



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

Under 18 and under 16 conceptions

2018

Indicator information

The conception indicators are available in the Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles, and are updated annually

<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/sexualhealth>

Indicator name: Under 18s conception rate

Definition: Conceptions in women aged under 18 per 1,000 females aged 15-17

Data source: Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Indicator name: Under 16s conception rate

Definition: Conceptions in women aged under 16 per 1,000 females aged 13-15

Data source: Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Rationale

Over the last 20 years there has been significant progress on teenage pregnancy. The under-18 conception rate has fallen ~~64~~54% and the under-16 conception rate by over 65%. Both are now at the lowest level since 1969 (1). Inequalities have also been reduced. The biggest declines have been in areas with the highest level of deprivation and the proportion of young mothers in education or training has doubled (2). This has been achieved through a long term evidence based teenage pregnancy strategy, delivered with concerted effort by local government and their health partners, and recognised by WHO as an exemplar for other countries (3).

However, despite this success, a continued focus is needed. Young people in England still experience higher teenage birth rates than their peers in Western European countries (4), teenagers remain at highest risk of unplanned pregnancy (5) with over 50% of under-18 conceptions ending in abortion and inequalities in rates persist within England. There is an eight fold difference in rates between LAs and 60% of LAs have at least one ward with a rate significantly higher than the national average. Outcomes for young parents and their children are still disproportionately poor (6) - notably infant mortality, maternal mental health and child development – which contributes to inter-generational inequalities.

Sustaining the downward trend and narrowing inequalities is key to enabling young people fulfil their potential and integral to wider improvements on sexual health, emotional well-being and safeguarding. Evidence based guidance to support further progress has been published by PHE and LGA: **Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Framework** and **Framework to support teenage mothers and young fathers**, together with briefings for local councillors highlighting the need for a continued focus on both prevention and support. The following slides, organised by PHE Centre, provide the most recent under-18 and under-16 conception data and trends for each LA.

1. Conception statistics. England and Wales. 2018. ONS 2020

2. Wellings K et al. 2016. Changes in conceptions in women younger than 18 years and the circumstances of young mothers in England in 2000-12: an observational study. *Lancet* 388 (10033), 586-595. 6 August 2016.

3. Hadley A, Ingham R, Chandra-Mouli V. Implementing the United Kingdom's 10-year teenage pregnancy strategy for England (1999-2010): How was this done and what did it achieve? *Reproductive Health*, 2016, 13:139.

4. Live births to women aged under-18 in EU-28 countries: 2005, 2014 & 2015. ONS, 2017.

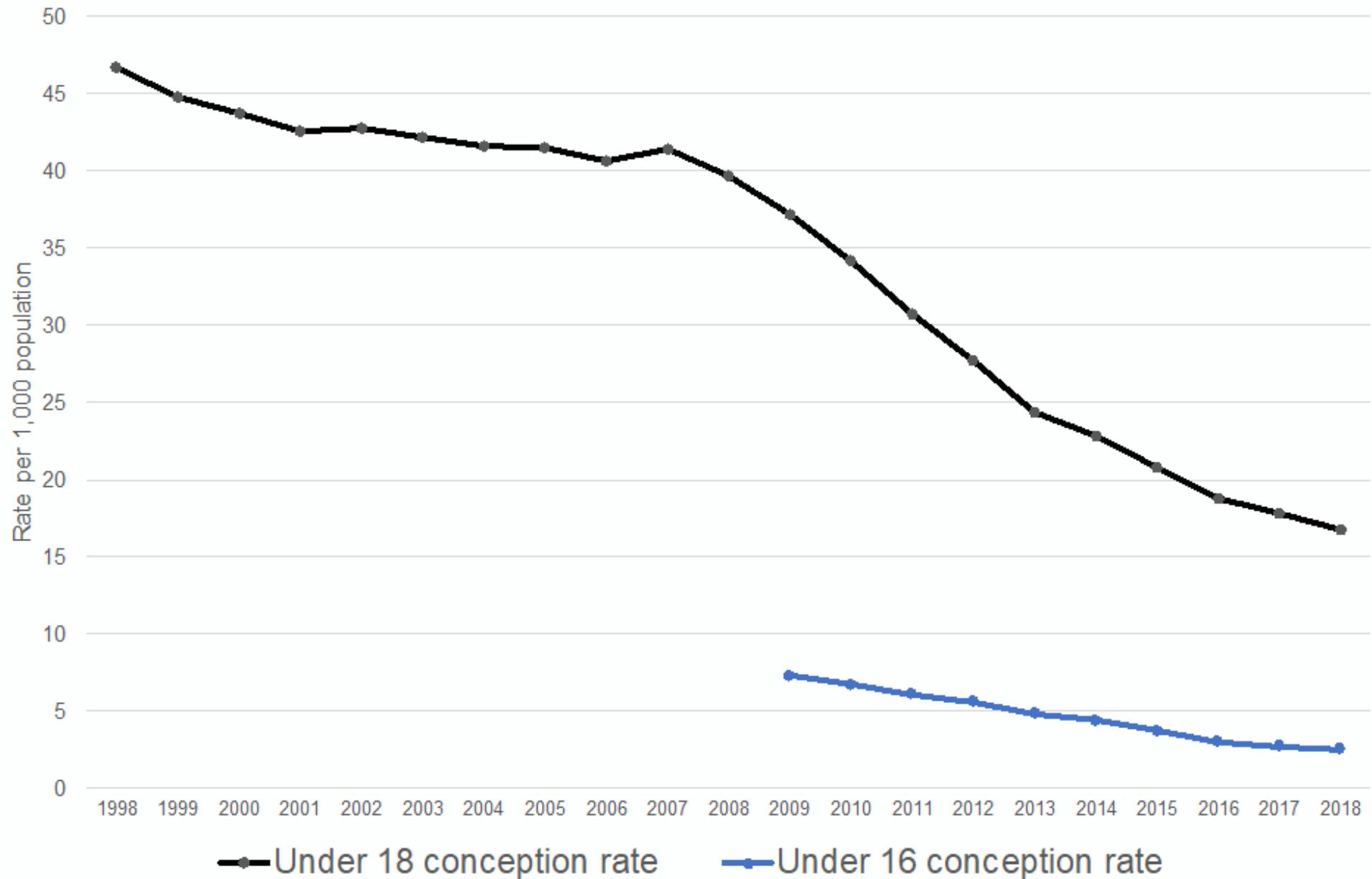
5. Wellings K et al. 2013. The prevalence of unplanned pregnancy and associated factors in Britain: findings from the third National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles (Natsal-3). *Lancet* 382 (9907), 1807-1816. November 2016.

6. Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Framework (slide 7). PHE & LGA. 2019

Caveats

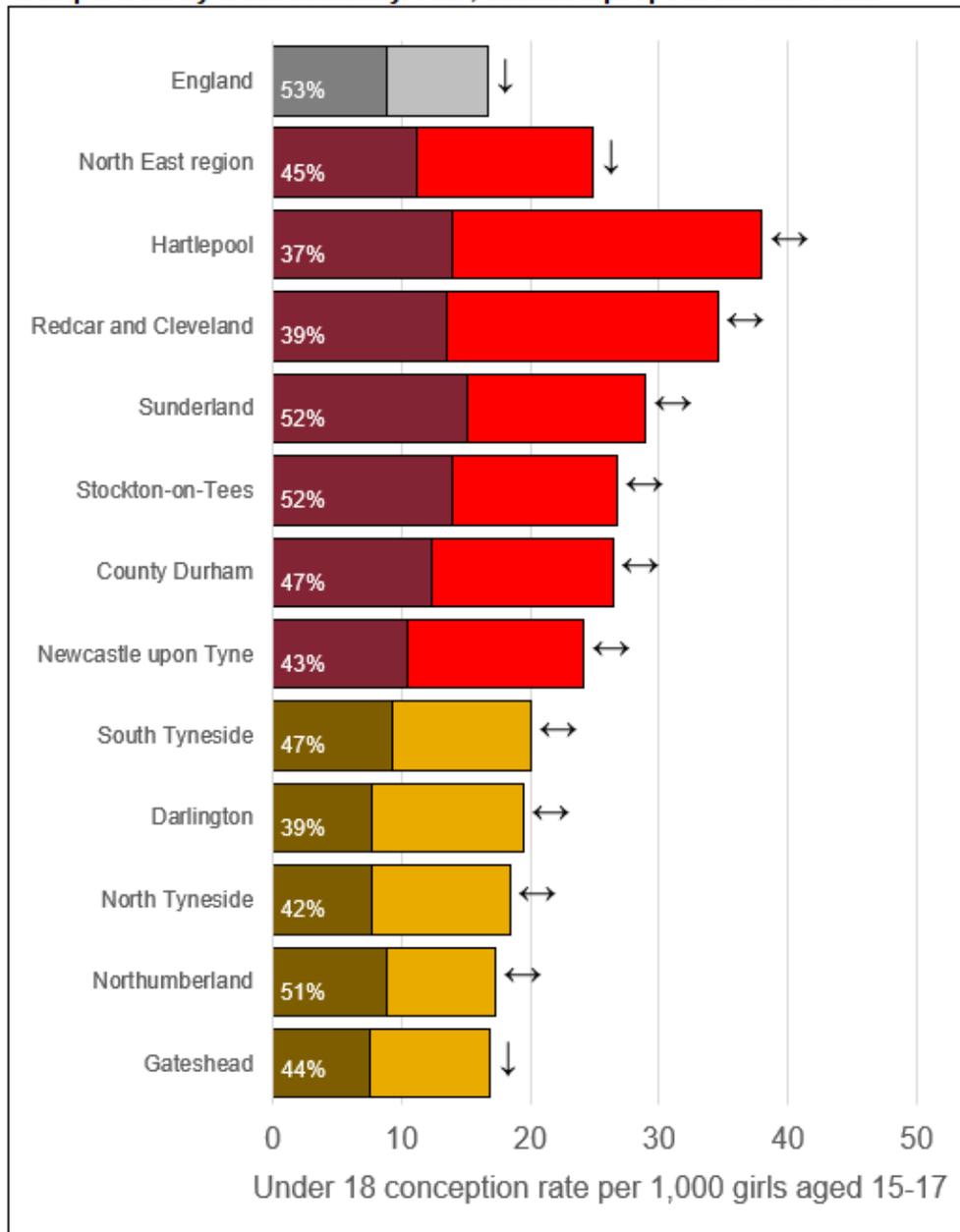
The date of conception is estimated using recorded gestation for abortions and stillbirths, and assuming 38 weeks gestation for live births. A woman's age at conception is calculated as the number of complete years between her date of birth and the date she conceived. The postcode of the woman's address at time of birth or abortion is used to determine geographical area of residence at time of conception. Only about 5% of under 18 conceptions are to girls aged 14 or under and to include younger age groups in the base population would produce misleading results. The 15-17 age group is effectively treated as population at risk. Deprivation deciles and ONS group calculations exclude any local authority values that have been suppressed.

Trend over time, England



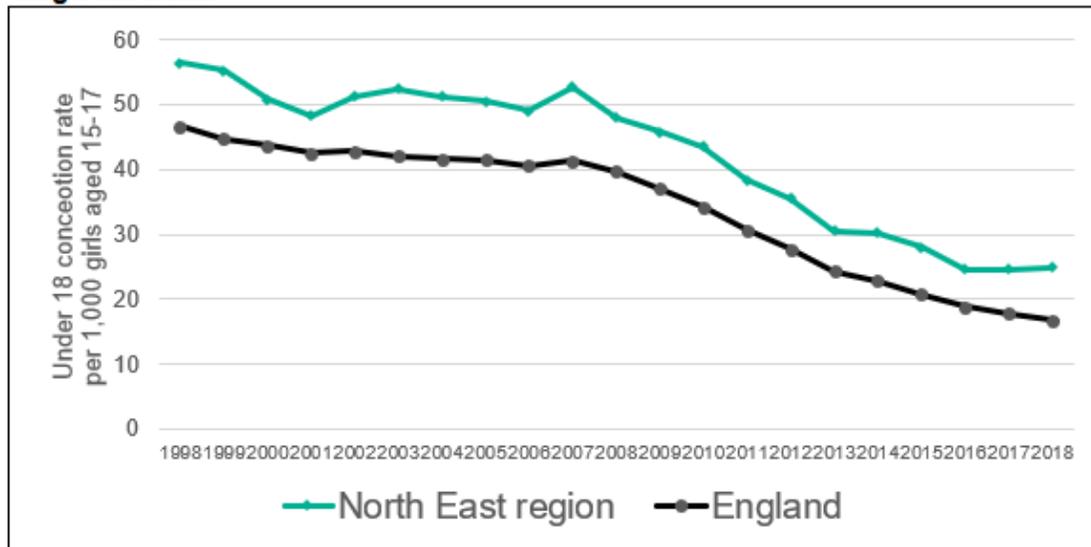
Under 18 conceptions in North East region, 2018

Comparison by local authority: rate, abortion proportion and trend



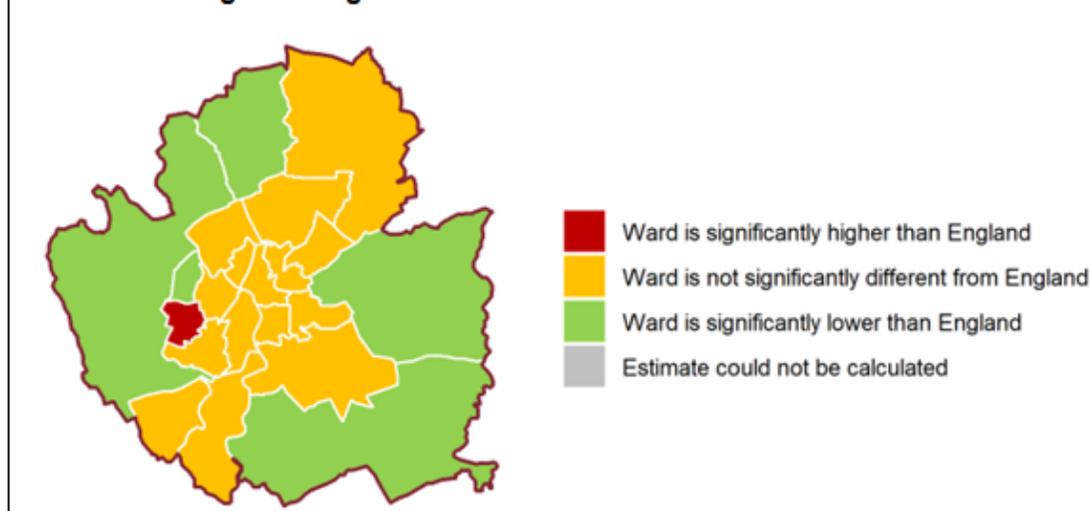
Proportion of conceptions leading to abortion shown in white on the bars
Recent trend (PHE Fingertips method) denoted by an arrow at the end of bar

Regional trend



Trends for individual local authorities are available through PHE's fingertips fingertips.phe.gov.uk

Estimated teenage conceptions 2014-2016 by ward, benchmarked against England



Example shown above for illustrative purposes only.

