

Women in London
capitalwoman 2008



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MAYOR OF LONDON

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Introduction

There are over three million women in London – living, working, learning and caring. Their huge diversity makes London a truly international city.

London offers women world-class opportunities and London's women are better paid, better educated and healthier than ever before. Crime has gone down and safety has increased. More women are employed in senior and professional jobs but they still face inequalities and barriers to advancement, and these are particularly experienced by women with young children.

London's higher costs make it harder to manage on lower incomes and it is particularly difficult to find affordable housing. This is the number one issue for Londoners, ahead of concerns about crime.¹ But the vast majority of Londoners continue to enjoy living in the capital, especially enjoying the cultural and leisure facilities, green spaces and parks, and its diversity.

Population

The total female population of London currently stands at over 3.8 million, just over 51 per cent of the total.² There are just over 3.1 million women aged 16 and over, making up 51.6 per cent of the total adult population.

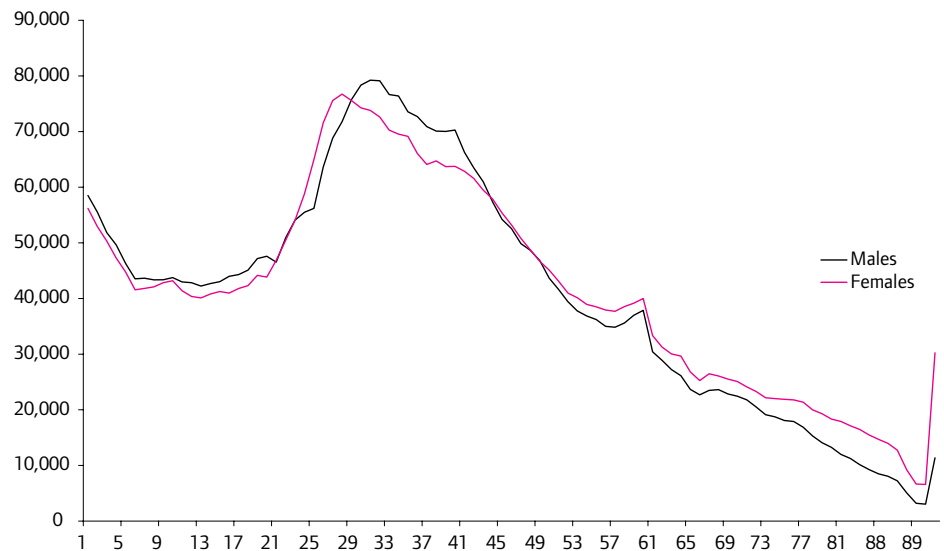
Over the next two decades, the total population of London is expected to increase by just over 10 per cent, while the number of women aged 16 and over is expected to increase by nearly 12 per cent, to reach 3.5 million by 2028.

London's age structure is younger than in the UK as a whole, with a higher proportion of young people and a lower proportion of older people. This is partly because many younger people are attracted to the capital by its educational and employment opportunities, while some families move out of London seeking lower-cost housing and some older people move out to other areas on retirement.

More boys than girls are born each year and in the UK as a whole the number of males continues to outnumber the number of females until the age of 24, when the numbers become more equal until the early thirties, after which women increasingly outnumber men. There are more than twice as many women as men amongst those aged 85 and over.

In London the pattern is somewhat different. While males outnumber females in the younger age groups, women outnumber men between the ages of 23 and 27, but then men outnumber women again until the early forties. Numbers are more equal until the age of 49, when women start to outnumber men.

Female and male population in London, by age, 2006



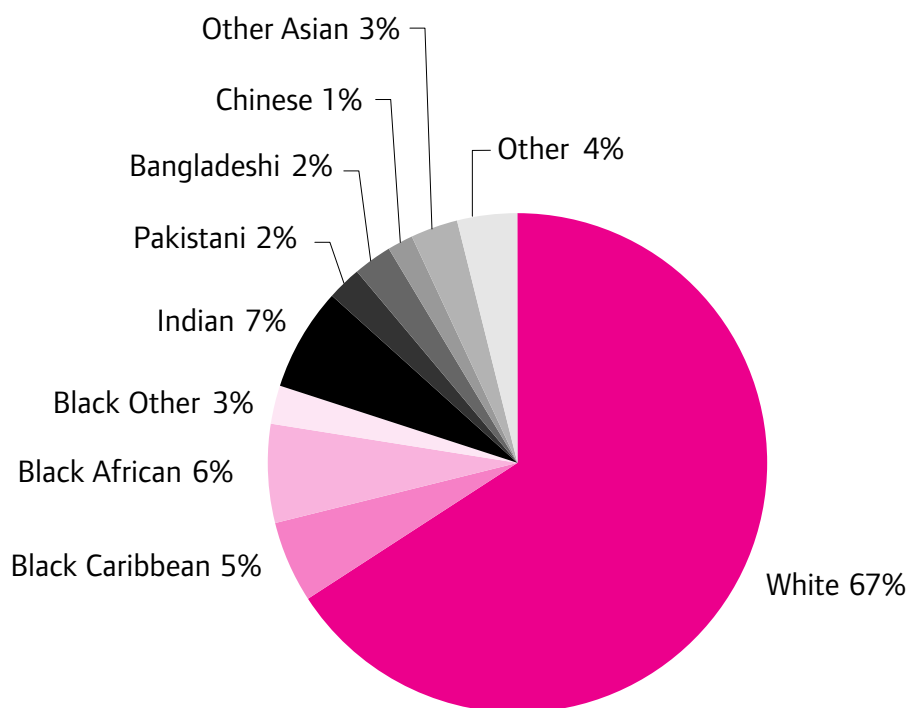
Source: Office for National Statistics

Diversity

London's internationalism and diversity are the keys to its success as one of the greatest cities in the world. London continues to attract people from the rest of the UK and beyond, as it has always done.

Population projections suggest that in 2008, 33 per cent of London's female population are from Black Asian and minority groups. The largest groups are of Indian origin (6.6 per cent), Black African (6.4 per cent) and Black Caribbean 5.2 per cent). Females of Bangladeshi origin make up 2.5 per cent of the total, Pakistani 2.3 per cent and Chinese 1.5 per cent.

These broad groupings, however, mask a much wider diversity in terms of women's different identities, backgrounds and experiences, as does the White category. As well as White women from the different countries that make up the UK, there is a sizeable Irish population in London, making up over three per cent of the population according to the 2001 Census. Amongst the White category are groups from mainland Europe, including those who escaped persecution before and during the Second World War and more recent migrants who have been attracted to London by the outstanding educational and employment opportunities available. These have also attracted sizeable numbers from the USA, Australia and New Zealand.

