

Gloucestershire County Council

# **Population Profile**

## **2025**

An overview of the population of Gloucestershire  
by the nine protected characteristics set out in  
the Equality Act 2010

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## **Executive Summary**

Our population profile provides an overview of the population of Gloucestershire by nine protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010: age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race<sup>1</sup>, religion or belief, sexual orientation, and marriage and civil partnerships.

This profile summarises the main trends at county and district level. It is accompanied by an [online dynamic report](#), which provides more detailed information including; breakdowns by broad age groups and ward level information. This will help us to strengthen our evidence base across the protected characteristics.

Gloucestershire has a lower proportion of 0-19 year olds and 20-64 year olds when compared to the national figure, whilst the proportion of people aged 65+ exceeds the national figure. As is the case in many parts of the UK, the number and proportion of older people in the county has increased over the last 10 years. Projections suggest this trend will continue, with the number of people aged 65+ projected to increase by approximately 71,000 or 52.5% between 2018 and 2043.

Gloucestershire's ageing population has financial and resource implications, as people are more likely to require GCC adult care and other service support in older age. It will also have some benefits, as a result of the positive contribution older people make to society. Older people make up much of the formal volunteer workforce, delivering many services to other residents and they also provide most informal care to other older people.

Gloucestershire is characterised by a comparatively small population of ethnic minorities (excluding white minorities). The 2021 Census showed the population of ethnic minorities (excluding white minorities) accounted for 44,765 people or 6.9% of the population; this was much lower than the England percentage of 19.0%. The population of Gloucestershire is, however, becoming increasingly diverse. The population of ethnic minorities (excluding white minorities) increased by 63.8% between 2011 and 2021, from 4.6% to 6.9% of the population. The number of people classed as 'other white', which includes migrants from Europe, increased by 55.1%, from 3.1% of the population in 2011 to 4.5% of the population in 2021.

According to the 2021 Census 16.8% of Gloucestershire residents reported having a long-term limiting health problem; this was below the national figure. As age increases the proportion of respondents reporting a limiting long-term health problem increases. Given the ageing population, the number of people with a limiting long-term health problem is likely to increase in the future.

Police recorded hate crime has been generally increasing in the county each year, however there was an overall decrease of 12.3% in 2023/24 from the previous year; this was a larger decrease than that seen nationally (5%). In Gloucestershire, most of the five monitored hate crime strands showed an increase in 2022/23, except those based on religion, where there was an increase of 28 recorded crimes (45.9%) on the previous year; nationally, the picture was similar, with a 25% increase in hate crimes based on religion. Race-related hate crime is the most recorded strand of hate crime in Gloucestershire by a large margin, with 880 recorded in 2023/24, but representing a 7.5% decrease on the previous year.

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<sup>1</sup> The government refers to ethnicity and not race; this is because surveys usually ask people for their ethnicity and not their race, and using consistent terms helps people to understand the data.

## **Section One**

### **What is the population profile (2025)**

The population profile provides a breakdown of the population of Gloucestershire by the nine protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010<sup>2</sup>. The protected characteristics are age, sex, disability, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, civil partnership and marriage.

This report provides an update to the 2024 equality profile, and includes population projections and a breakdown of protected characteristics by broad age groups. It is accompanied by an online dynamic report (<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/equality-and-diversity/interactive-report/>) which provides more detailed information including ward level information. This will help us to strengthen our evidence base across the protected characteristics.

### **Why we are publishing this report**

Publishing equality information about the population as a whole helps decision makers to make informed decisions based on the needs of our communities and meet the aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty that require the Council to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share the characteristic.

The information contained in the report is also useful to local voluntary and community sector organisations, current and potential contractors and other partners.

### **How we use the population profile**

Our population profile helps us to understand our local population and their needs. This understanding helps us shape and make improvements to our services so that they best meet the needs of all of the different communities living within the county.

### **What other equality information do we use**

We use a range of equality information when we develop policies, set strategies, design and deliver our services. This includes information about our workforce and people affected by our policies and practices (service users).

You can [view the sources of equality information](#) that we use on our website, including the link to our dynamic report.

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<sup>2</sup> Equality Act 2010. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15>

## **Section Two**

### **Age**

In the UK, ageism is the most prevalent form of discrimination amongst all age groups, with one in three people experiencing age-based prejudice or discrimination.<sup>3</sup>

Age-based discrimination can be a form of social exclusion, affect an individual's mental health, and affect wider determinants of health such as employment.<sup>4</sup> According to the UK government, older people experience most age discrimination, although it also takes place against young people.<sup>5</sup>

The age of an individual, combined with additional factors including other 'protected characteristics' may affect their health and social care needs. World Health Organisation research shows that, in the health and social care sector, healthcare rationing on the basis of age is widespread, and older adults tend to be excluded from research and data collection efforts.<sup>6</sup> In addition, although many older people are early adopters of digital technologies, for some groups of older people there is a high risk of digital exclusion from a wide range of essential services and activities, including aspects of healthcare, local authority services and benefits, and banking.<sup>7</sup>

A publication by the Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) reported on the harmful effects of ageist stereotypes on older people. Studies have found that when people embody negative stereotypes (i.e. subsequently adopt these stereotypical traits), this can have a negative impact on their health and wellbeing. Comparing people with positive self-perceptions of ageing with those with negative self-perceptions showed adverse differences in life expectancy, risk of developing dementia, memory performance, rates of engagement in healthy behaviours, illness recovery rates, stress and depression, walking speed, and body image. People with a more negative view of ageing are also less likely to plan for later life or engage in activities to support their health and wellbeing.<sup>8</sup>

### **Current Population**

In 2023, the resident population of Gloucestershire was estimated at 659,276 people, of which:

- 21.9% were aged 0-19;
- 56.1% were aged 20-64;
- 22.1% were aged 65 and over.

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<sup>3</sup> Centre for Ageing Better, "Challenging ageism: A guide to talking about ageing and older age" <https://ageing-better.org.uk/resources/challenging-ageism-guide-talking-about-ageing-and-older-age> Accessed 02/12/2024

<sup>4</sup> Royal Society for Public Health, "That Age Old Question" <https://www.rsph.org.uk/our-work/policy/older-people/that-age-old-question.html> Accessed 22/12/2023

<sup>5</sup> nidirect: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/age-discrimination>

<sup>6</sup> World Health Organisation, Global Report on Ageing (2021) <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240016866> Accessed 02/12/2024

<sup>7</sup> House of Commons Women and Equalities Committee, [The rights of older people](#) Accessed 20/02/2025

<sup>8</sup> Royal Society for Public Health, "That Age Old Question"

Gloucestershire has a lower proportion of 0-19 year olds and 20-64 year olds and a higher proportion of people aged 65+ when compared to England. There is some variation at district level:

- at 23.8%, Gloucester has the highest proportion of children and young people (aged 0-19) and exceeds the county and national figures.
- Gloucester and Cheltenham have the highest proportions of people aged 20-64 (59.1% and 58.3% respectively), both exceeding the county and national figures.
- Cotswold, Forest of Dean, Stroud and Tewkesbury all have a higher proportion of people aged 65+ when compared to the county and national figures. At 27.0% Cotswold has the largest proportion of people aged 65 and over.

**Table 1: Gloucestershire population by broad age group, 2023<sup>9</sup>**

	Number of people	% of population		
		0-19	20-64	65+
Cheltenham	120,255	22.0	58.3	19.7
Cotswold	91,490	20.0	53.0	27.0
Forest of Dean	89,104	20.7	53.9	25.3
Gloucester	134,991	23.8	59.1	17.0
Stroud	124,540	21.3	55.1	23.6
Tewkesbury	98,896	22.4	55.2	22.4
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>659,276</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>56.1</b>	<b>22.1</b>
England	57,690,323	23.1	58.2	18.7

### Population change (2013-2023)<sup>10</sup>

Gloucestershire's population has increased by approximately 54,063 people or 8.9% since 2013. The percentage increase is higher than the increase experienced in both the South West (8.1%), and England (7.0%).

During this period the number of children and young people in Gloucestershire increased by 7,301 people or 5.3%; this compares with an increase in England in this age group of 4.2%. Gloucestershire's population of 20-64 year olds increased by 21,517 people or 6.2%; this was higher than the national increase of 5.5%. The greatest growth was in the 65+ age group which increased by 21.0% or 25,245 people; this growth was higher than the national percentage increase of 16.1%.

There is considerable variation at district level:

- All districts saw an increase in the 0-19 year age group. Tewkesbury had a faster growth rate in the children/young people age group (20.6%) compared with England (4.2%), as did Cotswold (4.6%), whilst the Forest of Dean experienced the smallest growth (1.3%).

<sup>9</sup> ONS Mid Year Estimates 2023, [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)

<sup>10</sup> ONS Mid Year Population Estimates 2023, and rebased Estimates 2013, [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk) accessed 23/09/2024

- Tewkesbury, Gloucester and Stroud all experienced a faster growth rate in the 20-64 year old age group (15.7%, 7.4%, and 6.9% respectively) than in England (5.5%), whilst Cheltenham experienced a decline in this age group (-0.1%).
- All districts saw an increase in the 65+ age group. Growth was highest in Cotswold (23.2%), followed by Tewkesbury (23.1%) and Stroud (23.0%). All districts saw a larger percentage increase than England (16.1%), apart from Cheltenham where the rate was slightly lower (15.8%).



**Table 2: Population change in Gloucestershire, 2013-2023<sup>11</sup>**

	0-19			20-64			65+		
	Number of people		% change	Number of people		% change	Number of people		% change
	2013	2023	2013 to 2023	2013	2023	2013 to 2023	2013	2023	2013 to 2023
Cheltenham	25,578	26,488	3.6	70,142	70,101	-0.1	20,444	23,666	15.8
Cotswold	17,539	18,341	4.6	46,429	48,478	4.4	20,018	24,671	23.2
Forest of Dean	18,245	18,479	1.3	45,934	48,056	4.6	18,493	22,569	22.0
Gloucester	31,307	32,193	2.8	74,289	79,816	7.4	19,351	22,982	18.8
Stroud	25,799	26,484	2.7	64,168	68,618	6.9	23,928	29,438	23.0
Tewkesbury	18,404	22,188	20.6	47,155	54,565	15.7	17,990	22,143	23.1
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>136,872</b>	<b>144,173</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>348,117</b>	<b>369,634</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>120,224</b>	<b>145,469</b>	<b>21.0</b>
England	12,814,993	13,347,407	4.2	31,819,292	33,559,829	5.5	9,284,401	10,783,087	16.1

**Future growth (2018-2043)**

The latest population projections are the ONS 2018-based interim projections. New population projections at local authority level are due to be released in 2025. Current projections suggest that, between 2018 and 2043, Gloucestershire's population will increase by 104,924 people or 16.6% to around 738,482. This compares to a projected national increase of 10.3%.

Gloucestershire's 65+ population is projected to experience the greatest growth, increasing by almost 70,900 people or 52.5% between 2018 and 2043. Gloucestershire's 0-19 year old population is also projected to increase, but at a slower rate of 7.6% or 10,800 people by 2043. The 20-64 year old population is projected to experience an increase of 6.5% or around 23,200 people.

<sup>11</sup> ONS Mid Year Population Estimates 2023, and rebased Estimates 2013

At district level:

- Tewkesbury is projected to see the greatest growth in 0-19 year olds (26.6%). Cheltenham and Gloucester are projected to see a decrease in this age group (-4.8% and -1.9% respectively).
- The 20-64 year old population is expected to increase in all districts except Cheltenham which is projected to see a decline of 2.8%. Tewkesbury is projected to experience the greatest increase at a rate of 21.1%.
- All districts are expected to experience an increase in the 65+ age group. The increase is projected to be highest in Cotswold (65.1%) and smallest in Cheltenham (45.5%).

**Table 3: Projected population change in Gloucestershire, 2018-2043<sup>12</sup>**

	0-19			20-64			65+		
	Number of people		% change	Number of people		% change	Number of people		% change
	2018	2043	2018 to 2043	2018	2043	2018 to 2043	2018	2043	2018 to 2043
Cheltenham	26,375	25,098	-4.8	68,196	66,271	-2.8	22,519	32,759	45.5
Cotswold	18,146	21,424	18.1	48,116	53,910	12.0	22,760	37,571	65.1
Forest of Dean	18,454	21,165	14.7	47,055	49,382	4.9	21,034	30,675	45.8
Gloucester	32,034	31,430	-1.9	75,681	78,369	3.6	21,570	32,958	52.8
Stroud	26,406	27,567	4.4	65,995	69,497	5.3	26,618	39,295	47.6
Tewkesbury	20,829	26,365	26.6	51,298	62,138	21.1	20,472	32,607	59.3
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	142,244	153,049	7.6	356,341	379,567	6.5	134,973	205,865	52.5
England	13,241,287	13,336,721	0.7	32,556,638	33,680,409	3.5	10,179,253	14,726,968	44.7

<sup>12</sup> ONS 2018-based Subnational Population Projections

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datasets/localauthoritiesinenglandtable2> Accessed 24/02/2023.

## Outcomes by age

Analysis of the 2021 Census shows that Gloucestershire residents aged 65 or over were more likely than those under 65 to:

- have a disability under the Equality Act;
- be in poor health;
- be living on their own;
- be without access to a car;
- be providing unpaid care of 50 hours or more a week;
- be living in a household without central heating;

People aged 50 or over were more likely than those under 50 to:

- be living on their own;
- be providing unpaid care;
- have no qualifications.

**Table 4: Outcomes by age in Gloucestershire 2021<sup>13</sup>**

	<b>Gloucestershire</b>		<b>England</b>	
	<b>65 or over</b>	<b>under 65</b>	<b>65 or over</b>	<b>under 65</b>
<b>Health and disability</b>				
% disabled under the Equality Act	31.7	12.7	35.2	13.3
% of people in bad or very bad health	9.8	2.9	12.6	3.5
<b>Isolation</b>				
% of people without access to a car or van	16.8	8.5	22.7	16.7
% of people living on their own	29.8	8.9	30.9	8.7
<b>Caring</b>				
% of people providing unpaid care of 50 hours or more a week	4.3	1.6	4.9	1.9
% of people providing unpaid care of 20-49 hours a week	5.6	3.0	6.5	3.7
<b>Housing</b>				
% of people living in a household without central heating	1.2	0.9	1.5	1.2
	<b>50 or over</b>	<b>under 50</b>	<b>50 or over</b>	<b>under 50</b>
<b>Isolation</b>				
% of people living on their own	23.0	6.1	23.6	6.0
<b>Caring</b>				
% of people providing unpaid care	12.4	4.8	13.1	5.4
	<b>50 or over</b>	<b>ages 16-49</b>	<b>50 or over</b>	<b>ages 16-49</b>
<b>Qualifications</b>				
% of people with no qualifications	21.7	8.2	27.0	10.3

<sup>13</sup> Census 2021, [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)

## What does this tell us?

- Gloucestershire has a lower proportion of 0-19 year olds and 20-64 year olds when compared to the national figure. In contrast the proportion of people aged 65+ exceeds the national figure.
- As is the case in many parts of the UK, the number of older people in the county has steadily increased over the last 10 years.
- Projections suggest trends in the ageing of the population will continue, with the number of people aged 65+ projected to increase by around 71,000 or 52.5% between 2018 and 2043.
- There are differences in outcomes between older and younger people in a number of areas including health, caring, risk of isolation and housing.
- Gloucestershire's ageing population will have financial and resource implications, as this is the age at which GCC adult care and other service support are most likely to be required. It will also have some benefits, as a result of the positive contribution many older people make to society - through providing unpaid care, involvement in civic organisations and other forms of volunteering.<sup>14</sup> People aged between 65 and 74 provide the highest level of formal volunteering across all age groups.<sup>15</sup>

## Disability

### Current population

Under the Equality Act (2010) a person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. This is consistent with the Census definition of a limiting long-term health problem.

