

Appendix B - Knowing our Communities

North Hertfordshire Community Profile

Updated 2021

North Hertfordshire is 1 of 10 districts within the county of Hertfordshire, located to the north side of Hertfordshire. Hertfordshire can be found in the East of England, bordering Greater London to the south, and Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire to the north.

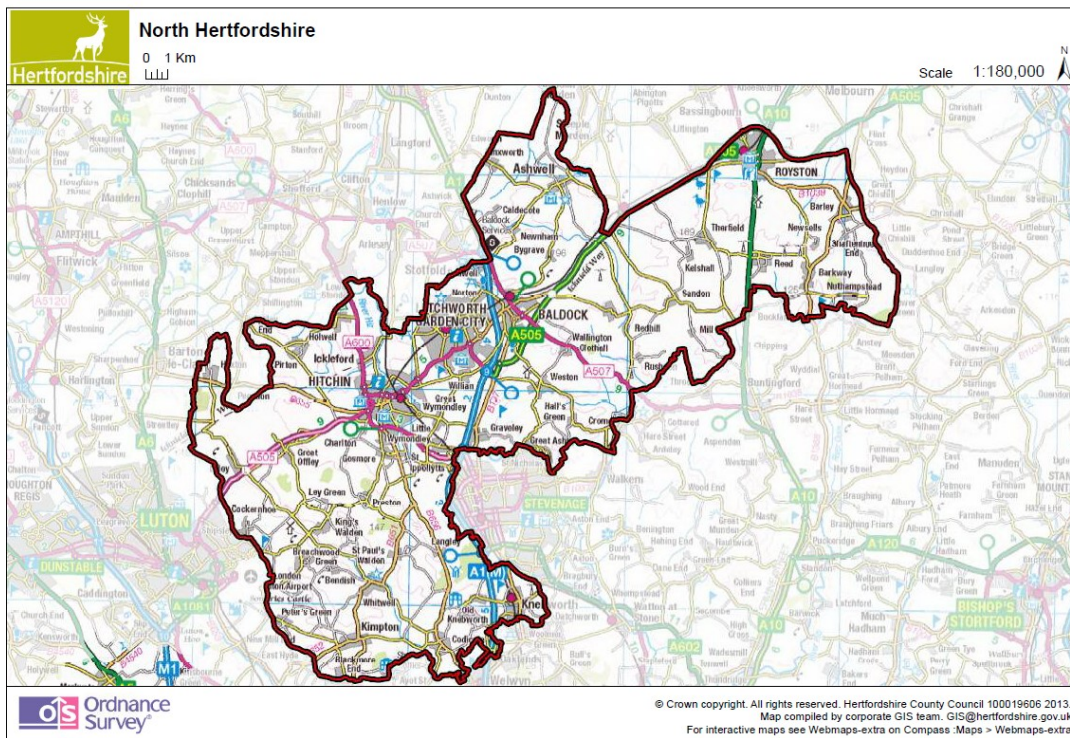
North Hertfordshire covers 37,538 hectares and represents 22.85% of the total area of the county of Hertfordshire.

The district was formed on 1st April 1974 by the amalgamation of the urban districts of Baldock, Hitchin, Letchworth, Royston and the Hitchin Rural District. In addition to this, North Hertfordshire also includes most of the development of Great Ashby, north-east of Stevenage.

The following information will provide you with a snapshot of the socio-economic and demographic situation of North Hertfordshire and a small glimpse into life within North Hertfordshire.

Location

North Hertfordshire is made up of 24 wards, the largest of which geographically is Hitchwood, Offa and Hoo, making up 27.36% of the North Hertfordshire area. Found in the South East of England, officially within the region of 'East England', North Hertfordshire itself borders the neighbouring districts of Central Bedfordshire, South Cambridgeshire, East Hertfordshire, Stevenage, Welwyn Hatfield and St Albans.



Population

There are two main sources of population data, the 10 yearly national census¹ and the annual mid-year population estimates², both provided by The Office for National Statistics (ONS).

The last national census was in 2011 and captures a snapshot of the population on 'census day' which was 27th March 2011. The next national census has taken place in March 2021 however it can take up to a year for the data to be published. Therefore, it must be recognised that data from the 2011 census represents the district as it was a decade ago and may no longer be an accurate representation of North Hertfordshire

The latest mid-year population estimates are for mid-2019. Estimates of population are produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) each year in between Censuses. These "mid year" estimates are initially based on the previous census figures and are calculated using numbers of birth and deaths in an area and estimates of migration within the UK and to and from the UK. Estimates are produced by gender and five-year (quinary) age groups. Estimates are produced at County, District and Unitary Council levels, for Health areas and for higher geographies. At these levels the estimates are classified as 'National Statistics'.

The most recent, ONS mid-year estimates for North Hertfordshire, have been made available and easily accessible on the Herts Insight webpage.³

Figures from the 2011 Census indicate that North Hertfordshire had a population of 127,114 and at the time and was home to 11.4% of all residents in Hertfordshire.

The latest mid-year estimate² puts the population of North Hertfordshire District at 133,570 (65,382 males and 68,188 females). This indicates an estimated increase in population by 5.1% over the last decade.

According to the 2011 Census, the number of households in North Hertfordshire was 53,426 with 65.6% of residents owning their own home, compared to an average of 63.4% for England.

Projected Population – 2018 based Projection

The Office for National Statistics 2018-based subnational population projections were published on 24th March 2020. These are based on the mid-2018 population estimates published on 26th June 2019. The projections are based between 2018-2028. The population projections suggest an increase of approximately 3,330 (2.5%) in population in North Hertfordshire District over the 10-year period.⁴

The below graph shows population size and number of dwellings in each Geographic area in North Hertfordshire in 2011.

Geographic Area	Population Size (2011 Census)	Number of Dwellings (2011 Census)
Ashwell	1,870	841
Baldock	10,280	4,491
Barkway	775	329
Barley	662	287
Bygrave	304	108
Caldecote, Newnham and Radwell	209	97
Clothall	150.	67
Cockernhoe and East of Luton	493	205
Codicote	3,344	1,496
Graveley and North of Stevenage	487	198
Great Ashby and North-East of Stevenage	5,706	2,172
Hexton	123	52
Hinxworth	313	127
Hitchin	32,731	14,702
Holwell	361	164
Ickleford	1,833.	844
Kelshall	163	65
Kimpton	2,167	884
King's Walden	1,015	410
Knebworth	4,496	2,002
Langley	175	71
Letchworth Garden City (including Willan and Norton)	33,249	14,271
Lilley	386	161
Nuthampstead	142	52
Offley	1,398	607

Pirton	1,274	521
Preston	420	158
Reed	310	134
Royston	15,781	6800
Rushden	242	103
Sandon	495	214
St Ippolyts	2,047	799
St Paul's Walden	1,293	537
Therfield	556	217
Wallington	150	60
Weston	1,054	441
Wymondley	1,153	480

Dwellings, Households and Families

In 2020, there were 58,050 dwellings in North Hertfordshire.³ A dwelling is a unit of accommodation in which all rooms (including the kitchen, bathroom and toilet) are behind a door that only that household can use. A dwelling may comprise one or more household spaces.

A household space is the accommodation used or available for the use by an individual household. A household is defined as one person living alone, or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address who share cooking facilities and share a sitting room or dining area. A household must contain at least one person whose place of usual residence is at the same address.

