



Town Profile Summary – Smethwick Town

Focus Points

Demography

- Population grew by 16.4% between 2011 and 2021, compared with 11% in Sandwell.
- The population is younger and substantially more ethnically diverse than Sandwell. 75.6% of residents are from an ethnic minority background (48.0% for Sandwell, 26.5% for England).
- Main household language being English is lower (16.4%) in Smethwick compared to Sandwell average (8.6%).

Economic

- Smethwick is more fuel poor than Sandwell - 25.5 % of households have been identified as being fuel poor in Smethwick town compared to 13.2% for England and 20.8% for Sandwell.
- More than 1 in 4 households are thought to have Income Deprivation Affecting Children, and more than one in 3 are thought to have Income Deprivation Affecting Older People.
- In Smethwick town 59.4% of the LSOA's are in the 20% most deprived LSOAs in England (Sandwell, 60.2%). 27% have Income Deprivation Affecting Children (higher than Sandwell 26.3% and England 17.1%), and 34.7% have income deprivation affecting older people (higher compared to Sandwell 26.0% and England 14.2%).
- The percentage of housing which is owner-occupied is lower than the Sandwell average at 47.3% compared to 53.7%.
- 11.8% of households in Smethwick are thought to be overcrowded compared to the Sandwell average of 8.2%, Soho and Victoria (16.5%) and St Pauls (13.3%).
- 2.1% lack central heating against a Sandwell average of 1.8%, with Abbey and Smethwick wards having the highest at 2.2% and 2.1%.
- 42.3% of residents aged 16+ are economically inactive compared to a Sandwell average of 41.7%, which is particularly high in St Pauls ward at 45.2%, Smethwick ward at 45% and Soho Victoria at 44%.
- In Smethwick town 5% have a long-term illness or disability which is lower than the Sandwell average of 5.8%.
- Most residents are economically inactive due to caring for family, at 10.2% against a Sandwell average of 7.6% and being a student 8.4% vs a Sandwell average of 6.2%. Caring for family were particularly high in Soho Victoria ward at 12.5% and St Pauls ward 11.8%. Also being a student was high in Soho & Victoria and St Pauls wards at 10.1% and 9.8% respectively.
- 30% of residents aged 16 and over have no formal qualifications (including no GCSEs) compared with a Sandwell average of 28.9%. Abbey ward has the lowest proportion in Sandwell at 19% and Smethwick ward has one of the highest at 33.5%.
- 9.7% of households (2,108 households) comprise a lone parent with dependent children and 9.1% of households (1,987 households) comprise a lone pensioner.



Health

- Life expectancy for men and women was similar to the national average.
- The most common cause of emergency hospital admission in Smethwick was COPD.
- Smethwick has the highest proportions of residents by ward in good health compared to the Sandwell average, lowest disability, and lowest unpaid care. The proportions of disabilities and providing care were the lowest in Sandwell in all wards except Smethwick ward.
- When asked about barriers to accessing healthcare Smethwick residents were more likely to identify language barriers but also more likely than those from other towns to say that they didn't have barriers to access.

Environment

- There is slightly lower digital exclusion in Smethwick.
- Smethwick residents were more likely to agree that people pulled together to improve the local area and were more likely than those from other Towns to report that they felt fairly or very safe after dark.
- Smethwick residents were more likely than respondents from other towns to perceive noisy neighbours or loud parties to be a problem.

Social

- Residents from Smethwick perceived 'healthy family' as a concern more often than respondents from other towns and they were more likely to say that they were hardly ever or never lonely.



Demography

- Smethwick Town is in the South East of Sandwell. It had a population of around 64,000 in 2021 (Census data), representing a growth of 16.0% between 2011 and 2021 (Census data) compared with 11.0% in Sandwell. This was the largest population growth within Sandwell.
- The age structure of Smethwick town is younger than the Sandwell average - 23.6% are under 14, Sandwell (20.8%), England (17.4%). 44.6% are 15-44yrs compared with Sandwell (40.2%) and England (38.4%). Only 31.9% are 45yr+, Sandwell (39.0%) and England (44.2%) (Census data).
- Smethwick is more ethnically diverse than Sandwell, with Asian and Asian British making up 43.5% of the town's population compared to Sandwell (26.3%). 24.4% of the Smethwick population are White British (52.0% for Sandwell) and 6.5% are White Other (5.2% for Sandwell) (all Census data). It is estimated that 3,581 (16.4%) households have no one whose main language is English (Census data), compared to Sandwell which is 8.6%.

