

# Health

## Census 2021

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Data on health from the 2021 census was published by the Office for National Statistics in January 2023. This report summarises the main points of the data for Luton.

## Executive summary

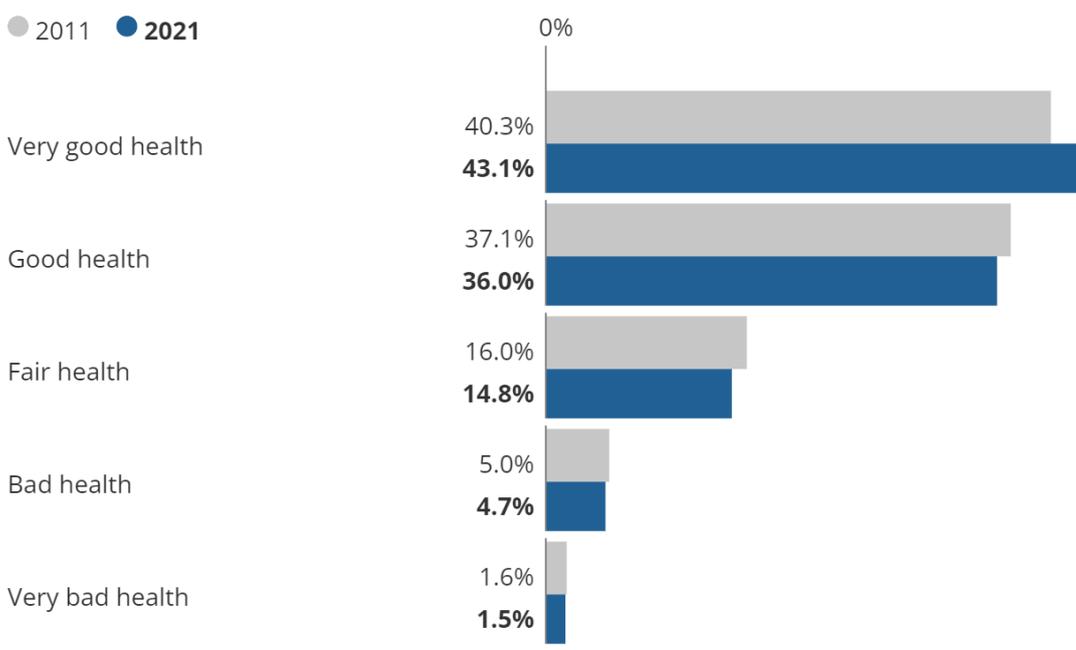
- Age standardised data shows that the proportion of people in Luton who report to be in very good health increased between 2011 and 2021.
- When data are age standardised a larger proportion of Luton's residents report to being in poor health than the national average.
- Age standardised data shows that the proportion of people who are not disabled in Luton has increased and the proportion of disabled has decreased.
- The age standardised proportion of people giving unpaid care decreased in the last decade.
- The areas with larger proportions of people in poor health corresponds with the areas larger proportions of older people.

## General health

Respondents were asked to assess their general health on a five-point scale: "Very good", "Good", "Fair", "Bad", or "Very bad". Data have been age standardised to account for different age structures in different populations which makes comparisons across time and different areas more meaningful.

**Figure 1: Percentage of Luton's residents (age standardised) by self-reported health, 2011 and 2021**

Age-standardised proportion of usual residents by self-reported health,  
**Luton**



