

Teenage Conceptions Briefing

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Produced by

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1. Introduction

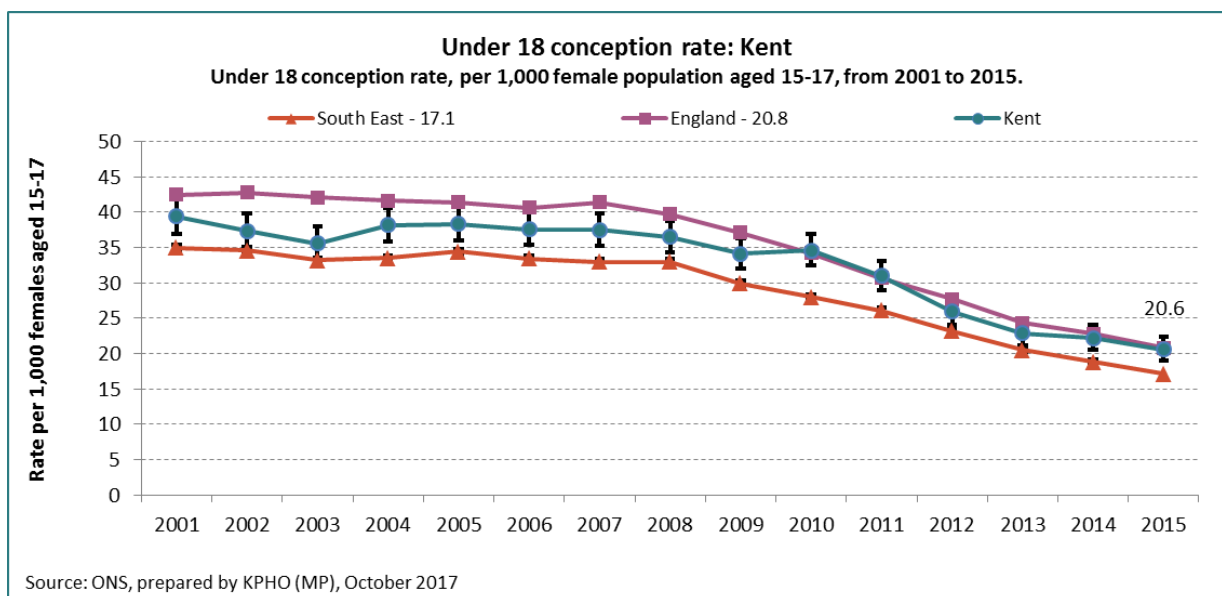
This briefing contains:

- The latest under 18 teenage conception rates for Kent and the 12 Districts;
- Analysis of the trend in under 18 teenage conception rates at County and District level;
- Kent-level data on under 16 conceptions.

The data has been sourced from ONS, and includes data for 2015 which was released on 22nd March 2017. It is based on conceptions to girls aged under 18 at the time of conception (and under 16 at the time of conception).

2. Teenage Conceptions (Under 18) - Kent

The chart below shows the trend in teenage conception rates for Kent between 2001 and 2015. Comparator data for England and the South East is also shown.

