# **Dwelling profile and occupation**

11.1 Summary		1
11.2 Introductio	on	1
11.3 Dwelling s	stock by tenure	1
Table 1.	Dwelling stock by tenure, 2007/08	
Table 2.	Percentage of dwelling stock by tenure, 2007/08	
Table 3.	Percentage of dwellings by tenure, 2001	3
Table 4.	Dwellings by tenure, 2007/08	3
11.4 Change in	dwelling stock over time	4
Table 5.	Change in stock, 2001/2 to 2008/9	
Table 6.		
	nd proposed for 2010/11	
_		
	vellings	
	Vacant dwelling stock, 2008/9	
11.6 Dwelling T	_ype	
Table 8.	Dwelling Stock by type, 2001	6
St Edmundsb	oury	6
Fig 2:	Dwelling Stock by Type, 2001	
11.7 Homes in	Multiple Occupancy	7
Table 9.	Estimated Houses in Multiple Occupancy by district, 2008/9	
11 0 Supported	I housing	
Table 10.	•	
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
<u>=</u>	y rates	
	Occupied Dwellings by Number of Rooms	
Fig 3:	Number of Rooms by Tenure, Sub-Region	9
11.10 Overcrow	vding	9
Table 12.	Over-crowding according to bedroom standard	10
11.11 Conceale	ed households	10
Table 13.	Multi-person concealed households	
	ons	
11.12 Conclusio	JIIS	11
	Number of rooms and number of people by tenure (2001 Census)	
Table 14.	All Tenures	
Table 15. Table 16.	Owner Occupiers	
Table 10.	Private Tenants and Households Living Rent Free	
	Ŭ	
Fig 4:	Number of People by number of rooms (all tenures), by district	13 13
Fig 5:	East Cambridgeshire	
Fig 6:	Fenland	14
Fig 7:	Huntingdonshire	
Fig 8: Fig 9:	South Cambridgeshire	
	St Edmundsbury	

# Chapter 11. Dwelling profile and occupation

#### 11.1 **Summary**

- In the sub-region as a whole there were 323,887 dwellings at the end of March 2008. Most of these (272,372) were the private sector.
- In 2008/9 some 1% of properties had been vacant for more than six months across our housing sub-region. Fenland and Forest Heath had the highest long term vacancy rate at 1.4% of stock.
- Detached properties are the most common type in most of the sub-region, but Cambridge City has a high proportion of both terraced houses and flats/maisonettes.
   There is also a high estimated number of homes in multiple occupancy in the City.
- In the sub-region as a whole over 6,700 households may be overcrowded, based on regional level data from the Survey of English Housing.
- CLG estimates there are 1,752 multi-person concealed households across the Cambridge sub-region. This does not include single independent adults living in someone else's home which would add to that estimate.

#### 11.2 Introduction

This chapter of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment provides a profile of the dwelling stock across the Cambridge sub-region.

- The first section provides details of the dwelling stock by tenure.
- The second section deals with vacant stock.
- The third section looks at the type and size of stock including the number of Houses in Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) in each district.
- We then investigate overcrowding and concealed households.
- The final section looks at changes in dwelling stock, including a brief section on housing completions from 2002 onwards.

Chapter 12, Housing stock condition separately outlines data on stock condition.

In the previous version of this chapter, we referred in places to our 2006 household survey. In an effort to follow CLG SHMA guidance which encourages the use of secondary data (i.e. moving away from commissioning new surveys) and to reduce costs, we are now using more secondary data sources. Hence some data sources in this chapter may have changed since the 2009 version.

#### 11.3 **Dwelling stock by tenure**

Tables 1 and 2 show the most recent available dwelling stock by type. The Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) forms changed in 2008/9, no longer requiring data on the number of RSL and private sector properties, therefore this data is no longer collected

and some tables in the following section refer back to 2007/08 when the data was last available.

