

3 Total benefit population

3.1 Total benefit population

On 17th November 2009, the total benefit population of Cambridge City was 13,122, comprising 8,181 claimants, 1,353 partners and 3,588 dependants. Of the benefit population, 65% lived in claimant units where the claimant was also receiving IS/JSA(IB)/ESA(IB)/PC(GC). The mid-2008 population of Cambridge City was 118,100, suggesting that 11% of the City's population (one person in every nine people) live in a household that receives Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit.

Figure 3.1 below shows the benefit population of each ward in 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2009. Overall, there is remarkable similarity over time. Most wards have shown slight decreases in the number of people in receipt of benefits since 2002, with a slight rise in 2006 compared to 2004, and a more significant rise in 2009 compared to 2008. In all years Abbey ward has had the highest number of people living in claimant units and Newnham has had the lowest.

Figure 3.1: Total benefit population, 2002-2009

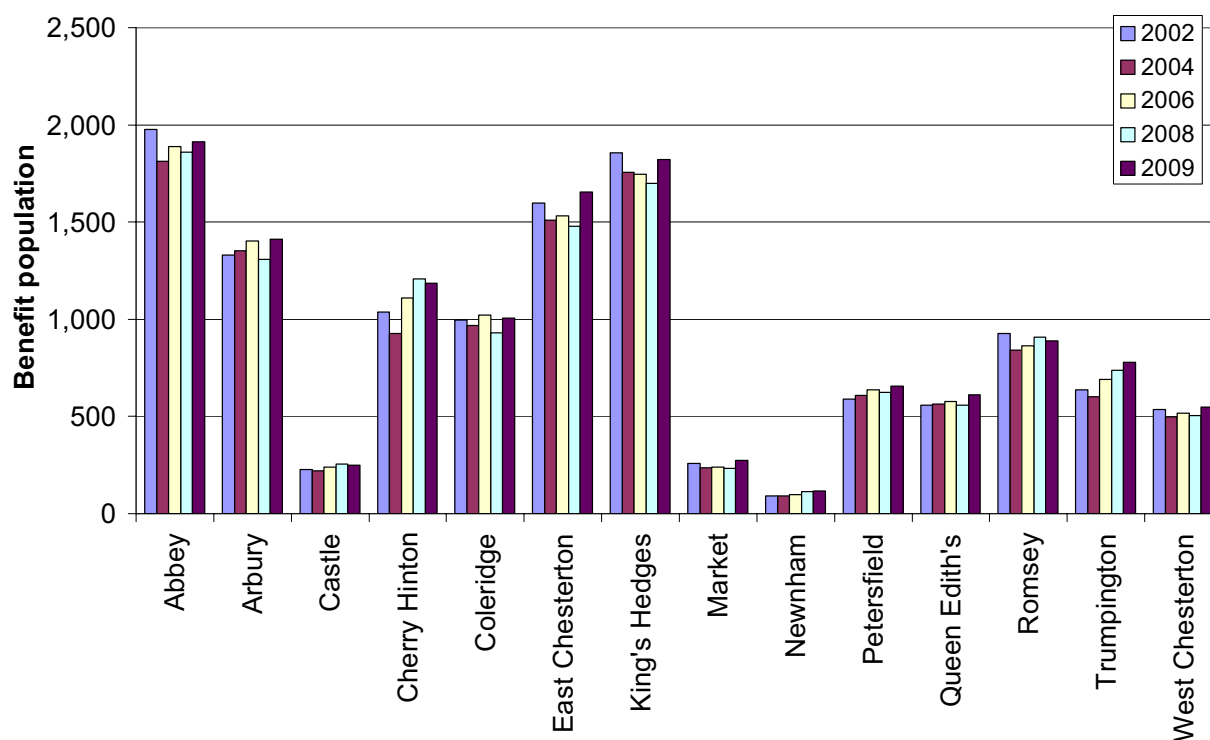
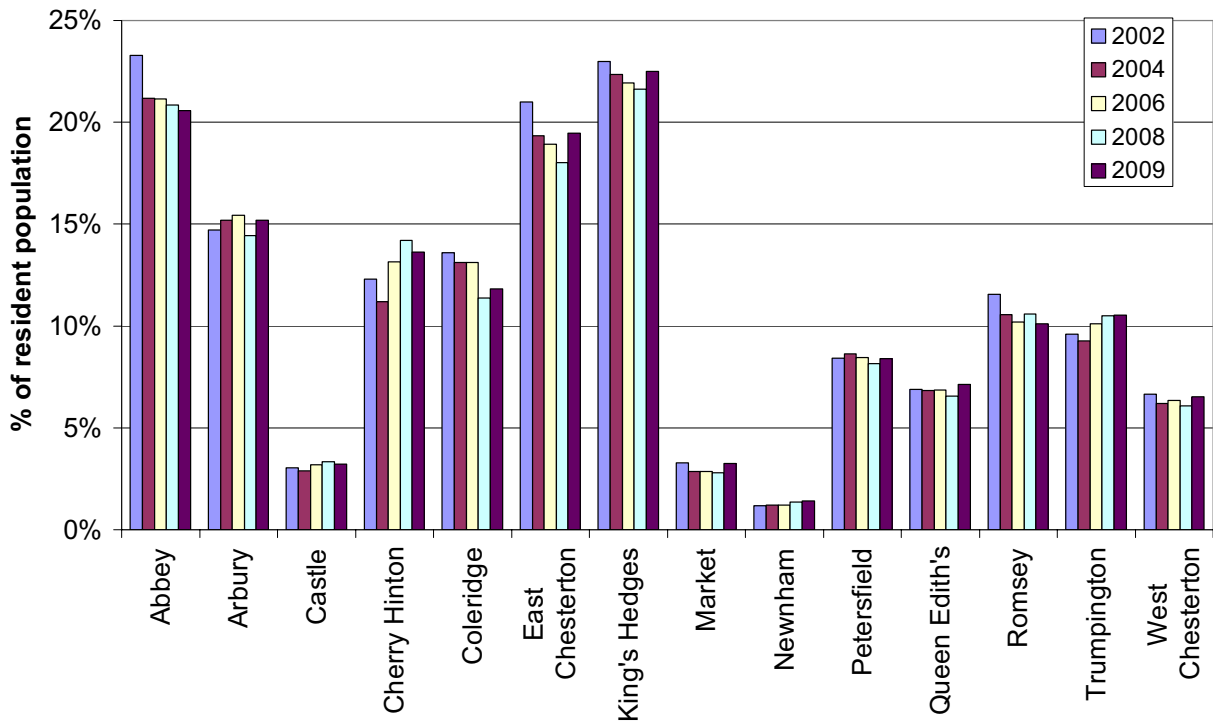


