

Renfrewshire Today

(Renfrewshire Today was compiled Aug-Sep 2013 using a wide range of data sources. Readers should note that every effort was made in seeking the latest available information at that point in time. However some of the data used was already dated at the time of writing and may already be superseded. For example, data set releases of Scotland's 2011 Census - found at <http://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk> - continue to be released in stages. Further data set releases are expected from 2011 Census in 2014. For the latest up to date picture, readers are encouraged to always seek out and view the latest available data.)

Population and protected characteristic groups

The total population for Scotland and Renfrewshire on Census day 2011 was higher than predicted – Renfrewshire's being 174,908 – an increase of 1.2% since the previous census was lower than the 4.6% increase across the whole of Scotland.

The mid 2012 population estimate for Renfrewshire was 174,310 a decrease of 0.3% since Census 2011 day while Scotland's estimate was an increase of 0.3%.

Positive net migration into Scotland is seen as the main contributing factor to the increased population. However in Renfrewshire, because it has similar birth and death rates and experienced a smaller population increase than the rest of Scotland, the influx of migrants is considered to have been lower than the rest of Scotland.

Age

It's generally acknowledged that the whole of the UK has an ageing population. Renfrewshire's proportion of under 15 year olds was 17.6% - slightly less than expected while the proportion of the population over 65 years of age was 16.9% - close to predictions. The median age of males in Renfrewshire matches the national level (40), whilst for females it's 1 year older than Scotland (43).

Sex

There is a slightly greater percentage of females in Renfrewshire than Scotland (51.9% v 51.5%). The under 25's are the only age category where there are more males than females in Renfrewshire. Gender pay gap has improved over recent years but continues to be significant (female pay 82% of males in 2012).

Ethnicity

Accurate estimations of the size of Renfrewshire's minority ethnic population are difficult to ascertain and limited to periodic Census gathering. Renfrewshire's ethnic population, is considered to be very low but slowly increasing.

The total white Scottish/British population has gone from 97.9% in 2001 to 95.57% in 2011 a drop of 2.33% which is smaller than the reduction across Scotland. Migration trends have changed. There are now more people moving to Scotland, rather than away, from other parts of the UK and overseas. Most people moving to and from Scotland are young rather than old – between 16 and 34, with smaller peaks for children under 5 moving to and from Scotland. Because Renfrewshire's birth and death rates are very similar to the national rates and yet Renfrewshire's population increase was 3.4% less than the national rate it could be extrapolated that the number of people coming to Renfrewshire from outside Scotland is also less than the national rate and therefore the influx of migrants to Renfrewshire is slower than the rest of Scotland. There is also evidence which suggests Renfrewshire's new migrant population is in relative terms smaller than the whole of Scotland and that new migrants to Scotland tend to settle elsewhere rather than Renfrewshire.

Over 91% of Renfrewshire residents were born in Scotland, almost 5% from the rest of the UK, almost 2% from EU countries and 2.4% from other countries. More people in Renfrewshire describe themselves as solely Scottish, or Scottish & British, than national levels. There are almost 1% fewer Asian / Asian Scottish / Asian British and EU (Non-UK/Eire) populations in Renfrewshire than Scotland. Over 1% of Renfrewshire population speak either no English or to a low level. Of those Renfrewshire residents that were born outside of the UK, over 46% have been resident in UK for over 10 years. Over 7000 Renfrewshire residents use a language other than English at home.

Research indicates that minority ethnic community groups often struggle to sustain themselves without adequate support particularly in areas like Renfrewshire where minority ethnic communities are perceived to be small. Many have a need for services specific to their community, such as events and celebrations which are identifiable to their culture faith and/or belief, information and advice services, and additional language support.

Disability

A higher proportion of Renfrewshire's population have a learning disability than the average across Scotland although this gap is closing from 1.4 persons per 1,000 population in 2011 to 0.2 in 2012 as Renfrewshire's proportion reduces from 7.0 persons per 1,000 population in 2011 to 6.2 in 2012. Renfrewshire's proportional reduction is possibly due in part to improved recording of those who have a learning disability.