Maps for areas in North East region available:

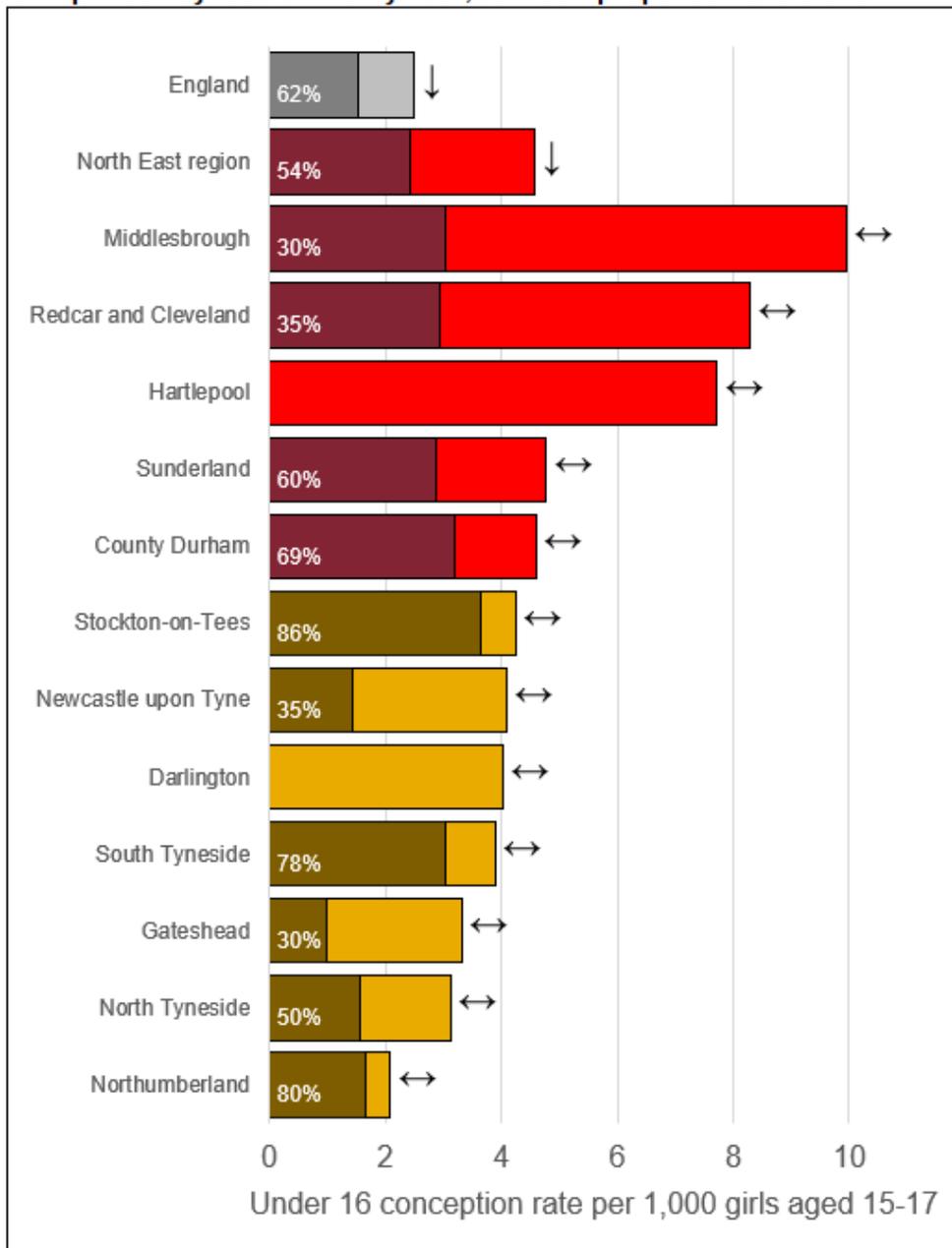
For MSOA-based rates and associated ward estimates apply to:

Dawn.Phillips@phe.gov.uk

vsob@ons.gsi.gov.uk

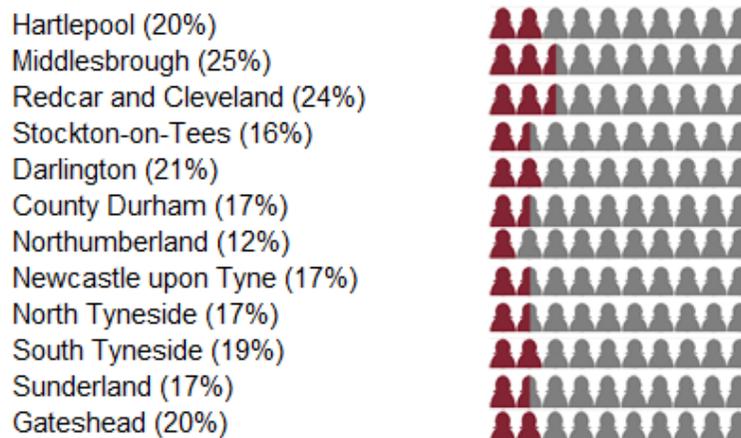
Under 16 conceptions in North East region, 2018

Comparison by local authority: rate, abortion proportion and trend



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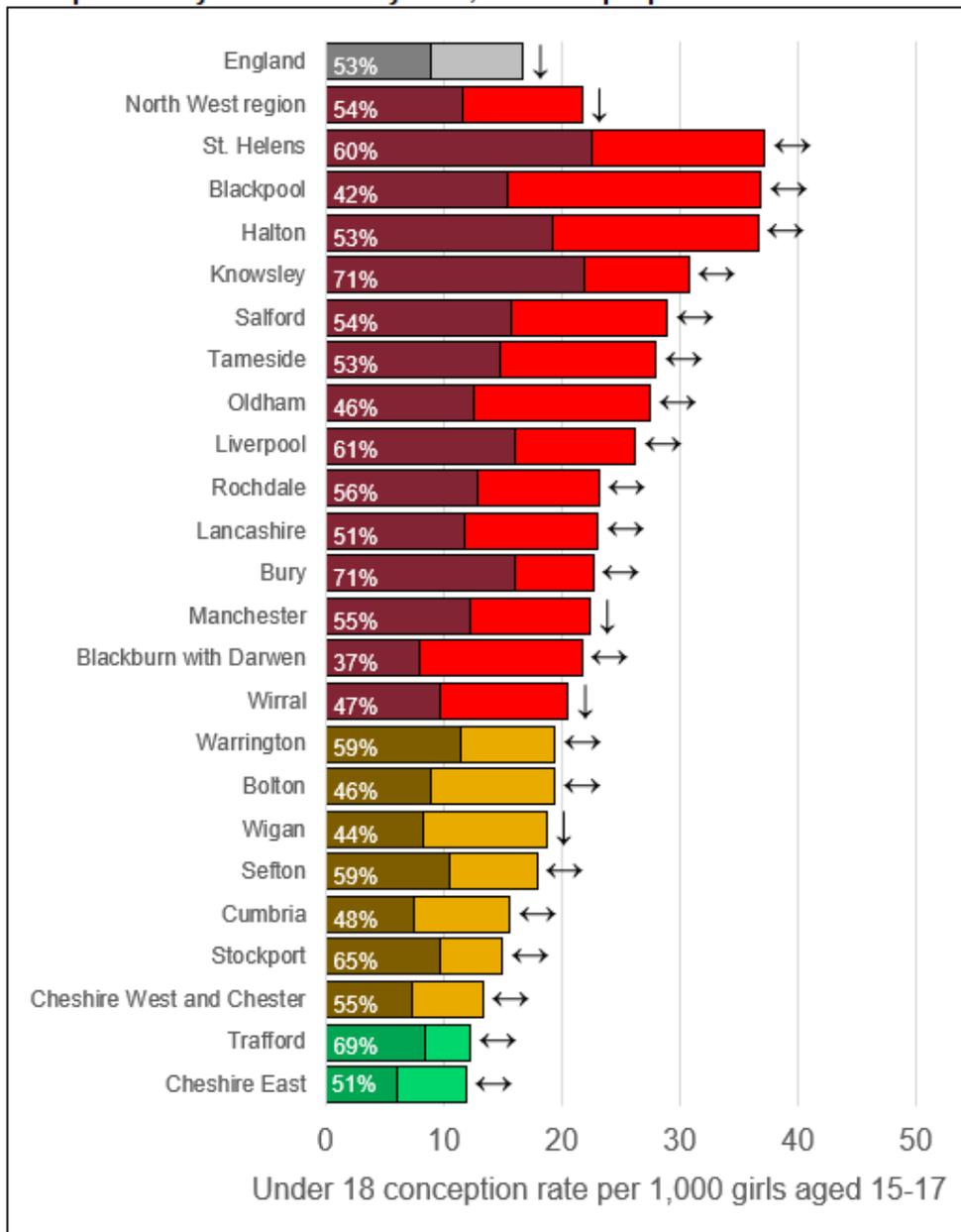
Proportion of the under 18 conception rate comprising conceptions to girls aged under 16



Proportion rounded to the nearest 5% for visualisation

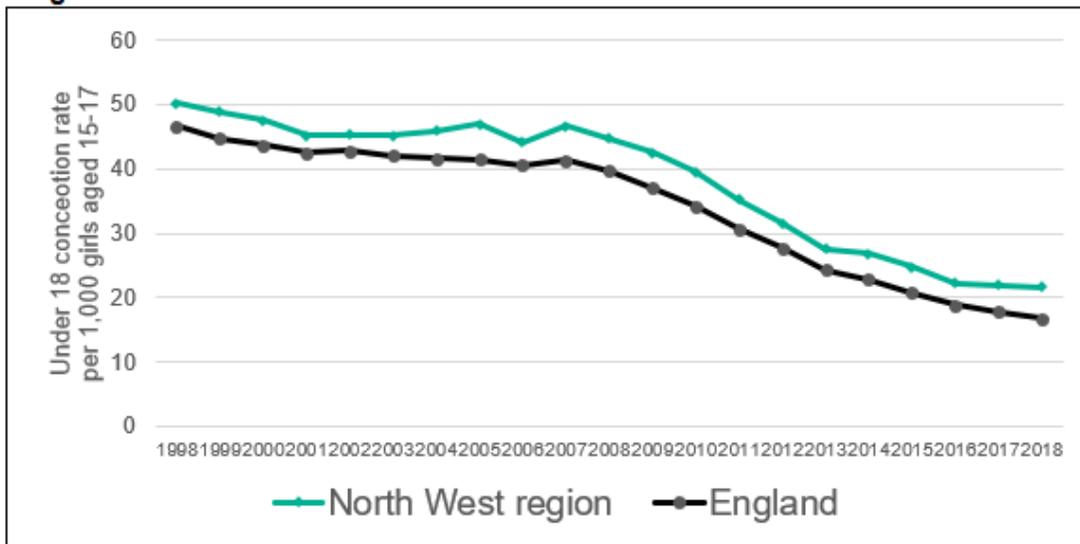
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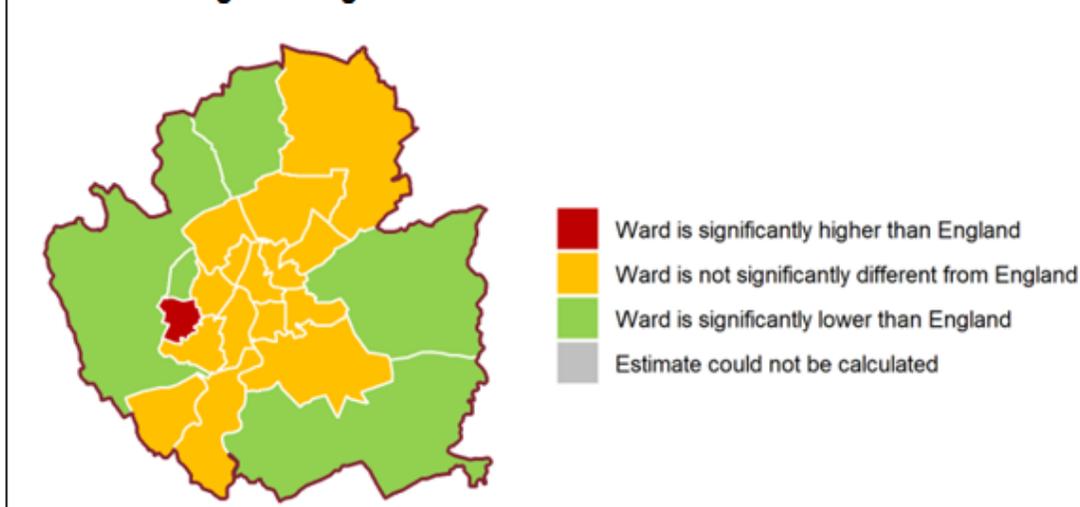
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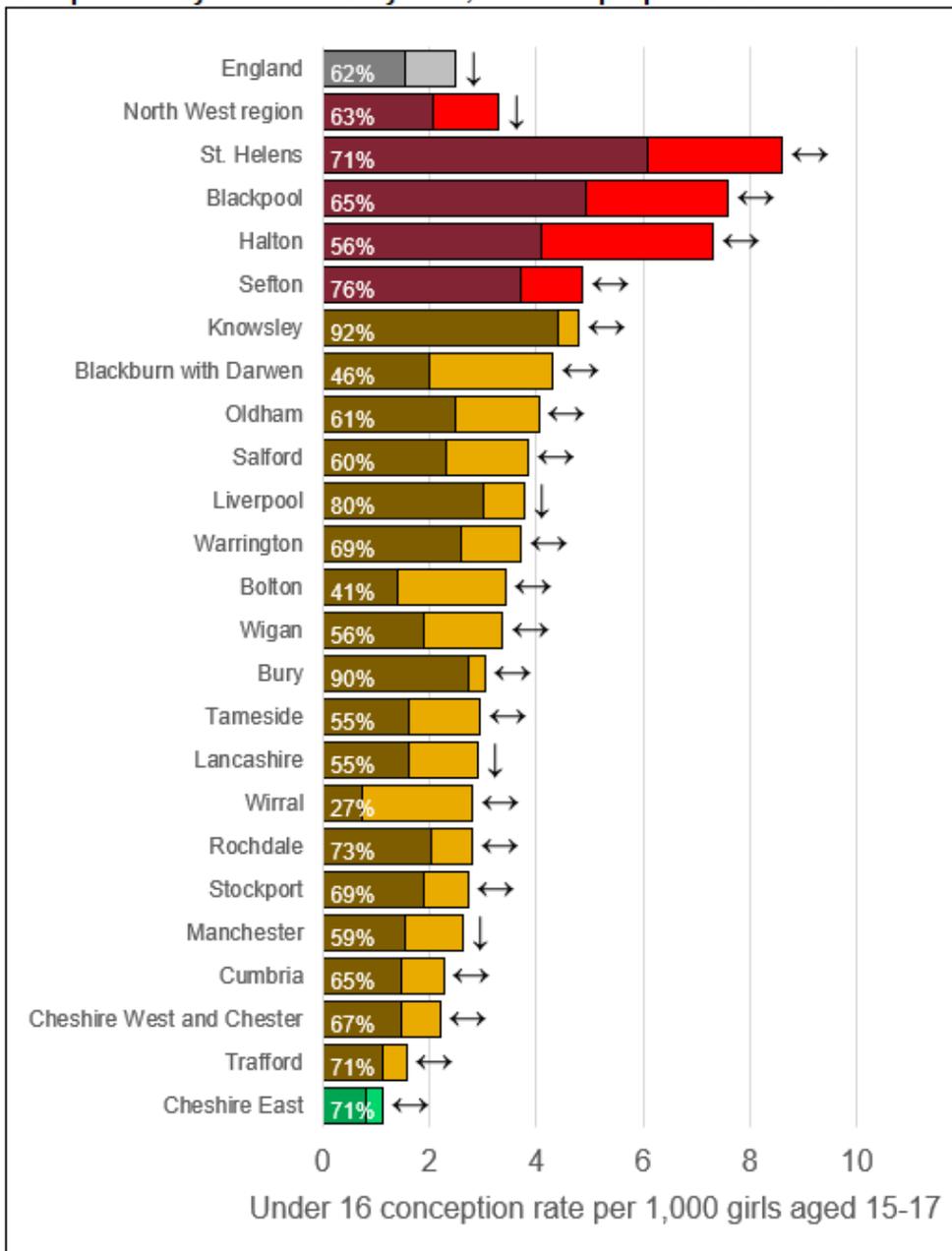
Jon.Dunn@phe.gov.uk

