

**CHILDREN**

The number of children aged 3–17 fell slightly, from 11.3 million in 2001 to 11.1 million by 2011, due to fewer births during 2002–05. However, a rise in births in the UK after that point almost completely reversed the effect of that fall. The oldest children in the comparisons made here, those aged 17 in 2001, would have been born in 1984.

In 2001 the seven districts with the highest proportion of their populations being children were all to be found in Northern Ireland. By 2011, both Blackburn & Darwen in Lancashire and Bradford in Yorkshire had entered the top seven. Birmingham was 11th. First placed was Barking & Dagenham, where 22.8% of all people were children aged 3–17 in 2011. In London in this period many children who would normally have migrated with their families out of London did not do so before 2011 due to the 2008 housing market crash. By ages 12 and 13 they were still living where they had been at ages 8 and 9. Having not moved at those ages many families then try to stay put, at least until the children become young adults.

During the 2000s there was gentrification in many parts of London, which made staying in some boroughs very hard for families who were renting privately. Two of the areas recording the largest falls in children and probably the greatest rise in gentrification in this period were Tower Hamlets and Hackney. Since the Census the proportion of those aged 3–17 declined in 2012, stabilised in 2013, and showed a slight increase in 2014, this increase being due to the peak in births in 2011. We now know that in future the size of this age group will soon decline as that birth rate peak has passed.

**People aged 3–17, UK %**

