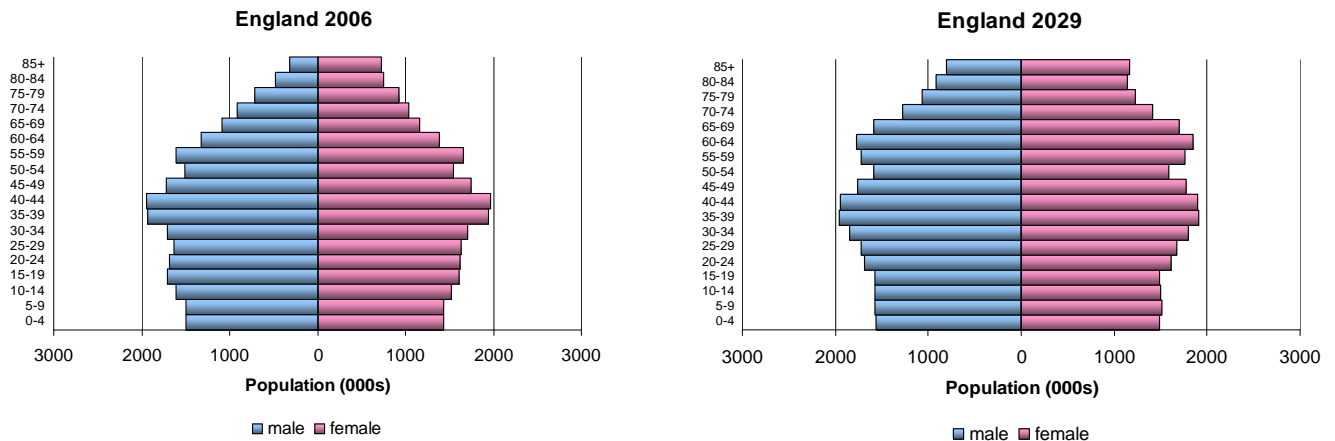


Age

The age structure of the UK population has become older in the last three decades, and is likely to become older still in the next three decades. The median age rose from 34.1 years in 1971 to 38.6 in 2004 and is projected to rise to 42.9 in 2031.



The proportion of the population aged under 16 is declining due to sustained low fertility and birth rates. In 1971 over 25% of the population were aged under 16. This fell to 19% in 2004 and is projected to continue to fall, to around 17% by 2031.

At the same time, the proportion of older people is increasing. The percentage of people over state pension age increased from 16% in 1971 to 19% in 2004. Even allowing for the rise in state pension age for women to 65 being phased in between 2010 and 2020, the proportion of people over state pension age is projected to rise 23% in 2031. The most substantial growth has occurred among the oldest old (over 85 years); the proportion has more than doubled from 0.9% in 1971 to 1.9% in 2004.

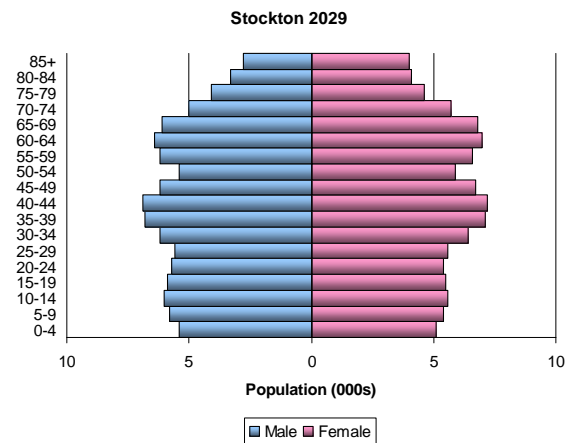
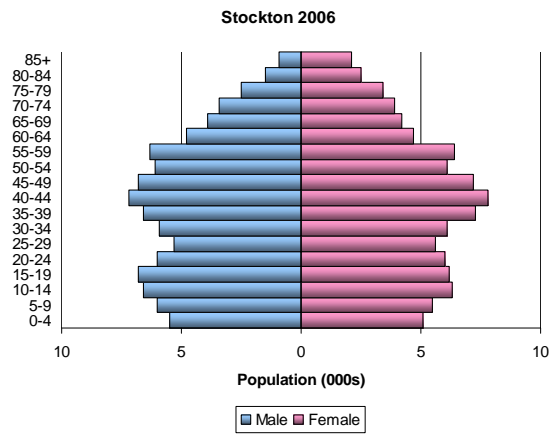
The increase in older people is a result of the relatively high number of births that occurred in the first two decades of the twentieth century, combined with increased longevity at older ages.

Stockton-on-Tees is 204 sq km in size with a population of 187,100¹. The residents live in 76,900 households. Population density is 917 people per square kilometre. The population within Stockton-on-Tees has risen by 6.8% since the 1991 Census, compared with the North East average of a 2.2% fall.

Age Groups within Stockton

Age Group	Under 5	5 to 14	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 and over	Total
Persons	10,530	23,940	11,930	12,520	51,590	48,400	28,210	187,110

¹ All local population figures are based on mid-2006 estimates provided by the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit.



The profile of the local population will also change dramatically; projected figures² show that by 2029:-

- The number of children will fall by 3% to 33,300.
- The number of people of working age (16 – retirement) will decrease by 2%.
- There will be a large increase of 62% of older people (retirement age).

Children and Young People

There are over 10 million children in England and Wales, accounting for 19.1% of the total population. In Stockton, the proportion of children is slightly higher at 19.7% (or 36,900 people aged under 16)³. This is also higher than the North East England average figure of 18.5%.

Education

In January 2006 there were 8.2 million pupils in 25,200 maintained and independent schools in England. 91% of pupils were taught in maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools; 7% of pupils attended independent schools and 1% went to maintained and non-maintained special schools⁴.

Between 1992 and 2000 the number of births in the borough declined sharply from over 2,400 to under 2,000 a year. As a result, the number of children in our primary schools fell from 16,194 in spring 2003 to 14,620 in spring 2007. This fall of almost 10% has been matched by a net reduction of 1,414 in the number of primary school places in the borough. Two additional primary schools have been opened since 2003 to meet growing need in the south of the borough. This 8% reduction in overall capacity has been achieved by the removal of temporary classrooms, creation of foundation units and ICT suites, amalgamation of infant and junior schools, and by adapting surplus accommodation for other uses. Since 2002, birth rates have shown a small annual rise. The primary school population is likely to remain stable at the present level for the next five years. The historic decline in primary pupil numbers will affect secondary school populations over the next five years. Since 2003 one additional 600-place secondary school has been opened in the south of the borough.

² Office of National Statistics (mid-2004 based projections).

³ Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit Mid 2006 Estimates.

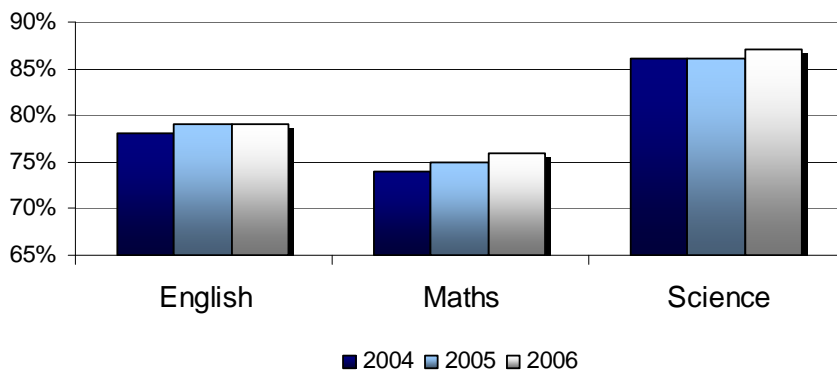
⁴ Schools and Pupils in England, January 2006.

