

Homefinder Somerset Equalities Report July 2022

Introduction

This report provides the latest equalities information from Homefinder Somerset.

The data presented in this report is correct as of 19 July 2022 and relates to the main applicant for households with a Live application and those who are being considered for a property (with the status of 'Offered').

Age

Age profile of households registered with Homefinder Somerset

Half (50%) of households registered with Homefinder Somerset have a main applicant aged between 18 and 39 years old (Table 1 and Chart 1). This is significantly higher than the proportion of the Somerset population aged between 20 and 39 (21% - 2021 Census). This is perhaps not surprising as people in this age will include people most likely to be: moving to their first home, forming a relationship and seeking a place to live together, or having children and so needing a bigger home.

Somerset West & Taunton have a larger proportion of households headed by someone over 60 than the other local authorities (22% compared to 17% to 19% in the other 3 areas). These proportions are lower than for Somerset population, where people over 60 account for 32% of the population (2021 Census).

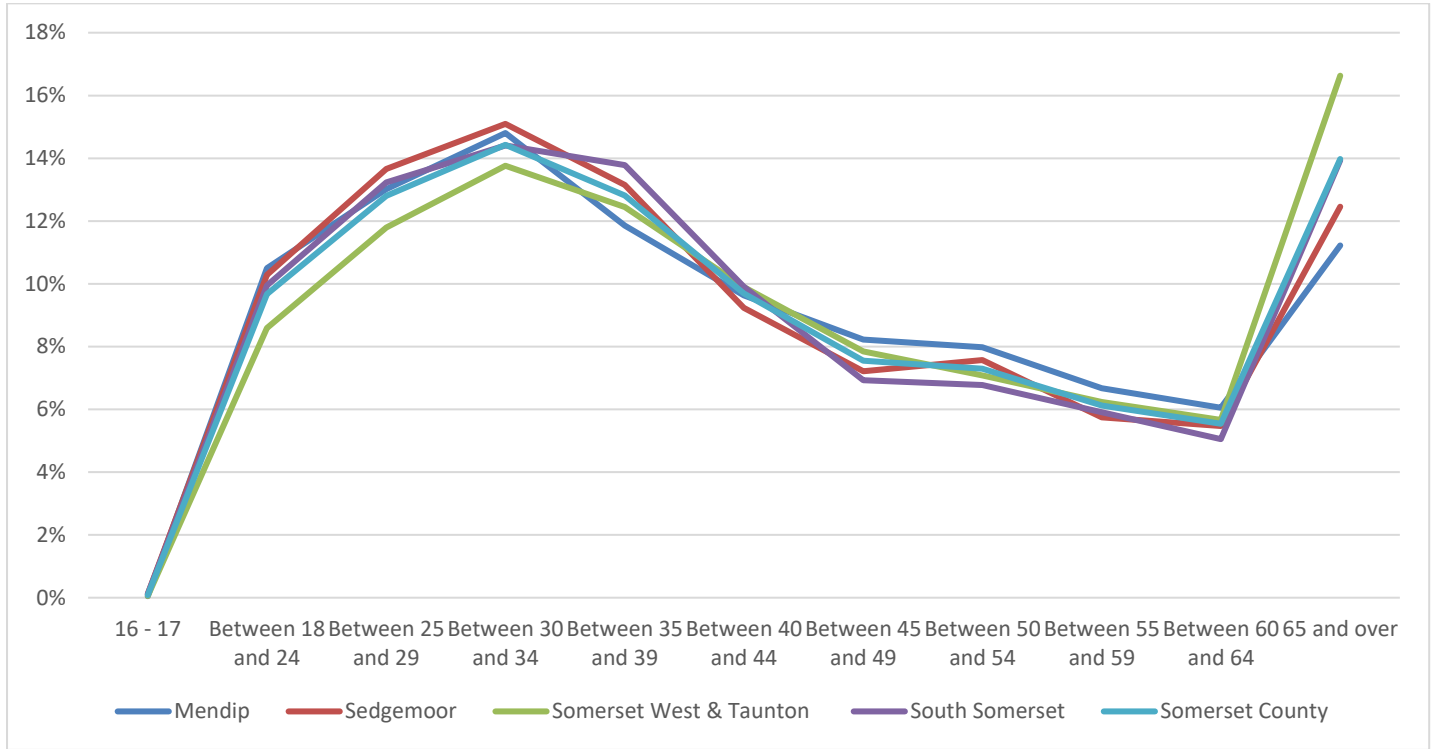
Table 1: Age profile of households registered with Homefinder Somerset by local authority. Data uses the age of the main applicant.

