

# The Ageing Population

Understanding population change is critical to planning policy and service development

## Derbyshire County

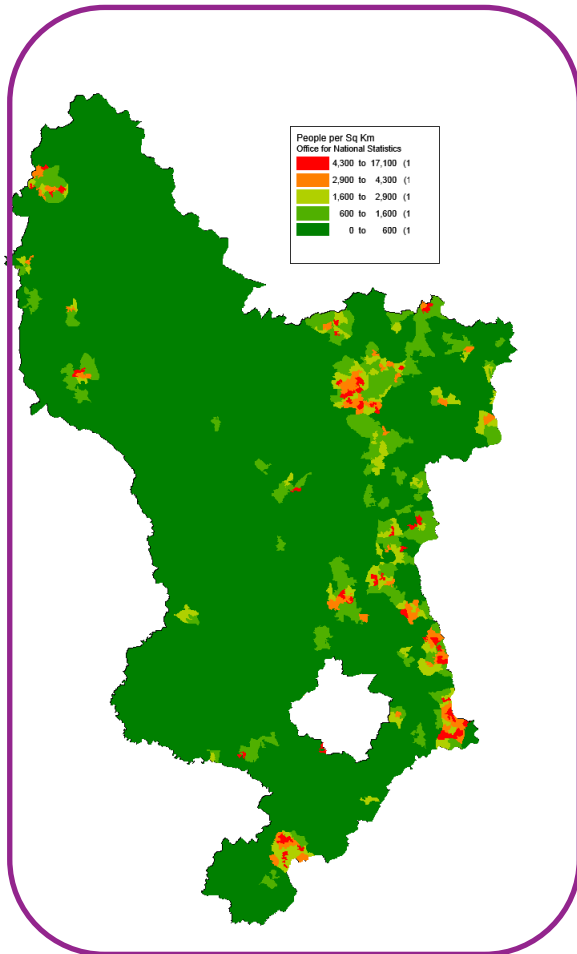
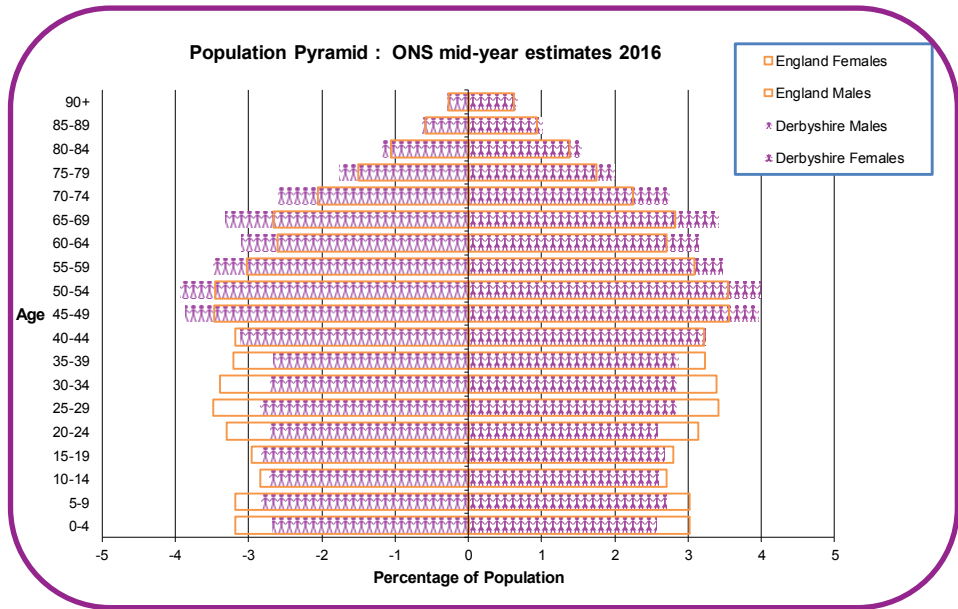
A rise in the elderly population, particularly if not matched by health improvements, will place ever-greater pressure on the public finances, as a relatively smaller working-age population supports growing spending on health, social care and pensions.

