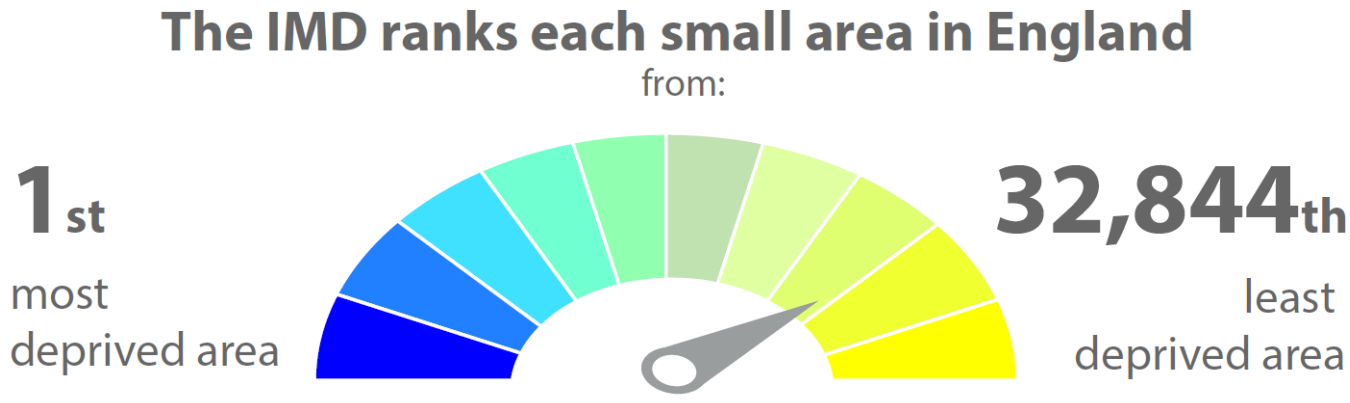
Name: .....

Year 12 A Level Geography Paper 2 Unit 2 – Regeneration

EQ2 – Why might regeneration be needed?

Readings



Article 1

The radical plan to split Sydney into three

"A relaxed and confidently lovely city, where locals are just as likely as tourists to embrace its restaurants-with-a-view" ... a cafe in Sydney's inner western suburbs. Photograph: Alamy Stock Photo

A plan to reshape the Sydney region aims to capitalise on its rapid growth by breaking the pull of the harbour. But will it work?

Poet Kenneth Slessor called it a "dispersed and vaguer Venice"; journalist John Birmingham, a "Leviathan". From its earliest days, Sydney has wrestled with its history as an "unplanned" but naturally blessed city, where unchecked development competes with liveability and beauty.

Boomburbs: Sydney's urban sprawl seen from above – in pictures

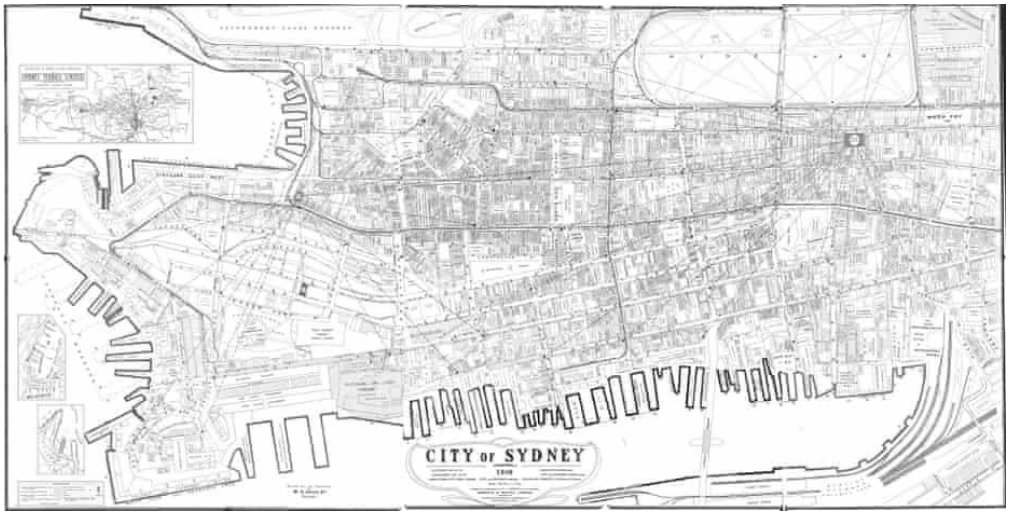
It was only in the late 1980s, when the tourist industry poured millions of dollars into "brand Sydney", that the balance tipped towards the beautiful and it began its current life as a place of lifestyle and spectacle, where the annual New Year's Eve fireworks, stretching along its once-industrial harbour past the Opera House, attract 1.6 million people each year. Over these last decades, Sydney has projected an image to the world of a brash,

relaxed and confidently lovely city, where locals are just as likely as tourists to embrace its restaurants-with-a-view or paid climbs over the Harbour Bridge.
But that self-image that Sydney has held on to so fiercely since then is teetering in the face of accelerated growth. Parks and streetscapes are being destroyed for major highway extensions, and new apartment complexes tower over old low-rise housing. Suburbs that have been left to sprawl for decades, especially at the city's edges, are coming up hard against a lack of infrastructure.

Sydney's suburbs have been left to sprawl for decades, resulting in a city that for many residents is as car-centred as LA. Photograph: Peter Harrison/Getty Images
The result is a metropolis as car-centred as Los Angeles for the majority of its residents, with one of the 10 highest costs of living in the world; where unaffordable house prices dominate conversation, schools are overcrowded, workers commute long distances, and public transport breaks down when it rains. In the last year testimonials by disenchanted residents fleeing for more liveable cities have become a new micro-genre in its newspapers: "Sydney, I love you, but you're meaner than ever"; "Why I'm leaving Sydney: the city that actively punishes people for living in it."

The city is on a path to nearly double its population of 4.7 million by 2056; by contrast London and New York are expected to grow by 30% over the same period. That growth has been uneven. Of the 1.7 million more people expected in the city by 2036, two-thirds are expected to settle in the 6,300 sprawling square kilometres of more multicultural, less prosperous Greater Western Sydney. Meanwhile jobs and wealth (two thirds of the state's economic growth in 2015-16) continue to be concentrated largely in the east, in a narrow "Eastern Economic Corridor," stretching from Macquarie Park north of the Harbour Bridge to the international airport in the south.

This inequality between centre and periphery is not peculiar to Sydney. It is also part of a global trend, in which populations are deserting leafier areas for the attractions of a denser inner city.



Central Sydney in 1910. Seven years later JD Fitzgerald described it as "A city without a plan, save whatever planning was due to an errant goat." Photograph: City of Sydney Archives

At the same time, local history compounds the challenges Sydney faces: its notorious battle between chaos and control dates back to tensions between the convicts who built their own higgledy-piggledy houses on the cliffs to the west of the city's early water source, and the colonial administrators to the east. "A city without a plan, save whatever planning was due to an errant goat," was how town planning advocate J D Fitzgerald described Sydney in 1917.

That is the context into which the Greater Sydney Commission (GSC) has just released its strategic regional plan, a vision for how the city can smooth those lines out over the next 40 years of growth and deliver the benefits more equally. It presents the region's rapid expansion as an opportunity for "transformative urban renewal" that, if proactively harnessed, starting now, could ensure the Sydney of the not-too-distant future remains a global city which is both culturally diverse and an economic powerhouse.

The language is positive, but what it proposes is radical. It will divide Sydney from one city, into three.

Reshaping the city

Under the ambitious plan for "A Metropolis of Three Cities", Sydney is to be reshaped into three separate but linked urban centres: an Eastern Harbour City focused on the existing central business district (CBD), a Central River City at its geographical centre to the west and, further west still, the Western Parkland City.

Everyone in the urban planning world is following its development because it's such a fundamental rethinking

Craig Allchin, architect

The GSC's proposal aims to rebalance the city from its historic orientation around its original CBD and into three connected but independently flourishing cities. Ideally, most residents will live within 30 minutes of their jobs, schools, healthcare and essential services. Affordable housing and improved mass transit will stimulate investment and jobs in new economic corridors.

"I think it's a really brave plan," says architect and urban designer Craig Allchin, who worked on the 2005 and 2010 metropolitan strategies that preceded it. "Everyone in the urban planning world is following its development because it's such a fundamental rethinking.

“It’s trying to solve all the things we’re worried about in the city: housing affordability, liveability, demographic change, population growth, climate change.”

However, while the three-city metropolis may look like an about-turn in Sydney’s traditional orientation, it has roots that predate colonisation, according to the GSC’s chief commissioner. In her introduction, Lucy Turnbull writes that the city’s redrawn boundaries reflect Indigenous people’s relationships to the land as “saltwater country” (Eastern Harbour City), “muddy river country” (Central River City), and “running water country” (Western Parkland City).

The three-city metropolis is a shared vision, writes Turnbull, “bringing the depth of Aboriginal culture and custodianship to the fore in the future planning of Greater Sydney”.

But guiding such a major rethinking into reality will require unprecedented collaboration and investment from all tiers of government. The GSC plan is unusual in the level of administrative reform that has already been put in place. Most significant is the Western Sydney City Deal agreed upon by federal, state and local governments. The single largest planning, investment and delivery partnership in Australia’s history, and aimed at delivering the new airport and connecting infrastructure in the Western Parkland City, it has genuine potential to counterbalance the pull of the eastern city.

The Western City Deal seeks to counterbalance the lure of the eastern city with its beaches, international airport and central business district. Photograph: Mick Tsikas/EPA

It is this third, westernmost city that is the real game-changer. With three urban centres circling a planned second airport and “aerotropolis”, its mission is to be the most connected place in Australia. The GSC claims the Western Sydney airport will act as a catalyst for a new “Western Economic Corridor”, providing 28,000 direct and indirect jobs within five years of its 2026 opening. State and federal government have committed to at least the first phase of new mass transport routes. In particular, a new rail link running through the extended airport to its north and south will act, says architect Allchin, as “a kind of spine” for the new Western Parkland City.

The whole endeavour is a huge proposition, he says, because by making the west a more affordable, diverse and attractive place to live, Sydney has the potential to be unique among global cities, by breaking the pull of a primary city centre.

The ‘30-minute city’ lifestyle

Judith Ridge is already experiencing the benefits of the "30-minute city" lifestyle envisaged by the GSC. Nearly eight years ago she moved to Windsor, an early colonial settlement on the edge of the proposed Western Parkland City, to escape the gridlock of the inner west. Working as a teacher, she is saving the $80 a week she used to spend on tolls driving to work.

She says the area is changing: its older, white and working-class population has been joined by inner-city renters, a handful of queer couples, and residents originally from China and Vietnam. Here on the semi-rural Sydney outskirts, they can afford to buy "an actual house", says Ridge. While Windsor is economically depressed compared to the gentrifying suburbs nearby, it's also escaped the encroachment of "cheek-by-jowl, shake-hands-with-your neighbour" housing estates, she notes – and she can see the stars at night.

