

Census 2021 Results: *Health, Disability and Unpaid Care*

Southwark Public Health Division
Children and Adults Services

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This profile presents key findings on Health, Disability and Unpaid Care in Southwark at the time of the 2021 Census

BACKGROUND

The census is a survey that happens every 10 years and gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales.

- The last census was conducted on Sunday 21 March 2021, and collected information on a range of themes, including:

Demography & Migration	Ethnicity, Identity, Language & Religion	Health & Disability	Housing
Work & Travel	Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity	Education	UK Armed Forces Veterans

- Results of the census are being released in a phased manner:
 - 28 June 2022: Headline population figures for local authorities
 - Phase 1 - Autumn-Winter 2022: Topic profiles for census themes
 - Phase 2 - Date to be confirmed: More detailed data becomes available

This profile focuses on **Health, Disability and Unpaid Care** in the borough, and forms part of a suite of documents that profile the Southwark results of the 2021 Census. Further profiles will be released as new data becomes available.

Reference

1. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

In the 2021 Census, 86% of Southwark residents reported their health as 'good' or 'very good'

KEY HEADLINES

- In the 2021 Census, **56%** of Southwark residents reported their health as 'Very good', with a further 30% of residents reporting their health as 'Good'.
- Over **42,000** residents in Southwark (**14%**) had a disability at the time of the 2021 Census.
- Over **33,000** households had a least one person with a disability, as defined in the Equality Act 2010, equivalent to **25%** of households in the borough.
- Southwark had a lower than average proportion of residents who provide unpaid care (**6%**) compared to London (**7%**) or England (**9%**).
- The hours of care being provided by those who do provide unpaid care increased between 2011 and 2021, with nearly **5,000** residents providing 50 or more hours of unpaid care per week in 2021.
- The 2021 Census was conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic, which may have had effects on people's health and their perception of their health.

Reference

1. Health, disability, and unpaid care: Census 2021 in England and Wales, Office for National Statistics. 2023. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/healthdisabilityandunpaidcarecensus2021inenglandandwales>

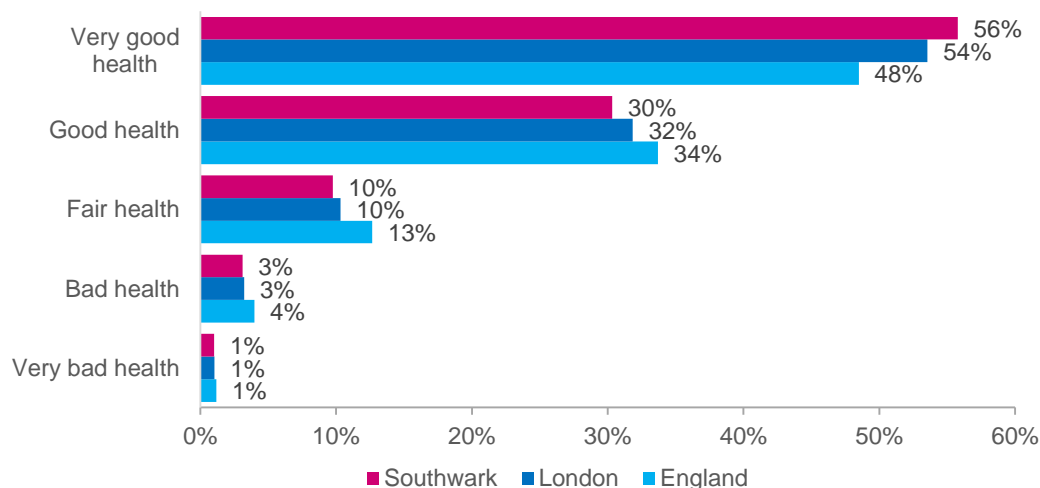
In the 2021 Census, 86% of Southwark residents reported their health as 'good' or 'very good'

GENERAL HEALTH

As part of the 2021 Census, respondents were asked to assess their own health, recording it as either 'very good', 'good', 'fair', 'bad' or 'very bad'.

