

Quality of life

Prepared by Leicester City Council, December 2012

Further information is available from the Research and Intelligence Team

Tel: 0116 252 7741
Email: jay.hardman@leicester.gov.uk
Web: www.leicester.gov.uk/research

Introduction

Reliable information about the city's usually resident and household populations is important as it helps public authorities, businesses and community organisations identify community needs and plan future service provision.

As well as local intelligence, this report includes statistics from Census 2011, which is the most extensive survey of the UK population ever undertaken. It includes information about national and regional averages for comparative purposes. Where the measures used are comparable, significant changes since the previous census in 2001 are also highlighted.

Summary

This report provides some insight into the **quality of life** of Leicester's people and communities:

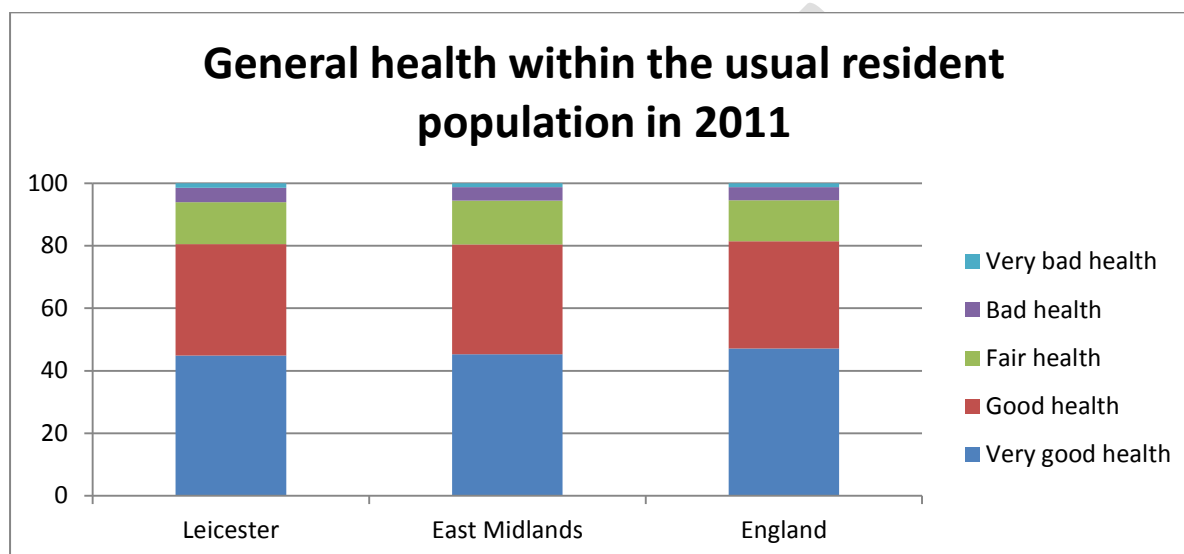
- Between 2001 and 2011, the census estimates that the city's usual resident population increased by over 45,000, and the number of households by over 12,000;
- Leicester is now the most populous urban centre in the East Midlands;
- General health and levels of activity limiting illness or disability in Leicester are similar to regional and national levels – albeit with marginally greater proportions of residents reporting very bad health and/or day-to-day activity that is limited a lot;
- In 2011, there were almost as many single people in Leicester (108,120) as there were people who are married (110,403), which is similar to the picture in many London boroughs and other 'university cities';
- Households are varied in their composition with the overall balance tending to reflect the relatively youthful age profile of the city (e.g. six per cent fewer senior citizen households than regional and national averages);
- Almost half of all households are in rented accommodation and levels of home ownership have decreased noticeably over the last decade;
- The level of overcrowding in city households is one of the highest outside of London, while two in every five households do not have access to a car or van.

Leicester in 2011

Census 2011 estimates that Leicester is home to almost 330,000 people, making it the most populous urban centre in the East Midlands. There are 123,125 households in the city, and the average household size is 2.6 people (the largest in the region).

Health and activity-limiting illness or disability

At the time of the 2011 Census four out of every five (80 per cent, 265,659) usual residents described themselves as being in good or very good health.



Six per cent (19,902) of city residents reported bad or very bad health, which is slightly higher than the national average (5 per cent, 2.9 million).

