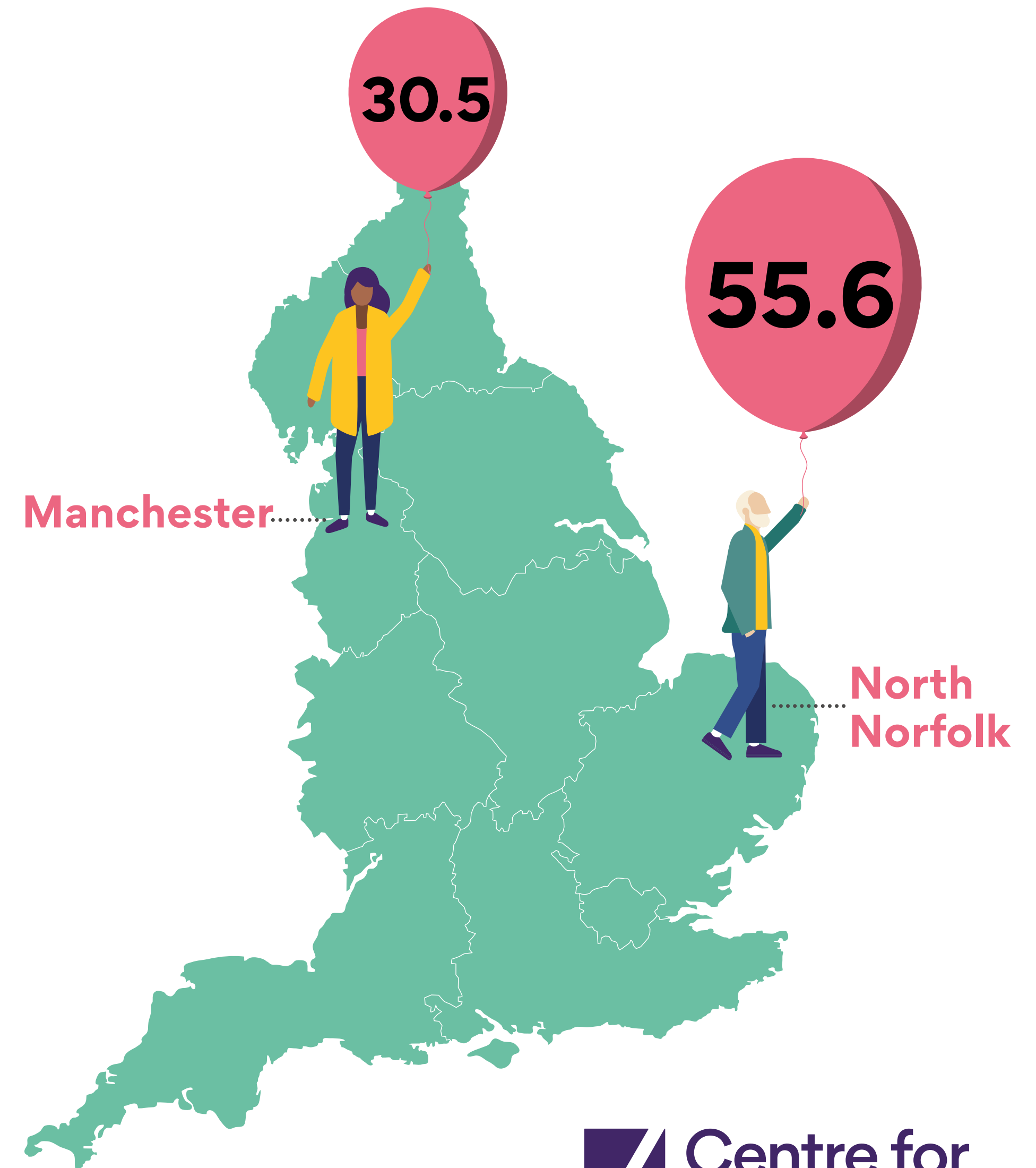


The median age of people in England is 40 but this ranges from 31 in Manchester to 56 in North Norfolk.

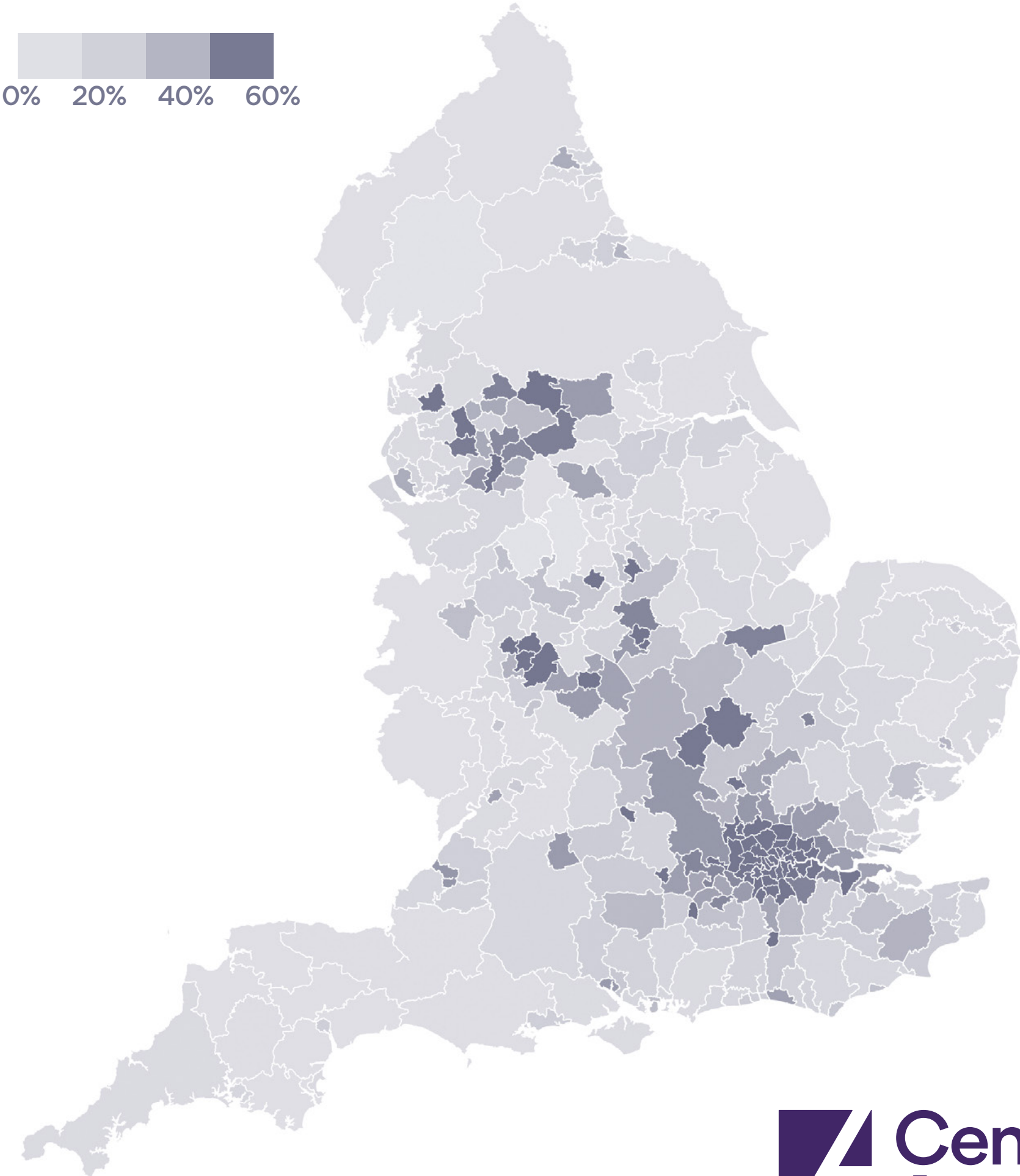
Rural and coastal areas are ageing fastest.



Older people from minority ethnic backgrounds tend to live in urban areas.

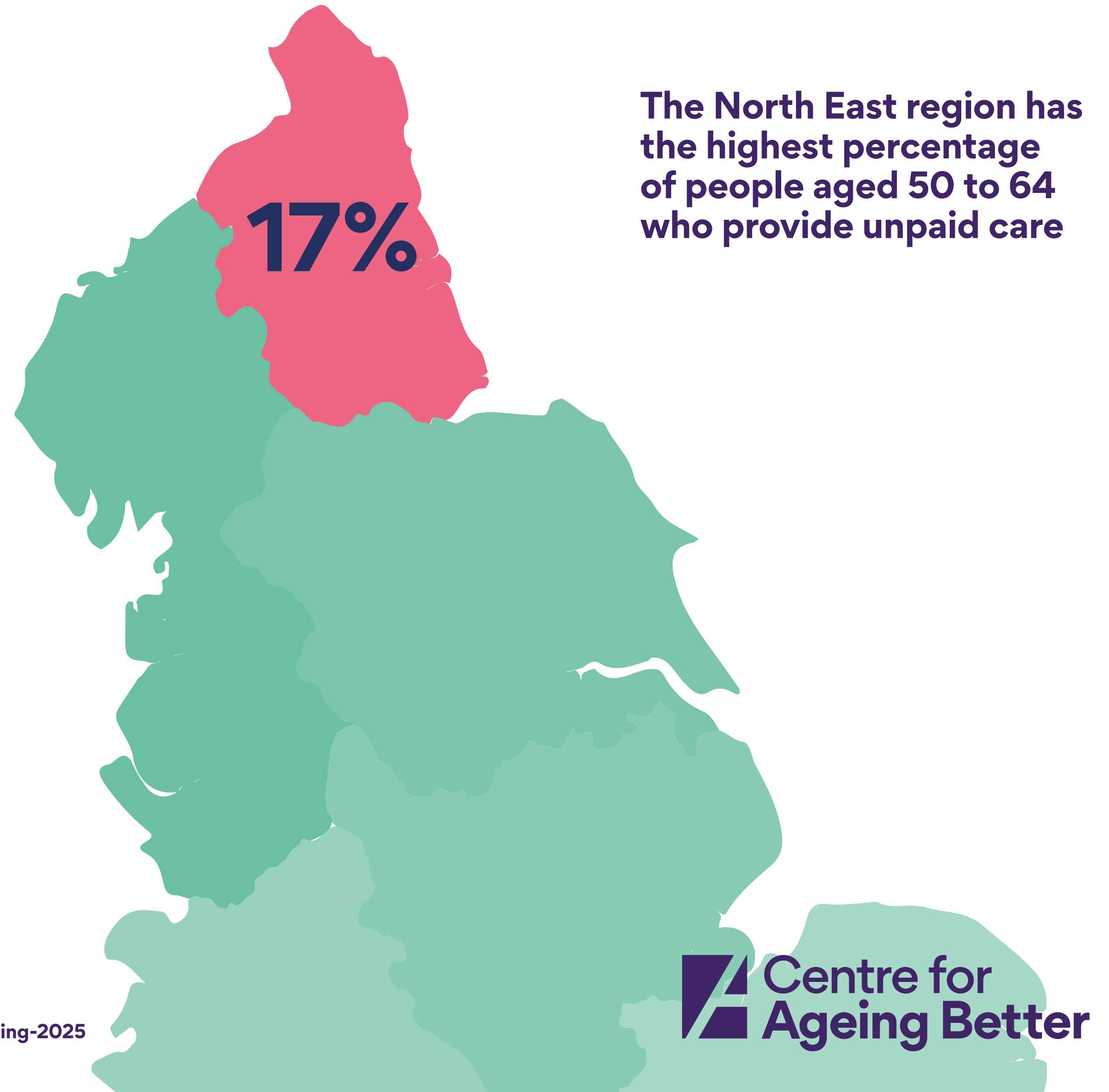
But the proportion of over 65s from these backgrounds is set to grow in all areas of England.

Percentage of people aged 50 and over who are from Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic backgrounds (2021)

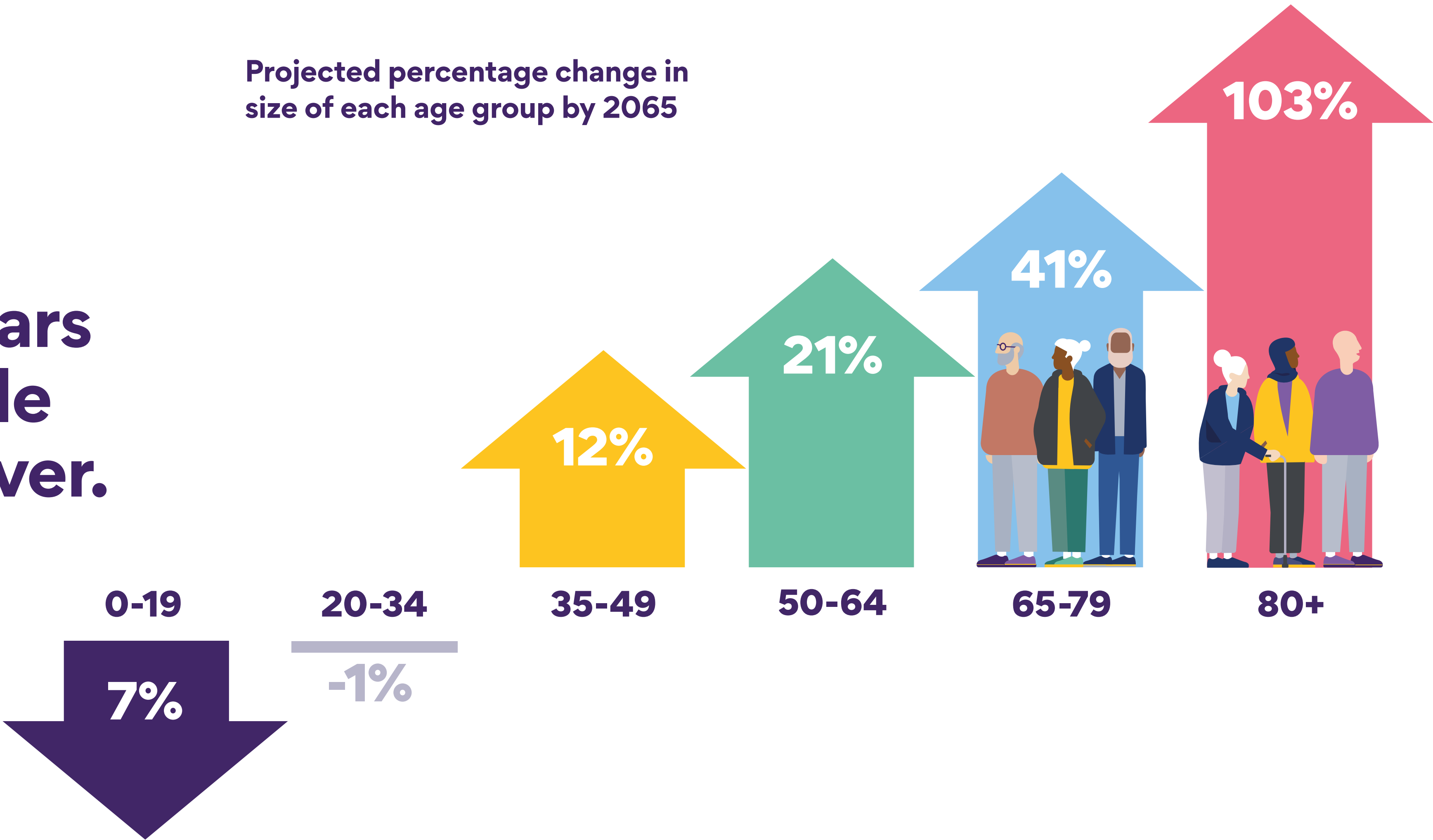


For source see chart 2.04a here: <https://ageing-better.org.uk/our-ageing-population-state-ageing-2025>

People aged 50 to 64 who live in the regions with the worst health and highest poverty levels are most likely to provide unpaid care for others.



