



Ethnic Minority Communities in Merton Research Report

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Introduction

The need for information on ethnic minorities in Merton.

Merton's Ethnic Minority Housing Strategy is intended to improve the responsiveness and sensitivity of housing provision for ethnic minority communities in Merton. One of the means to achieve this is to *"identify housing needs of ethnic minority communities through research and improvement of our information base"*. Action 6 of the Ethnic Minority Housing Action Plan that accompanies the strategy includes a commitment to analyse data from the 2001 Census on ethnic minority communities. The benefits of analysing this data include

- a) Developing baseline data and updating information on ethnic minority communities which has changed significantly since the last Census in 1991.
- b) Analysing Census 2001 data and coming to conclusions on the outcomes for ethnic minorities in terms of housing and social exclusion issues.
- c) Highlighting issues that data shows to be of more relevance to ethnic minority communities.
- d) Analysing the demography of ethnic communities so that there is more awareness of where ethnic minorities are living in the borough. This links up with other Government policies, such as the Community Cohesion agenda.
- e) Help identify growth and change amongst ethnic minority communities and highlight the development of any new communities living in Merton.

The Report has been broadly divided into the following sections

- a) **Key Findings**, an analysis of the main findings of census 2001 data.

- b) **Overview of Ethnic Minorities in Merton** – key census 2001 statistics giving an overview on ethnic minorities in Merton.
- c) **Key Issues** – an overview of key issues that Census 2001 data indicates may be of greater importance to different ethnic minority communities.
- d) **Detailed Analysis on Ethnic communities.** These have been broken down by Census classifications and gives a more detailed picture of demographic, housing and social exclusion issues by ethnic group.

This report focuses mainly on Census 2001 data but it should be recognised that this may not cover all ethnic minority communities in Merton. Cole and Robinson comment in "Somali Housing Experiences in England" (2003) that Census data often excludes minority groups, such as the Somali population who are often defined under the Census category of Black African or Black Other. Specific needs and identities are therefore often consumed within a wider Census category. This also occurs for Tamil residents who are defined under the Census category of Asian Other.

Census data must therefore be seen as a useful information source for understanding ethnic minority communities whilst keeping in mind that it does have limits in its usefulness for specific communities. The Ethnic Minority Housing Strategy Action Plan does stress the need for other research to be carried out in conjunction with this analysis and sub groups looking at particular topics have been started.

The Census 2001 analysis is therefore intended to be used in collaboration with qualitative data, such as focus groups and other quantitative data, such as surveys. It is a baseline document and a useful first step in identifying ethnic minority communities in Merton and the housing and social exclusion issues they may face.

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1 - Key Findings

(a) Divergence of needs between ethnic groups

A number of ethnic groups have significantly lower than average outcomes in terms of housing, education, employment and social exclusion issues.

Bangladeshi, Black African, Black Other and Mixed Race Black Caribbean and White residents face significant issues of housing need and social exclusion. This in part reflects national statistics, which highlights the fact that these communities, in particular the Bangladeshi community, suffer worse outcomes than many other ethnic groups.

Some ethnic groups have below average outcomes in terms of housing, education, employment and social exclusion issues.

Black Caribbean, Mixed Race Black African and White and Asian Other residents may face greater housing need and social exclusion issues than other ethnic groups in Merton.

However, a number of ethnic groups have above average outcomes in terms of housing, education, employment, and social exclusion issues than other ethnic groups.

Census 2001 data shows better outcomes for Chinese and Indian residents in Merton when compared to other ethnic groups. This correlates with research carried out at a national level.

Residents with a White Other and Chinese Other or Other ethnic background also have significantly better outcomes in comparison with other ethnic groups. This may in part reflect the emergence of new minority communities in Merton, who are based in the more affluent parts of the borough.

Many ethnic groups are achieving slightly above or slightly below average outcomes in terms of housing, education, employment and social exclusion issues.

White British, White Irish, Mixed Race Asian and White, Mixed Race Other and Pakistani residents are all achieving slightly above average or slightly below average outcomes.

(b) Divergence of needs within ethnic groups

Within ethnic groups there is a diverse range of needs with some more likely to live in poorer housing and suffer from social exclusion.

Although residents with a Chinese, Indian or White Others ethnic background are more likely to have better outcomes than other ethnic groups, some members of these groups may still face considerable housing pressures or issues of social exclusion.

The largest ward population of those with a Chinese ethnic background is in the Lavender Fields ward, which is ranked by the Index of Multiple Deprivation as being amongst the most deprived 25% in England, and the most deprived ward in Merton.

Whilst Indian residents as an ethnic group have many good outcomes in terms of housing and social exclusion they still face some poorer outcomes. An example being higher levels of unemployment than White residents in the borough.

Similarly amongst those with a White Other ethnic background there may be individuals, such as Eastern European Asylum Seekers, who may face greater housing or social exclusion issues.

(c) Ethnic groups may have 'Key Issues' which are of greater relevance to their communities

Different ethnic groups may face different housing and social exclusion issues.

This may be due to demographic, migration, cultural, economic or social factors that influence at an individuals, community, borough or regional level. Issues or factors that are of the most concern to communities are highlighted in Section 2 - 'Overview of Ethnic Minorities in Merton' and in Section 3 - 'Summary of Key Issues for Communities'.

Key issues and concerns have been developed via analysis of Census 2001 data. These have been highlighted where results are very much above or below the average for the borough and where some ethnic groups have much poorer outcomes compared to other ethnic groups.

(d) Ethnic groups in Merton are growing but their population is not evenly distributed

Most ethnic groups in Merton are increasing and ethnic minorities will form a larger proportion of Merton's and London's population in the future.

Demographic factors such as increase in childbirth and larger families amongst ethnic groups; in-migration of new ethnic groups into Merton and out migration of White British and White Irish residents to other areas of the country, may all influence ethnic makeup of Merton in the future.

Some ethnic groups are actually declining in population. This includes White British, White Irish and Black Other ethnic groups.

Ethnic minority populations are not evenly distributed throughout Merton but tend to have higher populations in the east of the borough.

There is much variation between ethnic groups with some more evenly spread throughout the borough whilst other groups are more concentrated in particular areas.

Black and Mixed Race ethnic groups are more concentrated in the most deprived wards in Merton compared to other ethnic groups.

Other and White Other ethnic groups are more concentrated in the least deprived wards of Merton.

Some areas of Merton (both affluent and deprived), have very low ethnic minority populations, suggesting that economic purchasing power is not the only factor in ethnic minority population settlement. Other factors such as area perception, transport links, community settlement, crime or even movement patterns of existing occupiers may all be contributory factors when analysing the factors ethnic minorities are influenced by when deciding where to live. More research on this topic is required.

(e) New ethnic groups are emerging in Merton

New ethnic groups are emerging and settling in Merton, most notably Antipodeans and Koreans.

Two ethnic groups that the Census 2001 data highlights are those with a White Other ethnic background and those from a Chinese Other or Other ethnic group, most notably residents with a Korean or Japanese ethnic background. Discussion on the emergence of these groups can be found in Section 7 for Korean / Japanese communities and Section 8c for White Other residents.

(f) Some ethnic groups are more likely to experience social exclusion

Some ethnic groups have poorer outcomes in housing, employment, educational and social exclusion issues. Taken together these may cause considerable housing stress and need and potentially an increased risk of homelessness.

Analysis of Census 2001 data clearly shows poor outcomes for Black African, Bangladeshi, Black Other and Mixed Race Black Caribbean/White residents when compared to the outcomes for other ethnic groups.

This may be a factor in higher proportions of these groups being found in need of social housing, applying as homeless, requiring housing advice or applying for council housing.



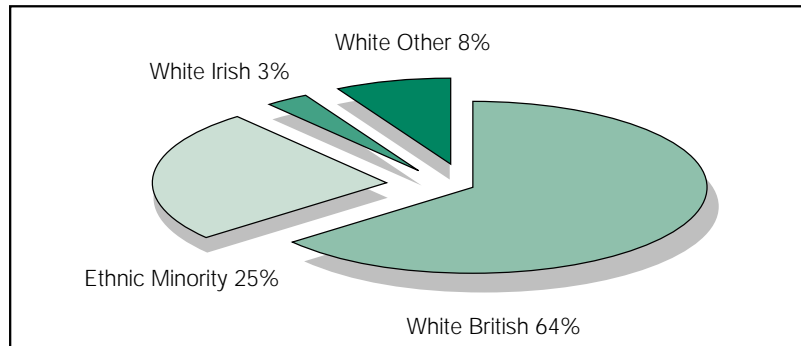
2 - Overview of Ethnic Minorities in Merton

Demographics

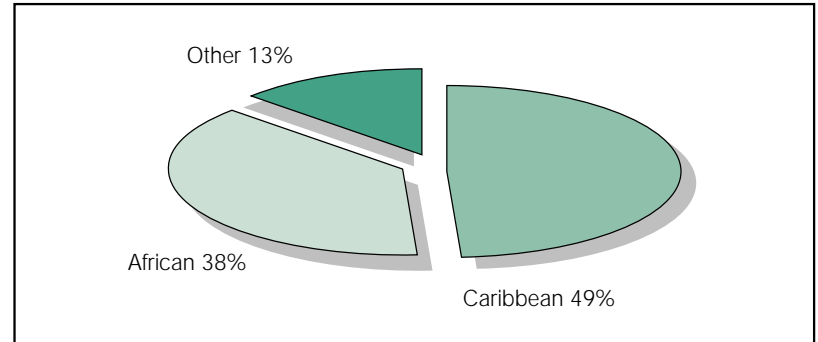
Merton has a population of 187,908 residents, 75% of which have a White ethnic background and 25% of which are from an ethnic minority.

White background also includes other minority communities these being White Irish and White Other who comprise 3% and 8% of Merton's population respectively. The following pie charts show the breakdown of ethnic groups in Merton.

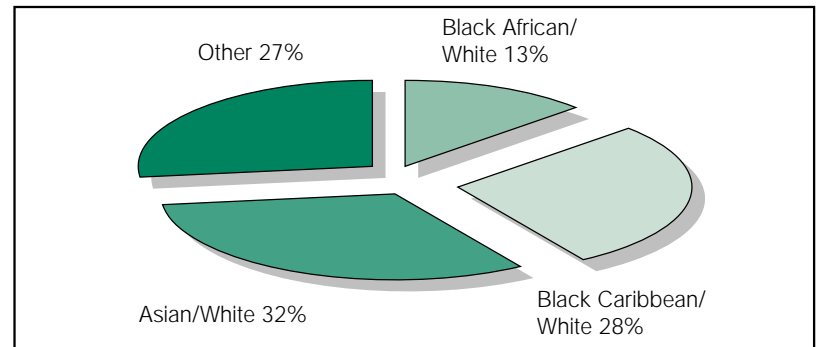
White Residents (75% of population)



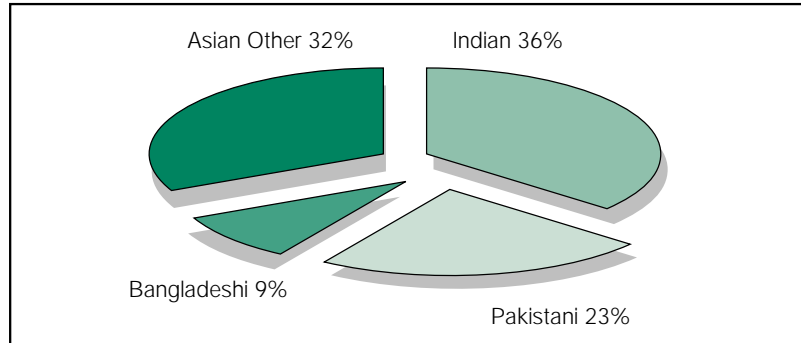
Black Residents (8% of population)



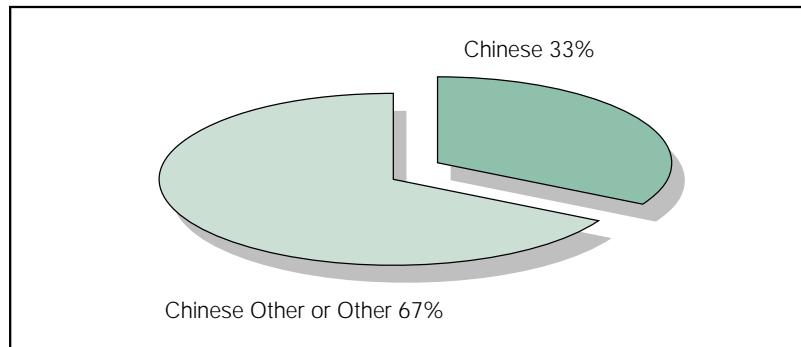
Mixed Race Residents (3% of population)



Asian Residents (11% of population)



Chinese and Other Residents (3% of population)



Population Distribution

Ethnic minorities are not evenly distributed throughout the borough but show both ward level and area level concentrations.

There are more ethnic minority residents in the east of the borough than in other parts of Merton.

Ethnic minorities show different levels of household concentration with some groups, notably Black and Mixed Race residents exhibiting high levels of concentration. Whilst Asian residents show a more distributed population.

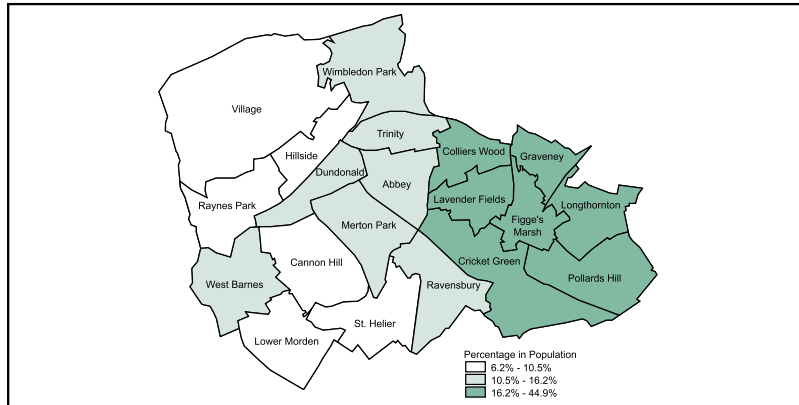
Most ethnic minorities have a higher proportion of population living in the most deprived wards of Merton (according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2000) than White British and White Irish residents. However, this is not true for White Other, Pakistani, Other and Indian residents.

Ethnic group concentrations residing in the most deprived areas may be ward or area specific. Examples of ward specific concentrations include Chinese households in Lavender Fields and White Irish and White British households in the Ravensbury ward.

Concentrations in the least deprived wards of Merton can also be ward specific, such as population concentrations of White Others in the Hillside Ward and Indian households in the Merton Park ward.

More details on the distribution of ethnic groups are contained under sections 4-8 of this report.

Map 1 - Distribution of Ethnic Minority Communities in Merton 2001



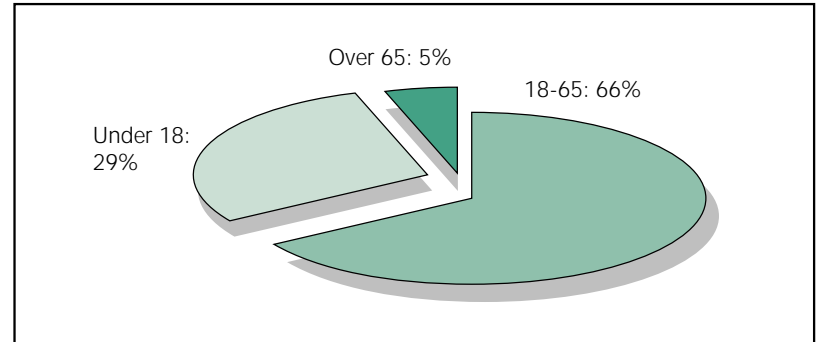
Age Profile

The age profile of ethnic minorities in Merton is much younger than for White residents although there is much variation between ethnic groups.

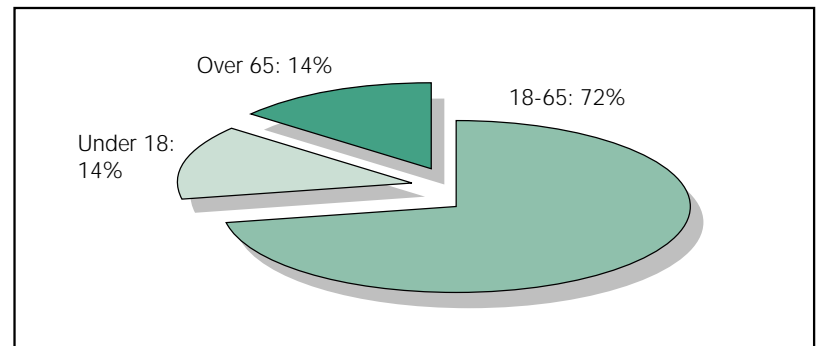
Ethnic minorities generally have a much greater proportion of under 18's in their population and a lower proportion of over 65's.

Variation also occurs within the White ethnic group, with White Irish residents having a much older population than the other white groups.

Age Profile - Ethnic Minority Residents



Age Profile - White Residents



Population Projections for 2011

Population projections on ethnicity will put Merton's ethnic minority population at 35% in 2011.

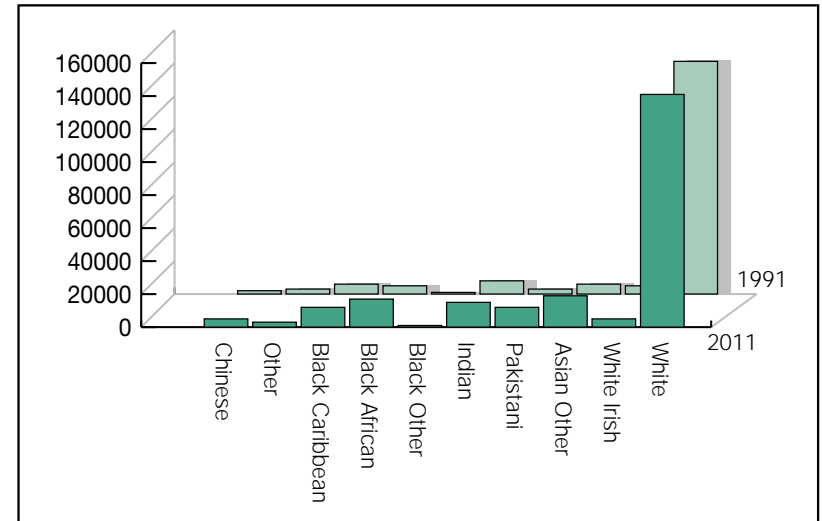
Population projections on ethnicity will put Merton's ethnic minority population at 35%. This does not include growth rates for mixed race ethnic origin and are based on growth and decline rates from Census 1991 and 2001. This increases to 37.5% of Merton's population if White Irish residents are included.

Trends include the continued decline in White British and White Irish residents, as members of these groups continue to migrate out of London. The decline of white residents may in part be slowed by an increase in those living in the borough with a White Other background although their demographic profile may be very different to those that are leaving the borough.

The Asian population will show the greatest increase, and will rise to 17% of Merton's population in 2011, whilst the Black population will also show moderate growth with Black residents comprising 11% of the population in 2011.

The Chinese and Other population, although showing the highest growth rates, is proportionally small. Therefore in 2011 those with a Chinese or Other ethnic background will comprise 4% of Merton's residents. The greatest growth rates can be seen amongst Chinese, Pakistani and Black African residents. Those groups showing a decline rate include White British, White Irish and Black Other ethnic groups.

Population Growth and Population Decline amongst Ethnic Groups in Merton

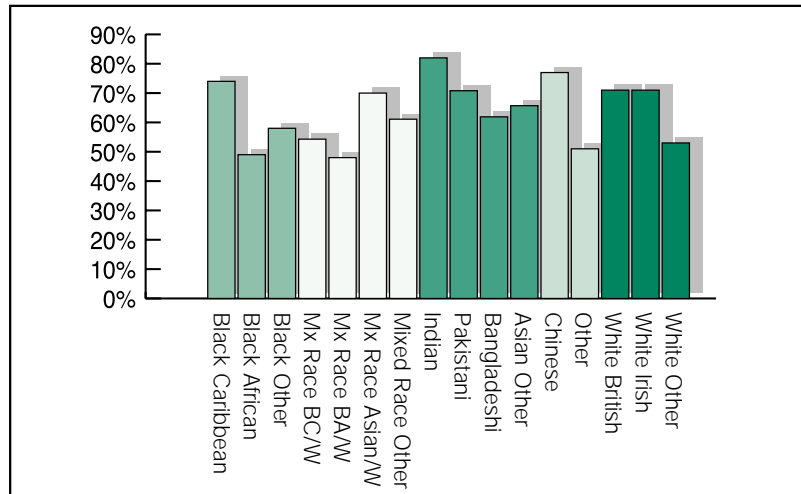


Housing

Tenure

Analysis shows considerable differences in tenure between residents of different ethnic groups.

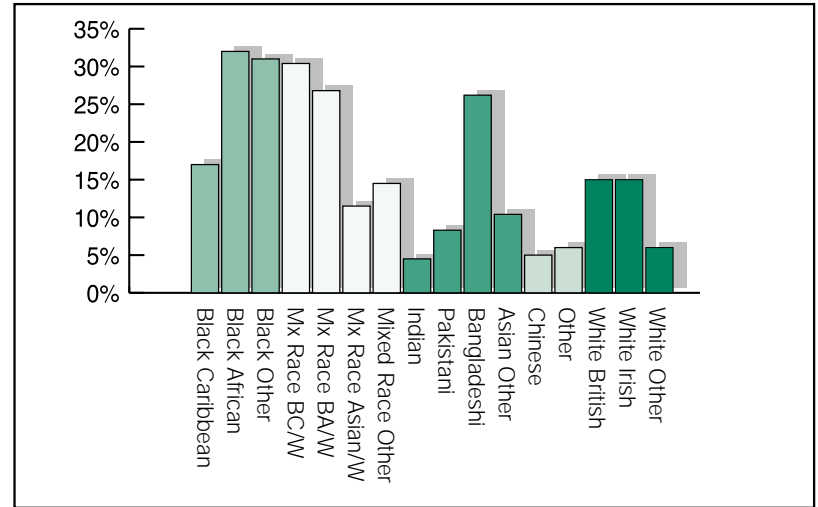
Owner Occupation



Indian, Chinese and Black Caribbean residents all have much higher than average levels of owner occupation whilst White Others, Black Africans and Others have much lower levels.