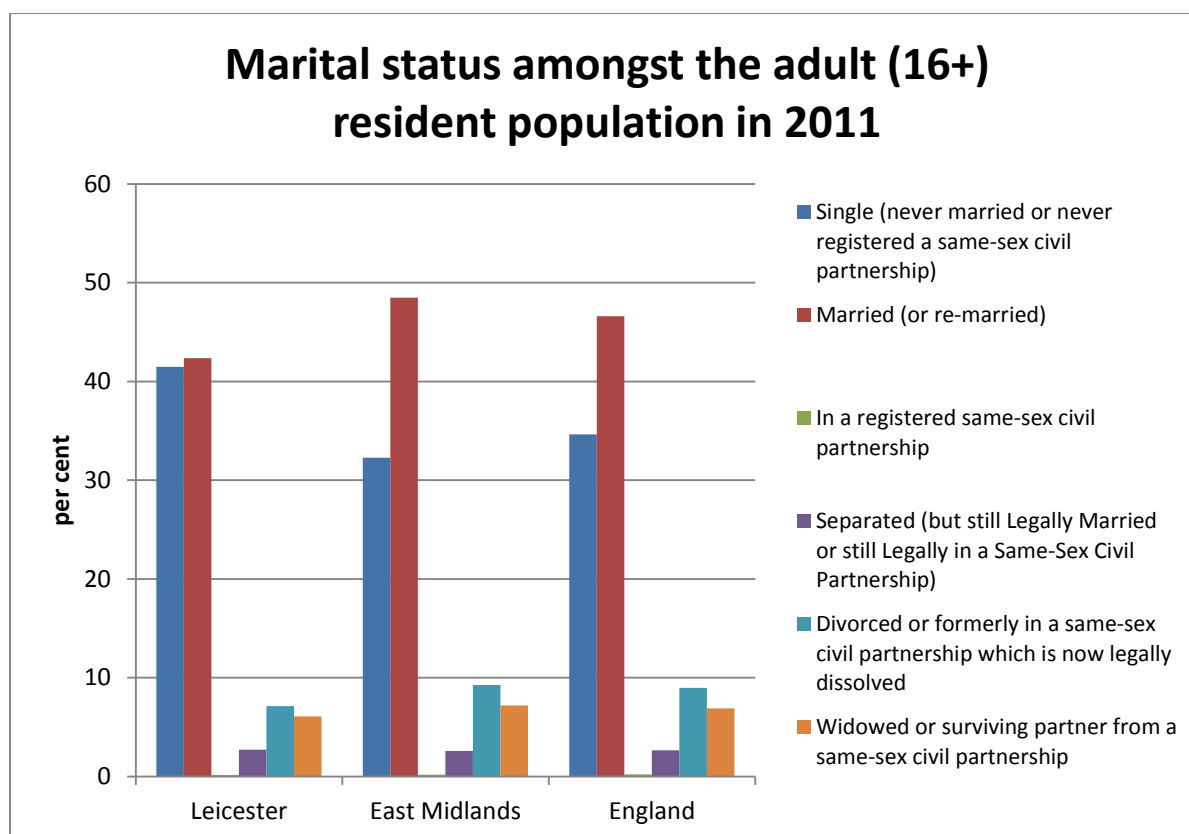
Over 57,000 residents (17 per cent) assess their day-to-day activities to be limited because of a long-term health problem or disability (including those related to age). Amongst the working-age resident population (ages 16-64) the proportion is 14 per cent, which is marginally higher than the regional and national average of 13 per cent.

Relationships

While the census provides no information about friendships or people's wider family and social networks, it does give some insight into personal relationships amongst the adult population as well as relationships between usual residents within the city's households.

In common with many London boroughs and other 'university cities', the percentage of single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership) people in Leicester is much higher than national and regional averages.

In 2011, there were almost as many single people in Leicester (108,120) as there were people who are married (110,403).



Of course, not all people who are married live as a couple and not all of those who are single live alone. In 2011, just over half (126,897) of all adults in city households were living in a couple, which is considerably lower than the regional (61 per cent) and national (58 per cent) averages. Of those not living in a couple, two thirds (83,494) have never married or registered a same-sex civil partnership.

