

Performance, Consultation & Insight Briefing Note

(Updated 17.2.23)

How life has changed in Stratford-on-Avon: Census 2021

Stratford-on-Avon's population increased by around 14,200 between the last two censuses (held in 2011 and 2021).

This semi-automated report has been generated from the Census 2021 website and highlights some of the most notable changes among the local population.

The population passed 130,000

Between the last two censuses (held in 2011 and 2021), the population of Stratford-on-Avon increased by 11.8%, from just under 120,500 in 2011 to around 134,700 in 2021.

This means Stratford-on-Avon's population saw the third-largest percentage increase in the West Midlands, behind Rugby (where the population increased by 14.3%) and Wychavon (13.3%). The population of the West Midlands increased by 6.2%, while the population of England rose by 6.6%.

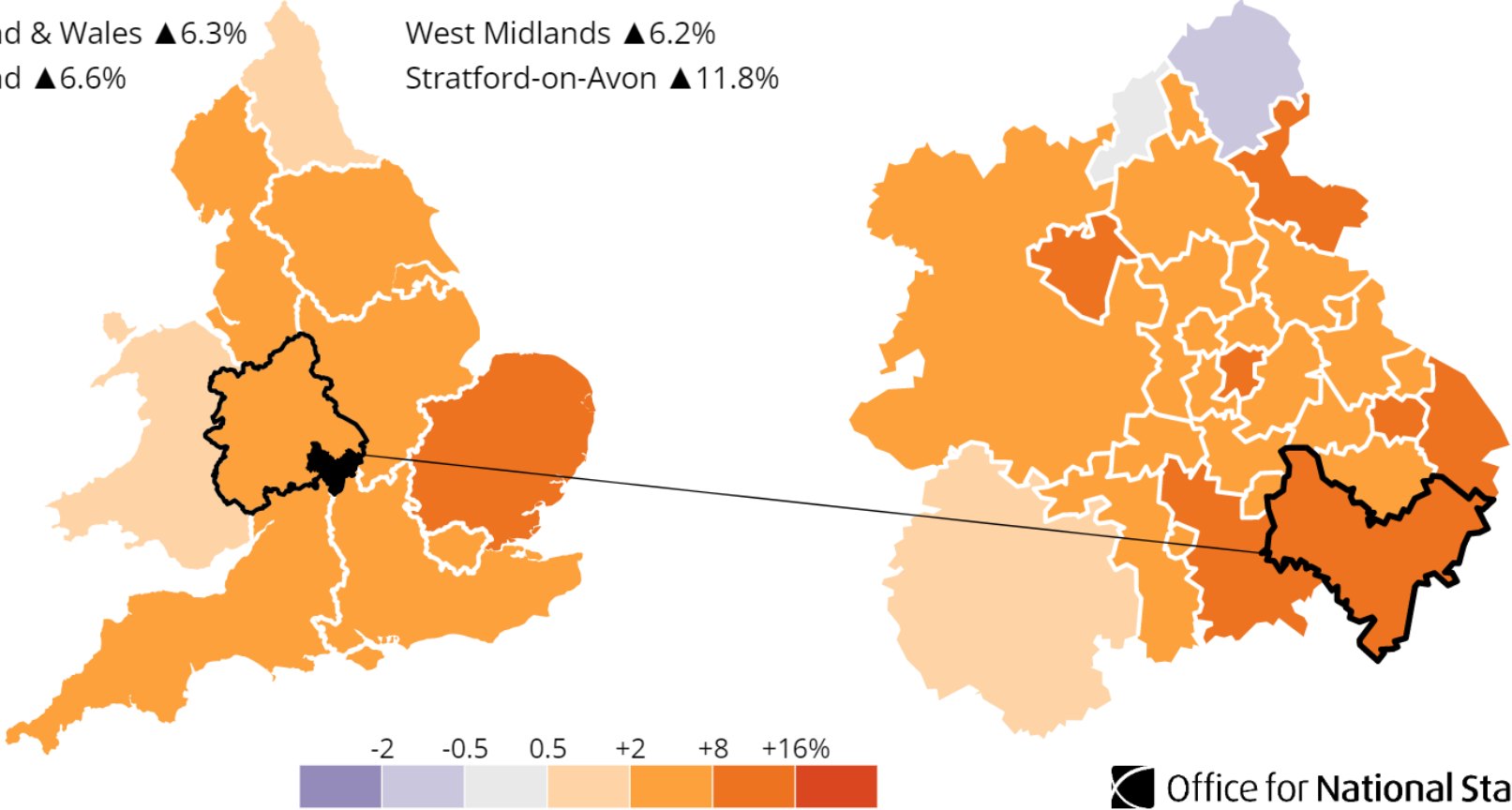
In 2021, Stratford-on-Avon was home to around 1.0 person per football pitch-sized piece of land, compared with 0.9 in 2011. This area was the joint third-least densely populated local authority area across the West Midlands (after Herefordshire and Shropshire).

This report generally uses percentages to enable comparisons over time and between areas. The percentage point change is also used to show the difference between the 2011 and 2021 percentages.

Population change in Stratford-on-Avon: Census 2011 to Census 2021

England & Wales ▲6.3%
England ▲6.6%

West Midlands ▲6.2%
Stratford-on-Avon ▲11.8%



An older Stratford-on-Avon

Between the last two censuses, the median age of Stratford-on-Avon increased by two years, from 46 to 48 years of age.

The median age is the age of the person in the middle of the group, meaning that one half of the group is younger than that person and the other half is older.

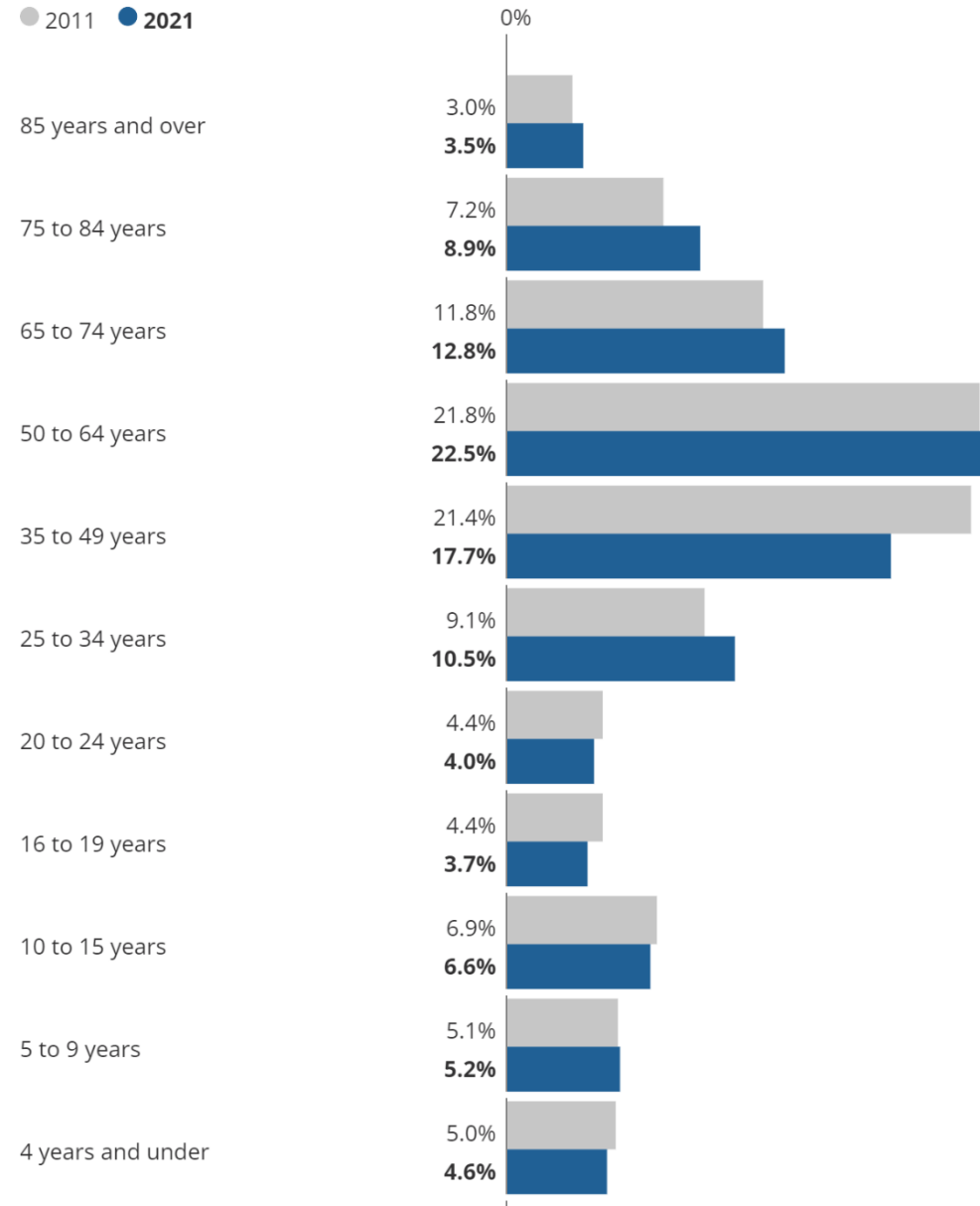
This area had a higher median age than the West Midlands as a whole in 2021 (40 years) and a higher median age than England (40 years).