- The figures for Southwark are comparable to London, with the majority of residents feeling their health is 'very good'.
- 56% of Southwark residents reported their health as 'very good'; a further 30% reported their health as 'good'.
- 4% of Southwark residents reported their health as 'bad' or 'very bad' representing over 12,500 residents.
- This is comparable to the 2011 Census, when 84% of Southwark residents reported their health as 'good' or 'very good' and 5% of residents reported their health as 'bad' or 'very bad'.

Figure 1: Self-reported health status of respondents, 2021



Reference

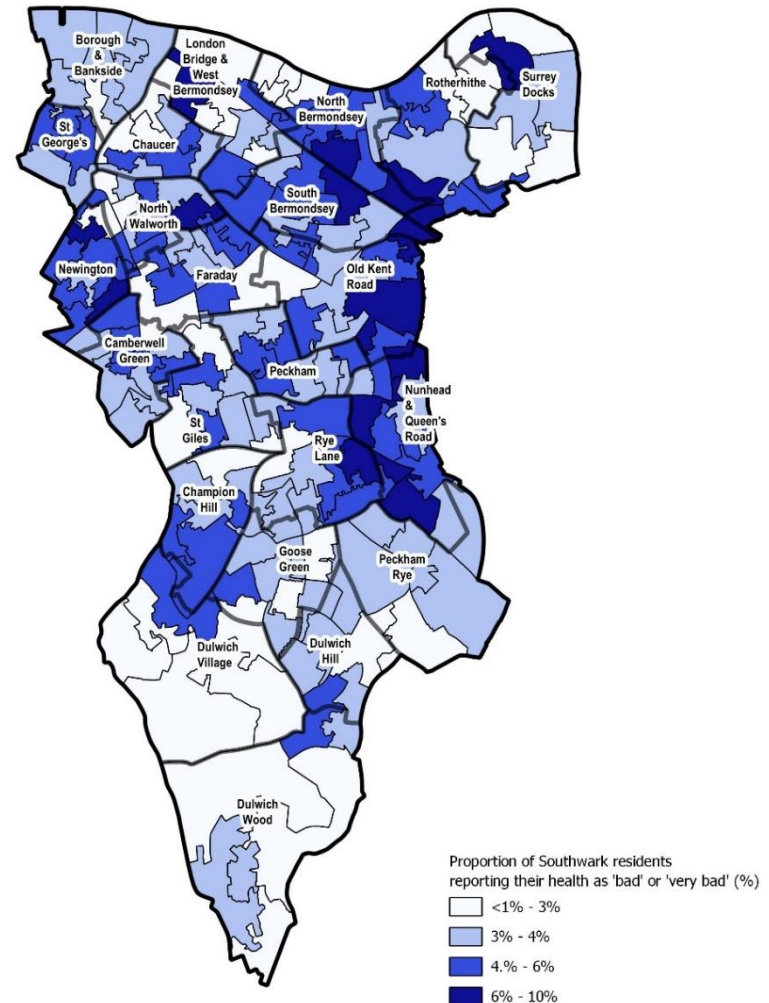
1. General health, England and Wales: Census 2021, Office for National Statistics. 2023. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/bulletins/generalhealthenglandandwales/census2021> Slide 4

Areas in the east of the borough have higher proportions of residents reporting 'bad' or 'very bad' health

GENERAL HEALTH

Areas around Surrey Docks, Bermondsey, Old Kent Road, Nunhead and Queen's Road and Rye Lane, had amongst the highest levels of reported poor health.

- Between 6%-10% of residents in these areas reported bad or very bad health.
- Areas in Newington and North Walwoth also had areas with high proportions of bad health.
- In contrast, the south of the borough had a comparatively low proportion of residents reporting bad or very bad health, ranging from **0-4%** in most areas of Dulwich.