Table 1. Dwelling stock by tenure, 2007/08

	Local Authority (including owned by others)	Registered Social Landlord	Other Public Sector	Private Sector	Total
Cambridge City	7,360	3,689	30	35,532	46,611
East Cambridgeshire	0	4,914	0	28,486	33,400
Fenland	4	5,192	0	36,360	41,556
Huntingdonshire	0	8,637	945	60,006	69,588
South Cambridgeshire	5,542	2,390	532	50,504	58,968
Forest Heath	28	3,599	779	22,967	27,373
St Edmundsbury	0	7,393	481	38,517	46,391
Sub-region	12,934	35,814	2,767	272,372	323,887

Source: HSSA 2007/8

Table 2. Percentage of dwelling stock by tenure, 2007/08

	Local Authority (including owned by others)	Registered Social Landlord	Other Public Sector	Private Sector	Total
Cambridge City	15.8%	7.9%	0.1%	76.2%	100%
East Cambridgeshire	LSVT	14.7%	0.0%	85.3%	100%
Fenland	LSVT	12.5%	0.0%	87.5%	100%
Huntingdonshire	LSVT	12.4%	1.4%	86.2%	100%
South Cambridgeshire	9.4%	4.1%	0.9%	85.6%	100%
Forest Heath	LSVT	13.1%	2.8%	83.9%	100%
St Edmundsbury	LSVT	15.9%	1.0%	83.0%	100%
Sub-region	4.0%	11.1%	0.9%	84.1%	100%

Source: HSSA 2007/08

Private sector and other dwellings make up the largest percentage of stock, at around 84% for the sub-region as a whole and between 83% to 88% of the stock in most districts.

Cambridge City has a smaller share of private sector stock and a larger share of social-rented dwellings (24%), which is higher than the national figure of 18% <sup>1.</sup> In all other districts between 13% and 16% of stock is socially rented. East Cambridgeshire, Fenland, Huntingdonshire, Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury have all undergone Large Scale Voluntary Transfers. Fenland transferred its local authority stock to Roddons Housing Association in November 2007. In Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire, the Local authorities manage most of the social rented stock, as shown in Table 1. "Other public sector" dwellings include homes owned by hospitals and the armed forces. Although Addenbrooke's own some nurses accommodation, it is managed by an RSL and is included in this category. Property owned by the university is included in the private sector stock, as is the USAAF accommodation in Forest Heath.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> DLCG website, http://www.communities.gov.uk/embedded\_object.asp?id=1504959

The Census provides a split of tenure, which shows the number of private tenants and owner occupiers within the private sector stock, shown in Table 3. On the basis that the tenure split has not changed since 2001, Table 4 shows the number of dwellings by tenure.

Table 3. Percentage of dwellings by tenure, 2001

	Owner Occupied	Social Tenants	Private Tenants/ Other
Cambridge	53%	24%	23%
East Cambridgeshire	73%	14%	13%
Fenland	75%	14%	11%
Huntingdonshire	76%	13%	11%
South			
Cambridgeshire	75%	14%	10%
Forest Heath	62%	15%	24%
St Edmundsbury	71%	17%	12%
Sub-Region	70%	16%	14%

Source: Census 2001

Table 4. Dwellings by tenure, 2007/08

	Owner Occupied	Social Tenants	Private Tenants/ Other	All households
Cambridge City	24,704	11,187	10,721	46,611
East Cambridgeshire	24,382	4,676	4,342	33,400
Fenland	31,167	5,818	4,571	41,556
Huntingdonshire	52,887	9,046	7,655	69,588
South Cambridgeshire	44,226	8,256	5,897	58,378
Forest Heath	16,971	4,106	6,570	27,647
St Edmundsbury	32,938	7,886	5,567	46,391
Sub-region	226,721	51,822	45,344	323,887

Source: Census, HSSA 2007/08

Cambridge City has the lowest percentage of owner occupiers (53%) and the highest percentage of social tenants (24%) and a high proportion of private tenants (23%). However, Forest Heath has the highest percentage of private tenants/ other (24%). This may be because of the USAAF presence. In the 2007 survey of letting agents, one of the agents who responded dealt exclusively with this market. The 2008 survey also showed it to be a significant influence on the rental market in Forest Heath, but also in parts of St Edmundsbury and East Cambridgeshire.

South Cambridgeshire has the lowest percentage of private renters (10%). This may be due to the area not having a major town and the private tenant preference for living as near as possible to the town centre (which in this case would mean the City, which as shown has a high percentage of private rented properties available). Huntingdonshire has the highest percentage of owner occupiers (76%) and the lowest of social renters (13%).

