

Children's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2024

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1. Key Points

Demographics

- 17.6% of the East Dunbartonshire population are aged under 16
- 54% of under 16's live in the two least deprived SIMD deciles
- 4.3% of under 16's live in the two most deprived SIMD deciles

Education

- 6 out of the 8 high schools in East Dunbartonshire were ranked in the top 20 best performing schools in Scotland
- 74.7% of school pupils in East Dunbartonshire achieve 3 or more Highers (or equivalent) by the end of S6
- 98.62% of school leavers are in a positive destination 3 months after the end of the school term

Child Protection

- 142 children were Looked After or Accommodated in 2023, which is the lowest since 2018
- The number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children are increasing

Health & Wellbeing

- 47% of pupils walk to school
- Immunisation Uptake is higher in East Dunbartonshire compared to Scotland

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

- The Percentage of Children seen within 18 weeks of referral to CAMHS in East Dunbartonshire and had been performing above target between October 2023 and March 2024
- Central Nervous System (CNS) stimulants and drugs prescribed for ADHD has more than doubled since 2018/19.

Pregnancy

- Only 5.1% of woman were reported as being current smokers at their first antenatal appointment
- 21.8% of pregnant woman in East Dunbartonshire were considered to be obese

NHS Service Usage

- East Dunbartonshire has a higher under 16 A&E attendance rate compared with Scotland
- There is a lower Emergency Admission rate for under 16's in East Dunbartonshire when compared with Scotland

Statutory Supervision and referrals to the Children's Reporter

- The number of children in East Dunbartonshire referred to Children's Reporter varies between roughly 140 and 200 referrals each year.

2. Demographics

2.1 Children and Young People Population

The table below provides a breakdown of the estimated number of children and young people living in East Dunbartonshire. East Dunbartonshire has an estimated population of 29,289 people aged 25 and under, which is 26.8% of the total population. Compared to Scotland, East Dunbartonshire has a higher percentage of people aged 5-15, however has a lower percentage of people aged 16-25. There could be a variety of reasons as to why there is a lower proportion of 16-25 year olds in East Dunbartonshire compared to Scotland. For example, there are no universities in East Dunbartonshire where a proportion of 16-25 year olds would attend.

Table 1: 25 and Under Population 2022

	Total Population	Under 5	5-15	16-25
East Dunbartonshire	108,980	5,060	14,160	10,069
East Dunbartonshire (%)		4.6%	13.0%	9.2%
Scotland (%)		4.5%	11.8%	11.9%

Source: NRS Mid-Year Population Estimates

2.2 Male and Female Population

There are more males than females aged 25 or under in East Dunbartonshire, 51.8% males compared to 48.2% females. This is around 1% more males than Scotland as a whole and 1% less females.

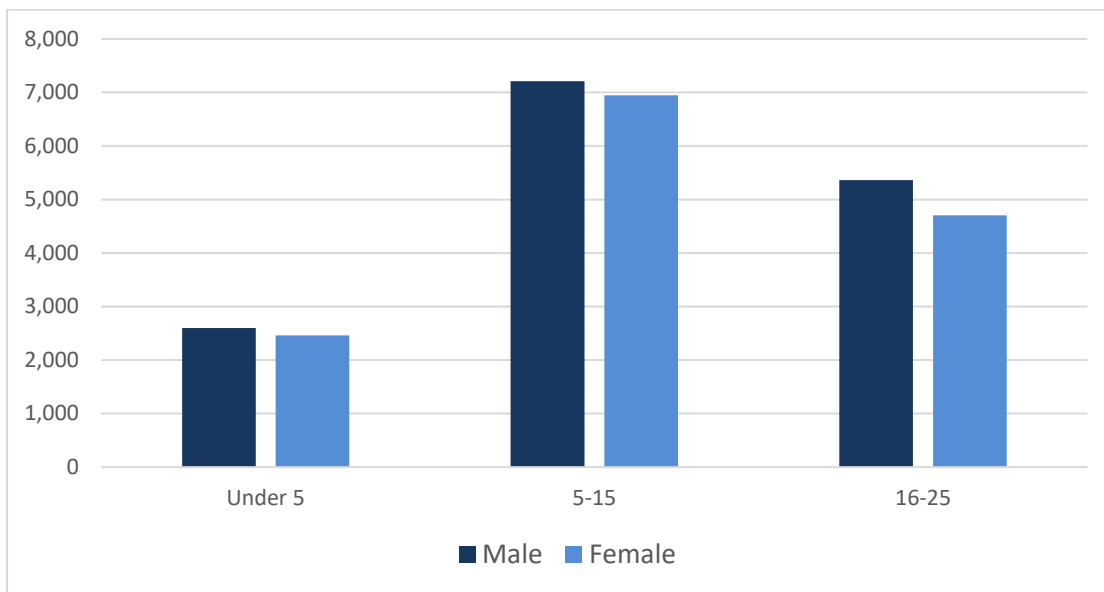
Table 2: 25 and Under Male and Female Split

	25 & Under Population	Males (%)	Females (%)
East Dunbartonshire	29,289	51.8%	48.2%
Scotland	1,540,680	50.8%	49.2%

Source: NRS Mid-Year Population Estimates

There are more males than females in all three age groups than females in East Dunbartonshire, however this difference is greatest in the 16-25 age group as shown in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: East Dunbartonshire '25 & Under' Male and Female Population



Source: NRS Mid-Year Population Estimates

2.3 Deprivation

East Dunbartonshire has a large majority of its population living in the least deprived data zones. The map below shows the data zones of East Dunbartonshire coloured by their corresponding SIMD 2020 decile. The darkest red colour indicates the most deprived decile while the darkest green colour indicates the least deprived decile.

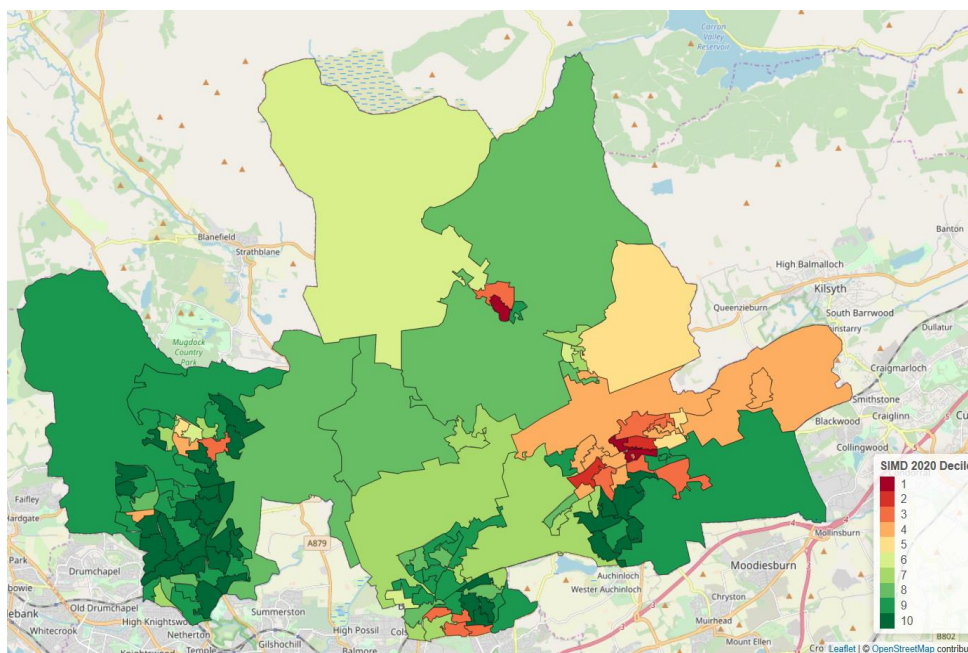


Table 2 below gives a breakdown of the Under 16 Population by SIMD Decile. Around 74% of under 16's live in the four least deprived deciles while around 21% live in the four most deprived deciles.

Table 3: Under 16 Population by SIMD Decile (2021)

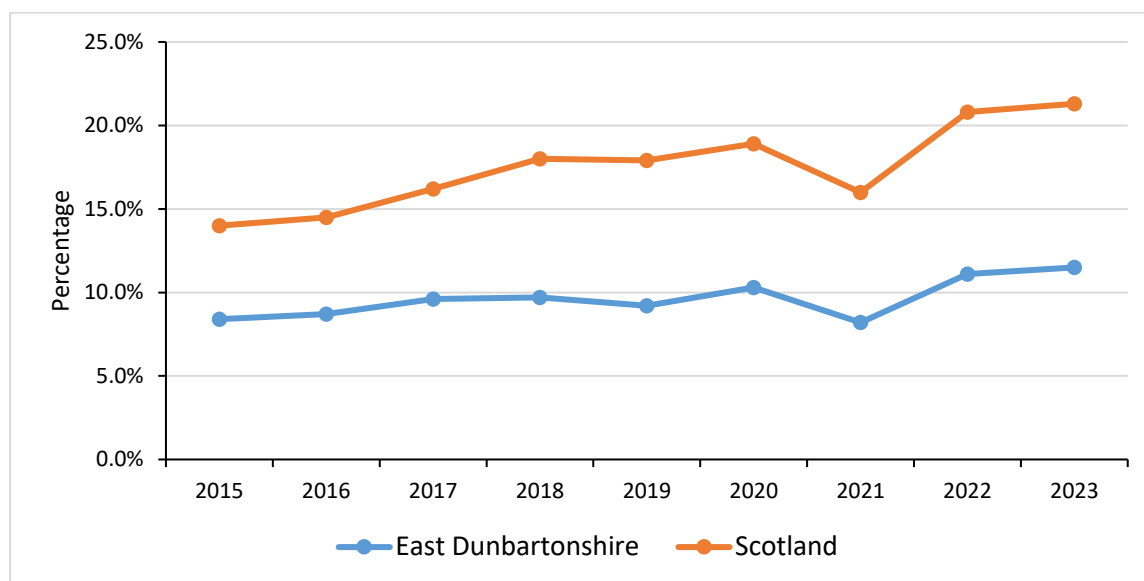
SIMD 2020 decile	Under 16 Population	%
1 (Most deprived)	567	2.9%
2	282	1.4%
3	1,571	8.0%
4	1,720	8.8%
5	528	2.7%
6	485	2.5%
7	1,813	9.3%
8	2,025	10.4%
9	5,072	26.0%
10 (Least Deprived)	5,465	28.0%

Source: NRS Population Estimates by SIMD Deciles

2.4 Children in Low Income Families

The percentage of children (Aged 0-15) in relative low income families has been increased from 8.4% in 2015 to 11.5% in 2023. Relative low income is defined as a family in low income Before Housing Costs in the reference year. A family must have claimed Child Benefit and at least one other household benefit (Universal Credit, tax credits, or Housing Benefit) at any point in the year to be classed as low income in these statistics. The percentage in East Dunbartonshire has been consistently lower than the overall percentage for Scotland despite these increases.