Nationally in January 2006, the average size of classes (taught by one teacher) in primary schools was 26.3 which represents a slight increase from 26.2 a year earlier. The percentage of pupils in large primary classes remains unchanged from 2005 at 15.2%. This does represent a decrease since 2002 when 17.8% of pupils in primary schools were in classes of 31 or more pupils.

A decrease is evident in the average size of classes taught by one teacher in secondary schools across England, from 21.7 in January 2005 to 21.5 in January 2006. The percentage of pupils in classes of 31 or more pupils has decreased slightly from 11.4% in January 2005 to 11.3% in January 2006.

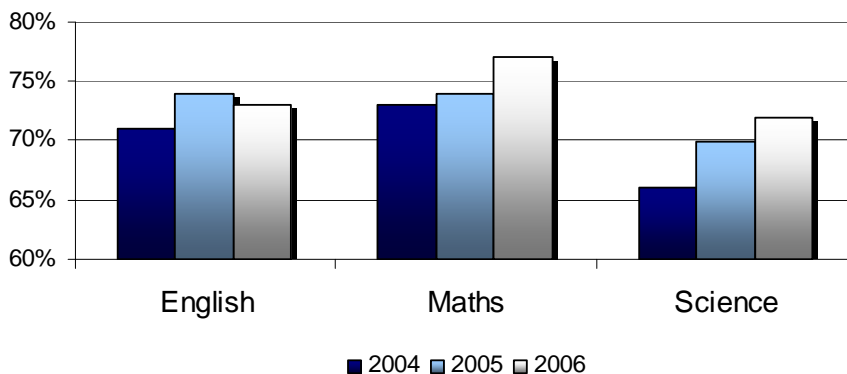
Educational attainment for children is measured nationally at Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. Across England, Key Stage 2 results have improved in English, Maths and Science since 2004. Students perform best in Science with 87% of pupils achieving level 4 or above; this compares to 76% for Maths and 79% for English.

National Key Stage 2 Results



Key Stage 3 results have also improved across all three core subjects since 2004. The percentage of pupils achieving level 5 or more is highest for Maths in 2006 (77%). Interestingly in contrast to Key Stage 2, Science has the lowest percentage of pupils achieving level 5 or more in 2006 (72%). GCSE (Key Stage 4) results have also increased since 2004, with 59.2% of pupils achieving 5 A* - C passes in 2006 compared to 53.7% of pupils in 2004.

National Key Stage 3 Results



The schools within Stockton have recorded a 9.5% increase in the percentage of pupils gaining 5 A*-C passes at GCSE level between 2004 and 2006, to a pass rate of 55.3% in

2006. This is slightly below the national rate of 59.2%, but is a lessening gap of attainment at age 16⁵. Key Stages 2 and 3 are measured in English, Maths and Science.

At Key Stage 2 English the schools within Stockton have observed a 4% increase to 81% in the percentage of pupils achieving level 4 or over between 2004 and 2006, the increase has been 3% for Maths (80%) and 1% for Science (88%). Stockton now performs above the England average for all three core subjects.

Improvements have also been achieved in relation to Key Stage 3 results across the borough, with results now in line with the national scores. The percentage of pupils achieving level 5 or above in 2006 is 72% for English, 77% for Maths and 73% for Science, increases of around 7% since 2004 in all core subjects.

Exclusions

Boys are more likely to be excluded (both permanently and for a fixed period) at a younger age than girls, with very few girls being excluded during the primary years. The most common point for both boys and girls to be excluded is at ages 13 and 14 (year groups 9 and 10). Over 46% of all permanent and fixed period exclusions were of pupils of this age⁶.

Exclusions data is not available at local authority level due to small numbers.

Healthier Communities and Adults

In 2006, people of working age account for 62% of the population of England and Wales, this raises to 62.7% in Stockton (117,300 people)⁷. These are slight increases from the 2001 Census data of 0.6% nationally and 1.2% locally.

In 2006, people of retirement age account for 18.9% of the population of England and Wales compared to 17.6% of the population or 33,000 people in Stockton.

Health and Wellbeing

In the 2001 Census, 40 million out of the 59 million people living in the UK rated their general health in the last year as 'good', a further 13 million rated it as 'fairly good', while 6 million people rated their health as 'not good'. Children (aged 0 to 15) had the highest rate of good general health at over 90 %, with an additional 8 % rating their general health as fairly good.

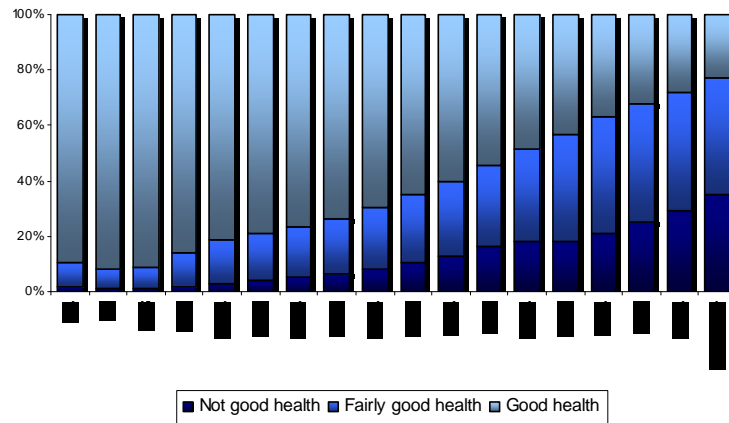
Rates of good health decrease steadily with age with corresponding increases in rates of fairly good and not good health. While individuals aged 65 and over account for just 16 % of the population, they represent 40 % of all those in not good health, as shown in the graph below⁸.

⁵ www.dfes.gov.uk/performancetables

⁶ Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions from Schools and Exclusion Appeals in England 2004/05.

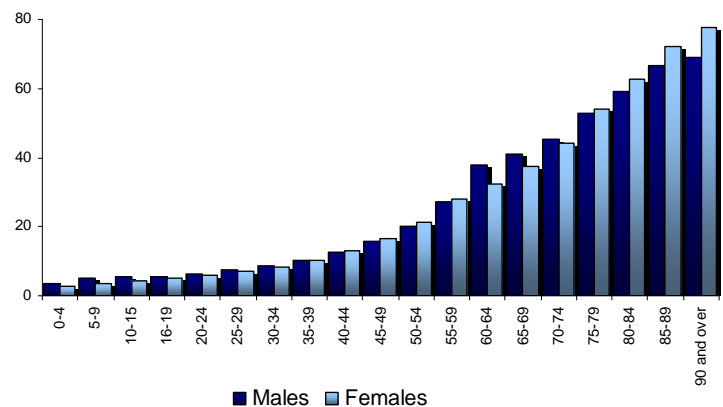
⁷ Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit, mid-2006 population estimate.

⁸ Office for National Statistics.



Linked to the decrease in reported good health is the prevalence of limiting long-term illness, and as expected this increases with age for both men and women, with the oldest people experiencing more illness⁹. However, while women can expect to live longer than men they are also more likely to spend more years in poor health or with a disability. Nearly 80% of women over 90 having a limiting long term illness.

Limiting long-term illness by age and gender



Chronic diseases like coronary heart disease, stroke, diabetes, back problems and arthritis are some of the most common illnesses to impair quality of life. Arthritis and rheumatism are the most common types of chronic diseases in Great Britain and prevalence increases with age. In 2004/05 the prevalence rate among women was highest for those aged between 65 and 74 and was almost twice that for men (194 per 1,000 women compared with 110 per 1,000 men)¹⁰. For men the prevalence rate peaks in the 75 and over age group.

