

Article

Care homes and estimating the self-funding population, England: 2022 to 2023

An estimation of the size of the self-funding population in care homes in England. Provides data covering the period 1 March 2022 to 28 February 2023, broken down by geographic variables and care home characteristics.

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1 . Main points

- From 1 March 2022 to 28 February 2023, there was a statistically significant 3.1% increase in the number of care home residents (372,035); of these, 37.0% (137,480) were self-funders, which is not a significant change since last year.
- The South East remained the region with the highest proportion of self-funders in care homes (47.5%), which is statistically significantly higher than the North East, which had the lowest proportion of self-funders (26.4%).
- Care homes providing care for older people remained the care homes with the highest proportion of self-funders (48.9%), which was statistically significantly higher than all other care home types; care homes for younger adults remained the lowest (2.0%).
- Smaller care homes, with 1 to 19 beds, remained the care homes with the lowest proportion of self-funders (12.0%), which is statistically significantly lower than all other care home sizes.
- Of care homes with ratings, care homes rated outstanding remained the care homes with the highest proportion of self-funders (50.9%), which was statistically significantly higher than care homes rated inadequate, which remained the lowest (24.0%).
- The coverage of the care home population improved in this release (75.4%) compared with the previous release (68.6%).

2 . Overview

We previously developed a new experimental method to understand the size of the self-funding population in care homes in England, as shown in our [Care homes and estimating the self-funding population, England: 2019 to 2020 - methodology](#). We have used the same experimental method to produce estimates for the period 1 March 2022 to 28 February 2023 (inclusive). This article contains data from the adult social care [provider information returns](#) (PIR) for residential services (care homes with or without nursing), which are collected by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

The data have been weighted up to an annual estimate for England because of incomplete coverage of the care home population (75.4% after data cleaning); this coverage is an improvement compared with our previous article, [Care homes and estimating the self-funding population, England: 2021 to 2022](#) (68.6%). For our definition of "self-funder" see [Section 9: Glossary](#). We will make comparisons with the previous year of PIR data collection (1 March 2021 to 28 February 2022) where relevant.

Additional breakdowns (lower and upper tier local authorities, rural versus urban areas, Index of Multiple Deprivation, provider size, and nursing care provision) and confidence intervals for all estimates can be found in our [accompanying dataset](#).

3 . Self-funding population of care home residents

There were an estimated 372,035 care home residents from 1 March 2022 to 28 February 2023, a 3.1% increase from last year (360,792), which was statistically significant. Care home occupancy was 80.5% of Care Quality Commission (CQC) registered beds, which is a statistically significant increase from last year (77.8%). The number of CQC registered care home beds (461,958) has decreased since last year (463,765).

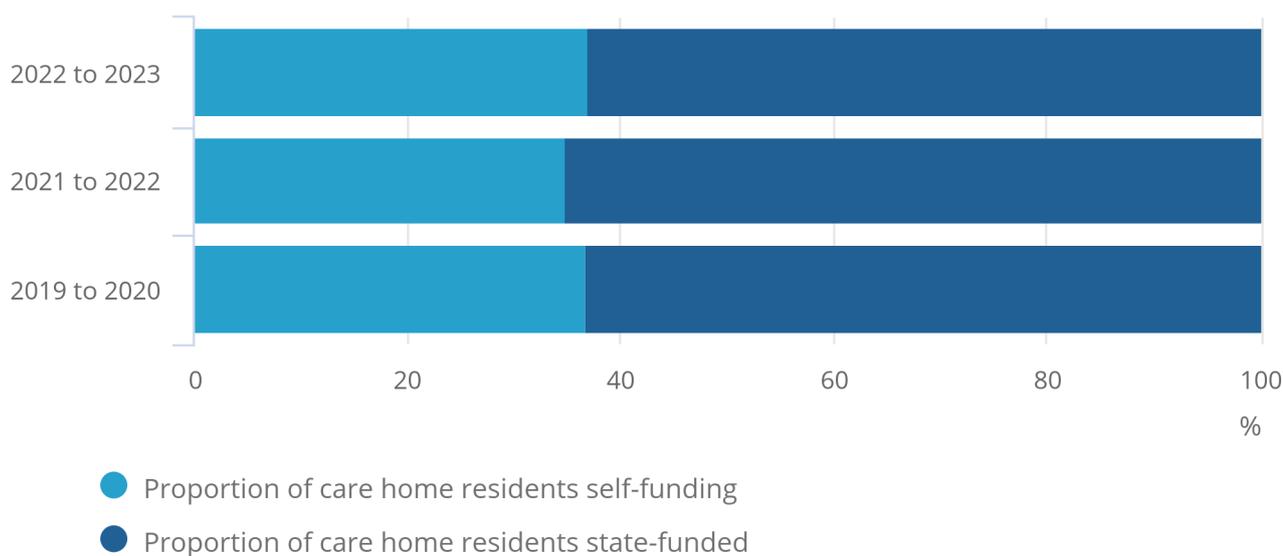
Approximately, 137,480 (37.0%) of care home residents were classified as self-funders, compared with approximately 234,555 (63.0%) state-funded residents (Figure 1). This is a 9.2% increase in self-funders from last year (125,954), which was not statistically significant, and the proportion of self-funding residents was also not statistically significantly different from last year (34.9%).