Renfrewshire's number of known adults with a learning disability has reduced however the percentage of those living with a family carer has increased by 4.8% while across Scotland there has been a reduction of 3.5%. Those adults with a learning disability in Renfrewshire living in mainstream accommodation, including with or without support, and those in registered adult care homes have reduced in line with the overall reduction in Renfrewshire. Those living in supported accommodation reduced by only 3.2%. However across Scotland those living in mainstream accommodation increased 10.2% and those in registered adult care homes and those in supported accommodation both reduced by 19.0%.

There were 33 more adults with learning difficulties in employment in Renfrewshire during 2012, an increase in the percentage of the total adults from 5.9% to 10.5%. Although numbers are small the increase is good compared to Scotland overall which saw a decrease of 653 from 15.5% to 13.0% of all adults with learning disabilities.

Typically only a third of people visually impaired register with a local authority and in Renfrewshire that's between 0.6% and 0.7% which is similar to the Scottish percentage.

Renfrewshire, with 6.3%, has a slightly higher percentage of the population claiming incapacity benefit/severe disability allowance than the whole of Scotland with Ferguslie, one of the most deprived areas in Scotland, having more than 2.5 times more claimants than the Renfrewshire average.

Marriage and civil partnerships

The number of new marriages in 2012 has increased by around 26% since 2002. Over half of those marrying are aged 25 to 34 years. Meanwhile, the number of civil partnerships in Renfrewshire remains very low.

There were 631 marriages in Renfrewshire in 2012, an increase of 7.3% from 2011. In Renfrewshire 8.5% of people marrying in 2012 were aged 16-24 years, 51.2% were aged 25-34, 22.7% were aged 35 to 44 years and 17.7% aged 45+ years.

Age Group	No. of people marrying in Renfrewshire	No. of people marrying in Scotland	% of people marrying in Renfrewshire	% of people marrying in Scotland
16-24	107	5,430	8.5%	8.9%
25-34	646	29,834	51.2%	48.9%
35-44	286	14,044	22.7%	23.0%
45+	223	11,760	17.7%	19.3%
All ages 2012	1,262	61,068	100.0%	100.0%
All ages 2011	1,176	58,270	100.0%	100.0%

The number of new civil partnerships in Renfrewshire decreased in 2012 compared with 2011 for men, but increased for women, but the numbers are only single figures (1 male and 6 female). During the same period, across Scotland, there was an increase of 13% in male and 3% decrease in female civil partnerships.

Religion or belief

The overwhelming majority, almost 60%, of Renfrewshire's population are Christians predominantly belonging to the Church of Scotland and Roman Catholic faiths, but almost a third, 32.7%, of people living in Renfrewshire say they have 'no religion'. Almost 2% of the population belong to another faith which includes being Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh. In broad terms Renfrewshire's religion or belief spectrum is similar to the national picture.

Sexual orientation including transgender

Accurate information on the sexual orientation, including transgender, of Renfrewshire's population is difficult to ascertain. The Household Survey 2011 shows a percentage estimation of the size of different sexual identity groups within Scotland from 12,893 respondents. 98.4% of adults identified themselves as heterosexual or straight and 1% identified themselves as lesbian, gay, bisexual or other. Because Renfrewshire's rate of recorded hate incidents is lower than the rest of Scotland it's likely that Renfrewshire's LGBT population will be smaller rather than larger than the Scottish level.

Pregnancy or maternity leave

Between 1998 and 2012 there was an 11% reduction in the number of total maternities within Renfrewshire. The number of teenage pregnancies (<16) in Renfrewshire from 2006/08 to 2009/11 has been higher than the national average while abortion rates for Renfrewshire have consistently been below the national average for the last 15 years. Renfrewshire mothers between 35 and 39 years old have increased by 29% and those over 40 years old have increased by 100% (1998 to 2012).

