



Research Facts

July 2011 Update

Fact Sheet 04

CHILDREN IN SANDWELL

Estimated Children Population

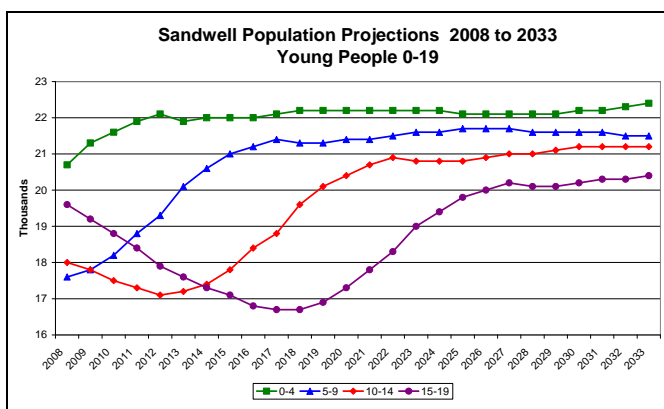
Sandwell is a borough with a relative young population, with 21.2% of residents being under 16¹. This is a higher proportion than the regional and national averages. Of all the children under 16, the most numerous group are the under-5s (22,300), which make up 36% of the 0-15 age band

Population Projections

Sandwell's population has increased by 5,400 residents (1.89%) from 2001 to 2008. Based on this pattern, ONS has produced population projections² that show this growth continuing for the next 25 years at a rate of 13% by 2033. While all the age groups are expected to increase, the growth will be much higher for the pensionable age population (33%) and children under 16 (17%).

Projections by Age Group

However, when looking closer at the young people group, we see different patterns of growth. The graph below shows that the youngest populations (0-4 and 5-9 years of age) are expected to increase rapidly in the next 10 years or so, stabilising its numbers by 2020 at around 22,200 for under 5s and 21,600 for 7-9s until 2033. The projections predict that the number of under-10s would have increased by a third in the intervening 25 years, from 38,300 in 2008 to 43,900 in 2033.



Ethnicity

Sandwell is a multi-cultural and diverse borough, where just over a quarter of the population (26.2%)³ is of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) origin. This percentage increases for the age group 0-15, where the proportion of children of BME origin rises to almost a third (31.8%).

Languages

The latest School Census of January 2011 lists 141 languages spoken by 43,971 Sandwell pupils (0.1% not obtained). These are the most common languages spoken:

Table 1. Most spoken languages by pupils⁴

Language	Speakers	Percent
English	32384	73.6%
Panjabi	3953	9.0%
Urdu	1684	3.8%
Bengali	1594	3.6%
Polish	601	1.4%
Gujarati	175	0.4%
Somali	131	0.3%
Arabic	175	0.4%
Hindi	92	0.2%
Pashto	99	0.2%
Other	3083	7.0%

Migration and New Arrivals

The Office for National Statistics estimated a rise of 760 in the number of international migrants resident in Sandwell between 2009 and 2010⁵. In that academic year (2009-10), Sandwell had 143 new pupil arrivals.

Disabilities

At the beginning of the academic year 2010-11, there were 171 children under 5 registered ⁶ with a learning difficulty and at least another difficulty or disability.

Also, there were 1,022 children recorded as having an active statement of special educational need, almost half of them aged 11-16.

Table 2. Pupils with SEN statement⁷

SEN Pupils		
By Stage	Number	Percent
Primary	334	33%
Secondary	534	52%
Post-16	154	15%

There is also a disproportionate number of boys with a statement (73%) compared with girls (27%).

Looked after Children (LAC)

According to the latest figures, there were 276 children being looked after in Sandwell in September 2010⁸. Almost a third (31%) of LACs are over 16 years of age, whereas just over half of them (53%) are of school age and only 16% of LACs are under 5 years of age.

There is a disproportionate amount of LACs of mixed ethnic heritage (14%) that doubles the share of this group within the total children population (7%).

Deprivation and Poverty

Sandwell ranks 12th most deprived local authority in England based on its average deprivation score, with almost a third of the small areas in the borough being in the worst decile (most deprived 10%).⁹

According to HMRC figures, in August of 2008 Sandwell had 30.8% of their children population living in what is considered “relative” poverty. This means approximately 22,500 children.¹⁰ Of these, 77% lived in households on workless benefits.

Sandwell ranks 26th nationally in the list of authorities with the highest rates of child poverty, this is within the worst decile (10%) of all authorities.

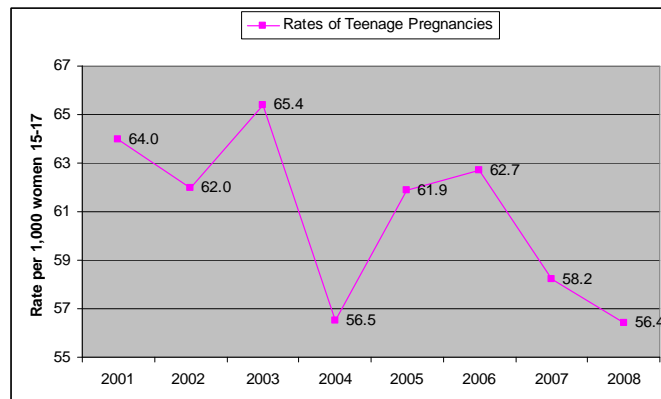
Child Tax Credits

Approximately one in three (27%) of all families receiving child tax credits in Sandwell are out of work, this is 10,510 households.¹¹

Of the families in work, a third of them receive working tax credits (WTC) in addition of the child tax credits; this means that they earn very low incomes, most likely below the 60% median national income (poverty threshold).

Teenage pregnancies

The latest statistics show that the number and rates of teenage pregnancies in Sandwell are decreasing. In 2008 the rate was 56.4, the lowest recorded in the past 8 years.¹²



Destinations after School¹³

In 2010, 84.6% of year 11 school leavers in Sandwell continued in full-time education, with further 6.1% entering work-based learning.

In the same year, 1.9% of year 11 school leavers in Sandwell entered full-time employment. This proportion was set to increase throughout the year as apprentices become employed.

4.7% of the year 11 school leavers last year in Sandwell were NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training). Of these, 4.3% were active in the labour market. The rate of NEET in Sandwell has been steadily decreasing since 2005.

¹ Mid Year Estimates (MYE) 2010, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

² Sub-national Population Projections 2008-based, ONS

³ Mid Year Estimates by Ethnicity 2009, ONS

⁴ Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC), January 2011;

⁵ MYE 2010, as above (components of change), ONS

⁶ Early Years Integrated Support Service, SMBC

⁷ EMS Database, School Data Team, SMBC (snapshot at 27/9/2010).

⁸ ICS database, Children Social Care, SMBC (snapshot at 27/9/2010).

⁹ English Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2010, DCLG

¹⁰ Child Poverty Statistics (August 2008), HMRC

¹¹ Child Tax Credits (August 2008), HMRC

¹² Conceptions to women under 18, 2001-2008, ONS

¹³ Sandwell Year 11 Destinations 2010, Connexions