

# Conceptions in England and Wales

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# Content

- Who are the Office for National Statistics?
- How are conception statistics produced?
- Conception statistics and COVID-19
- Trends in conceptions
- What impact do conception statistics have?
- What's next for conception statistics?
- Questions

# What do the Office for National Statistics do?

**Provide high quality statistics,  
analysis and advice to help Britain  
make better decisions**

# ONS on the Web – [www.ons.gov.uk](http://www.ons.gov.uk)

People and  
Places

Economy

Population

Health and  
Social Care

Crime and  
Justice

Children,  
Education and  
Skills

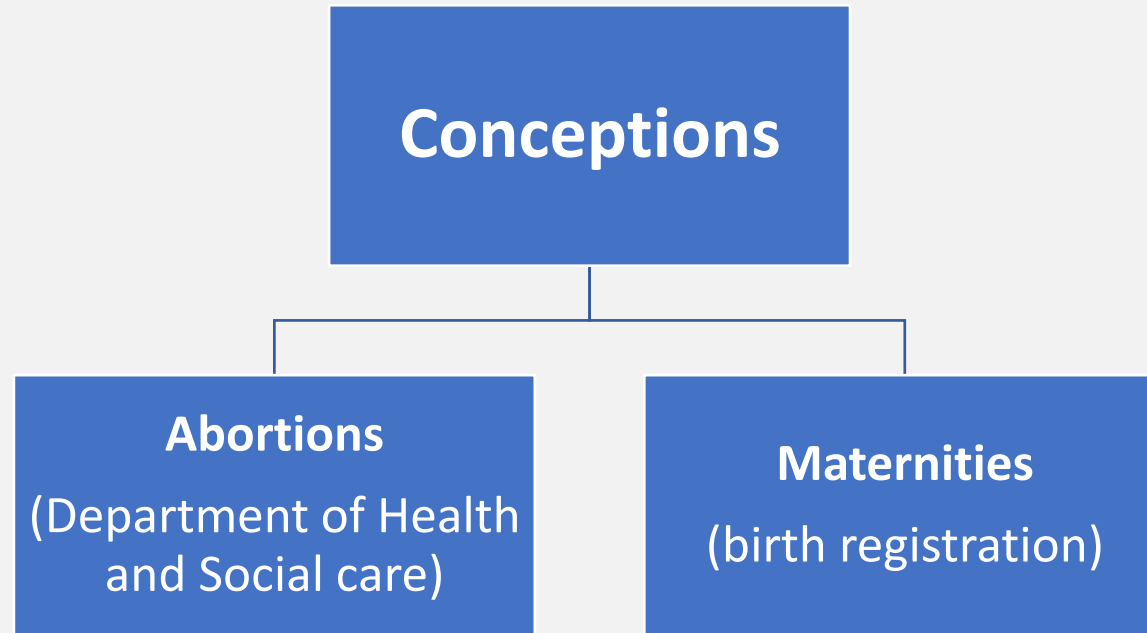
COVID-19

Business and  
Energy

Agriculture and  
Environment

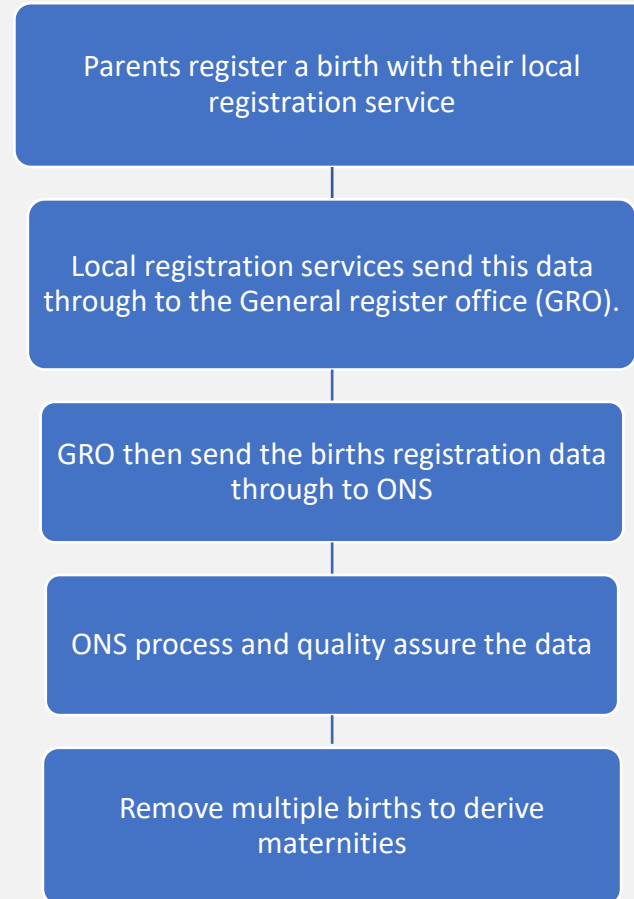
Travel and  
Tourism

# Our conception statistics

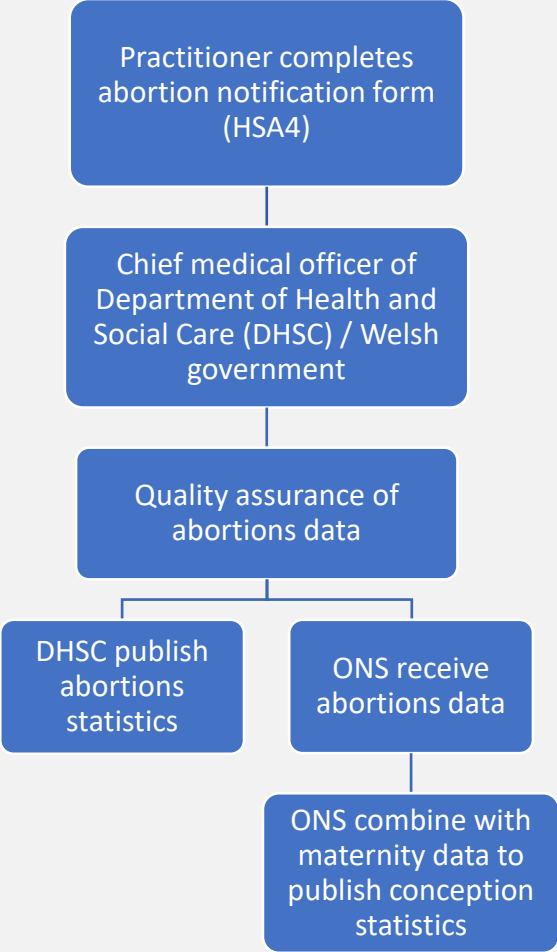


Note: Conception statistics do not include miscarriages or illegal abortions

# Maternities data



# Abortions data



# Data in the conceptions data

Maternities	Abortions
Date of birth	Date of abortion
Date of birth of woman	Date of birth of woman
Gestational age of woman	Gestational age of woman
Postcode of usual residence of woman	Postcode of usual residence of woman
Marital status	Marital status
Birth indicator (live or stillbirth)	



# Estimating date of conception: abortions

Date of conception =

(Date of termination – stated gestation) + 2 weeks

# Estimating date of conception: Live birth maternity

Date of conception =

Date of live birth – (40 weeks – 2 weeks)

# Estimating date of conception: Stillbirth maternity

Date of conception =

(Date of stillbirth – gestational age) + 2 weeks

# What conception statistics do we publish?

- Annual Conception statistics in England and Wales:
  - Numbers and rates by age group, marital status, outcome and area of usual residence of woman
- Quarterly conceptions to women aged under 18 years:
  - Provisional numbers and rates for teenage conceptions by regions and local authorities

