

# Communal Establishments

## Introduction

This briefing provides information about people who live in communal establishments, as recorded by the 2021 Census. Readers are advised that due to statistical disclosure control measures applied by the ONS and the impact of rounding, there may be small differences between estimated numbers contained in this and other Census briefings and analysis (see page 16 of this briefing for further details).

## Key Findings

- In 2021, there were 9,010 communal establishment residents in East Sussex (1.7% of the usual resident population), 64% of whom (5,800 residents) lived in care homes.
- 57.0% of communal establishment residents in East Sussex (5,140) were female and 43.0% (3,880) were male. The median age of females living in communal establishments was 82 years, compared to 53 years for males.
- The number of residents living in communal establishments fell by 18.6% (2,060 residents) between 2011 and 2021, and the number living in care homes decreased by 15.9% (1,100 residents).
- East Sussex had the second-highest proportion of residents in care homes across all county and unitary authorities in England (1.06% of all usual residents), after Torbay (1.14% of all usual residents).
- Of the 5,800 residents in care homes, 55.5% (3,220) were in care homes without nursing.
- 15.9% of all communal establishment residents (1,430 residents) were in educational establishments, 7.0% (630) were in religious establishments (the highest proportion across the whole of England), and 3.9% (360) were in prison, probation or detention centres.

## Communal establishment residents in East Sussex

A communal establishment is an establishment with full-time or part-time supervision providing residential accommodation, such as student halls of residence, boarding schools, armed forces bases, hospitals, care homes, and prisons.

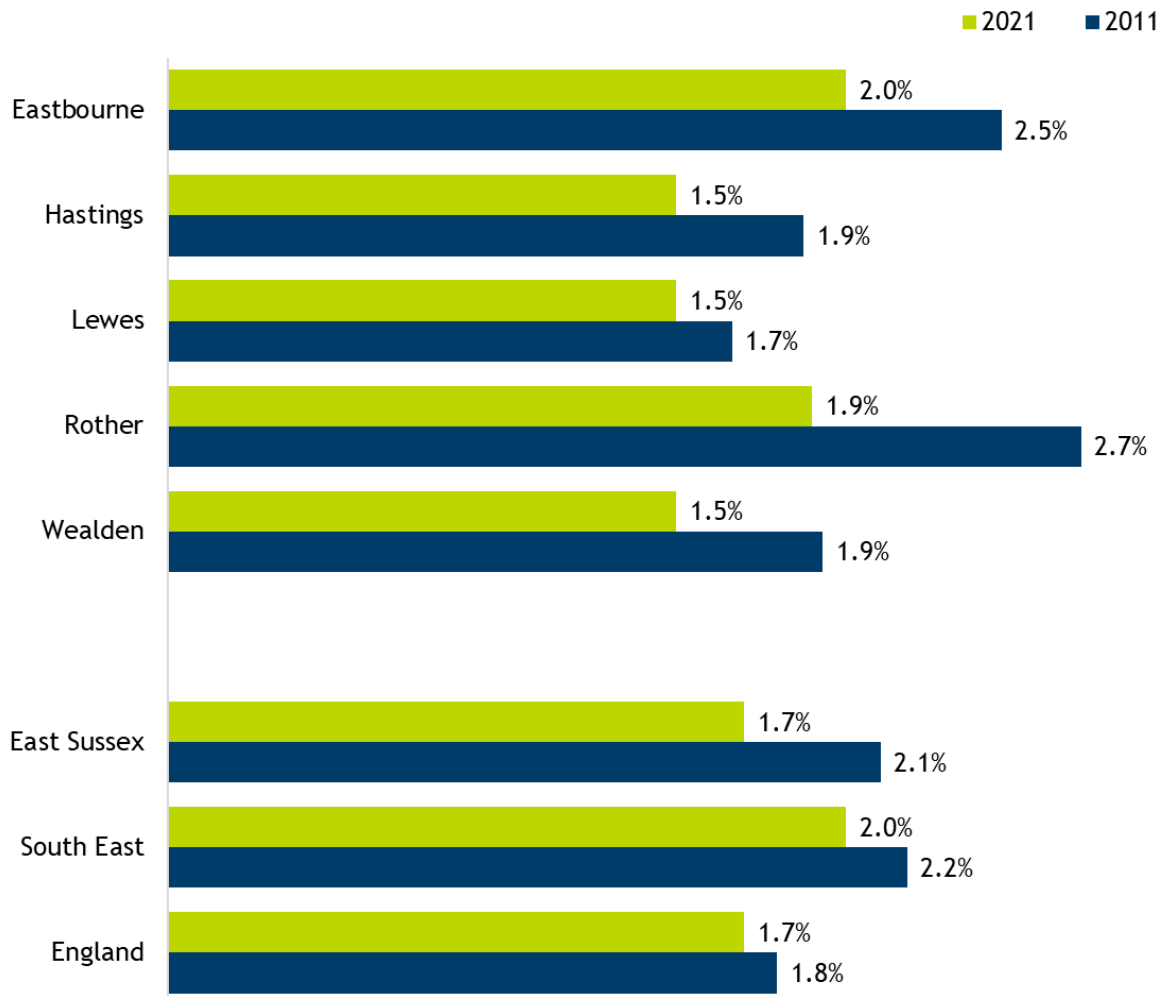
When interpreting the data, it is important to keep in mind that the census was conducted during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, which may have affected the number of residents in certain types of communal establishment. For example, the disruption of international travel may have led to a lower number of students in education establishments than would otherwise have been expected, due to a reduction in the number of students arriving from overseas.