As of 2016, **785,760** people were estimated to live within Derbyshire County boundaries.

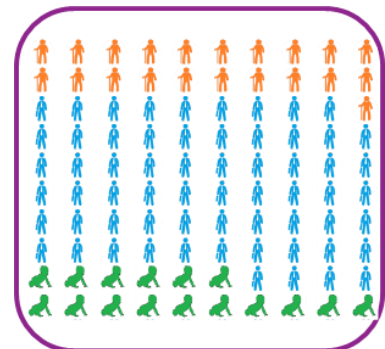
Derbyshire has an older population relative to England as a whole.

Half of the Derbyshire population is aged **45** or over, whereas for England half is 40 or over.

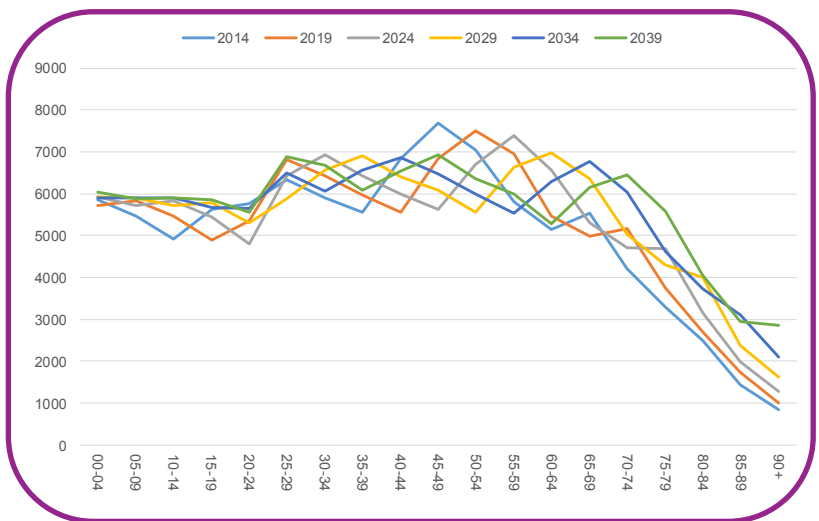
For every 100 men there are 103 women.



A working age population of 62% supports a school age population of 17% and a retirement age population of 21%; a ratio of **3:2**.



The population is concentrated down the eastern side of the county, with further pockets of high density in the northwest.



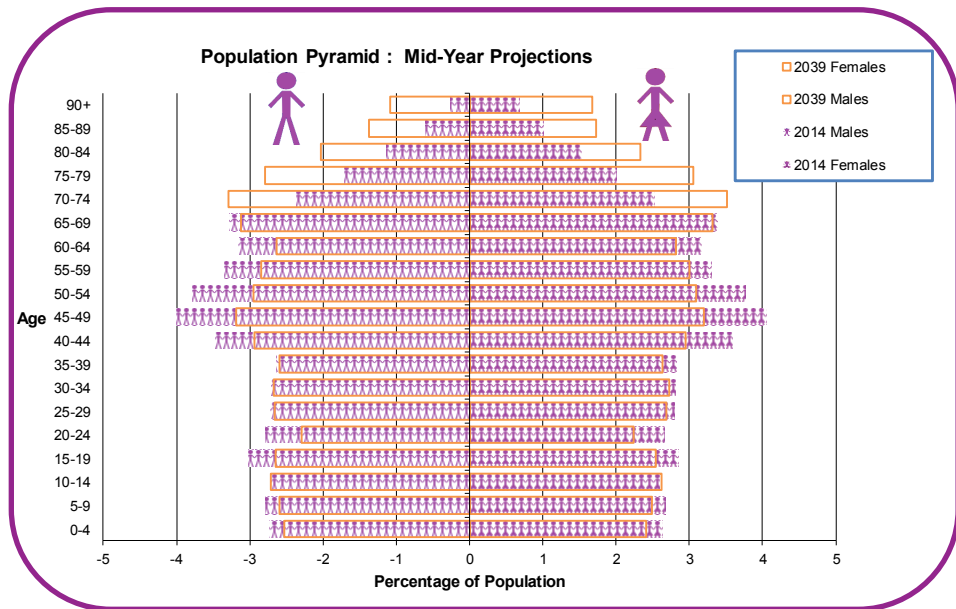
The figure above right shows how the population structure is predicted to change over 25 years from 2014. Since 2011 the change in the size of the very elderly population (90+) has been around 900 (14%). As the 'baby-boomers' bulge ages, so the proportion of the population which is elderly will increase.