Figure 2: Percentage of Children in Relative Low Income Families

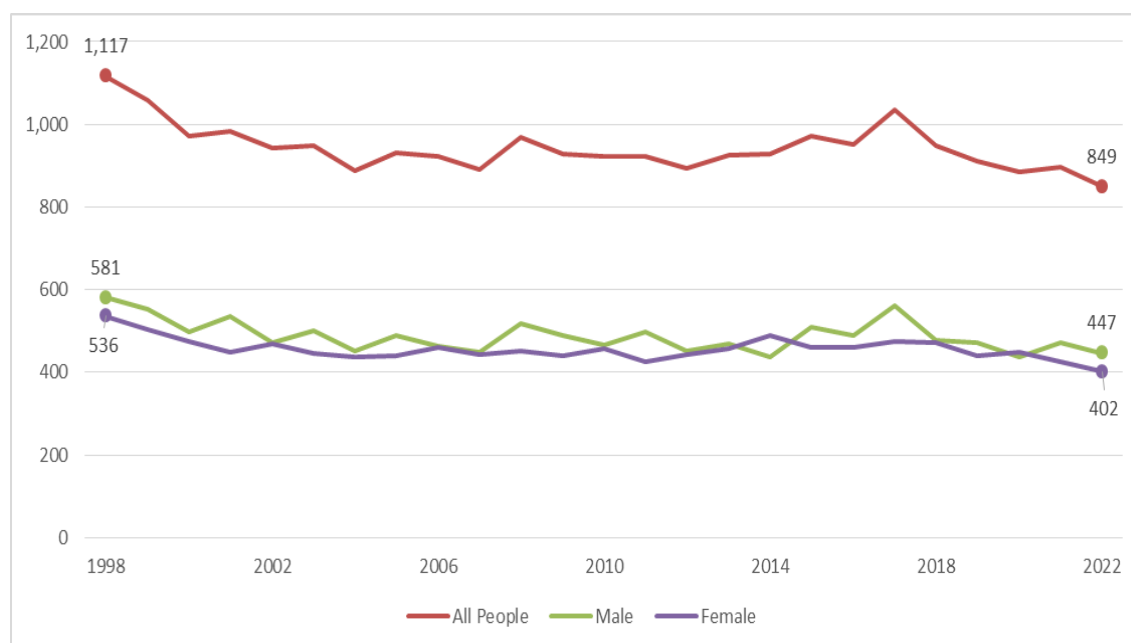


Source: Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

2.4 Births

In 2022, there were 849 births in East Dunbartonshire. This is a decrease of 5.5% from 898 births in 2021. Of these 849 births, 447 were male and 402 were female. Overall, the number of births in East Dunbartonshire is decreasing as showing in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Births by Sex 1998 to 2022

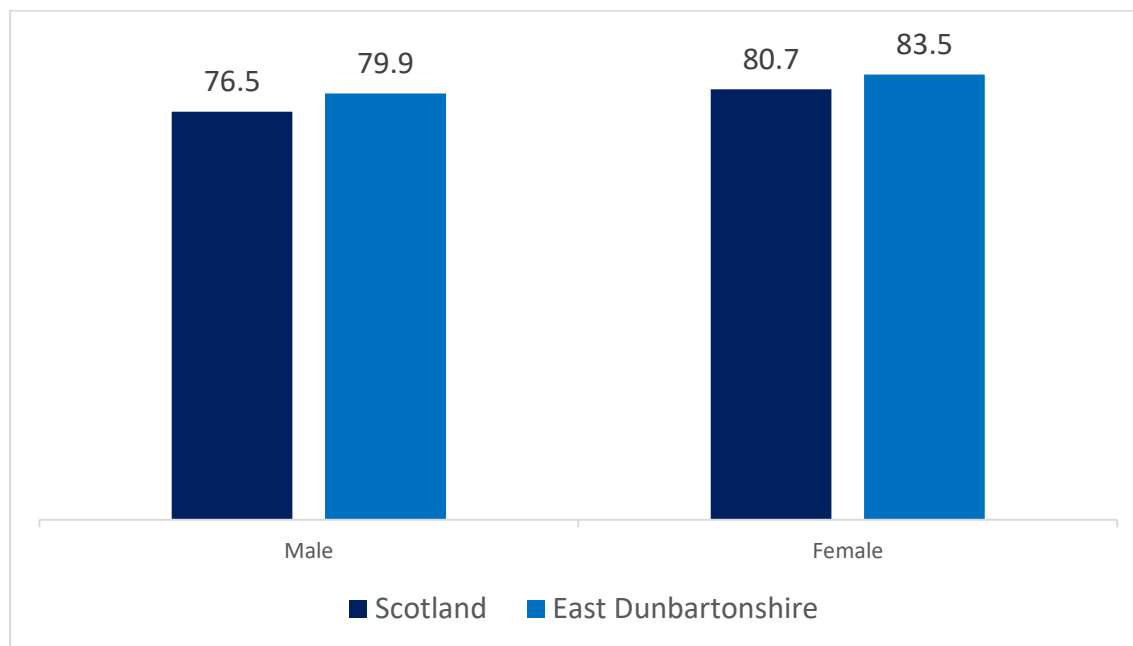


Source: NRS

2.5 Life Expectancy

For the 3 year average (2020-22) life expectancy, East Dunbartonshire has the highest life expectancy at birth in Scotland for males, and the third highest for females. The life expectancy at birth in East Dunbartonshire is around 3.6 years higher for females than it is for males, however there has been a slight fall in the life expectancy for both males and females in the last few years.

Figure 4: Life Expectancy at Birth



Source: NRS

2.6 Summary

A large number of East Dunbartonshire's young people live in the least deprived areas, however just over 1 in 5 live in the 40% most deprived areas. Births in East Dunbartonshire are falling, and life expectancy is stalling, however life expectancy is higher in East Dunbartonshire compared to Scotland.

3. Education

East Dunbartonshire is one of the best performing local authorities in the country in terms of schools and education. Of the eight high schools in East Dunbartonshire, six feature in the top 20 of the Scottish school league tables 2024 (The Times Scotland) which ranks schools based on the percentage of pupils gaining five or more Highers. Ranked 2nd in Scotland, Bearsden Academy was the best performing school in East Dunbartonshire in the 2024 rankings.

3.1 Attainment

The tables below show examination results for East Dunbartonshire pupils in 2022 and 2023. By the end of S4, 77% achieved 5+ grades at SCQF level 5 (National 5 level). Attainment by the end of S5 saw 82% achieve one or more Highers/equivalent, 70% achieved 3+ Highers, and 51% achieved 5+ Highers. By the end of S6, 75% achieved at least 3 Highers/Equivalent, and 44% achieved at least one Advanced Higher or equivalent qualification. Attainment levels dropped slightly between 2022 and 2023, however this was also reflected when looking at Scotland as a whole.

Table 4: Attainment by end of S4

	2022 Diet	2023 Diet
5+ SCQF Level 5 (National 5 and equivalent qualifications)	77.05%	76.96%

Source: East Dunbartonshire Council; Public Performance Report

Table 5: Attainment by end of S5

	2022 Diet	2023 Diet
1+ SCQF Level 6 (Higher and equivalent qualifications)	84.42%	82.17%
3+ SCQF Level 6 (Higher and equivalent qualifications)	70.98%	69.84%
5+ SCQF Level 6 (Higher and equivalent qualifications)	49.29%	50.88%

Source: East Dunbartonshire Council; Public Performance Report

Table 6: Attainment by end of S6

	2022 Diet	2023 Diet
1+ SCQF Level 7 (Advanced Higher and equivalent qualifications)	45.31%	43.53%
3+ SCQF Level 6 (Higher and equivalent qualifications)	78.74%	74.70%

Source: East Dunbartonshire Council; Public Performance Report

3.2 Attendance Rates

Over the last few years, rates of attendance in East Dunbartonshire schools have been slowly decreasing for both primary and secondary schools. Despite this, attendance rates are still higher than for Scotland. In 2022-23, the attendance rate for Primary Schools in East Dunbartonshire was 94.5% (Scotland 92.2%) and 90.6% for Secondary Schools (Scotland 87.7%).

Table 7: Attendance rate for East Dunbartonshire Schools

	2018-19	2020-21	2022-23
Primary Schools	96.2%	96.1%	94.5%
Secondary Schools	93.3%	91.9%	90.6%

Source: Scottish Government; School attendance and absence statistics

3.3 Curriculum for Excellence

The percentage of pupils meeting the required curriculum for excellence level in P7 is higher than for Scotland as a whole in all four areas (as seen in Table 8 below). More information about the Curriculum for Excellence can be found [here](#).

Table 8: Percentage of P7 pupils Meeting Curriculum for Excellence Level

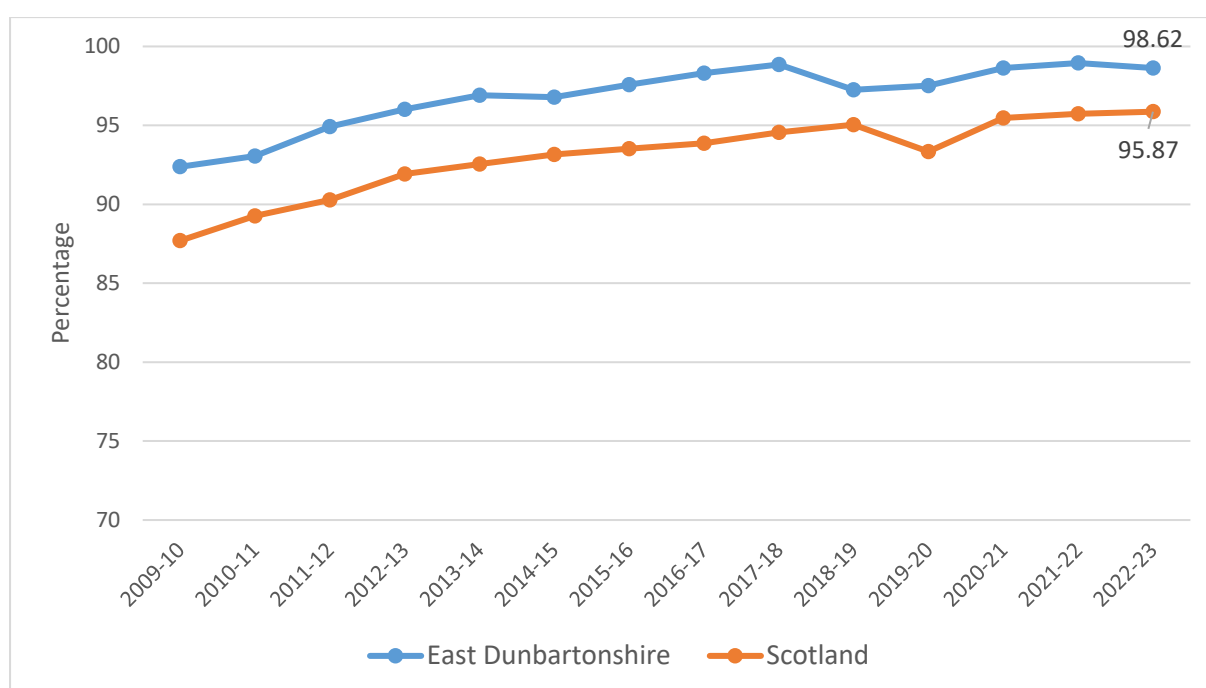
	Reading	Writing	Numeracy	Listening & Talking
East Dunbartonshire	89%	85%	86%	94%
Scotland	81%	75%	78%	87%

Source: Education Scotland; Primary School Information Dashboard

3.4 School Leavers in Positive Destinations

98.62% of School leavers in East Dunbartonshire went onto a positive destination in 2022/23, higher than the figure for Scotland which was 95.87%. Out of all school leavers, the Scottish Government publication found that 65% of all school leavers in East Dunbartonshire went on to higher education in 2022/23, compared to the Scotland figure of 40%. According to the Scottish Government, positive destinations can include higher education, further education, training, voluntary work, employment, and activity agreements.

Figure 5: Percentage of School Leavers in Positive Destination approximately three months after end of school term



Source: Scottish Government; Summary statistics for attainment and initial leaver destinations

3.5 Summary

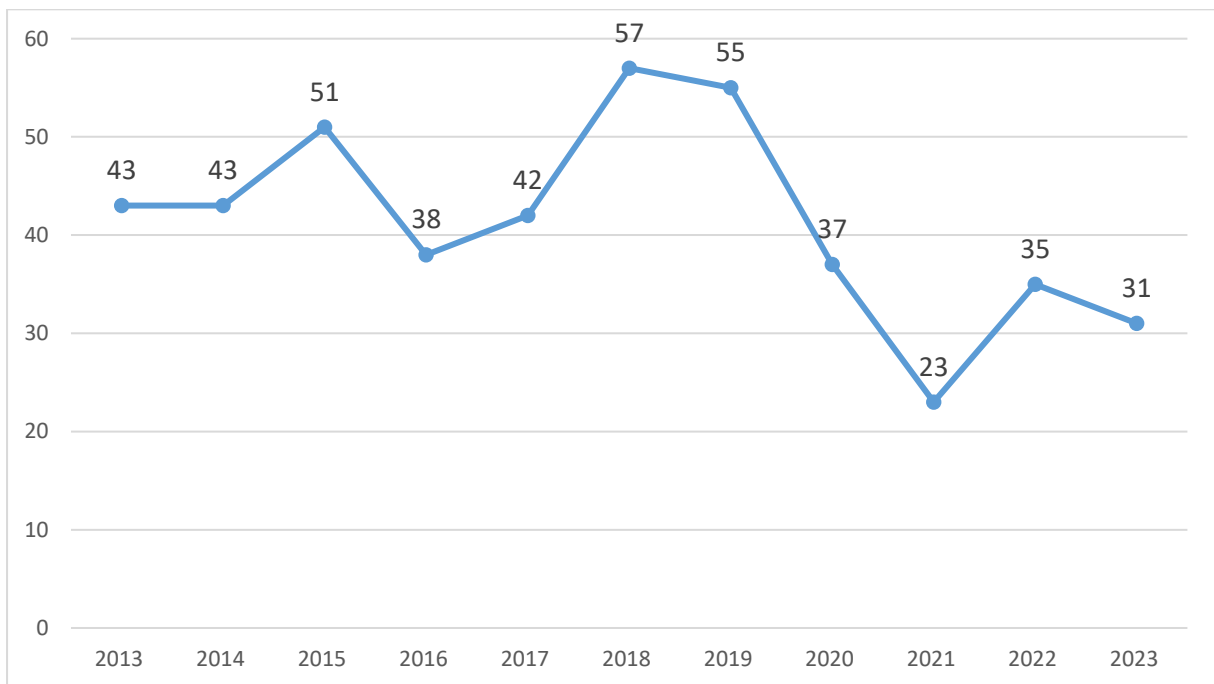
Overall, attainment rates in East Dunbartonshire are high, with attendance rates also being high compared to Scotland. The vast majority of school leavers go onto a positive destination, with a higher percentage going onto higher education compared to the rest of Scotland.

