

Understanding vulnerable young people: exploring multiple disadvantage

Secondary analysis of the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England (LSYPE)

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Background

- There is a wealth of information on how young people are disadvantaged



9.6% of 16-18 years olds are NEET (DfE, 2011)



A crime is committed by a young person every 2 minutes (YCB, 2010)



15% of 11-15 year olds taken drugs in the last year (NHS-ICHSC, 2010)

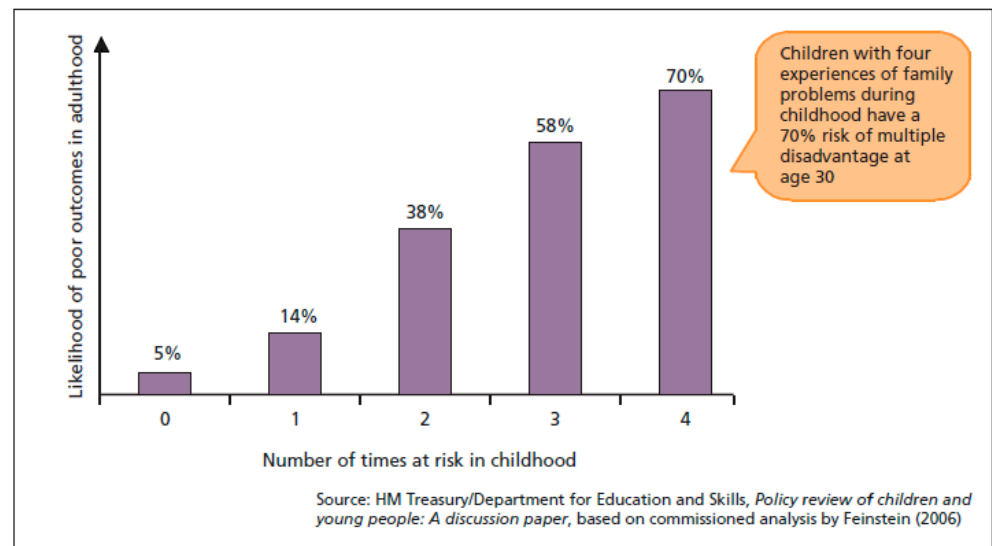


11.5% of 11-16 year olds have a mental disorder (Green et al, 2004)

Background

- Multiple disadvantage can be costly to individuals and the state
- Multiple disadvantage in childhood can lead to poor outcomes in adulthood

Figure 6. Likelihood of poor outcomes at age 30 by number of times at risk in childhood

