**DIVERSITY: GOSPORT AT A GLANCE**

Diversity can be defined in many ways, but encompasses acceptance and respect. It means understanding that each individual is unique and recognising individual differences.

The Equality Act 2010 identifies many of these differences as “protected characteristics” and recognises that individuals can experience unfair treatment based on them. There are nine such characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex, sexual orientation.

The information contained below is a snapshot of some of the latest available statistical data about these characteristics in our local population from the Office of National Statistics (ONS), Public Health England and other reputable data sources.

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| **General**  **Population** | As a small local authority of 2,532 hectares, Gosport is ranked 51 out of 348 local authorities for population density and is by far the most densely populated local authority in Hampshire.  Gosport’s estimated population based on 2016 figures is 85,363 up from 82,622 in 2011. The Borough’s population is expected to rise to 87,619 in 2026.  Hampshire County Council is the third largest county in the country (based on population) with 1.32 million people in 2011 and growing to 1.83 million in 2017 (according to April 2016 predictions).  Gosport is one of six areas of significant deprivation in Hampshire and is listed among the 20% most deprived in England along with Eastleigh, Havant New Forest, Rushmoor and Test Valley (Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015) |
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| **Sex** | 50.2% of the Borough’s population are female and 49.8% are male according to 2016 figures.  The 2012 NHS Health Profile for Gosport found the average life expectancy at birth for males in Gosport was 79.2 years, and for females was 81.8 years. Five years on, the 2017 NHS Health Profile for Gosport found the average life expectancy at birth for males in Gosport decreased to 78.6 years and for females it rose to 82.7 years. Both of these figures are below the England average life expectancy for males and females.  Life expectancy is 7.3 years lower for men and 3.2 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Gosport than in the least deprived areas. (Gosport Health Profile 2017) |
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| **Age** | The UK has an aging population overall, with an increasing proportion of the population over 65. In 2016, 19% of the population was over 65. The 2026 this is expected to increase to 24% and by 2036 to increase to 29%. Research has found that a higher proportion of people aged over 65 were generally found close to all coastal areas of the UK, but notably so in southern coastal areas of England.  The median age is the age that divides a population into two numerically equal groups - that is, half the people are younger than this age and half are older. The median age of the UK population overall is 40.0  The median age varies greatly among Hampshire local authorities. Gosport’s median age is 41.7 years (Mid 2016 population figures) compared to the New Forest at 49.7 years and the highest in Hampshire and compared to Rushmoor at 37.5 years and the lowest in Hampshire. Overall Hampshire’s median age was 43.9 years. |
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| **Ethnicity** | 2011 Census data revealed 94.4% of Gosport’s population identified themselves as White British compared to 91.8% of Hampshire’s total population. This includes people identifying themselves as White and either British, English, Scottish, Welsh, or Northern Irish. The next highest ethnic group was White Other at 1.6 % in Gosport and across Hampshire at 2.5%. All other ethnic groups were represented by less than 1% of Gosport’s population.  According to the 2016 School Census for Gosport, the Borough has consistently had the lowest number, 358, of students with English as an Additional Language (EAL) among Districts in Hampshire. The second lowest was Fareham with 498.   |  | | --- | | Likewise, Gosport also has the lowest number of students from Black and  Minority Ethnic (BME) backgrounds of all Districts in Hampshire in 2016 at  742. The second lowest was Fareham with 1,194. |   Polish is and has been the top language in Gosport since 2014 with Malayalam consistently being the second largest group. These two languages represent 35.2% of the total EAL in Gosport.  The largest ethnic minority group in Gosport district is Any Other White Background (WOTH) which partly reflects the number of Polish speakers in the district, who represent 24.3% of this group. Perhaps also a slight increase for Romanian and Hungarian speakers. There are also a few Latvian speakers. |
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| **Disability** | The ONS has estimated there are over 11 million people in the UK with a limiting long term illness, impairment or disability.  The most commonly-reported impairments are those that affect mobility, lifting or carrying.  The prevalence of disability rises with age. Around 6% of children are disabled, compared to 16% of working age adults and 45% of adults over State Pension age.  ONS general population data prior to the 2011 Census update put Gosport’s population at 80,314, of which 4.6% claimed disability benefit. Of those between the ages of 18-64, 0.29% was estimated to have a severe learning disability, 4.9% had a moderate physical disability, 1.4% had a serious physical disability and 2.9% of that population had a moderate or serious personal care disability.  A 2011 Census question asked if any member of the household’s day-today activities were limited by a long-term health problem or disability. Gosport data revealed:   * 82.5% of the population said not at all; * 9.8% said limited a little; and * 7.8% said limited a lot.   Gosport results ranked third highest among Hampshire Districts in all three of the above responses.  The same data source reveals the % of Gosport households having one person with a long term health problem or disability is:   * 4.8% of households which also have dependent children (tied highest in Hampshire with Rushmoor) * 21% of households with no dependent children (third highest in the County).   Overall, the % of working age people in Gosport who identified themselves as having some sort of life limiting condition has remained at 18% of the population in both 2001 and 2011 Census figures. |
