



Downham ward profile

Table of contents

Councillors 2022 - 2026	Page 3
Ward profiles introduction	Pages 4 & 5
Ward introduction	Pages 6 & 7
Key statistics	Pages 8 & 9
Population	Pages 10 & 11
Diversity: ethnicity and religion	Pages 12 & 13
Diversity: country of birth	Pages 14 & 15
Diversity: language	Pages 16 & 17
Deprivation	Pages 18 & 19
Fuel poverty and EPC*	Pages 20 & 21
Housing and affordability	Pages 22 & 23
Household composition	Pages 24 & 25
Employment	Pages 26 & 27
Benefit claimants	Pages 28 & 29
Health and wellbeing	Pages 30 & 31
Health and life expectancy	Pages 32 & 33
Environment	Pages 34 & 35
Education	Pages 36 & 37
Crime	Pages 38 & 39
Residents' survey	Pages 40 & 41
Data sources	Page 42

* EPC stands for Energy Performance Certificate

Councillors 2022 - 2026



Andre Bourne

Labour Party



Coral Howard

Labour Party



Oana Olaru

Labour Party

Ward profile introduction

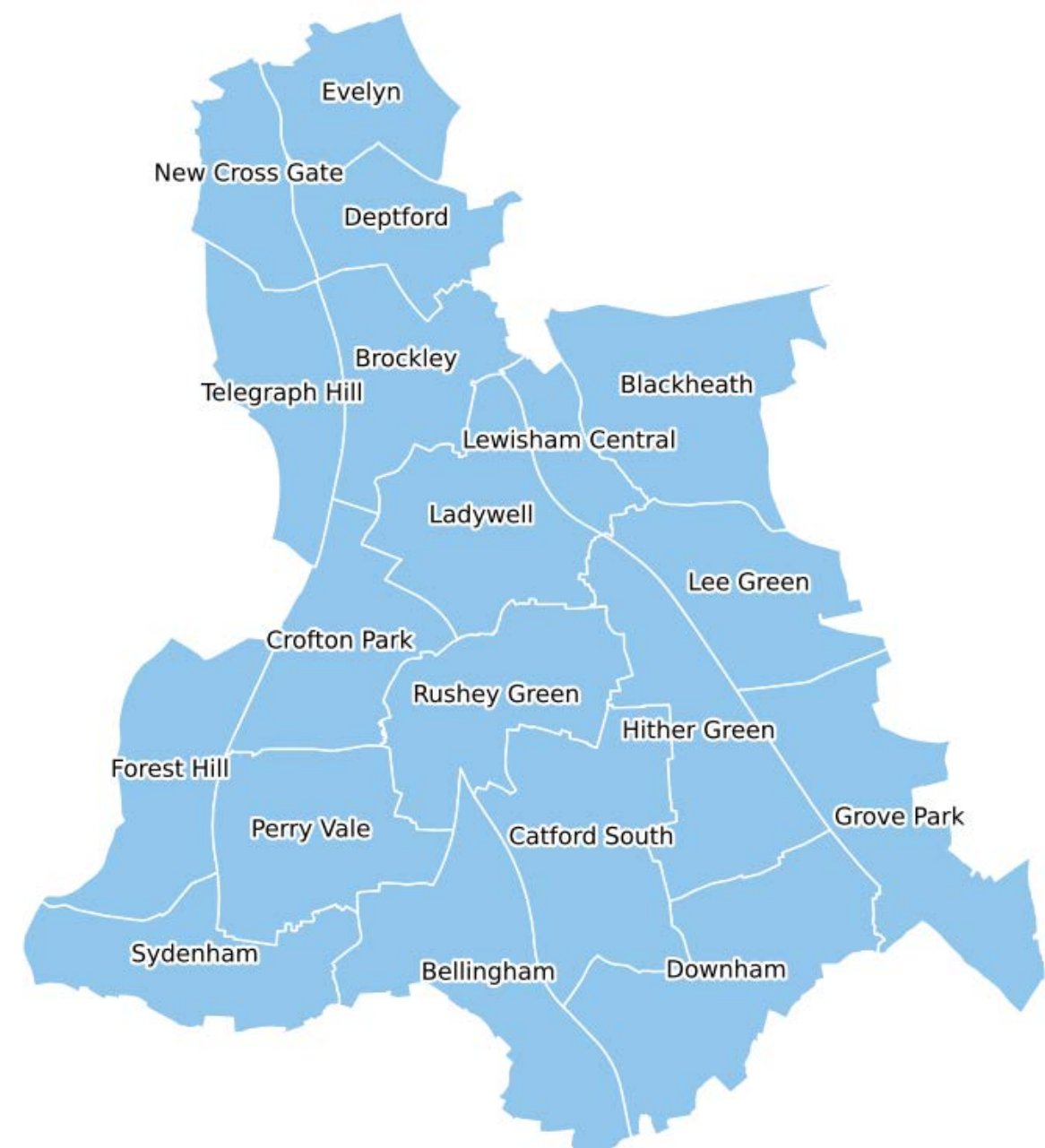
About Lewisham's Ward profiles

The ward profiles bring together some of the key data sources to provide the demographic, social and economic characteristics of an area. In May 2022, the number of wards increased from 18 to 19.

- The boundaries of two wards have stayed the same, Telegraph Hill and Forest Hill, all the others changed.
- Two wards no longer exists: New Cross and Whitefoot.
- We now have three brand new wards: Deptford, Hither Green and New Cross Gate.
- 16 wards have three Councillors.
- Three wards have only two Councillors: Bellingham, Lewisham Central and New Cross Gate.
- The total number of Councillors remained in 54, the same as the previous period.

At the time of publication, the results of the 2021 Census have not yet been published, which means many indicator variables in this report rely on potentially outdated data from the 2011 Census. Data sources of all charts and statistics are clearly stated throughout this document. Revised data will be made available in the next revision of this document.

Wards 2022



Downham

In the recent boundary changes, **Downham ward was extended to incorporate some of the previous Whitefoot ward**. This summary is based on the previous ward boundaries.

Downham estate was built in the late 1920s and early 1930s. **There are some large areas of open space** including Downham Fields (also known as Durham Hill Park), a Woodland Walk and part of Beckenham Place Park falls within the ward. There has been an aspiration for many years to improve the facilities at Downham Fields and this featured heavily in the Downham Commonplace consultation.

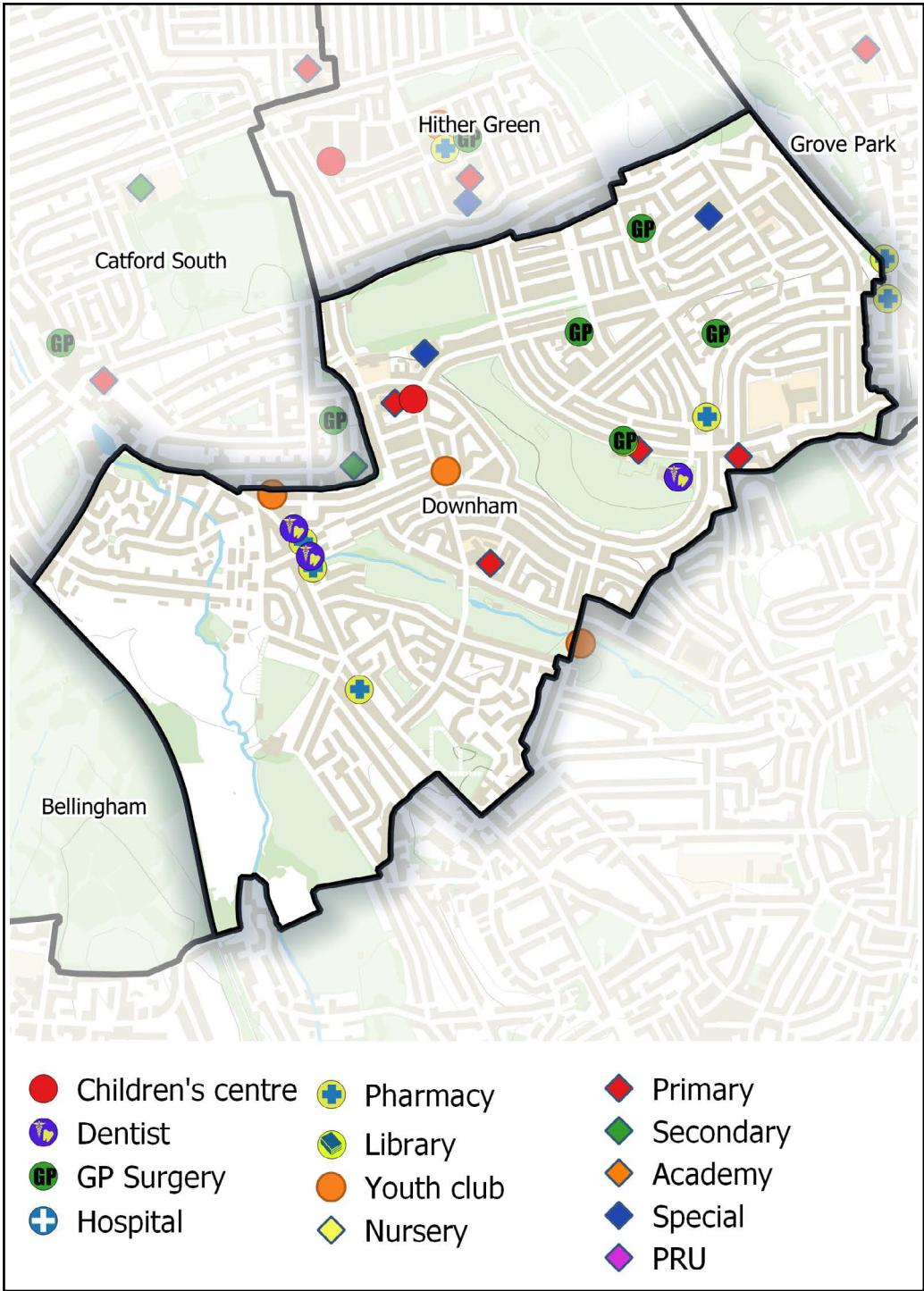
In the **heart of the ward is Downham Health & Leisure Centre** with a 25 metre pool and a learner pool. The Leisure Centre is also the location of Downham Library which is one of three libraries within the borough still managed by the Council.

Wesley Halls is the main community centre in the ward with a full and wide-ranging programme of classes and activities. Many of the local churches also run community activities. Downham Celebrates organises popular community events including both a summer and a Christmas Festival. In addition, Phoenix Community Housing holds events including the Phoenix Festival.

Less than half the housing in Downham is privately owned with Phoenix Housing as the main social landlord. Downham has one of the **highest levels of unemployment** in the borough and **the highest level of fuel poverty**.

The **£88,589 Downham NCIL** (based on the old ward boundaries) **will see money go towards three projects** - improvements at Downham Fields and two youth projects, Girls-R-U's which will take place at Wesley Halls and a detached youth project which will work out of St Luke's Church.

Key facilities in Downham



Summary of key statistics

Population

18,224

Average age

36

% of households that
reported themselves as a
family

58.2

% of residents in
employment

61

% of residents that
practice a religion

68.1

% of residents not born in
England

15.8

Number of universal credit
claimants

2,443

% of residents whose day
to day activities are limited
a lot

9.6

% of residents with low
English proficiency

2.1

LSOAs among the most
deprived 20% of national
IMD

7 of 12

Average life expectancy
(female / male)

83.8(f) / 77.4(m)

Air pollution (NO2) with
recommended guideline
<40

6.86

Average proportion of
households in fuel poverty

14% - 30.2%

Median house price
(borough)

£430k

% of residents without
formal qualifications

30.3

Number of crimes reported
in 2021

1,601

Population

Downham has an estimated population of **18,224 residents**, which makes it one of the larger constituencies in the borough (rank 5 of 19 wards.)

Among its residents, **52.3% identify as female**, and **47.7% as male**. Unfortunately, ONS population statistics do not include estimates for nonbinary gender identities.

The **average age in Downham is 36**, compared to 36 in Lewisham as a whole, and 37 in London. This makes it one of the oldest wards in the borough.



