

Update CIS2012-09

2011 Census Snapshot: Health and unpaid care in London boroughs

December 2012

Introduction

On 11th December 2012 ONS released the first detailed results from the 2011 Census for England and Wales, comprising univariate counts from Key Statistics and selected Quick Statistics tables for Local Authorities. This update provides initial analysis from Key Statistics table 301 covering health (census questions 13 and 23) and persons providing unpaid care (question 14).

Data from this release can be downloaded from the ONS website here: [London datastore](#)
GLA visualisations and analyses can be found on the GLA datastore here: [London datastore](#)

Key Findings

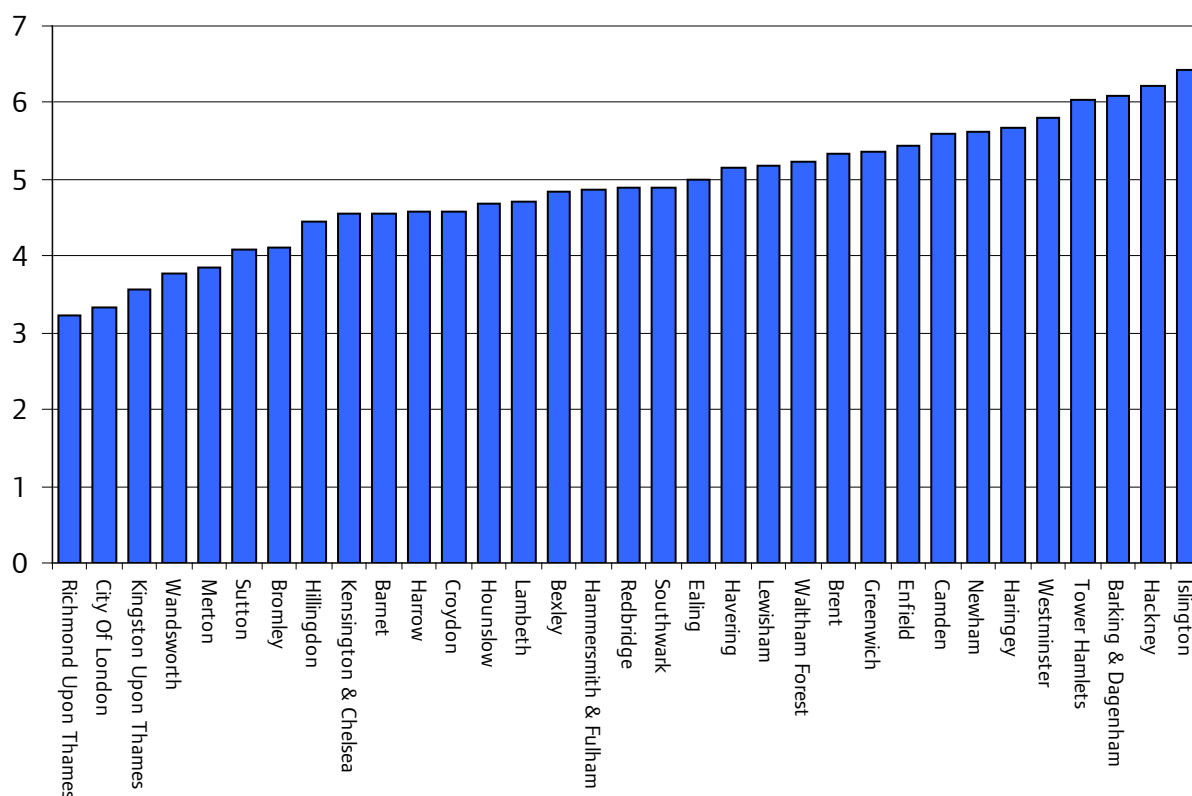
- At 2011 Census, 305,000 persons in London stated that their health was bad, and a further 100,000 stated it was very bad. Smaller proportions of Londoners reported bad health than nationally (3.7 per cent and 1.2 per cent reported bad and very bad health in London compared to 4.3 per cent and 1.3 per cent in England and Wales).
- Islington had the highest rate of bad or very bad health in London, 6.4 per cent of residents, while Richmond had the lowest 3.2 per cent.
- London had 552,000 residents (6.7 percent) reporting their activities limited a lot and 606,000 (7.4 per cent) limited a little. Both these proportions were lower than nationally (8.5 and 9.4 per cent respectively).
- Three London boroughs had the lowest incidence of limiting long term health problems in the country: Wandsworth, 11.2 per cent, followed by Richmond and City of London, both 11.5 per cent. Havering had the highest rate in London, 17.3 per cent of residents, followed by Barking and Dagenham (16.4 per cent) and Bexley (16.0 per cent).
- Wandsworth also had the lowest rate of unpaid carers in the country at 6.5 per cent.

