



# INVERCLYDE STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT, 2024

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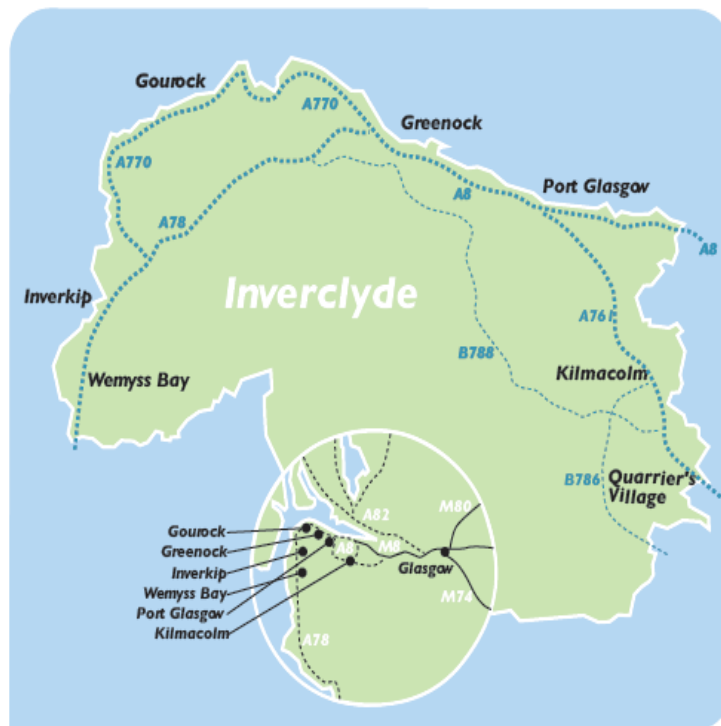
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## INVERCLYDE STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT, 2024

This Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) has been produced to inform the development of key plans and strategies for both the Council and the Community Planning Partnership, the Inverclyde Alliance.

In common with many areas of Scotland, Inverclyde exhibits disparity in the life circumstances and quality of life of residents, with some areas of Inverclyde ranking amongst the most deprived in Scotland, whilst other areas lie at the opposite end of this scale. To assess where targeting resources will add the greatest value there must first be a clear understanding of the current and future health, social and economic needs of our population. This SNA (2024) helps to identify where the greatest inequality exists. It also shows where outcomes are not as good as other areas of Scotland, or where they are better.



A vast amount of information on Inverclyde exists across all partners and the purpose of this SNA is not to replicate all this information here. This Assessment does not stand alone and as well as partner plans and strategies, should be considered alongside the following:

- The Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Needs Assessment
- The Inverclyde Alliance Children's Services Strategic Needs Assessment
- The Inverclyde Community Safety Strategic Needs Assessment
- Consultation and engagement across Inverclyde's 6 localities
- Locality Action Plans

This data within this SNA is, for the most part, presented at an Inverclyde level. More data on each of Inverclyde's six localities can be found here: <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/community-planning-partnership/localities>

## POPULATION PROFILE

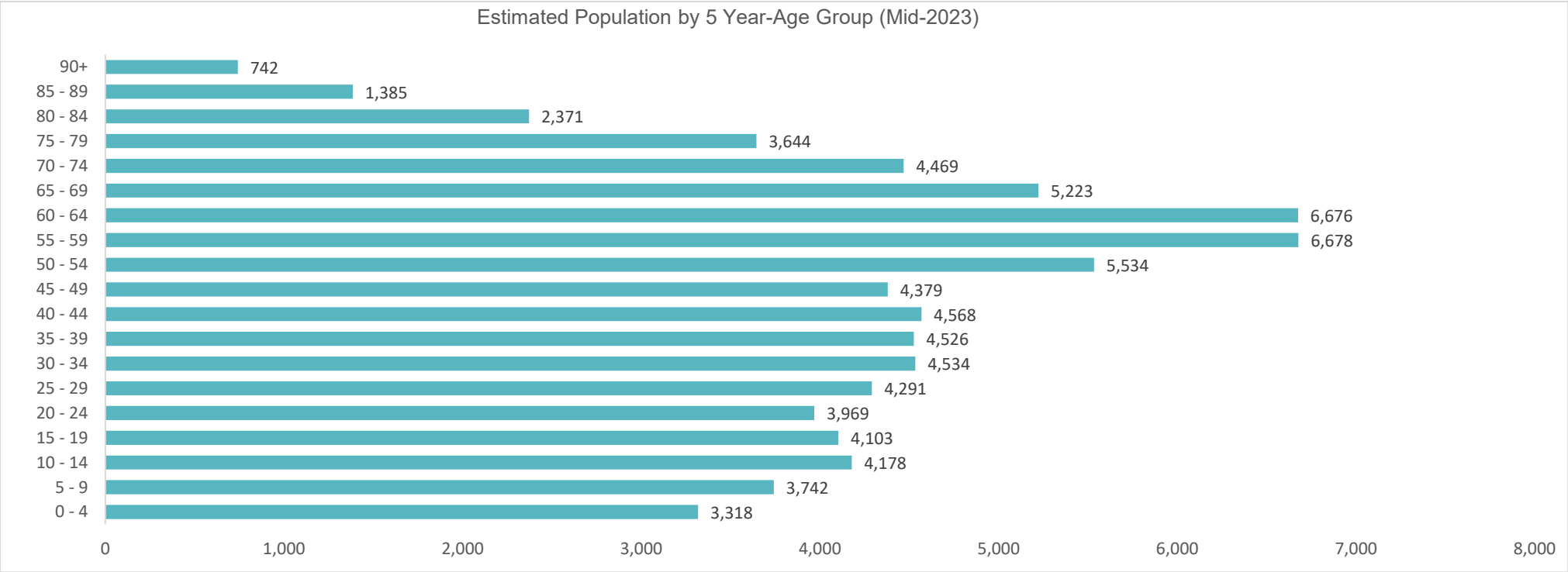
### Key messages

- The decline in Inverclyde's population has been one of the greatest of all Scottish local authority areas. Whilst out-migration been a driving factor historically, in recent years population decline is being driven by fewer births than deaths. Inverclyde's declining birth rate, coupled with an ageing population, reflects the Scottish national trend.
- The increase in the number of people moving into Inverclyde in recent years is welcome, however in-migration levels have not been sufficient in number to address the population decline due to negative natural change, with the gap between the numbers of births and deaths growing.
- Population projection data presented in this SNA is based on the 2018 mid-year population estimates and is due to be updated later in 2025, using Census 2022 data. This needs to be considered is referring to the population projection data.
- Inverclyde has the third highest proportion of its population aged 55 years and older living alone in Scotland. Research has found a link between older people living alone and increased social isolation and loneliness, which is harmful to health, wellbeing and quality of life. Appropriate support will need to be available to meet the changing needs of our older people.
- The projected decline in the numbers of young people and working age population, coupled with the substantial increase in the numbers of over 60s, will place additional pressures on those services required by an ageing population. There remains a need to encourage our young people to remain living in the area.
- More local jobs will be an influencing factor on future population growth and critical to attracting migrants and retaining young people currently living in Inverclyde.

# POPULATION PROFILE

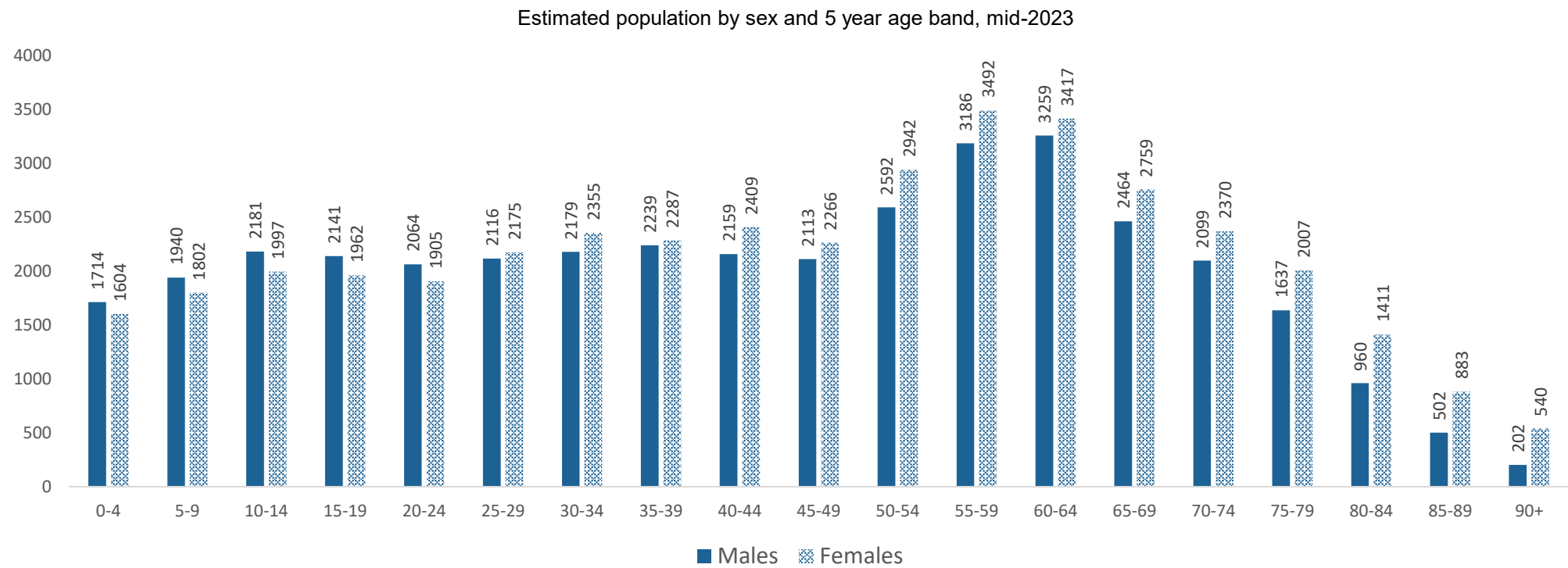
## 1.1 Inverclyde’s Population

Inverclyde is the 11<sup>th</sup> most densely populated local authority in Scotland, covering an area of 160 square kilometres with a population density of 488 persons per square kilometre. The estimated population of Inverclyde as at 30 June 2023 was 78,330, which is an estimated decrease of 20 from mid-2022, accounting for 1.4% of the total population of Scotland. The breakdown of the population is shown in 5-year age groupings in shown in the graph below:



Source: [Mid-2023 Population Estimates Scotland | National Records of Scotland](#)

Overall, there are more women than men in Inverclyde, 40,583 females compared to 37,747 males.

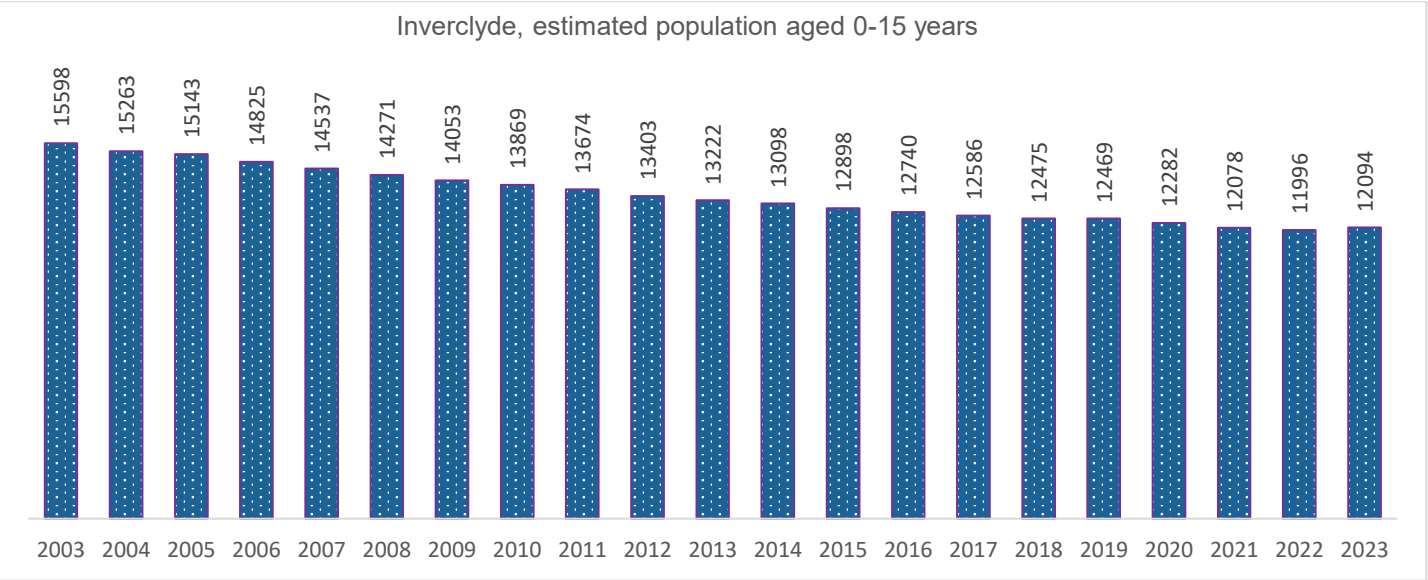


Source: [Mid-2023 Population Estimates Scotland | National Records of Scotland](#)

## 1.2 Population trends by broad age band

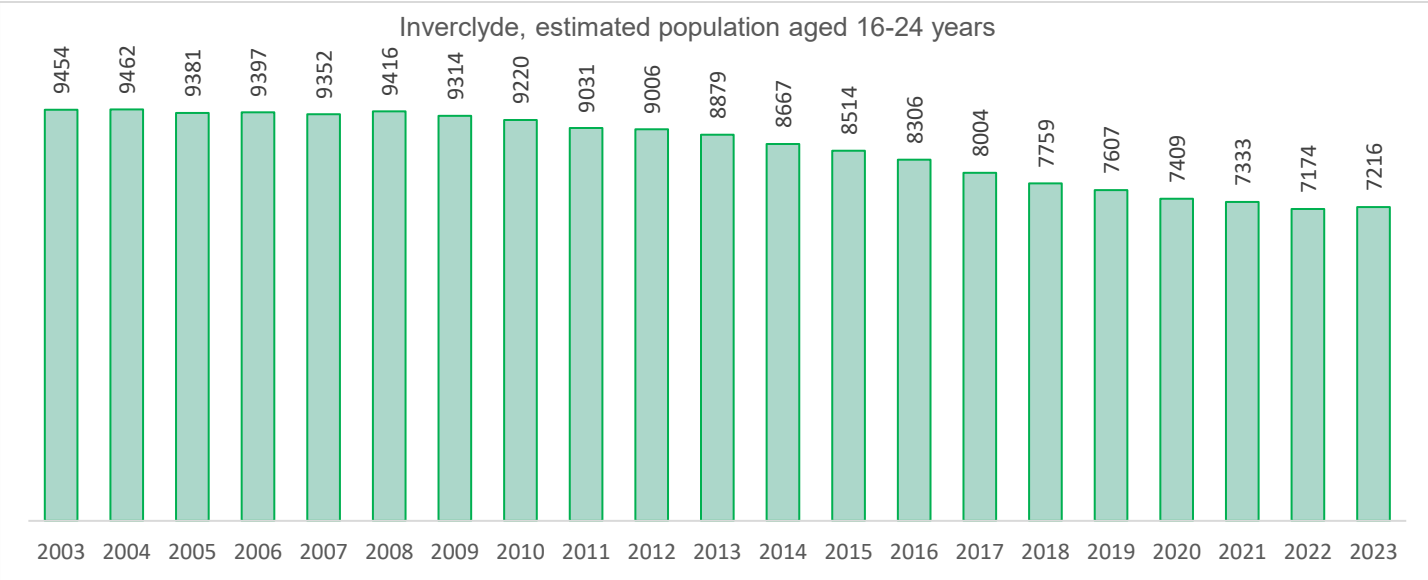
According to the latest mid-year estimates there are 19,310 people aged under 25 years old living in Inverclyde, which is just under a quarter of the total population.

Children aged between 0 – 15 make up 15.4% of the local population compared to 16.3% of the Scottish average.



Source: [Mid-2023 population estimates - National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#)

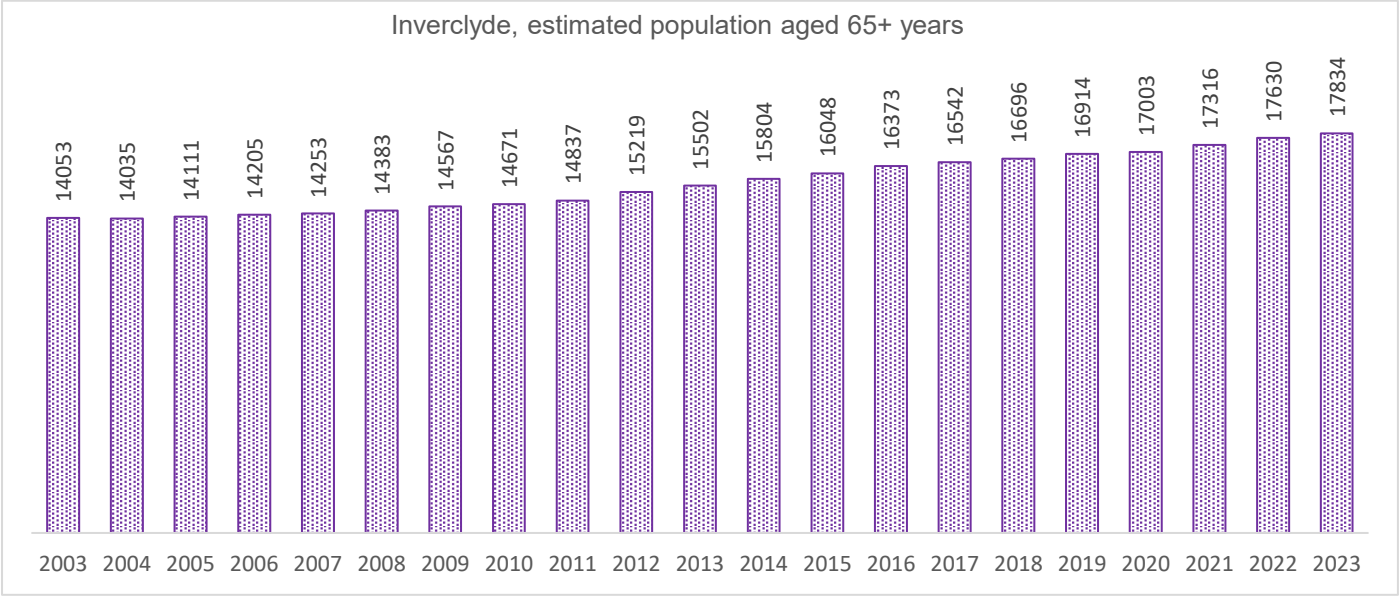
The population of 16 – 24-year-olds is also declining, and in mid-2023 accounted for 9% of Inverclyde's population.



Source: [Mid-2023 population estimates - National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#)

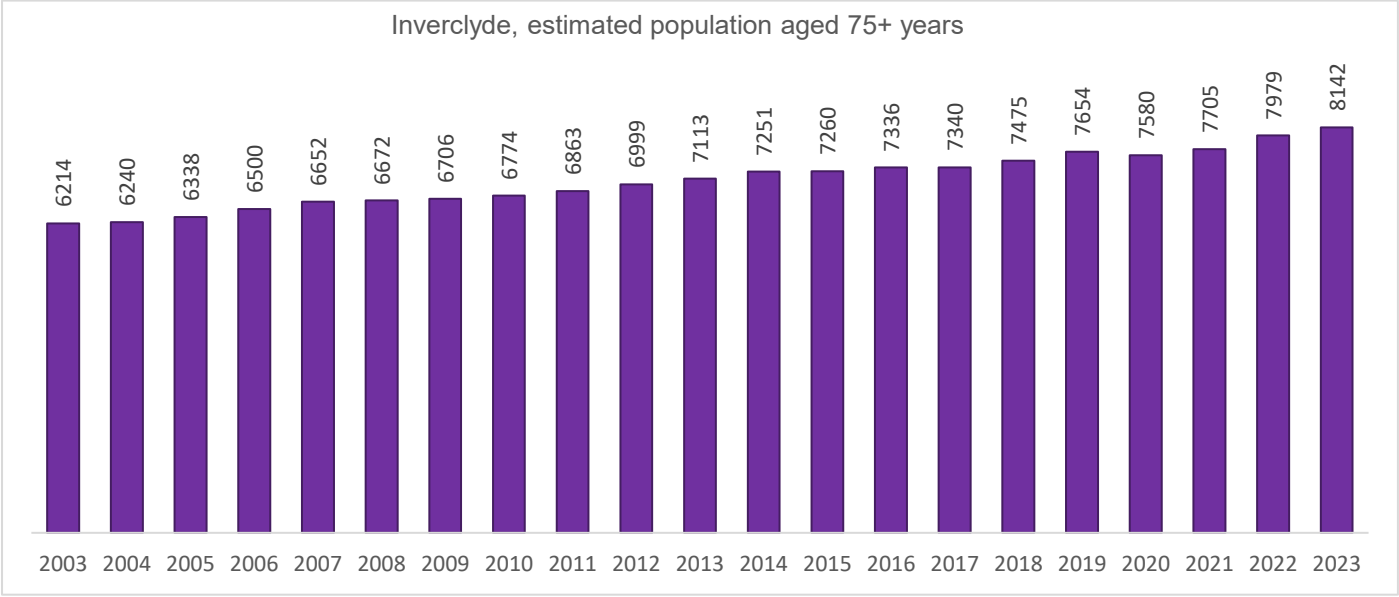
The population of people over 65 years old in Inverclyde has been increasing since 2003 and in 2023 reached its highest ever level of 17,834, which is 22.8% of the population.





Source: [Mid-2023 population estimates - National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#)

The number of people aged 75+ in Inverclyde in mid-2023 was 8,142, 10.4% of Inverclyde’s population. In the past 20 years, the number of people aged 75 and over in Inverclyde has increased by 1,928, despite a decline in overall population numbers over this period.



Source: [Mid-2023 population estimates - National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#)

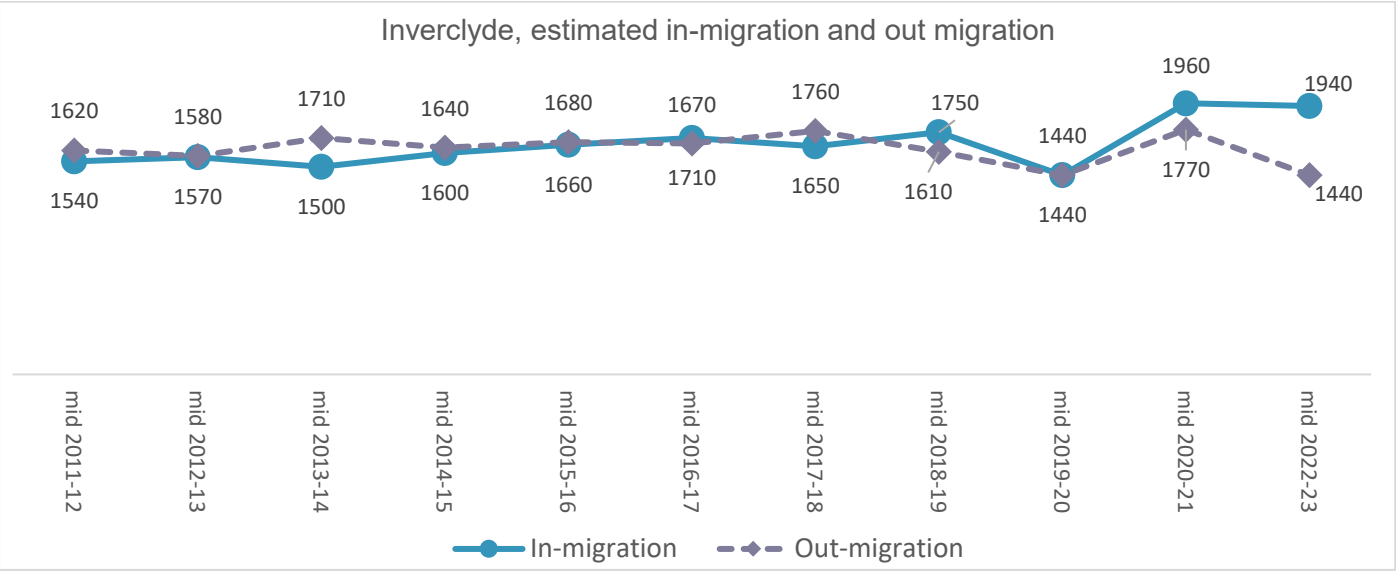
### 1.3 Components of population change

Population change is driven by two main components, natural change and net migration.

- Natural change is the number of births minus the number of deaths.
- Net migration is the number of people moving into an area minus the number of people leaving.

#### 1.3 a) Migration

The most recent mid-year population data shows that there was a positive net migration in the area between mid-2022 and mid-2023 of +500. This is significantly higher than in previous years.



Source: [Mid-2023 population estimates - National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#)

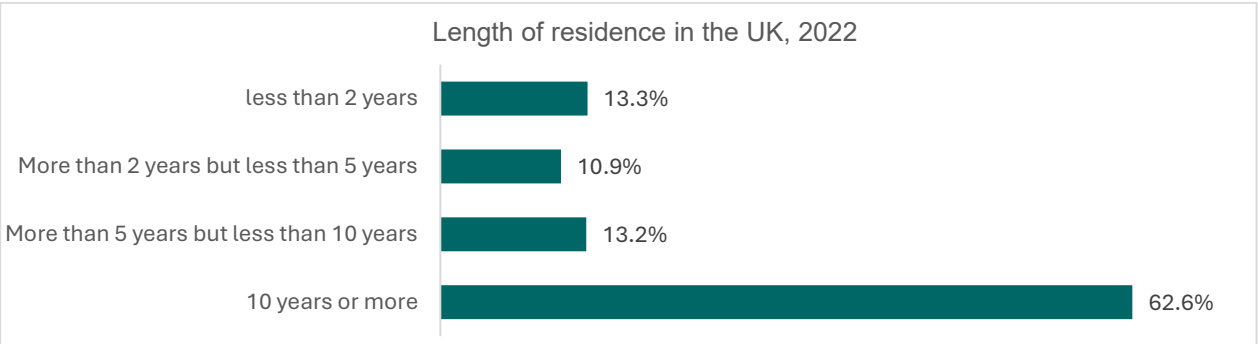
\* Mid-2022 population estimates focused on population change between Census Day in March 2022 and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and not the full year. For this reason, these are not included within the chart above.

#### 1.3 b) Length of residence in the UK (Census 2022)

Census numbers only include people living in the area at the time of the Census and does not show the full flow of people moving to and from an area between these periods. It does however enable an analysis of the characteristics of people who migrated to Scotland.

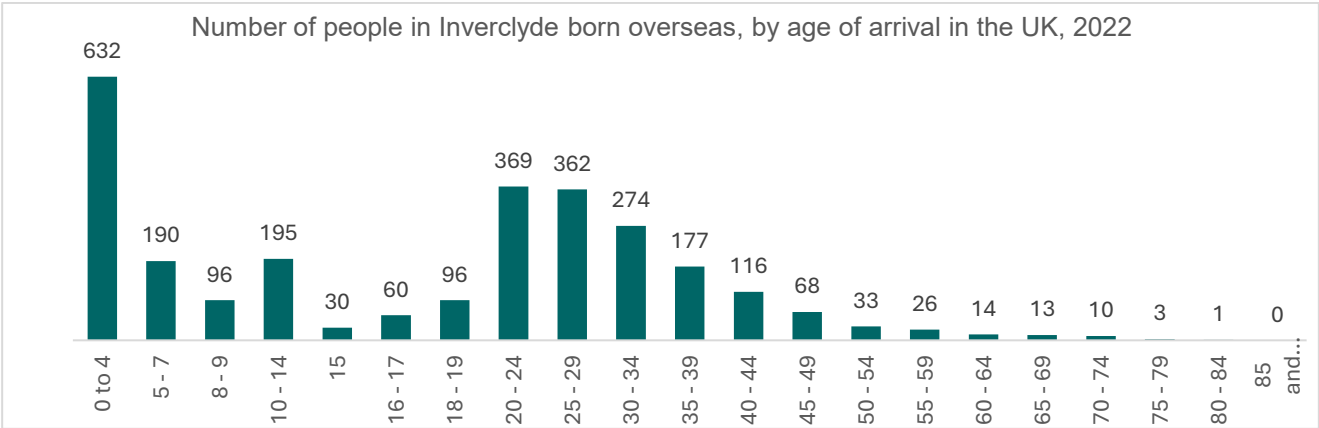
Of Inverclyde’s Census Day population (78,426), 75,665 said that there were born in the UK. This is equal to 96.5% of the Inverclyde population. 2,761 people (3.5%) were born overseas.

Of those living in Inverclyde on Census Day that were born overseas, more than 60% had been living in the UK for at least 10 years.



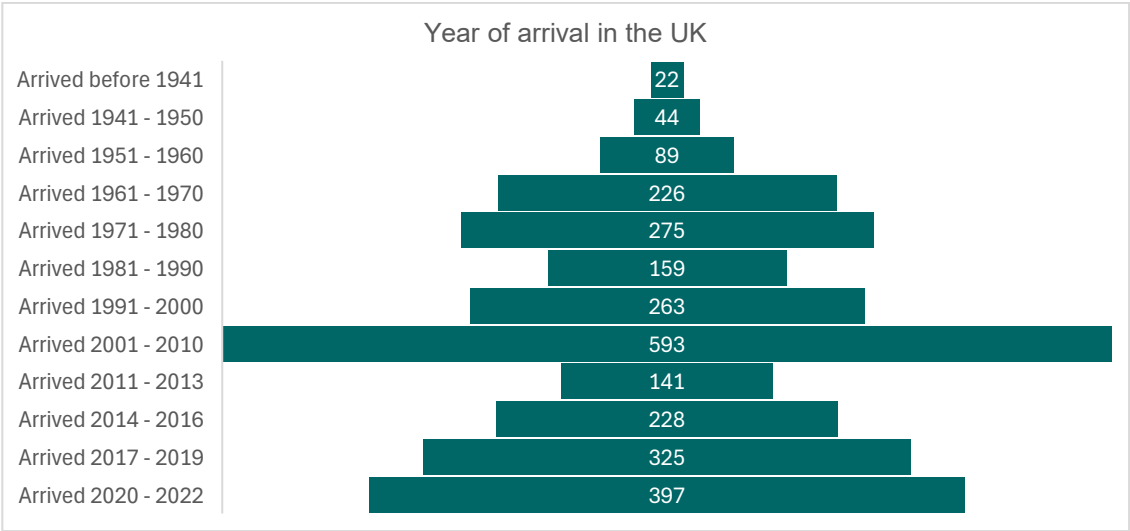
1.3c) Age of arrival in the UK (Census 2022)

1 in 3 of those born overseas arrived in the UK under the age of 10, whilst just over 1 in 4 (26%) arrived between the age of 20 - 29 years. This may be due to people moving to the UK to study or work.



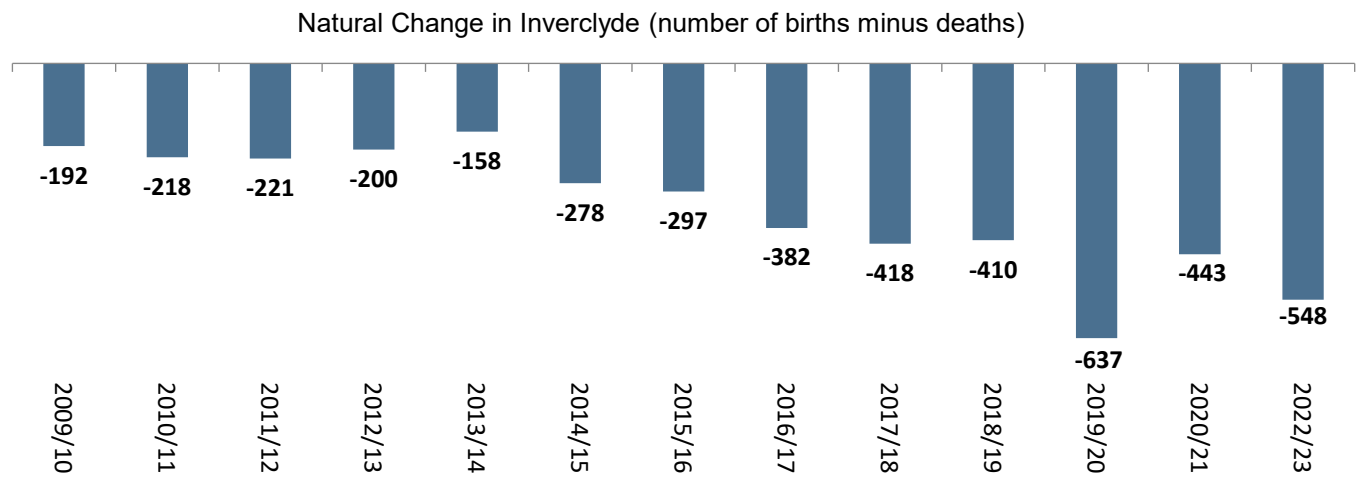
1.3 d) Year of arrival in the UK (Census 2022)

Almost 40% of everyone that said that they had moved to the UK from overseas did so between 2011 - 2022, whilst more than a quarter, 26% (722) arrived within the previous five years, 2017-2022.



3.3 e) Births and Deaths (2009 - 2023)

The number of births in Inverclyde has decreased significantly with the gap between births and deaths, with the gap markedly widening from mid-2016 onwards. Natural change accounted for a decrease of 548 in Inverclyde’s population between mid-2022 to mid-2023.