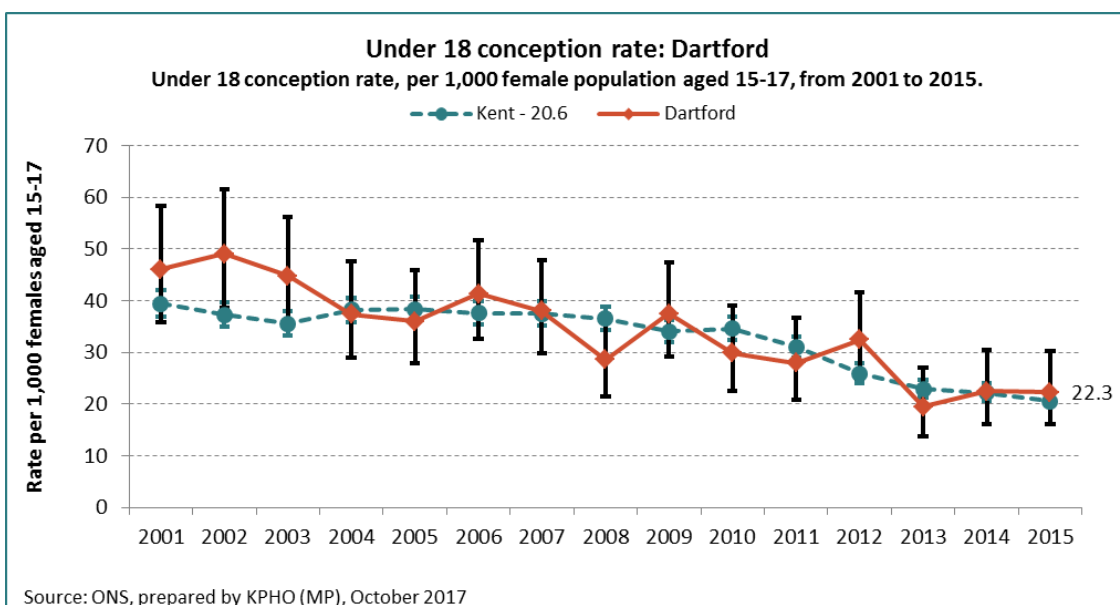
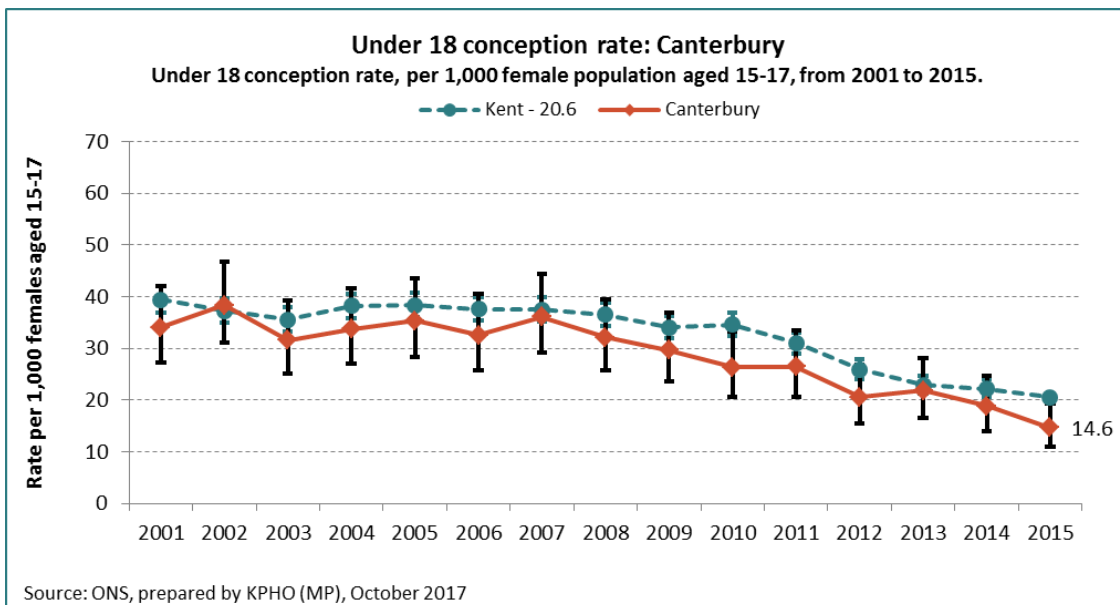
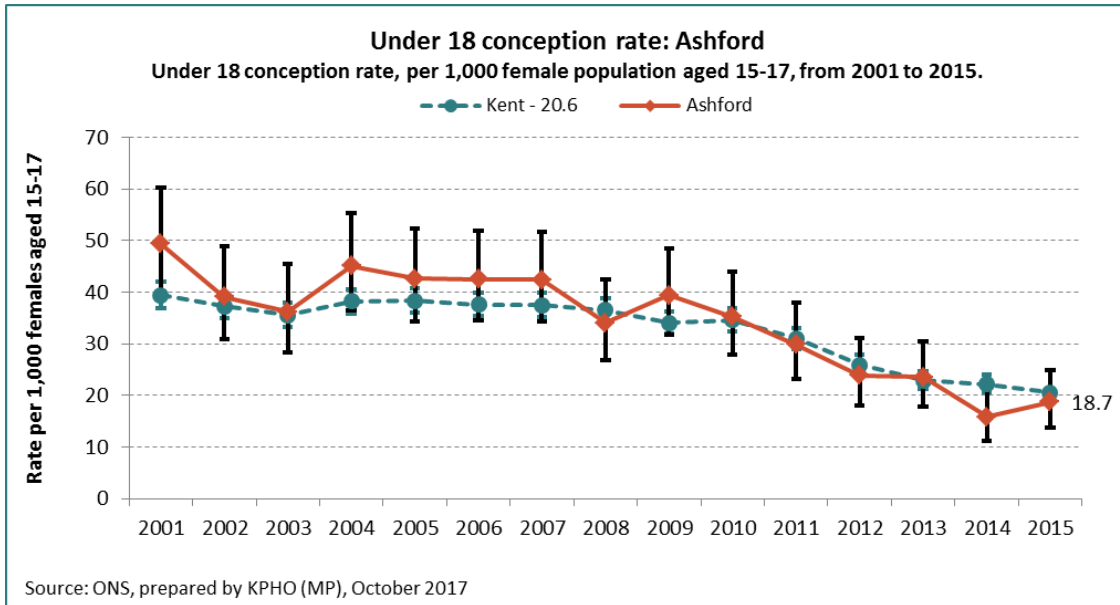


