

4 Families

Dependent children – children aged 0 to 15 and those aged 16 to 18 who are dependent on a parent or carer (and are often still in full time education) – form 27% of the total benefit population. This section presents more detail about the child population living in benefit claimant units and about the claimant units they are part of.

4.1 Child benefit population

In 2009 there were 3,588 dependent children living in 1,955 claimant units. The child benefit population has risen since 2008, when there were 3,401 children, and is at its highest level since 2002, when there were 3,507 children. 19% of all dependent children in the City live in units claiming HB/CTB. This is unchanged from 2006 and 2008, and has increased slightly from 18% in 2004, but all these years are lower than the 20% seen in 2002.

4.2 Child benefit population by ward

Abbey has the most children living in claimant units, with 635. East Chesterton (576) and King’s Hedges (544) also have large child benefit populations, although none of these have reached 2002 levels despite an increase in 2009. Half of all children in claimant units live in the three wards of Abbey, East Chesterton or King’s Hedges.

Figure 4.1: Child benefit population, by ward, 2002-2009

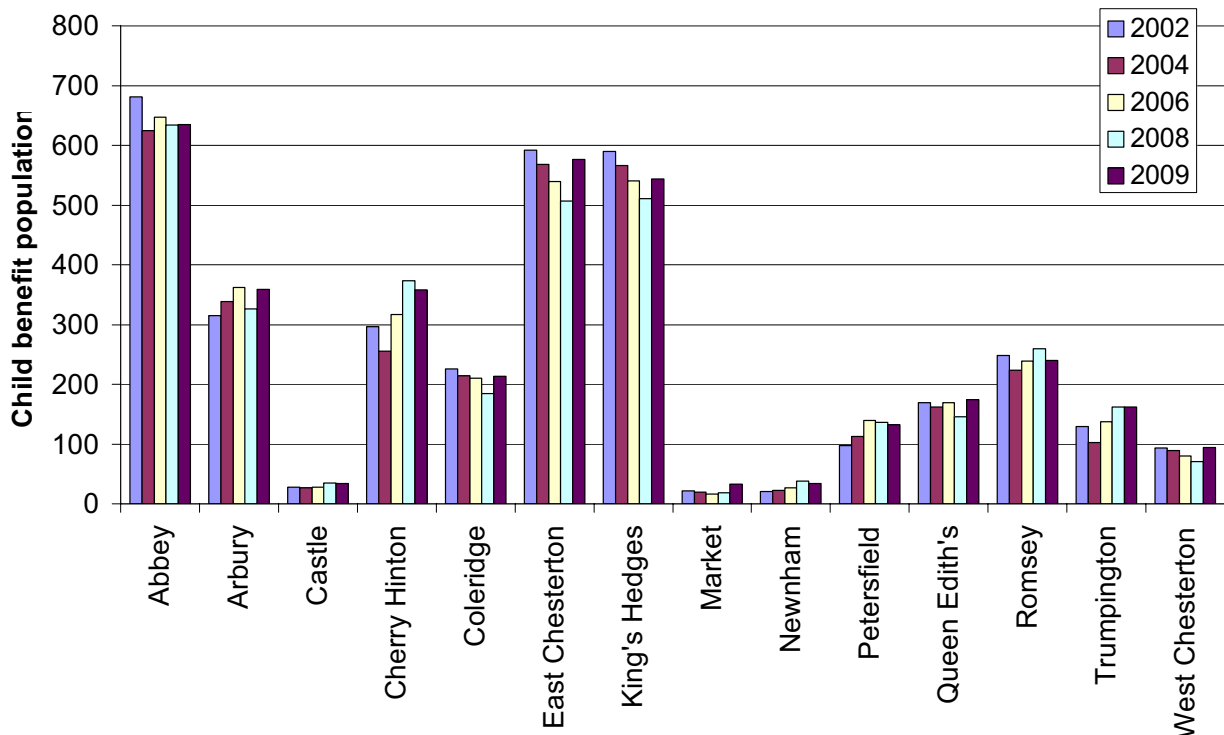


Figure 4.2 overleaf presents the child benefit population as a proportion of the total number of dependent children resident in each ward. The pattern shown is fairly similar to figure 4.1 above, but Petersfield, Romsey and Trumpington wards, in particular, show that, despite having small child benefit populations, children in receipt of benefits form a moderately high proportion of resident dependent children.

