

State of Dorset

2021



Diversity



Economy



Older People



Deprivation



Children



Population



Health and Wellbeing



Crime



Natural and
Historic
Environment



Leisure and
Culture

Welcome to the State of Dorset for the Dorset Council area

These 2021 bulletins (published May 2022) cover the period during and following the worst of the Coronavirus pandemic. The statistics in these bulletins mostly refer to 2021 or 2020 and so may cover periods when lockdowns were in effect.

These bulletins bring together statistical and contextual information in 10 themes:

- Children
- Crime
- Deprivation
- Diversity
- Economy
- Health and Care
- Leisure and Culture
- Natural and Historic Environment
- Older People
- Population

These themes cover most aspects of life affecting people living or working in Dorset. They are often connected with trends identified in one theme appearing in others. For this reason, look at the bulletins as a whole rather than as discrete topics. For example, the increasing number of older people living in Dorset. This appears in four of the bulletins and indirectly affects a couple more.

The bulletins will help inform understanding of other reports and data analysis. Users may also find the bulletins useful sources of evidence when:

- budget setting
- writing funding applications
- writing policies
- identifying areas for further research

The bulletins are by their nature snapshots of the situation in Dorset at a particular time. They do not attempt to provide detailed explanations for the statistics or findings. If you need further information on a topic, please look at the reports and data sources on Dorset Insight.

By identifying Dorset's strengths and weaknesses, we can build a strong and successful Dorset. We will work with our partners to enable economic growth and promote health, wellbeing and safeguarding.

For statistics about Dorset visit Dorset Insights:

[Dorset Insights - Dorset Council](#)

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State of Dorset Population



Change in Dorset's demographic make-up can have an impact on service demands and provision but can also affect housing demand and business needs.

Changes in our population are shaped by both natural change (births and deaths) and by migration into and out of Dorset.

By projecting future population change, we can plan to target services and resources to the places where they will be needed most.

Big Numbers Box

4.0%

projected population change
2021-2031

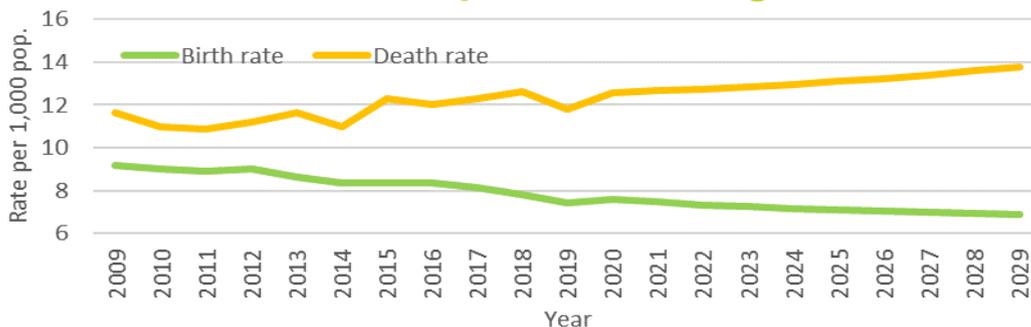
379,800 total
population
in 2020

6%pa +65's projected
population change
2021-2031

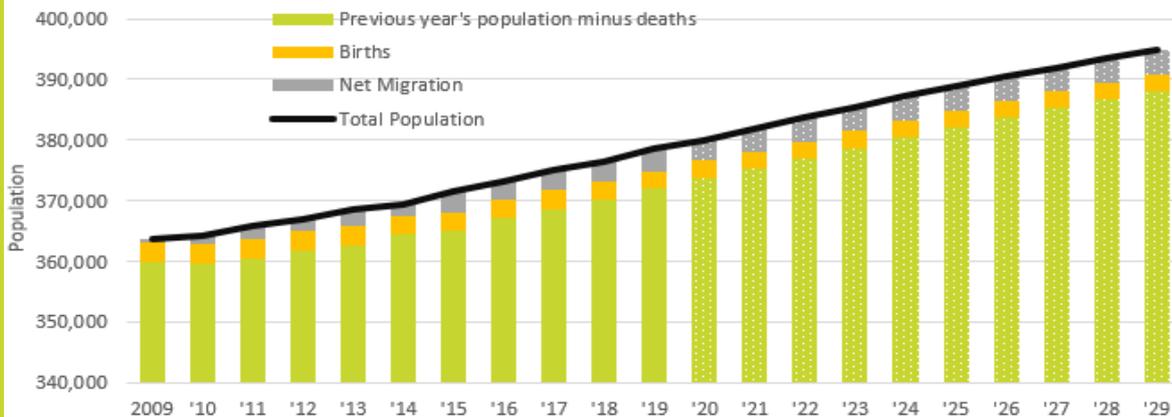
23,100 Total increase in
+65's 2011-2021, an
increase of 2.2%pa

120 decrease in
0-15 yrs age
group
2011-2021

Box 1: Population Change



In the last five years, the death rate has steadily increased by 10%, while the birth rate has decreased by 14% as shown in the graph above. This pattern is projected to continue over the next ten years. Total number of births in the year 2019-2020 were 2638, total deaths were 4,957. Due to the net decline in natural change (births minus deaths) population growth is driven by migration into the area. The graph below shows the contribution net migration makes to population growth. Net migration in the year 2019-2020 was 3,164.



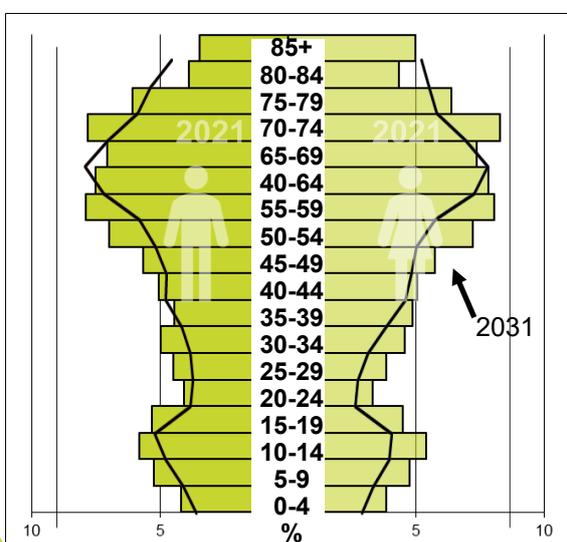
The figure above shows the components of change for each year. Note years 2020 onwards are projected population. Over the period 2010-2020, Dorset's population grew by 15,474, a growth of 4% compared with 7% nationally. Over the period 2019 to 2029, the population is projected to grow by another 4% (16,300) compared to 5% nationally.

Box 2: Age breakdown of population

	2011	2021	2031
0-15 yrs	59,700	59,900	55,100
16-64 yrs	215,400	208,200	202,600
65+ yrs	90,700	113,900	139,400
Total	363,600	378,500	397,100

The median age of the Dorset council area was 46-47 in 2011. This increased to 50-51 in 2021 and is projected to increase to 54 by 2031. The current median age for England is 40.5.

Dorset Council 2021 and 2031 population



Over the period 2011-2021, the number aged 65+ grew by 23,100 – up by 46% and is projected to increase by 25,600—up by 59% - to 2031. The proportion of the population aged 65+ continues to grow; from 25% in 2011 to 30% in 2021 and a projected figure of 35% in 2031.

