

# Equality profile of Brent

2020-21

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# Headlines (1)

This report presents a summary of demographic data across the main equality strands and is designed to help officers with equality analysis. The report focuses on profiling the nine characteristics protected by the Equality Act and includes additional indicators about diversity.



**Age:** Brent has a relatively young population: the median age of the population is 36 compared with 40 across England. However, in line with national trends, the population is ageing: projections suggest the number of residents aged 65 and over could increase by 78% between 2020 and 2041 – an additional 33,000 older residents.



**Sex:** The gender split in the population is 51% male and 49% female. The proportion of men is highest in the 20-39 age group where they comprise 55% of the population. In contrast, women make up a higher proportion of the Borough's very elderly population, comprising 61% of those aged 85 and over.



**Disability:** Around one in seven Brent residents have a long-term health problem or disability that limits their day-to-day-activities in some way. The prevalence of disability rises sharply with age: more than half of all residents aged 65 and over had a long-term health problem or disability.



**Ethnicity:** Brent is one of the most diverse boroughs in London: almost two thirds of the population (64%) are from Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups, the third highest in London. Around 16% of residents are White British, the second lowest rate in London. One in five Brent residents were from other White minority groups.



**European population:** Brent has a large European national population. By March 2021, Brent residents with EU nationality had made 102,400 applications to the EU settlement scheme, the second highest in the UK. The largest number of applications were from Romanian and Portuguese nationals (29,010 and 20,510).



**Language:** Around 150 different languages are used in Brent. In 2011, 37% of the Brent population used a main language other than English – the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in England. At the time of the Census, the top 10 language groups in Brent were: Gujarati, Polish, Arabic, Portuguese, Tamil, Somali, Romanian, Urdu, Persian/Farsi and Nepalese speakers.



**Religion:** The borough's three largest religious groups are Christian (41%), Muslim (19%) and Hindu (18%). Overall, 82% of residents had a religion – the fourth highest rate in England and Wales. The borough has the second largest Hindu population in England and Wales, and the 10th largest Muslim population (as a percentage of the population).



**Pregnancy & maternity:** Brent has relatively high birth rates. There were 4,919 births in Brent in 2019, which equates to 72.6 births per 1,000 women aged 15-44 – the 7th highest fertility rate in England. Three quarters of all births in Brent were to mothers born outside the UK – the highest rate in England.



**Marriage and civil partnership:** The 2011 Census found that around 43% of Brent residents (adults) were married and 0.3% were in a civil partnership. In 2017, 902 marriages or civil partnerships took place in Brent – of these, 23 (2.5%) were same sex marriages or civil partnerships.



**Sexual orientation:** Statistics about the size of the LGB population vary considerably and there is no single widely accepted measure. The 2020 GP Patient Survey found that 7.4% of Brent residents surveyed identified as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Other - above the England rate (4.5%). ONS survey estimates are typically lower (England, 2.9%).



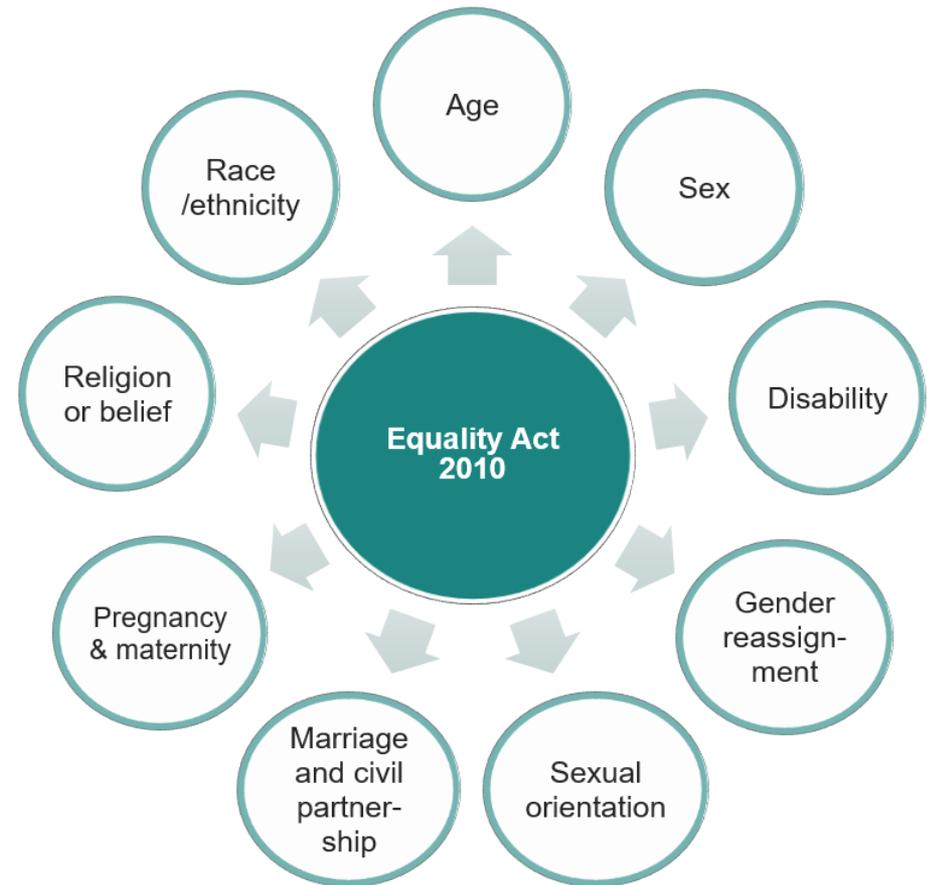
**Gender re-assignment and gender identity** The Government Equalities Office tentatively estimates that around 0.3-0.8% of the UK population may be transgender. Since 2005, 5,871 people across the UK have obtained a Gender Recognition Certificate to legally change their gender (0.009% of the UK population).



