

Gypsies and Travellers

Summary

- Significant health inequalities exist between Gypsies and Travellers and the general population in England, even when compared with other socially deprived or excluded groups and with other ethnic minorities. It is estimated that Gypsies and Travellers die on average 10-12 years younger than the population.
- The 2011 Census recorded 2,069 Gypsies and Travellers living in Hampshire. However local estimates suggest this is an underestimate and the locally estimated range is between 4,690 and 7,630 people. Three quarters (75%) of these people are believed to be living in bricks and mortar accommodation, with 25% living on authorised local authority or private sites. The largest number (423) is in the New Forest and the greatest proportion (0.3% of the population) is in Hart district. Data suggest there are Gypsies and Travellers living in every district in Hampshire.
- There are no robust local data quantifying the prevalence of illnesses and lifestyle behaviours amongst the Gypsy and Traveller population in Hampshire. Feedback from stakeholders and previous work done in Hampshire suggests that the key health problems experienced by Gypsies and Travellers in the county are the same as nationally. These include:
 - Higher prevalence of long term conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, lung disease, and mental health problems
 - Higher prevalence of risky lifestyle behaviours such as smoking, lack of physical activity, obesity and alcohol consumption
 - Higher levels of domestic abuse amongst women
 - Higher levels of dental health problems and fewer dental check-ups;
 - Increased risk of preventable childhood infectious diseases such as measles because of lower levels of vaccination.
- There were a high proportion of learning disabilities reported in the New Forest area, particularly where there are Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation.

Recommendations

- Establish a county-wide strategic partnership to oversee and enable the reduction in modifiable inequalities, including those experienced by Gypsies and Travellers.
- This partnership should initiate its work with a focus on the key areas identified by the cross-government ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers (DCLG April 2012):
 - Improving outcomes in Gypsy, Roma and Traveller education;
 - Improving the health outcomes of Gypsies and Travellers;
 - Providing appropriate accommodation;
 - Tackling hate crime against Gypsies and Travellers;
 - Criminal justice;
 - Improving access to employment and financial services;
 - Improving engagement with service providers.
- The work should form a component of the Hampshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy delivery to address inequalities.

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1. Introduction

This chapter summarises the Hampshire Gypsy Traveller Health Needs Assessment April 2013.

Travelling people have a long history in the south-east of England and Hampshire. Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are recognised as ethnic minority groups¹ and represent a significant vulnerable group in the UK, experiencing some of the worst outcomes of any group across a wide range of indicators. For example, national figures show that:

- Just 12% of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils achieved five or more good GCSEs in 2011, including English and Mathematics, compared with 58.2% of all pupils.
- There is an excess prevalence of miscarriages, stillbirths, neonatal deaths in Gypsy and Traveller communities.
- Around 20% of traveller caravans are on unauthorised sites.
- Studies have reported that Gypsy and Traveller communities are subjected to hostility and discrimination and in many places, lead separate, parallel lives from the wider community².

On average, Gypsy Traveller women die 11.9 years earlier than the general population and Gypsy Traveller men die 9.9 years earlier. In England, the cost of treating illness and disease arising from health inequalities such as these has been estimated at £5.5 billion per year. Lost taxes and higher welfare payments resulting from health inequalities cost in the region of £28–32 billion³. While these figures apply to all inequalities, not just those experienced by Gypsies and Travellers, there is a strong business case for investing in activities in Hampshire to improve outcomes for Gypsies and Travellers and to reduce inequalities.

2. Level of need in the population

Population of Gypsies and Travellers in Hampshire

There is a lack of information available on the health needs of Gypsies and Travellers due to methods of recording data, poor recording of ethnicity and low self-ascription; many choosing not to identify themselves as Gypsies or Travellers.

Until 2011 the Census did not collect ethnicity on Gypsies and Travellers. The 2011 Census revealed 2,069 Gypsies and Travellers in Hampshire; the majority are of Romany Gypsy heritage with the second largest group being Irish Travellers (table and figure 1).⁴ The largest number (423) was in New Forest and the greatest proportion (0.3% of the population) in Hart. The Census data does not state which

¹ There is also a large population of non-traditional Travellers, Travelling Showpeople and a small number of New Travellers in Hampshire who are not recognised as ethnic minority groups but may still face the same inequalities.

