

Protected Characteristics in Torbay

Age

(Office for National Statistics (ONS)- population estimates 2025)

Torbay's total population is estimated at 139,486, with 17% aged under 18, 55% aged 18 to 64 and 28% aged over 65. Torbay's age profile is significantly older than England's population. Torbay's population has grown by 3.3% since 2015 while England's population has grown by 7.3%

Age Group	Population	%	Age Group	Population	%
0 to 9	11,847	8.5%	50 to 59	19,562	14.0%
10 to 19	14,944	10.7%	60 to 69	20,670	14.8%
20 to 29	12,261	8.8%	70 to 79	17,603	12.6%
30 to 39	15,548	11.1%	80 to 89	9,537	6.8%
40 to 49	15,418	11.1%	90+	2,096	1.5%

Disability

(ONS- 2021 Census)

11% of Torbay residents stated that their day to day activities were limited a lot by long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses and 13% reported limited a little (in 2011, 12% reported limited a lot and 12% reported limited a little). There were some changes to the way the question was asked in the 2021 Census which may have affected the results slightly.

Status	Population	%
Day to day activities limited a lot	15,258	11.0%
Day to day activities limited a little	17,966	12.9%
Day to day activities not limited	106,099	76.2%

Gender Reassignment

(ONS- 2021 Census)

This was the first time this has been recorded in the Census. Of those who answered the question, 0.4% stated their gender identity was not the same as the sex registered at birth (England- 0.6%).

Status	Population (16+)	%
Gender identity the same as sex registered at birth	109,984	94.0%
Gender identity different from sex registered at birth but no specific identity given	151	0.1%
Trans woman	94	0.1%
Trans man	102	0.1%
All other gender identities	102	0.1%
Not answered	6,599	5.6%

Marriage and Civil Partnership

(ONS- 2021 Census)

The biggest growth in this area since the 2011 Census is amongst those who have never been married or in a civil partnership. This group makes up 29.1% of the 16+ Torbay population in 2011 and 32.8% in 2021.

Status	Population (16+)	%
Never married and never registered a civil partnership	38,409	32.8%
Married or in a registered civil partnership	51,715	44.2%
Separated, but still legally married/in a civil partnership	2,824	2.4%
Divorced or civil partnership dissolved	14,733	12.6%
Widowed or surviving civil partnership partner	9,350	8.0%

Pregnancy and Maternity

(ONS Live Births Data 2025)

In 2025 there were 949 live births to Torbay mothers. The number has been falling over the last decade- 10 years earlier in 2015 there were 1,380 live births. Figures are based on the date of birth registration.

Race

(ONS- 2021 Census)

92.1% of Torbay's population identify as White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British. 7.9% therefore identify as ethnicities other than this. 3.9% of the population do not identify themselves as White which was an increase from 2.5% in the 2011 Census. In England 19.0% identify as a non White ethnicity in 2021.

Status	Population	%
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	2,254	1.6%
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	447	0.3%
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	2,084	1.5%
White	133,922	96.1%
Other ethnic group	617	0.4%

Religion

(ONS- 2021 Census)

There was a significant increase in the number of Torbay's population reporting that they had no religion (27.5% reported they had no religion in 2011). The most common religion reported in 2021 was Christian at 48.5% of Torbay residents.

Status	Population	%
Have a religion	70,375	50.5%
Do not have a religion	60,178	43.2%
Not answered	8,771	6.3%

Sex

(ONS- population estimates 2025)

51.3% of Torbay's population is female in 2025 and 48.7% are male. In Torbay's older population the proportion of females to males increases with 57.9% of the population aged 80+ being female.

Status	Population	%
Female	71,580	51.3%
Male	67,906	48.7%

Sexual Orientation

(ONS- 2021 Census)

This is the first time that data on sexual orientation has been recorded in the Census. It was asked of those aged 16+. Of those who answered, 3.4% identified as a sexual orientation other than Straight or heterosexual. England's percentage is also 3.4%.

Status	Population (16+)	%
Bisexual	1,344	1.1%
Gay or Lesbian	2,035	1.7%
Straight or heterosexual	104,729	89.5%
All other sexual orientations	298	0.3%
Not answered	8,626	7.4%