Health

The 2011 census asked people to self-assess their health as 'very good', 'good', 'fair', 'bad' or 'very bad'. Around half of London residents said their health was very good and around a third that it was good. Of the remaining 1.3 million some 305,000 residents, 3.7 per cent of the total reported that they had bad health and 100,000 (1.2 per cent) reported very bad health. Both these proportions are lower than national figures (4.3 per cent bad health and 1.3 per cent very bad health).

Islington had the highest rate of bad or very bad health in London 6.4 per cent of residents, twice the rate in the borough with the lowest rate, Richmond. A further six boroughs had rates of bad or very bad health higher than the national average of 5.6 per cent: Hackney, Barking and Dagenham, Tower Hamlets, Westminster, Haringey and Newham.

Figure 1: percentage of residents reporting bad or very bad health in each London borough in 2011.



Source: Office for National Statistics: 2011 census table KS301

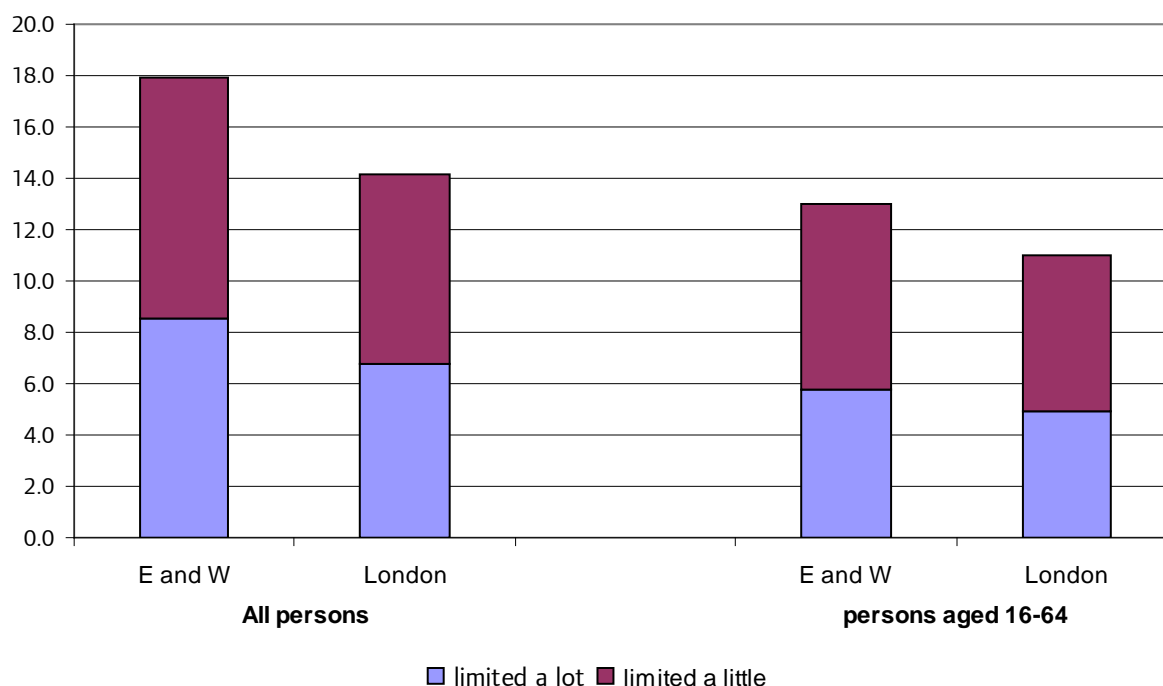
A question on people's health was asked on the 2001 census however the responses were not the same as in 2011: Responses in 2001 were 'Good health', 'Fairly good health' and 'Not good health'. Across England and Wales, rates of 'not good health' reported in 2001 were much higher than 'bad health' in 2011.

Long term health problem or disability

In addition to the question on overall health, the 2011 census asked people if they had a health problem or disability that has lasted or was expected to last for at least 12 months and limited the person's day-to-day activities, either a little or a lot. London saw 552,000 (6.7 per cent of residents) reporting their activities limited a lot and 606,000 (7.4 per cent) limited a little. Both these proportions were lower than nationally

(8.5 and 9.4 per cent respectively). One reason for lower rates in London will be because the capital has a relatively young population, and the as the incidence of many chronic health problems increase with age.

