

Introduction

This document looks at a series of key equalities indicators for the City and County of Swansea, presenting the latest available statistics and providing some commentary and analysis on what the data shows. One of its main purposes is to understand the diversity of Swansea's population, how it has changed and (as far as is possible) what may happen in future. By focusing on the protected characteristics described in the Equality Act 2010, this will also inform and support the Council's Strategic Equality Plan for 2024-28.

The document considers the following characteristics listed in the Equality Act:

1. Age
2. Disability
3. Gender reassignment
4. Marriage and civil partnership
5. Pregnancy and maternity
6. Race
7. Religion or belief
8. Sex
9. Sexual orientation.

An overall summary table showing the latest key population indicators is on page 2, with the following information included in separate chapters for each characteristic (as far as available):

- An outline of relevant **data sources** available for the characteristic
- A summary of the available **key statistics** for Swansea and national comparisons
- Any **local variations** within Swansea, for example via Census data
- An indication of **change over time** (from the data sources used)
- Potential **future trends**, where possible to identify
- **Conclusion** – an overall summary of what the data is saying and key messages.

An accompanying data file or workbook, which brings together the key data discussed in this review, is also available.

This is the second edition of the Equalities Statistics Review; it is planned that updated information and any new data sources and will be added to future versions of the review and data file.

If you would like any additional statistical information about the characteristics of Swansea's population, or have any other queries regarding these statistics, please contact:

Swansea Council - Information, Research and GIS
Tel: 07970 610583. E-mail: research@swansea.gov.uk

Strategic Delivery Unit, Corporate Services Directorate, Civic Centre, Swansea, SA1 3SN.



Table 1 (Summary): Key indicators of population by protected characteristics, Swansea and Wales ¹

Characteristic:	Description	Swansea	Wales	Reference population	Source and date
Age	0 to 15 years	17.1%	17.6%	All usual residents (Swansea: 237,800)	Mid 2021 estimates, Office for National Statistics (ONS)
	16 to 64	62.2%	60.9%		
	65 and over	20.7%	21.4%		
	85 and over	2.8%	2.7%		
Disability	Disabled under the Equality Act	22.4%	21.6%	All usual residents	2021 Census, ONS
	Equalities Act Core or Work-limiting disabled	28.3%	28.5%	All people aged 16-64	Annual Population Survey 2022, ONS
	<i>Registered disabled:</i> with Learning disability	0.5%	0.4%	All people	Registers (March 2022), Welsh Government
	Physical/sensory disability	1.2%	1.5%		
	Disability benefit claimants ²	13.8%	12.7%		
Gender reassignment & identity	Same as sex at birth	93.1%	93.3%	Usual residents aged 16 & over	2021 Census, ONS
	Different from sex at birth	0.4%	0.4%		
	Not answered	6.5%	6.3%		
Marital and civil partnership status³	Never married or rcp	39.9%	37.2%	Usual residents aged 16 & over	2021 Census, ONS
	Married or in a rcp	41.2%	43.8%		
	Separated	2.2%	2.0%		
	Divorced or rcp dissolved	9.7%	9.9%		
	Widowed	7.0%	7.1%		
Pregnancy & maternity	Conception rate	65.3	70.7	R / 1,000 fem 15-44	ONS conceptions and births incl. rates, 2021 ⁴
	General fertility rate (GFR)	46.4	51.7		
	Crude birth rate	8.7	9.3	R / 1,000 p	
Race - population by ethnic group	Asian/Asian British/Welsh	4.4%	2.9%	All usual residents	2021 Census, ONS
	Black/Black British/Welsh	1.2%	0.9%		
	Mixed/multiple groups	1.6%	1.6%		
	White	91.4%	93.8%		
	Other ethnic group	1.4%	0.9%		
Religion	No religion	47.3%	46.5%	All usual residents	2021 Census, ONS
	Christian	41.3%	43.6%		
	All other religions (total) ⁵	4.7%	3.6%		
	Not answered	6.7%	6.3%		
Sex	Female	50.7%	51.1%	All usual residents	Mid 2021 estimates, ONS
	Male	49.3%	48.9%		
Sexual orientation	Straight or heterosexual	88.8%	89.4%	Usual residents aged 16 & over	2021 Census, ONS
	LGB+ orientations	3.4%	3.0%		
	Not answered	7.8%	7.6%		

Notes:

1. Please refer to following chapters for more complete footnotes for the individual data sources.
2. Disability benefits represents the sum of the following DWP benefit types: Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance (for people aged 65+) and Personal Independence Payment (which since 2013 has replaced DLA for new claimants aged 16-64). This data relates to August 2022 with rates derived from mid-2021 population estimates (ONS).
3. Marital status: rcp = registered civil partnership. People in the 'Separated' category are still legally married or still legally in a civil partnership. The 'Widowed' category also includes surviving civil partnership partner.
4. Conception, fertility and birth rate statistics are expressed as rates: a.) The Conception and Fertility rates represent numbers of occurrences per 1,000 females aged 15 to 44; b.) The Crude Birth Rate is the number of live births per 1,000 population of all ages.
5. The 'All other religions (total)' represents the sum of the categories: Buddhist; Hindu; Jewish; Muslim; Sikh; Other religion.

1. Age

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) notes that this characteristic relates to... 'A person belonging to a particular age (for example 32 year olds) or range of ages (for example 18 to 30 year olds).'

Data sources

- Population data by age is produced every year by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and is available from national to small area level. The data is fundamental for demographic analysis, and widely used for resource targeting, service planning and as a denominator for population-based indicators. It is a robust national statistic.
- The latest local authority (LA) level annual mid-year estimates of population (ONS), by single and aggregated years of age, are for mid-2021. These were published on 21 December 2022. The population estimates are calculated by taking the decennial Census as a benchmark (latest in 2021) and using annual birth and death registrations data, together with estimated flows from internal migration (moves to/from elsewhere within the UK) and international migration (to/from outside the UK). LA level estimates for mid-2022 are currently anticipated to follow in November 2023, alongside revised estimates for the years 2012 to 2020 inclusive.
- Annual small area estimates (e.g. wards, Super Output Areas) tend to follow several months later; however the latest data currently available for small areas are the 2021 Census estimates.
- Official trend-based LA-level population projections, including by age, are currently published by Welsh Government at approximately three-yearly intervals. The latest (2018-based) projections were produced in 2020, with no projections incorporating the 2021 Census results anticipated in the near future.

Key statistics

- ONS' latest mid-year population estimate for the City & County of Swansea (for 2021) is 237,800 (rounded); the second highest population of the 22 Welsh LA areas (behind Cardiff and just ahead of Rhondda Cynon Taf) and almost 8% of the Wales total (3,105,400).
- Within the Swansea population total, 40,600 are children aged 0-15 (17.1% of the total, lower than Wales 17.6% and the UK 18.4%); 148,000 (62.2%) are of 'working age' (16-64 years) (Wales 60.9%, UK 62.9%); and 49,200 (20.7%) are aged 65+ (Wales 21.4%, UK 18.7%).
- The median age of Swansea's population (the age at which half the population is older and half is younger) is 41.5 years (2021); below equivalent figures for Wales (43.1) but above the UK (40.7). The lower figure in Swansea (than Wales) is due in part to a higher proportion of resident students and other people aged 15-29.
- Table 2 summarises the 2021 estimates by selected age group in Swansea, Wales and UK. Further detailed breakdowns are available in worksheet 1a of the data file.

Table 2: Population estimates by age (mid-2021)

People aged:	Swansea	% of total	Wales %	UK %
0-4	11,300	4.8	4.9	5.3
5-15	29,200	12.3	12.7	13.0
16-24	30,100	12.7	10.5	10.5
25-44	57,700	24.3	24.0	26.4
45-64	60,200	25.3	26.5	25.9
65-74	25,900	10.9	11.6	10.0
75+	23,300	9.8	9.9	8.7
<i>Total</i>	<i>237,800</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>

Source: Mid-Year Estimates 2021 (rounded), Population Estimates Unit, ONS. © Crown Copyright 2022.

