

EQUALITIES STATISTICS REVIEW: January 2020

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 2020-24.

Accompanying this review is a separate data file containing a range of worksheets with the latest statistics associated with (most of) the protected characteristics.

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.

This is the first 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:

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

Characteristic:	Description	Swansea	Wales	Reference population	Source and date
Age	0 to 15 years	17.0%	17.9%	All people (Swansea: 246,500)	Mid-year population estimates 2018, Office for National Statistics (ONS)
	16 to 64	63.5%	61.3%		
	65 and over	19.5%	20.8%		
	85 and over	2.6%	2.6%		
Disability	With long-term health problem or disability	23.3%	22.7%	All people	2011 Census, ONS
	Equalities Act Core or Work-limiting disabled	26.2%	24.0%	Working age (16-64)	Annual Population Survey 2018-19, ONS
	Registered disabled: with Learning disability	0.5%	0.4%	All people	LA registers (March 2019), Welsh Government
	Physical/sensory disability	1.0%	1.7%		
	Disability benefit claimants	11.8%	11.2%	All people	DWP, August 2018 ³
Marital and civil partnership status	Single	36.7%	33.5%	People aged 16 & over	2011 Census, ONS
	Married	43.8%	46.6%		
	Same-sex civil partnership	0.2%	0.2%		
	Separated	2.3%	2.2%		
	Divorced	9.5%	9.7%		
	Widowed ⁴	7.7%	7.9%		
Pregnancy & maternity	Conception rate	67.2	71.8	R / 1,000 fem 15-44	ONS conceptions and births including rates, 2018 ⁵
	Fertility rate (GFR)	50.8	56.3		
	Crude birth rate	9.6	10.0	R / 1,000 p	
Race - population by ethnic group	White - British	91.5%	93.2%	All people	2011 Census, ONS
	White - Other	2.5%	2.4%		
	Mixed/multiple ethnic grp	0.9%	1.0%		
	Asian/Asian British	0.6%	0.6%		
	Black/Black British	0.7%	0.4%		
	Other ethnic group	0.7%	0.3%		
Religion	Christian	55.0%	57.6%	All people	2011 Census, ONS
	Non-Christian religion ⁶	3.6%	2.7%		
	No religion	34.0%	32.1%		
	Not stated	7.5%	7.6%		
Sex	Male	49.9%	49.3%	All people	Mid-year estimates 2018, ONS
	Female	50.1%	50.7%		

Notes:

1. Please refer to following chapters for more complete footnotes for the individual data sources.
2. Due to the lack of local data, statistics are not included in the above table for gender reassignment and sexual orientation.
3. DWP disability benefits represents the sum of the following 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 is August 2018 data with rates derived from mid-2018 population estimates (ONS).
4. The 'Widowed' marital status category also includes surviving same-sex civil partner.
5. Conception, fertility and birth rate statistics are expressed as rates: a.) The Conception rate and Fertility (GFR) is the number of live births 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.
6. In this table, 'Non-Christian religion' 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 2018. These were published on 26 June 2019. The population estimates are calculated by taking the decennial Census as a benchmark (last in 2011) 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).
- Small area estimates (e.g. wards, Super Output Areas) tend to follow several months later; therefore the latest data (also for mid-2018) was published in October 2019.
- Official trend-based LA-level population projections, including by age, are currently published by Welsh Government at approximately three-yearly intervals. The latest (2014-based) projections (and variants) were produced in 2016, with the next set (2018-based) scheduled for early 2020.

Key statistics

- ONS' latest mid-year population estimate for the City & County of Swansea (for 2018) is 246,500; the second highest population of the 22 Welsh LAs and almost 8% of the Wales total (3,138,600).
- Within the Swansea population total, 42,000 are children aged 0-15 (17.0% of the total, lower than Wales 17.9% and the UK 19.0%); 156,400 (63.5%) are of working age (16-64 years) (Wales 61.3%, UK 62.7%); and 48,000 (19.5%) are aged 65+ (Wales 20.8%, UK 18.3%).
- The median age of Swansea's population (the age at which half the population is older and half is younger) is 39.6 years (2018); below equivalent figures for Wales (42.5) and the UK (40.1). In part this due to a higher proportion of resident students and other people aged 15-29.
- Table 2 summarises the 2018 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-2018)

People aged:	Swansea	% of total	Wales %	UK %
0-4	12,600	5.1	5.4	5.9
5-15	29,400	11.9	12.6	13.1
16-24	34,700	14.1	11.0	10.7
25-44	61,200	24.8	23.8	26.1
45-64	60,500	24.6	26.4	25.8
65-74	25,700	10.4	11.5	10.0
75+	22,300	9.0	9.3	8.3
Total	246,500	100	100	100

Source: Mid-Year Estimates 2018 (rounded), Population Estimates Unit, ONS. © Crown Copyright 2019.

Local variations

- Within Swansea, population estimates by age (2018) show the highest concentration of children (aged 0-15) in the wards of Townhill (27.1%) and Penderry (25.5%); partly due to recent higher birth rates in the areas. Proportions for Penllergaer, Llansamlet, Pontarddulais, Lower Loughor and Gorseinon are also above 20%; possibly reflecting recent housing development and the presence of young families.
- Uplands, Castle, Killay North and Oystermouth have the lowest proportions aged 0-15; the first three being areas with more of a young adult profile (e.g. aged 16-24) including students.
- Uplands and Castle are also the only wards in Swansea where over 75% of their population are of working age (16-64); whilst this figure is under 50% in Newton and Mayals.
- 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 total population has grown by an estimated 17,000 in 25 years (1993-2018), and by 12,300 alone (+5.3%) in the last ten years (2008-2018).
- The picture differs for each of the broad age groups: for children (aged 0-15) the net increase between 2008 and 2018 has been relatively minor (+800 or 1.9%); whilst the working age (16-64) population increase has also been proportionately low (+5,100 or 3.3%).
- In overall terms, the largest increase in these ten years has been in the 65+ age group, up by 6,500 (+15.5%). The large and increasing proportion aged over 65 is mainly due to two factors; firstly 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.
- The population aged 85 and over in Swansea is estimated to have increased by 16.2% (+900) over the ten years to 2018, to around 6,500 people. The number aged 90 and over has risen more sharply in percentage terms, by 39.7% (+700) to 2,300.
- However, the median age of Swansea's population has remained relatively static in the last ten years (-0.2 years from 2008), whilst increasing in Wales (+1.6 years) and the UK (+1.0).

