Census 2021 First Output: An Oldham View
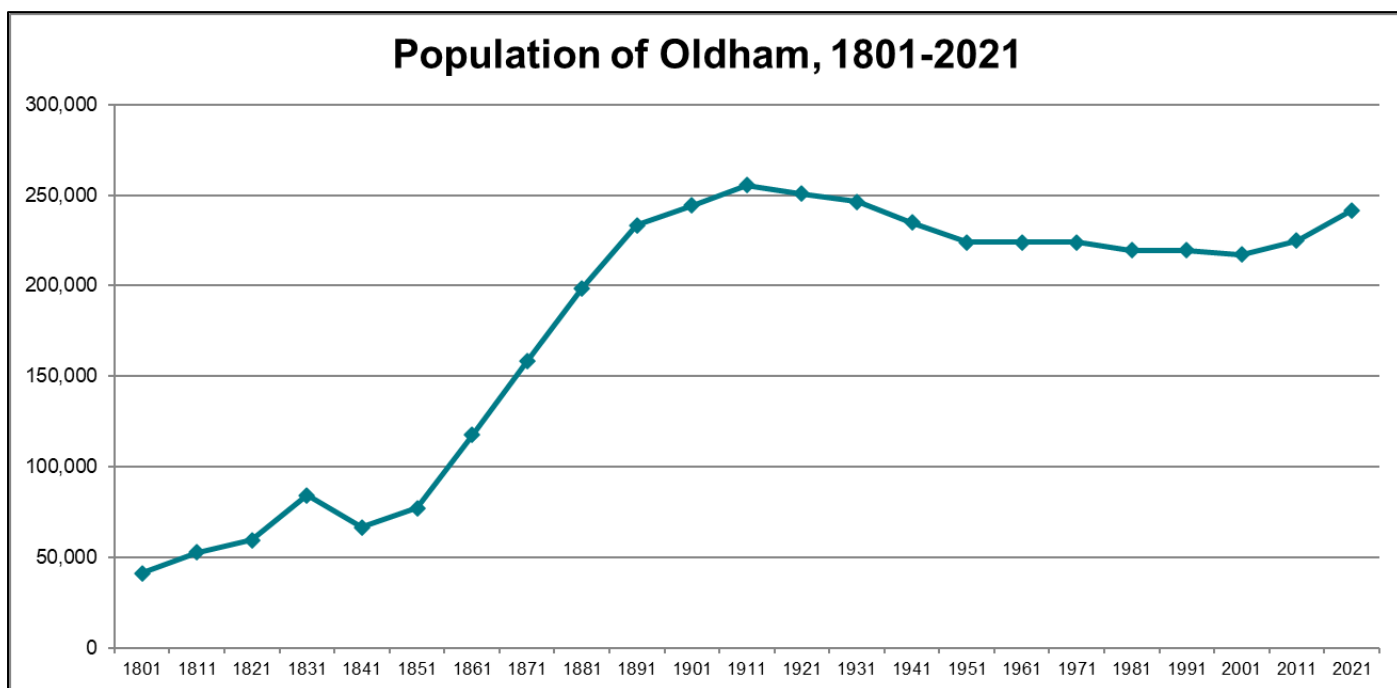
John Pritchard, Martin Burroughs and Jon Taylor
Strategy and Performance Service
Oldham Council

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1. Key Points

- The **population** of Oldham was recorded at 242,100 at the Census date of 21st March 2021. This is an increase of around 17,200 (7.6%) since the 2011 census. (Note the new figure is currently rounded to the nearest 100, we will get a more detailed figure in due course)
- **Nationally**, the population of England and Wales grew by 3.5 million (6.3%) to 59.6 million.
- The **increases** are in certain age groups, notably school-age children, and people in their 50s and 70s
- There has been a **reduction** in the number of children **under the age of 5**, which reflects the national trend
- The number of **households** is estimated at 93,100. This is an increase of around 3,400 households (3.8%) from the 2011 Census figure of 89,703.
- This was a very limited first release, more detailed data will gradually be released from October on themes including:
  ethnic group, national identity, language, religion, health, disability, unpaid care, housing, labour market and travel to work, sexual orientation and gender identity, education
  Further reports will be produced covering these themes by both the Strategy and Performance Service in the council, and the Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Population of Oldham, 1801-2021

Source: GB Historical GIS / University of Portsmouth, Oldham District through time | Population Statistics | Age and Sex Structure to age 85 and up, A Vision of Britain through Time. http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/ and ONS

2. Introduction

2.1 The Census and an Oldham view

- The Office for National Statistics (ONS) issued the first data outputs from the 2021 Census on 28th June 2022. The first release contains population and household estimates at Local Authority level and above.
- This briefing presents the 2021 Census population and household estimates for Oldham, outlines the quality assurance process undertaken by ONS, and possible funding and policy implications resulting from the new estimates.
- The Census population and household estimates provide the basis for future local authority funding allocations from central government for the next ten years.

