

A photograph of a large container ship at a port during dusk. The ship is dark with "APL" written on its side and is heavily loaded with colorful shipping containers. Several large gantry cranes are positioned along the pier, their lights reflecting on the water. The sky is a deep blue, and the water in the foreground is calm, mirroring the lights and structures.

# Provision of Unpaid Care

May 2023

Data, Intelligence & Insight Team



This slide set illustrates Southampton resident responses to the census 2021 question:

**"Do you look after, or give any help or support to, anyone because they have long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses, or problems related to old age?"**.

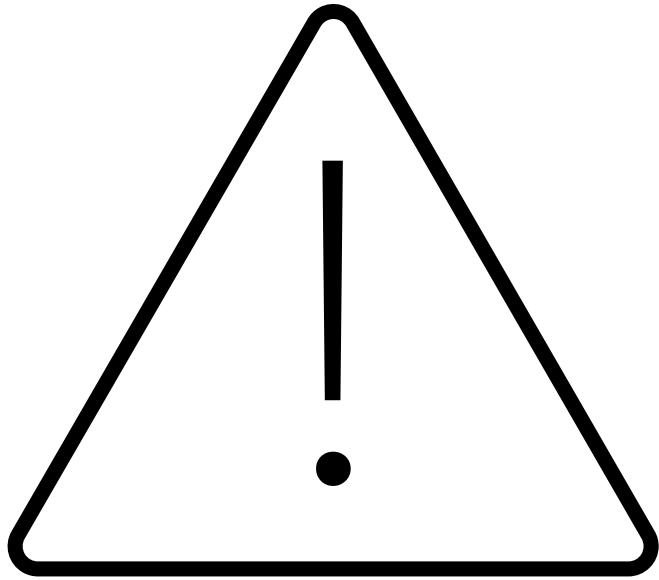
People were asked to exclude anything they did as part of their paid employment. The wording of the question differs from the 2011 census question, which began

**"Do you look after, or give any help or support to family members, friends, neighbours or others"**.

The Office for National Statistics provides a national overview on [unpaid care](#).



- The 2021 Census question was worded slightly differently to the 2011 question, 'unpaid care' is more tightly defined and will exclude most of the childcare recorded in the 2011 responses



- The 2021 Census was completed during the COVID-19 pandemic, this may have affected the responder's level of care or economic activity at that time. More people may have been looking after friends and family at home due to COVID infection or a hesitancy to use care homes to provide care and this may be reflected in the responses.
- More people working from home or placed on furlough in this period may have had increased capacity to provide care.
- The pandemic may have also changed the demographics at the time of the census, many students had left the city on the census collection date.
- Economic activity data is for those aged 16 and over only



- **Unpaid carers** can be found in all areas of Southampton's resident population
- Young carers, adults with full-time jobs, people on fixed incomes and older carers with health issues of their own may **experience a greater impact** by **providing unpaid care**
- Some particularly **vulnerable groups** will feel this impact **more acutely**. In most cases, these vulnerable groups are also **more likely** to be needed to provide unpaid care whilst themselves **experiencing a higher prevalence of long term conditions** and possibly a lack of resources to pay for external care

