

Census 2021 Bulletin

Health, Disability and Unpaid Care in Shropshire?

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Resources Directorate



Health, Disability and Unpaid Care in Shropshire

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has released Census 2021 figures on health, disability and care. This bulletin will provide a summary at Shropshire level by comparing with national and regional data and looking at comparisons with the 2011 Census. The bulletin covers general health, disability, number of disabled people in households and the number of hours people are providing unpaid care.

The provision of unpaid care is a key indicator of care needs and has important implications for the planning and delivery of health and social care services. This information helps local government plan and allocate resources and social services departments to provide support services and advice for carers. The information about health and disability is used to allocate health resource and service provision, and to develop and monitor policy on the delivery of health care, the reduction of health inequalities and the assessment of progress towards improving the general health of the population.

Data Note: Where possible, age-standardised proportions (ASPs) have been used as they allow comparison between populations that account for differences in population size and age structure. Unfortunately, ONS have not provided age standardised data for the 2011 Census or data below a county level, therefore for accuracy purposes, both comparisons over time and analysis below County level (e.g., ward and LSOA) are calculated using nonage-standardised figures.

Key facts

- In terms of general health 83.5% of Shropshire residents felt that they were in very good or good health. This is greater than the England average of 81.7%. 4.5% reported their health as bad or very bad - less than the average for England (5.3%).
- In Shropshire, the general health reported by residents was very similar to 2011. At national level there was a slight increase in people reporting very good health (+1.3%) and a slight decrease in people reporting good health (-0.5%).
- In terms of disability 24,375 (7.5%) people said that their day-to-day activities were limited a lot. This was slightly less than 8.5% in 2011. In 2021 slightly more people said their day-to-day activities were limited a little (11.0%) or 35,615 compared with (10.2%) in 2011. The number of people not disabled remained unchanged in 2021 (81.5%) compared to 81.4% in 2011.
- When comparing with England (using age standardised proportions) Shropshire had a lower proportion of residents who said that their day-to-day activities were limited a lot, 6.5% compared to 7.5% in England and 8.0% in the West Midlands. Shropshire had a slightly higher proportion of people who were not disabled (83%) compared to 82.3% in England and 81.5% in the West Midlands.
- In Shropshire approximately 36,594 households (26.2%) had one person disabled under the Equality Act. This was similar to England (26.4%) and slightly more than the West Midlands (25.4%). Shropshire had a slightly lower proportion of households with two people who were disabled, 6.7% compared to 7.4% in England.



- In Shropshire 9.1% of people provided some form of unpaid care, similar to England (8.9%). Of these 4.9% provided 19 hours or less, 1.7% 20 – 49 hours and 2.5% 50 or more hours.
- The proportion of people providing some form of unpaid care has reduced since 2011 from 11.2% to 9.1%. The proportion of people providing 19 hours or less also reduced from 7.5% in 2011 to 5.1% in 2021. In England this was also the trend where figures fell from 6.5% of residents providing 19 hours or less of unpaid care in 2011 to 4.3% in 2021.
- The proportion of residents providing 20 to 49 hours increased from 1.3% to 1.8% in 2021. The proportion of residents providing 50 or more hours also increased from 2.4% to 2.8% in 2021. This trend was also the case in England. The Census 2021 took place during the Covid-19 pandemic when lockdown restrictions were in place. This may have impacted upon the results, especially those relating to the provision of unpaid care.

General Health

Chart 1: General Health in Shropshire 2021 Compared with England and the West Midlands (Age Standardised)

