

Census 2021 Population Profile

Disabled Population

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CENSUS 2021 POPULATION PROFILE

DISABLED POPULATION IN BRISTOL

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DISABLED POPULATION HEADLINES

NUMBERS

- More than 81,000 (17.2%) people in Bristol have long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses whose day-to-day activities were limited (E&W 17.5%)

AGE PROFILE

- Disability prevalence increases with age: children 6.1% disabled, working age 16.0% disabled, older people 65+ 38.5% disabled

ETHNICITY

- More than a quarter (27%) of the 'White Gypsy or Irish Traveller' population said they had a long-term physical or mental health issue or disability that affected their daily lives - 10 percentage points more than the Bristol average (17%)
- Disability rates higher than the city average (17%) are found in the 'Black or Black British Caribbean' population (23%), the 'White Irish' population (21%) and the 'White British' population (19%)

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

- People who identified as LGB+ were more likely to be disabled than the overall population of Bristol. Despite having a younger than average age profile, which is generally associated with lower levels of disability, 30% of people aged 16+ in Bristol who identified as LGB+ were disabled, compared with 20% of the overall population.

CARERS

- Of all the carers in Bristol, almost a third (30%) were disabled themselves - this compares to just 17% of the population who do not provide unpaid carer to others

QUALIFICATIONS

- Almost 2 in 5 (39%) Disabled people aged 16+ whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot have no qualifications (people not disabled 12%)
- Just 18% of Disabled people aged 16+ whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot have a degree or higher – 27 percentage points lower than people not disabled at 45%

HOUSING

- Disabled people are twice as likely to live in social rented accommodation than people not disabled - 32% live in social rented housing compared to 16% of people not disabled

CARS

Almost 2 in 5 (39%) Disabled people whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot do not have access to a car or van compared to just 17% of people not disabled

Bristol City Council has adopted the social model of disability, however the Office for National Statistics, who publishes the data used in this profile does not use the social model. The statistics and language are based on the question asked in the Census 2021 (not on whether people identify as a Disabled person) and so may not reflect the language normally used by the council.

1.0 OVERVIEW

On Census Day (21 March 2021), people were asked “Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?”. If they answered “yes”, a further question “Do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day-to-day activities?” was asked. The response options were:

- "Yes, a lot"; referred to here as limited a lot
- "Yes, a little"; referred to here as limited a little
- "Not at all"

In line with the Equality Act (2010), people who assessed their day-to-day activities as limited by long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses were considered disabled. Those who stated that they had a condition that did not limit their day-to-day activities or had no condition, were considered not disabled.

2.0 DEFINITIONS OF DISABILITY

There are two ways to consider disability in terms of the data available:

1. whether someone considers themselves to be a Disabled person
2. whether someone has physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life such that they would be considered disabled under the definition of the Equality Act 2010

The first option, based on a persons’ self-identified disability, is used in most consultations, surveys and equalities forms via the Bristol City Council equalities monitoring question: “Do you consider yourself to be a Disabled person?”, and this option is also closer to the Social Model of Disability.

The Census 2021 uses the Equalities Act definition which includes all people with physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their day-to-day activities to some extent, either a little or a lot.

When benchmarking disability results against the Bristol population, it is important that the same definition is used as in the question asked. For a more detailed guidance on equalities statistics benchmarking please see our [Equalities Statistics guide](#).

This profile uses the Census 2021 Equalities Act definition of disability throughout, that is including people who have physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life. The total Disabled population is split into people whose day-to-day activities were (i) limited a lot and (ii) limited a little.

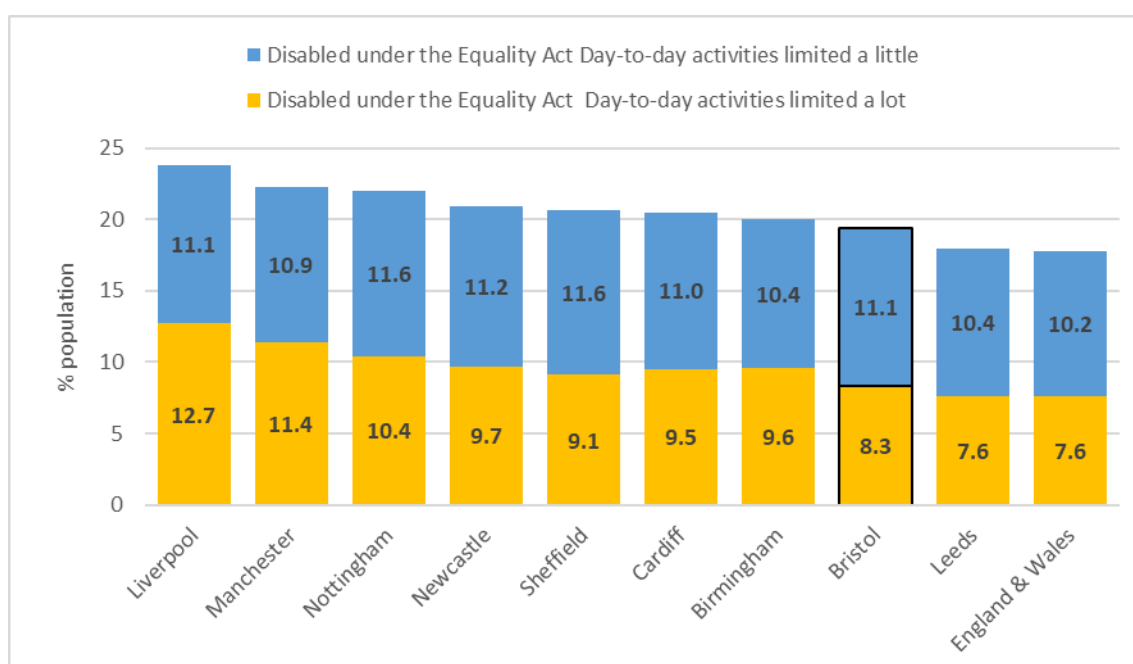
The Census 2021 did not ask the question: “Do you consider yourself to be a Disabled person?” so that data is not available for comparison.

The Census 2021 did not ask about type of disability.

AGE STANDARDISED PROPORTIONS

To enable meaningful comparisons of health, disability and unpaid care outcomes when ONS compare across age groups, over time or between geographies, ONS age standardise the data. Age-standardised proportions (ASPs) take into consideration both population size and age-structure, essentially evening them out so that you can compare like with like. ONS have calculated ‘Age Standardised Proportions’ (ASPs) of the Disabled population for all local authorities in England and Wales. For further information on age standardisation, see the [ONS Blog](#).

Figure 1: Disabled population in Core Cities (England and Wales only) - Age Standardised Proportions Source: ONS Census 2021



The Bristol Age Standardised Proportion of Disabled people under the Equality Act is 19.4%, compared to the Age Standardised Proportion of 17.8% for England and Wales as a whole. This takes into account the younger age profile of the Bristol population. Figure 1 shows the Age Standardise Proportions for Core Cities in England and Wales.

Throughout the remainder of this profile unstandardised rates are used rather than Age Standardised Proportions which are only available for the total population as a whole.

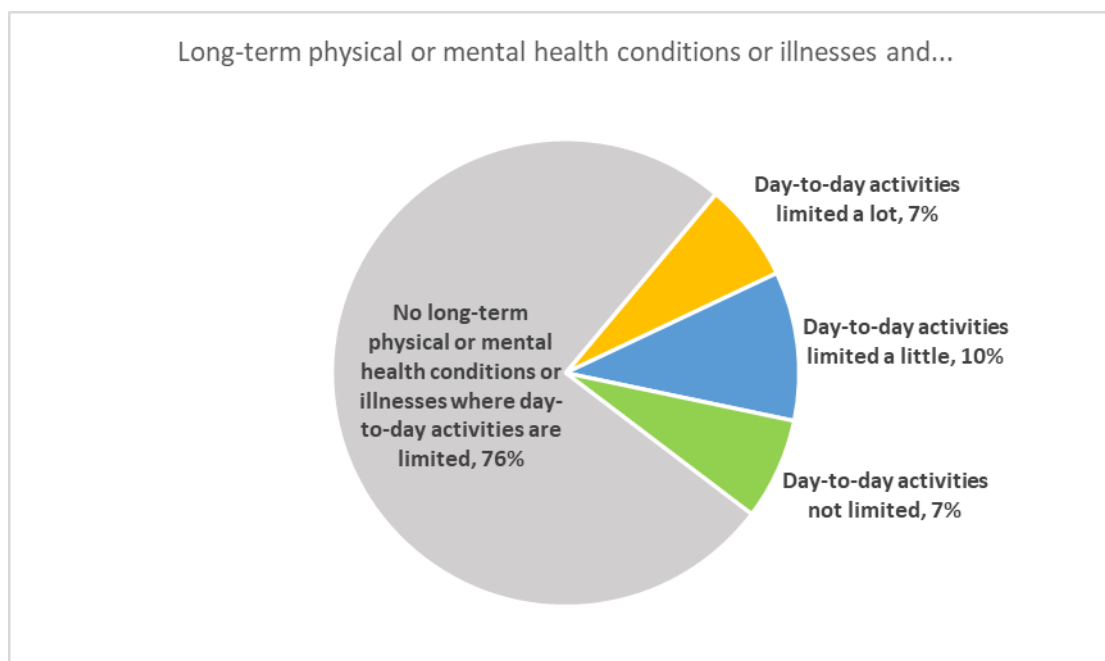
3.0 DISABILITY IN BRISTOL

This data uses the Census 2021 Equalities Act definition of disability, that is including people who have physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life either a lot or a little.

In 2021, there was 81,160 people living in Bristol with long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses whose day-to-day activities were limited. The total population of Bristol was 472,467 and so the Disabled population accounts for 17.2% of the total population (17.5% in England and Wales) (figure 2).

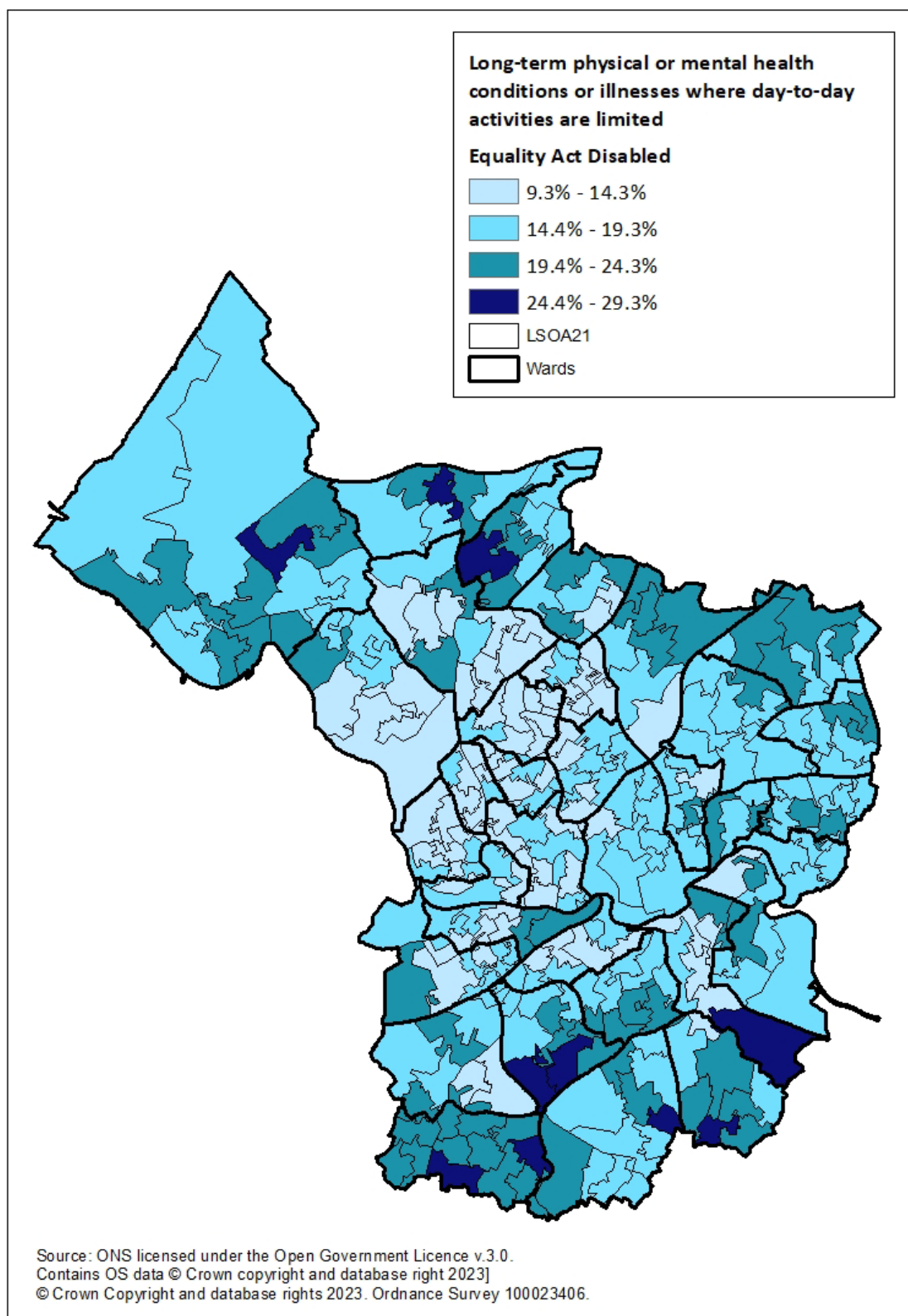
Figure 2: Disabled population in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021



Note: Disabled under the Equalities Act includes people who have physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life. The total Disabled population is split into people whose day-to-day activities were (i) limited a lot and (ii) limited a little.

Figure 3: Population with long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life by Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA21)
Source: ONS Census 2021



The extent to which day-to-day activities were limited include:

- Day-to-day activities limited a lot - 32,444 (6.9%)
- Day-to-day activities limited a little - 48,715 (10.3%)

A further 33,272 (7%) of the population had a long term physical or mental health condition but their day-to-day activities were not limited and so they are not defined as disabled according to the Equalities Act.

Figure 3 maps the proportion of the population who are disabled by small area¹ across the city. Areas where more than a fifth of the population in the area are disabled include 'Southmead West' in Southmead ward (27%), 'Bishport Avenue' in Hartcliffe and Withywood ward (25%) and 'Blackberry Hill' in Frome Vale ward (23%).