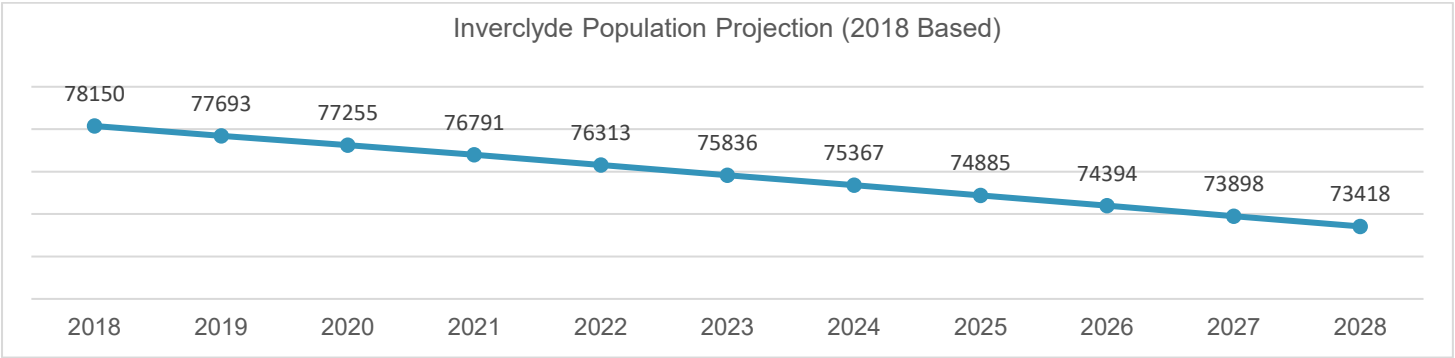
\* Mid-2022 population estimates focused on population change between Census Day in March 2022 and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and not mid 2021-mid 2022. These have not been included within the chart above.

Source: [Population Estimates Time Series Data | National Records of Scotland](#)

1.4 Population Projections

The NRS population projections (2018 based) forecast a decrease in Inverclyde’s population due to anticipated net-migration and negative natural change. There is a projected -6.1% decrease in Inverclyde’s population by 2028 based on the estimated population in 2018.

New, 2022-based population projections are due to be published in summer 2025.



Source: [www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-projections/sub-national-population-projections/2018-based](http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-projections/sub-national-population-projections/2018-based)

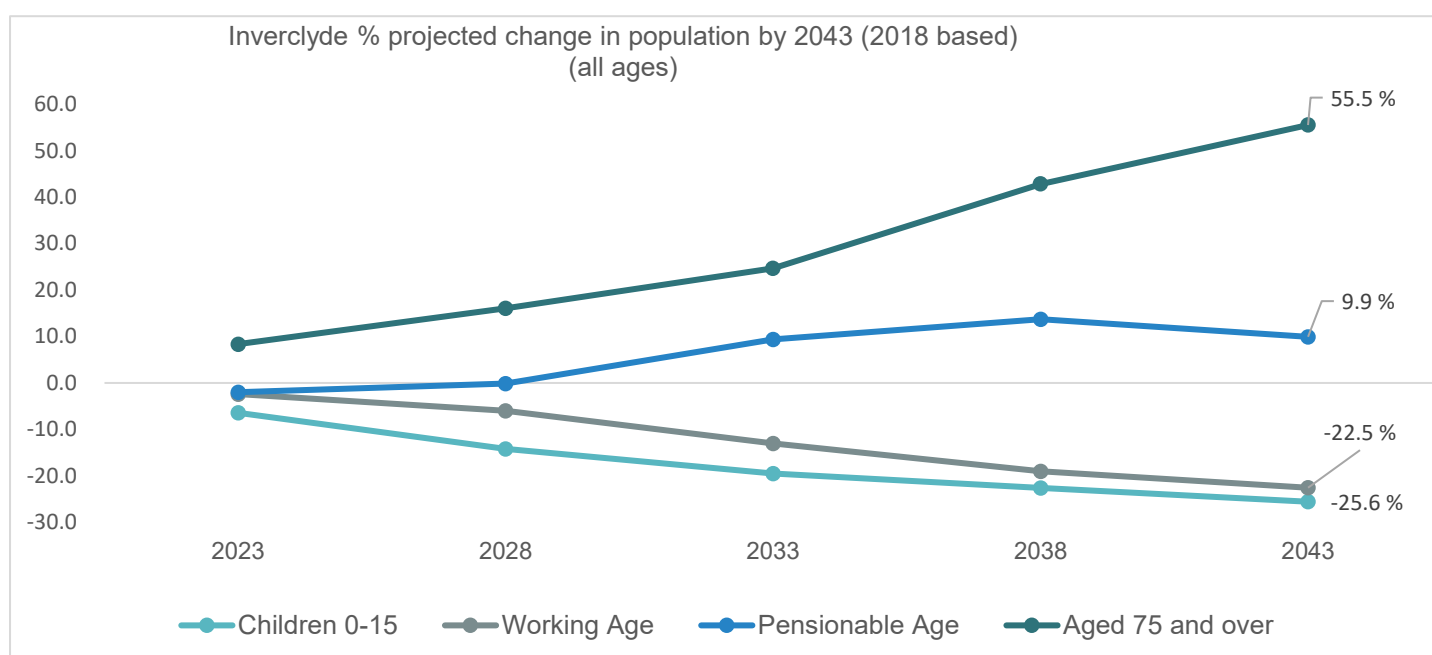
|            | Population mid 2018 | Natural Change | Natural Change |        | Net Migration | Net Migration      |                               | Other Changes | Population mid 2028 | % Change |
|------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|--------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|----------|
|            |                     |                | Births         | Deaths |               | To & from Scotland | Internal & overseas migration |               |                     |          |
| Inverclyde | 78,150              | -3,976         | 6,385          | 10,361 | -615          | 1,136              | -1,751                        | -141          | 73,418              | -6.1%    |

Population decline is not uniform across all ranges as shown in below. By 2028 it is projected that:

- The percentage of the population that are aged 0 to 15 years is projected to fall by -14.2%, compared to -6% in Scotland
- The percentage of working age population is projected to fall by -6%, compared to a +3.3% growth in Scotland
- The percentage of the population that is pensionable age and over is projected to decrease by -0.1%, compared to a +3.7% growth in Scotland
- The percentage of the population that is aged 75 and over is projected to increase by +16%, compared to +25.4% in Scotland

The projected increase in the number of individuals that are of a non-working age as a proportion of those of a working age will impact upon the services required locally, the numbers of unpaid and family carers and on the local economy. In particular, a growing elderly population will impact on the provision of public services, particularly health and social care as an elderly population will most likely require more intensive support.

NRS 25-year population projections to 2043 (2018 based) predict more extreme changes in the age structure of Inverclyde's population, as shown in the graph below.



Source: [www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-projections/sub-national-population-projections/2018-based](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-projections/sub-national-population-projections/2018-based)

## 1.5 Households

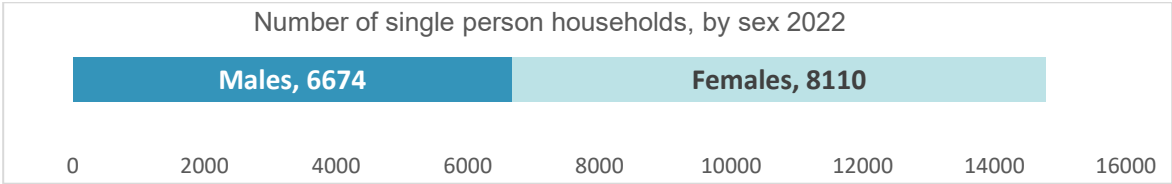
The Census 2022 provided information on the number of households in Inverclyde.

The number of households in Inverclyde on Census Day 2022 was slightly lower than at the time of the Census 2011. In 2022, there were 37,405 households compared to 37,434 in 2011. At a national level the number of households increased at a higher rate (5.8%) than the general population increase (2.7%).

1.5 a) One person households

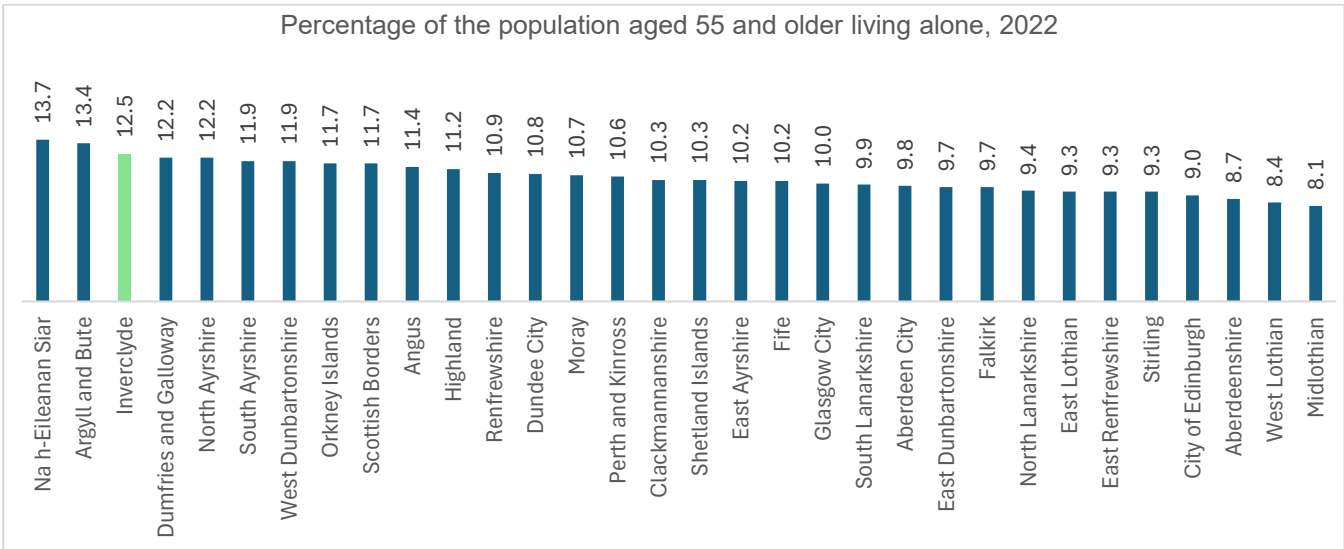
The number of one person households has increased from 14,394 in 2011 to 14,784 in 2022. One person households account for 39.5% of all household types, which is slightly more than in 2011 when 38.4% of all households were one person. In Scotland, 37.1% of households were single person.

The proportion of female one person households in Inverclyde is 10% higher than male one person households – 55% (8,110) one person household were female compared to 45% (6,674) male one person households. This reflects the fact that in Inverclyde females have higher life expectancy than males.



Source: [2022 results | Scotland's Census](#)

In Inverclyde in 2022, 9,817 people aged 55 and older were living alone. This is the third highest percentage of the population aged over 55 and living alone in Scotland (12.5%).

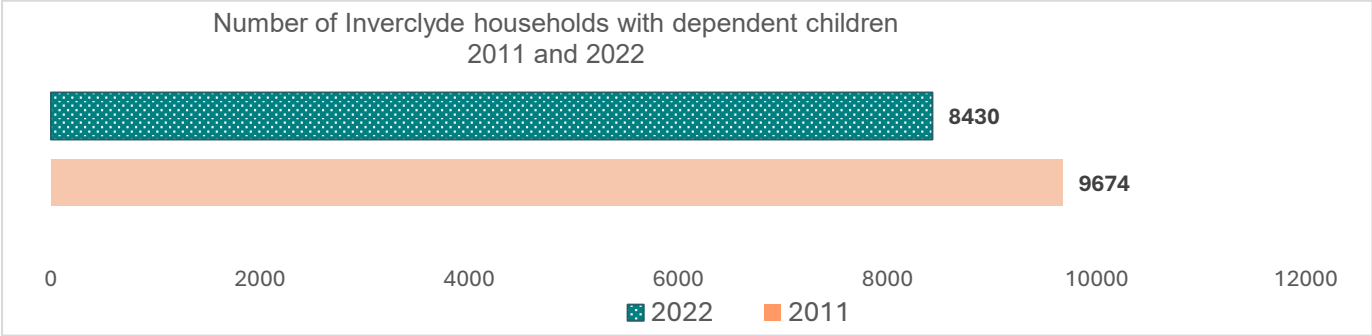


Source: [2022 results | Scotland's Census](#)

1.5 b) Dependent children

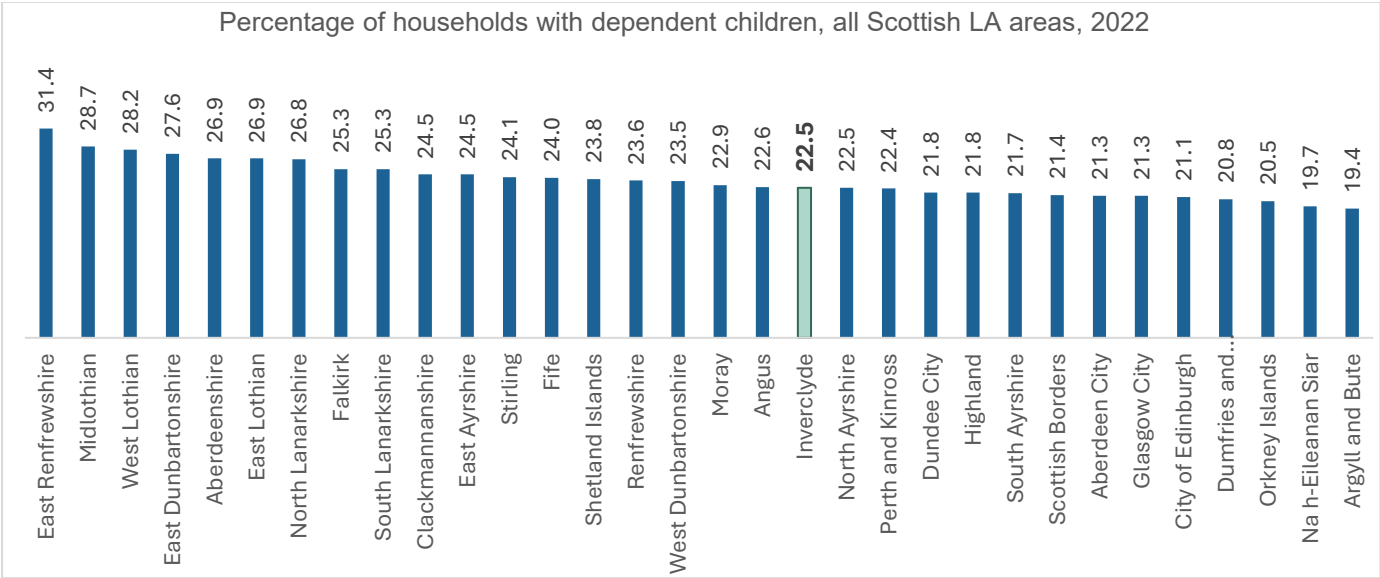
In 2022, there were 8,430 households in Inverclyde with at least one dependent child, equivalent to 22.5% of all households. In 2011, almost 26% of Inverclyde households had at least one dependent child.

The actual number of all households with at least one dependent child has decreased by 12.8% since 2011 and reflects a decrease in the number of children aged under 16 over the same period.



Source: [2022 results | Scotland's Census](#)

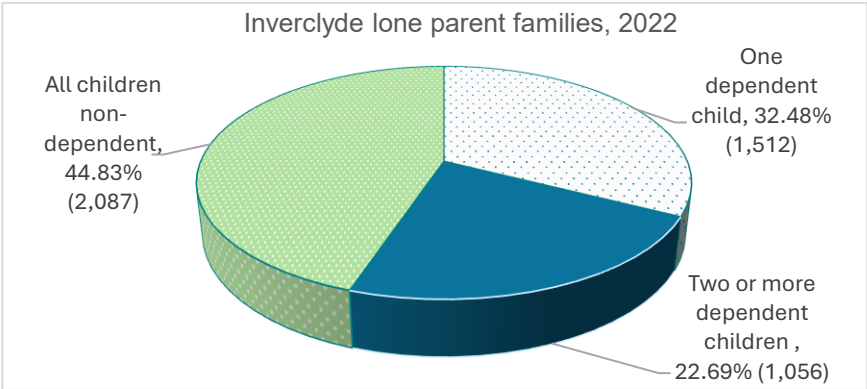
The chart below shows how the percentage of households with dependent children in Inverclyde compares to other Scottish local authorities.



Source: [2022 results | Scotland's Census](#)

1.5 c) Lone Parent Families

In 2022, there were 4,655 lone parent family households in Inverclyde. Of those, more than half have at least one dependent child. A ‘dependent child’ is one that is living with their parent(s) and aged under 16, or aged 16 to 18 in full-time education. Children aged 16 to 18 who have a spouse, partner or child living in the household are not included.

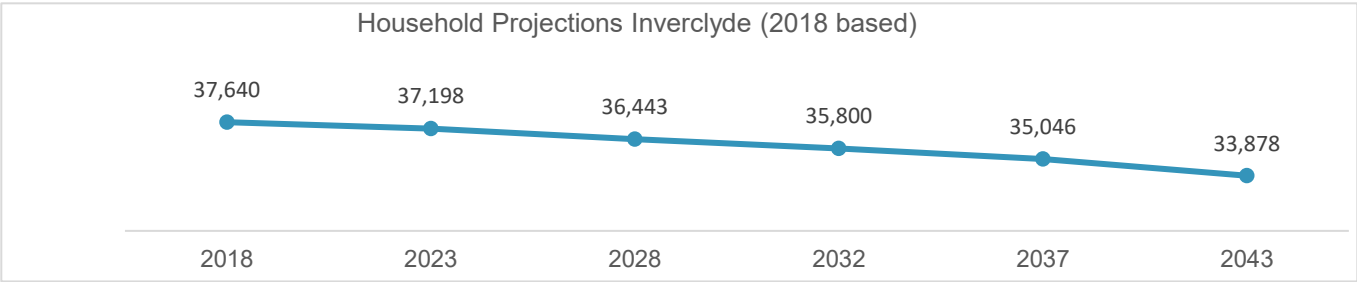


Source: [2022 results | Scotland's Census](#)

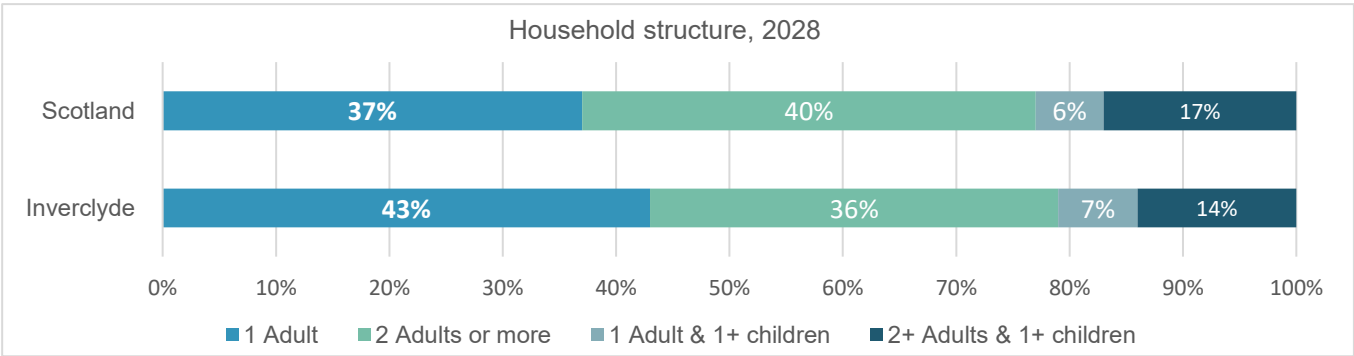
1.5 d) Household Projections

Household projections are mainly used for informing decisions about future housing need and service provision. New household projections for Scotland (2022 based) are not due to be published until September 2025. The most recent data available is 2018 based.

Inverclyde is one of six council areas in Scotland projected to have a fall in household numbers by 2043 (-10%). The projected decrease in Inverclyde's household numbers is the second largest in Scotland. The average household size in Inverclyde is also smaller than the Scottish average.

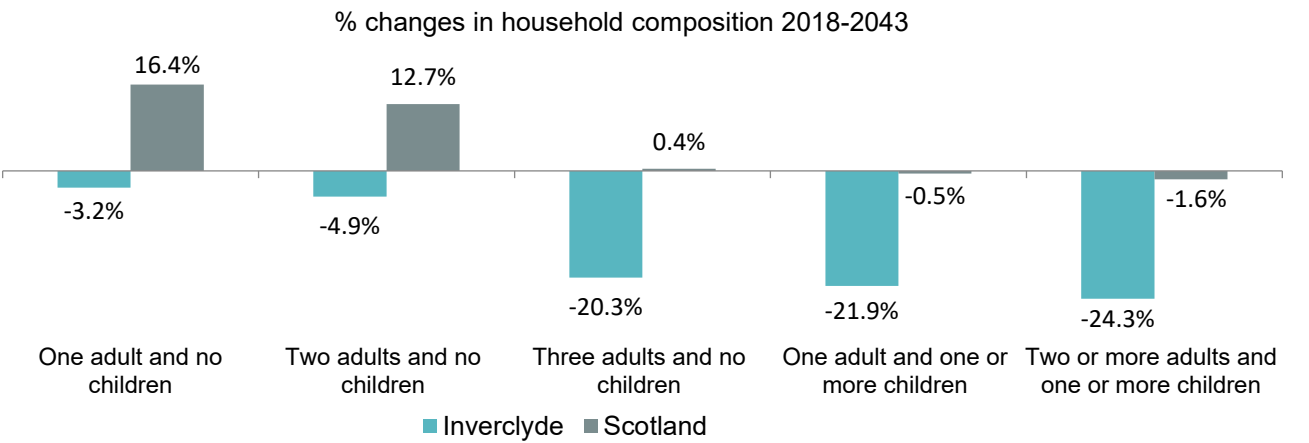


Ten year projections (2018 based) show that by 2028 Inverclyde will have a higher proportion of 1 adult households and a lower proportion of households with children than the Scottish average.



1.5e) Percentage change in households 2018-43

The table below shows the projected percentage change in households in Inverclyde between 2018 and 2043 and how this compares with Scotland. All household types in Inverclyde are projected to decrease by 2043.

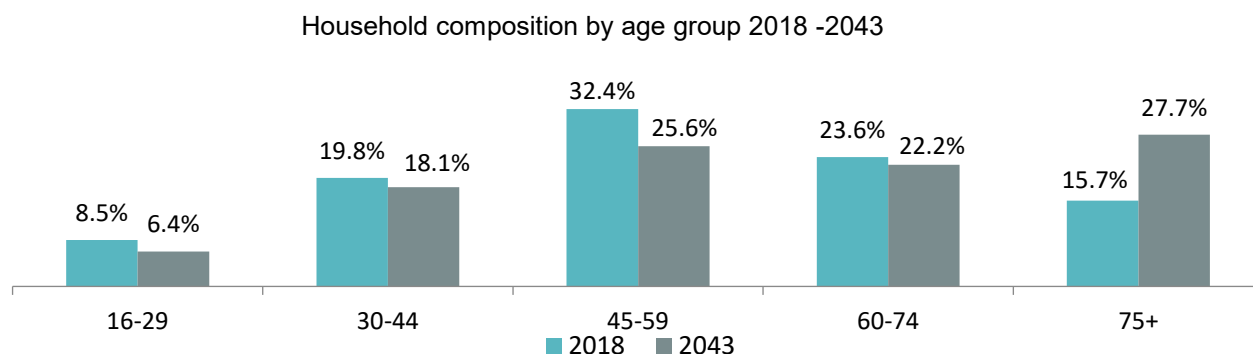




Source: [Household Projections for Scotland, 2018-based | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/publications/household-projections-for-scotland-2018-based)

#### 1.5f) Household by age group, comparison between 2018 and 2043

The graph below shows that by 2043 it is projected that more than a quarter (27.7%) of all households in Inverclyde will be headed by someone aged 75 and over.



Source: [List of Data Tables | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/publications/household-projections-for-scotland-2018-based)

## 1.6 Ethnicity

At the time of the Census 2022, the majority of Inverclyde's population (91%) said that their ethnicity was 'White Scottish'.

| Inverclyde, 2022                       | % of the population | Number, Census Day 2022 |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| White Scottish                         | 90.9%               | 71,362                  |
| White – other British                  | 4.5%                | 3,501                   |
| White Irish                            | 0.7%                | 587                     |
| White Polish                           | 0.2%                | 189                     |
| White Gypsy / Traveller                | 0.009%              | 7                       |
| Other white                            | 0.9%                | 698                     |
| Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British | 1.1%                | 839                     |
| African                                | 0.2%                | 186                     |
| Mixed or multiple ethnic group         | 0.7%                | 535                     |
| Caribbean or black                     | 0.1%                | 79                      |
| Other ethnic groups                    | 0.5%                | 393                     |

Source: [2022 results | Scotland's Census](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/publications/2022-results-scotland)

Between 2011 and 2022 there was an increase in the number of people in Inverclyde that said they belonged to one of the following ethnic groups:

- The percentage of respondents that described themselves as 'mixed or multiple ethnic groups' increased from 0.2% (179) to 0.7% (535)
- The percentage of respondents that classed their ethnic group as Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British increased from 0.9% (748) in 2011 to 1.1% respondents (893) in 2022

- The percentage of respondents that classed their ethnic group as African increased slightly from 0.1% in 2011 (90) to 0.2% (186) in 2022
- The percentage of respondents that classed their ethnic group as Caribbean or Black increased from 43 in 2011 (0.05%) to 0.1% (79) in 2022.
- The percentage of respondents that said that they were of an 'other ethnic group' increased from 49 (0.06%) to 0.5% (393).

## ECONOMY PROFILE

### Key messages

- Employment forecasts (by industry) predict that in 2034, the largest key employment sector in Inverclyde will be Social Care, which may reflect the increased demand that will come with an ageing population.
- The forecasted changes in the employment market should be considered in any planned / future training and upskilling opportunities to ensure residents have the best possible chance of gaining employment locally.
- Following a growth in business numbers between 2013 and 2017, numbers have fallen year on year since, although they have remained higher than their 2013 level. Growing small businesses is one route to employment growth.
- Inverclyde's employment base remains heavily reliant on the public sector. With public sector budgets reducing resulting in a shrinking workforce in this sector, this will put additional pressure on the local employment market.
- Inverclyde suffers from higher levels of economic inactivity than the Scottish and GB averages, with unemployment levels of the population aged 16-64 years old also higher than the Scottish and GB averages. Tackling entrenched rates of benefit dependency remains a challenge to support those furthest from the labour market.
- The proportion of Inverclyde's population with a degree level qualification or higher is the fifth lowest in Scotland, at almost a quarter of the population whilst the Scottish average is almost a third. The Office of National Statistics report that areas with a less qualified workforce may have fewer opportunities for highly qualified people, struggle to train, attract and keep qualified workers, and may have a poorer local economy.

# ECONOMY PROFILE

## 2.1 Employment

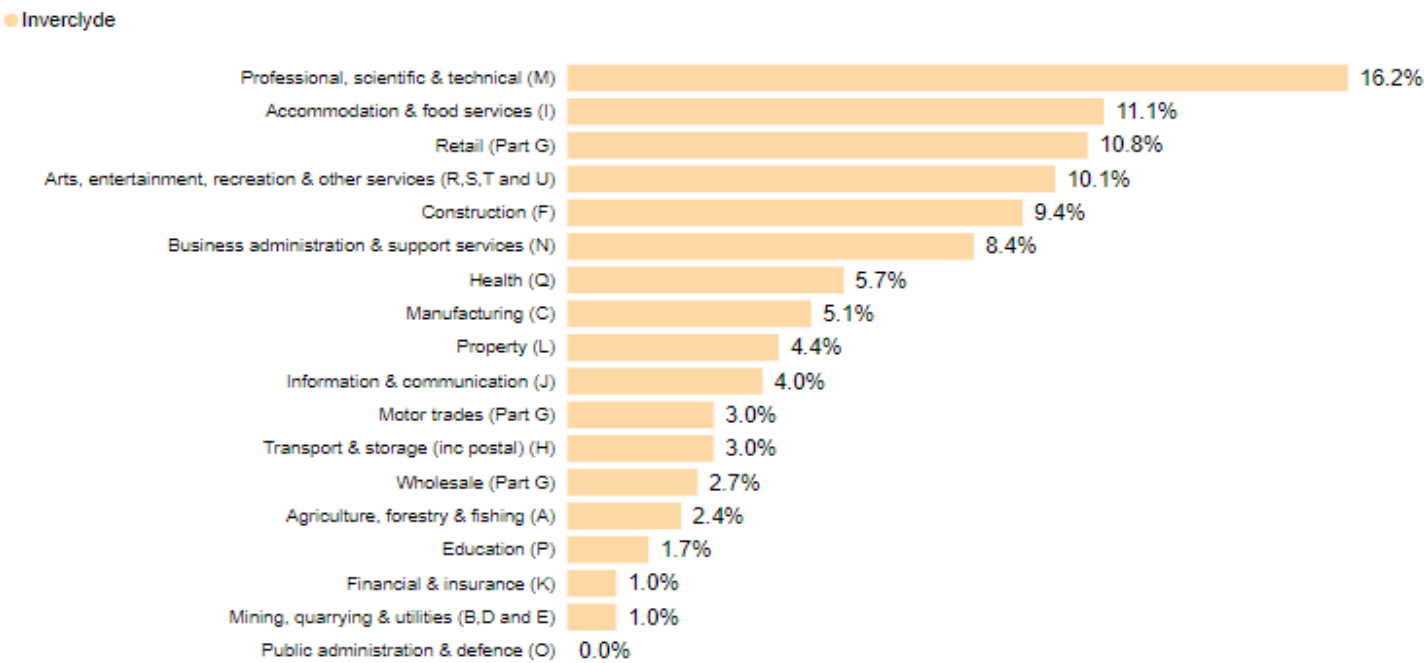
Total employment in all industries in 2023 was estimated to be 24,000. Total employment change between 2015 and 2023 is estimated at -17%, compared to +4% in Scotland. SDS obtain this data from the Business Register and Employment Survey.

Source: [Data Matrix - Skills Development Scotland](#)

### 2.1 a) Business by Industry

The chart below, published by SDS, shows the businesses by industry in Inverclyde (2024).

**Businesses by Industry, 2024**

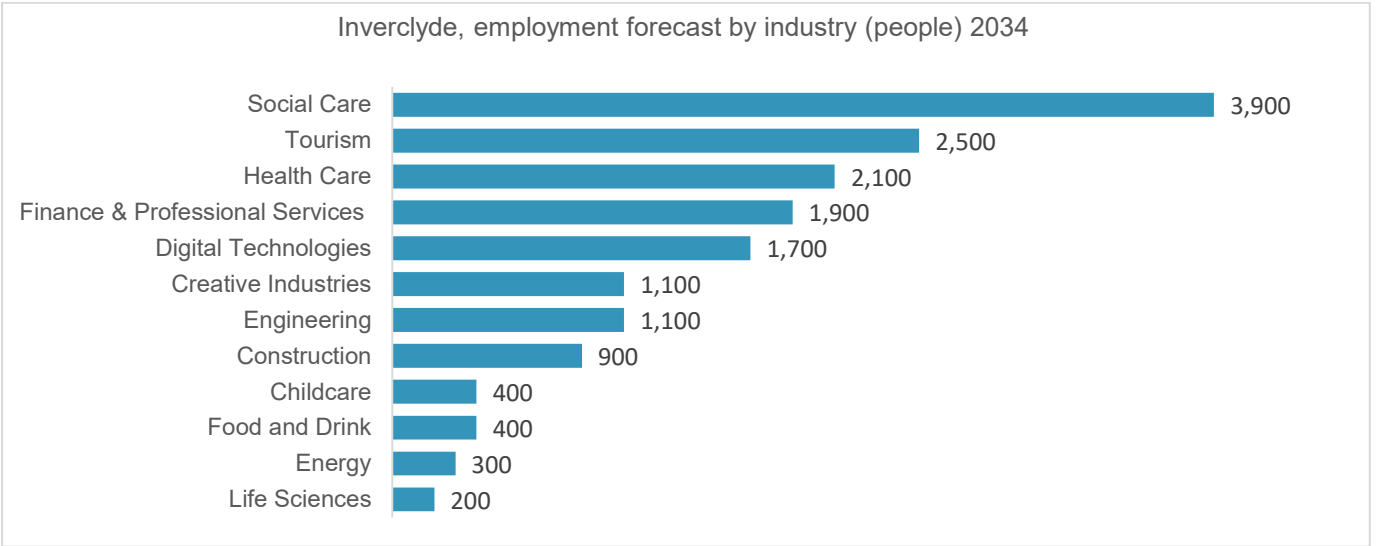


Source: [Data Matrix - Skills Development Scotland](#)

### 2.1 b) Employment Forecast

An SDS employment forecast by industry predicts by 2034, that the largest key employment sector in Inverclyde will be Social Care, followed by Tourism.