² DCLG April 2012. Progress report by the ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6287/2124046.pdf

³ NICE Oct 2012. Health inequalities and public health <http://publications.nice.org.uk/health-inequalities-and-population-health-phb4>

⁴ <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/interactive/census-map-2-1---ethnicity/index.html>

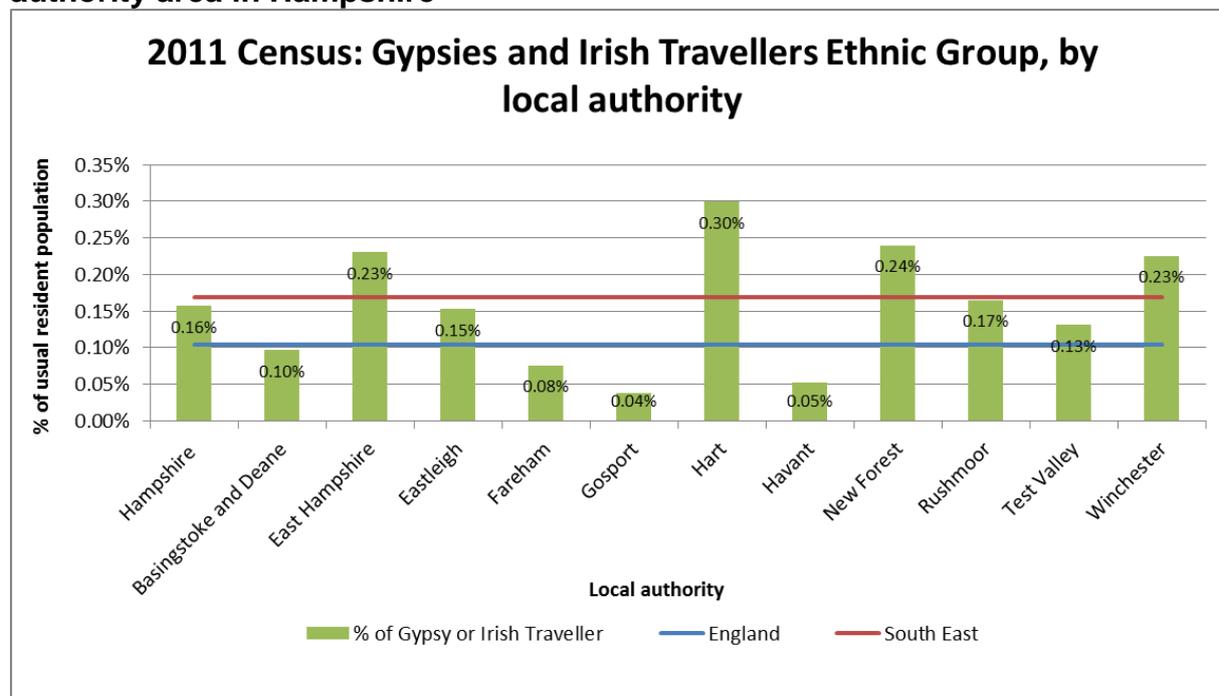
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accommodation Gypsies and Travellers are living in so may include those living in bricks and mortar and caravan accommodation.

Table 1: 2011 Census data for Gypsies and Travellers in Hampshire

Area name	All categories: Ethnic group (number)	White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller (number)	White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller (%)
ENGLAND	53,012,456	54,895	0.10%
SOUTH EAST	8,634,750	14,542	0.17%
Hampshire	1,317,788	2,069	0.16%
Basingstoke and Deane	167,799	163	0.10%
East Hampshire	115,608	267	0.23%
Eastleigh	125,199	191	0.15%
Fareham	111,581	85	0.08%
Gosport	82,622	32	0.04%
Hart	91,033	273	0.30%
Havant	120,684	64	0.05%
New Forest	176,462	423	0.24%
Rushmoor	93,807	155	0.17%
Test Valley	116,398	153	0.13%
Winchester	116,595	263	0.23%

Figure 1: Proportion of the Gypsy and Traveller population for each local authority area in Hampshire