Figure 4.2: Child benefit population as % of resident dependent children, by ward, 2002-2009

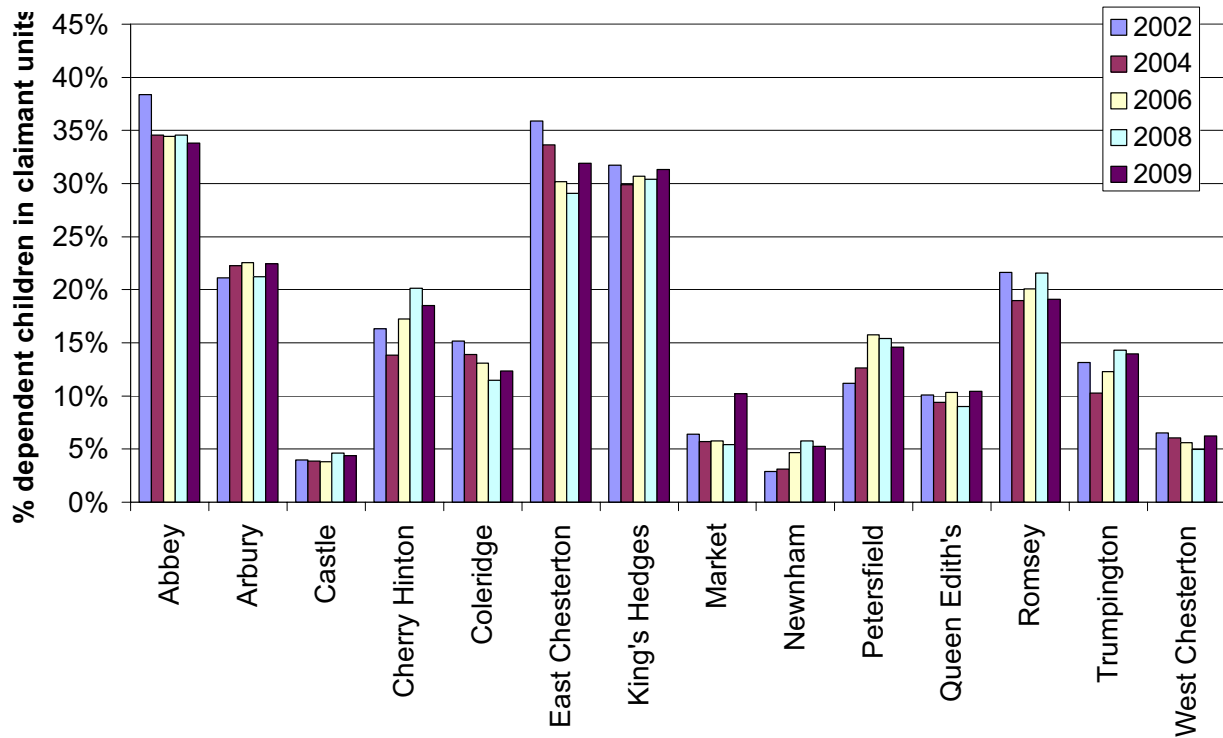
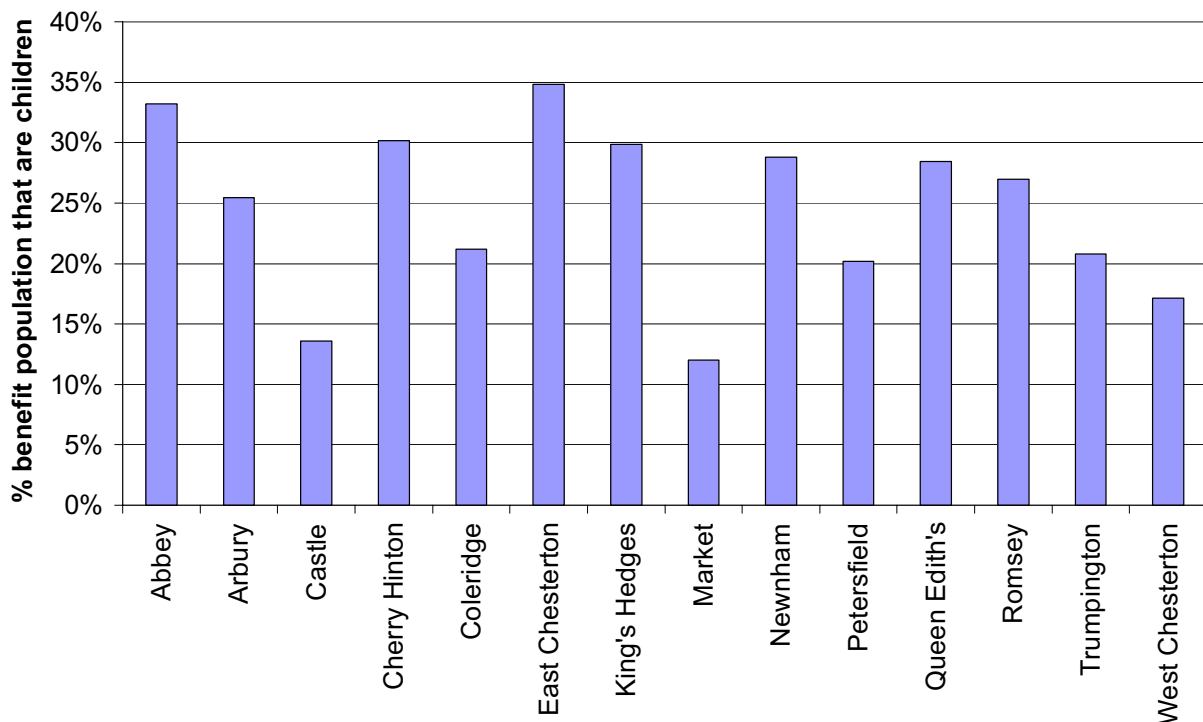


