

Living longer

Infographics

These infographics, or evidence cards, summarise key stats and context around our ageing population using engaging and accessible illustrations.

They are closely aligned with data included in our flagship report, **The State of Ageing**, which provides a snapshot of how people in the UK are ageing today, in relation to their homes, work, health and communities. You can download slides containing the charts and images from **The State of Ageing 2022** [here](#).

These infographics have been designed to be used across your channels and in workshops to run an ‘evidence safari’ – a collaborative and interactive way of exploring research and insight rapidly.

We hope they can help professionals better understand – and explain to others – the evidence base and opportunities around demographic change and – by extension – how to approach the opportunity of an ageing population in new and collaborative ways. **Read our workshop guide to using the cards.**

All the infographics are downloadable individually as JPEGs so you can select exactly what is relevant to you and use them on social media and beyond.

You might also be interested in our infographics on **Employer attitudes and Inequalities experienced by Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups.**

Our infographics also complement 2,000+ photos and icons showing positive and realistic images of over 50s, **available to use for free.**

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Ageing society

In the 2021 Census there were 10.4 million people aged 65 and over in England, a 52% increase since the 1981 Census.

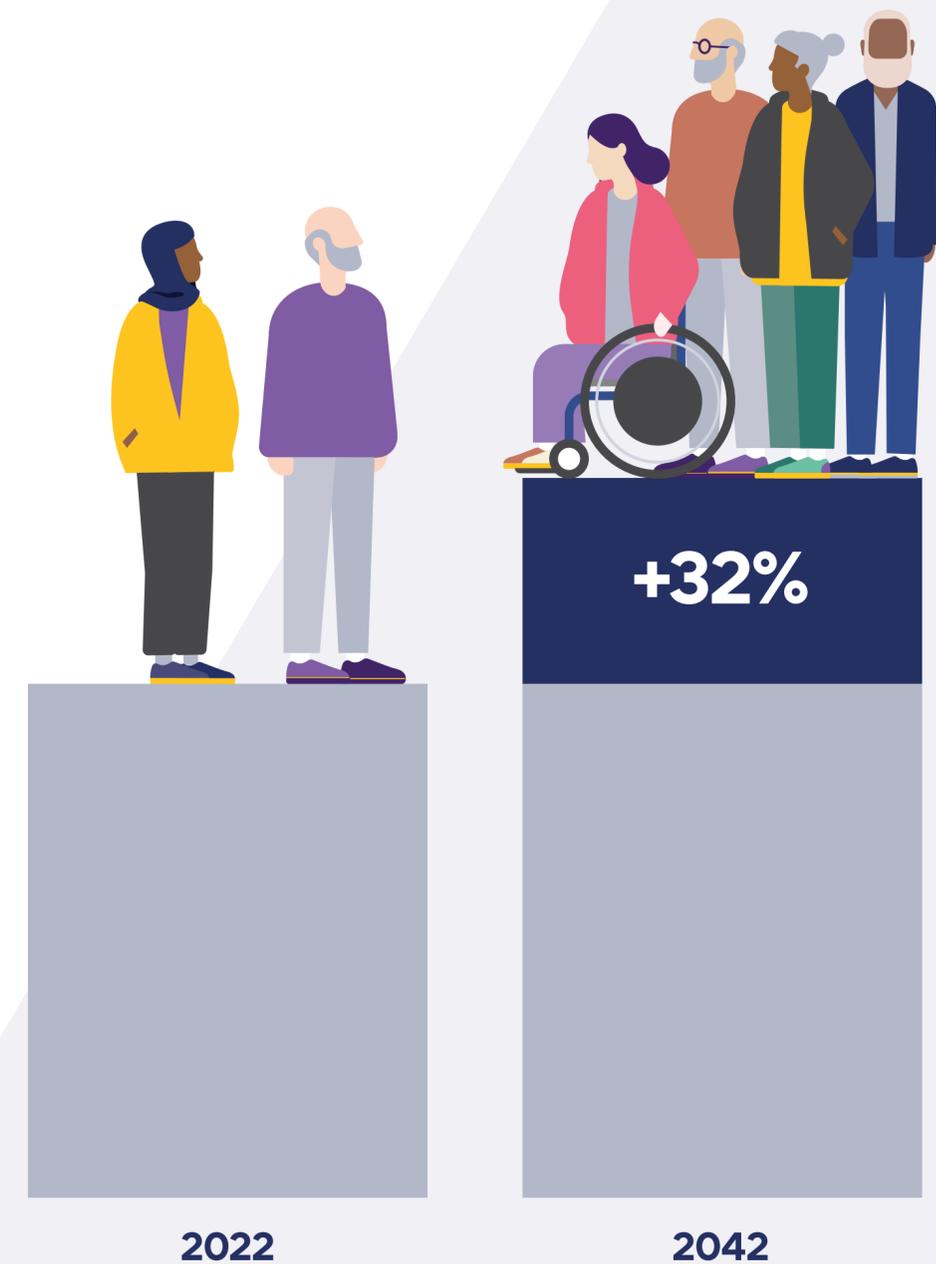
But the population of people aged 85 and over – currently 1.4 million – has almost doubled since the 1981 Census.

Source: ONS, Population and household estimates, England and Wales: Census 2021. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationandhouseholdestimatesenglandandwalescensus2021>

People aged 65 and over



The population aged 65 and over in the UK is projected to increase by almost a third in the next 20 years.



Source: ONS (2022), Principal projection - UK population in age groups. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datasets/tablea21principalprojectionukpopulationinagegroups>

There are huge inequalities in life expectancy across England: a boy born in Blackpool can expect to live to 74 whereas a boy born in Westminster can expect to live to almost 85, a difference of more than 10 years.



Source: ONS (2022), Health state life expectancy, all ages, UK. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandlifeexpectancies/datasets/healthstatelifeexpectancyallagesuk>

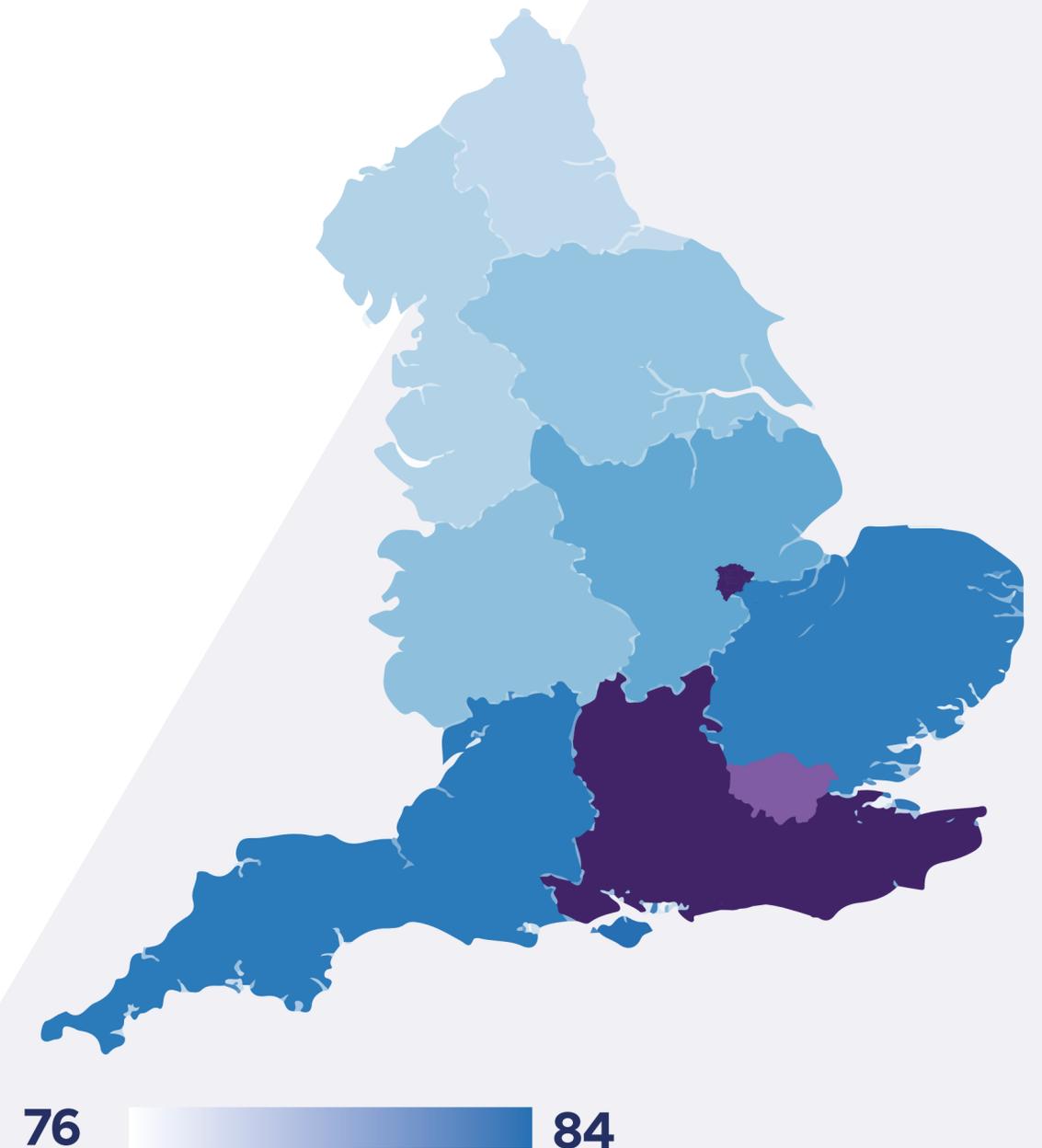
Of the 8 local areas in England where men have a life expectancy of 82 years or more, 6 are in London.*

All 13 local areas in England where women have a life expectancy greater than 85 years are in London and the South East.

*Others are Wokingham and Rutland

Source: ONS (2022), Health state life expectancy, all ages, UK. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandlifeexpectancies/datasets/healthstatelifeexpectancyallagesuk>

Life expectancy at birth for men



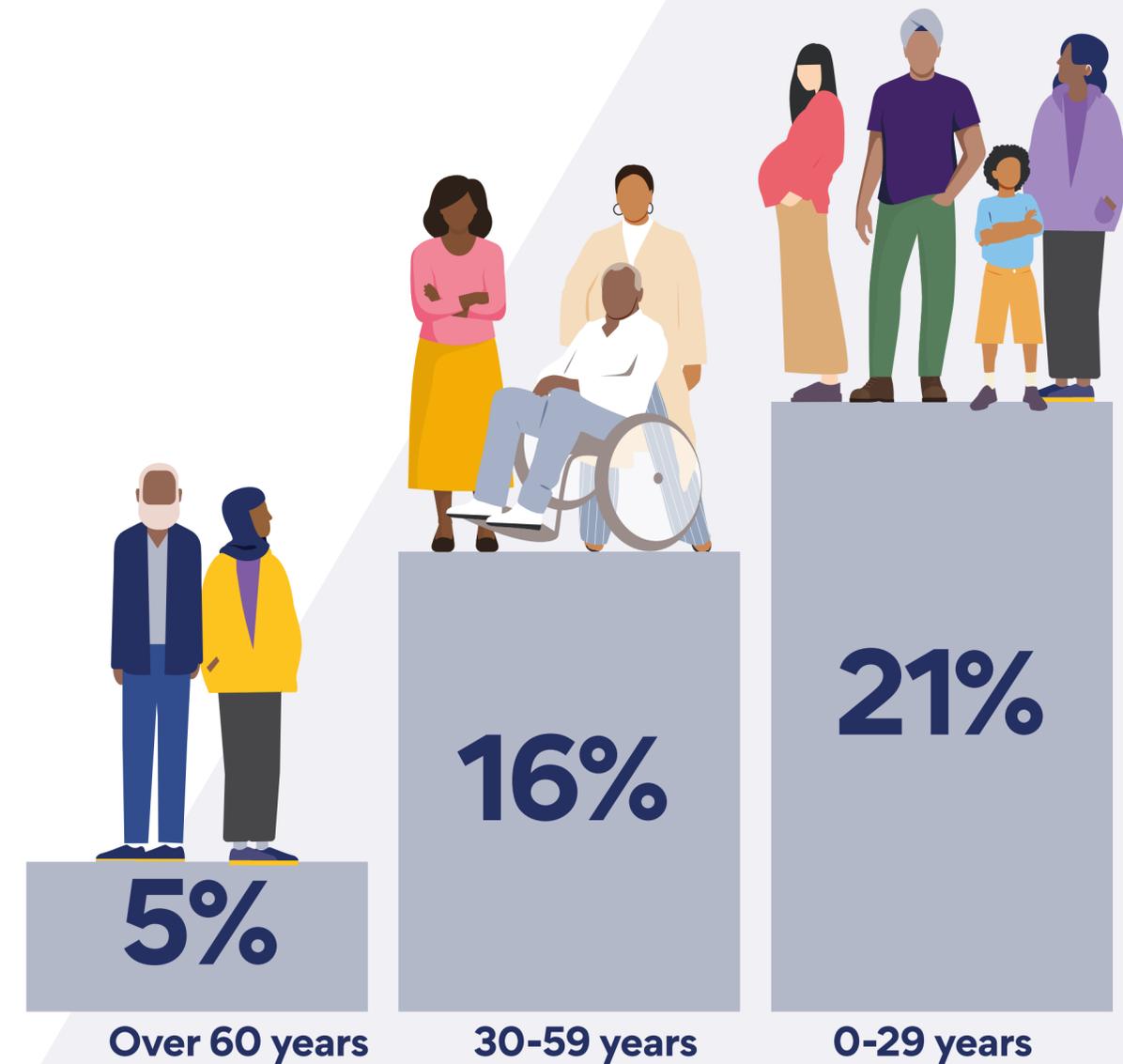
More than 2.1 million men and 2.2 million women aged 45-74 live alone in the UK.