The number of people aged 50 to 64 years rose by just over 4,000 (an increase of 15.4%), while the number of residents between 35 and 49 years fell by around 1,800 (7.2% decrease).

The share of residents aged between 50 and 64 years increased by 0.7 percentage points between 2011 and 2021.

Percentage of usual residents by age group, **Stratford-on-Avon**

● 2011 ● 2021



Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021

Stratford-on-Avon stood out from other areas for housing

The percentage of households in the social rented sector increased in Stratford-on-Avon but fell across the West Midlands.

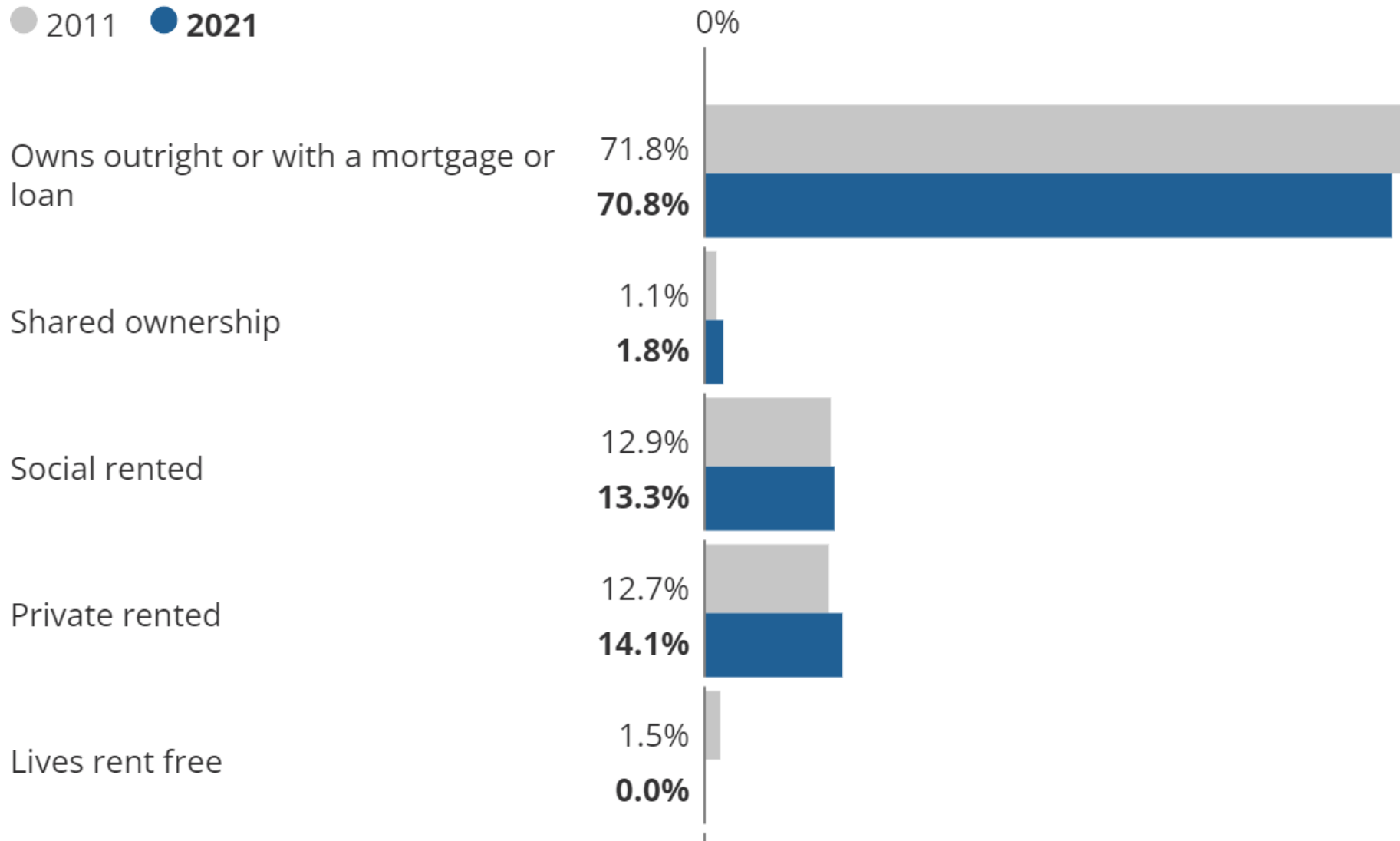
In Stratford-on-Avon, the percentage of households in the social rented sector rose from 12.9% in 2011 to 13.3% in 2021. During the same period, the regional percentage fell from 19.0% to 18.2%.

Private renting in Stratford-on-Avon increased from 12.7% to 14.1%, while the rate of home ownership decreased from 71.8% to 70.8%.

The rate of social renting in Stratford-on-Avon increased by 0.4 percentage points.

Percentage of households by housing tenure, **Stratford-on-Avon**

● 2011 ● **2021**



Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021

Unpaid care in Stratford-on-Avon

Stratford-on-Avon saw the West Midlands' joint second-largest percentage-point fall (alongside Wychavon and Solihull) in the proportion of people (aged five years and over) providing up to 19 hours of weekly unpaid care (from 8.0% in 2011 to 4.7% in 2021). These are age-standardised proportions.

Age-standardised proportions are used throughout this section. They enable comparisons between populations over time and across geographies, as they account for differences in the population size and age structure.

Across the region, only Malvern Hills saw a greater fall in the proportion of people (aged five years and over) providing up to 19 hours of weekly unpaid care (from 8.7% to 5.1%).