Figure 4.3 below shows the proportion of each ward's benefit population that is composed of dependent children. Across the City as a whole this figure is 27%, but varies from 33% in Abbey and 35% in East Chesterton to 12% in Market. It is interesting to note that in Market and Newnham, both of which have very small child benefit populations, the child benefit population forms very different proportions of the total benefit populations.

Figure 4.3: Proportion of the benefit population composed of dependent children



4.3 Child benefit population by output area

Map 4.1 shows the distribution of the population of dependent 0-18 year olds living in claimant units by OA. With the exception of Anstey Way in Trumpington, all of the large under 19 populations are on the east side of the City. Abbey contains the two OAs with the highest number of children living in claimant units, and has four OAs among the top ten. Abbey, East Chesterton and King's Hedges have the most OAs among the highest quintile and Castle has none.

Table 4.1 shows the ten OAs with the most children living in claimant units. There has been little change in these OAs since 2006.

Table 4.1: Ten OAs with the highest number of children living in claimant units

2009 Rank	2008 (2006) rank	Ward name	OA Code	Count 2009	Count 2008
1	1 (2)	Abbey	12UBFQ0014	95	99
2	3 (1)	Abbey	12UBFQ0011	77	69
3	4 (5)	East Chesterton	12UBFW0018	67	64
4	2 (3)	East Chesterton	12UBFW0005	64	73
5	5 (4)	East Chesterton	12UBFW0014	60	58
6	9 (7)	Arbury	12UBFR0004	54	43
7	6 (6)	Abbey	12UBFQ0002	52	50
8=	16= (11)	Abbey	12UBFQ0006	45	35
8=	16= (14=)	Coleridge	12UBFU0017	45	35
10	7 (8)	Petersfield	12UBGA0006	43	47

4.4 Change in child benefit population by output area, 2008-2009

Map 4.2 shows the change in the number of children living in claimant units since 2008. The largest increase has been in the Lynfield Lane area of East Chesterton, and the biggest decrease in the child benefit population has been in the Spalding Way / Tillyard Way area of Queen Edith's.

4.5 Child benefit population living in claimant units also in receipt of IS/JSA/PC

2,334 children (65% of the child benefit population) were living in claimants units also in receipt of IS/JSA(IB)/ESA(IB)/PC(GC). This proportion varied from 52% in Coleridge to 76% in Market, but most other wards were around the City average.

4.6 Child benefit population by age

Figure 4.4 shows the child benefit population broken down into four age bands. On average, 35% of the child benefit population is aged 5 to 10; 26% is aged 0 to 4; 26% is aged 11 to 15 and just 13% is aged 16 to 18. Figure 4.5 shows how these proportions vary between wards.

