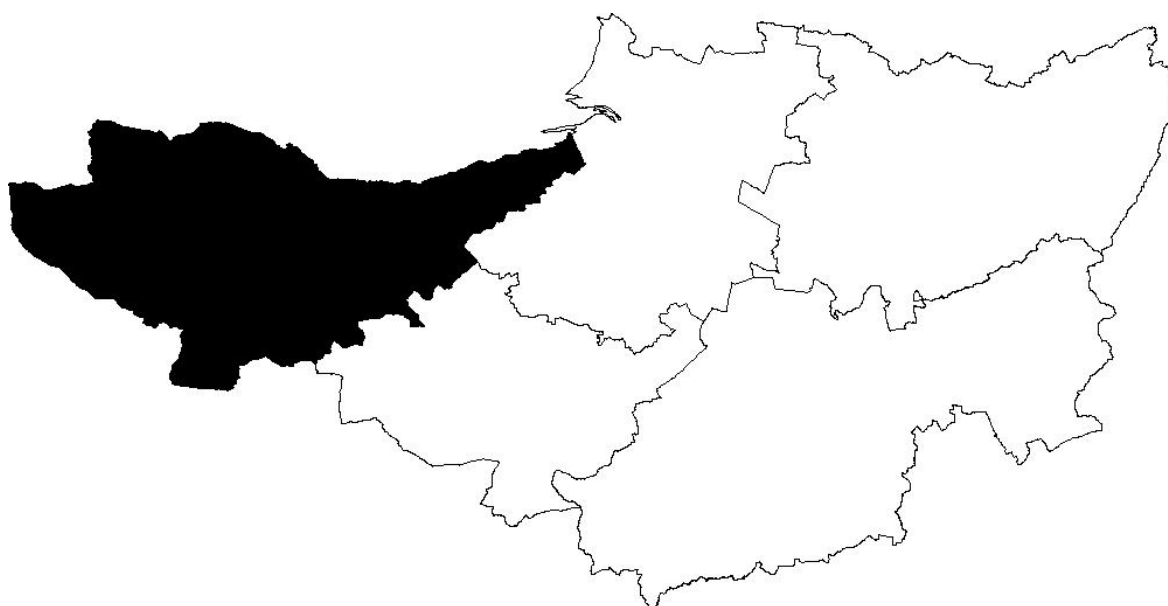


Community Profile:

Districts

West Somerset District Council

This area profile pulls together a range of information about the West Somerset District Council area and the people who live there.



The area of West Somerset District Council encompasses 43 parishes and shares borders with Sedgemoor, Taunton Deane, Mid Devon and North Devon.

Its population of 35,712 is the smallest of any district in Somerset and is widely dispersed across an area of 74,705 hectares. The resulting population density figure of 0.5 is well below the county average. There are 15,675 households, around 7% of the Somerset total.

