

Census 2021 Briefing #3: Ethnic group, national identity, language and religion

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Date: December 2022

Summary

- 33.5% of people in Havering identify as non-White British, an increase from 16.7% in 2011;
- 66.49% of people identify as White British, which is the second highest figure in London behind Bromley (66.51%);
- 87.8% of usual Havering residents identified with at least one UK national identity (English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, British and Cornish);
- 90.1% of residents aged 3 and over describe their main language as English, next main languages Romanian 2.3%, Lithuanian 0.9%;
- 4.8% of households have no members where their main language is English;
- 63.9% of residents identify to a religion, 30.6% identify to no religion and 5.5% did not provide an answer.

1. Introduction

On 29 November 2022 (and following the first release of headline results in June 2022), the fourth release of Census data was published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). This publication is the third of a series of nine 'Topic Summaries' that will be released periodically from autumn 2022 to spring 2023. Following this, more detailed publications will be made available, such as multivariate data¹, origin-destination data² and detailed migration data³. The topic covered by this release is Ethnic group, national identity, language and religion.

2. Ethnicity

The population of Havering has increased over the last decade from 237,232 in 2011 to 262,052 in 2021.

In 2021, White British remains the most common ethnic group in Havering, with 66.5% (174,232) of the population identifying in this group, down from 83.3% (197,615) in 2011.

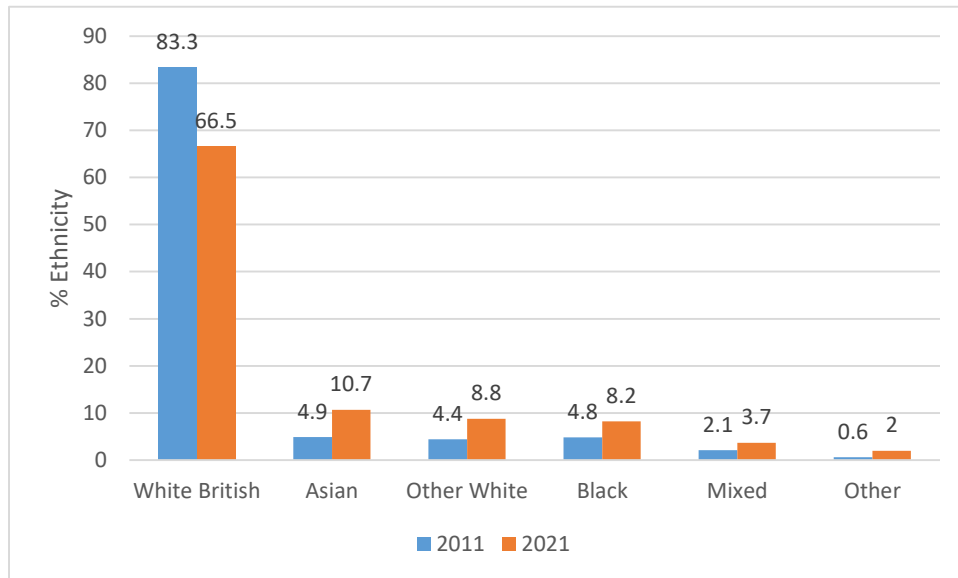
The next most common ethnic group is Asian, accounting for 10.7% (28,150) of the population, up from 4.9% (11,545) in 2011 (see Figure 1).

¹ Multivariate data will allow the combining of different variables and look at the relationships between the data, providing insights into the characteristics of the population

² Origin-destination data (sometimes known as 'flow data') shows the movement of people from one location to another. This information can help local and central government plan and fund infrastructure for: education, healthcare, housing and transport. Origin-destination data is also used to analyse population movement trends for migration and commuting patterns.

³ Detailed migration statistics provide the characteristics of people or households who have moved within the UK or from another country into the UK during the year before the census

