

Census data update

Carer age, gender, ethnicity, employment and health – local and national datasets

Summary

On 16 May 2013 more detailed information on the characteristics of the carer population was published by the Office for National Statistics. This data applies to England and Wales only as data for Northern Ireland and Scotland is analysed and published separately.

This new data follows Carers UK Census analysis published in December 2012 showing an increase of 600,000 (11%) in the total number of carers since 2001 – with the national figure now standing at 6.5 million carers in the UK.

Carers UK has created tabulated data by local area and published this online for local groups, services and commissioners. This briefing includes the headline results and information about what data is available by local area. All national and local data tables mentioned below are published at www.carersuk.org/briefings

Headline findings

Carers by age and gender

New figures on the age and gender profile of the carer population in England and Wales showed:

- ▶ A surge of 35% in the number of carers over 65 – the fastest growing age group.
- ▶ The number of carers under the age of 24 has increased to over 430,000 – an increase of 24%.
- ▶ The gender ratio has remained the same as in 2001 – in England and Wales, 58% of carers are women and 42% are men.
- ▶ 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men aged 50-64 has caring responsibilities for older or disabled loved ones.

Carers UK has published data tables by local authority area for the age and gender breakdown of the local carer population. To download visit: www.carersuk.org/briefings/census-data-update

Ethnicity

The new data shows that the number of Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) carers has reached almost 600,000. This increase of almost 20% is much more rapid than the general carer population.

Carers UK has published data tables for the BAME carer population, broken down by local area and ethnic group. To download visit: www.carersuk.org/briefings/census-data-update

Number of carers in work

The number of carers juggling work and care has risen by 11% in the last ten years – with over 3 million people in England and Wales working alongside caring.

Data, by local authority, is available on the number of carers juggling work and care. To download visit: www.carersuk.org/briefings/census-data-update

Ill health

Carers UK analysis of the 2001 Census showed that carers caring for over 50 hours a week were twice as likely to be in poor health as non-carers. The 2011 Census asked a slightly different question meaning the results are difficult to compare, however the results remain significant:

- 13.2% of carers caring for over 50 hours a week were in 'bad' or 'very bad' health. This compares to 5.3% of people without caring responsibilities. So full-time carers are two and a half times more likely to be in bad health.

Local data tables have been published on the number of carers by hours of care provided and in 'bad' or 'very bad' health. To download visit: www.carersuk.org/briefings/census-data-update