

Diversity in Dorset

Introduction

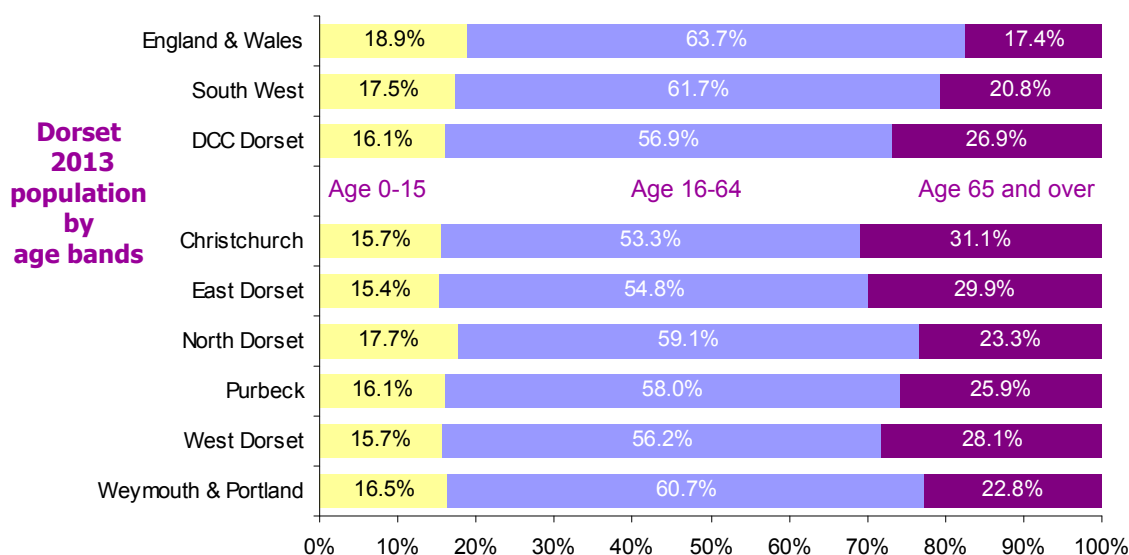
There are many definitions available for the term 'diversity', but they all cover the same fundamental issues. These include the recognition of differences, respecting those differences and appreciating the fact that different perspectives are valuable and can bring real benefits to an organisation or society in general. There are six commonly recognised 'strands' to diversity:

- Age
- Disability
- Religion and Belief
- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Sexual Orientation

Each of these strands is considered below. The aim is to give a snapshot of the local situation and to present an overview of the nature and range of the diversity of the county's population.

Age

Older people (aged 65+) make up a higher proportion of Dorset's population than is found nationally. In the county 26.9% of the population is of retirement age compared to 17.4% in England and Wales. Wide variations are to be found within the county; Weymouth and Portland has the smallest proportion (22.8%) and Christchurch has the highest (31.1%).



Conversely, the proportion of Dorset's population that are under 16 (16.1%) is less than the national average (18.9%). Proportionally children are most under-represented in East Dorset (15.4%), while North Dorset has the highest proportion (17.7%); however this is still below the national average. Similarly the proportion of the local population that is of working age is below the national and regional average in all six of Dorset's districts.

Data sources available: Mid-Year Estimates 2013 ONS supplied June 2014.



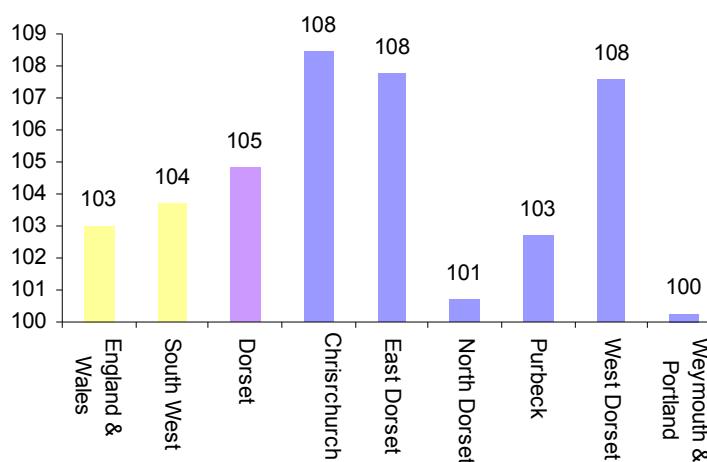
Gender

Current information on the gender split within the population can be gathered from the same data source as that for age. The 2013 Mid Year Population Estimates show that females outnumber males in the country as a whole. This is what you would expect in an area with a relatively elderly age profile.