More than two-thirds of the city's growth is expected to centre on more multicultural and less prosperous western suburbs. Photograph: Bloomberg via Getty Images

It may not last. In a city still strongly commited to growth, the population of Western Parkland City is projected to increase from 740,000 in 2016 to well over 1.5m by 2056, transformed into a "thriving, productive and sustainable area", starting with the 24-hour, seven-day international airport.

Yet, notes Prof Robert Freestone from the department of planning at the University of New South Wales, it remains unclear if the airport will be the vaunted catalyst for an economic boom – or even if it will attract domestic or international commercial airlines or freight. He has questioned how it can be expected to compete with the established Kingsford Smith Airport, one of the big earners along the Eastern Economic Corridor; Sydney Airport Group has already turned down the first option to operate it. Details of the surrounding "aerotropolis" remain sketchy.

Demand for new housing will also come at the expense of the space western Sydney currently offers. With the western district due to bear the brunt of the population growth, the plan has identified a need for 184,500 new homes there by 2036, and proposes releasing large tracts of land to form new walkable neighbourhoods close to public transport.

A housing development in Oran Park, western Sydney. The plan has identified a need for 184,500 new homes in the city's west by 2036. Photograph: David Gray/Reuters

These would be made up of "a range of housing types, tenures and price points" to provide for the different needs of the community, it specifies, with view to bringing prices down.

But the enormous number of new houses needed to meet demand – 725,000 across the region by 2036, a minimum of 36,250 every year – will inevitably mean knocking down huge swathes of detached buildings to make room for more apartments. This is also the case for the Eastern Harbour City, where there are just 31 people per hectare; by contrast, New York City's five boroughs have an average density of 109 people per hectare.


Sydney: why this city would be better off without its world famous harbour

Building more apartments "can be perfectly valid, if people are given time to think about it and be part of the process", says Allchin, but the plan does not spell it out explicitly and so misses the opportunity to lead from the front. The GSC envisages compact and innovative forms of housing on smaller lots than the traditional suburban quarter-acre block, but Allchin worries that the overall footprints of these new buildings tend to be bigger, meaning a sacrifice of green garden space. He would like to see bolder, more

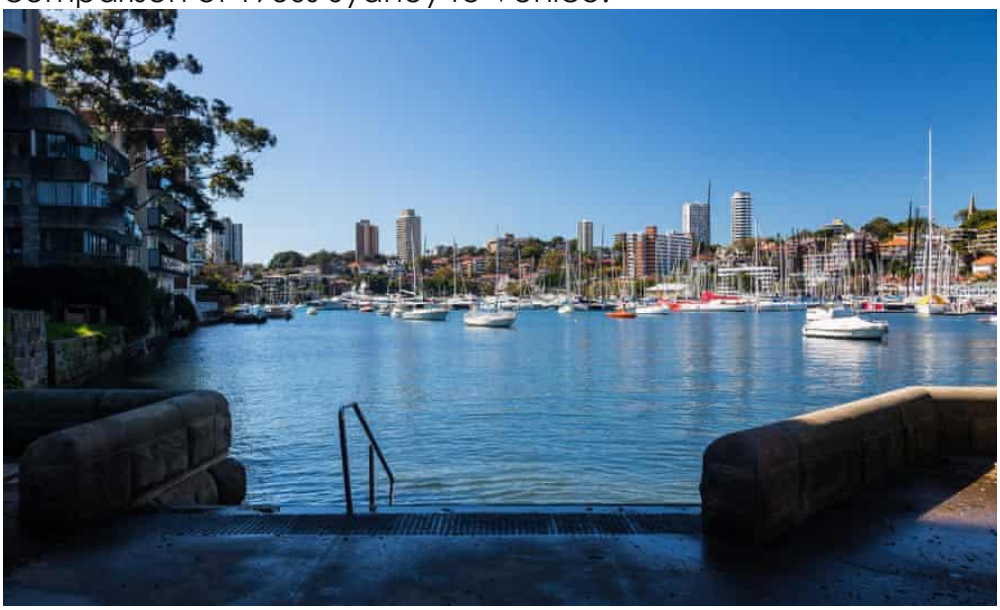
imaginative planning. “Really dense housing with lots of landscape around it”, for example, could become a world-leading new Sydney model.

But convincing Sydneysiders to embrace apartments will be fraught, when there is already intense local resistance to galloping high-density housing, especially in the city’s much-loved inner enclaves and leafy garden suburbs. “Marrickville, not Mirvacville” runs one local campaign, playing on the name of a major developer, and nodding to the anxiety that Sydney’s very sense of place is at stake from a perceived long history of governments’ favouring developers over residents.

Missing stories

Few locals, reading the GSC’s plans, will be able to put aside the stories of overdevelopment and graft that are a powerful thread in the city’s mythology: the dark side of its self-image. But there are other stories the plan omits. First, there is the question of whether its population boom is in fact inevitable. And the plan largely ignores sea-rise – a failure of imagination shared by most of the world’s coastal cities, but an incongruous one, given the breezy emphasis on other measures to increase resilience and adapting to climate change threats such as extreme heat.

Last year the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association predicted global sea levels could rise by two metres by 2100 if greenhouse gas emissions remain at their current levels. With 500 gigalitres of harbour stretching through its centre, this is potentially enough to make catastrophically literal the Australian poet Kenneth Slessor’s charming comparison of 1950s Sydney to Venice.



Luxury properties surrounding Rushcutters Bay. The new plan largely ignores potential sea level rises – which could be catastrophic for a city with 500 gigalitres of harbour running through its centre. Photograph: Alamy Stock Photo

Yet sea-rise rates just one mention on a single page of the plan, while the state government’s draft “coastal management plan” places a soothing emphasis on “adapting” to “pressures”. While the GSC at least commits to increasing the tree canopy of western Sydney, and preserving Indigenous heritage, farmland and natural landscapes, a fully imagined future plan for Sydney might have looked backwards to before the last glacier melt 21,000 years ago, when its coast stretched 26km further to the east, and the harbour was a steep river valley.

That last inundation is still remembered in Indigenous oral history, says Dennis Foley, a professor at Canberra University and Gai-mariagal author of Repossession of Our Spirit, a

personal history of the clans of Sydney's northern beaches. Once there were eight clans, he says, but when the water rose two "never came in – so we don't talk about them". These days most public events in Australia begin with a "Welcome to Country" from an Indigenous person, or an "Acknowledgement of Country" as part of a growing respect for traditional ownership. "Country" is a complex term, denoting Indigenous Australians' land, sea, sky, rivers, seasons, plants, animals, belonging, and spirituality: to speak of one's country is to speak of place, but also a spiritual connection. "Always was, always will be Aboriginal land" has become a rallying cry for recognition of land rights.

I think [the plan] is a whitefella notion that's potentially mapped onto the way people use [Indigenous] country,
Prof Jakelin Troy

Turnbull's attempt to root the GSC's plan in Indigenous knowledge may appear an attempt to make the huge changes being foisted on the city by the plan sound inevitable because they are historic. But when asked if the GSC's three city divisions map onto Indigenous knowledge, Foley says they "absolutely" do, in the sense that they reflect the fact that "the Sydney basin is a mixture of fresh and saltwater law, based in matrilineal law".

Unlike the central and western Aboriginal nations across the continent, which are mostly based on a patrilineal belief system, the eastern coastal Aboriginal Nations are matrilineal. "A complicated system of traditions exists within a small geographic area that includes the Georges, Parramatta and Lane Cove Rivers, where ecological convergence occurs between fresh water and salt water by natural occurring rock weirs," says Foley. "The ecological convergence brings together two differing Aboriginal belief systems."

At the same time, he cautions against assuming a direct equivalence between Indigenous borders and the western concept of land boundaries. "For Aboriginal people, the concept of a border or division is a moving, fluid site that can alter with natural phenomena, and the merger of Aboriginal groups due to marriage, drought, and more recently the violence and extirpation of culture by colonisation."

Prof Jakelin Troy, director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research at the University of Sydney, says Turnbull's three terms for country – saltwater, muddy river and running water country – are "news to her". Aboriginal people, she says, usually talk about themselves as being from "salt", "freshwater", or "desert" country – or even "ice", as her Ngarigu family's country around the Snowy River is referred to. Nor, as far as she can remember, do these terms appear in the extinct local Sydney language, which she has revived from notebooks from the colony's first years.


The attempt to root the plan in Indigenous knowledge is controversial. Photograph: Torsten Blackwood/AFP/Getty Images

"I think it's a whitefella notion that's potentially mapped onto the way people use [Indigenous] country," she says. A GSC spokesman could only tell me that "an Elder" had made the observation to Turnbull.

Even if, Troy says cautiously, some Indigenous Sydneysiders are identifying through these terms, it would only be one of the great range of ways Aboriginal people talk about themselves after being forced to adjust territorial groupings by the violence of European invasion.

The emphasis placed by both Foley and Troy on resilience in the face of great change suggests that Indigenous knowledge has a lot more to offer in guiding discussions of Sydney's future than as an "original vision", which, Turnbull claims, the GSC's plan will fulfil.

A more genuine attempt to mirror the Indigenous relationship with Sydney, Troy says, would be to ask, "What is Sydney for Aboriginal people now – to ask them about caring for country and loving country, and still having sovereignty."

A model of detachment?

It may be that the greater ambition of the three-city plan is to model detachment in fast-paced and uncertain times, softening us up to change itself through abstraction. In the language of the GSC, bush becomes "open space", suburbs are "metropolitan clusters", and creeks "green corridors".

Even the clinical poetry of the three new city names suggests its architects are envisaging a level of change more appropriate to the world's masterplanned new insta-cities – Tbilisi Sea New City, Abdullah Economic City in Saudi Arabia, or Malaysia's Forest City – and a future Sydney that, for all the talk of preserving its "Great Places", will have to bid goodbye to its old self-image.

Sydney has long divided itself into territories that are as much psychological as geographical, with the Eastern Suburbs standing as shorthand for "wealthy and self-involved" and the Inner West for "gentrified and left-wing" while the western suburbs – at least to outsiders – have been seen as Sydney's disadvantaged, ethnically divided, crime ridden id. The GSC plans to drastically alter these old divisions.

Street artist Nitsua completes a newly commissioned street artwork on a terrace house in Newtown, part of the city's gentrified inner west. Photograph: Alamy Stock Photo

And yet, thanks partly to bigger changes sweeping the world, they are already giving way to new divisions, especially a wider divide between rich and poor.

Twenty-three kilometres west of downtown Sydney, Parramatta has been busy for some time transforming from Australia's oldest inland city into a second metropolitan centre that will anchor the Central River City. High-rise around its large metro railway station, its long, bright streets also incorporate a convict prison, old fibro cottages and some of the colony's earliest farms.

Author Felicity Castagna lives here with her husband and two children. Once, she said, you would have been able to get the best feel for this vibrant, well-established suburb of old and new immigrants by sitting at the top of the pedestrianised main street. But now it is a hole, slated for a $2bn high-rise development of the City Square, as the city rebuilds itself around a "reactivated" river.

High-rise development in Parramatta, which will anchor the proposed 'Central River City'. Photograph: Steve Christo - Corbis/Corbis via Getty Images

"Even with all the new building, most work is being done by big corporations that have their own suite of people," says Castagna, which cuts out local tradespeople.

The development is not all bad – as a writer, it brings her in touch with more audiences, she says, which has been wonderful – but she mourns the working-class suburb of old.

