

Census 2021: Health, Disability and Unpaid Care

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales.

Census day was 21 March 2021

NOTE: Within this bulletin “Kent” refers to the Kent County Council area which excludes Medway

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[Kent facts and figures](#)

On 28 June 2022 the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published 2021 Census data on health, disability and unpaid care. This bulletin presents this information for the Kent local authority districts, Kent, the South East region, and England & Wales.

Headlines

- The majority of Kent residents are in good health with 757,967 people claiming to be in very good health, equal to 48.1% of the total population.
- 17.9 % of Kent residents said that they had some limitation to their day-to-day activities, equal to 281,423 people.
- 806,773 Kent residents of working age stated that they had no limitations, equal to 84.3% of the total population aged 16 to 64.
- 135,895 people, or 9.1% of Kent's total population, provided unpaid care in 2021. This proportion is higher than the regional average of 8.4% and the national average of 8.9%.
- 31.9% of all unpaid carers in Kent provide care for 50 hours or more a week.

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Introduction

The 1991 Census saw the introduction of a question about limiting long-term illness. The results told us the numbers and proportions of the population who either had or did not have a limiting long-term illness. However, this alone does not give an indication of the general health of the population.

The 2001 Census saw the introduction of a question regarding general health. People were asked to assess whether their health was 'good', 'fairly good' or 'not good'.

It was introduced on the basis that self-perceived poor health is a strong indicator of future use of the health service, and analysis of this information also helps to develop and monitor policy on the delivery of health care, the reduction of health inequalities, and the assessment of progress towards improving the general health of the population.

In the 2011 Census the question on general health was changed to align to the current ONS surveys: General Household Survey, Labour Force Survey and the Opinions Survey. The three options available in 2001 were expanded to five options. In 2011, people were asked to assess whether their health was, 'very good', 'good', 'fair', 'bad' or 'very bad'. A direct 2011 to 2021 comparison is available for this characteristic.

For the 2011 Census, the wording of the question regarding long-term illness was changed to better meet the description of disability as defined in the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), 2005. People were asked to indicate if their day-to-day activities were limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted or is expected to last at least 12 months. They were asked to choose one of three answers; 'Yes, limited a lot'; 'Yes, limited a little', or 'No'. Information for both working age population and total population are presented in this bulletin.

In the 2021 Census the disability question changed to ask if people had a disability which limited their day-to-day activities a lot or a little, have a long-term physical or mental health condition but which does not limit their day-to-day activities, or have no long-term physical or mental health conditions. The change to the question between the two censuses means that a direct comparison is not available, however, we have provided a comparison using 2011 question categories for 2021.

The provision of unpaid care is a key indicator of care needs and has important implications for the planning and delivery of health and social care services. Analysis reveals the possible burden on social care services if unpaid carers were not available. A direct 2011 to 2021 comparison is presented.

General health in 2021

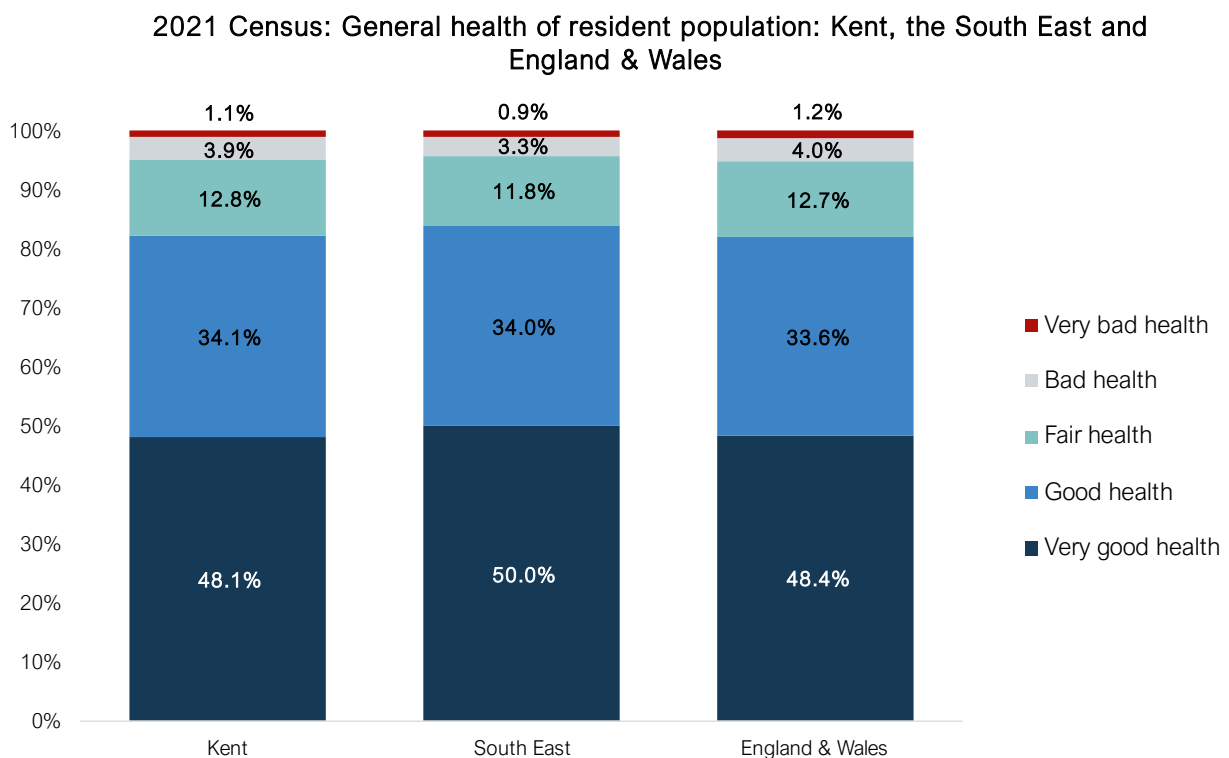
The 2021 Census tells us that the biggest proportion of residents in Kent consider themselves to be in very good health. A total of 757,967 Kent residents stated that they are in very good health, equal to 48.1% of the total population. This proportion is slightly lower than the national average of 48.4% and the regional average of 50.0%.

Kent has higher proportions of people who are in good health or fair health than in the South East and England & Wales.

A total of 61,162 Kent residents stated that they are in bad health, equal to 3.9% of the total population, whilst 17,598 residents in Kent say that they are in very bad health which is equal to 1.1% of the total population.

Chart 1 presents the population by general health in 2021 for Kent, the South East and England & Wales.

Chart 1: General health of resident population: Kent, the South East and England & Wales



Source: 2021 Census TS037 General health, The Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright
Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

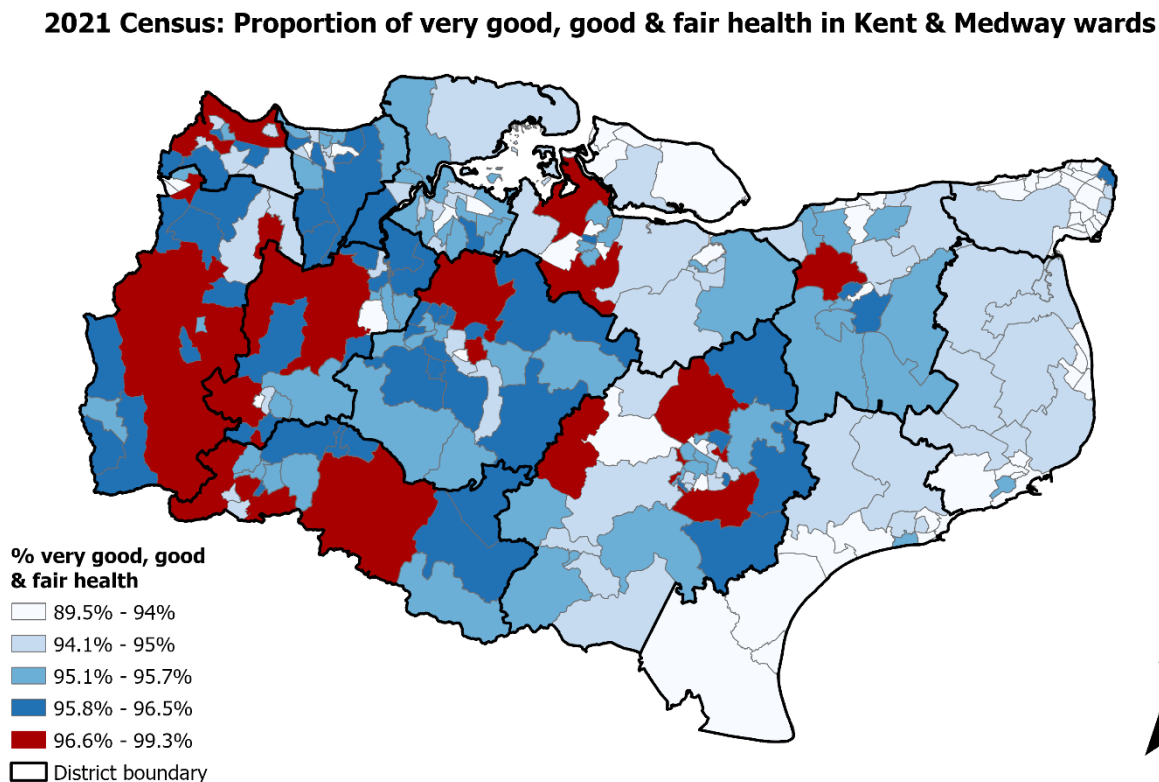
Of the Kent districts, Maidstone has the largest number of residents whose health is very good (87,494 people) though Tunbridge Wells has the highest proportion (52.8%).

Maidstone also has the highest number of residents whose health is good (59,781 people) though Dover, Folkestone & Hythe and Thanet have the largest proportions (35.0% each).

Thanet has the highest proportion of residents who say that they are in fair, bad and very bad health (15.8%, 5.6% and 1.7% respectively).

Map 1 shows the proportion of residents in Kent & Medway wards with very good, good or fair health. Districts in the west of the county particularly Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells, have higher proportions of residents with very good, good or fair health. There are some areas of the highest density in Dartford, Swale, Ashford, Maidstone and Canterbury.

Map 1: 2021 Census: Proportion of very good, good & fair health in Kent and Medway wards

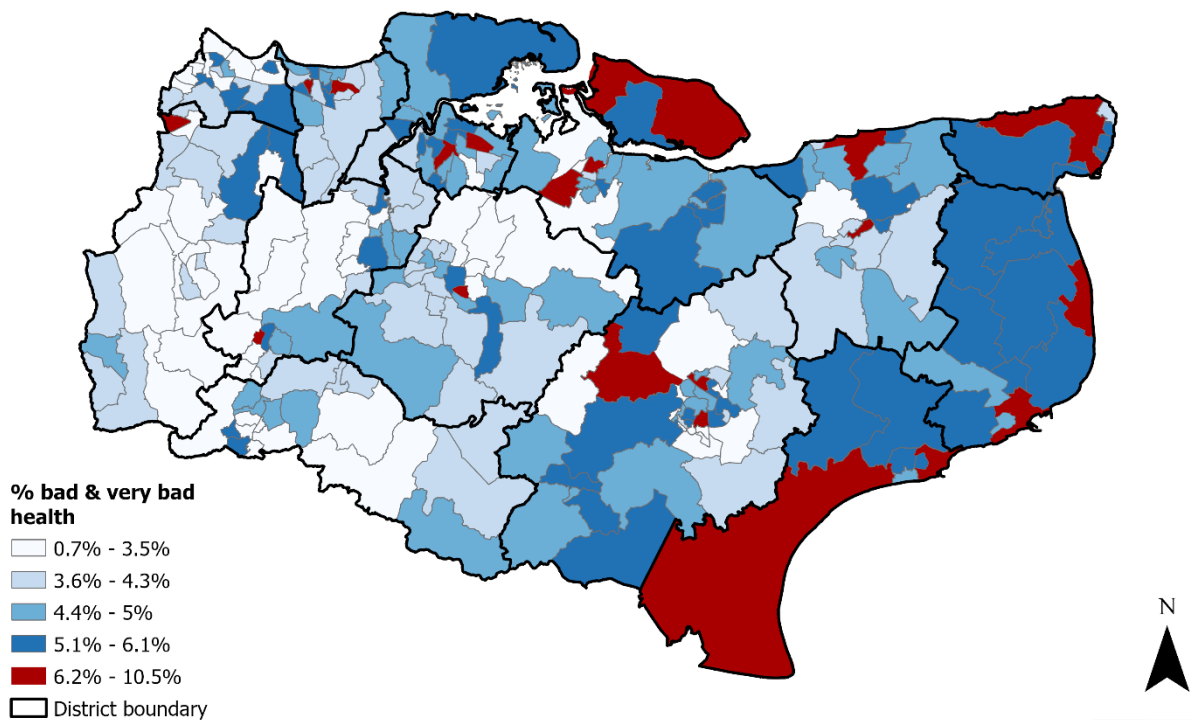


Source: 2021 Census, The Office for National Statistics. Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council
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Map 2 shows the proportion Kent & Medway residents with bad or very bad health at ward level. The map shows Folkestone & Hythe and Swale have the most areas of the highest density. Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells and Medway have no areas of the highest density.

Map 2: 2021 Census: Proportion of bad & very bad health in Kent and Medway wards

2021 Census: Proportion of bad & very bad health in Kent & Medway wards



Source: 2021 Census, The Office for National Statistics. Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council
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Table 1 shows the number and proportion of residents in Kent local authority districts, the South East and England & Wales by general health in 2021.