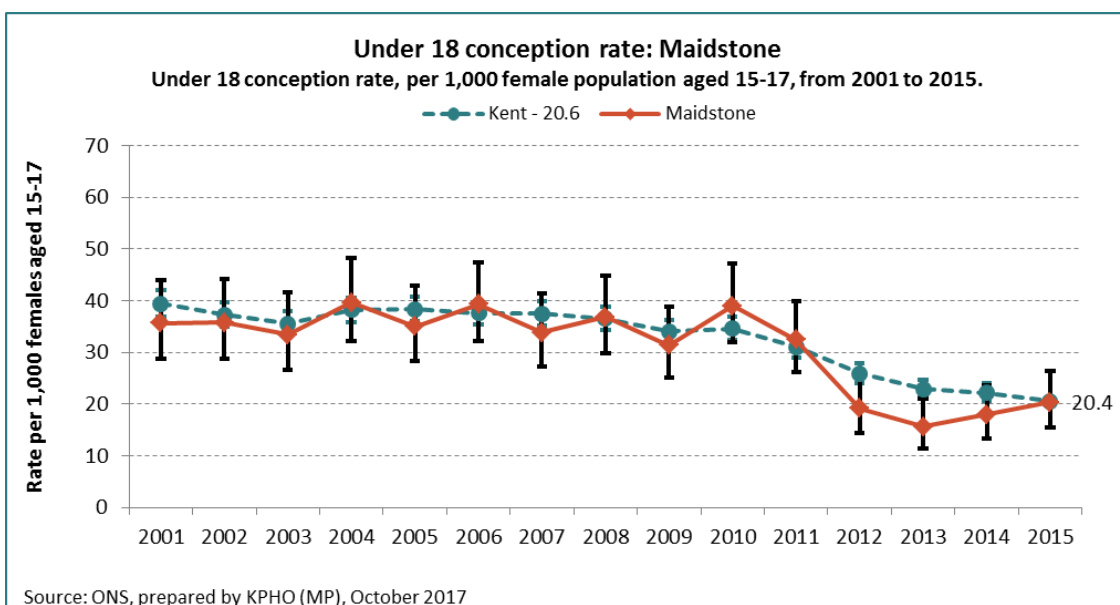
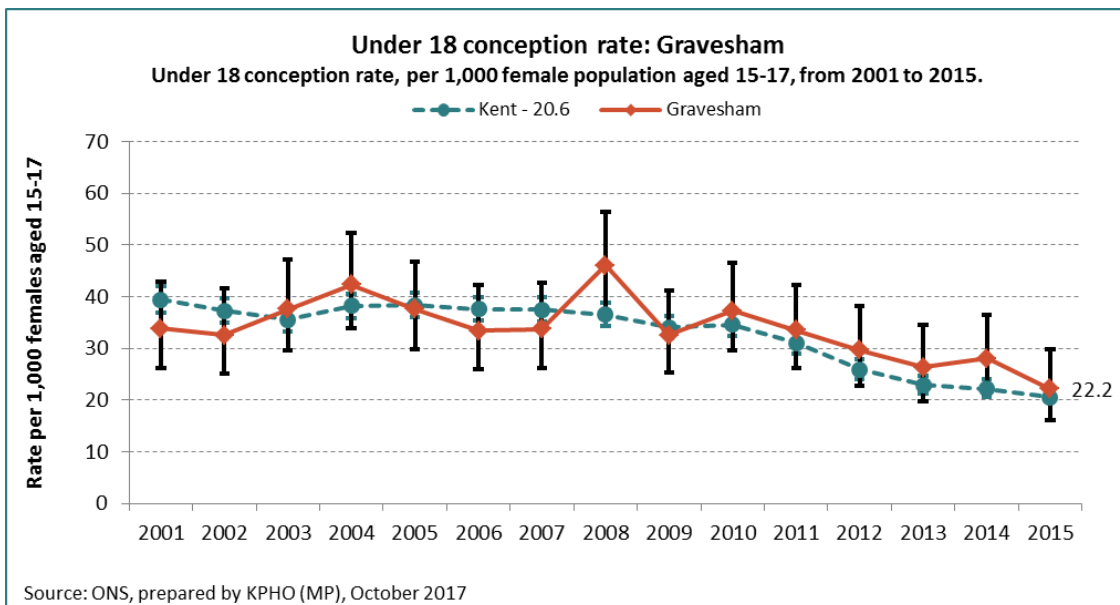
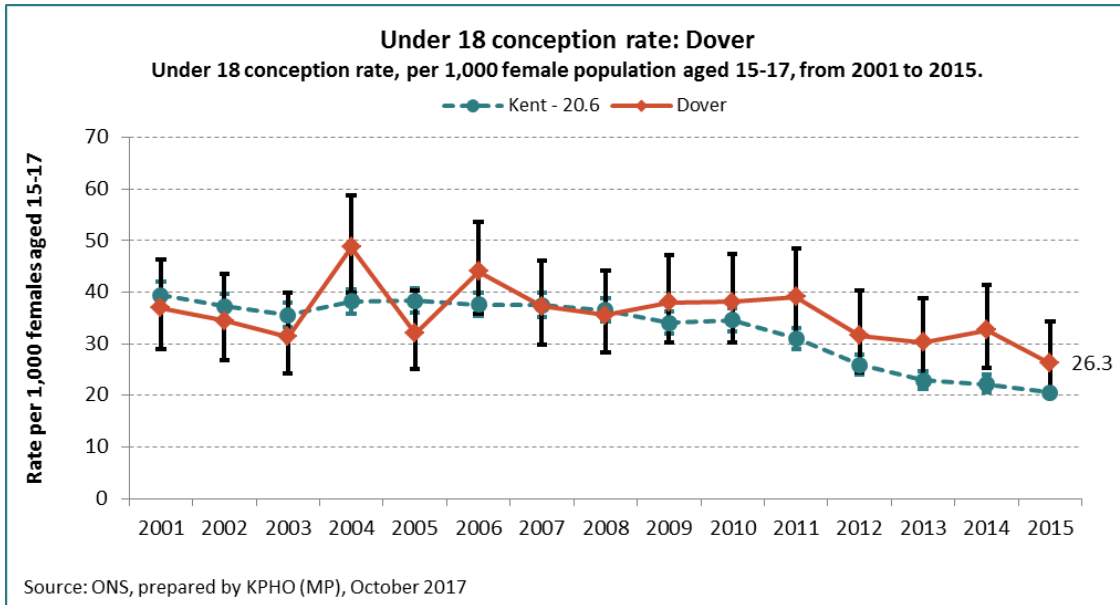
- There is a clear downward trend in teenage conception rates in Kent.
- They have nearly halved over the last 14 years...
 - ...from 39.4 per 1,000 female population aged 15 to 17 in 2001 to 20.6 per 1,000 in 2015.
- Nearly three-quarters of this decrease (74%) has come in the most recent 5 years for which data is available (i.e. between 2010 and 2015).
 - Under 18 conception rates in Kent decreased from 39.4 per 1,000 in 2001 to 34.6 per 1,000 by 2010.
 - The rate of improvement then accelerated so that teenage conceptions have fallen in Kent by an average of 2.8 per 1,000 per year (from 34.6 per 1,000 in 2010 to the latest figure of 20.6 per 1,000 for 2015).
- Teenage conception rates in Kent remain similar to the England average for the second successive year (20.6 per 1,000 female population aged 15 to 17 compared with 20.8 per 1,000 for England).
 - Historically (pre-2010), teenage conception rates in Kent were lower than the England average. There has been a closing of the gap since 2010.
- Teenage conception rates in Kent remain above the South East average (20.6 per 1,000 female population aged 15 to 17 compared with 17.1 per 1,000 for the South East region)
- Significant downward trends are evident at both regional (South East) and national (England) levels
 - Since 2010, teenage conception rates in Kent have been reducing at a similar rate to England as a whole
 - There is some evidence to suggest that the rate of change in Kent is slightly higher than for the South East region. This has allowed Kent to make progress on closing the gap between ourselves and the region as a whole.

