Introduction

On 16th May 2013 the Office of National Statistics began the third phase of data releases from the 2011 Census of England & Wales. Detailed Characteristics table DC2101EW classifies the usual resident population of England and Wales as at Census Day, 27 March 2011, by ethnic group by sex by age. This paper provides a brief analysis of all 18 ethnic groups, using the Ethnicity Tool created by the Census Information Scheme. The 18 ethnic groups are:

- White: British
- White Irish
- Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- Other White
- White & Black Caribbean
- White & Black African
- White & Asian
- Other Mixed
- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- Other Asian
- African
- Caribbean
- Other Black
- Arab
- Any Other Ethnic Group

The Ethnicity Tool

The Census Information Scheme has produced a tool to view and compare the age structure of ethnic groups in up to three geographies with the average for all usual residents in London. Data is displayed in a table as well as a line graph for quick analysis.

Download the Ethnicity tool here.
White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British

Figure 1: White British Residents in London

2011 Census

White British residents were the single largest ethnic group in London (44.9 per cent) in 2011. As a result the overall London age structure is heavily influenced by the age structure of the White British population. That being said, there are still notable differences between the White British group and the London average.

White British residents had higher percentages of residents in the older age categories than the London average, with higher shares of residents in every age group from 45 to 49 onwards. The largest gap between White British residents and the London average in the older age groups was in 60 to 64, where White British residents had a percentage of 6.0 per cent and the London average had 4.2 per cent.

67.7 per cent of London residents were below the age of 45 compared to 57.9 per cent of White British residents, a 9.8 percentage point difference. The largest difference came in the age group 30 to 34; 9.7 per cent of Londoners compared to 7.8 per cent of White British residents. 25 to 29 was the age group with the largest proportion of White British residents with 8.6 per cent (also largest for London with 10.2 per cent).
White: Irish

Figure 2: Irish Residents in London

2011 Census

The majority of White Irish residents were between the ages of 25 and 69, with 69.8 per cent in this age group. In comparison, the London overall had 59.9 per cent of residents in this age range. In these nine age groups, the share of White Irish residents ranged from 7.0 per cent (35 to 39) to 8.2 per cent (25 to 29). This age structure is not seen in any other ethnicity in London. Typically each ethnicity has a peak in population over one or two age categories – in the White Irish population the peak is sustained over nine age groups.

White Irish had some of the highest percentages of residents in London above the age of 60. This ethnic group had over double the percentage share of residents above the age of 60 with 34.1 per cent compared with the London average (15.3 per cent). The largest difference between White Irish residents and the London average, above the age of 60, was in the 65 to 69 age group with a 4.7 percentage points difference (7.9 per cent White Irish, 4.6 per cent London average).

Because of high percentages of White Irish residents in the age groups above the age of 25, the age groups below this age have some of the lowest shares of residents in London. The age group with the lowest percentage was 5 to 9 with 1.7 per cent (London average was 5.9 per cent), and the largest percentage points difference was 0 to 4 (5.2 percentage points difference). In total, 12.0 per cent of the White Irish population in London were aged under 25, in comparison to 32.2 per cent in London as a whole.
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller

Figure 3: Gypsy or Irish Traveller

2011 Census

The Gypsy or Irish Traveller population is one of the smallest in London, and only accounts for 0.1 per cent of all residents in the capital. A little over half (50.8 per cent) of Gypsy or Irish Travellers were under the age of 25. The greatest difference between Gypsy or Irish Travellers and the London average was in the age group 10 to 14 (5.2 percentage points). Following the 10 to 14 age category, there was a decline in the proportion of residents in each age group down to 0.3 per cent.

49.2 per cent of Gypsy or Irish Traveller residents were above the age of 25, whereas in London this section of the population accounted for 67.8 per cent. The highest difference came in the age group 30 to 34, where there was a difference of 2.5 percentage points between Gypsy or Irish Traveller (7.2 per cent) and London (9.7 per cent). From the age of 25 onwards the average difference between this ethnic group and the London average was 1.4 percentage points.
White: Other White

Figure 4: Other White Residents in London

The graph demonstrates that there was a peak in the Other White population in the age categories ranging from 20 to 39. 54.2 per cent of the Other White population were accounted for in this age range compared to the London average of 35.8 per cent. This constitutes an 18.5 percentage point difference. The age group with the highest proportion of residents was 30 to 34 with 17.5 per cent (9.7 per cent London average).

Due to the concentration of Other White residents in the age ranges of 20 to 39, there were lower percentages in both the younger and older age groups compared to the London average. 17.0 per cent of Other White residents were aged between 0 and 19, compared to the London average of 24.5 per cent. The highest difference was in the age group 15 to 19 where London was 2.3 percentage points higher than Other White (5.8 per cent and 3.4 per cent respectively).