“Some of the families who live here used to have backyards – now they’re living seven to eight in apartment blocks, while apartments on the river are going for $3m.”

One decked out in Versace furniture rents out for $500 a night. “You can pay extra money for people to come and serve you champagne,” she notes.

Article 2

RUST BELT

RUST BELT refers to an economic region of the United States concentrated in the formerly dominant industrial states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. By the 1980s, the Rust Belt became what the Dust Bowl had been to an earlier generation—a symbolic name for a devastating economic change. The 1984 Democratic presidential candidate, Walter Mondale, is generally credited with coining the term. During the campaign, Mondale, the former vice president from Minnesota, attacked the economic policies of incumbent Republican president, Ronald Regan, stating that the president was "turning our great industrial Midwest and the industrial base of this country into a rust bowl." The media, however, repeated and reported the notion as "Rust Belt," and the phrase stuck as a good description of the declining industrial heartland, especially the steel-and automobile-producing regions in the Northeast and Midwest. The phrase became synonymous with industrial decline in the once-dominant U.S. heavy manufacturing and steel industries.

The Rust Belt has indefinite boundaries, although in 1979 Joel Garreau dubbed the same general region the "Foundry." Both terms aptly characterized the region's economic history and underpinnings. Readily available coal, labor, and inland waterways made the region ideal for steel manufacturing. Moreover, the automotive industry—a major buyer of steel—developed nearby. In the 1970s and 1980s, however, the U.S. steel industry rapidly fell from world dominance. The U.S. worldwide market share of manufactured steel went from 20 percent in 1970 to 12 percent by 1990, and American employment in the industry dropped from 400,000 to 140,000 over the same period. Starting in the late 1970s, steel factories began closing. Among the hardest hit of the communities was Youngstown, Ohio, where the closure of three steel mills starting in 1977 eliminated nearly 10,000 high-paying jobs. Also hurt were foundries in Buffalo, New York; and Johnstown and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where the last outmoded steel plant closed in the late 1980s.

Although thirty-five states produce steel, the large steel plants in the Rust Belt faced particularly hard times because they relied upon large, unprofitable, and outdated open-hearth furnaces. Many were sulfur-burning, coal-fired plants, which had difficulty meeting

stringent environmental regulations on smokestack emissions. Layoffs occurred even as worldwide demand for steel grew. Other countries, in particular Japan, met this demand with lower-cost and sometimes higher-quality steel. The American steel industry rebounded by developing low-cost, highly automated minimills, which used electric arc furnaces to turn scrap metal into wire rod and bar products, but the minimills employed fewer workers.

The region had been the nation's industrial heartland and contained many large, densely populated urban areas. These cities, which began showing signs of decline, initially had served as a destination for early European immigrants and tremendous numbers of African Americans who migrated north to join the industrial workforce following World War II. Industrial decline, however, permanently eliminated thousands of well-paid, benefit-laden, blue-collar jobs. Many families left the Rust Belt and relocated to the Sun Belt and the West, seeking jobs and better living conditions. The black populations in the Chicago and Pittsburgh metropolitan areas declined, reversing earlier patterns of northward migration from the Deep South.

Article 3

What is the Rust Belt? Everything you need to know about the region key to winning the US election

Tuesday 8 November 2016

http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-elections/rust-belt-what-is-it-us-ohio-michigan-pennsylvania-election-2016-donald-trump-hillary-clinton-a7405141.html

What is the Rust Belt?

The Rust Belt is a region in the US where economic decline, population loss, and urban decay have left the once booming area desolate of industry. Before this decline in the 20th Century, it was the focus of American industrial development, and was called the Manufacturing Belt or Factory Belt. The term "Rust Belt" is meant to refer to the now abandoned factories in the area.

Where is it?

The Rustbelt covers a section of the northeast US, running from the east of the state of New York, through Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan, then ending in north Indiana and east Illinois and Wisconsin.

Why is it so important?

It now includes three swing states key to the 2016 US election: Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan.

These states are expected to be amongst 11 that will define the outcome between Trump and Clinton.

Ohio, for example, has voted the way of the winning candidate in the last 10 elections.The financial debates of the region have also been vital to Presidential elections since the 1980s, and this election is no different.

Trump or Clinton?

White, working-class men – one of Trump's key support bases – are key voters in this region, and the Rust Belt and its inhabitants are who Trump is appealing to "make American great again".

Clinton, though, has made a targeted effort to try and get the region to vote for her, so it is seemingly all to play for.

Article 4

Six grueling demographic indicators of Detroit's decline (and some pictures)
December 1, 2014CategoriesIn the news26 Commentson Six grueling demographic indicators of Detroit's decline (and some pictures)

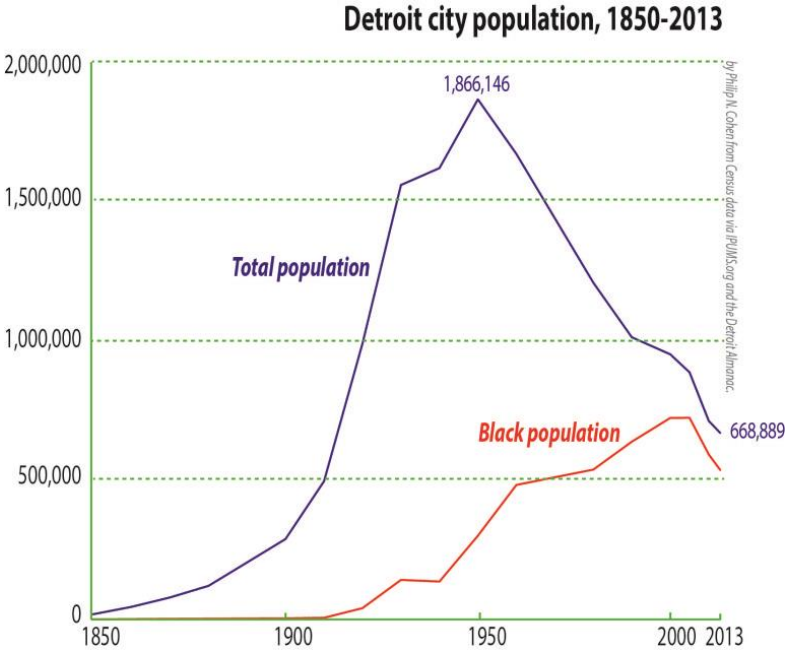
You don't have to be an expert on the collapse of Detroit, which I'm not, to know it's really bad. In fact, does modern world history include any other city once this big (1.87 million at its peak) losing two-thirds of its population?

And you don't have to be an expert in social policy, which I'm not, to know that the United States wouldn't let this happen if it cared.

Detroit's condition has bobbed into the national news now and then. There was a flurry of reporting on the infant mortality rate, which hit 15 per 1,000 live births in 2012, higher than any other U.S. city, according to Kids Count. Reporters then observed the odds of surviving to age 1 are better in Thailand, Mexico, or China. The better comparison is to urban areas rather than whole countries. Detroit's infant mortality is more than three-times the rate in urban Cuba or Poland, or London; twice the rate of urban El Salvador, Bulgaria, Chile, or Moscow; and a little higher than urban Azerbaijan.

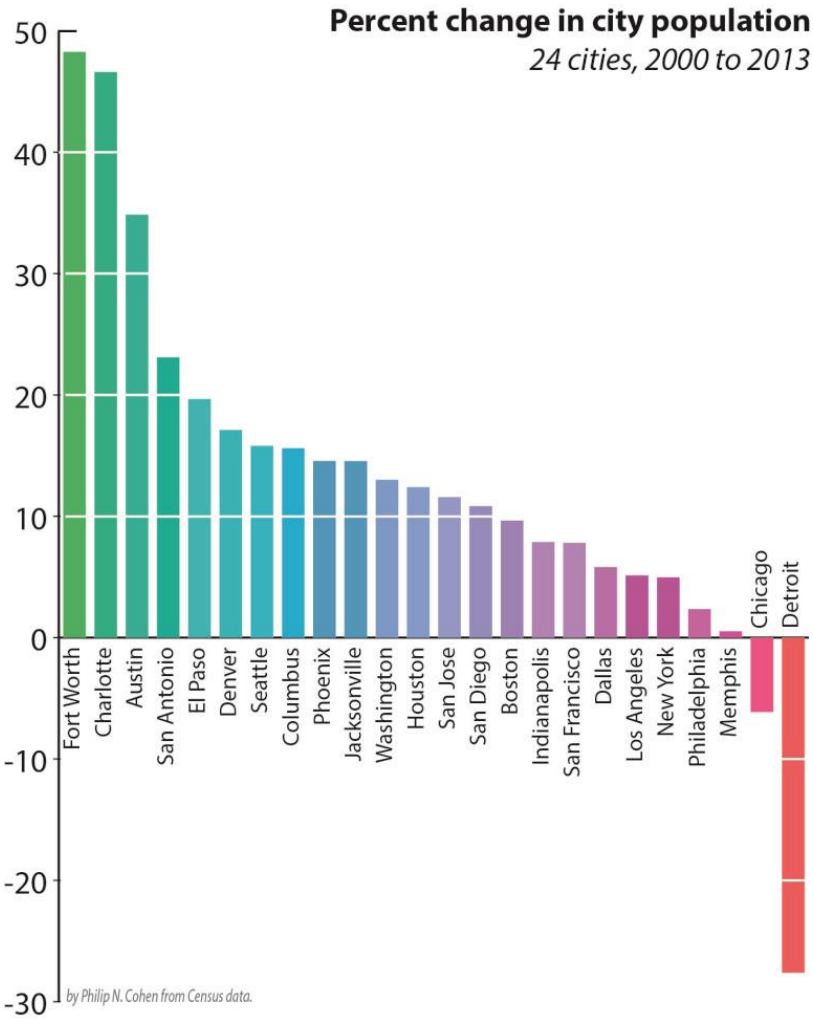
Here are six more demographic indicators of the condition of Detroit, from data collected by the Census Bureau*, and then a few pictures.

1. Population decline This is it, in a nutshell:

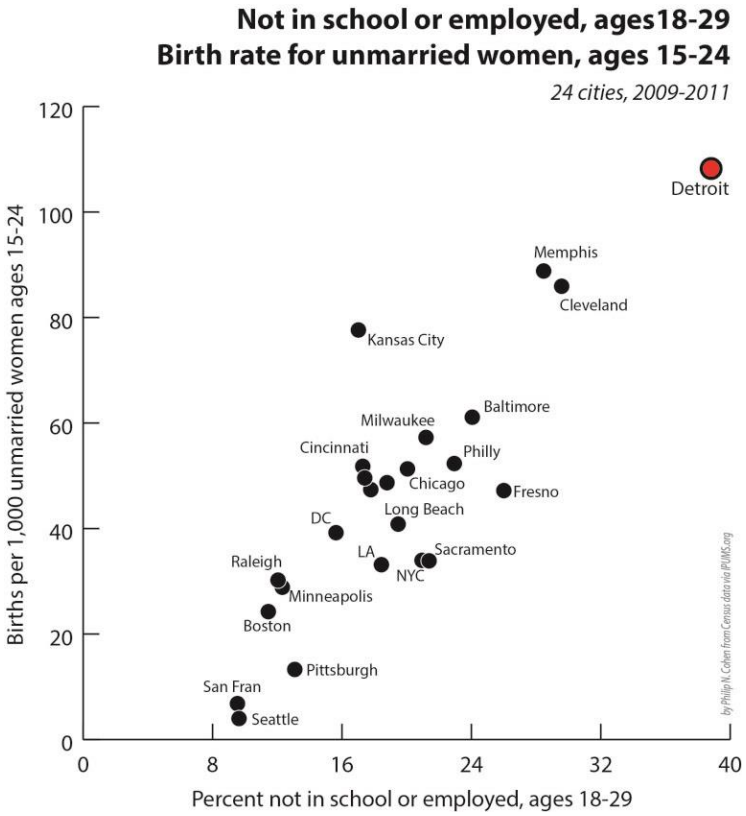


A drop in population of 64% since 1950, during which time the city's population shifted from 16% Black to more than 80% Black. You don't have to be a conspiracy theorist, which I'm not, to suspect this is not a coincidence.