Figure 3.2 overleaf shows the benefit population as a proportion of the total population of each ward. The pattern seen is similar to that in Figure 3.1. In Abbey and King's Hedges, 21%-23% of people (over one in every five people) live in a unit receiving HB/CTB, compared to just 1% of Newnham residents.

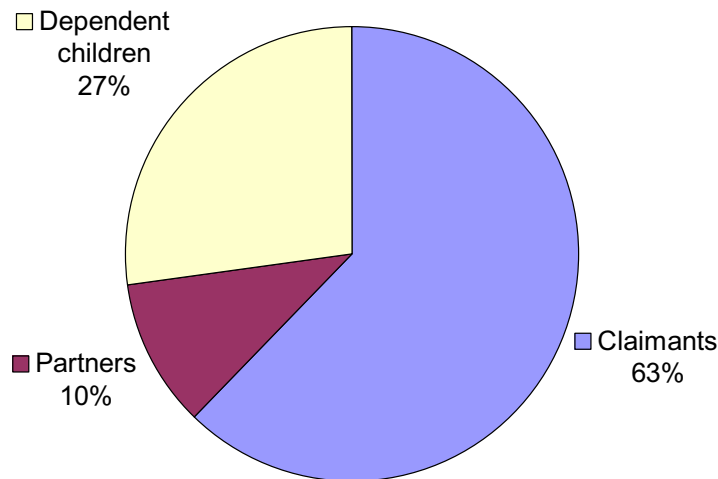
Figure 3.2: % of resident population receiving HB/CTB, 2002-2009