A family is defined as a group of people who are either:

- A married, civil partnership, or cohabiting couple, with or without child(ren)
- A lone parent with child(ren)
- A married, same-sex partnership, or cohabiting couple with grandchild(ren) but no children present from the intervening generation, or
- A single grandparent with grandchild(ren) but no children present from the intervening generation

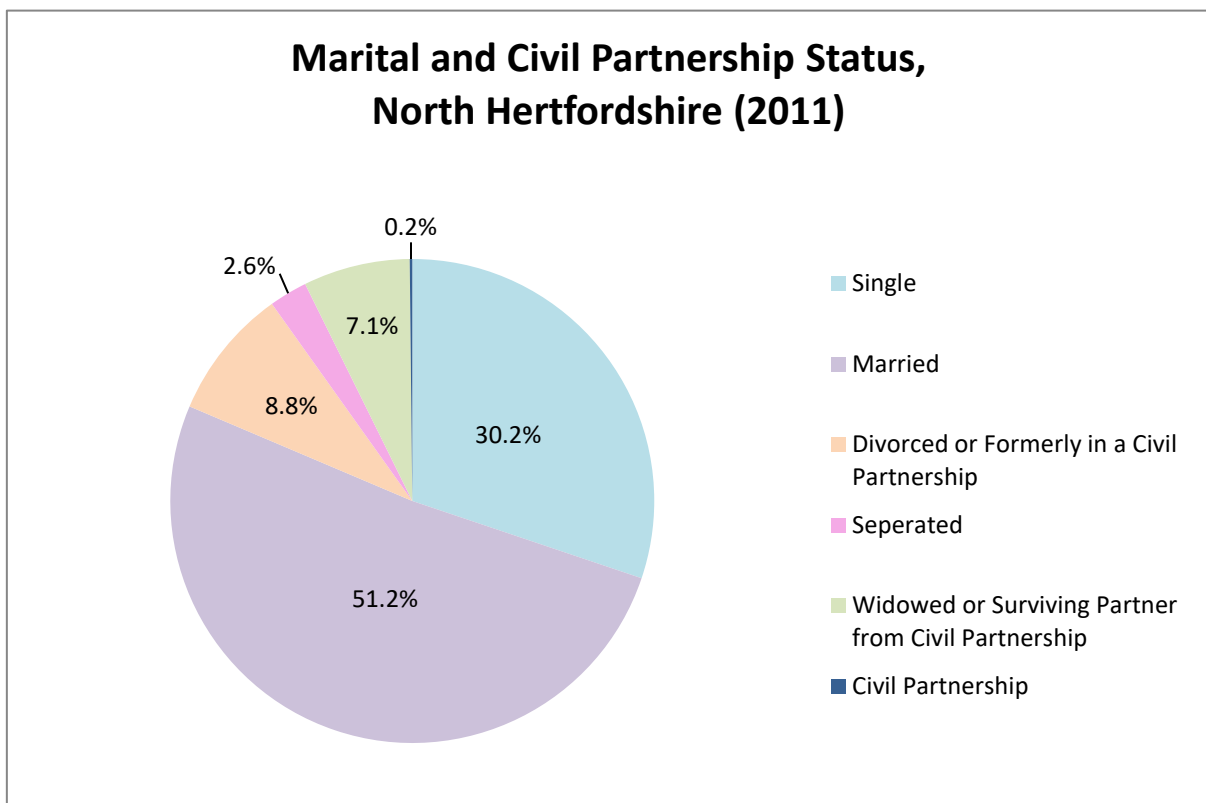
The most recent estimates, in 2018, showed a total of 56,430 households in North Hertfordshire with an average of 2.36 persons per household in North Hertfordshire. ONS 2018-based projections predict that the number of households in North Hertfordshire will increase and reach a total of 62,722 in 2043, whilst the size of households in North Hertfordshire is expected to decrease to an average of 2.2 persons per household in 2043.³

As recorded in the 2011 Census, 98.98% of residents in North Hertfordshire lived in households. In Hertfordshire this figure was 98.68% and in the East of England this figure was 98.32%. Residents who don't live in households generally live in communal establishments such as hospitals, care homes, prisons, army barracks, hotels or other types of managed accommodation.

In the Rough Sleeping Snapshot in England: Autumn 2020⁵, 2 people were recorded as sleeping rough in North Hertfordshire. This had reduced from 7 people in 2019, correlating with a significant reduction in rough sleeping across England in 2020 due to measures put in place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

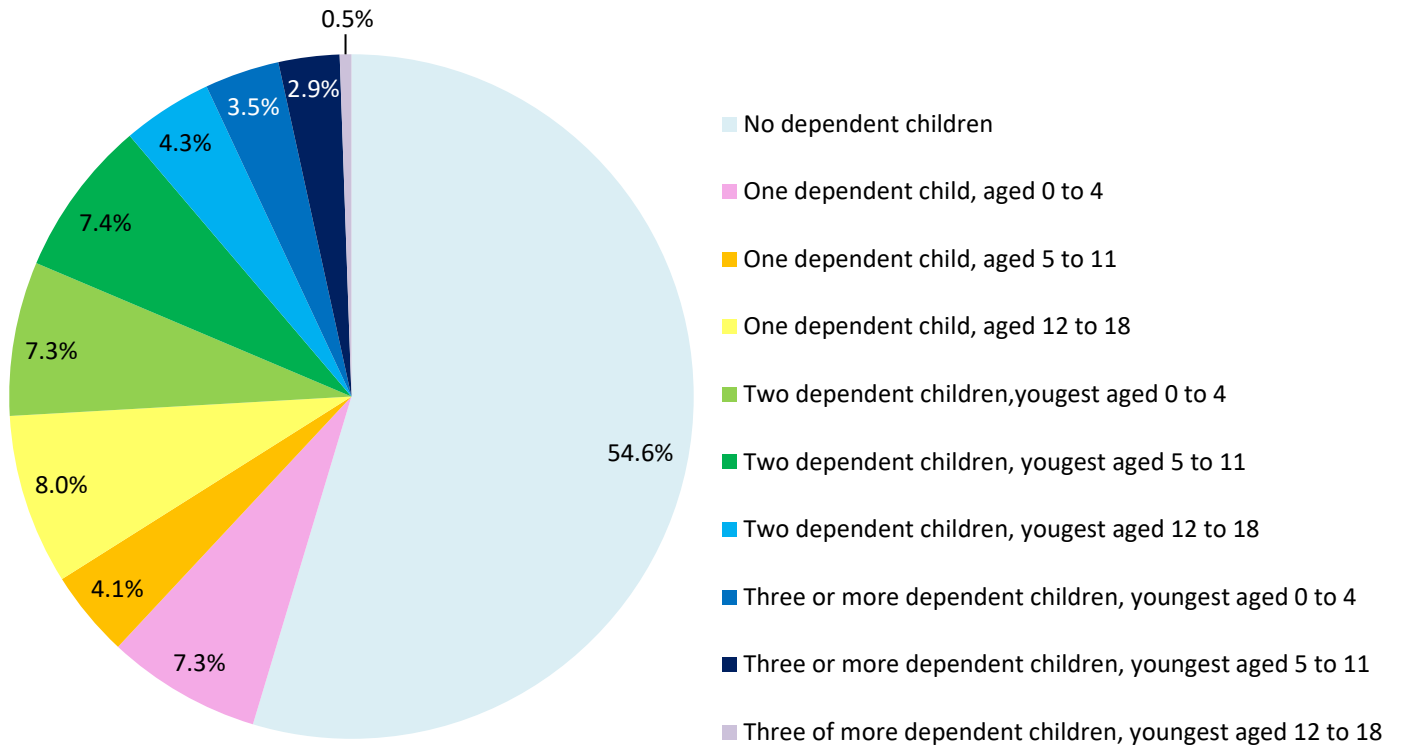
Families – Marriage, Civil Partnerships and Children

The below chart indicates the marital and civil partnership status of residents in North Hertfordshire aged 16 and over in 2011. It is worth noting that in 2011, marriage was not yet legalised for same-sex couples and civil partnerships were not yet legalised for mixed-sex couples. Within the district, 51.2% of the population was married and 0.2% were in civil partnerships, which compared to the national average of 46.6% and 0.2% respectively.