Figure 4.4: Child benefit population by age and ward

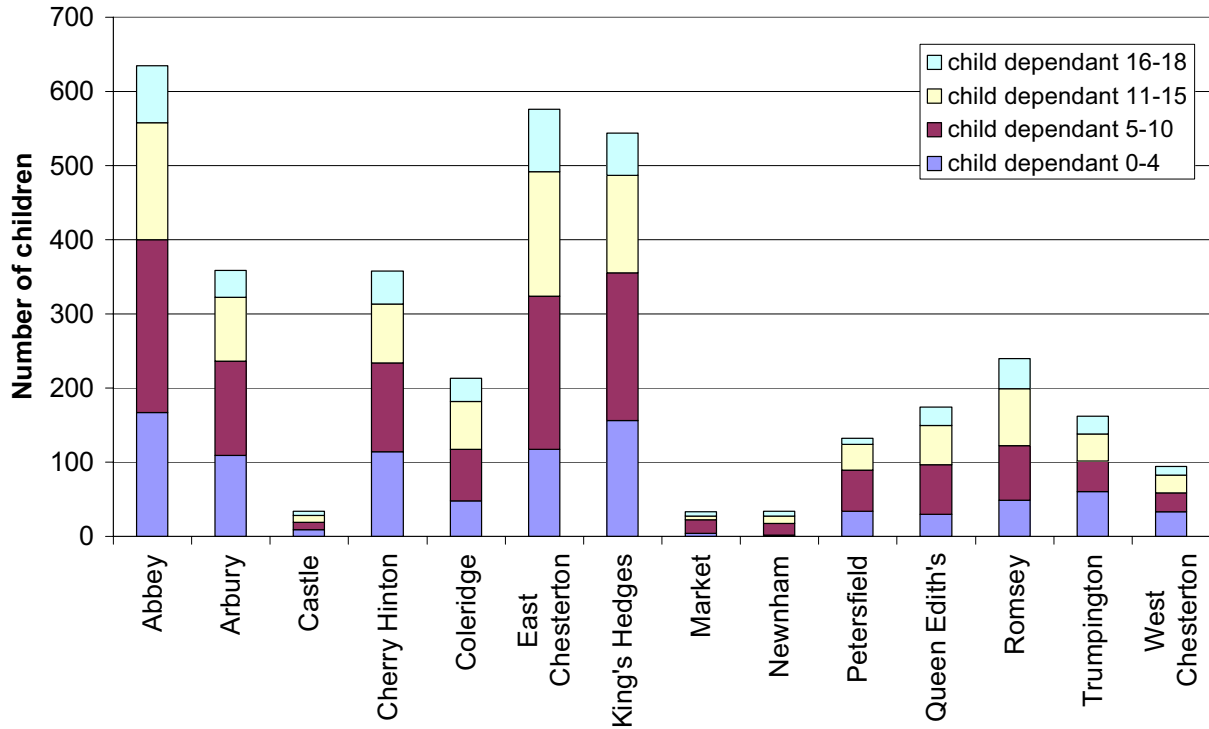
