

Health, disability, and unpaid care in Oxford

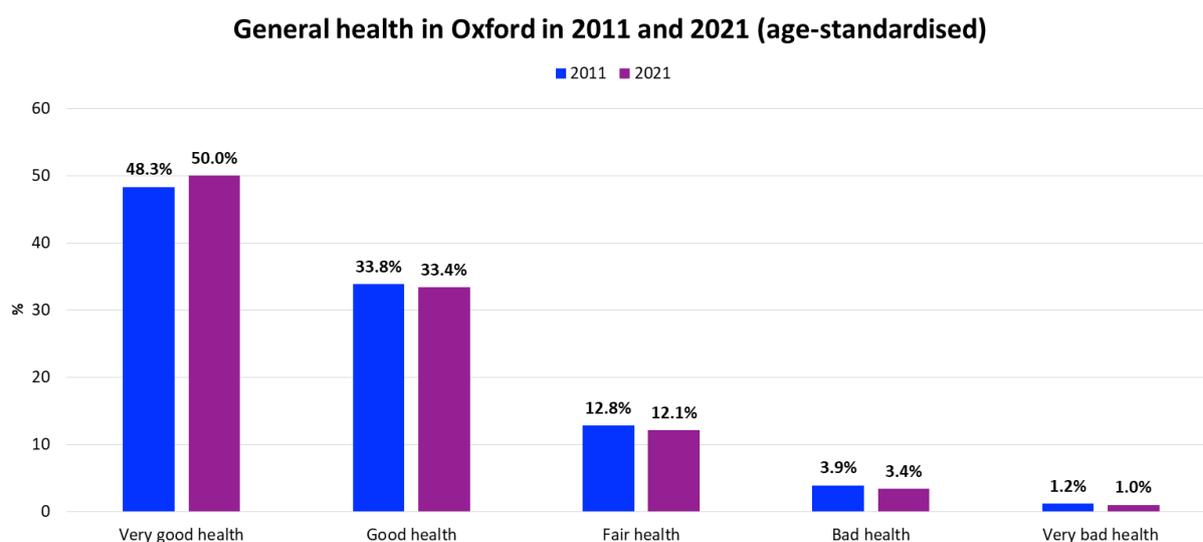
As part of the latest Census 2021 release on Health, disability, and unpaid care statistics, the ONS has made available data and supporting information on this topic. The Business Intelligence Unit (BIU) has produced a summary report with the latest Census figures. This summary report will explore Census 2021 figures on general health, disability, number of disabled people in households, and provision of unpaid care in Oxford compared to the county and national averages and Census 2011 data where relevant. For more information on this topic, please visit [Health, disability, and unpaid care: Census 2021 in England and Wales](#).

Key findings:

- In terms of the general health, the majority of respondents selected *Very good health* (54.8%), followed by *Good health* (32.2%) with a combined total of 87.0%. Age-standardised figures¹ on health show that Oxford has a combined *Very good health/Good health* of 83.4%. This is lower than Oxfordshire's average (85.5%), but higher than England's average (81.7%). Using age-standardised data to compare to the previous Census, the largest changes were recorded in the proportion of Oxford residents in *Very good health* (+1.7 percentage points) and *Fair health* (-0.7pp).
- In terms of number of disabled people in household, the proportion of *1 person disabled under the Equality Act in household* in Oxford (23.1%) is above Oxfordshire (22.5%), but below the national average (25.4%). 5.9% of households (3,281 households) in Oxford have 2 or more people disabled under the Equality Act, this is above Oxfordshire and below England averages at 5.3% and 6.6% respectively.
- In terms of disability, the majority of Oxford residents' day-to-day activities are not limited (85.5%). Age-standardised figures show that this falls to 83.6%, this is lower than the county average (85.2%) but higher than the national average (82.3%). Age-standardised figures on disability show that the proportion of those who have been recorded as *day-to-day activities limited a lot* in Oxford (6.2%) is above the county average (5.5%) but below the national average (7.5%). Compared to the previous Census, the biggest change in Oxford was recorded in those whose *day-to-day activities are limited a lot* (-1.6pp), followed by *day-to-day activities not limited* (+0.9pp).
- In terms of the provision of unpaid care in Oxford, there was a decrease in the number of residents aged 5+ who provide unpaid care (-1,435) from 11,727 in 2011 to 10,290 in 2021. Of those providing unpaid care, age-standardised figures show that the largest group was made up of those who *provide 19 hours or less of unpaid care a week* (4.3%), this is similar to England's average at 4.4%. Compared to Census 2011, the biggest change was recorded in the group *Provides 19 hours or less of unpaid care a week* (-2.9pp) followed by *Does not provide weekly unpaid care* (+2.4pp).

