

Census 2021: Household Deprivation

Public Health Briefing, May 2025



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Background

ONS uses a range of data collected in the 2021 Census to determine whether a household includes characteristics that indicate deprivation. The dimensions of deprivation used to classify households are based on four household characteristics:

- **Education**: A household is classified as deprived in the education dimension if no one has at least level 2 education and no one aged 16 to 18 years is a full-time student.
- **Employment:** A household is classified as deprived in the employment dimension if any member, not a full-time student, is either unemployed or disabled.
- Health: A household is classified as deprived in the health dimension if any person in the household has general health that is bad or very bad or is identified as disabled
- Housing: A household is classified as deprived in the housing dimension if the household's accommodation is either overcrowded, in a shared dwelling, or has no central heating.

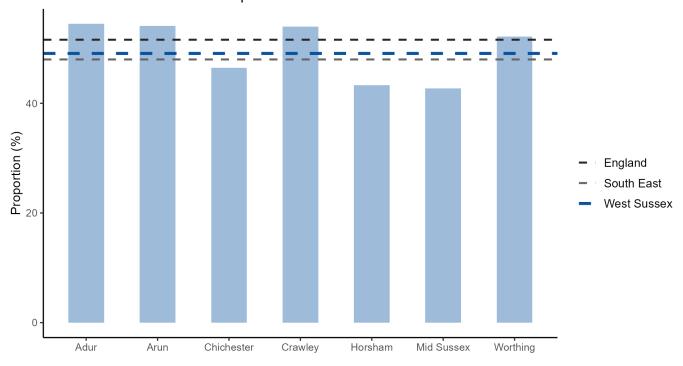
Key Points

- Around 49% of households in West Sussex (184,064) were classified as deprived in at least one of the dimensions of deprivation.
- West Sussex has a lower proportion of households classified as deprived than England but, higher than South East.
- In West Sussex, 10,450 households were classified as deprived in three or four dimensions, and among them 812 households were classified as deprived in four dimensions.
- Compared to the 2011 Census data, the proportion of households experiencing deprivation in at least one dimensions increased in West Sussex, remained largely unchanged in the South East, and rose further across England.

Household deprivation prevalence

According to Census 2021, out of a total 375,216 households in West Sussex around 49.1% of households were deprived in one or more dimensions. This is lower than England (51.6%) but higher than South East (48%) (Figure 1). Among the districts and boroughs in West Sussex, Adur (54.5%) has the highest proportion and Mid-Sussex (42.7%) has the lowest proportion of households deprived in one or more dimensions.

The proportion of households which were considered deprived in at least one of the four dimensions of deprivation



Source: Census 2021

Figure 1 Households deprived in at least one of four dimensions by area.

In West Sussex, around 34% of the households were deprived in one dimension, 12% deprived in two dimensions, 3% deprived in three dimensions and 0.2% deprived in four dimensions (Table 1). Overall, in West Sussex, 10,450 households were classified as deprived in three or four dimensions, and among them 812 households were classified as deprived in four dimensions

Table 1 Percentage of households considered deprived in the four dimensions of deprivation, England, South East, West Sussex and its districts and boroughs.

Area Name	Not deprived in any dimensions	One dimension	Two dimensions	Three dimensions	Four dimensions	Total households
West Sussex	50.9	33.9	12.4	2.6	0.2	375,216
Adur	45.5	35.7	15.2	3.4	0.3	27,678
Arun	45.9	36.5	14.5	2.9	0.3	72,663
Chichester	53.5	33.3	10.9	2.2	0.1	54,118
Crawley	46.0	34.7	15.2	3.8	0.3	45,504
Horsham	56.7	31.7	9.7	1.7	0.1	62,370
Mid Sussex	57.3	31.3	9.6	1.7	0.1	63,349
Worthing	47.8	34.8	13.9	3.2	0.4	49,537
South East	52.0	32.8	12.2	2.8	0.2	3,807,966
England	48.4	33.5	14.2	3.7	0.2	23,436,086

Household deprivation by MSOA

Bognor Regis Central in Arun is the middle super layout area (MSOA) in West Sussex with the highest proportion of households deprived in one or more dimensions of deprivation (64.3 %). Arun, Crawley, and Adur were home to the top ten MSOAs with the highest proportion of households classified as deprived in one or more dimensions of deprivation (Table 2).