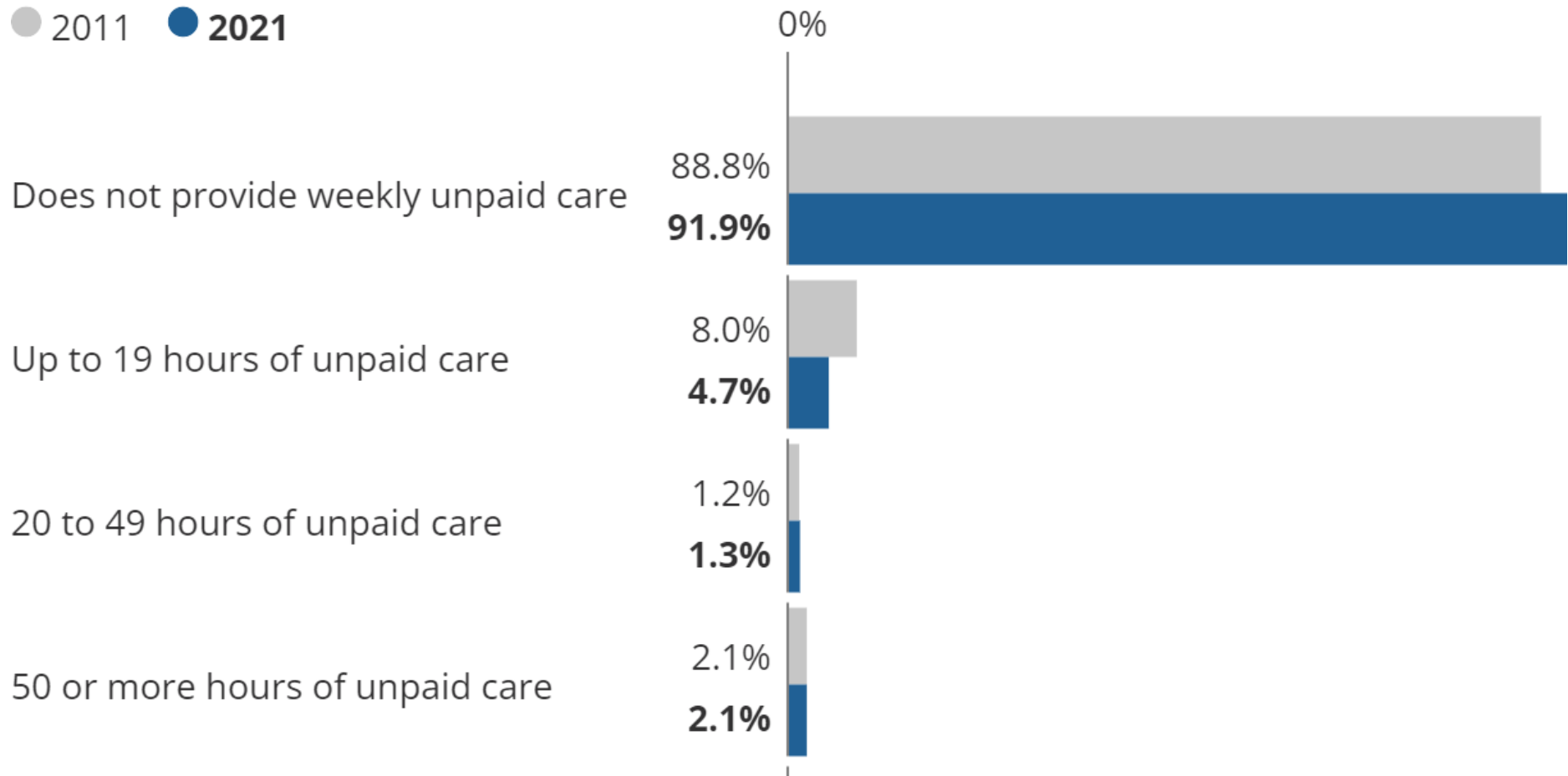
Every local authority area across the West Midlands saw a fall in the proportion of people (aged five years and over) providing up to 19 hours of weekly unpaid care, as the regional proportion fell from 7.4% to 4.5%.

Census 2021 was undertaken during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This may have influenced how people perceived and managed their provision of unpaid care, and therefore may have affected how people chose to respond.

Caution should be taken when making comparisons between 2011 and 2021 because of changes in question wording and response options.

Age-standardised proportion of usual residents (aged five years and over) by hours per week of unpaid care provision, **Stratford-on-Avon**

● 2011 ● **2021**



Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021

Religion in Stratford-on-Avon

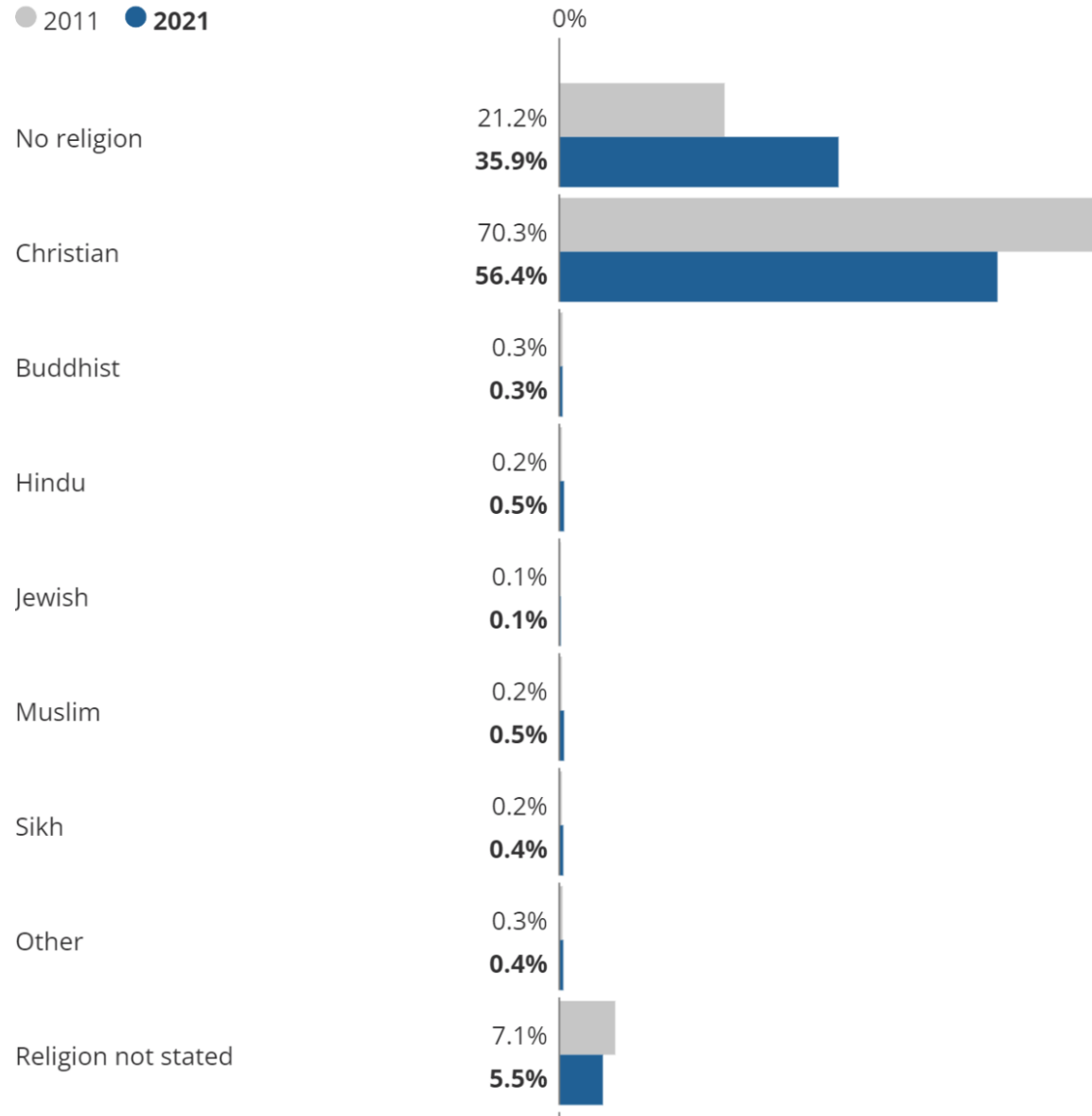
In 2021, 35.9% of Stratford-on-Avon residents reported having "No religion", up from 21.2% in 2011. The rise of 14.7 percentage points was the largest increase of all broad religious groups in Stratford-on-Avon. Because the census question about religious affiliation is voluntary and has varying response rates, caution is needed when comparing figures between different areas or between censuses.

Across the West Midlands, the percentage of residents who described themselves as having "No religion" increased from 22.0% to 32.9%, while across England the percentage increased from 24.8% to 36.7%.

In 2021, 56.4% of people in Stratford-on-Avon described themselves as Christian (down from 70.3%), while 5.5% did not state their religion (down from 7.1% the decade before).

There are many factors that can cause changes to the religious profile of an area, such as a changing age structure or residents relocating for work or education. Changes may also be caused by differences in the way individuals chose to self-identify between censuses. Religious affiliation is the religion with which someone connects or identifies, rather than their beliefs or religious practice.