This split may be described in terms of the number of females in a location per one hundred males. The graph below shows this information for each of Dorset's districts.



Females per 100 males (2013)



Nationally there are 103 females for every 100 males. The figure for Dorset is higher at 105 and is at its highest in Christchurch where there are 108 females to every 100 males. North Dorset and Weymouth and Portland both have more balanced populations between male and female which reflects the relatively youthful age profiles of these areas.

Data sources available: Mid-Year Estimates 2013 ONS supplied June 2014.

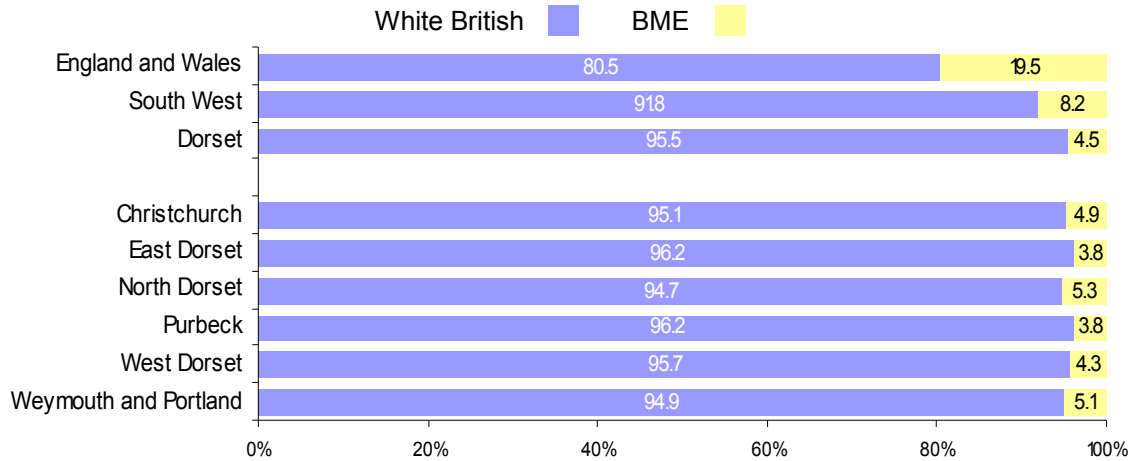
Ethnicity

The 2011 Census provides the most recent and reliable information on ethnicity. Respondents were asked to classify themselves into one of eighteen ethnic groups. The graph overleaf shows the proportions of respondents who were recorded as falling into either a 'White British' or a black and minority ethnic (BME) group. The BME classification would include all residents who did not classify themselves as 'White British'.



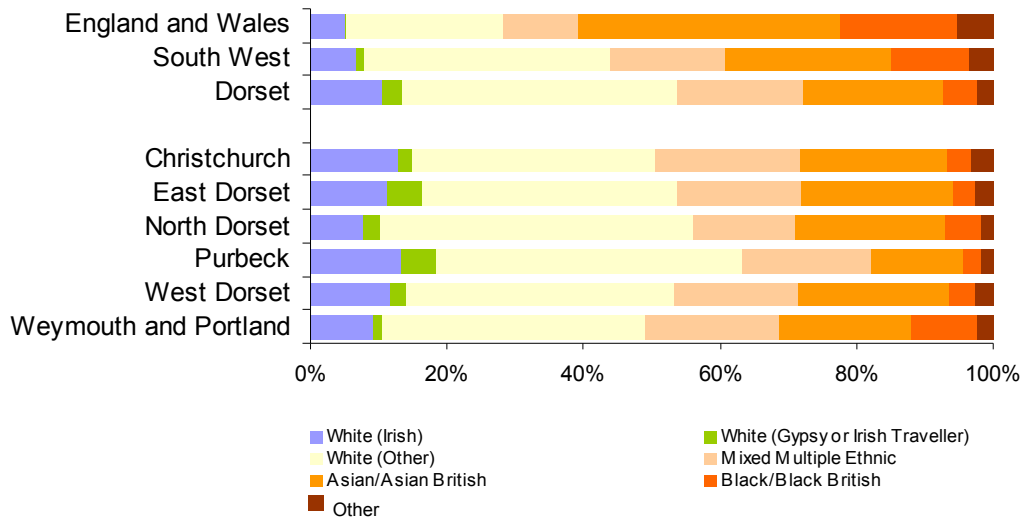


Generalised ethnic structure



Dorset is less ethnically diverse than England and Wales. In 2011 4.5% of Dorset’s population classed themselves as being from a black and minority ethnic (BME) group, while nationally the proportion was 19.5%. Figures from Dorset’s districts range from 3.8% in East Dorset and Purbeck to 5.3% in North Dorset.