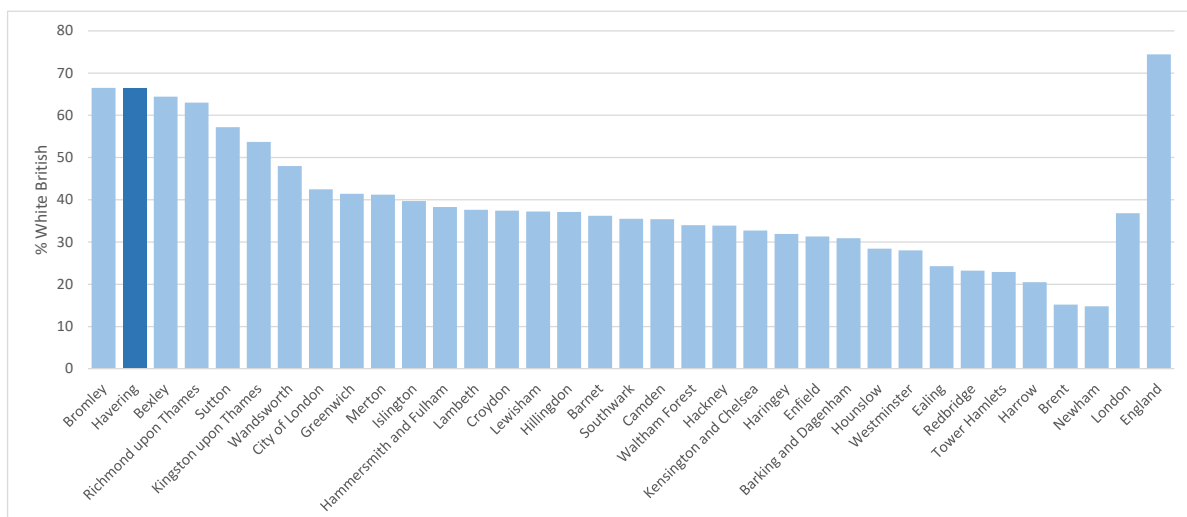
Figure 1 – Havering population in 2011 and 2021 by main ethnic group



Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS), Census 2011 & 2021; Produced by: Havering PHI

London remains the most ethnically diverse region of England and saw an 8.1% percentage point decrease in people who identified as White British from 44.9% in 2011 to 36.8% in 2021. Havering also followed this trend with a 16.8% percentage point decrease from 83.3% in 2011 to 66.5% in 2021. Havering and Bromley are the least diverse London Boroughs with both having a White British population of 66.5%. This compares with 74.4% for England. (See Figure 2).

Figure 2 – Percentage of population identifying as White British, for London Boroughs, London and England

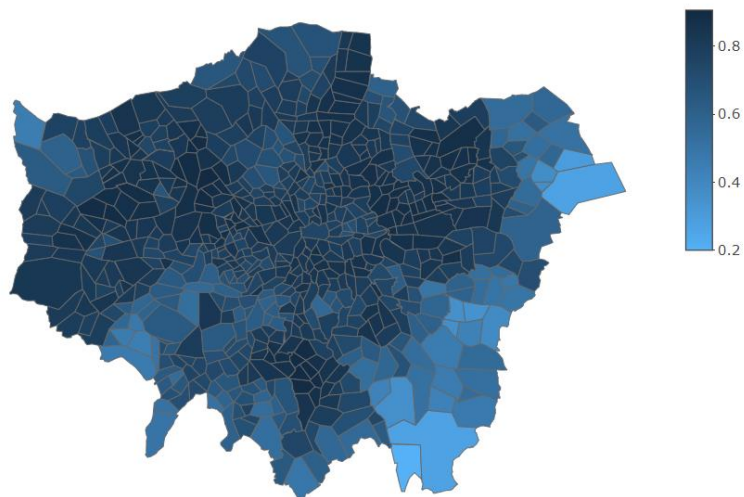


Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS), Census 2021; Produced by: Havering PHI

The GLA City Intelligence team have produced an ethnic group report for London which can be found [here](#). This report shows a number of charts, one of which is diversity index scores for London wards. This provides further insight into current diversity in London boroughs and how this is changing.

The map below shows the current diversity index for London wards at 2021. It shows that wards in the bottom (least diverse) decile in 2021 included 15 in each of Bromley and Havering, 12 in Bexley and 11 in Richmond upon Thames.

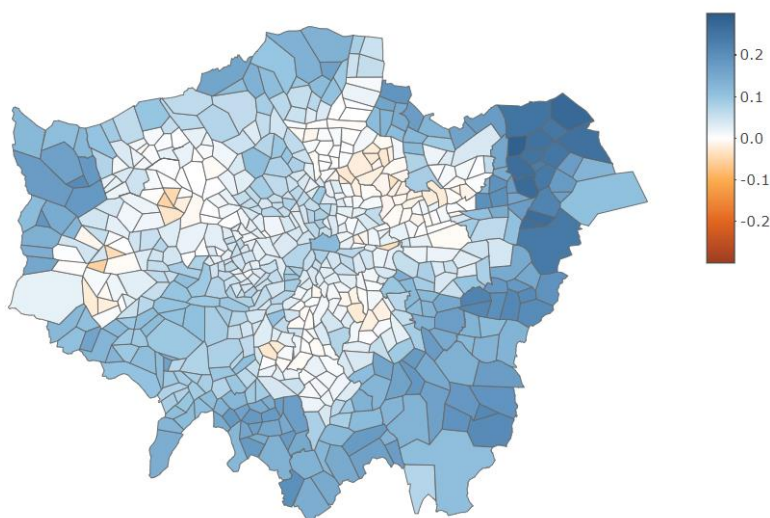
Figure 3 – Map of ethnic diversity index, London wards, 2021



Source: GLA City Intelligence Team; Produced by: Havering PHI

The next map shows the change in diversity from 2011 to 2021. It shows that diversity increased most in outer London suburbs, particularly those in East London; namely Havering, Bromley, Bexley and Barking & Dagenham, also Sutton in the South and Hillingdon in the West. The largest increases were Mawneys, Gooshays and South Hornchurch in Havering, and Eastbrook & Rush Green in Barking & Dagenham.