Renfrewshire's live birth rate and smoking during pregnancy rate are consistent with the national average while the rate of babies being exclusively breastfed is lower than the national average. Some intermediate data zones appear to have 'poorer' pregnancy habits than others. In other words, it tends to be the same intermediate data zones that have lower smoking during pregnancy and higher breastfeeding rates than others.

Life in Renfrewshire

Life expectancy

As one may expect from an area comprising approximately 175,000 people, living within a spread of urban and rural locations, life expectations are varied. This variation is most explicit within male life expectancy, where the difference equates to over 16 years between certain areas. Almost 70% of areas within Renfrewshire have a lower male life expectancy than the Scottish average. Female life expectancy within Renfrewshire, as with Scotland overall, is higher than male. Once again, however, there is a significant disparity between some areas (14 years) and the vast majority of Renfrewshire areas have a poorer life expectancy than Scotland.

Life within Renfrewshire

Renfrewshire is the 9th most income deprived Scottish local authority area, with almost 15% of the population viewed as income deprived. In recent years, the depth of deprivation has increased with more Renfrewshire data zones exhibiting the highest level of income deprivation. Last year it was estimated that 19% of children in Renfrewshire were growing up in poverty, with around 10% (3000 children) in severe poverty. As with life expectancy, a significant disparity exists within Renfrewshire, with levels ranging from 7% to 31%.

Whilst employment levels remain on par with Scotland, Renfrewshire eclipses the national unemployment rate by around 1%. This is reflected in both a lower ratio of jobs available per population, and a significantly higher proportion of JSA claimants per unfilled vacancy - against both Scotland and UK levels. Renfrewshire residents are more likely to be claiming key out-of-work benefits and for longer periods, when compared to national averages.

Poor health affects many within Renfrewshire. Whilst having levels of Cancer and Coronary Heart Disease in line with national averages, early deaths of those under 75 within certain areas are twice the Scottish level. Drug and alcohol misuse continues to blight many communities, and can be seen within increased hospitalisations and deaths in recent years. Use of prescribed drugs for anxiety or depression is above the national rate by around 10% in the majority of intermediate zone areas. Within certain age groups, males in Renfrewshire exhibit a death rate three times higher than females. Male suicides in Renfrewshire are also 6% higher than the national rate while the female rate is in line with the national rate. Births to teenage mothers in Renfrewshire are above the national rate, whilst new mother's over 40 have doubled since 1998. Those areas within Renfrewshire that exhibit higher levels of smoking during pregnancy also fall below the national rate for breastfeeding.

Crime levels in Renfrewshire have generally been falling since 1996/97 however there are persistent hotspot areas of crime involving drugs, violence and anti social behaviour which tend to coincide with areas of deprivation.

Physical security

Renfrewshire suffers from community safety and public protection issues like many other local authority areas. Many negative social demographic factors are long term and continue to have an influence on people's security. There are clear links between alcohol, drugs, crime and violence in public and at home.

The numbers of crimes committed across Renfrewshire for most crime types have been declining in recent years. Apart from yearly fluctuations, long term trends over the past 15 years on non-sexual violence, dishonesty crimes, crimes against property and offences for drunkenness are all positive with reductions in all yet crimes involving drugs have generally increased over the same period. However, encouragingly since 2009/10 there has been a 30% reduction in drug crimes. Arguably recent reductions in crime might be attributable to increased stop search activity carried out by Police and a combination of good partnership working through the Community Safety Hub and youth diversionary activities.

Reporting of domestic violence has been trending upwards in recent years but that must be viewed in the context that during this time anti domestic violence media campaigns and reporting strategies have been at the forefront of Police and Community Partner activities to give victims of violence the confidence to report and provide mechanisms for third parties to report such incidence of violence. Numbers of hate incidents both racist and homophobic/transphobic are also tending to increase slightly but again this may in part be due to increased recognition of the problem. However, over the long term Renfrewshire's rate of hate incidents is below that experienced across Scotland.

