

Social Isolation in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

Introducing the concept of Social Isolation

Social isolation is an objective term to describe an absence or separation from social contacts, or a restriction in the ability to access services. Whereas loneliness is a subjective feeling about the difference between a person's desired level of social contact and their actual level of social contact. Therefore, loneliness is very difficult to measure¹. Both concepts are linked with one potentially leading to the other or both occurring at the same time.

Social isolation index

The social isolation index was created to try to understand which areas of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight could be most at risk of social isolation, this is relative to either the Hampshire average or the Isle of Wight average. The index includes indicators that increase an individual's or household's risk of social isolation; however, it does not mean that everyone who possesses these characteristics will experience social isolation. The vulnerability to social isolation increases when multiple factors interact with one another. The following indicators are included in the index model:

1. Percentage of the population aged 65+²
2. Percentage of the population that rate their health as bad or very bad (65+)³
3. Percentage of the population that are classified as disabled under the Equality Act (65+)⁴
4. Percentage of the population where the partnership status is divorced or widowed (65+)⁵
5. Percentage of the population that provide unpaid care (65+)⁶
6. Percentage of single person households (66+) that do not have access to a car/van⁷
7. Percentage of households that are one person households (66+)⁸
8. Income deprivation affecting older people (IDAOP)⁹

This report will summarise the pattern found on the Isle of Wight. This index should be used alongside local knowledge and insight of local neighbourhoods. A written report is also available for Hampshire¹⁰.

¹ [The difference between loneliness and isolation | Age UK](#)

² [Census 2021, downloaded from NOMIS](#)

³ [Census 2021, downloaded from NOMIS](#)

⁴ [Census 2021, downloaded from NOMIS](#)

⁵ [Census 2021, downloaded from NOMIS](#)

⁶ [Census 2021, downloaded from NOMIS](#)

⁷ [Create a custom dataset - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

⁸ [Create a custom dataset - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

⁹ [English indices of deprivation 2019 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

¹⁰ [Hampshire and Isle of Wight Social Isolation Report](#)

Isle of Wight

The Isle of Wight social isolation index score was calculated separately to Hampshire and as a result the Island's LSOAs are evenly distributed across all the deciles. Decile 1 to 3 are located in the Newport area, Shanklin, Cowes, Ryde and Freshwater, as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Social Isolation Index (decile 1 to 3) on the Isle of Wight



Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight JSNA, Healthy Places¹¹

Table 1 illustrates that most LSOAs in deciles 1 to 3 have a higher percentage compared to the Isle of Wight average of at least two of the following: single person households with no car/van; bad or very bad health; disability and IDAOP. However, no cars/vans in the household, partnerships status and IDAOP have the highest amount of LSOAs with high z-scores. This means that these indicators are the most influential in worsening social isolation. The LSOAs in deciles 1 to 3 have a lower percentage of 65+ population, compared to the IOW average.

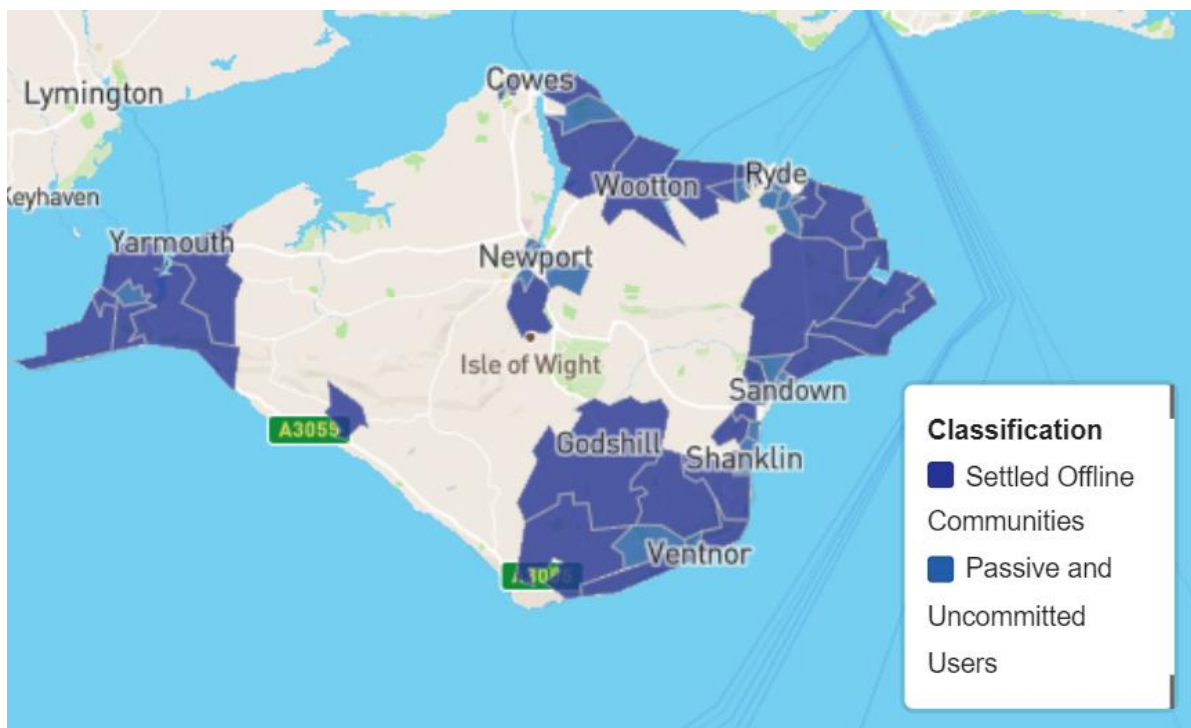
¹¹ [Healthy Places, Microsoft Power BI](#)