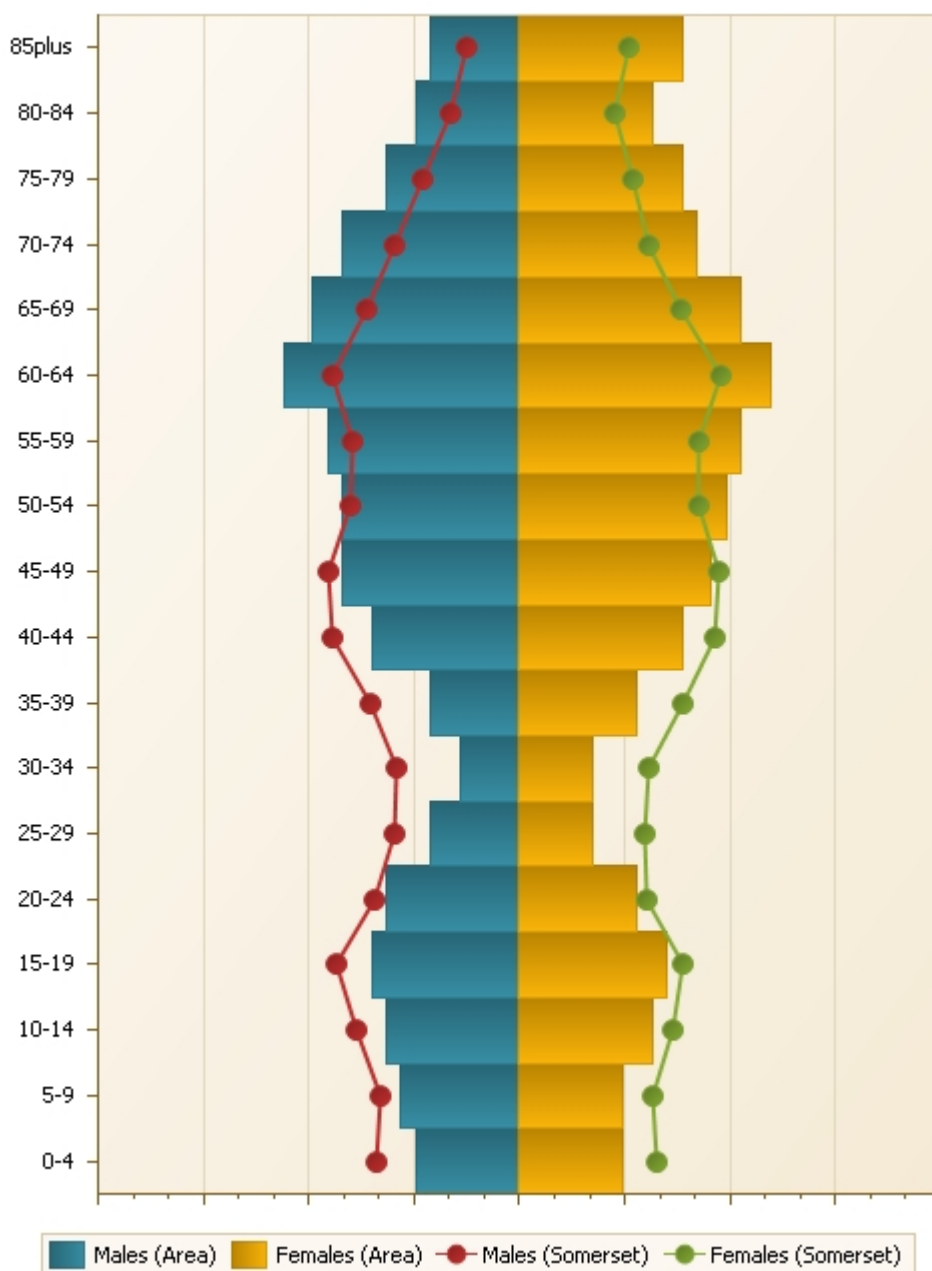
Minehead is the largest town but there are population clusters at Watchet, Williton, Dulverton and Porlock.

West Somerset has the highest proportion of people aged 65+ of any local authority in England. The area faces further challenges arising from an ageing population as well as inaccessibility of many rural parts of the district. It would also be affected by an influx of migrant workers should the new nuclear reactor at Hinkley Point be given the go-ahead.

People and Place

West Somerset's population structure shows the greatest variance from the county average of all the districts. It has a relatively high proportion of its population in each age group at 50 years and older. In particular there are relatively fewer people in the 25-44 age group.

Population combined by age and sex



Source: NHS (Jan 2010)

People and Place (continued)

The district has a much higher proportion of elderly people: more than 1 in 3 are of retirement age.

The proportion of people not classified as White British is close to the county average. Nearly three in four are in the White (non-British) ethnic group (most of these are from Western Europe).