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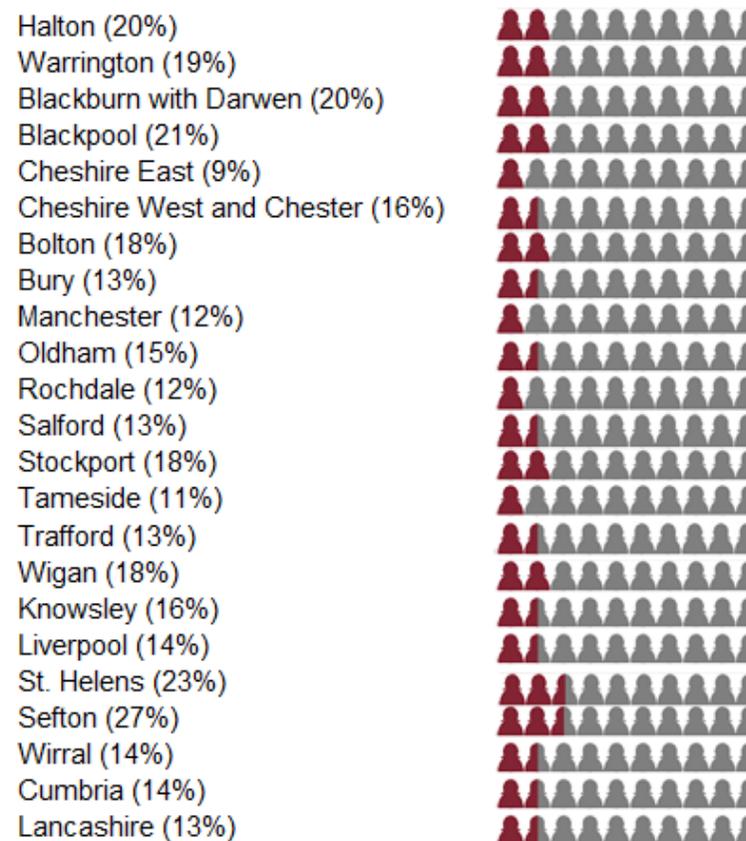
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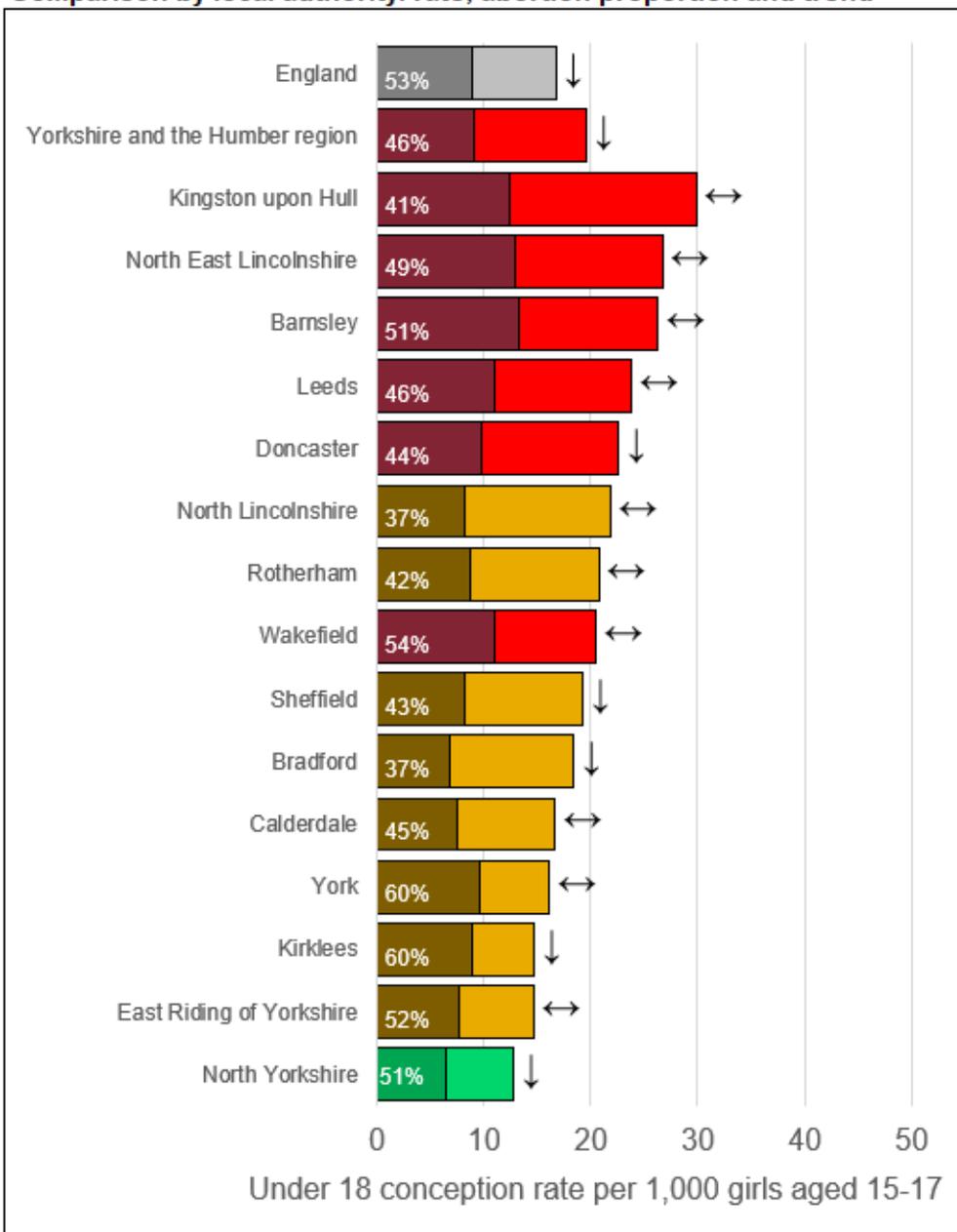
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Proportion rounded to the nearest 5% for visualisation

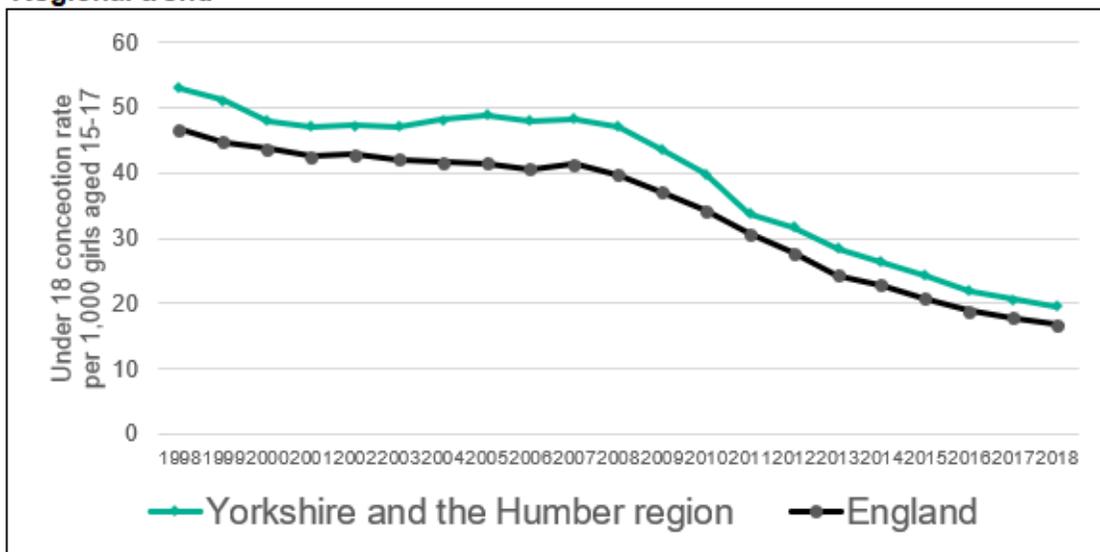
Under 18 conceptions in Yorkshire and the Humber region, 2018

Comparison by local authority: rate, abortion proportion and trend



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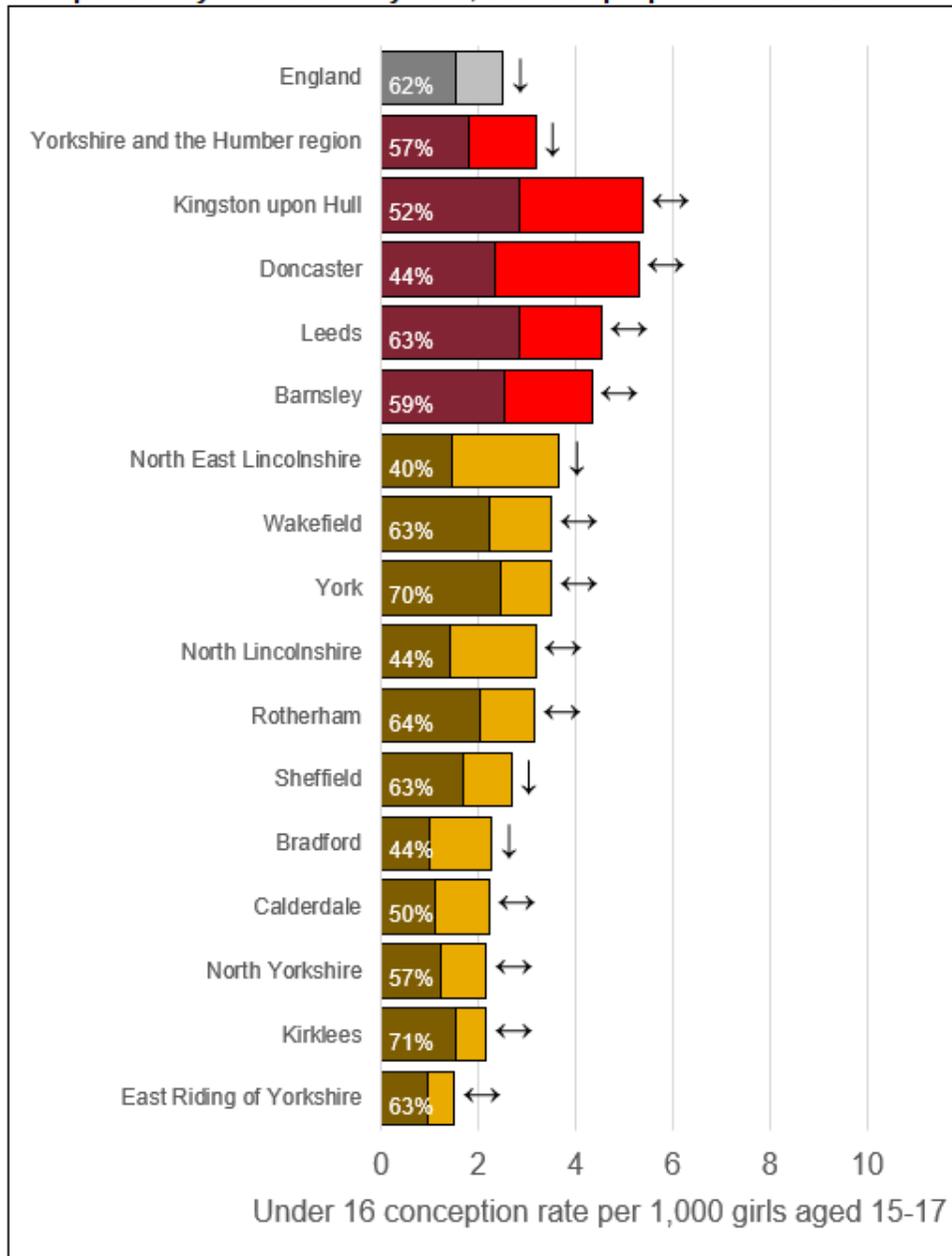


Example shown above for illustrative purposes only.

Maps for areas in Yorkshire and the Humber region available: Georgina.Wilkinson@phe.gov.uk
For MSOA-based rates and associated ward estimates apply to: vsob@ons.gsi.gov.uk