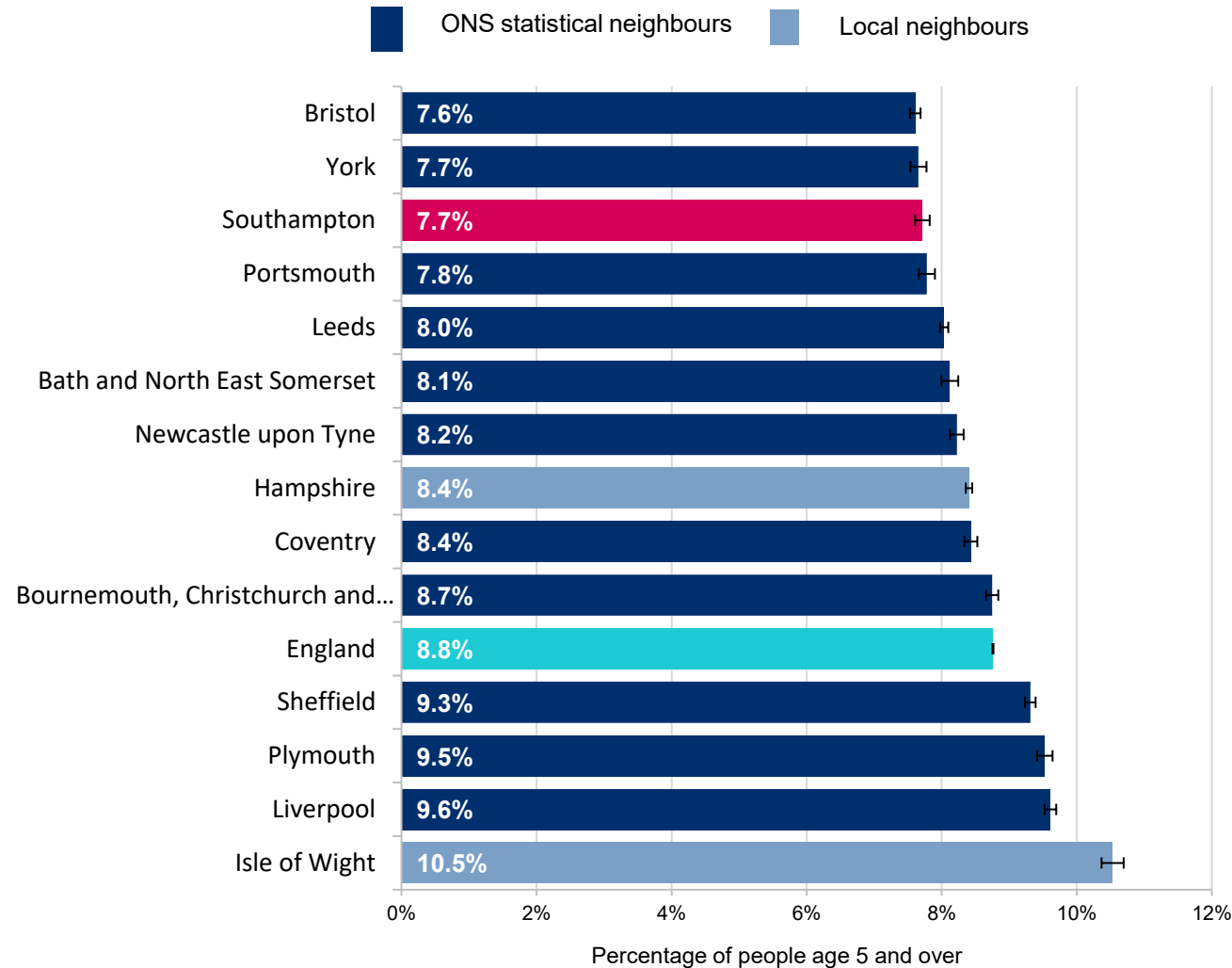




- **Southampton** has the **third lowest** percentage of unpaid carers among its **ONS comparators**, **significantly lower** than the **England** average of 8.8%
- **Older age groups** are **more likely** to provide **unpaid care** in Southampton than younger groups, also **older** groups are **more likely** to provide **more hours** of unpaid care and the **amount increases by age**. **Females** are **more likely** to be **unpaid carers** compared to **males**. The percentage of carers reporting **good health** **decreases by age**.
- Breaking down unpaid care by **ethnic group** (including the more common sub groups) show whilst **9.0%** of **White British** provide the most unpaid care; **Asian Bangladeshis (8.9%)** and **Black Caribbeans (8.8%)** also give more than the **Southampton average (7.7%)**. The **highest** percentage by **ethnic group** providing **50+ hours** is **Asian Bangladeshi (3.3%)**.
- The **majority** of unpaid carers in Southampton are in **employment (51.6%)**. **Nearly half (47.0%)** of carers are **unemployed or retired**. **1 in 4** of those **looking after home or family**, **1 in 9** **retired** residents and **1 in 9** those people who are **long term sick or disabled** are themselves providing **unpaid care**. These trends are **similar** to **national** patterns.
- Southampton's **most deprived quintile** has the **highest percentage** of unpaid carers (1 in 11 residents; 9.0%) and **significantly higher** when compared to the **least deprived quintile** (1 in 16; 6.4%). **Over 70% of care** provided by people giving **20+ hours** of unpaid care a week comes from people living in **the two most deprived quintiles**.



## Percentage of residents (aged 5 and over) providing unpaid care - Southampton and local authority comparators:

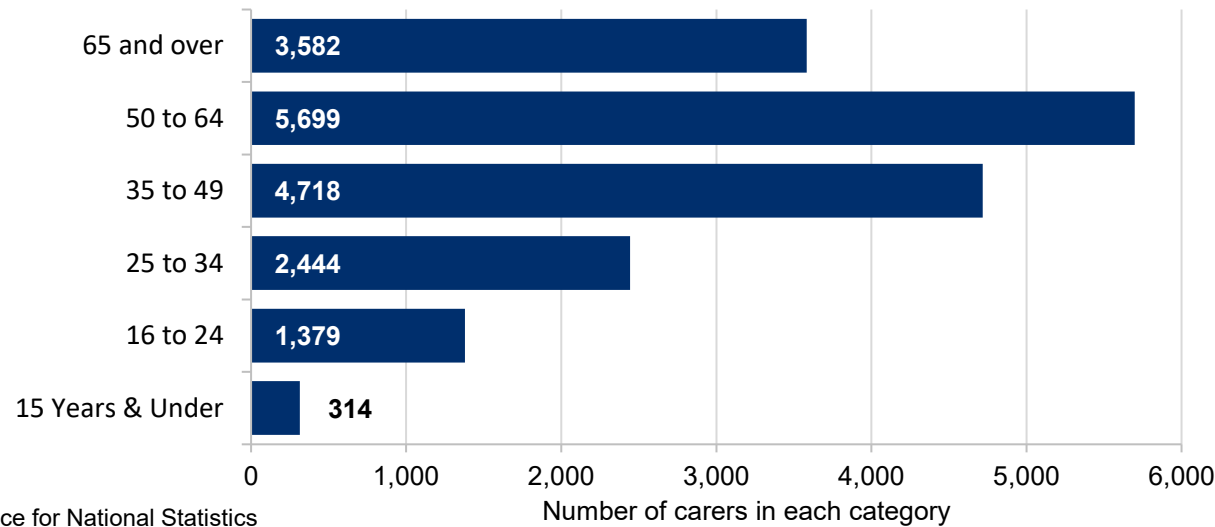


- In the Census 2021, **18,136 people (7.7%)** in Southampton said they provide some level of **unpaid care**
- **Fewer people** classified themselves as **unpaid carers in 2021 (7.7%) compared to 2011 (8.6%)**, this will be partially due to the tighter definition of care in the 2021 census question
- **Southampton** has the **third lowest** percentage of unpaid carers among its **ONS comparators, significantly lower** than the **England** average of 8.8% and similar to Portsmouth, a city with a close matching age structure



# Age groups of unpaid carers

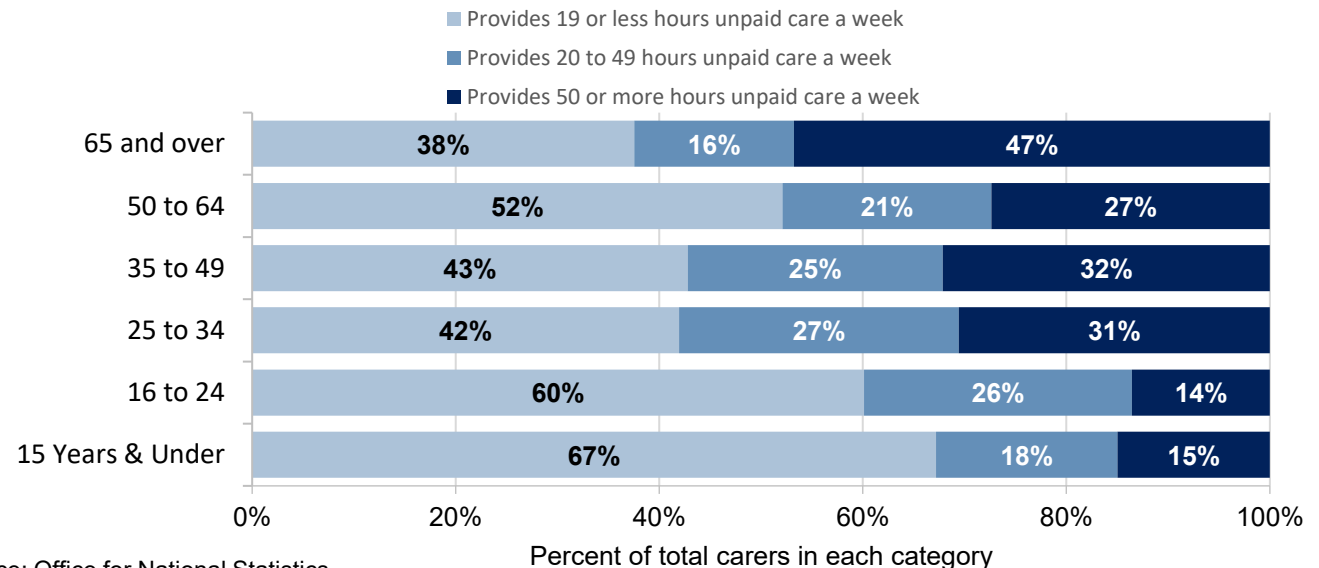
Number of unpaid carers by age group (ages 5+) in