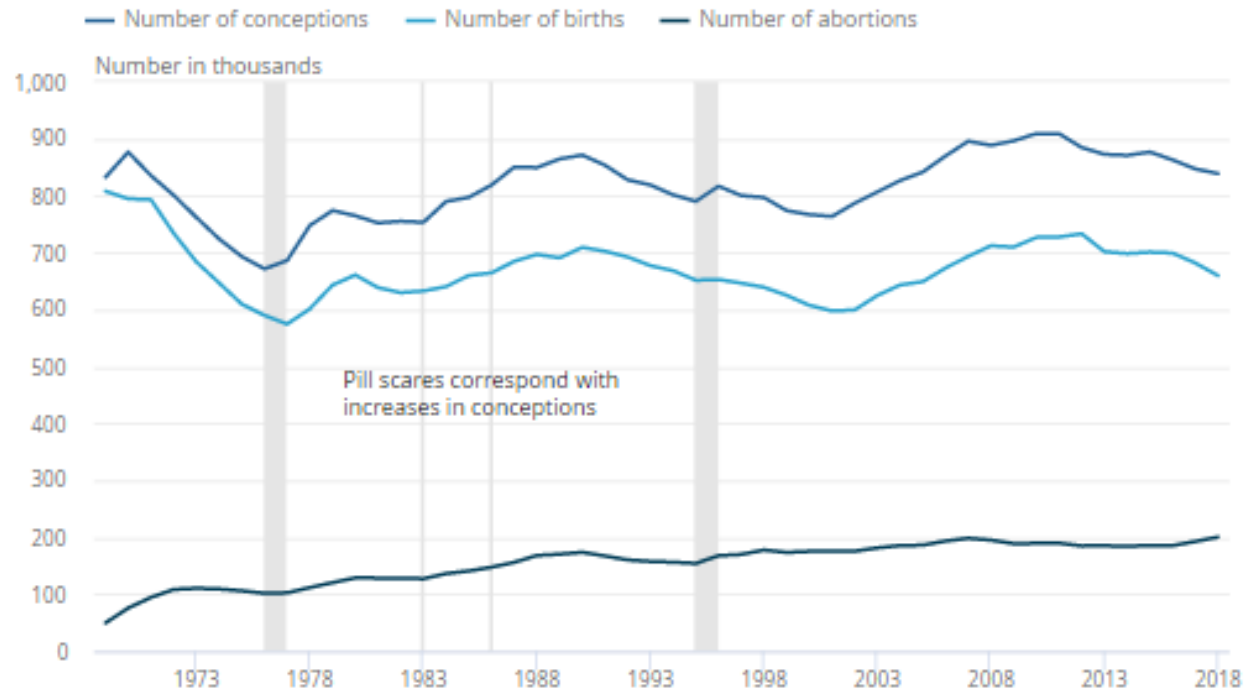
# How has the coronavirus pandemic conception statistics?

- Delayed maternities data.
- Birth registration services suspended during the first lockdown.
- Continued delays as death registrations have taken higher priority.

