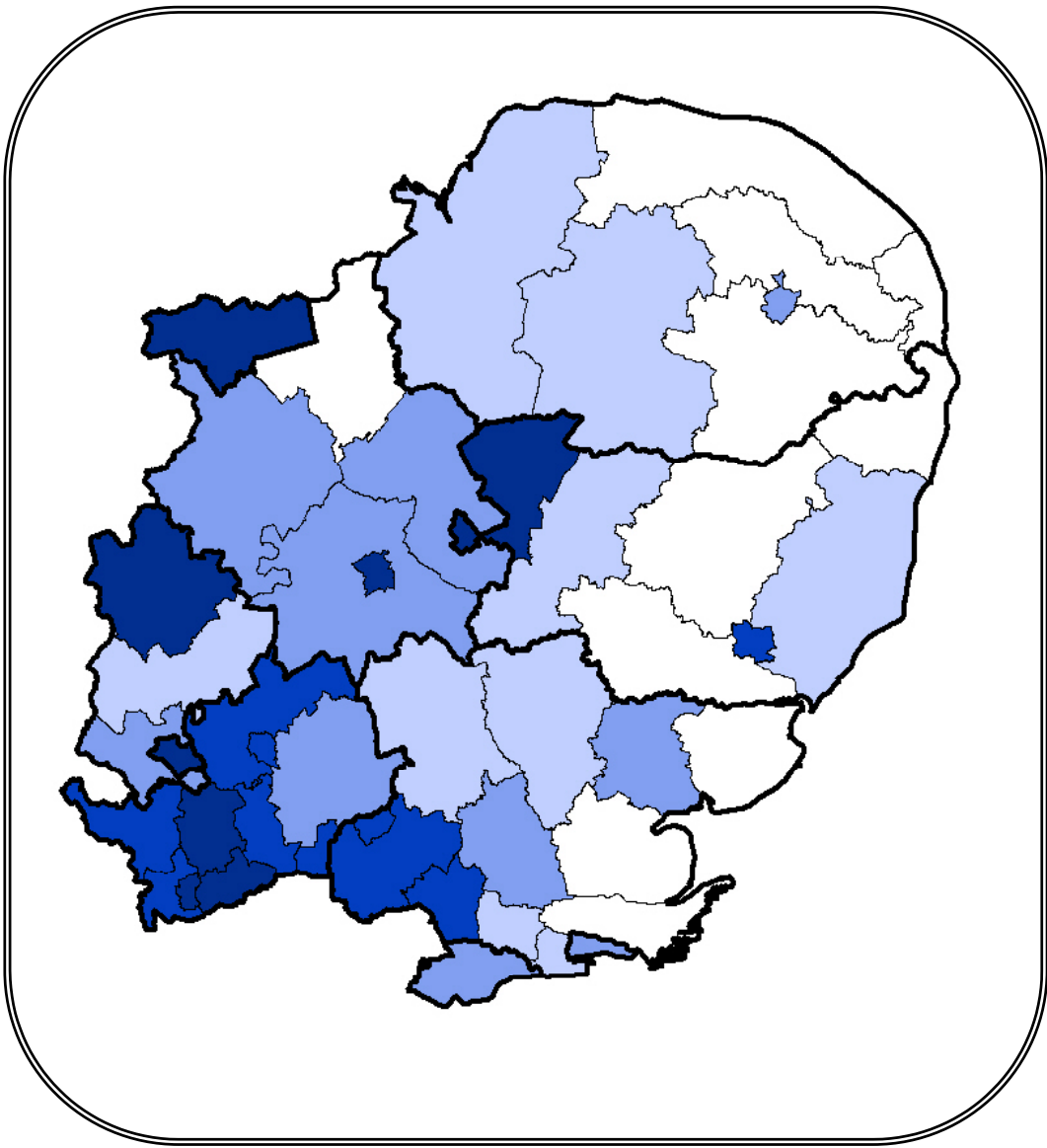


Review of Ethnicity in the East of England



Cambridgeshire
County Council

Research Group



Review of Ethnicity in the East of England

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**Commissioned by the Minority Ethnic Network Eastern Region
(MENTER)**