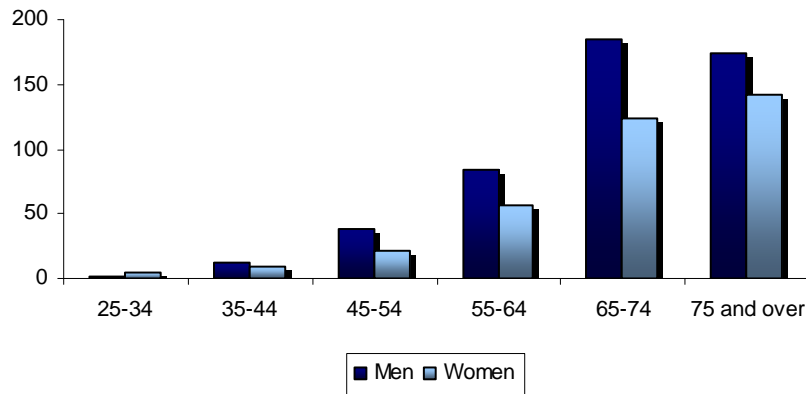
Over the past 30 years, circulatory diseases (which include heart disease and stroke) have remained the most common cause of death in the UK. Death rates for circulatory diseases have also shown the greatest decline, particularly among males. In 1971 age-standardised death rates were 6,900 per million males and 4,300 per million females. By 2004 these rates had fallen to 2,800 per million males and 1,800 per million females. Men have a higher prevalence of CHD than their female peers, peaking at 184.36 per 1000 population in the 65-74 age group in 2003. Female CHD prevalence peaks in the 75 and over age group at 141.82 per 1000 population¹¹.

⁹ Census, 2001.

¹⁰ Office for National Statistics. Focus on Gender, 2006.

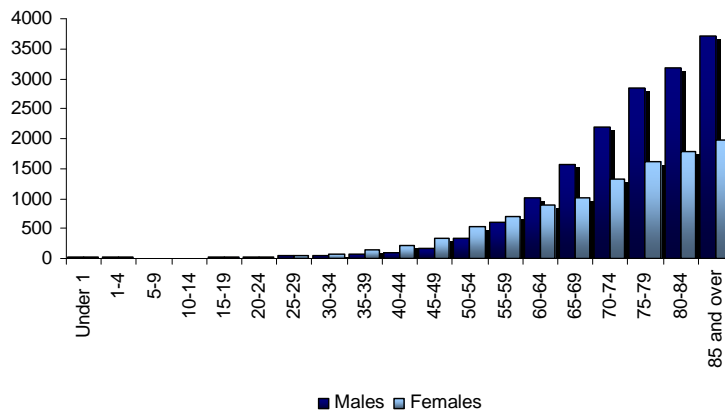
¹¹ General Household Survey, 2003.

CHD prevalence by age and gender



Cancers are the second most common cause of death, and their incidence rates have varied over the past 30 years. For males death rates from cancer peaked in the mid 1980s at 2,900 per million and subsequently fell to 2,300 per million in 2004. In contrast, for females death rates from cancers reached a peak in the late 1980s, at 1,900 per million, and then fell gradually to 1,600 per million in 2004. The incidence of cancer increases with age. However, between the ages of 30 and 60 the rate is higher in women; post-60 years of age men have a significantly higher rate. In 2006, men in the 85 years and over age group had a rate of 3707.8 per 100,000 population compared to a female rate in the 85 years and over age group of 1986.8 per 100,000 population¹².

Incidence of Cancer by age and gender

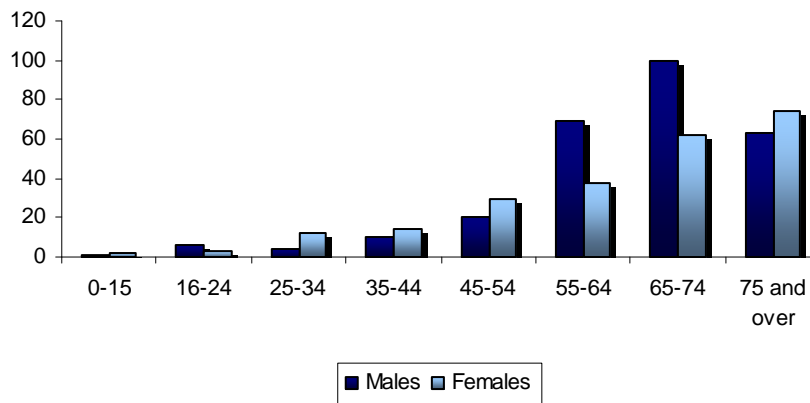


Diabetes is most prevalent in the older population, with males generally observing a higher rate. The highest rate for men is recorded in the 65-74 age group with 99.50 per 1000 population suffering from diabetes, the rate for women peaks at 74.36 per 1000 population in the 75 and over age group¹³.

¹² Office for National Statistics, 2001.

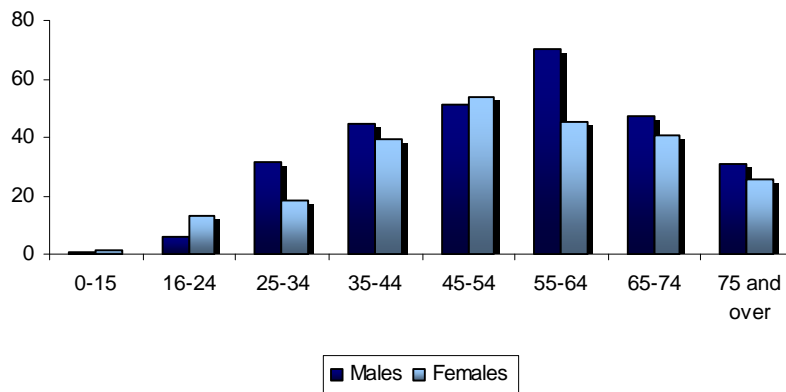
¹³ General Household Survey, 2003.

Diabetes prevalence by age and gender



Back problems occur across all ages, with the incidence in men higher than in women¹⁴. In women, the 45-54 age group has the highest rate of back problems with 53.67 per 1000 population. In men, the 55-64 age group has the highest rate of back problems with 70.00 per 1000 population. This trend lends itself to the differences in employment patterns across age groups.

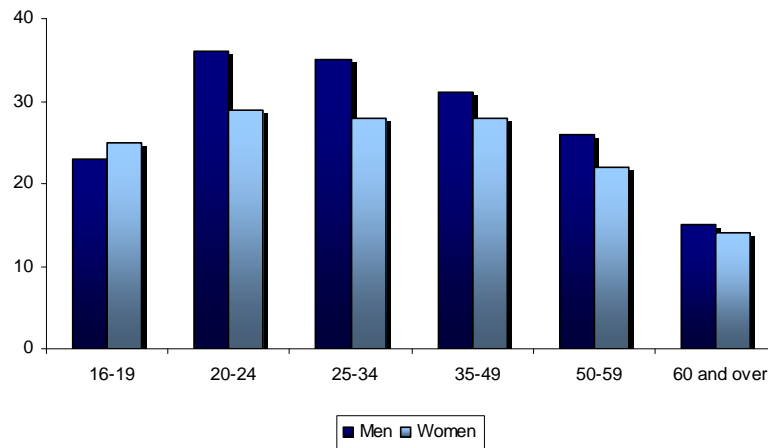
Back problems prevalence by age and gender



The trends in lung cancer incidence in the UK are strongly linked to trends in cigarette smoking. The decline in smoking among men has led to a reduction in lung cancer deaths. The male lung cancer death rate fell sharply from 104 per 100,000 in 1981 to 54 per 100,000 in 2004. In contrast, the rate among females rose gradually from 1981 to reach a plateau of around 30 per 100,000 in 1987, and has since levelled off. People aged between 20 and 24 years old are most likely to smoke, with rates slowly decreasing with age.

