



2011 Census Theme Paper Poole's Very Elderly Residents

Supplementary paper. Produced by Corporate Research,
Borough of Poole, December 2013



1. Purpose of this paper

This paper examines key findings on what the Census 2011 tells us about Poole's oldest residents. The cohort of interest is those aged 85 or over on Census Day, 2011. There was nearly 5,000 such residents in Poole. Their number in Poole is projected to increase by 27% over the decade 2011-2021. They are among the most vulnerable in society. With advancing years come increased levels of dependency on others including the state. It is therefore appropriate to discuss this subset of the elderly in more detail.

Note that this paper acts as a supplement to the main Census Theme paper on Older People which deals with those aged 65 or over, and which can be found [here](#). In addition, there is a Strategic Assessment paper on older people, which contains much of interest and does not confine itself, as this paper largely does, to Census data. It can be downloaded from [this](#) page.

N.B. For brevity we shall sometimes refer to those aged 65 or over simply as the "elderly" and those aged 85 or over as the "very elderly". Some authors refer to the latter group as the "oldest old".

2. Key Facts about the very elderly in Poole

- On Census day 2011 there were 4,919 residents of Poole aged 85 or over. They comprised 3.3% of the total population.
- *For comparison, on 2001 Census Day, 3,940 residents of Poole were aged 85 or over. They comprised 2.8% of the total population.*
- The ratio of very elderly women to very elderly men was approximately 2:1 (3,293 women and 1,626 men).
- 8% of the men and 18% of the women lived in communal establishments. The rest lived in private households.
- Of the very elderly who lived in households, one in five were in poor health. Also one in five of each gender was in poor health (553 females and 291 males).

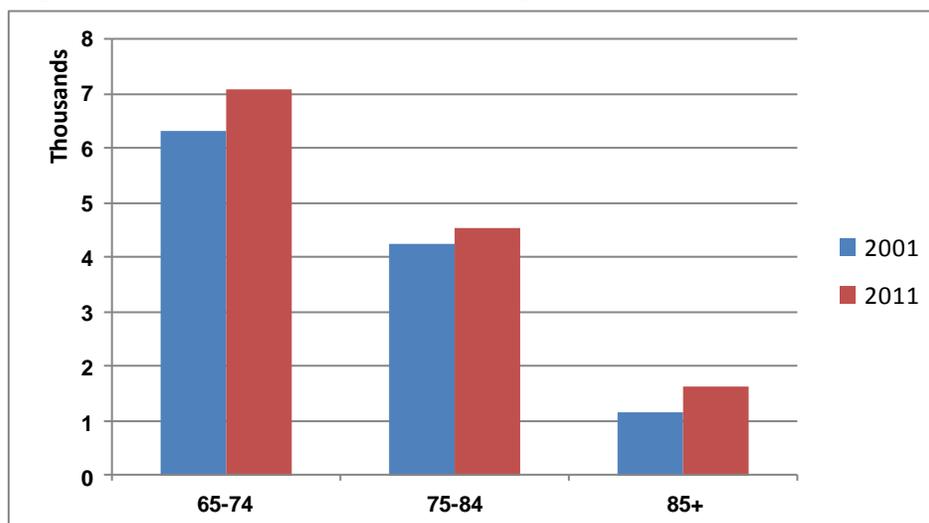
- Of the very elderly living as residents¹ of communal establishments, 36% were in poor health. By gender, 32% of the males and 37% of the females were in poor health (41 males and 207 females).
- For every 100 very elderly women in Poole, 76 were widowed, 16 were married and 8 were single, separated or divorced. For every 100 very elderly men in Poole, 40 were widowed, 53 were married and 7 were single, separated or divorced.

3. Demographics of Poole’s very elderly population

In 2011, the very elderly in Poole had the smallest share of the older population (Figures 1 and 2) but showed the fastest population growth since 2001, particularly for men (Figure 3). The prevalence of women over men in the elderly population is weakening, and this is especially so in the very elderly population. This is because the gap in life expectancies between men and women is narrowing.

Within the very elderly population in Poole, there were 40 men for every 100 women in 2001. This rose to 49 men for every 100 women in 2011. The number of men per hundred women by broad age bands is summarised in Table 1 (rounded to the nearest integer).