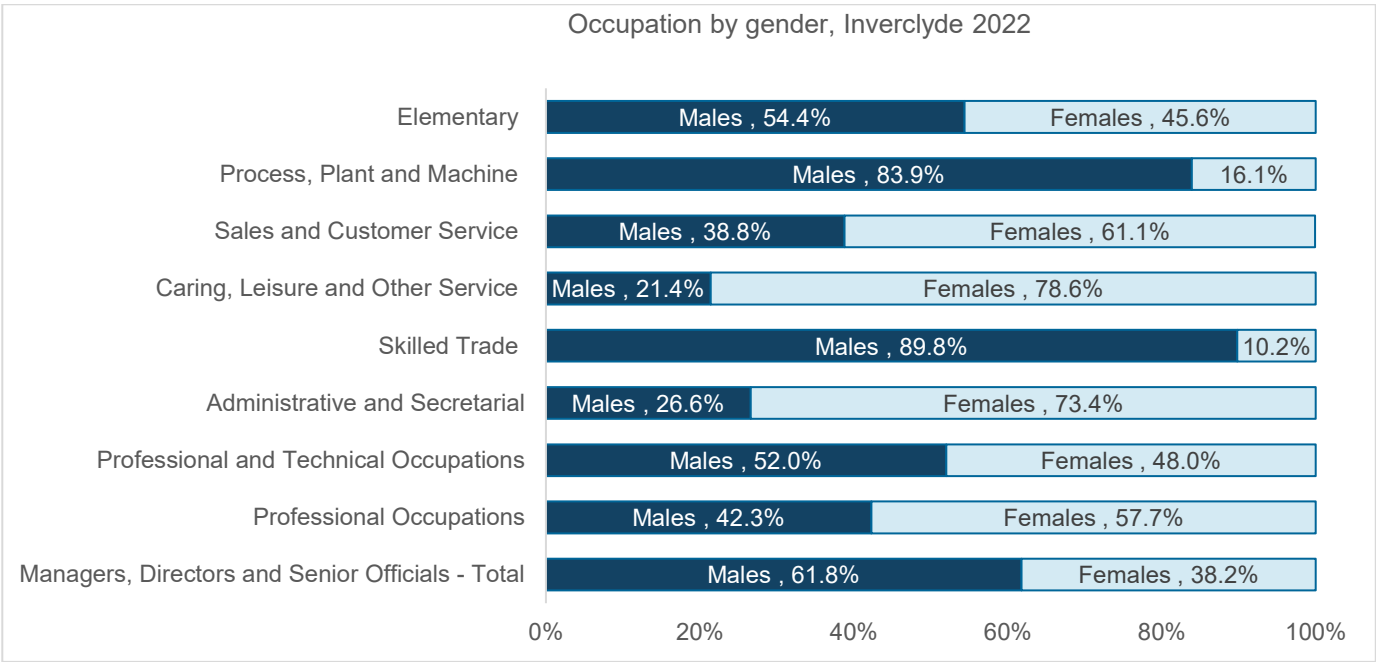
**N.B Employment forecast data should viewed as the direction of travel, and not considered as fact.**



Source: [Data Matrix - Skills Development Scotland](#)

2.1c) Occupations by gender

Census 2022 data provides an indication of the gender split across a range of occupations.



Source: [Search | Scotland's Census - Search by topic - Topic selection](#)

## 2.1 d) Employment by Occupation (Oct 2023 – September 2024)

The highest percentage of jobs were in Professional Occupations at 25%, followed by Associate Professional and Technical occupations, 18%.

| % all in employment who are:                    | Inverclyde<br>(Numbers) | Inverclyde<br>(%) | Scotland<br>(%) | Great Britain<br>(%) |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| <b>Major Group 1-3</b>                          | <b>17,100</b>           | <b>53.7</b>       | <b>49.1</b>     | <b>53.4</b>          |
| 1 Managers, Directors and Senior Officials      | 3,200                   | 10.2              | 8.5             | 11.1                 |
| 2 Professional Occupations                      | 8,100                   | 25.4              | 25.5            | 26.8                 |
| 3 Associate Professional & Technical            | 5,800                   | 18.2              | 15.0            | 15.4                 |
| <b>Major Group 4-5</b>                          | <b>4,700</b>            | <b>14.8</b>       | <b>19.6</b>     | <b>17.9</b>          |
| 4 Administrative & Secretarial                  | 3,000                   | 9.3               | 9.8             | 9.3                  |
| 5 Skilled Trades Occupations                    | 1,800                   | 5.5               | 9.7             | 8.7                  |
| <b>Major Group 6-7</b>                          | <b>6,800</b>            | <b>21.2</b>       | <b>16.0</b>     | <b>14.4</b>          |
| 6 Caring, Leisure and Other Service Occupations | 3,900                   | 12.3              | 9.7             | 8.3                  |
| 7 Sales and Customer Service Occs               | 2,800                   | 8.9               | 6.3             | 6.1                  |
| <b>Major Group 8-9</b>                          | <b>3,300</b>            | <b>10.3</b>       | <b>15.3</b>     | <b>14.3</b>          |
| 8 Process Plant & Machine Operatives            | #                       | #                 | 5.8             | 5.5                  |
| 9 Elementary Occupations                        | 2,400                   | 7.6               | 9.4             | 8.8                  |

# sample size too small for reliable estimate

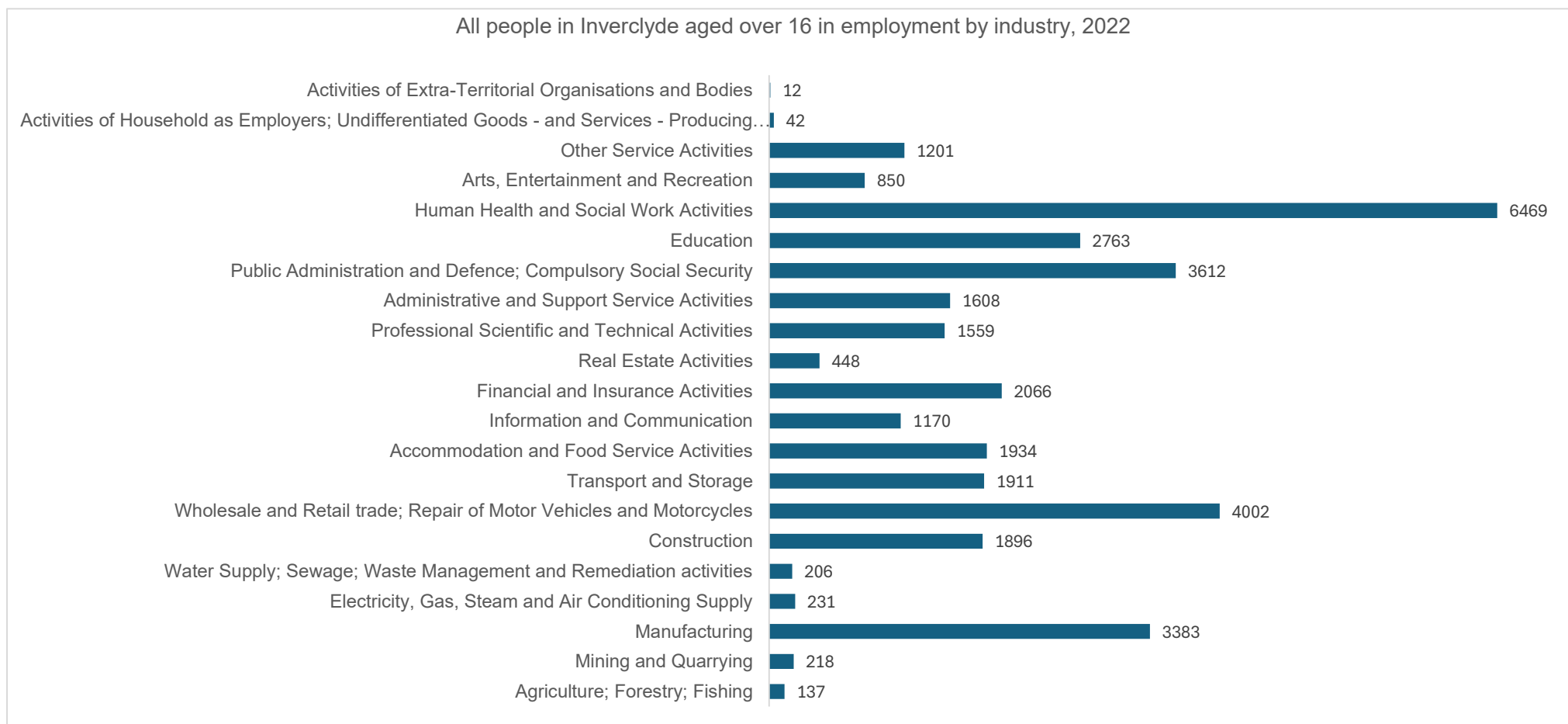
Numbers and % are for those age 16+

% is a proportion of all persons in employment

Source: Nomis [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#)

## 2.1e) Employment by Industry (Census 2022)

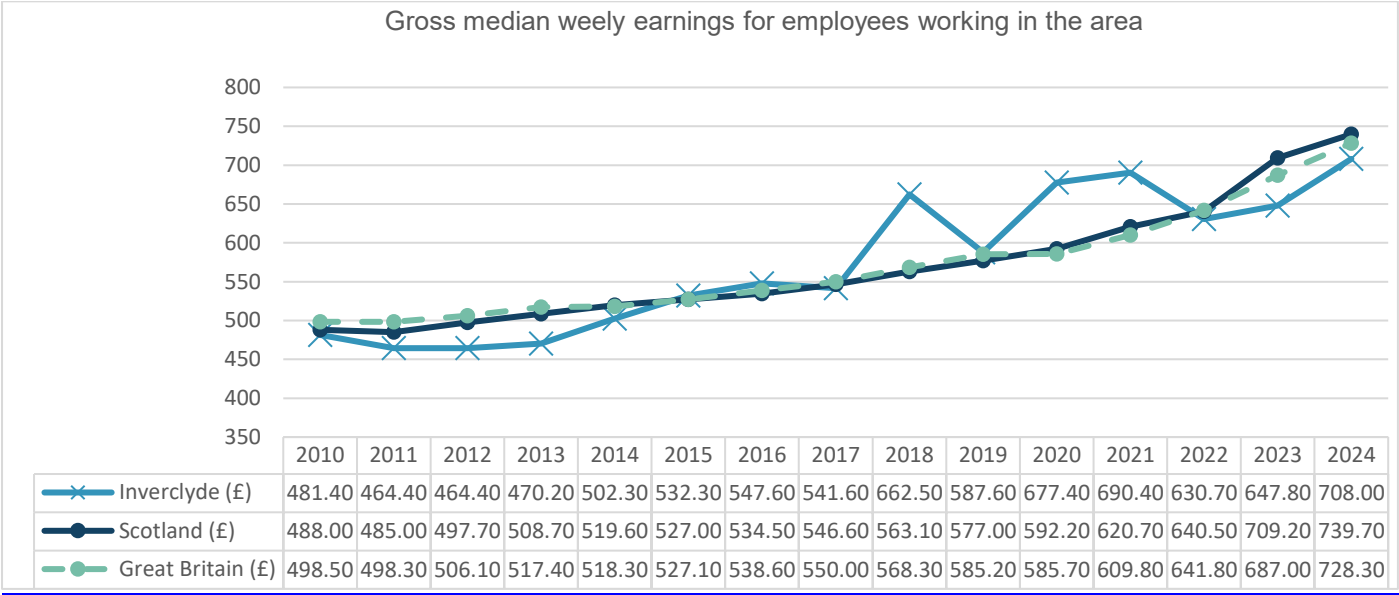
35,709 people in Inverclyde were in employment the week before Census Day 2022. The table below shows the number of people in employment grouped by industry (n.b. Census data is perturbed and will not add up exactly to the total). The largest proportion of people were employed in field of Human Health and Social Work.



2.2 Earnings

4.2 a) Weekly Earnings by place of work (median earnings in £ for employees working in the area and who are on adult rates)

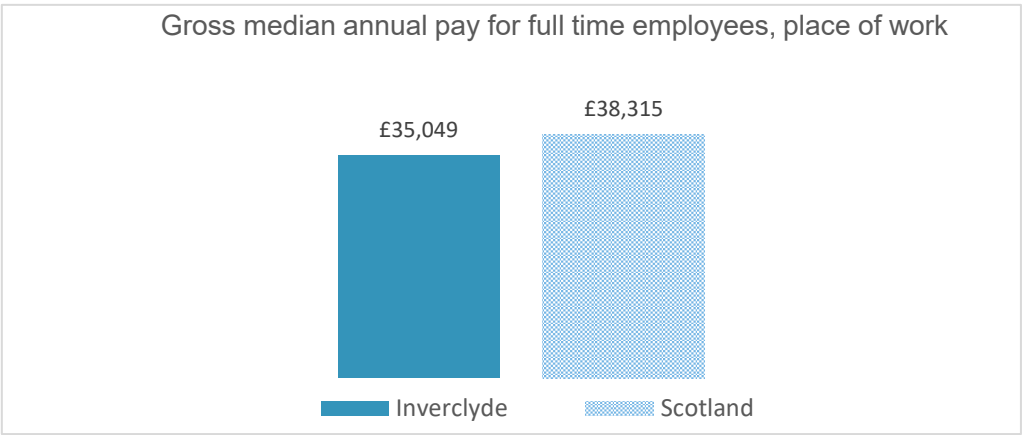
Historically, there has been a large gap between the gross weekly pay for employees living in Inverclyde compared to the average in Scotland and Great Britain. Following a period spanning 2018-2021, when gross weekly workplace earnings in Inverclyde was above the Scottish and UK national average, earnings dropped again in 2022.



Source: [NOMIS Earnings by Workplace](#)

2.2 b) Place of Work Employee Annual Earnings, 2024 (**provisional**)

Provisional data published by the Office of National Statistics shows that gross median annual earnings in April 2024 for full-time employees in Inverclyde was around 7% lower than the Scottish average.

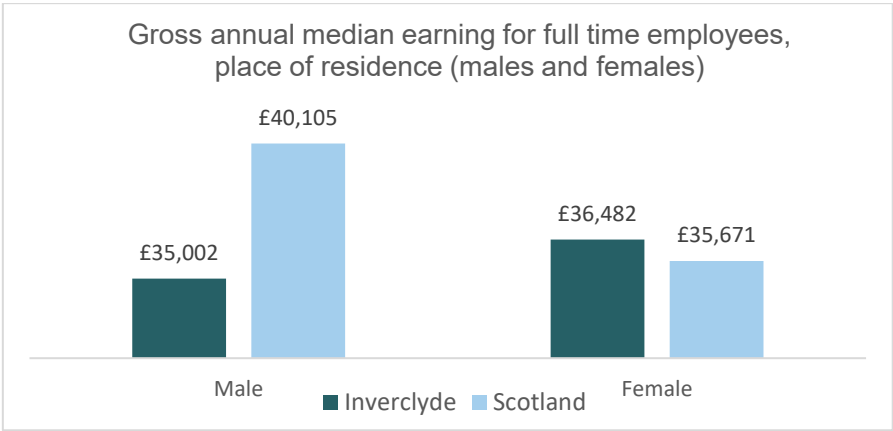


Source: [Employee earnings in the UK - Office for National Statistics](#) (table 7.7a)



2.2 c) Place of Residence Annual Earnings, males and females 2024 (provisional)

Historically, place of residence earnings for males in Inverclyde were higher than female earnings, however the most recent provisional data shows that this has reversed. Full-time earnings, by place of residence, for males in Inverclyde are well below the Scottish average whilst females earning are slightly higher.



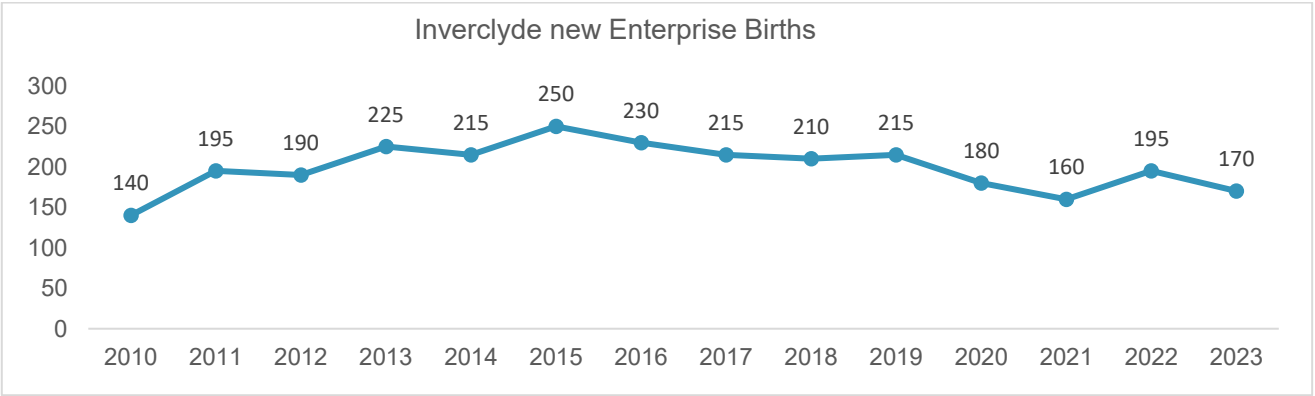
Source: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/datasets/placeofresidencebylocalauthorityashetable8>

2.3 Businesses

The following data has been extracted from the website of the Office of National Statistics which publishes data on births, deaths and the survival of businesses in the UK. The latest data was published by ONS in November 2024.

2.3 a) New Enterprise Births

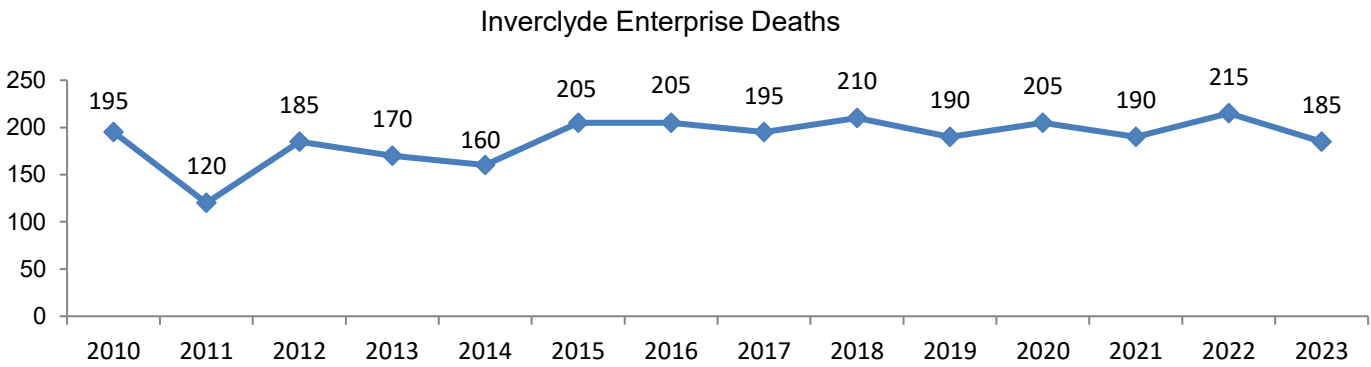
Following a significant increase in the number of new enterprise births between 2010 and 2015 in Inverclyde, the number of new enterprise births started to decline. The 2023 figure sits at 170, which is a decrease from the previous year.



Source: [Business demography, UK - Office for National Statistics](#)

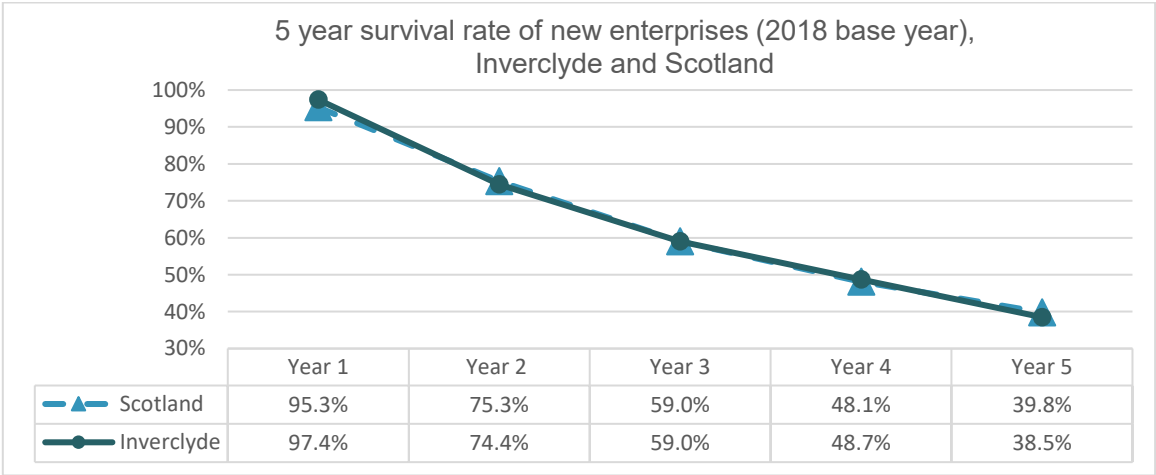
2.3 b) Enterprise Deaths

The number of enterprise deaths in Inverclyde fluctuates from year to year, with a small decrease between 2022 and 2023.



2.3 c) Five-year survival rate of newly born enterprises (new enterprises born in 2018)

The table below shows the five-year survival rate of newly born enterprises as a percentage of enterprise births in 2018. Survival rates in Inverclyde in the first year are just above the Scottish average and fall just below it by year 5.



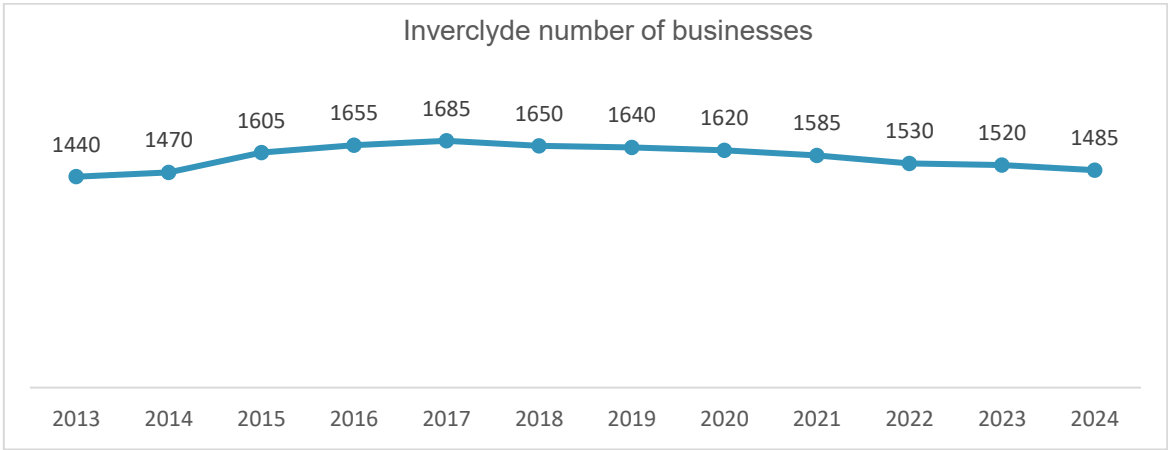
Source: The information for all the above tables has been sourced from ONS.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/business/activitysizeandlocation/datasets/businessdemographyreferencetable/current>

2.3 d) Business Numbers

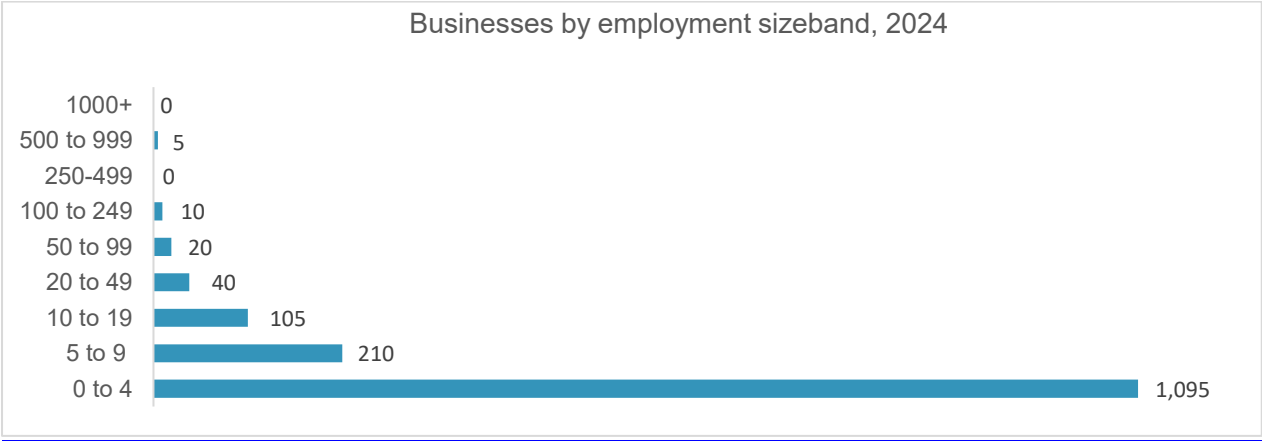
The number of businesses in Inverclyde fell in 2024 for the seventh year in a row as shown below.

Source: [www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/what-we-do/skills-planning/regional-skills-assessments/](http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/what-we-do/skills-planning/regional-skills-assessments/)



2.3 e) Number of Businesses by Employment Size Band, 2024

87.9% of businesses in Inverclyde have 0-9 employees, similar to the national average, 87.4% (2024).



Source: [www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/what-we-do/skills-planning/regional-skills-assessments/](http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/what-we-do/skills-planning/regional-skills-assessments/)

2.4 Economic Activity

Data relating to economic activity suggest that levels of economic deprivation are higher in Inverclyde than the Scottish average.

2.4 a) Employment and Unemployment (October 2023 – September 2024)

Economically Active

70% of Inverclyde’s population aged 16-64 years old was classed as economically active over the period October 2023 – September 2024, which is below the Scottish and British average. 4.2% of the economically active population in Inverclyde was unemployed compared to 3.3% in Scotland.

|                           | Inverclyde | Inverclyde | Scotland | Great Britain |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|----------|---------------|
| All People                | (Numbers)  | (%)        | (%)      | (%)           |
| Economically Active†      | 33,900     | 70.0       | 76.6     | 78.4          |
| In Employment†            | 31,900     | 65.8       | 74.0     | 75.5          |
| Employees†                | 29,900     | 62.0       | 65.5     | 66.0          |
| Self Employed†            | 2,100      | #          | 8.2      | 9.2           |
| Unemployed (Model-Based)§ | 1,400      | 4.2        | 3.3      | 3.7           |

Source: [NOMIS Labour Market Profile Inverclyde](#)

Source: ONS annual population survey

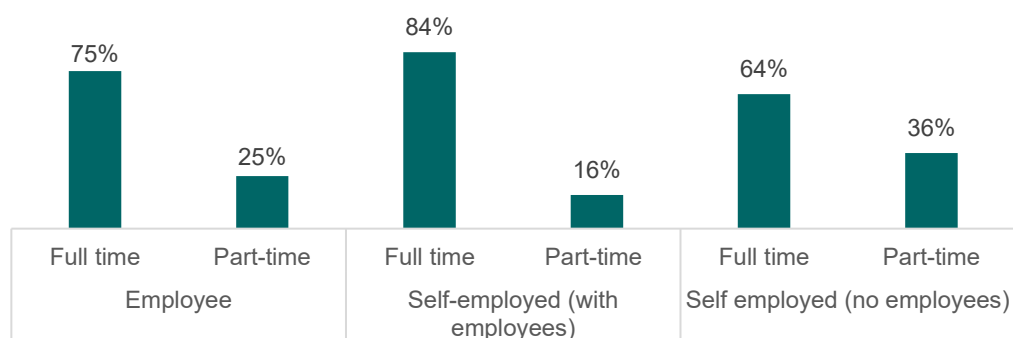
† - numbers are for those aged 16 and over, % are for those aged 16-64

§ - numbers and % are for those aged 16 and over. % is a proportion of economically active

2.4 b) Working pattern (Census 2022)

Data from the Census 2022 results provides an insight into the working patterns of those living in Inverclyde.

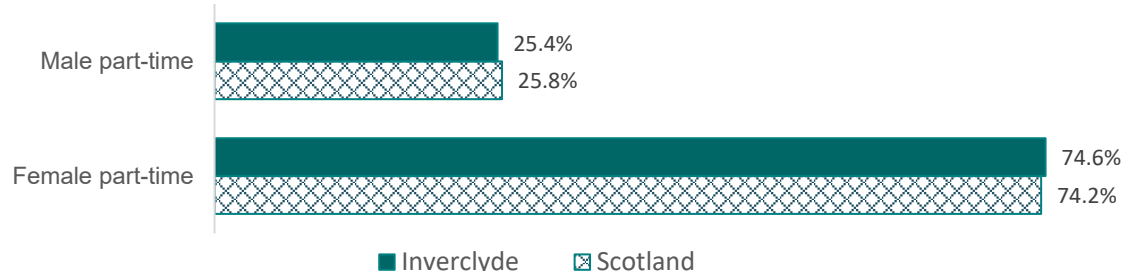
Economically active (excl. students) full time or part time employment, Inverclyde 2022



n.b. the above data excludes full time students.

Of Inverclyde's economically active population on Census Day (excluding full time students) that worked part-time, 74.6% were female compared to males, 25.4%. This is similar in ratio to the Scottish average, 74.2%.

Part-time employees by gender, Inverclyde and Scotland, 2022



## 2.4 c) Economic Inactivity

Over the period October 2023 – September 2024, it is estimated that 30% of the Inverclyde's population (16-64 years old) was economically inactive.

|                           | Inverclyde<br>(Level) | Inverclyde<br>(%) | Scotland<br>(%) | Great Britain<br>(%) |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| All People                |                       |                   |                 |                      |
| Total                     | 14,100                | 30.0              | 23.4            | 21.6                 |
| Student                   | 4,200                 | 29.9              | 24.0            | 26.8                 |
| Looking After Family/Home | #                     | #                 | 16.5            | 18.6                 |
| Temporary Sick            | !                     | !                 | 2.6             | 2.0                  |
| Long-Term Sick            | 4,700                 | 33.1              | 33.5            | 28.2                 |
| Discouraged               | !                     | !                 | 0.5             | 0.4                  |
| Retired                   | 1,500                 | 10.8              | 14.4            | 12.9                 |
| Other                     | #                     | #                 | 8.5             | 11.0                 |
| Wants A Job               | #                     | #                 | 16.4            | 18.3                 |
| Does Not Want a Job       | 13,000                | 92.4              | 83.6            | 81.9                 |

Source: [NOMIS Labour Market Profile Inverclyde](#)

# Sample size too small for reliable estimate! Estimate is not available since sample size is disclosive  
Numbers are for those aged 16-64. % is a proportion of those economically inactive, except total, which is a proportion of those aged 16-64

2.4d) Claimant Count by Age

The claimant count for everyone aged 16+ in Inverclyde is higher than the national average, 3.4% compared to 3.1%. It should be noted that this data is updated by ONS monthly, the data provided below relates to December 2024 and should therefore be viewed as a snapshot.

Claimant count by age - not seasonally adjusted (December 2024)

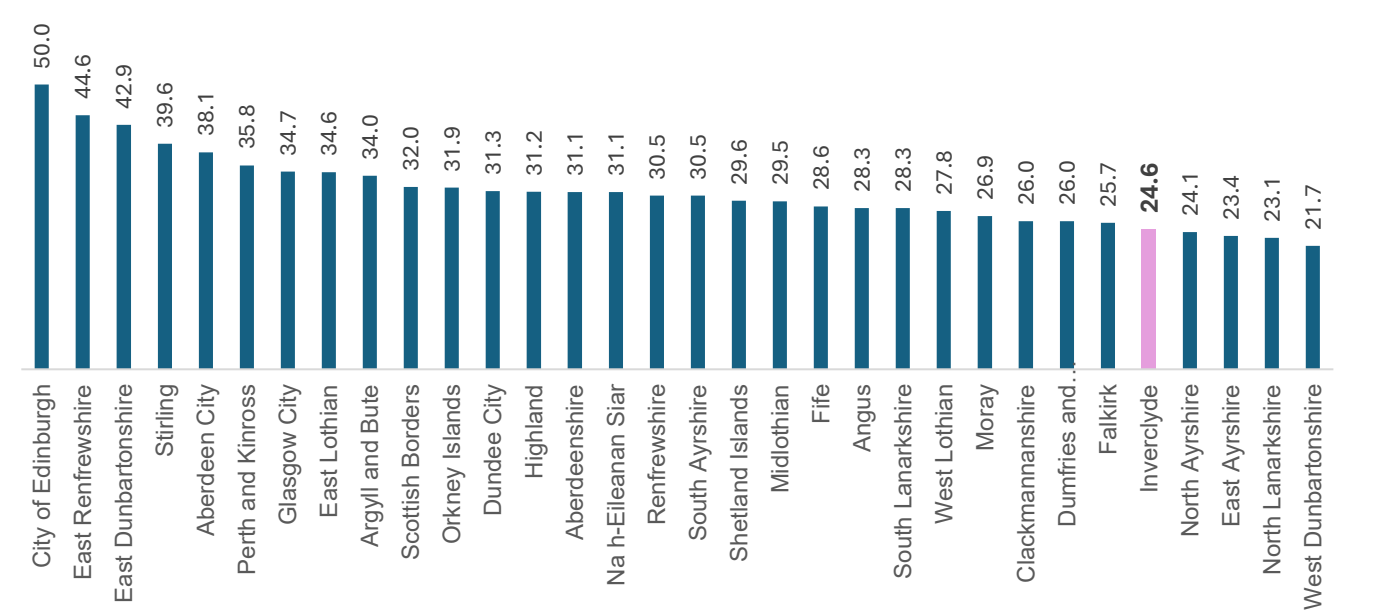
|                 | Inverclyde | Scotland | Great Britain |
|-----------------|------------|----------|---------------|
|                 | (%)        | (%)      | (%)           |
| Aged 16+        | 3.4        | 3.1      | 4.1           |
| Aged 16 To 17   | 0.6        | 0.7      | 0.2           |
| Aged 18 To 24   | 6.0        | 4.2      | 5.4           |
| - Aged 18 To 21 | 6.7        | 4.6      | 5.9           |
| Aged 25 To 49   | 4.3        | 3.5      | 4.7           |
| Aged 50+        | 1.9        | 2.2      | 3.1           |

Source: [NOMIS Labour Market Profile Inverclyde](#)

2.5 Qualifications (Census, 2022)

In 2022, 16,335 adults in Inverclyde (24.6%) had degree level qualifications or above compared to almost a third at a Scotland level. The chart below shows how Inverclyde compares to all Scottish Council areas.

