

Census 2021 data regarding veteran Population in Herefordshire

Contents

Census 2021 UK armed forces veterans headline results for Herefordshire.....	2
Previously served (persons) in the UK armed forces.....	2
Veterans by age.....	4
Veterans by sex.....	5
Veterans by general health.....	5
Veterans by disability.....	7
Veterans by economic activity (working age).....	8
Veterans by occupation.....	8
Veterans by highest qualification.....	9
Veteran households by tenure.....	10
Veteran households by household makeup.....	10
Veteran households by household makeup.....	10
Veteran households by living arrangements.....	11
Veteran households by unpaid care.....	13
Veteran households by migration.....	14
Veteran households by ethnicity.....	15
Veteran by deprivation.....	16

Census 2021 UK armed forces veterans headline results for Herefordshire

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) published a Census 2021 topic summary on UK armed forces veterans on 10th November 2022. The 2021 Census was the first census to ask questions about veterans, so it gives us a new data source to understand this group.

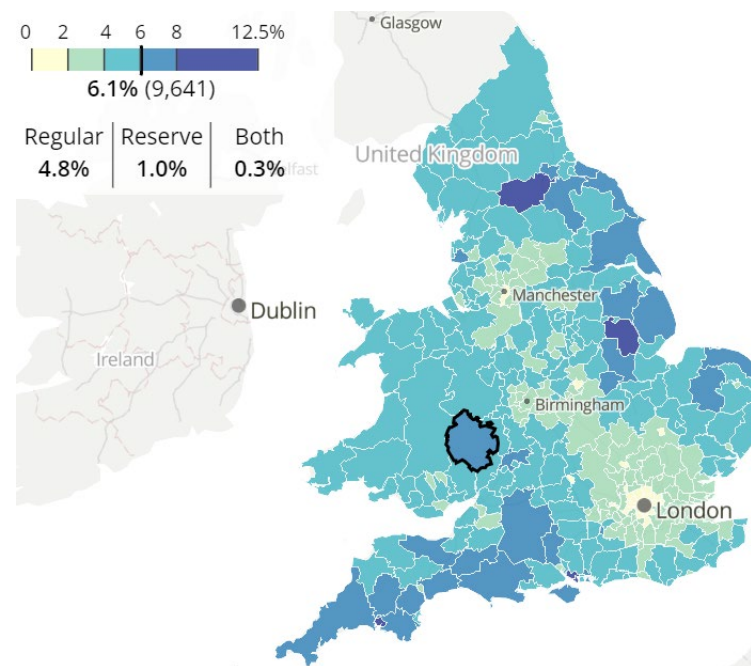
The Census identifies anyone aged 16+ who has previously served in the UK armed forces. This includes those who have served for at least one day in the armed forces, either regular or reserves, or Merchant Mariners who have seen duty on legally defined military operations. Respondents were not asked which branch of the armed forces they served in, so we are unable to break the data down further.

Previously served (persons) in the UK armed forces



9,600 Herefordshire residents aged 16 and over have served in either the UK armed forces, UK reserve armed forces or both. This makes up 6.1% of the 16+ population in Herefordshire, compared with 3.8% in England and Wales. Part of this may be due to Herefordshire having an older population than the UK as a whole, as most veterans are aged 65 and over. Other local authorities that contain military establishments also had above average numbers of veterans, which suggests UK armed forces veterans tend to stay in the same areas after they have left service. This can be seen in the map opposite.

The majority of Herefordshire's veterans served in the UK armed forces (7,500, 78%) but there are also veterans who served in the UK reserved armed forces (1,600, 17%) or who served in both the regular armed services and the reserved armed forces (500, 5%).

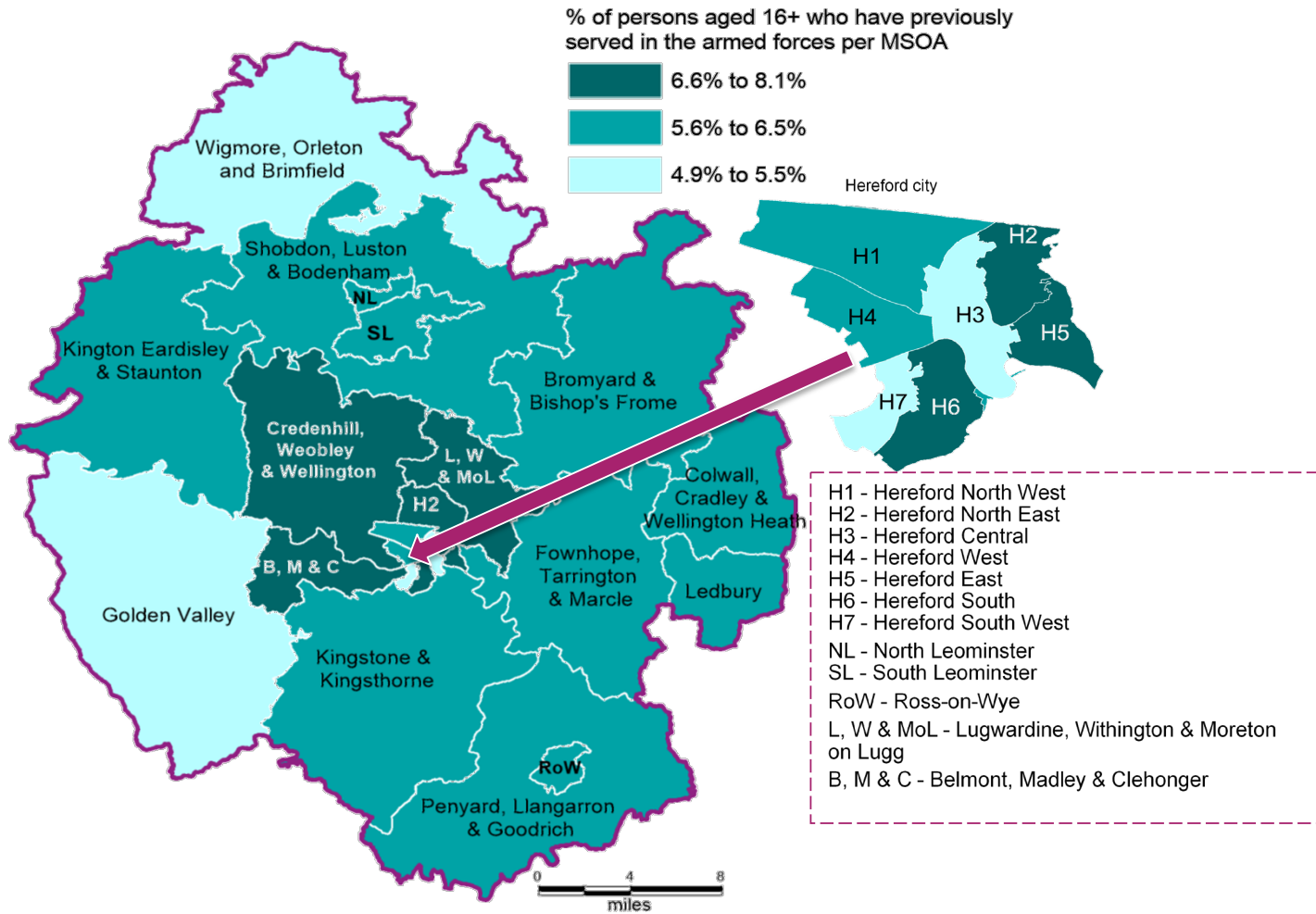


Source: Office for National Statistics - Census 2021

The map on the next page shows how the veteran population is distributed around the county. It can be seen that certain areas have larger proportions than other areas.