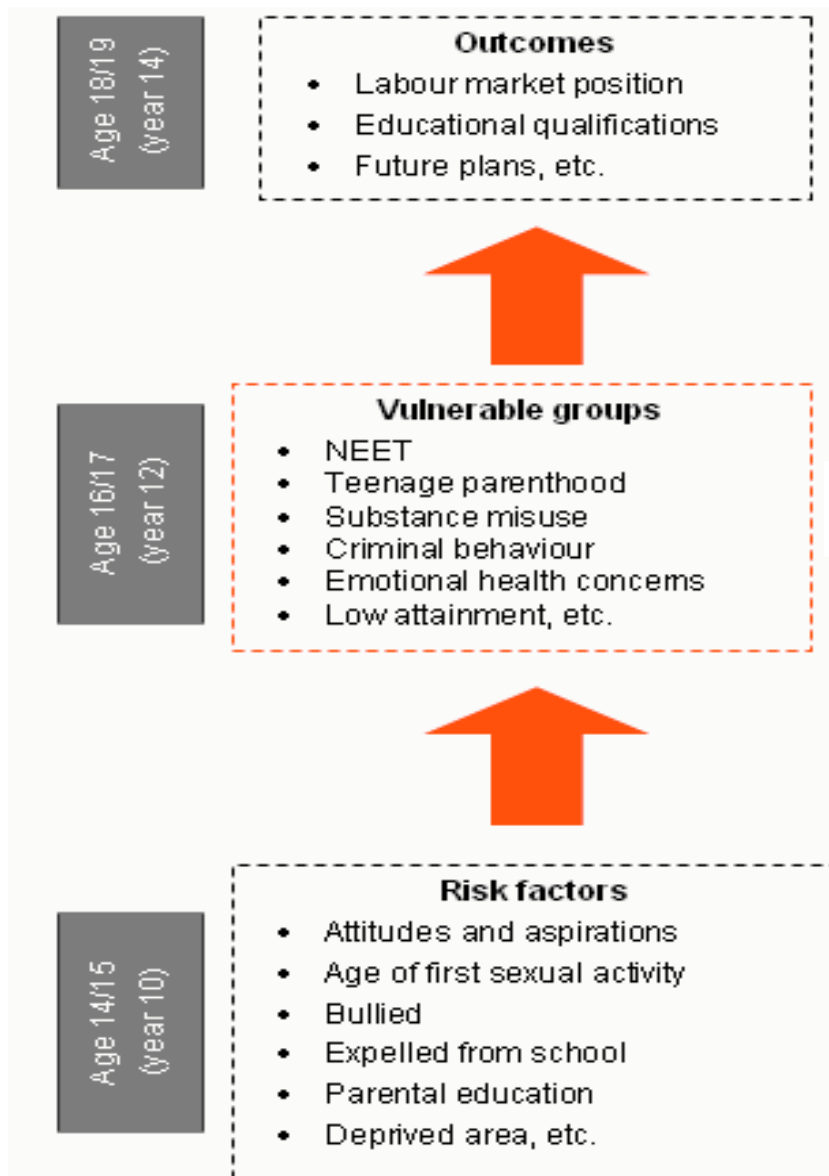


- A family with 5+ disadvantages costs public services £55,000-£115,000 per year (HM Treasury, 2007)

Research aims

- However, there is far less research on how young people's problems overlap
- Research questions
 - How many young people face multiple disadvantages?
 - What combinations of disadvantages do young people experience?
 - Which types of young people are most likely to become multiply disadvantaged?
 - What are multiply-disadvantaged young people's educational and employment 'outcomes'?

Methodology



Data: The *Longitudinal Study of Young People in England* (LSYPE) <https://ilsype.education.gov.uk/>

- Follows a cohort of young people from age 14
- Data on characteristics, behaviours, attitudes
- Seven waves completed, sample size c8,700

Analysis methods:

- Descriptive statistics
- Correlation analysis
- Latent class analysis
- Multiple regression

Incidence of disadvantage at age 16/17

Substance misuse: Young person drank alcohol on most days, or, smoked at least 6 cigarettes per week and had tried cannabis