4. Child Protection

4.1 Child Protection Register

Following a peak of 57 children on the Child Protection Register in 2018 in East Dunbartonshire, there had been a substantial drop to 23 in 2021, by 2023 there has been an increase to 31 children, though still well below the 2018 peak. Over the 10 years between 2014 and 2023, the average number of children in East Dunbartonshire on the Child Protection register was 41. The last time there was more than 41 children on the Child Protection register was 2019, so overall there has been a decrease in the last few years.

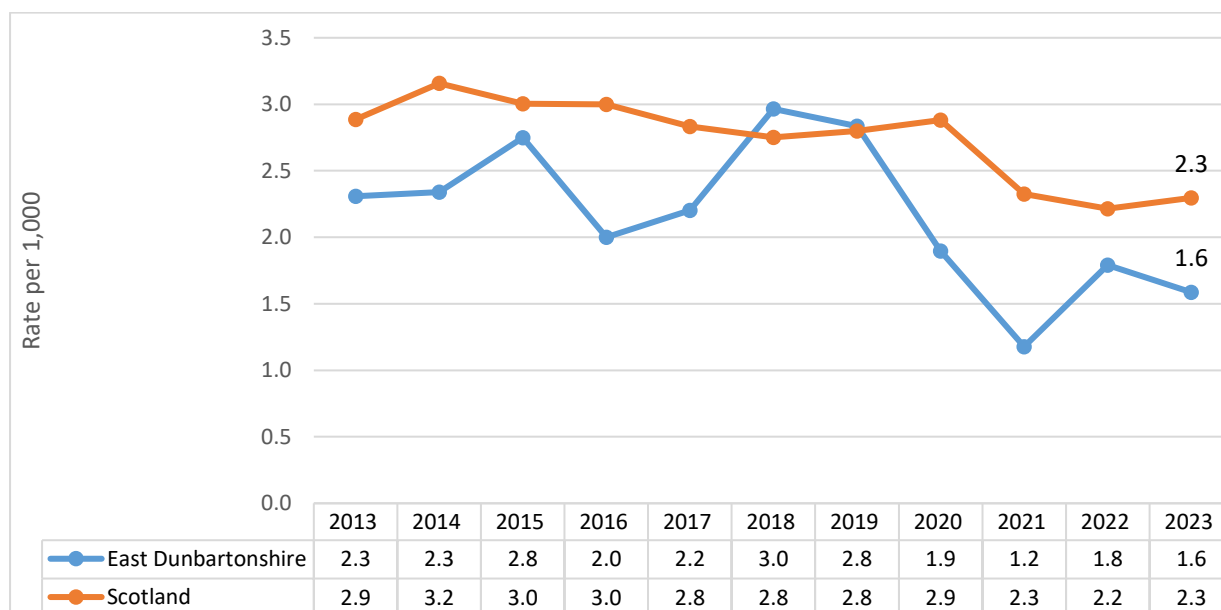
Figure 6: Number of Children in East Dunbartonshire on the Child Protection Register



Source: Scottish Government Social Work Statistics

The rate per 1,000 of children on the Child Protection register in East Dunbartonshire in 2023 was 1.6 per 1,000, which is lower than for Scotland (2.3 per 1,000). There was a period between 2018 and 2019 where the rate was higher for East Dunbartonshire than for Scotland, however that is no longer the case.

Figure 7: Rate per 1,000 of children on the Child Protection register

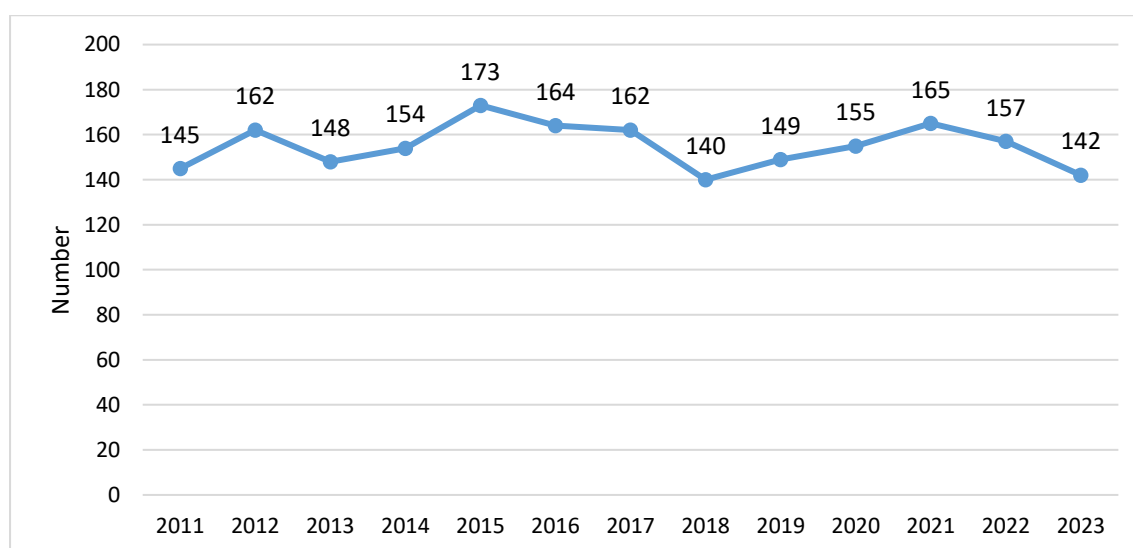


Source: Scottish Government Social Work Statistics

4.2 Looked after and Accommodated Children

The number of children looked after in East Dunbartonshire has generally varied over the last 13 years with an average of 155 children. In 2023, there were 142 looked after children in East Dunbartonshire. This was the lowest figure since 2018, and the second lowest figure since 2011.

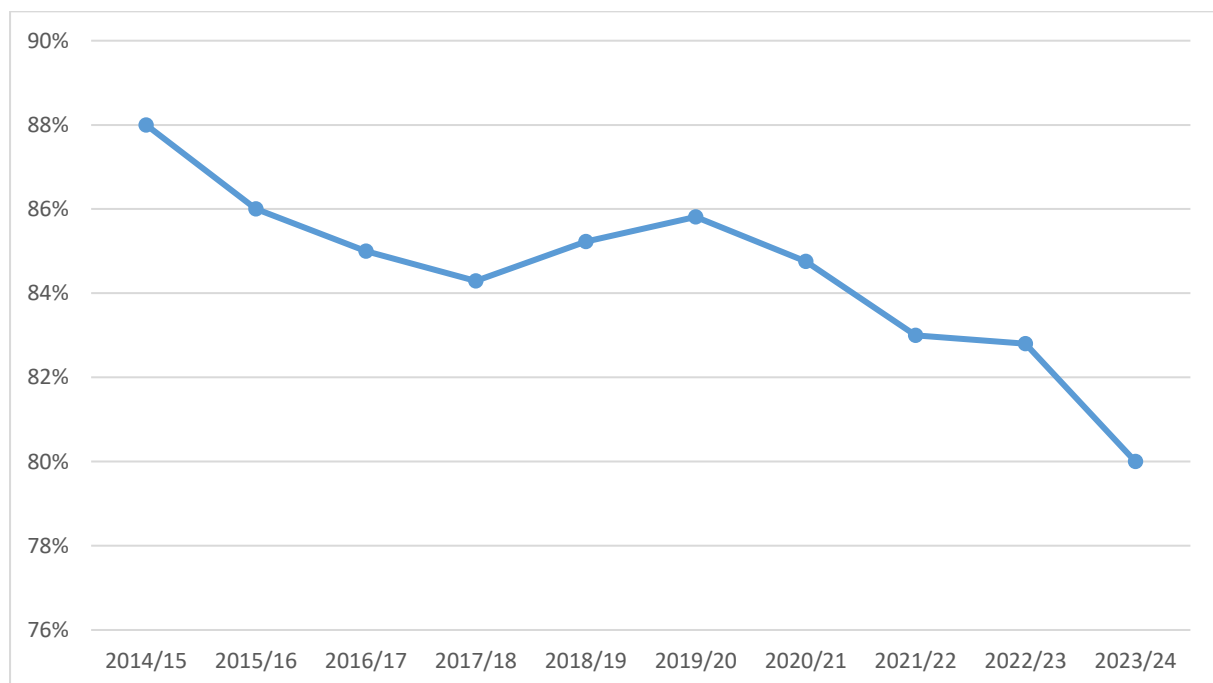
Figure 8: Number of Looked After Children in East Dunbartonshire



Source: Scottish Government Social Work Statistics

In the last few years the percentage of children being looked after in the community has been decreasing in East Dunbartonshire. In 2014/15, 88% of children in East Dunbartonshire were looked after in the community, but by 2023/24 this has dropped to 80%, which is below the current target of 88% of looked after children being looked after in the community in East Dunbartonshire.

Figure 9: Percentage of Looked after Children being Looked After in the Community



Source: Pentana

4.3 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)

In the last few years, the number of UASC in East Dunbartonshire has increased. Table 9 below shows that prior to 2022/23 the numbers of UASC were always below 10, however this has increased to 27 by 28th May 2024.

Table 9: Number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (East Dunbartonshire)

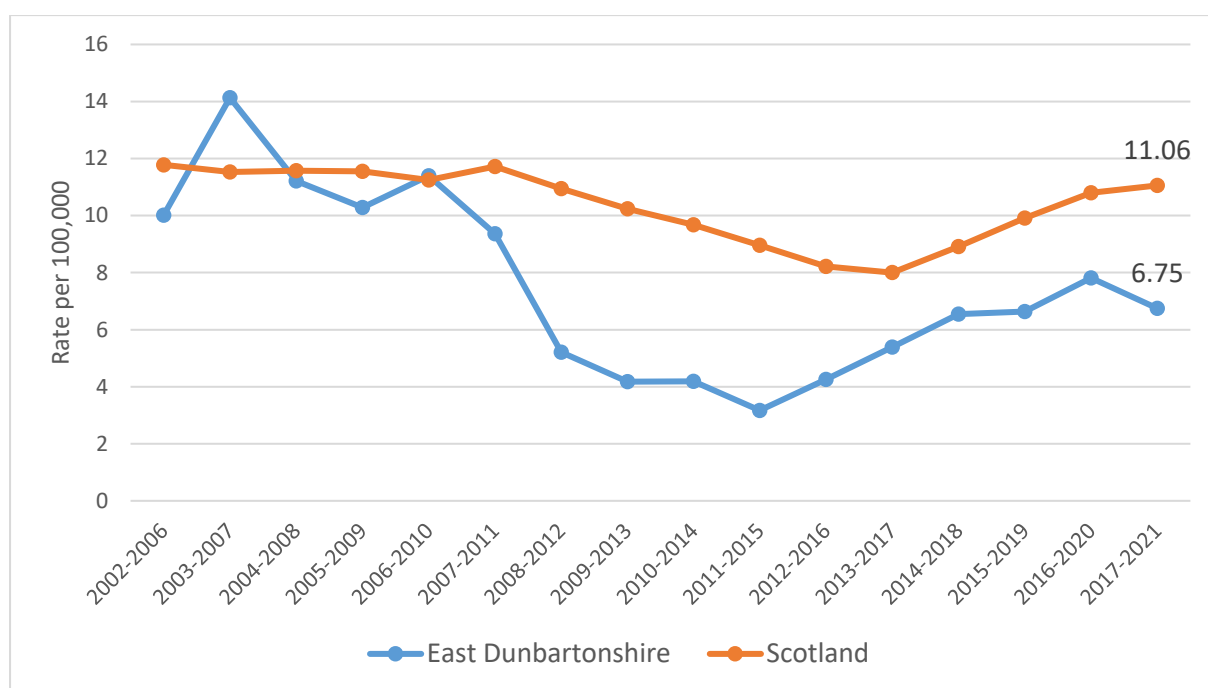
2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 (up to 28/05/24)
<10	<10	<10	<10	11	24	27

Source: East Dunbartonshire Council; Corporate Performance and Research Team

4.4 Deaths from Suicide

Figure 10 below shows the five year average rate of deaths from suicide in young people. In 2017-2021, there was a slight decrease in the rate from 2016-2020 to 6.75 per 100,000. Despite this, rates have been slowly increasing over the last few years since 2011-2015, where the rate was 3.17 per 100,000. The Scotland rate has been slowly increasing since 2013-2017, and the rate was 11.06 per 100,000 in 2017-2021, which is higher than the East Dunbartonshire rate.

