

Population

The population of Coventry is growing. The 2021 Office for National Statistics' (ONS) mid-year population estimates give a figure of 344,151 for the total population of Coventry. The population has grown by 8.6% since the 2011 mid-year estimates (316,915). This rate of growth was higher than the region (6.2%) and England as a whole (6.5%).

The increase in population is due to natural change (more births than deaths) and international migration. The fact that international migration has contributed to the population growth of Coventry in recent years.

The split between males (171,554) and females (172,597) is relatively even. The median age of the population has increased by one year since 2011 Census to 35 in Census 2021, which is 5 years lower than the England and regional average of 40 years. Based on population size measured by the Census 2021, Coventry is the ninth largest city in England and twelfth largest in the United Kingdom.

Here we use the 2021 mid-year population estimates, based closely on the 2021 Census data, as they give the most reliable understanding of Coventry's population size and its growth, despite being a few years old. While the population will very likely have grown to some extent since 2021, it is known that the most recent population estimates for mid-2023 exaggerate the extent of recent growth in Coventry.

Estimating the growth and projecting the future population of Coventry is fraught with difficulty¹. According to the ONS 2023 mid-year estimates, the usual resident population of Coventry in 2023 was estimated to have grown to 360,702 persons, but we consider this to be an overestimate. To try and estimate the extent of population growth in recent years, we can use the growth seen between 2011 and 2021, as measured by censuses, as the best estimate of current annual growth rates; an average of 0.9% per year or approximately 3,000 additional residents per year.

Population of children

According to ONS population estimates 2021, just over one-fifth (22.2%) of the city's population are children and young people aged under 18, 63.1% are aged 18-64, and the remaining 14.7% are aged 65 and over. The table below shows these population estimates for Coventry and illustrates that a slightly higher proportion of Coventry's population is made up of children and young people aged under 18 compared to the regional and national averages.

¹ Coventry and Warwickshire councils have published a detailed, independent analysis of this issue, the analysis forms a key part of the Coventry and Warwickshire Housing and Economic Development Assessment (HEDNA) [About the Local Plan Review – Coventry City Council](#); [Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment \(HEDNA\) – Coventry City Council](#)

Population by age group 2021 (ONS mid-year estimates)	Coventry		West Midlands region	England
	Count	% of total population	% of total population	% of total population
0 – 17	76,520	22.2%	21.7%	20.8%
18 – 64	217,165	63.1%	59.4%	60.7%
65+	50,466	14.7%	18.9%	18.5%
Total population	344,151	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The table below shows the population of children broken down into age groups, and how the population size of each age group changed between 2011 and 2021. Overall, the number of child residents of Coventry increased, although the growth rates varied by age groups, with a notable increase in the number of children aged 5-14 but a fall in the number of infants aged 0-4, influenced by falling birth rates over this period.

Like with the total population of Coventry of all ages, in a similar way as described above while we can say that the population of children has continued to grow in recent years (since 2021)² it is difficult to accurately know the extent of recent growth and forecast future growth in the child population. To try and estimate the extent of population growth amongst children aged 0-14 in recent years, and attempt a forecast of how it will grow in the next few years, we can use the growth seen between 2011 and 2021, as measured by censuses, as the best estimate of current annual growth rates; an average of 0.9% per year or approximately 550 additional child residents aged 0-14 per year.

Population of Coventry children by age group – change 2011 to 2021 (ONS mid-year estimates)	Coventry		Growth	
	2011	2021	2011 to 2021 change	2011 to 2021 % change
0 – 4	22,585	20,343	-2,242	-9.9%
5 – 9	18,553	21,919	3,366	18.1%
10 – 14	17,820	22,104	4,284	24.0%
0 – 14 total	58,958	64,366	5,408	9.2%
15 – 17	11,603	12,154	551	4.7%
0 – 17 total	70,561	76,520	5,959	8.4%

Child population by ward

According to the Census 2021, there was an estimated 64,504 children aged 0-14 years living in Coventry in 2021, making up 18.7% of the total population of the city. The table below shows how this population is distributed by ward, highlighting the wards with the highest population of children, and showing the proportion of the total population of each ward that is aged 0-14.

