



Oxfordshire JSNA 2023

# Population

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## This data pack...

- This data pack provides data on the population of Oxfordshire, the latest Office for National Statistics estimates, past trends, future projections/forecasts and life expectancy.
- Further JSNA resources are available via the [JSNA page of Oxfordshire Insight](#)
- **NOTE**
  - This data pack includes data accessed in March and April 2023.
  - **Please see the population pages on Oxfordshire Insight** for the most recent population data for Oxfordshire.

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## Summary

- Oxfordshire has a central England location and is the most rural county in the South East region.
- The majority (60%) of Oxfordshire's population are resident in Oxford City and the county's main towns. The remaining 40% live in smaller towns and villages.
- The sources used in this data pack include:
  - The mid-2020 ONS estimate of the resident population of Oxfordshire of 696,800 (also available at small area level).
  - The Census 2021 ONS estimate for Oxfordshire is 725,300.
  - As of June 2023, the count of NHS GP registered patients within Oxfordshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) was 807,886.
- In urban areas there is a higher proportion of those aged 0-4, while in rural Oxfordshire there is a higher rate of people aged 85+.
- All districts - other than Oxford City - have seen a significant increase in the older (aged 65+) population and relatively little change in the number of young people aged 0-15.
- Between mid-2019 and mid-2020 there was an increase in net inward migration to Oxfordshire.
- The Oxfordshire County Council housing-led forecasts (Mar23) predict a total county population of 831,200 by 2031, a growth of 131,600 (15%). Over the same period the ONS projections show an increase of +4%.
  - Differences in these estimates are particularly apparent for the younger and working age groups. For older people aged 65 and over, the predicted growth is similar.
- The number of years spent in poor health in Oxfordshire has remained relatively unchanged at 15.5 years for females and 13.6 years for males.
- There are clear inequalities in Life Expectancy across Oxfordshire. Males living in the more affluent areas of the county are expected to live around 11 years longer than those in poorer areas. For females the gap in life expectancy is around 12 years.

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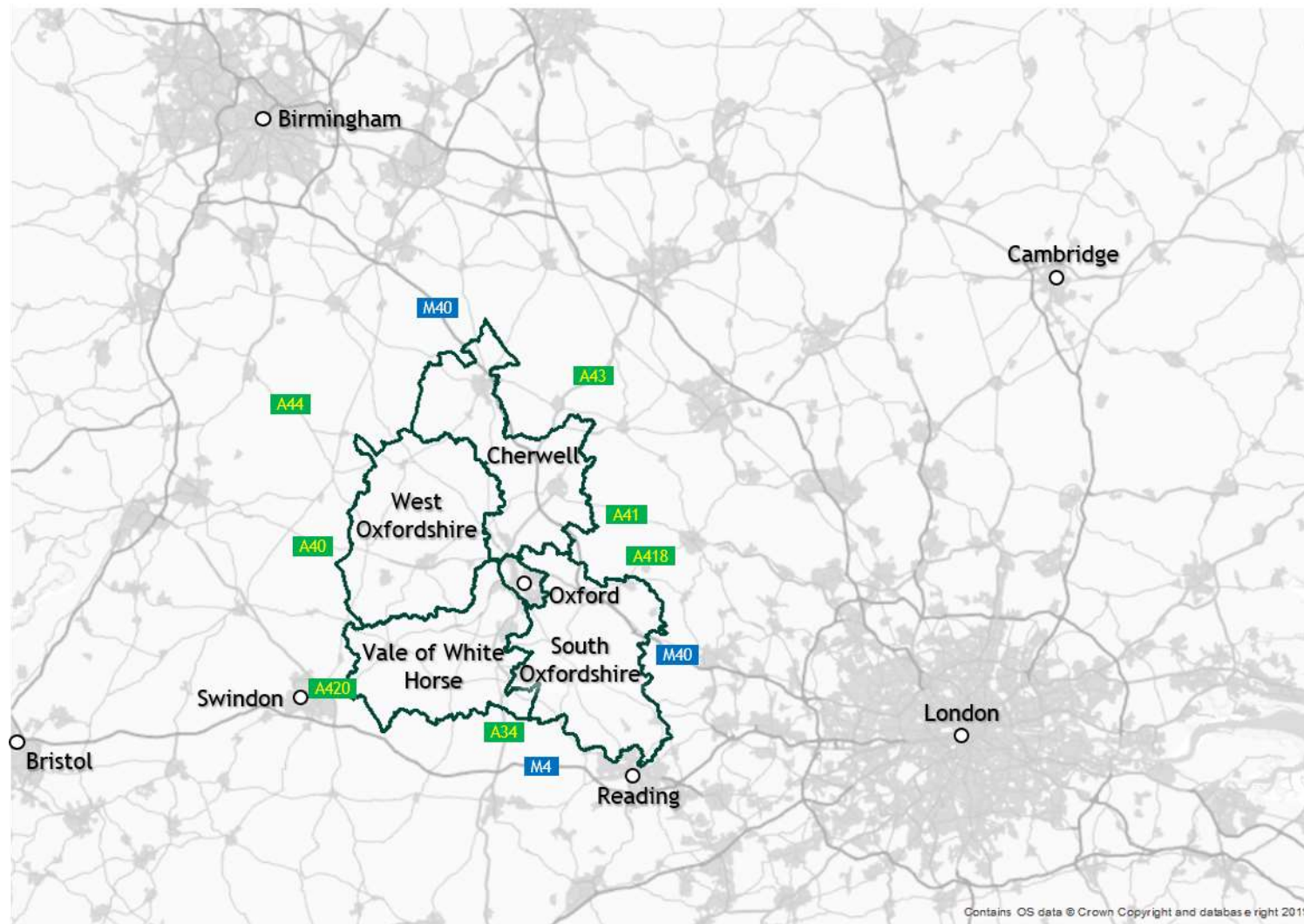
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## Oxfordshire's central location in southern England



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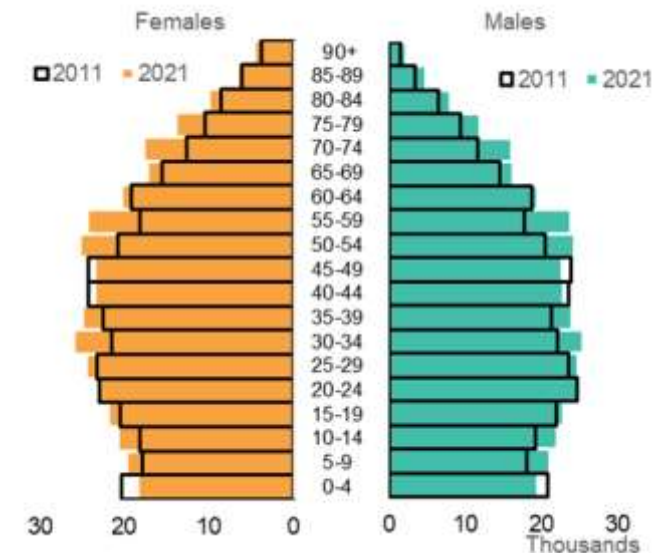
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*Note that the Census 2021 total population for Oxfordshire was significantly above the previous mid-2020 ONS estimate. It is expected that ONS will update historical population estimates (from 2012 to 2020) based on the 2011 and 2021 Census findings.*

## Results from the Census 2021 survey highlight Oxfordshire's growing population

- On Census Day, 21 March 2021, the size of the usual resident population in Oxfordshire was **725,300**.
- Oxfordshire's population grew by 71,500 (10.9%) since the last Census in 2011 when it was 653,800 residents. This increase in Oxfordshire was above the growth across England (6.6%).
- Between 2011 and 2021, Oxfordshire saw considerable increases in the resident population of:
  - Young people aged 5 to 14 (+15%)
  - Working aged people in their 30s (+15%) and 50s (+27%)
  - Older people aged 65+ (+25%)
- There has been a fall in the number of children aged 0-4 (-8%). This decline in the number of young children was most significant in Oxford City.

**Oxfordshire population by 5-year age band and sex  
Census 2011 and 2021**



[First results from Census 2021 in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)  
 Interactive tools and population downloads for Oxfordshire [Population | Oxfordshire Insight](#)  
 Census 2021 extracts for Oxfordshire [Census | Oxfordshire Insight](#)

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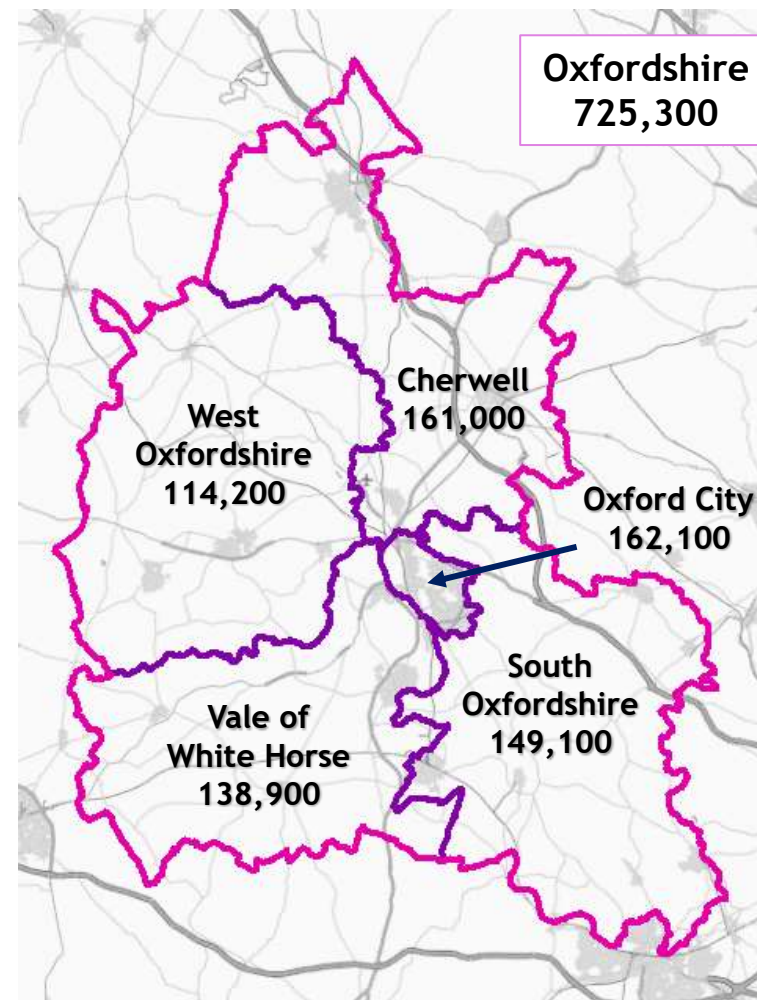
## Oxfordshire's Census 2021 population by district

- The first release of Census 2021 results show an increase in population in each district in Oxfordshire since 2011, with the greatest changes in Cherwell and Vale of White Horse.