Table 1: 2021 Census: Number and proportion of residents by general health

Area	All usual residents	Number Very good health	% Very good health	Number Good health	% Good health	Number Fair health	% Fair health	Number Bad health	% Bad health	Number Very bad health	% Very bad health
England & Wales	59,597,542	28,827,308	48.4%	20,046,220	33.6%	7,597,001	12.7%	2,412,358	4.0%	714,655	1.2%
South East	9,278,065	4,636,748	50.0%	3,155,834	34.0%	1,092,213	11.8%	307,131	3.3%	86,139	0.9%
Kent	1,576,069	757,967	48.1%	536,891	34.1%	202,451	12.8%	61,162	3.9%	17,598	1.1%
Ashford	132,747	64,334	48.5%	45,779	34.5%	16,551	12.5%	4,748	3.6%	1,335	1.0%
Canterbury	157,429	74,034	47.0%	54,597	34.7%	20,762	13.2%	6,224	4.0%	1,812	1.2%
Dartford	116,753	61,128	52.4%	38,680	33.1%	12,556	10.8%	3,390	2.9%	999	0.9%
Dover	116,410	51,455	44.2%	40,711	35.0%	17,036	14.6%	5,611	4.8%	1,597	1.4%
Folkestone & Hythe	109,759	47,404	43.2%	38,432	35.0%	16,801	15.3%	5,519	5.0%	1,603	1.5%
Gravesham	106,900	52,013	48.7%	36,416	34.1%	13,291	12.4%	4,088	3.8%	1,092	1.0%
Maidstone	175,782	87,494	49.8%	59,781	34.0%	21,018	12.0%	5,832	3.3%	1,657	0.9%
Sevenoaks	120,515	63,410	52.6%	38,931	32.3%	13,407	11.1%	3,660	3.0%	1,107	0.9%
Swale	151,678	68,967	45.5%	52,738	34.8%	21,338	14.1%	6,688	4.4%	1,947	1.3%
Thanet	140,587	59,000	42.0%	49,262	35.0%	22,148	15.8%	7,823	5.6%	2,354	1.7%
Tonbridge & Malling	132,201	67,896	51.4%	44,052	33.3%	14,959	11.3%	4,164	3.1%	1,130	0.9%
Tunbridge Wells	115,311	60,833	52.8%	37,512	32.5%	12,586	10.9%	3,415	3.0%	965	0.8%
Medway Unitary Authority	279,775	132,845	47.5%	96,739	34.6%	35,907	12.8%	11,171	4.0%	3,113	1.1%
Kent & Medway	1,855,844	890,812	48.0%	633,630	34.1%	238,358	12.8%	72,333	3.9%	20,711	1.1%

Source: 2021 Census TS037 - General health, The Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright

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2011 to 2021 change in general health

The number of people in Kent with very good health has grown over the last decade, with 74,762 more people reporting very good health, and account for a larger proportion of the population, increasing from 46.7% in 2011 to 48.1% in 2021.

Whilst the number of people with good, fair and bad health in Kent has increased as the population has grown, they account for smaller proportions of the population than they did in 2011. There has also been an increase in the number of people in Kent with very bad health (929 more people), though no change in the proportion of the population (1.1%).

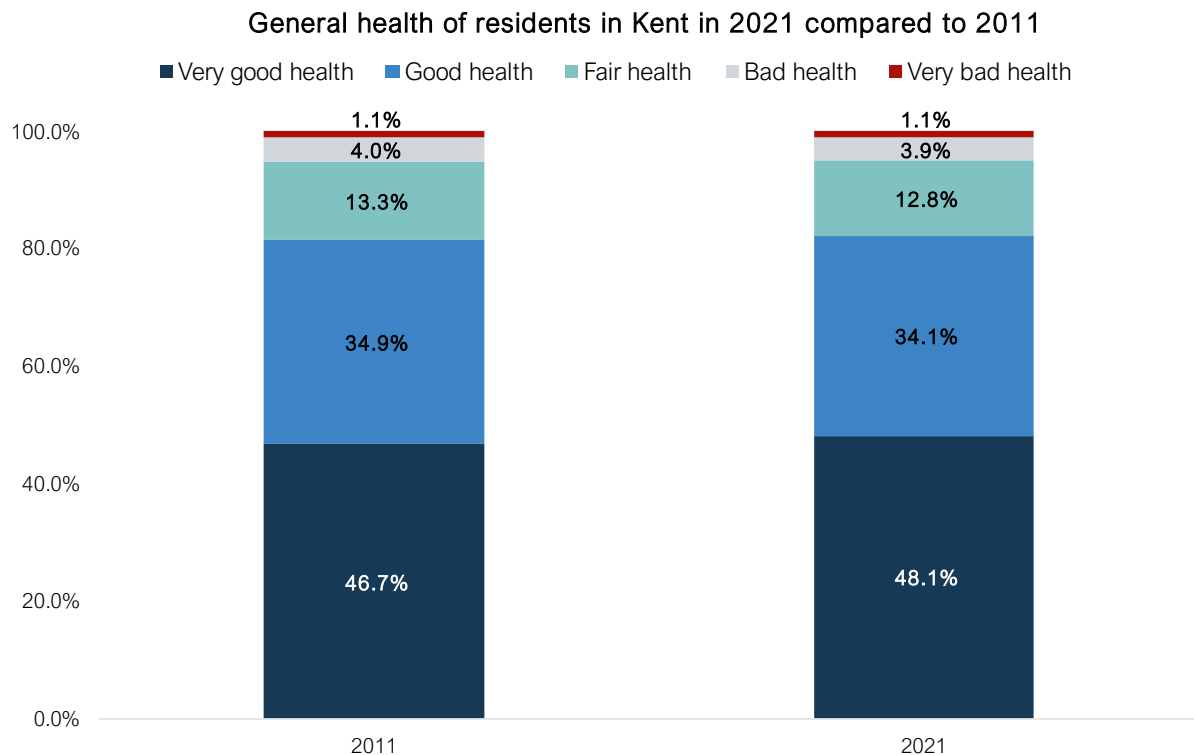
Similar changes in general health can be seen in the South East and England & Wales, where the number of people in each health category has increased due to population growth, and the proportions of people with very good health have also increased.

People with good, fair, bad or very bad health account for smaller proportions in 2021 than in 2011 in both the South East and England & Wales.

The 2011 Census population by general health in Kent local authority districts, the South East and England & Wales is presented in table 18 in the annex at the end of this bulletin, which allows comparison of number and proportion changes to those in table 1, which shows the general health of residents in 2021.

Chart 2 shows the difference in proportions of general health of residents in Kent between the 2011 Census and 2021 Census.

Chart 2: General health of residents in Kent in 2021 compared to 2011



Source: 2021 Census TS037; 2011 Census QS302EW General health, The Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright
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In all Kent districts, the number and proportion of people with very good health increased. Dartford saw the greatest increase in number and proportion of residents whose health is very good, with 13,855 more residents in 2021 than in 2011. This is an increase of 3.8%, from 48.6% of Dartford residents in 2011, to 52.4% in 2021.

Nearly all districts saw an increase in the number of residents with good health, whereas Folkestone & Hythe and Tunbridge Wells saw a decrease of 567 and 1,144 residents respectively. Though most districts in Kent did see an increase in the number of residents with good health, they account for a smaller proportion of the population in 2021 than in 2011, except in Canterbury which saw a slight increase of 0.1% from 34.6% to 34.7%.

Most Kent districts saw an increase in the number of residents with fair, bad or very bad health. Although all Kent districts saw a smaller proportion of residents with fair health in 2021 than in 2011, except Folkestone & Hythe which saw a small increase of 0.1%, and Swale saw no change, remaining at 14.1%.

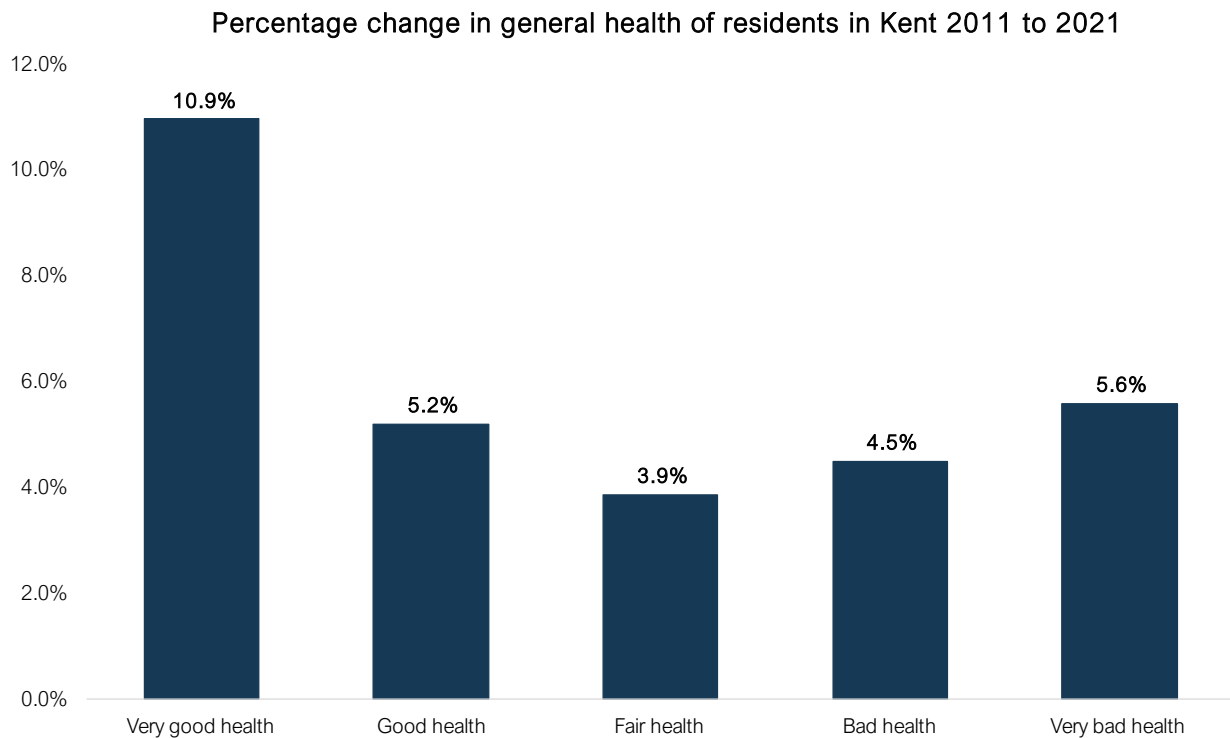
Most districts saw a smaller proportion of residents with bad health in 2021, though Ashford and Folkestone & Hythe saw small increases with 0.1% higher proportions of residents, and Swale and Tonbridge & Malling saw no change in proportion.

Half of the districts (Folkestone & Hythe, Sevenoaks, Swale, Thanet, Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells) saw no change in the proportion of residents with very bad health between 2011 and 2021. There were small decreases in the proportions in Ashford, Dartford, Gravesham and Maidstone, and slight increases in proportions in Canterbury and Dover.

Table 2 overleaf shows the number and percentage change in population between 2011 and 2021 by general health in Kent local authority districts, the South East and England & Wales.

Chart 3 below shows the percentage change in general health of Kent residents between 2011 and 2021. The largest percentage change is in residents who have very good health (+10.9%).

Chart 3: Percentage change in general health of Kent residents 2011 to 2021



Source: 2021 Census TS037; 2011 Census QS302EW General health, The Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright
Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 2: Number and percentage change in residents between 2011 and 2021 by general health

Area	Number Very good health	% Very good health	Number Good health	% Good health	Number Fair health	% Fair health	Number Bad health	% Bad health	Number Very bad health	% Very bad health
England & Wales	2,392,899	9.1%	951,400	5.0%	195,120	2.6%	-16,310	-0.7%	-1,479	-0.2%
South East	404,041	9.5%	165,914	5.5%	54,621	5.3%	15,675	5.4%	3,064	3.7%
Kent	74,762	10.9%	26,492	5.2%	7,520	3.9%	2,626	4.5%	929	5.6%
Ashford	8,206	14.6%	4,394	10.6%	1,524	10.1%	585	14.1%	82	6.5%
Canterbury	3,270	4.6%	2,259	4.3%	551	2.7%	91	1.5%	113	6.7%
Dartford	13,855	29.3%	4,739	14.0%	719	6.1%	76	2.3%	-1	-0.1%
Dover	3,022	6.2%	1,234	3.1%	291	1.7%	73	1.3%	116	7.8%
Folkestone & Hythe	1,827	4.0%	-567	-1.5%	336	2.0%	198	3.7%	-4	-0.2%
Gravesham	4,715	10.0%	844	2.4%	-338	-2.5%	-16	-0.4%	-25	-2.2%
Maidstone	12,858	17.2%	5,397	9.9%	1,727	9.0%	509	9.6%	148	9.8%
Sevenoaks	4,614	7.8%	587	1.5%	227	1.7%	91	2.5%	103	10.3%
Swale	8,769	14.6%	4,019	8.2%	2,220	11.6%	680	11.3%	155	8.6%
Thanet	4,360	8.0%	2,153	4.6%	-229	-1.0%	38	0.5%	79	3.5%
Tonbridge & Malling	7,590	12.6%	2,577	6.2%	696	4.9%	436	11.7%	97	9.4%
Tunbridge Wells	1,677	2.8%	-1,144	-3.0%	-202	-1.6%	-135	-3.8%	66	7.3%
Medway Unitary Authority	12,183	10.1%	1,060	1.1%	1,600	4.7%	783	7.5%	224	7.8%
Kent & Medway	86,945	10.8%	27,552	4.5%	9,120	4.0%	3,409	4.9%	1,153	5.9%

Source: 2021 Census TS037; 2011 Census QS302EW - General health, The Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright
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Disability in 2021

The Census asks whether day-to-day activities are limited a lot or a little by those who are disabled under the Equality Act. Of those that are not disabled under the Equality Act, it is asked whether the respondent has a long-term physical or mental health condition that does not limit their day-to-day activities, or whether they have no long-term physical or mental health conditions. The Equality Act 2010 definition of disability can be found at [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