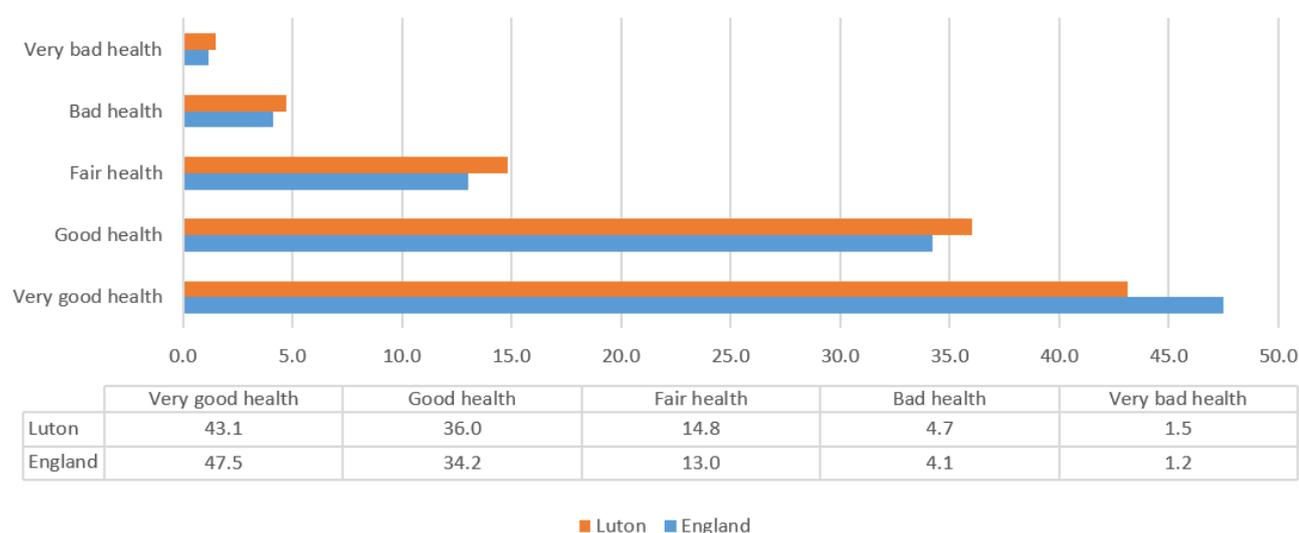
Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021

Source: Census 2021, Office for National Statistics

In Luton:

- The proportion of people reporting themselves being in very good health increased from 40.3 per cent to 43.1 per cent between 2011 and 2021.
- The proportion of people reporting themselves being in good health decreased from 37.1 per cent to 36 per cent between 2011 and 2021.
- The proportion of people reporting themselves being in fair health decreased from 16 per cent to 14.8 per cent between 2011 and 2021.
- The proportion of people reporting themselves being in bad health decreased from 5 per cent to 4.7 per cent between 2011 and 2021.
- The proportion of people reporting themselves being in very bad health decreased from 1.6 per cent to 1.5 per cent between 2011 and 2021.

**Figure 2: Percentage of Luton and England’s residents (age standardised) by self-reported health, 2021**



Source: Census 2021, Office for National Statistics

The age standardised data shows that a smaller proportion of people in Luton report themselves as being in good health than in England, 43.1 per cent in comparison to 47.5 per cent. A larger proportion of people in Luton report themselves being in very bad health than nationally, 1.5 per cent compared with 1.2 per cent.

Luton is ranked 303<sup>rd</sup> out of 331 local authorities with the proportion of people in very good health with Kensington & Chelsea ranked first and Stoke on Trent last. Luton is ranked 79<sup>th</sup> with the proportion of people with very bad health with Tower Hamlets ranked first and Vale of White Horse last.