	Census 2011	Census 2021	Change	% change
Cherwell	141,900	161,000	19,100	13.5
Oxford	151,900	162,100	10,200	6.7
South Oxfordshire	134,300	149,100	14,800	11.1
Vale of White Horse	121,000	138,900	17,900	14.8
West Oxfordshire	104,800	114,200	9,400	9.0

[First results from Census 2021 in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)  
 Interactive tools and population downloads for Oxfordshire [Population](#) | [Oxfordshire Insight](#)  
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## Oxfordshire county and districts resident population (ONS Census 2021)

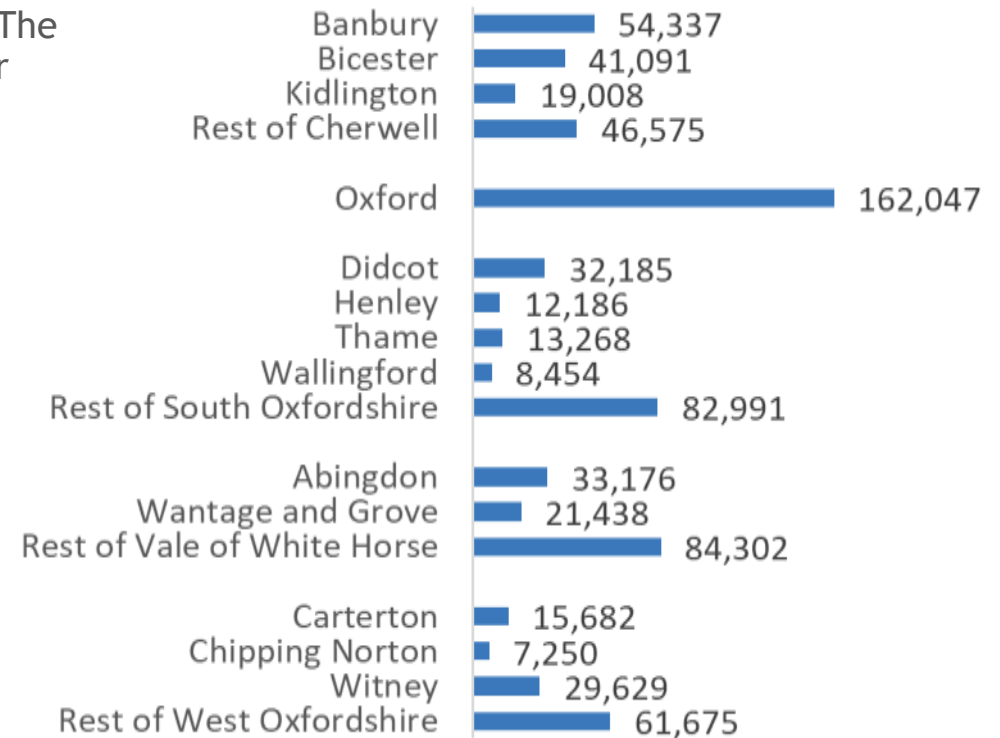


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## Oxfordshire's resident population by town

- As of 2021 Census, 22% of Oxfordshire's population are resident in Oxford City and 40% in the county's main towns. The remaining 38% live in smaller towns and villages.

**Oxfordshire residents by town  
(Census 2021, sum of wards)**



Census 2021 extracts for Oxfordshire [Census | Oxfordshire Insight](#)  
For the latest population estimates see the [population page on Oxfordshire Insight](#)

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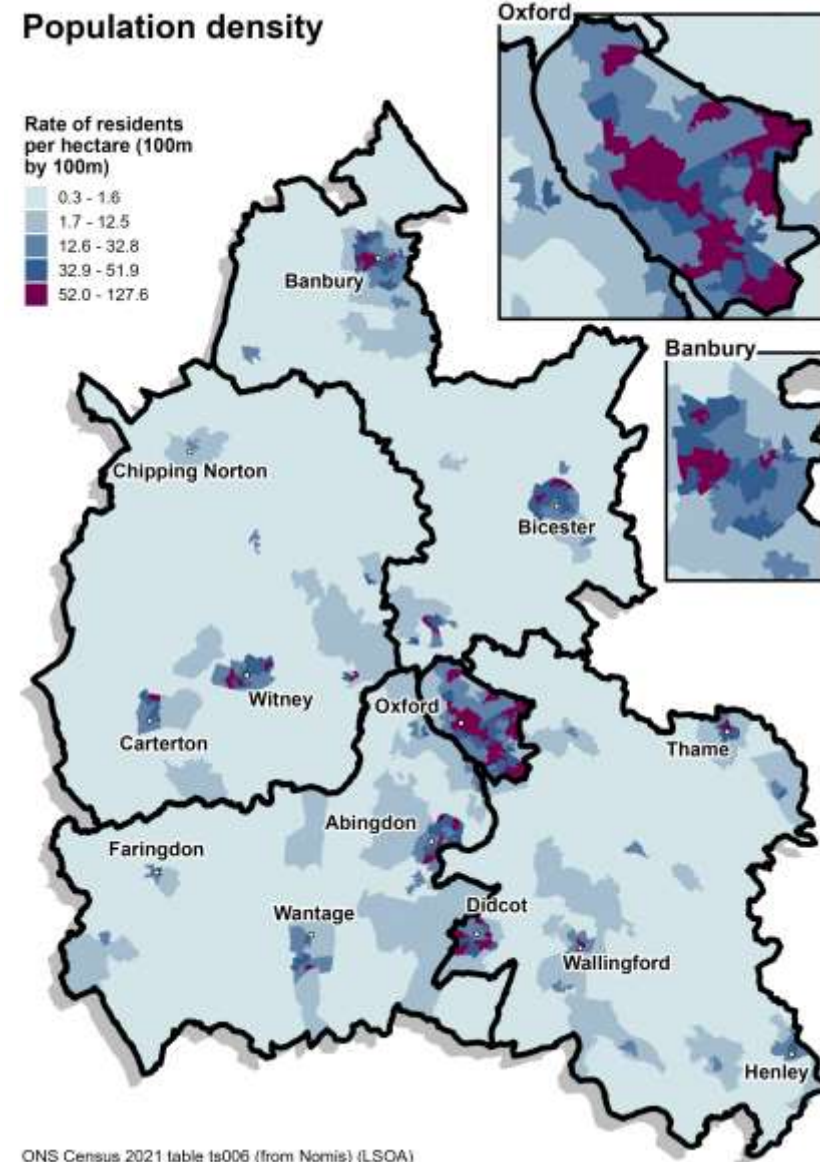
## Population density

- Oxfordshire is a rural county in the South East at 2.8 people per hectare (compared with 4.9 across the region), by district the density in 2021 Census was:

  - Cherwell: 2.7 people per hectare
  - Oxford City: 35.5
  - South Oxfordshire: 2.2
  - Vale of White Horse: 2.4
  - West Oxfordshire: 1.6
- The higher density areas of Oxfordshire are in the urban centres of:

  - Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington
  - Oxford City
  - Didcot, Thame and Henley-on-Thames
  - Abingdon and Wantage & Grove
  - Carterton and Witney

2021 census from [nomis](#)  
For the latest population estimates see the [population page on Oxfordshire Insight](#)





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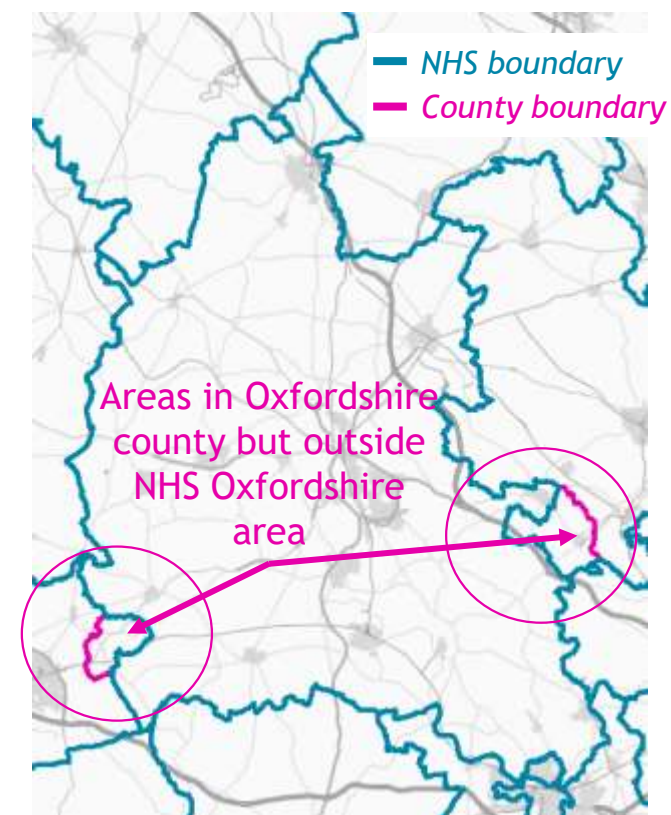
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## NHS Oxfordshire GP patient count vs Oxfordshire county population

- The official NHS Oxfordshire area is slightly smaller than the Oxfordshire county area. However the patient count remains above the estimated population and the gap has increased.
- As of June 2023, the count of NHS GP registered patients was 807,886 compared with an ONS estimate of Oxfordshire's county population of 725,300 a difference of 53,800.
- The greater number of patients recorded by the NHS, despite the smaller geographical area, is partly a result of ONS under-estimation and partly a result of the inclusion of:
  - GP registered patients who live outside the county (and use GPs within Oxfordshire) and
  - patients who have relocated and are no longer living in Oxfordshire (in some cases no longer in the UK).