Female population of London by ethnic group, 2008

Source: GLA 2006 Round Population Projections

Partnership and family

Among women of all ages in London, just over a half (53 per cent) are single, a third (33 per cent) are married, just under eight per cent are divorced and just under seven per cent widowed.³ This pattern changes considerably with age, so only 13 per cent of women under 30 are married, compared with 60 per cent of women in their fifties. A half of women aged 70 and over are widowed, while 33 per cent are married.

The average age at which women marry for the first time has been steadily increasing and is now nearly 30 in England and Wales, compared with an average of 22 in 1970.⁴

Just over 39,000 women got married in London in 2004 (the latest year for which data is available).⁵ For more than four in five, this was their first marriage.

The Mayor introduced the London Partnerships Register in 2001, making the Greater London Authority the first public body to offer recognition to same-sex couples. During its four years of operation, nearly a thousand couples registered their partnerships, a third of which were partnerships between women. The Civil Partnership Act 2004 came into force at the end of 2005, and the first day that couples could form a partnership in

England and Wales was 21 December 2005. From that date to the end of December 2006, 4,488 people formed civil partnerships in London, including 1,059 women. London was the most popular region within the UK in which to register a civil partnership in this period, with a quarter of all civil partnerships taking place here, more than twice the proportion of the population of the UK aged 16 and over living in the region.

London has a higher proportion of lone parent families than across the UK as a whole – 22 per cent of all families with children, compared with 16.4 per cent in the UK. The vast majority, in London as elsewhere, are headed by women.

Conversely, London has the lowest proportion of births outside marriage of any region in the UK – 35 per cent compared with 42 per cent overall.⁶

Employment

There are nearly 1.4 million London women in employment, making up 44 per cent of the total number.

Overall the employment rate for London women in 2006 was 63 per cent, compared with 71 per cent in the rest of the UK.⁷ Employment rates vary considerably among Black, Asian and Minority ethnic groups. In 2005, nearly 64 per cent of Indian women were in employment and 55 per cent of Black or Black British women, but only just over 23 per cent of Pakistani and Bangladeshi women.⁸

In London just over 39 per cent of disabled women aged 16 to 59 were in employment in 2006/07, compared to nearly 44 per cent in the UK. The rate is very low in comparison with non-disabled women: 65 per cent of non-disabled women in London were in employment and 72 per cent in the UK as a whole.

Just under 54 per cent of women in London who are employed work in public administration, education and health and in distribution (including retail and wholesale), hotels and restaurants. This proportion is in line with averages for Europe. In the UK as a whole, nearly two-thirds of women work in those two industrial groupings. More than 25 per cent of women in London in employment work in the financial and business services sector, compared to just over 15 per cent in the UK as a whole.

Just over 14 per cent of women employed in London are senior managers and officials, compared with nearly 24 per cent of men. This compares with 13 per cent of women and 21 per cent of men in 2005. A more similar proportion of women and men are in professional occupations – 16 per cent of women and just under 17 per cent of men. Again the proportion of women in these occupations has increased, from 14 per cent in 2005. A somewhat higher proportion of women are in associate professional and technical jobs, which include nurses and paramedics. Nearly 22 per cent of women are in administrative and secretarial jobs compared with only six per cent of men. Women are much less likely than men to be involved in skilled trades, but far more likely to be employed in personal services, such as care assistants.

Occupation of women and men in London, 2006/07

	Women %	Men %
Managers and senior officials	14.4	23.8
Professional occupations	16.0	16.9
Associate professional and technical	20.3	17.8
Administrative and secretarial	21.6	6.0
Skilled trades	1.1	12.6
Personal service	11.6	2.7
Sales and customer service	6.8	4.6
Process, plant and machine operatives	1.1	6.5
Elementary occupations	7.2	9.1
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Labour Force Survey analysis for Women in London's Economy 2008

Detailed information from the 2001 Census shows the occupational pattern of women from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups. For instance, nearly 18 per cent of Chinese women were in professional occupations, the highest proportion of all ethnic groups. The proportion of Pakistani women in employment in these occupations (15.6 per cent) was higher than the proportion of White women (14.2 per cent), while the proportion of Black women was under ten per cent. Black Caribbean and Black African women were as likely as White women to be in associate professional and technical occupations, like nursing, all just over 19 per cent. Overall, a quarter of women in London were employed in administrative and secretarial posts, but for Black Caribbean women, the proportion went up to nearly 30 per cent.

Black women and Bangladeshi women were more likely to be employed in personal service jobs like caring and nursing assistants than other ethnic groups. Nearly a quarter of Bangladeshi women in employment were working in sales or customer services compared with only nine per cent of all women. Black African and Indian women were more likely than other women to be employed in elementary occupations, such as cleaning.

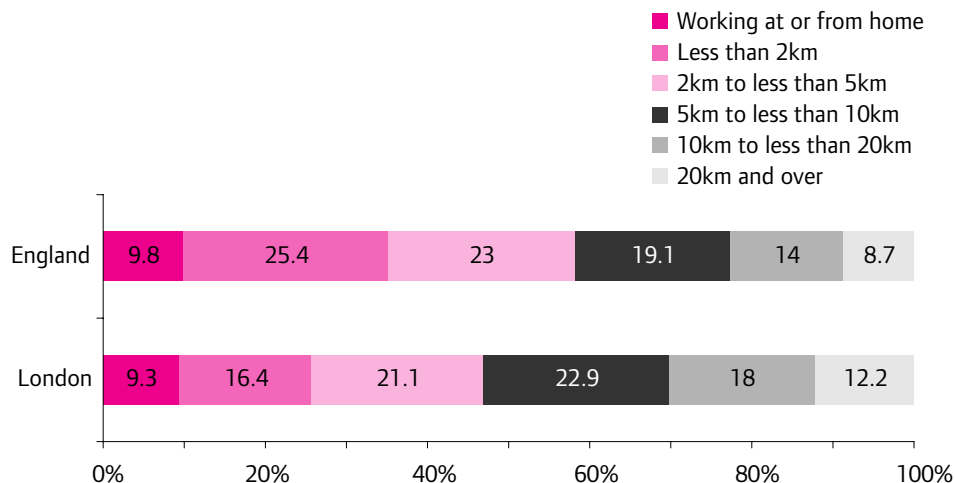
While occupational concentrations still persist, women do still continue to make breakthroughs in non-traditional areas of work. By March 2007, the proportion of women amongst Metropolitan Police officers had risen to nearly 21 per cent and the proportion of women recruits was higher, at 28 per cent. A third of police community support officers are women. Women now make up five per cent of fire-fighters in London.