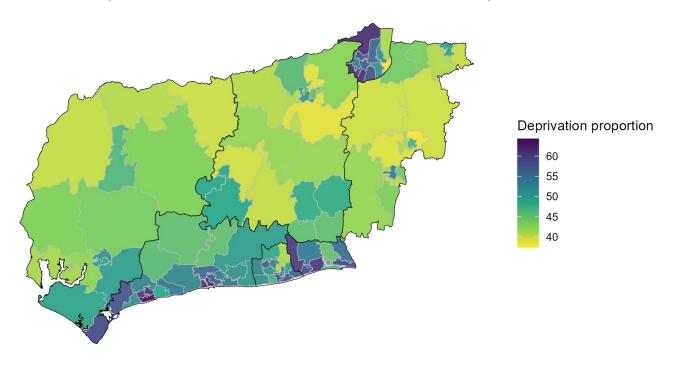
Table 2 Deprivation by MSOA (Census 2021)

Top ten households deprived in one or more dimensions in West Sussex

Districts/Boroughs	MSOA	Deprivation (%)	Rank
Arun	Bognor Regis Central	64.3	1
Arun	Littlehampton West and River	62.0	2
Crawley	Bewbush	61.6	3
Crawley	Broadfield East	61.5	4
Crawley	Langley Green & Gatwick Airport	61.4	5
Arun	South Bersted	60.8	6
Arun	Hawthorn Road	60.7	7
Adur	Marsh Barn & Widewater	60.6	8
Adur	Cokeham & Sompting	60.0	9
Crawley	Broadfield West	59.9	10

The map below shows the distribution of proportion of households deprived in one or more dimensions of deprivation in West Sussex by MSOA boundaries (figure 2). Higher proportion of households deprived were on the coastal areas of West Sussex and in Crawley.

Households deprived in one or more dimensions in West Sussex by MSOAs



Data Source: Census 2021 Grey lines represent MSOAs boundaries and black lines represent districts and boroughs boundaries.

Figure 2 Deprivation proportion by MSOA.

Education dimension

A household is classified as deprived in the education dimension if no one has at least level 2 education and no one aged 16 to 18 years is a full-time student. [Level 2 education: GCSE at grades 9 to 4 (A^* to C), or intermediate apprenticeships. Note that a full Level 2 qualification is considered to be the equivalent of 5 GCSEs (including English and Maths) at grades 9 to 4 (A^* to C), rather than single qualifications]

The proportion of households deprived in the education dimension across MSOAs in West Sussex ranged from 11.8% to 33.4%. Bognor Regis Central in Arun had the highest proportion (33.4%) of households deprived in this dimension, while Horsham South, Mannings Heath & Nuthurst in Horsham had the lowest (11.8%). Arun, Adur and Chichester were home to the top ten MSOAs with the highest proportion of households classified as deprived in education dimension (Table 3).

The map below represents the percentage of households deprived in the education dimension in West Sussex by MSOAs. Higher proportion of households deprived in education dimension were mostly in the coastal areas of West Sussex and in Crawley (figure 3).

Table 3 Deprivation by MSOA (Census 2021)

Top Ten households deprived in education dimensions in West Sussex

Districts/Boroughs	MSOAs	Deprivation (%)	Rank
Arun	Bognor Regis Central	33.4	1
Arun	Nyetimber & Pagham	31.3	2
Chichester	Selsey	29.8	3
Adur	Marsh Barn & Widewater	29.7	4
Arun	South Bersted	29.0	5
Adur	Cokeham & Sompting	28.7	6
Adur	South Lancing	28.5	7
Arun	Hawthorn Road	28.1	8
Arun	Littlehampton West and River	27.0	9
Arun	East Preston & Rustington East	26.7	10

Households deprived in education dimension in West Sussex by MSOAs

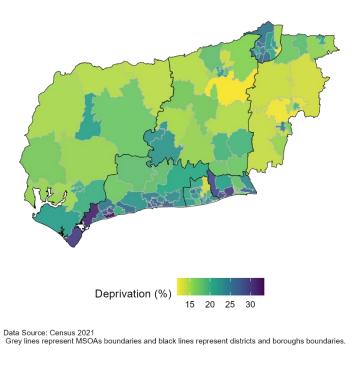


Figure 3 Deprivation proportion by MSOAs.