Figure 1: The proportion of self-funding care home residents is similar to previous years

Total care home resident population by the proportion of self-and state-funded care home residents, England, 2019 to 2020 and 2021 to 2023

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Total care home resident population by the proportion of self-and state-funded care home residents, England, 2019 to 2020 and 2021 to 2023



Source: Provider information returns (PIR) from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and the Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Figures are weighted annual estimates based on CQC PIR data collected between 1 August 2019 and 29 February 2020, and 1 March 2021 and 28 February 2023.

Most care homes (9,016, 59.7%) had a mix of self- and state-funded residents. Most care homes that had at least one self-funded resident had between 20.0% and 29.0% self-funders (1,376, 14.9%) as shown in Figure 2.

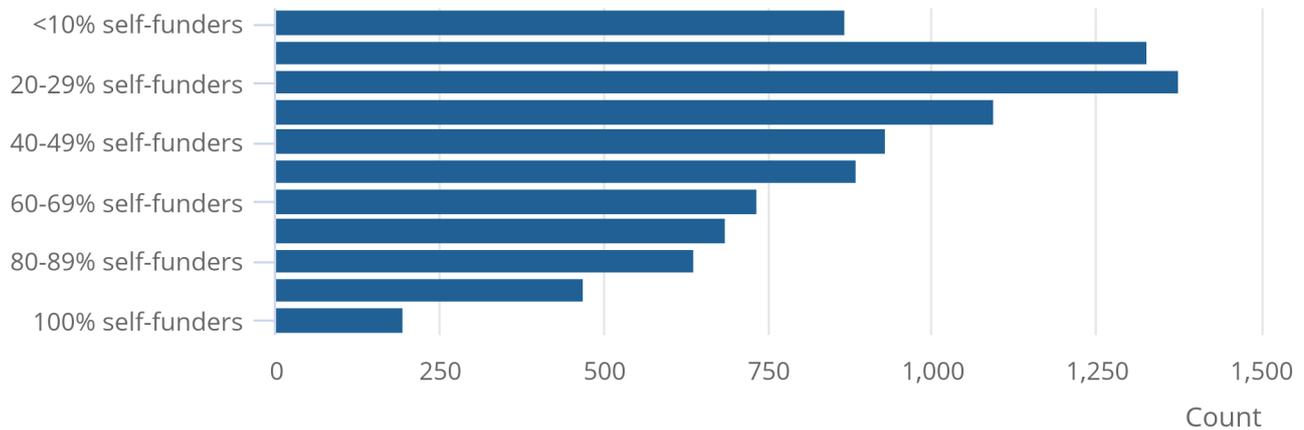
Over a third of care homes (5,891, 39.0% of all care homes) had no self-funded residents, but these accounted for just 13.6% of CQC registered care home beds (62,596). In contrast, 1.3% (197) of care homes had all self-funded residents, accounting for 1.6% of care home beds (7,460). For more information about the relationship between care home size and self-funding, see [Figure 5 in Section 5: Comparing the proportion of self-funders by care home characteristics](#).

