



Facts+Figs 2011



The world is full of facts, figures and statistics. When it comes to young people, we often only hear about the bad things.

This collection of facts and figures brings a bit of balance and offers some good news facts as well as some sobering ones.

Why not use them to focus your prayers; both in celebration of all that young people are, but also in petitions to God to change the not so good things that affect young people.

The good life?

Babies born in the richest countries are expected to live until they are about 79 years; in the poorest countries life expectancy is just 53 years. There are 3.9 million children and young people in the UK living in poverty. England has over 11 million children and young people – about one in five of the population!

Source: <http://www.getreadyforgeneva.org.uk/facts>

Homeless

Between 36,000 to 52,000 young people are estimated to have been 'found homeless' by local authorities in England in 2003. It can be estimated that 1 in 8 of those homeless young people (up to 6,700) may have recent experience of rough sleeping. In 2004 9% (10,930) of those accepted as statutory homeless and in priority need by Local Authorities in England was due to them being a 'Young Person'

Source: Centrepointhomelessness Youth Index, 2004

Church

Eighty per cent of people who come to faith do so before the age of 25. In 1905, 56 per cent of children and young people went to church. Now (2001), it is about four per cent.

Source: Turning the Tide.

Homophobia turns young people off church. 91% of young non-Christians and 80% of young churchgoers said "anti-homosexual" describes Christianity.

Source: The Barna Group, an evangelical market research company, into the attitudes of Americans aged 16 to 29.

"The future of the Church could be under threat unless biblical illiteracy among young people is not urgently addressed"

Source: Essential Project, Evangelical Alliance

Surprising?

59% of young people think that parents generally know best.

87% of 12-15 year olds say they have been bullied at school.

50% of young people say their major goal in life is to be happy.

Going to the cinema is the most popular leisure activity (over 86% done so)

82% of young people said that they were not prejudiced against people of other races.

71% said that 'you cant be too careful' when dealing with people.

Source: Young People in Britain: The Attitudes and Experiences of 12 to 19 Year Olds. 2004

Health challenges

8% of 13-15 year old girls say they self-harm

Source: www.selfharm.org.uk

1.1 million people in the UK suffer from an eating disorder. Many of these are young people.

Source: beat - www.b-eat.co.uk

Research indicates that 11-16 year olds in the UK eat on average 133 pre-packaged ready meals and takeaways a year (nearly three every week).

Source: World Health Organisation - www.youthinformation.com

Nine out of ten young people locked up in prison have a mental health problem

Source: Prison Reform Trust

Child Poverty

'Children experience poverty with their hands, minds and hearts. When poverty spreads and deepens, the risks of contracting respiratory infections, diarrhoea, measles and other illnesses that commonly kill children or undermine their physical, psychosocial and cognitive capacities increase. Damage suffered due to malnutrition, ill health and inadequate care during childhood impedes future learning and often cannot be repaired later in life.'

Source: Child Poverty, UNICEF. For more information about UNICEF. Visit: www.unicef.org.uk