The number of men within this age group living alone has increased by 68% since 2000.



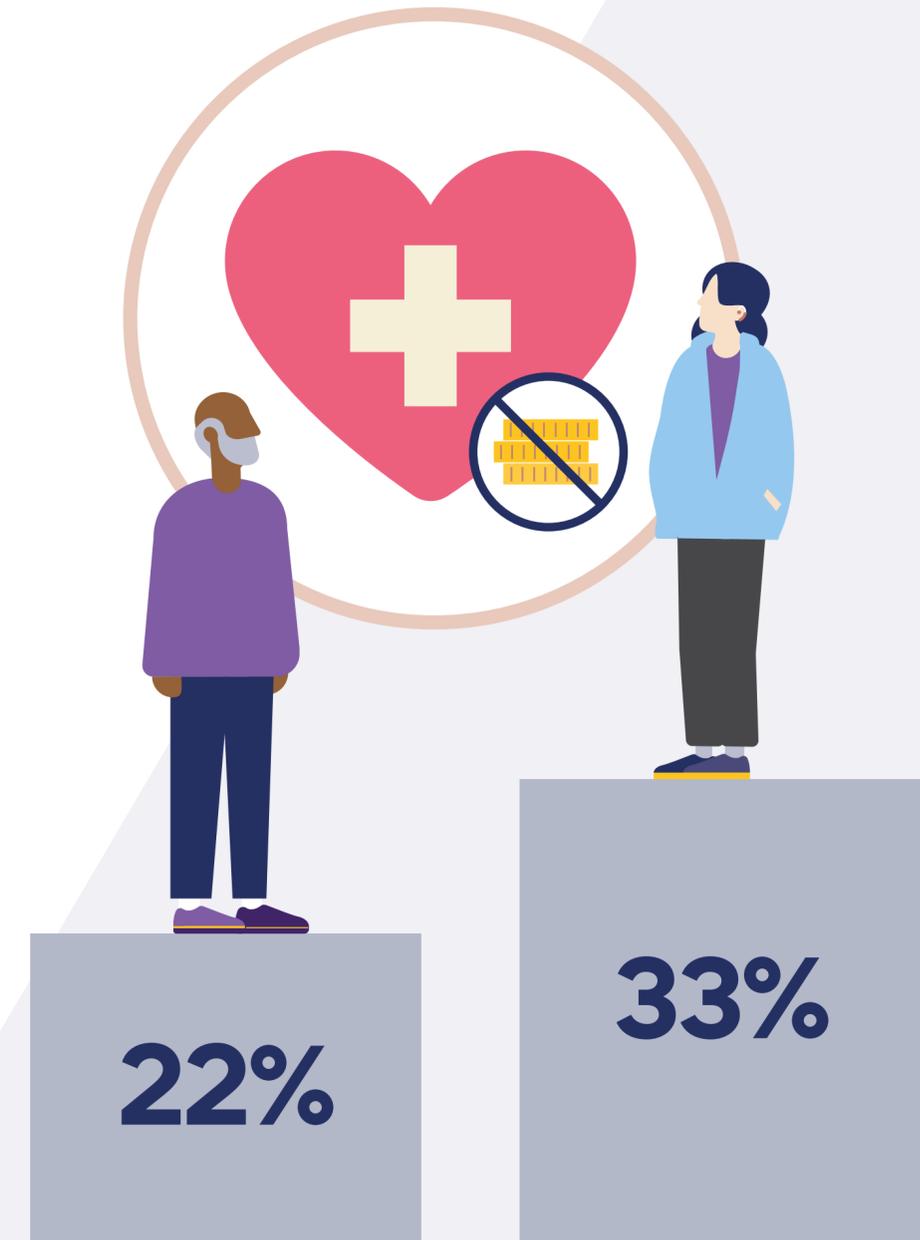
Source: ONS. Families and households 2021. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/families/datasets/familiesandhouseholds>

The older population is set to become more ethnically diverse over time. Currently 5% of people aged 60 and over in England and Wales are from BAME backgrounds, increasing to 21% of people aged 29 and younger.



Source: ONS (2019), Population estimates by ethnic group and religion. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/ethnicity/datasets/populationestimatesbyethnicgroupenglandandwales>

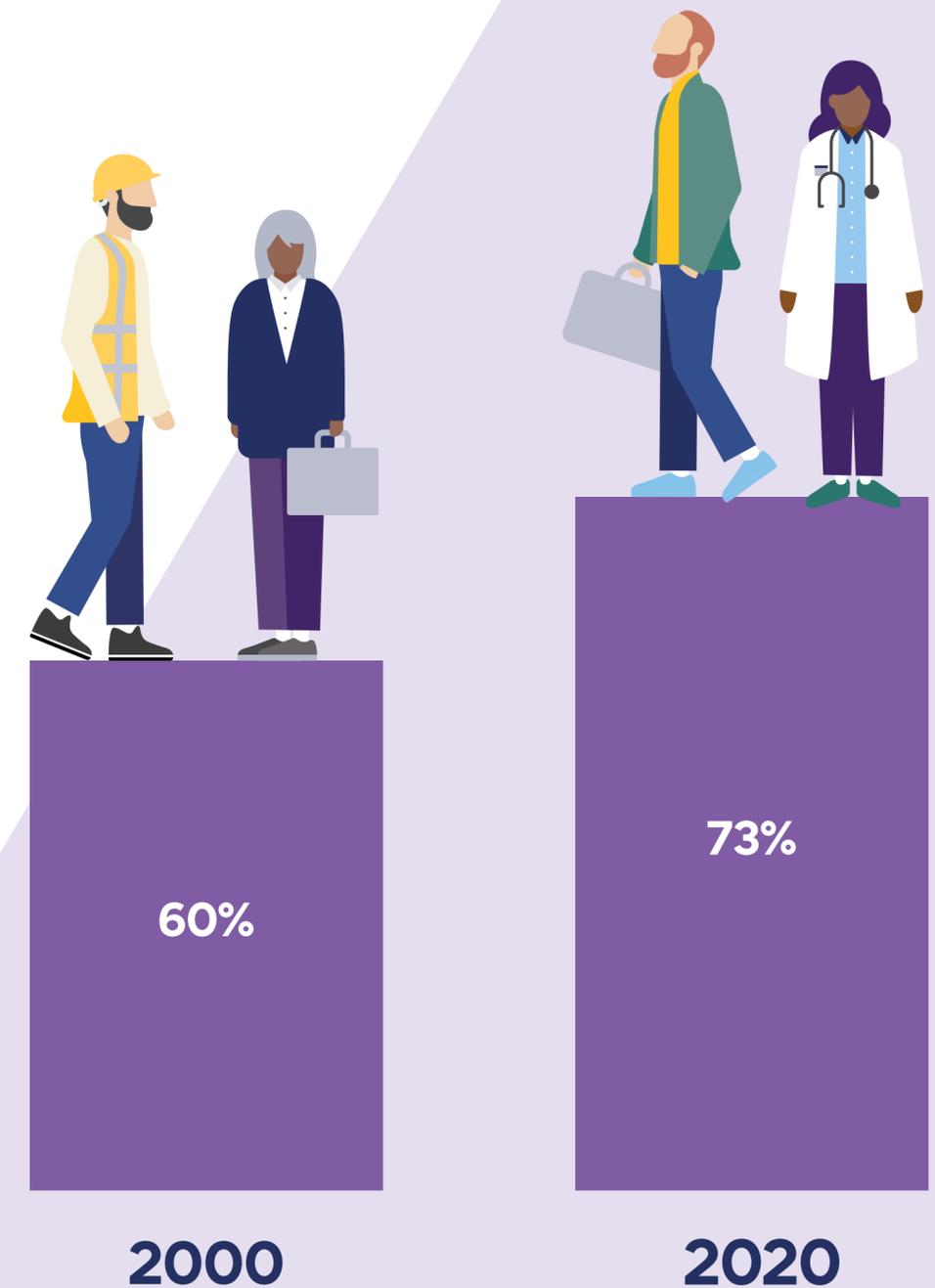
22% of men and 33% of women aged 55-64 in the UK provide unpaid care.



Work

Until the pandemic, the employment rate of people aged 50-64 in the UK had been increasing over time – from 60% in 2000 to 73% in March 2020.

As of March 2020 (pre-pandemic) a third of all workers were aged 50 or over.

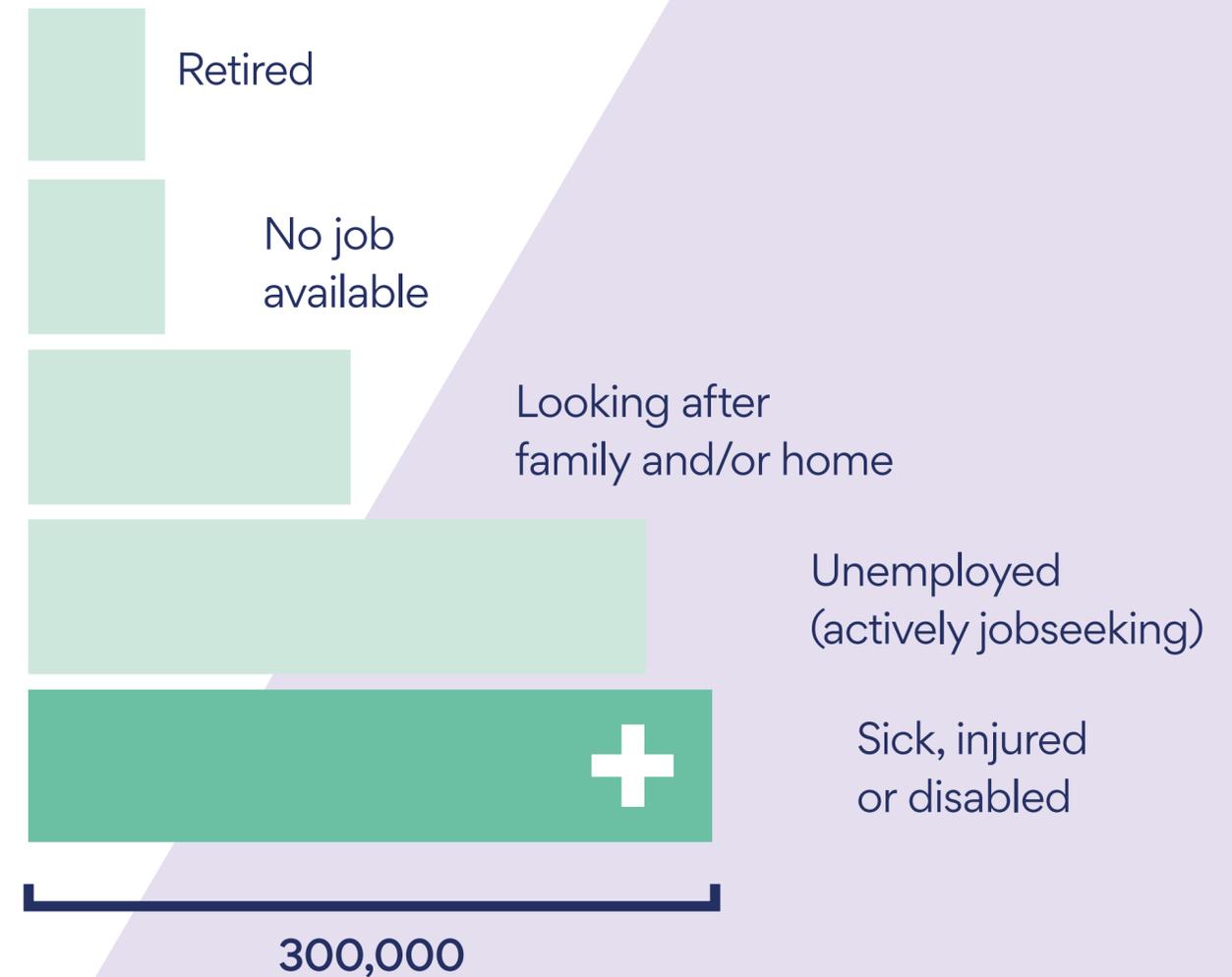


Source: ONS (2020), Employment, unemployment and economic activity by age group (seasonally adjusted). Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/datasets/employmentunemploymentandeconomicinactivitybyagegroupseasonallyadjusted05sa/current>

Health is the leading reason for people aged 50-64 to be out of work.