Of course, Detroit isn't the only city to fall on hard times. But there's nothing like this. Here's that drop in percentage terms since 2000, with the other big cities for comparison:



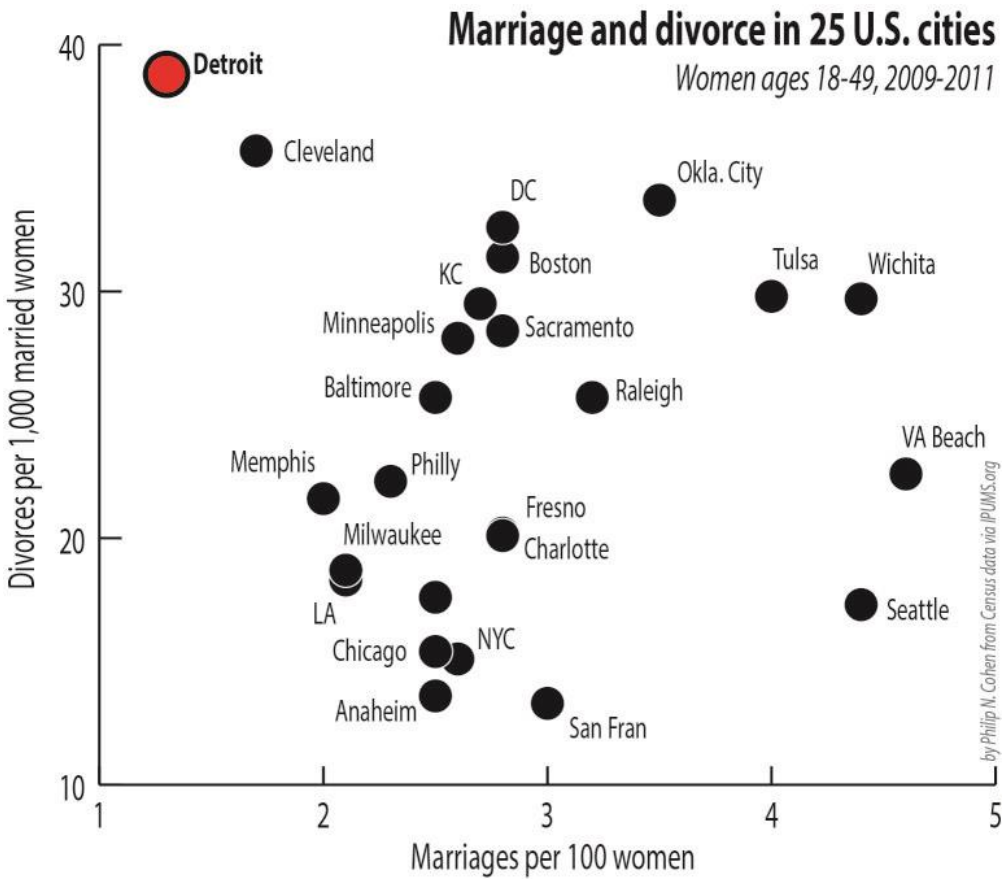
2, 3. Young adults not in school or employed, and births to unmarried young womenI put these indicators together because they are so closely intertwined:



Detroit's unmarried women under age 25 have birth rates more than ten-times higher than those in San Francisco or Seattle, and more than twice as high as those in Chicago or Philadelphia. The percentage of young adults in Detroit that are neither employed nor in school is four-times higher than in San Francisco or Seattle, and 9-points higher than the closest city, Cleveland. The exclusion or isolation from the institutions of school and employment is both cause and effect of high birth rates for young, unmarried adults. (Of course, the long-run collapse of the city cannot have been caused by young adults' fertility behavior.)

4, 5. Marriage and divorce

Chronic economic hardship and uncertainty both limit options for long-term partners and stress existing marriages. Detroit has the lowest marriage rates, and the highest divorce rates, of all the major cities I could include:

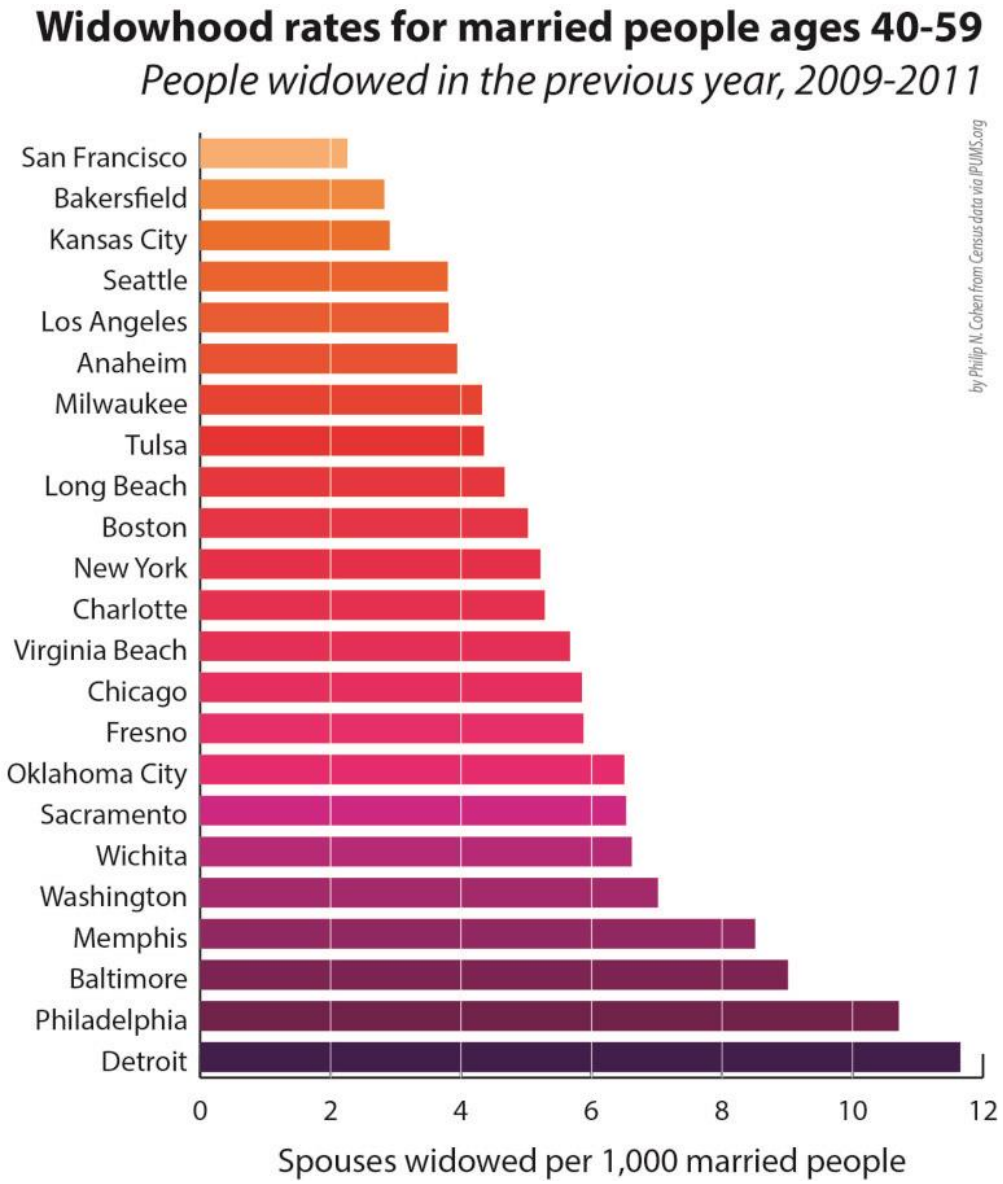


6. Early widowhood

For people who get married and don't divorce, widowhood is inevitable. If widowhood at young ages is common, besides the heartache of the loss itself, it undermines the perception of security associated with marriage. At least I expect it would.

We can calculate widowhood rates using the American Community Survey, which asks each person surveyed whether they were widowed in the previous year, in a sample large enough to assess widowhood by age in major cities (this great data collection is unfortunately set to be cancelled: please see here.)

Early widowhood has no formal definition, so I arbitrarily chose ages 40-59:



The early widowhood rate in Detroit is more than five-times greater than San Francisco's, and it's substantially higher than the rates in other, more demographically similar, cities as well.

In pictures

So, from the demographer's sanitized, data-driven vantage point Detroit's collapse is excruciating enough. To get deeper you could read many books, with titles including *The Origins of the Urban Crisis*, *The Last Days of Detroit*, and *Detroit: An American Autopsy*, or "Detroit's wealth of ruins" in *Contexts.* And of course you could go to Detroit, if you're not there already.

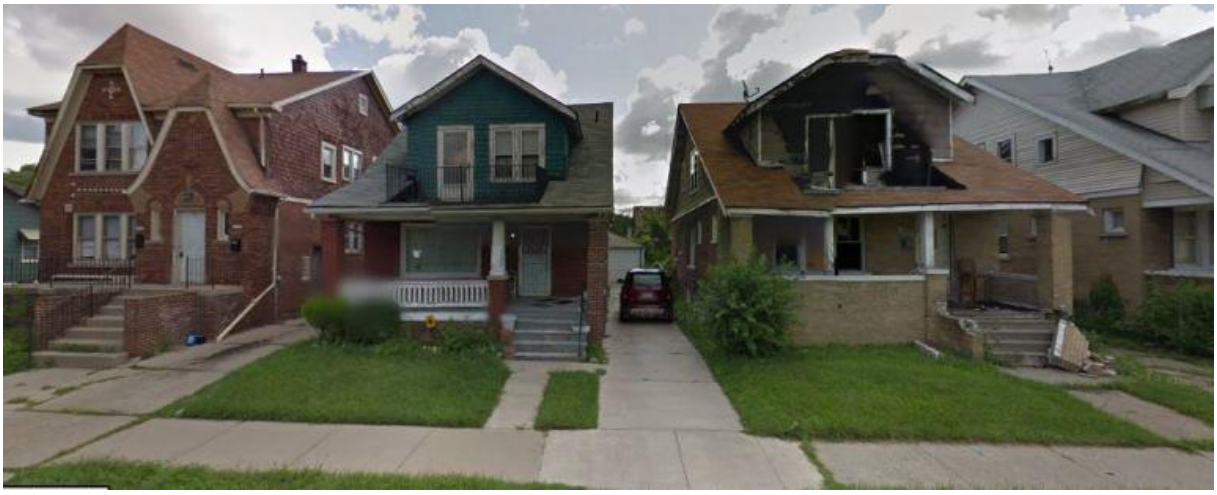
But thanks to the amazing investment of capital and creative technological innovation that Google has put into Street View (but which there's apparently not enough of in the world to get Detroit back on its feet), you can drive your web browser around the streets and see for yourself.

