

Hove Population Structure 1891-1931

The data which follows is a version of a short presentation on the history of Brighton & Hove's population age and gender structure given to the Hove U3A Local History Group. The idea is to highlight some differences in the population pyramids over time or comparing Hove with other areas at the same date, either nationally or locally, which may suggest investigation of the possible social factors creating the differences.

Unfortunately, in comparison to Brighton, virtually no detailed work has been done on the origins and class/employment structure of Hove in this period, so any generalizations must be rather speculative. In particular, we do not know what the balance was between the inhabitants coming from Brighton and those from further afield in the spread of the mix of new middle-class and artisan housing being built from the 1880s, or how long people tended to remain.

As this document is intended as a data resource, I refrain from detailed comments. Some general points worth noting are:

National trends – the 1891 England pyramid is still pretty much a pre-modern one, with high infant mortality – the improvements in that rate only really get going after 1900. On the whole medical care and diet were improving, so people were living longer. After the First World War, a gradual shift was happening to longer life, lower birth rates, and higher marriage rates, hence more small families and a higher demand for more, but smaller houses.

Apart from the obvious gender imbalance created by the number of female servants in Hove, noteworthy is a depletion of younger males in the resort towns, reflecting a deficit of good opportunities for men in resort towns, without the varied jobs created by manufacturing and its associated needs. Note also the extra bulge of boys and girls 5-15 linked to the numerous small extra schools.

The data tables for the population pyramids in the text are gathered together in a separate item, so that the information is easily accessible for use by all. Also included there are the Hove data tables for later census dates and some further information on other places in 1911, including a couple of industrial towns, for comparison purposes. I chose 1911 for this comparison as it is roughly the high point of servant employment. As yet I have not found an age/gender breakdown for all Hove prior to 1891

Michael Ray in his thesis "The Evolution of Brunswick Town, Hove 1830-1881" provides a model for the sort of detailed work that can be done, but the relatively early cut-off date of 1880 and the highly aristocratic tone of the Brunswick Town development mean one cannot draw any conclusions about Hove in general.

His articles: Domestic Servants in A Superior Suburb [SAC 131, 1993], Who were the Brunswick Town Commissioners? [SAC 127, 1989] and the extended note: The Victorian Boarding School in a suburb of an English Seaside Resort [SAC 129, 1991] all contain statistical information.

I have included his population data for Brunswick Town as a matter of interest. The Brunswick pyramids for 1861 and 1871 are labelled provisional for reasons I explain with the data tables.

A good study of resorts in the 19th century and comparisons/differences between them is:

The English Seaside Resort – a Social History 1750-1914 (JK Walton)

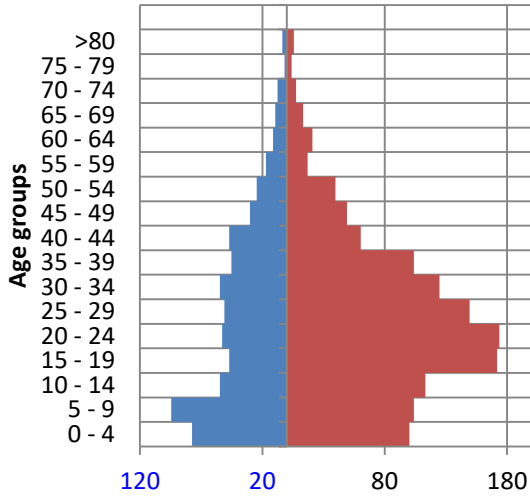
Note: the boundaries of the Hove census area varied through time, and the age/gender character of the added areas makes simple comparisons of one census with another dubious.

For census purposes, prior to 1935, Hove was part of Steyning Registration District. Steyning included, besides Hove and other CPs, Aldrington [to 1935], Hangleton [to 1935], Preston Rural [to 1928, created in 1894], West Blatchington [to 1935] and Portslade [to 1935] (Total population transfer 64520 in 1931 [figure from UKBMD – Districts list]). There were minor adjustments toward boundaries in 1928 which affected Steyning RD and Hove (100 or so persons)

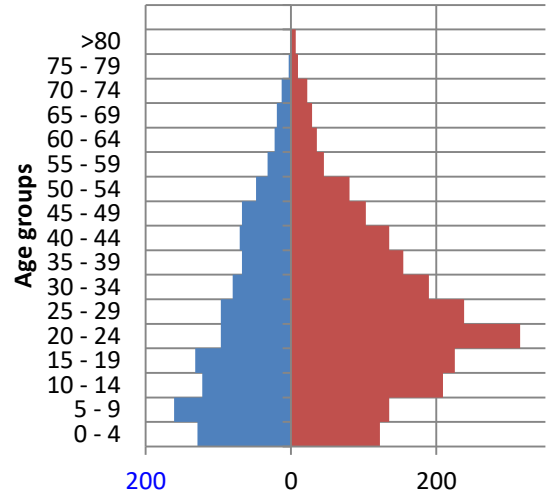
1935 -1998 – Hove was its own Registration District – made by including the parishes mentioned above

