

3.2.4 Pregnancy and maternity

Why is this issue important?

This section describes the key demographic trends for pregnancy and births for the city and separate sections show the key issues related to maternal and infant health and maternity care.

Impact in Brighton & Hove

Fertile female population: Population estimates from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show that there were 67,511 women of child-bearing age (15-44 years) in Brighton & Hove in 2015: 48% of the female population. This compares with 38% in England and 37% in the South East.¹

General fertility rate: The general fertility rate is the number of live births per 1,000 females aged 15-44 years. In 2015, Brighton & Hove had a rate of 43.7 live births per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years. This is lower than England (62.5) and the South East (61.7). Table 1 shows the general fertility rates trend from 2004 to 2015.²

Table 1: General fertility rates (live birth rate per 1,000 female population aged 15-44 years), 2004- 2014

	Brighton & Hove	England	South East
2004	47.7	58.4	57.4
2005	49.0	53.5	57.3
2006	52.1	60.6	60.1
2007	50.6	62.1	60.8
2008	53.6	63.9	62.5
2009	52.5	63.8	62.6
2010	53.0	64.4	65.5
2011	49.9	64.2	63.8
2012	47.8	64.9	64.5
2013	44.7	62.4	61.3
2014	44.8	62.1	61.4
2015	43.7	62.5	61.7

Source: Office for National Statistics Vital Statistics Tables
 Note: 2004-2010 figures are not currently available based upon Mid Year Estimates revised for Census 2011 changes.

Births: Since 2005, when there were 645,835 live births in England and Wales, the number of live

¹ Office for National Statistics. Population Estimates for UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland - Mid-2014. Published June 2016. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/annualmidyearpopulationestimates/mid2015> [Accessed 25/07/2016]

² Office for National Statistics. Vital Statistics Tables.

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births increased by 12% to 723,913 in 2011 but has then seen a reduction to 664,399 live births in 2015. This has significantly changed the average number of children per woman³ – in 2010 this was two children for the first time since 1973 but this has fallen to 1.8 in 2014 and in Brighton & Hove is 1.4.⁴

In Brighton & Hove, the number of live births was 3,291 in 2011, an increase of 8% from 2005 (3,035 births). In 2015 the number of births was below 3,000 (2,952).⁵

Births by country of birth of mother: Across England, there was a continued rise in the proportion of births to mothers born outside the UK: 29% in 2009 from 14% in 1998. However, in 2010 there was a slight fall, with 26% of births to mothers born outside the UK – in 2014 it remained around this level at 27%.⁶

Tale 2: Live births (numbers and %) for the ten most common countries of birth of mother for non-UK born mothers, Brighton & Hove 2014

Country	Number	%
Poland	77	2.6%
Germany	40	1.3%
India	35	1.2%
Spain	29	1.0%
South Africa	25	0.8%
United States	24	0.8%
Bangladesh	23	0.8%
Slovakia	22	0.7%
Hungary	21	0.7%
South Sudan	21	0.7%
Total	2,987	-

Source: Office for National Statistics Annual Births Files.*

The picture is similar in Brighton & Hove where in 1998, 14% of births were to mothers born outside the UK, rising to 26% of births in 2011 and with a

³ The Total Fertility Rate is the average number of live children that a group of women would bear if they experienced the age-specific fertility rates

⁴ Office for National Statistics. Birth Summary Tables - England and Wales, 2014. Available at: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/vsob1/birth-summary-tables--england-and-wales/index.html> [Accessed on 21/07/2016].

⁵ Office for National Statistics. Vital Statistics Tables

⁶ Office for National Statistics. Parents' Country of Birth - England and Wales, 2014. Published August 2015. Available at: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/livebirths/bulletins/parentscountryofbirthenglandandwales/previousReleases> [Accessed 25/07/2016]

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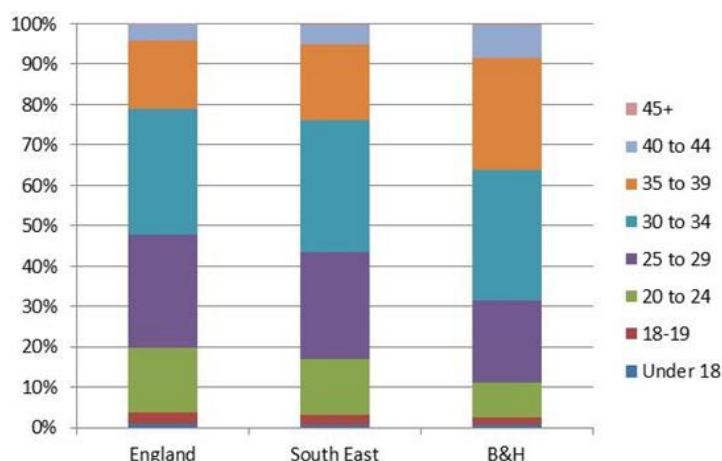
further rise to 29% in 2014.⁷ The greatest proportion in 2014 was to mothers born in Europe (13%), Southern Asia (3%) and Northern Africa (2%).