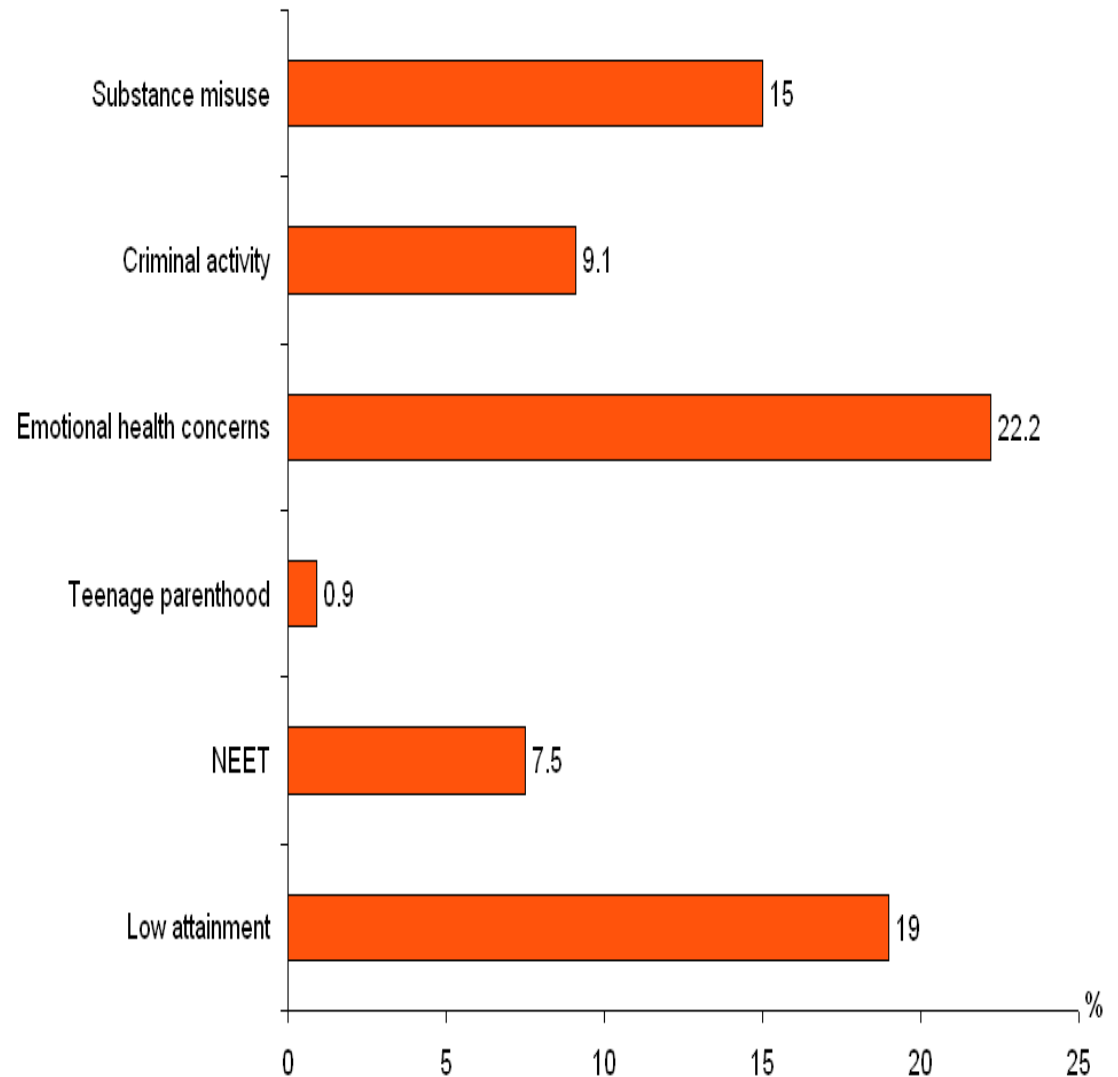
Criminal activity: Young person carried out two or more of acts of vandalism, graffiti, shoplifting, fighting and carrying a knife

Emotional health concerns: Young person had a score of 4 or more on the General Health Questionnaire (GHQ-12)