**Improving equality data:** the 2021 Census was the first census to include questions on sexual orientation and gender identity. These questions, along with updated information on diversity topics, will provide important new data about the Brent population – results are expected in Spring 2022.

- The Equality Act 2010 gives people legal protection from discrimination in the workplace and in wider society. The Act focuses on discrimination or unfair treatment on the basis of nine personal characteristics – it is against the law to discriminate against someone because of any of these characteristics.
- To meet the duty when exercising its functions, the Council integrates equality considerations into its policy development and decision-making. The Council conducts Equality Analyses to ensure decisions are made in a fair, transparent and accountable way, considering the needs and rights of different individuals and communities.
- To this end, this report presents a summary of the latest demographic data cross the nine equality strands, and is designed to help officers and partner agencies with their equality analysis. In addition to the nine protected characteristics, the report also covers additional indicators about diversity including nationality and language.

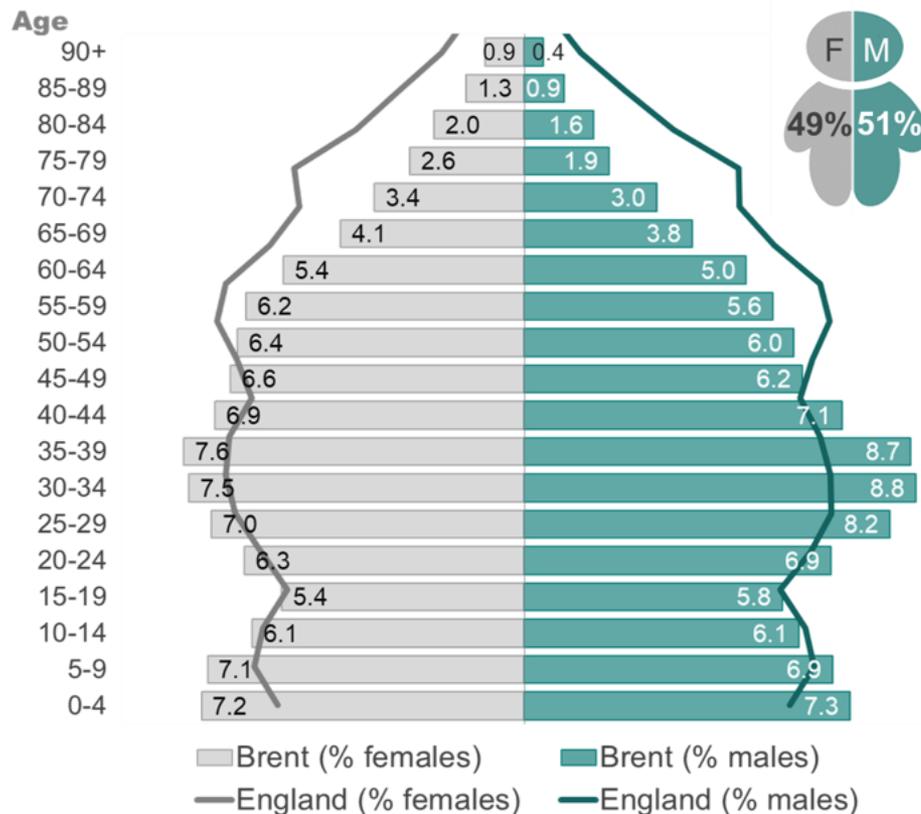
## The nine protected characteristics



# Population by age and sex

- In common with other London Boroughs, Brent has a relatively young population: the median age of the Brent population is 36, the same as London, but lower than the England average (40).
- Brent has proportionately fewer over 50s than England (30% vs. 38%), but has more adults aged 25-44 (31% vs. 26%), and a higher proportion of children aged under ten (14% vs. 12%).
- The gender split is 51% male and 49% female. The proportion of men is highest in the 20-39 age group (55%), while women make up a higher proportion of the Borough's elderly population: 61% of those aged 85 and over are female.