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Executive Summary

1. Background

In June 2005, the Minority Ethnic Network Eastern Region (MENTER) commissioned Cambridgeshire County Council Research Group to produce an overview of ethnicity in the Eastern Region. This need was identified due to the lack of a cohesive amalgamation of regional ethnicity data. The main topics covered in this review are demographic characteristics of the region, health of different ethnic groups in the region, a variety of housing issues affecting Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups, economic activity and employment of different ethnic groups, BME elders and experience and fear of crime by different ethnic groups. In most cases, the White British population is compared to all other ethnic groups, with the term *Black Minority Ethnic (BME)* being used to include the White Irish and White Other populations. When the data refers to the non-White population without the inclusion of the White Irish and White Other groups this is specified in the text.

2. Data sources

Much of the quantitative data in the review comes from the 2001 Census. This was the second decennial census to provide information on the ethnic composition of the Region, and the first to include a "Mixed" ethnicity category.

The 2001 Census included 16 ethnic categories, which aggregate into five broad groupings (shown in bold):

White

White: British

White: Irish

White: Other White

Black or Black British

Black or Black British: Black Caribbean

Black or Black British: Black African

Black or Black British: Other Black

Mixed

Mixed: White and Black Caribbean

Mixed: White and Black African

Mixed: White and Asian

Mixed: Other Mixed

Chinese or Other Ethnic Group

Chinese or Other Ethnic Group: Chinese

Chinese or Other Ethnic Group: Other Ethnic Group

Asian or Asian British

Asian or Asian British: Indian

Asian or Asian British: Pakistani

Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi

Asian or Asian British: Other Asian

As far as possible the review reports on the 16 individual categories, only using broad categories where small numbers prevent meaningful interpretation of data from the smaller groups. It is not possible to provide information about the people who have defined themselves as belonging to the Other Ethnic Group category, nor is it possible to ascertain how members of ethnic groups that do not fit into an obvious category would have chosen to define themselves. For example, if one were Japanese one could define oneself as 'Other Asian' or 'Other Ethnic Group'. People

from the Middle East could define as 'Other Ethnic Group' or 'Other White' or, indeed, a different category altogether. It is also unclear how people originating from North Africa or South America might choose to define themselves from the Census categories.

Certain data sources use alternative ethnic groupings and these are referred to and explained as appropriate. All Census information in the report and raw data presented in the appendices may be reproduced by other parties, but must be referenced as "2001 Census, Crown Copyright"

The Census data is supplemented by other survey, administrative and research report data. Sources include the Continuous Recording System (CORE) reports on social housing, Crime Audits produced by the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) throughout the region, Racist Incident Monitoring Service (RIMS) data published by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), data from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) on economic activity, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) Caravan Counts, and several research papers on general and mental health. Other local, regional and national reports supplement these main data sources.

3. Geographical Coverage

The review covers the whole of the Eastern Region. The majority of the data is presented at the geographical level of County (Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk) and Unitary Authority (Peterborough, Luton, Thurrock, Southend-On-Sea). Certain data is presented for the individual districts, particularly demographic information, while small numbers require other data to be presented only for the region as a whole to allow meaningful interpretation.

4. National context and the regional picture

The BME population grew considerably in the ten years between the 1991 Census, when it comprised 5.5% of the population of the UK, and the 2001 Census where it accounted for more than 13% of the population (if the ethnic categories White Irish and White Other are included). At this time over 1 in 10 people in England belong to a non-White ethnic group.

The Eastern Region has the fifth largest population of non-White British residents in the UK, with 7% of the non-White British population residing there. Nevertheless, the Eastern Region has slightly smaller proportions of all BME groups than are present in England overall.

There is a wide variation in the proportion of BME groups (including White Irish and Other White groups) present in the different geographical areas of the region, from 35% in Luton to only 3.8% in Norfolk. This can be partly explained by the pronounced rural/urban divisions within the region.