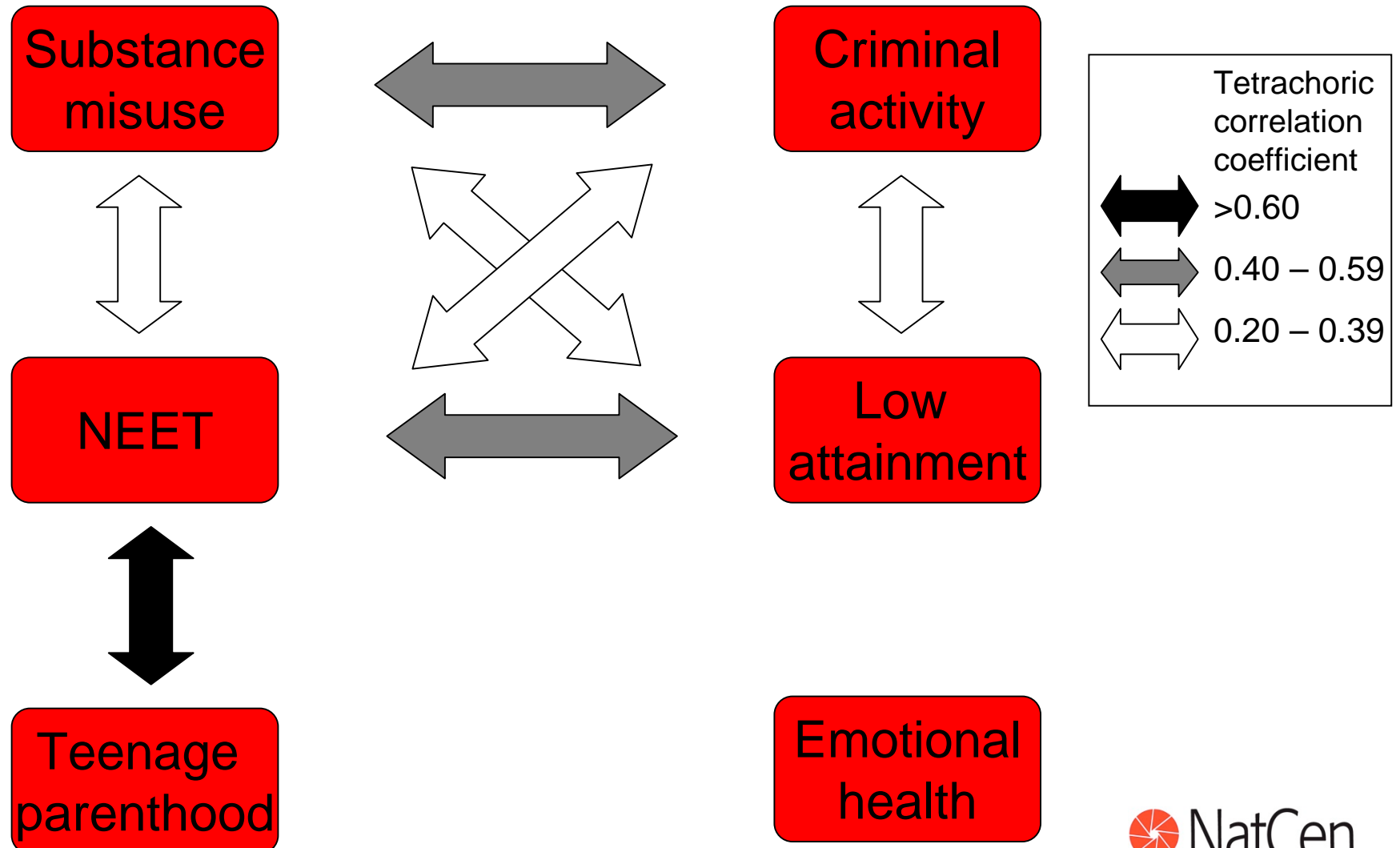
Teenage parenthood: Young person was a parent and had at least one of their child/ren living with them

NEET: Young person was not in education, employment or training for at least 6 of the previous 12 months