# Trends in conception statistics

### Figure 1: The number of abortions increased while the number of conceptions and births continued decreasing in 2018

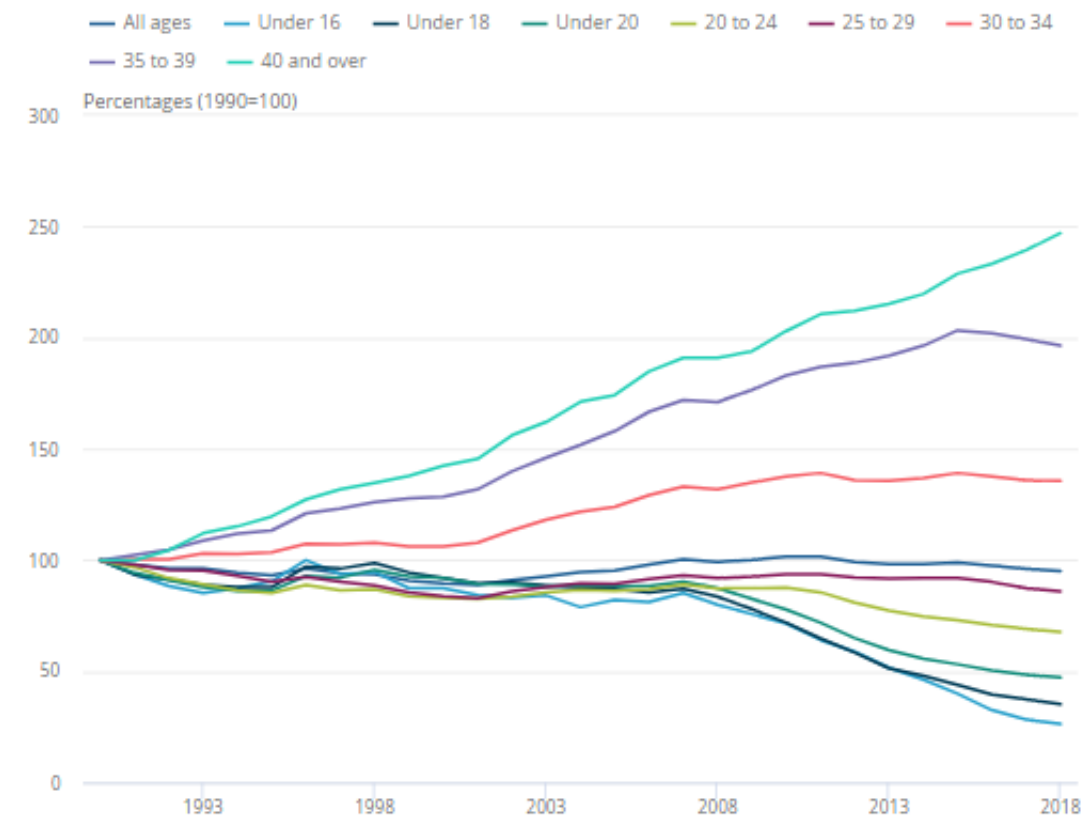
Number of conceptions, births and abortions for all women, England and Wales, 1969 to 2018