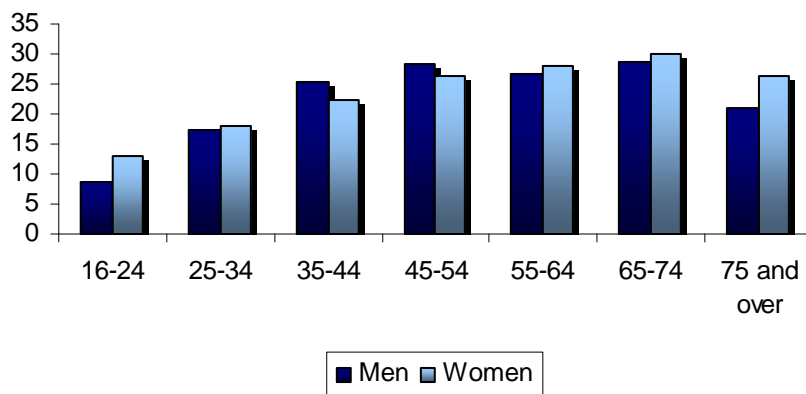
¹⁴ General Household Survey, 2003.

Prevalence of smoking among adults by age and gender



Over the last decade, the proportion of people aged 16 and over in England who are obese has been rising; and in 2004 almost a quarter of the population were classified as such. Over the same period the proportions classified as overweight have remained fairly stable. The prevalence of obesity increases with age up to the 65 to 74 age group, and then declines in the over 75 year old group.¹⁵

Obesity prevalence by age and gender

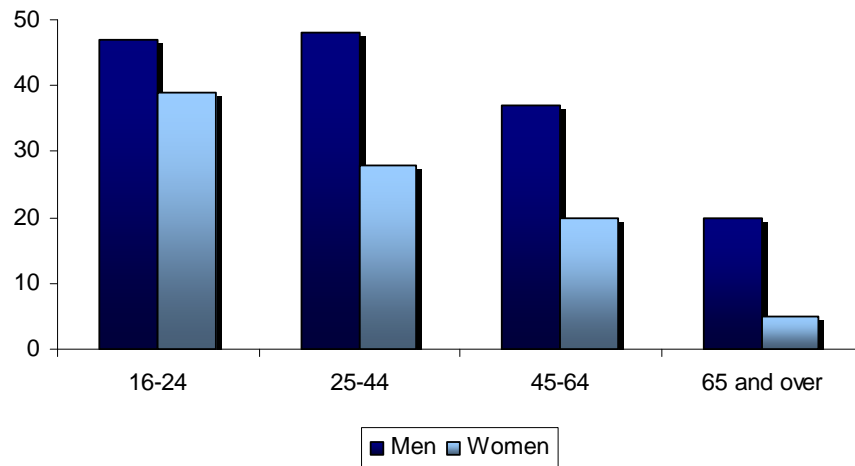


Young people (16 to 24 years) were more likely than any other age group to be underweight, at around a fifth of men and a sixth of women. Young people were also the most likely to be of 'desirable' weight, almost half of both men and women in this age group.

Young people drink less frequently than older people but young men are most likely to binge drink. In 2004/05, 32% of young men consumed more than twice the recommended daily limit on at least one day in the previous week, although this was lower than in 2003/04 when 37% did so. The proportion of young women who binge drink is also higher than among any other age group, 24% in 2004/05. Since 1998/99 the overall proportion of young people in this age group who binge drink has remained relatively stable, however the gap between the proportion of young men and young women who binge drink has narrowed.

¹⁵ Health for England Survey, 2004.

Adults drinking more than the recommended guidelines on at least one day in a week by age and gender



In the Taking Part Survey 2005/06¹⁶, 21% of the adult population (8.5 million people) take part regularly in sport and active recreation. Adults in all age groups had significantly higher rates of participation in active sports than each of their elder counterparts.

Community Cohesion

Community cohesion is measured in a variety of ways, there is no national figure for comparison, however, the percentage of people who feel that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds can get on well together is an indicator aimed at getting an overall measure of community cohesion based on whether residents as a whole think they live in an area which has good community relations. The question does not specifically focus on race and therefore could be used to capture tensions that may exist as a result of other factors such as religion or belief. A community is likely to be more cohesive where the majority of residents agree with this statement.

The IPSOS MORI survey 2006 found that 66% of people feel that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds can get on well together. The figure is slightly higher for older respondents than younger respondents, with 70% of people in the 65 to 74 year old age group in agreement compared to 61% of people in the 16 to 24 year old age group. The IPSOS MORI survey also found that 59% of respondents feel that the local area is a place where residents respect ethnic differences between people, an increase of 6% from 2004. However, it appears there is no trend relating to age as agreement is highest among 25 to 34 year old age group (65%) and the 65 to 74 year old age group (63%) with all other groups having agreement levels of around 57%.

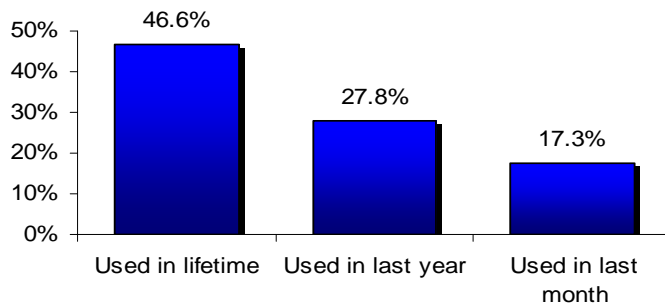
Drugs Misuse

For all people, between 1998 and 2003/04, the use of 'Any drug' has remained stable and Class A drug use increased significantly¹⁷. This increase is mainly due to a significant increase in the use of cocaine and ecstasy and an increase in the percentage of those outside the younger group who take Class A drugs. The use of hallucinogens, particularly LSD, has decreased significantly.

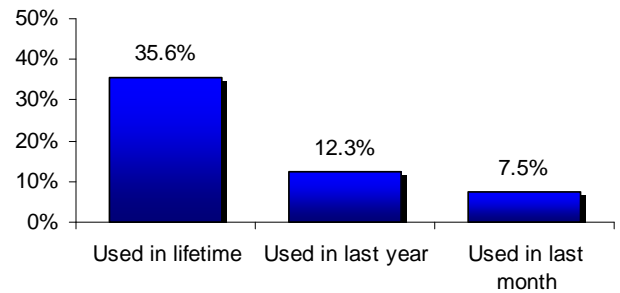
¹⁶ Sport England 2005/06.

¹⁷ Findings of the 2003/04 British Crime Survey.

Use of any Illicit Drug - Younger People (16-24 years)



Use of any Illicit Drug - Whole Population (16-59 years)



The most common age at which respondents said they had started taking drugs is 18. 46.6% of people in the 16 to 24 year old age group have used drugs; this falls to 17.3% in the last month. This compares to 35.6% of the whole population who have ever used a drug. Trends are the same when focused on Class A drug use, with younger people having more frequent and higher rates of usage.