Transport for London is working to increase the number of women bus drivers and a project has been launched to assist more women to train as taxi drivers.

Distance to work

Women in London have longer journey times to their employment than the average for England as a whole. Census figures from 2001 showed that a slightly lower percentage in London worked at or from home, but the biggest difference was the proportion who worked within walking distance from home – less than two kilometres (or one and a quarter miles.) A quarter of women in employment in England as a whole worked outside home but within this distance, compared with only one in six in London. Over 12 per cent of women in London worked at least 20 kilometres (over 12 miles) away from home compared with an England average of under eight per cent.

Distance of workplace from home, women in employment, England and London, 2001



Source: Census 2001 © Crown copyright

The kind of jobs which are more likely to be available close to home are in the retail trade, education, and health and social work. Together these sectors accounted for nearly three in five women working within two kilometres of their homes in London.

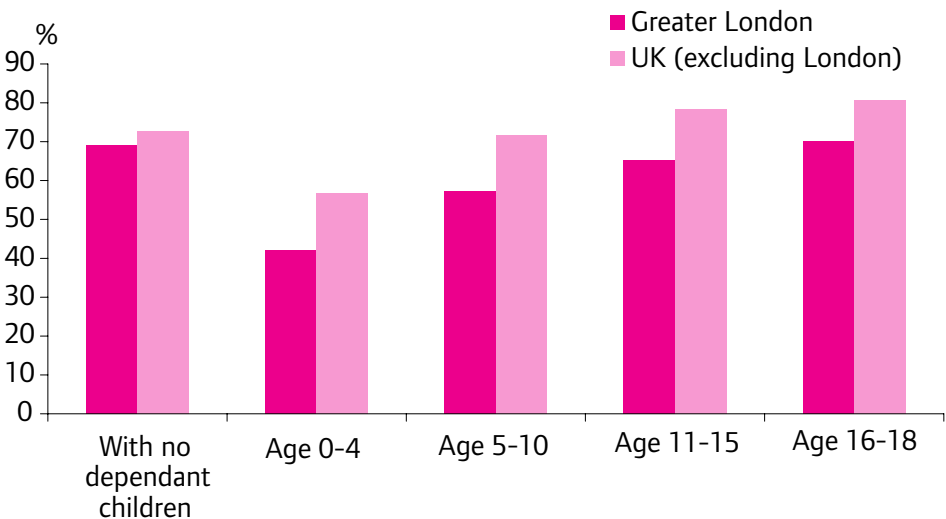
Mothers and work

The main difference in employment rates between London and the rest of the UK is in the employment rate for mothers with dependent children – school age and younger. For women without children, the employment rate in London is just four percentage points lower than the rest of the UK, at 69 per cent, compared with 73 per cent. But for women with

children, the gap is 15 percentage points – at only 53 per cent compared with 68 per cent in the rest of the UK.

The employment rate of mothers increases with the age of the youngest child. In London the employment rate ranges from 42 per cent for those with children under five to 70 per cent for those with children aged 16 to 18. At every age of youngest child, though, these rates are considerable lower than for mothers in the rest of the UK, where they range from 57 per cent for women with under-fives to 81 per cent of women with 16 to 18 year olds.

Employment rates of women by age of youngest and rest of UK, 2006



Source: Annual Population Survey 2006

Having more than two children also has a bigger impact on mothers’ employment rates in London than in the rest of the UK. Only 33 per cent of mothers with three or more children are in employment in London, compared with 51 per cent in the rest of the UK.⁹ The overall proportion of women of working age who have three or more children is slightly higher in London than elsewhere – 19 per cent, compared with 16.6 per cent.

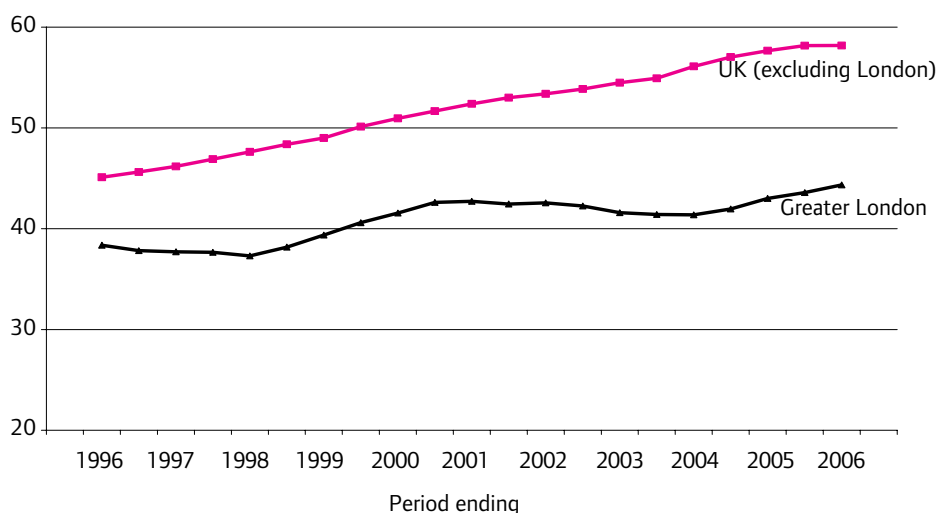
Lone mothers

Employment rates for lone mothers are much lower than those for mothers in couples. In 2006, the employment rate for lone mothers in London stood at 41 per cent compared with 59 per cent for mothers in couples. In the rest of the UK, there was a similar gap, at 55 per cent for lone mothers compared with 72 per cent for mothers in couples

In December 2007, the Government announced the introduction of new obligations on lone parents to actively seek work, moving them from Income Support to Jobseekers Allowance, with potential loss of benefit for non-compliance.¹⁰ The change will be introduced for lone parents with a youngest child aged 12 or over from October 2008; for those with a youngest child aged 10 or over from October 2009; and a youngest child aged 7 or over from October 2010.

The current employment rate for lone mothers with a youngest child aged 12 or over is 59 per cent, for those with a youngest child aged 10 or over, it is also 59 per cent and for those with a child aged 7 and over it is 55 per cent.

Employment rates of lone parents, London and rest of UK, 1995-2006



Source: Labour Force Survey Household datasets 1995-2006.

Notes: Data are two year moving averages. Household data are produced twice per year so each average is based on four survey estimates.

Part-time jobs

Fewer than 31 per cent of London women in employment work part-time, compared with just under 42 per cent of women in the UK as a whole. For women, the most frequently-cited reason for not wanting to work full-time is that they want to spend more time with their family – 42 per cent of London women in part-time work cited this as their main reason.