Percentage of people aged 16 and over with degree level qualifications or above, 2022, all Council areas in Scotland



More females (9,307) than males (7,028) in Inverclyde had a degree level qualification or above (57% / 43%).

## 2.6 Travel to Work

34,413 people aged 16 and over in Inverclyde were in employment the week before the Census. Of this, 10,751 people, 31.2%, said that they mainly worked from home, compared to 9.7% in 2011. In Scotland in 2022, 31.6% of people mainly worked from home.

## DEPRIVATION PROFILE

### Key messages

- New SIMD data is not due to be released until the end of 2026, therefore SIMD 2020 remains the most recent data available. It is worth noting that the SIMD 2020 was published before the start of the cost-of-living crisis.
- SIMD 2020 showed that income and employment deprivation is a significant issue for many people living in Inverclyde. There is a need to ensure that those living in our most deprived areas maximise their incomes and that appropriate training and support is available to those that find it most difficult to move into the employment.
- The Scottish Household Survey (SHS) (2023) shows that a higher percentage of households in Inverclyde said that they are 'managing well' compared to the Scottish average. When considering SHS results, it should be remembered that the results are based on a fairly small sample size, typically 200-250 respondents.
- More than 1 in 4 children in Inverclyde (2022/23) are estimated to be living in poverty after housing costs. When compared to other local authorities, Inverclyde has the thirteenth highest percentage of children living in child poverty in Scotland.
- Attainment data used as a measure of the deprivation gap shows that pupils in Inverclyde pupils living 20% most deprived areas in Scotland, continue to perform strongly when compared to other areas in Scotland. Closing the attainment gap remains a priority for partners.
- Although the overall percentage of young people aged 16-19 years participating in education, training or employment was higher in Inverclyde than the Scottish average, there remains significant differences in participation levels when the data is considered at ward level.

## DEPRIVATION

### 3.1 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020

It is anticipated that the next update to the SIMD will be in the latter part of 2026, in order to incorporate data using the 2022 Census data zones.

The most recent data from the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation statistics was published in January 2020. For the purposes of reporting on levels of multiple deprivation, Inverclyde is split into 114 data zones, which is 1.6% of all data zones nationally.

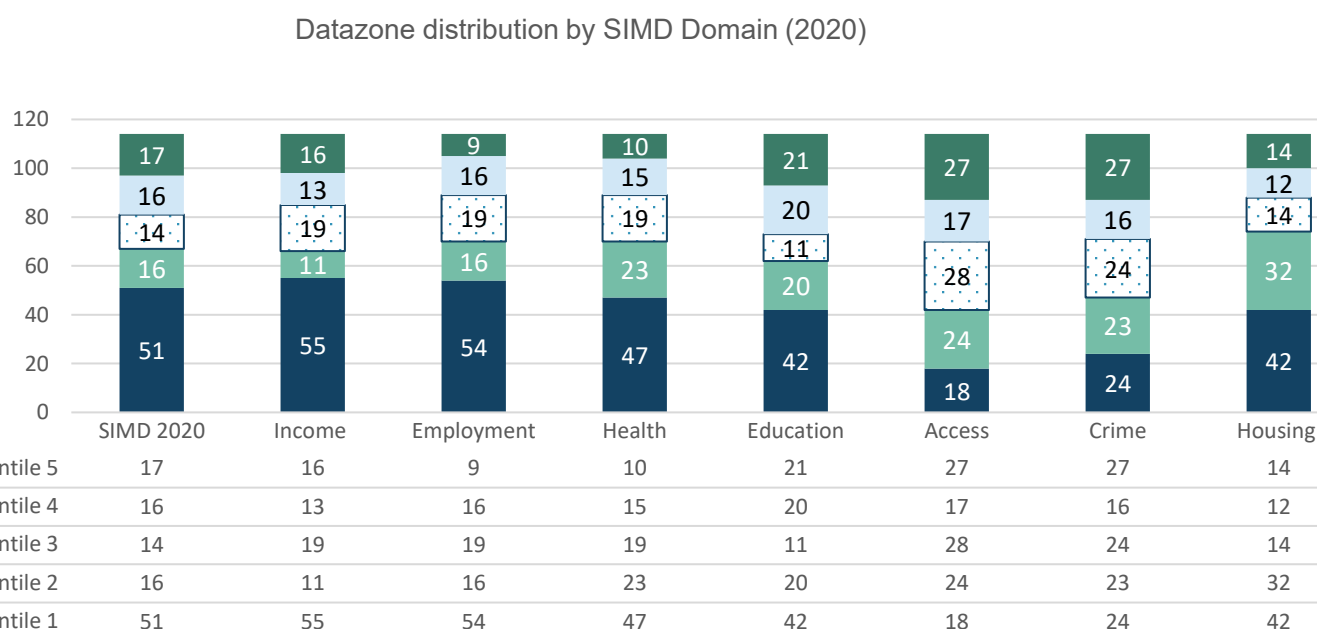
#### **Local share of most deprived data zones**

- In SIMD 2020, 21 (18) of Inverclyde's 114 data zones are in the 5% most deprived data zones in Scotland.
- In SIMD 2020, 51 (45%) of Inverclyde's 114 data zones are in the 20% most deprived data zones in Scotland.

#### **National share of most deprived data zones**

- In SIMD 2020, of the 348 data zones in the 5% most deprived data zones in Scotland, 22 (6%) of these are located in Inverclyde.
- In SIMD 2020, of the 1,396 data zones in the 20% most deprived data zones in Scotland, 51 (3.7%) of these are located in Inverclyde.

The chart below shows Inverclyde's local share of deprivation quintiles for the overall SIMD ranking as well as the seven individual domain rankings that make up the SIMD. The income, employment and health domains are all particularly high in terms of the number of data zones that fall into the most deprived 20% category.



Source: [SIMD16 Analysis Inverclyde](#)

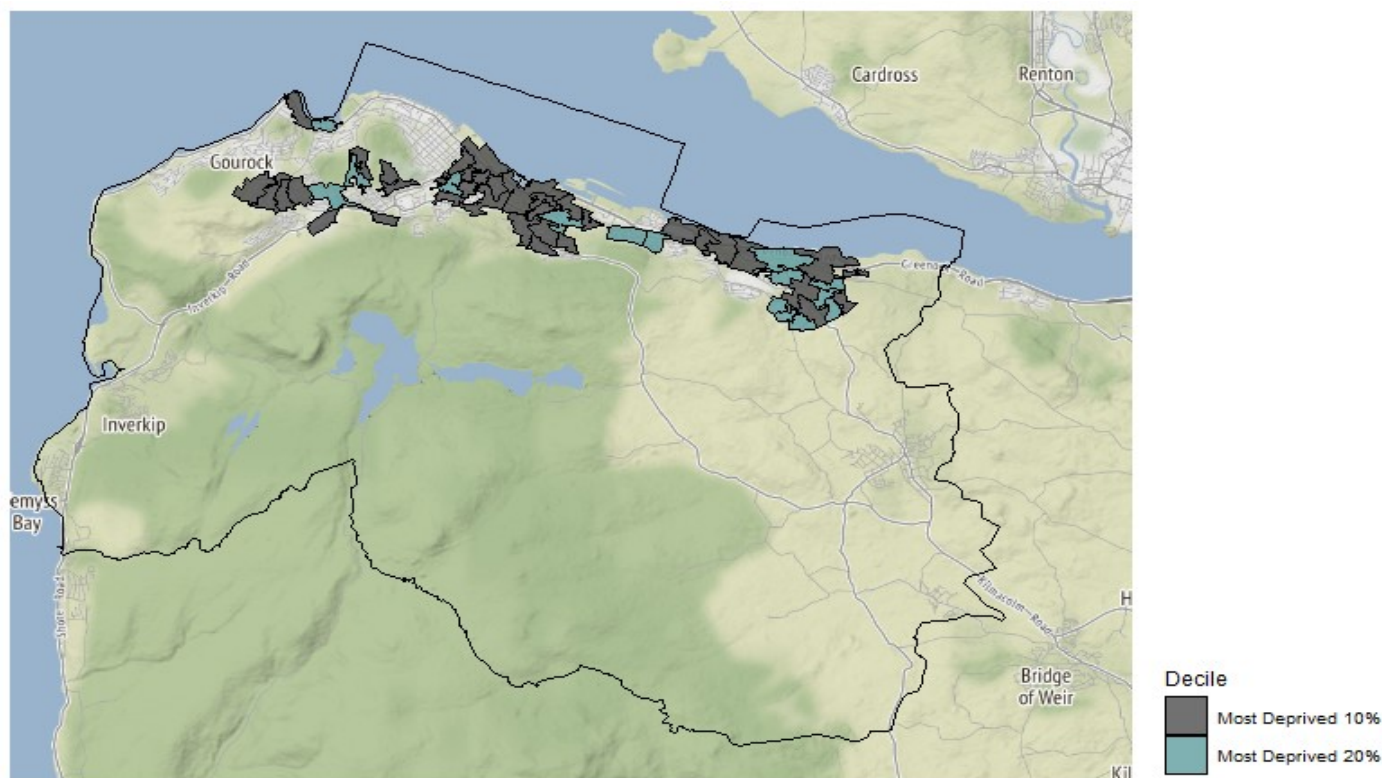


The SIMD map on the following page shows that levels of deprivation vary significantly across Inverclyde. The highest levels of deprivation (i.e. most deprived 20%) are mainly concentrated in Greenock East and Central, Greenock South West and Port Glasgow. The most deprived data zone in Inverclyde is in Greenock Town Centre and East Central with a ranking of 1, which means that it is the most multiply deprived data zone in Scotland.

Of the 21 data zones in Inverclyde that fall into the 5% most deprived in Scotland:

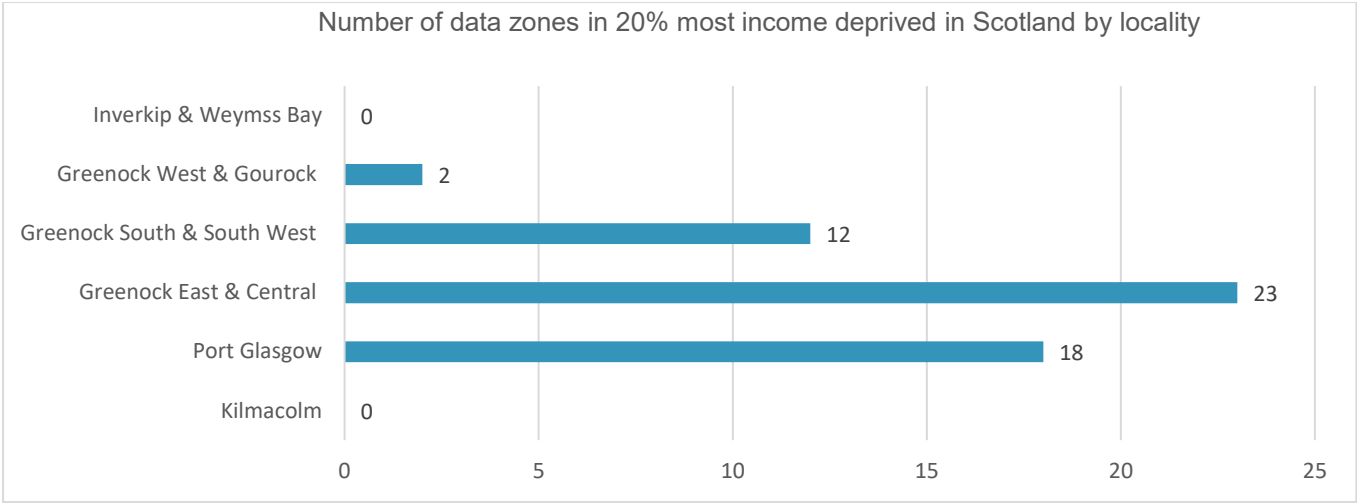
- 7 of these are in Greenock Town Centre and East Central
- 4 are in Greenock East
- 3 are in Greenock Upper Central
- 1 are in Port Glasgow Mid, East and Central
- 3 are in Port Glasgow Upper, West and Central
- 1 data zone is in Greenock West and Central
- 1 data zone is in Lower Bow, Larkfield and Fancy Farm and
- 1 data zone is in Bow Farm, Barrs Cottage, Cowdenknowes and Overton

The areas with least deprivation are mostly situated in Wemyss Bay, Inverkip, Gourock and Kilmacolm. It is important to note however that not everyone living in a deprived area will be deprived and that not everyone living in our least deprived areas will be affluent.



### 3.1b) Income Deprivation

55 (48%) of Inverclyde's 114 data zones fall within the 20% most income deprived in Scotland. The chart below shows the distribution of these data zones across Inverclyde's 6 localities. Greenock East and Central has the highest number of data zones in the 20% most income deprived, 21 of the 53 most income deprived data zones can be found in this locality.



3.1c) Employment Deprivation

54 (47%) of Inverclyde’s 114 data zones fall into the 20% most employment deprived in Scotland. The chart below shows the distribution of these data zones across Inverclyde’s 6 localities. Once again, Greenock East and Central has the highest number of data zones in the 20% most employment deprived, 25 of the 54 most employment deprived data zones can be found in this locality.



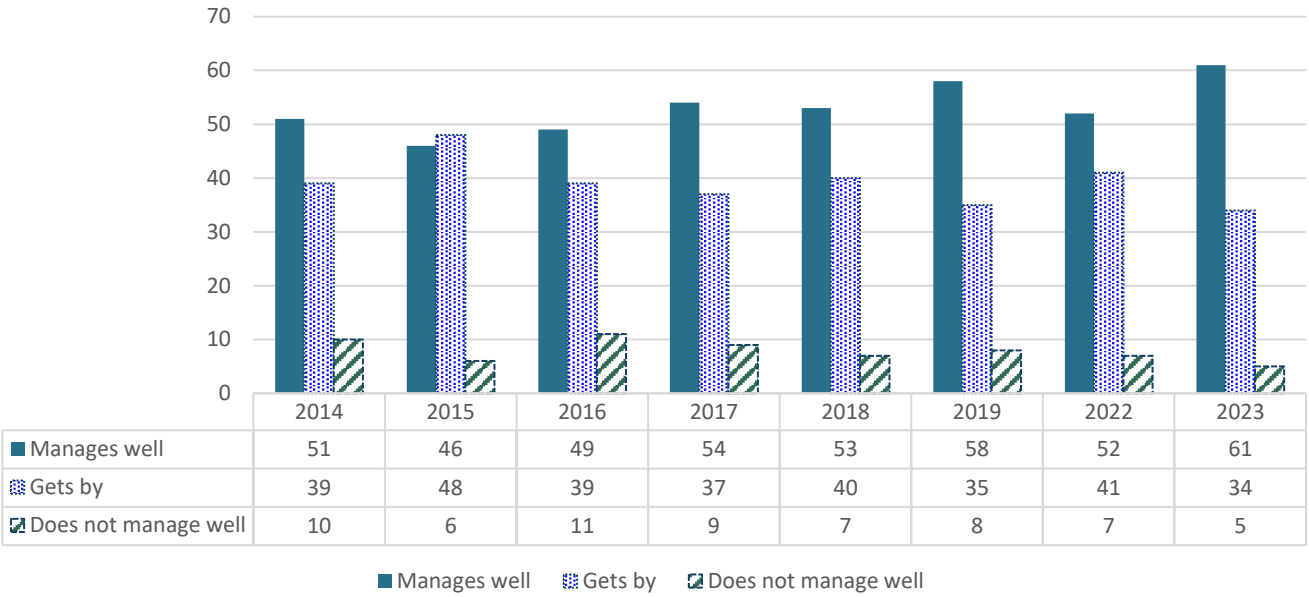
3.2 Household Poverty

The Scottish Household Survey asks respondents how well they are managing financially. The graph below shows Inverclyde respondent answers over the period 2014 to 2023.

- In 2023, the percentage of people who said that they are ‘managing well’ was 9% higher than in 2022.
- In 2023, the percentage of people who said that they ‘Get By’ was 7% lower than in 2022.
- In 2023, the percentage of people who said that they ‘don’t manage very well’ was 2% lower than in 2022.

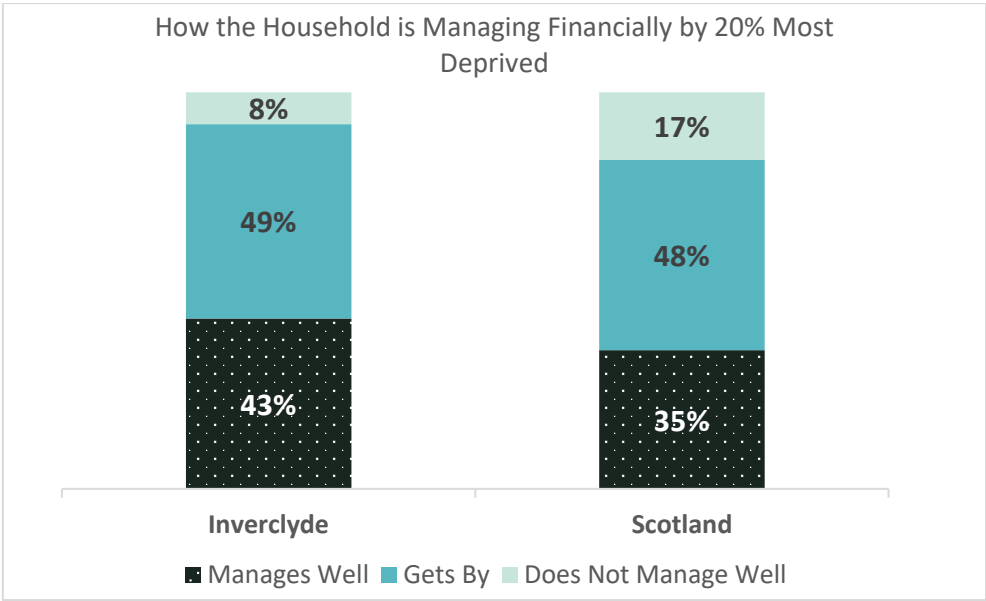
Source: <https://scotland.shinyapps.io/sg-scottish-household-survey-data-explorer/>

How households are managing financially (%)



Source: <https://scotland.shinyapps.io/sq-scottish-household-survey-data-explorer/>

In Inverclyde, 43% of Scottish Household Survey (2023) respondents living in the 20% most deprived areas said that they were managing well, compared to 35% in Scotland. A slightly larger proportion of Inverclyde residents felt that they are ‘getting by’ compared to the Scottish average, whilst 14% of Inverclyde households in the most deprived 20% feel that they are not managing well, compared to 16% in Scotland.



Source: Scottish Household Survey 2022 <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-household-survey-2022-key-findings/documents/>

3.3b) Private Rented Sector

According to the Census 2022, just over 10% of households in Inverclyde are in the private rented sector. Households in the private rented sector tend to face higher housing costs with a higher proportion of their income devoted to their rent. The Scottish Government estimates that the average private sector renter spends 27% of their income on housing compared to 24% of a social renters’ income and 8% for owner

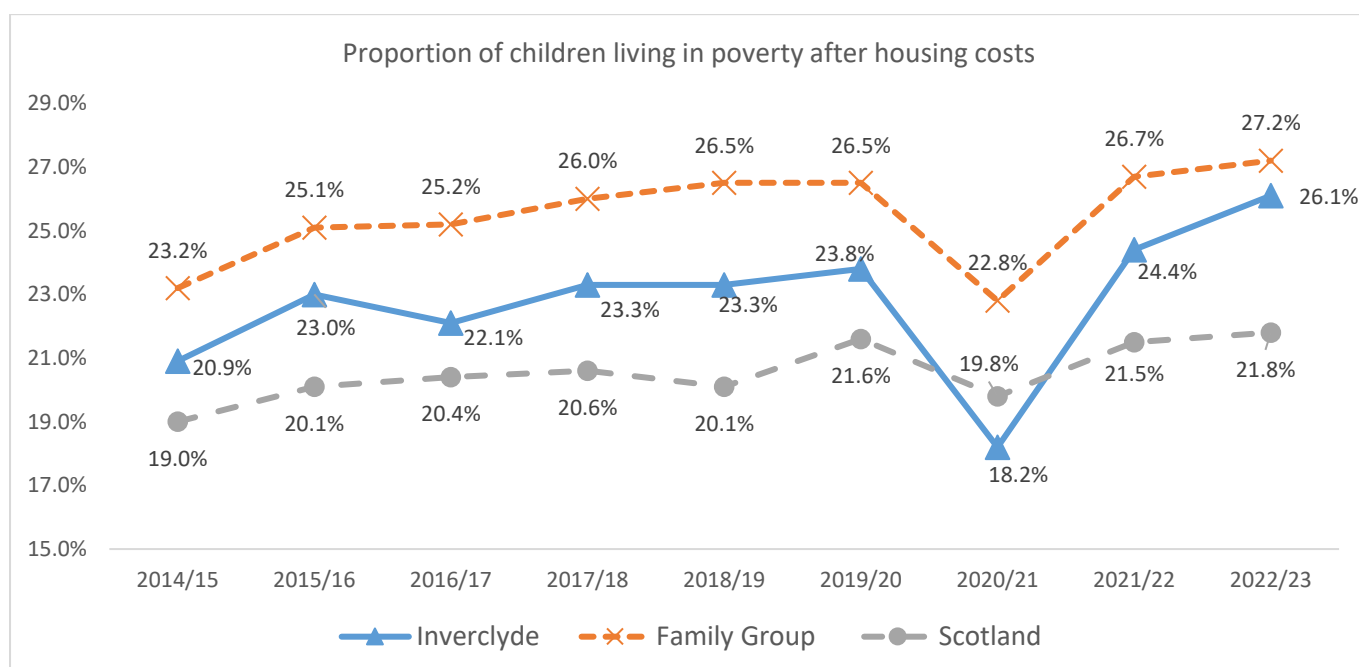
occupiers with a mortgage. High housing costs are a far greater direct cause of poverty in the private rented sector than in other housing tenures.

Whilst there is no local data to allow us to assess the prevalence of poverty in the private sector, given the prevalence of deprivation in the other housing sectors in Inverclyde it is reasonable to assume poverty in the private rented sector locally, particularly for young adults, is also a growing issue.

### 3.3 Child Poverty

Research has shown that working households and children in working households make up the majority of Scottish children in poverty. According to the End Child Poverty Campaign, in 2022/23 26.1% of children in Inverclyde were living in poverty in Inverclyde after housing costs.

This data is also reported via the Local Government Benchmarking Framework, which also provides benchmarking data for Inverclyde's family group and the Scottish average. The graph below shows that, since the base year 2014/15, there has been a greater increase in the child poverty (after housing costs) in Inverclyde compared to the family group and Scottish average over the same period. The graph also shows that child poverty in Inverclyde has accelerated at a greater rate than its comparators, since the pandemic.

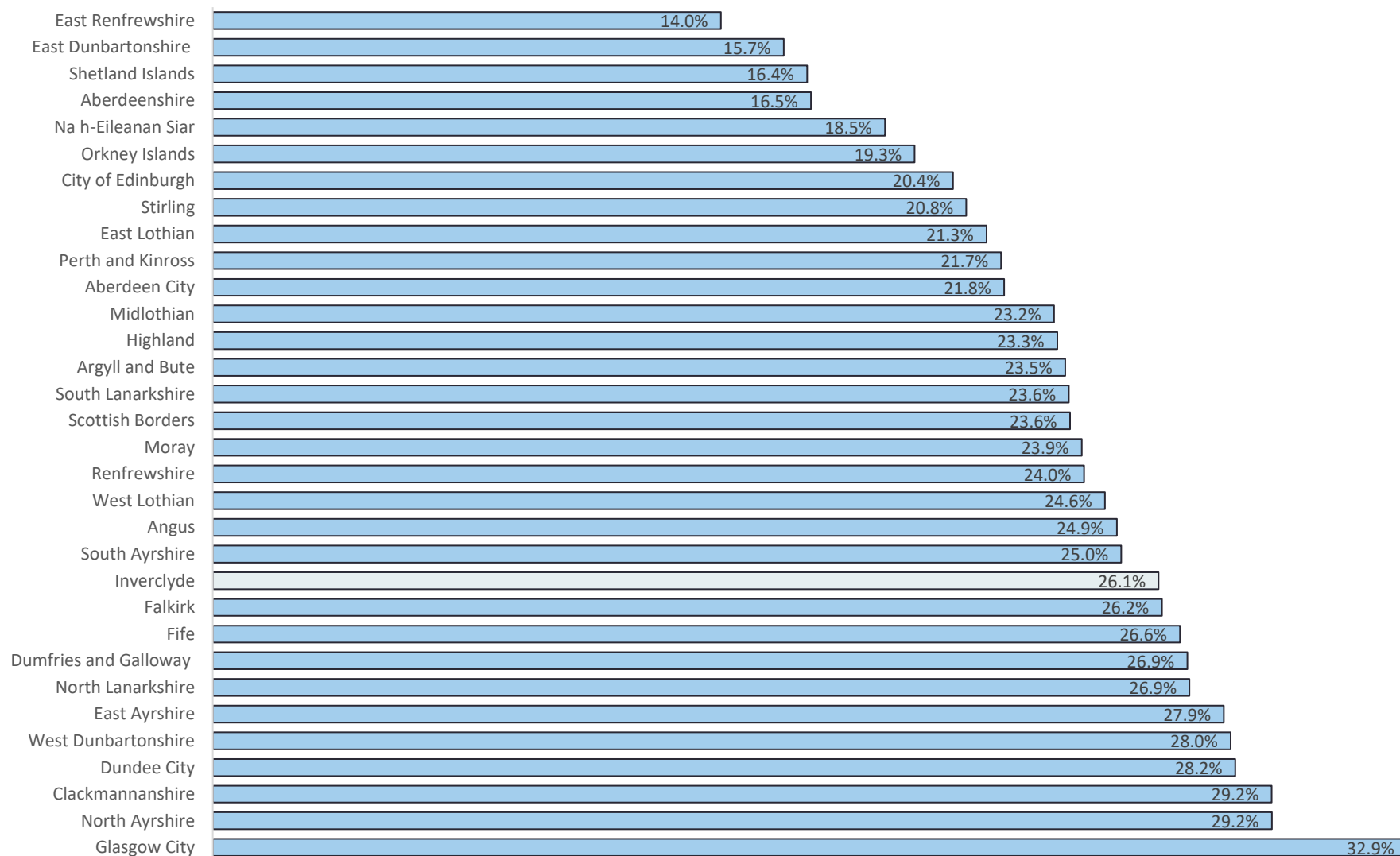


|                   | Percentage change since base year | Percentage change since 2021/22 |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Inverclyde</b> | 5.2%                              | 1.7%                            |
| <b>FG average</b> | 4.0%                              | 0.5%                            |
| <b>Scotland</b>   | 2.8%                              | 0.3%                            |

(Inverclyde's family group consists of: Dundee City, East Ayrshire, Eilean Siar, Glasgow City, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire and Inverclyde).

The chart on the following page shows how child poverty after housing costs in Inverclyde compares with other local authorities in Scotland.

% of children in poverty after housing costs 2022/23



Source: [End Child Poverty](#)

### 3.4 Attainment v Deprivation

The table below present information on the percentage of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined that achieved Curriculum for Excellence levels in English and Numeracy in 2023/24.

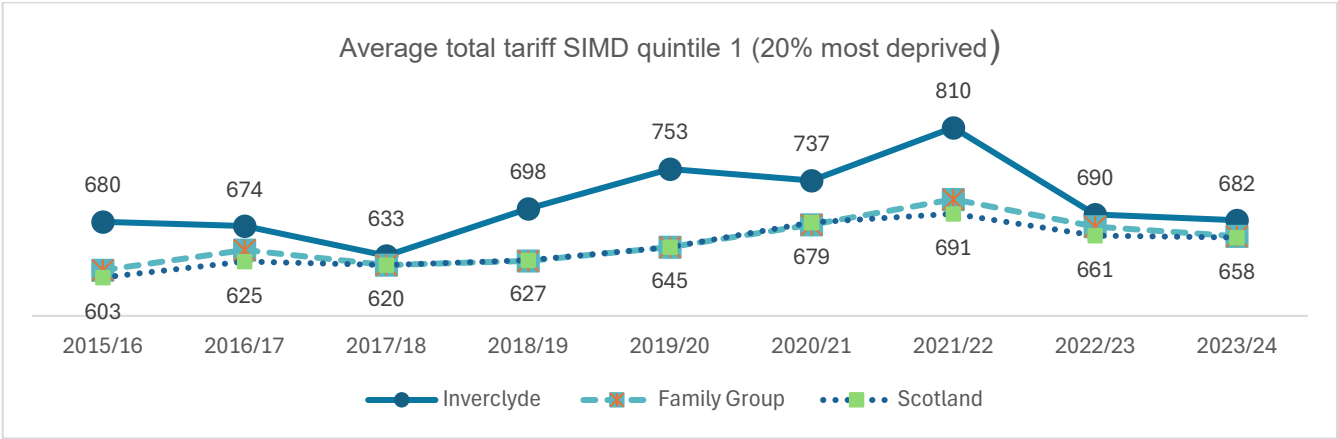
A higher proportion of pupils in Inverclyde living in the 20% most deprived areas achieved expected levels in English reading, writing, listening and talking, literacy and numeracy that the Scottish average. The overall totals for each subject area were also higher than the Scottish average.

|                                   | English Reading | English Writing | English Listening & Talking | English Literacy | Numeracy   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------|
| <b>Inverclyde SIMD Quintile 1</b> | <b>78%</b>      | <b>72%</b>      | <b>88%</b>                  | <b>70%</b>       | <b>76%</b> |
| Scotland SIMD Quintile 1          | 72%             | 67%             | 81%                         | 64%              | 72%        |
| <b>Inverclyde SIMD Quintile 2</b> | <b>83%</b>      | <b>77%</b>      | <b>91%</b>                  | <b>76%</b>       | <b>81%</b> |
| Scotland SIMD Quintile 2          | 77%             | 73%             | 85%                         | 70%              | 77%        |
| <b>Inverclyde SIMD Quintile 3</b> | <b>90%</b>      | <b>86%</b>      | <b>96%</b>                  | <b>84%</b>       | <b>90%</b> |
| Scotland SIMD Quintile 3          | 81%             | 76%             | 88%                         | 74%              | 81%        |
| <b>Inverclyde SIMD Quintile 4</b> | <b>90%</b>      | <b>83%</b>      | <b>94%</b>                  | <b>83%</b>       | <b>86%</b> |
| Scotland SIMD Quintile 4          | 85%             | 81%             | 91%                         | 79%              | 85%        |
| <b>Inverclyde SIMD Quintile 5</b> | <b>94%</b>      | <b>90%</b>      | <b>97%</b>                  | <b>89%</b>       | <b>92%</b> |
| Scotland SIMD Quintile 5          | 89%             | 86%             | 94%                         | 85%              | 89%        |
| <b>Inverclyde Total</b>           | <b>84%</b>      | <b>78%</b>      | <b>91%</b>                  | <b>76%</b>       | <b>82%</b> |
| <b>Scotland Total</b>             | <b>80%</b>      | <b>76%</b>      | <b>87%</b>                  | <b>74%</b>       | <b>80%</b> |

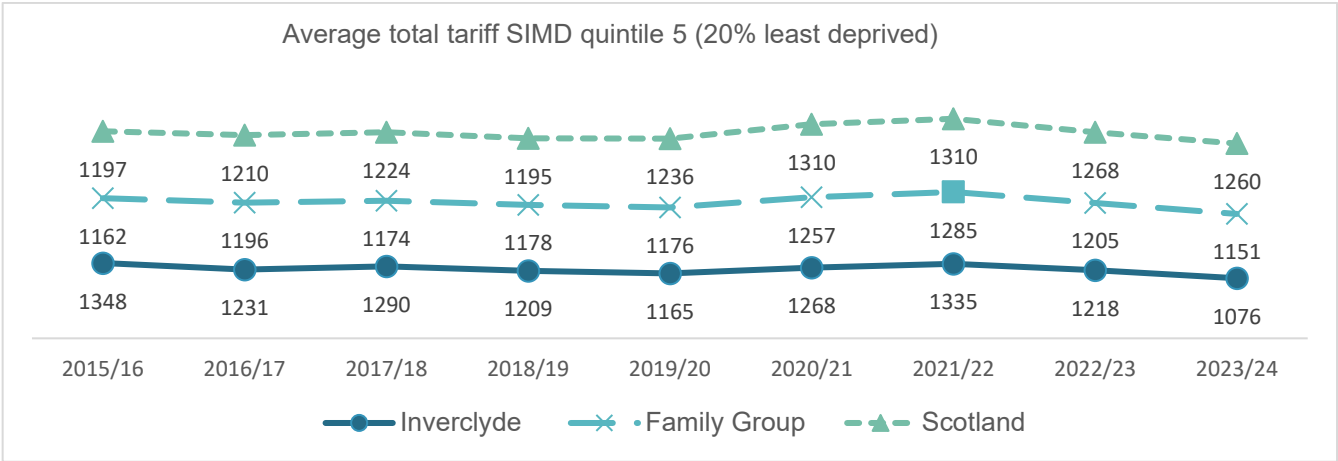
Source: [School education statistics - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/data/schools/education-statistics)

The Local Government Benchmarking Framework provides data on the average tariff score for pupils in the Senior Phase, for all pupils. Tariff points for each unit or course are calculated based on the SCQF level for the award and the grade achieved. Tariff points are accumulated by individual pupils for all eligible qualifications that are the latest and best in a subject.

