Grown Up?
Transitions to adulthood

Our insecure society: Risks across the life course

Carey Oppenheim
Gen Z: This time it's different?

- Risk and uncertainty are a longstanding feature of youth transitions.

- Do today’s generation of young people face new and greater uncertainties?
  - Digital revolution: moral panic or not?
  - COVID: long-term scarring or short-term challenges?
“Emerging adulthood”

- Finishing education
- Entering the workplace
- Leaving the family home
- Getting married
- Having children

28% of 18-34-year-olds living with their parents in 2023
Source: ONS 2024

15% of men aged 32 living with their parents in 2023
Source: ONS 2024
The ‘yo-yo-isation’ of transitions between youth and adulthood

Transition as a linear and homogeneous status passage

Adulthood

Transition as a life phase composed of prolonged and diversified status passages

Adulthood

Reversible and fragmented yo-yo-transitions with uncertain perspectives

Adulthood?

Source: Adapted from Guerrero Puerta 2023
Dimensions of insecurity: poverty

Child poverty rate, UK

Source: Households Below Average Income, 2022/23, DWP.
Dimensions of insecurity: care proceedings

Multiple need rising

- There have been more adolescents coming into care in England.
- No. of 10-17 years olds in care proceedings in England have increased by 95% between 2011/12 and 2019/20.

Number of 10-17 years olds in care proceedings in England

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>3,081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019/20</td>
<td>6,013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Nuffield Family Justice Observatory
Dimensions of insecurity: mental health

Proportion of 18-24-year-olds with a common mental disorder (CMD), by sex: UK

Notes: Respondents are classified as having a ‘Common mental disorder’ if they have a GHQ-12 score of three or more. Data presented as a two-year rolling average combining the wave shown and the previous wave. Waves up to and including 2008 are from the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) and cover a single calendar year. Waves from 2009-10 onwards are from the Understanding Society (the successor to the BHPS) and cover two calendar years.
Source: RF analysis of ISER, British Household Panel Survey; ISER, Understanding Society.
Dimensions of insecurity: inactivity

People aged 16 to 24 years who are NEET as a percentage of all young people, seasonally adjusted, UK, January to March 2010 to January to March 2024.

Source: Labour Force Survey, 2024, ONS.
Intersections and interrelationships in dimensions of insecurity

Number of 18-24-year-olds who are economically inactive due to ill health (left axes) and proportion of 18-24-year-olds who are economically inactive due to ill health (right axes), by sex (excluding full-time students): UK

Notes: Last data point relates to 2023. Data for 2023 is for Q1 and Q2 only. Source: RF analysis of ONS, Labour Force Survey.
Common experiences as well as inequalities by group and place

Making connections – seeing young people in the round

Engaging with young people and listening to them
Grown Up? Navigating transitions to adulthood

- To inform future grant rounds for research, interventions and innovative practice
  - Synthesise, listen and stimulate
  - Data stories and think pieces
  - Youth engagement and insight
- Three key connected topics: education to work, mental health and digital lives
- Working across Nuffield’s research areas and centres