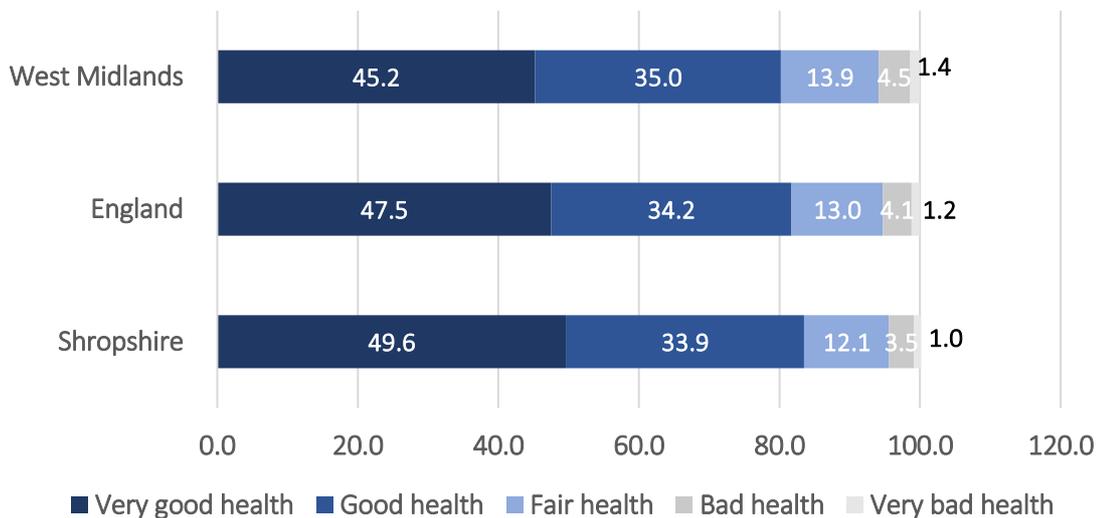


Chart 2: General Health in Shropshire 2021 and 2011 (Non-Age Standardised)

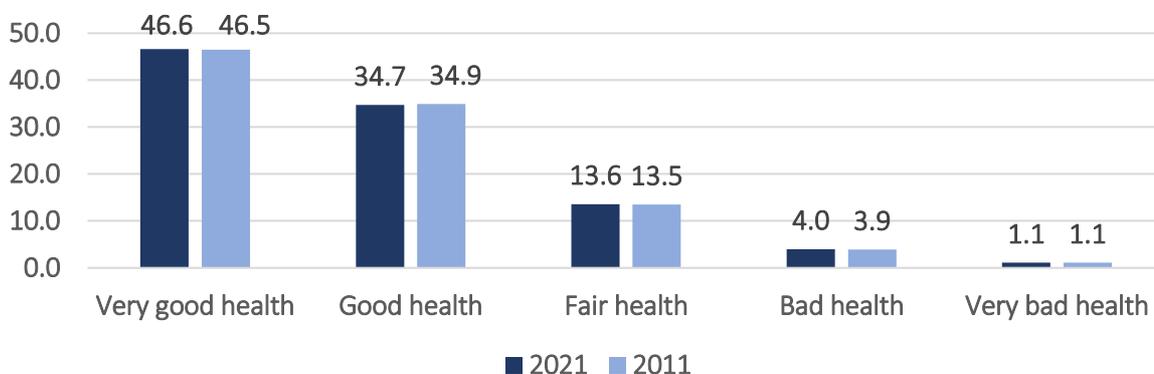
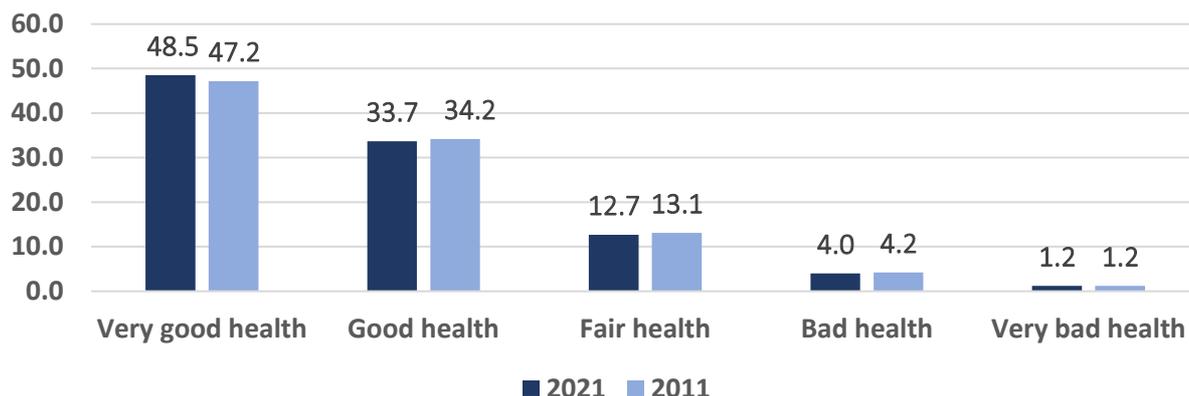


