

South Yorkshire Policy Briefing

6th October 2023

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This Week's Policy Highlights:

- NHS strikes continue in support of higher pay for junior doctors, consultants and other healthcare professionals, while radiographers in Sheffield take their own strike action in support.
- Latest data shows that mortgage rates and house prices have declined since the summer, while the overall completion of new housing in South Yorkshire has fallen below the national average since the pandemic.
- A recent report by IPSOS finds that globally the most significant health concern is mental health, followed by cancer, stress and obesity.

NHS Strike Action

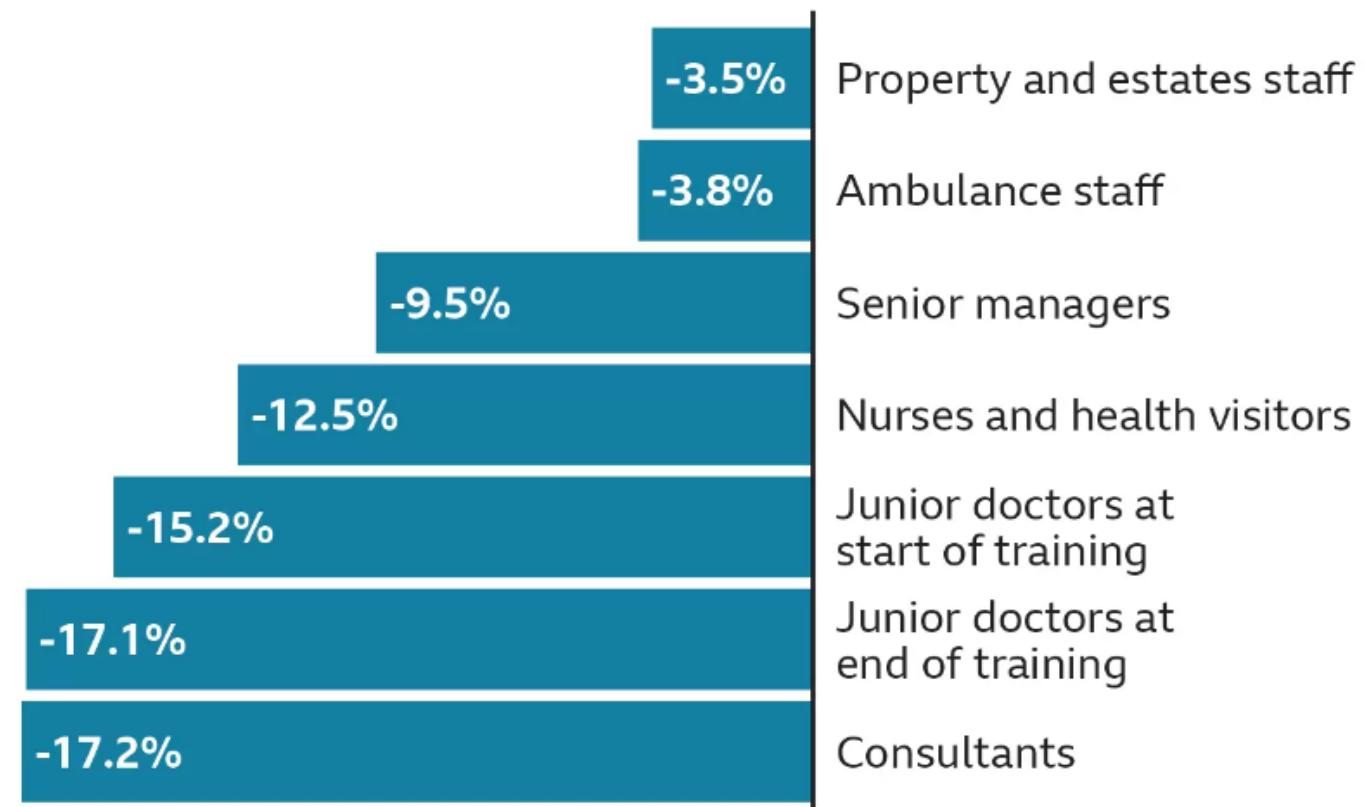


Industrial Action

Recent strikes in support of higher pay for consultants, junior doctors, and dental trainees have been announced, accompanied by a three-day joint walkout. Justification for the strike comes from data revealing that over the last decade, wages in real-terms for junior doctors, consultants, and other healthcare professionals have decreased by more than 15% on average.

Unions have suggested that a 35% increase for junior doctors is needed after evidence showing years of below-inflation wage rises has come to light. This is further exacerbated by the fact that the average student loan debt of medical students in the UK is on average between £70,000 to £90,000 when including both tuition and living expenses.

Real-terms cut in average annual earnings, August 2010 to March 2023



How does the UK compare internationally?

The analysis, which considers the cost of living in different countries, showed the NHS seniors doctors are at the middle of the pack when it comes to pay.

This gap widens significantly when observing comparisons between junior doctors. Recent postings in Australia for example show equivalent wages of £43,000 to £49,000, being a £9,000 to £15,000 increase on those in the UK.

New consultant pay in Ireland starts at £185,000 to £223,000, while Australian wages are at £190,000 to £234,000 a year for consultants differing from England's wages of £88,000 to £119,000. While a direct comparison is difficult due to the difference in education, responsibilities and competencies, there is still a significant gap in pay.

