

Under 18 Conceptions in Hull

Trends to 2022

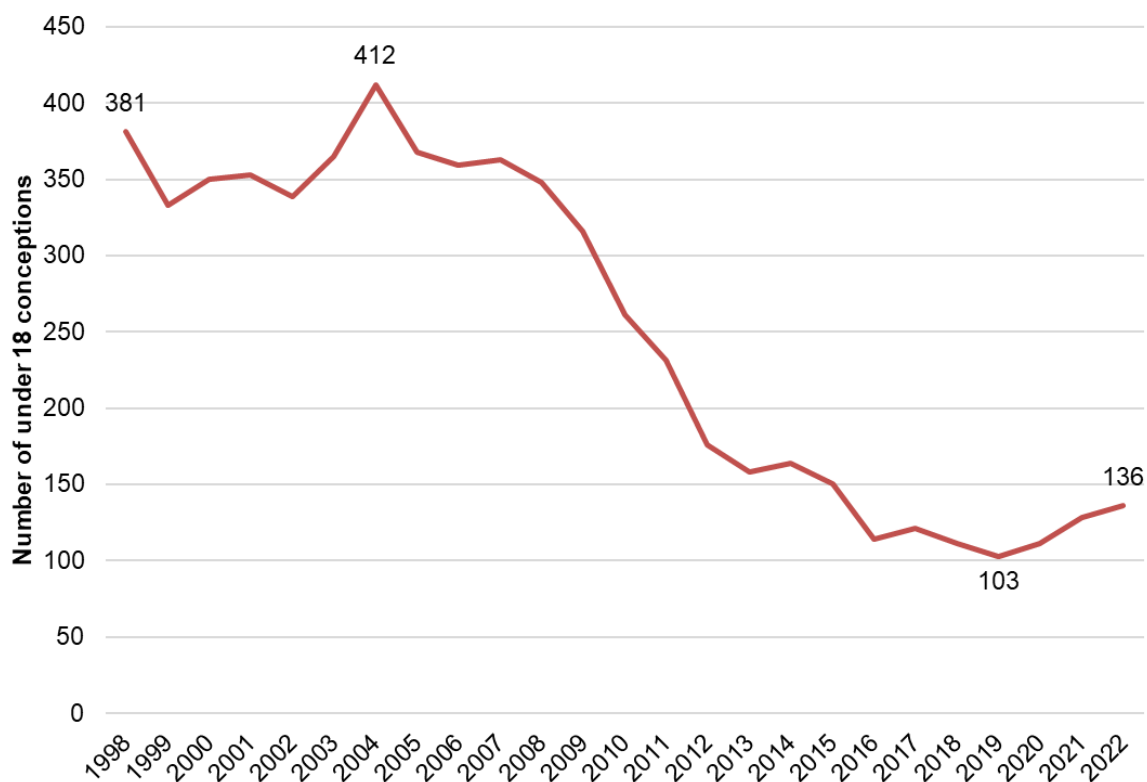
Public Health Intelligence

July 2022

Under 18 Conceptions in Hull

The number of under 18 conceptions increased slightly in Hull in 2022 for the third year running, having reached a low of 103 in 2019 (**Figure 1**). Nevertheless, at 136 conceptions in 2022 this remained lower than in any year from 1998 to 2015 inclusive, and less than one third of the peak of 412 conceptions in 2004.

Figure 1: Trends in the number of under 18 conceptions in Hull



Trends in the under 18 conception rates for Hull are shown in **Figure 2** alongside the Yorkshire and Humber and England averages. The small uptick in rates seen for Hull in the last three years are also seen for England and the region. At 29.9 conceptions per 1,000 young women aged 15-17 years, the rate in Hull in 2022 was more than double the England rate (115% higher) and two thirds higher than the Yorkshire and Humber rate (69% higher).

The absolute gap in under 18 conception rates between Hull and England had generally been decreasing in recent years, the gap widened in 2020, with a roughly 16 per 1,000 difference in under 18 conception rates between Hull and England, with a similar pattern when comparing Hull against the region.

The under 18 conception rate in Hull was the second highest of all upper tier local authorities in England in 2022, as shown in **Figure 3**, and one of only 5 local authorities with a rate above 25 per 1,000 women aged 15-17 years, the others being Redcar and Cleveland, Middlesbrough, Blackpool and Halton.