People with the fewest assets are much more likely to take early retirement because of their own health or the poor health of others.

Number of people who would like to be working but aren't, by reason



Source: Centre for Ageing Better analysis of Annual Population Survey, year to March 2020

Source: Natcen analysis for Ageing Better of English Longitudinal Study of Ageing: Wave 8, 2002-2016

People aged 50 and over who are unemployed are twice as likely as the youngest adults to be long-term unemployed.*

*Out of work for more than 12 months.

Source: Learning and Work analysis of Department for Work and Pensions data. Available at: <https://www.ageing-better.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-08/Tackling-worklessness-among-over-50s-after-covid-report.pdf>



The pandemic has had a significant impact on the number of older workers.

- The employment rate of people aged 50-64 in the UK is currently 1.5 percentage points lower than before the pandemic (70.9% vs 72.4%)*
- There are more than a quarter of a million more people aged 50-64 who are economically inactive**
- The gap in the employment rate of people aged 50-64 and people aged 35-49 has widened by 1.5 percentage points

*February-April 2022

**Neither in work nor looking for work

Source: ONS (2022), Employment, unemployment and economic inactivity by age group (seasonally adjusted). Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/datasets/employmentunemploymentandeconomicinactivitybyagegroupseasonallyadjustedda05sa>



Retirement was the most common reason given by people aged 50-70 for dropping out of the work force during the pandemic.

221,000 workers retired between Q2 and Q3 2021 in the UK, 40,000 more than during the same period two years earlier.



Of those made redundant in the UK during the pandemic, one-third were aged 50 or over.

Redundant workers aged 50 and over were half as likely as younger workers to be re-employed during the pandemic.

Source: Institute for Fiscal Studies (2021), Employment and the end of the furlough scheme.
Available at: <https://ifs.org.uk/publications/15644>



Every day, around 600 people give up work to care for others.



Source: Carers UK (2019). Juggling work and unpaid care. A growing issue. Available at: http://www.carersuk.org/images/News_and_campaigns/Juggling_work_and_unpaid_care_report_final_0119_WEB.pdf

Workers aged 50 and over are the least likely to receive ‘off the job’* training, impacting their ability to keep up to date with new skills and gain further employment.

*Any training conducted in a classroom or training session, even if on the employers’ premises, is ‘off the job’ training.

‘On the job’ training means learning while actually doing the job.

Source: ONS (2022), Job related training received by employees. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/datasets/jobrelatedtrainingreceivedbyemployeesemp15>



Poor-quality work is an issue for many people in their 50s and 60s, but especially poorer workers.

- About half of men and women aged 50-69 in England say that their work is excessively demanding.
- Around a third say that the efforts outweigh the rewards.
- Around a third say that they lack control over their work.
- And poor-quality work is most likely to be experienced by the poorest.

Source: Centre for Ageing Better (2021), Boom and Bust? The last baby boomers and their prospects for later life. Available at: <https://ageing-better.org.uk/sites/default/files/2021-11/boom-and-bust-report-the-last-baby-boomers.pdf>

Source: Centre for Ageing Better (2022), State of Ageing 2022.



Median weekly earnings typically peak for people in their 40s and begin to decline in their 50s and 60s – particularly for full-time workers.



Source: ONS (2021), Earnings and hours worked, age group. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/datasets/agegroupshetable6>

The gender pay gap is largest for women in their 50s.



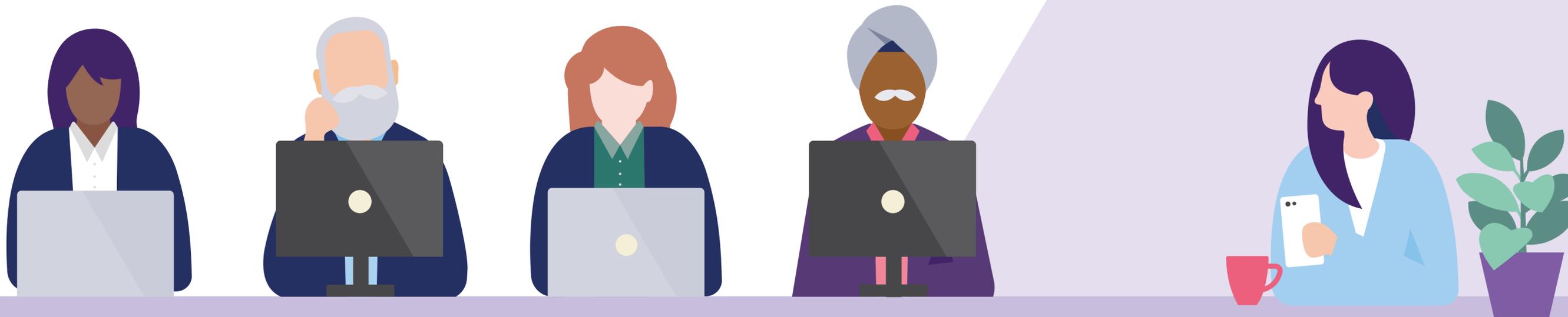
Source: ONS (2021), Earnings and hours worked, age group. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/datasets/agegroupshetable6>

There are three times more women than men aged 50-64 working part-time in the UK.



Source: Department for Work and Pensions (2021), Economic labour market status of individuals aged 50 and over, trends over time: Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/economic-labour-market-status-of-individuals-aged-50-and-over-trends-over-time-september-2021/economic-labour-market-status-of-individuals-aged-50-and-over-trends-over-time-september-2021>

Almost one in five workers aged 50-64 in the UK are self-employed, more than in any other age group.



Source: Department for Work and Pensions (2021). Economic labour market status of individuals aged 50 and over, trends over time: Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/economic-labour-market-status-of-individuals-aged-50-and-over-trends-over-time-september-2021/>

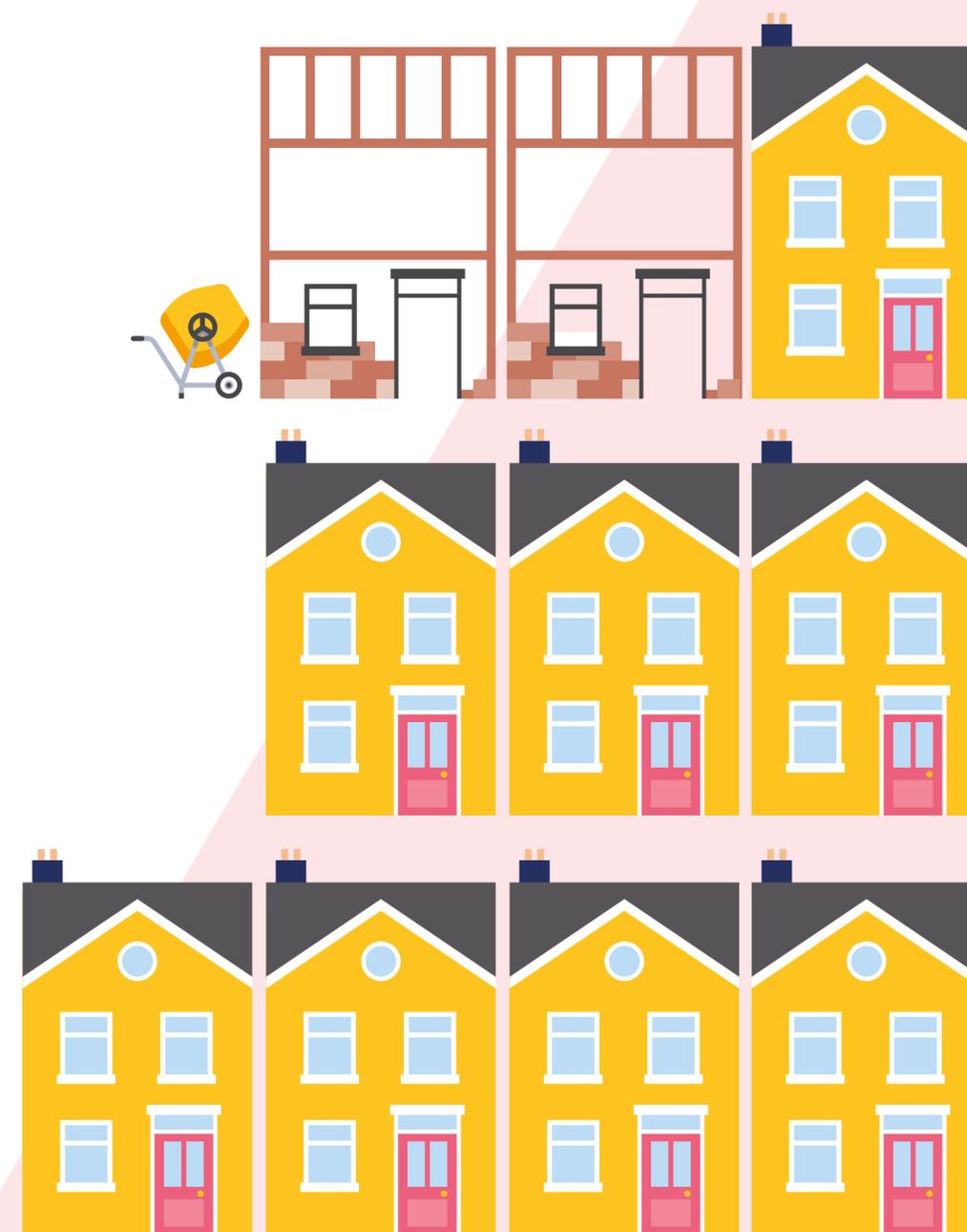
Among over 50s whose incomes have reduced as a result of the pandemic, the poorest are most likely to be drawing on their savings to make ends meet.



Source: The Institute for Fiscal Studies (September 2020) Financial consequences of the coronavirus pandemic for older people. Available at: https://11a183d6-a312-4f71-829a-79ff4e6fc618.filesusr.com/ugd/540eba_1af0fd7e31304eb78424669e4f93e1c3.pdf

Homes

At least 80% of UK homes that will exist in 2050 have already been built.