Future trends

- The latest official population projections (Welsh Government) estimate that the total population of Swansea may rise to 255,400 by 2029 and to 262,900 by 2039. These trend-based projections show projected outcomes based on a set of assumptions around births, deaths and migration.
- Projected impacts differ by age in these figures, with overall change in the number of children (aged 0-15) negligible over this period. Projected growth in the working age population (aged 16-64) is also limited; with an estimated total increase of 1,600 (+1.1%) between 2019 and 2029.
- However, by far the greatest levels of anticipated growth to 2029 is in the older population (aged 65+); with the figures projecting an increase of around 8,200 (+16.5%) to 57,900.
- Variant projections are also produced which show the effect of changing these assumptions; for example, whilst the principle projection for children (0-15) indicates a minor reduction between 2019 and 2029, at -0.6%, in the variant projections the change varies from -7.8% (-3,200 approx.) to +3.5% (+1,500). These scenarios are included in the data file – worksheets 1d and 1e.

- However, these figures should not be viewed as a prediction. They are projections based on a set of estimates and assumptions, in effect using 2009-2014 base data. There are many social, economic and political factors (often unforeseeable) which will ultimately have a cumulative impact on future population change.

Conclusion

- Swansea has the second highest population of Wales' local authorities, the fifth highest population density, and a growing total population – averaging over 1,000 additional people per year during 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 45-74.
- Over the last ten years, most of Swansea's population growth has been in the number of people aged 65 and over; a trend which the current official population projections suggest will continue in the next ten years.
- However, revised local authority population projections (2018-based) are due to be published in early 2020, based on revised component data and assumptions, which may change the level of projected population change in Swansea and its impact on particular age groups.

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 is no clear, single data source that fully covers the definition of disability used in the Equality Act; however, a number of proxy measures can be used to provide a picture.
- Census data is available on 'activity-limiting health problems or disabilities' – defined in the 2011 Census as *a long-term health problem or disability that limits a person's day-to-day activities, and has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months.*
- 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.
- 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 2011 Census, almost a quarter of Swansea residents had a long term health problem or disability (day-to-day activities limited 'a lot' or 'a little'), at 55,718 people or 23.3% of the total; slightly above the Wales average of 22.7% and even more above England & Wales (E&W) at 17.9%. Amongst people of working age (16-64), 26,988 had a long term health problem or disability, 17.4% of Swansea's working age population in 2011 (Wales 16.9%, E&W 13.0%).

- APS data for the period ending March 2019 suggests that 40,700 people in Swansea aged 16-64, 26.2% of the total, are EA core or WL disabled – higher than figures for Wales (24.0%) and the UK (20.7%). In Swansea, as nationally, the proportion is higher for females (32.3%) than males (20.4%). In the survey, an estimated 111,700 (72.0%) people in Swansea aged 16-64 are not disabled (Wales 75.2%; UK 78.6%).
- A higher number and proportion of people aged 16-64 in Swansea are EA core disabled (39,100 / 25.2%) than WL disabled (29,900 / 19.2%).
- 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 stood at 54.0% (March 2019), whilst for those not disabled the figure was 79.8%. The employment rate is also lower, at 48.7% for disabled people against 74.9% for those not disabled. The unemployment rate is higher for people aged 16-64 who are disabled (9.8%) than not disabled (6.1%).
- The latest Welsh Government figures report that 1,220 people in Swansea were on registers with learning disabilities (March 2019), of whom 1,092 (89.5%) were living in community placements and 128 (10.5%) in residential establishments. For those in community settings, 57.0% of all people on registers were living with parents or family. At March 2019, 19.1% of all people registered with learning disabilities in Swansea were aged under 16, 72.3% were aged between 16 and 64, and 8.6% were aged 65 and over.
- In Swansea, 2,547 people were registered with physical or sensory disabilities as at March 2019. Of this total around 56% were registered with a visual impairment, of whom 744 were severely sight impaired and 679 sight impaired. Of the remainder without visual disability, 510 people (45.4%) had a physical disability only, with 385 people hard of hearing and 229 deaf.
- At August 2018, 29,182 people in Swansea were claiming either Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Attendance Allowance (AA) or Personal Independence Payment (PIP), an estimated 11.8% of Swansea's total population at mid-2018, higher than Wales (11.2%) and Great Britain (7.9%).
- Whilst a relatively new benefit, more people are now claiming PIP in Swansea than DLA or AA. At 13,009 people (Aug-18) this represents 6.4% of the Swansea population aged 16+ (higher than Wales 5.4%, Great Britain 3.7%). In addition, 8,148 people claim DLA (3.3% of Swansea's total population, compared with Wales 3.8% and GB 2.8%) and 8,025 claim AA – 16.7% of the Swansea population aged 65+ (Wales 14.5%, GB 12.0%).
- The summary table 3 below provides an overview of the headline figures for these sources, with the footnotes illustrating their different purposes, definitions, timing and methodology.

