

The Berkshire Unitary Authorities

Joint Strategic Planning Unit

2001 Census Key Statistics: Household variables

Bracknell Forest Borough Council | Reading Borough Council |
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Wokingham Unitary

GREATER **LONDON** AUTHORITY

2001 Census Key Statistics: Household variables

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Summary

- On 13 February ONS released the second major set of output from the 2001 Census, following the local authority level populations by age and gender on 30 September 2002. The Key Statistics are a set of 25 tables containing about 500 univariate variables at local authority level. This Briefing concentrates upon those variables relating to households and household spaces.
- The number of households in Berkshire on Census day (29 April) 2001 was 315.1 thousand. This is an increase of 9.0% from the 289 thousand estimated at mid-1991 and compares to the total at April 2001 of 309.9 thousand as estimated in Population in Berkshire: 2001 Review, and the ODPM mid-2001 estimate of 328 thousand.
- The population resident in private households was 781.0 thousand and the average household size in 2001 was 2.48. This is a reduction from 2.58 at mid-1991 (based upon the 1991 Census) and compares to 2.53 as estimated in Population in Berkshire: 2001 Review.
- The number of residents in communal establishments at Census 2001 was 19 thousand. The total compares to the 1991 Census total of 10.5 thousand.
- Of Berkshire's 323.7 thousand household spaces, 7.3 thousand were vacant (2.3%) and a further 1.2 thousand (0.4%) were not used as a primary residence (ie they were second homes or used for holiday accommodation). The total number of household spaces compares with an estimate of 322.6 thousand dwellings based on the 1991 Census updated by the JSPU PACS data up to the end of March 2001.
- In 1991 the county had a crude surplus of household spaces over households of 14.3 thousand - about 4.9%. The 2001 Census shows that the crude surplus of household spaces over households is reduced to 8.6 thousand - 2.7%.
- Household type definitions used in the Key Statistics are not directly comparable with those used as standard in ODPM household projections. Some approximations have had to be made, but these show that the number of married couple households declined by 13 thousand since 1991 while cohabiting couples increased by 15 thousand. Lone parent households also increased by 4 thousand, 2+ person non-family households by 4 thousand and one-person households by 16 thousand.

Population and Households

In September 2002 ONS released the 2001 Census day population estimates for local authorities. On 13 February ONS released the second major set of output: 500 univariate variables for each local authority. More detailed structural analyses at borough level are due to be released in April/May.

Table 1 shows the basic numbers of residents in communal establishments and private households, total households and average household size in each borough. The total population of the former county of Berkshire on Census day 2001 was 800.1 thousand. The latest output shows that 19.1 thousand people were resident in communal establishments - prisons, barracks, hotels, hostels, hospitals, nursing homes, care homes, children's homes, student halls of residence, etc - including about 1.3 thousand staff and families of staff.

The analysis of type of establishment shows that 13.4 thousand persons were resident in 'other establishments'. This category only excludes medical and care establishments (4.5 thousand) and therefore includes all communal student accommodation.

Berkshire had 2.39% of its population resident in communal establishments - far higher than the England and Wales average of 1.80%.

In 1991 the county had 10.5 thousand residents in communal establishments, including 1.7 thousand staff and their families. 5.6 thousand were resident in medical and care homes and all other establishments accounted for only 3.2 thousand. The large rise in residents in 'other establishments' cannot be analysed at present, but the new instructions to include students at term-time address may be a significant factor.

There were 781.0 thousand residents in 315.1 thousand private households.

The number of households is significantly higher than had been expected when compared with the projection of 309.9 thousand in Population in Berkshire: 2001 Review, but is much lower than the ODPM estimate of 328 thousand using the ONS mid-2001 population estimates.

A consequence of the high number of households is the relatively low average household size (ahs). For Berkshire the figure of 2.48 compares to 2.53 as estimated in Population in Berkshire: 2001 Review. Average household size is highest in Slough (2.63) and the lowest in Windsor and Maidenhead (2.39), but all authorities are above the England and Wales average (2.36)

Households by Type

Tables 2 shows households by the basic household types available in the Key Statistics. Table 3 converts these - as far as possible - to the five types of household used as a standard in household projections and estimates prepared by the ODPM.

In Table 2 an indication is given as to how the Census categories relate to the standard five types used in household projections. There are two Census categories that are split between two or more main 'projection' categories.

- 'One family households containing all pensioners' may be either married couples or cohabiting couples. There may also be a very few cases of lone parent families with non-dependent children (aged over retirement age) - ie 2+ person non-family households - this possibility has been ignored.
- 'Other households with dependent children' are essentially households with more than one family. In these households the 'representative' family could either be a married couple, cohabiting couple or lone parent. Each of these households will contain at least one 'concealed' household.

The married couple household is the dominant Census category accounting for 40.6% of all Berkshire households and up to 48.7% in Wokingham.

One-person households (26.6%) form the second largest category. These are more predominant in Reading (30.1%) where they are almost on a par with married couples.

Cohabiting couples form 9.5% of all households while lone parent families form 4.8%. Only in Windsor and Maidenhead are cohabiting couples below the national average, while all authorities are below the national average for lone parent households.

Other households (with dependent children) tend to be households with more than one family. The 8.3 thousand households in this category account for 2.6% of the total number. Only Slough (5.6%) and Reading (2.9%) are above the national average.

The other households (ie 2+person non-family households) are a definitional mix of lone parents with only non-dependent children, gay couples and groups of unrelated or related persons (eg