¹ Age-standardisation allows for comparisons between populations, as well as over time, that may contain proportions of different ages, represented as a percentage. – ONS, 2023.

Figure 1. General health in Oxford in 2011 and 2021 (age-standardised).



Source: Census 2021 - ONS, 2023

Table 1. Disability in households in Oxford, Oxfordshire, and England in 2021.

Number of disabled people in household	Oxford	%	Oxfordshire	%	England	%
Total: All households	55,240	100.0	288,108	100.0	23,436,085	100.0
No people disabled under the Equality Act in household	39,213	71.0	207,898	72.2	15,928,198	68.0
1 person disabled under the Equality Act in household	12,746	23.1	64,840	22.5	5,950,081	25.4
2 or more people disabled under the Equality Act in household	3,281	5.9	15,370	5.3	1,557,806	6.6

Source: Census 2021 - ONS, 2023

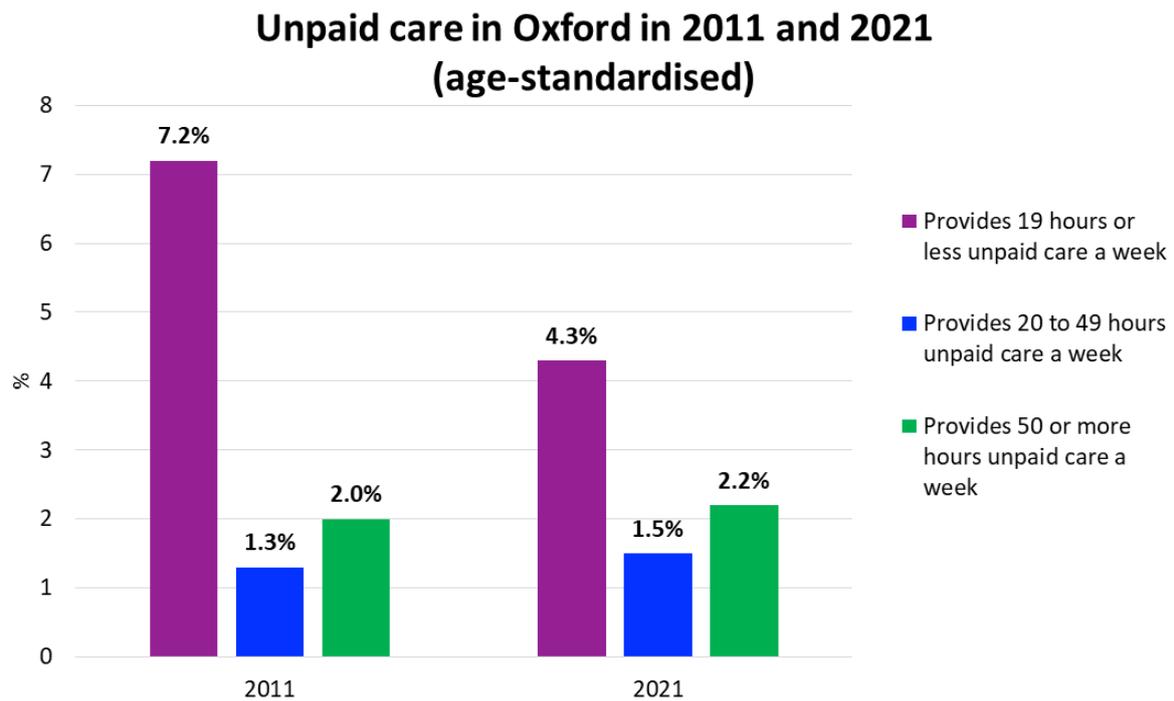
Table 2. Limiting disability² in Oxford in 2011 and 2021 (age-standardised).

Disability	2011 %	2021 %	Change pp
Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a lot	7.8	6.2	-1.6
Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a little	9.6	10.2	0.6
Not disabled under the Equality Act	82.7	83.6	0.9

Source: Census 2021 - ONS, 2023

² The base for this indicator includes all usual residents. Those under *Day-to-day activities not limited* in 2011 include residents with and without disabilities. For 2021, a new category called *Not disabled under the Equality Act* has been created.

Figure 2. Unpaid care in Oxford in 2011 and 2021 (age-standardised)³.



Source: Census 2021 - ONS, 2023

Sources:

[Health, disability, and unpaid care: Census 2021 in England and Wales, ONS, 2023](#)

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³ This chart does not include the proportion of *People who do not provide weekly unpaid care*. For 2011, this was 89.5%, and for 2021, 92.0% of residents aged 5 years or over.