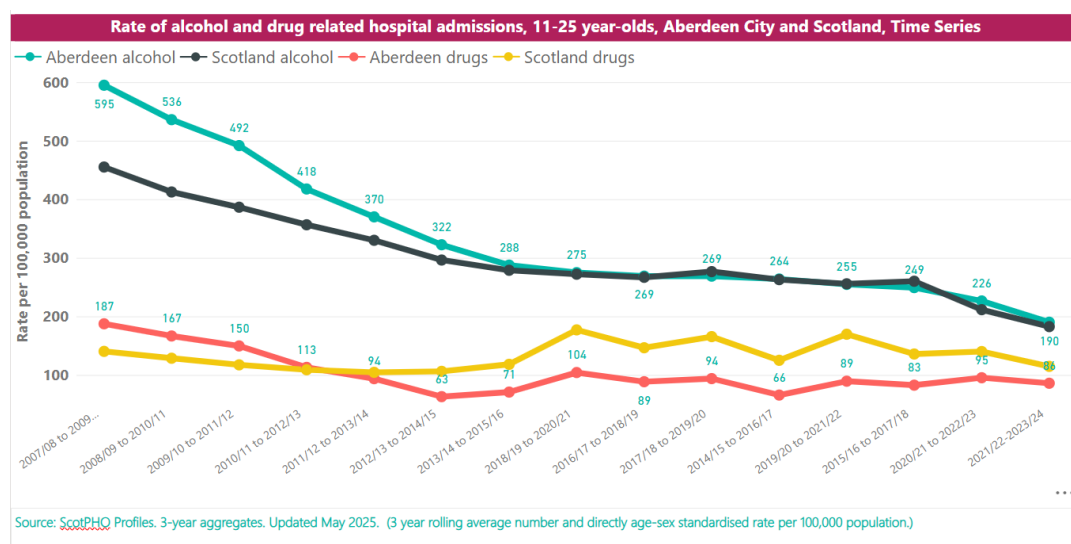


**Smoking:** In November 2024, of those pupils that answered ‘Have you ever tried smoking cigarettes or e-cigarettes’ (9,031) 6.2% (566) of learners reported that they have tried smoking (either cigarettes or e-cigarettes) – a slight reduction since the previous survey in November 2023 (7.8%). 1.4% (128) of young people reported that they use e-cigarettes or vapes once a week or more.

**Alcohol:** Learners were asked about alcohol consumption, regularity and type of alcoholic drinks consumed. In November 24 88.4% (7,987) of the 9,031 learners who answered the related question stated that they had never had a drink of alcohol . From November 2023 there has been a decrease from 76 to 59 learners who state that they get drunk weekly, with Cider, Spirits and Alcopops highlighted as those most often selected for regular consumption.

**Drugs:** of the 9,031 pupils that answered the question ‘Have you ever taken illegal drugs...’ Most (8,843) of learners stated that they had never used drugs, however 2.1% (188) of learners reported that they have taken illegal drugs, drugs formerly known as legal highs, solvents or prescription drugs that were not prescribed for them. 26 of our learners also stated that they use drugs daily with the largest number of responses linked to cannabis, followed by Ketamine and Cocaine.

**Alcohol- and drug-related hospital admissions, 11-25 years:** In the period 2021/22-2023/24 the rate (per 100,000 population) of alcohol-related hospital admissions for young people aged 11-25 years was 190.1 compared to 182.6 in Scotland. In the same period, the rate of drug-related hospital admissions for young people aged 11-25 years was 86 per 100,000 population in Aberdeen City – lower than the rate of 115 in Scotland.

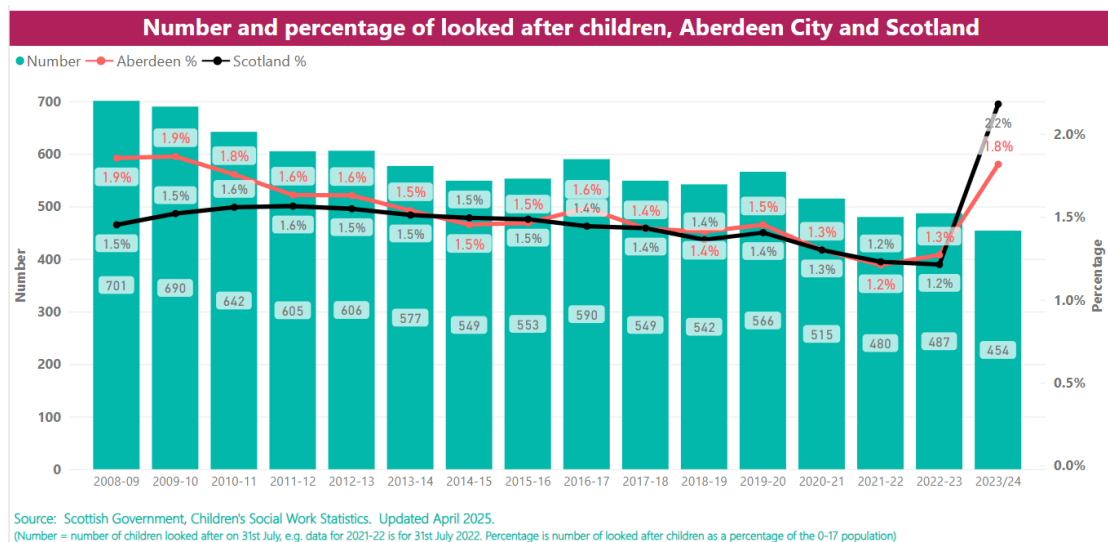


## 3.2. Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives

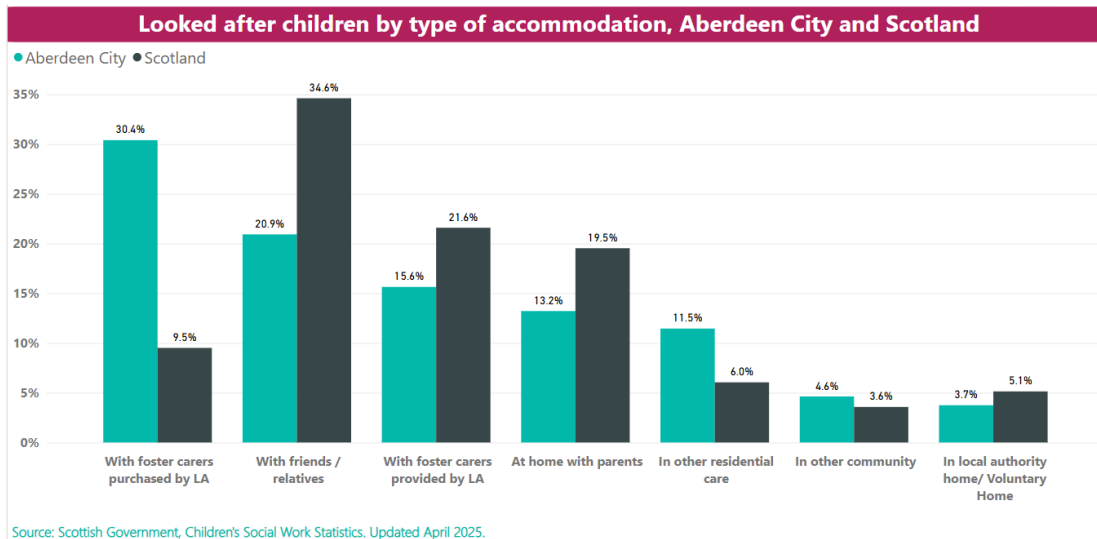
### 3.2.1. Looked after children

**Looked after children (LAC):** Between 1/08/2023 and 31/07/2024, there were 143 children starting to be looked after and 176 ceasing to be looked after. On 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024 there were 454 looked after children in Aberdeen City (down from the revised figure of 487 in 2023) – equivalent to 1.8% of the 0-17 years population compared to 2.2% for Scotland. Most (60.1%) looked after children in Aberdeen City are boys, and 18.7% are under 5 years old. 4.8% of looked after children are known to be from an ethnic minority group and 18.3% are known to have a disability. 16.3% of LAC are 16 years year or over .

In 2024, 5 children were admitted to secure care during the year (up from 1 in 2023 and 2 in 2022) .



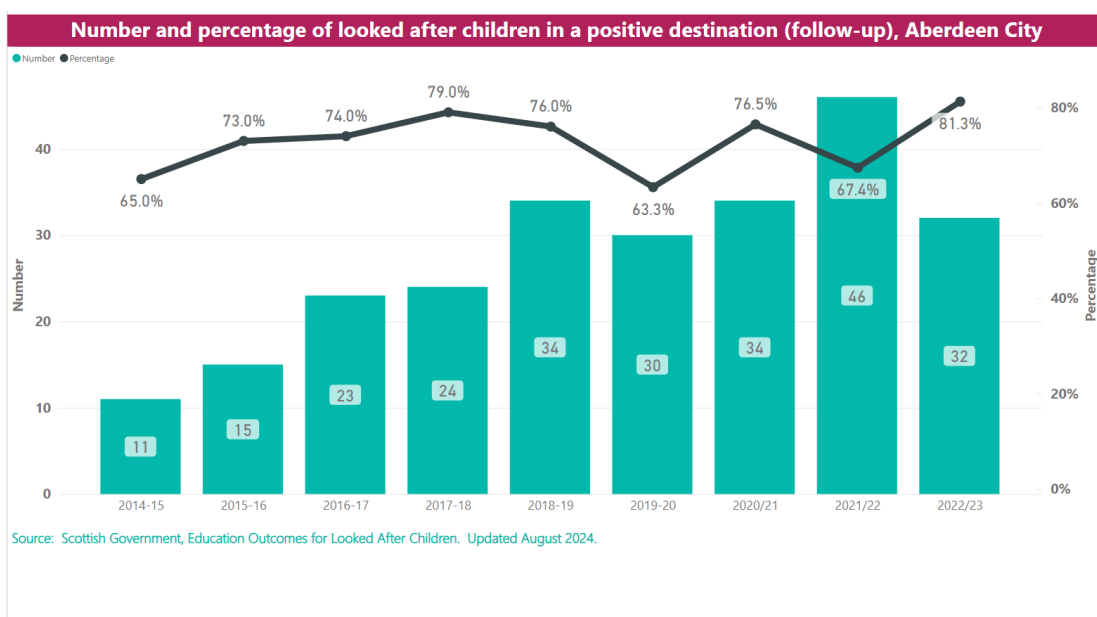
**Accommodation:** At 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024, foster care was the most common setting for looked after children in Aberdeen City (46%). At 34.1%, the proportion of looked after children in kinship care (at home with parents or with friends/relatives) was lower in Aberdeen City than in Scotland (54.1%) . In 2022-23, 18.4% of looked after children had more than 1 placement in the past year – higher than the rate for Scotland of 17.2% .



**Looked After Children educational outcomes:** In 2022/23, 68.8% of looked after children in Aberdeen City left school with 1 or more qualification at Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF) level 4 – lower than the rate for Scotland of 75.7% and lower than the rate of 76.1% in 2021/22 . The equivalent rate for all pupils (at publicly funded schools) was 87% in 2022/23 and 86% in 2023/24 .

Attendance and exclusion data is only available every 2 years. In 2022/23 the attendance rates for looked after children in Aberdeen City was 88.4% compared to 84.4% for Scotland. [The exclusion rate](#) (per 1,000 pupils who were looked after) was 164 in Aberdeen City compared to 96.9 in Scotland .

**Looked After Children positive destinations:** In 2022/23, 81.3% of looked after children in Aberdeen City had a positive destination (based on 9-month follow-up survey and children who were looked after for the full year) compared to 71.1% in Scotland and higher than the rate for 2021/22 of 67.4%. This is lower than the rate for all children of 90.1% (2022/23) .



**Bright Spots:** 'Bright Spots' is a research and service improvement project set up by Corum Voice to understand what is important to children in care and care leavers to share learning about what makes life good for them by measuring subjective wellbeing. Two cohorts were surveyed. The 'Your Life Your Care' survey was presented to 345 children/young people aged 4 – 17 years, and 'Your Life Beyond Care' to 227 young people aged 16 – 26 years. A small selection of the initial findings and areas for improvement is given below.

#### **Your Life Your Care**

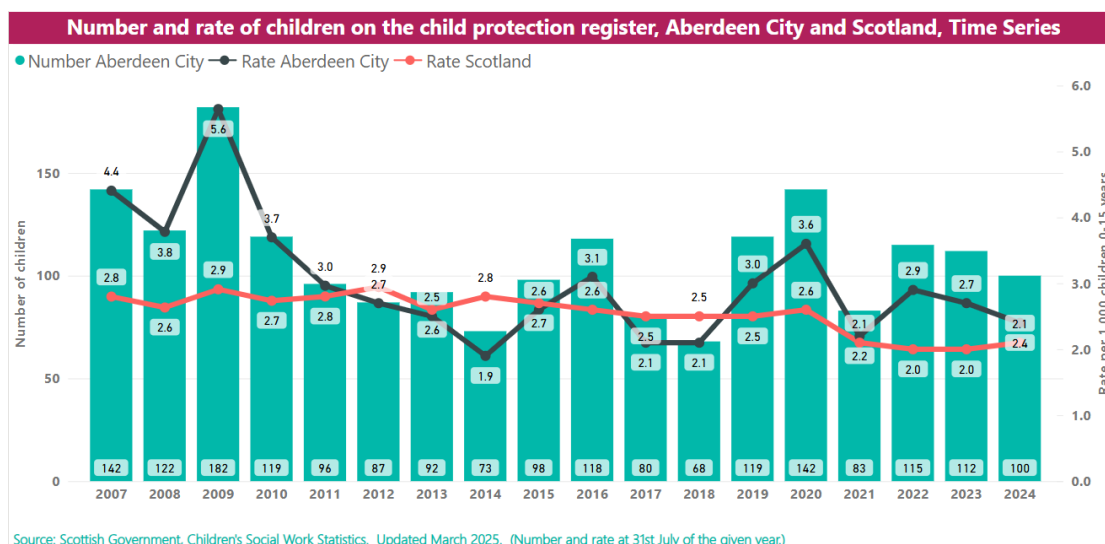
- More than half of children and young people (11- 17yrs) in Aberdeen had the same social worker over the last year.
- Six out of seven (86%) children and young people in care (8-17yrs) felt their lives were getting better.
- Fewer children and young people in Aberdeen had received an explanation about why they were in care compared to the comparator group.
- The percentage of Care Experienced Young People (11-17yrs) reporting they had with a really good friend was lower than the general population (91% to 97%).

#### **Your Life Beyond Care**

- More than nine in ten of care leavers (92%) who answered felt that they had a person who they trusted, who helped them and stuck by them no matter what.
- Two-thirds (66%) of comments about Youth Team Workers or Social Workers were very positive.
- One in five (22%) care leavers felt lonely 'often/always', over twice the rate for young people in the general population.
- One in three (30%) care leavers did not 'always' feel safe in their home and 36% did not 'always' feel safe in their neighbourhood. 41% did not 'always' feel settled in their home.

**Child protection:** At 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024, there were 100 children on the Child Protection Register (CPR) in Aberdeen City – down from 112 in 2023. The rate of children on the Child Protection Register (per 1,000 children aged 0-17 years) was 2.4 compared to 2.1 in Scotland . The most common concerns identified at case conferences of children who were on the child protection register at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024 were neglect (49), parental substance use (35) emotional abuse (30) and parent ill health (29). *(Note: Child protection concern categories as defined in the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 - updated 2023, which includes a more detailed list of concern categories compared to those included in previous versions of these statistics. Multiple concerns can be recorded rather than just the main category of concern. Parental substance use refers to cases where both parental drug use and parental alcohol use have been identified as a concern.)*

In 2022/23, 4.1% of child protection registrations were re-registered within 18 months – lower than the rate in 2021/22 of 18.2%. In Scotland 5.6% of child protection registrations were re-registered within 18 months .



### 3.2.2. Mental health and wellbeing

Information on mental health and wellbeing is informed by the SHINE Mental Health Surveys which have been conducted each year since 2022 with the most recent survey undertaken in Autumn 2024. Overall, across P6 to S6, 65% of pupils in these year groups in the local authority took part in the SHINE survey. Among, P6 and P7, 80% of pupils took part in the survey and 59% of secondary school pupils took part in the survey.

Given that an individual's mental health and wellbeing is influenced by a wide variety of factors, including environmental, social and the interaction between these, the survey looked at how family affluence (using the Family Affluence Scale (FAS) – low/medium/high) and gender (boy/girl/did not disclose) impacts wellbeing in the survey. In general, those in the low family affluence group were more likely to report a range of negative outcomes across nearly all the measures within the survey. Similarly, amongst both primary and secondary school pupils, those young people who did not disclose their gender were more likely to report a range of negative outcomes and feelings across nearly all measures. Below is a brief overview of some of the measures.

#### Primary 6 & 7

In Autumn 2024, 3,471 pupils from P6 and P7 completed this survey with 75 pupils not providing details of their gender and 4 pupils not identifying their year group. Incomplete responses meant that the Family Affluence Scale (FAS) score was not able to be calculated for 606 (17.5%) of primary pupils.

**General health and wellbeing:** Overall, 85% of P6 & P7 pupils reported that their health was 'excellent or good'. The percentage varied by Family Affluence (from 80% with low family affluence to 93% for those with high family affluence) and gender (71% for those who did not disclose their gender, 86% for boys and 85% for girls).

Overall, 61% of the primary pupils reported 'always or often feeling confident'. The proportion of pupils reporting always or often feeling confident was highest in the high family affluence group (69% compared to 63% medium affluence and 51% low family affluence). Boys were more likely than girls to report always or often feeling confident

(68% compared to 54%). Only 38% of those who did not disclose their gender reported always or often feeling confident.

**Happiness:** Learners were asked to rate how happy they were with various aspects of life (appearance, school, future, health, choice, friends, family, time use, things you have, home and overall). Across P6 and P7, learners were positive about many aspects of their lives. Low levels of happiness was most commonly reported for 'Appearance' (13%) and 'School' (10%).

With the exception of 'school' where there was no significant difference between groups, pupils in the lowest family affluence group were more likely to report low levels of happiness across all life domains than their more affluent peers. For example, 20% of those in the low affluence group reported low happiness with their appearance compared to 8% in the high affluence group and 9% in the low affluence group reported low levels of happiness with life as a whole compared to 4% in the high affluence group. Similarly, when looked at by gender, a higher proportion of those who did not disclose their gender than either boys or girls reported low happiness for all domains (with the exception of 'things you have' which was similar across all gender groups). In particular, 39% of those who did not disclose their gender had low levels of happiness with 'appearance', 25% had low levels of happiness with 'health' and 24% had low levels of happiness with school. There were also differences between boys and girls. For example, girls were more likely than boys to have low levels of happiness with 'appearance' (16% compared to 10%) and friendships (7% compared to 4%).

**World Health Organisation (WHO)-5 Wellbeing Index:** This is a five item scale which provides a measure of emotional functioning, with a score of 50 or less indicating low mood. A score of 28 or less indicates at risk of depression. Based on this scale, 22% of those in P6 & 7 showed evidence of low mood and 6% were at risk of depression. Again this differed by family affluence with 28% of pupils from the low affluence group reporting low mood compared with 20% in the medium affluence group and 16% of those in the most affluent group. Additionally, the percentage at risk of depression was highest in the least affluent group (10%) compared to the most affluent group (4%). These also varied by gender with girls being more likely to report low mood than boys (24% compared to 20%) and risk of depression (7% compared to 6%). Both low mood and at risk of depression were highest for those who did not disclose their gender (45% for low mood and 17% for at risk of depression).

## **Secondary 1-6**

In Autumn 2024, 6,453 learners from S1-S6 completed the secondary survey with 173 learners choosing not to provide details of their gender. Incomplete responses meant that the Family Affluence Scale (FAS) score was not able to be calculated for 1,131 (17.5%) of secondary school pupils due to incomplete responses to the Family Affluence Scale questions.

**General health and wellbeing:** 81% of learners in S1-6 reported that their general health was 'excellent or good'. Reporting good or excellent health was also associated with family affluence with 88% of secondary pupils in the high family affluence group rating their health as good or excellent compared with 82% in the medium family affluence

group and 71% of those in the low family affluence group. There were also differences by gender with only 56% of those who did not disclose reporting excellent or good health (compared to 78% of girls and 84% of boys).

Overall, 45% of pupils in S1-S6 reported 'always or often feeling confident'. This varied by family affluence ranging from 37% in the low family affluence group to 53% in the high family affluence group. A higher proportion of boys (68%) than girls (54%) reported always or often feeling confident. Only 38% of those who did not disclose their gender reported always or often feeling confident.

17% of secondary pupils reported 'feeling lonely all or most of the time'. Those in the low family affluence group were more likely to report feeling lonely (22% compared to 16% medium affluence and 11% high affluence). Those who did not disclose their gender (40%) were more likely to report feeling lonely than either girls (20%) or boys (13%). This group was also more likely to 'self-harm' (40% compared to 17% of girls and 13% of boys). Those in the low family affluence group (19%) were also more likely to self-harm than either the medium affluence group (15%) or the high affluence group (11%).

**Happiness:** Learners were asked to rate how happy they were with various aspects of life (appearance, school, future, health, choice, friends, family, time use, things you have, home and overall). Secondary school learners were positive about many aspects of their lives. Low levels of happiness were most commonly reported for 'Appearance' (19%), 'School' (16%) and 'Future' (10%).

In all domains, those in the low affluence group were more likely to report low happiness than those in both the medium and high affluence groups. Similarly, those who did not disclose their gender were more likely than either boys or girls to report low happiness across all domains. This was highest for 'appearance' (47% in the gender not disclosed group reported low happiness with appearance). There were also differences between boys and girls with girls being more likely than boys to report low levels of happiness across all almost all domains (with the exception of 'things you have'). Again, this was highest for 'appearance' (25% of girls reporting low happiness compared with 13% of boys).

**World Health Organisation (WHO)-5 Wellbeing Index:** This is a five item scale which provides a measure of emotional functioning, with a score of 50 or less indicating low mood. A score of 28 or less indicates at risk of depression. Overall, 32% of S1-6 learners self-rated below the 50-score threshold indicating low mood and 11% below 28 indicating risk of depression. Those in the low family affluence group were more likely than those in the higher affluence groups to report both low mood and risk of depression. Those who did not disclose their gender were more likely to report both low mood and risk of depression than either boys or girls, and girls were more likely than boys to report both.

**Feeling safe:** Learners were asked to consider how safe they felt within various environments and across all schools and year groups, the majority of learners reported that they felt safe always or most of the time in their communities (88.5%), at home (96.7%) and in school (82.2%), however there is a percentage of learners who reported that they rarely or never feel safe in these environments.

**Feeling listened to:** Being available to listen to children and young people, is essential for supporting individual needs and understanding fully what is required. Learners were



asked if they had an adult in their lives that listens to them about how they are feeling. 71.7% positively shared that they always did. 3.7% (336) also stated no, they did not have an adult in their life that listens to them about how they are feeling. This is a similar percentage of learners from March 2022.

### **Child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS)**

The National Health Service (NHS) in Scotland provides mental health services for children and young people with a wide range of mental health conditions including Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), anxiety, behaviour problems, depression and early onset psychosis. This treatment is provided through Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH) services. Data is available by Health Board. In the 12 months to September, there were 3,823 referrals received in Grampian Health Board, of which 3,046 (79.7%) were accepted. At the end of September 2024, there were 480 patients waiting to be seen. Of these 446 (92.9%) had been waiting less than 18 weeks (target period) .

**Deaths from suicide 11-25 years:** In 2018-2022 the rate (crude rate per 100,000 population) of deaths from suicide in people aged 11-25 years was 8.2 in Aberdeen City – lower than the rate for Scotland of 10.9 but higher than the rates of 7.2 in 2017-2021 and 6.2 in 2016-2020 .

## **3.2.3. School and Educational Outcomes**

**Early Learning and childcare:** In 2024 there were 94 early learning and childcare centres in Aberdeen City (not including childminders) of which 51 were local authority centres and 43 were partnership centres. A total of 3,657 children were registered at the centres. There were 158 2 year-olds registered (40% of eligible 2 year-olds and 7% of all 2 year-olds), and 3,095 3 & 4 year-olds registered (97% of eligible 3 and 4 year-olds). There were also 404 deferred entries (children who are eligible to attend primary school but have deferred entry to remain in funded early learning and childcare) which is equivalent to 38% of those eligible to defer .

**School and pupil numbers:** In 2024 there were 14,968 primary school pupils and 11,209 secondary school pupils in Aberdeen City. There were also 128 pupils enrolled in Special Schools. The total number of pupils was 26,305. In 2024 there were 110 primary school pupils and 688 secondary school pupils with a known local authority of residence who attended school out with their local authority of residence .

**Additional support needs/disability:** In 2024, 36.6% (5,473) of primary pupils and 48.1% (5,386) of secondary pupils had additional support needs (up from 35.1% and 46% respectively in 2023). The most common reason for support for both primary and secondary pupils was English as an additional language with this reason being given for 45% of primary pupils with additional support needs and 33.9% of secondary pupils with additional support needs. (In 2024, 23.6% (6,198) of all pupils did not have English as their main home language. The five main home languages (other than English) are Polish, Arabic, Russian, Urdu and Ukrainian.) The next most common reason for additional support needs in both primary and secondary pupils was 'social, emotional and



behavioural difficulty' at 23.3% for primary pupils with additional support needs and 22.6% for secondary pupils with additional support needs. In 2024, 588 primary pupils and 488 secondary pupils had autistic spectrum disorder .

In 2023, 507 school pupils were assessed (400) and/or declared (80) as having a disability. This is equivalent to a rate of 18.2 per 1,000 pupils which is lower than the rate for Scotland of 37.1 per 1,000 pupils .

**Free school meals (FSM):** In 2024, 76.7% of primary school pupils in Aberdeen were registered for Free School Meals in mainstream local authority schools – down slightly from 77.1% in 2023. (Note: from the beginning of the 2022/23 school year all pupils up to and including P5 were eligible for Free School Meals under the universal provision. In 2024, 19.2% of P6 and 17.1% of P7 pupils were registered for Free School Meals.) At secondary school level, 15.5% of pupils were registered for Free School Meals – down from 18.2% in 2023 and 16.6% in 2022. Since 2022, all pupils at special schools are eligible for Free School Meals .

Information on the uptake of Free School Meals is available from the Healthy Living Survey. On survey day in February 2024, a total of 8,150 primary school pupils had a free school meal (7,632 in P1-5 and 518 in P6-7), equivalent to 74.5% of all those registered and present on survey day (up from 72.3% in 2023). In secondary schools, a total of 676 free school meals were taken (49.7% of those registered and present on survey day – down from 56.5% in 2023).

**Attendance:** Percentage attendance is calculated in relation to the total number of possible attendances (half-days). In 2023/224, average attendance in primary schools in the City was 92.9% and for secondary schools the rate was 89.7%. Overall attendance rate for the city was 91.6% compared to 90.3% for Scotland. The attendance rate varied by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) and was lowest for those in quintile 1 (most deprived) at 87.6% and highest in quintile 5 (least deprived) at 93.8%. Percentage attendance was also lower for pupils who were registered<sup>4</sup> for Free School Meals at 83.5% compared to 92.1% for those not registered .

**Persistent absence:** Information is also available on the percentage of persistent absence (10% or more sessions missed). In 2024, the rate of persistent absence was 27.5% for Aberdeen City compared to 31.4% for Scotland. Rates of persistent absence were higher for secondary schools (33.6%) than for primary schools (23.3%) or special schools (29.9%). While the overall rate is lower than 2022/23 (29.2%), it is higher than the preceding years (18.9% in 2020/21 and 20.6% in 2018/19) .

**Exclusions:** In 2022/23 there were 646 cases of exclusion in Aberdeen City (73 in Primary Schools and 573 in Secondary schools) – up from 408 in 2020/21. This is equivalent to a rate of 25.7 exclusions per 1,000 pupils. The rate of exclusions was higher in secondary schools (54.9) than in primary schools (5.0). The total number of pupils excluded was 408 (up from 294 in 2020/21) of which 48 were in Primary schools and 360 were in Secondary schools).

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<sup>4</sup> Excludes pupils in the cohorts receiving universal provision of free school meals: P1-P5 and Special School pupils.

The number of pupils excluded varied by deprivation (based on Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintiles) being highest in quintile 1 (most deprived) at 33.4 per 1,000 pupils and lowest in quintile 5 (least deprived) at 7.4 per 1,000 pupils. There were also differences in the number of pupils excluded depending on whether or not they were registered for Free School Meals. The rate for those who were registered for Free School Meals was 51.7 per 1,000 pupils compared to a rate of 20.3 per 1,000 pupils for those not registered .

**Eco-Schools:** 107 Aberdeen schools (including nurseries and private schools) are registered with the Eco-Schools programme and 18 have achieved green flag status. A further five establishments have submitted a draft action plan to Keep Scotland Beautiful during 2024 meaning they are working towards their green flag award .

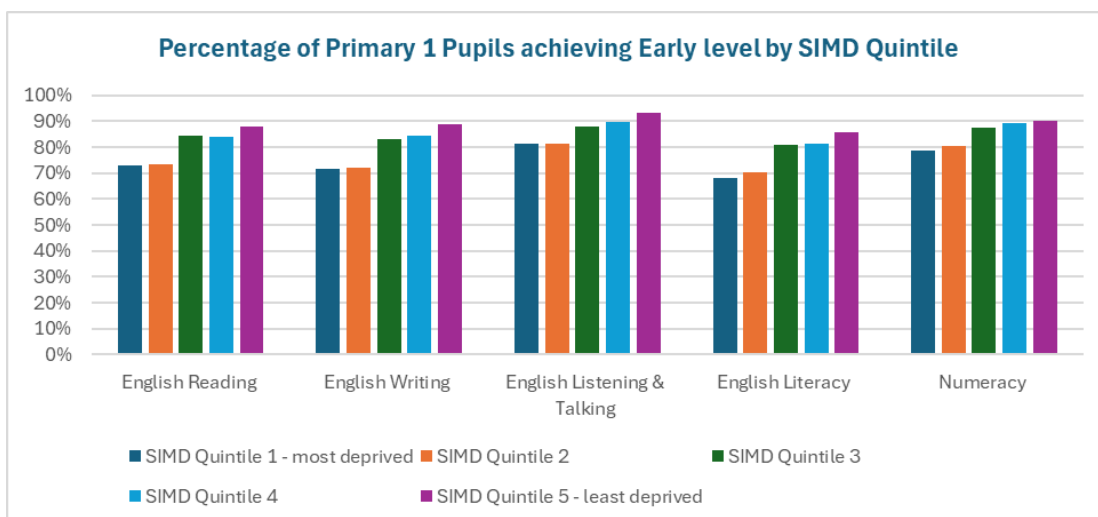
## Attainment

**Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence Levels (ACEL):** Data on achievement against expected levels (Early Level, First Level, Second Level, Third level or better and Fourth Level) is given at four stages – P1, P4, P7 and S3 – in five areas: reading, writing, listening and talking, literacy and numeracy. Achievement levels for 2023/24 for primary children are given in the table below. To allow easy (and crude) comparison with rates for Scotland, where Aberdeen is higher than Scotland the figure is shaded green and where it is lower it is shaded red .

Percentage of pupils achieving expected levels 2023/24				
		P1	P4	P7
		Early Level	First Level	Second Level
Reading	Aberdeen City	81%	76%	81%
	Scotland	81%	79%	81%
Writing	Aberdeen City	81%	71%	77%
	Scotland	79%	74%	76%
Listening and talking	Aberdeen City	87%	87%	85%
	Scotland	87%	87%	91%
Literacy	Aberdeen City	78%	67%	75%
	Scotland	77%	71%	74%
Numeracy	Aberdeen City	86%	74%	77%
	Scotland	85%	78%	78%

Source: Scottish Government, Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence Levels 2023-24

Achievement of expected levels varies by deprivation. In Aberdeen City in all subject areas, a smaller proportion of those in the most deprived 20% (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) achieved the expected level than those in the least deprived 20%. As an example, the chart below shows the percentage of Primary 1 pupils achieving Early level in each of the five areas .



Source: Scottish Government: Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) Levels, 2023-24

**Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) Literacy and Numeracy:** In 2023/24, 84% of school leavers achieved literacy and numeracy at level 4 or better (compared to 87% in 2022/23) and 65% achieved literacy and numeracy at level 5 or better (compared to 62% in 2022/23). In 2023/24, 66% of pupils gained 5+ awards at level 5 – up from 63% in 2022/23.

**Vocational and technical qualifications:** Information is also available on the number of secondary and special school leavers attaining vocational and technical ('skills-based') qualifications and awards at Scottish Credit and Qualifications (SCQF) levels. In 2023-24, 41% of leavers achieved 1+ qualification at level 4 or better and 37% achieved 1+ qualification at level 5 or better. This is slightly higher than the respective rates for Scotland of 40.6% and 35% respectively and higher than the rates for 2022-23 of 34% and 31% respectively.

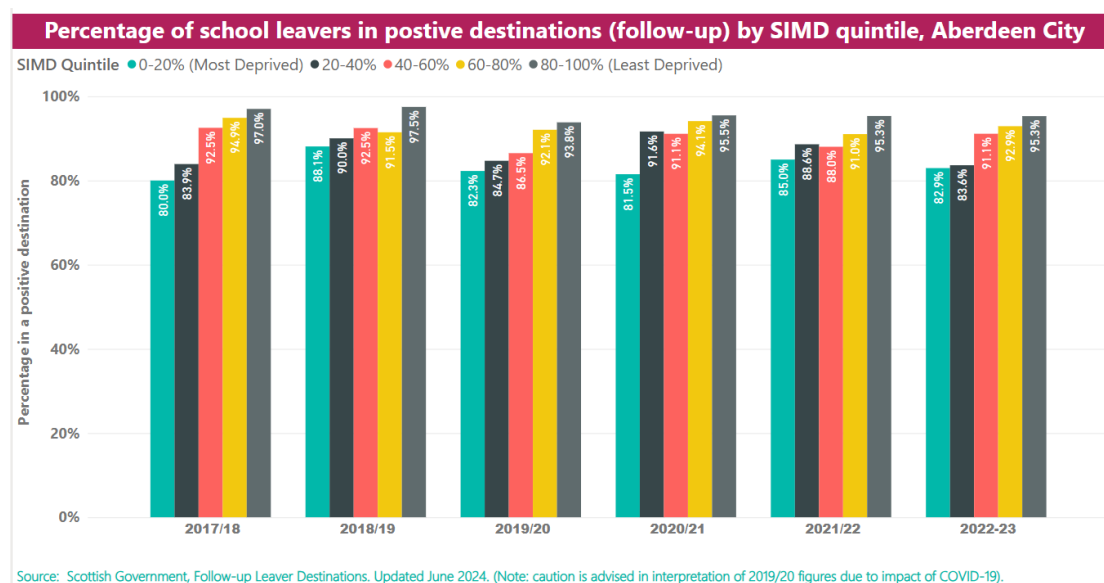
**Overall average total tariff:** In 2023-24 the overall average total tariff for Aberdeen City was 893 which is slightly higher than the score for 2022-23 of 882 but lower than the score for Scotland of 918 and family group average of 1,058. The average total tariff varied by deprivation, being lowest in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) at 481 and highest in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 5 (least deprived) at 1,198.

**Positive initial destinations:** In 2023/24, 93.6% of school leavers had a positive initial destination, the same as the rate for 2022/23 and lower than the rate for Scotland of 95.7%. The equivalent rate for school leavers with [additional support needs](#) was lower at 89.4%, down slightly from 91.6% in 2022/23.

**Follow-up destinations** for school leavers are for outcomes approximately 9 months after the end of the school year. In 2022/23, 90.1% of school leavers had a positive follow-up destination, down slightly from 90.8% in 2021/22 and lower than the rate for Scotland of 92.8%. The most common destinations were higher education (40.8% of school leavers), further education (24.2%) and employment (23%).

The percentage of school leavers in a positive follow-up destination varied by deprivation (based on Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) with 82.9% of school leavers in the most

deprived quintile having a positive destination compared to 95.3% of those in the least deprived quintile .



**Participation in Education Employment or Training:** The Skills Development Scotland Participation measure provides information on the current position of all children and young people between the age of 16 to 19 years, where they remain in school or have since left. In 2024, 90.1% of 16-19 year olds were participating in education, employment or training – similar to 90.2% in 2022/23 .

**Participation of Disabled Young People:** In 2024, 86.8% of those identified as disabled were participating in education, employment or training – down from 89.4% in 2023. The participation rate for those identified as disabled is lower than participation among non-disabled young people who in 2024 had 90.3% participation rates .