5. Demographics

The gender division in the region is slightly biased towards greater proportions of female residents (51%). However, this is not consistently found within the different ethnic groups, with many, particularly the Black and Asian groups having larger proportions of males. The Other Ethnic Group is unusual in that it has a bias towards females who comprise more than 60% of the group, although there is no obvious explanation for this.

All BME groups had a younger age structure than the White British group, and this was particularly pronounced in the Mixed groups, more than 50% of whom were under 15 years old. Non-British White groups, the Black groups and the Other Ethnic Groups showed a somewhat 'middle-aged' profile over the region as a whole. A large proportion of the Chinese group were between 15 and 24 years old, possibly reflecting a high student population.

6. Location

The highest proportions of the different ethnic groups are not distributed consistently throughout the districts of the region, although the large towns and cities attract many. The White Irish and White Other groups are the most widespread, Mixed ethnicity residents are most commonly found in Hertfordshire and Essex, whilst Asian populations are highly concentrated in Luton and Hertfordshire. Large proportions of Black residents are found in both Luton and Hertfordshire, but also in Suffolk, possibly due to the presence of armed forces there. Chinese residents are commonly found in Cambridgeshire (again most likely due to a high number of students in this ethnic group), Essex and Hertfordshire, and the same pattern is found for members of Other Ethnic Groups.

7. Health

Although larger proportions of the White British and White Irish groups suffer from self-defined limiting long-term illness and 'not good' health than those in the BME groups, this can largely be explained by the older age structure of the White groups as health deteriorates with age. Once age is statistically corrected for, higher rates of limiting long-term illness and 'not good' health are found within other ethnic groups, most prominently in the Pakistani and Bangladeshi groups, with women particularly disadvantaged. Other groups such as the Chinese and Other Ethnic Groups have much better health than would be expected simply based on their age structure.

Nationally, different ethnic groups suffer disproportionately from certain medical conditions, with coronary heart disease being more common among Asian groups, and diabetes more common among Asian groups and Black Caribbeans. A lower incidence of all cancers combined is found among Asian groups. More than half the HIV patients in the Eastern Region are Black African, while Asians have low incidence of HIV. Black groups also show a disproportionate incidence of other sexually transmitted infections.

The EMPIRIC survey of Ethnic Minority Psychiatric Illness Rates in the Community suggests that Common Mental Disorders such as depression and anxiety are most

commonly found among Irish men and among Pakistani and Indian women. They are least common among Bangladeshi women. Psychotic disorders, such as schizophrenia, were found to be double the average rate in Black Caribbeans. This only reached statistical significance in the female group and was not significant for Black Caribbean men, or for that ethnic group as a whole. These findings contrast with several studies concerned with patient populations which found prevalence rates of psychotic illness in Black Caribbeans at between three and five times the population average. Qualitative data suggests that rates of mental disorders among the BME community could be mediated by culturally different experience or expression of mental distress.

In the psychiatric care population in the Eastern Region, men were more likely to be patients than women, and a disproportionate number of Other Black men were present in these establishments. Male and female members of the Black Caribbean population were also disproportionately present in the psychiatric care population.

8. Housing

A person belonging to a non-White ethnic group headed 3.5% of households in the East of England. Similarly to the population figures, the proportion of non-White headed households varied dramatically by area, with more than one fifth of Luton's households headed a by a non-White person.

The average household size in the region was 2.4 people but this figure was greater in most BME groups. Bangladeshi and Pakistani headed households were particularly larger, housing averages of 4.4 and 4.3 people respectively.

Household Composition

The proportion of single person households was similar across most ethnic groups, although less common in the Asian groups. All BME residents were less likely to be living in single pensioner households or in households composed solely of pensioners than those in the White British group. Couple households were the most common living arrangement for most ethnic groups, although less so in Black headed households. Cohabitation, as opposed to marriage, was most common in the Mixed groups and least common in the Asian groups. The largest proportions of couple households with dependent children were also found in Asian headed households, while the highest proportion of couple households with no children was found in the Other White group. Couple households with non-dependent children were not a common arrangement but slightly larger proportions were found in Indian groups. Lone parent households with dependent children were most often found in Mixed White and Black Caribbean headed households, nearly one fifth of whom were in this category. Relatively high proportions of lone parent households were also found in the Mixed White and Black African group and all the Black groups. Black African and Chinese headed households were most likely to be composed solely of students.