### NHS Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire county boundary



[First results from Census 2021 in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)  
 NHS Digital [Patients registered at a GP practice](#)

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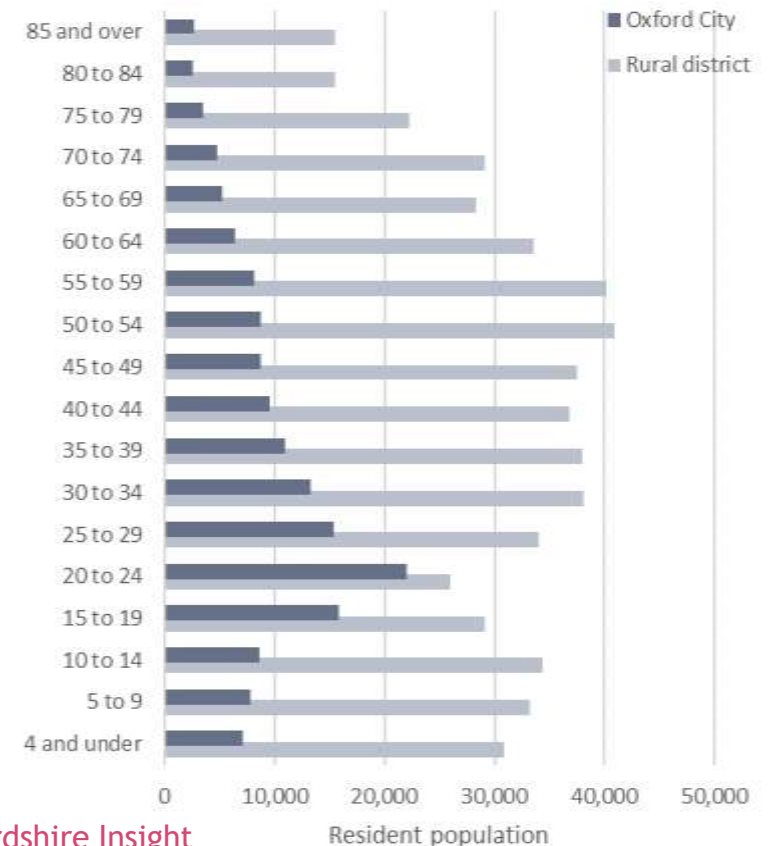
# Population by age

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### Difference in age profile Oxford City vs rural Oxfordshire districts

- Rural districts have a much higher proportion of older people than Oxford City
  - In 2021, older people aged 65+ made up 20% of the estimated population of Oxfordshire's four rural districts, compared with 12% of the population of Oxford City
  
- Oxford City had a much higher proportion of people in younger age groups (including students) and a higher number of people aged 20-24 than living in Oxfordshire's four rural districts

Population by age 2021 Census, Oxford City vs Rural districts (Cherwell, South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse, West Oxfordshire)



2021 Census from [nomis](#)  
For Census 2021 populations please see [Population | Oxfordshire Insight](#)

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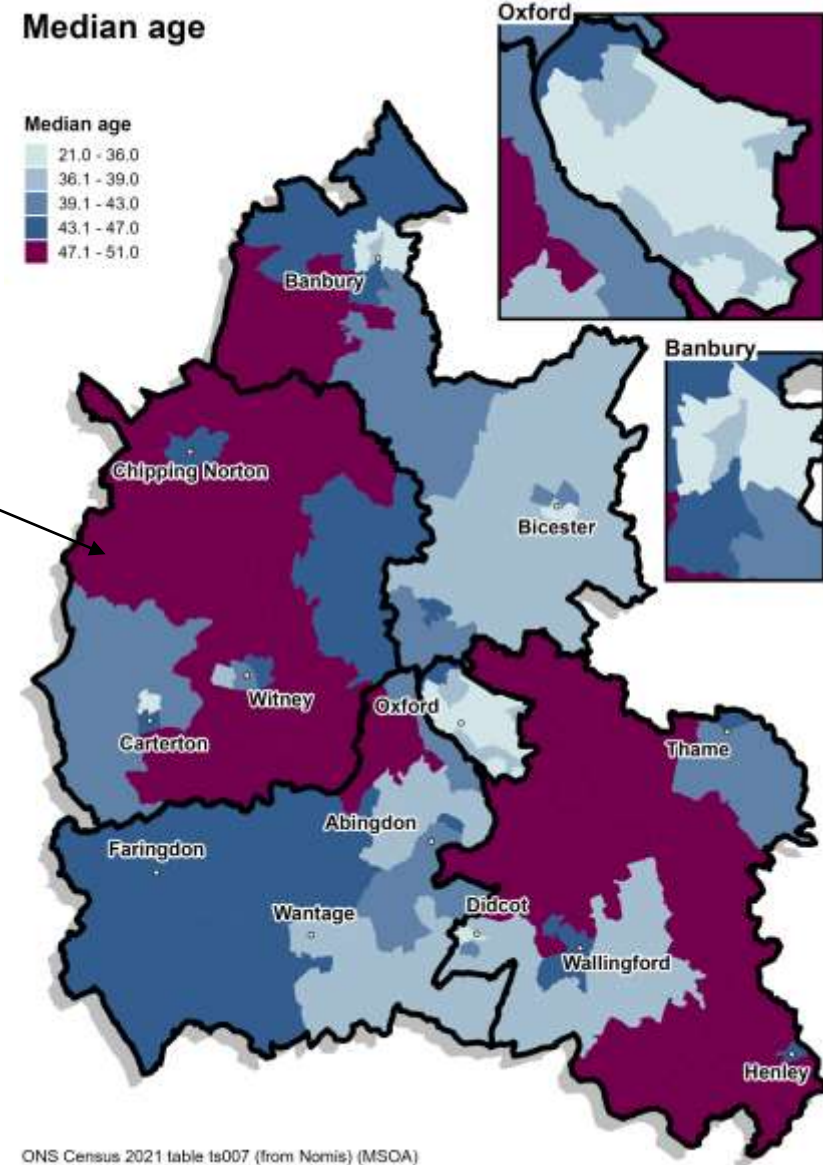
### Median age across Oxfordshire

- The median\* age of Oxfordshire increased slightly from 38 years as of 2011 census to 39 years at 2021 census.
- In 2021 census, the median age was lowest in Oxford City (31 years) and highest in West Oxfordshire (44 years)
- At a small area level, wide areas of rural Oxfordshire had a median age above 47 years

### Median age (years) by district

	2011	2021
Cherwell	39	40
Oxford	29	31
South Oxfordshire	42	43
Vale of White Horse	41	41
West Oxfordshire	42	44
Oxfordshire	38	39
England	39	40

Census data [TS007 Age by single year](#) calculated from [nomis](#) \*Median age is the mid-point, where half the population is aged under and half aged over the value

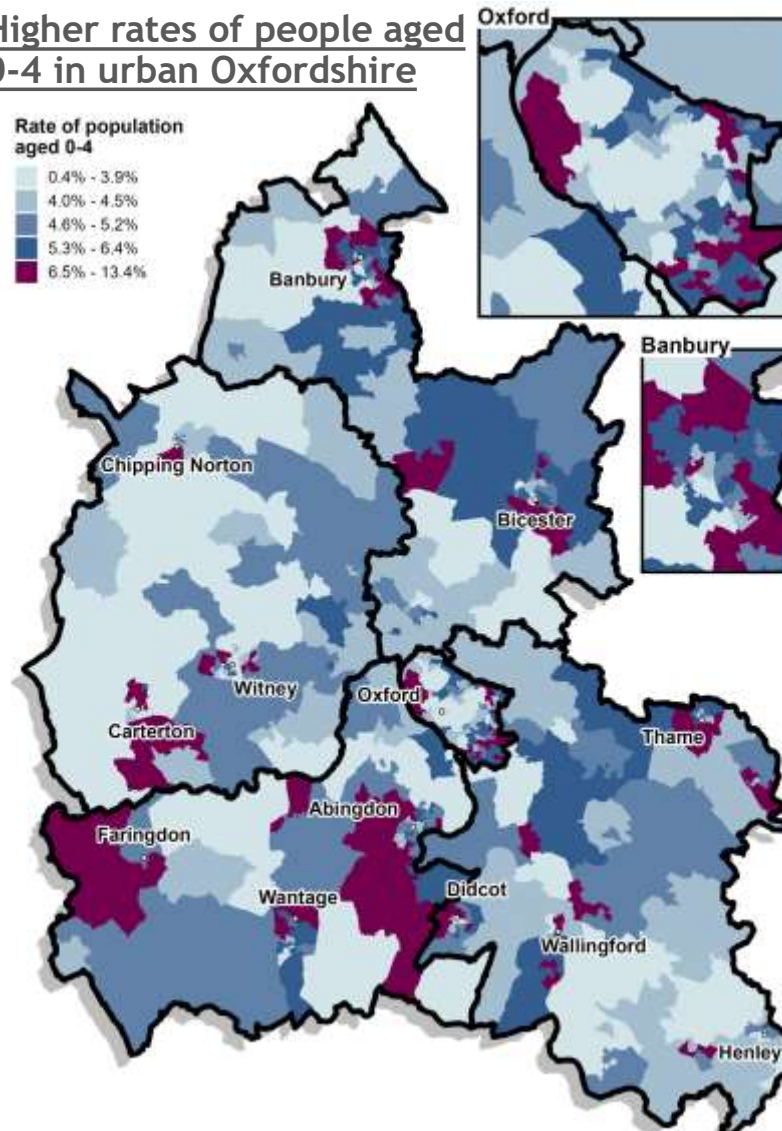


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### Higher rates of people aged 0-4 in urban Oxfordshire

Rate of population aged 0-4

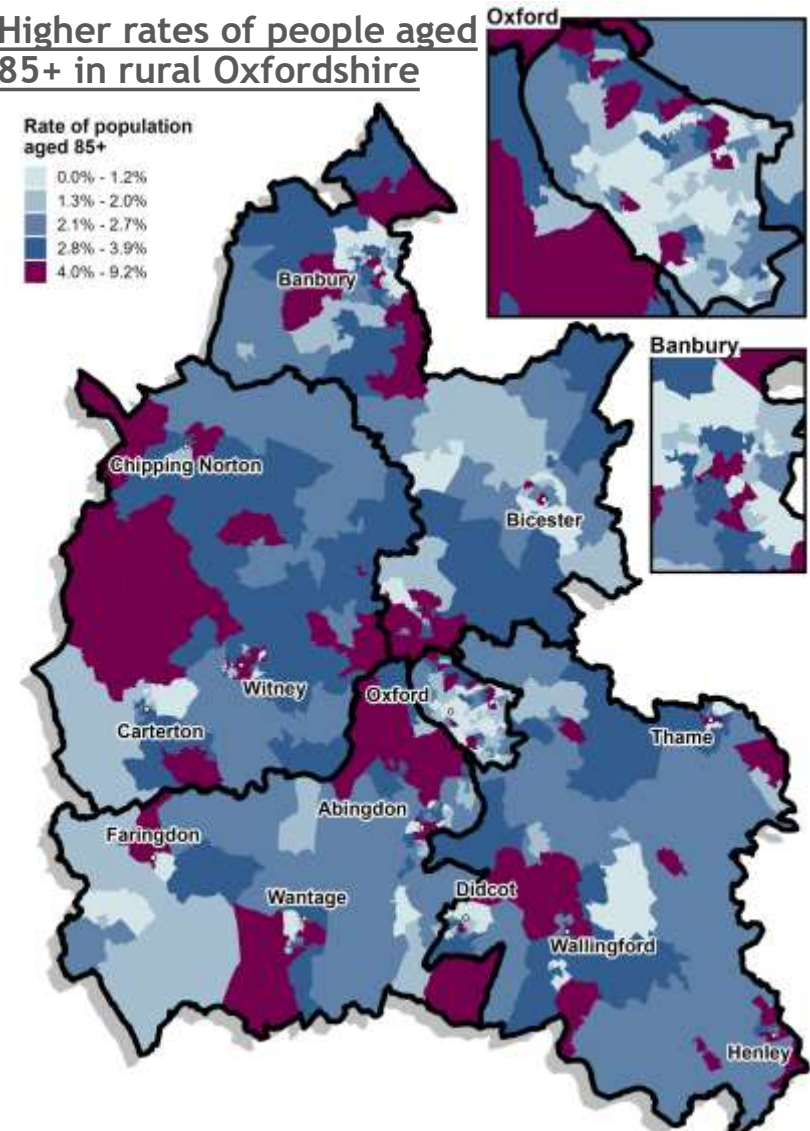
0.4% - 3.9%
4.0% - 4.5%
4.6% - 5.2%
5.3% - 6.4%
6.5% - 13.4%