- The Brent population is ageing: the median age has increased from 33 to 36 between 2011 and 2020. GLA projections suggest this will continue: the number of residents aged 65 and over in Brent is expected to increase by 78% between 2020 and 2041 (an additional 33,000 older residents).

## Population by age and gender, Brent & England, 2020



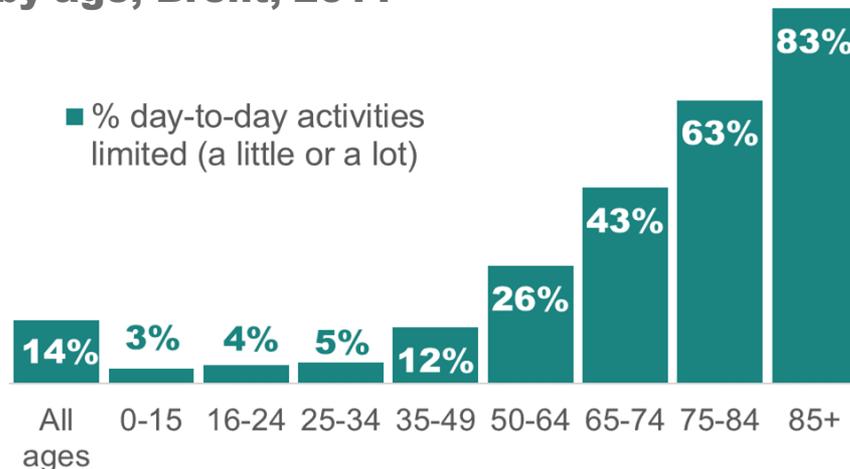
## Median age Brent 2011-2020



- The 2011 Census found that around one in seven Brent residents (14%) had a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day-activities – either a little (7%) or a lot (7%). The prevalence of disability and poor health rises sharply with age: 83% of residents aged 85 and over had a long term health problem or disability compared with 3% of children. Of all those aged 65 and over, more than half (54%) had a long-term health problem or disability.
- More recent survey data, which focuses on the working age population, indicates that around 15% of Brent residents aged 16-64 are disabled according to the Equality Act 2010 and/or Work-limiting definition. The prevalence of disability in Brent and London is lower than nationally (20%), reflecting the fact that the population in London has a younger age profile.

**More information:** The Brent [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#) provides more detailed information about health and disability issues in Brent.

## Long term disability or health problem by age, Brent, 2011



## Percentage of working age residents who are disabled, Brent, 2017-19



Notes: The Equality Act 2010 definition captures those who have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial, and long-term, negative effect on their ability to do normal daily activities. The work-limiting definition relates to those whose disability affects the kind/amount of work they can do.