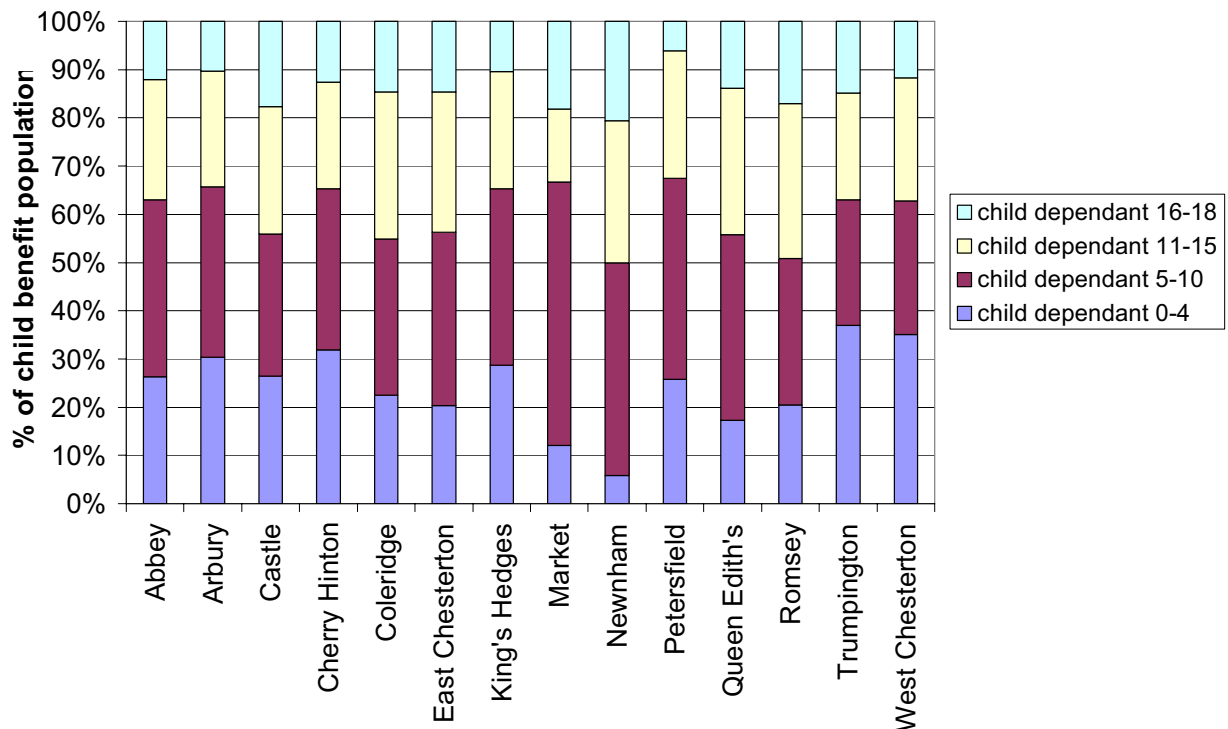
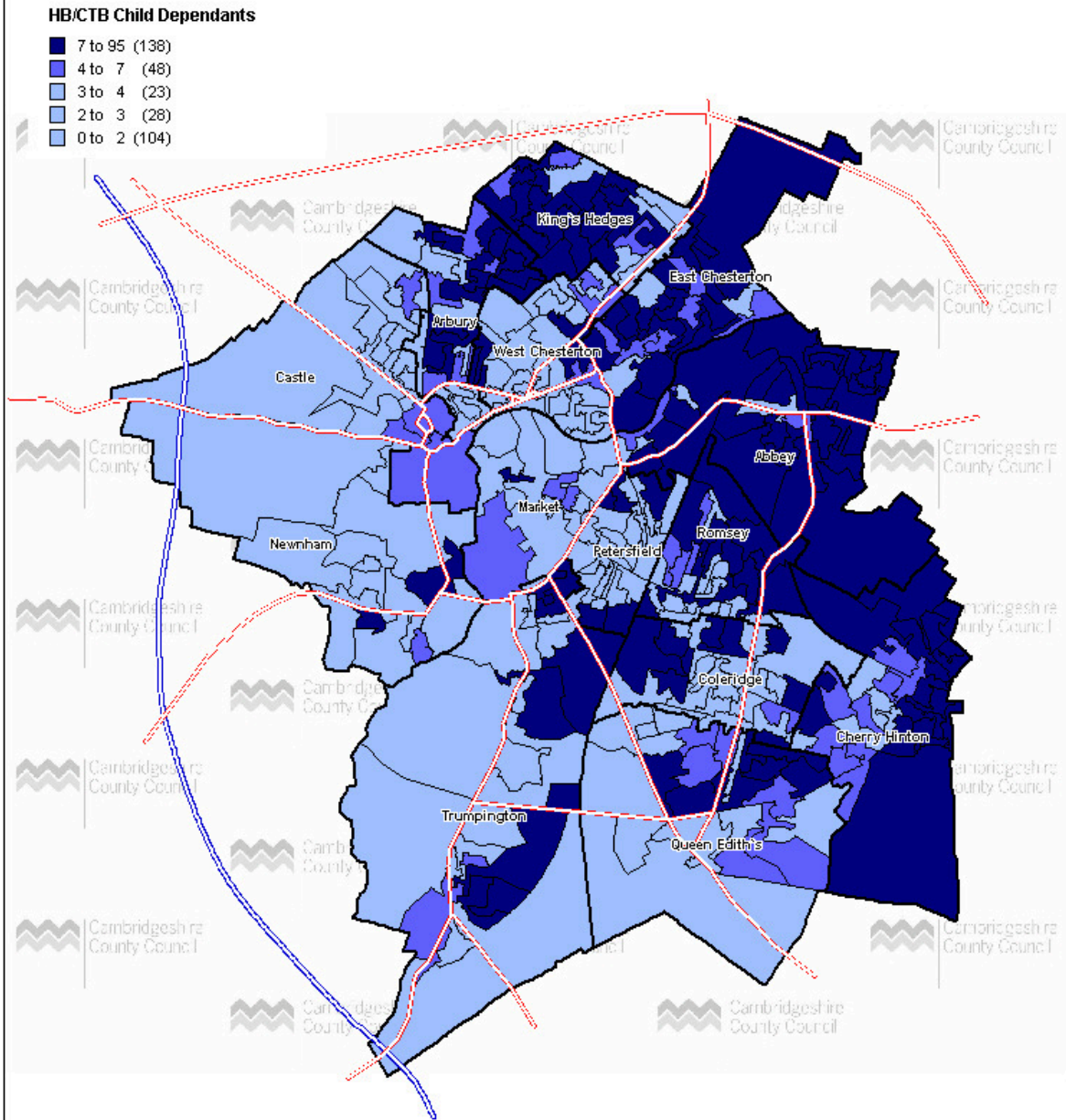


