

Note on 2011 Census population estimates for Thornbury

The Council has produced this note to aid the Inspector in understanding issues related to the population structure in Thornbury in light of recently published data from the 2011 Census.

At the time of the Hearing Sessions in July 2012, the 2010 ONS mid-year population estimates (MYEs) were the most up to date official population estimates. These estimates suggested that the population of Thornbury (parish) was 12,431 – an increase of 0.7% on the 2001 Census estimate (12,342), these MYEs also suggested that the proportion of older people in the town was increasing considerably.

2011 Census results

In November 2012 the first release of sub-district data from the 2011 Census for England and Wales was published. These new population estimates replace the ONS 2010 mid-year estimatesⁱ.

According to the 2011 Census, the population of Thornbury parish was 12,063, which is 279 people fewer than was recorded in the 2001 Census (a 2% decrease). The 2011 Census therefore shows that the population of Thornbury has declined at a greater extent than was previously estimated.

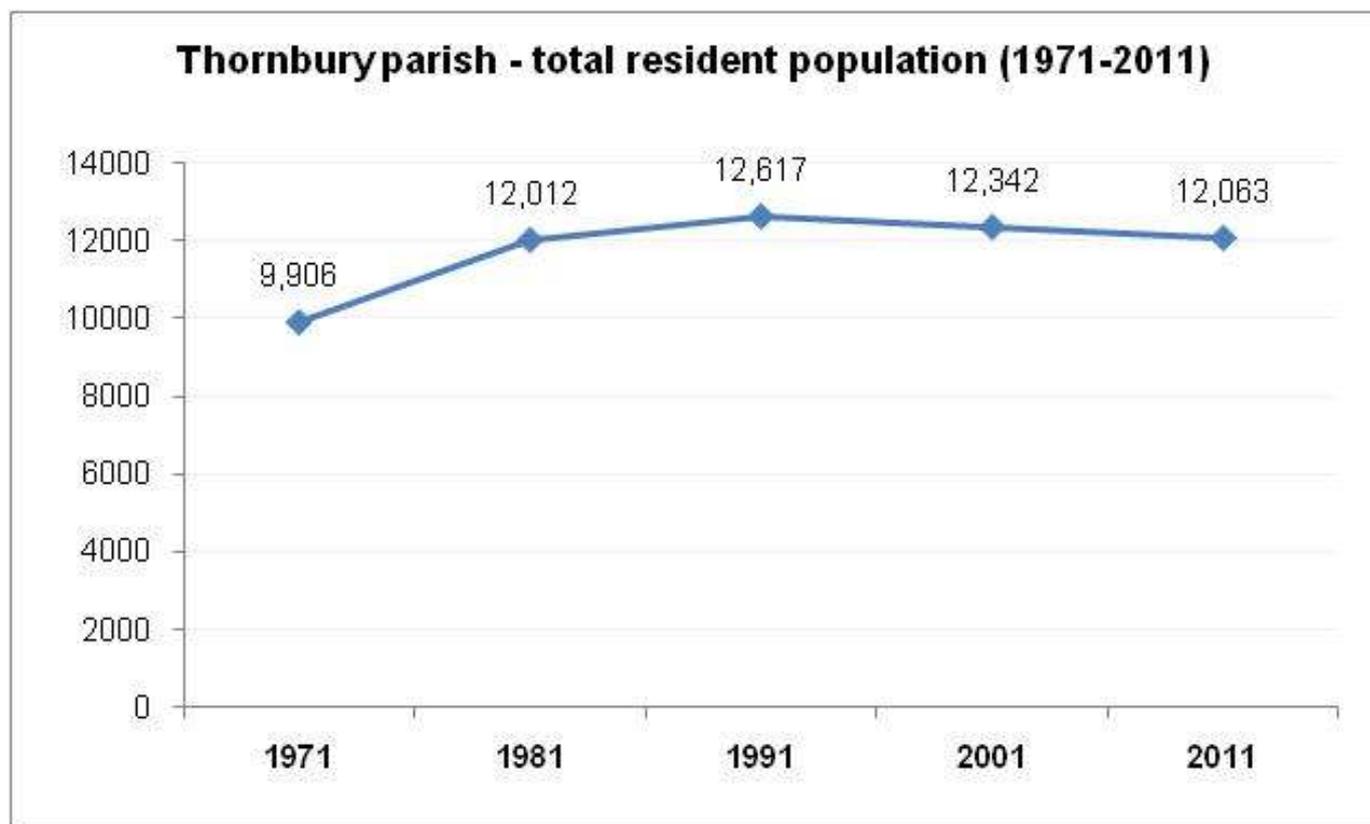


Fig 1. Population Change 1971-2011

Age structure change

The 2011 Census also reveals the following facts about the age structure of the parish:

- Children (aged 0-14)ⁱⁱ: Account for 1,921 residents (15.9% of the total population).
- Working age population (aged 15-64)ⁱⁱⁱ: Account for 7,575 residents (62.8% of the total population).
- Older people (aged 65 or over): Account for 2,567 residents (21.3% of the total population).

