

## Equalities Characteristics in Fife

### What this is about

This paper provides an overview of equalities characteristics in Fife under the themes of **Age, Sex, Gender reassignment, Sexual orientation, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Ethnicity and Identity, Religion and Belief, and Disability.**

It draws on information from the **Scottish Household Survey 2014**, and the **Scottish Survey Core Questions 2014**, a pooled sample from the three main Scottish Population Surveys, that is now starting to deliver improved equality data at the local level.

### Key Information

- More younger people live in private rented or social rented accommodation, while more older people own their own homes.
- More older people have higher qualifications, savings, and manage well financially.
- More younger people report neighbourhood problems, and feel less safe.
- While younger people have better health, they are more likely to smoke.
- Adults are more likely to experience discrimination in later working age.
- Older people have more confidence in the Police.
- More women than men in Fife, and women have a stronger sense of belonging.
- More men work full-time. More women work part-time or look after the home.
- Older women are less likely to hold a driving licence.
- Males feel safer than females, and have different views on the ability of the Police.
- The majority of adults identify as heterosexual, with a minority identifying as LGBTi
- One in three adults are single, and one in two adults are married or are in a civil partnership. Younger people are more likely to be single and older people are more likely to be married or in a civil partnership.
- The economic situation of women depends on whether children are in the household.
- The majority of people living in Fife are born in Scotland and identify as White Scottish.
- Fife has a very high proportion of people identifying with no religion.
- One in five adults have a long term physical or mental health condition.
- Those with a long term condition do not rate themselves as having good health, and are less likely to be employed full-time
- Older households are more likely to include someone with a long standing illness, health problem or disability.
- Households with a long-term condition are more likely to be living with low income, and living in social rented accommodation.
- Adults with a long standing physical or mental condition feel less safe than those without a long-term condition, and are more likely to have experienced discrimination.

## **Age**

Older people have a stronger sense of belonging to their local community than younger people do.

One in three older people have a degree or professional qualification compared to one on five younger people (16 to 39). Higher qualifications correlate to higher income. Older households are more likely to manage well financially (71). Younger households (48) and families (44) are less likely to be managing well financially. Older people are more likely to have some savings.

Of every 100 adults, 67 own their own home, 22 live in social rented and 11 in private rented accommodation. Of 16 to 34 year olds, 34 live in private rented accommodation and this number has been increasing since 2000. Only 33 out of 100 own their own home, and this number has been reducing. 32 live in social rented accommodation. Among 35 to 59 year olds, 70 own their own home, 23 live in social rented accommodation, and increasing numbers live in private rented accommodation. Among those aged 60 plus, 79 own their own home, 16 live in social rented accommodation (and this has been declining) and 5 live in private rented accommodation.

Younger people are more likely to say that a neighbourhood problem is very or fairly common in their area, and more likely to report issues with noisy neighbours, rubbish and fouling, and general anti-social behaviour. This is consistent with more younger people living in social rented or private rented accommodation.

Younger people rate themselves as having better health than older people (81 of working age compared to 61 aged 65 plus). Younger people are more likely to participate in any sport. Younger people are more likely to smoke than older people (28 in 100 aged 16 to 39, compared to 19 aged 40 to 64, and 12 aged 65 plus).

While 83 of 100 adults feel very or fairly safe when walking alone in their neighbourhood, younger people feel less safe (79) than older people. 40 to 59 year olds feel most safe (88).

40 to 59 year olds are more likely to have experienced discrimination (13 of 100 adults) than those aged 16 to 39 (10 of 100 adults). Older people (60 plus) are less likely to have experienced discrimination (2 in every 100 adults).

Older people are more confident in the ability of the Police, particularly in relation to solving crimes, catching criminals, preventing crime, and responding quickly to calls and information from the public.

Older people are more likely to agree that the Council provides high quality services, is good at letting people know about the services it provides, or does what it can with the money available. Older people are more likely to feel that the Council is good at listening to local people's views before it takes decisions, but are less likely to feel that they can influence decisions affecting their local area.

Those in the 40 to 64 age group are more likely to say that climate change is an immediate and urgent problem (54) compared to 16 to 39 year olds (43) and those 65 plus (39). This age group is also more likely to be involved in volunteering, and to visit the outdoors.

Younger people are more likely to go to the cinema or attend a live event. Older people are more likely to go to museums, galleries or theatres.

## **Sex**

Of every 100 adults in Fife, 49 are male and 51 are female.

While there is a strong sense of belonging to community among Fifers, females have a stronger sense of belonging than males.

One in four adults have a degree or professional qualification, but this is higher for females (28) than males (25).

Households where the highest income householder is male are managing better financially than those where the highest income householder is female (53 managing well, compared to 53). Males are more likely than females to have some savings (66 compared to 58).

