

# South Oxfordshire Welfare Statistics

District Data Analysis Service  
13 August 2018

This data note summarizes welfare statistics for South Oxfordshire from DWP's Stat Xplore database. The data was downloaded in July 2018.

Note that, when comparing the graphs and the text, totals may not sum due to rounding and anonymization. This is especially true where any cell has fewer than 10 cases.

PLEASE NOTE. This is the first edition of this bulletin. Please don't hesitate to give feedback on data content, presentation or any other aspect of the document. **Your comments would be greatly appreciated.**

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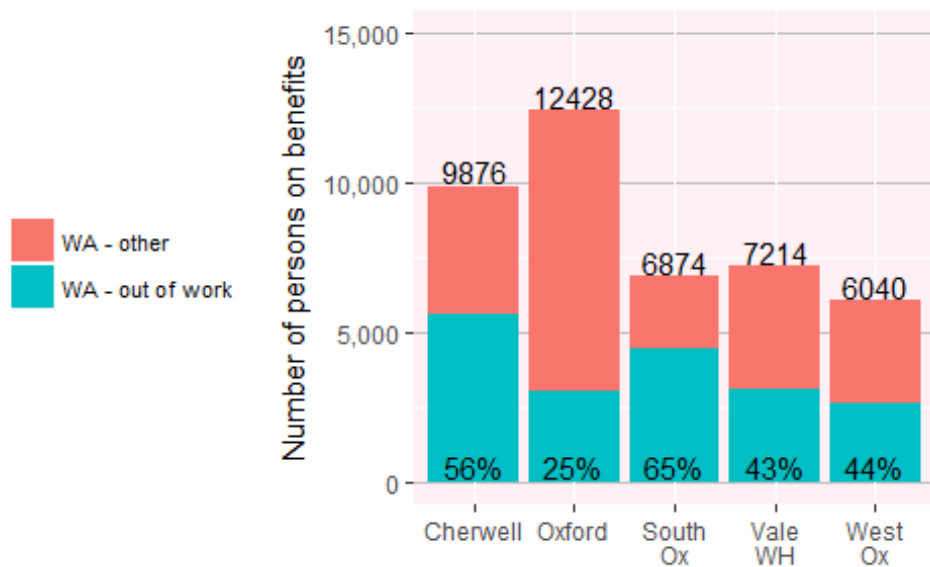
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## A. All Benefits

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1. As can be seen from Figure 1, there are 6,874 working-age benefit claimants of working age in South Oxfordshire.
  - Of these, 65% are on out-of-work benefits.
  - In addition, South Oxfordshire has 28,421 benefit claimants of pension age.

**Figure 1: Working Age Benefit Claimants, Oxfordshire Nov-17**



*Note: percentages give the proportion of Working Age claimants who are out of work.*

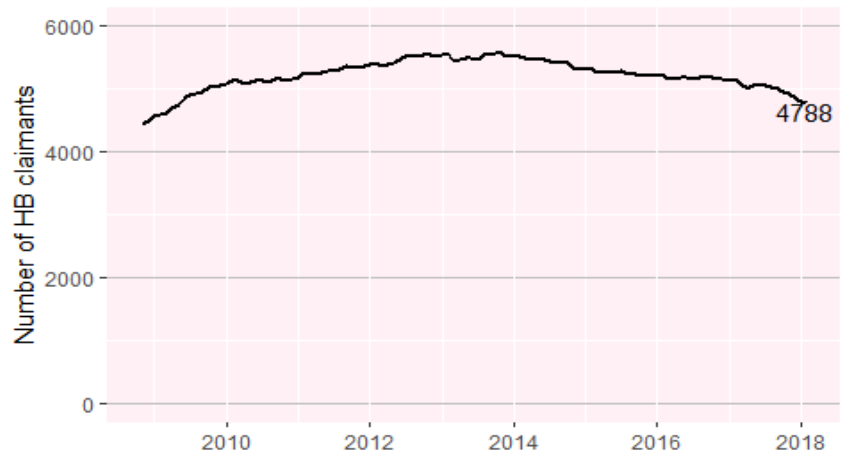
2. In the past, it was possible to divide benefit claimants into client groups. This split is no longer available.