The Credenhill, Weobley and Wellington area has the largest veteran population (by proportion and number of veterans) and also has the highest proportion of households (15%) where at least one veteran lives. The area is home to a large Army garrison, which

further supports the idea that veterans may tend to stay in the areas which they were based.



Note. Middle Super Output Areas (MSOAs) are fixed statistical geographies of about 8,000

Source: Office for National Statistics - Census 2021

Previously served (households) in the UK armed forces



9,000 households had at least one UK armed forces veteran living there, this accounts for 10.9% of households in Herefordshire, which is greater than the England and Wales average of 7.0%.

The majority (94%) of these households have only one veteran, but 500 households have two or more veterans living there. Nearly all veterans lived within a household (99%), whilst just 1% lived in a communal establishment¹, this is similar to the national average, which has a 98% and 2% split.

Veterans by age

Herefordshire has an equal amount or higher percentage of veterans in all age groups compared to England as a whole. The proportion of veterans increases throughout the age groups, with only 1% (100) of 16-24 year olds having served in the UK armed forces, increasing to 25% (1,600) for those aged 85 and over.

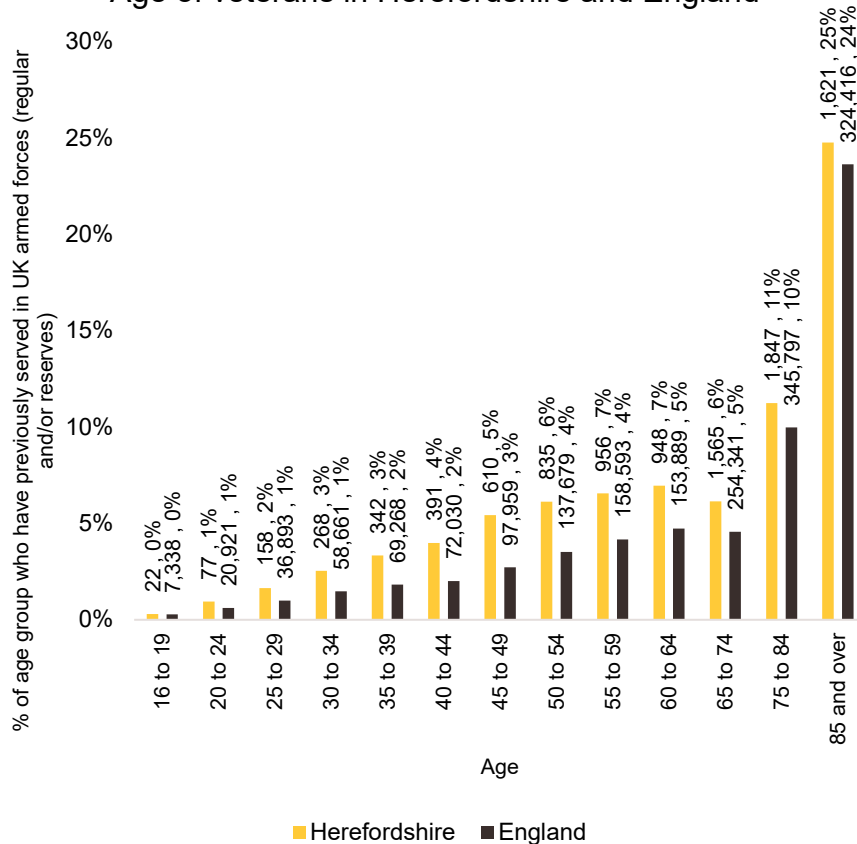
52% (5,000) of Herefordshire veterans are aged 65 and over, this is likely in part linked to National Service, which meant between 1949 and 1960 most young men in the UK served in the armed forces for 18 months. Additionally, the size of the armed forces has declined

¹ A communal establishment is an establishment with full-time or part-time supervision providing residential accommodation, such as student halls of residence, boarding schools, armed forces bases, hospitals, care homes, and prisons.

since the early 1950s, so in turn there will be fewer younger veterans as they were fewer serving personnel after this time. Furthermore, veterans only count those who have left the armed forces, so it is to be expected that there will be very few veterans in the youngest age groups as they would still be serving. Those aged 54 and under only make up 28% (2,700) of veterans. 53% of veterans nationally are also aged 65 and over, showing that the age

of veterans in Herefordshire is similar to the national profile.

Age of veterans in Herefordshire and England

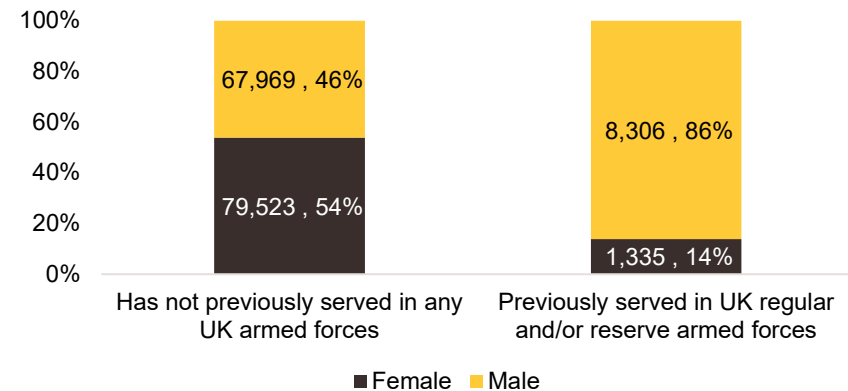


Veterans by sex

86% (8,300) of Herefordshire veterans are male, which is a much higher proportion than that of the non-veteran population (46% male). This disparity is even higher for those who served in both

regular and reserve, which is 95% (473) male. The figures for Herefordshire are in line with the figures seen for England. This is largely because for women access to armed forces careers has historically been very limited with restrictions only completely lifting in 2018.

Sex breakdown by veteran status in Herefordshire



Veterans by general health

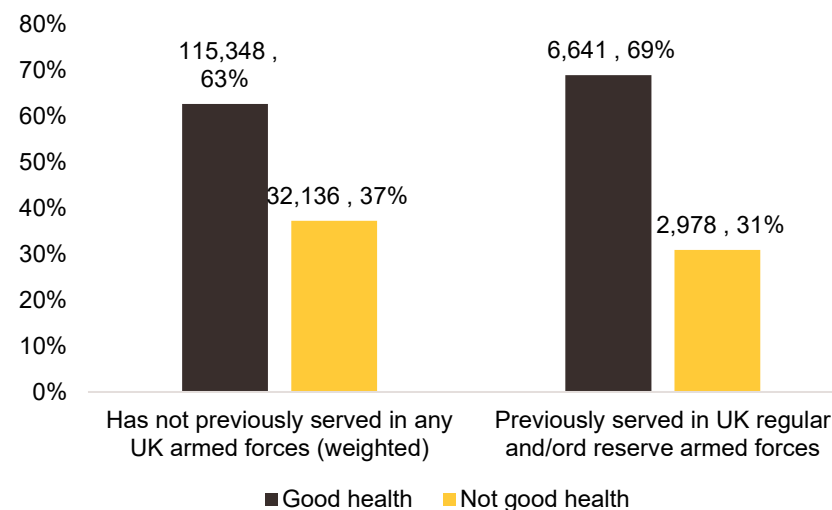
The non-veteran population for this analysis has been adjusted using weighting provided by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) to provide a more accurate comparison between the veteran and non-veteran groups. This has been done as a person's sex and age will likely impact their health, and as the veteran population is skewed towards older males we would anticipate that they would have poorer health compared to the population as a whole which will include more women and younger people. This adjustment will allow for a fairer comparison between veteran and non-veteran groups.