Figure 4.5: Child benefit population age composition



Map 4.1: HB/CTB Child Dependants 2009

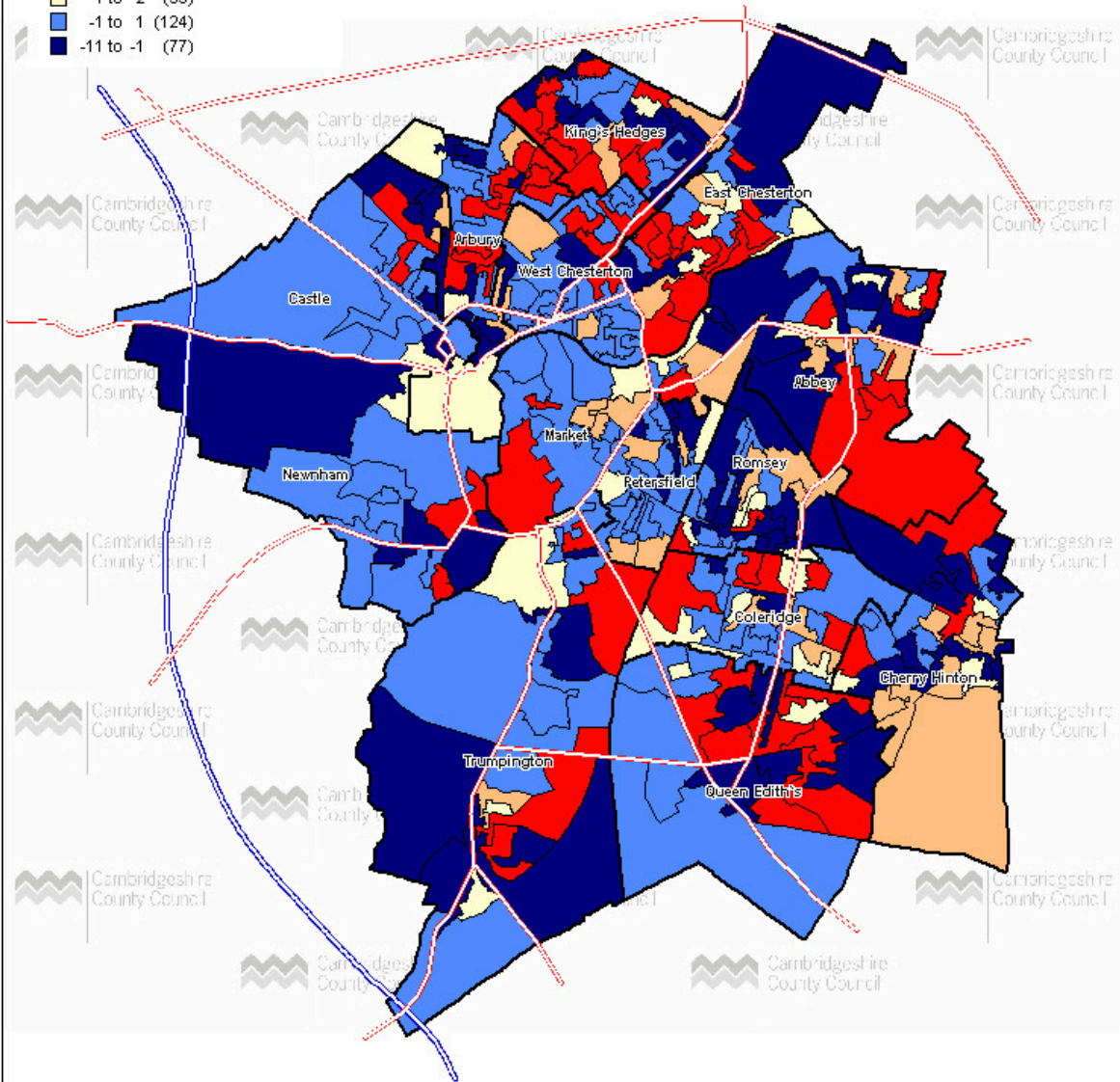


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Map 4.2: Change in HB/CTB Child Dependants 2008 to 2009

HB/CTB Child Dependants

- 3 to 15 (71)
- 2 to 3 (36)
- 1 to 2 (33)
- -1 to 1 (124)
- -11 to -1 (77)