Population profile: Gender

	Area	Somerset	South West	England & Wales
	%	%	%	%
Males	47.63	48.84	49.03	49.19
Females	52.37	51.16	50.97	50.81

Source: NHS (Jan 2010)

Population profile: Age

	Area	Somerset	South West	England & Wales
	%	%	%	%
Under 5	3.92	5.31	5.36	6.06
5 - 15	10.37	12.54	12.34	12.72
Working age (M 16-64, F 16-59)	51.25	57.35	59.80	61.97
M 65 - 74, F 60-74	19.61	14.59	12.98	11.41
75+	14.85	10.21	9.51	7.84

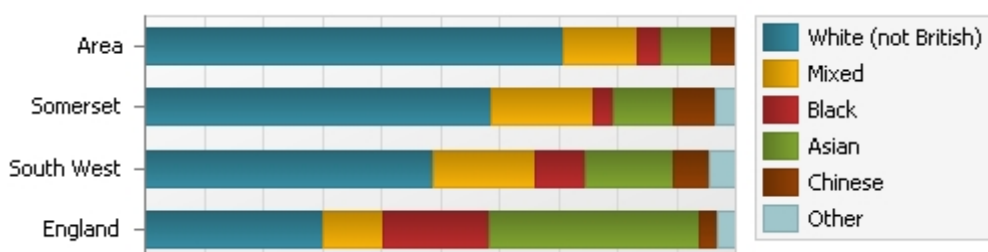
Source: NHS (Jan 2010)

BME Population Total

	Area	Somerset	South West	England
Number	872	14,485	226,832	6,391,695
% total	2.5	2.9	4.6	13.0

Source: Census (2001)

Population Ethnicity Profile (%)



Source: Census (2001)

People and Place (continued)

There are a lower proportion of households with dependent children than the Somerset average.

The proportion of people living in the top 20% of the most deprived areas of England is slightly lower than the county as a whole, but there are pockets of deprivation in Watchet and Williton.

People in West Somerset tend to be more satisfied with where they live than in most other parts of the county.

Households with dependent children

	Area	Somerset	South West	England & Wales
Number	3,433	57,631	569,572	6,388,261
% all households	21.9	27.4	27.3	29.5

Source: Census (2001)

Households with dependent children and lone parent

	Area	Somerset	South West	England & Wales
Number	683	10,769	113,037	1,399,939
% all households	4.4	5.1	5.4	6.5

Source: Census (2001)

Priority Areas

	Area	Somerset	South West	England
Population weighted IMD Score	23.2	16	18	22
% people living in 20% most deprived areas of England	3.3	4.0	9.2	19.9

Source: NeSS (2007)