Figure 2 : Proportions of residents with a limiting long term health problem in 2011, England and Wales and London

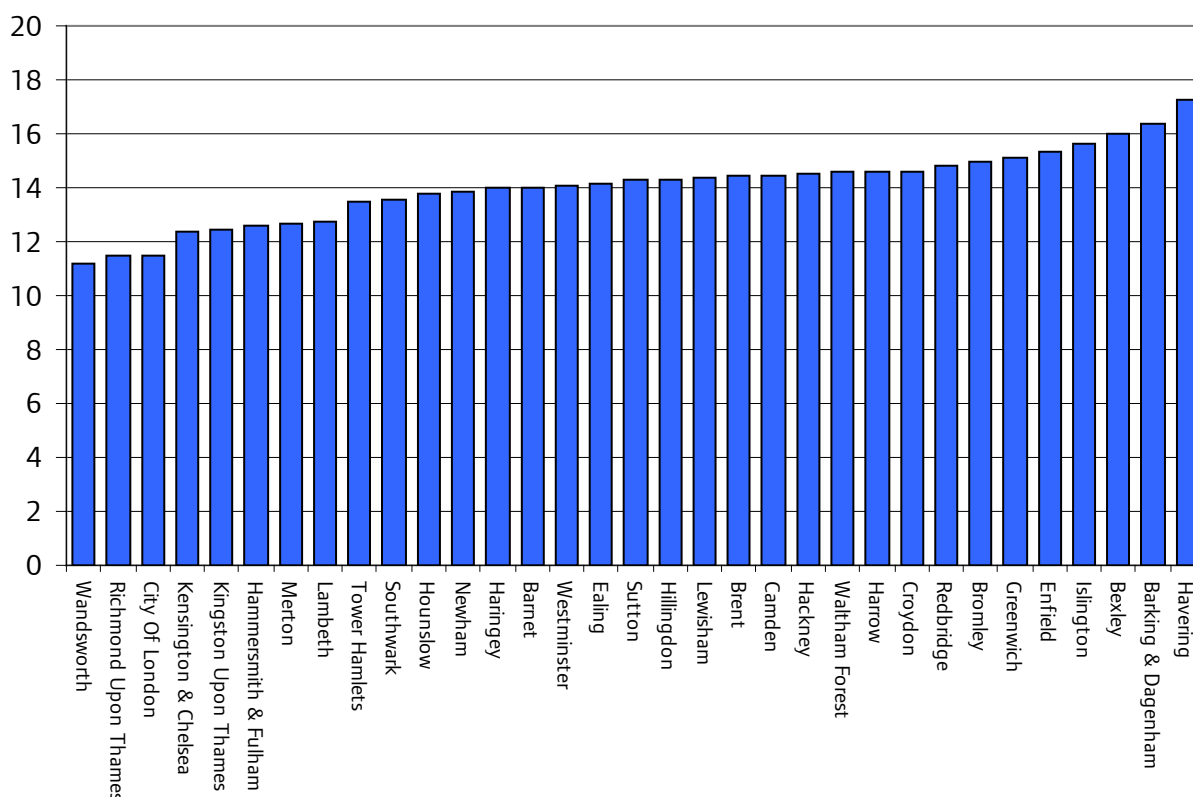


Source: Office for National Statistics: 2011 census table KS301

Figure 2 compares the incidence of long term health problems or disability of all persons on the left, and those aged 16-64 only on the right. As expected, rates are uniformly lower for persons of working age than for all persons. For persons aged 16-64, 11.0 per cent of Londoners had a limiting long term health problem while the rate nationally was 2 percentage points higher at 13.0 per cent. For all persons the corresponding rates were 17.9 and 14.2 per cent, a difference of 3.7 percentage points.

Combining all long term health problems - both limited a little and limited a lot - Wandsworth had the lowest incidence of health problems in the country, 11.2 per cent of all residents. Richmond and City of London ranked second and third each at 11.5 per cent. Havering had the highest rate in London, 17.3 per cent of residents, followed by Barking and Dagenham (16.4 per cent) and Bexley (16.0 per cent). The rates for London boroughs are shown in Figure 3 on the next page.

Figure 3: Proportions of residents with a limiting long term health problem in 2011, London boroughs



Source: Office for National Statistics: 2011 census table KS301

For people aged 16-64, the highest incidence of long term health problems in London was in Barking and Dagenham (14.0 per cent of persons limited a little or a lot) followed by Hackney and Islington (both 12.9 per cent). The lowest incidences were in City of London (6.9 per cent) and Richmond (7.6 per cent).

