



Census 2021 Topic Summary: Health, Disability & Unpaid Care

West Yorkshire Research & Intelligence Team

19th January 2023

Information on this release

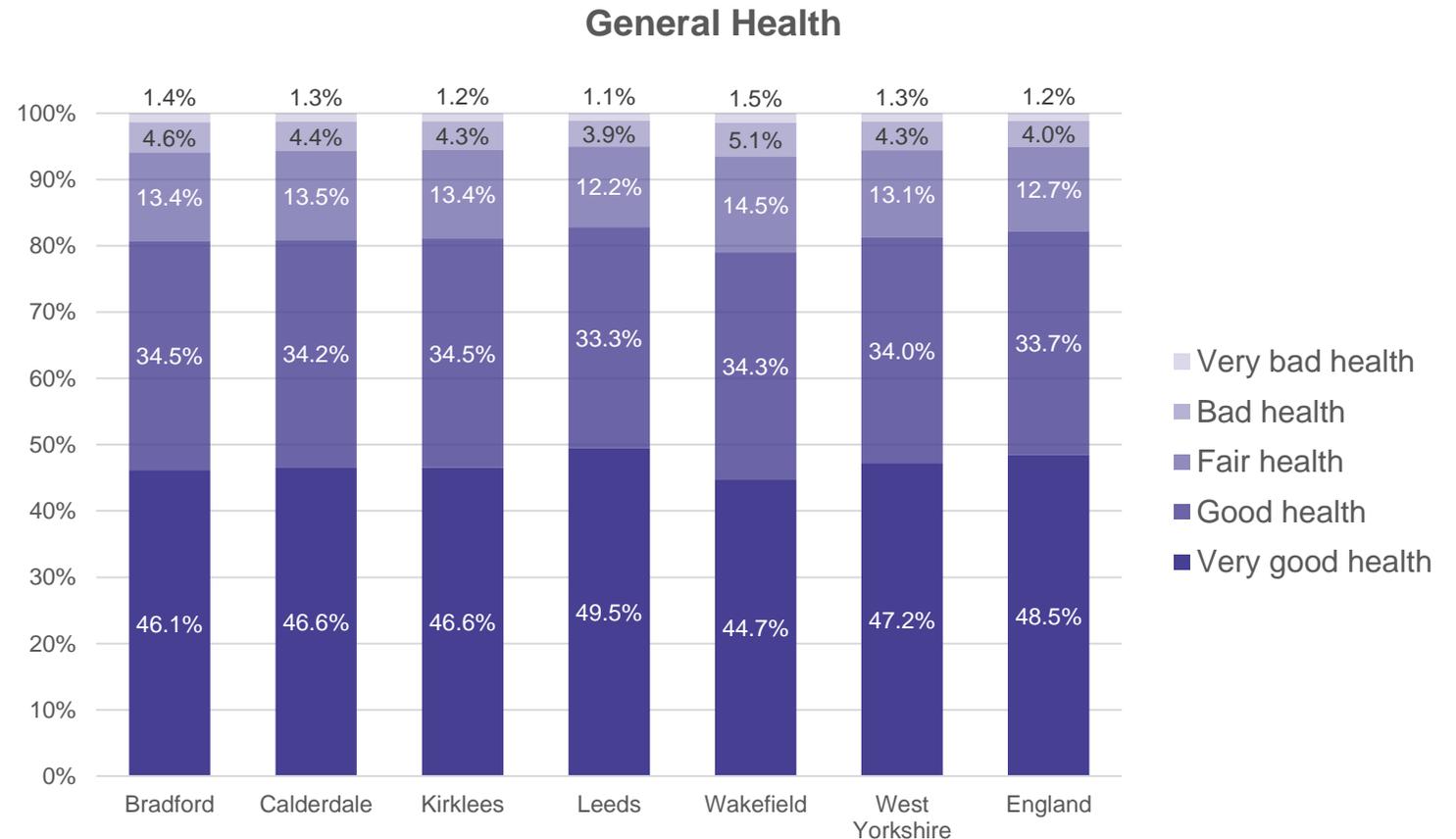
- The Census 2021 took place on the 21st March 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic, a period of unparalleled and rapid change; national lockdowns, associated guidance and furlough measures may have affected the health disability and unpaid care topic.
- For the question which asked about undertaking unpaid care, its worth noting that the pandemic may have influenced how people perceived and undertook their provision of unpaid care and therefore may have affected how people chose to respond. Some factors which could influence the provision of unpaid care could include:
 - coronavirus guidance on reducing travel and limiting visits to people from other households
 - unpaid carers who previously shared caring responsibilities may have taken on all aspects of unpaid care because of rules on household mixing during the coronavirus pandemic
 - there were a higher number of deaths than expected in the older population [at the beginning of 2021 due to coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and other causes](#); this could have led to a reduction in the need for unpaid care
- As health and age are closely related, with older people being more likely to be in poorer health, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) have released data on this topic as Age-Standardised Proportions (ASPs) alongside the crude data. ASP's are useful as they account for different age structures in populations and are more appropriate than crude percentages when drawing comparisons over time and across areas. For transparency, we have opted to include both in this report.



