

Census 2021 – Phase 1, First release: Population Estimates

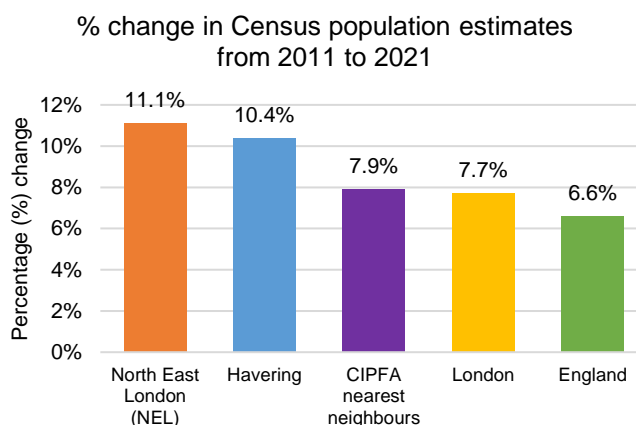
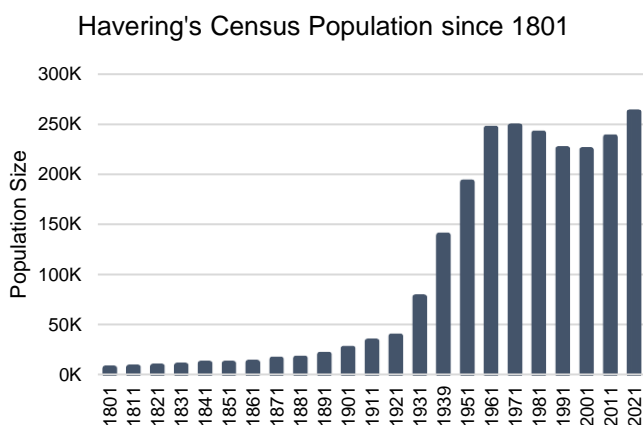
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Summary

- The recorded population in Havering has increased in the last decade by 24,800 (10.4%), from around 237,200 in 2011 to 262,000 in 2021.
- The biggest growth has been seen in 25 to 39 year olds (an increase of 26.5%) and young children, with the 0-4 age group in Havering seeing the second highest growth of all local authorities in the country.
- Havering continues to have a high proportion of residents aged over 65 (17.6%). This is the second highest proportion in London and only marginally lower than Bromley's figure of 17.7%.
- Within the 65+ population, the rate of growth for females is a lot lower than that for males and growth in this age group overall has slowed when compared to other local authorities.
- There were 101,300 households recorded in Havering on Census day; an increase of 4,100 (4.2%) since 2011.
- The response rate to the Census in Havering was 98%, an increase from 95% in the 2011 Census.

Population Change



On Census Day, 21 March 2021, the size of the usual resident population in Havering was 262,000; the largest population ever recorded through a census in Havering. The population of Havering has grown by approximately 24,800 (10.4%) since the 2011 Census, when it was 237,232. The growth in Havering is higher than our nearest statistical neighbours (7.9%), London (7.7%) and England (6.6%) but lower than the North East London (NEL) region (11.1%).

Adults aged 65+

The main headline from the Census nationally is that the trend of an ageing population has continued, with more people than ever before in the older age groups. Over one-sixth (18.6%, 11.1 million) of the population in 2021 were aged 65 years and over, up from 16.4% (9.2 million) in 2011.

The story in Havering, which already had a large older population, is slightly different. Here, the 65+ population has grown by only 9.3%; the 5th lowest growth recorded nationally. Despite this, Havering still has the second largest proportion of older people aged 65+ (17.6%) in London, only marginally behind Bromley (17.7%).

Difference in rates of growth for Males and Females aged 65+

In Havering the number of males aged 65+ has increased by 15.5%, which is only slightly lower than the increase for London (17.4%) but significantly lower than England (23.8%). The relative growth of the male 65+ population in Havering is also in line with other data sources.