18,224

People lived in Downham
in 2019



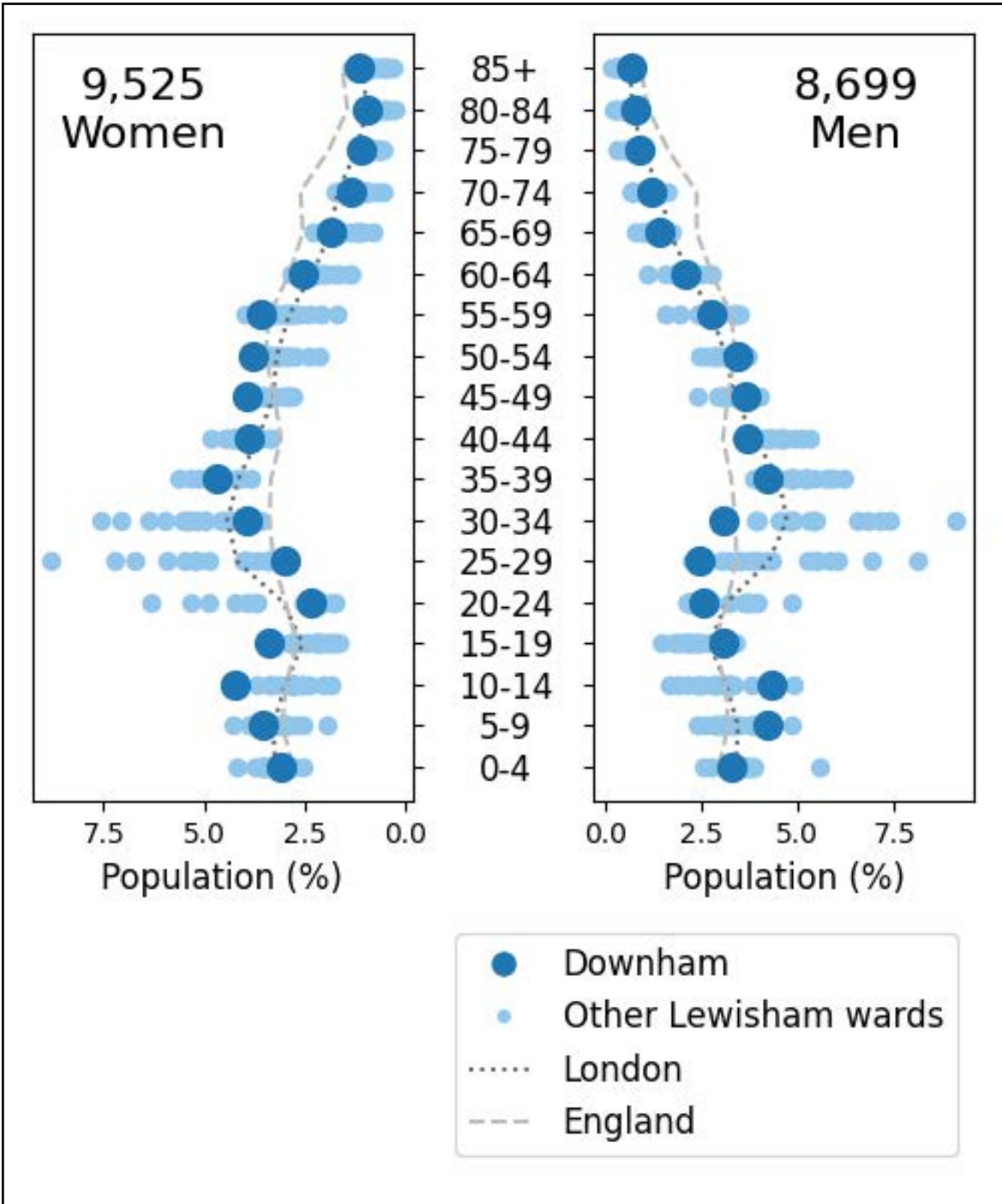
6,800

Population density in
2019

In terms of its geographic area, at 2.7 km² it is one of the largest wards in the borough (rank 1 of 19.)

As to its population density, at 6,800 people per km² it is among the least densely populated wards in the borough (rank 17 of 19.)

Population by five years age group and gender in Downham, ONS 2019



Proportion of Population Groups in Downham, ONS 2020

	United Kingdom	London	Lewisham	Downham
Children and Youth (0-17)	22.2%	23.8%	23.3%	28.1%
Working age (18-64)	60.2%	64.8%	67.8%	61.3%
Senior (65+)	17.6%	11.4%	8.9%	10.6%

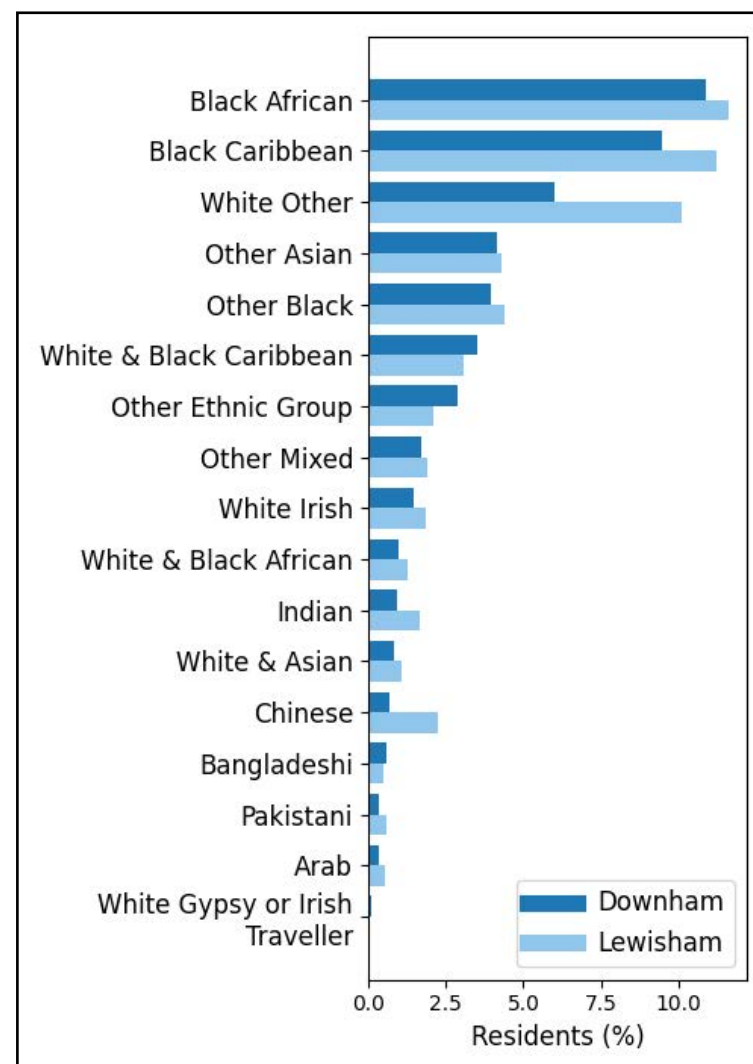
Diversity: Ethnicity and religion

Ethnicity

51.1% of Downham residents have an ethnicity of White British (White English, Welsh, Scottish, or Northern Irish), compared to 41.5% in Lewisham as a whole, 44.9% in London, and 79.8% in England.

Among those not White British, the three most common ethnicities are Black African (10.9%), Black Caribbean (9.5%), and White Other (6.0%).

Ethnicity (excluding White British) in Downham, ONS Census 2011

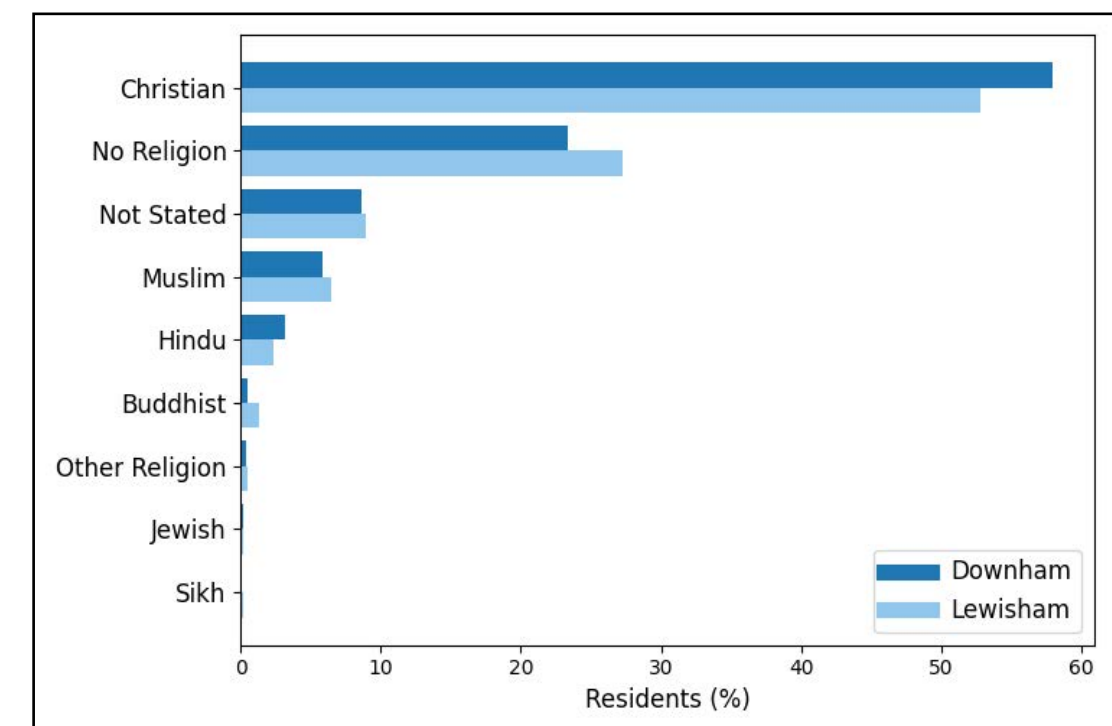


Religion

58.0% of Downham residents identify as Christian, compared to 52.8% in Lewisham as a whole, 48.4% in London, and 59.4% in England.

Among those not identifying as Christian, the three most common religions are No Religion (23.3%), Not Stated (8.6%), and Muslim (5.9%).

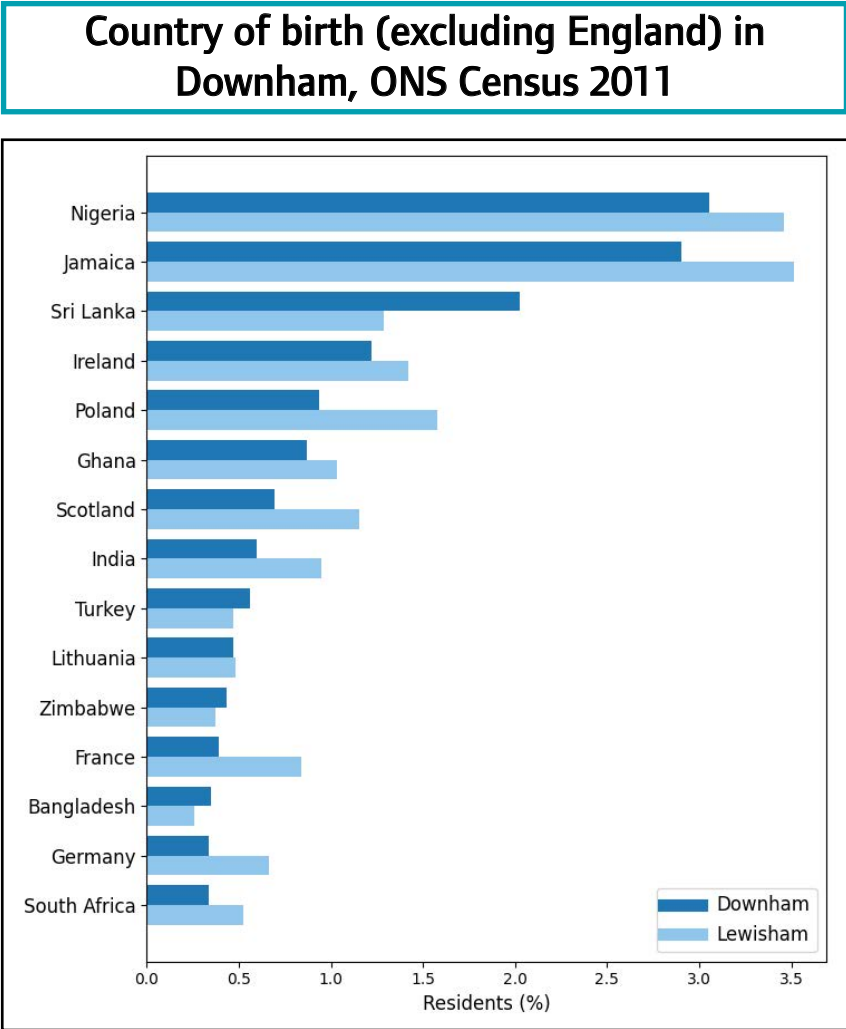
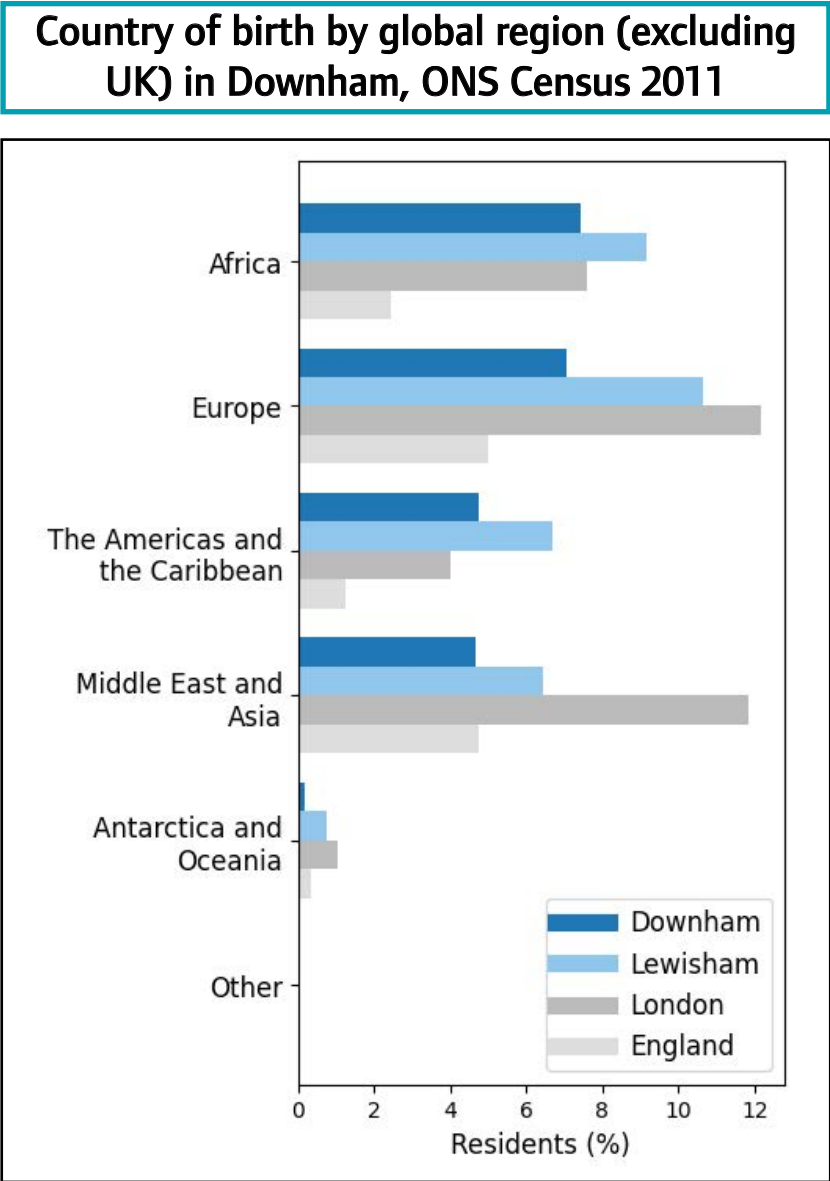
Religion and beliefs in Downham, ONS Census 2011



Diversity: Country of birth

74.6% of Downham residents were born in England, compared to 64.0% in Lewisham as a whole, 61.1% in London, and 83.5% in England.