Table 4 assumes the same tenure split as 2001; however the English Housing Survey (2008/9) suggests that nationally the private rented sector has grown and the proportions of owner occupiers and social tenants have decreased slightly during the last decade.

# 11.4 Change in dwelling stock over time

Table 5. Change in stock, 2001/2 to 2008/9

	Total	stock	Chango	Difference	Social stock		Chango	Difference	
	2001/2	2008/9	Change	Dillerence	2001/2	2008/9	Change	Dilleferice	
Cambridge City	44,275	48358	4,083	9%	11,883	11,520	-363	-3%	
East Cambridgeshire	31,100	34963	3,863	12%	4,503	5,093	590	13%	
Fenland	37,361	42101	4,740	13%	4,999	5,095	96	2%	
Huntingdonshire	65,177	70350	5,173	8%	8,614	8,815	201	2%	
South Cambridgeshire	54,483	59805	5,322	10%	7,553	8,214	661	9%	
Forest Heath	24,632	27965	3,333	14%	3,459	3,770	311	9%	
St Edmundsbury	42,924	46207	3,283	8%	7,618	7,571	-47	-1%	
Sub-Region	299,952	329,749	29,797	10%	48,629	50,078	1,449	3%	

Source: HSSA

Table 5 shows an increase of 10% or almost 30,000 homes across the housing sub-region from 2001/2 to 2008/9. This contrasts with a 3% increase (1,449 homes) in the social housing sector.

Table 6. Additional affordable housing stock, outturn 2002/03 to 2008/9; planned for 2009/10 and proposed for 2010/11

				Outturn				Planned	Proposed
	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Cambridge	81	200	38	159	173	156	101	358	500
East Cambridgeshire	106	105	74	219	190	201	102	160	125
Fenland	34	67	89	91	76	111	58	105	112
Huntingdonshire	88	92	99	145	221	96	240	338	369
South Cambridgeshire	98	246	108	261	252	408	293	364	319
Forest Heath	5	0	19	132	151	238	209	247	202
St Edmundsbury	166	37	34	80	135	128	182	144	147
Sub-Region	578	747	461	1087	1198	1338	1185	1716	1774

Source: HSSA

Plans for new affordable homes in 2009/10 and 2010/11 total approx 1,700 in each year, across the housing sub-region.

Naturally these plans are subject to funding, delivery on site and many factors which influence the housing development industry. However it is useful to note the plans and proposals which districts are aware of for their localities.

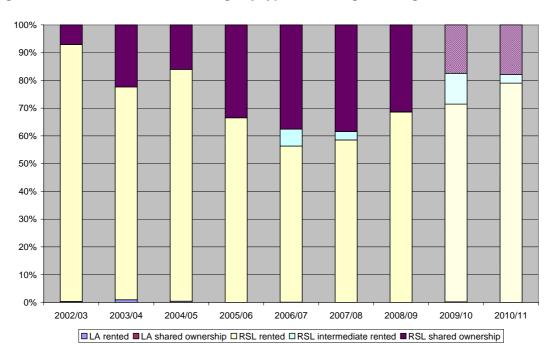


Fig 1: Additional affordable dwellings by type, Cambridge sub-region 2002/3 to 2010/11

Source: HSSA

# 11.5 Vacant Dwellings

Table 7 presents information about vacancies based on information from council tax records. Just 1% of all dwellings in the sub-region are recorded as having been vacant for more than six months. This is lower than the national figure, which is just over 3%. Long term vacancy rates for all properties were highest in Fenland and Forest Heath. In the sub-region as a whole, 0.6% of general needs housing association stock has been vacant for more than six months. St Edmundsbury has both the highest number of long term vacant HA properties and the highest percentage.