4.0 DISABILITY DIFFERENCES IN DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS AND HOUSING

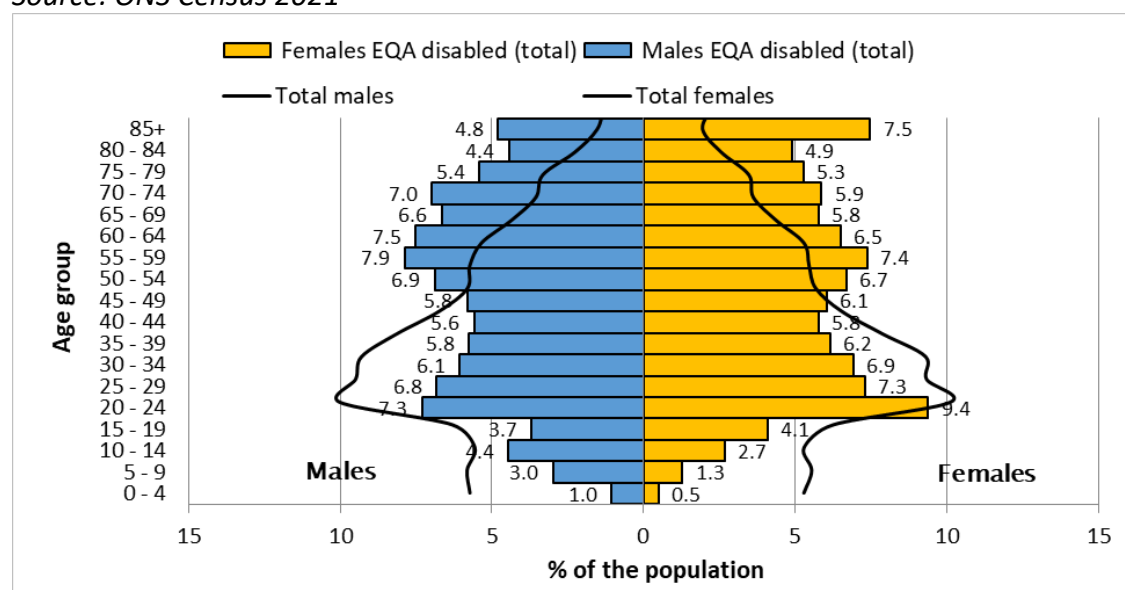
4.1 AGE PROFILE

Disabled population compared to the population not disabled

The age profile of the Disabled population in Bristol is fairly even across all age bands over 20 years old. This is in contrast to the age profile of the population as a whole which has a much younger age profile (figure 4). This is partly due to the large number of students living in Bristol during term time who are counted as part of the usually resident population.

Figure 4: Disabled population age profile in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021

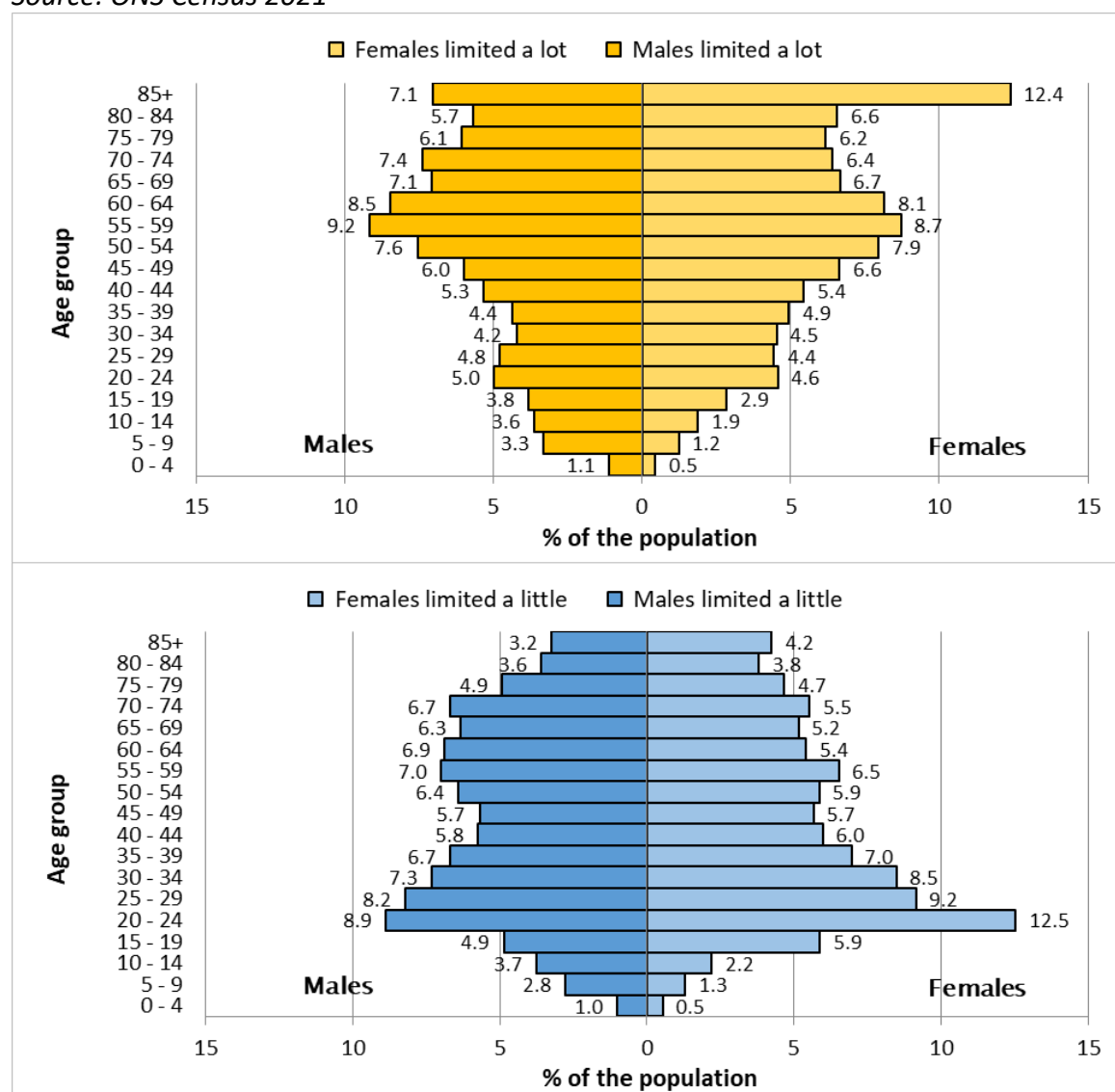


¹ Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are a statistical geography created by the Office for National Statistics for presenting small area data in England and Wales. LSOAs include between 400 and 1,200 households and have a usually resident population between 1,000 and 3,000 persons.

Figure 4a shows the older age profile of the Disabled population who are limited a lot compared to the younger age profile of those who are limited a little.

Figure 4a: Disabled population limited a lot/limited a little age profile in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021



Note: Disabled under the Equalities Act includes people who have physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life. The total Disabled population is split into people whose day-to-day activities were (i) limited a lot and (ii) limited a little.

Disability rates by age and sex

Looking at disability rates by sex – ie the proportion of the population within each age group that is disabled - 18.9% of females and 15.5% of males in Bristol had long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses which limited their day-to-day activities. The Bristol rates are slightly lower than the England and Wales rates of 19.0% for females and 16.0% for males.

Disability prevalence increases with age (figure 5). In Bristol the proportion of the population that had long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses which limited their day-to-day activities broken down by broad age group includes:

- 6.1% of all children aged under 16 (2.4% limited a lot; 3.7% limited a little)
- 16.0% of the working age population (5.7% limited a lot; 10.3% limited a little)
- 38.5% of older people aged 65 and over (19.2% limited a lot; 19.3% limited a little)

Figure 5: Disabled rates by age in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021

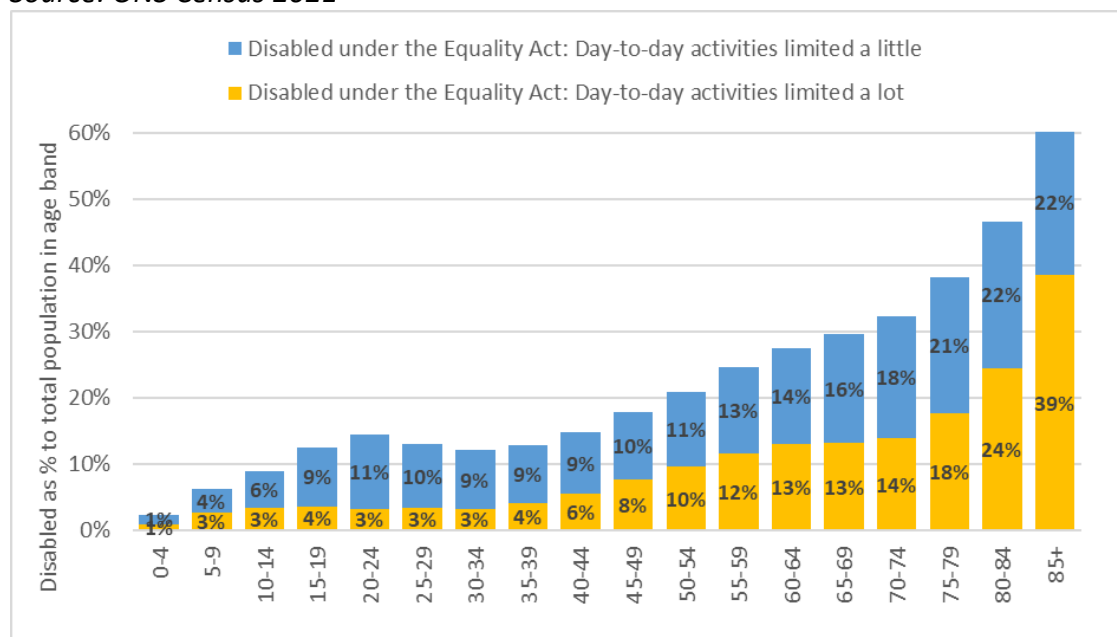
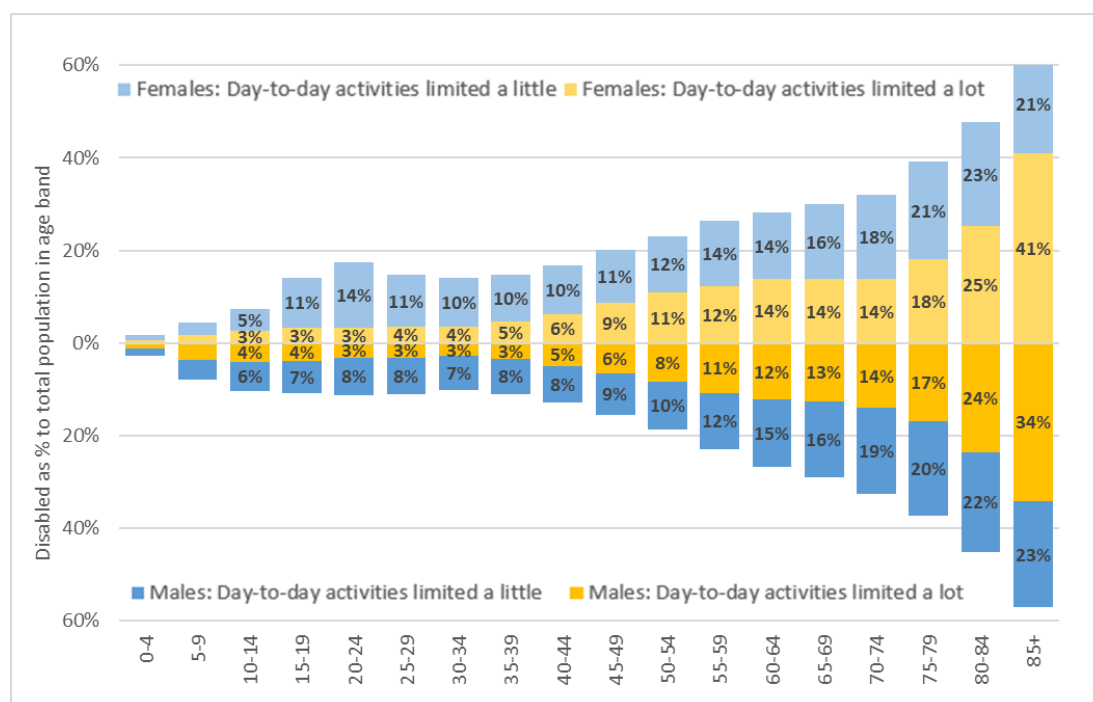


Figure 6: Disabled rates by age and sex in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021



Note: Disabled under the Equalities Act includes people who have physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life. The total Disabled population is split into people whose day-to-day activities were (i) limited a lot and (ii) limited a little.

Five year age bands by sex give a more detailed picture (figure 6). In those aged under 15 years, a higher percentage of males were disabled compared with females. However, from the age band 15 to 19 years onwards, a higher percentage of females were disabled. In particular, the disability rate for females almost doubled between the ages of 10 to 14 years and 15 to 19 years, rising from 7.4% to 14.1% respectively. It then increased to 17.5% at age 20 to 24 years in comparison with 11.3% for males.

Disability rates began to increase in each age group for both males and females from 40 to 44 years. Among older age groups, the percentage of males and females who were disabled rose considerably from aged 70 years onwards. This increase was mainly among those whose activities were limited a lot; 14% of females aged 70 to 74 years were limited a lot compared with 41% of females aged 85 years and over. For males, 14% of those aged 70 to 74 years were limited a lot, compared with 34% in those aged 85 years and over.

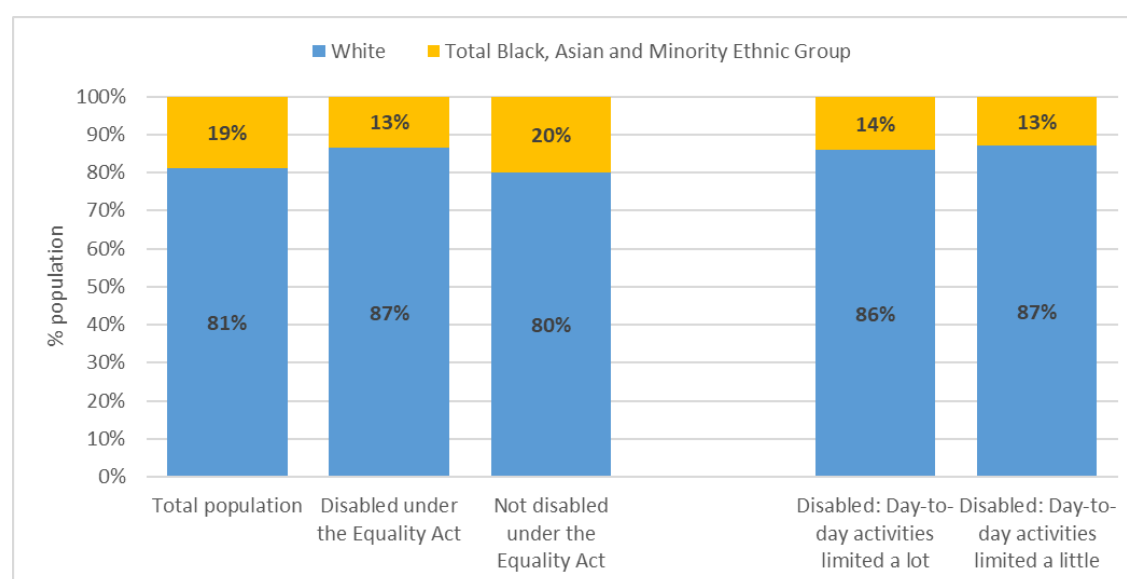
4.2 ETHNIC GROUP

Ethnicity on the census is self-reported; people selected which group they feel best describes their ethnic identity. All 19 ethnic groups are tick-box selections within five main categories, which are part of people's answers.