The most common impairment type reported by disabled people in the UK was 'mobility' (48%), as published in the Family Resources Survey. Amongst children the most common was 'social/behavioural' impairment, working age adults reported both 'mental health', and 'mobility' was the most common issue for adults of state pension age.<sup>16</sup>

According to the 2021 Census 16.8% of Gloucestershire residents reported a disability under the Equality Act. 6.4% reported that their activities were limited 'a lot' and 10.4% reported their activities were limited 'a little'. The equivalent national figures for England were 17.3%, 7.3% and 10.0%. At a household level, 30.3% of households had at least one person with a long-term limiting health problem or disability; this was slightly lower than the figure for England of 32.0%.

Table 5 shows that the Forest of Dean and Gloucester had the highest proportion of residents reporting a disability under the Equality Act at 19.2% and 17.4% of the population respectively; both districts exceeded the county and national figures. Cotswold had the lowest proportion of residents reporting a disability at 15.4%. At ward level, Podsmead in Gloucester had the

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<sup>14</sup> Local Government Association [Ageing: the silver lining \(local.gov.uk\)](https://www.local.gov.uk/ageing-the-silver-lining)

<sup>15</sup> The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) [Demographics - Volunteering | UK Civil Society Almanac 2023 | NCVO](https://www.ncvo.org.uk/demographics-volunteering)

<sup>16</sup> Family Resources Survey 2022/23 [Family Resources Survey: financial year 2022 to 2023 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/family-resources-survey)

highest proportion (22.5%), followed by Cinderford West in the Forest of Dean (22.2%); The Rissingtons in Cotswold had the lowest proportion (11.5%) followed by Battledown in Cheltenham (11.6%).

**Table 5: Percentage of people disabled under the Equality Act, by broad age group, Gloucestershire, 2021<sup>17</sup>**

	% of age group				
	All ages	0-15	16-49	50-64	65+
Cheltenham	15.9	4.8	12.9	17.2	31.7
Cotswold	15.4	4.6	11.3	14.7	28.1
Forest of Dean	19.2	5.2	14.6	20.7	33.3
Gloucester	17.4	5.6	13.9	21.3	35.9
Stroud	16.9	5.2	13.3	17.1	31.3
Tewkesbury	16.0	5.5	12.1	17.0	30.2
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>31.7</b>
England	17.3	6.3	12.7	21.1	35.2

Dementia is one of the causes of disability in older people. Estimated projections suggest that in 2025 there will be approximately 11,249 people aged 65+ living with dementia in Gloucestershire. The proportion of people with dementia increases with age - people aged 65-69 account for 6.0% of dementia sufferers over 65 in Gloucestershire; this increases to 23.0% for the 80-84 age group. Given the ageing population, the number of dementia sufferers is likely to increase in the future.

**Table 6: Predicted number of people aged 65 and over with dementia, Gloucestershire, 2025<sup>18</sup>**

	Number of people with dementia by age group						
	Total	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90+
Cheltenham	2,001	103	171	342	421	469	495
Cotswold	1,975	113	192	372	465	434	401
Forest of Dean	1,634	106	174	328	386	358	283
Gloucester	1,804	114	171	319	409	378	413
Stroud	2,105	134	216	413	499	489	354
Tewkesbury	1,720	103	171	317	409	378	342
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>11,249</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>1088</b>	<b>2,090</b>	<b>2,588</b>	<b>2,487</b>	<b>2,322</b>
England	824,146	51,083	79,817	150,906	182,808	180,567	178,967

Note: Figures may not equal the sum of the districts due to rounding

Estimated projections suggest that in 2025 there will be approximately 12,477 people aged 18+ living with a learning disability in Gloucestershire (see Table 7) equating to 2.3% of the

<sup>17</sup> Census 2021, [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)

<sup>18</sup> Poppi, <http://www.poppi.org.uk/> Crown copyright 2020. Accessed 23/09/2024

adult population.<sup>19</sup> Of this group, about 2,535 are estimated to have moderate or severe learning disabilities, equating to 0.5% of the adult population<sup>20</sup>.

**Table 7: Predicted number of people with learning disabilities aged 18+, Gloucestershire, 2025<sup>21</sup>**

	Predicted number of people aged 18+ with a learning disability by age group, 2025								
	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+
Cheltenham	2,239	307	359	366	333	345	258	191	80
Cotswold	1,846	161	204	277	291	348	282	211	72
Forest of Dean	1,708	161	214	245	253	334	262	185	54
Gloucester	2,458	291	426	442	382	396	268	185	68
Stroud	2,316	191	294	363	397	439	329	229	74
Tewkesbury	1,901	148	284	343	300	330	253	181	62
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>12,477</b>	<b>1,262</b>	<b>1,780</b>	<b>2,036</b>	<b>1,958</b>	<b>2,193</b>	<b>1,654</b>	<b>1,183</b>	<b>411</b>
England	1,077,317	126,462	185,268	187,829	168,200	170,918	123,410	84,614	30,616

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding

With regards to children, in 2020, 5,190 school pupils in Gloucestershire (5.9% of school pupils) were known to have a learning disability. Of these children, 4,442 had a moderate learning disability and 612 had a severe learning disability.<sup>22</sup>

In 2023/24 Gloucestershire GPs recorded that 0.7% of their registered patients were known to have a learning disability;<sup>23</sup> this was higher than the England figure of 0.6%. In 2024, 1.4% of people aged 16+ who completed the GP patient survey in Gloucestershire, reported that they had a learning disability;<sup>24</sup> this was lower than the England figure of 1.8%. The discrepancy between the percentage of people reporting a learning disability and the percentage recorded by GPs may be due to under-reporting amongst GPs of people who have mild learning disabilities.

Evidence shows that people with learning disabilities have poorer health than the general population, much of which is avoidable, and that the impact of these health inequalities is serious; in 2022, 42% of deaths were rated as 'avoidable' for people with a learning disability - this compares to 22% for the general population.<sup>25</sup> Research from the 2022 Learning Disabilities Mortality Review (LeDeR) found that, on average, men with learning disabilities die 20 years younger than men in the general population, and women with learning disabilities die

<sup>19</sup> PANSI, <http://www.pansi.org.uk/index.php?pageNo=388&areaID=8260&loc=8260> Crown copyright 2020. Accessed 24/09/2024

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>21</sup> PANSI, <http://www.pansi.org.uk/index.php?pageNo=388&areaID=8260&loc=8260> Crown copyright 2020. Accessed 24/09/2024

<sup>22</sup> Learning Disability Profile: QOF Prevalence, NHS England <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/learning-disabilities> Accessed 22/02/2023

<sup>23</sup> National General Practice Profiles, OHID [Learning Disability Profiles - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care \(phe.org.uk\)](https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/learning-disabilities) Accessed 01/10/2024

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>25</sup> LeDer Report 2022 (p54) [Master LeDeR 2023 \(2022 report\) \(kcl.ac.uk\)](https://www.kcl.ac.uk/le-der-report-2022) Accessed 01/10/2024

on average 23 years younger than women in the general population.<sup>26</sup> In addition, the 2022 LeDeR Report found that the proportion of people with learning disabilities dying in hospital (59%) was higher than in the general population (45%).<sup>27</sup> These inequalities result to an extent from the barriers which people with learning disabilities face in accessing healthcare.

Vision and hearing impairments affect people from all sections of society and across all age groups. In 2024 an estimated 1.2% of the 16+ population in Gloucestershire reported blindness or partial sight. During the same period an estimated 6.2% of the population aged 16+ reported deafness or hearing loss.<sup>28</sup> People can become more likely to suffer from hearing and vision impairments as they get older; given the ageing population this means the number of people affected by these conditions is likely to increase in the future.

**Table 8: Visual and hearing impairments<sup>29</sup>**

	Gloucestershire			England		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
% reporting blindness or partial sight	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.4
% reporting deafness or hearing loss	6.2	6.7	6.2	5.9	6.0	5.8

### Outcomes by disability

The 2021 Census found that people in Gloucestershire reporting a disability under the Equality Act were more likely than people who were not disabled under the Equality Act to be providing unpaid care, to be living in a household without access to a car or van and to be living in social housing. Amongst people aged 25 or over, people with long-term limiting illnesses or disability were more likely than others to have never worked and to be in routine occupations and were less likely to be in managerial positions.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.* The median age at death when divided by sex in 2022 was 62.9 (IQR=53.0 to 72.8) for adult females and 62.9 (IQR=54.2 to 72.0) for adult males. This compares with 86.1 years for females and 82.6 years for males for the general population in England from 2018-2020, which is the latest data available. Note: the ONS data includes all ages whilst LeDeR data for 2022 only includes those over 18 years old

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.* (59% of people with a learning disability in 2018-2022 vs 45% of the general population in 2021)

<sup>28</sup> National General Practice Profiles (data from GP Patient Survey), OHID, [National General Practice Profiles - Data - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/england/national-general-practice-profiles/) Accessed 19/12/2024

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*

**Table 9: Outcomes by disability in Gloucestershire, 2021<sup>30</sup>**

	Gloucestershire		England	
	Disabled under Equality Act	Not disabled under Equality Act	Disabled under Equality Act	Not disabled under Equality Act
<b>Caring</b>				
% of people providing unpaid care	12.7	7.1	13.2	7.2
% of people providing unpaid care of 50 hours a week or more	4.5	1.7	5.1	1.9
<b>Isolation</b>				
% of people living in a household with no access to a car or van	21.8	8.0	29.2	15.4
<b>Employment</b>				
% of people aged 25 or over who have never worked or are long-term unemployed	12.7	4.2	17.1	6.5
% of people aged 25 or over in routine occupations	13.4	10.2	15.3	11.7
% of people aged 25 or over in higher managerial, administrative or professional occupations	10.2	17.5	8.3	16.4
<b>Housing</b>				
% of people living in social housing	23.1	11.3	28.2	14.3

**What does this tell us?**

- According to the 2021 Census, 16.8% of Gloucestershire residents reported having a disability under the Equality Act, this was below the national figure.
- As age increases the proportion of respondents reporting a limiting long term health problem increases.
- Given the ageing population the number of people with a limiting long term health problem is likely to increase in the future.
- There are differences in outcomes between people who are disabled under the Equality Act and people who are not in a number of areas including employment, housing, access to a car or van, and caring.

<sup>30</sup> Census 2021 [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)



## Sex

The sex of an individual, combined with additional factors such as living alone, may affect their health and social care needs. Individuals may also experience discrimination and inequalities because of their sex.

A report by the European Social Survey found 24% of respondents had experienced prejudice based on their sex. Discrimination on the grounds of sex was reported by more respondents than discrimination based on ethnicity.<sup>31</sup>

A recent report in 2023 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) states that gender bias is still persistent. The report states that nearly 9 out of 10 men and women worldwide show at least one clear bias against gender equality in areas such as politics, economic, education, intimate partner violence and women's reproductive rights.<sup>32</sup>

### Current population

The overall population split by sex in Gloucestershire is slightly skewed towards females, with males making up 48.9% of the population and females accounting for 51.1%. This situation is also reflected at district, regional and national level.

**Table 10: Population by sex, Gloucestershire 2023<sup>33</sup>**

	% of population	
	male	female
Cheltenham	49.1	50.9
Cotswold	48.1	51.9
Forest of Dean	49.0	51.0
Gloucester	49.6	50.4
Stroud	48.9	51.1
Tewkesbury	48.4	51.6
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>48.9</b>	<b>51.1</b>
England	49.0	51.0

Although there are slightly more males than females in the 0-19 year old age band, as age increases, females outnumber males by an increasing margin. In Gloucestershire in 2023, 52.8% of people aged 65-84 were female, whilst for people aged 85+ the difference was more marked with females accounting for 61.4% of the total population; this difference is observed at district, regional and national level. As a result of this, 67% of single pensioner households

<sup>31</sup> European Social Survey, Experiences and Expressions of Ageism: Topline Results UK from Round 4 of the European Social Survey (2012) [ESS4\\_gb\\_toplines\\_experiences\\_and\\_expressions\\_of\\_ageism.pdf](https://europeansocialsurvey.org/files/2012/ESS4_gb_toplines_experiences_and_expressions_of_ageism.pdf) ([europeansocialsurvey.org](https://europeansocialsurvey.org)) Accessed 19/12/2023.

<sup>32</sup> United Nations Development Programme, 2023 Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) [2023 Gender Social Norms Index \(GSNI\) | Human Development Reports](https://www.undp.org/publications/2023-gender-social-norms-index)

<sup>33</sup> ONS Mid Year Estimates 2023, [www.nomisweb.co.uk](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk)

are shown to be headed by a woman<sup>34</sup>. However, the proportion of men in the older population is increasing as the life expectancy of men increases; thus amongst the population aged 85 and over in Gloucestershire, the proportion of men increased from 33.4% in 2013 to 38.6% in 2023.

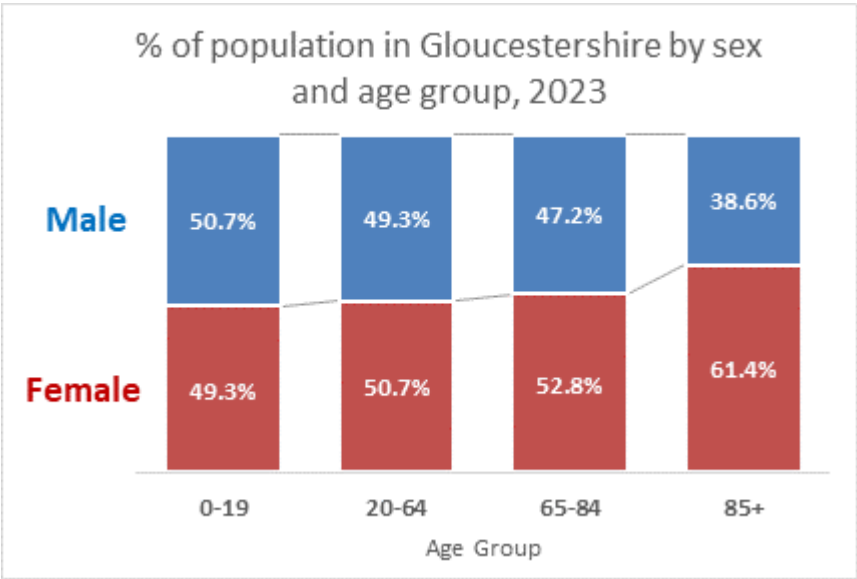


Figure 1 - Proportion of Gloucestershire residents by sex and age group, 2023<sup>35</sup>

<sup>34</sup> Census 2021, [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk). Persons aged 65 years and over living in one-person households.

<sup>35</sup> ONS Mid Year Estimates 2023, [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)

**Table 11: Population by sex and broad age group, Gloucestershire 2023<sup>36</sup>**

	0-19 years		20-64 years		65-84 years		85+ years	
	Male (%)	Female (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Cheltenham	49.7	50.3	50.2	49.8	46.5	53.5	36.5	63.5
Cotswold	50.0	50.0	48.3	51.7	47.1	52.9	39.7	60.3
Forest of Dean	49.9	50.1	49.6	50.4	48.2	51.8	39.1	60.9
Gloucester	51.3	48.7	50.0	50.0	47.2	52.8	37.9	62.1
Stroud	51.3	48.7	49.0	51.0	47.5	52.5	39.4	60.6
Tewkesbury	51.3	48.7	48.2	51.8	47.0	53.0	38.9	61.1
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>50.7</b>	<b>49.3</b>	<b>49.3</b>	<b>50.7</b>	<b>47.2</b>	<b>52.8</b>	<b>38.6</b>	<b>61.4</b>
England	51.3	48.7	49.1	50.9	47.1	52.9	38.1	61.9

## Outcomes by sex

Analysis of the 2021 Census shows that in Gloucestershire:

- Women were more likely than men to head lone parent households with dependent children. In Gloucestershire, 84.2% of such households were headed by a woman, a figure which was in line with the national figure.
- Women aged 65 and over were more likely than men to be living in a household without access to a car, and to be living in a single person household.
- Amongst people aged 50-64, women were more likely than men to be providing unpaid care. Amongst people aged 65 and over, there was no clear difference in the proportion of women and men providing unpaid care.
- Amongst people aged 16-24, males were more likely than females to have no qualifications. Amongst people aged 25-34, females were more likely than males to have a level 4 qualification (a degree or higher).
- Amongst people aged 25-64, men were more likely than women to be in higher managerial, administrative or professional qualifications.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*

Analysis of health data for Gloucestershire shows that:

- men have a shorter life expectancy than women.
- men had a similar healthy life expectancy to women in 2021-2023.
- the difference in life expectancy between men and women is greater in the most deprived decile of Gloucestershire compared with the least deprived decile.
- men have higher mortality rates than women from causes considered preventable.
- men have higher suicide rates than women.