Google even allows you to see multiple images of the same location from different passes of the Street View Car. So I was able to look up houses in Detroit available for sale at $1,

and then turn back the clock to see their environs up to four years earlier. Here are some of the results. Each of these is a series of three images, from 2009, 2011, and 2013.

Site 1

In 2009: neat houses, well-tended lawns. The one on the left does have plywood over the side window.



In 2011, there's been a fire in one, but the others look occupied.

By 2013, the burned out house has been partially boarded up. Now the one on the left looks empty — open windows and door, the gutter has been stripped, and the lawn is overgrown.

Site 2

A charming site in 2009, with no apparent distress.

Two fires later, in 2011, it's a different story.

And by 2013 the block is on its way to wildlife reclamation, though the residents in the first house may be holding on.

Site 3

Finally, a site that is in bad shape already by 2009. The one on the left still has a grill on the porch and trash cans, and the grass has been cut, but those open windows aren't good.

By 2011 they're both boarded up. And now the porch lumber on the left has been stripped, as has the metalwork from the porch on the right.

The 2013 photo shows the houses have been un-boarded. Not much left here.

Comment

The photos here are not original or deeply revealing. If anything, they illustrate how easy it would be for anyone actually interested in this outsized human catastrophe to observe it unfolding.

The demographic data set the context for life in Detroit. Rates of population decline, social isolation, divorce, and widowhood are observable and become part of the consciousness of the population. These harsh demographic facts are sort of like living next to an abandoned, burned out house. They're warnings about the uncertainty of the future as well as the hardships of the present. (How those warnings affect social life and interaction, how they are internalized, is something we should study more.)

In light of these potent markers of social crisis — so obvious to so many people who live in Detroit — the willful lack of attention or compassion from the U.S. government, and the obliviousness of the mainstream culture, must feel as cold as it looks. With what consequence? Not to over-dramatize — well, *to* over-dramatize — but it's almost like leaving a Black body in the street for four hours, and then feigning surprise when someone accuses you of not caring about his human life and death.

* *Data note:* These calculations require analyzing microdata from the American Community Survey. Usually I use metropolitan areas, which include central cities and their linked suburbs. But for this I'm using the IPUMS city categories, constructed from Census geographic codes, because the city is the story. The data matches aren't perfect, and some cities aren't included (such as Houston and Dallas), and I'm not expert on Census geography, but I looked at this enough to be confident I'm not missing anything that would disturb these patterns much.

Article 5

How did different demographic groups vote in the EU referendum?

How did young people, older people, high-income areas and those not born in the UK vote? And what was the turnout for different demographics?

BYBARBARA SPEED

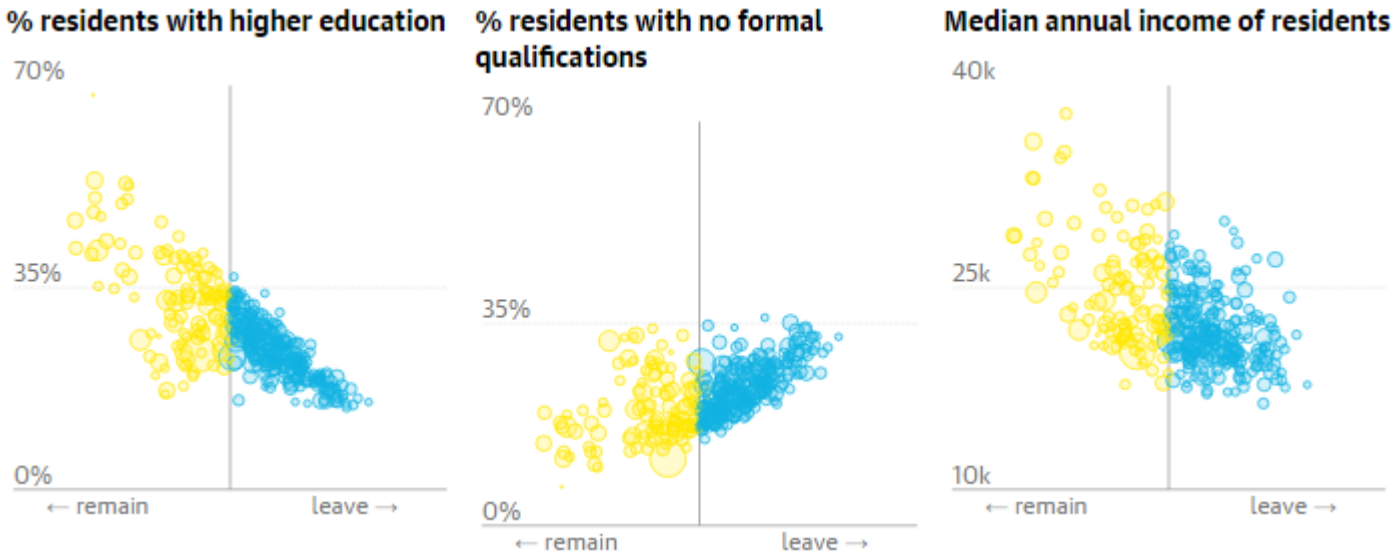
We now know how the country voted as a whole in Thursday's referendum, but how were demographic factors like age, income, and education reflected in the result?

An eve-of-result poll released by YouGov at 10pm last night (which, admittedly, gave Remain a four-point lead) confirms the age/voting intention correlation shown by polls throughout the campaign:

The *Guardian* has some indicators of other demographic trends, formed by plotting each voting area by how it voted against various socioeconomic factors.

According to these results, areas where more residents had **higher education** skewed sharply to Remain, while areas where a more had **no formal qualifications** were slightly more likely to vote Leave.

The **median income** of an area also showed a loose correlation with results - and areas where the median rose above 30k all chose to Remain, and the lowest income areas voted to Leave:



Graphics: The Guardian

A **higher median age** meant an area was slightly more likely to vote for Remain, though the correlation is surprisingly weak given YouGov's age findings. Finally, almost every area where more than 30 per cent of **residents were not born in the UK** voted to Remain.

What was voter turnout across age groups?

Update: 26/6: Social media is passing round a stat that only 36 per cent of 18-24 year olds voted. Given that this age group was the most likely to vote Remain, this would imply that if turnout had matched that of higher age groups, Remain could have triumphed.

However, it's not quite as simple as that - this is not real turnout data, and we will in fact never know exactly what proportion of each age group voted. Some quick background: at General Elections, representatives from political parties stand outside polling stations asking for your voting ID number, and collate this information country-wide to figure out who voted (and guess how, based on canvassing data). However, they tend not to at one-off votes, such as referendums, and didn't on Thursday.

The source for the referendum's supposed turnout data is Sky Data, which tweeted this out today:

Sky isn't claiming this is collected data - it's projected, and a subsequent tweet said it was based on "9+/10 certainty to vote, usually/always votes, voted/ineligible at GE2015". I've asked for more information on what this means, but for now it's enough to say it's nothing more than a guess. Others have tried to extrapolate turnout data from an Ashcroft poll, but again, approach with caution: the poll wasn't designed to measure age turnout, so won't have been weighted accordingly.

Graphics from the BBC and FT show that areas with younger populations generally had lower turnout, but that's the closest we have to hard-and-fast data on youth turnout.

Article 6

Election results 2019: Analysis in maps and charts

Published

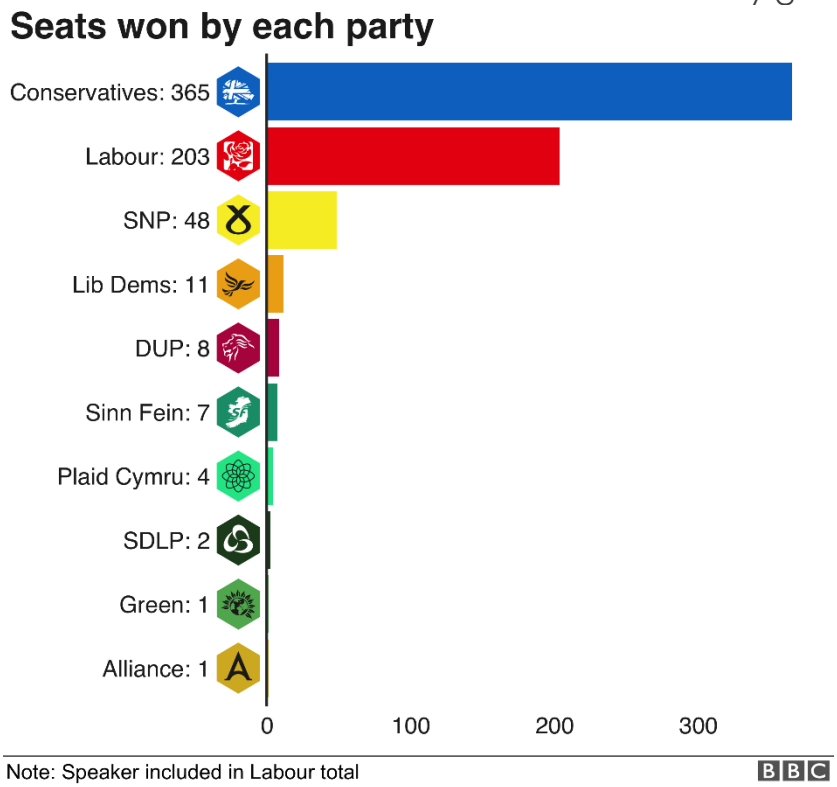
13 December 2019

Share

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservatives have a majority of 80 seats.

They have made gains in Labour heartlands across northern England and Wales. The SNP have made gains across Scotland.

