

Legal partnership status and living arrangements in Oxford

As part of the latest Census 2021 release, the ONS has released figures on legal partnership status and living arrangements. Legal partnership status classifies an individual according to their legal marital or civil partnership status. For Census 2021 the question was divided in two stages. The first stage collects their legal status. The second stage of the question now includes figures for both opposite and same sex marriages and registered civil partnerships¹. In terms of living arrangements, this question helps to identify cohabiting habits and experiences associated with different arrangements and living patterns. The question remains divided into a person living in a couple or not. However, for Census 2021 it includes more variables on same-sex arrangements (married and cohabiting). More information on this and other indicators can be access via the [Census 2021 homepage](#).

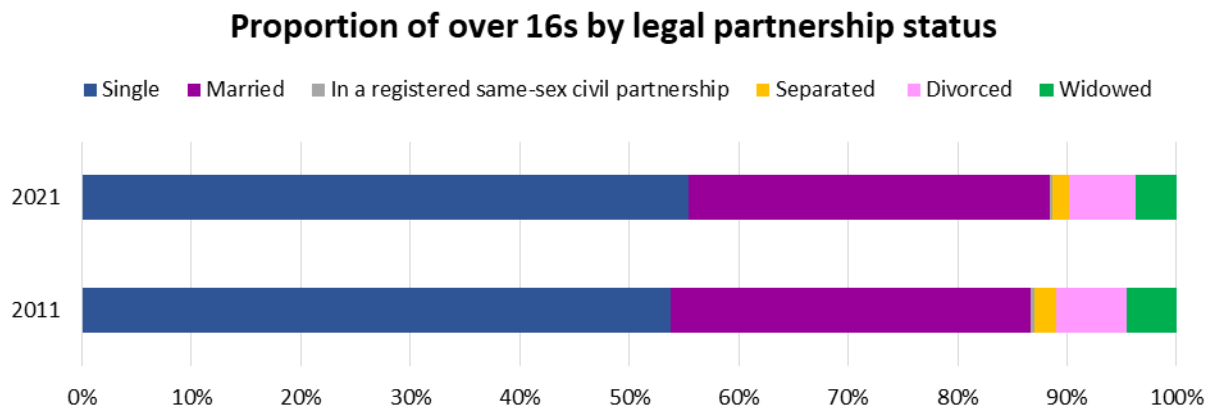
Key findings:

- Census figures on legal partnership show that the proportion of single residents has increased by 1% since last Census up from 54% to 55% of residents aged 16 and over.
- Across other partnership types there has been little or no change, with the same proportion of residents married (33%), in a registered same-sex civil partnership (0.3%) or divorced (6%) as there were in 2011. There is a very slight decrease in the percentage of residents who are separated (down from 2% to 1%) and those who are widowed (down from 5% to 4% of the 16 plus population).
- Out of those residents who are married, just under 1% are married to the same sex (414 residents in total) and 99% are married to the opposite sex. This is about in line with the national average.
- For those within the category 'registered in a civil partnership', 44% are with the opposite sex while 56% are with the same sex. The total number of residents of Oxford who are in a civil partnership is 344.
- In regards to living arrangements, the number of residents aged 16 years and older living as a couple in a household is 48% with the other 52% not living as a couple. This has seen little change since 2011 when the proportion of those not living as a couple was 53%.
- Figures on living arrangements show that for those living in a couple, 73% were married or in a civil partnership to the opposite sex, 1% to the same sex, 0.2% were separated but still married or in a civil partnership, 25% were cohabiting with the opposite sex, and 2% cohabiting with the same sex.
- The percentage of couples who are cohabiting but not married or in a civil partnership has remained fairly stable since 2011 and is up only 1% from 12% to 13%.

¹ Act 2019 has enabled eligible opposite-sex couples to form a civil partnership from December 2019, and the first of these took place on 31 December 2019. [Civil partnerships in England and Wales: 2019](#).

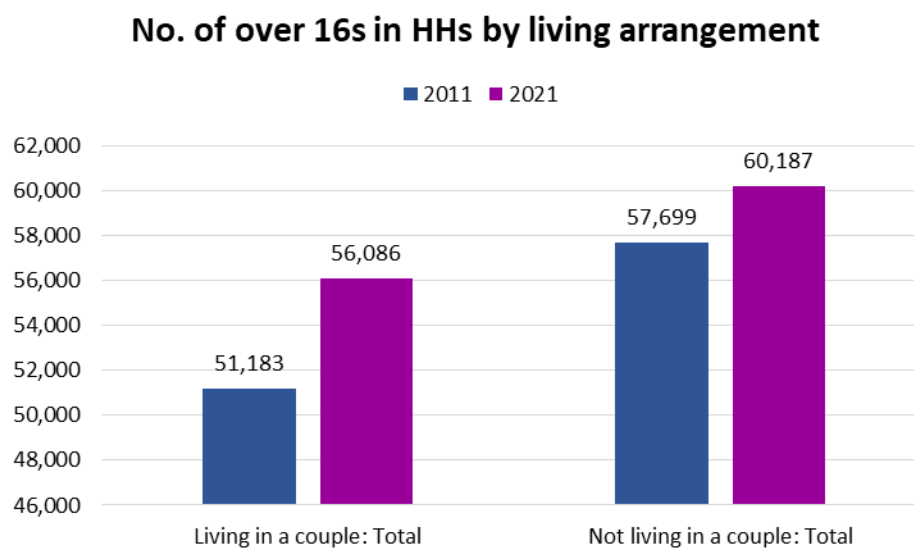
- For those not living in a couple, 74% are single, 5% are married or in a registered partnership, 3% are separated, 11% are divorced or in a legally-dissolved partnership, and 8% are widowed or surviving partner of a civil partnership.

Figure 1. Legal partnership status in Oxford in 2011 and 2021.



Source: Census 2021 - ONS, 2022

Figure 2. Living arrangement in Oxford in 2011 and 2021.



Source: Census 2021 - ONS, 2022

Sources:

[Demography and migration data, England and Wales: Census 2021 - ONS, 2021](#)

Produced by:

Business Intelligence Unit

Oxford City Council

November 2022