Figure 10: Deaths from Suicide for ages 11-25 crude rate per 100,000 (5 year average)

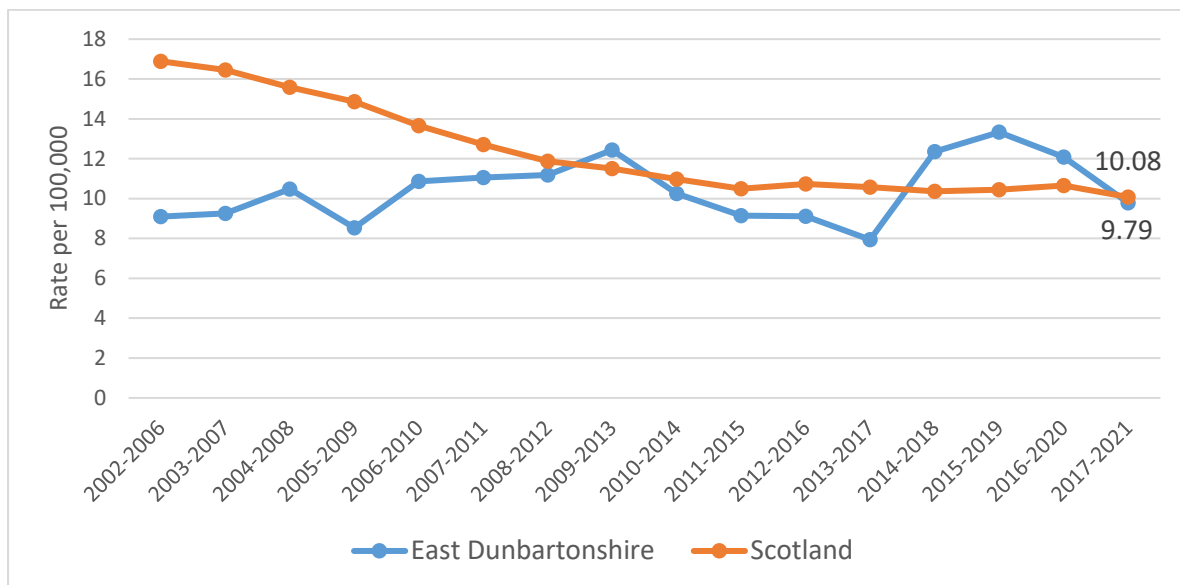


Source: Scotpho

4.5 Deaths in Children

The five year average rate of deaths in children in East Dunbartonshire dipped below the Scotland rate in 2017-2021. The rate in East Dunbartonshire has been decreasing since a high of 13.33 per 100,000 in 2013-2017 and has dropped to 10.08 per 100,000 by 2017-2021.

Figure 11: Deaths in Children aged 1-15 crude rate per 100,000 (5-year average)

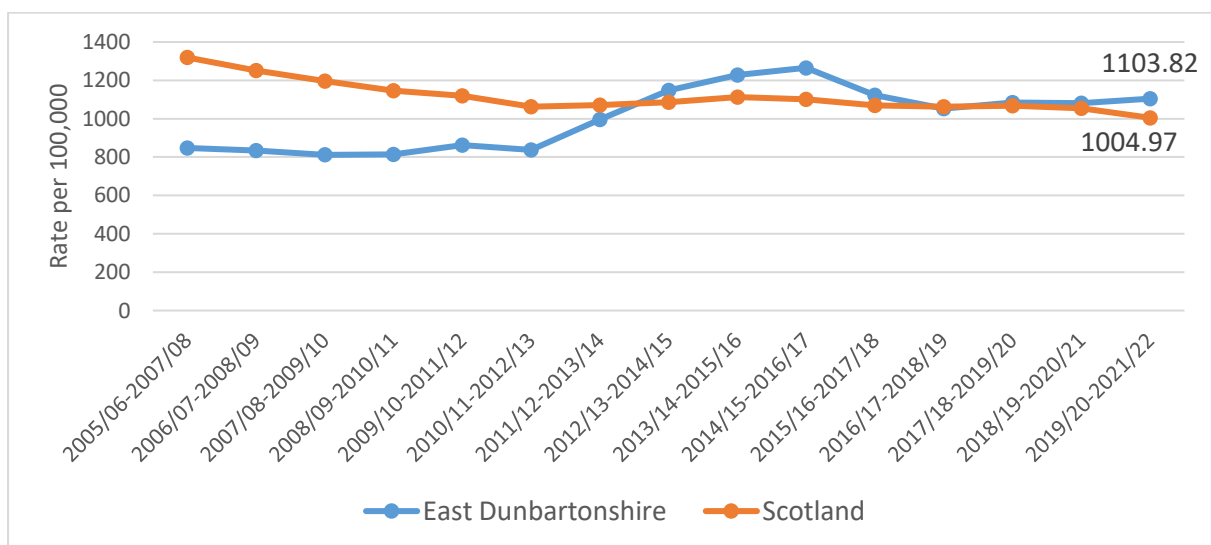


Source: Scotpho

4.6 Unintentional Injuries in Under 5s

The 3-year average rate per 100,000 of unintentional injuries in under 5's was 1103.82 in 2019/20-2021/2 which was higher than the Scottish average of 1004.97 per 100,000. Despite rates in Scotland slowly dropping since 2005/06-2007/08, overall rates in East Dunbartonshire have been increasing.

Figure 12: Unintentional Injuries in under 5's rate per 100,000 (3-year average)



Source: Scotpho

4.7 Summary

Overall, the number of looked after children is at the lowest level since 2018, and child protection numbers are at a low level. The number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children is starting to increase. Deaths from suicide are lower compared to Scotland, and the rate of deaths for ages 1-15 in East Dunbartonshire is back below the Scotland rate.

5. Health and Wellbeing

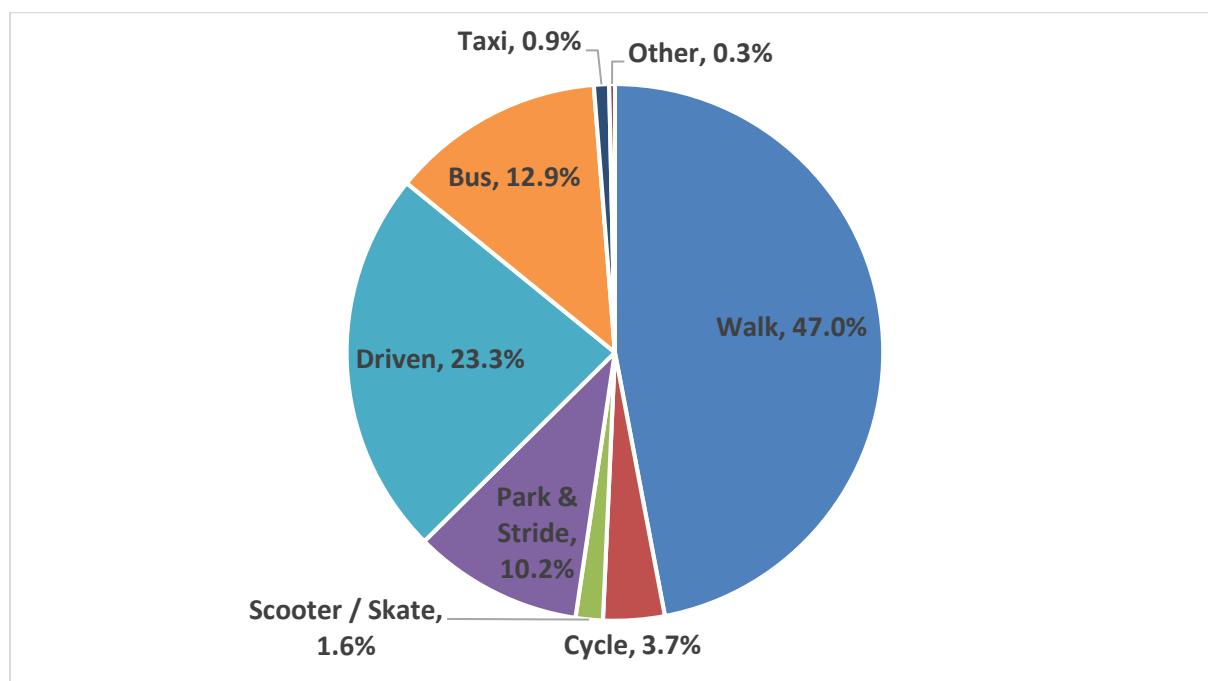
5.1 Physical Activity

Education Scotland’s School Information Dashboards state that 100% of Primary schools and 100% of Secondary schools in East Dunbartonshire are meeting the PE target to provide 120 minutes of PE each week to pupils. This is higher than for Scotland with 99.5% of primary schools and 95.5% of secondary schools meeting the target.

5.2 Travel to School

In 2023, 52.3% of East Dunbartonshire pupils used Active Travel to get to school (Walked, Cycled or Scooter/Skate), an increase from 50.1% in 2022, and 49.6% in 2021. A further 10.2% answered that their form of travel to school was “Park & Stride”. 23.3% of pupils were driven to school which is slightly higher than the Scottish State school figure of 22.2%.

Figure 13: Means of Travel to School (2023)



Source: Hands up Scotland Survey 2023, sustrans

5.3 Smoking

The dangers of smoking and the negative impact it has on a user's health are well documented. Smoking is a major public health issue in Scotland and a leading cause of preventable ill health, premature death and disability. The majority of smokers start smoking when they're teenagers and thus it's important to discourage school pupils from smoking and make them aware of the harmful effects it causes.

There is a lack of up to date data at an East Dunbartonshire level, however a World Health Organisation (WHO) report stated that 21% of males and 19% of females aged 15 in Scotland had said that they had ever smoked.¹ This was lower than the average for the other countries included in the report.

5.4 E-Cigarettes

There is currently a shortage of statistics around the use of E-cigarettes (or vapes). We know however, that the use of vapes has increased greatly in the last few years. Therefore, this is a topic of significant interest, and the UK government has moved to ban disposable vapes due to their popularity amongst children in particular.

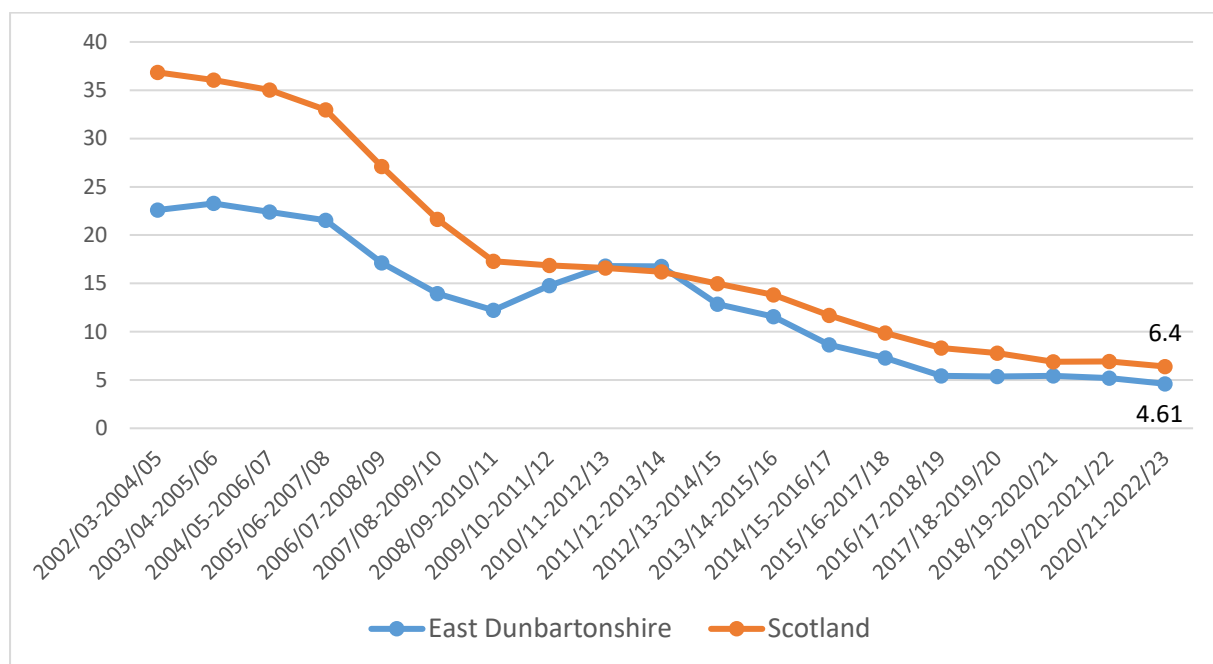
The Scottish Health Survey found that in 2022, 15% of 16-24 year olds were currently using, and 27% had used e-cigarettes/vapes in the past. This was an increase on the 2019 Scottish Health Survey where the figures were 5% currently using, and 17% had used them in the past.