Local variations

- Within Swansea, population estimates by age from the 2021 Census show the highest proportions of children (aged 0-15) in the wards of Townhill (27.5%) and Penderry (25.5%); partly due to long-standing higher birth rates in the areas. Proportions for Penllergaer and Llansamlet are also above 20%; possibly reflecting recent housing development and the presence of young families.
- Waterfront, Uplands, Castle and Gower wards have the lowest percentages aged 0-15; the first three being areas with more of a young adult profile (e.g. aged 16-24) including students.
- Uplands, Waterfront and Castle are also the only wards in Swansea where over 70% of their population are of working age (16-64); whilst the lowest figures (around 50%) are in Pennard, Mayals and Bishopston.
- For the population aged 65+, the highest proportions are resident in the south-west Swansea and Gower areas; with the lowest figures in the city and surrounding urban areas.
- Population statistics by broad age group for all wards in Swansea are in the data file – sheet 1c.

Change over time

- Swansea's estimated total population has grown by an estimated 10,600 (+4.7%) over 25 years (1996-2021), but fallen marginally, by 900 (-0.4%), in the last ten years (2011-2021).
- Focusing on the last ten-year period, the picture differs for each of the broad age groups: for children (aged 0-15) there has been a small net decrease between 2011 and 2021 (-700 or 1.8%); with the working age (16-64) population decreasing by a larger rate (-6,300 or 4.1%).
- However, there has been a similar increase in these ten years in the number of people aged 65+, up by 6,200 (+14.4%). The large and increasing proportion aged over 65 is mainly due to two factors; firstly general improvements in mortality rates mean people are living longer; and secondly the ageing on of the large 'baby boom' cohort born after the Second World War.
- Within that figure, the largest percentage increases have been in the cohorts aged 70-74 (+30.9%) and aged 85 and over (+16.9%).
- The median age of Swansea's population has increased in the last ten years, from 40.0 in 2011 to 41.5 in 2021, broadly in line with equivalent trends in Wales (+1.6 years) and the UK (+1.1).

Future trends

- The latest official population projections (Welsh Government, 2018-based) projected that the total population of Swansea would rise to 254,400 by 2028 and to 264,800 by 2043. These trend-based projections indicate projected outcomes based on a set of assumptions around births, deaths and migration; however, these projections are based on estimates and trends before the 2021 Census.
- Projected impacts differ by age in these figures, with projected change in the number of children (aged 0-15) negligible over the 2018-2028 period. Projected growth in the working age population (aged 16-64) is around 3,000 (+1.9%); below the projected increase in the total population of 7,900 (+3.2%) between 2018 and 2028.
- However, by far the greatest levels of projected growth to 2028 is in the older population (aged 65+); with the figures indicating an increase of around 5,100 (+10.5%) to 58,800.
- Variant projections are also produced which show the effect of changing these assumptions. However, none of these figures should not be viewed as a prediction. They are projections based on a set of estimates and assumptions, in effect using 2013-2018 base data, large components of which are now subject to revision following the latest Census results. There are many social, economic and political factors (often unforeseeable) which will ultimately have a cumulative impact on future population change.

Conclusion

- Swansea still has the second highest population of Wales' local authorities and the fifth highest population density, but the latest Census-based population estimates suggest little change in overall totals in the last ten years.
- In terms of age profile, Swansea currently has a higher proportion (than the Wales and UK average) of young people aged 16-24, in part reflecting the high number of resident students, but slightly lower proportions aged 0-15 and 45-64.
- Over the last ten years (2011 to 2021) , most of Swansea's population growth has been in the number of people aged 65 and over; a trend which (pending a new set of post 2021 Census population projections) is likely to continue in the next ten years.

2. Disability

'A person has a disability if she or he has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.' (EHRC)

Data sources

- There are a number of data sources and proxy measures that can be used to provide a picture of disability as defined in the Equality Act.
- Census data provides a primary source of statistics on disability. In the 2021 Census, disabled people are those who *assessed their day-to-day activities as limited by long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses*. This definition meets the harmonised standard for measuring disability and is in line with the Equality Act.
- As with many Census variables, further breakdowns or cross-tabulations are possible by age (e.g. working age, 16-64) and other population characteristics. The Census can also provide data at a very local level, and related data on general health and people providing unpaid care.
- More recent local authority level estimates of disability are also available via ONS' Annual Population Survey (APS). The sample survey asks people aged 16-64 about their economic activity and reasons for inactivity. As with the Census, respondents self-evaluate and so data is not based on medical assessment. The APS data estimates the number of people who have a disability either based on the Equalities Act definition ('EA core disabled'), or those who have a long term disability or health problem which affects the work that they can do – 'work-limiting (WL) disabled' (providing an indication of how many people in the workforce are disabled).
- Summary statistics of people with physical or sensory disabilities (including sight and hearing impairment), and learning disabilities (by accommodation type and age), are published annually by Welsh Government. The registers of people with physical or sensory disabilities include all persons registered under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948. However, registration is voluntary and will only include people who access local authority services; so the figures will represent an underestimate of the numbers of people with physical or sensory disabilities. The collection and publication of disability registers data in its current format will cease after the latest (February 2023) release.
- Data is also regularly updated on claimants of disability-related benefits administered by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP); namely Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Attendance Allowance (AA – for people aged 65+) and Personal Independence Payment (PIP – which since 2013 has replaced DLA for new claimants aged 16-64). The data counts the number of people with a disability or health condition who need help with their personal care or have supervision needs, and/or have difficulty getting around.
- However, benefits data is subject to change for reasons related to its administration and there are limitations in its use for analytical purposes. The number of disability benefit claimants will not necessarily reflecting all those with a disability; there will be people who feel they do not need assistance with personal care or mobility and therefore do not apply, and others will have their claim turned down because their disability is not considered severe enough.

Key statistics

- In the 2021 Census, almost a quarter of Swansea residents were disabled under the Equality Act (day-to-day activities limited 'a lot' or 'a little'), at 53,484 people or 22.4% of the total; slightly

above the Wales average of 21.6% and further above England & Wales (E&W) at 17.5%. In the 2021 Census, 185,006 people (77.6% of Swansea’s residents) are not disabled.

- APS data for the period ending December 2022 suggests that an estimated 44,300 people in Swansea aged 16-64, 28.3% of the total, are EA core or WL disabled – close to Wales (28.5%) but above the UK (24.3%). In Swansea, the proportion is currently slightly higher for males (29.4%) than females (27.2%), although this difference is within 95% confidence intervals. In the survey, 111,800 (71.5%) people aged 16-64 in Swansea are not disabled (Wales 70.8%; UK 74.9%).
- A higher number and proportion of people aged 16-64 in Swansea are EA core disabled (42,400 / 27.1%) than WL disabled (35,700 / 22.8%).
- Economic activity is significantly lower for people who are disabled. In Swansea, the economic activity rate for working age people who are EA core or WL disabled is 63.3% (December 2022), whilst for those not disabled the figure was 87.3%. The employment rate is also lower, at 55.2% for disabled people compared with 84.4% for those not disabled. The unemployment rate is significantly higher for people aged 16-64 who are disabled (12.9%) than not disabled (3.3%).
- The latest Welsh Government figures report that 1,108 people in Swansea were on registers with learning disabilities (March 2022), of whom 1,021 (92.1%) were living in community placements and 87 (7.9%) in residential establishments. For those in community settings, 56.2% of all people on registers were living with parents or family. At March 2022, 22.8% of all people registered with learning disabilities in Swansea were aged under 16, 70.8% were aged between 16 and 64, and 6.4% were aged 65 and over.
- In Swansea, 2,917 people were registered with physical or sensory disabilities as at March 2022. Of this total 51.5% were registered with a visual impairment, of whom 788 were severely sight impaired and 713 sight impaired. Of the remainder without visual disability, 752 people (25.8%) had a physical disability only, with 664 people (22.8%) with hearing impairment.
- At August 2022, 32,779 people in Swansea were claiming either Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Attendance Allowance (AA) or Personal Independence Payment (PIP), an estimated 13.8% of Swansea’s total population at mid-2021, a higher proportion than Wales (12.7%) and Great Britain (8.8%).
- More people are now claiming PIP in Swansea than DLA and AA combined. At 18,508 people (Aug-22) this represents 9.4% of the Swansea population aged 16+ (higher than Wales 8.6%, Great Britain 5.7%). In addition, 6,555 people claim DLA (2.8% of Swansea’s total population, compared with Wales 2.6% and GB 2.0%) and 7,716 claim AA – 15.7% of the Swansea population aged 65+ (Wales 14.0%, GB 11.6%).
- The summary Table 3 provides an overview of the headline figures for these sources, with the sources and footnotes illustrating their different purposes, definitions, timing and methodology.