Source: Office for National Statistics

- Older aged groups provide more unpaid care
- One in eight (12.6%) of over 50s provide some level of unpaid care in Southampton (n=9,281)
- 314 unpaid carers are under 16, of which, 103 of them (a third) provide more than 20 hours of care a week

Percentage of unpaid care by hours provided per week by age group (ages 5+) in Southampton (2021)



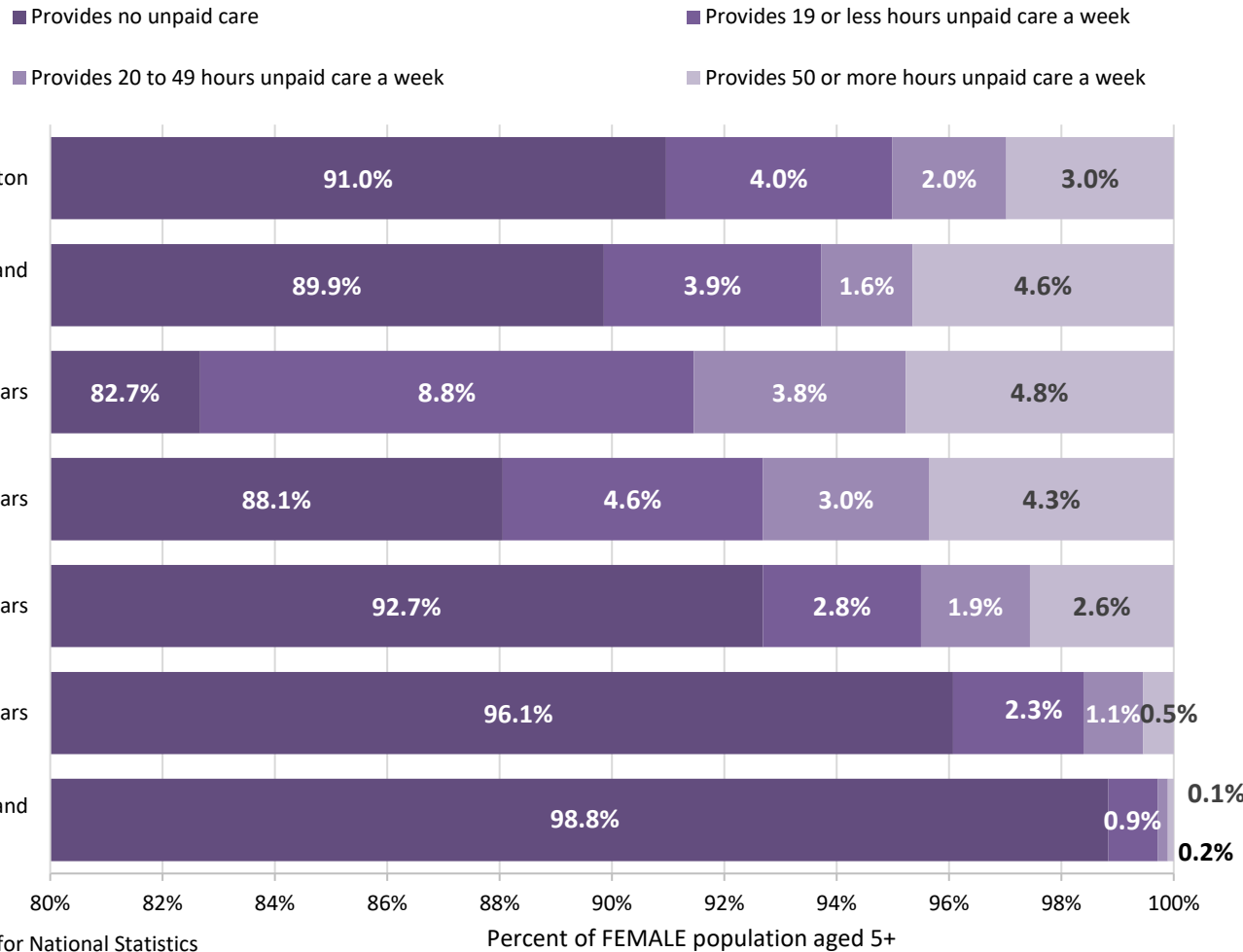
Source: Office for National Statistics

- Older age groups are also more likely to provide more hours of unpaid care, while the younger age groups are more likely to provide less hours.
- Nearly half (46.8%) of unpaid carers who are 65 and over provide more than 50 hours of care a week (n=1,675)
- 61.4% of unpaid carers aged 24 and under provide less than 19 hours of care (n=1,040).



