Personal Social Services Survey of Adult Carers in England, 2016-17
Understanding Surveys
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In 2016-17 Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities (CASSRs) reported that there were 341,515 eligible carers. 136,920 carers were sent a survey and 55,705 surveys were completed and returned equating to an overall response rate of 40.7 per cent.

The eligible population for the 2016-17 survey is defined as all carers aged 18 or over, caring for someone aged 18 or over, who are recorded in the last three rows of the Short and Long Term Support (SALT) return table on carers provided support during the year\(^1\) (i.e. excluding the first row, carers aged under 18).

Once the eligible population is known, CASSRs then need to identify a sample. One approach involves CASSRs forming a sampling frame by removing carers that are ineligible, for example those who have died or where it is known the cared-for person has died. Carers are also removed where there are insufficient address details known to send them the survey. Once these carers have been removed, the CASSR then randomly selects carers to form a sample to send the questionnaire to. Councils may also randomly select their sample from their eligible population. If a carer is selected who the CASSR is not able to contact, they are replaced randomly with another carer from the sample who is then sent the questionnaire.

The flow chart below shows the eligible population in 2016-17 and how many carers were in the sample and responded to the survey.

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\(^1\) SALT measure LTS003 table la
Demographic Profile

CASSRs are required to complete a data return with administrative data on all the carers in their sample. If a carer responds to the survey then their questionnaire responses are then added to the data return.

Further details on missing administrative data and data quality are provided in the data quality statement and the data quality annex file\(^2\).

The flow chart below shows the gender, age and ethnic group breakdown for all carers in the sample.

\(^2\) https://digital.nhs.uk/pubs/psscarersurvey1617
The flow chart below shows the gender, age and ethnic group breakdown for all carers in the sample that responded to the survey. It shows the carers that responded have a higher proportion of females, a higher proportion of carers aged 65 and over and a higher proportion of White carers. Further analysis will take place in future surveys to see if the views of these cohorts differ.

The chart shows:

- **Gender known**: 55,380 respondents (99.4% of respondents); Male 17,835 (32.2% of gender known); Female 37,545 (67.8% of gender known)
- **Age known**: 54,110 respondents (97.1% of age group known); 18-64 26,010 (48.1% of age group known); 65 and over 28,100 (51.9% of age group known)
- **Ethnic Group known**: 50,500 respondents (90.7% of ethnic group known); White 45,010 (89.1% of ethnic group known); Non-White 5,495 (10.9% of ethnic group known)