Vulnerable groups of people including children, minority ethnic communities, and victims of domestic abuse need support to remain safe. Promotion of equality and fairness with good relations fostered between diverse communities and the development of a tolerant society where no individual or group is subject to hate crime must be strived for. While the plight of vulnerable children and the need for child protection are well embedded in the public consciousness, knowledge and understanding of vulnerable adults and a growing acceptance of the concept that adults need protection has resulted in the number of adult protection referrals soaring over 1000% in recent years. Vulnerable adults are those over 16 years old who may suffer from drug or alcohol abuse, disability, illness or a mental or physical condition and are in danger of being harmed, abused or even financially exploited by anyone, including their own family.

Many actions and activities have been undertaken in recent years by Community Partners in working towards making Renfrewshire a safer place to work and live. To that end surveys carried out of the general public in Renfrewshire show positive signs with people being more satisfied that their neighbourhood is a safer place to live and arguably show that the public perceive Renfrewshire is becoming a safer place to live although the perception of Renfrewshire's town centres being unsafe at night still remains.

Health

Poor health

More than half of Renfrewshire's 214 data zones exhibit a poorer level of illness than Scotland overall. Almost 7% of these data zones have twice the national level of illness.

Renfrewshire has similar rates of cancer registration, coronary heart disease (CHD) and diabetes to the national average – either a few points above or below. However, comparing the early deaths of those under 75 from cancer or CHD shows Renfrewshire's rate to be higher than the national average. In particular some intermediate data zones have rates which are twice the national average. These zones tend to be those with the higher hospitalisation rates which are also the most deprived areas of Renfrewshire and Scotland. Of course the cumulative effect being a lower life expectancy in these zones.

It's a mixed picture regarding hospital admission rates. Renfrewshire's 3 year average emergency hospital admission rate is well above the Scottish average, with more than half of Renfrewshire intermediate zones above the national average. Multiple hospitalisations for older patients, from the majority of data zones in Renfrewshire, are also above the national average rate. Renfrewshire's 3 year average alcohol related hospitalisations, however, compares well with the national average but there are also deprived areas that have an alcohol hospitalisation rate twice the national average. In general, the same intermediate zones are consistently higher than the Scottish average for any type of hospitalisation.

Over the last few years, Renfrewshire has consistently had zero waiting time for alcohol and drug services to be allocated to those who require treatment with 87% of those receiving treatment within 4 weeks. Drug-misuse discharges from hospital have risen over 60% in the five years up to March 2012.

Smoking habits by adults in Renfrewshire appear to be similar to national trends. However there may slowly be a change in this trend as recent studies show that the uptake rate of smoking cessation services in Renfrewshire is almost 2% higher than the national rate.

Over 10% of Renfrewshire's Primary 1 pupils in 2011/12 were at risk of becoming overweight, with just under that figure being viewed as at risk of becoming obese. Less than 1% of Primary 1 pupils were at risk of becoming underweight.

Poor mental health

A higher percentage of Renfrewshire's population are being prescribed drugs for anxiety and or depression than the whole of Scotland. Renfrewshire also has a higher 3 year average rate of psychiatric hospitalisations in 2007/09 with in excess of 20% of Renfrewshire's intermediate data zones being more than twice the national rate. Admissions for mental illness have, however, been consistently falling each year since 2008/09 to approximately two thirds the number by 2011/12. Encouragingly, the number of admissions is falling but also re-admissions, which make up the larger share of admissions, accounts for the larger part of the total fall. Possibly indicating that treatment is working and patients don't have to be re-hospitalised so often or at all.

Births

Between 1998 and 2012 there has been an 11% reduction in the number of total maternities within Renfrewshire, with just a 0.8% reduction in Scotland overall.

The number of teenage pregnancies in Renfrewshire has varied above and below the national average for approximately the last 20 years but in recent times from 2006/08 to 2009/11 pregnancies to those under 16 years has been higher than the national average. Abortion rates for Renfrewshire have consistently been below the national average for the last 15 years.