Table 7. Vacant dwelling stock, 2008/9

		Number	•		%	
	All long term vacant	All local authority vacant	Housing association long term vacant	All long term vacant	All local authority vacant	Housing association long term vacant
Cambridge City	527	155	12	1.1%	2.1%	0.3%
East Cambridgeshire	409	NA	40	1.2%		0.8%
Fenland	572	NA	22	1.4%		0.4%
Huntingdonshire	561	NA	35	0.8%		0.4%
South Cambridgeshire	602	74	5	1.0%	1.3%	0.2%
Forest Heath	393	NA	13	1.4%		0.4%
St Edmundsbury	227	NA	88	0.5%		1.2%
Sub-Region	3291	229	215	1.0%		0.6%

Source: CLG Table 615

Please note long term vacancy data for local authority stock is not available. All local authority vacant stock is shown (so it is not truly comparable to the numbers or proportions shown for housing association long term vacancies or all long term vacancies).

The affordable need calculation methodology set out in the 2007 guidance advises including vacant stock on the supply side if more than 3% of stock is vacant. In all areas for both local authority and housing association stock the vacancy rate is considerably below this level.

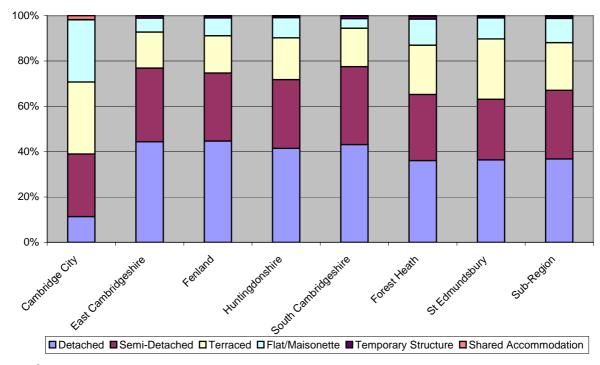
#### 11.6 **Dwelling Type**

Table 8. Dwelling Stock by type, 2001

	All	Detached	Semi- Detached	Terraced	Flat/ Maisonette	Temporary Structure	Shared Accommo dation
Cambridge City	44,024	4,992	12,176	13,994	12,044	70	748
East Cambridgeshire	30,585	13,579	9,935	4,869	1,870	303	29
Fenland	36,372	16,251	10,937	5,963	2,851	321	49
Huntingdonshire	65,124	27,008	19,743	12,017	5,821	434	101
South Cambridgeshire	53,584	23,110	18,453	9,068	2,257	659	37
Forest Heath	24,372	8,793	7,110	5,309	2,797	288	75
St Edmundsbury	42,200	15,351	11,290	11,241	3,914	287	117
Sub-Region	296,261	109,084	89,644	62,461	31,554	2,362	1,156

Source: Census, 2001

Fig 2: Dwelling Stock by Type, 2001



Source: Census, 2001

In most of the districts around 40% of the stock is detached houses or bungalows, with semidetached the second most common type of property in most of the districts. Cambridge City has a different profile from the rest of the districts, with terraced houses being the most common type of property. There is also a larger percentage of flats in the City than in other districts.

### 11.7 Homes in Multiple Occupancy

The City has a large amount of shared accommodation and, comprises around 65% of this type of dwelling for the sub-region as a whole. Some data on shared accommodation is available by looking at the number of Houses in Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) in each district:

Table 9. Estimated Houses in Multiple Occupancy by district, 2008/9

	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9
Cambridge City	3,717	5,000	5,000	4,960
East Cambridgeshire	40	48	99	96
Fenland	300	500	500	603
Huntingdonshire	52	500	500	500
South Cambridgeshire	284	284	9	85
Forest Heath	150	46	46	189
St Edmundsbury	86	61	66	90
Sub-region	4,629	6,439	6,220	6,523

Source: HSSA 2008/9

The definition of HMOs which need to be registered changed on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007, since when the numbers have increased significantly in most districts.

Cambridge City has the highest number of HMOs overall – eight times as many as Fenland; the district with the second highest number of estimated HMOs.

While HMO data provides some information on households in shared accommodation, it only includes larger properties i.e. three or more people in two or more households in the same dwelling. It does not include information on other types of shared accommodation such as people taking in lodgers. It is also probably not a complete data set and will require further research in the future.

