

Brighton & Hove JSNA summary July 2024

Population

What does this topic summary cover

- Brighton & Hove latest population estimates (2023)
- Population age structure and distribution (2023)
- Comparison of 2023 estimates with estimates for 2022 and earlier years
- Population groups: gender, migrants and students (other groups are covered in other summaries)
- Comparisons with the South East and England

What is not currently covered by this topic summary

- Population projections to 2030
- Population changes 2023 to 2030

Population projections beyond 2023

Due to the need for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to rebase national and local population projections following the 2021 Census there are currently no population projections beyond 2023 available.

According to the ONS release calendar, the new population projections based on the 2021 Census have a provisional release date of 'early' 2025.

New data in this update

This summary uses Office for National Statistics Mid-Year Population Estimates. In July 2024, the ONS released 2023 population estimates.

This report has been updated to include these estimates, [data is available on the ONS website](#).

Why is population important

Population size, structure and composition are crucial elements in identifying, measuring and understanding health and wellbeing.

Data on the population of Brighton & Hove and in different areas of the city is also useful for:

- Calculating rates and averages to describe a local area in terms of its demographic and health characteristics and compare these to the city, other authorities, the South East and England.
- Predicting the number of health conditions in a given area using known rates from other geographies.

Current picture in Brighton & Hove and how we compare



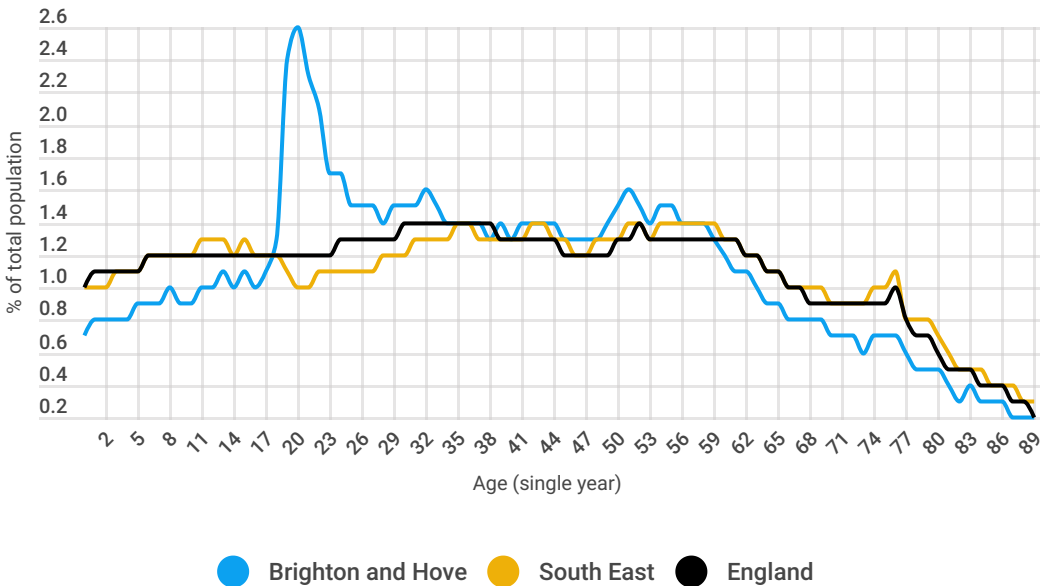
279,600

Estimated number of residents in Brighton & Hove (2023) according to the most recent Office of National Statistics (ONS) mid-year population estimates.



In Brighton & Hove, in 2023, it is estimated that 40,800 people (15%) are aged 0 to 15 years old, more than two thirds (73%, 203,700 people) are age 16 to 66 years old, one in ten (11%, 29,600 people) are aged 67 to 84 years old and 5,400 people (2%) are aged 85 years or older.

Population profile, Brighton & Hove, South East and England, June 2023.