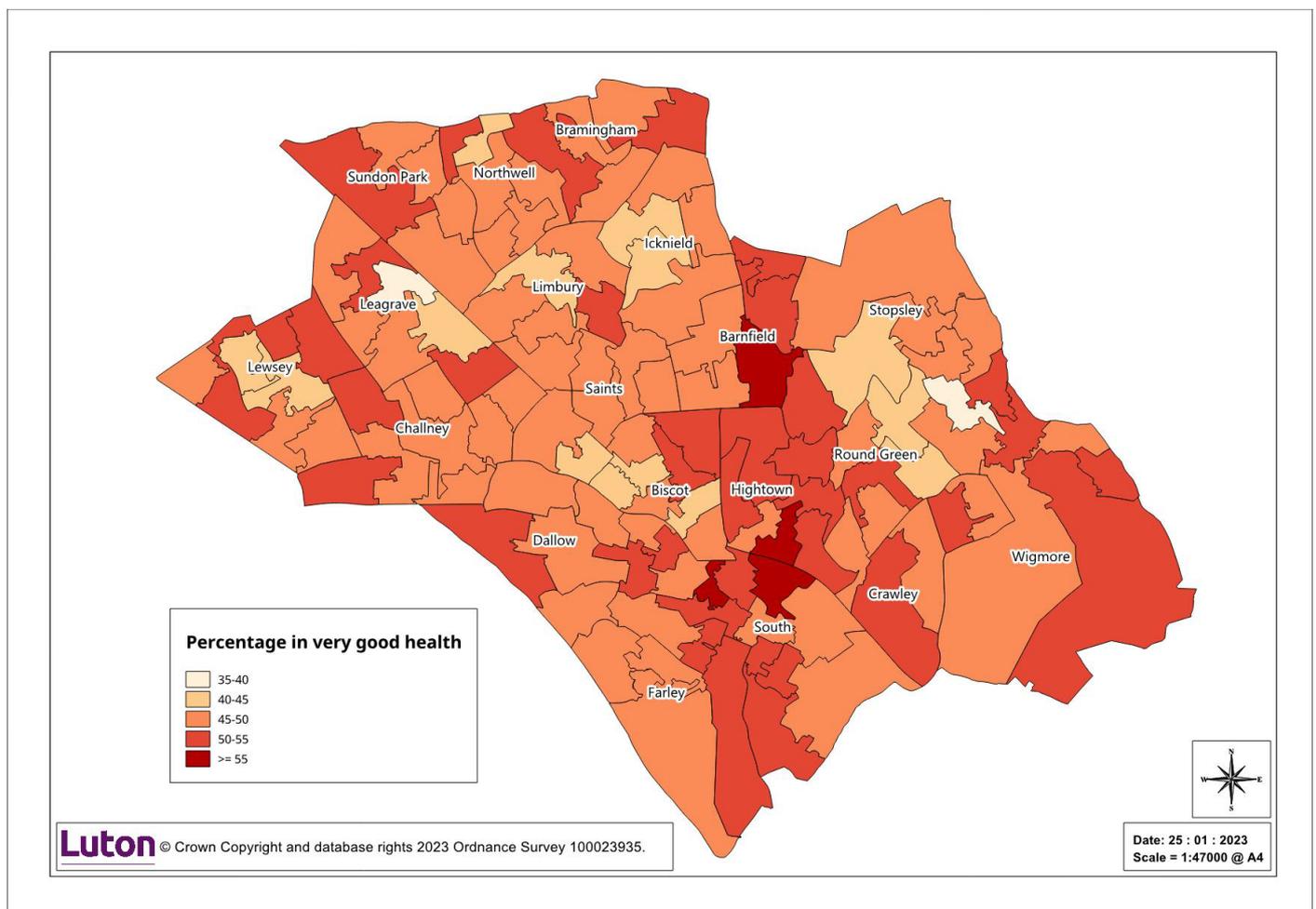
**Table 1: General health in Luton (not age standardised), 2011 and 2021**

|                          | 2011           | Percentage | 2021           | Percentage | % change    |
|--------------------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|-------------|
| Very good health         | 96,607         | 46.6       | 109,654        | 48.7       | 15.9        |
| Good health              | 73,300         | 36.1       | 77,855         | 34.6       | 6.2         |
| Fair health              | 25,277         | 12.4       | 27,073         | 12.0       | 7.1         |
| Bad health               | 7,571          | 3.7        | 8,162          | 3.6        | 7.8         |
| Very bad health          | 2,446          | 1.2        | 2,517          | 1.1        | 2.9         |
| <b>Total, all people</b> | <b>203,201</b> |            | <b>225,261</b> |            | <b>10.9</b> |