3.2 Total benefit population composition

The total benefit population is composed of three groups: claimants themselves, claimants' partners and dependent children. Figure 3.3 shows how the total population divides into these groups. 63% of the population is made up of claimants, 27% of the population is made up of dependent children and 10% of dependent partners. These proportions have not changed significantly since 2004, however, the proportion made up of dependent partners has increased slightly in 2009, from 10.0% to 10.3%, and the proportion made up of claimants has decreased, from 62.6% to 62.3%.

Figure 3.3: Benefit population composition



3.3 Total benefit population by output area

Table 3.1 shows the ten OAs with the highest number of people living in units in receipt of HB/CTB. In 2009, only three of Abbey's OAs are among the top ten (in 2004 and 2006, five were among the top ten).

Map 3.1 shows the total benefit population by output area. The output areas have been grouped into five bands (quintiles), each containing 20% of the OAs in the City. King's Hedges has 14 OAs among the top quintile, a population band of 70 to 179. Market, Newnham and Castle are the only wards not to have any OAs among the highest quintile. There is a clear east-west pattern across the City, with many more OAs among the highest quintile to the east. The main exception to this trend is in the Anstey Way area of Trumpington, to the south of the City.

Table 3.1: Top 10 OAs containing the largest total benefit population

2009 Rank	2008 (2006) rank	Ward name	OA Code	Count 2009	Count 2008
1	1 (3)	Abbey	12UBFQ0014	179	183
2	3 (1)	Abbey	12UBFQ0011	162	152
3	4 (19)	Queen Edith's	12UBGB0021	158	127
4	2 (2)	East Chesterton	12UBFW0005	155	169
5	5 (6)	East Chesterton	12UBFW0018	135	126
6	7 (4)	Arbury	12UBFR0004	133	121
7	6 (5)	East Chesterton	12UBFW0014	125	122
8	22= (8=)	Abbey	12UBFQ0006	114	91
9=	10 (16=)	King's Hedges	12UBFX0023	110	107
9=	13 (30=)	Petersfield	12UBGA0014	110	101

Map 3.2 shows the change in total benefit population by output area. Some OAs have shown little change, with just the darkest coloured and lightest coloured quintiles representing areas with more marked change. The two OAs with the greatest increase are both in East Chesterton (+42 and +31). The areas with the greatest decline are in Petersfield (-31) and Market (-26).

3.4 Population also in receipt of IS/JSA(IB)/ESA(IB)/PC(GC)

In Cambridge City 8,472 (65%) of the benefit population live in a claimant unit where the claimant is also receiving IS/JSA(IB)/ESA(IB)/PC(GC). In 2008, 67% of the benefit population lived in claimant units where the claimant also received IS, JSA(IB) or PC. The higher proportion last year was due to the inclusion of all those claiming Pension Credit (not just those claiming the Guarantee Credit element) due to a change in reporting by DWP. The introduction of Employment and Support Allowance in October 2008 may also have had an effect on the proportion of people receiving additional benefits. Figure 3.4 shows how this proportion varies between wards. In Petersfield, 68% of people also receive IS/JSA(IB)/ESA(IB)/PC(GC), compared to just 58% of people in Newnham. The highest number of people receiving IS/JSA(IB)/ESA(IB)/PC(GC) is found in Abbey, followed by King's Hedges.

