



West Sussex Briefing 1

POPULATION

The first data results from the 2021 Census were released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on Tuesday 28th June 2022. This first release contains Local Authority level figures on the population, population change, numbers of households and the age group breakdown.

Further data will be released over the next year. The first in a series of more in-depth analytical articles will be published in winter 2022, with the final data releases expected in the spring and summer of 2023. Further briefings will be released as the new data becomes available.

ONS have published an [interactive tool for comparing population changes](#) by lower tier local authority (districts and boroughs)

It should be noted that this release is a first draft and it is likely that ONS will revise their figures throughout the year as more data becomes available. Please direct any queries on this briefing to neil.thomas@westsussex.gov.uk.

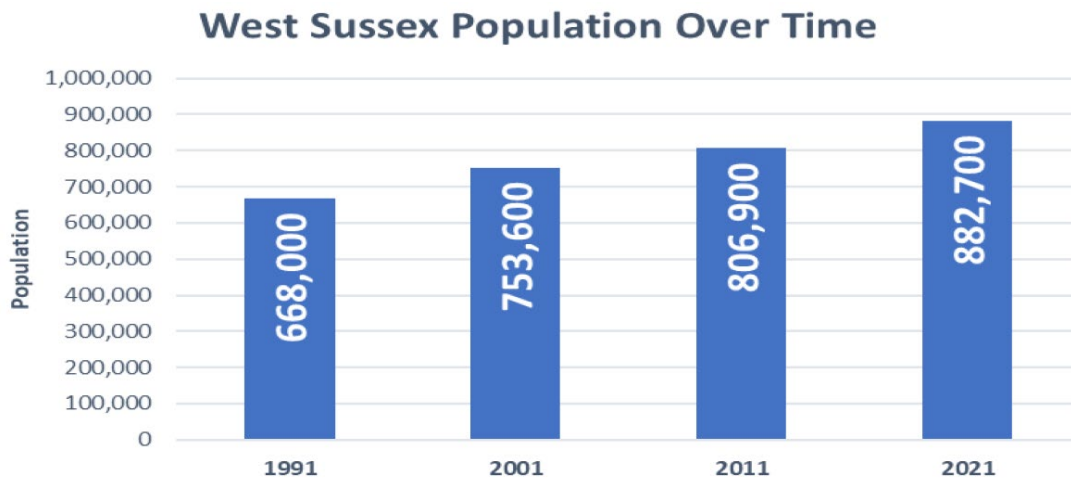
The West Sussex Headlines:

- The West Sussex population has increased by **9.4%** since 2011, to **882,700** people
- This is a larger increase than for our neighbouring counties: East Sussex **3.6%**, Hampshire **6.3%** and Surrey **6.3%**. The figure for the South East is 7.5% and England 6.6%.
- The population figure is higher than our latest ONS mid-year estimate from 2021 by a factor of around 15,000 or 1.7% (which may play through into some of our funding formulae)
- The largest increase in population has been for older people (aged 65 years and over) – though only Chichester, Mid Sussex and Horsham districts have seen percentage rises above the English average of 20.1% (with Horsham hitting **31.0%**)
- Adur, Arun, Crawley, Horsham and Mid Sussex districts have all seen increases in those aged under 15 years above the England average of 5.0% (with Adur at **11.0%** and Crawley at **13.0%**)
- We've seen a higher than average increase in our number of households at **8.6%** (England 6.2% and South East 7.1%) giving us **375,200** – the largest increases in Horsham (**13.6%**) and Mid Sussex (**10.3%**), whereas Adur has only increased by **2.8%**