The most reported household type in Leicester in 2011 was where there was one family (56 per cent, 68,723) followed by those where there was one person living alone (30 per cent, 36,951). The table below shows the details.

Household composition		2011	
		Number	%
One family	Married or same sex civil partnership couple	37,257	30
	Lone parent	15,231	12
	Cohabiting couple	10,477	9
	All aged 65 or over	5,758	5
One person	One person: senior citizen	12,057	10
	One person: other	24,894	20
Other	Other household type	17,451	14

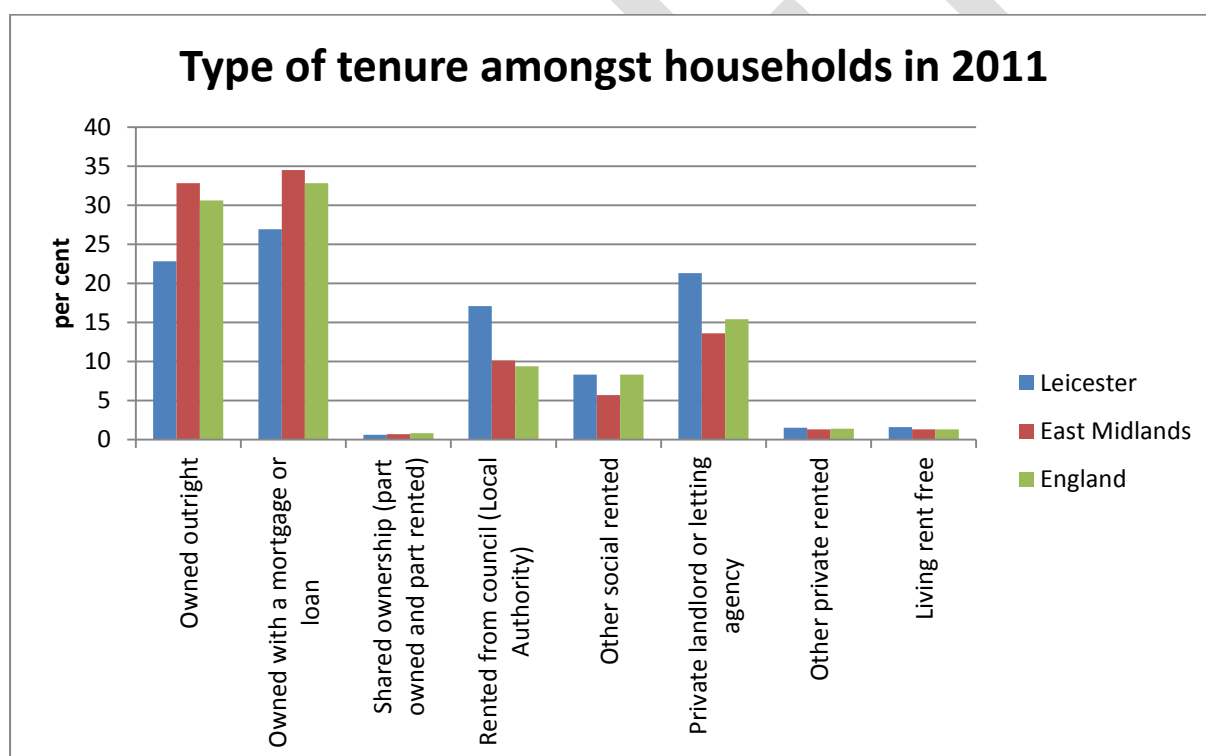
The proportion of other types of household, including all student households and households that are home to more than one family, is considerably higher than the regional (seven per cent) and national (eight per cent) average.

Accommodation type and tenure

Census 2011 estimates that there are 126,703 dwellings in Leicester.

Thirty two per cent of the city's household spaces are terraced houses. This is higher than both the national (25 per cent) and regional (21 per cent) average. Conversely, Leicester has a significantly smaller proportion of detached houses; 11 per cent compared with 32 per cent for the East Midlands and 22 per cent for England.

Fifty per cent (61,170) of city households own their own home, either outright or with a mortgage or loan. Twenty five per cent (31,270) rent from the council or other social housing provider, and a further 23 per cent (27,999) are in private rented accommodation. These proportions are markedly different to the national and regional picture.