Senior doctors' pay across the world

Average consultant yearly salary adjusted for the cost of living in their country (purchasing power), selected countries



Sheffield Radiographers

In South Yorkshire, Sheffield Radiographers are joining the strike. The action, taken by members of one of 37 NHS Trusts, the Society of Radiographers, is in support of a pay rise and negotiating reduced working work. With government plans to open new diagnostic centres and cut cancer waiting lists that rely on skilled radiographers, ministers have rejected proposals from the Trust on how to make the profession more attractive to its current workforce and new recruits.

With over 4,000 postings made in the last decade for radiographer roles in South Yorkshire, there is a notable demand within the profession similar to other healthcare professions such as consultants and carers. The median advertised salary of £31,400 is a real-terms cut.



Economic Update – Financial Markets and Housing

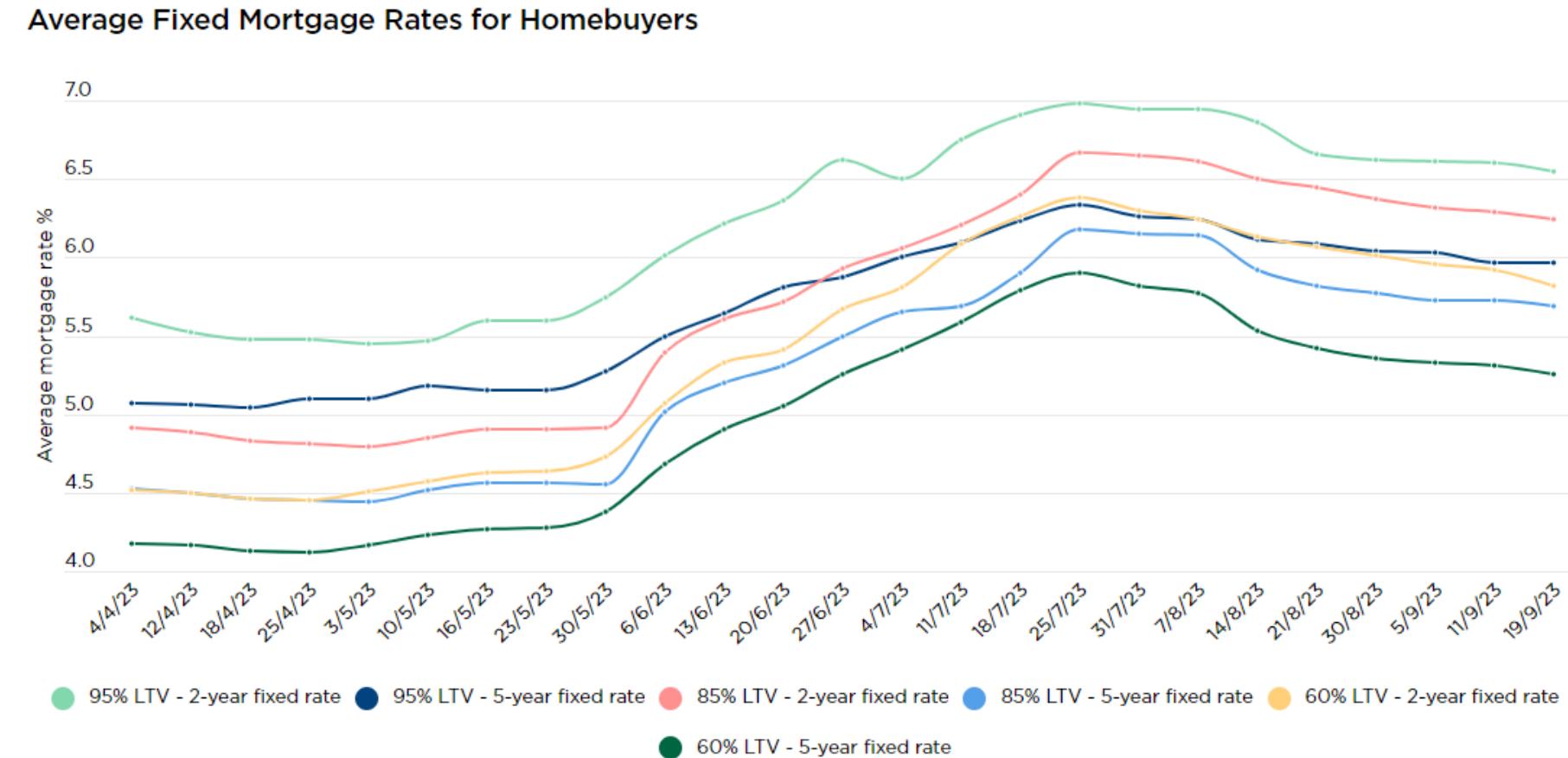


No change in interest rates

In response to higher wages, interest rates have previously risen consecutively at every monetary policy committee (MPC) meeting for the past two years. However, the Bank of England (BoE) chose to maintain rates at 5.25% on 21st September, in response to lower than expected inflation figures announced by the ONS the previous day.

With rates seemingly having the desired effect, markets now predict the BoE to begin lowering them by the beginning of 2024.

This is a positive development for those looking to secure a mortgage, and lenders have factored this into their existing product line-up. As shown here, a typical 2-year 95% LTV has dropped from its peak in July of c.7% to about 6.5% as of late September.