After the age of 39 the proportion of the population of both Other White and London decreased. There were significantly more Other White residents in the 30 to 34 age group (17.5 per cent) than in the 40 to 44 group (8.1 per cent). Overall, 28.8 per cent of Other White residents were over the age of 39 compared to London’s 39.7 per cent. The largest difference, after the age of 39, was 1.7 percentage points which was in the age group 60 to 64 (2.5 per cent Other White and 4.2 per cent London average).
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Group: White & Black Caribbean

Figure 5: White & Black Caribbean Residents in London

In the White & Black Caribbean ethnic group there were higher percentages than the London average in the age groups under 25. Overall, 64.8 per cent of White & Black Caribbean residents were accounted for in these age groups compared to 32.2 per cent of all Londoners. 0 to 4 was the age group with the highest percentage of White & Black Caribbean residents with 16.5 per cent (7.2 per cent London average). This age group also had the largest difference between Black & White Caribbean residents and the London average by 9.2 percentage points.

In the White & Black Caribbean group each age group had a smaller proportion than the preceding group, with the exception of 40 to 44 where the percentage share of residents increased by 0.2 per cent.

35.2 per cent of Black & White Caribbean residents were aged 25 and over compared to 67.8 per cent of all Londoners. In the 12 age cohorts following 20 to 25 the average difference between this ethnic group and the London average was 2.5 per cent while the largest difference was 3.9 per cent in the age group 30 to 34.
The ethnic group White & Black African had a high proportion of residents under the age of 20. Compared to the London average, White & Black African had over double the share of residents under the age of 20 with 52.5 per cent compared to the London average of 24.5 per cent. 0 to 4 year olds accounted for almost a fifth (19.8 per cent) of White & Black African residents (compared to 7.2 per cent across London). This ethnic group also had over double the percentage share of 5 to 9 year olds compared to all residents in London (13.6 per cent and 5.9 per cent respectively). This is similar in the age group 10 to 14, where the percentage share of White & Black African residents was 10.7 per cent compared to 5.6 per cent of all London residents.

As a result of these high percentages of White & Black African residents in the early age groups, each age group after 25 to 29 had lower percentage shares than the preceding age group, and a lower share than the London average. 47.5 per cent of White & Black African residents were over the age of 20 in comparison to 75.5 per cent of all London residents. The average difference between this ethnic group and the London average was 2.0 percentage points. The age group with the highest difference was 50 to 54, where there was a 2.7 percentage points difference.
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Group: White & Asian

Figure 7: White & Asian Residents in London

68.8 per cent of the of the White & Asian population in London were below the age of 25 compared to 42.2 per cent of all London residents. Similar to White & Black African group, almost a fifth of White & Asian residents were in the age group 0 to 4 (19.5 per cent). In comparison to all residents in London, White & Asian had over double the proportion of residents in the age group 5 to 9 (5.9 per cent and 12.5 per cent respectively).

From the age group 25 to 29 onwards, the White and Asian group follows a similar pattern to the London average; each age group contains a smaller proportion of the population than the one that precedes it. Overall, 41.2 per cent of White & Asian residents were over the age of 30, whereas the London average while 67.8 per cent (26.6 percentage points more). The average difference between White & Asian and all residents in London from the age of 30 onwards was 2.0 per cent. The highest difference between White & Asian residents and the London average came in the age group 50 to 54, where there was a 3.2 percentage points difference.
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Group: Other Mixed

Figure 8: Other Mixed Residents in London

Similar to the other mixed ethnic groups, Other Mixed had a high proportion of residents under the age of 25. Over half of the Other Mixed population (55.1 per cent) were below the age of 25 compared to 32.2 per cent of all Londoners. The age group 0 to 4 had the highest percentage of Other Mixed residents with 17.4 per cent (7.2 per cent London average). Other Mixed residents had very similar percentages of residents between the ages of 20 and 34 compared with the London average. In this age range there was a 0.2 percentage points difference (28.4 per cent of Other Mixed residents 27.6 per cent all London residents).

In the 11 age groups after 30 to 34, the share of Other Mixed residents fell, which is also true for the London average. The average difference across the 11 age groups was 1.9 per cent, with the largest differences between Other Mixed residents and all Londoners in the age groups 50 to 54 and 60 to 64 which both had a 2.8 percentage point difference.
Asian/Asian British: Indian

Figure 9: Indian Residents in London

2011 Census

Like the Other White population, the Indian ethnic group had a concentration between the age groups 20 to 24 and 35 to 39. In the age range 20 to 39, the share of Indian residents was 41.2 per cent, compared to 35.8 per cent, compared to the London average of 10.2 per cent. Indian residents had lower proportions under the age of 20 than the London average. A fifth of Indian residents (20.3 per cent) were aged 0-20 while just under a quarter of all London residents (24.5 per cent) were in the four earliest age groups.