Fig. 2 illustrates that the age profile of the parish is considerably older than both the South Gloucestershire and national averages. Over 1/5th of the resident population are now aged 65 or over.

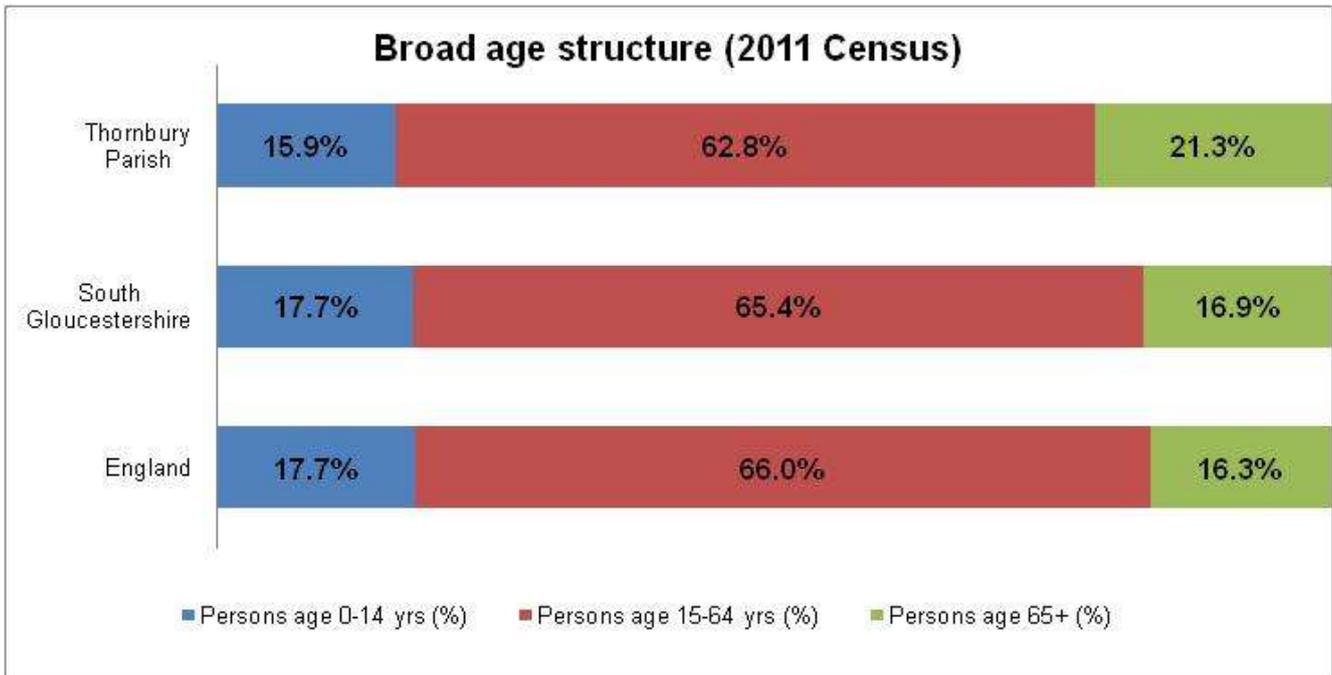


Fig 2. Broad age structure (2011 Census)

Fig 3. shows how the age structure of the population has changed over the last 30 years. Since 1991 the proportion of the population aged 65 or over nearly doubled (from 11.5% to 21.3%) - there are around 1,100 more residents in this age bracket than there were in 1991.

Furthermore, the number (and proportion) of children (aged 0-14 yrs) continues to decline; from 2,559 (20.3%) in 1991 to 1,921 (15.9%) in 2011.

