

The bigger Picture: understanding disability and care in Wigan’s older population

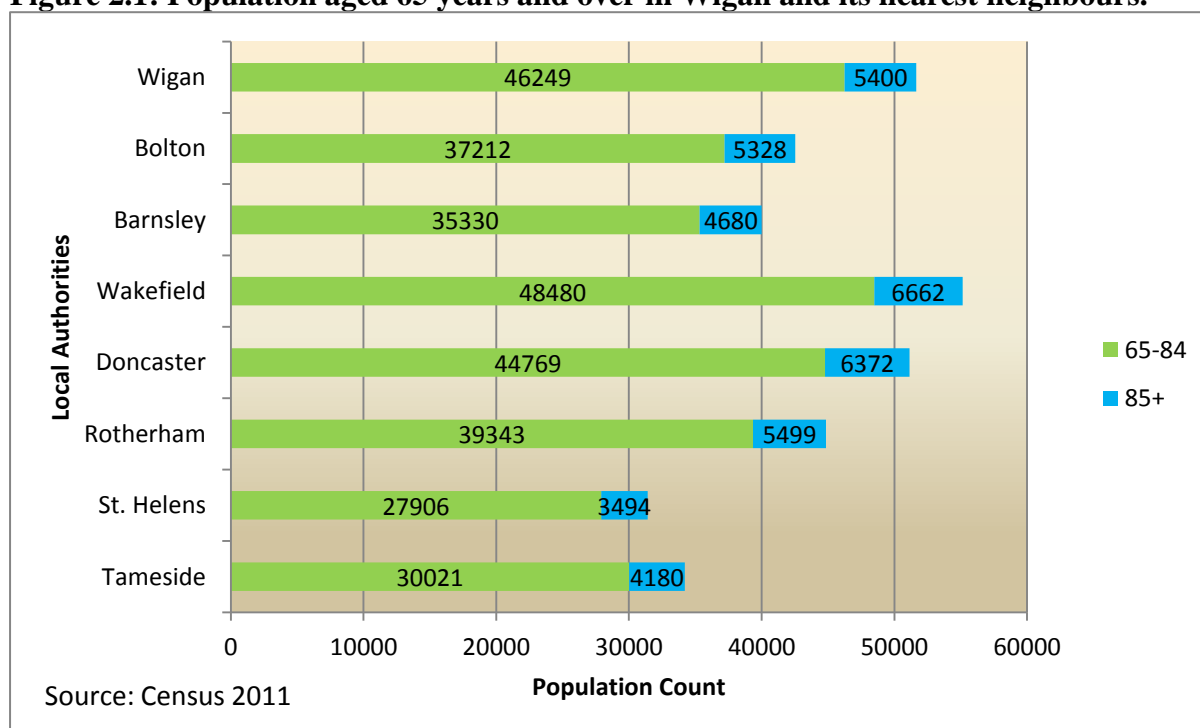
1.0 Introductions

This brief is informed by a national-wide dataset that was recently published by “the bigger picture project.” It mainly focuses on Wigan borough but also makes comparisons with the nearest neighbours. The Bigger Picture analysed data from: Census 2011; Department for Work and Pensions data for 2011 on receipt of certain benefits, such as Attendance Allowance; Health and Social Care Information Centre data drawn from local authority adult social care ‘activity returns’ for 2011-12; and the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (2012-2013). The research explored the characteristics and lives of various groups including: the whole 65+ population in England; older people whose day-to-day activities are limited by a longstanding health condition or disability; older people who receive paid or unpaid care; and, older carers.