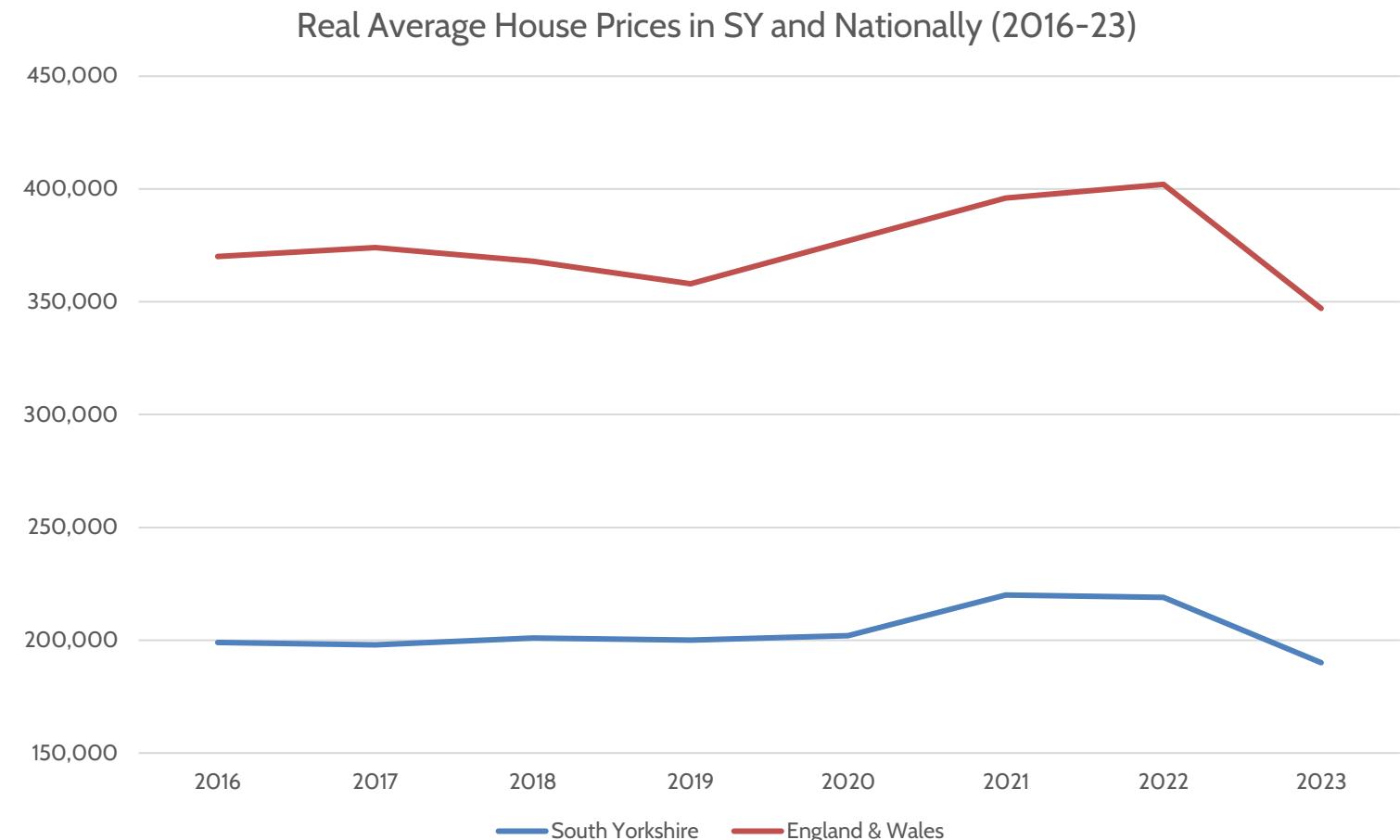


House price differences in South Yorkshire

This has also been helped by a fall in house prices. Average house prices fell nationally and closer to home, standing at £198,000 in South Yorkshire and £360,000 across England and Wales, as of August 2023.

For savers, with easy access savings account, the expectation is that the current interest return received will fall within the next few weeks. This is slightly different for those on fixed savings accounts, as they tend to follow rate expectations which have remained high.

The impact on government spending will be two-fold. Aside from general positivity about lower price rises than expected, the lower level of inflation will make repaying government debt more expensive than it was earlier this year, but the subsequent fall in 10-year gilt yields (government bonds) will make financing new long-term debt cheaper.