Percentage of usual residents by religion, Stratford-on-Avon



Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021

Stratford-on-Avon residents' country of birth

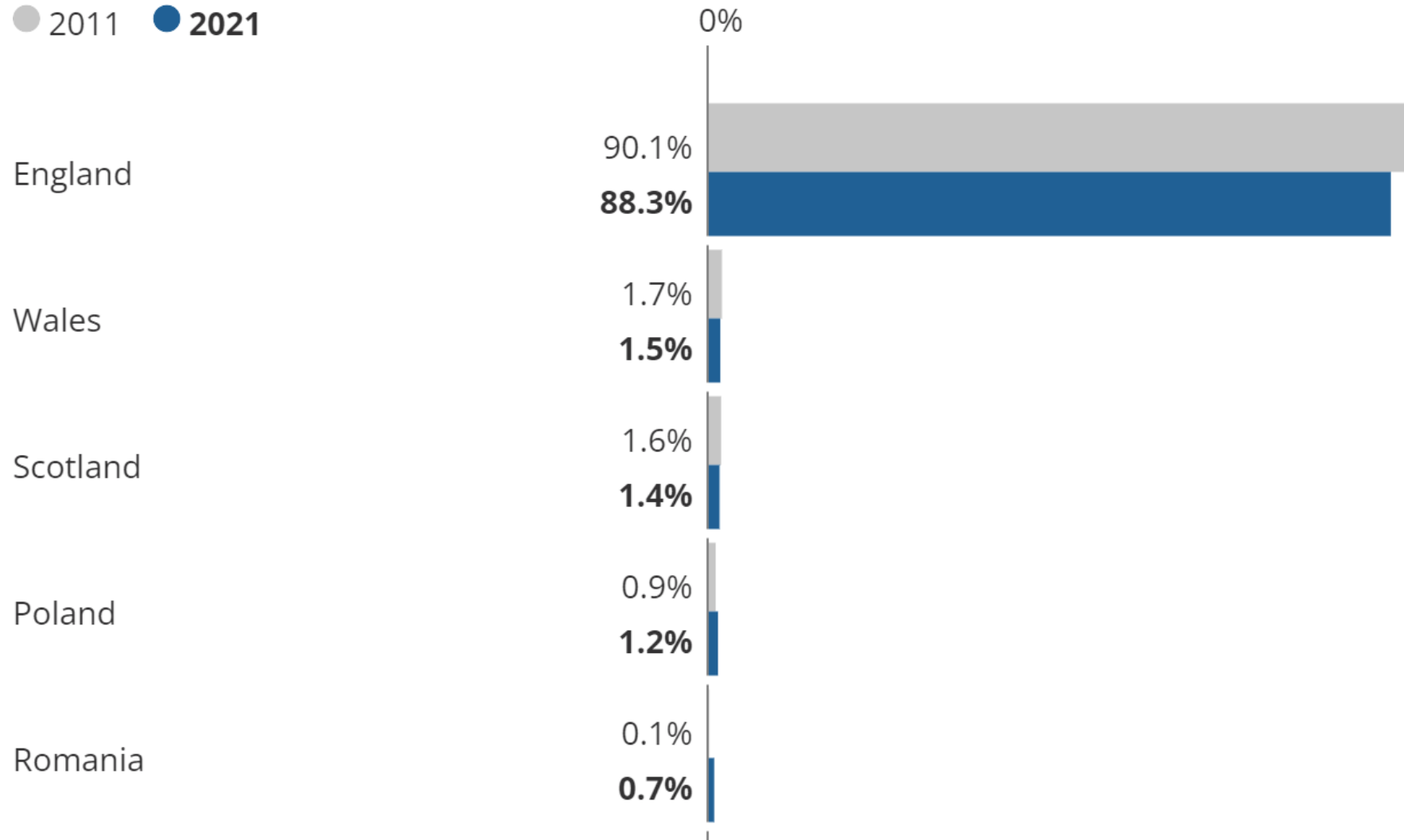
In the latest census, around 119,000 Stratford-on-Avon residents said they were born in England. This represented 88.3% of the local population. The figure has risen from just under 108,600 in 2011, which at the time represented 90.1% of Stratford-on-Avon's population.

Wales was the next most represented, with around 2,000 Stratford-on-Avon residents reporting this country of birth (1.5%). This figure was down from around 2,100 in 2011, which at the time represented 1.7% of the population of Stratford-on-Avon.

The number of Stratford-on-Avon residents born in Scotland remained close to 1,900 between the last two census (from 1.6% of the local population in 2011 to 1.4% in 2021).

Percentage of usual residents by country of birth, **Stratford-on-Avon**

● 2011 ● **2021**



Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021

Unemployment in Stratford-on-Avon

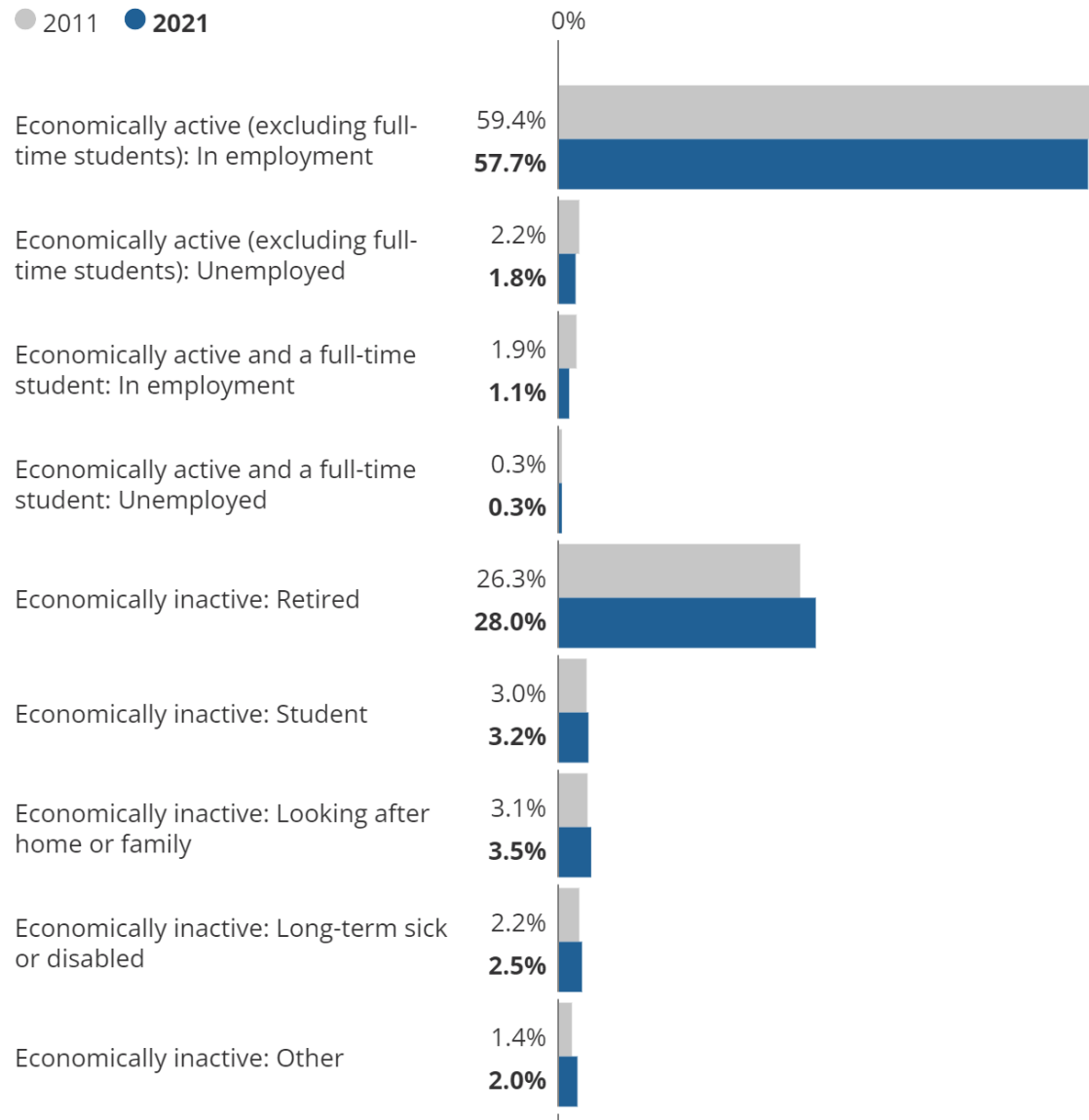
In 2021, 1.8% of Stratford-on-Avon residents (aged 16 years and over) said they were unemployed. This figure decreased from 2.2% in 2011.

In 2021, just under 6 in 10 people (57.7%) said they were employed (excluding full-time students), compared with 59.4% in 2011. The percentage of retired Stratford-on-Avon residents increased from 26.3% to 28.0%.