Overall satisfaction with where you live

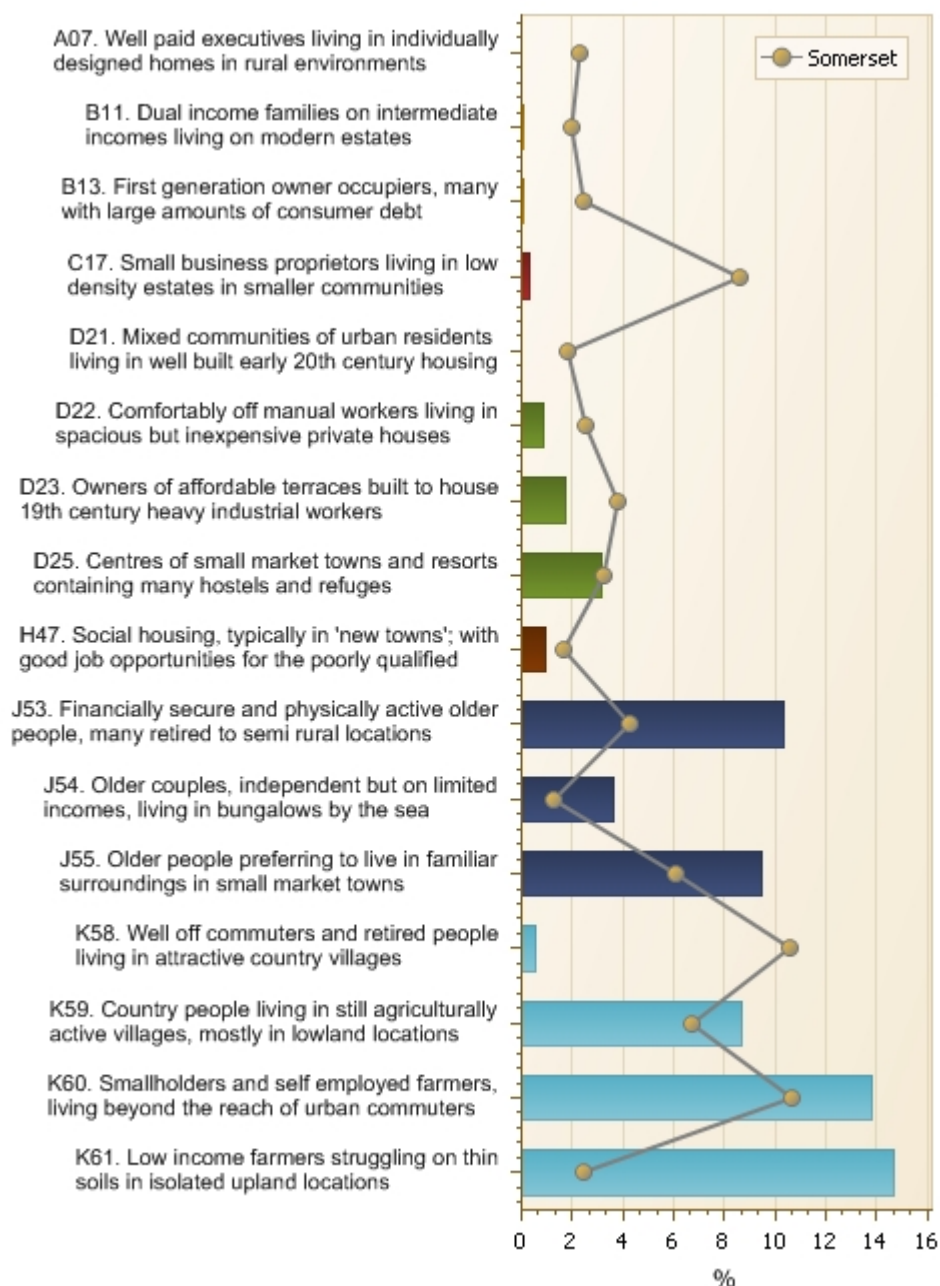
	Area	Somerset	South West	England
% very or fairly satisfied	89	86	85	80

Source: Place Survey (2008)

People and Place (continued)

West Somerset has a higher proportion of people living in those areas that are considered rural, especially in relation to “smallholders and self employed farmers, living beyond the reach of urban commuters” and even more so with “low income farmers struggling on thin soils in isolated upland locations”. There are also sizeable numbers of neighbourhoods characterised by “financially secure and physically active older people, many retired to semi rural locations” and “older people preferring to live in familiar surroundings in small market towns”.

Neighbourhood Types



Source: Mosaic (2005)

Making a Positive Contribution

There is a very high proportion of people who feel strongly that they belong to their neighbourhood. There is also a slightly higher proportion of people who participate regularly in voluntary work.

Feel they can influence decisions in their local area

	Area	Somerset	South West	England
% definitely/tend to agree	27	28	27	29

Source: Place Survey (2008)

Feel they belong to their neighbourhood

	Area	Somerset	South West	England
% very/fairly strongly	72	63	62	59

Source: Place Survey (2008)

Participate regularly in voluntary work

	Area	Somerset	South West	Eng/Wal
% at least once a month	34	30	28	23

Source: Place Survey (2008)

Living Sustainably

Almost two-thirds of people live in areas within West Somerset that are considered to have issues around barriers to housing and services, compared with less than one-quarter for the county. This is reflected in an above average proportion of people saying that affordable housing needs improving. Satisfaction with the quality of the environment is higher here than in any other Somerset district.

Affordable housing needs improving

	Area	Somerset	South West	England
% saying this is one of the top 5 areas needing improvement	43	31	29	22

Source: Place Survey (2008)

Satisfaction with Quality of Environment

	Area	Somerset		
% very/fairly satisfied	90	84		

Source: Place Survey (2008)

Barriers to Housing & Services (people living in areas of England with the greatest problems)

	Area	Somerset	South West	England
Population weighted Score	40.3	23.4	24.9	22.0
%	62.0	24.7	26.0	20.7

Source: NeSS (2007)

Ensuring Economic Wellbeing

No parts of the district are within the top 20% of England's most deprived areas with regards to income deprivation affecting older people. However, 1 in 30 live somewhere in which children are affected, though this is slightly lower than the county average.