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The West Sussex Population

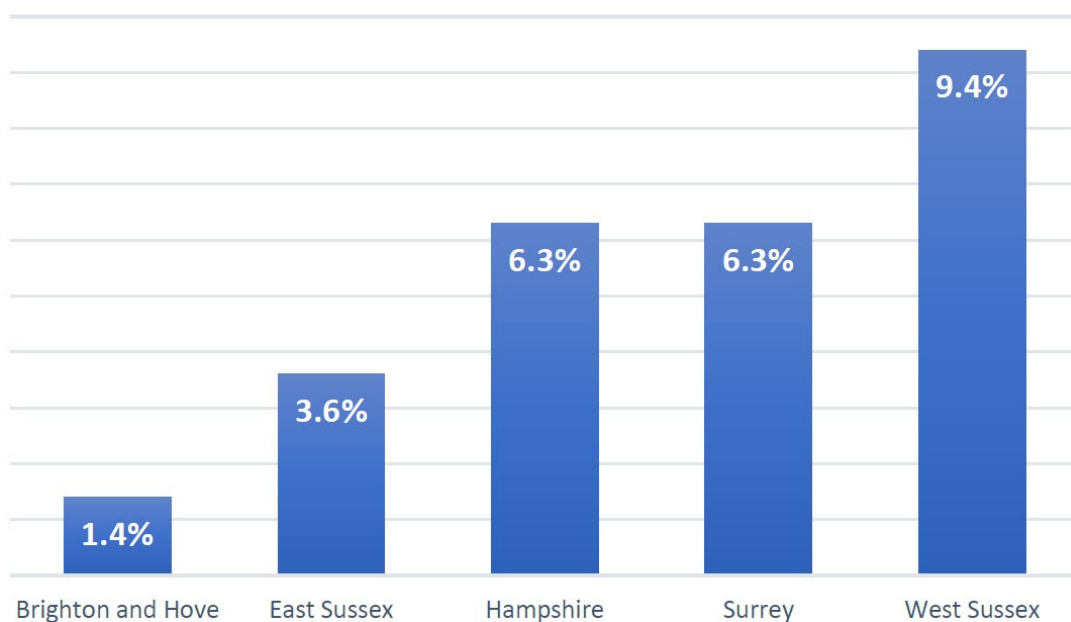
Overall, the population of the county has increased by **75,800** from **806,900** in 2011 to **882,700** in 2021. This represents a **9.4%** increase in the population over ten years. Over the same period the South East regional population increased by 7.5% and the population of England by 6.6%.



Neighbouring Counties

By comparison of the percentage change in the populations of West Sussex, East Sussex, Surrey, and Hampshire, we can see that West Sussex has had the largest change at **9.4%**. Surrey and Hampshire (which both have much larger populations than West Sussex) have seen a **6.3%** increase, but East Sussex only **3.6%** over the same time period.

Neighbouring Authority Population % Change 2011-2021

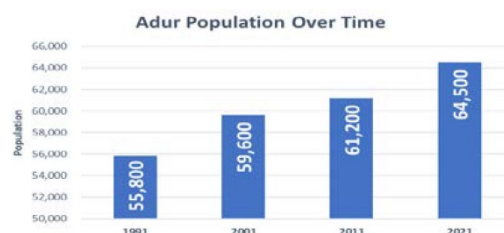


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Our Districts

Adur District

Overall, the population of Adur has increased by **3,300** since 2011. This represents a **5.4%** increase in the population over ten years.



Arun District

Overall, the population of Arun has increased by **15,300** since 2011. This represents a **10.2%** increase in the population over ten years.



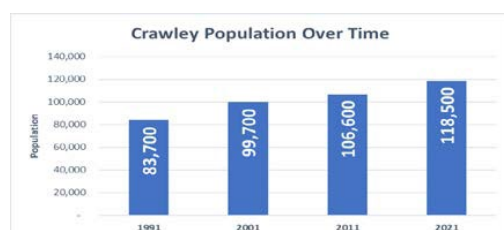
Chichester District

Overall, the population of Chichester has increased by **10,300** since 2011. This represents a **9.1%** increase in the population over ten years.



Crawley Borough

Overall, the population of Crawley has increased by **11,900** since 2011. This represents a **11.2%** increase in the population over ten years.



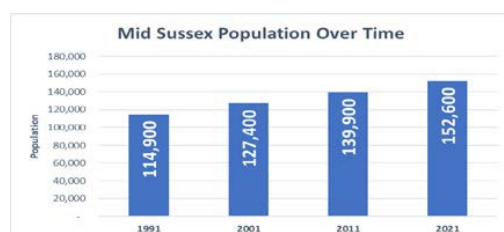
Horsham District

Overall, the population of Horsham has increased by **15,500** since 2011. This represents a **11.8%** increase in the population over ten years.



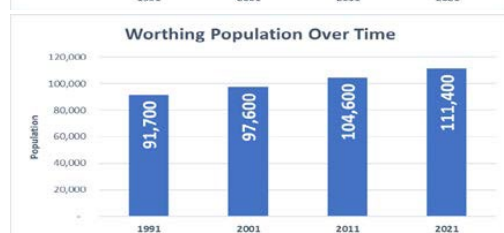
Mid Sussex District

Overall, the population of Mid Sussex has increased by **12,700** since 2011. This represents a **9.1%** increase in the population over ten years.



Worthing Borough

Overall, the population of Worthing has increased by **6,800** since 2011. This represents a **6.5%** increase in the population over ten years.