### Higher rates of people aged 85+ in rural Oxfordshire

Rate of population aged 85+

0.0% - 1.2%
1.3% - 2.0%
2.1% - 2.7%
2.8% - 3.9%
4.0% - 9.2%



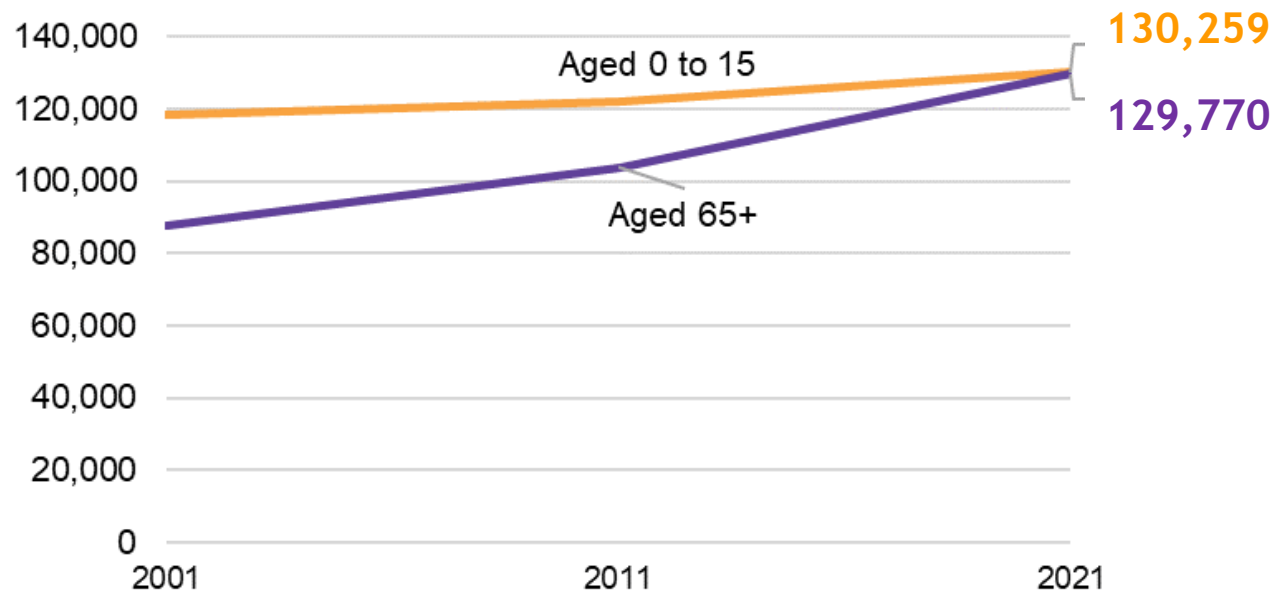
ONS Census 2021 [table ts007a](#) from [nomis](#) (LSOA)

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## Oxfordshire's older population has increased faster than the number of young people

- Over the past 20 years (between 2001 and 2021), there was an increase in the population of Oxfordshire from 605,400 to 725,200, a growth of 119,800 (+20%)
- The younger age group, aged 0-15, increased by 10%
- The older age group, aged 65 and over, increased by 48%

Oxfordshire - change in count of older and younger residents, ONS 2001 to 2021



Census population from [nomis](#)

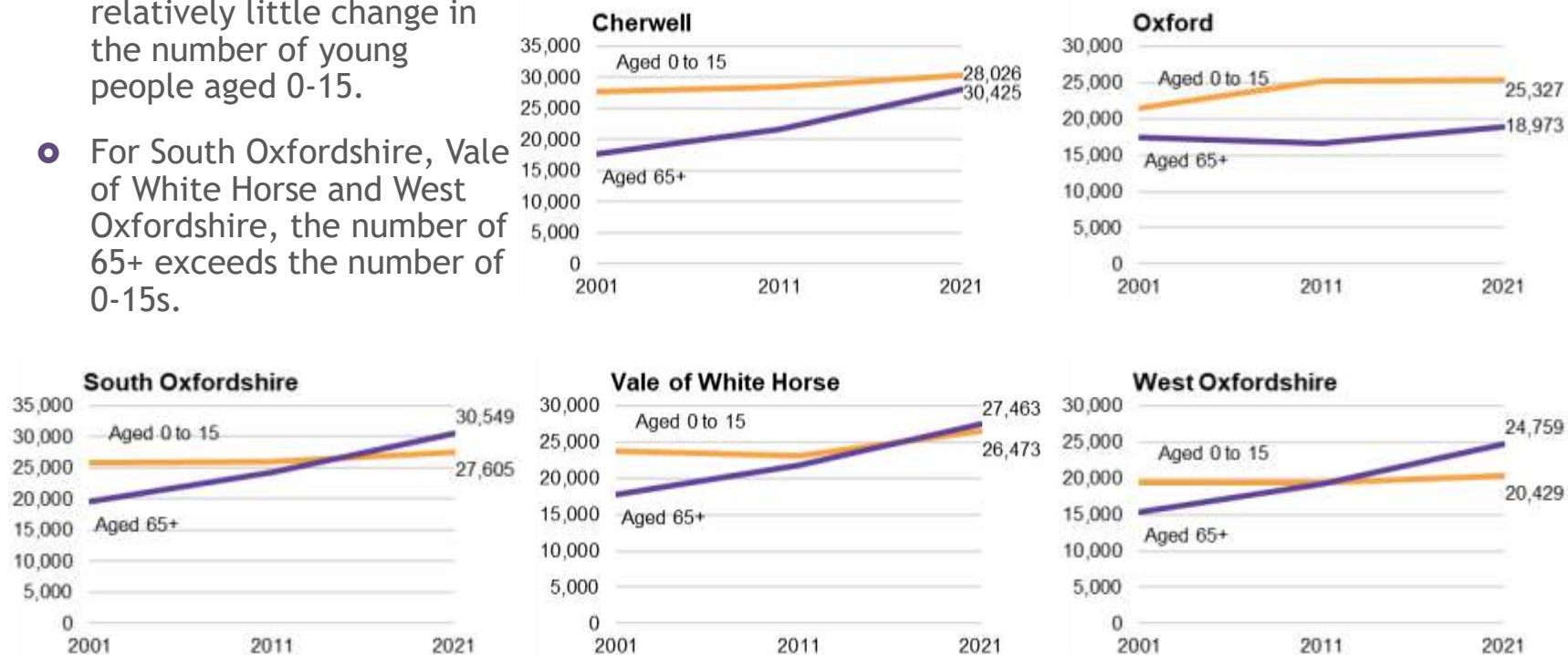
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## Change in younger and older populations - Oxfordshire's districts

- All districts - other than Oxford City - have seen a substantial increase in the older 65+ population and relatively little change in the number of young people aged 0-15.
- For South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire, the number of 65+ exceeds the number of 0-15s.

### Change in count of older and younger residents by district ONS 2000 to 2020



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### Oxford has seen the greatest increase in the working age population

- Between 2001 and 2021 the working age population aged 16 to 64 in Oxfordshire increased by 17% (from 399,300 to 465,200, +65,900). This was below the overall growth in population (all ages) of 20% (as a result of the significant growth in older people).
- The increase in the number of working age residents was greatest in Oxford (+24%) and lowest in South Oxfordshire (+10%).

Change in count and rate per population of residents aged 16 to 64 (ONS Census)

	2001 (count)	2001 (rate)	2021 (count)	2021 (rate)	2001 to 2021 (count)	% change
Cherwell	86,327	66%	102,532	64%	16,205	19%
Oxford	95,315	71%	117,733	73%	22,418	24%
South Oxfordshire	82,703	65%	90,918	61%	8,215	10%
Vale of White Horse	74,062	64%	84,935	61%	10,873	15%
West Oxfordshire	60,880	64%	69,081	60%	8,201	13%
<b>Oxfordshire</b>	<b>399,287</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>465,199</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>65,912</b>	<b>17%</b>

Census population from [nomis](#)



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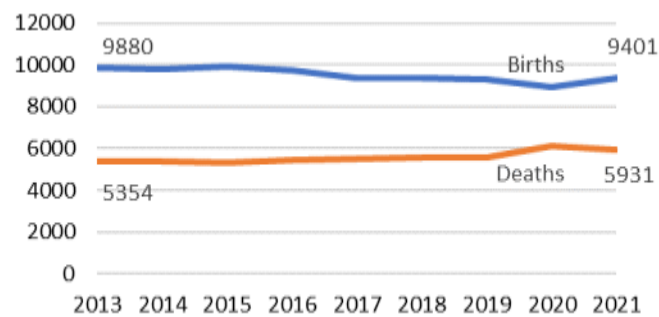
# Births, deaths and migration

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## Births and deaths

- Between mid-2019 and mid-2020 there were 7,119 births and 6,227 deaths in Oxfordshire. This is a “natural change” increase of 892 people.
- The mid-2019 to mid-2020 period covers the start of the COVID-19 pandemic which will have contributed to the rise in the number of deaths.