#### 11.8 Supported housing

Table 10 below gives an estimate of the number of housing association supported housing units in each district:

Table 10. Units of supported housing, 2008/9 by district

	Supported housing	Housing for older people
Cambridge City	625	545
East Cambridgeshire	92	1,360
Fenland	165	710
Huntingdonshire	230	1,079
South Cambridgeshire	324	208
Forest Heath	27	466
St Edmundsbury	287	843
Sub-Region	1,750	5,211

Source: DataSpring 2008/9

There are 1,750 Housing Association supported housing units in the sub-region. Scheme sizes vary significantly from small almshouses with less than ten bedspaces to large schemes such as the YMCA in Cambridge City, which has 150 spaces and also has a higher turnover because of its client group. In addition, there are more than 5,200 units of housing for older people across the sub-region.

### 11.9 Occupancy rates

Table 11 provides information on the number of rooms (not including bathrooms and hallways) households have sole access to. Cambridge City has a large number of one and two-room properties when compared with the rest of the sub-region, which is because student accommodation. South and East Cambridgeshire are the districts with the highest percentage of dwellings with more than 8 rooms. Huntingdonshire and Forest Heath have very few properties of this size. Five roomed properties are the most common size in the sub-region. This is roughly equivalent to a three-bedroom house (three bedrooms, living room and kitchen).

Table 11. Occupied Dwellings by Number of Rooms

									8 or
	All	1 Room	2 Rooms	3 Rooms	4 Rooms	5 Rooms	6 Rooms	7 Rooms	more
									rooms
Cambridge City	42,658	1,152	2,265	4,912	7,757	10,176	8,713	3,503	4,180
Cambridge City	42,000	3%	5%	12%	18%	24%	20%	8%	10%
East Cambridgeshire	29,780	117	346	1,806	5,677	7573	5,781	3,260	5,220
Last Cambridgeshire	29,700	0.4%	1%	6%	19%	25%	19%	11%	18%
Fenland	35,192	97	595	2,498	7,814	9,882	7,193	3,320	3,793
remanu	35,192	0.3%	2%	7%	22%	28%	20%	9%	11%
Huntingdonshire	E2 1E2	208	917	3,880	9,516	16,865	11,639	7,911	1,216
nununguonsiire	52,152	0.4%	2%	7%	18%	32%	22%	15%	2%
South Cambridgeshire	52,181	155	676	2,619	8,413	11,886	9,916	6,868	11,648
South Cambridgeshire	32,101	0.3%	1%	5%	16%	23%	19%	13%	22%
Forest Heath	23,018	137	454	1,666	6,169	6,469	3,988	1,980	2,155
rolest neath	23,010	1%	2%	7%	27%	28%	17%	9%	9%
St Edmundsbury	40.560	188	597	2,574	6,644	11,792	8,267	4,383	6,115
ot Lumunusbury	40,500	0.5%	1%	6%	16%	29%	20%	11%	15%
Sub-Region	275,541	2,054	5,850	19,955	51,990	74,643	55,497	31,225	34,327
Sub-Ivedioi1	213,341	1%	2%	7%	19%	27%	20%	11%	12%

Source: Census, 2001

By tenure, the most common size by number of rooms for social tenants is four rooms. It is five rooms for owner-occupiers and private tenants. Owner Occupiers have more rooms in their homes than social and private tenants, (the private rented sector includes those living rent free), and 21% of owner-occupiers live in houses with 8 or more rooms. There are more private tenants in one or two room properties than social renters and owner-occupiers. There were very few social tenants in properties with seven or more rooms. Appendix 1 and 2 provide a breakdown of the number of rooms by person and tenure across the sub-region.

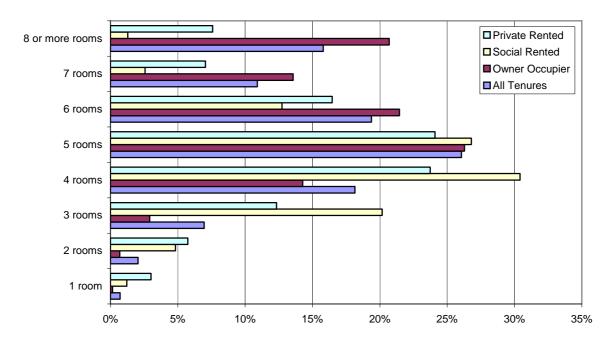


Fig 3: Number of Rooms by Tenure, Sub-Region

Source: Census, 2001

### 11.10 Overcrowding

The Survey of English Housing (SEH) gives regional figures for overcrowding by tenure as defined by the bedroom standard. The standard number of bedrooms is calculated for each household in accordance with its age/ sex and marital status composition and the relationship of members to one another. A separate bedroom is allowed for

- Each married/cohabiting couple.
- Any other person aged 21 or over.
- Each pair of adolescents aged 10-20 of the same sex.
- Each pair of children under 10.