Disabled population compared to the population not disabled

Figure 7: Disabled population by ethnic group in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021



Note: Disabled under the Equalities Act includes people who have physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life. The total Disabled population

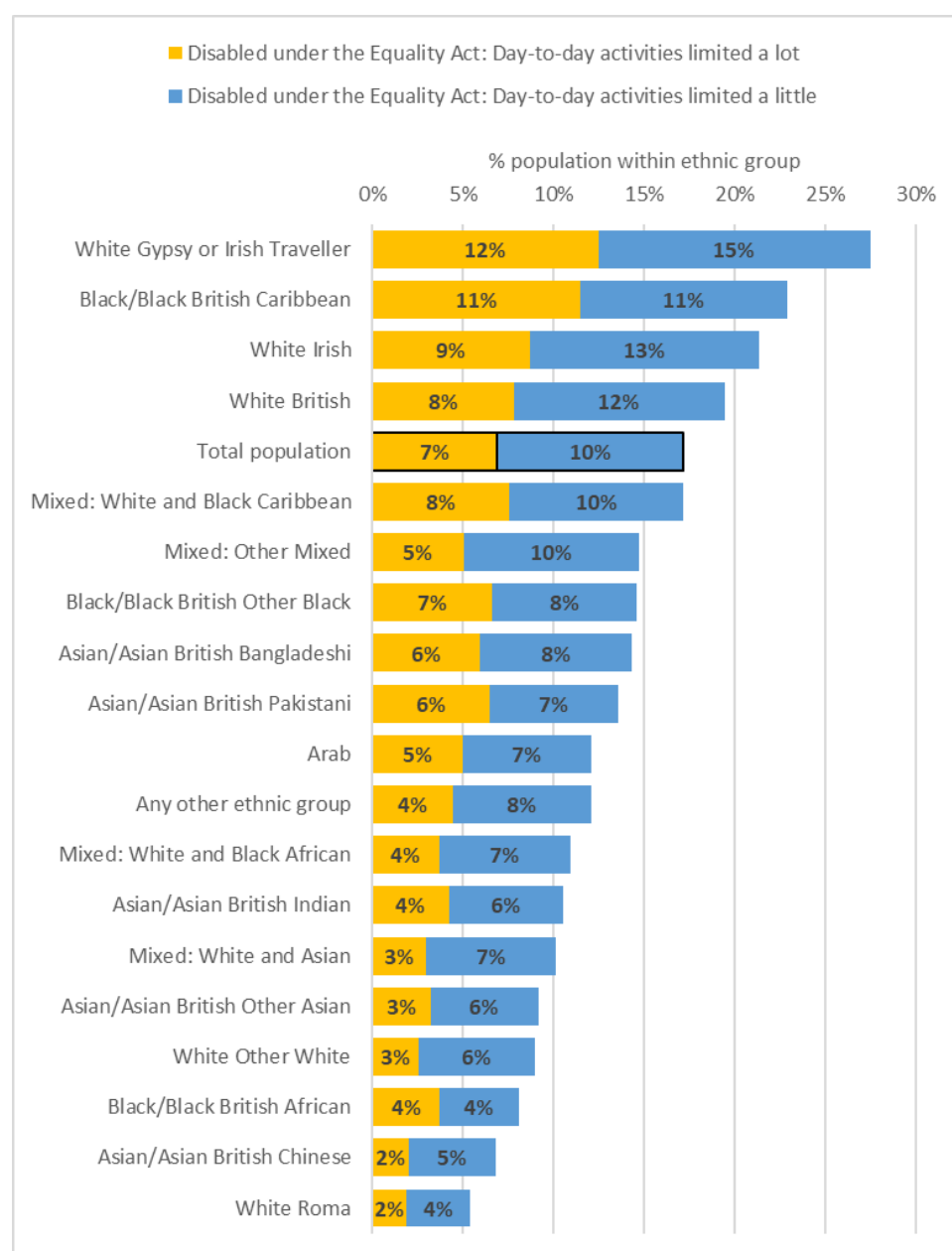
(second column) can be split into people whose day-to-day activities were (i) limited a lot and (ii) limited a little (shown in the two columns on the right-hand side of the chart).

The Disabled population in Bristol is less ethnically diverse than the population as a whole - 13% of the Disabled population belong to a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic group compared to 20% of the population not disabled (figure 7). This is partly a reflection of the older age profile of the 'White' population.

Disability rates by ethnic group

Figure 8: Disability rates by ethnic group in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021



Note: Disabled under the Equalities Act includes people who have physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life. The total Disabled population is split into people whose day-to-day activities were (i) limited a lot and (ii) limited a little.

Looking at disability rates, more than a quarter (27%) of those who identified as ‘White Gypsy or Irish Traveller’ said they had a long-term physical or mental health issue or disability that affected their daily lives. This is 10 percentage points more than the average for population of Bristol at 17%. Disability rates higher than the citywide average are found in the ‘Black or Black British Caribbean’ (23%), ‘White Irish’ (21%) and ‘White British’ (19%) ethnic groups.

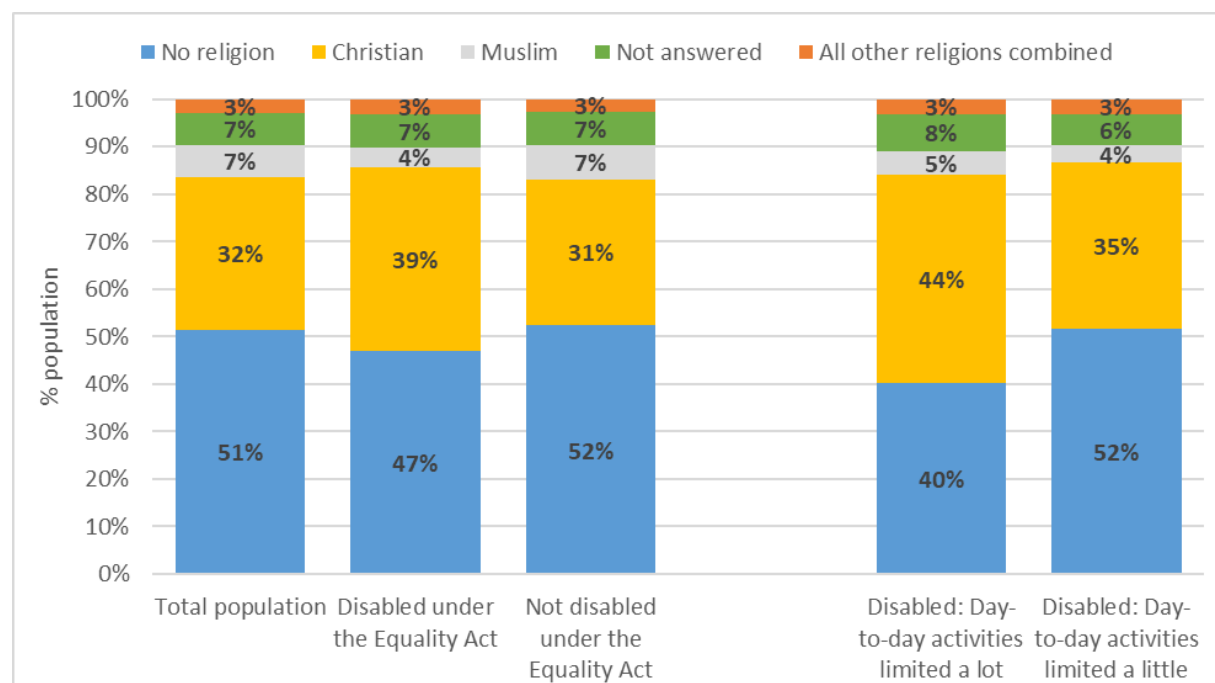
4.3 RELIGION

In the census data, religion refers to a person's religious affiliation. This is the religion with which they connect or identify, rather than their beliefs or active religious practice. The religion question is voluntary and in 2021 93% of the overall population in Bristol chose to answer the question (E&W 94%).

Census results are generally reported based on the six largest religions – Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh – plus ‘Other religions’ for those people who selected ‘Other’ and wrote in a response to the question. People may also have selected ‘No religion’ or, as the question was voluntary, may have chosen not to answer this question.

Figure 9: Disabled population by largest religions in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021



Note: Disabled under the Equalities Act includes people who have physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life. The total Disabled population (second column) can be split into people whose day-to-day activities were (i) limited a lot and (ii) limited a little (shown in the two columns on the right-hand side of the chart).

Disabled population compared to the population not disabled

Figure 9 shows the religion profiles of the Disabled and the population not disabled in Bristol. Disabled people generally have lower levels reporting 'no religion' and 'Muslim', and higher levels identifying as 'Christian'. Older people were more likely to be disabled but age is not the only factor influencing these outcomes.

Disability rates by religion

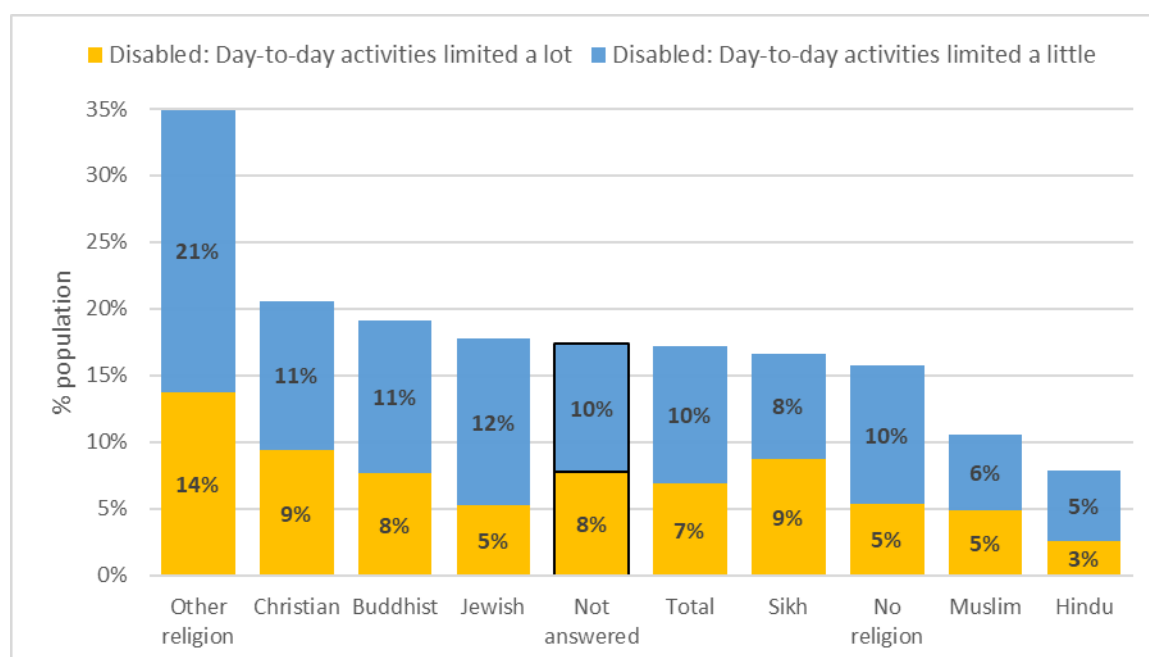
Disability prevalence is considerably higher in people identifying with 'Other religion', that is religions outside of the six main religions as reported in the Census 2021. More than a third (35%) of people reporting 'Other religion' are considered disabled under the Equality Act compared to 17% of the population as a whole. People who reported 'Other religion' also had the highest percentage of people disabled and limited a lot at 14% compared to 8% for the population as a whole.

Whilst the population who identified as 'Christian' is generally older and this likely influences their higher prevalence of disability, age does not explain the higher rates of disability for those who reported 'Other religion' (figure 10).

Religious groups reporting higher levels of 'bad' or 'very bad' health also reported a higher prevalence of disability. Conversely, those who identified as 'Hindu' had the lowest prevalence of disability (8%) and reported the highest percentages of 'very good' and 'good' health (91%).

Figure 10: Disability rates by religion in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021



Note: Disabled under the Equalities Act includes people who have physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life. The total Disabled population is split into people whose day-to-day activities were (i) limited a lot and (ii) limited a little.

4.4 SEXUAL ORIENTATION

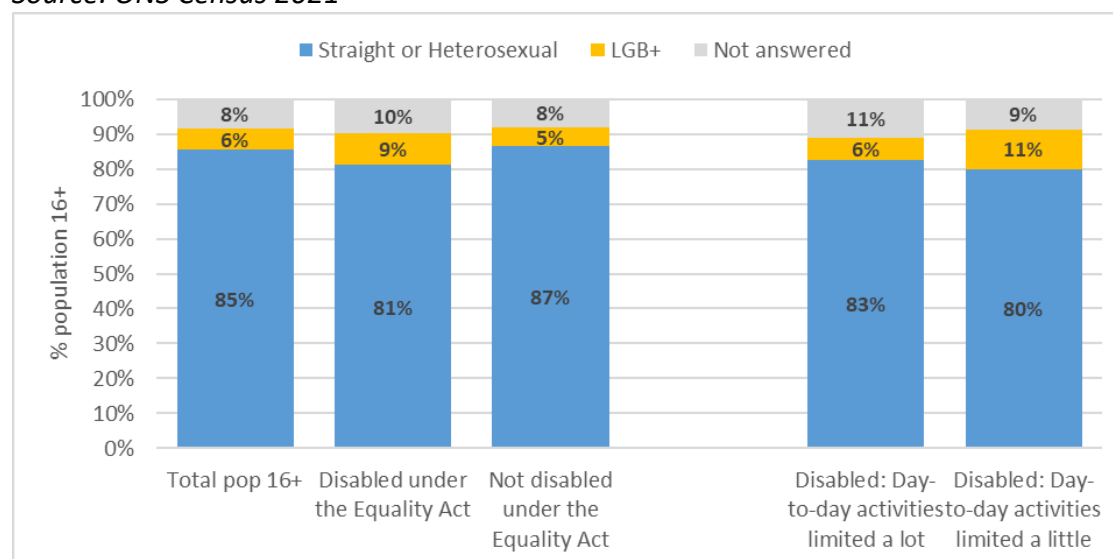
Sexual orientation is an umbrella term covering sexual identity, attraction, and behaviour. For an individual respondent, these may not be the same. This was a voluntary question on Census 2021, asked of those age 16 years and over. Those who identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual or another minority sexual orientation are referred to collectively here as LGB+. 10% of Disabled people chose not to answer the question on sexual orientation compared to 8% of the population not disabled.