1998 – Hove became part of Brighton & Hove Registration District

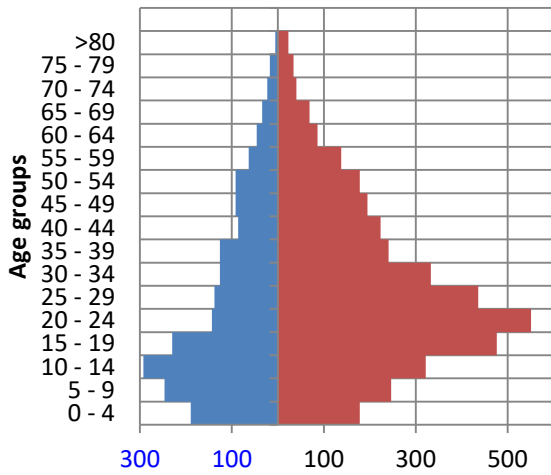
Brunswick 1841



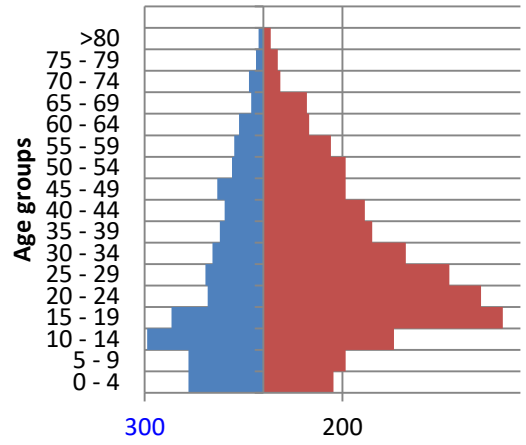
Brunswick 1851



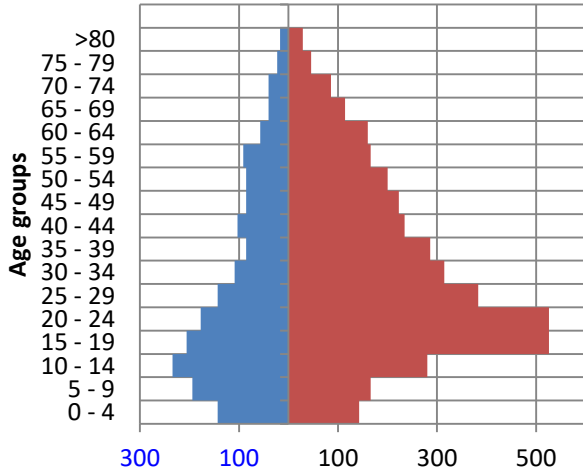
Brunswick Provisional 1861



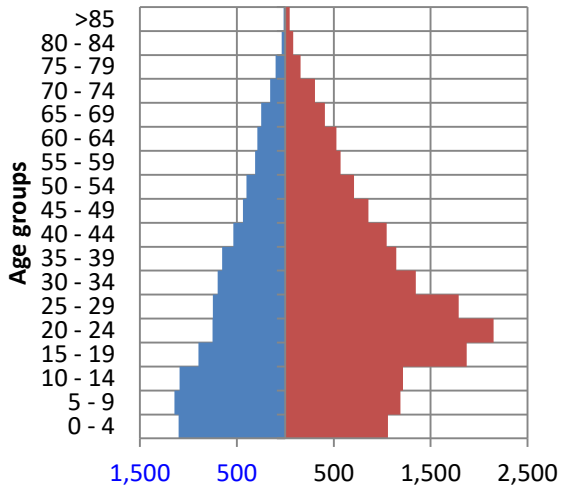
Brunswick Provisional 1871



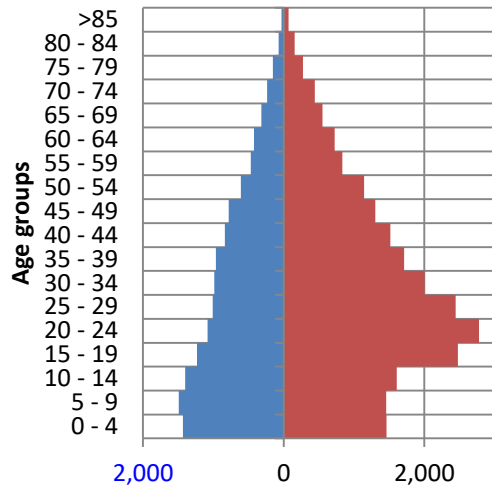
