

## Census 2021: Armed Forces Topic Summary

The source of all the data presented is the 2021 Census.

### Key points

- At the time of the 2021 Census, there were 13,093 armed forces veterans living in Sheffield.
- At 2.9%, the proportion of armed forces veterans in Sheffield is lower than both the Yorkshire and Humber (4.2%) and England (3.8%) average.
- There is a person who has served in the armed forces in 5.4% of Sheffield households. This is also lower than the Yorkshire and Humber (7.5%) and England (7.0%) averages.
- Stocksbridge is the ward with the highest proportion of residents who are armed forces veterans (4.1%), while City is the lowest (0.8%)

### The structure of armed forces veteran population

The veteran population differs in structure to the non-veteran population. They are older and they 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 legal partnership status, health and religion. Because of this, veterans may differ to the non-veteran population when considering these characteristics. It is important to be aware of these differences but also to understand when these differences are not attributable to the status of having previously served in the UK armed forces and can be explained by the unique structure of the veteran population.

Comparisons involving previously served populations should also consider that during and after the Second World War there was National Service in the UK. This means that the population of those previously serving in the UK armed forces is highly skewed to males in older age groups.

Table 1: Proportion of residents aged 16+ who have previously served in the UK armed forces

	Previously served in...								Has not previously served in any UK armed forces	
	...regular UK armed forces		...reserve UK armed forces		...both regular and reserve UK armed forces		...any UK armed forces			
Sheffield	9,258	2.0%	3,320	0.7%	515	0.1%	13,093	2.9%	443,157	97.1%
Yorkshire and The Humber	142,894	3.2%	34,409	0.8%	7,822	0.2%	185,125	4.2%	4,275,174	95.8%
England	1,325,353	2.9%	338,520	0.7%	73,908	0.2%	1,737,781	3.8%	44,269,176	96.2%

Table 2: Comparison of Sheffield population that has previously served and not previously served in UK armed forces

		Previously served in UK armed forces	Had not previously served in UK armed forces	Difference
Relationship Status	Never married and never registered a civil partnership	2,320	199,435	
		17.7%	45.0%	<b>-27.3%</b>
	Married or in a registered civil partnership	6,885	176,100	
		52.6%	39.7%	<b>12.9%</b>
	Separated, but still legally married or still legally in a civil partnership	265	8,945	
		2.0%	2.0%	<b>0.0%</b>
Divorced or civil partnership dissolved	1,535	34,230		
	11.7%	7.7%	<b>4.0%</b>	
Widowed or surviving civil partnership partner	2,085	24,445		
	15.9%	5.5%	<b>10.4%</b>	
Religion	No religion	3,880	190,165	
		29.6%	42.9%	<b>-13.3%</b>
	Christian	8,215	179,030	
		62.8%	40.4%	<b>22.4%</b>
	All other religions	275	47,230	
2.1%		10.7%	<b>-8.6%</b>	
Did not answer	720	26,730		
		5.5%	6.0%	<b>-0.5%</b>
General Health	Very Good	2,905	177,120	
		22.2%	40.0%	<b>-17.8%</b>
	Good	4,415	166,135	
		33.7%	37.5%	<b>-3.8%</b>
	Fair	3,835	69,020	
		29.3%	15.6%	<b>13.7%</b>
Bad	1,470	23,965		
	11.2%	5.4%	<b>5.8%</b>	
Very Bad	465	6,920		
		3.6%	1.6%	<b>2.0%</b>

Chart 1: Proportion of residents aged 16+ who have previously served in the UK armed forces by ward