White British and White Irish have slightly higher than average levels of owner occupation.

Social Housing

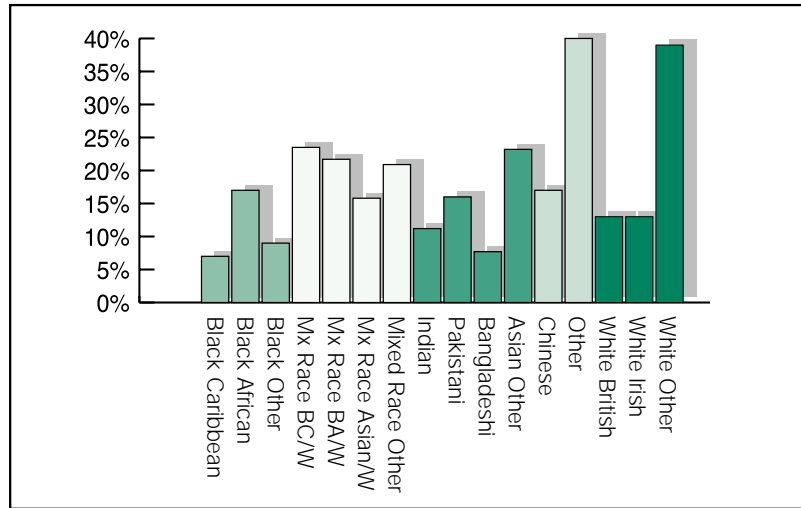


Black Africans, Bangladeshis and Black Other residents have much higher than average levels of occupying social housing. Conversely Indian, Chinese, White Other and Other residents have very low levels.

There is correlation between social exclusion and reliance on social housing, with ethnic groups facing higher levels of exclusion and are more likely to have to rely on social housing.

Social housing tenure may also be related to how recently a group has migrated to the UK with more established communities such as White Irish and White British having higher levels of social housing tenure.

Private Renting



High levels of private renting can be found amongst the Other, White Other and Asian Other ethnic groups, particularly amongst many of the newest ethnic groups, such as Asian Other (Tamil), White Other and Other (Korean) suggesting private renting as the main route that new ethnic groups use to gain accommodation in Merton.

White British and White Irish have slightly lower than average levels of private renting.

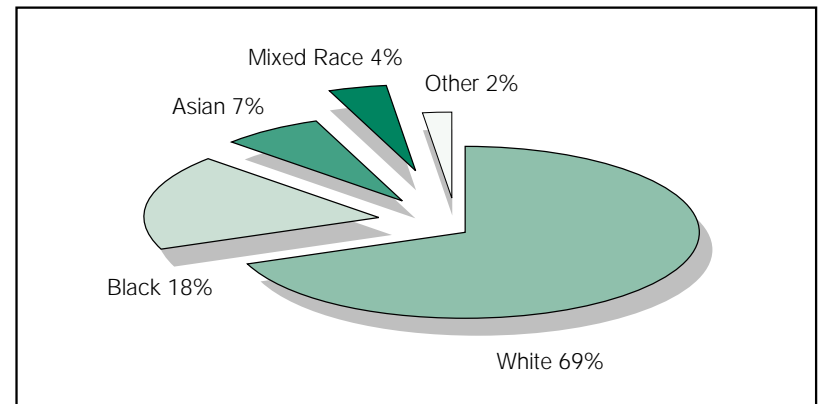
Shared Ownership

Shared ownership is one way households can become owner-occupiers through buying a percentage share in a property with a housing association owning the other part. It is one of a number of affordable housing options that helps people get a foot on the property ladder.

Analysis of the composition of shared ownership homes enables us to look at which ethnic groups are either interested in or are successful in applying for shared ownership schemes.

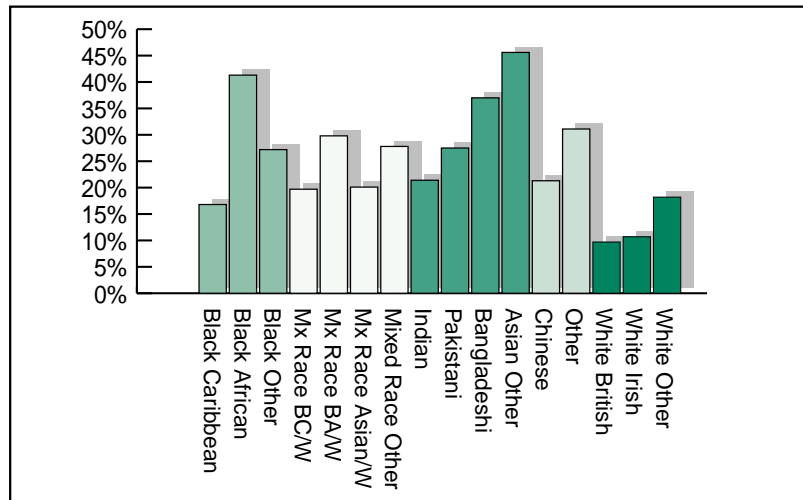
Black and Mixed Race ethnic groups show higher levels of shared ownership tenure than proportions of population would suggest. Asian households have much lower levels. Lower levels amongst Asian households may reflect tenure preference for outright owner occupation as well as the need for larger size properties amongst Asian households.

Shared Ownership



Housing Conditions and Overcrowding

% Households Overcrowded



Overcrowding is noticeably high amongst Asian and Black residents, in particular Bangladeshi, Asian Others and Black African residents.

Higher levels of overcrowding may be related to household size as Asian communities are more likely to have bigger-sized households.

Low levels of overcrowding are found amongst White British and White Irish residents, which may reflect older age structures and lower levels of private renting.

Bangladeshi residents have the highest proportion of households who lack central heating. Most other ethnic minority groups have much lower levels of residents who lack central heating in their homes compared to White British and White Irish residents.

Social Exclusion Issues

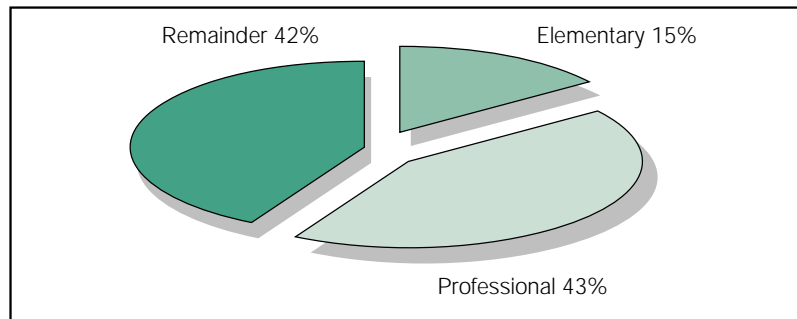
Employment and Occupation

Levels of employment in higher paid work varies by ethnic group with some ethnic groups such as the Black, Asian and Mixed Race residents having much lower levels than other ethnic groups.

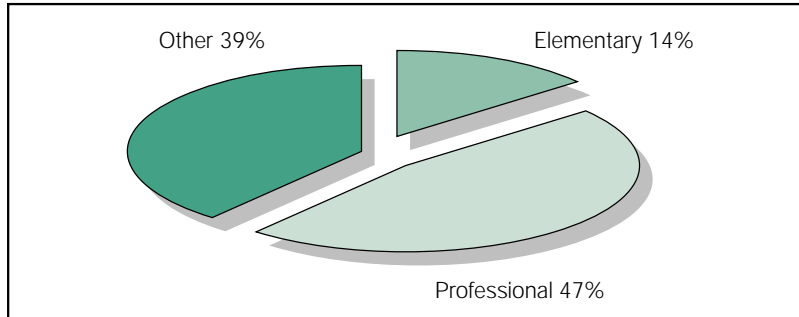
Chinese and White Others have much higher levels of their workforce in higher paid occupations.

There is a variation within ethnic categories, such as differential levels of employment in higher paid work between Indian and Bangladeshi residents.

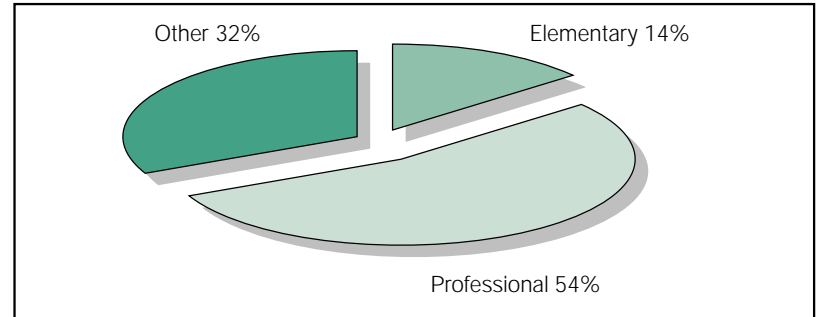
Black Residents



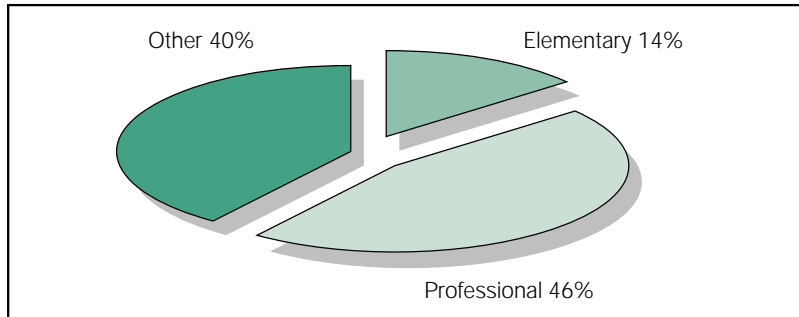
Mixed Race Residents



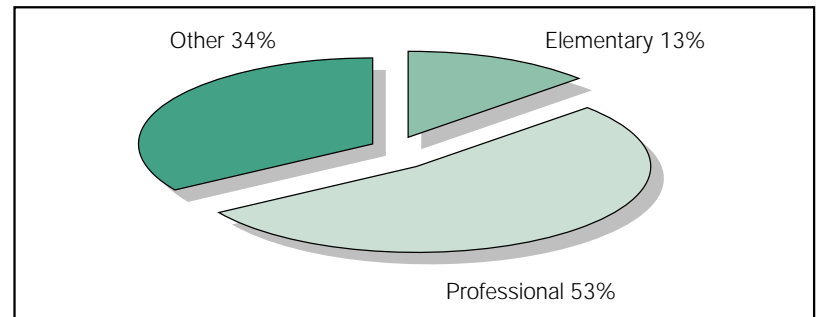
Chinese and Other Residents



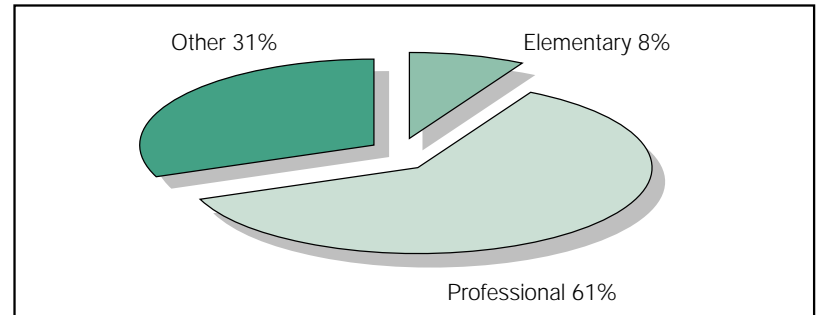
Asian Residents



White British and White Irish

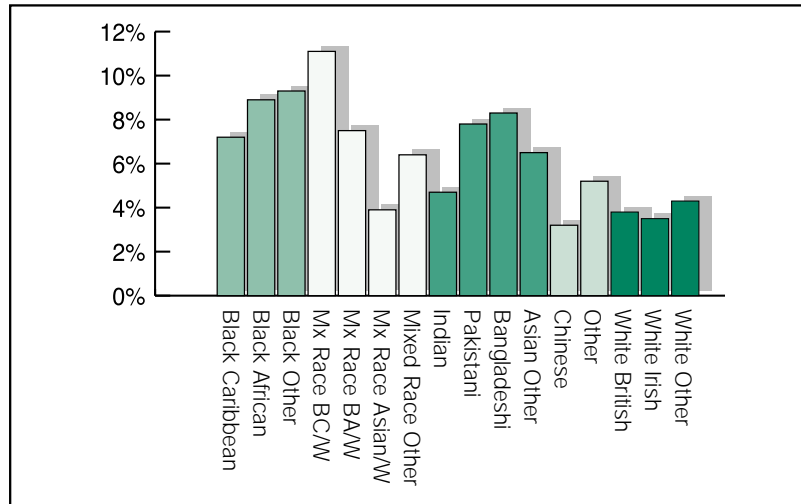


White Other Residents



Unemployment Rates

Unemployment rate across All Economically Active Persons



Overall, ethnic minorities have a higher than average rate of unemployment, although this does not hold true for all ethnic groups and there is considerable differences between communities.

The highest rates of unemployment can be seen amongst Mixed Race Black Caribbean and White, Black Other, Black African, Bangladeshi and Pakistani residents.

The lowest rates of unemployment can be seen amongst Chinese, White Irish and White British residents.

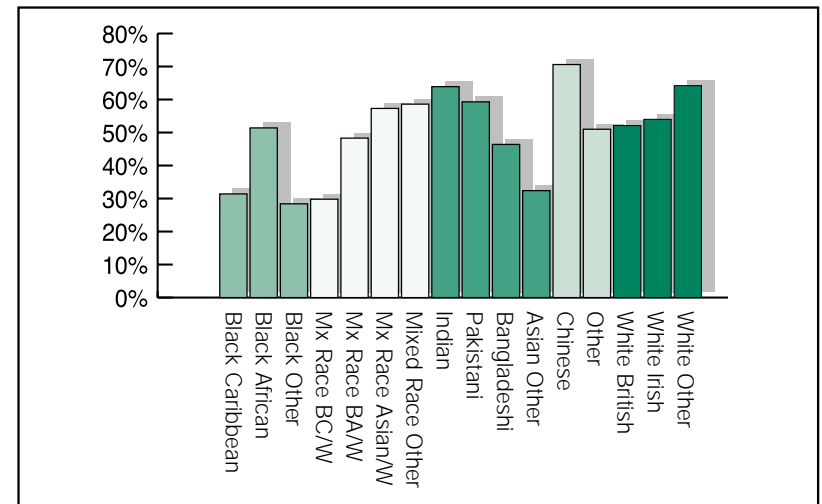
Percentage of Residents aged 16 – 24 in Full Time Study

Ethnic Minority groups have much higher than average rates of study for 16 – 24 year olds compared to White residents. Ethnic minorities have 62.9% of persons in full time study compared to only 30.3% of White residents

There is however disparity between ethnic groups with very high levels of study amongst Chinese, Black African and Mixed Race Black African residents. There are lower levels of study amongst Pakistani and Mixed Race Black Caribbean groups. Other Asian groups have high levels of study.

Qualifications of 25 – 34 year olds

Degree Education amongst 25 - 34 Year Olds



There is much disparity across residents aged 25- 34 with degree level education. Very low levels are found amongst the Asian Other, Black Caribbean and Black Other communities, whilst the highest levels are found in Chinese, White Other, Indian and Pakistani communities.

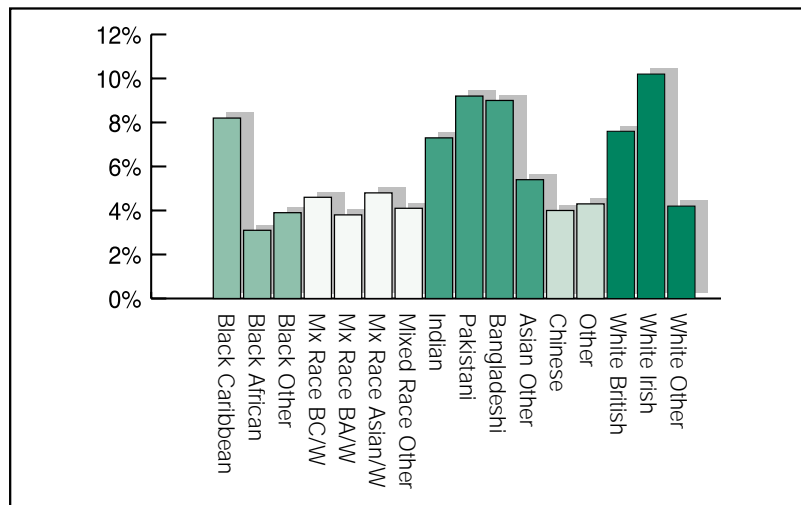
Bangladeshi, Other and Asian Other have higher than average levels of residents aged 25-34 who have no qualifications.

Although White residents have low levels of 16 – 24 year olds in full time study they do have fairly high levels of degree educated 25 –34 year olds. This may reflect a more affluent population who have moved into the borough.

Ill health

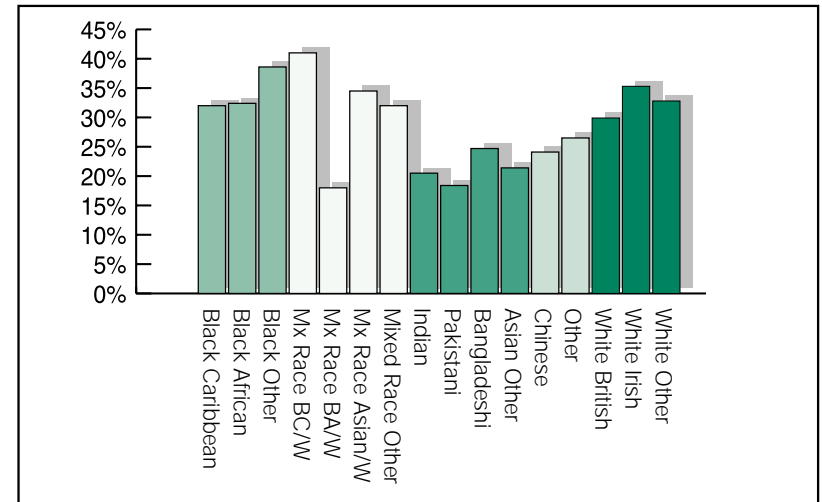
Levels of ill health vary considerably between ethnic groups with White Irish, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Black Caribbean residents showing considerably higher levels of ill health than other ethnic groups. Black African, Black Other, Chinese and White Others have comparatively low levels of ill health amongst their residents.

Level of Ill Health Across Ethnic Groups



Levels of ill health may be associated to age structure with older populations having higher levels of ill health.

Households Lacking Car Use



Some ethnic groups have high proportions of households that lack car use, these being Black, Mixed Race and White ethnic residents.

Asian and Chinese and Other ethnic groups have the lowest levels of households lacking car use. This may in part reflect Asian residents living in larger mixed generation households.

Lone Parents

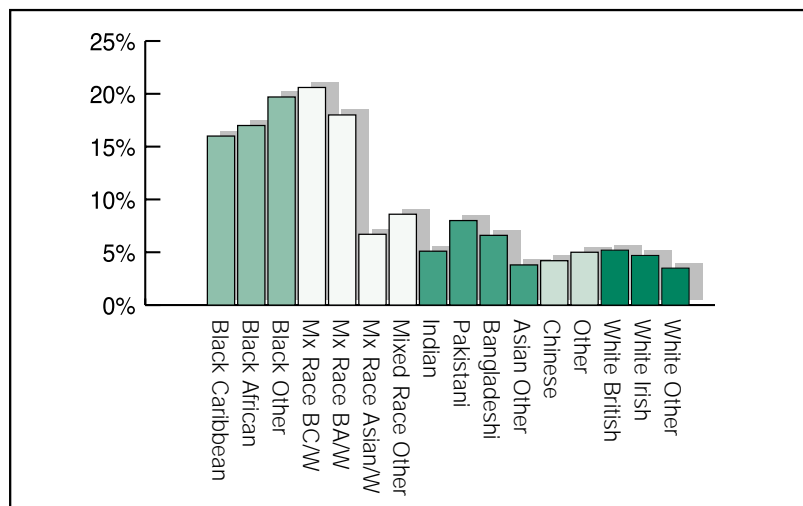
High proportions of lone parent households are found amongst some but not all ethnic minorities.

Numbers of lone parents are significantly higher amongst Black and some mixed Race Ethnic groups. Numbers of lone parents are also slightly higher amongst Bangladeshi and Pakistani residents.

Indian, Other, White British, White Irish and White Other ethnic groups all have slightly lower than average levels of single parent households.

White Others, Asian Others and Chinese ethnic groups have the lowest levels of lone parent households.

Lone Parent Households



3 Summary of Key Issues

	Demographic	Housing More likely to be living in:	Social Exclusion	Employment & Educational Attainment
Black Caribbean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High population in most deprived wards • Low population in least deprived wards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social housing • Owner occupation • Older peoples housing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More likely to suffer from ill health • High proportion of lone parents. 	Under-represented in professionals in workforce.
Black African	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High population in most deprived wards • Low population in least deprived wards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social housing • Private rented housing • Family-sized accommodation • Overcrowded condition. 	High proportion of lone parents.	Over-represented in low paid employment.
Black Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High population in most deprived wards • Low population in least deprived wards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social housing • Family-sized accommodation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High proportion of lone parents • High proportion of households that lack car use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under-represented in professionals in workforce • Low levels of degree education amongst 25-34 year-olds.
Mixed Race – Black Caribbean/White	High population in most deprived wards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social housing • Family-sized accommodation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High proportion of lone parents • High proportion of households that lack car use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under-represented in professionals in workforce • Over-represented in low paid employment • High level of unemployment • Low level of degree education amongst 25 –34 years old.
Mixed Race – Black African/White	High population in most deprived wards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social housing • Family-sized accommodation. 	High proportion of lone parents.	Over-represented in low paid employment.
Mixed Race – Asian/White		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family-sized accommodation • Older peoples housing. 	High proportion of households that lack car use.	