General Health

General Health - West Yorkshire

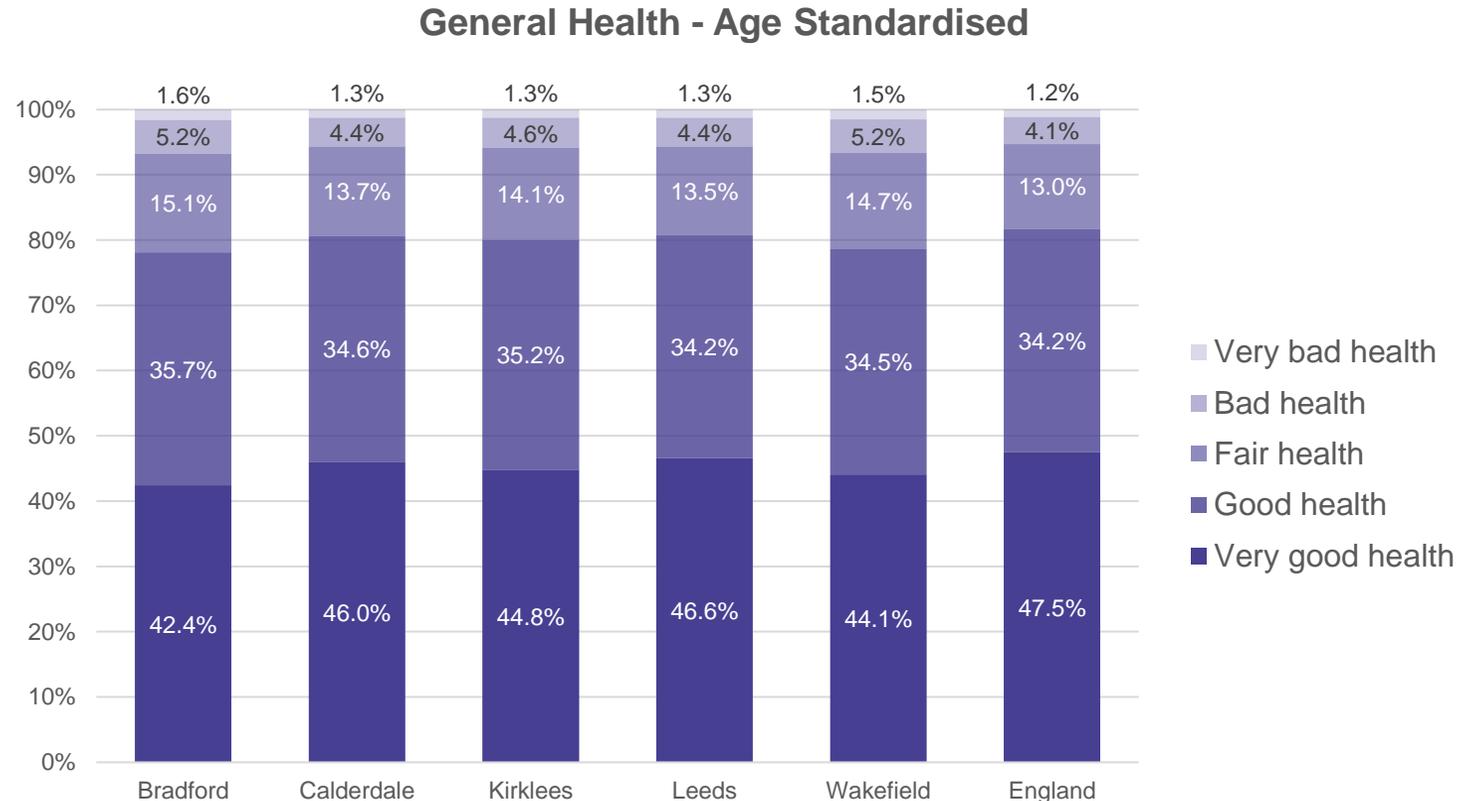
- In 2021, 47.2% of the population of West Yorkshire (1.1m people) reported being in very good health, slightly lower than the England average of 48.5%.
- Just over 132k West Yorkshire residents (5.6% of the population) reported being in either bad or very bad health.
- Within West Yorkshire, Wakefield has the highest population reporting being in Bad or Very Bad Health (6.5%).



Respondents were asked to assess their general health on a five-point scale: "Very good", "Good", "Fair", "Bad", or "Very bad". As the 2021 Census took place during the COVID-19 pandemic, this may have influenced how people perceived and rated their health which may have affected how people chose to respond.

General Health – Age-Standardised - West Yorkshire

- The chart on the right shows age-standardised proportions of health. Age Standardised Proportions (ASP's) allow for comparison between populations across geographies, as they account for differences in the population size and age structure. ASP data is not available at a West Yorkshire level.
- Compared to the England average, all districts within West Yorkshire have a lower share of their populations in Good or Very Good Health.
- Using age-standardised populations, Bradford and Wakefield have a higher share of their population in Bad or Very Bad Health (6.8% and 6.7% respectively relative to England as a whole (5.3%).



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As the 2021 Census took place during the COVID-19 pandemic, this may have influenced how people perceived and rated their health which may have affected how people chose to respond.

General Health – West Yorkshire vs England change between 2011 & 2021

- Overall, the population of West Yorkshire reported being in better health than 10 years ago.
- The number of people in West Yorkshire who are in very good health increased by 8.7% relative to 2011; 47.2% of people reported being in very good health (an increase of 1.3 percentage points since 2011), similar to the pattern in England overall.
- The number of people in West Yorkshire who are in very bad health has increased by 2.6% relative to 2011, but with the proportionate share of the population in very bad health fell by 0.04 percentage points.

	West Yorkshire				England			
	Number		Proportion		Number		Proportion	
	2021	Change	2021	Change	2021	Change	2021	Change
Very good health	1,110,190	8.68%	47.2%	1.32%	27,390,829	9.54%	48.5%	1.32%
Good health	800,230	4.10%	34.0%	-0.50%	19,040,735	4.96%	33.7%	-0.51%
Fair health	309,001	1.70%	13.1%	-0.51%	7,147,346	2.78%	12.7%	-0.47%
Bad health	102,151	-0.57%	4.3%	-0.27%	2,248,255	-0.10%	4.0%	-0.27%
Very bad health	30,007	2.57%	1.3%	-0.04%	662,881	0.32%	1.2%	-0.07%

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As the 2021 Census took place during the COVID-19 pandemic, this may have influenced how people perceived and rated their health which may have affected how people chose to respond.

General Health – West Yorkshire Districts vs Upper Tier Local Authority (UTLAs)

- In absolute terms Wakefield is at the higher end of the spectrum of UTLA's when ranked by the share of populations in bad or very bad health.