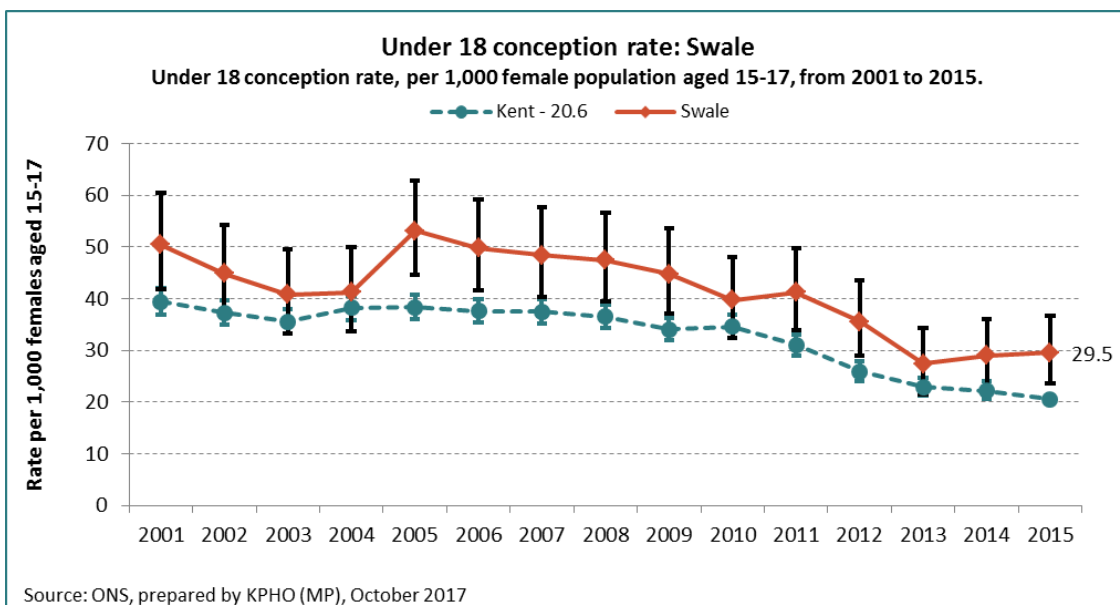
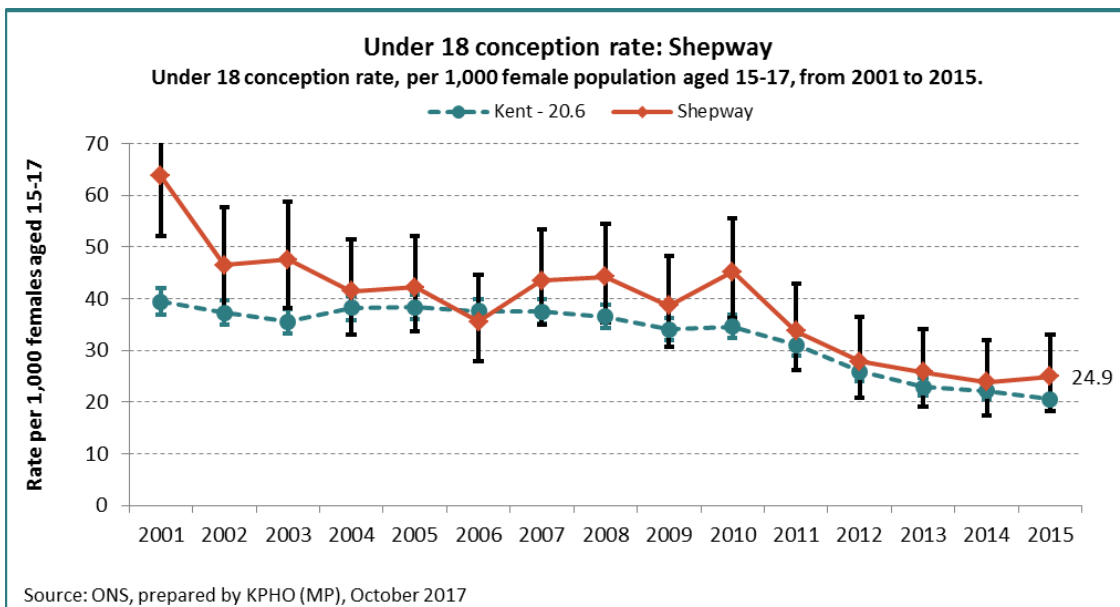
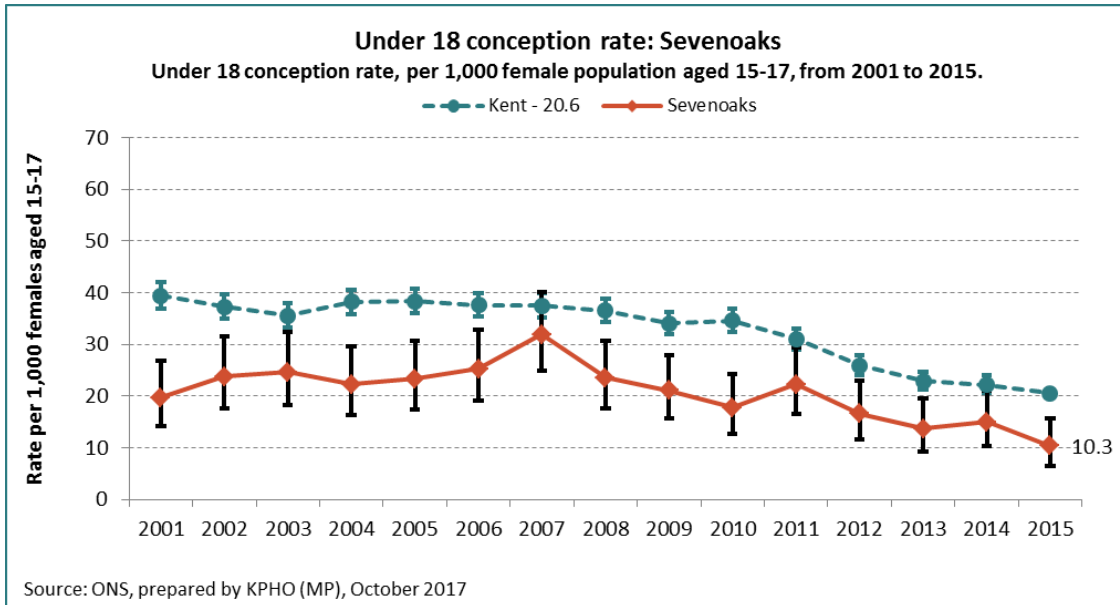
| 3. Teenage Conceptions (Under 18) - Districts