Between 2014 and 2039 the population will have risen by over 79,000 (over 10%).

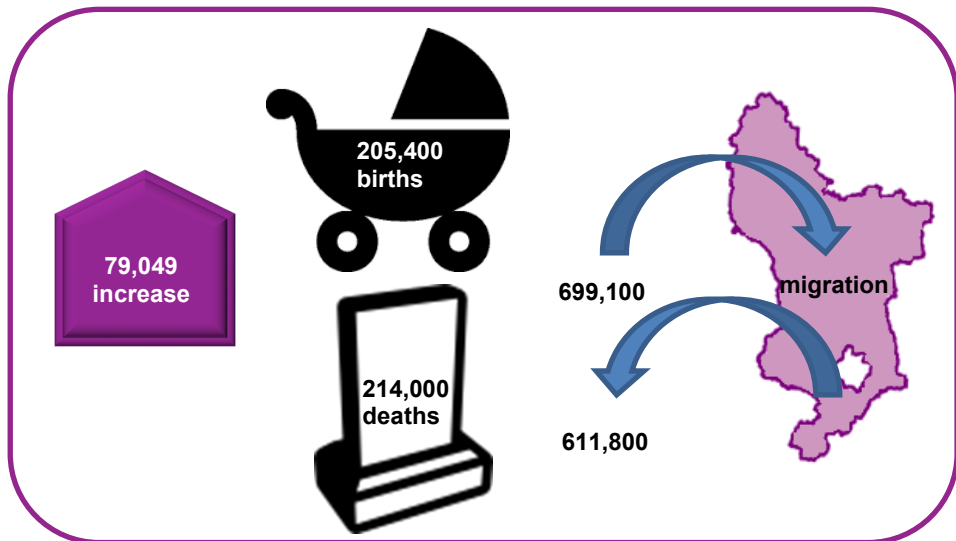
There will have been an estimated 205,400 births, 214,000 deaths. 699,100 people will have moved into the area and 611,800 out: a net gain of 87,300.

By 2039 the number of people aged 90 and over will have more than trebled, to almost 24,000.

The median age will be 46.



For every 5 men and women of working age (18-64) there will be 4 dependents.



## Implications:-

- The prevalence of long-term health conditions increases with age; and according to a 2010 estimate made by the Department of Health, such conditions account for 70% of total health and social care spending in England.
- The Department of Health also estimates that the average cost of providing hospital and community health services for a person aged 85 years or more is around three times greater than for a person aged 65 to 74 years.
- Much of the cost of old age has arisen because growth in total life expectancy has outpaced growth in healthy life expectancy (i.e. the number of years we can expect to live in good health).
- Policies that improve preventative healthcare, and help people to remain active and healthy in later life, could help increase the proportion of life spent in good health and reduce costs.
- More active and healthier older people will be able to work more productively, to their and society's economic benefit. The increasing retirement age will go some way to redressing the dependency ratio.
- The ageing population will change demand for housing. In particular, it is likely that more adaptable and specialised housing will be needed.
- Demand for people to provide care for family and friends will increase. Supporting these carers, and addressing the health and employment outcomes associated with providing unpaid care, will be critical to ensuring this demand is met sustainably.
- No single organisation has overall responsibility to address all of the challenges presented by demographic shift faced by the UK
- Organisations need to active cooperatively to help achieve each other's objectives.
- Cooperation is needed with other sectors such as business, the third sector and communities, for instance developing new technologies and providing community services.