Research Report - Analysis of Housing and Social Exclusion Issues amongst Merton's Ethnic Minorities

	Demographic	Housing More likely to be living in:	Social Exclusion	Employment & Educational Attainment
Mixed Race - Other		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family-sized accommodation • Older peoples housing. 	High proportion of lone parents.	
Indian		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owner occupation • Family-sized accommodation • Older peoples housing. 		
Pakistani		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owner occupation • Family-sized accommodation. 	More likely to suffer from ill health.	Low levels of Study amongst 16-24 year olds.
Bangladeshi		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social housing • Overcrowded condition • Homes that lack central heating. 	More likely to suffer from ill health.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under-represented in professionals in workforce • Over-represented in low paid employment • Low levels of degree education amongst 25 –34 year-olds • High level of unemployment.
Asian Other		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private rented sector • Overcrowded condition • Family-sized accommodation. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under-represented in professionals in workforce • Over-represented in low paid employment • Low levels of degree education amongst 25 –34 year-olds.
Chinese	High population in most deprived wards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owner occupation • Homes that lack central heating • Older peoples housing. 		

Research Report - Analysis of Housing and Social Exclusion Issues amongst Merton's Ethnic Minorities

	Demographic	Housing More likely to be living in:	Social Exclusion	Employment & Educational Attainment
Chinese Other or Other		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private rented accommodation • Overcrowded condition • Family-sized accommodation. 		
White British		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owner occupation • Social housing • Older peoples housing • Homes that lack central heating. 	More likely to suffer from ill health.	Low levels of 16-24 year olds in study.
White Irish		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owner occupation • Social housing • Older peoples housing • Homes that lack central heating. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More likely to suffer from ill health • High proportion of households that lack car use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low levels of 16-24 year olds in study • Over-represented in low paid employment.
White Other		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private rented sector • Shared accommodation. 	High proportion of households that lack car use.	Low levels of 16-24 year olds in study.

4. Black Residents in Merton

Demographics

Key Statistics

There are 14,626 residents from a Black ethnic background living in Merton who comprise 8% of Merton's population.

This is made up of 4% from a Black Caribbean ethnic group, 3% from a Black African background and 1% from a Black Other ethnic background.

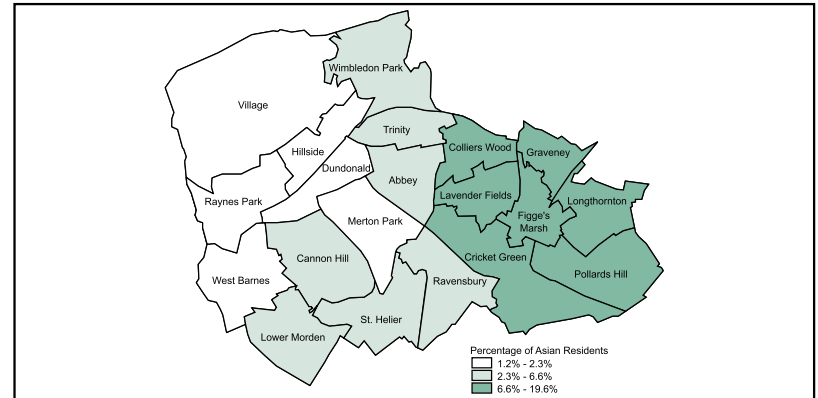
Distribution

Merton's black population is highly concentrated in the Mitcham area. Wimbledon wards have the lowest black population. In the Morden area the black population is only slightly more mixed with Colliers Wood containing the highest black population.

Black ethnic groups show high levels of population residing in the most deprived wards in Merton whilst a very small number of households living in the least deprived wards in the borough.

Disparity between concentrations of black households living in deprived wards and low populations living in affluent areas is the most marked of all ethnic groups except Mixed Race Black African/White and Mixed Race Black Caribbean/White. Segregation on racial lines is becoming of increasing concern to local and national government, as outlined in the Government's Community Cohesion Reports. Of particular note is the polarisation between some ethnic groups who reside in the most deprived areas of the borough and a large proportion of the White population who reside in more affluent parts of the borough.

Map 2 - Distribution of Black residents in Merton

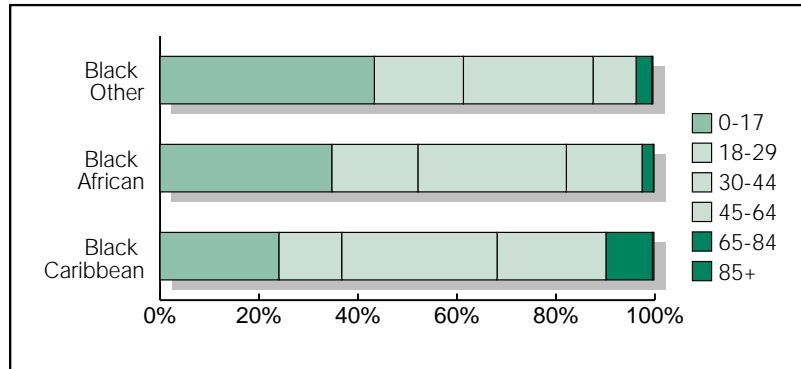


Age Profile

The age profile for black residents varies considerably depending on ethnic background.

Residents with Black Other and Black African ethnic origins have the highest percentage of children and young people in their population at 43.38% and 34.71% respectively. Contrastly, those from a Black Caribbean have only slightly higher levels than the Merton average, at 24.07%, compared to the Merton average of 21.59%.

Age Profile of Merton's Black Residents



Black Caribbean residents have slightly higher levels of residents of working age, 66.2% compared to the borough average of 65.42%. This contrasts to lower levels of working age population amongst Black Africans, at 62.86% and extremely lower levels amongst black others, at 43.48%. Older residents with a Black Caribbean ethnic background make up 9.71% of the population. This compares to extremely low levels of older people amongst Black Others at 3.52% and Black Africans at 2.4%. Low levels of older people may be due to time of immigration into the U.K with many Black Caribbean's arriving in the U.K in the 1960's and 1970's compared to more recent immigration by Black Africans and Black Others.

The profile of Black residents in Merton can therefore be broadly divided between Black Caribbean residents whose age profile is nearly similar to the Merton average and Black African and Black Other residents who have an extremely young population.

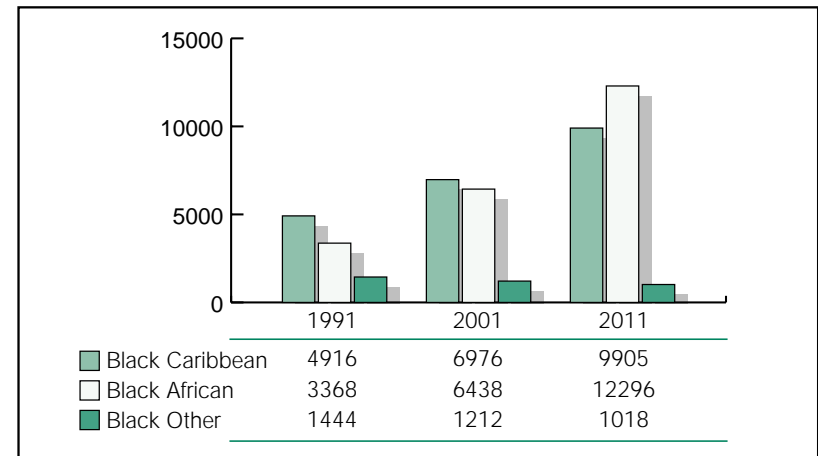
The young profile of Black Other and Black African residents may indicate a large number of residents with families, which may lead to these groups facing greater housing stress than other ethnic groups.

However the ageing profile of Black Caribbean residents means greater emphasis will be required to meet the housing needs of Black Caribbean elders.

Population Projections for 2011

Population projections for 2011 estimate that residents with a Black Ethnic background will be 11% of Merton's population compared to 8% currently.

Population Projections for Black Residents in Merton 2011

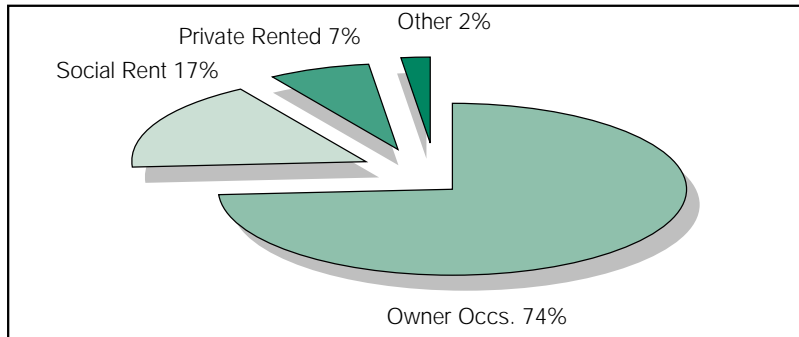


When broken down into more detailed ethnic groups, there is some disparity amongst growth rates amongst black residents. The largest growth rate and increase in population will be among black Africans at +91% this is followed by residents with a Black Caribbean ethnic origin at +42%, whilst there is a decrease in the number of Black Other residents, of -16%. Using these population projections those from a Black African ethnic background will overtake Black Caribbean's as the largest Black ethnic group by 2011.

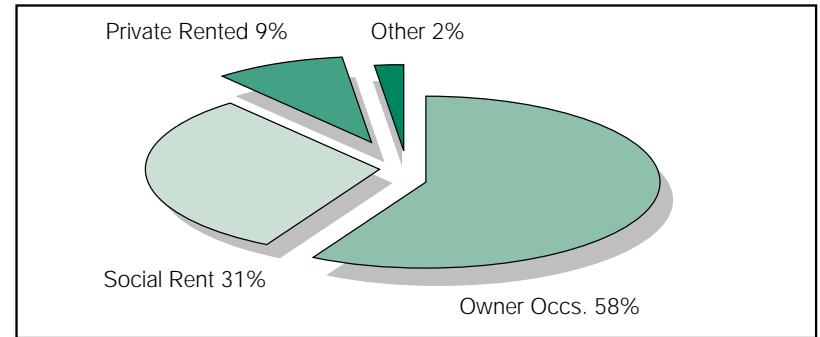
Housing

Tenure

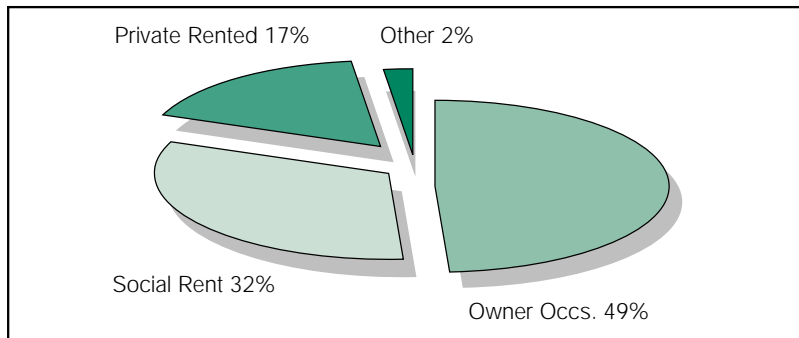
Black Caribbean



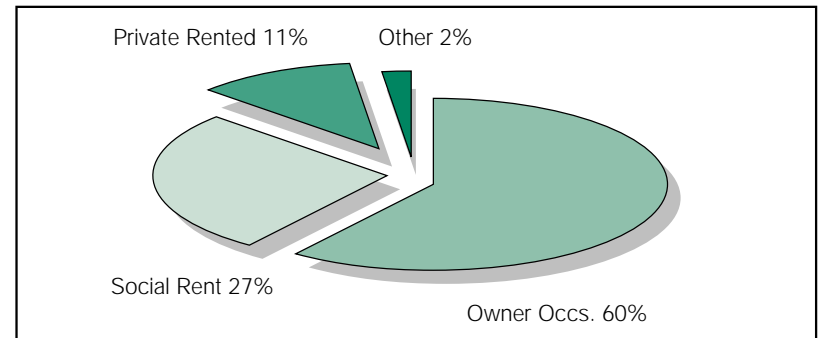
Black African



Black Other



All Black Ethnic Groups



Tenure

There are differences in levels of owner occupation between different black ethnic groups with higher than average rates amongst Black Caribbean residents – 74% of which are owner-occupiers compared to the borough average of 69% and Black African Residents where only 49% of whom are owner-occupiers. Residents from a Black Other background fall between these two groups with 58% of Black Other residents being owner-occupiers.

This may reflect migration patterns with Black Caribbean groups having established themselves in the UK longer than other ethnic groups and are therefore in a better position to buy property.

All Black ethnic groups show higher than average rates of social housing tenure in Merton and this is especially true amongst Black African residents of which 32% live in social rented housing. Of those with a Black Other ethnic background 31% live in social housing. This may represent considerable housing pressures amongst these groups. Black Caribbean residents are only slightly over-represented as social housing tenants at 17% compared to the borough average of 14%.

Black Caribbean and Black Other residents are less likely to rent privately than the borough average with only 7% and 9% of residents from these ethnic groups renting privately. Residents with a Black African background are slightly over represented at 17% compared to borough averages of 15%. This may reflect later migration patterns of black African residents.

The Black Population amongst Merton's Tenants and Leaseholders

Tenants with a Black ethnic background comprise 10% of all council tenants, which is above the proportion of black residents living in Merton, at 8%. This may indicate that these groups are in greater housing need.

Further breakdown of black tenants show that residents with a black Caribbean ethnic background make up 3% of tenants followed by Black Africans at 6% and Black Others at 1% of council tenants.

Comparing this to the profile of Merton's residents, those with a Black Caribbean ethnic background are slightly under-represented as council tenants, those with a Black African ethnic background are greatly over-represented and those with a Black Other ethnic background are proportionally represented when compared to the ethnic composition of Merton's residents.

Black residents who are leaseholders of council property comprise 10%. This is broken down further with 6% of leaseholders being black African, 3% are Black Caribbean and 1% are Black Other.

Comparing this to the profile of Merton's residents those with a Black African ethnic background are over-represented as leaseholders, those with a Black Caribbean ethnic origin are slightly under-represented and those with a Black Other are proportionally represented as Council Leaseholders.

House Conditions and Overcrowding

Levels of overcrowding are higher amongst all Black Ethnic groups than the Merton average. There is some disparity however between ethnic groups.

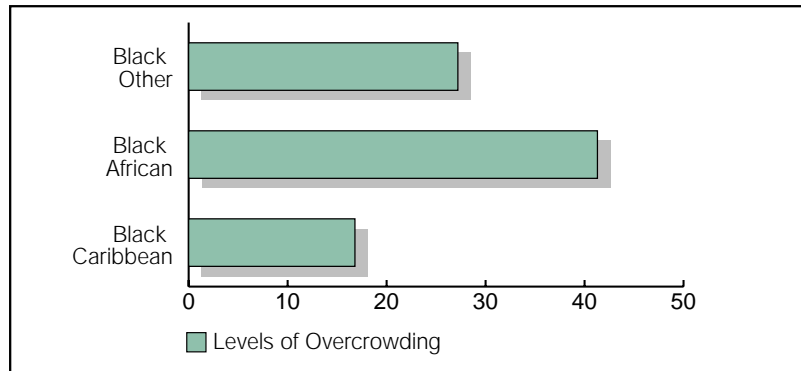
Those with a Black African ethnic background have the highest level of overcrowding at 41.34%. This may be due to the family composition of this group with many families with children. It may also be due to the fairly new arrival of many people with Black African ethnic background into the borough.

Residents with a black other ethnic background have high levels of overcrowding at 27.28%.

Residents from a Black Caribbean ethnic background have much lower levels of overcrowding, at 16.84%.

All Black residents have lower than average levels of residents who lack central heating with 4.5% of Black Caribbean residents, 7.09% of Black Africans and 4.67% of Black Others of the population lacking central heating.

Percentage of Households facing overcrowding problems



Under Occupation of Housing

Level of under-occupation is lower than the Merton average for all Black residents although there is significant variation between Black Caribbean residents, with 32.42% of residents having 2 or more rooms than they require compared to other black ethnic groups.

Black African residents have much lower levels with only 15.27% residents having +2 rooms than they needed.

Social Exclusion Issues

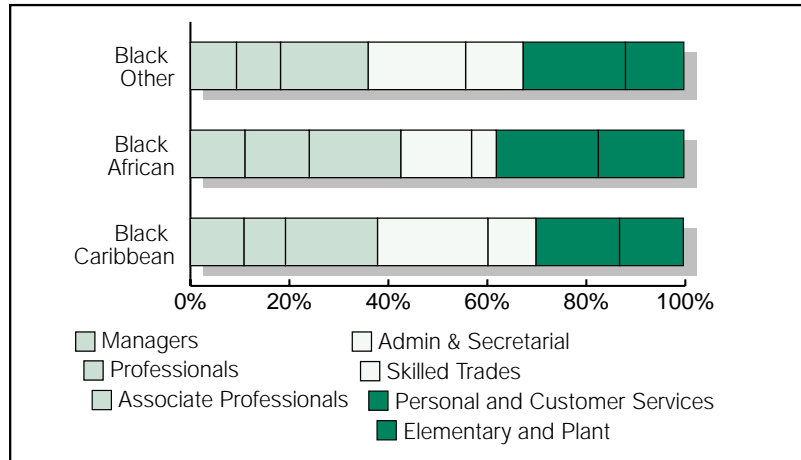
Employment and Occupation

All Black ethnic groups have significantly lower than average levels of occupations as managers, professionals and associate professionals. Black Caribbean workers have only 37.88% representation in this sector whilst Black Others have the lowest figure for all ethnic groups, at 36.03%. Black African residents have the highest levels of representation of all Black ethnic groups, at 42.61%.

Black Caribbean and Black Other workers both have higher than average rates of employment in the administrative and secretarial sector, which may reflect London studies of many black workers entering public sector employment.

Black Caribbean and Black Other workers also have higher than average levels of workers in the Skilled Trades occupations at 9.77% and 11.6% respectively. Black Africans by comparison have lower levels, at 5.07% compared to the borough average of 7.59%.

Occupation of Black Residents



All Black groups have higher than average levels of workers in personal and customer service sectors with highest levels for Black Others, at 20.77% and Black Africans, at 20.6% compared to the borough average of 12.1%.

Black Africans have significantly higher levels of workers in elementary and process and plant occupations, with 17.34% of workers in this group.

Unemployment Rates

Residents with a black Caribbean ethnic background have a higher than average rate of unemployment with 7.25% of economically active residents being unemployed compared to the borough average of 4.54%.

Residents from a Black African ethnic background have a higher than average rate of unemployment with 8.93% of economically active residents being unemployed.

However, residents with a Black Other ethnic background have one of the highest rates of unemployment with 9.35% of economically active residents being unemployed.

Percentage of Residents aged 16 – 24 in Full Time Study

There is some disparity between black ethnic groups aged 16 – 24 in full time study although all are above the borough average of 42%.

Residents from a Black African ethnic background have one of the highest rates of study, second only to Chinese residents, at 72%. Residents from a Black Caribbean background have 56% of people aged 16-24 in full time education. Residents from a Black Other ethnic background have 53% of those aged 16-24 in full time education. It should be noted that both Black African and Black Other ethnic groups have slightly higher than average levels of 16 – 17 year olds in their population, which may be one factor in high levels of study.

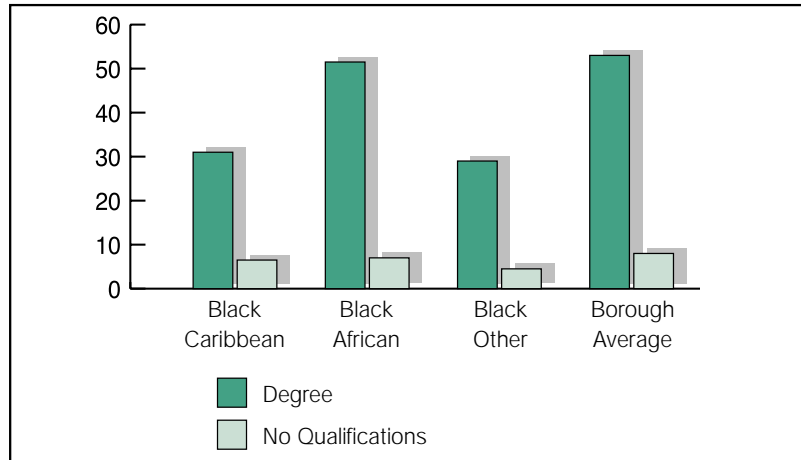
Qualifications amongst 25 – 34 year olds

There is significant variation in residents attaining higher educational qualifications between the different black ethnic groups.

Black African residents having significantly higher levels of educational qualification at 51.42% compared to Black Others, at 28.43% and Black Caribbean's at 31.42%. Black Others have the lowest attainment levels amongst all ethnic groups.

Black residents have a lower than average level of residents who have no qualifications at 7.12% for Black Caribbean's, 6.22% for Black Africans and 4.41% for Black Others.

Qualifications amongst Black Residents aged 25 - 34



Why are Black Caribbean, Mixed Race Black Caribbean / White Residents having poorer educational outcomes?

Lower levels of degree attainment amongst Black Caribbean residents and Mixed Race Black Caribbean / White residents may reflect national trends that show Black Caribbean male children are more likely to be excluded from school and are least likely to achieve 5 GCSE's. There are a number of arguments as to why these ethnic groups and males in particular, are less likely to do well academically. Factors for low school achievement may include poverty and social exclusion, racial stereotyping, low expectations and higher levels of exclusion. The author Majors (in 2001) argues in his book 'Cool Pose' that low achievement reflects the way black males are marginalized in society. Other arguments look to the influence of a pervasive street culture, which can affect other ethnic groups as well and is anti school and achievement. All these factors may help explain low levels of qualifications amongst these groups.

It should be noted that low pass rates for GCSE's amongst Black Caribbean and Mixed Race Black Caribbean/White are similar to the pass rate for male White British working class children, so class and gender may be as contributive factors as race.

Ill Health

Black African and Black Other residents experience the lowest levels of ill health amongst their population at 3.15% and 3.95%.

Black Caribbeans have higher rates of ill health at 8.27%. Higher levels in this group compared to other black ethnic groups may partly be due to the older age profile of Black Caribbean households, as ill health tends to rise with age.

Percentage of Households without car use

Black residents have slightly higher than average numbers of households who do not have the use of a car. This is particularly true for Black Other residents who have the highest number of all ethnic groups, at 38.64%.