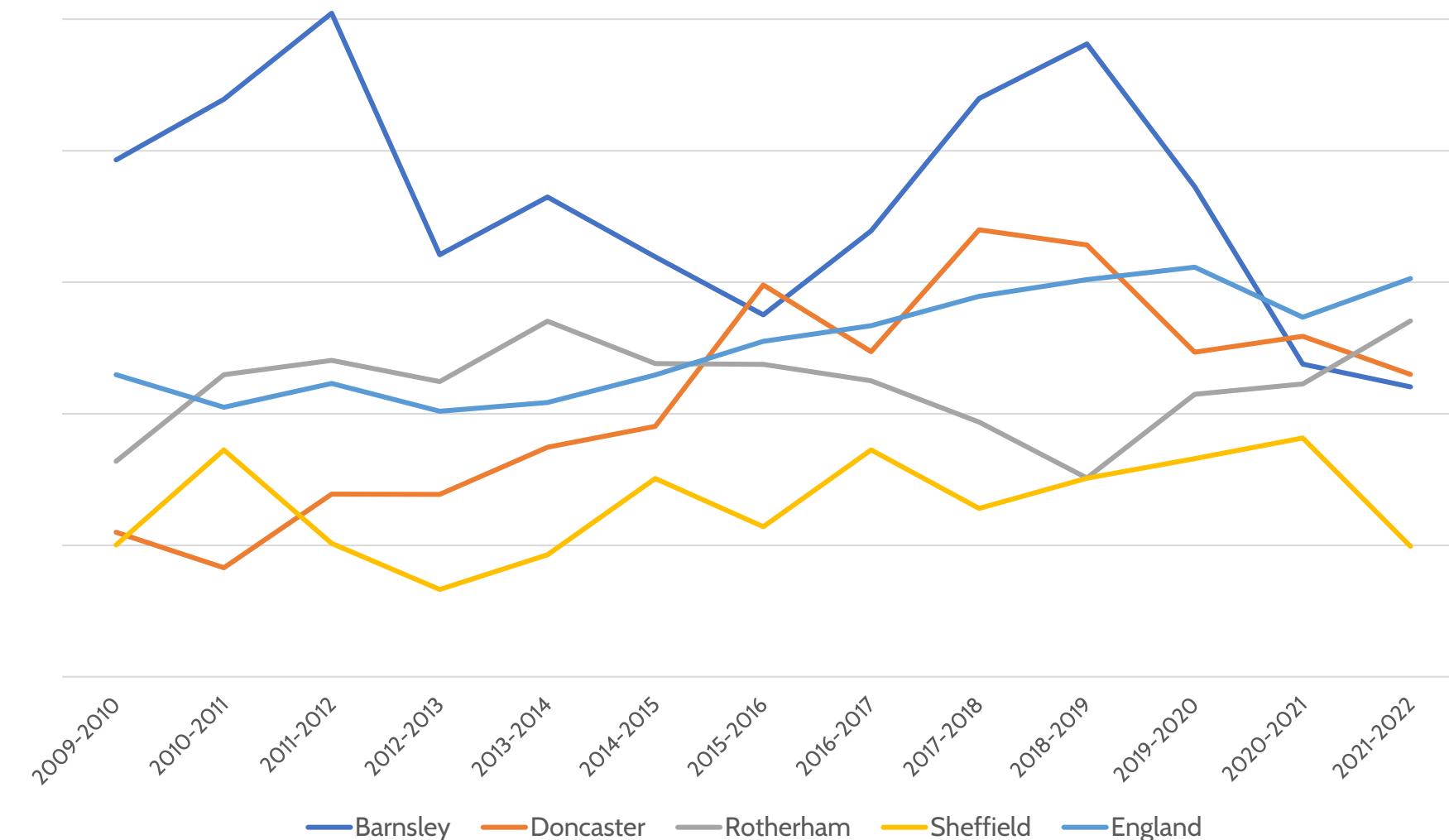
Changes to housing stock in South Yorkshire

Of course, an important solution for tackling housing challenges over the long-term is to build more houses.

Across private enterprise, housing associations and local authority completions, it seems that Barnsley has performed the best over the past 13 years, while Sheffield has consistently performed below the national average for completed dwellings.

This shows that, across England, house building has steadily increased per head since 2010, but declined in Barnsley and Sheffield.

Permanent dwellings completed per head, SY local authorities and England comparator (2009-22)