Table 3: Disability indicators

Indicator:	Swansea	% of total	Wales %	national %
Census: l/t health/disability ¹	55,718	23.3	22.7	17.9 (E&W)
Census: l/t h/dis. (working age) ²	26,988	17.4	16.9	13.0 (E&W)
APS: EA core or WL disabled ³	40,700	26.2	24.0	20.7 (UK)
WG: LA reg - Learning disab. ⁴	1,220	0.5	0.4	n/a
WG: LA reg - Phys/sens dis. ⁵	2,547	1.0	1.7	n/a
DWP benefits: DLA+AA+PIP ⁶	29,182	11.8	11.2	7.9 (GB)
Disability Living Allowance ⁷	8,148	3.3	3.8	2.8 (GB)
Attendance Allowance ⁸	8,025	16.7	14.5	12.0 (GB)
Personal Independence Payment ⁹	13,009	6.4	5.4	3.7 (GB)

Sources: 1-2: 2011 Census, ONS (Note: working age % figures expressed as a proportion of people aged 16-64).

3: APS (Annual Population Survey), working age (16-64) estimates for period ending March 2019, ONS.

4-5: Local authority registers of people with disabilities, 31 March 2019 (Welsh Government) and mid-2018 population, ONS.

6-9: DWP disability benefits data, August 2018 and mid-2018 population estimates, ONS.

Note: Rates (%) for Swansea, Wales and national (UK, GB or England & Wales) expressed as a percentage of the relevant population in each case (mid-2018, except Census data).

Local variations

- For areas within Swansea, local variations (e.g. by ward, Middle 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 2011 Census, over 28% of all people in Bonymaen and Mynyddbach wards had a long-term health problem or disability, whilst this figure was under 15% in Killay North and Uplands (Swansea average 23.3%). For people of working age (16-64) only, the figures range from under 10% in Killay North, Newton and Uplands to over 26% in Townhill and Penderry (Swansea 17.4%).
- 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 2018), the figures range from under 7% in MSOAs Swansea 024 and 026 (Uplands and Brynmill areas) to over 15% in Swansea 019, 009, 014, 011 and 013 (the Townhill, Mynyddbach, Bonymaen, Penderry and Ravenhill areas).
- For the individual benefits, some subtle differences in patterns emerge. DLA is claimed by 4.8% of the total population in MSOAs Swansea 019 and 013 (Mynyddbach and Ravenhill); the highest AA claimant rates (population aged 65+) are 22.0% in Swansea 019 (Townhill) and 21.2% in Swansea 014 (Bonymaen); whilst PIP claimant rates (population aged 16+) are close to 12% in Swansea 019 and 011 (Townhill and Penderry). The local data (August 2018) for all areas is included in file sheet 2f.

Change over time

- Whilst the definition has changed between Censuses, from Limiting Long-Term Illness (LLTI) in 2001 (*any long-term illness; health problem or disability which limits daily activities or work*), the data is considered by ONS to be broadly comparable. The number of people with a long term health problem or disability has increased slightly, from 55,233 in 2001 to 55,718 in 2011; however as a proportion of the total population this fell from 24.7% in 2001 to 23.3% in 2011.
- In the last ten years (2009-19), the total number of people on local authority registers with learning disabilities in Swansea has increased by 232 (+23.5%), whilst falling in Wales (-4.0%). Within this overall change, the number of placements in the community in Swansea has increased by 249 or 29.5%, whilst placements in residential establishments fell by 17 or 11.7%.
- In the same period, the total number of physically/sensory disabled persons on local authority registers in Swansea has fallen by 131 or 4.9%. Within this figure, there were increases in the numbers severely sight impaired, sight impaired, deaf and hard of hearing (by between 20-30%), but a large decrease in the number registered with a physical disability only (-507 or 49.9%).
- 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 year (2017-18), the number of DLA, AA and PIP claimants in Swansea increased by 348 (+1.2%); for individual benefit types the number of DLA (especially) and AA claimants both fell, whilst numbers claiming PIP rose (+10.8%).

- However, over the longer term (2008 to 2018), the combined total number of claimants of all three benefits fell by 348 (-1.2%) with sharp falls in DLA claims (-58.6%) offset by the introduction of PIP in 2013, and a reduction in AA claims over the ten years (-18.6%).

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 recently became 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. There are plans to develop it to provide more sophisticated projections and scenario modelling.
- The latest published outputs from Daffodil Cymru estimate the number of people in Swansea aged over 18 with a limiting long-term illness (the Census-based definition) increasing by around 5,900 (+19%) between 2017 and 2035 (data based on 2014-based population projections and Welsh Health Survey 2012 prevalence rates). However, the source data is rather dated now and so should currently be used with caution, if at all.

Conclusion

- Disability data is perhaps the most complex of the protected characteristics to analyse, with no single source providing a comprehensive overview in line with the Equality Act (EA) definition. However, there are a number of indicators available which can provide a 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; although the usefulness of the source is compromised by the long gap between Censuses (the latest data is now nearly nine years old) and that it is based on self-assessment rather than any medical diagnoses.
- On the survey-based measures, around a quarter of Swansea's population can be considered disabled; with inter-Censal (2001-2011) trends being relatively unchanged, but more of an increase recently (between 2014 and 2019) in the APS estimates.
- For the administrative measures, numbers recorded (and percentages) are far lower; indicating that requests for assistance and the claiming of benefits is likely to be generally lower than need. The trend in the last ten years is mixed, with an overall drop in registered physically/sensory disabled people and DWP benefit claims (although rising in the latest year), but increases in people registered with learning disabilities (placed in the community) and people who are sight and hearing impaired.