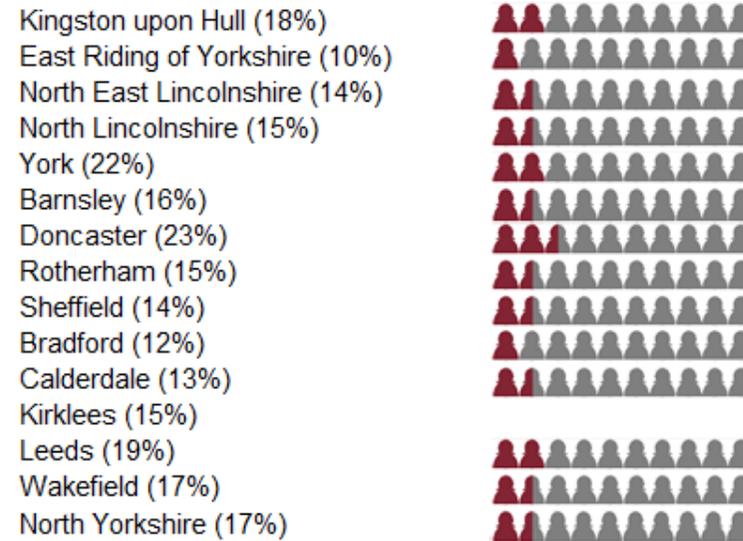
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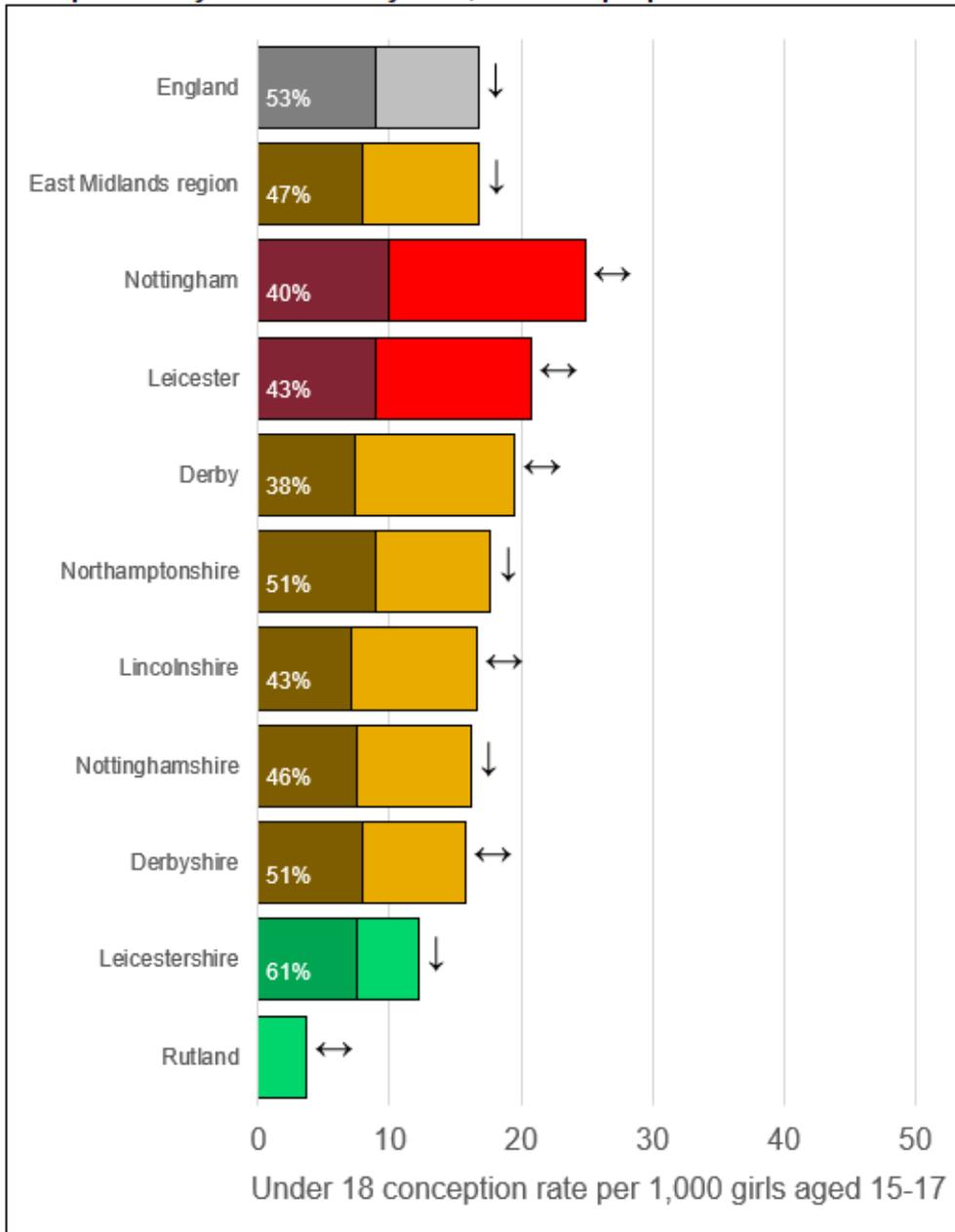
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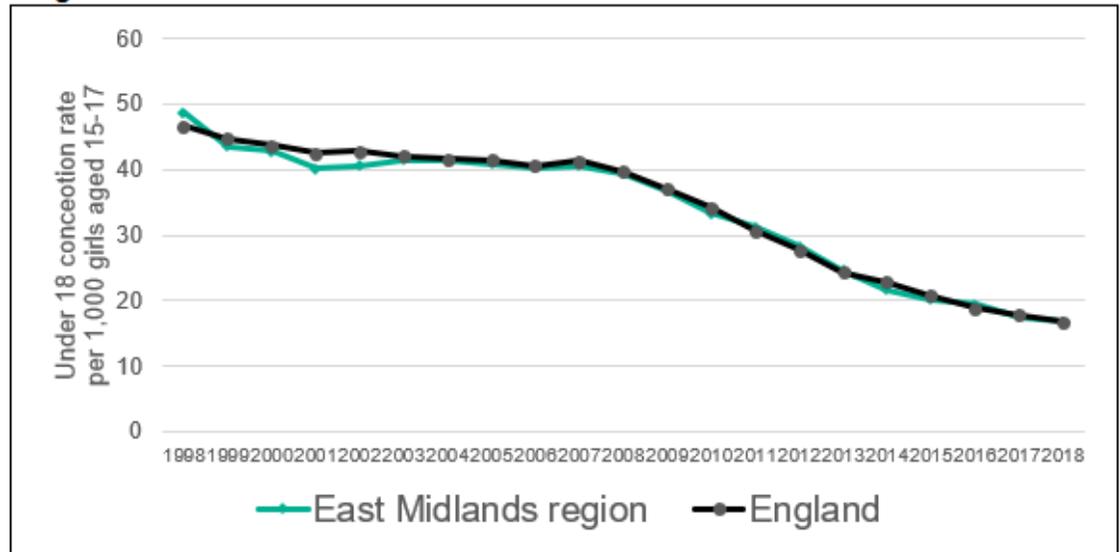
Under 18 conceptions in East Midlands region, 2018

Comparison by local authority: rate, abortion proportion and trend



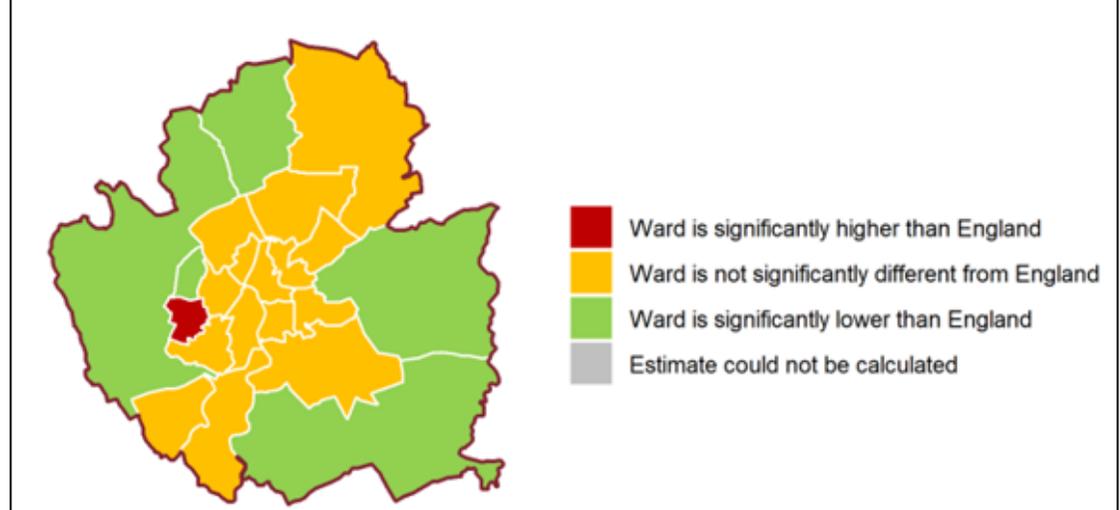
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Estimated teenage conceptions 2014-2016 by ward, benchmarked against England



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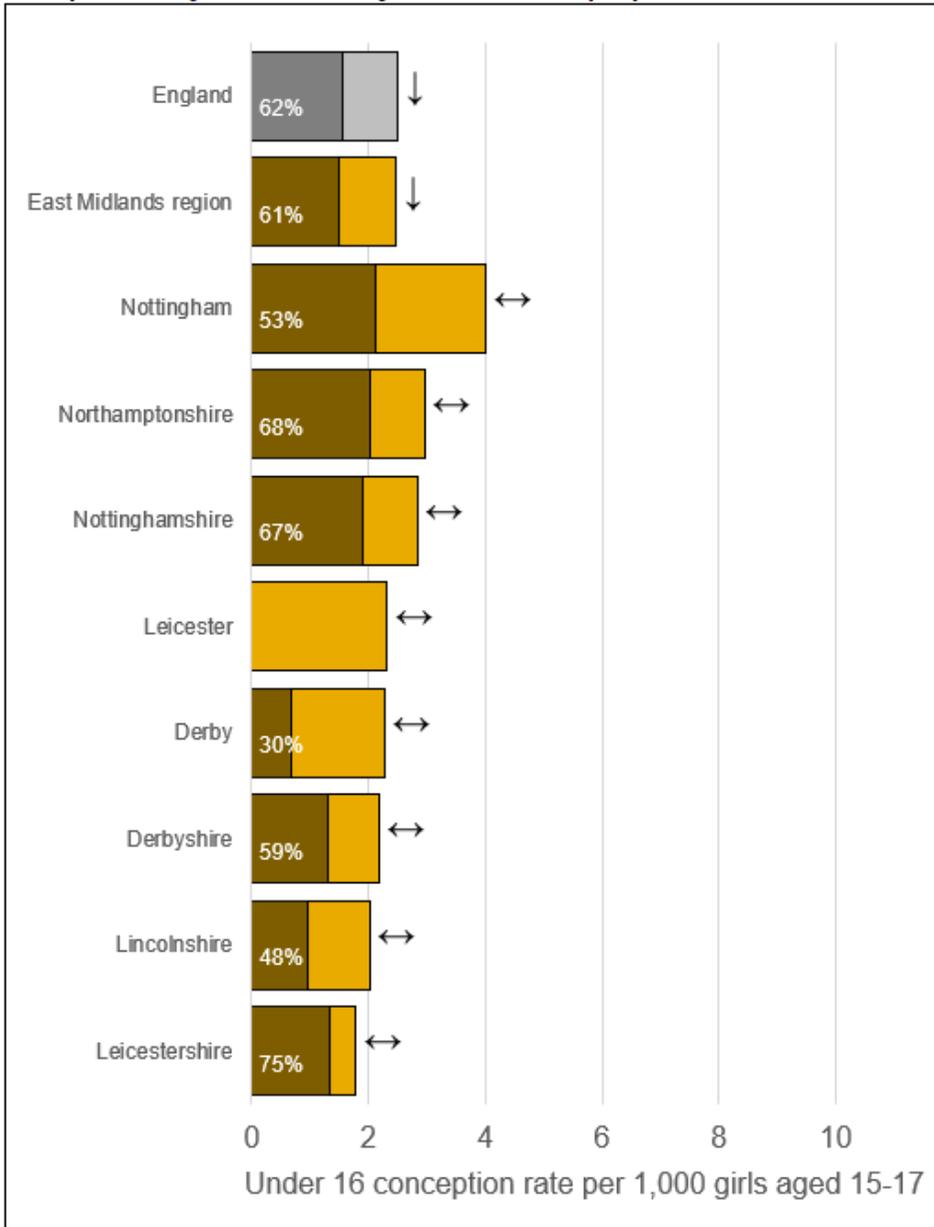
Maps for areas in East Midlands region available:

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Deborah.Shaw@phe.gov.uk

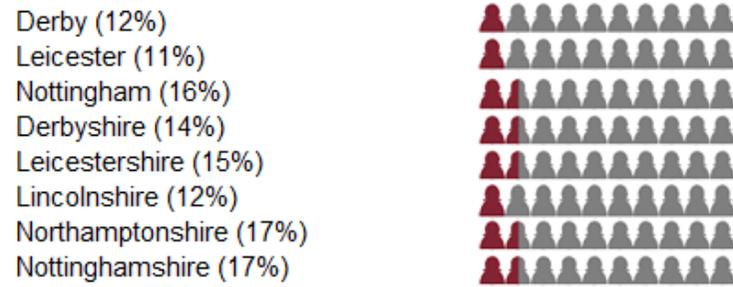
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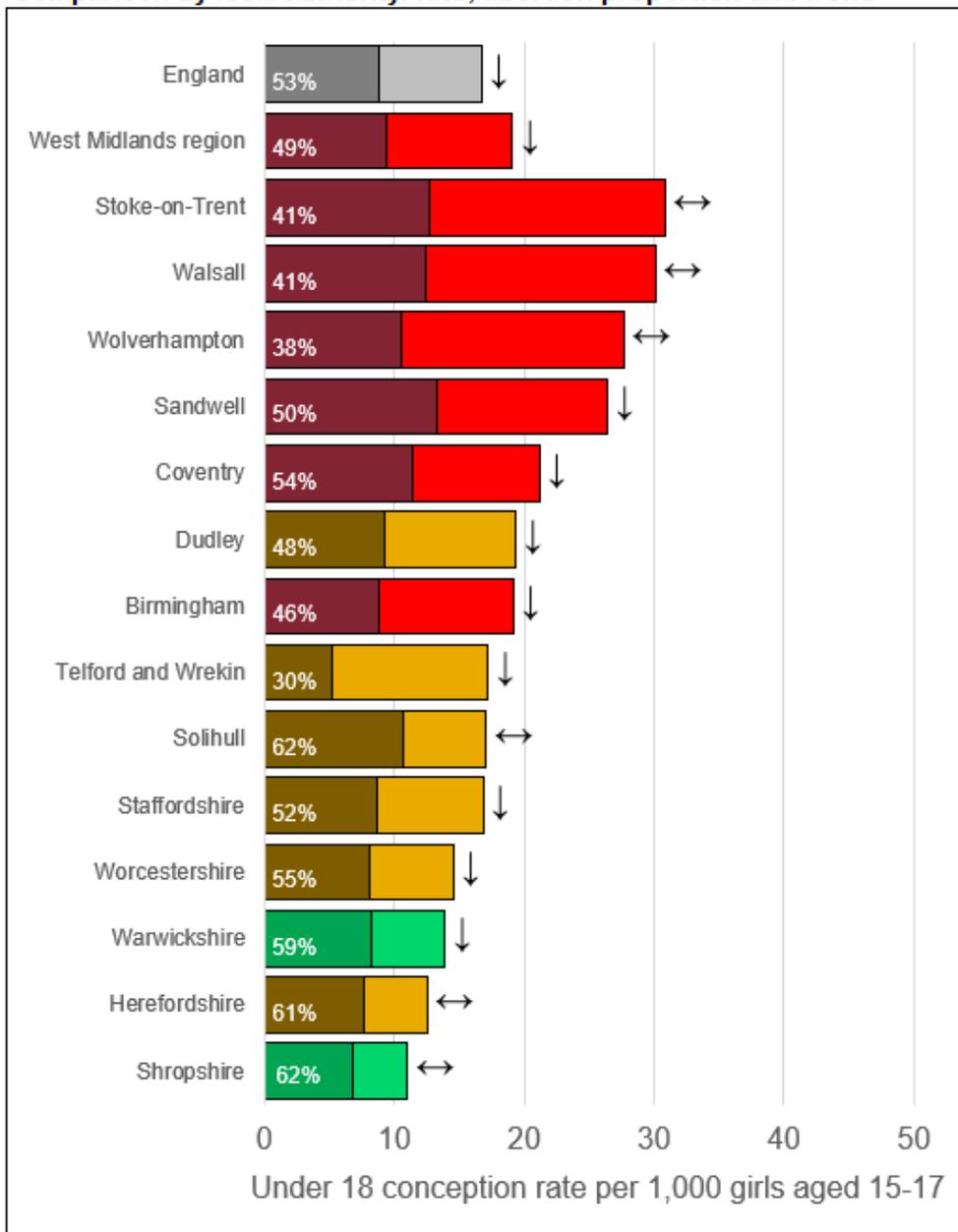
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Proportion rounded to the nearest 5% for visualisation