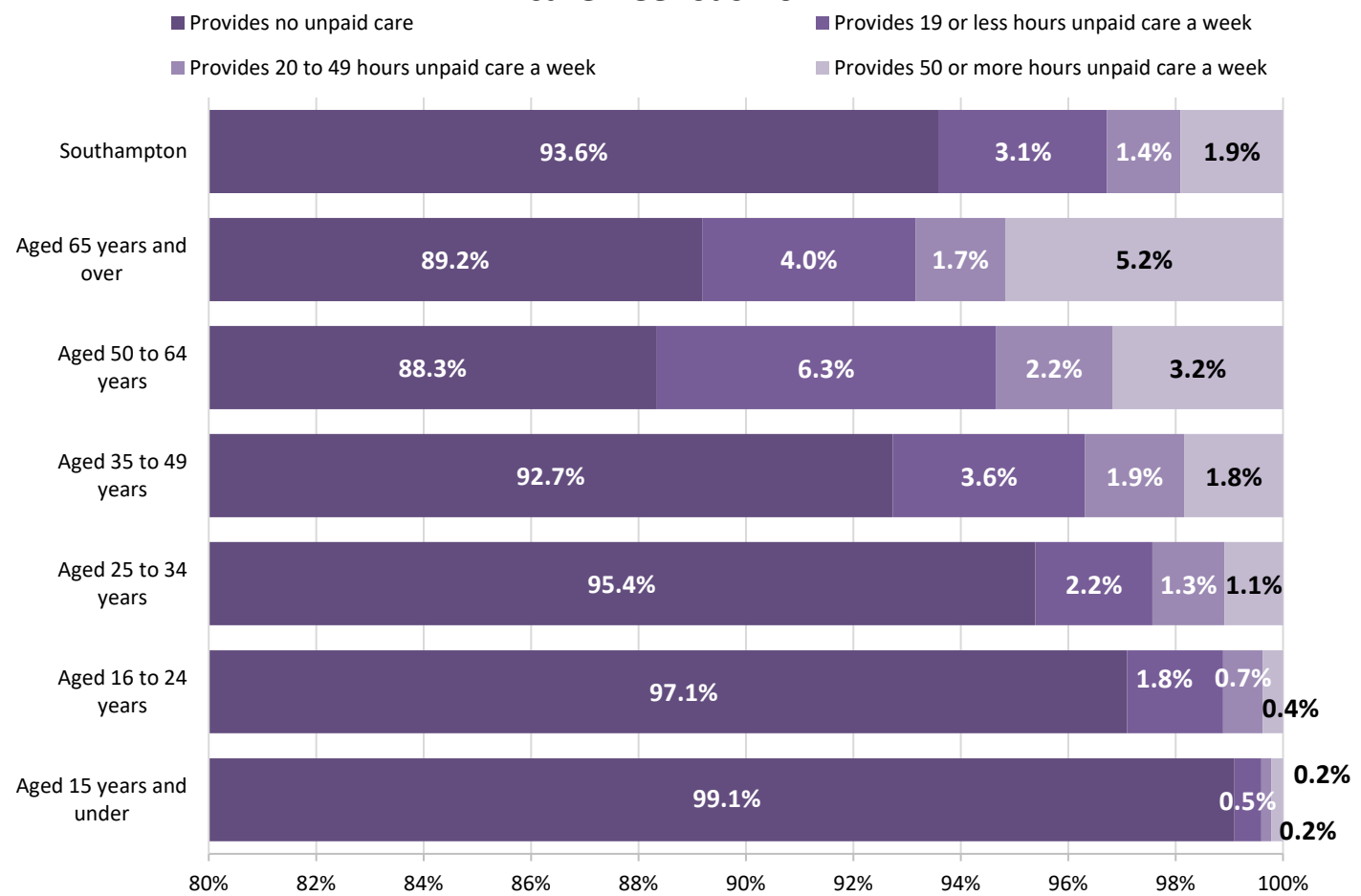


## Percentage of FEMALE population (aged 5+) by hours of unpaid care : Census 2021



- Looking at the 9.0% of females providing **some unpaid care**, broken up **by age for females**, show the **largest age group** providing some unpaid care are **1 in 6 females aged 50 to 64**, the full breakdown illustrates:
  - 1.2% - 15 years and under
  - 3.9% - 16 to 24 years
  - 7.3% - 25 to 34 years
  - 11.9% - 35 to 49 years
  - 17.3% - 50 to 64 years
  - 10.1% - 65+ years
- Females** are more likely to provide unpaid care representing **6 out of 10 carers** in all age groups, except those aged **65 and over** where **5 out of 10 carers are females**

**Percentage of MALE population (aged 5+) by hours of unpaid care : Census 2021**



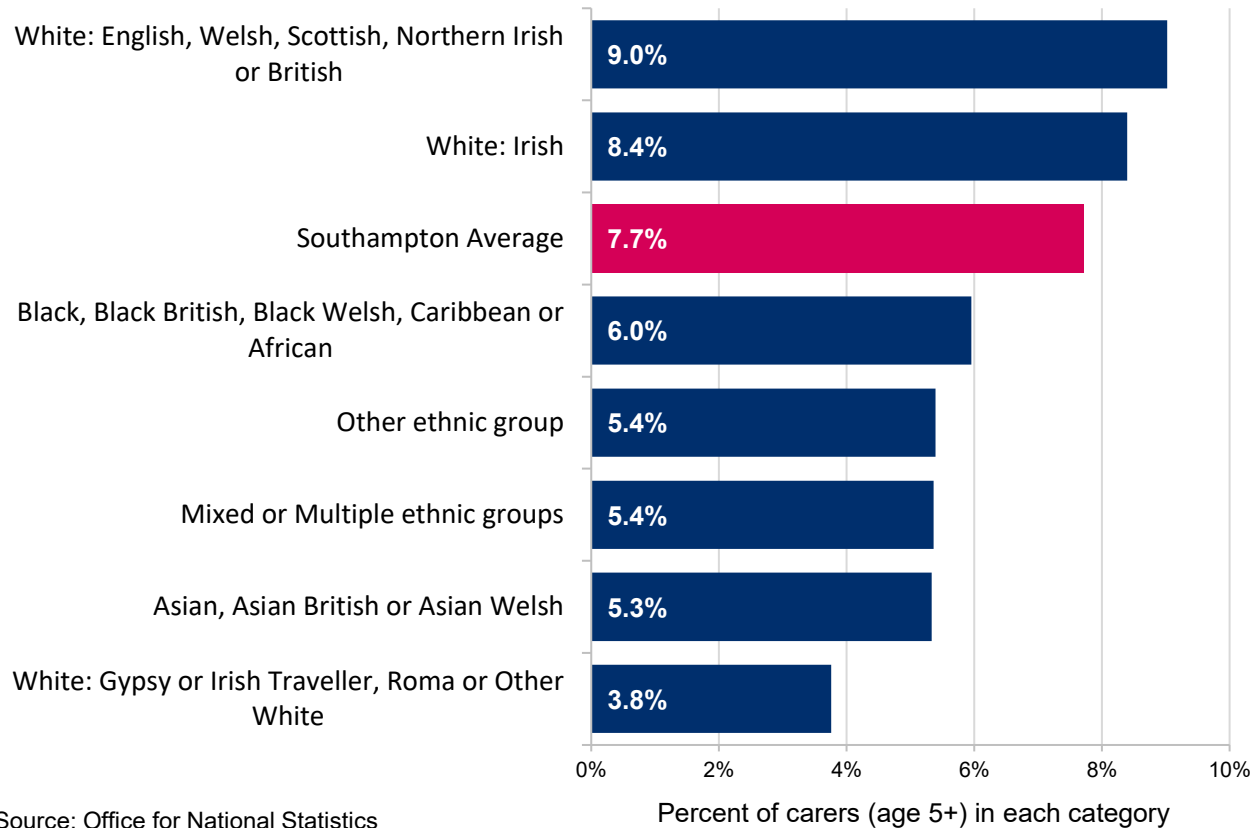
Source: Office for National Statistics

Percent of MALE population aged 5+

- Looking at the 6.4% of males, broken up by age for males providing some unpaid care, the largest age group providing some unpaid care shown is 1 in 9 males aged 50 to 64, the full breakdown by age is illustrated as:
  - 0.9% - 15 years and under
  - 2.9% - 16 to 24 years
  - 4.6% - 25 to 34 years
  - 7.3% - 35 to 49 years
  - 11.7% - 50 to 64 years
  - 10.8% - 65+ years
- Males providing unpaid care have the highest counts, 25,149 males in those aged 35 to 49 years



