

## 2021 Census Topic Summary: Health, disability, and unpaid care

A first look at the results for Suffolk County and Suffolk's Districts and Boroughs, compared to England.

The following tables were released on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023:

Topic	Table name	Minimum available geography
Health	Self-reported health on a five point scale (age-standardised proportions)	LTLA
	Self-reported health on a five point scale	OA
Disability	"Disabled under the Equality Act" (age-standardised proportions)	LTLA (lower tier local authority)
	Number of disabled people in a household	OA (output area)
	"Disabled under the Equality Act"	OA (output area)
Care	Provision of unpaid care (age-standardised proportions)	LTLA
	Number of people providing unpaid care by the number of hours of unpaid care they provide	OA

- MSOA = Middle layer Super Output Area. There are 90 MSOAs in Suffolk, with an average usual resident population of just under 8,500 people.
- LTLA = Lower Tier Local Authority (District and Borough Council areas).
- OA = Output Area. The smallest geography for which Census data is released. There are 2,527 OAs in Suffolk in 2021, with an average usual resident population of just over 300 people.

Census 2021 was undertaken during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, which may have influenced how people perceived their general health, as well as how they perceived and undertook their provision of unpaid care and therefore may have affected how people chose to respond.

### General health

Data on general health were collected on all Census 2021 respondents. They were asked to assess the general state of their health on a six point scale from very good to very bad (very good health, good health, fair health, bad health, very bad health,

does not apply). This assessment is not based on a person's health over any specified period of time.

## Key findings

- In England, the age-standardised proportion of people reporting very good health increased (from 45.0% in 2011, to 47.5% in 2021), whereas there were decreases in the proportion of people reporting good health (from 34.8% in 2011, to 34.2% in 2021), bad health (from 4.6% in 2011, to 4.1% in 2021) and very bad health (from 1.4% in 2011, to 1.2% in 2021).
- The age-standardised proportion of residents in Suffolk reporting very good or good health (82.8%) was higher than England (81.7%) and lower than the East of England (82.9%). The proportion reporting bad or very bad health in Suffolk (4.6%) was lower than England (5.3%) and the same as the East of England (4.6%).
- Mid Suffolk had the highest age-standardised proportion of residents in Suffolk reporting very good health (49.7%), higher than Suffolk (47.2%), the East of England (47.9%), and England (47.5%).
- Among Suffolk Lower Tier Local Authorities, Ipswich had the lowest age-standardised proportion of residents reporting very good health (43.4%).
- Ipswich had the highest proportions of residents reporting good health (36.6%), fair health (14.5%), bad health (4.3%) and very bad health (1.2%) in Suffolk. Ipswich had higher age standardised proportions of the population in these four categories than Suffolk and the East of England. Ipswich had higher age standardised proportions than England for good health (England 34.2%), fair health (England 13.0%) and bad health (4.1%), but the same proportion in very bad health (1.2%).
- By MSOA in Suffolk, the five areas with the highest percentages of people reporting that they have very good health are:
  - Moreton Hall (West Suffolk 012, 55.7%),
  - Lakenheath (West Suffolk 001, 54.8%),
  - Red Lodge, Icklington and Moulton (West Suffolk 007, 53.9%),
  - Beck Row, Eriswell & Barton Mills (West Suffolk 003, 51.9%),
  - Kesgrave East & Martlesham (East Suffolk 025, 51.5%).
- The five MSOAs with the highest percentages of people reporting that they have very bad health are:
  - Gunton West (East Suffolk 002, 2.0%),
  - Lowestoft Harbour & Kirkley (East Suffolk 006, 1.8%),
  - Pakefield North (East Suffolk 009, 1.7%),
  - Brandon (West Suffolk 002, 1.7%),
  - Beccles (East Suffolk 010, 1.7%).

