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Coverage

Great Britain

Theme

Social and Welfare

Brent is the most ethnically diverse area

The London borough of Brent was the most ethnically diverse local authority area in England and Wales in 2001, while Easington in the North East of England was the least ethnically diverse, according to new analysis published today by the Office for National Statistics*.

This new analysis of diversity is based on the likelihood that two people at random will belong to different ethnic groups. In Brent the likelihood was 85 per cent while in Easington it was 2 per cent. Brent's predominant ethnic groups were White British (29 per cent), Indian (18 per cent), Black Caribbean (10 per cent), Other White (9 per cent) and Black African (8 per cent).

Today's report, *Focus on Ethnicity and Religion*, brings together statistics from the Census on the key demographic, geographic, household and labour market differences between the main ethnic and religious groups in Great Britain. It analyses factors that contribute to these differences and shows new analysis on ethno-religious groups, changes between 1991 and 2001, and the diversity of different areas. Because of its large size the Census is used for detailed analysis of small population groups.

Other analyses for England and Wales show that:

Harrow the most religiously diverse area

The London borough of Harrow had the highest religious diversity in England and Wales in 2001, a 62 per cent chance that two people at random would be from different religious groups. Harrow's predominant religious groups were Christian (47 per cent), Hindu (20 per cent), Muslim (7 per cent) and Jewish (6 per cent).

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***Focus on Ethnicity and Religion**

Available free on the National Statistics website:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=10991



Few areas had high ethnic or religious diversity

Fewer than one in ten (7 per cent) local authority areas had a high level of ethnic diversity and just 3 per cent had high religious diversity, defined as a 50 per cent chance that two people at random will belong to different groups. Across England and Wales, 87 per cent of the population were White British and 72 per cent were Christian.

Ethno-religious groups concentrated in different areas

Ethno-religious groups are made up of people who have both the same ethnicity and the same religion. People from different ethno-religious groups tended to live in different areas of England and Wales, for example Indian Muslims were more likely to live in the North West region than Indian Hindus or Indian Sikhs (one in four compared with one in twenty and one in fifty).

Unemployment rates highest for Black African Muslims

Unemployment rates varied between Muslims of different ethnic groups. Black African Muslim men and women had some of the highest unemployment rates in 2001, 28 per cent and 31 per cent. In contrast unemployment rates among Indian Muslims were lower at 11 per cent for men and 12 per cent for women.

High unemployment rates among UK-born ethnic minorities

In both the 16-24 and 25-39 age groups, unemployment rates among UK born men and women from the Black, Bangladeshi and Pakistani ethnic groups were more than twice as high as those of White British men and women.

Analyses for Great Britain as a whole show that:

Home ownership rates fell most among South Asian households between 1991 and 2001

Between 1991 and 2001 home ownership rates fell the most among Indian households (from 82 per cent to 76 per cent), Pakistani households (from 76 per cent to 67 per cent) and Bangladeshi households (from 44 per cent to 37 per cent). Home ownership increased only among White households, from 66 per cent to 69 per cent.



Household size decreased by most among South Asians

It is well established that average household size fell between 1991 and 2001. However, the decrease was largest among the South Asian groups, falling from 3.8 to 3.3 among Indian households, from 4.8 to 4.1 among Pakistani households and from 5.2 to 4.5 among Bangladeshi households. In comparison, White household size fell from 2.4 to 2.3.

Black African and Bangladeshi households had some of highest overcrowding rates

In 2001, 44 per cent of Bangladeshi and 42 per cent of Black African households were overcrowded, 7 times the rate of overcrowding among White British households (6 per cent).

Workless households with dependent children prevalent among Bangladeshi and Black African groups

Over a third (34 per cent) of Bangladeshi and Black African households with dependent children were workless (contained no working adult) in 2001. Far fewer, around 1 in 6, White British households with dependent children were workless (16 per cent).

Muslim households most likely to be workless

A third (33 per cent) of Muslim households with dependent children contained no working adult in 2001, contrasting with fewer than 1 in 7 (15 per cent) of Christian households with dependent children.

Religious diversity among ethnic groups

Some ethnic groups are more religiously diverse than others. The Indian group was the most religiously diverse ethnic group; its predominant groups were Hindu (45 per cent), Sikh (29 per cent), Muslim (13 per cent) and Christian (5 per cent). Pakistani and Bangladeshis were among the least religiously diverse groups (9 out of 10 were Muslims).

Ethnic diversity among religious groups

Similarly, some religious groups were ethnically diverse. Muslims were among the most ethnically diverse religious group, 43 per cent were Pakistani, 17 per cent were Bangladeshi, 8 per cent were Indian, 7 per cent Other White and 4 per cent White British. Christians and Sikhs were the least ethnically diverse religions, as more than 90 per cent of people from these religions belonged to the same ethnic groups.

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available from the press office.
2. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference. © Crown copyright 2006.