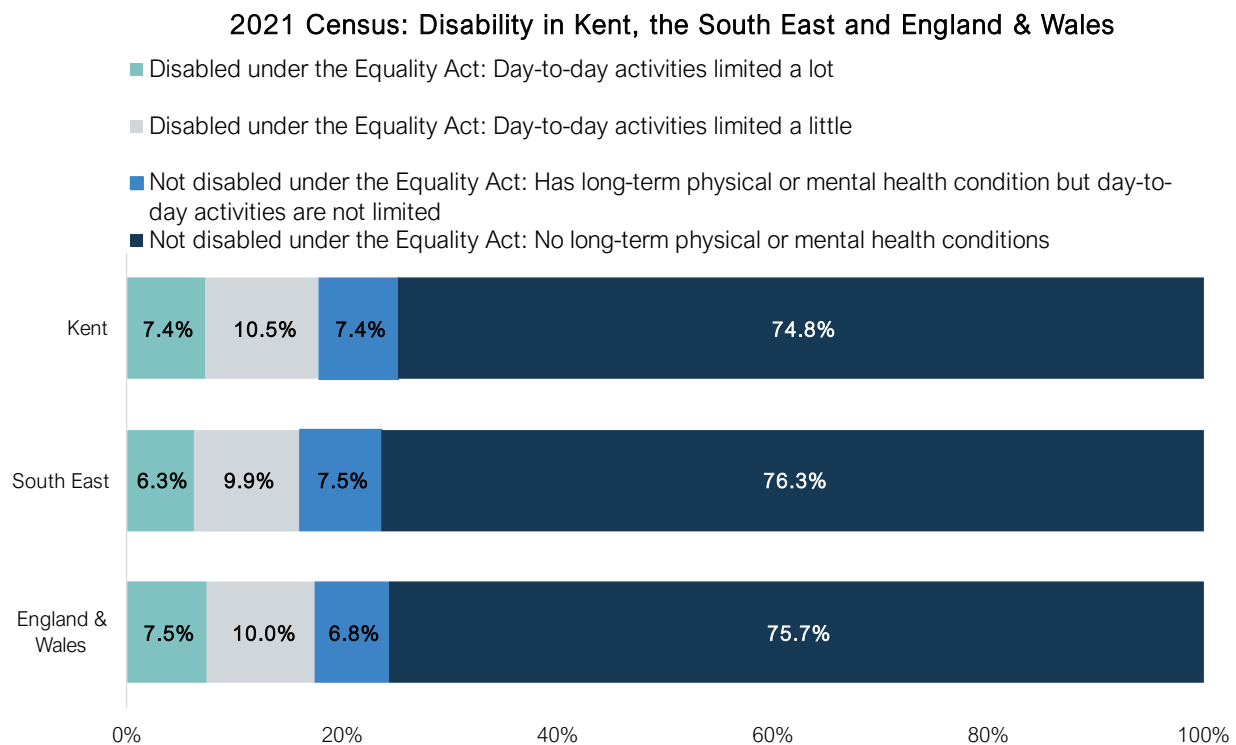
The proportion of Kent residents who are disabled is similar to that seen in the South East and England & Wales. The 2021 Census tells us that the majority of residents in Kent (almost 1.2 million) have no long-term physical or mental health conditions, equal to 74.8% of the total population. This proportion is slightly lower than the regional average of 76.3% and the national average of 75.7%.

Kent has a higher proportion (10.5%) of residents whose day-to-day activities are limited a little by a disability than the regional (9.9%) and national (10.0%) figures.

A total of 116,043 Kent residents stated that their day-to-day activities were limited a lot by a disability, equal to 7.4% of the total population. This proportion is higher than in the South East (6.3%) and slightly lower than in England & Wales (7.5%).

Chart 4 shows the proportion of people by limitations to day-to-day activities in Kent, the South East and England & Wales.

Chart 4: 2021 Census: Disability in Kent, the South East and England & Wales



Source: 2021 Census TS038 Disability, The Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright
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Within the Kent local authority districts, Maidstone has the highest number of residents who have no long-term physical or mental health conditions (134,756 people) and Dartford has the highest proportion (79.9%).

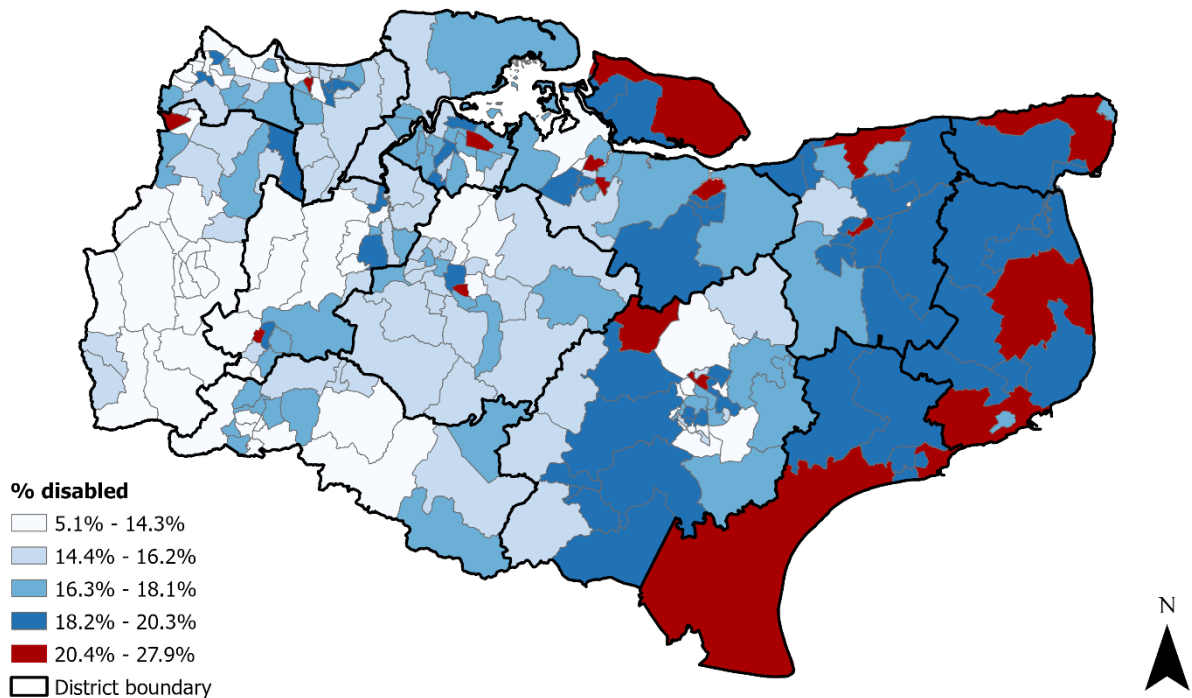
Thanet has the highest number and proportion of residents whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot by a disability (14,390 people, 10.2%). Canterbury has the highest number of residents who have a disability which limits their day-to-day activities a little (18,470 people) whereas Thanet has the highest proportion (12.6%).

Maps 3 and 4 show the proportion of residents in Kent & Medway who are disabled and not disabled under the Equality Act.

Map 3 shows the areas with the highest proportions of residents with a disability are more in the east of the county, in Folkestone & Hythe, Dover, Thanet and Swale.

Map 3: Proportion of residents disabled under the Equality Act in Kent & Medway wards

2021 Census: Proportion disabled in Kent & Medway wards

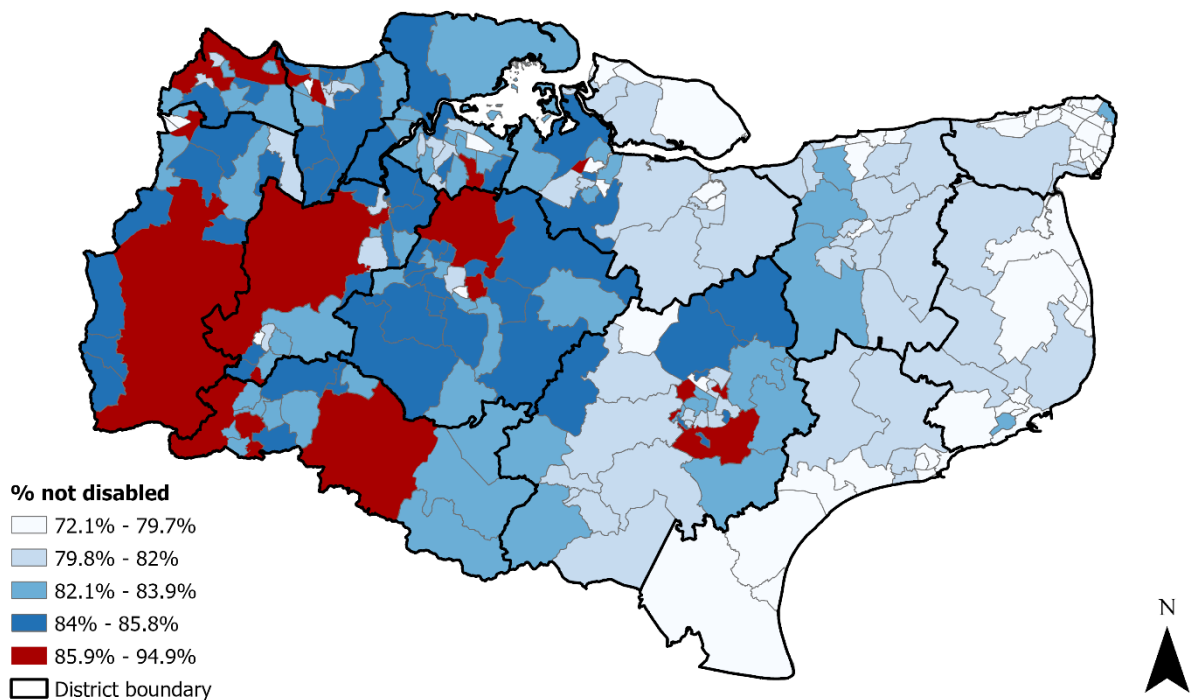


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Map 4 shows higher proportions of residents with no disability are in Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling and Tunbridge Wells, with some areas of the highest density in Dartford, Gravesham, Swale, Maidstone and Ashford.

Map 4: Proportion of residents not disabled under the Equality Act in Kent & Medway wards

2021 Census: Proportion not disabled in Kent & Medway wards



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Tables 3 and 4 show the number and proportion of residents in Kent local authority districts, the South East and England & Wales who are disabled or not disabled in 2021.

Table 3: 2021 Census: Number of residents disabled/not disabled

Area	All usual residents	Total Disabled under the Equality Act	Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a lot	Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a little	Total Not disabled under the Equality Act	Not disabled under the Equality Act: Has long-term physical or mental health condition but day-to-day activities are not limited	Not disabled under the Equality Act: No long-term physical or mental health conditions
England & Wales	59,597,542	10,444,776	4,459,763	5,985,013	49,152,766	4,062,569	45,090,197
South East	9,278,065	1,496,340	581,048	915,292	7,781,725	698,690	7,083,035
Kent	1,576,069	281,423	116,043	165,380	1,294,646	116,477	1,178,169
Ashford	132,747	22,655	9,079	13,576	110,092	9,592	100,500
Canterbury	157,431	30,870	12,400	18,470	126,561	12,431	114,130
Dartford	116,753	16,374	6,646	9,728	100,379	7,148	93,231
Dover	116,410	24,647	10,634	14,013	91,763	9,063	82,700
Folkestone & Hythe	109,758	23,960	10,429	13,531	85,798	8,486	77,312
Gravesham	106,900	17,509	7,414	10,095	89,391	6,541	82,850
Maidstone	175,782	28,025	11,012	17,013	147,757	13,001	134,756
Sevenoaks	120,514	18,088	7,016	11,072	102,426	9,064	93,362
Swale	151,677	29,637	12,671	16,966	122,040	11,087	110,953
Thanet	140,587	32,135	14,390	17,745	108,452	10,392	98,060
Tonbridge & Malling	132,201	20,224	7,841	12,383	111,977	10,388	101,589
Tunbridge Wells	115,311	17,299	6,511	10,788	98,012	9,284	88,728
Medway Unitary Authority	279,773	48,572	20,166	28,406	231,201	19,357	211,844
Kent & Medway	1,855,842	329,995	136,209	193,786	1,525,847	135,834	1,390,013

Source: 2021 Census TS038 - Disability, The Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright
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Table 4: 2021 Census: Proportion of residents disabled/not disabled

Area	All usual residents	Total Disabled under the Equality Act	Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a lot	Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a little	Total Not disabled under the Equality Act	Not disabled under the Equality Act: Has long-term physical or mental health condition but day-to-day activities are not limited	Not disabled under the Equality Act: No long-term physical or mental health conditions
England & Wales	100.0%	17.5%	7.5%	10.0%	82.5%	6.8%	75.7%
South East	100.0%	16.1%	6.3%	9.9%	83.9%	7.5%	76.3%
Kent	100.0%	17.9%	7.4%	10.5%	82.1%	7.4%	74.8%
Ashford	100.0%	17.1%	6.8%	10.2%	82.9%	7.2%	75.7%
Canterbury	100.0%	19.6%	7.9%	11.7%	80.4%	7.9%	72.5%
Dartford	100.0%	14.0%	5.7%	8.3%	86.0%	6.1%	79.9%
Dover	100.0%	21.2%	9.1%	12.0%	78.8%	7.8%	71.0%
Folkestone & Hythe	100.0%	21.8%	9.5%	12.3%	78.2%	7.7%	70.4%
Gravesham	100.0%	16.4%	6.9%	9.4%	83.6%	6.1%	77.5%
Maidstone	100.0%	15.9%	6.3%	9.7%	84.1%	7.4%	76.7%
Sevenoaks	100.0%	15.0%	5.8%	9.2%	85.0%	7.5%	77.5%
Swale	100.0%	19.5%	8.4%	11.2%	80.5%	7.3%	73.2%
Thanet	100.0%	22.9%	10.2%	12.6%	77.1%	7.4%	69.8%
Tonbridge & Malling	100.0%	15.3%	5.9%	9.4%	84.7%	7.9%	76.8%
Tunbridge Wells	100.0%	15.0%	5.6%	9.4%	85.0%	8.1%	76.9%
Medway Unitary Authority	100.0%	17.4%	7.2%	10.2%	82.6%	6.9%	75.7%
Kent & Medway	100.0%	17.8%	7.3%	10.4%	82.2%	7.3%	74.9%

Source: 2021 Census TS038 - Disability, The Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright
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2011 to 2021 change in disability

Changes to the question on disability between the 2011 and 2021 Census means that it is not possible to provide a direct comparison. In 2011, residents were asked if they had a long-term health problem or disability meaning their day-to-day activities were limited a lot, limited a little, or not limited.