Brunswick 1881



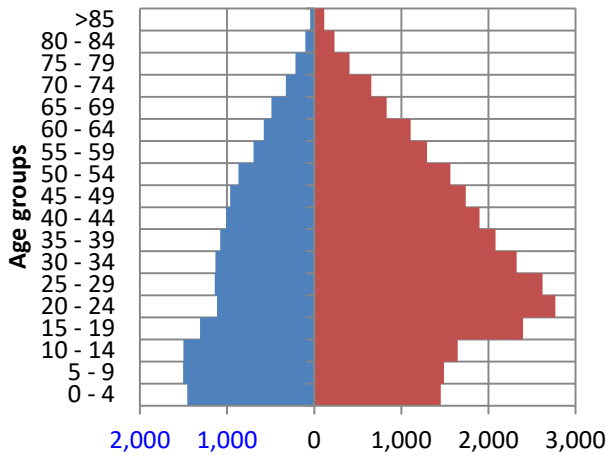
Hove 1891



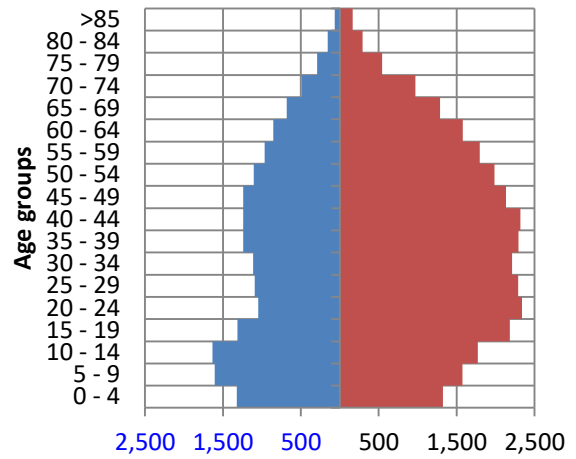
Hove 1901



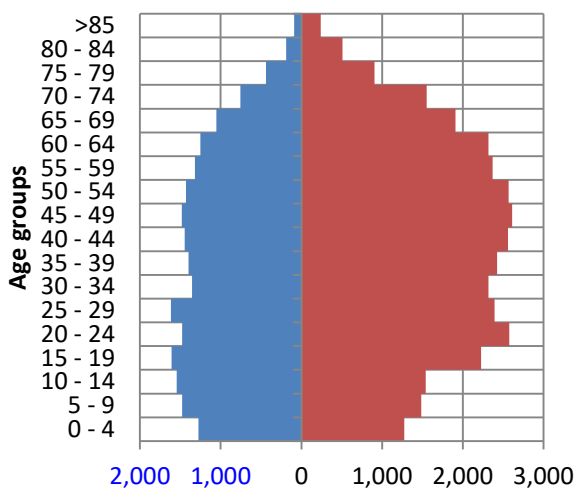
Hove 1911



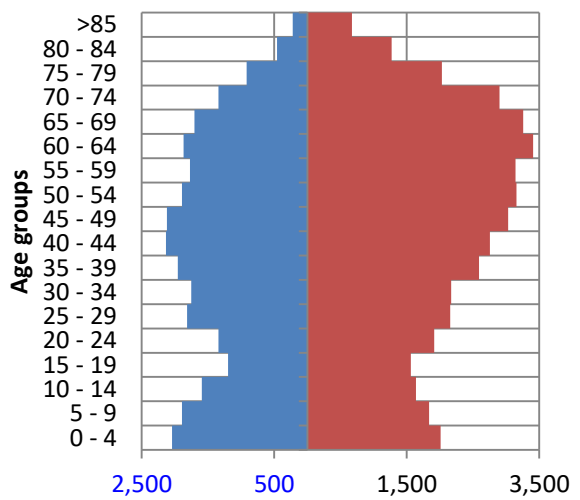
Hove 1921



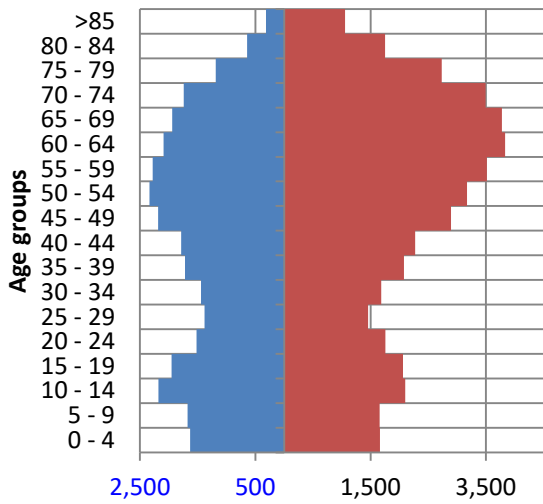
Hove 1931



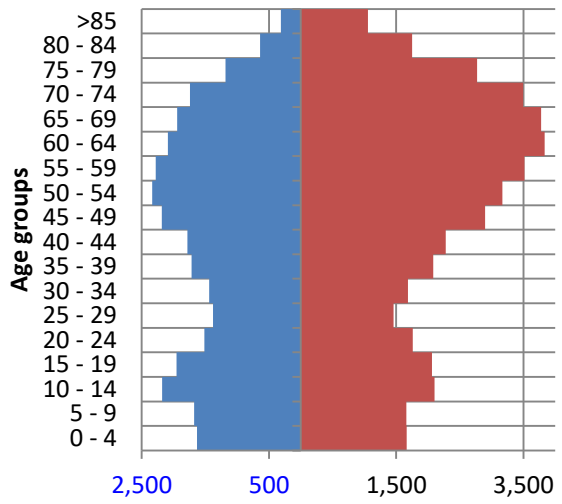