Table 3: Indicators related to disability

Indicator:	Swansea	% of total	Wales %	national %
Census: disabled ¹	53,484	22.4	21.6	17.5 (E&W)
APS: EA core or WL disabled ²	44,300	28.3	28.5	24.3 (UK)
WG: LA reg - Learning disab. ³	1,108	0.5	0.4	n/a
WG: LA reg - Phys/sens dis. ⁴	2,917	1.2	1.5	n/a
DWP benefits: DLA+AA+PIP ⁵	32,779	13.8	12.7	8.8 (E&W)
Disability Living Allowance ⁶	6,555	2.8	2.6	2.0 (E&W)
Attendance Allowance ⁷	7,716	15.7	14.0	11.6 (E&W)
Personal Independence Payment ⁸	18,508	9.4	8.6	5.7 (E&W)

Sources: 1: 2021 Census, ONS (Note: % figures expressed as a proportion of all people).

3: APS (Annual Population Survey), working age (16-64) estimates for period ending March 2022, ONS.

4-5: Local authority registers of people with disabilities, 31 March 2022 (Welsh Government).

6-9: DWP disability benefits data, August 2022.

Note: Rates (%) for Swansea, Wales and national (UK, GB or England & Wales) expressed as a percentage of the relevant population in each case (2021 Census, mid-year estimates and APS data, ONS).

Local variations

- For areas within Swansea, local variations (e.g. by ward, Middle layer Super Output Area – MSOA) in disability indicators are only possible via Census and DWP benefits data. The APS and registered disability figures are only published at local authority level.
- In the 2021 Census, over 27% of all people in Waunarlwydd, Penderry and Townhill wards were disabled under the Equality Act, whilst this figure was around 15% in the Mayals and Pontlliw & Tircoed wards (Swansea average 22.4%).
- Local differences in claimant rates for DWP disability-related benefits can be seen at MSOA level. Looking at the proportion of the total population claiming either DLA, AA or PIP (August 2022), the figures range from around 8% in MSOAs Swansea 027, 030 and 031 (Sketty, West Gower and Mumbles areas) to over 19% in Swansea 019 and 011 (the Townhill and Penderry areas).
- For the individual benefits, the patterns are broadly similar. DLA is still claimed by over 4% of the total population in MSOAs Swansea 011, 019 and 013 (Penderry, Townhill and Ravenhill); the highest AA claimant rates (population aged 65+) are above 20% in Swansea 019 (Townhill) and 014 (Bonymaen); whilst PIP claimant rates (population aged 16+) are above 17% in Swansea 019 and 011 (Townhill and Penderry). The local data (August 2022) for all areas is included in file sheet 2f.

Change over time

- Whilst the wording of the Census question has slightly changed between Censuses, the 2011 and 2021 data on disability is considered by ONS to be broadly comparable. The number of people who are disabled has decreased slightly, from 55,718 in 2011 to 53,484 in 2021. As a proportion of the total population this fell from 23.3% in 2011 to 22.4% in 2021.
- In the last ten years (2012 to 2022), the total number of people on local authority registers with learning disabilities in Swansea has increased by 139 (+14.3%), whilst falling in Wales (-16.3%). Within this overall change, the number of placements in the community in Swansea has increased by 210 or 25.9%, whilst placements in residential establishments fell by 71 or 44.9%.
- In the same period, the total number of physically/sensory disabled persons on local authority registers in Swansea has risen by 297 or 11.3%. Within this figure, there were increases in the numbers severely sight impaired, sight impaired, deaf and hard of hearing (by between 15-30%), but a decrease in the number registered with a physical disability only (-9% approx).
- Whilst analysis of change over time in the number of people claiming disability benefits requires caution, due to changes in benefit types and eligibility, summing the number of DLA, AA and PIP claimants can provide a general indication. In the latest five year period (2017-22), the number of DLA, AA and PIP claimants in Swansea increased by 3,945 (+13.7%); for individual benefit types the number of DLA (especially) and AA claimants both fell, whilst numbers claiming PIP rose substantially (+57.7%).
- Over the longer term (2012 to 2022), the combined total number of claimants of all three benefits rose by 3,023 (+10.2%) with sharp falls in DLA claims (-67.9%) offset by the introduction of PIP in 2013, and a reduction in AA claims over the ten years (-17.5%).

Future trends

- Predicting future trends around disability with any degree of certainty is inherently difficult, even more than for overall population projections. On the one hand, an ageing population and increasing proportion of people in the upper age groups would imply a greater risk of prevalence of disability and related conditions; however, medical advances and potential improvements in lifestyles may mitigate this to a certain extent.
- Empirical data or estimates of future trends in the population with a disability is currently limited. The 'Daffodil Cymru' portal, which had recently become the responsibility of Social Care Wales, combines information from different research sources and population projections, to show predicted changes in health conditions and care needs in Wales over the coming decades. However, its current status is unclear and any projections available would currently be based on pre-2021 Census population trends and assumptions, as with any Welsh Government or ONS projections at a national or local authority level.

Conclusion

- Disability data is perhaps the most complex of the protected characteristics to analyse, with no single statistical source providing a comprehensive overview. However, there are a number of indicators available which can provide a local measure of disability including administrative (benefits, LA registers) and survey sources (Census, APS).
- The Census is probably the most relevant measure in terms of definition, albeit based on self-assessment rather than any medical diagnoses. Whilst the usefulness of Census data can be compromised by the long gap (ten years) between Censuses, the latest data is relatively close to the reference date (March 2021).
- On the survey-based measures, around a quarter of Swansea's population are disabled, with Census data for 2011-2021 showing a small downward trend in the numbers of disabled people. However, recent APS estimates show the opposite trend (an increase) between 2017 and 2022, reflecting differences in source methodology and other factors.
- For the administrative measures, numbers recorded (and percentages) remain far lower; indicating that requests for assistance and the claiming of benefits may be generally lower than need. The trend in the last ten years shows increases in most administrative measures, including people with learning disabilities (in the community), those who are sight and hearing impaired, and claimants of most DWP disability-related benefits (except Disability Living Allowance – which is no longer available to new claimants).

3. Gender reassignment (Gender Identity)

'The process of transitioning from one gender to another' (EHRC). The Equality Act 2010 specified that 'A person has the protected characteristic of gender reassignment if the person is proposing to undergo, is undergoing or has undergone a process (or part of a process) for the purpose of reassigning the person's sex by changing physiological or other attributes of sex.'

Data sources

- Gender identity is considered a personal internal perception of oneself, and as such, the gender category with which a person identifies may not match the sex they were assigned at birth. In contrast, sex is biologically determined.
- The 2021 Census provided the first official statistics at a local and national level about people who are transgender.
- In recent years, work has been undertaken by several national statistical agencies around gender identity and to capture trans or non-binary identities. In England and Wales, ONS had been considering options for meeting the user requirement for these statistics, subject to public acceptability, privacy, respondent burden and data quality issues.
- The 2021 Census topic consultation in 2015 identified a need amongst a number of data users for information about gender identity for policy development and service planning (e.g. for the provision of health services), and for information on those with the protected characteristic of gender reassignment as set out in the Equality Act 2010.
- ONS included a gender identity question in the 2021 Census that collects information on those whose gender is different from their sex assigned at birth. The question was voluntary, only asked of persons aged 16 years and over and included a "prefer not to say" response option.