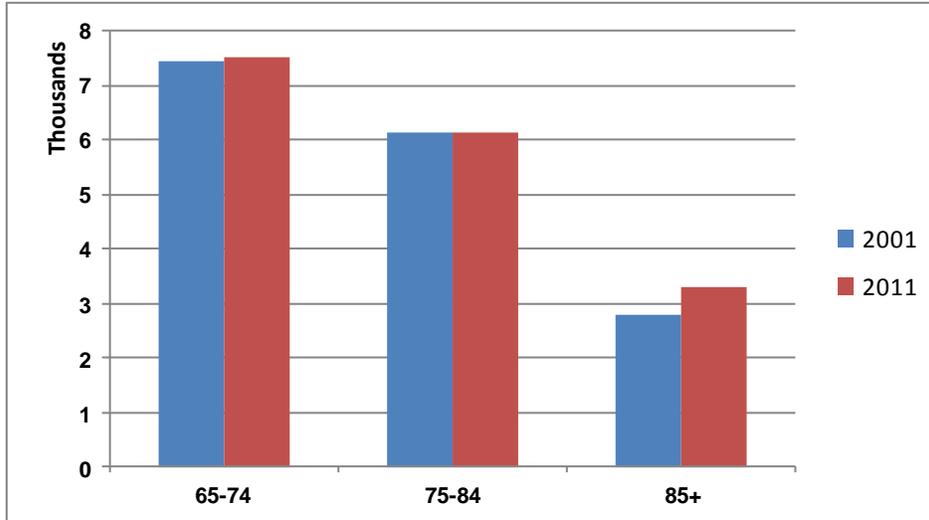
Figure 1. Population of elderly men by age group, 2001 and 2011, Poole



Source: Census 2011

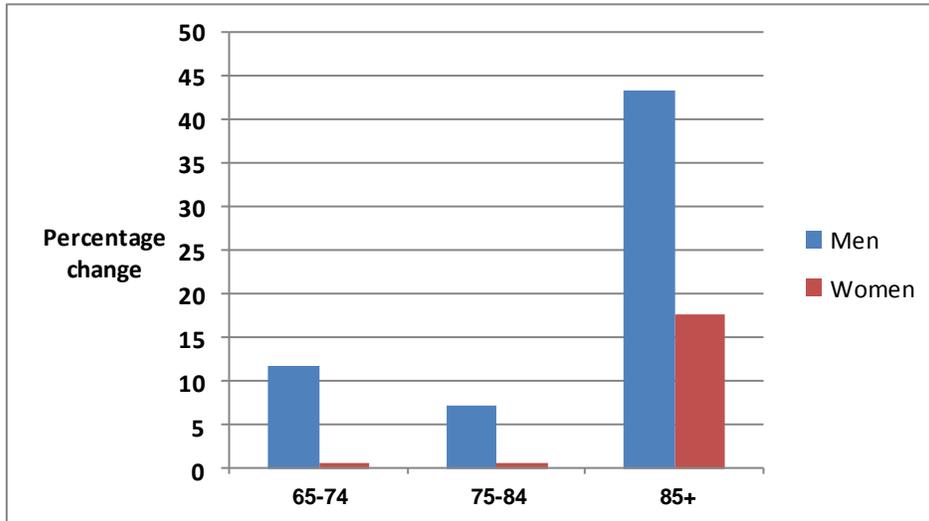
¹ Not all persons living in communal establishments are official *residents* of such, but the vast majority are. (For Poole as a whole, 95% of persons living in such establishments do so as residents.)

Figure 2. Population of elderly women by age group, 2001 and 2011, Poole



Source: Census 2001, Census 2011

Figure 3. Percentage change in population size of the elderly age groups by gender, 2001-2011, Poole



Source: Census2001, Census 2011

Table 1. Men per 100 women, Poole

Age group	2001	2011
65-74	85	94
75-84	69	74
85 and over	40	49
Under 65	97	101
65 and over	71	78
All ages	91	95