Blackpool UTLAs ordered by the percentage of population reporting being in Bad or Very Bad Health

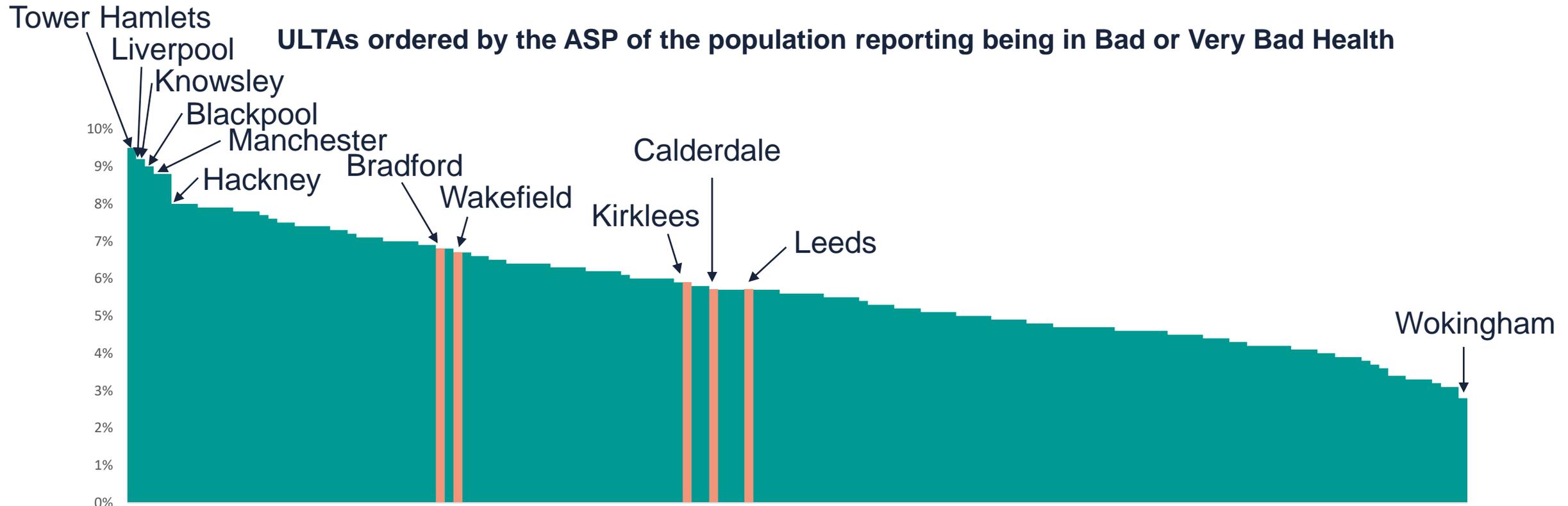


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General Health – Age Standardised – West Yorkshire Districts vs Upper Tier Local Authority (UTLAs)

- When accounting for different UTLA's age structures, using ASP's, both Bradford and Wakefield appear in the top quarter of UTLA's with the highest shared of their populations in bad or very bad health.



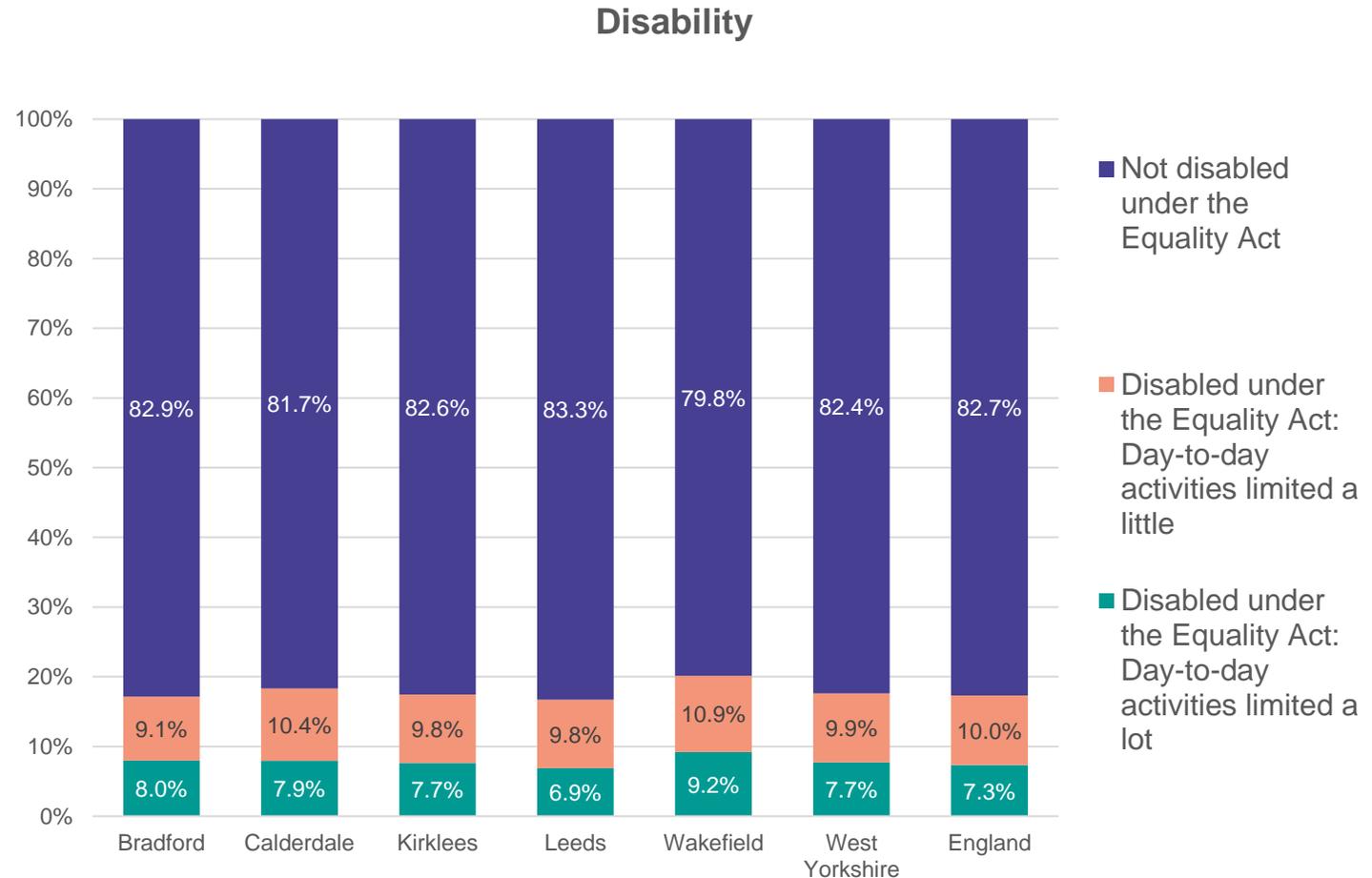
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Disability