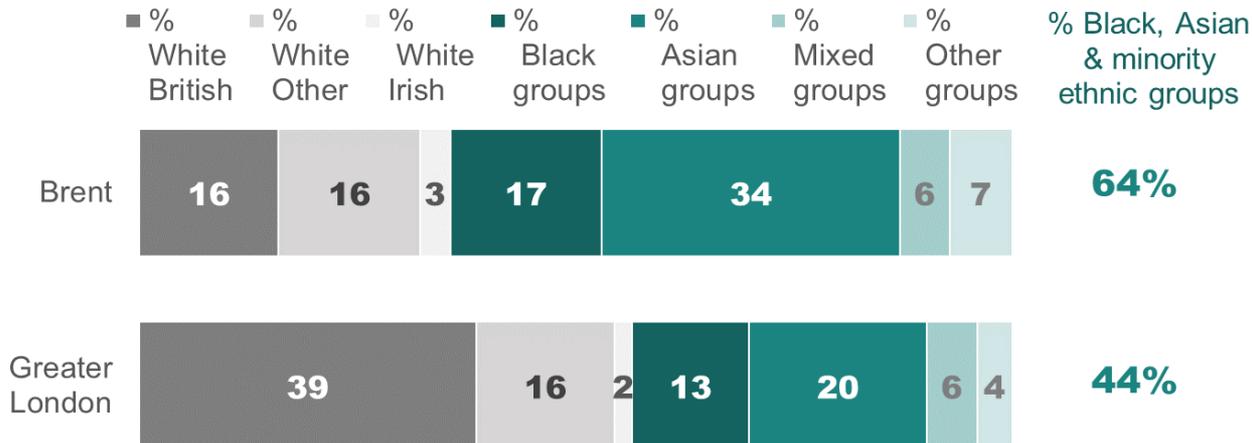
# Diversity in Brent - overview

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- Brent is one of the most diverse boroughs in London: estimates for 2020 suggest that almost two thirds of the population (64%) are from Black, Asian and Minority ethnic groups, the third highest in London (after Newham and Redbridge). One third of residents are from Asian ethnic groups compared with 20% across London. Around 16% of residents are White British, the second lowest in London. Brent also has a significant White minority population: 16% from the 'White Other' group and 3% White Irish.
- The last Census found that over half (55%) of the Brent population were born outside the UK – the highest percentage in England and Wales. The Census identified Brent residents born in 215 different countries. More recent survey estimates for 2019 suggest the percentage born outside the UK remains high in Brent (at around 52%).

## Population by ethnicity, Brent and London, 2020

GLA projections



## Country of birth in Brent (2011)

**55%**

born outside the UK – highest percentage in England & Wales (2011 Census)

**215**

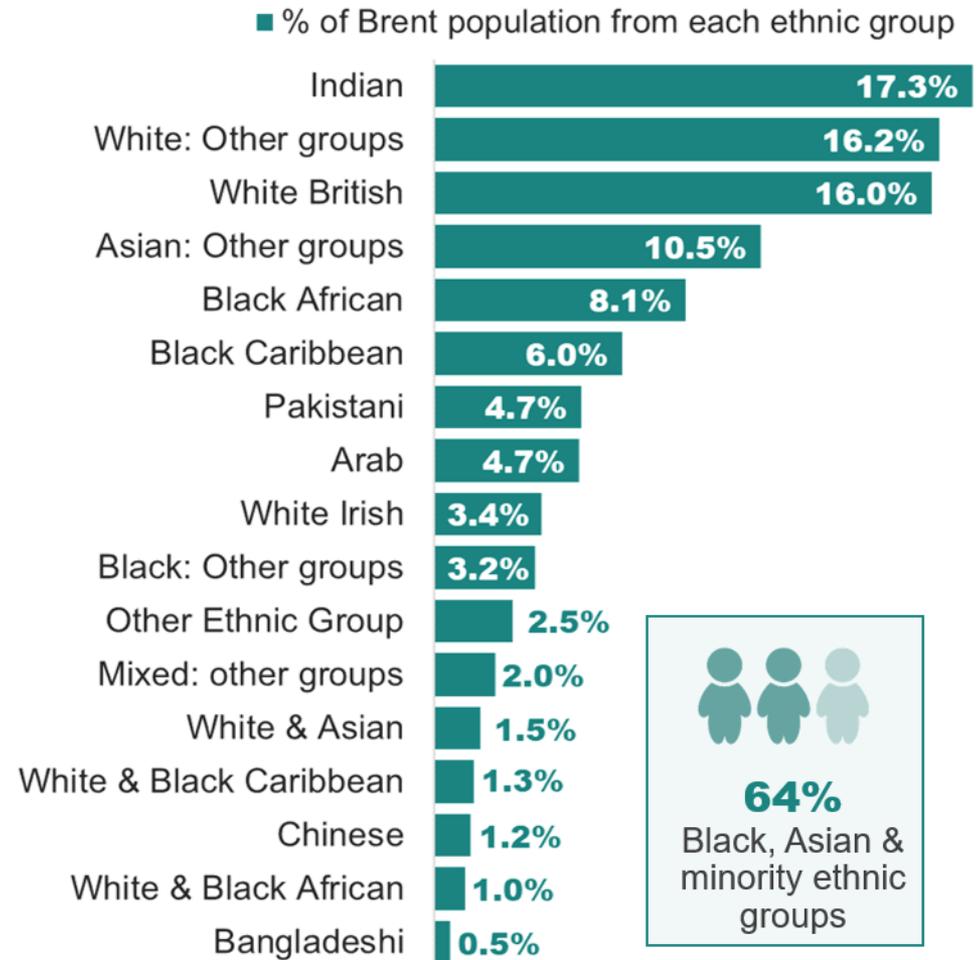
Number of different countries of birth identified in Brent at the last Census