Source: Census 2011 & 2021, Office for National Statistics

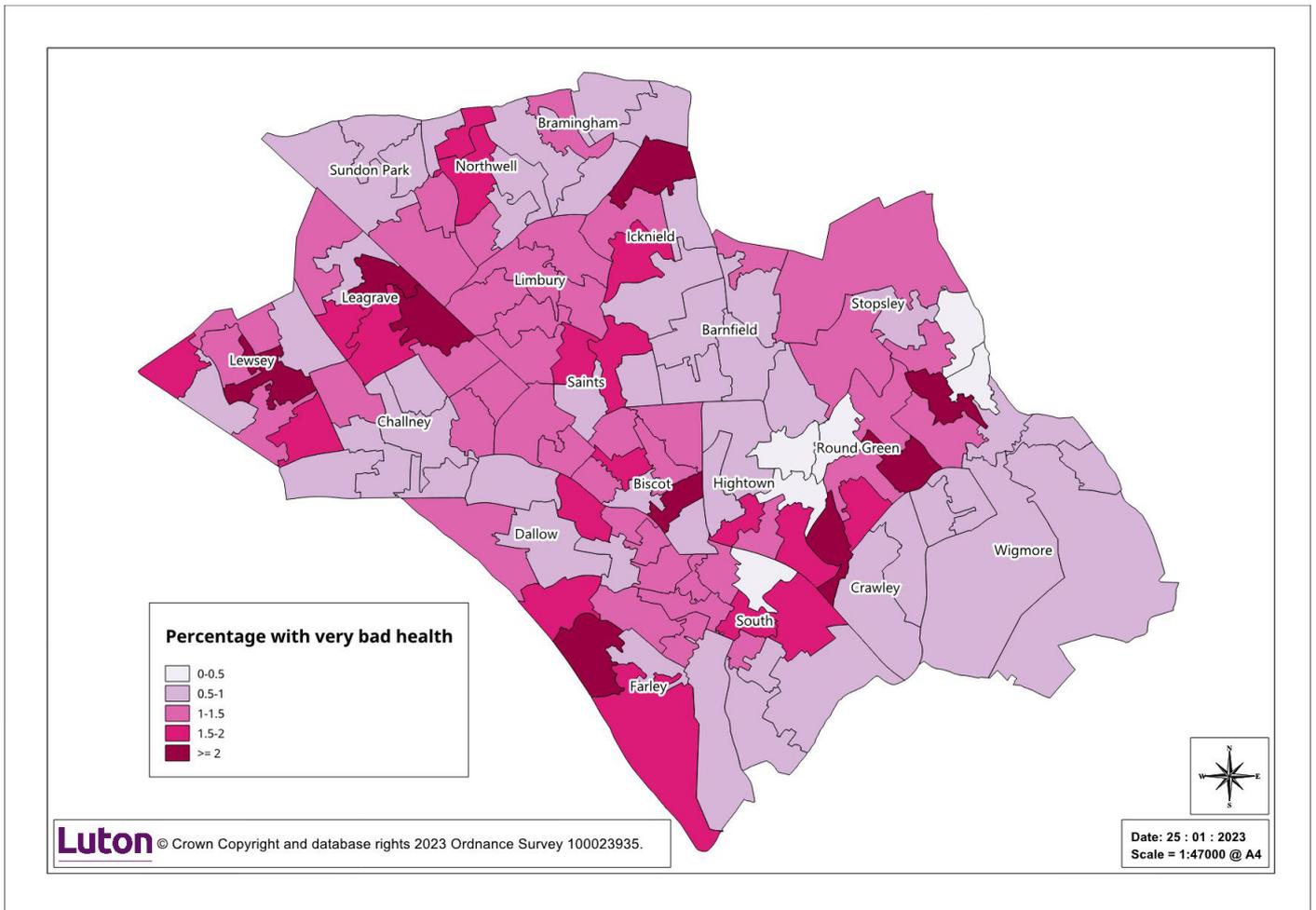
The non age-standardised figures show that the numbers in all the health categories have increased over the last decade reflecting the growth in the population. The fastest growth was in the numbers reporting to be in very good health with a 15.9 per cent increase.

**Figure 3: Percentage of Luton’s residents (not age standardised) in very good health by LSOA, 2021**



Source: Census 2021, Office for National Statistics

**Figure 4: Percentage of Luton’s residents (not age standardised) in very bad health by LSOA, 2021**



Source: Census 2021, Office for National Statistics

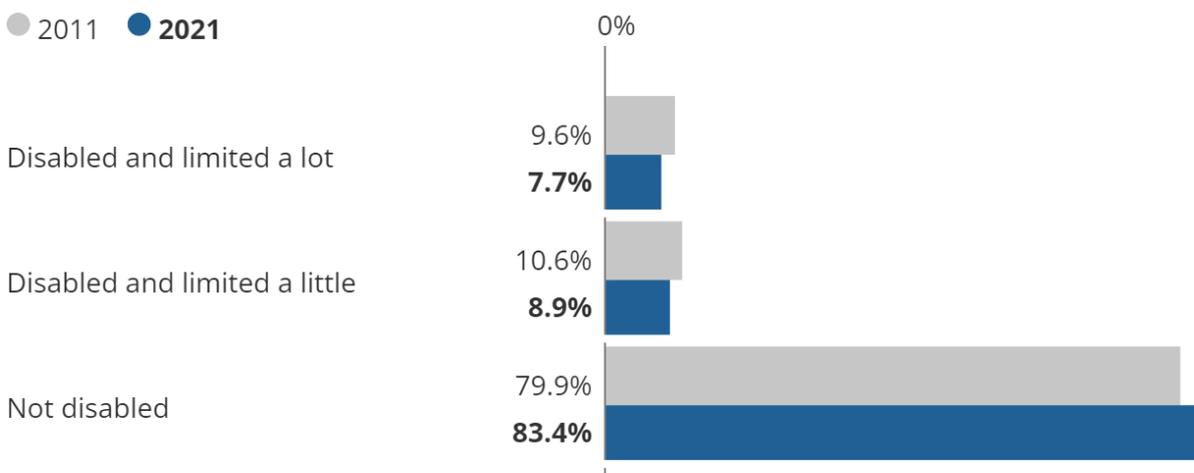
The LSOA data are not age standardised and the areas where people are in good or bad health broadly correspond with the age structure of the population i.e. those areas with a higher proportion of older people are more likely have a higher proportion of people in poor health.

