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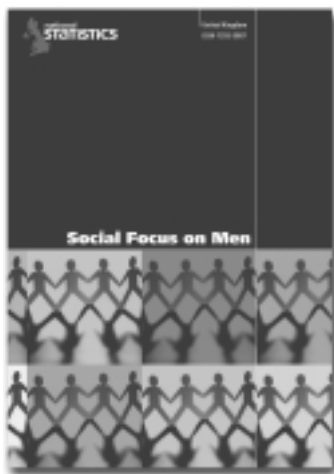
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United Kingdom

Theme

Social and Welfare

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Social Focus on Men

A wide-ranging examination of the lives of men in the United Kingdom is published today by National Statistics.

In many ways, men today live in a different world from that of their fathers. Family life has become more diverse, with cohabitation increasing and fewer men marrying than in the past. At one time, men were recognised as the primary providers of security and financial support for their family but this is no longer always the case as more women have entered the labour market. Nevertheless, differences in circumstances between the genders remain: men have higher incomes; they outnumber women in management and in many professional occupations; and traditional roles in the home may still exist with women undertaking the bulk of domestic chores.

- Father's age at childbirth – the mean age of father at childbirth in England and Wales was just over 30 in 1999 compared with just over 27 in 1971. (Table 1.17)
- Qualifications – in Autumn 2000, nine in ten men aged 16 to 24 in the United Kingdom had some sort of educational qualification compared with three-quarters of those aged 55 to 64. (Table 2.1)
- Type of job – men in the United Kingdom comprised 58 per cent of employees of working age in professional occupations in Spring 2000. This varied from 93 per cent of engineers and technologists to 36 per cent of teaching professionals. (Chart 3.11)
- Cancer trends – since 1981 the incidence of the most common cancer for men, lung cancer, has fallen dramatically in Great Britain, from 144 cases per 100,000 male population to 95 per 100,000 in 1997. (Chart 5.6)
- Daily time use – men in Great Britain living in households with children, reported spending around three-quarters of an hour a day caring for and playing with their children in May 1999. (Page 70)

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PLEASE NOTE THE EMBARGO**Men and families**

The average age of the male population in the United Kingdom is increasing, although women start to outnumber men in their late forties. Although most men live in a married couple family household, there has been an increase in the proportion of men living in a one person household. This reflects the decline in marriage, the delay in first marrying and the rise in separation and divorce.

- There were 23.1 million men aged 16 and over in the United Kingdom in 1999, of whom 17 per cent were aged 65 and over compared with 14 per cent in 1971. (Table 1.1)
- Young men tend to leave the parental home at an older age than young women. In 1999-00, 53 per cent of 20 to 24 year old men in England lived with their parents compared with 37 per cent of women of the same age. (Table 1.7)
- The average age at first marriage for all bachelors in England and Wales exceeded 30 for the first time in 1999, compared with under 25 during the latter half of the 1960s and the first half of the 1970s. (Page 17)
- Only 2 per cent of dependent children in the United Kingdom lived in a lone father family in Spring 2000; overall one in five dependent children lived in a lone parent family. (Page 22)

Adults living with their parents: by gender and age

England	Percentages			
	1977-78	1991	1995-96	1999-00
Men				
16-19	93	92	91	86
20-24	52	50	54	53
25-29	19	19	24	22
30-34	9	9	11	10
Women				
16-19	87	87	85	82
20-24	31	32	36	37
25-29	9	9	11	11
30-34	5	5	5	3

Source: National Dwelling and Household Survey and Survey of English Housing, Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions; Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics

Mean age of father at childbirth¹

England & Wales	Years		
	Births within marriage	Births outside marriage	All live births
1971	27.1	28.0	27.2
1980 ²	27.8	26.1	27.7
1991	29.6	25.9	28.7
1997	31.0	27.5	29.9
1998	31.2	27.7	30.0
1999	31.3	27.8	30.1

¹ Fathers' details are only presented on a jointly registered birth; on a sole registration (those registered by the mother only) the father's details are not present.

² Data for 1981 are not available.

Source: Office for National Statistics

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Men and learning

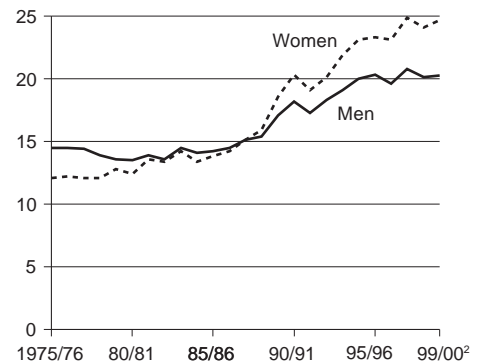
Men continue to improve their educational achievements, although women's attainment has increased at a faster rate and men are now outperformed by women at many levels of education. Gender differences still exist in subject choice beyond compulsory school-leaving age, with men more likely than women to study subjects such as mathematics and engineering and technology.

- More than twice as many men were in higher education in the United Kingdom in 1999/00 than in 1970/71, although the increase for women has been far greater. (Table 2.6)
- Young men outperformed women at GCE A level (or equivalent) in schools up to 1987/88. Since then the proportion for men has increased to 20 per cent compared with 25 per cent for women. (Chart 2.8)

Achievement of 2 or more GCE A levels/3 or more Highers¹: by gender

United Kingdom

Percentages



¹ GCE A levels based on population aged 17 at the start of the academic year; SCE Highers – Year S5/S6 in Scotland.

² Includes 1998/99 data for Scotland.

Source: Department for Education and Employment; National Assembly for Wales; Scottish Executive; Northern Ireland Department of Education

Men and work

Employment rates are high for men in families with dependent children, however there has been an increase in the proportion of couples with dependent children in which both are in employment. Economic activity rates have fallen over recent decades among older men. Nevertheless, men continue to outnumber women in many professional occupations.