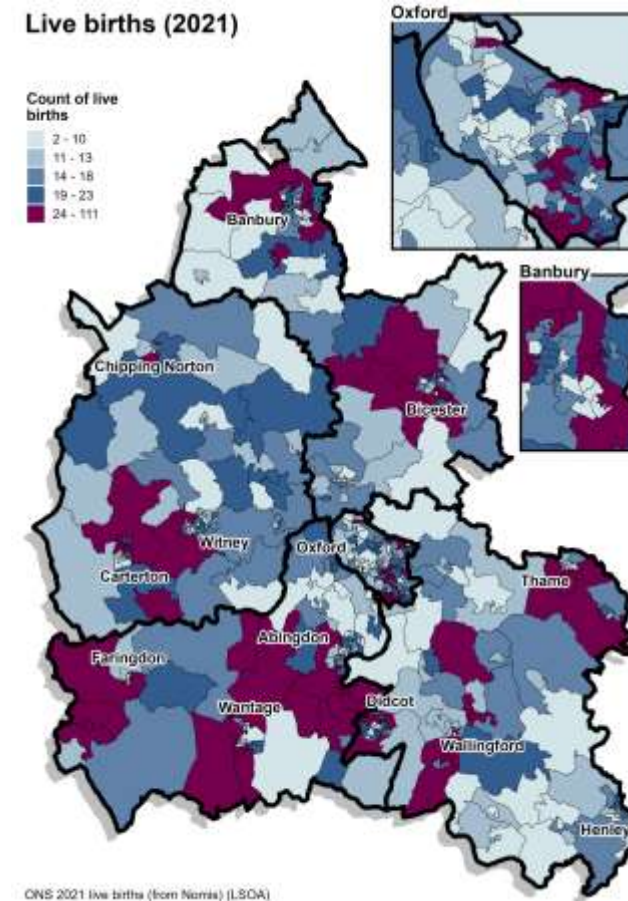
Oxfordshire total number of births and deaths 2003 to 2020



District births, deaths and natural change mid-2019 to mid-2020

	Births	Deaths	Natural change
Cherwell	1884	1396	488
Oxford	1374	987	387
South Oxfordshire	1518	1285	233
Vale of White Horse	1492	1197	295
West Oxfordshire	1112	1066	46
<b>Oxfordshire</b>	<b>7380</b>	<b>5931</b>	<b>1449</b>

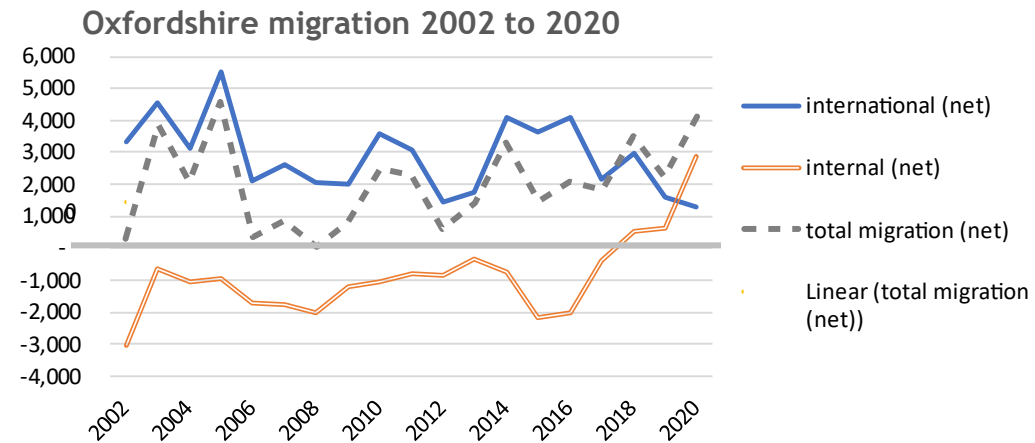
[Life events](#) (Live births & Mortality) from [nomis](#)



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## Increasing (net) migration into Oxfordshire

- Between mid-2019 and mid-2020 there was an estimated (net) inward migration of 4,135 people moving into Oxfordshire.
- Internal migration has continued to increase with 2,878 people additional people (net) moving to Oxfordshire from mid-2019 to mid-2020, well above the 632 in 2018-19.



### By district: Net internal and international migration mid-2019 to mid-2020

	Internal (net)	International (net)	Total net migration
Cherwell	1,348	-343	1,005
Oxford	-2,910	1,582	-1,328
South Oxfordshire	1,665	-48	1,617
Vale of White Horse	1,414	93	1,507
West Oxfordshire	1,351	-17	1,334
<b>Oxfordshire</b>	<b>2,868</b>	<b>1,267</b>	<b>4,135</b>

*Note that Census 2021 has confirmed issues with ONS estimates of migration, particularly for those in their twenties and thirties and in Oxford City. ONS are currently reviewing their methodology for migration modelling.*

ONS [mid-year population estimates components of change](#)

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# Ethnicity

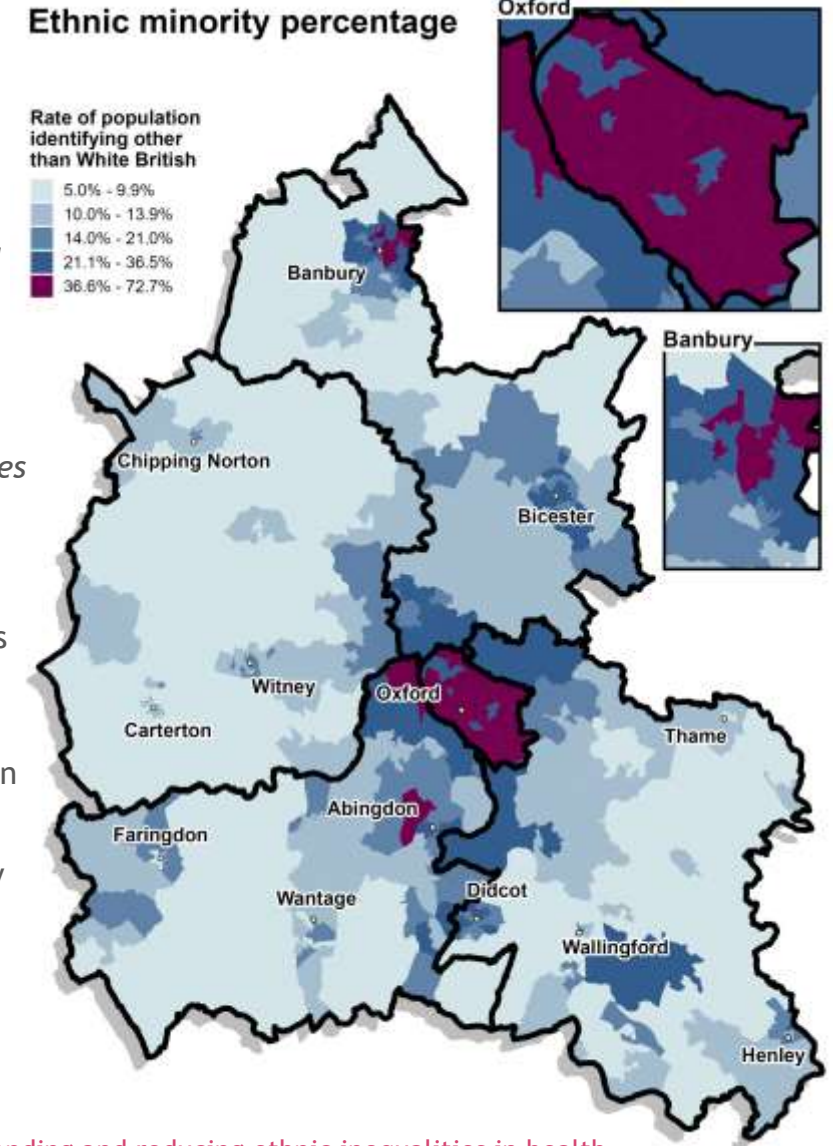
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## Ethnicity

*According to Public Health England, ethnic identity influences health outcomes via multiple routes. For example, experiences of discrimination and exclusion, as well as the fear of such negative incidents, have been shown to have a significant impact on mental and physical health. Health-related practices, including healthcare-seeking behaviours, also vary importantly between ethnic groups.*

*Some minority ethnic groups appear to have much better health status than the White British population and some much worse. Some ethnic minority groups have higher rates of diabetes.*

- According to the ONS Census 2021 survey, 23% of the total resident population of Oxfordshire was from an ethnic minority background, compared with 26% across England.
- The majority of the ethnic minority population in Oxfordshire is based in urban areas of Oxford, Abingdon and Banbury.
- Oxford City has a very diverse range of ethnic minority groups.



ONS Census 2021 table ts021 from [nomis](#), mapped by LSOA  
Public Health England [Local action on health inequalities: understanding and reducing ethnic inequalities in health](#)

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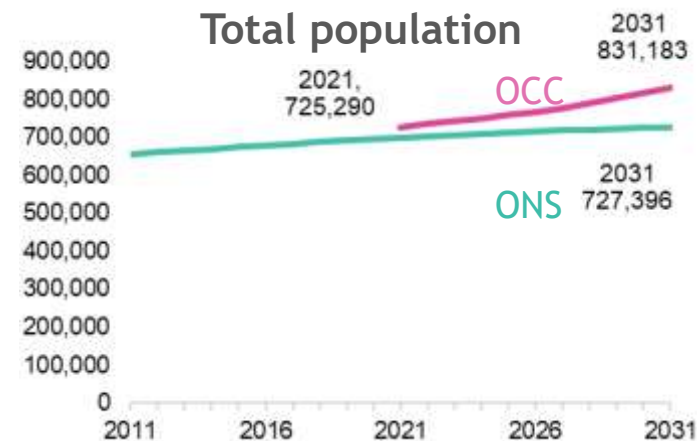
## Population growth - housing-led vs ONS trend-based

*There are two alternative scenarios for the future change in population: (1) Oxfordshire County Council's housing-led forecasts which incorporate district council plans for a higher rate of house building than in the recent past and (2) ONS projections based on past trends. Both OCC and ONS forecasts will be subject to analysis and review in the light of Census 2021 results.*

- The March 2023 update of the Oxfordshire County Council housing-led forecasts predict a total population in Oxfordshire of 831,200 by 2031, a growth of 131,600 (+15%). Over the same period the ONS projections show an increase of +4%.

*This set of forecasts contain county-wide adjustments relative to planned district housing trajectories as of December 2022.*

*It is important to note that the rate of housebuilding is an input to the model and the outputs reflect the expected population if that level of housebuilding takes place. The forecasts, therefore, are not indicative of housing need, and should not be used or interpreted as such.*