# Disability

To identify disability in England and Wales, the census asked people "Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?" If they answered yes, a further question "Do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day-to-day activities?" was presented. The identification of disability differs from the 2011 Census question used, which asked "Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or expected to last, at least 12 months?"

**Figure 5: Percentage of Luton’s residents (age standardised) by disability, 2011 and 2021**

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

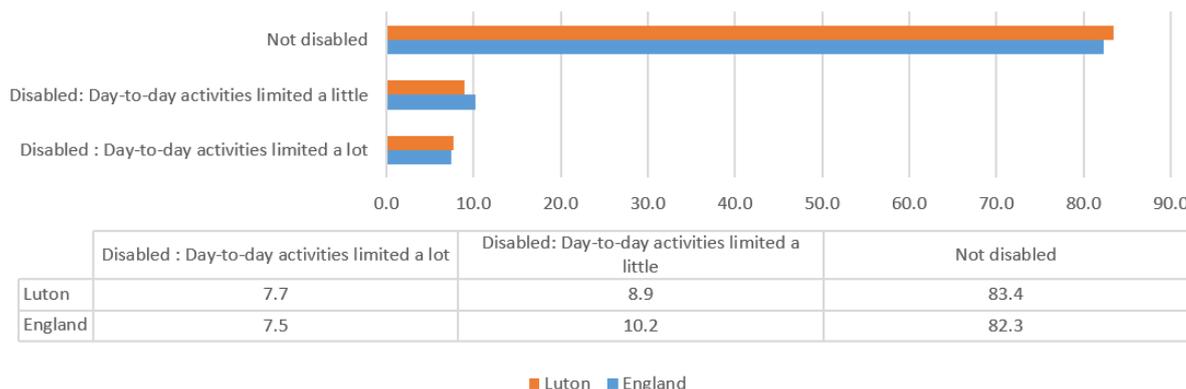


Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021

Source: Census 2011 & 2021, Office for National Statistics

The proportion of people who are ‘disabled and limited a lot’ fell in Luton between 2011 and 2021 from 9.6 per cent to 7.7 per cent. The proportion who are not disabled increased from 79.9 per cent to 83.4 per cent in the last decade.

**Figure 6: Percentage of Luton and England’s residents (age standardised) by disability health, 2021**



Source: Census 2021, Office for National Statistics

Luton has a larger proportion of residents who are not disabled than the national figure, 83.4 per cent compared with 82.3 per cent and similar proportion of people who are disabled with activities being limited a lot.

Luton is ranked 136<sup>th</sup> out of 331 local authorities for the proportion of ‘disabled activities limited a lot.’ Blaenau Gwent is ranked first and the City of London last.