Although the rate of JSA claimants is lower than the county average, they are relatively more likely to have been claiming for over a year.

Household Income

	Area	Somerset	South West	England
£ per week	439.0	443.1	460.6	522.0

Source: Nomis (2009)

Income Deprivation affecting Children

(children under 16 living in households reliant on means-tested benefits)

	Area	Somerset	South West	England
% living in 20% most deprived parts of England	3.3	4.9	7.9	20.1

Source: NeSS (2007)

Income Deprivation affecting Older People

(older people living in households reliant on means-tested benefits)

	Area	Somerset	South West	England
% living in 20% most deprived parts of England	0.0	3.2	7.6	20.1

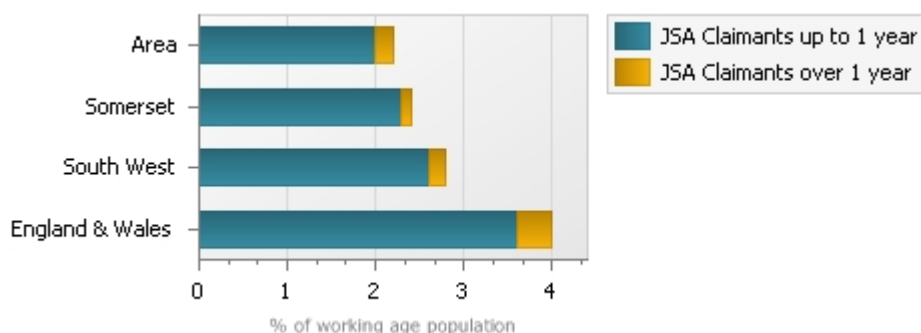
Source: NeSS (2007)

No Access to car or van

	Area	Somerset	South West	England
%	19.2	17.6	17.0	24.0

Source: Census (2001)

Claimants of Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA)



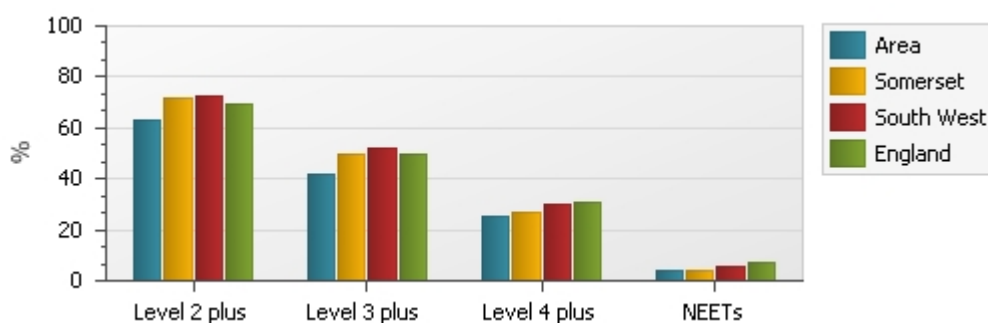
Source: Nomis (Sep 2009)

Ensuring Economic Wellbeing (continued)

Barely 3 in 5 people are qualified to at least Level 2 (GCSE or equivalent), well below the county average.

The birth and deaths of enterprises and VAT registrations rates in the district are below that of the county as a whole. Unlike the rest of the county and South West, there is no net gain in VAT registrations.