**Table 12: Outcomes by sex in Gloucestershire**

	Gloucestershire		England	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
<b>Health<sup>37</sup></b>				
Life expectancy at birth 2021-2023 (years)	83.8	80.0	83.1	79.1
Life expectancy at birth in the most deprived decile of Gloucestershire, 2018-2020 (years)	78.3	73.5	78.3	73.5
Life expectancy at birth in the least deprived decile 2018-2020 (years)	86.3	83.2	86.3	83.2
Healthy life expectancy at birth, 2021-2023 (years)	63.6	63.7	61.9	61.5
Under 75 mortality rate from causes considered preventable 2021-2023 (per 100,00 population) <sup>38</sup>	90.3	184.7	113.9	216.3
Suicide rate, 2021-23 (per 100,000 population)	6.7	14.8	5.4	16.4
<b>Caring<sup>39</sup></b>				
% of people aged 50-64 providing unpaid care	18.0	11.6	18.7	12.3
% of people aged 65 and over providing unpaid care	10.0	9.9	10.4	10.6
<b>Isolation<sup>40</sup></b>				
% of people aged 65 and over living in a single person household	37.3	21.2	37.6	23.0
% of people living in a household with no access to a car or van	11.6	8.9	19.3	16.2
% of people aged 65 and over living in a household with no access to a car or van	22.1	10.8	28.3	16.2
% of lone parent households (single family)	84.2	15.8	86.3	13.7
<b>Education<sup>41</sup></b>				
% of people aged 16-24 with no qualifications	9.9	11.5	9.9	12.2
% of people aged 25-34 with level 4 qualifications	48.9	39.3	51.8	43.3
<b>Employment<sup>42</sup></b>				
% of people aged 25-64 in higher managerial, administrative and professional occupations	13.2	21.7	12.9	19.5

<sup>37</sup> Public Health Outcomes Framework, Public health England [Public Health Outcomes Framework - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](https://phe.org.uk) Accessed 03/01/2024

Life expectancy at birth: The average number of years a person would expect to live based on contemporary mortality rates.

Healthy life expectancy at birth: A measure of the average number of years a person would expect to live in good health based on contemporary mortality rates and prevalence of self-reported good health.

Mortality rate from causes considered preventable: Preventable mortality refers to causes of death that can be mainly avoided through effective public health and primary prevention interventions (that is, before the onset of diseases or injuries, to reduce incidence).

<sup>38</sup> OHID, based on Office for National Statistics data, [Mortality Profile | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care](#) Accessed 18/11/2024

<sup>39</sup> Census 2021

<sup>40</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*

## What does this tell us?

- The overall population split by sex in Gloucestershire is slightly skewed towards females, with males making up 48.9% of the population and females accounting for 51.1%.
- As age increases differences become more noticeable, with females outnumbering males by an increasing margin.
- These differences have resulted in the majority of single pensioner households being headed by a woman.
- Females are also more likely to head lone parent households with dependent children.
- There are differences by sex in the provision of unpaid care and access to a car/van.
- There are differences by sex in life expectancy, mortality from preventable causes, and suicide.

## Gender Reassignment

Gender reassignment is defined by the Equality Act 2010 as a person who is proposing to undergo, is undergoing or has undergone a process (or part of a process) for the purpose of reassigning their sex by changing physiological or other attributes of sex. This means an individual does not need to have undergone any treatment or surgery to be protected by law.

In September 2020, a significant Employment Tribunal ruling took place, where the rights of non-binary and gender fluid people were recognised and protected under the Equality Act 2010.<sup>43</sup> Until then, it hadn't been clear whether non-binary people were protected by anti-discrimination legislation. Stonewall states that the Employment Tribunal ruling was a milestone in recognising the rights of non-binary and gender fluid people to be protected from discrimination under the Equality Act 2010. Therefore, the Employment Tribunal judgement will be key in supporting future judicial decisions. The Tribunal held up the important principle that 'gender is a spectrum', broadening the scope of who could be covered by the Equality Act to those whose gender identities are 'complex', non-binary, or not the same as they were assigned at birth.<sup>44</sup>

Evidence shows that when transgender people reveal their gender variance, they are exposed to a risk of discrimination, bullying and hate crime.<sup>45</sup> Transgender people are more likely to report mental health conditions and to attempt suicide than the general population;<sup>46</sup> one study

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<sup>43</sup>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5fc8d559d3bf7f7f5c134ad3/Ms\\_R\\_Taylor\\_v\\_Jaguar\\_Land\\_Rover\\_Limited\\_-\\_1304471.2018\\_-\\_Reasons.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5fc8d559d3bf7f7f5c134ad3/Ms_R_Taylor_v_Jaguar_Land_Rover_Limited_-_1304471.2018_-_Reasons.pdf)

<sup>44</sup> Stonewall <https://www.stonewall.org.uk/about-us/news/statement-employment-tribunal-ruling-against-jaguar-land-rover>

<sup>45</sup> Stonewall, LGBT in Britain Trans Report [LGBT in Britain - Trans Report \(2018\) | Stonewall](#) Accessed 02/12/2024

<sup>46</sup> House of Commons Women and Equalities Committee, 2016, Transgender Equality . [www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmselect/cmwomeq/390/390.pdf](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmselect/cmwomeq/390/390.pdf) Accessed 19/12/2023

found that about half of young trans people and a third of trans adults attempt suicide.<sup>47</sup> Research has also found that transgender people encounter significant difficulties in accessing and using health and social care services due to staffs' lack of knowledge and understanding and sometimes prejudice. Stonewall's LGBT in Britain Trans Report found that two in five trans people (41 per cent) said healthcare staff lacked understanding of trans health needs in general healthcare settings.<sup>48</sup>

Stonewall's LGBT in Britain Trans Report also states that hate crime and discrimination against trans people is widespread throughout all aspects of life. Nationally, two in five trans people had experienced a hate crime or incident in the past 12 months. In addition, the report states that trans people often lack support from their families; more than a quarter have been subjected to domestic violence, and one in four have experienced homelessness at some point.<sup>49</sup>

### **Current population**

The Census 2021 has provided the first set of official data on gender identity in England and Wales. In the 2021 Census there was a new question around gender identity, asking 'is your gender the same as the sex you were registered at birth?'. The question referred to a person's sense of their own gender. It was directed only at people aged 16 and over, and answers were voluntary.

However, as of November 2024, the Census 2021 data on gender identity no longer hold the accredited official statistics designation and have been reclassified as official statistics in development.<sup>50</sup> ONS states:

There are some patterns in the data that are consistent with, but do not conclusively demonstrate, some respondents not interpreting the question as intended; given other sources of uncertainty, not least the impact of question non-response, we cannot say with certainty whether the census estimates are more likely to be an overestimate or an underestimate of the total number of trans people aged over 16 years in England and Wales.<sup>51</sup>

Census estimates on gender identity are, however, broadly consistent with the best available comparator of the GP Patient Survey and international comparators.

Overall, 94.8% of residents in Gloucestershire aged 16 and over answered the question. Of these, almost 2,200 people (0.4%) regarded their gender identity to be different from the sex registered at birth. This is slightly lower than the national average of 0.5%.

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<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

<sup>48</sup> Stonewall, LGBT in Britain Trans Report [lgbt\\_in\\_britain\\_-\\_trans\\_report\\_final.pdf \(stonewall.org.uk\)](https://www.stonewall.org.uk/resources/reports/lgbt-in-britain-trans-report-final.pdf) Accessed 02/12/2023

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> Office for Statistics Regulation, [Review of statistics on gender identity based on data collected as part of the 2021 England and Wales Census: Final report – Office for Statistics Regulation](#)

<sup>51</sup> ONS, [Quality of Census 2021 gender identity data - Office for National Statistics](#)

A total of approximately 28,000 people in Gloucestershire (5.2%) chose not to answer this voluntary question. Due to the sensitive nature of the question, it might be reasonable to assume that some transgender people felt reticent to provide an answer. The LGBT Foundation states that figures provided in the Census represent only a small proportion of all LGBTQ+ people, and that they hope that an increasing number of our communities feel confident to self-disclose in future Censuses. They also state that “unfortunately, there are a range of reasons why people won’t feel able to disclose their sexual orientation or gender identity. The historic and ongoing attitudes towards LGBTQ+ communities, particularly trans and non-binary people, will stop many from feeling safe to provide this information. Meanwhile, many LGBTQ+ people are living within households and environments where they are unable to be open about their gender identity, sexual orientation and trans identity. As such it will be years before we get an accurate picture, informed by figures from, and comparison with, future surveys.”<sup>52</sup>

The approximate figure of 2,200 transgender people in the county should therefore be regarded as the minimum number, but this could potentially be considerably higher.

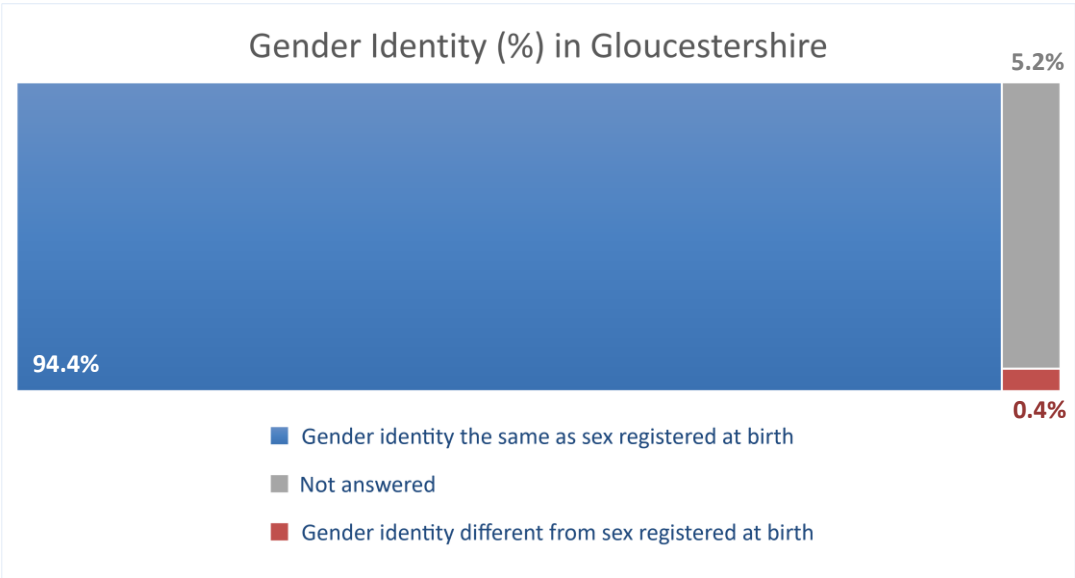


Figure 2 - Proportion of Gloucestershire residents aged 16 and over by broad gender identity, 2021<sup>53</sup>

The 2021 Census found that within Gloucestershire the most common gender identity other than ‘gender identity different from sex registered at birth’ was ‘no specific identity given’. Around 780 people (0.1%) fall within this category. The next most common identity was ‘trans woman’ (423 people, 0.1%), followed by ‘trans man’ (380 people, 0.1%), non-binary (355 people, 0.1%), and ‘all other gender identities’ (229 people, 0.0%).

<sup>52</sup> LGBT Foundation [LGBT Foundation cautiously welcomes the first snapshot of LGBTQ+ identities in the Census - LGBT Foundation](#)

<sup>53</sup> Census 2021



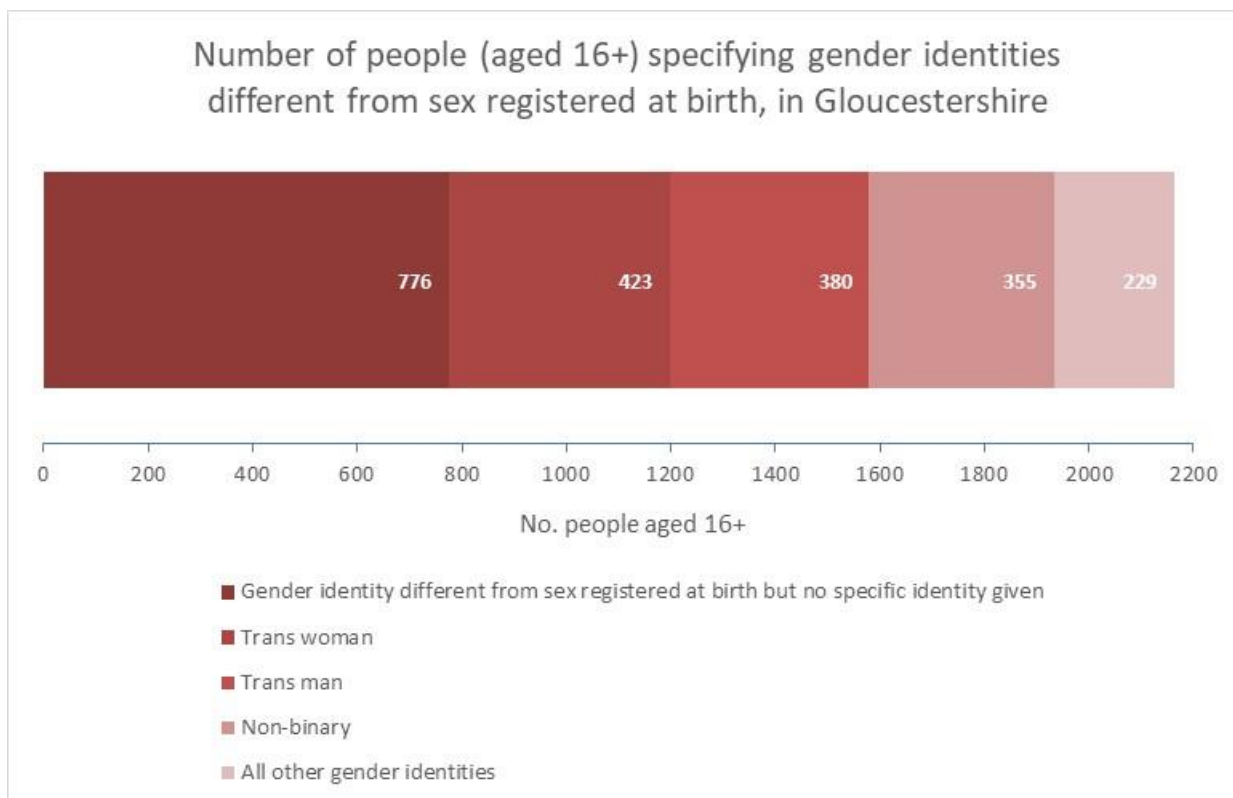


Figure 3 - Number of Gloucestershire residents aged 16 and over by gender identity, where different from sex registered at birth, 2021<sup>54</sup>

At district level:

- Gloucester has the highest number of people stating their gender identity is different from their sex registered at birth (600 people).
- Gloucester has the highest numbers of trans women and trans men in the county (114 and 107 people respectively).
- Cheltenham has the highest number of people identifying themselves within 'non-binary' and 'all other gender identities' (123 and 80 people respectively).
- Gloucester has the highest number of people with a 'gender identity different from sex registered at birth, but with no specific identity given'. Over 280 people (0.3%) identified with this gender identity. This exceeded both the county and national average of 0.1% and 0.2% respectively.