Figure 2: Trends in the under 18 conception rate per 1,000 women aged 15-17 years

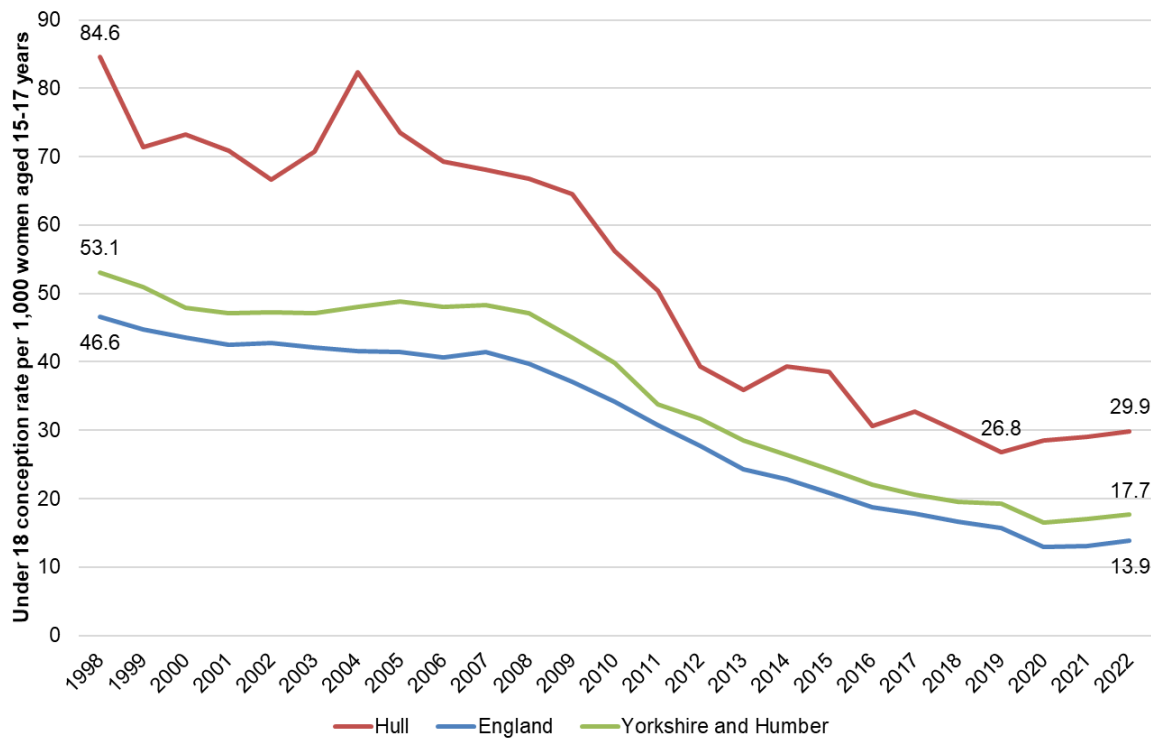