Disabled population compared to the population not disabled

A higher percentage of Disabled people aged 16 and over in Bristol identified as LGB+ (9%) than people not disabled (5%) (figure 11). This proportion was higher for the Disabled population whose day-to-day activities were limited a little (11% LGB+) compared to those whose day-to-day activities were limited a lot (6% LGB+). This reflects the younger age profile of the LGB+ population.

Figure 11 Disability and sexual orientation in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021

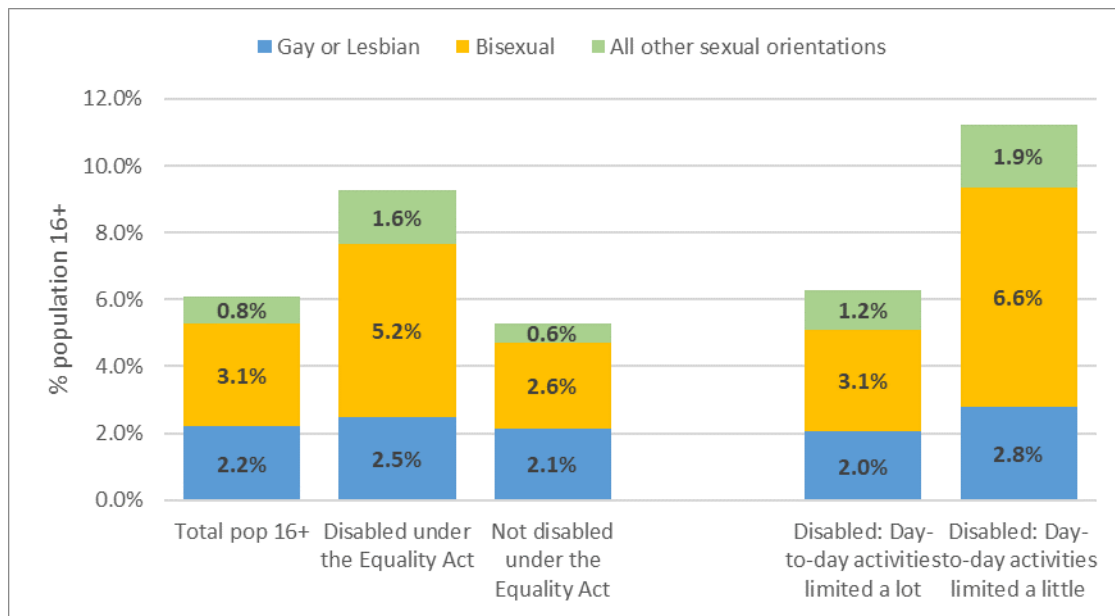


Note: Disabled under the Equalities Act includes people who have physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life. The total Disabled population is split into people whose day-to-day activities were (i) limited a lot and (ii) limited a little.

Figure 12 includes a more detailed breakdown of the LGB+ population which shows that the percentage of disabled people who identified as bisexual (5.2%) or with another minority sexual orientation (1.6%) was double that for people not disabled who identified as bisexual (2.6%) or with another minority sexual orientation (0.6%).

Figure 12 Disability and LGB+ population in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021

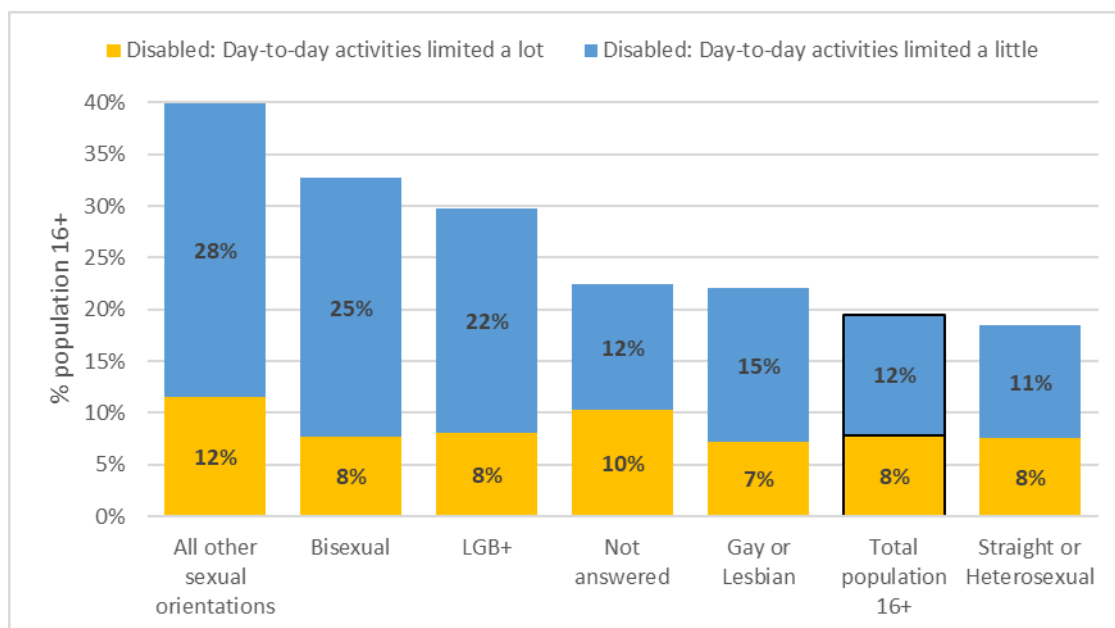


Note: Disabled under the Equalities Act includes people who have physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life. The total Disabled population (second column) can be split into people whose day-to-day activities were (i) limited a lot and (ii) limited a little (shown in the two columns on the right-hand side of the chart).

Disability rates by sexual orientation

Figure 13: Disability rates by sexual orientation in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021



Note: Disabled under the Equalities Act includes people who have physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life. The total Disabled population is split into people whose day-to-day activities were (i) limited a lot and (ii) limited a little.

People who identified as LGB+ were more likely to be disabled than the overall population of Bristol (figure 13). Despite having a younger than average age profile, which is generally associated with lower levels of disability, 30% of people aged 16 and over in Bristol who identified as LGB+ were disabled, compared with 20% of the overall population. Breaking down the LGB+ group further, people who identified as bisexual or with 'other sexual orientations' had the highest disability rates (33% and 40%, respectively).

4.5 GENDER IDENTITY

Gender identity refers to a person's sense of their own gender, whether male, female or another category such as non-binary. This may or may not be the same as their sex registered at birth.

The question on gender identity was new for Census 2021. It was added to provide the first official data on the size of the transgender population in England and Wales. The question was voluntary and was only asked of people aged 16 years and over. People were asked "Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?" and had the option of selecting either "Yes" or selecting "No" and writing in their gender identity.

Reliability of Census 2021 estimates

The Census 2021 estimates are considered broadly in line with other data on gender identity however there are some patterns in the data that suggest some respondents did not interpret the question as intended. Given other sources of uncertainty, not least the impact of question non-response, ONS cannot say with certainty whether the census estimates are more likely to be an overestimate or an underestimate of the total number of trans people aged over 16 years in England and Wales.

Disabled population compared to the population not disabled

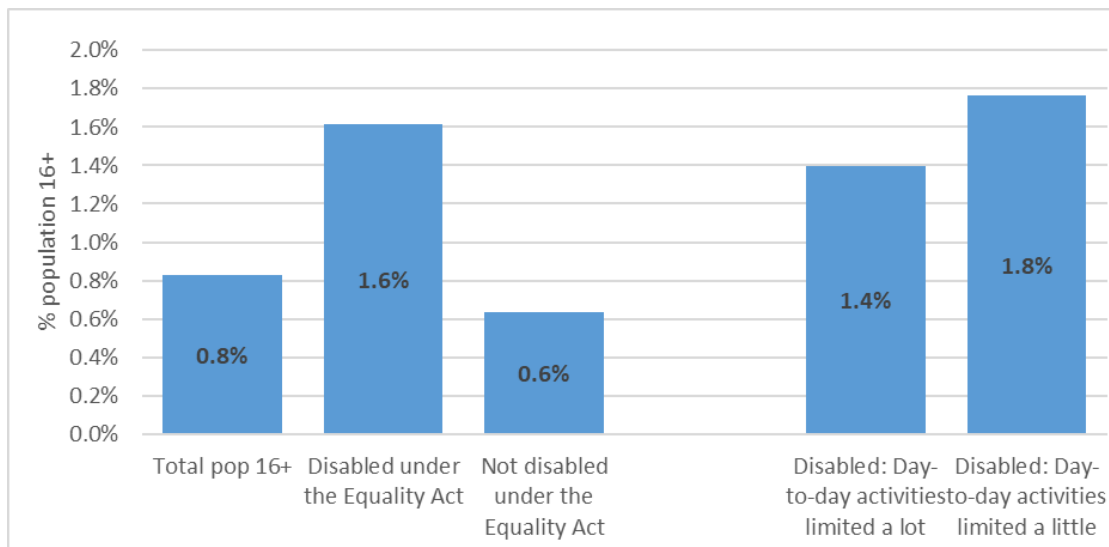
In Bristol, the percentage of Disabled people who identified as 'Trans' (1.6%) was more than double that of people not disabled (0.6%) (figure 14).

Disability rates by gender identity

People who identified as having a gender identity different from their sex registered at birth ('Trans' population) were more likely to be disabled than the overall population of Bristol (figure 15). Despite having a younger than average age profile, which is generally associated with lower levels of disability, 38% of people aged 16 and over in Bristol who identified as 'Trans' were disabled, compared with 20% of overall population. Breaking down the Trans group, almost two thirds (60%) of people who identified as 'all other gender identities' were disabled.

Figure 14: Disability and Trans population in Bristol

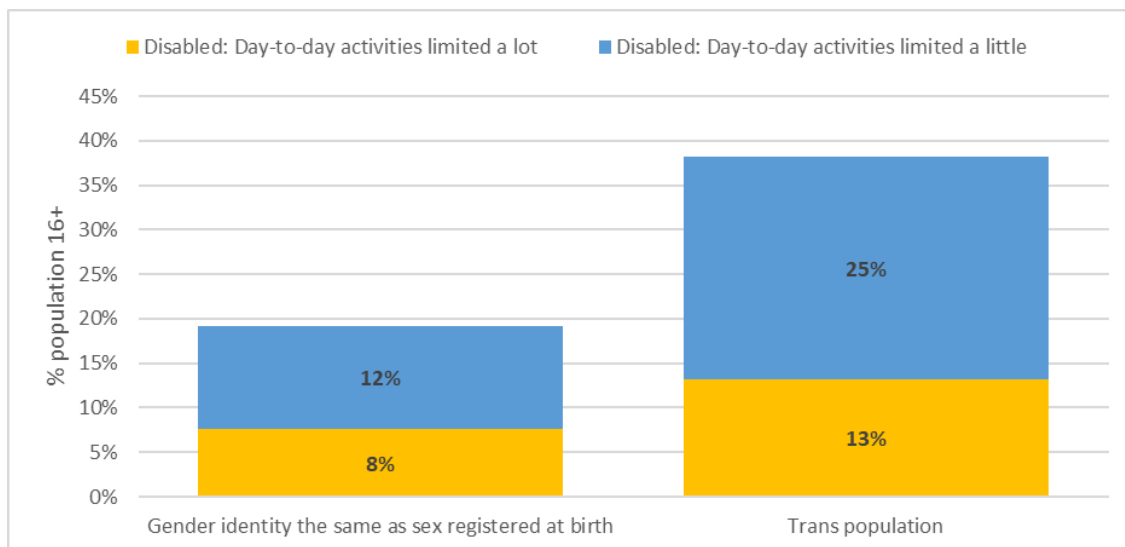
Source: ONS Census 2021



Note: Disabled under the Equalities Act includes people who have physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life. The total Disabled population (second column) can be split into people whose day-to-day activities were (i) limited a lot and (ii) limited a little (shown in the two columns on the right-hand side of the chart).

Figure 15: Disability rates by gender identity in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021



Note: Disabled under the Equalities Act includes people who have physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life. The total Disabled population is split into people whose day-to-day activities were (i) limited a lot and (ii) limited a little.

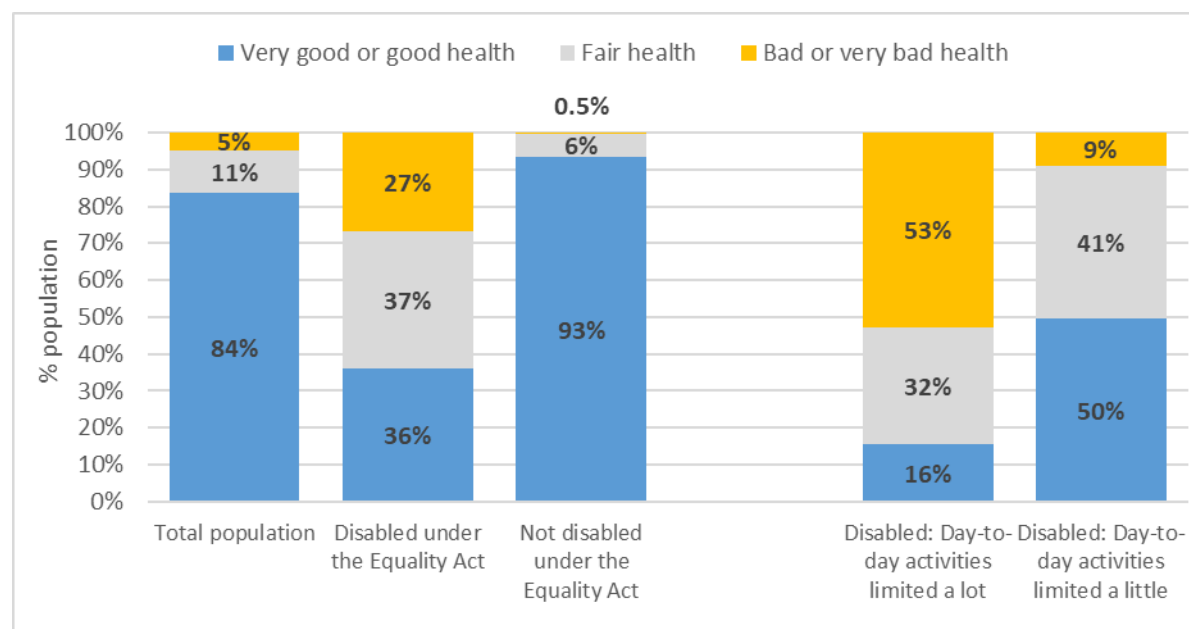
GENERAL HEALTH

Disabled population compared to the population not disabled

General health was much poorer for the Disabled population than the population not disabled (figure 16). In 2021, 27% of the Disabled population in Bristol described their health as 'bad' or 'very bad' compared to less than 1% of the population not disabled. A further 37% of the Disabled population described their health as 'fair', whilst 36% described their health as 'good' and or 'very good' compared to 93% of the population not disabled. The Disabled population has an older age profile than the population not disabled which partly explains the poorer levels of health.