Part-time jobs are more likely to be lower-paid and lower status. Fewer than 23 per cent of women in London in part-time jobs have supervisory responsibilities, compared with nearly 46 per cent of those in full-time jobs. Part-time jobs are often poorly paid. In 2005, 22 per cent of London's part-time workers were earning less than £5.35 per hour and 46 per cent earned less than the current London Living Wage level of £7.20 an hour.¹¹

Women often downshift to jobs which do not fully use their skills but in which they can work part-time and locally in order to fit in with caring responsibilities. Research by the EOC found that nearly a half of women working part-time were working below their past potential.¹²

Disabled mothers

The employment rate of disabled mothers in London in 2005 was only 34 per cent, compared with 48 per cent in the rest of the UK, but both rates were much lower than for non-disabled mothers, 58 per cent of whom were in employment in London and 72 per cent in the rest of the UK.¹³

Among the barriers faced by women in London in gaining and retaining employment are: longer travelling times, fewer part-time jobs and the higher cost of childcare.

Childcare

Childcare is not only more expensive in London than elsewhere in England, it is also in shorter supply. In September 2007, there were 24 day nursery and childminding places per 100 children under five in London, compared with an England average of 31. Only out-of-school provision is more widely available in London, with just over 250,000 places, representing 24 places for every 100 children aged 5 to 7 years, compared with an England average of just under 22 places per 100.

In April 2008, local authorities will be producing assessments of childcare availability in their areas. The 2006 Childcare Act placed a duty on local authorities to ensure a sufficient supply of childcare in their areas to meet the needs of parents who want to work or undertake training or education which would help them to obtain work.

Local authorities are also required to ensure that there is sufficient supply of childcare which is eligible for the childcare element of working tax credit. This means, at current rates, a maximum of £175 per week in fees for one child and £300 for two. The maximum proportion parents can claim towards fees is 80 per cent.

Childcare in London costs on average 20 to 25 per cent more than the England average. Many nurseries charge fees above the maximum for childcare tax credit, placing them beyond the reach of lower-income parents.

In order to address these barriers, the Childcare Affordability Programme was set up by the Mayor of London and the Department for Children, Schools and Families. This programme, run by the London Development Agency, is subsidising the cost of children's day care to enable parents to stay in or return to employment or to undertake training or other preparation for work. One of the most popular features for parents and providers alike is funding for flexible places, either for times outside the traditional working day or for part of the day, since part-time childcare is often more expensive pro rata than a full-time place, adding to the difficulties of parents who want to work part-time.

The second phase of the programme, operating in pilot areas, is funding childcare for children with special educational needs and for children of parents who are undertaking training and other preparation for employment. This scheme provides childcare funding for older children as well as under-fives.

Caring

Over a third of a million women in London provide care for relatives or friends. This represents nearly 12 per cent of women aged 16 and over, rising to 21 per cent for women in their fifties. A half of women carers are also in employment.

Age Concern England reported that carers in their fifties, especially women, were 'penalised financially for taking time out to care for sick, older and disabled partners, relatives and friends'.¹⁴ Carers UK found that 28 per cent of people caring for 20-35 hours a week were likely to give up work and 59 per cent of those providing care for more than 50 hours a week were likely to do so¹⁵ while both men and women who provide 20 or more hours of unpaid care a week are concentrated in low level, lower paid, jobs.¹⁶

From April 2007 the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Regulation on Flexible Working extended the right to request

flexible working to carers – but not for the 10 per cent caring for a friend or neighbour outside their own household.

Difficulty in combining caring and employment is closely connected to the low income and social exclusion experienced by many carers, especially in the context of London's higher than average living costs. From September 2007 all Londoners receiving Income Support, including carers, benefit from low bus and tram fares – of 45p per journey.

The Mayor has recognised the difficulties faced by carers and with funding from the London Development Agency, is setting up the London Carers Alliance of carers and their organisations to highlight the priorities of London carers.

Earnings and pensions

Earnings

Once again there has been no change in the average (mean) gender pay gap for full time workers in London, while in the UK as a whole it has marginally decreased. In 2007, average hourly pay for women working full-time in London was £16.21, while for men it was 23 per cent more, at £21.05.¹⁷

The gender pay gap is wider at the top of the earnings ladder. The best-paid ten per cent of women earners in London received £ 27.36 per hour, while their male counterparts received £40.16 an hour, 32 per cent more. At the lowest ten per cent of earnings, the gender pay gap is much less marked, at just over five per cent. At this level, average hourly pay for women in London working full-time is £7.53 an hour, compared with £7.95 for men.

Disabled women in London are more likely to be in the lowest pay bands - 27 per cent of disabled women earn less than £325 a week compared with 20 per cent of non-disabled women in London.

Average part-time earnings are considerably lower than full-time, for men as well as women (but 70 per cent of part-timers in London are women). In 2007, the average part-time wage was £12.53 an hour for women in London and £14.23 for men. But many earn far less than this - in 2005, 46 per cent of London's part-time workers earned less than the Mayor's Living Wage of £7.20 per hour.

Tax credits

Working Tax Credit is available for people on lower incomes working at least 16 hours a week. Child Tax Credit is received by people with children. All families with children with incomes at or below £58,175 a year can claim at least the family element of Child Tax Credit. Those on lower incomes can claim a rate of Child Tax Credit higher than the family element.

In 2005/06, 381,000 families with dependent children in London, with at least one adult working, received tax credits. This represents 44 per cent of all families with children in London - the lowest rate for any region in England and Wales. There was little change in the numbers and rates compared with the previous year.

In London, 32 per cent of all families who received tax credits were lone parent families. This is the highest proportion in England and Wales, where the average was 24 per cent. In Inner London the proportion of lone parent families was 42 per cent.

Estimates of take-up rates have been calculated by HM Revenue & Customs for the year 2004/05. These show recipients of tax credits as a proportion of the number of families estimated to be eligible for them. These estimates show London as having the lowest take-up of all regions, with a rate around 63 per cent, compared with around 76 per cent in the rest of the UK.

Pensions

2007 saw an important step towards improving the retirement income of women in the UK. From April 2010, the number of contributory years required for the basic state pension will be reduced to 30, instead of 39 years for women and 44 for men. In addition, there will be a new weekly credit for those caring for children under 12 and a new contributory credit will also be introduced in the basic state pension and in the second state pension for those caring for severely disabled people for 20 hours or more per week. This should help those women who have had to take time out of employment to care for children and others and who have previously lacked a full pension because they have made fewer contributions.