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| **Marriage and Civil Partnership** | 2011 Census figures for England and Wales showed 34.6% of the population who were aged 16 or older were single and had never been married or in a civil partnership while in Gosport this was lower at 30% of this age group.  Gosport had the lowest % of married people age 16 or older at 47.8% compared to other Hampshire local authorities, but this was still higher than the rate for England and Wales at 46.6% The % of those in civil partnerships in Gosport was the same as the England and Wales figure of 2%.  Notably, Gosport had the highest % of separated people from either marriage or civil partnerships in Hampshire at 3.2%, an increase from 2.8% from the 2001 Census. Gosport had an even higher divorce or dissolution of a civil partnership rate of 11.5% which was ranked 7th highest among local authorities in 2011, and increased from 9.9% in 2001. |
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| **Religion and Belief** | More recent authority level statistics on religion and belief than the 2011 Census are not yet available, but the National Centre for Social Research conducted a British Social Attitudes survey in 2016 asking a random sample of adults in Britain about their religious affiliation. More than half of the British public (53%) described themselves as having no religion, up from 48% in 2015.  In 2016 71% of young people aged 18-24 said they had no religion, up from 62% in 2015. There was a decline in religious affiliation among all age groups between 2015 and 2016  2011 Census results for Gosport showed 58.8% of Gosport’s population identified themselves as Christians, significantly less than the 75% of Gosport’s population who said they were Christians in 2001.  This result was mirrored across England and Wales and in Hampshire when comparing 2011 and 2001 Census figures. The % of Christians across England and Wales decreased from 71% to 59.3% and across Hampshire this fell from 76% to 62.4%.  The percentage of residents practising other religions (Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, Sikhism, Buddhism and others) remains below 1% of the population in the 2011 Census, with Islam being the largest of these at 0.5%.  Those stating they had no religion were 32.8% of Gosport’s population in 2011, the highest figure among Hampshire Districts and significantly higher than the 25.1% of people across England and Wales.  6.7% of Gosport’s population did not state whether they practised a religion or not, compared to 7.2% of people across Hampshire and 7.2% across England and Wales, according to 2011 Census results. |
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| **Pregnancy and Maternity** | The general fertility rate is defined as live births per 1,000 women aged 15-44. The latest figures available are from the ONS Birth Rates of 2011. Gosport’s rate of 65.4 is the third highest among Hampshire Districts, but is lower than the 2009 rate of 67. The general fertility rate for the UK for 2011 was 63.5.  Under 18 conception rates are defined as the number of live births per 1,000 women aged 15-17. Gosport’s rate has dropped from a rate of 52.3 for 2007-2009 to 47.1 for 2008-2010. This is still considerably higher than the England average for 2008-2010 of 38.1. |
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| **Sexual Orientation** | There is no survey data on the sexual orientation of Gosport’s population. ONS statistics taken from Annual Population Surveys from 2012-2016 can only be broken down by country or region in the UK.  The ONS has published experimental statistics on sexual identity in 2016 which showed:   * Just over 1 million (2.0%) of the UK population aged 16 and over identified themselves as lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB). * The population aged 16 to 24 were the age group most likely to identify as LGB in 2016 (4.1%). * More males (2.3%) than females (1.6%) identified themselves as LGB in 2016. * The population who identified as LGB in 2016 were most likely to be single, never married or civil partnered, at 70.7%. |
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| **Transgender/ Gender Reassignment** | Transgender is an umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or gender expression differs from their birth sex. They may or may not seek to undergo gender reassignment treatment/ surgery to transition from their birth sex to the other.  There is no survey data on the number of transgender people in Gosport, although information, support and social organisations specifically for transgender people are available in the local area.  Research has tried to estimate the number of transgender people within the UK population; however, it is still difficult to cite firm figures.  Research conducted by the Gender Identity Research and Education Society (GIRES) estimated that, in 2007, 10,000 people sought medical care for gender variance of whom 6,000 had undergone gender re-assignment. Data for 2010 indicates 12,500 people had presented for treatment of whom 7,500 had undergone gender re-assignment.    However, these figures only represent people who have sought treatment and not those many more, according to research, who may be experiencing some degree of gender variance but do not feel able or want to present themselves as transgender or seek any treatment.  Anyone who holds a UK birth certificate who then receives a full Gender Recognition Certificate is entitled to a new birth or adoption certificate, which is recorded in one of the Gender Recognition Registers. Up until the end of December 2014 there have been 3,779 entries made in the Gender Recognition Register.  The ONS 2021 Census topic consultation identified a clear need among data users for data about gender identity, particularly in relation to planning services for, and allocating resources to interventions to support this community in England and Wales and a question on gender identity may be included in the 2021 Census. A decision on this is anticipated by 2018. |