

# Census Briefing for Commissioners

## Summary

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## Summary

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### The Population

- With a population of 596,984, Gloucestershire was the second most populated county in the region in 2011. There were an additional 1,100 non-UK short-term residents who were not counted as usual residents on the Census day.
- The population growth rate between 2001 and 2011 at 5.7%, or an annual growth of 3,200 people, was lower than the national average of 7.8%. A third of the growth was attributable to Gloucester where demographic demand for services and infrastructure would have surged during the period.
- The current population consisted of 136,600 children and young people aged 0-19, 349,000 adults aged 20-64, and 111,400 older people aged 65 or above. This included an increase in the working age and the older population, and a small reduction in the number of children and young people in the previous 10 years.
- Significantly, the county's older population grew faster than the national trends, and Gloucestershire had a proportionately larger older population than nationally (18.6% vs. 16.4%), with Cotswold, the Forest and Tewkesbury showing particularly high representations.
- There were large new communities emerging in parts of the county, in particular Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury, where demand for public services and infrastructure support will continue to develop as these communities evolve and mature in the coming years. The Census also identified some declining areas across the county where services may need to adjust to the reduced demand. Any developments in the future, however, could potentially repopulate these areas and result in a renewal of demand for services.

### The Environment

- The dispersal pattern of the county's population was highly uneven, ranging from a population density of 92 residents per hectare in the most urban neighbourhood to less than 1 in the most rural areas. This presented a main challenge for the council in developing infrastructure that could make facilities, services and employment accessible to communities in all parts of the county.
- Housing developments in the 10 years to 2011 changed the makeup of the local dwelling stock, by increasing the share of flats/apartments from 13.4% to 15.1% and reducing that of houses/bungalows from 85.7% to 84.1%.

- Overcrowding, which is known to contribute to poor health and mental stress, was below national average but the prevalence was twice the county average in parts of Cheltenham and Gloucester. Previous evidence suggested that overcrowding was most common in the private rented sector which has grown since 2001.
- One trend with important implications for the county's environment and highways in particular was the sharp increase in the number of households with cars, with those possessing at least 3 cars showing the strongest growth. Significantly, the levels of car ownership and multiple car ownership in the county were both above national trends.
- By 2011, there were 353,000 cars or vans belonging to the county's population, up 44,300 (i.e. 14.3%) from 2001.
- Access to a car was most common in rural areas, but previous data from Census 2001 suggested that car ownership among older people, in particular lone-pensioners, was low even in the remote parts of the county, which might compound problems in accessing services and combating loneliness and isolation among this population group. Car ownership was also low in some areas with high unemployment, which could restrict access to the labour market if accessible, affordable public transport was not available.
- The proportion of people relying on a car to get to work increased between 2001 and 2011 and so did those who walked to work. The number using public transport to get to work also grew. This contrasted with the trend in cycling, which saw a slight drop. The biggest decline, however, was among those who worked mainly from home.

## **The Communities**

- About 46,100 usual residents in Gloucestershire were born outside the UK, representing 7.7% of the total population. Among these, four in ten (18,400 people) were recent migrants, having arrived since 2004 which was linked to migration from East European countries.
- The largest ethnic groups in Gloucestershire were 'White British', followed by 'White Other', 'Asian/Asian British' and 'Mixed/Multiple Ethnic group'. Overall, 4.6 % of the county population were from Black and Ethnic Minority (BME) backgrounds. The proportion became 8.4% when all non white-British ethnic groups were included.
- 61.8% of international in-migrants in Gloucestershire had adopted English as their main language and were therefore likely to have been as able to access information as the wider English-speaking population. A high proportion (82.2%) of those whose main language was not English were also proficient in

speaking the language. A study found that proficiency in English was positively linked to migrants' community participation.

- Between 30% and 33% of residents from Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi backgrounds lived in Barton and Tredworth ward, meaning that any initiatives aimed at these communities could be effectively targeted at the area. People of 'Other White' and 'Mixed/Multiple ethnic' origin, on the other hand, were more geographically dispersed.
- There was a rising trend in people renting privately in the past 10 years. In some places, private renting accounted for more than a third of households. The trend means that in areas of high level of renting, where population turnover tends to be high, demand for locality-based services such as school places could become harder to predict. The trend would also have implications for developing locality projects that would take time to produce results or require continual commitment from the local communities.
- The broader trend of an expanding older population was largely reflected across the neighbourhoods and in some communities there were disproportionately large numbers of older people. A total of 40 council wards had at least 1,000 residents aged 65+, accounting for between 10.4% and 30.7% of the ward population. This presented the council with challenges as well as opportunities as research found that citizens' involvement in volunteering and co-production of public services increases with age.
- For the first time, the Census provided a measure of households in deprivation (on four dimensions: education, employment, health and housing), which could be used to identify and target communities with concentrations of households with multiple needs. In total, 9,330 households in the county were deprived on at least 3 dimensions, with 800 of these deprived on all four dimensions.