Disability - West Yorkshire

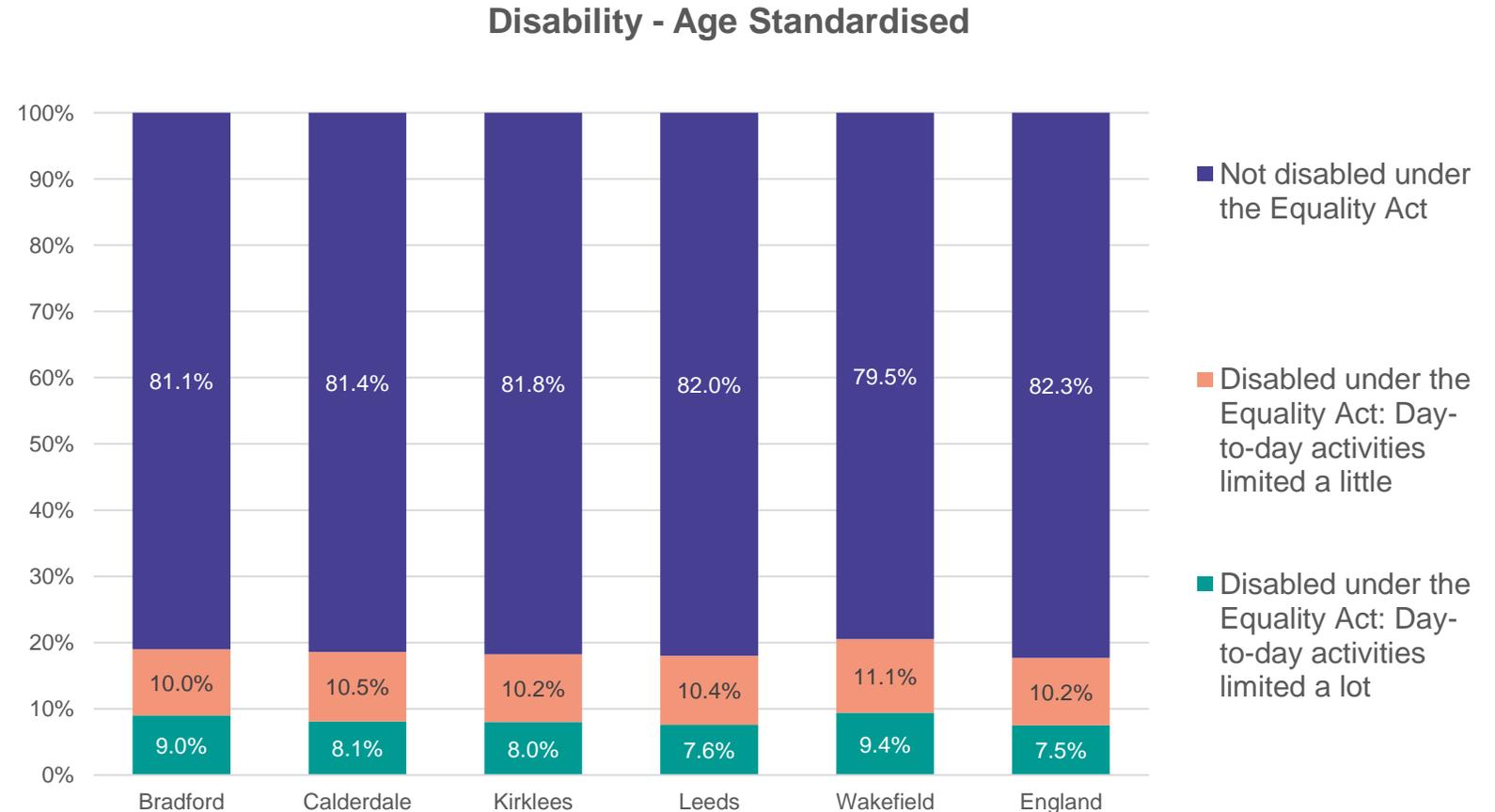
- The results of the 2021 Census reveal that 414k people in West Yorkshire were disabled under the Equality Act which equates to 17.6% of the population.
- In England 9.77 million people (17.3% of the population) were disabled.
- 232k people in West Yorkshire reporting being disabled with their day-to-day activities limited a lot.
- Wakefield has the highest proportion of disabled people in West Yorkshire (20.2%).



To identify disability in England and Wales, the Census 2021 asked people "Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?". If they answered yes, a further question "Do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day-to-day activities?" The question was changed since the 2011 Census so that the data aligned with the definition of disability in the [Equality Act \(2010\)](#).

Disability – Age Standardised - West Yorkshire

- Age-standardised proportions allow for comparison between populations across geographies, as they account for differences in the population size and age structure. Data is not available at a West Yorkshire level.
- With the exception of Leeds, all districts in West Yorkshire have a higher proportion of the population (age standardised) who are disabled under the equality act than in England as a whole.