## Percentage of unpaid carers within each ethnicity group ages 5+ in Southampton - 2021

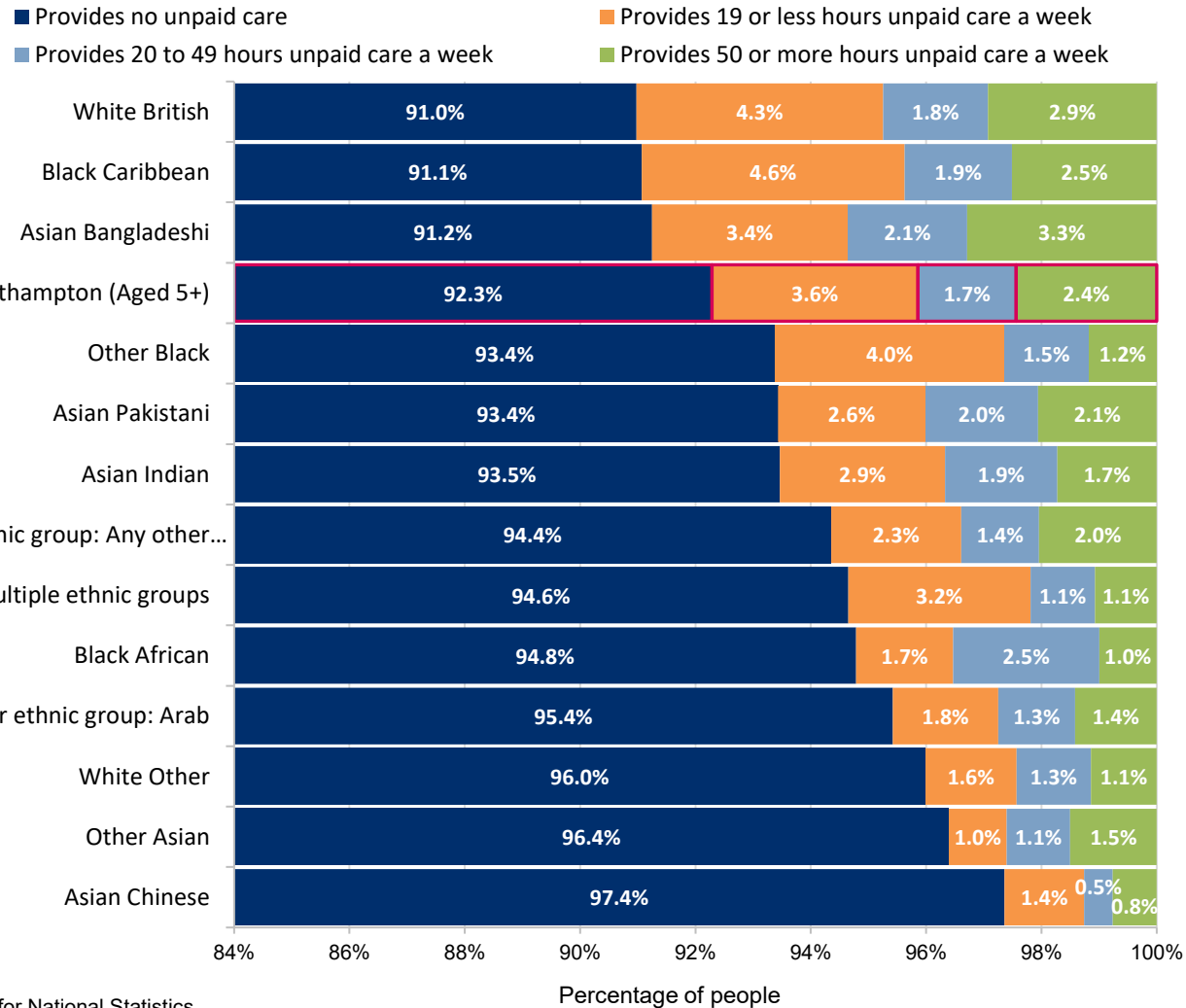


- The **White British** ethnicity group provide the **highest** percentage by ethnic group of **unpaid care** (9.0%) compared to the city average of 7.7%
- Breaking down hours provided **by ethnic group** (including the more common sub groups) show whilst **9.0% of White British** provide the most unpaid care, **Asian Bangladeshis (8.9%)** and **Black Caribbeans (8.8%)** also give more than the **Southampton average (7.7%)**.

NOTE: During the pandemic, changes in caring patterns where normally from several individuals in multiple households changed to single individuals from one household to reduce infection spread in line with Government guidelines. This may be a factor in the data.

- 80.1% of residents providing some level of unpaid care are White British, this is higher, than the percentage of the Southampton population (age 5+) who are White British (68.5%)