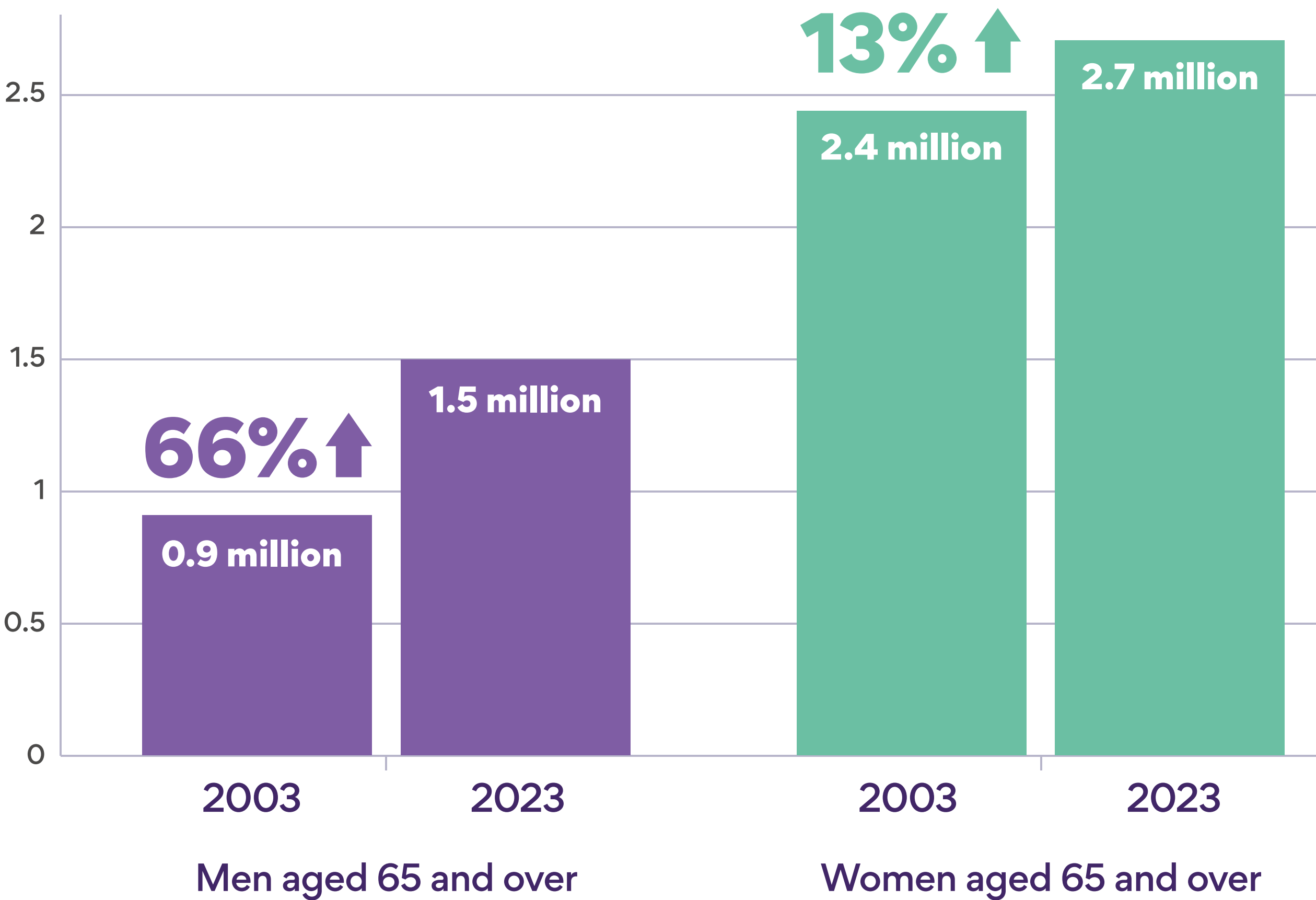
The biggest population increase over the next 40 years will be in people aged 80 and over.



For source see chart 2.03a here: <https://ageing-better.org.uk/our-ageing-population-state-ageing-2025>

The number of older men living alone is increasing rapidly.

It has increased by two-thirds in 20 years.

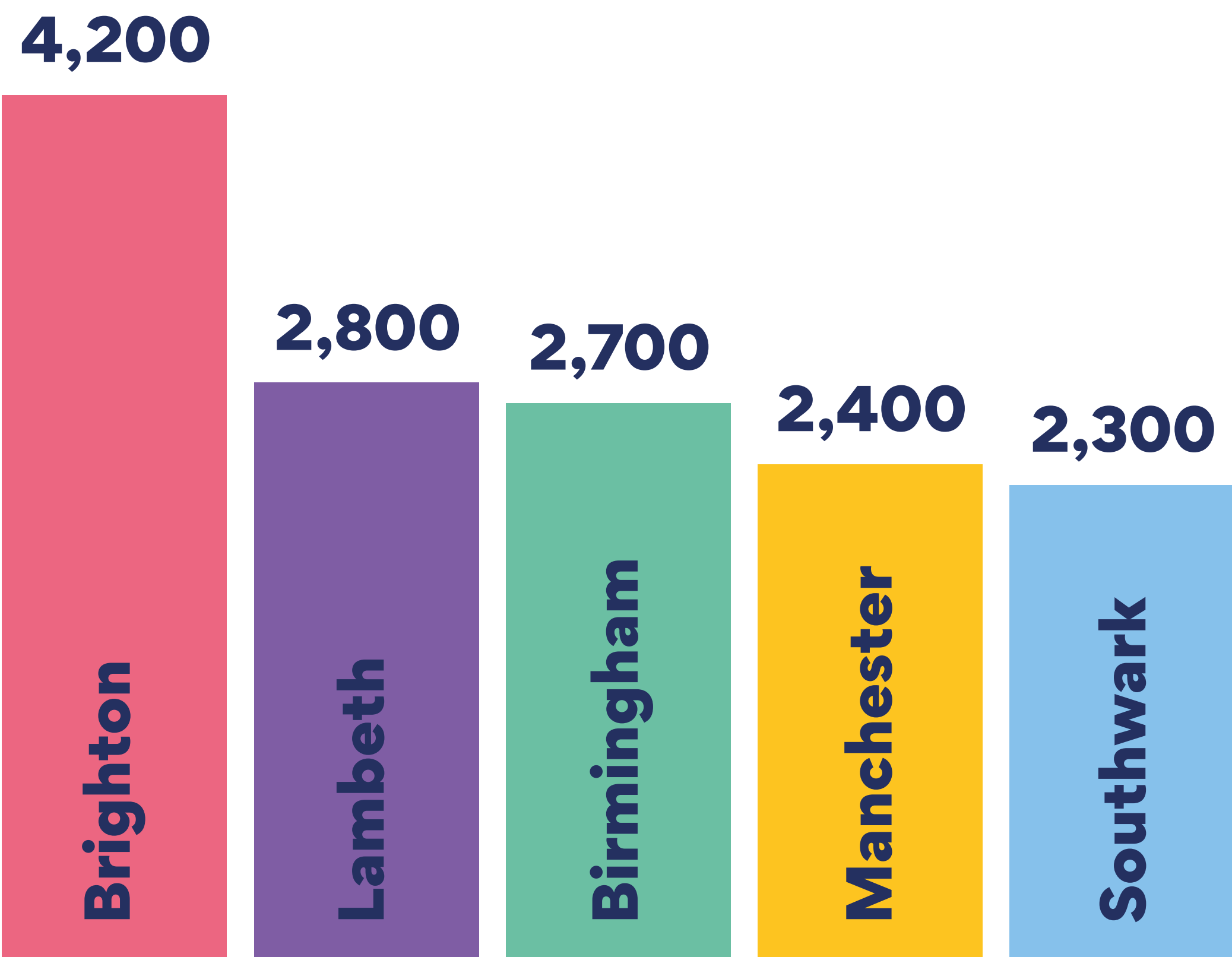


For source see chart 2.08 here: <https://ageing-better.org.uk/our-ageing-population-state-ageing-2025>

Older Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual people tend to live in London, larger cities and coastal towns.

Older LGB+ people living outside these places are at greater risk of isolation.

Local authorities home to the largest number of LGB+ people aged 55 and over



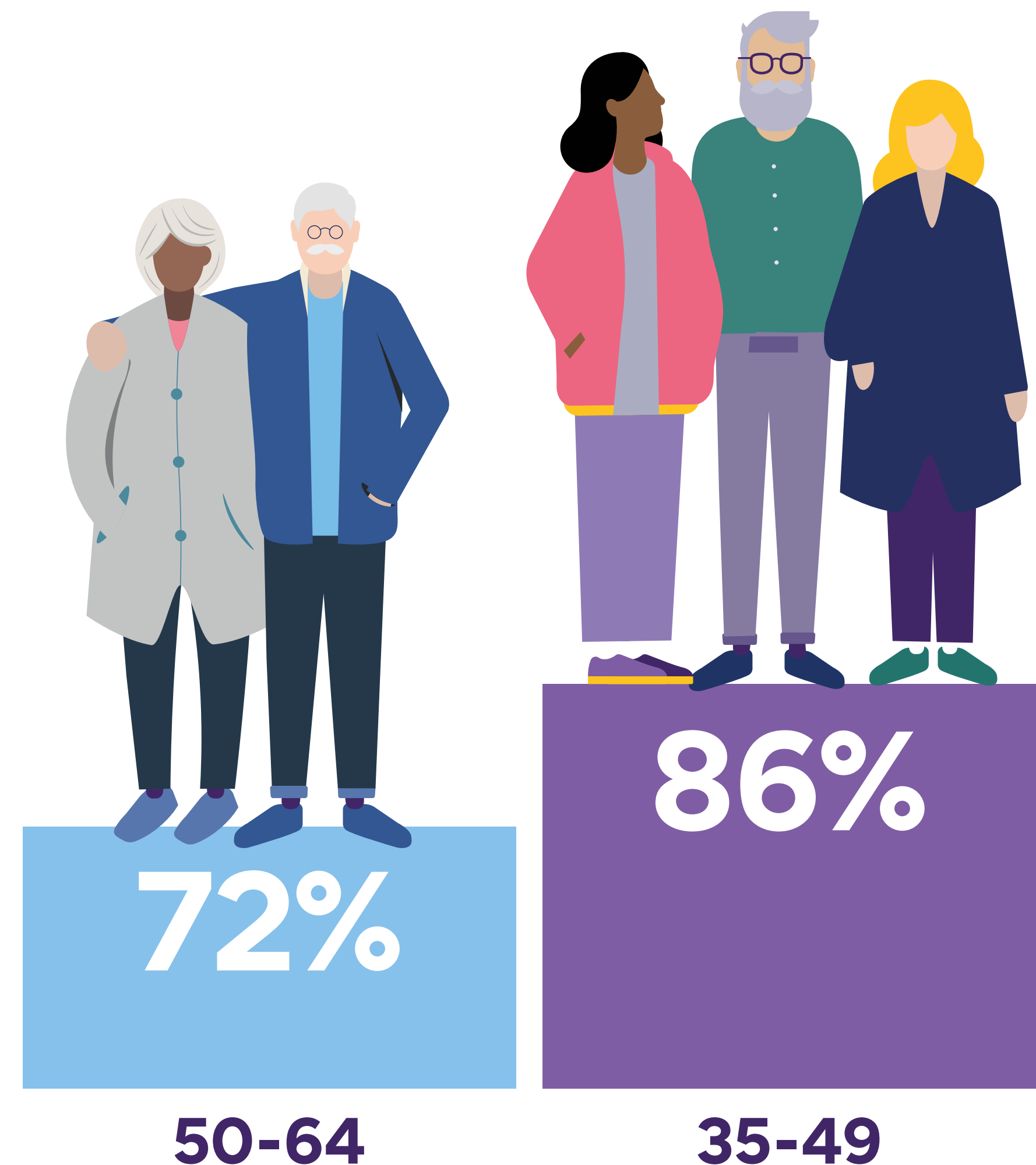
For source see chart 2.05a here: <https://ageing-better.org.uk/our-ageing-population-state-ageing-2025>

“We are an ageing population, and the services aren’t adapting enough to keep up with the ageing population process.”