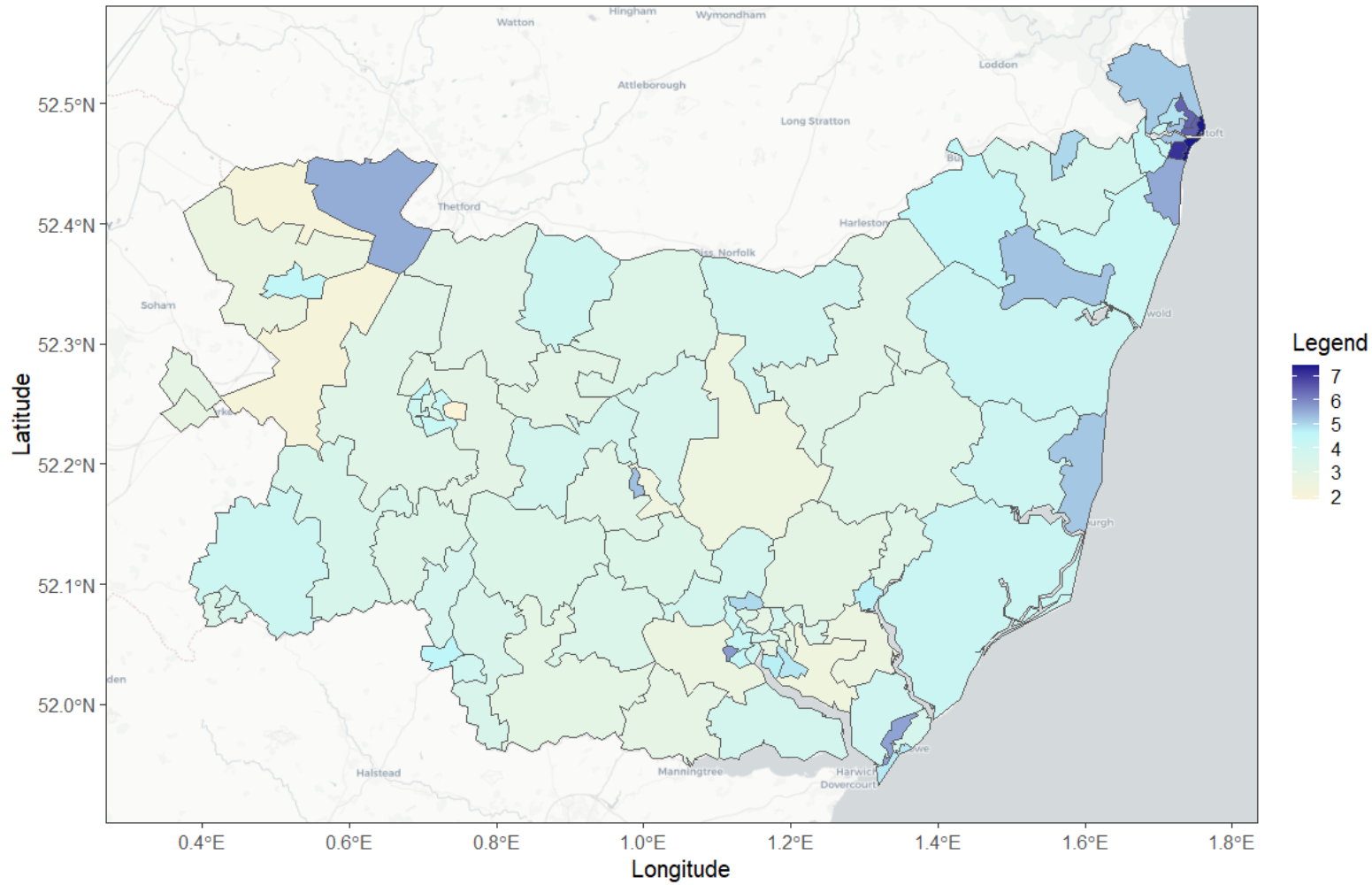






# Percentage of Suffolk residents in bad health, 2021 Census

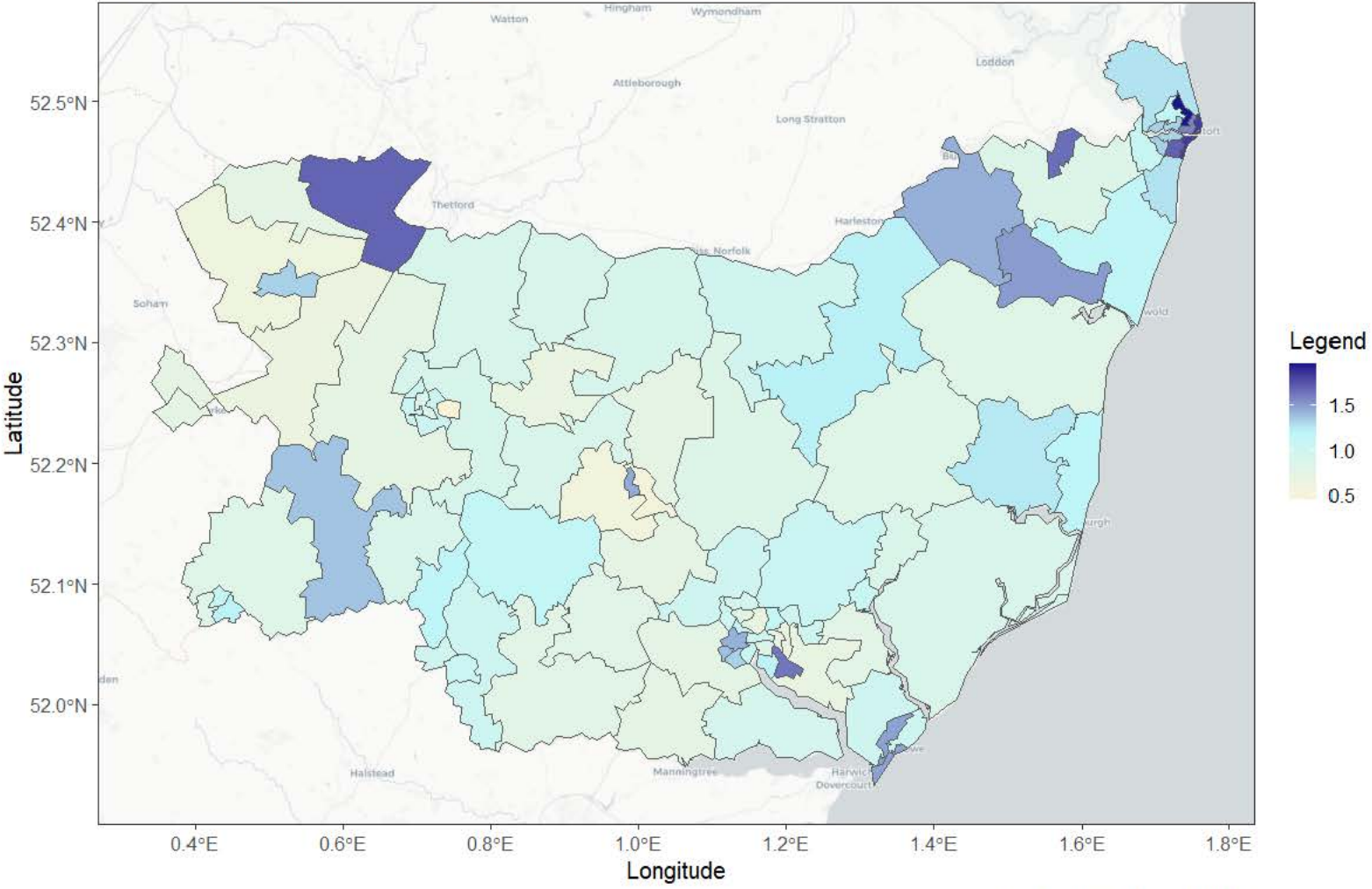
## By Middle layer Super Output Area (MSOA)





# Percentage of Suffolk residents in very bad health, 2021 Census

## By Middle layer Super Output Area (MSOA)



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Table 1: General health (count and age-standardised proportions), 2021 Census