Education

In 2004/05, there were approximately 2.3 million students in the United Kingdom (undergraduate and postgraduate). In England there were approximately 1.9 million; in Wales approximately 125,000; in Scotland approximately 210,000; and in Northern Ireland: approximately 55,000¹⁸. The Department for Education and Skills estimated that in 2003/04; approximately 43% of 17-30 year olds in the United Kingdom currently enter higher education¹⁹. Across the United Kingdom an average of 35% under 21s enter higher education (2001/2002). This figure for Scotland was 50% for 2002/03 and 44% in Northern Ireland in 2003/04. 52% of first year undergraduate students are mature students (i.e. 21 years of age and older when starting to study).

Community Safety

The 2005 Offending, Crime and Justice Survey focused on levels and trends in youth offending, anti-social behaviour and victimisation among young people from 10 to 25 living in the general population in England and Wales²⁰. In 2005, three quarters of young people (75%) had not offended in the last twelve months of 2005. Of the 25% that committed at least one offence in 2005, many had offended only occasionally or committed relatively trivial offences.

The most commonly reported offence categories were assault (committed by 16%) and other thefts (11%). Criminal damage, drug selling and vehicle related thefts were less common, and burglary and robbery were relatively rare at 1% or less. Males were more likely to have offended in 2005 than females (30% compared to 21% respectively). For males the prevalence of offending peaked among 16 to 19 year olds; whilst for females the prevalence peaked earlier at age (14 to 15 years old).

7% of all young people were classified as frequent offenders, i.e. they had committed an offence six or more times in the last twelve months. This group was responsible for the vast majority (83%) of all offences measured in the survey. 13% of all 10 to 25 year olds

¹⁸ Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) (2005): Students in Higher Education Institutions 2004/05.

¹⁹ Department for Education and Skills (DfES) (2005): SFR 14/2005

²⁰ Home Office Statistical Bulletin 17/06, December 2006.

had committed at least one of the serious offences measured. The majority (71%) of serious offenders had committed an assault resulting in injury and no other serious offence. 1% of all 10 to 25 year olds had frequently committed serious offences and were classified as frequent serious offenders.

Overall, 4% of young people had carried a knife in 2005. Males were significantly more likely than females to have carried a knife (5% versus 2%). Of the 4% that had carried a knife, over eight in ten (85%) said the reason for doing so was for protection and 9% said it was in case of a fight. One-fifth (20%) of 12 to 25 year olds had handled (bought or sold) stolen goods in 2005. 7% had sold stolen goods and 19% had bought stolen goods. The levels of handling stolen goods for 12 to 25 year olds have remained stable between 2004 and 2005.

Anti-social behaviour as measured by the survey covers being noisy or rude in a public place so that people complained or the individual got into trouble with the police, behaving in a way that resulted in a neighbour complaining, graffiti in a public place, and threatening or being rude to someone because of their race and religion. Over three quarters (77%) of young people had not committed any anti-social behaviour in 2005. Of the 23% who had committed anti-social behaviour, most had only done so once or twice. Males were significantly more likely than females to have committed anti-social behaviour; 10 to 17 year olds were more likely than 18 to 25 year olds to have committed anti-social behaviour.

Just over a quarter (27%) of young people had been the victim of a personal crime in 2005. The most common forms of victimisation were assault without injury (11%) and other personal thefts (9%). 10 to 15 year olds were more likely than 16 to 25 year olds to have been victims of personal crime in 2005. However, the majority of incidents against 10 to 15 year olds happened at school, perpetrated by pupils or friends and seen by the victims as something other than a crime.

Older people's risk of suffering from a household or a personal crime is much lower than for other age groups. It is estimated that incidents of all British Crime Survey crimes are 30% for 16 to 29 year olds, 56% for 30 to 59 year olds and 14% for people over 60 years old. Interestingly, older people are more likely to report violent incidents of crime. Members of the older age group are not only less victimised but also, once they have been victimised, are less likely to be victimised again; this is especially true in respect of burglaries.

Older people have similar levels of worry for most crime types to those of other age groups despite their lower levels of victimisation. Older women are more likely than older men to worry about fear of household or personal crime. Those that perceive their health to be bad or very bad also worry more about crime than those that perceive their health to be fair to good. This may help to explain why older people have disproportionate levels of fear, given their relatively low levels of victimisation, as they also tend to suffer from worse health than other age groups.

Those households that have fewer security devices are more likely to get burgled; use of security measures have increased steadily over time. Older people and those aged over 30 are more likely to employ security devices at home than those aged under 30. In terms of vehicle security, the young and the old seem to have fewer security devices than the 30 to 59 year olds. Increased levels of security in new cars, the introduction of CCTV, and secure car parks have contributed to a fall in vehicle related thefts. Personal security is more prevalent amongst the youngest age group as they are more likely to carry weapons and have done a self-defence course.

Public confidence in the criminal justice system is an important prerequisite for an effective system. The police (53%) have the highest percentage of respondents who think that they do an excellent or good job. This compares to 31% for prisons, 26% for magistrates, 23% for Crown Prosecution Service and Probation and 12% for Juvenile courts. Older people tend to have a better opinion about most criminal justice system agencies than those aged 30 to 59 years old. On the other hand, the over 60s are less likely to think that witnesses are very and fairly well treated by the police but are more likely to think that witnesses are very and fairly well treated by the courts than other age groups; and are more likely to think that court sentences are much too lenient.

There may actually be no clear cut casual relationship between age and crime, i.e. that young people may not commit more crime simply because of their age. That fact that young people are more likely to be involved in public drinking, and socialising may simply mean they are more likely than older people to find themselves in an environment conducive to crime. Opportunities for criminal behaviour vary by age; young people are rarely in a position to commit major work related crimes because their work roles are usually fairly low-level and do not involve having authority over others. They are more likely to be managed at work rather than being a manager. Conformity to peer group behaviour and pressure may promote deviance in young people; and often risk-taking is a characteristic of young people which can lead to criminality. The observed drop in criminal activity at adulthood can be seen to coincide with people taking on new lifestyles such as parents and wage earners. The possibility of jail time becomes a relatively more serious matter because of the impact it will have on life and responsibilities.

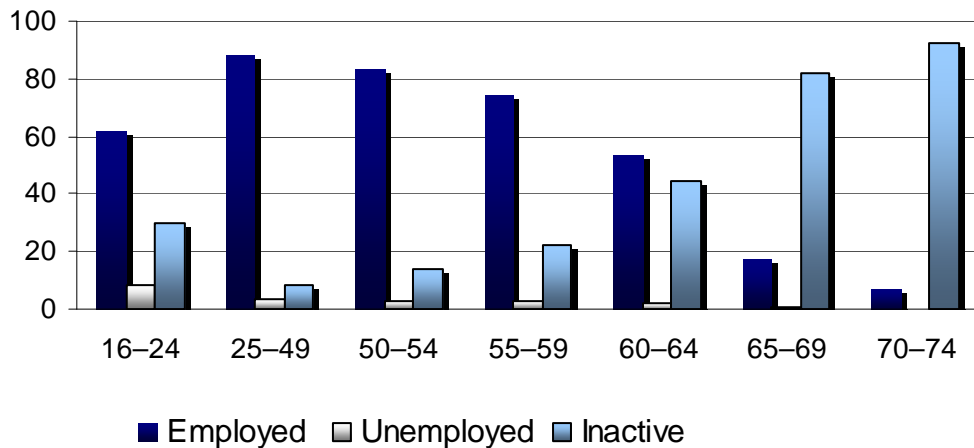
Economic Regeneration and Transport

Employment

Across the United Kingdom in 2004, 25 to 49 year olds have the highest male employment rate with over 88% of people in employment²¹. This compares to the lowest employment rate of 7.2% in the 70 to 74 years old age group. Unemployment among the male population is highest at 8.3% in the 16 to 24 years old age group, and declines steadily with age. Economic inactivity increases with age, with 93% of men aged 70 to 74 years old being inactive. This is expected due to the fall in levels of employment among the older population as employment, unemployment and inactivity are all mutually exclusive.