Woman in her seventies, Knowsley

The employment rate of people aged 50 to 64 in England is 14 percentage points lower than that of those aged 35 to 49.

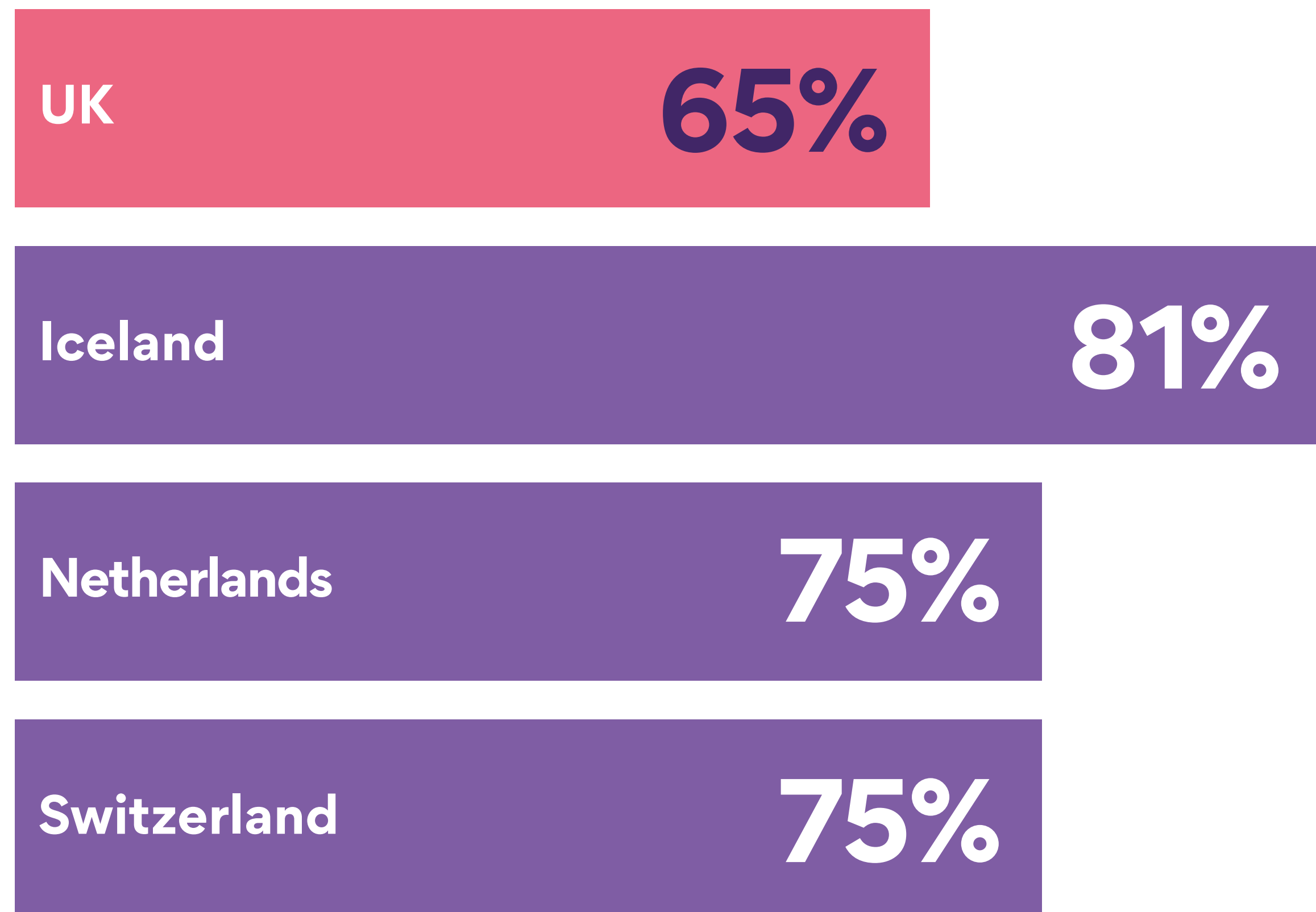
The North East and London have the biggest gaps in employment rates between these age groups.



The UK government has an ambition to increase the overall employment rate of people aged 16 to 64 to 80% from about 75% now.

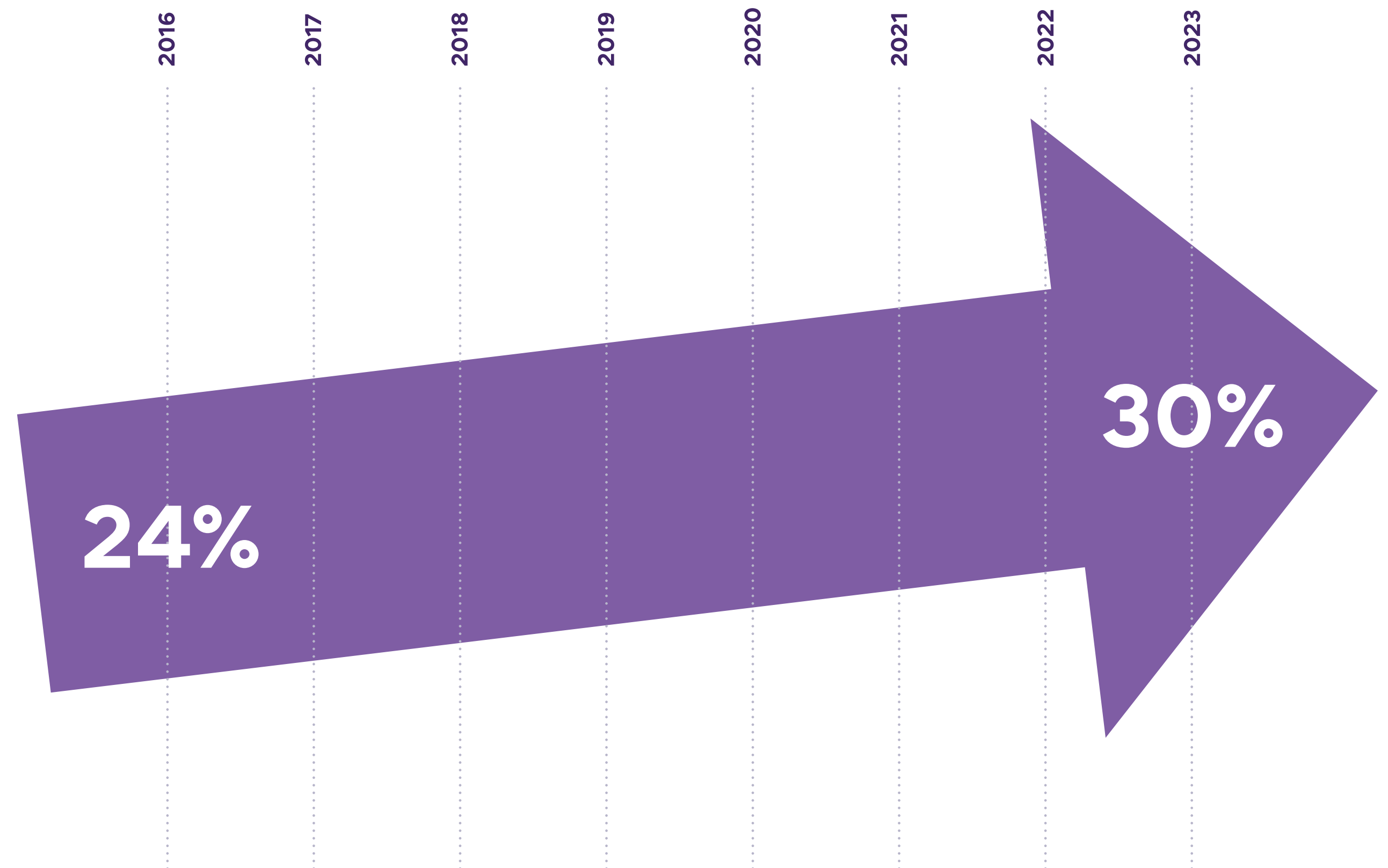
But it will not succeed without increasing the employment rate of people aged 55 to 64 to levels seen in other OECD countries.

Current employment rate of people aged 55-64



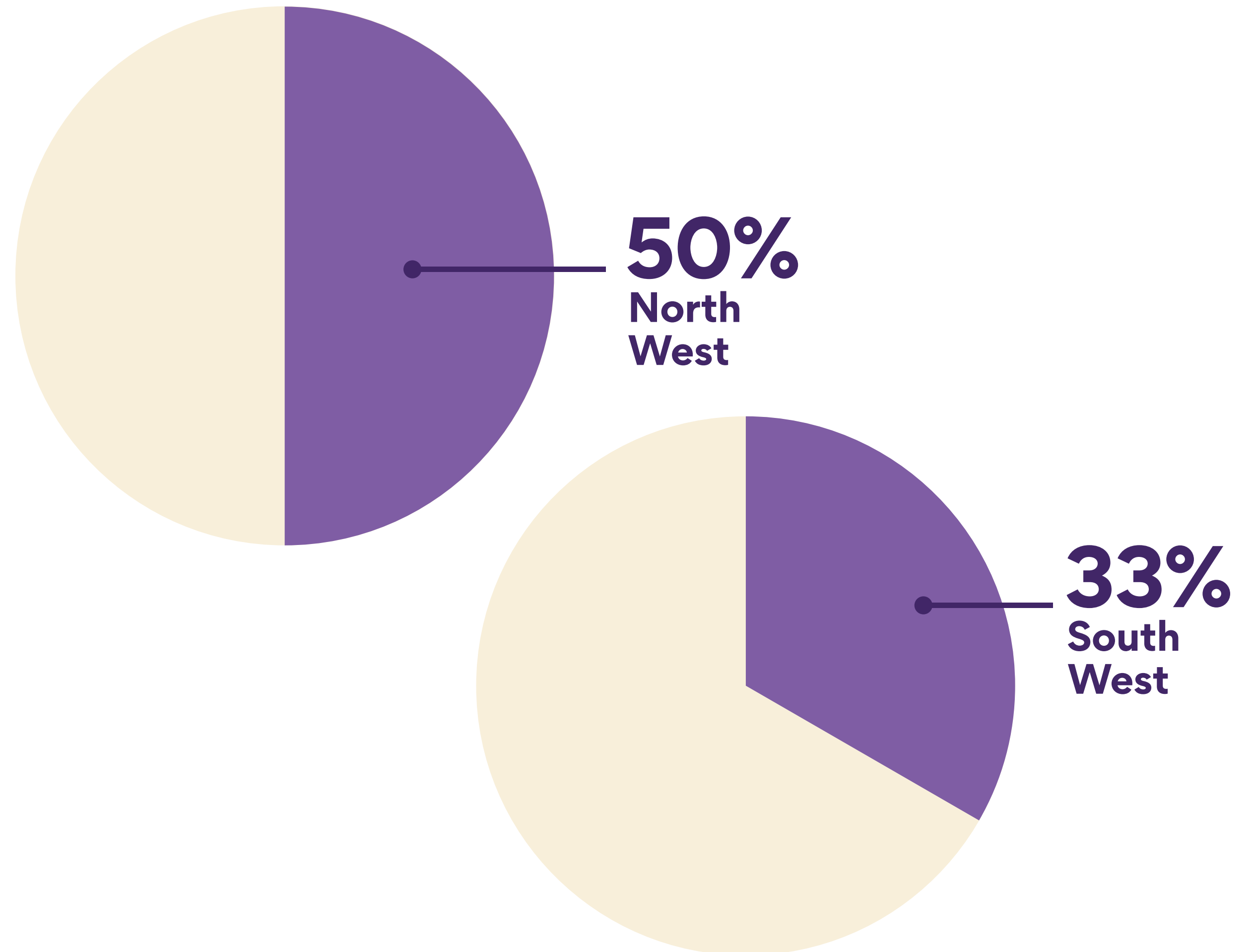
Employment rates of those in their 60s have increased since 2016 alongside increases in the State Pension Age.

The proportion of people who are still working at the current State Pension Age of 66 has increased from 24% to 30% in just 8 years.