Any unpaired person aged 10-20 is notionally paired if possible with a child under 10 of the same sex or if that is not possible (s)he is allowed a separate bedroom as is any unpaired child under ten. This standard is then compared with the actual number of bedrooms available for the sole use of the household (including bed-sitters).

Table 12 shows the regional figure for the East of England, applied to each district by tenure.

Table 12. Over-crowding according to bedroom standard

	Owner occupiers	Social tenants	Private tenants	All tenures
East of England	1.1%	5.0%	3.9%	Total
Cambridge City	259	520	441	1,220
East Cambridgeshire	272	223	201	696
Fenland	322	257	200	779
Huntingdonshire	564	410	347	1,321
South Cambridgeshire	480	413	276	1,169
Forest Heath	172	182	264	618
St Edmundsbury	331	344	235	910
Sub-Region	2,400	2,349	1,964	6,713

Source: SEH 2007/8, Census 2001, CCCRG household estimates, (CLG household estimates for Suffolk)

According to the 2007/8 SEH, some 5% of social rented dwellings in the East of England are overcrowded, some 3.9% of private rented properties and some 1.1% of owner occupied homes. Based on these estimates, there may be more than 6,700 overcrowded households in the Cambridge sub-region across all tenures.

#### 11.11 Concealed households

Concealed households are adult households living within another household, e.g. with parents or friends. It is not easy to find robust data about concealed households as they are hard to identify and often represent a temporary housing situation. However CLG produces estimates for multi-person concealed households (that is, couples with or without children and lone parent households).

Table 13. Multi-person concealed households

	Concealed households
Cambridge City	247
East Cambridgeshire	222
Fenland	273
Huntingdonshire	368
South Cambridgeshire	334
Forest Heath	109
St Edmundsbury	199
Sub-Region	1,752

CLG

In the sub-region there are estimated to be 1,752 multi-person concealed households. There are no estimates or data about single adult concealed households but these are likely to be quite large and increasing because of issues accessing finance for purchase and competition for affordable homes.

For further explanation about concealed households and how they affect housing need, please refer to the annex to *Chapter 27 Identifying housing need*.

#### 11.12 Conclusions

- As of 2007/8, there were just over 323,000 homes in the Cambridge sub-region and most of the housing stock is in the private sector.
- Detached properties make up the largest share of properties by type in the subregion, and there are comparatively few flats. This profile is different for Cambridge City, which has a higher percentage of flats and terraced properties and very few detached houses.
- There are just over 6,200 known HMOs in the sub-region, most of which are in Cambridge City, but more research is needed to understand this part of the market and other shared properties. This number has increased by 34% since 2005/06 largely due to an expansion of the definition of properties classed as HMOs.
- There are just over 1,700 units of housing association supported housing and more than 5,000 units of housing for older people. Scheme size varies considerably depending on scheme type and client etc. Further work is required to understand this part of the housing mix.
- In the sub-region 1% of properties have been vacant for more than six months.
- It is estimated that there are 6,711 households in overcrowded accommodation and 1,752 multi-person concealed households across the sub-region.