Key statistics

- The gender identity question in the 2021 Census asked "Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?" Overall, 93.5% of the population in Swansea aged 16 years and over answered the question (Wales 93.7%; England & Wales 94.0%).
- In total, 864 people in Swansea (0.4% of all aged 16 and over) answered "No" (Wales 0.4%; England & Wales 0.5%).
- Of this total, 320 people in Swansea (0.2% of the total) answered "No" but did not provide a write-in response; 146 (0.1%) identified as a trans man; 160 (0.1%) identified as a trans woman; and 238 (0.1%) identified as non-binary or wrote in a different gender identity.

Local variations

- The lowest level of data on gender identity from the 2021 Census is for Middle layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs). Due to the small numbers of people whose gender identity is not the same as their sex registered at birth, there are limited options for meaningful analysis of specific response categories at this level of geography, including any multi-variate analysis at a localised level. In addition, as the question was voluntary, users should be aware of differences in response rates when comparing between different areas.
- Within Swansea, the proportion of adults aged 16+ whose gender identity is different from their sex registered at birth is highest in the MSOAs of Central Swansea (1.2%), Brynmill and Uplands (both 1.0%). In the 2021 Census results, this proportion was 0.5% or lower in 25 of Swansea's 30 MSOAs.

- The MSOAs in Swansea with the highest proportions of people not answering this question were Landore (10.2%) and Sketty (9.5%).

Conclusion

- As mentioned previously, the 2021 Census enabled statistical information on gender identity and reassignment for the first time; therefore it is currently difficult to assess statistical change over time and future trends for this topic.
- ONS plan to undertake and publish further analysis on the topics of sexual orientation and gender identity in the first year of the Census 2021 analysis programme and following years, in light of user feedback and further research and testing of the data.

4. Marriage and civil partnership

'Marriage is a union between a man and a woman or between a same-sex couple.

Same-sex couples can also have their relationships legally recognised as 'civil partnerships'. Civil partners must not be treated less favourably than married couples (except where permitted by the Equality Act).' (EHRC)

Data sources

- The main local source of data on the marriage and civil partnership status of adults is the Census. In the 2021 Census, data is available for adults whose status is one of the broad categories: Never married and never registered a civil partnership; Married or in a registered civil partnership; Separated, but still legally married or still legally in a civil partnership; Divorced or civil partnership dissolved; and Widowed or surviving civil partnership partner. The Census data also breaks down these categories further, e.g. whether married or registered civil partnership, same sex or opposite sex.
- For the 2011 Census, the categories were amended to reflect the Civil Partnership Act 2004, which since 2005 has enabled same-sex couples to obtain legal recognition of their relationship by forming a civil partnership. Later, the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 was passed in July 2013, and the first marriages took place in March 2014. The 2021 Census was the first to include statistics on people in same sex marriages.
- In addition, the Civil Partnerships, Marriages and Deaths (Registration etc.) Act 2019, enabled couples of the opposite sex eligible to form civil partnerships, with implications for 2021 Census outputs and future statistics on civil partnership status, formation and dissolution.
- Survey-based estimates of people's marital status and living arrangements are also published annually by ONS; albeit for Wales and England & Wales (E&W) only. These are calculated by applying the marital status and living arrangement distributions obtained from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) to mid-year population estimates.
- Annual statistics of the number of marriages by local authority area of occurrence are published (currently to 2020), broken down by type of ceremony (civil or religious) and the status and age of bride and groom. Data on same sex marriages (also by area of occurrence to local authority level) is also available for years from 2014. It is currently only possible to publish final annual marriage statistics over two years after the end of the reference year because of delays in the submission of religious marriage entries, although recent legislation aims to improve timeliness.

Key statistics

- The 2021 Census reported that just over 41% of Swansea's residents aged 16 and over (81,400 people) are married or in a registered civil partnership, a slightly lower proportion than Wales (43.8%) and England & Wales (44.6%), with corresponding higher proportions single. Figures for other broad categories are relatively close to the Wales average.

Table 4: Marital and civil partnership status, 2021 Census

Marital and civil partnership status, 2021:	Swansea	% of total	Wales %	E&W %
Never married and never registered a civil partnership	79,035	39.9	37.2	37.9
Married or in a registered civil partnership	81,426	41.2	43.8	44.6
Separated, but still legally married or still legally in a civil partnership	4,280	2.2	2.0	2.2
Divorced or civil partnership dissolved	19,206	9.7	9.9	9.1
Widowed or surviving civil partnership partner	13,909	7.0	7.1	6.1
<i>Total population aged 16 & over</i>	<i>197, 856</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>

Source: 2021 Census, Office for National Statistics. © Crown Copyright 2022.

Notes: Marital and civil partnership status classifies individuals according to their legal marital or registered civil partnership status as at census day, 21 March 2021.

- Restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic had a marked impact on the number, timing and characteristics of marriages taking place in 2020 (the latest year of published statistics) against previous years. National marriage rates in 2020 have more than halved compared with 2019, and in Swansea the 2020 figure (423) was less than 40% of the 2019 total (1,123).
- In the three previous years (2017-2019), the number of opposite-sex marriages taking place in Swansea has averaged 1,147 per year. Over the same three-year period, the annual number of same sex marriages occurring in Swansea averaged 40.

Local variations

- 2021 Census data at a ward level shows some spatial variations in marital status within Swansea, with over 50% of the adult population 'Never married and never registered a civil partnership' in the Uplands, Castle, Waterfront, Townhill and Landore wards, but under 25% in Mayals, Bishopston, Pennard and Gower. The pattern reverses for the proportion of adults who are married or in a registered civil partnership, highest (+60%) in Mayals, closely followed by Gower, Pennard and Bishopston, but below 25% in Castle and Uplands.

Change over time

- Changing patterns in marital status over the long-term can be seen from comparing results from the 2011 and 2021 Census. In Swansea, the number of people aged 16 and over who are 'never married or in a registered same-sex civil partnership' increased in absolute and percentage terms; from 72,496 (36.7%) in 2011 to 79,035 (39.9%) in 2021. However, the number of people married or in a registered civil partnership in Swansea decreased by around 5,400 over those ten years, and fell as a proportion from 43.9% to 41.2% between Census dates.
- As 2020 was such an untypical year due to the pandemic, meaningful assessment of change to that year is limited. The number of marriages in Swansea increased by 220 or 22.3% between 2009 and 2014 (Wales +6.3%, England & Wales +8.5%). However, since then the overall trend has reversed, with the annual number of all marriages decreasing by 83 or 6.9% between 2014 and 2019. National trends are similar; falling in Wales (-12.3%) and England & Wales (-12.8%).
- In the ten years 2009-2019, there has also been an increase in the proportion of civil marriage ceremonies, rather than religious, rising from 63.3% of the Swansea total in 2009 to 86.2% in 2019.

Future trends

- In recent years a greater proportion of the adult population are not married, both in Swansea and nationally, and there is little evidence to suggest this trend may change in the short-term.
- Changing patterns in the marital status of adults and the number of marriage and civil partnership ceremonies will always be led by wider societal changes. An indication might be provided by projecting forward recent trends, but this would be difficult to quantify with any certainty, compounded by the effect of the pandemic on 2020 (and later) statistics.
- ONS have previously produced national marital status projections, most recently in 2010 (consistent with the 2008-based national population projections). In these, the proportion of the adult population of England & Wales who are married is projected to fall over the 2008-2033 period from approx. 49% to 42%; and the proportion of adults who are single (never married) is projected to increase from 35% to 43%. Whilst ONS currently have no plans to update these projections, subsequent statistics have confirmed this long-term trend.

