

### Households

The Census gathers information on households including household size, number of rooms, occupancy, accommodation type, tenure, and amenities.

### Average household size

Between the 1991 and 2001 Census the average number of persons per household in West Sussex has fallen slightly from 2.38 to 2.30, continuing the downward trend in average household size. An important consequence of this trend is that demand for additional housing grows at a faster rate than the population; the population of West Sussex grew by 7% over the decade while the number of households rose by 15%. In 2001 the average household size of England and Wales (E&W) was marginally higher than that of West Sussex, at 2.36 persons per household. There is some variation within the local authorities (LAs) of West Sussex, with lowest average persons per household occurring in Worthing (2.15) and Arun (2.18) and the highest in Crawley (2.45).

### Number of rooms

According to the 2001 Census the average number of rooms per household in E&W was 5.3, slightly lower than in West Sussex (5.5). Worthing and Adur (both 5.0) have the lowest average number of rooms per household, while Horsham (5.9) has the highest, closely followed by Chichester and Mid Sussex, each with 5.8.

### Occupancy levels

Occupancy ratings give a measure of under occupancy and overcrowding. For example, a value of -1 implies there is one room too few, and so the household is overcrowded. The occupancy rating assumes that every

household, including one-person households, requires a minimum of two common rooms (excluding bathrooms).

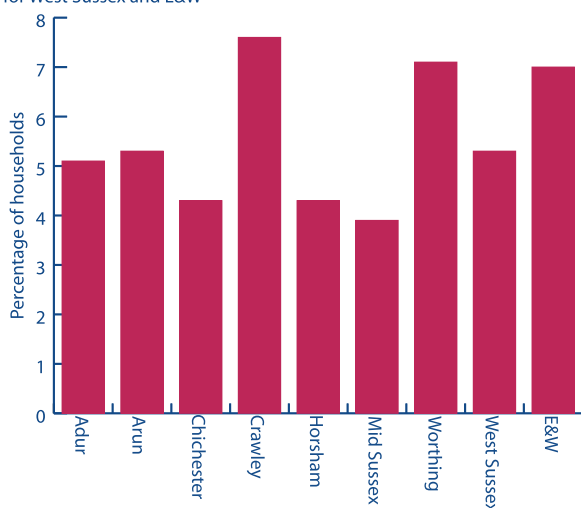
It would therefore be expected that areas highlighted above as having the highest average household size and/or the lowest average number of rooms per households would tend to have a problem with overcrowding, and this does indeed appear to be the case.

Figure 1 shows that West Sussex has a lower proportion of households that are considered overcrowded than E&W, 5% and 7% respectively. Chichester, Horsham and Mid Sussex have lower proportions, all at 4%, but Worthing and Crawley, with 7% and 8% respectively, are the LAs with the highest proportions in the county.

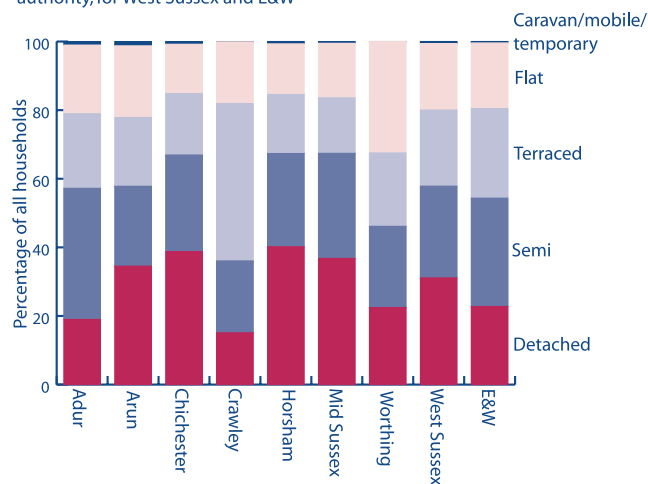
### Accommodation type

Figure 2 shows that the majority of accommodation within West Sussex (80%), as in E&W, is a whole house or bungalow. The range within the county is from 68% in Worthing to 85% in Chichester and Horsham. The mix of detached, semi-detached and terraced housing varies considerably within West Sussex. Within West Sussex, 31% of households live in detached houses. This is well above the E&W average of 23%. Crawley has only 15% while the highest proportions (39% and 40% respectively) are in Chichester and Horsham.

