

## Census 2021 – Households topic.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) have released the first data sets from Census 2021.

The latest Census shows that there are 169,261 households<sup>1</sup> in Dorset<sup>2</sup>. This is a 7% increase from the 2011 Census where the total number of households were 158,738. This is in line with national increases.

**Table 1 – Total Household**

| Area              | Census 2011 | Census 2021 | % Change |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|----------|
| Dorset Council    | 158,738     | 169,261     | 7%       |
| South West        | 2,264,641   | 2,448,881   | 8%       |
| England and Wales | 23,366,044  | 24,783,199  | 6%       |

31% 51,741 (almost one in three) of Dorset’s households are single person households. 41% of households in Dorset are two person households. Three and four person households make up 25% or a quarter of all households. Only 8% of Dorset households have more than four people living in them.

**Table 2 – Household Size**

The data from the Census in 2021 illustrates a higher proportion of two person households in Dorset 41% compared to the national figure of 34% and slightly higher than the South West 37% but otherwise the breakdown in household size is similar.

Table 2

| Household size                | Dorset | South West | England and Wales |
|-------------------------------|--------|------------|-------------------|
| 1 person in household         | 31%    | 30%        | 30%               |
| 2 people in household         | 41%    | 37%        | 34%               |
| 3 people in household         | 14%    | 15%        | 16%               |
| 4 people in household         | 11%    | 12%        | 13%               |
| 5 people in household         | 3%     | 4%         | 4%                |
| 6 people in household         | 1%     | 1%         | 2%                |
| 7 people in household         | 0%     | 0%         | 1%                |
| 8 or more people in household | 0%     | 0%         | 0%                |

<sup>1</sup> A ‘household’ is defined as either one person living alone, or a group of people living at the same address and sharing both cooking facilities and a living room or dining area.

<sup>2</sup> All data that refers to Dorset relates to the Dorset Council area.

**Table 3 – Household composition**

Just under one in five (18%) of Dorset’s households are lone households where the resident is over 66, this compares to 13% for England and Wales and 15% for the South West. 65% of all households (almost two thirds) contain single families which could constitute a couple living together, a lone parent, a couple with dependent or non-dependent children, this figure is very similar to the South West and England and Wales. There are 5% of multiple family households in Dorset compared to 6% regionally and 7% in England and Wales.

Table 3

| Household Composition         | Dorset | South West | England and Wales |
|-------------------------------|--------|------------|-------------------|
| Single Person Household       | 31%    | 30%        | 30%               |
| Single older person Household | 18%    | 15%        | 13%               |
| Single Family Household       | 65%    | 64%        | 63%               |
| Multiple Family Household     | 5%     | 6%         | 7%                |

**Table 4 – Household Deprivation**

The ONS have used a range of other data collected from the Census in 2021 to determine whether a household may include characteristics that could indicate a level of deprivation.

The dimensions of deprivation used to classify households are indicators based on four selected household characteristics:

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

Half of Dorset’s households are not deprived in any of the dimensions of deprivation which is reflected in the regional figure for the South West too. Just under a half of all



households in England and Wales 48% are not deprived in any of the indicators. 35% of Dorset's households are deprived in one of the indicators slightly more than the regional and national figures. 12% are deprived in two dimensions and 2% in three dimensions which is slightly less than the regional figure and less than the national figure. 0% of households are deprived in all four of the dimensions in Dorset, the South West and England and Wales.

**Table 4**

| Household Deprivation Indicator            | Dorset | South West | England and Wales |
|--|--------|------------|-------------------|
| Household is not deprived in any dimension | 50%    | 50%        | 48%               |
| Household is deprived in one dimension     | 35%    | 34%        | 33%               |
| Household is deprived in two dimensions    | 12%    | 13%        | 14%               |
| Household is deprived in three dimensions  | 2%     | 3%         | 4%                |
| Household is deprived in four dimensions   | 0%     | 0%         | 0%                |