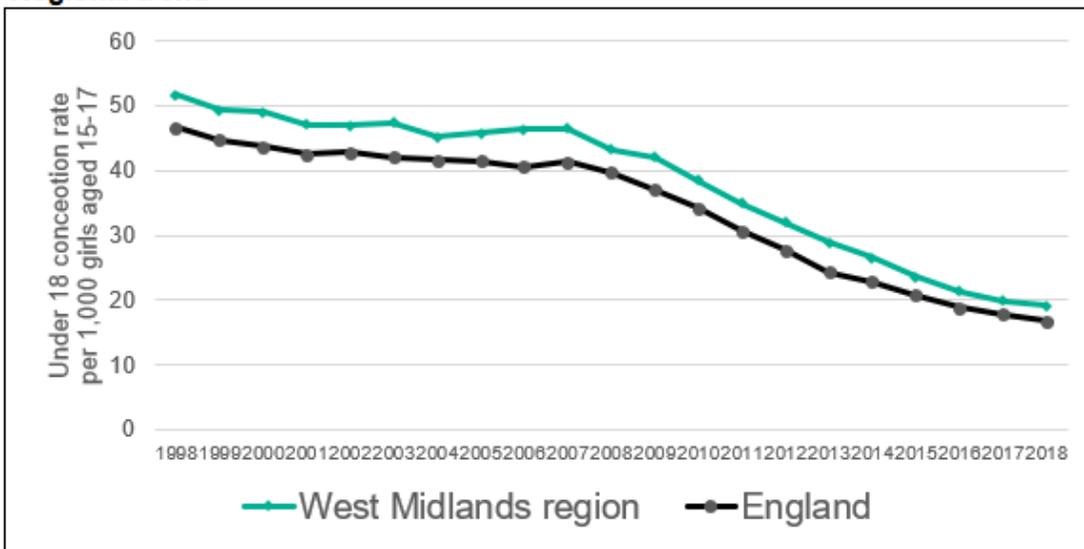
Under 18 conceptions in West Midlands region, 2018

Comparison by local authority: rate, abortion proportion and trend



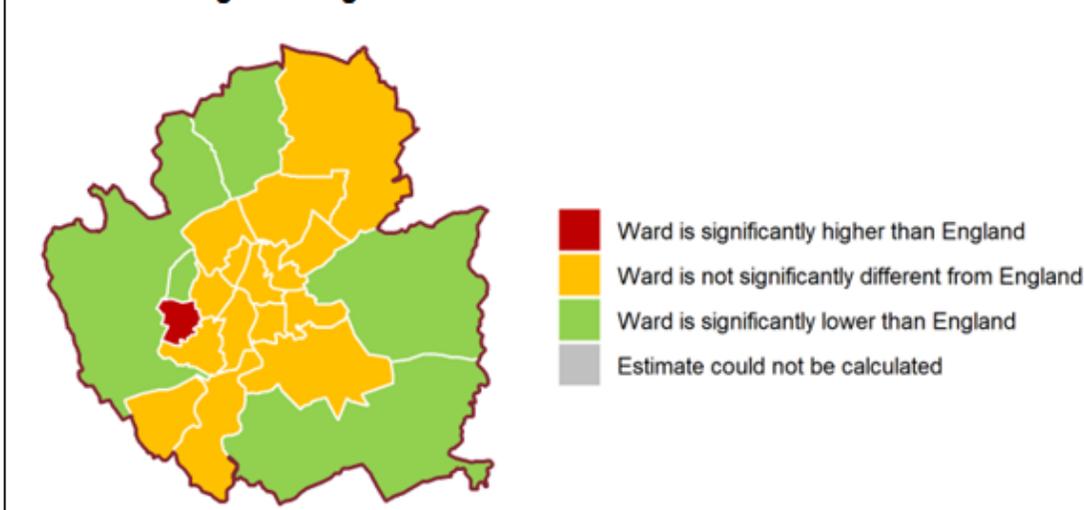
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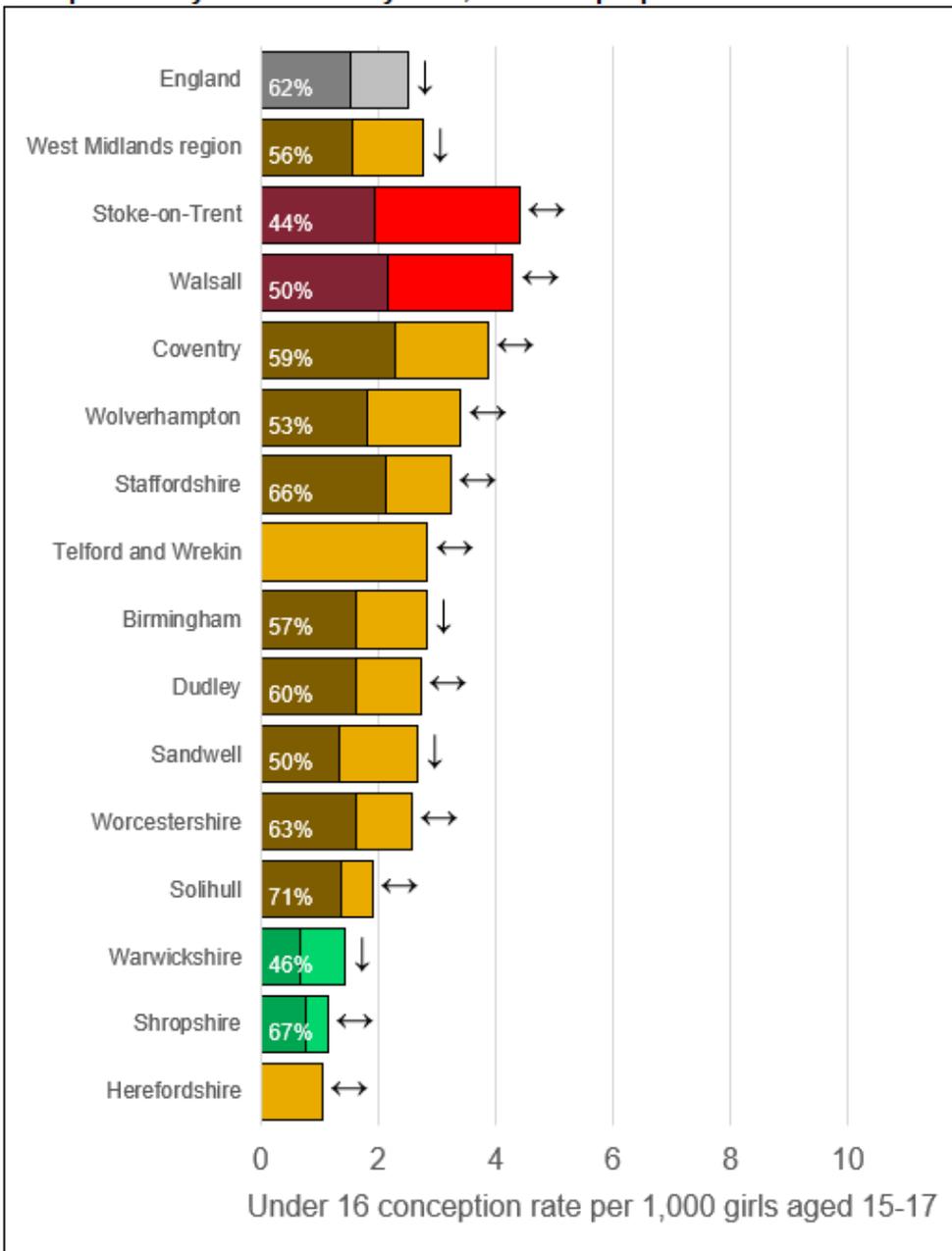
Simon.Walker@phe.gov.uk

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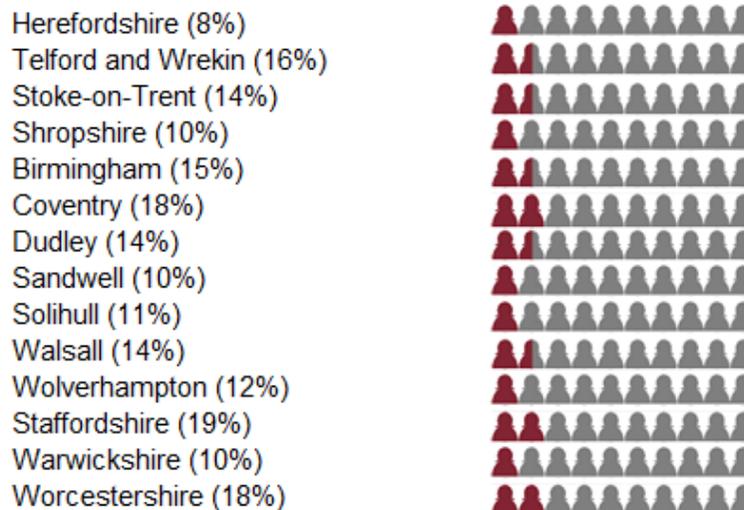
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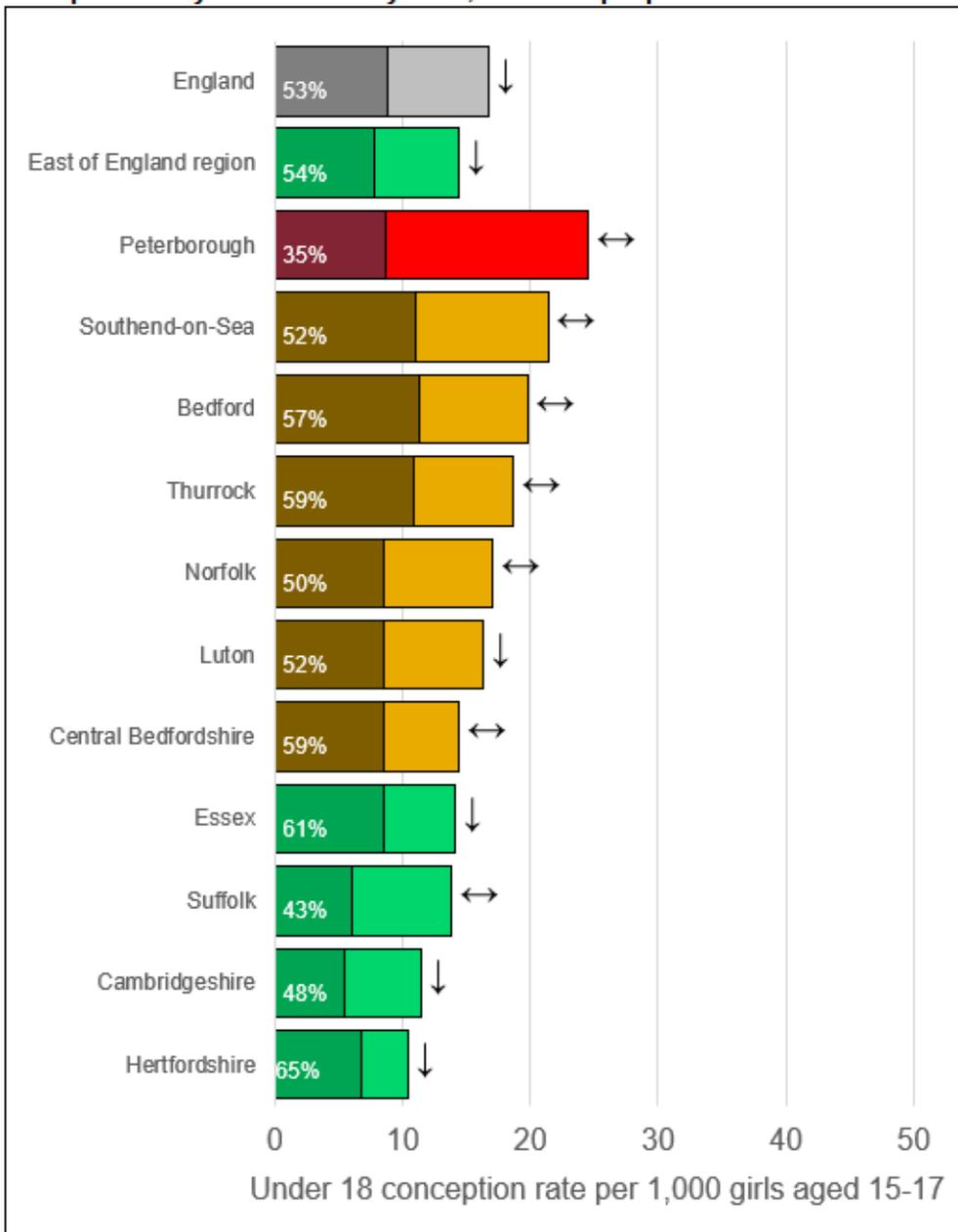
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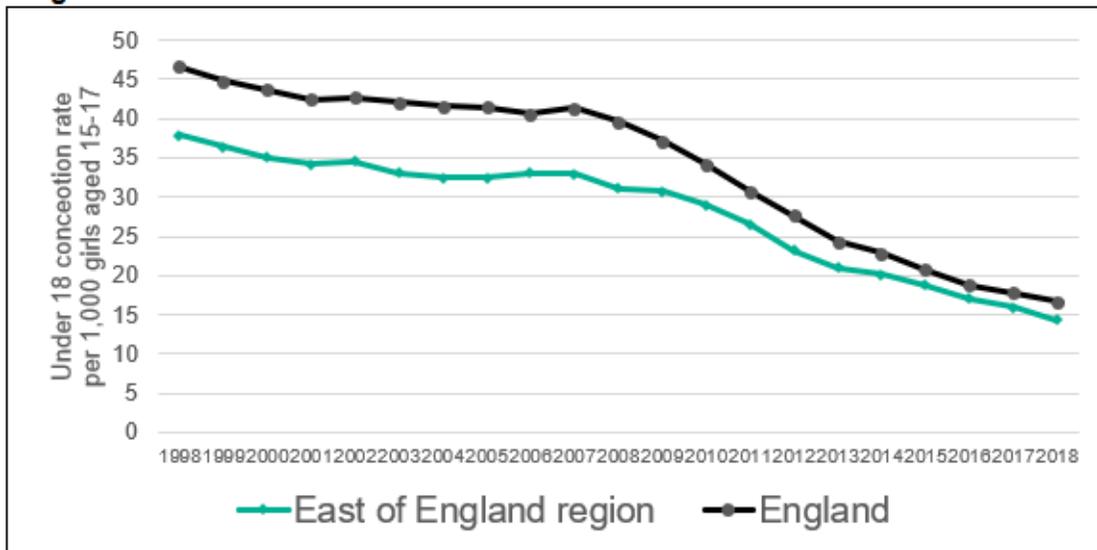
Under 18 conceptions in East of England region, 2018