A more detailed explanation and the methodology can be found in the appendix.

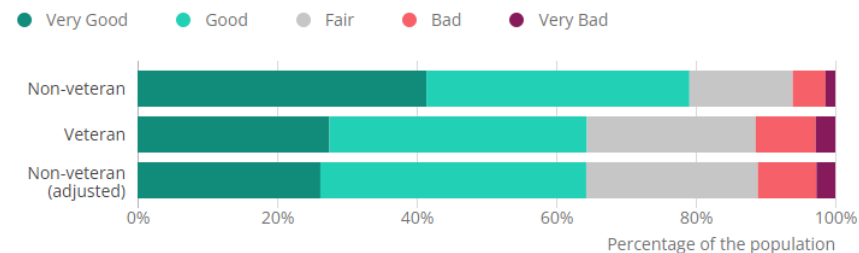
When the non-veteran population has been adjusted to account for age and sex, the data shows that Herefordshire veterans report better general health than their non-veteran peers (69% vs 63%). Veterans who served in the reserve armed forces were most likely to report that they were in good health (72%). This may suggest that serving in the armed forces offers some protective factor in maintaining good health even after leaving the armed forces. Due to suppression of small levels of data, it was only possible to split the responses into “good health” and “not good health”, it is therefore not possible to directly compare with the national figures as they have been broken down further. However, it appears that nationally veterans report worse general health than their non-veteran peers, which suggests that veterans specifically in Herefordshire are reporting better general health than nationally. It is not clear why this is the case, so further investigation would be

required.

% of Herefordshire population in good health by veteran status (non-veteran population is weighted)



Percentage of the population aged 16 years and over by previous service in the UK armed forces and general health with adjusted non-veteran estimates, 2021, England and Wales



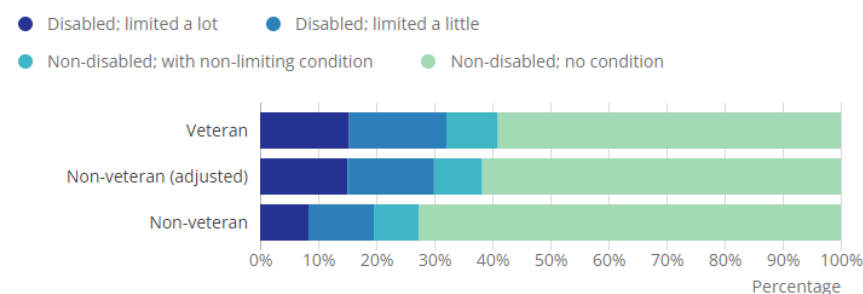
Veterans by disability

The non-veteran population for this analysis has been adjusted using weighting provided by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) to provide a more accurate comparison between the veteran and non-veteran groups. This has been done as a person's sex and age will likely impact the likelihood of them being disabled. As the veteran population is skewed towards older people we would anticipate that they would be more likely to be disabled compared to the population as a whole which will include more younger people. This adjustment will allow for a fairer comparison between veteran and non-veteran groups.

A more detailed explanation and the methodology can be found in the appendix.

29% of veterans in Herefordshire responded that they were disabled under the Equality Act, compared with 30% of the non-veteran population (adjusted). This suggests that having served in the UK armed forces does not have an impact on the likelihood as to whether a person will have a disability. The highest proportion of disabled persons was seen in those who served in both the regular and reserve forces (33%) and the smallest proportion were for those that served just in the reserve armed forces.

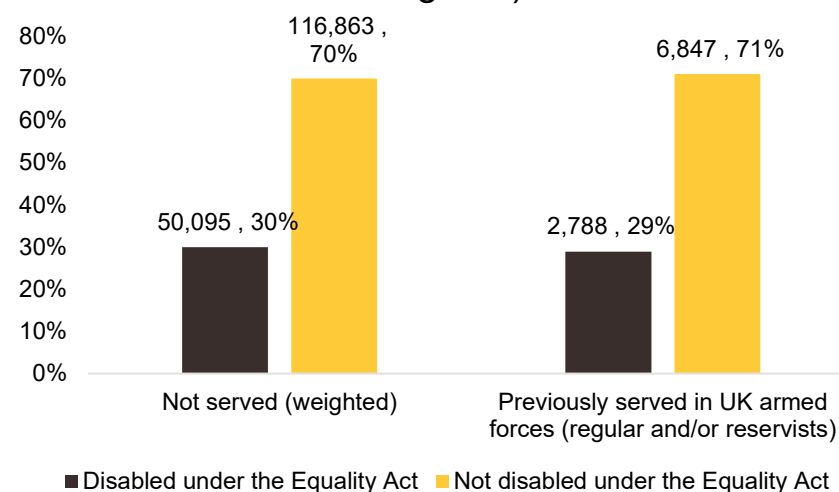
Herefordshire has fewer veterans reporting to have a disability compared to England and Wales (29% vs 32%), whereas, the adjusted non-veteran population for Herefordshire and England and Wales are the same at 30%. It is unclear why Herefordshire veterans are less likely to report a disability compared to England and Wales, and further investigation would be necessary to understand this.



Source: Census 2021 from the Office for National Statistics

Unfortunately, the data does not specify the nature of disability, so it is not possible to understand the types of disabilities that Herefordshire veterans have.

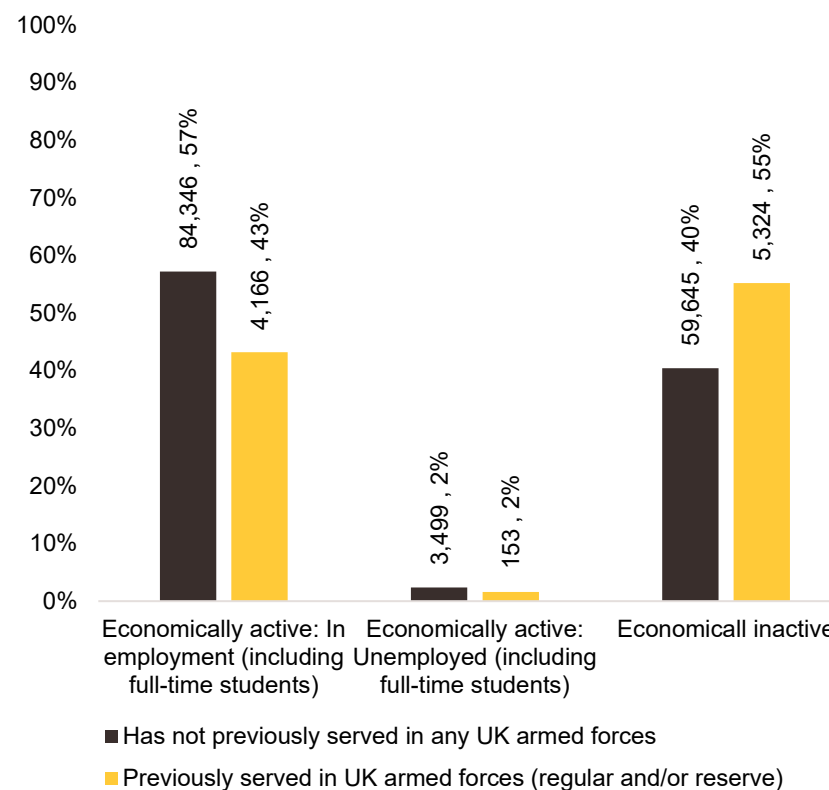
Disability in Herefordshire by veteran status (non-veteran population is weighted)



Veterans by economic activity (working age)

Herefordshire veterans who are of working age (aged 16-64) are less likely to be economically active than the non-veteran population (45% vs 60%). Those that previously served in the UK reserve armed forces are the most likely of all cohorts to be economically active. Herefordshire has fewer economically active non-veterans compared to England as a whole (60% vs 62%), but there are more economically active veterans in Herefordshire compared to veterans in England as a whole (45% vs 42%). Retirement is the main reason for economic inactivity for both veterans and non-veterans (91% and 67%). It is worth highlighting that the age of entitlement to a military pension is younger than the entitlement to a state pension, so veterans may be retiring earlier than non-veterans.