In contrast Dorset's working age (16-64) population continues to fall; dropping by 7,270 between 2011-2021 and projected to drop by a further 5,600 by 2031.

Similarly the population of Dorset's children continues to decline; falling by 120 between 2011 and 2021 and projected to drop by a further 4,720 by 2031.

The top heavy shape of the population pyramid has changed little in the past 10 years and is not projected to change over the next ten. This is illustrated by the graph to the left which shows proportion of 5yr age groups for 2021 in the green bars, and 2031 the black line. Females are on the right of the graph, males the left. Aging of the early 60's baby boomers can be clearly seen - driving the bulge in the population between the ages of 55 to 74. This is further increased by net internal migration which is highest for the 60-64 age group. Migration out of the area by young adults is also clearly illustrated.

Box 3: Census 2021

- Much of our data and therefore, how we understand the experiences and issues affecting people in Dorset, comes from the Census.
- The Census is carried out every 10 years and Census Day was on 21st March 2021.
- As the Census only happens every 10 years, there is likely to be considerable change in our understanding of the population.
- Census 2021 reflected shifting language and will help with our understanding of marginalised communities, for example asking about Armed Forces service, sexual orientation and gender identity.
- The Census is important not only for understanding communities but for ensuring that funding is directed where it is needed. Many organisations will use it to plan, predict and develop their services, based on population make-up and characteristics represented in the Census.

Sources

The following datasets have been used throughout the bulletin:
 20120 Mid-year estimates, Office for National Statistics
 2019 Components of Population Change, Office for National Statistics
 2019 based Dorset Council Continuity projections, Experimental, Dorset Council

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State of Dorset Children



Experiences in a child's early years lay a foundation for health and wellbeing and our services for children and families have an important role in building future resilience.

By identifying those most at risk of poorer outcomes later on, our resources can be targeted where they are needed most so that we can respond to risk and vulnerability.

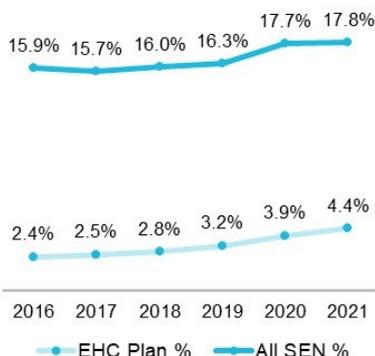
The number of 0-4 year olds is expected to decrease by about 1,300, while the number of 5-15 year olds is projected to decrease by about 2,200 between 2019 and 2029¹.

Big Numbers Box

- 67,700²** total children
- 44%** Pupils with an EHC Plan educated in mainstream schools
- 449** Children and young people in care in Dorset
- 66** Looked after children in every 10,000 in Dorset
- 2.4%** Primary school children with an EHC SEN plan
- 21%** Percentage of pupils achieving 9-5 in English and Maths (Free School Meals Gap)

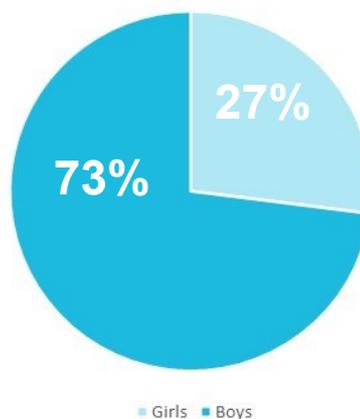
Box 1: Special Educational Need

SEN Pupils in Dorset Council Schools



The percentage of children with Special Educational Need has increased in Dorset each year since 2017. The percentage with either a statement or an EHC Plan has increased every year since 2016. There has been a more pronounced increase since Christchurch schools have been removed from the Pupil Census. Schools in Christchurch had a lower proportion of SENs pupils³.

Dorset Council School Pupils Education, Health and Care (EHC)



- One in four of pupils with an EHC SEN plan has an Autistic Spectrum Condition and just over one in five have speech language and communication needs.
- It is likely that a pupil may have more than one special educational need.
- 44% of pupils with an EHC Plan are educated in Mainstream Schools in Dorset.
- Three quarters of Dorset Council School Pupils with an EHC are boys and just under two thirds with SEN Support are boys. This is very similar to the national picture.

Sources

- 1 2019-trend based population projections (experimental), Dorset Council
- 2 2020 Mid-year estimates, 0-17 year-olds, ONS
- 3 Dorset Council, Children's Services
- 4 'Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics' National Statistics 2021

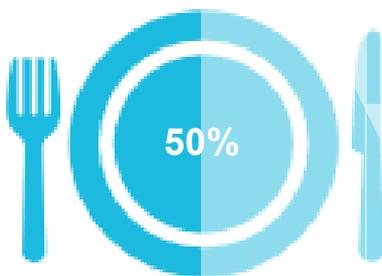
Acronyms

- EHC = Education, Health and Care Plan
- FSM = Free School Meals
- SEN = Special Educational Needs

Box 2: Education

- In 2019 72% of pupils achieved a 'Good Level of Development' at the end of Reception year, an increase of 1% on 2018 and the same as the national figure.
- 71% of pupils achieved the 'Basics' measure (standard pass or higher in English and Maths GCSE). For pupils eligible for Free School Meals the figure was 50%, in line with the national figure⁴.
- 11% of primary pupils claim Free School Meals, compared to the national average of 14%⁴.

Pupils eligible for FSM achieving Basics measure at GCSE

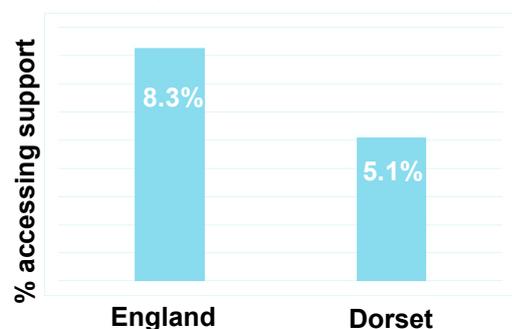
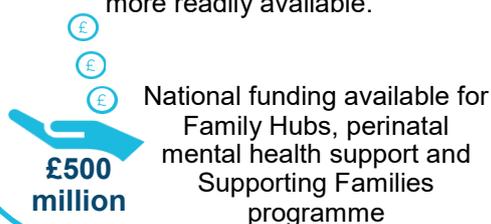


Percentage of Pupils GCSE pass English and Maths 2020/21



Box 3: Mental Health

- The number of children accessing mental health services has increased nationally, with more than 1 million children under 18 having first-time contact with mental health professionals.
- However, this number had fallen slightly across Dorset on the previous year, from 3925 to 3450.
- Increased referrals nationally may reflect that more young people are comfortable talking about their mental health and know where to get help.
- However, the pandemic led to more people needing help with their mental health and in 2020, more than 10,000 children and young people were waiting for support from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.
- Early Support Hubs and the CAMHS Gateway are being expanded to meet service demand and mental health support in schools is being made more readily available.



Percentage of the under-18 population accessing first-time mental health support in 2020

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State of Dorset Crime



In a national context, crime in the Dorset Council area is consistently very low, well below the average in England.

Data relates to the 2020/21 fiscal year unless stated otherwise.