Renfrewshire mothers between 35 and 39 years old have increased by 29% and those over 40 years old and have increased by 100% (1998 to 2012). This increase in women giving birth at an older age potentially brings with it an increased pressure upon local health and social care services.

Renfrewshire's live birth rate and smoking during pregnancy rate are consistent with the national average while the rate of babies being exclusively breastfed is lower than the national average. Of the 15 intermediate data zones where the live birth rate is above the national average all but two are above the national average for smoking during pregnancy, and all but one zone is below the national breast feeding rate. This tends to show that the same intermediate data zones have 'poorer' pregnancy habits than others. In other words, it tends to be the same intermediate data zones that have lower smoking during pregnancy and higher breastfeeding rates than others.

Overall immunisation rates for children at 2 years old is good, being slightly higher than the national average, with more than half of intermediate data zones having 98% or better uptake. Those zones with the lowest immunisation rates also have the higher birth rates.

Deaths

Death rates by gender within Renfrewshire, against the national picture, are mixed. Where males have a higher death rate in all but one age group, females have a lower or equal rate in all but one age group. Within Renfrewshire, the male death rate is significantly higher; it is twice the rate in the 15-29 year old category, and almost three times higher in the 30-44 year old category.

This gender split is also apparent within suicides, where the male rate within Renfrewshire is over 6% higher than Scotland, whilst the female rate is almost 0.5% lower than Scotland.

Since 1991, deaths within the 60-69 and 70-79 age groups have fallen by 38% and 21% respectively, whilst deaths amongst the over 80's has increased by 37%.

Between 1979 and 2012, alcohol-related deaths in Renfrewshire have increased by 70%. Renfrewshire has had an annual average of 17 drug-related deaths between 2001 and 2011.

Education and training

Adult Literacy

The most in-depth survey on adult literacy in recent years was undertaken at a Scottish level, however, there are still many findings pertinent to Renfrewshire. Just over a quarter of the working age population were identified as facing everyday problems due to their literacy levels. Those people scoring at the very lowest level were most likely to stay in a deprived area, have an income below £15,000 (whether through low paid work or unemployment), have poor educational attainment, and were less likely to be regularly utilising computer resources.

School Education & Qualifications

Between 2007/08 and 2011/12, over 40% more Renfrewshire pupils have stayed on until 6th year. During this time the average tariff score has increased by 14%. The average tariff score of looked after children is significantly less than overall average. Between 1999 and 2012, overall attainment levels of S4 to S6 pupils have improved.

Coupled with improving attainment levels has been a steady decrease in exclusion levels, by 2010/11 these were less than half of the 2002/03 level.

Whilst the percentage of positive destinations for Renfrewshire school pupils has increased between 2002/03 and 2011/12, the final year has seen Renfrewshire fall to a percentage below the national average with a consequential drop in ranking amongst other Local Authorities to equal 27th out of 32. Higher and Further education destinations have risen, whilst training/employment has fallen. Positive destinations for looked after children within Renfrewshire are almost 30% lower than the national rate.

Post-school education and training

In 2012, the Renfrewshire population showed higher qualification rates than both Scotland and UK (NVQ1-4 and above), and had lower rates of no qualifications than Scotland overall.

In 2012/13, almost 2000 people started on a training programme in Renfrewshire. Over 70% of these related to Modern Apprenticeships. By the end of this period, almost 2,200 people were still involved in a training programme, 90% of those in Modern Apprenticeships.

Between 2001/02 and 2011/12, levels of financial support for Renfrewshire students had increased significantly, for example, total Young Student Bursary payments have increased by over 2 million pounds, and Disabled Students Allowance payments have increased by around £150,000.

