

# U18 Conceptions

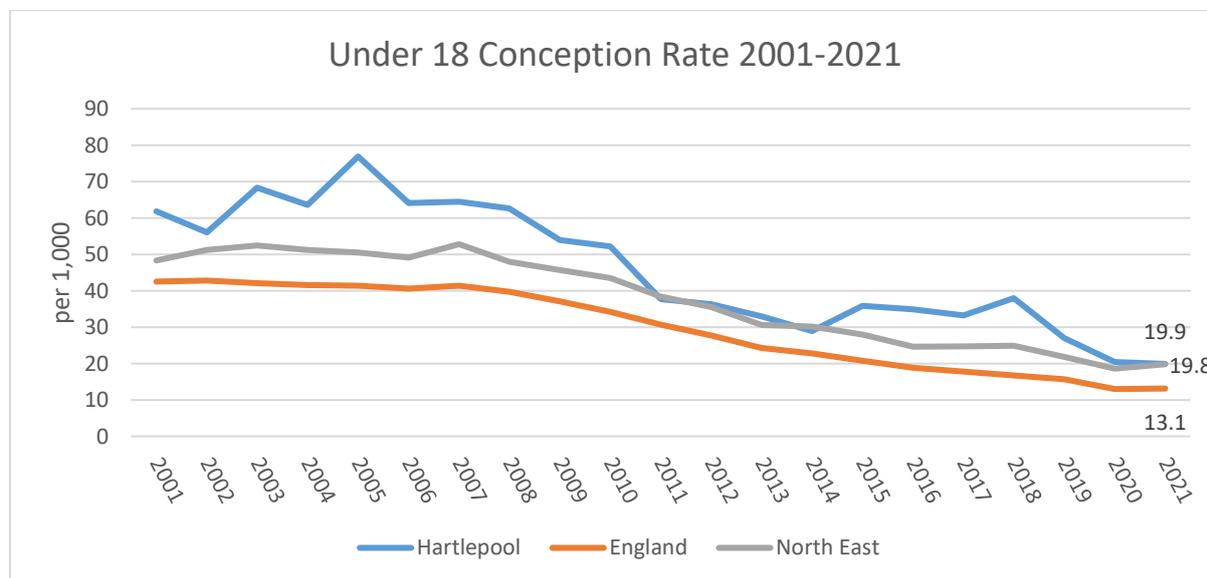
## Introduction

Under-18 conceptions are strongly associated with some of the socially excluded and deprived young people. Teenage parents and their children often live in deprived areas and have multiple risk factors, and experience poorer social and economic outcomes. Moreover, teenagers who become pregnant are less likely to finish their education, leading to lower educational attainment and no, or low-paying jobs, which are often insecure.

There is evidence of a strong intergenerational aspect to under-18 conceptions with the children of teenage parents being more likely to become teenage parents themselves, continuing the cycle of poor outcomes.

## Main Issues

Conceptions to those under 18 years old in Hartlepool have generally fallen from the 2005 peak of 76.9 per 1,000, to 19.9 per 1,000 in 2021, with the Hartlepool rate almost identical to the north east regional rate of 19.8 per 1,000.



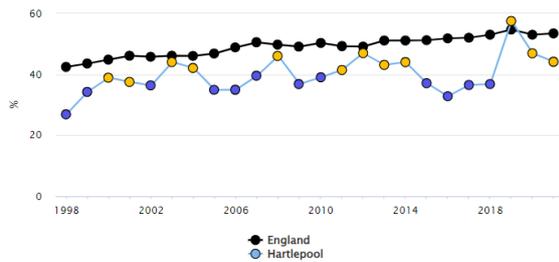
Source: ONS, 2023

Both Hartlepool and the north east region continue to have rates higher than the England average, though the gap between Hartlepool and England in 2021 is 51.9%, compared with 85.7% in 2005, though this does show the Hartlepool rate is still over 50% higher than the England average.

Hartlepool has seen a recent decline in the percent of under 18 pregnancies which lead to an abortion, with current levels at a three year low, though Hartlepool's rate has remained similar to England throughout this three year period.