[Download data](#)

Brighton & Hove has an unusual population profile compared to the South East and England



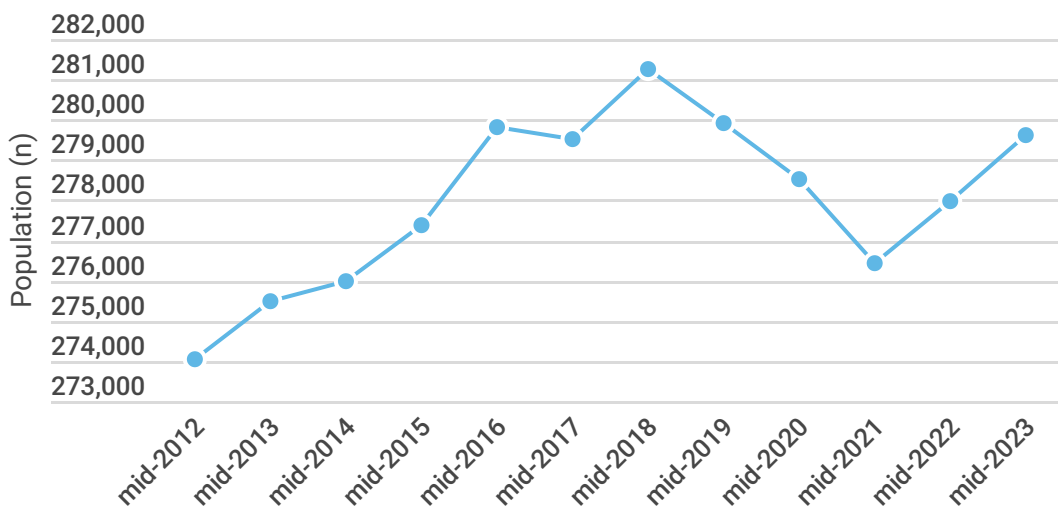
Brighton & Hove has a much higher proportion of people aged 19–31 years (23%, 64,800 people) compared to only 15% in the South East and 16% in England. The difference is most pronounced between the ages 19 to 22 years old. Nearly one in ten of Brighton & Hove's total population (9%, 26,200 people) is aged 19 to 22 years old compared to only 4% in the South East and 5% in England.



Brighton & Hove has a lower proportion of children aged 0 to 17 years of age. (17%, 46,700 people) compared to 21% in both the South East and England.

There are also fewer people across all ages from the age of 60 years old. In Brighton & Hove less than a fifth of the total population (19%, 54,600 people) is aged 60 years old or older compared to 26% in the South East and 25% in England.

ONS mid-year population estimates: Brighton & Hove, 2012 to 2022



Brighton & Hove's resident population changed at varying rates between 2012 and 2023. In 2023, the city's estimated population of 279,600 was 5,600 (2.1%) higher than it was in 2012 and 1,700 (0.6%) higher than in 2022. However, the city's resident population is 1,600 (0.6%) lower than the ten-year high in 2018.

Brighton & Hove residents aged 20 to 29 make up a significant number of residents (49,700 people, 18%). However, their numbers have fallen 3.8% (2,000 people) since 2018. **Beyond the age of 29 the working age population has remained level since 2018**, with the 30 to 66 year old population increasing by just 0.7% (1,000 people).

Children aged 0 to 10 years old have seen the largest fall in population. In 2018, there were an estimated 30,200 children aged 0 to 10 years old, by 2023 their numbers had fallen to 26,400. A decrease of 3,800 children (12.6%).

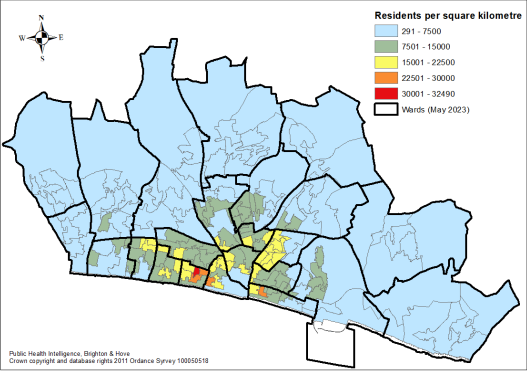
The number of older residents is also falling. In 2018, there were an estimated 11,100 residents aged 80 or older, by 2023 their numbers had fallen to 10,600. A decrease of 500 people (4.8%).