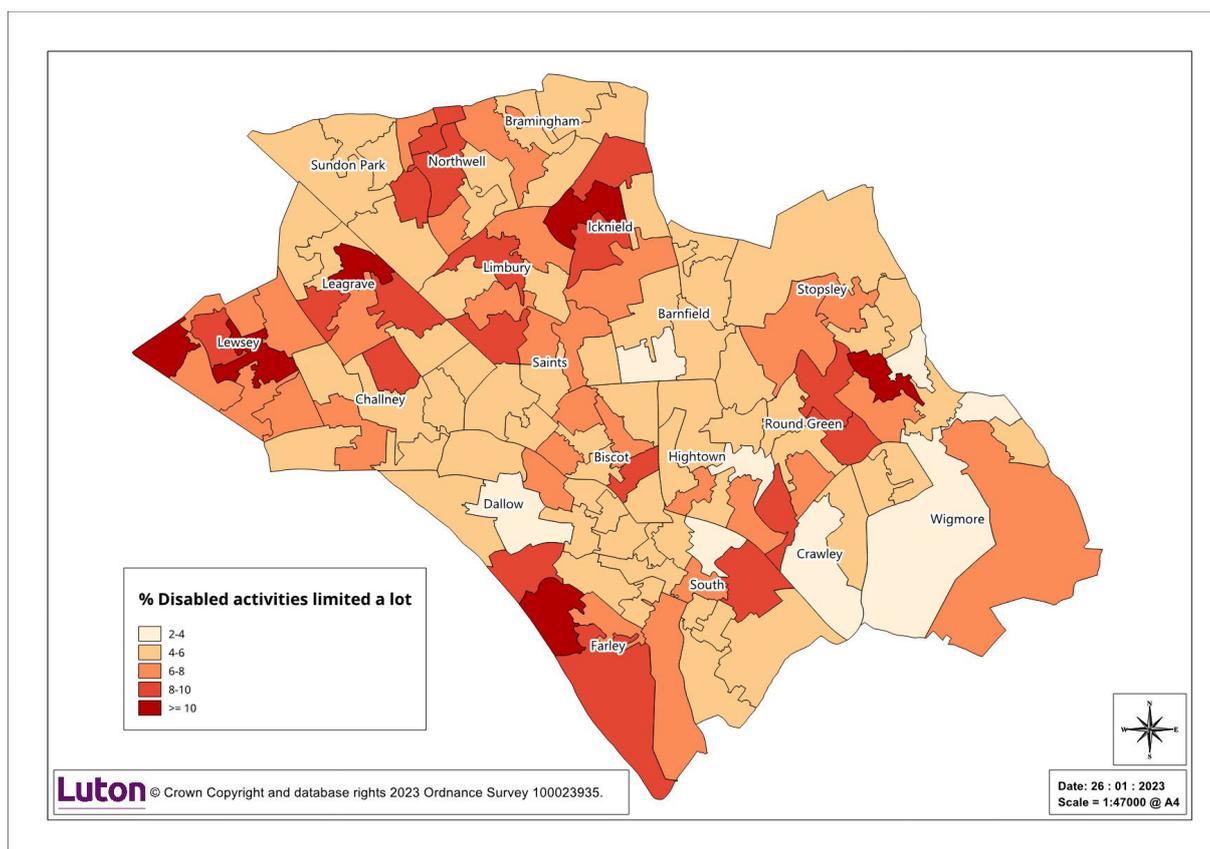
**Table 2: Disability in Luton (not age standardised), 2011 and 2021**

|   | 2011           | Percentage | 2021           | Percentage | % change    |
|---|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|-------------|
| Disabled – day to day activities limited a lot    | 14,073         | 6.9        | 13,900         | 6.2        | -1.2        |
| Disabled – day to day activities limited a little | 16,514         | 8.1        | 17,032         | 7.6        | 3.1         |
| Not disabled                                      | 172,614        | 84.9       | 194,329        | 86.3       | 12.6        |
| <b>Total, all people</b>                          | <b>203,201</b> |            | <b>225,261</b> |            | <b>10.9</b> |

Source: Census 2011 & 2021, Office for National Statistics

The non age-standardised figures show that the numbers of disabled people whose activities are limited a lot has decreased by 1.2 per cent over the last decade with a 3.1 per cent increase in people who are disabled but activities are limited a little and a 12.6 per cent increase in the number of people who are not disabled.

**Figure 7: Percentage of Luton’s residents (not age standardised) who are disabled with day to day activities limited a lot by LSOA, 2021**



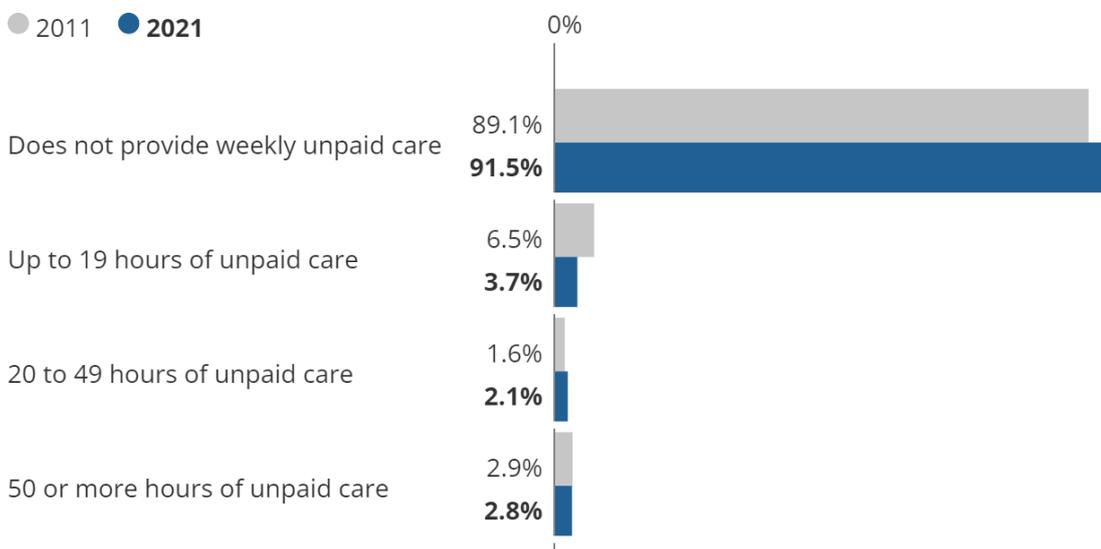
Source: Census 2021, Office for National Statistics

Figure 7 shows that the areas that have more than 10 per cent of residents with a severely limiting disability are in Farley, Lewsey, Icknield and Stopsley. The small area data is not age standardised and the areas with the higher levels of disability have older populations. Levels of disability are likely to be higher in LSOAs with care homes and sheltered accommodation.