## **Children, Young People and Families**

- The number of children aged 0-15 fell between 2001 and 2011, by 4,700 people or 4.2%, to 106,800. In the same period, the number of young people aged 16-19 increased, by 3,800 (up 14.5%), to 26,100 people.
- There were a total of 68,500 families or households in Gloucestershire with dependent children in 2011. The county experienced a well-documented trend towards a decrease in married couple families and an increase in cohabiting couples and single parents with dependent children. Of particular significance was an increase in the number of 'other household types', by 25%, which included households with children living in foster care arrangements, with friends, in kinship arrangements or in other agreements.
- There were a total of 6,320 households with dependent children where no adults were in employment, representing nearly one in ten households with dependent children. Research shows that children whose families are out-of-

work are at greater risk of experiencing child poverty as well as other difficulties associated with family hardship.

- The Census also counted nearly 4,000 young people aged 16-24 who were considered as unemployed for Census purposes. This was 1,500 more than the official unemployed claimant counts for the same age group in the same month, suggesting that any local support schemes specifically tailored for the registered young unemployed might not have reached this 'hidden' group of young people.
- There was a decrease in the number of children aged 0-15 reported to have a long-term limiting illness or disability between 2001 and 2011, from 3,900 to 3,200. The proportion of these children also reduced, from 3.5% to 3.0% in the same period.
- The latest Census suggests that 9,400 families or households where at least one person had a long-term health problem or disability consisted of dependent children. Studies suggest that children with parents or siblings who have a long-term illness or disability are more likely to experience child poverty, and are also at a disadvantage if they take on caring responsibilities.

### **Working in Gloucestershire**

- There were 437,100 usual residents aged 16-74 in the county. Of these, 72.4% were economically active and 27.6% economically inactive. Among the economically active, 91.2% were in employment, 4.5% were unemployed and 4.3% were economically active students.
- A total of 14,200 unemployed people were recorded by the Census, compared to the official claimant count of 9,400 people for the same period, suggesting that 4,800 local people had not been captured in the eligibility-based unemployment statistics.
- 11.1% of the inactive population withdrew from the labour market due to an illness or a disability, underlining the economic impact of health on individuals as well as the local economy.
- Although the county's workforce was better qualified than nationally, the proportion of its workforce employed in the top three job categories on skill level was average. Similarly, while the proportion of people in the county with no qualifications was considerably lower than the national level, the difference in the proportions in elementary occupations was less apparent.
- The county's economic base revolved around service industries which employed 73.2% of all those in work. The most dominant service industry was the public sector, followed by wholesale and retailing. While the county would be well placed to capitalise on the potential growth predicted for aerospace, pharmaceuticals and knowledge-intensive business services, local economic

strategies would be required to counteract the effect of the potential downturn in the public sector particularly in Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury where there was a relatively high reliance on public sector for employment.

- Although the county's economy generally fared better than the national average, some areas experienced much higher levels of unemployment. In some cases, high unemployment co-existed with high incidences of no qualifications and lack of access to a car, which could further entrench the economic vicious circle in these communities.
- The Census also identified some communities with high levels of economic inactivity as a result of a long-term illness or disability, where the proportion of such incidences nearly doubled the county average.

## Health and Care

- In total, 20,770 people considered themselves in bad health and a further 5,780 in very bad health, equivalent to 3.5% and 1.0% of the population respectively. The prevalence rates of limiting long-term illness (LLTI) or disability were 7.3% for the most limiting conditions (43,300 people) and 9.5% for the less limiting conditions (56,500 people).
- Notably, the proportions of people reporting bad or very bad health and those reporting a LLTI or disability were both below national levels. This is significant given that the county's age structure was older than the national average.
- However, the number of people with a LLTI or disability was rising faster than the population growth during 2001-2011, and the population with these conditions also increased, from 16.1% to 16.8%. This phenomenon was largely driven by a sharp increase of the older population combined with a rise in prevalence rate among the over-75s during the period. The increasing prevalence among the 75+ was likely to be linked to a growing number of elderly people living longer with long term illness or disability. By contrast, the proportion of the under-75s with a long term illness or disability fell.
- There were wide variations in health outcomes between districts and between local areas. Geographical gaps in prevalence of disability or long-term conditions were more profound than in the case of general health, suggesting that health inequalities were widest in the more serious cases.
- The Census further indicated that people from a lower socio-economic class were not only more likely to have poor health or long-term conditions than the higher socio-economic groups, they also started to have health problems younger, suggesting that early public health interventions would be particularly beneficial to these economic groups.

- There were a total of 62,600 informal carers in the county, equating to 10.5% of the population. This was an increase of 12.8% (i.e. 7,100 people) from 2001, more than double the growth in the general population.
- The majority (69.6%) of informal carers provided care of less than 20 hours a week but nearly one in five (19.5%) provided at least 50 hours a week. Importantly, the proportion providing care for long hours has increased since 2001 when the proportion was 17%.
- Previous analysis of the Census 2001 data also suggested that
  - Around 30% of the county's households where someone had a LLTI had an informal carer in 2001, with the largest gaps in provision being in pensioner households.
  - One in five carers were pensioners. There were around 850 young carers in 2001 with most of these aged between 12 and 15.
  - Care provision was most prevalent among people aged 45-64, but elderly carers were most likely to carry out long hours of care than other age groups.