



# **HOME FIELD ADVANTAGE: DOES IT EXIST? DID IT PERSIST?**

Image source: <https://www.paceacademy.org/>



# What is home field advantage?

- The idea that a team performs better when playing at their own stadium

## Why?

- It is hypothesized that the crowd of supporters jeering the visiting team and cheering for the home team creates an atmosphere that shifts to outcome of the game



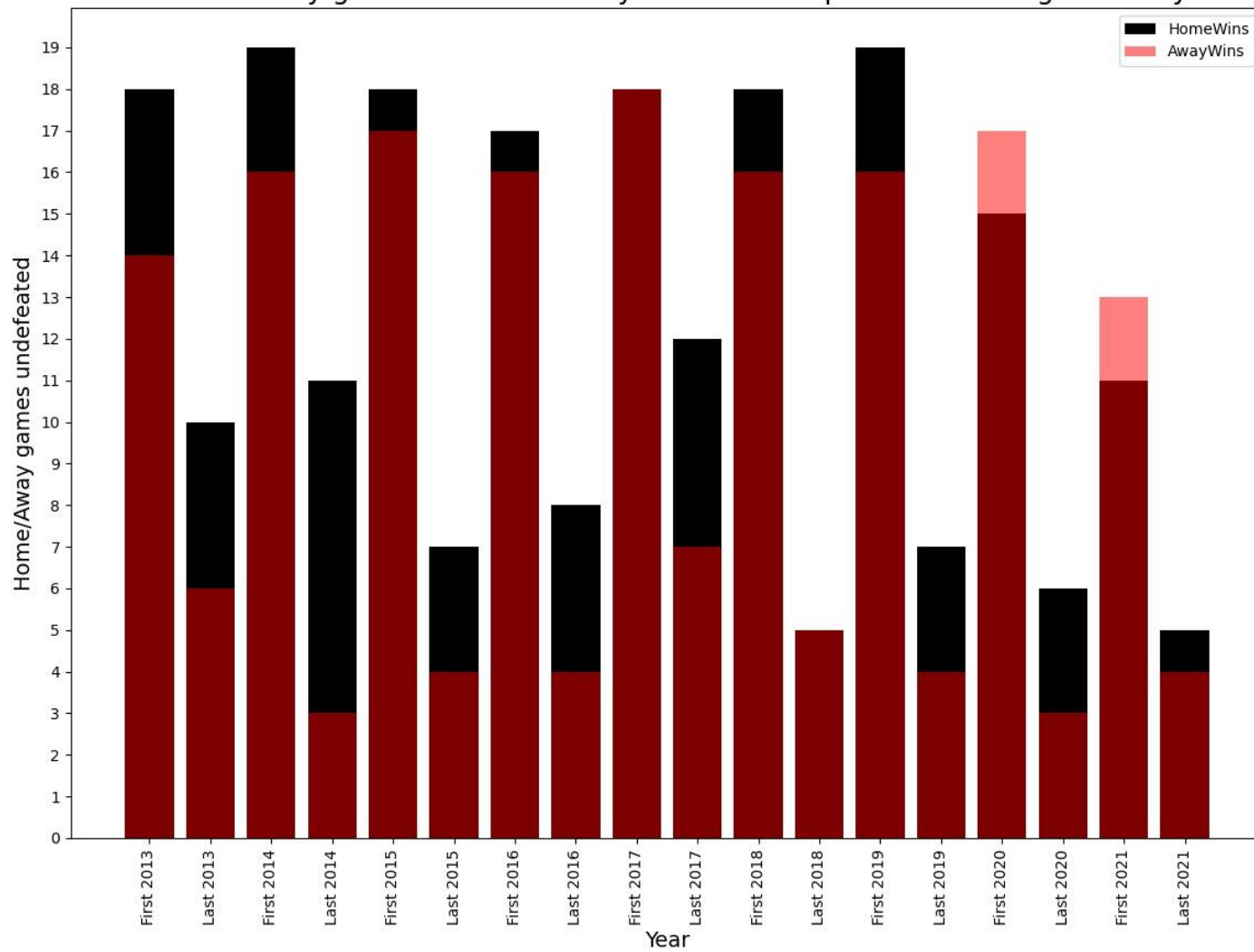


Image source: <https://doxa.fm/>

## DATA

- English Premier League from 2013-2022
- 38 games per season, 19 home, 19 away

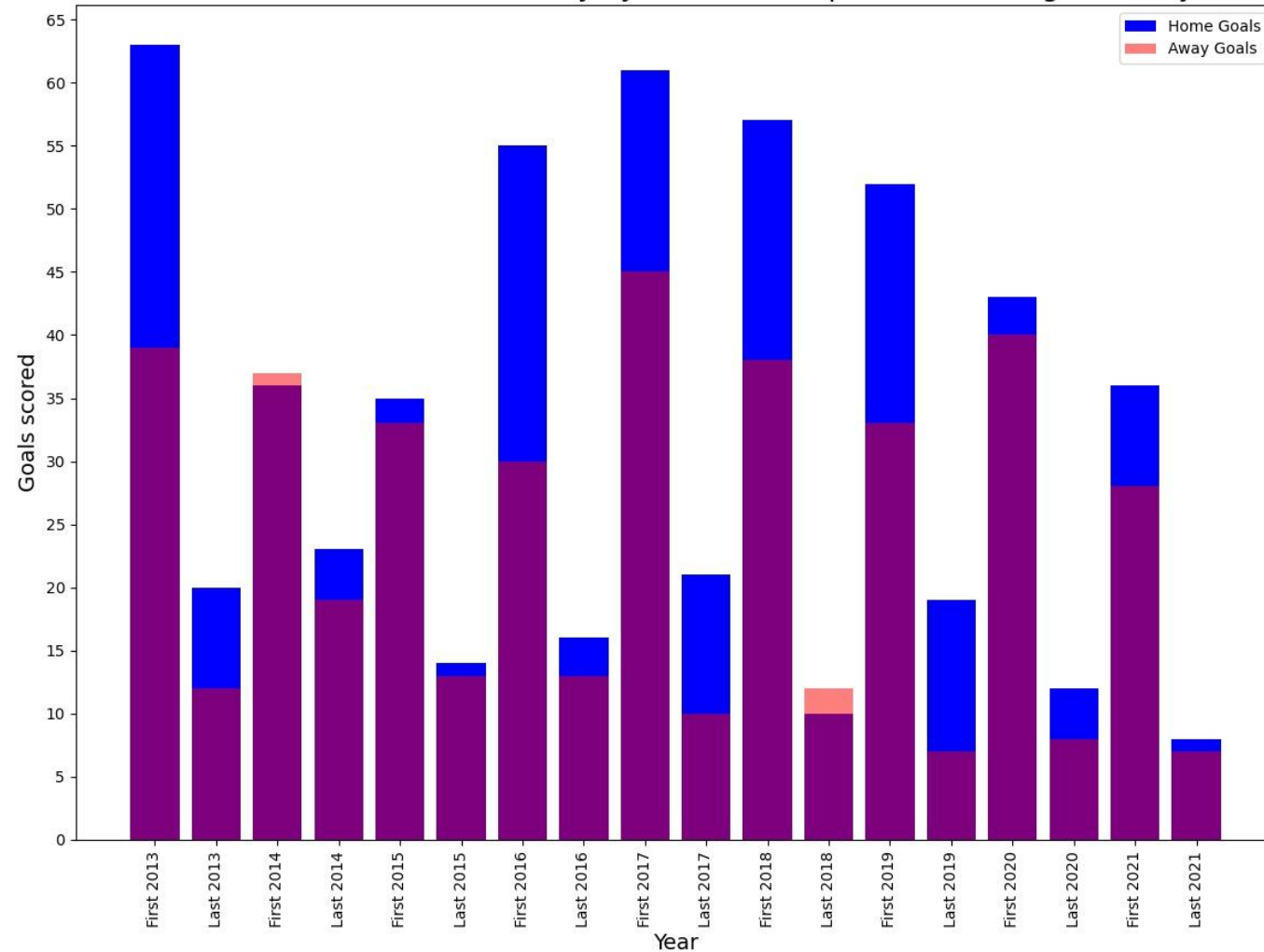
Home and Away games undefeated by first and last place in the league each year



DO THE FIRST AND  
LAST-PLACE TEAMS WIN  
MORE OFTEN AT HOME?

