Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

Demographics and Population 2017/18
Last updated: March 2019

Summary
140,984 people live on the Isle of Wight, 720 more than in 2016.

Over 1 in 4 (27.3%) is older than 65. This is the 17th highest level of any local authority in England & Wales.

Over the next ten years, the number of 65 to 84 year olds will increase by 20%, while the over 85s will increase by 24%.

The percentage of Island residents aged under 15 is 14.7%, against a national level of 18%.

There are 71,290 households on the Isle of Wight, and 1 in 6 of all households are occupied by a single person over 65.

Foreword
"Information on the demography of an area such as the age structure, gender and ethnicity profile of its population is essential in better understanding an area, its needs and assets and is vital in the delivery of services like education, transport and healthcare.

Understanding trends and nuances around sparsely and densely populated areas helps us to better understand the current situation and can help to inform future requirements.

This factsheet brings together information on population, household composition and trends which can be used to inform the delivery of services across the Isle of Wight both by the Council and other local organisations."

Danika Barber – Senior Intelligence Analyst,
Isle of Wight Council

Isle of Wight Geography

The Isle of Wight lies off the south coast of mainland England and covers an area of 380.16 km² (38,016 hectares, or 146.8 sq. miles).

**Approximate Population of Main Towns**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ryde</td>
<td>c. 18,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newport</td>
<td>c. 17,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cowes</td>
<td>c. 14,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Cowes</td>
<td>c. 7,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandown</td>
<td>c. 7,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shanklin</td>
<td>c. 7,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ventnor</td>
<td>c. 6,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ONS, 2011 Census

Newport, the second largest town by population, is the administrative centre, and is home to the Isle of Wight Council, St. Mary’s Hospital, courts and headquarters of the emergency services.

The Isle of Wight has 39 Electoral Wards served by 40 Councillors (Brading, St Helens and Bembridge has two Councillors). At the last election of the Isle of Wight Council in May 2017 25 Conservative members were returned, and these form the ruling group. In addition there are 25 Parish and 8 Town councils.
Based on the 2011 Census, there is an average population of 3.6 persons per hectare. This compares with an average of 4.1 persons per hectare for England and a regional average of 4.5 persons per hectare for the South East.

**Population**

Based on the mid-2017 population estimates, the Island is home to 140,984 people. This represents a net growth of c.2,700 (2.0%) since the last Census in 2011, and an increase of 720 since the previous year.

**Isle of Wight Population v Regional & National Levels, inc. Gender Split**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Isle of Wight (000s)</th>
<th>South East (000s)</th>
<th>England &amp; Wales (000s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All People</td>
<td>141.0</td>
<td>9,080.8</td>
<td>58,744.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>68.9</td>
<td>4,474.4</td>
<td>29,021.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>72.1</td>
<td>4,606.4</td>
<td>28,138.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Change Since 2011</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ONS Mid-2017 Population Estimates

This increase in the Island’s population is being driven by the over 65 age group. This mirrors the national and regional trend, but is exaggerated by both this group growing, and the 15-64 group shrinking, which is not the case seen in the regional and national data.

**Country of Origin**

The majority of Isle of Wight residents were born in England (93%). In comparison with other authorities in England and Wales, the Isle of Wight has the 78th highest level of residents born in England (Knowsley in Merseyside has the highest proportion at 96.4%).

The next largest group (2.8%) is made up from people originating from outside of the European Union (EU), followed by those from the other UK countries.

**Migration**

The Isle of Wight, like other coastal areas, is popular as a retirement destination. There is a net outflow of age 15 to 29 year olds as young people leave for higher education and others for employment and career opportunities, and a net inflow at age 30 and above as people return to raise their families or older people retire here.
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Produced by Isle of Wight Council Organisational Intelligence Team

Net migration to the Isle of Wight by age group (2013 to 2017)

The increase in migration in the older age groups (45 to 74 in particular) is becoming more marked over time, with more than three times as many arriving on the Island in 2017 than in 2012.

There is a marked increase in the number of 45 to 59 year olds migrating to the Island in 2017.

Length of Residence

Most Isle of Wight residents (94.8%) were born in the UK (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) and most of those who came from outside the UK have been resident in the country for ten years or more (3.2%).

Just 0.4% of the resident population that were not born in the UK, had been resident for less than two years. Source: ONS, 2011 Census

Household composition

There are 71,290 residential properties on the Isle of Wight.

Around 1 in 6 (16.5%) of all households are occupied by a single person aged 65 or over. This was the eighteenth highest rate for all of the authorities in England and Wales.

A similar rate (16.2%) was also given for other one person households. This is broadly in-line with England (17.9%) and the South East region (16.1%).

Source: ONS, 2011 Census

Lone Parent Households

Just over 4,000 households on the Isle of Wight consist of a lone parent with dependent children (where the lone parent was aged 16-74).

Almost two out of five (38%) of these households had a lone parent who was not in full-time employment. The number of male lone parents not in employment (4.2%) was the 23rd highest of all authorities in England and Wales. 2.2% of male lone parents are in part-time employment (20th highest) Source: ONS, 2011 Census

Reflecting on the Past

The population of the Isle of Wight shows steady growth year on year. Between the 2001 and 2011 censuses, the change was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Residents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>132,925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>138,400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ONS, 2011 Census

By mid-year 2017, the estimated population has grown from the 2011 level, by 2,719 people (2.0%).

Looking Towards the Future

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has developed population projections into the future.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>138,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2026</td>
<td>146,233</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Projected growth in numbers: 5,249
Projected percentage growth: 3.7%

Source: ONS, 2017 mid-year estimate and 2016-based subnational population projections

Over the next ten years, it is estimated that there will be a fall in the number of under 65s (-2,400 / -2.4%) on the Isle of Wight. Meanwhile over the same period, the number of 65 to 84-year-olds will significantly increase (+6,800 / +20.4%), with the most significant percentage increase in the over 85s (+1,250 / +23.6%).
For both genders, the 65 to 84 age groups increase at a broadly similar rate. However, there is a noticeable difference in the over 85 age group as females will increase by just over 11%, while for males, the increase is just under 50%.

The following population pyramids show the predicted percentage shifts in the Island’s population, by age band and gender, with an overlay of the same projections at a national level.

These pyramids demonstrate the shift in the balance from the under 65 age group to those over 65, and how the Island distribution varies significantly from the national profile.

Further Information

The Equality & Diversity factsheet has more information on the protected characteristics of age, gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, transgender status, marriage and civil partnership, sexual orientation and pregnancy & maternity.

Please visit: [www.iwight.com/factsandfigures](http://www.iwight.com/factsandfigures)