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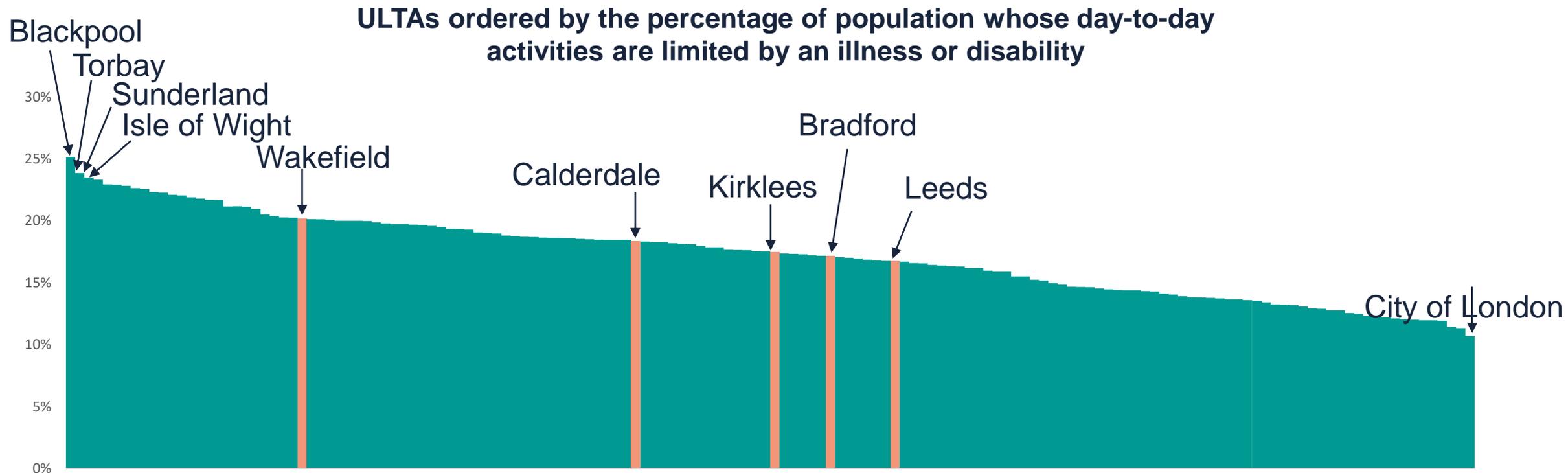
Disability – West Yorkshire vs England change between 2011 & 2021

- The number of disabled people in West Yorkshire increased from 400k in 2011 to 414k in 2021, a 3.6% increase which compares to a 4.5% increase in England as a whole.
- Overall, the the proportionate share of the population of West Yorkshire who are disabled fell by 0.3 percentage points since 2011.

	West Yorkshire					England				
	Number		Proportion		Number		Proportion			
	2021	Change	2021	Change	2021	Change	2021	Change		
Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a lot	181,806	-5.6%	7.7%	-0.9%	4,140,350	-6.0%	7.3%	-1.0%		
Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a little	232,229	12.1%	9.9%	0.6%	5,634,147	13.9%	10.0%	0.6%		
Not disabled under the Equality Act	1,937,544	6.1%	82.4%	0.3%	46,715,537	7.0%	82.7%	0.3%		

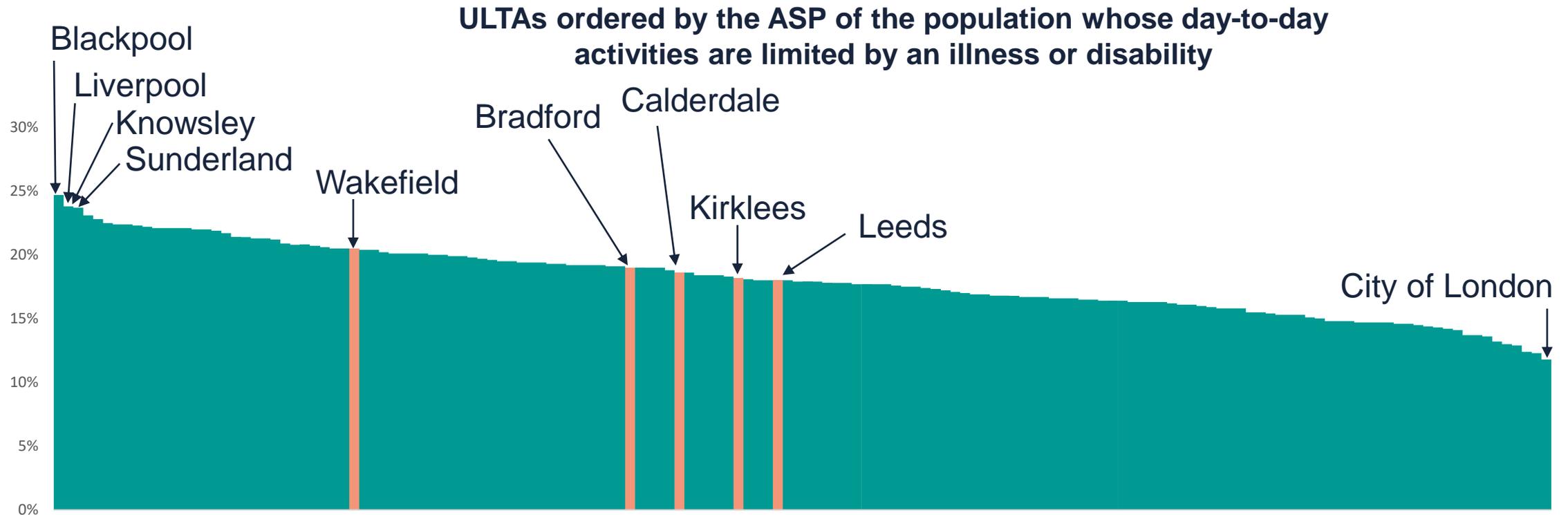
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Disability – West Yorkshire Districts vs Upper Tier Local Authority (UTLAs)