<sup>54</sup> *Ibid.*

**Table 13: Population aged 16 and over by gender identity, 2021<sup>55</sup>**

	Gender identity the same as sex registered at birth		Gender identity different from sex registered at birth but no specific identity given		Trans woman		Trans man		Non-binary		All other gender identities		Not answered	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Cheltenham	92,792	94.3	134	0.1	92	0.1	91	0.1	123	0.1	80	0.1	5,126	5.2
Cotswold	72,549	95.1	57	0.1	51	0.1	51	0.1	33	0.0	21	0.0	3,552	4.7
Forest of Dean	68,764	94.1	119	0.2	38	0.1	30	0.0	30	0.0	20	0.0	4,046	5.5
Gloucester	100,259	93.8	282	0.3	114	0.1	107	0.1	51	0.0	46	0.0	6,080	5.7
Stroud	94,647	94.5	115	0.1	71	0.1	60	0.1	89	0.1	41	0.0	5,176	5.2
Tewkesbury	73,431	94.9	69	0.1	60	0.1	42	0.1	29	0.0	21	0.0	3,702	4.8
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>502,440</b>	<b>94.4</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>27,682</b>	<b>5.2</b>
England	43,002,331	93.5	113,760	0.2	45,684	0.1	46,513	0.1	28,710	0.1	17,177	0.0	2,752,783	6.0

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding

### What does this tell us?

- The proportion of transgender people aged 16+ in Gloucestershire is slightly lower than the national average.
- Gloucester has a higher number of transgender people than the other districts in the county, most of whom identifying themselves as trans men or trans women.
- There are at least 2,200 transgender people in the county, but this could potentially be considerably higher.

<sup>55</sup> Census 2021

## Marriage and Civil Partnership

The Equality Act 2010 protects individuals who are in a civil partnership, or marriage, against discrimination.

Evidence suggests being married is associated with better mental health. There is less evidence on the benefits of being in a civil partnership; however, it is likely the benefits will also be experienced by people in similarly committed relationship such as civil partnerships.<sup>56</sup>

### Current population

Among residents of Gloucestershire aged 16 and over:

- 33.6% are single and have never married or registered a civil partnership
- 47.8% are married
- 0.2% are in a registered civil partnership
- 2.0% are separated but still legally married or still legally in a civil partnership
- 9.9% are divorced or formerly in a civil partnership which is now legally dissolved
- 6.5% are widowed or a surviving partner from a civil partnership<sup>57</sup>

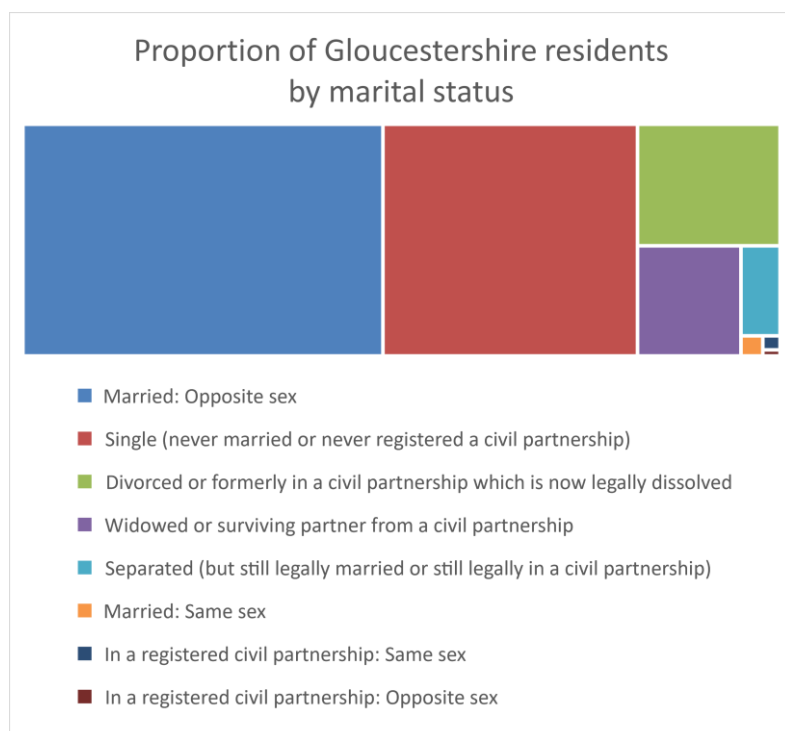


Figure 4 - Proportion of eligible Gloucestershire residents by marital status, 2021<sup>58</sup>

<sup>56</sup> Department of Health (2011), No Health Without Mental Health: A cross-Government mental health outcomes strategy for people of all ages - Analysis of the Impact on Equality (AIE)

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/213763/dh\\_123989.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/213763/dh_123989.pdf) Accessed 22/12/2023

<sup>57</sup> Census 2021 [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)

<sup>58</sup> *Ibid.*

Gloucestershire has a lower proportion of people who are single, in a same sex marriage, or are separated when compared to the national figure. In contrast the proportion of people who are married to a person of the opposite sex, are divorced, or are widowed exceeds the national figures.

At district level:

- Cheltenham has the highest proportion of single people (39.5%) and exceeds the county and national figures. In contrast 27.9% of people in Cotswold are single, which is below the county and national level.
- Cotswold has the highest proportion of residents who are married at 53.0%, which is higher than the county and national figures. The lowest proportion was recorded in Cheltenham. The proportion of same-sex marriages and civil partnerships is fairly consistent across all districts.
- Stroud has the highest proportion of people who are separated and divorced.
- Cotswold and Forest of Dean have the highest proportion of people who are widowed or a surviving partner of a civil partnership while Gloucester has the lowest. This reflects the age structure of these districts.

**Table 14: Marital status of eligible Gloucestershire residents, 2021<sup>59</sup>**

	% of eligible population									
	Single (never married or never registered a civil partnership)	Married: Opposite sex	Married: Same sex	Married: Total	In a registered civil partnership: Opposite sex	In a registered civil partnership: Same sex	In a registered civil partnership: Total	Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a civil partnership)	Divorced or formerly in a civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	Widowed or surviving partner from a civil partnership
Cheltenham	39.5	42.4	0.2	42.6	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.9	9.6	6.2
Cotswold	27.9	52.7	0.3	53.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	2.0	9.8	7.1
Forest of Dean	31.4	49.2	0.3	49.4	0.1	0.1	0.2	2.0	9.9	7.1
Gloucester	38.9	43.0	0.2	43.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	2.2	9.9	5.5
Stroud	30.9	49.8	0.3	50.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	2.1	10.1	6.7
Tewkesbury	30.2	50.9	0.2	51.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	1.9	10.0	6.7
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>47.6</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>47.8</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>6.5</b>
England	37.9	44.2	0.3	44.5	0.1	0.1	0.2	2.2	9.1	6.1

There is considerable variation in marital status between age groups. As you would expect, people aged 16-24 are the most likely to be single, while those aged 65+ are the most likely age group to be widowed or a surviving partner from a same sex civil partnership. The proportion of people that are married or divorced increases with age, until 65+ when it begins to fall, to take into account the increasing proportion of people who have lost a partner. These trends are not unique to Gloucestershire, but are reflected at a regional, national and district level (please see the dynamic report for more information).

<sup>59</sup> Census 2021, [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)

**Table 15: Marital status by age, Gloucestershire<sup>60</sup>**

	% of age group				
	16-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership)	98.9	70.5	30.4	15.2	5.4
Married or in a registered civil partnership	1.0	26.2	56.4	62.1	59.7
Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a civil partnership)	0.0	1.4	3.4	2.9	1.1
Divorced or civil partnership dissolved	0.0	1.8	9.2	17.2	12.0
Widowed or surviving civil partnership partner	0.0	0.1	0.5	2.6	21.7

**What does this tell us?**

- Around 48% of Gloucestershire's residents aged 16+ are married, this is higher than the national figure.
- The proportions of the population who are divorced, or widowed also exceed the national figures while the proportions of people who are single, or separated are below the national figures.
- There is considerable variation in marital status between the age groups, with those aged 16-24 most likely to be single, and people who are widowed or a surviving civil partnership partner are most likely to be in the 65+ age group. This may have an impact on the family support people have available to them and the level of support they require from elsewhere.

<sup>60</sup> Census 2021, [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)

# Pregnancy and Maternity

The Equality Act protects women who are pregnant, have given birth in the last 26 weeks (non-work context) or are on maternity leave (work context) against discrimination in relation to their pregnancy.

## Current picture

There were 5,839 live births in Gloucestershire in 2023. This represented a 0.1% increase on the previous year (increase of 5 live births); this differed from the national picture, where there was a decrease of 2.3% since 2022.

The highest proportion of deliveries was to women aged 30 to 34, continuing the trend of later motherhood. Births to mothers above the age of 30 account for a slightly higher proportion of total births in Gloucestershire than they do nationally, whilst those to mothers aged under 30 account for a lower proportion.

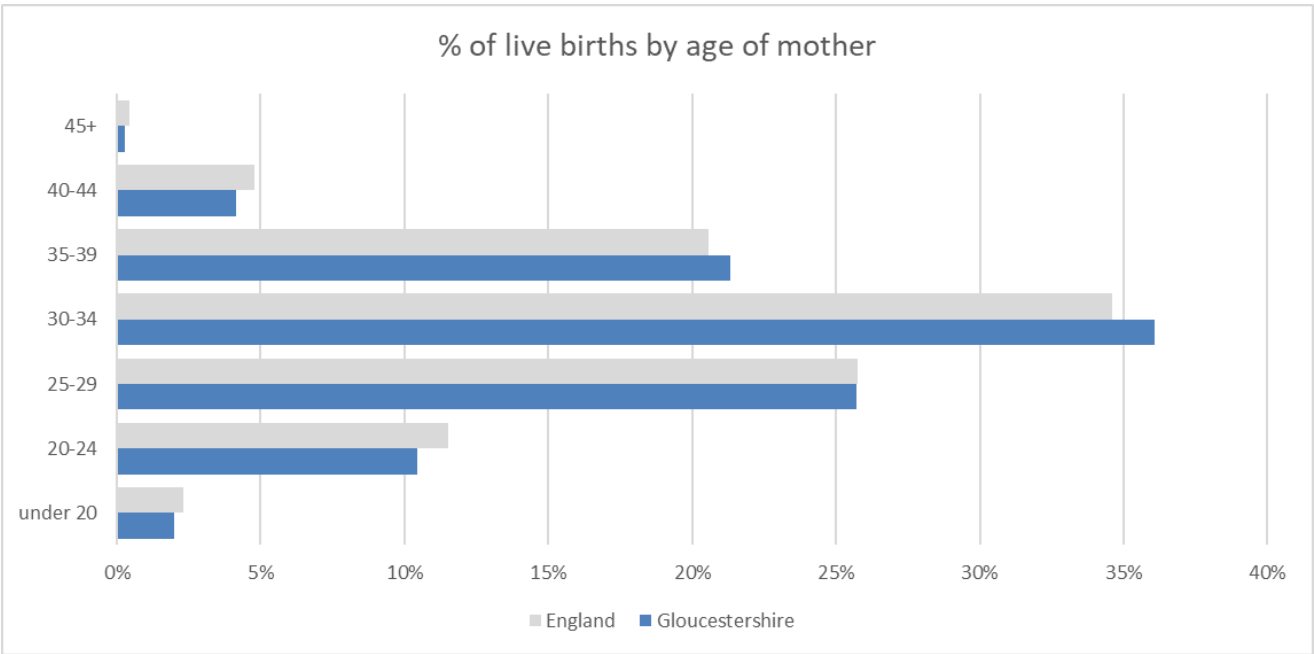


Figure 5 - Percentage of live births in Gloucestershire compared with England by age of mother, 2023<sup>61</sup>

At district level:

- Gloucester has the highest number of live births in Gloucestershire, accounting for nearly a quarter of the county’s live births (24.8%).
- Cotswold has seen the largest reduction in live births from the previous year, with a decrease of 6.8%. Tewkesbury saw the largest increase in live births since 2022, with an increase of 6.3%.

<sup>61</sup> ONS, [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)

- Cheltenham, Gloucester and Forest of Dean have a higher proportion of births to mothers aged under 20 (2.8%, 2.5% and 2.4% respectively) than Gloucestershire (2.0%) and England (2.3%).
- Cheltenham, Cotswold and Stroud all have a higher proportion of births to mothers aged 35+ than Gloucestershire and England.

**Table 16: Live births by age of mother, Gloucestershire, 2023<sup>62</sup>**

	Total number of live births	% of total births by age of mother						
		under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45+
Cheltenham	1,009	2.8	8.4	20.9	37.2	25.7	4.5	0.6
Cotswold	657	1.4	8.8	22.5	37.9	24.0	5.0	0.3
Forest of Dean	709	2.4	13.5	31.0	32.2	16.8	3.8	0.3
Gloucester	1,448	2.5	13.4	29.8	34.0	17.1	3.1	0.1
Stroud	1,015	1.1	7.3	23.3	37.4	25.6	5.0	0.3
Tewkesbury	1,001	1.6	10.4	25.6	38.2	20.1	4.0	0.2
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>5,839</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>25.7</b>	<b>36.1</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>0.3</b>
England	563,561	2.3	11.5	25.7	34.6	20.6	4.8	0.5

#### What does this tell us?

- Live births in Cheltenham, Cotswold and Forest of Dean have decreased from the previous year, reflecting the national picture. All other districts, and the county overall, saw an increase since 2022.
- The largest proportion of deliveries in Gloucestershire was among the 30-34 year old age group, continuing the trend of later motherhood.

<sup>62</sup> ONS, Live births in England and Wales down to local authority local area

[Births in England and Wales: summary tables - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/births-in-england-and-wales) Accessed 11/02/2025



## Race and Ethnicity<sup>63</sup>

### Current population

The Equality Act states that race includes colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins. The government refers to ethnicity, and not race; this is because surveys usually ask people for their ethnicity and not their race, and using consistent terms helps people to understand the data.<sup>64</sup>

The BLM movement (Black Lives Matter) protests in 2020, following the death of George Floyd, have publicly highlighted the ongoing struggles against racial discrimination and institutional racism. Locally, services should reflect on the need to better understand racism and to be proactively anti-racist.<sup>65</sup>

A report by the Equality and Human Rights Commission found that people from Black and Minority Ethnic groups continue to experience discrimination and inequality in education, employment, housing, pay and living standards, health, and the criminal justice system.<sup>66</sup>

The 2021 Census found that 10% of Gloucestershire residents (around 64,500 people) were born outside the UK compared with a national figure of 17.4%; of this group, 50.5% were born in another European country and 22.8% were born in the Middle East or Asia.

With regards to ethnicity, the 2021 Census found that:

- 87.7% of Gloucestershire residents were white people from an English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British background
- 2.9% were people from an Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh background
- 2.2% were people with a mixed or multiple ethnic background
- 1.2% were black people from a British, Welsh, Caribbean or African background
- 0.6% were white people from an Irish background
- 0.1% were white Gypsy and Irish Traveller people, 0.1% were white Roma people
- 4.5% were in the 'other white' group
- 0.7% were in another ethnic group.

The 2021 Census found that overall, 6.9% of the population in Gloucestershire were from an ethnic minority background (excluding white minorities). This was considerably lower than the national figure of 19.0%.

When including white minorities, the proportion of people in Gloucestershire from an ethnic minority rose to 12.3%. This was less than half of the national average of 26.5%.