**Participation levels in the 20% Most Deprived Communities:** In 2024, participation rates were lower for those in the 20% most deprived areas (83.5%) than for those in the 20% least deprived areas (95.9%) .

**Foundation apprenticeships (FAs):** The most recent data was published in March 2023. At that date, six cohorts of pupils had participated in FAs (SCQF L6). In 2021/23 there were 117 enrolments for Cohort 6 and there were 15 FAs in training, down from 112 in the previous period .

### 3.2.4. Juvenile crime

Juvenile crime: In 2022/23, 590 young people (under 18 years) were identified as an accused – up from 546 in 2021/22. In the same period, the total number of Crimes decreased from 1,311 to 1,084 and the number of Lead Crime Reports increased from 809 to 814. Individuals aged 17 years have committed most offences each year for the last four years. Prior to this, in 2018/19, more offences were committed by 15 year olds

and 16 year olds. Most (71.5%) individuals identified as accused were male. In 2022/23 the most common crime group was Miscellaneous Offences, followed by Dishonesty .



**Anti-social behaviour:** In 2024, a total of 3,303 Youth Anti-social Behaviour calls were reported to the Police – down from 3,470 in 2023 .

**Referred to Children’s Reporter on offence grounds:** in 2023/24 there were 253 young people referred to the Children’s Reporter, with 121 being referred on offence grounds – up from 112 in 2022/23. In 2023/24, 85 young people were jointly reported to the Children’s Reporter and the Procurator Fiscal, up from 69 in 2022/23 .

**Diversion from prosecution:** In 2023/24, 52 16-17 year-olds were diverted from prosecution – up from 47 in 2022/23 .

**Justice Social Work Reports for 16-17 year olds:** In 2023/24 there were 12 Justice Social Work reports submitted for 16-17 year olds in Aberdeen City, down from 13 in 2022/23 .

## Emerging priorities

Giving children the best start in life is a “given” priority for ongoing action. However, based on these data, the levels of variation, often associated with deprivation across the city, requires closer consideration:

- Ensuring maternal health is an important first step in promoting infant health, across the city there is evidence for clear variation in maternal and infant health associated with deprivation in relation to smoking in pregnancy, maternal obesity, and breastfeeding. Ensuring that current and new work in each of these areas will be effective in reducing these local inequalities remains a priority.
- The increasing rate of infant deaths in Aberdeen City requires further consideration. The most recent rate of 4.2/1000 livebirths in 2019-2023 is higher than the Scottish rate

(3.5/1000 livebirths), and is an increase over the rate of 2.5/1000 livebirth reported for 2016-2020.

- Ensuring we reach childhood immunisation targets and we deliver developmental checks remain important. For example, the proportion of children with one or more developmental concern varies from 1% to 18%.
- The data suggest that childhood obesity across the city is returning to pre-COVID levels. However, across the city there is clear variation in the proportion of children described as having a “healthy weight” associated with deprivation that must be addressed. Such variation is also seen in relation to the oral health of the city’s children.
- Across the city, the data suggest that levels of smoking, alcohol use, and drug use in school children are low. This needs to be maintained.
- Levels of mental health and wellbeing in children remains an area that requires a continued focus with 1 in 5 P6 & P7 and 1 in 3 S1-6 children being assessed as experiencing low mood. Also of concern is the increase in the suicide rate amongst young people aged 11 to 15 years which has increase from 6.2/100,000 population in 2016-20 to 8.2/100,000 for 2018-2022.
- Data on educational achievement against expected levels shows variation by deprivation. In Aberdeen City, in all subject areas, a smaller proportion of those in the most deprived 20% achieved the expected level than those in the least deprived 20%.



## 4. Economic Stability

A healthy economy is an inextricable link to a healthy population. It is clear that the ways in which economic circumstances affect people can both enhance or reduce their health and well-being. Simply put, people who experience economic inequalities have poorer health and well-being. People who are economically secure have better health and wellbeing.

### 4.1. Create fair employment and good work for all

#### 4.1.1. Economy

During the 2010s, the region embarked on economic diversification, actively seeking and attracting investments in other industries such as renewable energy, food and drink, and life sciences. The 2020s mark a period of growth and diversification for Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire's regional economy. Positioned favourably for the transition to a low-carbon economy, the region boasts numerous innovative businesses in the renewable energy sector.

Recent economic indicators for Scotland paint a complex picture. In 2024, Scotland's economy is estimated to have grown by 1.1% compared to 2023, with the UK GDP growing by 0.9% over the same period. The entire UK faced significant inflationary pressures due to high energy prices and supply chain disruptions, resulting in an inflation rate exceeding 10% in the spring of 2023. Consequently, concerns have arisen about the cost of living across the UK. Projections suggest a real earnings drop of 1.5% across Scotland for the year 2023-24. Aberdeen, was particularly negatively impacted, with average earnings in 2024 only growing by 3% in real terms, slower than the rates in Scotland (4.3%) and the UK (3.6%). However, despite these challenges, average earnings in Aberdeen still outpace the Scottish and UK averages. Looking ahead, Skills Development Scotland forecasts that Aberdeen's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will grow at an average rate of 0.5% between 2022 and 2025, in contrast to the broader Scottish average growth rate of 1.2%.

**Gross Value Added (GVA):** In 2022 Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire had a Gross Value Added per head of £36,748 (constant prices) showing an increase from 2021 (£32,826) and the 2020 low of £31,405. Gross Value Added per head in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire peaked in 2014 at £37,711.

The gap between the wealth of the North East region and both Scotland and the UK has been progressively narrowing since 2015. In 2015, the Gross Value Added per head in the North East was more than 30% higher than the Scottish and UK average. In 2022 Gross Value Added per head in the North East was 17% higher than Scottish average and 10% higher compared to the UK average.

**Growth sector enterprises:** Scotland's Economic Strategy recognises the importance of key industries in the continued growth of the country. The Strategy has identified six sectors where Scotland has a distinct comparative advantage – Food and Drink (including fisheries and agriculture), Creative Industries (including digital), Sustainable Tourism, Energy (including renewables), Financial and Business Services, and Life Sciences. In 2024 there were 3,710 growth sector enterprises in Aberdeen City with 45.9% being financial and business services. Since 2019 the number of growth sector enterprises has decreased by 1,150 (23.7%). In 2023, total employment in growth sector enterprises was 55,170 – the same as in 2022 and up from 53,630 in 2021. This is lower than the 2019 figure of 60,890 .

**Oil and Gas:** In the North East of Scotland, the oil and gas industry has been at the core of the region's economy for over five decades, contributing to the region's prosperity and higher average earnings compared to other parts of the UK. However, in the North East, direct employment in the sector declined from its peak of 30,600 in 2015 to 22,000 in 2022. Nevertheless, the oil and gas sector continues to be a significant employer, directly and indirectly (i.e. within the wider supply chain) supporting around 60,000 jobs in the North East. The region is now embracing an economic diversification strategy, transitioning to new forms of renewable energy and supporting the growth of high-value jobs in non-energy sectors. The Energy Transition Zone (ETZ), the largest dedicated energy transition complex in Scotland, has been allocated £53 million by the UK and Scottish Governments to facilitate the shift from oil and gas jobs to green energy. With over 90% of the UK's oil and gas workforce equipped with medium to high skills transferability, the North East emerges as a key energy transition region, well-positioned to adapt to adjacent energy sectors. As the region moves towards renewable energy and the growth of non-energy sectors, the emphasis on diversification aims to pave the way for a more resilient and sustainable economic future.

**Tourism:** In Aberdeen City, the tourism sector has witnessed a revival, with positive trends indicating significant growth. The city welcomed an estimated 190,000 international visitors in 2023, with over 1,300,000 nights spent—a record high since 2018. This increase in tourism led to an impressive expenditure of £134 million by international visitors, setting a new record and resulting in an average spend of £838 per visit . Additionally a report from Global Tourism Solutions shows the region attracted more than three million staying visitors in 2023, up 32.7% on 2022. In 2025, Aberdeen is expecting a surge in cruise tourism, with around 40,000 guests visiting the city between April and September due to an increase in cruise calls, with the Port of Aberdeen hosting 63 cruise calls during the season, a nearly 30% increase compared to previous years.

**Air passengers:** In 2024 there were 2.3 million terminal passengers through Aberdeen Airport. This is up from 2.23 million in 2023 and 1.96 million in 2022, but lower than the 2.91 million passengers in 2019 .

**Rail passengers:** In 2023-24 there were 2,287,858 entries and exits at Aberdeen train station. This is down from 2,497,108 in 2019-20 (numbers dropped to 393,982 during 2020-21), but higher than 2022-23 figure of 1,961,414.

Despite facing challenges during the pandemic, including revenue drops of 60% to 80% for hotels reliant on business or corporate trade, the resilience and promising recovery of



Aberdeen's tourism sector indicate a bright outlook for the city's economic growth and continued appeal as a vibrant destination.

#### 4.1.2. Businesses

**Business Outlook:** The North East of Scotland stands as a thriving hub for business activity, boasting over 20% of Scotland's leading businesses. The North East of Scotland has over 21,500 businesses in 2023, although this number has been decreasing in recent year from a high of over 24,500 in 2015, but the region still has large companies including FirstGroup, Abbrdn, Karro Food, Balmoral Group, Chivas Brothers, Enquest, and Wood, that have their headquarters or host major operations in the area. Aberdeen City showcases its commitment to innovation, with business expenditure on research and development more than double the Scottish average. The region consistently ranks among the top 10 in the UK for foreign direct investment, while also leading Scotland in patent applications per capita since 2015. Furthermore, North East Scotland's international exports per head are more than double the national average, representing 23% of Scotland's total international exports. Emphasising its dedication to advancing renewable energy, the University of Aberdeen is an integral part of the National Decommissioning Centre partnership for the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult, a significant Innovate UK initiative. However, the latest Fraser of Allander Scottish Business Monitor report (Q4 2024) reveals that business sentiment has dropped to its lowest level out with the pandemic, reflecting the uncertainty across the UK at the moment.

**Rateable Value Change:** As of April 2023, Aberdeen was one of the biggest beneficiaries of the revaluation with the city's total rates bill down by 17%. Aberdeen had been experienced big increases in the 2017 revaluation, which reflected buoyant local economic conditions in the 2015 tone date. Business rate bills for Aberdeen shops fell by 19% and Aberdeen's hotels saw valuations fall by 20%. The next revaluation date is April 2026, with the rates being set based on market conditions in April 1<sup>st</sup> 2025.

As of April 2023, every empty unit on Union Street saw a reduction in its rateable value, at an average of a 26% drop, increasing their appeal to prospective tenants.

**Businesses:** In 2024 there were 7,860 enterprises and 10,455 local units in Aberdeen City <sup>5</sup>. This is up from 7,705 enterprises and 10,300 local units in 2023. In 2024, most enterprises (85.1%) were classified as Micro (employing up to 9 people), 11.3% were small (10 to 49 people), 2.% were medium (50 to 249 people) and 0.7% were large (employing over 250 people) .

**Business births and deaths:** In 2023 there were 875 new businesses in Aberdeen City – down slightly increase from 895 in 2022. Between 2015 and 2019, the number of business births each year was broadly stable (between 1065 and 1100) before dropping in 2020 to 830 and staying between 860 and 895 in the three years since. In 2023 there were 920 business deaths – lower than 1,200 in 2022. One-year survival rates of 2022 business

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<sup>5</sup> An enterprise is the smallest combination of legal units (generally based on VAT and/or PAYE records) which has a certain degree of autonomy within an Enterprise Group. An individual site (for example a factory or a shop) in an enterprise is called a local unit.

births was 89.4% in Aberdeen compared to 92.5% in Scotland. Five-year survival rates of 2018 business births was 39.7% in Aberdeen compared to 39.8% in Scotland .

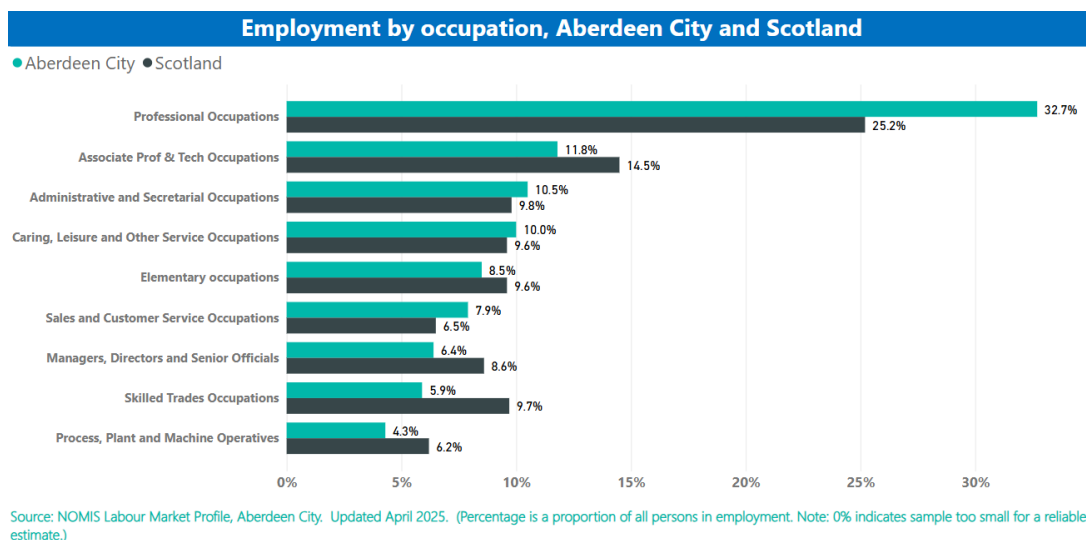
**Business Gateway start-ups:** In 2023-24 there were 389 Business Gateway Start-ups – down from 411 in 2022-23. This is equivalent to a rate of 17.1 per 10,000 population – higher than the rate for Scotland of 13.6 per 10,000 population .

#### 4.1.3. Labour market

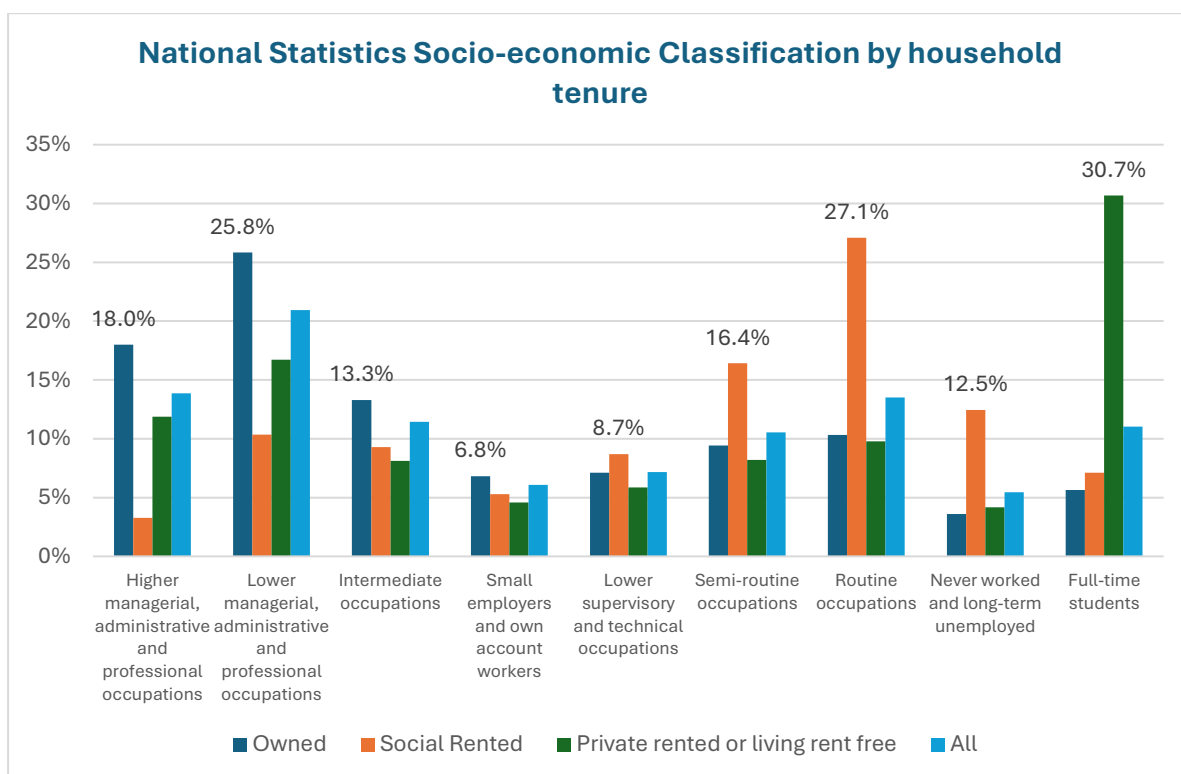
**Labour Market Outlook:** The labour market in Aberdeen has witnessed both challenges and positive developments in recent times. In 2022, the employment rate fell to 71.2%, marking its lowest level since 2016, while Economic Inactivity reached a record high of 24.9%. Both have since recovered, with employment hitting 77.4% in 2024 and economic inactivity reaching 18.8% both of which outperform against the Scottish and UK averages. One particularly affected group has been young people, with the youth employment rate (age 16-24) falling by over 40 percentage points to just above 30% during the pandemic, although it has since recovered to over 50%. Prior to the pandemic, Aberdeen's youth employment rate stood among the highest rates of all local authorities in Scotland, at over 70%. Younger workers, who are over-represented in industries severely affected by lockdown restrictions, such as retail and hospitality, experienced significant disadvantage. Despite these challenges, North East Scotland enjoys one of the highest densities of private sector employment in all of Scotland. Throughout the pandemic, Aberdeen experienced a slower recovery in job postings compared to other major cities and the overall Scottish average. However, since August 2022, Aberdeen has surpassed its pre-pandemic level of job postings, reaching a recent high in June 2023. The region's recovery efforts and vibrant private sector offer potential for continued growth and resilience.

**Employment and employment sectors:** In 2023, there were an estimated 159,000 jobs in Aberdeen City (up from 158,000 in 2022) of which 109,000 (68.6%) were full time and 50,000 (31.4%) were part-time. The most common sectors/industries were Human Health and Social Work Activities (17.6 % of jobs), Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities (12.6%), Mining and Quarrying (12.6%) and Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles (10.7%) .

**Employment by occupation:** In the year January 2024-December 2024, almost a third (32.7%) of those in employment in Aberdeen City were in Professional Occupations compared to 25.2% in Scotland. Associate Professional and Technical Occupations was the next largest group in Aberdeen at 11.8% compared to 14.5% in Scotland. The proportion of those in Elementary Occupations was 8.5% compared to 9.6% in Scotland.



**National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SeC):** The NS-SeC is an occupational classification system that provides an indication of socio-economic position based on occupation. Based on Census data, the most common National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (10 groups) for people (16+ years) in Aberdeen City was Lower managerial, administrative and professional occupations (20.9% of people aged 16+ years). The proportion of people (16+ years) in each of the classifications varied by household tenure. The chart below shows the proportion of people from each household tenure type in each of the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification groups (percentage figures are given for the highest percentage in each classification).



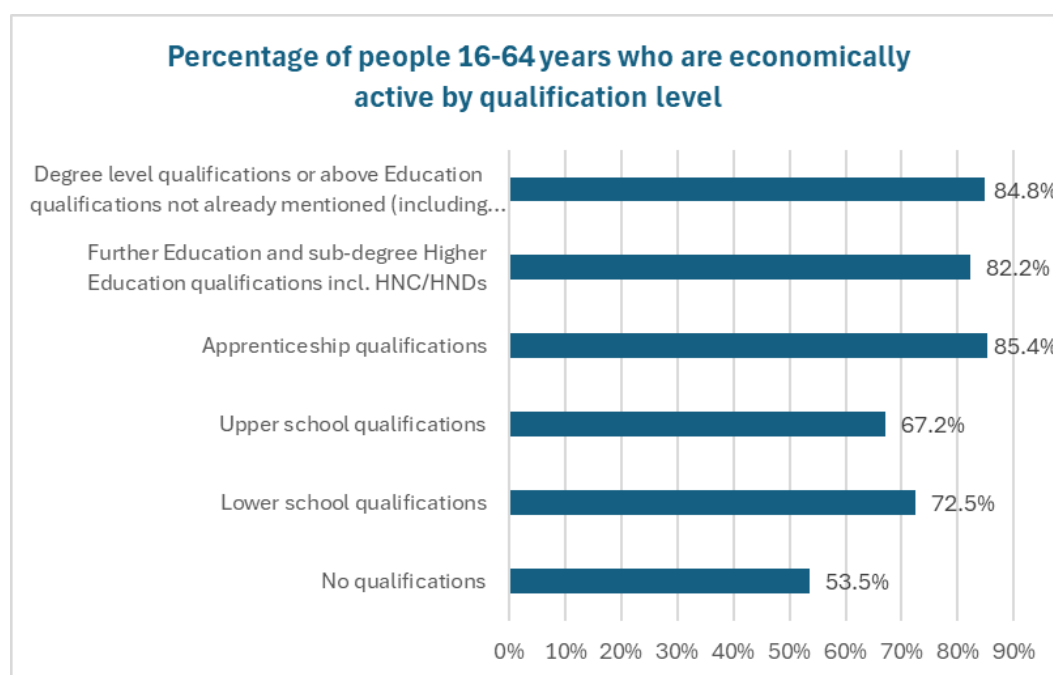
Source: Scotland's Census 2022.

**Economic activity**<sup>6</sup>: In the year from January 2024-December 2024, 78.4% of Aberdeen's working age population (16-64 years) was classified as economically active, higher than the rate for Scotland of 77% but lower than the rate of 81.2% in October 2023-September 2024. A higher proportion of males (81.7%) than females (75.4%) were economically active. The proportion of males and females who are economically active is higher in Aberdeen than in Scotland at 80% for males and 74.1% for females in Scotland.

**Economic inactivity**: In the year from January 2024-December 2024, 21.6% of Aberdeen's working age population were economically inactive compared to 23% in Scotland and up from 18.8% in the period October 2023-September 2024. Of those who were economically inactive, 38.1% were students, 16.5% were looking after family/home, 15.9% were long-term sick, and 11.7% were retired. Most (86.6%) of those who were economically inactive did not want a job. The economic inactivity rate for ethnic minorities (16-64 years) was higher than the overall rate at 28.5%.

**Economic activity Census data**: Information on economic activity is also available from the Census. In 2022, 77.7% of people aged 16-64 were economically active in Aberdeen City. Rates of people who were **economically active** varied by age group, being highest in the 25-34 year (86.7%) and 35-49 year (86.2%) age groups. In the 50-64 year age group, 72.1% were economically active. The rate was lowest in the 16-24 year age group where 62.3% were economically active.

Based on Census data, economic activity also varied by qualification level, with a larger proportion of those with higher levels of qualifications being economically active compared to those with lower qualifications or no qualifications.



Source: Scotland's Census 2022

<sup>6</sup> Economically active refers to people who are either in employment or unemployed. Economically inactive refers to people who are neither in employment nor unemployed. This group includes, for example, all those who are looking after a home or retired.

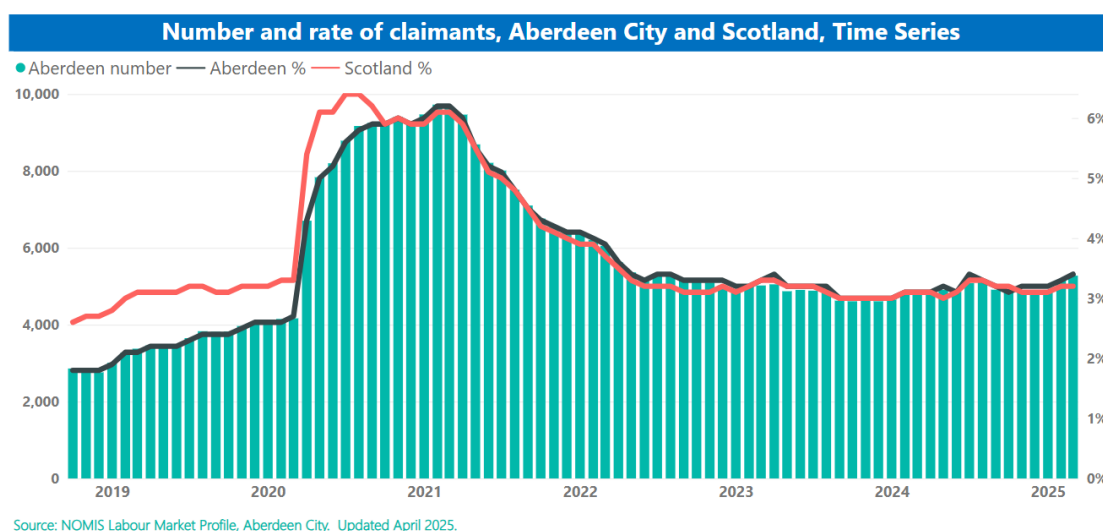
The Census also allows us to explore economic activity by some health-related indicators. The overall rate for **economic inactivity** for people aged 16-64 years was 22.3%. For those who reported having a long-term illness that limited their activities (either a little or a lot) the rate was 48.3% compared to 17.2% for those who did not report having a long-term limiting illness .

**Employment rate:** In the same period (January 2024-December 2024), 75% of Aberdeen City's working age population were in employment compared to 74.5% in Scotland. This is lower than the rate for October 2023-September 2024 which at 77.4% was the highest rate since July 2019-June 2020 when it was 78.6%. A higher proportion of males (77.8%) than females (72.7%) were in employment. These rates were slightly higher than the respective rates for Scotland of 77% and 72.1%. At 65.2%, the employment rate for ethnic minorities was lower than the overall rate. This is slightly higher than the corresponding rate for Scotland of 64.9% and higher than the rate for the previous period (October 2023-September 2024) of 63.7%

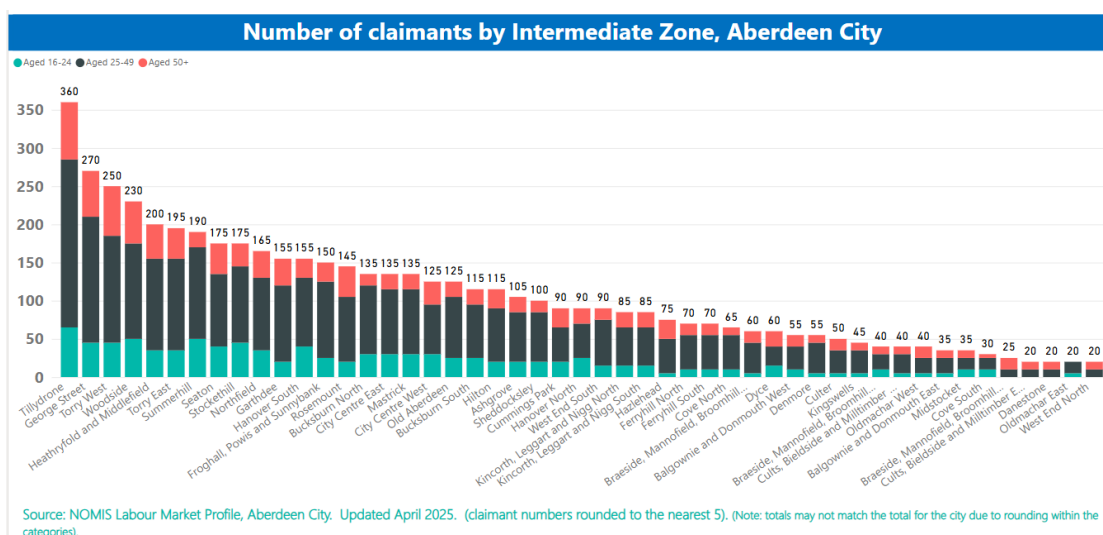


**Claimant count<sup>7</sup>:** In March 2025 there were 5,275 claimants in Aberdeen City. This is equivalent to a rate of 3.4% compared to 3.2% in Scotland. More claimants in Aberdeen City were male (3,115) than female (2,165) and most (3,155) were aged 25-49 years. 985 claimants were aged 16-24 years and 1,35 claimants were aged 50+ years .

<sup>7</sup> Claimant Count is the number of people claiming benefit principally for the reason of being unemployed.



The number of claimants varies across the City (Intermediate Zones), being highest in Tillydrone (360 claimants) and lowest in West End North (20 claimants) .

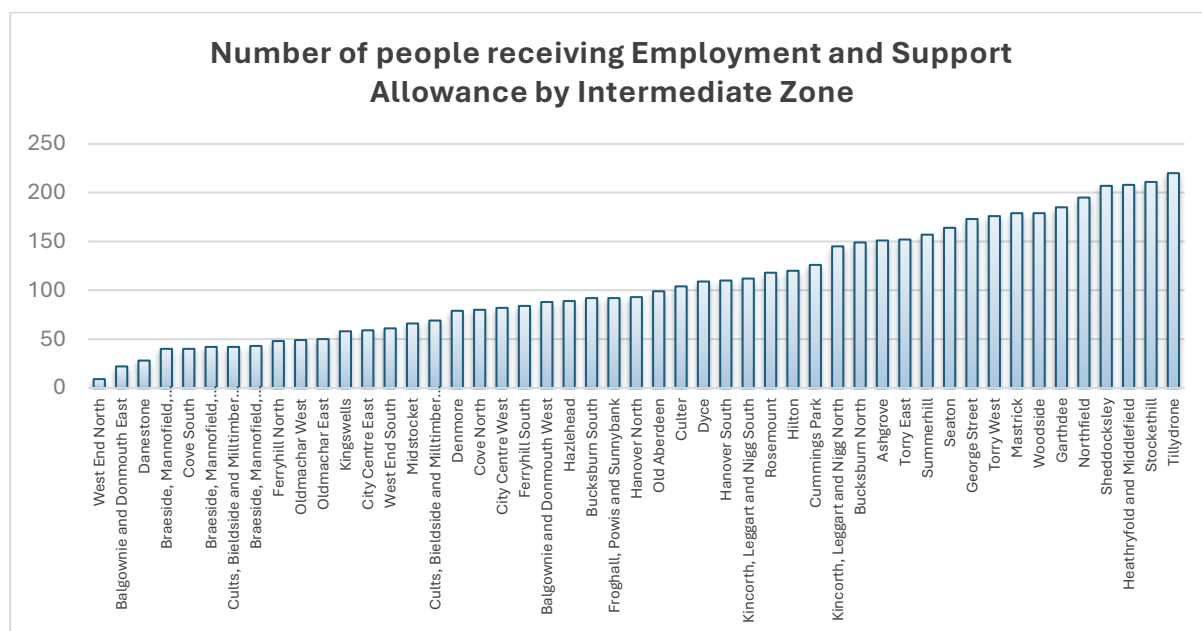


**Unemployment (model-based):** In the year from January 2024-December 2024, the (model-based) unemployment rate in Aberdeen City was 3.7% - higher than the rate for Scotland of 3.2% but lower than the rate for the same period last year of 4.3% .

**Employability pipeline:** In 2023-24 there were 477 unemployed people assisted into work from council employability programmes – up from 430 in 2022-23. This is equivalent to a rate of 8.2% (of the number of unemployed people based on the model-based unemployment count) compared to a rate of 12.1% in Scotland. This is lower than the rate of 9.3% in 2022-23 .

**Workless households:** In January to December 2023 there were an estimated 13,700 workless households (i.e. households where no-one aged 16 years or over is in employment) in Aberdeen City – an decrease from 15,200 in 2022. This is equivalent to 16.2% of all households compared to 17.4% in Scotland. In Scotland (no data available for Aberdeen City), it is estimated that 10.7% of children are in workless households .

**Employment and support allowance (ESA):** Employment and support allowance is an income benefit for people who are below pension age and unable to work due to a health condition or disability. In November 2024 there were 5,275 people in Aberdeen City receiving Employment and support allowance. The number of people receiving Employment and support allowance varied by Intermediate Zone ranging from a low of 9 in West End North to a high of 220 in Tillydrone.

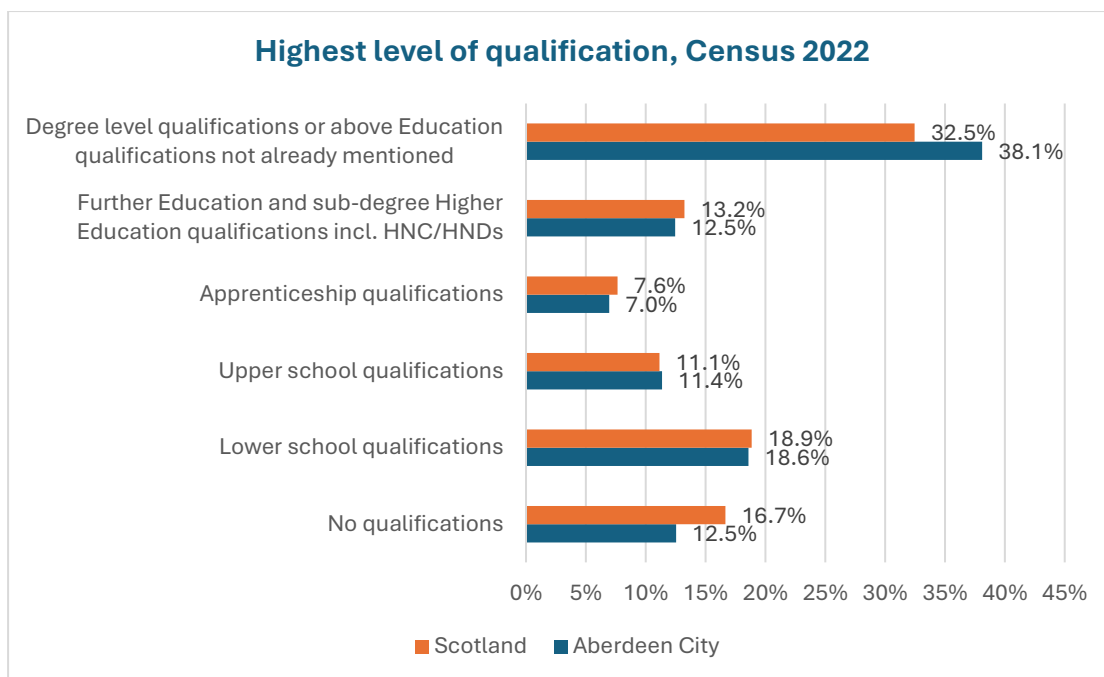


Source: Stat-Xplore, Employment and Support Allowance dataset

**Job density:** In 2022 there were an estimated 172,000 jobs in the City – equivalent to 1.11 jobs per person aged 16-64 years (compared to 0.81 for Scotland) .

**Qualifications:** In January to December 2024, compared to Scotland, Aberdeen City had a higher proportion of its workforce who are qualified to Registered Qualifications Framework (RQF) 4 and above (63.6% in Aberdeen and 54.5% in Scotland). (Registered Qualifications Framework 4 and above being HND, Degree and Higher Degree level qualifications or equivalent) .