Source: ONS Census 2011, Table KS103EW

Families with dependent children in North Hertfordshire (2011)



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2011 Census, Table QS118EW.

Using data from the 2011 census, the above graph indicates that in 2011, 45.4% of families had one or more dependent children and 54.6% of families had no dependent children. This does not include families with all children over the age of 18.

As evidenced in the graph above, 19.4% of families had one dependent child between the age of 0-18, 19% of families had two dependent children with the youngest within this age group and 6.9% of families had three children, with the youngest between the age 0-18.

Sexuality

At present, there is no localised data on sexual orientation, and this is only available at a regional level. For the first time, the 2021 census included questions on sexual identity. This has the potential to enable a better understanding of the LGBTQ+ community within North Hertfordshire when the results are published in 2022.

The table below presents sexual identity data recorded at national and regional level. It is worth noting that these figures vary between areas. Therefore, without more localised data, it cannot be presumed the regional data will directly reflect the population of North Hertfordshire.

Sexual Orientation	England	East of England
Heterosexual or straight	94.6%	96.1%
Gay or lesbian	1.4%	1.1%
Bisexual	0.9%	1.0%
Other	0.6%	0.5%
Don't know or refuse	2.5%	1.4%

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey, 2018

According to the ONS⁶, on a national level, the proportion of people, aged 16 years and over, openly identifying as lesbian, gay or bisexual has been increasing. There was an increase from 1.6% in 2014 to 2.2% in 2018. Young people aged between 16-24 years were most likely to identify as LGB in 2018 with 4.4% of young people identifying as lesbian, gay or bisexual. An increase in individuals identifying as lesbian, gay or bisexual has been recorded consistently across all regions of England.

Transgender community

At present, there is not enough robust data to accurately estimate the UK transgender population locally or nationally. Although there has been work on estimating the number of transgender people within the UK population, there is no publicly available statistical data on which to make reliable estimates. In 2018, the Government Equalities Office tentatively estimated that there were between 200,000 – 500,000 transgender people living in the UK. This would make up between 0.3%-0.8% of the UK population.⁷

The 2021 census has given a new and voluntary option regarding gender, allowing individuals to state if the gender they identify with is the same as sex registered at birth, with an option to state gender identity beneath. It is hoped that this change will lead to stronger data on those that are transgender and non-binary within the UK.

Age

The below table shows the estimate age structure of North Hertfordshire's residents in 2019.

Age Group	Percentage of North Hertfordshire Residents
0 - 4	5.9%
5 - 9	6.6%
10 - 14	6.1%
15 - 19	5.1%
20 - 24	4.4%
25 - 29	5.5%
30 - 34	6.1%
35 - 39	7.2%
40 - 44	7%
45 - 49	7.3%
50 - 54	7.4%
55 - 59	6.7%
60 - 64	5.5%
65 - 69	4.9%
70 - 74	4.9%
75 - 79	3.6%
80 - 84	2.8%
85+	2.9%

Source: ONS Population Estimates (Mid-19)²

The largest (5-year) age band in North Hertfordshire, in 2019, was 50-54 years olds which represents 7.4% of the local population.³

In 2019, an estimated 81,601 (61.1%) of North Hertfordshire's residents were aged between 16-64.³ This age group is considered the traditional working age. However, many young people stay in education and training beyond the age of 16 and the state pension age has now increased to ages 66 or 67, depending on date of birth. The working population of North Hertfordshire will be covered in more detail in the following sections.

The latest (mid-2019) estimates indicate that 19.1% of North Hertfordshire's residents are aged 65 and over. This is higher than the overall UK percentage of over-65's at 18.5%.²

Over 85's make up an estimated 2.9% of North Hertfordshire's population.³ There are a number of economic, social and political challenges the UK faces as a result of its aging population.

Between 2016-2018, the life expectancy at birth was 81.1 years for males and 83.8 years for females in North Hertfordshire. This is slightly higher than the national average for both genders which is 79.6 for males and 83.2 for females in England.⁸

Children and Young people

Individuals counted as children are defined as those aged under 16. In mid-19, it was estimated that there were 26,308 children in North Hertfordshire which made up 19.7% of the overall population. In 2019, 75.9% of children had a good level of development in North Hertfordshire³. This is slightly higher than the 71.8% of children achieving a good level of development across the country⁹. 'A good level of development' is defined as achieving, at the minimum, the expected level in the early learning goals in the prime areas of learning and in the specific areas of maths and English.

Ethnicity

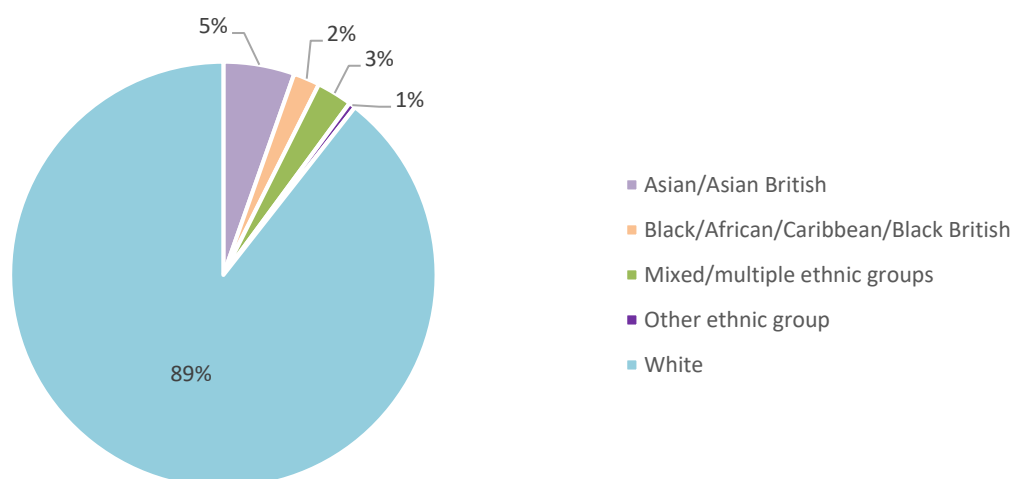
The main source of detailed ethnic group population data is the National Census. In the 2011 Census, 15.1% of the North Hertfordshire population were from an ethnic minority background (defined as non white-British), compared to 10.65% in 2001.

Ethnic Makeup of North Hertfordshire

Ethnicity	Number	%
White - British	107,889	84.9
White - Irish	1,398	1.1
Gypsy	33	0
Other White	4,435	3.5
White and Black Caribbean	1,481	1.2
White and Black African	309	0.2
White and Asian	912	0.7
Other Mixed	674	0.5
Indian	3,464	2.7
Pakistani	424	0.3
Bangladeshi	495	0.4
Chinese	808	0.6
Other Asian	1,630	1.3
Black African	859	0.7
Black Caribbean	1,344	1.1
Other Black	288	0.2
Arab	146	0.1
Any other ethnic groups	525	0.4

Source: ONS Census 2011: Table KS201EW

Broad Ethnic Makeup of North-Hertfordshire, 2011



Source: ONS Census 2011: Table KS201EW

In the Herts Residents' Survey (2018), 83% of North Hertfordshire residents agreed (strongly or tend to) that people from different ethnic backgrounds get on well together in the local area. This is higher than the 80.3% of residents throughout Hertfordshire that agreed with the statement.¹⁰