- Seventeen per cent of men in Great Britain who were full-time employees in Spring 2000 had started their job in the previous 12 months. (Chart 3.15)
- In Spring 2000, a third of men with dependent children usually worked 50 or more hours a week; this compares with just under a quarter of men without dependent children. (Chart 3.19)



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Men and income and expenditure

Men’s median gross income is higher than that of women, at all ages. Income is not distributed equally across the population and men tend to be over-represented at the top of the income distribution.

- In 1998-99 men's median gross income in Great Britain was £247 per week compared with £119 per week for women. (Page 45)
- In April 2000, among full-time employees, women earned 82 per cent of men’s average hourly earnings. (Chart 4.8)
- Single men, who are non-retired with no children, spend almost double the amount of women on TV, video, computer, audio and phone purchases and rental. (Table 4.15)

Men and health

Men have a lower life expectancy at birth than women although the absolute difference has narrowed in recent decades. Men are more likely than women to commit suicide, suffer from coronary heart disease, have a major accident or drink too much alcohol.

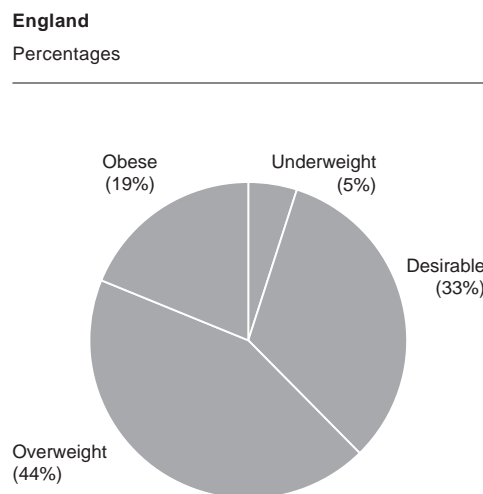
- Males in Great Britain had an expectation of life at birth in 1998 of just under 75 years – five years lower than that for females, at just under 80. (Page 55)
- Diseases of the circulatory system were the cause of two-fifths of deaths among men in the United Kingdom in 1999. The next biggest killer of men was cancer. (Table 5.3)
- Sixty-three per cent of men in England were either overweight or obese in 1999, compared with 57 per cent six years earlier. (Chart 5.15)

Hourly earnings¹ differentials



*1 Average hourly earnings excluding overtime for adults whose pay for the survey pay period was not affected by absence. Data up to 1983 relate to full-time men aged 21 and over and women aged 18 and over; data for 1984 onwards relate to full-time employees on adult rates.
2 Ratio of men's to women's earnings.
Source: New Earnings Survey, Office for National Statistics*

Body mass among men, 1999



Source: Health Survey for England, Department of Health

PLEASE NOTE THE EMBARGO**Men and leisure and travel**

Watching television, sports, socialising with friends, gambling and using the Internet are popular leisure activities for men. Men make similar numbers of journeys but travel greater distances than women. Men are also more likely to travel as a car driver than women.

- In 2000, *FHM* and *Loaded* were among the top five magazines read by men; twenty years earlier two of the top five magazines were about cars. (Table 6.3)
- The most popular team sport for men is football: 10 per cent of all men in the United Kingdom had played football in the four weeks before interview in 1996-97. (Chart 6.7)
- Over the period 1997 to 1999, men and women in Great Britain made a similar number of journeys. At an average of 9,185 miles per man per year, men travelled around 50 per cent further than women. (Page 76)

Men and crime

Although only a small proportion of men are involved in crime, men are more likely than women to be the perpetrator. Men and women fear different crimes. For example, men fear crime related to their car while women fear crime against their person.

- In 1999 male offenders made up over four-fifths of the total number of offenders in England and Wales. (Page 78)
- Eighteen per cent of male offenders in 1998 had 10 or more previous convictions. (Table 6.20)

Most popular monthly magazines read by men¹

Great Britain	Percentages	
	1980	2000
Reader's Digest	20	FHM 13
Custom Car	9	Sky Customer Magazine 9
Do-It-Yourself	6	Cable Guide 8
Mayfair	6	Loaded 7
Hot Car	6	Skyview TV Guide 7

¹ Men aged 15 and over.

Source: National Readership Surveys Limited

Participation¹ in gambling activities: by gender, 1999

Great Britain	Percentages	
	Men	Women
National Lottery Draw	68	62
Scratchcards	22	22
Fruit machines	20	8
Horse races	18	9
Private bets	17	6
Football pools	13	5
Another lottery	9	8
Dog races	6	2
Bingo	5	10
Betting with a bookmaker ²	5	1
Table games	4	1
Any gambling	76	68

¹ Respondents aged 16 and over who said that they had participated in gambling in the past year.

² Other than on horses or dog races.

Source: British Gambling Prevalence Survey, National Centre for Social Research

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An electronic version of the publication with links to the underlying spreadsheets is available from the National Statistics website:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/products/p7071.asp>

BACKGROUND NOTES:

1. *Social Focus on Men* is the ninth in the series of *Social Focus* publications which bring together data from a variety of sources to paint a picture of different groups in society. Previous editions have covered *Young People (2000)*, *Older People (1999)*, *Women and Men (1998)*, *Unemployed (1998)*, *Families (1997)*, *Ethnic Minorities (1996)*, *Women (1995)*, and *Children (1994)*. The next in the series will be published in 2002.
2. In the report and this news release, men are generally defined as those aged 16 and over. This News Release contains extracts of information from *Social Focus on Men* with references; it also shows key charts and tables drawn from the book.
3. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the press office.
4. **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 2001.