Figure 16: Disability and general health in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021



Note: Disabled under the Equalities Act includes people who have physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life. The total Disabled population (second column) can be split into people whose day-to-day activities were (i) limited a lot and (ii) limited a little (shown in the two columns on the right-hand side of the chart).

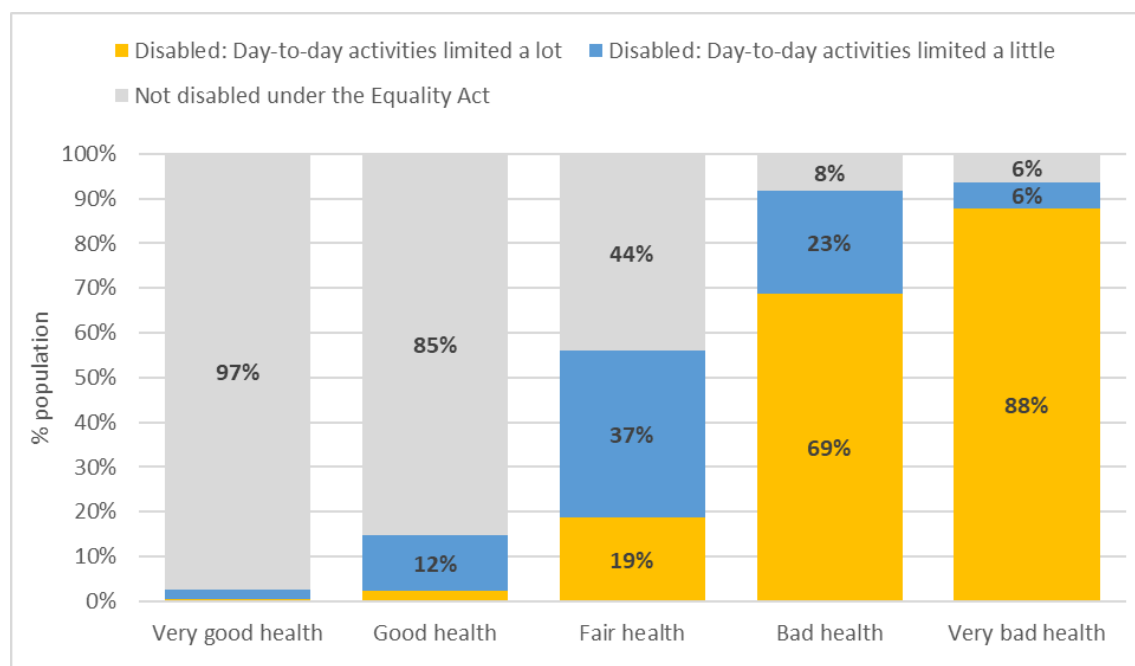
By far the highest levels of poor health were experienced by the Disabled population whose day-to-day activities were limited a lot by their disability or health issues. More than half (53%) of people in this group described their health as 'bad' or 'very bad' compared to 9% of Disabled people whose day-to-day activities were limited a little.

Disability rates by general health

Almost all people (93%) who described their health as 'good' or 'very good' were not disabled, whilst 92% of people who described their health as 'bad' or 'very bad' were disabled (figure 17).

Figure 17: Disability rates by general health in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021



Note: Disabled under the Equalities Act includes people who have physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life. The total Disabled population is split into people whose day-to-day activities were (i) limited a lot and (ii) limited a little.

CARERS

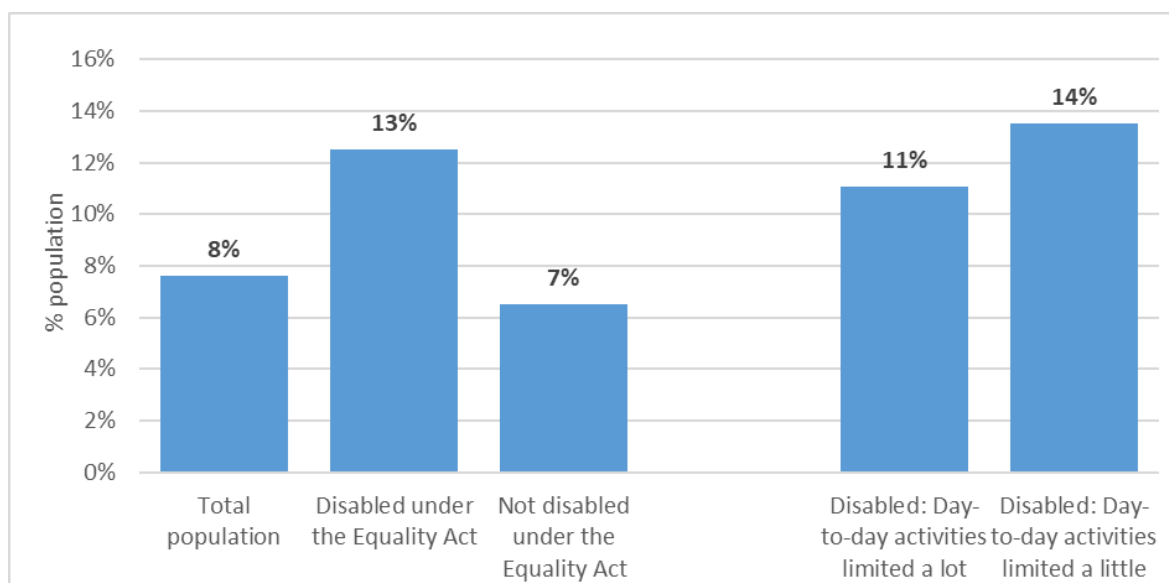
Census 2021 asked "Do you look after, or give any help or support to, anyone because they have long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses, or problems related to old age?". People were asked to exclude anything they did as part of their paid employment.

In 2021, 13% of Disabled people provided unpaid care compared to 7% of the population not disabled (figure 18). Like general healthy, people within older age groups were more likely to provide unpaid care.

Disabled population compared to the population not disabled

Figure 18: Disability and provision of unpaid care in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021



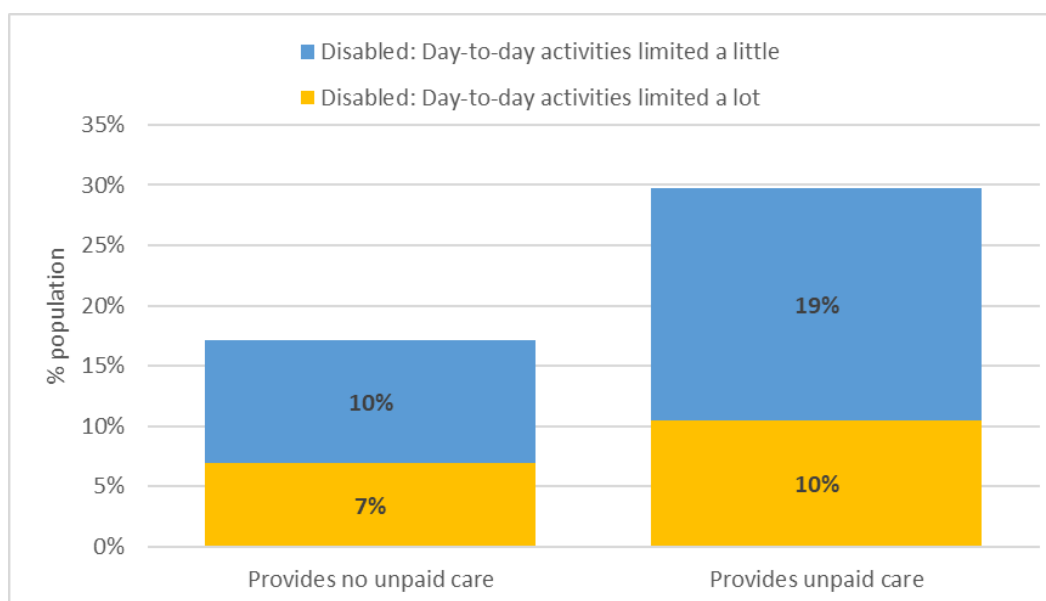
Note: Disabled under the Equalities Act includes people who have physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life. The total Disabled population (second column) can be split into people whose day-to-day activities were (i) limited a lot and (ii) limited a little (shown in the two columns on the right-hand side of the chart).

Disability rates and carers

Of all the carers in Bristol, almost a third (30%) were disabled themselves. This compares to just 17% of the population who do not provide unpaid carer to others (figure 19).

Figure 19: Disability rates and provision of unpaid care in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021



Note: Disabled under the Equalities Act includes people who have physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life. The total Disabled population is split into people whose day-to-day activities were (i) limited a lot and (ii) limited a little.

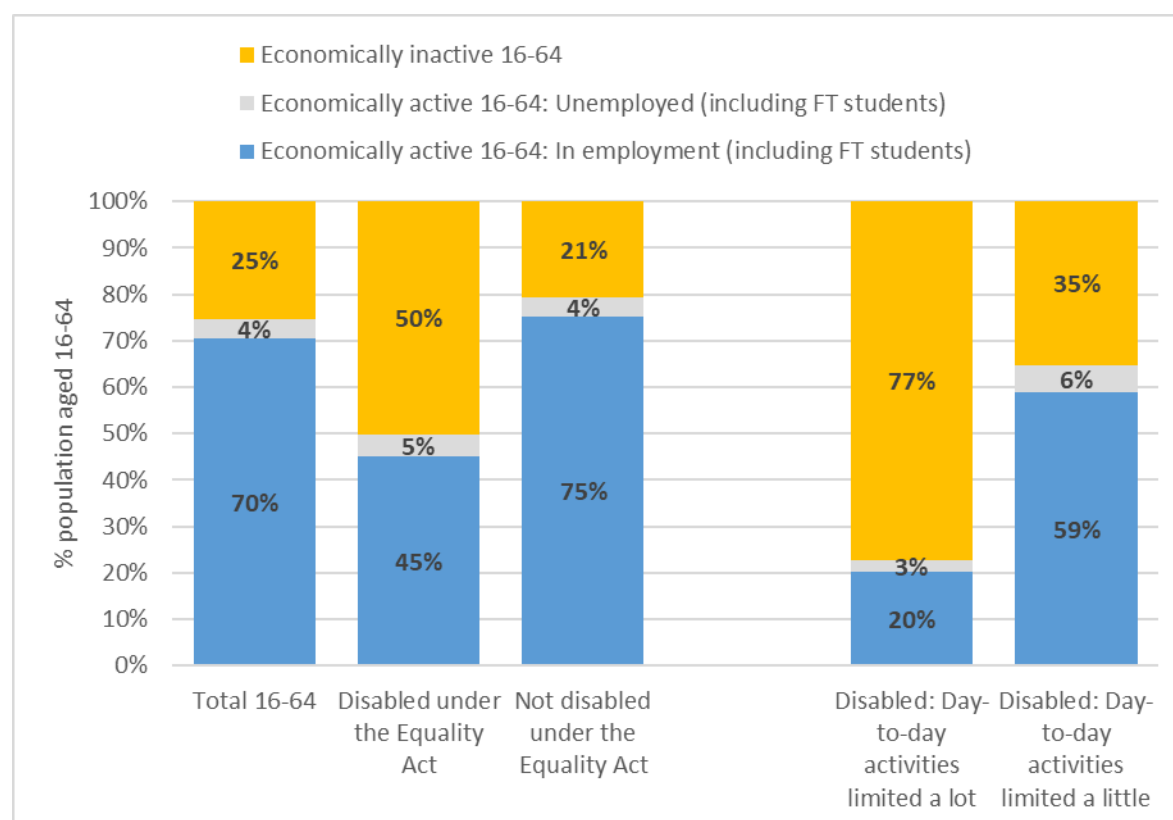
Note: figures for unpaid care can be affected by perception of the question. Not everyone who provides unpaid care may consider themselves an unpaid carer.

4.7 ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

Census 2021 was taken during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. People on furlough were asked to record themselves as employed but some people may have said they were out of work instead.

Figure 20: Disability and economic activity status in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021



Note: Disabled under the Equalities Act includes people who have physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life. The total Disabled population (second column) can be split into people whose day-to-day activities were (i) limited a lot and (ii) limited a little (shown in the two columns on the right-hand side of the chart).

Disability and long-term illness, caring for others, where someone lives, and their age can affect whether more or fewer people are employed within a population group. This section looks at census data for whether people aged 16 to 64 were in employment, unemployed, or not looking for work (termed 'economically inactive') mainly because they were a student, retired, long-term sick or looking after the home or family.

EMPLOYMENT

Disabled population compared to the population not disabled

In 2021, three quarters (75%) of the population not disabled of working age were in employment compared to less than half (45%) of the Disabled population. Within the Disabled population, there were big differences between those whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot and a little. Just 20% of people who were disabled with day-to-day activities limited a lot were in employment compared to 59% of those whose day-to-day activities were limited a little (figure 20).

These differences were shaped by higher percentages of 'economically inactive' people within the Disabled population.