Economic

- In Smethwick town 59.4% of the LSOA's are in the 20% most deprived LSOAs in England, like Sandwell (60.2%) (English Indices of Deprivation 2019, DCLG). 25.5% of households have been identified as being fuel poor in Smethwick town compared to Sandwell (20.8%) and England (13.2%) (OHID [Local health 2020](#)).
- 24.5% (OHID [Fingertips](#)) of households have income deprivation (Sandwell 21.5%, England 12.9%) (Ministry of Housing and Local Government 2019), whilst 27.0% (OHID [Fingertips](#)) are Income Deprived Affecting Children (Sandwell 26.3%, England 17.1%), and 34.7% are Income Deprived Affecting Older People (Sandwell 26.0%, England 14.2%) (OHID [Fingertips](#))
- The percentage of housing which is owner-occupied at town level (47.3%) is lower than the Sandwell average at 53.7% (Census data).
- 11.8% of households in Smethwick are thought to be overcrowded (Census data) compared to the Sandwell average of 8.2%, with Soho and Victoria proportion at 16.5% and St Pauls at 13.3%.
- 2.1% lack central heating (Census data) against a Sandwell average of 1.8%, with Abbey and Smethwick wards having highest at 2.2% and 2.1%.
- 9.7% of households (2,108 households) comprise a lone parent with dependent children (9.4% for Sandwell) (Census data). 9.1% of households (1,987 households) comprise a lone pensioner (11.5% for Sandwell) (Census data).
- 42.3% of residents aged 16+ are economically inactive compared to Sandwell (41.7%). This is high in St Pauls ward (45.2%), Smethwick ward (45%) and Soho & Victoria (44%). The average for Smethwick is brought down by Abbey ward (32.8%) (Census data). 5% have a long-term illness or disability, which is lower than the Sandwell average of 5.8%. Most residents are economically inactive due to caring for family, at 10.2% against a Sandwell average of 7.6%, and being a student 8.4% vs a Sandwell average of 6.2% (Census data). Caring for family were high in Soho & Victoria ward at 12.5%, St Pauls ward 11.8% and Smethwick ward at 9.9% - Abbey again brings down the town average at 5.1%.
- 30.0% of residents aged 16 and over have no formal qualifications (including no GCSEs) against a Sandwell average of 28.9% (Census data). Abbey ward has the lowest proportion in Sandwell at 19th and Smethwick ward has one of the highest at 33.5%.
- There are 19 gambling premises licences or permits in Smethwick town compared to 115 across Sandwell. This equates to 2.97 and 3.36 per 10,000 residents respectively) (Sandwell Trading Standards, 2021).



Health

- Life expectancy in Smethwick town is similar to Sandwell at 76 for males and 80.9 females (males 76.4, 80.9 females Sandwell) and lower than England (males 79.5, females 83.2) (OHID, mid-year population estimates, 2016-2020).
- Hospital admissions from Coronary Heart Disease (all ages) was significantly higher at town level (128.0 standardised admission ratio) than Sandwell, (112.9) and England (100). The most common cause of emergency hospital admission is COPD (163.5) which is higher than Sandwell and England (157.3 and 100 respectively) (2016/17 to 2020/21 OHID, from ONS data, annual mortality extracts).
- 81.3% of residents said their health was good or very good which is one of the highest in Sandwell (79.1%), all wards except Smethwick (78.6%) were above average. Smethwick has the lowest proportion of disabled and providing care. Residents who said their health conditions or illnesses limited their abilities to carry out day to day activities a little (7.1%); and a lot (7.6%) is lower than Sandwell at 8.7% and 9.2%. All wards except for Smethwick ward (8.8%) were among the lowest in Sandwell (Abbey 6%, Soho & Victoria 6.4%, and St Pauls 7.1%). Town residents providing unpaid care (4,521 individuals) in Smethwick is the lowest in Sandwell at 7.6% vs 9.3% Sandwell - Soho & Victoria ward being the lowest in Sandwell (6.7%) (all Census data).
- 45.8 % of Year 6 children in Smethwick town are estimated to be overweight or obese (NCMP 2019/2022). This is in line with Sandwell (45.2%) but higher when compared to England (35.8%). There appear to be a lower (Smethwick 122.9, Sandwell 133.4 standardised admission ratios) number of emergency admissions for injuries in children under 5 years old than the Sandwell average, however this is still higher than England 119.3 (2016/17 – 2020/21 data HES, ONS).
- There are proportionally more deliveries to teenage mothers in Smethwick (0.8%) than Sandwell (1.0%) England (0.7%) (2016/17 – 2020/21 OHID Fingertips). The proportion of babies born with low birth weight in Smethwick town is similar to Sandwell, at 9.0% and 8.9% but higher than England (6.8%) (2019 [ONS link](#)).
- When asked about barriers to accessing healthcare residents were more likely to identify language barriers but also more likely to say that they didn't have barriers to access (2022, Sandwell resident wellbeing and perception survey).

Environment

- In 2017, Smethwick town had 11.8 fast food outlets per 10,000 compared with the Sandwell average of 11.5. Both the town and borough figures are higher than England (9.5).
- The 2022 Sandwell Resident & Wellbeing survey revealed that 20.9% of residents in Smethwick town have limited digital skills, which is higher when compared to Sandwell (18.7%). The survey also revealed that 10.7% of residents at town level don't have access to the internet which is higher than the Sandwell figure (8.9%).
- Smethwick residents were more likely to agree that people pulled together to improve the local area and were more likely than those from other towns to report that they felt fairly or very safe after dark.
- Residents were more likely than respondents from other towns to perceive noisy neighbours or loud parties to be a problem.



Social

- Respondents from Smethwick perceived 'healthy family' as a concern more often than respondents from other towns and they were more likely to say that they were hardly ever or never lonely.