Qualifications and Training



Source: CLG (2008) / Connexions (Dec-09)

Births and Deaths of Enterprises

Number per 10,000 adults

	Area	Somerset	South West	England & Wales
Births of Enterprises	32.9	52.1	67.5	73.6
Deaths of Enterprises	39.5	45.0	58.2	59.8
5-Year Survival Rate of new Enterprises %	47.4	48.5	49.3	46.4

Source: ONS (2008)

VAT Registrations and Deregistrations

Number per 10,000 adults

	Area	Somerset	South West	Great Britain
VAT Registrations	29.7	39.1	54.6	54.7
VAT Deregistrations	29.7	31.0	40.2	39.1
NET Increase	0.00	8.10	14.40	15.60

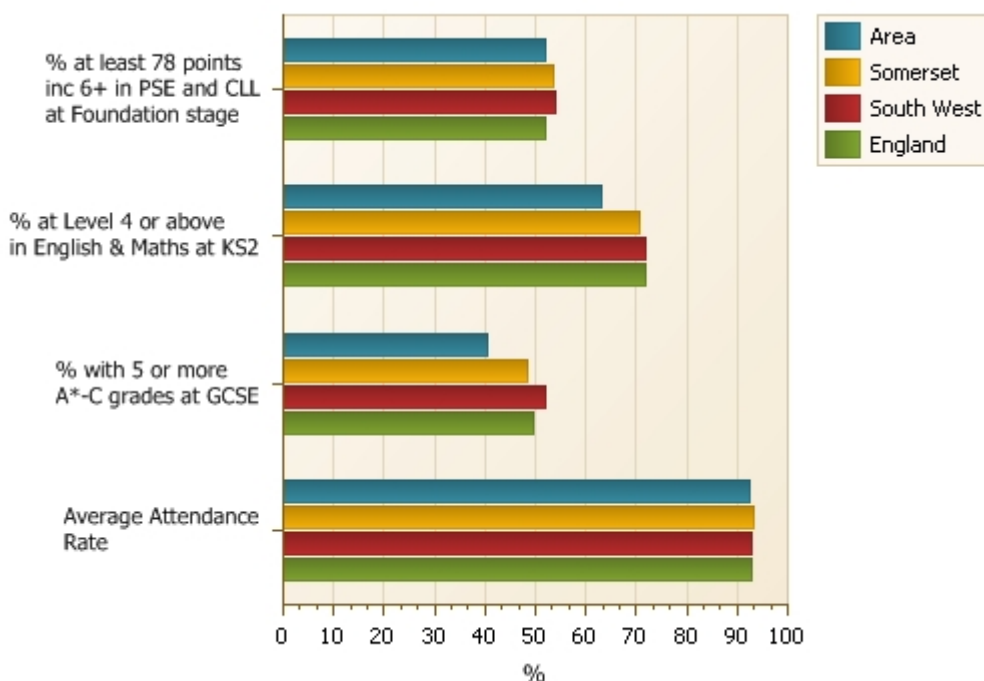
Source: Nomis (2007)

Enjoying and Achieving

Although Foundation stage achievement is close to the Somerset average, attainment at both KS2 and GCSE is comparatively low.

The proportion of people who believe that older people receive the support needed to maintain independent living is one of the highest anywhere in the country.

Achievement at School



Source: Somerset County Council (2008/9)

Older People living at home

	Area	Somerset	South West	England
% believe that older people are able to get services/support they need to live at home for as long as they wish	48	34	33	30

Source: Place Survey (2008)

Staying Safe

The rate of serious acquisitive crime in West Somerset is slightly lower than the county average and there is a higher proportion of people in the district who feel safe after dark.

Serious Acquisitive Crime

	Area	Somerset	South West	Eng/Wal
Rate per 100,000	727.7	800.1		

Source: Avon & Somerset Constabulary (Sep 2008 - Aug 2009)

Feeling Safe after dark

	Area	Somerset	South West	England
% feel very/fairly safe	71	59	60	51

Source: Place Survey (2008)

In addition to the A39, A358 and A396, the West Somerset landscape features many narrow lanes. The rate of road casualties is on a par with the county average, but injuries tend to be more serious.

The rate of alcohol-related hospital admissions is also typical of Somerset.