Tenure

In terms of tenure, owner-occupation was the most common type overall, accounting for 73% of all households. This type of tenure was most frequently found in the White British group and in Asian groups with the exception of Bangladeshis. The lowest proportions of owner occupation were found among Black African headed households and Mixed White and Black African headed households. Conversely, nearly 40% of Black African households were in living in privately rented accommodation – the highest proportion of this type of tenure in any ethnic group.

The highest proportion of social housing tenants was found in Mixed White and Black Caribbean headed households and Bangladeshi households. A disproportionately high number of BME tenants were found within socially rented accommodation compared to their presence in the general population for most ethnic groups. A tenant moving into or within social housing properties due to racial harassment at their last settled address was a rare occurrence accounting for only 0.2% of general needs housing lettings in the Eastern Region. This proportion was slightly higher in Peterborough, but this still only related to a total of 12 lettings.

Housing Quality Indicators

Less than 0.2% of households in the Eastern Region were living in accommodation that was not self-contained. The highest proportion of people living in shared dwellings were those belonging to Black African headed households, although this still only accounted for just over 1.6% of the total number households headed by a member of this ethnic group. Other groups who were slightly more likely to be living in shared accommodation were those belonging to Other Ethnic Groups, the Chinese and Mixed White and Black Africans.

Overcrowding was evident in around 5% of households in the Eastern Region. Those living in Bangladeshi (around 34%), Black African (around 27%) and Pakistani (25%) headed households were most affected. Although the Census data used to calculate these figures does not distinguish between households who choose to live in larger groups due to cultural factors and those who would prefer to move into less crowded accommodation if they could, qualitative evidence from a housing needs survey in Essex¹, suggests that overall the situation is not desirable.

Only 5% of households regionally did not have central heating and this was most commonly found in Bangladeshi headed households. Other Ethnic Groups were living in households with slightly elevated proportions of a lack of central heating, but levels were consistent across most ethnic groups. Indian headed households were considerably less likely to be living in a house without central heating.

The Non-Household Population

Members of the ethnic groups other than White British were more likely to be living in a communal establishment than would be expected from their general population profiles. Especially large proportions of Chinese and Other Ethnic Groups were found among the communal establishment population. Indeed 11.5% of the total

¹ Steele & Tickner, 2003

population of each of these groups were living within communal establishments. This can be mainly explained by the large proportions of these groups living within educational establishments and halls of residence. White British communal establishment residents were slightly more likely to be accommodated in medical and care establishments, which include nursing and residential care homes, and this is attributed largely to the older age structure of this population. Communal establishment residents from groups other than White British are more likely to be found in educational establishments, and slightly higher proportions of non-White residents are associated with prison service establishments.

The Gypsy Traveller Population

The ODPM count of gypsy caravans was last undertaken in January 2005, showing the East of England to have the largest number of caravans of any region in England. A total of 3,980 caravans were recorded, an increase of 14.5% over two years, and around two thirds of these were found on authorised sites. The largest numbers of caravans were located in Cambridgeshire and Essex, with more than 1,000 in each of these areas. The smallest numbers were in Southend-On-Sea where no caravans were recorded and Luton, where 51 caravans were located. The largest increases in caravan numbers in a two year period were in Bedfordshire and Luton, both of which saw increases of more than 80%, although the numbers involved were smaller.

9. Economic Activity and Employment Patterns

Data from the 2001 Census show that males are more likely to be economically active than females in every ethnic group. The highest rates of economic activity are among Indian men and the lowest rates among Bangladeshi and Pakistani women, possibly due to a cultural tendency for women to work in the home. The female rates were relatively consistent throughout the county, while the male rates varied more between the different areas.

Unemployment was lower in the Eastern Region than nationally for both White and non-White groups. Bangladeshi and Pakistani women were most likely to be unemployed, while the lowest rates of unemployment were found among Chinese males. The unemployment rates found in different ethnic groups were not consistent across the region, with British females, Chinese males and Other Black males showing the lowest rates of unemployment in various areas. The high rates of unemployment for Bangladeshi and Pakistani women were consistent throughout the region, although higher rates were found among Other Black males in Essex and Mixed White and Black Caribbean males in Hertfordshire.