2.2 Details of the types of data released

- At Local Authority level the 2021 Census First Release contains:
  - usual resident population by sex
  - usual resident population by 5-year age group
  - usual resident population by sex and 5-year age group
  - usual resident population density
  - number of households
- All numbers in this first release are rounded to the nearest 100. Later releases will give more detailed figures.
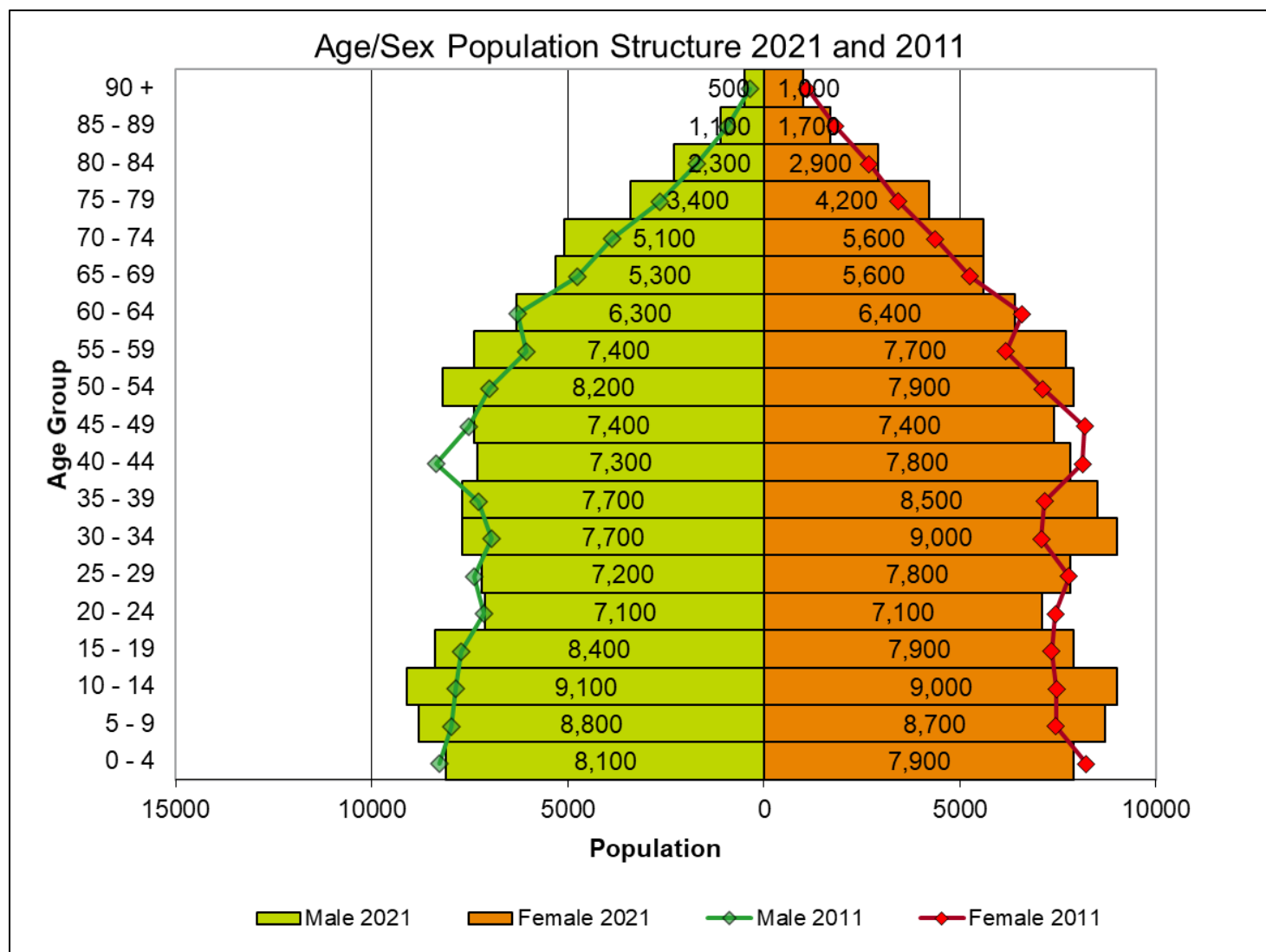
3. Population counts and change