Population growth between 2022 and 2023 is estimated to be the result of inward international migration. Net international migration over this period was 3,400 people.

There were 200 more deaths than births while net internal migration (between Brighton & Hove and the rest of the UK) was -1,900 people. Net international migration between 2022 and 2023 (3,400 people) is more than double the average net international migration seen between 2019 and 2021 (1,500 people).

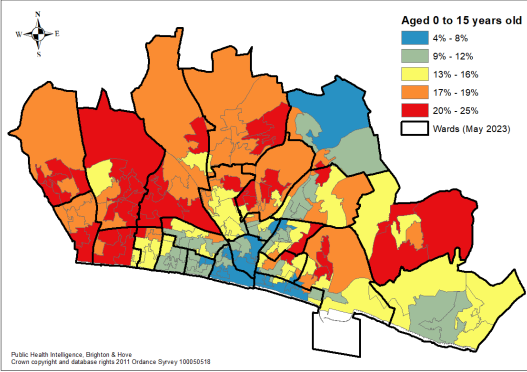


Population density, Brighton & Hove, 2021 Census

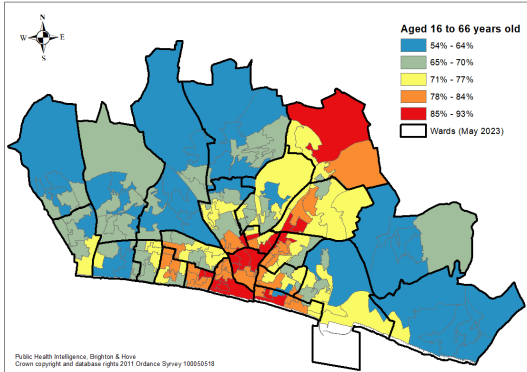


Brighton & Hove contains some of the most densely populated neighbourhoods (LSOAs) in England. According to the 2021 Census, Brighton & Hove has seven neighbourhoods in the 1% most densely populated areas in England. The most densely populated areas of the city are the two neighbourhoods north of Western Road between Montpelier Road and Palmeira Square. Both neighbourhoods are in the top 100 (out of 33,755 LSOAs) most densely populated areas in England.

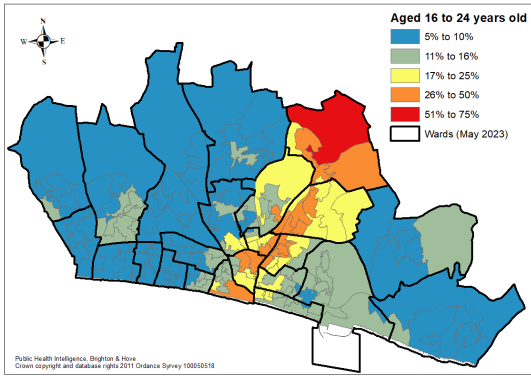
Brighton & Hove population distribution by age group, 2021 Census



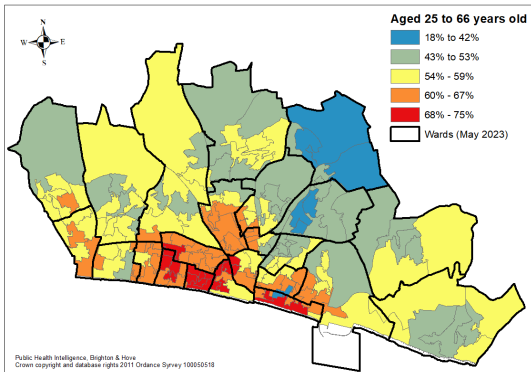
Children aged 0 - 15 years old are concentrated towards the west and north of the city with comparatively fewer children in the central and coastal areas of the city. The highest proportions of children aged 0-15 years old can be found in areas of Whitehawk (25%) and in the areas north of Portland Road on the border of Wish and Westbourne & Poets' Corner wards (25%). To the east of the city there are also significant concentrations of children in Woodingdean ward.