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.
- No official statistics about people who are transgender are currently available at local or national level, from survey or administrative sources. However, earlier EHRC research (2012) estimated that less than one per cent of the population nationally had this protected characteristic.
- For some years ONS has been considering options for meeting the user requirement for these statistics, subject to public acceptability, privacy, respondent burden and data quality issues. Privacy concerns are especially relevant because people who have legally changed their sex from that assigned at birth are not obliged to reveal their gender history.
- In recent years, work has been undertaken by several national statistical agencies around gender identity and to capture trans or non-binary identities, considering issues of data methodology and question design. This work has tended to focus on the sex question and response categories in surveys.
- 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 are now recommending the inclusion of a gender identity question in the 2021 Census that collects information on those whose gender is different from their sex assigned at birth. Research and testing has shown that it would be acceptable and would have minimal effect on overall response and respondent burden. The proposed question will be voluntary, only asked of persons aged 16 years and over and will include a "prefer not to say" response option.
- The first outputs from the 2021 Census in England and Wales are due to be published in spring-summer 2022.

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. Data is available for adults whose status is one of the categories: Single; Married; In a registered same-sex civil partnership; Separated (but still legally married or in a same-sex civil partnership); Divorced (or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership now legally dissolved); and Widowed (or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership). For the 2011 Census, the categories were amended to reflect the Civil Partnership Act 2004, which since December 2005 has enabled same-sex couples to obtain legal recognition of their relationship by forming a civil partnership.
- 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. The estimates 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 2016), broken down by type of ceremony (civil or religious) and the status and age of bride and groom. However, marriages may occur between non-resident(s) of that area.
- The Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 was passed in July 2013, and the first marriages took place in March 2014. Annual data on same sex marriages (also by area of occurrence to local authority level) is currently available for the years 2014 to 2016.

Key statistics

- The 2011 Census reported that almost 44% of adults (aged 16+) in Swansea were married, slightly below equivalent proportions in Wales and England & Wales, with corresponding higher proportions single. Figures for other categories are relatively close to the Wales average.

Table 4: Marital and civil partnership status, 2011 Census

Marital and civil partnership status, 2011	Swansea	% of total	Wales %	E&W %
Single ¹	72,496	36.7	33.5	34.6
Married	86,481	43.8	46.6	46.6
In a registered same-sex civil partnership	326	0.2	0.2	0.2
Separated ²	4,484	2.3	2.2	2.6
Divorced ³	18,719	9.5	9.7	9.0
Widowed or surviving civil partner ⁴	15,121	7.7	7.9	7.0
<i>Total population (aged 16 & over)</i>	<i>197, 627</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>

Source: 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics. © Crown Copyright 2012.

Notes: Marital and civil partnership status classifies individuals according to their legal marital or registered same-sex civil partnership status as at census day, 27 March 2011.

1: Although the term 'single' is widely used to cover people in a number of states such as divorced or separated, in census results the term 'single' is used to refer only to someone who has never been married or in a registered same-sex civil partnership.

2: The category 'separated' includes people still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership.

3: 'Divorced' also includes people formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved.

4: Includes both people widowed and a surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership.

- The latest survey-based estimates of marital status for 2018 suggest that 35.6% of adults in Wales are single (England & Wales 35.0%), with 48.2% of adults in Wales married (England & Wales 50.4%). An estimated 8.2% in Wales are divorced (E&W 8.0%) and 7.9% are widowed (E&W 6.4%). In both these categories, the proportions are higher for females than males.
- In the last three years that data is available (2014-2016), the number of opposite-sex marriages taking place in Swansea has averaged 1,226 per year. In 2014 (from March), 2015 and 2016, the annual number of same sex marriages occurring in Swansea was 25, 44 and 52 respectively.

Local variations

- 2011 Census data at a ward level shows some spatial variations in marital status within Swansea, with over 50% of the adult population single in Uplands, Castle and Killay North wards, but under 20% in Mayals and Pennard. The pattern reverses for the proportion of adults who are married or in a registered same-sex civil partnership, at over 60% in Pennard, Mayals and Gower, 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 2001 and 2011 Census. In Swansea, the number of people aged 16 and over who are single (never married or in a registered same-sex civil partnership) increased in absolute and percentage terms; from 53,741 (29.7%) in 2001 to 72,496 (36.7%) in 2011. However, the number of married people in Swansea, decreased by just over 4,000 over the ten years, and fell as a proportion (of all 16+) from 50.1% to 43.8% between Census dates.
- Over the ten years to 2016, the number of opposite-sex marriages occurring in Swansea averaged just over 1,100 per year. However, the general trend has been upward overall, with the annual total increasing by 160 or 14.7% between 2006 and 2016. Nationally, trends have been flatter; falling in Wales (-2.2%) and slightly increasing in England & Wales (+1.4%).
- In that ten years, there has also been an increase in the proportion of civil marriage ceremonies, rather than religious, rising from 58.2% of the Swansea total in 2006 to 78.4% in 2016.

Future trends

- In recent years a greater proportion of the (growing) adult population are single, 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 against the backdrop of an increasing overall population, but this would be difficult to quantify with any certainty.
- ONS have previously produced national marital status projections on an ad hoc basis, 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%. In these national projections, the numbers of both married and never-married adults is projected to rise, but far more for those never-married.

Conclusion

- In common with many urban areas and university cities, Swansea currently has a higher proportion of single adults (never married or in a registered same-sex civil partnership) than equivalent national averages.
- Against the backdrop of a rising overall adult population, this picture and trend has been reinforced in recent years with a growth in adults who are not married or in a registered same-sex civil partnership (in simple terms the categories: never married, divorced and widowed) and a fall in the number of married adults.
- In Swansea, the annual number of marriages (opposite and same-sex) has been steadily increasing in recent years, in part against national trends. There is also an increasing proportion of civil rather than religious ceremonies, as elsewhere.
- The 2021 Census results will provide the next major benchmark of societal trends around marriage. In light of the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013, the response categories for the marital status question will be reviewed. In 2022 therefore, local data on same-sex marital status will be available for the first time.
- In view of the Civil Partnerships, Marriages and Deaths (Registration etc.) Act 2019, which will make couples of the opposite sex eligible to form civil partnerships, ONS are considering the implications for 2021 Census outputs, plus other future statistics on civil partnership status, formation and dissolution.