There have also been small changes to housing definitions since the 2011 Census, meaning some sheltered housing units were enumerated as communal establishments in 2011 but as households in 2021. Users should keep this in mind when comparing 2011 and 2021 census data for this topic.

In 2021, there were 9,010 communal establishment residents in East Sussex (1.7% of the usual resident population), compared with 536,840 (98.3%) who lived in households. This is consistent with the proportion of residents living in communal establishments across England as a whole (1.7%), but lower than the South East regional average of 2.0% living in communal establishments.

There were 2,060 fewer people living in communal establishments in East Sussex in 2021 compared to 2011, when there were 11,070 (2.1% of usual residents) living in communal establishments. This represents a decline of 18.7% between 2011 and 2021. Every district and borough within East Sussex saw a decline in the number of communal establishment residents over this period, with the largest fall in Rother, where the number of communal establishment residents fell by 26.2% from 2,440 residents in 2011 (2.7% of usual residents) to 1,800 in 2021 (1.9% of usual residents).

### Proportion of usual residents living in communal establishments

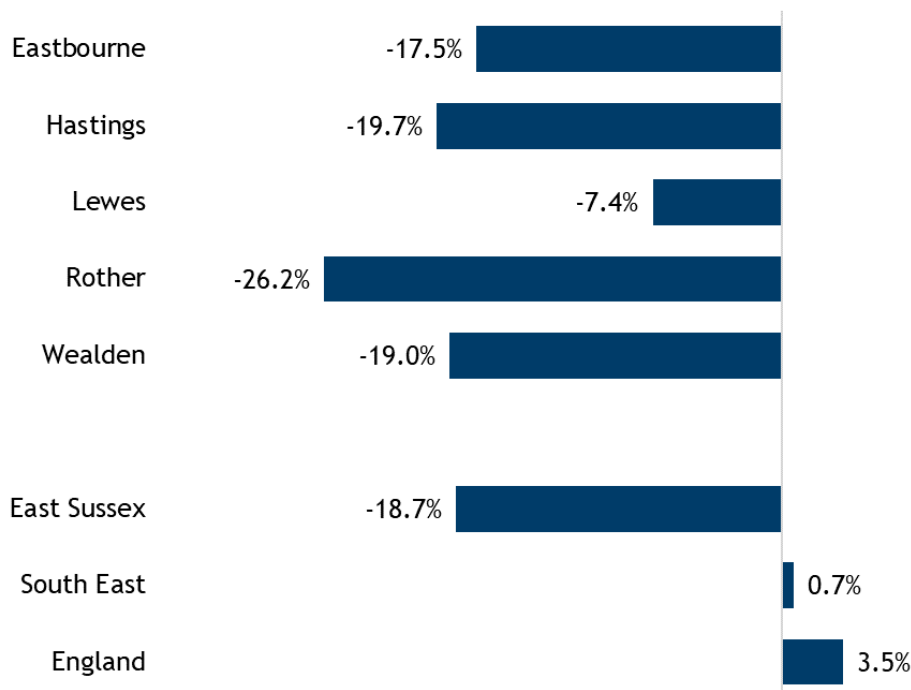


Source: ONS

Conversely, across England as a whole, the number of residents living in communal establishments increased by 3.5% between 2011 and 2021. In the South East region, the number living in communal establishments increased by a more modest 0.7%. This nationwide increase was largely driven by an increase in the number of students living in educational establishments, reflecting the growth in the number of university students in England and Wales across the past decade.

Despite an increase overall, approximately half of all county and unitary authorities in England saw a decline in the number of communal establishment residents between 2011 and 2021, with the greatest percentage fall in the Isles of Scilly (68.8% decline), Richmond upon Thames (35.3% decline) and the Isle of Wight (35.3% decline). Conversely, Newcastle upon Tyne saw the largest increase, with the number of residents living in communal establishments in Newcastle upon Tyne almost doubling between 2011 and 2021 (92.4% increase).

