

SDR 40/2009

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A Statistical Focus on Age in Wales, 2009

This report presents a range of statistics for different age groups in Wales. It looks at their health as well as social and economic circumstances in comparison with other age bands and highlights where key differences lie.

These are some of the report's main findings, but for further information, please see the full publication:

- In 2006, Wales had the highest proportion of over-60s in the UK.
- The proportion of pensioners in each local authority varied by 11 percentage points in 2006, from 16 per cent in Cardiff to 27 per cent in Conwy.
- Since 1996, the number of births to women over 40 has gradually increased, whilst the number of births to mothers under 20 has gradually decreased.
- For the period 2004-06, life expectancy from birth was 77 years for men and 81 years for women; only slightly less than the UK average in both cases.
- In 2007, the proportion of people who had no qualification ranged from 1 in 10 of those aged 18-24 to just over 1 in 5 of those aged 50-59.
- Between 1997 and 2007, females saw a greater increase in average gross weekly earnings than males for all ages (52 per cent for females overall, compared to 38 per cent for males).
- In 2007, 1 in 10 people of post-retirement age was still in employment.
- 3 out of 5 sentences for juveniles (10-17 year olds) were community sentences in 2006. For all other age groups the majority of sentences were fines.
- In 2006-07, people were less likely to be victims of violence, burglary and vehicle-related thefts as they got older.
- In 2006, up to the age of 50, more men lived on their own than women; however, after women reached the age of 50, this trend was reversed.
- The number of road accident casualties aged below 30 dropped by around a quarter in 2007 compared with the 1994-98 average.

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Key Quality Information

Some topics in the report are covered in more detail than others. This does not mean that they are more important, just that more data exists. Summary points are given for each set of data. Technical terms have been avoided as far as possible, but where this has been necessary, these have been explained. If more precision is needed, the fuller definitions given within the data tables should be used.

Much of the data comes from the 2001 Census, Labour Force Survey, Welsh Health Survey and the Living in Wales survey. Data from some administrative returns are also used.

The Census is a count every ten years of all the people and households in the country. Filling in the Census form is compulsory.

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is the largest regular household survey in the country. The Annual Population Survey (APS) was introduced in 2004. The APS included all the data of the annual local area LFS, but also included a further sample boost aimed at achieving a minimum number of economically active respondents in the sample in each local authority district.

The Welsh Health Survey is a continuous health survey, with around 16,000 adults taking part each year.

These are all highly reliable sources of data.

Please also see individual chapters for further data quality information.