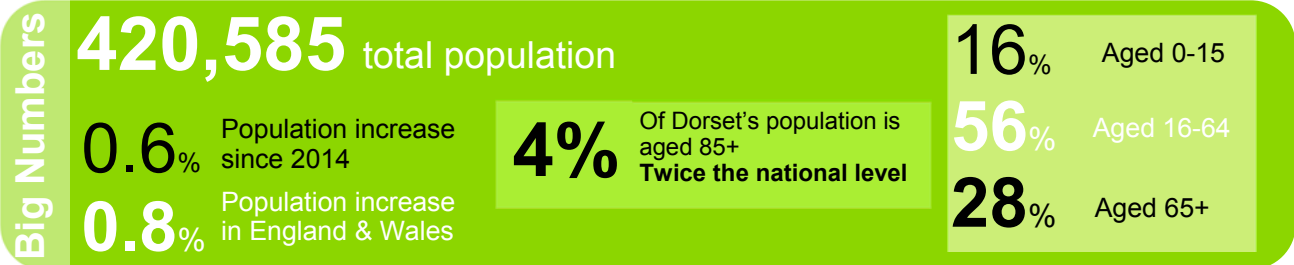




2015 Mid-Year population estimates in Dorset

Welcome to this **ourcommunities** bitesize bulletin on mid-year population estimates for Dorset. This edition will include the current population in Dorset, its changes and why this matters. The mid-year population estimates are the official statistics produced annually by the Office of National Statistics.

The total population has increased by 2,320 since 2014 with those aged 65+ increasing in particular. Net migration into the County continues to increase, at its highest since 2007.



Box 1: What has caused the population to increase 2014-15?

- There were more deaths than births between 2014 and 2015 resulting in a **net natural decline** in the population.
- More people moved into the area than out, meaning that the population still **increased**.
- Without this **positive net migration** the population would have declined.

Box 2: How has the population changed over the last ten years?

Migration into the country was at its highest between 2006-07, influenced by the **EU expansion** in 2005

There was a significant **drop in net migration** between 2008-09 as a result of the financial crisis and a drop in moves in and out of the area

Net migration is at its highest point for 7 years driven by fewer people moving out



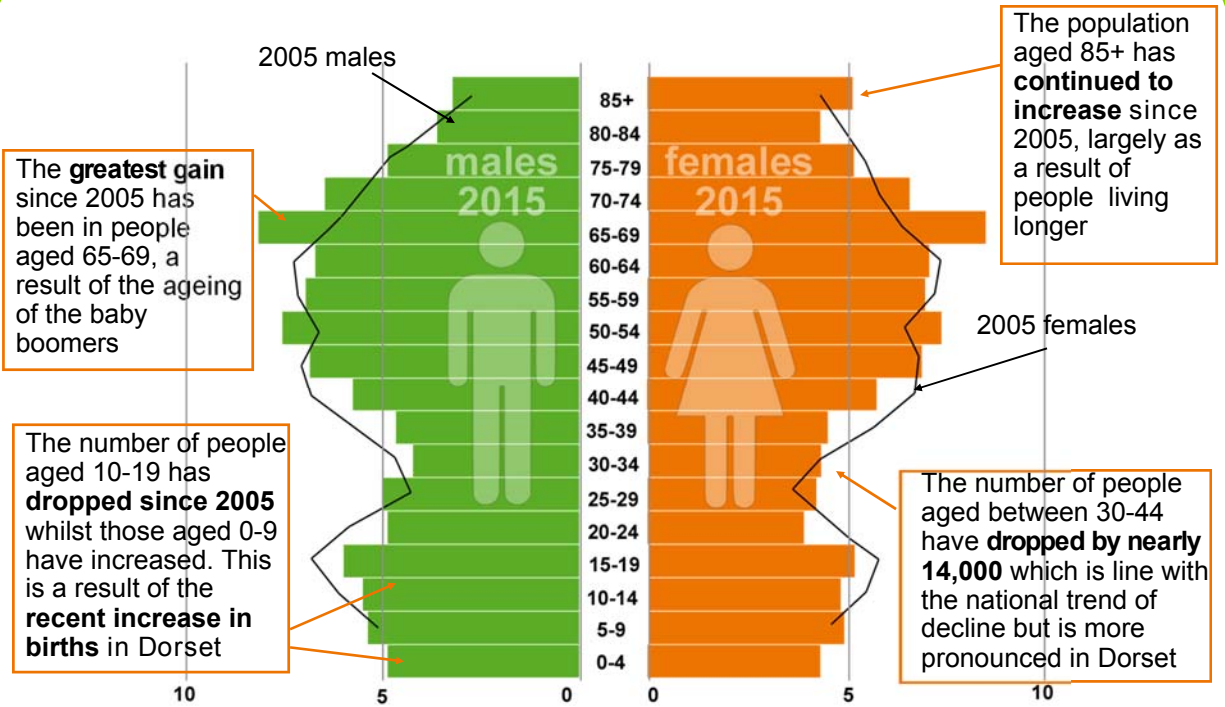
There was an **increase in births** across the time period 2008 to 2012 but these were still outweighed by deaths

Births increased between 2014-15 but deaths remained much higher leading to a larger negative net natural change

■ Net migration ■ Natural change ● Population change



Box 3: How has the age structure changed since 2005?



Box 4: Why does it matter?

These demographic changes are likely to have an impact on the needs of residents and demand for services, in particular the over 85s. Whilst ageing of the population will also occur nationally, this is more pronounced in Dorset due to the already significantly older age structure. This highlights the urgency for Dorset in planning services for older people and supporting carers. Associated with this is the rise in one person households, increasing challenges for council services and putting additional pressure on housing. Loneliness and isolation is a particular issue in Dorset and further information can be found at <https://apps.geowessex.com/stats/Reports>

Our shrinking population aged between 30 and 44 will impact on employers looking to recruit staff and replace the growing numbers of those retiring. Whilst these losses are partially offset by gains in those aged 25-29 and 50-54, there is still potential for considerable impact on the local economy.

Further challenges also exist in the previous year on year increase in birth rates leading to growth in the number of children aged 0-9 years impacting on school provision. There are also gains in the 0-9 age group through migration into the area. These factors will therefore need to be considered when pupil place planning through analysis of when and where demands may change and impact on school roll numbers, staffing and travel to school.