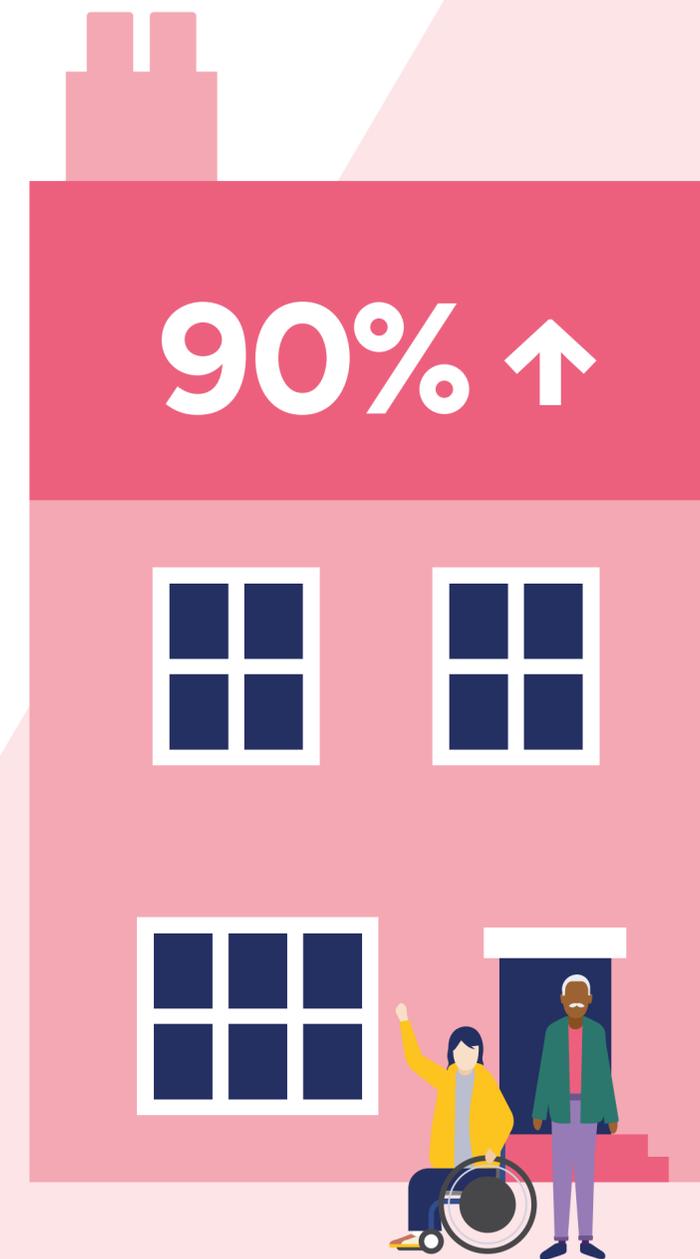


Source: Boardman, B et al (2005) Chapter 5: Building fabric and housing stock, in '40% House', Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford, UK. Available at: <http://www.eci.ox.ac.uk/research/energy/downloads/40house/chapter05.pdf>

More than 90% of people aged 65 and over live in mainstream housing.

‘Mainstream housing’ refers to ordinary housing, as well as housing considered especially suitable for older people due to dwelling type (e.g. bungalows), design features (including ‘lifetime homes’) or adaptations (e.g. stair lifts).

Source: Centre for Ageing Better calculations based on care home data and estimates of the number of older people who live in specialist housing.



More than half (53%) of people aged 50 and over who move home don't downsize.

They either keep the same number of rooms or move into a place with more rooms.

Source: Greater Manchester Combined Authority (2018) Rightsizing: Reframing the housing offer for older people. Available at: <https://ageing-better.org.uk/sites/default/files/2019-02/rightsizing-manchester-school-architects.pdf>



Of the almost 4 million non-decent homes in England over half are lived in by someone aged 55 or over.

Homes are classed as non-decent for one of four reasons:

- The presence of a serious hazard which poses a risk to the health of the occupant(s).
- Not providing a reasonable degree of thermal comfort - e.g. effective insulation or efficient heating.
- Being in disrepair.
- Not having sufficiently modern facilities - e.g. a bathroom more than 30 years old or a kitchen more than 20 years old.

Source: English Housing Survey 2020 to 2021: headline report. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-housing-survey-2020-to-2021-headline-report>



One in five homes in the private rented sector are classified as non-decent.



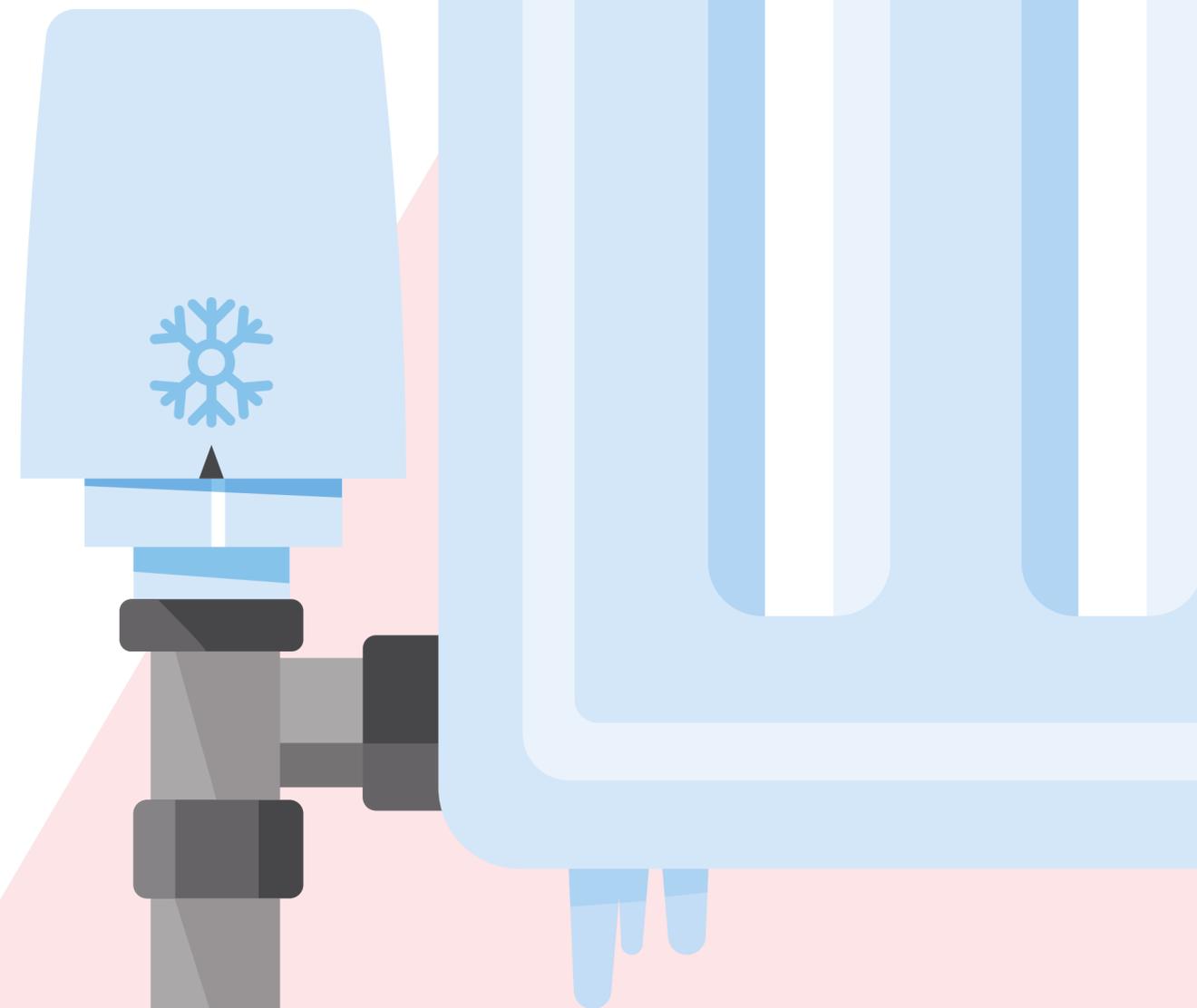
Source: English Housing Survey 2020 to 2021: headline report. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-housing-survey-2020-to-2021-headline-report>

Nearly half a million homes lived in by a person aged 55 or older are excessively cold*.

Fixing this alone could save the NHS over £300m.

*Excess cold signifies that, whatever the type of heating or insulation in place, the home is still not warm enough (17 degrees or more) and could pose a threat to health.

Source: Building Research Establishment analysis of MHCLG (2019) English Housing Survey. Bespoke analysis for Centre for Ageing Better



A quarter of people aged 75 and over who rent privately in England are at risk from category 1 hazards.*

*Hazards that cause a 'serious and immediate risk' to their occupants' health and safety.

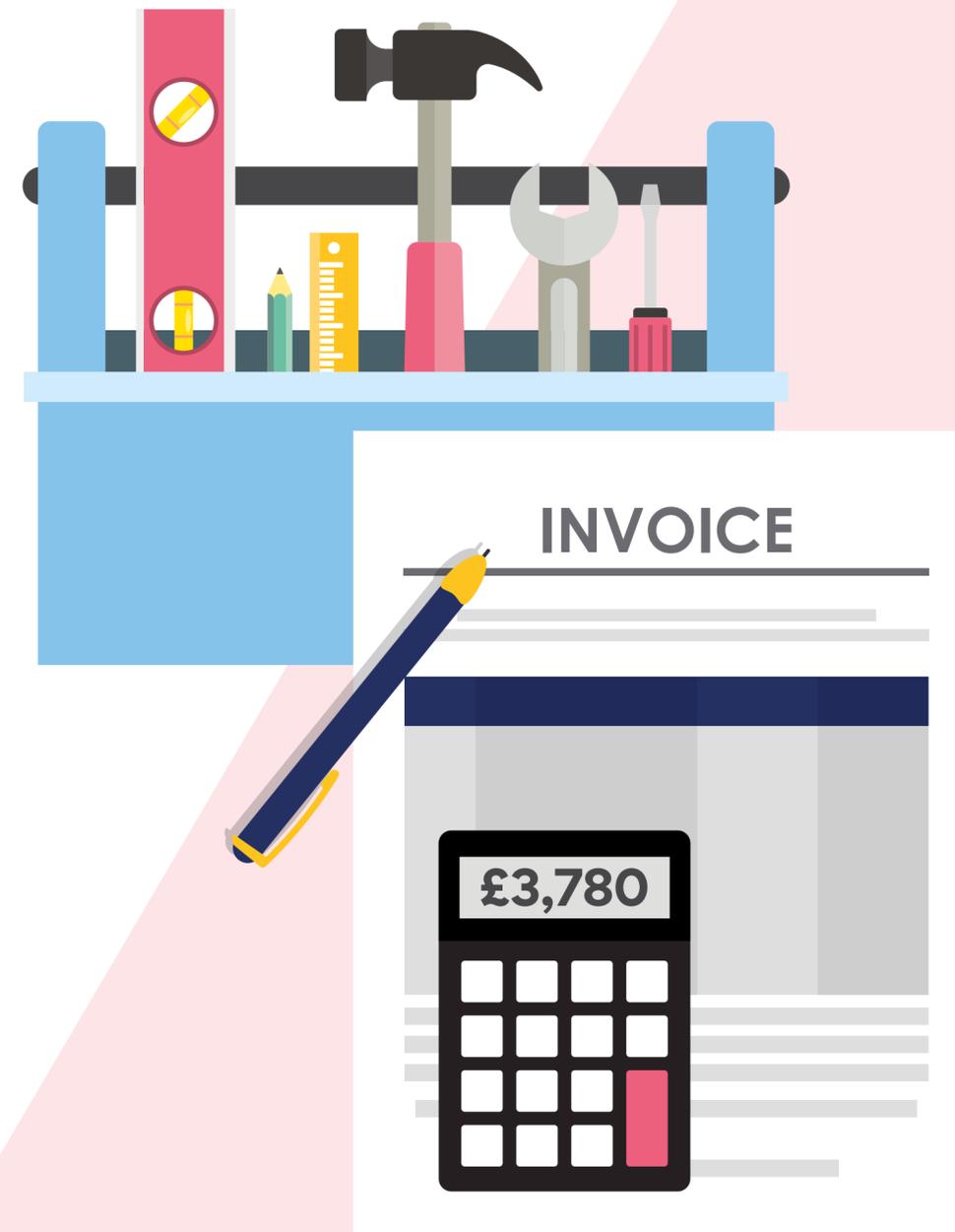
Source: English Housing Survey 2019 to 2020. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-housing-survey-2019-to-2020-headline-report>



The average cost of remedial work to fix homes with category 1 hazards would be £3,780 per home.

- The total cost of remedial work would be £9.8 billion.
- The full cost to society of leaving people living in poor housing is £18.5 billion a year.

Source: BRE (2021). The cost of poor housing in England. Available at: https://files.bregroup.com/research/BRE_Report_the_cost_of_poor_housing_2021.pdf



Only 9% of homes in England contain all four features that would make them visitable for everyone.

