

Census 2021 Briefing #8: Education

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Summary

- At the time of the 2021 Census, 19.9% (48,843) of Havering residents aged five years and over were schoolchildren or full-time students. This was a lower proportion compared to England (20.4%) and London (22.2%).
- 29.5% (61,921) of residents aged sixteen years and over indicated that their highest level of qualification was Level 4 or above, the lowest proportion among London local authorities and below England (33.9%) and London (46.7%).
- 20% (41,947) of Havering residents reported having no qualifications. This was higher than both England (18.1%) and London (16.2%) and the fifth highest among London local authorities.
- 5.1% (10,778) of Havering residents aged 16 years and over reported an apprenticeship as their highest level of qualification, compared to 5.3% for England and 3.2% for London. Havering's proportion was the second highest among London local authorities.

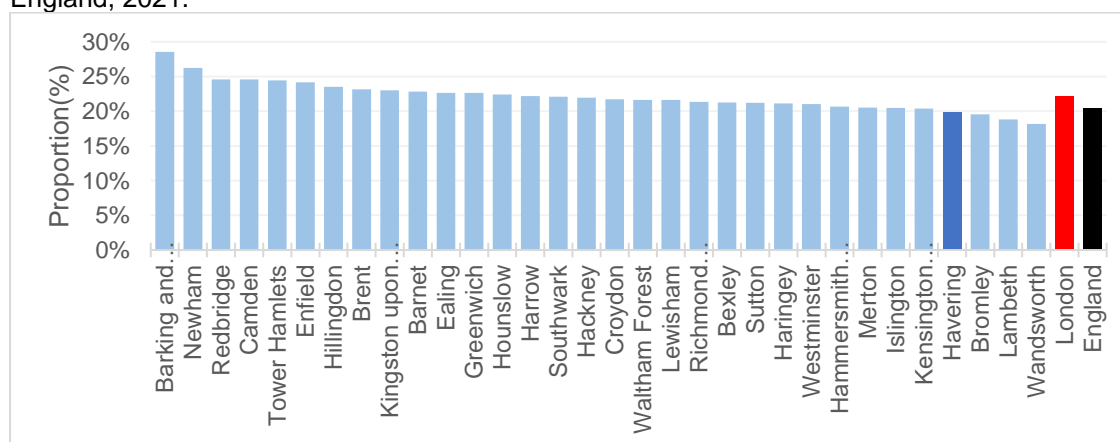
1. Introduction

On 10 January 2023, the eighth release of 2021 Census data was published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The topic covered by this release is education, which includes data about usual residents aged 16 years and over who have academic, vocational, or professional qualifications, as well as the number of schoolchildren and full-time students.

2. Schoolchildren and full-time students

At the time of the Census, 19.9% (48,843), equivalent to 1 in 5 usual Havering residents were schoolchildren or full-time students aged five years and over. This was a lower proportion compared to England (20.4%) and London (22.2%).

Figure 1: Proportion (%) of schoolchildren and full-time students aged five years and over, London boroughs and England, 2021.



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

3. Highest level of qualification

Havering residents aged 16 years and over (209,730) were asked to record any qualifications (including academic, vocational, and professional qualifications) they had achieved. This data was used to calculate the highest level of qualification.¹

Figure 2: Total Number and Proportion (%) of Havering residents aged 16 years and over by highest level of qualification compared with London and England, 2021.