Figure 2: Most care homes with self-funders had between 20 and 29% self-funders

Number of care homes with at least one self-funded care home resident by self-funder category, England, 2022 to 2023

Figure 2: Most care homes with self-funders had between 20 and 29% self-funders

Number of care homes with at least one self-funded care home resident by self-funder category, England, 2022 to 2023



Source: Provider information returns (PIR) from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and the Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Figures are weighted annual estimates based on CQC PIR data collected between 1 March 2022 and 28 February 2023.
2. This graph excludes the 5,891 care homes (39.0% of full sample), which had zero self-funded residents; these figures are provided in the [accompanying dataset](#).
3. The category "less than 10% self-funders" therefore excludes both care homes with 0% self-funders and care homes with 10% self-funders; for more details on boundaries see our [accompanying dataset](#).

4 . Geographic breakdown of self-funders in care homes

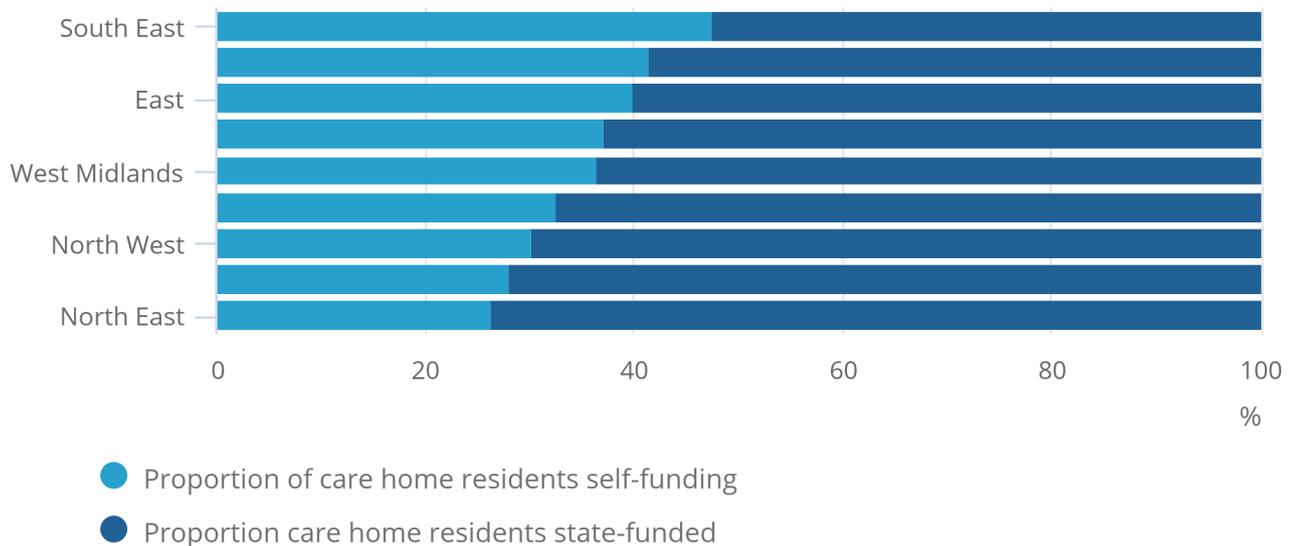
The South East remained the region with the highest proportion of self-funders (47.5%), and the North East remained the lowest (26.4%), a statistically significant difference (Figure 3). The proportion of self-funders increased in every region compared with last year, but none of these differences were statistically significant and the overall regional pattern remained the same.

Figure 3: The proportion of self-funders was highest in care homes in the South East

Regions by the proportion of self- and state-funded care home residents, England, 2022 to 2023

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Regions by the proportion of self- and state-funded care home residents, England, 2022 to 2023



Source: Provider information returns (PIR) from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and the Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Figures are weighted annual estimates based on CQC PIR data collected between 1 March 2022 and 28 February 2023.
2. Region is based on where the care home is located as identified in the latest [National Statistics Postcode Lookup File](#) at the time of data analysis (May 2023).

