

POPULATION Fact Sheet

Background

In order to understand the health and wellbeing needs of our population, it is essential to have a full and detailed knowledge of its size and profile, including factors such as age structure, ethnicity, patterns of deprivation, and trends and projections over time. Such an understanding is fundamental for planning and commissioning appropriate services including health, social services, education, housing, and transport.

The 2011 Census

In the UK, a snapshot of the population is taken every ten years in the form of the Census, most recently carried out in 2011. This national survey which dates back to 1801 covers 100% of the population and provides a rich source of demographic data.

The Local Picture

Key points from the 2011 census and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) population projections are as follows:

- There were 191,123 people living in Sutton at the time of the census. This number is projected to rise to around 223,300 by 2024
- Young children aged under 5 years accounted for around 7% of the population in Sutton in 2011, similar to London (7%), and higher than England (6%). The proportion of young children in Sutton is projected to rise through to 2024. At time of the 2011 census there were 12,870 children aged under 5 years.
- Children aged 5 to 19 years accounted for around 18.1% of the population in Sutton in 2011, higher than London (17.2%), and England (17.7%). The proportion of older children in Sutton is projected to increase by 2024. At time of the 2011 census there were 34,523 older children aged 5 to 19.
- The Sutton working age population (20-64 years) was around 116,000 at the census, i.e. 61% of the population, lower than for London (64%), but higher than England (60%). The proportion of working age people in Sutton is projected to rise over the next decade.
- People aged 85 and over accounted for 2% of the population in Sutton, similar to London and England. At the time of the 2011 census there were 4,031 Sutton residents in this age group.

In between each ten year census, ONS publishes estimates to provide more up-to-date population statistics. The latest estimate for 2015 was that Sutton has 200,145 residents.

Fig. 1 shows that Sutton's proportion of both younger people aged 0-19 years old and those in the middle ranges aged 30-49 is higher compared to England.

Fig 1: Estimated Population Distribution for Sutton 2014 and 2024

How our population is projected to change over time

Population projections

There are two main providers of population estimates and projections: the Office for National Statistics (ONS), and the Greater London Authority (GLA). Both base their projections on the census but use slightly different methods which results in differences between estimates over time. Differences are largely due to the anticipated level of net migration which is higher under the ONS projection, whilst the GLA factors in anticipated housing supply. In **Figs 2 and 3** we present 2014-based ONS projections. These have the advantage that they are available for the whole country.

According to ONS, Sutton's population will increase by around 12.7% from 2014 to 2024, which is similar to London (13.7%) and higher than England (7.5%).

The population of children and young people aged 0 to 19 years is expected to increase by 16.6%, higher compared to 14.8% for London and 7.8% for England.

The proportion of babies and young children aged 0-4 years in Sutton is projected to increase by 5% which is more than for England (1.7%), but less than London (6.4%). The number of live births in Sutton has risen significantly since 2002, but this trend has slowed since 2009. Also, the projected increase in the proportion of 5-19 year olds is higher (21.1%) than London (18.3%), or England (9.9%). This may reflect an increase in internal migration.

The proportion of older people aged over 65 is expected to increase by 19.7% by 2024, less than for London (23.6%) and England (20.4%). Similarly the population aged over 75 is expected to increase by 29.1% by 2024, higher than 26.1% for London, but less than the 33.9% projected increase for England. If these projections are accurate, the profile of Sutton is changing and by 2024 the borough could have a younger profile.

Fig. 2: Comparing population growth from 2014 to 2024 by age band

Fig. 3: Population Projections, all ages and by age group

The Registered Population of Sutton

At January 2017 there were 191,670 people registered with a GP in Sutton. The registered population is different from the resident population of Sutton as patients may register with a GP in a different borough, or conversely someone who lives in a neighbouring borough may register with a Sutton GP. This is important because Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are responsible for commissioning services for their registered, rather than resident, population. Conversely, Local Authority departments including social services are responsible for providing care for residents.

However, in Sutton the registered and resident population structure is similar, so assumptions about population growth based on the resident population are likely also to apply to the CCG, though this should be monitored. **Fig. 4** profiles the registered population.

Fig 4: Registered Population in Sutton 2016

Population by electoral ward within Sutton

The table at **Fig. 5** shows the population of Sutton by electoral ward and age group. The wards with the biggest populations tend to be in the north whilst those with the smallest populations are in the south.

Fig. 5: Population of Sutton by electoral ward and by age group

Where do our older people live?

Statistics in **Fig. 5** indicate that the electoral wards of Cheam, Nonsuch, Wallington South and Belmont have a higher proportion of older people compared to other Sutton wards. The map at **Fig. 6** indicates where our older people live in more detail, at the smaller geographic level of Lower Super Output Area.

Fig.6: Map - Where our Older People Live

Where do our young people live?

Statistics in **Fig. 5** indicate that the electoral wards of St Helier, Wandle Valley and Beddington South have a higher proportion of young people compared to other Sutton wards. **Fig. 7** maps where our young people aged 0-19 years live in more detail.

Fig 7: Map - Where our Young People live

Links to further information

- See also Factsheets on **Births, Mortality, Protected Characteristics and Deprivation**
- Office for National Statistics Population Projections
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datasets/localauthoritiesinenglandtable2>
- Greater London Authority (GLA)
<https://data.london.gov.uk/demography/population-projections/>
- Census 2011 from NOMIS <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011>
- Public Health England (PHE). Local Health Profiles (for Local Authorities)
<http://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles>
- Child Health Profile for Sutton published by ChiMat – Child and Maternal Health Observatory.
<http://www.chimat.org.uk/resource/view.aspx?RID=101746®ION=101634>
- The English Indices of Deprivation 2015 published September 2015 by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015>