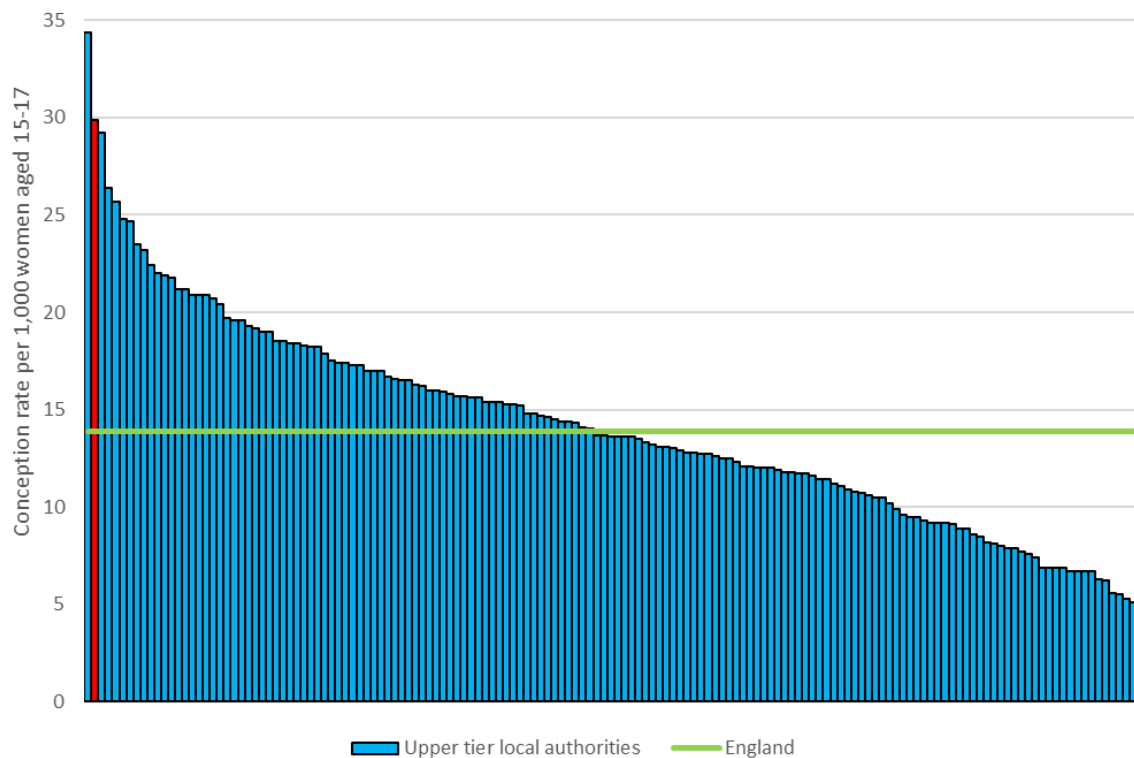
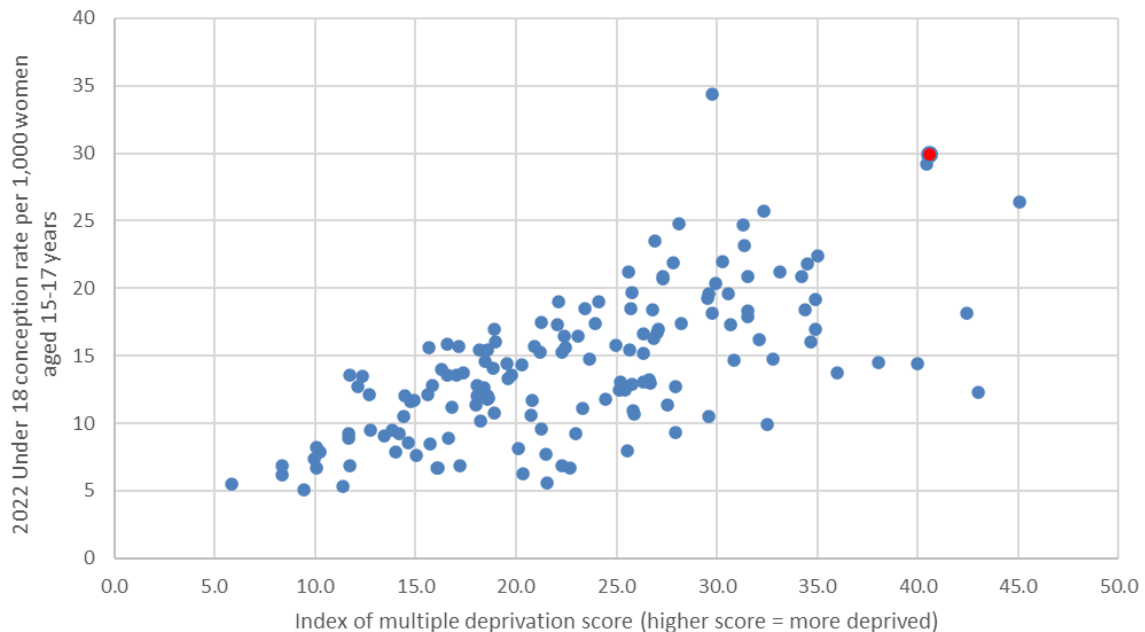