In Leicester in 2011 there was an average of 5.0 rooms per household. This compares with an average of 5.4 rooms for England and an average of 5.6 for the East Midlands.

Census 2011 asked about the number of bedrooms in households for the first time. The average number of bedrooms per household in Leicester is 2.6. In comparison, the average number of bedrooms per household in England is 2.7 and in the East Midlands region is 2.8.

The occupancy ratings of rooms and bedrooms provide a measure of under-occupancy and over-crowding¹. For example a value of -1 implies that there is one room too few and that there is overcrowding in the household.

In 2011, fifteen per cent (18,756) of households in Leicester had an occupancy rating of -1 or less for rooms. This level of household overcrowding is one of the highest outside of London and the highest in the region. Ten per cent (12,308) of city households had an occupancy rating of -1 or less for bedrooms², which represents the highest level of overcrowding outside of London, other than Slough and Luton.

In Leicester in 2011, 3 per cent (3,449) of households reported that their accommodation does *not* have central heating, which is similar to regional and national averages.

Access to a car or van

The census asks about the number of cars or vans that households have at their disposal.

In 2011, 37 per cent (45,375) of city households reported that they do not have access to a car or van.

Residents in communal establishments

The 2011 Census estimated that 97 per cent (almost 322,000) of usual city residents live in households. The remaining three per cent (just over 8,000) lived in communal establishments. Communal establishments provide managed residential accommodation; examples include sheltered accommodation units, student halls, hospitals and prisons.

In 2011, 70 per cent (5,816) of all communal establishment residents in Leicester resided in non-medical establishments, including student halls and the prison. Twenty seven per cent (2,221) of communal establishment residents were in medical and care establishments; 23 per cent (1,871) were in care homes and four per cent (350) were in other medical establishments³.

The percentage of usual residents in communal establishments is higher than the national and regional average (two per cent), which is due to student population associated with the city's two universities.

¹ It relates the actual number of rooms to the number of rooms 'required' by the members of the household (based on an assessment of the relationship between household members, their ages and gender).

² The use of bedrooms as an indicator of overcrowding was introduced in the Housing (Overcrowding) Bill 46 (2003). The definition of the bedroom standard refers to uninhabitable bedrooms and rooms with less than 50ft² floor space. The census does not collect this information and it is not used in deriving 2011 Census bedroom occupancy ratings. The derivation of bedroom occupancy rating takes into account circumstances where people may share bedrooms, e.g. married couples.

³ Other medical establishments include NHS-run establishments, children's homes and medical establishments run by registered social landlords

Changes since 2001

Between 2001 and 2011, the census estimates that the city's usual resident population increased by over 45,000. This represents a much faster rate of growth (17%) than most other UK cities, including Nottingham and Derby. Since 2001, the number of city households has also increased by just over 12,000 and the average household size has increased from 2.5 to 2.6 people.

Health⁴ and activity-limiting illness or disability

The level of long-term activity limiting illness or disability amongst the city's working age population has reduced since 2001 – and by a larger margin than the national reduction.

Year	Age	Limited		Not limited	
		Number	%	Number	%
2001	Working age	26,129	15	147,717	85
	All ages	52,500	19	227,421	81
2011	Working age	31,629	14	191,715	86
	All ages	57,137	17	272,702	83

Relationships

The proportion of the adult population who are married has decreased by three percentage points from the 2001 figure of 45 per cent (97,540). The percentage of single (never married) people increased five percentage points from 37 per cent (79,970) in 2001 to 42 per cent (108,120) in 2011.

The decrease in people who are married and increase in those who have never married mirrors the regional and national picture.