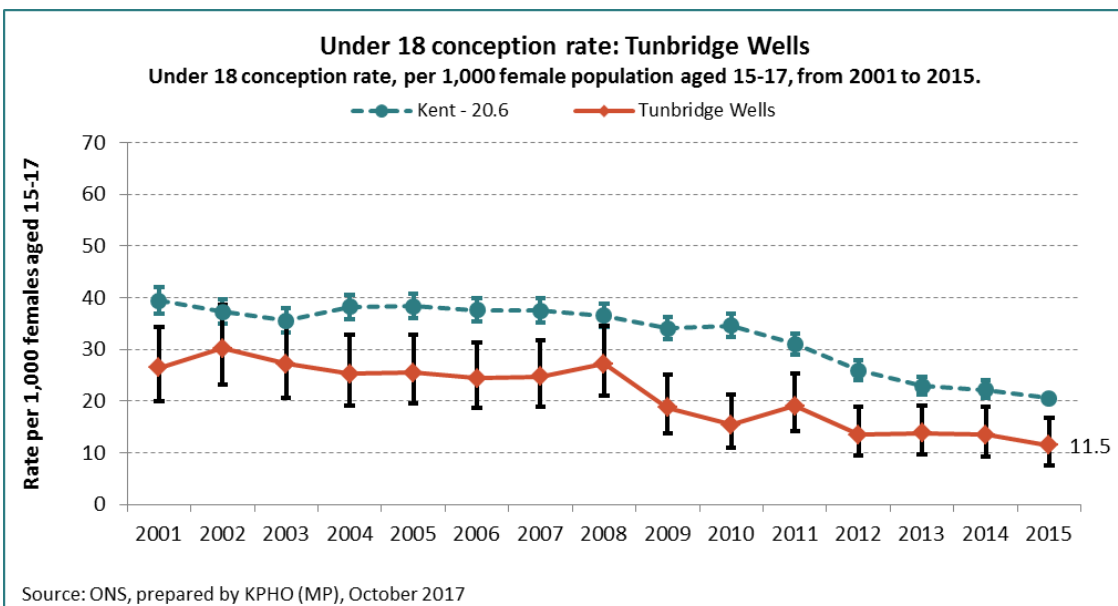
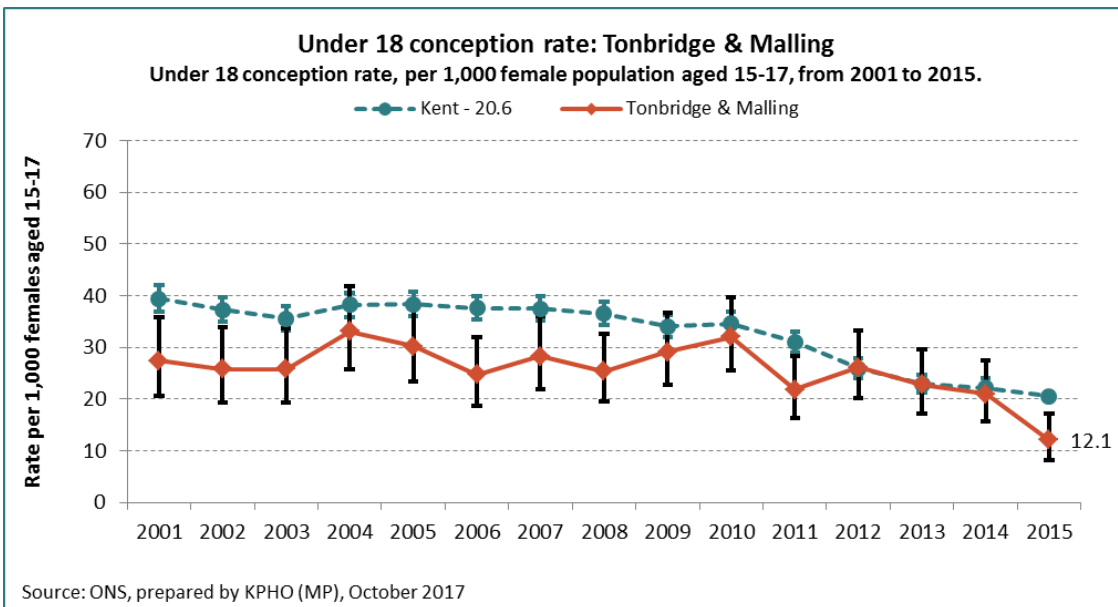
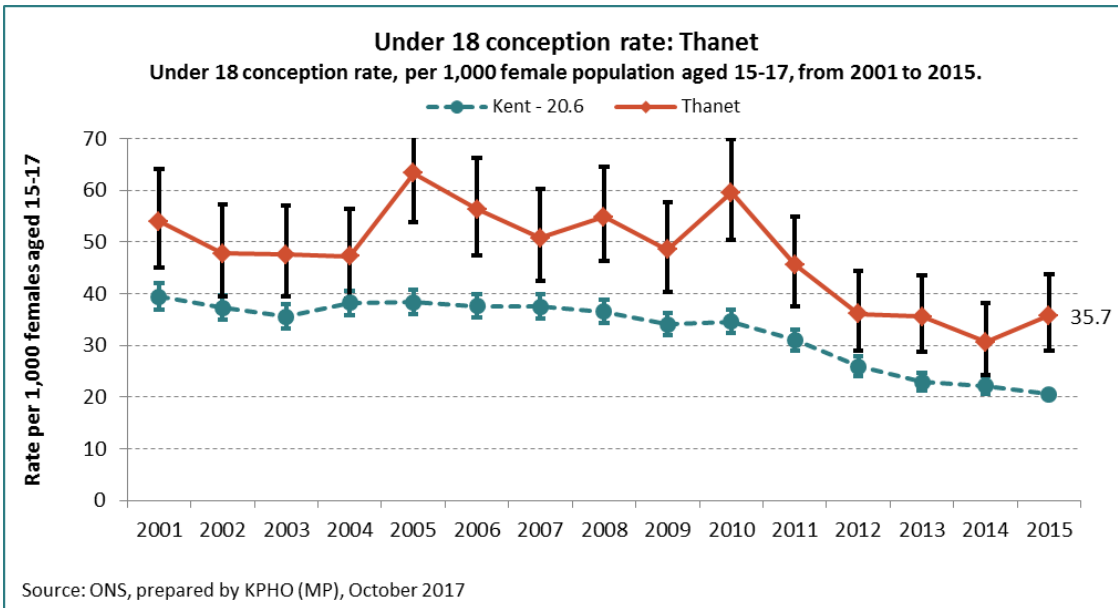
The charts below show trends in teenage conception rates at District-level. Whilst the trend is generally downwards, there remain differences between Districts both in terms of the overall levels of teenage conceptions and the pace of change.