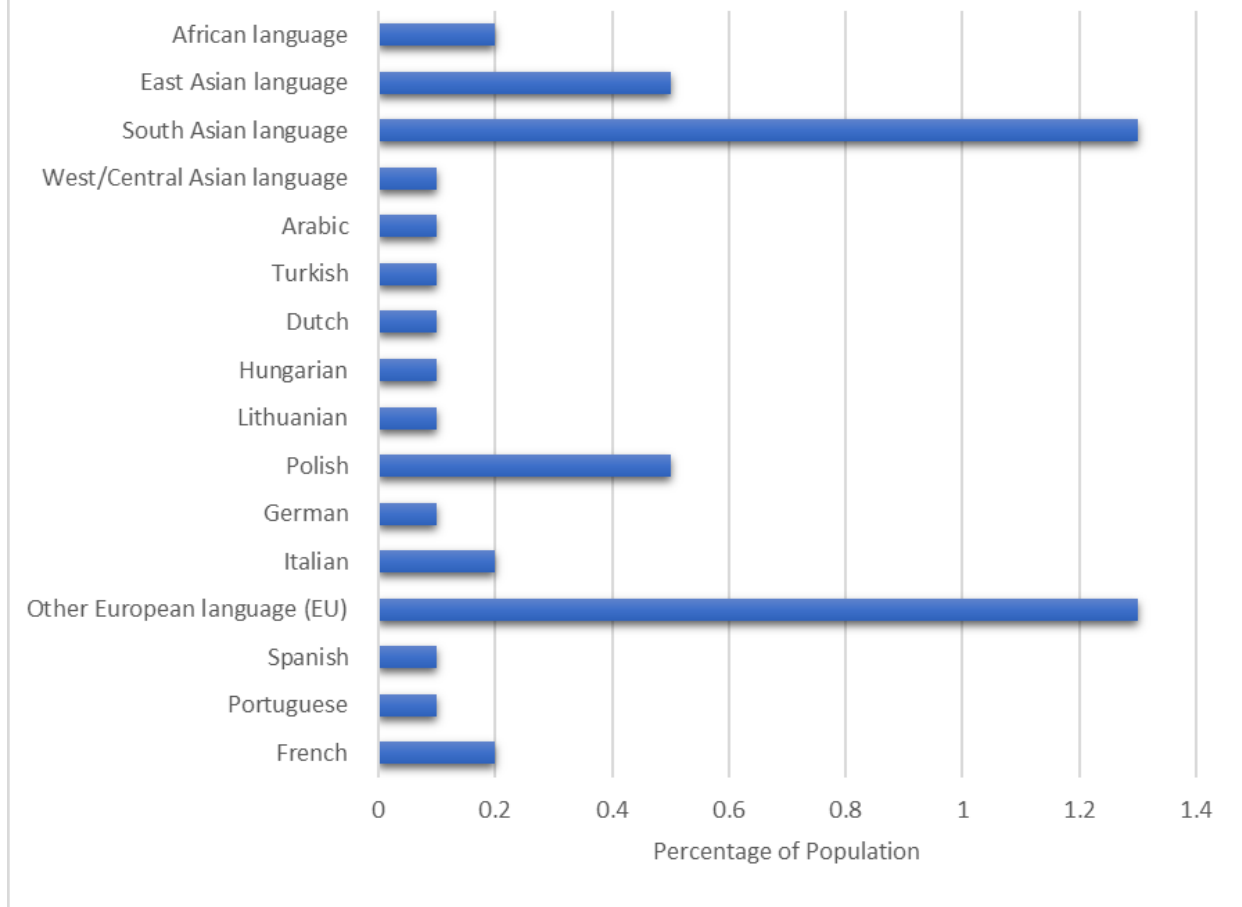
Proficiency in spoken English

The main source of detailed data on languages spoken is the national census. The 2011 Census was the first in which people were asked about their main spoken language and the proficiency in speaking English. In 2011, 95.9% of residents in North Hertfordshire District used English as their main language, in Hertfordshire this figure was 93.94% and in East of England this figure was 94.47%.

Proficiency in spoken English (percentage) in North Hertfordshire District in 2011				
	North Hertfordshire	Hertfordshire	East of England	England
Main language - English	95.88	93.94	94.47	92.02
Main language - not English, can speak English very well	1.99	2.90	2.31	3.31
Main language - not English, can speak English well	1.42	2.23	2.10	3.01
Main language - not English, cannot speak English well	0.60	0.80	0.95	1.39
Main language - not English, cannot speak English	0.11	0.13	0.17	0.26

In 2011, 95.88% of usual residents in North Hertfordshire District used English as their main language. 0.60% of residents did not use English as a main language and could not speak English well. 0.11% of residents could not speak English at all.

Main Spoken Language (Other than English) by Residents of North Hertfordshire in 2011



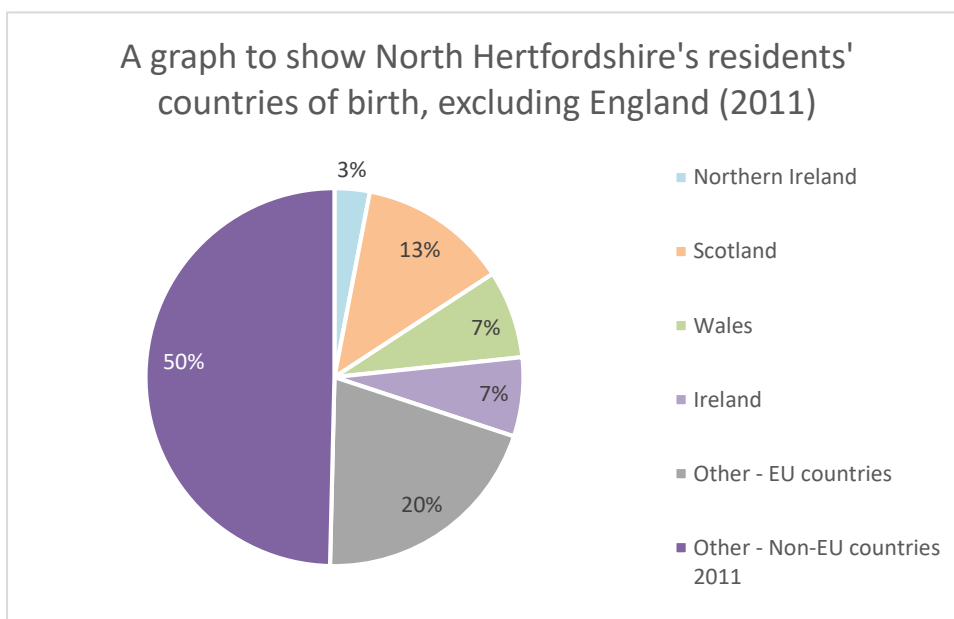
Source: ONS Census 2011, Table QS204EW

As indicated in the graph above, the 2011 census indicated that the Hitchin Bearton ward was recorded as the ward with the highest number and the highest percentage of ethnic minorities in North Hertfordshire as well the ward with the largest number of households that speak little to no English.

Country of Birth

The ONS annual population survey (June 18) indicated that 93.3% of North Hertfordshire's residents were born in the UK, with 6.7% of Hertfordshire's residents' country of birth being outside of the UK.¹¹ This has changed from data collected in the 2011 census which indicated that 89.9% of Hertfordshire's residents were born in the UK. This indicated that there has been an increase in the percentage of North Hertfordshire residents born in the UK between 2011 and 2018.

The chart below uses more detailed data from the 2011 census to give an indication of the 10.1% North Hertfordshire residents' countries of birth, excluding England. Given that the percentage of those born in the UK has previously increased in North Hertfordshire, it should be noted that this graph may no longer fully represent North Hertfordshire's current population.