Total recorded crime has fallen by 14% in this fiscal year compared to last year¹, however, anti-social behaviour incidents have increased from last year. The number of domestic abuse incidents have also increased year-on-year.

Big Numbers Box

467 sexual offences
in Dorset last year

82% of sexual assaults
are committed
against women

anti-social behaviour incidents
10,722

1 in 9
of all anti-social
behaviour incidents
in Dorset occur in
Melcombe Regis

3,225
domestic abuse
incidents

Total crime down

14%

Box 1: Dorset Community Safety Partnership Priorities¹

- Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
- County Lines
- Serious Sexual Offences
- Domestic Abuse
- Hate Crime
- Rural Crime
- Fraud
- Public Place Violence
- Anti-Social Behaviour

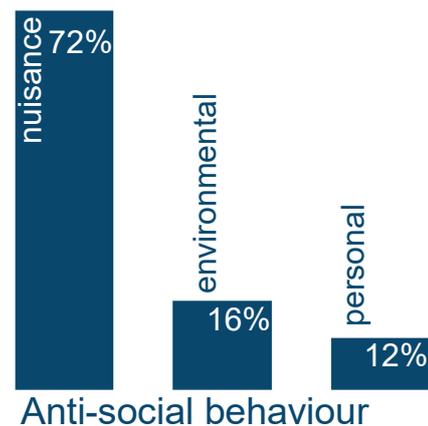
• In 2020-21 there were 10,722 incidents of **anti-social behaviour** in the Dorset Council area.

• 72% of these were classified as nuisance, 12% personal and 16% environmental.

• Weymouth has the highest rate of anti-social behaviour across the Dorset Council area.

• There were 467 serious **sexual offences** in the Dorset Council area last year.

• There were 3,225 **domestic abuse** incidents in the Dorset Council area last year.

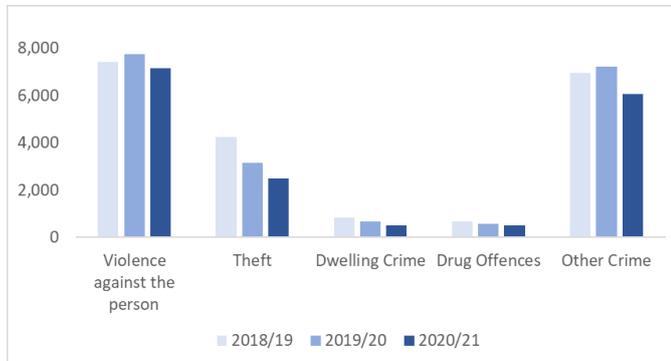


Sources

¹ Community Safety Partnership Performance Reporting, 2021

Box 2: Other Crime

Crimes in the Dorset Council Area



- Total crimes were lower this year than in the previous year.
 - East Dorset is the former district with the lowest crime rate in Dorset...and Weymouth and Portland has the highest.
 - Crime is highest in Dorset between April and June each year, which could be because of the better weather, the holidays and the longer daylight hours.
 - In 2021 71% of residents surveyed across Dorset said that they felt safe in their local area after dark.
- In the last year¹:**
- Residential Burglary accounts for 91% of acquisitive crimes
 - While Robbery makes just 9%
 - Most Robbery took place in Weymouth
 - While most Burglaries occurred in East Dorset
 - Compared to other areas, crime in the Dorset Council area is consistently low. Last year, Dorset had a lower crime rate than most council areas³.

Box 3: Hate Crime⁴

- A hate crime or incident is any criminal offence or non-criminal incidence, perceived by the victim or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hate towards a person's protected characteristic.
- The numbers of sexual orientation hate crimes have been increasing year on year. 132 sexual orientation hate crimes were recorded in 2019, 136 in 2020 and 200 from January to August 2021.
- Hate crimes often go unreported and a focus of local policing is on building trust and confidence in reporting and ensuring that everyone knows how to report a hate crime or incident. Third-party reporting centres and trusted community partners are key to this.
- The council is a member of Prejudice Free Dorset, a partnership group made up of local agencies that seeks to promote inclusive communities and challenge prejudice cross Dorset, so everyone can go about their daily lives safely and with confidence⁵.

Sources

³ [Compare your area | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](https://www.police.uk)

⁴ Dorset Police, 2021

⁵ Prejudice Free Dorset

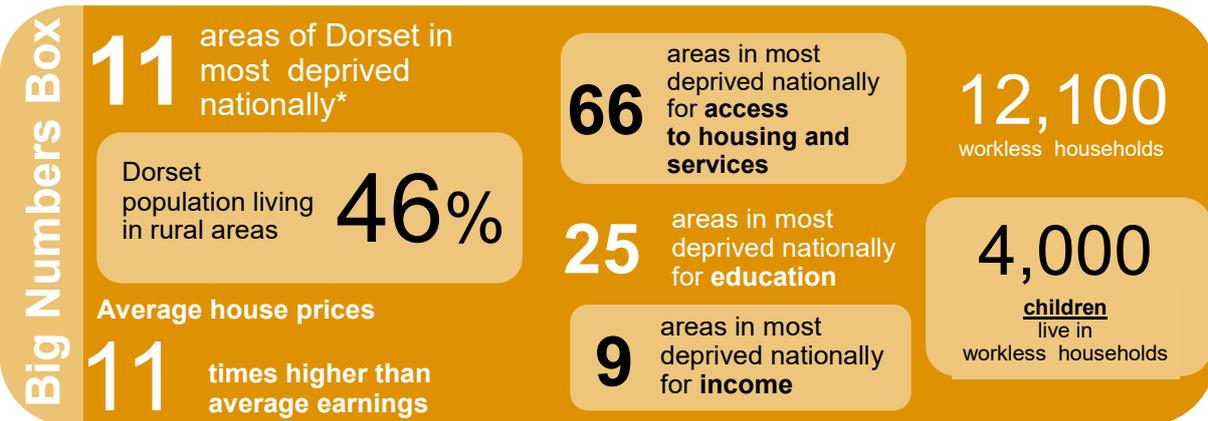
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State of Dorset Deprivation



Deprivation has a significant impact on health and wellbeing. The Dorset Council areas of significant deprivation are largely located in the urban areas - in particular the former borough of Weymouth & Portland - but many of Dorset's rural communities could also be considered deprived in terms of barriers to housing and essential services. The English Indices of Deprivation divides the Dorset Council geography into 219 areas.

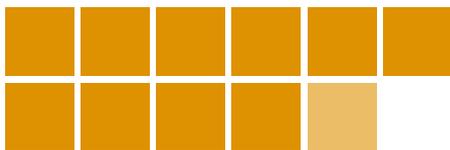
As the number of older people living in rural areas grows, the challenge of access to facilities and pressure on health and care services will accelerate.



Box 1: Social deprivation

- There are 11 areas (out of a total of 219) in Dorset within the top 20% most deprived nationally for multiple deprivation, up from 10 in 2015¹.
- 10 of these are within the former borough of Weymouth and Portland, one is in the former West Dorset District area.

11 areas in Dorset suffer high deprivation



Weymouth & Portland

West Dorset

- 46% of Dorset's population lives in rural areas³. Barriers to housing and essential services are significant in Dorset reflecting rurality and distance from services. 66 Dorset neighbourhoods fall in the 20% most deprived nationally for this measure: in the former council areas, 21 in North Dorset and 19 are in West Dorset¹.