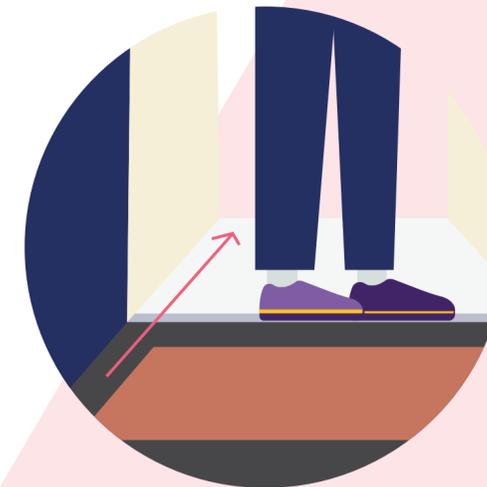
WC at entrance level



Wide doorways and circulation space



Flush threshold



Level access

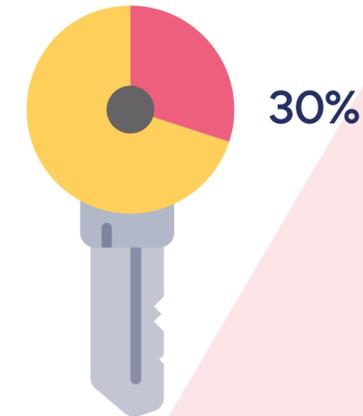


Source: MHCLG (2020) English Housing Survey 2018: accessibility of English homes – fact sheet. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-housing-survey-2018-accessibility-of-english-homes-fact-sheet>

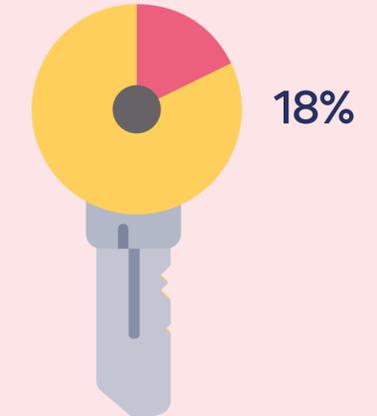
In general, people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups are more likely to live in overcrowded housing.

Households with more residents than rooms in London

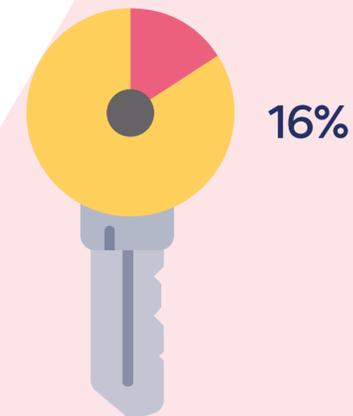
Bangladeshi



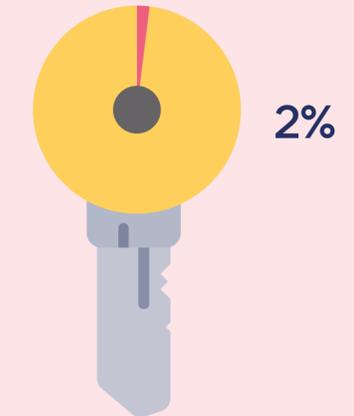
Pakistani



Black African



White British



*fewer bedrooms than needed to avoid undesirable sharing.

Source: The Institute of Fiscal Studies (May 2020) Are some ethnic groups more vulnerable to COVID-19 than others? Available at: <https://www.ifs.org.uk/inequality/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Are-some-ethnic-groups-more-vulnerable-to-COVID-19-than-others-IFS-Briefing-Note.pdf>

Around a third of people aged 50 or older say their home needs work to make it suitable as they get older – particularly people who are struggling to get by.

Cost is cited as the biggest barrier.



Although most older people own their own home, the number of over 55s living in private rented accommodation has more than doubled since 2003 – a trend that is set to continue.



Homes

Among people aged 50 or older, the most commonly desired features of a new home are safety, a private outdoor space and for it to be within walking distance of shops, the GP and other amenities.



Source: Centre for Ageing Better NatCen Panel Homes and Communities Study 2020.
Further detail at: <https://www.ageing-better.org.uk/ageing-better-natcen-panel-homes-and-communities-study-2020>

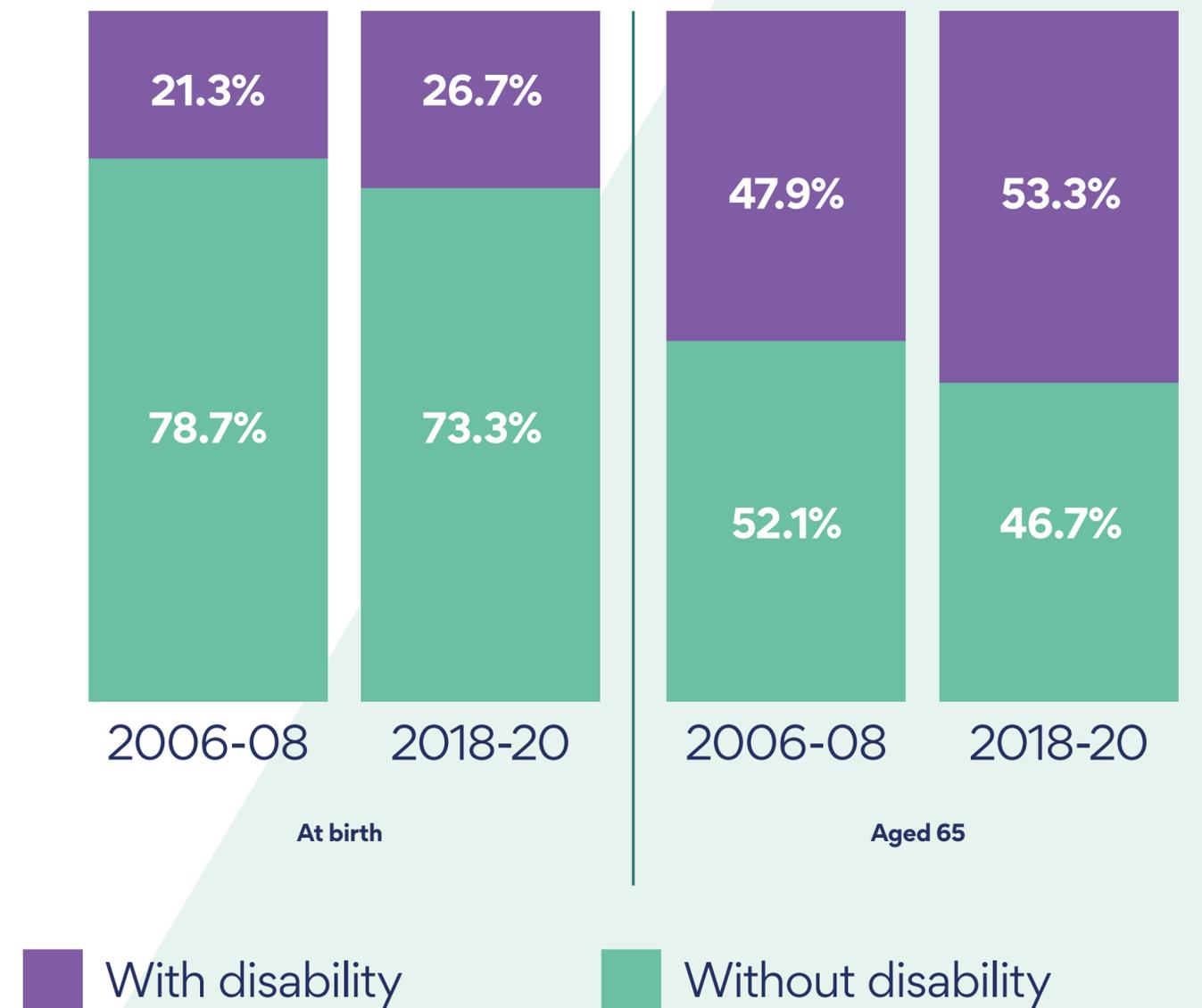
Health

Progress on life expectancy has stalled and we are living a longer portion of our lives with disability.

Source: ONS (2022), Health state life expectancy, all ages, UK. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandlifeexpectancies/datasets/healthstatelifeexpectancyallagesuk>

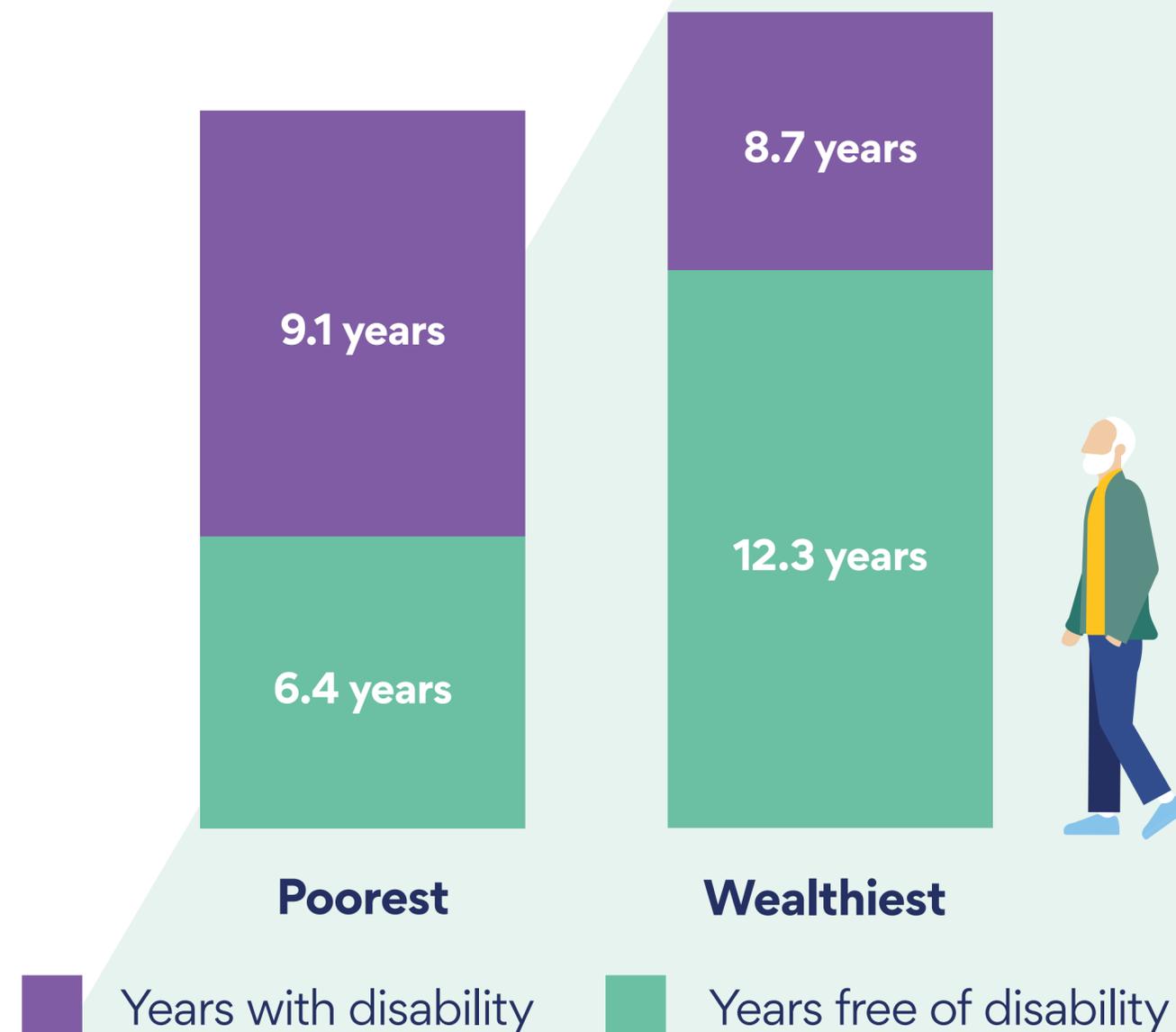
Source: ONS (2016), Disability-Free Life Expectancy (DFLE) and Life Expectancy (LE) at birth by Region, England. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandlifeexpectancies/datasets/disabilityfreelifeexpectancydfleandlifeexpectancyatbirthbyregionengland>

Source: ONS (2016), Disability-Free Life Expectancy (DFLE) and Life Expectancy (LE): at age 65 by region, England. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandlifeexpectancies/datasets/>



