

# Centre for Policy Research on **Men and Boys**

## 1) About the Centre for Policy Research on Men and Boys

The Centre for Policy Research on Men and Boys (CPRMB) is a new research 'think tank' organisation (launched in Westminster in May 2025) dedicated to understanding and addressing issues that uniquely affect men and boys in the UK. The charity's vision is a world where men and boys of all backgrounds thrive in their families and communities, one where the sexes can rise together by supporting each other.

It will do this by supporting the development of new research, thinking and insight into policy affecting men and boys. This is by focusing on critical areas where they face unique challenges, promoting policy change, and fostering public awareness and understanding. These are in seven core areas: Economy, Employment and Skills; Education; Health; Fatherhood and Family; Criminal Justice; Male Identity; and the Portrayal of Men in Media and Culture.

It has produced a range of reports including on Missing Men, analysis on the latest data on men and boys, and, a range of short thought pieces. It's primary research programme for 2025/26 is focused on education, skills and employability for 16-24 year old young men and men aged over 50.

The Board is chaired by Richard Reeves (President of the American Institute for Boys and Men and author of *Of Boys and Men*). The Board also consists of Professor Sir Michael Marmot, Professor Roger Kirby, Baroness Bertin, Jo Coburn, Dr Anna Machin, Dr Tim Shand, Sonia Flynn CBE, Will Hutton, Phil Collins, Gaby Hinsliff and Sonia Sodha.

It also has an advisory board of the UK's leading academics and subject matter experts.

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## 2) Health

- One in five men do not live to 65.
- On average, c12,000 men die from prostate cancer every year. This is 33 per day and one every 45 minutes.
- 14 men die every day by suicide in the UK (three in every four) with a suicide rate increasing for the past four years. The suicide rate in England is the highest this century. Over 5,000 UK men every year die by suicide in total.
- In 2023, 6,983 men died in the UK specifically due to alcohol (19 per day), compared to 5,019 (14 per day) in 2019.

## 3) Education

- Boys are behind girls at every stage – from reception year to university entry.
- GCSEs: Percentage of pupils achieving grades 5 or above in English and maths GCSEs
- 67.5% of GCSEs (2024/25) taken by boys achieved a grade C/4 and above – 73.% girls.
- A levels: 76.7% of A levels (2024/25) taken by boys achieved a grade C or above – 80.4% girls. Boys take fewer A levels, so 59,000 fewer grade C or above A levels were awarded than girls.
- University: In 2025, 45,000 fewer UK males aged 19 and under went to university than their female peers.
- Exclusions: 7,695 boys (3,190 girls) in England were excluded from school in 2023/24
- Apprenticeships: English males aged 19 and under make up 58% of apprenticeships.

#### 4) Employment

- The latest NEET figures (16-24 year olds) show that for the UK in April to June 2025: 224,000 young men were unemployed; 273,000 were economically inactive; young men make up 62% of young people who are unemployed. Up until 2018, the male NEET unemployment rate was higher than economic inactivity – since then it has switched
- Male unemployment is rising and is now at 5.5% (July to September 2025) and nearly a million men are unemployed (968,000). There are 181,000 more unemployed men than a year ago
- The number of working age men who are long-term sick is highest number on record, 1.338 million are long-term sick and 92,000 temporary sick. In addition, 949,000 want a job which is 25% of all those who economically inactive
- The UK construction industry has 140,000 job vacancies and social care has 110,000 vacancies.
- Only 25% of teachers are male (2,200 vacancies), c40% of GPs are male and men make up just 11% of nurses (current training rates predict no change).

#### 5) Rough Sleeping

- The number of men sleeping rough in England has increased – and is at its highest since 2017. 3,214 men were found to be sleeping rough in Autumn 2024 in England. Men make up at least 83% of rough sleepers.

#### 6) Criminal Justice

- There are over 90,000 men in prison– enough to fill Wembley Stadium. They make up 96% of the prison population.
- There are 480 young men in youth custody (15 young women).
- Over 400 men are victims of homicide in England and Wales every year.
- 2 million men are victims of sexual assault, domestic abuse or stalking every year – all are classed as being victims of violence against women and girls.