Among those not born in England, the three most common countries of birth are Nigeria (3.1%), Jamaica (2.9%), and Sri Lanka (2.0%).

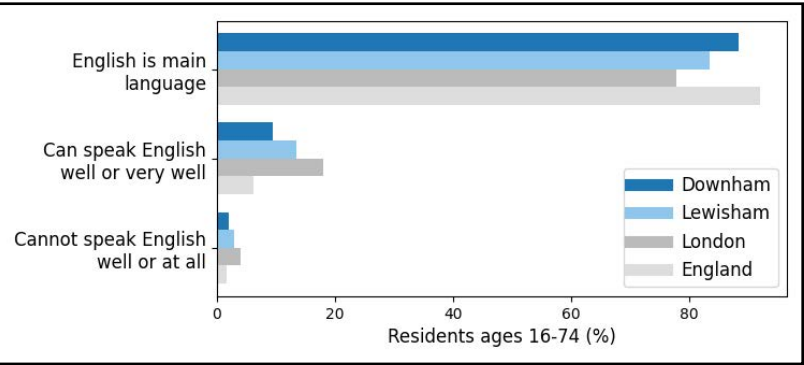


Diversity: Languages

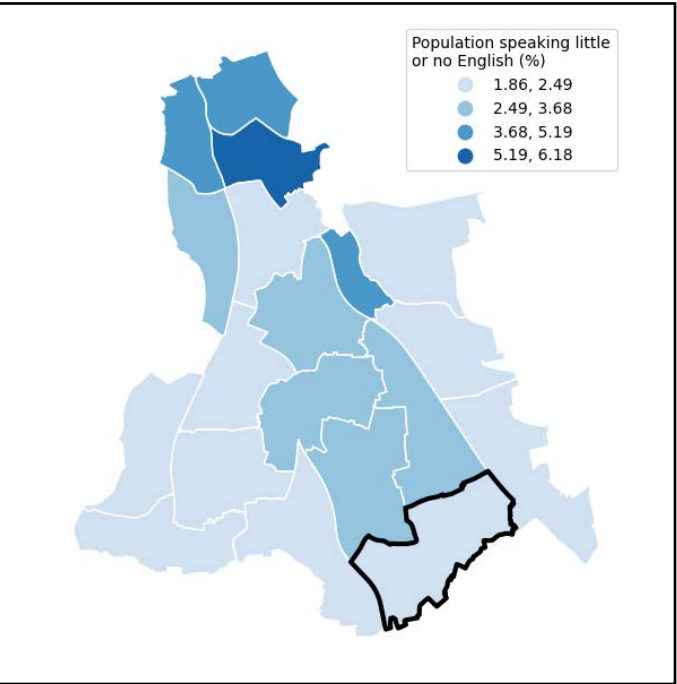
88.5% of Downham residents speak English as their primary language, compared to 83.5% in Lewisham as a whole, 77.9% in London, and 92.0% in England.

Of the remaining residents, 9.4% can speak English well or very well.

English proficiency in Downham, ONS Census 2011



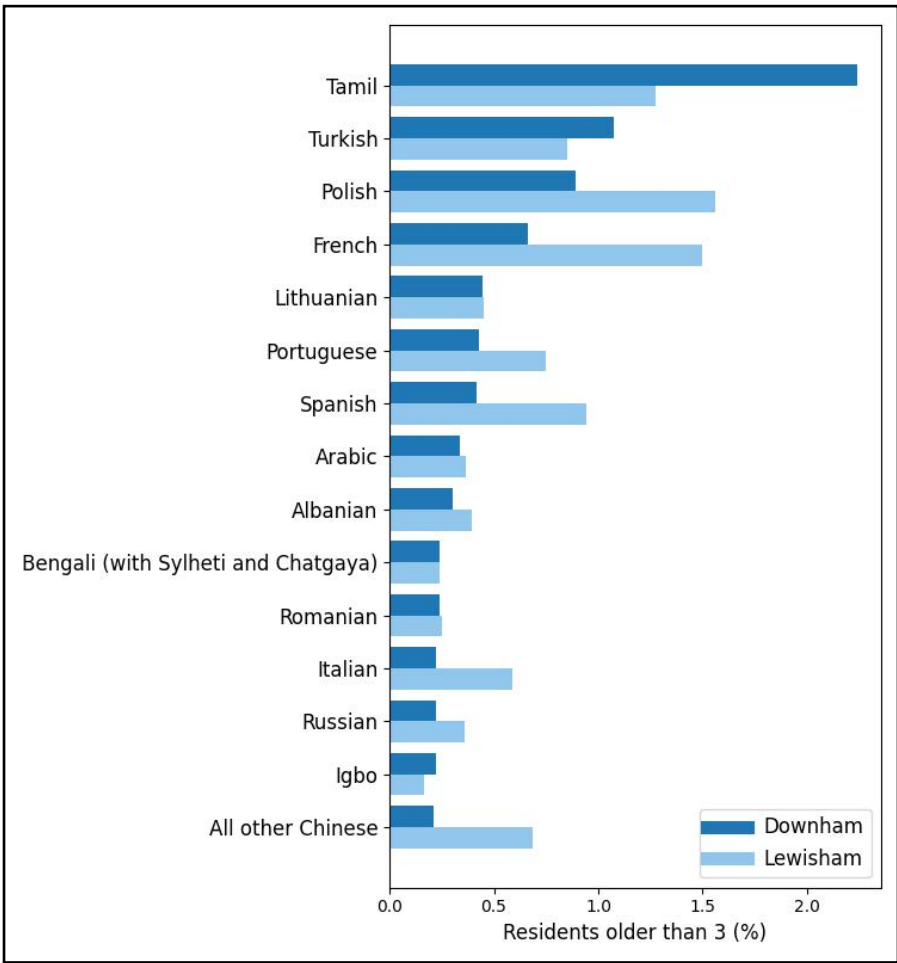
Population speaking little or no English in Downham, ONS Census 2011



On the other hand, **2.1% of residents cannot speak English well or at all**, compared to a Lewisham average of 3.1%. This means an estimated 375 people in Downham may require everyday language support.

Among those not speaking English as their main language, the three most widely spoken languages are Tamil (2.2%), Turkish (1.1%), and Polish (0.9%).

Main language (excluding English) in Downham, ONS Census 2011



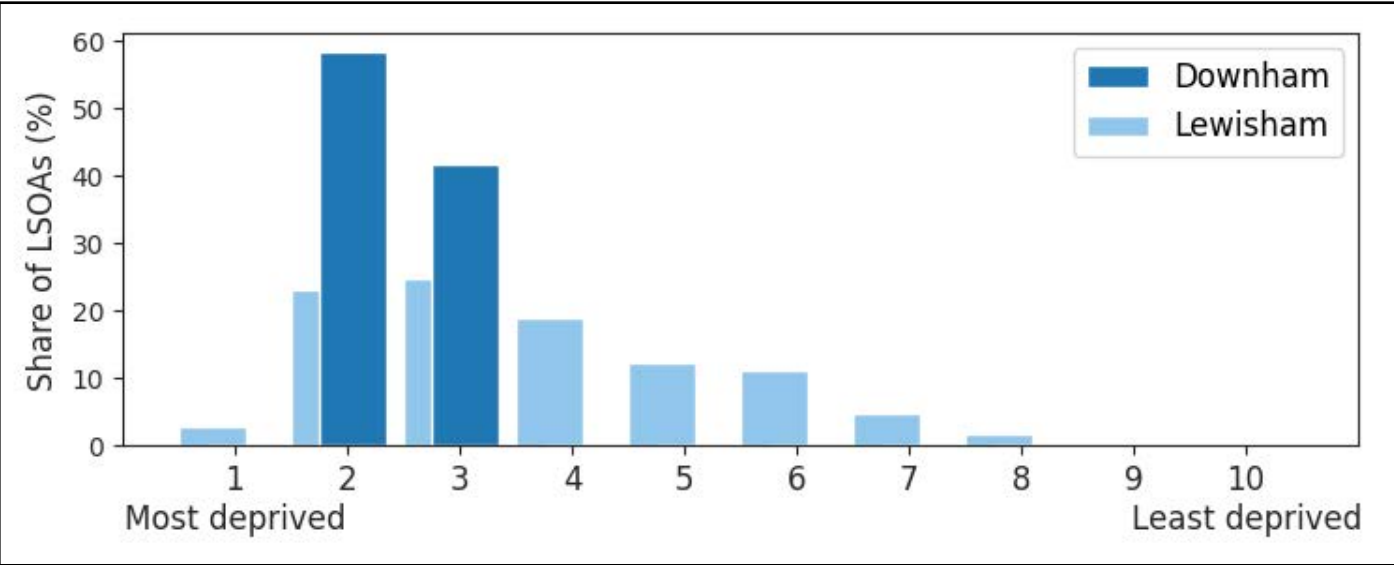
Deprivation

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is the official measure of relative deprivation in England. It is based on multiple factors: population income, employment, education skills and training, health and disability, crime, barriers to housing and services, and general living environment.

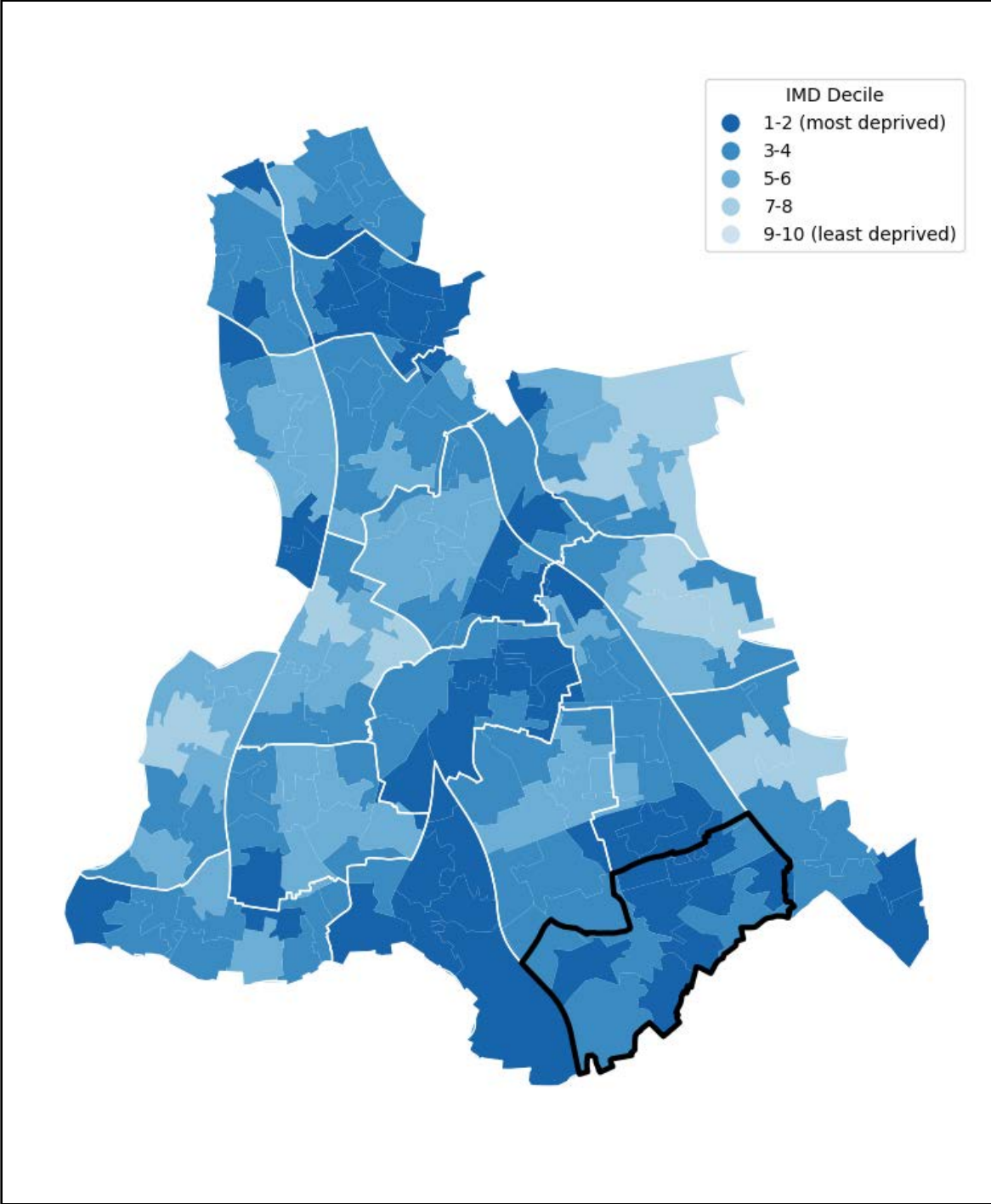
The IMD is determined for small areas, using a statistical geography called Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOA), with each LSOA typically representing between 1,000 and 3,000 people. Each LSOA in England is ranked from most deprived to least deprived, and then segmented into ten groups (or deciles), with the bottom decile (or decile 1) representing the most deprived 10% LSOAs in England.

