

Younger people

Key findings

- A third (32%) of Londoners are under the age of 25. Younger Londoners are more likely to be from a black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) community, and are less likely than the general population to be disabled
- Even though 33% of younger Londoners possess a pass or card entitling them to reduced travel, cost is still considered a barrier to increased public transport use amongst younger people
- Concerns over crime and anti-social behaviour are higher amongst younger people compared to all Londoners

Summary

A third (32%) of the London population is aged under 25 [2]. BAME Londoners have a younger age profile than white Londoners (49% of Londoners aged 0-10 are from a BAME group, compared to 36% of all Londoners) [2]. Lower levels of disability exist amongst younger people (three per cent of those under the age of 25 are disabled compared to eleven per cent of all Londoners and 62% of Londoners aged 80 and over). Younger people are also less likely to be in full- or part-time employment compared to all Londoners [2].

This chapter focuses on Londoners under the age of 25. However, travel patterns and priorities vary considerably within this age group. Those under the age of 16 often associate travel with independence and fun, whilst slightly older people (16-24 year olds) tend to focus more on the practicalities of travel [47].

Transport use

The most common way to travel to school is to walk (42% of people aged under 16 walk to school, and this rises to 53% for those aged 10 and under) [2]. Younger age groups tend to live closer to school, with 5-10 year olds travelling 1.5 miles on average to reach school compared to 2.9 miles for 11-16 year olds [48]. After walking, bus and car (as a passenger) are the most common modes of travelling to school.

- Younger people tend to make fewer trips on average per weekday than all Londoners (1.76 vs. 2.45) [2]
- The bus is an important transport mode for younger Londoners. Of those aged 11-15, 78% use the bus at least once a week (far higher than 61% of all Londoners) [2]
- Travelling as a car passenger is also an important mode of transport for younger Londoners [2]

- Overall, people under the age of 25 are less likely to use the Underground and National Rail compared to all Londoners, however 16-24 year olds are more likely to use these modes compared to all Londoners [2]
- 42% of journeys made by those under 25 are for education. Once people reach the age bracket of 16-24, the proportions travelling for work reasons are only slightly lower than that of all Londoners [2]
- Younger Londoners are much more likely than all Londoners to possess a pass or card which entitles them to free or reduced travel (33% compared to 24%). This is particularly high for 11-15 year olds (82% of whom possess such a pass or card).

Barriers

Cost is mentioned by 57% of 16-24 year olds as a barrier to increased public transport use. This is higher than the proportion of all Londoners who say cost is a barrier (45%) despite the ownership and use of a number of passes and cards designed to reduced travel costs [14].

Other barriers to increased public transport use are mentioned by higher proportions of younger people compared to all Londoners. The exception to this is concern about anti-social behaviour among 16-24 year olds [14]. While this is the case in general, concern about specific types of crime is higher among those 16-24 year olds. In particular, this age group has a higher concern about fear of crime getting to the bus/train (40% vs. 29%).

- While similar proportions of younger people cite concerns over crime and anti-social behaviour as a general barrier to greater use of public transport as all Londoners, they are more likely to say the frequency of their public transport use is affected 'a lot/a little' by these concerns (for both during the day and after dark) (71% for 16-24 year olds compared to 61% of all Londoners)[14]
- Younger people are at a higher risk of road accidents than those in older age brackets [52]

Seeking travel information online

Use of the TfL website is higher amongst younger Londoners compared to all Londoners. Of those under the age of 25, 67% use it at least once a week – higher than the 58% of all Londoners [34].

Unsurprisingly, the use of smartphones amongst Londoners under the age of 25 is high (at 78%). This compares to 4% of Londoners aged 70 and over (and 58% of all Londoners) [10]. Compared to 20% of all Londoners who say they do not use a mobile device or phone (such as an iPhone or BlackBerry) to access the TfL website, only 11% of Londoners under the age of 25 say the same [34].