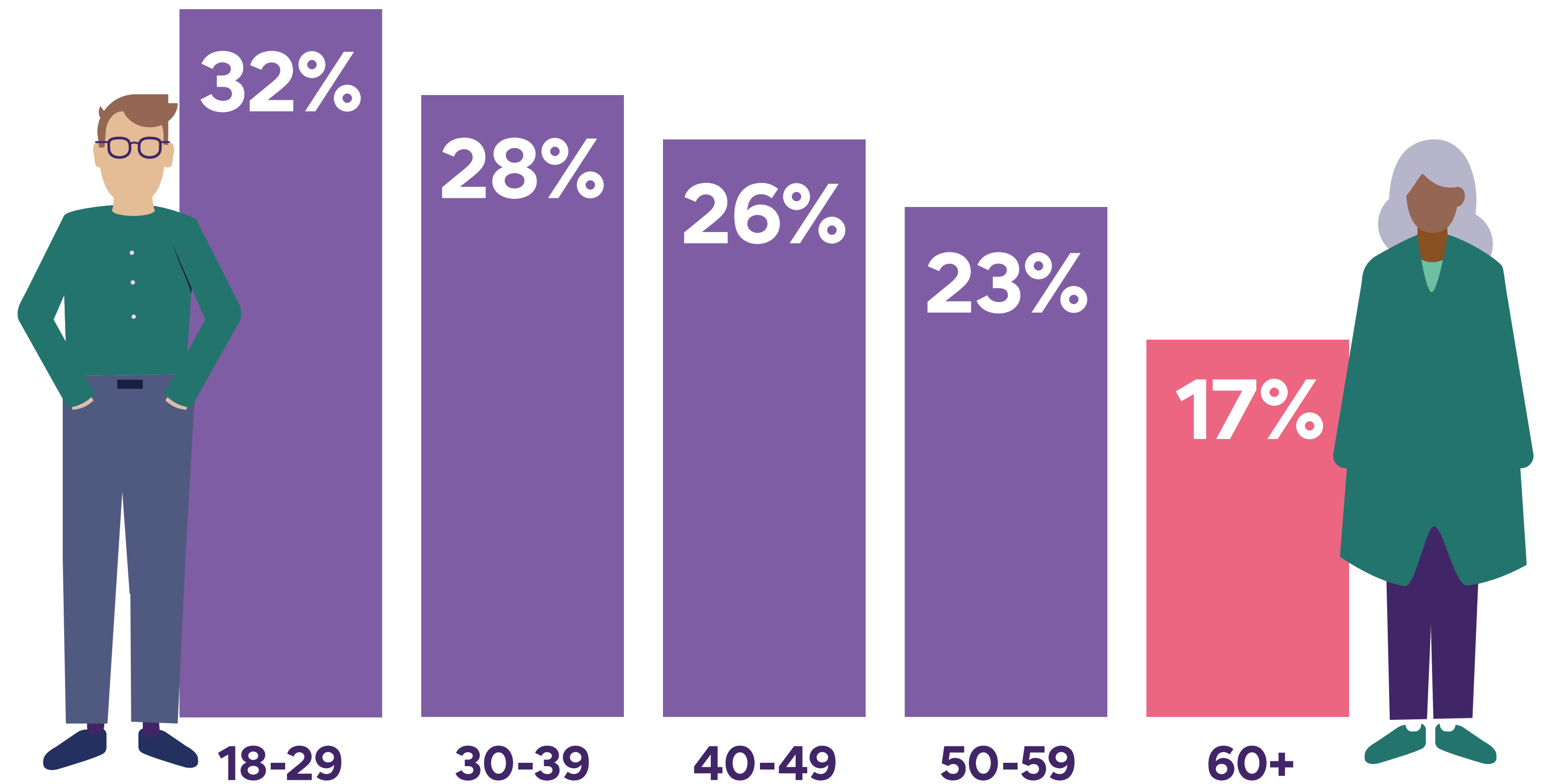


In the North West, half of people aged 50 to 65 who aren't working are out of work because of their health while in the South West it's one in three

Sickness is the main reason people aged 50 to 65 aren't working.



Older workers are much less likely to obtain a job through employment services than younger workers.



350,000 people aged 50 to 65 with long-term health conditions would return to the workforce if the right support were in place.



“I... done a few courses here, but why I wasn’t put forward for the job? And when I asked, [I was told they] didn’t put you forward because you old people don’t seem to fare well at interviews.”

Participant, Triage evaluation

There are 3.5 million non-decent homes in England. Half are headed by someone aged 55 and over and of these 1.3 million are owner occupied.

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

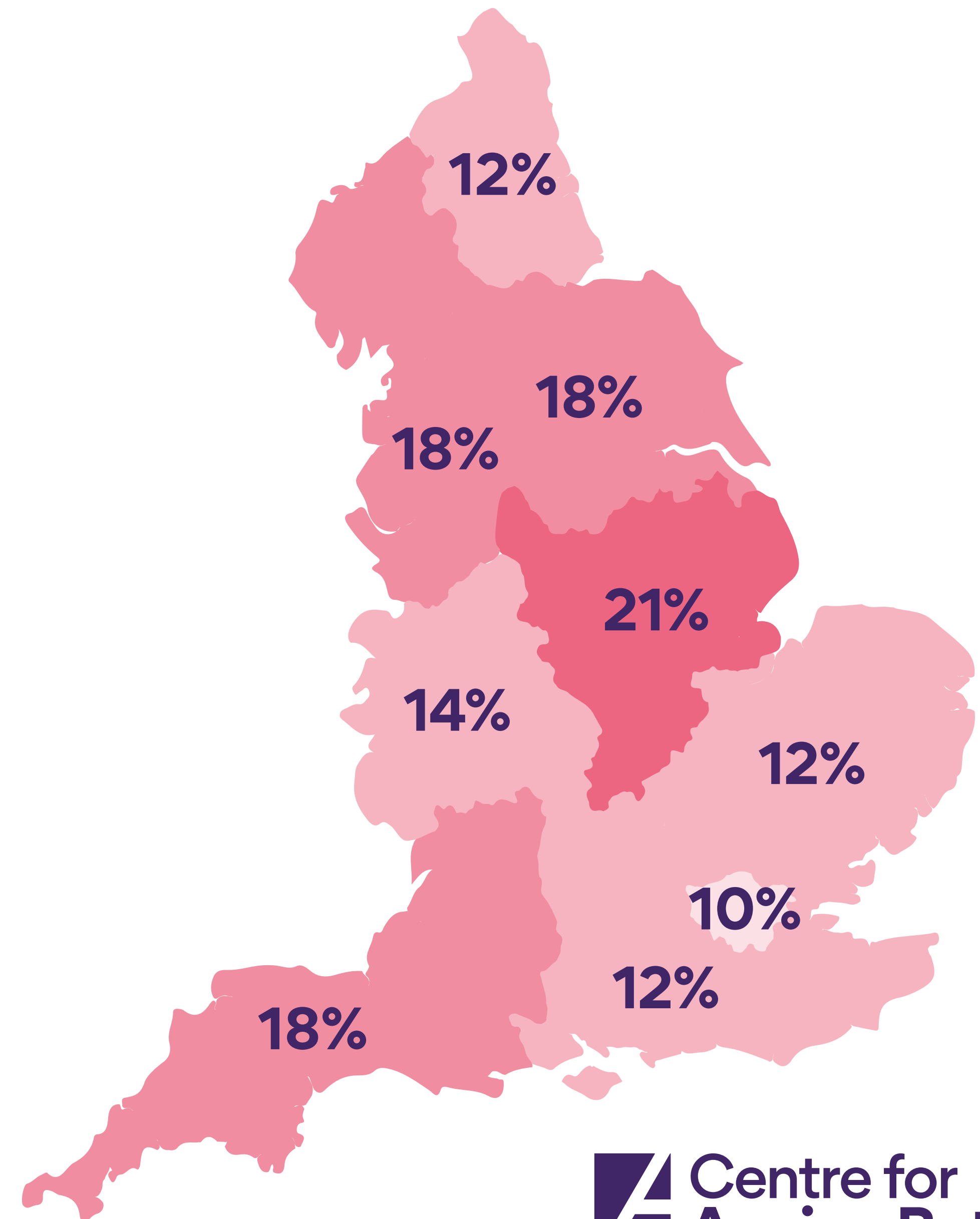
- A serious hazard which poses a risk to health.
- Not providing a reasonable degree of thermal comfort.
- In disrepair.
- Not having sufficiently modern facilities.

For source see chart 4.01a here: <https://ageing-better.org.uk/homes-state-ageing-2025>



There are large disparities across the country in the scale of non-decency.

The percentage of owner occupied homes headed by someone aged 55 and over that are non-decent ranges from 10% in London to 21% in the East Midlands.



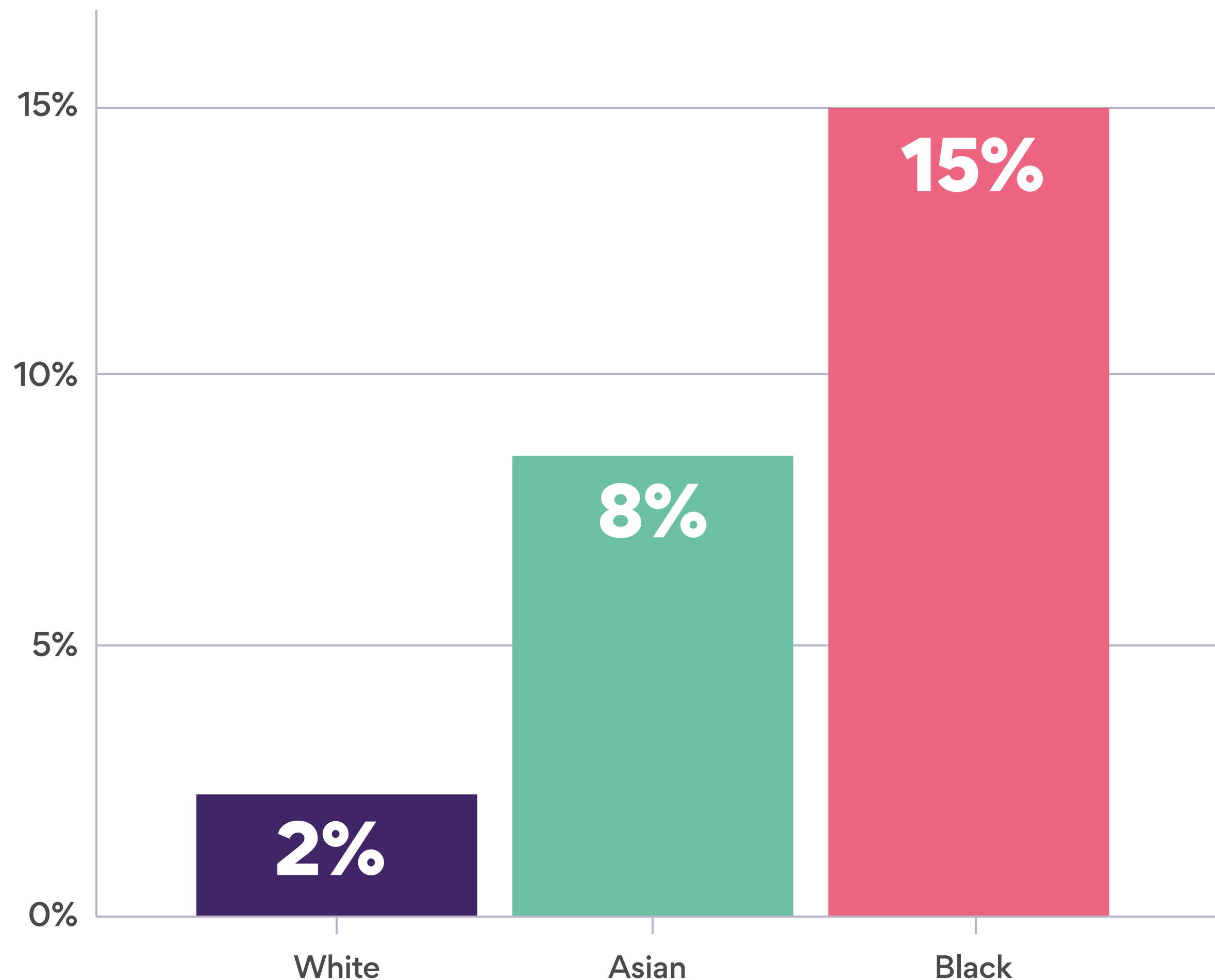
Only one in eight homes in England can be visited by people with access needs.

The four features that make a home visitable for most people are:

- A WC at entrance level
- No steps between the pavement and the entrance
- Sufficiently wide doorways and circulation space
- A main entrance door that is free of obstructions higher than 15mm.



People from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds are less likely than White people to be satisfied with their homes.



Owner-occupied sector only

There is a well-evidenced link between the condition of people's homes and their mental health.

422,000 homeowners aged 55 and over who are living in a non-decent home have anxiety.

Percentage of non-decent homes that have a household head aged 55+ who has anxiety

Owner-occupied

36%

Social rented

47%

Privately rented

40%

Home ownership is no guarantee of financial security

Almost one in five people aged 50 and over who own their homes outright are living in poverty.



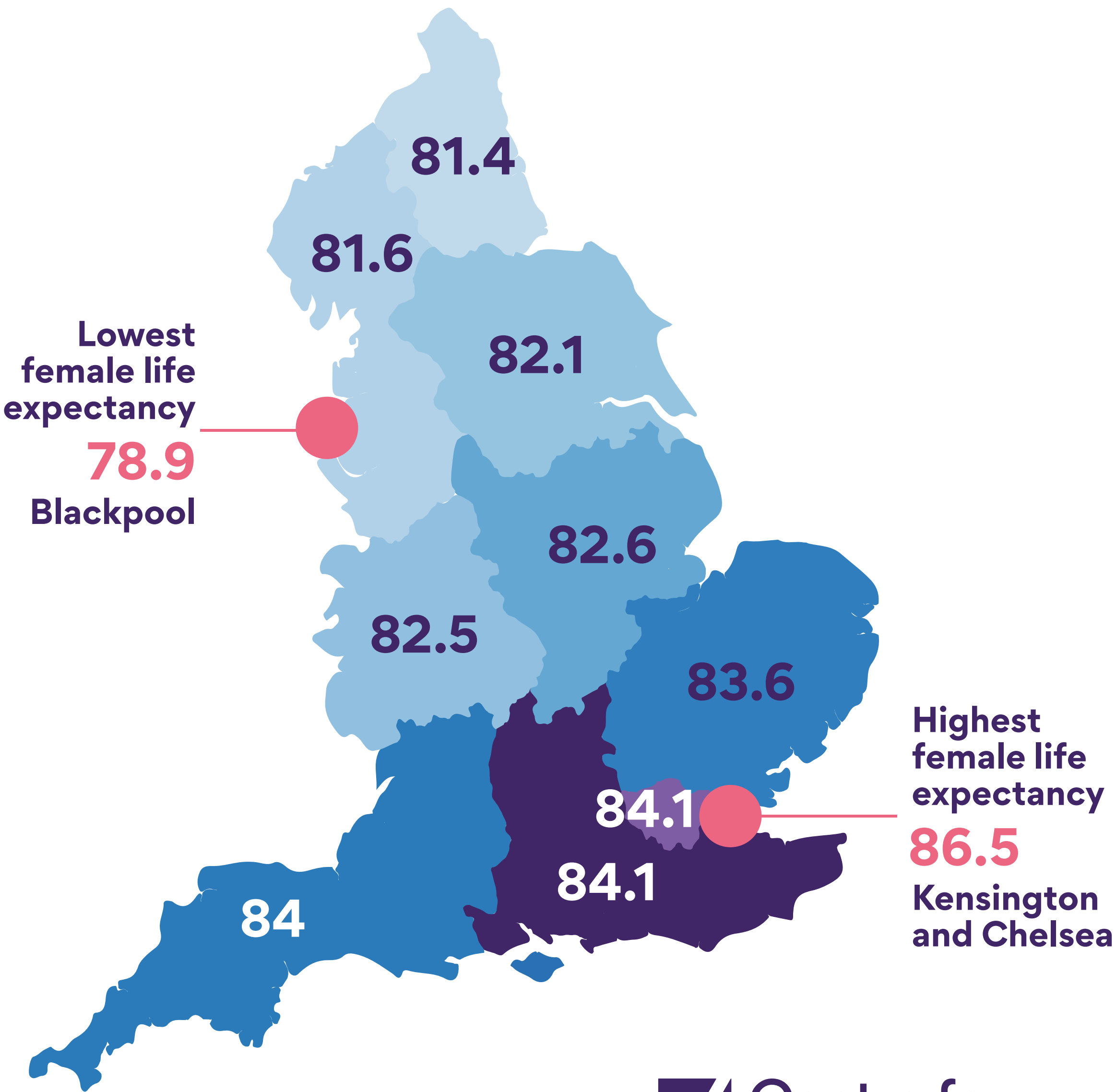
“My old house... didn’t have double glazing and we were cold all the time...and my arthritis was worse there. [In our new house]... we have railings ...so I can go up the stairs. We do need a bathroom downstairs, but we will get it eventually. It’s very expensive...”