More than a quarter of Foleshill's population are children aged under 15 (5,740, 25.5% of total in this age range) whereas Wainbody has the lowest child population with only one-eighth of

² The school population data, from the annual school census as shown in the ethnicity section below, indicates this.

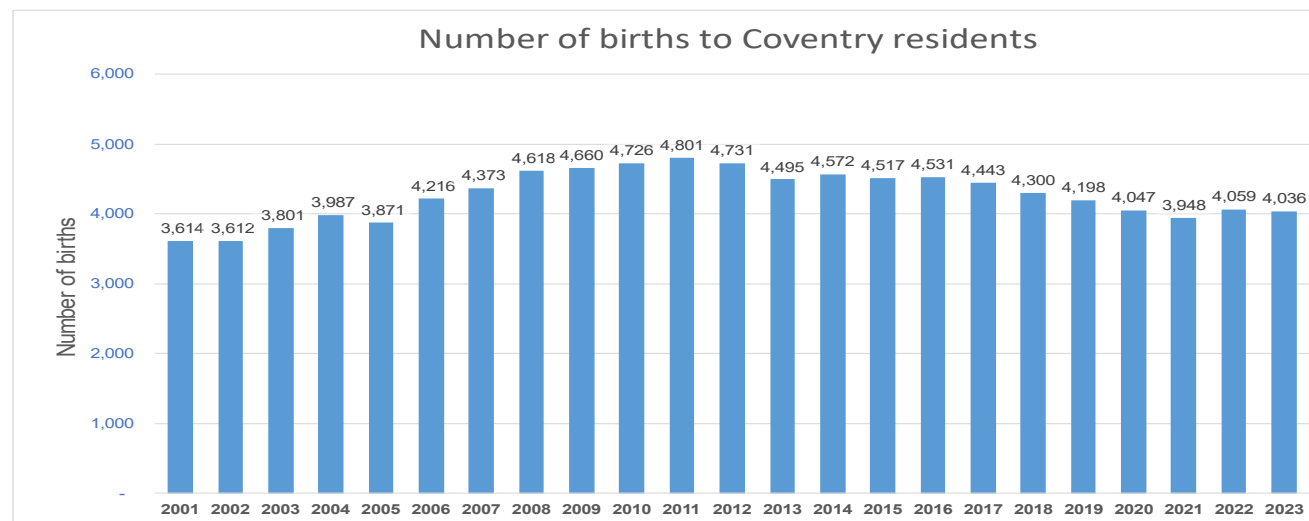
the population being children aged 0 to 14 years (1,877, 12.3% of total in this age range). Lower Stoke, Henley, Holbrook, Longford, and Radford also have relatively high numbers of 0 to 14 year old children (each ward with an estimate of more than 4,000 children). So, the North-East of Coventry generally has a relatively high population density of children aged 0-14.

Ward	under 2 years	2 years	3 to 4 years	5 to 9 years	10 to 14 years	5 to 14 years	Total 0 to 14 years	Coventry Total Population (All ages)	Percentage of total population that are aged 0-14
Bablake	318	201	332	1,040	1,112	2,152	3,003	17,128	17.5%
Binley and Willenhall	458	240	477	1,233	1,244	2,477	3,652	17,769	20.6%
Cheylesmore	339	179	355	896	835	1,731	2,604	15,653	16.6%
Earlsdon	253	130	281	759	860	1,619	2,283	15,380	14.8%
Foleshill	759	362	720	1,945	1,954	3,899	5,740	22,486	25.5%
Henley	573	289	622	1,677	1,622	3,299	4,783	21,264	22.5%
Holbrook	463	285	542	1,527	1,515	3,042	4,332	19,485	22.2%
Longford	553	331	512	1,404	1,421	2,825	4,221	20,249	20.8%
Lower Stoke	642	312	727	1,802	1,706	3,508	5,189	23,901	21.7%
Radford	488	243	568	1,327	1,478	2,805	4,104	20,195	20.3%
Sherbourne	370	180	379	979	922	1,901	2,830	17,178	16.5%
St Michael's	610	328	510	1,207	1,182	2,389	3,837	28,949	13.3%
Upper Stoke	530	284	549	1,321	1,277	2,598	3,961	19,605	20.2%
Wainbody	158	86	224	647	762	1,409	1,877	15,292	12.3%
Westwood	390	221	458	1,236	1,233	2,469	3,538	20,567	17.2%
Whoberley	305	154	294	783	739	1,522	2,275	15,505	14.7%
Woodlands	419	194	426	1,054	995	2,049	3,088	17,788	17.4%
Wyken	290	172	356	1,125	1,244	2,369	3,187	16,898	18.9%
Overall Coventry	7,918	4,191	8,332	21,962	22,101	44,063	64,504	345,292	18.7%

