

Equality Profile of Stroud District by the nine protected characteristics



119,019
(ONS 2018
Mid-year estimate)



Projected
population 2041

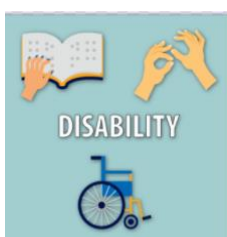
136,000

Source: Gloucestershire County Council Population Profile 2020
<https://inform.gloucestershire.gov.uk/equality-and-diversity/overview/>



Age	% of population	% change 2008 to 2018	Projected % change 2016 to 2041
0 - 19	22.2	-0.9	9.2
20 - 64	55.4	3.0	2.6
65+	22.4	28.6	56.6

Stroud has a higher proportion of people aged over 65 when compared to the county and national figures. Analysis of the 2011 Census shows that residents aged 65 or over were more likely than those under 65 to: have a long-term limiting illness; be in poor health; be living on their own; be without access to a car; be providing unpaid care of 50 hours or more a week; be living in a household without central heating.



Age	% People with a Limiting long-term health problem	Day-to-day activities limited a little	Day-to-day activities limited a lot
0 - 15	3.3	1.9	1.4
16 - 49	7.9	4.8	3.2
50 - 64	16.8	10.7	6
65+	47.6	25.5	22.1
All ages	16.7	9.6	7.2

Under the Equality Act (2010) a person has a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. Dementia is one of the major causes of disability in older people and there are approximately 1,881 people aged 65+ living with dementia in Stroud district. Approximately 2,235 people aged 18+ have a learning disability. An estimated 1.4% of the 16+ population have reported blindness or partial sight; and 6.8% deafness or hearing loss. Given the ageing population the number of people with a limiting long term health problem is likely to increase in the future, between 2001 and 2011 there was a 10.3% increase. There are differences in outcomes between people with long-term limiting illnesses or disabilities and people who are not in this group in a number of areas including employment, housing and caring.



Age	% Female	% Male
0 - 19	48.5	51.5
20 - 64	50.4	49.6
65 - 84	52.8	47.2
85+	63.8	36.2
All ages	50.8	49.2

The overall population split by sex is slightly skewed towards females; although there are more males than females in the 0-19 year olds, as age increases, females outnumber males by an increasing margin. As a result of this, 71% of single pensioner households

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are show to be headed by a woman. However, the proportion of men in the older population is increasing as the life expectancy of men increases. Females are also more likely to head lone parent households with dependent children. There are differences by sex in the provision of unpaid care and access to a car/van. There are differences by sex in life expectancy, mortality from preventable causes, and suicide.



GIRES ¹	Gender Reassignment Lower Estimate	Gender Reassignment Upper Estimate
Number of people	586	977
% of 16+ population	0.6	1.0

Gender reassignment is defined as a person who is proposing to undergo, is undergoing or has undergone a process (or part of a process) for the purpose of reassigning their sex by changing physiological or other attributes of sex. This means an individual does not need to have undergone any treatment or surgery to be protected by law.

There are no official estimates of gender reassignment at either national or local level. In the next Census (2021) there will be a new question around gender, asking “is your gender the same as the sex you were registered at birth?” Currently the best estimates come from a study funded by the Home Office and produced by the Gender Identity Research and Education Society (GIRES)¹. Stonewall’s LGBT in Britain Trans Report states that hate crime and discrimination against trans people is widespread throughout all aspects of life.




Marital status	% of population
Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership)	27.5
Married	53.0
In a registered same-sex civil partnership	0.3
Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership)	2.3
Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	9.6
Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership	7.3

The Equality Act 2010 protects individuals who are in a civil partnership, or marriage, against discrimination. Evidence suggests being married is associated with better mental health. There is less evidence on the benefits of being in a civil partnership; however, it is likely the benefits will also be experienced by people in similarly committed relationship such as civil partnerships.

There is considerable variation in marital status between age groups. As you would expect, people aged 16-24 are the most likely to be single, while those aged 65+ are the most likely age group to be widowed or a surviving partner from a same sex civil partnership. Same sex


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civil partnerships are most common amongst 35-49 year olds, where they account for 0.4% of the total age group. The proportion of people that are married, separated or divorced increases with age, until 65+ when it begins to fall, to take into account the increasing proportion of people who have lost a partner. These trends are reflected at other district and regional and national levels.