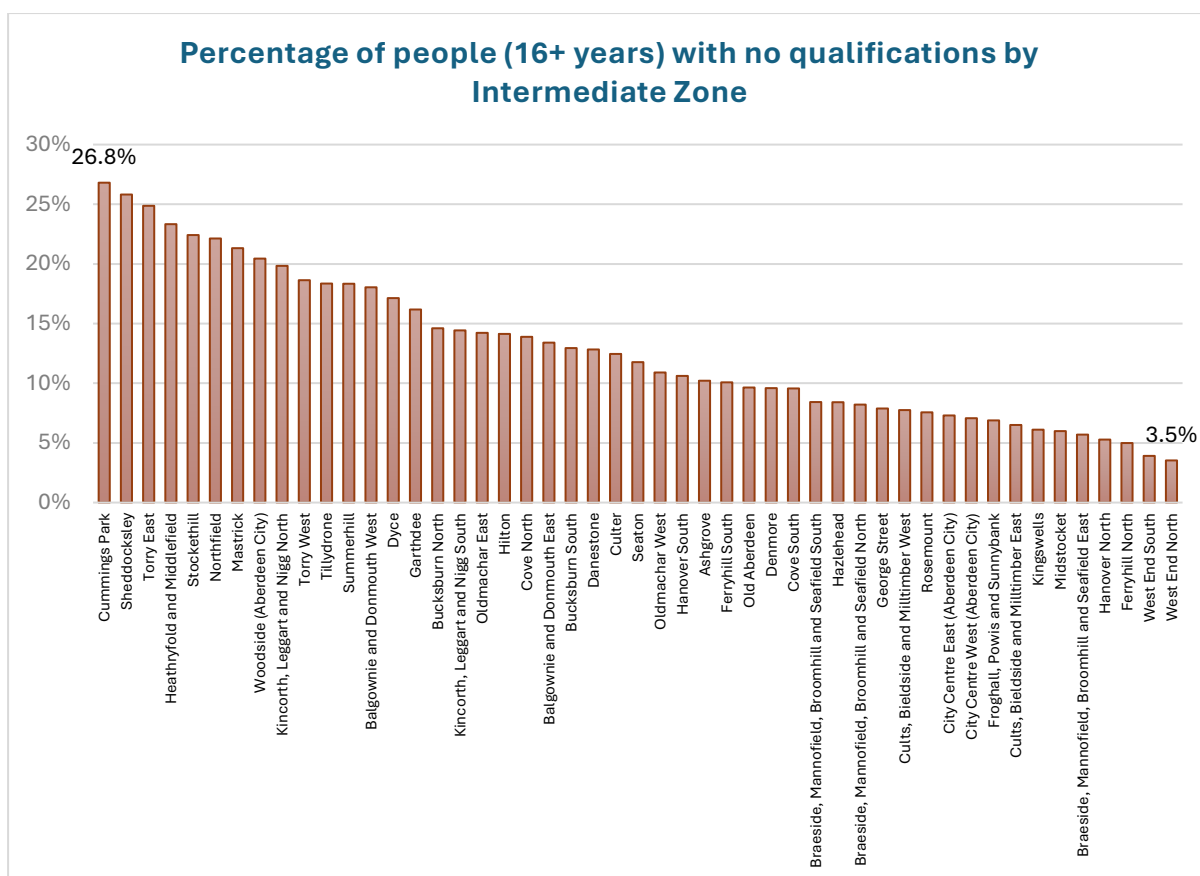
**Highest qualification Census 2022:** Data on the highest level of qualification is available from the Census and similarly shows that a higher proportion of people (16+ years) are qualified to degree level or above in Aberdeen City (38.1%) than in Scotland (32.5%) with the proportion of people with no qualifications being lower in Aberdeen City (12.5%) than in Scotland (16.7%). Proportions with other levels of qualifications were broadly similar in Aberdeen and Scotland .



Source: Scotland's Census 2022.

**Highest qualification by Intermediate Zone Census 2022:** Qualification levels varied across the City (Intermediate Zones). For example, the percentage of those (16+ years) qualified to a degree level or above ranged from a low of 15.9% in Sheddocksley to a high of 66.9% in West End North. Conversley, the proportion of adults with no qualifications ranged from a high of 26.8% in Cummings Park to a low of 3.5% in West End North. The chart below shows the percentage of people (16+ years) with no qualifications by Intermediate Zone .





Source: Scotland's Census 2022.

**Modern apprenticeships:** In 2023-24, there were 746 starts, up from 700 in 2022-23 . In 2024-25 Q3, there were 1,254 Modern Apprenticeships currently in training (compared to 1,072 in 2023-24 Q3). The percentage of leavers successfully achieving a Modern Apprenticeship increased from 73.9% in 2023-24 Q3 to 75.8% in 2024-25 Q3 .

**Graduate apprenticeships:** In 2021-22, 60 people in Aberdeen City enrolled in a Graduate Apprenticeship – up from 49 in 2020-21 .

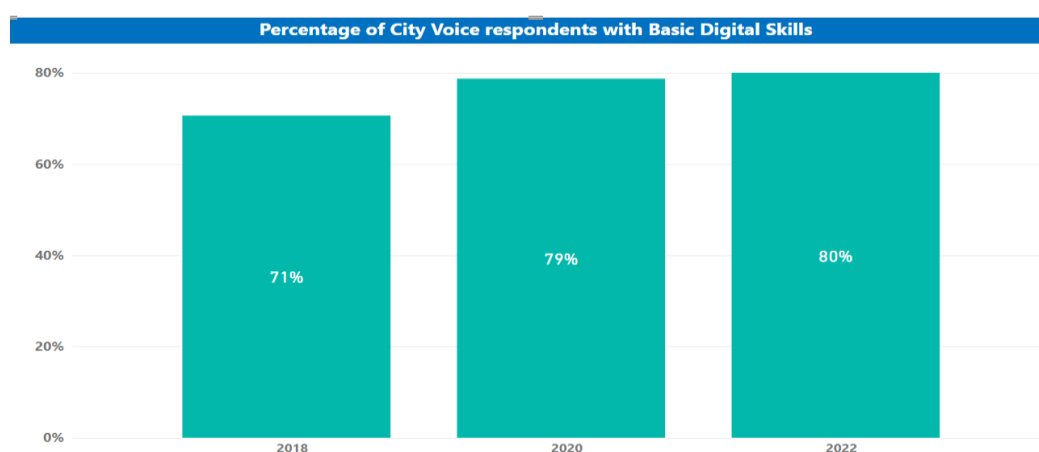
**Digital skills:** The digital technology sector is growing rapidly and is a key contributor to economic growth – creating an unprecedented demand for skills with employers across all sectors. Skills Development Scotland reports that annual vacancies in ICT in Scotland are projected to average 15,600 per annum, a 20% increase on previous estimates, and that employers report that they find it difficult to recruit employees with the right technical skills or experience .

In Scotland, between 2008 and 2018, the number of teachers whose main subject is Computing Science fell by almost 23%. Similarly, data from the SQA Annual Statistics Report shows that between 2017-21, National 5 participation in Computing Science fell by 15%. Participation in Higher Computing Science fell by 24% over the same period. Most of the pupils who take Computing Science are males. By the time pupils take the Higher Computing Science qualification, only 17% of them are female on average; an imbalance that continues as they move on through university and into industry . In Scotland, 79% of those undertaking Computing Science courses were males and in 2017, only 23% of digital technology roles were held by women .

According to the Department for Digital, Culture and Sport, in 2021 half (48%) of businesses were recruiting for roles that required data skills. The most common type of data role sought by businesses was a data analyst (12%). One in ten (10%) were recruiting for a Head of Data, with similar proportions recruiting for a Data Manager (9%), a Chief Technology Officer (8%) and a Data Protection Officer (8%). The need for data skills is not confined to people in specialist data roles; virtually all white-collar workers increasingly need to have a basic understanding of data. As mentioned in the Analytic Britain report, “The data revolution has implications...for the entire workforce. We all need to become more data literate to operate successfully in increasingly ‘data-rich’ environments” .

Digital technologies are also part of daily life for most people. Reliance on digital technologies became even more apparent during the pandemic – working from home, connecting with friends and family, and undertaking basic everyday tasks such as shopping and banking. Based on results from the Scottish Household Survey, in 2023 91% of households in Aberdeen City had home internet access.

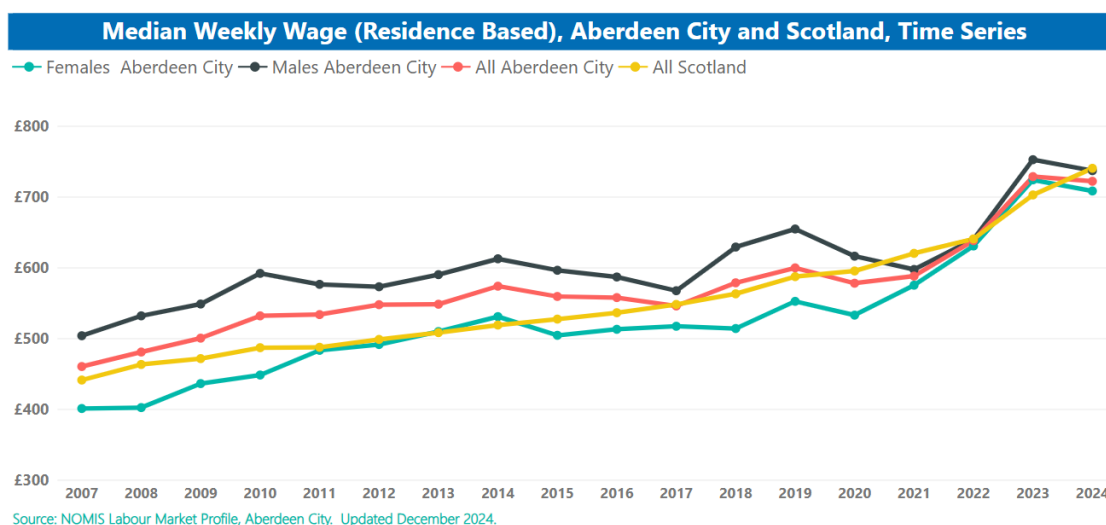
A series of questions relating to digital technology have been asked in the City Voice survey. In December 2022 (City Voice 46), when asked about access to digital tools, 79% of City Voice respondents reported having access to a laptop or PC, 88% to a smart phone and 68% to a tablet. Overall, 96% of respondents reported having access to at least one of these devices. This is an increase from 2018 when 90% of respondents reported having access to at least one device, with the largest increase being in access to smartphones (increase from 71% in 2018 to 88% in 2022). 91.4% of respondents reported having household access to internet at home (similar to the findings from the Scottish Household Survey for 2023). City Voice respondents were also asked a series of questions about their ability to perform digital tasks. Based on responses, 80% of respondents were identified as having ‘basic digital skills’ – an increase from 71% in 2018



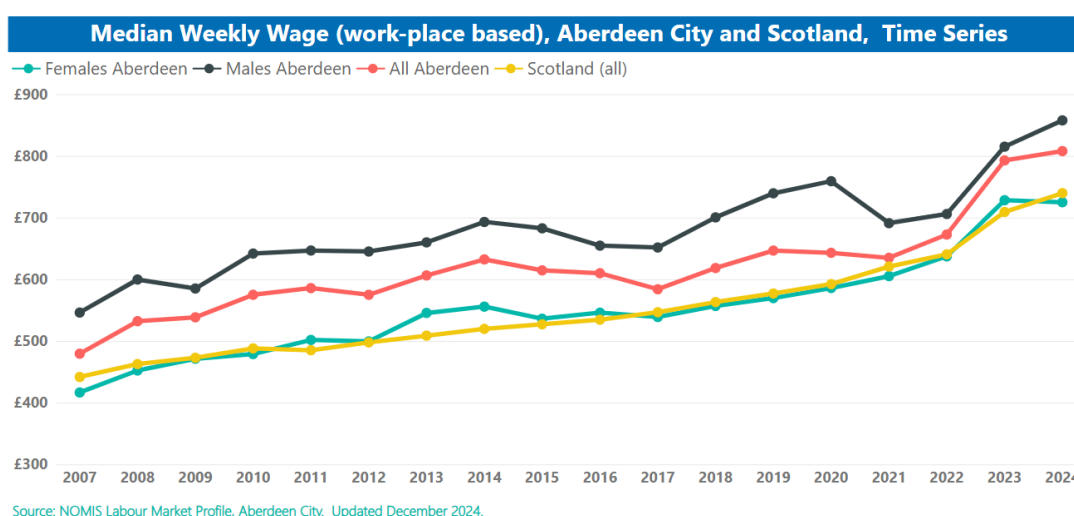
Source: City Voice, percentage of respondents who answered 'I can do this' to each of the foundation skills. (Note: the questions asked in 2018 were slightly different to those asked in subsequent years so results are not directly comparable.) Updated January 2023.

#### 4.1.4. Earnings

**Average weekly wage by place of residence:** In 2024, the median gross weekly pay for full-time workers **living** in Aberdeen City was £721.70 – lower than the equivalent for Scotland of £740.00. As in Scotland, the median weekly pay was higher for males (£736.70) than for females (£708.00). The gap between male and female wages has closed somewhat in recent years – in 2019 the difference in average weekly wage between males and females living in Aberdeen City was £102.20 compared to £28.70 in 2024. While male full-time workers living in Aberdeen City earned less than those in Scotland (£767.70), female full-time workers earned more (£701 in Scotland). The average weekly wage increased between 2020 and 2023, before dropping slightly in 2024.



**Average weekly wage by place of work:** In 2024, the median gross weekly pay for full-time workers **working** in Aberdeen City was £807.90 – higher than the equivalent for Scotland of £739.70. As in Scotland, the median weekly pay was higher for males (£857.70) than for females (£725.00) – a difference of £132.70 (down from £170 in 2019).



**Living Wage:** In 2024 an estimated 10% of employees in Aberdeen City were earning less than the Real Living Wage compared to 11.4% in Scotland and up from 8.4% in 2023 and

6.9% in 2022 . In December 2024, there were 110 employers in Aberdeen City who were signed up to the Real Living Wage – up from 100 in January 2024 .

## 4.2. Ensure a healthy standard of living for all

### 4.2.1. Poverty

**Cost of living crisis overview:** While most households in Scotland will be affected by increases in the cost of living, a report by the Scottish Government suggests that low income households are particularly adversely affected with particular groups being most adversely affected. This includes women, disabled people, ethnic minorities, rural households, larger households, young people, students and carers, lone parents and single person households, households in receipt of income related benefits, people narrowly ineligible for benefits and people with no recourse to public funds .

While there has been support for people with the cost of energy, people and families have been affected by the increase in inflation and locally there has been an increase in demand for emergency food provision. Support to mitigate some of the impacts locally has included:

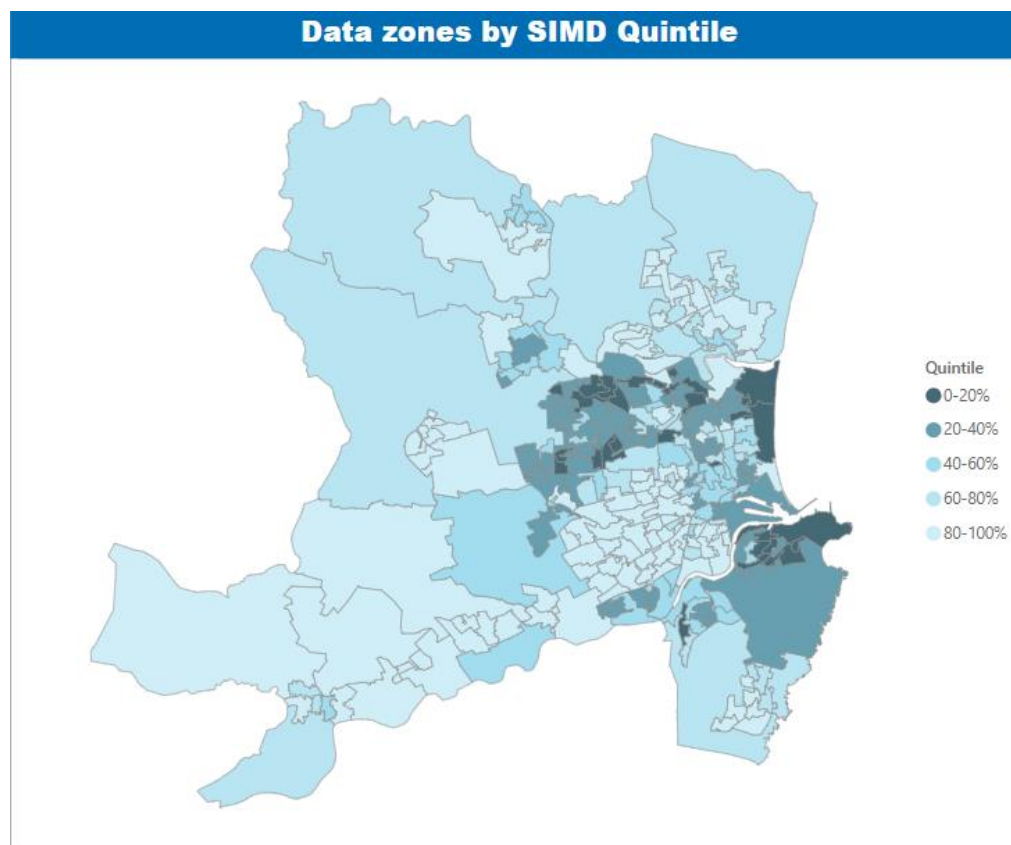
- Increased financial advice provision
- Increased support through Scottish Welfare Fund
- Procurement of suitable food to increase supply of emergency food
- Provision of fuel vouchers
- Provision of Warm Spaces during the winter period to alleviate cost of heating homes

**Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD):** The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation is a relative measure of deprivation. If an area is identified as ‘deprived’, this can relate to people having a low income but it can also mean fewer resources or opportunities. The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation looks at the extent to which an area is deprived across seven domains: income, employment, education, health, access to services, crime and housing. The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation ranks all data zones in Scotland from most deprived (ranked 1) to least deprived (ranked 6,976).

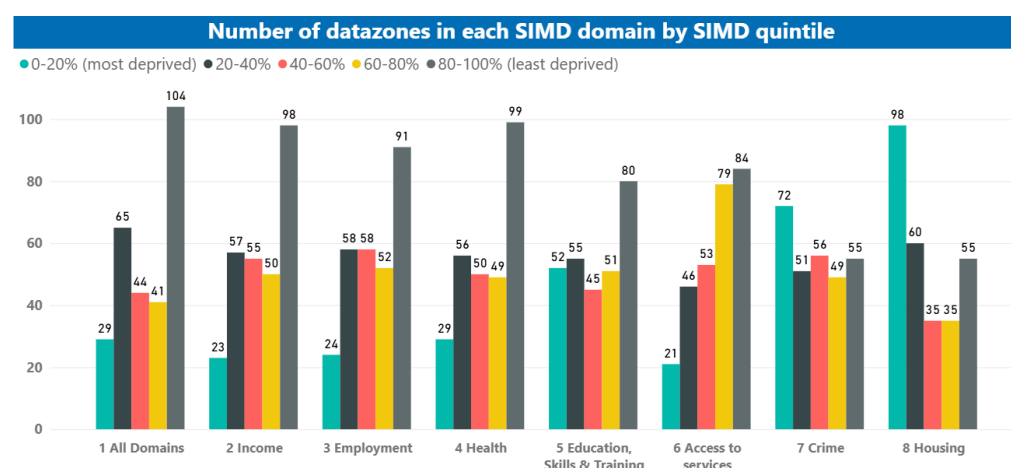
The most recent Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation release was in 2020. Based on overall rankings of deprivation (i.e. All Domains), Aberdeen City’s position worsened between 2016 and 2020. The number of datazones in the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation Quintile 1) increased from 22 (out of 283) in 2016 to 29 in 2020, and the number of datazones in the 20-40% most deprived areas of Scotland increased from 57 to 65. This means that the proportion of datazones in the 40% most deprived areas of Scotland has increased from 28% to 33.2%. Conversely, while lower than in 2016, Aberdeen City still has a relatively high number of datazones in the 20% least deprived areas of Scotland with 104 (36.7%) datazones in this category . At mid-2022, there were 20,893 people in Aberdeen living in the 20% most deprived areas, of which 3,770 were children . (It should be noted that Scottish Index of Multiple

Deprivation is an area-based measure of relative deprivation - not everyone living in a deprived area is deprived, and not everyone who is deprived lives in a deprived area.)

The map below shows the distribution of datazones by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintiles based on the overall rankings (all domains) and the chart beneath shows the number of datazones in each quintile for each of the individual domains.



Source: Scottish Government, Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020V2



Source: Scottish Government, Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. Updated June 2020 (following revisions to SIMD)

**Relative poverty Scotland:** Each year the Scottish Government produces a report on [Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland](#) (based on the Family Resources Survey).

In 2021-24 an estimated 20% of people in Scotland were living in relative poverty (below 60% of median income) after housing costs. Before housing costs, an estimated 18% of people were living in poverty. A third of people in poverty live in households that lack high food security. In 2021-24, 61% of working-age adults in relative poverty after housing costs were living in a household where someone was in paid work.

**Child poverty in Scotland:** In 2021-24 an estimated 23% of children<sup>8</sup> in Scotland (240,000 children each year) were living in relative poverty after housing costs. Before housing costs, it is estimated that 22% of children (220,000 children each year) were in relative poverty. While the poverty risk is lower for children in working households compared to those in non-working households, not all work pays enough to ensure the household is above the poverty threshold. In 2021-24 it is estimated that 75% of children in relative poverty were living in working households. A [child poverty summary](#), based on single year data, is also available. Compared with the previous year's statistics, relative child poverty in 2023-24 reduced from 26% to 22% in Scotland while absolute child poverty fell from 23% to 17%.

Note: The Family Resources Survey provides information only at a national level. This means that alternative data sources used for local child poverty are not directly comparable with official poverty estimates for Scotland.

**Child Poverty Aberdeen City:** There are two main sources of information on Child Poverty in Aberdeen City. One is the 'Children in Low Income Families' dataset produced by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) which gives the number of children living in low income **before housing** costs. The other is 'Local Child Poverty' statistics produced by End Child Poverty which gives figures on the number and percentage of children living in poverty **after housing costs**. (These are based on the Children in low income families local area statistics produced by the Department of Work and Pensions, but with additional analyses to estimate the effect of housing costs on child poverty in local areas .)

**Children in relative low income families:** The most recent data is for financial year 2023/24. (Note: Changes to the way these statistics are produced were introduced for 2023/24<sup>9</sup>. As a result, the back series of figures have been revised so may differ from those previously published.)

Provisional data for 2023/24 estimates that 5,615 children in Aberdeen City are living in Relative low income families<sup>10</sup> - down from the revised figure of 6,163 in 2022/23. In

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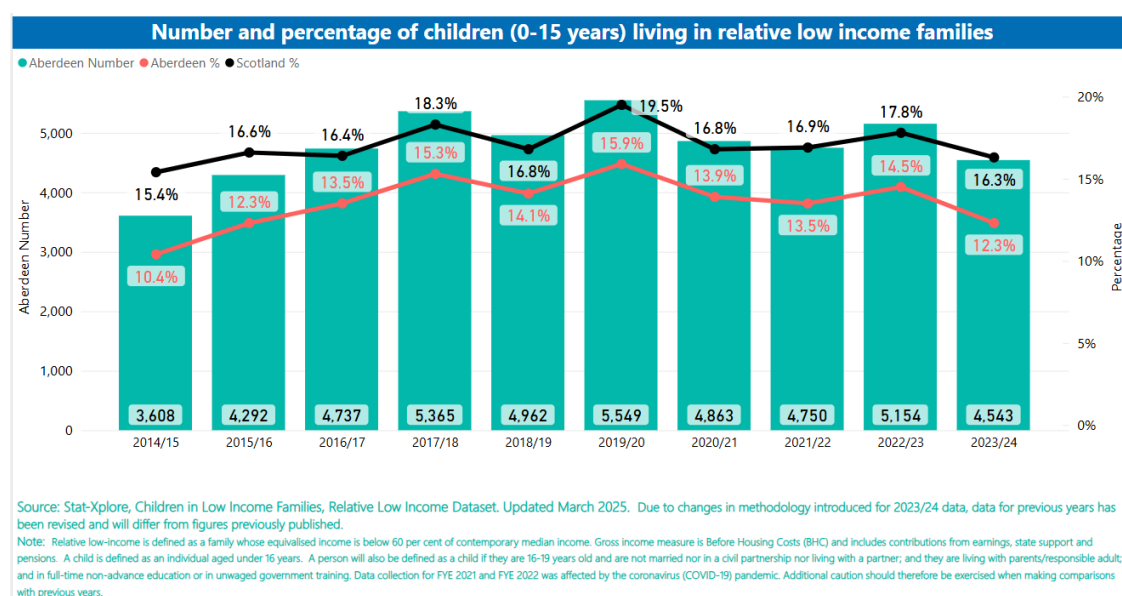
<sup>8</sup> 'Child' refers to a dependent child. A dependent child is a person aged 0-15, or a person aged 16-19 and: not married nor in a Civil Partnership nor living with a partner, and living with their parents, and in full-time non-advance education or in unwaged government training.

<sup>9</sup> Following the successful completion of discovery work and a period of user engagement, this release calibrates figures to HBAI single-year UK estimates (not regional estimates) and imputes receipt of Scottish Child Payments for eligible households so it is included as an income stream. Consequently, there are revisions to the back-series at UK, regional and local area level. [Children in low income families: local area statistics - GOV.UK](#)

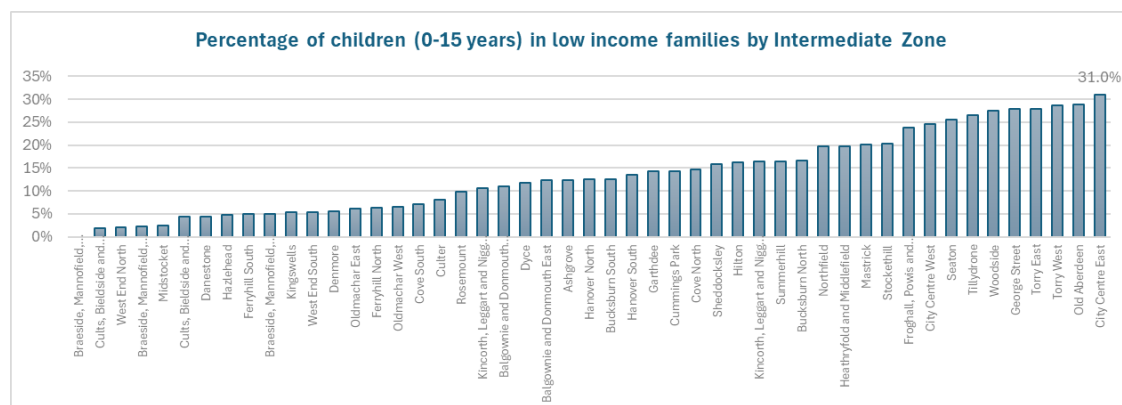
<sup>10</sup> Relative low-income is defined as a family in low income **before housing costs** (BHC) in the reference year. A family must have claimed one or more of Universal Credit, Tax Credits or Housing Benefit at any point in the year to be classed as low income in these statistics. A person is defined as a child if they are under 16

2023/24, two thirds (66.7%) of children in relative low income families were in working families and almost a quarter (23.2%) were under 5 years old. Most (58.2%) children living in relative low income families were in lone parent families.

The total for 2023/24 of 5,615 includes 1,071 dependent 16-19 year-olds (see note 9). Overall there were 4,543 children aged 0-15 years in Relative low income families. This is equivalent to 12.3% of the 0-15 years population (down from 14.5% in 2022/23 and lower than the rate for Scotland of 16.3%) . (Note: it is not possible to get an overall percentage for all children in low income families due to the complexity of identifying 16-19 year-olds defined as child dependents.)



The number of children (0-15 years and dependent 16-19 year-olds) in relative low income families varies across the city ([intermediate zones](#)) ranging from a low of 5 in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill & Seafield South to a high of 347 in Tillydrone. The percentage of 0-15 year-olds in low income families ranges from 0% in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill and Seafield South to 31% in City Centre East.

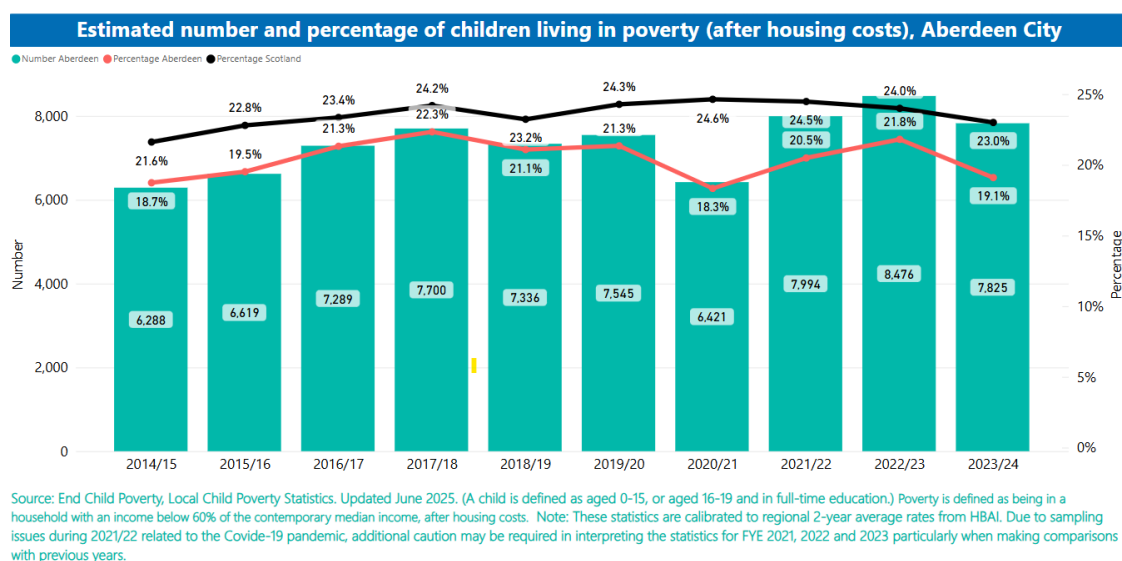


years old. A person will also be defined as a child if they are 16-19 years old and not married/in a civil partnership nor living with a partner and living with parents/responsible adult and in full-time non-advance education or in unwaged government training.



**Absolute low income:** Department of Work and Pensions also provide information on the number of children in absolute low income families. Absolute low income is defined as family in low income before housing costs in the reference year in comparison with incomes in 2010/11. In 2023/24 there were 3,633 children (0-15 years) in absolute low income. This is equivalent to a rate of 9.8% (down from 11.5% in 2022/23 and lower than the rate for Scotland of 13.2%) .

**Child poverty:** These figures come from research published by the End Child Poverty coalition. The most recent data is for 2023/24. End Child Poverty reported that in 2023/24 an estimated 7,825 children (0-15 years or 16-19 and in full-time education) in Aberdeen City were living relative in poverty **after housing costs**. This is equivalent to 19.1% of children compared to 23% for Scotland and 21.8% in 2022/23 .



(Note: Data collection for Financial Year End 2021 and 2022 was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is advised that additional caution should therefore be exercised when making comparisons to previous years.)

**Gender based poverty:** Information on the impact of the cost of living is available from the Aberdeen Gender Inequality and Poverty Report produced by the Scottish Women's Budget Group (SWBG) . The report states that "*Issues such as austerity, wage stagnation, rising inflation, and the Covid-19 pandemic, all impact women due to pre-existing structural inequalities. Rising costs have hit individuals on the lowest incomes the hardest. This disproportionately affects women as they are more likely to experience poverty throughout their lifetime with lower levels of savings and wealth in comparison to men as well as being unable to increase paid work due to caring responsibilities. Particular groups of women are hit hardest such as disabled women, ethnic minority households, single parents, survivors of abuse, women with no recourse to public funds, and those with caring responsibilities.*"

As part of the broader research done to inform the report, an online community survey was conducted in November-December 2024. This received 262 responses from across Aberdeen. Of these, 82% were female, 15% were male, 2% were trans or non-binary and 1% preferred not to say. A range of additional demographic information was collected



including: household make-up; employment status; employment sector; household income; age-group; ethnicity; immigration status; recourse to public funds; disability and sexual orientation.

When asked, about a third of respondents stated they were struggling to manage everyday household expenditure. This increased for single parents, disabled, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) and single households and decreased for male respondents (the men who took the survey tended to have higher incomes, were more likely to work full time and in the private sector. They were less likely to be disabled and there were no single parents). The tables below give an overview of responses for all respondents and then broken down by household groups.

**How are you managing household expenses** (responses based on those who have the costs).

Household expense	Yes, I struggle to manage these costs	No, but I have had to make changes to other areas of household spending	No, I am able to manage this household cost
Food (255)	30%	39%	31%
Energy (248)	38%	39%	23%
Housing (229)	31%	36%	33%
Transport (219)	24%	33%	43%
Broadband (237)	23%	32%	45%
Other Household Costs (244)	33%	37%	30%
Childcare (41)	54%	34%	22%

#### Percentage of men and women who are struggling to manage household bills

Household Expense	Women	Men
Food	29%	20%
Energy	39%	24%
Housing	32%	20%
Transport	24%	14%
Broadband	23%	16%
Other household costs	35%	19%

#### Percentage of different household groups who are struggling to manage household bills

Household Expense	Disabled people	Single households	Single parents	BME
Food	37%	37%	69%	33%
Energy	48%	43%	54%	50%
Housing	38%	34%	66%	46%
Transport	40%	34%	50%	24%
Broadband	33%	31%	38%	23%
Other household costs	50%	43%	54%	35%

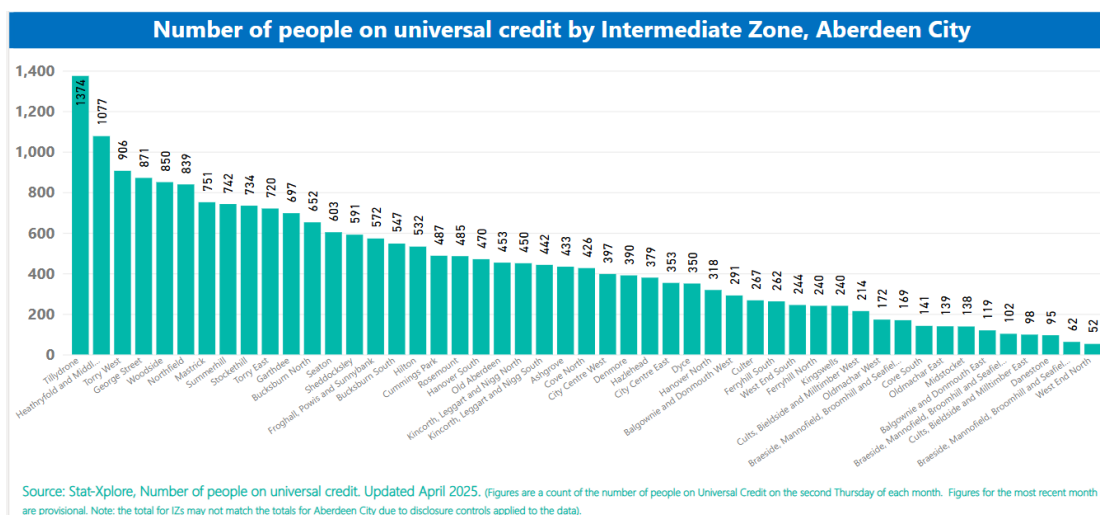
**Percentage of different household groups using strategies to manage household bills. Respondents stated that in order to manage costs in the last 12 months they had:**

<b>Strategy</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>Disabled people</b>	<b>Single parents</b>	<b>Single households</b>	<b>BME households</b>
Cut back on food expenditure	61%	67%	85%	65%	82%
Not put the heating on	56%	68%	77%	65%	64%
Not going to the dentist	24%	37%	23%	33%	25%
Cutting back on journeys	35%	43%	54%	29%	32%
Cutting back on eating out	61%	69%	77%	59%	64%
Cancelling tv subscriptions/broadband	28%	37%	38%	22%	36%
Using savings	54%	54%	30%	55%	54%
Taking on debt	18%	26%	54%	13%	25%
Not replacing clothes/shoes for myself	49%	60%	85%	54%	40%
Taking on more hours at work	12%	4%	15%	9%	21%
Doing more unpaid care work	3%	1%	0	1%	7%

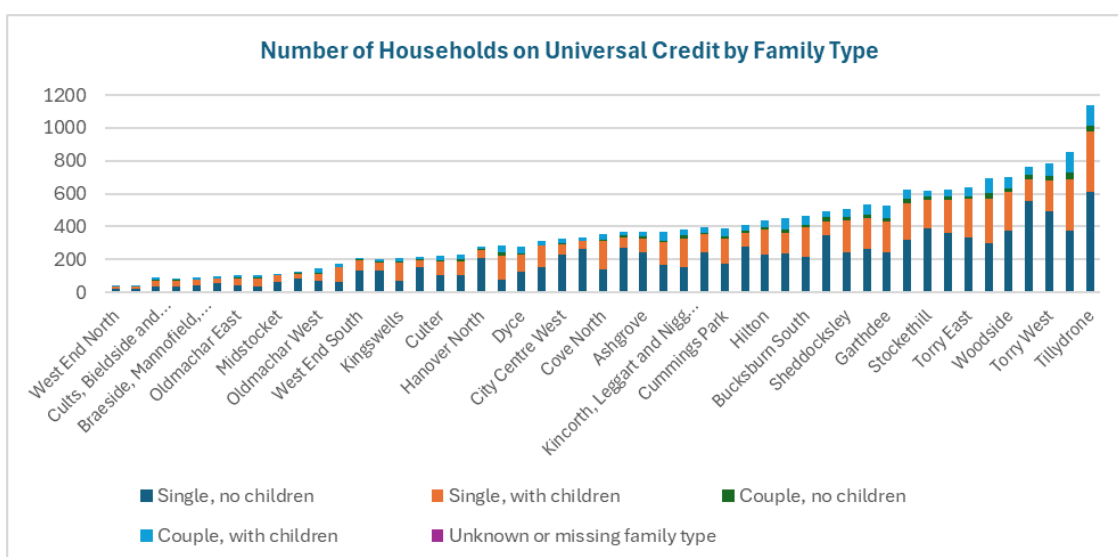
Strategies used by different groups reflect the options available to them to manage household costs. For example, disabled people are often unable to increase their income by taking on more hours at work as this is not an option open to them, which explains why they use other options at higher levels. For single parents, the use of savings is lower as many women do not have access to savings due to lower levels of wealth.