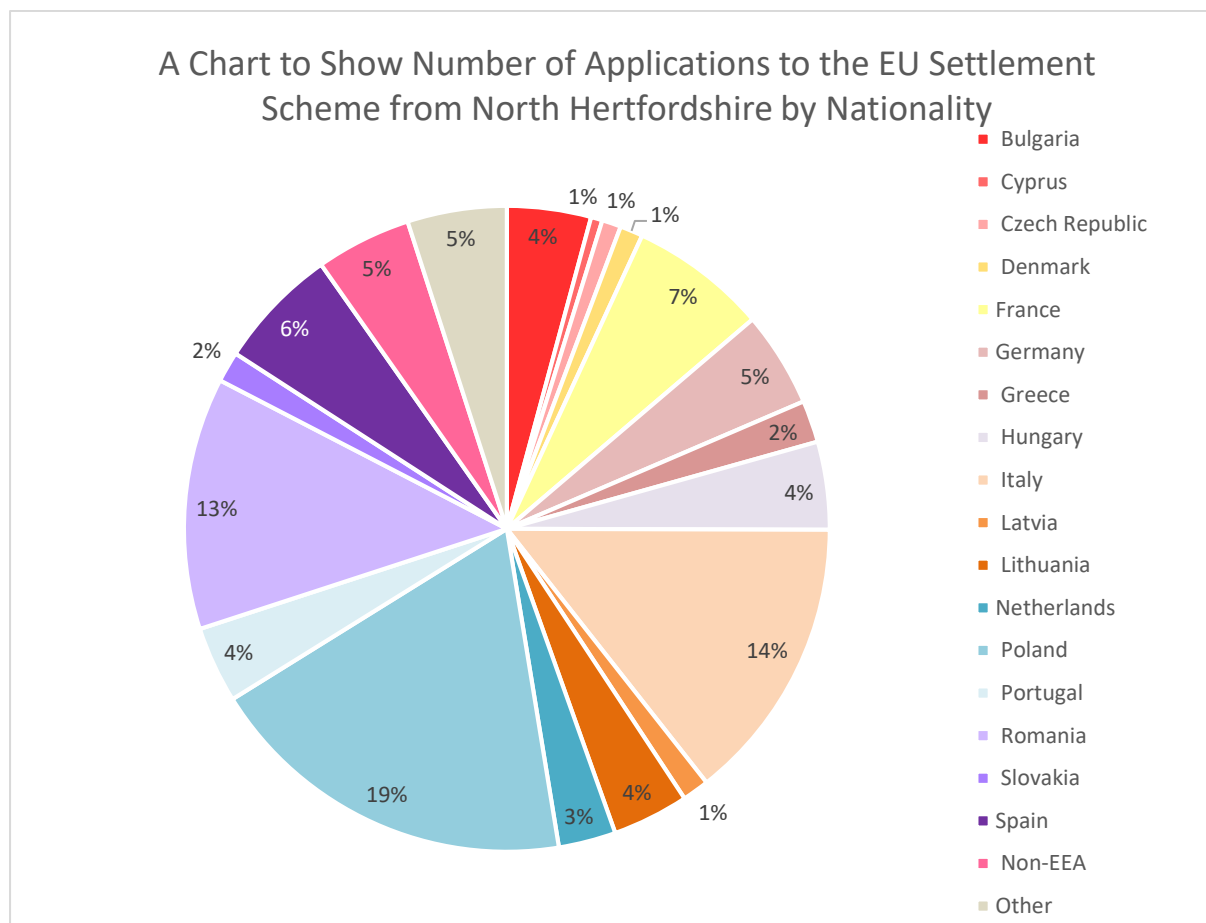


Source: ONS Census 2011, Table KS204EW

EU Settlement Scheme

As a result of Brexit, the EU Settlement Scheme allows EU citizens and their family members to get the immigration status they need to continue to live in the UK. The deadline to sign up for this is the 30th June. Data for applications is published at a local authority level which enables a current and clear insight into EU citizens currently living in North Hertfordshire.

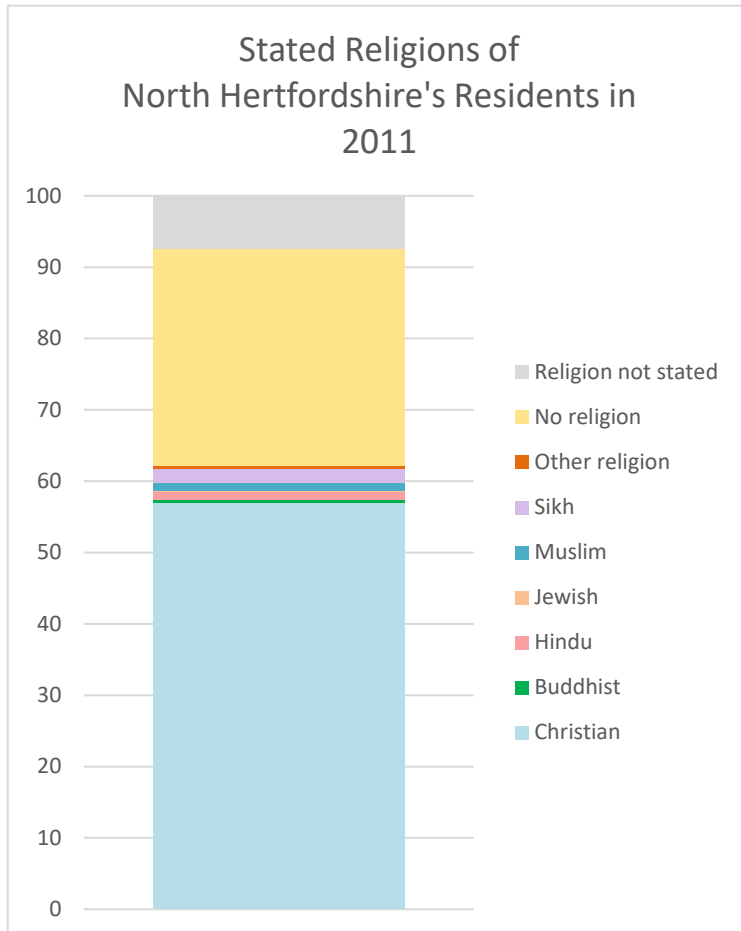
As of 31st March 2021, 5,250 (rounded to the nearest 10) applications had been made to the EU settlement scheme from North Hertfordshire.¹² The graph below gives a breakdown of the nationality of those applying to the scheme from North Hertfordshire. The category 'Other' includes nationalities that make up less than 1% of applicants including Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland.



The above graph indicates that the largest proportion of those that have applied to the EU settlement scheme in North Hertfordshire are from Poland (19%), Italy (14%) and Romania (13%).

Religion

In the 2011 census, 57% of North Hertfordshire residents identified themselves as Christian. 30% stated themselves to have no religion and over 7% did not state a religious stance, with the next most prominent belief being Sikhism, with 1.9% of residents identifying themselves as Sikh.