Employment dimension

A household is classified as deprived in the employment dimension if any member, not a fulltime student, is either unemployed or disabled.

The proportion of households deprived in the employment dimension across MSOAs in West Sussex ranged from 4.2% to 19%. Broadfield West in Crawley had the highest proportion (19%) of households deprived in this dimension, while West Chiltington Common in Horsham had the lowest (4.2%). Arun and Crawley were home to the top ten MSOAs with the highest proportion of households classified as deprived employment dimension (Table 4).

The map below represents the percentage of households deprived in the employment dimension in West Sussex by MSOAs. Higher proportion of households deprived in employment dimension were mostly in Crawley and few in the coastal areas of West Sussex (figure 4).

Table 4 Deprivation by MSOA (Census 2021)

Top Ten households deprived in employment dimensions in West Sussex

Districts/Boroughs	MSOAs	Deprivation (%)	Rank
Crawley	Broadfield West	19.0	1
Crawley	Bewbush	18.6	2
Crawley	Langley Green & Gatwick Airport	18.0	3
Crawley	Broadfield East	18.0	4
Crawley	Tilgate	16.1	5
Arun	Littlehampton West and River	15.3	6
Arun	Hawthorn Road	15.2	7
Crawley	Southgate	14.7	8
Crawley	Ewhurst & West Green	14.5	9
Crawley	Manor Royal & Northgate	14.1	10

Households deprived in employment dimensions in West Sussex by MSOAs

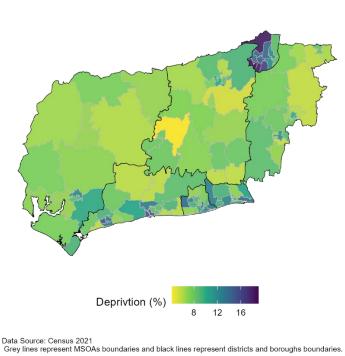


Figure 4 Deprivation proportion by MSOAs.

Health dimension

A household is classified as deprived in the health dimension if any person in the household has general health that is bad or very bad or is identified as disabled. People who have assessed their day-to-day activities as limited by long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses are considered disabled.

The proportion of households deprived in the health dimension across MSOAs in West Sussex ranged from 22% to 39.5%. Kingston & Southwick in Adur had the highest proportion (39.5%) of households deprived in this dimension, while College Lane & Oaklands in Crawley had the lowest (22%). Except Mid-Sussex and Horsham other district and boroughs of West Sussex were home to the top ten MSOAs with the highest proportion of households classified as deprived in health dimension (Table 5).

The map below represents the percentage of households deprived in the health dimension in West Sussex by MSOAs. Higher proportion of households deprived in health dimension were mostly in the coastal areas of West Sussex and in Crawley (figure 5).

Top Ten households deprived in health dimensions in West Sussex

Table 4 Deprivation by MSOA (Census 2021)

Districts/Boroughs	MSOAs	Deprivation (%)	Rank
Adur	Kingston & Southwick	39.5	1
Adur	Cokeham & Sompting	39.3	2
Adur	Marsh Barn & Widewater	38.3	3
Arun	Littlehampton East	37.6	4
Crawley	Bewbush	37.3	5
Arun	South Bersted	37.1	6
Worthing	Durrington North	37.0	7
Arun	Hawthorn Road	36.9	8
Worthing	Northbrook	36.6	9
Chichester	Selsey	36.6	10

Households deprived in health dimensions in West Sussex by MSOAs

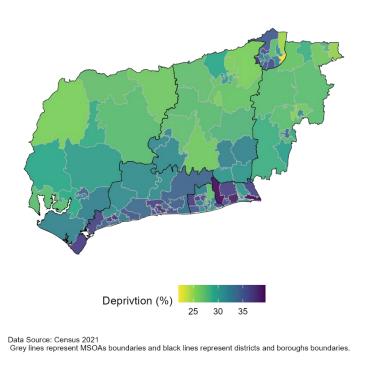


Figure 5 Deprivation proportion by MSOAs.