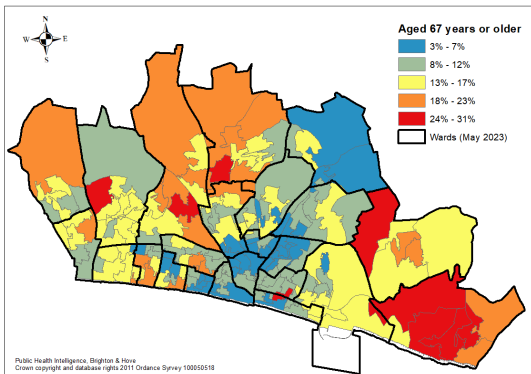
Working age residents (aged 16 – 66 years old) are most concentrated in central wards either side of the Lewes Road and along the central coastal strip. There are proportionally fewer adults of working age in the wards to the east and west. There are three neighbourhoods in the city where more than 90% of residents are of working age: at Falmer, around Lewes Road between the Level and the gyratory, and in Kemptown ward. This compares to locations in Hangleton, Eastern Road and east of Hove Park where less than 60% of residents are of working age.



The concentration of working age adults along the Lewes Road is most notable in adults aged 16 to 24. For a half of neighbourhoods in the city (81 LSOAs, 49%) 10% or fewer residents are aged 16 to 24. This compares to 12 neighbourhoods where more than a third of residents are aged 16 to 24 years old. The highest concentration of 16 to 24 year olds can be found in Falmer / Coldean (75%), Falmer / north Moulsecoomb (50%) and around Lewes Road / Upper Lewes Road (47%). The lowest proportions are found north of Hove station (6%) and along the Kingsway in Hove, Grand Avenue (5%) and west of Hove Street (6%).



Meanwhile working age adults over the age of 24 years olds are concentrated in central coastal areas of the city and in central Hove. The highest proportions of 25 to 66 year olds are found south of Hove station (75%), Seven Dials (74%), Kemptown (74%), north side of Western Road (74%) and Albany Villas (74%). This compares to Falmer (18%), north Moulsecoomb (34%), Coldean (34%) and south Moulsecoomb (35%).



Older people (67 years and older) in Brighton & Hove tend to live to the north and east of the city. The highest proportions of older residents live in locations in Hangleton (31%), Rottingdean & West Saltdean ward (30%) and Eastern Road (30%). This compares to locations around Brighton station, Falmer and Lewes Road where less than 3% of residents are aged 67 or older.

Internal migration (between Brighton & Hove and the rest of the UK), year ending June 2021

Resident's arriving and leaving Brighton & Hove, year up to March 2021, Census 2021

	Arrived from	Left to	Net change
West Sussex	2,682	4,468	-1,786
East Sussex	1,752	2,301	-549
London	6,207	3,091	3,116
Rest of UK	8,720	7,196	1,524
Total	19,361	17,056	2,305

 Download data

In the 12 months to March 2021, more people arrived in Brighton & Hove for other areas of the UK than left for other parts of the UK. 19,361 people arrived in Brighton & Hove from other local authorities in the UK. In the same time frame, 17,056 Brighton & Hove residents left the city to other local authorities in the UK.

Most people moving from within the UK to Brighton & Hove do so from West Sussex (2,682 people) or East Sussex (1,752 people). Most arrived from Lewes (969), Adur (617), Mid Sussex (590) and Worthing (441). After Sussex, most people arrived from London: Lambeth (441), Wandsworth (437) and Southwark (408).

Residents leaving Brighton & Hove most often go to West Sussex (4,468 people) or East Sussex (2,301 people). Most people moved to Lewes (1,383), Adur (1,301), Worthing (1,034), Mid Sussex (1,003), and Horsham (491). After Sussex, most people left for Bristol (375) and London: Lambeth (287) and Southwark (262).