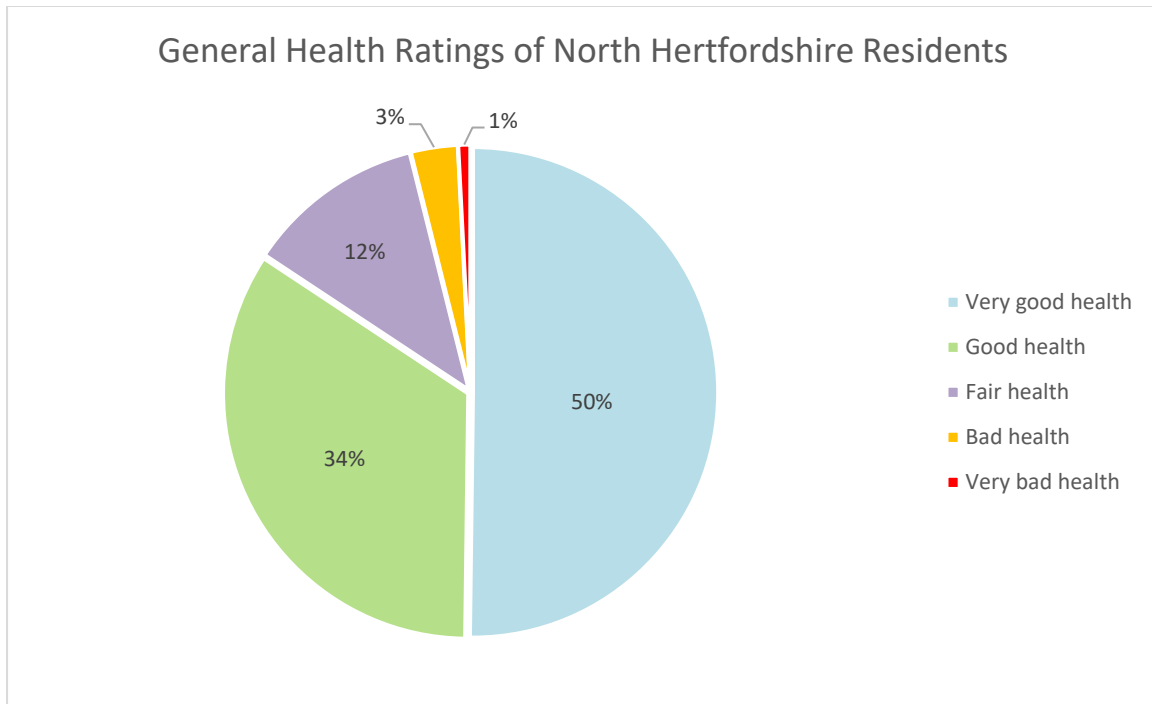


Source: ONS Census 2011, Table KS209EW

In 1970, the first Gurdwara Sikh temple in the Anglia region was purchased and renovated on Bearton Avenue, in Hitchin Bearton. It was formed to serve the communities of Hitchin, Letchworth, Stevenage, Luton and surrounding areas. Before this time, anyone wishing to visit a Gurdwara would have to go to London, the Midlands or congregate in hired halls. This could provide an explanation as to why Sikhism is the 4th most prominent religious stance of North Hertfordshire residents.

Health

The primary source of data on general health, long-term health issues and disabilities is the 2011 national census. As addressed earlier, this only provides a snapshot of the situation at that time. Based on census 2011 data for North Hertfordshire, when asked what residents thought about their own personal health, the following responses were given:



Source: ONS Census, 2011 Table KS301UK

General health is a self-assessment of a person's health over the 12 months before the Census. Limiting long-term illness is a self-assessment of whether a person has a long-term health problem or disability that limits their day-to-day activities and has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months. This includes problems that are related to old age.

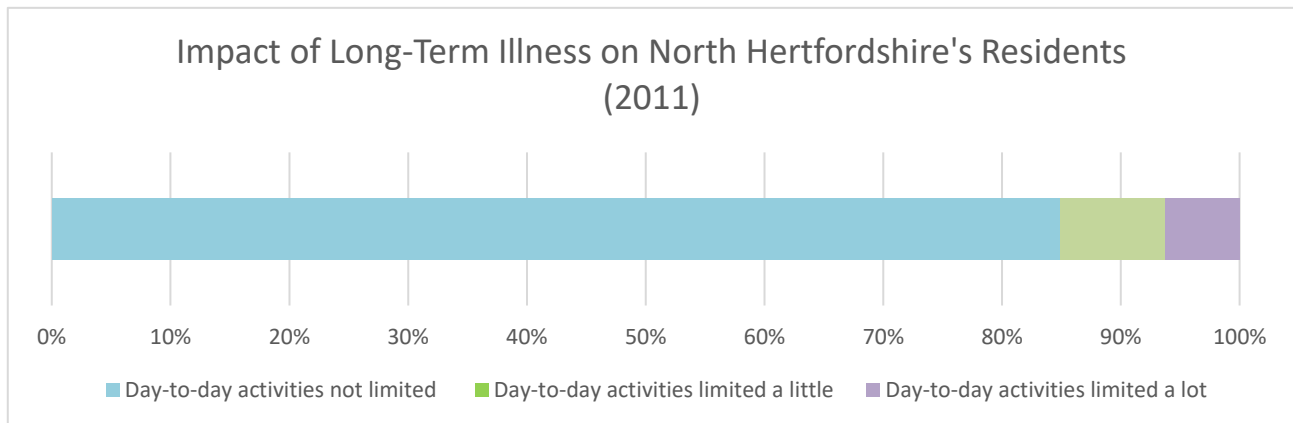
In the 2011 census, 84.3% of North Hertfordshire residents rated their health as 'Very Good' or 'Good'. This is higher than the national rating of the two categories which is 81.4%, with 47.1% of the population in England rating their health as 'Very Good' and 34.2% rating their health as 'Good'.

Furthermore, a smaller percentage of North Hertfordshire residents rated their health as 'Bad' or 'Very Bad', with 3.9% rating themselves in these categories. This is compared to the 5.4% of the population in England rating their health as 'Bad' (4.2%) or 'Very Bad' (1.2%).

In 2011, 19,182 people in North Hertfordshire stated that they had a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities to some extent. This was 15.1% of the resident population.

Disability

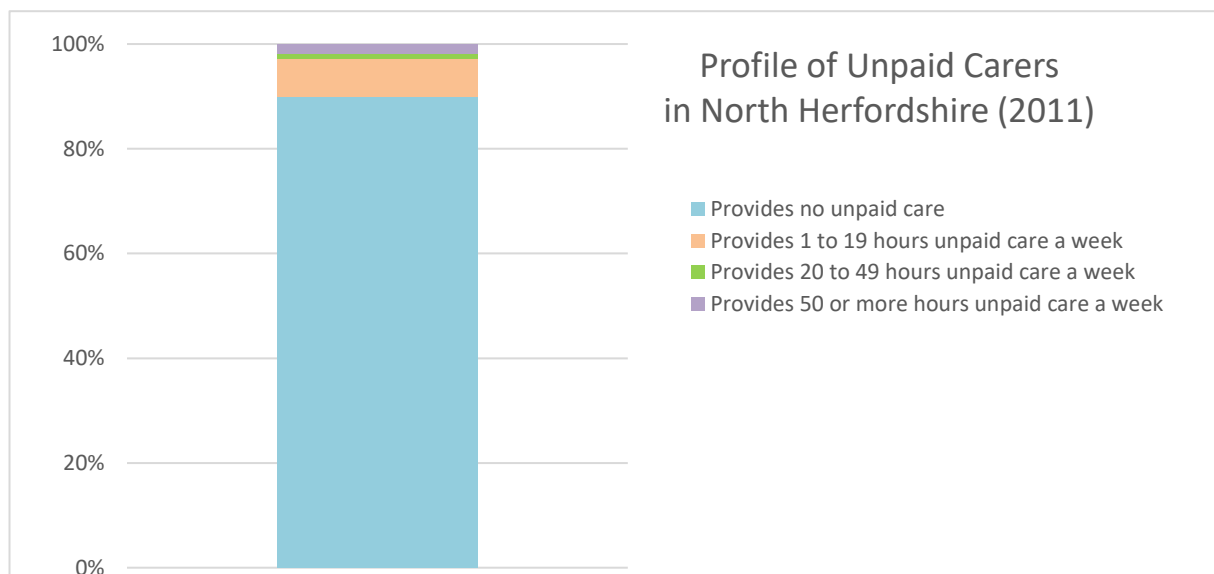
The 2011 census recorded that out of the 127,114 usual residents of North Hertfordshire, 8,017 people had a disability that limited their day-to-day activities a lot (6.3%) and 11,165 people had a disability that limited their day-to-day activities a little (8.8%).³ This totals 15.1% of North Hertfordshire residents experiencing some level of limitation on their day-to-day activities as a result of a disability.