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 2018 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 3,126 conceptions to women of all ages in 2017, a small increase on 2016 (total 3,106). This represents a conception rate of 67.2 per 1,000 women (aged 15-44), lower than equivalent rates for Wales (71.8) and England & Wales (76.1). In 2017, there were 94 conceptions to females under-18 in Swansea, with an under-18 conception rate of 24.7 (per 1,000 females aged 15 to 17 years), higher than Wales (20.2) and England & Wales (17.9).
- In 2018 there were 2,366 babies born to residents in Swansea, almost identical to the 2017 figure (+2). Swansea's Crude Birth Rate of 9.6 (live births per 1,000 people in 2018) is currently lower than that of Wales (10.0) and England & Wales (11.1). The pattern is broadly repeated in the General Fertility Rate, with 50.8 live births per 1,000 women in Swansea aged 15-44 in 2018 (Wales 56.3, England & Wales 59.1).

- The Age Specific Fertility Rate (ASFR) figures reveal differences in rates by age. For women aged under 20, Swansea currently has higher fertility rates than the Wales and England & Wales averages, but the reverse (lower fertility rates) in age groups 20-34. For women aged 35-44, Swansea ASFRs are higher than Wales but lower than England & Wales.
- The latest (2018) Total Fertility Rate (TFR) figure for Swansea is 1.50 children, lower than equivalent figures for Wales (1.63) and England & Wales (1.70).

Table 5: Conceptions, births and fertility (2017-18)

Indicator:	Swansea	Rate	Wales rate	E&W rate
Conceptions (2017) / rate per 1,000 ¹	3,126	67.2	71.8	76.1
Change 2012-2017 (change in rate)	-115	(-2.1)	(-2.0)	(-2.4)
Live births (2018) / crude birth rate ²	2,366	9.6	10.0	11.1
Change 2013-2018 (change in rate)	-122	(-0.8)	(-0.9)	(-1.2)
General fertility rate (GFR) ³		50.8	56.3	59.1
Total fertility rate (TFR) ⁴		1.50	1.63	1.70
Standardised mean age of mother ⁵		30.4 years	29.8	30.6

Sources: Conception Statistics, England and Wales, 2017, ONS. Birth Summary Tables, England and Wales 2018. 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 currently 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 (2018) ranging from under 4.0 in Uplands, Pennard and Bishopston to 15.2 (Penderry) and 18.3 (Townhill).
- General fertility rates (GFRs) follow a broadly similar spatial pattern around the Swansea average; being highest in Townhill ward (81.1 live births per 1,000 women aged 15-44), Lower Loughor (70.8) and Mayals (70.7), and lowest in Uplands (11.7) and Killay North (20.3).

Change over time

- Between 2012 and 2017, there has been a small overall decline in the number of conceptions in Swansea, by 115 (-3.5%), and associated rates – a fall of 2.1 points during this time.
- The number of live births in Swansea has fallen by a similar degree between 2013 and 2018, by 122 (-4.9%), with a corresponding fall in the crude birth rate from 10.4 (in 2013) to 9.6 (2018).
- The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) in Swansea has also fallen over this five-year period, by 0.12 (or 7.4%); slightly below equivalent falls in Wales (-0.17) and England & Wales (0.15).

- The standardised mean age of mother in Swansea has slowly increased over the last five years, from 29.6 years in 2013 to 30.4 in 2018; slightly higher than increases in Wales (+0.6 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 2018-based projection, the long-term principal assumption for completed family size (or Total Fertility Rate / TFR) for the UK is 1.78 children per woman by mid-2043, lower than the previous 2016-based estimate (1.84 children). For Wales, the current (2018-based) principal assumption is lower, at 1.71 children. In the latest local authority projections (2014-based), the projected TFR for Swansea increases over the 25-year period from 1.61 to 1.72; this will be reviewed for the 2018-based local projections.

Conclusion

- Recent conception rates, live birth rates and fertility rates in Swansea are 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 slightly, both in Swansea and nationally.
- In Swansea, fertility rates are above national averages for women aged under 20 and those over 35, but lower than average in the 20-34 age groups.
- There are considerable 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.
- 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. 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. Census data is available for local geographies, including ward.
- 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.
- Local authority level estimates of population by country of birth and nationality are published bi-annually by ONS using data from the APS; however due to the sample base, estimates for specific country and nationality 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.
- However, in 2017 ONS published research on a method for producing local authority level population estimates by country of birth, nationality and ethnic group (for mid-2016), using data from the Annual Population Survey (APS), the Census and mid-year population estimates. The accompanying data was published as research outputs rather than as official estimates.
- 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 2011 Census, the largest ethnic group in Swansea is White, with 94.0% of residents (224,700 people) in this ethnic group and the remaining 6.0% of residents from a non-white ethnic group. The largest non-white ethnic groups in Swansea in 2011 were Chinese (2,052 people, 0.9%) and Bangladeshi (1,944, 0.8%), followed by Other Asian, African and Arab.

Table 6: Population by ethnic group, 2011 Census

Ethnic group, 2011	Swansea	% of total	Wales %	Eng & Wal %
White - British	218,655	91.5	93.2	80.5
White - Other	6,042	2.5	2.4	5.5
Mixed/multiple ethnic group	2,160	0.9	1.0	2.2
Asian/Asian British: Indian	1,477	0.6	0.6	2.5
Pakistani	591	0.2	0.4	2.0
Bangladeshi	1,944	0.8	0.3	0.8
Chinese	2,052	0.9	0.4	0.7
Other Asian	1,739	0.7	0.5	1.5
Black/Black British: African	1,707	0.7	0.4	1.8
Caribbean	172	0.1	0.1	1.1
Other Black	104	0.0	0.1	0.5
Other ethnic group: Arab	1,694	0.7	0.3	0.4
Any other ethnic group	686	0.3	0.2	0.6
Total population	239,023	100	100	100
<i>Total non-White</i>	<i>14,326</i>	<i>6.0</i>	<i>4.4</i>	<i>14.0</i>

Source: 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics. © Crown Copyright 2012.