The average total tariff in SIMD quintile 1 (20% most deprived in Scotland) has been consistently above the family group and Scottish average over the period shown, however performance falls below the family group and Scottish average when compared to the average tariff score in quintile 5 (20% least deprived in Scotland).

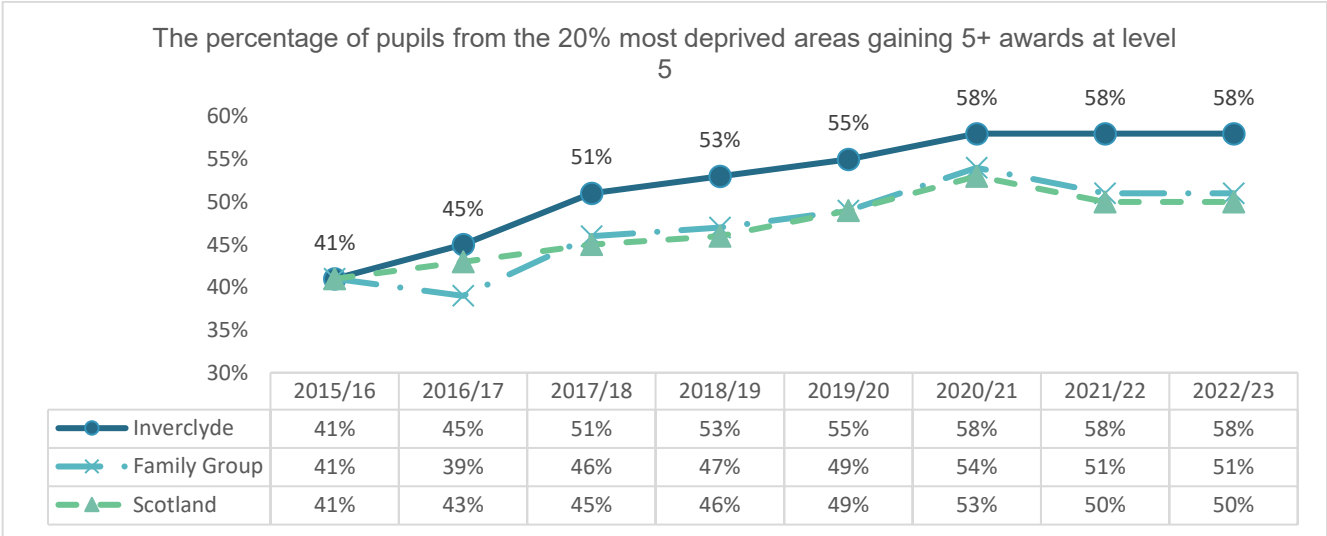


Source: [Explore the data | Benchmarking](#)

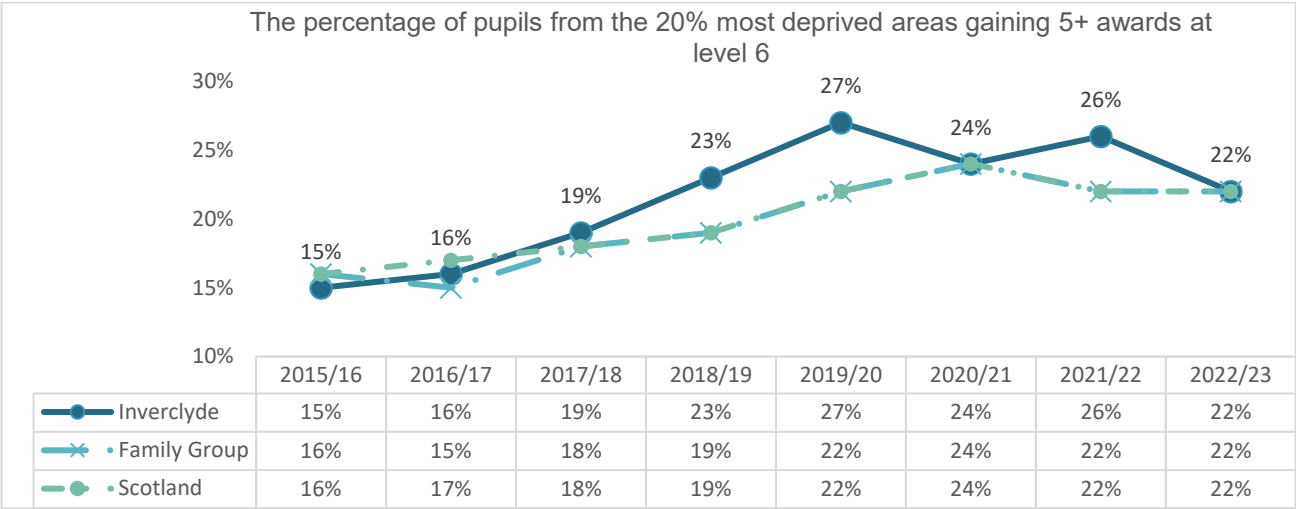


Source: [Explore the data | Benchmarking](#)

The percentage of pupils from the 20% most deprived areas gaining 5+ awards at level 5 in Inverclyde has been consistently better than both the family group and the national average.



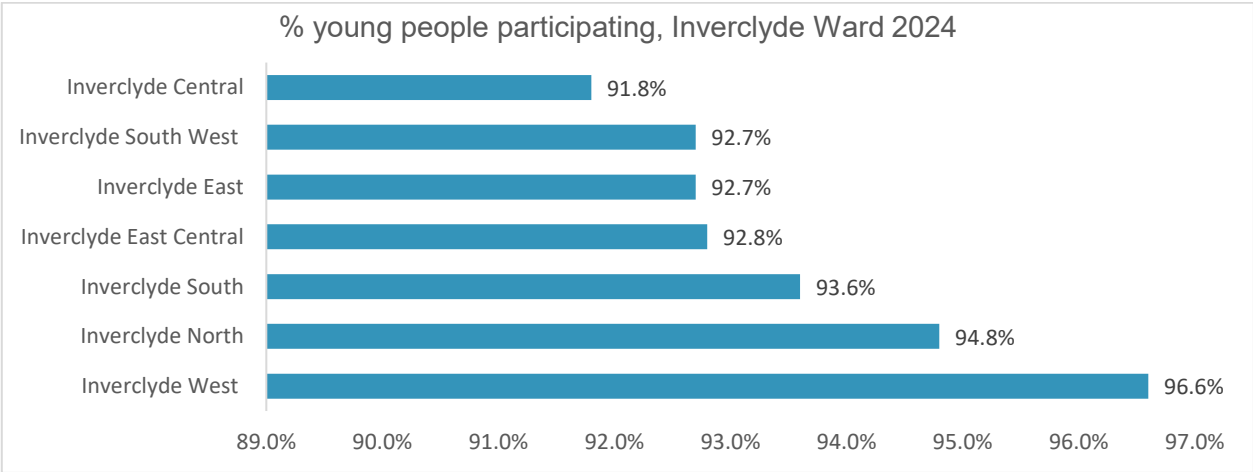
The percentage of pupils from the 20% most deprived areas gaining 5+ awards at level 6 in Inverclyde was the same as both the family group and the national average in 2022/23 (22%). Despite a drop in performance in 2022/23, there has been an improvement from the 2015/16 baseline when performance was lower than both the family group and Scottish average.



3.5 Annual Participation Measure, 2024

The annual participation measure takes account of each status from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 for all 16–19-year-olds. All statuses are combined to calculate the participation headline classification and the status grouping, figures published in 2024 are provided below:

- The proportion of 16–19-year-olds participating in education, training or employment in Inverclyde was 93.5% compared to 92.7% in Scotland.
- The proportion of 16–19-year-olds reported as “not participating” for Inverclyde was 4.2% compared to 3.7% in Scotland.
- The proportion of 16–19-year-olds reported as unconfirmed for Inverclyde was 2.3% compared to 3.6% in Scotland.

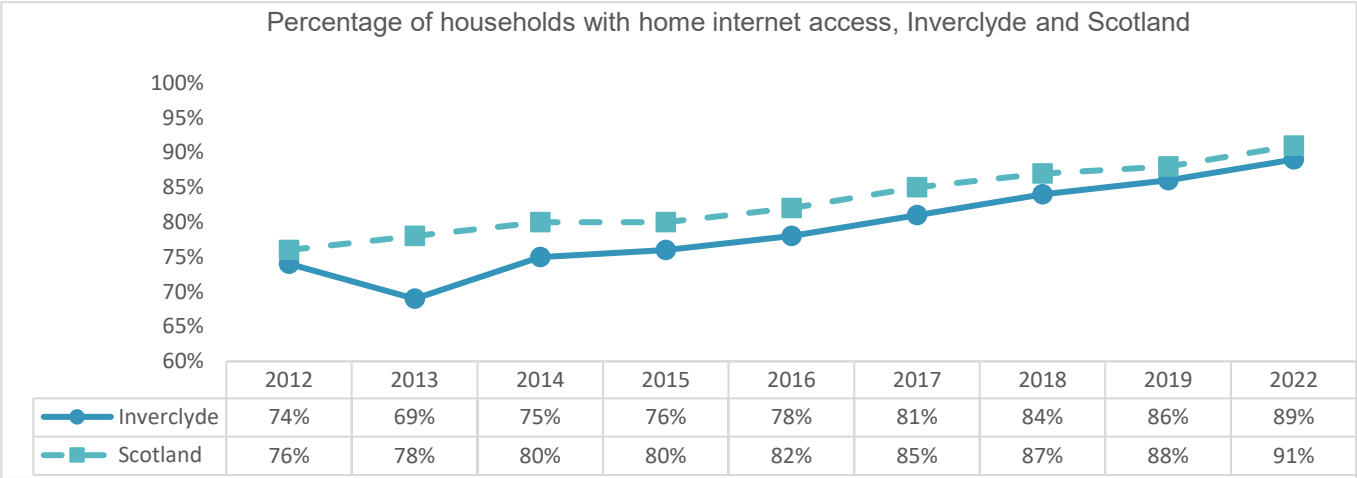


Source: [Annual Participation Measure - Skills Development Scotland](#)

Electoral ward data has been extracted from Supplementary tables



Having access to the internet is increasingly important in order to be able to access a wide range of information for example in relation to education, jobs and welfare benefits. Low-income households without internet access have limited access to lower cost financial products and services, online savings accounts and better deals such as energy packages. The Scottish Household Survey, 2022 found that a slightly lower percentage of households in Inverclyde had home internet access compared to the Scottish average.



Source: [Supporting documents - Scottish Household Survey 2022: Key Findings - gov.scot](#)

## HEALTH PROFILE

### Key messages

- The most recent data shows an increase in life expectancy for both Inverclyde males and females, however both remain below the national life expectancy average. Over the past twenty-years, female life expectancy has increased by 1.9% and male life expectancy by 5.3%. In 2001/03, Inverclyde males had the second lowest life expectancy in Scotland, however recent data shows they have seen the highest 20 year gain in life expectancy of all council areas.
- The leading cause of death in 2023 for males and females differed. For males, the leading cause of death was ischaemic heart disease and for females it was Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease.
- Obesity is a growing issue both nationally and locally. Children in Inverclyde are at a slightly higher risk of weight problems compared to the national average and this has potentially serious implications for their health later in life.
- Stark health inequalities continue to exist in life expectancy and other health outcomes across communities in Inverclyde. Alcohol and drug misuse continues to be far higher than the national levels although there are indications of a narrowing in the gap between Inverclyde and the Scottish average.
- Census 2022 data shows that the number of people in Inverclyde who said that they had a mental health condition has doubled from Census 2011. This has been driven by a sharp increase in the number of young people reporting that they have a mental health condition, particularly young females.
- Inverclyde has the fifth highest percentage of people supported by LA funded social care services in Scotland (as a rate per 1,000 population). Based on current trends, an ageing population will result in an increased demand for home care services placing an even greater demand at a time of reduced budgets.
- The Census 2022 shows that a higher proportion of Inverclyde's population has a general health problem or disability that impacts their day-to-day activities either a little or a lot, almost 30% of Inverclyde's population said that they were affected, compared to a Scottish average of 24%.

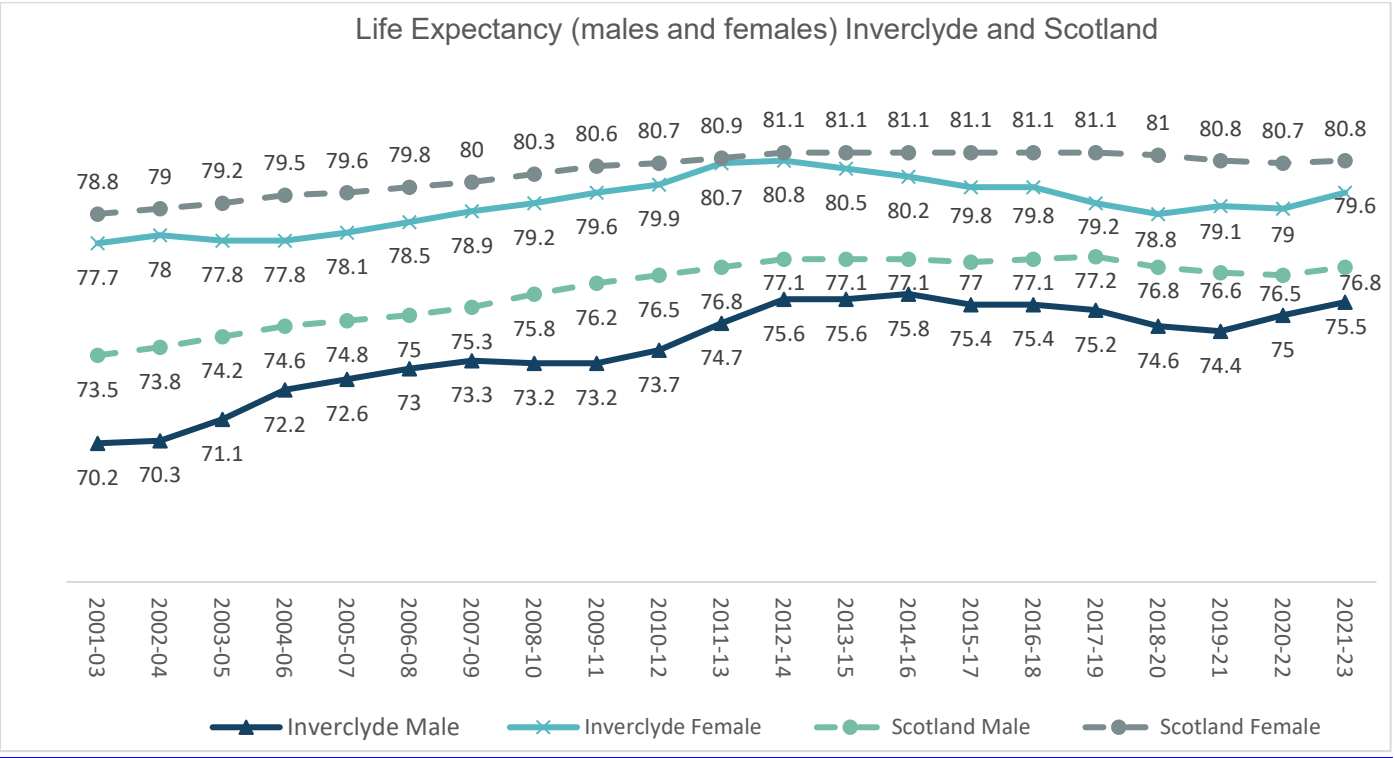
# HEALTH

This section provides an overview of the health needs of Inverclyde’s population. If you would like more local health related information, please refer to the Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Needs Assessment which you can find here: <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/strategies-policies-and-plans>

## 4.1 Life Expectancy

Life expectancy for both Inverclyde males and females improved in the latest reporting year (three-year period 2021/23) but are still below the Scottish average. Both females and males in Inverclyde had the 7<sup>th</sup> lowest life expectancy in Scotland. Glasgow City had the lowest life expectancy for both males and females.

Over the twenty-year period shown in the graph below, female life expectancy increased by 2.4% and male life expectancy by 7.5%. In 2001/03, Inverclyde males had the second lowest life expectancy in Scotland, but have seen the highest 20-year gain in male life expectancy of all council areas.



Source: [Life Expectancy | National Records of Scotland \(nrs.scotland.gov.uk\)](https://nrs.scotland.gov.uk/)

Longer lives do not necessarily mean healthier lives. Healthy life expectancy is an estimate of how many years a person might live in a ‘healthy’ state. Healthy life expectancy in Inverclyde is lower than that of Scotland as a whole. This has implications for services, particularly with a growth in those of pensionable age, which is not being matched by a growth in the working age population.

## Healthy Life Expectancy at Birth

|                   |                              |                              |
|-------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Inverclyde male   | <b>2018-20</b><br>54.4 years | <b>2019-21</b><br>57.7 years |
| Inverclyde female | <b>2018-20</b><br>59.4 years | <b>2019-21</b><br>59.3 years |
| Scotland male     | <b>2018-20</b><br>60.9 years | <b>2019-21</b><br>60.4 years |
| Scotland female   | <b>2018-20</b><br>61.8 years | <b>2019-21</b><br>61.1 years |

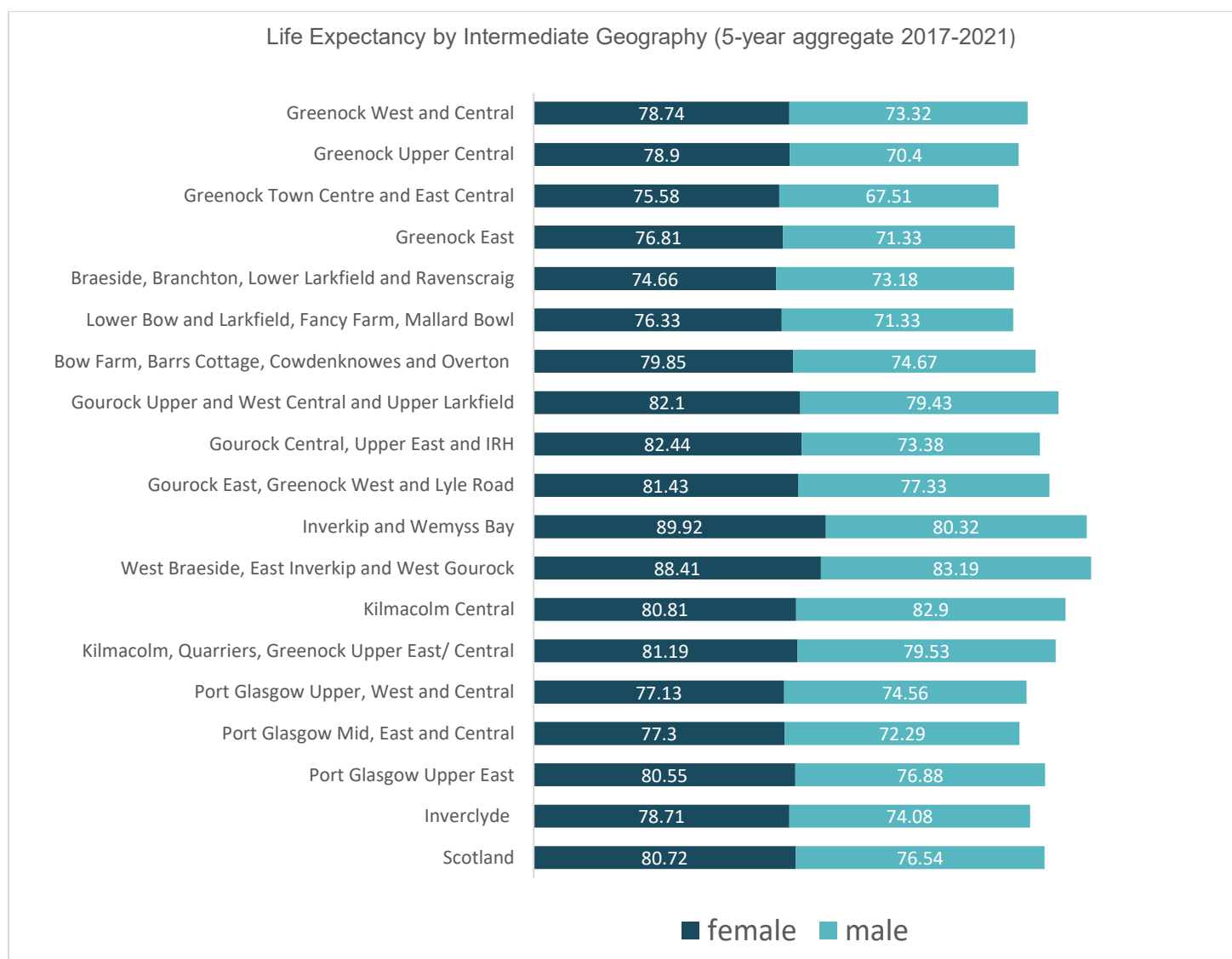
(2019/21 is the most recent data available at the time of writing)

Source: [Life Expectancy | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/life-expectancy)

### 4.1b) Life Expectancy by Intermediate Geography (5-year aggregate 2017-2021)

Despite Inverclyde being a relatively small area, life expectancy can vary significantly depending on where you live with life expectancy being at its lowest in the most deprived areas. The chart below shows the difference in life expectancy across intermediate geographies in Inverclyde.

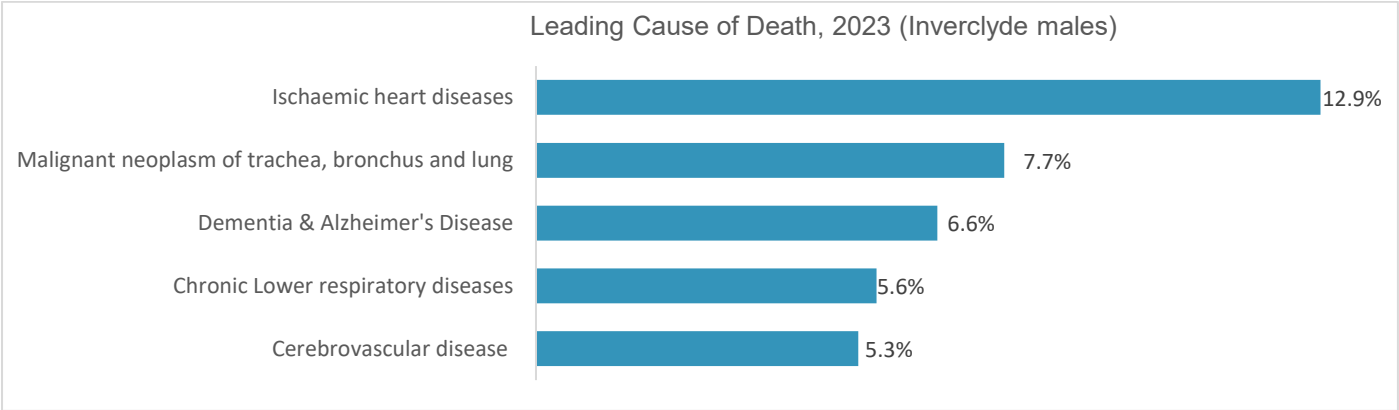
Source: <http://www.scotpho.org.uk/comparative-health/profiles/online-profiles-tool>



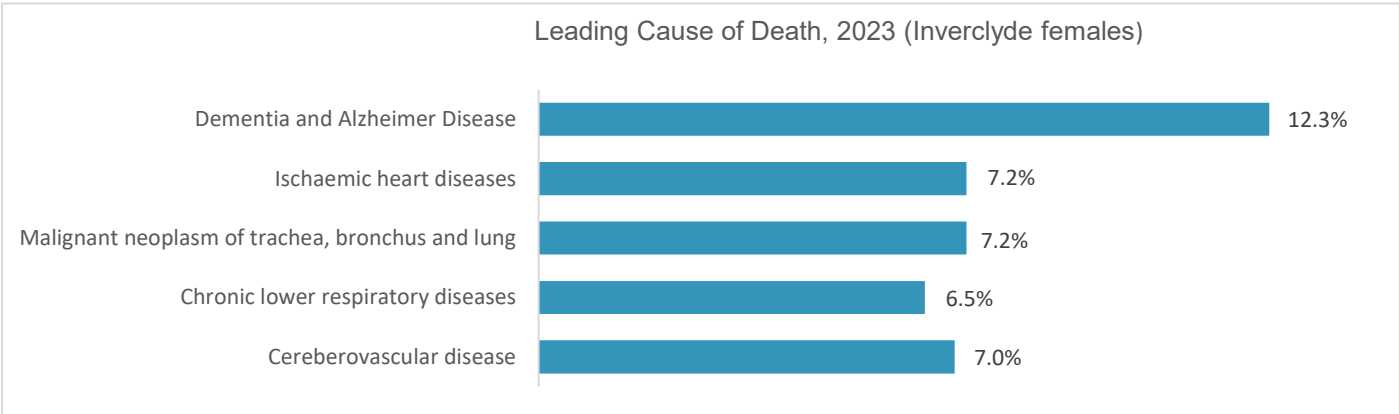
## 4.2 Leading Causes of Death, 2023

In Inverclyde, the leading cause of death for males in 2023 was ischaemic heart diseases (12.9% of all male deaths), followed by lung cancer (7.7%). In Scotland overall, the leading cause of death for males was also ischaemic heart diseases (13.8%), followed by Dementia and Alzheimer’s disease (7.1%).

In Inverclyde, the leading cause of death for females in 2023 was Dementia and Alzheimer’s disease (12.3% of all female deaths), followed by ischaemic heart diseases and lung cancer (both 7.2%). In Scotland overall, the leading cause of death for females was also dementia and Alzheimer’s disease (13.4%), followed by ischaemic heart diseases (8.2%).



Source: [\[ARCHIVED CONTENT\] Inverclyde Council Area Profile](#)



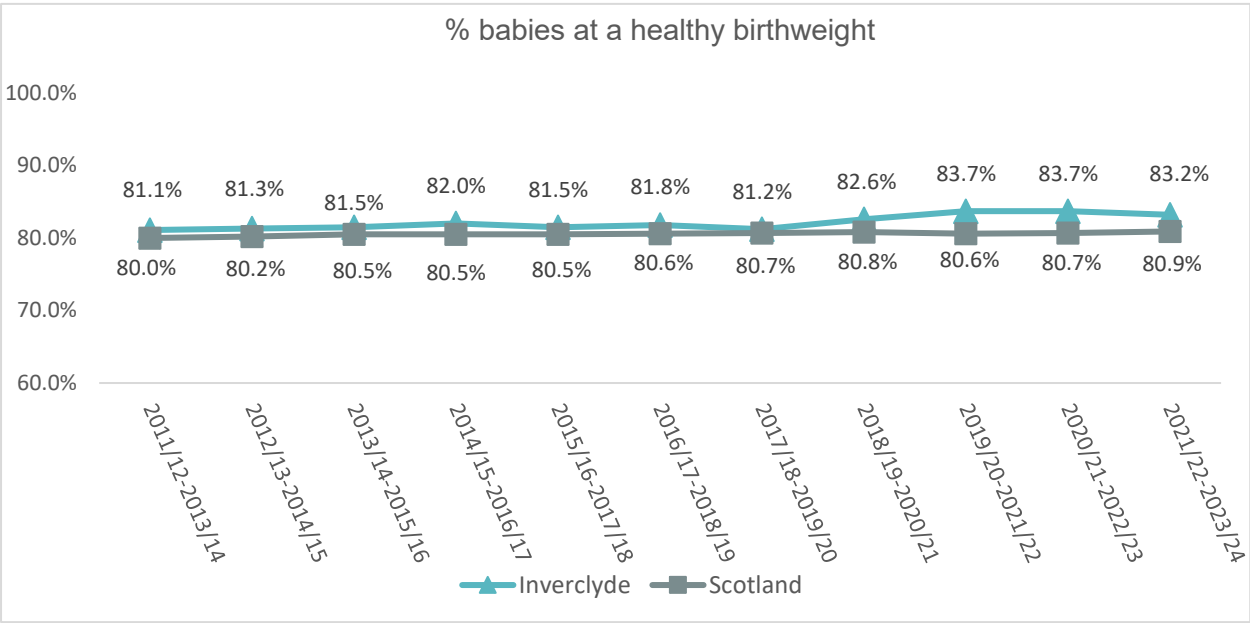
Source: [\[ARCHIVED CONTENT\] Inverclyde Council Area Profile](#)

## 4.3 Birth Weight

Birth weight is an important indicator of foetal and neonatal health. Maternal smoking and obesity are particularly important influences on birth weight, respectively increasing the risk that babies are born small for gestational age or large for gestational age.

Birth weight that is not within normal ranges also has a strong association with poor health outcomes in infancy, childhood and across the whole life course, including long term conditions such as diabetes and coronary heart disease. Low birth weight babies are defined as those which weigh less than 2,500 grams at birth. This can be further subdivided into very low birth weight babies and extremely low birth weight babies.

The graph below shows that the percentage of babies born at a healthy birth weight in Inverclyde has been consistently above the Scottish average.

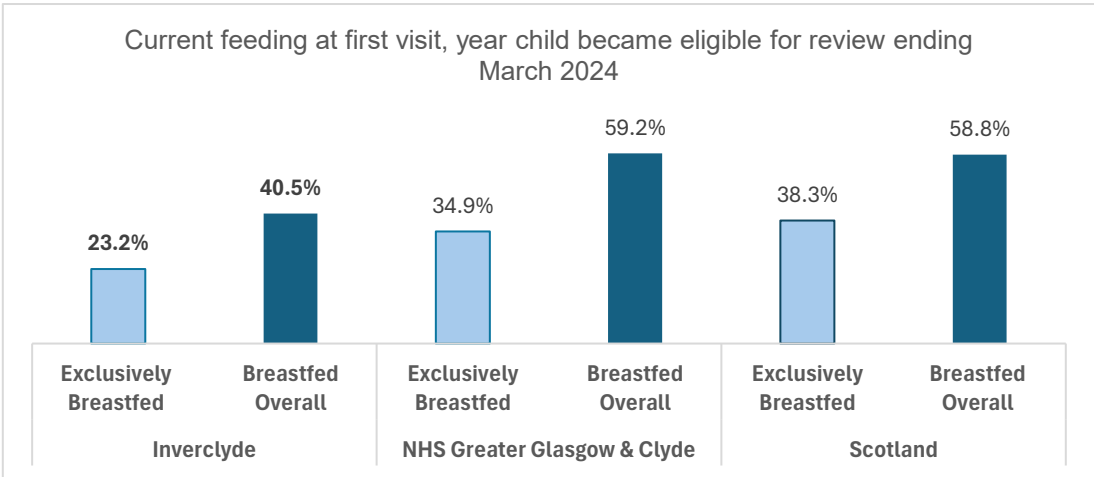


Source: [ScotPHO profiles](#)

4.4 Breastfeeding

Breastfeeding promotes health, prevents disease and can help to reduce health inequalities. Research has found both short and long-term health benefits of breastfeeding for both mothers and infants, including a reduced risk of infection and childhood obesity.

The percentage of babies in Inverclyde breastfed at the first visit (either exclusively or breastfed overall) is lower than both the Scottish and NHS Greater Glasgow Clyde average.