Reference

1. General health, England and Wales: Census 2021, Office for National Statistics. 2023.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/bulletins/generalhealthenglandandwales/census2021>

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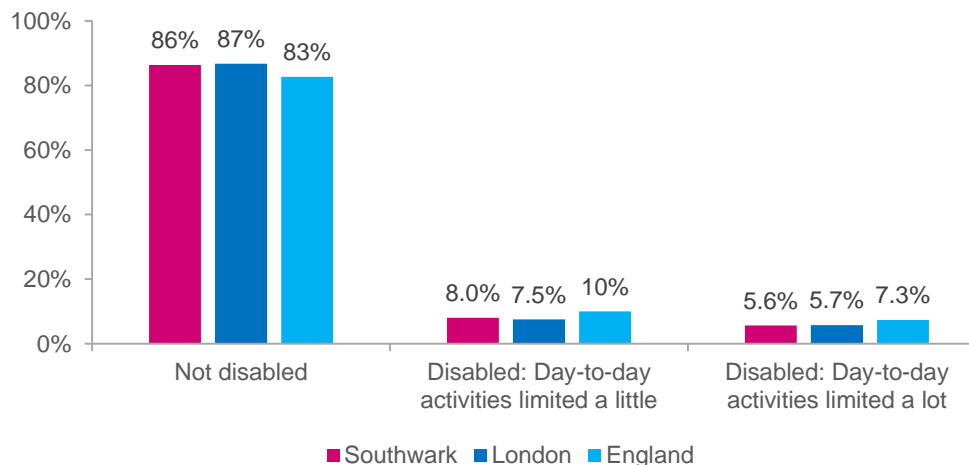
Over 42,000 residents in Southwark were disabled at the time of the 2021 Census

DISABILITY

At the time of the 2021 Census, 14% of Southwark residents reported being disabled based on the definitions used in the Equality Act (2010), a similar proportion to London and England.

- Of those in Southwark who reported as disabled, 41% reported their day-to-day activities being limited by a lot.
- There was an increase of 3,000 disabled residents between 2011 and 2021.
- The 'not disabled' category includes those who have no long-term physical or mental health conditions, and those who have long-term conditions but which do not affect their day-to-day activities.
- 18,000 residents in Southwark responded as having long-term conditions that do not affect their day to day activities.

Figure 2: Percentage of residents who are classed as disabled under the 2010 Equality Act, 2021



Reference

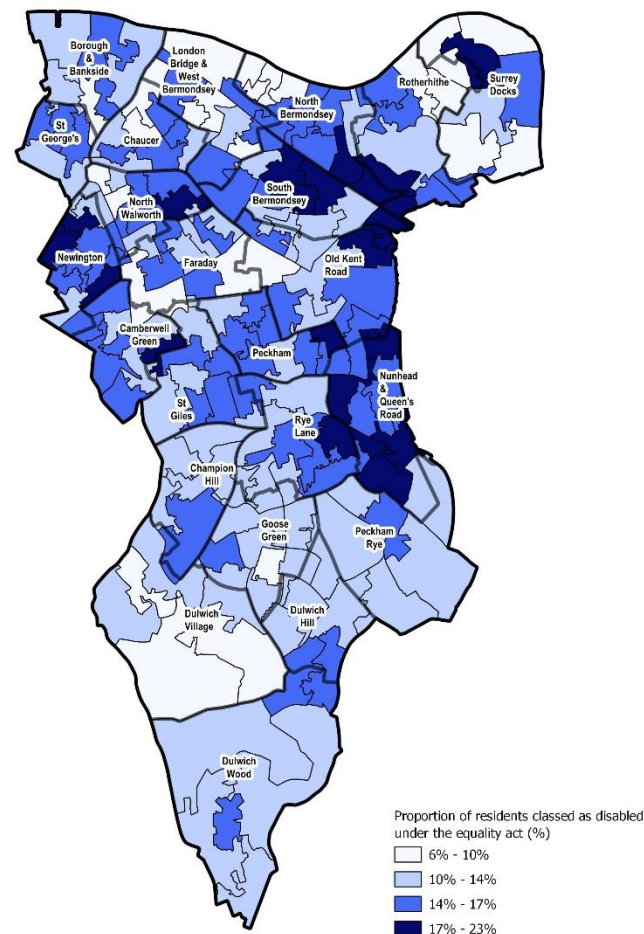
1. Disability, England and Wales: Census 2021, Office for National Statistics. 2023. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/bulletins/disabilityenglandandwales/census2021>