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

- 2011 Census data also reveals that 77.7% of Swansea's population (approx. 185,700 people) were born in Wales, with 14.1% born in England and 1.0% born in Scotland or Northern Ireland. In 2011, around 17,200 Swansea residents (7.2% of the total) were born outside the UK, with individual country totals over a thousand being Poland (1,345), China (1,249) and India (1,105).
- Recent (2017) ONS research estimated that around 19,000 people in Swansea (approx. 8% of the total population) were from a non-white ethnic group in 2016. A further 7,000 people were in the category 'All Other White', therefore an estimated 26,000 people (around 11% of the Swansea population in 2016) were non-'White British'.
- The 2016 estimates also indicated that around 24,000 people (approximately 10% of Swansea's total population) were not born in the UK, again higher than the 2011 Census figure.
- APS estimates for the 2018 calendar year suggest that 17,100 people aged 16+ in Swansea (8.4% of the total) were from an ethnic minority group (95% confidence interval: +/-2.3 %-points).
- In January 2019, 11.2% of the total number of pupils aged 5 or over at maintained schools in Swansea identified as non-White, which is higher than the equivalent figure in both the Census and 2016 research estimates. The highest proportions within this overall figure were Any Other Ethnic Group (including Arab, at 2.8% of all pupils in 2019) and Bangladeshi (2.0%).

Local variations

- Local breakdowns of Swansea's population by ethnic group are only readily available from the 2011 Census. The largest ethnic minority populations in 2011 were in the urban wards of Castle (3,202), Uplands (2,091) and Sketty (1,323). Castle (20.2%) and Uplands (13.3%) were highest in percentage terms. The 2011 Census data also shows higher proportions of particular ethnic groups in certain areas; for example, Bangladeshi people in Castle, Landore and Uplands wards, and Arab people in the Castle and Sketty wards.
- At a ward level, the highest proportions of people born outside the UK (2011 Census) are in the wards of Castle (3,477 people, 21.9% of residents), Uplands (2,411 / 15.4%) and Sketty (1,489 / 10.4%). The lowest proportions are in Kingsbridge (1.7%) and Penclawdd (1.9%). In the Census, there are higher numbers of people born in specific non-UK countries residing in particular wards; for example in Castle, people born in Other Middle East, China and Bangladesh; in Uplands, people born in China and Other Middle East; in Sketty, people born in Other Middle East and India (note: in Census outputs 'Other Middle East' includes 14 country categories).

Change over time

- Between the 2001 and 2011 Census, the estimated number of people in Swansea from a non-White ethnic group increased from 4,806 (2.2% of the population) to 14,326 (6.0%); an overall increase of around 9,500 (+198%). The number of people from White ethnic groups increased by 6,202 or 6.8%.
- The largest estimated increases in the population of non-white ethnic groups between 2001 and 2011 were African (+1,515 people or 789%), Chinese (+1,427 / 228%), Other Asian (+1,405 / 421%), Indian (+933 / 172%) and Bangladeshi (+929 / 92%). However, these large reported increases should be viewed in the context of a potential undercount in the 2001 Census figures, which would have proportionately greater effects on hard-to-count groups.
- There was also an increase in the 'Other-White' population of 1,387 or 40%, partly reflecting in-migration from Eastern European states since 2001.

- Between the 2001 and 2011 Censuses, the number of people usually resident in Swansea who were born outside the UK increased by 9,274 or 116.5%.
- However, there are limitations to the direct comparisons possible between the 2001 and 2011 Census ethnicity statistics, due to changes made to the questionnaire and new or re-positioned ethnic group categories, e.g. Chinese, Arab and Gypsy or Irish Traveller.
- More recently, APS estimates suggest that the number of people aged 16+ in Swansea from non-white ethnic groups increased from 8,600 in 2011 (4.4% of all 16+) to 17,100 (8.4%) in 2018.
- Schools Census data reveals that between 2014 and 2019, the number of Swansea pupils from non-white ethnic groups increased from 2,641 to 3,367 (an increase of 726 or 27.5%); the proportion rising from 8.9% to 11.2% 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 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 trend-based projections produced on this basis would be of questionable value.
- Recent annual school Census outputs can provide an indication of potential trends in the characteristics of both children and the future adult population (subject to limitations noted earlier, including changing family or household circumstances). This data does suggest that Swansea is likely to continue to become a more ethnically diverse population in the future.
- The next major data benchmark will be provided by the 2021 Census results, with publication of data by ONS to begin in spring-summer 2022.

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.
- In 2011, Swansea had a higher proportion of people in non-White and non White-British ethnic groups than Wales (although lower than the England & Wales average).
- In Swansea (2011), there were between 1,500 and 2,000 residents (approximately) in each of the ethnic groups: Chinese, Bangladeshi, Other Asian, African, Arab and Indian. The number and percentage of people in Swansea in each of these groups has increased since the 2001 Census.
- More recent research (ONS estimates, 2016) and survey/administrative statistics (APS and Schools Census, 2018/2019) suggest that the number and proportion of people from non-White ethnic groups has increased further since 2011.