Source: Office for National Statistics - Conceptions in England and Wales

**Figure 2: Conception rates for women aged 40 years and over have more than doubled since 1991**

**Relative changes in age-specific conception rates, England and Wales, 1990 to 2018**

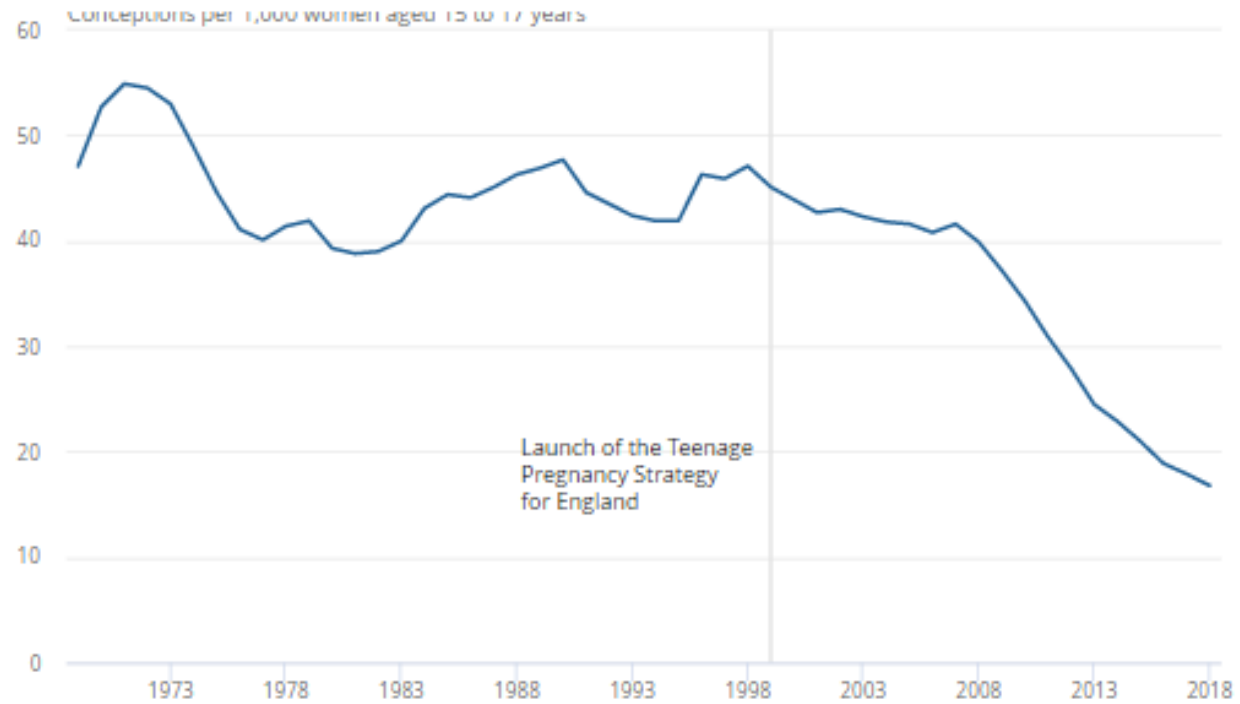


Source: Office for National Statistics - Conceptions in England and Wales



**Figure 3: The continued decrease in conception rates for women under 18 years is the longest since records began**

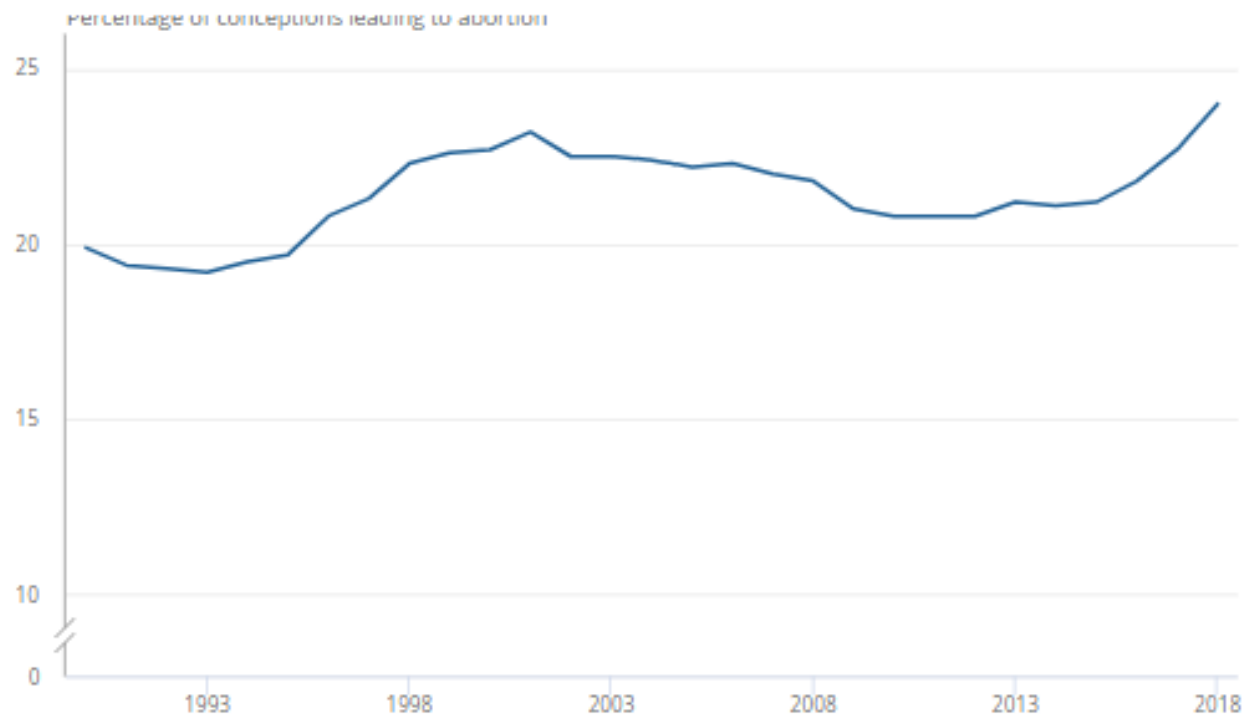
**Conceptions per 1,000 women aged 15 to 17 years, 1969 to 2018, England and Wales**