	Mendip		Sedgemoor		Somerset West & Taunton		South Somerset		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
16 - 17	1	0%	3	0%	2	0%	3	0%	9	0%
Between 18 & 24	217	10%	265	10%	314	9%	254	10%	1,050	10%
Between 25 & 29	269	13%	352	14%	431	12%	338	13%	1,390	13%
Between 30 & 34	306	15%	389	15%	503	14%	368	14%	1,566	14%
Between 35 & 39	245	12%	339	13%	455	12%	352	14%	1,391	13%
Between 40 & 44	199	10%	238	9%	362	10%	253	10%	1,052	10%
Between 45 & 49	170	8%	186	7%	287	8%	177	7%	820	8%
Between 50 & 54	165	8%	195	8%	259	7%	173	7%	792	7%
Between 55 & 59	138	7%	148	6%	228	6%	151	6%	665	6%
Between 60 & 64	125	6%	141	5%	207	6%	129	5%	602	6%
65 & over	232	11%	321	12%	608	17%	356	14%	1,517	14%
Total	2,067	100%	2,577	100%	3,656	100%	2,554	100%	10,854	100%

Note: The percentages refer to the proportion of households registered with a particular local authority in that with a main applicant in that Age Band (e.g. 8% of households registered with Mendip have a main applicant in the 50 – 54 year old Age Band). The percentage given for the total refers to the proportion of all households with a main applicant in that Age Band (e.g. 14% of all households have a main applicant in the 30 – 34-year-old Age Band).

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Chart 1: Age profile of households registered with Homefinder Somerset by local authority and Band. Data uses the age of the main applicant.



Sex

Two thirds (66%) of households registered with Homefinder Somerset have a woman identified as the main applicant (Table 2 and Chart 2). This varies from 64% in Mendip and Somerset West & Taunton to 67% in Sedgemoor and South Somerset.