Birth Rate

The chart below shows that birth rates had been on a falling trend since 2011 but plateaued over recent years. The total number of births to mothers living in Coventry was 4,036 in 2023 down from a peak of 4,801 in 2011. The fertility rate in Coventry, the number of births as a rate of the population of Coventry women aged 15-44, has been falling. Whilst the reducing rate is partly due to changing demographics, for example increasing number of full-time students in Coventry, this trend is not unique to Coventry; total births and the fertility rates have also been falling across England overall and West Midlands region. While the total number of births per year to Coventry mothers has been flat in recent years, without a clear up or down annual trend, this is slightly different to the regional and national picture where births have continued to gradually decrease overall, with some fluctuations.

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) in Coventry in 2023 was down to 1.48, from 1.92 in 2014; similar to the rates across the region and country overall, 1.58 for the West Midlands region and 1.44 for England overall. The fertility rate statistic in Coventry is lower than it otherwise would be due to a relatively high population of full-time students living here; so the fact that rates are similar to the national average suggests that birth rates amongst non-student populations in the city are slightly higher than the national average.



It is difficult to project whether the number of births in Coventry is likely to decrease or increase in the coming years. In Coventry the number of births appears to be plateauing in recent years, after a reducing trend up to 2021.

The number of births by Coventry ward of residence of the mother is presented in the table below. It shows noticeable variations between areas of Coventry in annual births. Foleshill has the highest number of births of all Coventry's 18 wards, St Micheal's has the second highest number. The number of births had been falling as a trend in most wards, however between 2013 and 2023 Bablake and Henley ward trends differ, seeing an overall small increase in the number of births. Looking at more recent trends, we can see a notable increase in births between 2022 and 2023 in St. Michael's.

Births by ward

Live births by Coventry wards (residence of mother)	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2013-23 change	
												Births	% change
Bablake	134	177	160	175	164	159	166	168	154	161	167	33	25%
Binley and Willenhall	261	260	262	255	260	224	244	222	202	230	232	-29	-11%
Cheylesmore	209	193	186	200	194	184	186	183	183	180	159	-50	-24%
Earlsdon	124	138	95	128	134	111	128	106	124	107	99	-25	-20%
Foleshill	467	497	467	466	445	454	418	401	370	410	414	-53	-11%
Henley	285	295	264	323	301	296	319	321	322	316	290	5	2%
Holbrook	235	262	272	295	289	297	265	263	239	228	223	-12	-5%
Longford	307	320	306	296	286	289	276	303	261	299	290	-17	-6%
Lower Stoke	335	353	347	362	361	345	343	298	319	303	327	-8	-2%
Radford	328	303	301	311	298	314	262	250	249	276	241	-87	-27%
Sherbourne	232	224	232	201	228	190	221	189	183	172	179	-53	-23%
St Michael's	364	328	365	303	301	288	265	289	294	328	361	-3	-1%
Upper Stoke	304	283	306	298	297	273	265	262	255	254	248	-56	-18%
Wainbody	99	83	88	101	85	89	74	65	86	65	71	-28	-28%
Westwood	223	250	240	237	215	208	208	216	211	216	209	-14	-6%
Whoberley	168	188	184	175	173	163	186	154	147	179	155	-13	-8%
Woodlands	216	235	240	223	231	230	201	211	189	171	203	-13	-6%
Wyken	204	183	202	182	181	186	171	146	160	164	168	-36	-18%
Coventry total	4,495	4,572	4,517	4,531	4,443	4,300	4,198	4,047	3,948	4,059	4,036	-459	-10%

Ethnicity

Coventry is a diverse city with a population from diverse ethnic backgrounds. The most recent population data we have is from the Census 2021³. It shows 44.7% of Coventry's total population is made up of residents from ethnic minority groups, that is from an ethnic group other than 'White British.' This increased from 33.4% in 2011, so Coventry's population has become more ethnically diverse and is more diverse than average for England; nationally 26.5% of the population are from ethnic minority groups.