This area had the region's second lowest percentage of people aged 16 years and over (excluding full-time students) who were unemployed. Across the region, only Staffordshire Moorlands, with 1.6%, had a lower percentage.

Census 2021 took place during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, a period of rapid and unparalleled change; the national lockdown, associated guidance and furlough measures will have affected the labour market and our ability to measure it.

Percentage of usual residents aged 16 years and over by economic activity status,
Stratford-on-Avon



Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021

Fewer adults working long hours

Stratford-on-Avon saw the West Midlands' joint second-largest percentage-point fall (alongside North Warwickshire) usually worked over 49 hours per week (from 16.8% in 2011 to 13.6% in 2021). A decrease of 3.2 percentage points.

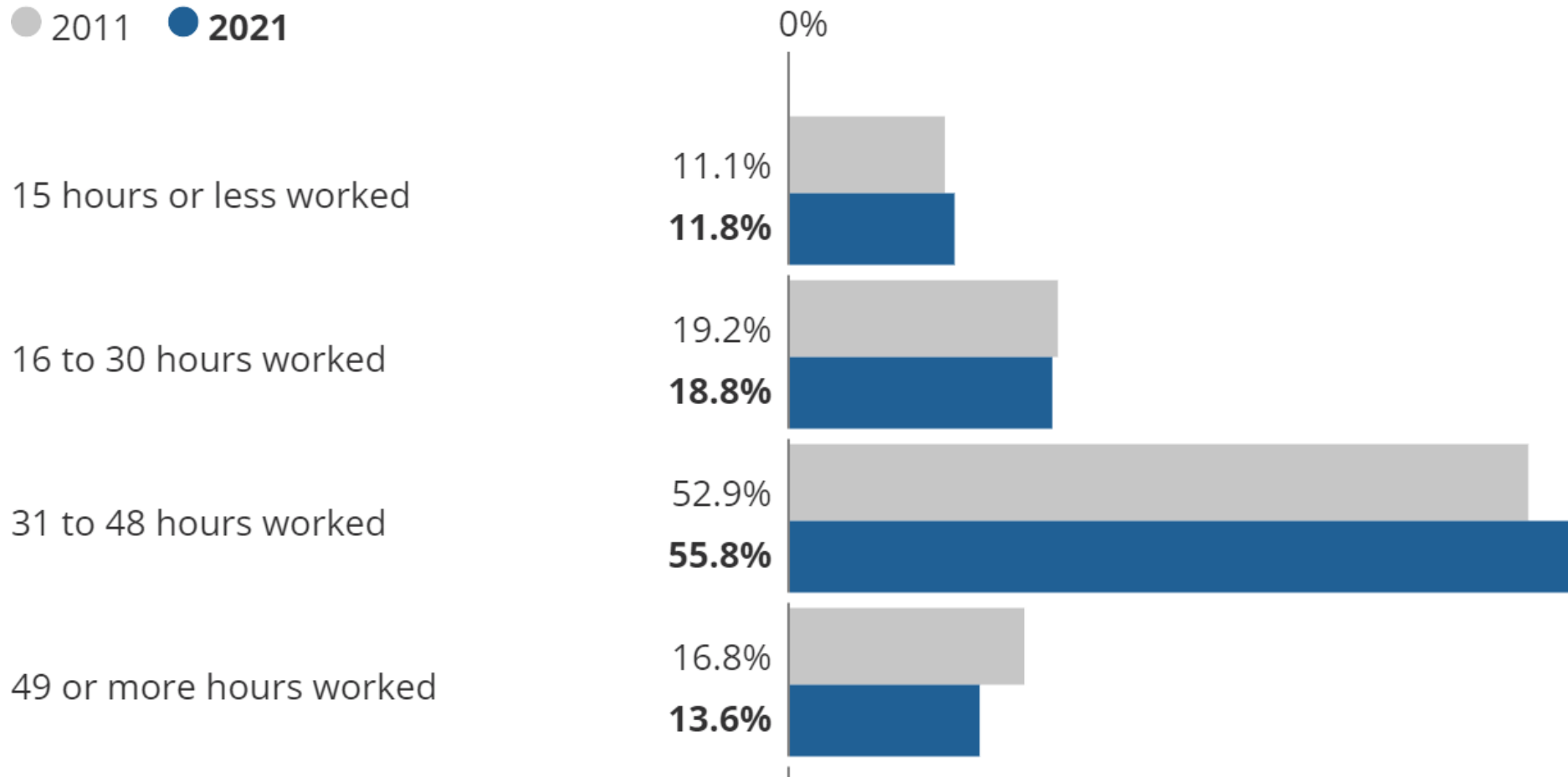
Across the region, only Malvern Hills saw a greater fall in the percentage of people aged 16 years and over and in employment who said they usually worked over 49 hours per week (from 16.1% to 12.4%).

Every local authority area across the West Midlands saw a fall in the percentage of people aged 16 years and over and in employment who said they usually worked over 49 hours per week, as the regional percentage fell from 12.1% to 10.1%.

Working hours may have been affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Percentage of usual residents aged 16 years and over and in employment by the number of hours worked per week, **Stratford-on-Avon**

● 2011 ● **2021**



Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021

Health in Stratford-on-Avon

In 2021, 52.5% of Stratford-on-Avon residents described their health as "very good", increasing from 50.2% in 2011. Those describing their health as "good" fell from 34.2% to 33.3%. These are age-standardised proportions.

Age-standardised proportions are used throughout this section. They enable comparisons between populations over time and across geographies, as they account for differences in the population size and age structure.

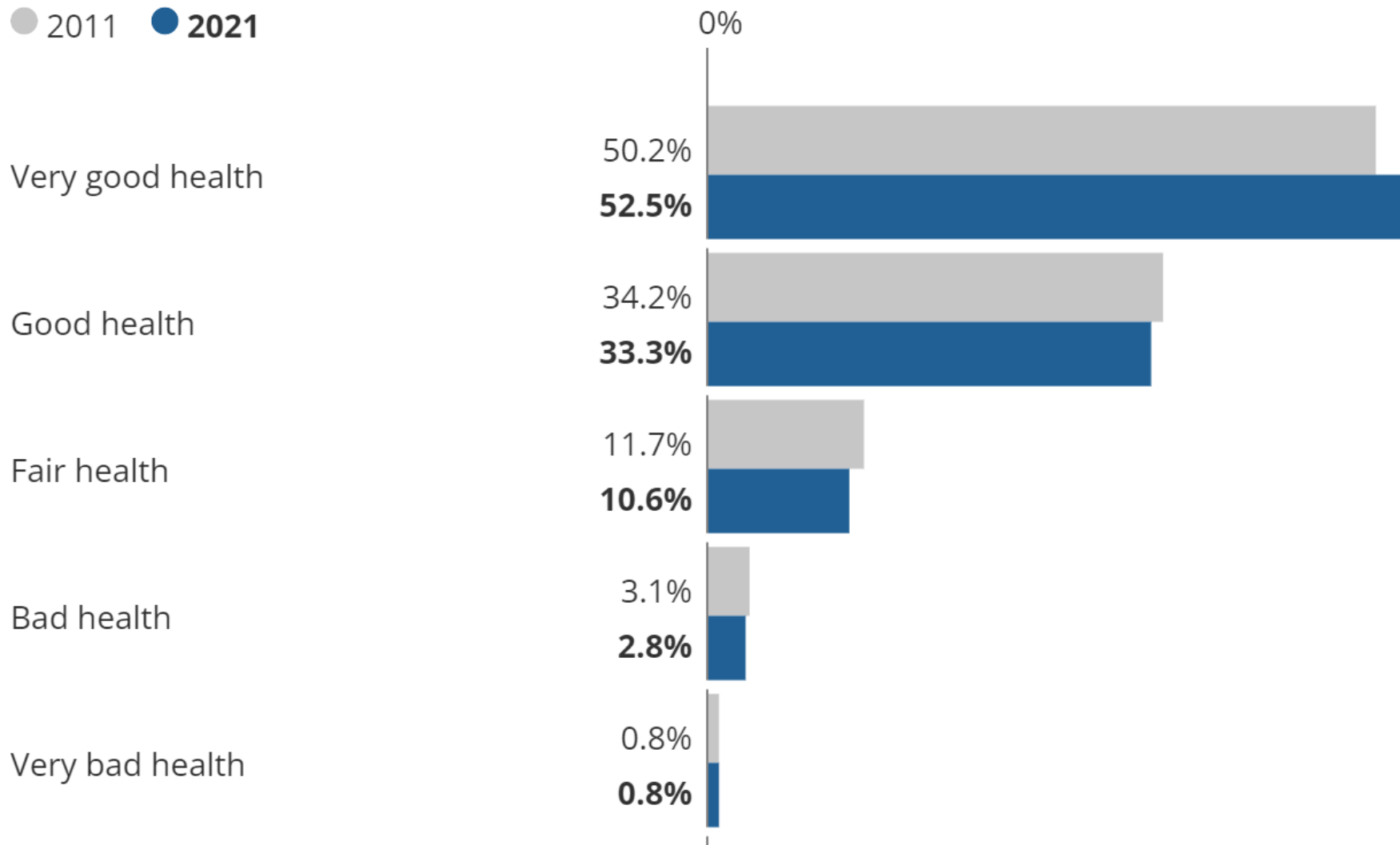
The proportion of Stratford-on-Avon residents describing their health as "very bad" remained 0.8%, while those describing their health as "bad" fell from 3.1% to 2.8%.