# Unpaid care

**Figure 8: Age standardised proportion of residents by hours of unpaid care given, 2011 and 2021**

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

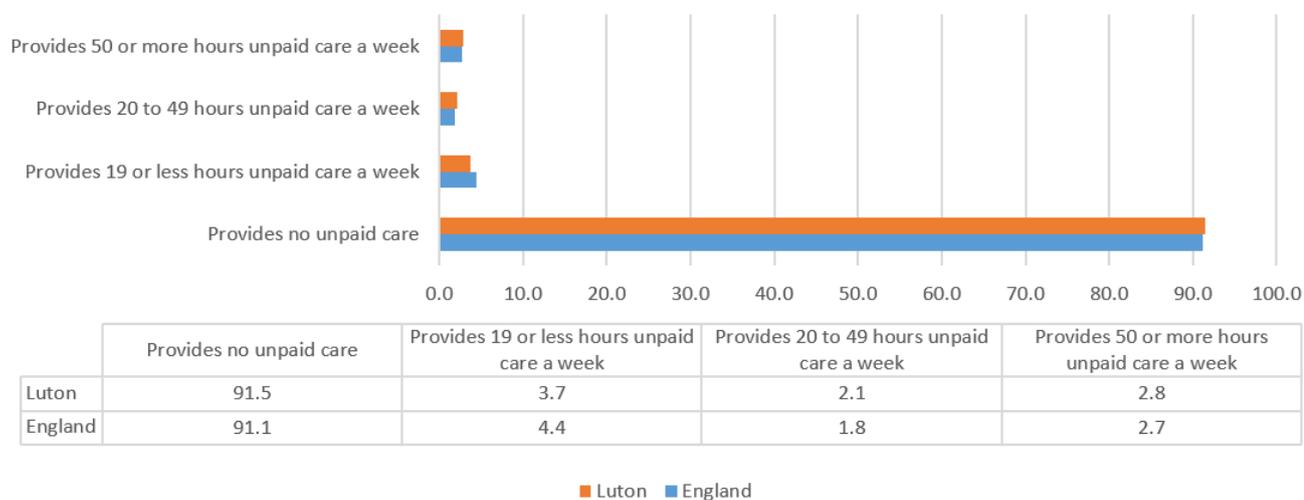


Source: Office for National Statistics – 2011 Census and Census 2021

Source: Census 2011 & 2021, Office for National Statistics

The age standardised proportion of Luton’s residents not providing unpaid care increased between 2011 and 2021 from 89.1 per cent to 91.5 per cent. The 2021 census was taken when there were restrictions on household mixing so this could have impacted the results.

**Figure 9: Percentage of Luton and England’s residents (age standardised) by hours of unpaid care, 2021**



Source: Census 2021, Office for National Statistics

Luton is ranked 132nd out of 331 local authorities for the proportion of residents ‘providing 50 or more hours of unpaid care.’ Neath Port Talbot is ranked first and the City of London last.