Conclusion

- Recent legislation has changed the response and output categories for marital status and other statistics on marriages.
- The 2021 Census results provided a major benchmark of societal trends around marriage and marital status.
- In common with many urban areas and university cities, Swansea has a higher proportion of adults never married and never registered a civil partnership than national averages.
- This picture has been reinforced in recent years, confirmed by the results of the 2021 Census, with continued growth in some categories of adults who are not married or in a registered civil partnership – in simple terms the ‘never married’ and ‘divorced’ categories – and falls in the numbers ‘married’, ‘separated’ or ‘widowed’.
- In Swansea, the annual number of marriages (opposite and same-sex) steadily increased until a recent peak in 2016, but have since declined. There is also an increasing proportion of civil rather than religious ceremonies in Swansea, as elsewhere. The latest (2020) statistics on marriages showed a very sharp fall, in part due to the impact of the pandemic. Future statistics, for 2021 and later, may show some recovery but there remain delays in official publication.

5. Pregnancy and maternity

'Pregnancy is the condition of being pregnant or expecting a baby. Maternity refers to the period after the birth, and is linked to maternity leave in the employment context. In the non-work context, protection against maternity discrimination is for 26 weeks after giving birth, and this includes treating a woman unfavourably because she is breastfeeding.' (EHRC)

Data sources

- Statistics on conceptions, births and fertility are published by ONS, with further analysis and outputs produced by Welsh Government and Public Health Wales Observatory. These statistics are produced from established administrative systems.
- Conceptions data (numbers of conceptions and rates per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44) provides the best available estimate of the number of women who became pregnant in a year, by age of mother. The figures combine numbers of maternities (pregnancies that result in the birth of one or more children) and abortions using information recorded at birth registration and abortion notification, but do not include conceptions resulting in miscarriages or illegal abortions.
- However, conception and birth statistics do not count the same thing; not all conceptions result in a live birth, and some conceptions result in multiple births. Data for a given year will count different people, as a conception may not result in a birth until the following calendar year.
- Birth statistics represent births that occurred in an area in a year, but also include a very small number of late registrations from the previous year. The latest figures published are for 2021 calendar year. The figures are compiled from information supplied when births are registered as part of civil registration, which is a legal requirement.
- Rate statistics derived from the number of births and population estimates are also published, such as Crude Birth Rate (live births per 1,000 population), General Fertility Rate (live births per 1,000 women aged 15-44) and Age Specific Fertility Rates (ASFRs) within the 15-44 age range.
- The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) reflects the average number of live children that a group of women would bear if they experienced the age-specific fertility rates of the calendar year throughout their childbearing lifespan. The TFR provides a better measure by accounting for the size and age structure of the female population of childbearing age, which affects the number of births.
- Conception statistics are expressed in absolute terms or as rates – typically per 1,000 women of a given age group within ages 15 to 44 – and the percentage of conceptions leading to abortion.
- Birth statistics are also regularly published at a local geography level, such as Ward and Super Output Area, to enable localised analysis of trends in births and birth / fertility rates.

Key statistics

- In Swansea, there were 2,908 conceptions to women of all ages in 2021, a small increase on 2020 (total 2,858). This represents a conception rate of 65.3 per 1,000 women (aged 15-44), lower than equivalent rates for Wales (70.7) and England & Wales (71.5). In 2021, there were 42 conceptions to females under-18 in Swansea, with an under-18 conception rate of 11.6 (per 1,000 females aged 15 to 17 years), lower than Wales (15.2) and England & Wales (13.2).
- In 2021 there were 2,067 babies born to residents in Swansea, very close to the 2020 figure (2,033). Swansea's Crude Birth Rate of 8.7 (live births per 1,000 people in 2021) is currently lower than that of Wales (9.3) and England & Wales (10.5). The pattern is broadly repeated in the General Fertility Rate, with 46.4 live births per 1,000 women in Swansea aged 15-44 in 2021 (Wales 51.7, England & Wales 54.1).

- The Age Specific Fertility Rate (ASFR) figures reveal differences in rates by age. Swansea currently has lower fertility rates than Wales for all age groups except 30-34 and 45+. Comparisons with England & Wales averages are generally similar, with Swansea rates currently lower in all ages except 25-29.
- The latest (2021) Total Fertility Rate (TFR) figure for Swansea is 1.37 children, lower than equivalent figures for Wales (1.50) and England & Wales (1.55).

Table 5: Conceptions, births and fertility (to 2021)

Indicator:	Swansea	Rate	Wales rate	E&W rate
Conceptions (2021) / rate per 1,000 ¹	2,908	65.3	70.7	71.5
Change 2016-2021 (change in rate)	-195	(-1.8)	(-1.4)	(-5.8)
Live births (2021) / crude birth rate ²	2,067	8.7	9.3	10.5
Change 2016-2021 (change in rate)	-408	(-1.4)	(-1.3)	(-1.4)
General fertility rate (GFR) ³		46.4	51.7	54.1
Total fertility rate (TFR) ⁴		1.37	1.50	1.55
Standardised mean age of mother ⁵		30.5 years	30.1	30.9

Sources: Conception Statistics, England and Wales, 2021, ONS. Birth Summary Tables, England and Wales 2021. ONS.

Notes:

- 1: Conceptions data combine information from registrations of births and notifications of legal abortions occurring to usual resident women. Rates are expressed per 1,000 women of a given age; for the total figure this refers to women aged 15-44.
- 2: Birth statistics represent births which occurred in the calendar year, but include a very small number of late registrations from the previous year. The Crude Birth Rate is the number of live births per 1,000 population of all ages.
- 3: The General Fertility Rate (GFR) is the number of live births per 1,000 females aged 15 to 44.
- 4: The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is the average number of live children that a group of women would bear if they experienced the age-specific fertility rates of the calendar year in question throughout their childbearing lifespan.
- 5: The mean (average) age of mother has been standardised to eliminate the impact of changes in the distribution of the population by age. The figure is therefore calculated using fertility rates per 1,000 female population by single year of age. Rates are calculated using the ONS' mid-year estimates of population in the given year.

Local variations

- Conception totals and rates are not published for geographies lower than local authority level.
- However, calendar year statistics on live births are published by ONS for local areas, including by ward and SOA, and from the associated small area mid-year population estimates it is possible to derive annual crude birth rates and general fertility rates (GFRs) for small areas.
- There is some variation in crude birth rates by ward within Swansea, with rates (2021) ranging from under 4.0 in Gower and Pennard to 14.0 in Townhill. Crude birth rates are also above 11.0 in Bonymaen, Penllergaer and Penderry.
- General fertility rates (GFRs) follow a more varied spatial pattern around the Swansea average (44.2 in 2021); highest in the former Killay South ward (82.1 live births per 1,000 women aged 15-44), Townhill (61.7) and Bishopston (60.4), and lowest in Uplands (20.9) and Gower (31.3).

Change over time

- Between 2016 and 2021, there has been a small overall decline in the number of conceptions in Swansea, by 195 (-6.3%), and associated rates – a fall of 1.8 points during this time.
- The annual number of live births in Swansea has fallen by a greater extent between 2016 and 2021, by 408 (-16.5%), with a corresponding fall in the crude birth rate from 10.1 (in 2016) to 8.7 (2021). Swansea's General Fertility Rate has also fallen from 53.7 in 2016 to 46.4 in 2021.

- The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) in Swansea has also fallen over this five-year period, by 0.23 points (or 14.4%); slightly below equivalent falls in Wales (-0.24) and England & Wales (-0.26).
- The standardised mean age of mother in Swansea has slowly increased over the last five years, from 30.2 years in 2016 to 30.5 in 2021; slightly below equivalent increases in Wales (+0.4 years) and England & Wales (+0.5 years).