Economic status of working age people in Herefordshire by veteran status



Veterans by occupation

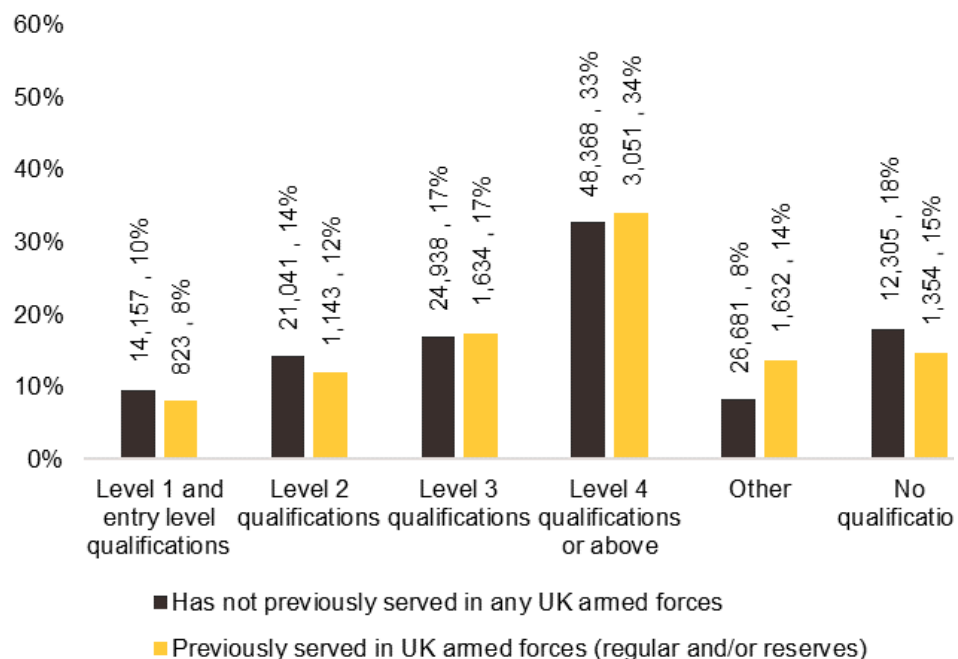
The most common occupation for veterans is “managers, directors and senior officials” (18%), which is higher than for non-veterans (13%). The majority of veterans (51%) work in the first three levels of occupations (“Managers, directors and senior officials”,

“Professional occupations” and “Associate professional and technical occupations”), compared to 40% of non-veterans.

Veterans by highest qualification

In Herefordshire, there is little variation between the highest level of qualification held between veterans and non-veterans, although veterans are less like to have no qualifications compared to non-veterans (15% vs 18%), and more like to have “other” qualifications (14% vs 8%). The breakdown of highest qualification for veterans is very similar to that seen for England, although fewer veterans in Herefordshire have no qualifications compared to England as a whole (15% vs 18%).

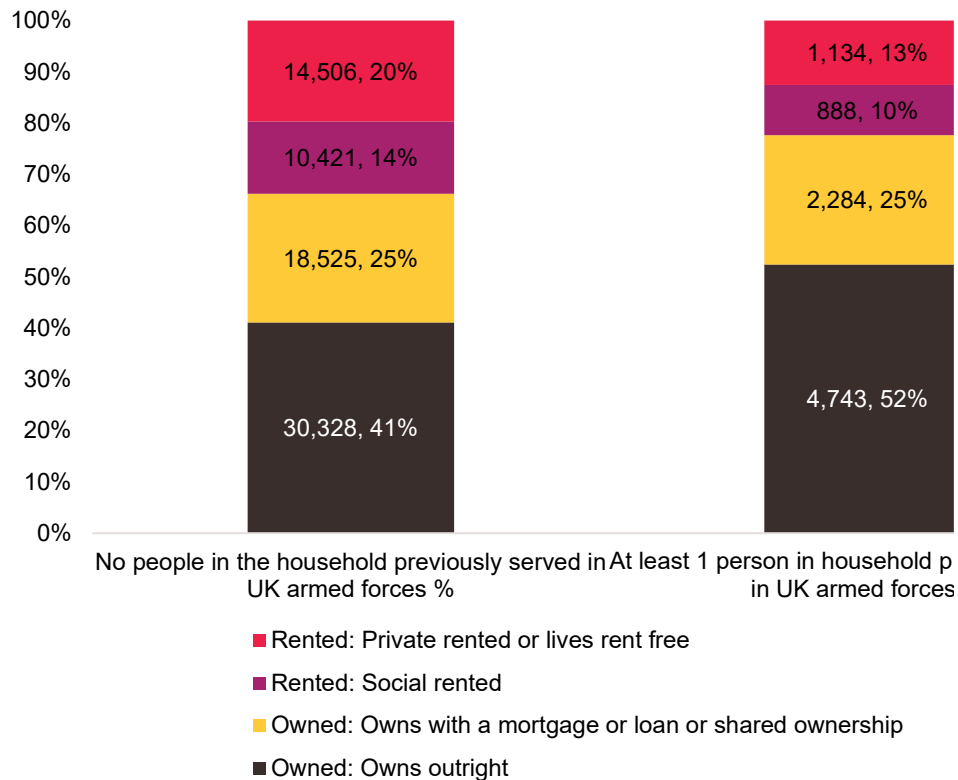
Qualifications held by veteran status in Herefordshire



Veteran households by tenure

Veterans are much more likely to own their home compared to the non-veteran population (78% vs 66%); this is likely because the non-veteran population is skewed to the older age groups where people are more likely to be in a position to purchase their own home.