Figure 3.4: Number of people (and % of benefit population) receiving IS/JSA(IB)/ESA(IB)/PC(GC), by ward

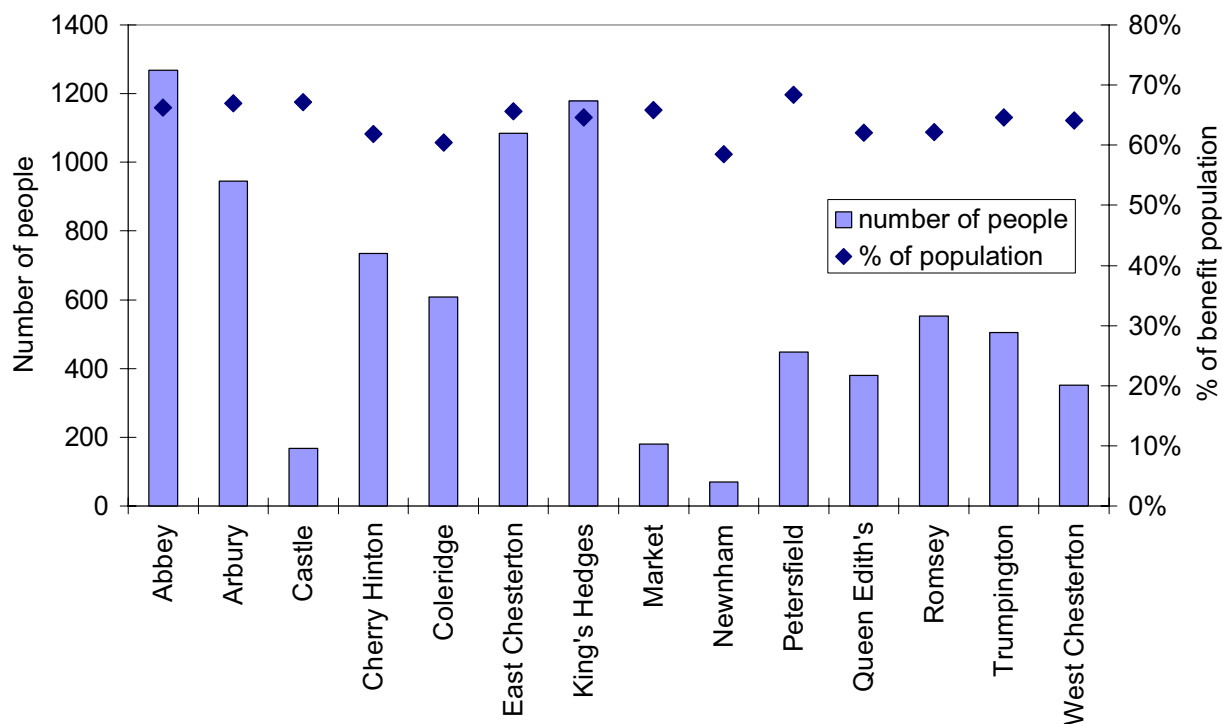
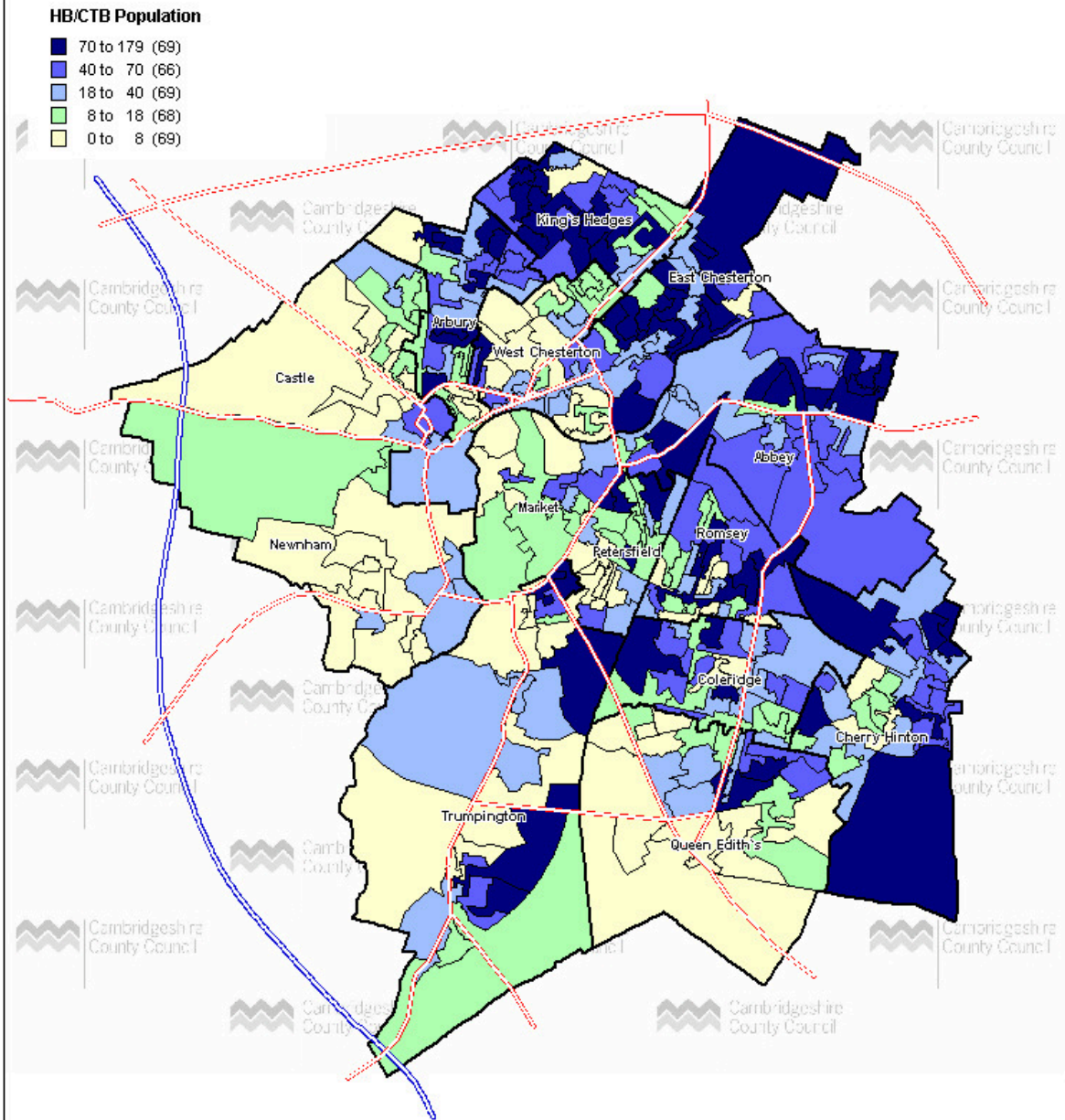