Of the 12 LSOAs in Downham, seven rank in the bottom 20% of the country (decile 1 or 2.)

Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Downham, ONS Census 2011



Deprivation in Downham, ONS Census 2011



Fuel poverty and EPC

Fuel poverty in England is measured statistically using the Low Income High Costs definition, under which a household is considered to be in fuel poverty if:

- They have required fuel costs that above average (the national median spend on fuel).
- Were they to spend that amount they would be left with a residual income below the official poverty line.

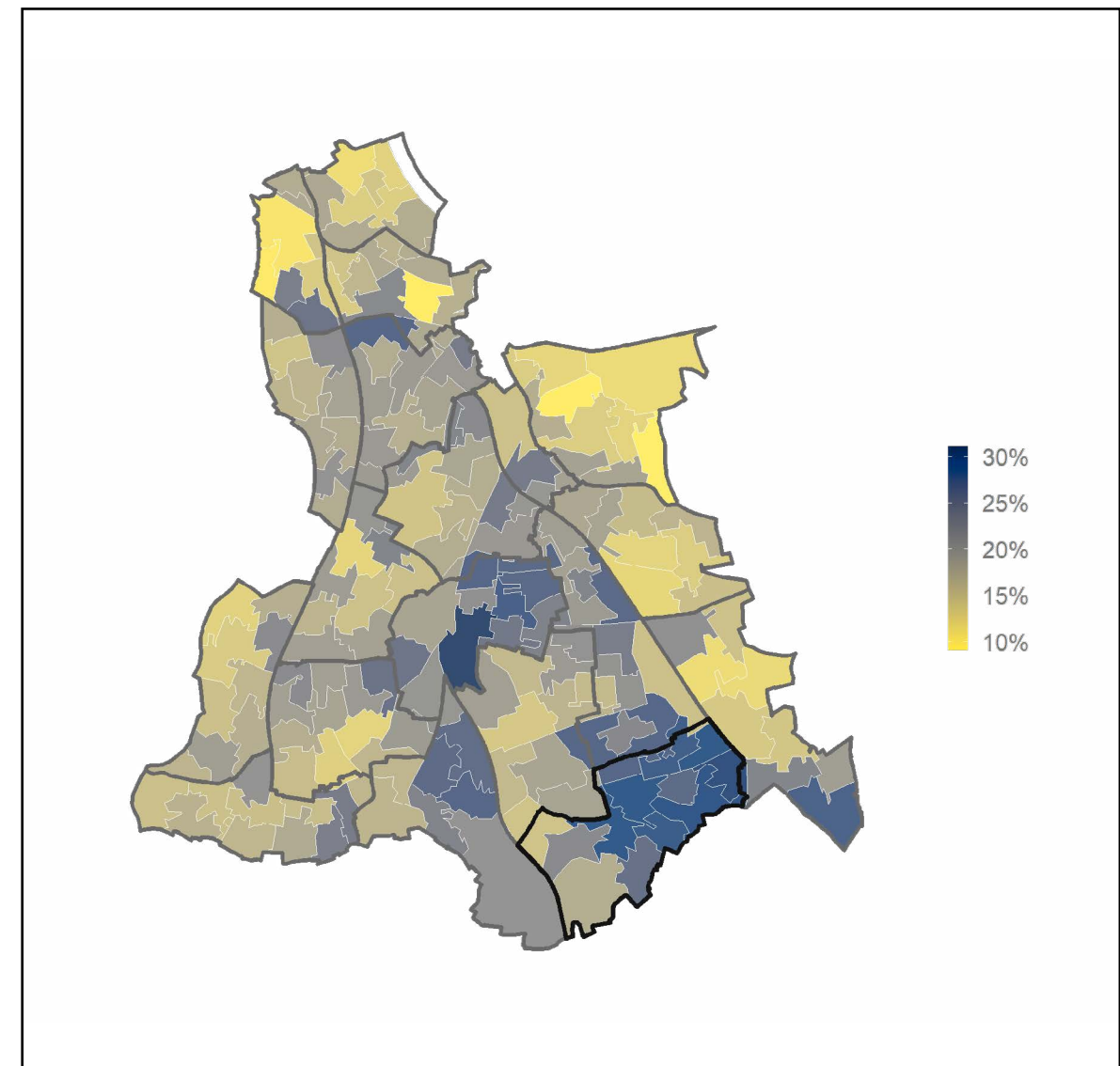
In the 12 LSOAs in Downham, proportion of households fuel poor ranges from 14% to 30.2%.

Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) were first introduced in England and Wales in 2007, and are valid for 10 years. They contain information about a property's energy use and typical energy costs, and recommendations about how to reduce energy use and save money. Dwellings are rated between A (highly energy efficient) and G (highly inefficient.) The average EPC rating for dwellings in England is D.

In Downham, 37% of assessed households have received an EPC rating of A, B, or C, which means they are highly energy-efficient.

It is estimated that the share of highly energy-efficient dwellings in Downham could be as high as 88% if home owners were to carry out the improvements recommended during their assessment.

Proportion of households in fuel poverty, BEIS 2019



Housing and affordability

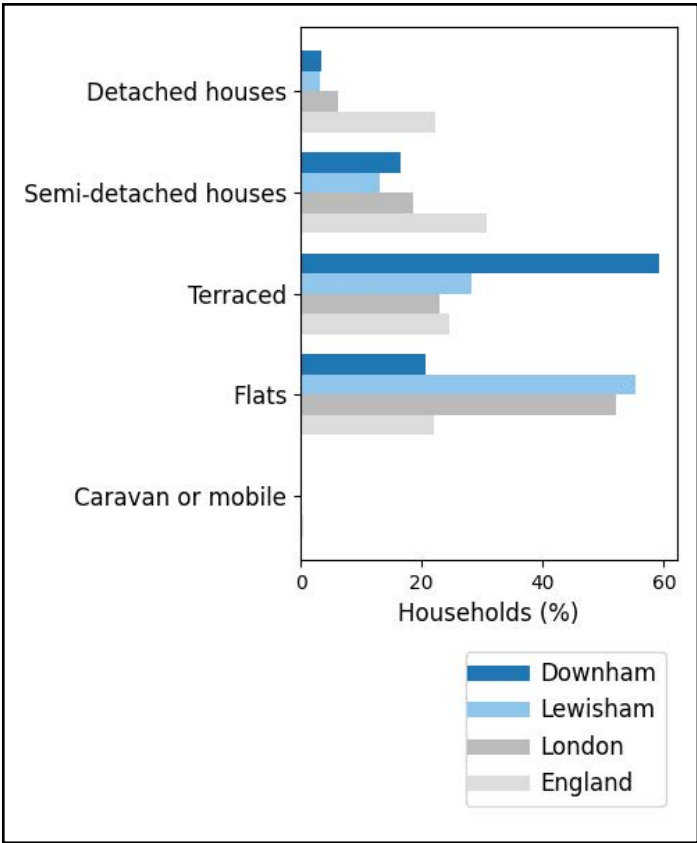
20.7% of Downham residents live in flats, compared to 55.4% in Lewisham as a whole, 52.2% in London, and 22.1% in England. Among Downham residents, the three most common accommodation types are Terraced (59.2%), Flats (20.7%), and Semi-detached houses (16.5%).

41.3% of Downham residents live in social rented accommodation, compared to 31.1% in Lewisham as a whole, 24.1% in London, and 17.7% in England. Among Downham residents, the three most common types of tenure are Owned (43.8%), Social rented (41.3%), and Private rented (13.0%).

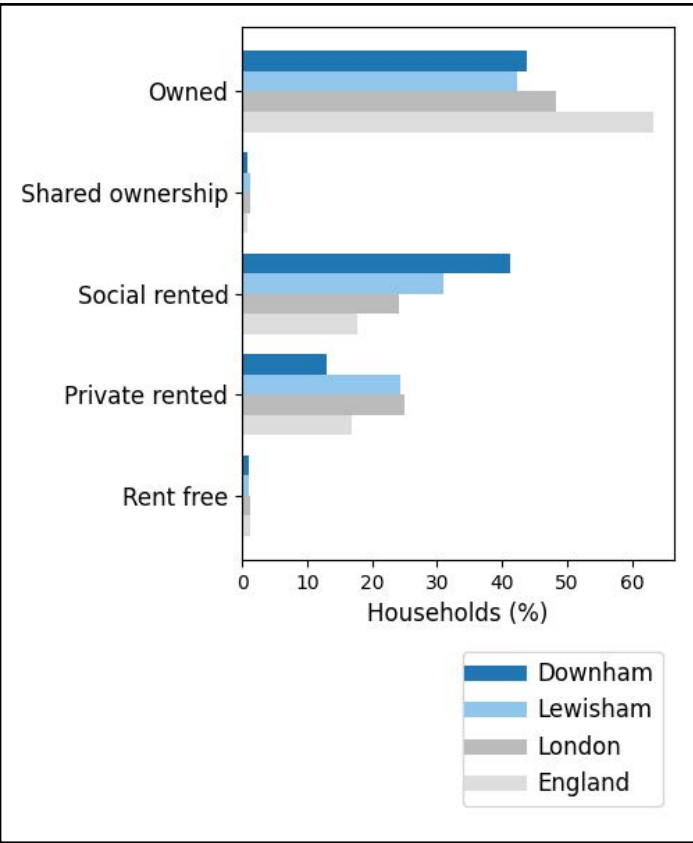
House prices in Lewisham remain lower than those for London as a whole. In 2020, the median house price in the borough was **£430,000** compared with £483,000 for Greater London and £249,000 for England.

In terms of relative affordability based on median prices, Lewisham had a median work-place based income to house price ratio in 2020 of 12.3x. Based on median ratios, Lewisham was relatively more affordable than Lambeth, Greenwich and Bromley; and less affordable than Southwark, Croydon, Tower Hamlets and London overall, the South East region and England.

Housing by accommodation type in Downham, ONS Census 2011



Types of tenure in Downham, ONS Census 2011

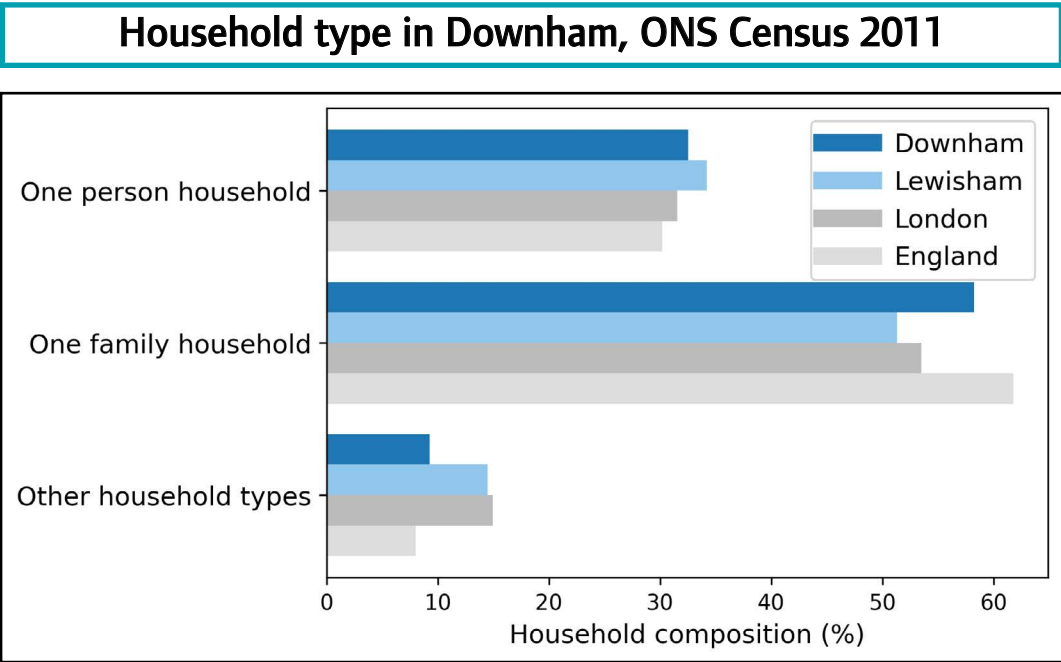


Relative affordability of median prices by local authority area, ONS 2021

	Workplace-based				Resident-based			
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2017	2018	2019	2020
Southwark	14.23	13.88	13.87	12.12	15.28	15.35	14.31	13.83
Lambeth	14.7	14.5	14.3	14.21	15.03	13.82	14.4	13.1
London	7.91	12.26	12.05	11.78	13.25	13.09	12.75	12.52
Tower Hamlets	9.82	9.85	10.67	9.98	12.88	12.73	11.5	12.12
Greenwich	12.87	12.97	13.77	12.73	12.67	11.95	12.72	12
Lewisham	12.61	13.65	13.27	12.33	12.28	12.2	12.74	11.55
Bromley	14.59	14.3	13.85	13.3	10.83	11	10.73	10.55
Croydon	11.21	11.09	10.83	11.34	10.73	10.46	10.97	10.41
South East	10.25	10.37	10.05	9.92	9.79	9.92	9.67	9.57
England	7.91	8.04	7.88	7.84	7.91	8.04	7.88	7.84

Household composition

Of Downham’s households in 2011, 32.5% were one person households, 58.2% were families and 9.2% other household types, compared to a Lewisham average composition of 34.1% one person household, 51.3% families and 14.4% other household types.