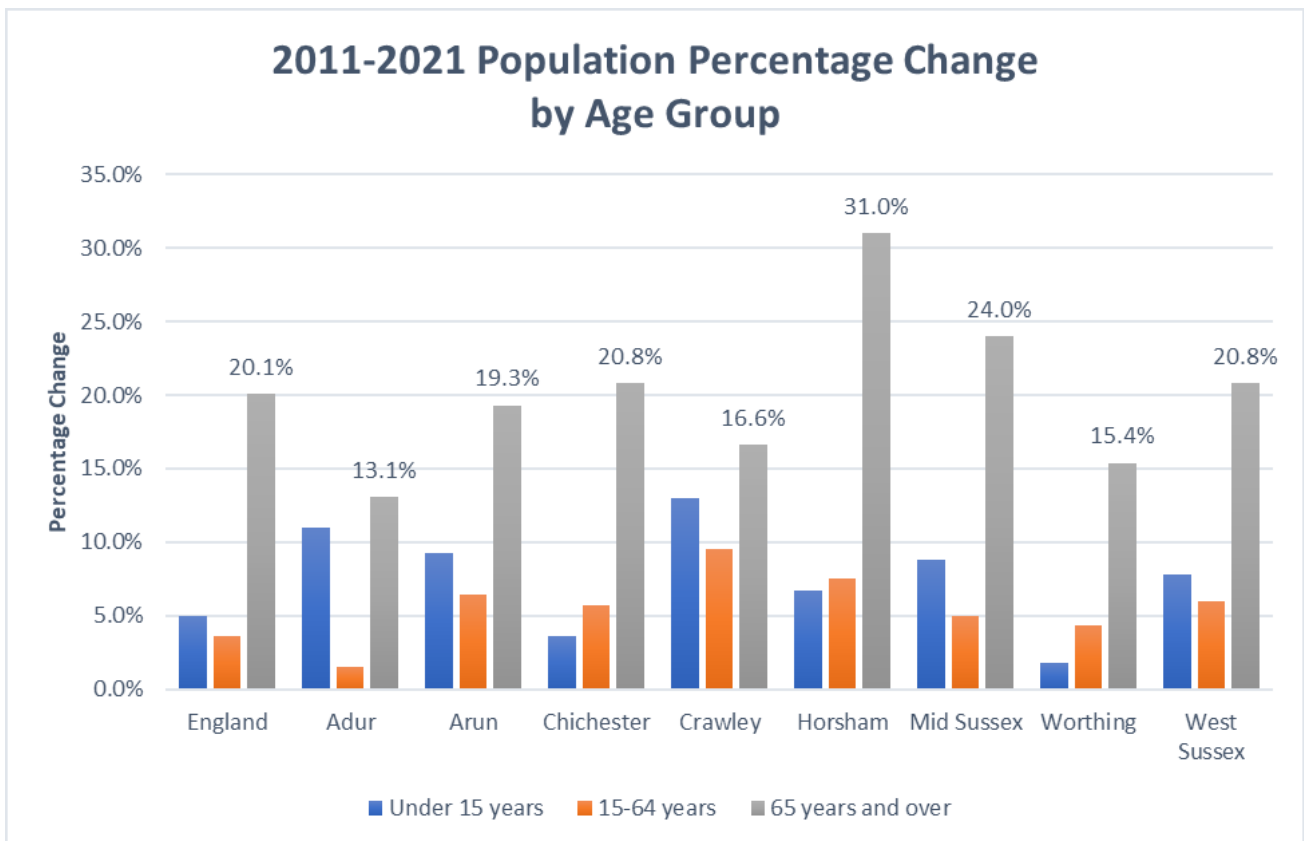
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West Sussex Age Groups

The data on the age group split reinforces the fact that West Sussex has an ageing population, with a **20.8%** increase since 2011 of those aged 65 years and over. By comparison the under 15 years age group has increased by **7.8%** and the 15 to 64 age group by **6.0%**.

All seven districts have seen the largest percentage increase in the 65 and over age group, with a particularly marked increase of **31.0%** in Horsham.

All districts with the exception of Chichester and Worthing saw a growth in the under 15 age group that was above the English average of 5%, with the largest growth in Crawley at **13.0%**.

