Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough

Census 2021

Summary Report 2 – Health, Disability and Unpaid Care

**Second Phase of main statistics (December 2022)**

The second phase of main statistics from Census 2021 was published 15 December 2022 and provides key statistics for a number of census topics such as health, disability and unpaid care and housing and accommodation at Northern Ireland and Local Government District levels (LGD).

This report will provide census information for **Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough** for 2021. Where information is available, comparisons will be made with the 2011 census results to see how things have changed in the 10 year period since the last census. Some comparatives with other LGD’s will also be included.

The section on health, disability and unpaid care covers topics such as general health; long-term health problem or disability; type of long-term condition; and provision of unpaid care in relation to looking after others.

**General Health**

In total 175,687 people in the borough (80%), indicated they had ‘Good or very good’ general health. This proportion is unchanged from the 2011 census.

*Figure 1: General health of the usually resident population, 2011 and 2021, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon. Source: Census 2011 & Table MS-D01, 2021.*

Approximately 28,000 (12.8%) of the usually resident population reported they were of ‘fair’ general health while over 15,000 (6.9%) reported they had ‘bad or very bad’ general health. This proportion has increased from the 5.3% who indicated they had bad or very bad general health on Census Day 2011.

As presented in figures 2 and 3, we can see the standard of general health falls with age. Just 0.6% of people aged 0-14 had ‘Bad or very bad’ general health compared to 16.9% of people aged 65 and over. Conversely, 97.2% of people aged 0-14 had ‘Good or very good’ general health compared to just 50.4% of people aged 65 and over.

*Figure 2: Percentage of the population in ‘good or very good’ general health by broad age bands, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, 2021. Source: Table MS-D01, Census 2021.*

*Figure 3: Percentage of the population in ‘bad or very bad’ general health by broad age bands, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, 2021. Source: Table MS-D01, Census 2021.*

Census 2011 provides information on general health by age for two age categories 0-64 and 65+. A summary of this information with 2021 comparatives is presented in Table 1 below.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Good or Very Good** | | **Bad or Very Bad** | |
|  | **2011** | **2021** | **2011** | **2021** |
| 0-64 | 85.8% | 86.1% | 3.9% | 5.0% |
| 65+ | 44.9% | 50.4% | 14.1% | 16.9% |

*Table 1: Percentage of the population in ‘good or very good’ or ‘bad or very bad’ general health by broad age bands, 2011 and 2021, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon. Source: Census 2011 & Table MS-D01, 2021.*

In 2011, just 45% of the residents in the borough aged 65+ reported they were in good or very good health. By 2021, this proportion had increased to 50%. At the same time, the proportion of the population aged 65+ reporting they were in bad or very bad health has also increased by almost 3%. For those residents aged 0-64, the proportion in good or very good health has remained relatively unchanged while there has been an increase in the proportion who reported they were in bad or very bad health rising from 3.9% in 2011 to 5% in 2021.

*Figure 4: Percentage of the over 65 population in ‘bad or very bad’ general health by LGD, 2021. Source: Table MS-D01, Census 2021.*

Figure 4 presents the percentage of the over 65 population in bad or very health by LGD. At 16.9% Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough has one of the highest proportions of residents aged 65+ reporting to be in bad or very bad health but is below the NI average of 17.4%.

**Limiting long term health problem or disability**

On Census Day 2021, approximately 22% (48,726) of the population in the borough had a limiting long term health problem or disability. This has increased slightly from the 20% (39,861) who reported a limiting long term health problem or disability in Census 2011. All LGDs experienced an increase in the percentage of people who reported a long-term health problem or disability which limited day-to-day activities. NISRA report that these changes are in part a reflection of our ageing population.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2011 | 2021 |
| Antrim and Newtownabbey | 19.0% | 23.9% |
| Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon | 20.0% | 22.3% |
| Belfast | 23.5% | 26.7% |
| Causeway Coast and Glens | 20.2% | 25.6% |
| Derry and Strabane | 23.0% | 27.1% |
| Fermanagh and Omagh | 20.8% | 23.9% |
| Lisburn and Castlereagh | 18.3% | 21.7% |
| Mid and East Antrim | 20.0% | 25.1% |
| Mid Ulster | 19.4% | 21.2% |
| Newry, Mourne and Down | 19.9% | 22.9% |
| North Down and Ards | 20.1% | 25.3% |
| Northern Ireland | 20.7% | 24.3% |

*Table 2: Percentage of the population with a limiting long-term health problem or disability by LGD, 2011 & 2021. Source: Table CT0313NI, Census 2011 & Table MS-D02, Census 2021.*

Census 2021 results are disaggregated by broad age bands and the results show the prevalence of a limiting long-term health problem or disability is related to age[[1]](#footnote-1).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Population | With a limiting long term health problem or disability | Percentage |
| 0-14 | 45,420 | 2,759 | 6.1% |
| 15-39 | 67,700 | 7,367 | 10.9% |
| 40-64 | 70,547 | 18,715 | 26.5% |
| 65+ | 34,990 | 19,885 | 56.8% |
| All ages | **218,657** | **48,726** | **22.3%** |

*Table 3: Limiting long-term health problem or disability by age band, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Table MS-D02, Census 2021.*

As presented in table 3, almost 57% of the population aged 65+ in the borough had a limiting long-term health problem or disability compared to 6% of those aged between 0-14.

**Number of residents in a household with a limiting long-term health problem or disability**

Census 2021 also provides information on the number of residents in a household with a limiting long-term health problem or disability. In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, there are approximately 84,600 households of which approximately 11% have two or more residents with a limiting long-term health problem or disability while 32% have one resident with a limiting long-term health problem or disability (*Table MS-D03, Census 2021)*.