# Population by ethnic group

- One in six residents have an Indian ethnic background – more than double the London average (17% vs. 7%) – and the fourth highest in London.
- Other groups particularly well represented in Brent (compared with other areas in London) include the White Irish, Arab and the ‘Asian Other’ group – this includes Sri Lankan, Afghan, Filipino, Nepalese and Tamil residents\*.
- Around 17% of Brent residents were from Black ethnic groups, higher than the London average (13%).
- It is estimated that around 16% of the Brent population are from ‘White Other’ groups. In the 2011 Census, around three quarters of this ethnic group identified as Eastern or Western European.

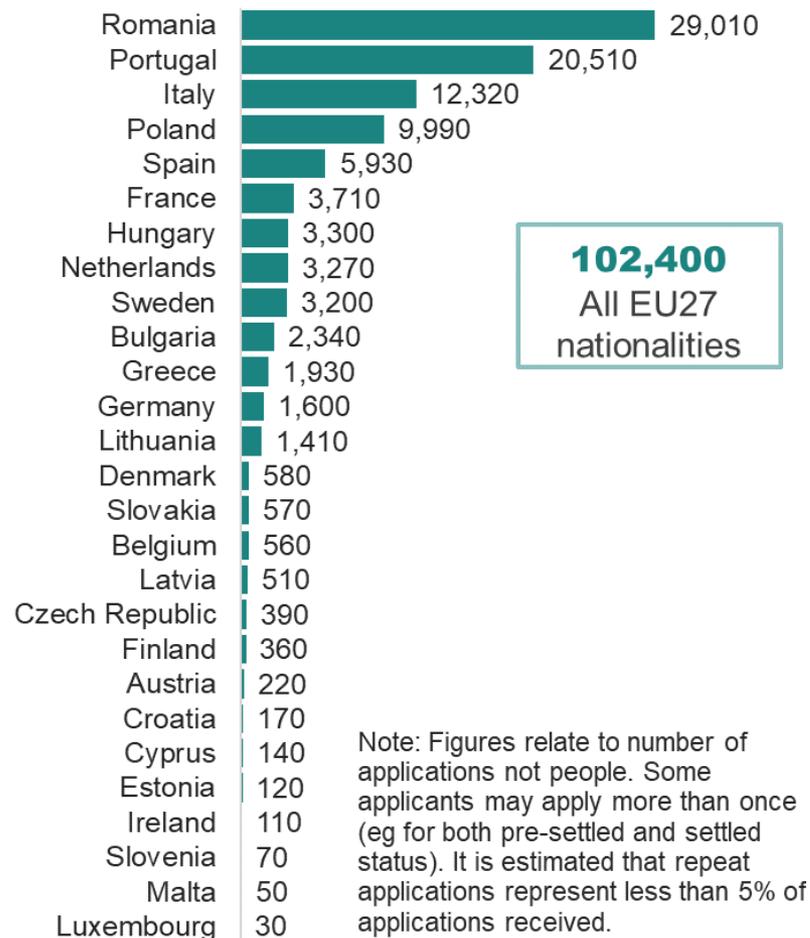
## Population by ethnic group, Brent, 2020



- Brent has one of the largest European populations in the country and various indicators suggest the population has grown considerably since the last Census, reflecting significant in-migration flows from parts of the EU, especially from Romania, Portugal and Italy.
- ONS survey estimates for 2019 suggest that around one in five Brent residents have EU nationality (20%) – the highest rate in London (around 66,000 residents). However, administrative data suggest the figure is likely to be much higher: by March 2021, Brent residents with EU nationality had made **102,400 applications to the EU settlement scheme**, the second highest in the UK (after Newham).
- The largest number of applications were from Romanian and Portuguese nationals – who make up almost half of all (EU national) applications. Brent had the 3rd highest number of applications from Romanian nationals in the UK (after Newham and Harrow), and was ranked 2nd highest nationally on the number of Portuguese applicants (after Leicester).