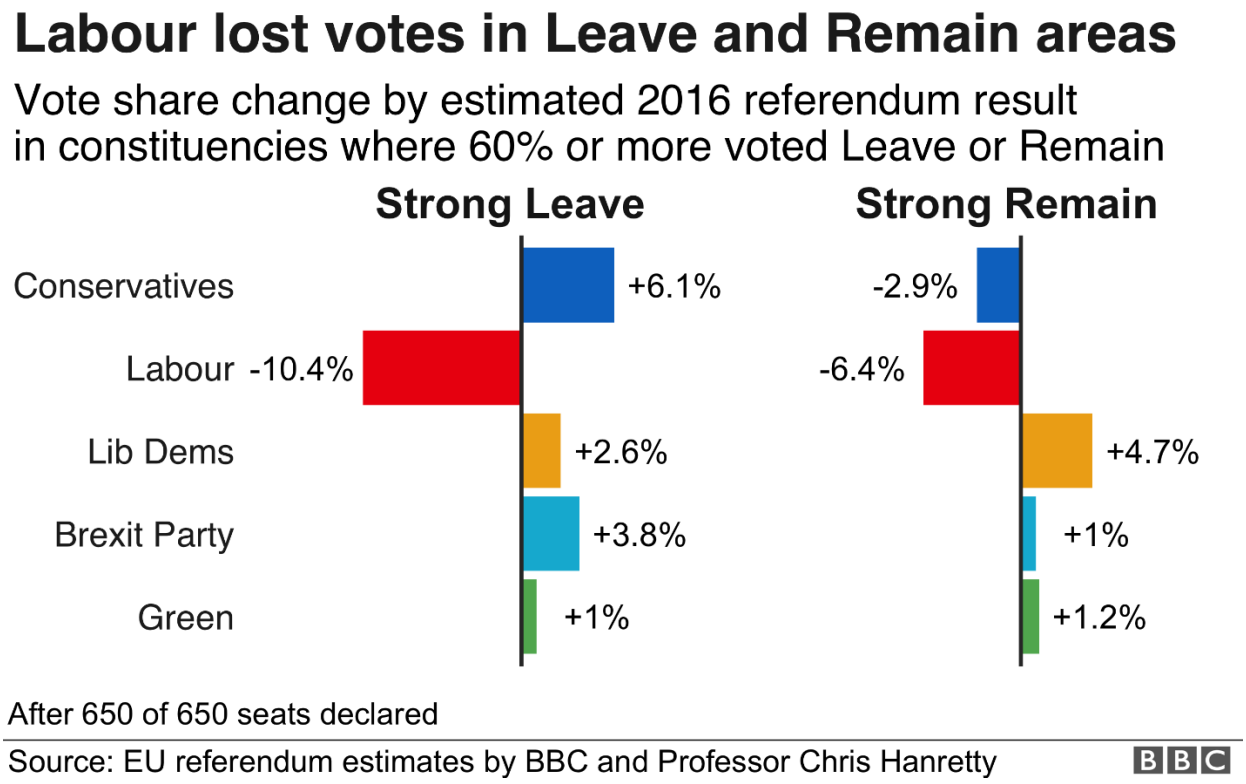
Labour have had their worst return of seats in any general election since 1935.



Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats now have more female than male MPs.

The Brexit effect

The Conservatives increased their vote share in many areas that voted Leave in the 2016 EU referendum.



By contrast they lost votes in strong Remain constituencies such as those in Scotland and London. But Labour lost votes in both strong Remain and strong Leave areas.

Strong Leave and strong Remain constituencies are those where an estimated 60% or more of the electorate voted for that option at the EU referendum.

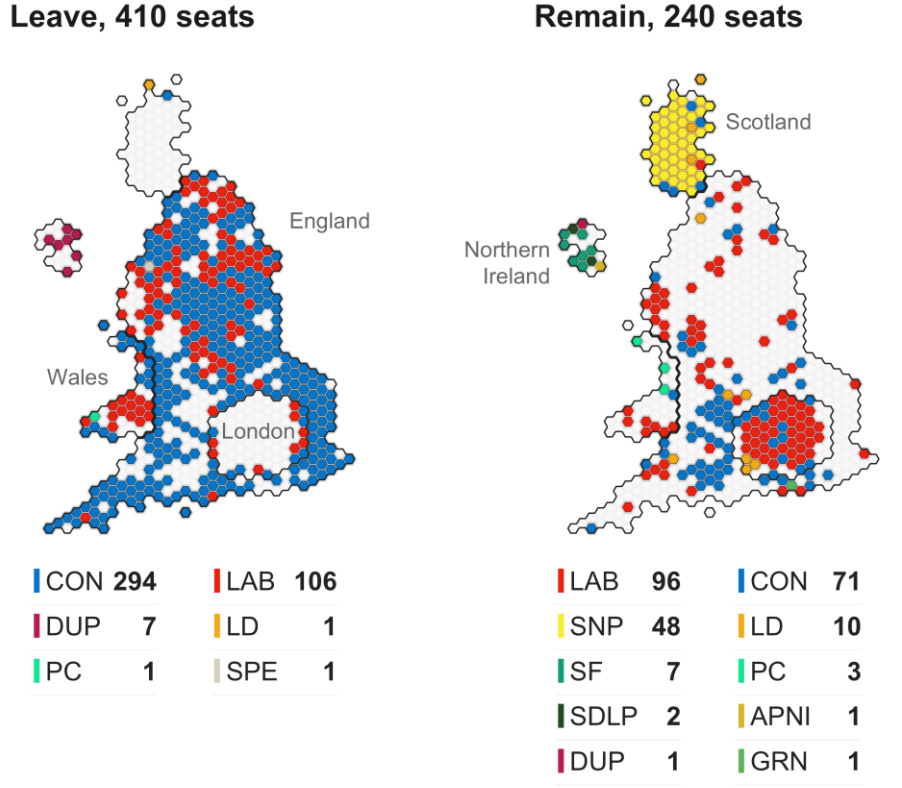
These estimates of constituency Brexit votes were modelled by Professor Chris Hanretty, as the 2016 referendum result was only recorded by local authority and not by Westminster constituency.

The Conservatives were clear winners in constituencies estimated to have voted majority Leave in 2016. They won almost three quarters of all these seats.

By contrast, there was no clear winner among Remain backing constituencies, with a crowded field of parties all winning substantial numbers of seats.

Conservatives won most of the UK's Leave supporting seats

General election results by estimated 2016 referendum results



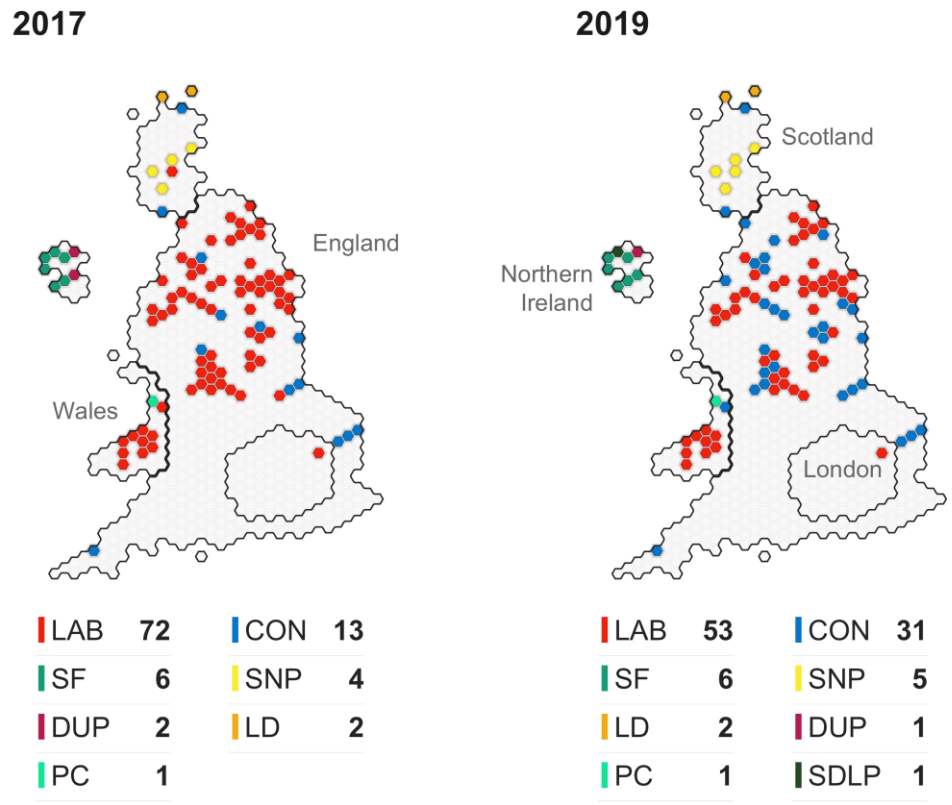
After 650 of 650 seats. Map built using hexagons by Esri UK

Source: EU referendum estimates by BBC and Professor Chris Hanretty BBC

Labour did best of all those parties but only took 40% of the constituencies that backed Remain.
Labour also straddled the Brexit divide taking a roughly equal number of Leave (106) and Remain (96) seats.
Most other parties had a clearer Brexit divide.
Overall, the Conservatives broke new ground, moving into many traditional Labour heartlands.
In 2017, Labour held 72 of the 100 constituencies with the most working class households (defined as **C2DE** using data from the 2011 census).
In 2019, this figure fell to 53 and the Conservatives increased their share from 13 to 31.

Conservatives made gains in working-class areas

The 100 constituencies with the most people in 'blue collar' occupations, with winning party shown



Map built using hexagons by Esri UK

BBC

The nations and regions

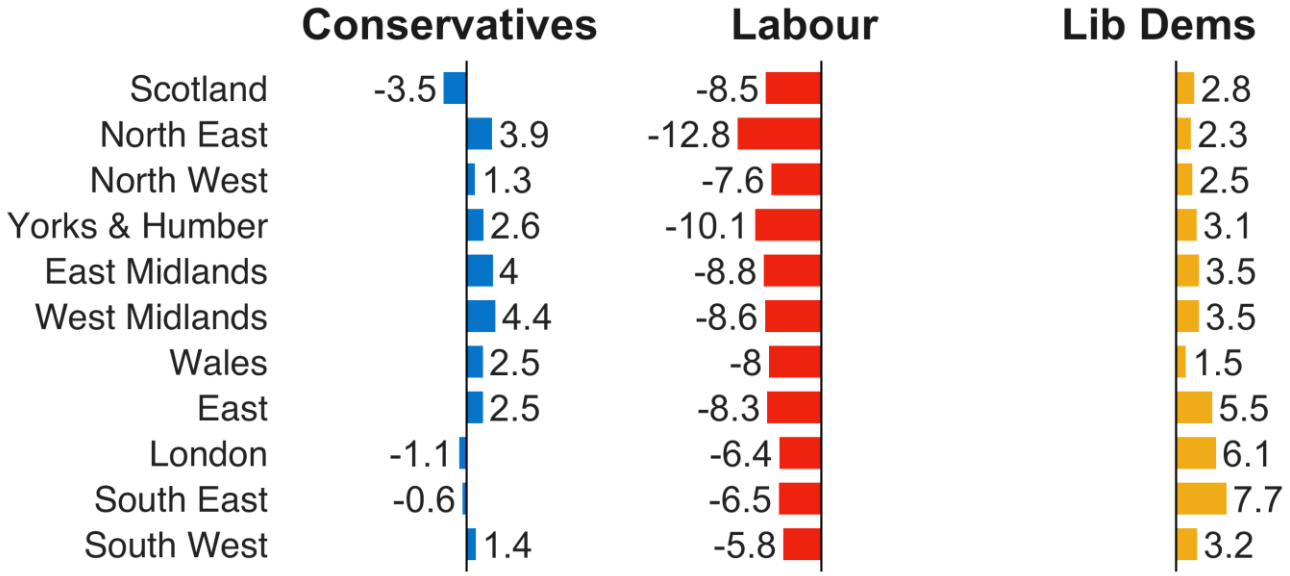
In every nation and region of Britain, the scale of Labour's losses outweighed any gains made by the Conservatives.