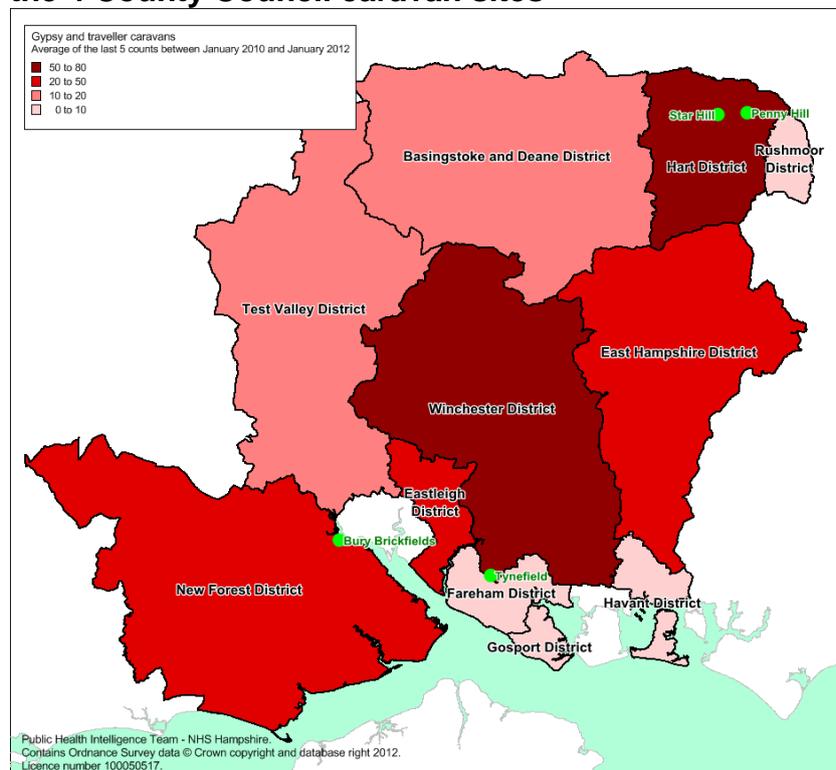


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In addition to the Census 2011, data on the population of Gypsies and Travellers in Hampshire are available from the twice-yearly Caravan Count the Government requires local authorities to carry out to count the number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans in England⁵. In January 2012 there were 273 caravans counted in Hampshire, rising to 334 caravans in July 2012. While the 2011 Census shows the greatest number of Gypsies and Travellers are in New Forest district, the Caravan Count data show that Hart closely followed by Winchester districts have the most caravans. This may be due to a higher number of Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation in New Forest district. The greatest numbers of unauthorised sites (with the exception of Winchester district) are in the districts that do not have authorised sites - Basingstoke and Deane, Eastleigh and Winchester districts.

There are four local authority maintained sites and approximately 248 private sites in Hampshire. There are also 87 authorised travelling Showpeople sites in the county. The four local authority caravan sites are run by Hampshire County Council. These are Bury Brickfields in Totton (New Forest); Tynefield in Sedgensworth near Fareham (Winchester City Council); Star Hill in Hartley Wintney (Hart); and Penny Hill in Blackbush (Hart). Each of the sites has 20 pitches except for Tynefield, which has 18.

Figure 2: average of the last 5 counts of Gypsy and Traveller caravans in Hampshire districts between January 2010 and January 2012, and location of the 4 County Council caravan sites



⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gypsy-and-traveller-caravan-count-january-2012>

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Using an upper estimate of average family size to be 6 people per family this equates to 650 residents living on the local authority sites and 1,240 on private sites. Other research conducted locally estimates numbers of families living in bricks and mortar accommodation and the same methodology has been used to calculate the number of individuals at 5,740. Together these sources of information can be used to estimate the number of Gypsies and Travellers in Hampshire (excluding those on unauthorised sites).

Table 2: estimates of numbers of Gypsies and Travellers in different accommodation

Accommodation	Number of individuals
Local authority Site	Approx 650
Private Sites	Approx 1,240
Bricks and mortar	Approx 5,740
Total	Approx 7,630

The Hampshire estimate suggests there could be up to 7,630 Gypsies and Travellers in Hampshire, compared to the Census 2011 count of 2,069. The Census is very likely to be an undercount because of lack of self-ascription to Gypsy Traveller ethnicity. It is possible that using upper estimate multiplier is an over count. The figures suggest the majority (75%) of Hampshire's Gypsy and Traveller population live in bricks and mortar housing spread right across the county. Many Gypsies and Travellers from all accommodation types travel during the year. The 2012 Caravan Count data recorded a 22% increase in the number of caravans from January to July.

3. Projected service use and outcome in 3-5 years and 5-10 years

There are no data describing the demographics of the Gypsy Traveller population in Hampshire, for example the proportion of people by age groups such as children and young people or older people.

The Hart Accommodation Assessment report⁶ suggests there may be an increasing number of older individuals living alone and like the general population, may need additional health and social care support. There are 357 children (302 Romany Gypsy and 55 Irish Travellers) registered with school services in the county.