Housing dimension

A household is classified as deprived in the housing dimension if the household's accommodation is either overcrowded, in a shared dwelling, or has no central heating.

The proportion of households deprived in the housing dimension across MSOAs in West Sussex ranged from 1.9% to 21.8%. Worthing central in Worthing had the highest proportion (21.8%) of households deprived in this dimension, while West Chiltington Common in Horsham had the lowest (1.9%). Arun, Crawley and Worthing were home to the top ten MSOAs with the highest proportion of households classified as deprived in housing dimension (Table 6).

The map below represents the percentage of households deprived in the housing dimension in West Sussex by MSOAs. The pockets of higher proportion of households deprived in housing dimension were in some coastal areas of West Sussex and in Crawley (figure 6).

Table 5 Deprivation by MSOA (Census 2021)

Top Ten households deprived in housing dimensions in West Sussex

Districts/Boroughs	MSOAs	Deprivation (%)	Rank
Worthing	Worthing Central	21.8	1
Arun	Bognor Regis Central	18.6	2
Worthing	Heene	17.1	3
Crawley	Broadfield East	16.5	4
Arun	Littlehampton West and River	16.4	5
Crawley	Manor Royal & Northgate	15.9	6
Crawley	Broadfield West	13.9	7
Crawley	Southgate	12.8	8
Arun	Hawthorn Road	12.4	9
Crawley	Langley Green & Gatwick Airport	12.3	10

Households deprived in housing dimensions in West Sussex by MSOAs

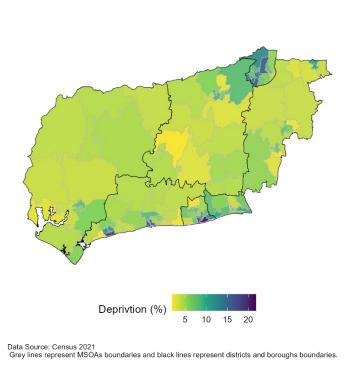


Figure 6 Deprivation proportion by MSOAs.

Changes over census years

The proportion of West Sussex households deprived in one or more dimensions of deprivation increased from 46.6% in 2011 to 49.1% in 2021 (Figure 3). Overall, the South East proportion had remained at around 48% while the national proportion of households experiencing deprivation in one or more dimensions increased from 42.5% in 2011 to 51.6% in 2021. Among the districts and boroughs of West Sussex, Adur, Arun, Crawley, and Worthing experienced a rise in household deprivation, while Chichester, Horsham, and Mid Sussex saw a decline compared to 2011, highlighting a contrasting trend across West Sussex.

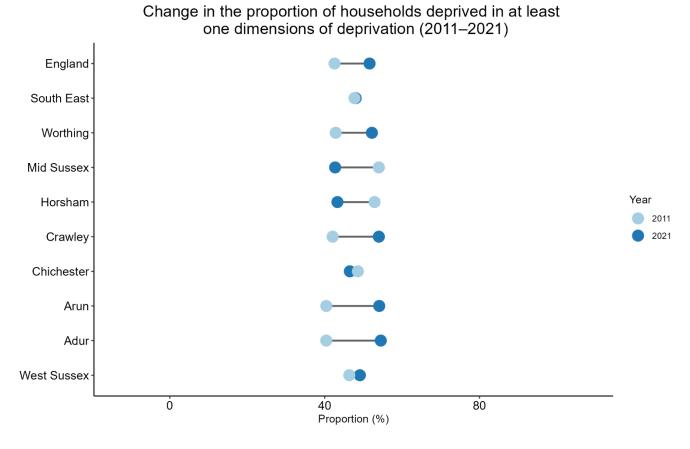


Figure 7 Household deprivation in one or more dimensions of deprivation by year.

Further Resources

Data Source: Households by deprivation dimensions - Office for National Statistics

Data quality information: Quality and methodology information (QMI) for Census 2021 - Office for National Statistics

Census 2021 interactive maps: Household deprivation - Census Maps, ONS