	Babergh		East Suffolk		Ipswich		Mid Suffolk		West Suffolk		Suffolk		East of England		England	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Very good health	92,338	49.5	139,642	43.4	102,699	49.7	246,056	46.8	179,948	47.8	760,686	47.2	6,335,072	47.9	56,490,046	47.5
Good health	42,772	35.0	63,728	36.6	48,205	35.1	106,604	35.2	85,843	35.6	347,152	35.6	3,058,673	35.0	27,390,829	34.2
Fair health	33,135	11.7	49,957	14.5	36,960	11.5	88,502	13.1	63,799	12.3	272,353	12.7	2,194,562	12.5	19,040,735	13.0
Bad health	12,352	3.0	18,905	4.3	13,204	3.0	36,851	4.0	22,468	3.4	103,780	3.6	791,639	3.6	7,147,346	4.1
Very bad health	3,225	0.8	5,562	1.2	3,454	0.7	11,148	1.0	6,150	0.9	29,544	1.0	226,719	1.0	2,248,255	1.2



## Disability

Data on disability were collected from all usual residents. Individuals could respond:

- Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a lot,
- Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a little,
- 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, or
- Does not apply.

These counts were then converted into age-standardised proportions:

- Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a lot,
- Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a little,
- Not disabled under the Equality Act, or
- Does not apply.

The number of disabled people in a household has also been calculated:

- No people disabled under the Equality Act in household,
- 1 person disabled under the Equality Act in household,
- 2 or more people disabled under the Equality Act in household, or
- Does not apply.