Age of mother	% of total births by age of mother	Total number of live births
Under 20	1.3	1,065
20-24	11.0	
25-29	27.2	
30-34	35.9	
35-39	19.6	
40-44	4.7	
45+	0.3	

The Equality Act protects women who are pregnant, have given birth in the last 26 weeks (non-work context) or are on maternity leave (work context) against discrimination in relation to their pregnancy. The highest proportion of deliveries were to women aged 30 to 34 continuing the trend of later motherhood. Stroud has a higher proportion of births to mothers aged 35+ than Gloucestershire and England.



Population by ethnic group	Number of people	% of population
Total Black and Ethnic Minority	2,353	2.1
Mixed/ Multiple Ethnic Group	1,216	1.1
Asian/ Asian British	751	0.7
Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black	260	0.2
Other Ethnic Group British	126	0.1
Total White	110,426	97.9
English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/ British	107,026	94.9
Irish	591	0.5
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	57	0.1
Other White	2,752	2.4

Race includes colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins. Stroud is characterised by a small Black and Minority Ethnic population, accounting for 2.1%. Neighbouring Gloucester had the highest proportion of people from Black and Ethnic Minorities, at 10.9% of the total population. However, this is still considerably lower than the national figure.

The population of Stroud has become increasingly diverse. The Black and Minority Ethnic population has increased by 64% since 2001. This trend is reflected at a regional, national and district level. Between 2001 and 2011 the greatest growth across the County was in those people classified as "White other" which includes migrants from Europe, which increased by

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105.9%, whereas Stroud saw a 56.5% increase in this group.

In Stroud, 1.7% (1,835) do not speak English as a main language and 0.3% (274) are not able to speak English or do not speak it well.

A recent report by the Equality and Human Rights Commission found that people from Black and Minority Ethnic groups continue to experience discrimination and inequality in education, employment, housing, pay and living standards, health, and the criminal justice system.



Religion & belief	% of population
Christian	62.0
Buddhist	0.3
Hindu	0.1
Jewish	0.1
Muslim	0.2
Sikh	0
Other Religion	0.8
No Religion	28.3
Religion not stated	8.1

According to the 2011 Census, 62% of residents in Stroud District were Christian, making it the most common religion. This was followed by no religion which accounts for 28.3% of the total population. In Gloucestershire, Stroud had the highest proportion of people who follow an "Other Religion" and of people who did not state their religion. It has a lower proportion of people who follow a religion other than Christianity, which reflects the ethnic composition of the district. Those aged 0-19 are more likely to report no religion than older age groups. This trend is reflected at a regional, national and district level.



Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual adults in Stroud district	Lower Estimate	Higher Estimate
Stonewall Estimates	4,900 5%	6,800 7%
ONS Annual Population Survey	2.3%	
GP Patient Survey 2018	4% (Gloucestershire)	

The 'protected characteristic' of sexual orientation refers to those individuals who are attracted to those of the opposite sex, the same sex, or either sex. There are no official estimates of sexual orientation at a district or county level, making it difficult to obtain a true reflection of this population. National evidence suggests between 2.3% and 7.0% of people are lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB). Young people (aged 16-24) are more likely to identify as LGB than older age groups and a higher proportion of males than females identify as LGB.

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There is a substantial body of evidence demonstrating that lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people experience discrimination and marginalisation in their daily lives including in health care, social care, housing, education, at work, and in public. In 2017 the government launched a National LGBT Survey about the experiences of LGBT people in the UK – the largest national LGBT survey to date. Although many responses were positive, there were more than 2 in 5 who said they had been victim of verbal abuse or physical violence during the preceding year. In addition, more than 9 out of 10 serious incidents were not reported as respondents felt ‘it happens all the time’. Fear of crime and of negative reactions from other people was also a reported issue, with more than two thirds of respondents stating they have avoided holding hands with their (same sex) partners for this reason.

In the next Census (2021) there will be a new question around sexual orientation, so it is hoped that more accurate data will help equality monitoring in the future.

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