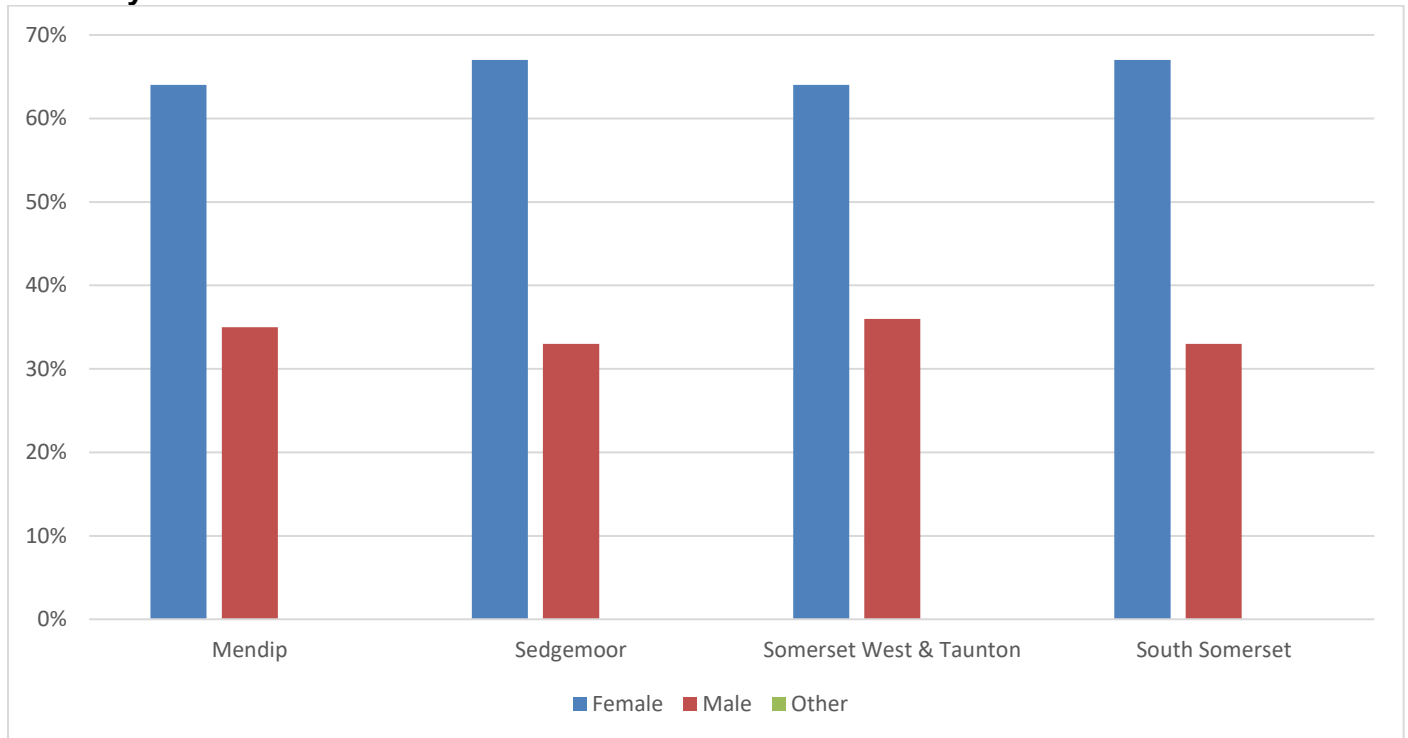
The proportion of households headed by a woman is significantly different to the profile of the Somerset population, where 51% of the population are female (2021 Census). The reasons for this are not clear.

Table 2: Sex of main applicant of households registered with Homefinder Somerset by local authority

	Mendip		Sedgemoor		Somerset West & Taunton		South Somerset		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Female	720	64%	951	67%	1,247	64%	1,028	67%	3,946	66%
Male	396	35%	472	33%	687	36%	508	33%	2,063	34%
Other	1	0%	2	0%	1	0%	3	0%	7	0%
Total	1,118	100%	1,425	100%	1,935	100%	1,539	100%	6,016	100%

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Chart 2: Sex of main applicant of households registered with Homefinder Somerset by local authority



Marriage and Civil Partnership

Just over a quarter (28%) of households included a joint applicant reported as ‘partner’ to the main applicant (Table 3). Mendip had a slightly lower proportion (25%) than the other 3 local authority areas.

Table 3: Households including a joint applicant described as ‘Partner’ to the main applicant

	No.	%
Mendip	523	25%
Sedgemoor	732	28%
Somerset West & Taunton	1,021	28%
South Somerset	736	29%
Total	3,012	28%

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Important note: The remaining data below relates to the 6,019 households who had completed a new application or updated an existing application between 2 August 2021 (when the new IT system went live) and 19 July 2022.

Disability

Across Somerset 16% of households reported that at least 1 member of their household has a disability (Table 4). The proportion ranged from 13% of households in Somerset West & Taunton to 19% in South Somerset.

Table 4: Number and proportion of households who stated that someone in their household has a disability

Mendip	335	16%
Sedgemoor	408	16%
Somerset West & Taunton	491	13%
South Somerset	479	19%
Total	1,713	16%

The most common disability reported was a physical disability, followed by mental health issues (Table 5). It should be noted that the data relates to one member of a household. In many cases that person will have more than 1 disability (which explains the difference between 1,713 households stating that someone in their household has a disability, and the 2,799 disabilities reported in Table 5 below). It should also be noted that a number of households include more than 1 person with a disability.