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<sup>63</sup> ONS [Writing about ethnicity - GOV.UK \(ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ethnicity-facts-figures)

<sup>64</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>65</sup> Further reading: Race Equality Guide, British Council <https://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/guide-race-equality.pdf>

<sup>66</sup> Equality and Human Rights Commission (2016), Healing a divided Britain: the need for a comprehensive race equality strategy [Race Report 1j final.indd \(equalityhumanrights.com\)](#) Accessed 19/12/2023

At district level:

- Gloucester had the highest proportion of people from ethnic minority backgrounds (excluding white minorities), at 15.1% of its population. However, this is still considerably lower than the national figure.
- Cheltenham had a higher proportion than the county-wide figure of people from ethnic minority backgrounds (excluding white minorities), at 8.6%.
- Forest of Dean had the lowest proportion of people from ethnic minority backgrounds (excluding white minorities), at 2.5% of its total population.
- The proportion of people within the 'other white' ethnic group was higher in Cheltenham than Gloucestershire and England as a whole (7.0% compared with 4.5% for Gloucestershire and 6.3% for England).
- 41.5% of white Roma people lived in Gloucester City, and 37.3% of white Gypsy and Irish Traveller people lived in Tewkesbury borough.

At ward level:

- Barton and Tredworth ward in Gloucester was the most ethnically diverse ward with 47.4% of its population from ethnic minority backgrounds (excluding white minorities), and 14.5% from another white background other than the white English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British ethnic group.

**Table 17: Population by ethnic group, Gloucestershire 2021 (number of people)<sup>67</sup>**

	Aggregated Ethnic Groups		Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	Black, black British, black Welsh, Caribbean or African	Mixed or multiple ethnic group	White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British	White Minorities				Other ethnic group
	Ethnic minorities (excluding white minorities)	White					White: Irish	White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	White: Roma	White: Other white	
Cheltenham	<b>10,277</b>	<b>108,559</b>	4,922	1181	2,949	98,932	1,031	80	158	8,358	1,225
Cotswold	<b>3,320</b>	<b>87,510</b>	1195	402	1393	83,545	635	71	57	3,202	330
Forest of Dean	<b>2,135</b>	<b>84,869</b>	625	242	925	82,401	314	103	63	1,988	343
Gloucester	<b>19,953</b>	<b>112,461</b>	8,543	4,826	5,014	103,317	800	224	296	7,824	1,570
Stroud	<b>4,403</b>	<b>116,701</b>	1256	528	2,171	111,896	711	126	59	3,909	448
Tewkesbury	<b>4,676</b>	<b>90,206</b>	1924	595	1699	85,720	537	360	81	3,508	458
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>44,765</b>	<b>600,314</b>	<b>18,464</b>	<b>7,777</b>	<b>14,149</b>	<b>565,811</b>	<b>4,034</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>28,790</b>	<b>4,375</b>

<sup>67</sup> Census 2021

**Table 18: Population by ethnic group, Gloucestershire 2021 (% of population)**

	Aggregated Ethnic Groups		Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	Black, black British, black Welsh, Caribbean or African	Mixed or multiple ethnic group	White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British	White Minorities				Other ethnic group
	Ethnic minorities (excluding white minorities)	White					White: Irish	White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	White: Roma	White: Other white	
Cheltenham	8.6	91.4	4.1	1.0	2.5	83.3	0.9	0.1	0.1	7.0	1.0
Cotswold	3.7	96.3	1.3	0.4	1.5	92.0	0.7	0.1	0.1	3.5	0.4
Forest of Dean	2.5	97.5	0.7	0.3	1.1	94.7	0.4	0.1	0.1	2.3	0.4
Gloucester	15.1	84.9	6.5	3.6	3.8	78.0	0.6	0.2	0.2	5.9	1.2
Stroud	3.6	96.4	1.0	0.4	1.8	92.4	0.6	0.1	0.0	3.2	0.4
Tewkesbury	4.9	95.1	2.0	0.6	1.8	90.3	0.6	0.4	0.1	3.7	0.5
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>93.1</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>87.7</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>0.7</b>

Gloucestershire's 0-19 year old population is more diverse than other age groups. According to the 2021 Census around 11.8% of 0-19 year olds were from ethnic minority backgrounds (excluding white minorities) compared to 7.0% of 20-64 year olds and 1.8% of people aged 65+. This trend is reflected at a regional, national and district level (please see dynamic report for more information).

**Table 19: Population by ethnic group and age, Gloucestershire<sup>68</sup>**

	% of age group		
	0-19	20-64	65+
<b>Ethnic minorities (excluding white minorities)</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>1.8</b>
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	3.7	3.3	0.9
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	1.5	1.4	0.4
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	5.6	1.6	0.3
Other ethnic group	0.9	0.8	0.2
<b>White</b>	<b>88.2</b>	<b>93.0</b>	<b>98.2</b>
White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British	83.7	86.3	95.5
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0.2	0.1	0.1
White: Irish	0.2	0.6	1.0
White: Roma	0.1	0.1	0.0
White: Other White	3.9	5.8	1.5

### **Population change (2011-2021)**

The population of Gloucestershire has become increasingly diverse. The number of people from an ethnic minority background (excluding white minorities) increased by 63.8% between 2011 and 2021, from 4.6% to 6.9% of the population. The number of people from the 'other white' ethnic group has increased by over 50% during the same period, from 3.1% of the population in 2011 to 4.5% of the population in 2021. This trend is reflected at a regional, national and district level (please see dynamic report for more information).

<sup>68</sup> Census 2021

**Table 20: Population change 2011-2021, Gloucestershire<sup>69</sup>**

	2011	2021	% change 2011-2021
<b>Ethnic minorities (excluding white minorities)</b>	<b>27,337</b>	<b>44,765</b>	<b>63.8</b>
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	12,433	18,464	48.5
Black, black British, black Welsh, Caribbean or African	5,150	7,777	51.0
Mixed or multiple ethnic group	8,661	14,149	63.4
Other ethnic group	1,093	4,375	300.3
<b>White</b>	<b>569,647</b>	<b>600,314</b>	<b>5.4</b>
White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British	546,599	565,811	3.5
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	3,759	4,034	7.3
White: Irish	N/A	965	N/A
White: Roma	N/A	714	N/A
Other white	18,558	28,790	55.1

## Language

According to the 2021 Census, 27,000 people in Gloucestershire (4.3% of the population) did not speak English as their main language. Amongst this group, Polish was the most common language (6,703 people), followed by Romanian (2,796 people) and then Portuguese (1,144 people). An EU language other than Polish was the main language of 10,683 people. At district level, Gloucester had the highest proportion of people who did not speak English as their main language (8%) followed by Cheltenham (6.9%). Some 84% of people, whose main language was not English, could speak English well or very well. Older people were less likely than younger people to be proficient in English; 32.3% of people aged 50 and over who did not speak English as a main language were not proficient in English compared with 12.0% of people aged under 50 who did not speak English as a main language.

<sup>69</sup> Census 2011 and Census 2021

**Table 21: Main language and proficiency in English, Gloucestershire 2021<sup>70</sup>**

	Do not speak English as a main language		Not able to speak English or not able to speak English well	
	Number of people	% of population aged 3 or over	Number of people	% of population aged 3 or over
Cheltenham	7,966	6.9	1,095	0.9
Cotswold	1,972	2.2	175	0.2
Forest of Dean	1,566	1.8	376	0.5
Gloucester	10,259	8.0	1,989	1.5
Stroud	2,162	1.8	264	0.2
Tewkesbury	3,075	3.4	395	0.5
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>27,000</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4,294</b>	<b>0.7</b>

**Outcomes by ethnic group<sup>71</sup>**

A recent report by the Equality and Human Rights Commission found that people from Black and Minority Ethnic groups continue to experience discrimination and inequality in education, employment, housing, pay and living standards, health, and the criminal justice system. The 2021 Census showed differences in outcomes in a number of areas in Gloucestershire:

- amongst people aged 65 and over, people from Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African backgrounds were more likely than people from other ethnic backgrounds to be disabled under the Equality Act, or be in poor health;
- People living in households who are from Ethnic minorities (excluding white minorities) backgrounds were all more likely than people living in households from White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British, and White: Irish backgrounds to have fewer bedrooms than required;
- people from Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African, and Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups were more likely than other ethnic groups to live in social housing;
- people from White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British, and White: Irish backgrounds were less likely than other ethnic groups to be living in private rented housing or living rent free;
- people from all groups which were not White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British were more likely to be living in a household without access to a car or van;
- amongst people aged 25-34, people from White Irish, Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh, Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African, and Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups were more likely to have level 4 qualifications than people from White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British backgrounds, whilst people from White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller, Roma or Other White, or Other ethnic groups were less likely to have this level of qualification;

<sup>70</sup> Census 2021, Table TS029 – Proficiency in English

<sup>71</sup> Equality and Human Rights Commission (2016), Healing a divided Britain: the need for a comprehensive race equality strategy [Healing a divided Britain: the need for a comprehensive race equality strategy | EHRC \(equalityhumanrights.com\)](https://equalityhumanrights.com) Accessed 12/02/2025

- amongst people aged 16-24, people from White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British backgrounds were less likely to have no qualifications than people from all other ethnic groups.
- amongst people aged 25-49, people from White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British, and also White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller, Roma or Other White backgrounds were less likely to be unemployed than people from any other ethnic background;
- amongst people aged 25-49, those from White: Irish, and also Asian, Asian British or Asian backgrounds were more likely to be in higher managerial, administrative and professional occupations than people from a White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British background, whilst people from Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African, Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups, Other ethnic groups, and also White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller, Roma or Other White backgrounds were less likely to be in such occupations.



**Table 22: Outcomes by ethnic group, Gloucestershire 2021<sup>72</sup>**

	All	Aggregated Ethnic Groups		Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British	White Minorities		Other ethnic group
		Ethnic minorities (excluding white minorities)	White					White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller, Roma or Other White	White: Irish	
Health and disability										
% of people aged 65 and over with a long-term limiting illness or disability	31.7	32.8	31.7	30.7	38.3	32.6	31.7	30.4	32.1	30.8
% of people aged 65 and over in poor health	9.8	12.8	9.8	12.3	16.2	9.8	9.7	11.5	11.9	12.4
Housing										
% of people living in a household with fewer bedrooms than required	3.9	10.8	3.4	10.6	12.8	9.0	3.1	9.9	1.9	13.9
% of people living in social housing	13.3	17.4	13.0	6.9	30.2	24.5	13.1	11.2	10.4	15.3
% of people living in private rented housing or living rent free	17.1	28.6	16.3	26.5	32.3	24.7	14.6	46.5	18.2	43.6
Isolation										
% of people living in a household with no access to a car or van	10.3	15.7	9.9	12.2	22.7	15.1	9.6	13.8	14.2	19.7
Education										
% of people aged 16-24 with no qualifications	10.7	13.0	10.5	11.8	12.3	12.3	10.0	19.6	13.2	22.8
% of people aged 25-34 with level 4 qualifications or above	44.2	52.7	43.4	60.9	50.0	47.4	43.5	41.9	65.2	37.3
Employment										
% of people aged 25-49 who are unemployed	4.2	8.9	3.8	8.7	8.6	6.5	3.8	3.1	4.2	14.7
% of people aged 25- 49 in higher managerial, administrative and professional occupations	17.8	16.3	17.9	18.6	11.2	17.5	18.3	13.4	25.0	12.1

<sup>72</sup> Census 2021

**Table 23: Outcomes by ethnic group in England, 2021<sup>73</sup>**

	All	Aggregated Ethnic Groups		Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British	White Minorities		Other ethnic group
		Ethnic minorities (excluding white minorities)	White					White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller, Roma or Other White	White: Irish	
Health and disability										
% of people aged 65 and over with a long-term limiting illness or disability	35.2	35.3	35.2	34.7	36.4	35.9	35.3	31.7	35.8	35.4
% of people aged 65 and over in poor health	12.6	16.4	12.3	17.2	14.5	14.0	12.3	13.0	14.1	17.1
Housing										
% of people living in a household with fewer bedrooms than required	8.6	22.8	5.3	23.5	27.3	13.9	4.4	15.5	3.5	23.3
% of people living in social housing	16.6	23.0	15.1	12.8	43.9	26.2	15.5	10.8	14.2	23.0
% of people living in private rented housing or living rent free	20.9	28.3	19.1	26.1	27.6	28.0	16.1	53.2	19.2	39.7
Isolation										
% of people living in a household with no access to a car or van	17.8	24.4	16.2	18.4	34.7	25.8	15.0	28.3	25.5	29.2
Education										
% of people aged 16-24 with no qualifications	11.1	10.5	11.2	9.3	10.3	11.4	10.8	16.0	6.9	15.2
% of people aged 25-34 with level 4 qualifications or above	47.7	57.7	44.8	60.5	58.2	52.9	43.4	51.3	72.5	50.6
Employment										
% of people aged 25-49 who are unemployed	6.9	13.4	5.1	14.1	11.5	8.1	5.3	3.9	3.7	18.2
% of people aged 25- 49 in higher managerial, administrative and professional occupations	17.3	17.0	17.4	19.1	12.3	18.4	17.3	17.5	28.8	14.5

<sup>73</sup> Census 2021

## What does the data tell us?

- Gloucestershire is characterised by a comparatively small population of people from ethnic minority backgrounds (excluding white minorities). The 2021 census showed people from ethnic minority backgrounds (excluding white minorities) account for 6.9% of the population; this was much lower than the England figure of 19.0%.
- The population of Gloucestershire is however, becoming increasingly diverse. The population of people from ethnic minority backgrounds (excluding white minorities) increased by 63.8% between 2011 and 2021, from 4.6% to 6.9% of the population. The number of people from the other white ethnic group increased by 55.1% during the same period, from 3.1% of the population in 2011 to 4.5% of the population in 2021.
- Gloucestershire's 0-19 year old population is more diverse than other age groups, which may have implications for service delivery.
- There are differences in outcomes between ethnic groups in health/disability, housing, education and employment.

## Religion

### Current population

According to the 2021 Census, 49.2% of residents in Gloucestershire were Christian, making it the most common religion. This was followed by No religion which accounts for 41.4% of the total population.

Gloucestershire has a higher proportion of people who are Christian, have no religion, or didn't specify any religion compared with national figures. In contrast it has a lower proportion of people who follow a religion other than Christianity, which reflects the ethnic composition of the county.

At district level:

- Cheltenham had the lowest proportion of people who are Christian at 45.5% of the total population. This was lower than the county and marginally lower than the national figure.
- Cotswold had the highest proportion of people who follow Christianity.
- Cheltenham had the highest proportion of Buddhists and people who have no religion.
- Gloucester had the highest proportion of Muslims, at 4.7% of its population.
- Stroud had the highest proportion of people who follow an 'Other Religion' and of people who did not state their religion.