Make up of the BME population



The graph above illustrates the proportions of the ethnic groups which constitute the black and minority ethnic population nationally, regionally and locally.

In England and Wales the largest BME group is ‘Asian/Asian British’ (38.5%), while in Dorset the largest group is ‘White Other’ (40.1%) followed by ‘Asian/Asian British’ (20.7%). In all of Dorset’s districts ‘White Other’ forms the largest ethnic minority group. ‘White Other’ in Dorset is predominately made up from Western European (26%), with Polish making up a further 18%.

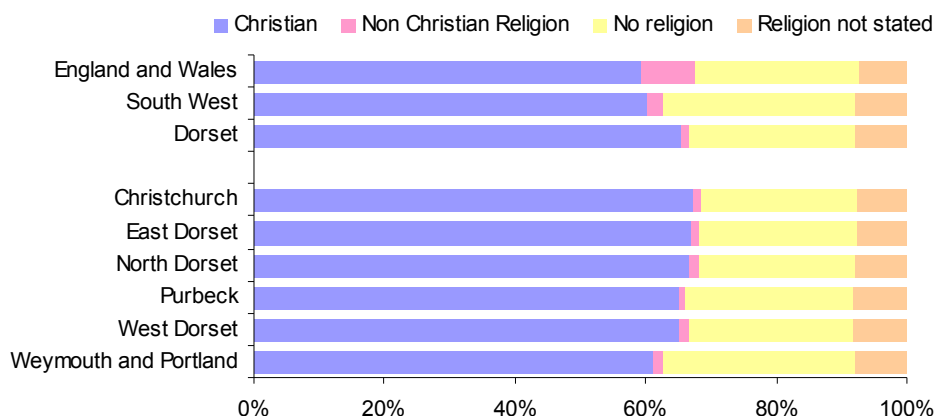


Religion & Belief

The 2011 Census provides the best source of information on religious affiliation. The majority of the population of England and Wales stated they were Christian (59.3%). In Dorset the figure was higher at 65.3%.

Within the county, just 1.4% expressed an affiliation to a non-Christian religion (the figure for England & Wales was 8.4%), while 25.2% said that they had no religion and 8% refused to give an answer (both similar to the national figures of 25.1% and 7.2% respectively)

Generalised religious affiliation (2011)

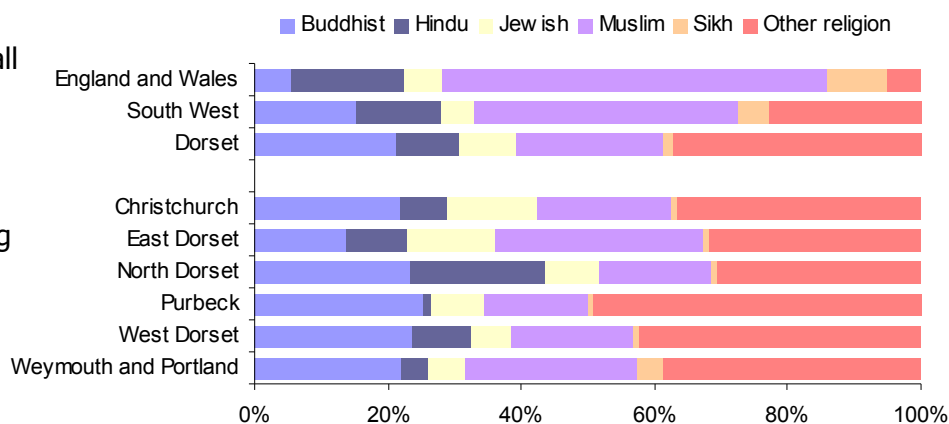


The chart below shows that of those following a non-Christian religion in Dorset (5,985), Muslims formed the largest proportion (22.0%), followed by Buddhists (21.4%) and Jews (8.7%). Nationally Muslims formed a much larger proportion of the non-Christian religions (57.6%), while Buddhists and Jews made up just 5.3% and 5.6% respectively.

The proportion of those following non-Christian 'Other religions' was much higher in Dorset (37.3%) than it was nationally (5.1%) and was dominated by Pagans, which made up 12.3% of non-Christian religions in the county as compared to 1.2% nationally.