We can compare the results of the 2011 Census to the 2021 Census by grouping the two 'not limited' categories from 2021, to compare to the one 'not limited' category from 2011. This is presented in the table below.

2011 and 2021 Long-term health problem or disability question categories

2011 long-term health problem or disability categories	2021 long-term health problem or disability categories
Day-to-day activities limited a lot	Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a lot
Day-to-day activities limited a little	Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a little
Day-to-day activities not limited	Not disabled under the Equality Act: Has long-term physical or mental health condition but day-to-day activities are not limited AND Not disabled under the Equality Act: No long-term physical or mental health conditions

The number and proportion of people in Kent whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot has decreased (364 less people). In 2011, 8.0% of Kent residents' day-to-day activities were limited a lot whereas in 2021 the proportion is 7.4%.

The number and proportion of residents whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot has also decreased in the last 10 years in the South East, from 6.9% to 6.3%, and in England & Wales from 8.5% to 7.5%.

In contrast, there has been an increase in the number and proportion of residents in Kent, the South East and England & Wales whose day-to-day activities are limited a little.

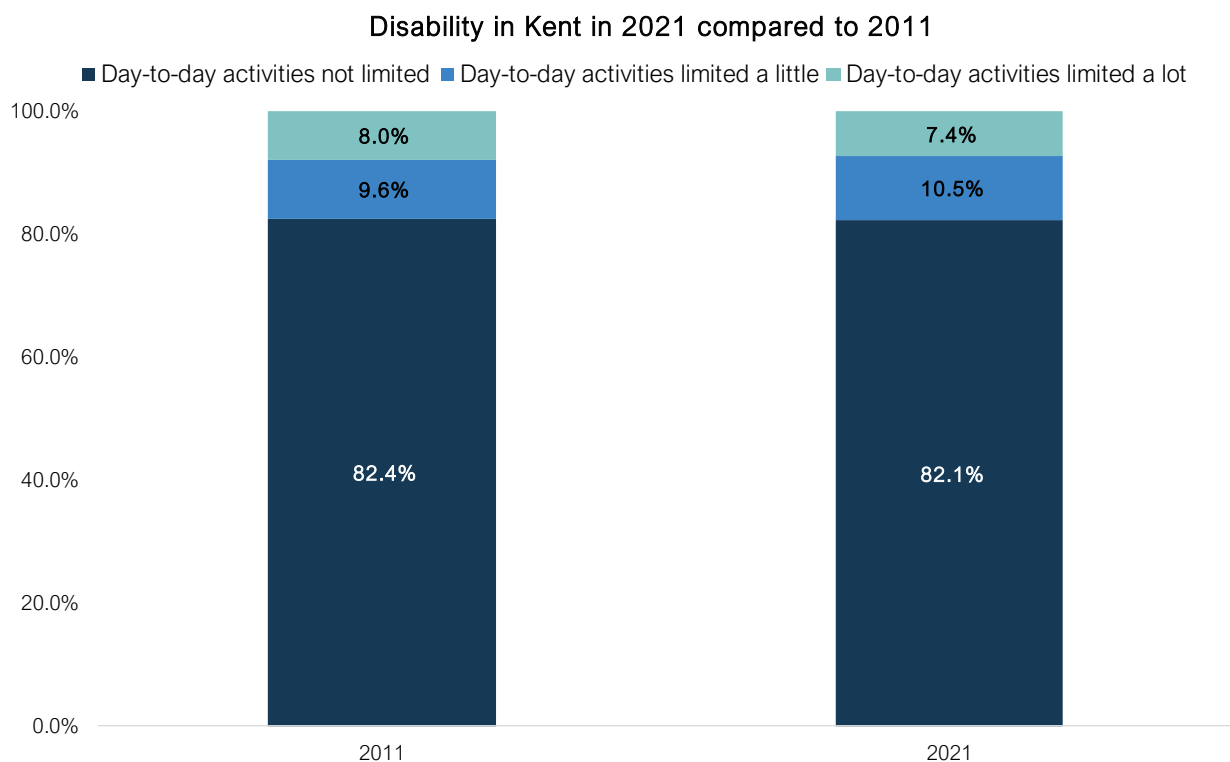
In Kent, residents whose day-to-day activities are limited a little has increased from 9.6% in 2011 to 10.5% in 2021. In the South East, there has been an increase in proportion from 8.8% to 9.9%, and in England & Wales from 9.4% to 10.0%.

While the number of Kent residents whose day-to-day activities are not limited has increased by 87,944 people, they account for a slightly smaller proportion of the population in 2021 (82.1%) than in 2011 (82.4%).

The number of residents whose day-to-day activities are not limited has also increased in the South East and England & Wales. In the South East, the proportion has decreased from 84.3% in 2011 to 83.9% in 2021. Though in England & Wales the proportion has increased in the last decade from 82.1% to 82.5%.

Chart 5 shows the proportion of people by limitations to day-to-day activities in Kent in 2011 and 2021, by the 2011 categories.

Chart 5: Disability in Kent in 2021 compared to 2011



Source: 2021 Census TS038 Disability; 2011 Census QS303EW Long term health problem or disability, The Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright. Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 5 overleaf shows the number and proportion of residents in Kent local authority districts, the South East and England & Wales in 2021 by limitations to day-to-day activities by the 2011 categories; limited a lot, limited a little or not limited.

To compare changes in number and proportion, table 5 can be compared to table 19 in the annex at the end of this bulletin, which shows the number and proportion of people in 2011 by limitations to day-to-day activities.

Table 5: 2021 Census: Number and proportion of residents with long-term health problem or disability by 2011 categories

Area	All usual residents	Number Day-to-day activities limited a lot	% Day-to-day activities limited a lot	Number Day-to-day activities limited a little	% Day-to-day activities limited a little	Number Day-to-day activities not limited	% Day-to-day activities not limited
England & Wales	59,597,542	4,459,763	7.5%	5,985,013	10.0%	49,152,766	82.5%
South East	9,278,065	581,048	6.3%	915,292	9.9%	7,781,725	83.9%
Kent	1,576,069	116,043	7.4%	165,380	10.5%	1,294,646	82.1%
Ashford	132,747	9,079	6.8%	13,576	10.2%	110,092	82.9%
Canterbury	157,431	12,400	7.9%	18,470	11.7%	126,561	80.4%
Dartford	116,753	6,646	5.7%	9,728	8.3%	100,379	86.0%
Dover	116,410	10,634	9.1%	14,013	12.0%	91,763	78.8%
Folkestone & Hythe	109,758	10,429	9.5%	13,531	12.3%	85,798	78.2%
Gravesham	106,900	7,414	6.9%	10,095	9.4%	89,391	83.6%
Maidstone	175,782	11,012	6.3%	17,013	9.7%	147,757	84.1%
Sevenoaks	120,514	7,016	5.8%	11,072	9.2%	102,426	85.0%
Swale	151,677	12,671	8.4%	16,966	11.2%	122,040	80.5%
Thanet	140,587	14,390	10.2%	17,745	12.6%	108,452	77.1%
Tonbridge & Malling	132,201	7,841	5.9%	12,383	9.4%	111,977	84.7%
Tunbridge Wells	115,311	6,511	5.6%	10,788	9.4%	98,012	85.0%
Medway Unitary Authority	279,773	20,166	7.2%	28,406	10.2%	231,201	82.6%
Kent & Medway	1,855,842	136,209	7.3%	193,786	10.4%	1,525,847	82.2%

Source: 2021 Census TS038 - Disability; 2011 Census QS303EW - Long-term health problem or disability, The Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright
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The proportion of people whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot has decreased in all Kent districts, the highest change being in Thanet with a proportion of 11.5% in 2011 and 10.2% in 2021. Thanet also saw the largest decrease in number of people whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot with 979 less people. In five districts (Ashford, Dartford, Maidstone, Swale and Tonbridge & Malling), the number of people whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot has increased in the last 10 years.

The number of people whose day-to-day activities are limited a little has risen in all Kent districts. There was also an increase in proportion in most districts, except Dartford and Gravesham where there has been no change in proportion. Canterbury saw the largest increase in the number of people whose day-to-day activities are limited a little (+3,579), followed by Swale (+3,386) and Maidstone (+3,168). Canterbury had the largest change in proportion of the population whose day-to-day activities are limited a little, from 9.9% in 2011 to 11.7% in 2021.

In all districts there was an increase in the number of people whose day-to-day activities are not limited, except in Tunbridge Wells where there are 666 less people. Although most districts had an increase in number of people whose day-to-day activities are not limited, they account for a smaller proportion of people in 2021 than in 2011 though in Dartford, Gravesham and Thanet the proportions are larger in 2021 (+1.1%, +0.6% and +0.5% respectively).

Table 6 presents the number and percentage change in people with a long-term health problem or disability in Kent local authority districts, the South East and England & Wales between 2011 and 2021, by the 2011 categories.

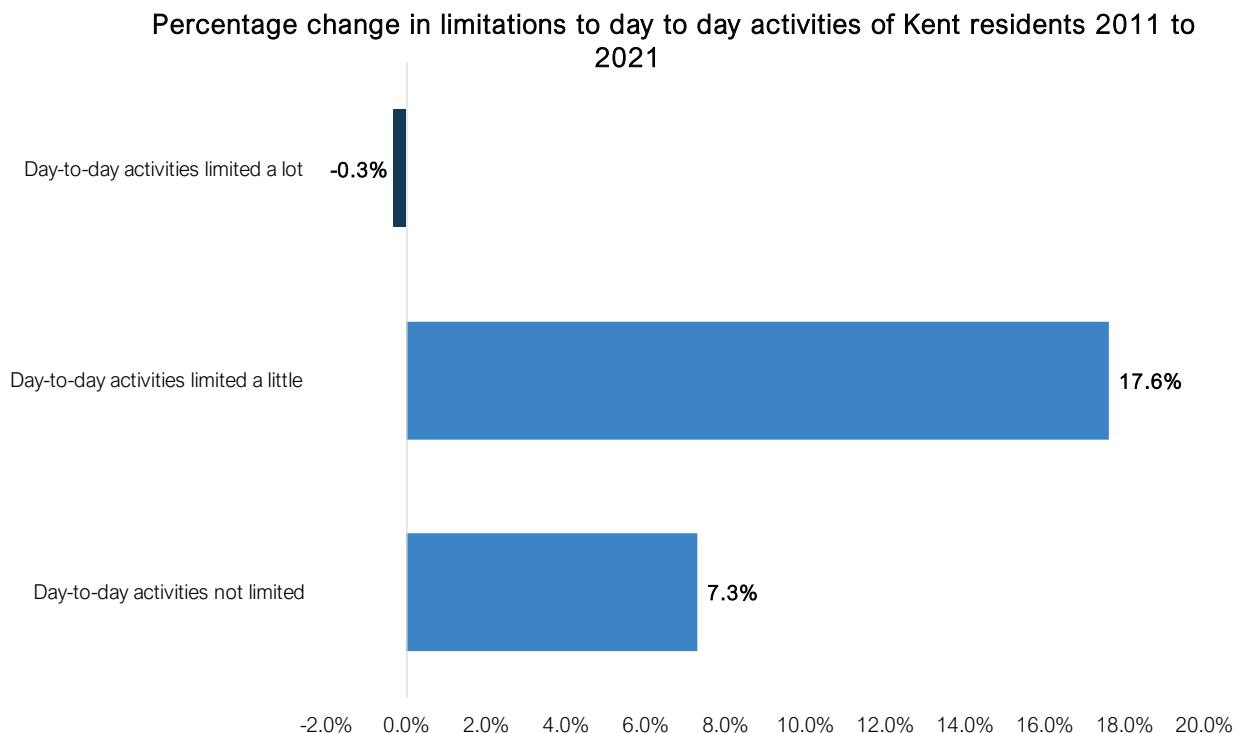
Table 6: Number and percentage change in residents with long-term health problem or disability between 2011 and 2021

Area	Number Day-to-day activities limited a lot	% Day-to-day activities limited a lot	Number Day-to-day activities limited a little	% Day-to-day activities limited a little	Number Day-to-day activities not limited	% Day-to-day activities not limited
England & Wales	-309,949	-6.5%	706,284	13.4%	3,125,295	6.8%
South East	-12,595	-2.1%	152,731	20.0%	503,179	6.9%
Kent	-364	-0.3%	24,749	17.6%	87,944	7.3%
Ashford	663	7.9%	2,907	27.2%	11,221	11.3%
Canterbury	-27	-0.2%	3,579	24.0%	2,734	2.2%
Dartford	25	0.4%	1,614	19.9%	17,749	21.5%
Dover	-219	-2.0%	1,609	13.0%	3,346	3.8%
Folkestone & Hythe	-324	-3.0%	1,566	13.1%	547	0.6%
Gravesham	-382	-4.9%	549	5.8%	5,013	5.9%
Maidstone	352	3.3%	3,168	22.9%	17,119	13.1%
Sevenoaks	-203	-2.8%	1,200	12.2%	4,624	4.7%
Swale	929	7.9%	3,386	24.9%	11,527	10.4%
Thanet	-979	-6.4%	1,766	11.1%	5,614	5.5%
Tonbridge & Malling	262	3.5%	2,016	19.4%	9,118	8.9%
Tunbridge Wells	-461	-6.6%	1,389	14.8%	-666	-0.7%
Medway Unitary Authority	433	2.2%	4,785	20.3%	10,630	4.8%
Kent & Medway	69	0.1%	29,534	18.0%	98,574	6.9%

Source: 2021 Census TS038 - Disability; 2011 Census QS303EW - Long-term health problem or disability, The Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright
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Chart 6 shows the percentage change in people in Kent with a long-term health problem or disability between 2011 and 2021 by the 2011 categories. Those whose day-to-day activities are limited a little has seen the largest percentage change of +17.6%. Those whose day-to-day activities are not limited has seen a smaller percentage change of +7.3%. There has been a slight fall in those whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot of 0.3%.