The Conservatives did lose votes in the south of England and Scotland, but these were balanced by gains in the rest of England and Wales.

The Lib Dems increased their share of the vote across the UK, but failed to translate these gains into more seats.

Conservatives won more votes in the Midlands, while Labour lost votes everywhere

Percentage point change in vote share



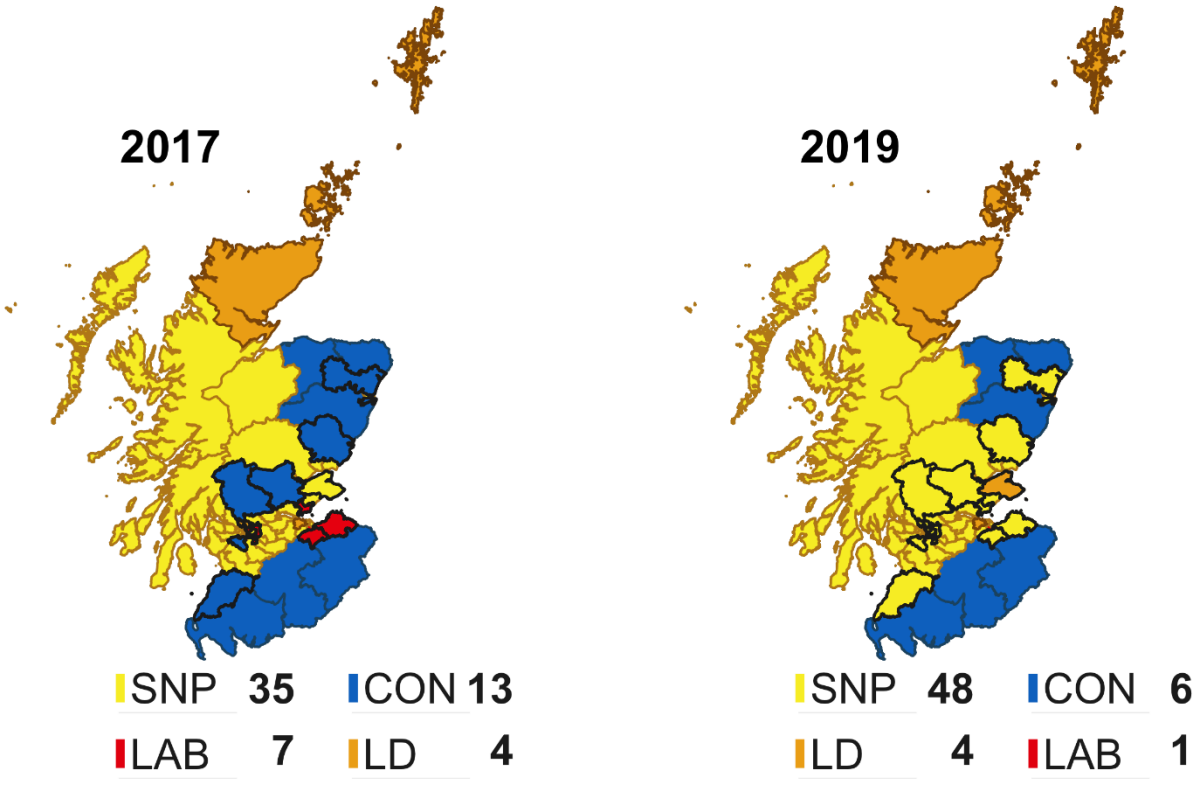
After 650 of 650 seats declared

BBC

In Scotland, the SNP made 14 gains, and lost just one seat, while the Conservatives lost seven and Labour lost six seats.

SNP gains in Scotland

Black border indicates that seat has changed hands



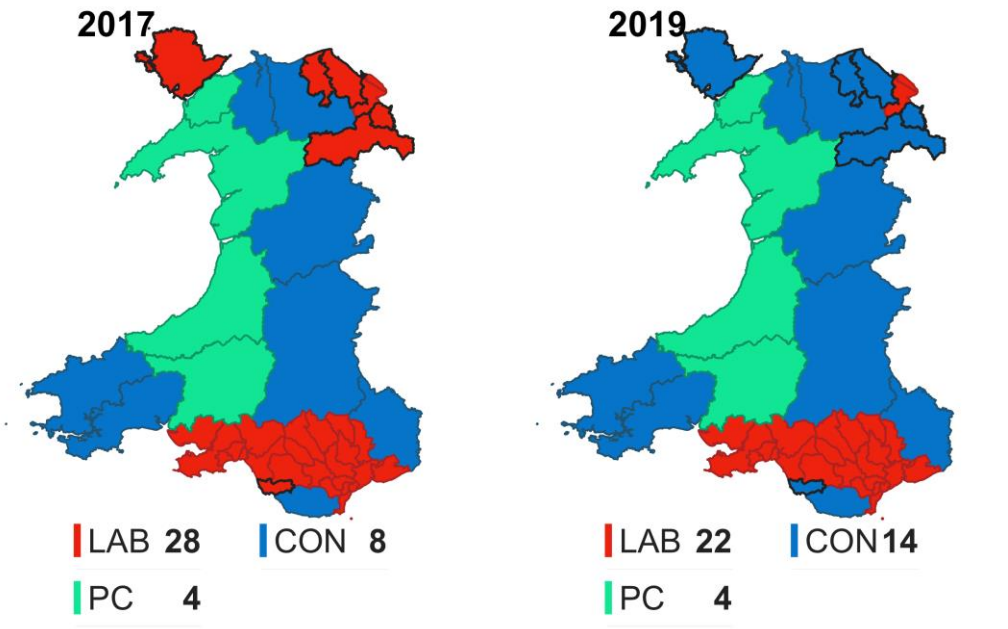
Source: BBC. After 59 of 59 seats declared

BBC

In Wales, the Conservatives gained six seats and Labour lost six, mostly in the north east. Overall, Labour's share of the vote was down to 41% from 49% in 2017.

Wales before and after

Black border indicates that seat has changed hands



Source: BBC. After 40 of 40 seats declared

The Conservatives polled consistently well across England and most of Wales, reflecting their overall 44% share of the UK vote.

You can use the interactive map below to show the vote share for other parties as well as the turnout.

Labour's strength was concentrated in London and areas around cities in south Wales, the North East and North West. At 32%, Labour's share of the vote is down around eight points on the 2017 general election.

Overall, they lost 60 seats and gained only one, **Putney** in London.

Result not in /party not standing0%52545+

Reset

Cartogram

Use two fingers to move map

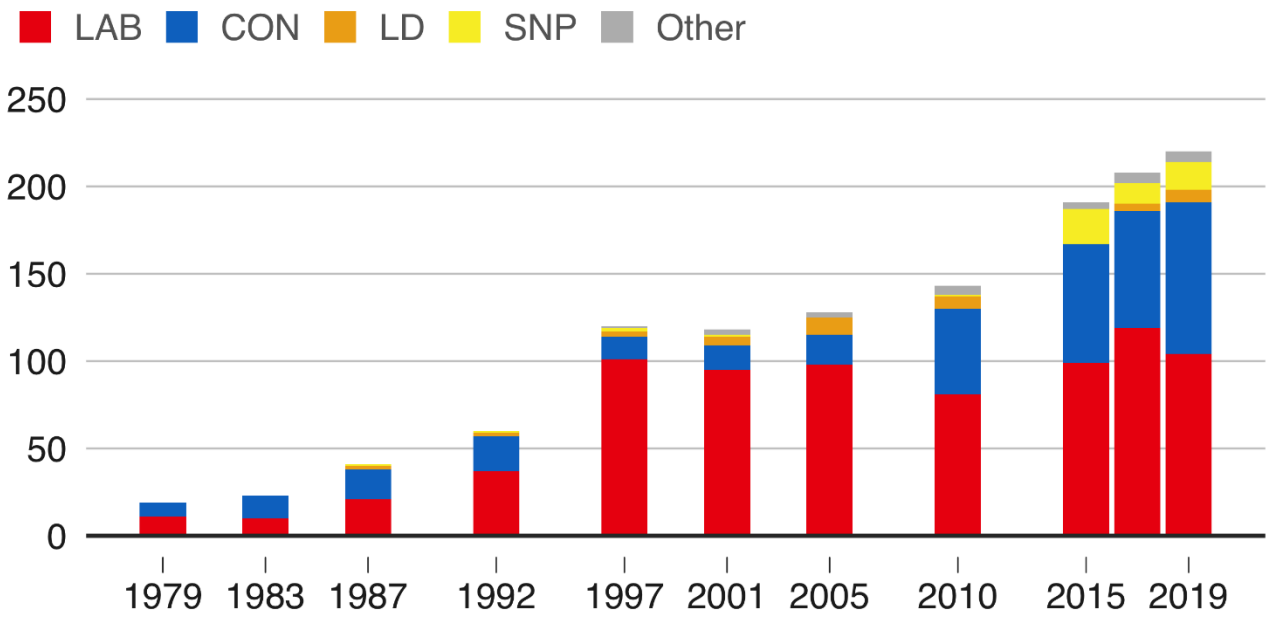
The Cartogram map shows the UK's 650 parliamentary seats as if they are hexagons of the same size. Hexagons by Esri

More women in Parliament

A total of 220 female MPs have been elected. This is 12 more than the previous high of 208 in 2017.

Number of women MPs continues to rise

Seats won by women at general elections, 1979-2019



After 650 of 650 seats declared

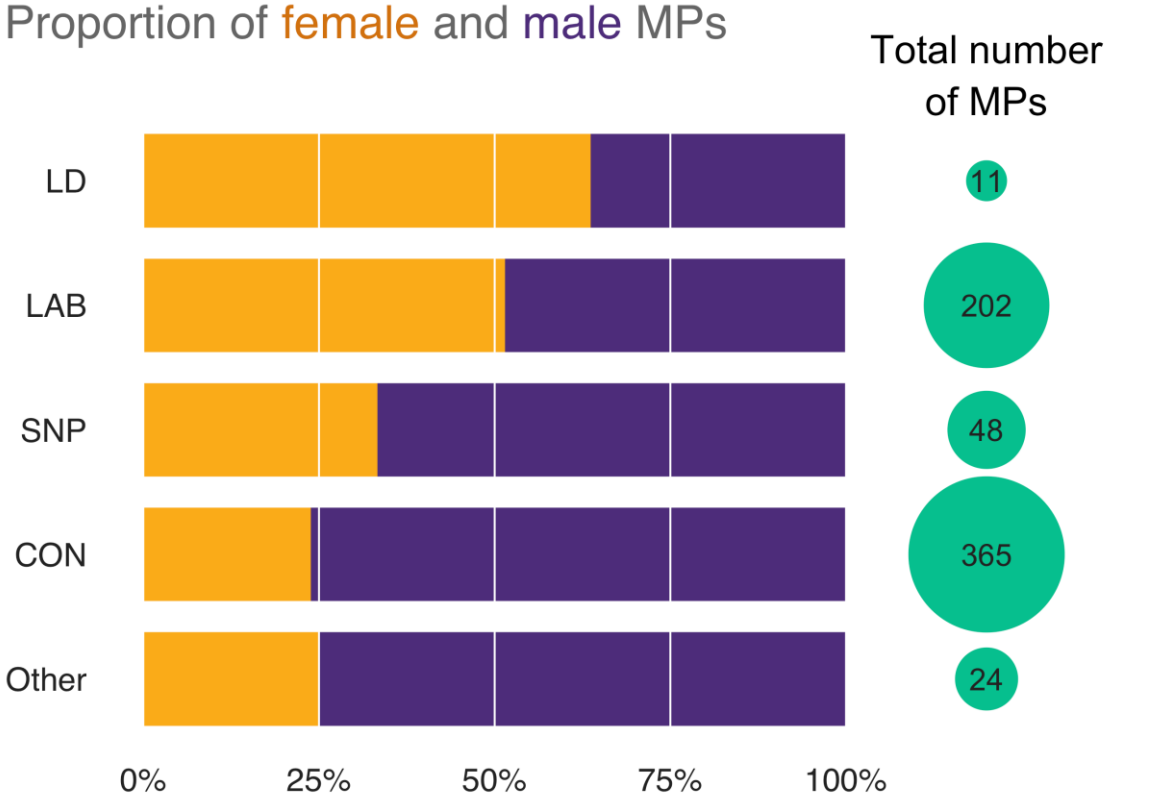
Source: House of Commons Library

BBC

For the first time, both the Liberal Democrats and Labour have more women MPs than men. Of Labour's 202 MPs (excluding Speaker Lindsay Hoyle), 104 are women and of the Liberal Democrats' 11 MPs, seven are women.