More working age males are employed full-time than females (57 compared to 37). Females are six times more likely to work part-time (25 compared to 6), and are more likely to look after their family and home, (9 compared to 1). Males are three times as likely to be self-employed (9 compared to 3). Males are more likely to be unemployed and seeking work (10 compared to 4).

Males are more likely to hold a driving licence than females. The number of females who hold a driving licence has been increasing. Younger females are just as likely as younger males to hold a driving licence. Older females are less likely to hold a driving licence.

Males and females have similar ratings of health (77 of 100 rate themselves as having good or very good health). Males are more likely than females to take part in any sport, including walking (83 compared to 77). Females are more likely to go swimming or to keep fit, while men are more likely to go cycling.

While the number of people who smoke has reduced to 21 in every 100 adults, males are more likely to smoke than females (25 compared to 16).

While 83 of 100 adults feel very or fairly safe when walking alone in their neighbourhood, more males feel safer than females (91 and 75 respectively).

10 of every 100 males have experienced discrimination based on their sex, compared to 8 of every 100 females. 7 of every 100 females have experienced harassment compared to 5 of every 100 males.

While males and females are equally confident in the ability of the Police to catch criminals, males have more confidence in the ability of the Police to prevent crime, and females have more confidence in the ability of the Police to respond quickly, deal with incidents as they occur, investigate incidents, and solve crimes.

Similar numbers of males and females are involved in volunteering (23 compared to 24). While both males and females generally help out, males are more likely to be involved in committee work and females are more likely to be involved in raising money.

## **Gender reassignment**

Information is not available from these sources on gender reassignment.

## **Sexual Orientation**

Of 100 adults living in Fife, 97 identify as Heterosexual and between 1 and 2 identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or other. Some choose not to answer. These figures are comparable to Scotland as a whole. Women are more likely than men to identify as Bisexual. Where women identify as Lesbian, more than twice as many men identify as Gay.

## **Marriage and Civil Partnership**

Of 100 adults: 50 are married or in a same sex civil partnership, 31 are single and have never married, 9 are divorced or have had their civil partnership dissolved, 8 are widowed or are a bereaved civil partner, and 2 are separated.

Three out of four younger people (16 to 34) are single. The majority of people aged 35 and over are married or in a civil partnership. One in four people aged 65 plus are widowed or a bereaved civil partner.

## **Pregnancy and Maternity**

Information on pregnancy is not available from these sources, and only a very limited picture of maternity is provided.

The economic situation of women varies depending on whether there are children in the household or not. While there are similar proportions of women employed full-time (35 compared to 37), there are more women with children who work part-time (28 compared to 23), or look after the family or home (20 compared to 7), or who are self-employed (4 compared to 1).

## **Ethnicity and Identity**

Of 100 adults living in Fife, 80 are born in Scotland, 13 from the rest of the UK, 4 from the rest of the EU and 2 from the rest of the world.

98 of 100 identify as White ethnicity with 81 identifying as Scottish, 12 as Other British, 4 as Other and 1 as Polish. Asian and other ethnic groups in the minority, 2 of every 100 people living in Fife.

## **Religion and Belief**

Fife has a much higher proportion of people identifying as having no religion (57 of every 100 adults, compared to 45 of 100 in Scotland), and this figure is rising. 24 identify with Church of Scotland, 9 with Roman Catholic, and 7 as Other Christian. 1 in 100 adults in Fife are Muslim. 1 in 100 adults identify with Other religion.

13 of 100 adults of Other Christian religion have experienced discrimination, compared to 8 of 100 adults who belong to Church of Scotland, and 7 of 100 adults with no religion.

## **Disability**

21 of 100 adults have a long term physical or mental health condition. 4 of 100 people of working age identify as permanently sick or disabled.

Only 42 of 100 adults with a long-term condition rate themselves as having very good or good health compared to 91 of 100 not living with a long-term condition.

Those with a long-term condition are less likely to be employed full-time (32 compared to 51), but are just as likely to be employed part-time (13 compared to 15). Adults with a long-term condition are more likely to be permanently sick or disabled (19 compared to 0) permanently retired from work (14 compared to 4), looking after the family or home (11 compared to 5) or unemployed and seeking work (10 compared to 6).

One in every two older households have a long-standing illness, health problem, or disability, compared to one in four family households.

One in every two households with an income of less than £15,001 have a long-term condition, compared to only one in five of households with an income of more than £30,001.

Of households with a long-term condition, more than half live in social rented accommodation, with one in three owning their own home, and one in four living in private rented accommodation.

Adults with a long standing physical or mental health condition feel less safe than those who don't (77 compared to 85 of every 100 adults feel very or fairly safe when walking alone in their neighbourhood at night).

12 of 100 adults with long standing physical or mental health condition have experienced discrimination, compared to 7 in 100 adults.

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## **Sources**

Scottish Household Survey 2014 *Local authority web tables: Fife*

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0048/00486847.pdf>

Scottish Survey Core Questions 2014

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/About/Surveys/SSCQ/SSCQ2014/SuppTabs>

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