

East Suffolk Data Pack 2024 – Overview

All slides have been updated with the most recent data available. **Purple text shows new data.**

Population

1. There is a smaller rate of population growth in East Suffolk than Suffolk or England.
2. East Suffolk has an older than average population compared to both Suffolk and England – more than 1 in 4 people are aged 65+, the biggest age group is 70-74 year olds and the most over-represented age group is 85+. The most under-represented is 25-29 year olds.
3. There is limited ethnic diversity – 96.2% of the population is White, compared to 93.1% in Suffolk and 81% in England and **94% of East Suffolk residents were born in the UK.**
4. **A higher proportion (5.2%) of the East Suffolk population have served in the regular and/or reservist armed forces (compared to 4.7% in Suffolk and 3.6% in England).**

Deprivation

5. Proportionally, more people in East Suffolk are affected by income deprivation than in Suffolk (in brackets) – 11.5% overall (10.1%), 15.2% children (13.6%) and 10.5% older people (10.3%).
6. 30,032 people in East Suffolk live in the 20% most deprived areas nationally (the Core 20 areas) – the majority in Lowestoft, but also in Felixstowe and Beccles. However 55,803 people live in the least deprived 20% of area in England.
7. Areas of the District with more than 100 children aged 0-15 living in income deprived families are Lowestoft, Beccles, and Saxmundham.
8. Areas of the District with concentrations of older people living in income deprivation are Lowestoft, Beccles and Felixstowe, plus Kessingland, Halesworth and Woodbridge.
9. **A number of wards, particularly in the north of the district, are priority places for food – identified via seven measures including proximity/access to supermarkets, deprivation and need for family food support e.g. Free School Meals.**

Health and Wellbeing

10. There are life expectancy gaps within the district of 9.3 years for Men (reduced from 10.4 years in 2021) and 10.1 years for Women. Average life expectancy is 79.1 years for males and 83.5 years for females (higher than England but lower than Suffolk). Harbour and Normanston Ward has the lowest life expectancy in East Suffolk for both Men and Women.
11. **The top five drivers of the life expectancy gap are circulatory disease, cancer, respiratory conditions, Covid-19 and external causes. The main modifiable risk factors are smoking, diabetes, dietary risks, high blood pressure, alcohol use and high cholesterol**
12. Smoking prevalence is higher than the national average for three GP practices in Lowestoft and one in Felixstowe

13. Adult obesity prevalence is higher than the national average at all Lowestoft GP practices, Kessingland, Beccles, Bungay, Saxmundham, Peninsular Practice and 2 GP Practices in Felixstowe
14. Obesity in Reception age children is highest in the Northern Parishes and Felixstowe, but at Year 6 is higher in Lowestoft (although East Suffolk at 20.5% is below the national average of 22.7%)
15. Mental ill health is higher than the national average at two GP Practices in Lowestoft, Beccles and one Woodbridge practice
16. Adult activity levels are similar to England levels and above our CIPFA statistical neighbours, but East Suffolk children are much less active (with 85% participating in an activity once a week or more). There are more than 425 people per accessible sports facility which is very high.
17. 10% of East Suffolk residents provide 'unpaid care' with 3.1% providing more than 50 hours a week.
18. 20.6% of people say that their lives are limited a lot or a little by a long term health condition or disability (this is higher than both Suffolk and England) and a higher proportion of residents (10.1%) claim Personal Independence Payments (PIP) than both Suffolk and England.
19. Social Isolation is still a big issue with hot spots across the district in both rural and urban areas.

Education, Employment and Benefits

20. Average gross weekly pay for full time workers in East Suffolk in 2023 was £633.80 compared to £705.70 for the East of England. The gap between economically active males and females is closing but there are still differences in salary levels, with males earning on average £685.50 and females earning £551.90.
21. 16.7% of adults receive Universal Credit, with concentrations in Lowestoft, Kessingland, Beccles, Halesworth, Leiston and Felixstowe. This has increased from 14.5% in 2021 as people are moved off legacy benefits and due to Covid-19/Cost of Living impacts.
22. The proportion of people in employment – 77.2% - is at its lowest since 2026 (apart from during Covid) and only 18.6% of economically inactive 16-64 years olds in East Suffolk want a job (compared to 35.1% in Babergh)
23. In East Suffolk there are a lower level of qualifications at Levels 3 and 4 than the national average. 56,968 people or 27.6% of people in East Suffolk have degree level qualifications, which is lower than both the Suffolk (28.1%) and England (33.92%) averages.
24. 40,105 people or 19.4% of the 16-64 population in East Suffolk have no qualifications, which is higher than the average for England (18.0%).
25. Kessingland, Harbour and Normanston and West Felixstowe have the highest proportion of 16 and 17 year olds who are NEET, and East Suffolk is now above the Suffolk average

Housing

26. There are more single and two person households in East Suffolk than in Suffolk and England.

27. Homes in Suffolk are increasingly unaffordable (particularly for those on low incomes) with high house prices and median house price to income ratios, particularly in the west of the district.
28. The majority of housing in East Suffolk will require extensive upgrades to remain suitable due to poor energy performance, cold and damp. 1,560 households in East Suffolk have no form of central heating.
29. Rising homelessness and the social housing waiting list show the gap between housing supply and demand.

Community Safety

30. Whilst the crime rate per 1,000 population has risen slightly since 2022, the overall level of recorded crimes is declining in East Suffolk and is lower than in both Suffolk and England.
31. There have been increases in shoplifting (53%), vehicle offences (20%) and possession of weapons (14%) and a reduction in sex offences (27%), public order offences (27%), robbery (19%) and violence against the person (16%).

Community

32. East Suffolk scores less well in the Community Needs Index 2023 overall in terms of community needs and in the 'active and engaged communities' category. The overall index includes 19 different measures with 'active and engaged communities' including engagement with civic life and the third sector.

Transport and Environment

33. Transport Related Social Exclusion is likely to impact those on low incomes/in insecure work, disabilities and long term conditions and with caring/childcare responsibilities. The map on Slide 51 shows hot spots in Lowestoft, Kessingland, Beccles and Felixstowe
34. There are lower levels of carbon emissions per km² and person than Suffolk and England