Standard of living

Housing

The number of households in Renfrewshire has increased 7.4% since 2001 mainly due to the average size of households reducing to 2.13 persons rather than the increase in population. The most common size of household is one person and Renfrewshire has more one person households than the Scottish average, 38.6% vs 34.7%, but fewer two person households than the national average 30.5% vs 34.0%. The percentage of owner occupier homes in Renfrewshire has decreased marginally to just under two thirds of total housing but there has been a decrease of over 5% to just under a quarter in social rented households in Renfrewshire and across Scotland. This has translated into an increase in the private rental market and other unknown housing arrangements. The long term trend over the last two decades has been an increase in homelessness applications however since 2008/09 the reverse has been happening with few applications each year. Relationship breakdown is the main cause of homelessness applications but rent arrears or mortgage default accounted for around 5% in 2012/13. Renfrewshire had the second lowest proportion, 12%, of households on a social housing waiting list immediately prior to their homelessness application. The overall number of households at risk of eviction in Renfrewshire during 2012/13 declined during the year but there remains more than double the number of households at risk of eviction by creditor than housing association. Approximately a tenth of households in Renfrewshire are lone parent households. No single ethnic group appears to experience more lone parenting than expected considering the size of each group but of course white Scottish ethnicity dominates.

Income

Between 2002 and 2012 full time weekly male earnings in Renfrewshire rose more than the rest of Scotland, 37% vs 30%, while female earnings in Renfrewshire rose 53% compared to a 41% national rise. While there has been a greater percentage increase in female full time weekly earnings than male it has not translated to equal pay with males. In 2002 female pay was 73% of male pay, in 2012 female pay was 82% of male pay in both Renfrewshire and Scotland. Similarly the full time hourly rate for males and females has risen by 40% and 48% respectively but the gender pay gap remains.

Employment

Renfrewshire's employment rate in 2012/13 was on a par with that for the whole of Scotland. In the meantime Renfrewshire's level and rate of employment of those with disabilities has been increasing since 2010 to a rate now 1.5% higher than the national rate. There is evidence to suggest there are less employment opportunities in Renfrewshire than the rest of Scotland. Professional job is the largest group of occupations while process plant/machine operatives is the smallest group. Public admin/education and health are the biggest employers providing a third of jobs. Nearly 3% of the working age population have a second job.

Almost a quarter of Renfrewshire's working age population are considered economically inactive neither in employment nor unemployed. 31% of these are long term sick, 21.2% are retired, 20% are students and a similar amount are home looking after the family. Of the 25,400 economically inactive individuals in Renfrewshire a quarter would like to be in employment.

Deprivation

According to SIMD 2012, the proportion of Renfrewshire's population living within the 15% most deprived datazones in Scotland has increased – up by 10.2% between 2009 and 2012. The number of people living in the most deprived 15% of areas increased from 30,835 to 33,972 between 2009 and 2012. More people in Renfrewshire are now living in some of the most deprived areas in Scotland.

48 datazones in Renfrewshire are in the 15% most deprived datazones in Scotland, compared to 43 in 2009, 36 in 2006 and 41 in 2004. The number of Renfrewshire datazones in the most deprived 5% has increased from 8 in 2004 to 14 in 2012. This indicates that severe deprivation in Renfrewshire has both spread in area terms and deepened in severity, relative to other areas in Scotland. Among all council areas in Scotland, Renfrewshire has the seventh largest proportion of datazones ranked in the most deprived 15%.

28 datazones have deteriorated consistently in the deprivation rankings since 2004, with a concentration of ten of these in the Paisley North Local Area Committee Area. Of the 19 datazones that have continually improved in the rankings, all but one started outside the most deprived 15% in 2004. This indicates increasing inequality and a need to effectively target anti-deprivation policies in order to reduce inequalities.

The overall most deprived datazone in Scotland (S01005247), with a rank of 1 in SIMD 2012, is located within the Paisley Ferguslie area.