Chart 3: General Health in England 2021 and 2011 (Non-Age Standardised)



Disability

Table 1: Disability in Shropshire, England and the West Midlands 2021 (Age Standardised Proportions)

Disability	Shropshire	West Midlands	England
Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a lot	6.7	8.0	7.5
Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a little	10.2	10.4	10.2
Not disabled under the Equality Act	83.0	81.5	82.3

Chart 4: Disability in Shropshire 2021 and 2011 (Non-Age Standardised)

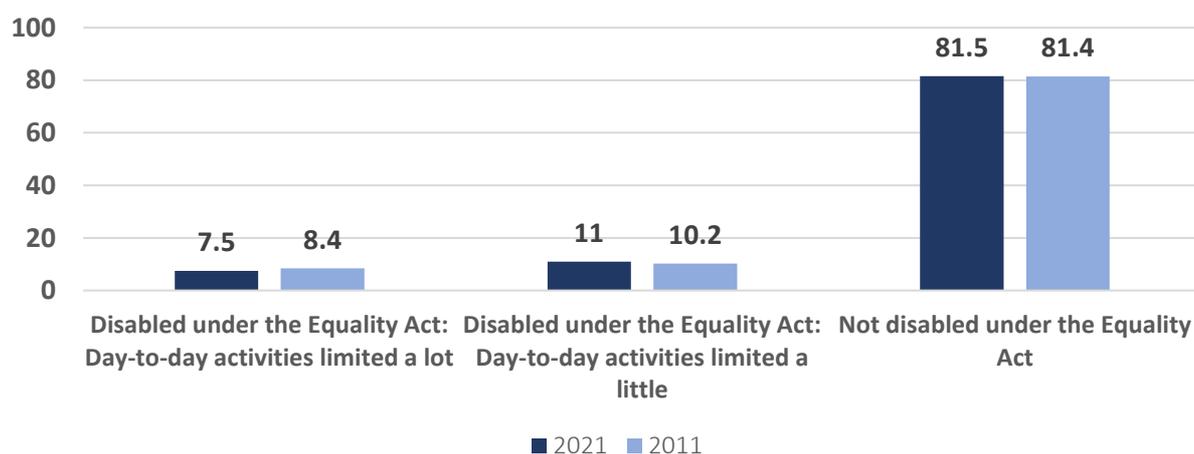


Table 2: Disability in Households Shropshire, England and the West Midlands 2021

Disability	Shropshire	%	West Midlands %	England %
Total Households	139,579	100.0	100.0	100.0
No people disabled under the Equality Act in household	93,595	67.1	68.0	66.2
1 person disabled under the Equality Act in household	36,594	26.2	25.4	26.4
2 or more people disabled under the Equality Act in household	9,390	6.7	6.6	7.4

Unpaid Care

Chart 5: Number of Hours of Unpaid Care Shropshire, West Midlands and England 2021 (Age Standardised)