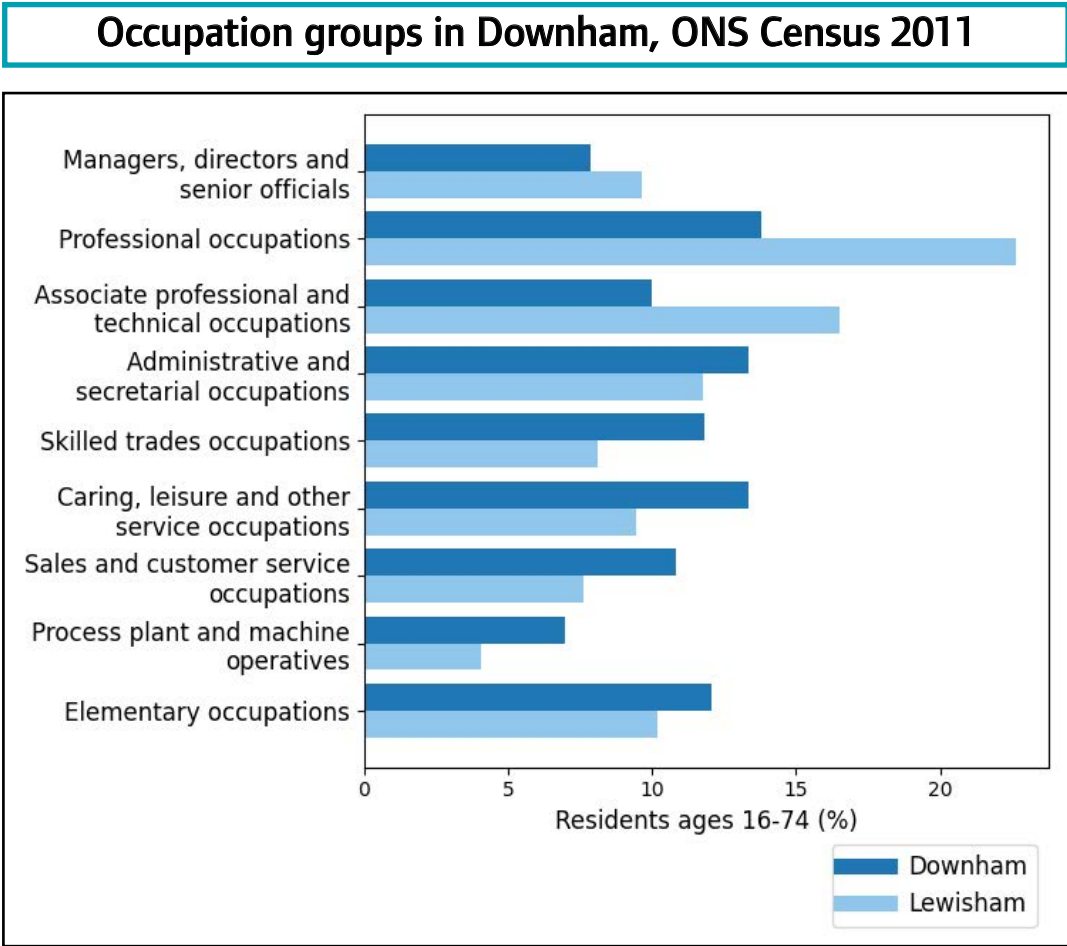
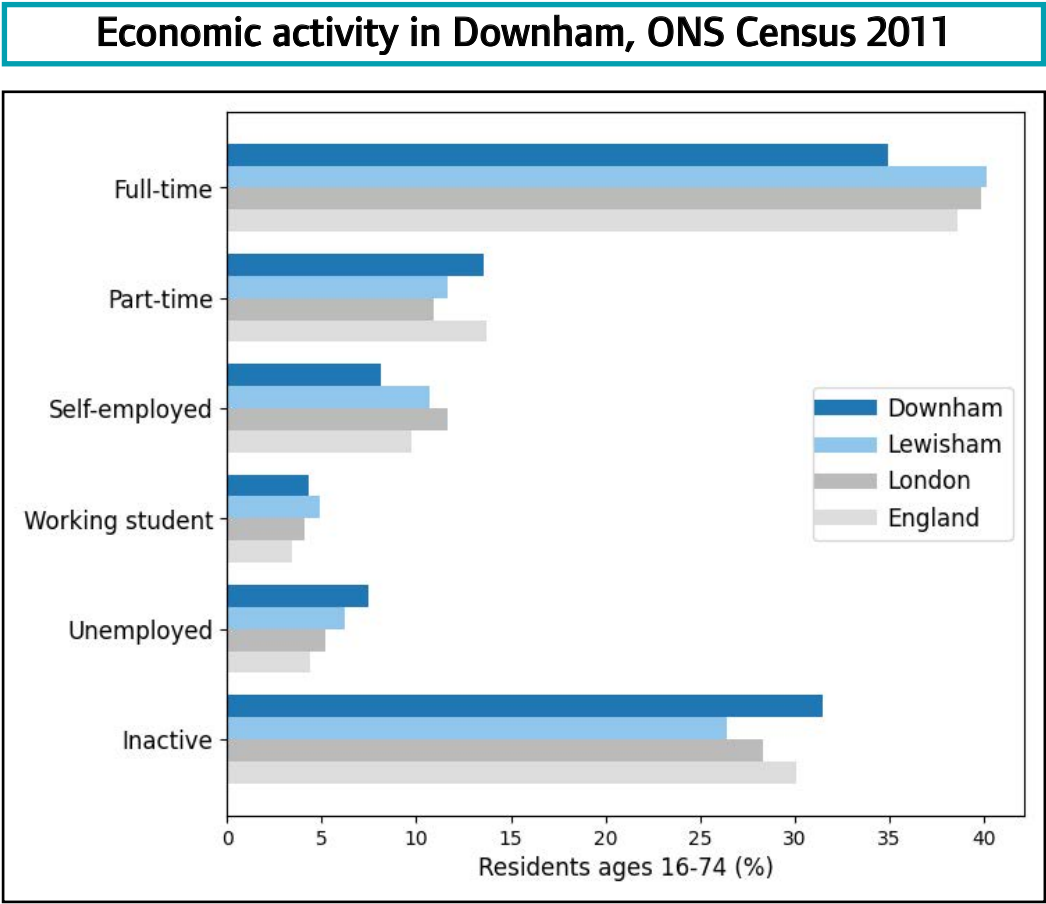


Household living arrangements in Downham, ONS Census 2011						
	Downham		Lewisham		England	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
One person household: Aged 65 and over	933	13.5	9,994	8.6	2,725,596	12.4
One person household: Other	1309	18.9	29,686	25.6	3,940,897	17.9
One family only: All aged 65 and over	276	4	3,134	2.7	1,789,465	8.1
One family only: Married or same-sex civil partnership couple: No children	392	5.7	7,985	6.9	2,719,210	12.3
One family only: Married or same-sex civil partnership couple: Dependent children	949	13.8	14,152	12.2	3,375,890	15.3
One family only: Married or same-sex civil partnership couple: All children non-dependent	271	3.9	4,105	3.5	1,234,355	5.6
One family only: Cohabiting couple: No children	176	2.6	6,755	5.8	1,173,172	5.3
One family only: Cohabiting couple: Dependent children	314	4.6	4,200	3.6	890,780	4
One family only: Cohabiting couple: All children non-dependent	47	0.7	464	0.4	108,486	0.5
One family only: Lone parent: Dependent children	1133	16.4	13,301	11.5	1,573,255	7.1
One family only: Lone parent: All children non-dependent	459	6.6	5,494	4.7	766,569	3.5
Other household types: With dependent children	317	4.6	5,257	4.5	584,016	2.6
Other household types: All full-time students	5	0.1	718	0.6	124,285	0.6
Other household types: All aged 65 and over	27	0.4	307	0.3	61,715	0.3
Other household types: Other	290	4.2	10,539	9.1	995,677	4.5

Employment

In the 2011 Census, the unemployment rate in Downham was 7.5% among residents aged 16-74, compared to a Lewisham average of 6.3%. 31.5% of residents are not economically active, for example because they are in education, looking after home or family, long-term sick or disabled, or in retirement.

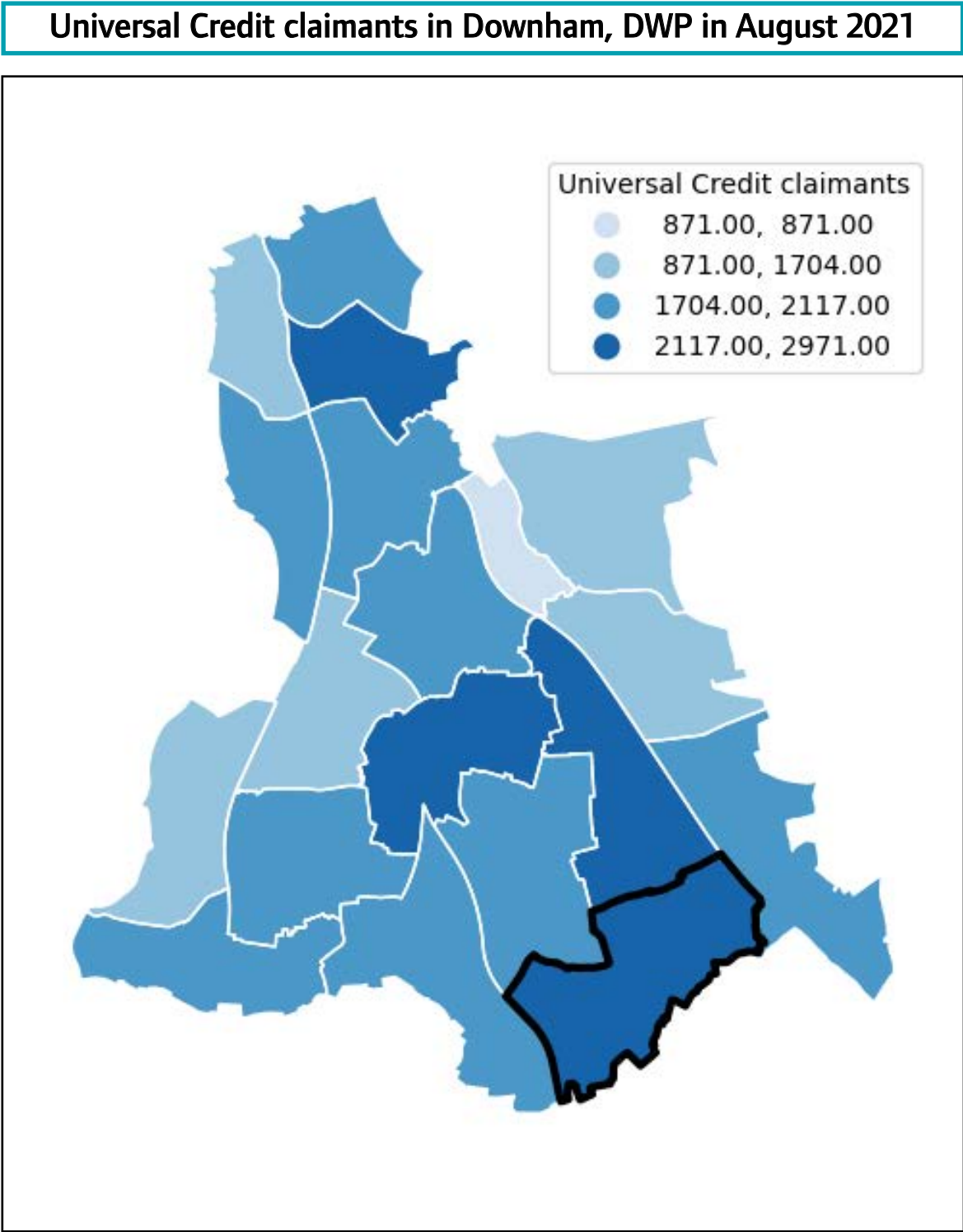
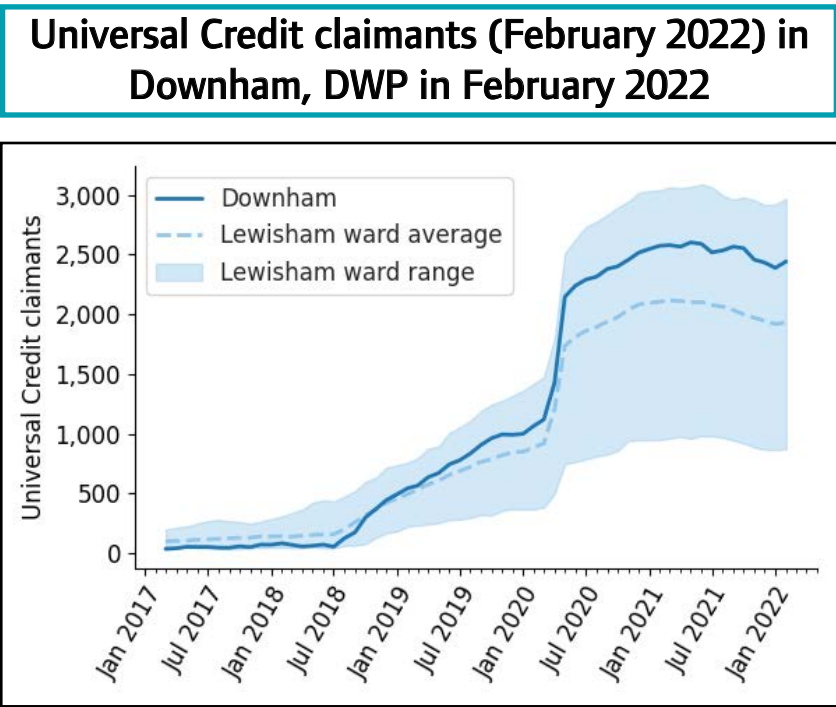
The three most common occupations in Downham are Professional occupations (13.8%), Administrative and secretarial occupations (13.4%), and Caring, leisure and other service occupations (13.3%).