2.0 Disability and care in Wigan’s older population

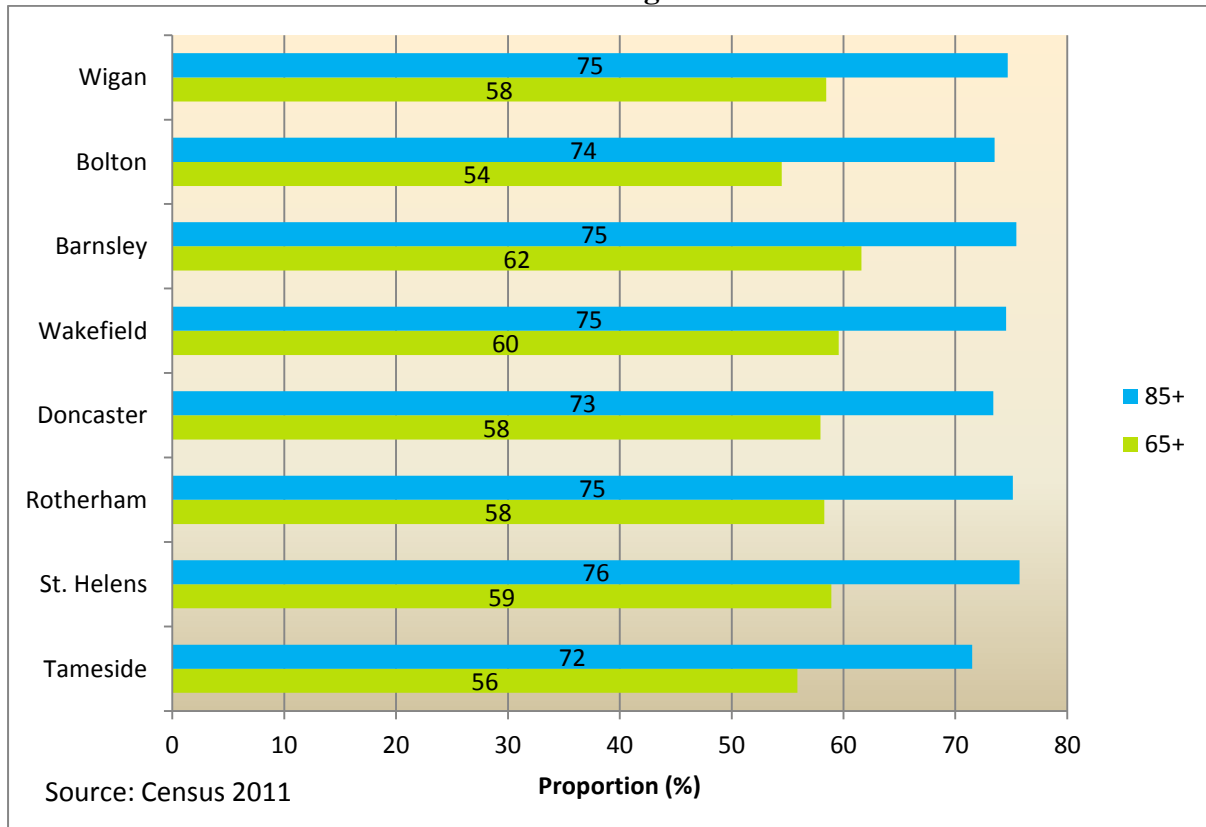
As shown by figure 2.1, Census 2011 recorded 51,649 individuals aged 65 and over in Wigan

Figure 2.1: Population aged 65 years and over in Wigan and its nearest neighbours.



Close to 60% of the 65+ population in Wigan (30,194 people) reported their day to-day activities were limited by a longstanding health condition or disability, rising to 74.7% of those aged 85+ (4,033 people). Figure 2.2 shows how Wigan's figures compare with respective figures from nearest neighbours.

Figure 2.2: Proportion of Older people with limited day-to-day activities in Wigan and its nearest neighbours.