Hove 1951



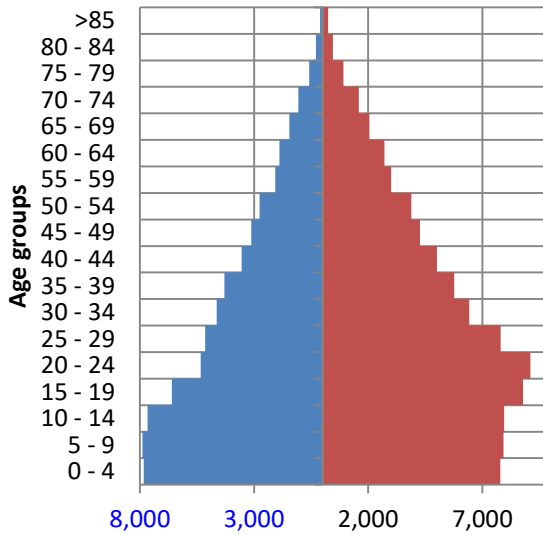
Hove 1961



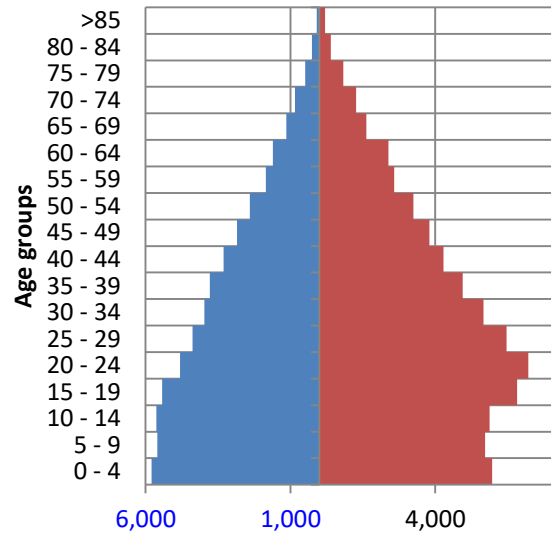
Hove 1971



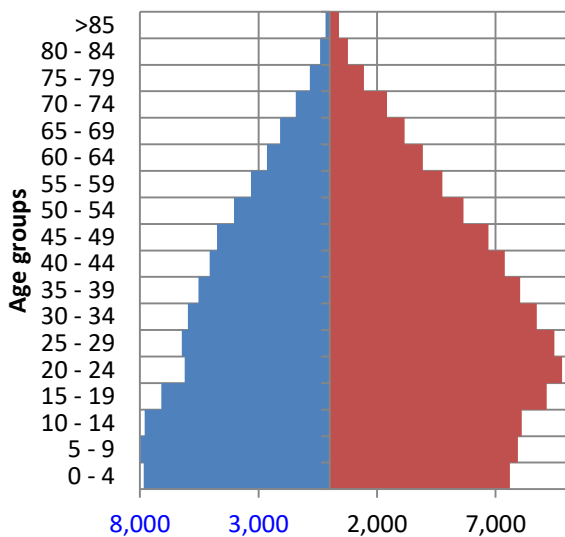
Brighton 1891



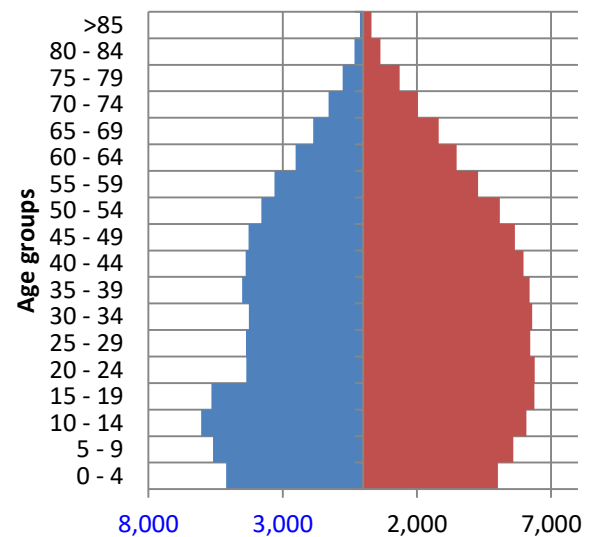
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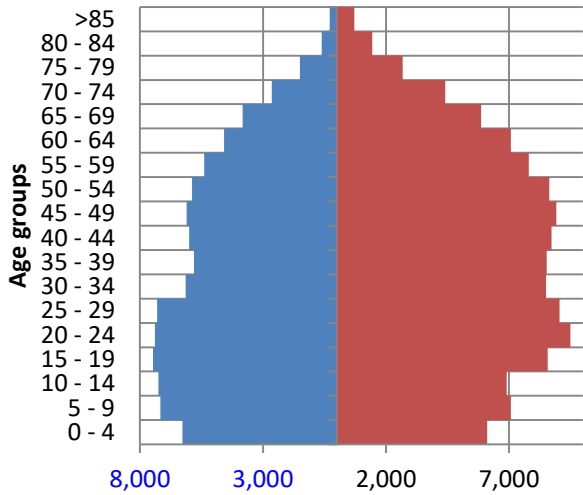