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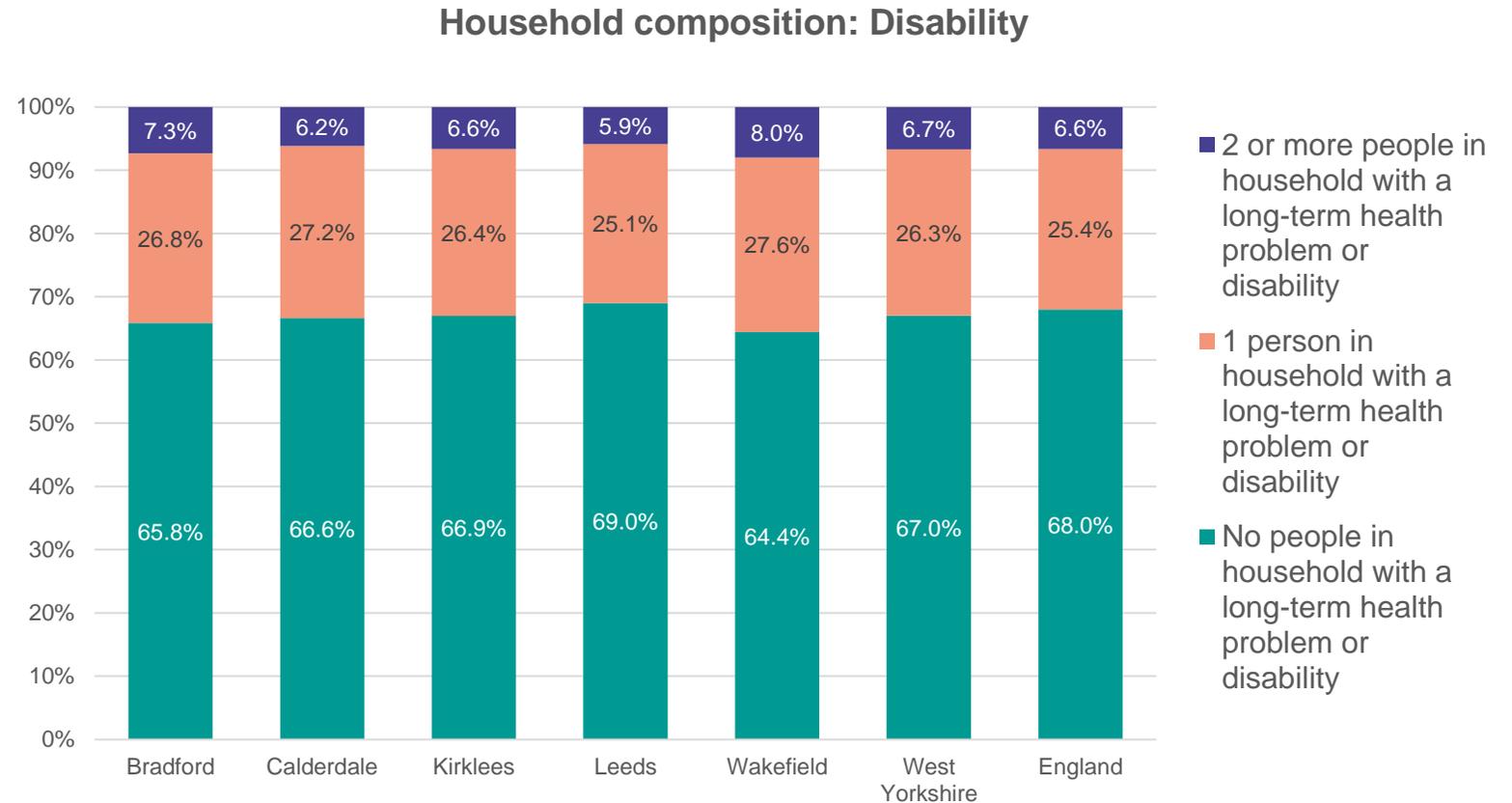
Disability – Age Standardised - West Yorkshire Districts vs Upper Tier Local Authority (UTLAs)



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Disability: Household Composition - West Yorkshire

- In 2021, there were 321k households (33.0%) in West Yorkshire which included at least one disabled person (up from 310k (33.6%) in 2011).
- This compares to 32.0% (down from 32.7%) in England as a whole.
- Within West Yorkshire, Wakefield has the highest proportion of households containing at least one disabled person (35.6%).



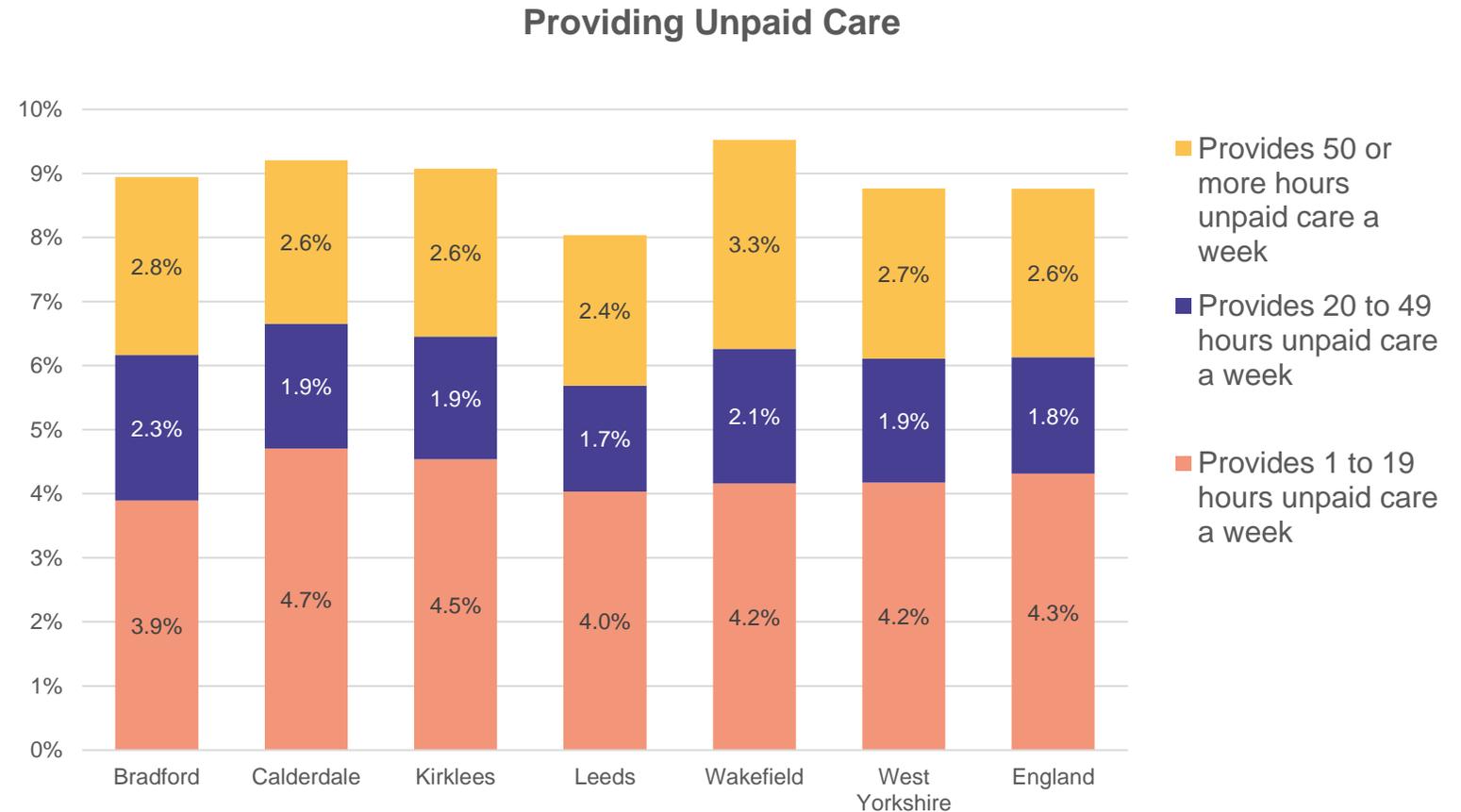
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Care