Figure 3: Under 18 conception rates in English upper-tier local authorities in 2022

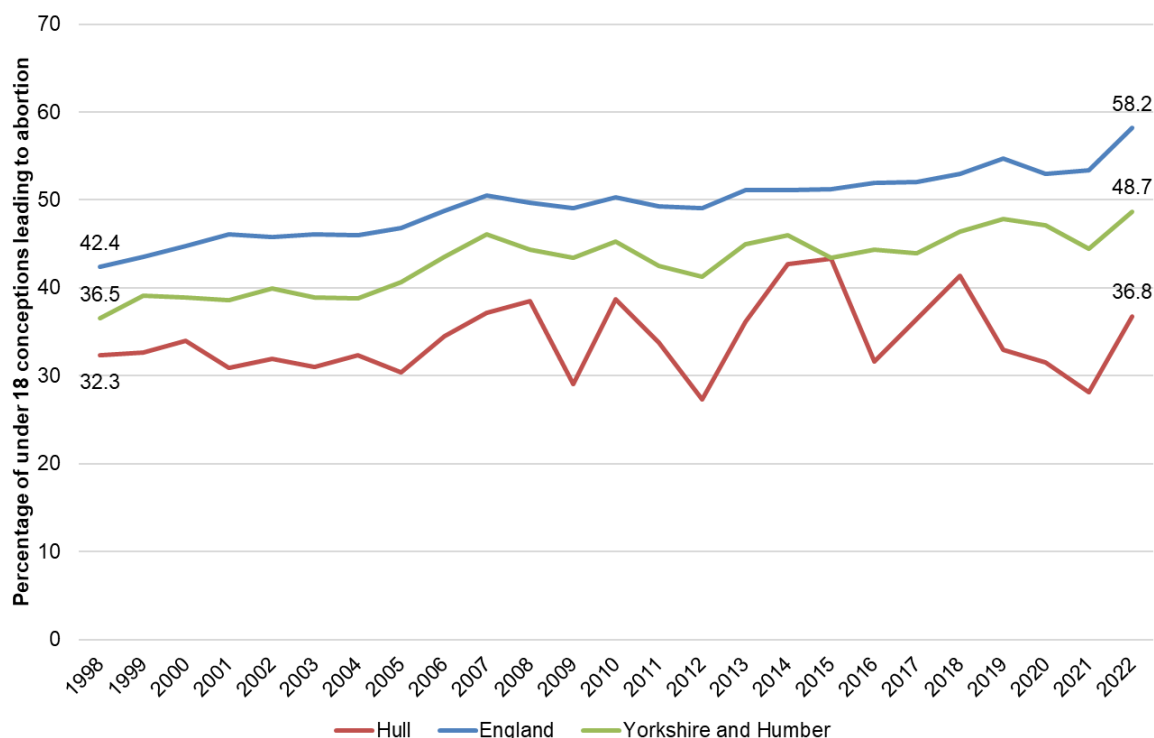


There is a strong association between deprivation and under 18 conception rates, as illustrated by **Figure 4**.

Figure 4: Under 18 conception rate versus deprivation, upper tier local authorities in 2022

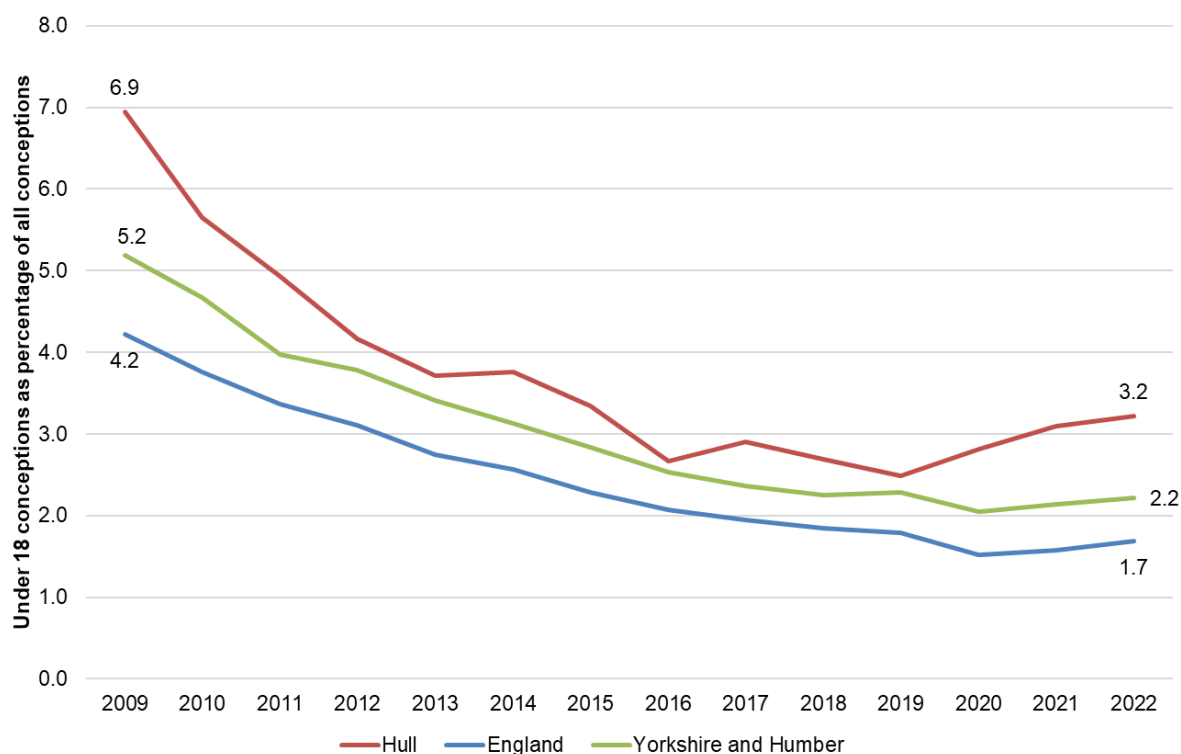


The percentage of under 18 conceptions leading to an abortion have been relatively consistent in Hull, at around one third, although quite variable around that figure due to the relatively small numbers involved. Despite the lower conception rates in England and Yorkshire and Humber, the percentages of under 18 conceptions leading to an abortion have increased over time, as shown in **Figure 5**. The percentage in England in 2022 was 1.6 times higher than for Hull, while for Yorkshire and Humber it was 33% higher than for Hull.

Figure 5: The percentage of under 18 conceptions leading to abortion

The percentage of all conceptions that occurred among young women aged under 18 years had been decreasing in Hull until 2019 (**Figure 6**). Similar decreases were seen across the region and England, but the decreases in Hull were larger. For the last three years the percentage of conceptions amongst under 18s has increased in Hull, and for the last two year in England and the region. Between 2009 and 2019, the percentage for Hull decreased by 64%, higher than the 43% decrease for England and the 44% decrease seen for the Yorkshire and Humber region over that period. Since 2019, the percentage of conceptions among under 18s has increased in Hull by 28%, despite decreasing further by 6% for England and 4% for the region.