Road Casualties

	Area	Somerset	South West	Great Britain
Number killed, seriously or slightly injured in road traffic accidents (rate per 100,000 people)	960.6	976	n/a	1,244.7

Source: Road Safety Partnership (2006 - 2008)

Alcohol-related Hospital Admissions

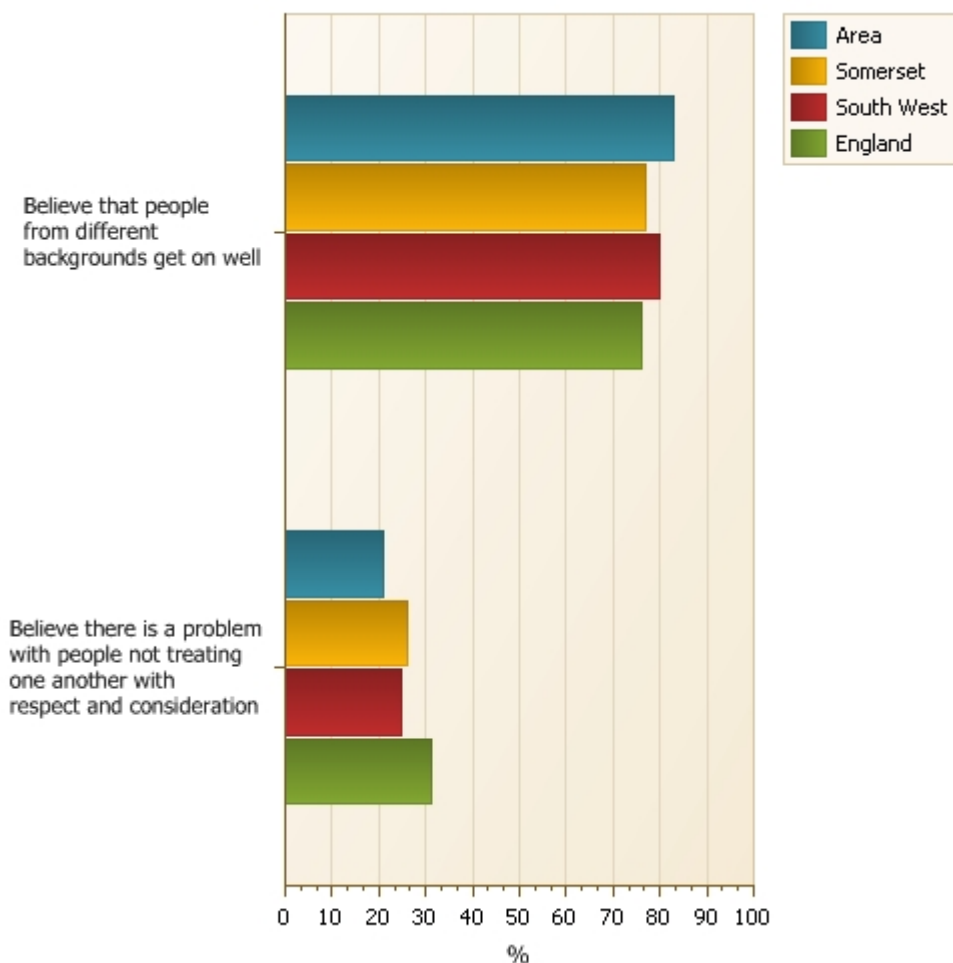
	Area	Somerset	South West	Eng/Wal
Number per 100,000 people	1350.0	1300.0		

Source: NHS (Apr 2006 - Dec 2009)

Staying Safe (continued)

The measures of community cohesion show a very favourable picture in West Somerset. The rate of deliberate fires is half that of the county average.

Community Cohesion



Source: Place Survey (2008)

Deliberate Fires

	Area	Somerset	South West	England & Wales
Number per 1,000 people	0.8	1.6	2.4	3.7

Source: Devon & Somerset Fire Rescue Services (2008/9)

Being Healthy

Limiting long-term illness for under 65s is higher than the county average.

The proportion of Year 6 children who are obese is below the Somerset norm but the rate amongst Reception pupils is typical of the county.

Life Expectancy at Birth

	Area	Somerset		
Males	79.4	78.8		
Females	83.7	83.0		

Source: NHS (2004 - 2008)

Limiting Long-term Illness

	Area	Somerset	South West	England & Wales
% under-65s	13.4	10.9	12.4	14.2

Source: Census (2001)

Child Obesity

	Area	Somerset		
% Reception age children	9.10	8.70		
% Year 6 children	12.80	16.70		

Source: NHS (2008 - 2009)

Being Healthy (continued)

The all age, all cause mortality rate is slightly lower than might be expected, as is the mortality rate from all circulatory diseases.

