



ONS 2016 based Projections

Welcome to this **ourcommunities** bitesize bulletin on the latest Office for National Statistics Sub-National Population Projections. The projections are based on the revised 2016 Mid-Year Estimates and provide statistics on the potential future size and age structure of DCC Dorset and the six district authorities. They are trend based so using the assumption that recent trends in fertility, mortality and migration will continue.

Big Numbers

422,930 residents 2016

Decline in working age population of 14,820 people

461,800 residents 2041

35,500 85+ population in 2041 more than double that in 2016

2016: 2041: Old Age Dependency Ratio*
507 791

46% increase in over 65s

2% decrease in children (0 -15yrs)

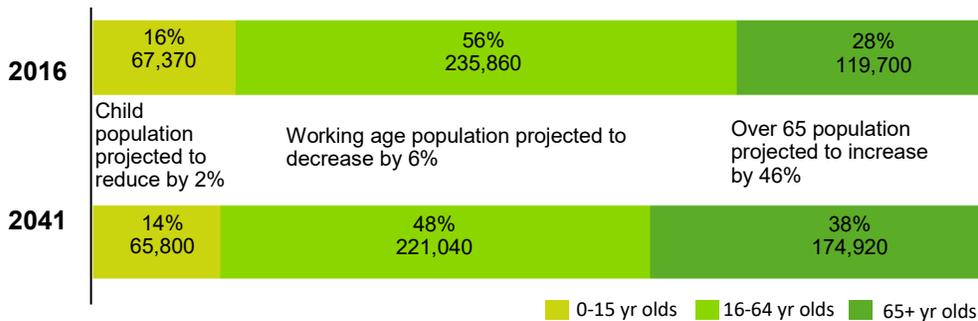
What is changing?

The DCC Dorset population is projected to grow by **9%** over the next **25 years**, compared to **14%** for the South West region and **12%** nationally.

It is projected there will be approximately **83,500 births** over the next 25 years, alongside **145,000 deaths**. This means our natural change in population will be a loss of around **61,600** people.

However over **100,000** people are projected to **move into** Dorset meaning our population will still **increase** by **38,900** people from **422,930 in 2016** to **461,800 in 2041**.

Changing Age Structure in Dorset



The graph above shows the percentage of population by age group for the start and end years of the projection. Both the children and working age populations are projected to decrease over the next 25 years.



Weymouth & Portland will see the largest decrease in the 0-15yr population with a drop of 9%.



North Dorset and Weymouth & Portland are projected to see a drop of 9% in the working age population.



North Dorset will see the largest increase in the over 65s population of 56%.

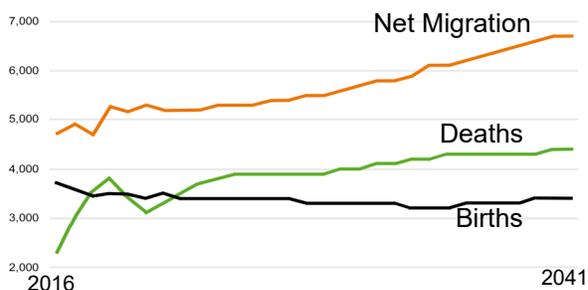


What is causing the change?

The 2016 based projections differ from previous projections partly because they are based on more recent and revised Mid Year Estimates and the latest fertility, mortality and migration data, but also because the ONS have changed their assumptions about the future. The current projections assume:

- lower long-term international migration
- women will have fewer children
- slower rate of increase in life expectancy

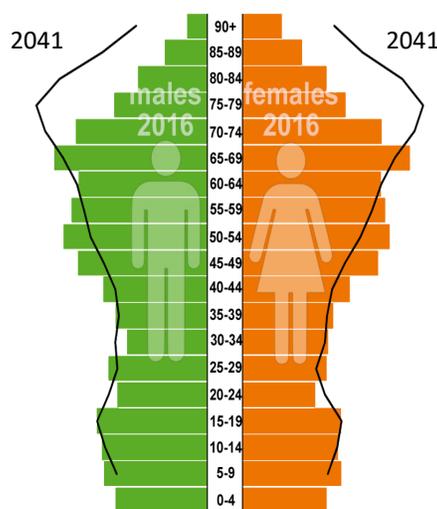
The effects of these assumptions on total projected population means these projections show a slower growth in population in comparison to the ONS 2012 and 2014 and DCC 2016 projections.



The graph to the left shows the historical, years 2012-2016, and projected figures for births, deaths and net migration in Dorset. This shows a steady increase in deaths and decrease in births and highlights that population growth in Dorset is driven by migration, mostly internal from other areas of Britain.

The population pyramid shows the growth in population by five year age groups. It reflects most strongly the aging of the 1960's baby boomers into the 'oldest of the old' age groups.

By 2041 the population aged 85+ is projected to double to 35,500, 8% of the population. This increase could have a huge impact on adult social care in Dorset and is of particular concern given the shrinking working age population. The *Old Age Dependency Ratio as defined by the number of people aged 65+ for every 1,000 people aged 16-64 is projected to rise from 507 in 2016 to 791 in 2041.



Trends in the new **Dorset Council** area which comes into effect April 1st 2019 are similar to those seen in the County Council area. There is a slightly larger increase in over 65s and decrease in the working age, children and 85+ populations compared to the DCC area. The total population is projected to grow from **373,300** in 2016 to **404,700** in 2041.

How can we use this data and what are we doing about it?

Population projections provide an indication of the size and age/sex structure of the future, if specified assumptions about future fertility, mortality and migration were to be realised. An awareness of our changing population is critical to many of the services that the council provides. They are a key tool in service planning, policy formation and decision making in the local authority. The ONS projections form the basis of our own district and smaller geography projections enabling, for example, school place planning and electoral boundary review decision making.

Sources: ONS 2016 based SNPP