Table 1: Characteristics of the LSOAs most at risk of social isolation on the Isle of Wight

Measures	No cars/vans in household (66+)	One person household (66+)	65+ population	Provides unpaid care (65+)	Partnership status - divorced or widowed (65+)	Bad or very bad health (65+)	Disabled (65+)	IDAOP1 (65+)
Decile 1 average	64.0%	19.3%	25.0%	12.2%	44.3%	17.1%	43.5%	22.5%
Decile 1 to 3 average	56.6%	18.9%	27.2%	10.6%	42.1%	14.3%	39.6%	20.0%
IOW Average	44.5%	17.8%	29.6%	10.5%	35.9%	11.8%	35.7%	13.2%

All areas identified as socially isolated have download speeds classified as fast. However, most LSOAs that are vulnerable to social isolation are also areas with internet classifications of ‘Passive and Uncommitted Users’ and ‘Settled Offline Communities’ where engagement is low. Figure 2 shows that some of the LSOAs surrounding Newport are classified as ‘Digital Seniors’ where there is average engagement.

Figure 2: Internet user classifications, 2018, for the Isle of Wight



Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight JSNA, Healthy Places¹²

This is further supported by data from the census returns where most LSOAs on the Island were classified in higher deciles for having fewer returns online. Figure 3 shows that a few areas in Newport, Wootton, Cowes and one in Sandown were sent paper census returns first.

¹² [Healthy Places, Microsoft Power BI](#)

Figure 3: Areas of the Isle of Wight receiving paper 2021 census returns first, as opposed to online



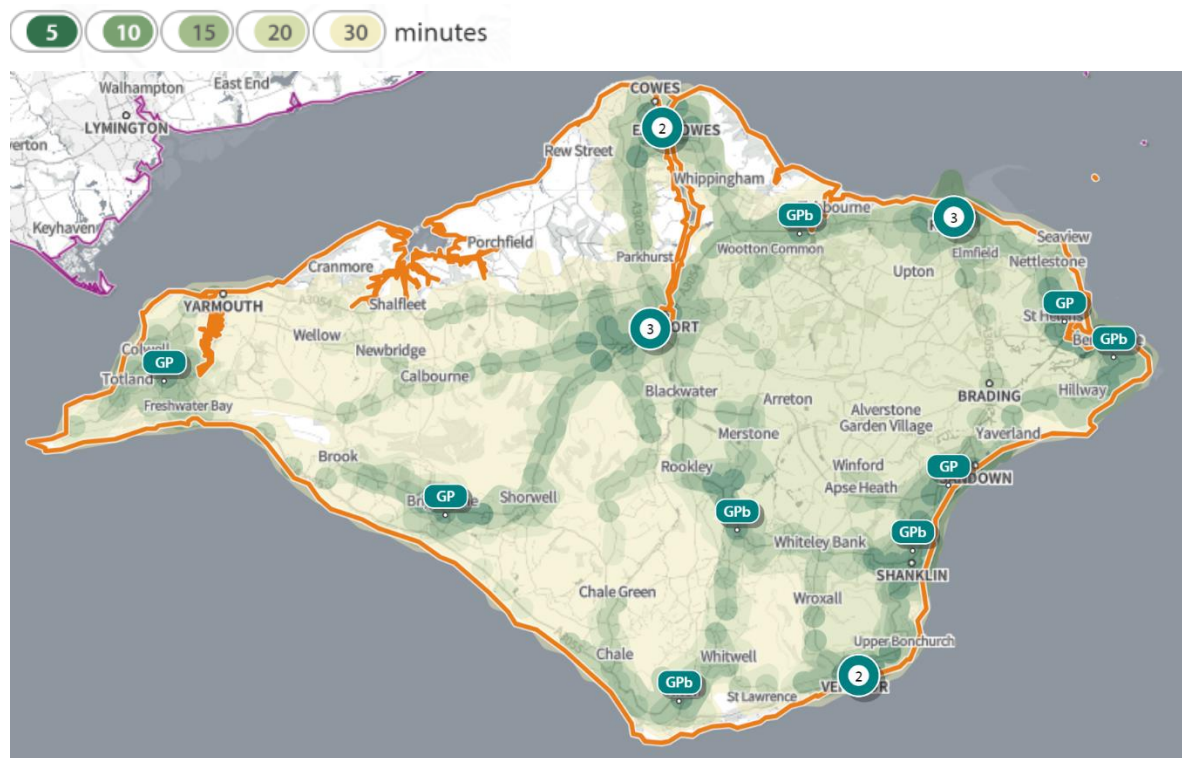
Source: Hampshire and Isle of Wight JSNA, Healthy Places¹³

66.2% of the Isle of Wight's population can access the GP within 15 minutes by public transport or walking¹⁴. Figure 4 shows that the areas that are vulnerable to social isolation have GPs located nearby which are accessible via public transport. This is important in reducing social isolation given these populations have a high percentage of single person households that do not have access to a car.

¹³ [Healthy Places, Microsoft Power BI](#)

¹⁴ [SHAPE Place](#)

Figure 4: Estimated time taken to travel to the GP via public transport on a weekday morning on the Isle of Wight



Source: SHAPE Place¹⁵

¹⁵ [SHAPE Place](#)