Life expectancy gap for males in Dorset



Most deprived area

Least deprived area

- The gap in life expectancy between the most deprived and least deprived areas of Dorset is 6.3 years for men and 5.3 years for women².
- Weymouth and Portland sees significant levels of deprivation and is in the top 20 per cent worst performing authorities⁴.

Sources

1 English Indices of Deprivation (2019), DCLG

2 Dorset Health Profile 2019, Public Health England, 03 March 2020

3 Census of Population, 2011

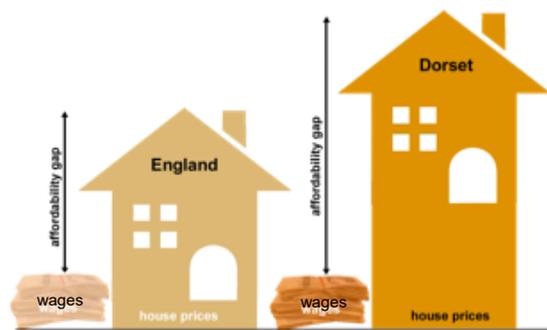
4 The Social Mobility Index Gov.UK

*Most deprived = an area falls within the top 20% nationally

Box 2: Economic deprivation

- 9 neighbourhoods in Dorset fall into the top 20% nationally for income deprivation (up from 7 in 2015) - 7 of these are in the former borough of Weymouth and Portland¹.
- In Dorset, about 17,000 people aged 16-64, plus 4,000 children live in 12,100 workless households. 11% of Dorset households were workless, slightly below the national figure⁶.

Average house prices are 11x more than average earnings⁷



Weekly earnings for people living in Dorset are



Box 3: Health inequalities

- Health inequalities are avoidable, unfair and systematic differences in health between different groups of people.
- The gap in life expectancy between the most deprived and least deprived areas of Dorset is 6.3 years for men and 5.3 years for women².
- Health inequality isn't just about the place you live or how much disposable income you have. Some people identify with several protected characteristics and may face multiple barriers.
- Health inequalities can therefore involve differences in: life expectancy and prevalence of health conditions; quality of and access to care; behavioural risks to health, such as smoking and wider determinants of health, including quality of housing⁹.
- In Dorset, men account for three-quarters of all suicides and that rate has increased, with men aged 45-49 most impacted¹⁰. Economic hardship, isolation and alcoholism can all be risk factors and all three factors have seen an increase through the Covid-19 pandemic¹¹.



The **life expectancy of a man** born in one of the most deprived areas of Dorset is **6.3 years lower** than that of a man born in the least deprived of areas and **for women the gap is 5.3 years**.

Sources

- 5 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (2021), ONS (full time gross weekly earnings)
- 6 Annual Population Survey (2020), Households by combined economic activity status, ONS
- 7 Housing affordability, Lower quartile to workplace-based earnings ratio, 2021, ONS.
- 8 Social prescribing: applying All Our Health, Gov.UK 2022
- 9 What are health inequalities, Kings Fund
- 10 Public Health England, 2020
- 11 Samaritans, 2020

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State of Dorset Diversity



There are many definitions available for the term 'diversity' but they all cover the same fundamental issues. These include the recognition of differences, respecting those differences and appreciating the fact that different perspectives are valuable and can bring real benefits to society in general. There are nine protected characteristics within our strands of diversity.

- Age
- Disability
- Sex
- Religion & Belief
- Gender reassignment
- Sexual Orientation
- Marriage & Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy & Maternity
- Ethnicity

Big Numbers Box

29% of Dorset's population is aged 65+

Almost

1 in 3 of the former East Dorset area's population is aged 65+

1 in 5

of all residents have a health condition that limits their day to day activities

1,900

living in a same sex relationship

4.4%

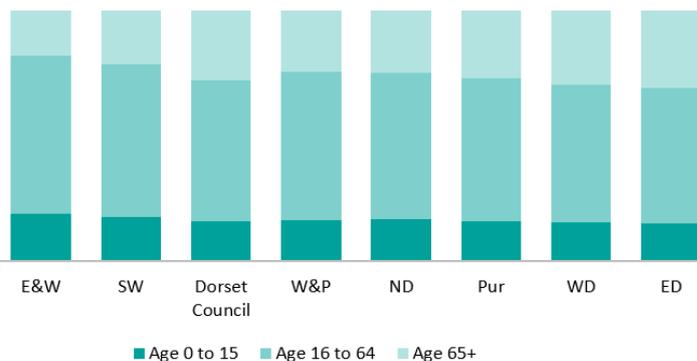
of Dorset's residents are from an ethnic minority

5,300

follow a non-Christian religion

Box 1: Age & religion

Age structure in the former district council areas, 2020



- Dorset has a much greater proportion (**29%**) of the population aged 65 and over than England and Wales (**19%**)¹.
- Some of the former districts have almost one in three residents aged 65 and over¹.
- The five major non-Christian world religions Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism and Sikhism constitute **1%** of Dorset's residents' religious beliefs².
- Dorset's main non-Christian religious groups are concentrated in Dorset's towns. Weymouth has just over **300** residents of Muslim faith. There are also concentrations around military establishments such as Blandford Camp where the Gurkhas and their families live who are predominantly Hindu in their religious belief².

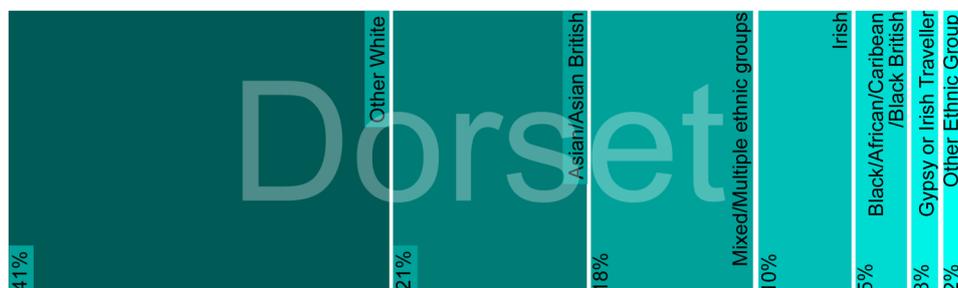
Please note: Robust statistical data at a Local Authority level on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity does not currently exist apart from data on couples living in a same sex relationship from the Census 2011 (see Big Numbers Box).

Sources

- 1 Mid-year population estimates (2020), ONS
- 2 Census 2011, ONS

Box 2: Ethnic Minorities

Residents of Dorset who are not 'White British'



- (4.4%) of Dorset residents are from an ethnic minority, much lower than the country as a whole (19.5%)².
- The highest proportion (41%) of Dorset's ethnic minority population are classified as 'White Other'². This classification includes people who identify as white but who do not have UK national identity (English, Welsh Scottish, Northern Irish and British). An example would be Polish or Irish.

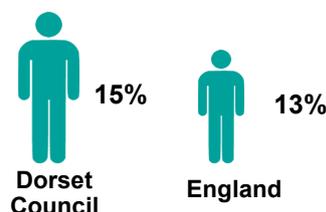
Box 3: Disability

- One in five of Dorset's population consider themselves to have a long term health problem or disability².
- Another method for looking at the number of residents with a disability is to consider those claiming either Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payments or Attendance Allowance³.