## B. Housing Benefit

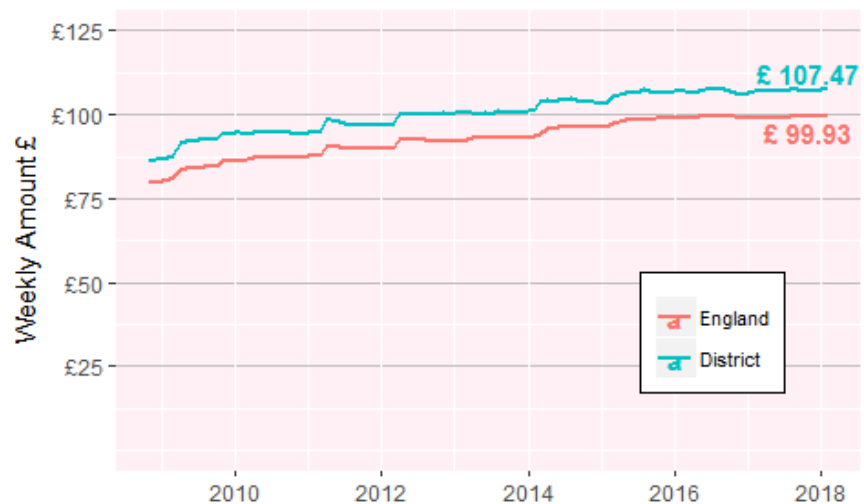
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3. There were 4788 cases of Housing Benefit in South Oxfordshire in Feb-18.
4. *Trends.* Over the last few years, the number of HB cases has decreased and the average amount they receive has stayed flat. See Figures 2 and 3. Here are some factors that may have affected the trends:
  - 2013: The spare room reduction was introduced.
  - 2016: The family premium was withdrawn for future children.
  - 2016: A four-year freeze on benefit rates was introduced.
  - In addition, Universal Credit has been phasing in over the last few years (see below); this contains an element which replaces Housing Benefit.