Figure 6: Trends in the percentage of all conceptions occurring in women under 18 years



There is a wide variation in the under 18 conception rate for the three year period 2020 to 2022 across Hull's middle layer super output areas (MLSOAs¹) geographical areas (**Figure 7** and **Figure 8**). Seven of Hull's 33 MLSOAs have numbers too small to present, and of the remaining 30 MLSOAs, 27 of them have all but three MLSOAs have total counts over the three-year period between 5 and 19 conceptions and have concerns over the reliability given the small numbers. All areas have high levels of variability in the actual rate as illustrated by the wide confidence intervals in **Figure 7**.

¹ These are geographical areas used in the Census, and there are 6,856 MLSOAs in England and 33 in Hull. MLSOAs comprise between 2,000 and 6,000 households and usually have a resident population between 5,000 and 15,000.

Figure 7: Under 18 conception rate across Hull's 33 middle layer super output area levels, 2020 to 2022

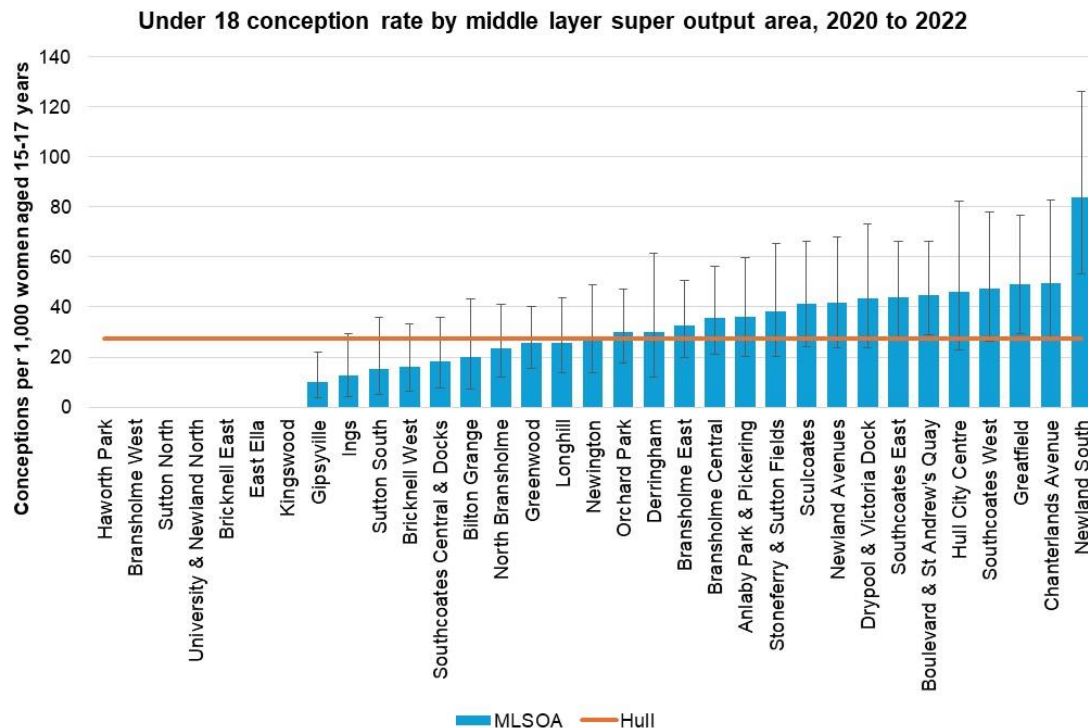
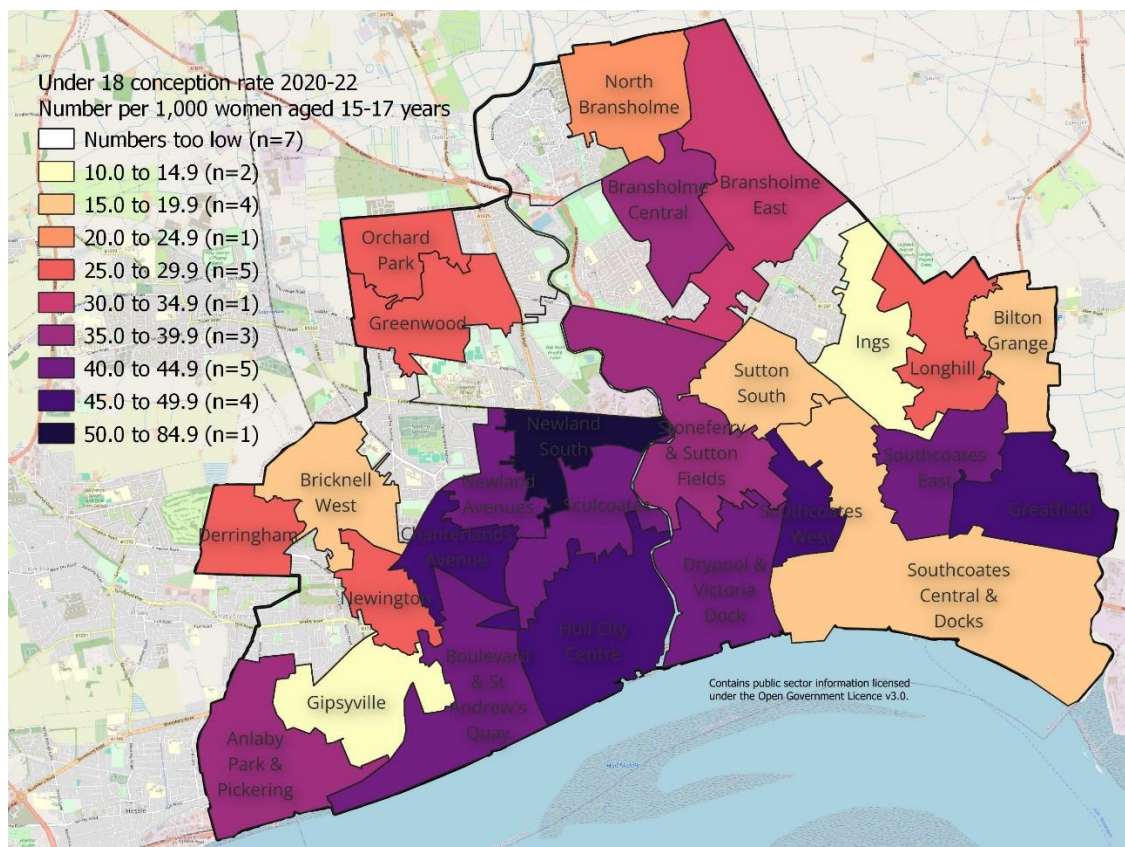
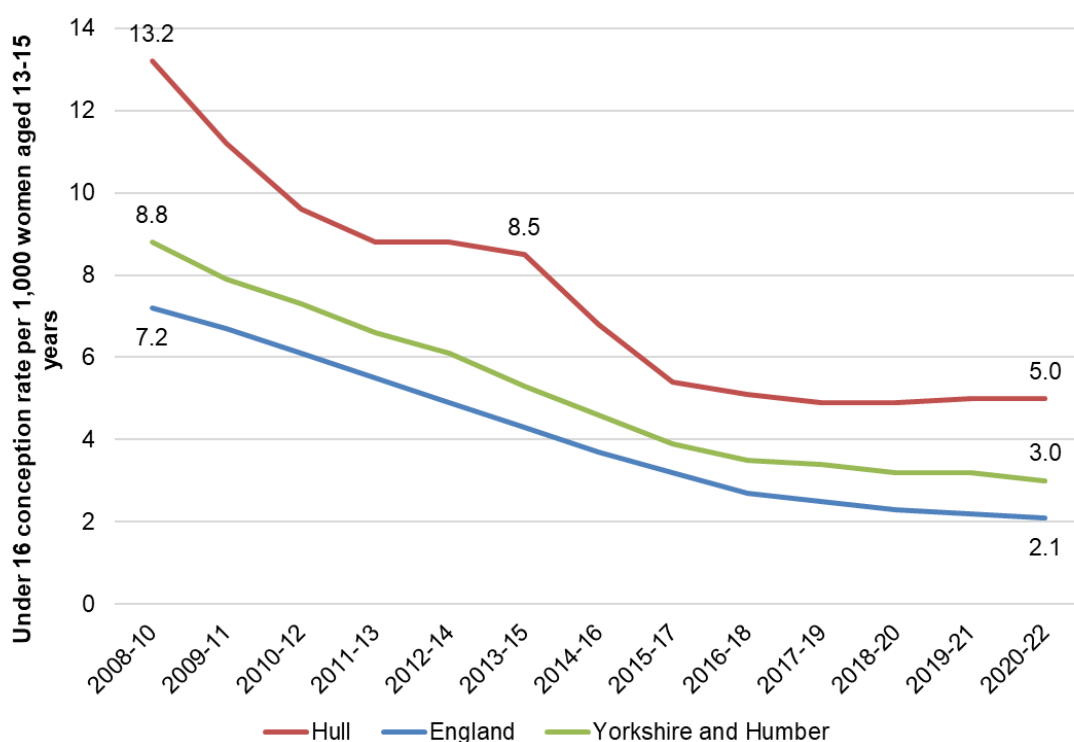


Figure 8: Under 18 conception rate across Hull's 33 middle layer super output area levels, 2020 to 2022