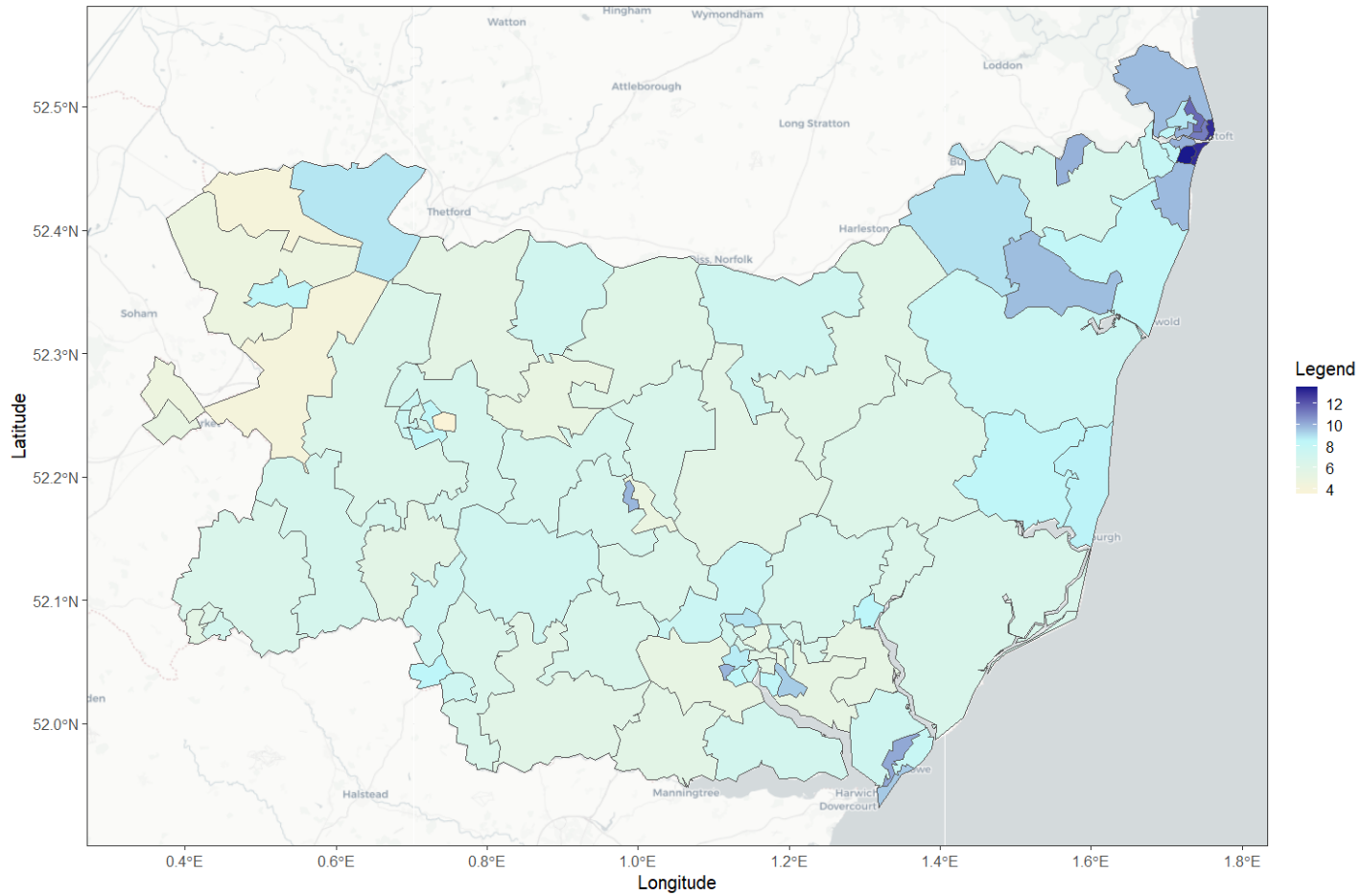
## Key findings

- In England, in 2021, a smaller proportion but larger number of people were disabled (17.7%, 9.8 million), compared with 2011 (19.3%, 9.4 million).
- For Suffolk, the age-standardised proportion percentage of the population that is disabled under the Equality Act a little (10.6%) is higher than the East of England (10.0%) and England (10.2%).
- For Suffolk, the age-standardised proportion percentage of the population that is disabled under the Equality Act a lot (6.7%) is higher than the East of England (6.6%) but lower than England (7.5%).
- Among Suffolk Lower Tier Local Authorities, East Suffolk (11.3% “Day-to-day activities limited a little”, 7.5% “Day-to-day activities limited a lot”) and Ipswich (11.2% “Day-to-day activities limited a little”, 7.8% “Day-to-day activities limited a lot”) had the highest age-standardised proportions of people disabled under the Equality Act.
- Mid Suffolk was the Suffolk LTLA with the lowest age-standardised proportion of people disabled under the Equality Act: 5.8% “Day-to-day activities limited a lot”, 10.0% “Day-to-day activities limited a little”.
- East Suffolk had the highest percentage of households where 2 or more people were disabled (7.4%), significantly higher than Suffolk (6.6%), the East of England (6.4%) and England (6.6%).

- West Suffolk (71.1%), Mid Suffolk (69.1%) and Babergh (68.7%), all had significantly higher percentages of households where no one was disabled than Suffolk (67.8%) and England (68.0%).
- In Suffolk there were 60,454 people who have a long term physical or mental health condition but their day-to-day activities are not limited and they are not disabled under the Equality Act”.
- By MSOA in Suffolk, the five areas with the highest percentages of households reporting that there are no people living with disability are:
  - Red Lodge, Icklington and Moulton (West Suffolk 007, 77.8%),
  - Lakenheath (West Suffolk 001, 77.3%),
  - Moreton Hall (West Suffolk 012, 77.2%),
  - South Newmarket & Racecourse (West Suffolk 015, 76.1%),
  - Beck Row, Eriswell & Barton Mills (West Suffolk 003, 75.4%).
- By MSOA in Suffolk, the five areas with the highest percentages of households reporting that there are two or more people living with disability are:
  - Gunton West (East Suffolk 002, 10.6%),
  - Pakefield North (East Suffolk 009, 10.3%),
  - Lowestoft Central (East Suffolk 004, 9.7%),
  - Priory Heath (Ipswich 014, 9.6%),
  - Whitton (Ipswich 001, 9.5%).