### Percentage change in the number of residents living in communal establishments between 2011 and 2021

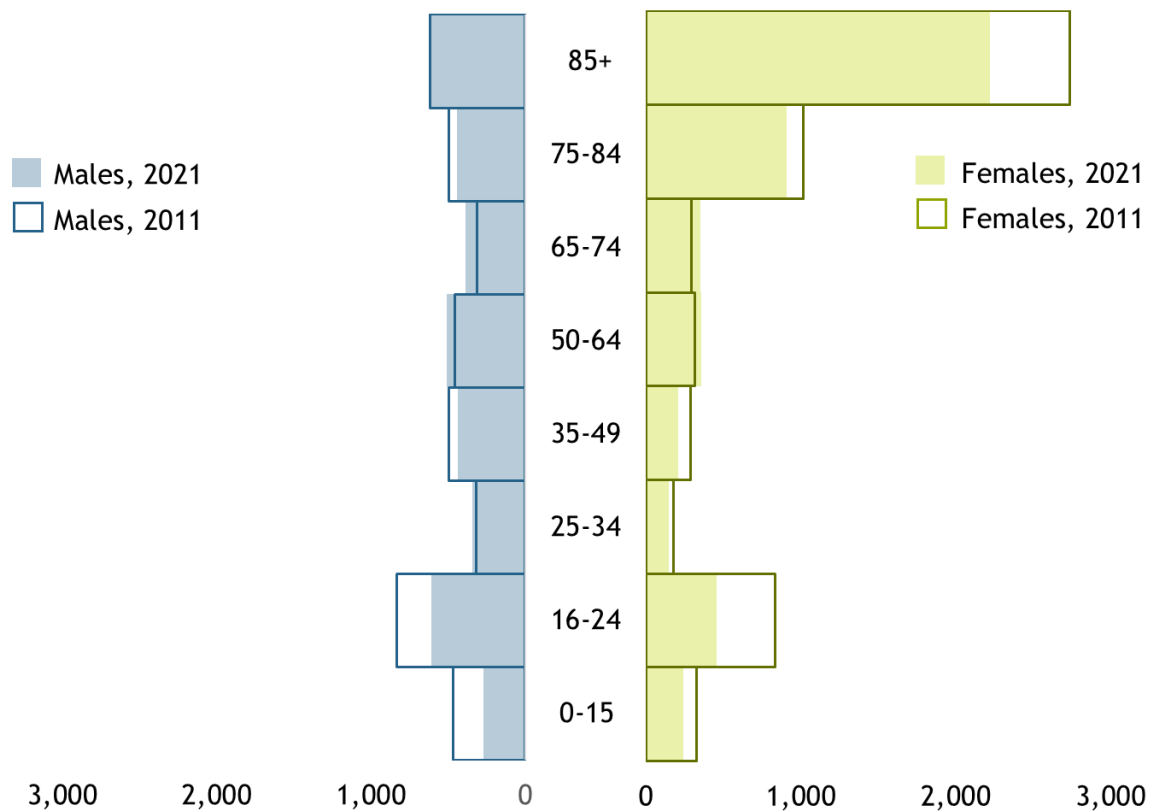


Source: ONS

### Communal establishment residents by age and sex

In 2021, 57.0% of communal establishment residents in East Sussex (5,140) were female and 43.0% (3,880) were male. The proportion of female residents living in communal establishments was higher than within the usual resident population for East Sussex as a whole (52.0% female, 48.0% male).

Communal establishment residents in East Sussex by sex and banded age groups, 2011 and 2021