**Table 24: Religion in Gloucestershire 2021<sup>74</sup>**

	% of population								
	Christian	Buddhist	Hindu	Jewish	Muslim	Sikh	Other Religion	No Religion	Religion not stated
Cheltenham	45.5	0.5	1.0	0.2	1.5	0.2	0.5	44.4	6.3
Cotswold	55.7	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.5	36.7	6.0
Forest of Dean	50.5	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.6	41.6	6.4
Gloucester	47.7	0.3	1.0	0.0	4.7	0.2	0.5	39.7	6.0
Stroud	47.5	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.7	44.1	6.5
Tewkesbury	51.0	0.4	0.7	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.4	40.8	6.0
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>41.4</b>	<b>6.2</b>
England	46.3	0.5	1.8	0.5	6.7	0.9	0.6	36.7	6.0

**Table 25: Religion by age, Gloucestershire<sup>75</sup>**

	% of age group		
	0-19	20-64	65+
Christian	37.0	44.3	74.4
Buddhist	0.2	0.5	0.2
Hindu	0.7	0.7	0.3
Jewish	0.1	0.1	0.1
Muslim	2.4	1.5	0.4
Sikh	0.2	0.1	0.0
Other religion	0.3	0.7	0.3
No religion	51.8	46.1	18.7
Religion not stated	7.5	6.0	5.5

<sup>74</sup> Census 2021

<sup>75</sup> *Ibid.*

## Population change (2011-2021)

Between 2011 and 2021 the number of Christians in the county declined by 16.2%. This was accompanied by an increase in all religions, with the greatest percentage increases being seen in the number of Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims, and people following no religion. This trend was also reflected at a regional, national and district level (please see dynamic report for more information). There are many factors that may be contributing to the changing religious composition shown in the census, including differing patterns of ageing, fertility, mortality, and migration. Changes may also be caused by differences in the way individuals chose to answer the religion question between censuses.<sup>76</sup>

**Table 26: Change in religion 2011-2021, Gloucestershire<sup>77</sup>**

	Number of people		% change
	2011	2021	2011- 2021
Christian	379,144	317,610	-16.2
Buddhist	1,772	2,383	34.5
Hindu	2,222	3,777	70.0
Jewish	539	688	27.6
Muslim	5,741	9,347	62.8
Sikh	449	761	69.5
Other religion	2,940	3,511	19.4
No religion	159,496	266,959	67.4
Religion not stated	44,681	40,042	-10.4

### What does the data tell us?

- The most reported religion in Gloucestershire is Christianity, accounting for 49.2% of the total population, which is higher than the national figure.
- Those aged 0-19 are less likely to be Christian or Muslim than the older population and are more likely to report no religion.
- The number of Christians in the county has declined since 2001, reflecting the national trend.

<sup>76</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>77</sup> Census 2011 and Census 2021

## Sexual Orientation

The 'protected characteristic' of sexual orientation refers to those individuals who are attracted to those of the opposite sex, the same sex, or either sex. There is a substantial body of evidence demonstrating that lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people experience discrimination and marginalisation in their daily lives including in health care, social care, housing, education, at work, and in public. As a result, they may experience specific health inequalities.<sup>78</sup>

Although attitudes towards gay people are improving, most lesbian, gay and bisexual people have experienced difficulties in their lives. Being LGB does not cause mental health problems, however experiences of discrimination and harassment in day-to-day life, rejection from one's family and friends and being subjected to hate crimes and incidents can have a negative impact on mental well-being.<sup>79</sup> As a consequence, people who are lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) are more likely to have experienced depression or anxiety, attempted suicide or had suicidal thoughts and self-harmed than men and women in general.<sup>80</sup>

Research shows that older LGB(T) people are especially vulnerable to loneliness as they are more likely to be single, live alone, and have lower levels of contact with relatives. They are also less likely to engage with local services, with recent findings showing that over four fifths of older LGB(T) people do not trust professionals to understand their culture or lifestyle.<sup>81</sup> The Office for National Statistics report that LGB people report a lower quality of life than the UK average across all their measures of quality of life.<sup>82</sup>

In 2017 the government launched a National LGBT Survey about the experiences of LGBT people in the UK – the largest national LGBT survey to date.<sup>83</sup> Although many responses were positive, there were more than 2 in 5 who said they had been victim of verbal abuse or physical violence during the preceding year. In addition, more than 9 out of 10 serious incidents were not reported as respondents felt 'it happens all the time'. Fear of crime and of negative reactions from other people was also a reported issue, with more than two thirds of respondents stating they have avoided holding hands with their (same sex) partners for this reason.

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<sup>78</sup> OHID (2013) The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Public Health Outcomes Framework Companion Document; <https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/LGBT%20Public%20Health%20Outcomes%20Framework%20Companion%20Doc.pdf> Accessed 02/12/2024

National Institute of Economic and Social Research (2016), Inequality among lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender groups in the UK: a review of evidence [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/539682/160719\\_REPORT\\_LGBT\\_evidence\\_review\\_NIESR\\_FINALPDF.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/539682/160719_REPORT_LGBT_evidence_review_NIESR_FINALPDF.pdf) Accessed 02/12/2024

<sup>79</sup> [LGBT in Britain - Health \(2018\) | Stonewall](#)

<sup>80</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>81</sup> Age UK: Findings from the Sage programme in Leeds [Combating loneliness amongst older LGBT people | Age UK](#)

<sup>82</sup> ONS [Lesbian, gay, and bisexual people say they experience a lower quality of life - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>83</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-lgbt-survey-summary-report/national-lgbt-survey-summary-report#the-results>

## Current population

As with gender identity, the Census 2021 has provided the first set of official data on sexual orientation in England and Wales. In the 2021 Census there was a new question around sexual orientation, asking 'which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?', and providing a list of options. It was directed only at people aged 16 and over, and answers were voluntary. Overall, 93.2% of residents in Gloucestershire aged 16 and over answered the question. The majority of people who answered described their sexual orientation as 'straight or heterosexual', at 90.4% of the population. This is slightly higher than the national average of 89.4%.

There were almost 15,000 people (2.8%) who described their sexual orientation as being in one of the LGB+ categories. This is lower than the national average of 3.2%.

A total of almost 36,200 people chose not to answer this voluntary question, which is more than double the total number of LGB+ people who did choose to respond. Due to the sensitive nature of the question, it might be reasonable to assume that some LGB+ people felt reticent to provide an answer.<sup>84</sup> The approximate figure of 15,000 LGB+ people should be regarded as the minimum number in the county, but this could potentially be considerably higher.

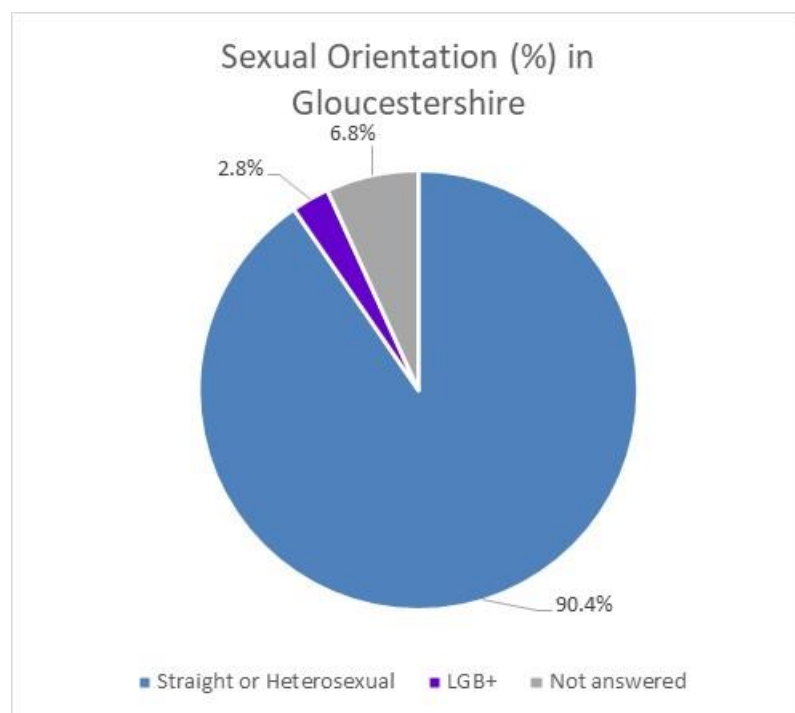


Figure 6 - Proportion of Gloucestershire residents aged 16 and over by broad sexual orientation category, 2021<sup>85</sup>

<sup>84</sup> LGBT Foundation [LGBT Foundation - LGBT Foundation cautiously welcomes the first snapshot of LGBTQ+ identities in the Census.](#)

<sup>85</sup> Census 2021

The 2021 Census found that within Gloucestershire the most common LGB+ sexual orientation was 'gay or lesbian'. More than 6,800 people (1.3%) described their sexual orientation as this. The next most common LGB+ sexual orientation was 'bisexual', with more than 6,400 people (1.2%). All other LGB+ sexual orientations accounted for almost 1,700 residents in Gloucestershire (0.3%). This figure included 'pansexual', 'asexual', 'queer', and 'all other sexual orientations'.

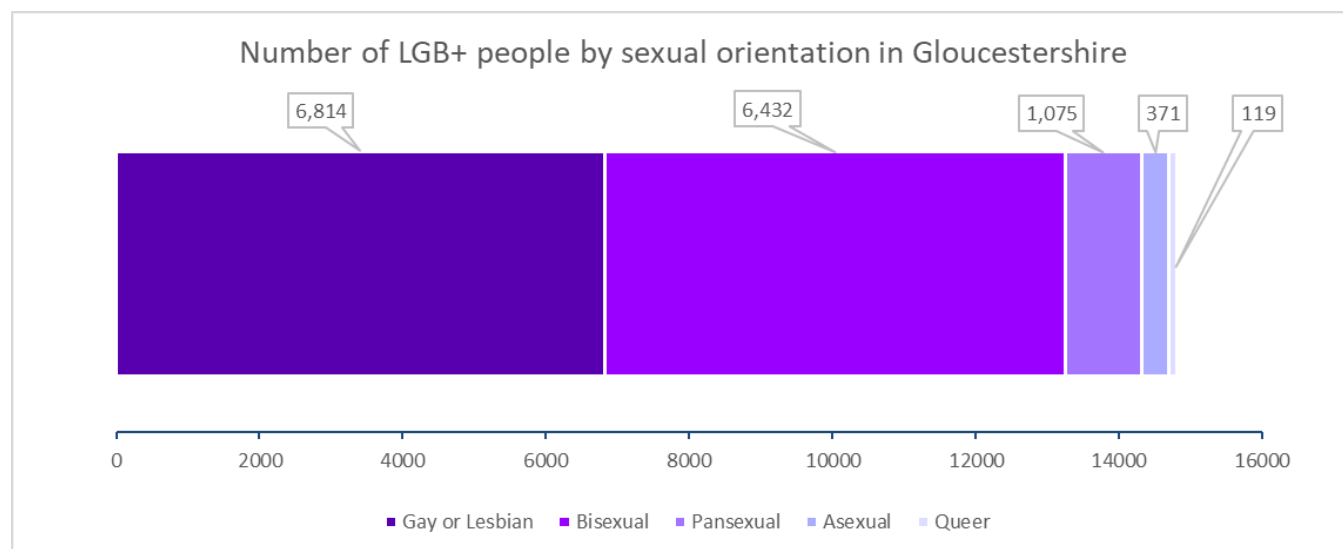


Figure 7 - Number of Gloucestershire LGB+ residents aged 16 and over by sexual orientation, 2021<sup>86</sup>

At district level:

- Cheltenham has the largest proportion of residents describing their sexual orientation as being LGB+ at 3.9%. This exceeds both the county and national average of 2.8% and 3.2% respectively.
- Cheltenham also has the largest proportion of people in the county who describe their sexual orientation as 'gay or lesbian', at 1.6%. This exceeds the county and national average of 1.3% and 1.5% respectively. By contrast, Forest of Dean has the smallest proportion, at 1.0%.
- Cheltenham and Gloucester have the highest proportion of people describing their sexual orientation as 'bisexual', at 1.8% and 1.4% respectively. Both exceed the county and national average of 1.2% and 1.3% respectively.

<sup>86</sup> *Ibid.*



**Table 27: Gloucestershire Residents aged 16+ by Sexual Orientation, 2021<sup>87</sup>**

	Straight or Heterosexual		Gay or Lesbian		Bisexual		All other sexual orientations		Not answered	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Cheltenham	87,790	89.2	1,581	1.6	1,812	1.8	443	0.5	6,810	6.9
Cotswold	69,820	91.5	876	1.1	649	0.9	143	0.2	4,826	6.3
Forest of Dean	66,188	90.6	747	1.0	705	1.0	210	0.3	5,197	7.1
Gloucester	96,058	89.8	1,487	1.4	1,450	1.4	378	0.4	7,564	7.1
Stroud	90,493	90.3	1,246	1.2	1,153	1.2	315	0.3	6,989	7.0
Tewkesbury	70,842	91.6	875	1.1	663	0.9	170	0.2	4,802	6.2
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>481,191</b>	<b>90.4</b>	<b>6,814</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>6,432</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1,660</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>36,188</b>	<b>6.8</b>
England	41,114,478	89.4	709,704	1.5	591,690	1.3	158,357	0.4	3,432,728	7.5

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding

### What does this tell us?

- The proportion of LGB+ residents aged 16 and over in Gloucestershire (2.8%) is lower than the national average (3.2%).
- The most common LGB+ sexual orientation in Gloucestershire in 2021 was 'gay or lesbian', accounting for more than 6,800 people (1.3%).
- Cheltenham has the largest proportion of residents describing their sexual orientation as being LGB+ at 3.9%. This exceeds both the county and national average of 2.8% and 3.2% respectively.
- There are at least 15,000 LGB+ people in the county, but this could potentially be considerably higher.

<sup>87</sup> Census 2021

## **Section Three**

### **Cross Cutting Themes**

#### **Hate Crime in Gloucestershire<sup>88</sup>**

A common theme relating to many of the nine protected characteristics is the increased likelihood of being a victim of crime. Although the Equality Act (2010) relates to nine protected characteristics (age, sex, disability, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, civil partnership and marriage), Home Office reported hate crime has five monitored strands. These are race, religion/faith, sexual orientation, disability, and gender identity. Crimes based on hostility to age, gender, or appearance, for example, can also be hate crimes, although they are not part of the five centrally monitored strands.<sup>89</sup> Hate crime is defined as ‘Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice, based on a person's disability or perceived disability; race or perceived race; or religion or perceived religion; or sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation or transgender identity or perceived transgender identity.’<sup>90</sup>

According to the Home Office Official Statistics ending March 2024, police recorded hate crime in England and Wales decreased to 140,561 offences reported in 2023/24, a decrease of 5% from the previous year ending March 2023 (147,645 offences). The bulletin states that the upward trend in hate crime up to March 2022 was thought to have been mainly driven by improvements in crime recording by the police and better identification of what constitutes a hate crime; however, there have been rises in hate crime following certain events such as the EU Referendum in June 2016, the terrorist attacks in 2017, and following the widespread Black Lives Matter protests and far-right counter-protests during the summer of 2020; the spike in religious hate crime over the last year was driven by a rise in offences against Jewish people, as well as, to a lesser extent, Muslims, since the start of the Israel-Hamas conflict.<sup>91</sup>

In Gloucestershire in 2023/24 there were 1,355 hate crimes reported – a decrease of 12.3% reported in the previous year. Race-related hate crime was the most reported strand of hate crime, amounting to 64.9% (880 cases) of all reported hate crime in the county. This strand of hate crime has seen a decrease of 7.5% (71 cases) from the previous year. Religion was the only hate crime which saw an increase on the previous year, rising from 61 to 89 reported cases in 2023/24.

Between 2013/14 and 2022/23 the number of recorded offences has been generally increasing each year across most of the five monitored hate crime strands; however total recorded hate crime has decreased in 2023/24 compared with the previous year. Disability related hate crime has seen the largest proportional increase in Gloucestershire since 2013/14, rising from 6 to 123 reported cases in 2023/24, an increase of 117.

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<sup>88</sup> Gloucestershire Community Safety Strategic Needs Assessment, April 2018  
[overview.pdf \(gloucestershire.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>89</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/an-overview-of-hate-crime-in-england-and-wales>

<sup>90</sup> Crown Prosecution Service, [Hate crime | The Crown Prosecution Service \(cps.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>91</sup> [Hate crime, England and Wales, year ending March 2024 - GOV.UK](#)

Since 2013/14, the police have improved their identification of what constitutes a hate crime, and their crime recording practices; the general increase in reporting may be linked to greater confidence in the police and other responsible authorities, as hate crime is frequently underreported. The more hate crime is reported, the more agencies will understand the scale of the problem and how to support the victim.