3.1 Overall population for Oldham and change

- The population of Oldham was recorded at **242,100** at the Census date of 21st March 2021 (Note the new figure is currently rounded to the nearest 100, we will get a more detailed figure in due course)
- This is an increase of 17,200 in the 10 years since the 2011 census
- The increase is a result of two elements:
    1. Natural change – more births than deaths each year
    2. Migration – this was especially during the middle part of the last decade
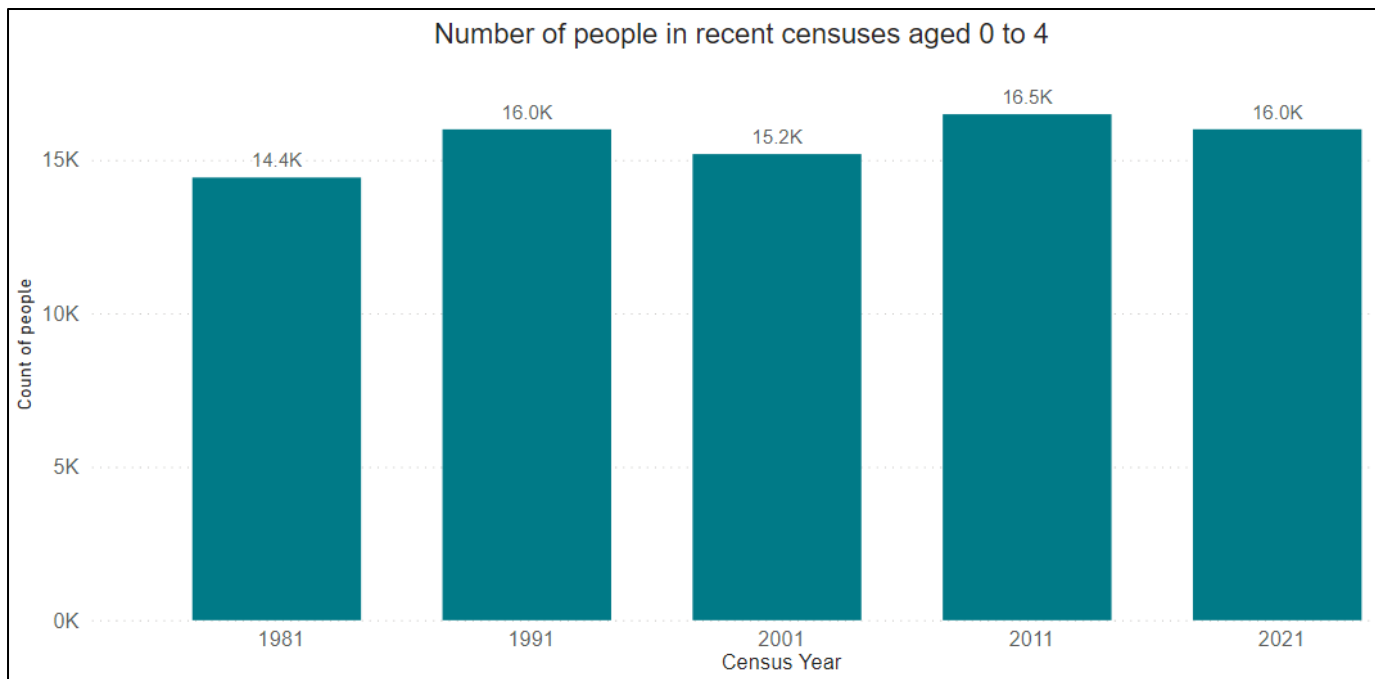
3.2 Population by age and sex

- A Population Pyramid allows us to visualise the age and sex structure of the population. Young children (aged 0-4) in 2021 are the bottom bar, and over 90s are the top bar.
- The two <u>lines</u> represent how the pyramid looked in <u>2011</u> to allow us to visualise change.
- For example, you can clearly see that there are more children in the 5-9, 10-14 and 15-19 age groups in 2021 than there were in 2011, as the 3 bars (2021) protrude out further than the lines (2011) for those age groups

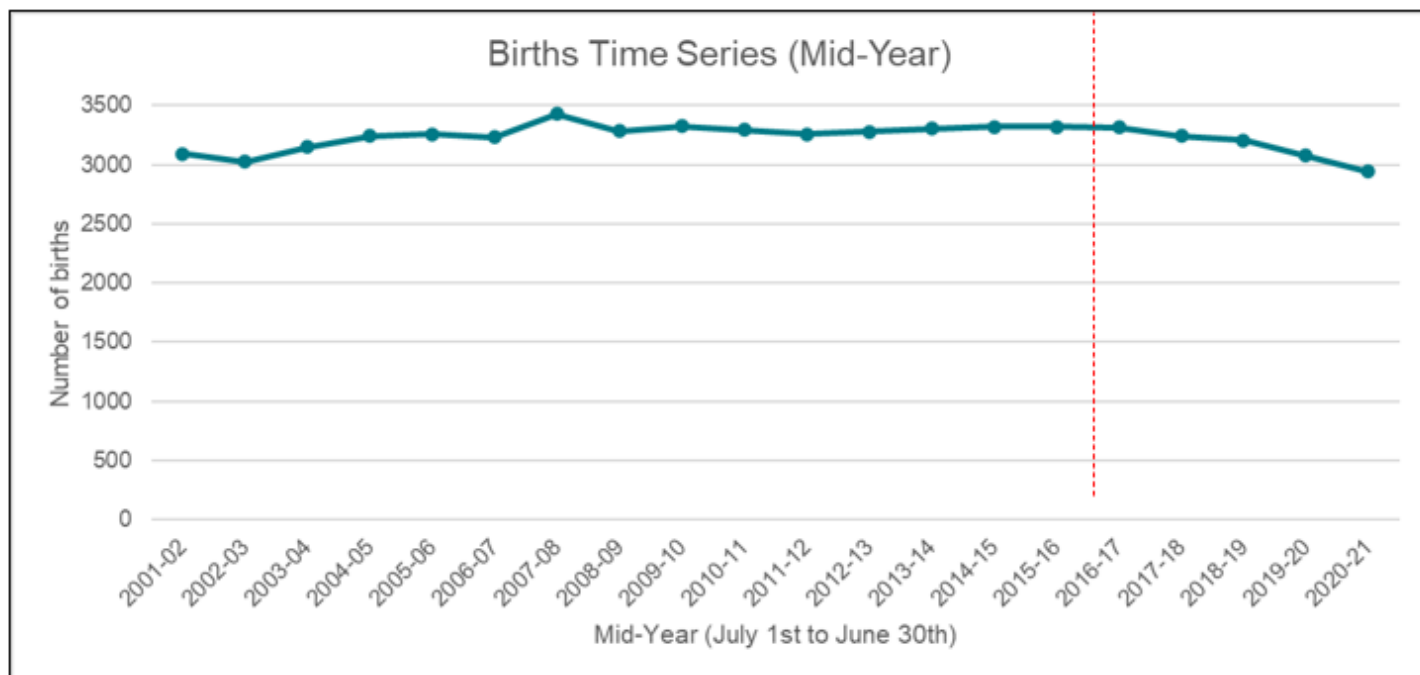Age/Sex Population Structure 2021 and 2011

Source: ONS 2021 Census

3.3 Reduction in Young Children

- From the population pyramid above, we see that the there are fewer 0-4 year-olds (bottom bar) than there were in 2011. This can also be seen in the chart below, but set in the context of a longer time series.