These data reflect people's own opinions in describing their overall health on a five point scale, from very good to very bad.

Census 2021 was conducted during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This may have influenced how people perceived and rated their health, and therefore may have affected how people chose to respond.

Age-standardised proportion of usual residents by self-reported health,
Stratford-on-Avon

● 2011 ● **2021**



Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021

National identity in Stratford-on-Avon

In 2021, 4.8% of Stratford-on-Avon residents did not identify with any national identity associated with the UK. This figure increased from 3.6% in 2011.

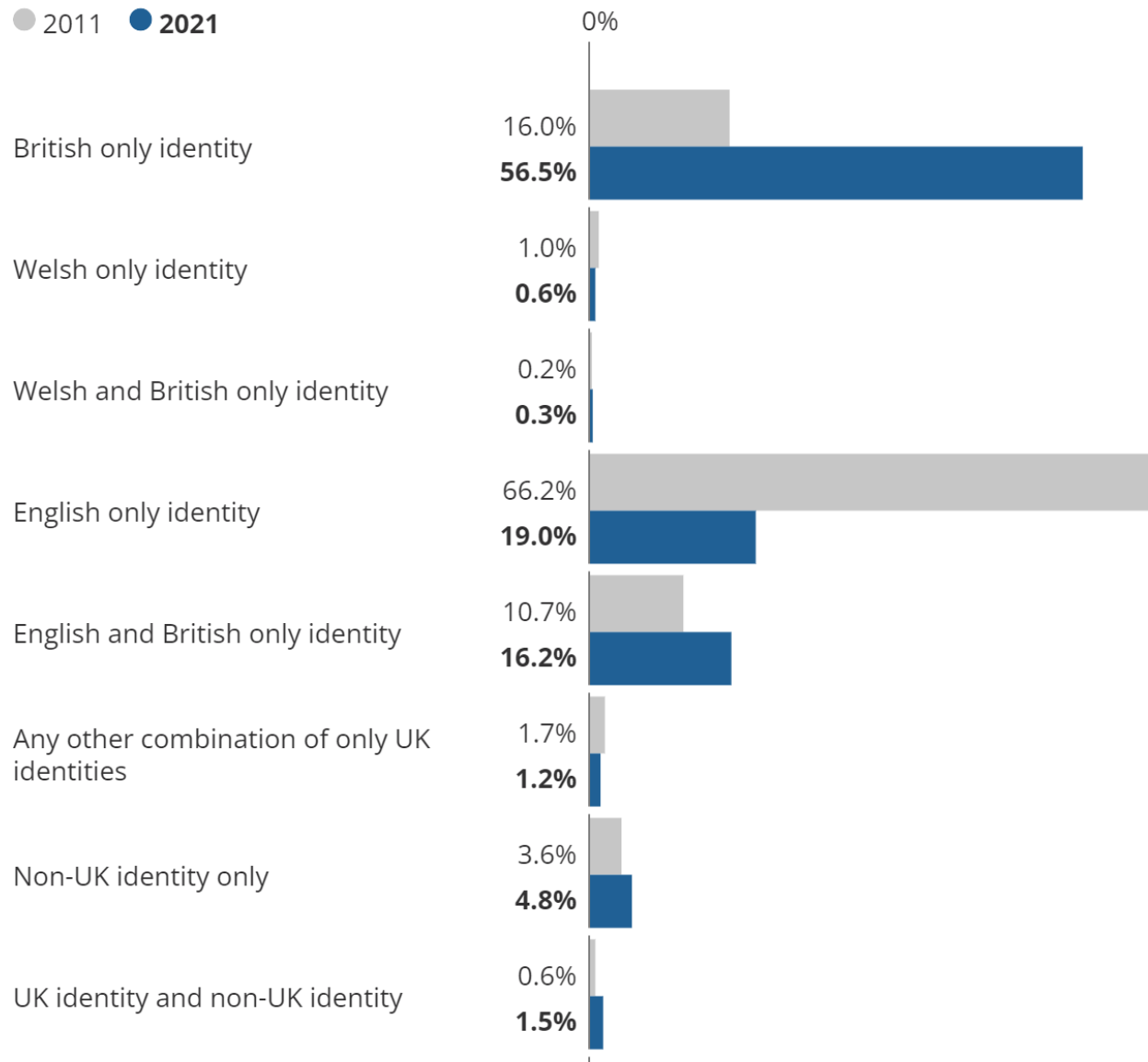
In 2021, 1.5% of residents identified with a UK and non-UK national identity, compared with 0.6% in 2011. The percentage of residents in Stratford-on-Avon that identified as "British only" increased from 16.0% to 56.5%.

The increase in the percentage of people who did not identify with any national identity associated with the UK was greater across the West Midlands (2.5 percentage points) than in Stratford-on-Avon (1.2 percentage points). Across the region, the percentage increased from 6.2% in 2011 to 8.7% in 2021, while across England, the percentage increased from 8.2% to 10.0%.

In Census 2021, "British" was moved to the top response option and this may have influenced how people described their national identity.