Areas with high levels of disability largely correlate with areas with high levels of bad or very bad health

DISABILITY

The neighbourhoods with higher proportions of disability were around Old Kent Road, South Bermondsey and Nunhead & Queen's Road, where in some areas, 17–23% of residents were disabled.

- Areas in Surrey Docks, Newington and North Walworth also had high disability rates.
- There were lower rates of disability around London Bridge and Dulwich Village (6-14%).



Reference

1. Disability, England and Wales: Census 2021, Office for National Statistics. 2023.
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/bulletins/disabilityenglandandwales/census2021>

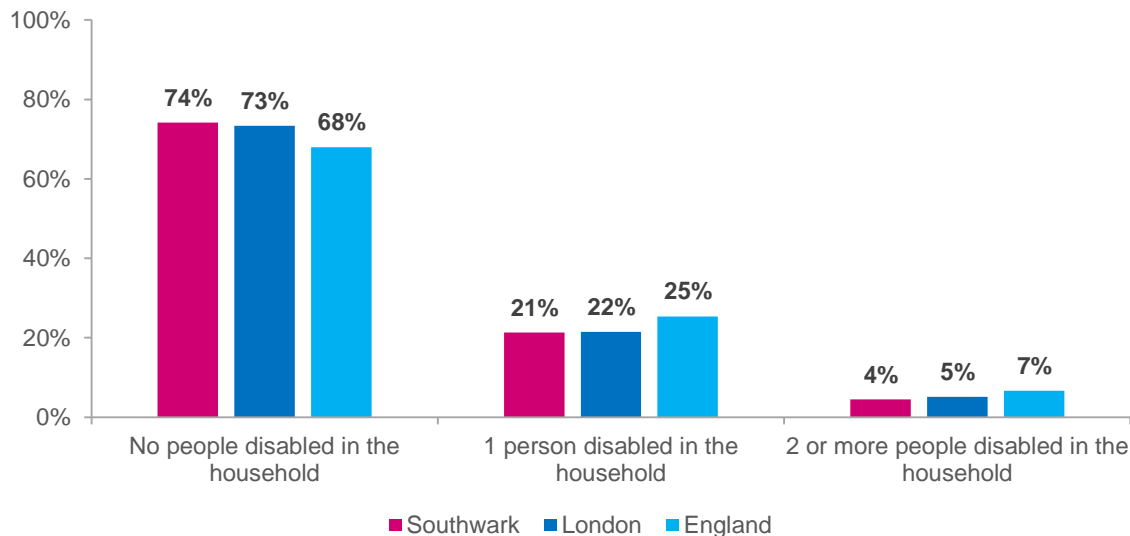
In 2021, over 33,000 households in Southwark reported as having at least one person with a disability

DISABILITY IN HOUSEHOLDS

A quarter (25%) of all households in Southwark reported having a someone with a disability; 21% of households had 1 disabled member, 4% had 2 or more disabled members.

- Southwark had a similar proportion of households with no disabled members compared to London, and a slightly higher proportion of households with no disabled members compared to England.
- The proportion of Southwark households with disabled members in 2021 is broadly comparable to those reported in the 2011 Census.

Figure 3: Percentage of households with disabled members, 2021



Reference

1. Disability, England and Wales: Census 2021, Office for National Statistics. 2023.
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/bulletins/disabilityenglandandwales/census2021>

Over 18,000 Southwark residents provide some level of unpaid care, equivalent to 6% of the population

UNPAID CARE

At the time of the 2021 Census, 6% of Southwark's resident population provided some level of unpaid care, equating to over 18,000 residents.