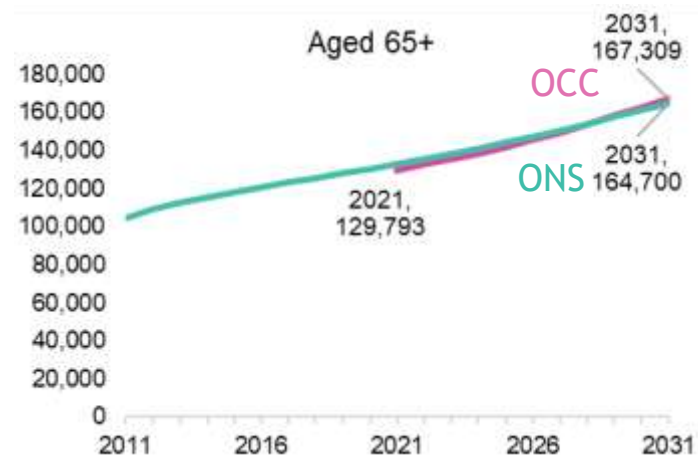
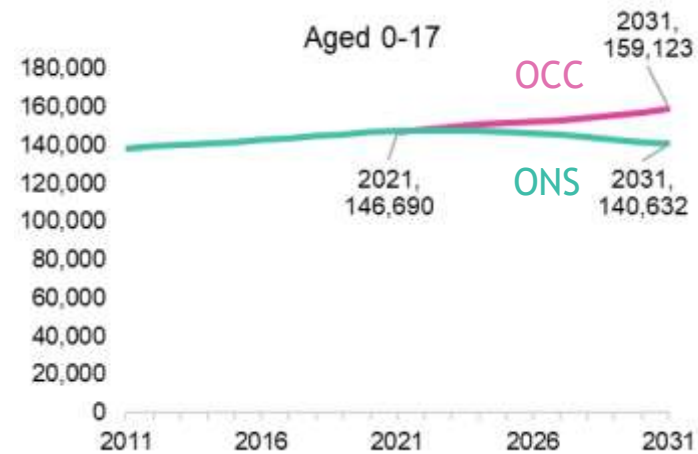
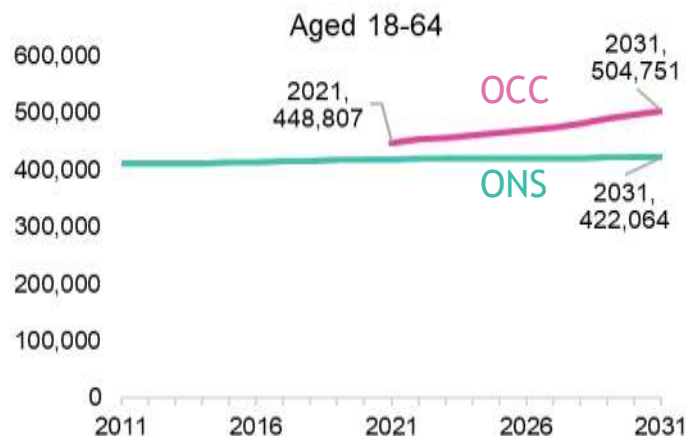


[Oxfordshire County Council population forecasts](#)  
[ONS 2018-based subnational population projections](#)

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### Trend by age

- Differences are particularly apparent for the younger and working age groups.
- For older people aged 65 and over, the predicted growth is similar.



[Oxfordshire County Council population forecasts](#)  
[ONS 2018-based subnational population projections](#)

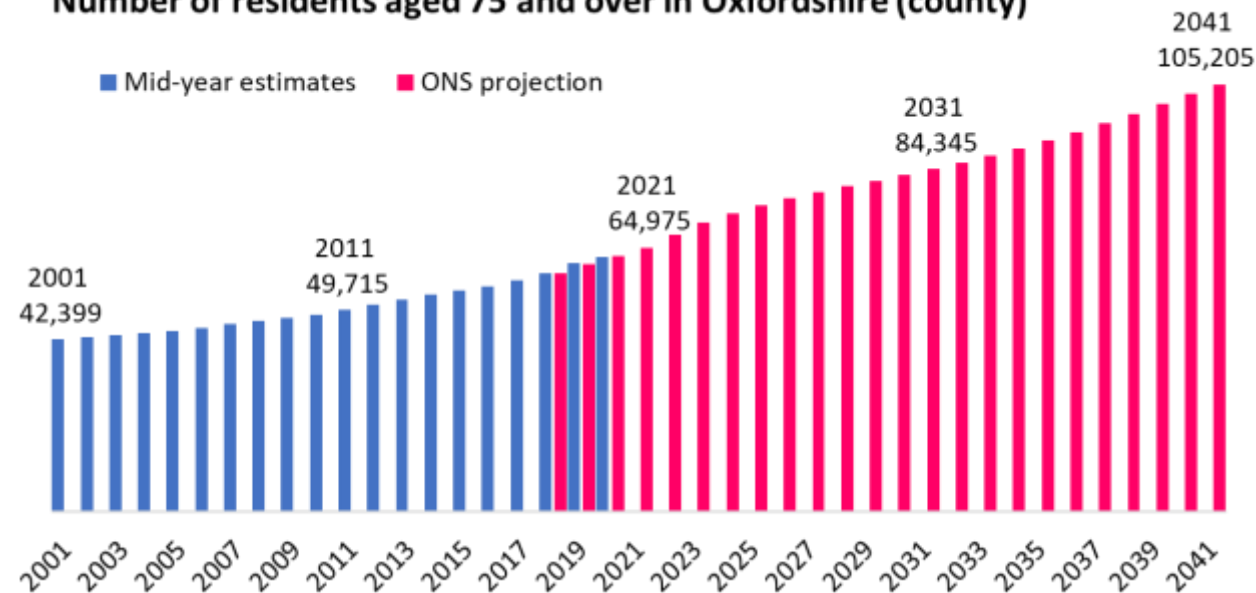


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### Growth in the oldest population historical and projected trend

- ONS population estimates show that the number of people aged 75+ in Oxfordshire increased by 22,600 over the 20 years from 2001 to 2021.
- In the 20 year period between 2021 and 2041, this age group is expected to increase by 40,200 residents, almost double the number added in the previous 20 years (2001 to 2021).
- New Census 2021 data shows a slightly lower number of people aged 75+ 62,200 (compared with 65,000). New projections will not be available for some time.

**Number of residents aged 75 and over in Oxfordshire (county)**



**Census 2021**  
75+ 62,200

ONS mid-year population estimates and projections from [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk) accessed 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022

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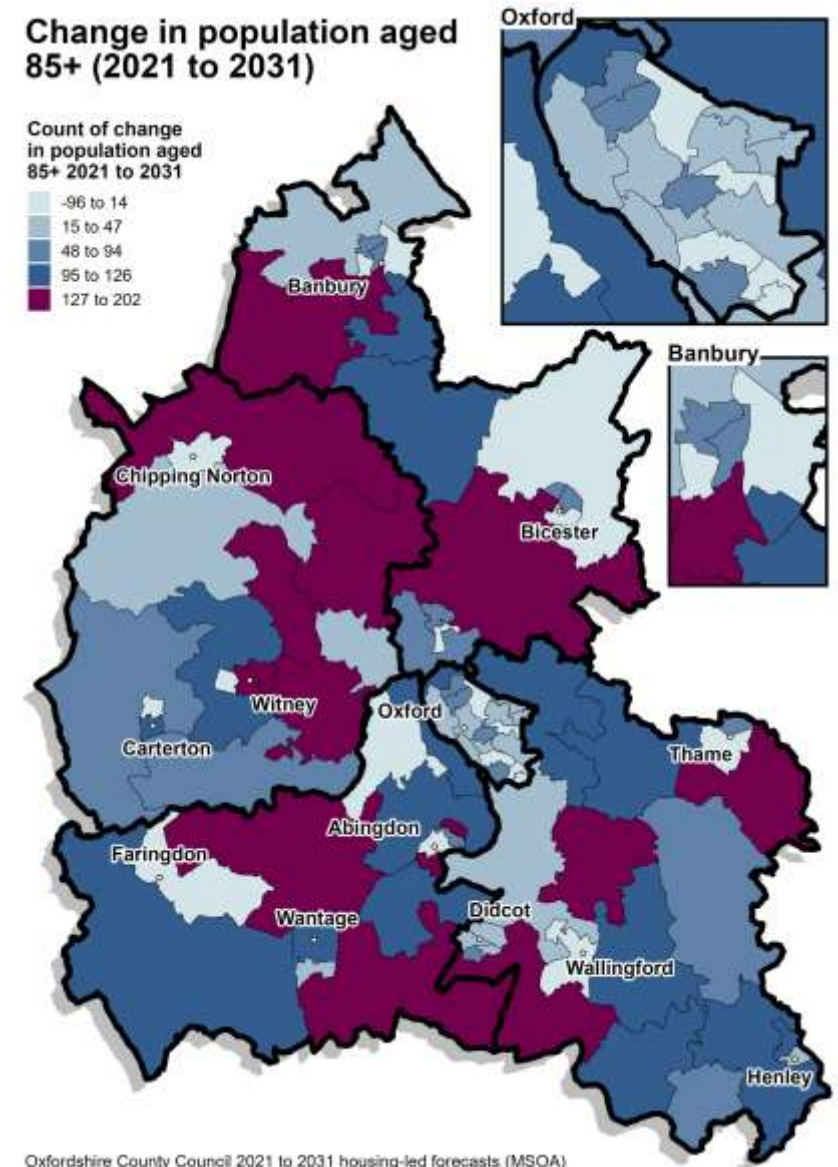
### Growth in the oldest population by area

- The oldest age group, those aged 85 and over, is predicted to increase from 18,500 in 2021 to 24,400 by 2031, an increase of 5,900 people (+31%)
- The areas with the greatest growth in the number of people aged 85 and over are predicted to be:
  - Parts of Banbury, Bicester, Witney and surrounding areas
  - Parts of Abingdon
  - Parts of rural South Oxfordshire and rural Vale of White Horse
- These areas also have plans for further housing sites.
- There is a predicted decline in Chipping Norton and areas outside Bicester, Banbury, Thame and to the west of Oxford.

### Change in population aged 85+ (2021 to 2031)

Count of change in population aged 85+ 2021 to 2031

Lightest Blue	-96 to 14
Light Blue	15 to 47
Medium Blue	48 to 94
Dark Blue	95 to 126
Dark Purple	127 to 202



Oxfordshire County Council 2021 to 2031 housing-led forecasts (MSOA)

[Oxfordshire County Council population forecasts](#)  
(released March 23)

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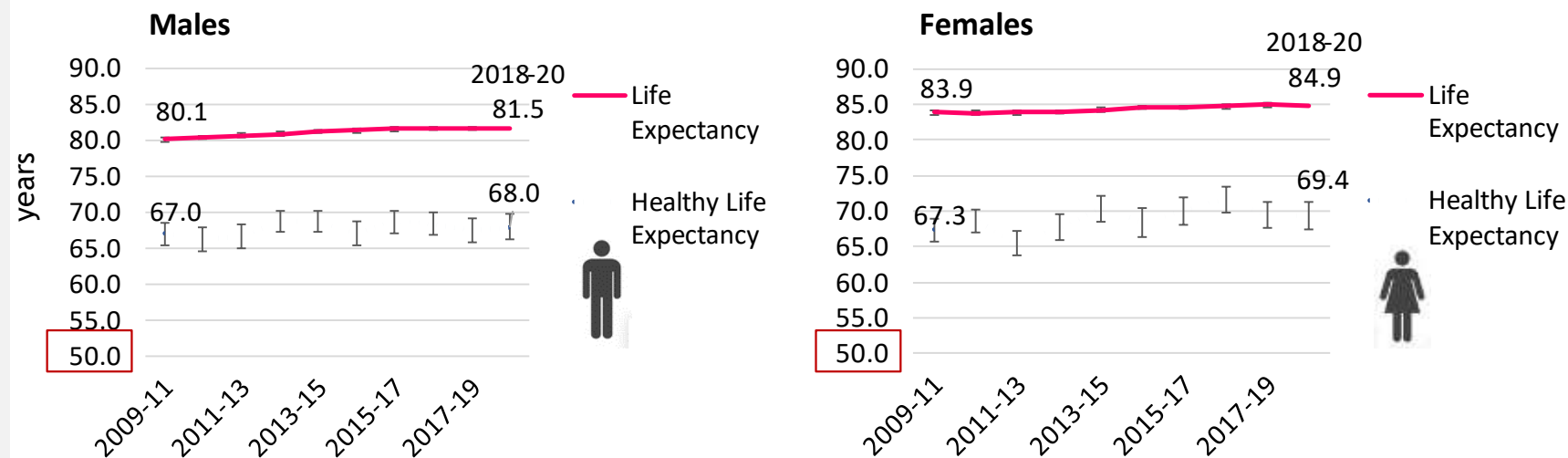
# Life Expectancy

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### Years spent in poorer health has remained relatively unchanged

- Between 2009-11 and 2018-20 (combined years) the number of years spent in poor health in Oxfordshire (difference between Life Expectancy and Healthy Life Expectancy), for females appears to have improved from 16.5 years to 15.5 years, for males the gap appears to have worsened from 13.1 to 13.6 years (although neither change is significant).
- It is not yet possible to evaluate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on this data.