But existing pensioners who do not have full contributions or an occupational or private pension will have to continue to rely on pension credit to make up their incomes. Twenty-one per cent of pensioner households in London – and a higher proportion of women living alone – are living on incomes below the official poverty line. This compares with an average of 18 per cent in England as a whole. It is estimated that nationally only two-thirds or fewer pensioners claim their entitlement to pension credit.

Women's representation

Eighty years ago, women in Britain finally achieved equal voting rights with men, but are still a long way from equality in terms of political representation and senior appointments.

Women make up nearly 52 per cent of London's potential electorate – the population aged 18 and over. Women are just as likely to vote in elections as men, but research for the Electoral Commission in 2004 showed how the presence of women candidates significantly increases women's turn out and engagement in political activity.¹⁸ In seats with a woman candidate, women voters are more likely to turn out to vote than men (a gender gap of four percentage points), while turn out among men is unaffected by the sex of the candidate.

Women's reported turnout in all-postal pilot areas in May 2003 was 13 per cent higher than men's. The report recommended that postal and convenience voting should be more widely available, to maximise the participation of women and those with parenting and caring responsibilities.¹⁹

Women political representatives

There are currently 126 women MPs out of a total of 646 in the House of Commons – 19.5 per cent.²⁰ London is doing somewhat better, with 23 out of 74 MPs – 31 per cent.

The UK Parliament's only two Black, Asian or minority ethnic women MPs both represent London constituencies.

Just under 26 per cent of the UK's 74 Members of the European Parliament are women. Again the proportion in London is higher at 33.3 per cent – three out of nine MEPs.

The London Assembly currently has nine women Assembly Members out of the total of 25, representing 36 per cent.

In 2006, women made up 31 per cent of local authority councillors in London.²¹ This meant there was a decrease in the proportion from 34 per cent in 2004. In England as a whole, just over 29 per cent of local councillors were women in 2006, the same proportion as in 2004.

Women in business

In 2006, just over 16 per cent of businesses in London were majority women-owned and nearly 17 per cent were owned 50:50 by women and men.²² Majority women-owned businesses tended to be smaller than average, with just under 21 per cent of organisations with 1–4 employees being majority women-owned compared to just over one per cent of organisations with 250 or more employees.

The type of businesses owned by women tend to reflect women's employment patterns, so there are higher proportions in health and social work (nearly 32 per cent), and other community services (27.3 per cent) sectors. Majority women-owned businesses made up a much lower percentage of businesses in construction (less than five per cent), transport and communications, and banking and finance (7.6 per cent).

Black-owned businesses were significantly more likely to be majority women-owned than average (26 per cent) while Asian businesses were significantly less likely (10 per cent).

Under a new project, *Enterprises On Track*, the Mayor's London Development Agency will create 40 new women-led businesses and support 200 women-led businesses with training, advice and mentoring.²³ The scheme is one of 27 employment, training and skills projects across London, which are receiving funding from the £11 million *Engaging in London 2012* Opportunities Fund. The fund is aimed at ensuring Londoners are able to take advantage of employment opportunities as a result of the 2012 Games.

Women in public positions

In 2006/07 just over 36 per cent of appointments to public boards in Great Britain were women, a slight decrease on the previous year.²⁴ A slightly lower proportion of Chairs of public boards were women – just under 31 per cent in 2006/07. The overall proportion of appointments of people from BAME groups was just over nine per cent but the proportion of BAME women is not published.

Crime and safety

The latest Metropolitan Police annual crime statistics show that the total number of recorded crimes in the capital fell by six per cent between 2006 and 2007. Nearly all types of offences went down: violent crime fell by over seven per cent; racist crime by nearly 14 per cent, domestic violence by over seven per cent and robbery by nearly 15 per cent, to reach its lowest level since 2000. However, recorded gun enabled offences rose by 4 per cent.

There are safer neighbourhood teams of police officers and police community support officers across all areas of London.

The latest Annual London Survey, conducted in Autumn 2007, showed that women continue to be more concerned about safety in London than men – 55 per cent of women said that safety was a problem, compared to 46 per cent of men. Women were less likely to feel safe, especially after dark. Women were also more likely to say they are concerned about assault and physical attack than men, at 54 per cent and 45 per cent respectively.

Apart from domestic violence, actual incidence of violent crime, though, is much lower for women than men, especially for those aged 35 and over.²⁵ The victims of violent crime are most likely to be young men aged 16 to 24.

Women were more likely to say they had seen an increase in the number of police officers patrolling their neighbourhood in the past 12 months. Thirty four per cent of women said they had seen more police compared to 27 per cent of men.

Domestic violence

Domestic violence affects one in four women during their lifetime and nationally, claims the life of two women each week. During 2007, just under 52,000 domestic violence offences were recorded by the Metropolitan Police.

The number of domestic violence murders has been reduced by 57 per cent in London since 2003. In 2005/06 there were still 33, of whom 27 were women and six were men. Over three-fifths of the victims were Black, Asian or minority ethnic women.

Research for the Crown Prosecution Service has shown that specialist courts provide better support for victims and more effective, streamlined ways of dealing with domestic violence. There are now four specialist domestic violence courts in London and the London Criminal Justice Board remains committed to the aims of these specialist courts, but

is awaiting a national evaluation of the concept before coming to any decisions on setting up further specialist courts in London.²⁶

There are around 860 places in refuges in London providing space for women and their children. Around 190 of these places are in refuges providing for specific ethnic groups, including Asian women, African/Caribbean women, Jewish women, Irish and travelling women and Spanish and Portuguese speakers.

Rape and sexual assault

In 2007, the Metropolitan Police recorded 2,022 rape offences and the average detection rate was just over 33 per cent. More than 90 per cent of victims are female and they are more likely to be young. In a review of rape allegations in April and May 2005 by Professor Betsy Stanko for the Metropolitan Police Service, it was found that 23 per cent of victims were under 16, 35 per cent were aged between 16 and 25, 30 per cent were aged between 26 and 40 and 12 per cent were 41 or over. In the majority of cases the victim knows her assailant and in one in four cases the assailant is a former partner or boyfriend.