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 2011 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 2011 Census question and response categories were unchanged from 2001 and it remains a voluntary question, so there is a 'not stated' 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 2011 Census, Christianity is the predominant religion in Swansea (131,451 people, representing 55.0% of the Census total population).
- In 2011, the total number of people in Swansea with a non-Christian religion (Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Other religion) was 8,530; 3.6% of all people.
- Of the listed religion categories, 5,415 people (2.3%) 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 Buddhist (856 people, 0.4%) and Hindu (780, 0.3%).
- In the Census outputs, 34.0% held no religious beliefs and 7.5% did not answer or state a belief.

Table 7: Population by religion, 2011 Census

Religious identity, 2011	Swansea	% of total	Wales %	Eng & Wal %
Christian	131,451	55.0	57.6	59.3
Buddhist	856	0.4	0.3	0.4
Hindu	780	0.3	0.3	1.5
Jewish	159	0.1	0.1	0.5
Muslim	5,415	2.3	1.5	4.8
Sikh	278	0.1	0.1	0.8
Other religion	1,042	0.4	0.4	0.4
No religion	81,219	34.0	32.1	25.1
Religion not stated	17,823	7.5	7.6	7.2
Total population	239,023	100	100	100

Source: 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics. © Crown Copyright 2012.

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 100 people identified themselves in the following additional religious categories: Pagan (263), Mixed Religion (173) and Spiritualist (141). Within the overall 'no religion' total, over 100 people identified themselves as Jedi Knight (821), Atheist (206) and Agnostic (141).

Local variations

- 2011 Census statistics on the distribution of non-Christian religion by ward reports the greatest numbers being in Castle (2,049), Uplands (1,208), and Sketty (886). The wards of Castle (12.9%), Landore (7.8%) and Uplands (7.7%) 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 2011. For example, the highest numbers of people with a Muslim religion in 2011 were in Castle ward (1,598 people), Uplands (781) and Sketty (581).
- In 2011, there were approx. 140 people in both Castle and Uplands wards with Buddhist religious identity, and approx. 110-120 people with Hindu identity in Sketty, Castle and Uplands.
- The highest proportions of people identifying as Christian in Swansea were in the wards of Kingsbridge, Mayals, Newton and Killay South, at 66-68% (above the Swansea average of 55%).

Change over time

- Despite an overall inter-Censal population increase, the total number of people in Swansea expressing Christian religious identity fell over that ten years by around 27,000 or 17%.
- Between the 2001 and 2011 Census, the estimated number of people in Swansea with a non-Christian religion increased from 3,758 (1.7% of the population) to 8,530; an overall increase of around 4,800 people (+127%).
- The largest estimated increases in the population of minority religious groups in Swansea between 2001 and 2011, albeit sometimes from a relatively low base, were Muslim (+3,248 people or 150%); Other religion (+595 or 133%); Hindu (+498 or 177%); Buddhist (+317 or 59%) and Sikh (+125 or 82%). However, these large increases should be viewed in the context of a potential 2001 Census undercount, with greater effects on some hard-to-count populations.

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 the near future, trends which are likely to be replicated (in general terms) for minority religions.

Conclusion

- Whilst over half of Swansea's population identified as Christian (2011 Census), this proportion is lower than it is in Wales and England & Wales, and the number has decreased since 2001.
- The number of people in Swansea affiliated with a minority religion increased between 2001 and 2011; the largest groups being Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu respectively.
- The number of people stating they had no religion also increased significantly between Censuses.
- The next local data on population by religion will be provided by the 2021 Census results in 2022. ONS are currently testing questions and response categories for the next Census.

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 estimates outputs and is available from national to small area level.
- The latest mid-year estimates of population for 2018, including by sex, were published in June 2019. Recent population estimates are calculated by taking the 2011 Census as a benchmark and applying annual birth and death registrations data, together with estimated migration flows.
- Small area (e.g. ward) population estimates by sex for 2018 were published in October 2019.
- The relative numbers of males and females in the population is also expressed as a male:female ratio – usually defined as the number of females in the population for every 100 males. This can be further broken down by age.
- Official trend-based local authority level population projections, including by sex, are produced by Welsh Government. The latest (2014-based) projections were published in 2016.
- Annual statistics on live births show differences in the numbers of boys and girls born, and changes over time. Data is currently more readily available at a national and regional level.
- Differences in life expectancy (at birth and at age 65) are also routinely published separately for males and females by ONS for rolling three-year periods; the latest being 2016-18.

Key statistics

- The total population estimate (mid-2018) for Swansea is 246,500 (rounded); with the number of males (123,100) and females (123,400) broadly in balance.
- As proportions, 49.9% of Swansea's population in 2018 were male (Wales 49.3%, UK 49.4%) and 50.1% female (Wales 50.7%, UK 50.6%). The split is more even in Swansea than nationally.
- Table 8 below summarises the 2018 estimates by sex in Swansea, Wales and the UK. Further breakdowns, including population by sex by age, are available in worksheet 8a of the data file.

Table 8: Population estimates by sex and male:female ratios (mid-2018)

Sex:	Swansea	% of total	Wales %	UK %
Male	123,100	49.9%	49.3%	49.4%
Female	123,400	50.1%	50.7%	50.6%
<i>Total</i>	<i>246,500</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>
Male:Female Ratio	100 : 100.3		100 : 102.8	100 : 102.6
M:F Ratio, age 0-15	100 : 92.4		100 : 95.2	100 : 95.1
M:F Ratio, age 16-64	100 : 95.7		100 : 100.7	100 : 100.5
M:F Ratio, age 65+	100 : 125.5		100 : 117.1	100 : 119.3
M:F Ratio, age 85+	100 : 179.2		100 : 174.7	100 : 174.8

Source: Mid-Year Estimates 2018 (rounded), Population Estimates Unit, ONS. © Crown Copyright 2019.