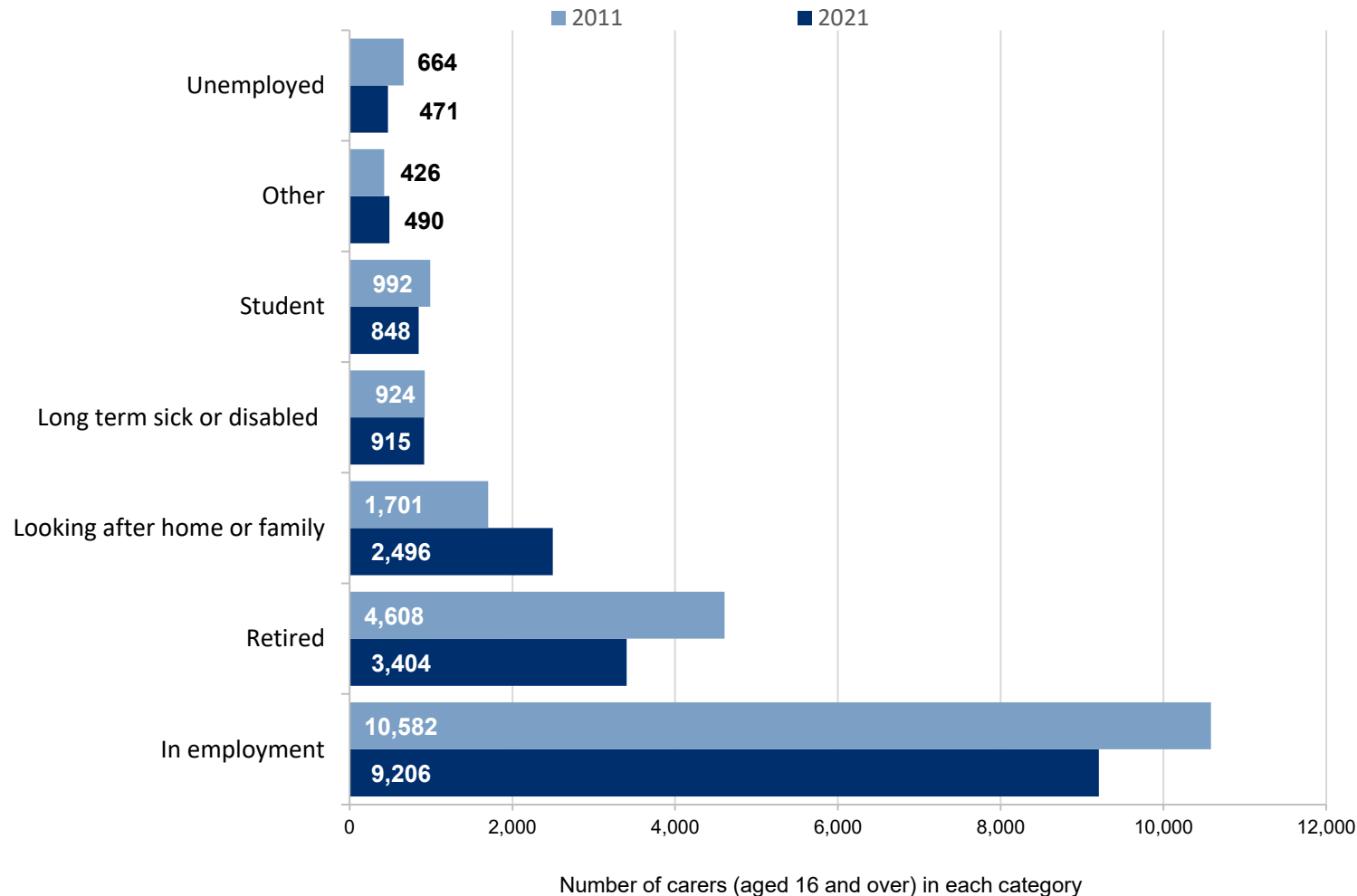
## Percentage of Ethnic Group (ages 5+) providing unpaid care - Southampton : Census 2021



- The highest groups by ethnicity, providing **20+ hours of care a week**, in March 2021; **5.4% of Asian Bangladeshis (aged 5+)**, **4.7% of White British (aged 5+)** and **4.4% of Black Caribbeans**. The highest percentage by ethnic group providing **50+ hours** is **Asian Bangladeshi (3.3%)**
- A deeper dive looking at differences by sex and ethnicity, showed **53.7% of Asian** unpaid carers are females, rising to **60.5%** among **Asian Pakistani** residents. **Black** unpaid carers are **56.6%** females and **58.9%** of **White British** unpaid carers are **females**.

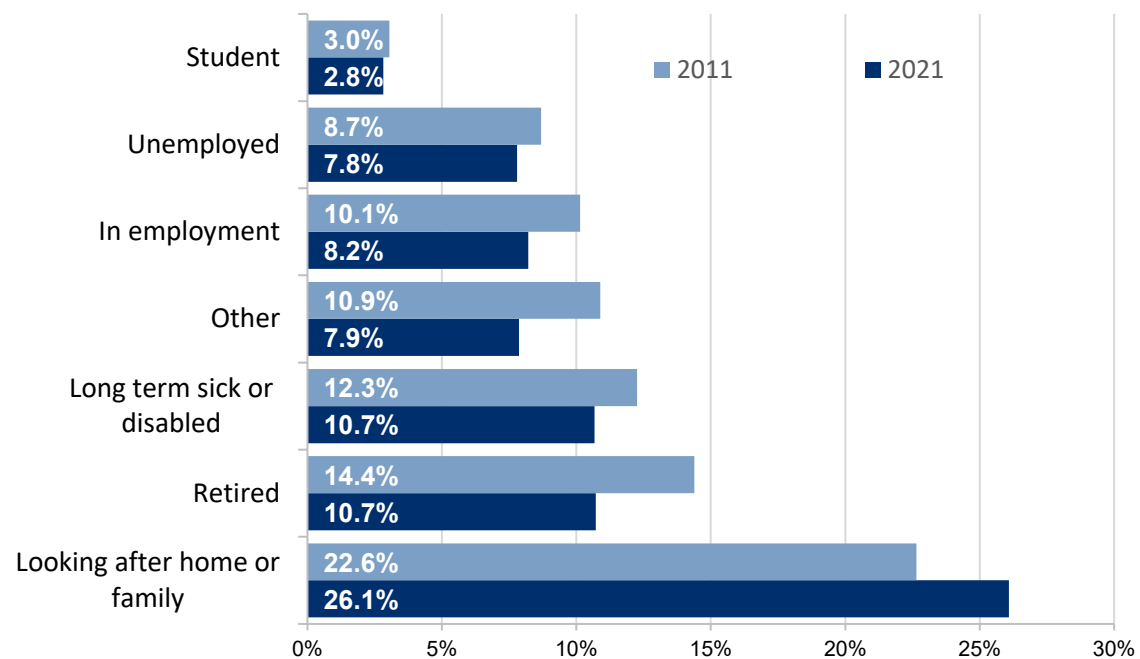


## Number of unpaid carers in Southampton by Economic Activity (2011 & 2021)



- **Most (51.6%)** unpaid carers in Southampton are in **employment**
- In Southampton, **47.0%** (n=8,372) of **unpaid carers** are economically inactive or unemployed
- 915 unpaid carers (5.1%) have a **long term sickness** or are **disabled** themselves
- In 2021, 2,496 (14.0%) **unpaid carers** classified themselves as **looking after home or family** - **795 more people** than in 2011 when the percentage was 8.5%

Percentage of unpaid carers by total number of people per Economic Activity group in Southampton (2011 & 2021)