IPSOS Global Health Service Monitor

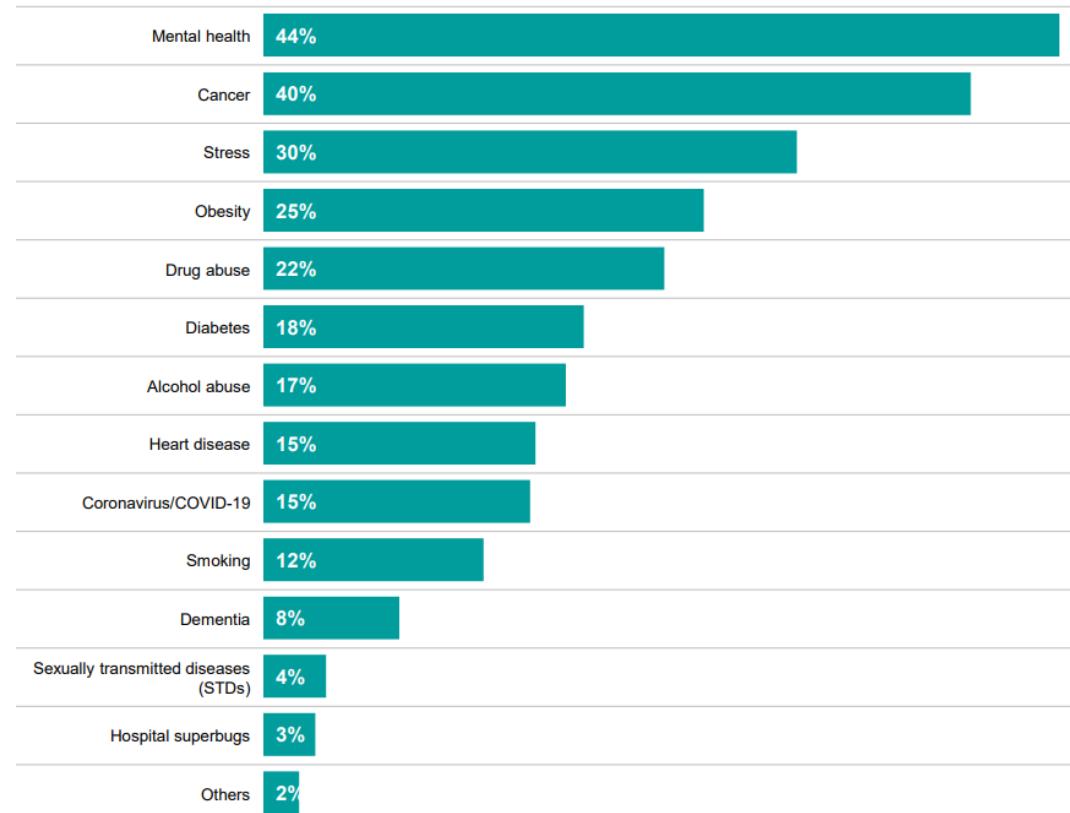


Health concerns across the globe

IPSOS has recently released its [Global Health Service Monitor](#) which shares the findings from a 31-country survey investigating people's biggest health concerns are the quality for each country's healthcare service.

Mental health is now the top health concern for people across 31 countries, with 44% of respondents naming this the biggest concern.

In 2018 27% of people ranked mental health the highest compared to 52% voting cancer at the top. In 2020 Coronavirus was the main health concern at 72% but this year is only at 15%.

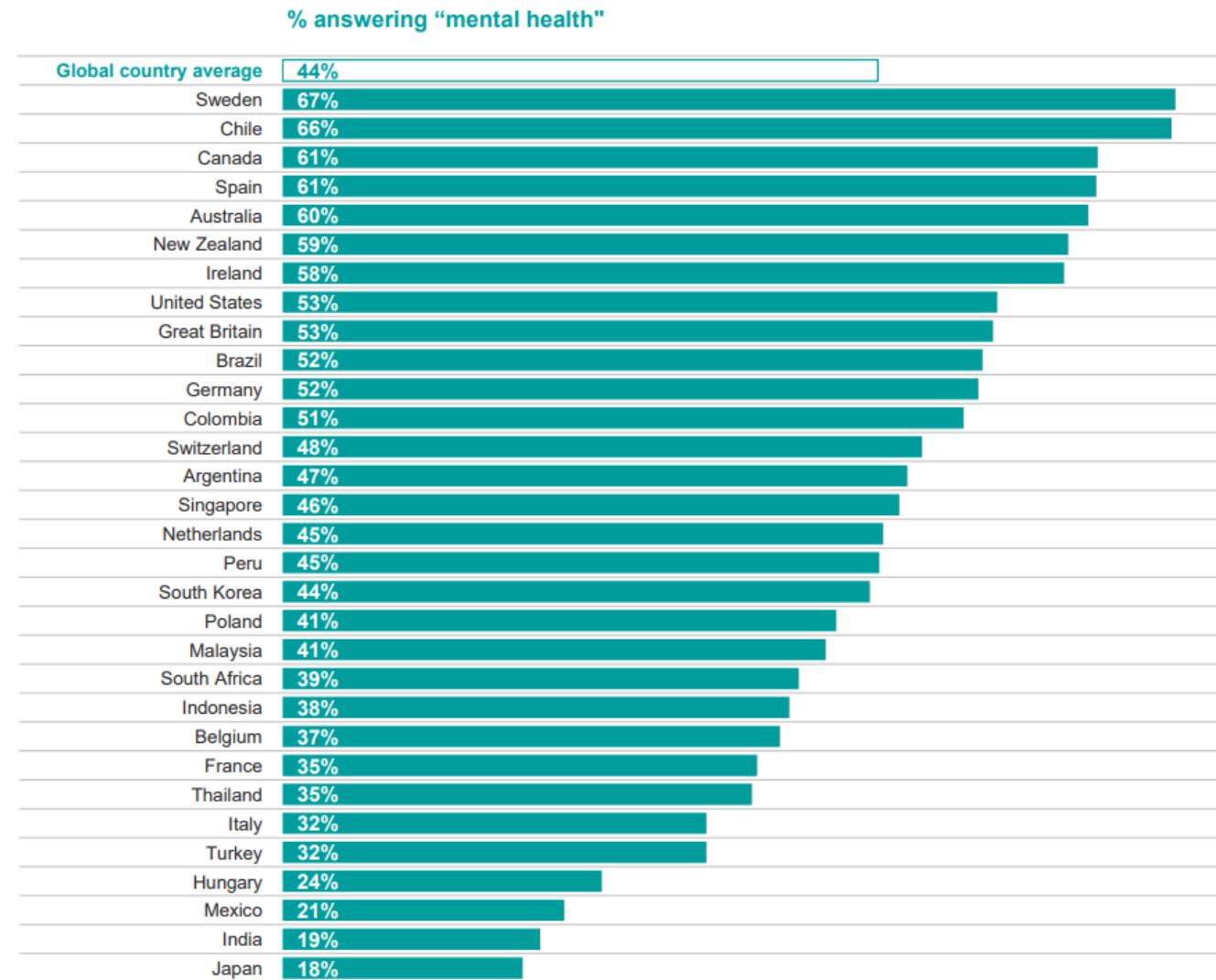


Country breakdown

By country, Sweden ranked mental health the highest and Great Britain ranked 9th out of the top countries putting mental health as the main concern.