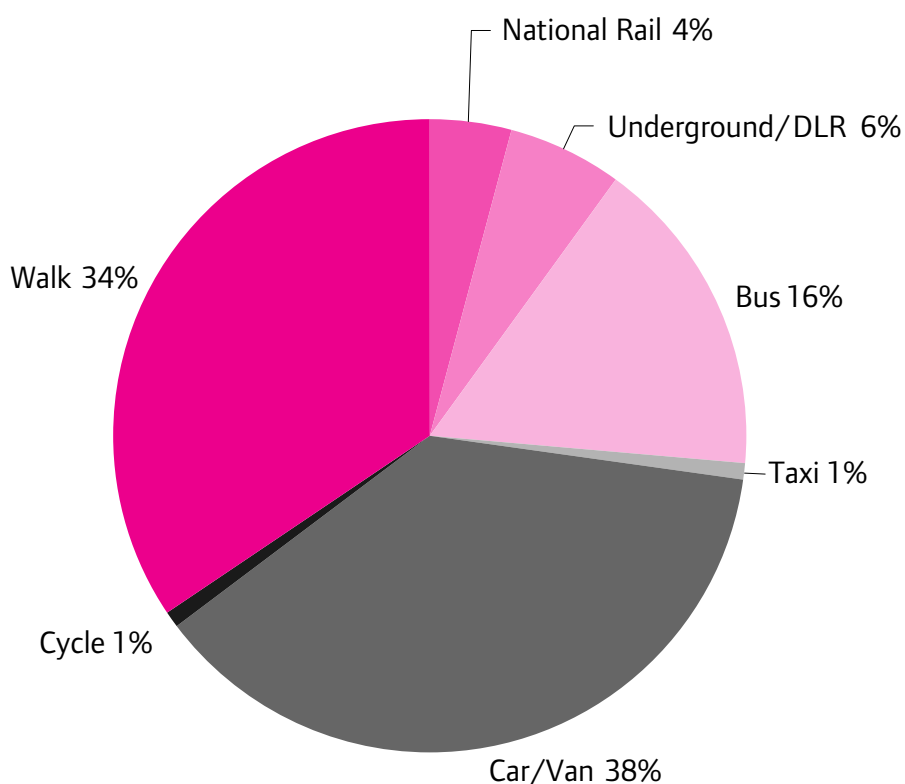
London has three havens where anyone who has been raped or sexually assaulted can get medical help and advice, counselling and practical and emotional support.

While more rapes are being reported than in the past, others continue to go unreported and a low proportion of those reported to the police result in a conviction. Nationally, the British Crime Survey found that seven per cent of women had suffered a serious sexual assault at least once since they were 16, including five per cent who had been raped. A national study of rape cases found that only 14 per cent of cases reached the trial stage and rates of acquittal were twice as high in cases involving adults than those involving under 16 year olds.²⁷ Sexual offences rank as one of the most costly with regards to the criminal justice system at an estimated average of £31,400 per crime.

Transport and travel

On average women in London make slightly more trips than men – an average of 2.93 trips per week in 2006/07, compared with 2.76.²⁸ Women are more likely to walk and to use buses than men and less likely to use a car or van or rail or underground. The number of trips by Londoners was almost unchanged between 2001 and 2006/07 at 2.8 trips per person per weekday. However, there was an increase in the share of bus trips and a slight increase in walking, while the share of car trips decreased.

Weekday trips of women in London by mode of transport, 2006/07



Source: London Transport Demand Survey 2006/07

Women between 17 and 24 were most likely to use buses, with 50 per cent of them using buses five or more days a week. Women aged 65 to 74 also use buses fairly frequently, with 60 per cent using them more than two days each week.

The mean daily time spent travelling by London residents was 84 minutes per day in 2006/07. The proportion of time spent travelling each day averaged 78 minutes for women and 90 minutes for men. People in the 25 to 44 year group spent the most time travelling.

56 per cent of women in London hold a full driving licence, compared with an average of 63 per cent in Great Britain as a whole. The proportion

in London has remained unchanged since a decade ago, while in Great Britain it has increased from 57 per cent in 1995/97.²⁹

Safety

Women's ability to travel around London freely can be constrained by concerns over their safety and security. There have been a number of developments showing a reduction in this risk. For instance, the number of cab related sexual offences nearly halved between 2002 and 2007.³⁰ This reduction has been brought about through the licensing system for minicabs operated by Transport for London since 2001 and by the greater awareness of using illegal cabs through the Safer Travel at Night campaign. Unlicensed minicabs are now illegal and licensed minicabs must always be booked through an operator. The proportion of women willing to use illegal cabs in the West End has gone down from 18 per cent in 2003 to four per cent at the end of 2007.

Crime rates on London buses are the lowest they have been since 2004 at 15 crimes for every million passenger journeys and CCTV has been installed on all London buses.³¹

There has also been a reduction in crime on the London Underground and the Docklands Light Railway. British Transport Police figures for 2006/7 showed that overall crime numbers went down by over two per cent while passenger numbers went up by five per cent. Robberies went down by over a fifth. The number of British Transport police officers on the Underground has increased from 450 in 2003 to more than 700 in 2007.

In 2006, 231 people were killed and 3,715 seriously injured on London's roads.³² By far the greatest majority of casualties were in cars, but pedestrians accounted for almost half of all deaths. The number of road casualties in London continues to decline at a faster rate than in Great Britain as a whole.

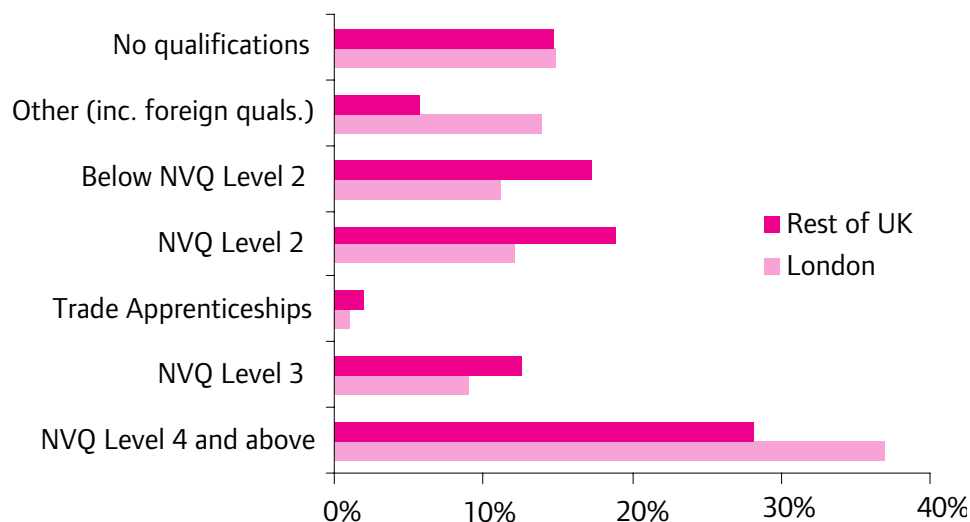
Education and qualifications

Young women in London are increasingly well-qualified. At every key stage at school and at GCSE level, girls out-perform boys. By the age of 19, nearly half of young women in London have A – level qualifications.