**Life Expectancy and Healthy Life Expectancy at birth in Oxfordshire  
2009-11 to 2018-20**



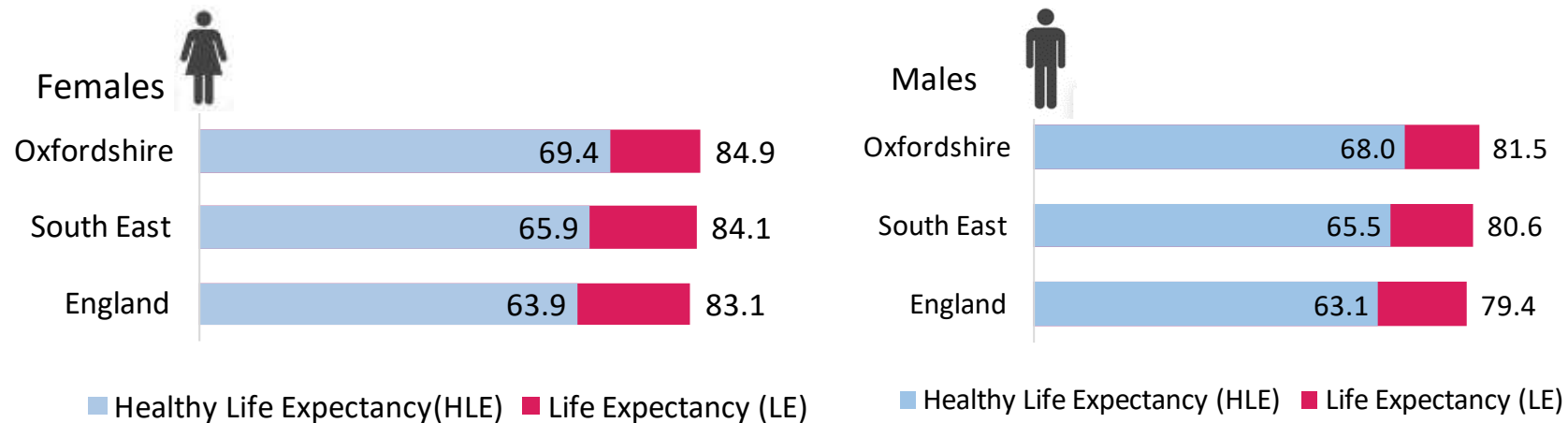
OHID fingertips. Note that vertical axes do not start at zero

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### Healthy Life Expectancy better than average

- The 3 year combined data for 2018-20 shows that Oxfordshire has remained (statistically) better than each of the South East and England averages on both Life Expectancy and Healthy Life Expectancy at birth.
  - Females in Oxfordshire are expected to live for **15.5 years in poorer health**, compared with 18.2 years in the South East and 19.3 years in England.
  - Males in Oxfordshire are expected to live for **13.6 years in poorer health**, compared with 15.1 years in the South East and 16.3 years in England

Life Expectancy and Healthy Life Expectancy at birth 2018-2020



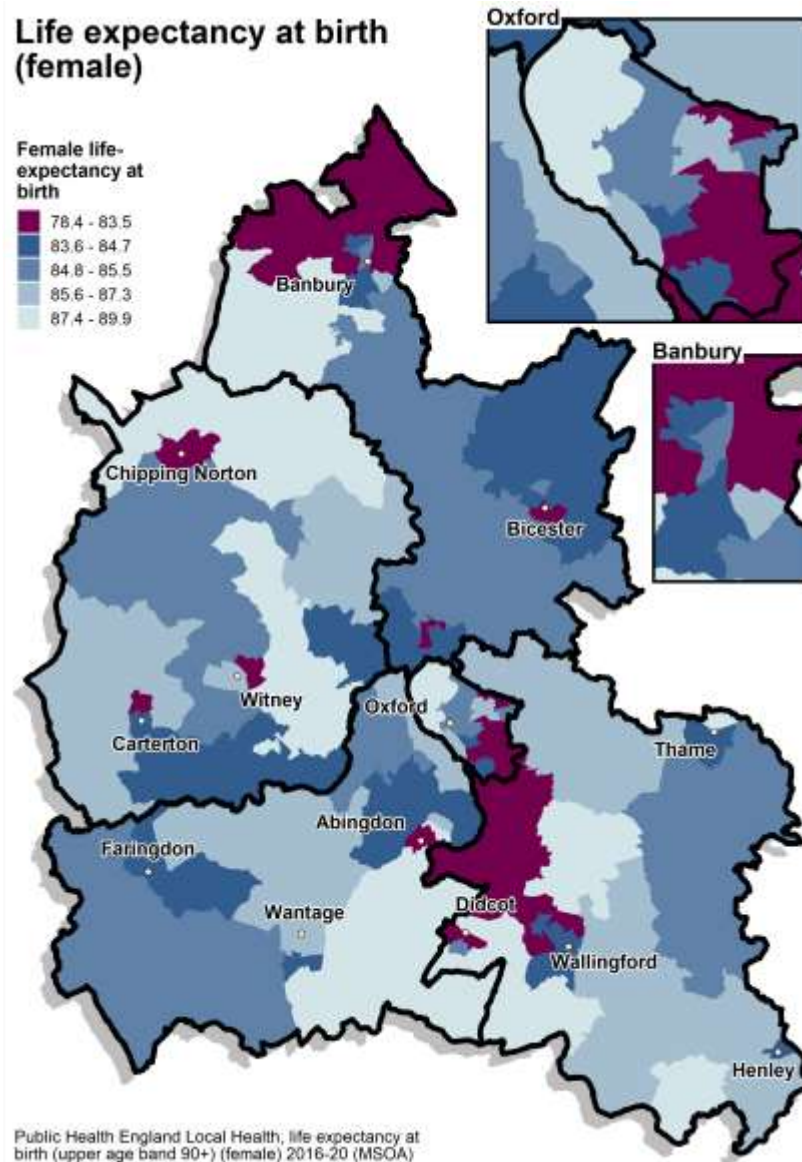
[Health state life expectancy, all ages, UK - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

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### Life expectancy at birth (female)

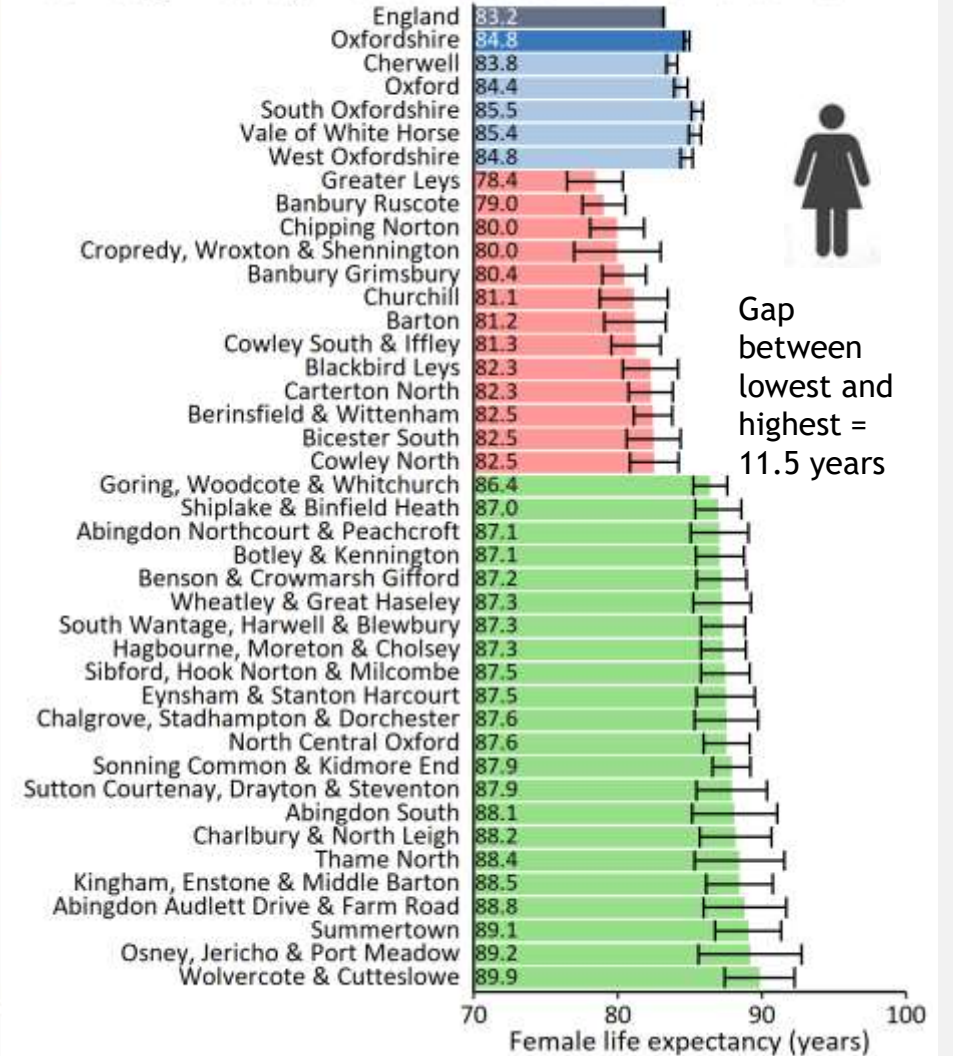
Female life-expectancy at birth

- 78.4 - 83.5
- 83.6 - 84.7
- 84.8 - 85.5
- 85.6 - 87.3
- 87.4 - 89.9



Public Health England Local Health, life expectancy at birth (upper age band 90+) (female) 2016-20 (MSOA)