5 . Comparing the proportion of self-funders by care home characteristics

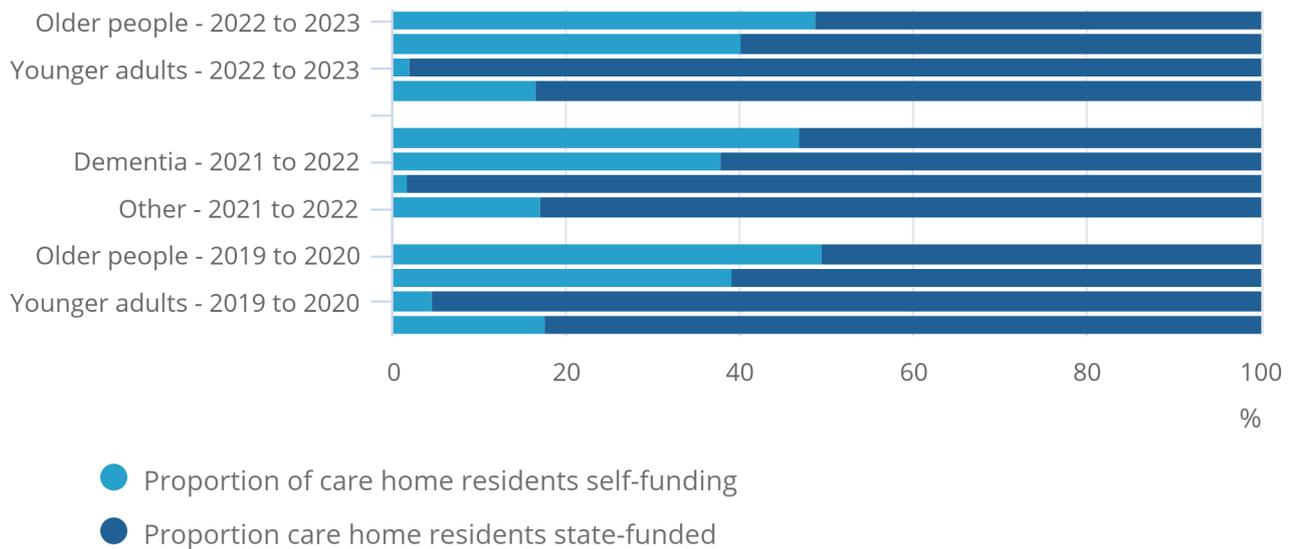
The proportion of self-funders in care homes providing care for younger adults was 2.0%, which was statistically significantly lower than all other care home types (Figure 4). Care homes providing care for older people (aged 65 years and over) had a statistically significantly higher proportion of self-funders (48.9%) compared with the proportion of self-funders in all other care home types, the same pattern as last year.

Figure 4: Care homes providing care for older people have a higher proportion of self-funders than all other care home types

Care home type by the proportion of self- and state-funded care home residents, England, 2019 to 2020 and 2021 to 2023

Figure 4: Care homes providing care for older people have a higher proportion of self-funders than all other care home types

Care home type by the proportion of self- and state-funded care home residents, England, 2019 to 2020 and 2021 to 2023



Source: Provider information returns (PIR) from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and the Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Figures are weighted annual estimates based on CQC PIR data collected between 1 August 2019 and 29 February 2020, and 1 March 2021 and 28 February 2023.
2. Care home types are derived using the [Care directory](#) service user band variables (see [Section 9: Glossary](#)). Older people are those who have reached their 65th birthday onwards, and younger adults includes people from their 18th birthday to the day before their 65th birthday. For more information on care home types, see our [Care homes and estimating the self-funding population, England: 2019 to 2020 methodology](#).