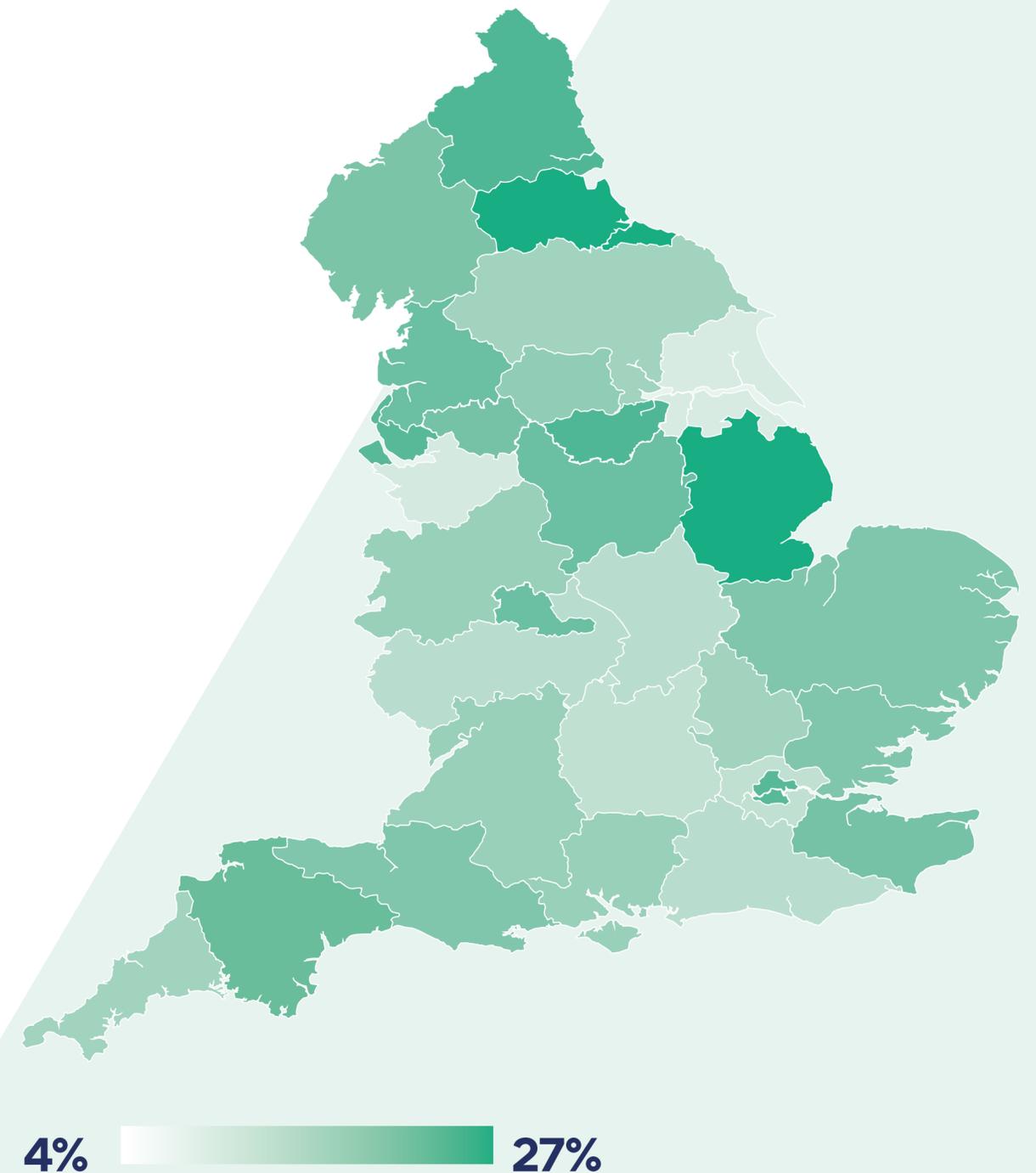
People living in the wealthiest areas have almost twice as many years of disability-free life ahead of them at age 65 as those in the poorest.

Years spent with and without disability at age 65 for men in the poorest and wealthiest areas, England, 2018/20



Source: ONS (2022), Health state life expectancies by national deprivation deciles, England: 2018 to 2020. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthinequalities/datasets/healthstatelifeexpectanciesbynationaldeprivationdecilesengland2018to2020>

There is large geographic variation in the proportion of people with three or more long-term conditions.



Source: ONS (2022). Number of health conditions by NUTS 2 area, UK, 2004 to 2020.
Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/adhocs/14147numberofhealthconditionsbynuts2areauk2004to2020>

Musculoskeletal disorders cause the most years spent in poor health for people aged 50 and over.



Compared to the wealthiest, the poorest women aged 50 and over are:

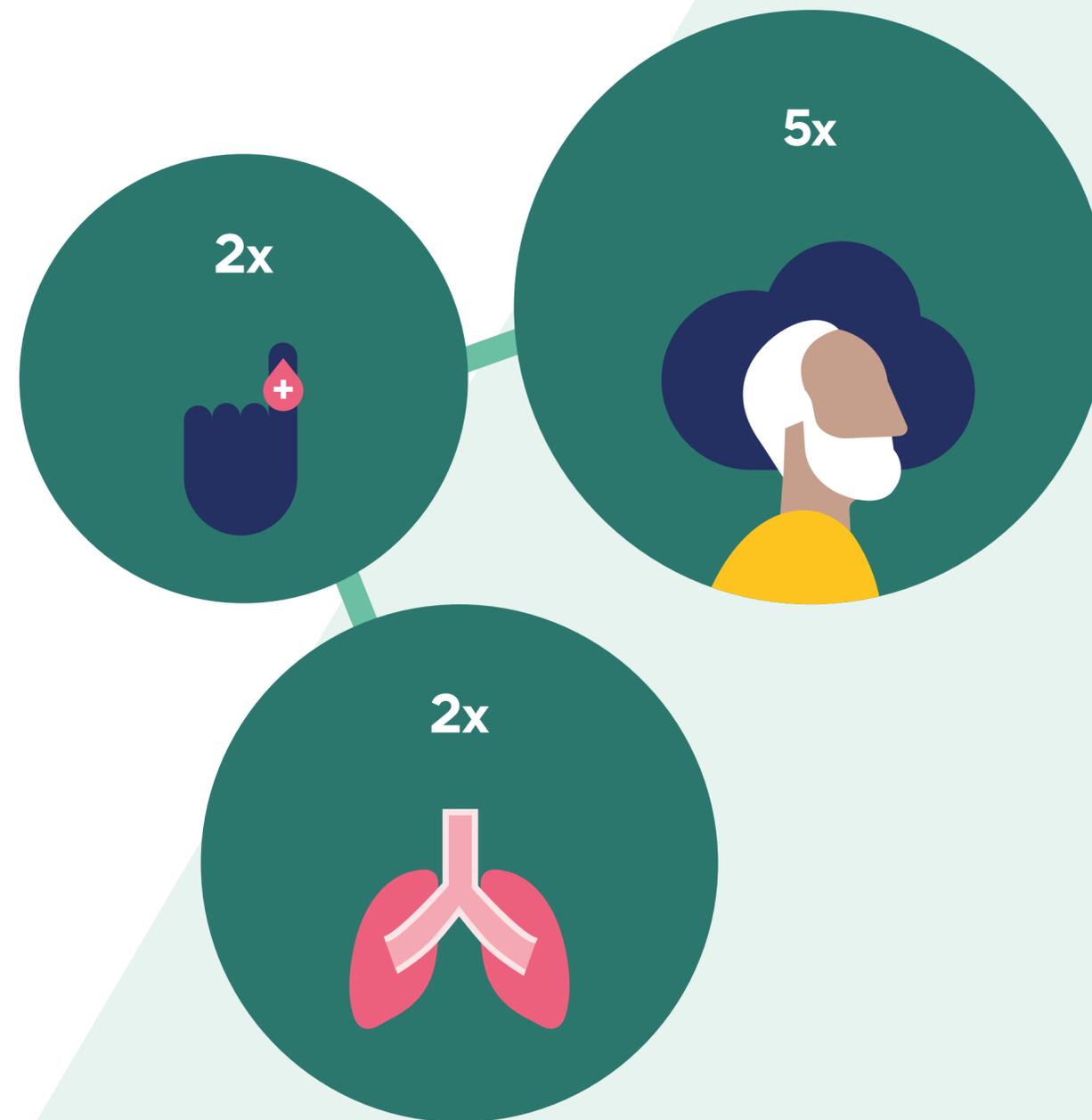
- **2x more likely to have Type 2 diabetes.**
- **2x more likely to have respiratory illness.**
- **4x more likely to have depression.**



Source: Centre for Ageing Better analysis of data from: Oldfield, Z., Rogers, N., Phelps, A., Blake, M., Steptoe, A., Oskala, A., Marmot, M., Clemens, S., Nazroo, J., Banks, J. (2020). English Longitudinal Study of Ageing: Waves 0-9, 1998-2019. [data collection]. 33rd Edition. UK Data Service. SN: 5050. Available at: <http://doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-5050-20>

Compared to the wealthiest, the poorest men aged 50 and over are:

- **2x more likely to have Type 2 diabetes.**
- **2x more likely to have respiratory illness.**
- **5x more likely to have depression.**



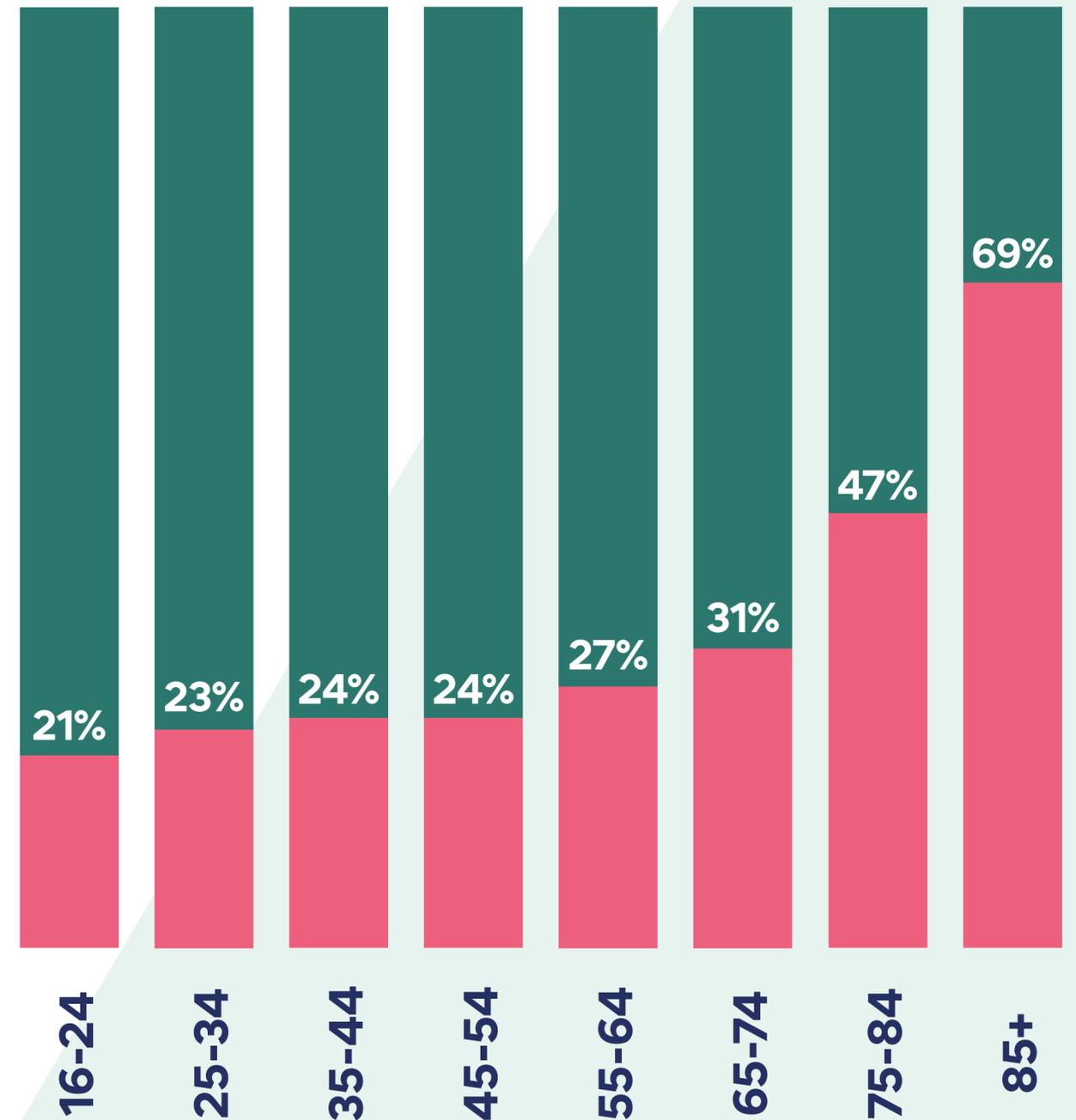
Source: Centre for Ageing Better analysis of data from: Oldfield, Z., Rogers, N., Phelps, A., Blake, M., Steptoe, A., Oskala, A., Marmot, M., Clemens, S., Nazroo, J., Banks, J. (2020). English Longitudinal Study of Ageing: Waves 0-9, 1998-2019. [data collection]. 33rd Edition. UK Data Service. SN: 5050. Available at: <http://doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-5050-20>

People aged 55-74 in the poorest neighbourhoods are twice as likely to be physically inactive than people in the wealthiest.