Over 210,000 young women are in Higher Education in London – well over half the total number of students.

Women of working age in London are more likely to have higher qualifications than women in the rest of the UK. In 2006, 37 per cent of women in London in the main working age group of 16 to 59 had NVQ level 4 or above, equivalent to a degree or higher, compared with 28 per cent in the rest of the UK. Just considering those in employment, an even higher proportion have degree level or higher qualifications – 47 per cent in London in 2006, compared to 33 per cent in the rest of the UK. Formal qualifications are becoming increasingly necessary, especially in London. Currently over 40 per cent of jobs in London require degree-level qualifications and this is expected to increase to 50 per cent by 2020.

Qualification levels of women aged 16 to 59 in London and the rest of the UK, 2006



Source: Annual Population Survey 2006

At the other end of the spectrum, the proportion of women with no formal qualifications at all was 15 per cent in London in 2006, the same proportion as in the rest of the UK. The impact on employment rates is more marked in London. Only 31 per cent of women in London with no qualifications were in employment in 2006, compared with 44 per cent of women with no qualifications in the rest of the UK.

Age groups over 50 are more likely to lack formal qualifications. In 2005, 23 per cent of men and women age 50 to 64 in London had no formal qualifications, compared with 14 per cent of those aged 40 to 49 and nine per cent of those in their twenties. However, for many in this age group, the lack of a formal qualification is counter-balanced by extensive work experience. Older women in particular, grew up at a time when formal qualifications, especially for girls, were regarded as less important.

The Mayor of London chairs the London Skills and Employment Board, which published its draft strategy in October 2007.³³ The Board wants to achieve the following by 2013:

- Increasing London's employment rate to 72 per cent
- Reducing the proportion of Londoners with no qualifications to 11 per cent
- Increasing participation in training at work to 15 per cent.

Housing and homelessness

Recent population increases and a growing proportion of people living alone or in smaller households, coupled with a buoyant economy, means that the demand for housing has grown quickly, up 20 per cent in the last two decades.³⁴ Many women, even those with reasonable incomes, have been priced out of home ownership while many more low income households struggle to find suitable homes for rent.

The draft Mayor's Housing Strategy was published in September 2007. It sets out the Mayor's policies to address the range of London's housing challenges. Key aims include providing more affordable homes and more family homes, tackling climate change, helping people on low to middle incomes into home ownership and increasing housing choice and mobility. The Mayor's *London Plan* has set a new target for at least 30,500 additional homes to be provided each year to 2016. Of these, 50 per cent should be affordable, mostly rented from a local authority or housing association.

House prices

The average house price in London in November 2007 was £355,643, almost double the average for England Wales as a whole.³⁵ The average price of a flat or maisonette was £319,155, compared with £175,895 in England and Wales. Even in a relatively cheaper area like Barking and Dagenham, the average price of a flat or maisonette was over £209,000.

Overcrowding

London continues to have a rate of overcrowding more than three times as high as in the rest of the country. Although a relatively low percentage overall, it is much more likely to affect households with children, almost all of which also contain women.

Information from the 2004 Families and Children Study for the DWP showed that 20 per cent of families with children in London were living in overcrowded accommodation (lacking one or more bedrooms), twice the proportion in Great Britain as a whole.

The Mayor's draft housing strategy has set a new target that 42 per cent of new social rented homes should have three bedrooms or more.

Homelessness

In March 2007, there were just over 46,000 London households which included children or expected children in temporary accommodation, provided by local authorities mainly in private rented properties. The vast majority of these households are women-headed or include women. Temporary accommodation is accommodation provided for households that have applied to an authority as homeless, and who have either been accepted as homeless and in priority need, or who are thought to

be homeless and in priority need, and are being housed while enquiries are made. 'Homelessness and priority need' are defined by legislation: priority needs include households with dependant children and/or a pregnant member, older people, young people and those with mental or physical illness. A local authority has a duty to provide temporary accommodation in the interim between accepting a household as homeless and in priority need, and providing 'settled' accommodation.

The average length of stay in temporary accommodation has increased. In 1998 most homeless families stayed less than six months in temporary accommodation, but in 2006, 62 per cent of those who found permanent housing had been in temporary accommodation more than a year.³⁶

As well as women in homeless families, there are also single women sleeping rough or living with friends or relatives or in various kinds of temporary accommodation such as hostels or bed and breakfast hotels. In a survey of homeless women for Crisis, including women in London, it was found that over one in five had become homeless as a result of violence from someone they knew - a partner, family member or someone from the locality harassing them.³⁷ The other most common reasons were family breakdown, experienced by 26 per cent, and eviction, 13.5 per cent. More than one in four first became homeless before the age of 16, although some did not experience their first episode of homelessness until their 30s or 40s. More than half had experienced more than one episode of homelessness.

Health

On the whole women in London are more likely to be healthier than those in the rest of England and Wales, but there are large health inequalities within London, often reflecting the extent of deprivation.

The 2007 Greater London Authority Act gave the Mayor new duties to promote a reduction in health inequalities and lead development of a statutory health inequalities strategy for London, in addition to his existing duties to promote health. Consultation on proposals for the strategy will take place later in 2008. The proposals are likely to focus on the wider determinants of health, such as employment and income, and to actively promote both mental and physical well-being.

Life expectancy

There continues to be a steady increase in life expectancy in both London and England and females have a life expectancy of more than four years beyond that of males. Life expectancy at birth for an area is an estimate of the average number of years a hypothetical new-born baby would survive if he or she experienced the particular area's age-specific mortality rates for that time period throughout his or her life. This is a good summary indicator of the health status of the population, closely related to the level of deprivation.

In 2003–2005, life expectancy for females stood at 81.4 in London and 81.1 in England. For males it stood at 76.9 years in London and 76.8 in England.³⁸

There is considerable variation at borough level. For females, the range was between 78.8 in Newham and 86.2 in Kensington & Chelsea. The gap has widened between the lowest and highest boroughs, from 6.6 years in 2002–2004 to 7.4 years in 2003–05.

Infant mortality

There has been a continuing improvement in both London and England in the infant mortality rate – the number of deaths of children under one year per 1,000 live births. The rate is influenced by maternal health and social class.

In 2006, the infant mortality rate in London was 4.9 per 1,000 live births, compared with 5.0 in England.³⁹ The rate in London was previously slightly higher than in England as a whole, but in 2006 it was slightly lower. However, there is considerable variation between boroughs, with the highest rates in Haringey, Harrow, Southwark, Islington and Newham in 2003–2005, the latest date for which borough-level figures are available. The boroughs with the lowest rates were Kensington and Chelsea, Havering and Richmond upon Thames.

