

Maidstone District - Equality Profile

Version Updated April 2013

Next revision due April 2015

The Equalities Act 2010 replaced existing anti-discrimination laws with a single act. The act covers nine protected characteristics, which cannot be used as a reason to treat people unfairly. Every person has one or more of the protected characteristics, so the act protects everyone against unfair treatment. This profile shows the make-up of Maidstone's population by protected characteristic.

The nine protected characteristics are: age, sex, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, ethnicity, religion and belief and sexual orientation.

Unless otherwise stated data source is Census 2011 data sets available here:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/census-data/previous-and-future-releases/index.html>

Age

Maidstone has a marginally lower proportion of 75's with only 7.86% compared to the Kent average of 8.7%. The figure for the whole KCC area is 8.52%. Maidstone also has a lower proportion of under 25's at 29.44% compared to the average (29.8%) and that of the whole KCC area (30.62%).

Maidstone, compared to the other Kent districts has the highest percentage and actual population aged between 25-29 years old, accounting for 6.25% of the total population for Maidstone (9,700 people), the Kent average is 5.45%. The same is true for the age group 30-34 year olds with this group accounting for 6.19% of the population (9,600 people) compared to the Kent average of 5.6%.

Maidstone has a lower number of people aged 15-19 with only 5.99% compared to the all England figure of 6.30%. This bucks the trend for Kent where overall this group makes up 6.56% of the population.

Among residents in Maidstone:

- **19.1%** or 29,667 are aged 0-15 years.
- **63.8%** or 98,962 are of working age (16-64)
- **17.01%** or 26,514 are aged 65 years and over.

Age Group	Maidstone	Kent Average	% Difference
0-4	6.19%	6.13%	0.06%
05-9	5.57%	5.80%	-0.23%
10-14	6.06%	6.35%	-0.29%
15-19	5.99%	6.27%	-0.28%
20-24	5.54%	5.25%	0.29%
25-29	6.25%	5.45%	0.80%
30-34	6.19%	5.60%	0.59%
35-39	6.57%	6.35%	0.22%
40-44	7.67%	7.51%	0.16%
45-49	7.67%	7.63%	0.04%
50-54	6.64%	6.68%	-0.04%
55-59	5.93%	5.93%	0.00%
60-64	6.57%	6.79%	-0.22%
65-69	5.15%	5.37%	-0.22%
70-74	4.06%	4.26%	-0.20%
75-79	3.22%	3.43%	-0.21%
80-84	2.38%	2.67%	-0.29%
85-89	1.48%	1.63%	-0.15%
90 and over	0.77%	0.93%	-0.16%

This compares to England where:

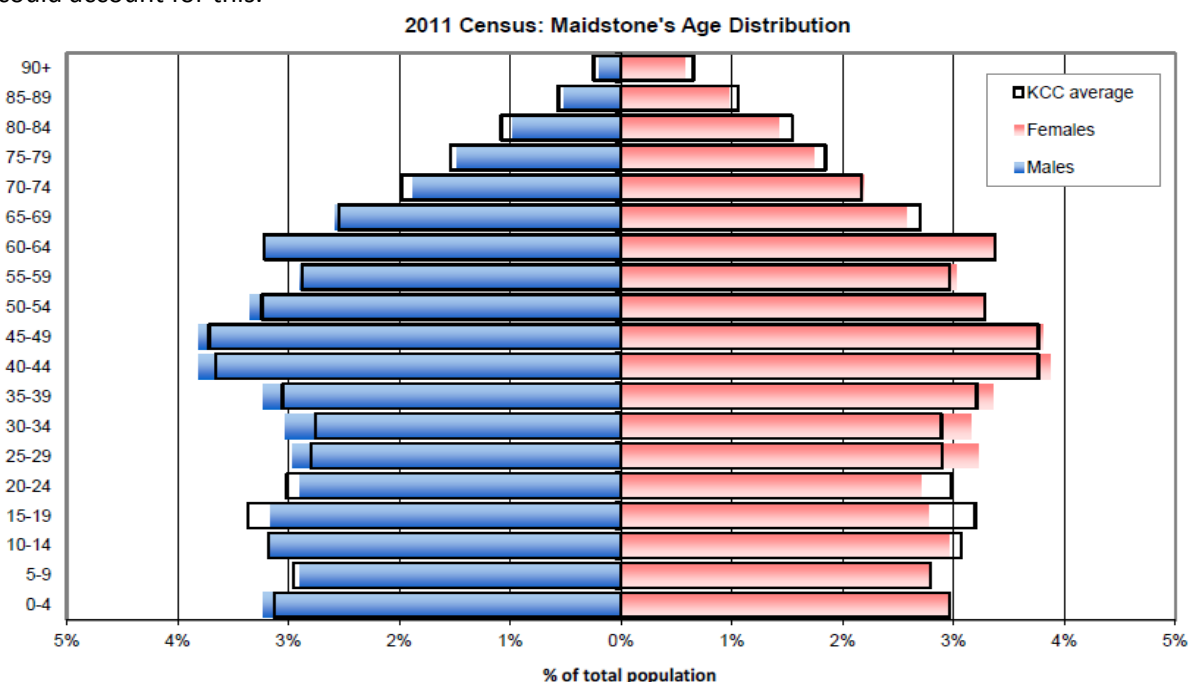
- **18.7%** are aged 0-15 years
- **64.8%** are of working age (16-64)
- **16.5%** are aged 65 years and over

Gender

There are slightly more females than males in Maidstone and this pattern is seen across all of the Kent districts. Although this is the case overall the female/male ratio changes with age.

