

2001 Census Topic Report: Health and Care

Summary

- The 2001 Census asked three specific questions about General Health, Limiting Long-Term Illness and the provision of Unpaid Care.
- About two thirds of Birmingham's residents report Good Health, 24% report Fairly Good Health and 11% 'Not-Good' Health.
- Nearly 1 in 5 of Birmingham's residents state that they have a Limiting Long-Term Illness. Nearly half of the residents with a Limiting Illness are of working age.
- The proportion reporting Good Health is smaller in older age groups. Just over half of people aged 45-59, and about a quarter of people aged over 74, have Good Health. The proportion with a Limiting Long-Term Illness is higher in older age groups. Nearly two-thirds of people aged over 74 years report a Limiting Long-Term Illness.
- The percentages with 'Not-Good' Health and with Limiting Long-Term Illness in Birmingham are two percentage points above the national averages. Differences in certain age groups are greater but the overall differences are reduced somewhat by the City's youthful age structure.
- Females are slightly more likely than males to report 'Not-Good' Health or a Limiting Long-Term Illness.
- The proportion of people in Birmingham with a Limiting Long-Term Illness in 2001 is 6 percentage points above the percentage recorded by the 1991 Census.
- About 85% of people with 'Not-Good' Health also report a Limiting Long-Term Illness
- Over 80% of residents in communal establishment who are aged 50 or more years have a Limiting Long-Term Illness. More than 90% of those aged over 74 have a Limiting Illness.
- About 38% of households contain at least one person with a Limiting Long-Term Illness. About 70% of these households do not contain a person who provides unpaid care.
- Over two-thirds of people living in owner occupied and privately rented accommodation report Good Health, compared with 57% of people in council rented accommodation and 59% in other social rented accommodation.
- 23% of people living in households without central heating have a Limiting Long-Term Illness, compared with 18% in households with central heating.
- Of people living in accommodation that is on the fifth floor or higher, nearly 30% report a Limiting Long-Term Illness.
- Just under half of Residents with 'Not-Good' Health live in households without a car, compared with a quarter of those reporting Good Health.

- Good Health is reported by three-quarters of people aged between 16 and 74 years of age who are either in work or seeking work. This compares with under half of those who are economically inactive. In contrast, the proportions of economically inactive people with 'Not-Good' Health or a Limiting Long-Term Illness are almost 5 times greater than the equivalent proportions of economically active people.
- In Birmingham, just over 45,000 residents aged 16-74 are economically inactive for reasons of permanent sickness or disability. This is 7% of people in the age group, compared with 5% in England as a whole.
- More than three-quarters of major employers, higher managers and higher professionals report Good Health. The highest percentages with 'Not-Good' Health or a Limiting Long-Term Illness are found among retired people. High percentages are also found among people who have never worked, in long-term unemployment or in routine occupations.
- There are considerable variations in health between ethnic groups. These reflect varying rates of 'Not-Good' Health and Limiting Illness at different ages, combined with differences in age composition.
- About 98,000 people, 1 in 10 of Birmingham's residents, provide unpaid care. This percentage is very similar to the averages for the West Midlands and England.
- About 62% of people providing care in Birmingham do so for up to 19 hours per week, while 25% provide 50 or more hours per week.
- People aged between 50 and 59 years of age are the most likely to provide unpaid care: just over 20% of people in this age group in Birmingham provide care.
- The majority of carers are female. Women are also more likely to provide care for a greater number of hours per week.