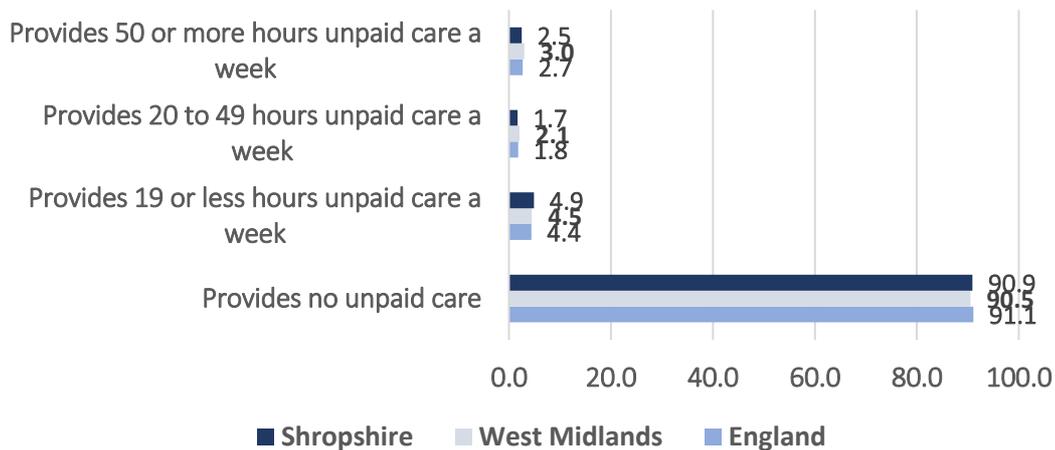
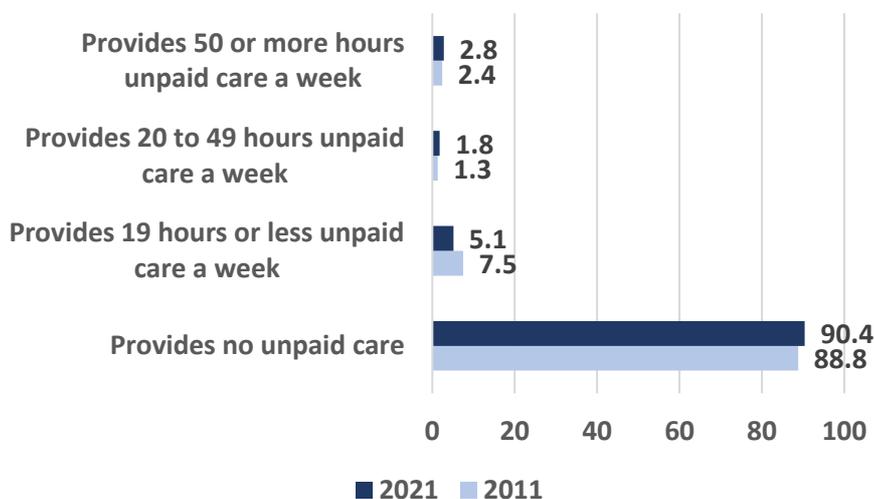
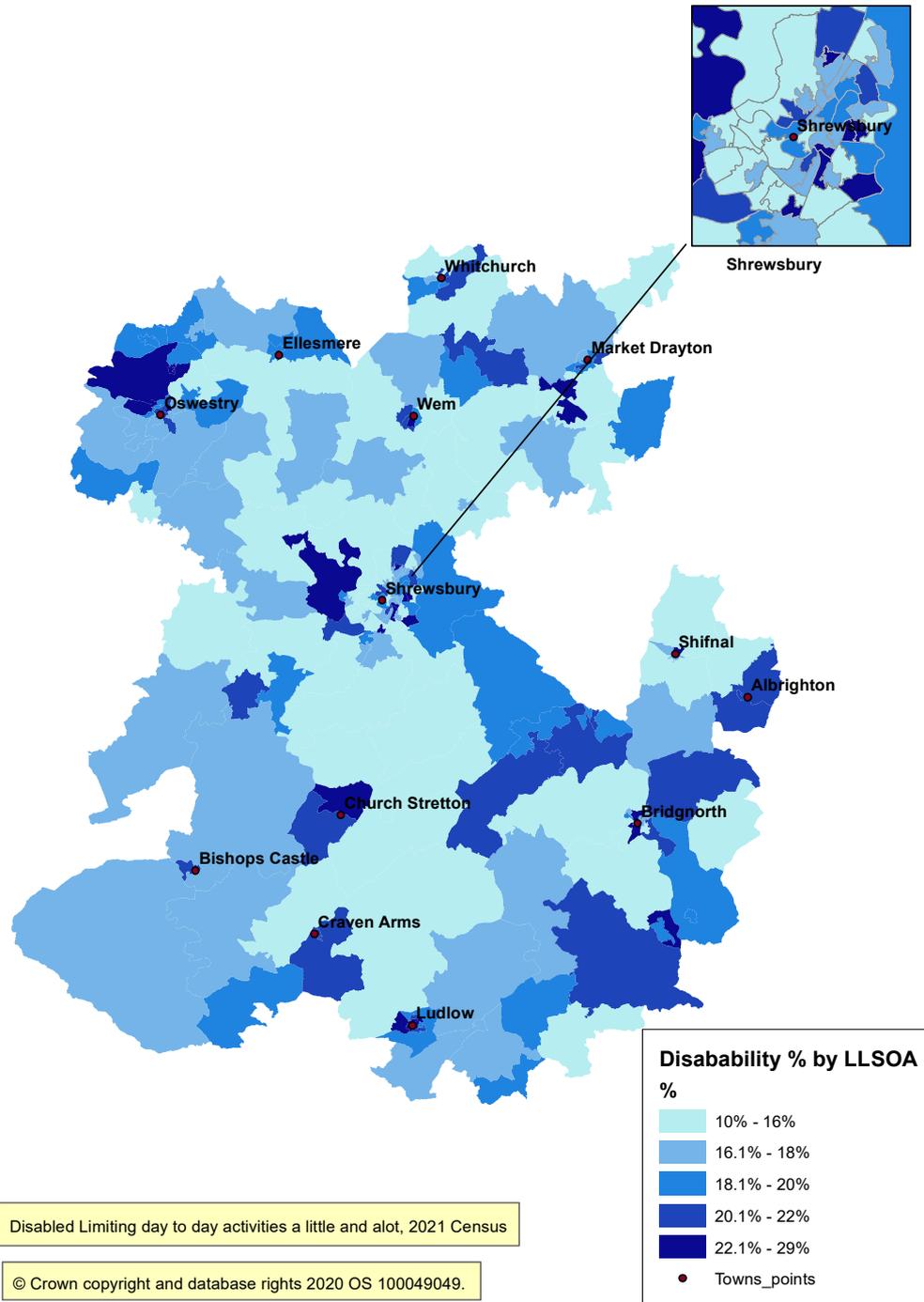