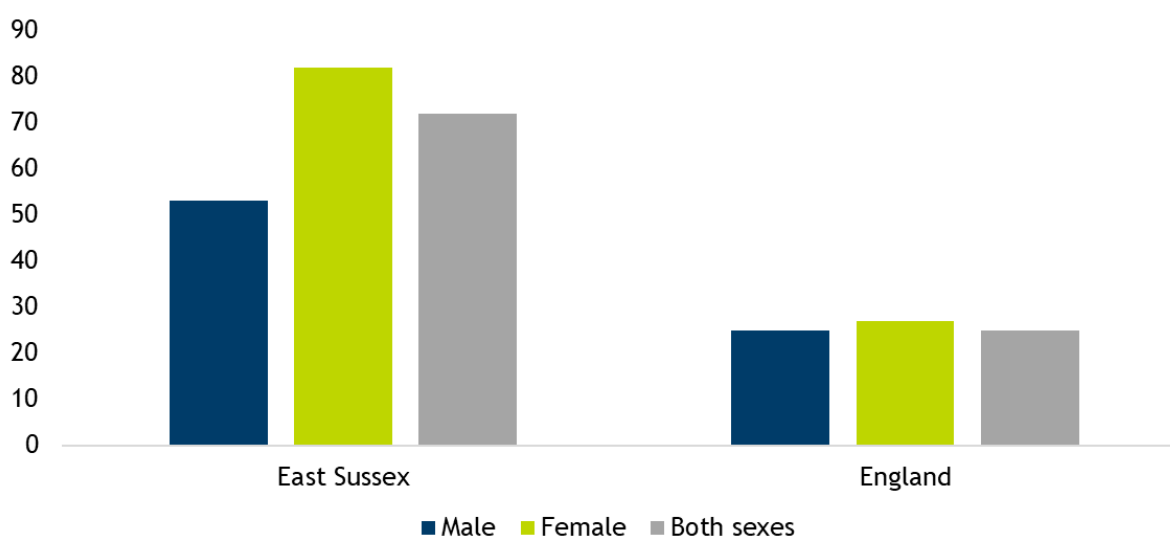
Source: ONS

The breakdown by age shows that the female communal establishment resident population was mostly concentrated in older ages in 2021, while the male communal establishment population was more evenly distributed across all age-groups, with a

similar number of male communal establishment residents in the 16-24 age group (635 residents, 16.4% of all male communal establishment residents) as in the 85 and above age group (625 residents, 16.1%). By contrast, only 9.7% of female communal establishment residents were aged 16-24 (500 residents).

Overall, 31.7% of all communal establishment residents in East Sussex were over the age of 85, compared to only 15.8% nationally. But of these, 78.2% (2,240 residents) were female and 21.8% (620 residents) were male. A further 23.8% were aged 65-84 years, of which 59.7% (1,280 residents) were female and 40.3% (860 residents) were male.

### Median age in years of communal establishment residents in East Sussex



Source: ONS

The median age of a communal establishment resident in 2021 was 72 years of age, meaning that half of all residents living in communal establishments were over the age of 72. This is despite people aged 72 and above only comprising 17% of the overall population of East Sussex.

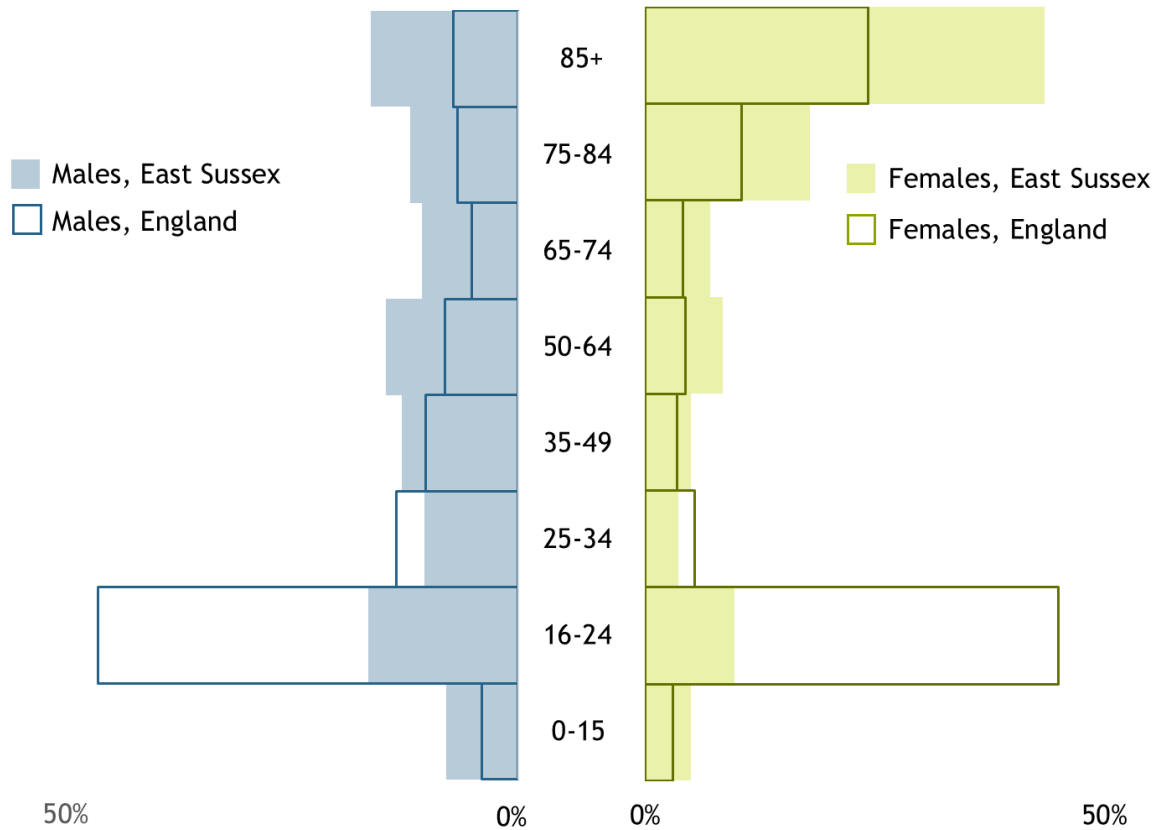
There were, however, significant differences when looking at the median age of communal establishment residents by sex. The median age of females living in