More recent economic activity data available from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) is not able to provide such detail due to sampling methods and small numbers, however the data for 2004 showed that members of White groups had lower rates of economic inactivity than members of non-White groups, particularly in Peterborough and Luton. Employment rates were also higher in White groups (nearly 80% of people of working age – between 16 and 65 years – being in employment of some description) than in non-White groups (nearly 70% employed). The lowest employment rates for non-White groups were found in Peterborough and Luton,

while conversely, the employment rates of non-White people in Southend and Thurrock – at 81.4% and 82.6% – exceed the employment levels of White people in almost every area.

10. BME elders

Very little data is available on BME elders, particularly at a regional level. The 2001 Census shows that not only do BME populations have much smaller proportions of members of pensionable age (65 and over), but also that the actual numbers of BME elders are very small. In fact, there is more than 70 times the number of White people in this age group than the number in all Other Ethnic Groups combined. The highest numbers of BME elders are found within the Asian groups, and the highest proportions within Black groups. Numerically, the largest BME elder communities were in Luton, Hertfordshire, Essex and Bedfordshire. It is suggested that while no specific services are at present required for BME elder groups, close monitoring of this situation is necessary as the BME population ages. This necessitates improved ethnic monitoring within health and social care settings, and also increased staff training to improve service provision for these groups.

It is clear that further work on this topic is necessary, and MENTER and Age Concern, England intend to undertake a regional review of BME elders.

11. Crime

Racially Motivated Crime

Some information on racially motivated crime is presented from the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership 2004 Crime Audits, which have been produced for each local authority. Although the information is somewhat incomplete, the highest numbers of racially motivated crime appear to be in Hertfordshire and the lowest numbers in Thurrock. Rates of racially motivated crime per 1,000 population are highest in Peterborough at 2.35/1000 and lowest in Norfolk, with a rate of 0.51/1000 people. If one considers only the BME population (including the White Irish and Other White groups), the rates per 1,000 people dramatically increase. In this measure, Peterborough had the highest rate racially motivated incidents at 16.4/1,000 BME population, closely followed by Norfolk with a rate of 13.65/1,000. The lowest rate by this measure was in Luton (2.4/1,000 BME population) where interestingly, there is the highest proportion of people from ethnic groups other than White British.

Data from the Crown Prosecution Service show that the greatest number of defendants and charges submitted to them for racially motivated crimes are from the Norfolk Constabulary; the fewest defendants are received from the Bedfordshire Police and the fewest charges from the Essex Police. The prosecution rates were highest for defendants received from Cambridgeshire and Suffolk (both at 81%), and lowest for defendants from Bedfordshire (69%). The greatest proportion of guilty verdicts was returned for charges originating in Cambridgeshire (96%), and the lowest for charges originating in Essex (71%).

Limited analysis of the ethnicity of the victims of racially motivated incidents within the region was possible. This showed that, in the areas for which data were available, Asian groups were most at risk of being involved in a racially motivated incident, with those in Arab groups the least at risk (although, of course, this could reflect the proportion at which each group is present within the general population). A relatively high proportion of racially motivated crime was targeted at White Europeans, and it is possible that this could reflect hostility towards Travellers.

Fear of Crime

Data from the British Crime Survey indicate that all BME groups experience higher rates of fear about the three main types of crime (burglary, violent crime and car crime) than White groups. This is not related to having been a victim of a specific crime in the previous twelve months, with the exception of worry about car crime in Black groups, which was related to their experience of this crime. Interestingly, evidence from the Eastern Region does not consistently support this data, with no greater levels of fear of crime being found among BME populations in Cambridgeshire or Essex, and levels in Peterborough not being significantly greater. In Hertfordshire however, greater levels of fear of certain types of crimes were evident. The limited data and small sample sizes in the regional fear of crime data, suggest that further investigation into this matter may be warranted.