**Number of long-term health conditions**

On Census Day 2021, an estimated 69,000 (31.6%) residents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough reported that they had a long-term health condition. Of those, 16.8% has one long-term health condition while 3.7% had 4 or more long-term health conditions (*Table MS-D04, Census 2021)*.

**Type of long-term health condition**

On Census Day 2021, in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, the most prevalent conditions (whether solely or in combination with others) were ‘Long-term pain or discomfort’ (10.8%), ‘Mobility or dexterity difficulty that limits basic physical activities’ (10%) and ‘Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing’ (9.4%). The same conditions were the most prevalent in Northern Ireland overall.

The prevalence of different long-term health conditions in the borough is presented in Table 4.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Type of long-term health condition | Number with this condition | Percentage of population with this condition |
| Deafness or partial hearing loss | 11,298 | 5.2% |
| Blindness or partial sight loss | 3,532 | 1.6% |
| Mobility or dexterity difficulty that requires the use of a wheelchair | 2,936 | 1.3% |
| Mobility or dexterity difficulty that limits basic physical activities | 21,936 | 10.0% |
| Intellectual or learning disability | 1,794 | 0.8% |
| Learning difficulty | 5,509 | 2.5% |
| Autism or Asperger syndrome | 2,826 | 1.3% |
| Emotional, psychological or mental health condition | 15,884 | 7.3% |
| Frequent periods of confusion or memory loss | 3,814 | 1.7% |
| Long-term pain or discomfort | 23,528 | 10.8% |
| Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing | 20,482 | 9.4% |
| Other condition | 17,871 | 8.2% |

*Table 4: Type of long-term health conditions in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, 2021. Source: Tables MS-D05 – MS-D16, Census 2021.*

The prevalence of long-term conditions by broad age band is presented in Table 5 where the age band with the highest prevalence has been highlighted for each condition. The majority of conditions show a standard age-gradient[[2]](#footnote-2), however this is not the case for all listed conditions. The majority of persons with an intellectual or learning disability and those with Autism or Asperger syndrome tend to be aged between 0-14 while persons reporting emotional, psychological or mental health conditions tend to be aged between 40-64[[3]](#footnote-3).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Type of long-term health condition | 0-14 | 15-39 | 40-64 | 65+ | All Ages |
| Deafness or partial hearing loss | 0.5% | 1.0% | 4.5% | 20.7% | 5.2% |
| Blindness or partial sight loss | 0.4% | 0.5% | 1.3% | 5.9% | 1.6% |
| Mobility or dexterity difficulty that requires the use of a wheelchair | 0.3% | 0.3% | 1.1% | 5.1% | 1.3% |
| Mobility or dexterity difficulty that limits basic physical activities | 1.6% | 3.1% | 12.7% | 28.8% | 10.0% |
| Intellectual or learning disability | 1.1% | 1.0% | 0.6% | 0.4% | 0.8% |
| Learning difficulty | 3.4% | 3.8% | 1.6% | 0.7% | 2.5% |
| Autism or Asperger syndrome | 3.0% | 1.9% | 0.2% | 0.1% | 1.3% |
| Emotional, psychological or mental health condition | 0.9% | 7.5% | 11.5% | 6.4% | 7.3% |
| Frequent periods of confusion or memory loss | 0.1% | 0.4% | 1.5% | 7.0% | 1.7% |
| Long-term pain or discomfort | 0.5% | 3.8% | 15.8% | 27.3% | 10.8% |
| Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing | 4.4% | 6.5% | 10.9% | 18.4% | 9.4% |
| Other condition | 1.8% | 3.1% | 9.4% | 23.8% | 8.2% |

*Table 5: Type of long-term health conditions in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough by broad age band, 2021. Source: Tables MS-D05 – MS-D16, Census 2021.*

**Provision of unpaid care**

Census 2021 results show that approximately 12% of the population in the borough aged over 5 years old provide unpaid care. Of those providing unpaid care, 5.6% provide between 1-19 hours per week while 3.6% provide 50 or more hours per week.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Level of provision of unpaid care | Population aged 5 & over | Percentage |
| Does not provide unpaid care | 179,739 | 87.9% |
| Provides unpaid care | 24,741 | 12.1% |
| 1-19 hours unpaid care per week | 11,374 | 5.6% |
| 20-34 hours unpaid care per week | 2,717 | 1.3% |
| 35-49 hours unpaid care per week | 3,281 | 1.6% |
| 50 or more hours unpaid care per week | 7,369 | 3.6% |
| Total | 204,480 | 100.0% |

*Table 6: Level of provision of unpaid care in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, 2021. Source: Tables MS -D17, Census 2021.*

Provision of unpaid care can be further disaggregated by age and as we can see in Figure 5, those persons aged between 40 and 64 provided the highest level of unpaid care with roughly one in five persons in this age group providing unpaid care.

*Figure 5: Provision of unpaid care in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough by broad age band, 2021. Source: Tables MS -D17, Census 2021.*

In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, a total of 24,741 persons aged 5 and over reported that they provide unpaid care. Of these, 57% are aged between 40 and 64 while one quarter of those who provide unpaid care are aged 15-39. The census does not ask about who the respondents provide care for.

1. [Census 2021 Main statistics for Northern Ireland - Statistical bulletin - Health (nisra.gov.uk)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/system/files/statistics/census-2021-main-statistics-for-northern-ireland-phase-2-statistical-bulletin-health-disability-and-unpaid-care.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [Census 2021 Main statistics for Northern Ireland - Statistical bulletin - Health (nisra.gov.uk)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/system/files/statistics/census-2021-main-statistics-for-northern-ireland-phase-2-statistical-bulletin-health-disability-and-unpaid-care.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. It is important to note that the statistics presented her relate to self-reported health conditions. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)