



Telford and Wrekin Insight: Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) Population Headlines February 2023

Introduction

This document provides a summary of the main Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) population headlines for Telford and Wrekin. This document is updated every six months to provide headlines about the borough's population. All data is correct at the point of publishing, but may have been superseded by further updates. More detail and current data is available on many of these topics - interactive dashboards can be found on the [Telford and Wrekin Insight](https://www.telford.gov.uk/insight) website or if you have any questions please contact insight.team@telford.gov.uk

Telford and Wrekin

Telford and Wrekin is a place of contrasts, a distinctive blend of urban and rural areas, with green open spaces alongside contemporary housing developments and traditional market towns. On the face of it, the Borough is a prosperous place but there are clear differences across the Borough. Some neighbourhoods and communities in the Borough are among the most deprived areas nationally, whereas equally some communities are amongst the more affluent in England.

Population and Growth in Telford and Wrekin

The population of the Borough continues to grow at above national rates – driven by the expansion of the local economy and record levels of housing growth. As the population grows, it has continued to change, with the population becoming more diverse and ageing:

- The estimated the population of Telford & Wrekin is 185,842 (*source: ONS mid year population estimates 2021*)
- The borough's population increased by 19,000 people between the 2011 Census and 2021 Census, an increase of 11.4%. This was the highest of all West Midlands upper tier local authorities and the 21st highest of all 151 upper tier local authorities in England (*source: ONS Census data*).
- The number of births has been decreasing in recent years. Between mid-2019 and mid-2020 the borough saw the lowest annual number of births (1,989) and the highest number of deaths (1,717) in the ten-year period 2011-2020 (*source: ONS Population Estimates 2020*).
- Natural change (the difference between the number of births and the number of deaths) has decreased since 2011 and internal migration has become the key driver of population change in the borough (*source: ONS Population Estimates 2020*).

- Telford & Wrekin no longer has a population that is younger than the average in the region. The median age of residents in the borough has increased by 3.9 years since 2001 and as of mid-2021 the average age of residents, at 40, is just below the West Midlands (40.3) and England (40.5) (*source: ONS Population Estimates 2021*).
- The borough saw one of the largest increases in population aged 65 plus in England between the 2011 and 2021 Census, with an increase of 35.7% (England 20.1%) – the highest increase of all West Midlands upper tier local authorities and the second highest of all 151 upper tier authorities in England (*source: ONS Census data*).

Population Characteristics

The 2021 Census showed the borough becoming notably more diverse in the ten years since the previous Census in 2011:

Migration:

- 11.4% of usual residents of Telford and Wrekin in March 2021 (21,110 people) were born outside of the UK compared to 7.3% of usual residents (12,137 people) in 2011. This was an increase of 8,973 people (73.9%) from 2011.
- Poland was the most common country of birth outside of the UK for borough residents in 2021, with 1.9% of borough residents (3,481 people) listing Poland as their country of birth. India was the second most common country of birth (1.1% of residents), followed by Ghana (1.1% of residents)

Ethnicity:

- In 2021, 88.2% (163,638) of usual borough residents identified their ethnic group within the high-level "White" category. This compared to 81.0% for England and was a decrease in from 92.7% (154,415) in the 2011 Census.
- As part of the "White" ethnic group, 83.0% (153,936) of the total population of the borough identified their ethnic group as "English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British". This compares to 73.5% for England and was a decrease from 89.5% (149,096) in 2011.
- The next most common high-level ethnic group was "Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh" accounting for 5.4% (10,067) of the borough population compared to 9.6% for England.

National Identity

- In 2021, 92.8% (172,114) of usual borough residents identified with at least one UK national identity (English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, British and Cornish) compared with 90.0% for England. This was a decrease in Telford and Wrekin from 95.8% (159,698) in the 2011 Census.
- Those selecting a non-UK identity only accounted for 7.3% (13,505) of the borough population in 2021 compared to 10.1% for England. This was an increase locally from 4.2% (6,943) of the population in 2011.
- Among those who described a non-UK national identity, the most common response was those describing "Polish" only as their identity. This accounted for 1.6% (2,972) of borough residents compared to 1.0% for England. "Romanian" only was the second most commonly reported non-UK national identity in the borough. This accounted for 0.9% (1,701) of borough residents compared to 0.8% for England.

Language:

- In 2021, 93.4% (167,409) of usual borough residents, aged three years and over, had English as a main language. This compared to 90.8% for England and was a decrease locally from 95.9% (153,163) of residents in 2011.
- In 2021, a further 5.3% (9,452) of borough residents could speak English well or very well but did not speak it as their main language.
- The most common main languages in the borough, other than English were: Polish (1.7%, 3,089), Romanian (1.0%, 1,756) and Panjabi (0.6%, 1,075).