5.5 Exposure to Environmental Tobacco

Passive smoking is particularly harmful for children and those who live in a household where someone smokes are more likely to develop health conditions such as asthma and meningitis. Exposure to second hand smoke at 6-8 weeks in East Dunbartonshire was 4.61% in 2020/21-2022/23, which is lower than for Scotland (6.4%). Over time the percentage of children being exposed to second hand smoke has been decreasing.

¹ Charrier, Lorena, van Dorsselaer, Saskia, Canale, Natale, Baska, Tibor, Kilibarda, Biljana. et al. (2024). A focus on adolescent substance use in Europe, central Asia and Canada. Health Behaviour in School-aged Children international report from the 2021/2022 survey. Volume 3. World Health Organization. Regional Office for Europe. <https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/376573>. License: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO

Figure 14: Exposure to second hand smoke at 6-8 weeks (3 year average)



Source: Scotpho

5.6 Alcohol

Underage drinking can have both short term and long term impact on a person’s physical and mental well-being. Young people’s bodies and brains are more susceptible to the effects of alcohol because they’re still growing and developing. Research has shown that the earlier a young person starts drinking alcohol the more likely they are to drink in harmful ways in the future. More information can be found [here](#).

There is a lack of up to date data at an East Dunbartonshire level, however the WHO report found that 73% of males and 64% of females had drunk alcohol by the age of 15 in Scotland. These percentages were slightly lower than for England and Wales.

5.7 Drugs

Although there is a lack of up to date data for East Dunbartonshire, the WHO report found that 23% of 15-year old boys in Scotland and 16% of 15 year old girls had said that they had used cannabis at some point in their life. The figure

for 15 year old boys was the highest of any country included in the report which included 44 countries from throughout the world.

5.8 Immunisation Uptake at 24 Months

Immunisation uptake for both measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) and the 6 in 1 vaccine are higher in East Dunbartonshire than for Scotland as a whole. East Dunbartonshire has a slightly higher uptake of 98.7% for the 6 in 1 vaccine than the 97.2% for the MMR vaccine. This compares to the Scotland percentages of 97% for the 6 in 1, and 94.3% for the MMR vaccine.

Table 10: Immunisation Uptake for MMR and 6 in 1 (3 year average 2020-2022)

	6 in 1	MMR
East Dunbartonshire	98.72%	97.24%
Scotland	96.98%	94.39%

Source: Scotpho

HPV Vaccine

The uptake rate of the HPV vaccine of S3 pupils in East Dunbartonshire was 93.7% in 2022/23, higher than the Scotland uptake of 85.2%. Uptake was slightly higher for females (94.5%) compared to males (93%) in East Dunbartonshire in 2022/23.

Table 11: Uptake of the HPV vaccine in S3 pupils (2022/23)

	HPV
East Dunbartonshire	93.7%
Scotland	85.2%

Source: PHS, HPV immunisation statistics publication

5.9 Oral Health

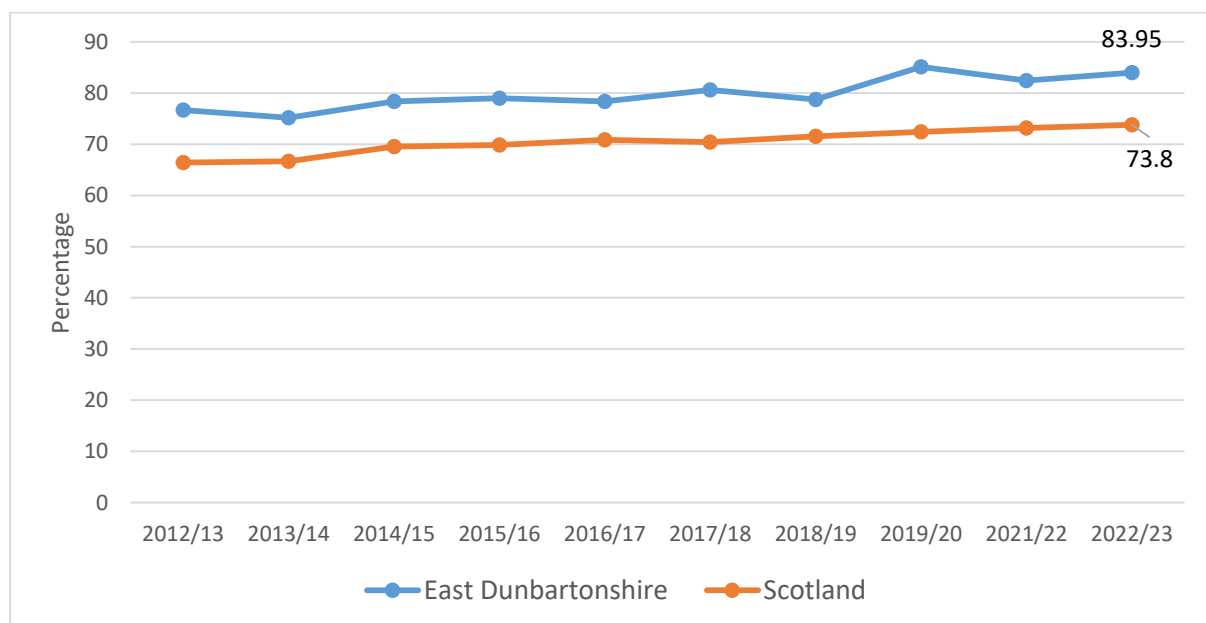
The information below comes from the [National Dental Inspection Programme \(NDIP\)](#) which inspects children's teeth in primary one (P1) and in primary seven (P7). The inspection programme has two levels: A Basic Inspection (intended for all children) and a Detailed Inspection (for a representative sample of P1 or P7 in alternate years). Parents/Carers receive a letter after the inspection on the outcome as below

Categories of NDIP letters and action required are as follows. Letter A: should arrange to see the dentist as soon as possible, if the child has not had a recent appointment, on account of severe decay or abscess Letter B: should arrange to see the dentist in the near future, if the child has not had a recent appointment, on account of evidence of current or previous decay Letter C: no obvious decay experience but should continue to see the family dentist on a regular basis.

Please note that due to Covid-19, no inspections took place in 2020/21 and only basic primary 1 inspections took place in 2021/22.

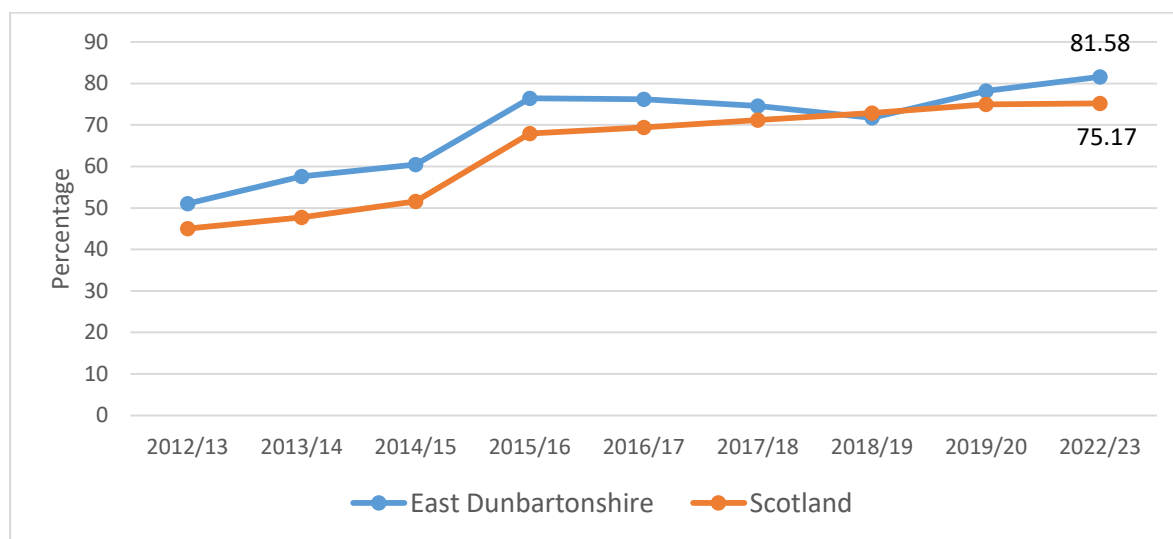
In 2022/23 83.95% of Primary 1 pupils in East Dunbartonshire had received a letter C, a slight increase on 2021/22 (82.4%), and higher than for Scotland as a whole (73.8%). For Primary 7 pupils, 81.58% of East Dunbartonshire pupils received a letter C in 2022/23, an increase from 2019/20 and also higher than for Scotland (75.17%).

Figure 15: Percentage of Primary 1 pupils receiving a Letter C



Source: Scotpho

Figure 16: Percentage of Primary 7 pupils receiving a letter C

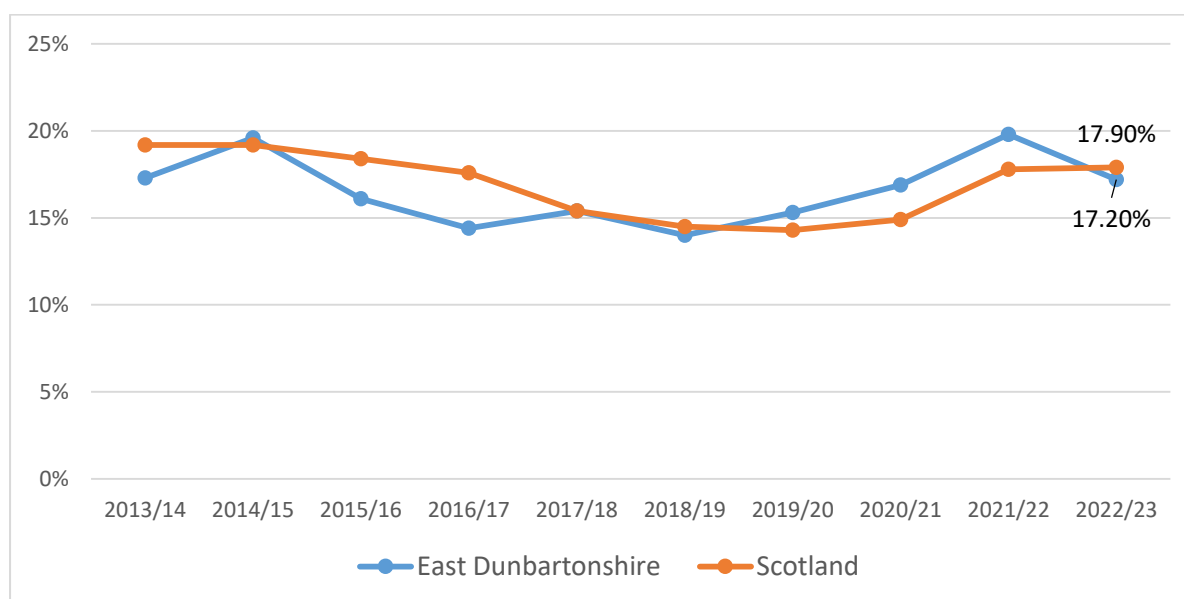


Source: Scotpho

5.10 Developmental Concerns at 27-30 Months

Between 2018/19 and 2021/2022 there were increases in the percentage of children with a concern about any developmental domain at the 27-30 month review, and the increases meant that this was higher than the Scotland percentage. There was a drop in 2022/24 to 17.3% with a developmental domain concern, which was now below the Scottish percentage of 17.9%.