Chart 6: Percentage change in limitations to day-to-day activities of Kent residents 2011 to 2021



Source: 2021 Census TS038 Disability; 2011 Census QS303EW Long term health problem or disability, The Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright. Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Disability in the working age population in 2021

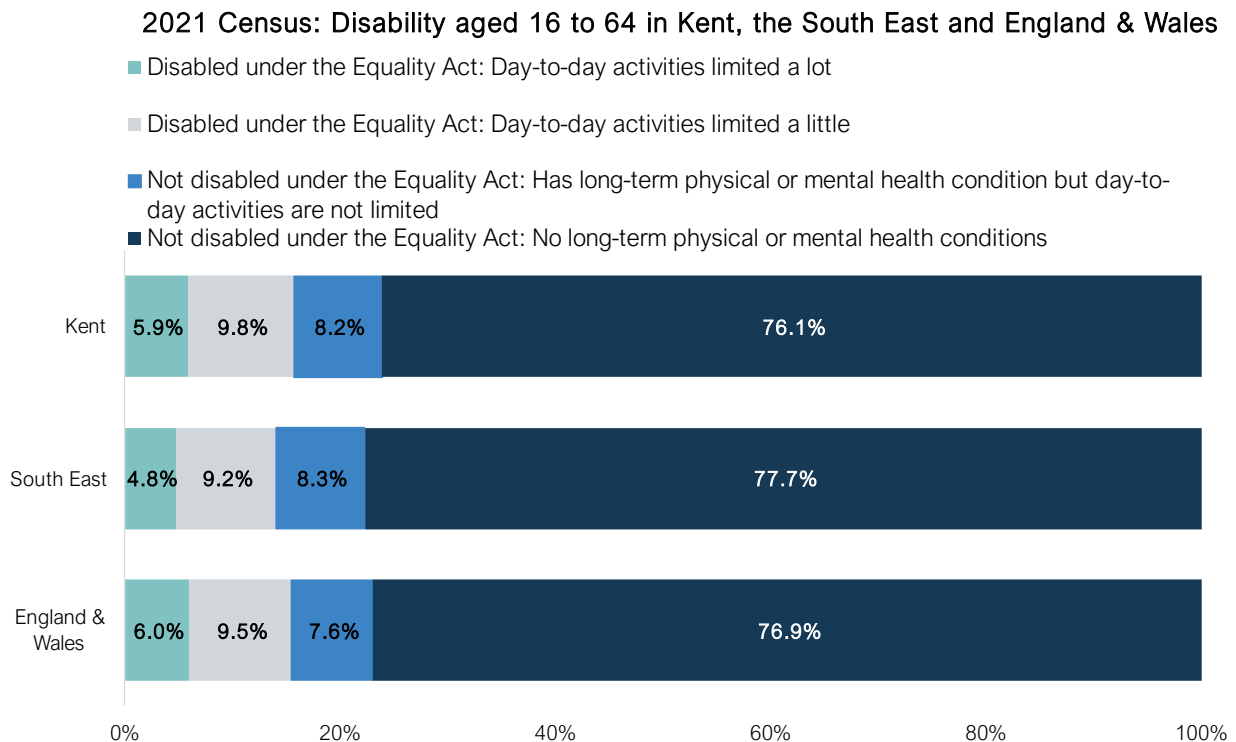
The total working age population (aged 16 to 64) in Kent is 957,238 as at the time of the 2021 Census. The majority of these working age residents have no long-term physical or mental health conditions, equal to 76.1% of the total population. This proportion is lower than the regional average (77.7%) and national average (76.9%).

Kent has a higher proportion of working age people (9.8%) whose day-to-day activities are limited a little than in the South East (9.2%) and England & Wales (9.5%).

A total of 56,420 of Kent's working age residents stated that their day-to-day activities were limited a lot, equal to 5.9% of the total working age population. This proportion is higher than the regional average of 4.8% and slightly lower than the national average of 6.0%.

Chart 7 shows the proportion of people aged 16 to 64 by limitations to day-to-day activities in Kent, the South East and England & Wales.

Chart 7: 2021 Census: Disability aged 16 to 64 in Kent, the South East and England & Wales



Source: 2021 Census TS038 Disability, The Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright, ONS Create a custom dataset tool
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Within the Kent local authority districts Dartford has the highest proportion (80.6%) of working age population who have no long-term physical or mental health conditions, a total of 60,200 residents.

Thanet has the highest proportions of people of working age who are disabled and say that their day-to-day activities are limited a lot (8.7%) and a little (11.9%).

Tables 7 and 8 show the number and proportion of working age residents in Kent local authority districts, the South East and England & Wales who are disabled or not disabled in 2021.

Table 7: 2021 Census: Number of working age residents disabled/not disabled

Area	All usual residents aged 16-64	Total Disabled under the Equality Act	Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a lot	Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a little	Total Not disabled under the Equality Act	Not disabled under the Equality Act: Has long-term physical or mental health condition but day-to-day activities are not limited	Not disabled under the Equality Act: No long-term physical or mental health conditions
England & Wales	37,503,029	5,819,915	2,268,394	3,551,521	31,683,114	2,838,018	28,845,096
South East	5,750,323	806,837	277,149	529,688	4,943,486	477,501	4,465,985
Kent	957,238	150,465	56,420	94,045	806,773	78,480	728,293
Ashford	80,772	12,253	4,474	7,779	68,519	6,567	61,952
Canterbury	98,523	17,089	6,107	10,982	81,434	8,418	73,016
Dartford	74,660	9,213	3,277	5,936	65,447	5,247	60,200
Dover	68,229	12,840	5,171	7,669	55,389	5,878	49,511
Folkestone & Hythe	64,125	12,436	5,098	7,338	51,689	5,395	46,294
Gravesham	66,141	9,561	3,677	5,884	56,580	4,517	52,063
Maidstone	108,611	14,919	5,194	9,725	93,692	8,899	84,793
Sevenoaks	70,675	8,658	2,960	5,698	62,017	5,719	56,298
Swale	93,088	16,571	6,537	10,034	76,517	7,810	68,707
Thanet	82,160	16,960	7,177	9,783	65,200	6,709	58,491
Tonbridge & Malling	80,220	10,692	3,687	7,005	69,528	7,065	62,463
Tunbridge Wells	70,032	9,270	3,059	6,211	60,762	6,257	54,505
Medway Unitary Authority	176,703	28,259	10,754	17,505	148,444	13,730	134,714
Kent & Medway	1,133,941	178,724	67,174	111,550	955,217	92,210	863,007

Source: 2021 Census TS038 - Disability, The Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright

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Table 8: 2021 Census: Proportion of working age residents disabled/not disabled

Area	All usual residents aged 16-64	Total Disabled under the Equality Act	Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a lot	Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a little	Total Not disabled under the Equality Act	Not disabled under the Equality Act: Has long-term physical or mental health condition but day-to-day activities are not limited	Not disabled under the Equality Act: No long-term physical or mental health conditions
England & Wales	100.0%	15.5%	6.0%	9.5%	84.5%	7.6%	76.9%
South East	100.0%	14.0%	4.8%	9.2%	86.0%	8.3%	77.7%
Kent	100.0%	15.7%	5.9%	9.8%	84.3%	8.2%	76.1%
Ashford	100.0%	15.2%	5.5%	9.6%	84.8%	8.1%	76.7%
Canterbury	100.0%	17.3%	6.2%	11.1%	82.7%	8.5%	74.1%
Dartford	100.0%	12.3%	4.4%	8.0%	87.7%	7.0%	80.6%
Dover	100.0%	18.8%	7.6%	11.2%	81.2%	8.6%	72.6%
Folkestone & Hythe	100.0%	19.4%	8.0%	11.4%	80.6%	8.4%	72.2%
Gravesham	100.0%	14.5%	5.6%	8.9%	85.5%	6.8%	78.7%
Maidstone	100.0%	13.7%	4.8%	9.0%	86.3%	8.2%	78.1%
Sevenoaks	100.0%	12.3%	4.2%	8.1%	87.7%	8.1%	79.7%
Swale	100.0%	17.8%	7.0%	10.8%	82.2%	8.4%	73.8%
Thanet	100.0%	20.6%	8.7%	11.9%	79.4%	8.2%	71.2%
Tonbridge & Malling	100.0%	13.3%	4.6%	8.7%	86.7%	8.8%	77.9%
Tunbridge Wells	100.0%	13.2%	4.4%	8.9%	86.8%	8.9%	77.8%
Medway Unitary Authority	100.0%	16.0%	6.1%	9.9%	84.0%	7.8%	76.2%
Kent & Medway	100.0%	15.8%	5.9%	9.8%	84.2%	8.1%	76.1%

Source: 2021 Census TS038 - Disability, The Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright

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2011 to 2021 change in disability in the working age population

As with the comparison on change in disability of residents of all ages, the 2021 Census question on disability has changed since 2011 meaning it is not possible to provide a direct comparison. In 2011, residents were asked if they had a long-term health problem or disability meaning their day-to-day activities were limited a lot, limited a little, or not limited.

By grouping the two 'not limited' categories from 2021 we can compare to the one 'not limited' category from 2011, as shown in the table below.

2011 and 2021 Long-term health problem or disability question categories

2011 long-term health problem or disability categories	2021 long-term health problem or disability categories
Day-to-day activities limited a lot	Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a lot
Day-to-day activities limited a little	Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a little
Day-to-day activities not limited	Not disabled under the Equality Act: Has long-term physical or mental health condition but day-to-day activities are not limited AND Not disabled under the Equality Act: No long-term physical or mental health conditions

While the number and proportion of people aged 16 to 64 whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot has increased between 2011 and 2021, the number and proportion of people of all ages whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot has decreased in Kent, the South East and England & Wales.

In Kent, working age residents whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot account for a slightly higher proportion of the 16 to 64 population than in 2011 (5.9% in 2021 compared to 5.0% in 2011). In the South East and England & Wales there have been smaller increases in proportions, from 4.1% to 4.8% in the South East, and 5.7% to 6.0% in England & Wales.

The number and proportion of working age people whose day-to-day activities are limited a little have increased in Kent, the South East and England & Wales, as did people of all ages.

Kent has 30,558 more working age residents in 2021 than in 2011 whose day-to-day activities are limited a little, an increase in proportion from 7.0% to 9.8%. The South East and England & Wales have slightly lower proportions than in Kent in 2021, of 9.2% and

9.5% respectively. The proportion in the South East in 2011 was 6.4% and in England & Wales was 7.2%.

There has also been an increase in the number of working age people whose day-to-day activities are not limited in Kent, regionally and nationally, though these people make up lower proportions of the population than they did in 2011.

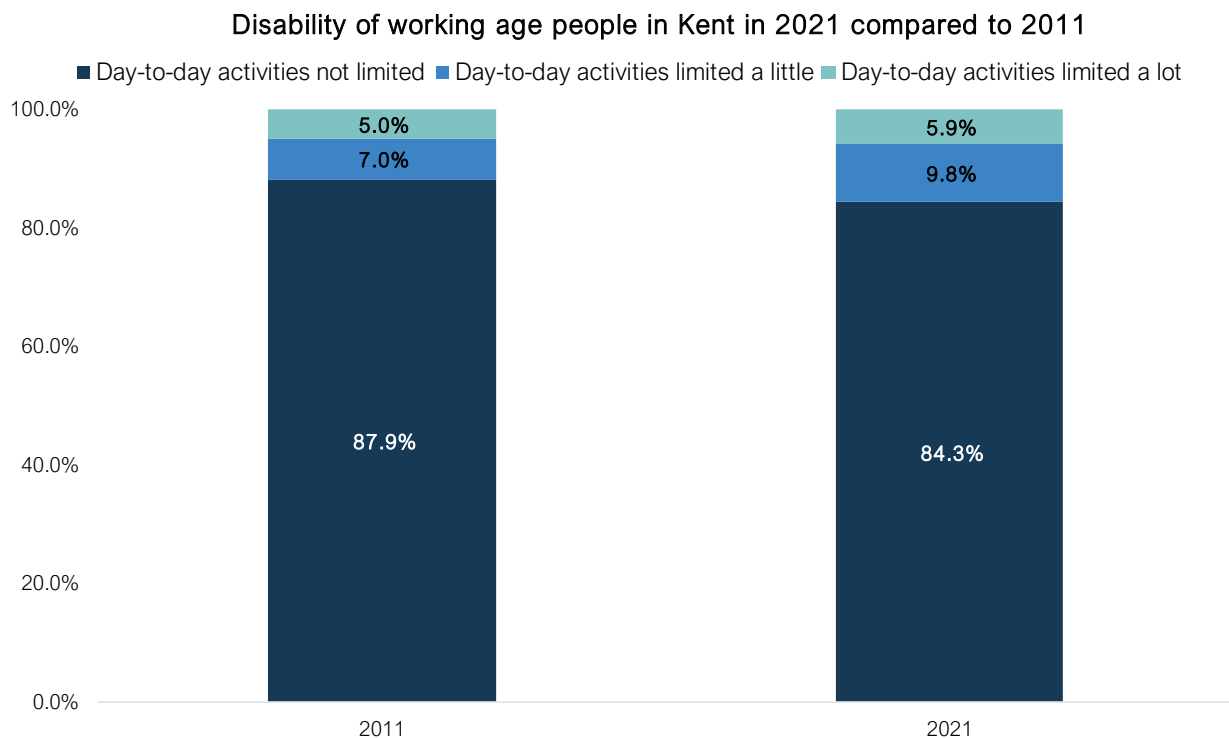
87.9% of the Kent working age populations day-to-day activities were not limited in 2011 whereas 84.3% are not limited in 2021. The proportion in the South East was 89.5% in 2011 compared to 86.0% in 2021. In England & Wales, the proportion in 2011 was 87.1% and in 2021 is 84.5%.