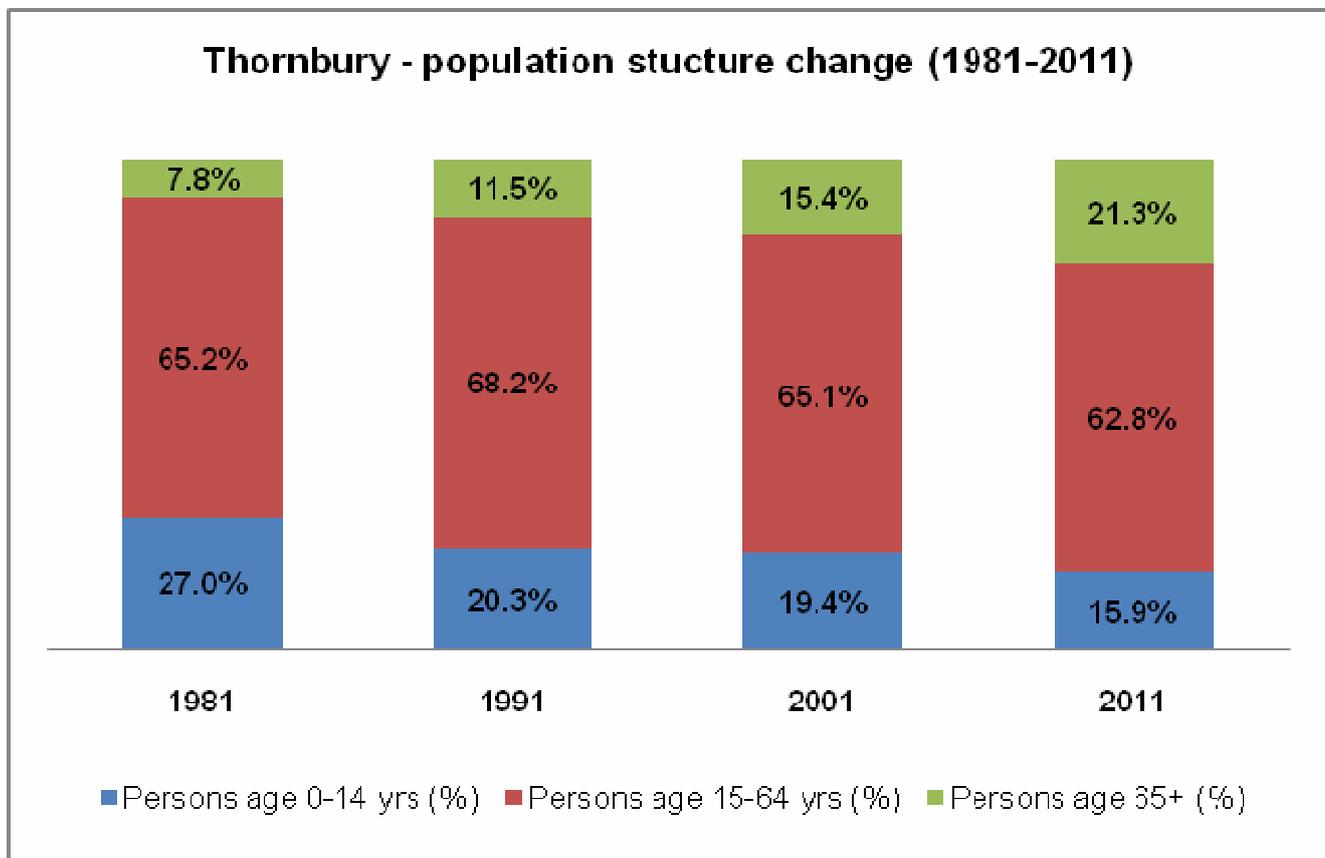


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Average household size

According to the 2011 Census, the average household size in Thornbury was 2.3 persons per household (pph) – smaller than the South Gloucestershire average of 2.4 pph. Fig 4. illustrates how the average size of households in the parish has decreased over the last three decades.



Fig 4. Average household size Thornbury Parish (1981-2011)

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FOOTNOTES

ⁱ In the absence of a population register, England and Wales rely on successive, annual updates of data from the decennial Census to produce mid-year population estimates. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) estimates the mid-year population for each local authority area using data on births and deaths, internal migration and international migration. These estimates are recalibrated after each census.

ⁱⁱ The usual definition of children is all people aged 0-15 years. The 2011 Census first release, however only includes population by five year age band and so we can only refer to 0-14 year olds

ⁱⁱⁱ The usual definition of the working age population is all people aged 16-64 years. The 2011 Census first release, however only includes population by five year age band and so we can only refer to 15-64 year olds