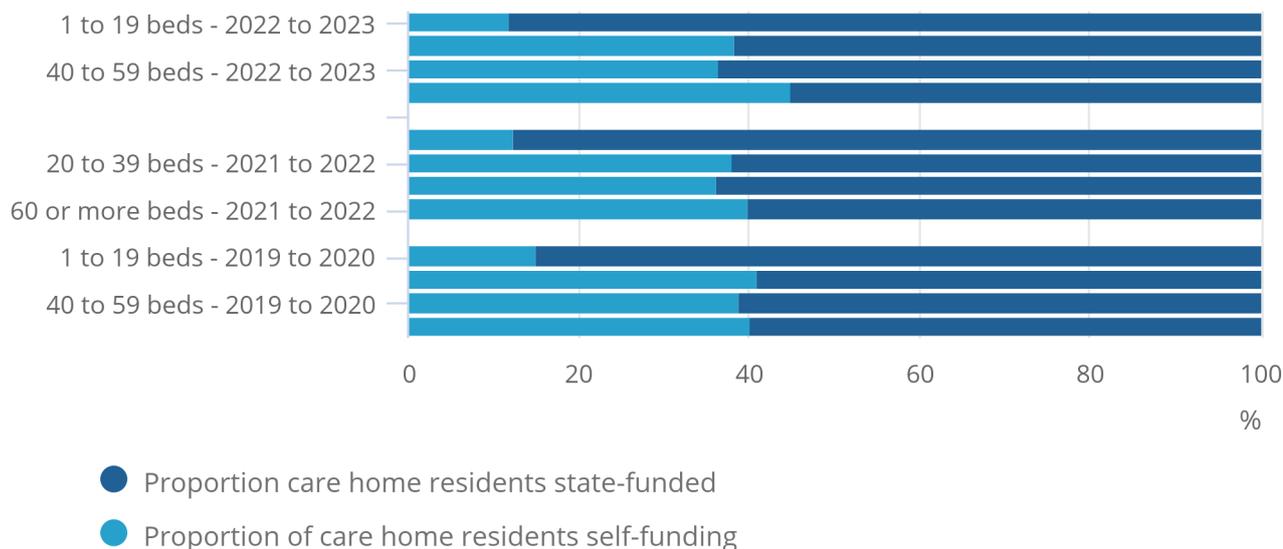
Care homes with 1 to 19 beds had the smallest proportion of self-funders (12.0%; Figure 5). This was statistically significantly lower compared with all other care home sizes. Unlike last year, care homes with 60 or more beds had a statistically significantly higher proportion of self-funders (45.0%) than all other care home sizes. However, the differences between the same categories this year and last year are not statistically significant.

Figure 5: Care homes with 60 or more beds had a higher proportion of self-funders compared with other care home sizes

Care home size by the proportion of self- and state-funded care home residents, England, 2019 to 2020 and 2021 to 2023

Figure 5: Care homes with 60 or more beds had a higher proportion of self-funders compared with other care home sizes

Care home size by the proportion of self- and state-funded care home residents, England, 2019 to 2020 and 2021 to 2023



Source: Provider information returns (PIR) from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and the Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Figures are weighted annual estimates based on CQC PIR data collected between 1 August 2019 and 29 February 2020, and 1 March 2021 and 28 February 2023.
2. Care home size has been determined based on the number of care home beds reported in the [Care directory](#).