Religion:

- As with England, for the first time in a census, less than half of borough residents (47.6%, 88,275 people) described themselves as "Christian".
- The main driver for the change was the proportion of residents who indicated that they had "No religion". In 2021, 40.9% (75,964) of borough residents responded that they had "No religion". This was greater than for England (36.7%).
- "Muslim" was the second most common religion in the borough, increasing to 2.7% (5,043) of residents in 2021 from 1.8% (3,019) of residents in 2011.

Sexual Orientation

- The census question on sexual orientation was a voluntary question asked for the first time in Census 2021. 92.9% (138,176) of usual borough residents aged 16 and over answered the question.
- 134,069 (90.2% of usual borough residents aged 16 and over) identified as straight or heterosexual; 1,974 (1.3%) described themselves as gay or lesbian; 1,726 (1.2%) described themselves as bisexual; 407 (0.3%) selected "Other sexual orientation".
- The overall proportion of borough residents who identified with an LGB+ orientation was 2.8% (4,107) which compares with 2.6% for the West Midlands and 3.2% for England.

Gender Identity

- The census question on gender identity was a voluntary question asked for the first time in Census 2021 of those aged 16 years and over. The question asked "Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?". 94.3% (140,137) of usual borough residents aged 16 and over answered the question.
- A total of 139,411 (93.8% of usual borough residents aged 16 and over) indicated that their gender identity was the same as their sex registered at birth.
- A total of 726 (0.5%) answered "No" indicating that their gender identity was different from their sex registered at birth. Within this group: 361 (0.2%) answered "No" but did not provide a write-in response; 149 (0.1%) identified as a trans man; 118 (0.1%) identified as a trans woman; 58 (0.04%) identified as non-binary; 40 (0.03%) wrote in a different gender identity.

Wider Determinants of Health

Telford and Wrekin is a place of socio-economic contrasts. Parts of the borough are amongst the most deprived in England, with deprivation rates comparable to inner cities, whilst other areas are amongst the least deprived in England

- Around 24.9% of the population of Telford & Wrekin live in areas in the 20% most deprived nationally, around 45,100 people (*source: 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation*).
- Around 21.4% of children live in relative low income families, higher than the England rate (18.5%) (*source: PHE Fingertips 2020/21*)
- 1 in 10 of the borough's age standardised population (10.6%, 18,026 people) reported that they were providing unpaid care in 2021. This was greater than the proportion for England (8.9%) and the West Midlands (9.6%) and was the 10th highest proportion of all upper tier local authorities England. 3.5% of the borough's age standardised population (5,899 people) were doing so for more than 50 hours per week. (*Source: ONS Census 2021*)
- The borough has lower rates of people claiming unemployment benefits than regionally or nationally (T&W 3.5%, W Mids 4.8%, England 3.8%) (*source: NOMIS claimant count December 2022*)
- The largest employment sectors in the borough are construction (730 businesses) and retail (700 businesses) (*source: NOMIS UK Business Count 2022*)
- The 2021 Census showed that there was an increase in the proportion of households who rented their accommodation privately to 21.2% (16,197) in 2021 from 15.0% (9,979) in 2011. This meant that the proportion of privately rented homes in the borough was greater than England (20.5%). (*Source: ONS Census 2021*)
- The vast majority of households in the borough reported that they had central heating in 2021 (99.1%, 75,790). However 0.9% (721) of households had no central heating. (*Source: ONS Census 2021*)
- There was a decrease in the proportion of borough households did not have a car or van available to them to 18.7% (14,326) in 2021 from 20.6%, (13,748) in 2011. (*Source: ONS Census 2021*)
- In 2021, 8,066 people in Telford and Wrekin reported that they had previously served in the UK armed forces. This was 5.4% of usual residents aged 16 and over and compares to 3.8% for England. (*Source: ONS Census 2021*)

Population Health Overview

- Life expectancy for both males and females in the borough remains worse than England. Male life expectancy at birth is 78.2 (England 79.4) and female life expectancy at birth is 81.9 (England 83.1) (*source: PHE Fingertips life expectancy 2018-20*)
- There is an inequality in life expectancy in the borough, with men and women living in the most deprived areas of the borough expected to live on average 7.3 years and 4.1 years respectively than those living in more affluent areas (*source: PHE 2018-20*).
- Infant mortality rates in the borough are similar to rates nationally (*source: PHE Fingertips 2018-20*)
- In the 2021 Census, 44.2% of the age standardised population (85,723 people) reported very good health in 2021. This was lower than the proportion of the population for England as a whole (47.5%) (*source: ONS Census 2021*)

- 1 in 5 of the borough's age standardised population (20.5%, 36,526 people) were disabled in 2021. This was greater than the proportion of the population for England (17.7%) (*Source: ONS Census 2021*)