**Source: Office for National Statistics - Conceptions in England and Wales**

**Figure 4: The percentage of conceptions leading to abortion was the highest since records began**

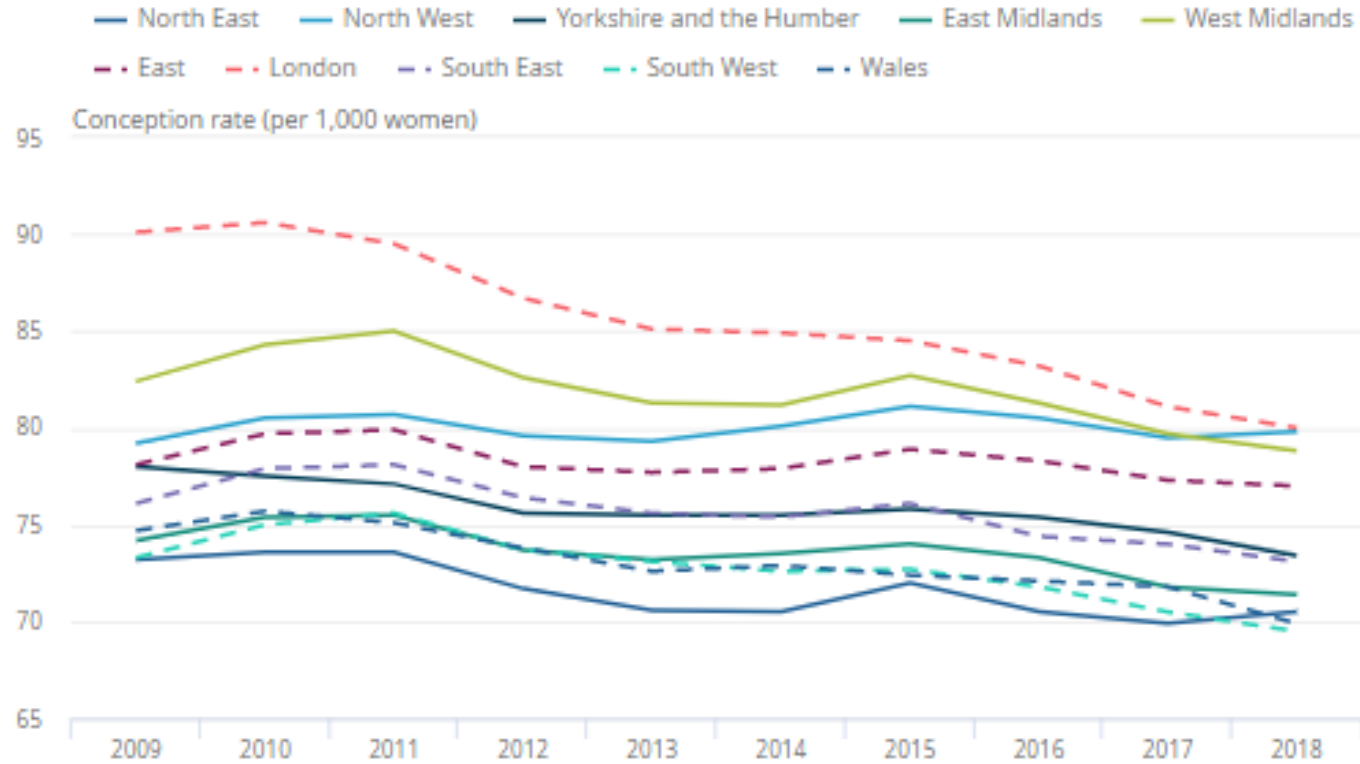
**Percentage of conceptions leading to a legal abortion, 1990 to 2018, England and Wales**