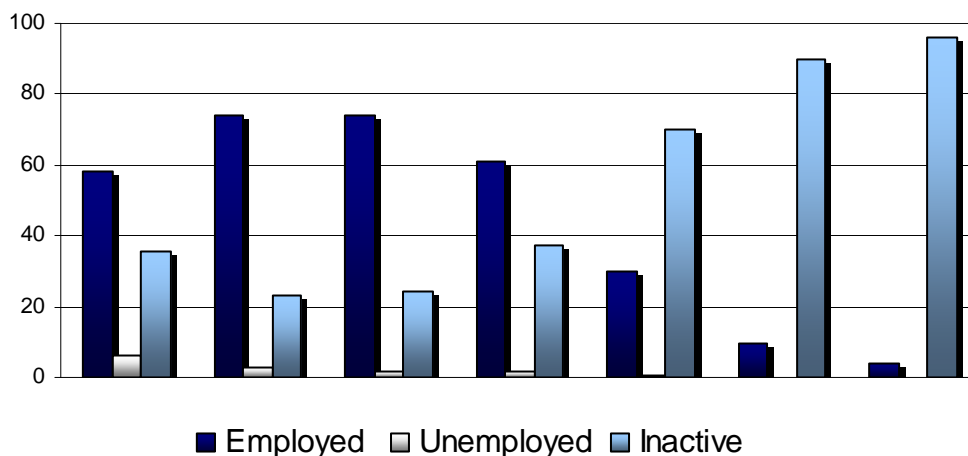
²¹ Labour Force Survey 2004, Office for National Statistics.

Male Economic Activity Breakdown by Age



Female employment trends follow similar pattern to males, with noticeably lower levels of employment and more inactivity. Across the United Kingdom in 2004, 25 to 49 year olds and 50 to 54 year olds have the highest female employment rate with over 74% of people in employment²². This compares to the lowest employment rate of 4.1% in the 70 to 74 years old age group. Unemployment among the female population is highest at 6.4% in the 16 to 24 years old age group, and declines steadily with age. Economic inactivity increases with age, with 96% of women aged 70 to 74 years old being inactive. Inactivity rates historically have been higher for women as they took a household and family role, recently though this trend has declined with more women in work.

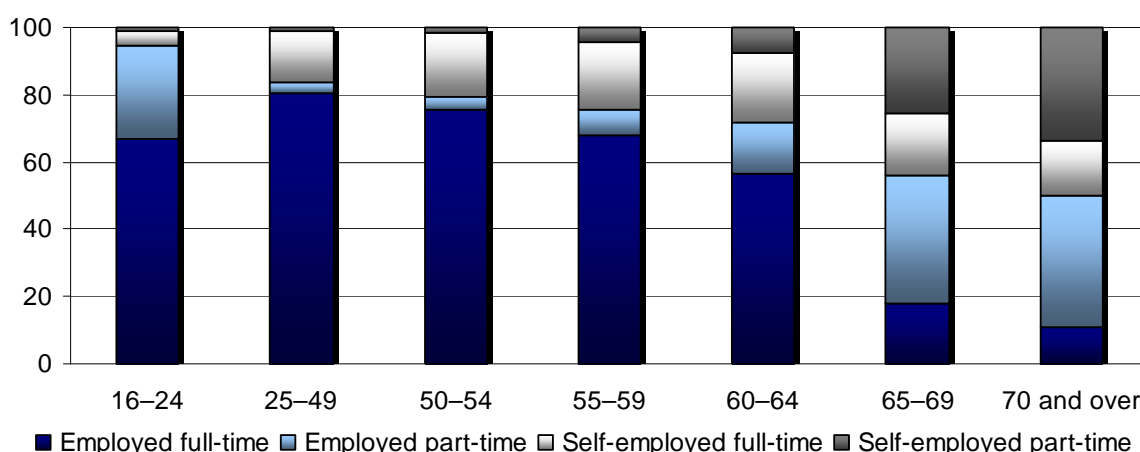
Female Economic Activity Breakdown by Age



Most workers, irrespective of their age, are employees. However, self-employment is more common among older workers than among those under 50. In spring 2004, 19% of people aged 50 and over in the UK were self-employed compared with 14% of people aged 25-49. Self-employment was also more common in older men than older women (26% compared with 11% respectively).

²² Labour Force Survey 2004, Office for National Statistics.

Type of Employment by Age - Male



Full time employment amongst males was highest in the 25 to 49 year olds (80.5%), and lowest in the 70 years old and over age group (11.0%). Part time employment is highest in the older population but also in the 16 to 24 years old age group. Self employment is more common in the older age brackets, both full and part time with 34% of 70 year old and over men being self-employed part time. Men in their 50s who were self-employed were much more likely than those who were employees to still be working ten years later. In addition, workers over State Pension Age were more likely to be employed in small companies with 1 to 10 staff and far less likely to be employed in larger organisations with over 50 staff²³.

Type of Employment by Age - Female



Whilst employment trends by age group are similar to their male counterparts, female employment patterns show significantly higher levels of part time work. In the 70 years old and over age group 69% of women are employed part time and 20% are self employed part time. In the female population, full time employment declines with age from a peak of 55% of women aged 25 to 49 years old being full time employed.

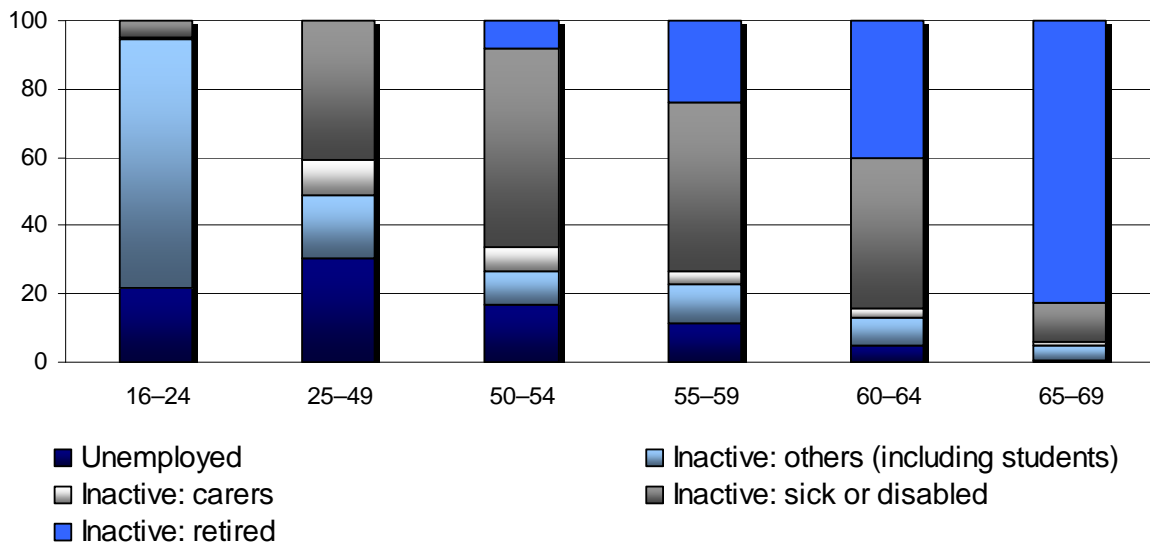
As expected the young population has high numbers of students, accounting for 72% of men out of work in the 16 to 24 years old age group. Also as expected, retirement is the main reason for inactivity in the older population.