**Figure 2: South Oxfordshire, HB claimants**

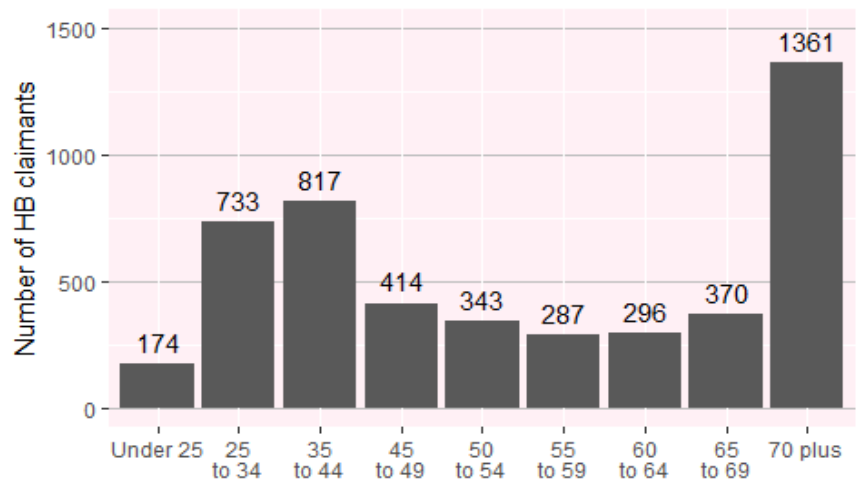


**Figure 3: South Oxfordshire, HB amounts**



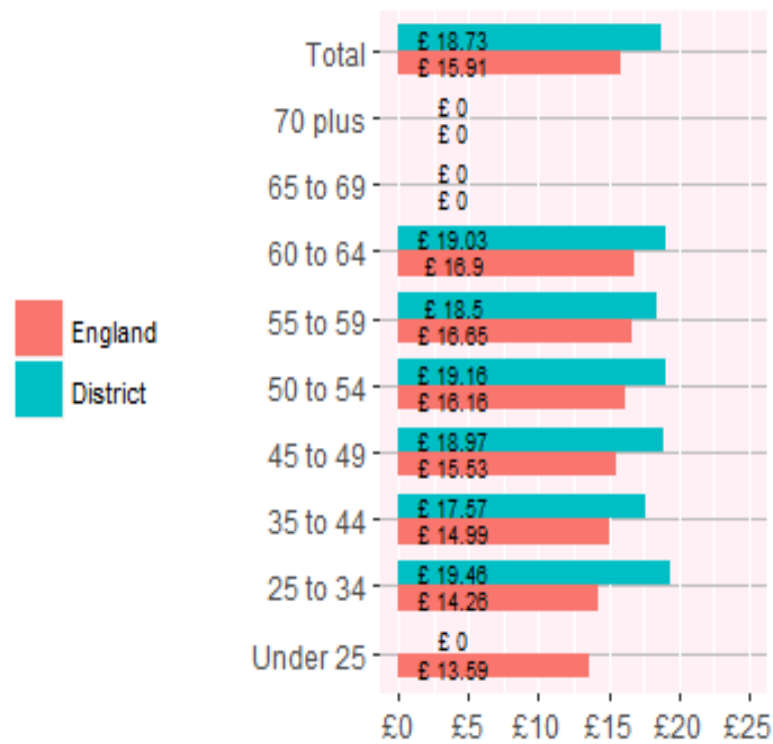
5. *Age Bands.* In South Oxfordshire, the majority of HB claimants are aged 25-44 or 70+. See Figure 4.

**Figure 4: South Oxfordshire, HB claimants by age**



6. *Spare room reduction.* This was introduced in Apr-13. In South Oxfordshire, 300 Housing Benefit cases had money removed as a result of having a spare room; this is 6.3% of all HB claimants. See Figure 5.

**Figure 5: South Oxfordshire, amount of Spare Room Reduction**

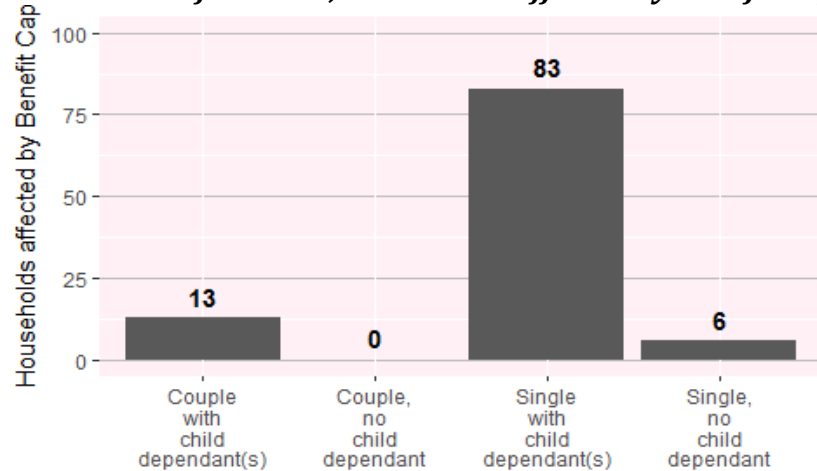


## C. Benefit Cap

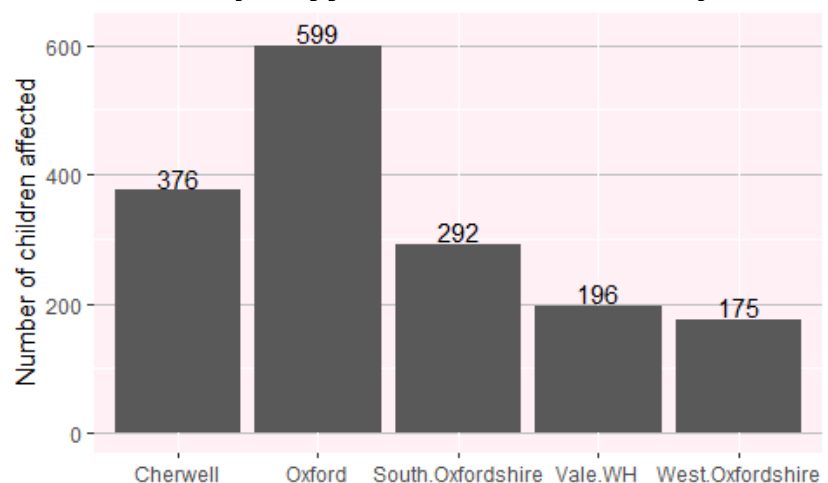
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7. *Background.* The benefit cap was introduced to limit the total amount that can be received in welfare by any household.
  - Summer 2013: The benefit cap was introduced, limiting a household's welfare to £26,000 a year (for Oxfordshire).
  - Nov-16: The benefit cap was lowered to a rate of £20,000 per household (for Oxfordshire).
  - Nov-16: Those receiving the carers element on Universal Credit are exempted from the benefit cap.
  