The key drivers of the overall deprivation index are the Income Domain and Employment Domain. In SIMD 2012, 14.7% of Renfrewshire's population (25,030 people) are income deprived, compared to a Scotland average of 13.4%. In terms of employment deprivation, 15% of working age Renfrewshire residents (16,070) are employment deprived, compared to 12.8% in Scotland as a whole. Between SIMD 2009 and SIMD 2012, Renfrewshire had the largest increase in the percentage of working age people who are employment deprived (2.4%). This highlights the priority of assisting Renfrewshire residents to secure and retain employment.

Benefits

Renfrewshire has a higher proportion of its population claiming key benefits than the Scottish or British averages, particularly Employment Support Allowance and Incapacity benefits. This has consistently been the case for a long period of time i.e. more than 10 years, over a range of benefit types. This is the same for the 16-24 year age group, 25 to 49 year age group and 50 to 64 year age group and for both men and women although there are almost twice as many male Job Seekers Allowance claimants as female.

Child poverty

From various sources it's estimated that 19% of children live in poverty in Renfrewshire with around 3,000 children living in severe poverty. Over 19,000 children in Renfrewshire live in households dependent on out of work benefits or child tax credit. This is particularly pertinent as the future prospects of these children are affected as they are far less likely to do well at school than their better off class mates. Child poverty is not evenly spread across Renfrewshire with some areas estimated to have up to 31% child poverty while others having as little as 7%.

Fuel poverty

Fuel poverty amongst Renfrewshire residents has apparently declined in recent years to a level where it's estimated 16.5% of households spend more than 10% of income on fuel to heat the home satisfactorily. Estimations aren't recent and viewed with a bit of scepticism particularly with rising fuel costs. However, the Council and its partners are endeavouring to tackle fuel poverty by investing in insulating housing stock and replacing inefficient heating systems.

Personal Banking

In general terms the demographic groups of people in Renfrewshire who are unlikely to hold current accounts and hence have trouble accessing financial and other facilities like low credit are listed below but they all have low incomes in common:

- Young singles and couples in small flats with lower incomes
- Low income singles and flat sharers in tenement properties
- Singles and pensioners on low and very low incomes in purpose built flats
- Very low income households usually in council flats
- Owner occupier families in ex-council housing living in well established communities
- Family households with children living on limited incomes in council housing
- Older couples, mostly retired in ex-council housing
- Older people on low and very low incomes in rented social housing.

Transport

The main reasons for people travelling in Renfrewshire is commuting and shopping. Over two thirds of people travel by car or van even though 86% live within six minutes walk of a bus stop. Almost half of people have not used a bus in the last month and over two thirds have not caught a train in the last month. One in eight people catch a bus every day and over 90% of people say public transport is either fairly or very convenient. The large majority of people feel safe using the bus during the day and nearly half feel safe on the bus at night. Just over a third of concessionary fare pass holders use it a minimum of 2 or 3 times per week. Nearly 60% of people travel less than 5kms.

Care and support

A quarter of Renfrewshire's children attend a registered child care service. The majority of these children (16.7%) attend nursery with private nurseries taking half of these pre-school children while the number of children attending childminders or children/family centres is a quarter of this. However the level of provision for childminding in Renfrewshire is 60% lower than the national provision rate but higher than the nursery provision rate which is similar to the national level. That may indicate there is not enough provision of child minding services in Renfrewshire or not enough need for child minding services as the family is able to carry out child minding duties.

Just over 2%, 786, of Renfrewshire's children are 'looked after'. The gender of the children is even between the sexes, 20% are aged under 5 years, 69% aged between 5 and 16 years and 11% older than 16 years. Where 'looked after' children reside in Renfrewshire is similar in terms of percentages with the whole of Scotland with around 91% living in various households in the community and 9% living in residential accommodation. Less than 1% of 'looked after' children in Renfrewshire come from minority ethnic groups and 3% of all 'look after' children in Renfrewshire have additional support needs which are both lower percentages than the whole of Scotland. In Renfrewshire, the rate of child protection registrations per 1000 children has generally been above the Scottish average, and the higher rates of registration have been in part due to the number of local children affected by parental substance misuse. Multi-agency inspection has shown that Renfrewshire is one of the best-performing areas in Scotland in terms of child protection work. In 2012, the rate fell below the Scottish average of 3.0 for the first time in a number of years. It is not yet clear whether this reflects a longer-term trend.