The table below shows that the child population (aged 0-15) of Coventry by ethnic group, comparing data from the Census 2011 and the Census 2021. It illustrates that the child population became more diverse in those 10 years, the proportion being from ethnic minority groups⁴ increasing from 39.9% to 53.5%.

³ Census 2021, Office for National Statistics, [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#) , TS021 – Ethnic group

⁴ People identifying as being from an ethnic group that is not 'White British'.

Ethnic group	Population 0-15 years	% (of 0-15 population of all ethnic groups)	Population 0-15 years	% (of 0-15 population of all ethnic groups)
	Census 2011		Census 2021	
All known ethnic group	62,854	100.0%	68,453	100.0%
White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	37,771	60.1%	31,778	46.4%
White: Irish	285	0.5%	168	0.2%
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	49	0.1%	98	0.1%
White: Other White	2,629	4.2%	4,638	6.8%
White: Roma	No data	-	258	0.4%
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: White and Black Caribbean	1,746	2.8%	1,960	2.9%
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: White and Black African	469	0.7%	886	1.3%
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: White and Asian	1,152	1.8%	1,426	2.1%
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: Other Mixed	504	0.8%	957	1.4%
Asian/Asian British: Indian	5,063	8.1%	5,978	8.7%
Asian/Asian British: Pakistani	3,173	5.0%	3,608	5.3%
Asian/Asian British: Bangladeshi	1,057	1.7%	1,218	1.8%
Asian/Asian British: Chinese	269	0.4%	513	0.7%
Asian/Asian British: Other Asian	2,061	3.3%	2,790	4.1%
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: African	4,195	6.7%	6,799	9.9%
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Caribbean	480	0.8%	284	0.4%
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Other Black	807	1.3%	1,745	2.5%
Other ethnic group: Arab	448	0.7%	874	1.3%
Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group	696	1.1%	2,475	3.6%

The annual school census data⁵ survey records information about all school children, gives further evidence on the ethnic diversity of Coventry's child population. This data is more up to date, with the most recent data being from January 2024. It covers all school children, so generally gives a picture of Coventry children aged 4-17 years.

The school census data shows that the school-aged population of Coventry has been showing an increasing level of diversity over the last 12 years. The table on the next page shows the total number of pupils in state-funded primary, secondary and special schools in Coventry and how they are broken down by ethnic background.

⁵ Source: Department for Education [Statistics: school and pupil numbers - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/school-and-pupil-numbers)

In January 2024, 58.6% of pupils were from an ethnic minority background (not White British), up from 39.3% in 2012 previously.

Coventry's child population is more ethnically diverse than the adult population overall and is becoming more diverse over time, this indicates that the total population is very likely to become more diverse in the future, with an increasing proportion of the city's population being from an ethnic minority background.

Annual School Census - number of Coventry school pupils by ethnic group - % of total	January 2012		January 2017		January 2022	January 2023	January 2024
White - White British	60.3%		50.9%		44.2%	42.0%	40.0%
White - Irish	0.5%		0.4%		0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
White - Traveller of Irish heritage	0.0%		0.0%		0.1%	0.1%	0.0%
White - Gypsy/Roma	0.5%		1.0%		0.9%	1.0%	0.9%
White - Any other White background	4.1%		7.4%		8.9%	9.1%	8.8%
Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	2.2%		2.3%		2.2%	2.2%	2.0%
Mixed - White and Black African	0.5%		0.8%		1.1%	1.1%	1.0%
Mixed - White and Asian	1.4%		1.6%		1.9%	1.9%	1.9%
Mixed - Any other Mixed background	1.5%		1.8%		2.2%	2.3%	2.4%
Asian - Indian	8.7%		8.8%		8.9%	9.6%	10.4%
Asian - Pakistani	5.1%		5.5%		5.2%	5.1%	5.1%
Asian - Bangladeshi	1.7%		1.8%		1.7%	1.7%	1.6%
Asian - Chinese	0.3%		0.4%		0.5%	0.6%	0.6%
Asian - Any other Asian background	3.4%		4.1%		5.5%	5.7%	5.9%
Black - Black Caribbean	1.0%		0.8%		0.6%	0.6%	0.6%
Black - Black African	6.6%		9.3%		11.4%	12.0%	13.3%
Black - Any other Black background	0.7%		1.0%		1.2%	1.2%	1.3%
Any other ethnic group	1.1%		1.6%		2.1%	2.4%	2.4%
Unclassified	0.4%		0.6%		1.1%	1.1%	1.4%
Total	43,516		47,778		58,276	59,900	61,298