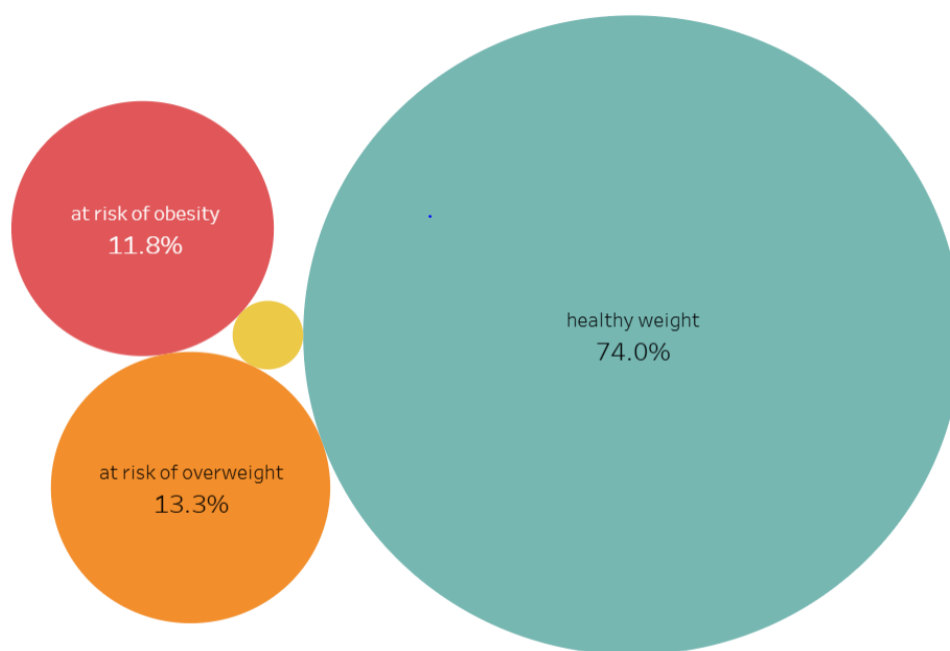
Source: [Infant feeding statistics - Financial year 2023 to 2024 - Infant feeding statistics - Publications - Public Health Scotland](#)

4.5 Child Weight, school year 2023/24

Child weight and growth can be used as a marker of their general nutritional and physical health. Children in Inverclyde are at a slightly higher risk of weight problems compared to the national average. In Inverclyde:

- 74% of children are a healthy weight compared to 76.5% in Scotland
- 13.3% of children are at risk of being overweight compared to 11.7% in Scotland
- 11.8% of children are at risk of obesity compared to 10.5% in Scotland

Primary 1 Body Mass Index in [Inverclyde](#)  
School Year: [2023/24](#)

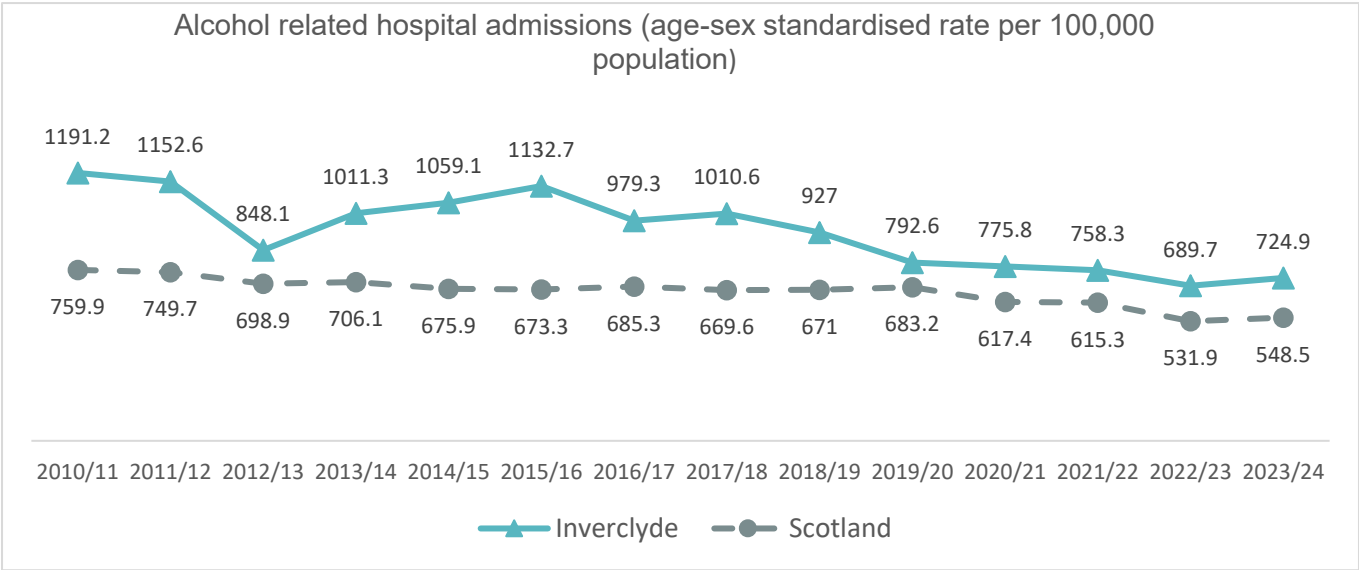


Source: <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/publichealthscotland/viz/Primary1BMI/Primary1BMI>

## 4.6 Alcohol Misuse

In 2023/24, the rate for alcohol related hospital stays (age-standardised rate per 100,000) in Inverclyde was almost a third higher than the overall Scottish rate.

Over the period shown in the chart below, the rate of alcohol related hospital admissions in Inverclyde has fluctuated, however there are signs of an improving trend over the longer term. The gap between Inverclyde and Scotland however slightly widened in 2023/24.



Source: [ScotPHO profiles \(shinyapps.io\)](#)

When analysed over a 5-year aggregate period, alcohol related deaths in Inverclyde are shown to be considerably higher than the rate for Scotland, at 35.2 per 100,000 population in Inverclyde, compared to 21.8 per 100,000 population in Scotland (2019/23).

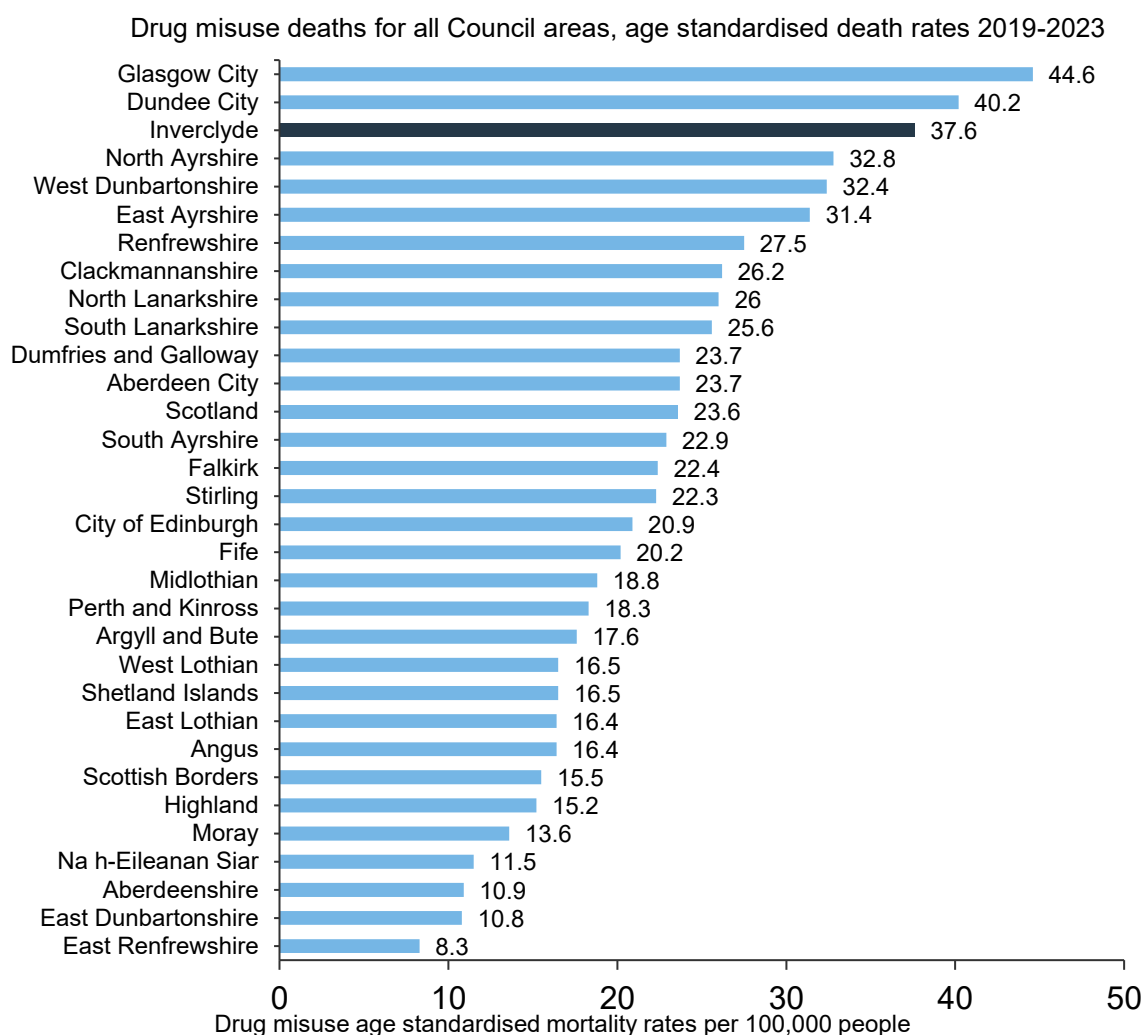
| Inverclyde | Inverclyde alcohol related deaths rate per 100,000 | Scotland alcohol related deaths rate per 100,000 |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 2010/14    | 32.1                                               | 20.6                                             |
| 2011/15    | 30.8                                               | 19.9                                             |
| 2012/16    | 29.9                                               | 19.7                                             |
| 2013/17    | 30.4                                               | 20.1                                             |
| 2014/18    | 31.2                                               | 20.5                                             |
| 2015/19    | 31.4                                               | 20.3                                             |
| 2016/20    | 31.8                                               | 20.7                                             |
| 2017/21    | 31.6                                               | 21                                               |
| 2018/22    | 32.8                                               | 21.4                                             |
| 2019/23    | 35.2                                               | 21.8                                             |

Source: [ScotPHO profiles \(shinyapps.io\)](#)

4.7 Drug Related Deaths, 2023

In 2023 there were 26 drug-related deaths in Inverclyde compared to 29 the previous year. Inverclyde had the third highest drug related death rate (standardised per 100,000 population) in Scotland, over the period 2019-2023.





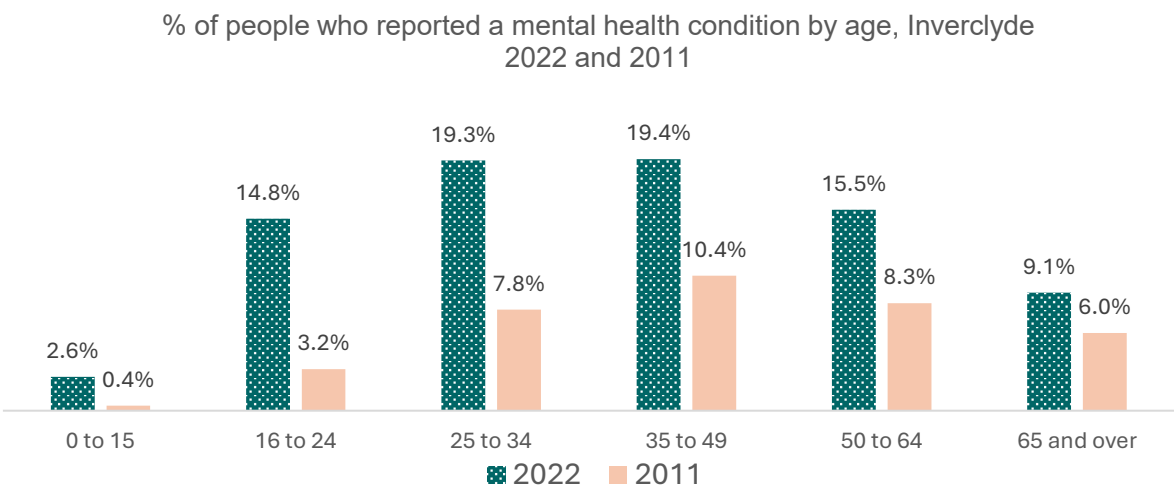
Source: [Drug-related deaths in Scotland in 2023 - National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#)

## 4.8 Mental Health

### 4.8a) Changes in population with a mental health condition (2011 and 2022)

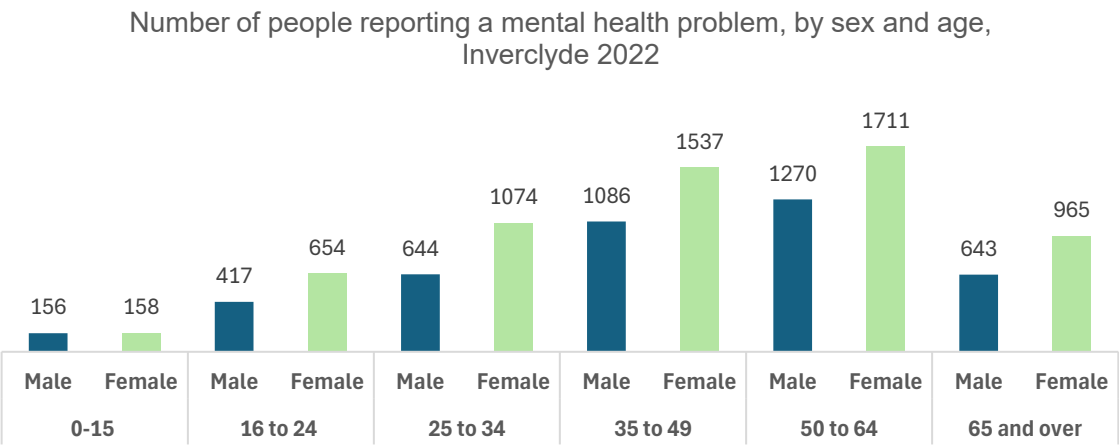
The number of people in Inverclyde who said that they had a mental health condition increased from 5,205 (6.4% of the population) at the time of Census 2011, to 10,312 (13.1% of Inverclyde's population) at Census, 2022. In Scotland, the percentage of the population reporting a mental health condition also increased, in 2011 it was 4.4%, rising to 11.3% in 2022.

The increase in the number of people reporting a mental health condition in Inverclyde was driven by a large increase among younger people. In 2022 younger people were more likely to report a mental health condition than older people. In 2011 the reverse was true.

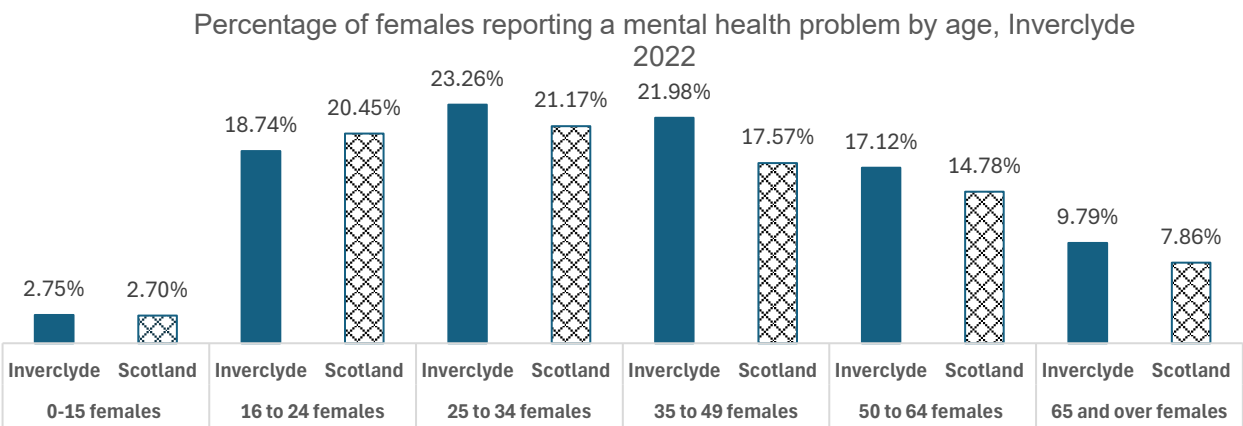


4.8b) Mental Health Condition (gender breakdown)

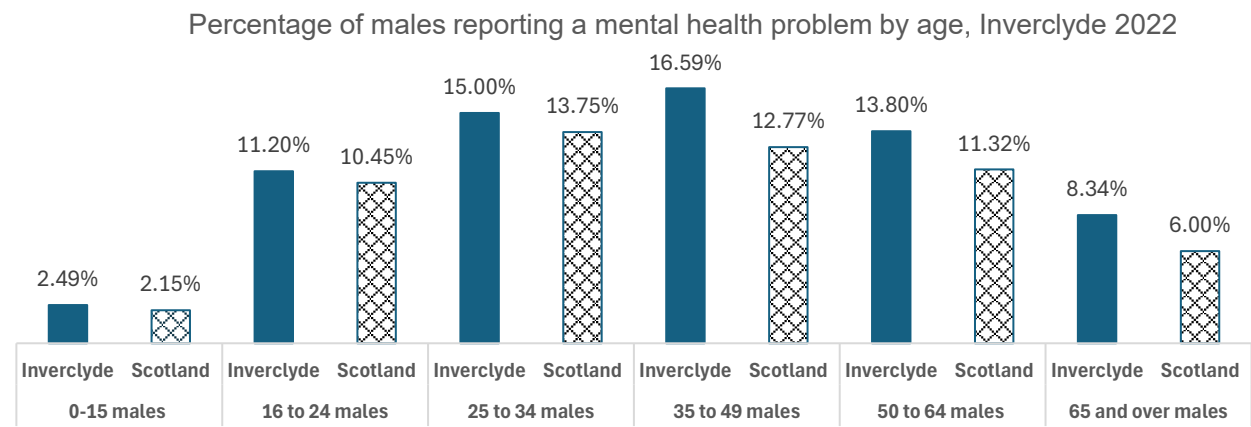
The Census showed a higher percentage of females in Inverclyde reported a mental health condition across all age groups in 2022 compared to Inverclyde males. This pattern was also reflected at a Scotland level.



The percentage of females in Inverclyde reporting a mental health condition as a proportion of the population was higher than the Scottish average in all age bands, except for 16-to 24-year-olds.

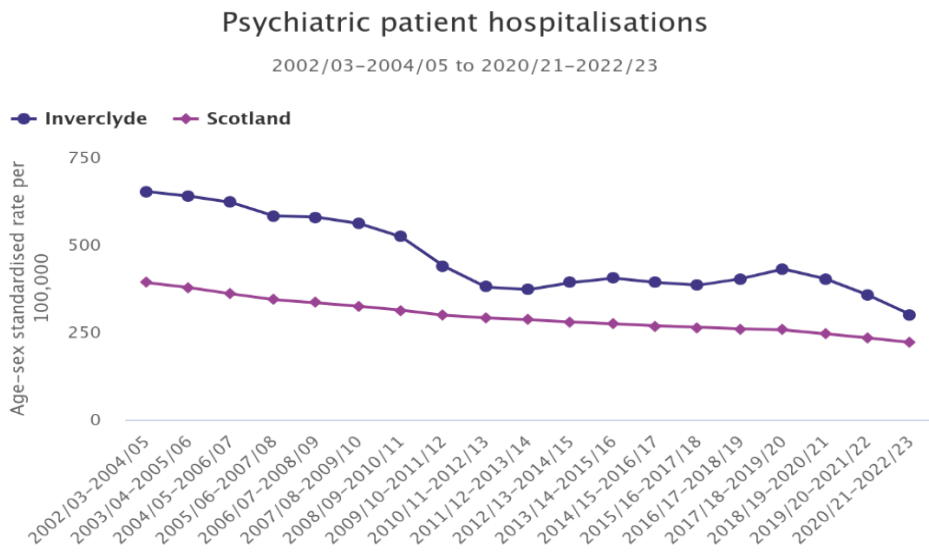


The percentage of males in Inverclyde reporting a mental health condition as a proportion of the population was higher than the national average in all age bands.

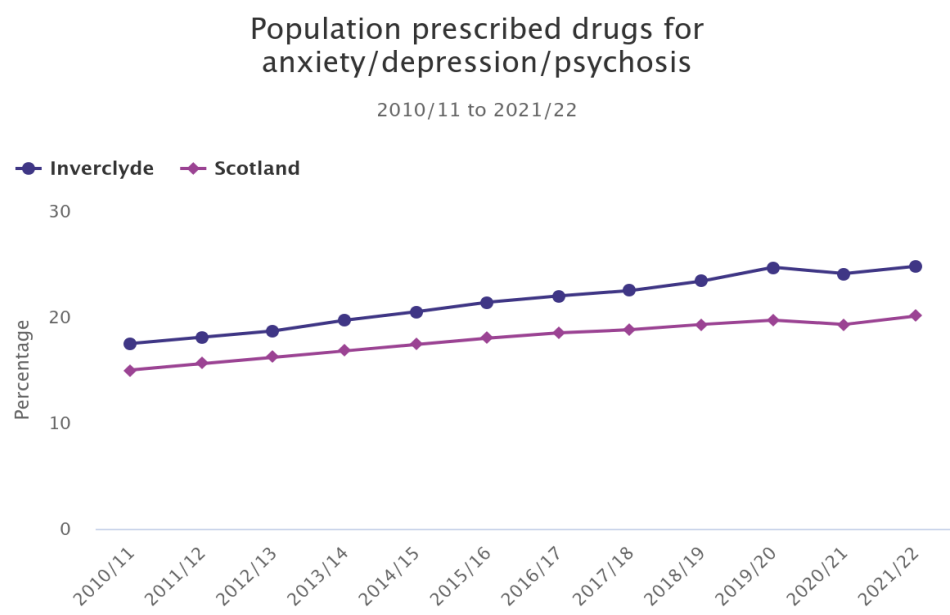


4.8c) Psychiatric Hospitalisations

Scotpho publishes data on psychiatric hospitalisation over a three-year aggregate period. In 2020/23, the rate of patients with a psychiatric hospitalisation was higher in Inverclyde than the national average; 300.1 in Inverclyde compared to 220.9 in Scotland. The rate in Inverclyde is more than half that in 2002/05 when it was 652.4. The gap between Inverclyde and Scotland has narrowed over the same period.



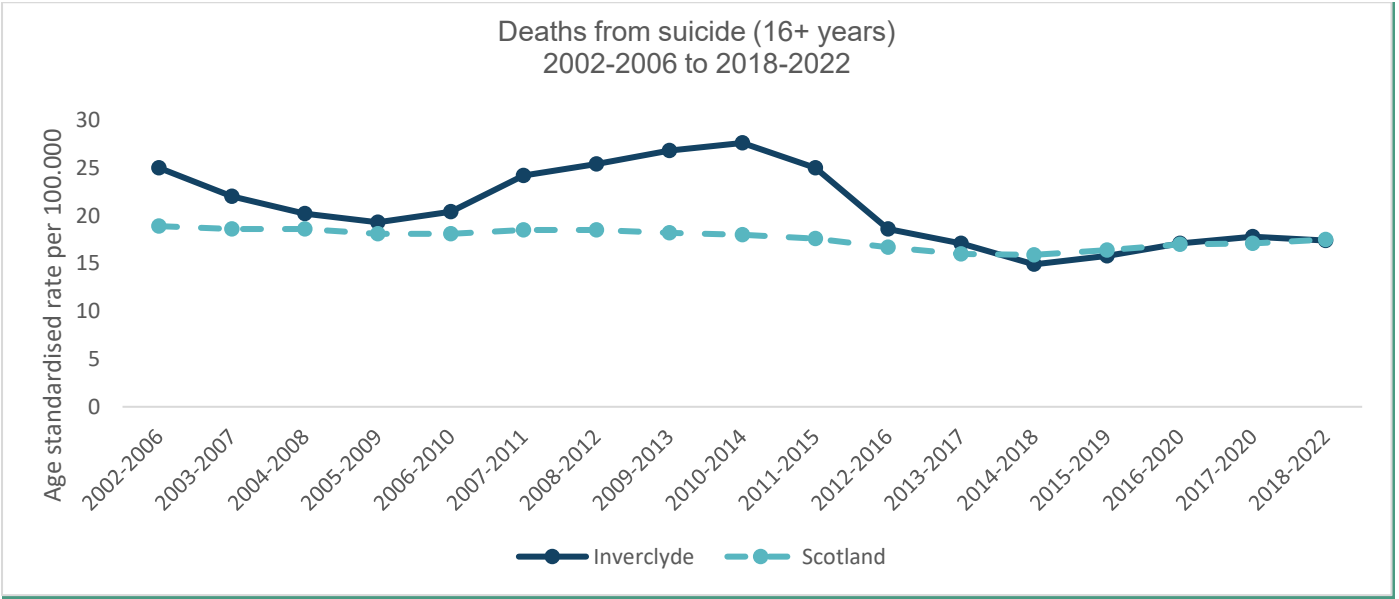
The percentage of the population prescribed drugs for anxiety/depression/psychosis was higher than the national average in 2021/22; 24% of Inverclyde’s population compared to 20.14% of the whole Scottish population. The chart below shows how the percentage of the population prescribed drugs for anxiety depression / psychosis compares over the period 2010/11 to 2021/22 in both Inverclyde and Scotland. There is an increasing trend at both an Inverclyde and Scotland level.



Source: [www.scotpho.org.uk/comparative-health/profiles/online-profiles-tool](http://www.scotpho.org.uk/comparative-health/profiles/online-profiles-tool)

4.8d) Deaths from suicide

The chart below shows the rate of death by intentional self-harm and by undetermined intent ('probable suicides'), per 100,000 adults. Deaths by intentional self-harm and by undetermined intent are termed 'probable suicides'. Following a decreasing trend between 2011/15 to 2014/18, the rate of deaths due to suicide in Inverclyde increased again in 2015/19 and is close to the rate for Scotland as a whole.



Source: [www.scotpho.org.uk/comparative-health/profiles/online-profiles-tool](http://www.scotpho.org.uk/comparative-health/profiles/online-profiles-tool)

4.9 Dementia

As Inverclyde’s population ages, more people are at risk of developing dementia with women being at more likely than men to develop dementia in their lifetimes, partly because of their longer life expectancy. Dementia presents a significant challenge to individuals, carers and health and social care services across Scotland.

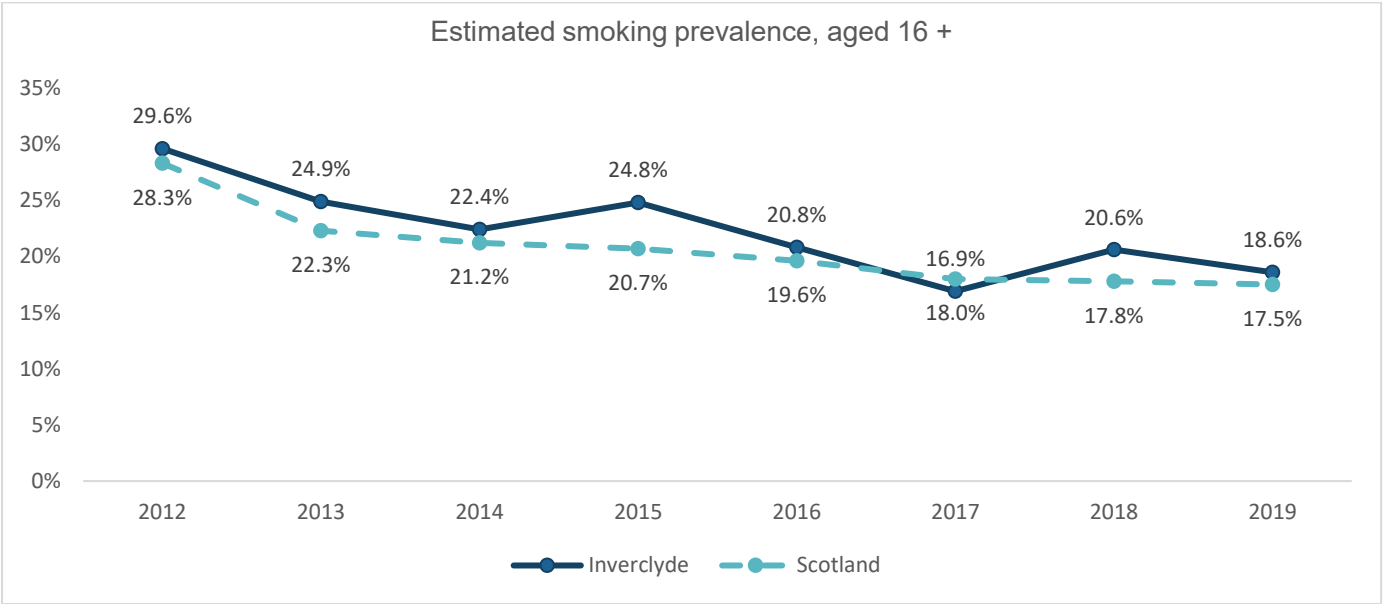
Alzheimer’s Research UK publish data by parliamentary constituency. It is estimate that 1,389 people in Inverclyde are living with dementia, approximately 1.5% of Inverclyde’s population.

[https://visualisation.polimapper.co.uk/?dataSetKey=dementia-prevalence-by-uk-constituency-2024&client=alzheimersresearch#con\\_over=Inverclyde%20and%20Renfrewshire%20West](https://visualisation.polimapper.co.uk/?dataSetKey=dementia-prevalence-by-uk-constituency-2024&client=alzheimersresearch#con_over=Inverclyde%20and%20Renfrewshire%20West)

4.10 Smoking

4.10a) Smoking prevalence

Smoking related illnesses can affect an individual’s health and socio-economic outcomes. There is a slightly higher percentage of adults who smoke in Inverclyde compared to Scotland as a whole. The chart below shows an overall decrease over time in both Inverclyde and Scotland, although more recently there has been an increase in Inverclyde.



Source: [ScotPHO profiles](#)

6.10b) Smoking during pregnancy

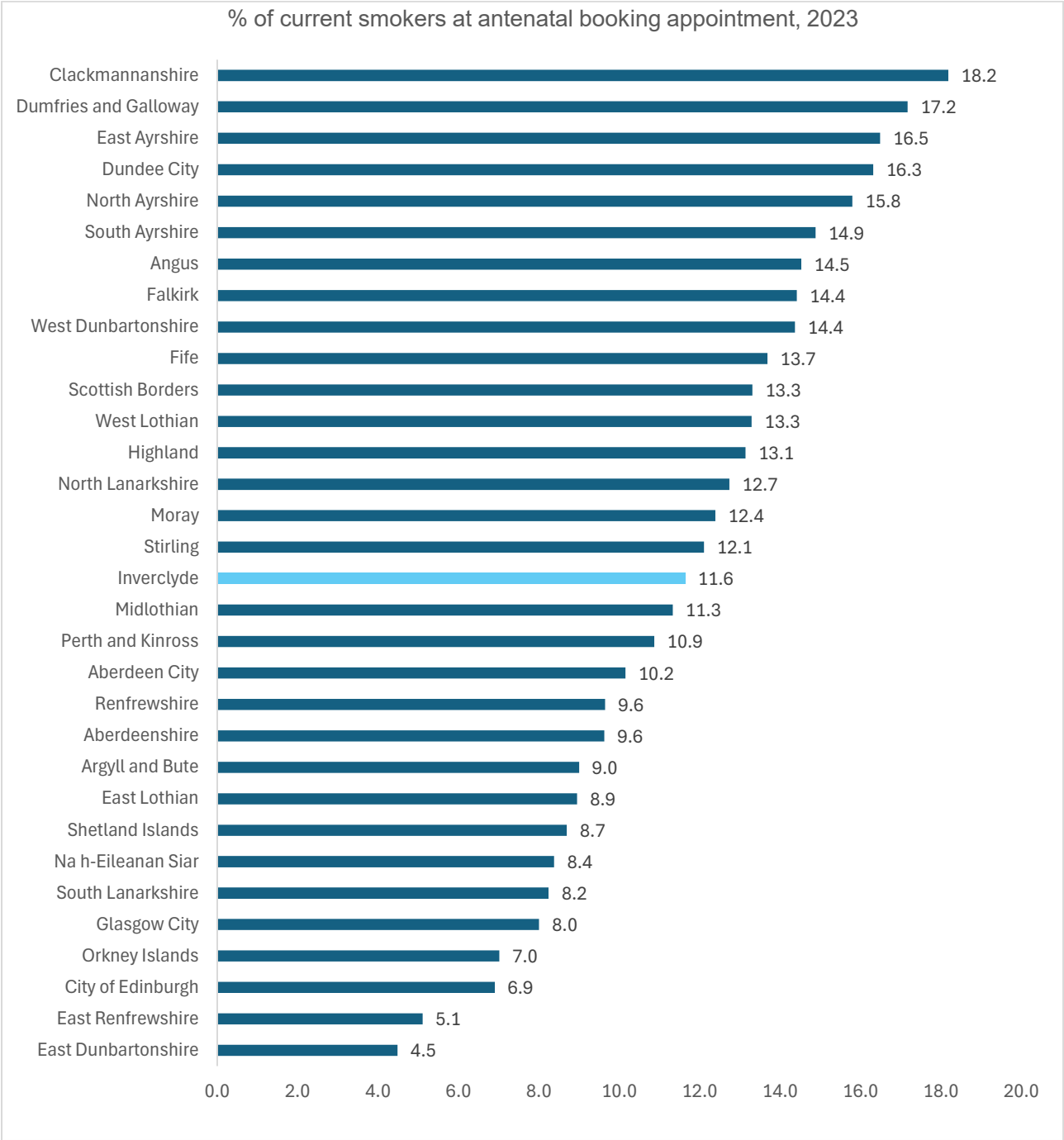
Smoking in pregnancy is related to other health issues, particularly the low birth weight of babies and child health. Smoking rates are highest in the most deprived quintile (20% most deprived) as shown below, however the Inverclyde rate falls below the Scottish average in all quintiles.