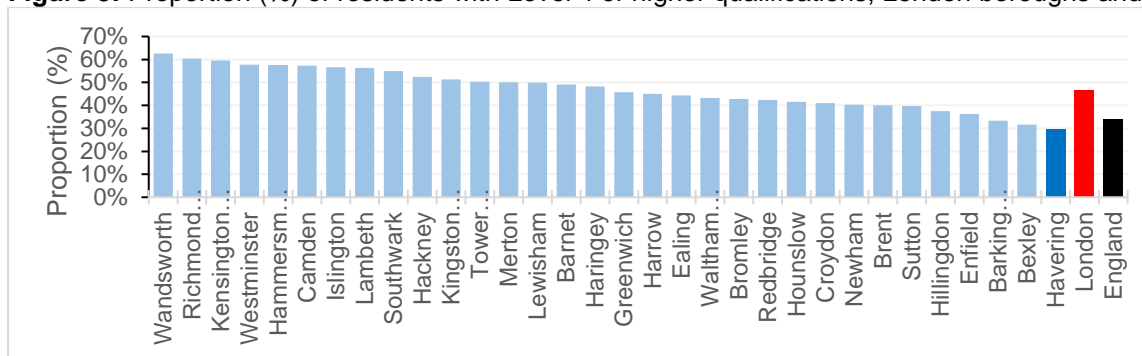
Qualification	Havering (n)	Havering (%)	London (%)	England (%)
Level 4	61,921	29.5%	46.7%	33.9%
No qualifications	41,947	20.0%	16.2%	18.1%
Level 3	34,125	16.3%	13.2%	16.9%
Level 2	31,228	14.9%	10.0%	13.3%
Level 1	23,453	11.2%	7.7%	9.7%
Apprenticeship	10,778	5.1%	3.2%	5.3%
Other	6,278	3.0%	3.1%	2.8%

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

3.1 Level 4 or above qualifications, and no qualifications, in Havering.

29.5% (61,921), of Havering residents aged sixteen years and over indicated that their highest level of qualification was Level 4 or above. This was the lowest proportion across all 32 London local authorities and below England (33.9%) and London (46.7%) (see figure 3).

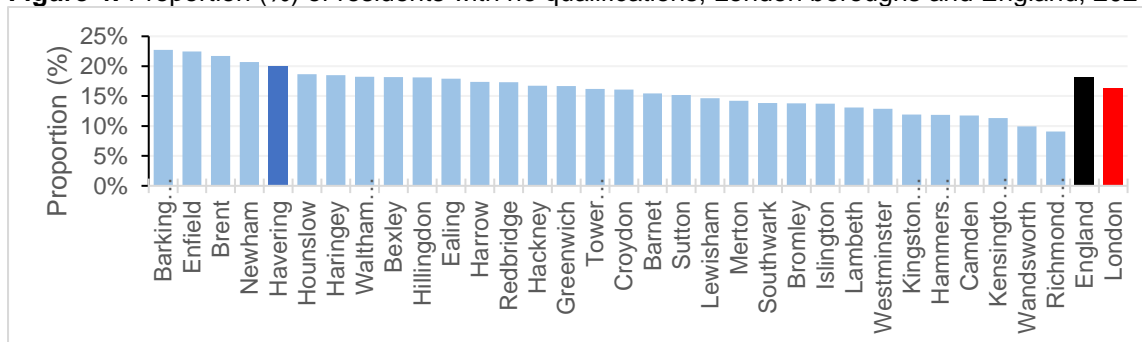
Figure 3: Proportion (%) of residents with Level 4 or higher qualifications, London boroughs and England, 2021



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

1 in 5 (20%) Havering residents (41,947) indicated that they had no qualifications, (see figure 4). This was the fifth highest proportion across all London local authorities and higher than England (18.1%) and London (16.2%).

Figure 4: Proportion (%) of residents with no qualifications, London boroughs and England, 2021



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

¹ The highest level of qualification that an individual reported irrespective of previous qualifications listed, was calculated using the following categories: no qualifications: no formal qualifications; Level 1: one to four GCSE passes (grade A* to C or grade 4 and above) and any other GCSEs at other grades, or equivalent qualifications; Level 2: five or more GCSE passes (grade A* to C or grade 4 and above) or equivalent qualifications; apprenticeships; Level 3: two or more A Levels or equivalent qualifications; Level 4 or above: Higher National Certificate, Higher National Diploma, Bachelor's degree, or post-graduate qualifications; other qualifications, of unknown level. Source: [Highest level of qualification - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk)

Across Havering neighbourhoods (MSOAs²), the proportion of people with Level 4 or above qualifications ranged from 23.4% (1,316) in Rainham East & Wennington up to 38.4% (2,898) in Central Romford (see figure 5). The proportion of people with no qualifications ranged from 13.6% (736) in Upminster North & Cranham West up to 26% (1,576) in Dagnam Park & Noak Hill (see figure 6).