Benefit claimants

Universal Credit is the primary social security payment for working-age people with a low household income. It was introduced in 2013 and has gradually replaced six prior benefits: income-based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance, and Income Support; Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit; and Housing Benefit. All Universal Credit recipients receive a standard payment that varies by age and whether they live with a partner. Additional payments are offered to help with housing, children and childcare, sickness and disability, and for carers. A further weekly £20 uplift was offered during the COVID-19 pandemic until September 2021.

In Downham, **2,443 people received Universal Credit in February 2022**. By comparison, in February 2020, 1,065 people received Universal Credit.

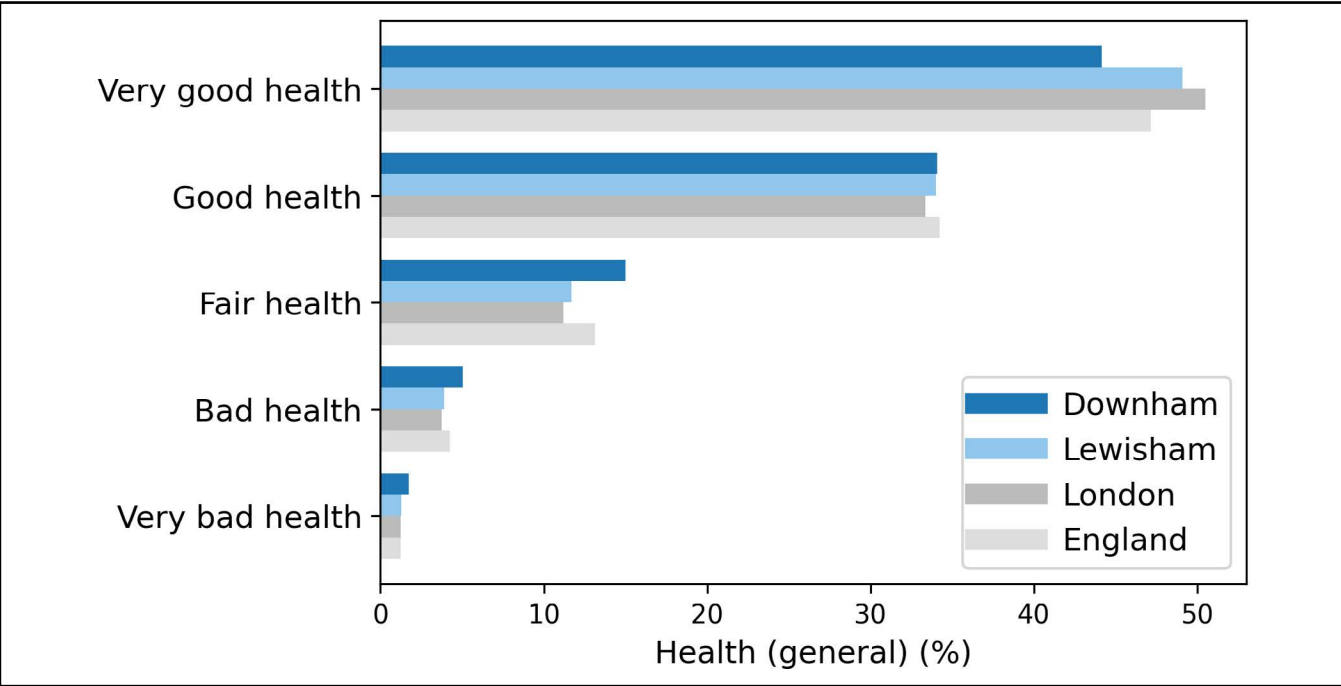


Health and wellbeing

Census captures different metrics related to a self-assessment of health which can be a useful indicator of the population’s general wellbeing and health-related quality of life. These include general health, day-to-day activities limited, and provision of unpaid care.

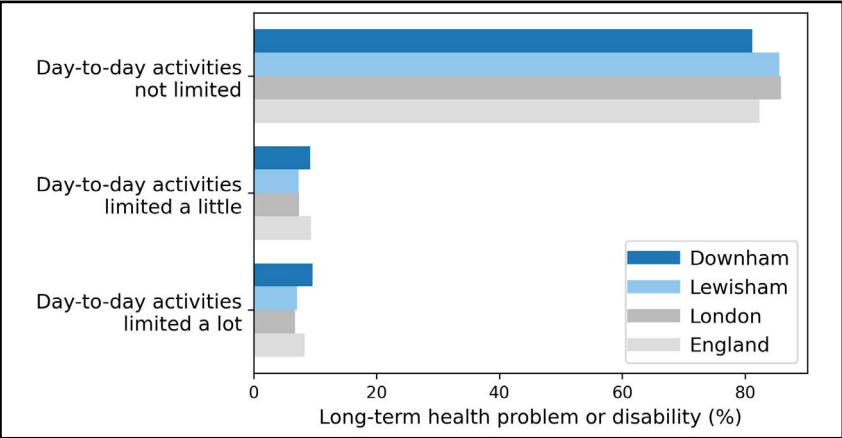
The average rate of Downham residents in very good/good health is 78% compared to a Lewisham average of 81% and a national average of 83%.

General health status in Downham, ONS Census 2011

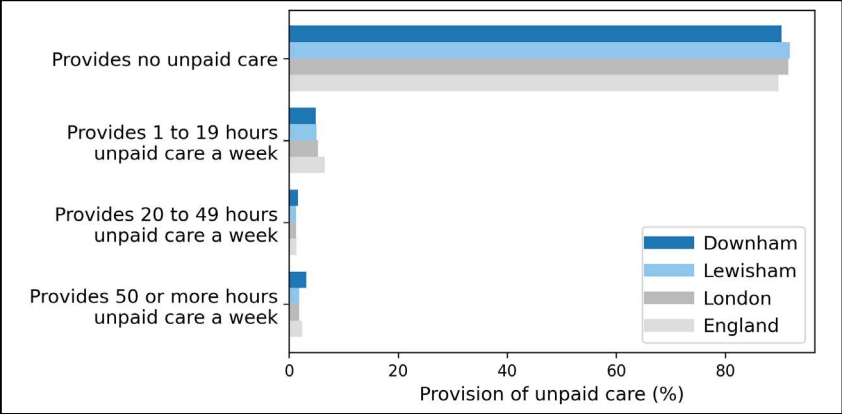


Around 9.6% residents of Downham had a long term health problem or disability limiting their day to day activities a lot compared to a Lewisham average of 7% and a national average of 8.3%.

Day-to-day activities limited in Downham, ONS Census 2011



Provision of unpaid care in Downham, ONS Census 2011



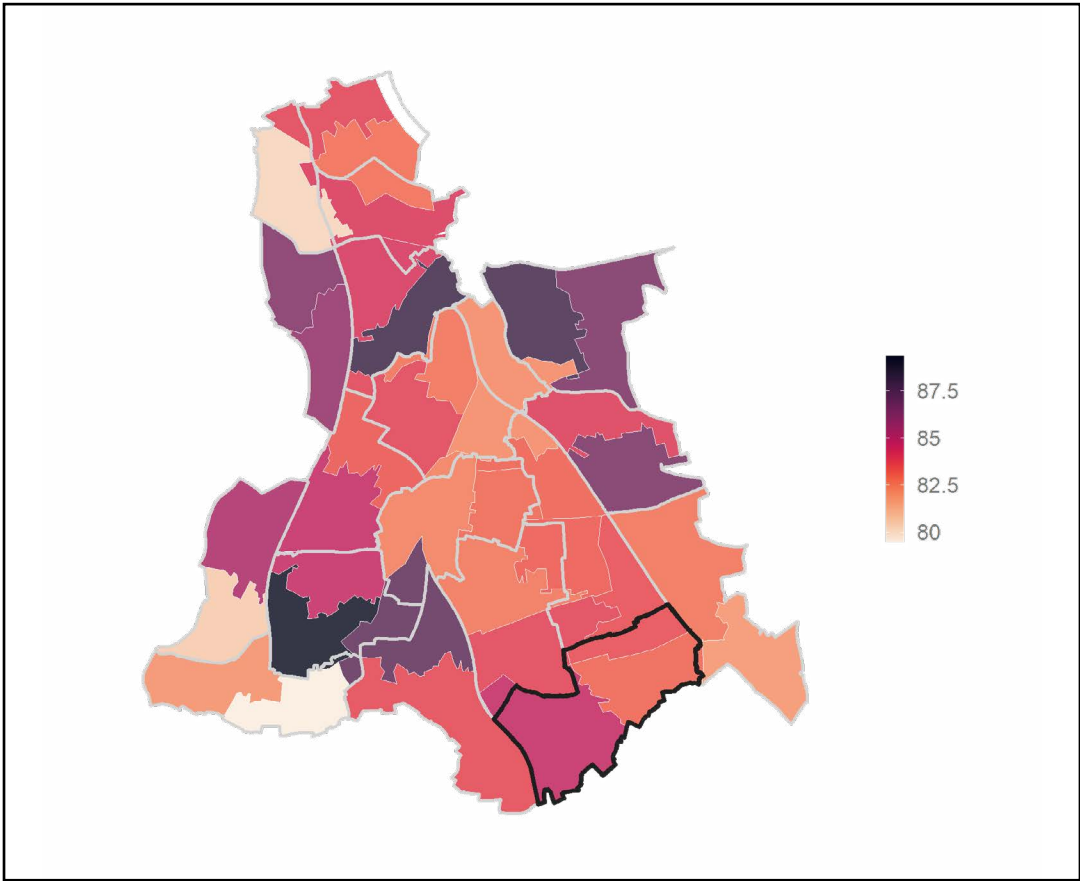
Around 9.5% of residents in Downham provided unpaid care compared to a Lewisham average of 8.1% and a national average of 10.1%.

Health and life expectancy

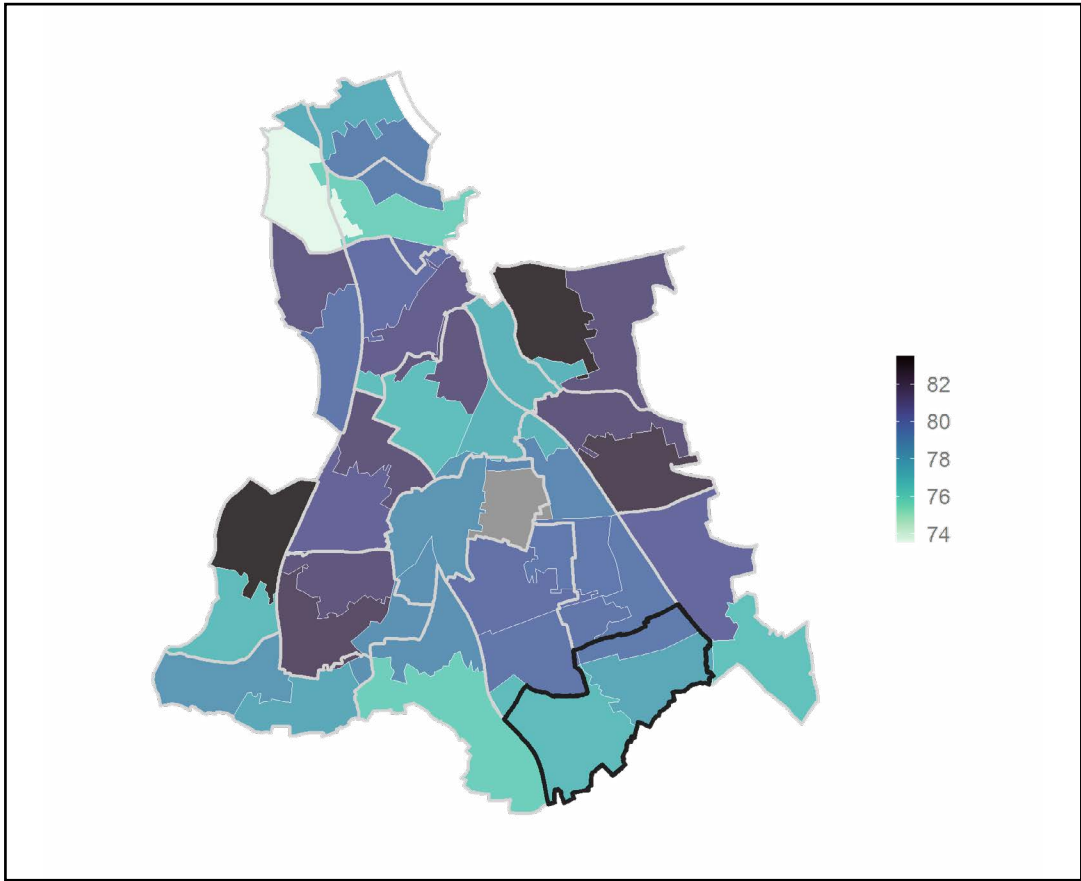
The average life expectancy at birth for females in Downham is 83.8 years compared to England average of 83.2.