Within the male population between 25 and 64 years old inactivity is the main reason for being out of work, with over 58% of men aged 50 to 54 years old being sick or disabled.

²³ Focus on Older People, Office for National Statistics, 2006.

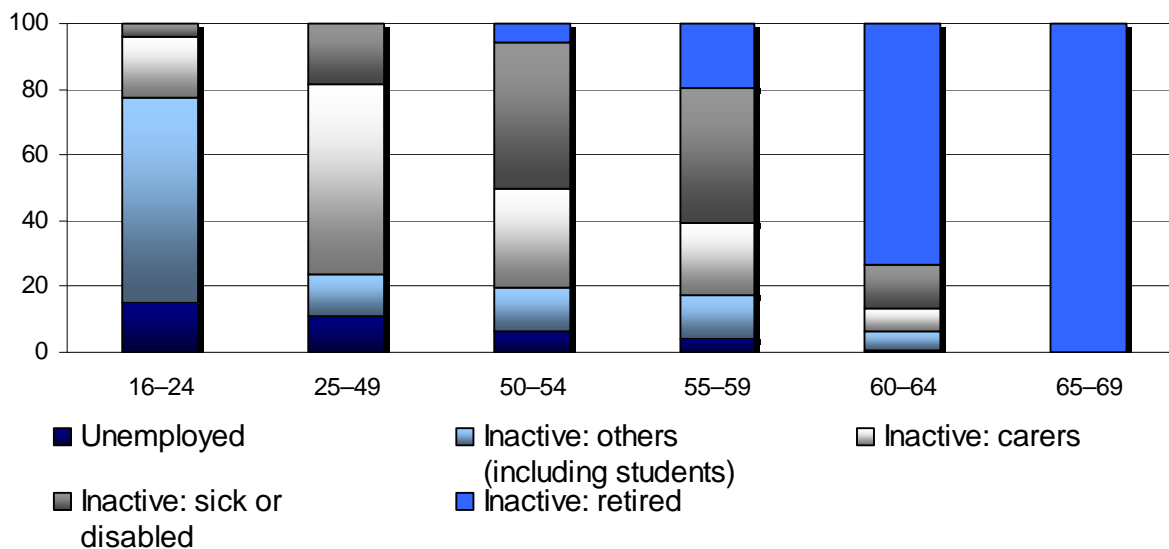
Interestingly, very small proportions of men are out of work due to a role as a carer (10% in 25 to 49 year olds at the most).

Main Reasons for Being Out of Work by Age - Male



Within the out of work female population, a large proportion of women are out of work due to the role as a carer, over 57% of women aged between 25 and 49 years old. Women also have higher rates of retirement in the older age groups but lower rate of sickness and disability keeping women out of the workforce.

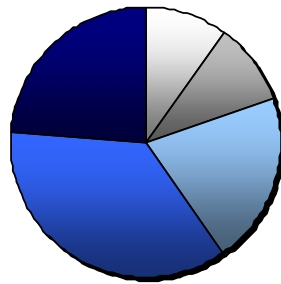
Main Reasons for Being Out of Work by Age - Female



Within Stockton, the working age population is mostly between 35 and 49 years old (35.9%), with the younger age groups forming a smaller proportion of the workforce²⁴.

²⁴ Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit, Workforce Analysis, May 2007.

Age of Working Age Population in Stockton



■ 16-19
 ■ 20-24
 ■ 25-34
 ■ 35-49
 ■ 50-ret

Benefits

Within Stockton (at April 2007) 32.9% of Job Seekers Allowance claimants were between 18 and 24 years old²⁵. This is a lower rate than observed across the North East but higher than the national figure. The largest proportion of claimants are between the ages of 25 and 49 years old, with significantly fewer claimants over 50 years old.

	Stockton on Tees (numbers)	Stockton on Tees (%)	North East (%)	Great Britain (%)
By age of claimant				
Aged 18-24	1,255	32.9	33.1	29.8
Aged 25-49	1,920	50.2	49.9	52.6
Aged 50 and over	610	16	16.2	16.3

Transport

In 2005, 81% of adult men (aged 17 and over) and 63% of women held a full car driving licence²⁶. The proportion of women holding a full car driving licence has increased from 57% to 63% since 1995/97, while the proportion of men holding a licence has remained unchanged at 81%. The proportion of young driving licence holders has decreased considerably over recent years. 32% of those aged 17 to 20 now hold a licence, compared with 43% in 1995/97. The possible reasons for this decline include the cost of lessons, insurance and buying a car, the increasing difficulty of passing the driving test (including the theory test introduced in 1996) and the fact that more young people are students and unable to afford cars.

There has been a large increase in the number of older women holding a driving licence. The proportion of women aged 60 to 69 holding a licence increased by a third between 1995/97 and 2005, from 45% to 61%. Over the same period, the proportion of women aged 70 or over holding licences increased from one in five, to more than one in three. Licence holding will continue to increase in these age groups, as women currently in the younger age groups keep their licence as they grow older.

Up to the age of 50, women made more trips on average than men of the same age, but after the age of 50 men made more trips than women. Overall, women made 2% more trips than men in 2005. Men travelled 30% further than women, 8,200 miles a year

²⁵ NOMIS, 2007

²⁶ National Transport Survey, 2005. Department for Transport.

compared with 6,300 miles for women. The difference was greatest between the ages of 40 and 59 when men travelled about 40% further than women on average. Men aged over 70 made over half of their trips as car drivers, while women aged over 70 made only a fifth of trips. This reflects the differences in driving licence holding between these groups.

Men aged 17 and over made more trips as car drivers than as passengers in all age groups. Women aged 21 to 69 also made more trips as drivers than as passengers, but women under 21 and over 70 were more likely to be passengers than drivers. The proportion of trips made by car as a driver increases with age to a peak of 68% of trips among men aged 50 – 59 and 57% among women aged 40 to 49, and then declines in older age groups. Differences in car usage can largely be accounted for by differences in licence holding.

Overall, women made 25% of their trips on foot, compared with 22% for men. For both men and women, the proportion of trips made on foot is highest among children (around a third of all trips), falls with age up to 40 to 49 years and then increases slightly in older age groups. The proportion of trips made on foot was higher for men than women among adults aged 17 to 20 but was higher for women in older age groups

Among all age groups, bicycle use was most common among men aged 17 to 20, but even for this group only 3% of trips were by bicycle. Cycling declines gradually with age, accounting for just over 2% of trips by men aged 40 to 49, and just over 1% of trips made by people aged over 70.

Bus use is highest for 17 to 20 year olds, accounting for 16% of trips in this age group. Among both men and women, bus use was higher for those aged 70 or over than in middle age, probably reflecting availability of concessionary fares and differences in driving licence holding.

People's ability to travel affects their quality of life. Older people's travelling patterns depend in a large measure on their health and general mobility which are likely to be lower as they get older²⁷.

Not surprisingly, education was the most frequent trip purpose for those aged 16 and under, accounting for over a quarter (27%) of their trips. The relative importance of shopping and personal business increases with age. Among people aged 70 and over, 58% of trips were for shopping and personal business. While younger women make more escort trips than younger men, men aged 50 and over made more escort trips than women in the same age group. Including both escort education and all other escort trips, women aged 30 to 39 made over a quarter of their trips escorting someone else.