Woman in her sixties, Middlesbrough

Women living in the poorest places live shorter lives.

The poorest places tend to be in the north of England and urban in nature.

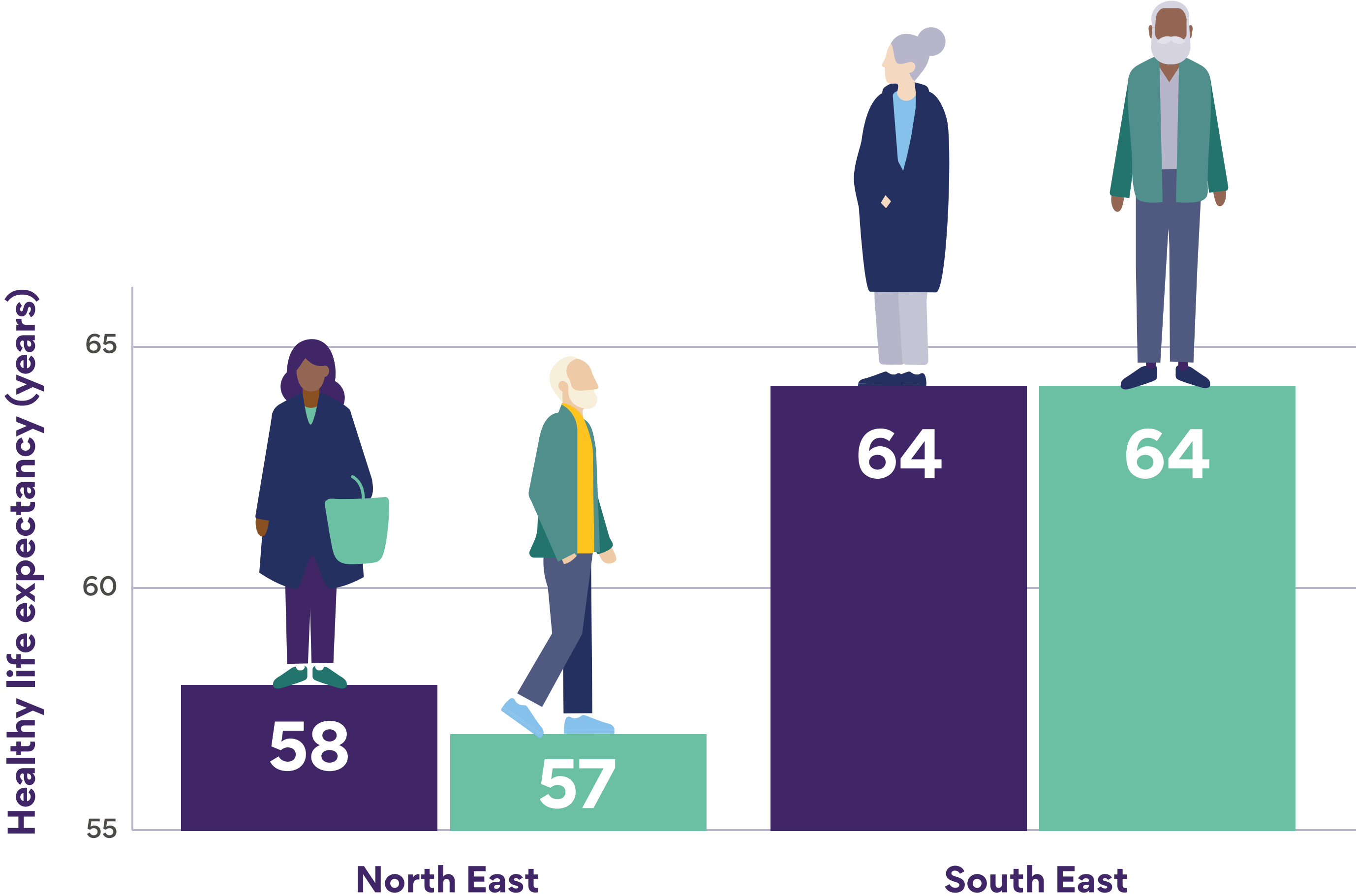
We see the same pattern for men, whose life expectancy ranges from 77.4 in the North East to 80.3 in the South East.



For source see chart 5.01a here: <https://ageing-better.org.uk/health-and-wellbeing-state-ageing-2025>

How long you live in good health varies across the country.

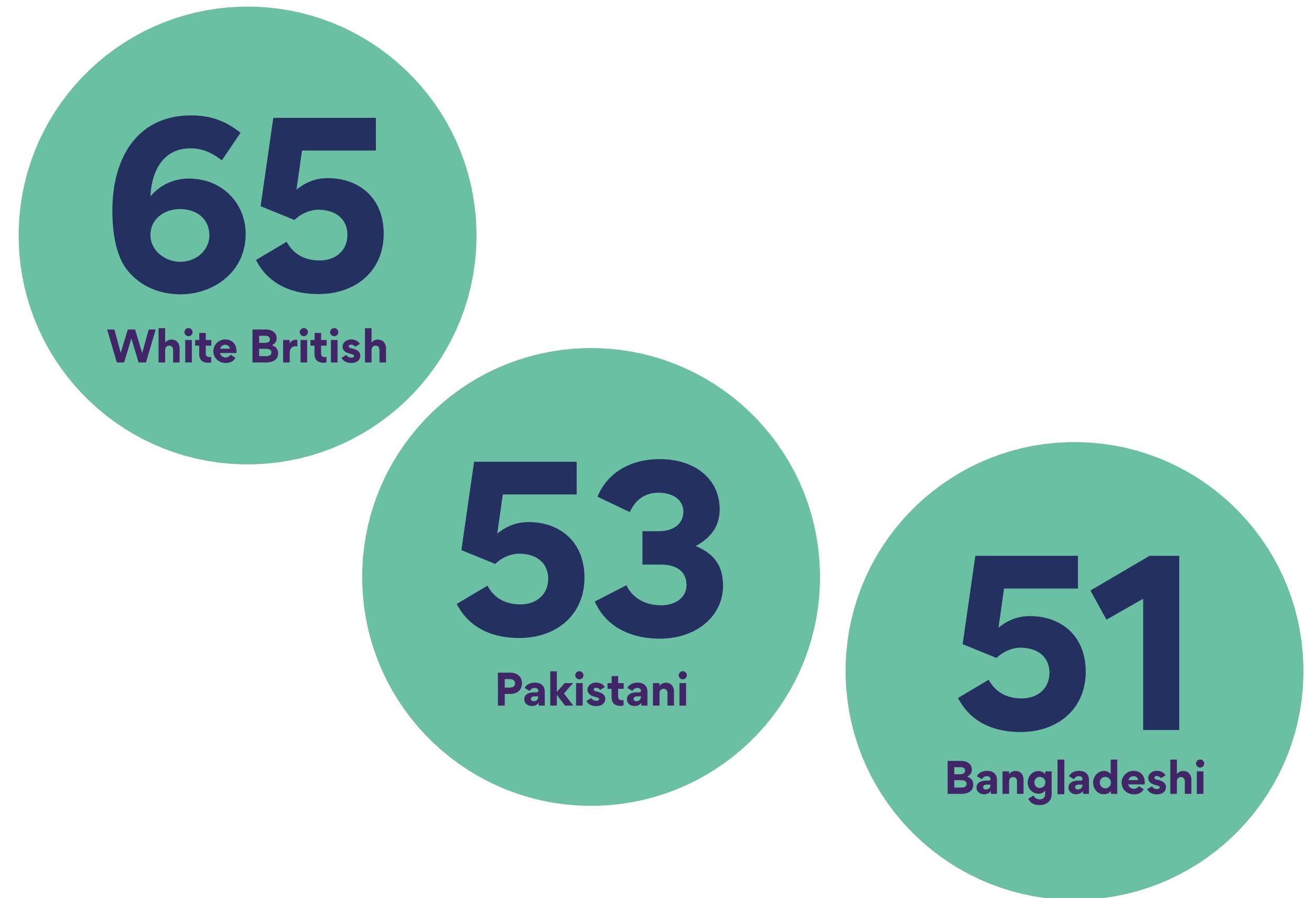
There is a difference of 7 years for men and 6 years for women between the North East and South East.



For source see chart 5.02 here: <https://ageing-better.org.uk/health-and-wellbeing-state-ageing-2025>

Bangladeshi and Pakistani people experience poor health younger than those from other ethnic groups.

Age at which 10% of people are in bad or very bad health



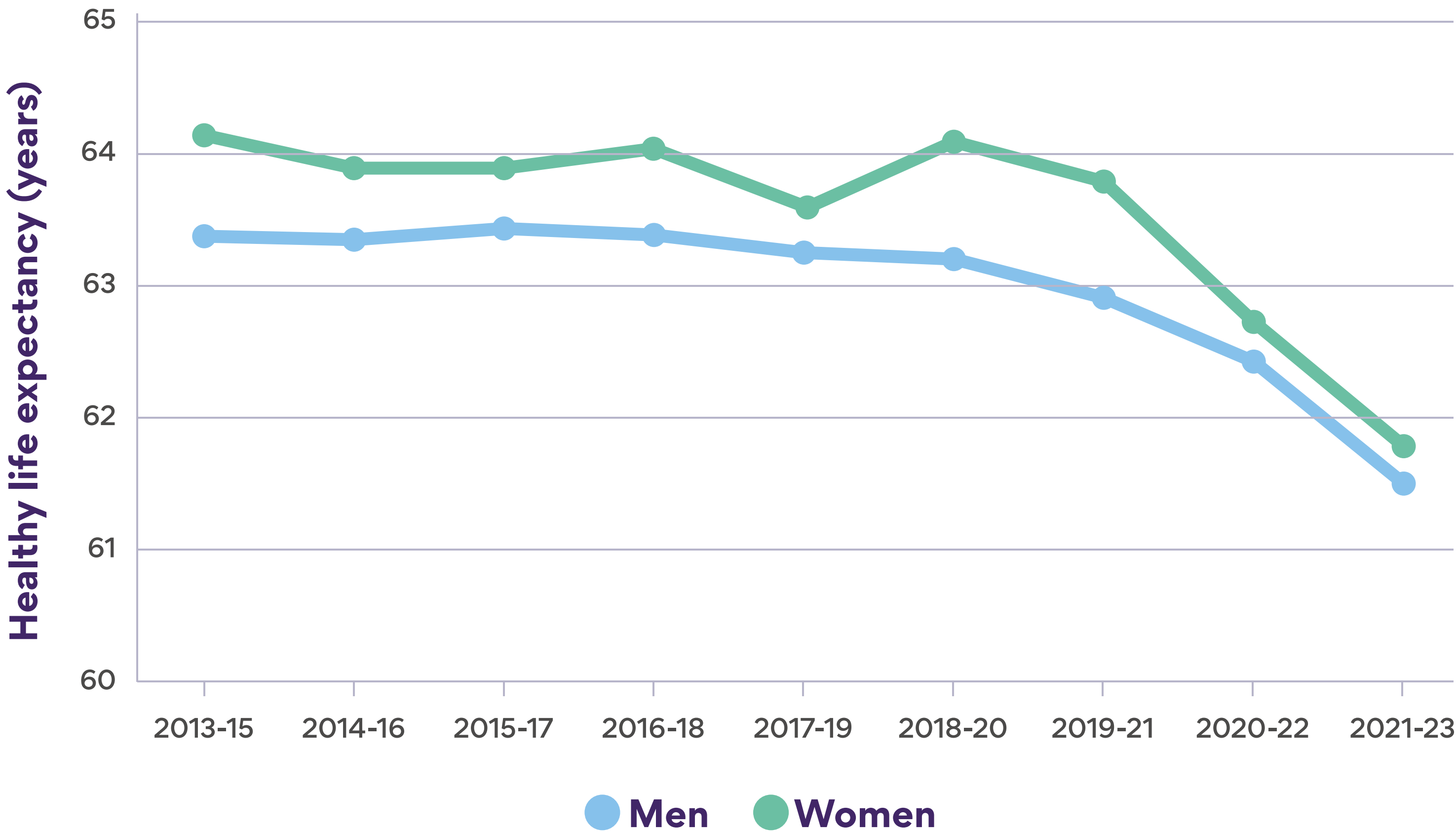
The oldest places in England aren't necessarily the ones in worst health.