The average life expectancy at birth for males in Downham is 77.4 years compared to England average of 79.6.

Life expectancy female, Public Health England 2015 - 2019



Life expectancy male, Public Health England 2015 - 2019



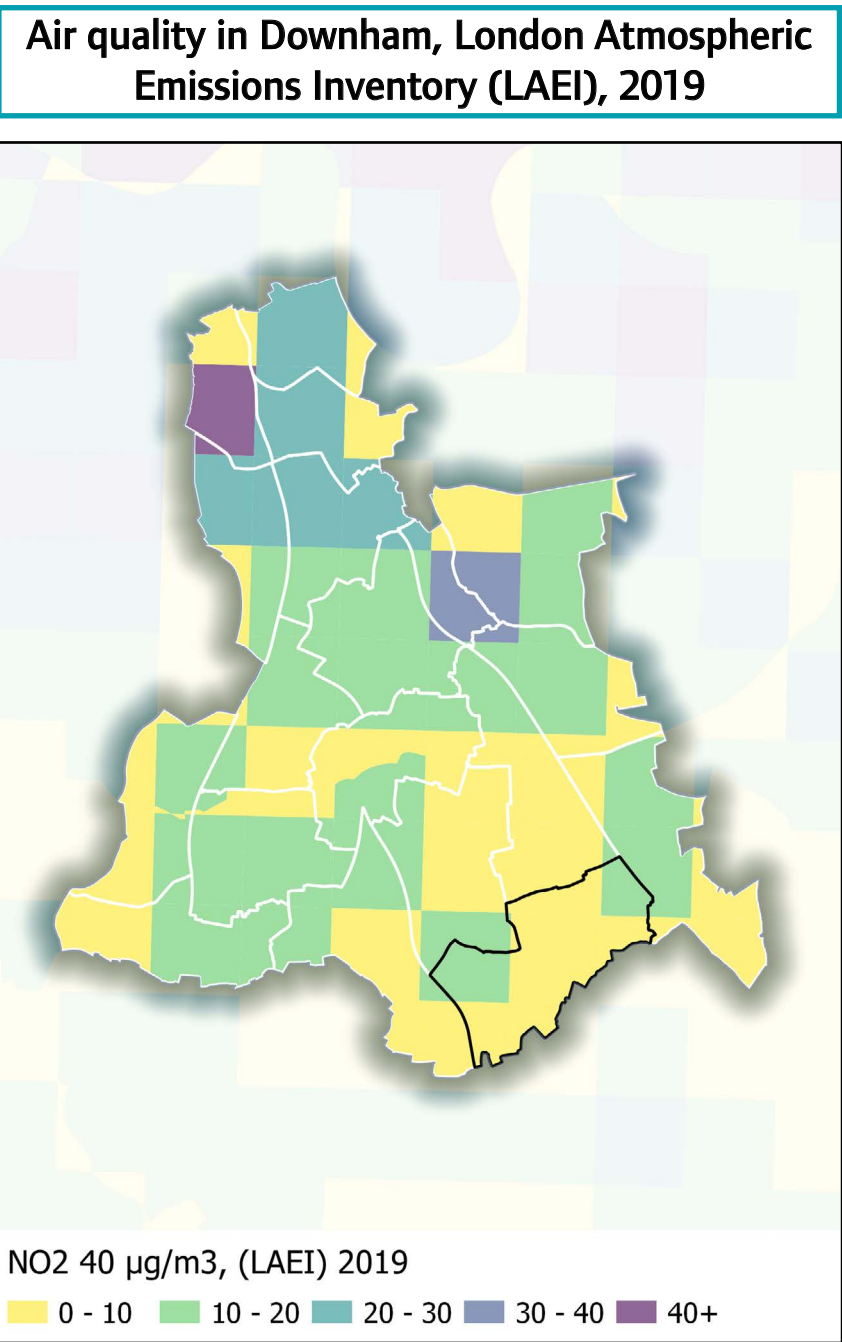
* Grey area on the map indicates missing data for MSOA Catford East & Mountsfield Park (Rushey Green ward).

Environment

Air quality

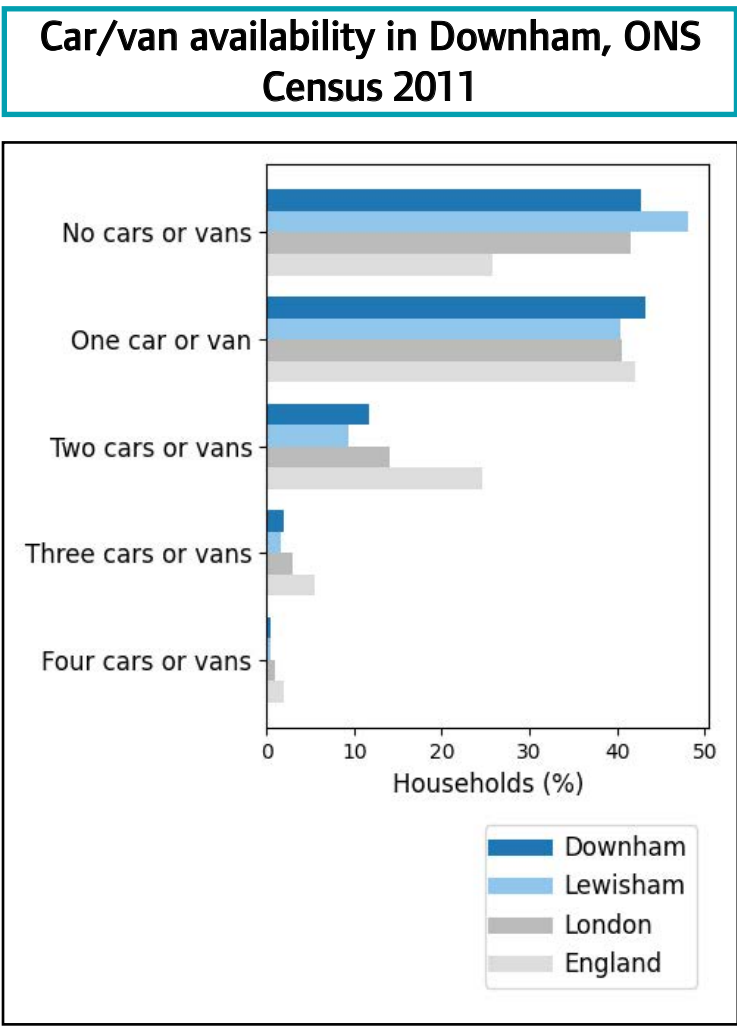
The DEFRA 2010 Air Quality Objective sets a target threshold for Nitrogen Dioxide particles in the air at **no more than 40 micrograms per cubic metre of air**.

This model from 2019 estimates levels based on historical readings at sensor sites, interpolated across the whole of Greater London.



Car/van ownership per household

The three most common types of car or van availability in Downham are one car or van (43.2%), no cars or vans (42.7%), and two cars or vans (11.7%).

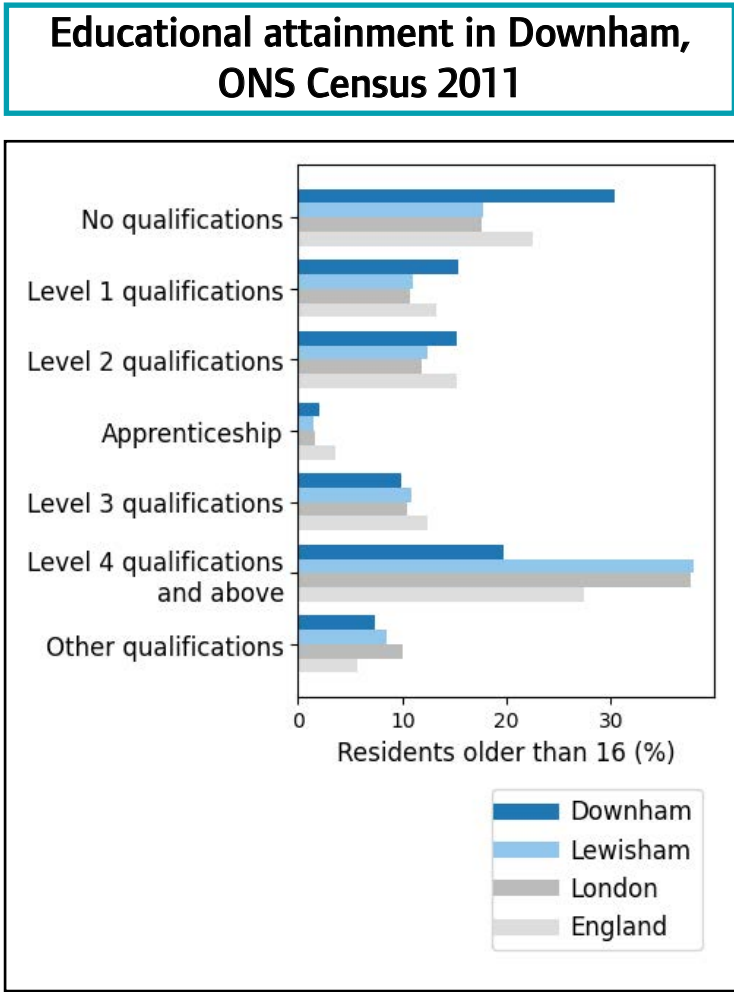


Education

Educational attainment

There are nine qualification levels in England: Entry level and then levels 1-9. Levels 1-2 cover GCSE and equivalents, Level 3 covers A level and equivalents, and Levels 4-8 cover higher education equivalents.

In Downham, 30% of residents have no qualifications; 15% have Level 1 qualifications; 15% have Level 2 qualifications; 2% have Apprenticeship; 10% have Level 3 qualifications; and 20% have Level 4 qualifications and above.



OFSTED Ratings

This section provides general information on schools located in the ward and their OFSTED ratings.

Ofsted is the Office for Standards in Education, Children’s Services and Skills. They inspect services providing education and skills for learners of all ages. They also inspect and regulate services that care for children and young people.

Out of eight schools in Downham, one is rated as Outstanding, five are rated as Good and one is rated as Requires improvement.

OFSTED rating for schools in Downham, Department for Education 2020 - 2021

School Name	Group	School Type	Is Primary?	Is Secondary?	Is post 16?	Gender	OFSTED Rating
Downderry Primary School	Maintained school	Community school	Yes	No	No	Mixed	Outstanding
Launcelot Primary School	Maintained school	Community school	Yes	No	No	Mixed	Good
Rangefield Primary School	Maintained school	Community school	Yes	No	No	Mixed	Requires improvement
Good Shepherd RC School	Maintained school	Voluntary aided school	Yes	No	No	Mixed	Good
New Woodlands School	Special school	Community special school	Yes	Yes	No	Mixed	Good
Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy	Academy	Academy sponsor led	Yes	Yes	Yes	Mixed	Good
Drumbeat School and ASD Service	Special school	Community special school	Yes	Yes	Yes	Mixed	Good
Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Temple Grove	Academy	Academy converter	Yes	No	No	Mixed	*