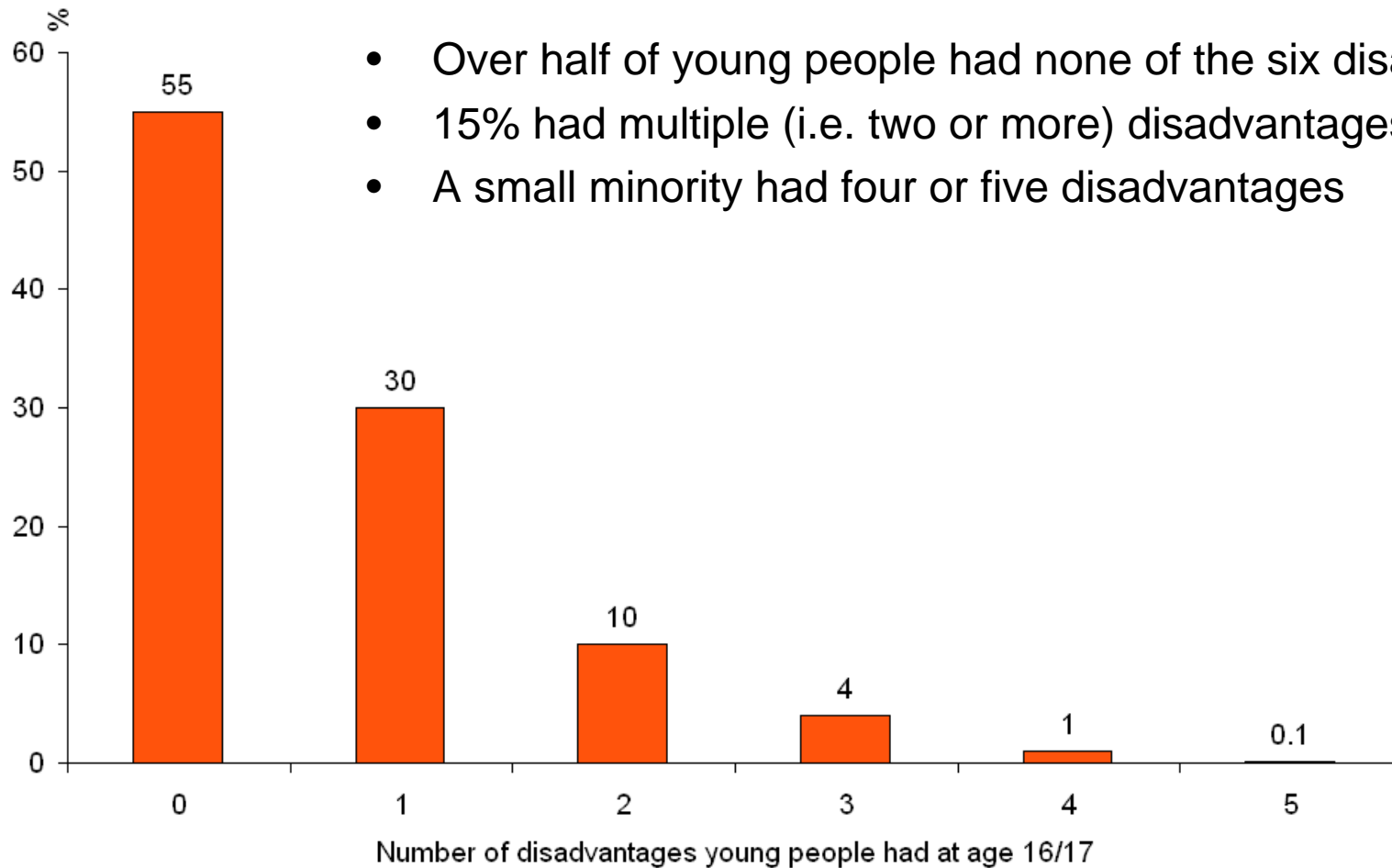
Low attainment : Young person did not gain a single GCSE, GNVQs or equivalent qualification at grades A*-C