Respondents outlined various impacts of the high cost of living on them. 50% say their financial situation has impacted on their mental health, 29% their physical health, 37% worry about their security in retirement.

**Universal credit** (people): In March 2025 there were 21,923 people on Universal Credit in Aberdeen City – up from 21,385 in February (however as people may be transferring to Universal Credit from the old system, caution is advised in interpreting figures as increases may be due to this). In February 2025, 33.7% (7,212) of those on Universal Credit were in employment . The number of people on Universal Credit varied across the City (Intermediate Zones) from a low of 52 in West End North to a high of 1,374 in Tillydrone. (Note: the total for Intermediate Zones may not match the totals for Aberdeen City due to disclosure controls applied to the data.)



**Households on Universal Credit:** In November 2024, there were 18,187 households on Universal Credit – ranging from a low of 41 households in West End North to a high of 1,135 households in Tillydrone. Of the 18,187 households on Universal Credit, 7,656 (42.1%) had children with over three quarters (76.1%, n= 5,824) of these being ‘single with children’ families. The percentage of households on Universal Credit that had children, ranged from 17.3% in City Centre East to 67.9% in Denmore.



Source: Stat-Xplore: Households on Universal Credit

**How the household is managing financially:** Questions about how the household is managing financially are asked in the Scottish Household Survey. In 2023 49% of households were managing well in Aberdeen City compared to 52% in Scotland as a whole. The proportion managing well has dropped from 55% in 2019 (and from the highest level of 66% in 2014 and 2015).

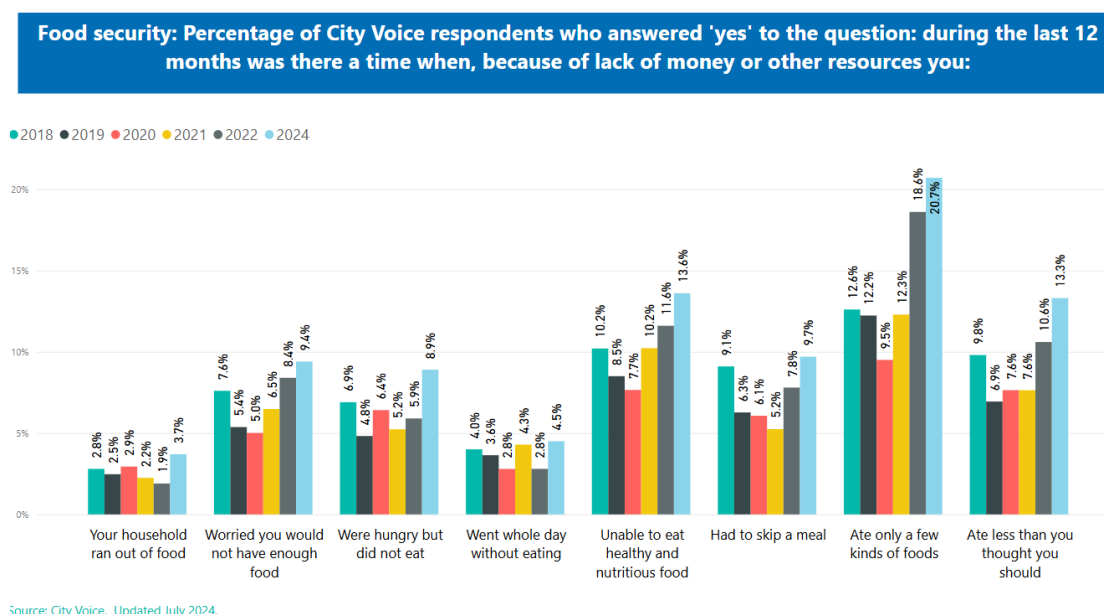
**Savings:** The Scottish Household Survey also includes a question about savings. In 2023, 69% of respondents reported that they or their partners had savings and 20%

reported that they had no savings. The most recent comparable data is for 2019. At that point, 82% of respondents reported that they or their partner had savings and 15% reported that they had no savings.

**Food security:** Questions around Food Security have been asked in a number of City Voice surveys – most recently in May 2024 (City Voice 50). Specifically, the questions ask if during the last 12 months, there was a time when, because of lack of money or other resources:

- You were worried you would not have enough food to eat?
- You were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food?
- You ate only a few kinds of food?
- You had to skip a meal?
- You ate less than you thought you should?
- Your household ran out of food?
- You were hungry but did not eat?
- You went without eating for a whole day

While most respondents did not report concerns around their ability to access healthy or nutritious food due to money or lack of other resources, in May 2024, 20.7% of respondents reported they ate only a few kinds of food, 13.6% that they were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food, 13.3% that they ate less than they thought they should and 9.4% that they were worried they would not have enough food to eat. Since 2020, the proportion of respondents who answered ‘yes’ has increased in most categories, with the largest increase being in the proportion who reported they ate only a few kinds of food (from 9.5% to 20.7%) .

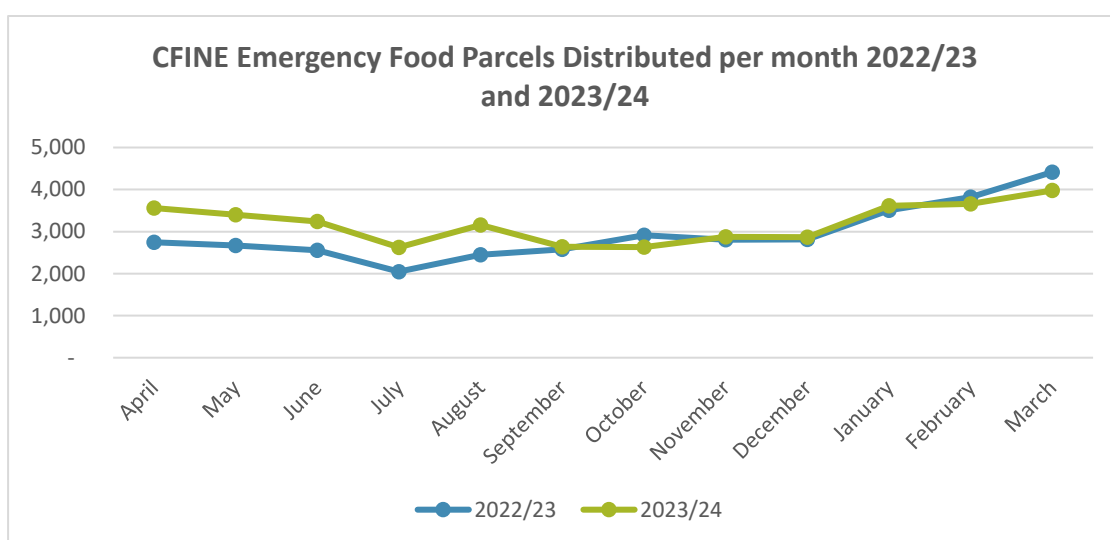


Questions relating to food security are also asked in the Scottish Health Survey. In 2019-2023, 12% of people in Aberdeen City said they were worried they would run out of food

compared to 11% for Scotland and an increase from 8% when this was first asked in 2016-19 .

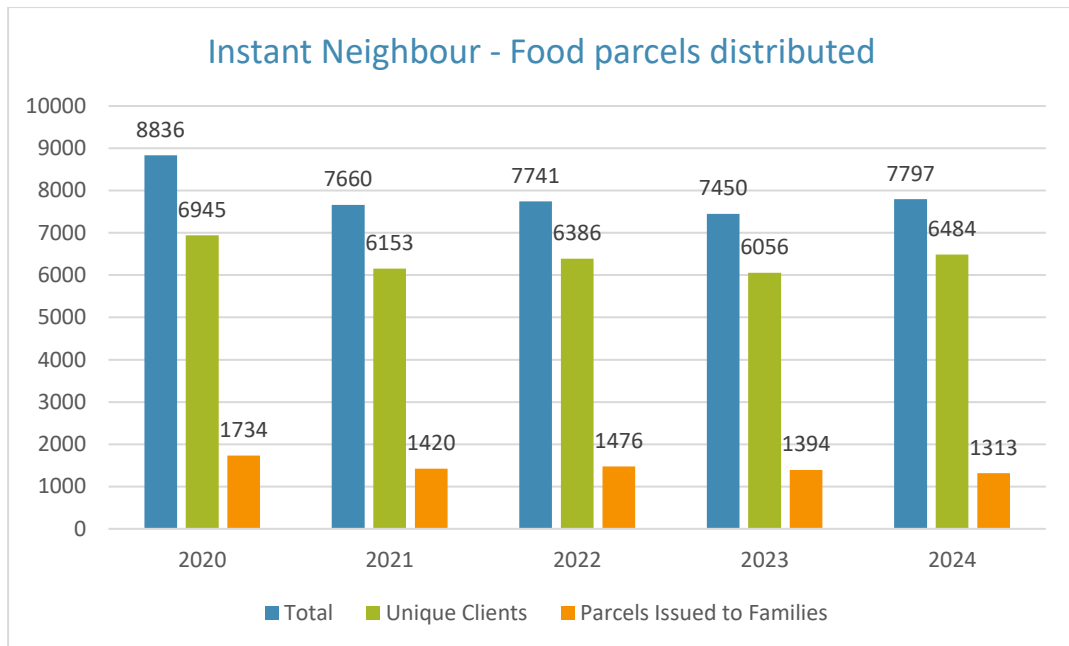
**Foodbank use:** There is currently no single source of data on foodbank use in Aberdeen City. Data for this document has been provided by three independent organisations (CFINE, Trussel Trust, and Instant Neighbour) who provide emergency food parcels in Aberdeen City. Across these three organisations, 55,522 parcels were distributed in 2023/24 – up from 53,495 in 2022/23 (an increase of 2,027). This averages 4,627 parcels every month in 2023/24 compared to 4,458 per month in 2022/23.

**CFINE:** In 2023/24 CFINE distributed 38,235 emergency food parcels – up from 35,307 in 2022/23. This is an average of 3,186 per month (up from an average of 2,942 per month in 2022/23). The monthly distribution of emergency food parcels increased in the first three months of 2024, peaking in March when 3,978 parcels were distributed.

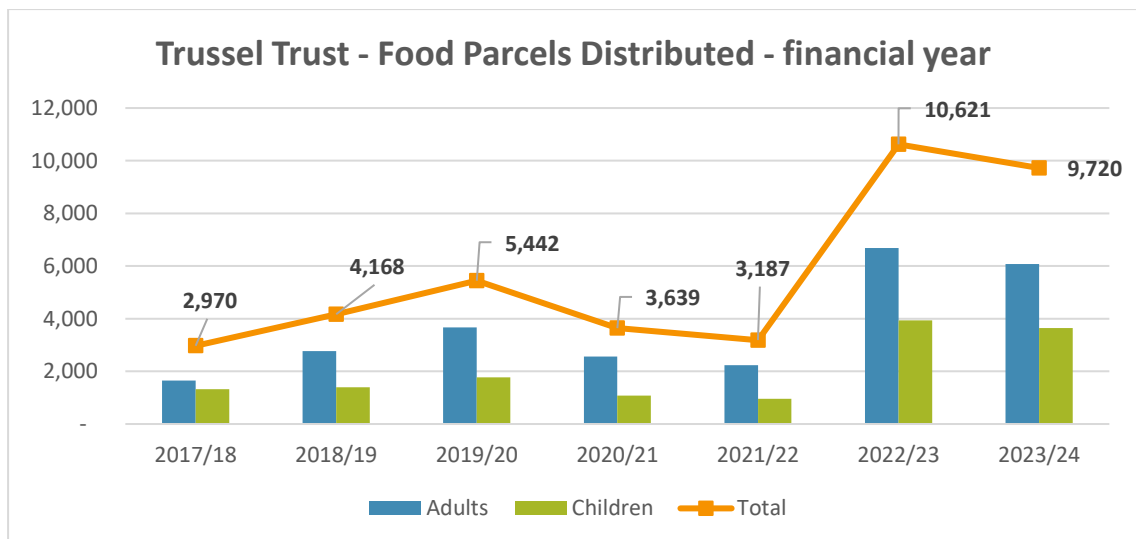


**Instant Neighbour:** In the calendar year 2024, Instant Neighbour distributed 7,797 (average of 650 per month) food parcels with 1,313 of these being distributed to families. 606 clients were newly registered in 2024. Most clients visited the foodbank once in a month (unique clients) with the remainder visiting more than once. Around 7,600 parcels a year were distributed in both 2022 and 2023.

On average there were 150 food parcels distributed in a week during 2024 – a marked increase on the average of 143 in 2023. 7 more food parcels a week equates to at least 49kg more food being distributed a week.



**Trussell Trust:** The Trussell Trust publishes data on the number of food parcels distributed by their network in each Local Authority. In the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, there 9,720 parcels distributed in Aberdeen City – down from the peak of 10,621 in 2022/23, but over three times higher than the number distributed in 2021/22 (3,187). Of the parcels distributed in 2023/24, over a third (37.5%, n=3,647) were to children. More recent data shows that 3,599 food parcels were distributed by Trussell in Aberdeen in the first half of 2024/25 (1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024). Of these, 1,154 (32.1%) were to children and 2,445 were to adults .



Source: Trussell Trust

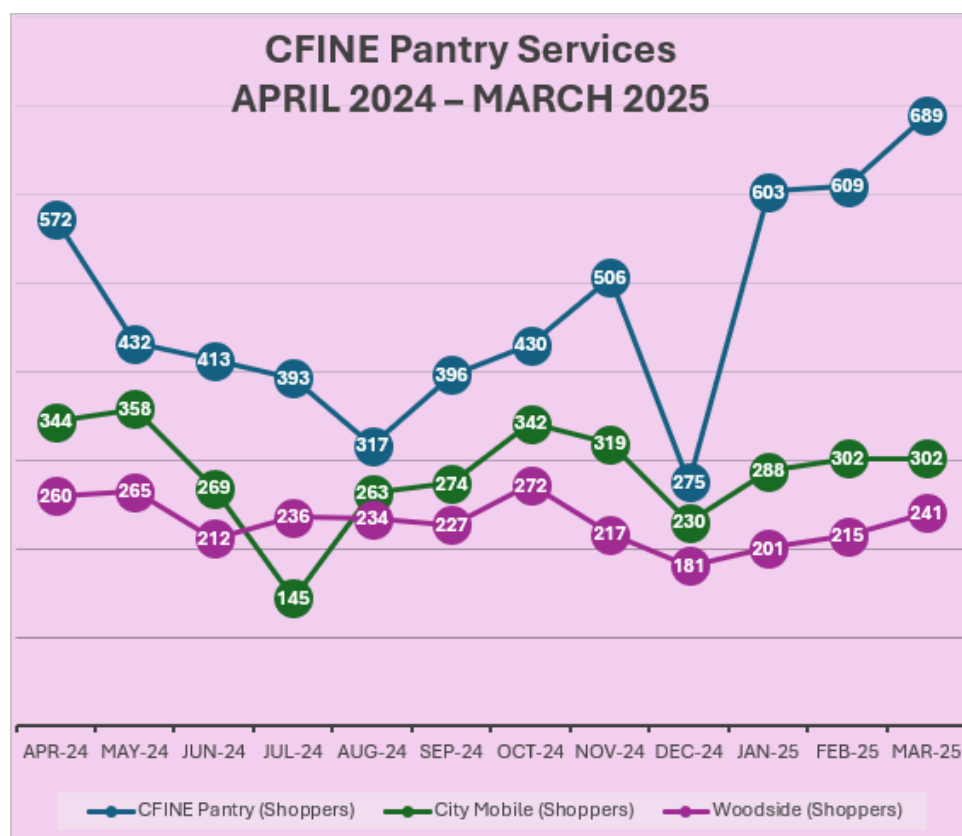
**Community Pantries:** Mitigating food poverty through increased memberships of community pantries was highlighted as an area where people could be offered dignity and choice rather than the foodbank offer of crisis provision. Since last reported figures March 2023, to accommodate the ever increasing need for membership, the Static CFINE

pantry service has developed to open 4 days a weeks and the Mobile pantry van now serves 12 locations in the City's priority neighbourhoods at Middlefield, Sheddocksley, Kincorth, Torry, Tillydrone, Seaton, Northfield, Quarryhill, Bucksburn, Hilton, Inchgarth and Dyce. Woodside Pantry membership is monitored and recorded in the pantry total figures and receives the bulk of their food delivery via FareShare Surplus and FareShare retail , manage by CFINE.

To reflect the true pantry figures we record and report member's attendance, not membership numbers alone. Members do not always attend weekly, indeed the mobile locations are mostly fortnightly, but the pantry must be attended at least once in any 4 week period. There is currently a waiting list for all pantries, and we are making changes to accommodate more members each day.

Attendance Figures for March 2025 by Pantry, CFINE 689, City Mobile 302 and Woodside 241 giving a total of 1,232

Membership figures March 2025 by pantry, CFINE 300, Mobile Pantry 190 and Woodside 80 giving a total of 570. The chart below shows annual attendance figures by pantry.



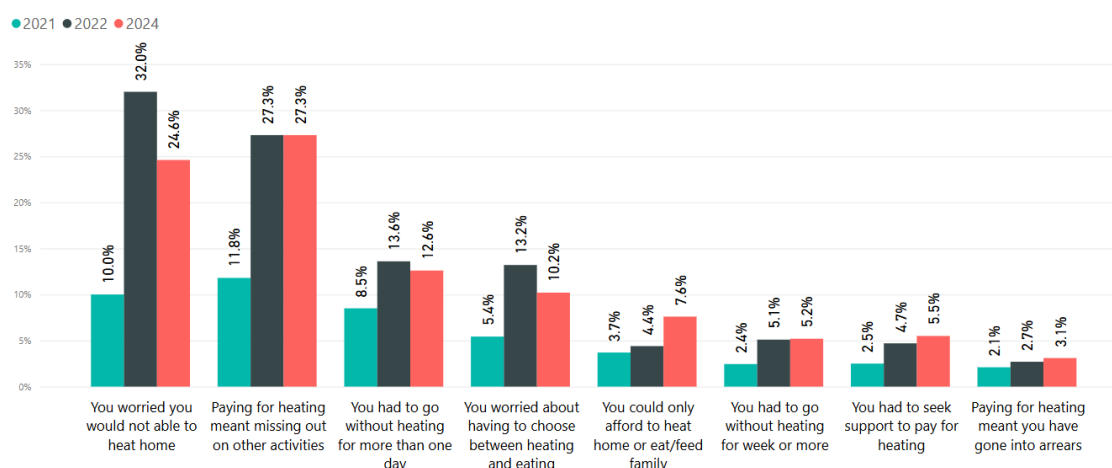
**Allotments:** The allotment waiting list continues to grow: 793 households were waiting in 2021, by March 2023 this had risen to 1,047 households and by September 2024 it had risen again to 1,251 households. There are currently 573 Aberdeen City allotment plots .

**Fuel poverty:** Official statistics for fuel poverty are now very dated with the most recent being for 2017-19 (data collection for the Scottish House Condition Survey was affected by COVID-19 with new local authority figures not expected to be available until early

2026). In 2017-19 an estimated 26.1% of households were in fuel poverty<sup>11</sup> – up from 23% in 2016-18 and higher than the rate for Scotland of 24.4%. A higher proportion of those in social housing were in fuel poverty than those in owner occupied housing (46.2% compared to 12.9%). In 2017-19 an estimated 12.8% of households were in extreme fuel poverty .

A series of questions around ability to heat your home were asked in City Voice 45 (August 2021), City Voice 46 (December 2022) and, most recently, City Voice 50 (May 2024). In May 2024, a quarter (24.6%) of respondents reported being worried they would not be able to heat their home – down from 32% in December 2022 but considerably higher than when the questions were first asked in 2021 (10%). Over a quarter of respondents (27.3%) said that paying for heating meant missing out on other activities (compared to 11.8% in 2021) .

**Your heating: Percentage of City Voice respondents who answered 'yes' to the question: during the last 12 months was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources:**



Source: City Voice. Updated July 2024.



<sup>11</sup> A household is in fuel poverty if, in order to maintain a satisfactory heating regime, total fuel costs necessary for the home are more than 10% of the household's adjusted net income (after housing costs), and if after deducting fuel costs, benefits received for a care need or disability and childcare costs, the household's remaining adjusted net income is insufficient to maintain an acceptable standard of living. For extreme fuel poverty a household would have to spend more than 20% of its adjusted net income (after housing costs) to maintain a satisfactory heating regime.



## Emerging priorities

The overall data on the economic position presents a positive picture, but the data also show how not everyone in the City is benefitting from the economic potential:

- The data provide an updated picture on local social and economic inequalities, which determine wider lived experiences such as health. Place based approaches to reducing experiencing inequalities over time must remain a priority, seeking to reduce both the absolute and relative inequalities across the City.
- One in seven households in Aberdeen have no one working within them, which equates to 13,700 workless households. The data highlight that economic inactivity for people from ethnic minorities is more pronounced. Anchor organisations can play a part in terms of improving the numbers of under-represented groups in public sector employment, and continuing to expand the Real Living Wage programme, particularly within food, catering and accommodation sectors, where there are often higher numbers of people from ethnic minorities and younger people employed.
- Households with a low income are a concern, not least for the 12% of such households where some 3,600 children aged 15 years and under reside. Supporting such households through employability support, provision of free/subsidised childcare/access to community pantries are areas for further development.
- We must seek to understand and mitigate emerging risks to economic activity and employment within the city from both the use of technology and from demographic change.



## 5. Communities and Housing

The “place” of Aberdeen is both the buildings, streets and spaces that make up the physical environment around us, and our “communities”, the people, social groups, and the support networks that make up our social environment.

### 5.1. Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities

#### 5.1.1. Our Place

**Area:** Aberdeen City covers an area of 186 square kilometres and has a population density of 1,226 persons per square kilometre (2021). In terms of population size, it is the 8th largest local authority in Scotland.

**Neighbourhoods:** The City contains 37 neighbourhoods – small area geographies that are used (by Community Planning) to differentiate between different areas of the City. (Note: the neighbourhood boundaries do not match official administrative data boundaries. As a result, official data may not be available at neighbourhood level. Intermediate Zones approximate neighbourhood boundaries.)

**Priority localities:** The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivations (SIMD) is the Scottish Government’s official tool for identifying small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across Scotland. Following SIMD 2020, 13 of Aberdeen’s neighbourhoods are recognised as deprived on this basis: Torry, Tillydrone, Seaton, Woodside, Middlefield, Cummings Park, Northfield, Heathryfold, Mastrick, Kincorth, Ashgrove, George Street and Stockethill.

#### 5.1.2. Community empowerment

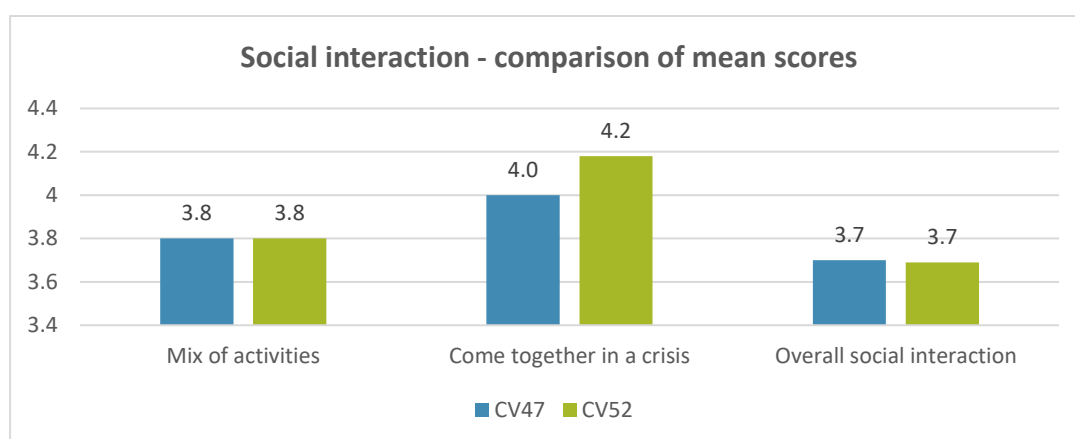
Following the publication of the [Community Empowerment Strategy](#) by Community Planning Aberdeen’s [Community Empowerment Group](#), two Community Empowerment editions of the City Voice have been undertaken. The first of these was in June 2023 (City Voice 47) and the second in December 2024 (City Voice 52). These asked panellists about current involvement and empowerment in their communities. Some of the questions were inspired by the [Place Standard](#) which is a recognised framework used for assessing places. The full reports for [City Voice 47](#) and [City Voice 52](#) can be found [here](#) . A brief summary comparing results from both surveys is given below.

**Social interaction:** The first set of questions asked participants about different aspects of social interaction in their neighbourhood, with respondents being asked to rate each on a scale of 1-7 (where 1 = little room for improvement and 7 = a lot of room for

improvement). Mean scores were calculated for each question ( a higher score = a more positive response).

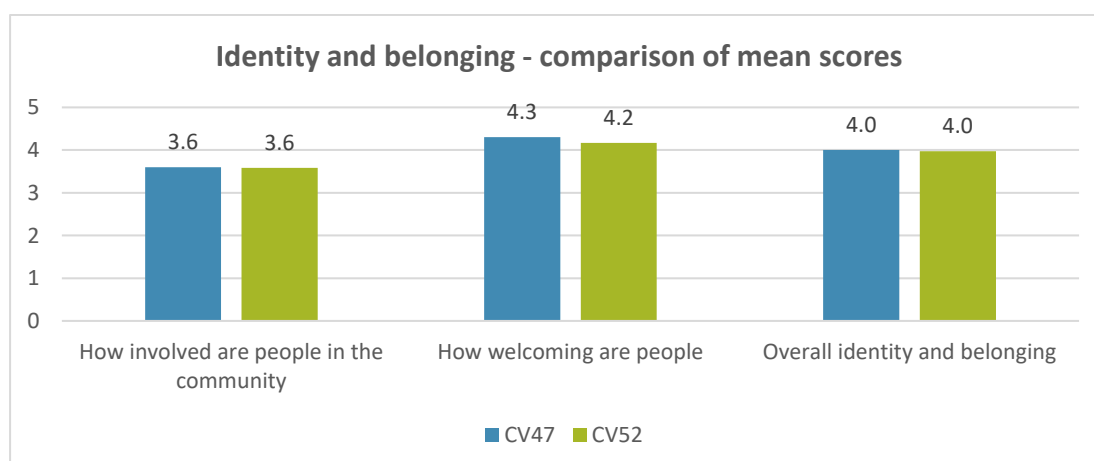
In City Voice 52, the highest scoring response was for **would people come together in a crisis** with a mean score of 4.2 with **is there a mix of activities** scoring lower at 3.8. The mean score for **overall, how would you rate opportunities for social interaction** was 3.7.

Comparison of results shows the mean scores for questions were very similar in City Voice 47 and City Voice 52, with the response to **would people come together in a crisis** increasing slightly from 4.0 to 4.2 and scores for the other two questions unchanged.



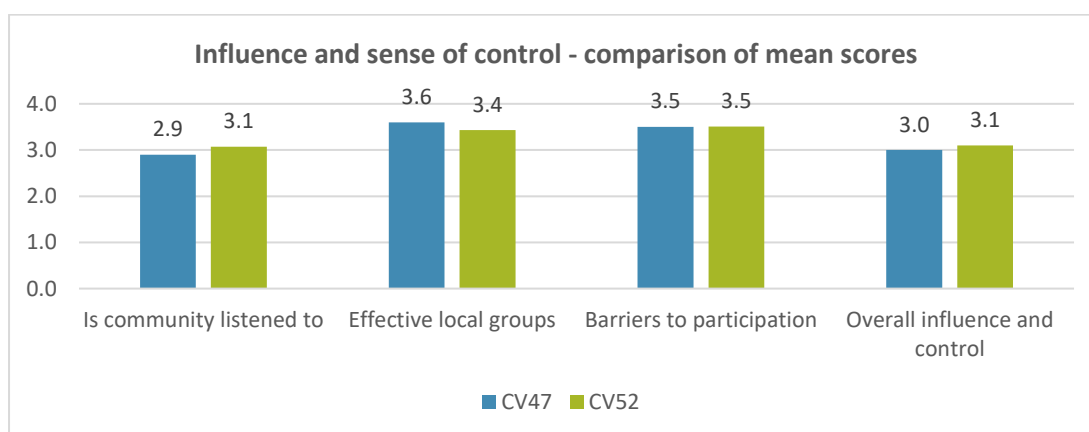
**Identity and belonging:** The next set of questions asked to what extent their neighbourhood has a positive identity that supports a strong sense of belonging. In City Voice 52 the highest scoring response was for **how welcoming are people in this place** which had a mean score of 4.2. The lowest scoring was **how involved are people in the community** which had a mean score of 3.6. The mean score for **overall, how strong is the sense of identity and belonging** was 4.0.

As with the previous set of questions, the mean scores for each question were very similar in both surveys, with the response to **how welcoming are people in this place** decreasing slightly from 4.3 to 4.2 and scores for the other two questions unchanged.

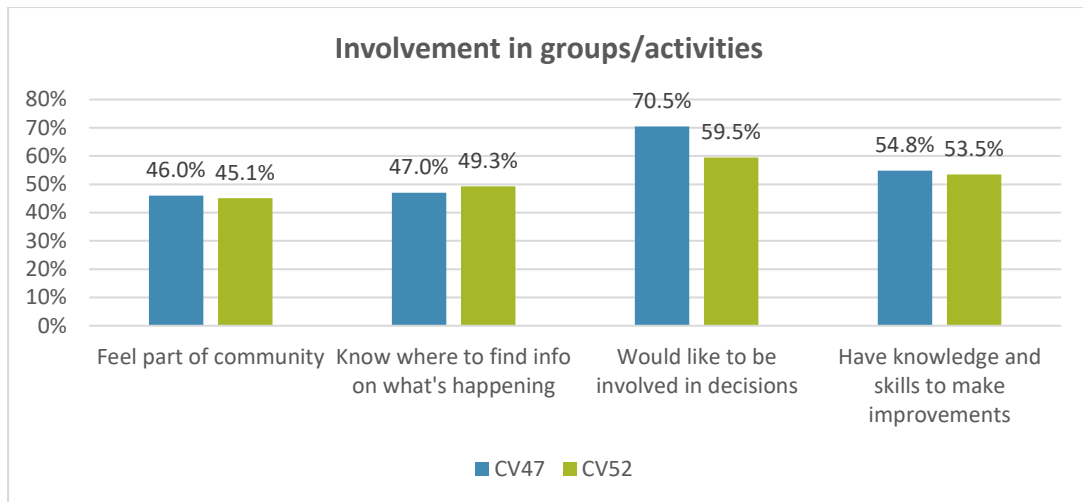


**Influence and control:** This set of questions was around whether people felt listened to and included in decision-making when things happen in their neighbourhood. On the whole the mean scores in this section were lower than in the previous two sections. The most positive response was for **are there barriers to participation for some people** which had a mean score of 3.5, followed by **are there effective local groups** with a mean score of 3.4. Both **is the community listened to** and **overall, do you feel able to participate in decisions and help change things for the better** had a mean score of 3.1.

Again the mean scores were broadly similar across both surveys, with responses to **is the community listened to** increasing slightly from 2.9 to 3.1 and **overall, do you feel able to participate in decisions and help change things for the better** increasing from 3.0 to 3.1. The score for **are there effective local groups** fell slightly from 3.6 to 3.4 and the score for **are there barriers to participation for some people** remaining the same at 3.5.



**Involvement in community groups:** In this section of the questionnaire, panellists were asked to rate their agreement with a range of statements relating to involvement in community groups or activities. In City Voice 52, agreement was highest for **I would like to be involved in decisions which affect my community** with 59.5% of respondents agreeing with this statement. Over half of respondents (53.5%) agreed with the statement that they have the **knowledge and skills to work with others to make improvements in the community** and just under half (49.3%) agreed that they **know where to find information about what is happening within my community**. At 45.1%, levels of agreement were lowest for **I feel part of the community where I live**. On the whole, the proportion of respondents who agreed with the statements is similar in both questionnaires. The exception is in the percentage who agreed that they **would like to be involved in decisions which affect their community** which has fallen from 70.5% in City Voice 47 to 59.5% in this most recent survey.

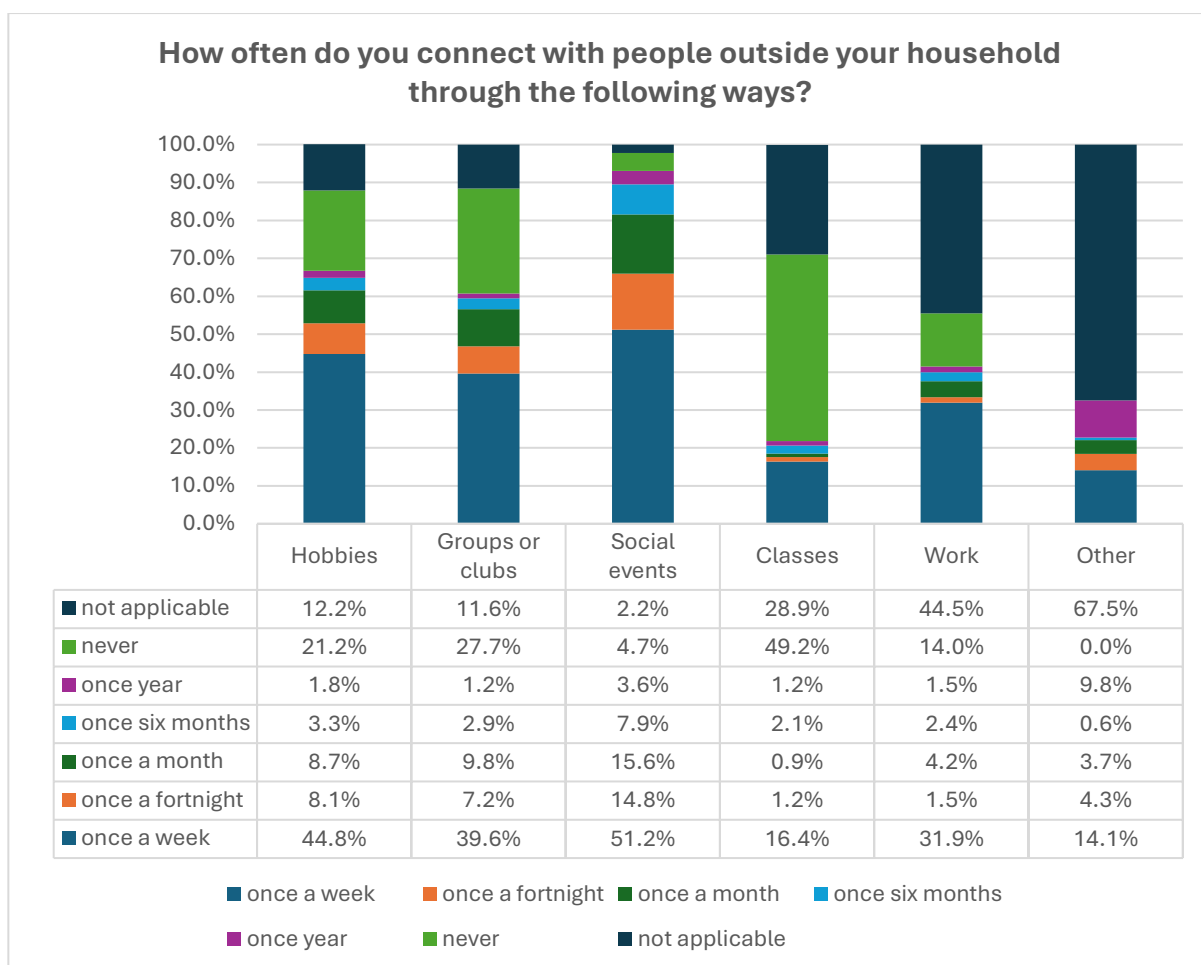


**Socially connected:** A set of questions about being socially connected was included in [City Voice 49](#). Participants were asked **how often they connected with people outside their household** through a number of different ways:

- hobbies
- groups or clubs
- social events (e.g. meeting with friends/family)
- classes (e.g. evening classes)
- work
- other

**Social events** (e.g. meeting up with friends/family) was the most commonly chosen frequent way of connecting with people outside of the household with over half (51.2%) of respondents meeting other people **at least once a week** and 81.6% meeting other people at least **once a month**. The next most commonly reported frequent ways of meeting people outside the household were **hobbies** (44.8% at least once a week), **groups or clubs** (39.6% at least once a week) and **work** (31.9% at least once a week).