Care - West Yorkshire

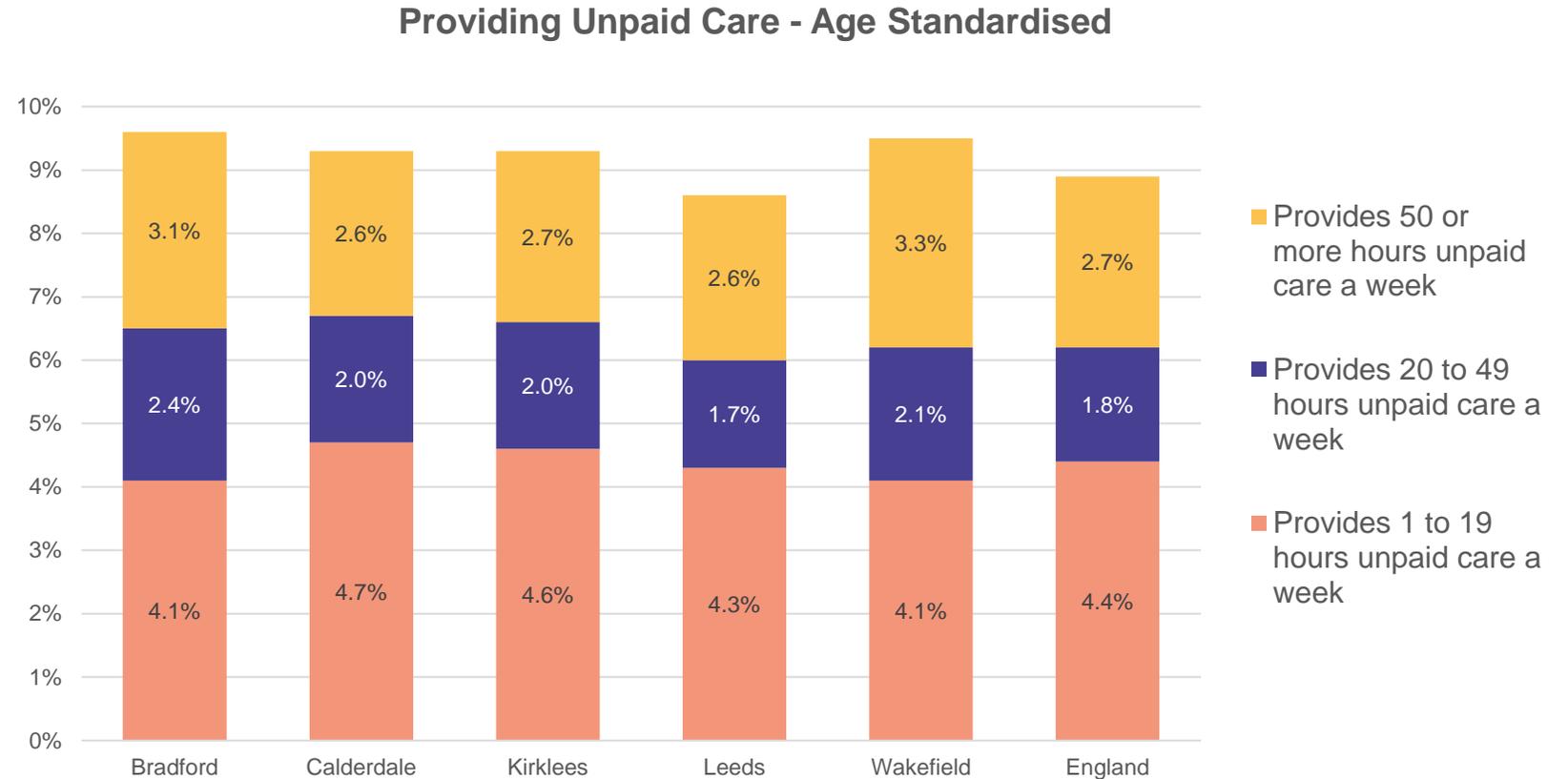
- At the time of the 2021 Census 194k residents (aged 5 years and over) in West Yorkshire, 8.8% of the population, were providing some unpaid care a week.
- This compares to 8.8% of the population of England as a whole.
- Almost 59k people in West Yorkshire are providing 50 or more hours of unpaid care a week.
- Wakefield has the highest percentage of its population providing unpaid care (9.5%)



The 2021 Census took place during a covid-19 lockdown which may have affected the amount of unpaid care people were undertaking.

Care – Age Standardised - West Yorkshire

- Using ASP data for care provision reveals that, with the exception of Leeds, all districts in West Yorkshire had a higher proportion of the population (age standardised) providing some level of unpaid care than in England as a whole.
- Residents of Wakefield and Bradford are more likely to provide a high-volume of unpaid care than other West Yorkshire districts, with 3.3% and 3.1% of residents providing 50 hours or more unpaid care per week.