- Levels are comparable to London and England, where 7% and 9% of the respective populations provide some level of unpaid care.
- The proportion of residents providing care is similar to proportions in 2011.
- The majority of unpaid carers provided 19 hours or less of care per week, across Southwark, London and England.

Figure 4: Percentage of residents providing unpaid care, 2021

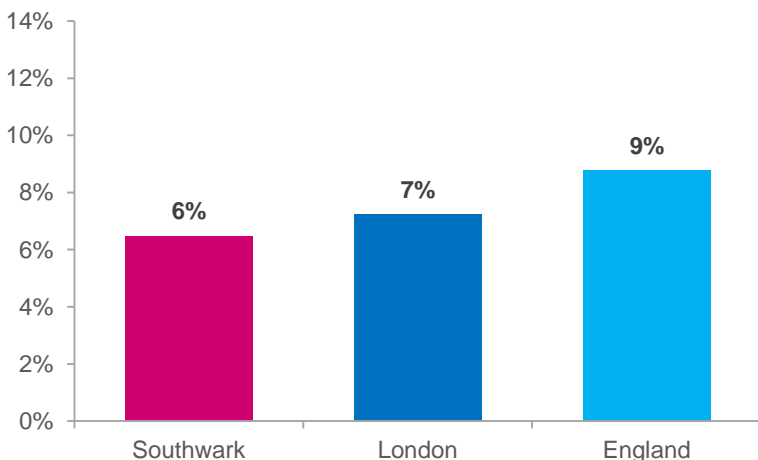
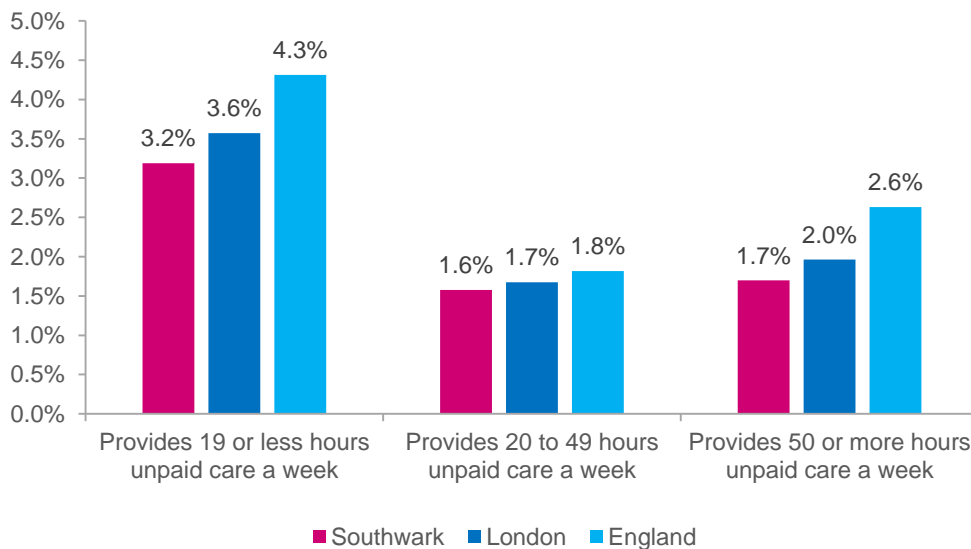


Figure 5: Hours of unpaid care provided, 2021



Reference

1. Unpaid care, England and Wales: Census 2021, Office for National Statistics. 2023.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/bulletins/unpaidcareenglandandwales/census2021>