Black Caribbean and Black African residents are slightly higher than average at 32.07% and 32.42%.

Lone Parents

Black residents have very high levels of lone parents of all the ethnic groups, which is nearly double the rate for other communities.

Black Others have the highest lone parentage rates at 19.76%, with Black Africans at 17.01% followed by Black Caribbean's at 16.01%.

Why do Black and Mixed Race Black Caribbean/White and Black African / White Residents have such high rates of lone parent households?

There are many factors that may influence the high levels of lone parents amongst mixed race and black households. Factors that influence levels of lone parents are often intertwined and may include:

- A reflection of increasing social acceptance of cohabitation and the increasing economic independence of women;
- Increased stress and pressure due to living in poverty, causing relationship breakdown;
- May reflect Caribbean matriarchal culture which stresses the importance of a female network of mothers, sisters, daughters and where there is less emphasis on marriage. This may in part have developed as a historical reaction to adversity and slavery in the Caribbean;
- Some sociologists suggest single parenthood is associated with low income and poverty, a cycle of low educational attainment and deprivation;
- Other more recent studies suggest single Black Caribbean women have higher levels of economic activity and study, but this is more likely to occur at a later age than other students.



5 Mixed Race Residents in Merton

Demographics

Key Statistics

There are 5869 residents in Merton with a Mixed Race ethnic background. Mixed Race residents comprise 3.11% of Merton's population.

The largest group of Mixed Race residents are Asian / White followed by Black Caribbean / White.

The other groups of mixed race residents include Black African / White and Other mixed race.

Distribution

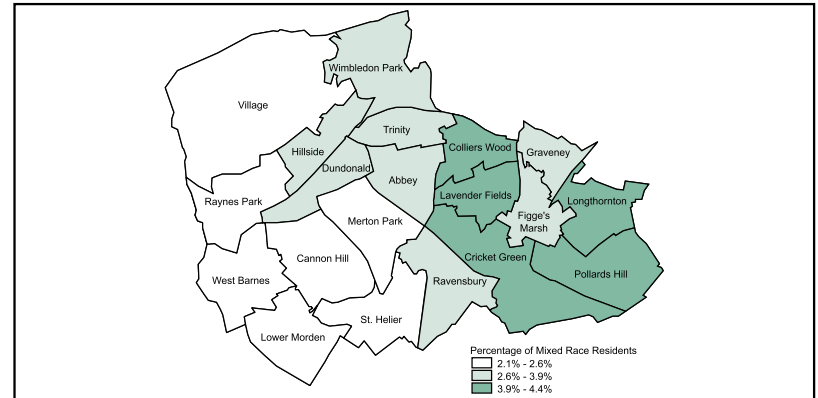
Mixed race residents with a Black / White ethnic background are largely concentrated in Mitcham wards while those with an Asian and Other ethnic background are more evenly distributed throughout Merton

High concentrations of Black Caribbean / White and Black African / White can be found in the most deprived wards of Pollards Hill and Cricket Green. Extremely low levels of populations are found in the most affluent wards of Hillside and Merton Park.

Mixed race households with an Asian / White background have high concentrations in the more affluent wards of Hillside and Merton Park whilst very low populations in St Helier, Lower Morden. One affluent, one more deprived. Again this highlights the fact that economic factors are not the only factor behind ethnic household location.

Mixed Race Other residents are more evenly distributed throughout Merton but the highest concentration are in Mitcham and Wimbledon areas.

Map 3 – Distribution of Mixed Race Residents in Merton



Age Profile

Mixed Race residents have the highest levels of young people in their population make up. These high levels of children and young people varies from much higher than average at 45.47% amongst Asian/White mixed race residents and 45.65% for Other mixed race groups. However, there are high numbers of African/white children and young people, at 52.81% and 61.86% of Black Caribbean/White residents. This compares to a borough average of 21.59%. Obviously housing issues involving children are a key focus for mixed race ethnic groups.

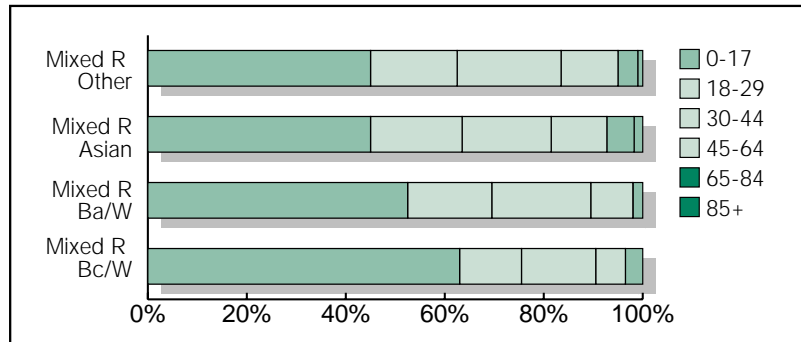
The population of those of working age is much lower for all mixed race ethnic groups. Only 33.54% of the Black Caribbean/White population are working age, 45.8% of Black African/White residents and 47.96% of Asian/Whites and 49.61% of Other mixed race residents.

Levels of older people varies with extremely low levels of Black African / Whites, at 1.37%, 2.46% of Black Caribbean/Whites to 6.55% Asian / Whites and 4.72% for Others. Housing issues for the elderly are likely to be

Research Report - Analysis of Housing and Social Exclusion Issues amongst Merton's Ethnic Minorities

of more concern to Asian/White mixed race residents than for the other mixed race groups.

Age Profile of Mixed Race Residents



Population Projections

Population projections for mixed race ethnic groups in Merton cannot be calculated because data required from the 1991 Census did not include a Mixed Race ethnic origin.

However, national data highlights that the number of mixed race peoples grew by 75% during the 1990's to around 415,000, making up 10% of the U.K's total ethnic minority population. Other statistics show that inter racial marriages between Black Caribbean and Whites number seven times higher than in the United States. Nationally and locally it is therefore highly likely that Merton's mixed race population will increase.

Housing

Tenure

High levels of owner occupation can be found amongst Mixed Race Asian/White ethnic groups with low levels amongst the Mixed Race Black African/White ethnic groups. This broadly reflects Black African and Asian tenure makeup.

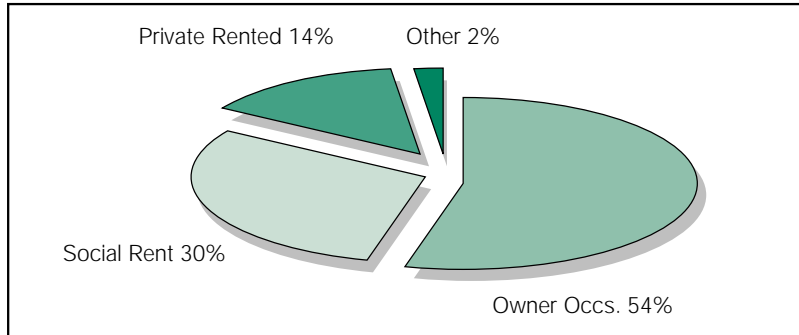
Levels of social housing are high amongst Black Caribbean/White and Black African/White ethnic groups.



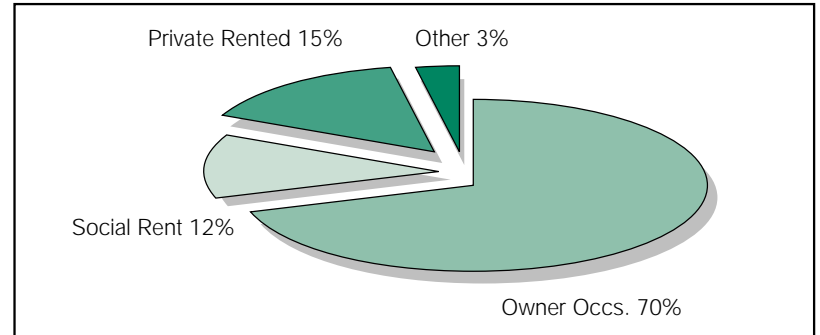
Research Report - Analysis of Housing and Social Exclusion Issues amongst Merton's Ethnic Minorities

Tenure of mixed race residents

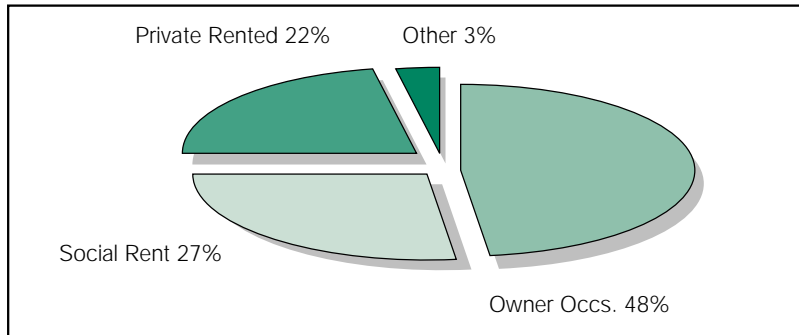
Black Caribbean/White



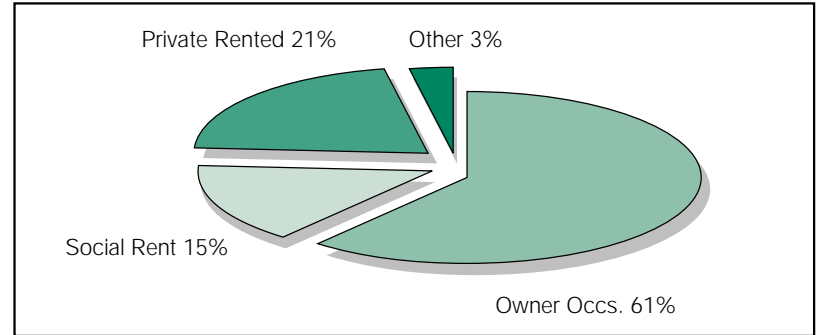
Asian/White



Black African/White



Other



Tenants and Leaseholders

The Kwest Survey (2002) revealed that there are very few Mixed Race tenants, that were not statistically high enough to comment on. It should be noted that Census data (2001) shows high levels of those with a mixed race black African/White and Black Caribbean / White in social housing.

House Conditions and Overcrowding

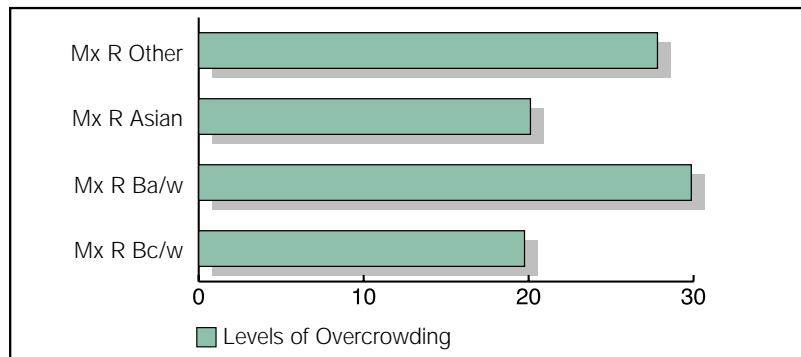
Levels of overcrowding are high amongst Mixed Race Black African/White and Other residents, at 29.86% and 27.81% respectively.

Overcrowding levels are lower amongst Black Caribbean/White and Asian / White at 19.75% and 20.11% although these are still higher than levels found in all White residents.

Mixed Race Black Caribbean/White and Asian/White have high levels of households who lack central heating at 8.42% and 8.13%.

Mixed Race Other and Black African/White households have low levels of households who lack central heating, at 5.98% and 3.98%.

Percentage Of Households facing Overcrowding



Under Occupation of Housing

Levels of under occupation are highest amongst Asian/White and Other residents at 32.7% and 26.24%.

Slightly lower levels are found amongst Black Caribbean and African/White residents at 23.75% and 23%.

Social Exclusion Issues

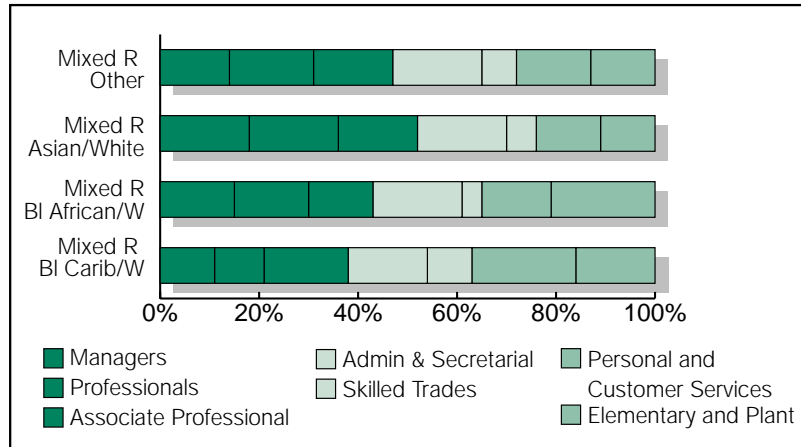
Employment and Occupation

Those from a Black Caribbean and White ethnic origin have much lower than average numbers of workers in Manager, Professional and Associate Professional occupations. Although levels of associate professional match the borough average, the other occupations are much lower leaving only 39.83% of residents in these occupations compared to the borough average of 53.11%. Black African/White residents also have lower than average levels of 44.52% although levels of Manager occupations is comparable to the borough average. Other mixed race residents have levels of 47.15% whilst Asian/White residents have very near borough average of 53.1%.

All Mixed Race residents have slightly higher levels of their population working in the administrative and secretarial sector whilst Black Caribbean/White residents have slightly higher levels of workers in the skilled trade occupations.

Black African/White residents have a much higher than average level of workers in the elementary/process and plant occupations, at 20.08%, this is similar to the high level amongst Black African residents and is much higher than the borough average of 11.68%.

Occupation of Mixed Race Residents



Unemployment Rates

Mixed Race Black Caribbean/White residents have the highest level of unemployment at 11.53%, much higher than the borough average of 4.54%.

Black African/White have unemployment rates of 7.51% whilst the Other mixed race residents unemployment rate is 6.41%. Mixed Race Asian/White residents have lower than average levels of unemployment at 3.98%.

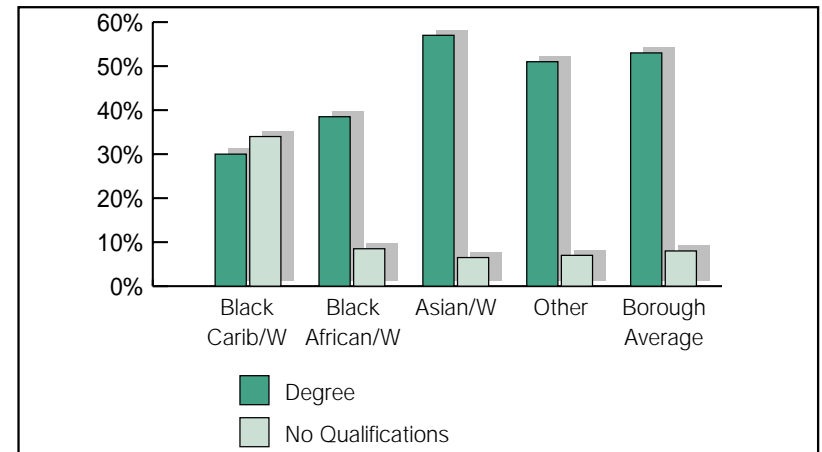
Percentage of Residents aged 16 – 24 in Full Time Study

Numbers of residents aged 16 – 24 in full time study varies considerably between Black Caribbean/White residents and the other mixed race groups.

Residents aged 16 – 24 with a Black Caribbean and White ethnic background have low levels of study of 45.41%, whilst Black African/White have extremely high levels of study of 90.72%.

Asian / White and Other mixed race residents have high rates of 55.83% and 60.16% respectively.

Qualifications amongst 25 - 34 Year Olds



There is some disparity of residents who are degree educated amongst mixed race residents. Higher levels of 25-34 year olds with degrees can be found amongst Mixed Race Asian/White at 57.32%, then other mixed race residents at 51.06% and Black African/White ethnic groups at 48.3%. The position of mixed race Black Caribbean/White residents is much worse with only 29.88% of those aged 25-34 year old being degree educated. This is much lower than the borough average of 53.31% and similar to Black Caribbean and Black Other residents.

Mixed Race Black Caribbean/White residents also have one of the highest levels of 25-34 year olds who have no qualifications at 13.21%. Mixed Race African/White also have fairly high levels of no qualifications at 8.47% whilst Mixed Race Asian and Mixed Race Other have lower levels of 6.54% and 6.8%.

Discussion on the reasons for poor educational attainment amongst Black Caribbean and Black Other ethnic groups is also relevant to Mixed Race Black Caribbean and White residents. Turn to the previous chapter for more information.

Ill Health

All mixed race ethnic groups have lower than average levels of ill health. Black African/White have the lowest levels of 3.81% which is similar to Black African ethnic groups results of 3.15%. Other mixed race residents having low levels, at 4.15%. Black Caribbean/White and Asian/White ethnic groups also have low levels of ill health of 4.66% and 4.84%.

Very low levels of ill health may reflect the high levels of young people and lower numbers of older persons in these ethnic groups.

Percentage of Households who lack car use

All mixed race households have higher than average numbers of households who lack car use. This is considerably marked among Black Caribbean / White residents at 41.05% of households who lack car use and Black African / White residents at 36.75%.

Mixed Race Asian and Other have lower rates of 34.55% and 32.07%, although this is still above the borough average.

Lone Parents

Mixed Race residents with an Asian/White or Other ethnic background have slightly higher than average number of lone parents compared to the borough average of 6.79% and 8.65%.

Those from an African/White ethnic origin have extremely high numbers of lone parent, at 18.07% whilst mixed race residents with a Black Caribbean/ White background have the highest numbers of lone parents in their population make-up at 20.65%.

Housing Stress and Social Exclusion amongst Mixed Race Black Caribbean / White Households

Analysis of Census 2001 data shows that Mixed Race Black Caribbean / White households in Merton have poorer housing and social exclusion outcomes than many other ethnic groups. Higher numbers of these residents reside in social housing, live in the most deprived wards of the borough, have higher levels of unemployment than other ethnic groups and have lower levels of their workforce in higher paid employment. Clearly not all residents with a Mixed Race Black Caribbean / White ethnic background have poor housing and social exclusion outcomes with 12% of residents living in the most affluent wards of the borough and 29.11% of 25 – 34 year olds being educated to degree level. What is of concern is the greater number of households living in the most deprived areas of Merton who may also face additional issues. These are unemployment, low educational attainment, high levels of households headed by lone parent (many of which are less economically well off than two parent households) as well as high numbers of households lacking car use. All together these factors may contribute to high levels of social exclusion and housing need for Mixed Race Black Caribbean / White households.

6 Asian Residents in Merton

Demographics

Key Statistics

There are 20,810 residents in Merton with an Asian ethnic background, which comprise 11% of the borough's population.

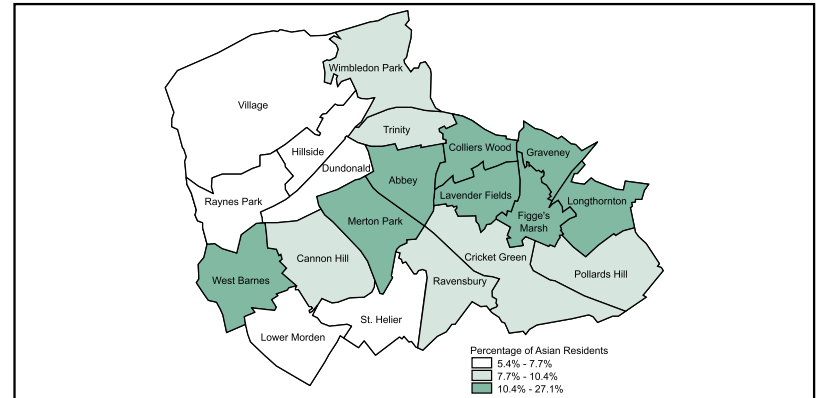
Of this number, 4% have an Indian ethnic background, 2.5% have a Pakistani ethnic background, 1% have a Bangladeshi ethnic background and 3.5% have Other Asian ethnic origins, including Tamil.

Distribution

The Asian community is more evenly distributed throughout the borough than Merton's black population but shows some similar characteristics with higher concentrations in the Mitcham area especially in Graveney ward.

The lowest concentrations of those from an Asian ethnic background can be found in Lower Morden.

Map 4 – Distribution of Asian Residents in Merton

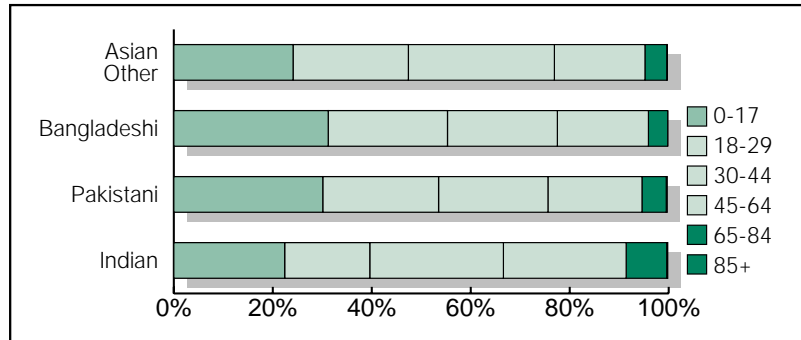


Age Profile

The age profile of Asian residents varies by ethnic group with Indian residents having a slightly older age profile than other Asian residents.

Indian residents have only slightly higher than average numbers of children and young people in their population and higher levels of people of working age. Residents from an Indian ethnic background also have slightly lower than average numbers of older people in their population, at 8.46%, although this is the highest level of all amongst Asian groups. Added to this is higher level of Middle Aged people. Therefore the housing needs of Indian elders may be of growing importance to Indian residents.