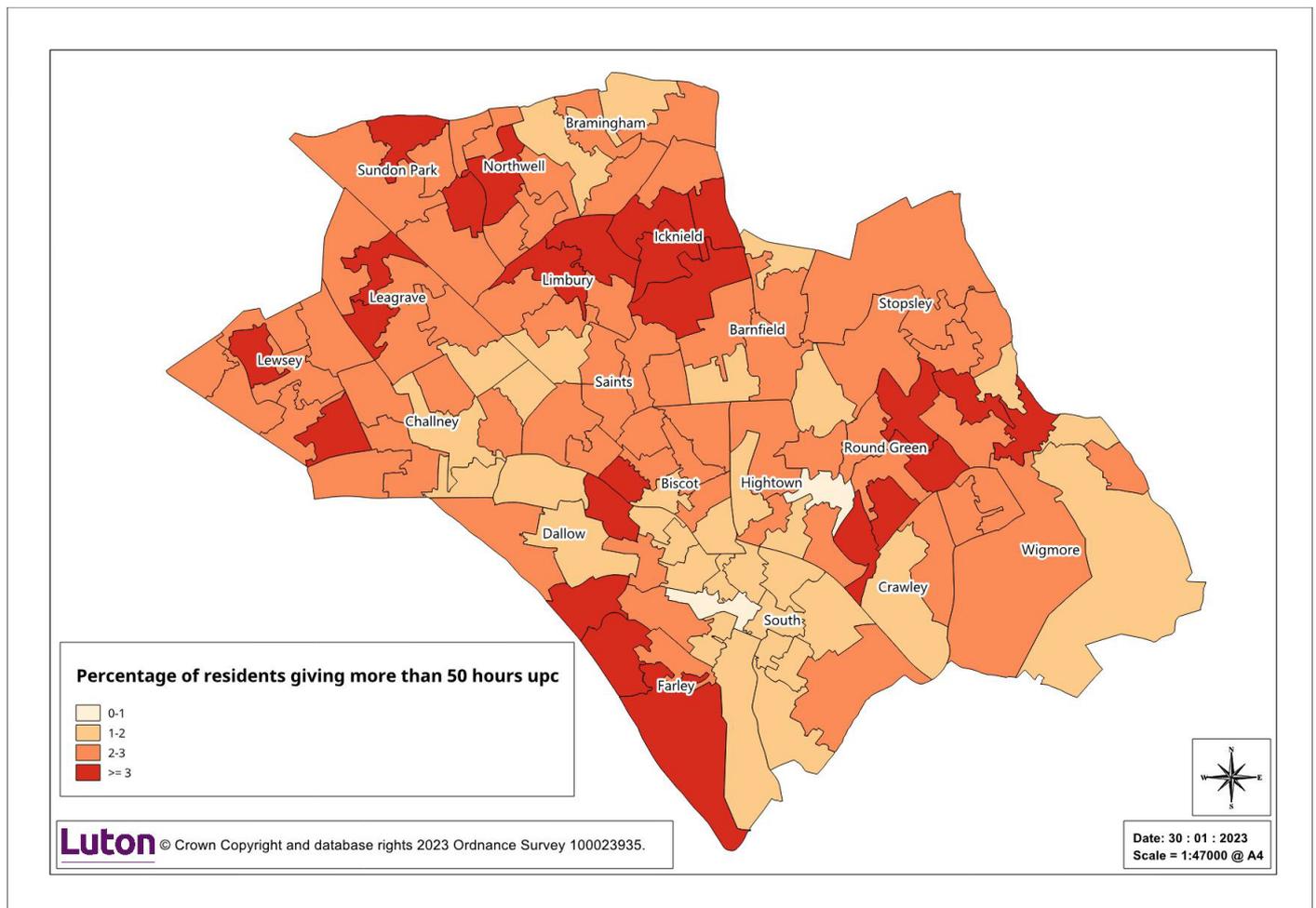
The proportions of Luton’s residents giving unpaid care is similar to the national figure.

**Table 3: Unpaid care in Luton (not age standardised), 2011 and 2021**

|  | 2011           | Percentage | 2021           | Percentage | % change    |
|--|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|-------------|
| No unpaid care                               | 184,945        | 91.0       | 193,203        | 92.3       | 4.5         |
| Provides 1 to 19 hours unpaid care a week    | 10,975         | 5.4        | 7,112          | 3.4        | - 35.2      |
| Provides 20 to 49 hours unpaid care a week   | 2,836          | 1.4        | 4,114          | 2.0        | 45.1        |
| Provides 50 or more hours unpaid care a week | 4,445          | 2.2        | 4,873          | 2.3        | 9.6         |
| <b>Total, all people</b>                     | <b>203,201</b> |            | <b>225,261</b> |            | <b>10.9</b> |

Source: Census 2011 & 2021, Office for National Statistics

**Figure 10: Percentage of Luton’s residents (not age standardised) who are disabled with day to day activities limited a lot by LSOA, 2021**



Source: Census 2021, Office for National Statistics

The areas with a larger proportion of people giving more than 50 hours of unpaid care corresponds to the areas in Luton with an older than average population.

More census analysis will be added to the Luton Observatory as data are published:

[https://m.luton.gov.uk/Page/Show/community\\_and\\_living/luton%20observatory%20census%20statistics%20and%20mapping/Pages/default.aspx](https://m.luton.gov.uk/Page/Show/community_and_living/luton%20observatory%20census%20statistics%20and%20mapping/Pages/default.aspx)

A link to the 2021 census data can be found below:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census>