The proportions of people of all ages whose day-to-day activities were not limited similarly decreased between 2011 and 2021 in Kent and the South East, though the proportion of people of all ages who are not limited in England & Wales increased.

Table 20 in the annex at the end of this bulletin shows the number and proportion of working age people in 2011 by limitations to day-to-day activities.

Chart 8 shows the proportion of working age people by limitations to day-to-day activities in Kent in 2011 and 2021, by the 2011 categories.

Chart 8: Disability in Kent of working age people in 2021 compared to 2011



Source: 2021 Census TS038 Disability, ONS Create a custom dataset tool; 2011 Census DC3302EW Long term health problem or disability by health by sex by age, The Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright.
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Table 9 overleaf shows the number and proportion of working age residents in Kent local authority districts, the South East and England & Wales in 2021 by limitations to day-to-day activities by the 2011 categories; limited a lot, limited a little or not limited.

Table 9 presenting 2021 figures, and table 20 in the annex presenting 2011 figures allow comparisons to be made between the number and proportion of working age people in the last 10 years with a long-term health problem or disability, by the 2011 categories.

Table 9: 2021 Census: Number and proportion of working age residents with long-term health problem or disability by 2011 categories

Area	All usual residents aged 16-64	Number Day-to-day activities limited a lot	% Day-to-day activities limited a lot	Number Day-to-day activities limited a little	% Day-to-day activities limited a little	Number Day-to-day activities not limited	% Day-to-day activities not limited
England & Wales	37,503,029	2,268,394	6.0%	3,551,521	9.5%	31,683,114	84.5%
South East	5,750,323	277,149	4.8%	529,688	9.2%	4,943,486	86.0%
Kent	957,238	56,420	5.9%	94,045	9.8%	806,773	84.3%
Ashford	80,772	4,474	5.5%	7,779	9.6%	68,519	84.8%
Canterbury	98,523	6,107	6.2%	10,982	11.1%	81,434	82.7%
Dartford	74,660	3,277	4.4%	5,936	8.0%	65,447	87.7%
Dover	68,229	5,171	7.6%	7,669	11.2%	55,389	81.2%
Folkestone & Hythe	64,125	5,098	8.0%	7,338	11.4%	51,689	80.6%
Gravesham	66,141	3,677	5.6%	5,884	8.9%	56,580	85.5%
Maidstone	108,611	5,194	4.8%	9,725	9.0%	93,692	86.3%
Sevenoaks	70,675	2,960	4.2%	5,698	8.1%	62,017	87.7%
Swale	93,088	6,537	7.0%	10,034	10.8%	76,517	82.2%
Thanet	82,160	7,177	8.7%	9,783	11.9%	65,200	79.4%
Tonbridge & Malling	80,220	3,687	4.6%	7,005	8.7%	69,528	86.7%
Tunbridge Wells	70,032	3,059	4.4%	6,211	8.9%	60,762	86.8%
Medway Unitary Authority	176,703	10,754	6.1%	17,505	9.9%	148,444	84.0%
Kent & Medway	1,133,941	67,174	5.9%	111,550	9.8%	955,217	84.2%

Source: 2021 Census TS038 - Disability, The Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright

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All Kent districts saw an increase in the number and proportion of working age residents whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot. Canterbury saw the largest increase in number with 1,686 more residents. Folkestone & Hythe saw the greatest increase in proportion of working age residents whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot, from 6.5% in 2011 to 8.0% in 2021.

Every district in Kent also saw an increase in the number and proportion of working age residents whose day-to-day activities are limited a little. Canterbury again saw the largest increase in number of residents, with 4,671 more residents and the largest increase in proportion, from 7.0% in 2011 to 11.1% in 2021.

Half of the districts in Kent saw an increase in the number of working age residents whose day-to-day activities are not limited and half of the districts saw a decrease. Though all districts have smaller proportions of the population whose day-to-day activities are not limited in 2021 than in 2011. Canterbury saw the largest decrease in proportion to 82.7% in 2021, from 88.2% in 2011.

Table 10 presents the number and percentage change in working age people with a long-term health problem or disability in Kent local authority districts, the South East and England & Wales between 2011 and 2021, by the 2011 categories.

Table 10: Number and percentage change in working age residents with long-term health problem or disability between 2011 and 2021

Area	Number Day-to-day activities limited a lot	% Day-to-day activities limited a lot	Number Day-to-day activities limited a little	% Day-to-day activities limited a little	Number Day-to-day activities not limited	% Day-to-day activities not limited
England & Wales	248,719	12.3%	980,459	38.1%	626,339	2.0%
South East	53,404	23.9%	186,549	54.4%	113,428	2.3%
Kent	10,967	24.1%	30,558	48.1%	13,251	1.7%
Ashford	1,124	33.6%	2,723	53.9%	3,857	6.0%
Canterbury	1,686	38.1%	4,671	74.0%	1,417	1.8%
Dartford	638	24.2%	2,021	51.6%	8,875	15.7%
Dover	906	21.2%	1,984	34.9%	-2,734	-4.7%
Folkestone & Hythe	872	20.6%	2,041	38.5%	-4,299	-7.7%
Gravesham	315	9.4%	1,413	31.6%	-69	-0.1%
Maidstone	1,153	28.5%	3,434	54.6%	6,568	7.5%
Sevenoaks	520	21.3%	1,571	38.1%	-1,760	-2.8%
Swale	1,445	28.4%	3,591	55.7%	3,894	5.4%
Thanet	969	15.6%	2,634	36.8%	-808	-1.2%
Tonbridge & Malling	869	30.8%	2,444	53.6%	2,161	3.2%
Tunbridge Wells	468	18.1%	2,030	48.6%	-3,850	-6.0%
Medway Unitary Authority	1,715	19.0%	5,243	42.8%	-906	-0.6%
Kent & Medway	12,682	23.3%	35,801	47.3%	12,345	1.3%

Source: 2021 Census TS038 - Disability; 2011 Census DC3302EW - Long term health problem or disability by health by sex by age, The Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright

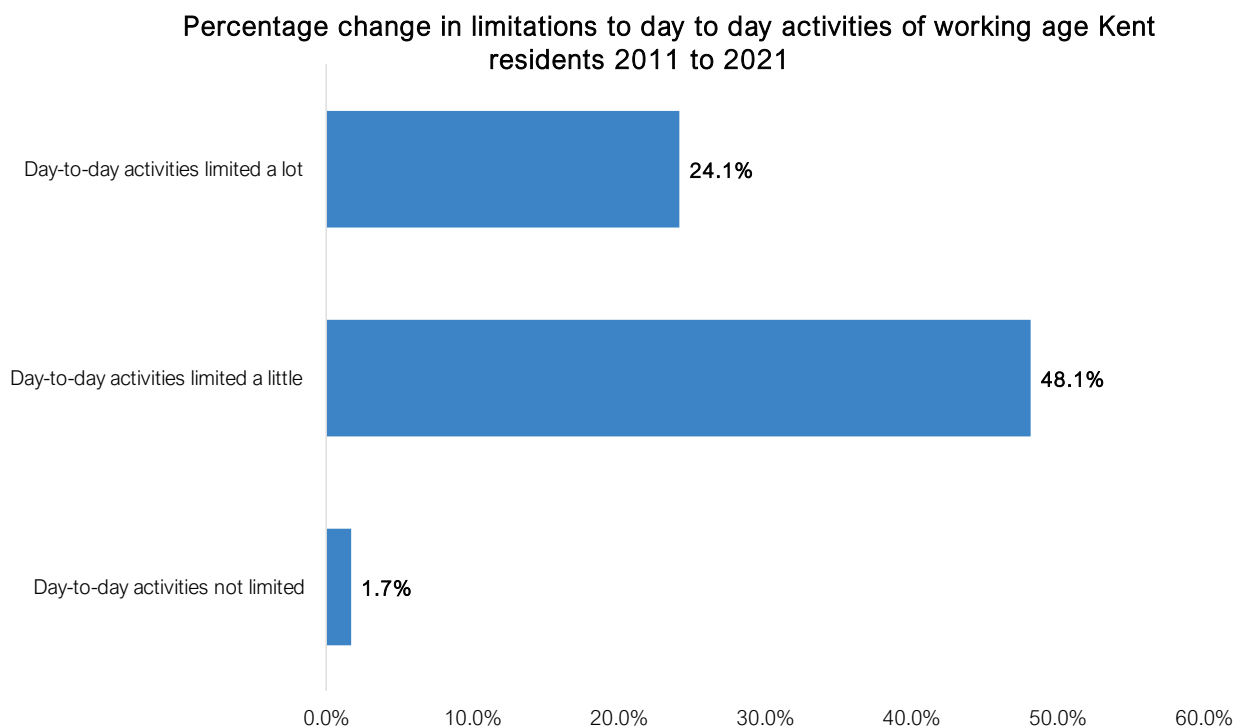
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Chart 9 shows the percentage change in working age people in Kent with a long-term health problem or disability between 2011 and 2021 by the 2011 categories. People of working age whose day-to-day activities are limited a little has seen the largest percentage change of +48.1%. This is considerably higher than the largest percentage change of people of all ages whose day-to-day activities are limited a little at +17.6%.

People of working age whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot has seen a percentage change of +24.1% and those whose day-to-day activities are not limited has seen a small percentage change of +1.7%.

Chart 9: Percentage change in limitations to day-to-day activities of Kent working age residents 2011 to 2021



Source: 2021 Census TS038 Disability, ONS Create a custom dataset tool; 2011 Census DC3302EW Long term health problem or disability by health by sex by age, The Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright.
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Provision of unpaid care in 2021

A person is a provider of unpaid care if they look after or give help or support to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of long-term physical or mental ill health or disability, or problems related to old age. This does not include any activities as part of paid employment. No distinction is made about whether any care that a person provides is within their own household or outside the household.

In 2021, 9.1% of Kent's population aged 5 and over (135,895 people) provided unpaid care. This proportion is higher than the regional average of 8.4% and the national average of 8.9%.

Out of the Kent local authority districts, Dover (11,504 people) and Thanet (13,847 people) have the highest proportion of unpaid carers both with 10.4%. Tunbridge Wells has the smallest proportion of unpaid carers with 7.9% or 8,613 people.

Table 11 presents the population by provision of unpaid care in 2021 for Kent local authority districts, the South East and England & Wales.

Table 11: 2021 Census: Provision of unpaid care

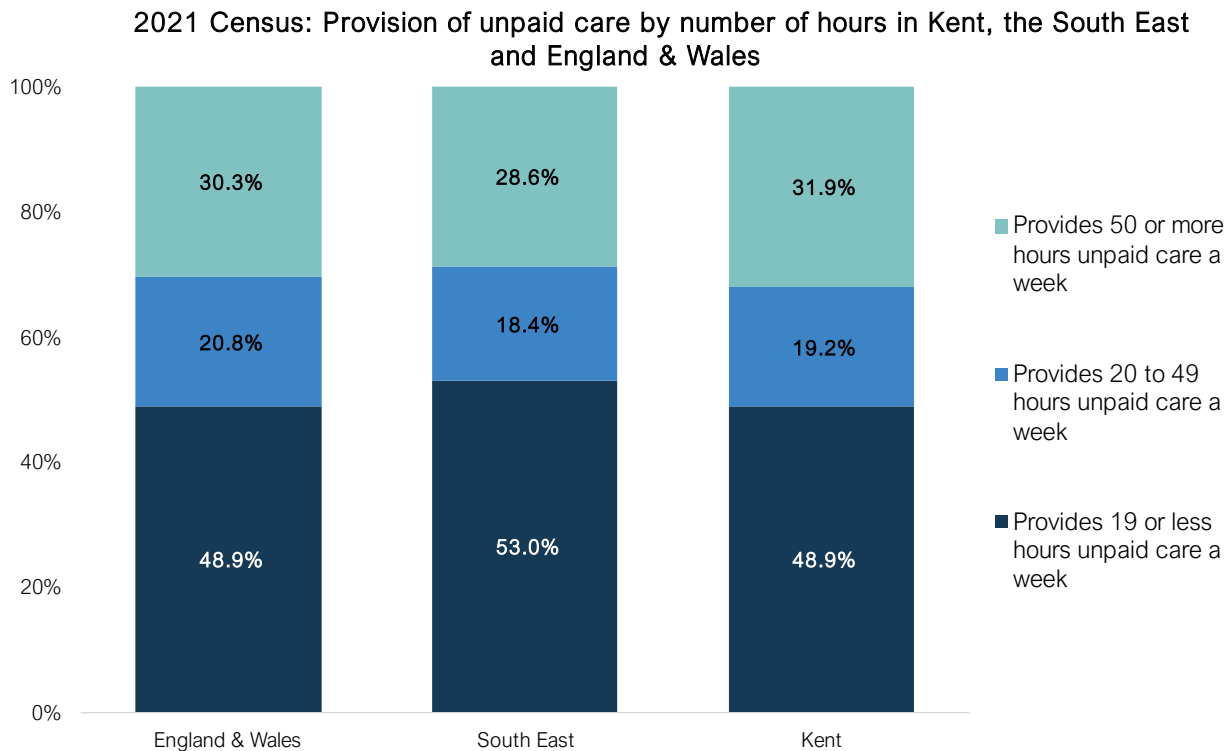
Area	All usual residents aged 5 and over	Number Provides NO unpaid care	% Provides NO unpaid care	Number Provides unpaid care	% Provides unpaid care
England & Wales	56,365,506	51,376,490	91.1%	4,989,016	8.9%
South East	8,782,763	8,049,399	91.6%	733,364	8.4%
Kent	1,488,783	1,352,888	90.9%	135,895	9.1%
Ashford	125,139	113,987	91.1%	11,152	8.9%
Canterbury	150,606	137,222	91.1%	13,384	8.9%
Dartford	108,471	99,808	92.0%	8,663	8.0%
Dover	110,742	99,238	89.6%	11,504	10.4%
Folkestone & Hythe	104,647	93,823	89.7%	10,824	10.3%
Gravesham	100,299	91,313	91.0%	8,986	9.0%
Maidstone	165,391	151,210	91.4%	14,181	8.6%
Sevenoaks	113,790	103,809	91.2%	9,981	8.8%
Swale	142,781	128,852	90.2%	13,929	9.8%
Thanet	133,253	119,406	89.6%	13,847	10.4%
Tonbridge & Malling	124,520	113,690	91.3%	10,830	8.7%
Tunbridge Wells	109,142	100,529	92.1%	8,613	7.9%
Medway Unitary Authority	262,465	239,847	91.4%	22,618	8.6%
Kent & Medway	1,751,248	1,592,735	90.9%	158,513	9.1%

Source: 2021 Census TS039 - Provision of unpaid care, The Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright. Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

The biggest proportion of unpaid carers in Kent provide care for 19 or less hours a week. A total of 66,462 people provide care for this amount of time a week which is 48.9% of all unpaid carers in Kent. This proportion is lower than the regional average of 53.0% and equal to the national average.