Overall, 82.3% of respondents reported meeting people outside of their household through at least one of the activities at least once a week, suggesting that just under a fifth of respondents connected with others outside of their household less frequently than once a week. The most commonly chosen factors for limiting social activity were disability or mobility (17.7% of respondents), unaware of what is available in local area (16.1%), confidence (15.6%) and funds or costs (14.5%).



Bases: Hobbies = 335, Groups or clubs = 346, Social events = 365, Classes = 329, Work = 335, Other = 163

**Volunteering:** Data from the Scottish Household Survey estimates that 16% of adults provided unpaid help to organisations or groups in 2023 – this is down from 22% in 2022 and 25% in 2021. In Scotland there was a similar drop in levels of volunteering – from 22% in 2022 to 18% in 2023 .

Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO) reports that there are over 80,700 volunteers in Aberdeen who regularly give their time in support of local communities, contributing an incredible 6.2 million hours of help every year, making a positive difference to all aspects of life, people and communities across our city . Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations logged 10,882 volunteer interactions during the year. Youth volunteering is a great strength in Aberdeen, with 3,129 young people (age 12-25 years) undertaking Saltire Awards for volunteering (locality breakdown: Central: 787, North: 1397 and South: 945 people).

There are challenges both locally and nationally in sustaining volunteering levels, particularly due to the impact of the ongoing cost of living crisis and additional pressures voluntary and community groups face, with it noted by Volunteer Scotland that 'many voluntary sector organisations have experienced a 'perfect storm' of increased demand, rising costs and stagnating income, and individuals have less time and finance which is

reducing their capacity to volunteer' and also 'residual, longer-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on formal volunteering participation'.

**Using digital and data to help our communities:** The benefits of using data to improve productivity and transform public services have been recognised in the UK Data Strategy 2020 and the subsequent “Roadmap for digital and data, 2022 to 2025”. The Strategy also recognises some of the existing barriers. Presently data is not consistently managed, used or shared in a way that facilitates informed decision-making or joint working across the public sector. Effective use of data and digital technology can help the way we deliver our services and is fundamental to their planning and re-design. It can also empower people in our communities – improving the way they interact, both with each other and with public sector services. Data from the Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2019 suggests a relatively high degree of trust in public service organisations to use personal data only for acceptable purposes. When asked, 58% of adults said they had either ‘a great deal’ or quite a lot’ of trust in public service organisations, compared to only 15% for private companies.

**Aberdeen City Accreditations:** Aberdeen has been a Fairtrade City since 2004. The accreditation renewal process is overseen by the Fairtrade Foundation. The Aberdeen Fair and Sustainable Trade Group, made up of a range of organisational partners and individuals, works to maintain accreditation for the people of Aberdeen.

Aberdeen is also a Sustainable Food Place and was awarded a silver accreditation in the initiative in 2022. The partnership, Granite City Good Food, works to maintain and extend that accreditation for the people of Aberdeen.

### 5.1.3. Housing

**Dwellings:** In 2023 there were 124,369 dwellings in Aberdeen City – an increase of 1,006 (0.8%) on the number of dwellings in 2022 (123,363). Since 2013, the number of dwellings has increased by 11,656 (10.3%). The number of dwellings varies by neighbourhood from 724 in Cummings Park to 6,691 in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill and Seafield. Most (58.9%) are in [Council Tax](#) bands A-C, with 26.2% being in bands D-E and 14.9% being in bands G-H. The proportion of dwellings within each Council Tax band varies by neighbourhood. For example in Cummings Park, 99% of dwellings are in Council Tax bands A-C, while in Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber, 67% of dwellings are in Council Tax bands F-H.

40.5% of dwellings have a [single adult discount](#) with the proportion of dwellings with these discounts ranging from a low of 24.7% in Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber to a high of 50.8% in Woodside. 6.8% of dwellings have ‘occupied exemptions’ (e.g. student households), with the highest levels of exemptions being in Old Aberdeen (34%), George Street (32%), Seaton (28%) and Froghall, Powis & Sunnybank (19%).

Second homes account for less than 1% of all dwellings in the City (n=686) and in 2023 there were 7,790 vacant dwellings (6.3% of all dwellings) – down from 8,121 in 2022. The

percentage of vacant dwellings ranges from a low of 2% in Old Machar to a high of 11.9% in Garthdee.

Most (55%) dwellings are flats, 18% are terraced, 16% are semi-detached and 11% are detached (based on 2017 – no update since then). Again this varies by neighbourhood e.g. in Seaton 96.8% of dwellings were flats while in Kingswells only 2.6% were flats and 63.1% were detached . Data from the 2022 Census shows that 49.7% of occupied households were living in whole houses or bungalows (12.6% detached, 21.2% semi-detached and 16% terraced) with 50.2% of households living in flats.

At the time of the 2022 Census, 56.5 % of occupied households in the City were owned (28.7% owned outright and 26.7% with a mortgage or loan) , 22.4% were socially rented, 19.8% were privately rented and 1.3% were rent-free. Tenure varied by Intermediate Zone. Ownership (either outright or with a mortgage) was lowest in Seaton at 22.8% and highest in Oldmachar East at 91.2%. Less than 1% of households were socially rented in Danestone compared to 62.5% in Torry East. City Centre East had the highest percentage of privately rented households (55.8%) and Northfield the lowest (3.3%) .

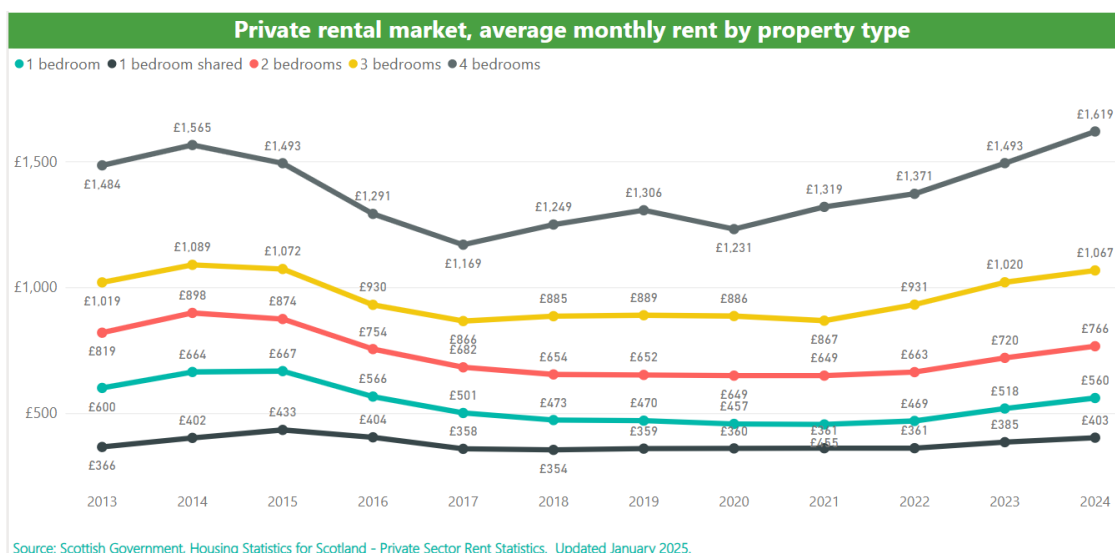
**Housing stock:** In Aberdeen City in 2024 the Local Authority's housing stock totalled 23,255 – up from 22,772 in 2023. Of the Council stock, 17,732 (76.3%) were flats and 5,532 (23.7%) were houses. Since 2014, the total housing stock owned by the Council has decreased by 3.4% - from 22,496 . At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 there were 3,720 applicants on the waiting list and 1,774 on the transfer list for housing.

**Supply of new housing:** In 2023-24, 1,089 new houses were supplied in Aberdeen City. Of these, 509 were private sector new builds, 387 were local authority new builds and 193 were housing association new builds .

**Supported housing:** A range of supported housing is provided by the Local Authority. In 2023, housing for older people included 110 very sheltered, and 1,873 sheltered dwellings (of which 223 are wheelchair adapted) and 1,533 medium dependency. Some 3,516 dwellings have been fitted with a community alarm. Housing for people with physical disabilities included 448 dwellings adapted for wheelchair use, 830 for ambulant disabled and 1,902 with other adaptations .

**Private rental sector:** In 2024, the average monthly rent in Aberdeen City and Shire (Broad Rental Market Area) was £560 for a one-bedroomed property, £766 for a 2-bedroomed property, £1,067 for a 3-bedroomed property and £1,619 for a 4-bedroomed property. These were higher than the average rents in 2023 with the largest increase being in 4-bedroomed properties which increased from £1,493 in 2023 . With the exception of 4-bedroomed properties, rents are lower than their 2015 peak.





**House sales:** In 2024, the average (mean) purchase price for a residential property in Aberdeen City was £181,008 – up from £178,726 in 2023. (The median price was £146,000.) This is still lower than the 2015 peak of £223,986. The number of properties sold increased from 4,132 in 2023 to 4,461 in 2024 .

#### 5.1.4. Homelessness

**Homeless applications:** In Aberdeen City in 2023-24, there were 1,763 applications under the Homeless Persons legislation, of which 1,270 were assessed as homeless. There were 1,970 [people](#) (of which 596 were children) associated with the applications assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness. The number of applications is similar to the figure for 2022-23 (1,772) and up from 1,404 in 2021-22. In the first two quarters of 2024-25 there have been 889 applications .

In 2023-24 there were 50 applications where at least one member of the household experienced rough sleeping the night before their application, and 95 where at least one member of the household experienced rough sleeping in the 3 months prior to their application. 483 of the households assessed as homeless had at least one identified support need (up from 449 the previous year).

At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, 442 households were in temporary accommodation (up from 399 in March 2023), 90 of these households had either pregnant women or children in them (up from 45 in March 2023) with a total of 175 children in temporary accommodation (up from 85 in March 2023) .

**Youth homelessness:** In 2023-24, there were 481 youth homelessness applications (up from 470 in 2022-23) of which 351 were assessed as homeless .

**Prison homelessness:** In 2023-24 there were 30 applications where prison was the property the main applicant became homeless from – down from 45 in 2022-23 .



## Emerging priorities

There is a continuing need to ensure that people and place are at the heart of our population need assessment: The following issues can be considered priorities:

- Social isolation and loneliness can have tangible impacts on health and wellbeing. In recent City Voice surveys participants responded to questions on social interaction, involvement in the community and influence and control. The results highlight opportunities for to enable this.
- Housing can also significantly impact on health and wellbeing. Negative impacts are likely to be more prevalent and severe in households living in poverty. Managing household expenses is also an area for prioritisation. The survey data from the City highlight that fuel and food poverty continue to be issues for many people, especially those who live with a disability, are in single households, or are from a minority community. The data identify 13 priority locations which should be the focus for developing place-based approaches to improving access to affordable food, fuel, and transport.
- Homelessness continues to be a challenge with almost 2,000 people affected by homeless applications received in 2023/24, of which almost 600 were children.



## 6. Neighbourhood and environment

Both the very local and the wider physical environment are important in creating health and sustaining wellbeing for individuals, for families and for communities. Local issues which impact on health include, air quality; the location, quality and accessibility of green spaces; walkability and transport, particularly in support of active travel; and the physical appearance of localities, such as litter and poor or derelict buildings, which can impact on mental health. Climate change will continue to impact our communities through direct effects including increased mortality and ill-health associated with excess heat and cold and loss associated with flooding and other extreme weather events

### 6.1. Pursue environmental sustainability and health equity together

#### 6.1.1. Your neighbourhood

A series of questions about 'Your Neighbourhood' has been asked in the City Voice, most recently in [City Voice 51](#). These questions are based on the [Place Standard](#) format which provides a framework for asking about places – covering both physical and social aspects of a place. Participants were asked to answer the questions with their **local neighbourhood** in mind (while everyone will have their own idea about what a local neighbourhood is, for the purpose of these questions we suggested an area within a 15-minute walk from home would be relevant). The questions covered 14 themes:

- **Moving around :** Can you easily walk and cycle around using good quality routes?
- **Public transport:** Does public transport meet your needs?
- **Traffic and parking:** Do traffic and parking arrangements allow you to move around safely and meet your needs?
- **Streets and spaces:** Do streets and spaces create an attractive place that is easy to get around?
- **Green space:** Can you regularly experience good quality natural space? This includes a wide variety of environments from parks and woodlands to green space alongside paths and streets.
- **Play and leisure:** Do you have access to a range of space and opportunities for play and leisure activities?
- **Services and amenities:** Do services and amenities (e.g. healthcare, schools, libraries, shops and restaurants) meet your needs?
- **Work and local economy:** Is there an active local economy and the opportunity to access good quality jobs?

- **Housing and community:** Does housing support the needs of the community and contribute to a positive environment?
- **Social interaction:** Is there a range of spaces and opportunities to meet people?
- **Identity and belonging:** Does your neighbourhood have a positive identity and do you feel that you belong?
- **Feeling safe:** Do you feel safe in your neighbourhood?
- **Care and maintenance:** Are buildings and spaces well cared for?
- **Influence and sense of control:** Do you feel able to participate in decisions and help change things for the better?

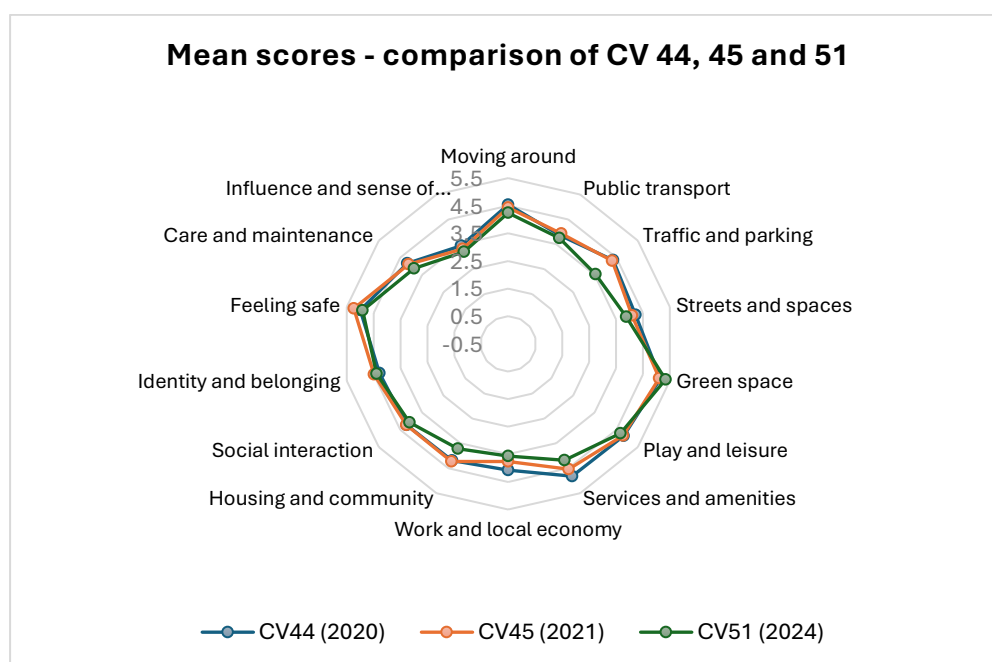
For each of the 14 topics, participants were asked to give a score on a scale of 1-7, where 1 = lots of room for improvement and 7 = very little room for improvement. Mean scores are calculated for each topic with a higher mean score indicates a better rating.

In the most recent City Voice survey that included these questions (City Voice 51, August 2024), **green space** and **feeling safe** were the highest scoring topics with mean scores of 5.3 and 4.9 respectively followed by **play and leisure** (4.7). The lowest scoring topics were **influence and sense of control** (mean score of 3.2), **traffic and parking** (3.5) and **work and local economy** (3.6). The table below shows the mean scores for all indicators from highest to lowest.

Topics	Mean scores
Green space	5.3
Feeling safe	4.9
Play and leisure	4.7
Identity and belonging	4.4
Moving around	4.2
Services and amenities	4.2
Social interaction	4.1
Streets and spaces	3.9
Care and maintenance	3.9
Public transport	3.8
Housing and community	3.7
Work and local economy	3.6
Traffic and parking	3.5
Influence and sense of control	3.2

The same set of questions have been asked in previous City Voice questionnaires. On the whole, responses show a broadly similar pattern each time these questions have been asked, with most of the changes being relatively small. The most notable change is in relation to **traffic and parking** where the mean score has fallen from 4.4 in CV44 (2020) to 3.5 in City Voice 51 (2024). With the exceptions of **green space** and **identity and belonging**, mean scores for all of the topics have fallen since the questions were asked

in CV44 (2020). The chart below shows mean scores across these three City Voice questionnaires with the table giving a more detailed comparison, highlighting the differences in scores between City Voice 44 (2020) and City Voice 51 (2024).



	CV44 (2020)	CV45 (2021)	CV51 (2024)	Difference between CV44 and CV51
Moving around	4.5	4.4	4.2	-0.3
Public transport	3.9	3.9	3.8	-0.1
Traffic and parking	4.4	4.3	3.5	-0.8
Streets and spaces	4.2	4.1	3.9	-0.4
Green space	5.2	5.1	5.3	0.2
Play and leisure	4.9	4.8	4.7	-0.1
Services and amenities	4.8	4.5	4.2	-0.6
Work and local economy	4.1	3.8	3.6	-0.5
Housing and community	4.2	4.2	3.7	-0.5
Social interaction	4.2	4.2	4.1	-0.1
Identity and belonging	4.3	4.5	4.4	0.1
Feeling safe	5.0	5.2	4.9	-0.1
Care and maintenance	4.2	4.1	3.9	-0.3
Influence and sense of control	3.4	3.3	3.2	-0.2

More recently (May 2025) the Place Standard was used in our public engagement to inform the development of the LOIP and locality plans. A summary table showing the overall results is given below and the full report can be found here:

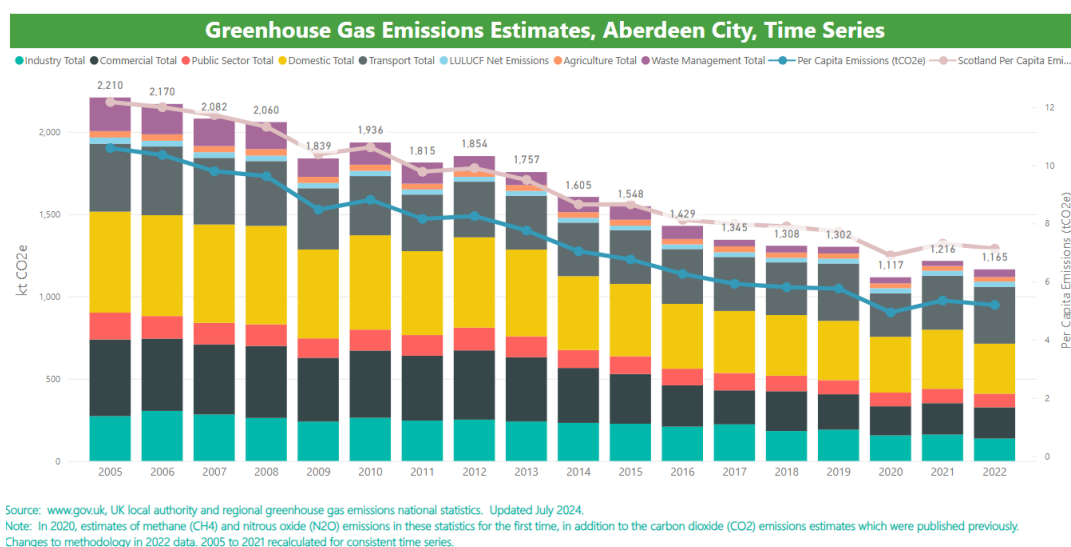
<https://communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/YPYPYF-Full-Engagement-Draft-020625.pdf>

	1 (Very bad)	2	3	4	5	6	7 (Excellent)	Mean	Base
Moving around	9.1%	10.2%	12.2%	26.6%	21.0%	16.3%	4.6%	4.1	1,256
Public Transport	9.4%	12.0%	22.6%	23.6%	18.6%	9.0%	4.7%	3.8	1,263
Traffic and Parking	14.8%	15.9%	18.2%	27.7%	15.4%	4.8%	3.2%	3.4	1,059
Streets and Spaces	7.5%	12.6%	16.6%	26.3%	21.7%	11.5%	3.9%	3.9	1,098
Natural Spaces	3.4%	3.0%	7.7%	17.9%	26.6%	28.6%	12.9%	5.0	1,252
Play and Recreation	4.7%	8.1%	14.8%	24.5%	26.7%	14.3%	6.9%	4.3	1,048
Facilities and Services	7.3%	7.3%	13.1%	30.3%	23.3%	14.2%	4.5%	4.2	1,144
Work and Local Economy	8.1%	11.2%	19.2%	32.0%	19.9%	7.9%	1.7%	3.7	990
Housing and Community	7.6%	8.8%	14.6%	24.5%	24.1%	14.8%	5.6%	4.2	1,033
Social Interaction	5.5%	8.6%	14.9%	26.4%	28.1%	11.3%	5.2%	4.2	1,087
Identity and Belonging	6.4%	9.2%	13.2%	30.5%	21.9%	13.1%	5.6%	4.1	998
Feeling Safe	7.3%	7.1%	14.3%	30.5%	19.6%	15.9%	5.3%	4.2	1,219
Care and Maintenance	10.1%	10.5%	17.6%	25.0%	22.8%	11.0%	2.9%	3.8	1,006
Influence and Sense of Control	17.8%	13.1%	18.8%	27.7%	14.7%	5.5%	2.4%	3.3	951

### 6.1.2. Environment – climate change

**Greenhouse gas emissions:** In 2020, estimates of methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) emissions were included in the published statistics for the first time, in addition to the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions estimates which were published previously.

In 2022, Greenhouse Gas emissions estimates totalled 1,165 kilotonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (ktCO<sub>2</sub>e) for Aberdeen City – down from 1,216 in 2021. Transport was the single largest contributor (29.7% of all greenhouse gas emissions) followed by domestic use (26.1%). In 2022 per capita emissions were lower in Aberdeen City (5.2 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)) than in Scotland (7.1 tCO<sub>2</sub>e).



**Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions:** In 2022 carbon dioxide emissions in Aberdeen totalled 1,063 kilotonnes (kt) (down 44.3% since 2005) – down from 1,128 in 2021. Since 2005, per capita carbon dioxide emissions have fallen in both Aberdeen and Scotland, mostly due to the greening of the electricity grid, and the [Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap](#) has put in place a local commitment to meeting the Scottish Government target of Net Zero Emissions by 2045. In 2022, per capita levels were similar in Aberdeen (4.74 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)) and Scotland (4.81 tCO<sub>2</sub>e) .

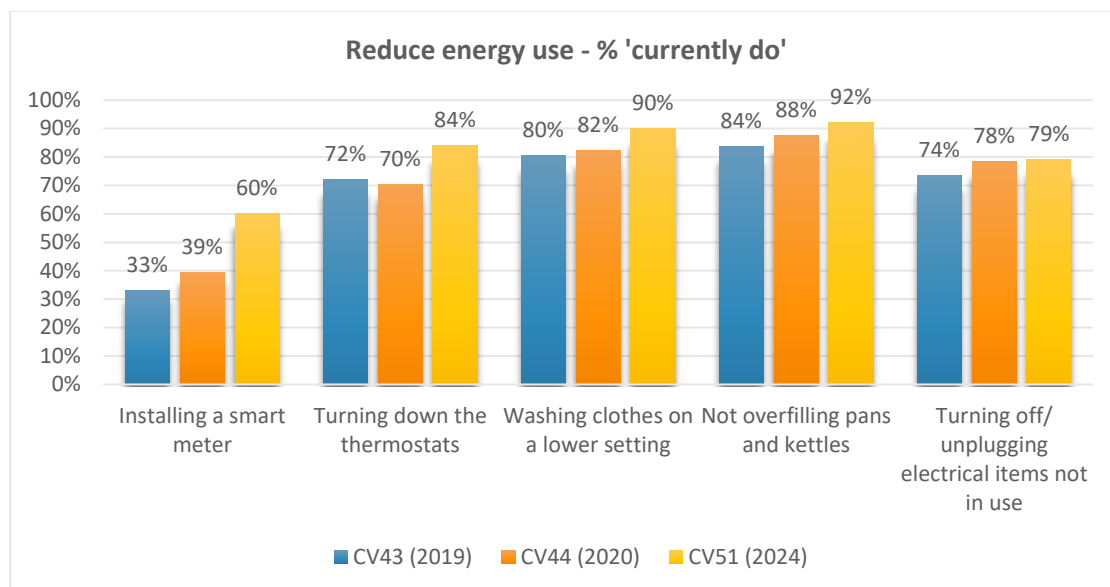
**Carbon dioxide emissions within the scope of local authorities:** alongside the full dataset, a subset dataset is also published which gives carbon dioxide emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities (e.g. excludes large industrial sites, railways, motorways, land-use, livestock and soils). In 2022, carbon dioxide emissions within the scope of local authorities totalled 999.5 kilotonnes – down from 1,044.8 kilotonnes in 2021.

**Public Sector carbon dioxide emissions:** In 2022, Public Sector carbon dioxide emissions totalled 81 kilotonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (ktCO<sub>2</sub>e) – down from 85 in 2021. Public Sector Gas made up 76.5% of emissions.

**Renewable energy:** In 2023, Aberdeen City had 3,679 renewable energy installations (3,663 of which were photovoltaics) compared to 2,845 in 2022 and 789 in 2014 (2014 is the first year of data available). The installed capacity (Megawatts) was 80.9 megawatts in 2023 compared to 67.5 in 2022 and 10.3 in 2014. Renewable energy generation was 13,098 Megawatt-hours (MWh) in 2023 – compared to 11,690 Megawatt-hours in 2022.

**Reducing energy use and demand:** Questions around reducing energy use and demand have been asked in the City Voice, most recently in August 2024. Overall the results suggest that most respondents are already taking steps to reduce the amount of energy they use e.g. turning down heating thermostats or switching off/ unplugging electrical items not in use or installing smart meters. Other ways of reducing energy use identified by respondents included drying clothes outside, using an air fryer instead of an oven, only heating the rooms that are used most, and wearing extra layers of clothing. Most respondents also reported that they currently are, or would be prepared to, undertake actions which would reduce energy demand, e.g. install energy saving lightbulbs, upgrade

to more energy efficient appliances or upgrade insulation levels. The exception to this is installing renewable energy technologies such as solar panels, where over half of respondents (57.4%) reported either they were not prepared to do this, or that this option was not applicable (e.g. those living in rented accommodation).



**Climate Emergency Declaration:** In March 2023, Aberdeen City Council added its voice to the growing number of local authorities around the world to have responded to the global climate change and nature loss crises by declaring a climate and nature emergency. Details of the declaration are available in the [minutes of the full Council meeting of 22 February 2023](#) (see item 18).

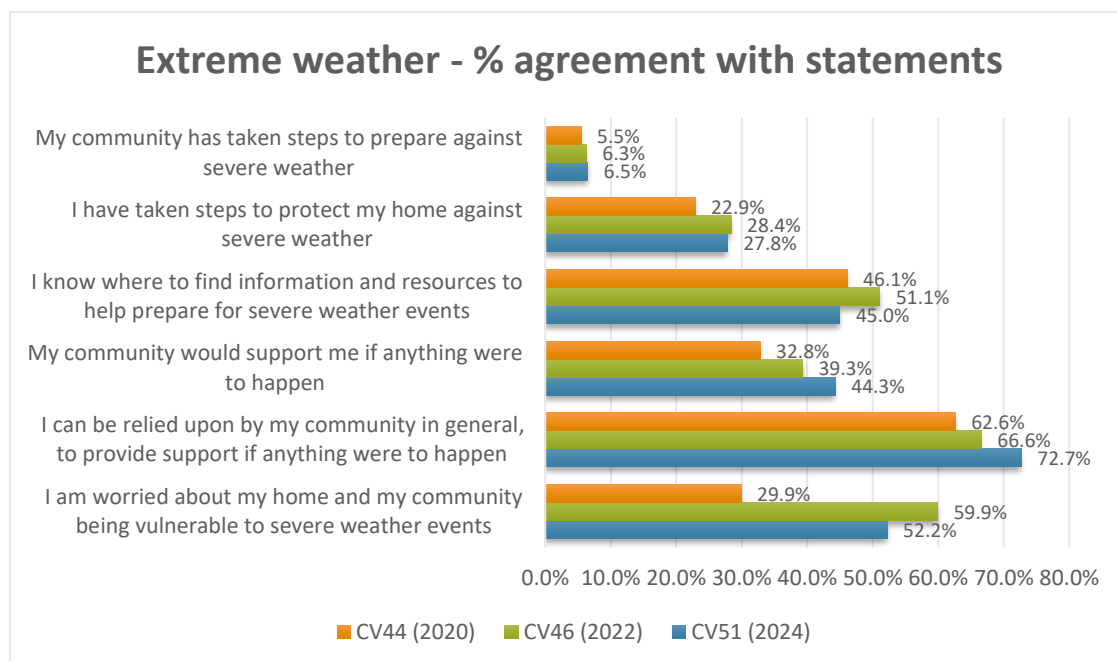
A city-wide [Green Champions](#) network exists to identify areas of improvement, drive change towards sustainable and resource efficient behaviour and promote activities which can benefit both climate and nature, as well as reducing long term costs and carbon inefficiencies. The developing city-wide network (currently six partners) meet up quarterly to support, share, and learn from each other.

**Adaptation:** Climate change is being experienced now across Aberdeen. Changes to local rainfall patterns and weather events are being seen, putting increasing numbers of people and property at risk. A Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP) explored severe weather events experienced in Aberdeen over 2014-2019; as well as the impact on Council services. In comparing information with the previous Local Climate Impact Profile 2008-2013, changes in severe weather events, including storms, rainfall and warmer weather, between the two periods were noted. A refresh of Aberdeen Adapts: Climate Adaptation Framework was produced in 2022, alongside an update to the Evidence Base which informs Aberdeen Adapts. The Evidence Base reflected strategic climate risks relevant to the city, taking information from sources including UK Climate Projections (UKCP18).



Results from the 2023 Scottish Household Survey estimate that 73% of people in Aberdeen City see climate change as an immediate and urgent problem – up from 68% in 2012 .

**Extreme weather readiness:** Questions about readiness for extreme weather events have been asked in City Voice, most recently in August 2024. Over half (52.2%) of respondents agreed (either strongly agree or agree) that they were worried about their home and community being vulnerable to severe weather events, considerably higher than the response to when this question was asked 2020 (29.9%), but slightly lower than when asked in 2022 (59.9%). While 72.7% of respondents agreed that they could be relied upon to by their neighbours or community to provide support if anything were to happen, only 44.3% agreed that their community would support them if anything were to happen. Less than half (45%) of respondents said they would know where to find information and resources to help prepare for severe weather events. Over a quarter (27.8%) of respondents reported they had taken steps to protect their home against severe weather and only 6.5% thought that their community had taken steps to prepare against severe weather with the most common response to this final statement being don't know (45.5% of respondents) .



**Flood Risk:** Scotland has been separated into 14 Local Plan Districts for flood risk management purposes. These districts are based on river catchments and coastal areas which cross administrative and institutional boundaries. Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), working with others, has produced a Flood Risk Management Strategy for each Local Plan District . The most recent Flood Risk Management Strategy produced by Scottish Environment Protection Agency for the North East Local Plan District (2022-2028) identifies 4 areas in Aberdeen City that are potentially vulnerable to flooding – Aberdeen City North (Bridge Of Don, Dyce, Kingswells-north), Aberdeen City – South (Central), Peterculter, Cove and Nigg Bay (Cove Bay and Nigg Bay).

Number of people and properties at risk from flooding for each area:

- Aberdeen City - North (Bridge Of Don, Dyce, Kingswells-north): 7,600 people and 4,200 homes and businesses, 670 people and 610 homes and businesses and 100 people and 50 homes and businesses.
- Aberdeen City - South (Central): 23,000 people and 14,000 homes and businesses
- Peterculter: 790 people and 430 homes and businesses
- Cove and Nigg Bay (Cove Bay and Nigg Bay): 260 people and 150 homes and businesses and 90 people and 90 homes and businesses.

The total number of people at risk from flooding for the North-East Local area is 51,000. The total number of people at risk of flooding for Aberdeen City is 32,510. This means that 63.75% of the number of people at risk from flooding in the North-East are within Aberdeen City.

The total number of homes and businesses at risk from flooding for the North-East Local area are 30,000. The total number of homes and businesses at risk of flooding for Aberdeen City is 19,530. This means that 65.1% of the number of homes and businesses at risk from flooding in the North-East are within Aberdeen City.

Nature based solutions are being employed across Aberdeen, at locations such as at Seaton Park, Stronsay Park, and Maidencraig, to reduce flood risk while delivering additional outcomes for people and wildlife. A recent national Nature of Scotland Award was given to Aberdeen for this pioneering work on natural flood management.

### 6.1.3. Environment - nature

**Greenspace:** Greenspace is important for a wide range of reasons, including health and well-being, improving biodiversity, climate mitigation and environmental protection. Greenspace also provides opportunities for play and recreation for all ages as well as providing economic benefits and ecosystem services. Greenspaces directly improve our health and wellbeing, benefitting society and helping to reduce costs on local and wider communities, the NHS, other public sector services and local businesses. Well-managed and maintained spaces can support people to interact with each other and promote a sense of place and community pride. Aberdeen has a diverse mix of greenspaces for people and wildlife. The types, quantities, quality and accessibility of these are not evenly distributed across Aberdeen. Areas of social deprivation tend to have lower diversity and quality spaces which in turn can impact on the health outcomes for those communities. Some areas, e.g. Deeside, have much higher prevalence of tree cover than others. Aberdeen has an overall tree canopy cover of 13%, much lower than comparable cities, Scotland as a whole, and national targets. Further analysis of the context, actions and trends in this area is required.

**Protected Land:** 21.3% of land in Aberdeen City is protected for nature.

Aberdeen has 1,450 hectares of parks and other greenspaces. Further extensive areas of land are managed for people and nature and other co-benefits by other public, private and community bodies and partnerships, including, Forestry and Land Scotland, The River Dee Trust, the Woodland Trust and individual private land-owners.

The protection and enhancement of high-quality greenspace networks supports the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: 3 Good Health & Well-Being; 11 Sustainable Cities & Communities; 13 Climate Action; and 15 Life on Land. High-quality greenspace networks will also play a key role in helping to achieve the [Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap](#) by helping to store carbon and reduce carbon emissions.

Aberdeen's greenspaces are assessed through a periodic Open Space Audit, with the latest Audit currently being finalised. This Audit will provide information that is critical to directing greenspace management policies and targeted interventions and improvements for all partners going forward.

86.9% of respondents to the Open Space Audit 2022 questionnaire visited Aberdeen's greenspace or open space at least once a week (*Open Space Audit 2022 questionnaire results will be published as part of the upcoming Open Space Audit report refresh*).

Questions about greenspace have also been asked in the [City Voice](#). In August 2024, 74.5% of City Voice respondents reported that they were satisfied with overall greenspace in the City – up from 64.5% in March 2020 – and two-thirds of respondents (66.7%) said they would like to see more green spaces managed for nature. When asked what they felt were the most important benefits of good quality green spaces, the benefits most commonly identified by respondents were improving mental health (57.9%) and making space for nature (52.5%) followed by space for children to play (43.7%). Over 90% of respondents agreed both that it was important for people to have access to nature in their neighbourhoods and that spending time in nature was important for their own personal wellbeing.

The amount of blue green infrastructure, including green walls, green roofs and rain gardens, within the built environment must be increased and enhanced to ensure a sustainable balance of blue, green and grey is achieved and to halt urban crawl and the density of buildings, roads and hard infrastructure devoid of blue and green space.

The [Net Zero Aberdeen Natural Environment Strategy](#) identifies ways how we can all work together to improve greenspaces in the city e.g. by exploring sites to create naturalised grasslands and wildflower meadows across multiple land ownerships and increasing biodiversity and contributing to carbon stores and carbon savings from a reduction in intensive grass cutting on land across the city.

Aberdeen City Council is extending naturalised greenspace management [by improving and creating blue/green habitats in two high profile parks in the city](#). The Council is using a Nature Restoration in Parks grant from the Scottish Government to survey, plan and design work to further improve the parks for nature e.g. by creating/improving wildflower meadow areas for pollinators and tree planting. Aberdeen Flagship Parks for Pollinators Project also supports longer term '[B-lines](#)' pollinator work between Aberdeen City Council and the charity [Buglife](#). Volunteering is an important function of the [Aberdeen B-Lines](#) – 167 local volunteers helped with 73 hours of volunteer events. Volunteering and being in nature is an excellent way to improve wellbeing by being active, improving mental health, socialising and working as a team to do something positive for the environment.