Source: GB Historical GIS / University of Portsmouth, Oldham District through time | Population Statistics | Age and Sex Structure to age 85 and up, A Vision of Britain through Time. http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/ and ONS
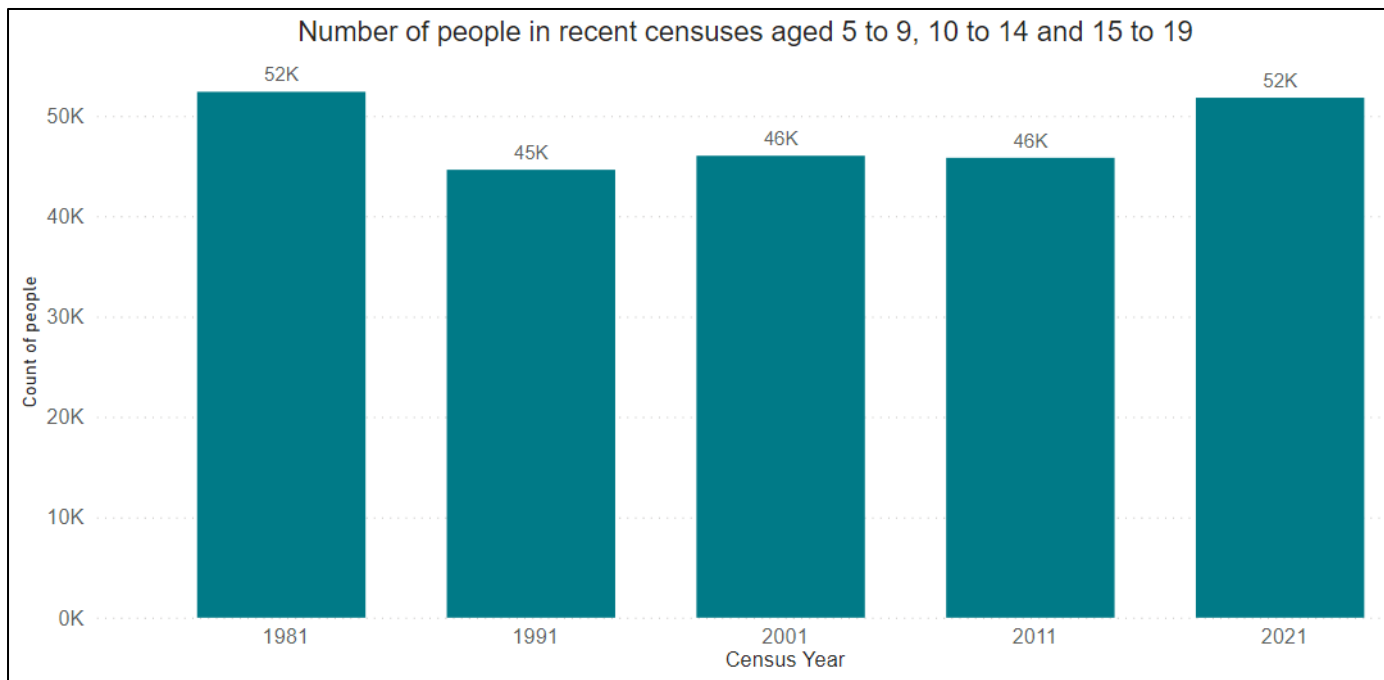
- The reduction in young children can be verified (to an extent) and explained by looking at the number of births to mothers who live in Oldham each year
- Children born to the right of the red dashed line will be included in the 0-4 figure
- This reflects a national trend for a declining birth rate