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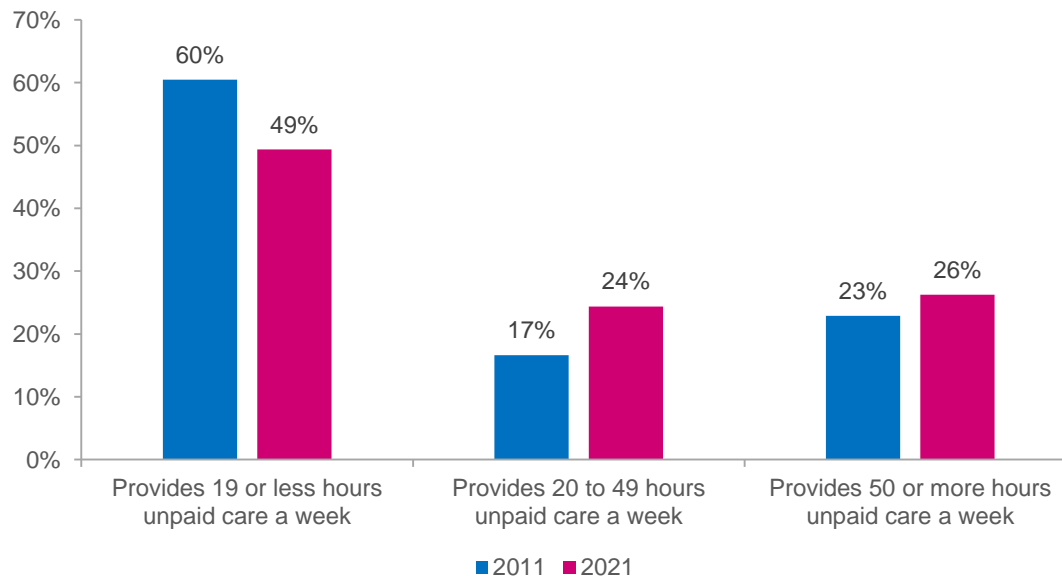
The number of hours of unpaid care provided by carers across Southwark has increased since 2011

UNPAID CARE

Between 2011 and 2021, there was little change in the proportion of Southwark's population who provide unpaid care, however, the amount of hours of care provided by unpaid carers increased.

- The amount of hours dedicated to unpaid care is shifting, with the proportion of carers providing 20 to 49 hours or 50+ hours of care increasing since 2011.
- Around a quarter (26%) of unpaid carers in Southwark provided more than 50 hours of care per week, according to the 2021 census, equivalent to nearly 5,000 residents.

Figure 6: Percentage of Southwark residents providing different hours of unpaid care, as a proportion of those who provide any level of unpaid care, 2011 and 2021



Reference

1. Unpaid care, England and Wales: Census 2021, Office for National Statistics. 2023.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/bulletins/unpaidcareenglandandwales/census2021>

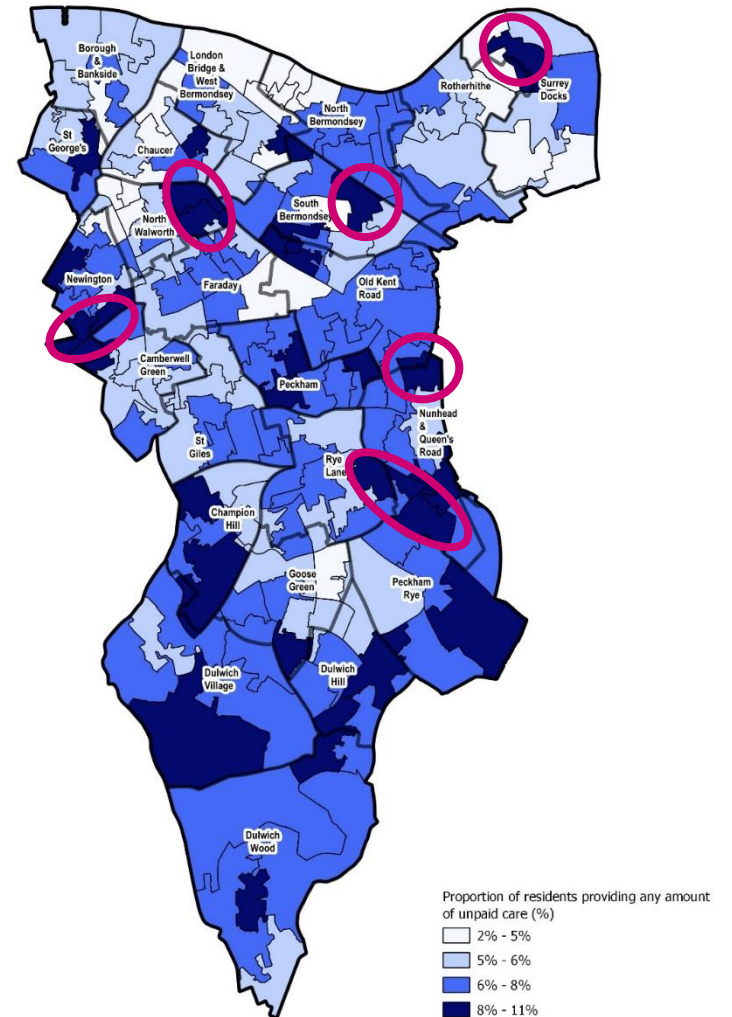
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In some areas across the borough, up to 11% of residents provided some level of unpaid care in 2021