Majority of Labour and Lib Dem MPs are female, for first time in history

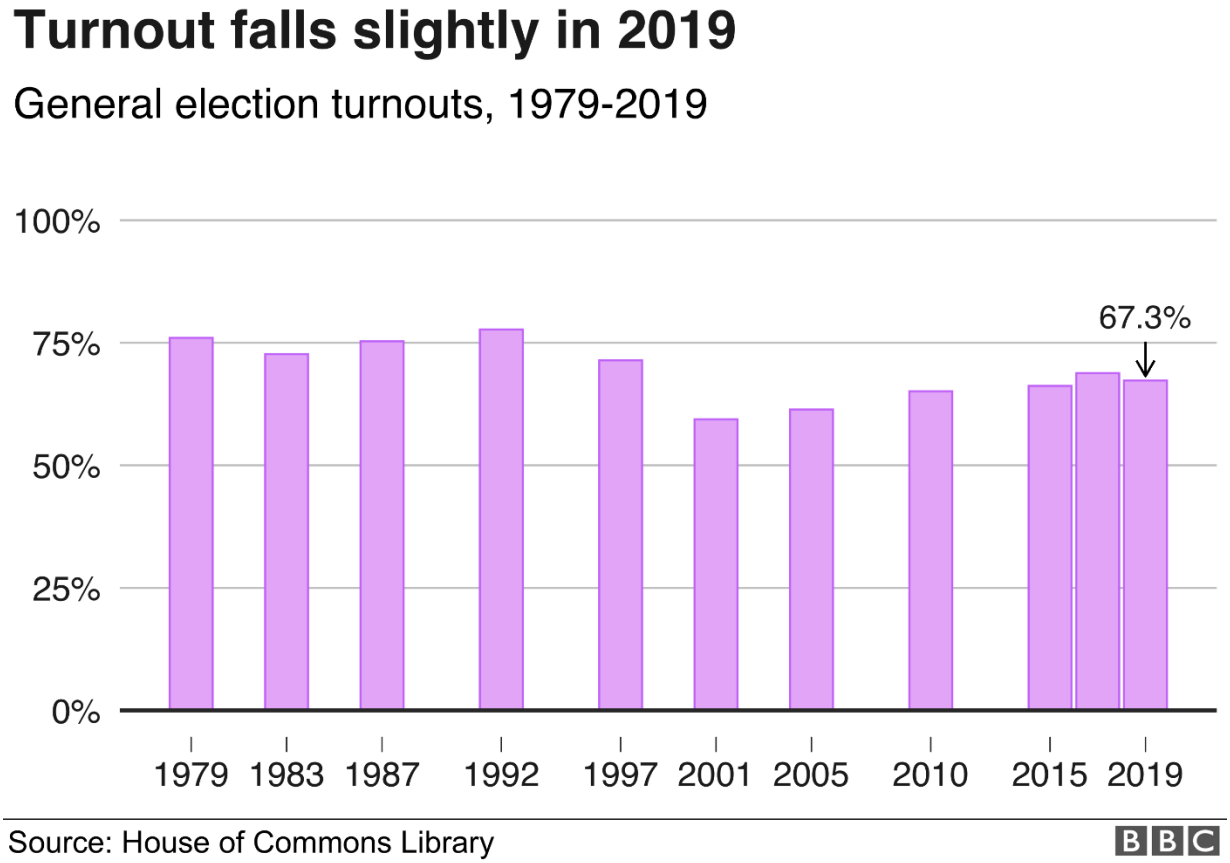
Proportion of female and male MPs



BBC

Turnout

Turnout, on what was a cold and damp polling day, was 67.3%. slightly lower than the last election in June 2017.



Article 7
GRAMPOUND with CREED PARISH COUNCIL
/GwC/CllrHandbook/Community Engagement Strategy 1

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

1 Introduction

1.1 This document forms the Council's Community Engagement Strategy. It sets out:
• The role of community engagement and its importance.
• How Grampound with Creed Parish Council engages the wider community and identifies the needs and aspirations of the community.
• How the Council can improve community engagement.
1.2 The objectives of this strategy are to:
• Encourage effective local community engagement.
• Ensure that embedded throughout the Council there is a clear understanding of the need to engage with communities about decisions which affect them.
• Enable the aspirations/comments/suggestions etc. obtained from community engagement to have an impact on decision making and the way in which services are being delivered.
• Identify how the Council can enhance its profile by improving engagement with the wider community (with specific reference to hard-to-reach groups).

2 The Council's Commitment to Community Engagement

2.1 Grampound with Creed Parish Council is committed to providing a democratic representational voice for the people of Grampound. Central to this ethos is engagement with the local community in a proactive and meaningful way.

3 Community Engagement – an overview

3.1 Community engagement is concerned with giving local people a voice and involving them in decisions which affect them and their community. This may include individuals, voluntary and community organisations as well as other public sector bodies.
It provides an opportunity for local people to talk to the Council about their aspirations and/or needs in their community and neighbourhood. It allows the Council to consult with and inform people about what services it provides, how its priorities and policies are determined and how well it is performing.
3.2 Consultation forms an integral part of community engagement.
Without consultation, addressing a particular need is a hit and miss affair as there is no way of establishing what is required to address the problem.
3.3 The term 'stakeholder' makes reference to a wide range of people and groups (these might include residents, visitors, businesses, government, voluntary organisations, public service organisations etc.) all of which have an interest in the Council's services and projects.
'Hard-to-reach groups' refers to those who experience social exclusion and are sometimes perceived as being disempowered. Some examples include young people, elderly people, or those with physical disability, language, financial constraints, cultural differences or social expectations. Sometimes organisations do not put enough effort into seeking their views, but it is important to note that sometimes they have deliberately excluded themselves through personal choice.
3.4 The key aspects of community engagement include:
• Development of a network of relationships between the Council, individuals, voluntary and community groups.
• Clear and open communication to ensure that information is made accessible to all groups.
• Listening and understanding to a range of people, to identify aspirations, needs and problems of local people and groups.

3.5 Effective and meaningful community engagement can provide a number of benefits:
• The problems and needs of local people are clearly identified in order that appropriate new or improved facilities/services can be provided.
• Those participating feel empowered by being involved in decision making in their local community and a sense of ownership and pride in the new facilities/initiatives.
• It may result in a renewed respect for the Council; enhanced leadership and greater interest in elections or for standing for Council.

4 Grampound with Creed Parish Council and Community Engagement

4.1 The Council currently facilitates community engagement in the following ways:
• Allocation of a 'Public Forum' session at the beginning of each Full Council meeting. This provides an opportunity for local residents to make representations to the Council or ask questions relating to items on the agenda.
• Allocation of a 'Public Forum' session at the beginning of each Committee meeting.
• Publishing contact details of all Council members and officers on the website and notice board.
• Inclusion of reports highlighting council activity, to the Grampound Times. NOTE – the Times is also available on the website.
• Ensuring that agendas and minutes of Committee meetings are available on the website, parish notice board and copies are available on request.
• Uploading the Annual Report, including financial summary, onto the website.
• Questionnaires have been issued, dealing with such matters as updating the Parish Plan. We have also consulted residents to identify the demand for affordable housing.
• Inviting members of the public to request 'surgeries' with Councillors in order that they can be represented at a local level. NOTE – this opportunity was declined by the Parish Meeting.
• Council press releases are featured in local newspapers to keep the general public informed of community events, Council projects and other items as necessary.
• The Council enjoys a good working relationship with the local school. We make the Council Chamber available for occasional meetings of the School Council (i.e. the Children's Council).
• A representative from the Police attends Council Meetings, quarterly.
• The County Councillor for the parish attends Council Meetings and is copied into all correspondence addressed to Cornwall Council.
• The Council has premises, conveniently located in the town centre, which is used for small Meetings, including local residents seeking help/guidance from the Council.

Parish Councillors always live or work within the town they serve and have close ties to their constituents and local voluntary and community organisations on a day-to-day basis, making them uniquely placed in terms of informed representation.

5 Communication

5.1 Grampound with Creed Parish Council is committed to improving community engagement by:
• Continuing all the above activities.
• Ensuring that any information published is clear, concise and widely available.
• Identifying and embracing opportunities to work with other local community groups, as and when the need arises.

• Participating in local networks to share knowledge and experience of community engagement activities in other areas.
• Publicising the positive results that have been achieved from working relationships between the Council and other community groups; in order to encourage new relationships/partnerships to be formed and raise community spirit.
• Ensuring that appropriate evaluation is carried out following consultation exercises to ensure that lessons learned are carried forward and an assessment of how effective/useful the consultation was.
• Distribute materials publicising elections, by placing notices on local notice boards, the Grampound website and in the Grampound Times.
• Distribute materials encouraging people to register to vote, by placing notices on local notice boards, the Grampound website and in the Grampound Times
• Actively seek the views of young people, when undertaking local projects of interest to them.
• Identify a Member of the Council to act as 'Democracy Champion' to be responsible for driving forward these initiatives.

6 Review

6.1 This strategy will be reviewed regularly (not less than bi-annually) and amended as necessary based on good practice or evidence taken forward.

7 Conclusion

7.1 The adoption of a Community Engagement Strategy will assist in improving communication between the Council and the wider community. This will enable the Council to better understand the needs and aspirations of local residents/groups, and in turn, facilitate appropriate projects to meet those needs and create an enhanced community spirit.

9 Alternative Formats

9.1 Disability Discrimination Act 1995 – copies of this document in large print (A3 Format) or larger font size for those with sight impairment on request from the Parish Clerk by telephoning 01726-882145 or e-mailing clerk@grampound.org.uk

10 Freedom of Information

10.1 In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this Document will be posted
on the Council's Website www.Grampound.gov.uk and copies of this document will be available for inspection on deposit in the Council Office.