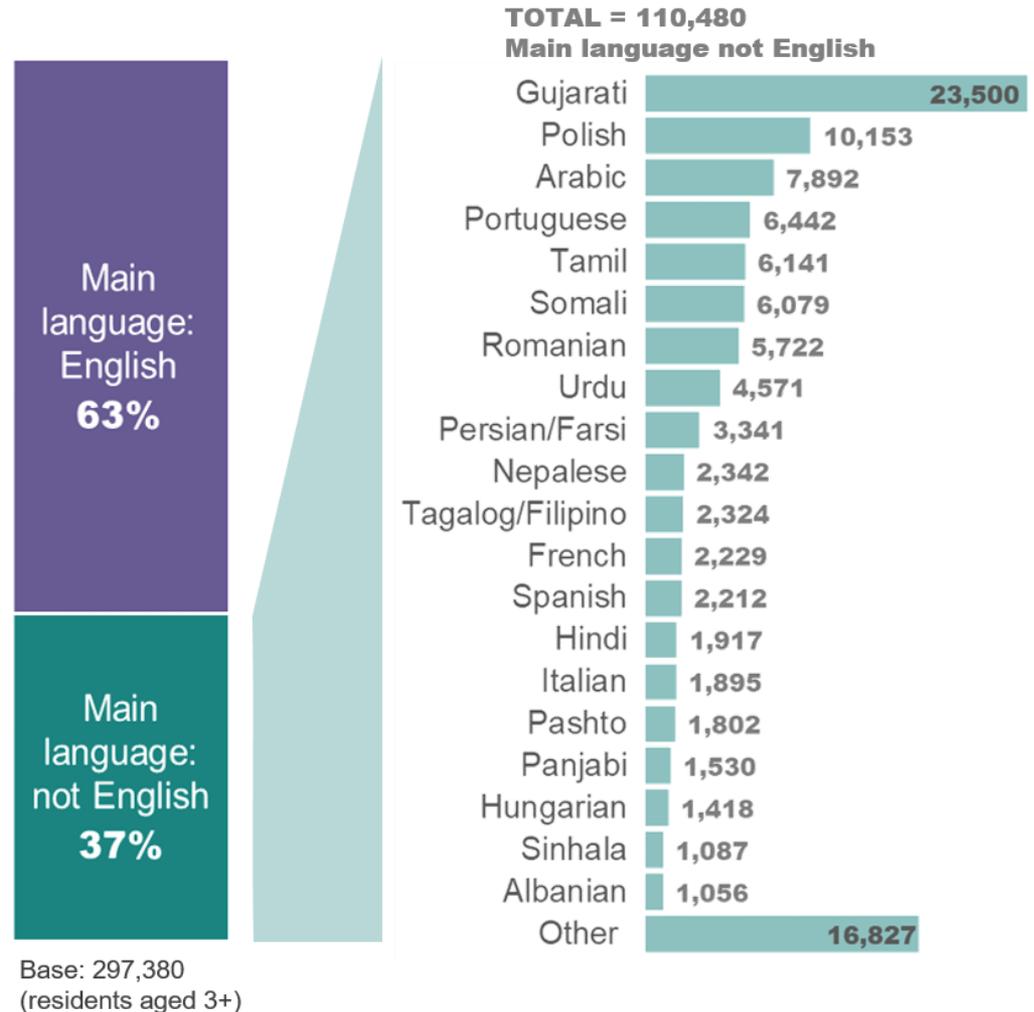
## Applications to the EUSS, Brent residents