Interestingly, those who selected 'no religion' but stated 'Jedi' outnumbered all of the other main religious groups bar Christian in Dorset with 0.4% of the population classifying themselves as such.

Affiliation to non-Christian religions (2011)



Data sources available: 2011 Census ONS Table KS209EW - Religion



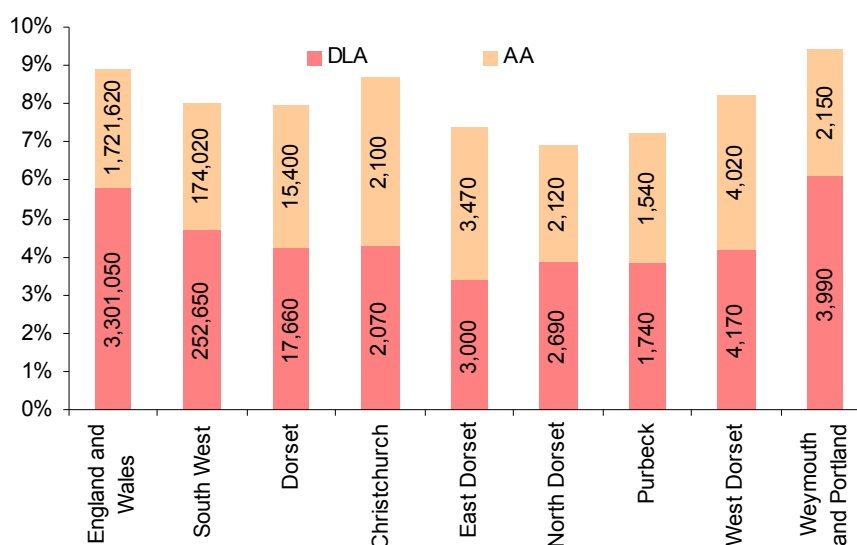
Disability

Historically, disability has been difficult to measure as it is often personal perception that dictates whether an individual regards themselves as disabled or not. Therefore in order to get as complete a picture as possible we can use two measures of disability:

- the level of eligibility for two disability-related state benefits – Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and Attendance Allowance (AA) – can give an indication of the prevalence of disability amongst the population.
- the 2011 Census - which asked people to state whether their day to day activities were limited a lot, a little, or not at all, because of a health problem or disability (including problems related to old age) which had lasted, or was expected to last, at least 12 months – can give us the personal perception.

The first chart below shows the proportion of the population claiming DLA and AA as at August 2012, with the number of claimants also given.

Percentage of the population claiming Disability Living Allowance or Attendance Allowance



Weymouth and Portland has the highest proportion (9.4%) of the population claiming the two allowances, higher than both the national (8.8%) and regional (7.4%) figures, while North Dorset has the lowest number of claimants (7%).

Rates of claiming both allowances have increased both locally and nationally since they were first introduced due to an increase in the population in general but specifically an increase in the aging population.



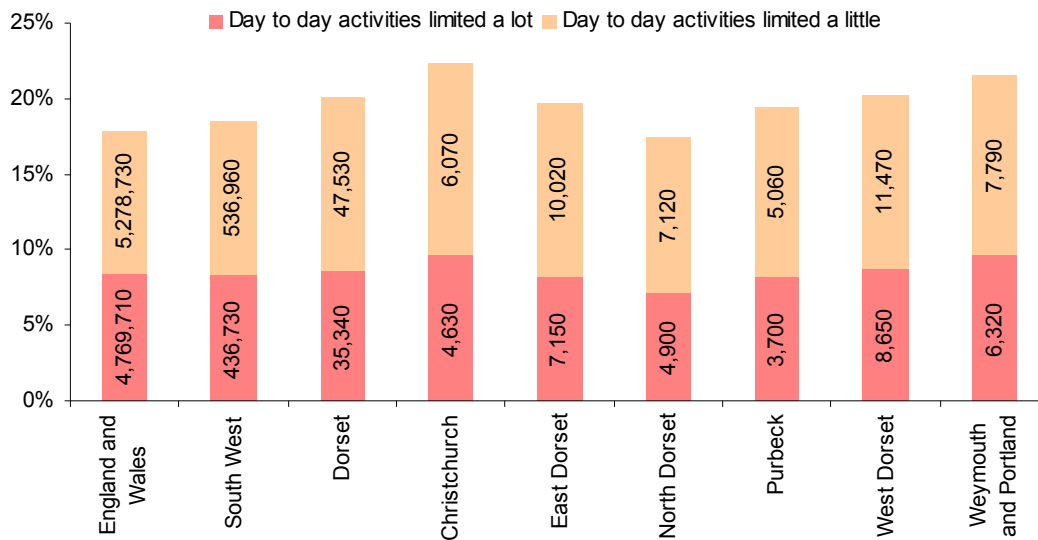


The second chart (below) shows the proportion and numbers of the population who considered their day to day activities to be limited a little or a lot due to health or disability.