Table 5: Type of disability

	Mendip		Sedgemoor		Somerset West & Taunton		South Somerset		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Autism spectrum condition	72	13%	64	10%	93	12%	99	13%	328	12%
Cognitive impairment	19	3%	19	3%	28	4%	24	3%	90	3%
Hearing or sight loss	33	6%	33	5%	47	6%	42	5%	155	6%
Learning Disability	67	12%	50	8%	77	10%	83	11%	277	10%
Mental health issues	161	28%	188	29%	231	29%	219	28%	799	29%
Physical Disability	148	26%	214	33%	250	31%	234	30%	846	30%
Other	67	12%	75	12%	73	9%	89	11%	304	11%
Total	567	100%	643	100%	799	100%	790	100%	2,799	100%

Gender reassignment

Most households (94%) reported that their gender was the same as the sex they were registered at birth. 5% of households chose not to answer this question, whilst 1% reported that their gender was not the same as the sex they were registered at birth (Table 6).

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Table 6: Is your gender the same as the sex you were registered at birth?

	Mendip		Sedgemoor		Somerset West & Taunton		South Somerset		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
No	9	1%	11	1%	12	1%	16	1%	48	1%
Prefer not to say/ Missing	30	3%	31	2%	173	9%	49	3%	283	5%
Yes	1,078	97%	1,383	97%	1,750	90%	1,474	96%	5,685	94%
Total	1,117	100%	1,425	100%	1,935	100%	1,539	100%	6,016	100%

Military Status

156 applicants across Somerset who have applied or updated their application since 2 August 2021 reported that they had served in the regular British Armed Forces (Army, Navy or RAF) or British Reserve Forces. This accounted for 3% of all households (Table 7).

27 of these applicants reported that they are currently serving in the regular British Armed Forces (Army, Navy or RAF) or left in the last 5 years (Table 8). Such applicants are exempt from the local connection requirement to register with Homefinder Somerset.

20 applicants reported that they need to move because of a serious injury, medical condition (including mental health) or disability sustained as a result of their service (Table 9). 8 of these applicants reported that they are currently serving or left in the last 5 years.

Table 7: Served in the regular British Armed Forces (Army, Navy or RAF) or British Reserve Forces

	No.	%
Mendip	22	2%
Sedgemoor	37	3%
Somerset West & Taunton	56	3%
South Somerset	41	3%
Total	156	3%

Table 8: Currently serving in the regular British Armed Forces (Army, Navy or RAF) or left in the last 5 years

	No.
Mendip	5
Sedgemoor	6
Somerset West & Taunton	10
South Somerset	6
Total	27

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Table 9: Need to move because of a serious injury, medical condition (including mental health) or disability sustained as a result of their service

	No.
Mendip	3
Sedgemoor	4
Somerset West & Taunton	4
South Somerset	9
Total	20

Pregnancy and Maternity

As stated above, two thirds (66%) of households registered with Homefinder Somerset have a woman identified as the main applicant. 8% of these women reported that they are pregnant (Table 10). The proportion ranges from 7% of households headed by a woman in Somerset West & Taunton and South Somerset to 10% in Mendip.

Table 10: Households headed by a woman who is pregnant

	No.	%
Mendip	73	10%
Sedgemoor	72	8%
Somerset West & Taunton	90	7%
South Somerset	74	7%
Total	309	8%

Please note that data is not collected on maternity (the period of 26 weeks after the birth, which reflects the period of a woman's ordinary maternity leave entitlement from employment)

Ethnic Origin

Most households (86%) are headed by main applicants who describe their ethnic origin as White British. This varies from 84% in Somerset West & Taunton to 88% in Mendip and Sedgemoor (Table 12). This is lower than proportion of the Somerset population (95% - 2011 Census).

The next most common ethnic group is White Other at 6%.

Somerset West & Taunton has a lower proportion of main applicants describing themselves as White (89% compared to 94% in the other 3 local authority areas), but this is accounted for by a higher proportion of applicants who preferred not to answer this question (8% compared to 3% in the other 3 local authority areas).