% of Dorset residents with long-term health problem or disability in the former



% of Dorset residents claiming a disability benefit



Box 4: Gender, sexual and relationship diversity

- The Census 2021 asked new questions about sexual orientation and whether an individual's gender identity differed from how they were assigned at birth⁴.
- The new Census questions reflects how our understanding of different experiences and the language that goes with these changes over time. In recent years there has been an increase in the terminology surrounding gender identity and expression.
- Annual Population Survey statistics on sexual orientation began in 2014. Between 2014 and 2019, the number of people identifying as something other than heterosexual nationally almost doubled from 865,000 to 1,526,000⁵.
- In the South West, 2.5% of people shared that they identify with a sexual orientation other than heterosexual in 2019. Whilst this figure is broadly in line with the Census 2011, data on sexual orientation is very difficult to obtain, however, when the Census 2021 data is released it is expected that this shall give a robust dataset⁵.

Sources

3 Stat-Xplore, Department of Work and Pensions, February 2021 & 2020 Mid-year estimates, ONS

4 Preparing for the 2021 census (England and Wales), UK Parliament

5 Sexual Orientation 2014-2019, Annual Population Survey, 2019

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State of Dorset Economy



The UK has a productivity gap with output per hour below the average for the rest of the G7 major industrialised countries. In Dorset, for every hour worked we produce almost 19% less than the UK average.³

Big Numbers Box

20,000 businesses

£1.8bn

Value of Dorset's productivity gap³

142,000 employees

11,000 expected employment growth by 2029

£546

weekly pay for full-time employees working in Dorset

36% of workforce aged 50+

33% workers in high productivity employment

Expected fall in the working age population over the next 10 years

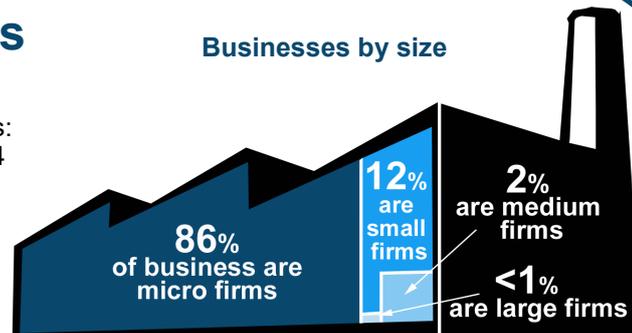
3,600

Box 1: Businesses

Businesses by size

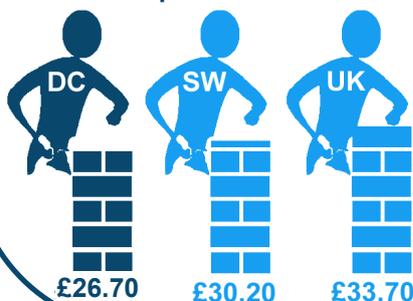
- Although business survival is good, we have fewer than average business births: 71 to every 10,000 residents aged 16-64 compared with 91 in England¹.

- And we have smaller business units: just 7.0 employees per business unit compared with 9.3 in England².



- Whilst large firms represent less than one per cent of Dorset's business stock, they employ about a fifth of the workforce. Ensuring the availability of suitable employment land like the Dorset Innovation Park to offer larger sites and units gives local firms the chance to expand and relocate here, rather than leave the area. It also offers choice to new businesses considering a move to Dorset, bringing new jobs with them.
- Dorset is less competitive than the national average. In recent years competitiveness has worsened, with Dorset's ranking falling two places between 2018 and 2021. The further reduction in our ranking maybe due to the twin shocks of the Covid-19 Pandemic and Brexit which have had a greater impact on areas with significant tourism sectors, like Dorset.

GVA per hour worked³



- Whilst we have above national average representation of advanced engineering and of manufacturing as a whole, we have low representation of businesses in high productivity sectors² and half the average representation in high R&D spending sectors⁵.
- Self-employment is 10% of economically active residents compared with 7% in England, however, this has fallen significantly which may be an impact of the pandemic creating economic instability⁶.

Sources

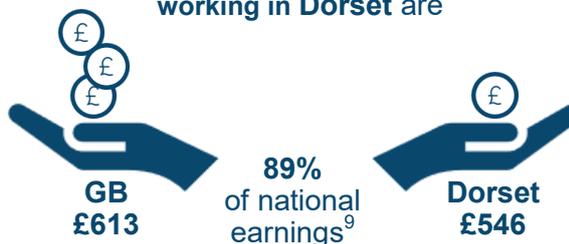
- 1 Business Demography 2021, ONS
- 2 UK Businesses 2021 and BRES 2020, ONS
- 3 Gross Value Added - GVA per hour worked (provisional) 2021, ONS
- 4 UK Competitiveness Index 2021, Centre for International Competitiveness

- 5 As defined in UK Gross domestic expenditure on research and development: 2017, ONS
- 6 Census of Population 2011, ONS

Box 2: People

- Employment is expected to grow by more than 11,000 in Dorset over 2019-29⁷ - but most of this new employment will be part time.
- Manufacturing, health, retail, education and hospitality are all big employers in Dorset.
- 45% of skills required by employers over the next decade are for level 4 and above⁷.
- 14 neighbourhoods in Dorset are in the most deprived 20% nationally for employment⁸ - 10 of these are in the former borough of Weymouth & Portland.
- 36% of the Dorset workforce is aged over 50 compared with 28% in England¹⁰. Older workers have experience and skills and, as more people retire, other workers need training to fill the gaps.

Weekly earnings for people working in Dorset are



- Over the next decade, the population in Dorset aged 16-64 will shrink by 0.2% per annum. That's a net loss of over 3,600 people in this age group. The old age dependency ratio, is expected to increase from 537 per 1,000 in 2020 to 655 per 1,000 in 2029¹¹.
- Around 3,100 apprenticeships were started in Dorset in 2020/2021¹². It is estimated that for every £1 of public monies spent on apprenticeships, an economic benefit of £21 is created¹³.

Box 3: The impact of Covid-19¹⁴

- The first COVID-19 lockdown in March 2020 transformed working patterns, with almost half of all people in employment in the UK doing some work from home in April 2020. The service sector, which accounts for approximately 80% of UK GDP saw nearly four out of five employees working from home.
- Price, Waterhouse and Cooper have concluded that universal, mandatory working from home could lead to £15.3bn reduction in gross domestic product (GDP). In Dorset, 88% of businesses surveyed said that the outbreak caused significant disruption. 55% say they have furloughed staff, and 9% have laid off workers permanently¹⁵.
- However, flexible working including the ability to work from home also has the potential to increase productivity, support the 'levelling up' of rural versus urban areas by bringing diverse economic activity to rural areas and improved work-life balance.
- Employers with a flexible approach to home working will support those employees who favour working from home as well as those who have struggled with the increased isolation created by the pandemic. Lower operating costs, reduced commuting and digital inclusion are additional benefits.