ECONOMICALLY INACTIVE

Disabled population compared to the population not disabled

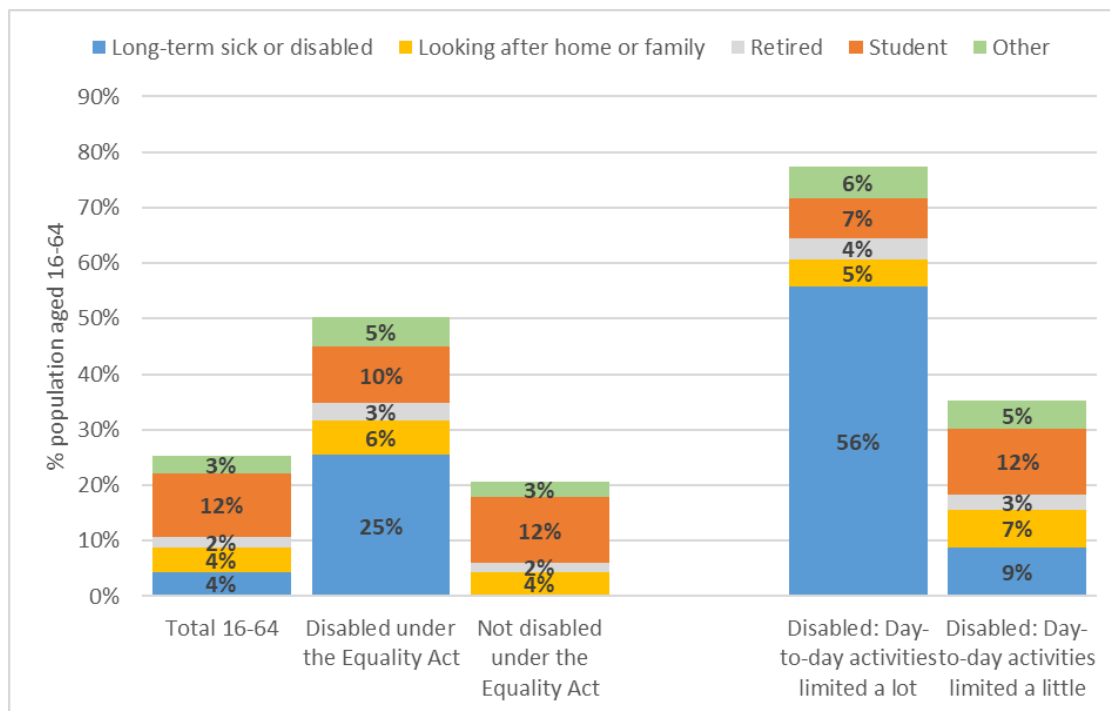
Among the 83,300 people aged 16 to 64 years in Bristol who were economically inactive (25% of total population aged 16-64 years), their reasons for not looking for work varied considerably for the Disabled and the population not disabled.

Among the Disabled population, the main reason for economic inactivity was due to long-term sickness or disability – this accounted for half of the economically inactive population (figure 21). The other half of the Disabled population were economically inactive for similar reasons to the population not disabled including students (10%) and looking after the family or home (6%).

Within the Disabled population, 56% of those people whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot state that their reason for being economically inactive was due to being long-term sick or disabled. Conversely, only 9% those Disabled people whose day-to-day activities are limited a little state that their reason for being economically inactive was due to being long-term sick or disabled.

Figure 21: Disability and economic inactivity in Bristol

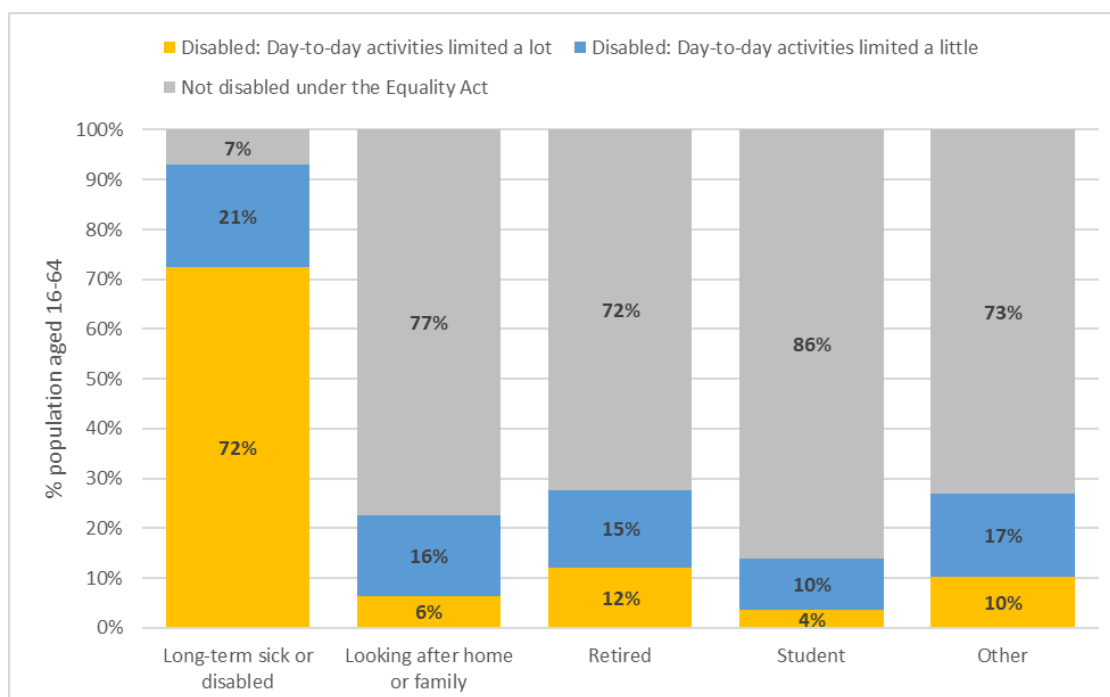
Source: ONS Census 2021



Note: Disabled under the Equalities Act includes people who have physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life. The total Disabled population (second column) can be split into people whose day-to-day activities were (i) limited a lot and (ii) limited a little (shown in the two columns on the right-hand side of the chart).

Figure 22: Disability rates by economic inactivity in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021



Note: Disabled under the Equalities Act includes people who have physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life. The total Disabled population is split into people whose day-to-day activities were (i) limited a lot and (ii) limited a little.

The older age profile of the Disabled population is a contributing factor to these differences. People are more likely to be long-term sick or retired early at older age groups. The high percentage of ‘economically inactive’ people within the Disabled population was consistent with the higher levels of ‘bad’ or ‘very bad’ health reported and the higher proportions of people providing unpaid care.

Disability rates by economic inactivity

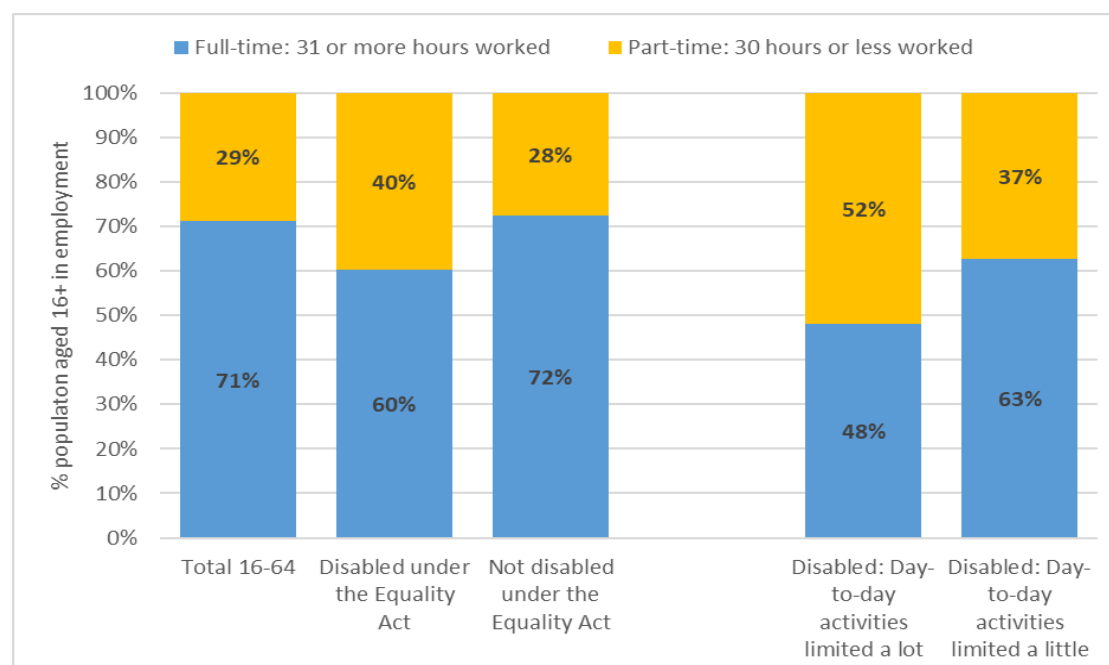
The proportion of people of working age who are disabled and not disabled for each of the reasons for being economic inactive is shown in figure 22. Unsurprisingly of the proportion of people who are not working and not looking for work due to a long-term sickness or disability, the majority (93%) are disabled – 72% limited a lot and 21% limited a little. Indeed, all reasons for being economically inactive have a higher levels of disability compared to the population as a whole, with the exception of students.

HOURS WORKED

Disabled population compared to the population not disabled

Figure 23: Disability and hours worked in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021



Note: Disabled under the Equalities Act includes people who have physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life. The total Disabled population (second column) can be split into people whose day-to-day activities were (i) limited a lot and (ii) limited a little (shown in the two columns on the right-hand side of the chart).

More people work full time than part time for all groups with the exception of the Disabled population whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot (figure 23). Within this group less than half of people work full time (48%).

4.8 OCCUPATION

There are nine categories for the types of work people do in the census. These are:

1. Managers, directors or senior officials
2. Professional occupations
3. Associate professional and technical occupations
4. Administrative and secretarial occupations
5. Skilled trades occupations
6. Caring, leisure and other services
7. Sales and customer service
8. Process, plant and machine operation
9. Elementary occupations

Disabled population compared to the population not disabled

Among people in work at the time of Census 2021, the percentage who worked in each of the nine occupation categories didn't vary greatly between Disabled people and people not disabled (figure 24).

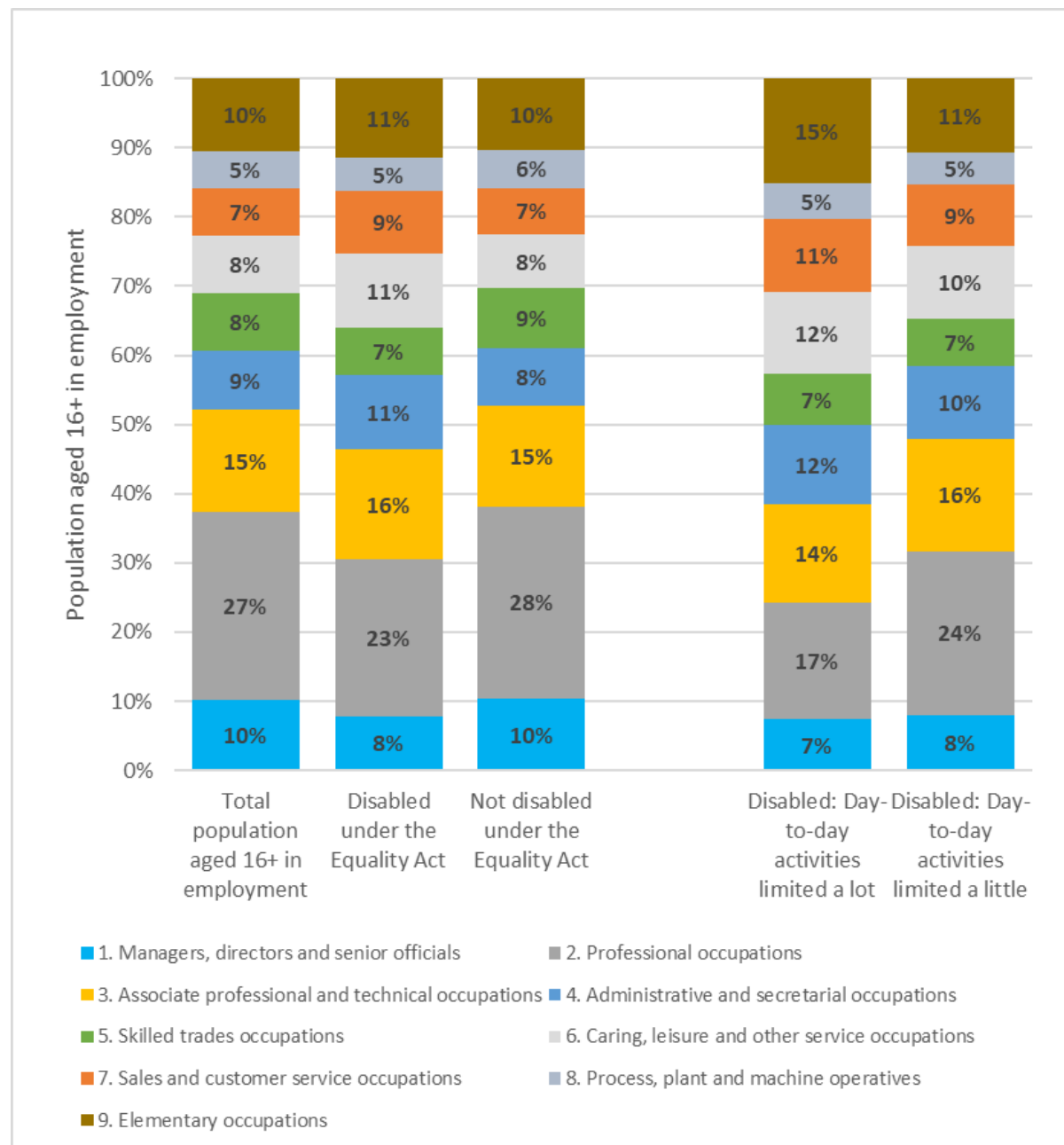
Both population groups had the highest proportion of people employed in 'professional occupations' followed by 'associate professional and technical occupations' which includes, for example, actors, aircraft pilots, authors, IT technicians and estate agents.

Disabled people were less likely to work in the professional occupation group at 23% (28% people not disabled) and as 'managers, directors and senior officials' at 8% (10% people not disabled).

The Disabled population had a slightly higher proportion of people (three percentage points) employed in 'caring, leisure and other services' (11%) and 'administrative and secretarial occupations' (11%).

Figure 24: Disabled population by occupation in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021



Note: Disabled under the Equalities Act includes people who have physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life. The total Disabled population (second column) can be split into people whose day-to-day activities were (i) limited a lot and (ii) limited a little (shown in the two columns on the right-hand side of the chart).