Tenure by households with and without veterans Herefordshire



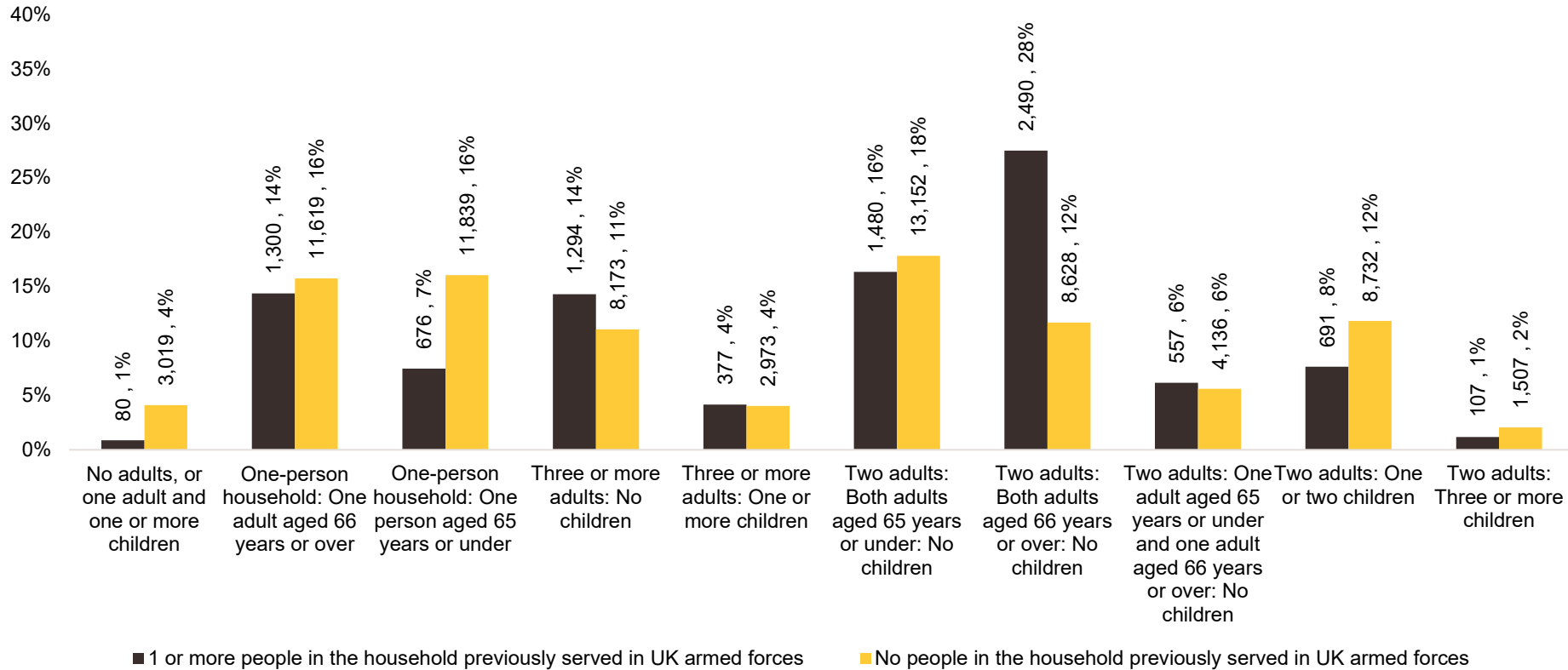
Veteran households by household makeup

Most veterans (28%) living in Herefordshire live in a household made up of 2 adults who are both aged 66 and over. This is unsurprising based on the age profile of veterans within the county. The household makeup of veterans in Herefordshire is similar to the profile seen across England for veterans, although there is a slightly higher rate of veterans aged 66 or over living alone in Herefordshire compared to England (17% vs 14%).

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Household makeup of veterans and non-veterans in Herefordshire

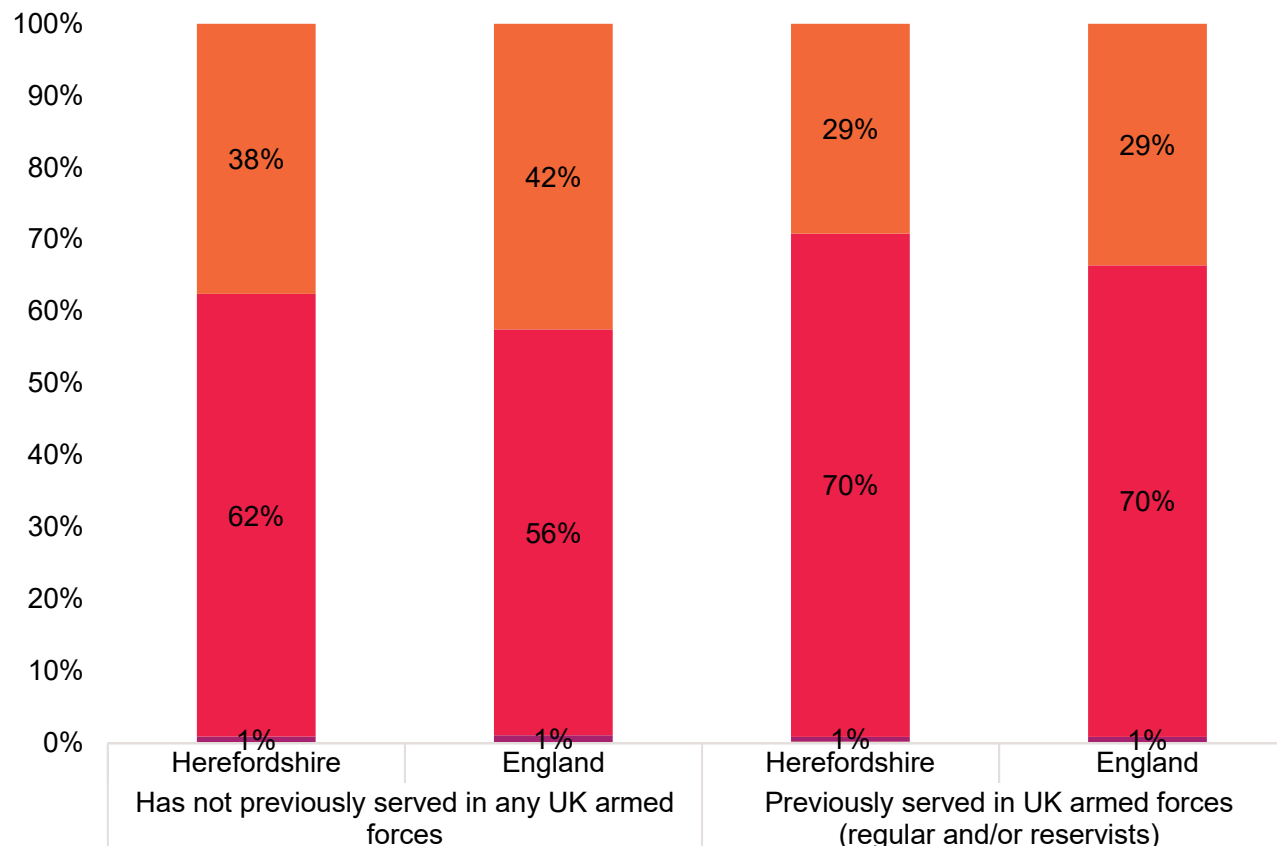


Veteran households by living arrangements

Most veterans (6,665, 70%) in Herefordshire living in an opposite-sex couple, this is the same rate as seen in England and slightly

higher than the non-veteran population in Herefordshire (62%). There are very few veterans who are living in a same-sex couple (64, 1%) in Herefordshire which is the same rate as is seen for veterans across England.