- **Ashford, Dartford, Maidstone, Shepway** – in all of these Districts teenage conception rates are similar to the Kent average (i.e. there is not a statistically significant difference) and there is clear evidence of improvements in teenage conception rates since 2001.
- **Swale, Thanet** – in these Districts, whilst there have been improvements in conception rates since 2001 at a rate similar to the Kent average, conception rates remain above the Kent average.
- **Canterbury, Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells** – in these Districts conception rates are below the Kent average, and have been throughout the period.
- **Dover, Gravesham** – in these Districts there has either been no improvement in conception rates since 2001, or only very small improvements. In 2015 conception rates are statistically similar to the Kent average where they were higher in 2014.
- **Tonbridge & Malling** – in this District there has been a statistically significant fall in conception rate since 2001. They are now significantly lower than the Kent average having been at a similar level for the prior three years.



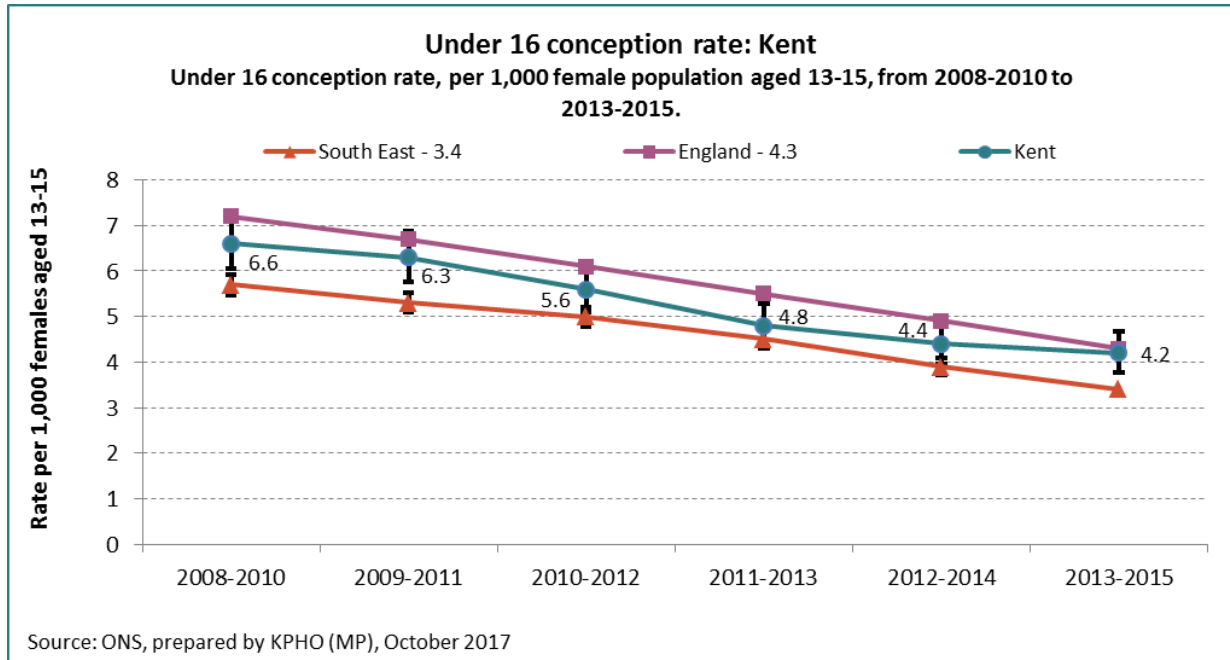






4. Teenage Conceptions (Under 16) - Kent

The chart below shows the trend in conception rates amongst under 16s for Kent between 2008-10 and 2013-15. Comparator data for England and the South East is also shown.



- As with under 18 conceptions, there is a clear downward trend in under 16 conception rates in Kent.
 - They have reduced from 6.6 per 1,000 female population aged 13 to 15 in 2008-10 to 4.2 per 1,000 in 2013-15.
- Under 16 conception rates in Kent are now statistically comparable to the England average (4.2 per 1,000 female population aged 13 to 15 compared with 4.3 per 1,000 for England).
 - The gap between Kent and England has narrowed.
- Under 16 conception rates in Kent remain significantly higher than the South East average (4.2 per 1,000 female population aged 13 to 15 compared with 3.4 per 1,000 for the South East region).
- The rate of decline in under 16 conceptions appears slower in Kent than both England and the south East.

| 5. Metadata

Conceptions data combine information from registrations of births and notifications of legal abortions occurring in England and Wales for women who are usually resident there.

Conception statistics include pregnancies that result in:

- one or more live- or stillbirths (a maternity)
- a legal abortion under the Abortion Act 1967 (an abortion)

They do not include miscarriages or illegal abortions.

The date of conception is estimated using recorded gestation for abortions and stillbirths, and assuming 38 weeks gestation for live births.

Data is based on age at conception, which is calculated as the number of complete years between date of birth and date of conception.