However, at 53% Great Britain was above the global country average.

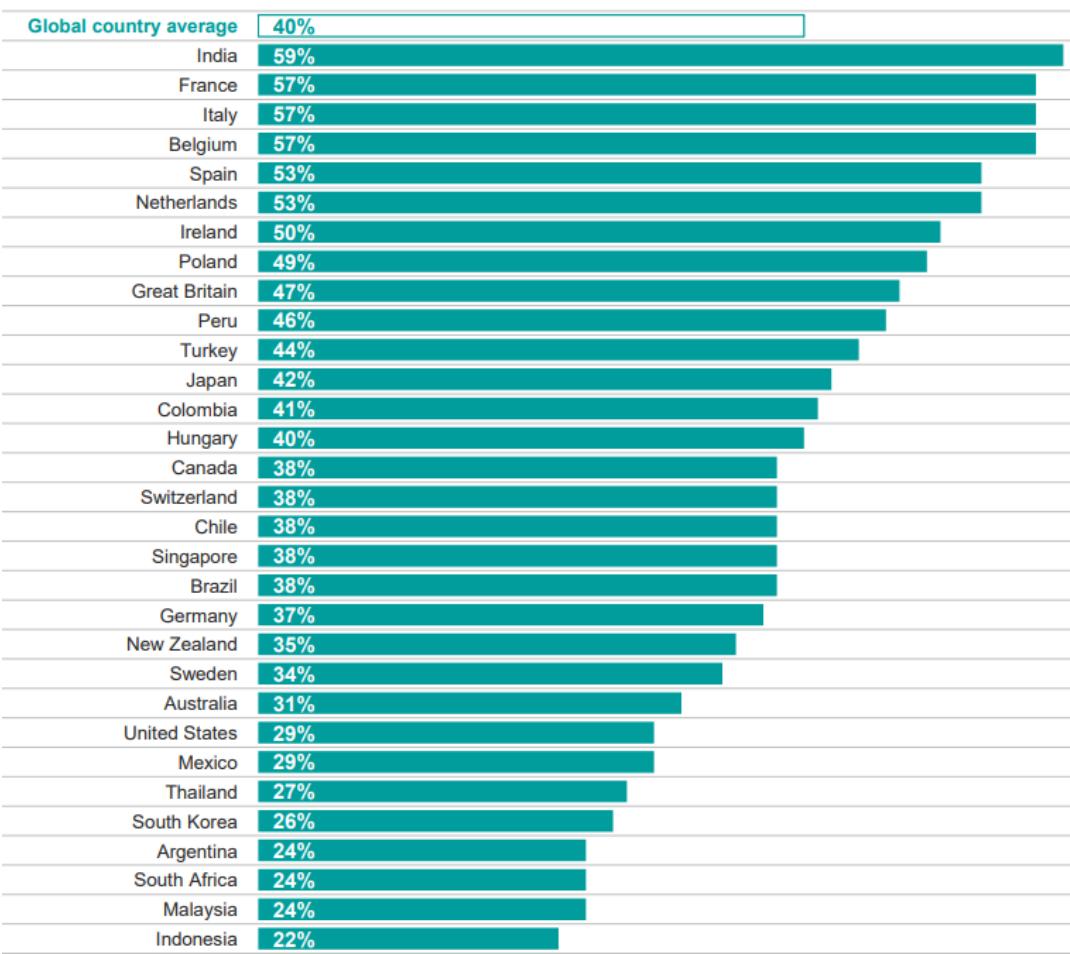
As is the case for most countries, the number of people voting mental health in Great Britain was not much different from 2018 where it sat at 50%. But rates in 2020 (43%) and 2021 (40%) dropped due to increasing concerns over Coronavirus.