### Life expectancy at birth for females, 2016-20 MSOAs significantly worse and better than Oxfordshire



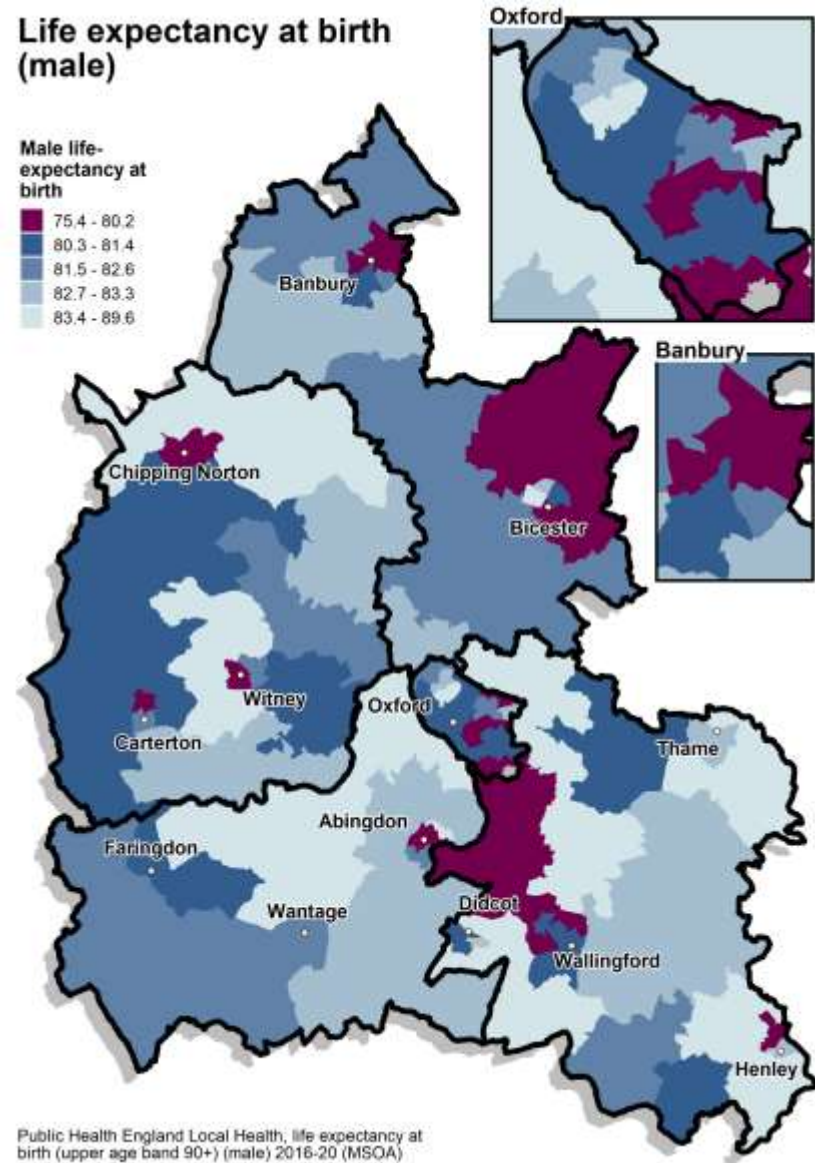
[Explore inequalities data using our interactive dashboard](#)

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### Life expectancy at birth (male)

Male life-expectancy at birth

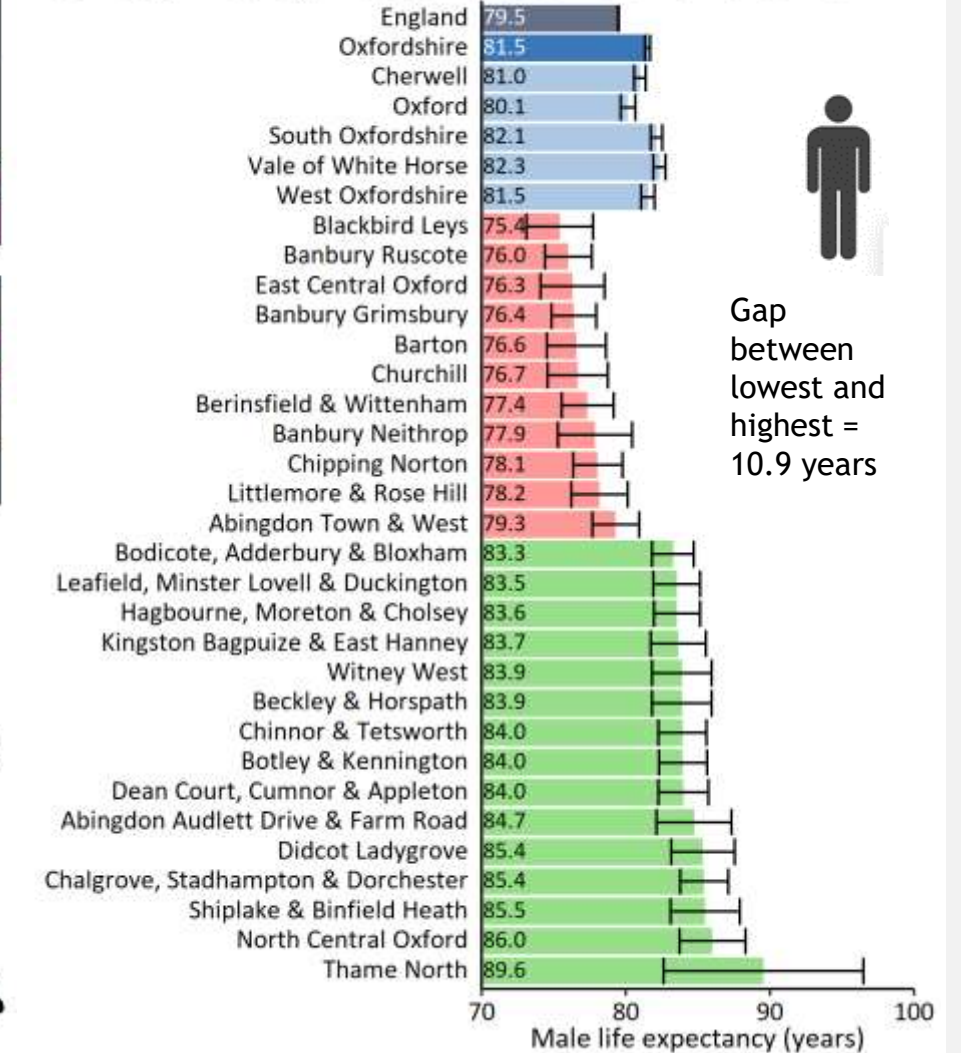
75.4 - 80.2
80.3 - 81.4
81.5 - 82.6
82.7 - 83.3
83.4 - 89.6



Public Health England Local Health, life expectancy at birth (upper age band 90+) (male) 2016-20 (MSOA)

### Life expectancy at birth for males, 2016-20

MSOAs significantly worse and better than Oxfordshire



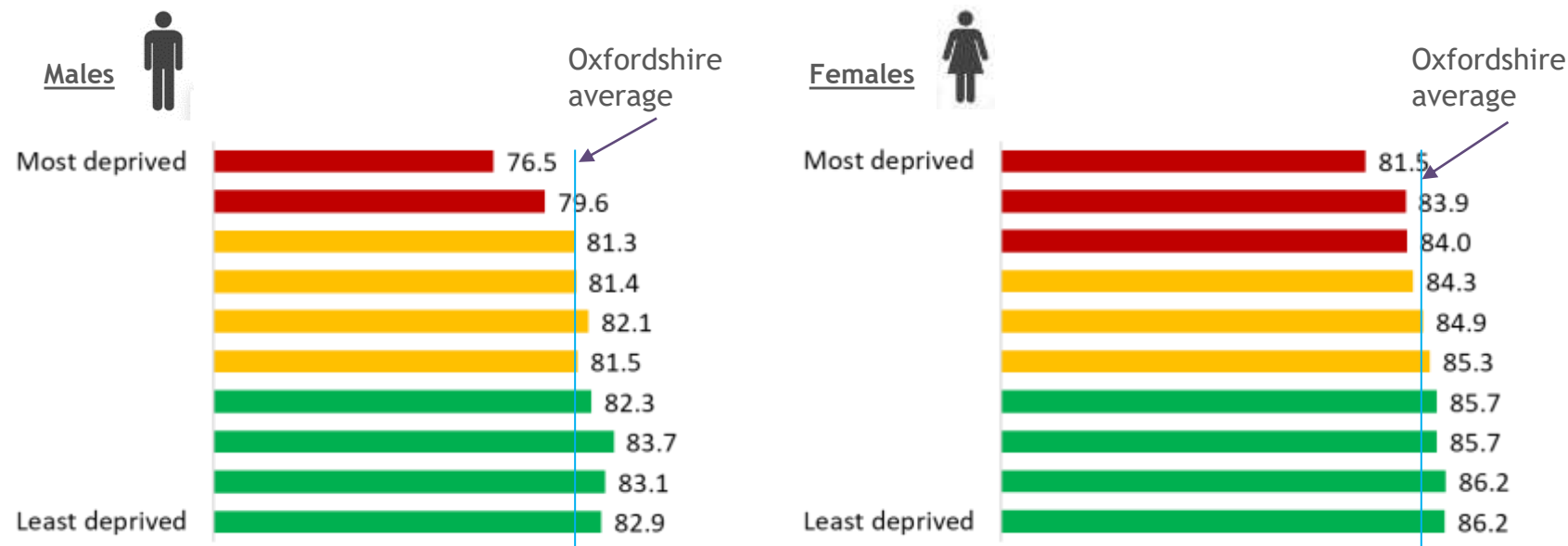
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## Inequalities in Life Expectancy by areas of deprivation

- There are clear inequalities in Life Expectancy across Oxfordshire, with people in the most deprived areas having significantly lower Life Expectancy compared with the least deprived.
- Data for the combined years 2018 to 2020 shows that for males there was a gap of 6.4 years between the most and least deprived areas. For females the gap was 4.7 years.

Oxfordshire Life Expectancy at birth by deprivation: males and females, 2018-20



[Health Inequalities Dashboard](#) based on IMD 2019 for Lower Layer Super Output Areas (accessed June 2023)



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## Finding out more

- Oxfordshire County Council population forecasts are published on the [Oxfordshire Insight Population page](#) (see “future population change”)
- ONS population estimates and population projections for county and districts are available from [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)
- [ONS Census 2021 release calendar](#)
- Census 2021 extracts for Oxfordshire are published on [Oxfordshire Insight](#)
- ONS Life Expectancy data is available from:
  - [ONS National Life Tables](#)
  - [Public health profiles - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](http://phe.org.uk)
  - [Health Inequalities Dashboard \(phe.gov.uk\)](http://phe.gov.uk)
- ONS Migration flows
  - [ONS interactive tool internal migration](#)