8. *Caseload.* In South Oxfordshire in Nov-17, 95 households had their benefits capped. Further, 292 children were in affected households. See Figures 6 and 7.

**Figure 6: South Oxfordshire, households affected by benefit cap**

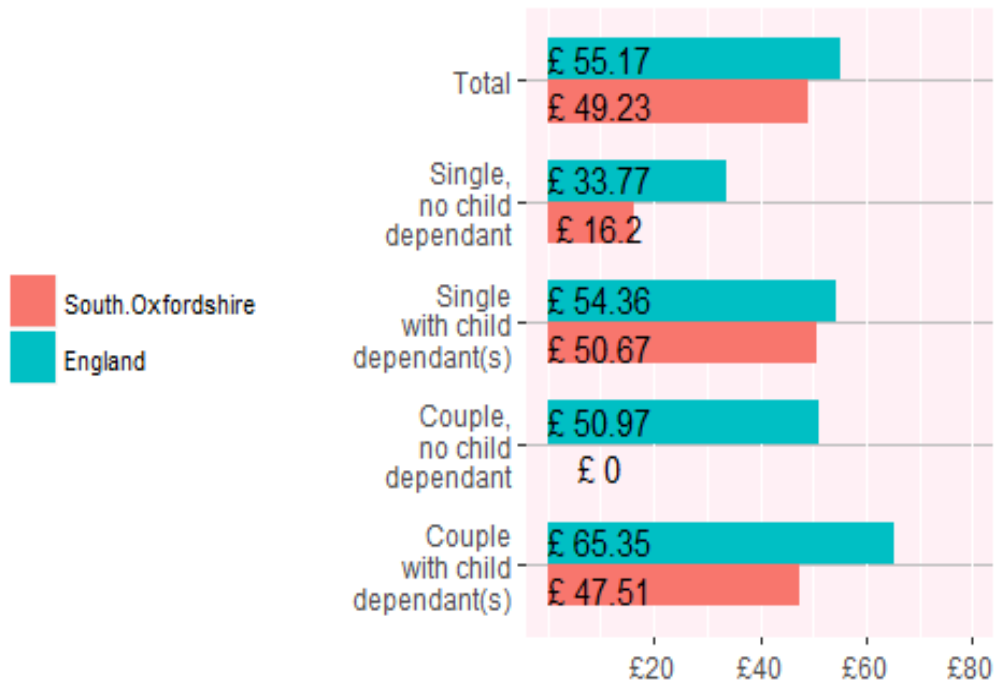


**Figure 7: Number of children in benefit capped households, across Oxfordshire**

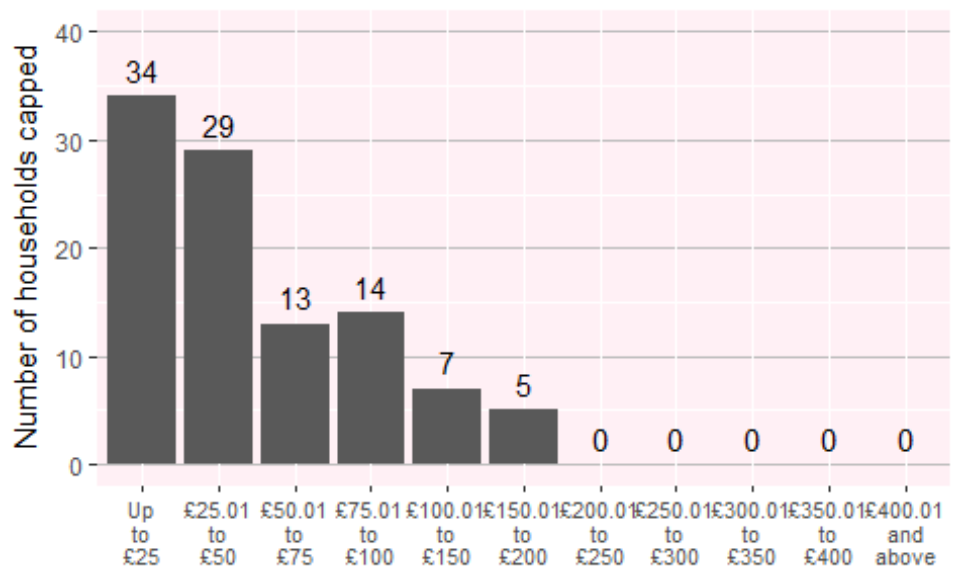


9. *Average amounts.* In South Oxfordshire in Nov-17, the average amount of benefit capped was £49.23. This compares with an average of £55.17 for England as a whole. See Figures 8 and 9.

**Figure 8: South Oxfordshire, amount of benefit capped**



**Figure 9: South Oxfordshire, amount of benefit capped in bands**

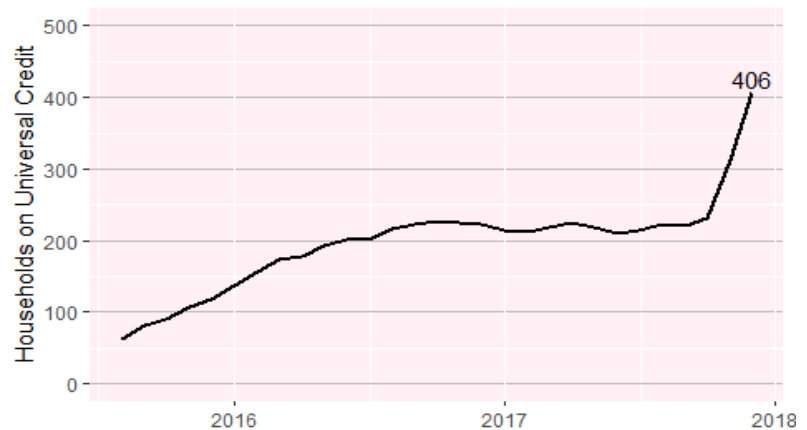


## D. Universal Credit

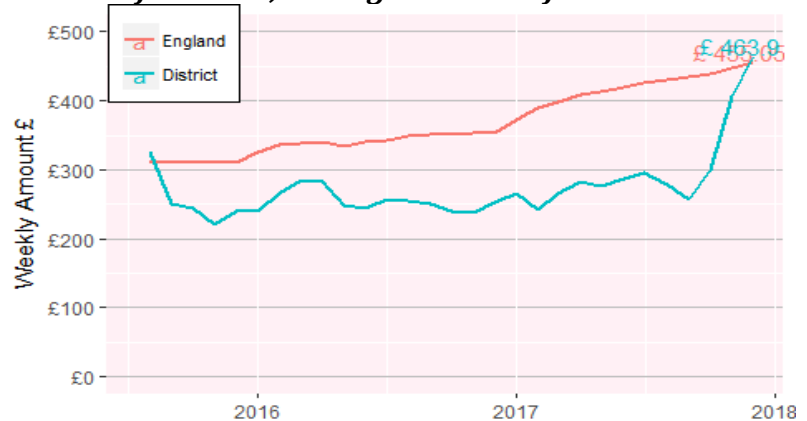
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10. *Background.* Universal Credit was introduced to replace a range of other benefits. It has been phasing in across the UK since 2013.
  - Until 2017, Universal Credit was the new benefit available for 'simple' cases (largely, single people looking for work).
  - From autumn 2017 onwards, UC has been rolled out in full across Oxfordshire districts. It now replaces some or all elements of the following: Housing Benefit, Jobseekers' Allowance, Employment & Support Allowance, Income Support, Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit (HB, JSA, ESA, IS, WTC, CTC).
11. *Caseload.* In Dec-17 there were 406 households in South Oxfordshire on Universal Credit. The average amount is £463.9, compared to £455.05 across England as a whole. See Figures 10 and 11.