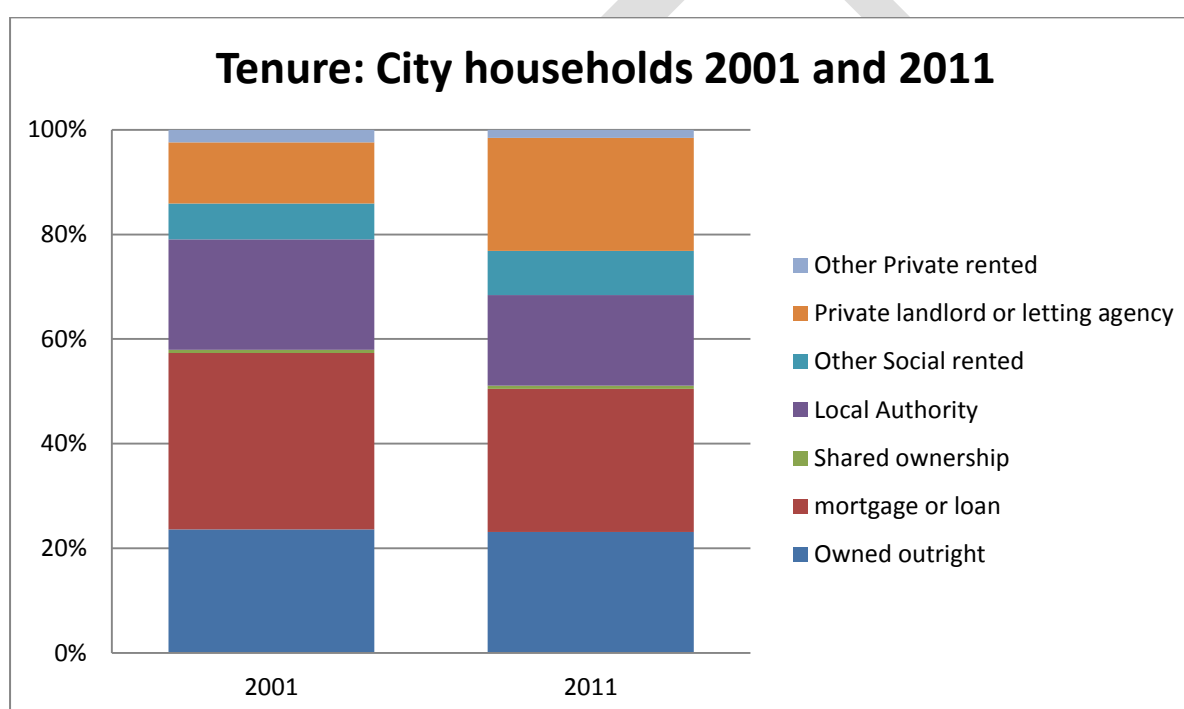
Since 2001, there has been a two percentage point decrease in households containing one senior citizen couple family; from seven per cent (7,395) in 2001 to five per cent (5,758) in 2011. The proportion of one person households also decreased, by three percentage points, from 33 per cent (36,179) in 2001 to 30 per cent (36,951) in 2011. This is due to the significant reduction in one person senior citizen households from 15,275 (14 per cent) in 2001 to 12,057 (10 per cent) in 2011.

⁴ The census question on general health in 2011 was not a new question but its structure changed. In 2001 it was based on a three point scale: good, fairly good or not good. The findings are therefore not directly comparable. For example, some people recording their health as 'fair' in 2011 might have said 'fairly good' using a 2001 scale but some might have said 'not good'.

Accommodation type and tenure

A notable change in the relative proportions of accommodation types between 2001 and 2011 is the increase in the percentage of households living in purpose built flats, maisonettes or apartments. This rose by five percentage points from 13 per cent (14,476) of households in 2001 to 18 per cent (22,341) in 2011. The redevelopment of the city centre area which has included a significant proportion of purpose built flats will have helped contribute to this increase.

The chart below compares the percentage of households with different tenure types in 2001 and 2011. The four most frequently reported tenure types for households in 2011 were owned with a mortgage or loan at 27 per cent (33,152), followed by owned outright at 23 per cent (28,018), renting from a private landlord or letting agency at 21 per cent (26,207), and then renting from the council (local authority) at 17 per cent (21,048).



Ownership with a mortgage or loan decreased by seven percentage points from 34 per cent (37,455) in 2001 to 27 per cent (33,152) in 2011.

Renting from the council decreased by four percentage points from 21 per cent (23,457) in 2001 to 17 per cent (21,048) in 2011. Renting from a private landlord or letting agency increased by nine percentage points from 12 per cent (12,958) in 2001 to 21 per cent (26,207) in 2011.