Age Profile of Merton Residents



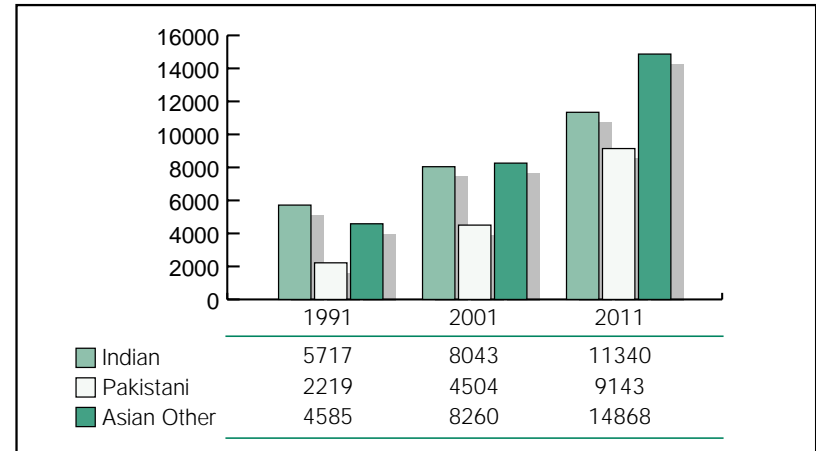
Pakistani and Bangladeshi residents have similar age profiles with high levels of Children and Young people in their populations and average levels of working age populations. Levels of older people are much lower than average at 5.18% for Pakistani and 3.93% for Bangladeshi residents compared to the Merton average of 12.91%. Housing for families may therefore be of particular concern for Pakistani and Bangladeshi residents.

The age profile of Asian Others, including Tamil residents shows higher than average numbers of children and young people, at 24.14%. This may reflect the relatively new arrival of Tamil refugees into the borough, with large numbers with children. Levels of older people is lower than average but higher than Bangladeshi levels at 4.58%.

Population Projections for 2011

In 2011 there will be 35,351 Asian residents in Merton who will comprise 17% of the population. This means those from an Asian ethnic background will continue to be the largest ethnic minority in Merton.

Population Projections for Asian Residents



Those from an Indian ethnic background will make up 5.5% of Merton's total population making them the largest singular Asian ethnic group. However this growth rate is slower than that for Pakistani and Asian Other groups.

Pakistani residents will increase from 4,504 to an estimated 9,143 by 2011 making up 4.5% of Merton's residents and one of the fastest growing ethnic groups.

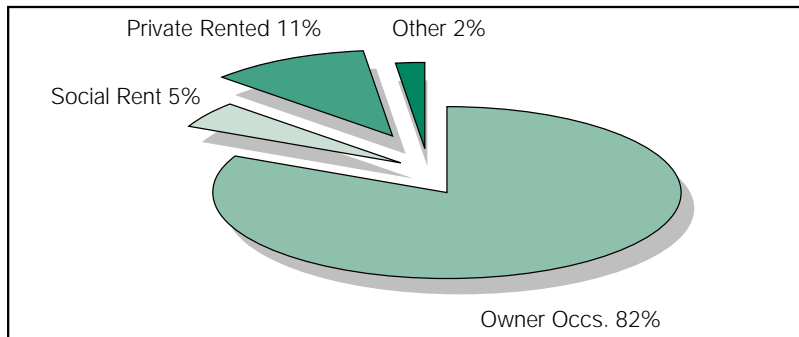
Residents from Asian Other ethnic backgrounds including Tamil and Bangladeshi residents, will comprise 7% of Merton's residents in 2011.

Housing

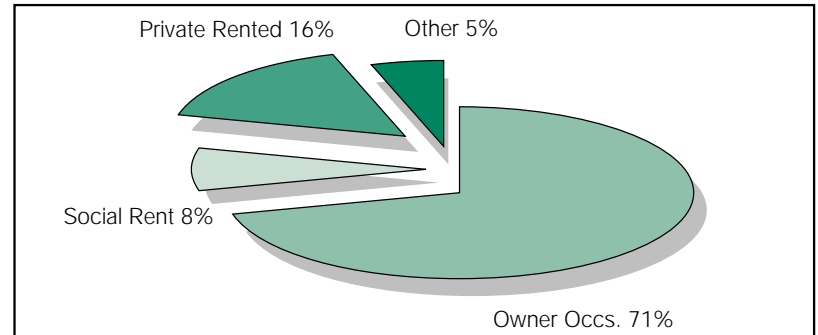
Tenure

Tenure amongst Asian ethnic groups varies considerably. Indian residents have the highest level of owner occupation amongst all ethnic groups with 82% of residents owning property. They also have the lowest levels of all Asian groups for residents in social housing at 4.53%. This may reflect tenure preference for owner occupation as well as economic well being amongst Indian residents. Levels of private renting are below the borough average, at 11.23%.

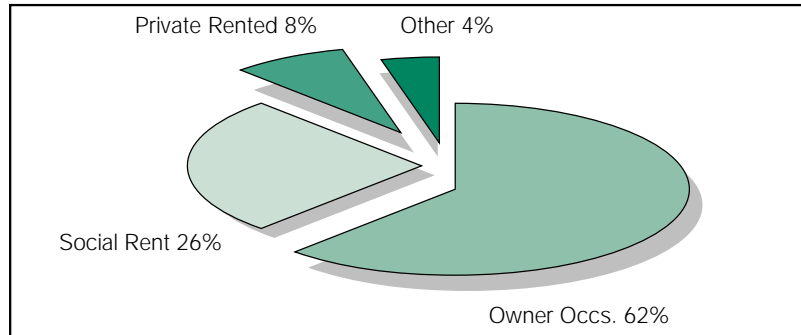
Indian Residents



Pakistani Residents



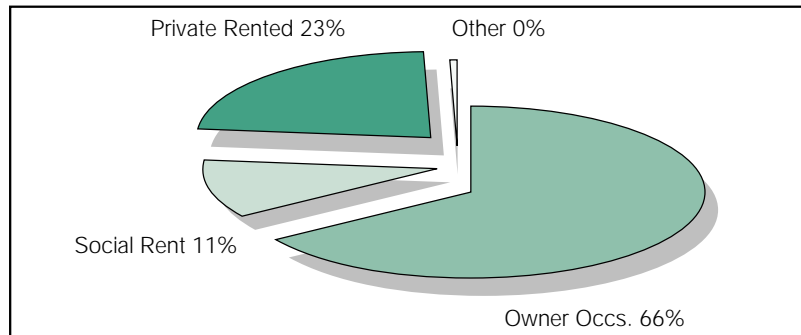
Bangladeshi Residents



Bangladeshi residents are significantly more likely to reside in social housing with 26.24% of this ethnic group residing in this tenure, this figure being highest amongst Asian ethnic groups. Levels of owner occupation are lower than average at 61.89% whilst levels of private renting are significantly below average at 7.75%. High levels of Bangladeshis in social housing may reflect this group facing significant housing stress and low levels in owner occupation may also represent an inability to move into this tenure.

Asian Others have slightly lower levels of owner occupation, at 65.76% whilst levels of social housing are lower than average, at 10.49% compared to 14%. Asian Others have a higher number of their ethnic group in private rented accommodation, which may reflect the fairly recent arrival of Tamil population to Merton.

Asian Other Residents



Pakistani residents have slightly higher than borough averages for owner occupation at 70.8%, whilst those residing in the private sector are also slightly higher than average at 16%. Pakistani residents are under-represented in social housing with only 8.39% of all residents in this tenure compared to the borough average of 14%.

Tenants and Leaseholders

Those with an Asian ethnic background make up 7% of Merton's tenants whilst comprising 11% of Merton's residents.

Tenants with an Indian ethnic background are vastly being under-represented as tenants at only 1% compared to 4% of Merton's residents. Compared with the profile of Merton's residents the number of Indian residents in Council housing is very low with only 1% of tenants having an Indian ethnic background. Council tenants from a Pakistani ethnic background are also lower than their number of residents, at 1% council tenants.

Tenants with a Pakistani ethnic background are also under-represented as tenants at 1% compared to being 2.5% of Merton's residents. This may in part be due to tenure preferences for owner occupation, although national reports have highlighted that this group still has problems with disrepair and overcrowding issues.

Those from a Bangladeshi ethnic background make up 2% of tenants whilst being 1% of Merton's residents. This reflects national surveys, which show

Research Report - Analysis of Housing and Social Exclusion Issues amongst Merton's Ethnic Minorities

high concentrations of Bangladeshis in social housing due to higher levels of housing need.

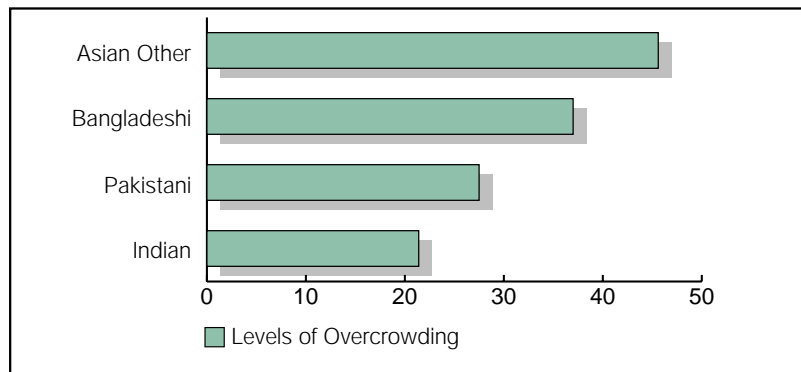
Tenants with an Asian Other ethnic background (including Tamils) comprise 3% of tenants whilst making up 3.5% of Merton's residents.

Those from an Asian ethnic background comprise 9% of all council leaseholders. This is 3% Indian, 2% Pakistani, 1% Bangladeshi and 3% Asian Other.

Compared to the make up of Merton's resident's the number of Asian council leaseholder is slightly under representative. Indian, Pakistani and Asian Other ethnic groups are all under represented whilst Bangladeshi leaseholders are proportionally represented.

House Conditions and Overcrowding

All Asian residents have higher than average levels of overcrowding although this varies between different ethnic groups with Indian residents having much lower levels than other Asian groups.



Residents from the Asian Other ethnic group have the highest levels of overcrowding with 45.64% of all households lacking at least one room. This may reflect the housing problems faced by relatively new communities such as Tamil who compared to other ethnic groups may be less established, due to recent migration patterns. It may also reflect preference to live in extended family units.

Bangladeshi residents also face high levels of overcrowding with 37% of all Bangladeshi residents lacking at least one room. Levels for Pakistani residents are lower but still above the Merton average at 27.54%, whilst levels for Indian residents are 21.4%.

Most Asian groups have very low levels of households who lack central heating with lowest levels amongst Pakistani residents at 2.81% and Indian residents at 3.28%.

Residents from an Asian Other ethnic background also have fairly low levels at 4.11%.

In comparison Bangladeshi residents have very high levels of households who lack Central heating at 9.75%.

Under Occupation of Housing

Asian residents have less than average rates of under occupation, at 25.43% although there is much variation between Indian residents, with 34.04% of residents having +2 rooms or more and Asian Others, where only 18.93% of residents have two or more extra rooms.

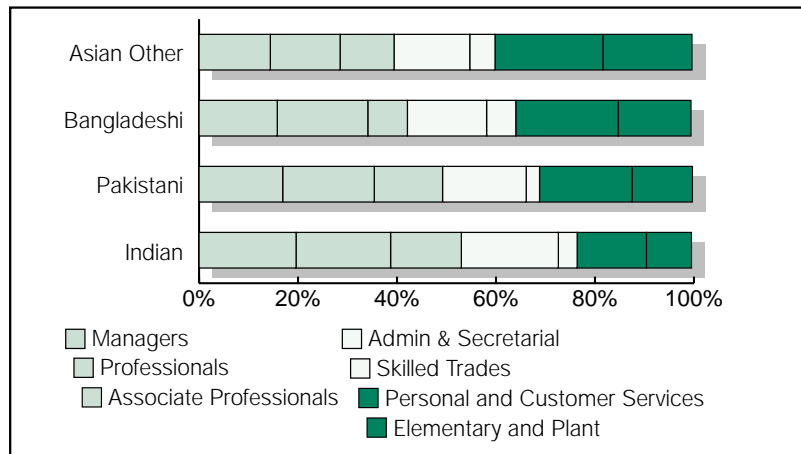
Social Exclusion Issues

Employment and Occupation

There is some disparity between Asian groups on levels of employment in management, professions and associate professions. Indian workers have above average levels, of 53.12% but Asian Others at 39.49% have much lower levels than average. Pakistani workers have lower than average levels at 49.27% as do Bangladeshi workers at 42.35%.

Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi ethnic groups have higher than average levels of workers in administrative and secretarial professions although Asian Others have lower than average levels.

Employment and Occupation



All Asian groups have lower than average levels of occupation in skilled trade professions with lowest rates amongst Indian and Pakistani workers at 3.89% and 2.79% respectively. Bangladeshi workers have the highest level at 5.91%

All Asian groups have higher than average levels of workers in customer and personal services with Asian Others having the highest level of all ethnic groups at 21.8%. Asian levels are significantly higher than White and Chinese levels of work in customer and personal services.

Asian Others also have the highest level of all ethnic groups working in plant and elementary industry at 18.09%. Bangladeshi and Pakistani workers are also high at 14.79% and 12.22% respectively. In contrast Indian workers are less likely than average to work in this sector with only 9.19% in this sector against an average of 11.68%

Unemployment Rates

Residents with an Indian ethnic background have a slightly higher than average level of unemployment with 4.72% of economically active residents being unemployed compared to the borough average of 4.54%. This is still lower than for most ethnic groups however. Asian Other residents have higher than average levels of unemployment at 6.5%.

Residents with a Pakistani ethnic background have higher than average rates of unemployment with 7.86% of economically active residents being unemployed.

Residents with a Bangladeshi ethnic background have one of the highest rates of unemployment with 8.33% of economically active residents being unemployed.

Percentage of Population aged 16 – 24 in Full Time Study

There is some variation in levels of study between the different Asian ethnic groups, although most Asian ethnic groups have high levels of study amongst 16 – 24 year olds.

Those from an Indian ethnic group show the highest rate of study for those from an Asian ethnic origin with 68% of those aged 16 – 24 in full time study. Bangladeshi residents also have high levels of study with 66% of 16 – 24 year olds in full time education.

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Amongst Asian Other's 57% of 16-24 year olds are studying full time which is above the average of 42% of all Merton residents.

Those from a Pakistani ethnic origin have the lowest level of study amongst Asian residents and also the lowest amongst all non-white ethnic groups at 45% of all 16 – 24 year olds.

It should be noted that Bangladeshi residents have higher than average numbers of 16 – 17 year olds in their population, which may influence higher rates of study amongst this group. Of concern is the fact that Pakistani residents have lower levels of study at 45% although they have higher than average numbers of 16 – 17 year olds in their population at 3.44%, compared to 2.13% average. This figure would seem to indicate higher levels of study as at 16 – 17 more residents are still in education or training - although this does not hold true for Pakistani residents. This may highlight poor participation in higher education amongst Pakistani residents.

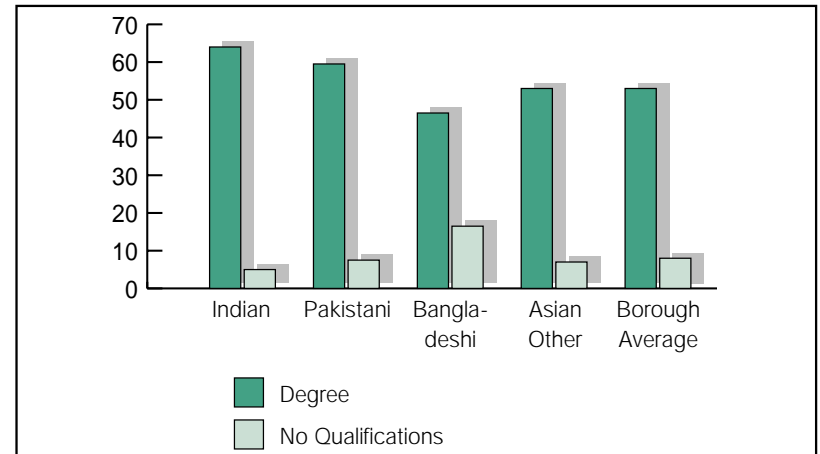
Qualifications of 25 – 34 year olds

There is much disparity between Asian ethnic groups in both higher qualifications and levels with no qualifications, with those from an Indian ethnic background doing better than other Asian groups.

Indian residents aged 25 – 34 have significantly higher numbers of residents with degrees or higher at 63.9%, compared to the borough average of 53.31%. Pakistani residents also have higher than average levels at 59.35%. Conversely Bangladeshi and Asian Others have much lower levels at 46.44% and 32.45%.

Indian residents aged 25 – 34 also have lower than average numbers who have no qualifications at 5.03%. Pakistani residents have slightly lower than average levels at 7.43%. Again Bangladeshi and Asian Others have much higher rates of residents with no qualifications. This is particularly true of

Bangladeshis who have the highest levels of all ethnic groups for 25 – 34 year olds without qualifications, at 16.27%. Asian Others have only half this figure, at 8.29%.



Ill Health

Levels of ill health are higher than average for all Asian groups except Asian Others at 5.47%. Indian residents have only slightly higher levels, at 7.33%. Higher levels of ill health can be found amongst Pakistani residents, at 9.25% and Bangladeshi residents, at 9.04%.

Percentage of Households without Car Use

All Asian ethnic groups have much lower than average level of households who are without car use, with Pakistani and Indian residents having the lowest levels of all ethnic groups at 18.45% and 20.55% compared to the borough average of 30.13%.

Asian Others and Bangladeshi residents have similarly low levels of households without cars at 21.47% and 24.73% respectively.

One reason for low levels of households without car use amongst Asian residents may be larger household size and preference for multi generational living.

Lone Parents

Bangladeshi and Pakistani residents have high levels of single parents at 6.68% and 8.07%. This may in part be due to high levels of ill health amongst older Pakistani and Bangladeshi residents rather than family break-up as Asian cultural factors emphasise the importance of marriage.

Indian and Asian Other residents have lower levels of lone parents, at 5.1% and 3.89%.

The Tamil Community in Merton

History

The Tamil community is one of the newest ethnic groups in Merton with Sri Lankan refugees beginning to arrive in the United Kingdom from 1983 - increased numbers have arrived during the 1990's in response to armed conflict in Sri Lanka. The vast majority of refugees are from the Tamil population which consist of two ethnic groups, these being Tamils of Sri Lankan origin and Tamils of Indian origin, who migrated to Sri Lanka in the 19th Century and are a distinct ethnic group.

Mapping the Distribution of the Tamil Population

Census data is problematic when trying to analyse the distribution of the

Tamil population because it does not include a separate ethnic classification for Tamils. It is therefore necessary to look to the 'Asian Other' category in Census data to determine the population and housing and social exclusion issues of Merton's Tamil community. A broad understanding of the minimum size and location of the Tamil Community can be established using Census country of birth data. It should be noted that this categorisation does not include Tamils born in the United Kingdom. Notably there are 1430 residents aged under 16 from the Asian Other group in this category. Also, Sri Lankan country of birth data may also include other ethnic groups from Sri Lanka such as the Sinhalese, Veddas, Muslims and Burghers. The latter criticism needs to be seen against the wider fact that the majority of refugees from Sri Lanka have a Tamil ethnic background.

The Tamil Population is concentrated mainly in the Eastern Wards of Merton

The highest concentration of population with a Sri Lankan country of birth can be found in the in the east of the borough in Graveney (at 6.98% of the ward population), Colliers Wood (3.68%) and Figges Marsh (3.04%) and in the west of the borough, in the West Barnes ward (3.04%). Very low levels of population with a Sri Lankan Country of Birth can be found in the Wimbledon wards of Village (0.39%), Dundonald (0.51%), Hillside (0.51%), Raynes Park (0.91%) and in the Morden ward of Lower Morden (0.94%).

Although some analysis on the housing and social exclusion issues facing the Tamil community can be established using Asian Other data it should be noted that further research on the Tamil community is required.

7 Chinese and Other Ethnic Groups

Demographics

Key Statistics

Merton has 5,723 residents from a Chinese / Chinese Other or Other ethnic background who make up 3% of the borough's population.

This comprises 1% of residents with a Chinese ethnic origin and 2% with a Chinese Other or Other ethnic origin.

Other ethnic origin may include recent Korean and Japanese residents who have moved into the borough as well as asylum seekers who do not fall under the other ethnic categories.

Distribution

Chinese residents are distributed in both the most affluent and more deprived areas of Merton with higher concentrations in a corridor between Raynes Park and West Barnes in the west to Graveney and Figges Marsh in the east.

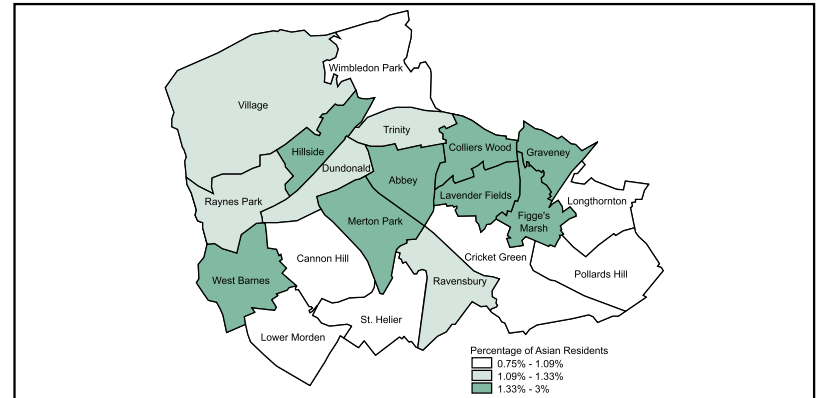
Lavender Fields and Figges Marsh in Mitcham contain high concentrations of Chinese residents as do Abbey, West Barnes and Hillside wards in Wimbledon.

Some areas of Mitcham and Morden contain relatively low numbers of Chinese residents, notably Lower Morden, Pollards Hill and Longthornton.