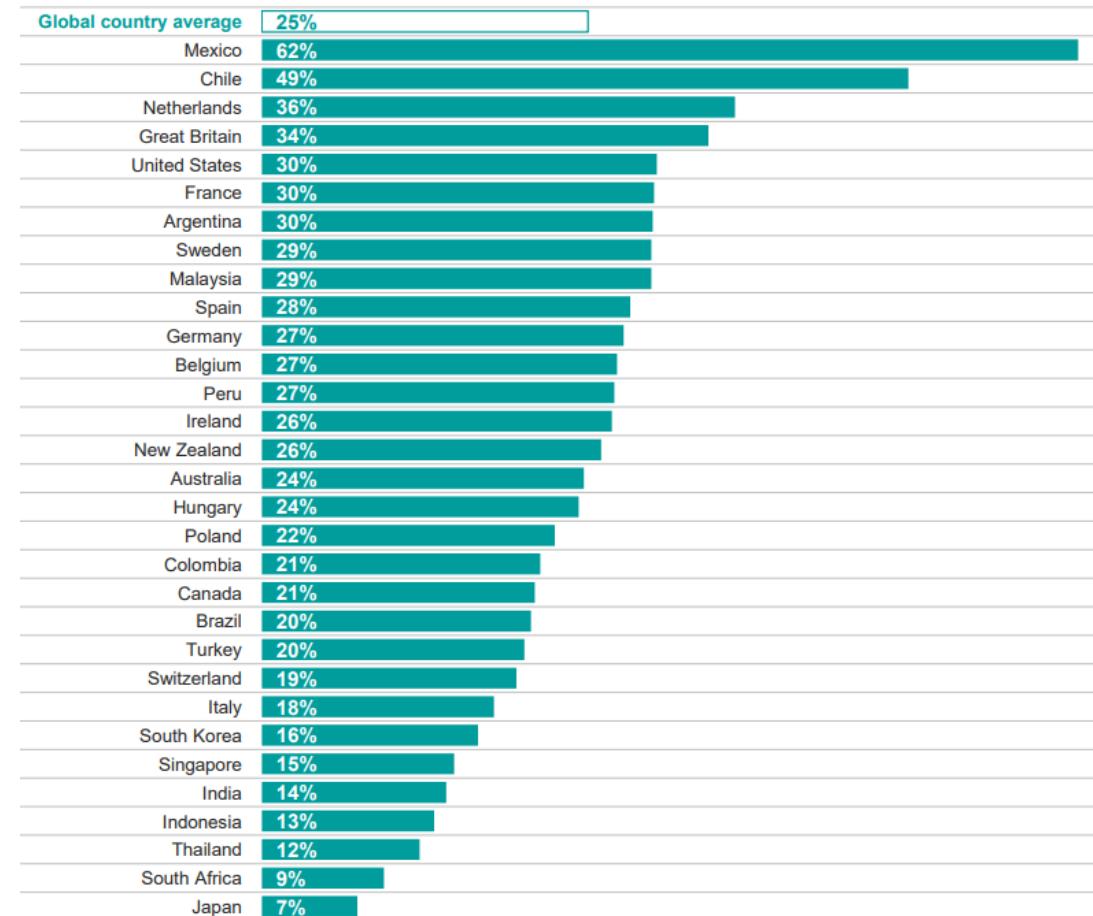
Cancer and Obesity

Other big health concerns for GB are cancer and obesity. However, we had the fewest percentage pf people voting stress as the biggest health problem. Only 15% selected this answer, half the rate of the global average.

% answering "cancer"



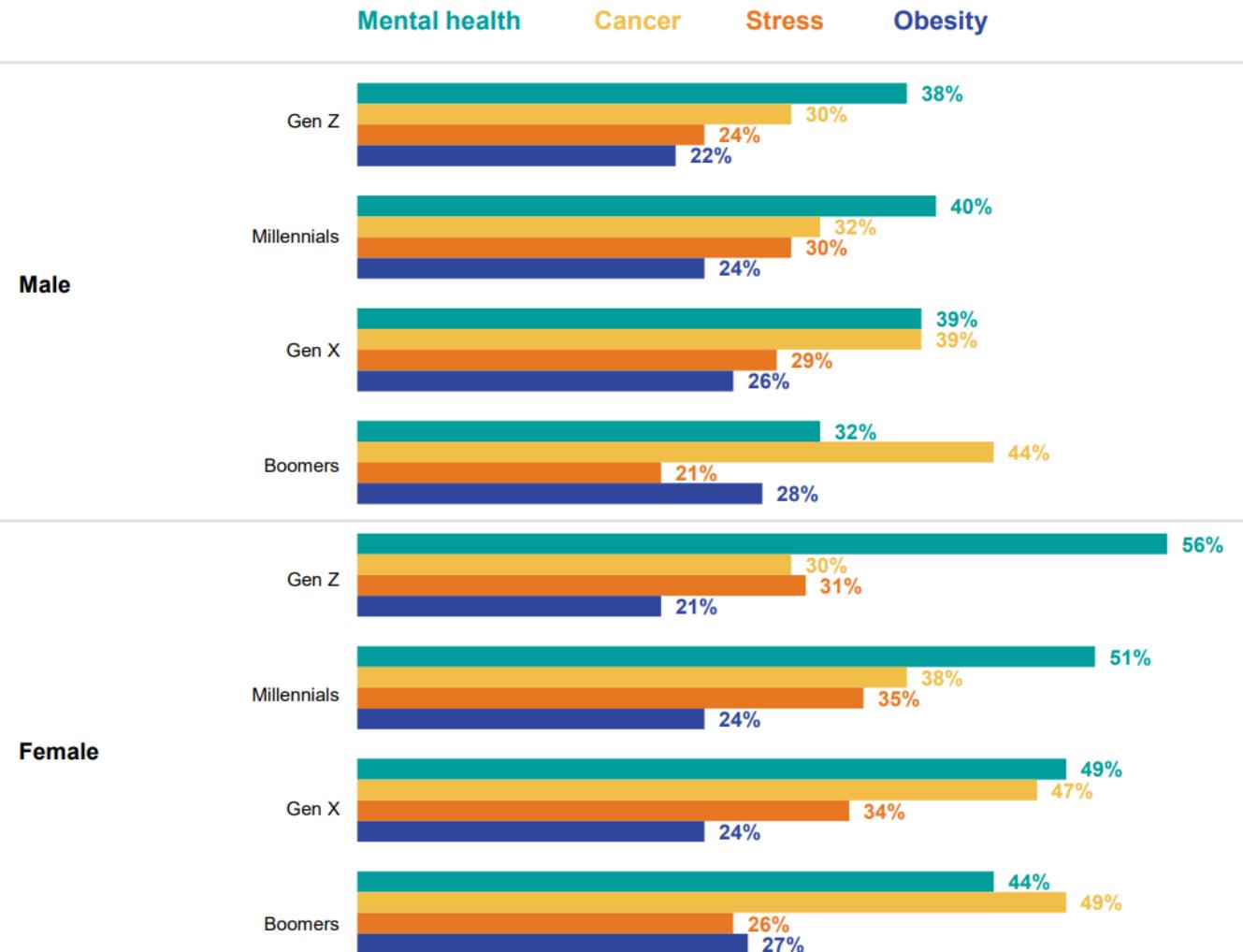
% answering "obesity"