Figure 17: Percentage with a concern about any developmental domain at 27-30 month review



Source: PHS - Early child development Publication

5.11 Summary

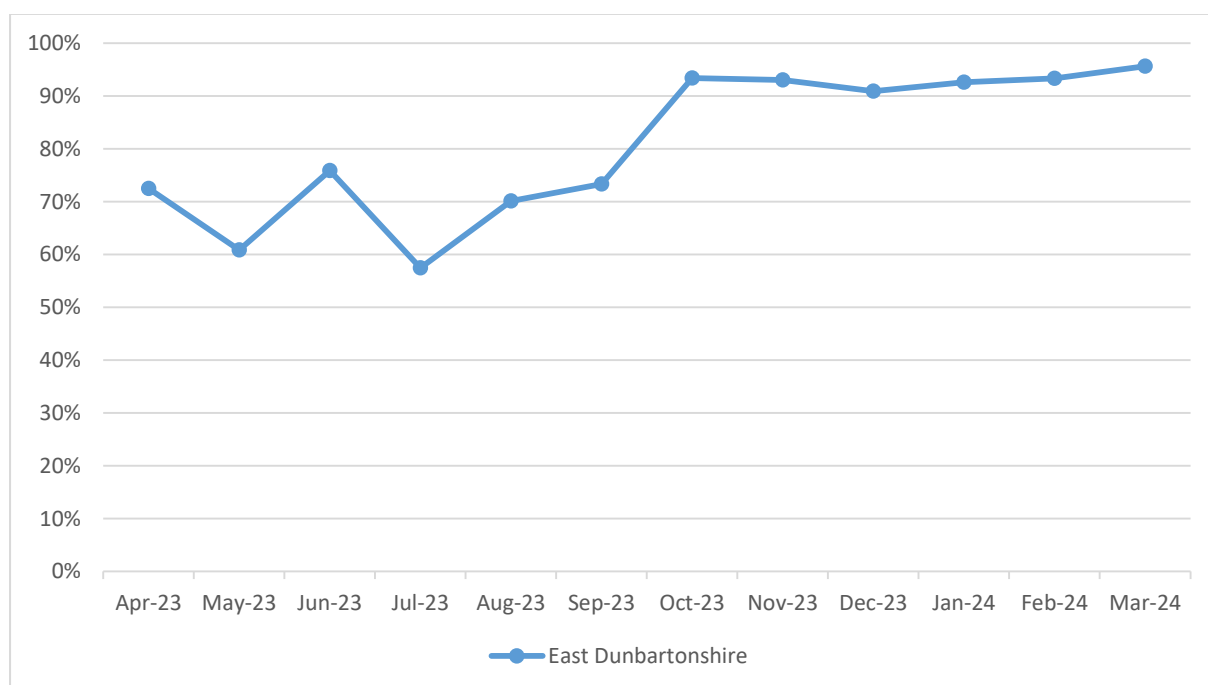
The number of young people being exposed to second hand smoke is reducing, and is below the figure for Scotland, however we are aware of the increasing popularity of E-cigarettes in younger people so this needs to be monitored. Uptake of MMR, 6 in 1 and HPV vaccines is higher in East Dunbartonshire compared to Scotland. The percentage of children with a developmental concern in East Dunbartonshire dropped below the Scotland level in 2022/23 following a period of being above the Scotland level.

6. Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

6.1 Waiting Times

Over the last year, the percentage of children in East Dunbartonshire being seen within 18 weeks from referral has increased. In April 2023, 72.5% were seen within 18 weeks and this increased to 95.7% by March 2024. The target is 90% of children seen within 18 weeks, so East Dunbartonshire is currently meeting this target.

Figure 18: Percentage of Children seen within 18 weeks in East Dunbartonshire



Source: NHS GG&C Specialist Children’s Services

6.2 Appointments

Children under the age of 18 may be offered an appointment by their GP with a CAMHS specialist to treat their mental health.

Table 12: Number of CAMHS Appointments Attended

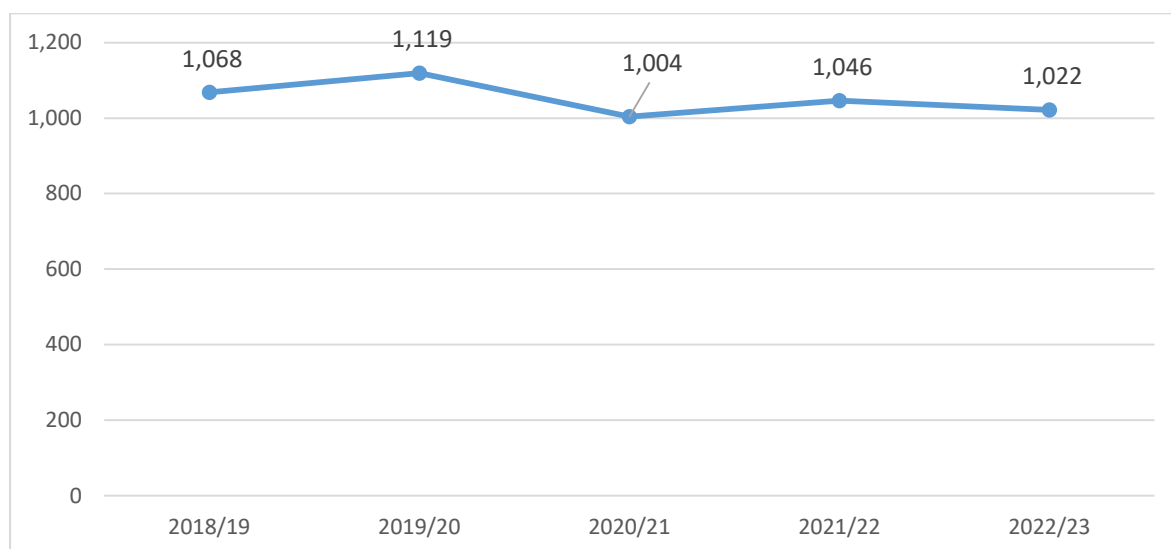
	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Appointments Attended	3680	3128	3365

Source: NHS GG&C Specialist Children’s Services

6.3 Mental Health Prescribing

The number of young people aged 16-24 in East Dunbartonshire prescribed antidepressant drugs has remained relatively steady in the last five years, with a 4% decrease overall between 2018/19 and 2022/23.

Figure 19: Number of 16-24 year olds in East Dunbartonshire Prescribed Antidepressant Drugs



Source: Prescribing Information System, Public Health Scotland (extracted 16/04/2024)

The number of 16–24 year olds prescribed Hypnotics and anxiolytics (groups of medicines used to help relieve anxiety and/or aid sleep) has decreased. There has been large increases in the number of 16-24 prescribed Central Nervous System (CNS) stimulants (medications used to stimulate the brain and speed up mental and physical processes) and drugs used for ADHD, with 121 16-24 years olds prescribed these between April 2023-January 2024, an increase of 157% compared to the full 2018/19 financial year.

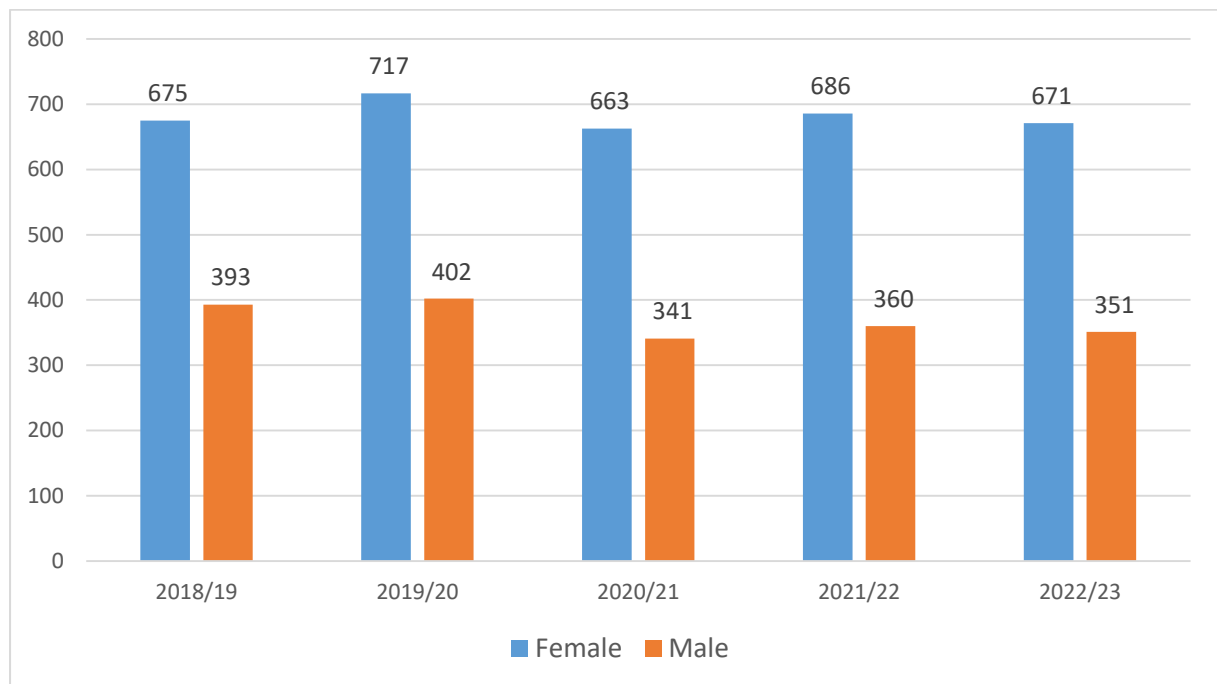
Table 13: Number of 16-24 Year Olds Prescribed Certain Drugs

Drug	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24*
Hypnotics and anxiolytics	337	325	245	249	225	217
Drugs used in psychoses and related disorders	67	60	73	70	69	60
CNS stimulants and drugs used for ADHD	47	47	67	88	115	121

Source: Prescribing Information System, Public Health Scotland (extracted 16/04/2024). * 2023/24 Data Incomplete - up to January 2024 only

Over the five years between 2018/19 and 2022/23, more females have been prescribed antidepressants than males. In 2022/23, 66% of those prescribed antidepressants were female, whilst 34% were male.

Figure 20: 16-24 Year Olds in East Dunbartonshire Prescribed Antidepressants by Gender



Source: Prescribing Information System, Public Health Scotland (extracted 16/04/2024)

6.4 Summary

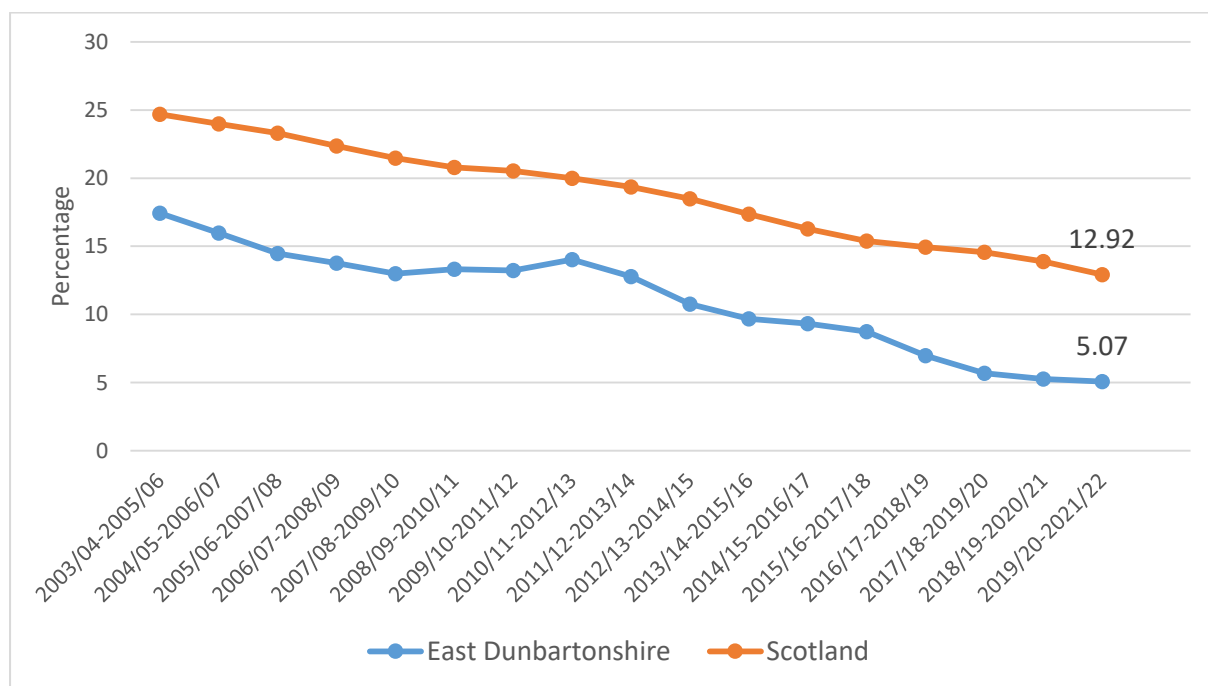
The percentage of children seen within 18 weeks of their referral to CAMHS has risen over the last 12 months in East Dunbartonshire. The number of children being prescribed CNS stimulants and drugs used for ADHD has more than doubled since 2018/19. The number of females being prescribed antidepressants continues to be higher for females compared to males.