- The overall male:female ratio for Swansea in 2018 was 100 : 100.3. The Wales and UK ratios are higher at approximately 100 : 103. Therefore, Swansea has a lower proportion of females in its total population than the national averages.
- The table above also shows the differences in male:female ratio at each life stage. Amongst children (aged 0-15), there are more boys than girls in Swansea and nationally, mostly reflecting higher numbers of male babies each year. There are also more males than females in Swansea's

working age population (16-64), whilst Wales and UK figures are more balanced. However, for the population aged 65+, this pattern reverses with significantly higher numbers of females than males, and this is more pronounced in Swansea than Wales and the UK. The difference is more definite for the very elderly (85+), with the longer life expectancy of women the main factor.

- Of the 2,366 births in Swansea in 2018, 1,203 were male and 1,163 female. This is in line with general trends (local and national) in recent years.
- Life expectancy is higher for females than males. In 2016-18, life expectancy at birth in Swansea stands at 77.3 years for males (Wales 78.3; UK 79.3) and 82.2 for females (Wales 82.3; UK 82.9).

Local variations

- The 2018 population estimates suggest that within Swansea there are more resident males than females (i.e. above 50% of the total) in only 6 of the 36 electoral wards. A significantly higher proportion of males are in the wards of Uplands (57.6%) and Castle (56.2%).
- Conversely, the highest proportions of females are in Newton (53.5%) and Townhill (53.2%).
- These differences are also reflected in the variation between male:female ratio figures by ward in Swansea, which range from 73.5 females per 100 males in Castle to 115.0 per 100 in Newton.

Change over time

- Change in the relative proportions of males and females within the total population happens quite gradually. However, in the ten years to 2018, within an overall population increase in Swansea of approximately 12,300, the number of males increased by approx. 8,300 and females by 4,000; the result being a closing of the gap between females than males. Ten years ago (2008) there were around 4,700 more females than males in Swansea and in 1998 the gap was 6,700.
- Similarly, the male:female ratio in Swansea (100 : 100.3 in 2018) was previously higher, being 104.1 females per 100 males in 2008 and 106.1 per 100 males in 1998.
- Despite recent small reverses, life expectancy in both males and females has improved overall in the last ten years. However, in that time life expectancy has improved more for females in Swansea (+1.2 years) than for males (+0.5 years). As a result, the life expectancy gap between males and females in Swansea has widened in the last ten years from 4.2 years to 4.9 years; whilst nationally the gap has narrowed (to 4.0 years in Wales and 3.6 in the UK).

Potential future trends

- The latest population projections continue the overall trend in male:female population seen in recent mid-year estimates; 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 2009-14). The sex ratio assumption for births was also set to 1,050 boys per 1,000 girls for all areas in Wales.
- As a result, the rate of projected population increase for Swansea differs by sex, with projected growth in males indicating an estimated increase of 7,270 (+5.9%) between 2019 and 2029, but lower projected growth in the number of females (+2,300 or 1.9%).

Conclusion

- In Swansea, male and female populations are currently in balance, with faster growth in the overall number of males than females in recent years.
- Male:female ratios in Swansea change at different life stages, with more males than females in Swansea at ages 0-15 and 16-64, and the reverse at 65+ and (even more pronounced) at 85+.

9. Sexual orientation

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

Data sources

- Data on sexual orientation or identity is not regularly produced locally. Survey-based estimates are published annually at a national and regional level in the UK, including for Wales, but the data is not available for local authority areas as the sample size is too small to be representative.
- Regional sexual identity estimates are based on social survey data from the Annual Population Survey (APS) undertaken by the Office for National Statistics. The questions collect information on self-perceived sexual identity from the household population aged 16 and over in the UK.
- Sexual identity is one part of the umbrella concept of sexual orientation. Sexual identity does not necessarily reflect sexual attraction or behaviour, which are separate concepts currently not measured by official surveys.
- In 2017, the percentage of people identifying as lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) was similar for England (2.1%), Scotland (1.9%) and Wales (2.0%). Northern Ireland had the lowest percentage of all UK countries with 1.2% of the household population identifying as LGB.
- Experimental estimates for some local authority areas, using APS data for the pooled years 2013 to 2015, were published as ad hoc research by ONS in April 2017. Whilst estimates (number and percentage) are available for Swansea, the 95% confidence intervals attached to the estimates are very wide.
- Welsh Government currently publishes three-year pooled estimates (again from the APS) for Wales and three sub-regions, including Mid and South West Wales (including Swansea), with the latest data available for the years 2015-17. The available data is shown below:

Table 9: Sexual identity by region in Wales, 2015-17

Area	Heterosexual	Gay/Lesbian	Bisexual	Other	No response
Wales	2,391,100 (95.0%)	29,500 (1.2%)	15,300 (0.6%)	13,300 (0.5%)	68,200 (2.7%)
M&SWW	711,000 (96.3%)	6,100 (0.8%)	*	3,400 (0.5%)	13,500 (1.8%)

Source: Welsh Government 2019 (using Annual Population Survey data, Office for National Statistics).

Note: M&SWW = Mid & South West Wales, including City & County of Swansea. * data not available due to limited sample size.

- Up to now, a question on sexual identity has not been considered suitable for inclusion in the Census. Previously it has been felt that there might be a detrimental effect on response rates due to the sensitive nature of the subject of sexual orientation, and possible respondent concerns about confidentiality and disclosure in the context of a compulsory Census.
- The 2021 Census topic consultation in 2015 identified a need amongst a number of data users for information about sexual identity for policy development, service provision and planning, equality monitoring, resource allocation and to reflect change in society.
- In the Census White Paper, published in December 2018, ONS recommended the inclusion of a sexual identity question in the 2021 Census with the following response categories: Heterosexual or straight; Gay or lesbian; Bisexual; Other sexual orientation (write in); Prefer not to say.
- The first outputs from the 2021 Census are due to be published by ONS in 2022.