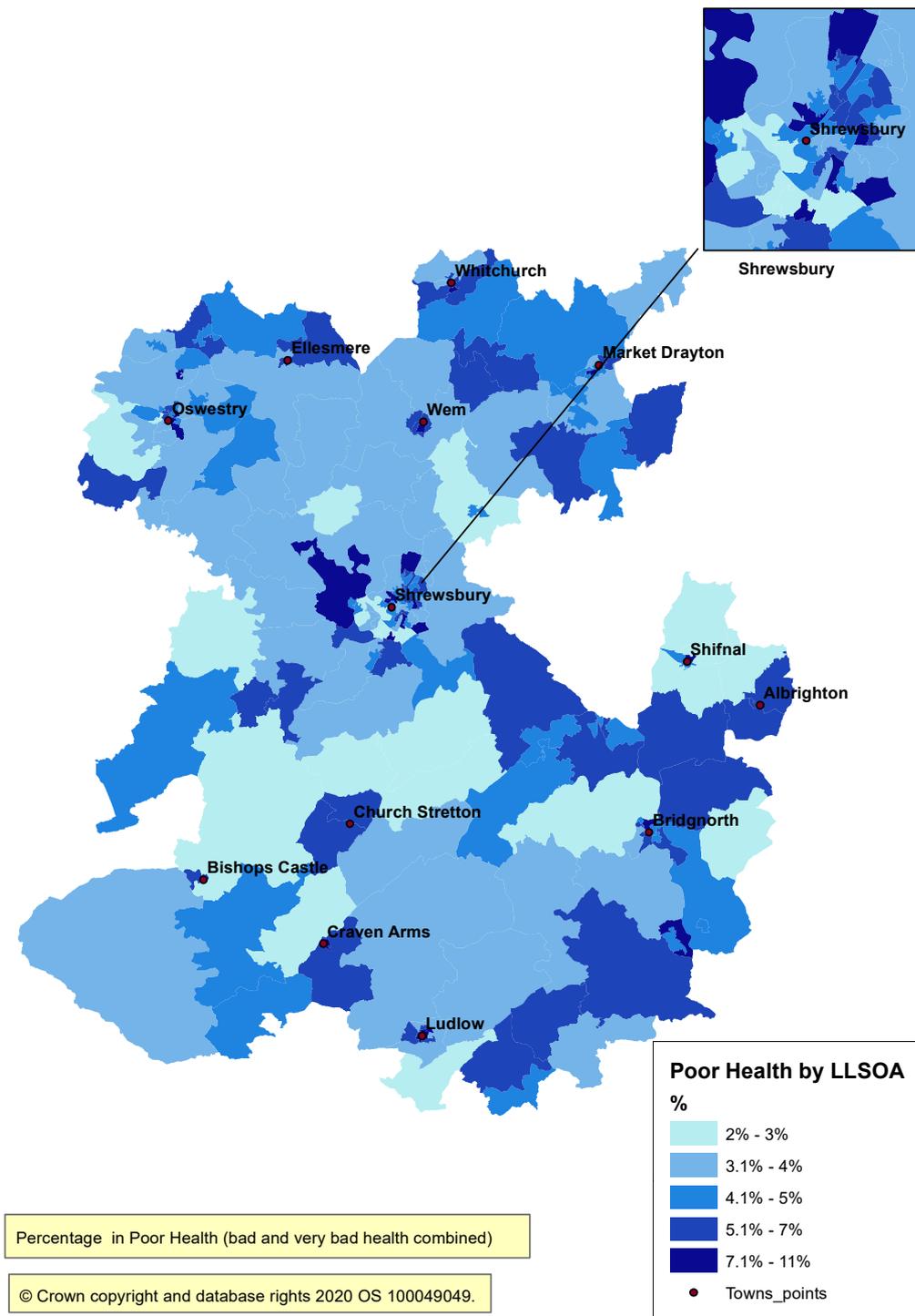
Chart 6: Number of Hours of Unpaid Care Shropshire 2021 and 2011 (Non age standardised)