Smoking during pregnancy 2019/20 – 2020/21

| Smoking during pregnancy (% of women) | Inverclyde | Scotland |
|---------------------------------------|------------|----------|
| Quintile 1 (Most Deprived)            | 21.7       | 24.3     |
| Quintile 2                            | 11.8       | 17       |
| Quintile 3                            | 5.4        | 10.4     |
| Quintile 4                            | 2.6        | 5.9      |
| Quintile 5 (Least Deprived)           | 1.1        | 2.5      |

Source: [Online Profiles Tool - ScotPHO](#)

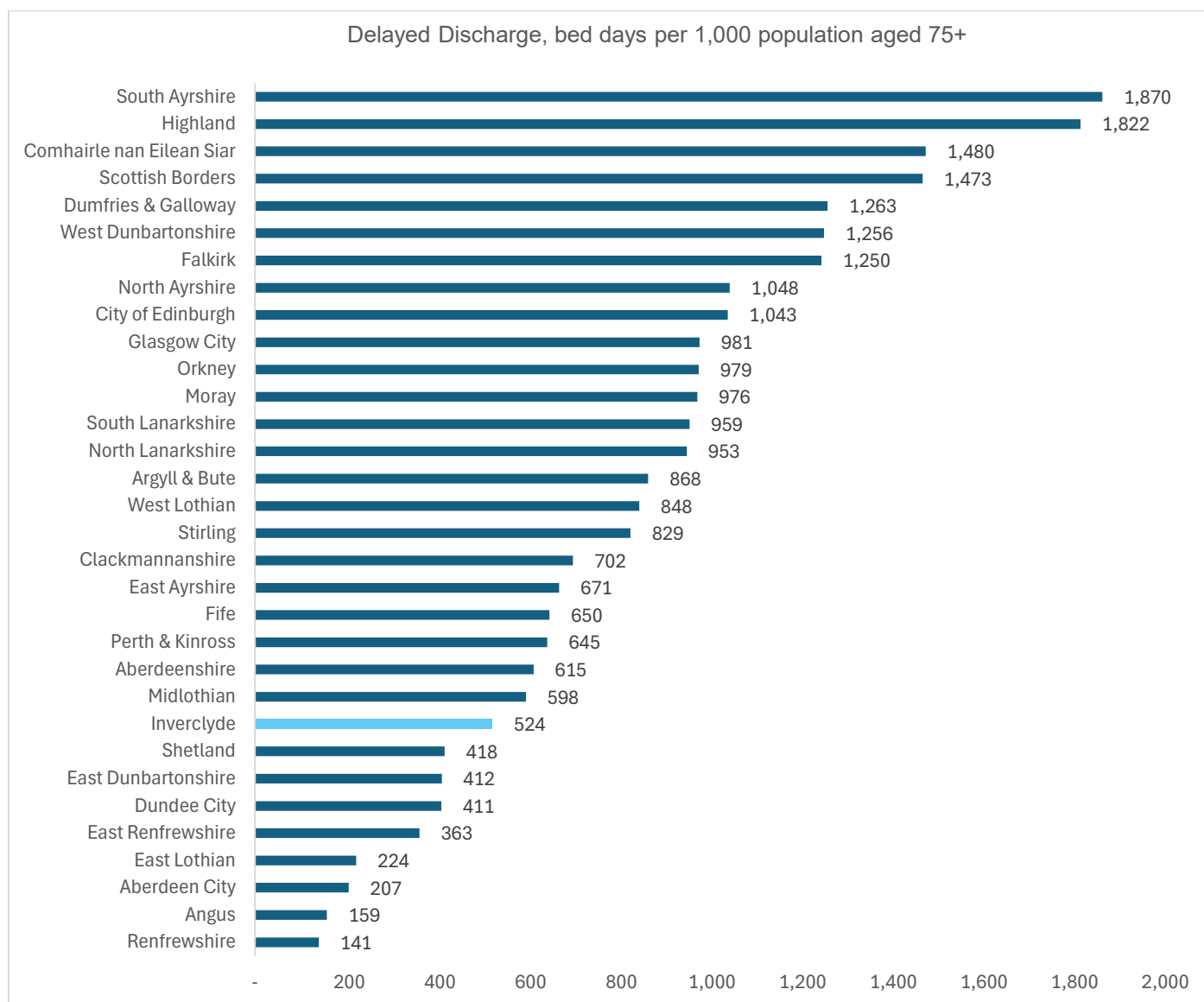
In 2023, 11.6% of woman at the time of their antenatal appointment were current smokers. The Scotland figure is 11%. Inverclyde ranks at the mid-point of all Scottish local authorities.



Source: [Antenatal booking in Scotland - Calendar year ending 31 December 2023 - Antenatal booking in Scotland - Publications - Public Health Scotland](#)

4.11 Delayed Discharge from Hospital

In 2023/24, Inverclyde had the ninth lowest rate in Scotland for bed days occupied by delayed discharge patients aged 75 years and older as illustrated in the following graph.

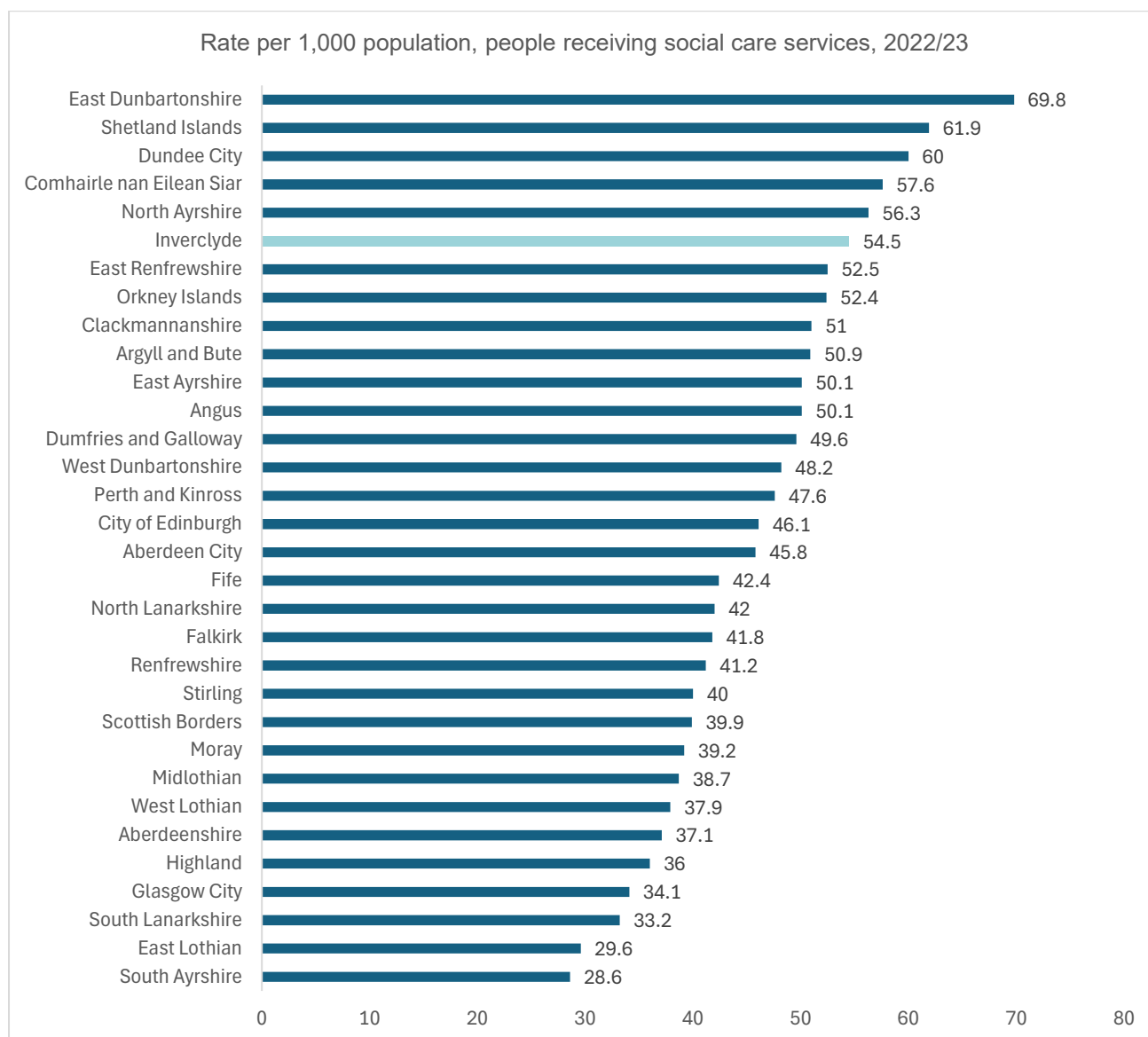


Source: <https://beta.isdscotland.org/find-publications-and-data/health-and-social-care/delayed-discharges/delayed-discharges-in-nhsscotland-annual/>

## 4.12 People supported by Social Care Services

### 4.12a) Residents supported by Health and Social Care Partnership

The chart below presents information on the rate per 1,000 population of people who received social care services or support in Scotland by Council area, during 2022/23 and by the Health and Social Care Partnership providing this support. These services and support include home care, care home, meals, community alarm/telecare, housing support, social worker and day care. People involved in choosing and controlling their support through self-directed support options are also included.



#### 4.12b) Balance of Care 2013 - 2023

The table below provides a breakdown of the balance of care for in Inverclyde for those with long term needs. The data relates to Census week, which is usually the last week in March.

| Type of care                             | 2013          | 2014          | 2015          | 2016          | 2017          | 2018          | 2019          | 2020          |
|------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Personal Care at home                    | 1,290         | 1,305         | 1,215         | 1,295         | 1,295         | 1,235         | 1,200         | 1,265         |
| Long stay care home residents            | 595           | 700           | 750           | 695           | 675           | 615           | 600           | 585           |
| Continuing care census / HBCCC           | 55            | 60            | 60            | 50            | 50            | 25            | 40            | 40            |
| <b>% receiving personal care at home</b> | <b>66.5 %</b> | <b>63.2 %</b> | <b>60.0 %</b> | <b>63.5 %</b> | <b>64.1 %</b> | <b>65.9 %</b> | <b>65.2 %</b> | <b>66.9 %</b> |

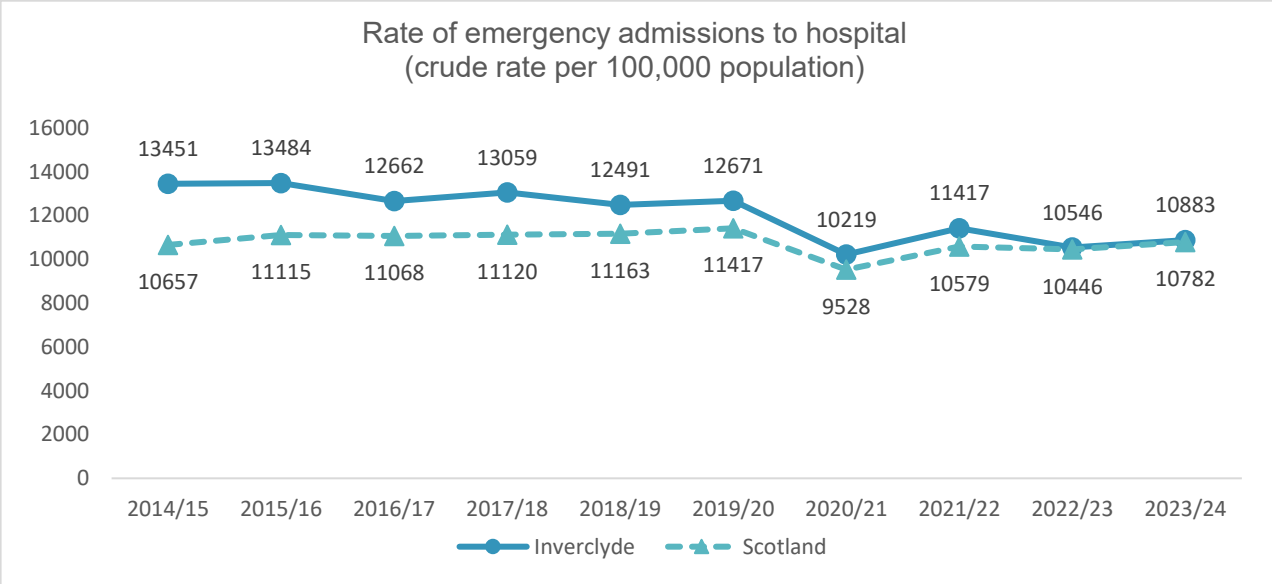
| Type of care                             | 2021         | 2022         | 2023         |
|------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Personal Care at home                    | 1,265        | 1,245        | 1,135        |
| Long stay care home residents            | 535          | 535          | 505          |
| Continuing care census / HBCCC           | 40           | 40           | 40           |
| <b>% receiving personal care at home</b> | <b>69.5%</b> | <b>68.4%</b> | <b>67.4%</b> |

[People supported through Social Care Services; Support provided or funded by health and social care partnerships in Scotland 2022/23 - People supported through Social Care Services - Publications - Public Health Scotland](#)



4.13 Emergency Hospital Admissions (episodes crude rate per 100,000 population)

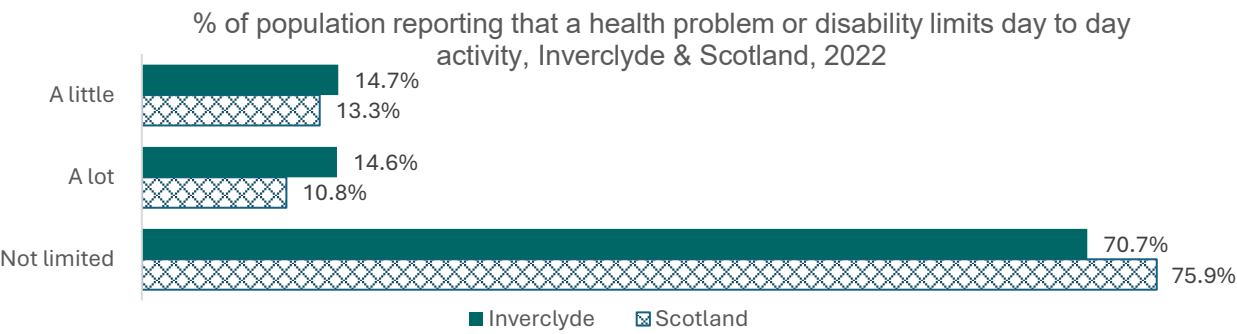
Whilst the rate of emergency admissions (per 100,000 people) to hospital in Inverclyde has been higher than the Scotland rate, in recent years it has become closer to the Scottish level.



4.14 Long term health problem or disability

The Census asked respondents if they had a long-term health problem or disability that limits their day-to-day activity, and has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months. This included problems that are related to old age. People were asked to assess whether their daily activities were limited a lot, or a little, by such a health problem, or whether their daily activities were not limited at all.

11,434 people (14.5%) in Inverclyde reported that they had a health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities **a lot**. 11,543 people (14.7%) reported that they had a health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities **a little**.



Of the total number of people in Inverclyde who said that their health or disability limits their day-to-day activities a little or a lot, 55% were female and 45% male.

## Physical disability

9,985 (12.7%) of Inverclyde's population said that they had a physical disability. The proportion of those with a physical disability increases as people age.

| Age                 | Male | Female | Total | % of people with a physical disability as a % of total population | % of people with a physical disability as a % of that age group |
|---------------------|------|--------|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>0-15</b>         | 98   | 63     | 161   | 0.2%                                                              | 1.3%                                                            |
| <b>16-24</b>        | 69   | 92     | 160   | 0.2%                                                              | 2.2%                                                            |
| <b>25-34</b>        | 133  | 184    | 317   | 0.4%                                                              | 3.6%                                                            |
| <b>35-49</b>        | 423  | 610    | 1033  | 1.3%                                                              | 7.6%                                                            |
| <b>50-64</b>        | 1322 | 1735   | 3054  | 3.9%                                                              | 15.9%                                                           |
| <b>65 and older</b> | 2139 | 3121   | 5260  | 6.7%                                                              | 29.9%                                                           |

Source: 2022 Census

## ENVIRONMENT PROFILE

### Key messages

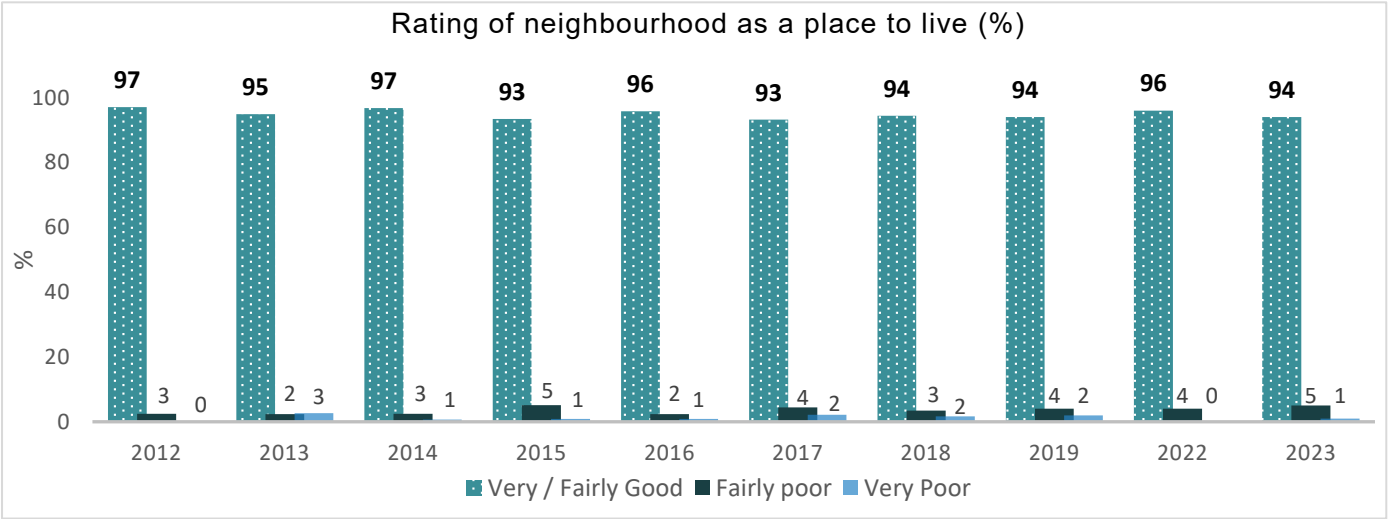
- A high proportion of Inverclyde respondents to the Scottish Household Survey rate their neighbourhood as a good place to live which is encouraging.
- Good progress has been made in reducing its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions within the scope of influence of the local authority, with emissions being consistently reduced year on year.
- Home ownership, either with a mortgage or owned outright is the largest household tenure in Inverclyde, with 63% of households falling into this category. More than 70% of owner-occupied homes in Inverclyde are owned by someone aged over 50.
- Whilst there has been an increase in recorded crime between 2022/23 and 2023/24, there has been a significant overall decrease between 2014/15 and 2023/24.
- Fire call outs in Inverclyde continue to be the highest in Scotland and deliberate fire raising is a significant issue in certain area of Inverclyde.

# ENVIRONMENT

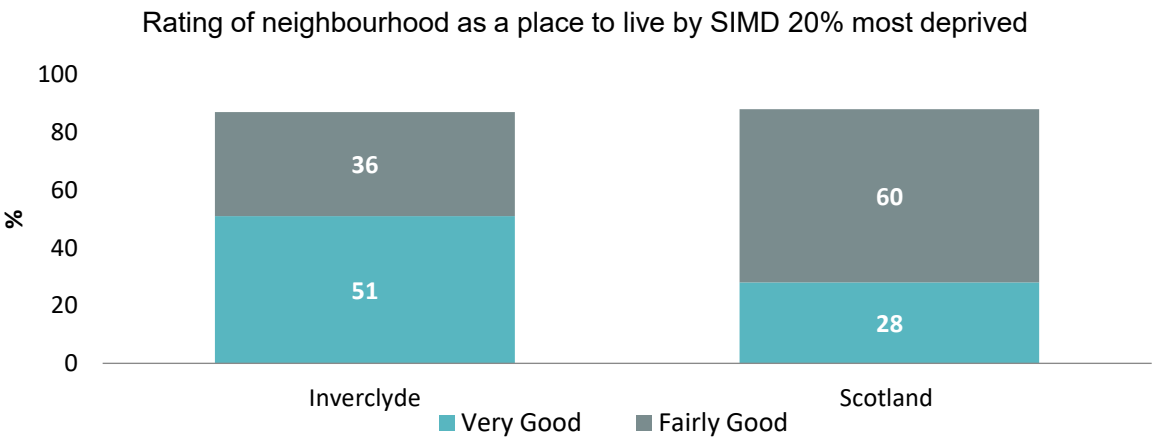
## 5.1 Living environment

Physical and social environments that nurture good health can help to reduce health inequalities and improve mental health and wellbeing. Those living in deprived areas are more likely to be exposed to environmental factors that have a negative impact on their overall health.

The Scottish Household Survey provides information on the composition, characteristics and behaviour of Scottish households at a national and local authority level. The chart below shows that the vast majority of Inverclyde respondents of Inverclyde, 94%, rated their neighbourhood as either very or fairly good to live.



When compared to the Scottish average, a significantly greater proportion of people living in the 20% most deprived communities in Inverclyde rated their neighbourhood as a very good place to live, 51%, compared to 28% in Scotland. Overall, 87% of those in the 20% most deprived area in Inverclyde said that their neighbourhood was a very or fairly good place to live, compared to 88% in Scotland, which is not statistically different.



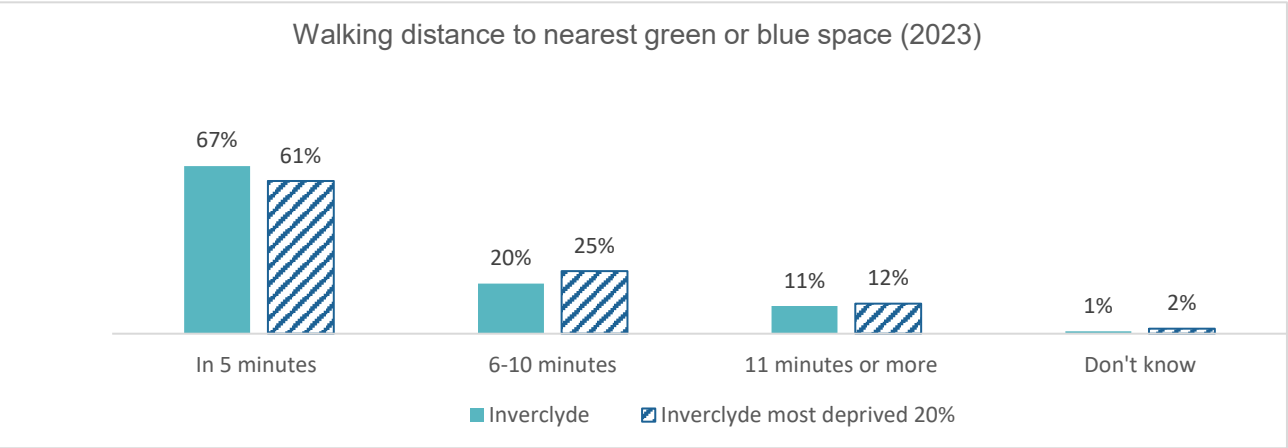
Source: [SHS Data Explorer](#)

## 5.2 Open Space

### 5.2a) Access to Open Space

The Covid-19 pandemic led to an increased focus on the value of good quality outdoor space and the benefits that this can bring.

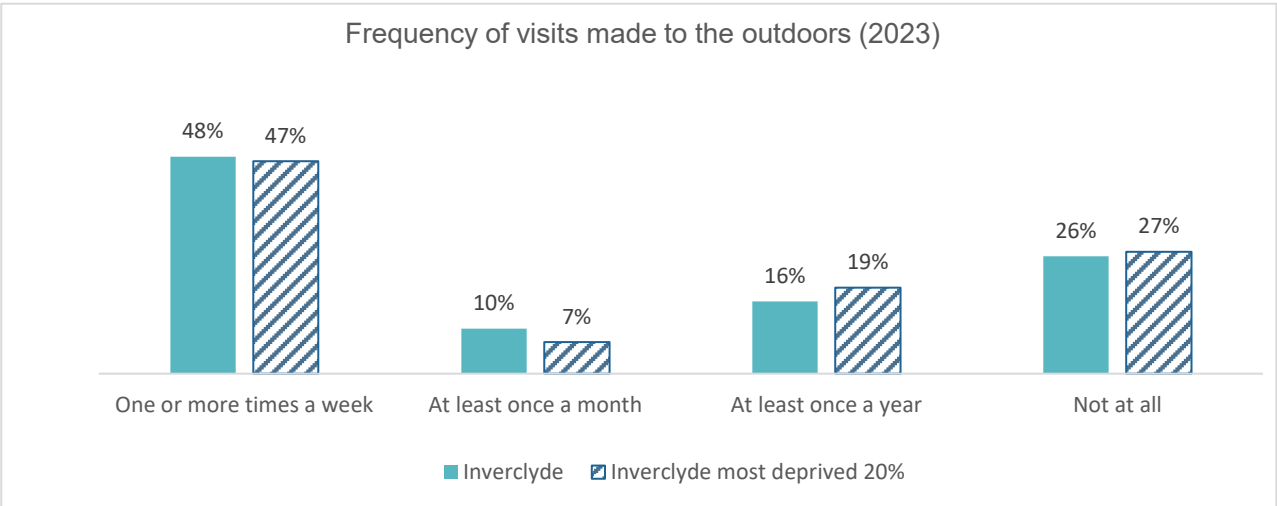
67% of Inverclyde respondents to the Scottish Household Survey 2023 said that they live within 5 minutes walking distance to their nearest green or blue space. The percentage decreases slightly for those Inverclyde respondents living in the 20% most deprived communities. Overall, 87% of Inverclyde respondents said that they live within 10 minutes walking distance to the nearest greenspace. Walking distance to the nearest green or blue space for those living in the 20% most deprived areas in Inverclyde is not statistically different to the overall figures for Inverclyde.



Scottish Household Survey - [SHS Data Explorer](#)

Source:

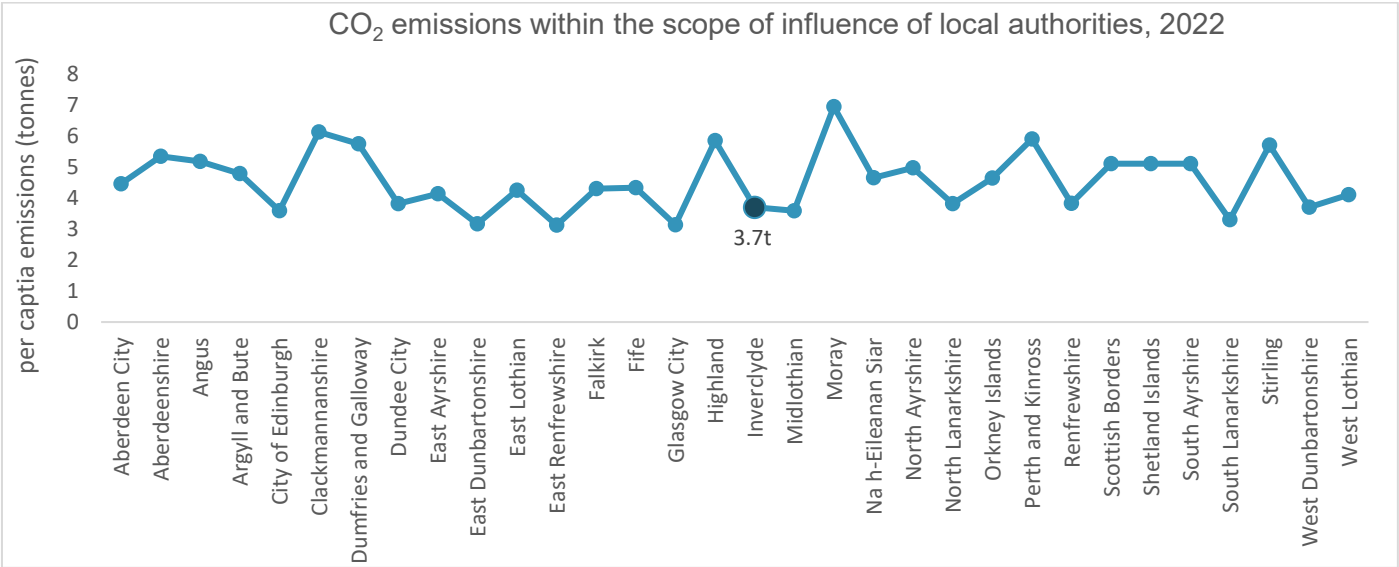
When comparing frequency of visits to the outdoors there is a slight difference between the overall percentage for Inverclyde and those living in the 20% most deprived, however the difference is not statistically different.



Source: [SHS Data Explorer](#)

### 5.3 Emissions

CO<sub>2</sub> emissions within the scope of influence of the local authority have decreased in Inverclyde from 6.9 tonnes per capita in 2006 to 3.7 tonnes per capita in 2022. The chart below shows how CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Inverclyde compared with other local authorities in Scotland in 2022. Inverclyde has the joint seventh lowest emissions of all Scottish Councils.



Source: [UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics, 2005 to 2022 - GOV.UK](#)

### 5.4 Vacant and Derelict Land in Inverclyde, 2024

There was 147.54ha (86 sites) of vacant and derelict land in Inverclyde as at 31 March 2024. Of the land area, 78.95% was vacant land, 0.17% vacant land and buildings, and 20.88% derelict

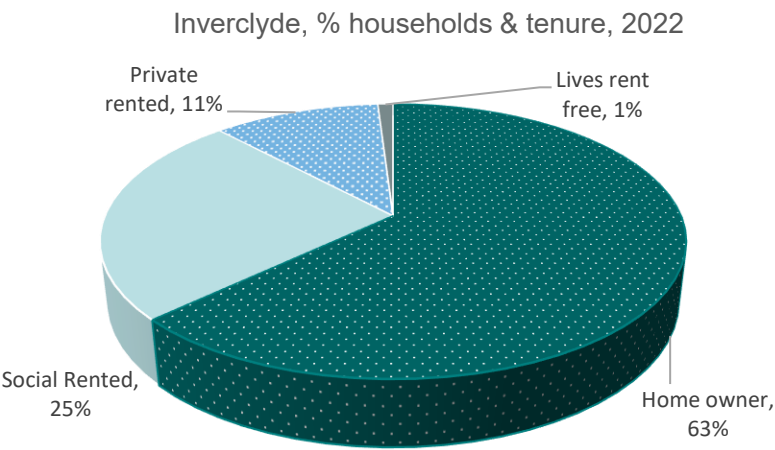
Source: <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/planning-and-the-environment/planning-policy/land-surveys>

### 5.5 Housing

#### 5.5a) Household Tenure

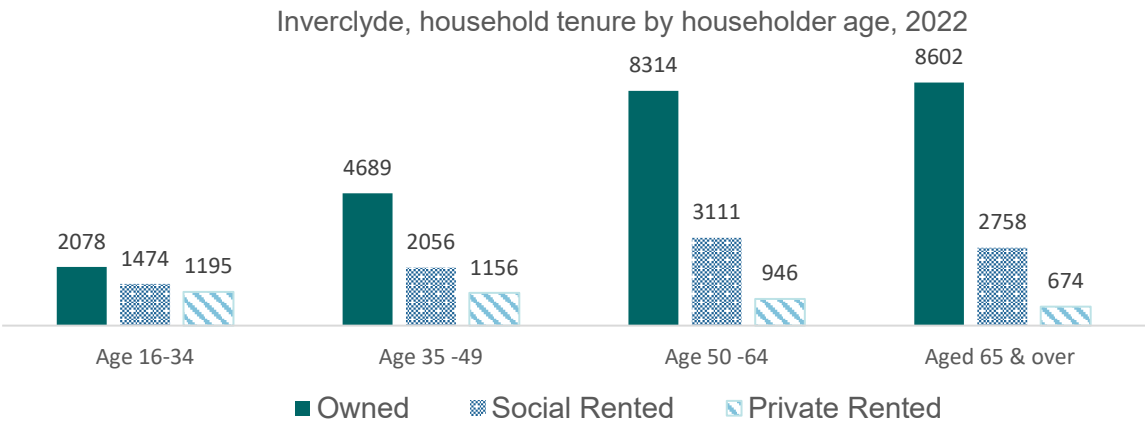
Census data on tenure describes whether a household rents or owns the accommodation they live in. Of Inverclyde’s 37,405 recorded households:

- 23,687 households in Inverclyde said that they owned their own home (either outright or with a mortgage), this equates to 63% of all Inverclyde households, the same as the national average and is 1% higher than in 2011.
- 9,399 households in Inverclyde lived in social rented housing, at 25% this is 2% below 2011 level.
- The percentage of households renting privately remained relatively steady between 2011 and 2022, with a small increase in numbers from 3,942 households to 3,971 households, remaining at just above 10%.
- 344 households (1%) in Inverclyde were living rent free compared to 235 households in 2011 (0.6%).



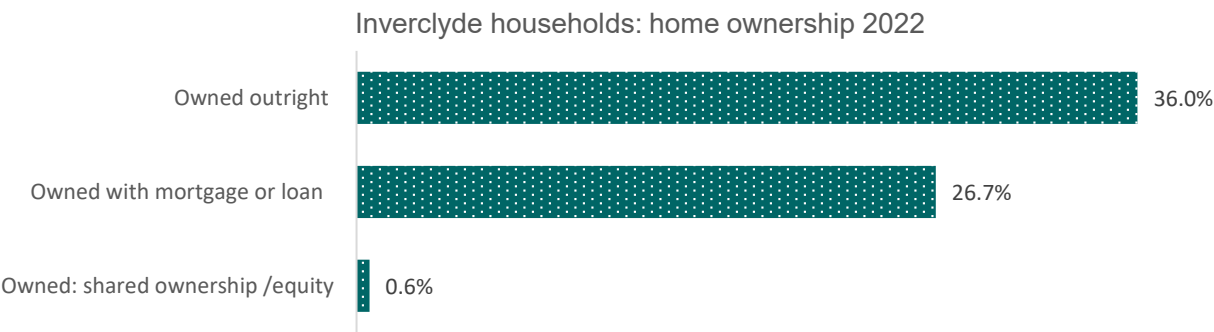
5.5b) Tenure by age of household reference person (householder)

The chart below presents a breakdown of Inverclyde’s population aged 16 and over by tenure and age of household reference person. More than 70% of owner-occupied homes in Inverclyde are owned by someone aged over 50 whilst almost 60% of those living in the private rented sector are aged under 50.



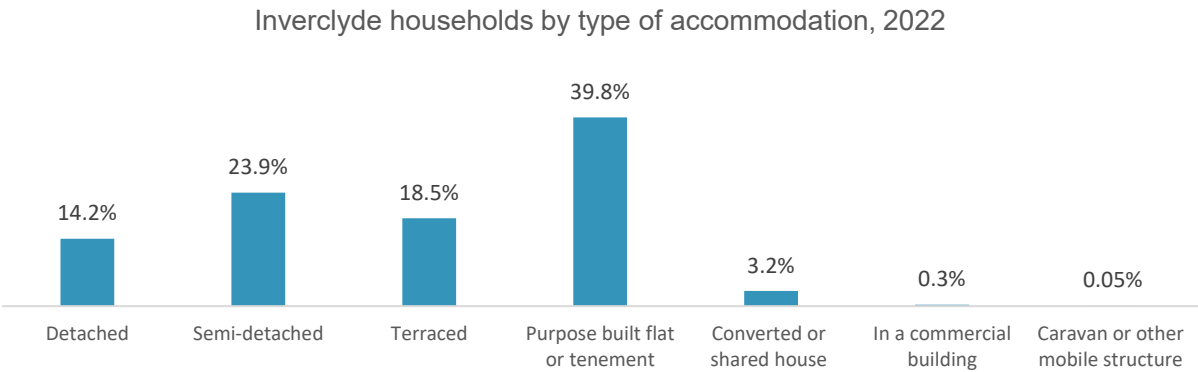
5.5c) Home ownership, 2022

13,478 (36%) of households in Inverclyde own their home outright, compared to 34% in Scotland.