Table 3.2 shows the ten OAs containing the largest benefit population living in claimant units where the claimant also received IS/JSA(IB)/ESA(IB)/PC(GC). East Chesterton has three output areas among the top ten, Abbey and Arbury both have two.

Table 3.2: Top 10 OAs containing the largest total benefit population also receiving IS/JSA(IB)/ESA(IB)/PC(GC)

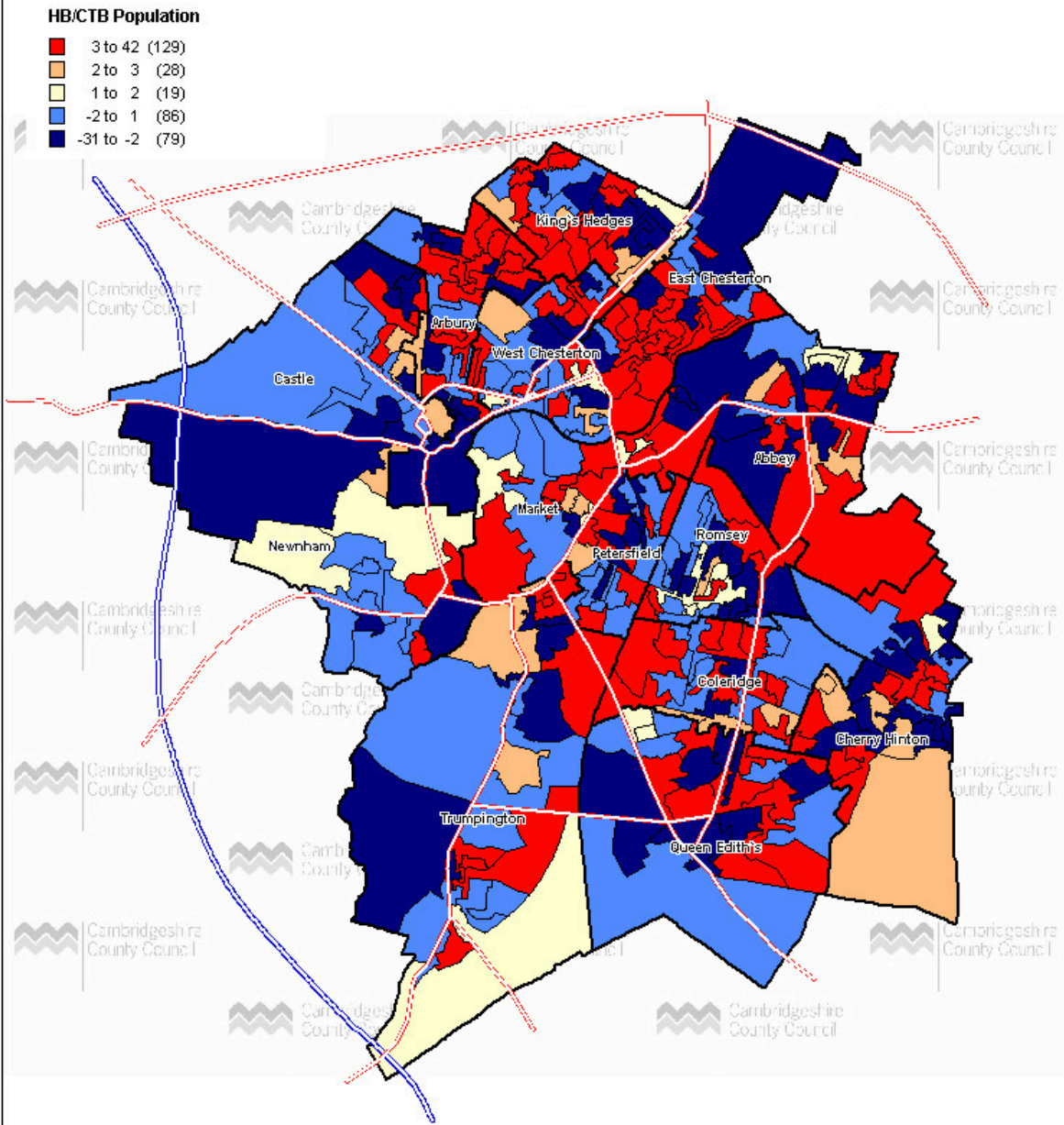
2009 Rank	2008 Rank	Ward name	OA Code	Count 2009	Count 2008
1	1	Abbey	12UBFQ0014	137	127
2	3	Abbey	12UBFQ0011	112	107
3	2	East Chesterton	12UBFW0005	104	117
4	7	Arbury	12UBFR0004	101	82
5	8=	Arbury	12UBFR0007	88	80
6	5=	Queen Edith's	12UBGB0021	86	83
7=	4	East Chesterton	12UBFW0014	83	90
7=	5=	Petersfield	12UBGA0014	83	83
9	17=	East Chesterton	12UBFW0018	82	69
10	21=	Trumpington	12UBGD0001	78	65

Map 3.1: HB/CTB Population 2009



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Map 3.2: Change in HB/CTB Population 2008 to 2009



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