**Source: Office for National Statistics - Conceptions in England and Wales**

**Figure 7: Conception rates have decreased the most in London since 2009**

**Conception rates per 1,000 women England and Wales, 2009 to 2018**



Source: Office for National Statistics - Conceptions in England and Wales

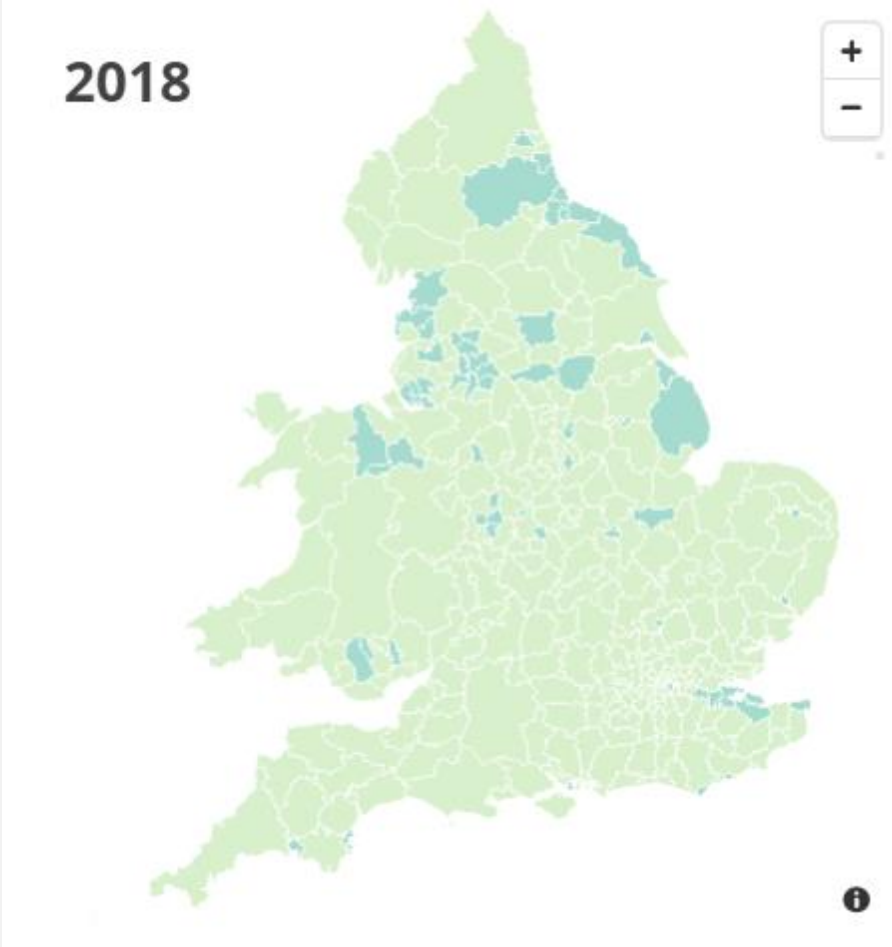
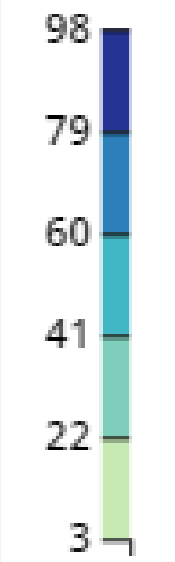
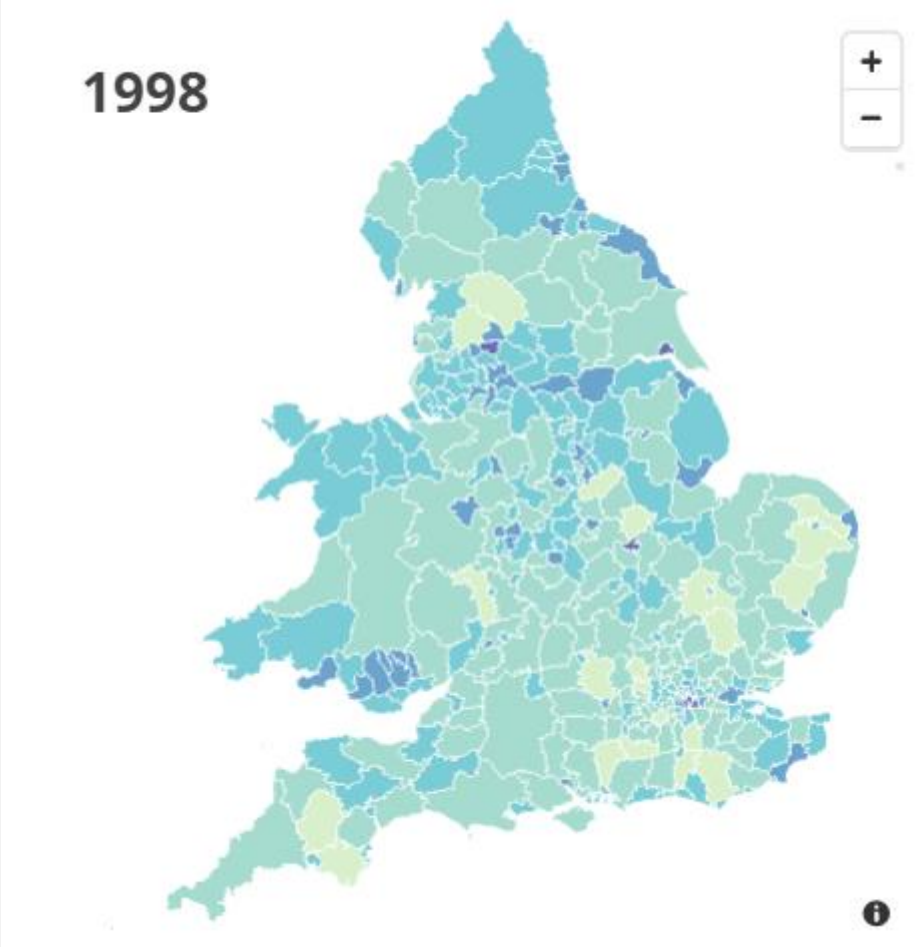
**Table 1: The 10 areas with the highest conception rates for women under 18 years in 2018 compared with 2017 and 1998**