Under 18s conceptions leading to abortion (%)

Proportion - %



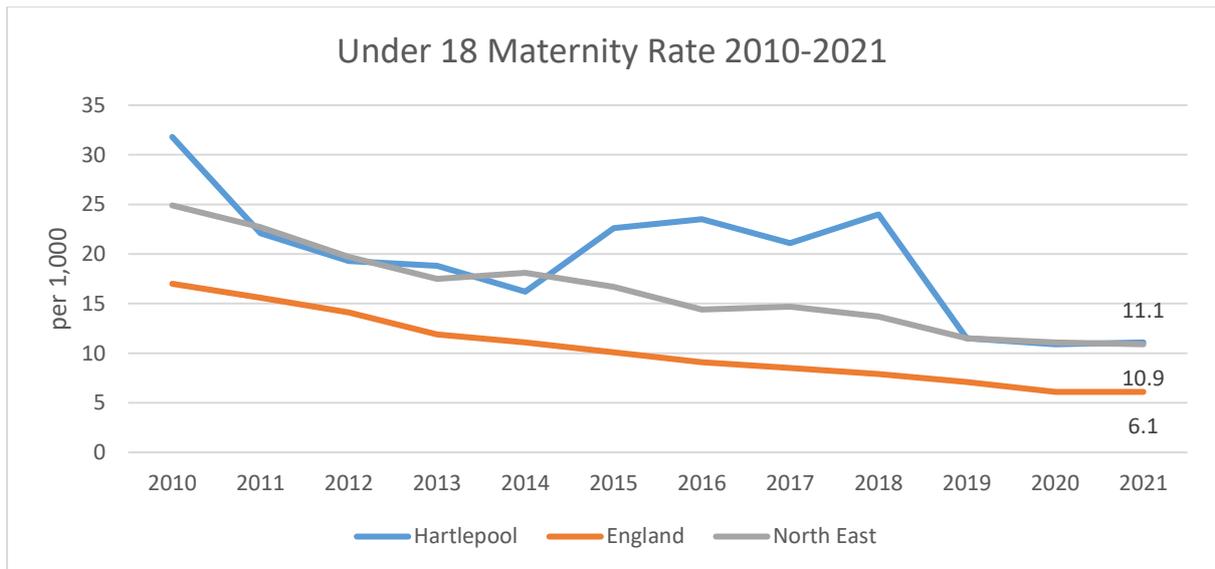
Recent trend: ▶ No significant change

Period	Count	Value	Hartlepool		North East	England
			95% Lower CI	95% Upper CI		
1998	36	26.9%	20.1%	34.9%	35.2%	42.4%
1999	50	34.2%	27.0%	42.3%	36.9%	43.5%
2000	42	38.9%	30.2%	48.3%	37.2%	44.8%
2001	45	37.5%	29.4%	46.4%	37.3%	46.1%
2002	40	36.4%	28.0%	45.7%	38.8%	45.8%
2003	59	44.0%	35.9%	52.5%	41.5%	46.1%
2004	53	42.1%	33.8%	50.8%	40.2%	46.0%
2005	52	34.9%	27.7%	42.8%	38.9%	46.8%
2006	44	34.9%	27.2%	43.6%	40.5%	48.8%
2007	51	39.5%	31.5%	48.2%	42.1%	50.5%
2008	58	46.0%	37.6%	54.7%	44.5%	49.7%
2009	39	36.8%	28.2%	46.3%	41.2%	49.1%
2010	39	39.0%	30.0%	48.8%	42.7%	50.3%
2011	29	41.4%	30.6%	53.1%	40.7%	49.3%
2012	31	47.0%	35.4%	58.8%	44.5%	49.1%
2013	25	43.1%	31.2%	55.9%	42.9%	51.1%
2014	22	44.0%	31.2%	57.7%	40.1%	51.1%
2015	23	37.1%	26.2%	49.5%	40.5%	51.2%
2016	19	32.8%	22.1%	45.6%	41.6%	51.8%
2017	19	36.5%*	24.8%	50.1%	40.2%	52.0%
2018	21	36.8%	25.5%	49.8%	45.1%	53.0%
2019	23	57.5%	42.2%	71.5%	47.2%	54.7%
2020	15	46.9%	30.9%	63.6%	40.3%	53.0%
2021	15	44.1%	28.9%	60.5%	45.0%	53.4%

Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Hartlepool's rate jumped by 56% in 2019 from 36.8% in 2018 to 57.5% in 2019, though Hartlepool's rate has declined in each of the following two years. The 2019 rate is the highest in the 24 year reporting period, and returned Hartlepool to similar levels to England, after four years of a rate that was significantly below the England average.