The number of home care visits from 2003 to 2012 has reduced twice as much in Renfrewshire as it has across the whole of Scotland with the greatest reduction in the last three years. The older age groups still receive more home visits but there has been a reduction from 10 years ago due to the provision of other support services like the meal service, alarms, telecare and rapid response that aren't included in home care visit numbers.

One in 20 people are providing at least one hour of unpaid care per week and one in 40 people provide at least 50 hours of unpaid care per week which is very similar to the overall picture of unpaid care throughout Scotland.

Use of digital communications

Access to the Internet

Evidence of Internet usage specifically for Renfrewshire is difficult to find. However Scottish Household Survey data for the whole of Scotland was sourced from the 2011 survey. Almost three-quarters of Scottish households report having home Internet access in 2011 (73%) which continues a long established year-on-year increase. Home Internet access increases with net annual household income, from around half of households for those with income less than £15,000 up to 98% of those with an income greater than £40,000.

Nearly all of the households in Scotland who access the Internet at home have a broadband connection (97%). Broadband uptake rates, where households have an internet connection, show very little difference by deprivation and by rurality.

The ways in which people access the Internet are becoming increasingly diverse and complex, in particular the proportion of those accessing the Internet on the move, for example on a mobile phone, increasing 7% in 2009/2010 to 14% in 2011.

Who doesn't use the Internet

Just under a quarter of adults (24%) do not use the Internet at all, an improvement on the 27% reported in 2009/2010. There is a clear relationship between age and use of the Internet, with use declining as respondents get older. Similarly, women are more likely than men to be non-users (26% and 21% respectively) though the main gender difference is among those aged 60 or older, with very little difference in the proportion of younger males and females who do not use the Internet.

Around half of those who have some form of a long-term illness, health problem or disability do not use the Internet, compared with 19% of those who do not have any of these conditions. There is a very strong correlation between health status and age, so this could be, at least in part, a reflection of the relatively low levels of Internet use among older people, who are also more likely to have a long-term illness, health problem and/or disability. Overall, prevalence of not using the Internet is generally highest where adults have both a disability *and* a long-term illness.

The SHS asked adults who make no personal use of the Internet the reasons why they did not. Among the most common responses related to people's preferences or requirements were, 30% saying they did not like using the Internet/computers, 26% saying they did not need to use the Internet/computers and 23% saying they did not know how to use a computer.

Use by ethnic minorities

Across Britain ethnic minority groups are shown to be the keenest when it comes to embracing the latest technology and believe it's important that their homes are equipped with the latest technology and are more likely to have home broadband and a mobile phone but are less likely to watch TV and listen to the radio compared to the British population as a whole.

Accessing specific websites

The SHS asked adults which things, if any, the respondent had ever used their local council website and non-specified government website for. When looking at Internet users specifically, less than half have made no use of either local authority websites (44%) or government websites (43%). Among those who had used local authority websites, the most common reasons were to find information or to apply for road tax. In contrast, only a very small proportion (1%) had ever participated in a discussion forum using local authority websites.

Information sources

BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
Care Inspectorate
Child Poverty Action Group
Dept for Work & Pensions
FLAIR (Federation of Local Housing Associations in Renfrewshire)
For Scotland's Disabled Children
GRO (General Register Office) for Scotland
ISD (Information Services Division) Scotland
NOMIS Official labour market statistics
OFCOM (Office of Communications)
Office for National Statistics
Police Scotland
Renfrewshire Citizen Advice Bureau
Renfrewshire Council
Renfrewshire Law Centre
SAAS (Student Awards Agency for Scotland)
Save the Children
Scottish Census
Scottish Consortium for Learning Disabilities
Scottish Government
Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics
Scottish Public Health Observatory
Skills Development Scotland
West of Scotland Regional Equality Council