Stalling social progress:

On the eve of the COVID-19 pandemic, social progress had already slowed and stalled across multiple outcomes. Some inequalities widened during the 2010s.

POVERTY

4.3 million
children were **living in poverty** on the eve of the pandemic

almost **one in three** of all the children in the UK in 2019/20

Half a million more than in 2014/15

What is 'living in poverty'?

Take a family with two parents and children of 5 and 14 years

How much income (after tax and housing costs) do they have per week in 2019/20?

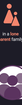
£193 per head
average UK income

£116 or less, per head
living in poverty

Some children are at more risk of poverty

During the 2010s, poverty rates increased for children living:

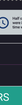
- in a **lone parent** family
- in families with **three or more children**
- in families with a **disabled adult**



Between 2013- and 2020 rates were high and rising for children living in families from the **Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Black African/Caribbean/British** and **Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups**

'In work' poverty

4,000,000
by 2019/20, 4 million children were living in poverty despite being in employment



Half of them were in full time work

In-work poverty rates were particularly high amongst single parents and disabled workers

EARLY YEARS

On the eve of the COVID-19 pandemic, inequalities in early childhood were already a major concern.

Babies

In 2019, babies with a parent or parents from routine or manual occupations were one-third more likely to have been **born with a low birthweight** than babies with a parent or parents from managerial or professional occupations.

Children aged four to five

In 2019, only **57% of children in disadvantaged** families achieved a **good stage of development**, compared to 74% of other children

57% disadvantaged

74% advantaged

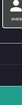
Children aged **4-5 living** in more deprived areas were **twice as likely** to be obese than those living in the most affluent areas and obesity inequalities had been increasing.

EDUCATIONAL INEQUALITIES

Children from some groups were being left behind in their educational attainment and educational inequalities had begun to widen again:

Attainment

Overall more than four in five of all pupils got five or more **GCSEs at grades A* to C** in 2019



BUT **for pupils from disadvantaged families** only three in five did so, and this difference had got larger since 2015

Vocational training

New apprenticeship starts for young people (under 19 but by one-third between Autumn 2015 and Autumn 2019, particularly apprenticeships for people with **lower education attainment**

2015	75,000
2019	54,500

Permanent exclusion from secondary school

In 2019, compared to children from a **White British ethnicity**...

Children from **Black Caribbean**, or **Mixed White and Black Caribbean ethnicities**, were **two times** more likely to be excluded

Children from **Gypsy Roma and Irish Traveller** ethnicities were **five times more likely** to be permanently excluded

Rates for **children with special educational needs** were also high, while inequalities in exclusion rates between children from deprived and advantaged families **had widened**

UNEQUAL LIFE EXPECTANCY

Improvements in life expectancy slowed down and stalled during the 2010s, while life expectancy inequalities **widened**

Girls

Life expectancy for **baby girls in the poorest areas** declined while the gap with **baby girls in the most affluent areas widened to 7.7 years**.

Boys

In 2019, **baby boys** in the poorest areas could expect to have **lives more than nine years shorter** than baby boys in the most **affluent areas**

UNMET NEED FOR SOCIAL CARE

Some people need help with things like dressing, washing, eating and moving around, but not everyone gets the support that they need.

The over-65s

Two out of five older people in the **most deprived** areas **did not receive the help they required with meeting their daily needs** in 2018

In the **least deprived** areas this was **only one out of five**

This difference had widened between 2014 and 2018

INEQUALITIES IN PHYSICAL SAFETY

Homicide is rare in England (11.7 per million in 2019-20). But...

Homicides

Despite improvements earlier in the decade, the homicide rate had increased year-on-year, particularly for **16-24 year olds**

Ethnic differences

Black people were substantially and **increasingly more at risk of homicide** than White people

By 2018/19, the homicide rate amongst Black 16-24 year olds was 34 times higher than for White 16-24 year olds

Knife crime

The number of **homicides** involving a sharp instrument increased in the five years to March 2020

Recorded offences involving a knife or a sharp instrument were also on a rising trend

Domestic

Domestic homicide
(victims mainly women)
reached a

five year high in 2018/19

before falling back in 2019/20

HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness

Core homelessness (including rough sleeping, unsuitable temporary accommodation and 'sofa surfing')

rose in England in the decade prior to the pandemic from 8.5 to 9.2 per **1,000 households**

rose in Scotland in the decade prior to the pandemic from 5.1 to 5.7 **per 1,000 households**

Footnotes

For data sources please see https://sticeral.lse.ac.uk/case/_/new/research/SPDG/knowledge-exchange.asp

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