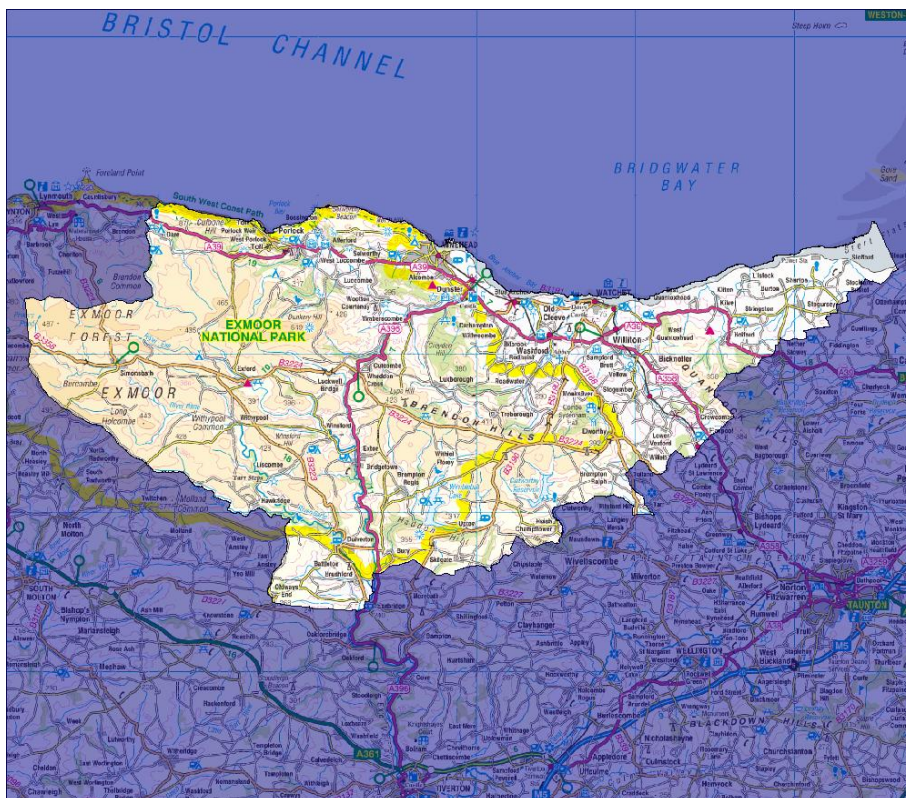
Hospital admissions rates for diabetes and those for hip fractures are slightly lower than for Somerset as a whole.

The following data are Age standardised rates per 100,000

	Area	Somerset		
All age, all cause mortality	517.9	551.4		
All cause mortality, under 75 years	270.0	258.5		
Mortality from all circulatory diseases, under 75 years	56.6	62.5		
Mortality from all cancers, under 75 years	110.8	104.0		
Hospital admissions for diabetes, all ages	94.0	103.0		
Emergency hospital admissions for hip fracture, 65 years or over	404.0	435.0		

Source: NHS (varied dates - see User Guide)

Local Area Map



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NOTES:

This report is one of five focusing on each of Somerset's Districts, produced by the Partnership Intelligence Unit (PIU), based at Somerset County Council.

It brings together data from a variety of sources including the Office of National Statistics, Avon and Somerset Constabulary, NHS Somerset and the latest Somerset Place Survey. The measures featured in the report were agreed by public sector partners as collectively summarising the different areas of the county. For a more detailed description of the measures, please go to the User Guide.

All Community Profiles produced by the PIU are available from the Somerset Intelligence Network (SINE) website www.sine.org.uk.

SINE is a network of professionals working for a range of organisations across Somerset, whose aim is to gather and use information effectively to support policy-making and improve the quality of life for people living in the county. SINE is part of the South West Observatory and is hosted by the Somerset Strategic Partnership.