UNPAID CARE

There are neighbourhoods with large numbers of residents providing unpaid care located across the borough.

- The proportion of residents providing unpaid care ranged from 2% to 11% across Southwark.
- Areas where a high proportion of residents provide unpaid care are distributed across the borough.
- Some, but not all, of these areas corresponded with those with high rates of reported poor health and disability.
- Areas with high rates of bad or very bad health, disability and unpaid care are highlighted on the map.



Reference

1. Unpaid care, England and Wales: Census 2021, Office for National Statistics. 2023. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/bulletins/unpaidcareenglandandwales/census2021>

Figures on good health reduce slightly when factoring in Southwark's younger population

AGE STANDARDISATION

Age-standardised data was published with 2021 Census data for health, disability and unpaid care. This allows comparison between different areas such as Southwark, London and England without influence from the differing age profiles of their populations.

General Health:

- Using non age-standardised proportions, Southwark residents who reported their health as 'very good' is broadly comparable to London and slightly higher than England; **56%** in Southwark compared to **54%** in London and **48%** in England.
- However when we adjust for age, this figure falls to **49%** in Southwark and London, in line with the England average.
- This suggests that the differences seen between Southwark residents and England residents reporting very good health is largely due to Southwark having a younger population.

Disability:

- Disability data remains similar when age-standardised. Un-standardised data shows that **14%** of Southwark's population have a disability. This rises slightly to **18%** when using age-standardised proportions, suggesting that Southwark has a slightly higher than expected number of disabled residents, despite having a comparatively young population. Both London and England also see a slight increase in proportion of disabled residents as a result of age standardisation.

Unpaid care:

- There is little difference between the age-standardised and non-age standardised data for unpaid care. The proportion of residents in Southwark providing 50+ hours of unpaid care rises slightly using age-standardised proportions, in line with the London average. The proportion of residents providing unpaid care changes from **6%**, **7%** and **9%** in Southwark, London and England respectively to **7%**, **8%** and **9%**.

Reference

1. General health, England and Wales: Census 2021, Office for National Statistics. 2023.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/bulletins/generalhealthenglandandwales/census2021>

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Results from the 2021 Census need to be considered alongside a number of influencing factors

CONSIDERATIONS

- **The census was taken during the COVID-19 pandemic**, with respondents required to answer questions based on their place of residence on Census Day. At this time many COVID-19 restrictions were still in place.
- There is likely to have been **substantial population movement and change in the period since the March 2021 Census**. Notably, students returning to campus' after a time of remote learning, a return of workers in hospitality and entertainment sectors, and a return of people who left London temporarily during the pandemic.
- As with all self-completion questionnaires, some will have **contained incomplete, missing or incorrect information** about an individual or household. However, ONS will have taken steps to correct these inconsistencies.
- The 2021 Census was conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic, which may have had effects on people's health and their perception of their health.

References

1. Quality and methodology information (QMI) for Census 2021. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>
2. 2021 Census: First release. Greater London Authority. 2022.

Find out more at
southwark.gov.uk/jsna

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