# Appendix 1: Number of rooms and number of people by tenure (2001 Census)

Table 14. All Tenures

	Occupied Properties	% of all	1 room	2 rooms	3 rooms	4 rooms	5 rooms	6 rooms	_	8 or more rooms
All households	286,484	100.0%	2,051	5,866	19,941	51,994	74,645	55,509	31,246	45,232
1 person	77,781	27.2%	1,683	4,277	13,924	21,599	17,857	10,578	3,929	3,934
2 people	106,055	37.0%	275	1,228	4,827	22,083	28,973	21,380	11,590	15,699
3 people	43,042	15.0%	30	226	736	5,633	12,597	9,812	5,729	8,279
4 people	40,962	14.3%	34	92	321	2,232	10,914	9,608	6,747	11,014
5 people	14,314	5.0%	17	28	102	349	3,444	3,168	2,496	4,710
6 people	3,229	1.1%	3	3	22	69	673	730	560	1,169
7 people	703	0.2%	3	9	3	18	137	158	130	245
8 or more people	398	0.1%	6	3	6	11	50	75	65	182

Table 15. Owner Occupiers

	Occupied Properties	% of all	1 room	2 rooms	3 rooms	4 rooms	5 rooms	6 rooms	7 rooms	8 or more rooms
Owner Occupiers	201,166	100.0%	300	1,382	5,863	28,714	52,862	43,159	27,267	41,619
1 person	45,563	22.6%	186	934	3,782	12,456	13,233	8,200	3,375	3,397
2 people	80,090	39.8%	74	351	1,613	12,494	22,210	17,900	10,667	14,781
3 people	31,131	15.5%	14	59	267	2,487	8,247	7,393	5,009	7,655
4 people	31,530	15.7%	16	23	138	1,075	7,004	7,205	5,830	10,239
5 people	10,164	5.1%	7	12	50	151	1,799	1,986	1,915	4,244
6 people	2,120	1.1%	0	0	10	36	292	389	370	1,023
7 people	387	0.2%	3	3	0	12	59	59	72	179
8 or more people	181	0.1%	0	0	3	3	18	27	29	101

Table 16. Social Tenants

	Occupied Properties	% of all	1 room	2 rooms	3 rooms	4 rooms	5 rooms	6 rooms	7 rooms	8 or more rooms
Social Rented	44,002	100.0%	552	2,192	9,154	13,805	12,163	5,781	1,164	584
1 person	17,455	39.7%	487	1,813	7,121	5,254	2,148	1,032	132	126
2 people	12,405	28.2%	53	279	1,699	5,593	3,279	1,501	236	142
3 people	6,017	13.7%	0	61	218	1,988	2,542	1,092	217	94
4 people	4,717	10.7%	9	30	77	815	2,496	1,078	233	92
5 people	2,373	5.4%	0	3	27	127	1,277	721	182	64
6 people	726	1.6%	0	3	9	19	326	247	102	33
7 people	203	0.5%	0	3	0	6	68	76	36	17
8 or more people	106	0.2%	3	0	3	3	27	34	26	16

Table 17. Private Tenants and Households Living Rent Free

	Occupied Properties	% of all	1 room	2 rooms	3 rooms	4 rooms	5 rooms	6 rooms	_	8 or more rooms
Private Rented	39,923	100.0%	1,199	2,292	4,924	9,475	9,620	6,569	2,815	3,029
1 person	14,105	35.3%	1,010	1,530	3,021	3,889	2,476	1,346	422	411
2 people	13,183	33.0%	148	598	1,515	3,996	3,484	1,979	687	776
3 people	5,699	14.3%	16	106	251	1,158	1,808	1,327	503	530
4 people	4,602	11.5%	9	39	106	342	1,414	1,325	684	683
5 people	1,749	4.4%	10	13	25	71	368	461	399	402
6 people	370	0.9%	3	0	3	14	55	94	88	113
7 people	110	0.3%	0	3	3	0	10	23	22	49
8 or more people	105	0.3%	3	3	0	5	5	14	10	65

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# Appendix 2: Number of People by number of rooms (all tenures), by district