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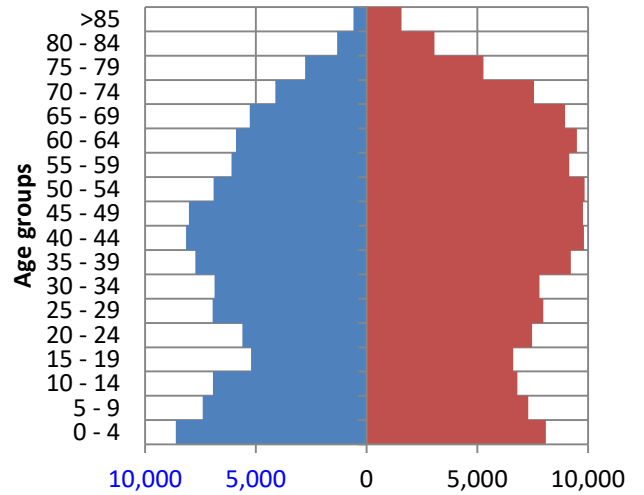
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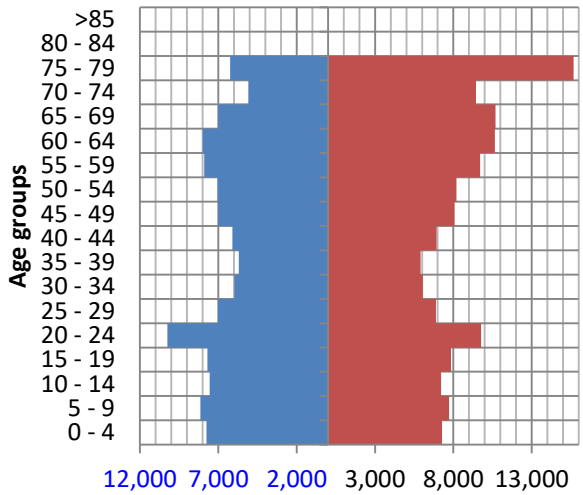
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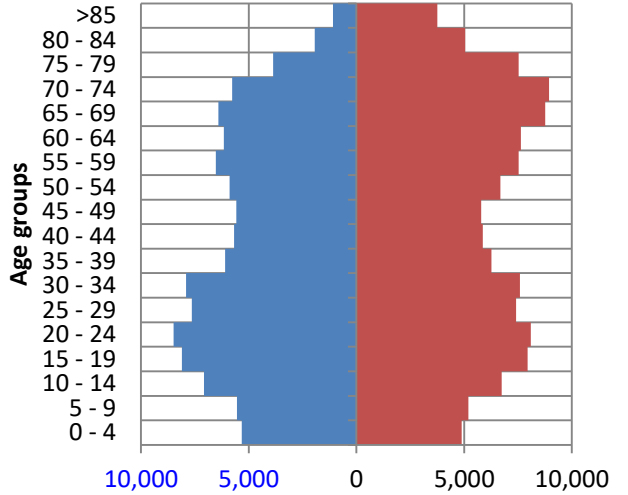
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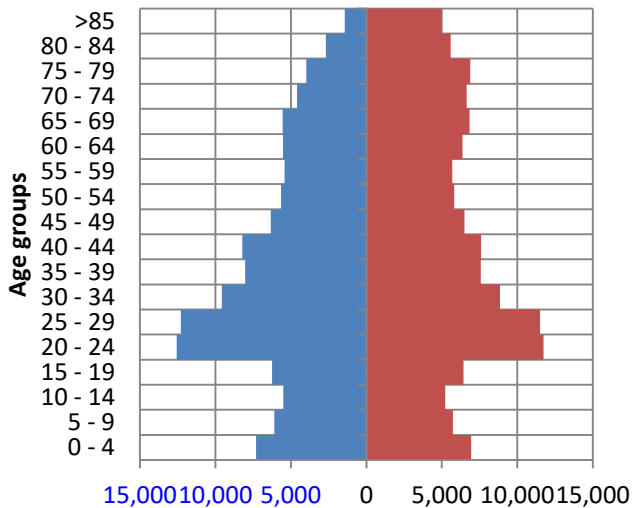
Brighton 1971