Source: ONS Mid-Year births 2001/02 – 2019-20, internal births data 2020-21
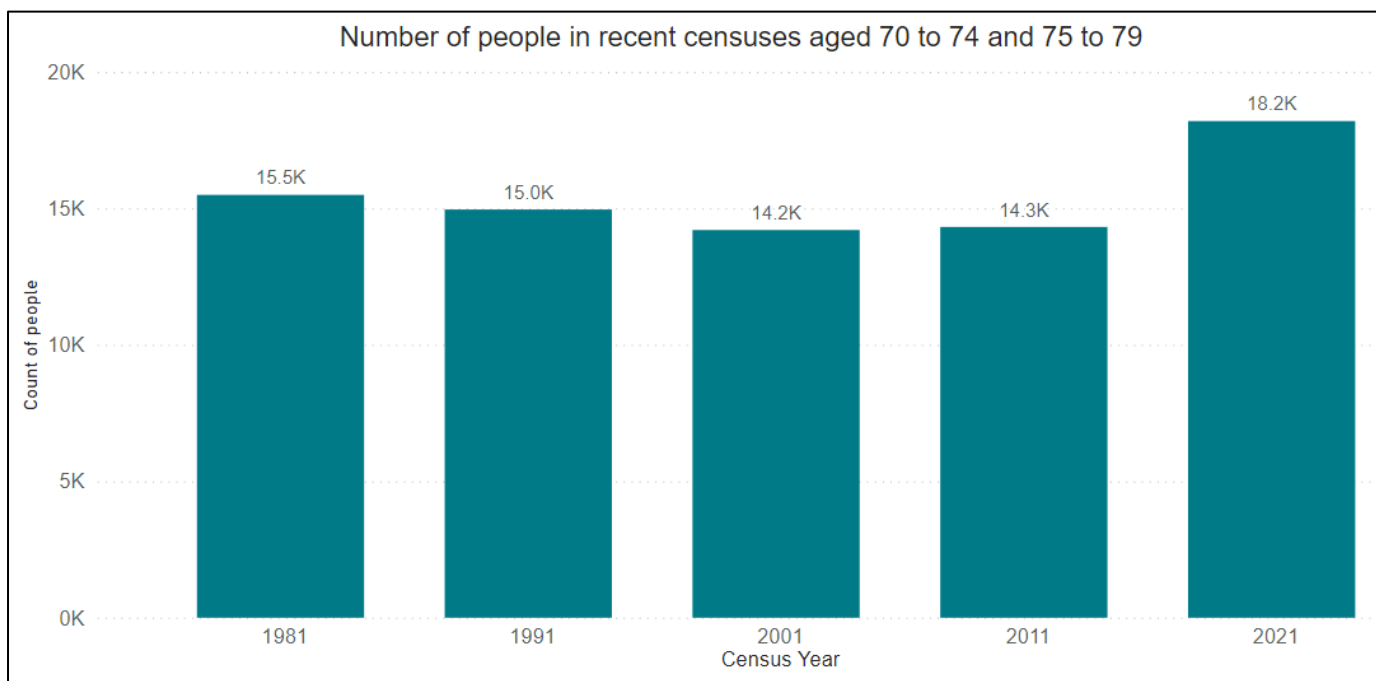
3.4 Change in Young People aged 5-19

- Above the age of 5 there are more young people than there have been for 40 years
- However, the number of 5-19 year-olds will probably gradually fall as the recent lower births cohorts work their way up through the age groups

Source: GB Historical GIS / University of Portsmouth, Oldham District through time | Population Statistics | Age and Sex Structure to age 85 and up, A Vision of Britain through Time. http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/ and ONS

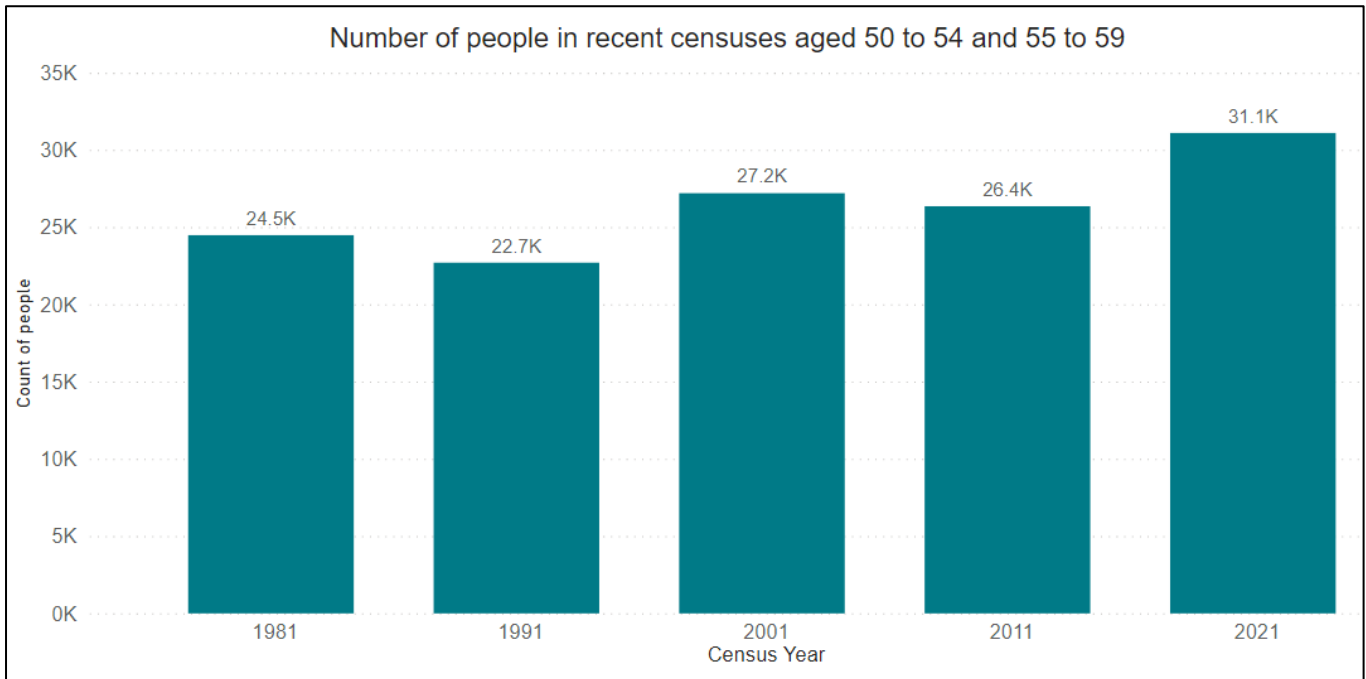## 3.5 Increase in people in their 70s

- There has been a large increase in people in the 70s
- Many of these are in the Baby Boomer cohort, born soon after the end of WWII
- Clearly many will survive long enough that we see an increase in the number of people in their 80s over the next 10 years
- Although there are also slight increases in people in their 80s, this is not as apparent in Oldham as it is nationally, due to the generally younger age structure