Living arrangements of veterans and non-veterans in Herefordshire and England



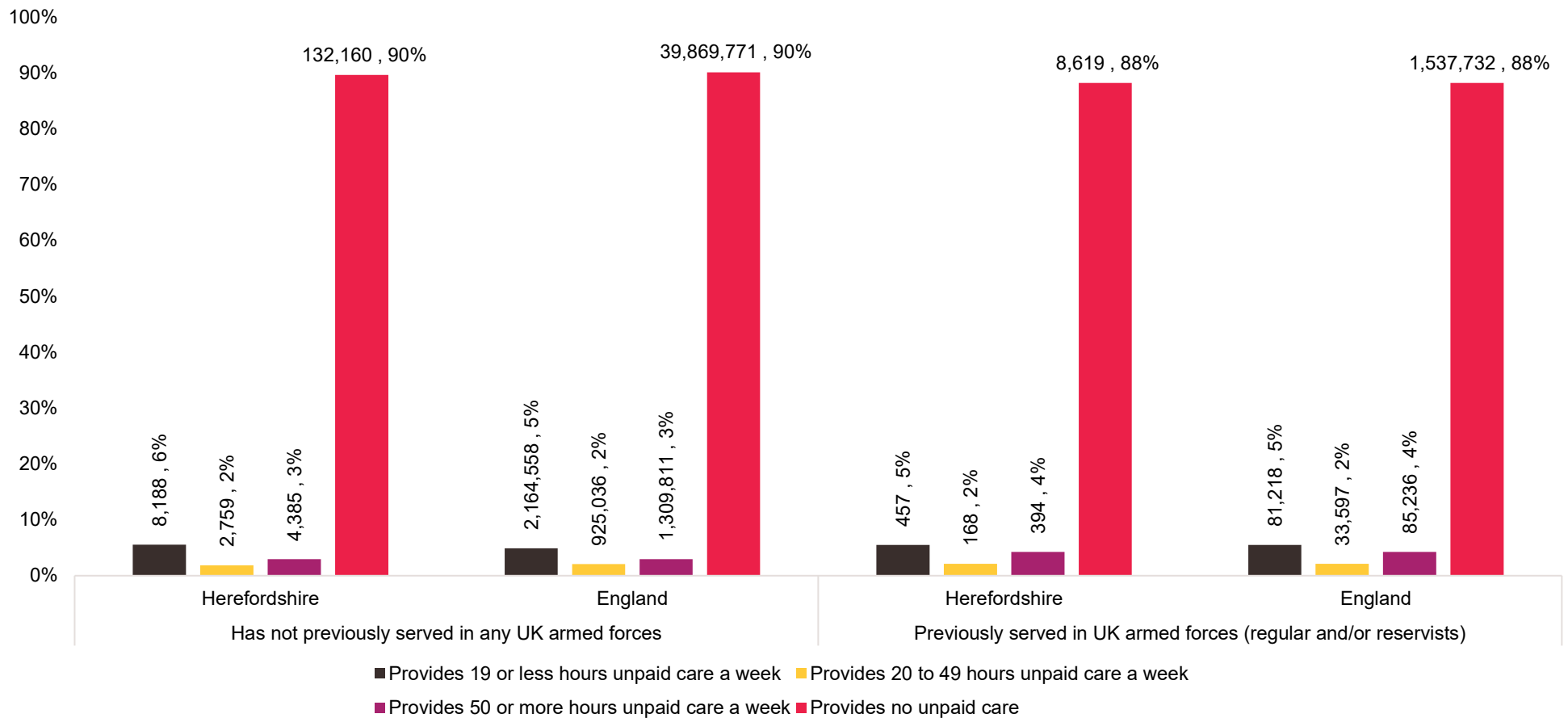
	Has not previously served in any UK armed forces - Herefordshire	Has not previously served in any UK armed forces - England	Previously served in UK armed forces (regular and/or reservists) - Herefordshire	Previously served in UK armed forces (regular and/or reservists) - England
Not living in a couple	54,581	18,421,872	2,778	571,872
Living in an opposite-sex couple	89,415	24,449,084	6,665	1,116,429
Living in a same-sex couple	1,182	437,698	64	13,120
Living in a couple, but separated (opposite-sex or same-sex couple)	134	43,764	21	1,618

Veteran households by unpaid care

There is almost no difference between the amount of unpaid care given by veterans and non-veterans both in Herefordshire and in

England. There are 1,019 veterans providing unpaid care in Herefordshire.

Unpaid care by veteran status in Herefordshire and England

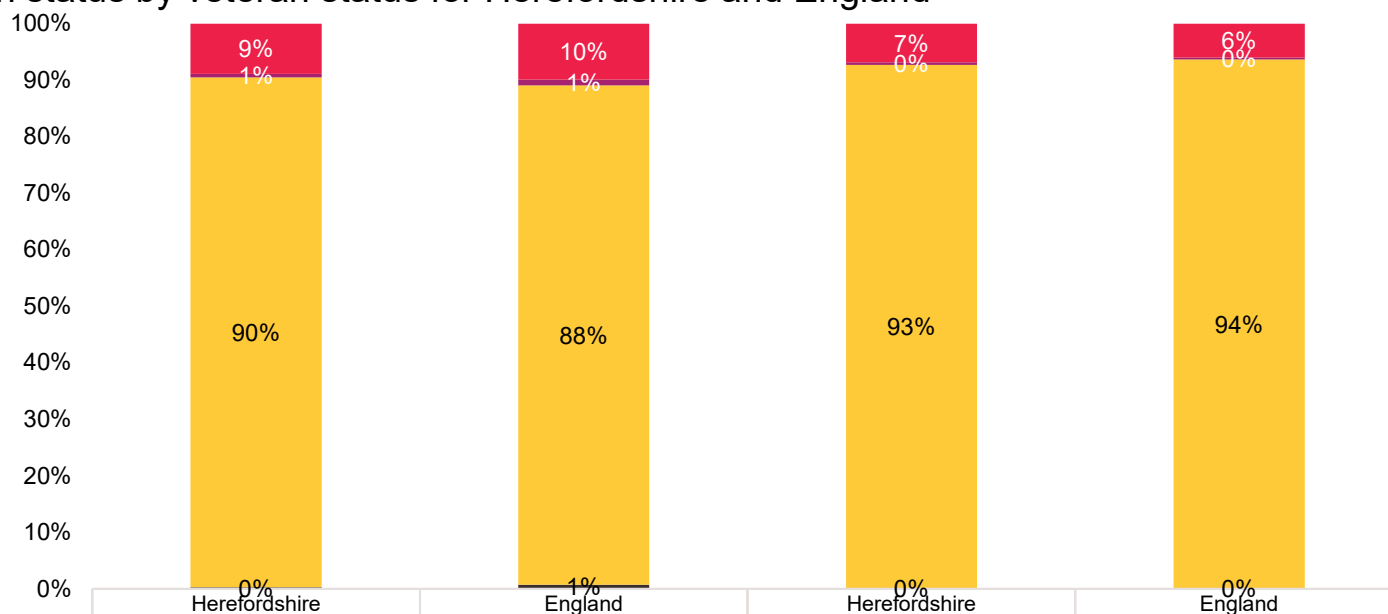


Veteran households by migration

Veterans were marginally less likely to have migrated in the past year compared to their non-veteran peers in both Herefordshire and in England as a whole. Of those that have migrated in the past year, nearly all of the migration was from within the UK, with only 45

veterans having moved to Herefordshire from outside the UK in the previous year. It is important to highlight that the Census only counts those who are veterans of the UK armed forces, and there may be more veterans from non-UK armed forces moving to and living in Herefordshire.

Migration status by veteran status for Herefordshire and England



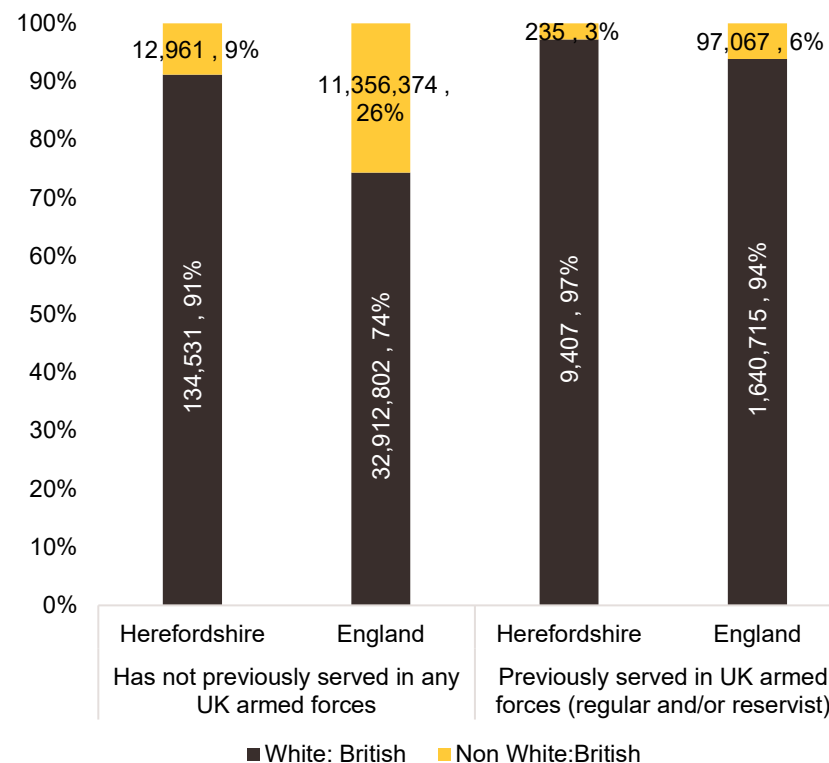
	Herefordshire	England	Herefordshire	England
■ Migrant from within the UK: Address one year ago was in the UK	13,089	4,374,013	658	104,239
■ Migrant from outside the UK: Address one year ago was outside the UK	923	446,914	45	5,979
■ Address one year ago is the same as the address of enumeration	133,095	39,123,128	8,936	1,625,740
■ Address one year ago is student term-time or boarding school address in the UK	385	325,120	2	1,822