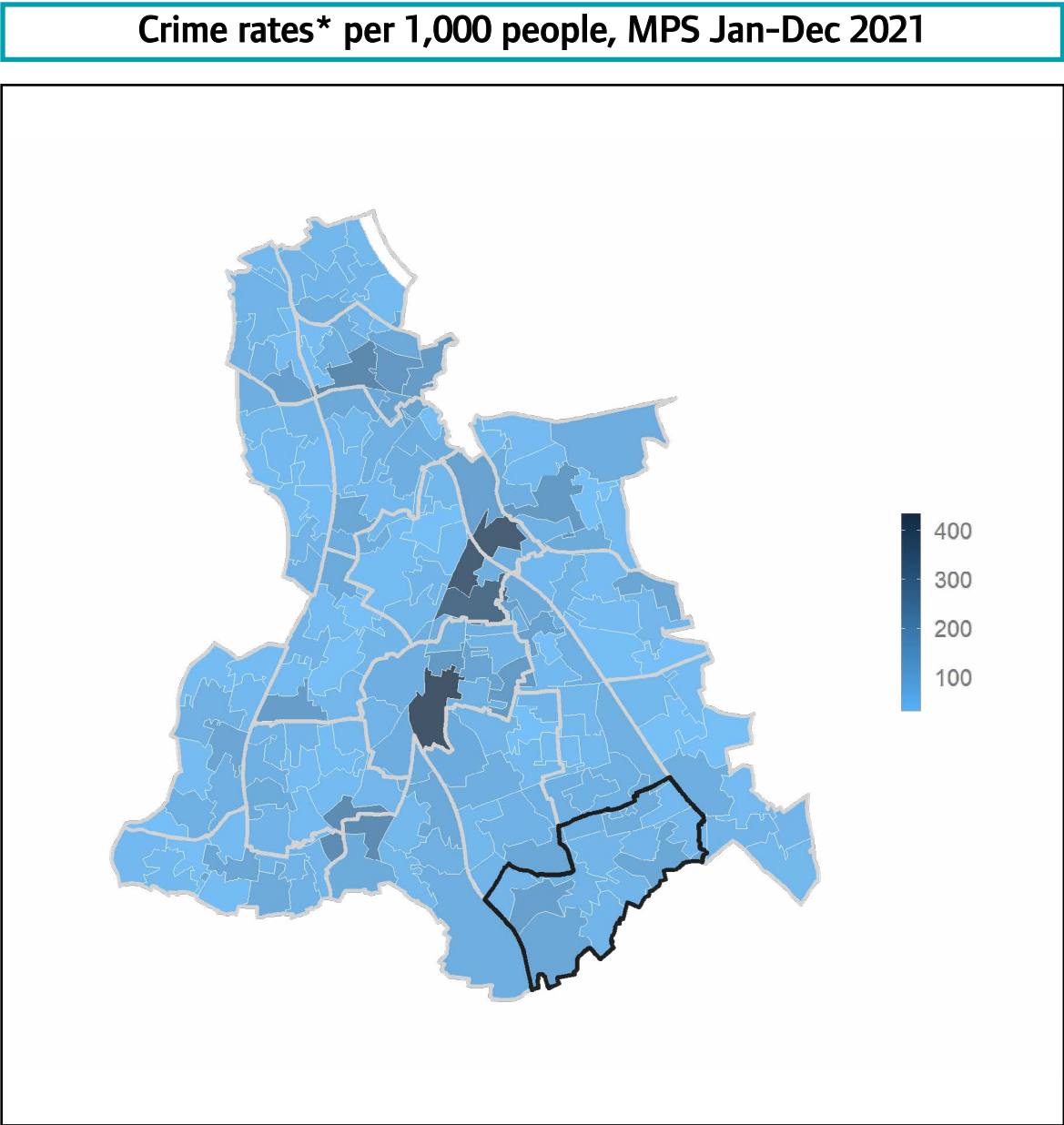
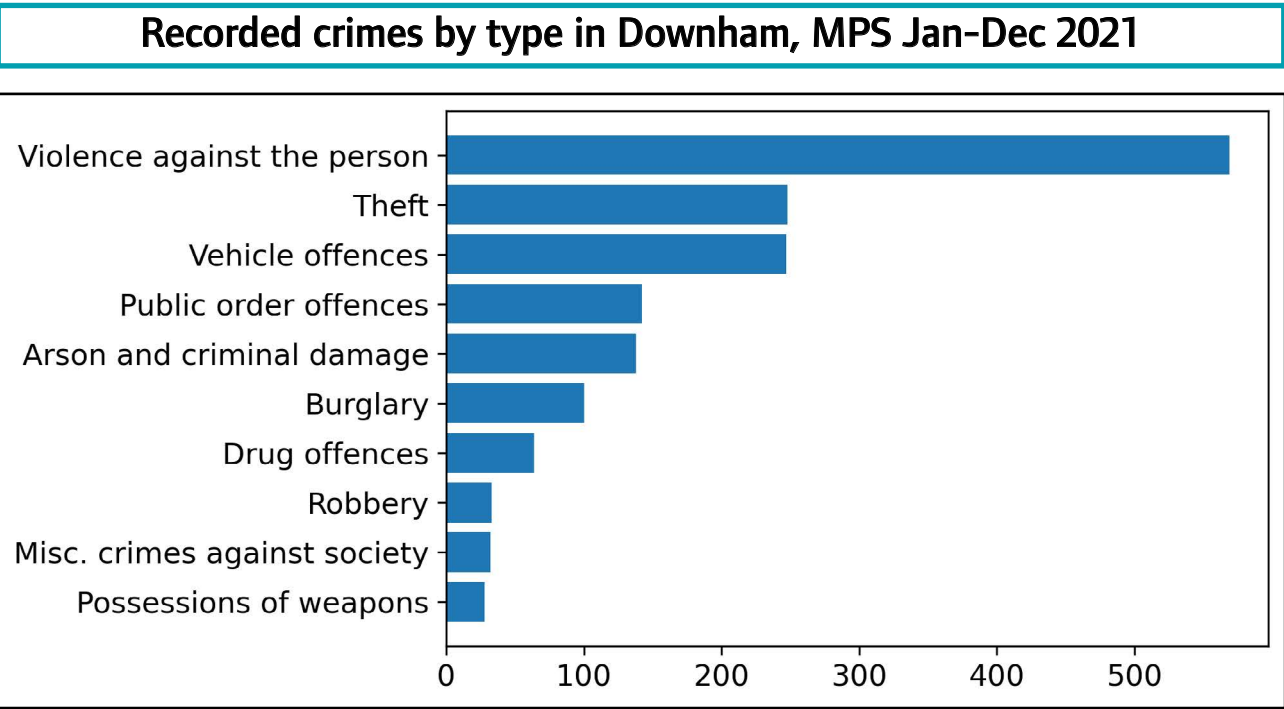
* OFSTED rating not available.

Crime

In the period January-December 2021, the number of recorded crimes in Lewisham was 25692 (excluding sexual offences).

Of 1601 recorded crimes (Home Office crime classifications, excluding sexual offences) in Downham, the three most common offences include violence against the person (569), theft (248) and vehicle offences (247).

In the 12 LSOAs in Downham, overall crime rates per 1,000 people range from 57.2 to 140.



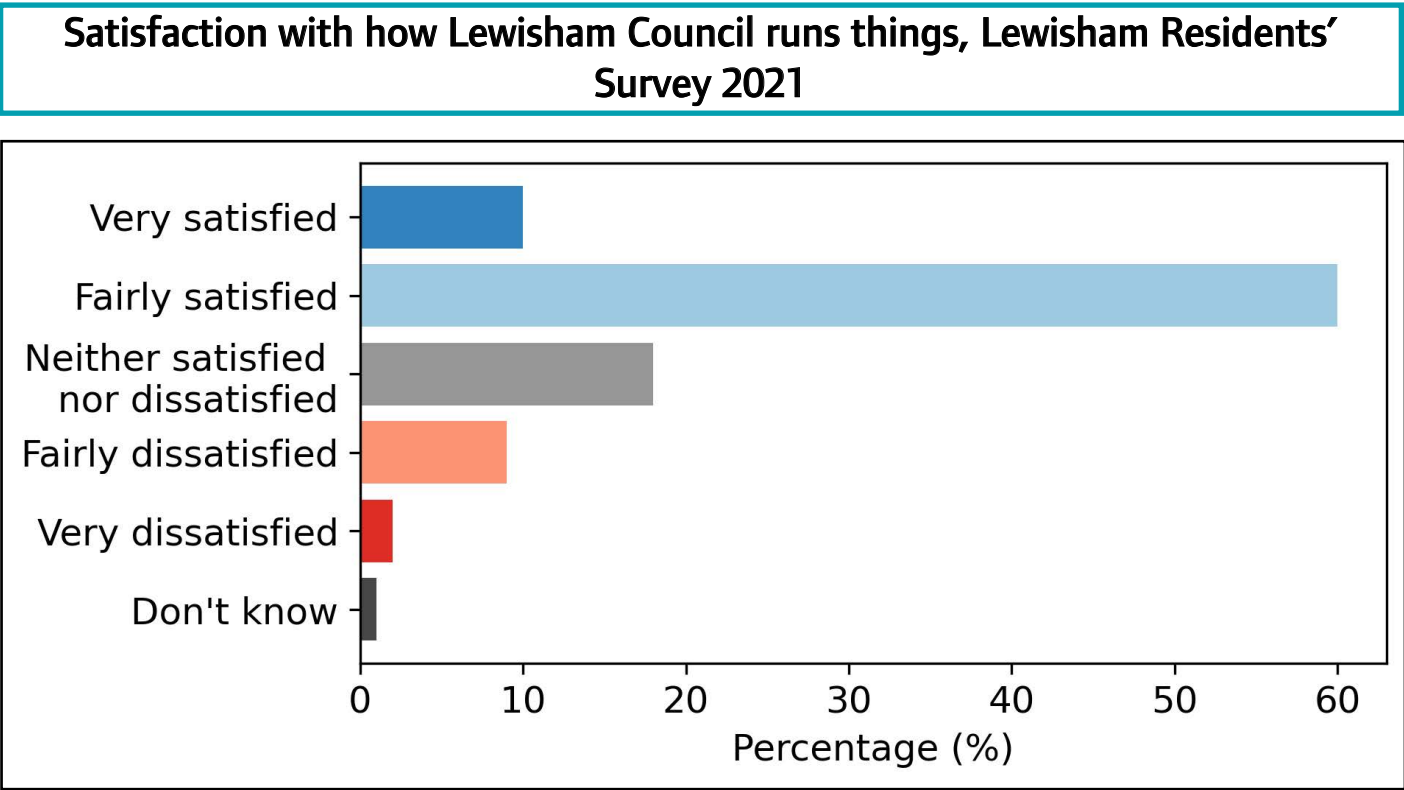
* Recorded crimes based on Home Office crime classifications, excluding sexual offences.

Residents survey

Due to limited data from Lewisham Residents’ Survey 2021 at ward level, survey results included in this document are presented at the borough level.

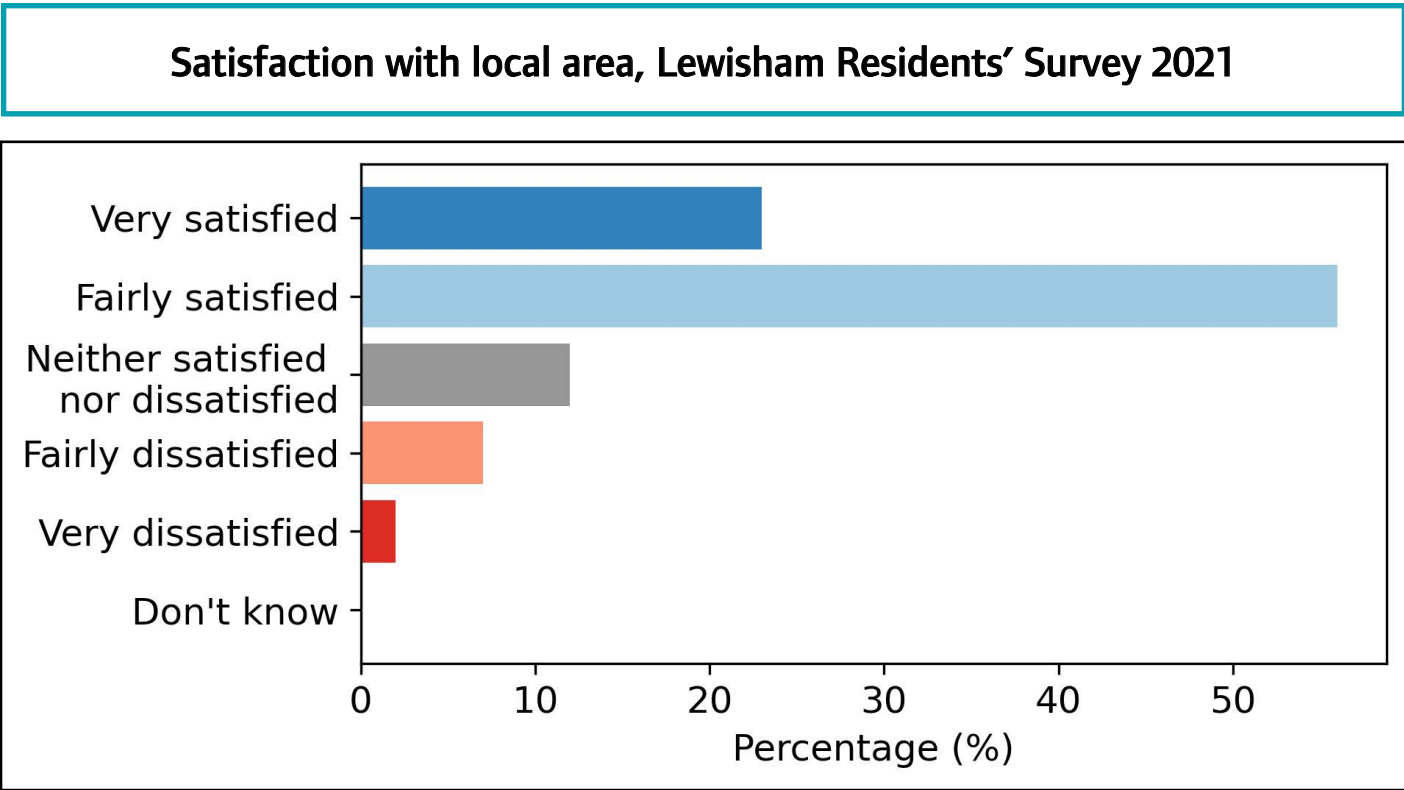
Satisfaction with the Council

Over two thirds (69%) of residents are satisfied with the way Lewisham Council runs things, whilst around 11% are dissatisfied. Satisfaction in Lewisham is significantly higher when compared with LGA October 2021 National data (56%; 13 percentage points).



Satisfaction local area

The majority of residents (79%) are satisfied with their local area as a place to live, whilst around 8% are dissatisfied. Satisfaction is slightly higher when compared with LGA October 2021 National data (78%; 1 percentage points).



Data sources

1. Basemaps (cover): OS Open Zoomstack
2. Ward boundaries: Office for National Statistics (ONS)
3. Community resources: Lewisham corporate postgis (mapthat)
4. Population estimates: ONS mid-2020 population estimate
5. Diversity - Ethnicity & religion: ONS Census 2011
6. Diversity - Country of birth: ONS Census 2011
7. Diversity - Main language & English proficiency: ONS Census 2011
8. Deprivation: Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government 2019
9. Fuel poverty & EPC:
Fuel poverty: Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) 2019
EPC: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities 2022
10. Housing & affordability:
Accommodation & tenure: ONS Census 2011
Affordability: ONS 2021
11. Household composition: ONS Census 2011
12. Employment (Economic activity and occupation): ONS Census 2011
13. Benefit claimants: DWP 2021
14. Health and wellbeing: ONS Census 2011
15. Health and life expectancy: Public Health England 2015 - 2019
16. Environment:
Air quality model: London Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (LAEI) 2019
Car & van availability: ONS Census 2011
17. Education:
Educational attainment: ONS Census 2011
OFSTED Rating: Department for Education 2015 - 2019
18. Crime: Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), January - December 2021
19. Resident Survey: Lewisham's Residents' Survey 2021