Trips for leisure purposes follow a similar pattern for men and women across the different age groups. People under 20 and over 60 made over a third of their trips for leisure purposes, whereas those between the ages of 30 and 49 made about a quarter.

Liveability (including Environment, Housing and Civic Renewal)

Environment

Successful, thriving and prosperous communities are characterised by streets, parks and open spaces that are clean, safe, and attractive. It has been suggested, however, that over 2 million households suffer significant litter and rubbish in the areas where they live, and around 1.5 million households are troubled by graffiti and vandalism²⁸. Stockton has been voted one of the cleanest boroughs in the country. Figures compiled by the Audit

²⁷ Focus on Older People, Office for National Statistics, 2006.

²⁸ www.renewal.net

Commission from authorities across the country show Stockton joint 23rd cleanest out of 339 councils listed. Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park and Billingham Beck Valley Country Park were awarded Green Flag in 2005, and satisfaction with parks and open spaces is over 65% in 2006²⁹.

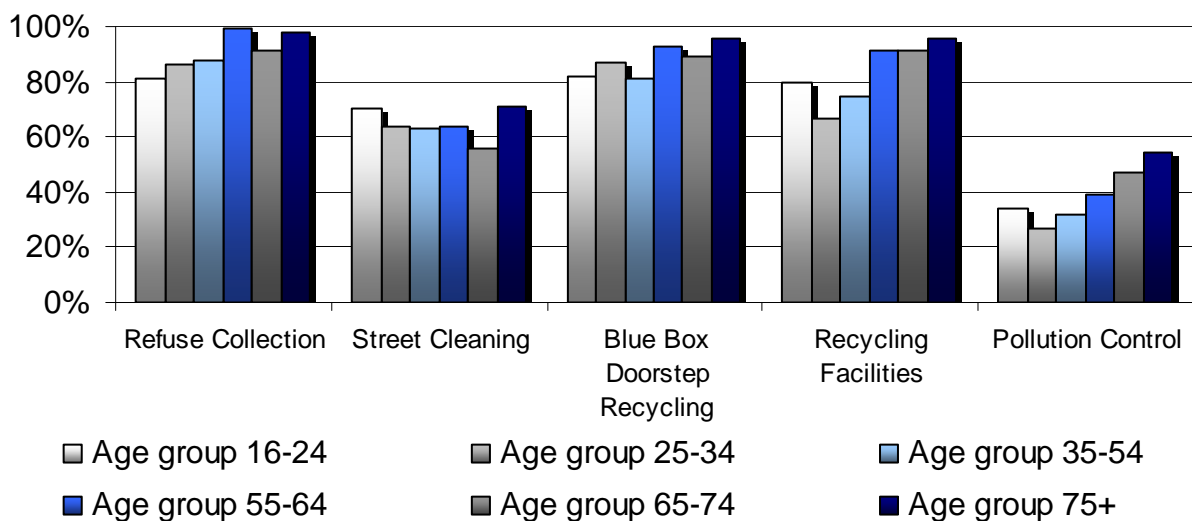
There is a clear demand from the public for higher quality neighbourhoods. Within Stockton 84% of residents are positive about their neighbourhood.³⁰ This satisfaction level is significantly higher than findings in 2000 and 2002. Levels of reported satisfaction are not directly linked to age with the 35 to 54 year old age group reporting the highest levels of satisfaction (87%) and the 55 to 64 year olds reporting the lowest satisfaction (80%). Nevertheless, the key reasons cited for satisfaction with the council link to cleanliness and good refuse collection along with positive comments on the nature of the area as well as recycling facilities and parks and open spaces. Intensive door-to-door work has taken place in order to encourage residents to recycle using the kerbside recycling collection, and borough wide there is now a 54% participation rate.

Levels of satisfaction with the different aspects of the council's environmental services vary by age; with the levels of satisfaction for refuse collection being the highest for all of the services. In 2006, 98% of respondents over 75 years old were very or fairly satisfied with refuse collection compared to 81% of respondents in the 16 to 24 year old age group; this trend shows that satisfaction with refuse collection increase with age. This may be linked to patterns of housing and tenure. The reported levels of satisfaction are similar for blue box doorstep recycling and recycling facilities, with older people reporting higher levels of satisfaction.

Street cleaning has lower satisfaction levels than the recycling services but also different trends, with respondents in the middle age groups having lower levels of satisfaction than younger and older people. Interestingly, the highest levels of satisfaction are recorded for the over 75 age group (71%) and the lowest in the 65 to 74 year old age group (56%).

Pollution control (noise, air and water) has significantly lower levels of satisfaction than the other environmental services, with satisfaction levels increasing with age to a peak of 54% in the over 75 years old age group.

Net Satisfaction for the Councils Environmental Services by Age Group



²⁹ BVPI General User Satisfaction Survey 2006.

³⁰ IPSOS MORI 2006.

Housing

Age is an important factor in relation to home ownership. The very young would be expected to be much more likely to rent, and among those who own property, the older a person gets the more likely they are to own it outright, rather than have a mortgage. Households are characterised by the age of the household reference person. This is not a perfect variable for the average age of the adults in the household, but using the household reference person should be a good proxy for understanding patterns in tenure by age.

Housing Tenure for England 2006.

<i>All households</i>		<i>England 2006</i>					
Tenure	Age of household reference person						Total
	16 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 64	65 to 74	75 and over	
	<i>percentages</i>						
Owned outright	2	3	7	32	69	66	31
Buying with a mortgage	16	53	65	47	8	3	40
All owner occupiers	18	56	71	79	77	69	70
Rented from:							
council	18	10	10	9	12	16	11
housing association	12	7	7	6	7	10	7
All social rented sector tenants	30	17	16	14	19	26	18
Rented privately:							
unfurnished	29	19	10	6	4	5	9
furnished	23	8	2	1	0	1	3
All rented privately	52	27	12	7	5	6	12
All tenures	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

The proportion of owner occupiers rises steadily with age, except for the 75 and over category³¹. Within this, the proportion of those owning outright rises throughout, whereas the proportion owning with a mortgage peaks at 35 to 44 years old and then declines steadily.

The proportion of renters was highest for households where the household reference person was under 25 years old. The proportion drops significantly for the next age group, 25 to 34 years old, and levels out after that. The proportion renting from the social sector increases again for the 65 to 74 years old age group and the 75 and over age group.

These trends reflect differences in lifestyles. Young people tend to be studying or starting work, and renting. When their situations change, and they become financially able to save up for a deposit, some start to make the decision to buy rather than rent. This seems to continue until around the 35 years old mark, when the proportion renting remains stable. This suggests that few people who are still renting decide to buy property after this age. For the older age groups, trends of ownership have increased over time. This means that the older generations are less likely than younger ones to own property overall. Also, there might be people who have owned, but who have sold up and moved into, for example, rented retirement accommodation.

In Stockton in 2001, 27% of people own their homes outright, with 44% of people owning with a mortgage³². 17.2% of people rented from the local authority.

³¹ ONS Labour Force Survey, 2006.

³² Census 2001.

Tenure	Percentage
Owns outright	26.8%
Owns with a mortgage or loan	44.4%
Shared ownership	0.4%
Rented Council (local authority)	17.2%
Rented Housing Association / Registered Social Landlord	4.3%
Rented Private landlord or letting agency	5.2%
Rented Other	1.7%

Organisational Development and Operational Effectiveness

In May 2007, the majority of employees of SBC are between 40 and 49 years old (33% or 2760 people). There are few staff who are under 20 years old and over 65 years old.

Stockton Borough Council Employees by Age