Sexual health

The incidence of sexually transmitted diseases has been increasing and is higher in London than in the rest of England and Wales. Between 1997 and 2006 the reported number of cases of chlamydia increased nearly four-fold in England and Wales, with the greatest increase among those aged 16 to 24.⁴⁰ Chlamydia is the most prevalent sexually transmitted infection among young women. It is particularly problematic as it can remain often undetected but can lead to reproductive health problems, including infertility and ectopic pregnancy.

In 2005, over a fifth of all chlamydia cases among women in England were reported in London.

HIV

Heterosexual sex is now the most common route of infection for new HIV cases, making up over 50 per cent of all newly diagnosed cases.⁴¹ In 2006 there were an estimated 69,400 people living with HIV in the UK, of whom 21,600 were women. An estimated third of the total were thought to be unaware of their status.

The prevalence of diagnosed HIV infection in 2006 was highest among London residents at 319 per 100,000 population compared to 56 per 100,000 in the rest of England.

In 2006, 43 per cent of all new HIV diagnoses in the UK were reported from London centres. Between 2005 and 2006, London had the largest increase in numbers of residents accessing HIV-related care but the lowest proportional increase – under eight per cent, compared with 21 per cent in Yorkshire and The Humber, the area with the largest proportional increase.

Abortions

In 2006, there were just over 51,000 legal abortions to London residents.⁴² This represents a rate of 28 per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44, a higher rate than the average England and Wales rate of just over 18 per 1,000. The highest rates are among young women aged 18 to 24.

The proportion of abortions taking place at under 10 weeks in England and Wales has continued to increase. In 1996, 56 per cent took place at less than 10 weeks, but by 2006, this had increased to 68 per cent. Nationally, less than 0.1 per cent took place at 24 weeks or later in 2006. In London in 2006, nearly 73 per cent of abortions took place within 10 weeks of conceptions and 90 per cent within 12 weeks.

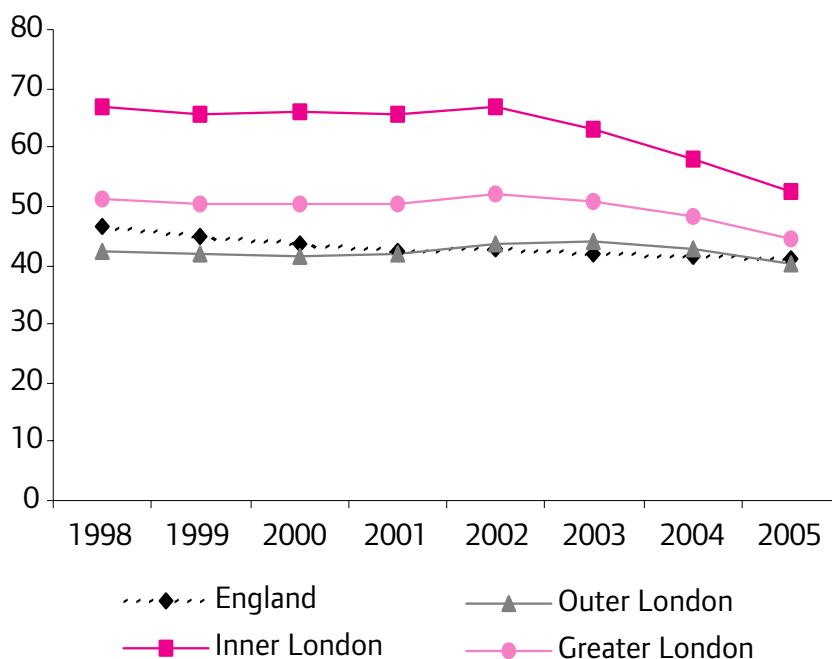
Teenage pregnancy

In 2005, the under-18 conception rate per 1,000 young women aged 15 to 17 was 44.6 in London compared with 41.1 in England. The rate in Inner London was 52.6, while in Outer London it was 40.1 per 1,000, close to the England rate. A higher proportion of under-18 conceptions in London end in abortion compared to the England average: 59 per cent in London in 2004 and 46 per cent in England.

There is a wide variation between boroughs, with the rates in Lambeth and Southwark three times as high as the rate in Richmond upon Thames, but the divergence appears to be decreasing.

Teenage pregnancy rates have been reducing slowly in England. Rates in Inner London have reduced at a faster rate, although from a much higher starting point. The gap between the rates in Inner London and England has decreased from 20.2 percentage points in 1998 to 11.5 percentage points in 2005. The trend in Outer London is less clear, but has been declining since 2002.

Conceptions per 1,000 young women aged 15 to 17, 1998 to 2005



Source: Office for National Statistics

Looking forward

There are expected to be nearly half a million new jobs in London over the next ten years, and women will take up more than half of them.

The 2012 Olympics will bring 50,000 new jobs and 9,000 new homes in the Olympic Park, and 30,000 more in the wider Lower Lea Valley.

The prospect of a new Single Equality Act, due to be introduced in the lifetime of the current parliament, gives the opportunity for legislation to make further in-roads on women's inequality and tackle discrimination in all its forms.

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Vietnamese

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Greek

Αν θέλετε να αποκτήσετε αντίγραφο του παρόντος εγγράφου στη δική σας γλώσσα, παρακαλείστε να επικοινωνήσετε τηλεφωνικά στον αριθμό αυτό ή ταχυδρομικά στην παρακάτω διεύθυνση.

Turkish

Bu belgenin kendi dilinizde hazırlanmış bir nüshasını edinmek için, lütfen aşağıdaki telefon numarasını arayınız veya adrese başvurunuz.

Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦੀ ਕਾਪੀ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਆਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਫ਼ੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਜਾਂ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਪਤੇ 'ਤੇ ਰਾਬਤਾ ਕਰੋ:

Hindi

यदि आप इस दस्तावेज की प्रति अपनी भाषा में चाहते हैं, तो कृपया निम्नलिखित नंबर पर फोन करें अथवा नीचे दिये गये पते पर संपर्क करें

Bengali

আপনি যদি আপনার ভাষায় এই দলিলের প্রতিলিপি (কপি) চান, তা হলে নীচের ফোন নম্বরে বা ঠিকানায় অনুগ্রহ করে যোগাযোগ করুন।

Urdu

اگر آپ اس دستاویز کی نقل اپنی زبان میں چاہتے ہیں، تو براہ کرم نیچے دئے گئے نمبر پر فون کریں یا دیئے گئے پتے پر رابطہ کریں

Arabic

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