- No matter their place, even if they are the team losing the most in the league, both the first and last-place teams win more games at home
- Only twice over the past 9 years has a team won more often while playing away games
- Other than a couple outliers, teams win significantly more often at home

Goals scored at home versus away by first and last place in the league each year



## DO TEAMS PERFORM BETTER AT HOME?

- Both first and last-place teams score vastly more goals when playing at home on average
- Scoring more goals is not necessarily the same as achieving wins at home, yet also has a significant difference compared to away games

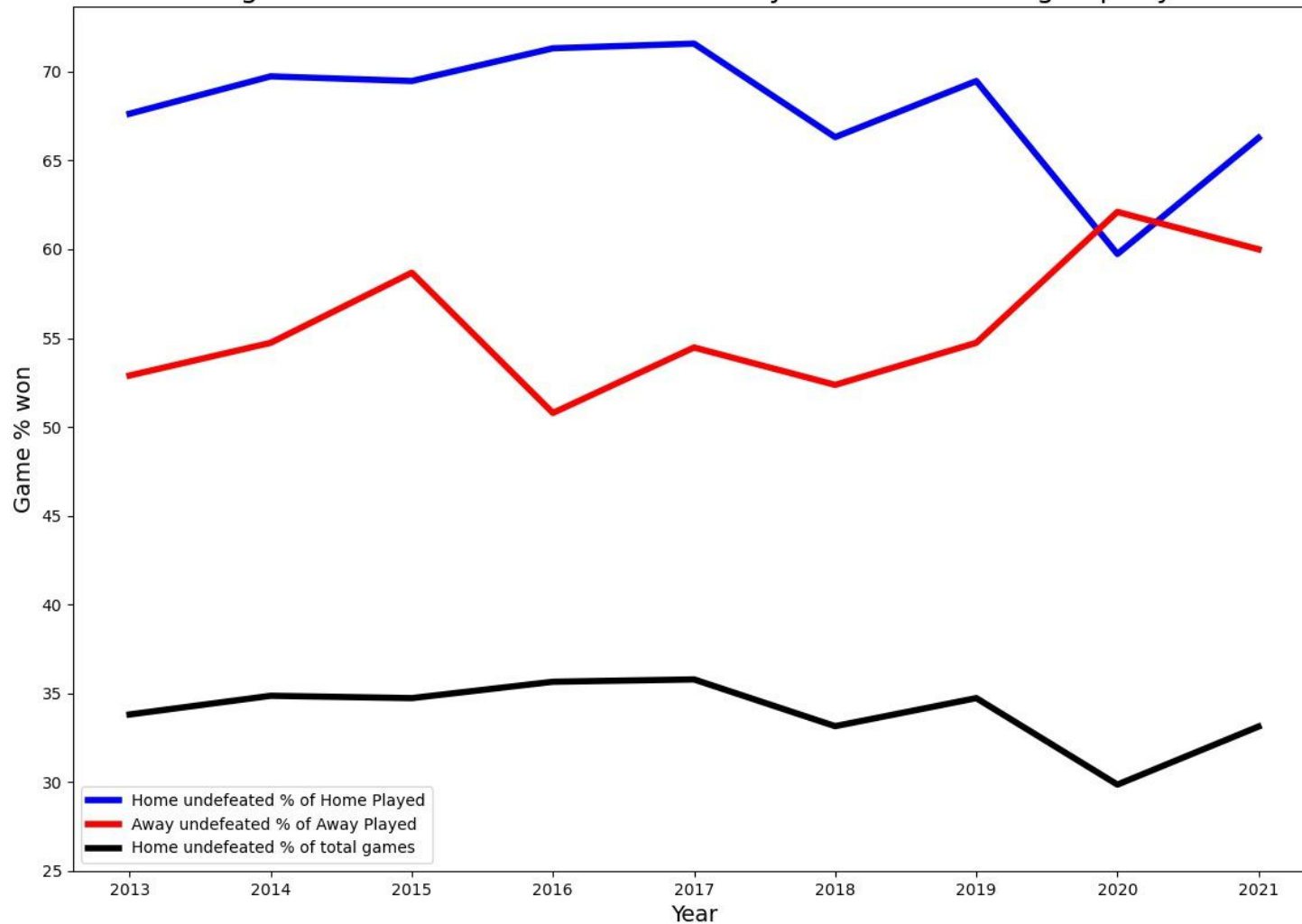




## DID HOME FIELD ADVANTAGE PERSIST THROUGH COVID19?

- During COVID19 teams played games behind closed doors, were not allowed any spectators, who might be considered the deciding factor in a home field advantage
- 2020-2021 EPL games saw closed-door games with no audience

