

May
2022

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

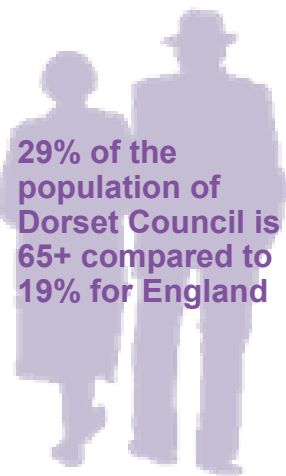
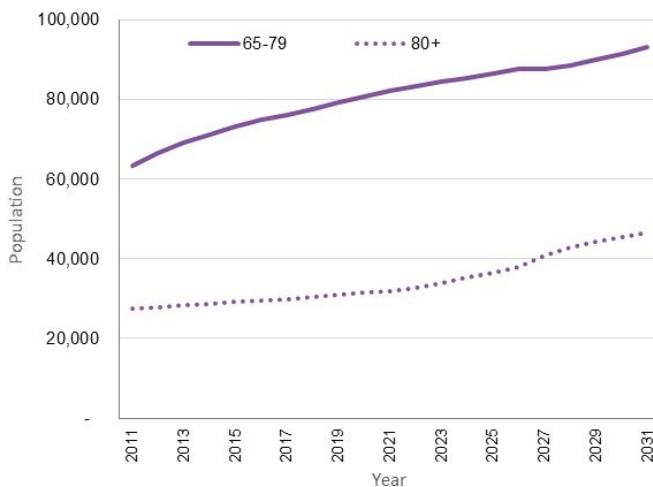
81 years

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
2. 2019-based trend population projections, DC
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