Future trends

- Projecting forward local trends from the recent past on a linear basis would provide an overly simplistic view. A wide range of social, economic and political factors may have considerable (cumulative) impacts on future trends in fertility and births, both nationally and locally.
- High level assumptions on future fertility rates (up to 25 years) are included within the methodology for ONS' national population projections (and ultimately reflected in local authority population projections), using recent trends in births and fertility. In the interim 2020-based national projection, the long-term principal assumption for completed family size (or Total Fertility Rate / TFR) for the UK is 1.59 children per woman by mid-2045, lower than the previous 2018-based estimate (1.78 children). For Wales, the current (2020-based) principal assumption is lower, at 1.47 children by 2045. In the latest local authority projections (2018-based), the projected TFR for Swansea increases over the 25-year period to 2043 from 1.53 to 1.65; however, this will be reviewed in any future, post 2021 Census-based local projections and based on more recent evidence.

Conclusion

- Recent conception rates, live birth rates and fertility rates in Swansea (to 2021) remain below those for Wales and England & Wales, ultimately reflected in lower numbers of average children born to women in Swansea.
- Over the last five years, numbers of conceptions and births have fallen, both in Swansea and nationally.
- In Swansea, fertility rates are currently lower than national averages for most age groups.
- There are variations in birth and fertility rates within Swansea, with lower rates in areas with an older age profile or higher proportions of students, and higher rates tending to be in the less affluent urban wards or near areas of recent housing expansion.
- The first national and local population projections based on the 2021 Census will incorporate recent evidence around fertility as a key component in any projection.
- At a local level, it may be possible to estimate future area differences within Swansea by looking at planned new housing developments identified in the Local Development Plan monitoring process (new-build housing units, commitments and allocations).

6. Race

'Refers to the protected characteristic of race. It refers to a group of people defined by their race, colour, and nationality (including citizenship) ethnic or national origins.' (EHRC)

Data sources

- The main source of detailed local data on population characteristics related to race, including ethnicity and national identity, is the Census – with 2021 data for local geographies now available. Other Census data variables can also be used to assist analysis in this context, for example country of birth, religion, language (other than English or Welsh) and passports held.
- Prior to the 2011 Census, ONS published annual estimates of ethnicity at local authority level; however concerns about the methodology and data led to the releases being suspended. In 2017, ONS published research on a method for producing local authority level estimates (as research outputs) by country of birth, nationality and ethnic group (for mid-2016) using data from Annual Population Survey (APS), Census and mid-year population estimates.
- Local authority level estimates of population by country of birth and nationality have been published bi-annually by ONS using data from the APS; however due to sample sizes, estimates for specific groups can be relatively small in local areas, with wide confidence intervals. Summary APS data on ethnic group (white/non-white, aged 16+ only) is also available.
- Other data sources which can show a picture and trends in population by ethnic group include the annual Schools Census in Wales, which records the ethnicity of pupils aged 5 and over.

Key statistics

- In the 2021 Census, the largest ethnic group in Swansea is White, with 91.4% of residents (218,052 people) in this ethnic group and the remaining 8.6% of residents from a non-white ethnic group. Table 6 details the latest data for Swansea with comparative % figures for Swansea, Wales and England & Wales at the highest level of ethnic group classification.

Table 6: Population by ethnic group, 2021 Census

Ethnic group, 2021:	Swansea	% of total	Wales %	Eng & Wal %
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	10,451	4.4	2.9	9.3
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	2,797	1.2	0.9	4.0
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	3,808	1.6	1.6	2.9
White	218,052	91.4	93.8	81.7
Other ethnic group	3,383	1.4	0.9	2.1
<i>Total population</i>	<i>238,491</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>

Source: 2021 Census, Office for National Statistics. © Crown Copyright 2022.

Note: The ethnic group statistics classify people according to their own perceived ethnic group and cultural background.

- A more specific breakdown, via 19 ethnic group categories, is also available from the Census. At this level, the largest groups in Swansea are 'White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British' at 208,703 (87.5% of Swansea's population), followed by 'White: Other White' (8,028 people, 3.4%).
- The largest non-white ethnic groups in Swansea in the 2021 Census were 'Asian: Bangladeshi' (2,865 people, 1.2%), 'Other Asian' (2,528 people, 1.1%), 'Black: African' (2,227 people, 0.9%),

'Asian: Indian' (2,172 people, 0.9%), 'Asian: Chinese' (1,932 people, 0.8%), 'Any other ethnic group' (1,805 people, 0.8%), followed by 'Other ethnic group: Arab' (1,578 people, 0.7%).

- The 2021 Census data also reveals that 75.2% of Swansea's population (179,362 people) were born in Wales, with 14.5% born in England and 0.8% born in Scotland or Northern Ireland. In 2021, 22,469 Swansea residents (9.4% of the total) were born outside the UK, with individual country totals over a thousand being Poland (2,228), India (1,379), Bangladesh (1,243), 'Other Middle East' (1,085) and Romania (1,081). The number of people born in China was just below a thousand (916).
- In the latest annual Schools Census (January 2023), 19.9% of all pupils aged 5 or over at maintained schools in Swansea identified as 'Black, Asian and minority ethnic', which is higher than the 2021 Census figure for the resident population aged 5-15, at 13.2%. Local analysis from the Schools Census indicates that the highest minority proportions within this overall figure were Asian (at 4.3% of all school pupils in January 2023) and Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups (4.2%).

Local variations

- Local breakdowns of Swansea's population by ethnic group are only readily available from the Census. The largest ethnic minority group populations in 2021 were in the urban wards of Castle (3,511), Uplands (2,309) and Sketty (1,938). Castle (26.6%) and Waterfront (22.8%) were highest in percentage terms. The 2021 Census data also shows higher numbers of minority groups in certain areas, for example 'Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh' people in Castle, Uplands and Sketty wards and (as a proportion) the Waterfront and Landore wards.
- At a ward level, the highest numbers and proportions of people born outside the UK (2021 Census) are in the wards of Castle (3,379 people, 25.6% of residents), Uplands (2,327 or 16.6%), Sketty (1,912 people) and Waterfront (27.3% of residents). The lowest proportion is in Llchwyr (2.5%) with Pen-clawdd, Pontarddulais and Pontlliw & Tircoed wards also under 3%. In the Census, there are higher numbers of people resident in particular wards (above 200 in each case) born in specific non-UK countries; for example, people born in Bangladesh, Poland, Romania and China in Castle; people born in Poland in Penderry and Townhill; people born in Philippines and Poland in Morriston; and people born in India in Uplands.

Change over time

- Between the 2011 and 2021 Census, the estimated number of people in Swansea from a non-White ethnic group increased from 14,326 (6.0% of the population) to 20,439 (8.6%); an overall increase of around 6,100 (+43%). Over the same period, the number of people from White ethnic groups decreased by around 6,600 or 3%.
- The largest reported increases in the population of ethnic group categories between 2011 and 2021 were 'Other White' (+3,200 people approx. or 65%), 'Any other ethnic group' (+1,100 or 163%), Bangladeshi (+900 or 47%) and Other Asian (+800 or 45%).
- Between the 2011 and 2021 Censuses, the number of people usually resident in Swansea who were born outside the UK increased by approx. 5,200 or 30.4%.
- Schools Census data reveals that between 2018 and 2023, the number of Swansea pupils aged 5 to 15 in primary, middle or secondary schools from Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups increased from 2,555 to 3,142 (an increase of 587 pupils or 23%); the proportion rising from 15.6% to 19.9% of all pupils.

Potential future trends

- There is no known source of population projections by ethnic group, country of birth or related characteristics published by the UK statistical agencies. Whilst all projections have three broad components of change – births, deaths and migration – all are effectively based on past trends. Indeed, ONS stress that migration assumptions are not predictions of future trends but should be interpreted as plausible scenarios based on what has happened in the past.
- Ad hoc projections by ethnic group have previously been published by academic and research institutions. However, no recent, locally based, readily available sources have come to light.
- Projecting statistical trends forward on a linear basis would not provide robust forecasts; there are a wide range of social, economic and political factors which may come into play and any detailed trend-based projections produced on this basis would be of questionable value.
- However, the published data on population characteristics in the most recent decennial Censuses, together with annual school census outputs, can provide an overall indication of long-term trends in the characteristics of both children and the future adult population (subject to limitations noted earlier). The available data does suggest that Swansea may continue to become a more ethnically diverse population in future.

