



# How 2011 Census data can help you

It's easier than you think



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## Understand your community with FREE census statistics

Good quality decisions need to be based on good quality information and data from the 2011 Census puts more power and influence in your hands. Census statistics can provide evidence to underpin proposals from community and voluntary groups. Where external funding is required, they can also provide the confidence to enable other partners and agencies to support applications for finance.

The census is an unrivalled source of information and now is the perfect time to take advantage of it. A census of the population takes place every ten years and the last one was in March 2011 when the Office for National Statistics (ONS) sent questionnaires to around 26m addresses in England and Wales. The information has been processed and data has started to be published by the ONS covering everything from the number, sex and ages of the population, to our living conditions, health, occupations, whether we have more than one address, how we travel to work and our educational qualifications.

## Just some examples – what the 2011 Census shows us

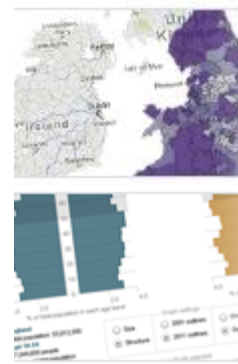


- Fastest growing population since 1801 – England and Wales population 56.1 million on 27 March 2011, a rise by 3.7 million since 2001
- Ageing population - one in six aged 65 or over
- Limiting long-term illness – 18 per cent were limited in their daily activities
- 10 per cent of residents, including children, in England and Wales provided unpaid care for someone with an illness or disability
- 22,000 usual residents used sign language – 70 per cent of these used British Sign Language as their main language
- 7.5 million people were born abroad – 2.9 million more than in 2001
- 546,000 people spoke Polish as their main language – the second most popular language in the country
- 23 per cent of those aged 16 or over had no qualifications

[www.ons.gov.uk/census](http://www.ons.gov.uk/census)

## Why census statistics are so special

- **Detailed information about local areas:** One great advantage of census statistics is that they are available down to very small geographical areas. So, as well as information about the population at a national level, you can also drill down to individual local authorities and even to postcodes.
- **Free of charge:** Another advantage is that census data is free of charge. Only when someone needs a specific result that does not form part of the standard range of statistical output tables will any charge be levied. A commissioned table service is also available.



## Getting the latest 2011 Census statistics is easy

There are two ways to access census statistics but the easiest way is online.

**Dedicated census site online:** Explore the range of census data, visit the Office for National Statistics website at [www.ons.gov.uk/census](http://www.ons.gov.uk/census)

### > Census results: More than just data

While dozens of statistical tables are derived from the census, help is available when it comes to finding the information that you need. Alongside the statistics themselves, ONS publishes Statistical Bulletins that summarise the key issues for each set of figures published.

### > Census analysis: The stories behind the data

There are also a number of 'short stories' that offer some analysis of some themes such as general health, disability, the provision of unpaid care, migrants, ethnicity, languages, religion, families and households.

### > Census interactive: Understand your local community

There is a selection of interactive maps and graphics that bring to life the data and enables the visualisation of topics across areas and time.

**Census Customer Services:** here to help you find and interpret data

Contact on 01329 444972 or [Census.Customerservices@ons.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Census.Customerservices@ons.gsi.gov.uk)

## How organisations use census statistics

- **Understanding your local area:** Charities frequently use census data to understand the demographics of the communities they are working in or considering working in.
- **Local services:** By looking at census data for local areas you can make assumptions about the type of services that might be required. Local data on ethnicity and languages spoken can also be essential when running localised initiatives or providing local services.
- **Successful funding applications:** All funding applications need to be objective and factual. Census data can be that hard evidence underpinning your application and give it that extra credibility.
- **Public debate:** Census data can help to raise awareness for what matters to your community. The Children's Society recently used 2011 Census figures on unpaid carers to highlight the issue of children providing unpaid care and to champion for more support.

2011 Census Benefits Team  
The Office for National Statistics  
Segensworth Road  
Titchfield, Fareham  
PO15 5RR

[www.ons.gov.uk/census](http://www.ons.gov.uk/census)

Email: [benefits.realisation@ons.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:benefits.realisation@ons.gsi.gov.uk)

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