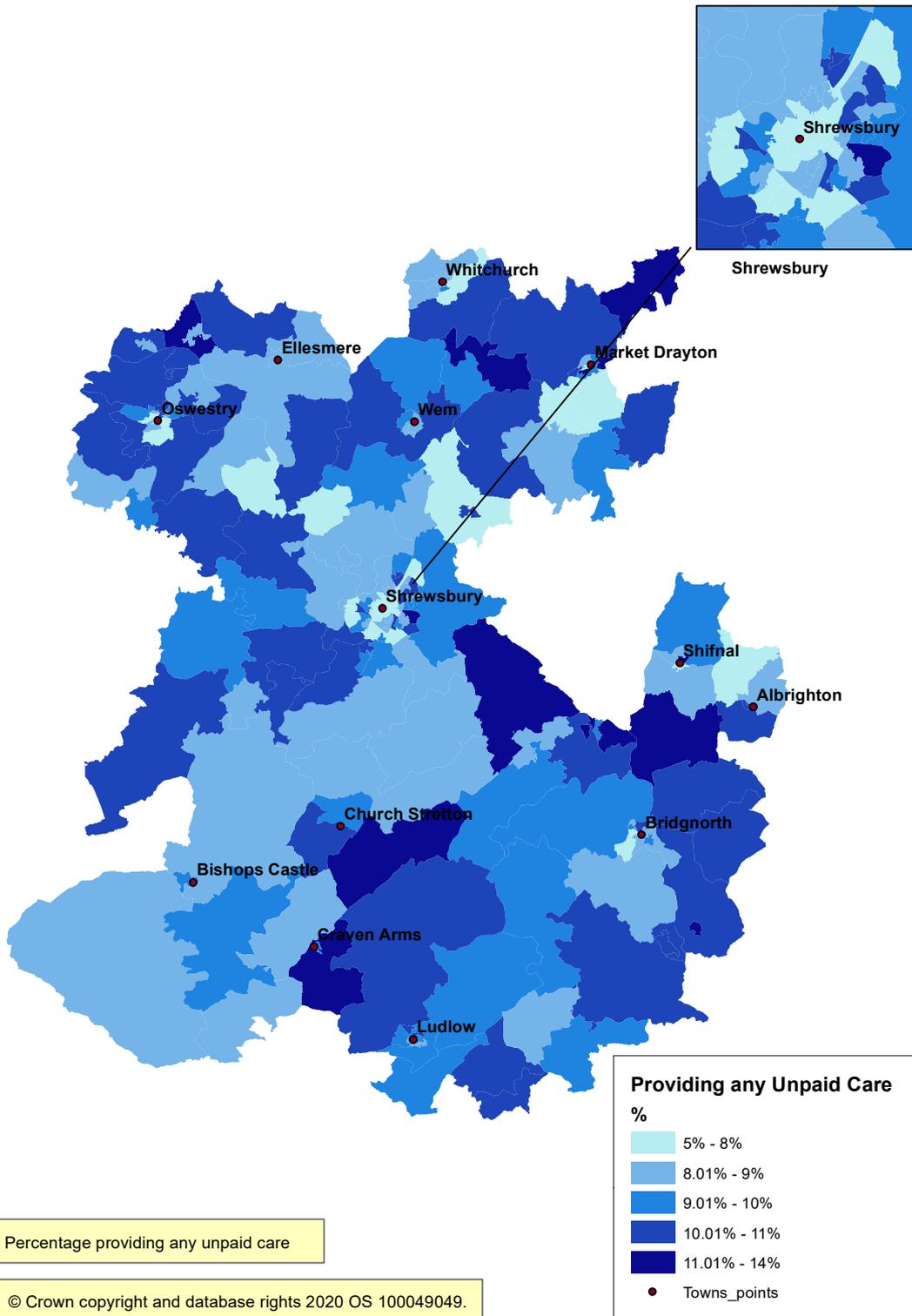
Annex 1: Percentage of People with a Disability (disabled with day-to-day activities limited a lot or a little) by Lower Super Output Area3, 2021



