

Poole in Profile: Older People in Poole – Economic Well-Being



This report is one in a series profiling Older People in Poole produced by the Corporate Research Team. These reports have been designed to help inform service and policy planning, by summarising available research and statistical evidence.

1. Introduction

Nationally, there will be significant changes in the population's structure in future years with an increasing proportion of the population being elderly. These changes will be particularly pronounced in Poole. (See *Older People - Demographics*).

Demographic changes, at the national level, will have significant economic consequences, as dependency ratios increase. In particular, the ratio of those unemployed to those in employment is predicted to significantly increase. The government is seeking to address this problem by increasing employment levels generally and in particular among those aged between 50 and the state pension age (SPA).

A target of employment rates of 80% among those of working age would do much to mitigate the economic consequences of these demographic changes, but such high employment levels, which would be among the highest in the world, may be difficult to realise. (The national rate, in 2005, among those of working age was 74.5% .) A target of 80% among those aged 50 –SPA may also be regarded as ambitious.(The rate among Poole's population in this group is around 70% - see below.)

We now turn our attention to certain aspects of economic well-being among Poole's older population.

2. Unemployment and Employment

We define the unemployment rate within a population as the percentage of those *economically active* within that population who are unemployed. So, those who have taken early retirement, for example, would not be included in the population of interest.

It is difficult to get reliable up to date information at lower geographical areas for the unemployed elderly. The best we can do is use Census 2001 data. The table below shows the unemployment rates, by ward, for those aged between 50 and the SPA. The table also shows, by ward, the percentage of this age group in employment in 2001.

Unemployment and employment rates, 50-SPA

Ward	Unemployment rate, 50 – SPA (%)	Employment rate, 50-SPA (%)
Alderney	3.2	67.0
Branksome East	1.6	72.6
Branksome West	3.7	72.5
Broadstone	1.8	73.2
Canford Cliffs	3.5	60.3
Canford Heath East	3.1	78.0
Canford Heath West	3.1	75.0
Creekmoor	2.8	73.9
Hamworthy East	4.2	67.2
Hamworthy West	3.1	66.8
Merley & Bearwood	2.2	76.4
Newtown	3.6	67.6
Oakdale	2.3	72.6
Parkstone	2.9	67.1
Penn Hill	4.1	69.5
Poole Town	3.6	67.7
Borough of Poole	3.0	70.5

More up to date estimates (2005) for employment rates are available from the Annual Population Survey (APS). There has been very little, if any, change in the employment levels in the 50-SPA cohort in Poole between 2001 and 2005. (The quoted 2005 unemployment rate for Poole for this group is not reliable from the APS data.)

	Poole	GB
Persons	71.1	70.3
Males	73.2	72.1
Females	68.4	67.9

Source: APS, April 2004 - Mar 2005

Care should be exercised in interpreting employment rates. Canford Cliffs, for example, might appear to a cause for concern, but the low level of employment is probably due to a large number of residents taking early retirement. (Nationally, around one in five of those aged between 50 and the SPA who are not seeking work have taken early retirement) Unemployment rates may be more informative, since they are expressed relative to those who are economically active in the age group.

3. Economic Deprivation

Pension Credit

We examine economic deprivation among the elderly by looking at the numbers of those aged 60 and over claiming Pension Credit.

The table opposite shows the Pension Credit claimant rate, by ward, as at 2004. This is payable to those 60 and above and is a good measure of economic deprivation affecting the elderly. It varies considerably by ward, with *more than one person in four aged 60 or over in Alderney, Newtown and Poole Town wards in receipt of this benefit*. The highest rate , at nearly 28%, is in Newtown.

Note: These rates are calculated using numerators based on official statistics on claimants as at 2004. The denominator in each case was the corresponding total population aged 60 and over as at 2001, so the true rates will differ slightly. This is standard practice given accurate figures at ward level are unavailable for 2004.

Pension Credit claimant rates 2004

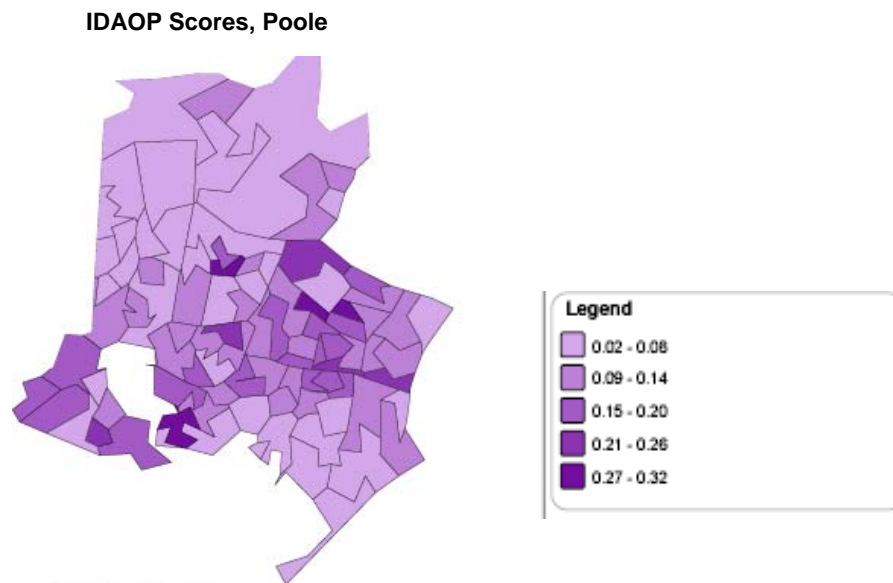
Ward	PC claimant rate as % of 60+
Alderney	25.0
Branksome East	19.4
Branksome West	21.2
Broadstone	7.4
Canford Cliffs	6.5
Canford Heath East	16.6
Canford Heath West	22.7
Creekmoor	16.5
Hamworthy East	23.3
Hamworthy West	21.1
Merley & Bearwood	10.8
Newtown	27.7
Oakdale	19.1
Parkstone	15.4
Penn Hill	12.6
Poole Town	25.1
Borough of Poole	16.9

Source: DWP, 2006

4. Indices of Deprivation – Income Deprivation Affecting Older People

A commonly used measure - income deprivation affecting older people (IDAOP) - appears in the Indices of Multiple Deprivation work of 2004. The measure adds together those aged 60 and over in receipt of income support or income-based job seeker's allowance, plus their partners if they, too, are over 60, and expresses this as a proportion of all those aged 60 and over. (*Pension credit has since replaced income support for this age group.*) The geographical units are lower level Super Output Areas (SOAs). (The data is based on benefit figures as at 2001, so is a little out of date, but the broad picture is very similar to that using pension benefit claimants.)

The thematic map below shows the IDAOP scores within Poole. Note that they vary from 2 % for a SOA in Broadstone to 32% for a SOA within the Newtown ward near the border with Alderney. The SOA in Newtown with the highest score is also in the worst 10% nationally. The worst four in Poole are among the worst 15% nationally.



Further information

This paper provides a summary of the research and analysis that has been carried out under this heading. For further information on this subject or to access detailed data, maps and information please contact:

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