Starting Well

- Rates of access to maternity care and the proportion of pregnant women who smoke at the time of delivery are worse than national rates (48.6% have early access to maternity care, England 57.8%, and 12% of mothers smoke at the time of delivery, England 9.8%) (*source PHE Fingertips 2021/22*)
- The number of under 18s who conceive continues to decline and is now a similar rate to England (T&W 16.8, England 13.0) (*source: PHE Fingertips 2020*)
- Rates of overweight and obesity for children in Reception and Year 6 are worse than England rates and increasing, with T&W rates of 27.3% in reception and 40.8% in Year 6 (England 22.3% and 37.8%) (*source: PHE Fingertips 2021/22*)
- Around 25.8% of primary school and 21.9% of secondary school pupils are eligible for free school meals, higher than the England rates of 23.1% and 20.9% (*source: DfE LAIT tool, 2022*).
- Educational attainment data has been disrupted for the past 2 years due to the pandemic, so 2022 attainment data has not been compared to previous years:
- Early Years Foundation Stage: 63.6% of children achieved the expected standard across all learning goals at the end of Reception, similar to the national average (63.4%) (*Source DfE LAIT Tool 2022*)
- Phonics: 77.6% of children in the borough achieved a pass in Phonics, higher than the national rate of 76.0% (*Source DfE LAIT Tool 2022*)
- Key Stage 1: the proportion of pupils achieving the expected standard at Key Stage 1 in the borough was the same as the national average for reading (both 67%), and below the national average for writing (borough 57%, national 58%) and for maths (borough 67%, national 68%) (*Source DfE LAIT Tool 2022*)
- Key Stage 2: 57% of pupils at Key Stage 2 achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths, lower than the national average of 59% (*Source DfE LAIT Tool 2022*)
- Key Stage 4: The proportion of pupils achieving a 9-5 pass in English and Maths, at 43.1%, is worse than the national average of 46.6%. Attainment 8 for pupils was similar to the national average (47.2 in Telford and Wrekin, 47.1 England). Progress 8 performance, at -0.29, was worse than the national rate of -0.06 (*Source DfE LAIT Tool 2022*)
- The borough has higher rates of pupils with special educational needs than national, with 14.2% of primary pupils (England 12.6) and 14.4% of secondary pupils (England 11.5%) having SEN support (*source: DfE LAIT Tool 2021*).
- A lower proportion of the population at age 19 have Level 3 attainment or above, at 50.9% (England 61.5%) (*source: NOMIS 2021*).
- The borough has higher rates of children on a child protection plan (rate of 50.4 per 10,000 compared to England rate of 42.1) and of children who are looked after (rate of 102.0 per 10,000 compared to England rate of 70.0) (*source: DfE, as at 31st March 2022*)

Living Well

- The standardised mortality ratio for people aged under 75 is worse than the national ratio for causes considered preventable including cardiovascular disease and cancer, and is similar to the national rate for respiratory disease and liver disease (*source: PHE Fingertips mortality rates 2020*).
- Diagnosed depression in those aged 18 and over is reported as 15.6% of the population in 2021/22, higher than the prevalence for England (12.7%). This equates to around 24,200 people (*source: PHE Fingertips depression prevalence 2021/22*).
- Obesity rates in the borough for adults are higher than England rates. Levels of excess weight in adults have increased to 70.6% in 2020/21 compared with 65.6% in 2016-17. This is significantly higher than the England average (63.5%) (*source: PHE Fingertips*).
- Around 13.7% of adults in the borough smoke, similar to the national rate (13.9%) (*source: PHE Fingertips*).
- Around 61.0% of adults are estimated to be physically active, worse than the national rate (65.9) (*source: PHE Fingertips 2020/21*).
- Admission episodes for alcohol related conditions (512.3 per 100,000) is worse than the national rate (455.9) (*source: PHE Fingertips 2020/21*).

Ageing Well

- Healthy life expectancy in the borough is worse than national for both men and women. On average, men in the borough have a healthy life expectancy of 57.6 years (England 63.1) and women 60.3 years (England 63.9) (*source: PHE Fingertips 2018-20*).
- The mortality rate from causes considered preventable in people aged under 75 is worse than England for males (*source: PHE Fingertips mortality rate 2018-20*).
- Cancer diagnosis rates in the borough are similar to national, with 53.6% of cancers diagnosed at stage 1 or 2, compared to 52.3% in England (*source: PHE Fingertips 2022*).
- The estimated dementia diagnosis rate for people aged over 65 in the borough is similar to the national rate (T&W 59.9%, England 62%) (*source: PHE Fingertips 2022*).
- The population coverage for flu for those aged 65+ is 82.1%, slightly lower than the national rate of 82.3% but well above the national benchmark goal of 75% (*source: PHE Fingertips 2021/22*).
- Emergency hospital admissions due to falls is better than the national rate for older people aged 65 and over and 80+, and similar to the national rate for people aged 65-79 (*source: PHE Fingertips 2020/21*).
- The percentage of people aged 65+ who are admitted to residential and nursing care, and those who are offered enablement services following discharge from hospital, are both better than the national rates (*source: PHE Fingertips 2020/21*).

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