Places that are older than average with a better than average health profile tend to be rural.



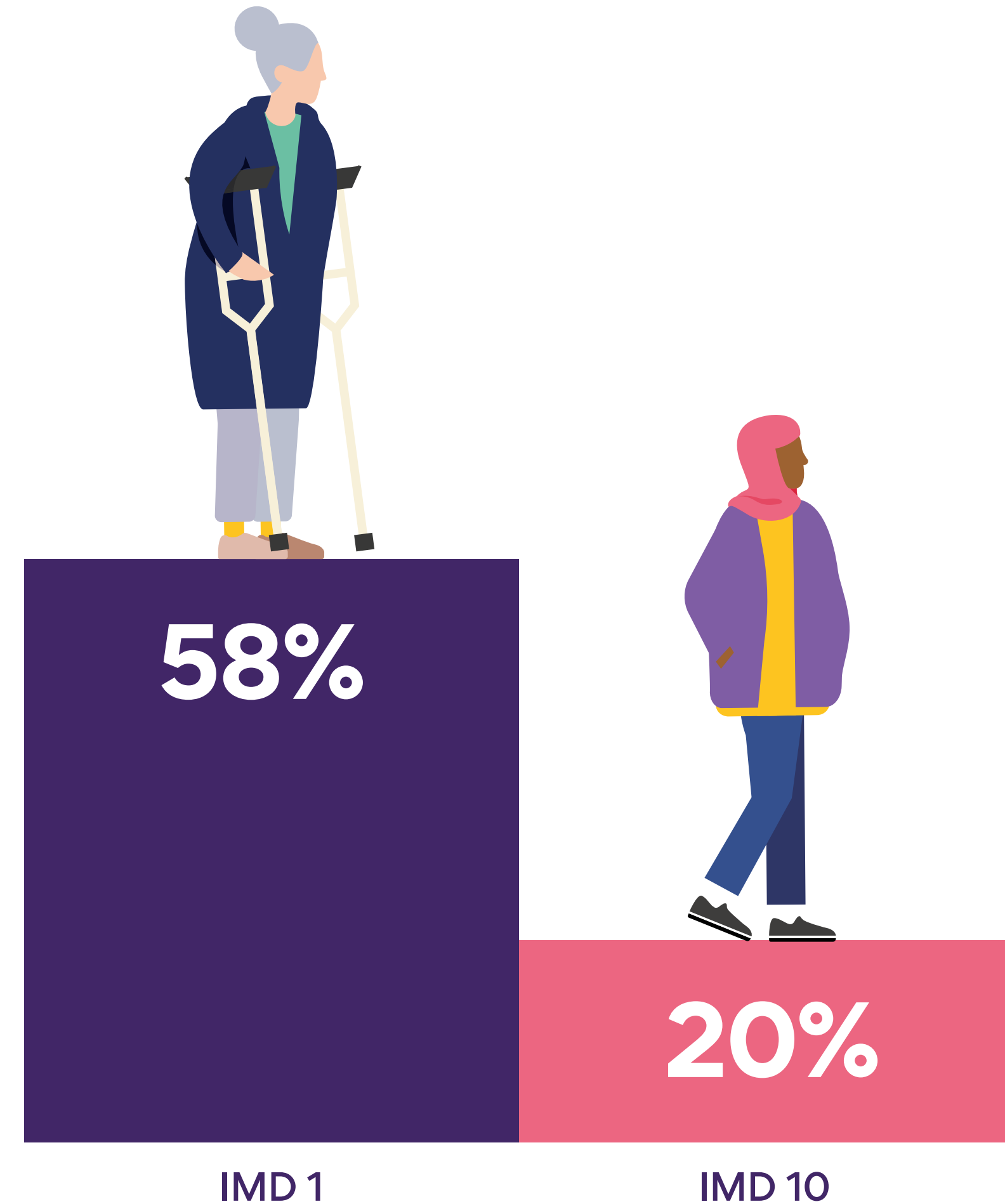
Healthy life expectancy in England is in decline.

It is 20 months lower for men and 22 months lower for women than for the last pre-pandemic period of 2017/19.



For source see chart 5.05b here: <https://ageing-better.org.uk/health-and-wellbeing-state-ageing-2025>

People aged 50 to 69 living in the most deprived areas in England are nearly 3 times more likely to have a health problem or disability that affects their daily life as those in the least deprived areas.



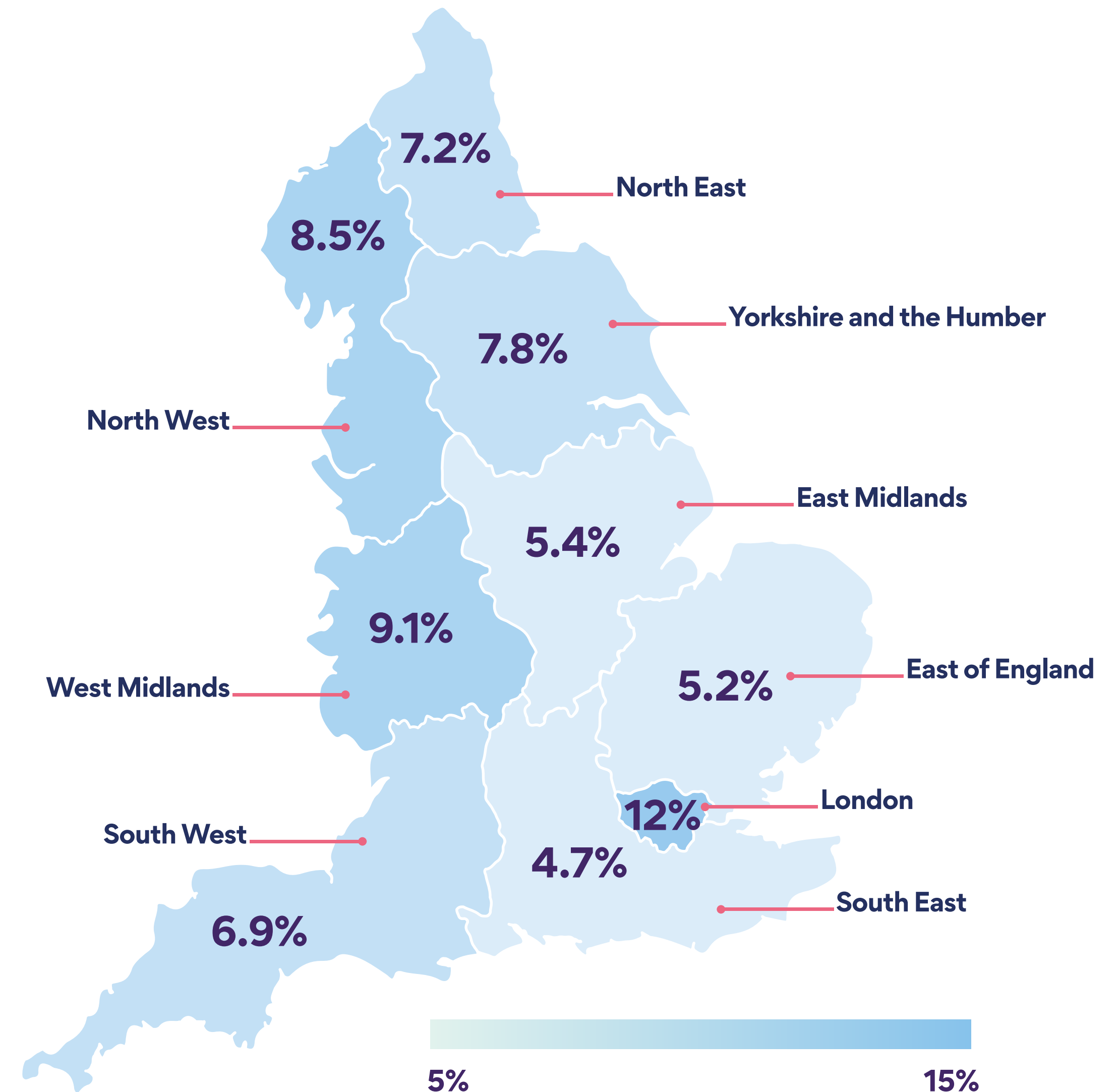
*IMD, Index of Multiple Deprivation

“It’s how we make Knowsley as a whole more equal, because we’ve got health inequalities... you’ve a greater risk of dying if you live in that area of Knowsley than if you live in [another area], and it just feels absolutely mad that, doesn’t it?”

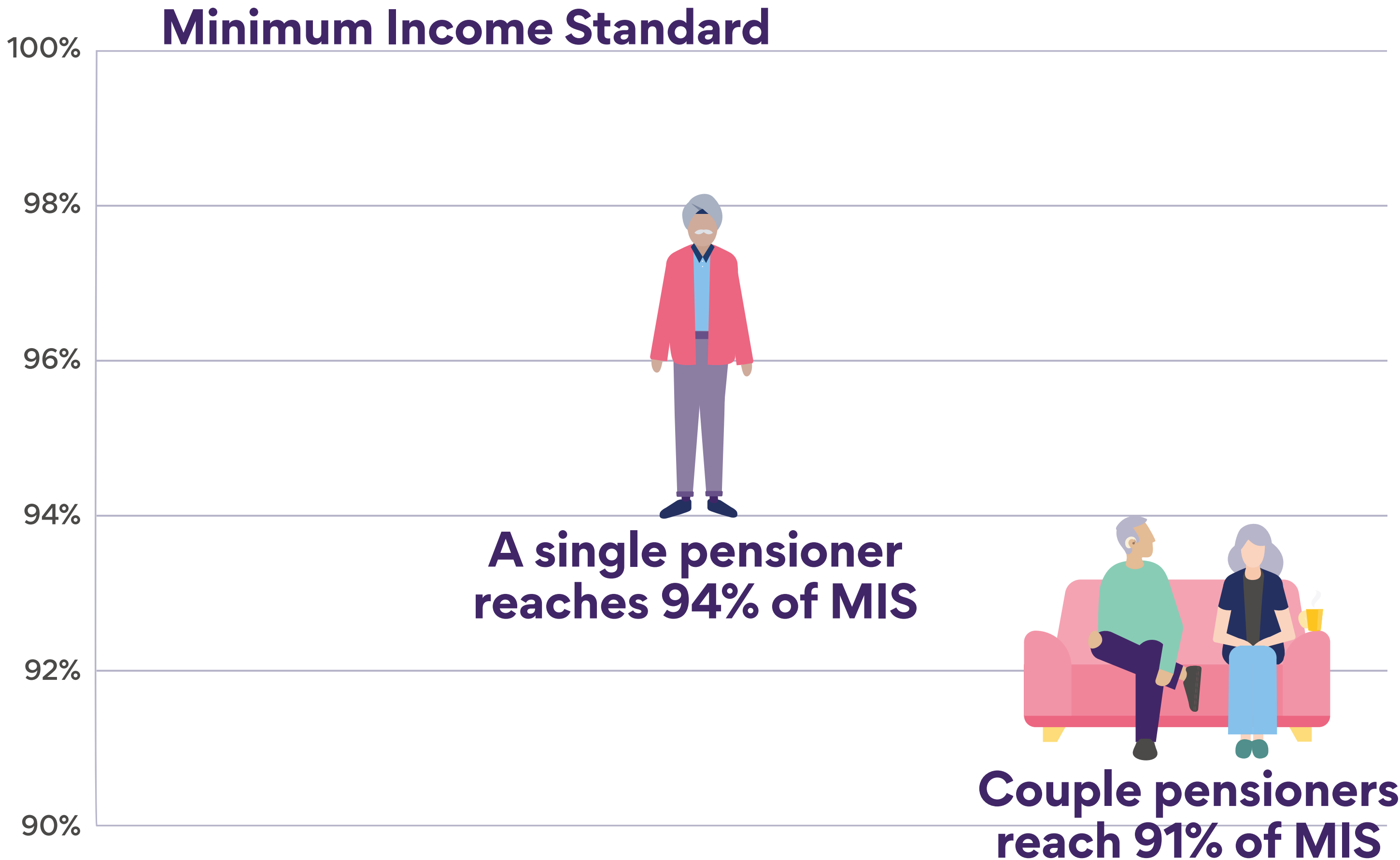
Woman in her seventies, Knowsley

1 million pensioners are living in material deprivation. That means they don't have enough money or resources to afford basics such as a warm coat and at least one filling meal a day.

Rates vary across the country from less than 5% in the South East to 12% in London.