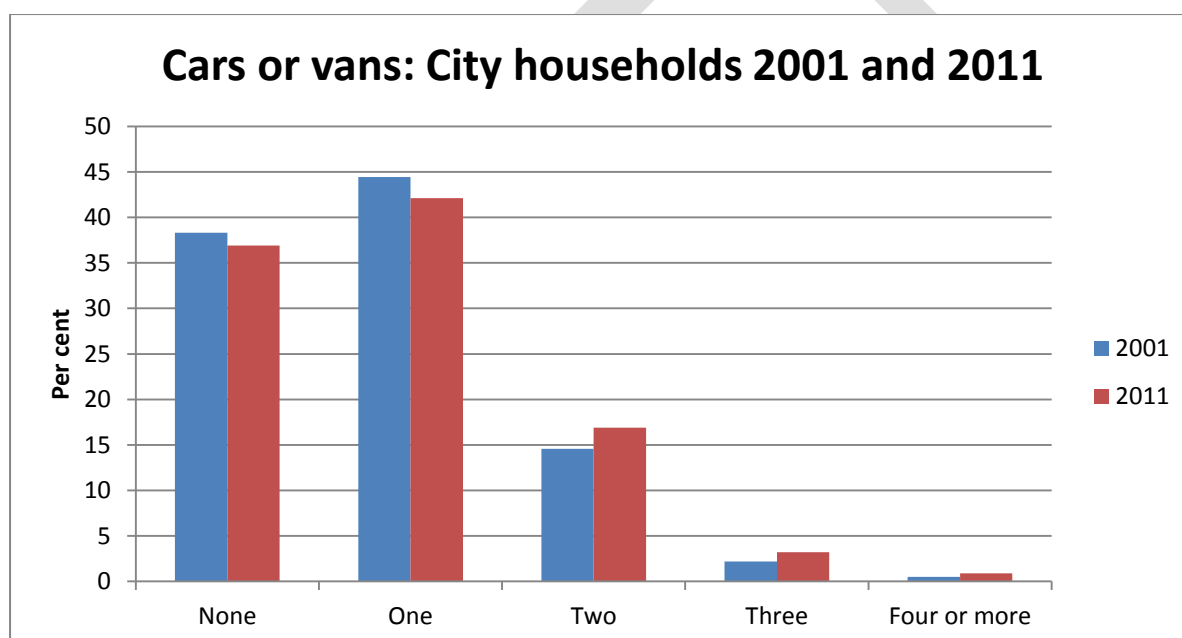
The decline in rental from the council is primarily due to the impact of the Right to Buy programme. In contrast the increase in renting from a private landlord or letting agency is in part due to the expansion of buy to let, the difficulty in obtaining a mortgage and the shortage of social housing in the city.

It is also worth noting that, since 2001, there has been an increase in renting from the 'other social rented' sector (from 7,600 in 2001 to 10,200 in 2011). This is mainly due to the fact that Registered Social landlords such as housing associations have been the principle developers of new social housing in the city during that time, although the council recently built its first new council housing for a number of years.

Access to a car or van

The number of cars and vans available to households in Leicester increased from 91,611 in 2001 to 110,395 in 2011. In 2001 there were on average 8 cars per 10 city households whereas in 2011 there were 9 cars per 10 city households.

The figure below shows that the percentage of city households with access to two, three, four or more cars or vans increased whilst the number with none or one decreased. This same pattern is also found at national and regional level.



Residents in communal establishments

The percentage of communal establishment residents in non-medical establishments, including student halls and the prison, increased by four percentage points from 66 per cent (4,016) in 2001 to 70 per cent (5,816) in 2011.

Further research

Census 2011 statistics, including those which are due for release in 2013, are enabling the council and partners to understand more about the wellbeing and resilience of Leicester's diverse communities and the kinds of mutual support and activity that might prevent future needs arising and help build people's capabilities to be productive and healthy citizens.

This report, and the others in this series, give some insight into how Leicester's people and communities are changing and how well households, families and neighbourhoods are coping in the face of the economic downturn. Further work is needed to develop these insights and identify ways in which Leicester's residents and households might best be enabled to get on and prosper.

The city council is working with partners to explore these issues further. A further set of reports about socio-economic inequalities and what works to reduce them will draw together the results of this work. These are planned for release in 2013.

DRAFT