

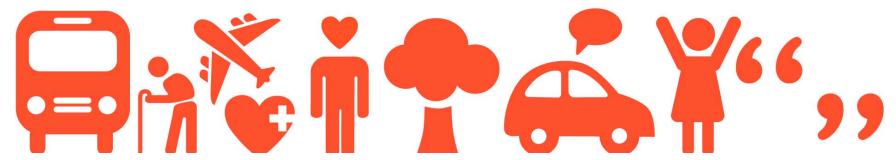
Understanding vulnerable young people: exploring multiple disadvantage

Secondary analysis of the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England (LSYPE)

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Background

There is a wealth of information on how young people are disadvantaged



9.6% of 16-18 years olds are NEET (DfE, 2011)



A crime is committed by a young person every 2 minutes (YCB, 2010)



15% of 11-15 year olds taken drugs in the last year (NHS-ICHSC, 2010)



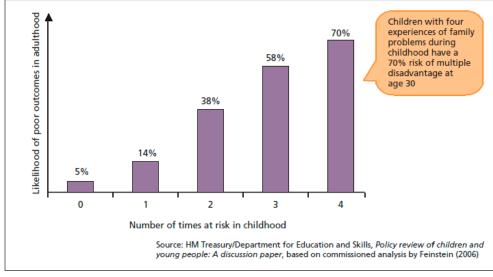
11.5% of 11-16 year olds have a mental disorder (Green et al, 2004)



Background

- Multiple disadvantage can be costly to individuals and the state
 - Multiple disadvantage in childhood can lead to poor outcomes in adulthood

Figure 6. Likelihood of poor outcomes at age 30 by number of times at risk in childhood





 A family with 5+ disadvantages costs public services £55,000-£115,000 per year (HM Treasury, 2007)



Research aims

- However, there is far less research on how young people's problems overlap
- Research questions
 - How many young people face multiple disadvantages?
 - What combinations of disadvantages do young people experience?
 - Which types of young people are most likely to become multiply disadvantaged?
 - What are multiply-disadvantaged young people's educational and employment 'outcomes'?



Methodology

Age 18/19 (year 14)

Outcomes

- Labour market position
- · Educational qualifications
- Future plans, etc.



Age 16/17 (year 12)

Vulnerable groups

- NEET
- Teenage parenthood
- Substance misuse
- Criminal behaviour
- · Emotional health concems
- Low attainment, etc.



Risk factors

- · Attitudes and aspirations
- · Age of first sexual activity
- Bullied
- · Expelled from school
- Parental education
- · Deprived area, etc.

Data: The Longitudinal Study of Young People in England (LSYPE) https://ilsype.education.gov.uk/

- Follows a cohort of young people from age 14
- Data on characteristics, behaviours, attitudes
- Seven waves completed, sample size c8,700

Analysis methods:

- Descriptive statistics
- Correlation analysis
- Latent class analysis
- Multiple regression



Age 14/15 (year 10)



Incidence of disadvantage at age 16/17

Substance misuse: Young person drank alcohol on most days, or, smoked at least 6 cigarettes per week and had tried cannabis

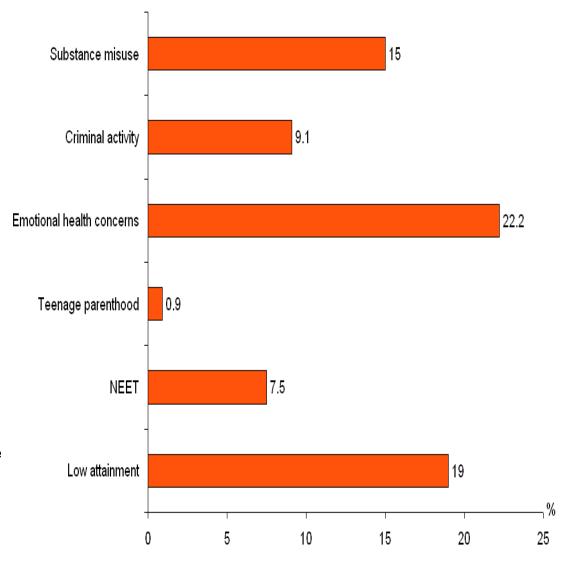
Criminal activity: Young person carried out two or more of acts of vandalism, graffiti, shoplifting, fighting and carrying a knife

Emotional health concerns: Young person had a score of 4 or more on the General Health Questionnaire (GHQ-12)

Teenage parenthood: Young person was a parent and had at least one of their child/ren living with them

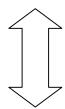
NEET: Young person was not in education, employment or training for at least 6 of the previous 12 months

Low attainment: Young person did not gain a single GCSE, GNVQs or equivalent qualification at grades A*-C