As might be expected due to the aging population, Dorset has a higher proportion of its population whose day to day activities are limited (20.1%) – higher than both the national (17.9%) and regional (18.5%) average. Of the six districts, Christchurch has the highest proportion (22.4%) and North Dorset the lowest (17.5%).



Percentage of the population whose day to day activities are limited



Data sources available: Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance, Department of Work and Pensions, Aug 2012.
2011 Census Table KS301EW - Health and provision of unpaid care ONS

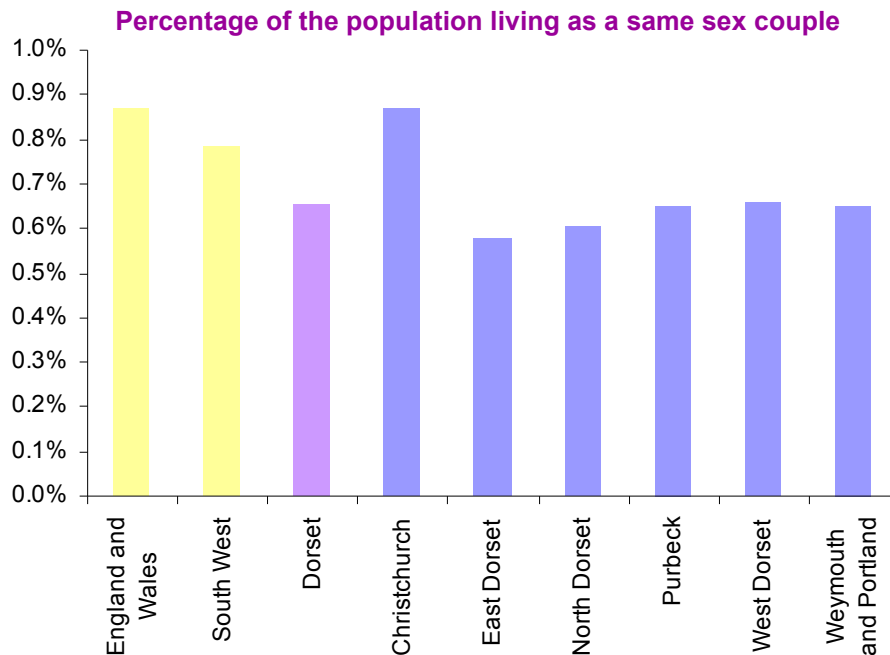
Sexual Orientation

The 2011 Census again provides the best sort of information on sexual orientation. The Census asked about peoples marital or civil partnership status. Whilst 186,830 (54%) of the population said they were married, only 640 (0.2%) said they were in a same sex civil partnership. The percentage in a civil partnership is the same as the regional and national figures.

The Census also asked a question regarding the relationship between adults living in the same household.

In Dorset, 63.9% of all people aged 16 and over were living as a heterosexual couple; the national figure was 56.9%.





The chart above shows that 0.7% of the Dorset population were living in a same sex relationship; this is lower than the national figure of 0.9%. Of the six districts Christchurch has the highest proportion of its population living in a same sex relationship (0.9%), while East Dorset has the lowest proportion (0.6%). In 2011 54.1% of the people of Dorset aged over 16 were married, while 0.18% were in a civil partnership, the national figures were 46.6% and 0.23% respectively.

Data sources available: 2011 Census Table QS108EW - Living Arrangements and KS103EW - Marital and Civil Partnership status ONS

Headlines

Dorset has.....

- ...a greater proportion of older people and smaller proportions of children and working age residents than the national average.
- ...a higher ratio of women to men than is seen nationally, partly as a consequence of the County's age structure.
- ...a far lower proportion of residents from minority ethnic groups than for England as a whole.
- ...a largely Christian population, only 1.4% of residents state that they follow a non Christian religion.
- ...a lower than average proportion of residents claiming a disability benefit but a higher than average proportion stating that their day to day activities are limited due to health/disability problems.
- ...lower than the national and regional averages of residents classing themselves as being in a same sex relationship.