**Woodland:** Aberdeen has 2,410 hectares of woodland - 13% of Aberdeen City's total land area. By comparison, Scotland's woodland cover is 18%. Native woodlands account for 22% of the total woodland area in Aberdeen. There are an estimated 115,000

individual street, park and garden and civic trees across the City. Aberdeen City currently has 164 Tree Preservation Orders covering an area of 300 hectares, protecting selected trees and woodlands whose removal would significantly impact the amenity of an area.

**Water environment:** Aberdeen is a coastal harbour city bounded by two major inland waterways, the River Dee and the Don. These connections to water are important parts of its history, culture, economy, and well-being. Flooding, erosion, pollution, and wildlife impacts are all being experienced at the coast and inland and have significant implications for our people and economy. Further analysis of the context, actions and trends in this area is also required.

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) produces a classification system (five quality classes: Bad, Poor, Moderate, Good and High) to assess surface waters. In this system Aberdeen has 18 water bodies. Most of these (83.3%) are categorised as at least ‘moderate’ condition .

The River Don is currently classified as in a ‘bad’ ecological condition for its 10.7kms from Dyce to the tidal limit. The River Dee is currently classified as in a ‘moderate’ ecological condition for its 10.4kms from Peterculter to the tidal limit. The Denburn is currently classified as in ‘poor’ ecological condition for its 9.2kms length and the Leuchar Burn ‘poor’ ecological condition for 9Kms. The coastal water from Don Estuary to Souter Head (50 square kilometers) is classified as in good ecological status. North and south of this strip is in ‘high’ ecological condition

The table below provides an overview of the condition of all 18 surface waters for 2023, 2020 and 2019.

Name	2023	2020	2019
South Mundurno Burn	Good ecological potential	Good ecological potential	Good ecological potential
Den Burn	Poor ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential
River Don - Dyce to tidal limit	Bad	Bad	Bad
Bucks Burn	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential
Elrick Burn - d/s Newmachar WWTP	Poor ecological potential	Poor ecological potential	Poor ecological potential
River Don - Inverurie to Dyce	Good ecological potential	Good ecological potential	Good ecological potential
Black Burn	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential
River Dee - Peterculter to tidal limit	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential
River Dee - Banchory to Peterculter	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

Culter Burn	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Gormack Burn	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential
Leuchar Burn	Poor ecological potential	Poor ecological potential	Poor ecological potential
Brodiach Burn / Ord Burn	Poor ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential	Moderate ecological potential
Dee (Aberdeen) Estuary	Good ecological potential	Good ecological potential	Good ecological potential
Don Estuary	High	High	High
Don Estuary to Souter Head (Aberdeen)	Good ecological potential	Good ecological potential	Good ecological potential
Cruden Bay to the Don Estuary	High	High	High
Souter Head to Garron Point	High	High	High

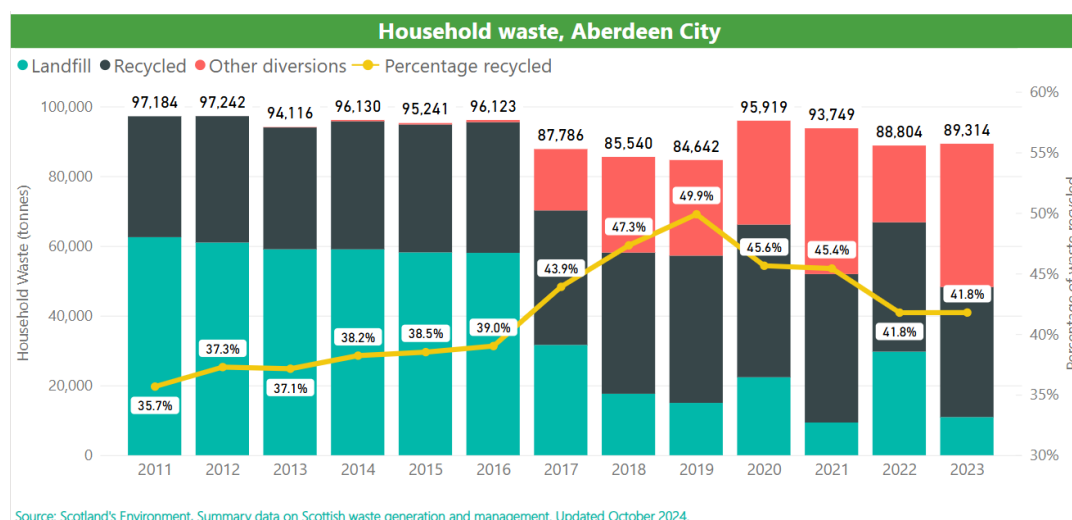
**Domestic water supply:** The [River Dee and its tributaries](#), together with a number of private water supplies, provide a domestic water supply for the whole of Aberdeen City and over half of Aberdeenshire. Over 300,000 people drink water supplied by the River Dee each day. Climate change is likely to bring more uncertainty and may exert pressure in areas that have not yet experienced water scarcity. Scottish Environment Protection Agency are responsible for the forecast, monitoring and report of the situation facing Scotland's water resources and produces a during the summer months.

**Natural heritage:** The dramatic decline and loss of natural heritage is, alongside climate change, a crisis facing most of the globe. Aberdeen is not immune to this and this places risks on our citizens through impacts on food security, economy and health and wellbeing. Aberdeen has a diverse range of species and habitats and their outlook is currently mixed. Aberdeen has 1 Special Area of Conservation (SAC), 3 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), 4 Local Nature Reserves and 44 Local Nature Conservation Sites. Approximately 21.3% of our land is protected for wildlife. Aberdeen City Council also manage a significant number of sites for nature that are not designated but provide essential refuge, food and wildlife corridors within Aberdeen. Currently, it is unclear what proportion is managed for nature but undesignated and this requires further analysis to compare to the UK wide target of 30% by 2030.

#### 6.1.4. Household waste

In 2023, 89,314 tonnes of household waste were generated in Aberdeen City. 2020 and 2021 saw increases in the amount of household waste generated compared to the preceding years. Overall, the amount of household waste going to landfill has fallen from 58,021 tonnes in 2016 to 10,930 in 2023. In the same period, the level of waste being recycled and 'other' diversions from landfill (disposed by incineration, recovered by incineration, recovered by co-incineration and waste managed by other methods) has

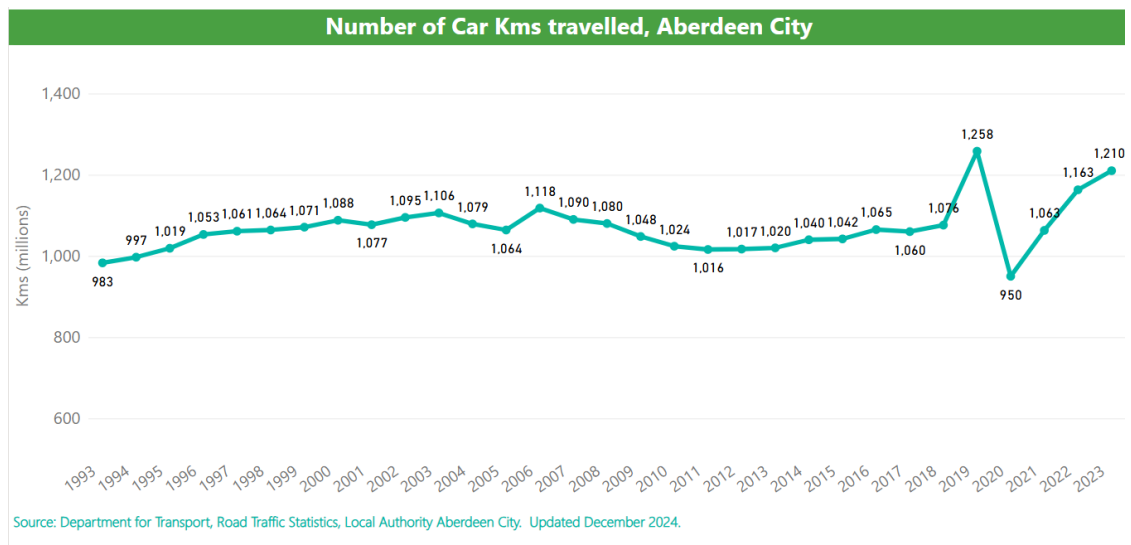
increased. In 2023, 41.8% of household waste was recycled (slightly less than the previous year) and 12.2% was sent to landfill. Other diversions accounted for 46% of household waste. The carbon impact of household waste was 219,570 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (TCO2e) in 2023, down from 227,310 in 2022 .



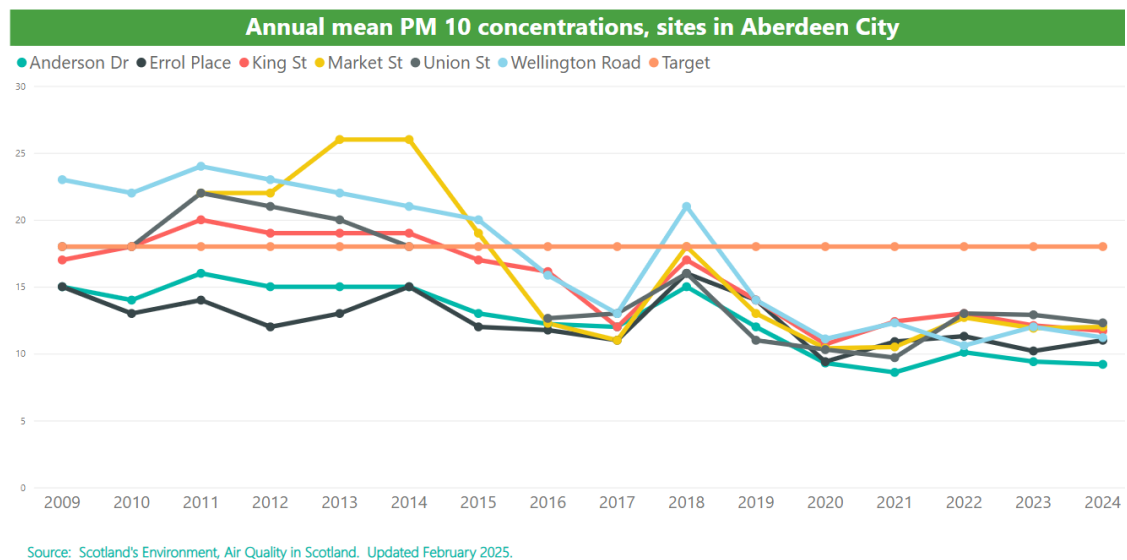
### 6.1.5. Sustainable travel

**Active travel:** In 2023 an estimated 13% of people in Aberdeen City used active travel (walking or cycling) to get to work or education. This is down from 14% in 2022 . In 2023, 30% of people reported that their main mode of travel was walking (up from 28% in 2022) and 1% reported that their main mode of travel was cycling (down from 2% in 2022). Driving a car was the most common main mode of travel at 45% . In 2023, most City Voice respondents (80.6%) reported walking as one mode of travel and 16.3% reported they cycled as one mode of travel (December 2023) .

**Car Kms travelled:** In 2023, a total of 1,210 million kms were travelled by car and taxi in Aberdeen City – up from 1,163 million kms in 2022 .



**Air Pollution:** Information on particulate matter 10 (PM10) concentrations is available for six sites in Aberdeen City (Anderson Drive, Errol Place, King Street, Market Street, Union Street and Wellington Road) . For particulate matter 10, the annual mean concentration for the air quality objective of 18 micrograms per cubic metre (ug/m3), and the daily mean concentration with the air quality objective of 50 micrograms per cubic metre - not to be exceeded more than seven times per year - have not been exceeded at any of the six continuous monitoring sites since 2016.



**Electric Vehicles:** In 2024/25 there were 149 public chargepoint sockets installed by the Council in order to encourage the use of electric vehicles - up from 79 in 2022/23, 56 in 2020 and 30 in 2017. In addition to these, there are a growing number of publicly available charge points that the Council does not have responsibility for.





## Emerging priorities

The Paris Climate Change Declaration was clear that there can be no planetary health without human health. Within the context of the Population health assessment, the data highlight the following priority areas:

- Many of the areas that are associated with climate resilience are a focus for environmental sustainability, notably in relation to green-space, transport, air and water quality, waste management, and land use. In all of these areas the potential for human health co-benefits have been identified and the meaningful delivery of such co-benefits needs to be maximised.
- The potential for climate change to increase the impact of social and economic inequalities – leading to wider health inequalities – needs to be understood more clearly and reflected in work to move beyond mitigation of the impact of greenhouse gases (delivering net zero) and into adapting systems, services, and places that are adapted to the future climate.
- There is a clear design for place-based approaches to creating climate resilience, especially in the context of flood prevention, water quality, air quality, and dealing with extreme weather events. These are areas that should be being progressed on multi-agency basis in line with the Scottish National Adaptation Plan.





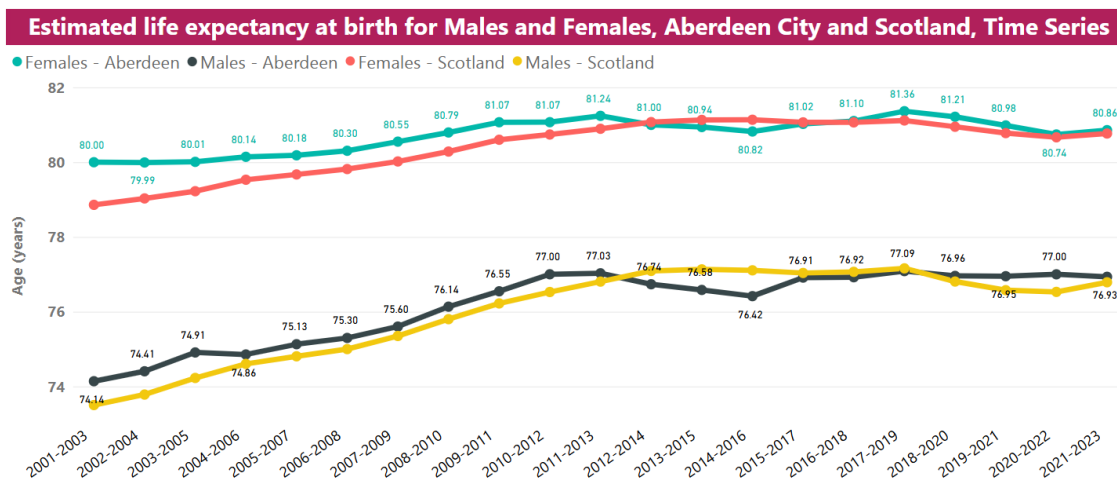
## 7. Health and Social Care

### 7.1. Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention

#### 7.1.1. Estimated life expectancy at birth

**Estimated life expectancy:** National Records of Scotland provide Life Expectancy estimates. These are ‘period’ life expectancy and are calculated assuming that mortality rates for each age group are constant throughout a person’s life. Period life expectancy is often described as how long a baby born now could expect to live if they experienced today’s mortality rates throughout their lifetime. While it is unlikely that this would be the case, it is a useful measure of population health at a point in time and is useful for comparing trends over time.

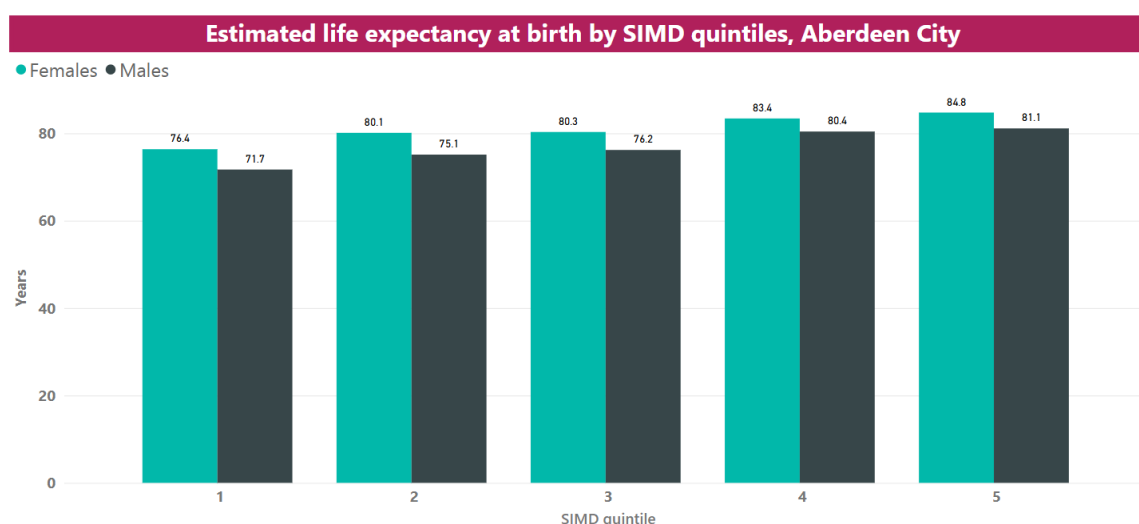
In general, Life Expectancy (LE) at birth is higher for females than for males. In 2021-23 in Aberdeen City Life Expectancy at birth was estimated to be 80.9 years for women and 76.9 years for men, i.e. on average, a baby girl born in Aberdeen City in 2021-2023 could expect to live for 80.9 years while a baby boy born in Aberdeen City in the same period could expect to live for 76.9 years. The estimated Life Expectancy at birth for both females and males is similar to that for Scotland (80.8 years and 76.8 years respectively). Across Scotland, life expectancy has increased since the early 1980s but has now remained virtually unchanged since 2012-14, with most of Scotland’s council areas experiencing a slow-down or a stall in life expectancy growth since that time.



Source: National Records of Scotland, Life Expectancy for Administrative Areas within Scotland. Updated October 2024. (Note: figures for 2009-2011 to 2020-2022 were revised to take account of the rebased mid-year population estimates for 2011-2021 published in 2024.)

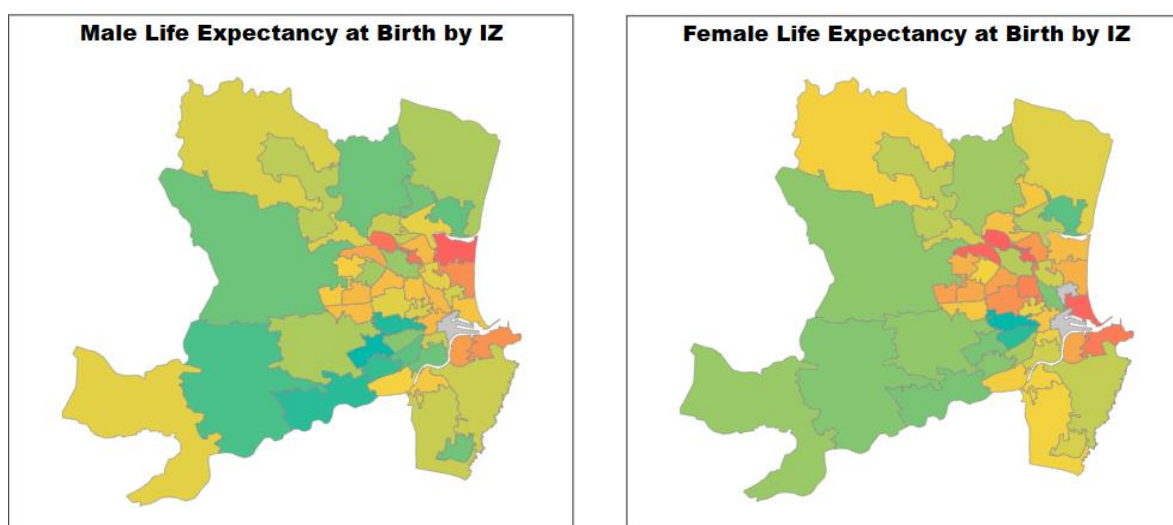
**Estimated life expectancy by deprivation:** Estimated life expectancy is strongly associated with deprivation. In Aberdeen City in 2019-2023, estimated life expectancy

for males in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) was 71.7 years compared to 81.1 years for males in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 5 (least deprived) – **a difference of 9.5 years**. For females, estimated life expectancy for females in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 was 76.4 years compared to 84.8 years for females in quintile 5 - **a difference of 8.4 years**. Comparison with data from 2013-2017 shows that the gap in estimated life expectancy between most and least deprived quintiles in Aberdeen City has decreased slightly for males (previously 9.7 years) and increased for females (previously 7.4 years).



Source: National Records of Scotland, Life Expectancy for Administrative Areas within Scotland. Updated October 2024. SIMD 1 = most deprived and SIMD 5 = least deprived.

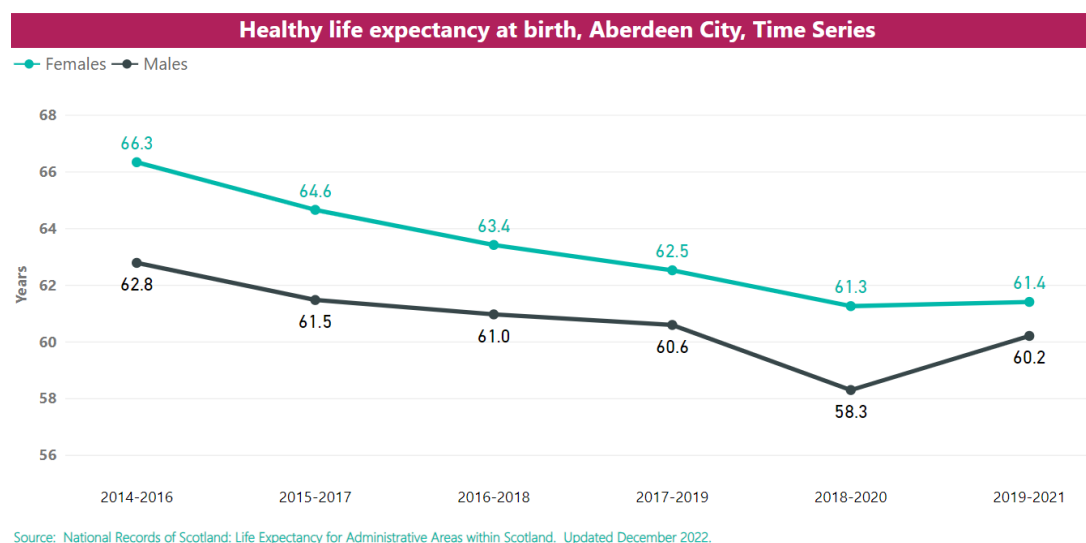
The relationship between estimated life expectancy and deprivation means that for both males and females there are important differences in estimated life expectancy at birth depending on where you live in Aberdeen City. The most recent data available for smaller geographies ([Intermediate Zones](#)) is for the period 2019-2023 (5-year average). For males, estimated LE at birth ranges from a low of 68.1 years in Old Aberdeen to a high of 84.2 years in Braeside, Mannofield and Broomhill & Seafield North – a difference of 13.7 years. For females it ranges from a low of 74.4 years in Woodside to a high of 88.1 years in West End North – a difference of 13.7 years.



Source: ScotPHO profiles.

### 7.1.2. Healthy life expectancy

**Healthy life expectancy:** While Life Expectancy (LE) counts total years of expected life regardless of level of health, Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) represents the number of years that an individual can expect to live in good health<sup>12</sup>. The most recent data on HLE is for 2019-21. In 2019-21, males in Aberdeen City had an estimated life expectancy at birth of 76.9 years and a healthy life expectancy of 60.2 years, giving an expected period of 'not good' health of 16.7 years. This means that a baby boy born in 2019-2021 could expect to live 78.3% of his life in good health. In 2019-2021, females in Aberdeen City had an estimated life expectancy at birth of 81.0 years and a healthy life expectancy of 61.4 years, giving an expected period of 'not good' health of 19.6 years. This means that a baby girl born in 2019-2021 could expect to live 75.7% of their life in good health. So while on average females have a higher life expectancy than males, they also spend a higher proportion of their lives in 'not good health'. In Scotland, HLE is strongly associated with deprivation. Healthy life expectancy for males in the most deprived areas of Scotland was 26 years lower than in the least deprived areas. For females the difference was almost 25 years. In the most deprived areas, males and females spend more than a third of their life in 'not good' health compared to around 15% in the least deprived areas .



<sup>12</sup> Healthy life expectancy uses the sample population and death inputs as life expectancy. In addition, it requires survey data from which to estimate prevalence of good health. These data come from the general health question in the Annual Population survey which asks: How is your health in general; would you say it was.... Very Good; Good; Fair; Bad or Very Bad. Healthy life expectancy is defined as the number of years that someone could expect to spend in 'good' or 'very good' health. Source: National Records of Scotland: [Methodology Guide](#)

### 7.1.3. Disability/health

Aberdeen City has a slightly higher rate of people (known to the local authority) with learning disabilities at 5.5 per 1000, compared to 5.2 for Scotland as a whole (most recent report 2019).

At the time of the Census in 2022, 20.2% of Aberdeen City's population reported having a long-term illness that limited their abilities either a little (12.1%) or a lot (8.1%) compared to 24.1% in Scotland. The proportion of people saying they had a long-term illness that limited their abilities (a lot or a little combined) varied by age group, and was lowest in the 0-15 year group at 6.5% and highest in the 65+ years group at 47.8% (see table below) . The overall Census figure of 20.2% was lower than the similar indicator in the Scottish Health Survey (2019-2023) where 30% reported having a limiting long-term illness in Aberdeen City (compared to 36% in Scotland). A further 10% reported having a non-limiting long-term condition (compared to 12% in Scotland) .

In the Census, 82.1% of the city's population reported having good (32.9%) or very good (49.2%) general health compared to 78.8% for Scotland as a whole. The percentage rating their health as 'good' (i.e. good and very good combined) varied by age group, decreasing with increasing age. It was highest for 0-15 year-olds at 97.5% and lowest for those aged 65 years and over at 58.5% (see table below) . A similar question is asked in the Scottish Health survey. In 2019-2023, the percentage rating their health as good was slightly lower than the Census at 78% (compared to 72% for Scotland) .

	Percentage of people with an illness that limited their abilities	Percentage of people rating health as 'good'
Aged 0 to 15	6.5%	97.5%
Aged 16 to 24	13.2%	91.4%
Aged 25 to 34	11.7%	89.6%
Aged 35 to 49	14.7%	85.2%
Aged 50 to 64	24.8%	74.6%
Aged 65 and over	47.4%	58.5%

Source: Scotland's Census 2022

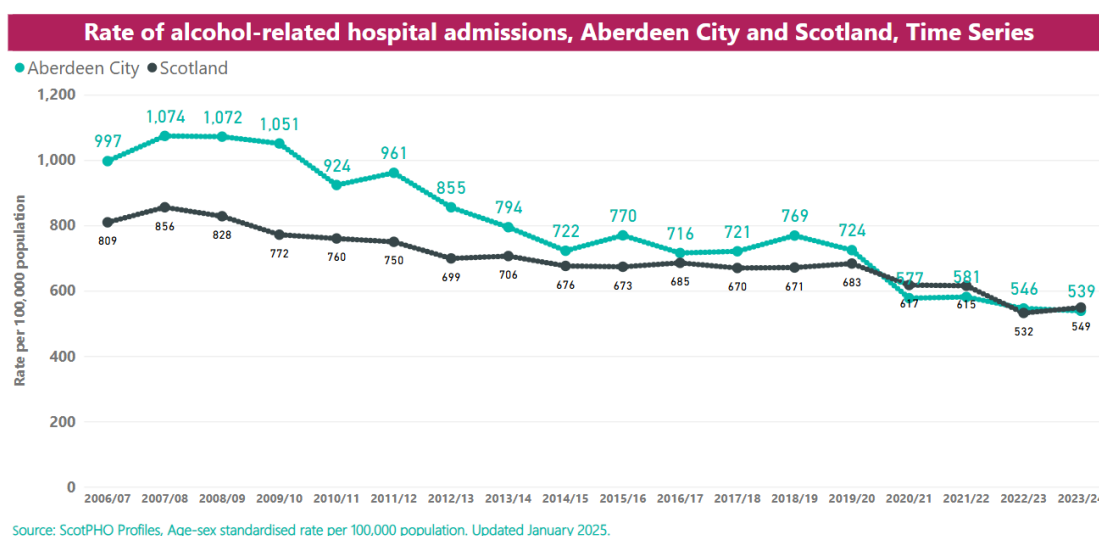
### 7.1.4. Health behaviours

**Alcohol:** In the period 2019-23, 23% of adults in Aberdeen City were drinking above the guideline recommendations of 14 units per week. This is slightly higher than the rate for Scotland of 22% and from the rate in 2018-2022 of 22% . (Note: data for 2018-2022 and 2019-2023 does not include data for 2020 due to COVID-19.)

Questions relating to alcohol consumption were asked in City Voice 49 (February 2024). When asked if they knew the maximum number of units of alcohol recommended over a

week, less than half (48.6%) of respondents correctly choose 14 units. The next most common response was don't know at 24.6% . These results are similar to when these questions were asked in the City Voice previously (December 2022) – responses of 46.7% and 25.9% respectively.

**Alcohol-related hospital admissions:** In 2023/24 there were 1,170 alcohol-related hospital admissions in Aberdeen City – equivalent to a rate (age-sex standardised) of 538.5 per 100,000 population which is lower than the rate for Scotland of 548.5. Alcohol-related hospital admissions were highest for those in the most deprived areas at 1,044.2 per 100,000 population for Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) compared to 300.7 per 100,000 population for Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 5 (least deprived). [Across the City](#) (Intermediate Zones), the rate of alcohol-related hospital admissions ranged from a low of 32.3 in Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber West to a high of 1,432 per 100,000 population in Torry West .



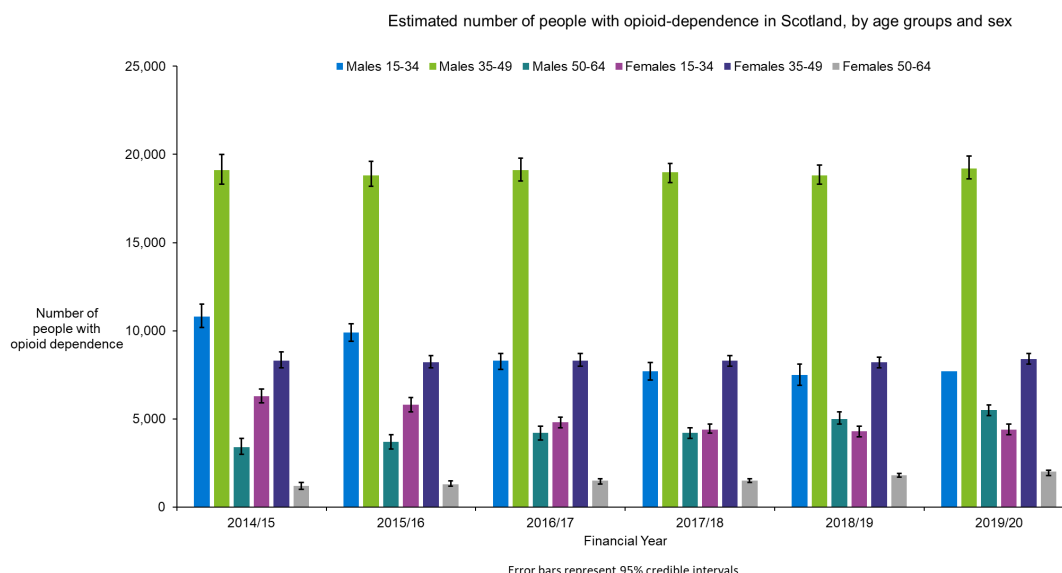
**Alcohol-specific deaths:** In 2023 there were 45 alcohol-specific deaths in Aberdeen City – down from 49 deaths in 2022. As the number of alcohol-specific deaths can fluctuate substantially on a yearly basis, a 5-year rolling average number is also given. For the period 2019-23 this figure was 40.6 – lower than the figure of 41.8 in 2018-22. The rate (5-year average age-standardised) of alcohol-related deaths in 2019-23 was 19.7 per 100,000 population – slightly lower than the rate for Scotland of 21.5, and lower than the rate for 2018-22 of 20.3 per 100,000 population. Rates of alcohol-specific deaths are higher for those in deprived areas. In Aberdeen City in 2019-23, the rate (age-sex standardised) for those in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) was 40.4 per 100,000 population compared to 10.5 per 100,000 population for quintile 5 (least deprived). Rates of alcohol-related deaths vary across the city ([Health and Social Care \(HSC\) localities](#), 2019-23 data) at 13.9 per 100,000 population in Aberdeen North, 14.4 in Aberdeen South and 34.1 in Aberdeen Central .



**Alcohol Treatment Services:** In Q2 2024/25, 89 people accessed specialist alcohol treatment services, up from 82 in Q1 2024/25. Median length of wait was 14 days .

**Drugs use prevalence:** Data on prevalence of problem drug use is limited. In 2015/16 it was estimated that 1.5% of Aberdeen’s population have a problem drug use compared to 1.6% in Scotland. Estimated prevalence of problem drug use was higher in males (2.0%) than females (0.9%).

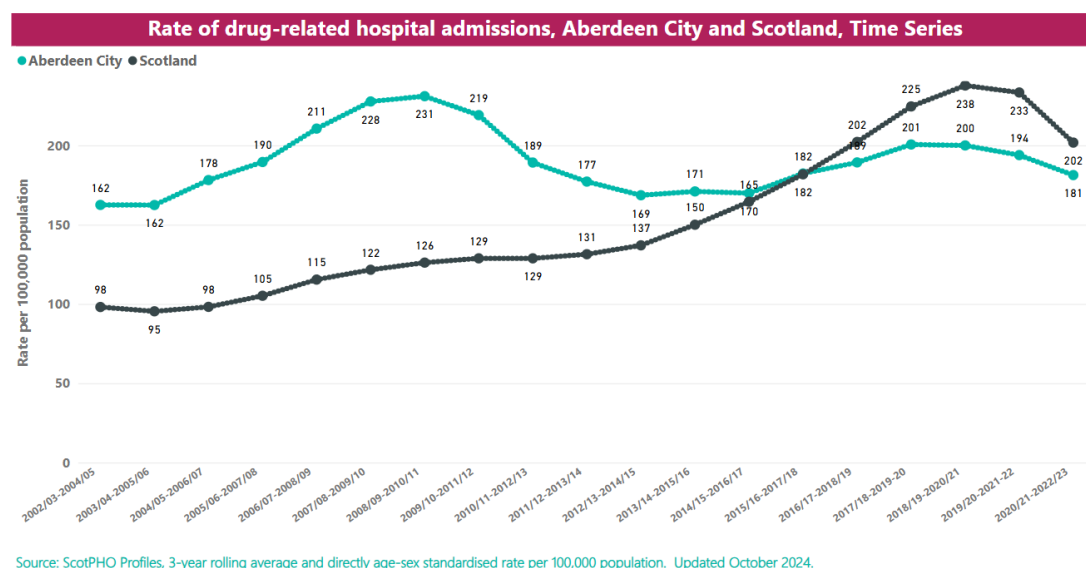
More recent data at Scotland level estimates that in 2019/20, 47,100 people (aged 15 to 64 years) in Scotland were dependent on opioids (1.32%) – with a higher number of males (32,300) than females (14,700) being dependent. Prevalence is highest in the 35-49 year age group .