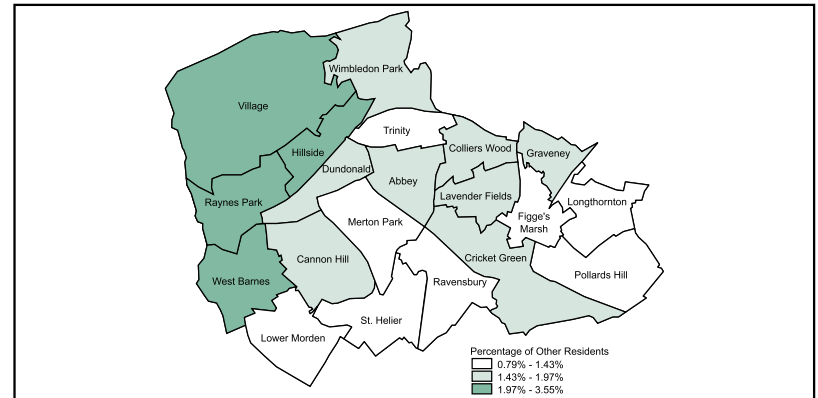
The highest concentration of Other ethnic group residents can be found in the Village, Hillside, West Barnes and Raynes Park wards, all of which are in the least deprived 25% of wards nationally.

Low levels of population amongst Other ethnic group can be found in Lower Morden and St Helier in Morden and Longthornton and Pollards Hill in Mitcham. Low populations in both affluent and deprived areas suggest that concentration of population is down to more than just economic factors.

Map 5 – Distribution of Chinese Residents in Merton



Map 6 – Distribution of Residents from 'Other' Ethnic Groups in Merton



Research Report - Analysis of Housing and Social Exclusion Issues amongst Merton's Ethnic Minorities

Age Profile

The age profile of Chinese residents is similar to borough averages for children, young people and young adults.

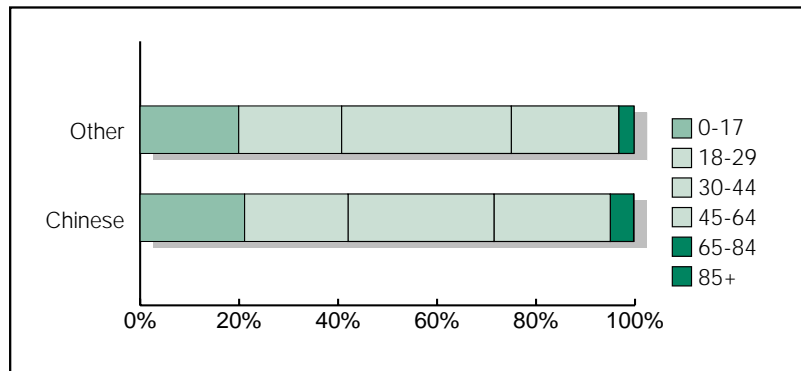
The Chinese population does, however, have slightly more adults, at 29.5% and middle aged people, at 23.59% than the borough average.

The Chinese population has less older and very old people than average, at 4.83% although this level is higher than many ethnic minorities.

The age profile of Merton's Other population shows slightly lower than average levels of Children and Young People, at 19.9% and slightly higher than average levels of young adults, at 20.83%.

There are significantly more middle aged people amongst the Other population than the Merton average, at 34.37% compared to 26.25%. Levels of older people and the very old are low at 3.18% and no people over 85.

Age Profile

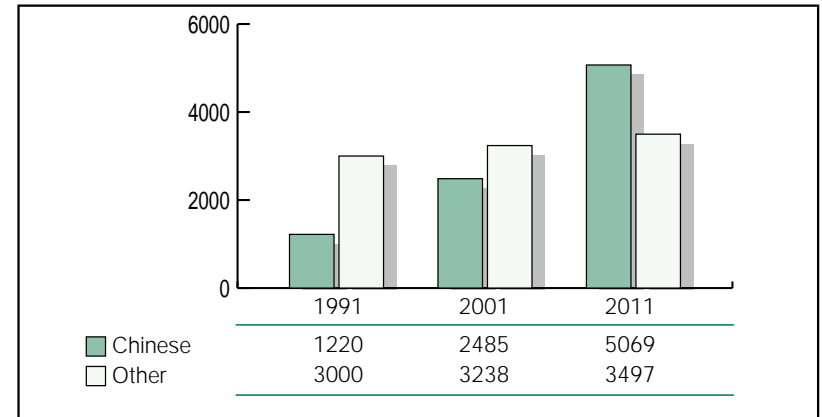


Population Projections for 2011

Although the total Chinese population of Merton is relatively small, it has seen the highest growth rate, 104% between 1991 and 2001.

Projections based on this growth rate put Merton's Chinese or Chinese Other population at 5069 in 2011. Based on population projections Chinese, Chinese Other and Other ethnic groups will make up 4% of Merton's population by 2011.

Population Projections for 2011



New Communities –

The Emergence of Korean and Japanese Residents in Merton

The large growth rate from those with a Chinese or Other background may in part reflect the migration of those with a Korean ethnic background to parts of the borough in the last five years.

There has been an increase in Chinese/Chinese Other (comprising Korean/Japanese) residents in the West Barnes ward. Residents with a Chinese or Chinese Other ethnic background form 4.43% of the ward population compared to an average for the borough of 3%. The ward has also seen high growth in this population between 1991 and 2001 with a 142% growth rate compared to the Merton average of 104% for Chinese / Chinese Others. This may well reflect the large Korean population in New Malden in the neighbouring borough of Kingston Upon Thames.

Growth Rates of Chinese or Other groups in Raynes Park and West Barnes Wards

Ward	1991 Census	2001 Census	Ward Growth	Borough Growth Rate (BGR)	% increase or decrease of BGR
Raynes Park ¹	81	117	44%	104%	-57% on BGW
Raynes Park ²	171	213	25%	8%	+212% on BGW
West Barnes ¹	64	155	142%	104%	+38% on BGW
West Barnes ²	176	269	53%	8%	+562% on BGW

1) = Chinese or Chinese Other 2) = Other

Further evidence also points to a growing Korean population. Analysis using country of birth data shows that residents with an "Other Far East" country of birth (excluding China and Japan but including Korean) comprise 1.31% of Merton's population.

Japanese Residents in Merton

Census 2001 data highlights relative concentrations of residents with a Japanese country of birth origin residing in the Wimbledon area, specifically the wards of Village (2.27% of ward population), Hillside (2.07%) and Raynes Park (1.05%). The concentration of Japanese residents in the wealthiest wards of the borough may indicate that this ethnic group are likely to face less issues of housing need and social exclusion than other minority ethnic groups.

Housing

Tenure

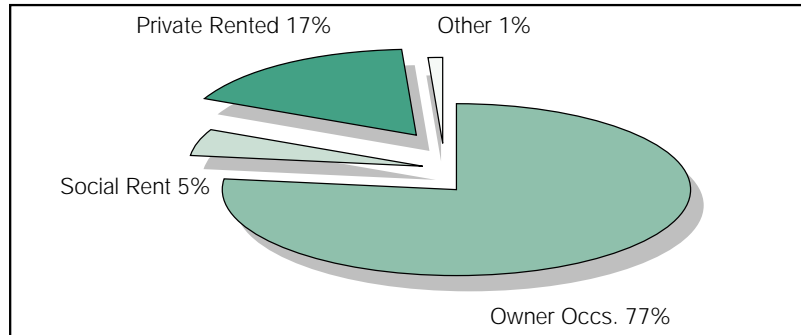
Levels of owner occupation are high amongst those with a Chinese ethnic origin with 77% owning property, compared to the borough average of 68%. This may reflect a preference for owner occupation as well as economic well being for some residents with a Chinese ethnic background.

Those with a Chinese ethnic origin are less likely than average to live in social housing with only 5% of those with a Chinese ethnic origin living in social housing compared to a borough average of 14%.

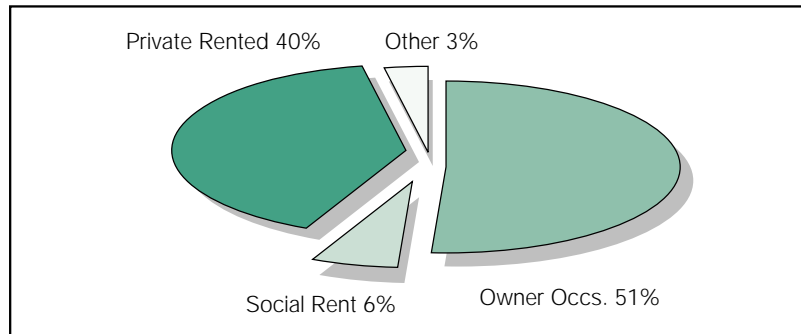
Levels of renting privately are only slightly higher than average amongst those with a Chinese ethnic origin with 17% of residents renting privately compared to an average of 15%.

Levels of owner occupation amongst Chinese Other / Other ethnic groups are much lower than for the Chinese ethnic group with only 51% living in owner occupied housing.

Chinese Tenure



Chinese Other and Other Tenure



Those with a Chinese Other or Other ethnic background are highly over-represented as private renters with 40% of residents from this ethnic group living in this type of accommodation. Low levels of owner occupation and high levels of private renting may be indicative of fairly affluent and economically active groups moving into the borough such as seen by the increase in Korean and Japanese residents.

Tenants and Leaseholders

Those with a Chinese or other ethnic background comprise 3% of Merton's tenants which is proportional to number of residents in the borough.

Kwest's 2002 survey (using ODPM guidelines and surveying 10% of tenants) found none to be of Chinese ethnic origin. Although Merton has Chinese tenants the survey does reflect the low level of those with a Chinese ethnic origin in council housing. This may reflect preference for owner occupation, economic well being or possibly lack of knowledge of social housing options.

Similarly Kwest's 2001 survey showed no leaseholders with a Chinese ethnic background.

Residents with a Chinese Other or Other ethnic background are over-represented as tenants comprising 3% of tenants whilst making up 2% of the borough's population. This may in part reflect refugees who have previously been in temporary housing being accepted by the Home Office and subsequently gaining social housing.

Those with an Other ethnic background are proportionally represented as council leaseholders comprising 2% leaseholders and 2% of Merton's residents. Living in social rented housing is also lower than average for this ethnic group with only 6% residing in council or housing association property.

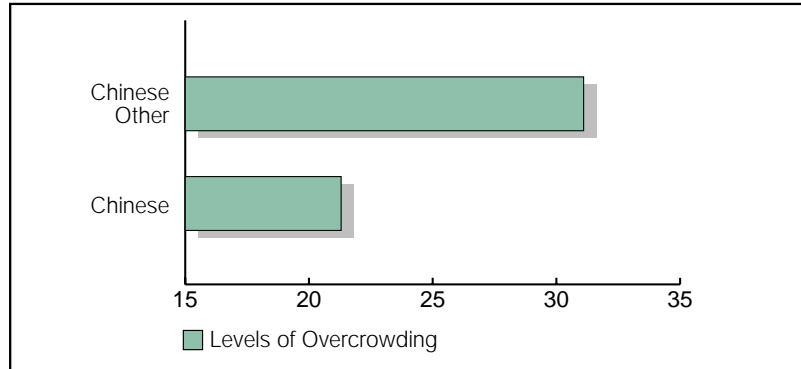
House Conditions and Overcrowding

Chinese residents have higher than average levels of overcrowding with 21.3% of residents lacking one room or more.

Those from a Chinese Other or Other ethnic background have higher rates of overcrowding with 31.18% of households facing overcrowded conditions. This may reflect the relative newness of many Other ethnic residents into the borough. Chinese and those from an Other ethnic background have

lower than average levels for those lacking central heating at 7.1% and 5.63% respectively.

Overcrowding Levels



Under Occupation of Housing

Chinese and Other ethnic groups have less than average levels of under occupation at 30.99% and 25.85% of residents having +2 rooms or more.

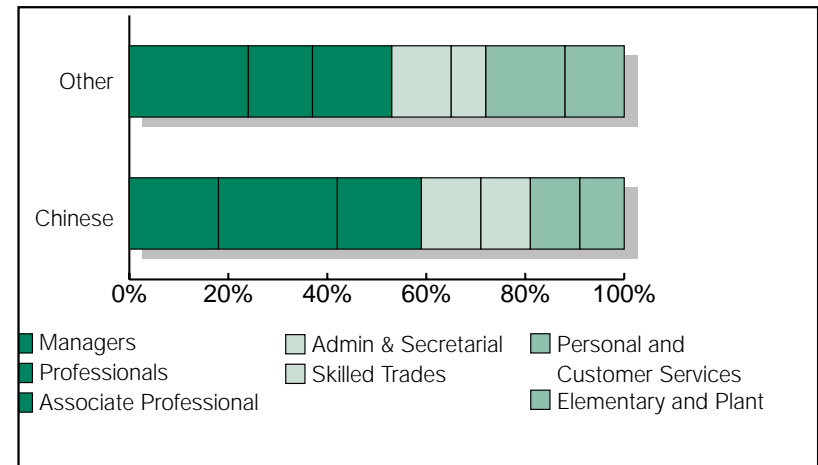
Social Exclusion Issues

Employment and Occupation

Chinese and those with an Other ethnic background have higher than average levels of workers in managerial, professional and associate professional occupations at 58.17% and 54.39% respectively. Of note is that Chinese workers have the highest of all ethnic groups for levels of professionals, at 24.12%. This reflects national studies that highlight the fact that Chinese residents tend to be one of the ethnic groups that do well economically, as well as a cultural emphasis of Chinese residents to enter professions.

Chinese and Other workers are less likely than average to work in administrative and secretarial work with 12.36% and 11.24% working in this sector compared to an average of 15.47%.

Employment and Occupation



Workers with a Chinese ethnic background have higher than average levels of workers in skilled trades, with 10.77% of workers in this sector. They are, however, less likely to work in personal and customer services with the lowest rates for all ethnic groups at 9.4%. Workers with a Chinese Other or Other ethnic background have slightly higher than average levels of employment in customer and personal services and plant and elementary occupations. There are less than average levels of Chinese working in plant and elementary occupations, with only 9.25% working in this sector.

Unemployment Rates

Those with a Chinese Ethnic Origin have the lowest rate of unemployment at 3.21%, compared to the borough average of 4.54%. This figure follows national surveys, which show that those with a Chinese ethnic origin tend to have lower levels of unemployment than certain other ethnic groups. However, nationally the level of unemployment amongst Chinese households is slightly higher than for White households.

Those with an Other ethnic background have slightly above average rates of unemployment at 5.23%.

Percentage of Residents aged 16 – 24 in Full Time Study

Chinese and those with an Other ethnic background have one of the highest levels of 16 – 24 year olds in full time study of all ethnic groups. Those with a Chinese ethnic background have one of the highest levels of all ethnic groups for residents aged 16 – 24 in full time study, with 78% being in full time education. This reflects national surveys, which point to those from a Chinese ethnic origin staying in full time education. Residents with a Other Chinese or Other ethnic background also have high rates of study with 71% of all 16 – 24 year olds in full time education.

Chinese residents have slightly higher than average levels of 16 – 17 year olds in their population, which may influence the high rates of study. Residents from an Other ethnic background have near average levels of 16 – 17 year olds in their population which should not adversely affect study rates.

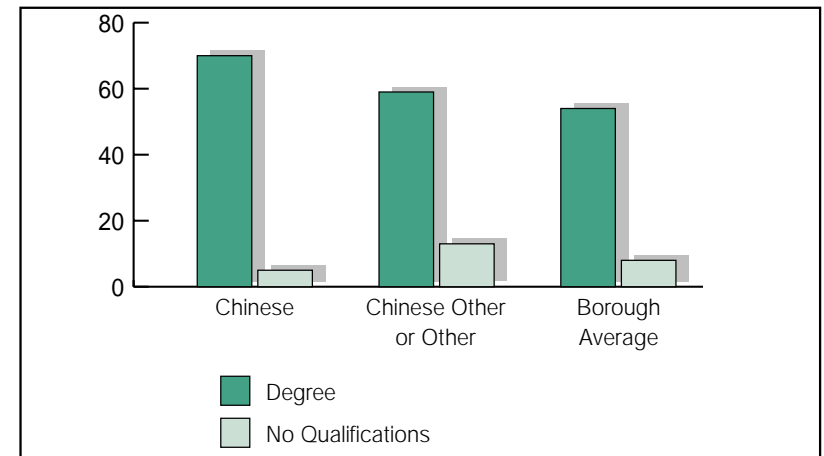
Qualifications of 25 –34 year olds

Those from a Chinese ethnic background have the highest of all ethnic groups for levels of residents aged 25 – 34 with degree or higher level qualifications at 70.64%.

This represents a large proportion of the Chinese community, of this age group, who are likely to be in higher paid employment. Those with an Other ethnic background are also more likely than average to have a greater number of their population with a degree or higher levels of education, at 58.61%. Chinese residents have one of the lowest levels for residents aged 25 – 34 without qualifications at 4.69%.

Those from 'Other' ethnic background have much higher levels with no qualifications than average at 12.33%. This may reflect the diverse nature of those with an Other ethnic background, with new migrants or asylum seekers lacking the opportunity to gain education in their previous country or lacking language skills to access UK educational opportunities.

Degree and No Qualifications amongst 25 - 34 Year Olds



Ill Health

Chinese and those with an Other ethnic background have lower than average levels of ill health with only 4.02% and 4.35% of residents suffering ill health.

Percentage of Households without car use

Chinese and Other ethnic groups have less than average numbers of households without car use, with only 24.1% and 26.51% of households lacking car use. This compares to an average of 30.13%.

Lone Parents

Chinese residents have lower than average levels of lone parents at 4.2% whilst Other residents have levels of 5.09%.



8 - White British Residents in Merton

Demographics

Key Statistics

There are 140,885 residents with a White ethnic background who make up 75% of Merton's population.

This is comprised of 64% White British, 3% White Irish and 8% White Other.

Distribution

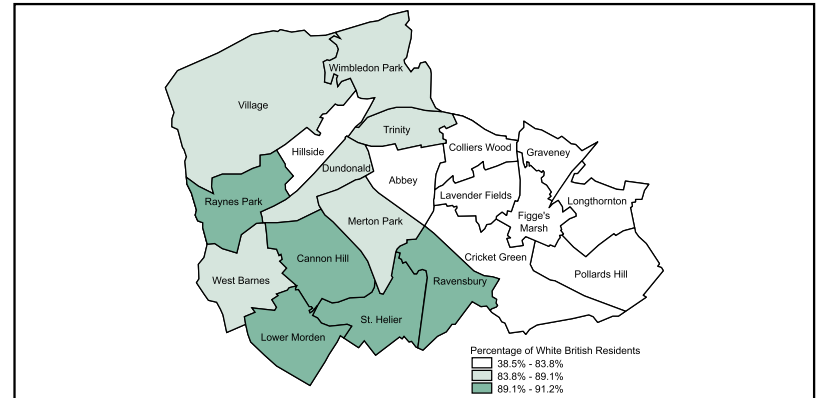
The distribution of residents with a White British ethnic background within Merton varies widely with high levels in most Morden wards, moderately high to medium levels in Wimbledon wards and low levels in Mitcham wards.

Morden wards have the highest concentration of White British residents with Lower Morden containing 81% of the population and St Helier having 77% of the population as white British. This may in part reflect demographic factors in these wards, with both wards containing large numbers of older people, although the possibility of these locations not appealing to ethnic minorities should not be overlooked.

Wimbledon wards contain slightly higher proportions of white British residents than the borough average, ranging from 70% in Raynes Park to 63% in Hillside. Interestingly the most expensive areas of the borough do not have the highest rates of White British residents possibly indicating that affluent members of some ethnic groups have the resources to move into these wards or that house prices are not the only factor in ethnic groups locations.

Mitcham wards are all below the borough average for White British residents, with Pollards Hill, Cricket Green and Lavender Fields all showing slightly lower than average populations of white British residents, 60%, 60% and 58% respectively. Longthornton ward contains well under the borough average at 50% whilst White British residents in Graveney form only 38% of residents.

Map 7 – Distribution of White British Residents in Merton



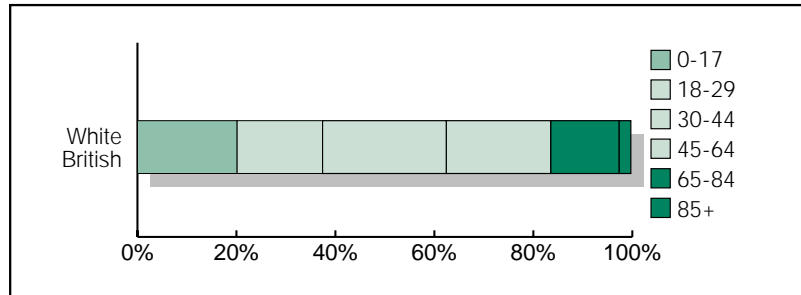
Age Profile

White British residents have average levels of children and young people in their population at 20.12%.

Levels of 18 – 44 year olds are only slightly below borough averages whilst working aged people with a White British ethnic background make up 63.59% of residents.

Levels of older people are much higher than the borough average, at 16.26% with the highest levels of over 85 year olds. Housing issues for older people may therefore be of growing importance for White British residents.

Age Profile of White British Residents



Population Projections for 2011

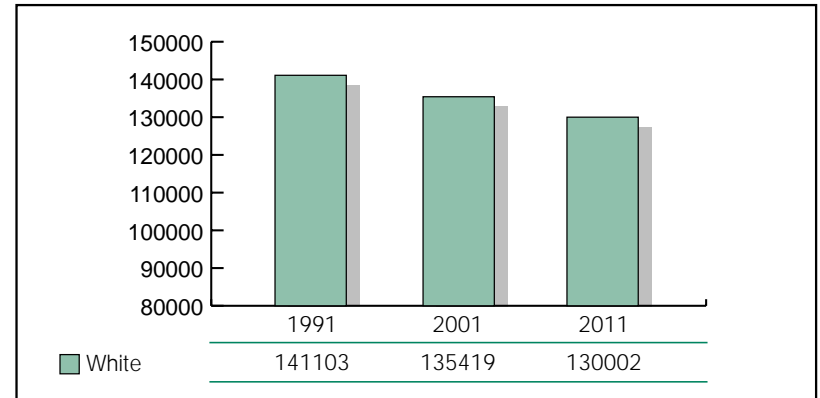
The White population of Merton has decreased by 4% between the 1991 and 2001 Census. This reflects the trend throughout the capital of many White people leaving London to other areas of the country.

Continuing with a decrease of 4% Merton's White population will have decreased to 130,002 by 2011.

The White Category includes White British and White Other as the 1991 Census does not include these categories and without them projection rates cannot be calculated.