**Figure 10: South Oxfordshire, numbers on Universal Credit**



**Figure 11: South Oxfordshire, average amount of Universal Credit**

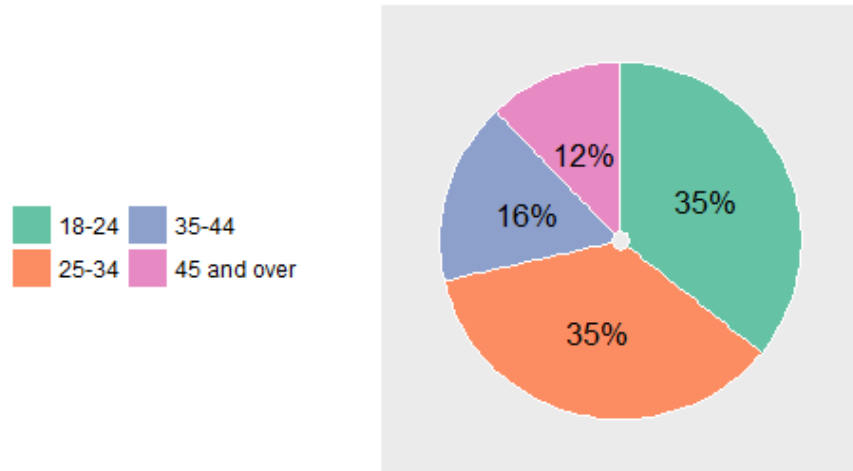


## E. Nino registrations

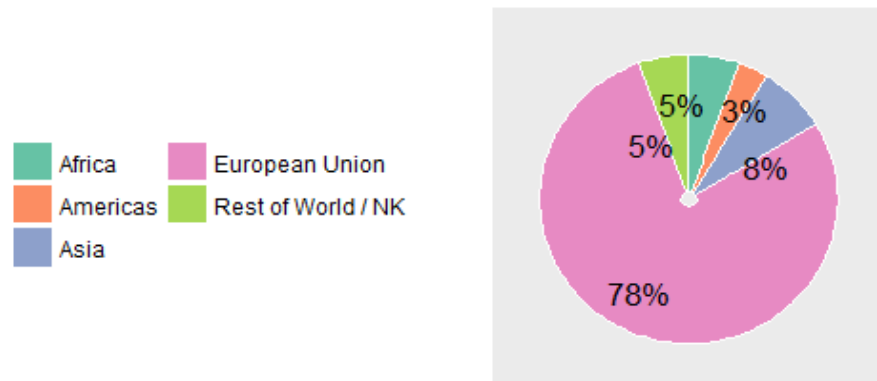
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12. *Breakdown.* In 2017 in South Oxfordshire, 959 individuals registered for National Insurance numbers (NINOs). This includes 13 children aged under 18.
13. It is possible to break down these 959 individuals to understand more about their age and country of origin. See Figures 12 and 13.
  - The majority come from the EU. However, this proportion has been decreasing since about 2014.
  - More than two-thirds of registrations are to individuals under the age of 35.

**Figure 12: South Oxfordshire, breakdown of NINO registrations by age**



**Figure 13: South Oxfordshire, breakdown of NINO registrations by origin**





14. *Trend.* Nino registrations are not an exact reflection of migration; for example, short-term visitors may apply for a Nino. However, the trend in Nino registrations reflects immigration events nationally.
- 2004: The 'EU8' countries join the EU
  - 2008 and 2009: the dip possibly reflects the recession in those years
  - 2013: citizens from 'EU2' countries (Romania and Bulgaria) are permitted to travel visa-free to the UK
  - 2016: Brexit referendum.

**Figure 14: South Oxfordshire, Nino registrations**