Source: Public Health Scotland

**Drug-related hospital admissions:** In 2020/21-2022/23 there were 411 drug-related hospital admissions (3-year rolling average number) in Aberdeen which is equivalent to a

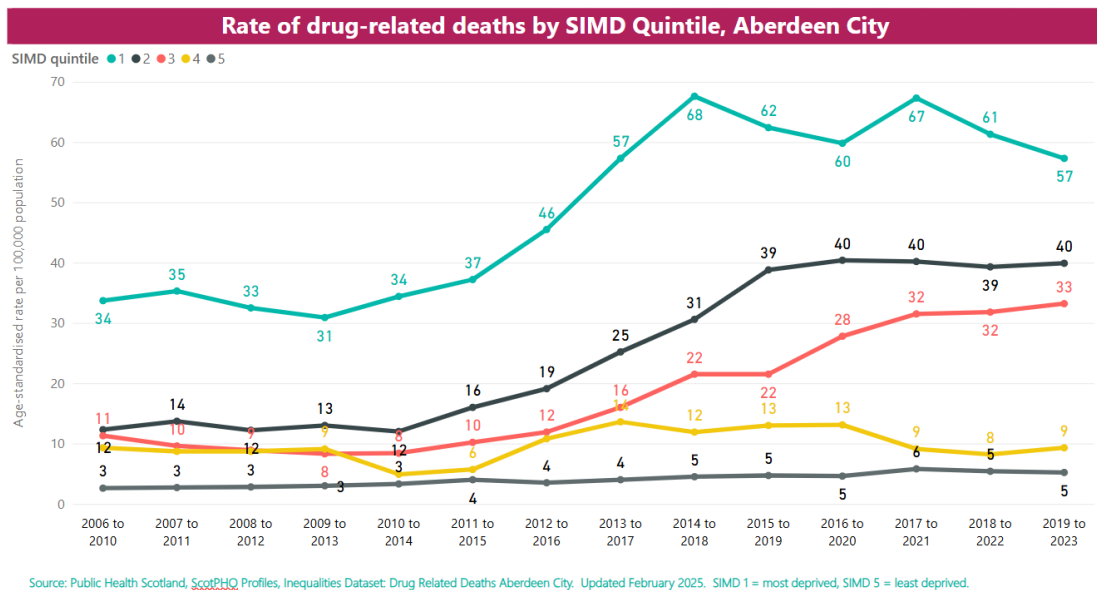
rate (age-sex standardised) of 181.3 per 100,000 population, compared to 201.8 per 100,000 population in Scotland. Following a period of increasing drug-related hospital admissions, the rate has decreased slightly in the past three periods – from 200.6 in 2017/18-2019/21. Based on 2018/19-2020/21 data, rates of drug-related hospital admissions were higher for those in deprived areas at 532 per 100,000 population for those in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) compared to 39.9 in quintile 5 (least deprived). The rate of drug related hospital admissions varies (Health and Social Care localities) from 118 per 100,000 population in Aberdeen South, to 163 in Aberdeen North and 248.5 in Aberdeen Central .



**Drug-related deaths:** In 2023 there were 54 drug-related deaths in Aberdeen City – up from 42 deaths in 2022. Of the 54 deaths in 2023, 36 were males and 18 were females. As the number of deaths can fluctuate substantially on a yearly basis, annual rates (age-standardised per 100,000 population) for 5-year periods are also given. In the period 2019-2023, the average annual rate for drug-related deaths was 23.7 deaths per 100,000 population. This is similar to the rate for Scotland (23.6 per 100,000 population) and the same as the rate for 2018-2022. In Aberdeen City, drug-related deaths were highest in the 45-54 year [age group](#) and the 35-44 year-old age group (with 61.5 and 57.1 per 100,000 population respectively in 2019-2023) .

The rate of drug-related deaths is higher for those living in deprived areas. In Aberdeen City in 2019-2023, the rate (age-sex standardised) of drug related deaths for those in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) was 57.3 per 100,000 population compared to 5.2 per 100,000 population in quintile 5 (least deprived) .



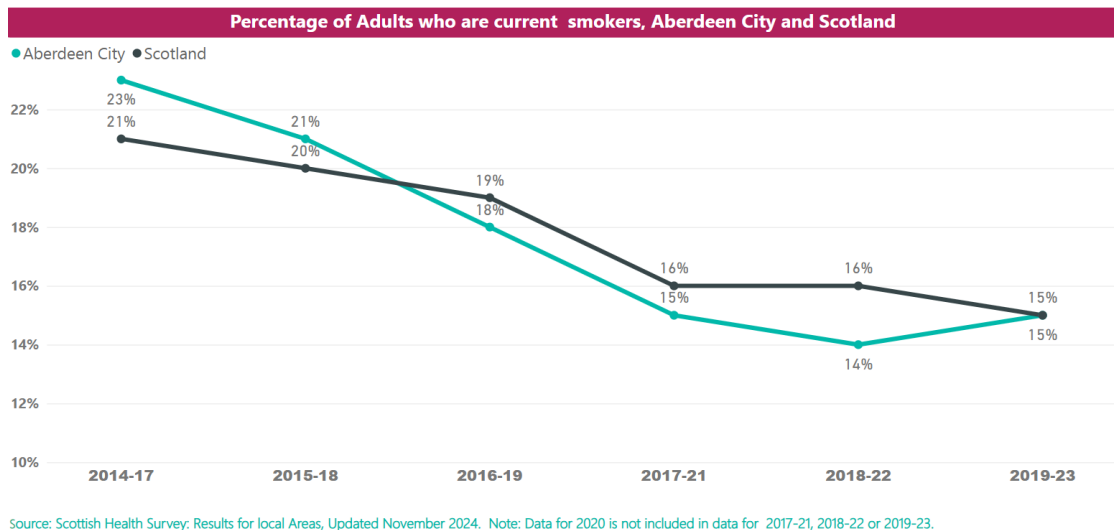


**Naloxone Provision:** Naloxone is a medication that counters the effects of opioid overdose, specifically it counteracts the impact that opiates exert on the central nervous system and on the respiratory system. There has been an 11% decrease in the total number of naloxone kits issued in Aberdeen from 2023/24 to 2024/25, (1,407 to 1,250). Of the 1,250 kits issued in 2024/25, 77% were issued to Persons at Risk, a 2% reduction from 2023/24. In 2024/25, 12% of kits were supplied due to the previous kit being used, this a 7% increase from 2022/23. From 2022/23 to 2023/24 we saw an increase in supply in Central (12%) and South (7%) Localities, with a slight decrease of 2% in North. However in 2024/25 we saw a slight decrease of 5% (23) in Central, and 27% (51) decrease in South, however a 3% (5) increase in North.

**Drug Treatment Services:** In Quarter 2 2024/2025, 109 people accessed specialist drug treatment services, down from 113 in Quarter 1. Median length of wait was 4 days .

**Smoking:** In the period 2019-2023, an estimated 15% of adults in Aberdeen City were current smokers – the same rate as Scotland. A higher proportion of males (17%) than females (13%) were smokers. The percentage of adults who are current smokers has decreased from 23% in 2014-17. It is estimated that 7% of adults use e-cigarettes (7% males, 7% females) – up from 5% in 2018-2022 . (Note: data for 2019-2023 does not include 2020 data due to COVID-19).





**Obesity:** The most recent data on Body Mass Index (BMI) is from 2016-19 (changes in data collection methods for 2021 and 2023 due to COVID-19 mean that Body Mass Index data is not available for 2017-2021, 2018-2022 or 2019-23 for local authority areas). In 2016-19 it was estimated that 23% of the City's adult population was obese (classified as a Body Mass Index of 30+). This was lower than the rate for Scotland of 29% and a decrease from 25% in 2014-17. In 2023, in Scotland it was estimated that 32% of the population was obese .

**Physical activity:** In the period 2019-2023, an estimated 71% of adults in Aberdeen City were meeting the recommended guidelines for physical activity (150 minutes of moderate activity or 75 minutes of vigorous activity per week) compared to 65% for Scotland. 21% percent had low or very low levels of physical activity and 9% had some activity .

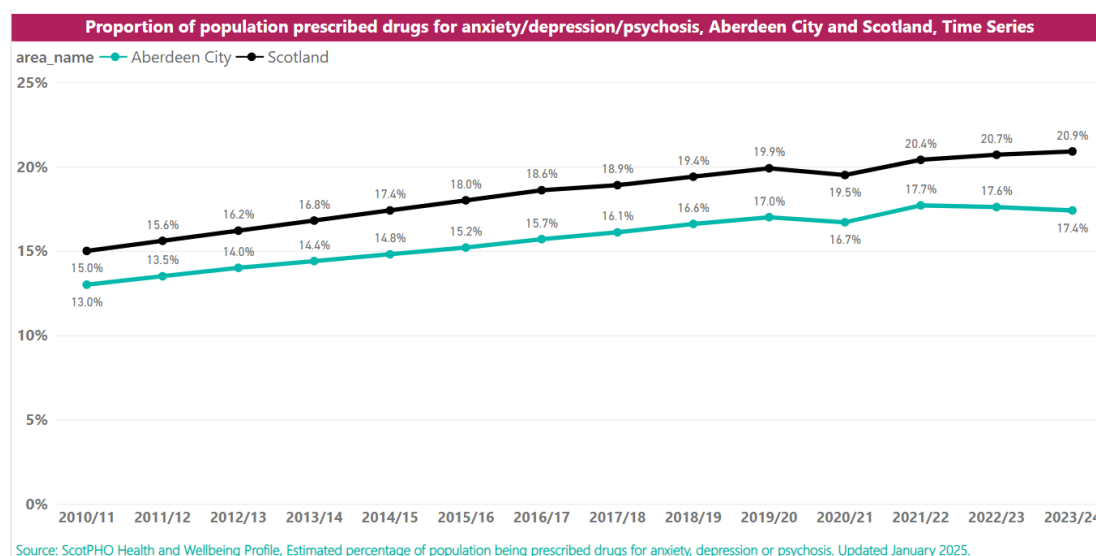
Based on data from the Scottish Household Survey, in 2023 87% of adults in Aberdeen City had taken part in some form of physical activity (including walking) in the previous month. When walking was excluded, the proportion dropped to 53%. The most common activities were walking (at least 30 minutes) at 79%, multi-gym/weight training at 22%, and running/jogging at 14% .

### 7.1.5. Mental health

**Dementia:** Alzheimer Scotland estimate that there are 90,000 people with dementia in Scotland with around 3,000 of these being under the age of 65 years . In 2023, Dementia and Alzheimer's disease were the leading cause of death for females in Aberdeen City (13.4% of all female deaths) and the second most common cause of death for males (7% of all male deaths) <sup>13</sup> .

<sup>13</sup> The leading cause of death analysis is based on a [list of causes](#) developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO). There are around 60 categories in total and cancers are grouped separately according to the type of cancer,

**Prescriptions for anxiety/depression/psychosis:** In 2023/24, 39,713 people in Aberdeen City were prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis. This is equivalent to 17.4% of the population – lower than the proportion for Scotland of 20.9%. Although the rate for Aberdeen City has fallen slightly from a high of 17.7% in 2021/22, the proportion of people receiving prescriptions for these conditions has increased in recent years, from 13% (28,630 people) in 2010/11. In 2023/24, a higher proportion of those from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) were prescribed (23.8%) than those in quintile 5 (least deprived) at 14.3%. The proportion of people prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis varied by Health and Social Care locality, at 15.9% in Aberdeen Central, 16.9% in Aberdeen South and 20.5% in Aberdeen North .



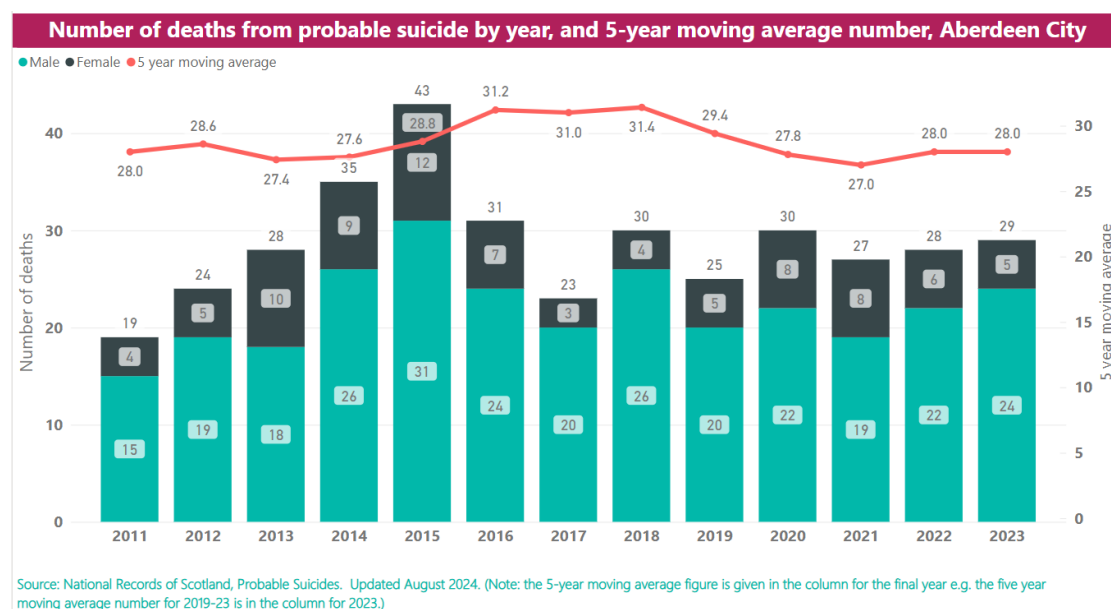
**Psychiatric patient hospitalisations:** In 2021/22-2023/24 there were 467 (3-year rolling average number) patients discharged from psychiatric hospitals in Aberdeen City. This is equivalent to a rate (age-sex standardised) of 210.3 per 100,000 population – similar to the rate for Scotland of 216.1 per 100,000 population. Rates of patients with psychiatric hospitalisation have continued to fall in both Aberdeen City and Scotland over the last ten years (from 288 and 286 respectively in 2011/12-2013/14). Rates of psychiatric patient hospitalisation varied by deprivation, being highest in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) at 343 per 100,000 population compared to 144 per 100,000 population in quintile 5 (least deprived). In Aberdeen City, rates were highest in Aberdeen Central (283 per 100,000 population). Rates were similar in Aberdeen North (185) and Aberdeen South (178) .

**Deaths from suicide:** In 2023 there were 29 probable suicides in Aberdeen City (24 male and 5 female). The number of suicides in a single year in the City peaked at 43 deaths in 2015 . As the number of probable suicides can fluctuate on a yearly basis, a 5-year moving average is also given. For the period 2019-2023, the 5-year moving average for Aberdeen City was also 28 (same as the previous period). For the period 2019-2023 the rate (age-standardised per 100,000 population) of 12.3 per 100,000 population was the lower than

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for example, lung, breast and prostate cancer are all counted as separate causes. If all cancers were grouped together, cancer would be the leading cause of death.

the rate for Scotland of 14.6 per 100,000 population . Data on rates of probable suicide are no longer available for Aberdeen City at Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation or Health and Social Care locality level. However, in Scotland, rates of probable suicide varied by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, being highest in quintile 1 (most deprived) at 27.6 per 100,000 population compared to 9.3 in quintile 5 (least deprived) .



**Mental health and wellbeing:** The General Health Questionnaire (GHQ-12) is a standardised scale which measures mental distress and mental ill-health. A score of 4 or more is indicative of a potential psychiatric disorder. In 2019-2023, an estimated 18% of people in Aberdeen City had a score of 4 or more – lower than the rate for Scotland of 21% and unchanged from 2018-2022. A higher proportion of females (19%) than males (17%) had a score of 4 or more .

Mental wellbeing is measured using the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS). Possible total scores range from 14 to 70 with higher scores indicating greater wellbeing. In 2019-2023, the average (mean) score for Aberdeen City was 49.5 – slightly higher than the score for Scotland of 48.7. Mean scores were similar for males (49.9) and females (49.1) .

### 7.1.6. Screening and flu vaccines

**Bowel screening:** In the latest 2020-2022 reporting period, bowel screening uptake rates in Aberdeen City increased to reach 67.8%. This is higher than the Scottish rate for that period (66.2%), however slightly lower than the NHS Grampian health board uptake rate of 71.1%. In terms of localities, Aberdeen South reported the highest uptake rate of 71.1%, followed by Aberdeen North at 69.3% and Aberdeen Central at 61.5% .

**Breast cancer screening:** The NHS Grampian **breast cancer** screening uptake rate for females aged between 50-70 has remained stable since 2011. The latest data for the

three-year rolling period 2020-2023 indicates an uptake rate of 80.3%. This is higher than the Scottish rate of 75.9%, and places NHS Grampian as the joint third highest rate during the reporting period .

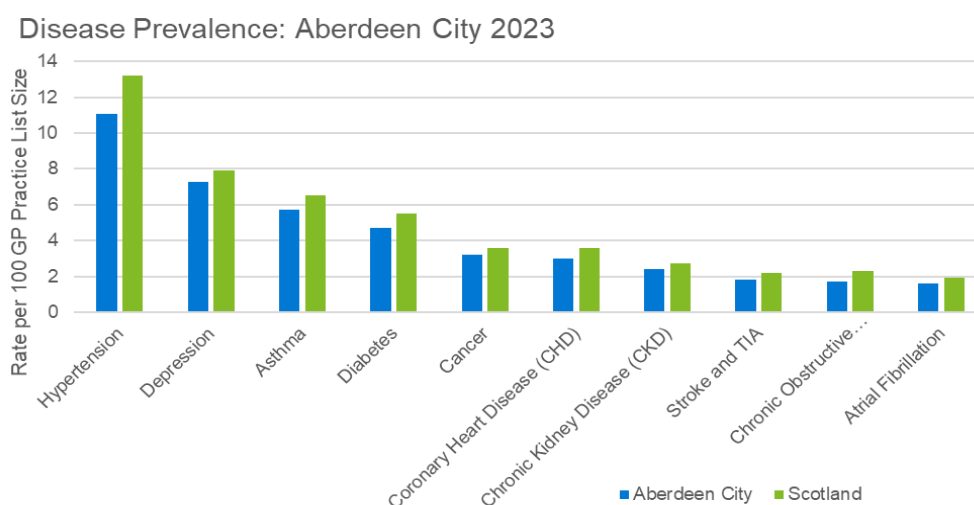
**Cervical screening:** The NHS Grampian **cervical screening** uptake rate for females aged 25-49 in 2021/22 was 67.3% (percentage who had a recorded screening test within the last 3.5 years). This rate was marginally higher than the Scottish average rate of 65.7%, but ranks NHS Grampian 12th out of the 14 Scottish Health Boards . Between 2018/19 and 2021/22 uptake rates in NHS Grampian and Scotland overall declined year on year .

**Influenza vaccines:** During 2022-23, 56,564 Influenza vaccines were administered to eligible groups for Aberdeen City (50.8%). This is below the NHS Grampian (54.8%) and Scotland average rates (53.8%), however Aberdeen City (at 37.7%) exceeds the NHS Grampian (36.3%) and Scotland averages (35.2%) for those in the 50-64 years cohort (Adult Flu Vaccine) .

### 7.1.7. Disease prevalence

In 2023, the most prevalent disease in Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnerships overall was hypertension, at an incidence of 11.1 patients per 100 population. Hypertension was also the most prevalent condition in each of the individual GP Clusters across Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership, ranging from 10.0 to 12.1 per 100 population. The most prevalent disease across Scotland in 2023 was also Hypertension at 13.2 patients per 100 population, above Aberdeen City's rate .

Depression was reported as the second most prevalent condition across Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership at 7.3 patients per 100 population, a marginally lower rate compared to Scotland overall (7.9). Aberdeen City Central cluster's rate was significantly higher than the partnership and overall Scottish rates at 10.5 patients per 100 population, however it should be noted that this data only included 50% of practices in this cluster .

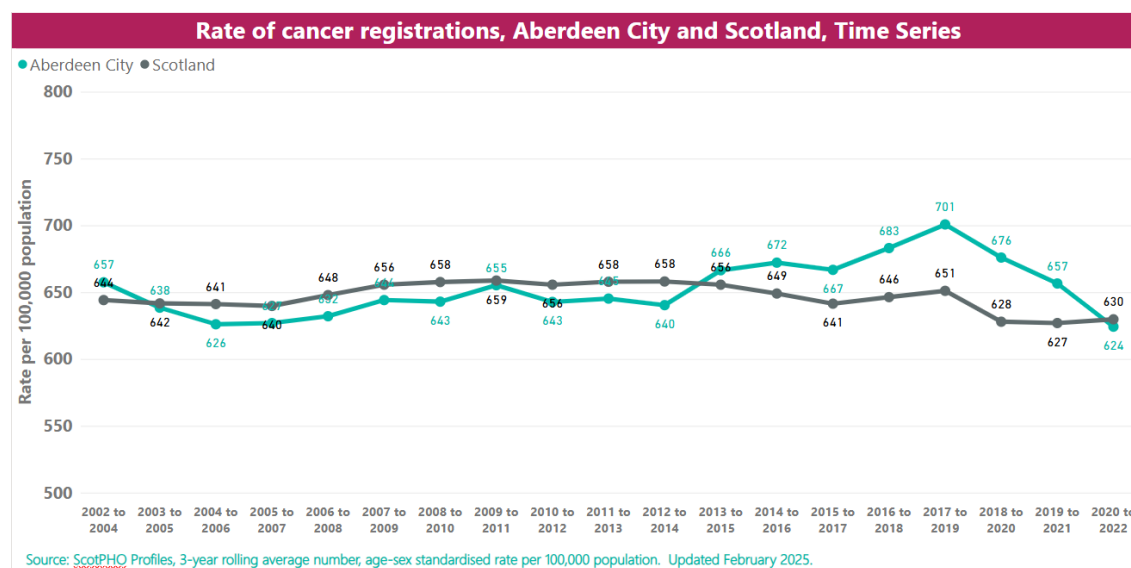


## 7.1.8. Key diseases

**Key diseases:** In 2023, cancer and circulatory diseases (such as coronary heart disease and stroke) together accounted for half (50.4%) of all causes of death in Aberdeen City. In 2023, 26.6% of male deaths and a 24.2 % of female deaths were caused by cancer, and 25.6% of male deaths and 24.5% of female deaths were caused by circulatory diseases .

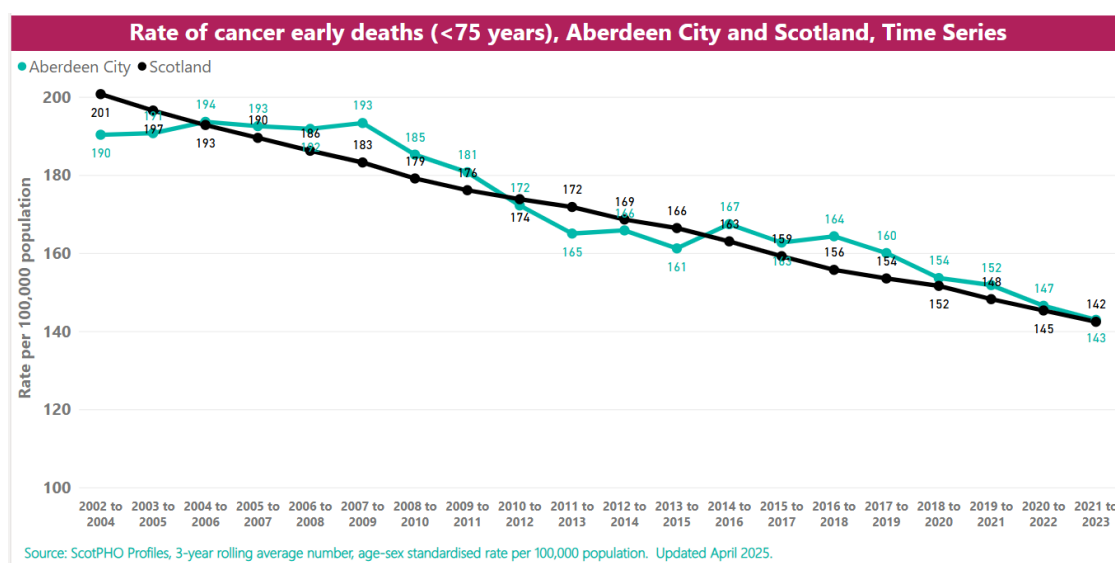
Leading causes of death are also given for specific disease classifications (e.g. types of cancer and circulatory diseases are listed separately). In 2023, Ischemic heart diseases were the leading cause of death for males (12.6% of a male deaths), followed by Dementia and Alzheimer disease (7%) and Cancer of the trachea, bronchus and lung (6.9%). For females, Dementia and Alzheimer disease was the leading cause of death for (13.4% of all female deaths), followed by Ischaemic heart diseases (78.3%) and cerebrovascular disease (8.1% of all female deaths) .

**Cancer:** In 2020-2022 there were 1,287 new cancer registrations in Aberdeen (3-year rolling average number). This is equivalent to a rate (age-sex standardised per 100,000 population) of 624.2 – similar to the rate for Scotland of 629.7. In both Aberdeen City and Scotland the rate of cancer registrations decreased from the rates in 2019-2021 (656.6 and 626.9 respectively). The rate of cancer registrations varies by derivation (rate of 768.9 per 100,000 population in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) compared to 571.2 in quintile 5 (least deprived)) and by Health and Social Care localities, at 609.5 per 100,000 population in Aberdeen South, 627.4 in Aberdeen North and 656 in Aberdeen Central .



**Cancer early deaths:** In 2021-23 there were 267 early deaths (<75 years) from cancer (3-year rolling average number). This is equivalent to a rate (age-sex standardised) of 142.9 per 100,000 population – similar to the rate for Scotland of 142.4 per 100,000 population. Overall, the rate of early deaths from cancer has been decreasing in both Aberdeen City and Scotland. The rate of early deaths from cancer is higher in deprived areas at 249 per 100,000 population in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) compared to 98 in quintile 5 (least deprived) and varies across the City (Intermediate

Zones), from a low of 63 per 100,000 population in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill & Seafield South to a high of 315 in Woodside .



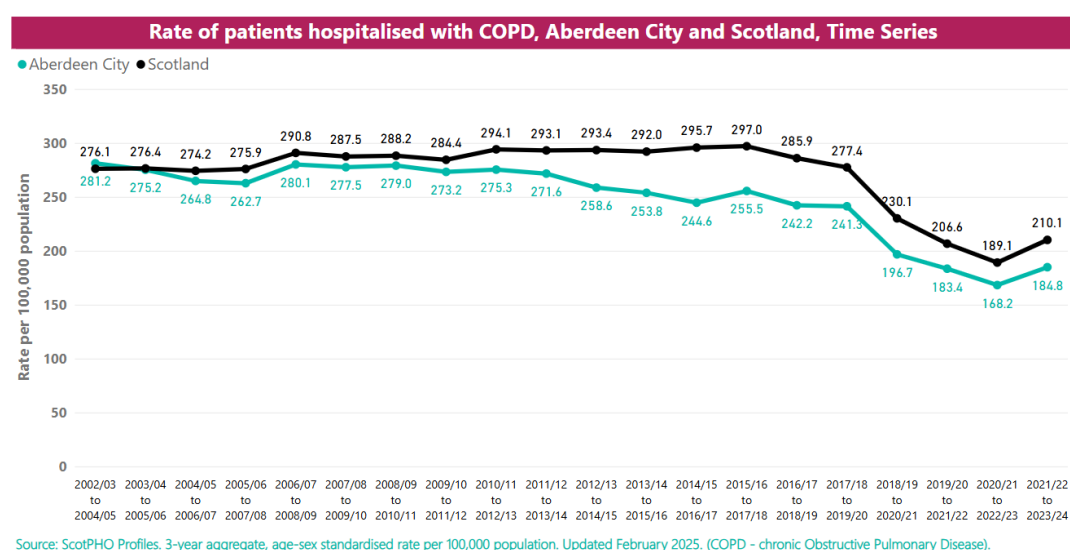
**Coronary heart disease (CHD):** In 2021/22-2023/24 there were 663 patient hospitalisations with coronary heart disease (3 year rolling average number). This is equivalent to a rate (age-sex standardised) of 334.2 per 100,000 population – slightly higher than the rate for Scotland of 326.8 per 100,000 population. In both Aberdeen City and Scotland, the rate of Coronary Heart Disease patient hospitalisations has decreased over the past 10 years. Coronary Heart Disease hospitalisations are higher in deprived areas at a rate of 443.1 per 100,000 population for Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) compared to 256.2 in quintile 5 (least deprived). The rate of hospitalisations varies by Intermediate Zone, from a low of 146 per 100,000 population in Ferryhill North to a high of 532.4 in Torry East .

In 2021/2023 the rate (age-sex standardised) of early deaths (<75 years) from Coronary Heart Disease was 43.9 per 100,000 population in Aberdeen City, lower than the rate for Scotland of 54.5. The rate of early deaths from Coronary Heart Disease was higher in more deprived areas (95.9 per 100,000 population in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) compared to 25 per 100,000 population in quintile 5 (least deprived) and varied across the city ([Intermediate Zones](#)) from a low of 0 in Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber West, Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill & Seafield South, Cove North and Hanover North to a high of 132 per 100,000 population in Hannover South.

**Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD):** In 2021/22-2023/24, the incidence<sup>14</sup> of Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in Aberdeen City was 200 (3-year average number). This is equivalent to a rate (age-sex standardised) of 121.5 per 100,000 population which is lower than the rate for Scotland of 136.8 per 100,000 population. After 5 consecutive periods of decreases, incidence increased in both Scotland and Aberdeen City in this last data period (from 104.2 and 119.3 respectively). In 2021-2023 there were 94 deaths (3-year average), which is a rate (age-sex standardised) of 58.1 per 100,000 population – lower than the rate for Scotland of 62 per 100,000 population. Again,

<sup>14</sup> Total number of patients with a first admission in 10 years who were discharged from hospital or died.

the rate of Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease deaths increased in this last period (from 52.2 and 58.7 respectively in 2020-2022). The increase in incidence is reflected in the increase in patient hospitalisations. In 2021/22-2023/24 there were 305 (3-year rolling average number) [patient hospitalisations](#) in Aberdeen City (up from 273 in 2020/21-2022/23). This is equivalent to a rate (age-sex standardised) of 184.8 per 100,000 population – lower than the rate for Scotland of 210.1. In Aberdeen City, the rate of patient hospitalisations for Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is higher for those in deprived areas at a rate of 402.9 per 100,000 population for Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) compared to 65.4 in quintile 5 (least deprived) and varied across the City (Intermediate Zones) from a low of 22 per 100,000 population in Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber West to a high of 497 in Mastick .



**Asthma patient hospitalisations:** In 2021/22 to 2023/24 the rate (age-sex standardised per 100,000 population) of asthma hospitalisations was 63.6 in Aberdeen City, lower than the rate for Scotland of 76.2 but higher than the rate for 2020/21 to 2022/23 of 52.8. In Aberdeen City, the rate of patient hospitalisations for Asthma is higher for those in deprived areas at a rate of 102 per 100,000 population for Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1 (most deprived) compared to 40.5 in quintile 5 (least deprived). Rates varied across the city (Intermediate Zones) from a low of 17.3 in Braeside, Mannofield, Broomhill & Seafield North to a high of 162.4 in Northfield.

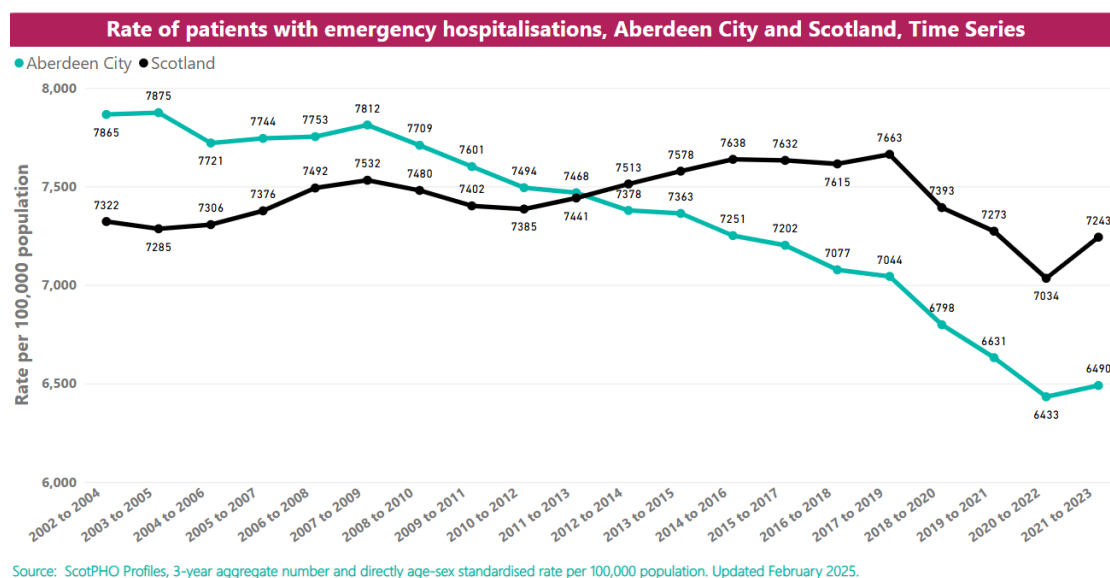
Data from the Scottish Health Survey estimates that in 2019-23, 18% of people in Aberdeen City had doctor-diagnosed asthma – up from 16% in 2018-22 and slightly higher than the rate for Scotland of 17%. A higher proportion of females (19%) than males (17%) had doctor-diagnosed asthma .

### 7.1.9. Hospitalisations

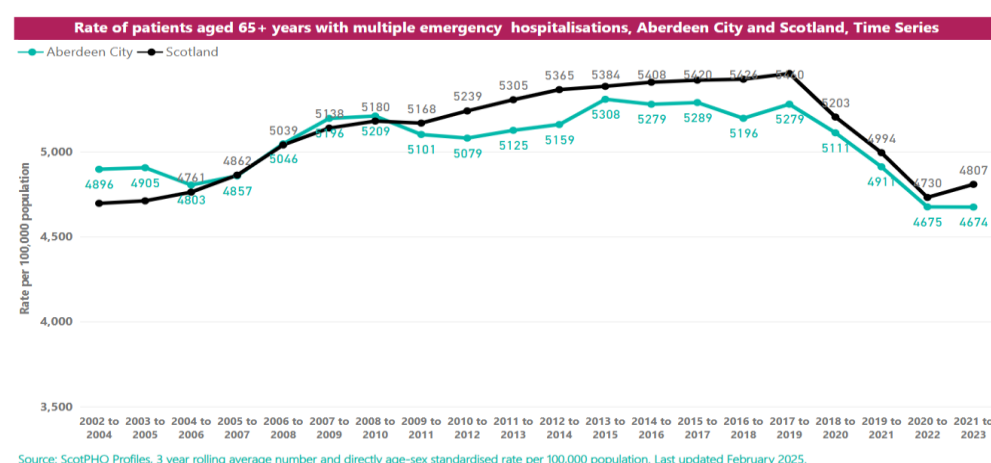
**Emergency hospitalisations:** In 2021-2023 there were 13,734 emergency patient hospitalisations in Aberdeen City (3-year rolling average) – equivalent to a rate (age-sex



standardised) of 6,490 per 100,000 population. This is lower than the rate for Scotland of 7,243. In Aberdeen City the rate of emergency patient hospitalisations had been gradually decreasing, from 7,812 per 100,000 population in 2007-2009, to a low of 6,433 in 2020-2022. This is the first increase since then. The rate of emergency patient hospitalisations varies across the City ([Intermediate Zones](#)) ranging from a low of 4,339 per 100,000 population in Cults, Bieldside & Milltimber East to a high of 10,054 in Torry East .



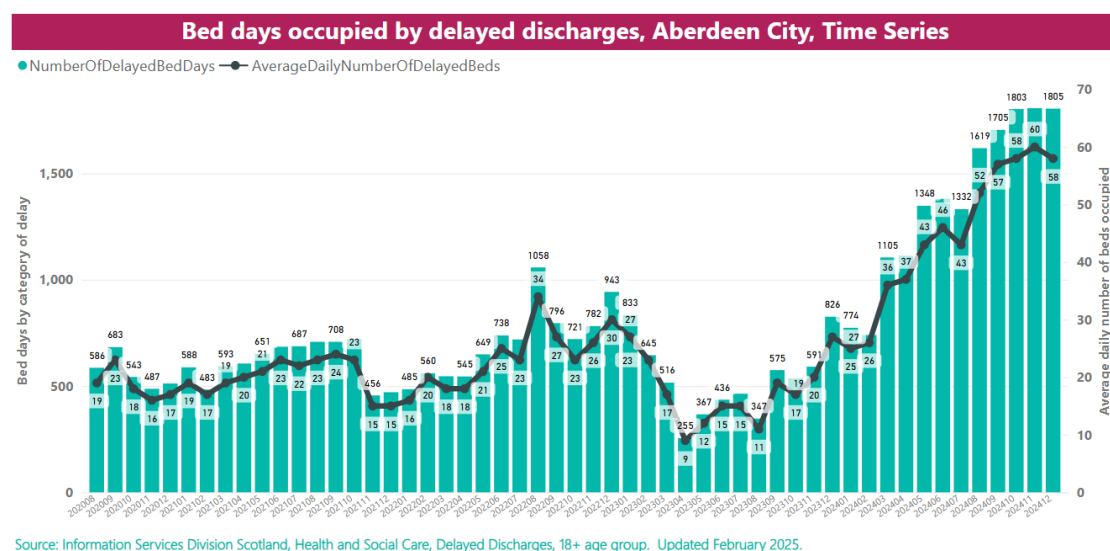
**Patients aged 65+ years with multiple emergency hospitalisations:** In 2021-2023 there were 1,758 patients aged 65+ years with 2 or more emergency hospitalisations in Aberdeen City (3-year rolling average number). This is equivalent to a rate (age-sex standardised) of 4,674 per 100,000 population which is lower than the rate for Scotland of 4,807 and similar to the rate of 4,675 per 100,000 population in 2020-2022. Rates vary across the City ([Intermediate Zones](#)), ranging from a low of 2,348 in West End North to a high of 11,184 in City Centre East .