Source: Centre for Ageing Better analysis of data from: Sport England (2020), Active Lives Survey, 2018-2019. [data collection]. UK Data Service. SN: 8652. Available at: <http://doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-8652-1>

The proportion of people who are physically inactive increases with age.



Source: Active Lives Data Tables. Adult Surveys (May 2020-21), Available at: <https://www.sportengland.org/know-your-audience/data/active-lives/active-lives-data-tables#may202021-15299>

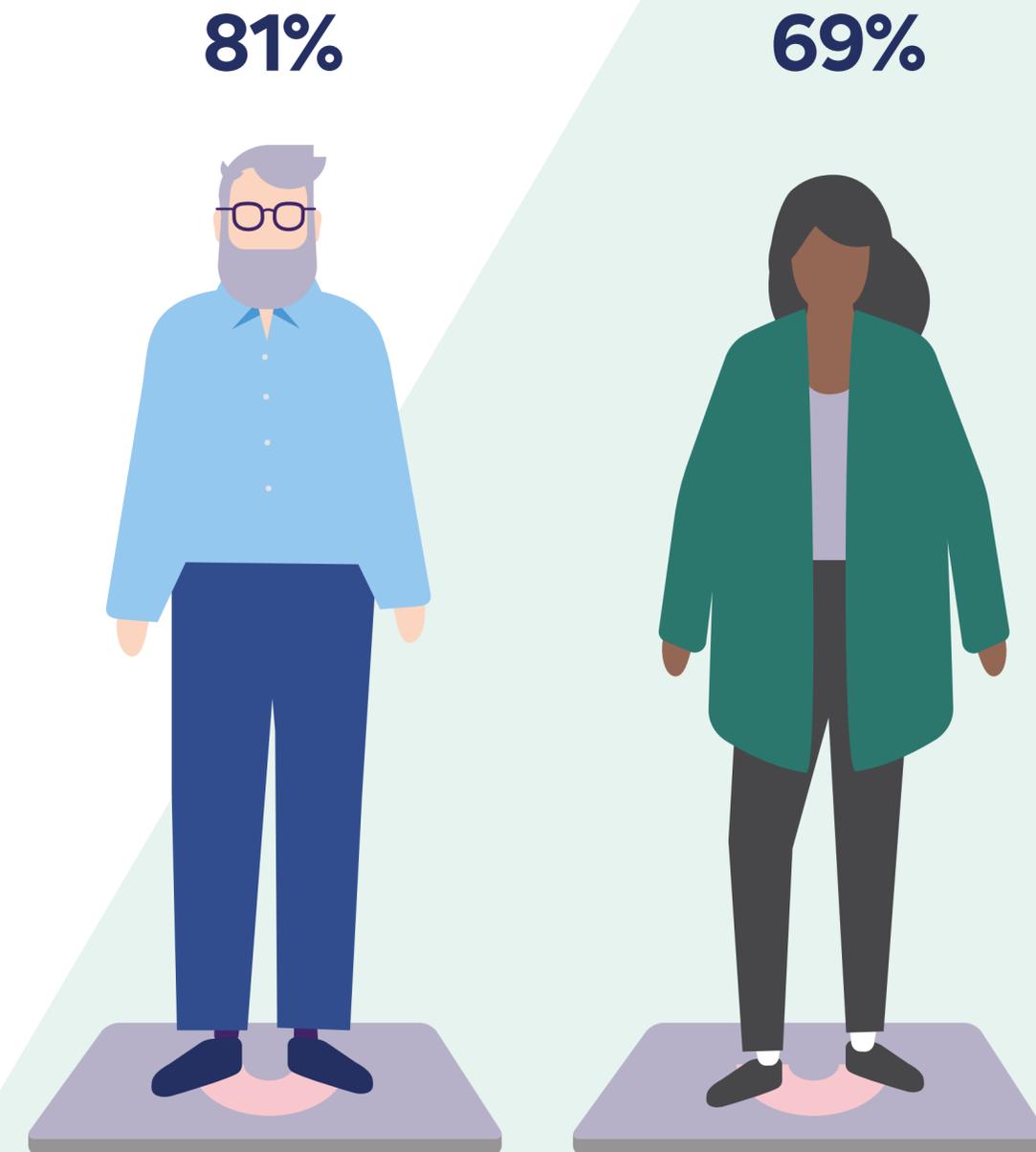
Among people aged 50-69, smoking and poor diet are the top behavioural risk factors for years lost to disability.



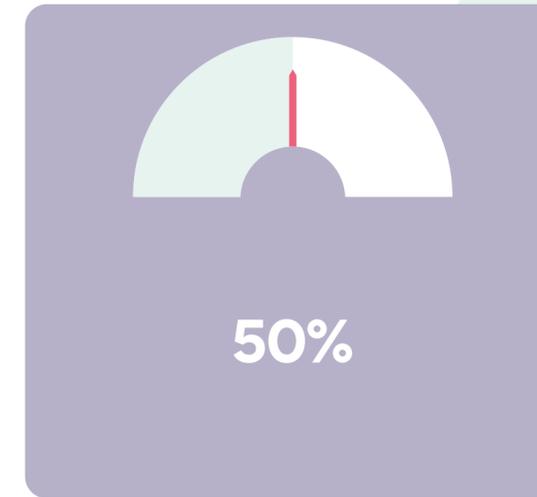
8 in 10 men and 7 in 10 women aged 65-74 are overweight or obese.

Rates of overweight and obesity are high in every age group but for men, peak in 65-74-year-olds and for women, in those aged 65 and older.

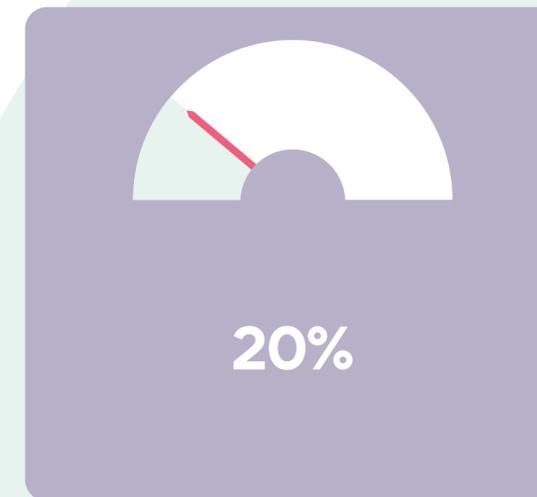
Source: Health Survey for England (2019), Overweight and obesity in adults and children data tables. Available at: <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/health-survey-for-england/2019/health-survey-for-england-2019-data-tables>



Among those aged 50 and over, almost half of the poorest men and women have a weight classed as obese. This compares to just one-fifth of the richest.



Poorest



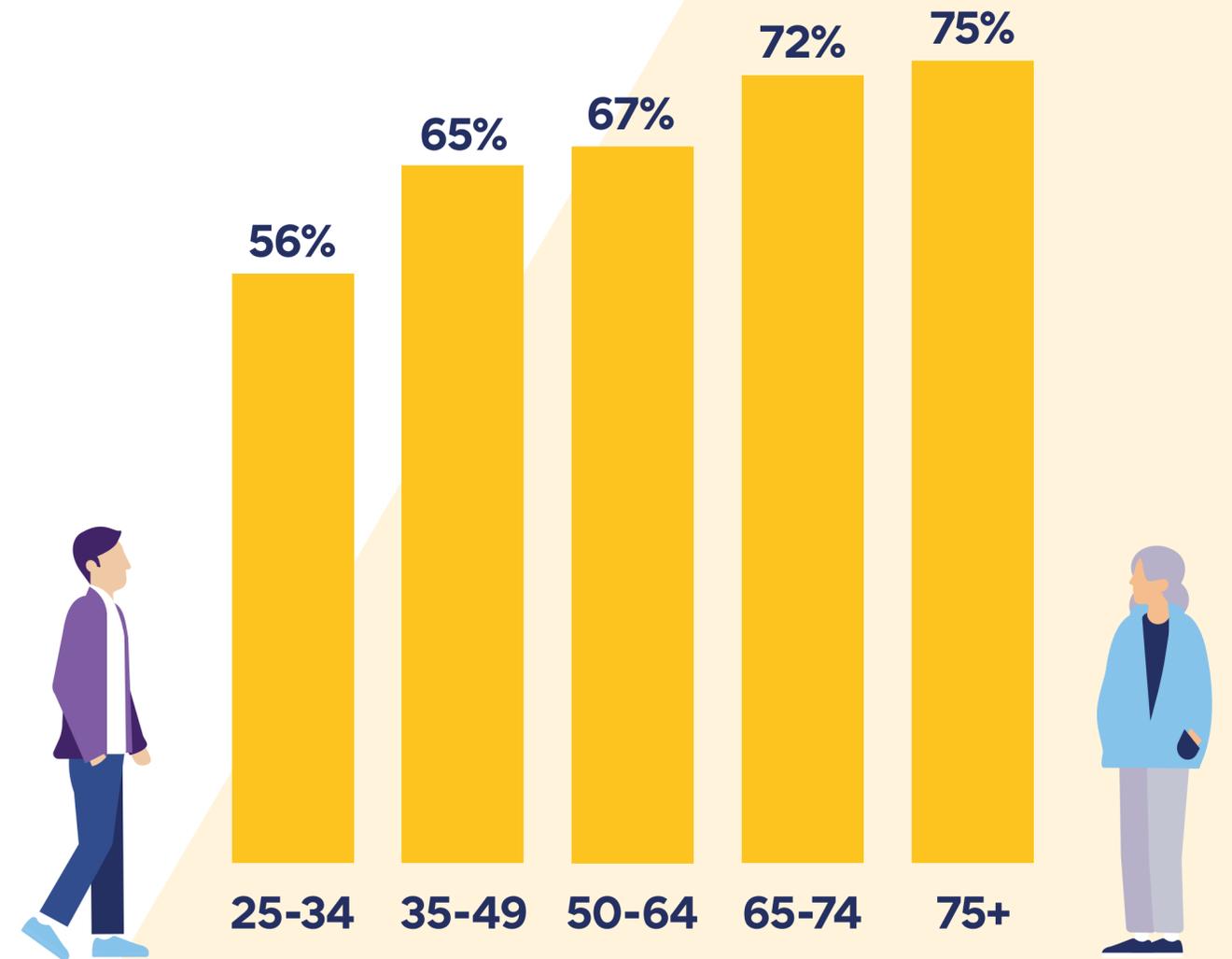
Richest

Source: Banks J, Batty G.D, Nazroo J, Oskala A and Steptoe A. The Dynamics of Ageing: Evidence from the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing 2002-2016 (Wave 8), IFS London.

Communities

The proportion of people who feel they belong to their neighbourhood increases with age.

But the gap between the youngest and oldest has been narrowing.



People in their 50s and 60s with long-term illnesses are less likely than those with none to feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood.