Figure 4 – Map of ethnic diversity index, London wards, change 2011 to 2021



Source: GLA City Intelligence Team; Produced by: Havering PHI

Ethnic make-up of Households

In 2021, 87% of households in Havering were made up of the same ethnic group (see Figure 5). Please note this figure includes one person households. The figure for Havering in 2011 was 92%.

Figure 5 – Ethnic make-up of households in Havering

Multiple ethnic groups in household	Observation	Percentage
One-person household	26129	26%
All household members have the same ethnic group	61805	61%
Ethnic groups differ between generations but not within partnerships	2746	3%
Ethnic groups differ within partnerships	7375	7%
Any other combination of multiple ethnic identities	3222	3%
Total	101277	100%

Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS), Census 2021; Produced by: Havering PHI

3. National Identity

The Census question on national identity was introduced in 2011 because of increased interest in "national" consciousness and a demand for people to be able to acknowledge their national identity. The question allows respondents to select all identities that apply.

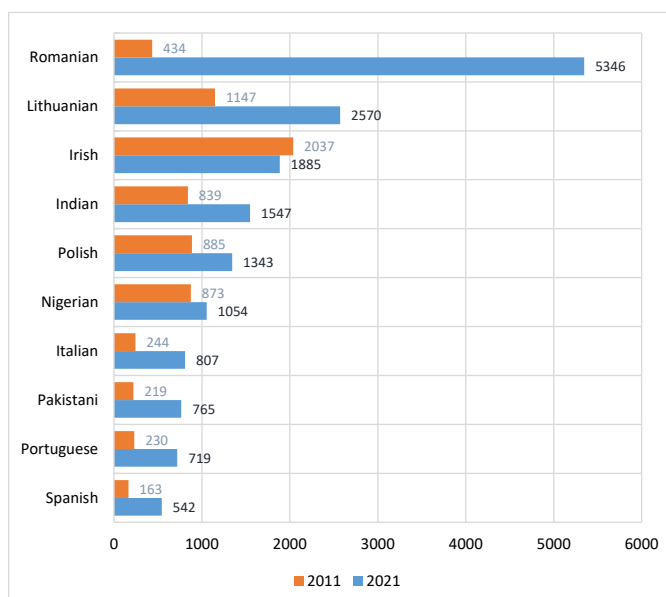
In 2021, 87.8% (230,091) of usual Havering residents identified with at least one UK national identity (English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, British and Cornish). This is a decrease from 93.6% (222,066) in 2011. The figure for London in 2021 is 73.1% and England 90.3%.

People who identified with at least one UK and one non-UK identity accounted for 1.8% (4,843) of the Havering population in 2021; this is an increase from 0.7% (1,680) in 2011. The figure for London in 2021 is 4.4% and England in 2021 2.0%.

Those selecting a non-UK identity only accounted for 10.3% (27,118) of the Havering population in 2021, which is an increase from 5.7% (13,486) in 2011. The figure for London in 2021 is 22.5% and England 9.7%.

Among those who described a non-UK national identity, the most common response was those describing "Romanian" as their national identity 2.0% (5,346) up from 0.2% (434) in 2011. The most common responses in 2011 were Irish 0.9% (2,037) and Lithuanian 0.5% (1,147). See Figure 6.

Figure 6 – Top 10 national identity excluding British



4. Language

In 2021, 90.1% (227,346) of Havering residents, aged 3 years and over, identified as having English as their main language, down from 95.4% (218,645) in 2011.

The top 10 other languages identified in 2021 are shown in Figure 7, below.

Figure 7 – Top 10 main languages in Havering (excluding English)

Language	Observation	%
Romanian	5742	2.28%
Lithuanian	2203	0.87%
Panjabi	1393	0.55%
Polish	1320	0.52%
Bengali	1131	0.45%
Urdu	1081	0.43%
Bulgarian	900	0.36%
Portuguese	730	0.29%
Russian	719	0.28%
Tamil	669	0.27%