communal establishments was 82 years, but only 53 years for males. This may reflect the difference in life expectancy between men and women (life expectancy across England and Wales is 78.6 years for males and 82.6 years for females), as well as the difference in social support provided by spouses (older men may provide less care for their wives than women do for their husbands). It should be noted that this is very different to the national picture, where the median age of communal establishment residents is only 27 years for females and 25 years for males (and 25 across both sexes), which may be explained by the fact that in East Sussex there was a significantly smaller proportion of residents living in educational establishments such as university halls of residence or boarding schools than in England overall. (Educational establishments were the most common type of communal establishment across the whole of England in 2021, with those living in such establishments accounting for 45.9% of all communal establishment residents, compared to just 15.9% in East Sussex).

Additionally, looking at the chart on Page 5, we can see that there were significantly fewer residents in the 16-24 age range in 2021 than in 2011, perhaps reflecting the fact that many students will have returned home during the pandemic; between 2011 and 2021, the number of 16-24 year olds living in communal establishments fell by more than a third from 1,670 (3.2% of the usual resident population of 16 to 24 year olds) to 1,070 (2.3% of the usual resident population).

Overall, 12.6% of communal establishment residents (1,130 residents) were aged 16 to 24 years in East Sussex in 2021, down from 15.1% (1,670 residents) in 2011. This is significantly lower than the average across England, where 45.4% of all communal establishment residents were aged 16 to 24 years in 2021. Of these 1,130 people aged 16 to 24 years living in communal establishments in East Sussex in 2021, 43.8% were female and 56.2% male.

How the proportion of communal establishment residents by sex and banded age groups in East Sussex in 2021 compared to the English national average



Source: ONS



## Types of communal establishment

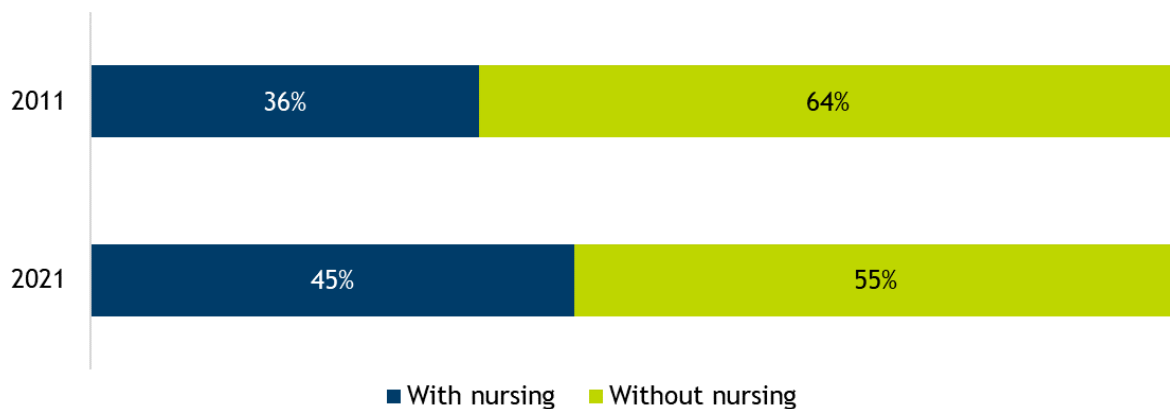
### Care homes

In East Sussex the most common type of communal establishment was “care homes”. East Sussex had the second-highest proportion of residents in care homes across all county and unitary authorities in England (1.06% of all usual residents), after Torbay (1.14% of all usual residents). In total, 64.3% of all communal establishment residents in East Sussex (5,800 residents) were in care homes in 2021. This was a decrease of almost 1,100 residents from 2011.

Of the 5,800 residents in care homes in 2021:

- 55.5% (3,220) were in care homes without nursing (down from 4,430 in 2011)
- 44.5% (2,580) were in care homes with nursing (up from 2,470 in 2011)