Without including the White Other figure the White British decrease in population would be considerably higher, at a rate of 15% with projections for 2011 putting only 103,525 people coming from a white British ethnic background residing in Merton.

White Population Projections for 2011

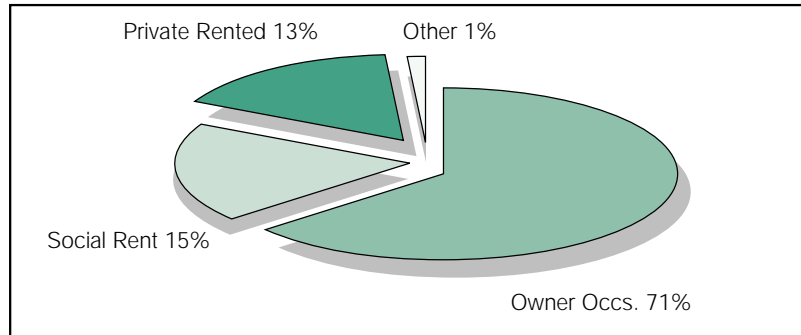


Tenure

White British residents are slightly over represented as owner-occupiers with 71% of White British residents living in owner occupied property compared to the borough average of 69%. White British residents are also slightly over represented as council tenants comprising 15% of residents compared to 14%.

In the private rented sector white British residents are slightly under-represented comprising 13% of white British residents compared to the borough average of 15%.

Tenure of White British Residents



The White British Population amongst Merton's Tenants and Leaseholders

White British residents are over-represented as Merton tenants comprising 64% of residents whilst making up 75% of tenants. This may in part be due to the fact that council tenancies offer long-term housing security to the tenant and there is a lack of mobility of tenure amongst many social housing tenants due to economic and social factors.

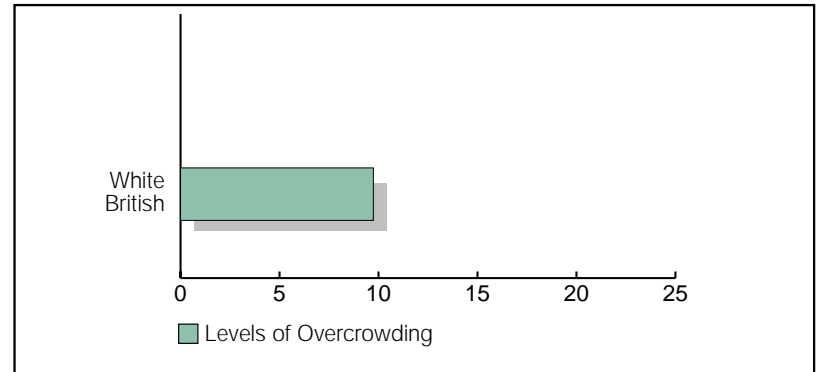
Those with a White British ethnic origin are also over-represented as leaseholders comprising 72% of council leaseholders compared to 64% of Merton's residents.

Housing Conditions and Overcrowding

White British residents have the lowest levels of overcrowding of all ethnic groups, at 9.74%.

White British residents have a high number of residents who lack central heating, at 9.59%, second only to Bangladeshi residents. This may reflect larger numbers of White British in social housing or older housing stock.

Overcrowding Levels for White British residents



Under Occupation of Housing

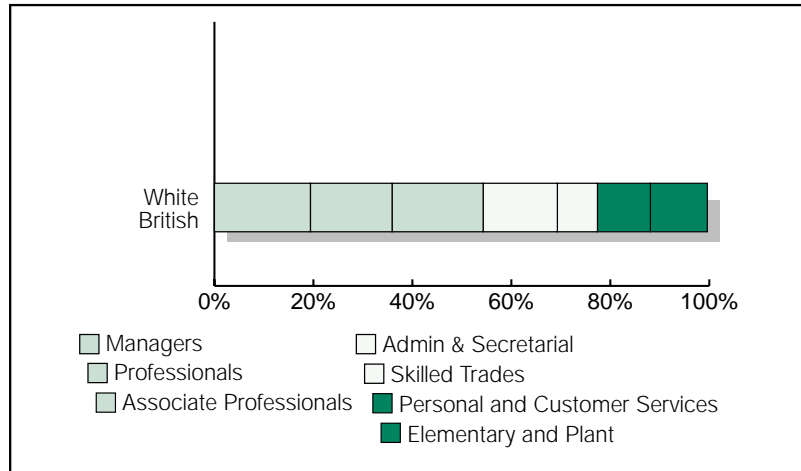
White British residents have the highest level of under occupation with 42.41% of residents having +2 or more rooms than required for family size. This may reflect the age profile of White British residents, with many older people whose families have left home, leaving extra rooms available.

Social Exclusion Issues

Employment and Occupation

White British residents have slightly higher than average number of residents employed as managers, professionals and associate professionals, at 54.39%, with Chinese and White Other residents being the only groups with higher levels within these occupations.

Occupation of White British Residents



White British workers in administrative and secretarial occupations are slightly less represented than average comprising 15.08% of all workers.

Workers with a white British ethnic origin are slightly over represented in skilled trades, at 8.11% and slightly under represented in personal and customer services, at 10.79%.

Workers are slightly under-represented in plant and elementary professions with 11.58% of all white British workers in these professions.

Unemployment Rates

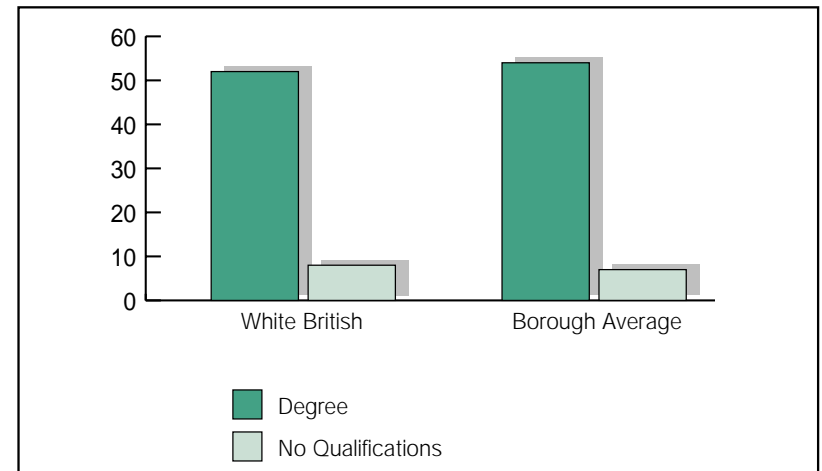
White British residents have one of the lowest rates of unemployment with 3.81% of economically active residents being unemployed against an average for the borough of 4.54%.

Percentage of Residents aged 16 – 24 year olds in Full Time Study

The number of White British residents in full time study is lower than average with only 33% of those aged 16 – 24 in full time study compared to the borough average of 42% and well below the level of most ethnic minorities. This low level may in part be reflected by willingness of white residents to attend further education outside of London and moving out of the family home. Levels of study amongst White British residents is not adversely influenced by levels of 16 – 17 year olds in the population as the figure is near average at 1.95%.

National research has shown that working class white males have significantly lower educational outcomes than some other ethnic groups. Some of the factors on educational attainment discussed in the Black Residents section may equally apply to White British youth.

Qualifications of 25 – 34 Year Olds



Research Report - Analysis of Housing and Social Exclusion Issues amongst Merton's Ethnic Minorities

White British residents are slightly below the average for those with degree or higher education, at 52.17%. It should be noted that this is still significantly higher than most Asian and Black ethnic groups but below White Irish, White Other, Indian and Chinese ethnic groups.

White British residents have slightly higher than average levels of residents aged 25 – 34 who have no qualifications

Ill Health

White British residents have slightly higher than average levels of ill health, at 7.67% compared to the borough average of 7.06%.

Percentage of Households that lack car use

Residents that lack car use comprise 29.94% of all White British households, which is slightly below the average of 30.13%.

Lone Parents

Levels of households that comprise lone parents are slightly below the borough average for White British residents, at 5.25% compared to the Merton average of 6.03%.



8b - White Irish Residents in Merton

Demographics

Key Statistics

There are 5,464 residents in Merton who have a White Irish ethnic background. White Irish residents therefore comprise 3% of Merton's residents.

Distribution

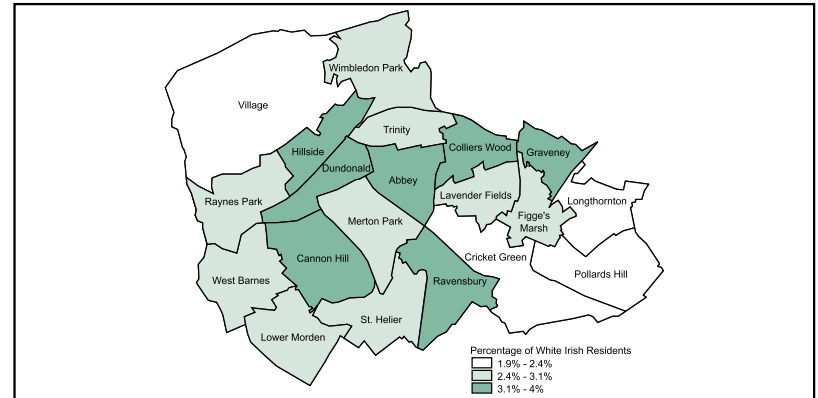
The White Irish population is more evenly spread throughout the borough with little variation between wards.

Slightly more of the white Irish residents of Merton live in the Wimbledon and Morden wards than in the Mitcham area, apart from Graveney ward.

Dundonald ward has slightly higher concentrations of White Irish residents whilst the Village ward has slightly less.

The White Irish population can be found in both deprived and affluent parts of the borough, with slightly above average populations in Dundonald and Hillside whilst also showing high population in Ravensbury ward which one of the most deprived.

Map 8 – Distribution of White Irish Residents in Merton



Age Profile

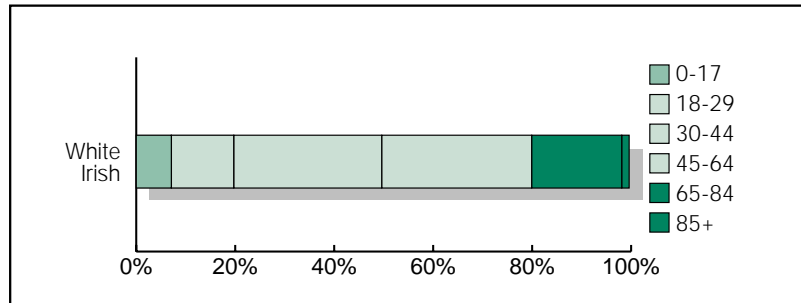
The age profile of Irish residents varies considerably from the profile of both White British residents and Merton averages. It also follows findings of national surveys, which show a large proportion of White Irish as middle aged or old. White Irish residents have the highest level of population found amongst the middle aged at 30.39%. White Irish residents also have the highest levels of all ethnic groups for older people with 19.8% compared to the borough average of 12.91%.

Residents from a White Irish ethnic background also have the lowest level of children and young people with only 7.17% of the population aged 0 – 17.

An Undercount of White Irish Residents?

Research carried out by Cara Irish Housing Association argues that there was a significant undercount of White Irish residents in Merton during the Census 2001. This was due to many second generation Irish people and some first generation White Irish people ticking the White British Census category rather than White Irish. Further analysis and research in this area is required but may be important in assessing whether the White Irish population is declining.

Age Profile of White Irish Residents



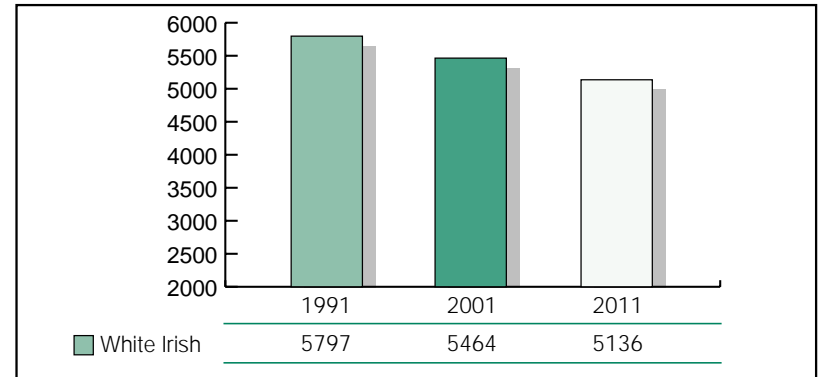
The ageing profile of White Irish residents may mean the housing needs of older people becomes increasingly important for this ethnic group.

Population Projections for 2011

The White Irish population has decreased by 6% between 1991 and 2001.

Projections using a similar 6% decrease show that by 2011 there will be 5136 people with an Irish Ethnic background in Merton.

Population Projections for White Irish Residents



In 1991 the White Irish ethnic group were the largest ethnic group (other than White British) in Merton. If projection rates are used by 2011 growth rates in other ethnic minorities mean that the White Irish population of Merton will fall to population levels that make it one of the smallest ethnic groups in Merton. The trend of a decreasing White population in Merton seems to be affecting the White Irish population as well as White British.

Housing

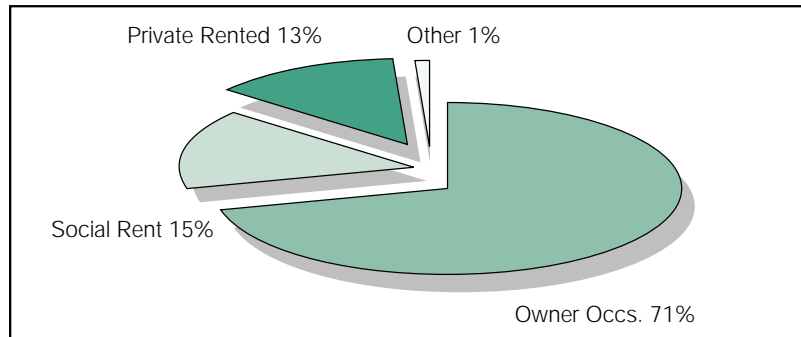
Tenure

Irish residents in Merton are slightly over-represented as owner occupiers comprising 71% compared to the borough average of 69%.

Within social housing White Irish residents are again slightly over represented comprising 15% of residents compared to 14% average.

White Irish residents are conversely slightly under represented in the private rented sector with only 13% of White Irish residents living in private rented accommodation compared to the borough average of 15%.

Tenure of White Irish Residents



The White Irish Population amongst Merton's Tenants and Leaseholders

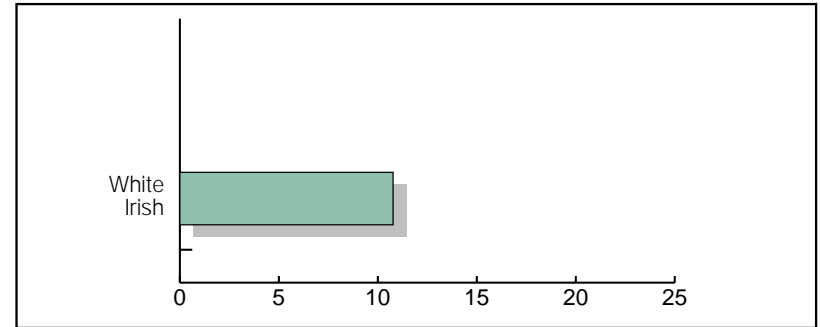
Those from a white Irish ethnic background are slightly over-represented as Council tenants comprising 4% of tenants whilst making up 3% of Merton's residents.

Leaseholders however are slightly under-represented compared to the number of White Irish residents comprising only 1% of leaseholders whilst making up 3% of Merton's residents.

Housing Conditions and Overcrowding

White Irish residents have lower than average levels of overcrowding at 10.77%. They also have slightly lower than average levels of residents lacking central heating at 7.41%, although this is one of the highest figures amongst all ethnic minorities.

Overcrowding levels amongst White Irish Residents



Under Occupation in Housing

Irish residents have higher than average levels of under occupation with 40.28% of residents having 2 or more extra rooms available. This may reflect the older age range of Irish residents, with older people having extra rooms once children have left the family home.

Social Exclusion Issues

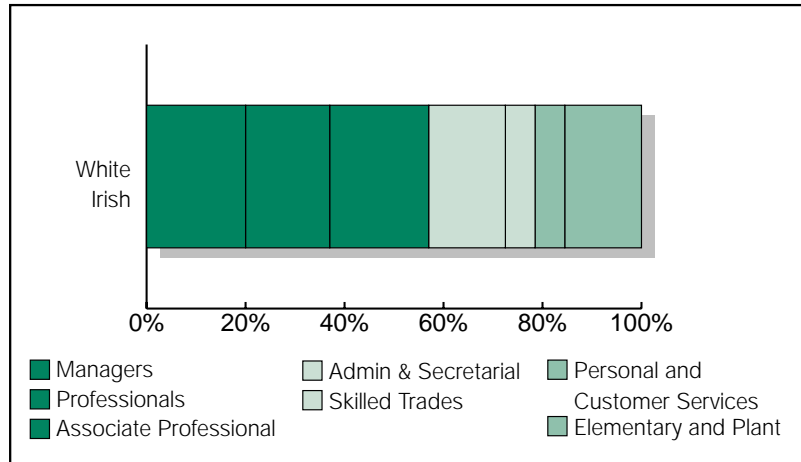
Employment and Occupation

White Irish workers are slightly below the average of 53.11% for workers in professions and management at 51.6%.

Workers with a white Irish ethnic background are slightly over represented in skilled trades, at 10.66% whilst they are under-represented in customer services and personal services.

White Irish workers are also slightly over-represented in the plant and elementary occupations with 13.62% of Irish workers in this sector.

Employment by Occupation



Unemployment Rates

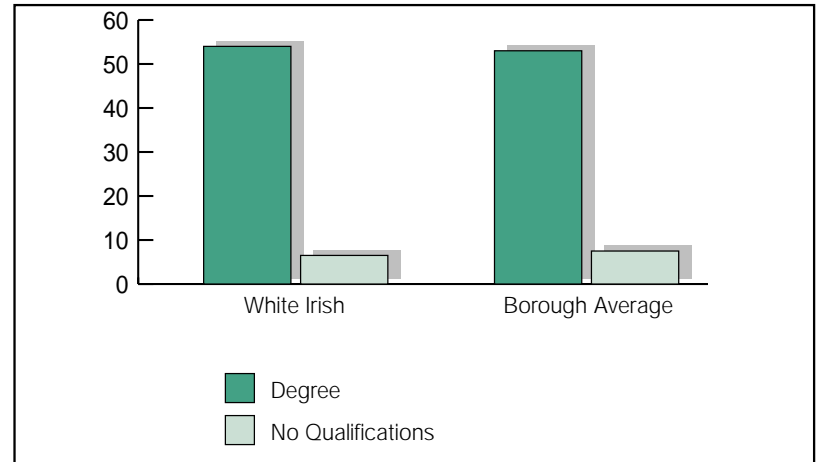
White Irish residents have one of the lowest rates of unemployment in the borough at 3.56% compared to the borough average of 4.54%

Percentage of Residents aged 16 – 24 in full time study

White Irish residents have one of the lowest levels of students aged 16 – 24 in full time study at only 30%. This may in part reflect white residents willingness to study outside of London compared to many ethnic minorities who may have cultural or family ties that keep them in Merton.

Levels may also be low due to demographic factors, with low numbers of White Irish residents aged 16 – 17 adversely affecting levels in full time study. It may also reflect poor educational outcomes of working class white males.

Qualifications of Residents aged 25 – 34



White Irish residents have slightly higher levels than average of those aged 25 – 34 who are degree educated, at 54.04% compared to the borough average of 53.31%.

Levels of those with no qualifications are also lower than the borough average at 5.99%.

Ill Health

White Irish residents have the highest level of reported ill health amongst all ethnic groups, at 10.21%. This finding reflects national reports that highlight ill health as a major concern for White Irish residents.

Percentage of Households without car use

White Irish residents have one of the highest levels for lack of car use amongst all ethnic group at 35.39%, compared to the an average of 30.13%.

Lone Parents

White Irish households have one of the lowest levels of lone parent households at 4.79% compared to the Merton average of 6.03%.

Could Demographic and Housing Factors Work together to Compound Problems for Older members of the Irish community?

Of particular concern for Older White Irish residents are the following factors, which may, if affecting the same residents, cause considerable housing stress and increased housing need for Older Irish residents. Further analysis is required to determine if these factors compound each other.

- Out migration of Irish residents may be economically self selecting, that is only those who can afford to move are more likely to do so. This may lead to older affluent Irish pensioners moving out of the borough leaving the more poor or isolated to remain.
- Single pensioner households are one of the groups most likely to experience extreme poverty and the Irish community has higher levels of pensioner households which may make them more at risk than other ethnic groups.
- The Irish community has more households who suffer ill health at 10.2% of residents.
- Irish residents have one of the highest levels of residents who lack central heating at 7.4%.

- White Irish residents have high levels of households lacking car use, at 35%, which may further increase isolation.

If these issues affected the same households then the compound effects for White Irish residents may cause high levels of housing stress for some members of the older Irish community.



Housing and Social Exclusion Issues Amongst Irish Travellers

There are 15 traveller pitches in Merton and information from the Irish Traveller Movement in Britain estimate there could be in the region of 100 to 150 Gypsies or Travellers living in a site of this size in addition to housed travellers.

The Irish Traveller Movement stress that Irish Travellers have specific and individual needs and consultation with them is vital if their needs are to be met. A research report carried out with Irish Travellers in Southwark in 2000 highlighted the main issues facing this community. In the absence of Census data regarding this community some of the main issues raised in the report are outlined below. Further work on the needs of Irish Travellers is required.

The Report on Southwark Travellers highlighted the following information

Demographics

The study found a large number of households comprised large families with children. There was considerable community emphasis stressing the need for Irish traveller communities to live in extended family units.

Housing Issues

Overcrowding was seen as a major issue with the express need for further pitches on sites. This was the result of natural family growth and the desire to live in extended family units rather than other families joining the group. Maintenance and repair issues of the site were also raised.