Source: ONS Census, 2011 Table KS301UK

Of those whose day-to-day activities were limited a lot by long term illness, 34.3% were aged between 16-64 and 44.7% of those whose day-to-day activities were limited a little by long term illness were aged between 16-64.

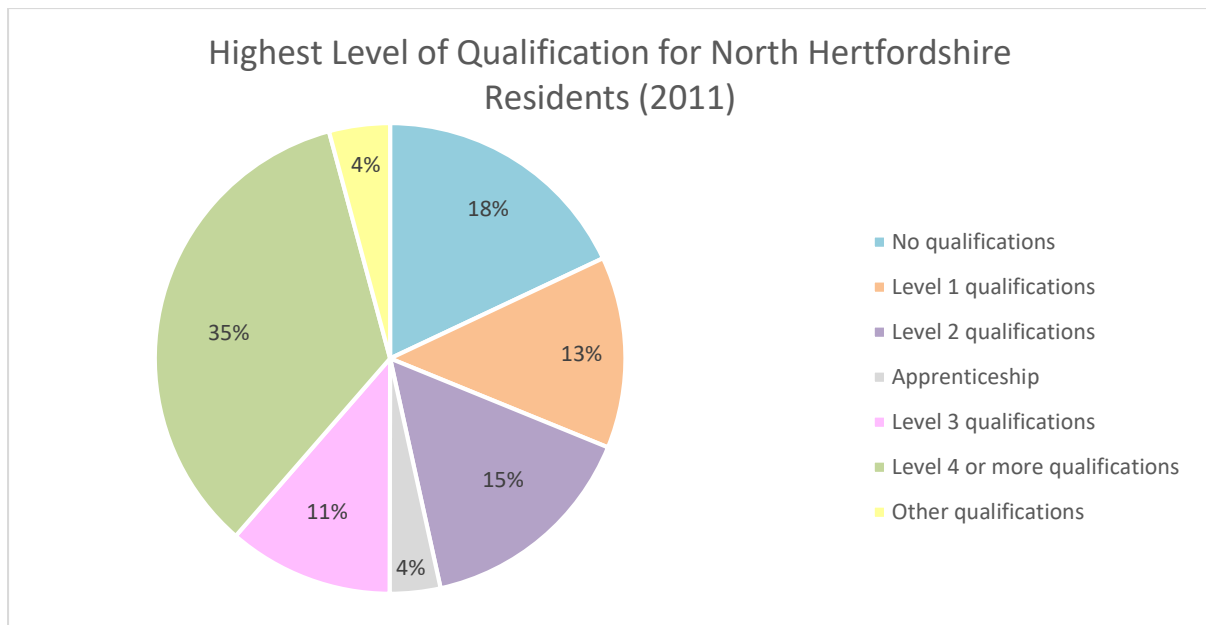
Carers



Source: ONS Census 2011, Table KS301EW

The above graph indicates the proportion of residents that provided unpaid care as recorded in the 2011 census. 89.9% of North Hertfordshire residents provided no unpaid care, 7.1% provided 1 to 19 hours of unpaid care a week, 1.1% provided 20 to 49 hours of unpaid care a week and 1.8% provided 50 or more hours of unpaid care a week.

Education



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2011 Census, Table KS501EW.

The above graph gives an indication of the highest qualifications of North Hertfordshire residents. Level 1 qualifications include GCSEs between grades 1-3 or grades D-G. Level 2 Qualifications include GCSEs between grades 4-9 or grades A*-C. 28% of North Hertfordshire residents' highest qualification is level 1 or 2.

Level 3 qualifications are equivalent to A levels and level 4 qualifications are equivalent to an undergraduate degree and include a certificate of higher education, higher apprenticeship or a higher national certificate. Individuals with at least a level 4 qualification make up the largest proportion of North Hertfordshire residents at 35%. This compares to 32.10% in Hertfordshire as a whole and 27.4% in England that have a level 4 qualification or higher.

The percentage of pupils receiving grades A* - C for 5 or more GCSEs and equivalent in 2011, including Maths and English was 64.8% for North Hertfordshire, compared to 66.9% for Hertfordshire and 58.8% for England.

The Working Population

Employment

The main source of data regarding the working population and employment levels is the ONS Annual Population Survey with the most recent data from September 2020. This data can be found summarised, with additional information regarding other local districts in Hertfordshire, on Herts Insight webpage.¹³ As mentioned above, an estimated 81,601 North Hertfordshire residents are between 16-64 years of age and therefore categorised as 'working age'. Where data below refers to the working age population, it is referring to the 61.1% of residents within this age bracket.

In September 2020, 84.6% of North Hertfordshire's working age population were employed whilst 3.4% of the working age population were unemployed. Of those in employment, 89.6% were employees and 10.4% were self-employed.

Of the working age population within North Hertfordshire, 82.4% of the working age population were working full time. Within this, there is a significant difference between males and females working full time or part time. (90.9% of working-age males worked full time and 70.6% of working age females worked full time). 17.6% of the overall working age population of North Hertfordshire were working part time (9.1% of working-age males and 29.4% of working-age females).

The below chart gives an indication of median annual pay of residents and workers in North Hertfordshire. North Hertfordshire has a higher median pay than Hertfordshire overall, the East of England overall and England overall for both residents and workers in all categories other than female workers. Female workers in North Hertfordshire have a lower median annual pay than Hertfordshire, the East of England or England overall. It is evident that both within North Hertfordshire and on a wider scale, there is still a significant gender pay gap.

	Median Annual Pay					
	All Residents	All Workers	Male Residents	Male Workers	Female Residents	Females Workers
North Hertfordshire	£33,311	£27,916	£39,072	£35,099	£24,009	£17,907
Hertfordshire	£31,165	£25,943	£37,923	£34,099	£23,799	£18,740
East of England	£26,697	£24,898	£33,189	£31,170	£20,294	£18,763
England	£26,055	£26,062	£31,813	£31,826	£20,512	£20,510

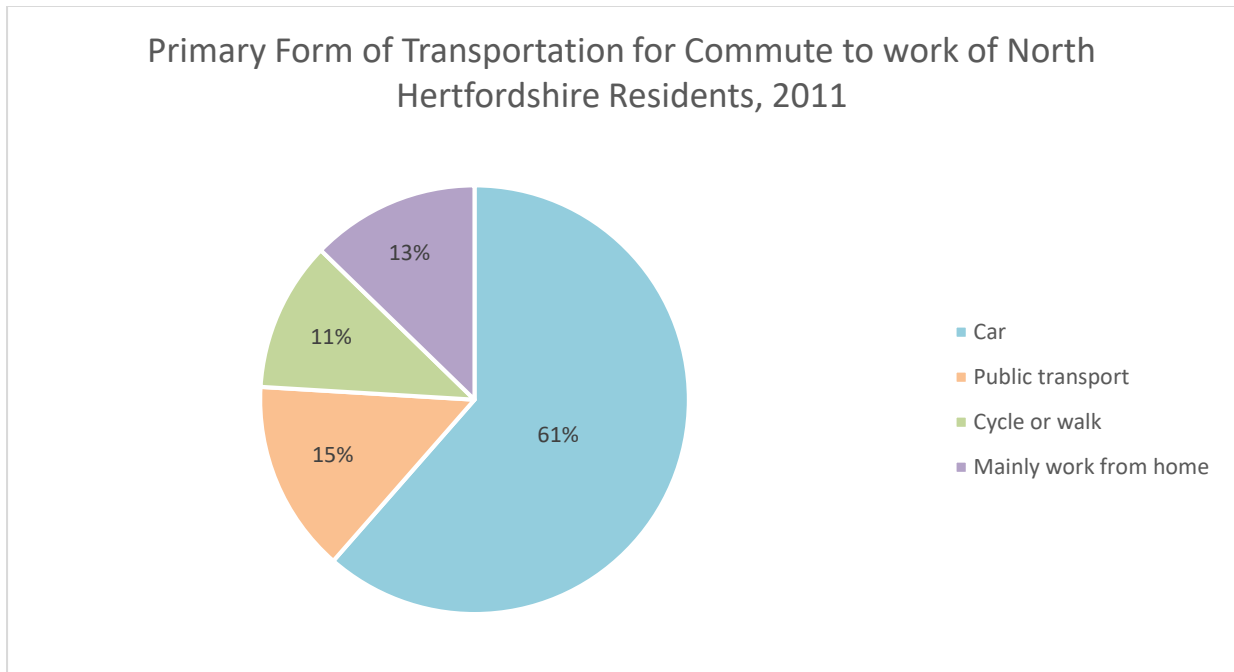
Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, 2020