### Proportion of care home population residing in care homes with and without nursing in East Sussex in 2021



Source: ONS

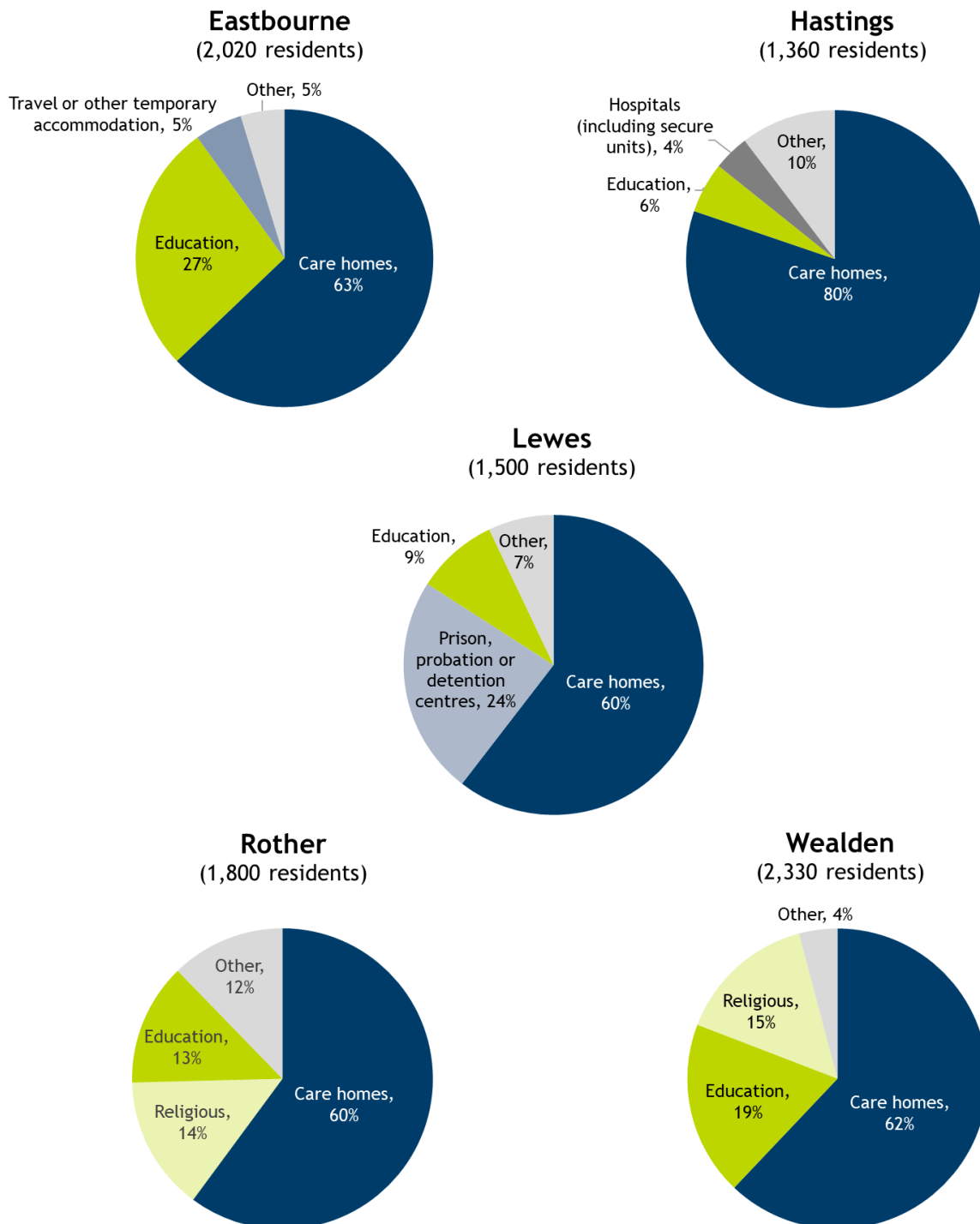
## Other types of communal establishments

There were considerably fewer people residing in other types of communal establishments:

- 1,430 (15.9% of all communal establishment residents) were in educational establishments (compared to 45.9% across the whole of England)
- 630 (7.0%) were in religious establishments (0.4% nationwide)
- 360 (3.9%) were in prison, probation or detention centres (6.4% nationwide)
- 210 (2.3%) were in travel or other temporary accommodation establishments (1.7% nationwide)
- 110 (1.2%) were in hospitals, including secure units (1.3% nationwide)
- 120 (1.3%) were in other medical and care establishments (0.6% nationwide)
- 80 (0.9%) were in hostels or temporary shelters for the homeless (1.3% nationwide)
- 30 (0.3%) were in children's homes, including secure units (0.3% nationwide)

A further 90 East Sussex residents (1.0%) were in staff or worker accommodation within the communal establishment or listed another type of communal establishment; 160 residents (1.8%) did not specify the type of communal establishment they lived in.