Age groups after the 25 to 29 category saw ever decreasing proportions, with the exception of the age group 50 to 54 where there was a slight – 0.3 percentage point – rise. In total, 38.5 per cent of Indian residents were above the age of 40, which was similar to the London average of 39.7 per cent. The average difference between the Indian ethnic group and all London residents above the age of 40 was just 0.1 per cent.
Asian/Asian British: Pakistani

Figure 10: Pakistani Residents in London

The Pakistani ethnic group peaked between the age groups 20 to 24 and 35 to 39, with almost two fifths of Pakistani residents (39.6 per cent) compared to 35.8 per cent of all Londoners in the same age range. The age group with the highest percentage of Pakistani residents was 25 to 29 with 9.8 per cent (London average 7.7 per cent). A third of Pakistani residents under the age of 20 (33.3 per cent) compared to all residents in London where just under a quarter were aged below 20 (24.5 per cent). The largest difference between Pakistani residents and the London average was in the age group 5 to 9, where there was a 2.8 percentage point gap (8.7 per cent and 5.9 per cent respectively).

27.0 per cent of Pakistani residents were over the age of 40, which was 12.7 percentage points less than the London average (39.7 per cent). Due to the higher proportion of Pakistani residents in the earlier age groups, this ethnic group had lower percentages of residents than the average in all age groups following 35 to 39. The average difference after the age of 40 was 1.3 per cent, and the age category with the largest difference between Pakistani residents and the London average was 45 to 49 – by 2.0 percentage points (4.9 per cent and 6.8 per cent respectively).
Asian/Asian British: Bangladeshi

Figure 11: Bangladeshi Residents in London

Three fifths of the Bangladeshi population were below the age of 30 (60.8 per cent) compared with 42.4 per cent of London overall (18.4 percentage points difference). In the age range 0 to 30, the age group 25 to 29 had the highest percentage of Bangladeshi residents with 11.1 per cent. Of these earlier age groups, Bangladeshi had at least 2.5 percentage points more residents than the London average in each age group. The largest difference was in the age group 5 to 9 where the proportion of Bangladeshi residents was double that seen in the London average (10.7 per cent Bangladeshi and 5.9 per cent across London).

As a result of the large proportion of Bangladeshi residents in the earlier age groups, there were lower percentages than that of the London average after the age group 35 to 39. In the age groups following 35 to 39, the largest difference came in the age group 45 to 49 with 3.6 per cent of Bangladeshi residents and 6.8 per cent of Londoners (3.2 percentage points difference). The average difference between Bangladeshi residents and all Londoners from the age of 30 and onwards was 1.5 percentage points.
Asian/Asian British: Chinese

Figure 12: Chinese Residents in London

2011 Census

The Chinese population had a large proportion of residents between the ages 20 and 34, with 44.4 per cent (27.6 per cent London average) in this age range. In the age group 20 to 24 the proportion of Chinese residents was over double the London average (16.3 per cent and 7.7 per cent respectively). This was also the age category that had the highest proportion of Chinese residents.

Because of the higher proportion of residents between the ages of 20 and 34, there was a low percentage of Chinese residents under the age of 20. In total, 15.9 per cent of Chinese residents were under the age of 20 compared to a quarter of all Londoners (24.5 per cent).

In the age categories following 30 to 34, the proportions of Chinese residents were similar to the London average, albeit slightly lower. The highest difference between the two groups was in the age category 30 to 34 where there was a difference of 3.3 per cent. The average difference between the two was just 0.4 percentage points.
Asian/Asian British: Other Asian

Figure 13: Other Asian Residents in London

Unlike the Chinese population, which had a larger proportion of residents between the ages of 20 and 30, the Other Asian ethnic group had a higher proportion of residents between the ages of 25 and 40. In total, just under a third of the Other Asian population were in this age range (31.6 per cent). The largest difference between this ethnic group and the London average was in the range 35 to 39, where there was a 2.6 percentage point difference (10.7 per cent and 8.1 per cent respectively).

Other Asian shows a similar trend to that of the London average, other than the previously mentioned age range. Between the ages of 0 and 25 there were slightly higher percentage shares of Other Asian residents where the average difference was 0.7 per cent. In turn this meant that there were lower percentage shares of Other Asian residents over the age of 40, where the average difference was, again, 0.7 per cent.
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: African

Figure 14: African Residents in London

In the African ethnic group there was a high proportion of residents under the age of 45 with a total of 79.8 per cent (London average 67.7 per cent). In the age categories under 45, the share of African residents ranged from 7.8 per cent in 20 to 24 (5.8 per cent London average) to 10.7 per cent in 0 to 4 (7.2 per cent London average).