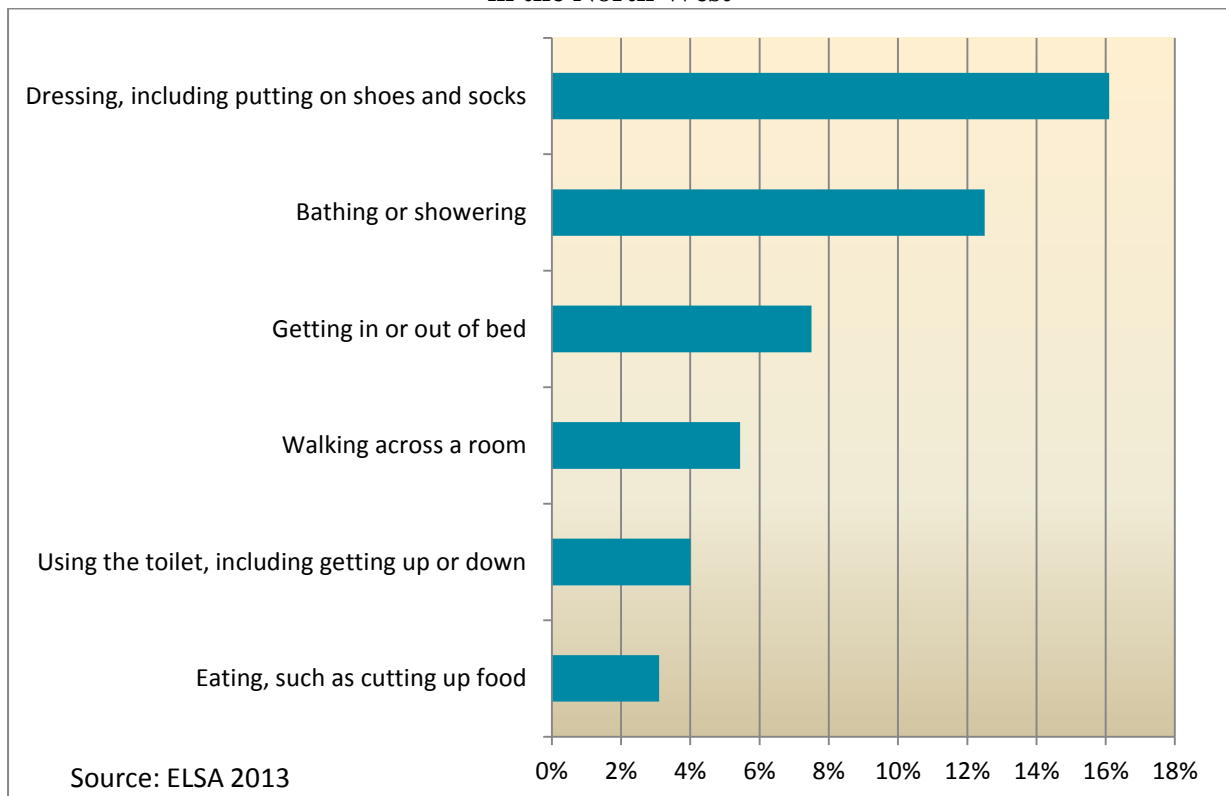


Difficulties with 'activities of daily living' (ADL)

ADL is one of the scales that may be used to objectively assess bodily function in older people. Using data from Wave 6 of the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA), the research was able to explore the type of day-to-day activities that individuals aged 65+ and living at home are unable to undertake. ELSA considered six activities of daily living as shown in figure 2.3. Unfortunately, this data is only available at national and regional level due to statistical restrictions relating to sample size estimation as well as sampling procedures. As such, the best estimates for Wigan are those at regional level.

Across the North West, it was estimated that 23.5% of older people living at home had difficulty with at least one ADL. As shown in figure 2.3, the most common ADL difficulties experienced were dressing (16.1%) and bathing (12.5%). Applying these proportions to the Wigan 65+ population shows that around 11,773 living at home had difficulty with at least one ADL (8,066 individuals had difficulties with dressing while 6,262 individuals had difficulties with bathing).

Figure 2.3: Proportion of individuals reporting different ADL difficulties by type, 65+ in the North West



Provision of unpaid care

According to Census 2011, around 15% of Wigan's older population provided unpaid care, with around 1 in 2 of these people (48%) providing 50+ hours of unpaid care each week (table 2.1). A notable feature of the provision of unpaid care by older people is its consistent prevalence across different areas: this can be seen across different nearest local authorities, where there is only a 2% variance in the prevalence of unpaid care.

Table 2.1: Distribution of 65+ years providing unpaid care in Wigan and its nearest neighbours

Local Authority	Provides unpaid care	% of age category	Provides 50 or more hours unpaid care a week	% providing 50 or more hours unpaid care a week
Tameside	4636	14	2212	48
St. Helens	4992	16	2439	49
Rotherham	6902	15	3237	47
Doncaster	7310	14	3415	47
Wakefield	7889	14	3651	46
Barnsley	5711	14	2663	47
Bolton	6140	14	2698	44
Wigan	7840	15	3772	48

3.0 Communal Establishments

According to Census 2011, Wigan and the rest of its nearest neighbours (except Bolton) had 3% of the 65+ as residents in communal establishments, and 97% non-residents of communal establishments. Only 2% of the 65+ in Bolton were residents in a residential or nursing home, with the remaining 98% being non-residents.

4.0 Goals of the Bigger picture

The Bigger Picture exploited the availability of data from multiple sources, all collected within a single period of time, to provide a new, detailed picture of disability and care in the older population in England. Its goal is to inform the implementation of the Care Act (2014), and policy development after 2016 (through influencing various stakeholders-local authorities, families, care users, care providers, charities and community groups).

For more information, please visit: <http://strategicsociety.org.uk/bigger-picture-understanding-disability-care-englands-older-population/#.VN4lPqFFCUk>