Comparison by local authority: rate, abortion proportion and trend



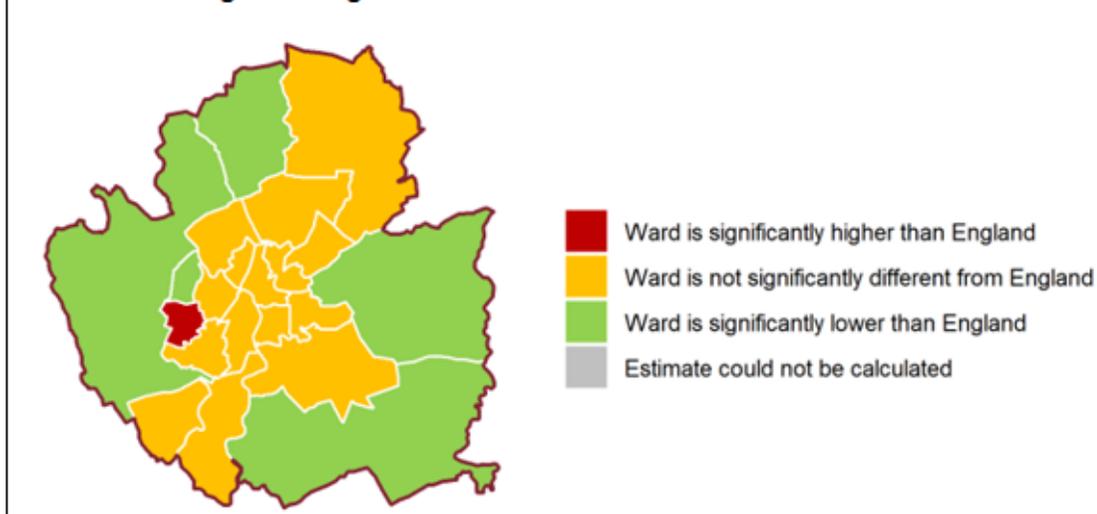
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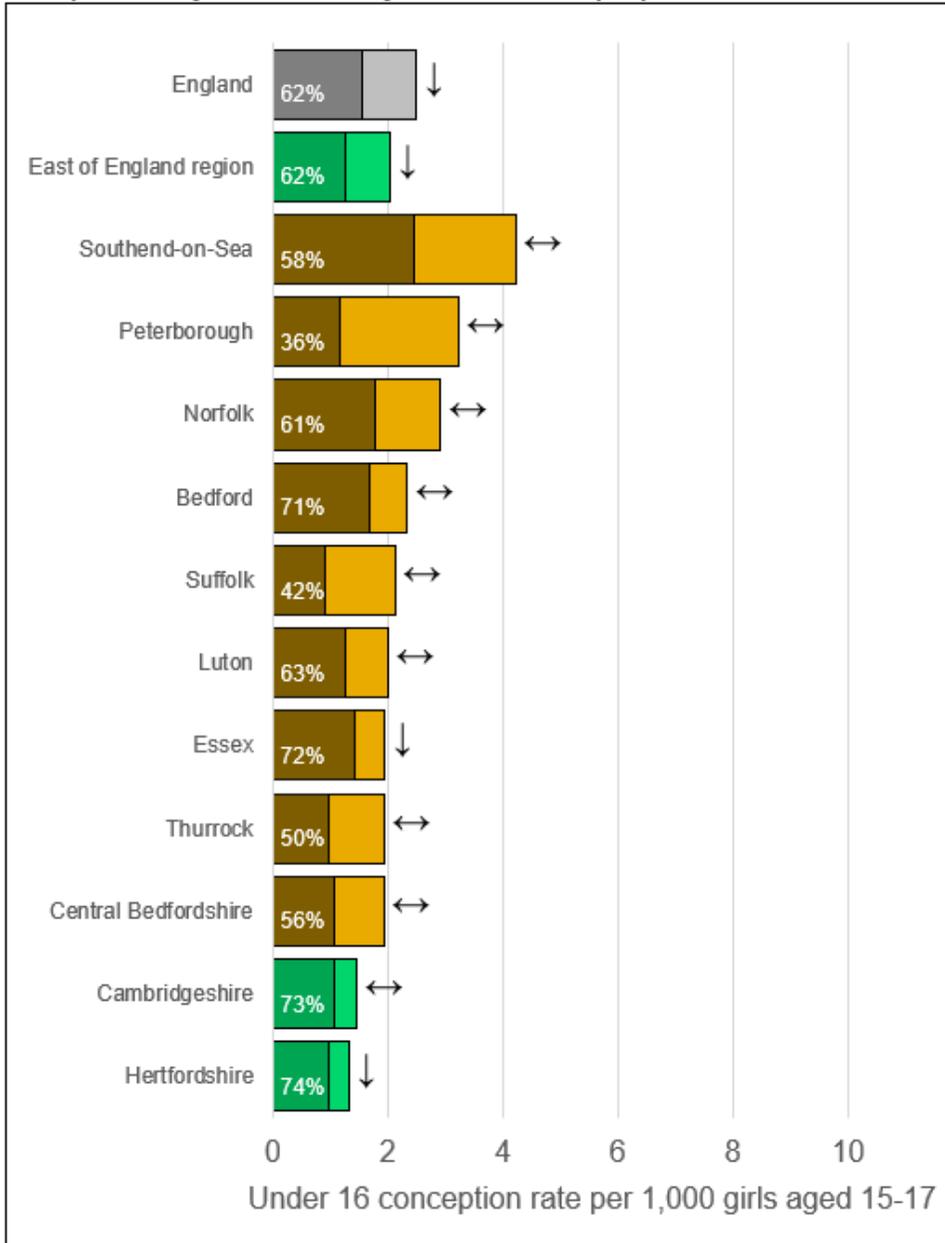
Shahin.Parmar@phe.gov.uk

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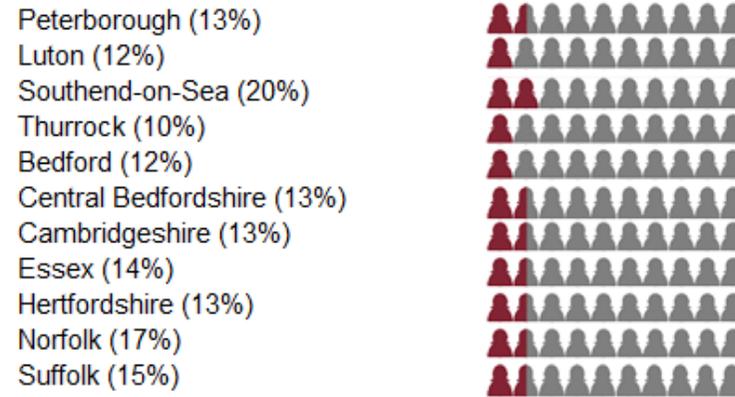
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Comparison by local authority: rate, abortion proportion and trend



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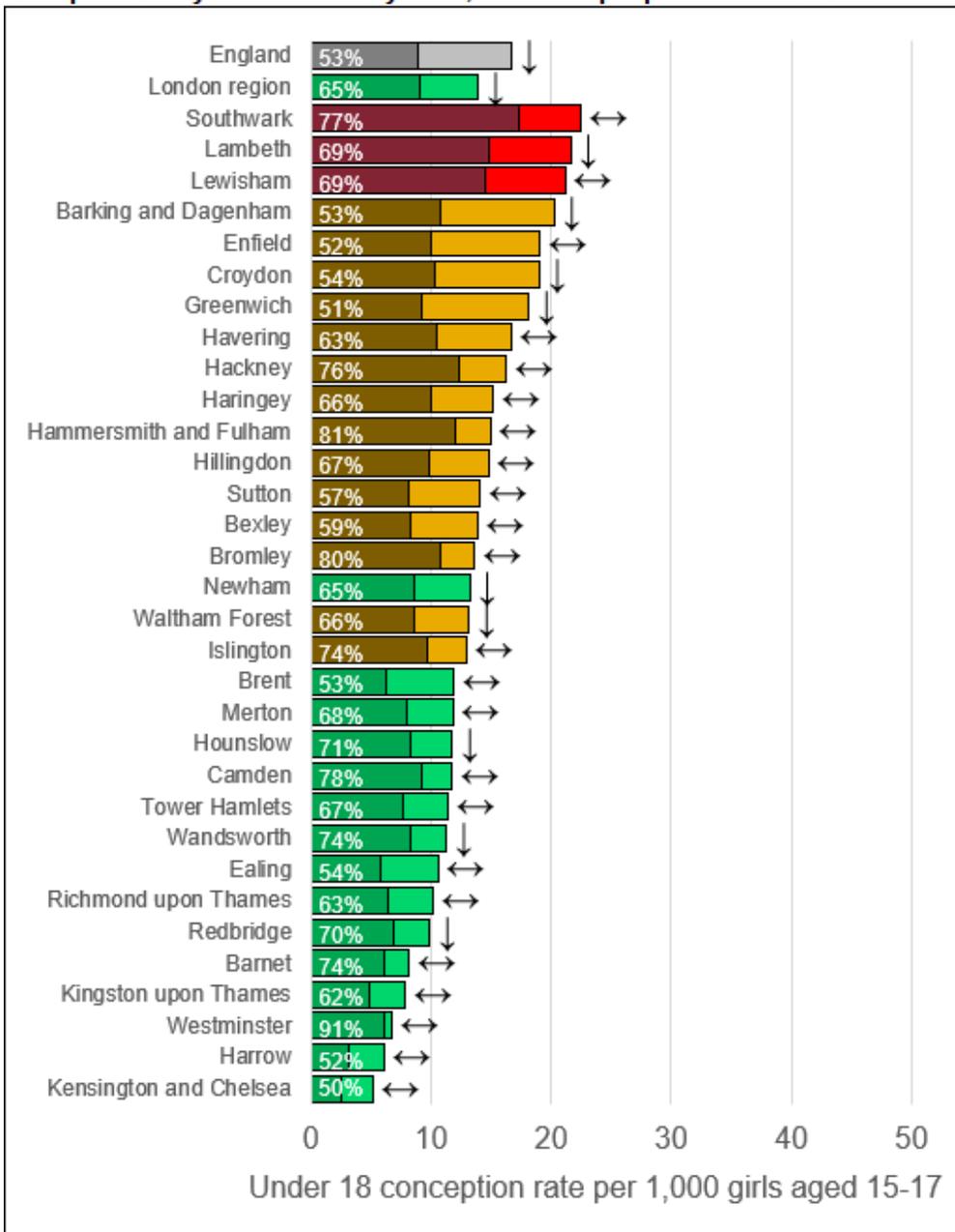
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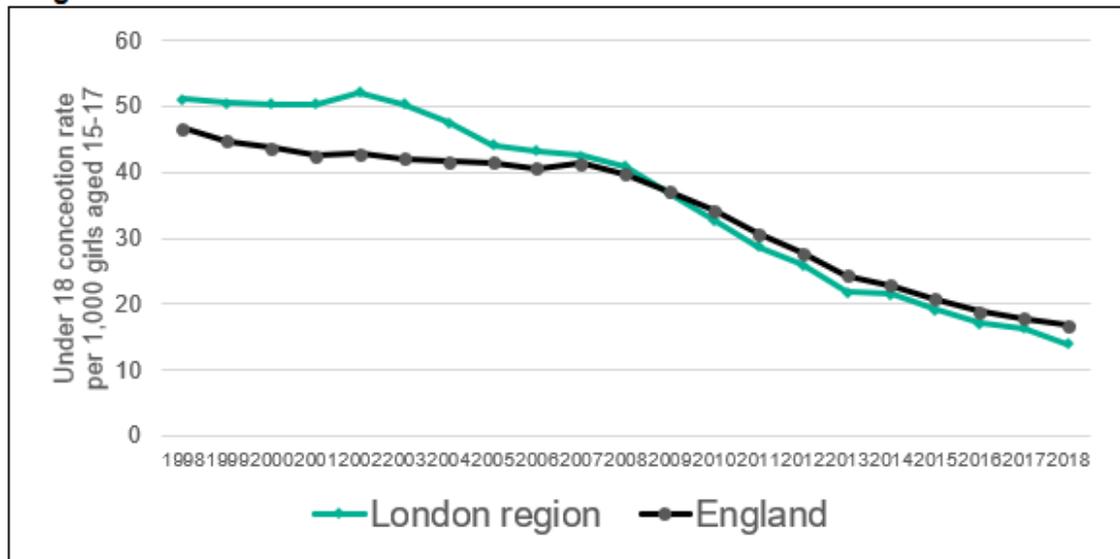
Under 18 conceptions in London region, 2018

Comparison by local authority: rate, abortion proportion and trend



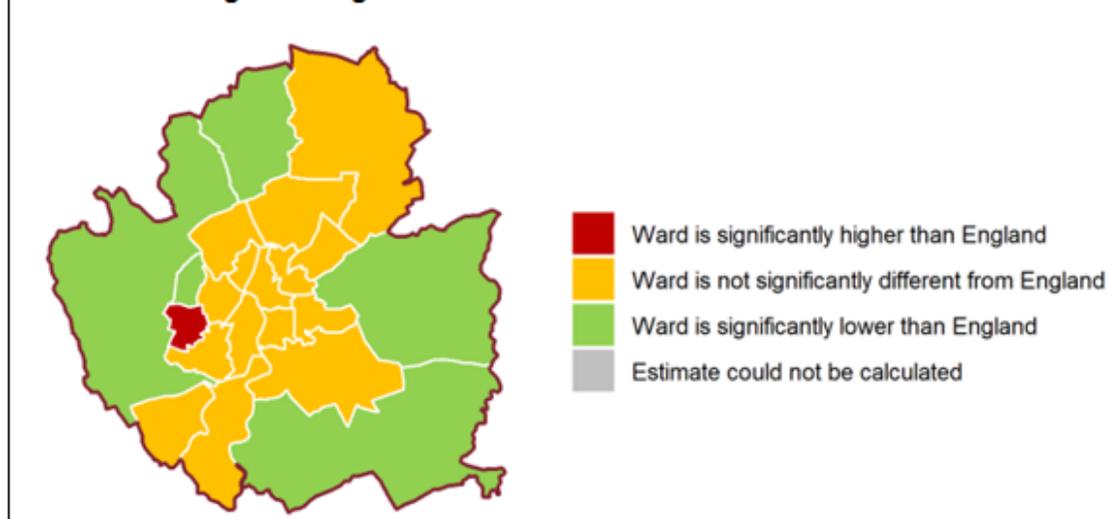
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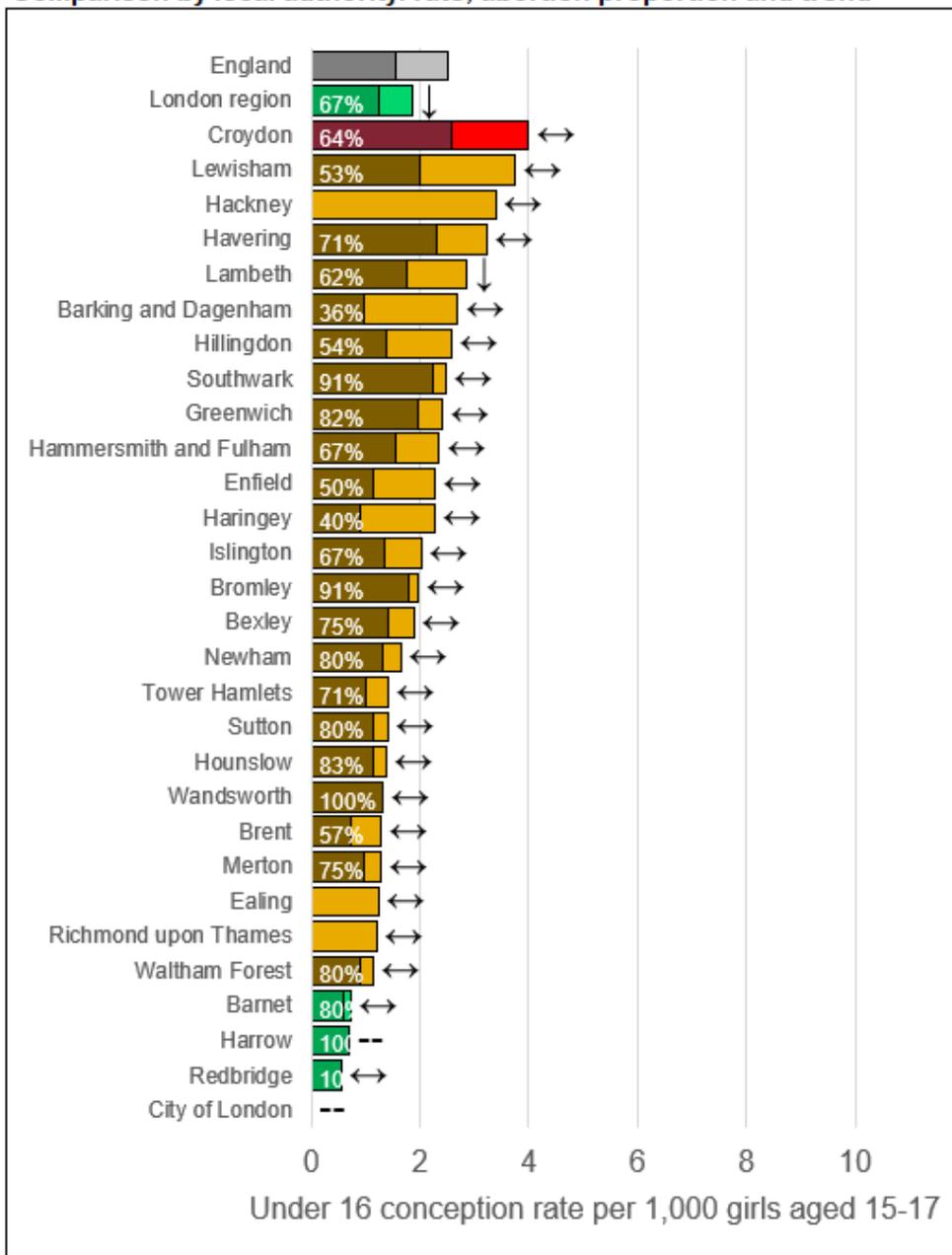
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Helen.Corkin@phe.gov.uk