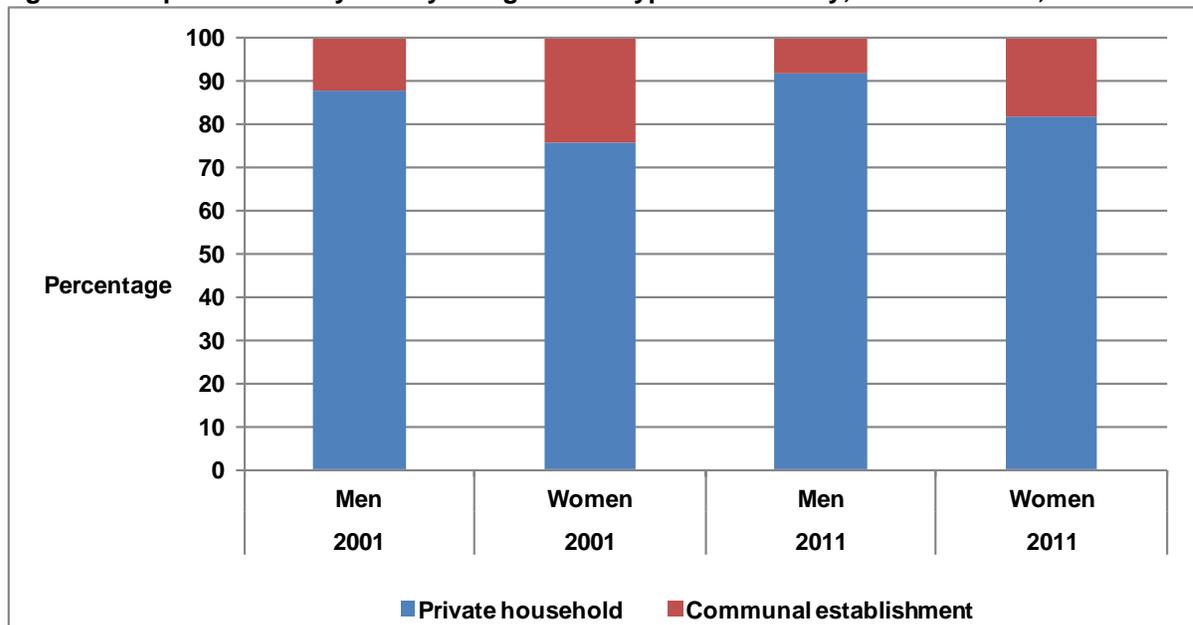
Source: Census 2001, Census 2011

4. Type of residency

In 2011, in Poole, 132 very elderly men and 592 very elderly women lived in communal establishments, down slightly from 138 and 662 respectively in 2001, despite the increase in the size of the very elderly population. The rest lived in private households.

Figure 4 compares the proportion of the very elderly living in each type of residency by gender in Poole. In 2001, 88% of men and 76% of women aged 85 or over lived in private households. By 2011 these proportions had risen to 92% and 82% respectively, reflecting government policy to support older people living at home for longer.

Figure 4. Proportion of very elderly living in each type of residency, 2001 and 2011, Poole



Source: Census 2001, Census 2011

Care homes

As might be expected, the vast majority (97%) of Poole's very elderly who are residents of communal establishments live in care homes. There were 677 such persons on Census day 2011. Table 2 summarises the data.

Table 2. Very elderly in care homes

Type of care	Persons	Males	Females
With nursing	253	42	211
Without nursing	424	80	344
Totals	677	122	555

Source: Census 2011

- Note that 37% of all of those in care homes lived in nursing homes

5. Poor health and limitation of daily activities

Census 2011 invited respondents to report on the state of their health and whether they suffered from a limiting long-term illness or disability. See our companion paper on General Health and Disability (which can be downloaded from [here](#)) for detailed information on the questions. We define those in “poor health” as those who described their health as “bad” or “very bad” on Census day. Of the very elderly who lived in households, one in five were in poor health. Also one in five of each gender was in poor health (553 females and 291 males).

Of the very elderly living as residents of communal establishments, 36% were in poor health. By gender, 32% of the males and 37% of the females were in poor health (41 males and 207 females).

We now examine limiting long-term illness and/or disability among Poole’s very elderly population. We define those with an LLTI I as those who said that they had an illness or disability which had lasted or was expected to last at least one year and which limited their daily activities.

For those living in households, 80% said that they had an LLTI which limited their activities either “a little” or “a lot” (77% of males and 81% of females). Also, nearly one in two (47%) of this age cohort said that their activities were limited a *lot* (45% of males and 48% of females).

As might be expected rates of LLTI are higher for those very elderly living as residents of communal establishments. For this cohort, 97% said that their activities were limited by an LLTI or disability (98% of males and 97% of females). Also, 78% of this age cohort said that their activities were limited a *lot* (79% of males and 78% of females).

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