4.9 QUALIFICATIONS

Qualification levels in the Census 2021 include the following categories:

- **No qualifications:** No formal qualifications
- **Level 1:** One to four GCSE passes (grade A* to C or grade 4 and above) and any other GCSEs at other grades, or equivalent qualifications
- **Level 2:** Five or more GCSE passes (grade A* to C or grade 4 and above) or equivalent qualifications
- **Apprenticeships**
- **Level 3:** Two or more A Levels or equivalent qualifications
- **Level 4 or above:** Higher National Certificate, Higher National Diploma, Bachelor's degree, or postgraduate qualifications
- **Other:** Other qualifications, of unknown level

Disabled population compared to the population not disabled

Among the 390,000 people aged 16 and over in Bristol in 2021, 42% had a degree or higher as their highest level of qualification. Disabled people and people not disabled also had a degree or higher as their highest level of qualification but with significant differences between the two population groups (figure 25).

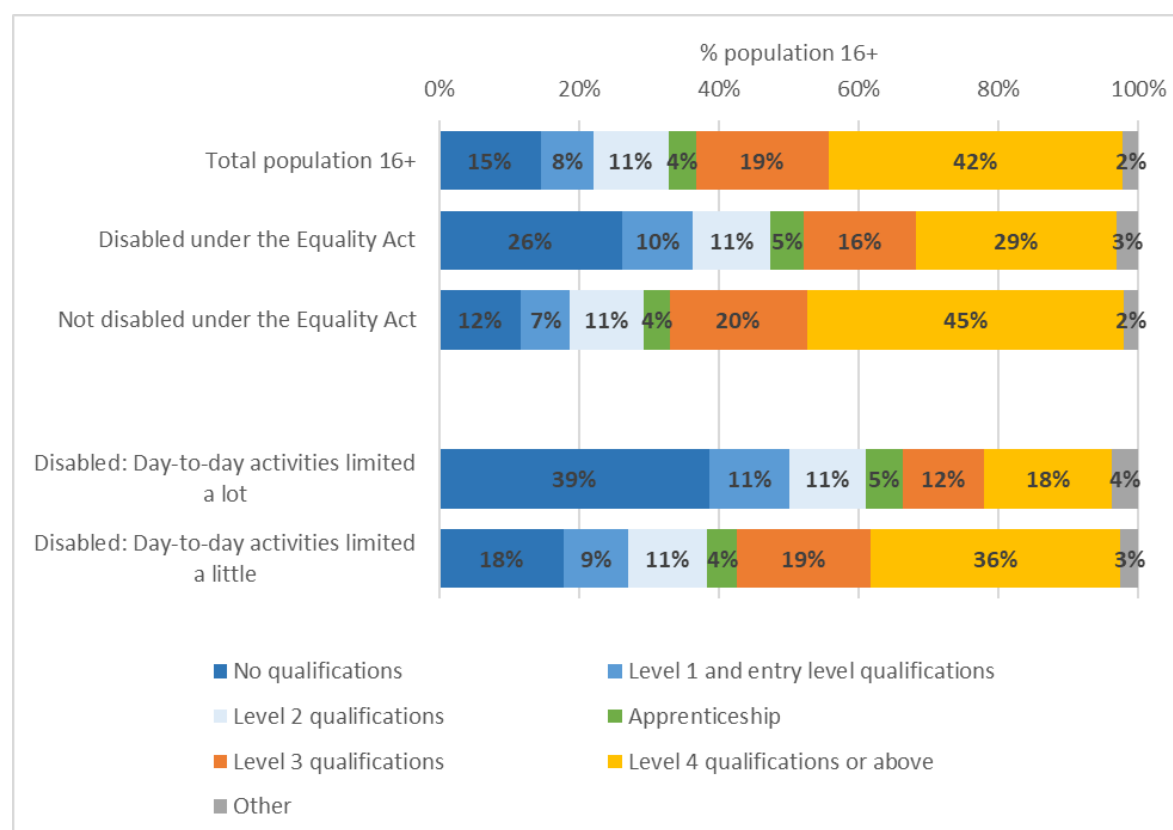
There was a 16 percentage point difference between Disabled people aged 16 and over in Bristol with a degree or higher (29%) and people not disabled with a degree or higher (45%). The proportion of Disabled people with a degree or higher whose day-to-day activities were limited a lot was even lower at just 18%.

Of the population with no qualifications, overall 26% of the Disabled population had no qualifications compared to 12% of the population not disabled. The highest proportion however was in the Disabled population whose day-to-day activities were limited a lot, where 39% of all people aged 16 and over in this group had no qualifications.

Many factors contribute to differences in highest level of qualification. Age is likely to be only a contributing factor to differences in educational outcomes.

Figure 25: Disability and highest qualification level in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021



Note: Disabled under the Equalities Act includes people who have physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life. The total Disabled population (shown in the second bar) can be split into people whose day-to-day activities were (i) limited a lot and (ii) limited a little (shown in the two bars at the bottom of the chart).

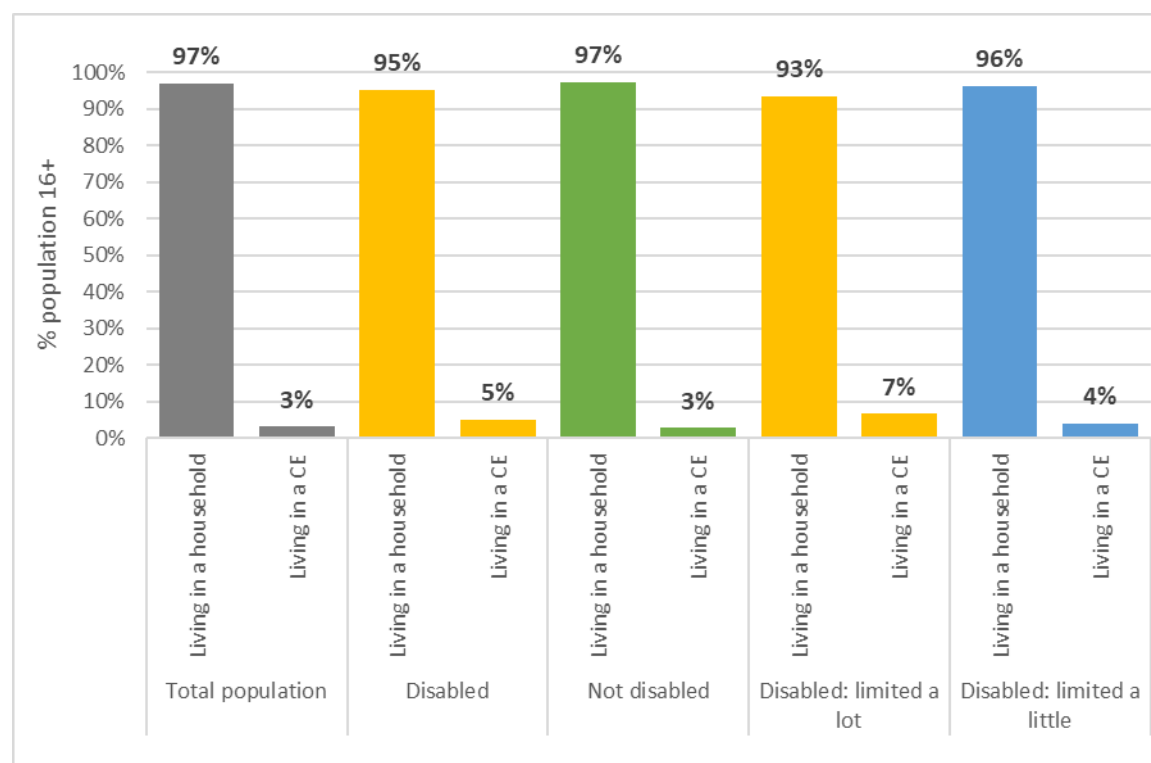
4.10 HOUSING

HOUSEHOLDS AND COMMUNAL ESTABLISHMENTS

All people who are usually resident in an area live either in households or in communal establishments². In Bristol in 2021, 77,120 (95%) Disabled people lived in households and 4,039 (5%) Disabled people lived in communal establishments (not disabled: 97% and 3% respectively). A slightly higher proportion of people who were disabled and whose day-to-day activities were limited a lot lived in communal establishments (7%) (figure 26).

² 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.

Figure 26: Population living in households and communal establishments in Bristol
Source: ONS Census 2021



Note: Disabled under the Equalities Act includes people who have physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life. The total Disabled population (second column) can be split into people whose day-to-day activities were (i) limited a lot and (ii) limited a little (shown in the two columns on the right-hand side of the chart).

HOUSING TENURE

The census tells us if people lived in a home that is owned outright, owned with a mortgage or loan, or if they lived in a rented home. If rented, the census tells us if that was social rented housing (such as from a council or housing association), private rent, or if they were living rent free (for example, in a home owned by a family member or friend). Disability is individual, so we are looking here at percentages of people, rather than the percentage of rented or owned properties.

Disabled population compared to the population not disabled

Owned

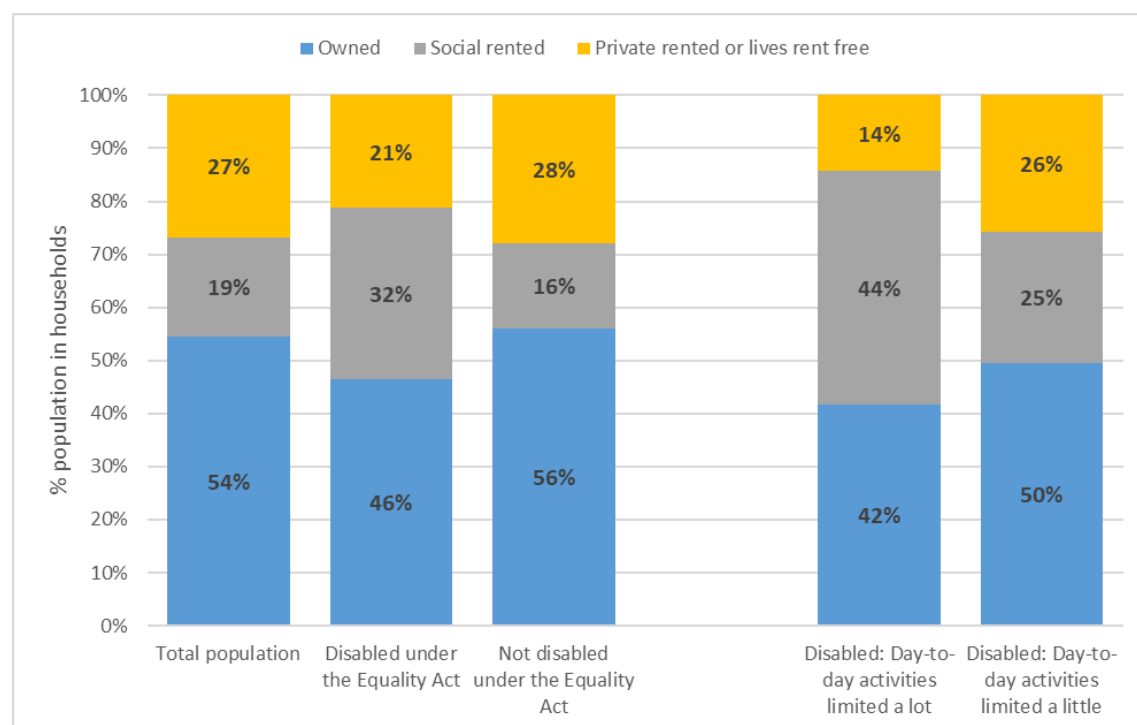
Of the 457,800 people in Bristol who lived in households in 2021, 54% were in households that owned their accommodation (E&W 63%).

For the Disabled population, home ownership levels were ten percentage points lower than for the population not disabled, with 46% owning their own home compared to 56% of the population not disabled (figure 27).

An older age profile is one factor usually affecting levels of home ownership, so the older age profile of the Disabled population would be expected to see higher levels of home ownership. However, other factors can contribute to differences between groups, including income, employment, inherited wealth, housing stock, and prices and where people live.

Figure 27: Disability and housing tenure in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021



Note: Disabled under the Equalities Act includes people who have physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life. The total Disabled population (second column) can be split into people whose day-to-day activities were (i) limited a lot and (ii) limited a little (shown in the two columns on the right-hand side of the chart).

Social rented

Disabled people were twice as likely to live in social rented housing than the population not disabled – 32% living in social rented housing compared to 16% (figure 27). Within the Disabled population, the proportion living in social housing is highest for those whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot at 44%.

Private rented

A smaller proportion of Disabled people privately rent (or live rent free) than the population not disabled. In total a fifth of Disabled people (21%) live in the private rented sector compared to 28% of the population not disabled. The younger age profile of the population not disabled may partly explain why they are more likely to live in private rented and rent-free homes (figure 27).

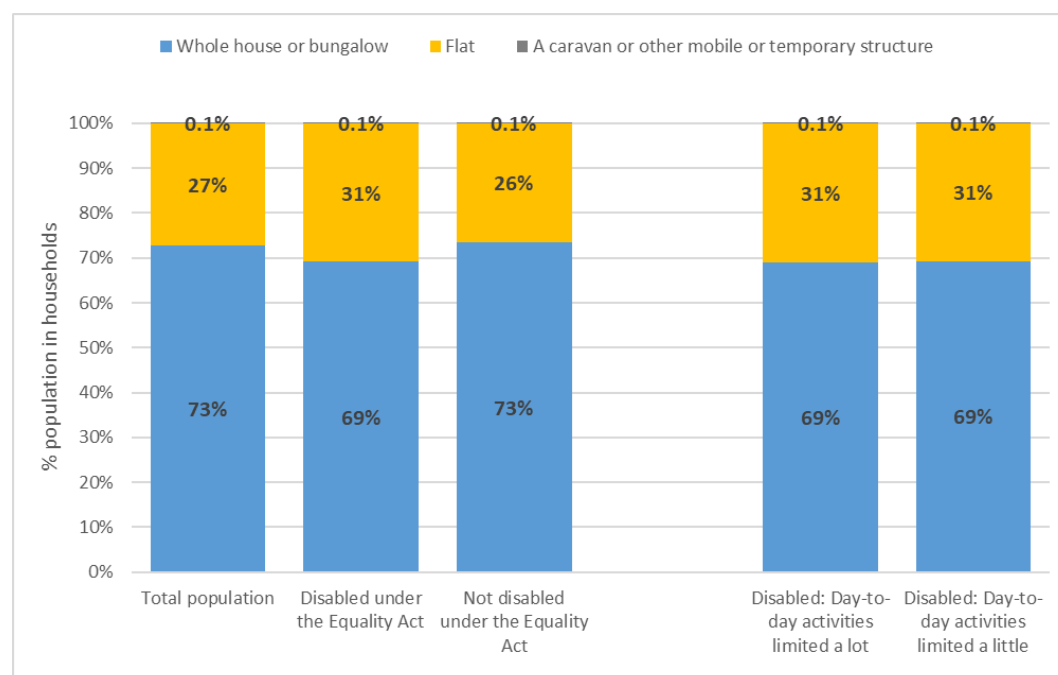
HOUSING TYPE

Disabled population compared to the population not disabled

Overall in Bristol, 27% of the population live in flats (including maisonettes or apartments). The variation between the Disabled and population not disabled by accommodation type is less marked than for other variables (figure 28). A slightly higher proportion of Disabled people live in flats (31%) than the population not disabled (26%), this is mainly due to a slightly higher percentage living in purpose-built flats and apartments – 20% compared to 16% of the population not disabled.