Source: GB Historical GIS / University of Portsmouth, Oldham District through time | Population Statistics | Age and Sex Structure to age 85 and up, A Vision of Britain through Time. http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/ and ONS
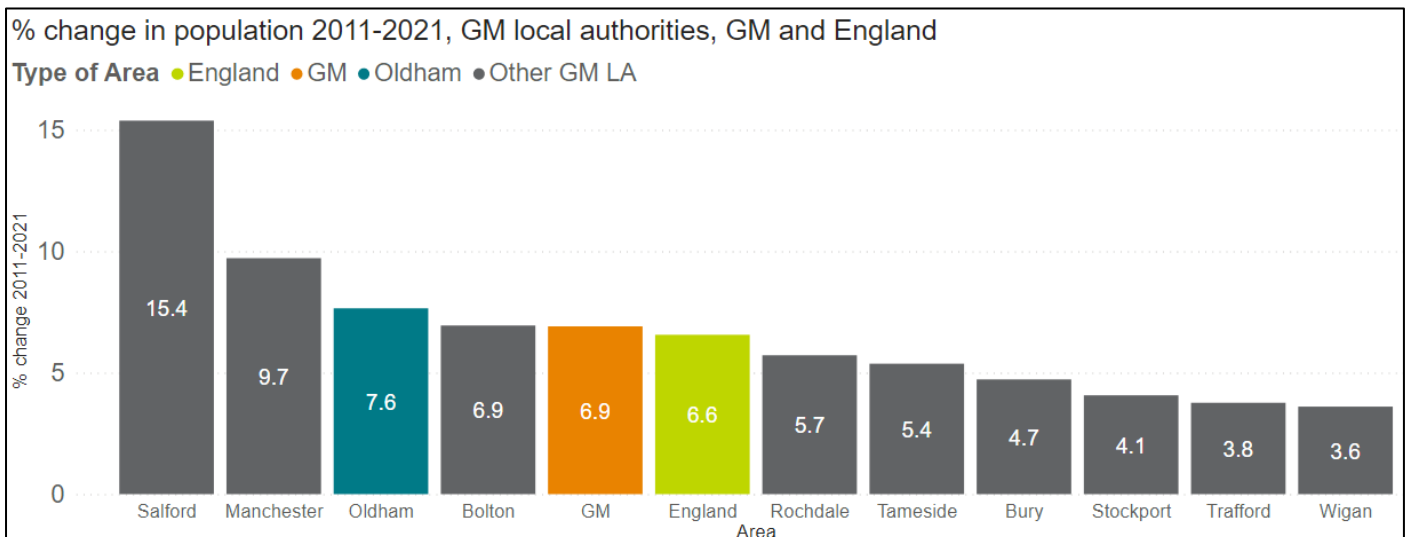
3.6 Increase in people in their 50s

- There was a second baby boom in the 1960s, as the baby boomers had children
- This cohort are now in their 50s

Number of people in recent censuses aged 50 to 54 and 55 to 59

Source: GB Historical GIS / University of Portsmouth, Oldham District through time | Population Statistics | Age and Sex Structure to age 85 and up, A Vision of Britain through Time. http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/ and ONS