England and Wales

Rank	Local authority	Number of conceptions 2018	Conception rate per thousand women aged 15 to 17 years		
			2018	2017	1998
1	Middlesbrough	88	39.4	43.8	66.5
2	Hartlepool	57	38.0	33.2	75.6
3	St. Helens	101	37.3	37.1	55.5
4	Hyndburn	50	37.1	32.8	71.8
5	Blackpool	79	36.9	32.9	64.8
6	Halton	80	36.6	34.9	47.1
7	Redcar and Cleveland	72	34.6	24.8	58.3
8	Thanet	73	33.3	29.1	59.2
9	Burnley	45	32.8	29.6	82.3
10	Ipswich	64	32.0	29.0	60.4

Source: Office for National Statistics – Conceptions in England and Wales

# Conception rates for women under 18 years by local authority, England and Wales



What impact do our conception statistics have?

# Who uses our conception statistics?

- Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)
- Public Health England (PHE)
- Maternity service providers
- Local Authorities
- Sexual Health Charities
- Academics
- Media

# In the media

**“Record proportion of pregnancies ending in abortion, ONS reveals, with almost a quarter of conceptions terminated”**

[The Times](#)

**“More women over 40 are getting pregnant. But is that really about their choices?”**

[The Guardian](#)

**“Teenage pregnancy rates in St Helens among highest in the country”**

[The Reporter, St Helens](#)

**“Teenage pregnancy rates on the rise in Norfolk”**

[Watton and Swaffham Times](#)

**“Almost a quarter of all pregnancies in England and Wales resulted in an abortion in 2018?”**

[Daily Mail](#)



# What are our conception statistics used for?

- Measure success of policies on access to contraception and sexual health services.
- To plan and commission effective services for teenage parents.
- To plan for the level of demand for antenatal services.
- Monitored as part of the Public Health Outcomes Framework.
- To promote services that contribute to the reduction of teenage conceptions.

# What next for conception statistics?

- Investigate the effects of COVID-19 on conceptions
- Linkage projects e.g. census data

# Any questions?

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