

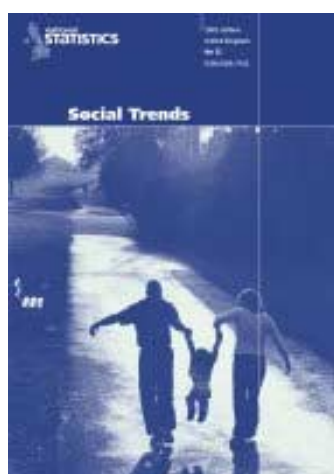
31 January 2002

Coverage

United Kingdom

Theme

Social and welfare



Issued by
National Statistics
1 Drummond Gate
London SW1V 2QQ

Telephone
Press Office 020 7533 5702
Public Enquiries 020 7533 5888

Contact
Carol Summerfield 020 7533 6395
Penny Babb 020 7533 5168

Email penny.babb@ons.gov.uk

Staffax – fax retrieval service
This release 0906 7360 202

Internet
www.statistics.gov.uk/releases

Social Trends 32

- a portrait of British society

The 32nd edition of *Social Trends*, which draws together a wide range of statistics to paint a broad picture of British society, is published today.

Social Trends covers many different aspects of society, from reviewing changes in the population structure and family characteristics to household expenditure and actions to protect the environment.

- More people live in the traditional family unit of a couple with dependent children than in any other type of household.
- About a quarter of women employees are in administrative and secretarial work, while men are most likely to be employed as managers and senior officials or in skilled trades.
- Lone parent families and pensioners were all more likely than the population as a whole to be living in a low-income household in 1999-2000. For lone parent families, the likelihood was nearly twice that for all individuals.
- People in minority ethnic groups had higher unemployment rates than White people in 2000-01, particularly among the Black and Pakistani/Bangladeshi groups whose rates were three times that for White people.
- The proportion of households with at least one mobile phone has nearly tripled from 17 per cent in 1996-97 to 47 per cent in 2000-01.
- The introduction of cleaner fuels and catalytic converters led to reductions in total road traffic emissions of particles, nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds between 1989 and 1999, despite growth of over 15 per cent in road traffic.
- Between 1990 and 1998 the United Kingdom was one of three EU countries that succeeded in reducing total greenhouse gas emissions, by nine per cent.

Social Trends 32 The Stationery Office £39.50 ISBN 0 11 621472 4
Available free online at www.statistics.gov.uk/socialtrends

A feature article, '*Children*', presents an overview of social trends that have impacted on children in the United Kingdom since the early 1980s. Some key findings from the article are:

- Families with children tend to have lower incomes than those without children.
- There have been improvements in GCSE attainment in all ethnic groups, but differences still remain, with at least 60 per cent of young people in the other Asian and Indian groups achieving five or more GCSEs, compared with 50 per cent of White young people, 39 per cent of Black young people, and 29 per cent in the Pakistani and Bangladeshi groups.
- Around one in ten children and adolescents had a mental disorder in 1999. There were marked differences by social class with children in Social Class V (unskilled group) (14 per cent) being almost three times more likely to have a mental disorder than those in Social Class I (professional group) (5 per cent).
- There were about 120,000 known child offenders aged 10 to 17 who were found guilty or cautioned for indictable offences in England and Wales in 1999, down from about 137,500 in 1991.

Social Trends aims at a wide audience including policy-makers in public and private sectors, service providers, academics and students, journalists and commentators. To preserve topicality, half of the 311 tables, charts and maps in *Social Trends 32* are new compared with the previous edition, and draw on the most up to date information available from a variety of reliable sources.

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. A limited number of books are available for journalists on a first-come-first-served basis. Excerpts from this edition on selected key themes are available on the National Statistics website alongside the press release. The publication is also available electronically, with links to the data contained in the charts and tables, from the National Statistics website: www.statistics.gov.uk/socialtrends.
2. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the press office.
3. **National Statistics** are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference. © Crown copyright 2002.