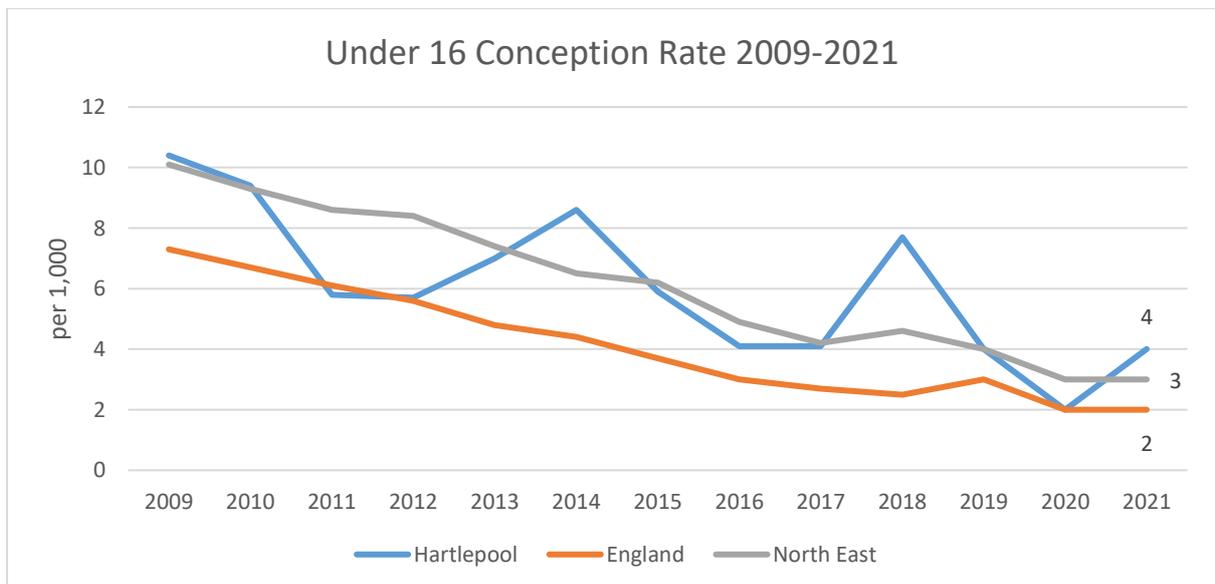
Hartlepool's under 18 maternity rate has remained largely consistent since 2019, and is almost identical to the north east rate in 2021, 11.1 per 1,000 for Hartlepool and 10.9 per 1,000 for north east.



Source: ONS, 2023

Hartlepool's 2019 was a decline of 52.1% on the 2018 rate, 24 per 1,000 in 2018 and 11.5 per 1,000 in 2019, and ended a four year period where Hartlepool's rate was above 20 per 1,000. The gap between Hartlepool and England in 2019 is 82%, compared with 2018 when Hartlepool's rate was more than three times the size of the England rate. Though this again shows that there is still a large gap between Hartlepool and England.

For pregnancies to those under 16 years old Hartlepool rate has generally declined across the 13 year reporting period, though the current rate in 2021 is double the 2020 rate, 2 per 1,000 in 2020 and 4 per 1,000 in 2021.



Source: ONS, 2023

Hartlepool's under 16 conception rate has shown little consistency, with large year on year increases and decreases visible throughout the reporting period, though with the relatively small numbers involved facilitate this. However Hartlepool's rate has generally decreased throughout the reporting period, with the 2020 rate of 2 per 1,000 the lowest rate in 12 years.

## Current Services

(Adhoc) delivery of age appropriate relationship and sex education in primary and secondary schools.

- Brook offer:
  - relationship and sex education to schools, post 16 providers include Further Education and Sixth Form Colleges.C-Card training and delivery .
  - Education and training to all secondary schools
- Teesside Sexual Health Service offer young people friendly contraception and sexual health services including advice on termination of pregnancy.
- Increase the number of walkin clinics for young people i.e One Life Centre

The 0-19 and Early Help service provides additional support for teenage parents via a vulnerable parent's pathway.

North Tees and Hartlepool Foundation Trust have a dedicated specialist midwife for pregnant women under 19.

## Future intentions

Support the roll out of Statutory Relationships and Sex Education.

Ensure that the prevention agenda is robustly monitored and evaluated as part of the contract meetings with Brook

Further work to ensure the increase in uptake of Long Acting Reversible Contraceptive (LARC) Methods in young women.

Development of a vulnerable young persons pathway with swift and easy access to contraception and sexual health services.