The graph below shows that there are variations between the male and female populations in Maidstone and the Kent average. Matching national trends there are slightly more females than males over 75.

The graph shows that Maidstone has slightly more men aged between 25 and 54 compared to the Kent average, however, when comparing the results for Maidstone to the all England results male 40-54 years old are slightly better represented in Maidstone. The prison and barracks in Maidstone could account for this.



Female 15-19 year olds in Maidstone are slightly under represented accounting for 5.46% of the female population compared to the Kent average of 6.21% and the overall all England result of 6.06%.

Female 25-29 year olds appear to be marginally over represented in Maidstone (6.35%) compared to the Kent average (5.69%) however when looking at the figures for all England (6.79%) it seems Kent has a lower number of people in this group.

Overall the total percentage of the female population in Maidstone aged over 60 is higher than that for all England, 25.29% compared to 23.87%. This is true for the rest of Kent also with the Kent average at 26.02%.

The 2011 census records that:

- 49.3% of Maidstone's resident population is Male
- 50.7% of Maidstone's resident population is Female

Gender Reassignment

There are no official estimates of the transgender population at either a national or local level. To date no major Government or administrative surveys (e.g. the Census) have including a question where transgender people can choose to identify themselves. In a study funded by the Home Office, the Gender Identity Research and Education Society estimate that between 300,000 – 500,000 people in the UK experience some degree of gender variance.

Research by the Gender Identity Research and Education Society¹ suggests that when a person reveals their gender variance, they are exposed to a risk of discrimination, bullying and hate crime. This risk increases if they make themselves publicly visible by embarking on transition to a new gender. Thereafter, they remain vulnerable and also have a greater need for social and medical care.

Sexual Orientation

Figures from the 2011 census show that there are 206 people living in a same sex civil partnership in the borough. However no figures have yet been release about sexual identity.

2011 Census	Maidstone		England	
	Number	% of all people 16+	Number	% of all people 16+
In a registered same-sex civil partnership	206	0.2	100,288	0.2%

The Integrated Household Survey (IHS) 2011/12, which is the second largest social data collator after the census, asks a question on sexual identity however data is only provided at regional level. The results for the South East are shown in the table.

Integrated Household Survey	2011/12
Heterosexual / Straight	95.20%
Gay / Lesbian	0.90%
Bisexual	0.40%
Other	0.40%
Don't know / Refusal	2.80%
No response ²	0.40%

The IHS data in the survey period April 2011 to March 2012 found that overall in the UK population surveyed:

- 93.9% of adults identified themselves as Heterosexual/Straight,
- 1.1%, approximately 545,000 adults, identified themselves as Gay or Lesbian.
- 0.4%, approximately 220,000 adults, identified themselves as Bisexual,
- 0.3% identified themselves as 'Other',
- 3.6% of adults stated 'Don't know' or refused to answer the question,
- 0.6% of respondents provided 'No response' to the question.

¹ <http://www.gires.org.uk/assets/Medpro-Assets/GenderVarianceUK-report.pdf>

The 'Other' option on the question was to address the fact that not all people will consider they fall in the first three categories.

Marriage and Civil Partnership Status

Maidstone has 4.7% less people that are single than the proportion for England as a whole. This likely to be due to Maidstone having a higher proportion of people that are married compared to England by the same amount (4.7%). Averages for Kent overall for single people are lower than that for all England and higher for married than the figures for all England.

For the remaining marital statuses the data for Maidstone is comparable to that for England.