Conclusion

- Whilst the Census is a key data source, its infrequent publication (every ten years) cannot fully capture the dynamics of local change in population characteristics related to race and ethnicity.
- However, the timing of the latest Census results is helpful for this review. In the 2021 Census, Swansea had a higher proportion of people in non-White ethnic groups than Wales (although lower than the England & Wales average).
- In Swansea (2021), there were between 1,500 and 2,000 residents (approximately) in each of the Chinese, Bangladeshi, Other Asian, African, Arab and Indian ethnic groups. The number and percentage of people in Swansea in most of these groups has increased since the 2011 Census.
- More recent statistics (Schools Census, 2023) suggest that the number and proportion of children from non-White ethnic groups has increased further over the five years to 2023.

7. Religion or belief

'Religion refers to any religion, including a lack of religion. Belief refers to any religious or philosophical belief and includes a lack of belief. Generally, a belief should affect your life choices or the way you live for it to be included in the definition.' (EHRC)

Data sources

- The only source of local data on religion is the Census. The 2021 Census question in England and Wales ("What is your religion?") asks about religious affiliation; that is how people connect or identify with a religion, irrespective of actual practice, belief or belonging. Therefore, in Census outputs and analysis religion is a measure of identity rather than these other aspects.
- The 2021 Census question and response categories were essentially unchanged from 2011 and it remains a voluntary question, so there is a 'not answered' option in outputs. The question provided a choice of seven options which were: no religion, Christian, Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh. Respondents could also provide a write-in answer or leave the question blank.

Key statistics

- In the 2021 Census, Christianity is the predominant religion in Swansea (98,492 people, representing 41.3% of the total population).
- In 2021, the total number of people in Swansea with a non-Christian religion (Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Other religion) was 11,326; 4.7% of all people.
- Of the listed religion categories, 7,694 people (3.2%) stated their religion as Muslim, making this the most common religion after Christianity. The only other minority religions with more than 500 people in Swansea in 2011 were Hindu (1,010 people, 0.4%) and Buddhist (942, 0.4%).
- In the Census outputs, 47.3% held no religious beliefs and 6.7% did not answer or state a belief.

Table 7: Population by religion, 2021 Census

Religion, 2021:	Swansea	% of total	Wales %	Eng & Wal %
No religion	112,687	47.3	46.5	37.2
Christian	98,492	41.3	43.6	46.2
Buddhist	942	0.4	0.3	0.5
Hindu	1,010	0.4	0.4	1.7
Jewish	159	0.1	0.1	0.5
Muslim	7,694	3.2	2.2	6.5
Sikh	346	0.1	0.1	0.9
Other religion	1,175	0.5	0.5	0.6
Not answered	15,985	6.7	6.3	6.0
<i>Total population</i>	<i>238,490</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>

Source: 2021 Census, Office for National Statistics. © Crown Copyright 2022.

Note: The statistics refer to a person's current religion, or if the person does not have a religion, 'no religion'.

No determination is made about whether a person was a practicing member of a religion.

- More detailed outputs produced from write-in responses to the Census religion question include a number of religious identities not listed in the questionnaire tick-box options. In Swansea, over 50 people identified themselves in the following additional religious categories: Pagan (333), Spiritualist (147), Spiritualist (97) and Wicca (67). Within the overall 'no religion' total, over 100 people identified themselves as Agnostic (141) and Atheist (61).

Local variations

- 2021 Census statistics on the distribution of non-Christian religion by ward reports the greatest numbers being in Castle (2,158), Sketty (1,207) and Uplands (1,106). The wards of Castle (16.4%), Landore (11.7%) and Waterfront (11.3%) have the highest proportions of people with a non-Christian religion.
- The Census data also shows some concentrations of religious identities within particular areas of Swansea in 2021. For example, the highest numbers of people with a Muslim religion in 2021 were in Castle ward (1,713 people), Sketty (887), Uplands (772) and Landore (712).
- In 2021, there were approx. 100 people in both Castle and Uplands wards with Buddhist religious identity, and over 100 people with Hindu identity in both Castle and Sketty.
- The highest proportions of people identifying as Christian in Swansea were in the wards of Mayals, Pennard, Mumbles and Bishopston, at 52-55% (above the Swansea average of 41%).

Change over time

- Despite inter-Censal population change in Swansea being relatively flat overall, the number of people expressing Christian religious identity fell sharply by around 33,000 or 25% from 2011 to 2021.
- Between the 2011 and 2021 Census, the estimated number of people in Swansea with a non-Christian religion increased from 8,530 (3.6% of the population) to 11,326; an overall increase of around 2,800 people (+33%).
- The largest estimated increases in the population of minority religious groups in Swansea between 2011 and 2021 (albeit sometimes from a relatively low base) were Muslim (+2,279 people or 41%); Hindu (+230 or 30%); Sikh (+68 or 25%); and Other religion (+133 or 13%).
- However, there was a reported increase of around 31,500 people in Swansea (+39%) with no religion, and a decrease of around 1,800 (-10%) in those not answering the religion question.

Potential future trends

- As noted previously, there is no established source of projections which disaggregate the estimated future local population by characteristics such as religion.
- Projecting statistical trends forward on a linear or trend basis would not provide credible forecasts, with a wide range of social factors potentially influencing future outcomes.
- Other published data on ethnicity and identity does suggest that Swansea is likely to continue to become a more diverse population in future, trends which are likely to be replicated (in general terms) for minority religions.

Conclusion

- Just over 40% of Swansea's population identified as Christian (2021 Census), a lower proportion than in Wales and England & Wales, and a noticeable decrease since 2011.
- The number of people in Swansea affiliated with a minority religion increased between 2011 and 2021; the largest groups being Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu respectively.
- The number of people stating they had no religion also increased significantly between Censuses.

8. Sex

A man or a woman. (EHRC)

Data sources

- Population data by sex is produced annually by ONS as part of the official mid-year estimate outputs and is available from national to small area level.
- The latest mid-year estimates of population for 2021, including by sex, were published in December 2022. Recent population estimates are calculated by taking the latest (2021) Census as a benchmark and applying annual birth and death registrations data, together with estimated migration flows.
- Annual small area (e.g. ward) population estimates by sex are also routinely published. However, the most recent figures currently available are those from the Census (March 2021).
- The relative numbers of males and females in the population is also expressed as a sex ratio – usually measured as the number of males in the population for every 100 females. This can be further broken down by age.
- Official trend-based local authority level population projections, including by sex, are produced by Welsh Government using ONS data. The latest (2018-based) projections were published in 2020, with no local projections incorporating the 2021 Census results due in the near future.
- Annual statistics on live births show differences in the numbers of boys and girls born, and changes over time. Data can be obtained for local authority areas as well as at a national and regional level.
- Differences in life expectancy (at birth and at other ages) are also routinely published separately for males and females by ONS for rolling three-year periods; the latest data being for 2018-20.

Key statistics

- The latest total population estimate (mid-2021) for Swansea is 237,800 (rounded); with 120,700 females and 117,100 males.
- As proportions, 50.7% of Swansea’s population in 2021 were female (Wales 51.1%, UK 51.0%) and 49.3% male (Wales 48.9%, UK 49.0%). The split is more even in Swansea than nationally.
- Table 8 summarises the mid-2021 population estimates by sex in Swansea, Wales and the UK, and male to female ratios. Further breakdowns, including by sex by age, are available.

Table 8: Population estimates by sex and ratios (mid-2021)

Sex:	Swansea	% of total	Wales %	UK %
Female	120,700	50.7%	51.1%	51.0%
Male	117,100	49.3%	48.9%	49.0%
<i>Total</i>	<i>237,800</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>
Male to Female ratio	97.1		95.8	95.9
Ratio, age 0-15	106.6		105.2	105.0
Ratio, age 16-64	99.8		96.9	97.0
Ratio, age 65+	82.6		85.9	84.4
Ratio, age 85+	59.0		59.9	59.5

Source: Mid-Year Estimates 2021 (rounded), Population Estimates Unit, ONS. © Crown Copyright 2022.