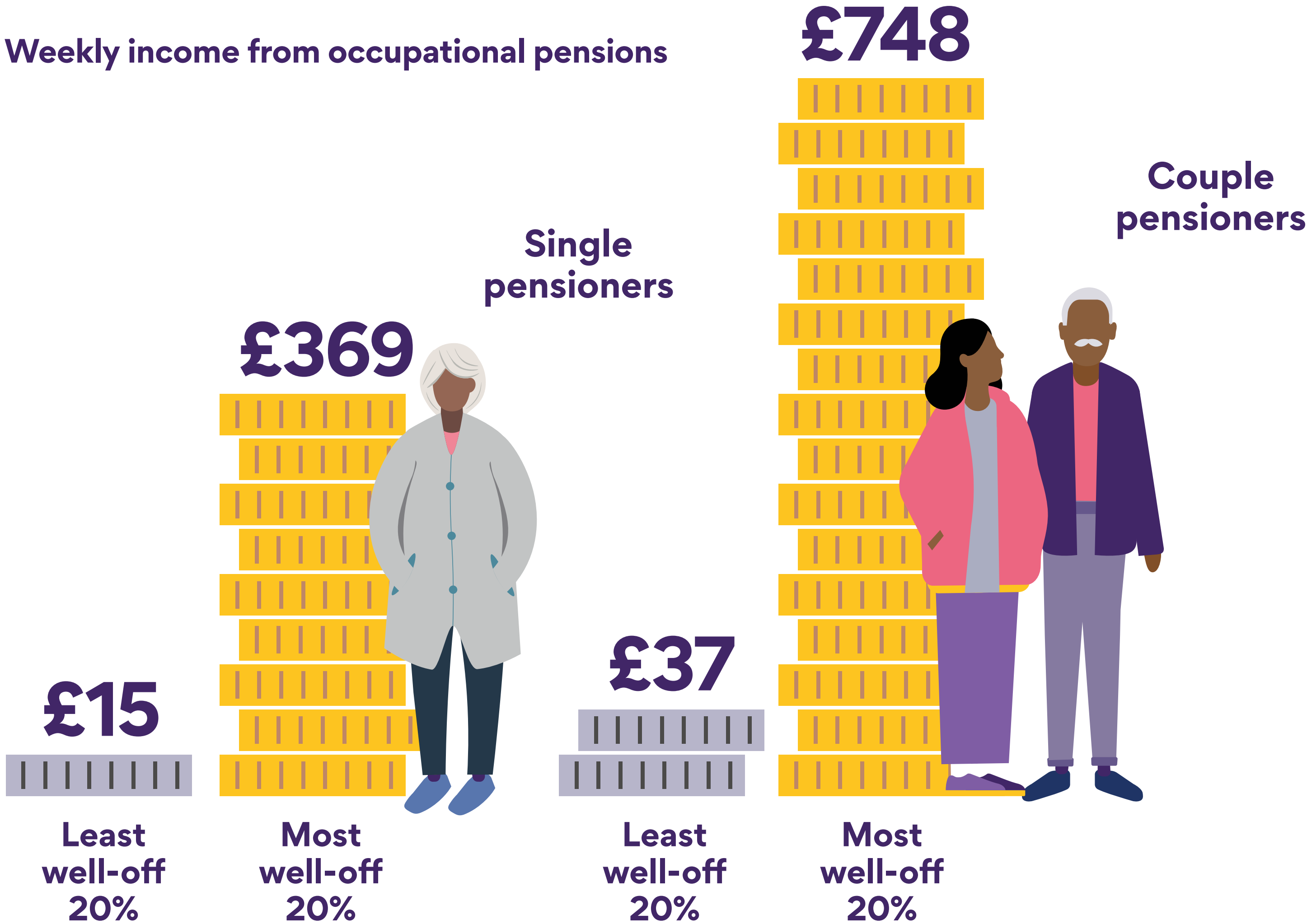


The state pension, even when it is topped up with Pension Credit, does not provide pensioners with a basic standard of living.



The Minimum Income Standard (MIS) is the income people need to reach a socially acceptable standard of living
For source see chart 6.03 here: <https://ageing-better.org.uk/financial-security-state-ageing-2025>

The poorest pensioners have virtually no income from occupational pensions.

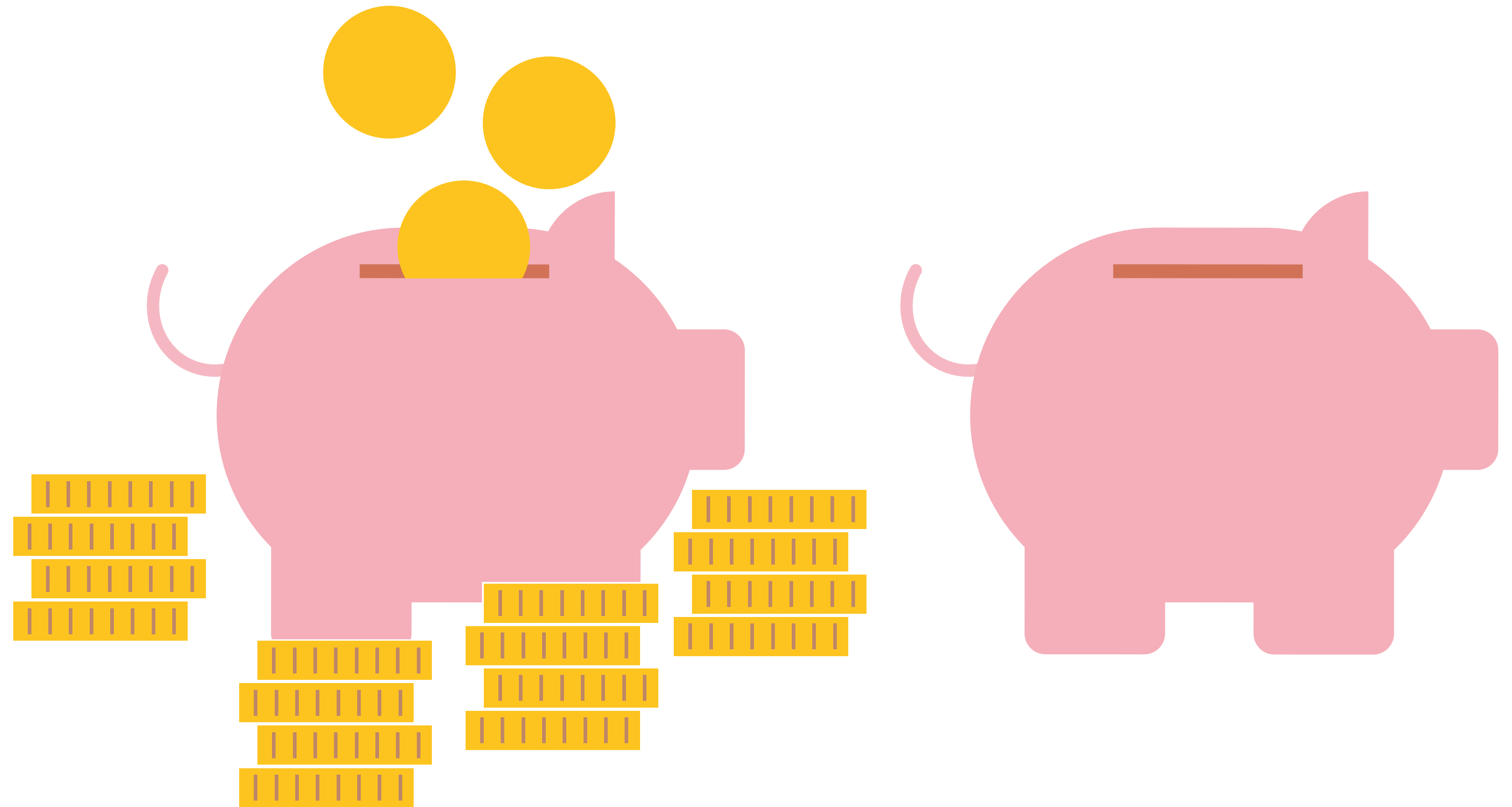


For source see charts 6.04a and 6.04b here: <https://ageing-better.org.uk/financial-security-state-ageing-2025>

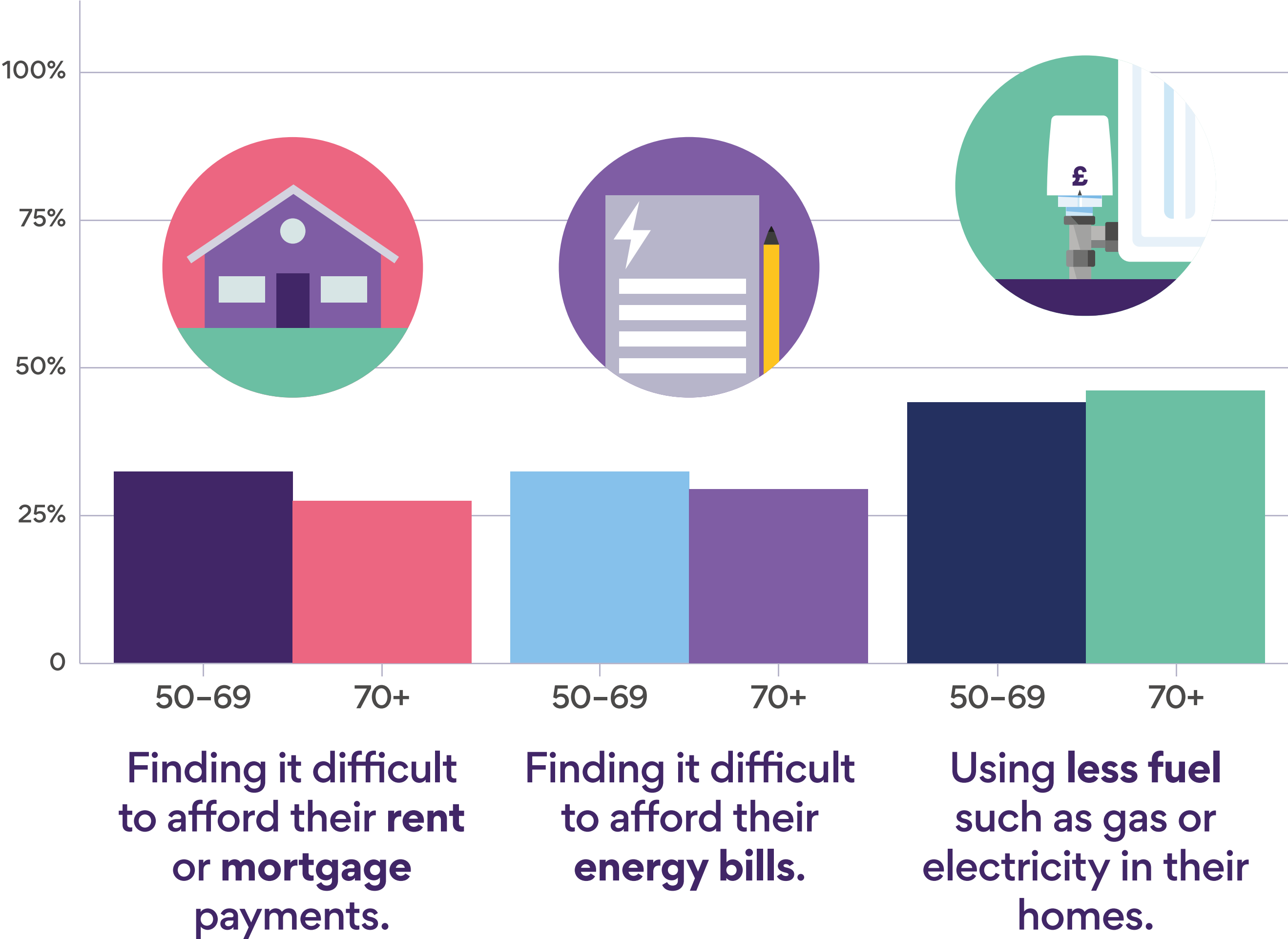
One in ten pensioners have no savings at all.

And a quarter have less than £1,500.

Single female pensioners are the most likely to have no or low savings.



A large proportion of older people are experiencing financial pressures because of the cost-of-living crisis.



For source see chart 6.11 here: <https://ageing-better.org.uk/financial-security-state-ageing-2025>

One in eight people above state pension age have no income apart from the state pension and among single pensioners, the proportion is one in five.



“I will probably have to work till I’m 67 because that’s when I’ll get my state pension... I opted out of a workplace pension. I’ve been working since I was 16. I’m nearly 62 now and I don’t have a pension to show for it.”

Woman in her sixties, Knowsley

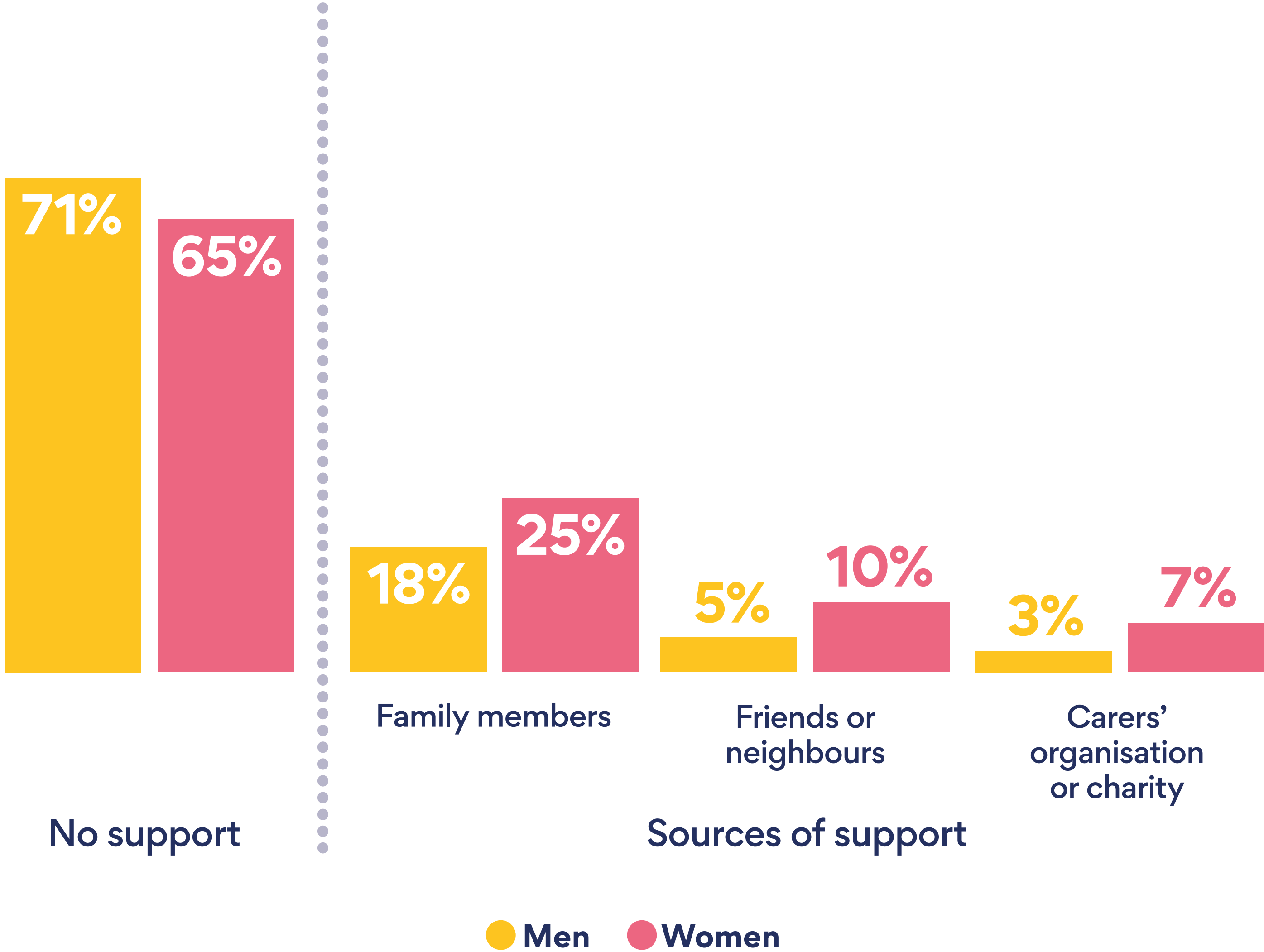
People aged 65 to 74 are more likely to volunteer (both formally and informally) than any other age group

But older people living in more deprived areas are likely to face greater barriers to volunteering caused by poor health and disability.