Percentage of usual residents by national identity, **Stratford-on-Avon**

● 2011 ● 2021



Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021

Family in Stratford-on-Avon

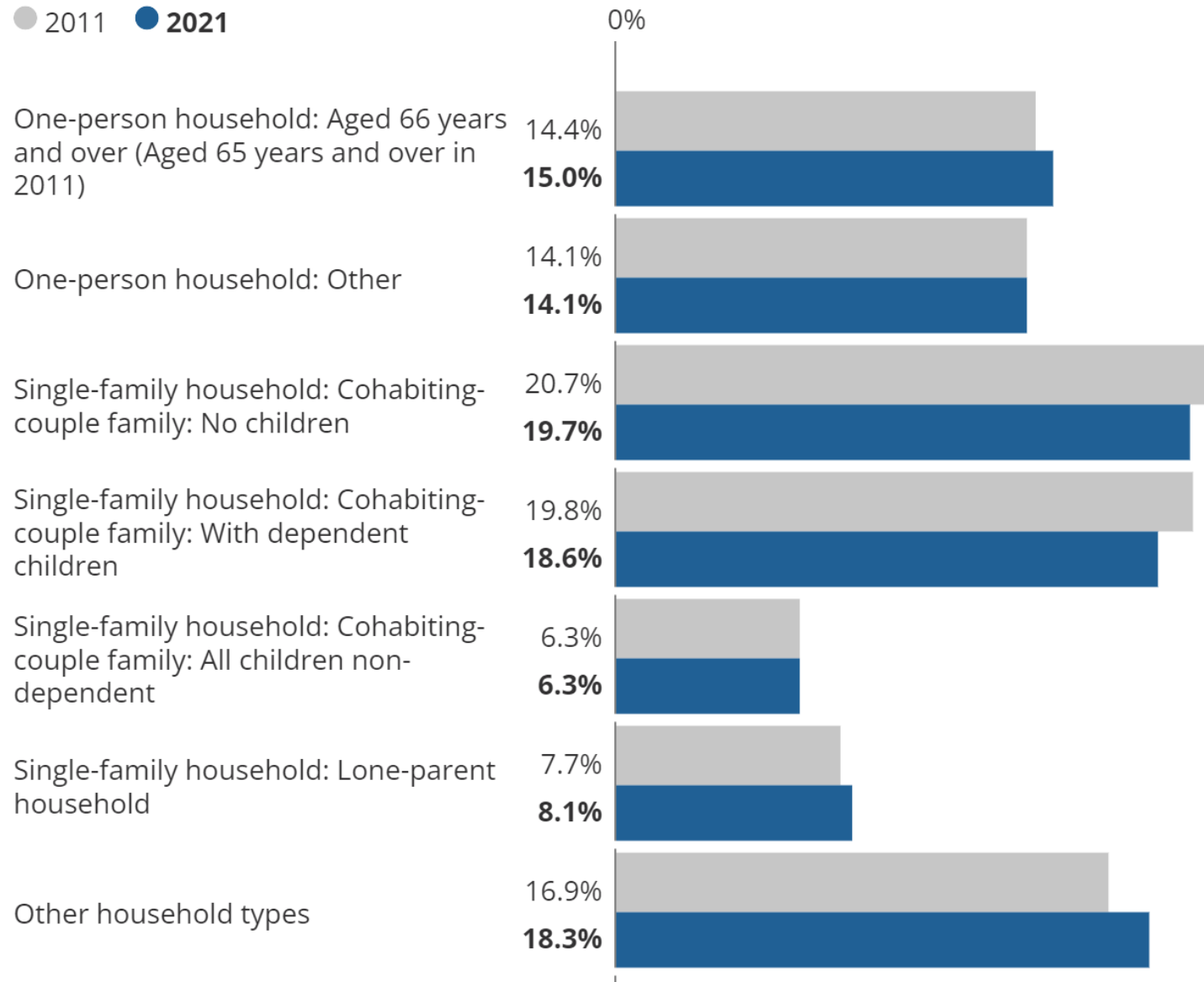
Of Stratford-on-Avon households, 19.7% included a couple but no children in 2021, down from 20.7% in 2011.

In 2021, just under one in five households (18.6%) included a couple with dependent children, compared with 19.8% in 2011. The percentage of single family households including a couple living with only non-dependent children remained at 6.3%.

This area had the region's joint second highest percentage of households including a couple, but no children (alongside Wychavon). Across the region, only Stafford, with 20.0%, had a higher percentage.

Percentage of households by household composition, **Stratford-on-Avon**

● 2011 ● **2021**



Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021

More adults never married or in a civil partnership

Of Stratford-on-Avon residents aged 16 years and over, 28.4% said they had never been married or in a civil partnership in 2021, up from 25.6% in 2011. This is an increase of 2.8 percentage points.

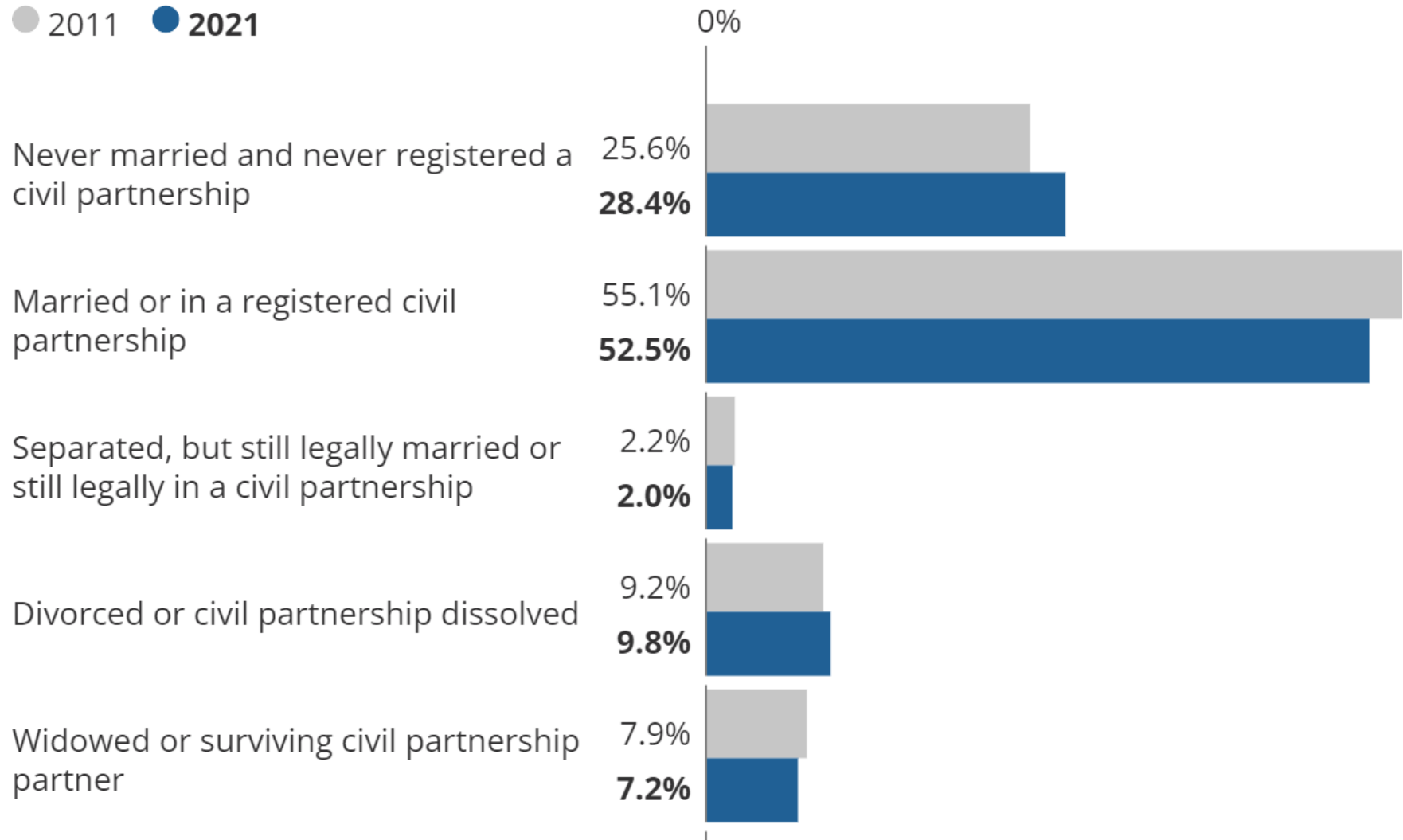
In 2021, just over one in two people (52.5%) said they were married or in a registered civil partnership, compared with 55.1% in 2011. The percentage of adults in Stratford-on-Avon that had divorced or dissolved a civil partnership increased from 9.2% to 9.8%.

This area had the region's lowest percentage of people aged 16 years and over who had never been married or in a civil partnership. Malvern Hills had the West Midlands' next lowest percentage of people aged 16 years and over who had never been married or in a civil partnership (28.6%), while Birmingham had the region's highest percentage (44.9%).

These figures include same-sex marriages and opposite-sex civil partnerships in 2021, neither of which were legally recognised in England and Wales in 2011. Same-sex marriages have been legally recognised in England and Wales since 2014 and opposite-sex civil partnerships have been recognised since 2019.

Percentage of usual residents aged 16 years and over by legal partnership status,
Stratford-on-Avon

● 2011 ● 2021



Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021

Disability in Stratford-on-Avon

In 2021, 5.3% of Stratford-on-Avon residents were identified as being disabled and limited a lot. This figure decreased from 6.4% in 2011. These are age-standardised proportions.

Age-standardised proportions are used throughout this section. They enable comparisons between populations over time and across geographies, as they account for differences in the population size and age structure.