Sources

- 7 LEFM 2019/Dorset County Council
- 8 English Indices of Deprivation (2019), DCLG
- 9 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (2020), ONS
- 10 Census of Population (2011), workplace statistics
- 11 2019-based experimental continuity population projections, 2019-2029, Dorset Council

- 12 Apprenticeship starts 2020-21, The Department for Education
- 13 The Economic Impact of Apprenticeships, 26/11/2014, Centre for Economic and Business Research
- 14 The economic impact of returning to the office, PWC, 2020
- 15 Business impact Survey, Dorset LEP

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State of Dorset Health and Wellbeing



Dorset residents are generally healthy, have a high life satisfaction rating and feel that the things they do in their lives are worthwhile. The growing number of older people will increase demand for health and social care services so it is important to use local evidence to anticipate need and target service provision as effectively as possible.

Health and wellbeing can be influenced by where we live, our behaviours, our work and our leisure activities. Health behaviours impact on both physical and mental health - and many people may be affected by more than one. Healthy populations live longer, and are more productive making a contribution to the economy as well as maintaining personal wellbeing.

Big Numbers Box

10,000 people aged 65+ living with dementia by 2029

3,225 domestic abuse incidents in Dorset last year

Every **£1** invested in adult drug treatment generates a social return of £4

19 years difference between male healthy and overall life expectancy

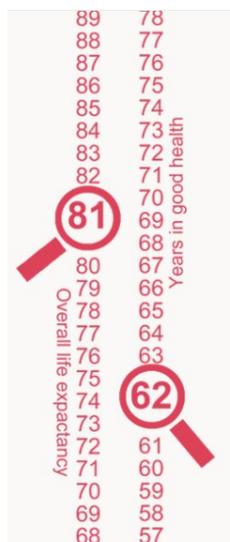
31% Dorset year 6 children overweight or obese

66% Dorset adults overweight or obese

Smoking prevalence in Dorset **9%**

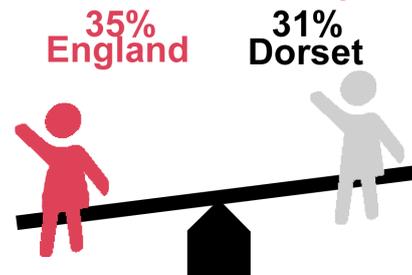
Box 1: Health

Male life expectancy in Dorset



- Healthy life expectancy is the number of years a person would be expected to live in good health. In Dorset, there is a difference of 19 years between healthy life expectancy and overall life expectancy for males and females¹.

% year six children who are overweight or obese



- 66% of adults in Dorset are classified as overweight or obese; worse than the national average and a great concern due to the life-threatening conditions it can lead to².

- Residents in Dorset are more likely to be unpaid carers: 12% of residents compared to 10% in England¹³. There are now around 3,000 registered carers in Dorset¹⁴.

- Smoking prevalence continues to fall both nationally and locally. 9% of adults in Dorset currently smoke compared to 12% in England².
- The rate of people killed and seriously injured on the roads continues to be above average, possibly due to Dorset's high proportion of rural roads⁴. Nationally more than half of all fatal collisions occur on rural roads³.

Sources

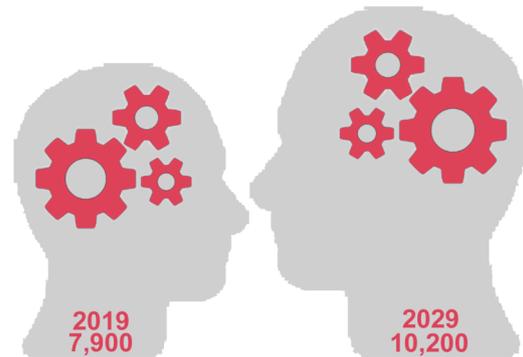
1 Health state life expectancy at birth by local areas, UK, 2019, ONS
2 PHE Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) Indicators, 2020 data
3 <https://www.rospe.com/road-safety/advice/road-users/rural/> [Accessed 10/04/19]
4 PHE Public Health Outcomes (PHOF) Indicators, 2020 data

5 Dorset Council, 2019
6 <https://www.dementiastatistics.org/statistics-about-dementia/human-and-financial-impact/>

Box 2: Mental health

- By 2029, we expect to see more than 10,000 people aged 65+ living with dementia⁵. It is likely that an additional 1,900 informal carers will be needed to cope with this increase⁶.
- Nationally, one in eight children and young people need support or treatment for mental health problems⁷.
- Research suggests that the rate of those needing specialist mental health treatment was lower in the UK armed forces than that seen in the UK general population¹⁵.
- During the course of a year, almost one in four of us will suffer from some form of mental health condition⁸.

People aged 65+ with dementia



Box 3: Substance use



- In Dorset, admission rates for alcohol related harm is static⁹.
- In Dorset, £1 invested in adult drug treatment services, generates a social return of £4¹⁰.
- Domestic abuse, mental ill-health and substance use have been termed a 'Toxic Trio' commonly found in families where harm to children has occurred.
- 3,225 domestic abuse incidents were reported in Dorset last year¹¹.

Box 4: Improving outcomes

- Health is mostly determined by social, economic and environmental factors. Promoting natural greenspaces, outdoor activities and social prescribing can therefore, be more effective than traditional services for reducing local health inequalities¹⁶.
- Empowering people to have more say in their health and wellbeing is key to addressing inequalities, where those most needing services are least likely to access them.
- Since 2015, LiveWell Dorset has been supporting residents to improve their health and wellbeing through targeted activity, weight, alcohol and smoking support¹². 256 people were being supported in August 2021 in the Dorset Council area.
- 73% of pathways started in the same period were for weight and activity support, however, all support programmes saw lower uptake during 2020 and particularly during lockdown¹⁷.
- Weight and activity programmes show highest uptake in January-February each year, possibly reflecting New Year, New Start self-improvement plans. Alcohol programmes show lowest take-up (19%) following a positive assessment of need¹⁷.

Sources

- 7 HNA of the Wellbeing and Mental Health of Children Young People in Dorset, NHS Dorset CCG, 2021
- 8 Mind
- 9 PHE Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) Indicators, 2020 data
- 10 Alcohol and drugs prevention, treatment and recovery: why invest?, Public Health England, 12/02/18
- 11 Community Safety Partnership Performance Statistics
- 12 <https://www.livewelldorset.co.uk/>
- 13 2011 Census, KS301
- 14 Adult and Community Services, Dorset Council, April 2019
- 15 UK armed forces mental health annual statistics: financial year 2020/21, Gov.UK
- 16 Social prescribing: applying All Our Health, Gov.UK, 2022
- 17 Joint Public Health Board LiveWell Dorset Performance Report, 2021

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State of Dorset Leisure and Culture



Participation in arts and culture makes communities feel safer and stronger, adds to health and wellbeing and reduces social isolation¹, but funding cuts are a significant threat to culture and leisure activities, particularly in the third sector.

Cultural and recreational activities can help people access the natural environment through healthy lifestyles. Sport is evidenced to result in significant savings to health costs and yet there are concerns that many of Dorset's young people are physically inactive.

Big Numbers Box

£84m

Value of the arts and entertainment sectors to the Dorset economy⁴

41,000

People saw the iconic Dorset Moon installation

76%

Of older people say that arts & culture helps them feel happy

66%

Of Dorset's adults are overweight³

3,000

Young people play in the Dorset Youth Football League

77%

Of Dorset's adults are physically active³

Box 1: Health and wellbeing value

- Arts and cultural intervention can have a positive impact on specific health conditions such as dementia, Parkinson's and depression¹. The BSO and arts in hospital partnership saw the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra performing live to patients living with dementia to increase their wellbeing. The project found that dementia patients benefitted through fewer falls, reduced medication, and reduced hospital stays⁷.
- Nearly half of older people (43%) say that accessibility is an important factor when they choose arts venues to attend².
- Overall 76% of people aged 65+ say that arts & culture is important to making them feel happy. And nearly as many (69%) say that arts and culture is important in improving their overall quality of life².