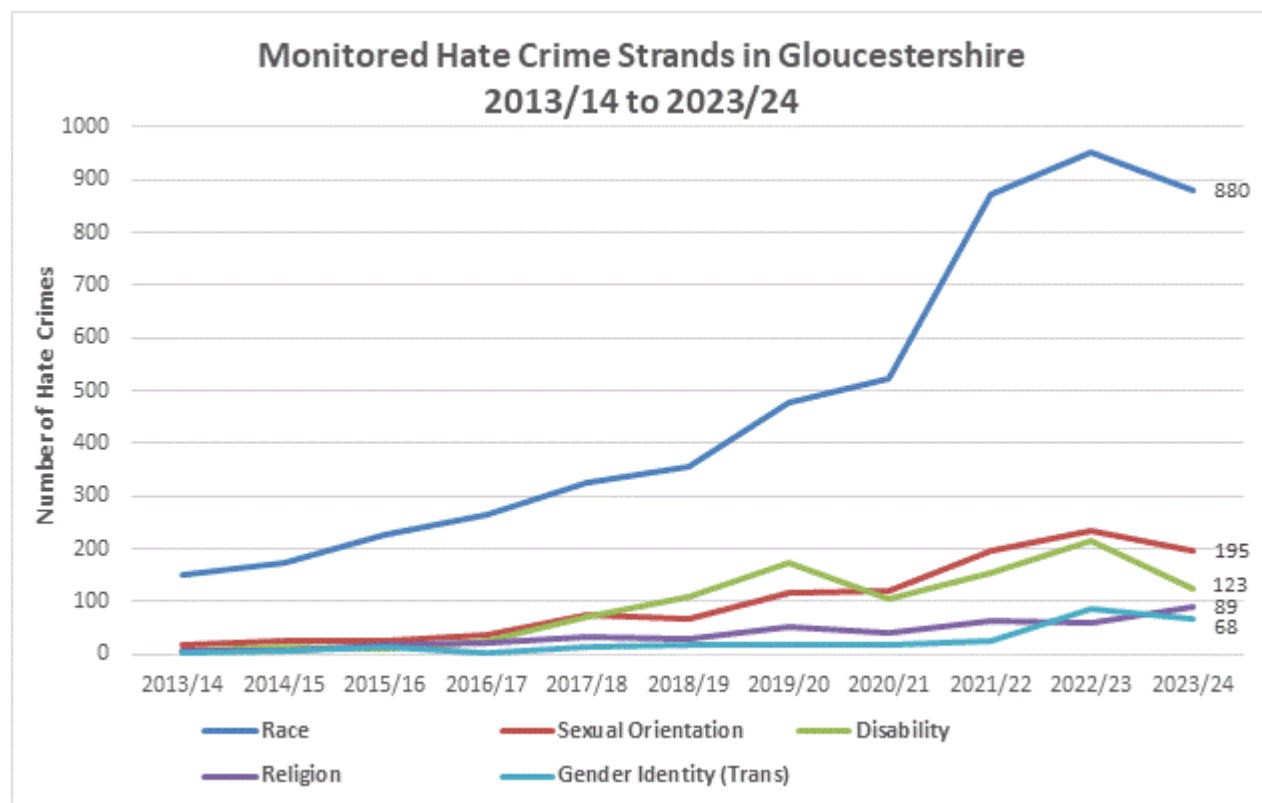


Figure 8 - Monitored Hate Crime Strands in Gloucestershire, 2013/14 to 2023/24<sup>92</sup>

### Additional Hate Crime Strands Monitored by Gloucestershire Constabulary

In addition to monitoring and reporting on the five hate crime strands, Gloucestershire Constabulary also flags and monitors additional hate crimes such as Age, Sex, Alternative Subcultures and Homelessness.

Figure 9 provides a breakdown of all hate crimes monitored by Gloucestershire Constabulary.

Of the additional hate crimes monitored, hate crimes based on the sex of the victim accounted for the greatest number, totalling 54. However, there has been a decrease of 40% from the previous year when 90 were reported.

Age-related hate crimes totalled 25 in 2023/24, and reported crimes have decreased by around 84% since its highest recorded level in Gloucestershire in 2019/20 when there were 157. Data

<sup>92</sup> Gloucestershire Constabulary data

suggests almost two thirds of victims of reported age-related hate crimes in 2023/24 were aged 65 and over. Around one third was aged 80 and over.<sup>93</sup>

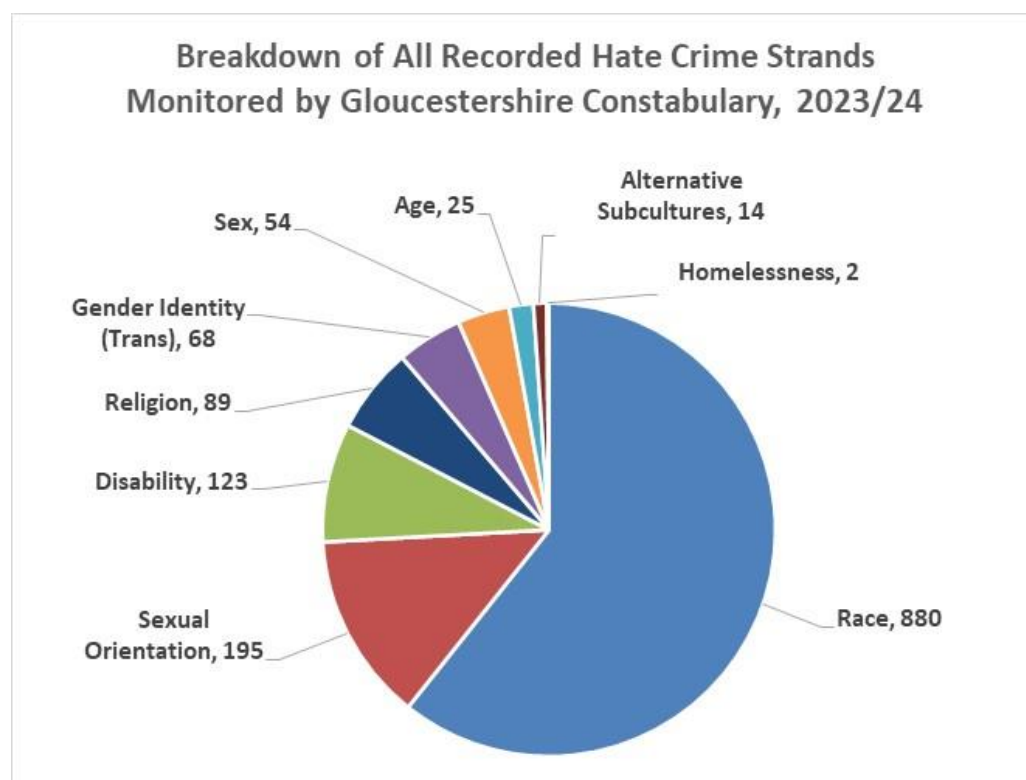


Figure 9 - Breakdown of All Recorded Hate Crimes Monitored by Gloucestershire Constabulary in Gloucestershire, 2023/24<sup>94</sup>

### What does this tell us?

- Although there has been an increasing trend in total recorded hate crime, the last year has seen an overall decrease in both the county and national totals.
- Religion is the only hate crime strand to show increase on the previous year, both county-wide and nationally.
- Race related hate crime is the most reported strand of hate crime in Gloucestershire, by a large margin.

<sup>93</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>94</sup> *Ibid.*

## **Section Four**

### **Additional Groups**

Gloucestershire County Council has begun to consider additional groups beyond the nine protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010, when carrying out Equality Impact Assessments (EqIA).<sup>95</sup> This type of change has already been made by some other local authorities and parts of the NHS. It is anticipated that including additional groups will help to ensure a wider range of equality issues or opportunities are identified and understood through the equality assessment process. As a result, it is more likely that policies, services and other developments are designed, developed and implemented in a way that prevents unfair treatment and promotes a more fair and equal society.

The additional groups now considered include:

- Armed Forces Community
- Carers
- Care leavers
- Digital Exclusion
- Geography (rural/urban areas)
- Socio-economic disadvantage

This section of the report will provide information about each of these groups.

### **Armed Forces Community**

The armed forces community includes:

- those serving in HM Armed Forces or Armed Forces Reserves
- ex-servicemen and women (veterans)
- the dependents of serving and ex-service personnel (e.g. spouses, civil partners and children)
- the bereaved; the immediate family of service personnel and ex-service personnel who have died, whether or not that death has any connection with service

Local authorities, national government, businesses, local authorities, charities and the public have committed to support the Armed Forces community through the Armed Forces Covenant.<sup>96</sup> It was adopted in 2011 and articulated the principles of no disadvantage and special consideration; that no current or former member of the armed forces, or their families, should be at a disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services.

This was followed by the Armed Forces Act 2021 introduced a new requirement for some public bodies, including the NHS and local authorities, to pay due regard to the principles of the

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<sup>95</sup> [Equality impact assessment \(EqIA\) | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

<sup>96</sup> [The Armed Forces Covenant | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Covenant when carrying out specific public functions in the areas of housing, healthcare and education.

## Current population

The information captured relates to armed forces veterans rather than current personnel and was captured by the 2021 Census.

In 2021 there were 27,418 people who had previously served in the UK armed forces resident in Gloucestershire. This equates to 5.2% of the 16+ population. This is just over 1 in 20 people aged 16 years and over in Gloucestershire. The proportion of armed forces veterans was higher in Gloucestershire than it was across England (3.8%).

All districts in Gloucestershire had a higher proportion of armed forces veterans than the national average. Cheltenham had the lowest proportion of armed forces veterans at 4.5%, while Tewkesbury had the highest proportion at 6.2% of the 16+ population.

Gloucestershire and its districts had a higher proportion of residents who had served in UK regular armed forces than England. The proportion of Gloucestershire residents who had served in the UK reserve armed forces or both the regular and reserve armed forces was in line with the national average.

**Table 28: Gloucestershire Residents aged 16+ by UK armed forces status (%), 2021<sup>97</sup>**

	Previously served in UK regular armed forces	Previously served in UK reserve armed forces	Previously served in both regular and reserve UK armed forces	Previously served in regular or reserved UK armed forces
Cheltenham	3.4	0.8	0.2	4.5
Cotswold	4.6	0.9	0.3	5.7
Forest of Dean	4.3	0.8	0.2	5.4
Gloucester	3.8	0.7	0.2	4.8
Stroud	3.7	0.9	0.2	4.8
Tewkesbury	5.1	0.8	0.3	6.2
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>5.2</b>
England	2.9	0.7	0.2	3.8

9.2% of households (25,598) in Gloucestershire included one or more UK armed forces veterans. This was higher than the national average of 7.0%. At district level Tewkesbury had the highest proportion of households where at least one person had served in the armed forces at 10.8%.

<sup>97</sup> 2021 Census, ONS

**Table 29: Proportion of households where at least 1 person in the household previously served in UK armed forces (%)<sup>98</sup>**

	At least 1 person in the household previously served in UK armed forces
Cheltenham	7.7
Cotswold	10.1
Forest of Dean	9.9
Gloucester	8.7
Stroud	8.6
Tewkesbury	10.8
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>9.2</b>
England	7.0

There is substantial variation between the age profiles of the veteran and non-veteran populations. The veteran population is much older with 53.5% being aged 65 and over.

**Table 30: Age profile of UK armed forces veterans (%)<sup>99</sup>**

	Ages 16-24	Ages 25-34	Ages 35-49	Ages 50-64	Ages 65+
Cheltenham	1.6	5.3	12.6	24.9	55.7
Cotswold	0.8	3.1	12.6	27.6	55.9
Forest of Dean	1.1	3.9	12.2	29.7	53.0
Gloucester	1.1	5.0	15.5	29.9	48.6
Stroud	0.9	3.1	13.5	27.5	55.1
Tewkesbury	0.8	4.9	13.8	27.1	53.5
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>27.8</b>	<b>53.5</b>
England	1.6	5.5	13.8	25.9	53.2

## Carers

An unpaid carer may look after, give help or support to anyone who has long term physical or mental ill-health conditions, illness or problems.

<sup>98</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>99</sup> *Ibid.*

Caring responsibilities can have an adverse impact on the physical and mental health, education and employment potential of those who care, which can result in significantly poorer health and quality of life outcomes.<sup>100</sup>

## Current picture

This information is based on self-reported caring status according to the 2021 Census, this means figures will be different from sources which look at registered carers.

In 2021, there were 51,862 people aged 5+ providing unpaid care in Gloucestershire, this is equivalent to 8.5% of the population. In comparison, a slightly higher proportion of the population in England (8.8%) said they provided unpaid care.

At district level, Forest of Dean had the highest proportion of unpaid carers (9.7%) and was the only district to exceed the county and national average. Conversely, Cheltenham had the lowest proportion of unpaid carers (7.4%). Forest of Dean also had the highest proportion of residents providing very high levels of care (50 hours a week), with 2.9% of residents providing this level of care, higher than the county (2.3%) and national average (2.6%).

**Table 31: Gloucestershire Residents aged 16+ by caring status (%), 2021<sup>101</sup>**

	Percentage of population aged 5+						
	Provides no unpaid care	Provides unpaid care: total	Provides 9 hours or less unpaid care a week	Provides 10 to 19 hours unpaid care a week	Provides 20 to 34 hours unpaid care a week	Provides 35 to 49 hours unpaid care a week	Provides 50 or more hours unpaid care a week
Cheltenham	92.6	7.4	3.3	0.9	0.6	0.7	1.9
Cotswold	91.9	8.1	3.6	1.0	0.7	0.6	2.2
Forest of Dean	90.3	9.7	3.7	1.3	0.9	0.9	2.9
Gloucester	91.6	8.4	3.1	1.1	0.8	1.0	2.4
Stroud	91.1	8.9	4.1	1.2	0.7	0.7	2.2
Tewkesbury	91.5	8.5	3.6	1.1	0.7	0.7	2.4
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>91.5</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>2.3</b>
England	91.2	8.8	3.1	1.2	0.8	1.0	2.6

The largest proportion of carers is aged 55-64, with 26.8% of unpaid carers in Gloucestershire falling into this age bracket. However, it is worth noting 26.8% of Gloucestershire carers are aged over 65, and 1.6% are aged 5-15.

<sup>100</sup> [State of Caring survey | Carers UK](#)

<sup>101</sup> 2021 Census, ONS



**Table 32: Age Profile of Unpaid Carers (%)<sup>102</sup>**

	<b>Ages 5-15</b>	<b>Ages 16-24</b>	<b>Ages 25-34</b>	<b>Ages 35-44</b>	<b>Ages 45-54</b>	<b>Ages 55-64</b>	<b>Ages 65-74</b>	<b>Ages 75+</b>
Cheltenham	1.6	4.9	8.9	12.5	20.6	26.7	13.9	10.9
Cotswold	1.1	3.3	5.9	9.5	19.6	29.3	16.8	14.5
Forest of Dean	1.2	4.3	7.4	10.1	20.2	26.9	17.8	12.1
Gloucester	2.4	5.8	9.7	14.8	21.1	24.5	12.5	9.2
Stroud	1.4	3.8	7.0	10.4	21.6	27.8	16.7	11.2
Tewkesbury	1.5	3.8	7.3	12.3	21.5	26.5	15.3	11.8
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>26.8</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>11.4</b>
England	1.7	5.5	9.9	14.0	21.3	24.4	13.7	9.6

Carers are also more likely to be female with 59.2% of carers in Gloucestershire compared to 50.5% of non-carers.

## Care leavers

A care leaver in the UK is *an adult who has spent time in foster or residential care*.

The Independent Review of Children's Social Care, published in May 2022 (The "MacAlister review"), recognised the often negative outcomes for people with care experience and recommended that the government should make 'Care Experienced' a protected characteristic.