Migration



54,343

The city is a destination for migrants (people living or intending to live in the city for 12 months or more) from outside the UK. The 2021 Census estimates that 54,343 residents (20%) were born outside of the UK. This is similar to the 2020 ONS Country of Birth and Nationality statistics (55,000 people, 19%). **The city's international migrant population (20%) is significantly higher than seen in both the South East (16%) and England (17%).**



23,104

More than two out of five international migrants in the city (43%, 23,104 people) were born in countries now in the EU. This is significantly higher than both the South East (38%) and England (36%). Nearly two thirds of EU migrants in the city (65%, 15,099 people) are from EU member counties who joined the EU before 2004. This is again significantly higher than both the South East (47%) and England (44%).



27,670

Over a half of international migrants in the city (51%, 27,670 people) are from countries outside of Europe. This includes 12,517 people from the Middle East and Asia (23% of all migrants), 7,863 people from Africa and 5,326 people from the Americas and the Caribbean.



1,519

Brighton & Hove is also a destination for short term international migrants (people who move to the UK for a period of 3 to 12 months). According to the 2021 Census there were an estimated 1,519 short term migrants in the city.

Population groups



Brighton & Hove has a relatively even sex distribution until the age of 75 years old. In 2023, there are estimated to be 142,800 female (51%) and 136,800 male (49%) residents in the city. Apart from in the age range 19 to 21 (please see section on students below) there is a relatively even distribution of males and females across all ages up until the age of 75 years old. Similar to the picture seen in England, beyond the age of 75 years old the proportion of female residents increases. There are an estimated 18,900 residents aged 75 or older, of which 58% (10,900 people) are female and 42% (8,000 people) are male. By the age of 90 or older the difference is two to one with 1,400 female (67%) to 700 male (33%) residents.



37,700

For the academic year 2021/2022 there were 37,700 students at the University of Sussex and University of Brighton. This was an increase of 1.3% (500 students) compared to 2020/21. In England, there has been a 3.9% increase in the number of students over the same period. In Brighton & Hove in 2021/22, 58% of students were female (22,030 people) compared to 42% male (15,455 people). It should be noted that not all students at the two universities live in Brighton & Hove. There are also 7,045 Brighton & Hove residents enrolled at a UK higher education institute outside the city and 3,090 enrolled at Brighton or Sussex University. There are also in the region of a thousand Higher Education students at smaller institutions including those for music and dance.



What we don't know

Population projections are based upon assumptions of how the population will change. There could well be factors which mean that these patterns change in unforeseen ways and so projections will always have a degree of uncertainty around them.

Information on the data used

The population referred to in this paper is the 'resident' population. A resident is someone that has lived in an area, or intends to live in an area, for more than 12 months.

Data sources

All data used in this report was accessed from the following websites in February 2024:

- ONS 2021 UK Population Census: Census - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)
- ONS population estimates, projection, migration and county of birth figures can be found on the Population and Migration pages of the ONS website <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration>. ONS population estimates are updated annually in June for the previous year. ONS population projections are updated every two years. Country of birth data is updated annually in May for January to December of the previous year. ONS internal migration data is updated annually in June for the previous year.
- Data on the number of students can be found on the Higher Education Statistic agency website <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/>. Data is updated annually.

Data rounding

- All ONS population estimates and projections have been rounded to the nearest hundred
- ONS Country of Birth figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand
- Internal migration figures have been rounded to the nearest ten
- Figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency have been rounded to the nearest five

Watch this space

To find the latest published and upcoming releases on the changing demographics of the UK, go to the release calendar pages of the ONS website <https://www.ons.gov.uk/releasecalendar>

Other relevant information

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is a resource that allows you to find, explore and use a wide range of facts and figures at different geographical levels for Brighton & Hove. Resources include

- [Local Insight](#) which allow you to map key demographic data for the city and produce demographic profiles of local neighbourhoods and other geographies.
- [Profiles and Needs Assessments](#) for different populations and population groups.

Data from the 2021 UK Population Census (and earlier censuses) can be found on [Nomis](#). Also on Nomis are detailed [local labour market profiles](#).

Further reading

[The population and migration](#) pages on the ONS website provide information on the methodologies used to produce their population estimates and projections as well as statistical bulletins about how the population of the UK is changing.