Chart 10 presents the population by provision of unpaid care in 2021 by number of hours for Kent, the South East and England & Wales.

Chart 10: 2021 Census: Provision of unpaid care by number of hours in Kent, the South East and England & Wales



Source: 2021 Census TS039 Provision of unpaid care, The Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright
Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Within the Kent local authority districts Thanet has the highest number and proportion of carers who are providing care for 50 or more hours per week. 5,076 unpaid carers in Thanet provide care for this amount of time, equal to 36.7% of all unpaid carers in the district.

Tables 12 and 13 show the number and proportion of unpaid carers in Kent local authority districts, the South East and England & Wales by number of hours unpaid care provided a week.

Table 12: Number of unpaid carers by number of hours unpaid care provided a week

Area	All usual residents aged 5 and over	Provides no unpaid care	19 or less hours unpaid care a week	20 to 49 hours unpaid care a week	50 or more hours unpaid care a week
England & Wales	56,365,506	51,376,490	2,442,050	1,035,366	1,511,600
South East	8,782,763	8,049,399	388,622	134,879	209,863
Kent	1,488,783	1,352,888	66,462	26,121	43,312
Ashford	125,137	113,987	5,450	2,199	3,501
Canterbury	150,606	137,222	6,743	2,478	4,163
Dartford	108,471	99,808	4,262	1,700	2,701
Dover	110,741	99,238	5,365	2,344	3,794
Folkestone & Hythe	104,645	93,823	4,983	2,168	3,671
Gravesham	100,299	91,313	4,141	1,876	2,969
Maidstone	165,392	151,210	7,370	2,567	4,245
Sevenoaks	113,792	103,809	5,538	1,648	2,797
Swale	142,781	128,852	6,061	2,884	4,984
Thanet	133,253	119,406	5,872	2,899	5,076
Tonbridge & Malling	124,520	113,690	5,725	1,947	3,158
Tunbridge Wells	109,144	100,529	4,952	1,410	2,253
Medway Unitary Authority	262,465	239,847	10,306	4,932	7,380
Kent & Medway	1,751,248	1,592,735	76,768	31,053	50,692

Source: 2021 Census TS039 - Provision of unpaid care, The Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright. Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 13: Proportion of unpaid carers by number of hours unpaid care provided a week

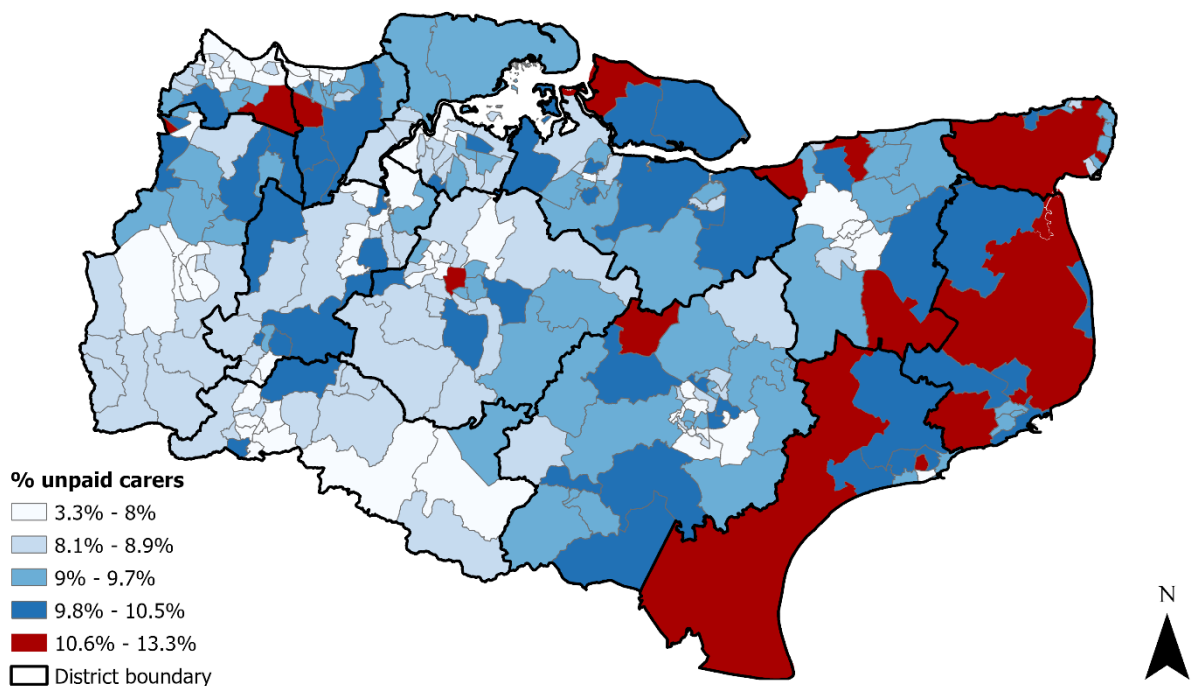
Area	All usual residents aged 5 and over	Provides no unpaid care	19 or less hours unpaid care a week	20 to 49 hours unpaid care a week	50 or more hours unpaid care a week
England & Wales	100.0%	91.1%	4.3%	1.8%	2.7%
South East	100.0%	91.6%	4.4%	1.5%	2.4%
Kent	100.0%	90.9%	4.5%	1.8%	2.9%
Ashford	100.0%	91.1%	4.4%	1.8%	2.8%
Canterbury	100.0%	91.1%	4.5%	1.6%	2.8%
Dartford	100.0%	92.0%	3.9%	1.6%	2.5%
Dover	100.0%	89.6%	4.8%	2.1%	3.4%
Folkestone & Hythe	100.0%	89.7%	4.8%	2.1%	3.5%
Gravesham	100.0%	91.0%	4.1%	1.9%	3.0%
Maidstone	100.0%	91.4%	4.5%	1.6%	2.6%
Sevenoaks	100.0%	91.2%	4.9%	1.4%	2.5%
Swale	100.0%	90.2%	4.2%	2.0%	3.5%
Thanet	100.0%	89.6%	4.4%	2.2%	3.8%
Tonbridge & Malling	100.0%	91.3%	4.6%	1.6%	2.5%
Tunbridge Wells	100.0%	92.1%	4.5%	1.3%	2.1%
Medway Unitary Authority	100.0%	91.4%	3.9%	1.9%	2.8%
Kent & Medway	100.0%	90.9%	4.4%	1.8%	2.9%

Source: 2021 Census TS039 - Provision of unpaid care, The Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright. Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Map 5 shows that higher proportions of unpaid carers are in the east of the county in coastal districts, mainly in Thanet, Dover and Folkestone & Hythe. There are some areas of high concentration in Canterbury, Swale, Ashford, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Dartford and Gravesham. There are no areas of the highest density in Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge & Malling.

Map 5: 2021 Census: Proportion of unpaid carers in Kent and Medway wards

2021 Census: Proportion of unpaid carers in Kent & Medway wards



Source: 2021 Census, The Office for National Statistics
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council
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2011 to 2021 change in provision of unpaid care

The 2021 Census data excludes residents aged under 5 years and the 2011 data is only provided in broad age groups, starting with those 0-15 years old therefore those aged under 5 cannot be excluded from the 2011 figures. For this reason, we have compared change in provision of unpaid care of those aged 16 and over.

In 2021, 10.4% of Kent's total population (12.6% in 2011) aged 16 and over were providing unpaid care. The proportion in Kent is higher than the figures in the South East of 9.5% (11.9% in 2011) and in England & Wales of 10.1% (12.5% in 2011).

Although the decrease in proportion of the over aged 16 population in Kent who are providing unpaid care to 10.4% seems quite small, the number of people providing unpaid care has decreased by 15,919 people in the past ten years, equal to a -10.7% percentage change.

All Kent districts had a lower number and proportion of unpaid carers aged 16 and over in 2021 than in 2011.

Tunbridge Wells has experienced the greatest percentage decrease of people aged 16 and over who provide unpaid care between 2011 and 2021 with an 18.8% fall. This is equal to 1,941 less people providing unpaid care in 2021 compared to 2011. Canterbury had the largest decrease in number of unpaid carers aged 16 and over with 2,186 less in 2021 than in 2011.

Swale saw the smallest number and percentage decrease of people who provide unpaid care between 2011 and 2021 with a fall of 2.4%, equal to 337 less people providing unpaid care in 2011 compared to 2011.

Table 14 presents the 10-year number and percentage change in population aged 16 and over who provide unpaid care in Kent local authority districts, the South East and England & Wales.

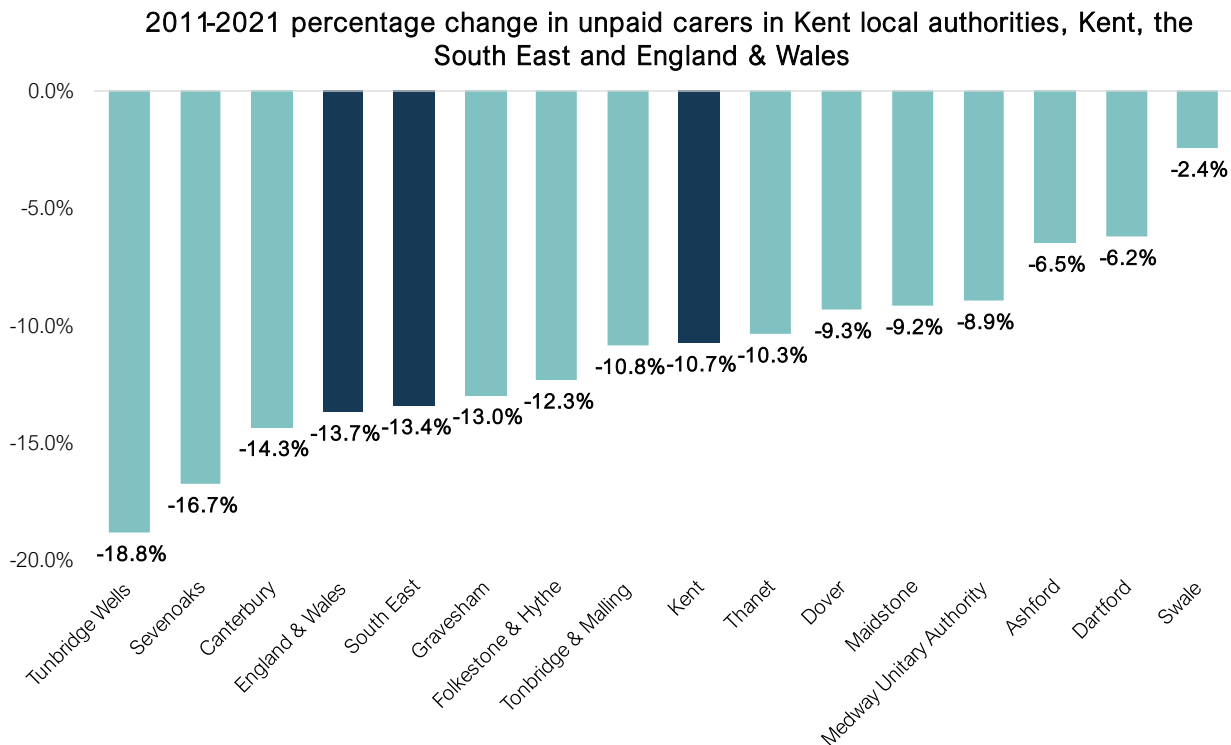
Table 14: Change in provision of unpaid care aged 16 and over between 2011 and 2021

Area	2011 Total providing unpaid care aged 16 and over	2011 % of Total population	2021 Total providing unpaid care aged 16 and over	2021 % of Total population	2011-21 Change in total providing unpaid care aged 16 and over	2011-21 % change in total providing unpaid care
England & Wales	5,681,279	12.5%	4,904,883	10.1%	-776,396	-13.7%
South East	829,991	11.9%	718,852	9.5%	-111,139	-13.4%
Kent	148,341	12.6%	132,422	10.4%	-15,919	-10.7%
Ashford	11,557	12.4%	10,805	10.1%	-752	-6.5%
Canterbury	15,252	12.1%	13,066	9.8%	-2,186	-14.3%
Dartford	9,014	11.7%	8,453	9.3%	-561	-6.2%
Dover	12,362	13.5%	11,208	11.7%	-1,154	-9.3%
Folkestone & Hythe	12,019	13.5%	10,536	11.5%	-1,483	-12.3%
Gravesham	10,085	12.5%	8,778	10.4%	-1,307	-13.0%
Maidstone	15,212	12.1%	13,817	9.7%	-1,395	-9.2%
Sevenoaks	11,732	12.7%	9,771	10.1%	-1,961	-16.7%
Swale	13,853	12.8%	13,516	11.1%	-337	-2.4%
Thanet	15,150	14.0%	13,584	11.8%	-1,566	-10.3%
Tonbridge & Malling	11,784	12.3%	10,507	10.0%	-1,277	-10.8%
Tunbridge Wells	10,321	11.3%	8,380	9.1%	-1,941	-18.8%
Medway Unitary Authority	24,372	11.6%	22,193	10.0%	-2,179	-8.9%
Kent & Medway	172,713	12.4%	154,615	10.3%	-18,098	-10.5%

Source: 2021 Census RM113; 2011 Census LC3304EW - Provision of unpaid care by age, The Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright. Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Chart 11 presents the percentage change in population who provide unpaid care in the Kent local authorities, Kent, the South East and England & Wales.