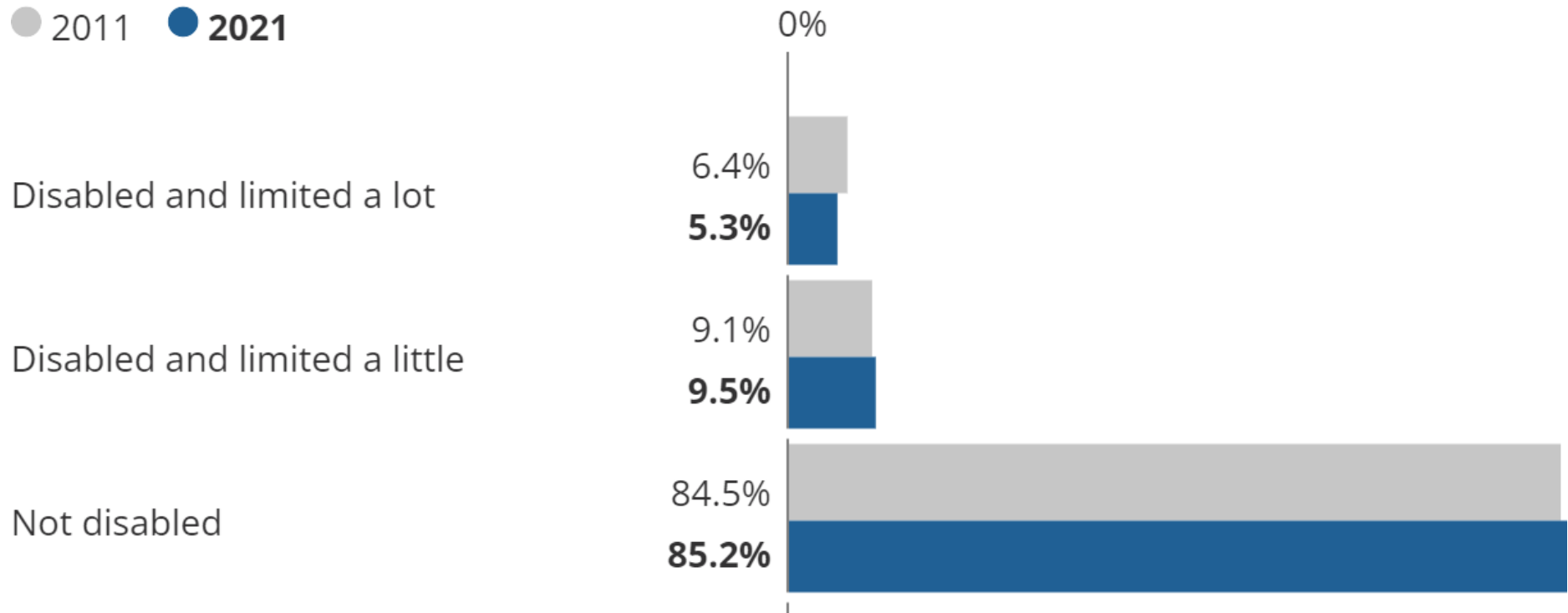
In 2021, just under 1 in 10 people (9.5%) were identified as being disabled and limited a little, compared with 9.1% in 2011. The proportion of Stratford-on-Avon residents who were not disabled increased from 84.5% to 85.2%.

This area had the region's lowest proportion of residents who were identified as being disabled and limited a lot. Warwick had the West Midlands' next lowest proportion of residents who were identified as being disabled and limited a lot (5.6%), while Stoke-on-Trent had the region's highest proportion (10.5%).

Census 2021 was undertaken during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This may have influenced how people perceived their health status and activity limitations, and therefore may have affected how people chose to respond. Caution should be taken when making comparisons between 2011 and 2021 because of changes in question wording and response options.

Age-standardised proportion of usual residents by long-term health condition or illness, **Stratford-on-Avon**

● 2011 ● **2021**



Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021

Ethnic groups in Stratford-on-Avon

In 2021, 1.9% of Stratford-on-Avon residents identified their ethnic group within the "Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh" category, up from 1.2% in 2011. The 0.7 percentage-point change was the largest increase among high-level ethnic groups in this area.

Across the West Midlands, the percentage of people from the "Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh" ethnic group increased from 10.8% to 13.3%, while across England the percentage increased from 7.8% to 9.6%.

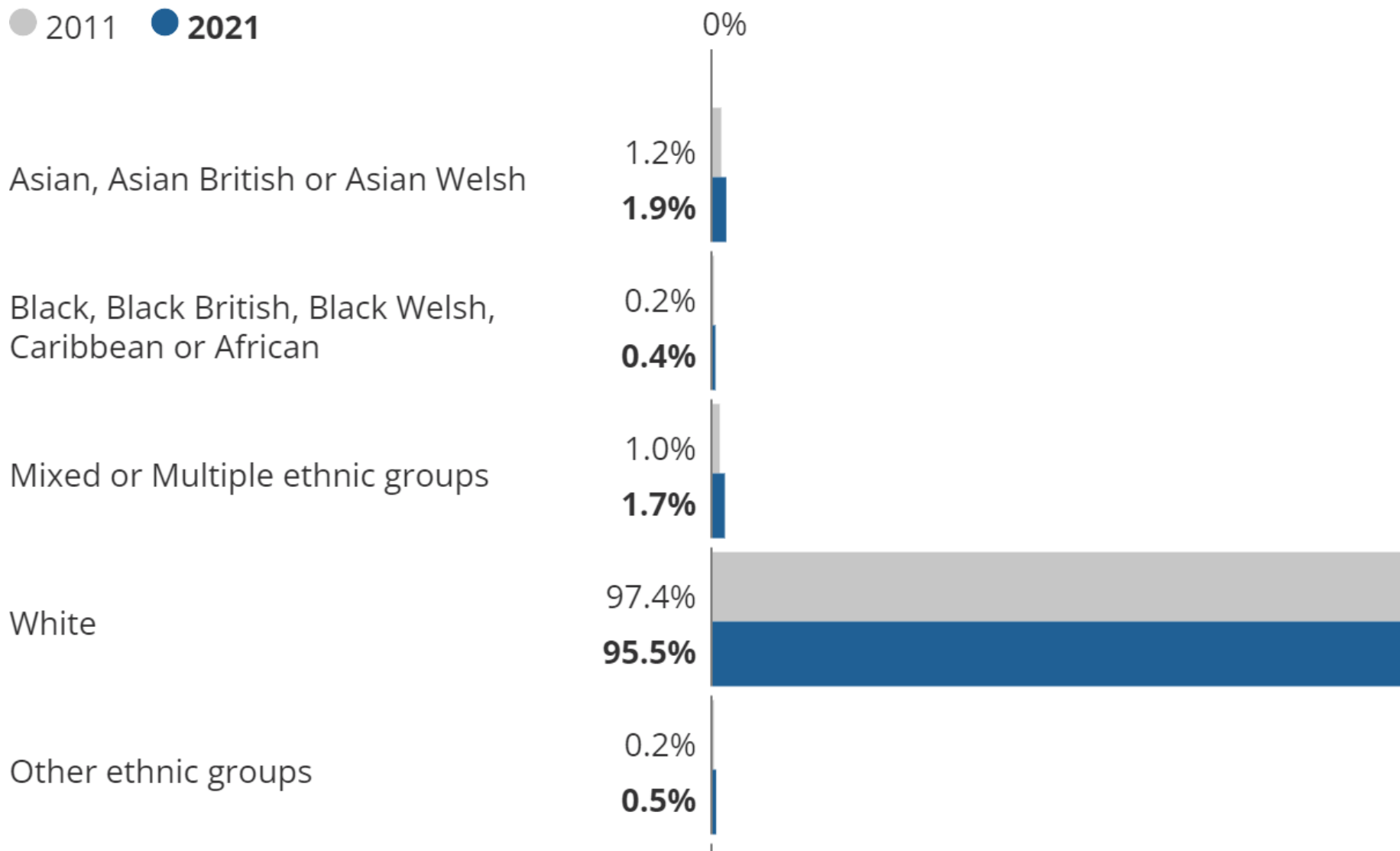
In 2021, 95.5% of people in Stratford-on-Avon identified their ethnic group within the "White" category (compared with 97.4% in 2011), while 1.7% identified their ethnic group within the "Mixed or Multiple" category (compared with 1.0% the previous decade).

The percentage of people who identified their ethnic group within the "Other" category ("Arab" or "Any other ethnic group") increased from 0.2% in 2011 to 0.5% in 2021.

There are many factors that may be contributing to the changing ethnic composition of England and Wales, such as differing patterns of ageing, fertility, mortality, and migration. Changes may also be caused by differences in the way individuals chose to self-identify between censuses.

Percentage of usual residents by ethnic group, **Stratford-on-Avon**

● 2011 ● **2021**



Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021