Male life expectancy has increased in the last 10 years but it is not drastically different to the increase also seen in female life expectancy. Whilst the larger growth in aged 65+ males when compared to 65+ females is also a trend for London and England, the gender difference is significantly greater for Havering. The growth of the female aged 65+ demographic in Havering was just 4.8%, which is considerably lower than the growth in London (13.8%) and England (17.1%).

During the quality assurance phase of the Census, Havering fed back a concern that our communal establishments figure appeared low given the number of care homes and presence of a major hospital in the borough. The pandemic may have impacted on the ability of staff in such settings to prioritise Census completion and local data indicates that if this were the case, older females may be unduly affected (e.g. 69% of Havering's care home residents aged 65+ are female).

Children aged 0-9

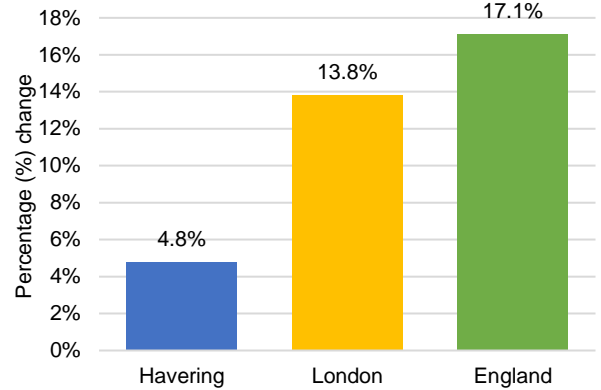
Since 2011, Havering's population has altered significantly, with almost all age groups either declining or growing. As well as (and likely linked to) significant growth in the population aged 25 to 39, the proportion of young children in Havering has increased at one of the fastest rates nationwide.

Havering saw the second highest growth (after Dartford) of all local authorities of those aged 0-4.

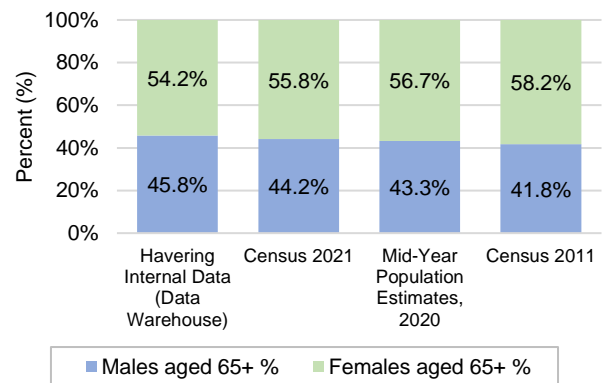
Havering also saw the 12th highest growth nationally and the 2nd highest growth within London for children aged 5-9. (LAs with higher growth for this demographic were Dartford, Peterborough, Harlow, Tewkesbury, Cambridge, Boston, Sutton, Salford, Hounslow, East Devon, and Manchester).

At the time of the 2021 Census, 24.3%, or roughly one in four people living in Havering, were aged 0 to 19.

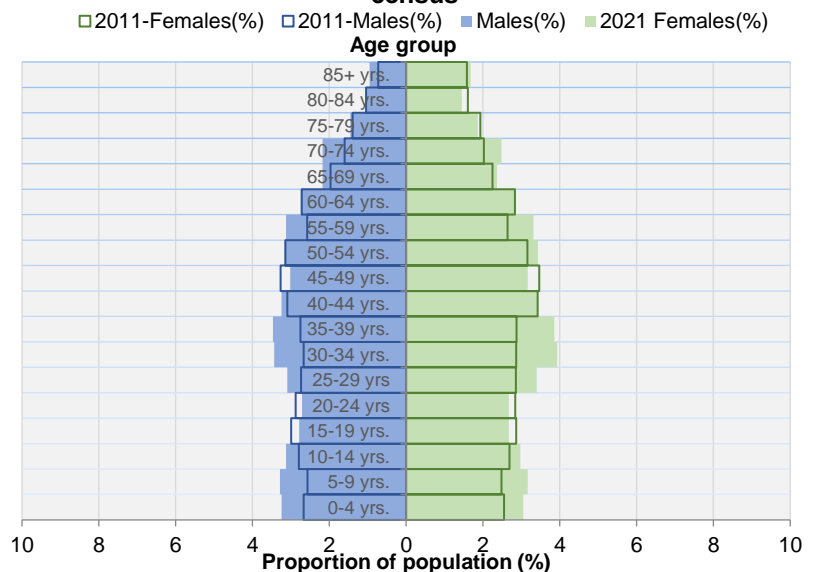
% change in female 65+ population from 2011 to 2021 Census