Chart 11: 2011 to 2021 percentage change in unpaid carers in Kent local authorities, Kent, the South East and England & Wales



Source: 2021 Census RM113; 2011 Census LC3304EW Provision of unpaid care by age, The Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright. Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

2011 to 2021 change in provision of unpaid care by number of hours

As with the total change in provision of unpaid care, we have compared change in provision of unpaid care by number of hours of those aged 16 and over. This is due to the 2021 Census data excluding residents aged under 5 years and the 2011 data only being provided in broad age groups, meaning those aged under 5 cannot be excluded from the 2011 figures.

The proportion of unpaid carers in Kent who provide care 19 hours or less a week dropped from 63.8% in 2011 to 48.2% in 2021. This is in contrast to the proportion of unpaid carers in Kent who provide care for between 20 to 49 hours a week which increased from 12.2% in 2011 to 19.4% in 2021, and those who provide care for 50 hours or more a week, which also increased, from 24.0% in 2011 to 32.4% in 2021.

This pattern is comparable across the Kent local authority districts and at the regional and national level.

The number and proportion of unpaid carers aged 16 and over by number of hours for the Kent local authority districts, the South East and England & Wales for 2011, 2021 and the subsequent change is presented in tables 15 to 17.

Table 15: 2011 to 2021 change in provision of unpaid care for 19 hours or less a week aged 16 and over

Area	2011 number providing care 19 hours or less a week aged 16 and over	2011 % of all unpaid carers	2021 number providing care 19 hours or less a week aged 16 and over	2021 % of all unpaid carers	2011-21 change providing care 19 hours or less a week aged 16 and over	2011-21 % change providing care 19 hours or less a week
England & Wales	3,568,970	62.8%	2,380,257	48.5%	-1,188,713	-33.3%
South East	562,768	67.8%	377,624	52.5%	-185,144	-32.9%
Kent	94,640	63.8%	63,805	48.2%	-30,835	-32.6%
Ashford	7,466	64.6%	5,174	47.9%	-2,292	-30.7%
Canterbury	9,803	64.3%	6,507	49.8%	-3,296	-33.6%
Dartford	5,759	63.9%	4,113	48.7%	-1,646	-28.6%
Dover	7,665	62.0%	5,131	45.8%	-2,534	-33.1%
Folkestone & Hythe	7,232	60.2%	4,758	45.2%	-2,474	-34.2%
Gravesham	6,188	61.4%	4,003	45.6%	-2,185	-35.3%
Maidstone	10,194	67.0%	7,072	51.2%	-3,122	-30.6%
Sevenoaks	8,321	70.9%	5,390	55.2%	-2,931	-35.2%
Swale	8,043	58.1%	5,763	42.6%	-2,280	-28.3%
Thanet	8,628	57.0%	5,661	41.7%	-2,967	-34.4%
Tonbridge & Malling	8,000	67.9%	5,478	52.1%	-2,522	-31.5%
Tunbridge Wells	7,341	71.1%	4,758	56.8%	-2,583	-35.2%
Medway Unitary Authority	14,476	59.4%	9,997	45.0%	-4,479	-30.9%
Kent & Medway	109,116	63.2%	73,802	47.7%	-35,314	-32.4%

Source: 2021 Census RM113; 2011 Census LC3304EW - Provision of unpaid care by age, The Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright. Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 16: 2011 to 2021 change in provision of unpaid care for 20 to 49 hours a week aged 16 and over

Area	2011 number providing care 20 to 49 hours a week aged 16 and over	2011 % of all unpaid carers	2021 number providing care 20 to 49 hours a week aged 16 and over	2021 % of all unpaid carers	2011-21 change providing care 20 to 49 hours a week aged 16 and over	2011-21 % change providing care 20 to 49 hours a week
England & Wales	763,236	13.4%	1,023,434	20.9%	260,198	34.1%
South East	95,359	11.5%	133,027	18.5%	37,668	39.5%
Kent	18,131	12.2%	25,658	19.4%	7,527	41.5%
Ashford	1,409	12.2%	2,155	19.9%	746	52.9%
Canterbury	1,796	11.8%	2,427	18.6%	631	35.1%
Dartford	1,113	12.3%	1,666	19.7%	553	49.7%
Dover	1,540	12.5%	2,306	20.6%	766	49.7%
Folkestone & Hythe	1,631	13.6%	2,137	20.3%	506	31.0%
Gravesham	1,368	13.6%	1,841	21.0%	473	34.6%
Maidstone	1,691	11.1%	2,534	18.3%	843	49.9%
Sevenoaks	1,173	10.0%	1,616	16.5%	443	37.8%
Swale	1,852	13.4%	2,814	20.8%	962	51.9%
Thanet	2,168	14.3%	2,877	21.2%	709	32.7%
Tonbridge & Malling	1,299	11.0%	1,901	18.1%	602	46.3%
Tunbridge Wells	1,091	10.6%	1,387	16.6%	296	27.1%
Medway Unitary Authority	3,288	13.5%	4,873	22.0%	1,585	48.2%
Kent & Medway	21,419	12.4%	30,531	19.7%	9,112	42.5%

Source: 2021 Census RM113; 2011 Census LC3304EW - Provision of unpaid care by age, The Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright. Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 17: 2011 to 2021 change in provision of unpaid care for 50 hours or more a week aged 16 and over

Area	2011 number providing care 50 hours or more a week aged 16 and over	2011 % of all unpaid carers	2021 number providing care 50 hours or more a week aged 16 and over	2021 % of all unpaid carers	2011-21 change providing care 50 hours or more a week aged 16 and over	2011-21 % change providing care 50 hours or more a week
England & Wales	1,349,073	23.7%	1,501,192	30.6%	152,119	11.3%
South East	171,864	20.7%	208,201	29.0%	36,337	21.1%
Kent	35,570	24.0%	42,959	32.4%	7,389	20.8%
Ashford	2,682	23.2%	3,476	32.2%	794	29.6%
Canterbury	3,653	24.0%	4,132	31.6%	479	13.1%
Dartford	2,142	23.8%	2,674	31.6%	532	24.8%
Dover	3,157	25.5%	3,771	33.6%	614	19.4%
Folkestone & Hythe	3,156	26.3%	3,641	34.6%	485	15.4%
Gravesham	2,529	25.1%	2,934	33.4%	405	16.0%
Maidstone	3,327	21.9%	4,211	30.5%	884	26.6%
Sevenoaks	2,238	19.1%	2,765	28.3%	527	23.5%
Swale	3,958	28.6%	4,939	36.5%	981	24.8%
Thanet	4,354	28.7%	5,046	37.1%	692	15.9%
Tonbridge & Malling	2,485	21.1%	3,128	29.8%	643	25.9%
Tunbridge Wells	1,889	18.3%	2,235	26.7%	346	18.3%
Medway Unitary Authority	6,608	27.1%	7,323	33.0%	715	10.8%
Kent & Medway	42,178	24.4%	50,282	32.5%	8,104	19.2%

Source: 2021 Census RM113; 2011 Census LC3304EW - Provision of unpaid care by age, The Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright. Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Annex

Table 18: 2011 Census: Number and proportion of residents by general health

Area	All usual residents	Number Very good health	% Very good health	Number Good health	% Good health	Number Fair health	% Fair health	Number Bad health	% Bad health	Number Very bad health	% Very bad health
England & Wales	56,075,912	26,434,409	47.1%	19,094,820	34.1%	7,401,881	13.2%	2,428,668	4.3%	716,134	1.3%
South East	8,634,750	4,232,707	49.0%	2,989,920	34.6%	1,037,592	12.0%	291,456	3.4%	83,075	1.0%
Kent	1,463,740	683,205	46.7%	510,399	34.9%	194,931	13.3%	58,536	4.0%	16,669	1.1%
Ashford	117,956	56,128	47.6%	41,385	35.1%	15,027	12.7%	4,163	3.5%	1,253	1.1%
Canterbury	151,145	70,764	46.8%	52,338	34.6%	20,211	13.4%	6,133	4.1%	1,699	1.1%
Dartford	97,365	47,273	48.6%	33,941	34.9%	11,837	12.2%	3,314	3.4%	1,000	1.0%
Dover	111,674	48,433	43.4%	39,477	35.4%	16,745	15.0%	5,538	5.0%	1,481	1.3%
Folkestone & Hythe	107,969	45,577	42.2%	38,999	36.1%	16,465	15.2%	5,321	4.9%	1,607	1.5%
Gravesham	101,720	47,298	46.5%	35,572	35.0%	13,629	13.4%	4,104	4.0%	1,117	1.1%
Maidstone	155,143	74,636	48.1%	54,384	35.1%	19,291	12.4%	5,323	3.4%	1,509	1.0%
Sevenoaks	114,893	58,796	51.2%	38,344	33.4%	13,180	11.5%	3,569	3.1%	1,004	0.9%
Swale	135,835	60,198	44.3%	48,719	35.9%	19,118	14.1%	6,008	4.4%	1,792	1.3%
Thanet	134,186	54,640	40.7%	47,109	35.1%	22,377	16.7%	7,785	5.8%	2,275	1.7%
Tonbridge & Malling	120,805	60,306	49.9%	41,475	34.3%	14,263	11.8%	3,728	3.1%	1,033	0.9%
Tunbridge Wells	115,049	59,156	51.4%	38,656	33.6%	12,788	11.1%	3,550	3.1%	899	0.8%
Medway Unitary Authority	263,925	120,662	45.7%	95,679	36.3%	34,307	13.0%	10,388	3.9%	2,889	1.1%
Kent & Medway	1,727,665	803,867	46.5%	606,078	35.1%	229,238	13.3%	68,924	4.0%	19,558	1.1%

Source: 2011 Census QS302EW - General health, The Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright

Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 19: 2011 Census: Number and proportion of residents with long-term health problem or disability

Area	All usual residents	Number Day-to-day activities limited a lot	% Day-to-day activities limited a lot	Number Day-to-day activities limited a little	% Day-to-day activities limited a little	Number Day-to-day activities not limited	% Day-to-day activities not limited
England & Wales	56,075,912	4,769,712	8.5%	5,278,729	9.4%	46,027,471	82.1%
South East	8,634,750	593,643	6.9%	762,561	8.8%	7,278,546	84.3%
Kent	1,463,740	116,407	8.0%	140,631	9.6%	1,206,702	82.4%
Ashford	117,956	8,416	7.1%	10,669	9.0%	98,871	83.8%
Canterbury	151,145	12,427	8.2%	14,891	9.9%	123,827	81.9%
Dartford	97,365	6,621	6.8%	8,114	8.3%	82,630	84.9%
Dover	111,674	10,853	9.7%	12,404	11.1%	88,417	79.2%
Folkestone & Hythe	107,969	10,753	10.0%	11,965	11.1%	85,251	79.0%
Gravesham	101,720	7,796	7.7%	9,546	9.4%	84,378	83.0%
Maidstone	155,143	10,660	6.9%	13,845	8.9%	130,638	84.2%
Sevenoaks	114,893	7,219	6.3%	9,872	8.6%	97,802	85.1%
Swale	135,835	11,742	8.6%	13,580	10.0%	110,513	81.4%
Thanet	134,186	15,369	11.5%	15,979	11.9%	102,838	76.6%
Tonbridge & Malling	120,805	7,579	6.3%	10,367	8.6%	102,859	85.1%
Tunbridge Wells	115,049	6,972	6.1%	9,399	8.2%	98,678	85.8%
Medway Unitary Authority	263,925	19,733	7.5%	23,621	8.9%	220,571	83.6%
Kent & Medway	1,727,665	136,140	7.9%	164,252	9.5%	1,427,273	82.6%

Source: 2011 Census QS303EW - Long-term health problem or disability, The Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright
Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 20: 2011 Census: Number and proportion of working age residents with long-term health problem or disability

Area	All usual residents aged 16-64	Number Day-to-day activities limited a lot	% Day-to-day activities limited a lot	Number Day-to-day activities limited a little	% Day-to-day activities limited a little	Number Day-to-day activities not limited	% Day-to-day activities not limited
England & Wales	35,647,512	2,019,675	5.7%	2,571,062	7.2%	31,056,775	87.1%
South East	5,396,942	223,745	4.1%	343,139	6.4%	4,830,058	89.5%
Kent	902,462	45,453	5.0%	63,487	7.0%	793,522	87.9%
Ashford	73,068	3,350	4.6%	5,056	6.9%	64,662	88.5%
Canterbury	90,749	4,421	4.9%	6,311	7.0%	80,017	88.2%
Dartford	63,126	2,639	4.2%	3,915	6.2%	56,572	89.6%
Dover	68,073	4,265	6.3%	5,685	8.4%	58,123	85.4%
Folkestone & Hythe	65,511	4,226	6.5%	5,297	8.1%	55,988	85.5%
Gravesham	64,482	3,362	5.2%	4,471	6.9%	56,649	87.9%
Maidstone	97,456	4,041	4.1%	6,291	6.5%	87,124	89.4%
Sevenoaks	70,344	2,440	3.5%	4,127	5.9%	63,777	90.7%
Swale	84,158	5,092	6.1%	6,443	7.7%	72,623	86.3%
Thanet	79,365	6,208	7.8%	7,149	9.0%	66,008	83.2%
Tonbridge & Malling	74,746	2,818	3.8%	4,561	6.1%	67,367	90.1%
Tunbridge Wells	71,384	2,591	3.6%	4,181	5.9%	64,612	90.5%
Medway Unitary Authority	170,651	9,039	5.3%	12,262	7.2%	149,350	87.5%
Kent & Medway	1,073,113	54,492	5.1%	75,749	7.1%	942,872	87.9%

Source: 2011 Census DC3302EW - Long term health problem or disability by health by sex by age, The Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright
Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Related documents

More information about the 2021 Census can be found on our [Population & Census](#) webpages.

Additional information from the Census about the characteristics of the population can be found on our [Equality & Diversity](#) webpages.