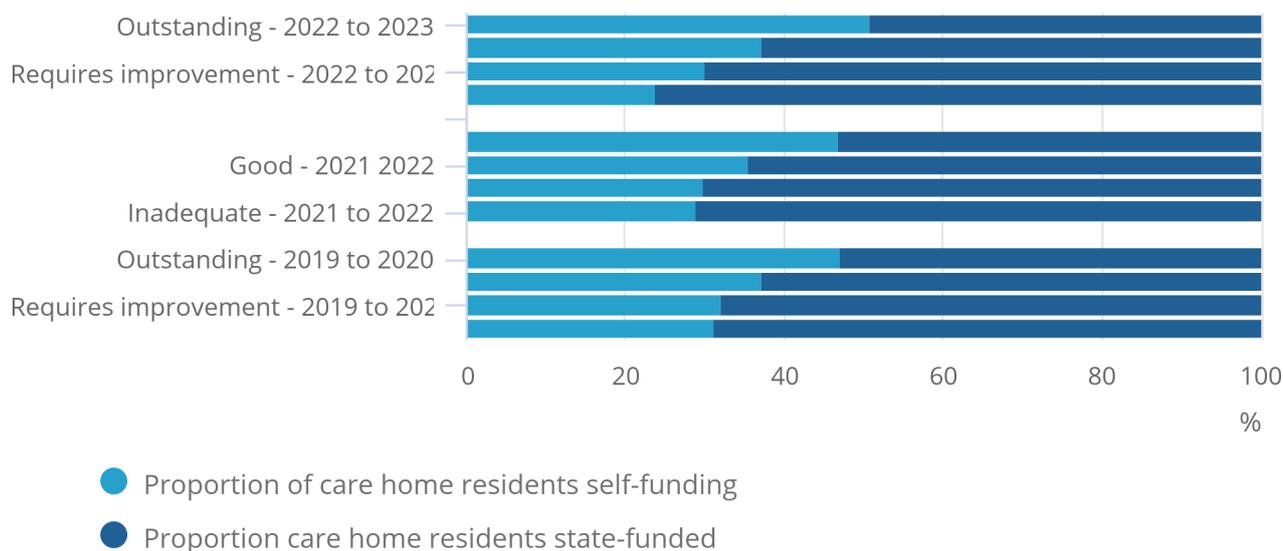
In terms of care homes with ratings, care homes rated outstanding had the highest proportion of self-funders (50.9%), which is statistically significantly higher than all other ratings (Figure 6). Care homes rated inadequate had the lowest proportion of self-funders (24.0%), which was statistically significantly lower than all other ratings, except for requires improvement (30.1%). The proportion of self-funders in the care home decreased as quality rating decreased.

Figure 6: Care homes rated outstanding had a higher proportion of self-funders compared with other care homes with ratings

Care home rating by the proportion of self- and state-funded care home residents, England, 2019 to 2020 and 2021 to 2023

Figure 6: Care homes rated outstanding had a higher proportion of self-funders compared with other care homes with ratings

Care home rating by the proportion of self- and state-funded care home residents, England, 2019 to 2020 and 2021 to 2023



Source: Provider information returns (PIR) from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and the Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Figures are weighted annual estimates based on CQC PIR data collected between 1 August 2019 and 29 February 2020, and 1 March 2021 and 28 February 2023.
2. Care home rating is based on the [Care directory](#).
3. Care homes with no rating are not shown on the graph for 2022 to 2023 or 2021 to 2022; there was no "no rating" category for 2019 to 2020. "No rating" figures for 2022 to 2023 are provided in our [accompanying dataset](#).

6 . Care homes for older people and dementia

A subset of variables was analysed for only care homes that provide care for older people, individuals with dementia or both, based on care home type rather than age of residents. For more information on care home type, see [Section 4 of our Care homes and estimating the self-funding population, England: 2019 to 2020 - methodology](#) and for the full breakdown of variables, see our [accompanying dataset](#).

The overall pattern of findings is similar to the whole sample, with the exception of care home size and nursing provision. For care home size, there was a higher proportion of self-funders in smaller care homes (1 to 19 beds) in the older people and dementia sub-sample (33.9%) compared with the whole sample (12.0%). Unlike in the whole sample, this proportion was not statistically significantly different than the 40 to 59 beds category (36.9%).

7 . Care homes for working age adults

A subset of variables was analysed for care homes that only provide care for younger adults (aged 18 to 64 years), based on care home type rather than age of residents. For these data, see our [accompanying datasets](#) and for more information on care home type, see [Section 4 of our Care homes and estimating the self-funding population, England: 2019 to 2020 - methodology](#). Note that for care home size and rating, certain categories were collapsed because of small sample sizes.

8 . Estimates of self-funding population in care homes data

[Care homes and estimating the self-funding population, England](#)

Dataset | Released 6 July 2023

An estimation of the size of the self-funding population in care homes in England. Provides data covering the period 1 March 2022 to 28 February 2023, broken down by geographic variables and care home characteristics. Classed as Experimental statistics.

9 . Glossary

Care home resident

An individual who receives care in a place where personal care and accommodation is provided together. In this publication a care home refers to care homes with or without nursing care, however specialist college services are not included in this definition. For more information see [Section 4 of our Care homes and estimating the self-funding population, England: 2019 to 2020 - methodology](#).