Veteran households by ethnicity

Only 3% (235) of the veteran population in Herefordshire did not identify as White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British. This is both a smaller proportion when compared to the non-veteran population within Herefordshire and the veteran population for England. This is likely due to the fact that Herefordshire has a higher proportion of White British people than the national average, and Herefordshire's non White British population is skewed towards the younger age groups who are also less likely to be veterans. Of the 3% of non-White British veterans, half of those identified as

either White: Other or White: Irish.

Veteran status by ethnicity for Herefordshire and England



Veteran by deprivation

The 2021 census categorises households by deprivation, which is split into four domains. These domains are:

1. Education

A household is classified as deprived in the education dimension if no one has at least level 2 education and no one aged 16 to 18 years is a full-time student.

2. Employment

A household is classified as deprived in the employment dimension if any member, not a full-time student, is either unemployed or economically inactive due to long-term sickness or disability.

3. Health

A household is classified as deprived in the health dimension if any person in the household has general health that is bad or very bad or is identified as disabled.

People who have assessed their day-to-day activities as limited by long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses are considered disabled. This definition of a disabled person meets the harmonised standard for measuring disability and is in line with the Equality Act (2010).

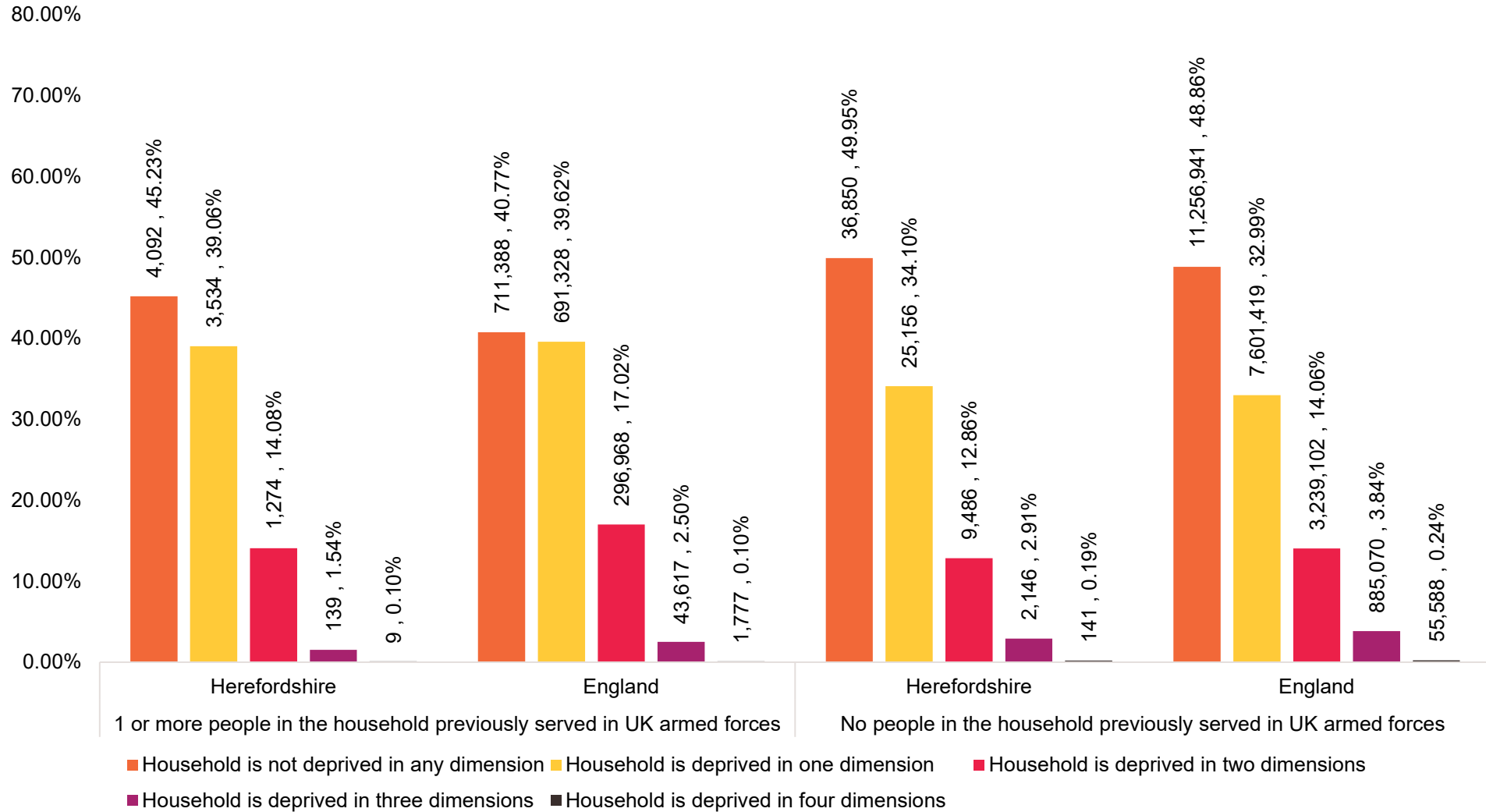
4. Housing

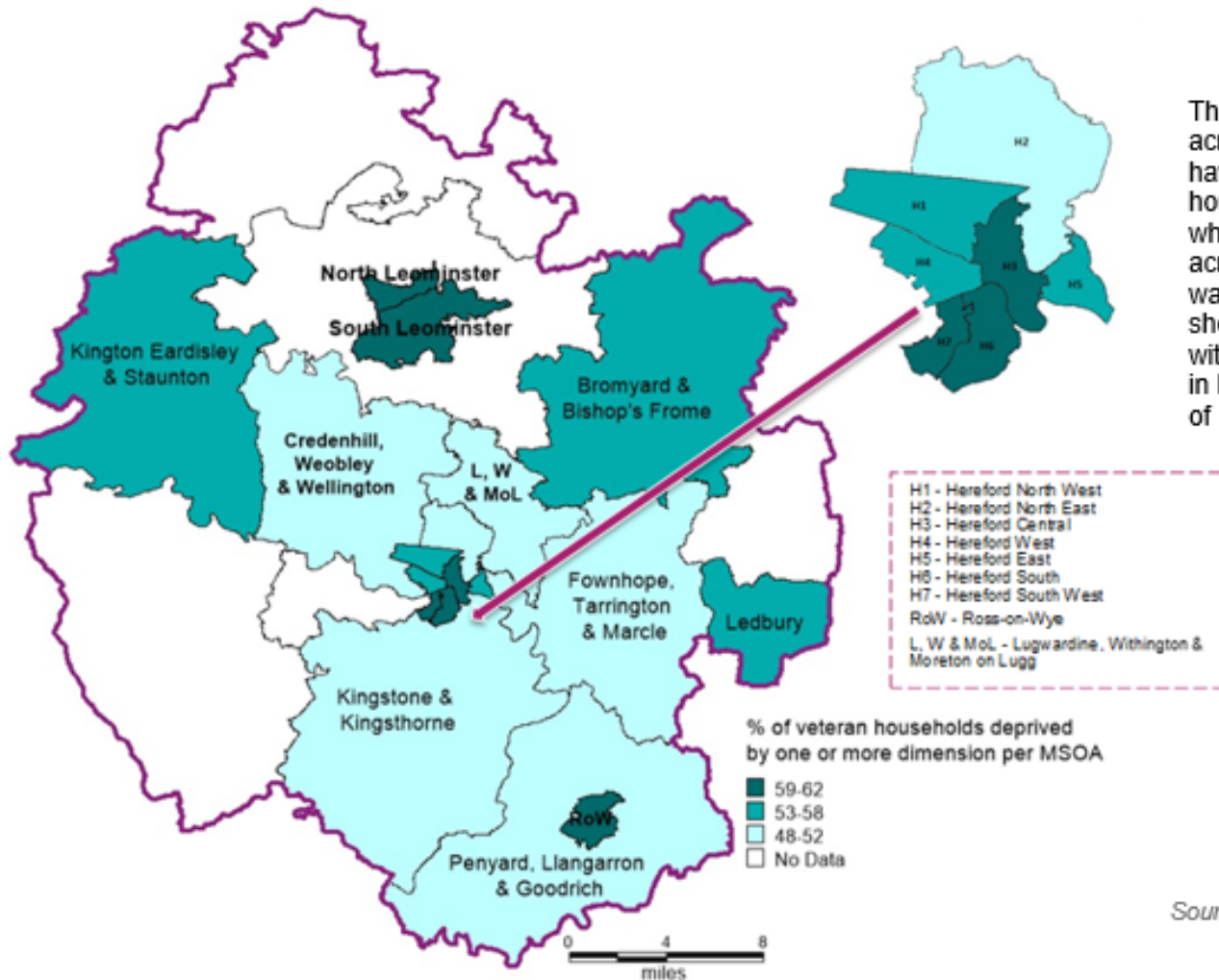
A household is classified as deprived in the housing dimension if the household's accommodation is either overcrowded, in a shared dwelling, or has no central heating.

Households where one or more people have previously served in the UK armed forces are more likely to be deprived in at least one dimension compared to household with no veterans. This is the case in Herefordshire and in England, however the gap between veteran and non-veteran households is smaller in Herefordshire than for England as a whole (5 percentage points vs 8 percentage points). When looking at being deprived in three or more dimensions, veteran households are actually marginally less likely to fall into this category than households where there are no veterans.

Over 50% (5,000) veteran households in Herefordshire are deprived in at least one domain.

Household deprivation by veteran status for Herefordshire and England





There is regional variation of deprivation across the county, with certain MSOAs having more deprived veteran households than others. The map shows where the deprivation hotspots are across the county. Please note that data was suppressed for 5 MSOAs which are shown as white on the map. The MSOAs with the highest levels of deprivation are in Leominster, Ross-on-Wye and areas of Hereford city.

Note. Middle Super Output Areas (MSOAs) are fixed statistical geographies of about 8,000 people, designed by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Source: Office for National Statistics - Census 2021

Appendix

Understanding adjusted estimates for the non-veteran population

The veteran population are older than the general population and also differ in relation to sex and where they live, and these factors interact with other personal characteristics.

For example, age can be strongly related to other personal characteristics such as legal partnership status, health and religion.

Because of this, veterans may also differ to the usual or non-veteran population when considering related factors such as health and legal partnership status.

It is important to be aware of these differences but also to understand when these differences are not attributable to experience of having previously served in the UK armed forces.