Source: Office for National Statistics

Percent of carers in each category

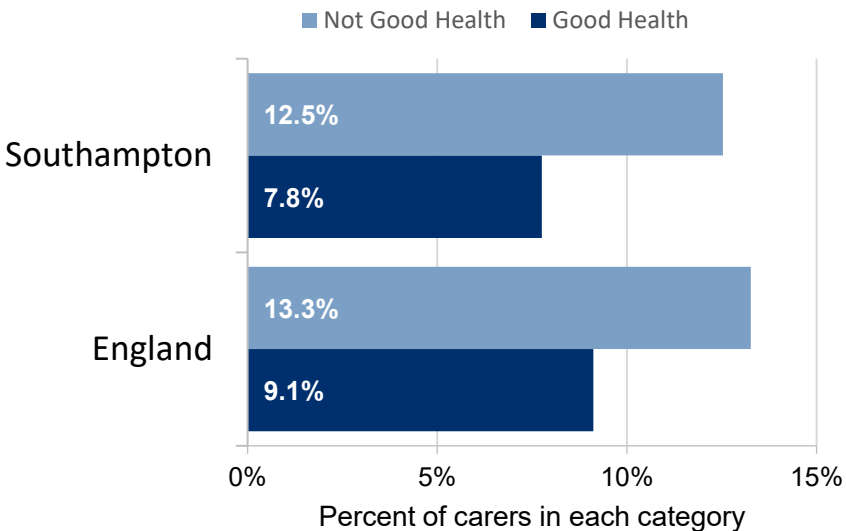
- The three economic activity groups **most likely** to be unpaid carers in 2011 and 2021 are those **looking after home or family, retired or those long term sick or disabled**. Perhaps some of the most **vulnerable groups** in the population.
- **Students** are the **least likely** group to be unpaid carers for both years
- People **looking after a home or family** were **more likely** to provide unpaid care in 2021 - **one in four** of people in this group provide **unpaid care**

- Additional analysis showed **Southampton** has **lower levels** of self-reported unpaid carers in each **economic activity** group **compared to England**. This could be explained by **more Southampton** residents (82.8%) said they were in **good health** compared to the **England** average (82.2%). This, along with the city's relatively **young population**, (ageing and frailty gives greater need for care), may explain why there is **less unpaid care** provided in **Southampton** compared with **England**



- Locally and nationally, carers are more likely to **not be in good health** compared to those who do not provide unpaid care.
- In Southampton, **1 in 8 people not in good health (12.5%)** are carers compared to **1 in 13 (7.8%)** people in **good health** being carers.
- Southampton** residents who said they do **not have good general health** are **60.3% more likely** to provide **unpaid care** than those with good health. This gap is **larger** compared to **England** of **46.2% more likely**

Percentage of unpaid carers by reported general health, residents aged 16+ in



More detailed analysis shows of **71.1%** of **unpaid carers** are in **good health**, the percentage of those in good health decreases by age:

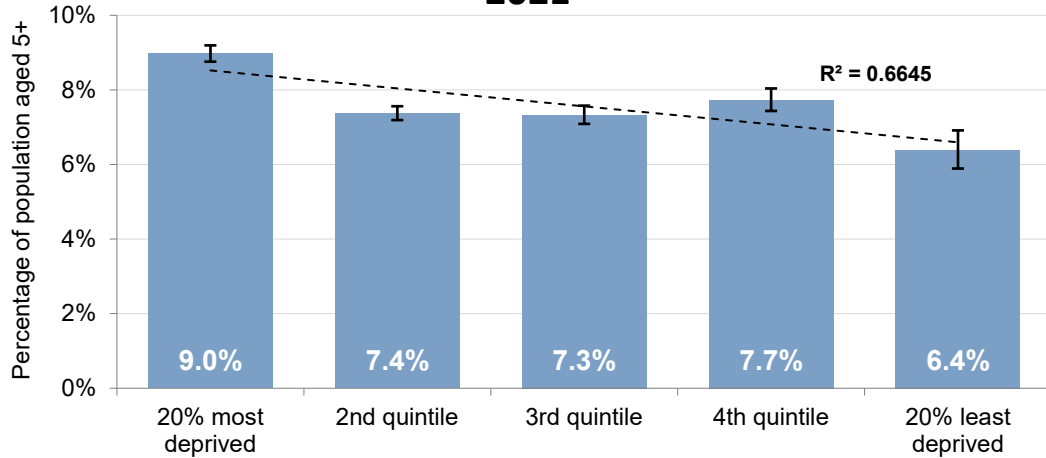
- 87.9% - 15 years and under
- 83.3% - 16 to 24 years
- 80.6% - 25 to 34 years
- 74.9% - 35 to 49 years
- 70.1% - 50 to 64 years
- 55.3% - 65+ years

Looking in more detail of the **82.8%** of people who provide **no care** are in **good health**, the percentage of those in good health decreases by age:

- 96.6% - 15 years and under
- 92.6% - 16 to 24 years
- 90.7% - 25 to 34 years
- 85.4% - 35 to 49 years
- 71.4% - 50 to 64 years
- 55.4% - 65+ years