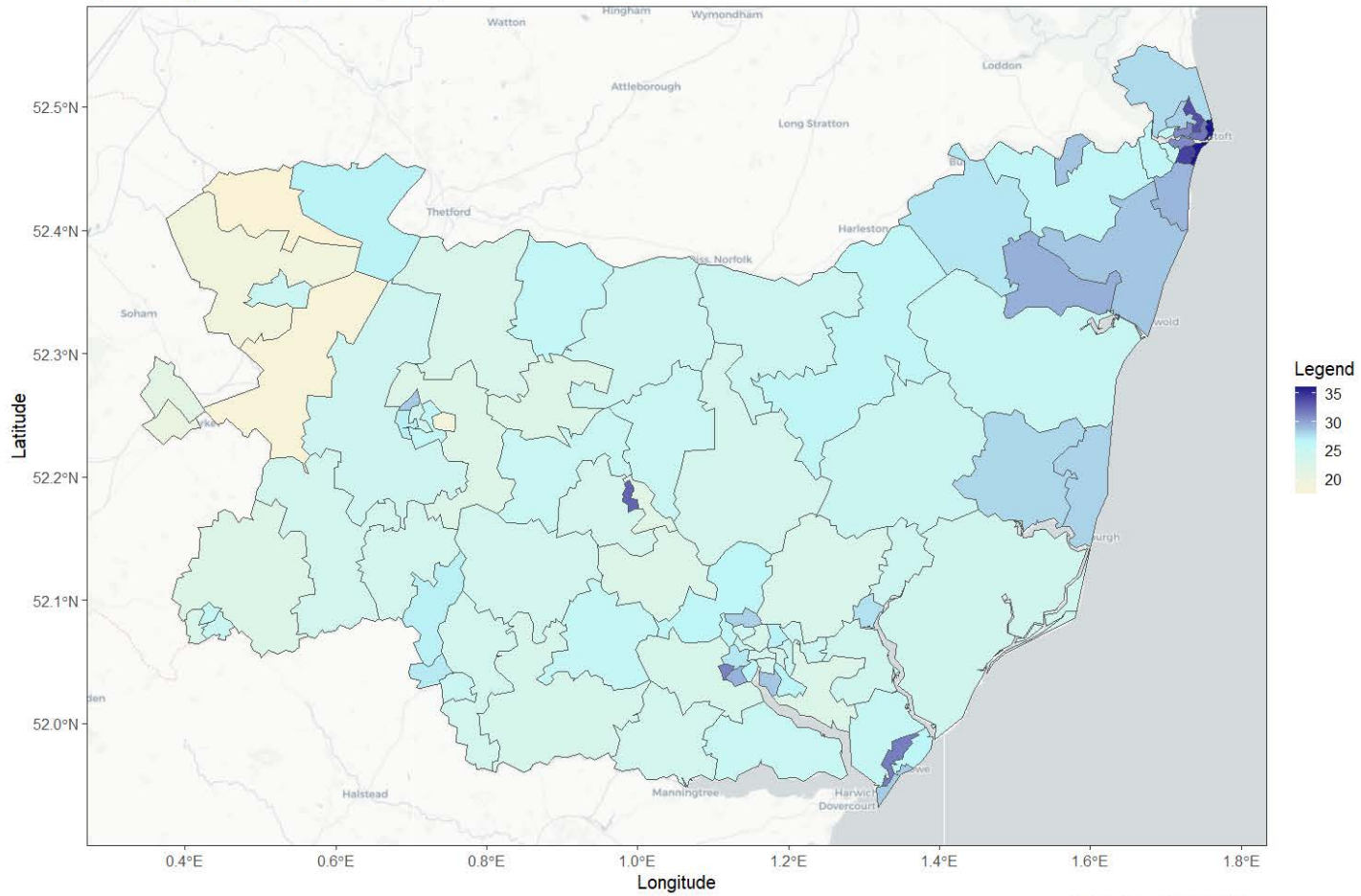


Percentage of Suffolk population aged 5 and over who are disabled under the Equality Act with day-to-day activities limited a lot, 2021 Census  
By Middle layer Super Output Area (MSOA)