Havering gender split using different data sources



Havering population change from 2011 to 2021 census



Households

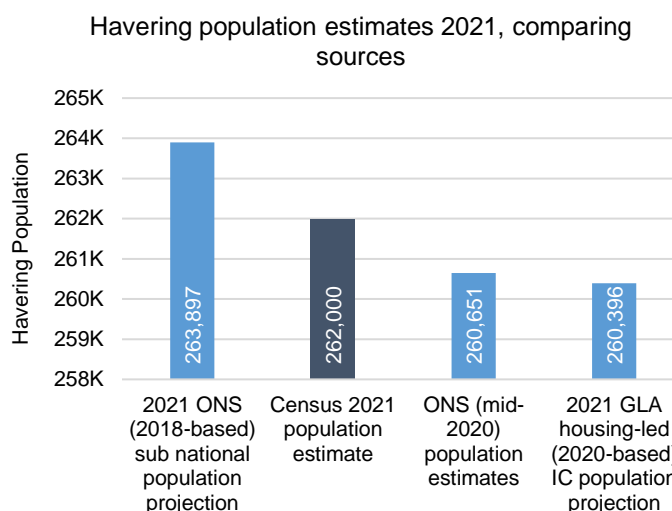
There were 101,300 households in Havering on Census day; an increase of 4,100 (4.2%) since 2011, compared to increases of 13.3% in London and 6.1%, in England and Wales. The number of households recorded in the Census is lower than the number captured through Havering's council tax records (approximately 104,500). This is because a household in the Census relates to a person or group of people living together, whereas a household for council tax purposes is a physical property, irrespective of whether it is occupied or vacant. The fact that Havering's population size has increased by 10.4% whilst the number of households has only risen by 4.2% may be reflective of a change in the makeup of households, i.e. an increase in the number of people per household. Future detailed releases of Census data will provide greater insight into these changes.

Census response rate

ONS report that the response rate in Havering was 98%, which was one of the highest in London (average response rate in London was 95%) and similar to the response rate nationally (97%). This is an improvement on the 2011 Census response rate in Havering of 95%.

Covid-19 impact on the Census

Census Day in 2021 was during the Covid-19 pandemic and whilst the nation was coming out of lockdown at this time, recovery was in its infancy. Analysis from the GLA and London Councils on population change during the pandemic suggests that a significant proportion of the population were temporarily displaced, leaving London and only returning in the Spring and Summer of 2021. This does not appear to have had a major impact on total population numbers in Havering, with the Census population being broadly similar to most official population projections.



The move to a 'digital first' Census may have had some impact. Havering was encouraged to deliver a Census Support Service to support digitally excluded residents but in the end this was curtailed by ONS, who would not allow the full service to be provided by Library staff while working remotely from home, for GDPR reasons.

Conclusion

Havering's population is growing and is the largest it has ever been. Havering continues to have a large older population but the rate of growth in this age group has slowed. There is a fast growing child population with one of the highest growths in the 0-9 age demographic in the country. Havering does not appear to have the same issues with significant undercounts as some London boroughs but we have raised the possibility of an undercount within communal establishments. If true, this would disproportionately impact on the older people demographic and potentially the funding associated with this cohort.

Further reading

ONS will release further Census data (including for smaller geographies) in phases, from October 2022 and throughout 2023. More information on the Census can be found at www.ons.gov.uk/census and the planned release calendar can be found [here](#). The ONS has produced an interactive summary for all Local Authorities which can be found [here](#).