Social Exclusion Issues

High levels of unemployment, prejudiced employers, lack of skills for the mainstream job market, lack of knowledge of the mainstream job market and lack of childcare were all raised by the report as barriers to employment. Educationally whilst the improvement of the Traveller Education Service were praised, there were still issues regarding children and young people continuing in secondary education. Travellers often suffered high levels of ill health with accidents, respiratory and cardiovascular disease highlighted in the Southwark report. Depression amongst some of the female Irish traveller community was also raised.



8c - White Other Residents

Demographics

Key Statistics

There are 15,043 residents in Merton with a White Other ethnic background, who comprise 8% of the borough's population.

White Other's comprise 11% of the overall white population which is significantly higher than the other white group, White Irish, who comprise 4% of the overall white population.

The large number of White Others living in the borough may reflect the increasing numbers and trend for South African, Australian, New Zealand, European and Americans residing in London and South West London in particular.

White Other ethnic origin may also reflect Asylum seekers from eastern and south eastern Europe.

Distribution

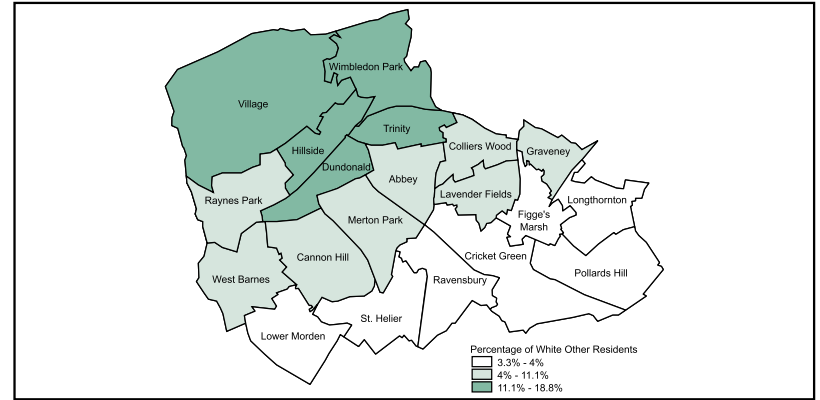
The White Other population is highly concentrated in the Wimbledon wards with Hillside, Village and Wimbledon Park wards containing high concentrations of White Other population.

Living in the most affluent parts of Merton may well reflect economic well-being for some of this group although it may also represent shared accommodation due to social desires and economic necessity to live with people with the same nationality. The latter point may well be reinforced by high levels of private renting amongst this group.

The White Other population is lowest in Lower Morden and St Helier wards. Interestingly one is amongst the least deprived and one is amongst the most deprived wards in Merton, again highlighting the fact that for ethnic groups economic purchasing power is not the only

element in choosing where to live. All Mitcham wards contain low levels of those with a White Other ethnic background.

Map 9 – Distribution of White Other Residents in Merton



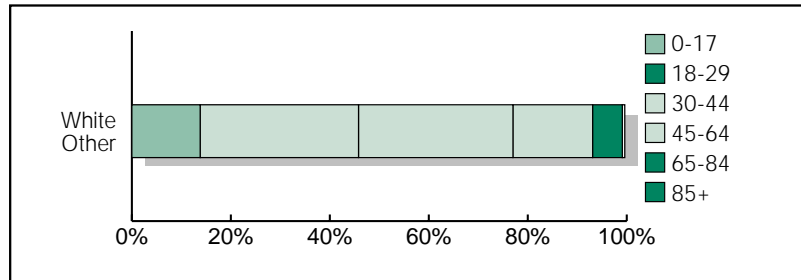
Age Profile

The White Other population contains large number of young adults. Those aged 18 – 29 comprise 32.06% of white other residents, this being the highest figure amongst all ethnic groups. This may further support evidence suggests a large number of young adult South African, Australian and New Zealand nationals residing in the borough.

Residents with a White Other background have the highest percentage of population of working age, at 79.51% well above the borough average of 65.45%.

Residents also have lower than Merton's average percentage of children and young people, at 13.86% compared to the average of 21.59%. The White Other population also have low levels of older and very old people with only 6.6% of residents being over 65.

Age Profile of White Other Residents



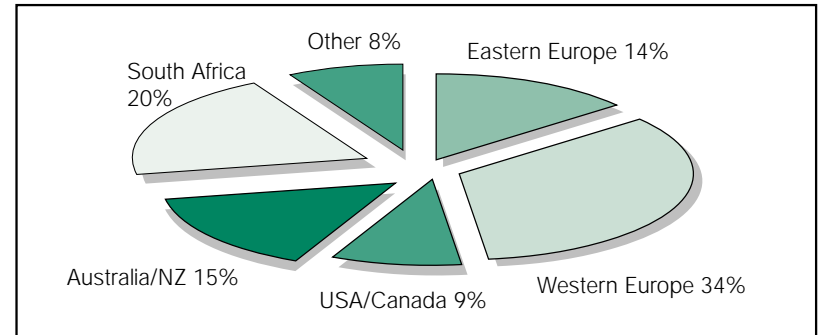
Population Projections

Because the White Other classification was only introduced in the 2001 Census it is not possible to make a projections for the White Other population for 2011. Anecdotal evidence including South African specialist shops in Raynes Park and Wimbledon may point to an increase in this population for the future.

Who makes up the White Other Population?

Because Census 2001 data has only three white categories - White British, White Irish and White Other – many non British White ethnic groups are categorised under the White Other category. Analysis of country of birth data is useful in trying to assess which are the main ethnic groups of White Others in Merton. As previously stated, anecdotal evidence points towards large numbers of Antipodeans residing in the Wimbledon area of Merton. Country of birth data confirms this with 3041 residents having a South African country of birth origin, 1327 residents having an Australian country of birth origin and 938 having a New Zealand country of birth origin.

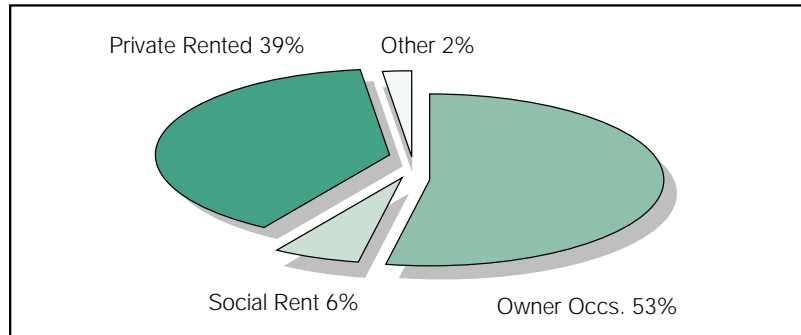
Which Countries make up White Other Residents?



The majority of White Other residents have an Antipodean (35%) or Western European ethnic background (34%) although there are significant numbers from Eastern Europe (14%) and North America (9%).

Housing

Tenure of White Other Residents



White Others are also largely under represented as social housing tenants with only 6% of those with a White Other ethnic background living in social housing which is one of the lowest levels for all ethnic groups and well below the average for Merton of 14%.

White Others are disproportionately over-represented in private rented housing with 39% of those with a white other ethnic background living in this sector compared to the borough average of 15%.

The White Other population amongst Merton's Tenants and Leaseholders

Those with a White Other background comprise 2% of tenants whilst comprising 8% of Merton's population. They are therefore significantly under-represented as council tenants. This may in part be due to tenure preference against social housing for more well off White Others or area preference, with a majority concentrated in the Wimbledon wards whereas the majority of Merton's housing stock is in the Mitcham area.

The White Other category also includes asylum seekers from eastern and southern Europe who may be in greater housing need.

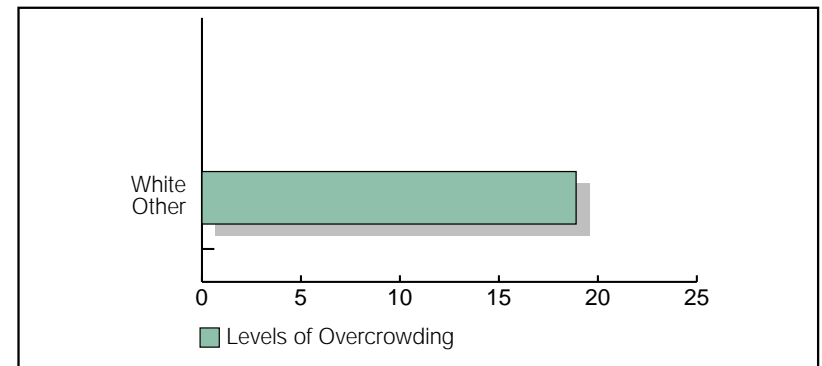
Residents with a White Other ethnic background make up 5% of leaseholders whilst comprising 8% of Merton's population.

Housing Conditions and Overcrowding

White Others face higher than average levels of overcrowding with 18.2% of residents lacking at least one room for their household size.

Residents with a White Other ethnic background have the lowest levels of residents who lack central heating amongst all white groups at 4.75%.

Overcrowding Levels amongst White Others Ethnic Group



Under Occupation and Housing

White Others have the lowest of all the White groups levels in under occupation with 37.91% or residents having two or more extra rooms available for use.

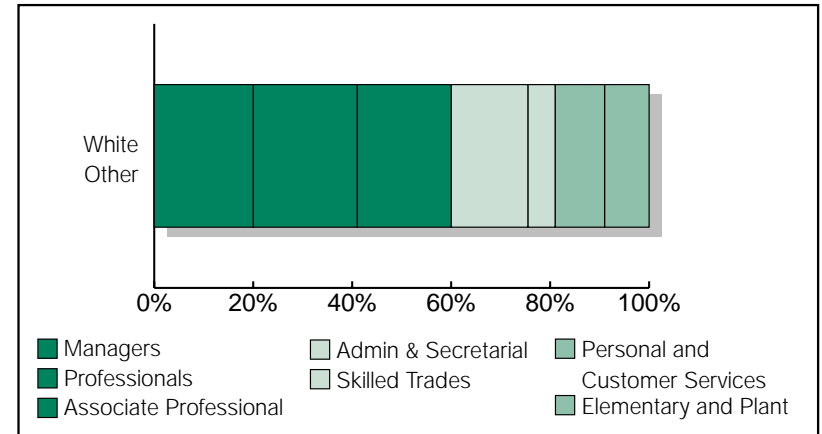
Social Exclusion Issues

Employment and Occupation

White Other workers have significantly higher levels than average of managers, professionals and associate professionals with 61.18% of White Other workers employed in these occupations. This compares to an average of 53.11%.

White Others have slightly lower than average number of workers employed in administrative and secretarial work at 14.64% and skilled trades at 5.93%. White Others have much lower than average number of workers in customer and personal services, at 10.06% and plant and elementary occupations at 8.14%. The economic profile of many white other workers shows the greatest number of workers in management and professions and the fewest number of workers in plant and elementary work. This signifies that many White Other workers may be in higher earning occupations than most other ethnic groups in Merton.

Employment by Occupation



Unemployment Rates

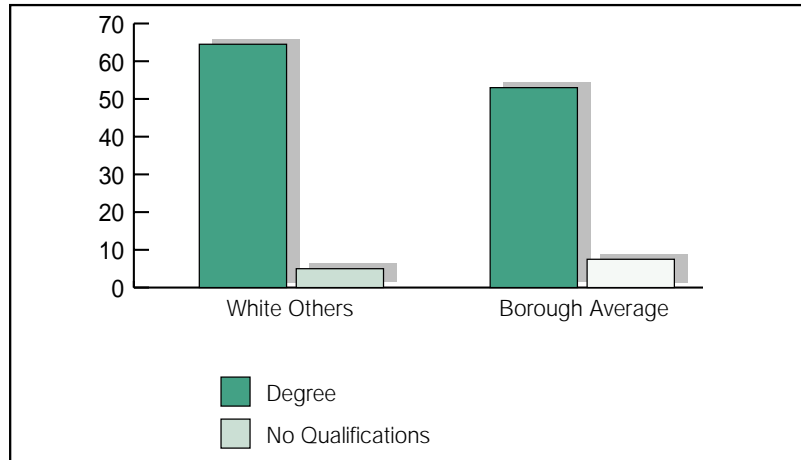
White Others have slightly lower rates of unemployment than the borough average of 4.54%, being 4.35%.

Percentage of Residents aged 16 – 24 in full time study

Residents from a White Other background have the lowest levels of study at 28%, which is well below the borough average of 42%. This may in part reflect willingness of white other residents to study at universities outside of London or the demographic profile of many white residents who have moved here from other countries after finishing their education.

Levels of study may be adversely affected by extremely low levels of 16 – 17 year olds in the population with only 0.86% of White Others being of this age group.

Qualifications of 25 – 34 Year Olds



White Others have one of the highest level of residents aged 25 - 34 having degree level education at 64.24%, second only to the Chinese community.

Levels with no qualifications are also lower than average at 4.92%.

Ill health

White Other residents have very low levels of ill health at 4.22%.

Percentage of households without car use

White Other residents have slightly higher than average levels of residents without car use at 32.82%.

Lone Parents

White Other households have the lowest level of single parent households of all ethnic groups at 3.59% which is well below the Merton average of 6.03%.

White Other Residents – Increasingly Young and Increasingly Affluent?

Analysis of Census 2001 data shows significantly better outcomes for those with a White Other ethnic background compared to other minorities including White British and White Irish. The fact that a significant proportion of the White Other population is concentrated in the more affluent parts of the borough, notably the Wimbledon area (the wards of Hillside, the Village, Dundonald and Raynes Park) shows evidence of a young and affluent population.

Anecdotal evidence points towards an increase in the numbers of young South African, New Zealand and Australians, alongside Europeans and Americans residing in these areas. Census 2001 data shows that White Others have the highest proportion of 18-29 year olds in their population, that family composition is primarily married couples with children, single person households and other types of household. The latter may indicate shared households of young private renters as tenure for this group shows extremely high levels of private renting.

Census 2001 data further shows that a large proportion of this population works as Managers, Professionals and Associate Professionals and is degree educated. Evidence does therefore support the idea that many 'White Others' in Merton are fairly affluent and are less likely to suffer issues of social exclusion. Statistics show a proportion of white others that are young, degree educated, working in high paid employment and who reside in the more affluent parts of the borough.

It should be noted although a majority of White Others have better than average outcomes, some groups with this ethnic background may face increased housing stress or need, an example being East European asylum seekers.

9 - Definitions and Methodology

Sources of Information

The main source of information used in analysing the ethnic make-up of Merton's residents is 2001 Census data, using information from the Office for National Statistics standard tables. Data available from the 1991 Census is also used so that growth rates for ethnic groups and population projections by ethnic group can be developed for 2011. Secondary sources include information from the Greater London Authority, Office for National Statistics and other research bodies, such as the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. These provide information on London and Regional trends as well as information on specialist topics, such as ethnicity and older people.

Information on the ethnic make up of Merton's tenants and leaseholders is available from the 2002 Kwest Research Council Housing survey as well as the Housing Needs Survey 1999. Data by ethnic group on those applying to the authority as homeless, requiring housing advice and Housing Register needs and allocations is also available from monthly performance reports and central government returns e.g. P1E forms.

Analysis is based upon the ethnic categories used in the 2001 Census. It should be noted that although comprehensive, these categories do not include all the ethnic groups in Merton's population. Examples of ethnic groups covered by larger groupings include Tamil (included in Asian Other), South African (included in White Other) and Korean (included in Chinese Other / Other).

Demographic Data

Distribution

Mapping the distribution of ethnic groups is important so that analysis can be made on whether ethnic groups are evenly spread throughout the borough or are concentrated in certain areas. Ward level analysis also allows comparison with the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2000 which ranks every

ward by deprivation. Comparison of concentration or absence of ethnic populations by rank under the Index helps gain information on whether a certain ethnic minority is concentrated in deprived or wealthy areas. This may have important implications on how socially excluded ethnic communities are.

Age Profile

An age profile is important to analyse the make up of each ethnic group. Certain ethnic groups may have a young population with a higher proportion of children and young people, may be largely comprised of young adults, or may comprise middle and older aged people. Age profiles can be used to predict the type of housing problems a large number of each ethnic group may face and may influence tenure choice.

The age groups used in the Research Report have been broken down into the following groups:

0-17	Children and young people
18 - 29	Young adults
30 - 44	Adults
45 - 64	Middle aged
65 - 84	Older
85+	Very old

Definitions also include:

Older People	all people over 65.
Working Age	people aged 18 - 64.

Population Projections for 2011

Population projections using growth and decrease rates calculated from statistics from the 1991 and 2001 Censuses have allowed us to project both growth and decreases amongst ethnic groups in Merton.

Housing

Tenure

Analysis of tenure is useful to determine if certain ethnic groups are concentrated in different tenures and if they are different from the average figures for the borough as a whole. Variations may be due to a number of factors such as economic factors, tenure preference or demographic history. Residents generally have a preference for owner occupation although this may not be true for all groups with younger people often preferring to rent. High levels of ethnic groups in social housing or the private rented sector may indicate high levels of housing need or lack of mobility into owner occupation.

Population amongst Merton's Tenants and Leaseholders

Statistics for Merton's tenants and leaseholders are found in the Kwest Housing Survey 2002. This survey interviewed 10% of Merton's tenants and fulfils ODPM guidelines being +/- 4% accurate.

House Conditions and Overcrowding

Levels of overcrowding and housing quality are important factors in determining whether residents face increasing housing stress, leading to housing problems. Thermal efficiency is one measure of the Decent Homes standard and although Census data does not contain this information, it does contain data on levels of properties without central heating. Levels of households who lack central heating helps to determine which ethnic groups may face heating difficulties or lack modern facilities. Statistics are taken from the Census 2001. Overcrowding levels using Census data show only if

people lack one room or more, so differences between severe overcrowding and overcrowding cannot be ascertained. It should be noted that overcrowding levels are based on the assumption that every household requires a minimum of two common rooms (Census 2001 methodology).

Under Occupation

Under occupation, whether households have more rooms than they need to function, uses the Census definition of + 2 rooms or more extra. This may determine which ethnic groups are living in larger properties proportional to their household size. Many ethnic groups with an older age profile may show higher levels of under occupation as adult children move out of the family home leaving remaining household members with more rooms than they require.

Social Exclusion Data

Employment and Occupation

Analysis of type of employment by ethnic group can help to determine the proportion for each ethnic group who are in higher earning sectors, such as management and professions and in lesser paid work such as elementary and process and plant work.

It can also help show which job areas ethnic groups may prefer or find easier to access. Census Data 2001 categories have been broadly divided into:

- A - Managerial, professional and associate professional
- B - Administrative and secretarial
- C - Skilled trade
- D - Personnel services and customer service
- E - Process and plant and elementary

A full definition of these groups can be found at the Office for National Statistics. Analysis uses the broad assumption that residents in group A will be economically better off than residents in Group E but it should be noted that this assumption does not hold for all individuals. An example might be a skilled plumber or builder being on comparative levels of income to a manager. Employment also does not indicate levels of disposable income, which may be influenced by family size, housing costs or other factors. Statistics have been analysed by looking at the percentage of all workers in each occupational group by ethnic origin.

Unemployment Rates

Levels of unemployment amongst ethnic groups is determined using figures from the Census Data 2001, using statistics on economic active individuals and the levels of these who are classified as unemployed. Unemployment may be short or long term but it should be noted that certain ethnic groups

may face problems in gaining employment due to a range of factors. These may include racism or lack of educational or training opportunities.

Percentage of 16 – 24 Year Olds in Full Time Study

Educational attainment and continuing study is one influence in a person's future economic well-being. Changes to the economy have led to greater skills being required for most jobs and educational and training influences employment potential. Looking at levels of study by ethnic minority group may help to determine future economic outcomes. Using data from the 2001 Census it is possible to evaluate the level of population of 16 to 24 year olds in study or training – this would include six form and further/higher education study. It should be noted that national studies have shown that many ethnic minorities study at newer universities or further education establishments, which are often located in urban areas e.g. London. High costs of living in London and other influences such as the need to reside at home for cultural reasons may also increase rates of study for ethnic minorities studying in Merton. This may contrast to the White population who may attend university at other establishments throughout the country. Low participation in study has also been highlighted in national studies amongst Black Caribbean and White British young males.

It should be noted that ethnic communities with higher or lower than average levels of 16 – 17 year olds in their population may well influence levels of study, with many 16-17 year olds in their community having higher levels of study and communities with low levels of 16 –17 year olds having low levels of study. This is due to the fact that many people of this age are still in academic or vocational training and should be considered as a variable when analysing data.

Qualifications of 25 –34 year olds

The level of residents educated to degree level or higher (for those aged 25 – 34) is one factor in assessing how different ethnic groups are fairing in gaining higher paid or graduate employment. Studies have shown that on

average and over time graduates earn more than non-graduates. Levels of 25 – 34 year olds with degrees or higher may also show how economically mobile this age group is, with opportunities to move between jobs. Of equal importance is the number of residents in this age group who have no qualifications. This may prevent them competing for certain jobs and allow only limited or low paid work. Levels of qualifications may be influenced by how new a community is to Merton, with some asylum seekers or recent migrants lacking British qualifications. It may also be influenced by the emphasis different ethnic groups give to educational attainment. Low levels of attainment may also be influenced by how well ethnic groups do at school due to structural factors such as social class, poverty and deprivation or cultural factors.

Ill Health

Levels of ill health amongst ethnic groups is important to determine if certain ethnic groups have more health issues than other groups. Some ill health may be associated with poor housing or occupation or industry and may prevent future ability to work. It should be noted that ill health usually correlates to increasing age and populations with an older age profile may have higher rates of ill health.

Percentage of Households without cars

Households that lack car use are reliant on public transport and may face exclusion if public transport links are poor. Decreased levels of disposable income due to isolation or reliance on expensive corner shops make the poor more disadvantaged. An example might be a single mother with two children who lives two bus rides away from a large superstore and has to rely on local shops which offer less choice and are more expensive. These issues may contribute to social exclusion and affect the purchasing power of poorer residents. Lack of car use may also affect journeys to work or schools.

Lone Parents

Single parents (with children under 18) often experience poverty and are less well off economically than other family units (Galbraith 1999). Childcare commitments may prevent lone parents taking paid employment whilst childcare in itself constitutes full time (unpaid) work. Analysis of 2001 Census data shows that 91% of lone parents in Merton are female-headed households. Data is analysed from Census 2001 statistics.

Contacts

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