Figures of those claiming benefits are updated monthly. The Claimant Count¹⁴ includes those that are claiming Job Seeker's Allowance as well as those who claim Universal Credit and are required to seek work and be available to work. The percentages are calculated as the proportion of the working age population. In February 2021, 4.6% of North Hertfordshire's working age population were claiming these benefits. North Hertfordshire's claimant count has seen a sharp rise as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic with a significantly lower proportion of the working age population (1.7%) claiming these benefits in March 2021. This shift has mirrored the increase across the region and the country, but North Hertfordshire continues to have a proportionally lower claimant count than the East of England or the country overall.

Transportation

Travel to work

The chart below includes data from the 2011 national census and shows the percentage of North Hertfordshire residents aged 16 – 64 in employment, who, for the longest part of their commute to work, would take the following mode of transportation:



Source: ONS Census 2011, Table QS703EW

As recorded in the 2011 census, 83.4% of households in North Hertfordshire had at least one car or van, compared to 74.2% in England.¹⁵

The District is strategically positioned with good rail and road connections. It is less than 40 miles from central London. The railway stations within North Hertfordshire provide direct services north to Peterborough, north-east to Cambridge and King's Lynn, and south to London King's Cross and St Pancras International) and Hertford. There are also services to Stevenage that offers access to the North East and Scotland. However, no rail links from the District to the west exist, meaning towns like Luton and Milton Keynes are less accessible via public transport. The main roads around North Hertfordshire are the A1(M) that runs through the centre of North Hertfordshire and can be used to travel North, or South towards London and the M25 motorway. The M1, which is just outside of the west side of the North Hertfordshire borders, is accessible via the A505 and village routes. The A10 runs through Royston and can be used to travel to Cambridge, King's Lynn, as well as South and to London.

Train stations can be found in the following towns / villages within North Hertfordshire:

- Royston
- Ashwell and Morden
- Baldock
- Letchworth Garden City
- Hitchin
- Knebworth

North Hertfordshire is well served by many local bus routes which generally tend to run at least hourly between 0800 and 1800, Monday to Friday, with remote areas running less frequently.

There are seven taxi ranks also operational within the district. These are located in Baldock, Hitchin, Letchworth and Royston and are operational 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.¹⁶

Deprivation

Deprivation profiles are measured through the ONS Indices of Deprivation, with the most recent data being from 2019.¹⁷ This measures relative deprivation for small areas in England. In 2019, North Hertfordshire ranked 269 out of 317 lower tier local authorities. With rank 1 being the most deprived and rank 317 being the least deprived, North Hertfordshire ranks among the 16% least deprived local authorities in England.¹⁸ However, North Hertfordshire still contains pockets of deprivation, with sections of the Jackmans Estate in Letchworth being one of the ten most deprived areas in Hertfordshire.

Deprivation is categorised with different domains including income, employment, education, skills and training, health deprivation and disability, crime, barriers to housing and services, living environment, income deprivation affecting children, and income deprivation affecting older people. Of these, North Hertfordshire ranks highest in education skills and training but ranks lowest in barriers to housing and services.

Income Deprivation

Income deprivation measures the proportion of the population experiencing deprivation through low income. This can include those that are out-of-work and those that are in work but have low earnings.¹⁹ In 2019, 7.9% of North Hertfordshire's population was income deprived. Within North Hertfordshire, 3 out of 82 neighbourhoods are among the 20% most income-deprived neighbourhoods in England whilst 28 of North Hertfordshire's neighbourhoods are amongst 20% of the least income-deprived in England.²⁰

Child Poverty

The table below indicates the percentage of children living in relative poverty, measured after housing costs, in North Hertfordshire, the East of England, England and the UK.

Local authority	Percentage of Children in Relative Poverty					
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
North Hertfordshire	18.9%	19.2%	21.1%	20.9%	21.4%	19.7%
UK	29%					31.0%
East of England	24%					25.5%
England	28%					30.4%

Source: End Child Poverty, Local Child Poverty Indicators 2019/20 – estimates of rates, after housing costs²¹

The table indicates that 19.7% of children in Hertfordshire were living in relative poverty in 2019/20. Relative poverty is measured as a household that has an income that is 60% below the median income. Here, children are classified as those under 16 years of age. This is estimated through family income after housing costs in order to give an accurate comparison of what families have available to spend on food, utilities, clothing and leisure.

The percentage of North Hertfordshire children living in relative poverty is higher than in 2014/5. This appears to match trends across the region and country indicating that across the UK, the percentage of children experiencing relative poverty has risen since 2014/15. Positively, in North Hertfordshire in 2019/20, the proportion of children experiencing relative poverty was at its lowest since 2016.

The proportion of children experiencing relative poverty in North Hertfordshire is lower than the regional and national averages and when compared to local authorities across the UK, North Hertfordshire ranks within the 15% of lowest child poverty rates across UK local authorities.

UK Prosperity Index 2021

In 2021, the Legatum Institute published the UK Prosperity Index 2021²². This index measures institutional, economic and social wellbeing across the 379 local authorities in the UK. For each local authority, different categories are given ratings, and these are then ranked against other local authorities.

North Hertfordshire was ranked the 36th most prosperous, out of the 379 local authorities in the UK. This indicates that North Hertfordshire ranks in the top 10% of most prosperous local authorities in the UK.

According to the report, citizens of North Hertfordshire are ranked as the second healthiest in the East of England and North Hertfordshire is ranked within the top 15 healthiest areas in the UK. North Hertfordshire has some of the lowest still births and infant mortality in the region.²³

In 2021, North Hertfordshire's highest ratings were for 'safety and security' (scored 66.5 and ranked 150th), 'living conditions' (scored 66.0 and ranked 84th) and 'infrastructure' (scored 61.1 and ranked 86th).

North Hertfordshire ranked highest against other local authorities for 'health' (ranked 12th highest, scored 60.1), 'social capital' (ranked 22nd highest and scored 52.7) and 'economic quality' (ranked 36th highest and scored 54.7).

The table below shows how North Hertfordshire ranked overall in 2011, 2020 and 2021 as well as how North Hertfordshire ranked in each category in 2021.

Overall Prosperity Ranking			North Hertfordshire's Rankings for Each Category The UK Prosperity Index 2021 ¹⁸												
2011	2020	2021	Safety and Security	Personal Freedom	Governance	Social Capital	Investment Environment	Enterprise Conditions	Infrastructure	Economic Quality	Living Conditions	Health	Education	Natural Environment	
20	30	36	150	163	77	22	193	137	86	36	84	12	117	224	

Whilst North Hertfordshire has ranked less high over the last decade against other local authorities, a score of 56.2 was given for 2011 and a score of 56.0 was received in 2021²³. This indicates a small decrease in the overall score given and that the ranking of the area may have dropped due to other local authorities gaining higher scores and therefore surpassing North Hertfordshire within these rankings.

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