There are a range of barriers and discrimination care leavers can face throughout life, including but not limited to:

- 70% of people who have been in care die earlier than would otherwise be expected
- Over half of those in custody up to the age of 21 have been in care
- A quarter of the homeless population in England and Wales has experienced of the care system<sup>103</sup>

## Current picture

This information relates to care leavers who received care funded by Gloucestershire County Council (who may or may not be living in Gloucestershire). Information is not available about care leavers who have moved into the county but received care from elsewhere. In addition, data is only collected about those care leavers whose 19th, 20th or 21st birthday fell between

<sup>102</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>103</sup> [\[ARCHIVED CONTENT\] Final Report - The Independent Review of Children's Social Care \(nationalarchives.gov.uk\)](#)

1st April and 31st March of the reporting year. For 2024 there were 370 people that fell into that category.<sup>104</sup>

## Digital Exclusion

This relates to those people who are disproportionately disadvantaged by the increasing turn to digital.

### Current picture

Very little information is collected about this group. The latest information taken from the Participation Survey<sup>105</sup> is at district level and covers the period from May 2023 to March 2024. The survey shows that the percentage of respondents from Forest of Dean and Gloucester aged 16 and over who have used the internet either at home or anywhere else is 91.3% and 92.3% respectively, which are both lower than the England average of 92.7%. Cheltenham shows the highest percentage of respondents using the internet at 96.9%, followed by Stroud and Tewkesbury at 95.9% and 95.8% respectively. The percentages for these three districts are all significantly higher than the England average.

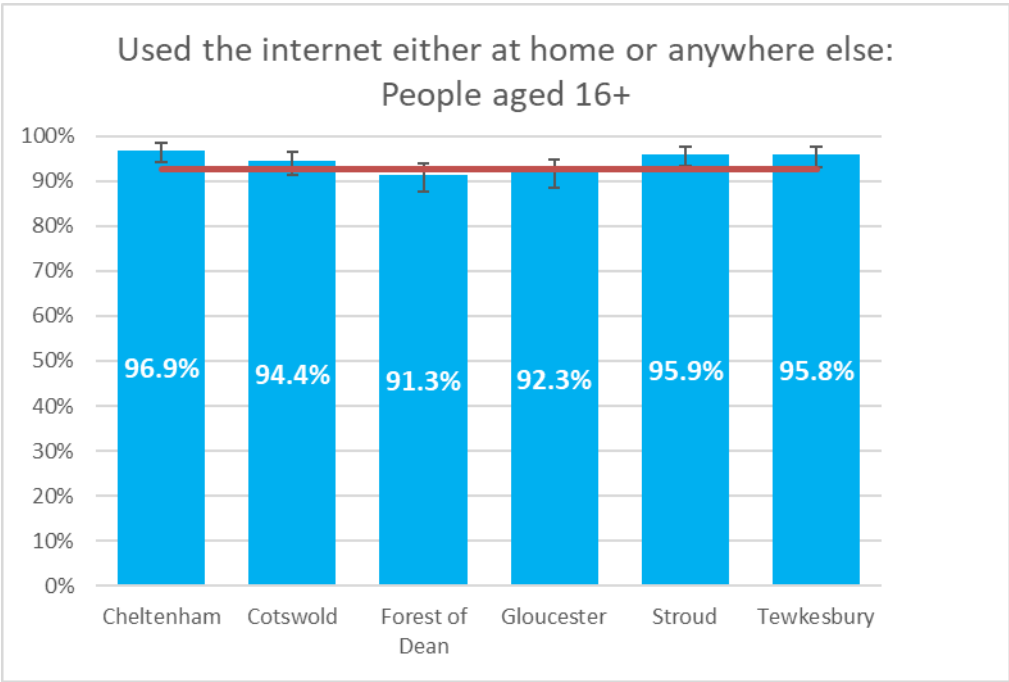


Figure 10 – Percentage of respondents aged 16 and over who have used the internet either at home or anywhere else, by district<sup>106</sup>

<sup>104</sup> LAIT, DFE

<sup>105</sup> [Participation Survey 2023–24 annual publication - GOV.UK](#)

<sup>106</sup> *Ibid.*

## Geography (rural/urban areas)

This includes specific areas and rural/urban geographies and how this can make it difficult for some people to access the services they need.

### Current picture

The 2021 Rural-Urban Classification (RUC) is a statistical classification system used to categorise geographies based on the form and characteristics of the settlements present within them. It aims to provide a consistent and standardised method for classifying areas as Rural or Urban, based on address density, physical settlement form, population size, and relative accessibility.

It shows that the majority of the county (87.5% of the total area) is comprised of Output Areas that are classified as Rural. However, in 2022 only 29.2% of the county's population resided in Output Areas that fell into this category. Gloucestershire's Urban Output Areas accommodate the majority (70.8%) of the county's total population. Gloucestershire has a significantly higher proportion of its population living in rural areas than the national average (17.5%). At district level, over 79.0% of Cotswold's population live in rural areas. Forest of Dean has the second highest proportion of residents in the county living in rural areas (65.1%). Conversely, in Cheltenham and Gloucester, 100% of the population live in urban areas.<sup>107</sup>

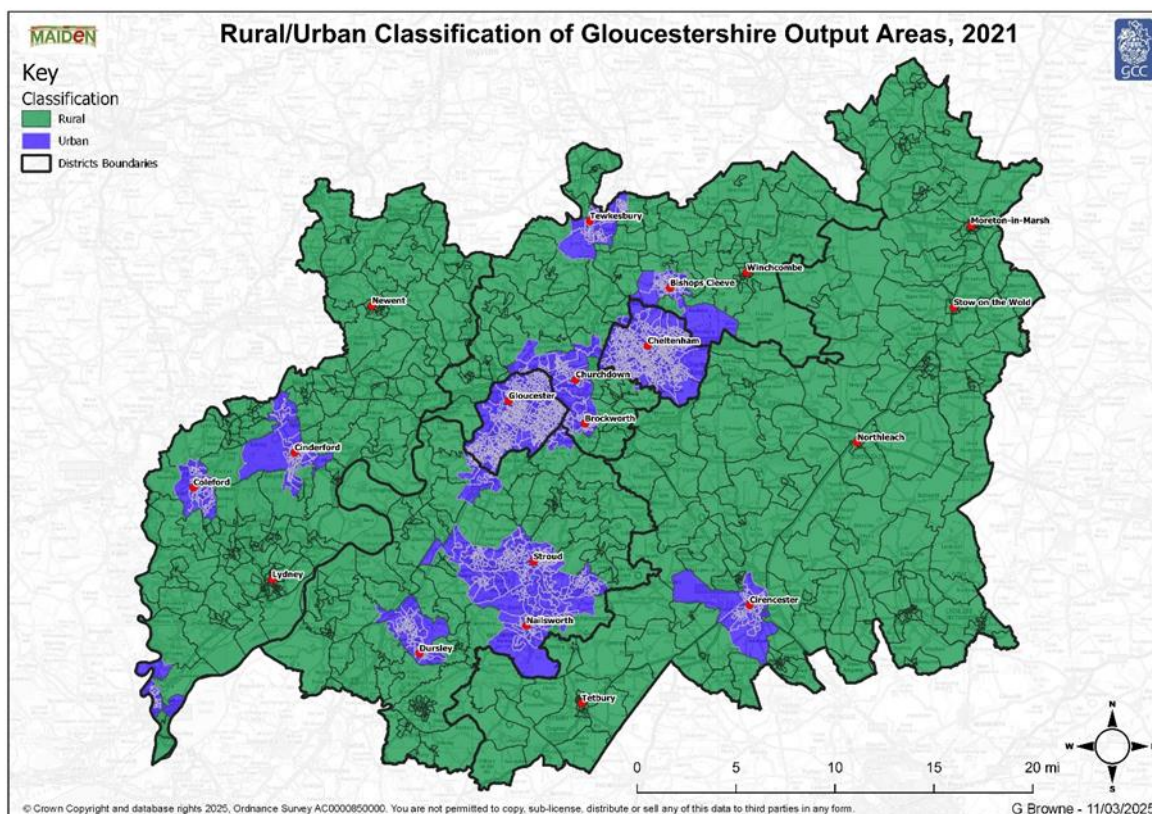


Figure 11 - Rural/urban classification of Output Areas, 2021<sup>108</sup>

<sup>107</sup> Rural/Urbain Classification 2021, ONS and Mid 2022 Population Estimates, ONS

<sup>108</sup> Rural Urban Classification, 2021, ONS

## Socio-economic disadvantage

Being 'socio-economically disadvantaged' means living in less favourable social and economic circumstances than others in the same society.

### Current picture

The main measure for this is the Indices of Multiple Deprivation. In general, Gloucestershire is not a very deprived county, ranking 126 out of 151 (where 1 is the most deprived) county and unitary authorities, putting it in the least deprived 20% of authorities across England.

At district level, even the most deprived districts in the county (Gloucester City, and Forest of Dean) are amongst the middle 20% of districts for deprivation out of 317 English authorities. Tewkesbury, Cotswold, and Stroud districts are in the least deprived 20% of districts nationally. Cheltenham is in the second least deprived 20% of districts nationally. However, there are pockets of deprivation, 31 out of 373 small areas in Gloucestershire are amongst the 20% most deprived in England with 7.6% residents of Gloucestershire living in these areas.<sup>109</sup>

Figure 12 - shows the areas amongst the most deprived 20% in England are mainly located in the urban areas of Gloucester and Cheltenham, with the exceptions of Cinderford West 1 in the Forest of Dean and Tewkesbury South 3 in Tewkesbury.

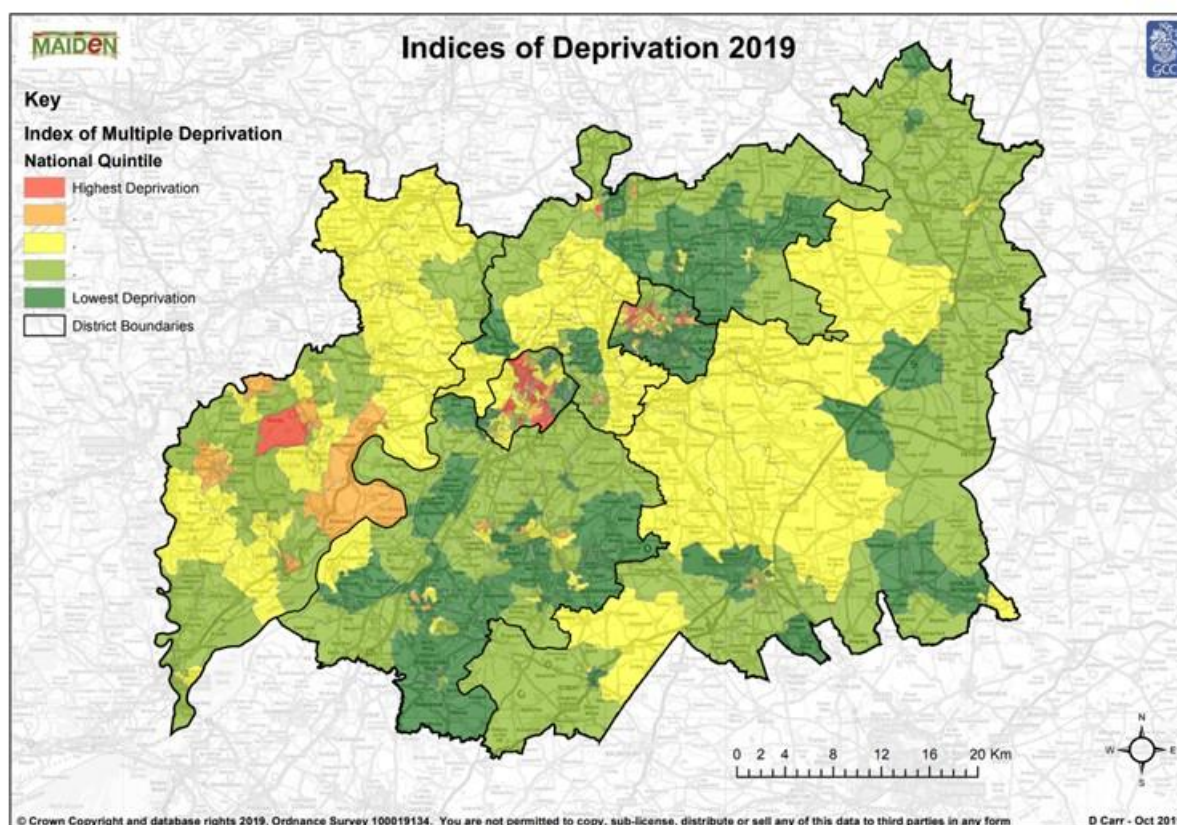


Figure 12 - Indices of Deprivation, 2019

Figure 13 - shows the proportion of the population in each deprivation quintile for Gloucestershire and each of the six districts in the county. In Gloucester almost 25% of the

<sup>109</sup> Indices of Deprivation 2019, MHCLG



population (1 in 4) live in areas amongst the most deprived 20% nationally. In contrast in Cotswold and Stroud none of the population live in areas amongst the most deprived 20% nationally. Cheltenham stands out as an area with a degree of polarity, around 10% of residents live in areas amongst the most deprived 20% nationally, conversely over 40% of residents live in areas amongst the least deprived 20% nationally.

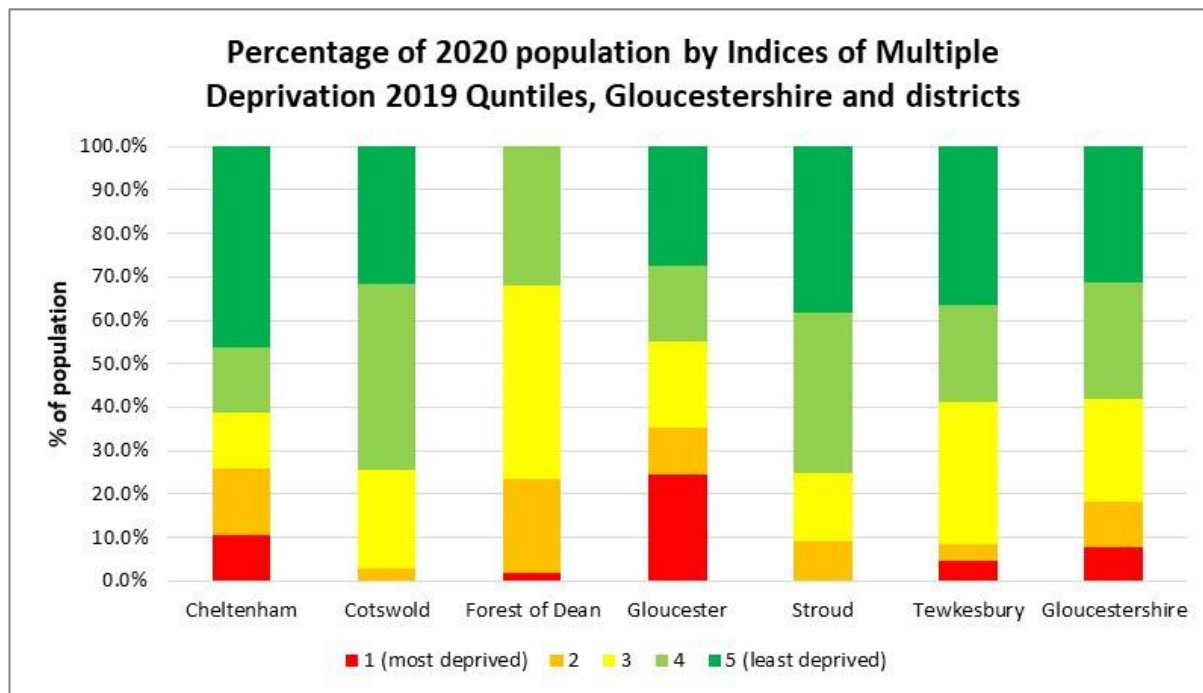


Figure 13 - Percentage of 2020 population by Indices of Deprivation 2019 Quintiles, Gloucestershire and districts<sup>110</sup>

<sup>110</sup> Mid 2020 Population Estimates, ONS and Indices of Deprivation 2019, MHCLG