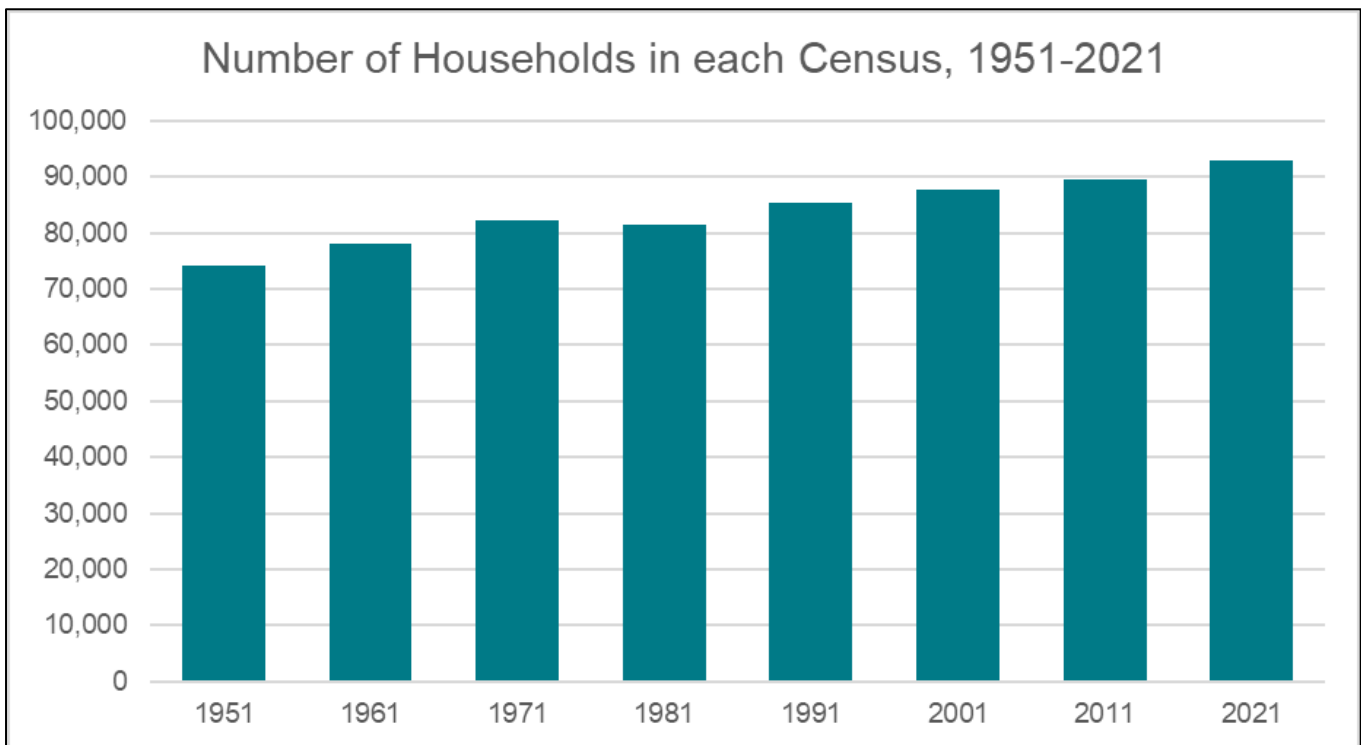## 3.7 Change compared to other GM authorities

- The percentage increase in population in Oldham (7.6%) is the third largest in Greater Manchester, after Salford and Manchester
- This is also higher than the England average growth of 6.6%

% change in population 2011-2021, GM local authorities, GM and England

Type of Area ● England ● GM ● Oldham ● Other GM LA

Source: ONS 2011 and 2021 Data

4. Households

- The census estimated the number of households at 93,100.
- It is an increase of 3,400 households (3.8%) on the 2011 Census figure of 89,703.

Number of Households in each Census, 1951-2021

Source: GB Historical GIS / University of Portsmouth, Oldham District through time | Population Statistics | Age and Sex Structure to age 85 and up, A Vision of Britain through Time. http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/ and ONS

5. What is coming next

5.1 Phase 1 (continued) - Autumn to winter 2022: topic summaries

A topic summary is a set of data and supporting commentary, grouped by a similar theme. We propose to cover these topics in the order listed:

- demography and migration
- ethnic group, national identity, language, and religion
- health, disability, and unpaid care
- housing
- labour market and travel to work
- sexual orientation and gender identity
- education
- UK armed forces veterans

We provide more information about the topic summaries, including the variables and classifications we plan to include in them, on topic summary and area profiles webpage.

5.2 Phase 1 (continued) - Autumn to winter 2022: area profiles

Area profiles will allow users to view statistics from across different topics for a particular area and compare local statistics for an area against national statistics. We provide more information about the area profiles, including the variables and classifications we plan to include in them, on topic summary and area profiles webpage.

5.3 Phase 2: winter 2022 to early 2023
Multivariate data for the usual resident population base

Multivariate data will allow users to combine variables and explore relationships between the data, collected from Census 2021 on the usual resident population of England and Wales. Alongside standard datasets that users can view and download, we will be introducing new functionality for Census 2021. This new functionality will allow users to make their own datasets, by selecting or changing different combinations of variables, classifications and geographies. More information about this new functionality can be found on the multivariate datasets webpage.

5.4 Phase 3: from spring 2023

Alternative population bases
Alternative populations bases are different geographical locations where individuals could have been counted for Census 2021. Examples include workplace, workday and out-of-term populations. More information can be found on the alternative and small populations webpage.

Small populations
Small populations are groups that are defined by their cultural background, including characteristics such as ethnic group, country of birth, religion and national identity. Examples of small populations for which we are committed to producing tables include Cornish, Kashmiri, Nepali, Sikh, Ravidassia and Jain. More information can be found on the alternative and small populations webpage.

Detailed migration data
Detailed migration statistics provide the characteristics of people or households who have moved within the UK or from another country into the UK during the year before the census. More information can be found on the detailed migration webpage.