Figure 5: Proportion (%) & Number of people with Level 4 or above qualifications by Havering MSOA

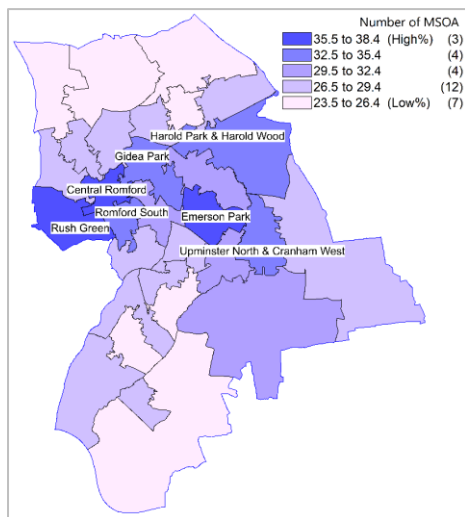


Figure 6: Proportion (%) & Number of people with No Qualifications by Havering MSOA

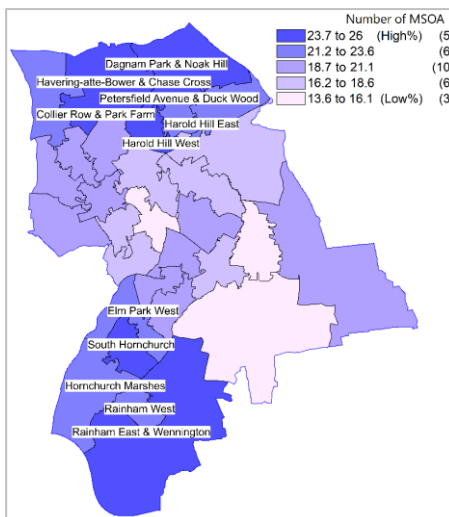
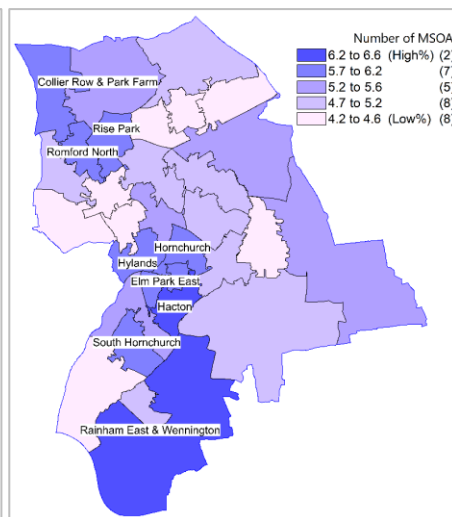


Figure 7: Proportion (%) & Number of people with Apprenticeships by Havering MSOA