There is little information quantifying the prevalence of illnesses and lifestyle behaviours amongst the Gypsy and Traveller population in Hampshire therefore it is difficult to predict any health or social care need or associated outcomes.

Private authorised sites are not developing as quickly in Hampshire as in other parts of the country. There are prospective changes to the ownership of the Hampshire County Council maintained sites which could impact on the residents.

⁶ URS. *Hart Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Final Report*; November 2012.

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4. Current services in relation to need

There are a number of services supporting the Gypsy and Traveller population in Hampshire. Hampshire County Council (HCC) Gypsy Traveller Service manages the local authority sites and provides support to the districts with the unauthorised encampments in the county. The Equality and Inclusion Team has Community Development Officers who work with ethnic minority groups to ensure integration. There is also an Ethnic Minority Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS) which works with schools, pupils and families to raise educational attainment of ethnic minorities in Hampshire, including Gypsies and Travellers. They provide support to families moving in and out of schools and also work to improve attendance rates as Gypsies and Travellers have higher proportions of authorised and unauthorised absences compared with other ethnic minority groups.

All health services are required under the NHS Constitution to provide their services to Gypsies and Travellers. In terms of additional health services for Gypsies and Travellers, there had been plans to implement Local Enhanced Service (LES) agreements with two practices in Totton to ensure Gypsies and Travellers' health needs are addressed. The enhanced service does not appear to have been commissioned in 2012/13, and there is uncertainty about 2013/14. The Hampshire Gypsy Traveller Needs Assessment shows there are Gypsies and Travellers living in all parts of Hampshire, so consideration of any future enhanced service will need ensure that it meets the needs of Gypsies and Travellers living in all parts of Hampshire.

Other services offer additional support to Gypsies and Travellers but in a less formal way. For example, health visitors conduct ad hoc visits to sites in their areas and the mental health teams also are aware of the Gypsies and Travellers in their areas. There are voluntary sector organisations specifically for Gypsies and Travellers. Forest Bus works with Gypsy and Traveller communities across Hampshire while First Steps New Forest works with people of gypsy origin living in the New Forest area. A health steering group was established through the Forest Bus. The initial aim was to support the charity with their delivery of a Department of Health funded health project although it also functions as a multi-agency stakeholder group with a broader role and oversees the wider Gypsy and Traveller Health and Wellbeing Action Plan.

5. User and provider views

Feedback from the Gypsy and Traveller health needs assessment (April 2013) and previous work done in Hampshire suggests that the key health problems experienced by Gypsies and Travellers in the county are the same as nationally. These include:

- Higher prevalence of long term conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, lung disease, and mental health problems.
- Higher prevalence of risky lifestyle behaviours such as smoking, lack of physical activity, obesity and alcohol consumption.
- Higher levels of domestic abuse amongst women.
- Higher levels of dental health problems and fewer dental check-ups.

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- Increased risk of preventable childhood infectious diseases such as measles because of lower levels of vaccination.

There were a high proportion of learning disabilities reported in the New Forest area, particularly where there are Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation.

6. Evidence of what works

There is very little published evidence of what works to improve Gypsy and Traveller health or reduce inequalities.

Published guidance

NICE has published Public Health guidance and local government public health briefings on several topics pertinent to vulnerable groups, which include Gypsies and Travellers.

Examples of good practice

Save the Children has produced a guide to support early years practitioners working with Gypsy/Traveller families. It contains examples of good practice from elsewhere, and advice on evaluating the impact of early years services.

Children and Young People

Preventative Services for Gypsy/Traveller Children - Improving Outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils; A Final Report of the National Evaluation of the Children's Fund (University of Birmingham 2006)

Returning to Learning – Young Adults, The 'Futures' project⁷

Improving Health/Health Services

Pacesetters Programme Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Core Strand Evaluation Report for the Department of Health April 2010 (Sheffield University)⁸

- East Midlands SHA (Strategic Health Authority) - 'Health Ambassadors'
- West Midlands SHA and South East Coast SHA – Patient Adult Health Record
- South West SHA – Staff cultural awareness raising and Directory of local services for the community
- Yorkshire & Humber SHA – Raising awareness among Gypsy and Traveller communities and staff cultural awareness raising
- London SHA - Increase GP registration amongst Newham's Roma community.

⁷ www.grtleeds.co.uk/education/futures

⁸ https://www.shef.ac.uk/polopoly_fs/1.43553!/file/Final-full-Pacesetters-report-edited-with-photos-May-2010.pdf

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7. Recommendations

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