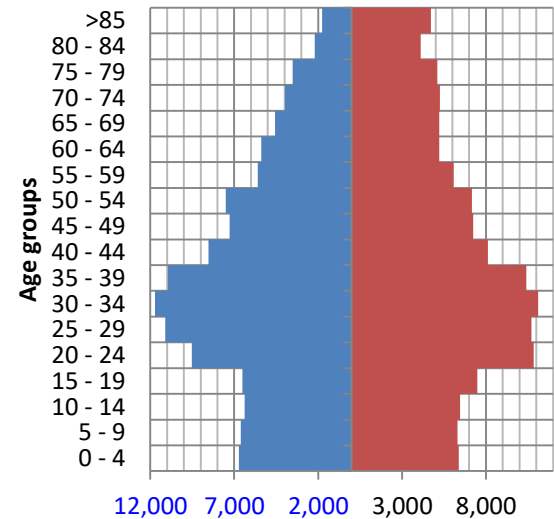
Brighton 1981



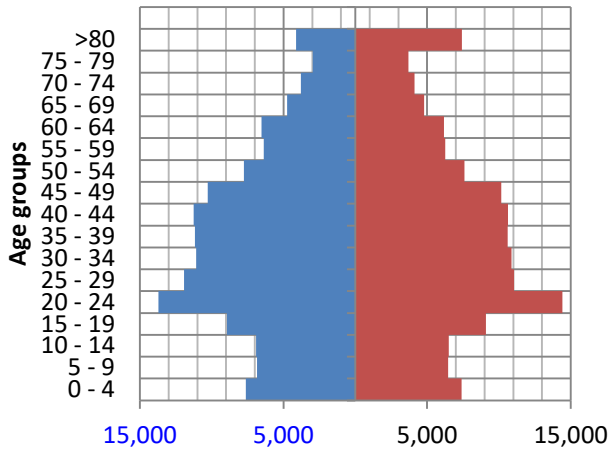
Brighton 1991



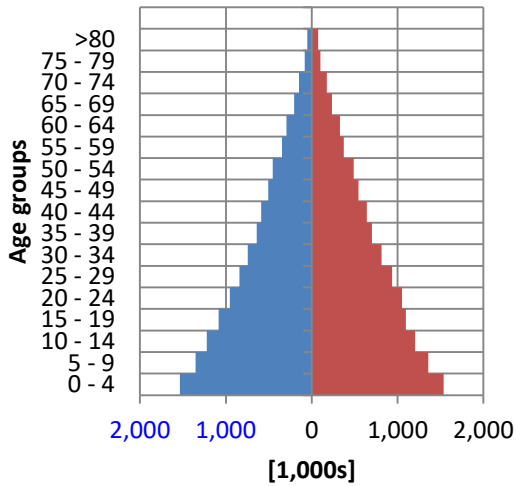
Brighton 2001



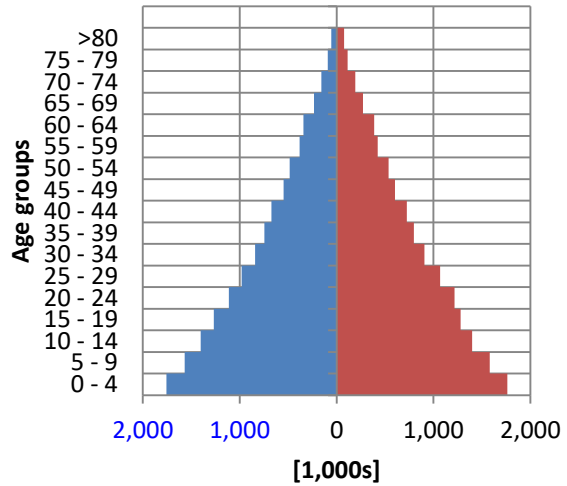
Brighton & Hove 2011



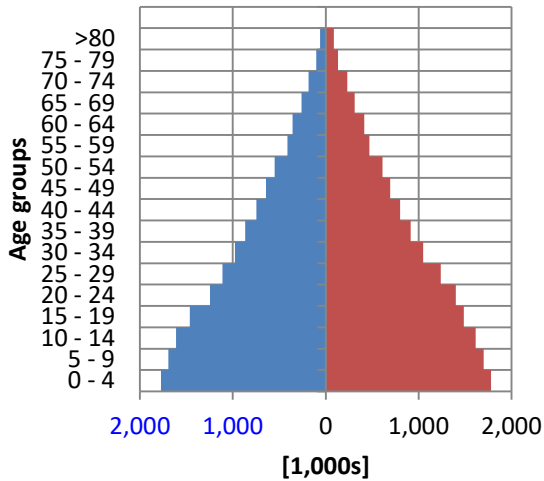
England 1871



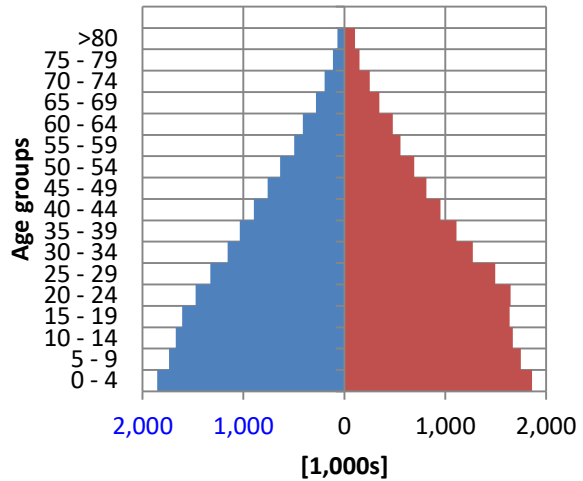
England 1881



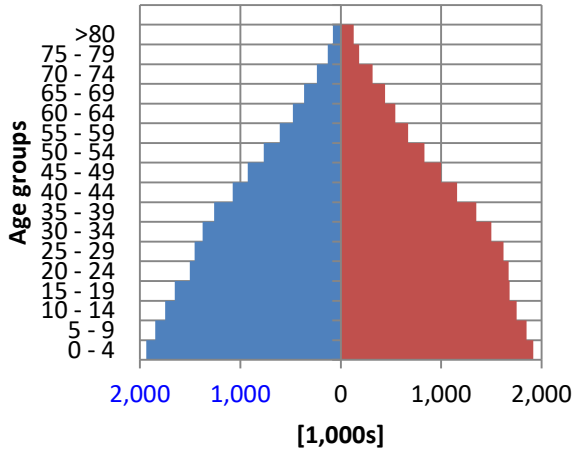
England 1891



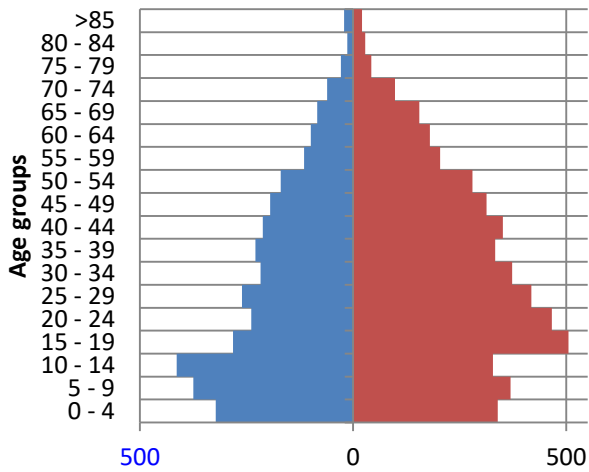
England 1901



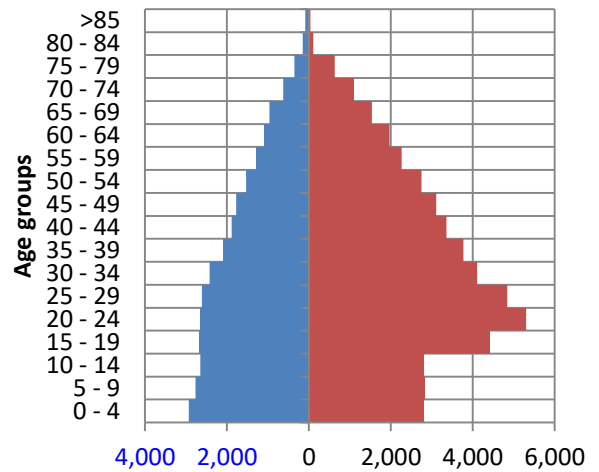
England 1911



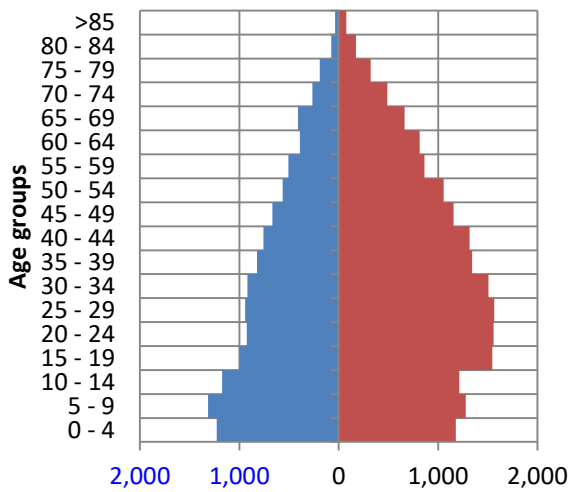
Bognor Regis 1911



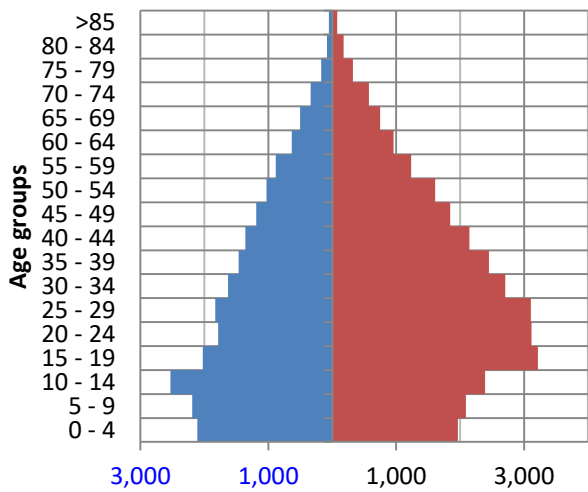