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Table 11: Ethnicity of main applicant

	Mendip		Sedgemoor		Somerset West & Taunton		South Somerset		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Arab	0	0%	1	0%	3	0%	2	0%	6	0%
Asian / Asian British	7	1%	16	1%	20	1%	9	1%	52	1%
Asian / Asian British: Bangladeshi	2	0%	1	0%	4	0%	3	0%	10	0%
Asian / Asian British: Chinese	1	0%	3	0%	1	0%	2	0%	7	0%
Asian / Asian British: Indian	1	0%	7	0%	1	0%	0	0%	9	0%
Asian / Asian British: Pakistani	0	0%	0	0%	3	0%	0	0%	3	0%
Asian / Asian British: Other	3	0%	5	0%	11	1%	4	0%	23	0%
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	2	0%	6	0%	6	0%	5	0%	19	0%
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British: African	2	0%	6	0%	3	0%	3	0%	14	0%
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British: Caribbean	0	0%	0	0%	2	0%	0	0%	2	0%
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British: Other	0	0%	0	0%	1	0%	2	0%	3	0%
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	7	1%	2	0%	1	0%	3	0%	13	0%
Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups	13	1%	16	1%	19	1%	21	1%	69	1%
Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups: White & Asian	3	0%	1	0%	4	0%	2	0%	10	0%
Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups: White & Black African	2	0%	3	0%	2	0%	9	1%	16	0%
Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups: White & Black Caribbean	7	1%	9	1%	9	0%	7	0%	32	1%
Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups: Other	1	0%	3	0%	4	0%	3	0%	11	0%
White	1,049	94%	1,340	94%	1,719	89%	1,451	94%	5,559	92%
White: English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	986	88%	1,248	88%	1,621	84%	1,337	87%	5,192	86%
White: Irish	7	1%	5	0%	8	0%	5	0%	25	0%
White: Other	56	5%	87	6%	90	5%	109	7%	342	6%
Any other ethnic group	1	0%	6	0%	6	0%	5	0%	18	0%
Prefer not to say	37	3%	38	3%	164	8%	44	3%	283	5%
Total	1,116	100%	1,425	100%	1,938	100%	1,540	100%	6,019	100%

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Religion or Belief

Most applicants (59%) stated that they had no religion. This varied from 57% in Somerset West & Taunton and South Somerset to 63% in Mendip and Sedgemoor. A quarter of applicants described themselves as Christian, whilst 8% preferred not to answer this question.

Table 12: Religion of main applicant

	Mendip		Sedgemoor		Somerset West & Taunton		South Somerset		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Buddhist	5	0%	7	0%	8	0%	2	0%	22	0%
Christian	284	25%	420	29%	528	27%	517	34%	1,749	29%
Hindu	1	0%	1	0%	1	0%		0%	3	0%
Jewish	2	0%	1	0%	1	0%	1	0%	5	0%
Muslim	4	0%	6	0%	21	1%	10	1%	41	1%
No religion	700	63%	893	63%	1,108	57%	874	57%	3,575	59%
Other	44	4%	35	2%	38	2%	36	2%	153	3%
Prefer not to say	76	7%	62	4%	233	12%	100	6%	471	8%
Total	1,116	100%	1,425	100%	1,938	100%	1,540	100%	6,019	100%

Sexual Orientation

Most applicants (86%) described themselves as heterosexual. This proportion ranged from 82% in Somerset West & Taunton to 88% in Sedgemoor and South Somerset, although Somerset West & Taunton saw a higher proportion of applicants who preferred not to answer this question than the other 3 local authority areas (12% compared to 6% or 7%). This proportion is lower than the 94% for the UK population as a whole ([Annual Population Survey 2019](#)).

The proportion of applicants who identified as lesbian, gay or bisexual was 5%, nearly double that for the UK population as a whole (2.7% - [Annual Population Survey 2019](#)).

Table 13: Sexual Orientation of main applicant

	Mendip		Sedgemoor		Somerset West & Taunton		South Somerset		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Bisexual	34	3%	52	4%	73	4%	47	3%	206	3%
Gay man	12	1%	22	2%	15	1%	16	1%	65	1%
Gay woman/lesbian	5	0%	9	1%	17	1%	16	1%	47	1%
Heterosexual/straight	972	87%	1,248	88%	1,589	82%	1,354	88%	5,163	86%
Other	10	1%	8	1%	11	1%	15	1%	44	1%
Prefer not to say	83	7%	86	6%	233	12%	92	6%	494	8%
Total	1,116	100%	1,425	100%	1,938	100%	1,540	100%	6,019	100%

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