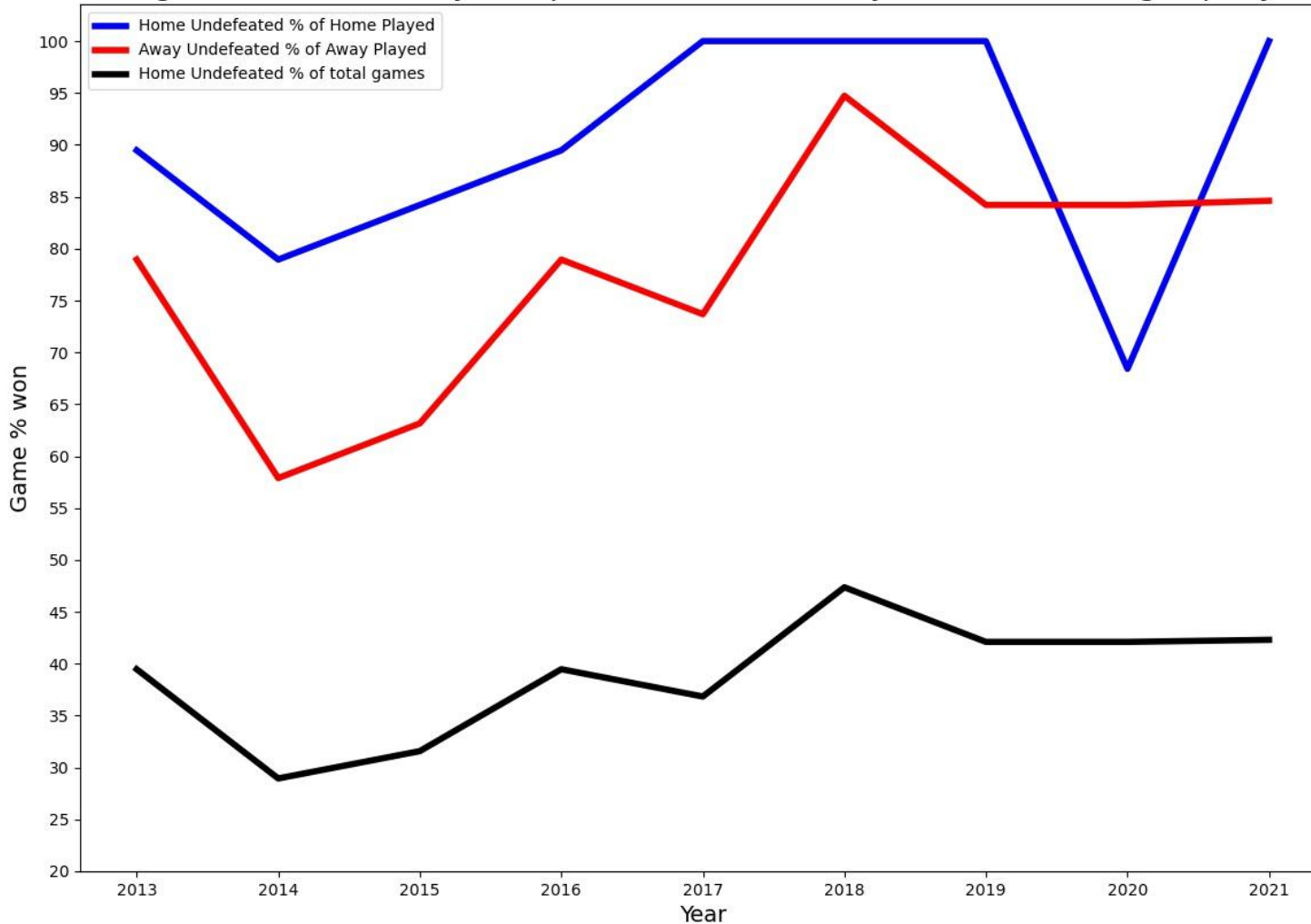
% of games undefeated at home and away for the entire league per year



## HOME FIELD GAMES THROUGH COVID19

- Games played at home produce a higher win rate than games played away
- Except during COVID year (2020-21)
- Not only did home wins fall, but away wins surpass

% of games undefeated by Liverpool at home and away for the entire league per year



## LIVERPOOL'S PERFORMANCE BEFORE AND AFTER COVID19

- Having had a steadily increasingly good home performance, there is almost a 35% decrease during 2020-21
- Similarly, increasing away performance stagnates through that year







## CONCLUSIONS