All Households Composition (Census 2021 and Census 2011⁶)

Household Composition	Census 2011		Census 2021		Change from Census 2011 to 2021
	Count	%	Count	%	Count
One-person household	40,148	31.2%	40,777	30.4%	+629
Single family household: All aged 66 years and over ⁷	8,970	7.0%	9,155	6.8%	+185
Single family household: Married or civil partnership couple or Cohabiting couple: No children	17,632	13.7%	17,808	13.3%	+176
Single family household: Married or civil partnership couple or Cohabiting couple: All children non-dependent	7,791	6.1%	8,538	6.4%	+747
Single family household: Married or civil partnership couple or Cohabiting couple: Dependent children	23,344	18.2%	25,933	19.3%	+2,589
Lone parent household: With dependent children	12,396	9.6%	11,101	8.3%	-1,295
Lone parent household: All children non-dependent	5,053	3.9%	6,486	4.8%	+1,433
Other household types: With dependent children	4,124	3.2%	4,906	3.7%	+782
Other household types: Other, including all full-time students and all aged 66 years and over ⁷	9,134	7.1%	9,434	7.0%	+300
Total Households	128,592	100.0%	134,138	100.0%	+5,546

This table shows the number of households by category in Coventry, divided according to the type of composition of household members; it shows counts of households that include children. It shows that the number of households of almost all types increased in number between 2011 and 2021. The biggest increase was amongst households composed of a couple and dependent children, increasing in number by 2,589 additional households over the 10 years between the censuses. On the other hand, the total number of lone parent households with dependent children decreased by 1,295; while the number of other types of households with dependent children (not a single couple, nor including lone parents), increased, up by 782.

Deprivation

There are pockets of deprivation across Coventry that limit people's opportunities to succeed in life. Transforming life chances require addressing the social inequalities that are established right from the earliest years.

⁶ Source: Census 2021, Census 2011, Office for National Statistics (ONS), <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

⁷ All aged 65 years and over from Census 2011

Depending on the way it is measured, Coventry ranks between 64th and 81st as one of the most deprived local authority areas of 317 in England. Therefore, the city ranks amongst the most deprived quarter of places in England overall. Coventry continues to have relatively high deprivation with large areas of very high and enduring deprivation. Coventry also ranks particularly poorly in terms of the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI).

The Indices of Deprivation data gives the richest picture of deprivation, allowing us to look at local neighbourhood's and how they compare to others in the country. However, low-income statistics give a more targeted and timelier picture of low-income affecting children. The government's 'Children in low-income families: local area statistics'⁸ provide estimates of the number of children in households with a relatively low income (less than 60% of the national median household income level, calculated before housing costs are considered).

The most recent estimates for financial year 2022/23 are 19,571 children aged 0-15 years living in Coventry in low-income families – making up more than a quarter of all Coventry children, 27.7%. This compares to 28.4% throughout the West Midlands and 19.8% in England. This has been on an increasing trend in Coventry, and elsewhere, since 2014/15. The impact of the cost-of-living crisis may mean these rates increase further in Coventry and across the country.

The extent of 'child poverty' can be measured in other ways⁹, the End Child Poverty campaign attempts to model the number of children who live in households with a relatively low income (less than 60% of the national median household income), calculating income after the costs of housing are taken away. Rates are higher when calculated this way. For 2022/23 they estimate that 34,344 of Coventry children (0-15) live in poverty, which amounts to over one third of all children living in Coventry, 42.2%.

Free School Meals

Not all children living in low-income households receive free school meals. In the autumn term of 2023/24, there were a total of 16,575 pupils in Coventry schools eligible for free school meals, making up 26.9% of all pupils compared to 24.6% across England overall. The number of pupils eligible for free school meals has been increasing year on year.

⁸ [Children in low-income families: local area statistics - GOV.UK](#)

⁹ [Child Poverty Statistics 2024 - End Child Poverty](#)