Fig 4: Cambridge City

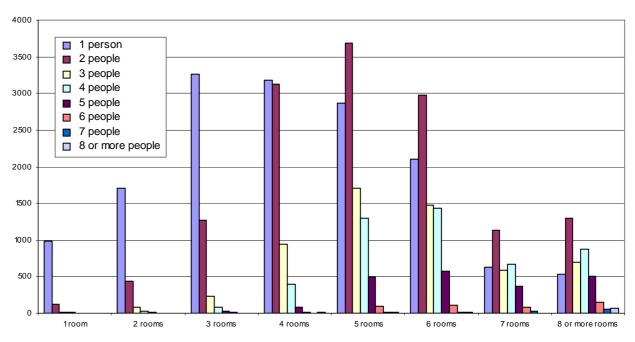
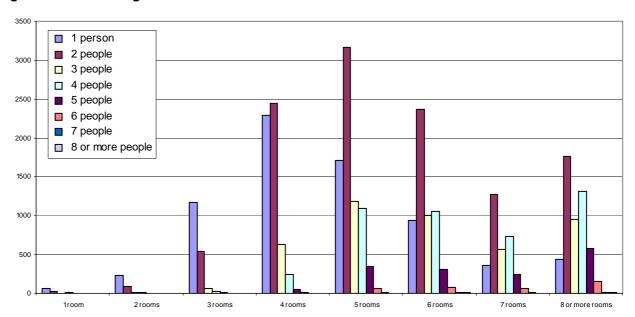


Fig 5: East Cambridgeshire



Version 3.0 Published: 13 September 2011

Fig 6: Fenland

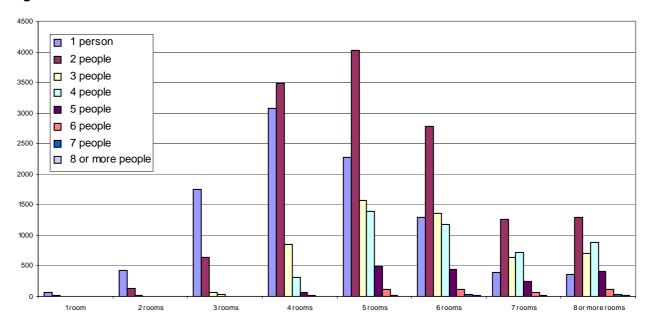


Fig 7: Huntingdonshire

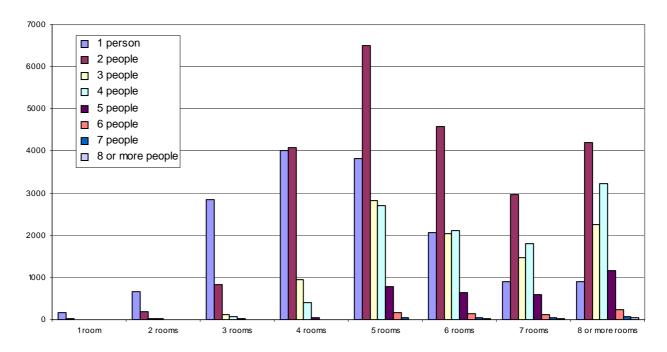


Fig 8: South Cambridgeshire

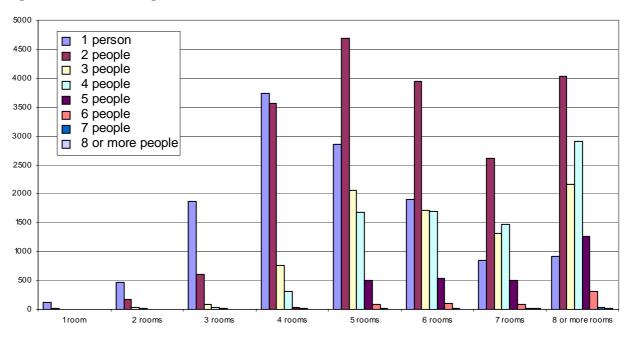


Fig 9: Forest Heath

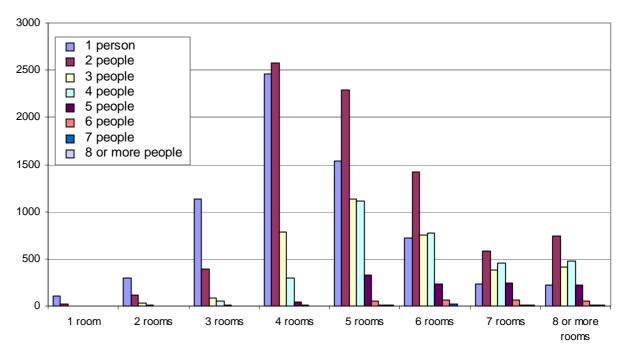


Fig 10: St Edmundsbury