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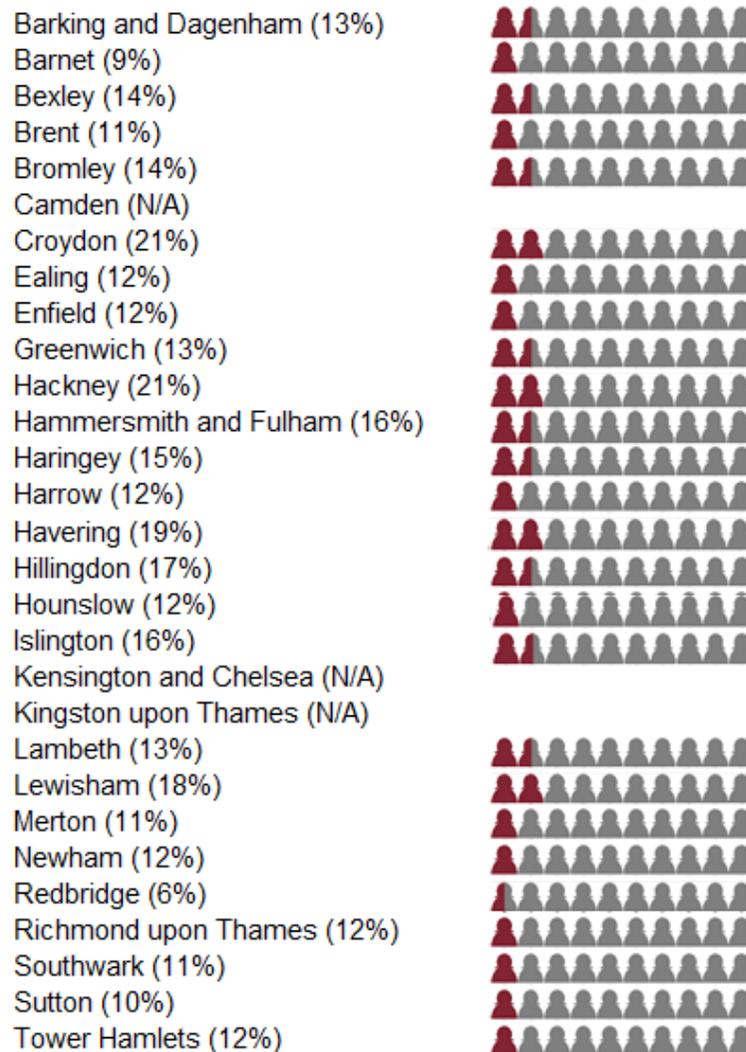
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Comparison by local authority: rate, abortion proportion and trend



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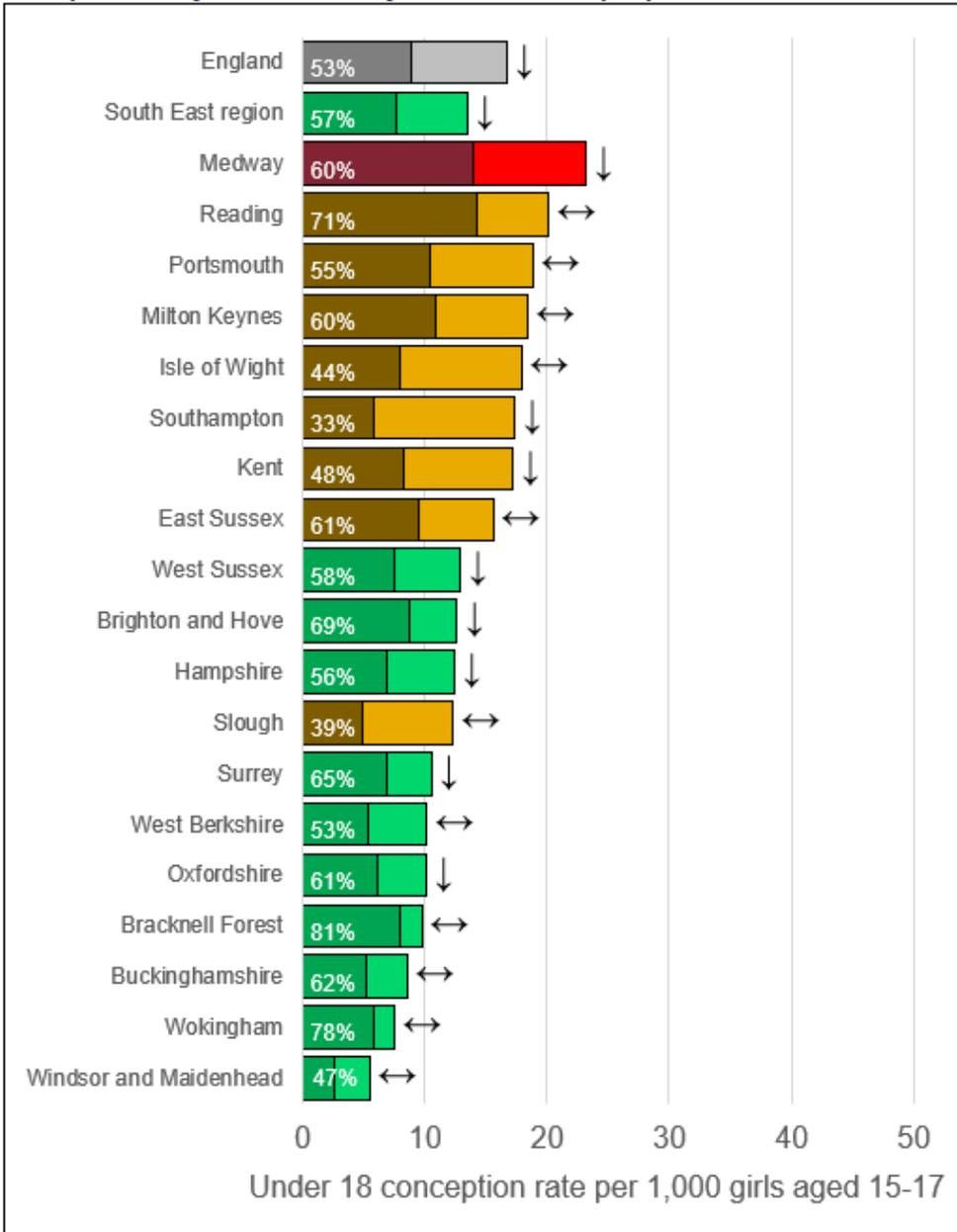
Proportion of the under 18 conception rate comprising conceptions to girls aged under 16



Proportion rounded to the nearest 5% for visualisation

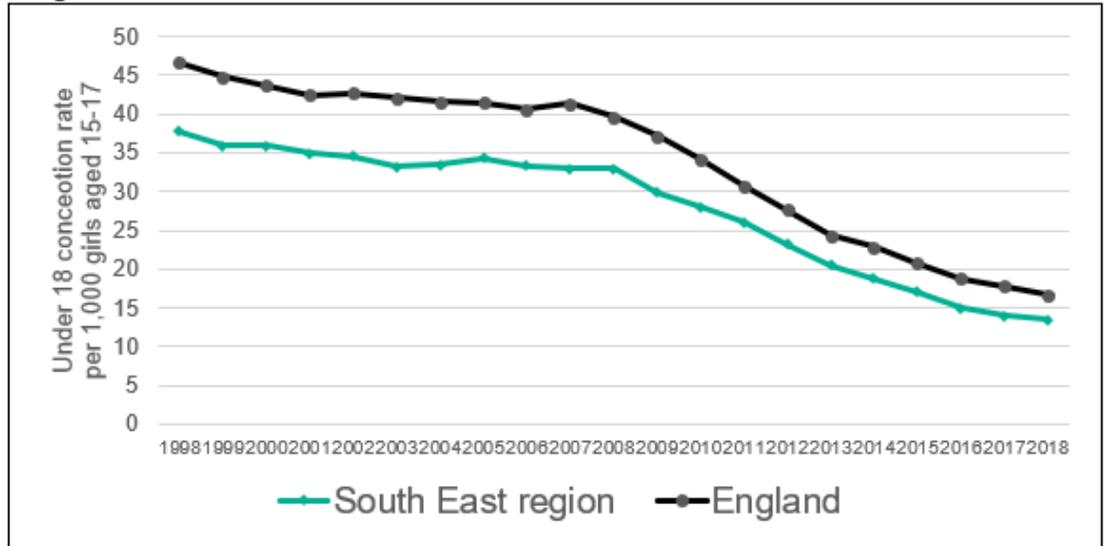
Under 18 conceptions in South East region, 2018

Comparison by local authority: rate, abortion proportion and trend



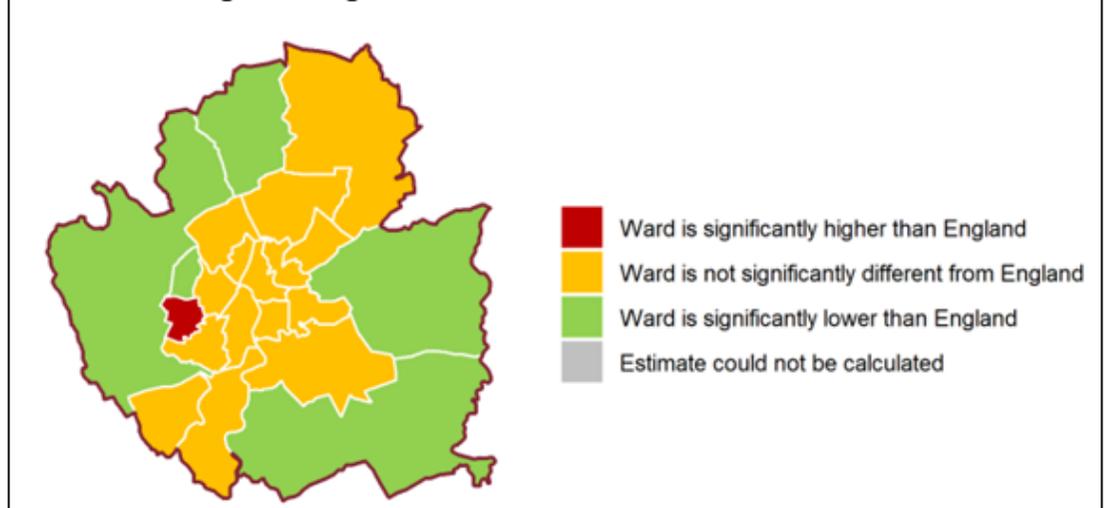
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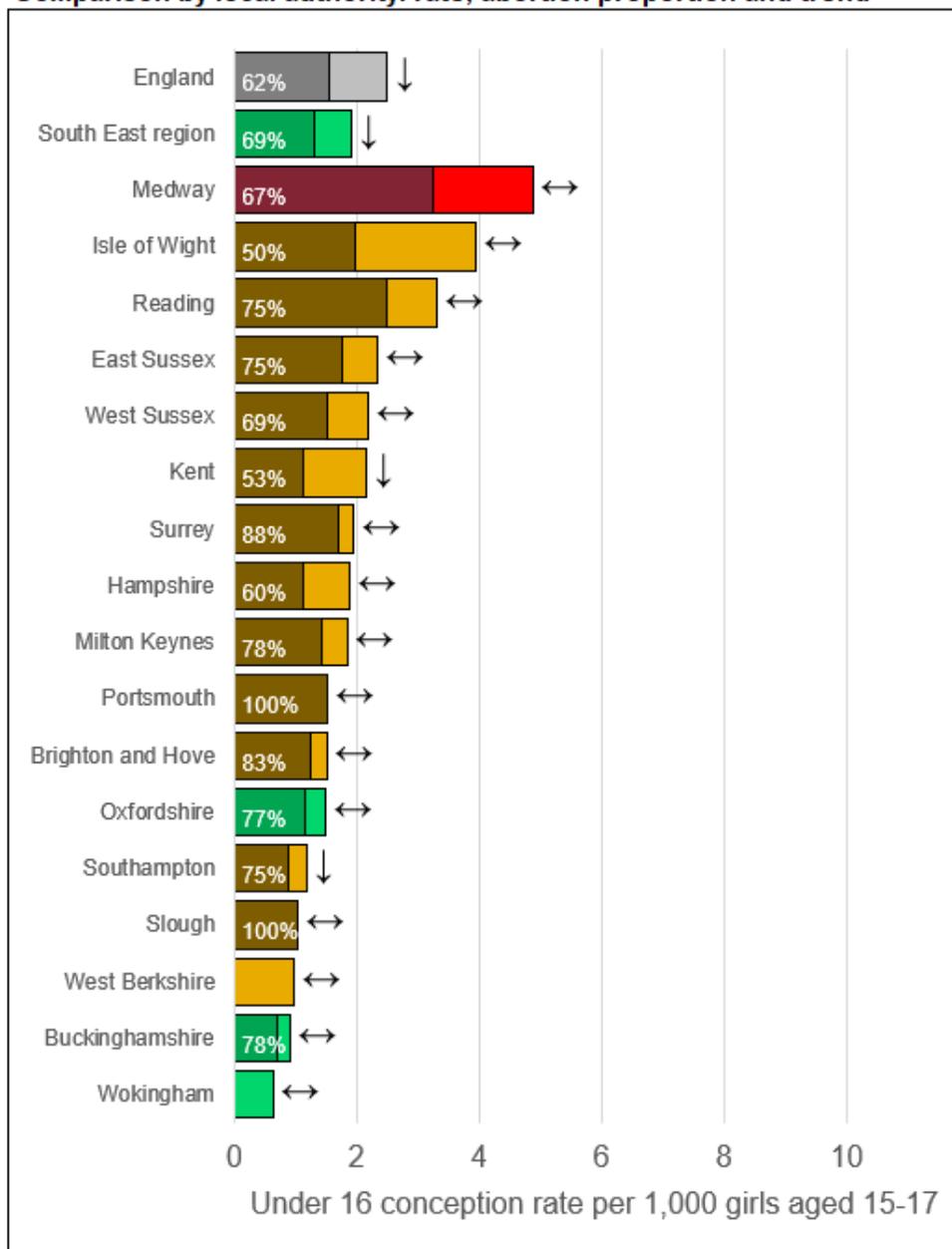
Kate.Donohoe@phe.gov.uk