7. Pregnancy

7.1 Smoking in Pregnancy

The percentage of women in East Dunbartonshire who were recorded as a smoker at their first antenatal appointment has fallen over time, and was 5.07% in 2019/20-2021/22. This was substantially below the Scottish percentage which was 12.92% in the same time period.

Figure 21: Women Smoking during Pregnancy (3-year average)

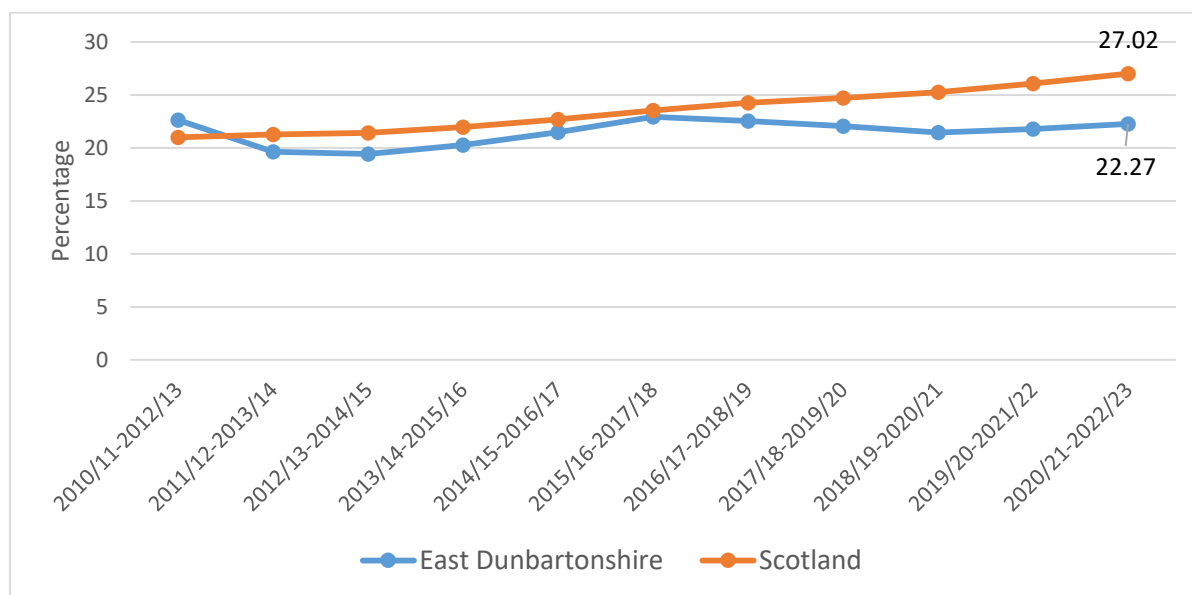


Source: Scotpho

7.2 Maternal Obesity

For the time period 2020/21-2022/23, 22.27% of pregnant women were considered to be obese in East Dunbartonshire, lower than the Scotland figure of 27.02%. Despite being lower than the figure for Scotland, in recent years the percentage of pregnant women considered obese hasn't really changed much in East Dunbartonshire, and has also increased over time for Scotland as a whole.

Figure 22: Maternal Obesity Percentage (3-year average)

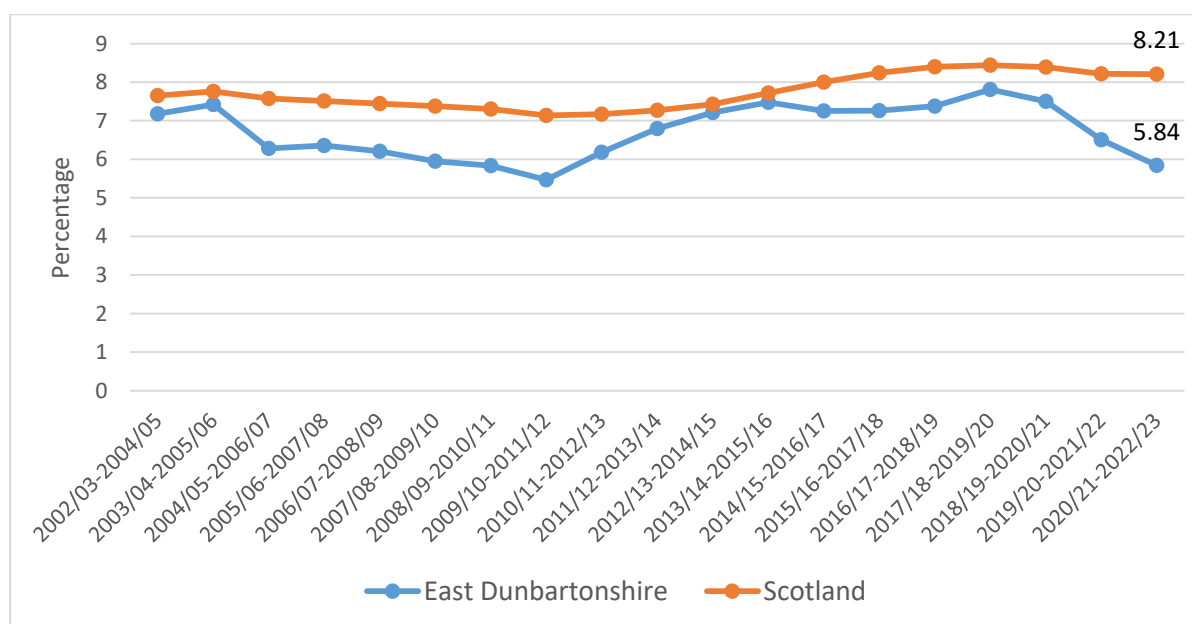


Source: Scotpho

7.3 Premature Births

Over the last few periods, the percentage of premature births in East Dunbartonshire has dropped to 5.84% in 2020/21-2022/23 from 7.81% in 2017/18-2019/20. This was lower than the Scotland figure which sat at 8.21% in 2020/21-2022/23.

Figure 23: Premature Births (3-year average)

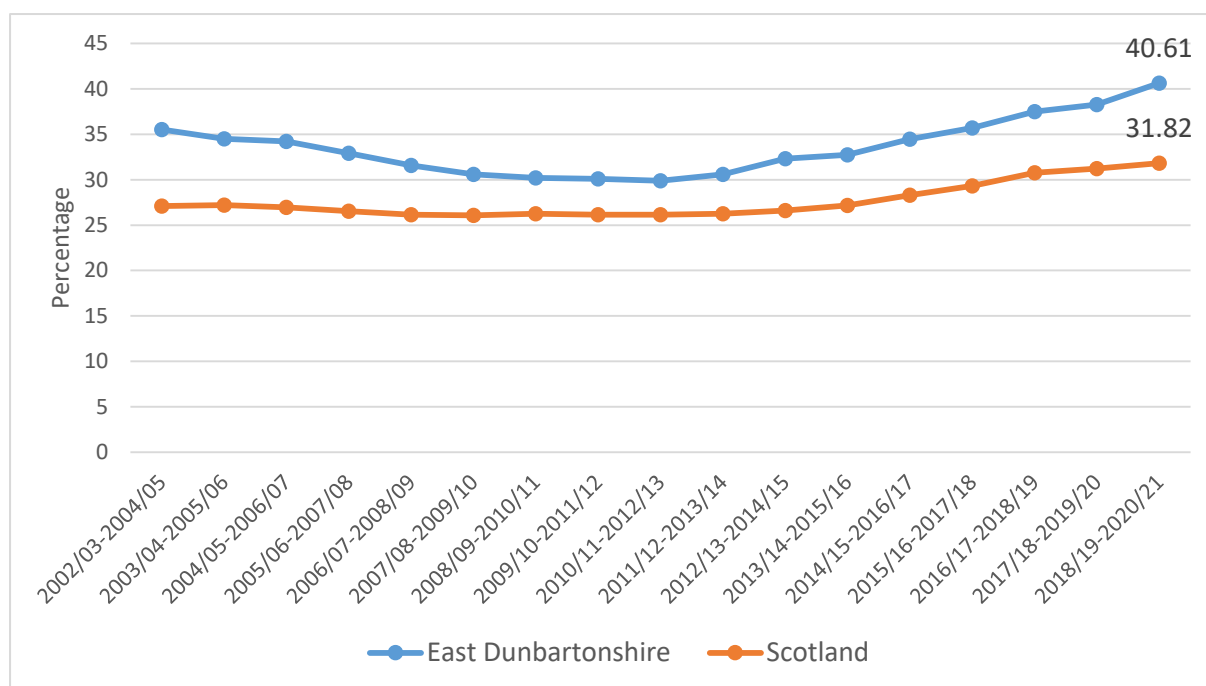


Source: Scotpho

7.4 Breastfeeding

Since 2011/12-2013/14 there has been a continuous rise in the number of babies exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks for both East Dunbartonshire and for Scotland. In 2018/19-2020/21, 40.61% of babies were exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks in East Dunbartonshire, which was higher than the Scottish figure of 31.82%.

Figure 24: Babies Exclusively Breastfed at 6-8 weeks (3-year average)



Source: Scotpho

7.5 Summary

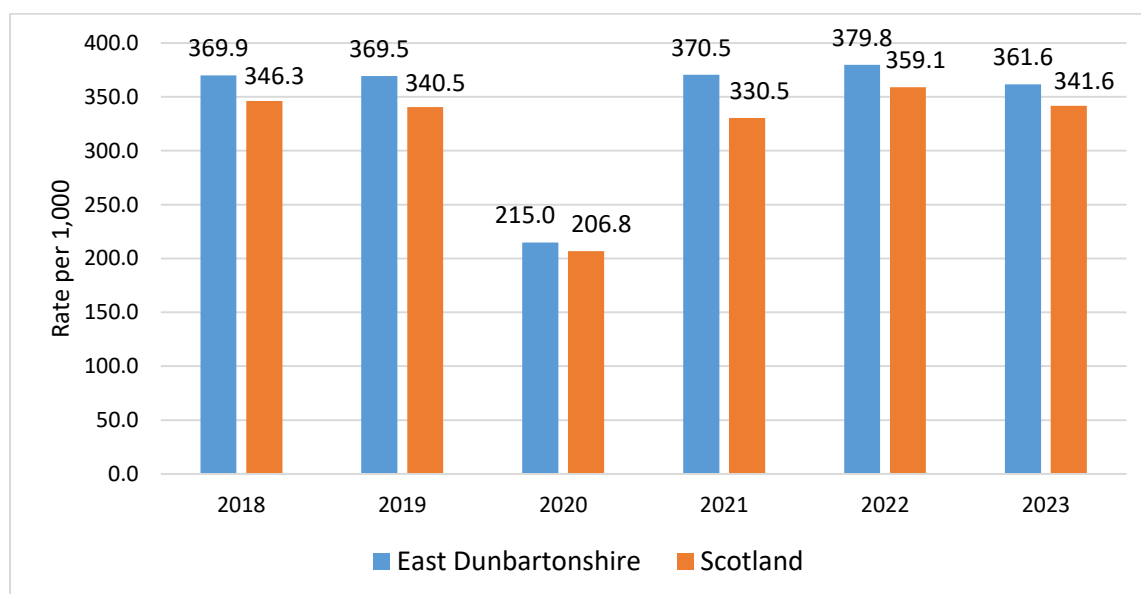
Smoking in pregnancy levels continue to drop and are lower than the percentage for Scotland. Despite being lower than Scotland, maternal obesity rates aren't dropping and are holding at a high level. Babies exclusively breastfed rates are higher than for Scotland, and are increasing in East Dunbartonshire.

8. NHS Service Usage

8.1 A&E Attendances

The rate of under 16 A&E attendance in East Dunbartonshire has been consistently higher than for Scotland over the last six years. There was a large drop in the rate in 2020/21, however this coincided with the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the rates have since increased to pre-pandemic levels. In 2023 East Dunbartonshire had a rate of 361.6 per 1,000 for A&E attendances for under 16s (Scotland, 341.6 per 1,000). In 2022 there were 7300 attendances at A&E in East Dunbartonshire, and 1179 emergency admissions to hospital. The high A&E attendance rate compared to admission rate could indicate that other services in the community would have been suitable for the needs of many of the under 16 attendances.