Self-funded care home residents ("Self-funders")

The [provider information return \(PIR\)](#) defines a self-funder as an individual who pays for their own care privately. They can receive this in a number of ways.

Organised by themselves or through the local authority

- This is where an individual is over the savings or income threshold and therefore organises their care themselves or requests the local authority to arrange the care for them, but the individual still funds the full cost.

Organised by a charity

- Individuals who receive charity funding (for example, in a charity-run care home) are also defined as self-funders if they do not meet the eligibility criteria for state funding.

NHS-funded nursing care

- If an individual is in receipt of NHS-funded nursing care in a care home, they will have an amount paid for by the NHS, deemed to be the cost of the nursing care they receive. However, the rest of the cost could be self-funding, depending on their financial situation, and therefore they have been included in this definition.
- It is important to note that not all individuals in receipt of NHS-funded nursing care will be self-funding, they could also be in receipt of local authority support. NHS-funded nursing care should not be used to directly measure the size of the self-funding population.

State-funded care home resident

The PIR defines a state-funded care home resident as an individual whose care is funded in full or in part by the local authority and/or the NHS. This includes the following.

Paying user charges when funded by local authority

- This is where the local authority has assessed an individual as having care and support needs and the individual has savings or income below the upper savings or income threshold and is funded by a local authority. However, the individual may pay additional costs to the local authority (a user charge).

NHS continuing healthcare

- This is where an individual's needs have primarily been deemed as health-based, as per the decision support tool, and therefore care is fully funded by the NHS (state).

Personal budget

- This is where an individual has been assessed through the local authority as having care and support needs and has savings or income below the threshold, so is given a budget to arrange care themselves, for example through a personal assistant; however, care is still funded through the local authority.

Third-party top up

- This is where an individual has been assessed through the local authority as having care and support needs and has savings or income below the threshold, therefore is state-funded. However, their care may be more expensive than the local authority is willing to pay, so a third party pays an additional cost (this is not categorised as a self-funder, as this cannot be paid for by the individual).

Care home types

Care homes have been categorised into four different groups based on the users that they provide care for. Users are derived by the service user band variables in the [Care Quality Commission Care directory](#), which a care home is required to specify when registering as a provider. For more information, see Derivation of care home type in [Section 4 of our Care homes and estimating the self-funding population, England: 2019 to 2020 - methodology](#). The groups are defined as:

- dementia (all ages)
- older person (aged 65 years and over)
- younger adults (aged 18 to 64 years)
- other

A variable that combines the "older people" and "dementia" care home type categories has also been created. This contains an estimate of the proportion of self-funders in care homes that provide care to older people, care homes that provide dementia care, and care homes that provide both. These breakdowns are available in our [accompanying dataset](#).

Statistical significance

The term "significant" refers to statistically significant changes or differences. Significance has been determined using the 95% confidence intervals, where instances of non-overlapping confidence intervals between estimates indicate the difference is unlikely to have arisen from random fluctuation. For more information, see [Section 6: Statistical significance in our Uncertainty and how we measure it for our surveys page](#).

10 . Data sources and quality

For a full description of our methods, see our [Care homes and estimating the self-funding population, England: 2019 to 2020 - methodology](#).

Completion and submission of [provider information returns \(PIRs\)](#) has been mandatory since 1 July 2021. Our analysis includes data from PIRs submitted between 1 March 2022 and 28 February 2023. Care homes were not sent a PIR if they:

- have been registered for fewer than 10 months and have not yet been inspected
- are dormant

Please note up to July 2022, care homes deemed to be under pressure were not sent a PIR. After this, this criterion was no longer applied; however, if a service was under pressure, they could request to delay the submission until a later time, after being invited in their original scheduled month.

There were 13,827 care homes which were sent a link to an online PIR form. Of these, 12,958 care homes responded (93.7%). Care Quality Commission (CQC) removed 853 responses affected by system errors, for a sample of 12,105 (87.5%). There were 12,058 responses from care homes that were still active two months after they submitted the PIR, and therefore could be linked to the [CQC Care directory](#) with registered beds, producing a final response rate of 87.2%. After validating, cleaning, and editing the data, the final sample was 11,391 care homes, which is 75.4% of all care homes that were registered with CQC in the relevant time period (15,104 care homes).