Percentage of Suffolk households with one person aged 5 and over who is disabled under the Equality Act, 2021 Census  
By Middle layer Super Output Area (MSOA)



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Table 2: Disability (count and age-standardised proportions), 2021 Census

	Babergh		East Suffolk		Ipswich		Mid Suffolk		West Suffolk		Suffolk		East of England		England	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a lot	6,161	5.9	20,846	7.5	10,261	7.8	6,605	5.8	11,212	6.1	55,084	6.7	420,499	6.6	4,140,357	7.5
Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a little	9,999	10.1	29,903	11.3	14,904	11.2	10,934	10	18,163	10	83,903	10.6	633,333	10	5,634,153	10.2
Not disabled under the Equality Act	76,181	84.1	195,309	81.2	114,477	81	85,162	84.2	150,574	83.9	621,701	82.7	5,281,241	83.4	46,715,538	82.3

Percentages may not sum due to rounding.

Table 2: Disability (count and percentages), 2021 Census (continued)

	Babergh		East Suffolk		Ipswich		Mid Suffolk		West Suffolk		Suffolk		East of England		England	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Disabled under the Equality Act (all)	16,160	17.5	50,749	20.6	25,165	18.0	17,539	17.1	29,375	16.3	138,987	18.3	1,053,832	16.6	9,774,510	17.3
Has long term physical or mental health condition but day-to-day activities are not limited: Not disabled under the Equality Act	7,723	8.4	20,020	8.1	10,012	7.2	8,865	8.6	13,834	7.7	60,454	7.9	457,748	7.2	3,856,029	6.8
No long term physical or mental health conditions: Not disabled under the Equality Act	68,458	74.1	175,289	71.2	104,465	74.8	76,297	74.3	136,740	76.0	561,247	73.8	4,823,493	76.1	42,859,509	75.9
No people disabled under the Equality Act in household	27,636	68.7	71,793	64.8	39,983	67.2	30,651	69.1	56,010	71.1	226,073	67.8	1,816,840	69.1	15,928,198	68.0

Table 1: Disability (count and percentages), 2021 Census (continued)

	Babergh		East Suffolk		Ipswich		Mid Suffolk		West Suffolk		Suffolk		East of England		England	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1 person disabled under the Equality Act in household	9,997	24.9	30,751	27.8	15,567	26.2	10,922	24.6	18,282	23.2	85,519	25.6	644,288	24.5	5,950,081	25.4
2 or more people disabled under the Equality Act in household	2,567	6.4	8,203	7.4	3,957	6.6	2,770	6.2	4,454	5.7	21,951	6.6	167,654	6.4	1,557,806	6.6

Percentages may not sum due to rounding.

## Unpaid care

Census 2021 asked "Do you look after, or give any help or support to, anyone because they have long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses, or problems related to old age?". People were asked to exclude anything they did as part of their paid employment. People could respond:

- No,
- Yes, 9 hours a week or less,
- Yes, 10 to 19 hours a week,
- Yes, 20 to 34 hours a week,
- Yes, 35 to 49 hours a week, or
- Yes, 50 or more hours a week.

The wording of the question differs from the 2011 Census question.

Census 2021 was undertaken during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, which may have influenced how people perceived and undertook their provision of unpaid care and therefore may have affected how people chose to respond.

Data on unpaid care provision were collected on individuals aged 5 and over and have been reported in two ways: counts of the number of people providing care by the amount of hours per week, and age-standardised proportions. Older people are more likely to be in poorer health. Age-standardised proportions (ASPs) account for different age structures in populations and are more appropriate than crude percentages when drawing comparisons over time and across areas.

The age-standardised proportion of usual residents aged 5 years and over who provided any amount of unpaid care in England and Wales decreased from 11.4% in 2011 to 9.0% in 2021. The decrease was driven by the substantial fall in the proportion of people who provided 19 hours or less of unpaid care in a typical week (7.2% in 2011, compared with 4.4% in 2021). The Office for National Statistics notes potential explanations for changes in the provision of unpaid care could include:

- coronavirus guidance on reducing travel and limiting visits to people from other households,
- unpaid carers who previously shared caring responsibilities may have taken on all aspects of unpaid care because of rules on household mixing during the coronavirus pandemic,
- there were a higher number of deaths than expected in the older population at the beginning of 2021 due to coronavirus (COVID-19) and other causes; this could have led to a reduction in the need for unpaid care.