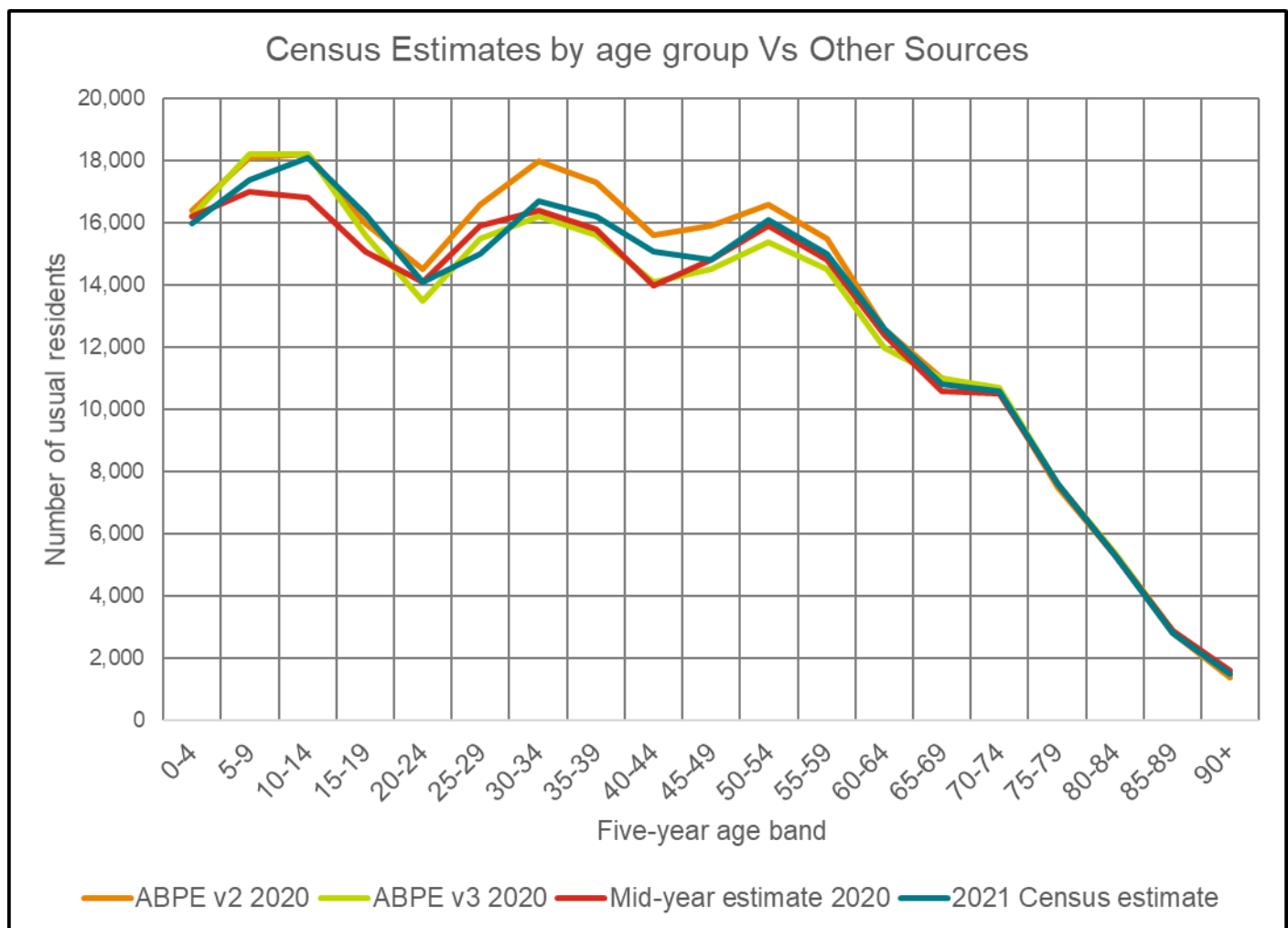### Origin-destination data or 'flow' data
Origin-destination data describes the movement of people from one location to another. Examples of origin-destination data we plan to release include migration flow data, workplace flow data, second address flow data and student flow data. Origin-destination data will be classified in three ways: public, safeguarded, or secure. More information can be found on the origin-destination webpage.

Microdata samples
Microdata are samples of anonymised records for individuals and households, which include a selection of associated census characteristics. Microdata samples will be classified in three ways: public, safeguarded or secure. More information can be found on the microdata webpage.

6. Comparing to other data sources

- Although the census is the most comprehensive population estimate that we currently have, it is still an estimate, and prone to error and biases
- Therefore, it is worth comparing to other data sources to see where those errors are most likely to occur
- There is an intention to eventually replace the census in its current decennial form with more regular statistics based largely on administrative data, combined with smaller surveys
- The Office for National Statistics ONS) has already begun this process, and from their programme we now have 2020-based population estimates by age and sex know as *Admin Based Population Estimates* (ABPE). Versions 2 and 3 use different methodologies.
- ONS also produce Mid-Year Estimates every year, which are based on the 2011 census, births, deaths and estimated migration
- In the chart below, the dark teal line is the new Census 2021 estimate, compared with ABPE (orange and green) and Mid-Year Estimates (red)

Source: ONS file 'Local authority comparison tool, England and Wales, Census 2021'

- From the ages of 65 onwards, all of the sources are in quite close agreement
- The methodologies of ABPE V2 (Orange line) and ABPE V3 (Green line) are such that we would expect them to provide upper (V2) and lower (V3) bounds for the likely true population. Given this, the numbers of children estimated by the census, particularly in the 5-9 age group, seem to be on the low side
- Numbers also seem slightly on the low side in the 25-29 year-old age group. This is an age when there is a lot of movement of people, and research has shown that this is the age when people are most likely to be missed by the census
- At other age groups, the census estimate falls between the ABPEv2 and ABPEv3 estimates, and is therefore what we would expect

7. Further Information

- For further information, see
    - https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationandhouseholdestimatesenglandandwalescensus2021
    - https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censuspopulationchange/E08000004/