Unlike previous years, we did not reassign care homes without a rating in the Care directory (see Care homes without a rating in [Section 7 of our Care homes and estimating the self-funding population, England: 2019 to 2020 - methodology](#)), following discussions with CQC, as care homes without a rating may still be sent a PIR. Table 1 shows the differences between the distributions in cleaned and all other care homes in the Care directory.

Table 1: Distribution by English region, care home rating, size, and type for the cleaned PIR data and all other care homes in the April 2023 Care directory

| | Care homes that completed a PIR (N=11,391) | All other care homes (N=3,713) | Absolute Percentage Difference |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Percentage of care homes by region (%) | | | |
| East | 11.1 | 10.6 | 0.5 |
| East Midlands | 10.1 | 9.6 | 0.5 |
| London | 8.8 | 9.1 | -0.2 |
| North East | 4.9 | 4.3 | 0.6 |
| North West | 12.0 | 14.4 | -2.4 |
| South East | 19.7 | 16.9 | 2.8 |
| South West | 12.6 | 13.8 | -1.1 |
| West Midlands | 11.1 | 11.4 | -0.3 |
| Yorkshire and The Humber | 9.7 | 10.0 | -0.3 |
| Percentage of care homes by latest quality rating (%) | | | |
| Outstanding | 4.4 | 3.2 | 1.2 |
| Good | 76.2 | 68.3 | 7.9 |
| Requires improvement | 16.5 | 16.7 | -0.2 |
| Inadequate | 1.2 | 2.6 | -1.3 |
| No rating | 1.6 | 9.2 | -7.6 |
| Percentage of care homes by care home size (%) | | | |
| 1-19 beds | 40.6 | 44.1 | -3.5 |
| 20-39 beds | 27.4 | 23.9 | 3.5 |
| 40-59 beds | 17.6 | 14.9 | 2.7 |
| 60+ beds | 14.4 | 17.0 | -2.6 |
| Percentage of care homes by care home type (%) | | | |
| Care homes for older people | 11.1 | 7.9 | 3.2 |
| Care homes providing dementia care | 51.0 | 52.3 | -1.4 |
| Care homes for younger adults | 13.0 | 15.5 | -2.5 |
| Other types of care homes | 25.0 | 24.2 | 0.7 |

Source: Provider information returns (PIR) from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and the Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding.
2. The region variable was derived from the May 2023 [National Statistics Postcode Lookup File \(NSPL\)](#) which is linked to the Care directory.
3. Care home rating, size (number of beds) and types are derived using the Care directory. For more information see our [Care homes and estimating the self-funding population, England: 2019 to 2020 - methodology](#).
4. For more information on cleaning and potential bias in the sample, please refer to our [Care homes and estimating the self-funding population, England: 2019 to 2020 - methodology](#).

11 . Related links

[Care homes and estimating the self-funding population, England: 2019 to 2020 - methodology](#)

Methodology | Released 15 October 2021

Methods used to create a new experimental model for estimating the size of the self-funding population in care homes in England between August 2019 and February 2020. Includes how the data are collected, processed and produced as well as definitions and data sources.

[Accessing adult social care in England](#)

Methodology | Last revised | 15 October 2021

Summary, including diagram, of the different routes into residential and community care in England.

[Adult Social Care Statistics in England \(PDF, 348KB\)](#)

Report | Released 16 January 2020

An in-depth review of Adult Social Care Statistics in England from the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR). Includes an overview of adult social care in England, existing statistics available and the identified gaps in evidence.

[UK adult social care statistics](#)

Website | Updated monthly

This tool compiles official statistics relating to adult social care across the four nations: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, into one location. The landscape is updated each month with new publications from the previous month.

12 . Cite this article

Office for National Statistics (ONS), released 6 July 2023, ONS website, article, [Care homes and estimating the self-funding population, England: 2022 to 2023](#)