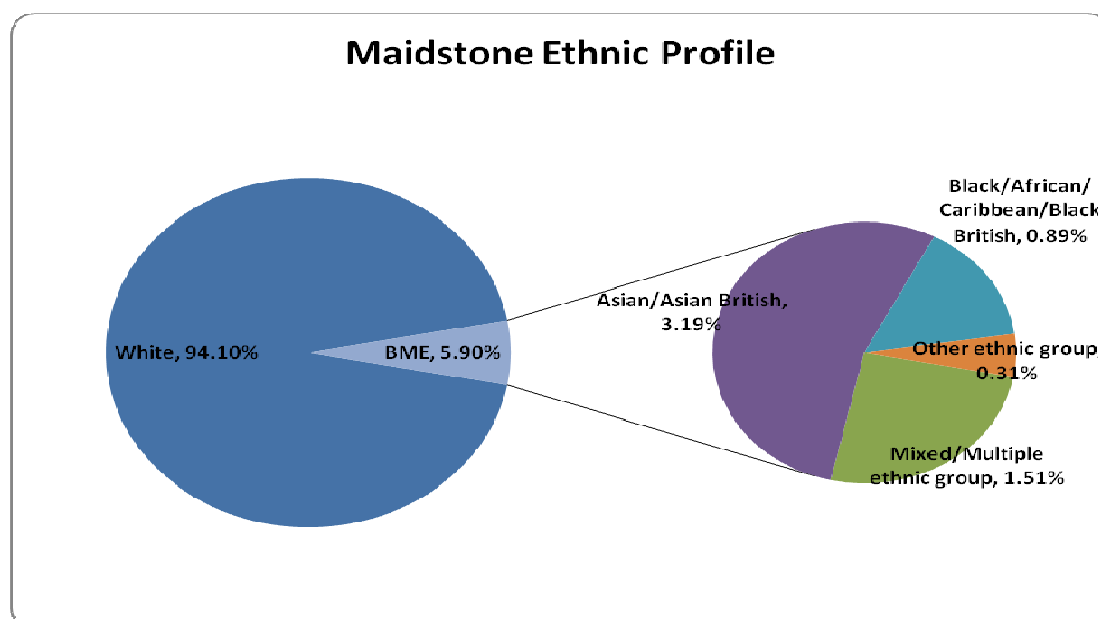
	Maidstone		England	
	no.	%	no.	%
All people aged 16 and over	125,476	100%	42,989,620	100%
Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership)	37,567	29.9%	14,889,928	34.6%
Married	64,344	51.3%	20,029,369	46.6%
In a registered same-sex civil partnership	206	0.2%	100,288	0.2%
Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership)	3,367	2.7%	1,141,196	2.7%
Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	11,458	9.1%	3,857,137	9.0%
Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership	8,534	6.8%	2,971,702	6.9%

Ethnicity

The 2011 Census provides us with 18 separate ethnic categories which have been aggregated into 5 broad ethnic groups. These are:

- White
- Mixed/Multiple ethnic group
- Asian/Asian British
- Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British
- Other ethnic group

The largest ethnic group in Kent is White. 93.7% of residents belong to this ethnic group whilst the remaining 6.33% of residents are from a Black Minority Ethnic (BME) group. Kent has a higher proportion of people from the white ethnic group than the national figure of 85.4% and the South East figure of 90.7%.



The census data shows that in Maidstone:

- 94.10% of people are white;
- 5.90% are from a BME background; of which
- 3.19% are Asian /British Asian;
- 1.51% are of mixed/multiple ethnic group;
- 0.89% are Black/ African / Caribbean/ Black British; and
- 0.31% are from an other ethnic group.

Compared to the figures for all England where:

- 85.42% of people are white
- 14.58% are from a BME background; of which
- 7.82% are Asian /British Asian;
- 2.25% are of mixed/multiple ethnic group
- 3.48% are Black/ African / Caribbean/ Black British; and
- 1.03% are from an other ethnic group

Other ethnic communities to consider within Maidstone include Gypsy or Irish Traveller with 838 residents and Nepalese (including Ghurkha) with 1,371 residents.

Disability

There are many different ways to define and measure disability. Under the Equalities Act a person has a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

A long-term health problem or disability that limits a person's 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 people were asked to assess whether their daily activities were limited a lot or a little by such a health problem, or whether their daily activities were not limited at all, the results are shown in the table below.

2011 Census	Maidstone		England	
	Number	%	Number	%
All People	155,143	100%	53,012,456	100%
Day-to-day activities limited a lot	10,660	6.9%	4,405,394	8.3%
Day-to-day activities limited a little	13,845	8.9%	4,947,192	9.3%
Day-to-day activities not limited	130,638	84.2%	43,659,870	82.4%

The alternative way in which disability can be measure is by the number of people claiming disability benefits.

Benefit Claimants by age ²	All People		Males		Females	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Total	9,800	6.3%	4,380	5.7%	5,420	3.5%
0-15	960	3.2%	690	4.5%	270	1.9%
16-64	3,900	3.9%	1,920	3.9%	1,980	4.0%
65+	4,940	18.4%	1,890	15.8%	3,050	20.6%
Young people (24 and under)	1,560	3.4%	1,070	4.5%	490	2.2%

Religion

According to the 2011 census Christianity is the prevalent religion being practiced in Maidstone. It should be noted that this question was optional in the 2011 census and 11,043 or 7.12% of residents chose not to answer the question.

	Christian	Buddhist	Hindu	Jewish	Muslim	Sikh	Other religion	No religion	Religion not stated
Maidstone	62.90%	0.58%	0.96%	0.11%	1.09%	0.11%	0.39%	26.75%	7.12%
	97,578	901	1,492	163	1,685	176	612	41,493	11,043
England	59.38%	0.45%	1.52%	0.49%	5.02%	0.79%	0.43%	24.74%	7.18%
Kent	62.52%	0.46%	0.75%	0.12%	0.95%	0.72%	0.42%	26.75%	7.30%

Pregnancy and Maternity

There were 1,982 live births in Maidstone during 2011. If current fertility trends continue women living in Maidstone can expect to have 2 children the same as the national average (ONS Vital statistics 2011).

² DWP May 2012 claimants as % of 2011 mid-year population estimate.