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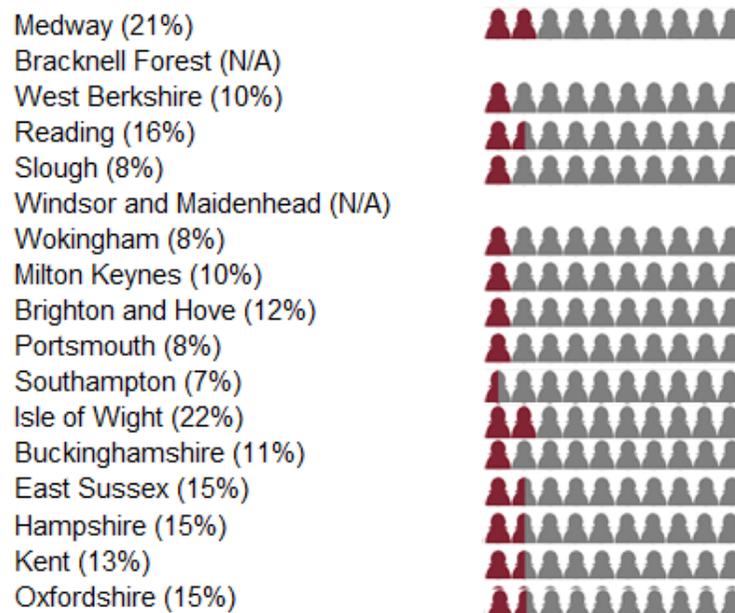
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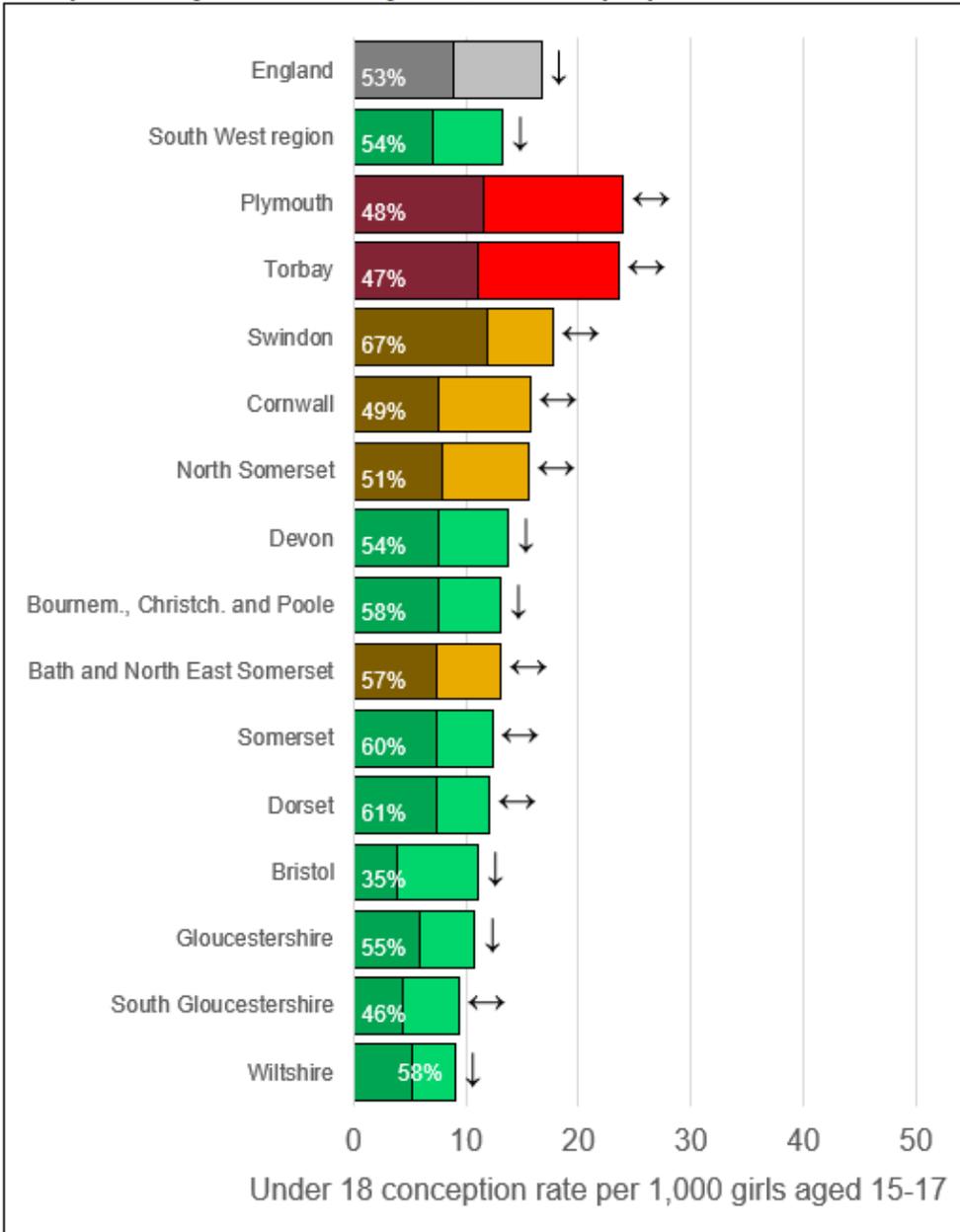
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Proportion rounded to the nearest 5% for visualisation

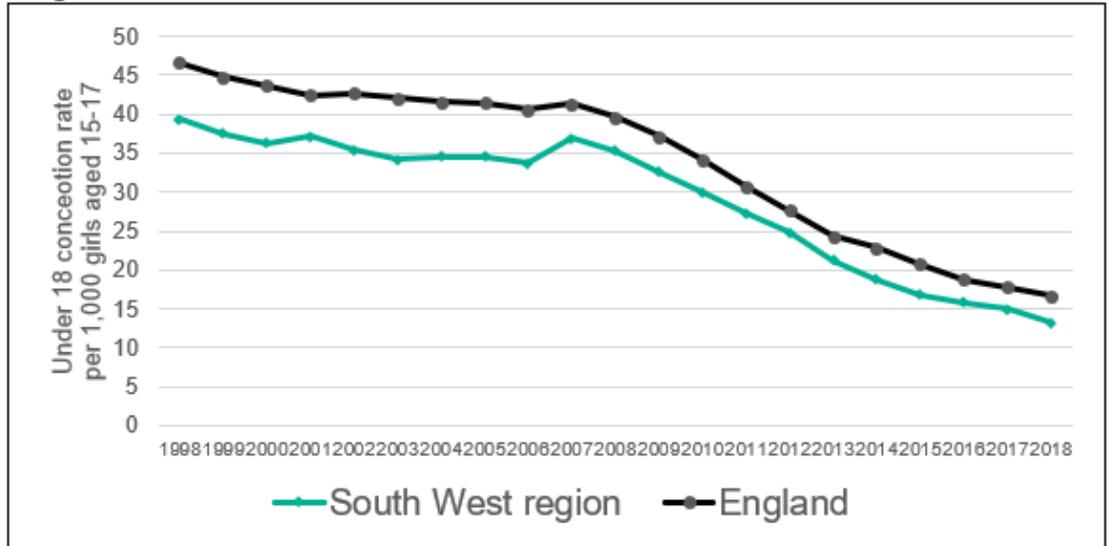
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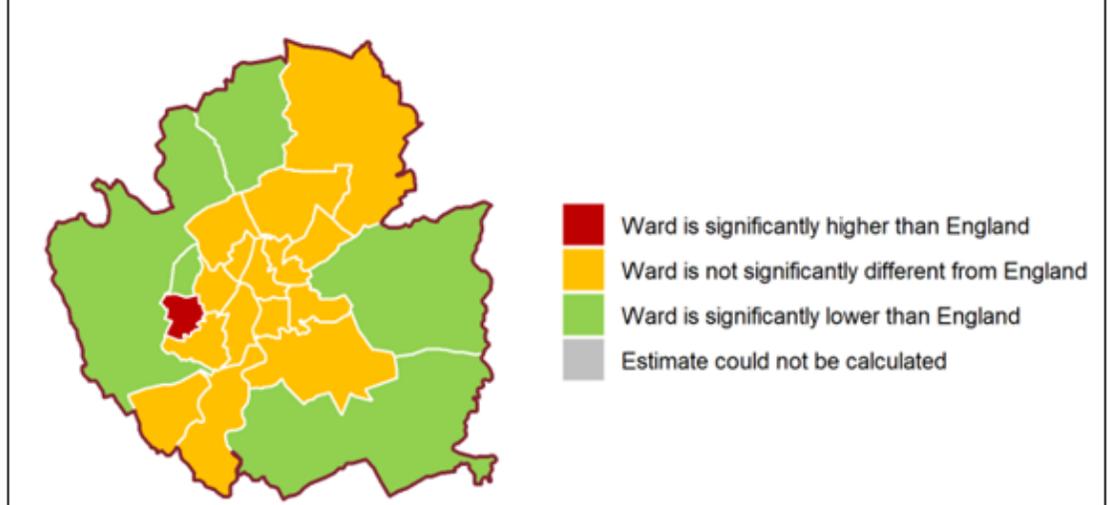
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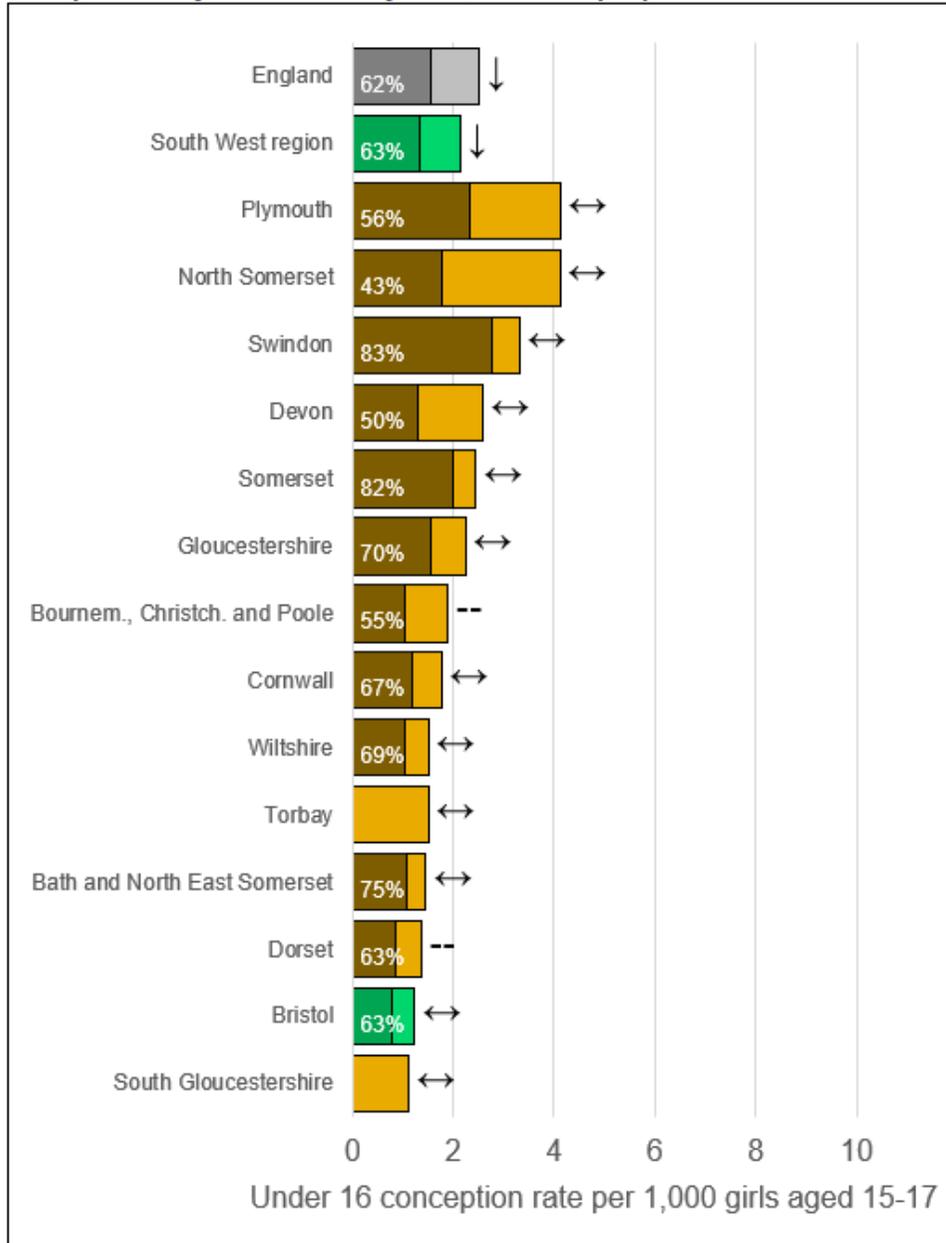
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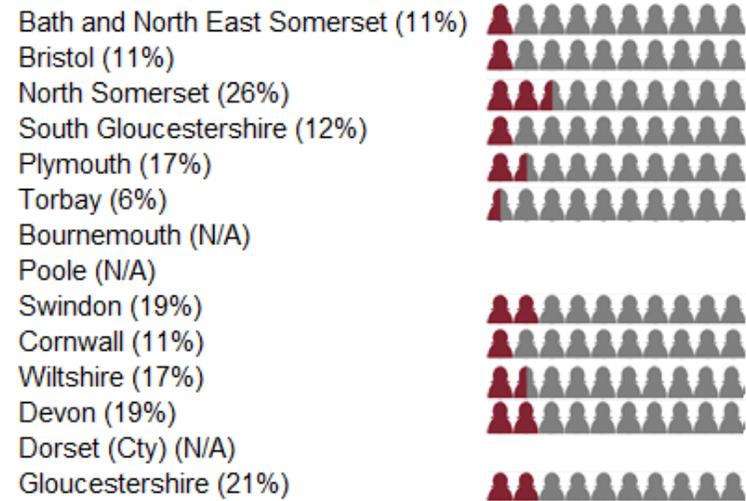
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