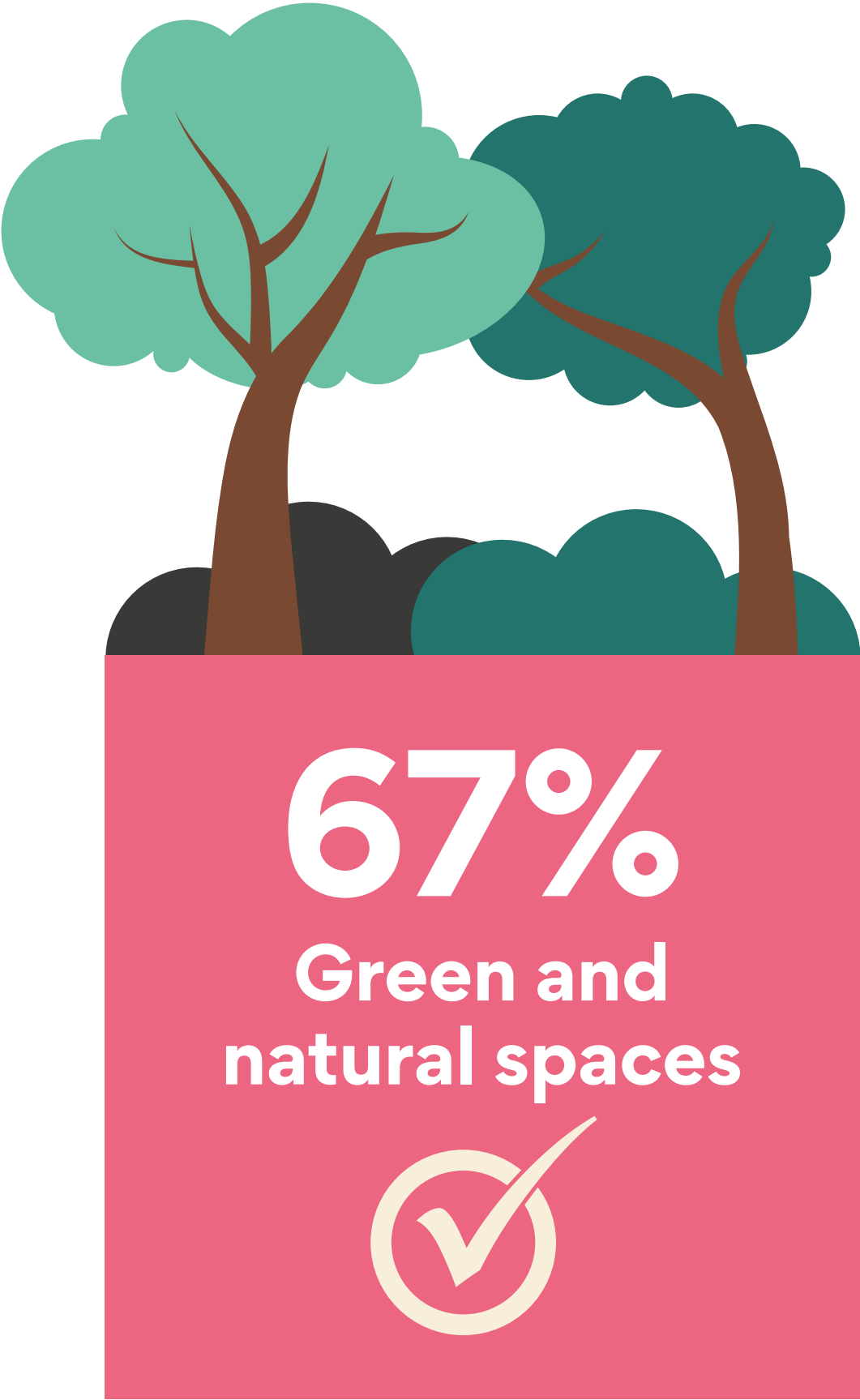
Men aged 65 and over are less likely than women of the same age to receive support as carers.

Almost three-quarters of male carers receive no support from any source.



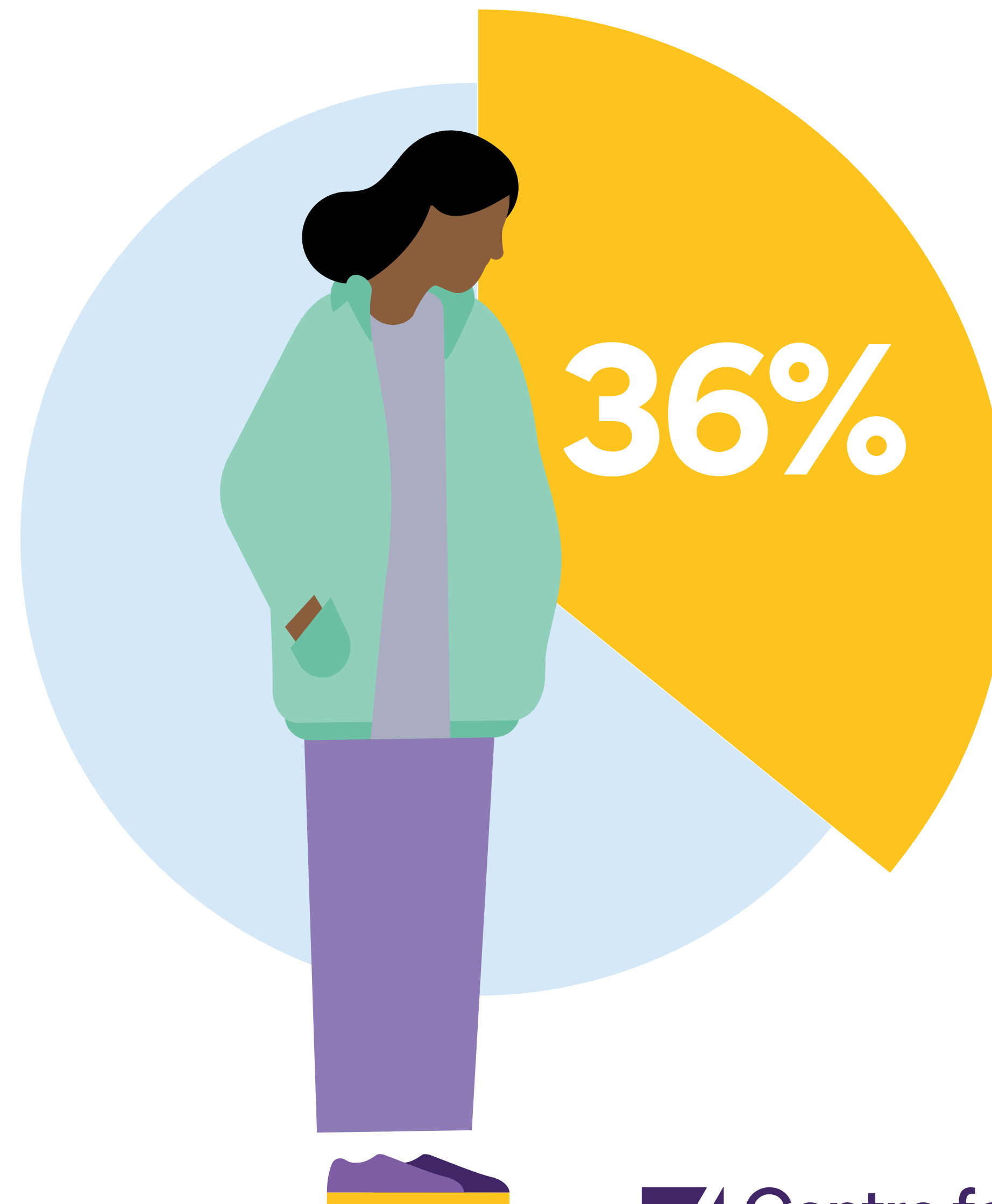
For source see chart 7.05 here: <https://ageing-better.org.uk/society-state-ageing-2025>

A feeling of safety and the availability of green and natural spaces are the most common reasons why people aged 50 and over are proud to live in their local area.



For source see chart 7.09 here: <https://ageing-better.org.uk/society-state-ageing-2025>

More than a third of women have been patronised because of their age since turning 50.



Although spending on some community services has started to recover since 2021, the impact of a decade of cuts remains greatest in the most deprived areas.

Of people aged 50 and over who are not proud of their local area...



68%

in the most deprived areas say it's because their neighbourhood feels run down.



This compares with

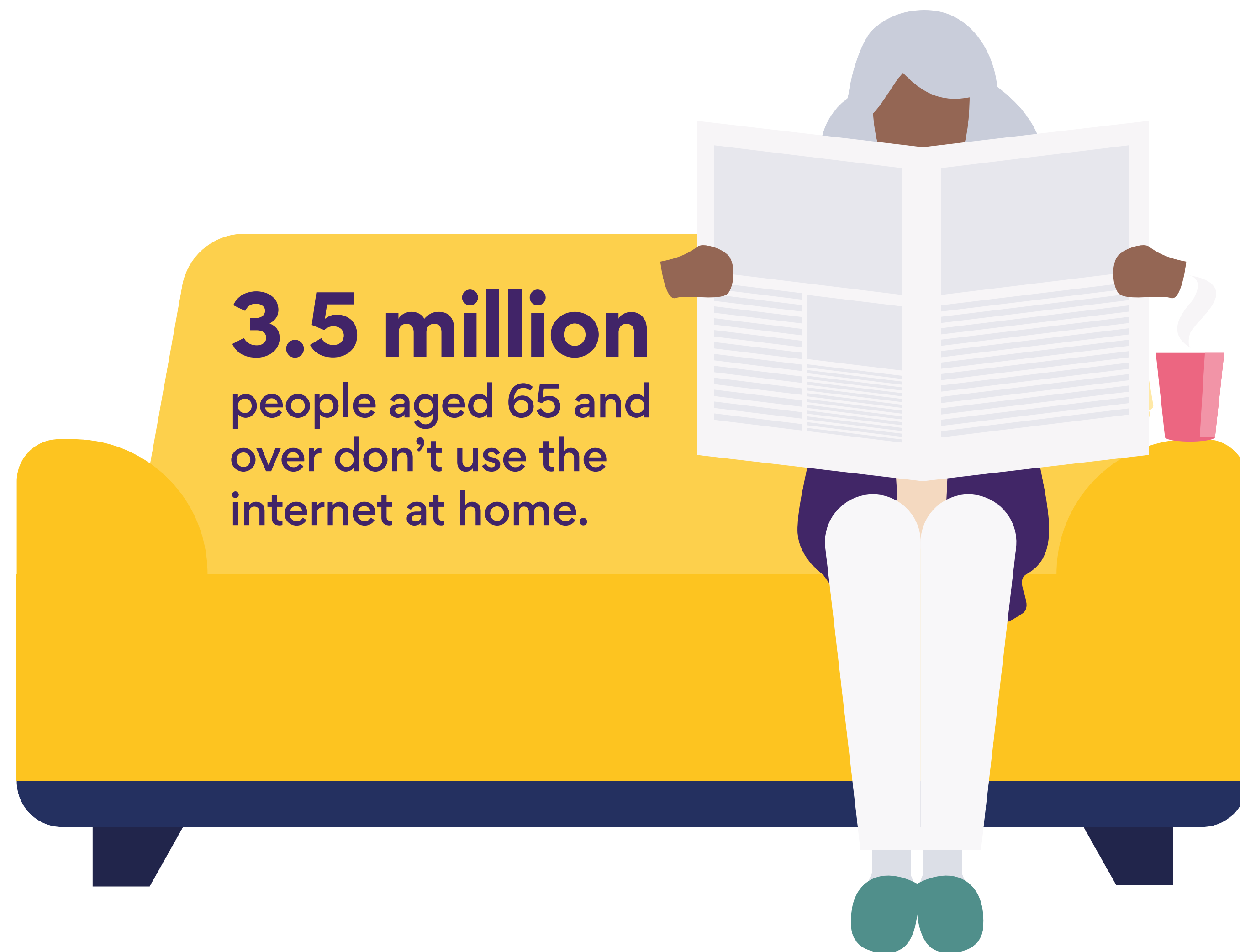
35%

in the least deprived areas.

Although internet use has increased among older people, many are still excluded from digital services.

The proportion of people aged 65 and over who don't use the internet at home dropped from 29% to 27% between 2023 and 2024.

For source see chart 7.13 here: <https://ageing-better.org.uk/society-state-ageing-2025>



“It does need a lot of changes here, and there has been a lot of regeneration, but I don’t think it’s been rapid enough. There’s a lot of derelict areas... I would move out of the area unless I see something that encourages me, and it doesn’t at this moment.”

Man in his seventies, Knowsley