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Care – West Yorkshire vs England change between 2011 & 2021

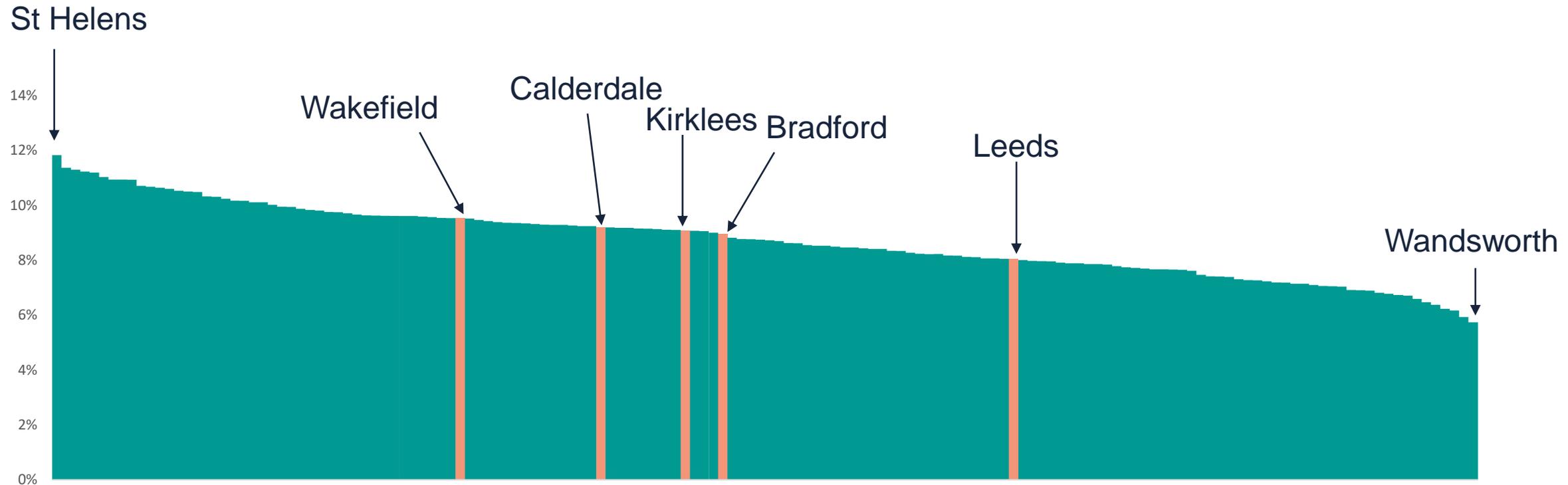
- Since 2011 there has been an 15.7% increase in the number of people in West Yorkshire providing unpaid care slightly below the increase of 16.1% in England as a whole.
- The biggest increase has been in those providing 20 to 49 hours of care, while the numbers and proportions of those providing 1 to 19 hours of care has fallen both in West Yorkshire and England. This may be a result of people taking on more caring hours owing to COVID-19 social distancing measures.

	West Yorkshire				England			
	Number		Proportion		Number		Proportion	
	2021	Change	2021	Change	2021	Change	2021	Change
Provides no unpaid care	2,018,275	0.8%	91.2%	1.3%	48,734,829	2.4%	91.2%	1.5%
Provides 1 to 19 hours unpaid care a week	92,306	-34.1%	4.2%	-2.1%	2,303,723	-33.3%	4.3%	-2.2%
Provides 20 to 49 hours unpaid care a week	42,832	36.7%	1.9%	0.5%	969,772	34.5%	1.8%	0.5%
Provides 50 or more hours unpaid care a week	58,737	11.2%	2.7%	0.3%	1,404,769	11.8%	2.6%	0.3%

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Care – West Yorkshire Districts vs Upper Tier Local Authority (UTLAs)

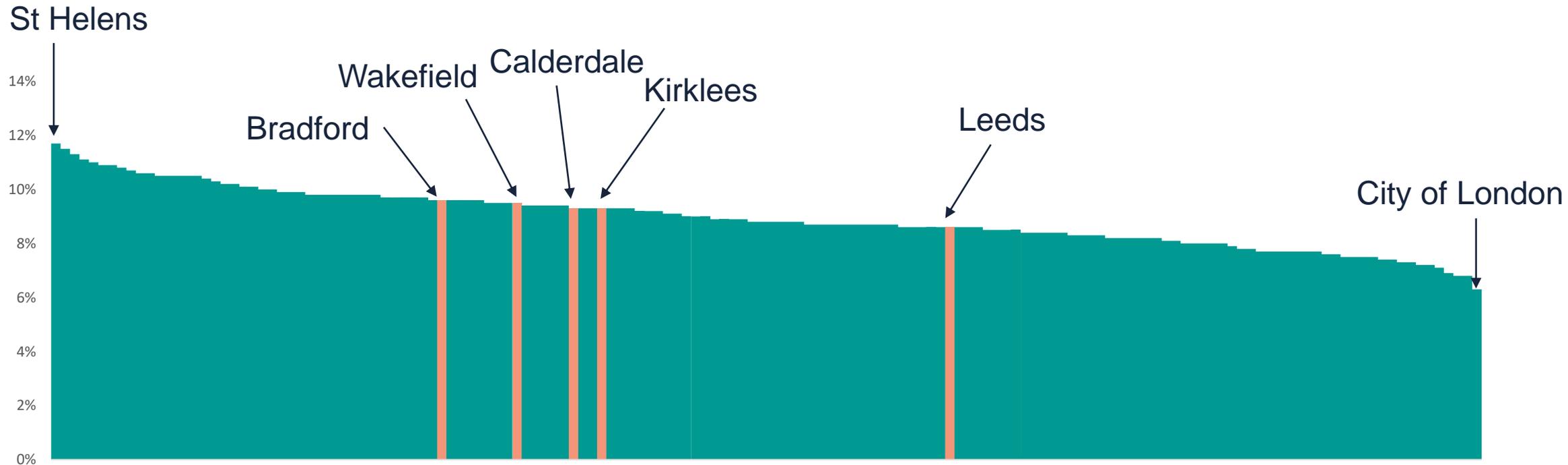
ULTAs ordered by the percentage of population providing at least 1 hour of unpaid care a week



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What next?

Phase 2: Feb – April 2023 – Multivariate data & short term resident population

Census Data sets	Release date (expected)
Ethnic Group by Age and Sex	23 rd January
Gender Identity by Age and Sex	25 th January
Sexual orientation by Age and Sex	25 th January
Religion by Age and Sex	30 th January
Disability by Age, Sex and Deprivation	8 th February

Phase 3: April 2023 onwards – small populations, detailed migration data, Origin-Destination pairs