### Communal establishment residents by type of communal establishment



Source: ONS

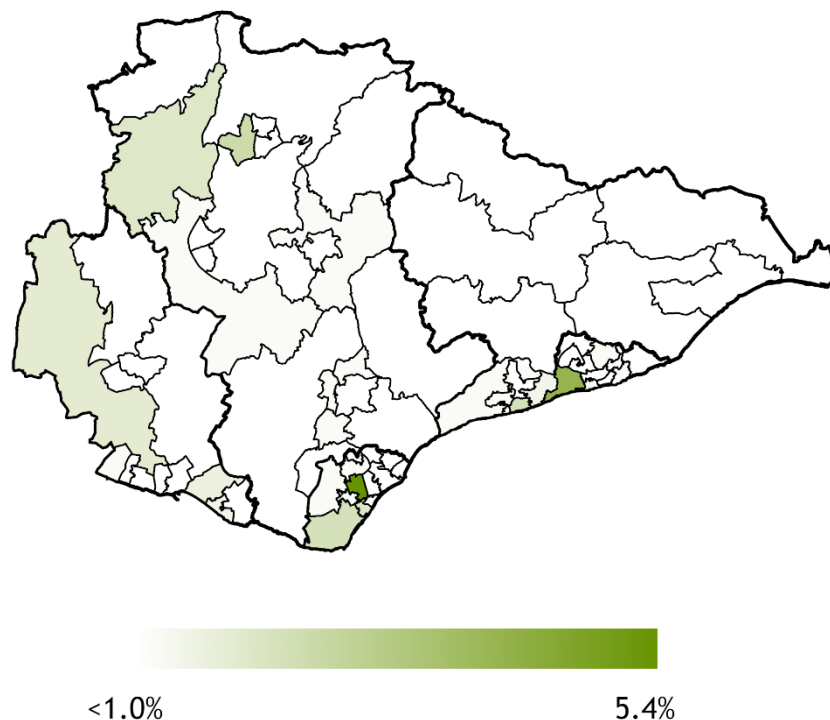
## How communal establishment populations varied across different geographies

The proportion of people living in communal establishments ranged from 1.5% in Hastings, Lewes and Wealden to 1.9% in Rother and 2.0% in Eastbourne. This averaged out at 1.7% across the whole of East Sussex, consistent with the English national average of 1.7%.

### Care homes

Care homes were the most common communal establishment type in all districts and boroughs of East Sussex. The percentage of the usual resident population that resided in care homes in 2021 was 1.25% in Eastbourne (1,270 residents), 1.20% in Hastings (1,090 residents), 1.16% in Rother (1,080 residents), 0.91% in Lewes (910 residents) and 0.90% in Wealden (1,450 residents). Across East Sussex as a whole, 1.06% of all usual residents resided in care homes in 2021, compared to just 0.57% in England overall.

**Percentage of all usual residents in care homes in 2021,  
by Middle layer Super Output Area**



Source: ONS; ESRI/ArcGIS

At lower-tier authority level, Eastbourne had second-highest proportion of residents in care homes in England after Worthing (1.32%); Hastings had the fourth-highest and Rother had the fifth-highest (Lewes and Wealden ranked 30<sup>th</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> respectively).

At MSA-level, the areas with the highest proportion of residents in care homes were Eastbourne 008 (Upperton, 5.4%, 376 residents), Hastings 010 (West St Leonards, 4.0%, 432 residents) and Wealden 004 (Crowborough Whitehill & Warren, 3.0%, 220 residents).

#### **MSOAs with more than 2% of usual residents in care homes:**

Area (MSOA)	House of Commons Name	Number of residents in care homes	Proportion of usual residents in care homes
<b>East Sussex</b>	<b>East Sussex</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>1.1%</b>
Eastbourne 008	Upperton	380	5.4%
Hastings 010	West St Leonards	430	4.0%
Wealden 004	Crowborough Whitehill & Warren	220	3.0%
Eastbourne 012	Meads	200	3.0%
Rother 011	Bexhill Central	260	2.8%
Wealden 007	Chelwood & Nutley	150	2.8%
Eastbourne 011	King Edward's Parade	200	2.6%
Lewes 002	Wivelsfield Green, Ditchling & Rodmell	230	2.4%
Lewes 011	East Blatchington	220	2.4%
Rother 008	Bexhill East & Pebsham	160	2.0%
Lewes 013	Seaford Town	130	2.0%