Bournemouth 1911



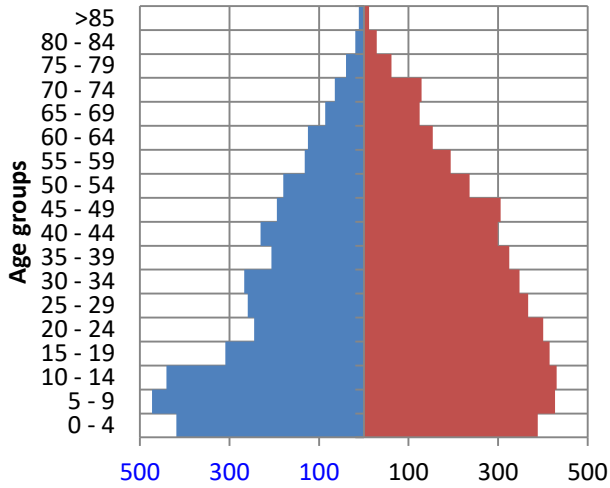
Worthing 1911



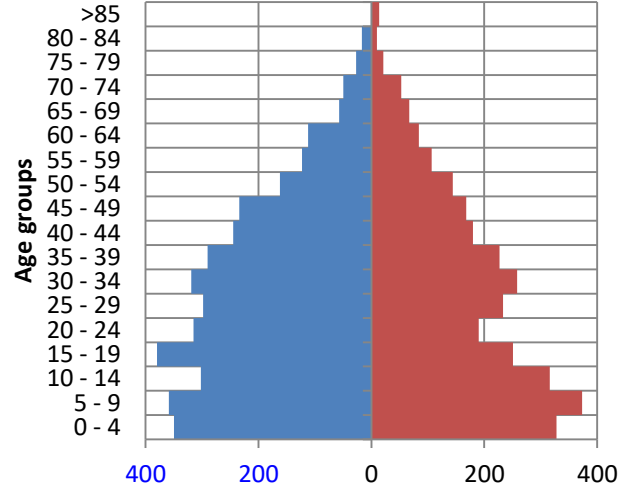
Eastbourne 1911



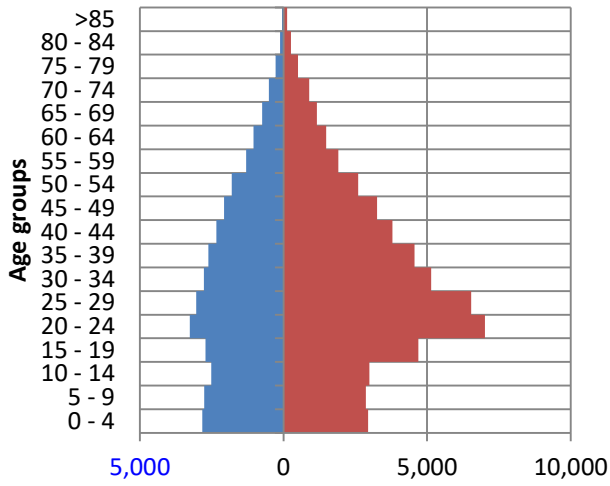
Littlehampton 1911



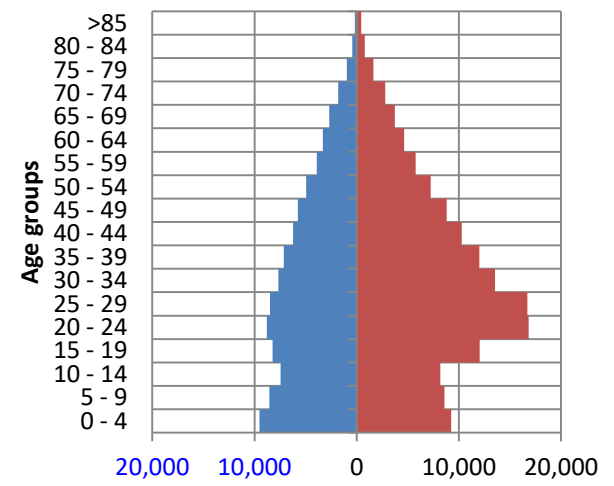
Newhaven 1911



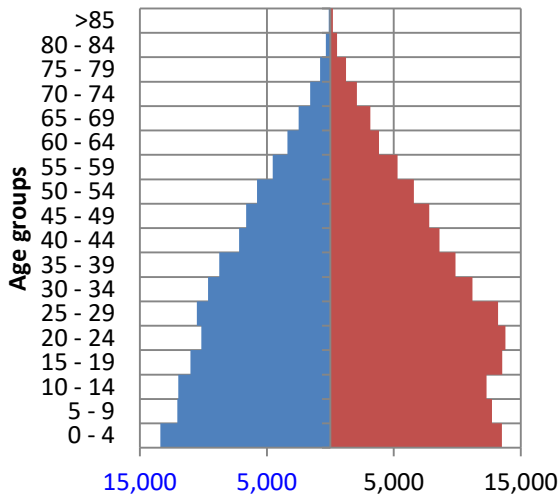
Hampstead 1911



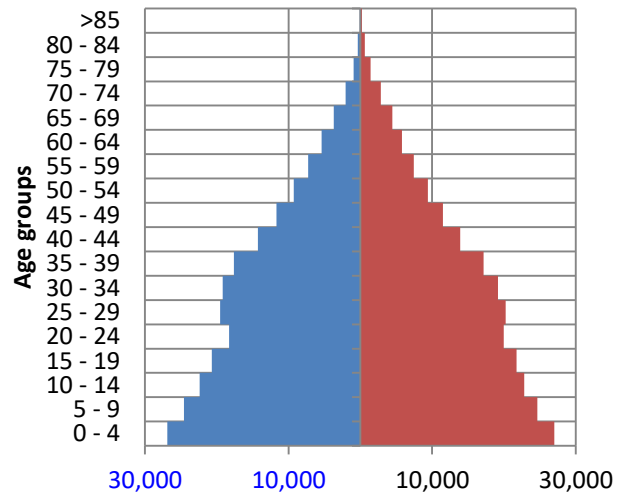
Kensington 1911



Nottingham 1911



Sheffield 1911



The following table shows gender ratios in the different Hove wards in 1911 I have put Adelaide Ward in red to draw attention to its high ratio. The last column is the number of females per 100 males. A ward map is added

Ward Gender Ratios			
Hove MB	1911		
	M	F	F/100 M
Adelaide	622	1890	304
Brunswick	907	1816	200
Goldsmid	1504	3392	226
Goldstone	3383	3716	110
Medina	787	1872	238
Morris	675	1864	276
Stanford	1074	2456	229
Vallance	2106	3124	148
Total Old Hove	11058	20130	182
Portland	3158	3841	122
Wish	1332	2654	199
Total Hove+ Aldrington	26606	46755	176



The next diagram plots the gender balance and % of people over 65 in various locations

Hove structure compared with other towns and suburbs – 1911

[A variation of a diagram in: An Historical Atlas of Sussex, p.91]