76% of older people say arts & culture makes them feel happy



Sources

1 Create, Arts Council England, December 2015

2 <http://www.comresglobal.com/polls/arts-council-england-older-people-poll/> [Accessed 03/07/18]

3 PHE Public Health Outcome (PHOF) Indicators, 2020 data

4 Regional gva (balanced) by industry in current prices, Office for National Statistics, 2021

Box 2: Engagement & Economic Value

- Research has revealed that the economic impact of Dorset based arts organisation, Artsreach adds to public funding by an estimated 93%, particularly through the 'volunteer multiple' which adds time, commitment and expertise to arts administration in Dorset.
- There are 11 competitive youth football leagues operating across Dorset. Six leagues for girls and five mixed leagues from Under 12 to under 16s. There are also hundreds of youngsters playing in non-competitive leagues from under 7 through to under 11 as well as a multitude of other organised sports.
- 'Back to Netball' and walking football have successfully encouraged older people to take up sport.
- The number of businesses in the Creative Industries in Dorset has been growing rapidly. Between 2017 and 2020 there has been a 24% increase, compared to 10% for all industries⁶.
- The Creative Economy has grown by 13% in the last 5 years⁵.
- For every £1 invested in the Arts Development Company by the council there is a return of £4 secured in external investment into the area⁷.



Every £1 spent locally is matched four times over in external benefit to Dorset

Box 3: Levelling Up

- 'Levelling Up' is a government programme to equally distribute opportunity and redress locality-based inequality.
- Culture, heritage and sport have been recognised as one of the priorities within the government's White Paper on 'Levelling Up'.
- Leisure and Culture Consumption Expenditure Per Head was £2,300 for Dorset in 2018⁸.
- Tourism is important to Dorset's economy as it supports many seasonal jobs. This can introduce precariousness based on weather and tourist numbers. Dorset saw a reduction of 52% in visitor spending during the pandemic. Therefore, increasing resilience is about diversifying the local economy, attracting different and new businesses into the area⁹.
- Despite its unique challenges, Dorset has not yet been allocated any of the Levelling Up funding.
- While Dorset was allocated £4.2m from the Cultural Recovery Fund, it has been less successful in the majority of grant and bid applications compared to near neighbours¹⁰.

Sources

- 4 Taking Part 2016/17: South West, Arts Council England
- 5 LFS Employment (number of filled jobs, thousands) in the DCMS sectors, subsectors, SIC codes and creative and digital occupations by various demographic characteristics : July 2020 to September 2020
- 6 UK Businesses 2020, Local Units, ONS , 2020
- 7 The Arts Development Company
- 8 Regional Household Final Consumption Expenditure (Experimental statistics), ONS, 2018
- 9 Great South West Tourism Partnership, 2021
- 10 Levelling Up White Paper Briefing, Dorset Council, 2022

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State of Dorset

Natural and Historic Environment



Dorset's natural and historic environment makes a huge contribution to health and personal wellbeing.

Dorset's natural systems provide a wide range of essential goods (food, fuel, productive soil, clean air and water) and beneficial services (pollination, flood alleviation, climate regulation and tranquillity). These are taken for granted, but they need a combination of public, private and voluntary action to maintain them.

The contribution of our natural and historic environment to the economy is often overlooked.

The high quality natural environment that is so cherished by people living and working in Dorset means that we work hard to deliver mechanisms such as the Dorset Heathlands Planning Framework to ensure that development is led sustainably.

Big Numbers Box

92% Reduction in waste sent to landfill compared to 10 years ago. Only 3% of waste is now sent to landfill¹⁰

6% Of energy production from renewable sources

5% Of all nationally protected ancient monuments are in

Listed Buildings in Dorset **9,227**

90%

Of Dorset residents said the environment was an important factor deciding to live in Dorset

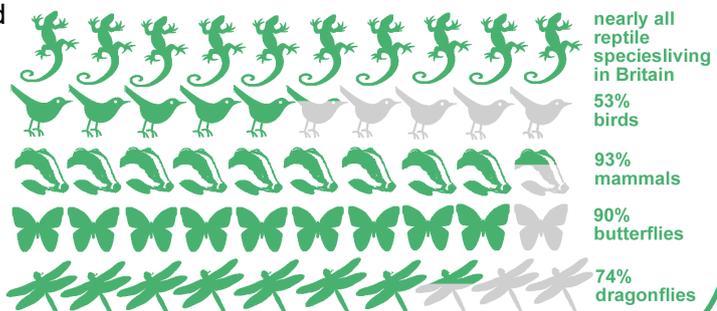
54%

Of county covered by Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty designation

Box 1: The Natural Environment

- 90% of Dorset's* residents surveyed said the environment was an important, very important or crucial factor in their decision to live in Dorset. In addition, businesses report a demonstrable positive impact from both the Jurassic Coast and the AONB.¹
- Dorset contains part of England's only natural World Heritage Site and two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, covering 54% of the Dorset Council area.²
- Dorset is home to 9,227³ Listed Buildings of which 249 are Grade I which are of exceptional interest and may be of significant national importance. 5% of all national protected monuments are in Dorset.
- All of the Dorset coast (excluding the town seafronts) is recognised in national or international designations for its unique landscape, scenic quality, wildlife and geological formations.²

Dorset is home to...



Sources

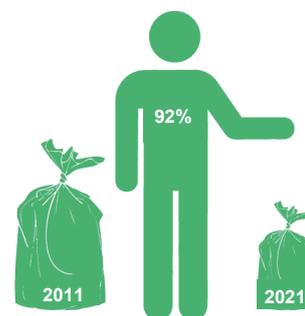
*includes Christchurch

- 1 'Dorset's Environmental Economy', Ash Futures for Dorset County Council, Dorset AONB, Jurassic Coast WHS, Dorset LNP, 2015
- 2 Dorset Databook 2011, Dorset County Council (recalculated)
- 3 The National Heritage List for England (NHLE), Historic England, 2022
- 4 The Clean Growth Strategy, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, 12/10/2017
- 5 Public Health and Landscape, Creating healthy places, Landscape Institute, November 2013

Box 2: Economy and wellbeing

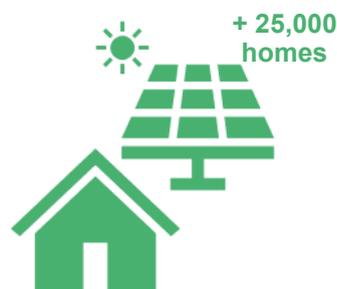
- Dorset's* environmental economy is worth between £0.9bn and £2.5bn per annum, about 8-10% of the overall economy. It also supports between 17,000 and 61,000 jobs in the economy.¹
- The low carbon economy has the potential to grow by 11% per year between 2015 and 2030 - four times faster than the rest of the economy⁴.
- The physical and mental health benefits of access to nature are well documented, as are the negative impacts of environmental inequality. Improving access to green infrastructure therefore offers the potential to extend these benefits, particularly in areas where access is poor.
- The landscape can reduce the need for expensive public health interventions. Local public health spending on the landscape can be 27 times more cost effective than clinical interventions⁵.