Figure 25: East Dunbartonshire under 16s A&E Attendances Rate per 1,000



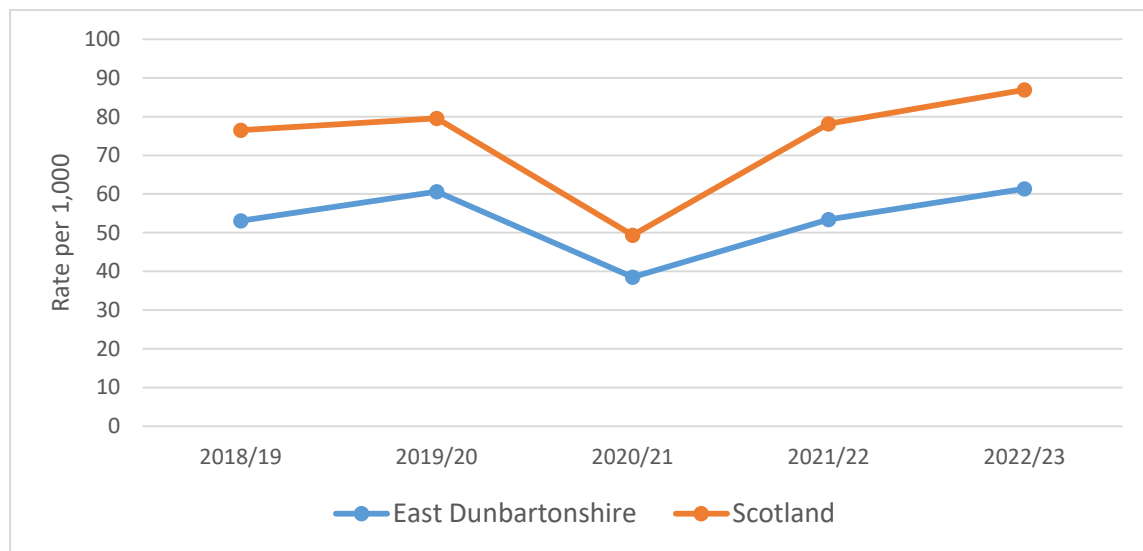
Source: PHS

8.2 Emergency Admissions

Over the last five years the rate per 1,000 for under 16 emergency admissions has been consistently lower in East Dunbartonshire compared to Scotland. As with A&E attendances, there was a dip in 2020/21 coinciding with the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, however rates have gone back to pre-pandemic levels, and are slightly higher. In 2022/23, the rate of emergency admissions for under

16's in East Dunbartonshire was 61.3 per 1,000 (Scotland, 86.9 per 1,000). A low emergency admission rate which comes along with a high A&E attendance rate could indicate that under 16's are attending A&E departments when perhaps accessing other services may be more suitable for their needs.

Figure 26: East Dunbartonshire Under 16 Emergency Admissions Rate per 1,000

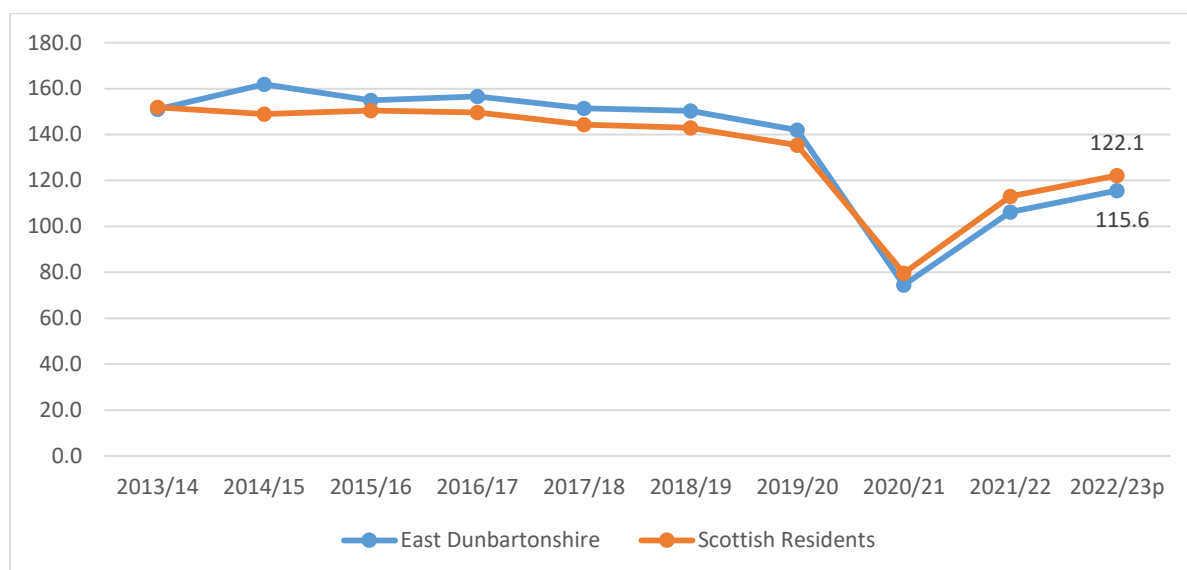


Source: PHS

8.3 Outpatient Appointments

The outpatient activity rate per 1,000 for under 18 was 23.4% lower in 2022/23 compared to 2013/14. There was a large drop in 2020/21 coinciding with the start of the pandemic, however rates had been gradually decreasing in the few years before.

Figure 27: East Dunbartonshire under 18 New Outpatient Activity Rate per 1,000



Source: PHS

8.4 Summary

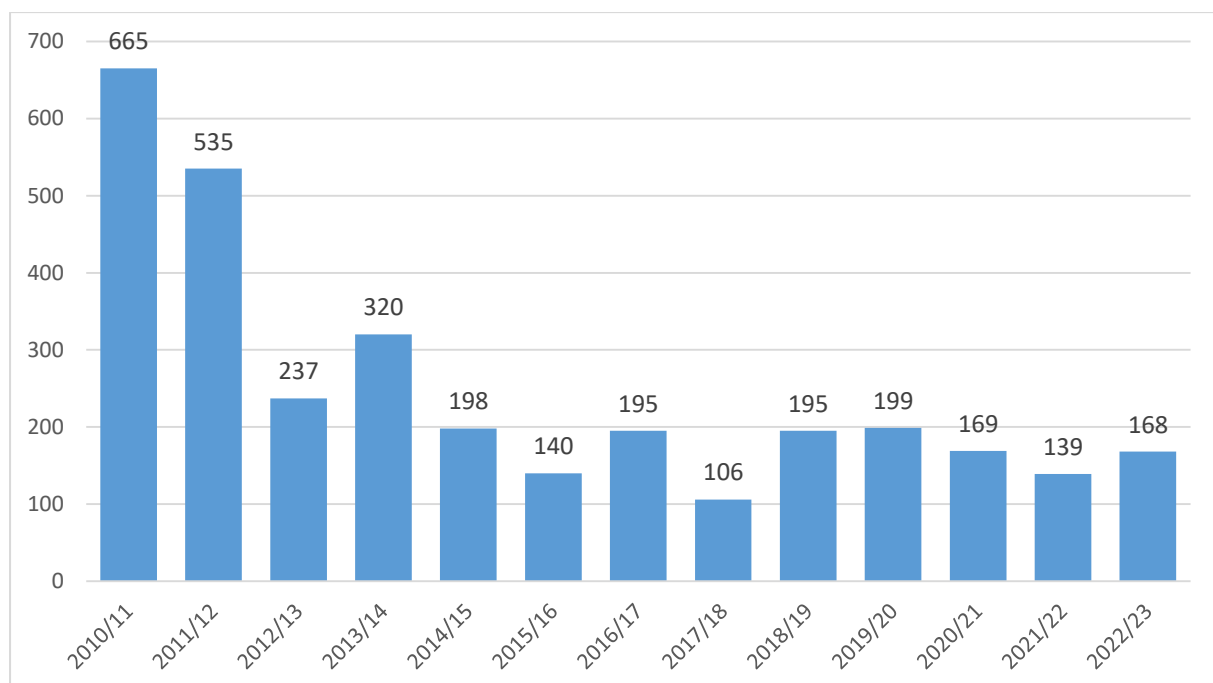
East Dunbartonshire has a high A&E attendance rate but a low Emergency Admissions rate for under 16's when compared to Scotland. This could indicate that young people attending A&E may have been able to use alternative services in the community to meet their needs. The rate of under 18 outpatient activity in East Dunbartonshire is now below the Scottish Residents figure.

9. Statutory Supervision and referrals to the Children’s Reporter

9.1 Children’s Reporter

The number of children in East Dunbartonshire referred to the children’s reporter in 2022/23 was 168. Following large drops in the number of children being referred between 2010/11 and 2015/16, the number of children being referred now varies between around 140 and 200 referrals each year. In 2022/23, 83% of children referred were for reasons of non-offence, i.e. care and protection grounds.

Figure 28: Number of children in East Dunbartonshire referred to Children’s Reporter

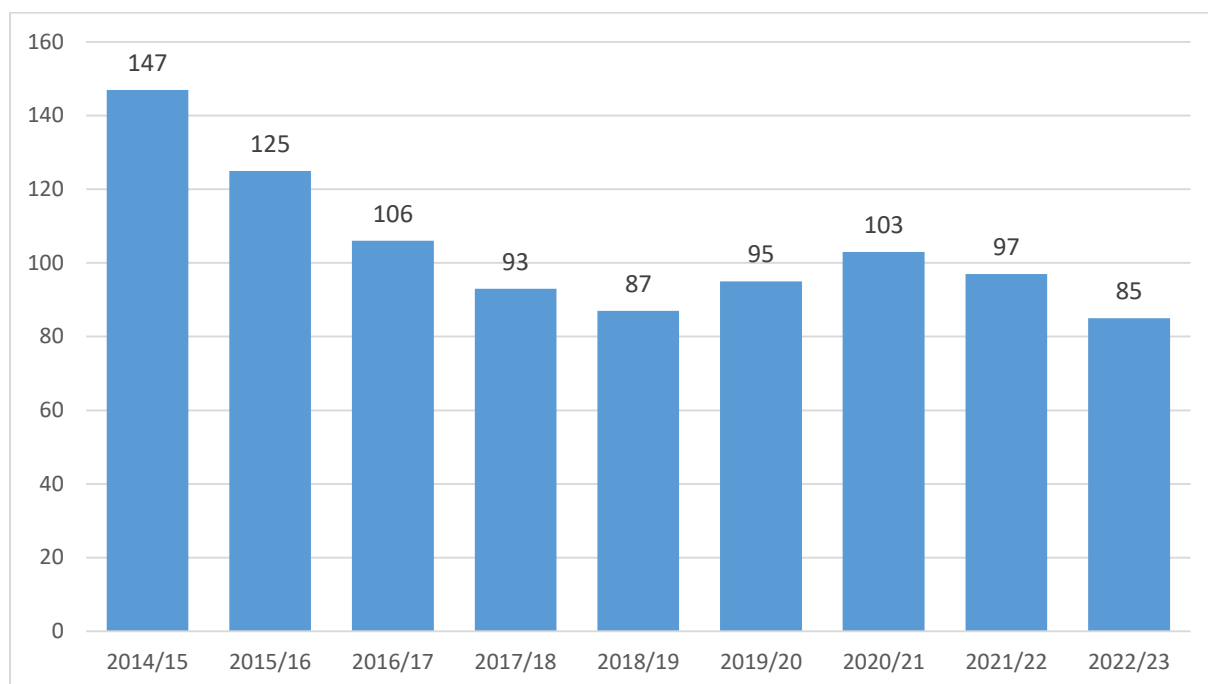


Source: SCRA (Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration)

9.2 Compulsory Supervision Orders (CSO)

The number of children with a compulsory supervision order in 2022/23 was 85. Following drops from 2014/15 to 2018/19, there were small rises in children with a CSO in 2019/20 and 2020/21. There have however been further drops in the number of children with a CSO in 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Figure 29: Number of Children in East Dunbartonshire with a CSO



Source: SCRA

9.3 Summary

After a period of large drops in the number of children being referred to Children’s reporter and the number of compulsory supervision orders, there has been a ‘levelling out’ in the last few years and the number of children either being referred to the Children’s Reporter or with a compulsory supervision order is no longer falling at the same rate.