Gender and Age Disparities

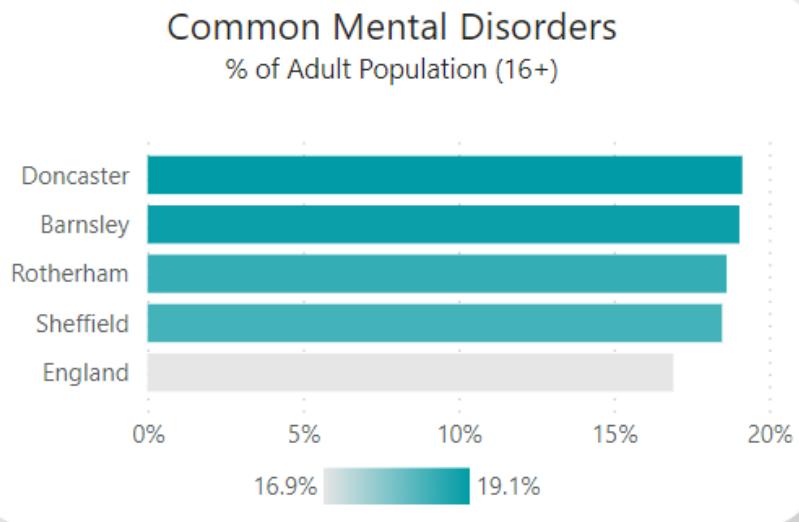
Gen Z, Millennials and Gen X all ranked mental health as their main health concern, however, boomers ranked cancer the highest.

Although these generational differences were consistent in both men and women, women did rank mental health higher than men across all generations.

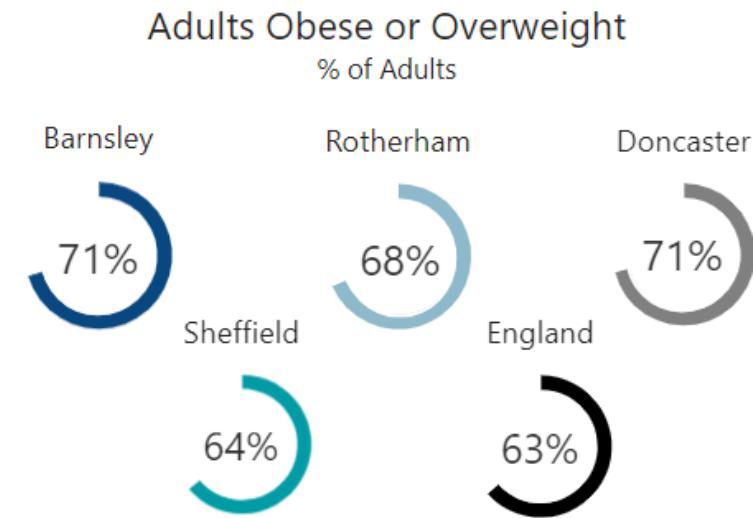


Mental Health, Obesity, and Cancer rates in South Yorkshire

Common mental health illnesses are more common in South Yorkshire compared to the national average.



Higher rates of obesity in South Yorkshire compared to national, particularly in Barnsley and Doncaster.



Yorkshire and the Humber has higher incidences of cancer compared to the national average.

Survival rates are also lower in South Yorkshire, Bassetlaw, North Derbyshire, and Hardwick for both males and females when compared to the national average.

South Yorkshire Data & Intelligence Hub

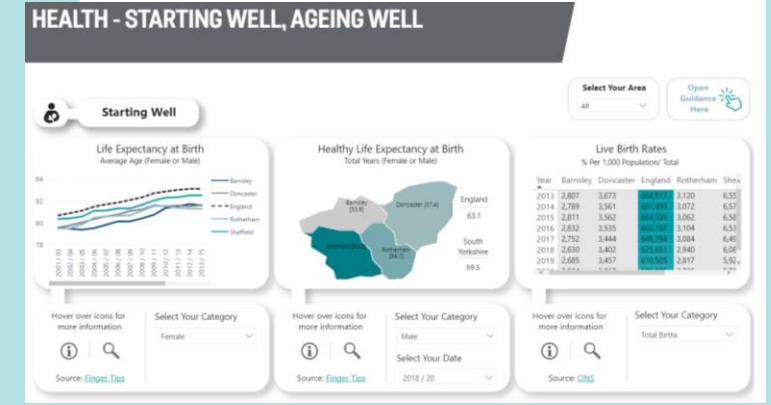
Want to access data and trends relating to South Yorkshire?

Head to the [South Yorkshire Data & Intelligence Hub](#), which provides a range of data useful for understanding the local economy, as well as social and environmental outcomes.

It also helps to understand relative performance and changes in data. See how it works on YouTube [here](#).

Whether you're a resident, employer, academic, researcher or just interested in data, this can help you understand South Yorkshire's economy and develop evidence-based solutions.

Visit the dashboard now at <https://southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/Data-Intelligence-Hub>



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