## Key findings

- In England and Wales an estimated 5.0 million usual residents aged 5 years and over provided unpaid care in 2021, this is an age-standardised proportion of 9.0%, a decrease from 11.4% in 2011.

- For Suffolk, the age-standardised proportion of the population aged 5 and over who do not provide unpaid care (91.2%) is slightly higher than England (91.1%) but lower than the East of England (91.3%).
- For Suffolk, the age-standardised proportion of the population aged 5 and over who provide some care each week (8.9%) is similar to England (8.9%) and slightly higher than East of England (8.7%).
- Among Suffolk LTLAs, East Suffolk had the highest age-standardised proportion of people providing unpaid care (9.6%) and West Suffolk had the lowest (7.9%).
- By MSOA in Suffolk, the five areas with the highest percentages of people reporting that they provided 50 or more hours of care a week:
  - Pakefield North (East Suffolk 009, 4.6%),
  - Priors Heath (Ipswich 014, 4.0%),
  - Gunton West (East Suffolk 002, 3.9%),
  - Whitton (Ipswich 001, 3.7%),
  - Pakefield South & Kessingland (East Suffolk 012, 3.7%).
- By MSOA in Suffolk, the five areas with the highest percentages of people reporting that they provided care each week any amount of time):
  - Pakefield North (East Suffolk 009, 19.9%),
  - Westerfield, Grundisburgh & Bredfield (East Suffolk 021, 19.0%),
  - Pakefield South & Kessingland (East Suffolk 012, 19.0%),
  - Gunton East, Corton & Somerleyton (East Suffolk 001, 19.0%),
  - Claydon & Bramford (Mid Suffolk 012, 18.6%).
- By MSOA in Suffolk, the five areas with the highest percentages of people reporting that they did not provide care each week:
  - Lakenheath (West Suffolk 001, 94.0%),
  - Bury St Edmunds Central (West Suffolk 011, 93.7%),
  - South Newmarket & Racecourse (West Suffolk 015, 93.7%),
  - Red Lodge, Icklington and Moulton (West Suffolk 007, 93.5%),
  - North Newmarket, Studlands & Exning (West Suffolk 008, 93.3%).











Table 3: Provision of unpaid care (count and age-standardised proportions), 2021 Census

	Babergh		East Suffolk		Ipswich		Mid Suffolk		West Suffolk		Suffolk		East of England		England	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Provides no unpaid care	80,328	91.4	211,851	90.4	120,045	91.0	89,309	91.4	5,152	92.1	658,323	91.2	5,471,915	91.3	48,734,833	91.1
Provides 19 or less hours unpaid care a week	3,268	4.7	8,723	4.8	3,944	4.3	3,838	4.9	1,777	4.1	24,924	4.6	196,469	4.5	1,668,989	4.4
Provides 20 to 49 hours unpaid care a week	1,120	1.5	3,116	1.9	1,477	1.9	1,236	1.4	1,110	1.4	8,727	1.7	69,091	1.7	634,736	1.8
Provides 50 or more hours unpaid care a week	639	2.4	2,140	2.9	1,122	2.8	692	2.3	1,228	2.4	5,703	2.6	46,715	2.5	452,264	2.7

Numbers and age-standardised proportions may not sum due to rounding.

## Further information

- All of the 2021 data referenced here is available on the website of the Office for National Statistics  
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/healthdisabilityandunpaidcarecensus2021inenglandandwales> .
- Data from the 2021 Census and previous editions of the Census can also be found on NOMIS  
<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/> .
- 2021 Census data for Suffolk will also be made available on the Suffolk Observatory  
<https://www.suffolkobservatory.info/> .