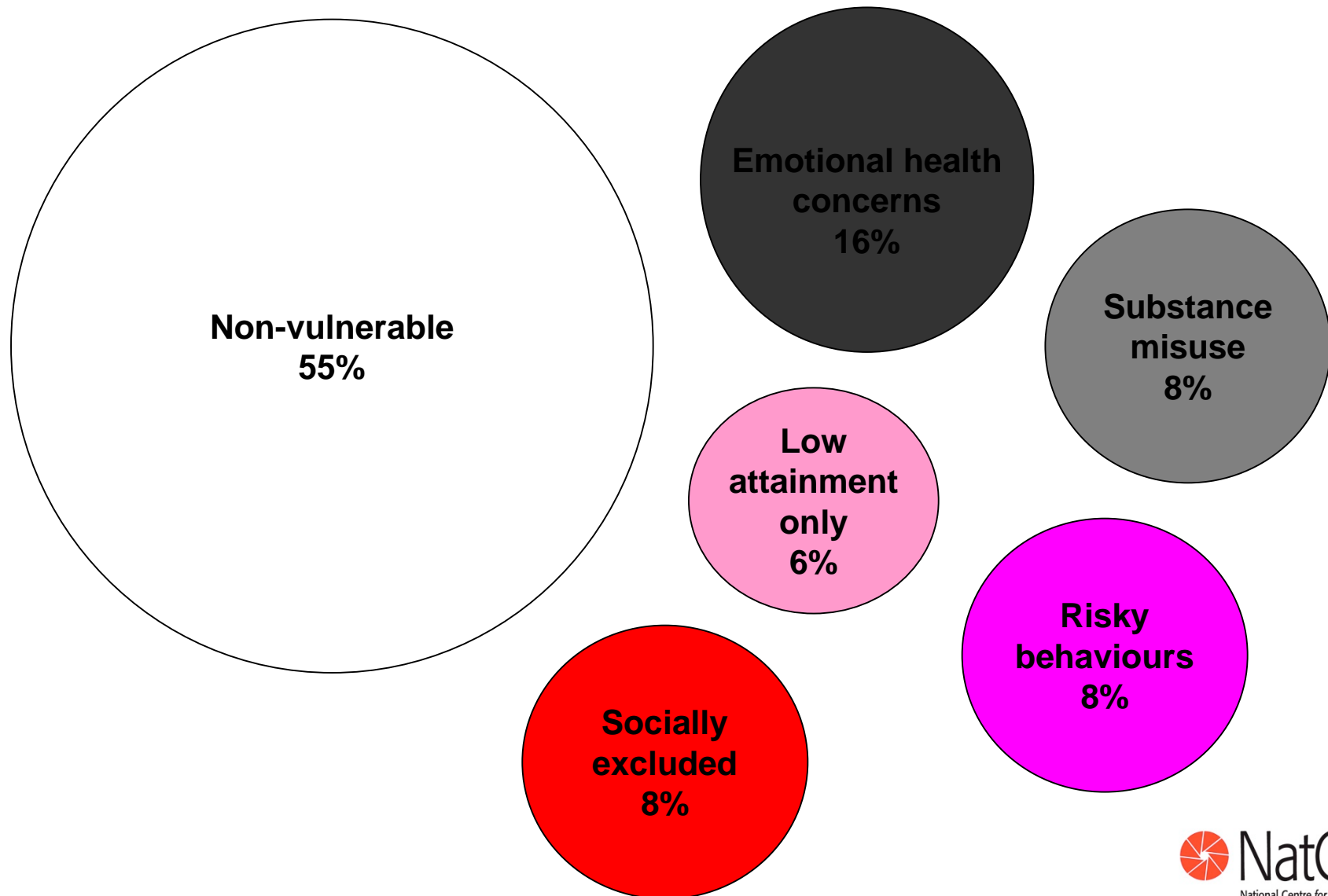
Pairs of disadvantages likely to occur together



Number of disadvantages young people had at 16/17



LCA produced 6 groups of young people



Combinations of disadvantage within the 6 groups

Group	%	Emotional health concerns	Substance misuse	Low attainment	Criminal activity	NEET	Teenage parenthood
Non-vulnerable	55						
Emotional health concerns	16	✓					
Substance misuse	8	✓	✓	✓			
Low attainment only	6			✓			
Risky behaviours	8	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Socially excluded	8	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓

Risk factors and outcomes

Age 18/19

- Over half FTED
- Very few NEET, teenage parents etc.

- Over half FTED
- Slightly higher drug taking

- ¼ in FTED
- . NEET
- . drugs/alcohol
- . on benefits

- . in FTED
- . NEET
- . claiming benefits

- ¼ in FTED
- . drugs
- . on benefits

- . in FTED
- . NEET
- Half on benefits
- . has child

Age 16/17

Non-vulnerable

Emotional health concerns

Substance misuse

Low attainment

Risky behaviours

Socially excluded

- Positive about school
- Few difficulties
- Advantaged background

- Girls
- Bullied
- 1st sexual encounter < 16yrs

- Girls
- Disengaged at school

- SEN
- Truancy
- Disadvantaged background & area

- Boys
- Truancy
- Suspended
- Bullied

- Single-parent
- Poor parental health
- Aspire to work
- Truancy

Age 14/15

Policy implications

- Two groups at highest risk of multiple disadvantage
 - Risky behaviours
 - Socially excluded
- Most vulnerable may require tailored policy response
 - May need to access support from different service entry points
 - Coordinated service offering
- Some disadvantages tend to occur in isolation
 - Emotional health concerns
 - Low attainment
- And having one disadvantage can still lead to poor outcomes
 - *Low attainment only* had high rates of being NEET
- Some common risk factors
 - Bullying, poor attitudes to school, truancy, aspirations
 - Efficiency savings

Research Report

Barnes, M., Green, R., Ross, A. (2011) *Understanding Vulnerable Young People: Analysis from the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England* Department for Education Research Report: DFE-RR118

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DFE-RR118>