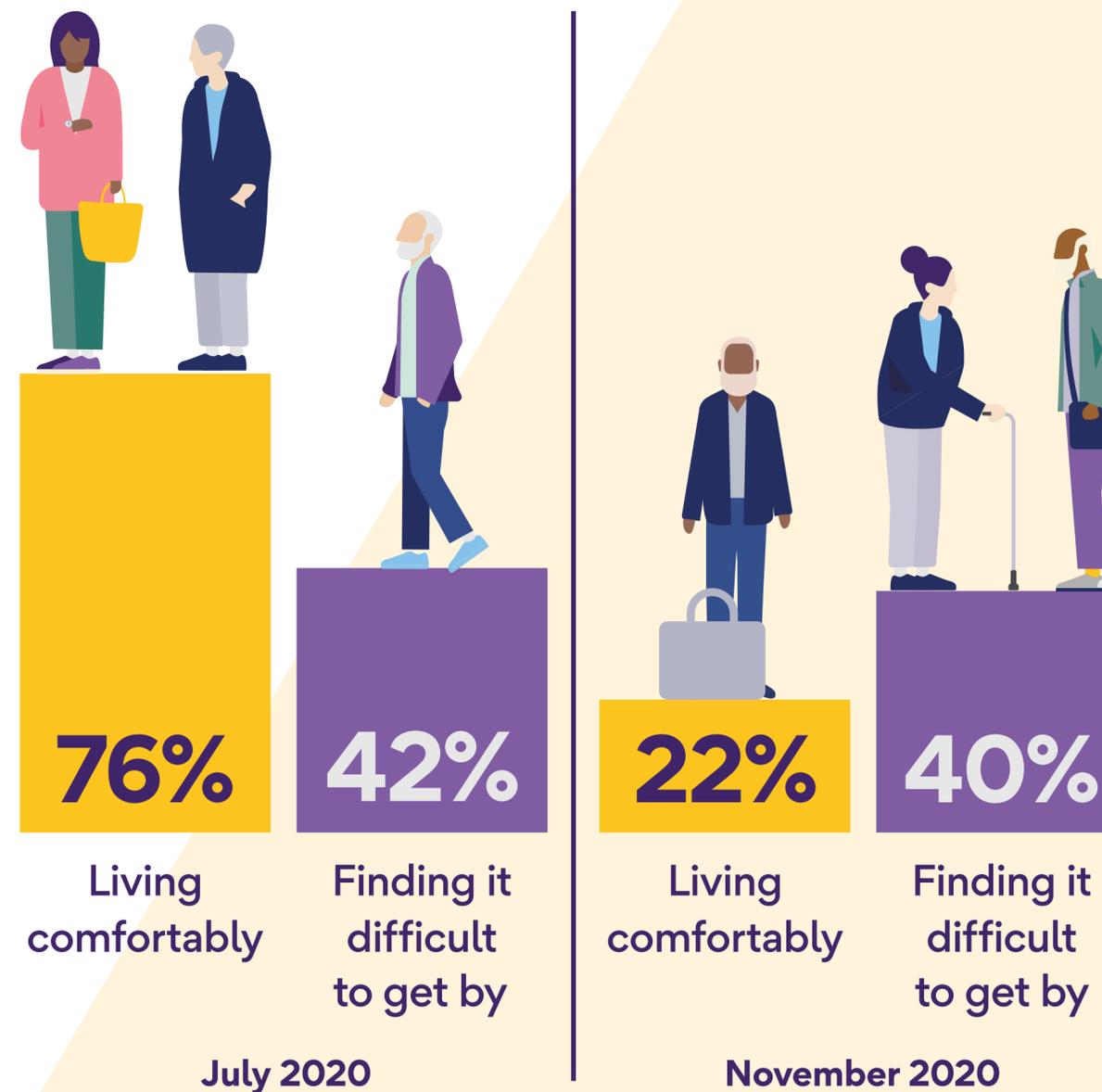


During the pandemic most people got to know others locally they could turn to. But this happened later for people who were struggling financially.

July 2020: Percentage of people aged 50 to 69 who agreed that they knew more people they could count on to help out than pre-pandemic.

November 2020: Percentage who agreed more strongly (than in July) that they knew people they could count on to help out.

Source: Centre for Ageing Better NatCen Panel Homes and Communities Study 2020. Further detail at: <https://www.ageing-better.org.uk/ageing-better-natcen-panel-homes-andcommunities-study-2020>



During the pandemic well-connected people reported higher quality of life than less-connected people.

“Local helpers” were people in our sample who were unlikely to have received help during the pandemic but were likely to have offered help to family and friends and to have helped out in their local communities.

Source: NatCen Panel, November 2020



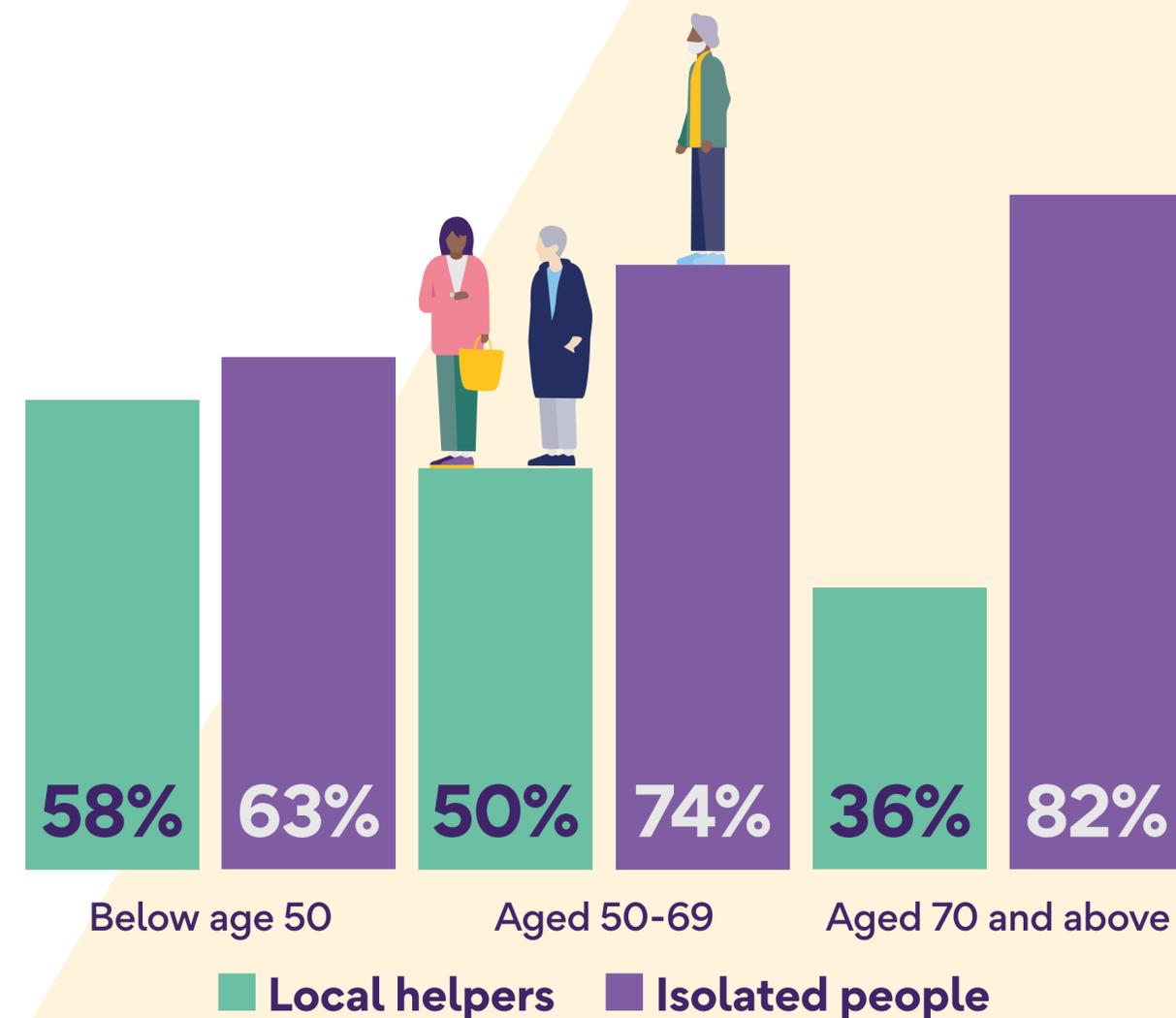
Quality of life is measured using CASP-12, where higher values reflect a better quality of life.

Isolated people had worse emotional health outcomes than others during the pandemic, and this gap increased with age.

“Local helpers” were people in our sample who were unlikely to have received help during the pandemic but were likely to have offered help to family and friends and to have helped out in their local communities.

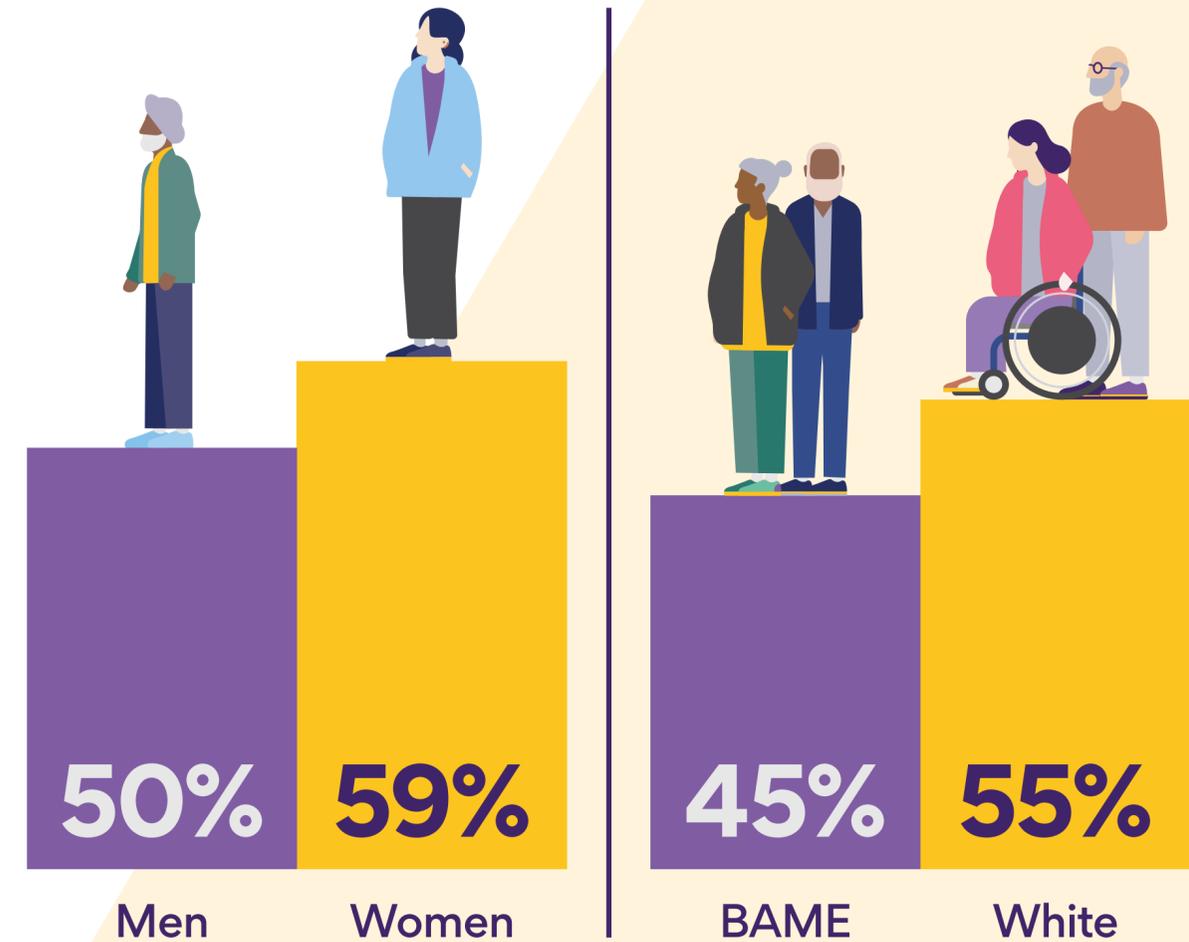
Source: NatCen Panel, November 2020

Proportion reporting that the COVID-19 outbreak had negative effects on their emotional health



Awareness of local voluntary groups that offer help and support is low and varies across different groups.

Proportion who said they were aware of local voluntary groups that offer help and support (aged 50 to 69)



BAME - Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic

Source: Centre for Ageing Better NatGen Panel Homes and Communities Study 2020. Further detail at: <https://www.ageing-better.org.uk/ageing-better-natcen-panel-homes-andcommunities-study-2020>

Regular informal or formal volunteering is most common between the ages of 65 and 74.



The proportion of older people who use the internet regularly has grown rapidly, but there are still over 3.1 million people aged 55 and over who have never used the internet.



Finance and the economy

Only around half of over 50s can expect to maintain a personally acceptable level of income in retirement.



A 1% increase in the number of people aged 50-64 in work would increase GDP by around £5.7 billion per year.



Source: HM Treasury (2018), 'Managing fiscal risks: government response to the 2017 Fiscal risks report'. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/725913/Managing_Fiscal_Risks_web.pdf

By 2040, older consumers are expected to spend £550 billion a year, 63p of every pound spent in our economy.

This is £221 billion more than projected spending by younger households.