### Unpaid carer percentage of population (aged 5+) by England deprivation quintile in Southampton - 2021

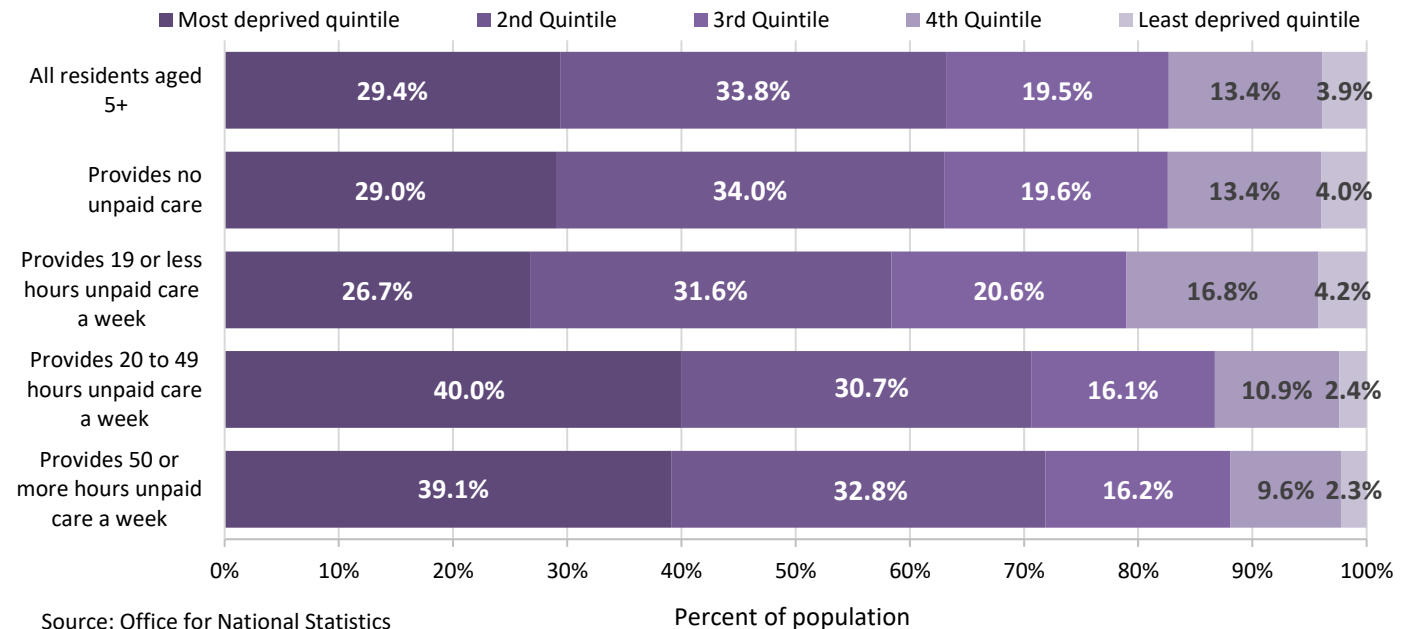


Source: ONS 2021 Census

- **More hours of unpaid care per week is provided by residents aged 5+ in the more deprived parts of Southampton compared to the least deprived**
- **Over 70% of care provided by people giving 20+ hours of unpaid care a week comes from people living in the two most deprived quintiles**

- Southampton's **most deprived** quintile has the **highest percentage of unpaid carers** and **significantly higher** when compared to the rest of the city
- This shows **1 in 11** residents (age 5+) are unpaid carers in the **most deprived** compared to **1 in 16** in the **least deprived** quintile

### Unpaid care provided by hours by England deprivation quintile, Southampton residents aged 5+ (2021)

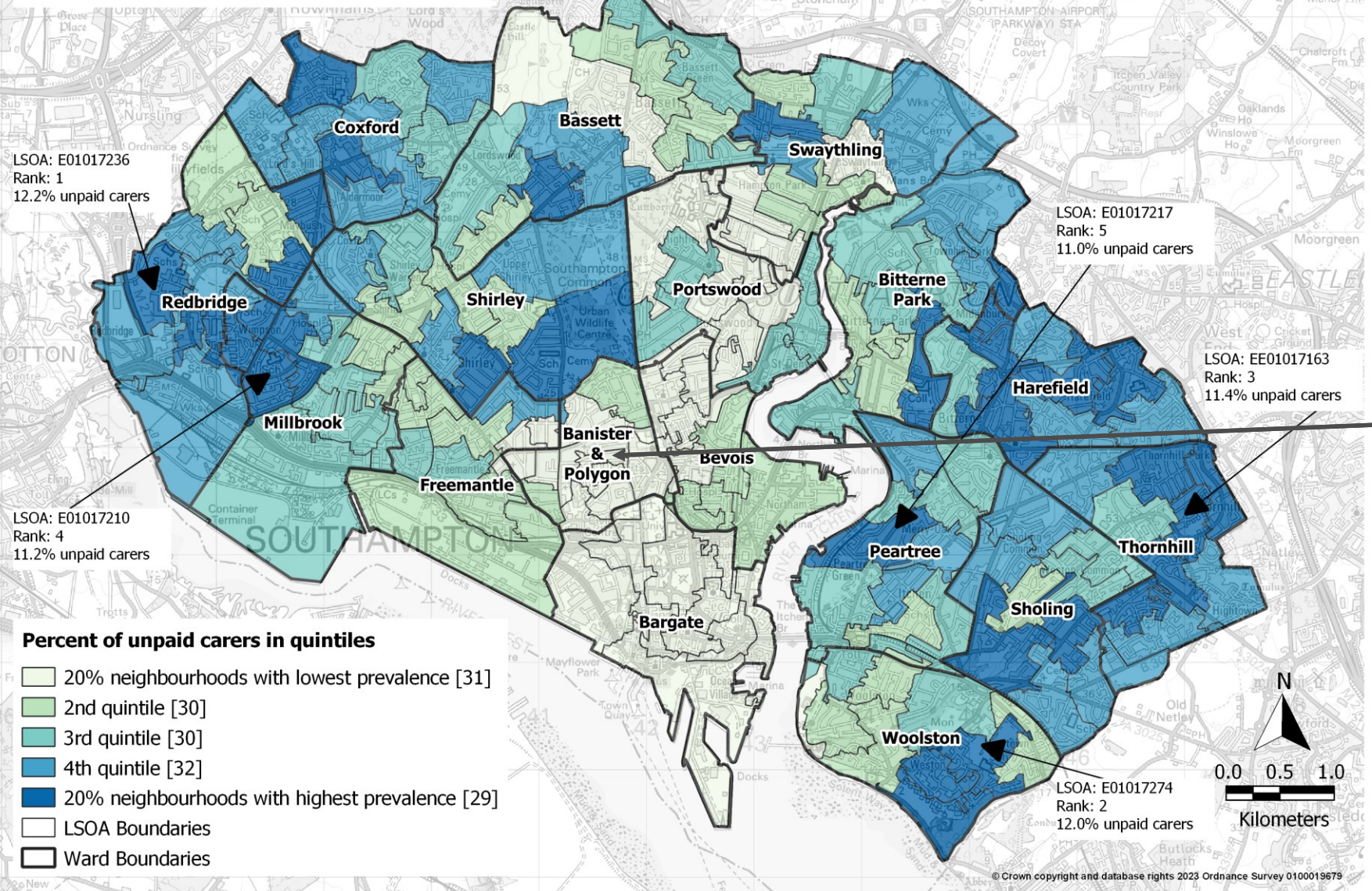


Source: Office for National Statistics



# Sub city differences in provision of unpaid care - LSOA

Percent of unpaid carers, aged 5 and over in Southampton by LSOA, ONS Census 2021.



- The rate of unpaid carers is lower in Southampton’s north and central locality. Most of these areas have a younger average age and a larger student population or have the affluence to provide paid care.
- E01017137 in Banister and Polygon is the least deprived LSOA in the city and has one of the lowest rates of unpaid carers
- The top four LSOAs with the highest rates of unpaid carers are all in Southampton’s most deprived quintile