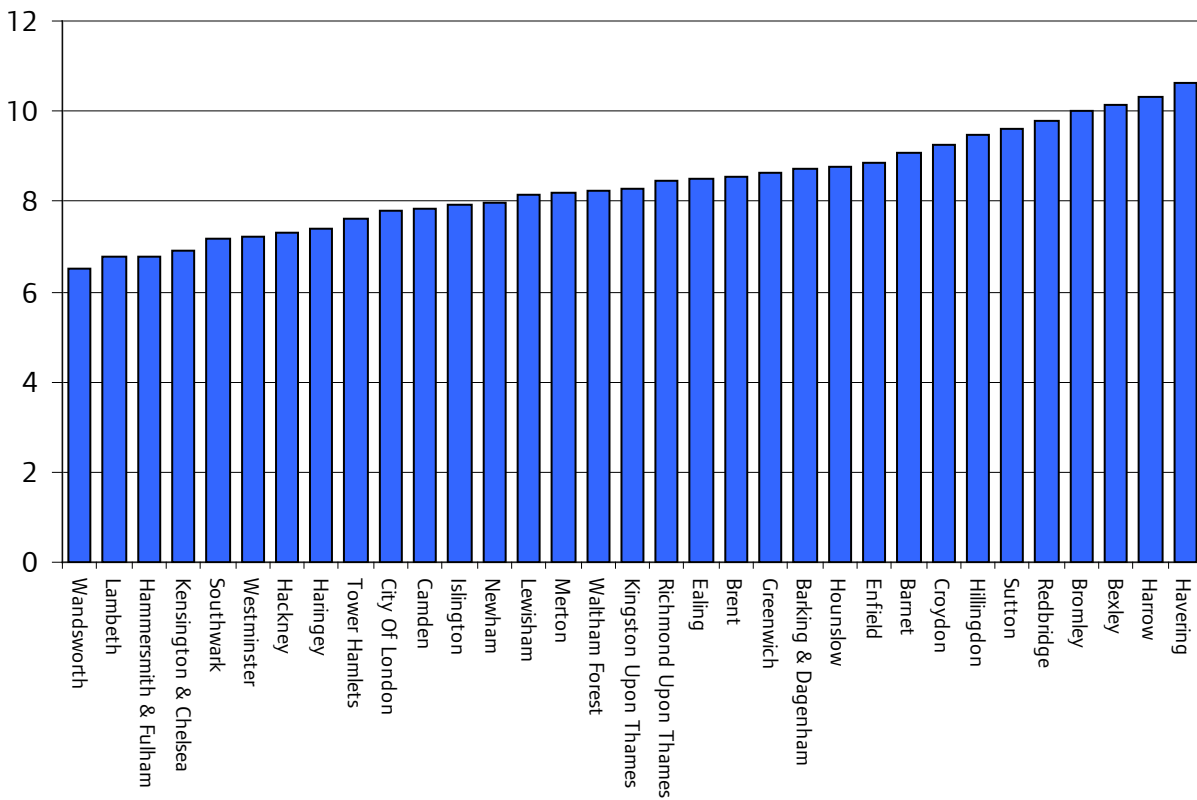
The incidence of limiting long term health problems is generally lower in 2011 than in 2001. The rate for all persons fell in every London borough except Bexley, where it rose 0.4 percentage points from 15.6 to 16.0 per cent, and Havering (up 0.1 points from 17.2 to 17.3 per cent). Boroughs seeing the biggest falls were Tower Hamlets down 3.7 points, Hackney down 3.6 points, Barking and Dagenham and Newham, both down 3.5 points.

Unpaid Care

The 2011 census asked respondents if they provided any unpaid help or support to family members, neighbours or others who had long term ill health or disability, either physical or mental. Nearly 690,000 London residents reported that they provided such unpaid care, up from 610,000 in 2001. The proportion of Londoners providing care however was little changed over the ten years, 8.4 per cent in 2011. For England and Wales, 10.3 per cent of people provided care in 2011, up from 10.0 per cent ten years earlier.

The boroughs with the highest proportions of unpaid carers in 2011 were Havering, Harrow, Bexley and Bromley with over 10 per cent of residents providing care. The rates in Wandsworth, Lambeth, Hammersmith and Fulham, and Kensington and Chelsea were under 7 per cent. At 6.5 per cent, the rate for Wandsworth was the lowest in the country – due no doubt in large part to the incidence of long term health problems and disability being the lowest in the country.

Figure 4: Proportions of residents providing unpaid care in 2011, London 2011



Source: Office for National Statistics: 2011 census table KS301

Nearly two-thirds of carers in London (63 per cent) provided less than 20 hours a week of care, 15 per cent provided between 20 to 49 hours and 22 per cent provided 50 or more hours. These proportions are similar for England and Wales.

There does seem to be pattern of carers providing more hours of care than in 2001. In 2001 nearly 69 per cent of carers in London provided less than 20 hours care a week, 12 per cent provided between 20 to 49 hours and 20 per cent provided 50 or more hours.

For more information please contact Richard Cameron, GLA Intelligence
Greater London Authority, City Hall, The Queen's Walk, More London, London SE1 2AA
Tel: 02079834473 e-mail: richard.cameron@london.gov.uk