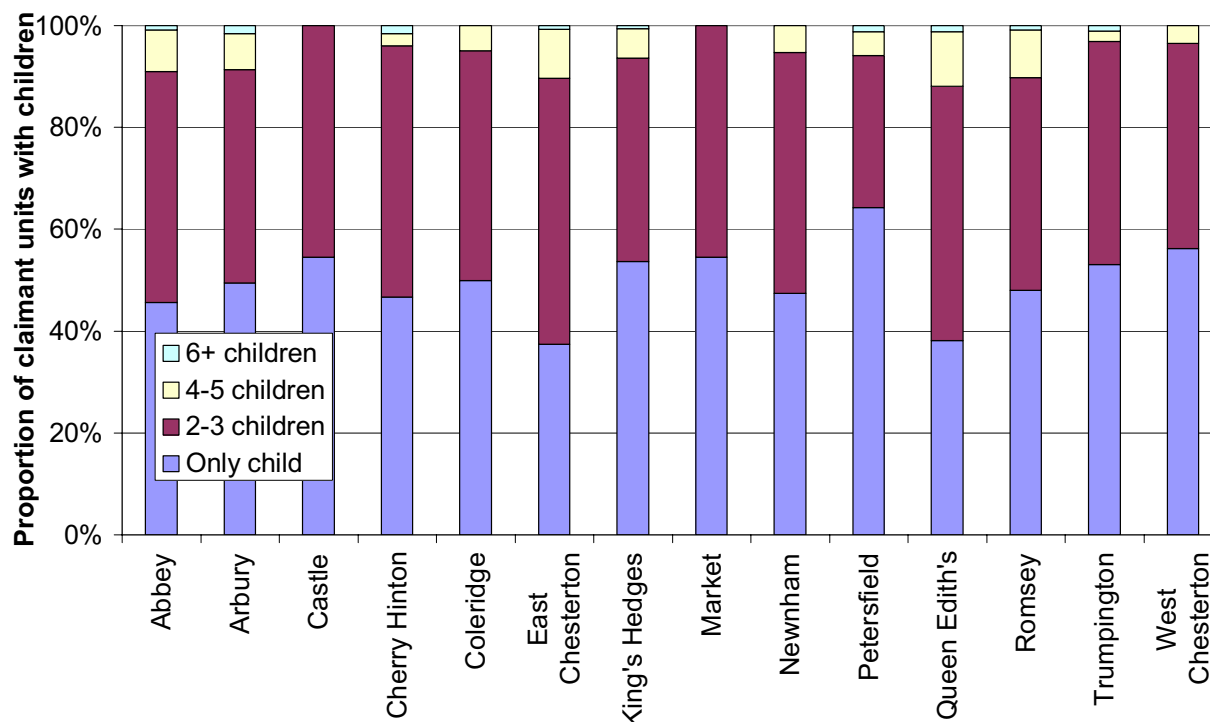


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4.7 Child density

Figure 4.6 shows the child composition of each claimant unit that contains dependent children. Overall, 48% of units containing children contained just one dependent child; a further 45% contained two or three children. Just 6% contained four or five children and a further 1% contained six or more children. Single child units dominate in Petersfield and West Chesterton, compared to East Chesterton and Queen Edith's, where three fifths of units with children contained two or more children.

Figure 4.6: Number of children per claimant unit containing children, by ward



4.8 Lone parent claimants

In 2009 there were 1,404 lone parent claimant units, making up 17% of units in the City and 72% of units containing dependent children. Figure 4.7 below shows the number of lone parent claimant units by ward. The largest lone parent HB/CTB populations are in Abbey, King's Hedges and East Chesterton (247, 231 and 201). The number of lone parent claimant units has risen slightly from 1,388 in 2008, and is notably higher than the 2002 figure of 1,196; however, the proportion of lone parent claimant units has fallen slightly from 18% in 2008, when lone parent claimants made up 75% of units containing dependent children.