Source: ONS

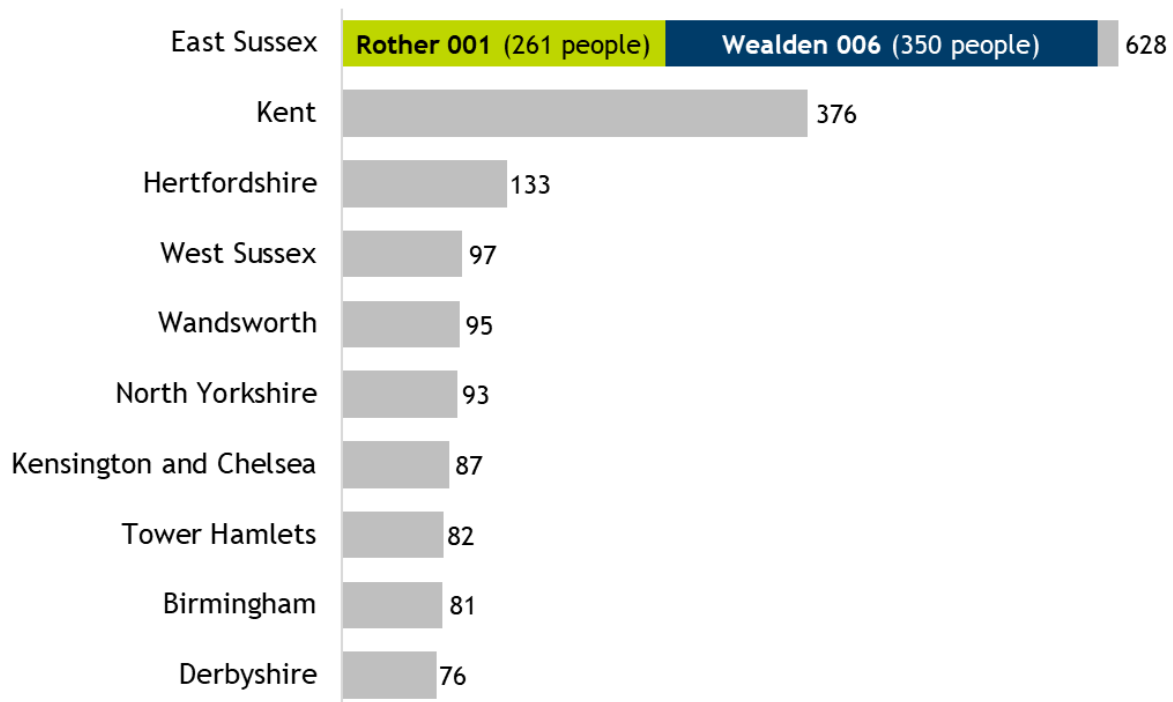
### Educational establishments

Looking at other types of communal establishment, Eastbourne had the highest percentage of the population who resided in educational establishments (0.54%, 550 residents) of all the districts and boroughs in East Sussex, whereas Hastings had the lowest (0.08%, 75 residents). Nationwide, 0.80% of all usual residents in England resided in educational establishments.

### Religious communal establishments

Rother had the highest proportion of residents living in religious communal establishments in the country, and Wealden had the second-highest. At county level, East Sussex had the highest number of residents living in religious establishments (628 residents out of 3,530 nationwide), followed by Kent in second place (376), and Hertfordshire in 3rd place (133).

#### Number of residents living in religious communal establishments



Source: ONS

Just two East Sussex MSOAs - Rother 001 and Wealden 006 - housed 17.3% of all residents across the whole of England living in religious communal establishments. (Wealden 006 is home to the Scientology Walsh Manor complex, and Rother 001 is home to the Bruderhof community in the village of Darvell, Robertsbridge).

### **Hostels or temporary establishments for the homeless**

The data also show which areas had the highest percentage of the population residing in hostels or temporary shelters for the homeless. This includes residents and day visitors if they have no other residence. Within East Sussex, only Eastbourne, Hastings and Lewes recorded any residents in this type of accommodation. At county level, East Sussex ranked 79th out of 153 county and unitary authorities within England in terms of the proportion of the population living in hostels or temporary shelters for the homeless (80 residents, 0.02% of the total usual resident population for the county).

## Limitations and mitigations

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) produces census data for a range of different output geographies. This includes census statistics for small areas/neighbourhoods right up to statistics for large administrative units. When added together, detailed census results for smaller areas may not exactly match the same data for larger areas. This is because the ONS uses statistical disclosure control methods which swap very small numbers between areas, and/or add small changes to some counts (cell key perturbation). For example, they might change a count of four to a three or a five, to make sure that it is impossible to identify specific individuals. This means that data for small areas may not sum to the totals for higher geographical levels.

For this reason, in any discussion of the census results, we have chosen to round numbers to the nearest 10. Where percentages have been provided, these are based on unrounded numbers. Tables published in this report and on East Sussex in Figures website contain unrounded data as supplied by the ONS, but come with the caveat that individual numbers and totals may vary slightly between tables depending on the selected output geography, as detailed above.

Census statistics are estimates rather than counts, and therefore have measures of uncertainty associated with them. As with all self-completion questionnaires, some forms will have contained incorrect, incomplete, or missing information about a person or household. While the ONS takes numerous steps to correct and minimise possible sources of error, as described in their [Quality and Methodology Information \(QMI\) Report](#), no census is perfect.



## Further Information

For more information about the census data visit the [ONS website](#). For queries specifically relating to East Sussex, please contact the Research and Intelligence Team via email at [esif@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:esif@eastsussex.gov.uk).

The Research and Intelligence Team, Governance Services, provides demographic and socio-economic data, intelligence and insight to support East Sussex County Council and other East Sussex Partners. The Team also manages East Sussex in Figures (ESiF), the Local Information System for East Sussex. ESiF is a web-based information system that contains detailed, up-to-date and reliable information on a very wide range of topics. Visit [www.eastsussexinfigures.org.uk](http://www.eastsussexinfigures.org.uk) for more information.