5.5d) Households and accommodation

Of Inverclyde’s 37,405 households, almost 40% lived in a purpose built flat or tenement accommodation. Almost 57% lived in a house (combined detached, semi-detached or terraced).



5.5e) Scottish Housing Quality Standard

As of 31 March 2022, 62% of Registered Social landlord (RSL) housing stock In Inverclyde met the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) which is substantially lower than the Scottish average of 91%.

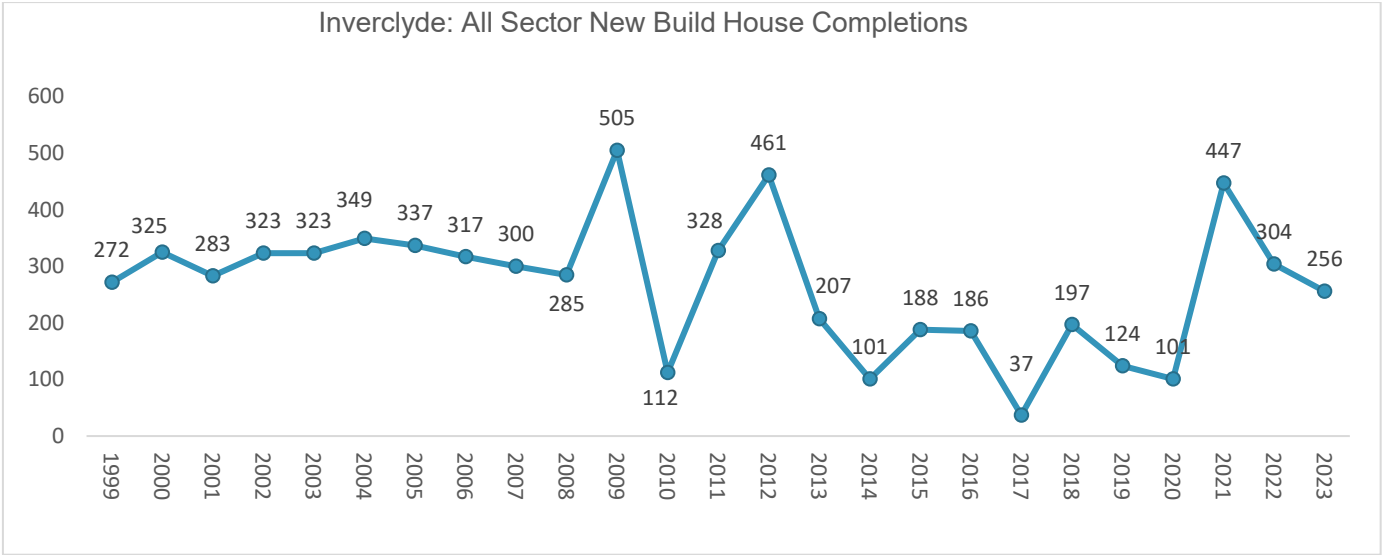
The proportion of stock meeting the SHQS in 2021/22 ranged across the four mains RSLs from 34% to 74%.

Compliance with the standard has dropped in recent years due to the publication of technical standards on EESSH.

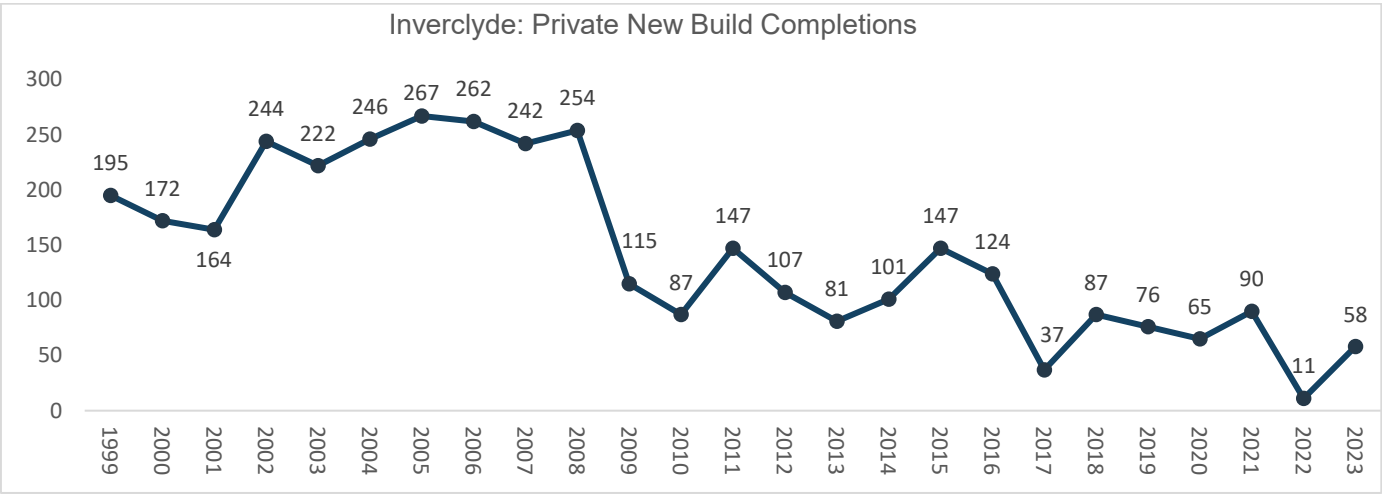
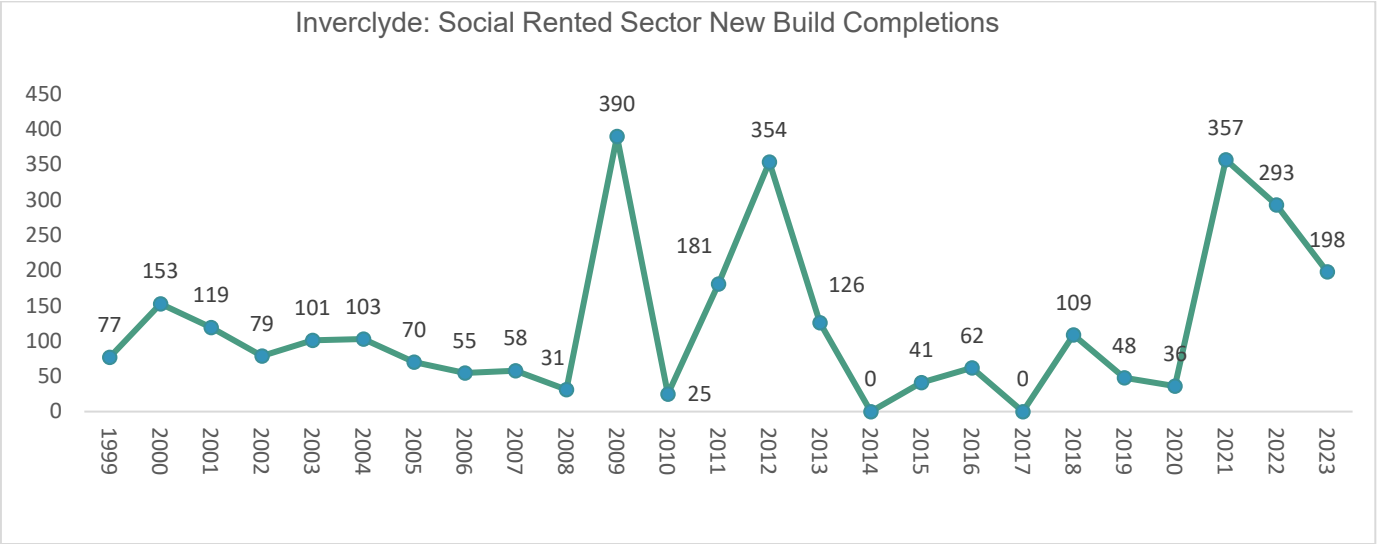
Source: Inverclyde Local Housing Strategy 2023/28

7.5f) Housing Completions 1999-2023

The charts below show the trend in new house building completions in Inverclyde in all sectors; the social rented sector; and the private rented sector over the period 1999-2023. The highest number of completions in any one year was 505 in 2009 and the lowest was 38 in 2017.







Source: Scottish Government Housing Statistics: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/housing-statistics-for-scotland-new-house-building/>

5.6 Culture and Local Heritage

There are a total of 248 listed buildings in Inverclyde which are of special architectural or historical importance. Buildings are categorised according to their relative importance and the table below shows the number of listed buildings Inverclyde has in each category.

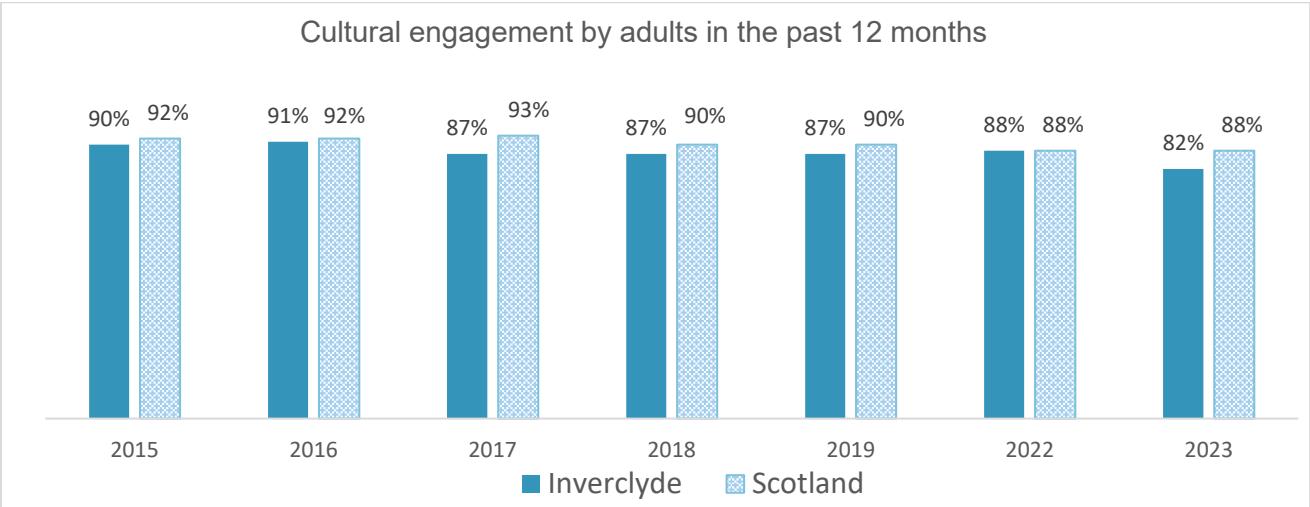
| Category                                                 | Number of Buildings |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| A – Buildings of national or international importance.   | 25                  |
| B – Buildings of regional or more than local importance. | 129                 |
| C – Buildings of local importance.                       | 94                  |

Source: Inverclyde Council

5.6a) Cultural Engagement

The Scottish Household Survey includes questions on cultural engagement. Cultural engagement is defined as those adults who have either attended at least one type of cultural place or who have participated in a cultural activity in the previous 12 months.

Cultural engagement by Inverclyde adults in the past 12 months dropped between 2022 and 2023, whilst remaining unchanged for Scotland.

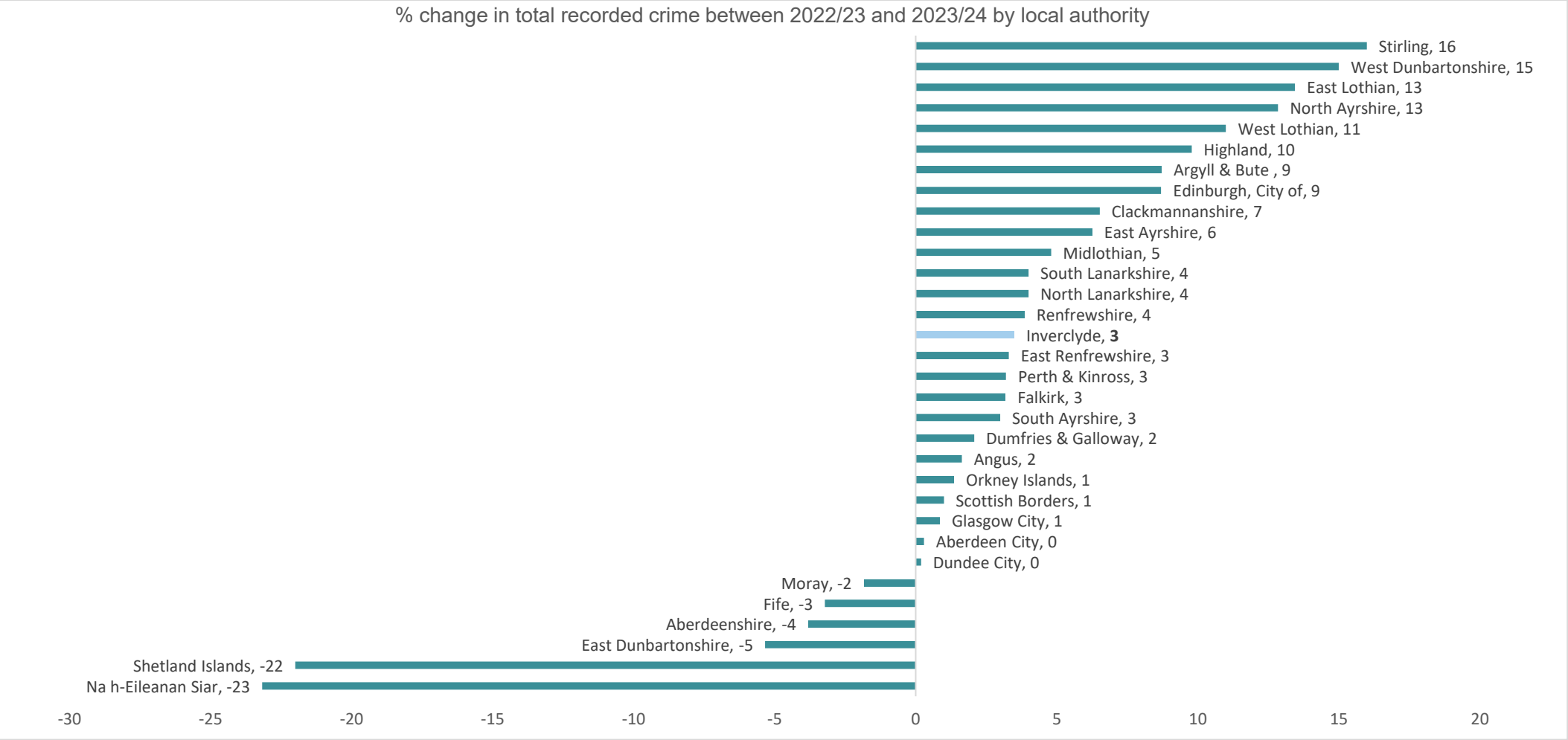


Figures from 2018 onwards are not directly comparable with previous years due to changes in the wording of the cultural attendance and participation questions in 2018.

Source: <https://scotland.shinyapps.io/sq-scottish-household-survey-data-explorer/>

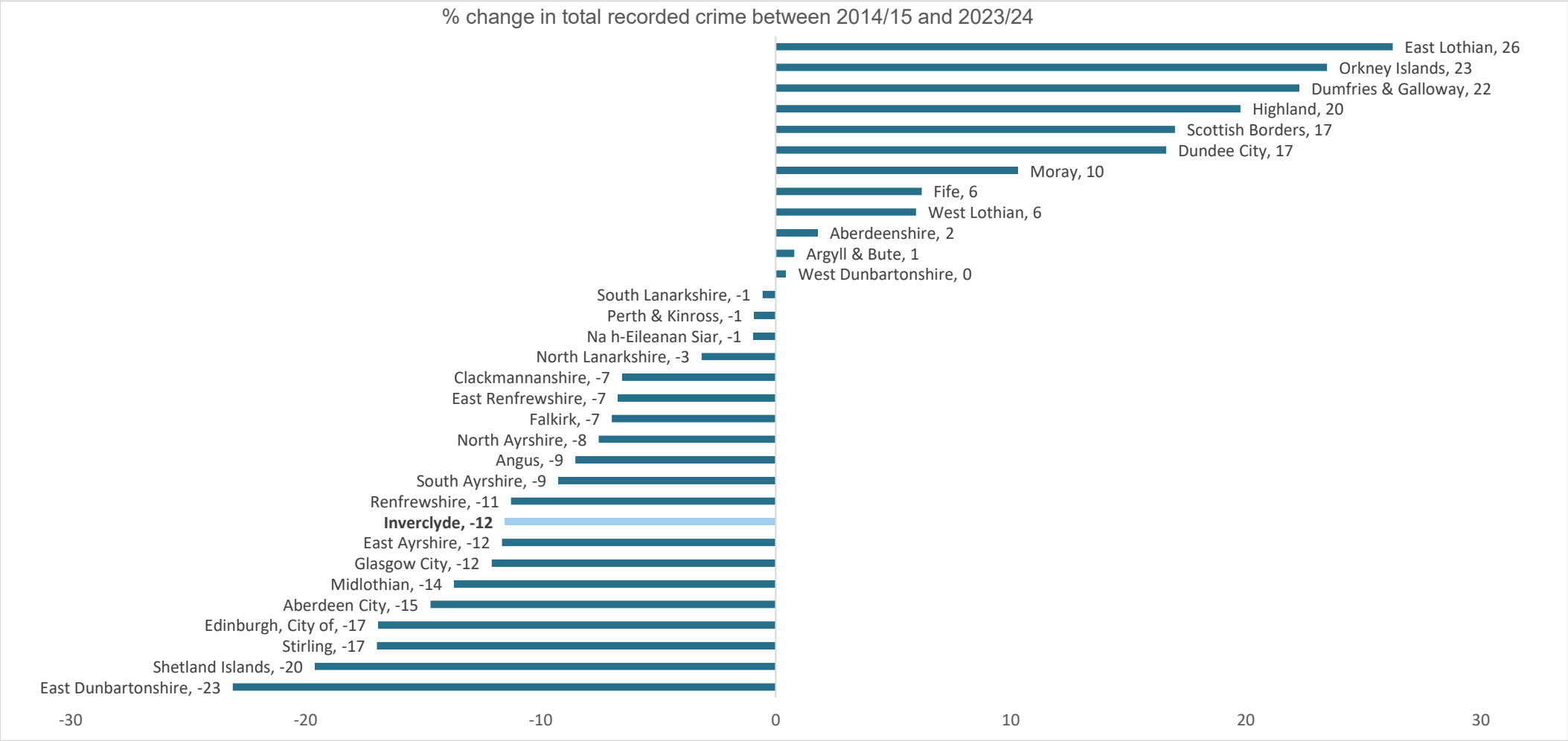
5.7 Community Safety

This section provides a snapshot of some Inverclyde statistics relating to community safety. Inverclyde recorded a 3% increase in crime between 2022/23 and 2023/24.



Source: [Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24 - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-in-scotland-2023-24/pages/10.aspx)

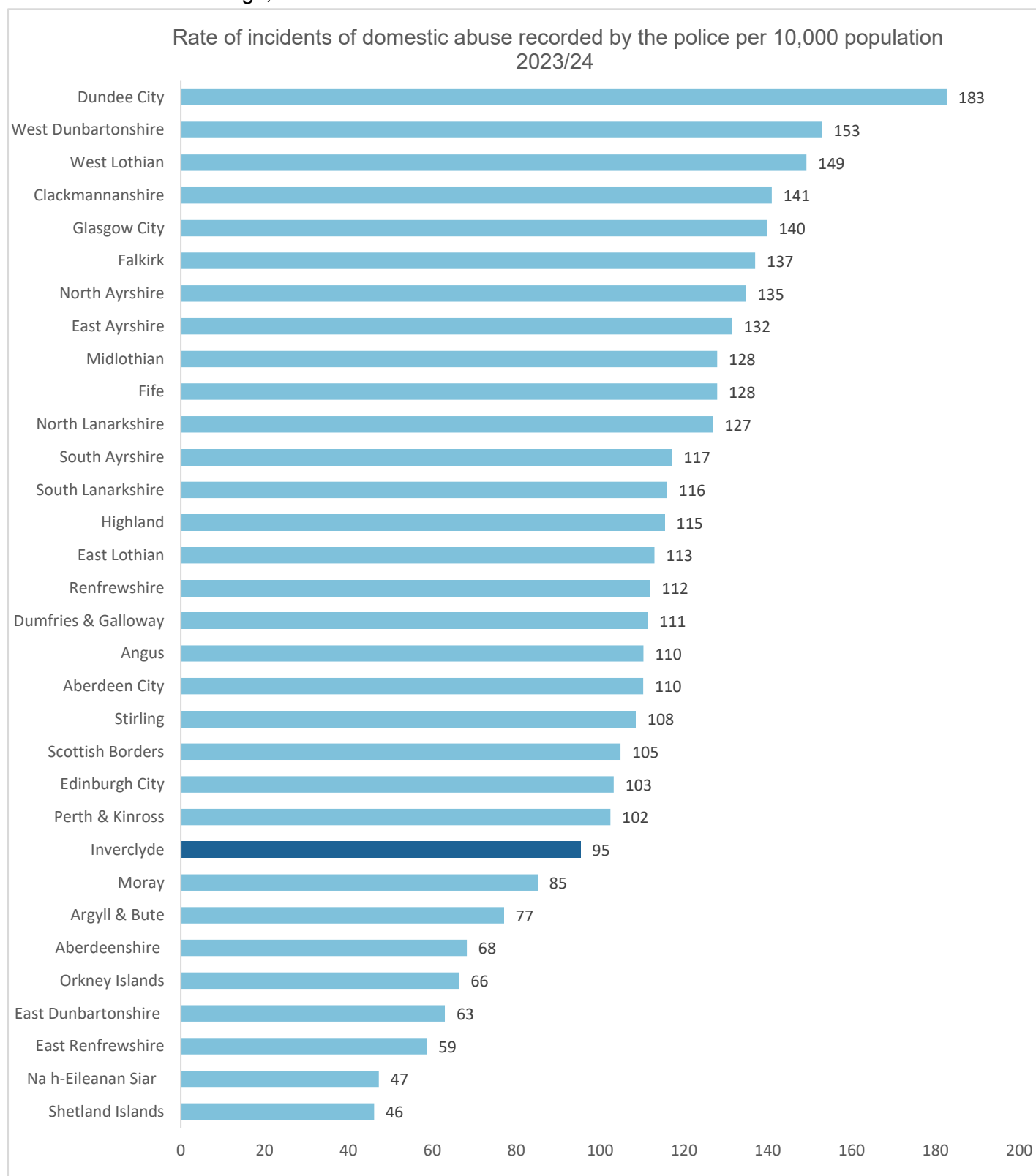
Over the longer period, 2014/15 to 2023/24, Inverclyde had the joint 7<sup>h</sup> largest drop in total recorded crime in Scotland.



Source: [Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2023-24 - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-in-scotland-2023-24/pages/10_to_12.aspx)

## Incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police per 10,000 population, by local authority, 2023/24

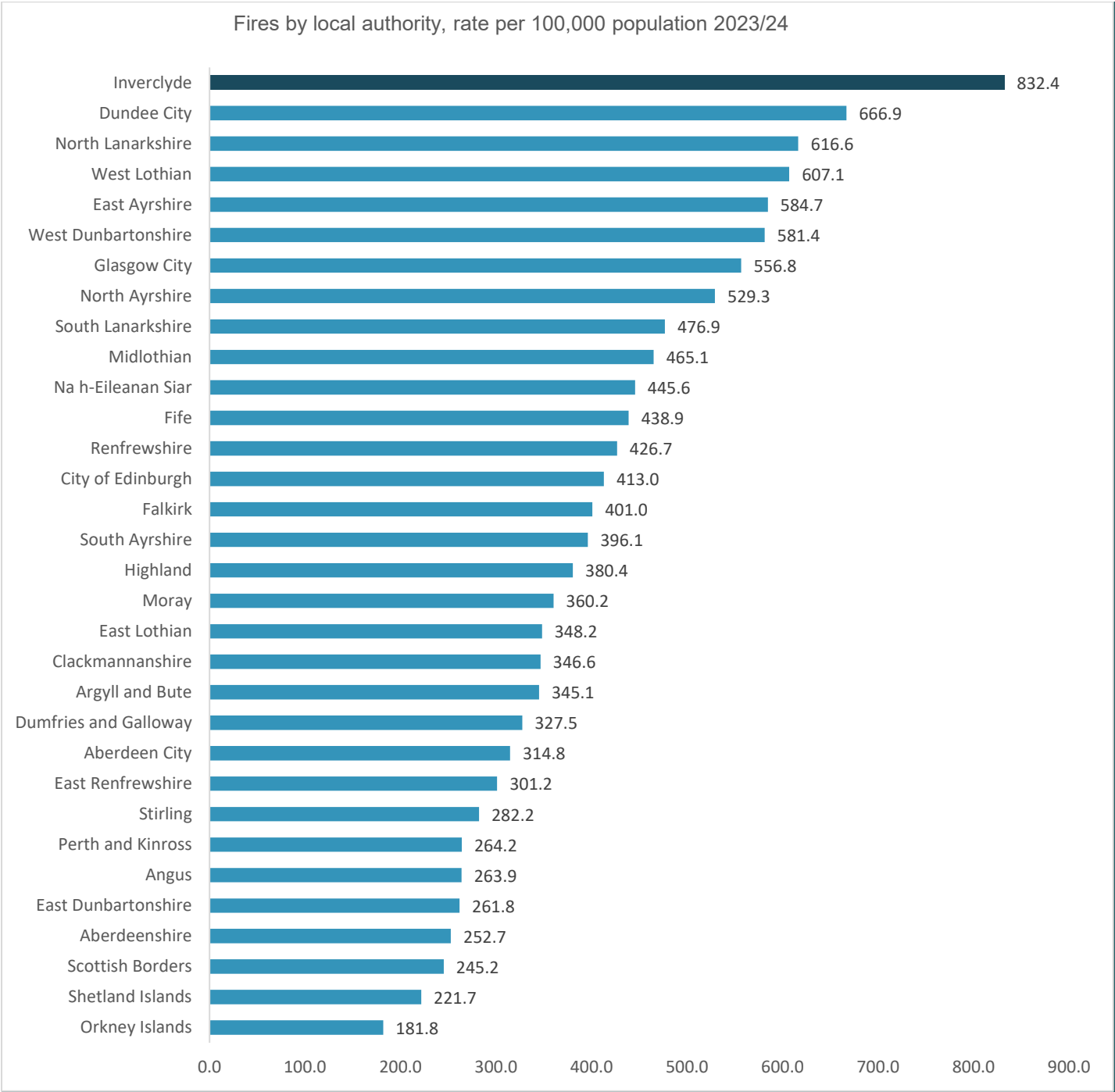
In 2023/24, the rate of domestic abuse incidents per 10,000 population in Inverclyde was 95, which was below the Scottish average, 116. Rates for all Council areas are shown below.



Source: [Supporting documents - Domestic abuse: statistics recorded by the police in Scotland, 2023 to 2024 - gov.scot](#)

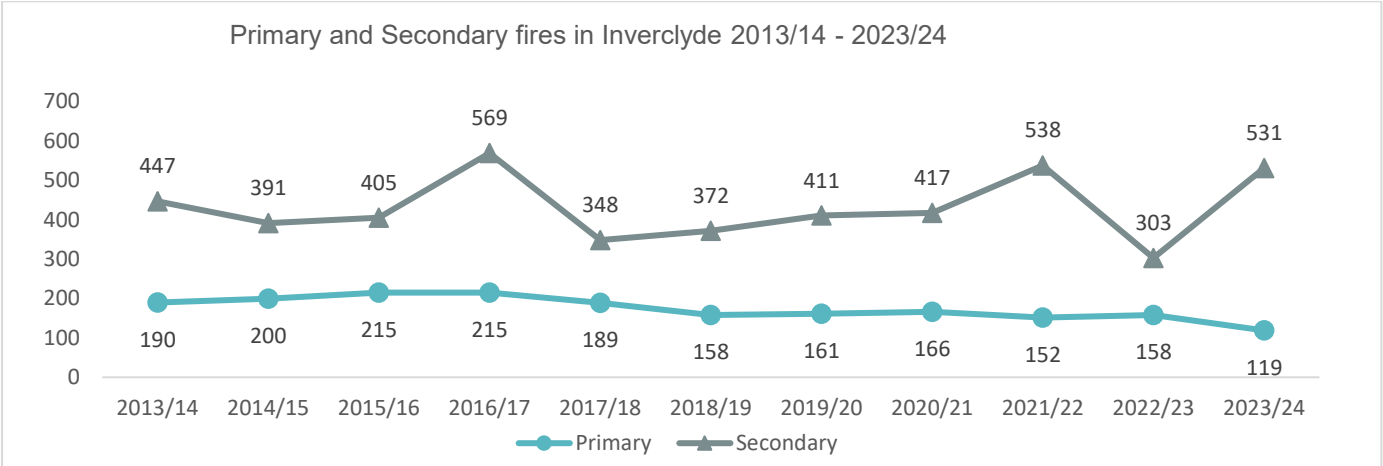
### 5.8 Fire Safety

In 2023/24 Inverclyde had the highest rate per 100,000 population for the total number of fires in Scotland. Inverclyde also had the highest rate of fires per 100,000 population in 2021/22 and 2020/21.



Source: [Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics, 2023-2024, Tables and Charts | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service](#)

The chart below illustrates that the number of primary and secondary fires in Inverclyde increased again in 2023/24. The overall total number of fires in Inverclyde in 2023/24 was 652, which is an increase of 187 on the number of fires in 2022/23 (465). Total fires include primary, secondary and chimney fires.



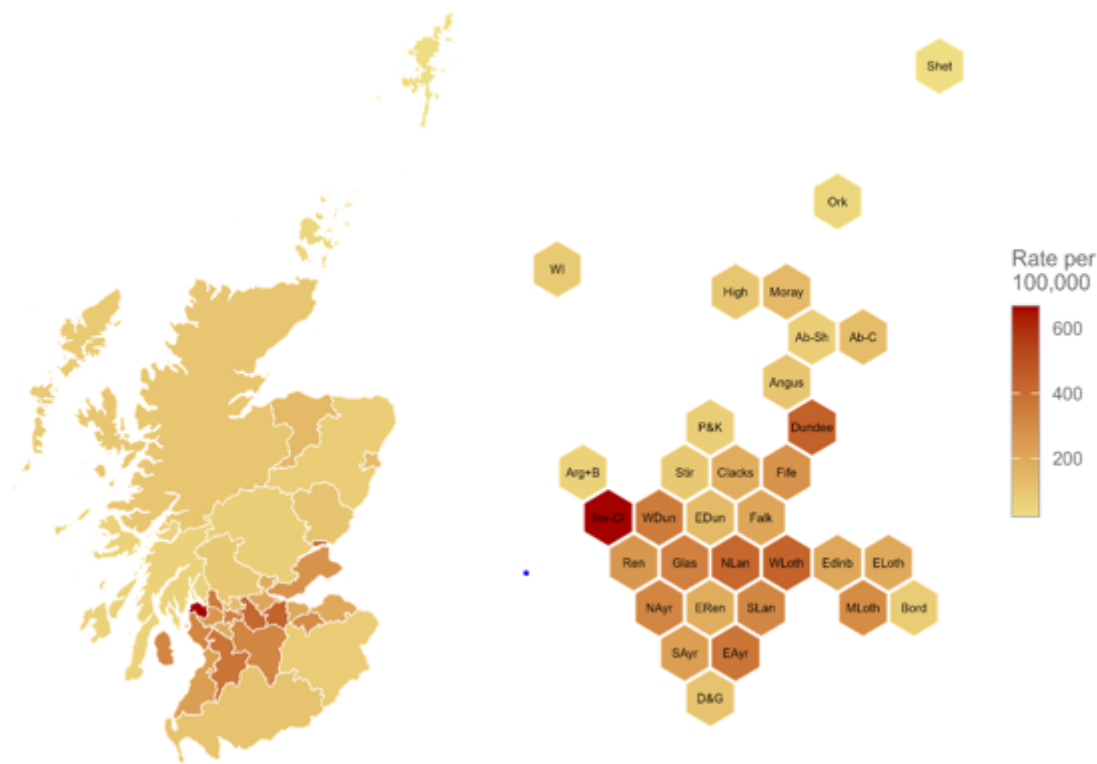
Source: Scottish Fire and Rescue Statistics: [Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics, 2023-2024, Tables and Charts | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service](#)

In addition to the primary and secondary fires shown above there was also an additional 2 chimney fires.

**Deliberate Fires**

The map below, which has been sourced from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Fire and Incidents Statistics, shows that Inverclyde has a far higher rate of deliberate fire raising per 100,000 than many other areas of Scotland. 523 fires in Inverclyde in 2023/24 were classed as deliberate compared to 129 accidental fires.

**Deliberate fires in Scotland 2023/24 – rates per 100,000 population**



## FURTHER INFORMATION

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This document has been produced by the Corporate Policy Team, Inverclyde Council, using the most up to date information at the time of writing (December 2024).

If you would like further information, please contact: [corporate.policy@inverclyde.gov.uk](mailto:corporate.policy@inverclyde.gov.uk) or telephone (01475) 712146