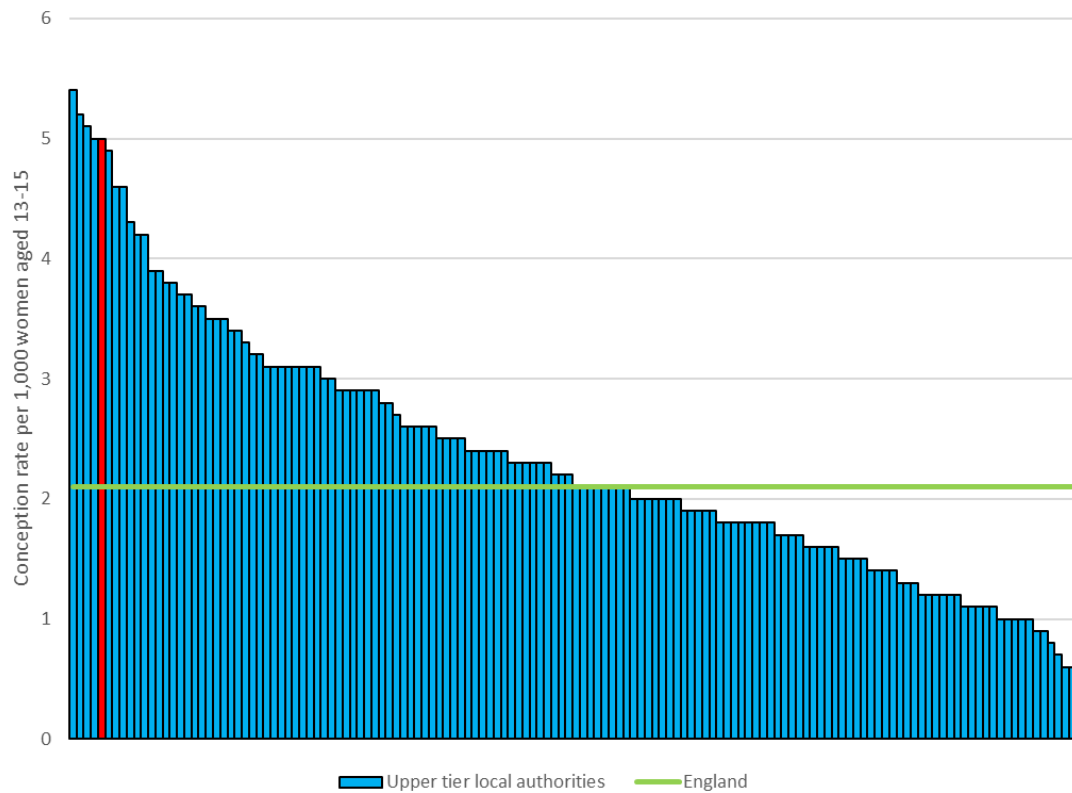
Because of the small numbers, there is a large amount of random variation from year-to-year in the numbers of under 16 conceptions at a local authority level, so the rates for under 16 conceptions are presented as rolling 3-year averages in **Figure 9**. Between 2008-10 and 2020-22, the under 16 conception rate decreased in Hull by 62%, but this was slightly lower than the 66% decrease seen for the Yorkshire and Humber region as a whole, and less than the 71% decrease seen for England. The under 16 conception rate for Hull has been relatively flat since 2015-17, but continued decreasing year on year for both England and the region.

Figure 9: Under 16 conception rate per 1,000 young women aged 13-15 years



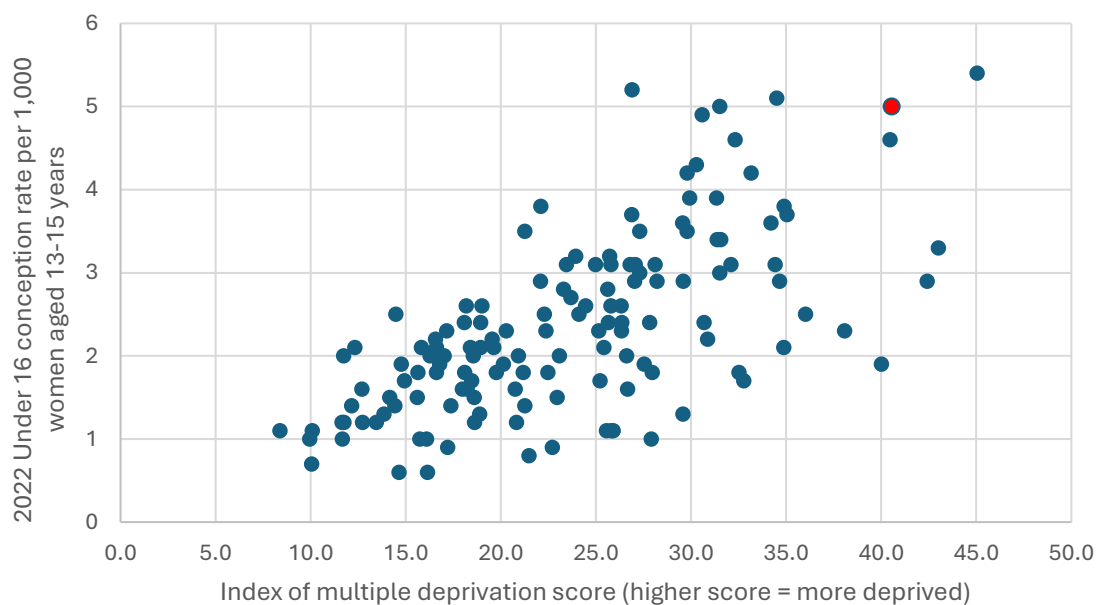
Hull had the fifth highest under 16 conception rate in 2020-22, after Blackpool, Portsmouth, Stoke-on-Trent and St Helens (**Figure 10**), and was one of just 11 local authorities with an under 16 conception rate above 4 per 1,000 women aged 13-15 years. The only other local authority in Yorkshire and Humber with a rate above 4 per 1,000 in 2020-22 was Doncaster.