We have provided adjusted estimates for the non-veteran population in our accompanying dataset.

These are hypothetical estimates, which show what if any difference would exist between veterans and non-veterans if the two populations had the same age, sex and regional distribution.

Our adjusted estimates have been provided by using weighting. Weights have been applied to the non-veteran population.

Weights increase or decrease the influence a response has in the analysis. For example, if a person had a weight of two, that person's response would be counted twice.

If a person has a weight of 0.5, that person's response will be counted as though it applies to half a person. A weight of 1 is the equivalent of not applying a weight.

Observations that have relatively large weights have more influence in the analysis than observations that have smaller weights.

The weights were calculated using the following steps:

Census 2021 responses were split into groups based on the age bands, sex and region groupings listed in the table below as well as by whether an individual has said they were a veteran of the UK armed forces or not.

A count was taken of the number of individuals in each group.

The percentage of those in each age, sex and region grouping was then calculated for the veteran groups (based on the total number of UK armed forces veterans) and the same method was applied to the non-veteran groups.

The percentage of veterans in each age sex and region grouping was then divided by the corresponding percentage of non-veterans. This gave an initial weight for each age, sex and region group that could be applied to non-veterans.

All non-veterans within the Census were then allocated the weight that applied to their sex, age and region grouping.

All veterans were allocated a weight of 1 which is the same as making no adjustment.

Each weight that was applied to the non-veteran population was then divided by the sum of all the weights given to the non-veteran population and multiplied by the actual number of people in the non-veteran population (rounded number of non-veterans).

This last step ensured each weight was adjusted proportionally so the total number of people counted in the hypothetical non-veteran population was the same as the total number of people in the actual non-veteran population.

The weights did not affect the overall number of non-veterans but, inflated the male and older individual's responses and reduced the female and younger individuals' responses.

Table: Weights applied to the non-veteran population when assuming the same age, sex and regional distribution as the UK armed forces veteran population

Sex	Age group (years)	Regions (including Wales)	Final weight applied
Female	16-19	West Midlands	0.052682222
Female	20-24	West Midlands	0.091206126
Female	25-29	West Midlands	0.107738808
Female	30-34	West Midlands	0.144397688
Female	35-39	West Midlands	0.176488172
Female	40-44	West Midlands	0.209070515
Female	45-49	West Midlands	0.242353813
Female	50-54	West Midlands	0.250903649
Female	55-59	West Midlands	0.253600769
Female	60-64	West Midlands	0.285840227
Female	65-69	West Midlands	0.314350791
Female	70-74	West Midlands	0.285692061
Female	75-79	West Midlands	0.281672099
Female	80-84	West Midlands	0.30598742
Female	85-89	West Midlands	0.372091902
Female	90+	West Midlands	1.070944309

Male	16-19	West Midlands	0.075618309
Male	20-24	West Midlands	0.207302206
Male	25-29	West Midlands	0.421682207
Male	30-34	West Midlands	0.673626599
Male	35-39	West Midlands	0.747571792
Male	40-44	West Midlands	0.768894077
Male	45-49	West Midlands	1.084256417
Male	50-54	West Midlands	1.427453722
Male	55-59	West Midlands	1.757524977
Male	60-64	West Midlands	1.903731802
Male	65-69	West Midlands	1.757201866
Male	70-74	West Midlands	1.884288975
Male	75-79	West Midlands	2.17113335
Male	80-84	West Midlands	12.96536792
Male	85-89	West Midlands	32.8606474
Male	90+	West Midlands	34.11982255

Source: Office for National Statistics - Census 2021