This ethnic group had lower percentage shares of residents over the age of 50 than the London average because of the significant majority of African residents being under the age of 45. From the age category 45 to 49 and onwards, the cohort with the largest difference to that of all Londoners was 60 to 64 where there was a 2.5 percentage points difference (1.7 per cent and 4.2 per cent respectively). The average difference between the two groups over the age of 45 was 1.4 percentage points.
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Caribbean

Figure 15: Caribbean Residents in London

2011 Census

The Caribbean ethnic group had a significant percentage of residents in the age range 40 to 54, peaking later than most other ethnic groups. In these three age categories, there was little over a quarter of Caribbean residents (27.8 per cent) compared to just under a fifth of all London residents (18.9 per cent). 45 to 49 was the age category with the highest proportion of Caribbean residents with 10.7 per cent, 3.9 percentage points more than the London average (6.8 per cent).

Half of Caribbean residents (51.1 per cent) were aged under 40, compared to 60.3 per cent of all London residents. In the age categories under 40, the percentage share of Caribbean residents ranged from 5.7 per cent for 0 to 4 year olds (7.2 per cent London average), to 7.1 per cent for 15 to 19 year olds (5.8 per cent London average).

Following the high proportion of residents in the age categories ranging from 40 to 54, Caribbean residents largely had higher percentages that the London average, with only two age categories with a lower share than the London average (60 to 64 and 85 and over). The largest difference between Caribbean residents and all London residents following the age of 55 was 70 to 74 where there was a 1.4 percentage points difference (4.0 per cent and 2.6 per cent respectively).
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Other Black

Figure 16: Other Black Residents in London

The Other Black ethnic group had a higher proportion of residents under the age of 20 than the London average; just under a half (46.4 per cent) of Other Black residents compared to the London average of 24.5 per cent. 0 to 4 was the age group with the largest share of Other Black residents with 14.0 per cent, just under double the London average of 7.2 per cent. This age group also had the largest difference between Other Black residents and all London residents (6.8 percentage points).

In the age groups ranging from 20 to 49, shares in the Other Black population ranged from 6.7 per cent in 30 to 34 and 7.8 per cent in 25 to 29 and 40 to 44. This cohort of Other Black residents had a total share of 43.3 per cent while the London average was 6.8 percentage points higher with a half of residents (50.0 per cent).

In the age groups following 45 to 49, Other Black residents had lower proportions of residents than the London average, due to higher shares of residents in the earlier age groups. The largest difference between Other Black residents and the London average following the age of 50 was 60 to 64, where there was a 3.0 percentage points difference (1.2 per cent and 4.2 per cent respectively).

2011 Census
Other Ethnic Group: Arab

Figure 17: Arab Residents in London

Similar to Other Asian residents, the Arab ethnic group’s age structure was comparable to that of all usual residents in London. Arab residents, however, were slightly younger with higher percentages than the average from 0 to 44 (with the exception of 25 to 29 where Arab residents and all usual residents had the same proportion – 10.2 per cent). The highest percentage for the Arab ethnicity was in the 0 to 4 and 25 to 29 (10.2 per cent) age categories. Overall, 79.9 per cent of Arab residents were below the age of 45, compared to 67.7 per cent of all Londoners.

After the age of 44, Arab residents had lower than average percentages for the older age groups. The largest difference between this ethnic group and the London average was in the age group 60 to 64 where there was a 1.7 percentage point difference. The average difference between this ethnic group and all London residents over the age of 45 was 1.4 percentage points.
Other Ethnic Group: Any Other Ethnic Group

Figure 18: Any Other Ethnic Group Residents in London

The Any Other Ethnic Group residents followed a similar trend to that of the London average but were slightly younger. A total of 81.1 per cent of residents in this ethnic group were in the age range 0 to 49, compared to 74.5 per cent of all London residents. In this age range, Any Other Ethnic Group residents had higher percentages than the London average in every age category other than 0 to 4, with the highest percentage in the 30 to 34 age group (11.5 per cent for this ethnic group, 9.7 per cent London average). The 30 to 34 age group also had the largest percentage points difference between Any Other Ethnic Group residents and all usual residents in London, with a difference of 1.7 percentage points.

Of the age groups following 45 to 49, Any Other Ethnic Group had lower proportions of residents than the London average in every age group. The average difference between this ethnic group and the London average from the age of 50 and onwards was just 0.9 per cent.