Figure 10: Under 16 conception rates in 2020-22 in English upper tier local authorities



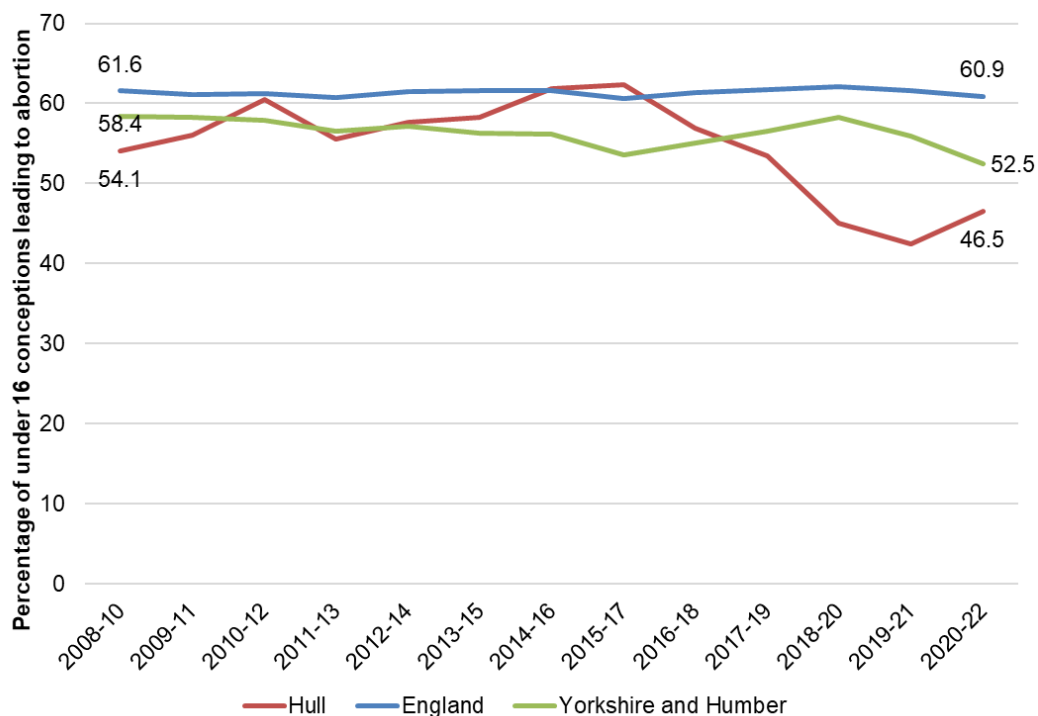
As with under 18 conceptions, under 16 conceptions are associated with deprivation, as shown in **Figure 11**.

Figure 11: Under 16 conception rate versus deprivation, upper tier local authorities in 2020-22



The percentage of under 16 conceptions leading to an abortion in Hull were around 60% until 2015-17, but have decreased since, ending at 46.5% in 2020-22, whereas in England the percentage has remained fairly steady at around 60% (**Figure 12**).

Figure 12: The percentage of under 16 conceptions leading to abortion



The percentage of all conceptions that occurred among young women aged under 16 years had been decreasing in Hull until 2016-18, remaining fairly flat at around 0.5% before a slight increase in 2020-22 (**Figure 13**). In England small decreases continued to be seen after 2017-19, with the percentage steady after 2017-19 in the Yorkshire and Humber region. In 2020-22 the percentage of all conceptions that were among young women aged under 16 years in Hull was double the percentage for England, and 32% higher than the Yorkshire and Humber regional average.

Figure 13: Trends in the percentage of all conceptions occurring in women under 16 years