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

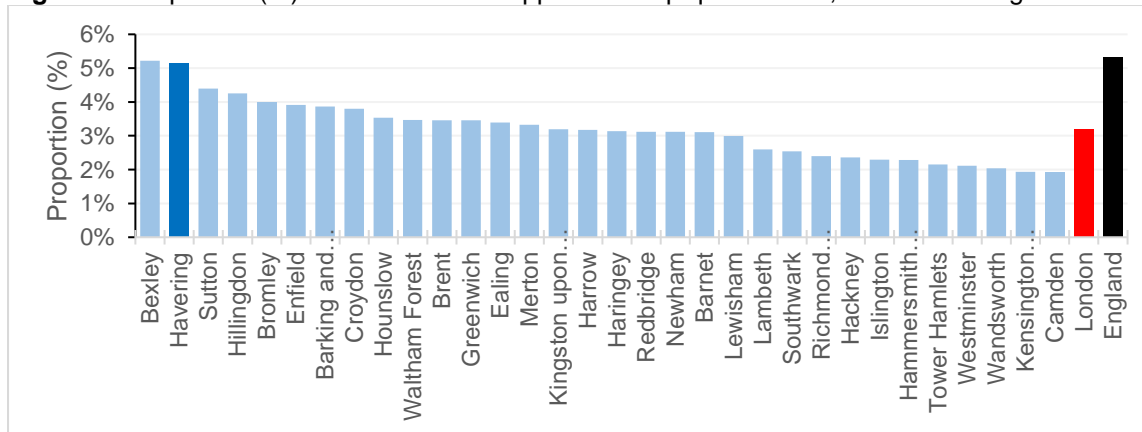
Overall, relatively deprived MSOAs situated in the North and South of Havering had both the lowest proportion of people with Level 4 or above qualifications and the highest proportion of people with no qualifications. Contrary, MSOAs situated across the centre of Havering had the highest proportion of people with level 4 or above qualifications, probably due to a substantial number of professionals working and living around Romford town (see figures 5 and 6).

3.2. Apprenticeships in Havering

5.1% (10,778) of Havering residents aged 16 years and over reported apprenticeship as their highest level of qualification, similar to England (5.3%) but higher than London (3.2%). Havering's proportion was the second highest across all London local authorities (see figure 8).

Across Havering MSOAs, the proportion of people reporting apprenticeship as their highest level of qualification, ranged from 4.2% (318) in Central Romford up to 6.6% (421) in Rush Green (see figure 7).

Figure 8: Proportion (%) of residents with apprenticeship qualification, London boroughs and England, 2021.



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

² MSOA (Middle Layer Super Output Areas) are a geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics. The minimum population of an MSOA is 5,000 and on average is 7,200

4. Conclusion

Within London, Havering has the lowest percentage of residents with level 4 or above qualifications (29.5%) and 1 in 5 (20%) residents have no qualifications.

MSOA's situated in the North and south of Havering have both the lowest proportion of people with Level 4 or above qualifications, and the highest proportion of people with no qualifications.

The Council and its partners, including those in the education sector, should consider the insight that this latest release of Census data provides, particularly alongside the previous topic summary on labour market and travel to work. For example, policy makers may wish to consider whether the borough is investing enough in supporting residents to acquire the skills and qualifications that are most needed now and for the future.

The structure and content of Census 2021 questions on qualifications largely differ from those in the 2011 Census. This means that differences in these estimates from the two censuses may partly represent real change and partly be due to the change in the way the data was collected. Therefore, the highest qualification variable is not comparable with the 2011 Census and comparisons with 2011 are not made in this briefing.

The accuracy of Census responses for the qualifications questions is expected to be lower where the specific qualification is not listed on the census questionnaire. This is likely to be a particular issue for older people who obtained qualifications that no longer exist. Examples of such qualifications are polytechnic qualifications, General National Vocational Qualifications (GNVQs), and many other vocational, technical and professional qualifications. This also applies to qualifications that exist in very different forms, such as apprenticeships. Difficulties in remembering details of qualifications obtained a long time ago is likely to further lower the accuracy.³ This is particularly pertinent to Havering given Havering's large (relative to London) older population.

5. Further information

ONS has continued to release Census data in phases called Topic Summaries. The next and final Topic Summary, "Health, disability and unpaid care" was released on 19th January 2023. More information on the Census can be found [here](#) and the 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 are displayed on a map).

³ Cited: Office for National Statistics (ONS), released 10 January 2023, ONS website, methodology, [Education quality information for Census 2021](#)