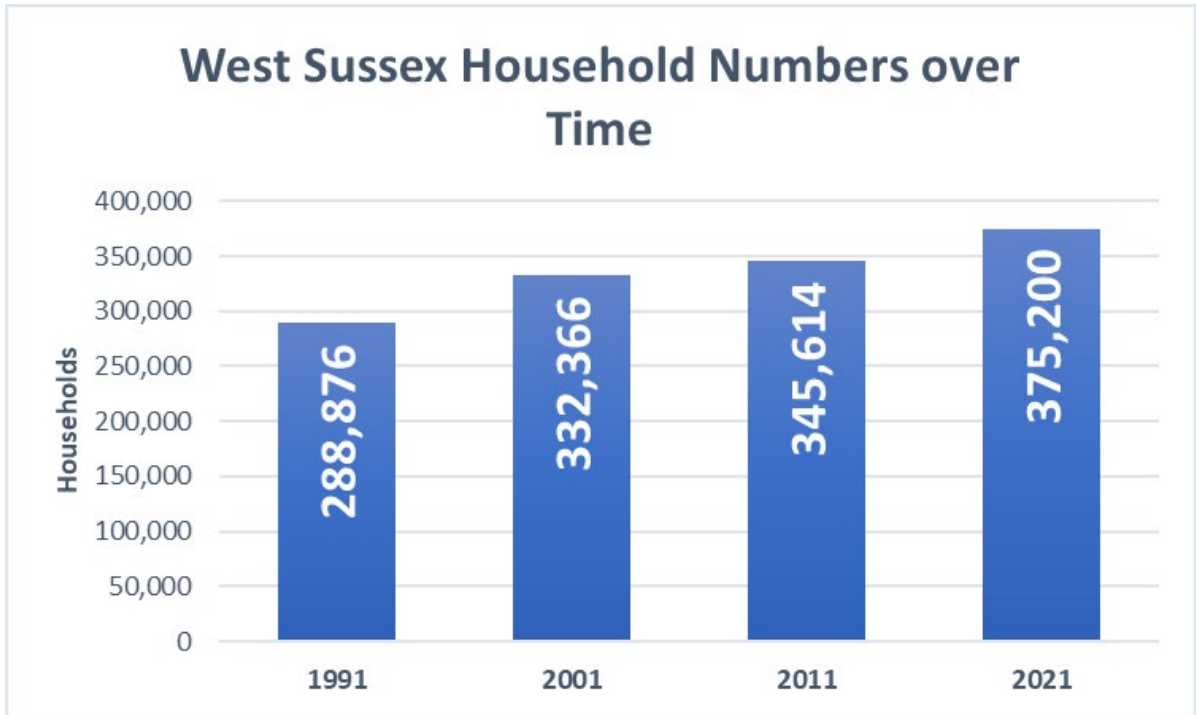


West Sussex Households

Since 2011 West Sussex has seen an increase of almost **30,000** households, up from **345,614** to **375,200**.

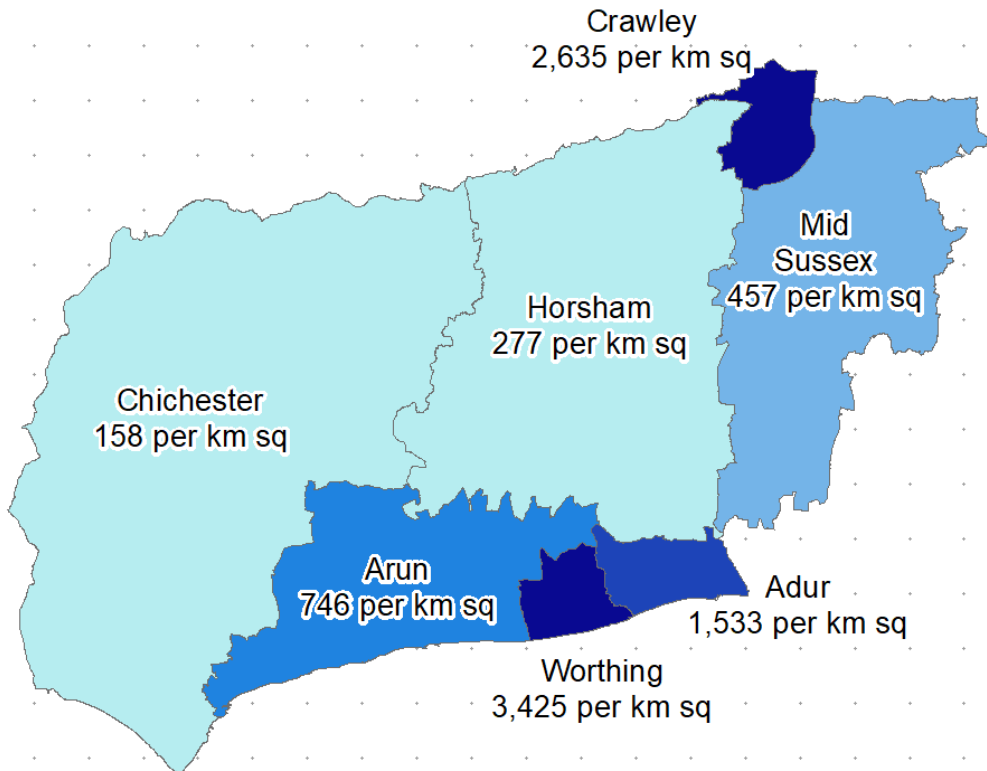
Horsham district has seen the largest percentage increase in household numbers since 2011 at **13.6%**, which equates to an extra **7,400** households.

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West Sussex Population Density

The latest data shows that the three smaller and predominantly urban districts of Worthing, Crawley and Adur have the highest population densities in the county. Worthing is the highest, with **3,425** people per square kilometre. Chichester has the sparsest population, with only **158** people per square kilometre.



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