% reduction in amount of waste being sent to landfill¹⁰



Box 3: Natural Environment and Renewable Energy

- Climate change will continue and CO² emissions have not reduced from 0.7kt per kilometre since 2016 in Dorset⁹. Further reductions are required to meet tougher emission targets for 2050⁶. The Paris Agreement aims to limit warming to well below 2°C and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C.
- Dorset is in the top 15% of over 400 areas in the UK for renewable electricity generation⁸.
- Renewable energy generation has increased 250% between 2014 and 2020⁸.
- However, while renewable energy production has increased, Dorset was lagging behind Cornwall and Devon in 2016 on renewable energy production, who are the leaders in the SW^{7,8}.
- Much of Dorset is protected as nationally important and with heritage assets, including: listed buildings, scheduled monuments, protected wrecks, registered parks and gardens, and battlefields, so planning permissions must be carefully considered to ensure they continue to be protected.
- Three new projects in Dorset this year in Tadmoll, Sherborne and Blandford to generate solar renewable energy will together generate enough electricity to power approximately 25,000 homes. Balancing any negative environmental impacts in local authority planning processes enables growth of the renewable industry, whilst reducing harmful carbon emissions for the long term⁸.



Sources

*includes Christchurch

6 The Carbon Plan: Delivering our low carbon future, Department of Energy & Climate Change, 2011.

7 Renewable energy - A local progress report for England, Regen SW, 2016.

8 Dorset is one of the UK's top areas for renewable energy generation, Dorset Council News, 25/03/2022

9 UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005-2019

10 2011 compared to 2021, Dorset Council

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State of Dorset Older People



The population of Dorset, mirroring that of the UK, is aging. It is happening more rapidly in Dorset due to our larger older population and declining birth rate. The median age in Dorset is 51, up by 4 years since 2009, compared to a median age of just 40 for England, up by less than one year in the last 10 years.¹ Typically Older People refers to those who are no longer of working age, so traditionally 65+. However with increased life expectancy an increasing number of people find themselves either having to work, or wanting to work beyond what was traditionally retirement age.

Big Numbers Box

31,000 Population of 80+ year olds in 2020

Aged 65+ in Dorset **29%**

In England & Wales **19%**

2% pa

Growth in those aged 65+ over next decade

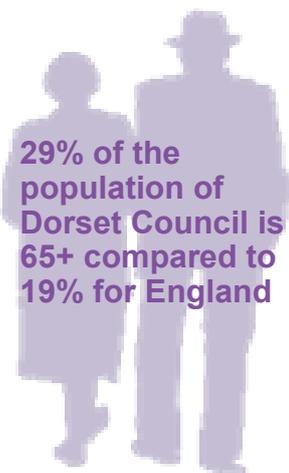
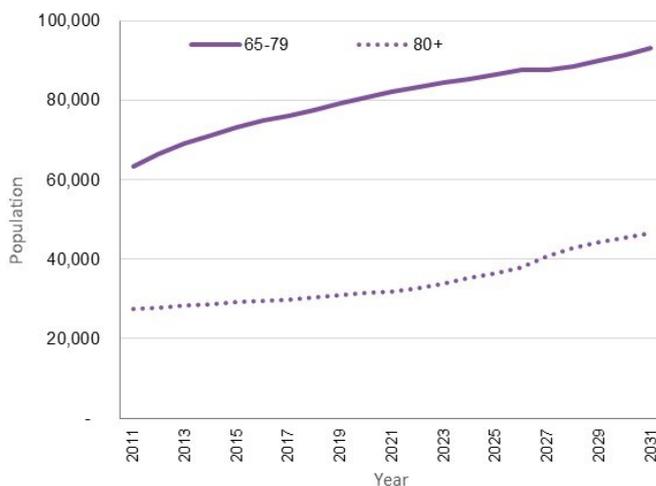
81 years

Life expectancy males

85 years

Life expectancy females

Box 1: Population



The population of those aged between 65 and 79 has grown by 30% between 2011 and 2021 and is projected to grow a further 13% to 2031. Those aged 80+ have grown by 16% between 2011 and 2021 and is projected to grow by 46% to 2031^{1,2}.



Nationwide migration of older people is driven by movement out of urban areas to rural and coastal areas. Net migration figures in Dorset are highest for the 60-65 yr old age group³.

The Old Age Dependency Ratio (OADR) is the number of people over 65yrs old for every 1,000 people aged between 16 and 64 years old. In England there are 297 older people per 1,000 working age population in Dorset this figure is 537¹.



Nationally 64% of the total growth in the number of households over the next ten years will be where the main householder is over 75 years of age. In Dorset, this figure grows to 102%.

The population of those 75+ living in care homes or nursing homes is projected to grow by 28% in Dorset, slightly above the average for England of 26%⁴.

Box 2: Life expectancy

Life expectancy over the last few decades has been steadily increasing nationally. At the age of 65 a woman in Dorset would expect to live for a further 22 years while a man 20 years.⁵

As well as living longer people are also living healthier lives. Dorset has above average healthy life expectancy; at age 65 females in Dorset can expect to live a further 12 years in good/fairly good health, males 12.5 years. Compared to 12.2 and 12 respectively for England.⁶

The life expectancy gap between Dorset's most and least deprived areas is 6.3 years for males and 5.3 years for females.⁷



With increases in life expectancy, no official retirement age and the state pension age rising, 65 as the start of older age could be becoming out of date⁸.

Over 12,000 people aged 65+ are in employment in Dorset. That's over 12 % of this age group and reflects the fact that people are retiring later.

8% of the total workforce in Dorset are aged 65 or over, compared to 4% for England.¹⁰



In England and Wales one in four carers are aged 65 and over⁸. In 2016 informal adult care was valued at £59.5 billion per year for the UK.⁸ According to Census 2011 30% of the 43,500 unpaid carers were aged 65 and over compared to 22% for England. As the population ages there will be increased need for informal care but also a need for older people to stay in the workforce longer.



Box 3: Living well¹¹

- Some areas of Dorset experience higher levels of Living Environment deprivation . Older people and disabled people are more likely to need adaptations to enable them to live independently. Higher numbers of Listed properties and Conservation Areas can restrict the feasibility of needed changes.
- Dorset's older people account for almost one third of its population. Fewer people are born in Dorset each year and levels of internal net migration are highest in older age groups. This means there will be fewer people to work in the economy and care for our ageing population.
- Given the ageing population and higher levels of disability and health problems amongst older people, there is likely to be an increased requirement for specialist housing options: 20% of all housing will need to be specialist accommodation for older people, set against a projected shortfall of 2,800 beds by 2038.

Sources

1. 2020 Mid-year estimates, Office for National Statistics
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3. 2019 Population Components of Change, ONS
4. 2019 based Household Projections, ONS
5. Life expectancy at 65 (2020), ONS
6. Health State Life Expectancy (2017-19), ONS
7. Dorset Health Profile 2019, Public Health England,
8. Living Longer Bulletins, ONS
9. Annual Population Survey, Jan-Dec 2021
10. Annual Population Survey, 2020
11. Dorset and BCP Local Housing Needs Assessment, 2021