Note: The Male to Female ratio figure refers to the estimated number of males in the population per 100 females.

- The overall sex ratio for Swansea in 2021 was 97.1 (males per 100 females). The Wales and UK ratios are lower, at just under 96. Whilst there are more females than males in the national population, the Swansea figures are slightly more in balance than Wales and UK averages.
- The table also shows the differences in male to female ratios at each key life stage. Amongst children (aged 0-15), there are more boys than girls in Swansea and nationally, mostly reflecting recent higher numbers of male babies each year. In the working age population (aged 16-64), the ratio in Swansea is more balanced overall. However, this reverses for the population aged 65+, with significantly higher numbers of females than males. This pattern is broadly similar in Wales and the UK. The difference is more definite amongst people aged 85 and over, with the longer life expectancy of women the main factor.
- Of the 2,067 births in Swansea in 2021, 52.3% were male and 47.7% female (Wales 51.4% male, 48.6% female; UK 51.2% male, 48.8% female). This is in line with general trends in recent years.
- Life expectancy is higher for females than males, both locally and nationally. In 2018-20, life expectancy at birth in Swansea stands at 77.5 years for males (Wales 78.3; UK 79.1) and 81.8 for females (Wales 82.1; UK 82.9).

Local variations

- The 2021 Census estimates suggest that there are more resident males than females (i.e. above 50% of the total) in only 5 of Swansea's 32 electoral wards. However, there are significantly higher proportions of males in the wards of Waterfront (57.8%) and Castle (54.9%).
- Conversely, the highest proportions of females are in Penderry (53.1%) and West Cross (52.6%).
- These differences are also reflected in the variation between male to female ratio figures by ward in Swansea, which range from 88.4 males per 100 females in Penderry to 136.9 males per 100 females in Waterfront (2021 Census data).

Change over time

- Change in the relative proportions of males and females within the total population tends to happen quite gradually. In the ten years to 2021, within an overall estimated population decrease in Swansea of approximately 900 (rounded), the number of males decreased by approx. 800 whilst the total number of females remained essentially unchanged. As a result there was an increase in the gap between the number of females and males, from 2,800 in 2011 to approx. 3,600 in 2021. However, this gap was higher in 2001, at 7,100.
- Similarly, the male to female ratio in Swansea (97.1 to 100 in 2021) was previously slightly higher, being 97.7 males per 100 females in 2011. However this figure was lower in 2001 (93.8).
- Life expectancy has improved overall in both males and females over the longer term, including the last 15 years. In the years to the 2017-19 period (therefore prior to any pandemic impacts), life expectancy has improved for both males and females by approx. two years. The gap between males and females in Swansea has been broadly similar over the last 15 years (from 2002-04 to 2017-19), with life expectancy for females being around 4.8 years higher in both periods.

Potential future trends

- The latest population projections (pre-Census, 2018-based) continue the overall trend in male and female population seen in mid-year estimates to that point, which is to be expected in view

of the projections being trend-based – mostly using the five years of births, deaths and migration data from 2013 to 2018.

- As a result, in these projections the rate of population increase for Swansea differs by sex, with projected growth in males of 4,800 (+3.9%) between 2018 (the base year) and 2028, but lower projected growth in the number of females (+3,100 or 2.5%).
- However, these projections are based on a set of assumptions using estimates and trends before the 2021 Census. This picture is likely to change following publication of revised population estimates by sex for the years 2012 to 2020, followed by new population projections incorporating the 2021 Census results – which are unlikely to project similar levels of growth.

Conclusion

- In Swansea, male and female populations as a whole remain broadly in balance, but with the estimated small net population decline over the ten years to 2021 almost fully attributable to an overall reduction in the number of males.
- Male to female ratios in Swansea change at different life stages, with more males than females in Swansea at ages 0-15, an equal split for people aged 16-64 (as a whole), and the reverse (more females than males) at ages 65 and over, which becomes even more pronounced at 85+. These patterns are generally reflected across the country.

9. Sexual orientation

Whether a person's sexual attraction is towards their own sex, the opposite sex or to both sexes. (EHRC)

Data sources

- Sexual orientation is an umbrella term that encompasses sexual identity, attraction and behaviour. It is a subjective view of oneself and may change over time and in different contexts. In 2018, the Government Statistical Service (GSS) harmonised standard for reporting statistics on this topic changed its recommended terminology from "sexual identity" to "sexual orientation".
- Until recently, local data on sexual orientation or identity was not routinely produced. Survey-based estimates of sexual orientation in the household population aged 16 and over are published annually from the ONS Annual Population Survey (APS) at a national and regional level, including for Wales, but the data is not available for local areas due to low sample sizes.
- In recent years, work has been undertaken by several national statistical agencies to consider options for information on sexual orientation, subject to public acceptability, privacy, respondent burden and data quality issues.
- ONS' Census 2021 topic consultation in 2015 showed a clear need for information on sexual orientation in England & Wales, to support work on policy development and service provision and to allow local authorities to meet and monitor their requirements under the Equality Act.
- ONS included this question in the 2021 Census: "Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?" It included the response categories: Straight or Heterosexual; Gay or lesbian; Bisexual; Other sexual orientation (write in). The question was voluntary and only asked of persons aged 16 years and over.
- Therefore, the 2021 Census provided the first official statistics at a local level in England & Wales about people's sexual orientation.

Key statistics

- Overall, 92.2% of the population in Swansea aged 16 years and over answered the sexual orientation question in the Census (Wales 92.4%; England & Wales 95.0%). The number of people in the "Not answered" response category in Swansea was 15,414 (7.8% of the total).
- In total, 175,739 people in Swansea (88.8% of all aged 16 and over) answered "Straight or Heterosexual" (Wales and England & Wales both 89.4%).
- In total, 6,704 people in Swansea (3.4% of all aged 16+) identified with an LGB+ orientation ("Gay or Lesbian", "Bisexual" or "Other sexual orientation"). The full version of this data including separate response categories, together with national comparisons, is shown in Table 9.
- Around 76,900 people aged 16 and over in Wales, and 1,536,600 people in England & Wales identified with an LGB+ orientation in the 2021 Census.

Table 9: Population aged 16 & over by sexual orientation, 2021 Census

All usual residents aged 16+:	Swansea	% of total	Wales %	Eng & Wal %
Straight or Heterosexual	175,739	88.8	89.4	89.4
Gay or Lesbian	3,145	1.6	1.5	1.5
Bisexual	2,972	1.5	1.2	1.3
All other sexual orientations	587	0.3	0.3	0.3
Not answered	15,414	7.8	7.6	7.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>197,857</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>

Source: 2021 Census, Office for National Statistics. © Crown Copyright 2022.

Local variations

- The lowest level of data on sexual orientation from the 2021 Census is for Middle layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs). Due to the small numbers of people whose sexual orientation is not “Straight or Heterosexual”, there are limited options for meaningful analysis of specific response categories at this level of geography, including any multi-variate analysis at a localised level. In addition, as the question was voluntary, users should be aware of differences in response rates when comparing between different areas.
- Within Swansea, the proportion of adults aged 16+ who identified with an LGB+ orientation is highest in the MSOAs of Brynmill (8.8%), Central Swansea (7.8%) and Uplands (6.5%). In the 2021 Census results, this proportion was 3% or lower in 20 of Swansea’s 30 MSOAs.
- The MSOAs in Swansea with the highest proportions of people not answering this question were Landore (11.2%), Brynmill and Sketty (both 11.1%).

Conclusion

- As mentioned previously, the 2021 Census enabled statistical information on sexual orientation for the first time; therefore it is currently difficult to assess statistical change over time and future trends for this topic.
- ONS plan to undertake and publish further analysis on the topics of sexual orientation in the first year of the Census 2021 analysis programme and following years, in light of user feedback and further research and testing of the data.