Figure 4.7: Number of lone parent claimant units, by ward

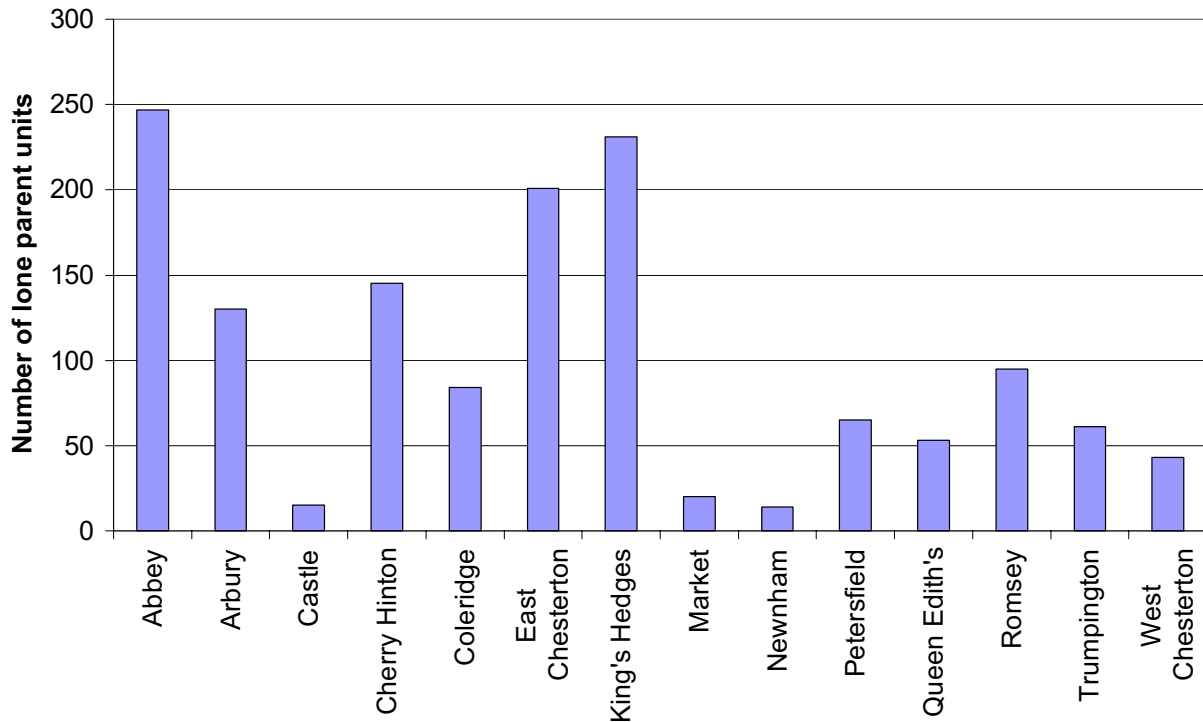
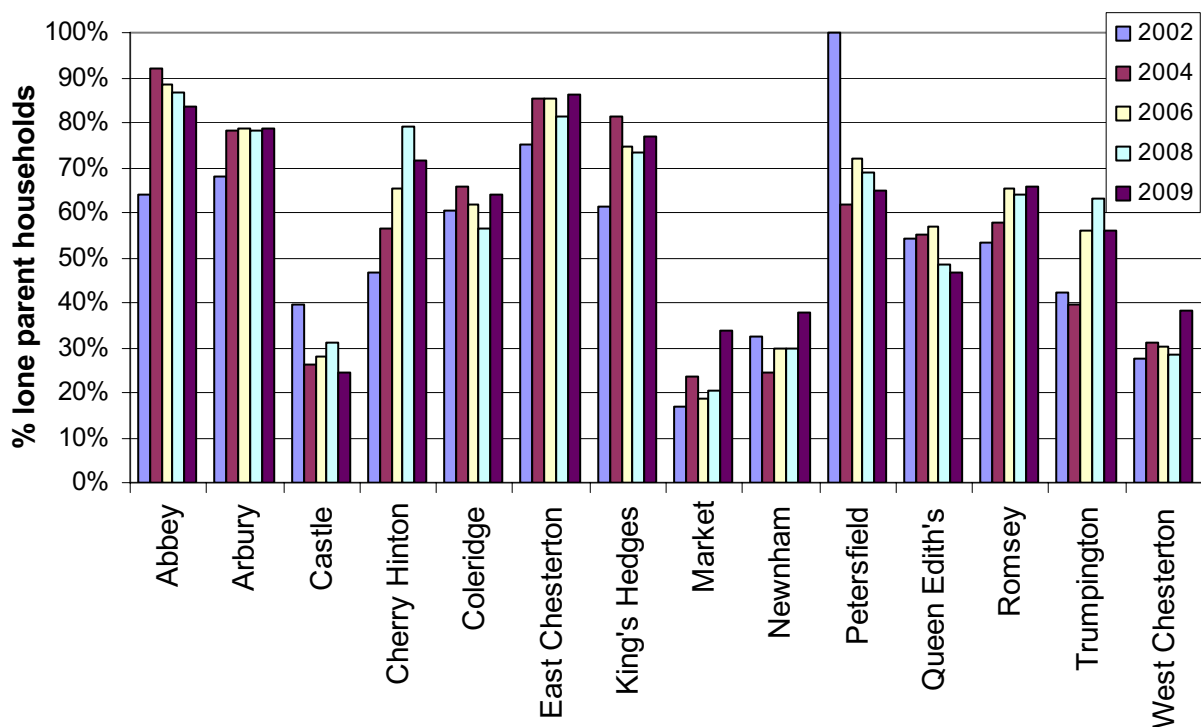


Figure 4.8 below shows lone parent claimant units as a proportion of lone parent households enumerated at the 2001 Census, for each ward, over time. Lone parent claimant units now form 68% of lone parent households, compared to 58% in 2002. These proportions should be interpreted with caution, however, as claimant units are not necessarily the same as households and the denominator (the 2001 Census) is becoming increasingly out of date.

Figure 4.8: Lone parent claimant units as a proportion of lone parent households, 2002-2009



4.9 Couple parent claimants

Couple parent claimant units make up a small proportion of all claimant units, at just 7%, with 551 units. However, the number of couple parent claimant units has risen significantly from 468 (6% of units) in 2008, and the proportion of units containing dependent children made up of couple parent claimants has risen from 25% to 28% since 2008.

Figure 4.9: Number of couple parent claimant units, by ward