Until 2003 the most common country of birth outside of the UK was Bangladesh, but in more recent years mothers born in Poland have a greater number of births (Table 2).⁸

Age: Women in Brighton & Hove are much more likely to have children at an older age than across the South East and England (Figure 1). In particular, the proportion of births to mothers in their twenties is considerably lower (29% Brighton & Hove, 40% South East and 44% England).

Conversely, the proportion of births to mothers aged 35 or over is much higher (36% Brighton & Hove, 24% South East and 21% England) and there are the same number of births to mothers aged 45 or over as those aged under 18 years in the city, whereas in the South East and England there are between three and four births to under 18 year old mothers for every birth to a mother aged 45 years or over.

Figure 1: Births by mothers' age group, Brighton & Hove, South East and England, 2014



Source: Office for National Statistics, Births by Area of Usual Residence of Mother, England and Wales, 2013. Available at <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/vsob1/births-by-area-of-usual-residence-of-mother--england-and-wales/index.html>

Marital status: In 2014, 52% of live births in the city were within marriage. In the South East this was higher at 57% and in England it was 53%.⁹

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Ward level: St Peters and North Laine, Moulsecoomb and Bevendean, Hanover and Elm Grove, and Hollingdean and Stanmer wards have the highest number of females aged 15-44 years. However, Goldsmid has the highest number of births. General fertility rates are highest in North Portslade, South Portslade, Hove Park and Westbourne (Table 3).

Table 3: Live births, female population and general fertility rate by ward, Brighton & Hove, 2014

Ward	Live births (2014)	Females aged 15-44	General Fertility Rate
Brunswick and Adelaide	122	2,959	41.2
Central Hove	114	2,426	47.0
East Brighton	162	3,115	52.0
Goldsmid	194	3,852	50.4
Hangleton and Knoll	163	2,727	59.8
Hanover and Elm Grove	189	5,013	37.7
Hollingdean and Stanmer	178	4,712	37.8
Hove Park	108	1,767	61.1
Moulsecoomb & Bevendean	156	5,381	29.0
North Portslade	132	2,092	63.1
Patcham	130	2,666	48.8
Preston Park	180	3,636	49.5
Queens Park	140	3,593	39.0
Regency	96	3,035	31.6
Rottingdean Coastal	113	2,486	45.5
St Peters and North Laine	173	6,089	28.4
South Portslade	131	1,980	66.2
Westbourne	137	2,234	61.3
Wish	109	1,952	55.8
Withdean	167	2,792	59.8
Woodingdean	93	1,707	54.5
Brighton & Hove	2,987	66,214	45.1

Source: Office for National Statistics Vital Statistics Tables 2014 and ward level Mid-Year Population Estimates 2012

Predicted future need

Population projections have an essential role in assessing the future need for services and understanding changes in birth rates is an important driver of population change.

⁷ Office for National Statistics. Vital Statistics Tables

⁸ Office for National Statistics. Annual Births Files

⁹ Office for National Statistics. Vital Statistics Tables

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Fertile female population projections: The fertile female population of the city is projected to remain stable over the next five years (2014 to 2019) at around 67,000, but to decrease by 1% across the South East and by 0.5% across England.¹⁰ Over the next decade (2014 to 2024), the fertile population in England is expected to increase by 1.5%, in the South East increase by 0.6% and in Brighton & Hove it is projected to decrease by 1.5% from 67,000 to 66,000 women.

Projected births: The number of births per year in the city is projected to increase by around 7% from 2014 to 2019 – to around 3,200 births per year. This compares with a projected increase (over the next five years) of 4% in England and 3% in the South East.¹¹

What we don't know

Information on birth certificates is restricted to mother's country of birth - traditionally used as a proxy for ethnic origin. However, the value of this has diminished over time as subsequent generations have been born in England.

With the exception of age, gender and marital status other protected characteristics (nor caring responsibility) are not recorded on birth registration and so we do not have evidence for these groups.

All projections are based upon assumptions of how the population will change. There could well be unknown factors which mean that these patterns change in unforeseen ways and so projections will always have a degree of uncertainty around them. In Brighton & Hove for example there have been recent falls in the number of births which were not projected, but the longer term projection could still be valid.

Recommended future local priorities

See maternal and infant health and maternity care sections for recommended priorities.

Key links to other sections

- Our population
- Parenting
- Maternal and infant health
- Teenage conceptions and teenage parents
- Maternity care

Further information

Office for National Statistics Births by area of residence available at

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/vsob1/births-by-area-of-usual-residence-of-mother--england-and-wales/index.html>

Office for National Statistics Mid-Year Population Estimates by area of residence available at

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/all-releases.html?definition=tcm%3A77-22371>

Office for National Statistics Population Projections available at

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datasets/localauthoritiesinenglandtable2>

Last updated

September 2016

¹⁰Office for National Statistics. Subnational Population Projections, 2014-based. Published May 2016. Available at:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/bulletins/subnationalpopulationprojectionsforengland/2014basedprojections> [Accessed 26/07/2016]

¹¹Office for National Statistics Vital Statistics Tables 2014 births data and Subnational Population Projections, 2014-based. Published May 2016. Available at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datasets/birthsbyageofmotherz3> [Accessed 25/07/2016]