**Figure 1:** Percentage of households that are overcrowded by local authority, for West Sussex and E&W



**Figure 2:** Percentage of all households by accommodation type by local authority, for West Sussex and E&W



West Sussex has a lower proportion of semi-detached and terraced housing (27% and 22% respectively) than E&W (32% and 26% respectively). Crawley has the lowest proportion of semi-detached housing in the county (21%) but by far the highest proportion of terraced housing (46%). Adur, with 38% of households, has the highest proportion of households in semi-detached housing. Chichester has the lowest proportion of terraced housing at 18%.

## Vacant houses and holiday homes

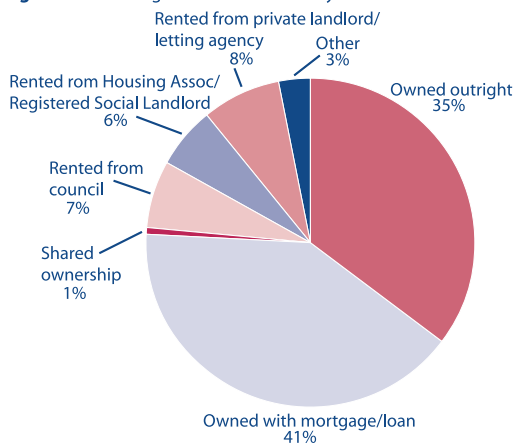
The Census collected information from resident households, but also recorded accommodation that was vacant or used as a second residence/holiday home. In 2001 there were 320,915 households resident in West Sussex, but there was accommodation (called 'household spaces' in the Census) for a total of 332,366 households. Resident households thus occupied 97% of total household spaces in the county, close to the E&W level (96%) and rates in the LAs ranged from 94% in Chichester to 99% in Crawley. 8,073 household spaces in West Sussex were vacant, 2% of the total, and there was little variation in this rate across LAs. The remaining 3,378 (1% of) household spaces were second residence/holiday homes, of which 71% were in Arun and Chichester districts.

## Tenure

The tenure of households has been assessed differently in the 2001 Census than in the 1991 Census in line with changing times. However, households owning their property outright can be directly compared. In 1991 the number of households who owned outright their property in West Sussex was 90,679 (31%), in 2001 it had risen to 113,137 (35% compared with 29% in E&W), reflecting the increased number of households. This category may have been influenced by the increase in the older age groups in the area who are more likely to have paid off a mortgage. Crawley showed the highest percentage change in outright property ownership over the ten-year period, from 18% of households in 1991 to 23% in 2001, though it still has the lowest proportion in the county in 2001. Worthing on the other hand had a slight decline from 38% to 37%. The highest proportion in 2001 was in Arun 42%. Figure 3 shows the breakdown of tenure within West Sussex.

The proportion of households owning property with a mortgage or loan is also higher in West Sussex than in E&W (41% and 39% respectively). This ranged from 31%

**Figure 3:** Percentage of all households by tenure in West Sussex



in Chichester to 46% in Horsham and Mid Sussex. The proportion of households with shared ownership was 1% or less in all areas.

As West Sussex had a higher proportion of households in the main ownership categories than E&W, it had lower proportions of households renting property than in E&W. Almost one fifth of all households in E&W are rented from a council, housing association or registered social landlord compared with 13% in West Sussex; this ranged from just 9% in Arun to 23% in Crawley. There were smaller differences in households renting from a private landlord or letting agency, 9% in E&W and 8% in West Sussex. Adur and Crawley had the lowest proportions (5% and 6% respectively) and Worthing had the highest (11%).

## Household amenities

The access to household amenities in West Sussex has also improved over the latest inter-censal period. Household amenities include the use of toilet, shower/bath facilities, whether this is sole or shared use, as well as the presence of central heating. The most noticeable change has been the increased proportion of households with central heating, which has increased from 88% of households in 1991, to 94% in the 2001. Less than 1% of all households in West Sussex are without their own bath/shower and toilet.

Figure 4 shows the proportion of households within West Sussex LAs that are without central heating. While West Sussex (6%) as a whole has a lower proportion than E&W (9%), there is considerable variation across the LAs. Mid Sussex, Chichester and Horsham have just 3-4% but in Adur one in ten households do not have central heating.

**Figure 4:** Percentage of households without central heating by local authority, for West Sussex and E&W