Pairs of disadvantages likely to occur together

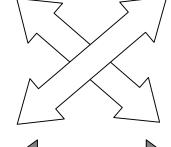
Substance misuse



NEET

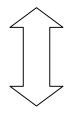


Teenage parenthood





Criminal activity

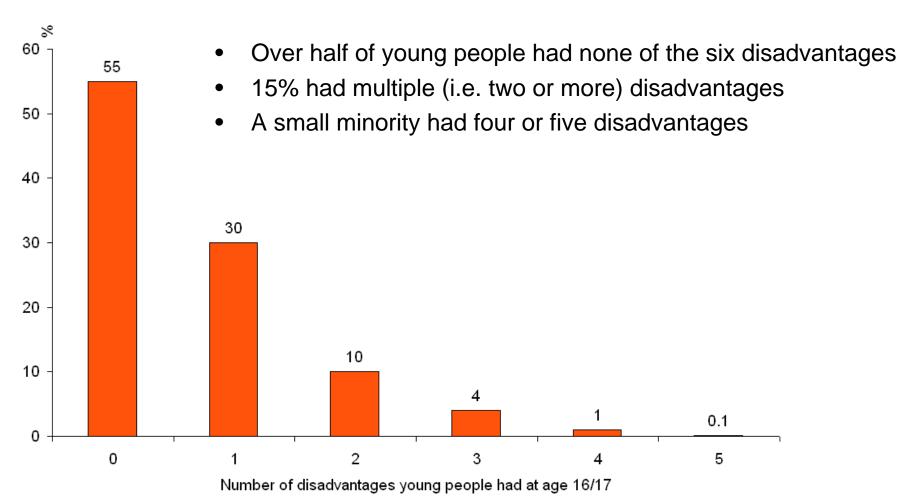


Low attainment

Emotional health

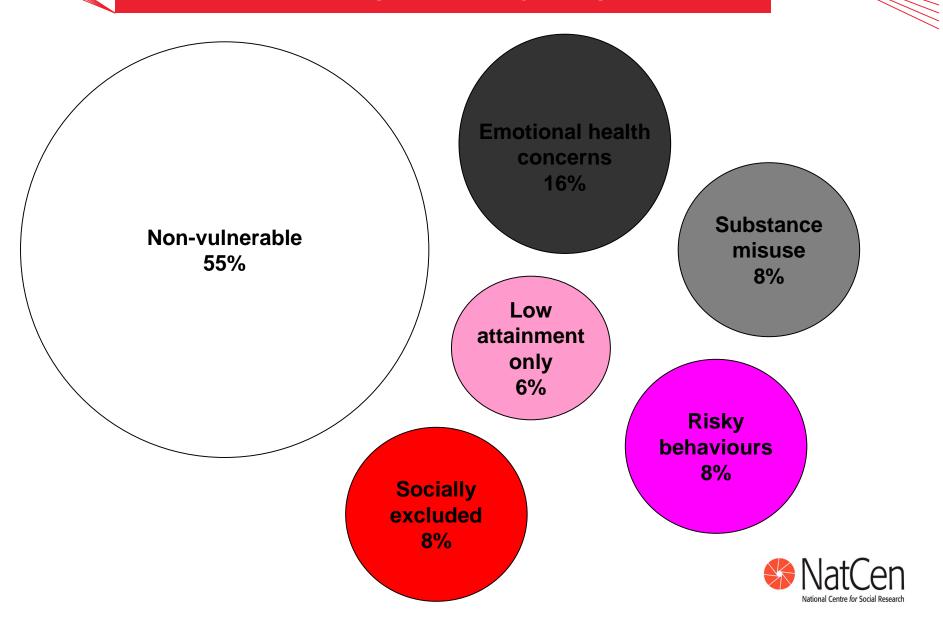


Number of disadvantages young people had at 16/17





LCA produced 6 groups of young people



Combinations of disadvantage within the 6 groups

Group	%	Emotional health concerns	Substance misuse	Low attainment	Criminal activity	NEET	Teenage parenthood
Non- vulnerable	55						
Emotional health concerns	16	√					
Substance misuse	8	✓	✓	✓			
Low attainment only	6			√			
Risky behaviours	8	✓	✓	✓	√		
Socially excluded	8	✓	✓	✓		√	√

Risk factors and outcomes

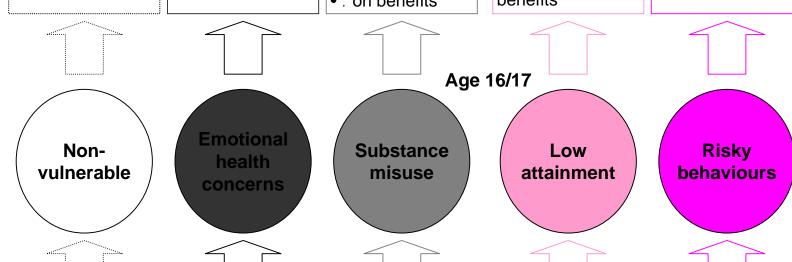
Age 18/19

- Over half FTEd
- Very few NEET, teenage parents etc.
- Over half FTEd
- Slightly higher drug taking
- ¼ in FTEd
- . NEET
- . drugs/alcohol
- . on benefits
- . in FTEd
- . NEET
- claiming benefits
- ¼ in FTEd
- . drugs
- on benefits
- . in FTEd
- . NEET
- Half on benefits

Socially

excluded

has child



- Positive about school
- Few difficulties
- Advantaged background
- Girls
- Bullied
- 1st sexual encounter<16yrs
- Girls
- Disengaged at school
- SEN
- Truancy
- Disadvantaged background & area
- Boys
- Truancy
- Suspended
- Bullied

- Single-parent
- Poor parental health
- Aspire to work
- Truancy



Policy implications

- Two groups at highest risk of multiple disadvantage
 - Risky behaviours
 - Socially excluded
- Most vulnerable may require tailored policy response
 - May need to access support from different service entry points
 - Coordinated service offering
- Some disadvantages tend to occur in isolation
 - Emotional health concerns
 - Low attainment
- And having one disadvantage can still lead to poor outcomes
 - Low attainment only had high rates of being NEET
- Some common risk factors
 - Bullying, poor attitudes to school, truancy, aspirations
 - Efficiency savings



Research Report

Barnes, M., Green, R., Ross, A. (2011) *Understanding Vulnerable Young People: Analysis from the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England* Department for Education Research Report: DFE-RR118

https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DFE-RR118