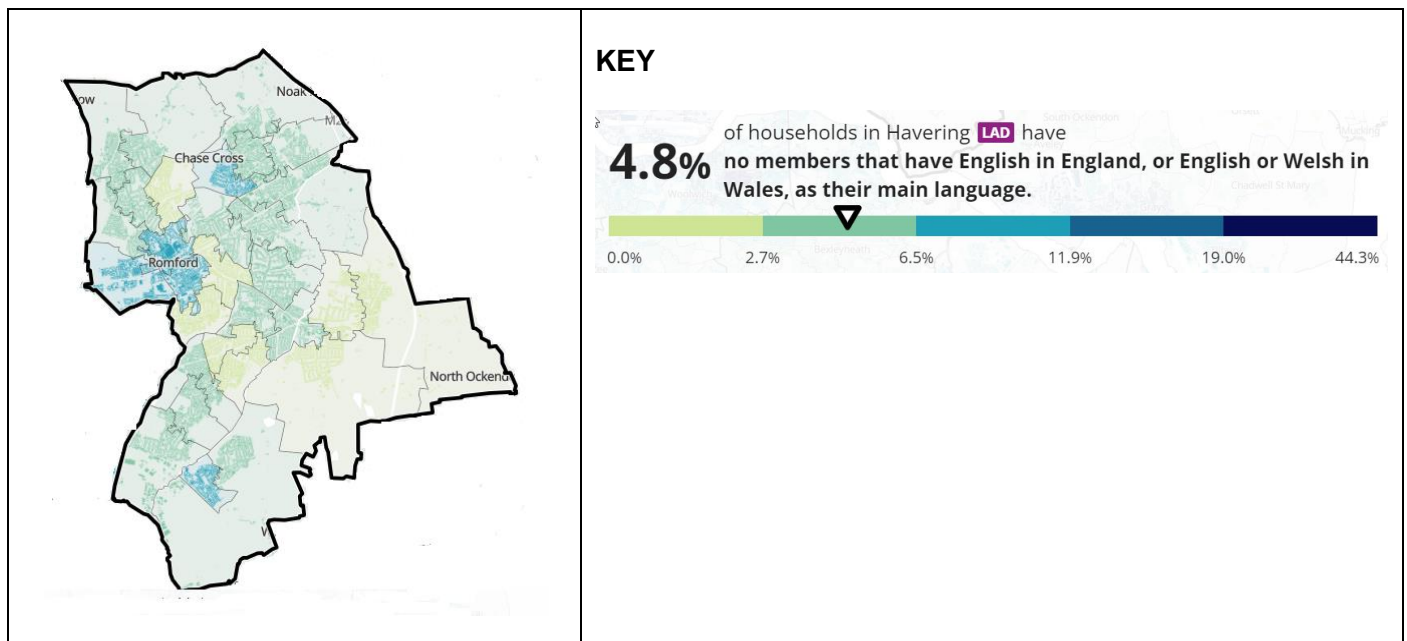
Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS), Census 2021; Produced by: Havering PHI

For the first time, the Census also collected information on whether households have the same or different main languages.

In 2021, 88.4% of Havering households had English as their main language. 4.8% of households had at least one adult with English as their main language, 2.0% had no adults but at least one child with English as their main language and 4.8% of households have no members that have English as their main language.

The percentage of households that do not have English as their main language differs across the borough and can be seen in Figure 8 below.

Figure 8 – Map showing percentage of households that do not have any members stating English as their main language



Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS), Census 2021; Produced by: Havering PHI

5. Religion

The religion question is voluntary in the Census. 94.5% of usual residents answered the question in 2021, compared to 93.3% in the 2011 Census.

The most commonly reported religion in Havering is Christian, with 52.2% of the total population in 2021 describing themselves as Christian. This is a reduction from 65.6% in 2011. No religion was the second most common response, with 30.6% identifying in this category, up from 22.6% in 2011. Other religions accounted for 11.7% of the total Havering population, which is an increase from 5.1% in 2011.

6. Conclusion

The latest Census data from ONS, along with the previous topic summary on demography and migration, gives us a much needed and up to date picture of our local community. Havering is an attractive place for people, including young families, to live and the shift in the borough's age profile reflects this. This should not come as a surprise, with good schools and access to quality parks and green spaces, there is much to attract people to the borough. Romford in particular, with easy access into central London, is a desirable area for young families from a range of backgrounds to settle.

In order to meet the needs of our local community now and in the future, as recommended in our current JSNA, the Council and its partners should ensure that consideration of culture and language is integral to the development of all services, and particularly services for children and young people. Future releases of Census data will help us to further understand the community's needs and to plan services according to these, which can be accessed equitably and in ways that suit all of our population.

7. Further reading

ONS will continue to release further Census data in phases called Topic Summaries. The next Topic Summary, 'Welsh language skills' was released on 6 December 2022 and will be followed closely by "Labour market and travel to work" on 8th December. More information on the Census can be found [here](#) and the planned release calendar can be found [here](#). The ONS has produced an interactive summary for all Local Authorities which can be found [here](#). The ONS have also produced Census maps which can be found [here](#).

Havering Local Insight also shows Census 2021 data and can be found [here](#). (Select Data box on left hand side and then choose which Census indicator to view. Results will be displayed on the map).