Annex 2: – Percentage of People in Poor Health (bad and very bad health combined) by Lower Super Output Areas, 2021.



Annex 3: – Percentage of People Providing any Unpaid Care by Lower Super Output Areas 2021.



Sources

[General Health](#)

[Disability](#)

[Unpaid Care](#)

Census 2021 Topic Summaries and Nomis: Table TS037ASP, TS037, TS038ASP, TS038, TS039ASP and TS039

Census 2011: Table QS302EW, QS303EW, QS301EW

Further Information

[Census Maps - Census 2021 data interactive, ONS](#)

[Shropshire Facts and Figures](#)

For more information please contact: BusinessIntelligence@shropshire.gov.uk

Notes

The 2021 Census asked whether residents had any physical or mental health condition or illnesses, lasting or expected to last 12 months or more. They were then asked whether this reduced their ability to carry out day-to-day activities – in line with the Equality Act definition of disability.

On Census Day (21 March 2021), people were asked "How is your health in general?" The response options were "very good", "good", "fair", "bad", or "very bad". The wording was the same as the 2011 Census, but not directly comparable with earlier censuses.

Residents (over the age of 5) were asked "Do you look after, or give any help or support to, anyone because they have any long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses, or problems related to old age?"

Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) 2021 boundaries Office for National Statistics. Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are a statistical geography created by the Office for National Statistics for the Census. They are areas consisting of a minimum of 1,000 to a maximum of 3,000 population.