Figure 28: Disability and accommodation type in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021



Note: Disabled under the Equalities Act includes people who have physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life. The total Disabled population (second column) can be split into people whose day-to-day activities were (i) limited a lot and (ii) limited a little (shown in the two columns on the right-hand side of the chart).

OVERCROWDING

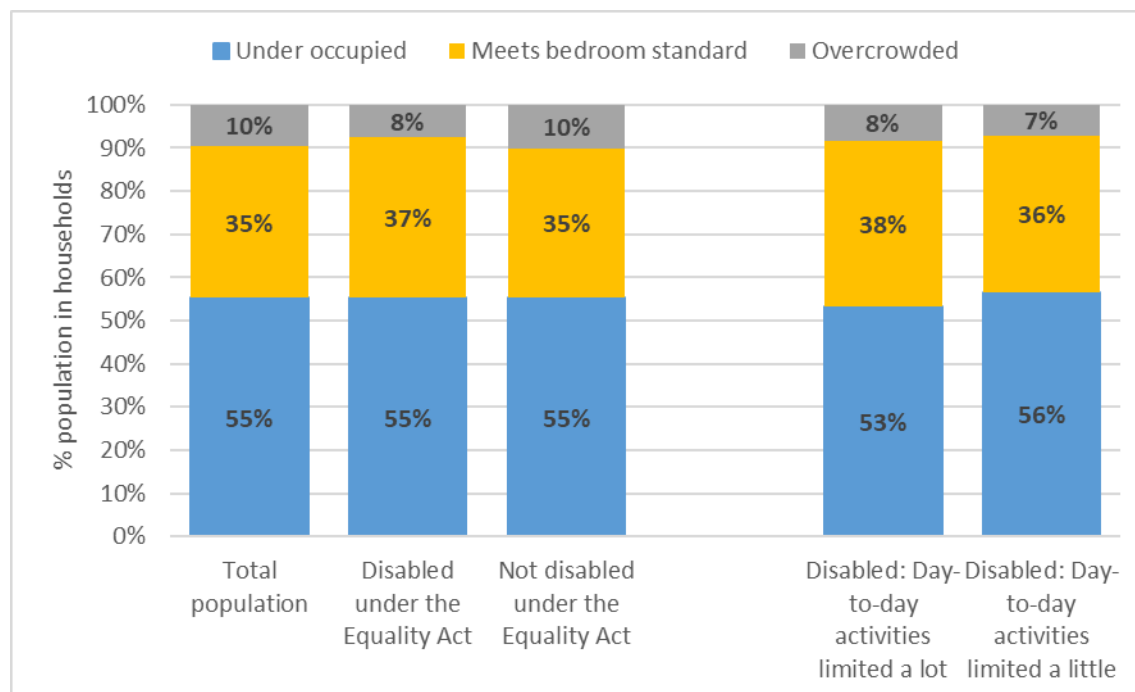
Occupancy rating provides a measure of whether a household's accommodation is overcrowded or underoccupied. An occupancy rating of minus 1 or less implies that a household has fewer bedrooms than the standard requirement (overcrowded), plus 1 implies that they have more bedrooms than required (under occupied), and 0 implies that they met the standard required.

Disabled population compared to the population not disabled

Disabled people have similar occupancy levels to the population not disabled (figure 29).

Figure 29: Disability and occupancy rating in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021



Note: Disabled under the Equalities Act includes people who have physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life. The total Disabled population (second column) can be split into people whose day-to-day activities were (i) limited a lot and (ii) limited a little (shown in the two columns on the right-hand side of the chart).

4.11 HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

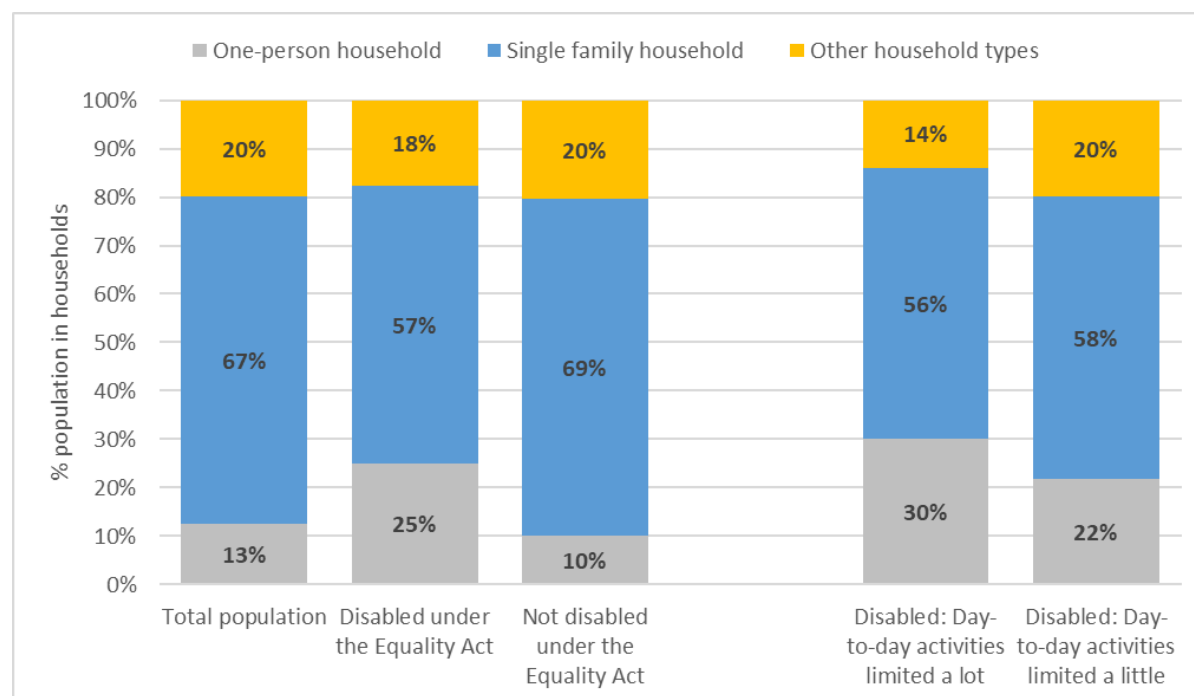
Disabled population compared to the population not disabled

In Bristol overall, 13% of the total population live in one person households. One person households make up a higher proportion in the Disabled population, with a quarter of Disabled people (25%) living alone compared to 10% of people not disabled. A slightly higher proportion of the Disabled population whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot live alone at 30% (figure 30). These higher proportions can be partly explained by the older age profile of the Disabled population.

Figure 30: Disability and household composition in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021

Note: 'Other household types' include households that aren't just one person or one family and include all student households and houses in multiple occupation (HMOs).



Note: Disabled under the Equalities Act includes people who have physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life. The total Disabled population (second column) can be split into people whose day-to-day activities were (i) limited a lot and (ii) limited a little (shown in the two columns on the right-hand side of the chart).

4.12 CAR AVAILABILITY

Census 2021 asked households how many cars or vans the household owned or had available to them.

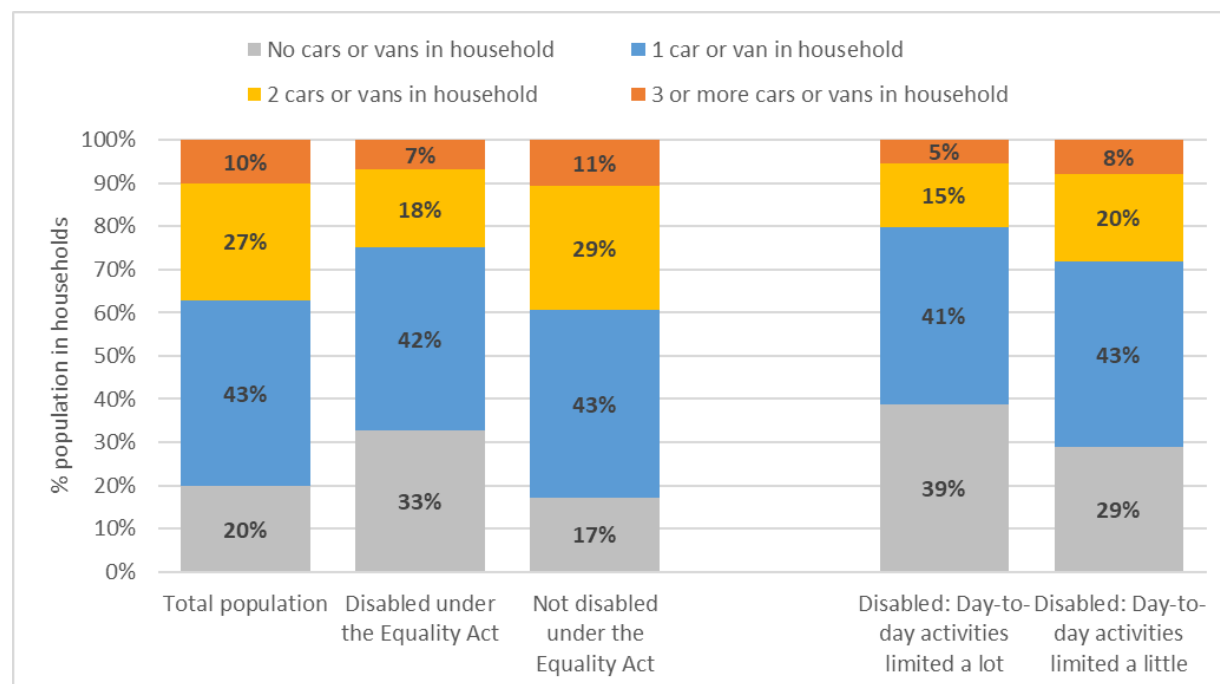
Disabled population compared to the population not disabled

Overall in Bristol, a fifth (20%) of all people live in a household without a car or van.

The proportion of Disabled people without a car or van was considerably higher than for people who were not disabled. A third (33%) of Disabled people did not having access to a car or van, double the proportion without a car or van in the population not disabled (17%). An even higher proportion (39%) had no access to a car or van in the Disabled population whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot (figure 31).

Figure 31: Disability and car availability in Bristol

Source: ONS Census 2021



Note: Disabled under the Equalities Act includes people who have physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that negatively impact their daily life. The total Disabled population (second column) can be split into people whose day-to-day activities were (i) limited a lot and (ii) limited a little (shown in the two columns on the right-hand side of the chart).

5.0 HOUSEHOLDS WITH HEALTH ISSUES AND DISABILITIES

As well as collecting information about the numbers and characteristics of people who have long-term physical or mental health issues or disabilities, Census 2021 also collects information on numbers of households and whether they include one or more Disabled people.

In 2021, a third (32%) of all households in Bristol included at least one person with long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses whose day-to-day activities are limited (figure 32), consisting of:

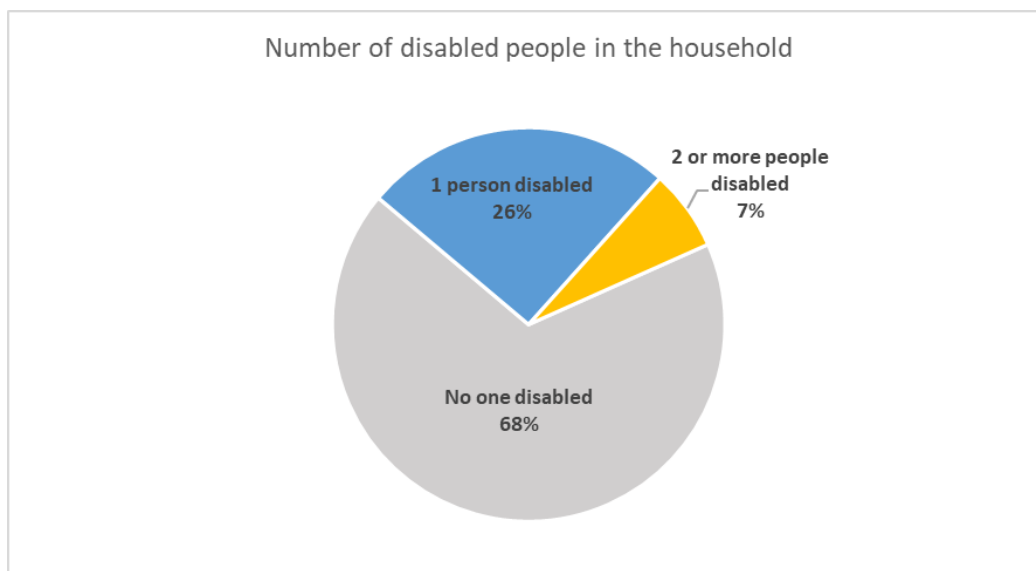
- 48,960 (26%) households with one person with long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses whose day-to-day activities are limited (E&W 26%)
- 12,771 (7%) households with two or more people with long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses whose day-to-day activities are limited (E&W 7%)

Wards where more than 40% of households have at least one Disabled person include: 46% of households in Hartcliffe and Withywood ward, 43% of households in Filwood ward and 41% of households in Southmead ward. The neighbourhood (LSOA21) with the highest proportion is 'Inns Court', where more than half (52%) of all households include at least one

person with long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses whose day-to-day activities are limited.

Figure 32: Households in Bristol which include a disabled person

Source: ONS Census 2021



6.0 FURTHER INFORMATION

ONS Census 2021 articles on the Disabled population:

[Disability, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#)

[Disability by age, sex and deprivation, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#)

[Protected characteristics by disability status, England and Wales: Census 2021 - Office for National Statistics](#)

More information about census results for Bristol, including links to our Census 2021 Dashboards, can be found on the [Bristol City Council Census web page](#). Links to a selection of useful ONS Census tools can also be found here.

A guide to equalities statistics and profiles for other population groups, together with wider information about the Bristol population can be found on our [population web page](#). The equalities statistics guide outlines the main sources of equalities statistics for Bristol, including information on age, sex, ethnic group, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and legal partnership status.

If you have any questions about this report please contact:

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Email: research@bristol.gov.uk