**Delayed discharges:** A delayed discharge occurs when a hospital patient who is clinically ready for discharge from inpatient hospital care continues to occupy a hospital bed beyond the date they are ready for discharge. At the census point (last Thursday of the month) in December 2024, there were 1,805 days spent in hospital by people whose



discharge was delayed, with an average daily number of beds occupied due to people delayed in hospital being 58. The number of delayed discharges has increased substantially in the last year from 826 in December 2023 and an average daily number of 27 beds. The most common reason for the delay in December 2024 was standard 'Health and Social Care Reasons' with 1,573 delayed bed days. Overall, the average (median) length of stay was 66 days, however the average length of stay varied by reason for the delay with median length of stay being 36 days for those with standard reasons and 113 days for those with complex reasons.



## 7.1.10. Social care services/care homes

**People supported by social care services:** In 2023/24 a total of 8,790 people in Aberdeen City were receiving social care services/support by the Health and Social Care Partnership. This equates to a rate of 38.6 per 1,000 population which is lower than the rate for Scotland of 42.8 per 1,000 population. The rate of people receiving social care services/support remained fairly static between 2017/18 and 2022/23 at around 46 per 1,000 population before dropping to 38.6 in 2023/24.

The most common type of support received was Social Worker (6,000 people) followed by Care at Home (5,305 people) and then Care Home (2,055 people) – although this varied by age group with Care at Home being the most common type of support in the 65-74 years and 75-84 years age groups. More females than males were receiving support (rates of 578.3 compared to 420.4 per 1,000 people). The most common client group for people receiving social care services were Elderly/Frail (rate of 581.5 per 1,000 people receiving support), followed by Dementia (116.2) and Physical and Sensory Disability (111.7). 14.9% of all those receiving support were known to be living alone (although the living alone status was not known for 66.9% of people receiving support).

**Long term care needs:** In 2023/24 there were 3,365 people (18+ years) with long-term care needs who received social care services or support funded by a Health and Social

Care Partnership. Of these, 1,900 were receiving personal care at home, 1,385 were Care Home Long Stay residents and 80 were Continuing Care Census/Hospital Based Complex Clinical Care.

**High levels of care:** In Aberdeen, in 2022/23 there were 510 people aged 65+ years with high levels of care need who were cared for at home (i.e. who received 10 and more hours of home care purchased or provided by the local authority). This equates to 28.3% of all people in this age group with high levels of care need – lower than the Scottish average of 36.7% .

**Care homes:** In 2024 there were 50 care homes in Aberdeen City with a total of 1,681 registered places and 1,486 residents. Most of these (1,433/96.4%) were long stay residents with two thirds of these being female. Older people (65+ years) made up the largest portion of care home residents (79.7%). Since 2014 the number of care homes has decreased by 28% (down from 69 in 2014) and the number of registered places has decreased by 9% (from 1,856 in 2014) .

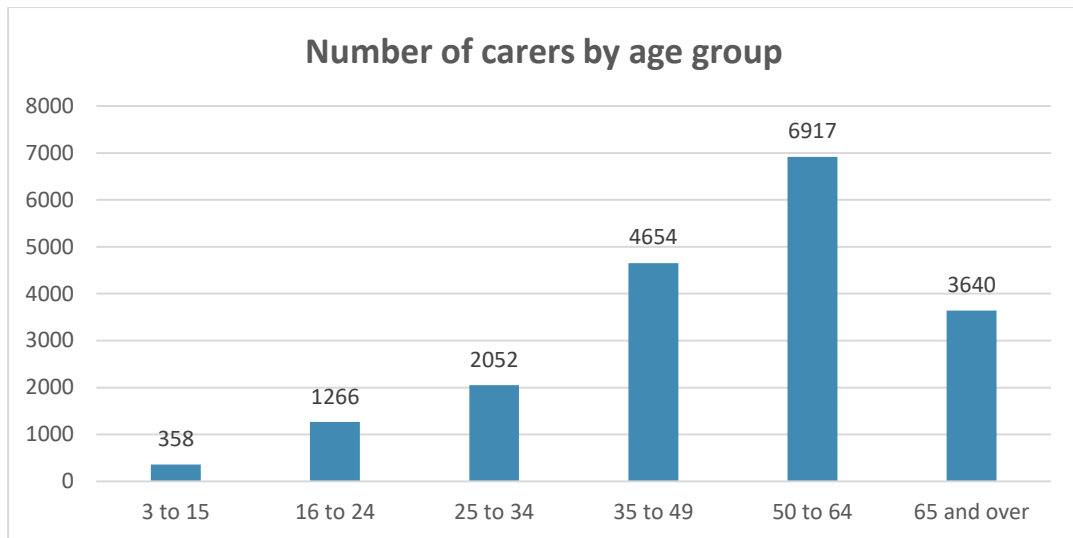
The Health and Care Experience Survey 2024 revealed that over half the respondents in Aberdeen City had a positive experience of social care. Almost three quarters of respondents had a positive experience of being treated with compassion and understanding, however a quarter of respondents had a negative experience in terms of the awareness of the help, care and support options available to them.

**Last six months of life:** In Aberdeen City, in 2023/24 there were 2,112 deaths in Aberdeen City (including falls but excluding people who died from other external causes). For these individuals, 90.1% of their last six months of life was spent either at home or in a community setting with the remaining 9.9% spent in hospital. This is equivalent to an average of 18 days in hospital in the six months prior to death (same as in 2022/23) .

### 7.1.11. Looking After Own Health and Wellbeing

**Own health and wellbeing:** In Aberdeen in 2024, 92% of respondents to the Scottish Health and Care Experience (HACE) Survey reported being able to look after their own health ‘very well’ or ‘quite well’ and 68% of people receiving care, support and help with everyday living agreed that they were supported to live as independently as possible, 69% agreed that they felt safe and 77% that they were treated with dignity and respect .

**Unpaid carers:** In the 2022 Census, 18,888 people in Aberdeen City reported providing unpaid care – equivalent to 8.7% of the population aged 3 and over. This is higher than the rate at the 2011 Census of 7%. Most carers (60%) in 2022 were providing up to 20 hours of unpaid care a week with 21.8% (4,123) saying they provided more than 50 hours of unpaid care a week. More females (11,013) than males (7,877) provided unpaid care. Carers were most common in the 50-64 year age group (6,917), however 358 children (3-15 years) were also identified as carers



Source: Scotland's Census 2022

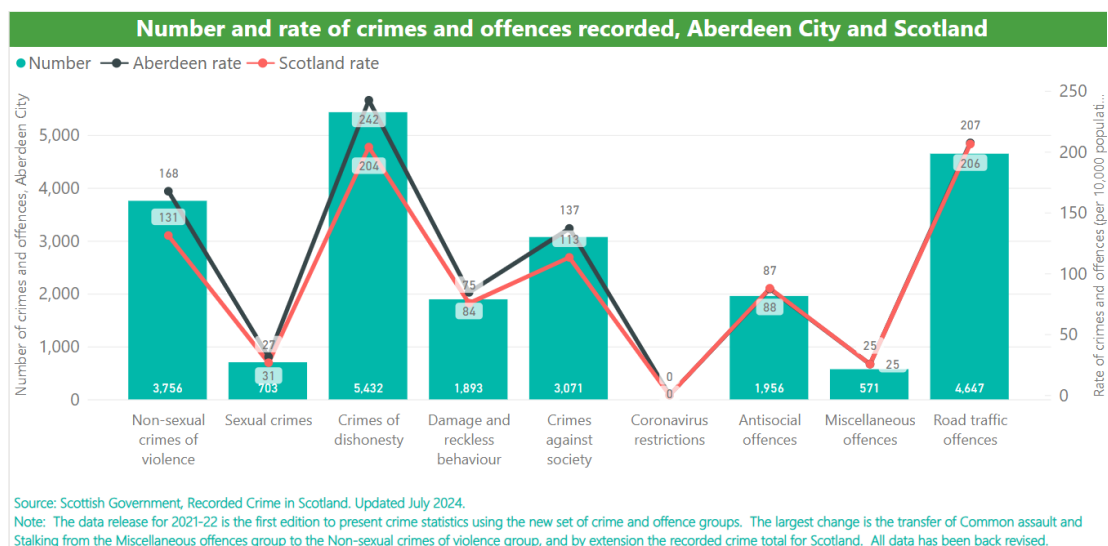
Based on the Scottish Health Survey (SHeS) 2019-2023, an estimated 11% of Aberdeen's population identify as a Carer. This is lower than the rate for Scotland of 15% and lower than the rate for 2018-2022 of 13% .

## 7.2. Tackle racism, discrimination and their outcomes

### 7.3. Crime

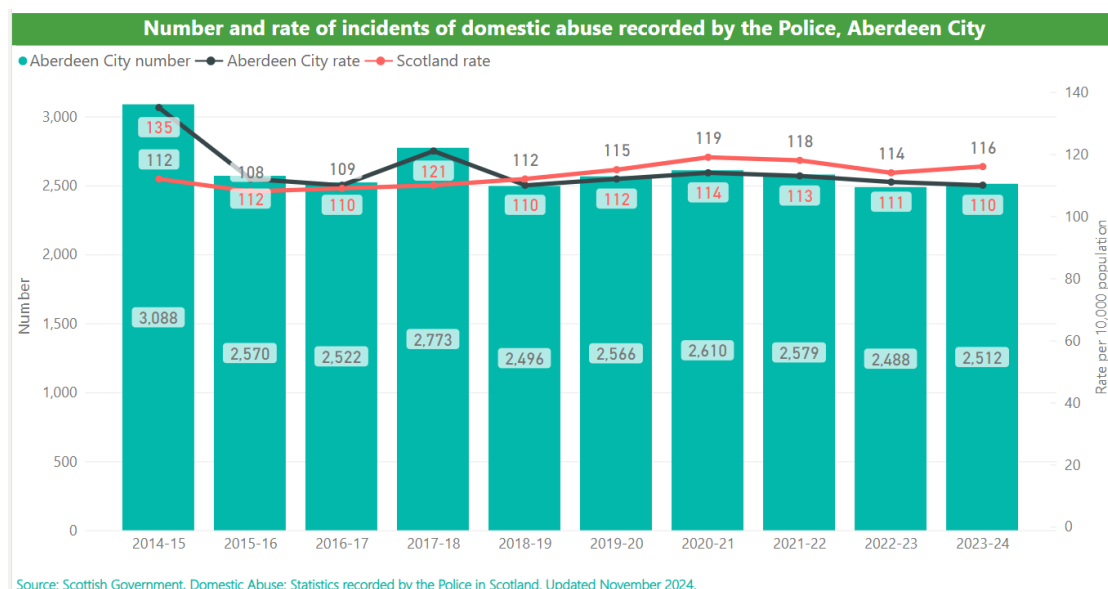
**Crimes and offences:** In Scotland, crimes and offences are classified into groups, with a new group for Coronavirus restriction crimes being added in 2019/20. Data from 2021-22 onwards uses new categories of crime and offence groups. The changes include the introduction of a new set of crime and offence groups and categories. The largest change is the transfer of Common assault and stalking from the miscellaneous offences group to the non-sexual crimes of violence group and by extension the recorded crime total.

In 2023-24 the most common crimes and offences recorded in Aberdeen City were Crimes of Dishonesty (5,432), Road Traffic Offences (4,647) and Non-sexual Crimes of Violence (3,756). The total rate (per 10,000 population) for crime was 663 (550 for Scotland) and for offences was 320 (also 320 for Scotland) .



The rate of recorded crime varies across the City and is relatively low in most areas ([Intermediate Zones](#)). In 2022/23, the rate (crude rate per 10,000 population) of recorded crime ranged from a low of 226.5 in Cove South to a high of 7,873.5 in City Centre East .

**Domestic abuse:** In 2023-24 there were 2,512 recorded incidents of domestic abuse in Aberdeen City – up from 2,488 in 2022-23. This is equivalent to a rate of 110 per 10,000 population – lower than the rate for Scotland of 116 per 10,000 population . Not all incidents of Domestic Abuse result in a crime being recorded. In 2023-24 there were 142 recorded crimes for Domestic Abuse – up from 116 in 2022-23 .



**Hate Crime Reports:** In 2023-24 there were 316 hate crimes recorded by the police in Aberdeen City – up from 291 in 2022-23 but down from 361 in 2021-22. This is equivalent to a rate of 14 per 10,000 population compared to a rate of 11 for Scotland as a whole. In Scotland, the most common aggravator for hate crimes was Race (62.7%) followed by Sexual Orientation (23.9%) .

**Discrimination and/or harassment:** Based on data from the Scottish Household Survey, in 2023 8% of people in Aberdeen City experienced discrimination and 4% experienced harassment .

**Anti-social offences:** In 2023-24 there were 1,956 anti-social offences recorded by the police in Aberdeen City – slightly lower than the number for 2022-23 of 1,986. The rate for 2023-24 was 87 per 10,000 population compared to a rate of 88 in Scotland .

### 7.3.1. Justice Social Work

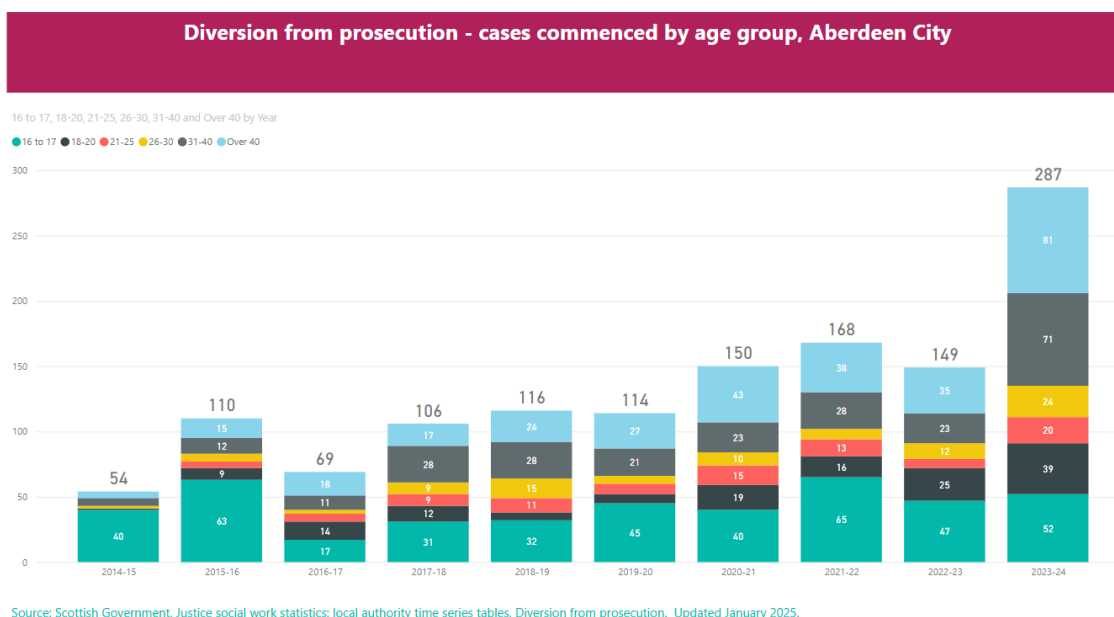
**Reconvictions:** Of the 994 offenders (over 18 years) in the 2020-21 cohort, 31.7% were reconvicted within a year of receiving their sentence (mean 0.6 reconvictions per offender) . (Note: 2020-21 cohort data has been impacted by COVID-19 pandemic and should not be interpreted to be indicative of longer term trends.)



**More than one offence:** In 2024-25, 1,243 adults were charged with more than one offence – down from 1,279 in 2023-24.

**Community payback orders:** In 2023-24, 82.9% of Community Payback Orders were successfully completed, up from 80.5% in 2022-23 .

**Diversion from prosecution (DP):** In 2023-24 there were 444 referrals for Diversion from Prosecution. 287 Diversion from Prosecution Cases commenced (252 distinct individuals) of which 52 were 16 and 17 year-olds and 39 were 18-20 years. The number of Diversion from prosecution cases commenced increased substantially between 2022-2023 (149) and 2023-24 (287) .



**Bail supervision orders:** In 2023/24, 126 Bail Supervision Cases were commenced (116 individuals of which 94 were males and 22 were females). These Orders are agreed by the Court so that an individual is supervised by Justice Social Work instead of being remanded in prison (which can lead to negative outcomes for individuals in relation to employment, housing, family relations, etc, which can result in an increased likelihood of further offending) .

**Voluntary assistance and statutory throughcare:** In 2023/24, 15 individuals received voluntary assistance , down from 86 in 2022/23 (although up from 4 and 13 in 2021/22 and 2020/21 respectively). In the same period, 198 received statutory throughcare, up from 173 in 2022/23.

**Confidence in community justice:** Questions about Community Justice have been asked in City Voice 49. When asked whether they agreed that **people, rather than spend a few months in prison for committing a minor offence, should help their community as part of a community sentence**, over three quarters of respondents (76%) agreed. This is lower than when the question was asked in the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (data only available at Scotland level) when 82% of respondents agreed with the statement .

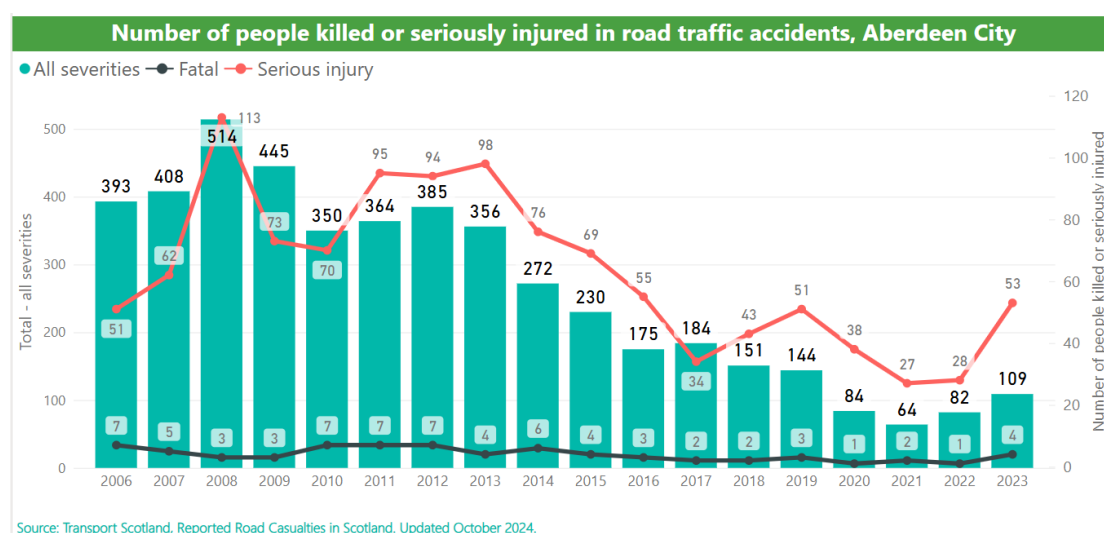
### 7.3.2. Safety

**Accidental dwelling fires:** In 2023-24 there were 222 accidental dwelling fires in Aberdeen City (up slightly from 215 in 2022-23) which is equivalent to a rate of 179 per 100,000 dwellings compared to 140 in Scotland. Impairment due to alcohol/drugs was suspected to be a contributory factor to accidental dwelling fires in Aberdeen in 14.9% of cases – higher than the rate for Scotland of 13.5%.

In 2023-24 there were also 18 deliberate dwelling fires (rate of 14.5 per 100,000 dwellings compared to 16.1 for Scotland). In total there were 717 fires in Aberdeen City in 2023-24, of which 414 were primary fires, 302 were secondary fires and 1 was a chimney fire. This

is down slightly from the total of 827 fires in 2022-23. There were 4 fatal casualties and 44 non-fatal casualties .

**Road safety:** In 2023, there were 109 reported road casualties in Aberdeen City of which, 4 were fatalities and 53 were serious injuries. The number of people injured in road traffic accidents has increased in each of the last two years (from 64 in 2021) . In 2019-21, the rate of casualties from road traffic accidents varied across the City ([Intermediate Zones](#)) from a low of 7 per 100,000 population in Danestone to a high of 110 per 100,000 population in City Centre East .



## Emerging priorities

- Across Scotland, life expectancy (LE) is stalling, and healthy life expectancy (HLE) is declining. Aberdeen is not immune from these changes with the most recent data suggesting that LE for Aberdeen City in 2019-21 was 76.9 years, of which HLE was 60.2 years. Variations across the population are noted, showing the close link there is to deprivation and both LE and HLE. At present our focus is on improving HLE, but do not take account of the effects of inequality in both LE and HLE. Addressing the social and economic factors that drive inequality should become a more urgent focus for our work
- This relationship between the wider social and economic determinants that drive the inequalities that create health inequality is a factor in all the data presented in relation to poor mental health associated with higher rates of prescribing, hospitalisations for mental illness, and for suicides. Taking a more preventative, population health approach to promoting and protecting mental health and wellbeing needs to be considered alongside addressing the wider social and economic determinants of mental health.
- Similarly, inequalities underpin many of the specific diseases explored in the data whether it is cancer, heart disease, or respiratory disease. Clearly there is an element of addressing the types of behaviours that are associated with health risks - smoking, obesity and physical inactivity – which contribute to such diseases and looking to preventative programmes such as cancer screening and primary care opportunistic screening, but we

also need to be moving beyond a health behaviour approach alone and considering how we can support the role of place and whole-systems approaches to ensure a focus health equity as a determinant of poor health.



- Caring for older people or those with longer term conditions is also highlighted as a priority need within the presented data. Again, preventative approaches that operate across the life course to promote active ageing and support greater self-management and care amongst those with long term needs need to be further developed.
















## Appendix 1: An interpretation of the PNA through the lens of the UN Sustainable Appendix Development Goals

<p><b>1 NO POVERTY</b></p>	<p>In 2022/23 an estimated 8476 children (0-15 years) in Aberdeen City were living in poverty (below 60% median income after housing costs). This is equivalent to 21.8% of children compared to 24% for Scotland (End Child Poverty 2023). The proportion of children living in poverty has increased slightly in Aberdeen from 21.3% in 2019/20.</p> <p>The number of datazones in Aberdeen within the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland increased from 22 (out of 283) in 2016 to 29 in 2020. Additionally the proportion of datazones within the 40% most deprived areas of Scotland has increased by 5.2% in Aberdeen between 2016 and 2020.</p>
<p><b>2 ZERO HUNGER</b></p>	<p>20.7% of City Voice respondents reported they ate only a few kinds of food, 13.6% that they were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food, 13.3% that they ate less than they thought they should and 9.4% that they were worried they would not have enough food to eat.</p> <p>In April to September 2024, 122,391 emergency food parcels were given by food banks in the Trussell community in Scotland.</p> <p>In 2022/23, 77% of primary school pupils in Aberdeen were registered for FSM in mainstream local authority schools. At secondary school level, 16.6% of pupils were registered for FSM – up from 15.7% in 2021 and 13.9% in 2020.</p> <p>In 2023/24, valid height and weight measurements were recorded for 1,995 Primary 1 children in Aberdeen City. Of these, 77.3% were classified as 'healthy weight' (BMI greater than 2nd centile and less than 85th centile) – slightly higher than the figure for Scotland of 76.5% - with 11.7% being classified at risk of overweight (BMI&gt;85<sup>th</sup> and &lt;95<sup>th</sup> centile) and 10.5% being classified at risk of obesity (BMI&gt;=95<sup>th</sup> centile) giving a total of 22% being classified at risk of overweight and obesity(BMI&gt;=85<sup>th</sup> centile)</p> <p>Less than 1% of P1 children were classified as being at risk of underweight.</p> <p>The allotment waiting list continues to grow: 793 households were waiting in 2021, by March 2023 this had risen to 1047 households and by September 2024 it had risen again to 1251 households. There are currently 573 Aberdeen City Council allotment plots (ACC Annual Allotments Report).</p>
<p><b>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</b></p>	<p>In 2021-23 in Aberdeen City life expectancy at birth was estimated to be 80.9 years for women and 76.9 years for men and both are similar to the Scotland average of 80.8 years for women and 76.8 for men.</p> <p>The life expectancy gap between the most deprived and least deprived areas of Aberdeen has decreased to 9.5 years for men and increased to 8.4 years for women.</p>

	<p>In 2019-2023, the rate of infant deaths (age 0-1 years) in Aberdeen City was 4.2 per 1000 live births – higher than the rate for Scotland of 3.5 and higher than the rate for 2018-2022 of 3.9.</p> <p>In both Aberdeen City and Scotland the rate of cancer registrations decreased from the rates in 2019-2021 (656.6 and 626.9 respectively).</p> <p>In Aberdeen City, the rate of Coronary Heart Disease patient hospitalisations has decreased over the past 10 years as has the rate of early deaths from cancer (under the age of 75).</p> <p>The rate (5-year average age-standardised) of alcohol-related deaths in 2019-23 was 19.7 per 100,000 population – slightly lower than the rate for Scotland of 21.5, and lower than the rate for 2018-22 of 20.3 per 100,000 population. In the period 2019-2023, the average annual rate for drug-related deaths was 23.7 deaths per 100,000 population. This is similar to the rate for Scotland (23.6 per 100,000 population) and the same as the rate for 2018-2022.</p> <p>In the period 2019-2023, an estimated 15% of adults in Aberdeen City were current smokers – the same rate as Scotland. The percentage of adults who are current smokers has decreased from 23% in 2014-17. It is estimated 7% of adults currently use e-cigarettes.</p>
<div data-bbox="204 954 422 1169"> <div>4</div> <div>QUALITY EDUCATION</div>  </div>	<p>In 2022/23, 90.1% of school leavers had a positive follow-up destination, down slightly from 90.8% in 2021/22 and lower than the rate for Scotland of 92.8%. 12.4% more school leavers had a positive destination from the least deprived areas of Aberdeen compared to the most deprived.</p> <p>In 2022/23, average attendance in primary schools in the City was 92.3% and for secondary schools the rate was 89.8%. Overall attendance rate for the city was 91.2% compared to 90.2% for Scotland.</p> <p>In January to December 2023 (no data available for 2024), compared to Scotland, Aberdeen City had a higher proportion of its workforce who are qualified to RQF4 and above (61.1% in Aberdeen and 55.1% in Scotland). (RQF = Registered Qualifications Framework, with RQF4 and above being HND, Degree and Higher Degree level qualifications or equivalent)</p> <p>107 Aberdeen schools (including nurseries and private schools) are registered with the Eco-Schools programme and 18 have achieved green flag status. A further five establishments have submitted a draft action plan to Keep Scotland Beautiful during 2024 meaning they are working towards their green flag award.</p>
<div data-bbox="204 1603 422 1825"> <div>5</div> <div>GENDER EQUALITY</div>  </div>	<p>The gap between male and female wages has closed somewhat in recent years – in 2019 the difference in average weekly wage between males and females living in Aberdeen City was £102.20 compared to £28.70 in 2024. While male full-time workers living in Aberdeen City earned less than those in Scotland (£767.70), female full-time workers earned more (£701 in Scotland).</p> <p>In 2023-24 there were 2,512 recorded incidents of domestic abuse in Aberdeen City – up slightly from 2,488 in 2022-23. This is equivalent to a rate of 110 per 10,000 population – lower than the rate for Scotland of 116 per 10,000 population.</p>

<p><b>6</b> CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p> 	<p>The River Dee and its tributaries, together with 150 private water suppliers provide a domestic water supply for the whole of Aberdeen City and over half of Aberdeenshire. Over 300,000 people drink water supplied by the River Dee each day.</p> <p>Climate change is likely to bring more uncertainty and may exert pressure in areas that have not yet experienced water scarcity. SEPA are responsible for the forecast, monitoring and report of the situation facing Scotland's water resources and produces a weekly report during the summer months.</p> <p>Drinking water quality is monitored and maintained according to the Drinking Water Quality Regulator for Scotland.</p>
<p><b>7</b> AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p> 	<p>Official statistics for fuel poverty are now very dated with the most recent being for 2017-19 (data collection for the Scottish House Condition Survey was affected by COVID-19 with new local authority figures not expected to be available until early 2026). In 2017-19 an estimated 26.1% of households were in fuel poverty– up from 23% in 2016-18 and higher than the rate for Scotland of 24.4%. A higher proportion of those in social housing were in fuel poverty than those in owner occupied housing (46.2% compared to 12.9%). In 2017-19 an estimated 12.8% of households were in extreme fuel poverty.</p> <p>A series of questions around ability to heat your home were asked in City Voice 45 (August 2021), City Voice 46 (December 2022) and, most recently, City Voice 50 (May 2024). In May 2024, a quarter (24.6%) of respondents reported being worried they would not be able to heat their home – down from 32% in December 2022 but considerably higher than when the questions were first asked in 2021. Over a quarter of respondents (27.3%) said that paying for heating meant missing out on other activities (compared to 11.8% in 2021)</p> <p>In 2023, Aberdeen City had 3,679 renewable energy installations (3,663 of which were photovoltaics) compared to 2,845 in 2022 and 789 in 2014 (2014 is the first year of data available). The installed capacity (MW) was 80.9 MW in 2023 compared to 67.5 MW in 2022 and 10.3MW in 2014. Renewable energy generation was 13,098 MWh in 2023 – compared to 11,690 MWh in 2022.</p>
<p><b>8</b> DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p> 	<p>In 2023 Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire had a GVA per head of £36,748 (constant prices) showing an increase from 2021 (£32,826) and the 2020 low of £31,405. The gap between the wealth of the North East region and both Scotland and the UK has been progressively narrowing since 2015. In 2015, the GVA per head in the North East was more than 30% higher than the Scottish and UK average. In 2022 GVA per head in the North East was 17% higher than Scottish average and 10% higher compared to the UK average</p> <p>In the year from Oct 2023-Sept 2024, 81.2% of Aberdeen's working age population (16-64 years) was classified as economically active compared to 76.6% in Scotland and up from 75.4% in the same period last year. In 2024 there were 7,860 enterprises and 10,455 local units in Aberdeen City. This is up from 7,705 enterprises and 10,300 local units in 2023.</p> <p>In the year from Oct 2022-Sept 2024, the (model-based) unemployment rate in Aberdeen City was 3.7% - higher than the rate for Scotland of 3.3% but lower than the rate for the same period last year of 4.1%</p> <p>In 2024, the median gross weekly pay for full-time workers <b>living</b> in Aberdeen City was £721.70 – lower than the equivalent for Scotland of £740.00.</p>

<p><b>9</b> INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p> 	<p>In 2022, 96% of City Voice respondents reported having access to either a laptop or PC, a smart phone or tablet : an increase from 90% in 2018.</p> <p>In 2023, the most common mode of travel to school (excluding nursery) in Aberdeen City was walking (46.2%), followed by being driven (20%) and bus (15.8%).</p> <p>In 2023, 30% of people reported that their main mode of travel was walking (up from 28% in 2022) and 1% reported that their main mode of travel was cycling (down from 2% in 2022).</p>
<p><b>10</b> REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p> 	<p>In 2024, participation rates for 16-19 year-olds in education, employment or training were lower for those in the 20% most deprived areas (83.5%) than for those in the 20% least deprived areas (95.9%)</p> <p>In 2024, 86.8% of young people identified as disabled were participating in education, employment or training – down from 89.4% in 2023. The participation rate for those identified as disabled is lower than participation among non-disabled young people who in 2024 had 90.3% participation rates.</p>
<p><b>11</b> SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p> 	<p>In Aberdeen City in 2023-24, there were 1,763 applications under the Homeless Persons legislation, of which 1,270 were assessed as homeless. The number of applications is similar to the figure for 2022-23 (1,772) and up from 1,404 in 2021-22.</p> <p>In 2023-24 there were 2,287,858 entries and exits at Aberdeen train station. This is down from 2,497,108 in 2019-20 (numbers dropped to 393,982 during 2020-21), but higher than 2022-23 figure of 1,961,414</p> <p>For PM10, the annual mean concentration for the air quality objective of 18ug/m3, and the daily mean concentration with the air quality objective of 50ug/m3 – not to be exceeded more than seven times per year – have not been exceeded at any of the six continuous monitoring sites since 2016. The annual mean PM2.5 objective of 10µg/m3 has also not been exceeded at any of the six continuous monitoring sites since 2016.</p> <p>In 2023, there were 109 reported road casualties in Aberdeen City of which, 4 were fatalities and 53 were serious injuries. The number of people injured in road traffic accidents has increased in each of the last two years (from 64 in 2021).</p>
<p><b>12</b> RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p> 	<p>In 2023, 89,314 tonnes of household waste were generated in Aberdeen City. 2020 and 2021 saw increases in the amount of household waste generated compared to the preceding years. Overall, the amount of household waste going to landfill has fallen from 58,021 tonnes in 2016 to 10,930 in 2023. In the same period, the level of waste being recycled and 'other' diversions from landfill (disposed by incineration, recovered by incineration, recovered by co-incineration and waste managed by other methods) has increased. In 2023, 41.8% of household waste was recycled (slightly less than the previous year) and 12.2% was sent to landfill. Other diversions accounted for 46% of household waste.</p>

	<p>In 2022, Greenhouse Gas emissions estimates totalled 1,165 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e for Aberdeen City – down from 1,216 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2021. Transport was the single largest contributor (29.7% of all greenhouse gas emissions) followed by domestic use (26.1%). In 2022 per capita emissions were lower in Aberdeen City (5.2 tCO<sub>2</sub>e) than in Scotland (7.1 tCO<sub>2</sub>e)</p> <p>Data from the most recent City Voice questionnaire (August 2024), showed that Over half (52.2%) of respondents agreed (either strongly agree or agree) that they were worried about their home and community being vulnerable to severe weather events, double the response to when this question was asked 2020 (30%), but slightly lower than when asked in 2022.</p> <p>Results from the 2023 Scottish Household Survey estimate that 73% of people in Aberdeen City see climate change as an immediate and urgent problem – up from 68% in 2012.</p>
	<p>The River Don is currently classified as in a ‘bad’ ecological condition for its 10.7kms from Dyce to the tidal limit. The River Dee is currently classified as in a ‘moderate’ ecological condition for its 10.4kms from Peterculter to the tidal limit. The Denburn is currently classified as in ‘poor’ ecological condition for its 9.2kms length and the Leuchar Burn ‘poor’ ecological condition for 9kms</p> <p>The coastal water from Don Estuary to Souter Head (50 square kilometers) is classified as in good ecological status. North and south of this strip is in ‘high’ ecological condition.</p>
	<p>Aberdeen has 2,410 ha of woodland - 13% of ACC’s total land area. By comparison, Scotland’s woodland cover is 18%. Native woodlands account for 22% of the total woodland area in Aberdeen. There are an estimated 115,000 individual street, park and garden and civic trees across the City.</p> <p>In August 2024, 74.5% of City Voice respondents reported that they were satisfied with overall greenspace in the City – up from 64.5% in March 2020</p> <p>In 2024, 21.3% of Aberdeen’s land was protected for nature.</p> <p>86.9% of respondents to the Open Space Audit 2022 questionnaire visit Aberdeen's greenspace or open space at least once a week (Open Space Audit 2022 questionnaire results will be published as part of the upcoming Open Space Audit report refresh).</p>
	<p>The rate of crime varies across the City and is relatively low in most areas. In 2023-24 the most common crimes and offences recorded in Aberdeen City were Crimes of Dishonesty (5,432), Road Traffic Offences (4,647) and Non-sexual Crimes of Violence (3,756). The total rate (per 10,000 population) for crime was 663 (550 for Scotland) and for offences was 320 (also 320 for Scotland).</p> <p>Of the 994 offenders (over 18 years) in the 2020-21 cohort, 31.7% were reconvicted within a year of receiving their sentence (mean 0.6 reconvictions per offender).</p> <p>In 2023-24 there were 142 recorded crimes for Domestic Abuse – up from 116 in 2022-23</p>

**17** PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



Aberdeen's relationship with developing countries is in part expressed through its status as a Fairtrade City and this accreditation is maintained by a partnership of organisations connecting through the [Aberdeen Fair and Sustainable Trade Group](#).

Policy coherence across the goals is being assisted locally by the Aberdeen Community Planning Partnership and other important partnerships which include [Aberdeen Climate Action](#), [ACVO](#), [Aberdeen Cycle Forum](#), [Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce](#), [Granite City Good Food | Sustainable Food Places in Aberdeen City](#), [North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership](#), [NESTRANS](#).

# References



## References