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State of Dorset Older People



Dorset County Council

The number of older people living in Dorset will continue to grow adding to increased demand for health and care services.

Over the next decade, the number of those aged 85+ is expected to increase by almost 30%¹.

Big Numbers Box

420,585 people

Aged 65+
in Dorset **28%**

In England
& Wales **18%**

1.7 % pa

Growth in those
aged 65+ over
next decade

82 years

Life expectancy males

85 years

Life expectancy females

Box 1: Population Change

- Overall the population of Dorset has increased by 0.5% (2,316) in the last year².
- Deaths outnumber births by about 1,765 so Dorset's net natural population declined².
- Migration gives a net gain of around 3,760. Around 20,700 people moved into Dorset from other parts of the UK and around 17,600 moved out. International migration gave a net gain of around 600².
- The greatest net migration gain is of children and those aged 60-69 whereas there is a net loss of 10-19 year olds².

Age profile 2015



- Over the next ten years, the percentage of Dorset residents aged 65+ is expected to grow by 1.7% per annum. That's an increase of 21,800 people - and almost a quarter of these (5,100) will be aged 85+¹.
- This isn't happening in Dorset alone but in Dorset we have a higher starting point. 28% of our population is aged 65+ (117,600) compared with 18% in England & Wales².

Sources

1 2015-based trend population projections, Dorset County Council

2 2015 Mid-year estimates from ONS. For more information visit <https://apps.geowessex.com/stats/>

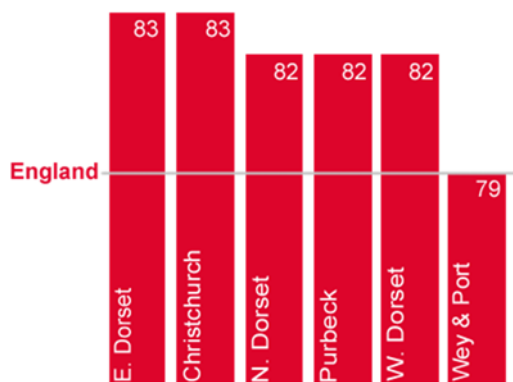


Box 2: Life Expectancy

Life expectancy in Dorset

- Increased life expectancy and continuing migration - largely from other parts of the UK - account for the growing population of older people.
- Life expectancy at birth for both males (81.5 years) and females (85.0) is above the national average (England and Wales males 79.4 years and females 83.1)³.
- Life expectancy varies throughout the County with Weymouth and Portland, about in line with England and Wales.
- The life expectancy gap between Dorset's most and least deprived areas is 6.3 years for males and 5.9 years for females.

Male life expectancy by district



Why does it matter:

Over the next decade, many more of us will move into the 65+ group and will probably move out of work too.

Demand for care workers will grow - and it's already a problem - but it's not a job that many young people want to do.

Services for older people and people with physical disabilities currently command almost 55% of the adult social care budget. Data modelling can help identify and target services to areas of most need.

More family members will need to act as carers. In 2011 there were 49,300 unpaid carers in Dorset, an increase of 17% over 2001.

More houses are likely to be under-occupied as older people are encouraged to stay in their own homes - this will put further pressure on house prices. And older people living on their own can feel isolated and lonely.

Sources

³ Life expectancy at birth (2012-14), ONS