EU27 nationals, August 2018 to March 2021



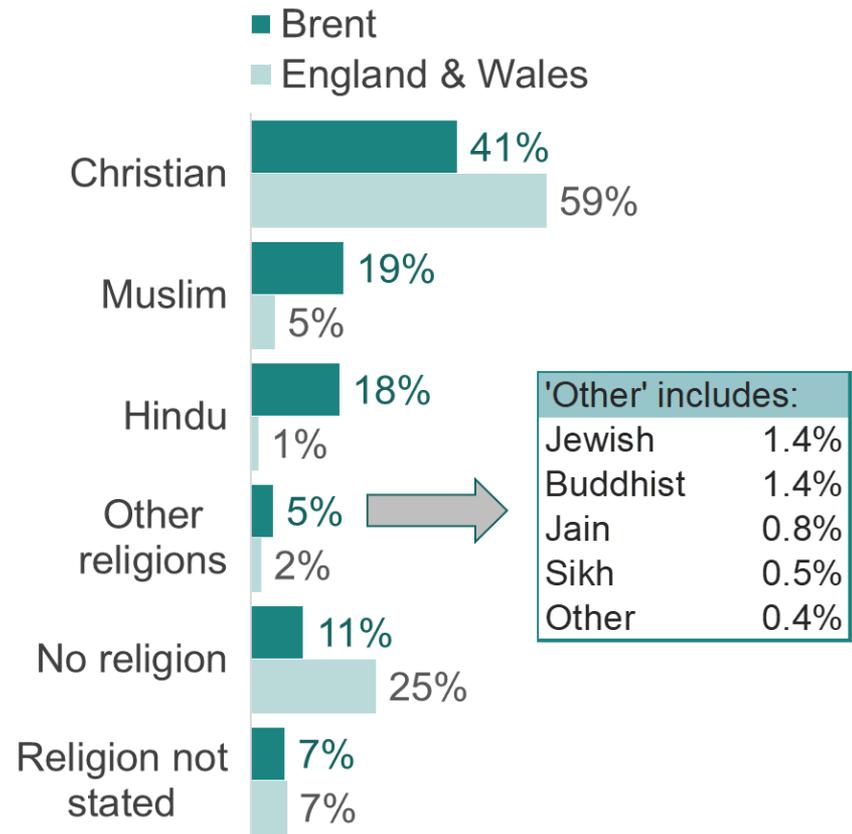
- Brent is one of the most linguistically diverse areas in the country – with around 150 different languages used\*.
- In 2011, 37% of the Brent population used a main language other than English - second highest in England after Newham (41%).
- The largest groups were Gujarati and Polish speakers, who made up 7.9% and 3.4% of the Brent population in 2011. Considered together, residents from the ten largest groups made up over two thirds of all those with a main language other than English.
- **Sign language:** in total, 162 Brent residents used some form of sign language (108 used British Sign Language).

## Residents by main language, Brent, 2011



- The borough's three largest religious groups are Christian (41%), Muslim (19%) and Hindu (18%). Other smaller, but significant, groups included: Jewish and Buddhist residents (both 1.4%), Jain residents (0.8%) and Sikh residents (0.5%).
- Compared with other areas, Brent residents are more likely to have a religion: 82% had a religion compared with 71% across London and 68% nationally – the fourth highest rate in England and Wales. Just 11% had no religion and the remaining 7% chose not to state their religion.
- Brent has the second largest Hindu population in England and Wales, after Harrow and the 10<sup>th</sup> largest Muslim population nationally (as a percentage of the population).
- While a relatively small proportion of residents are Buddhist – just 1.4% - this is the 6<sup>th</sup> highest percentage nationally. Similarly, Brent has the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest percentage of Jain residents in England (0.8%).

**Population by religion, Brent and England & Wales, 2011**

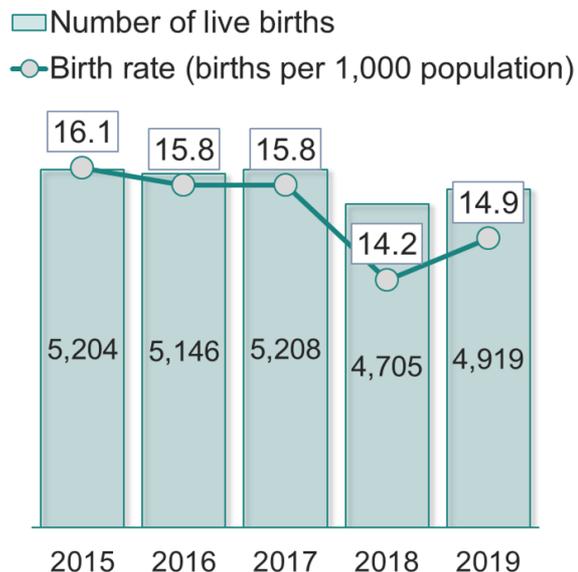


Source: 2011 Census (Table QS210EW)

# Pregnancy: Birth statistics

- Compared with other areas, Brent has relatively high birth and fertility rates, though numbers are lower now than five years ago. In 2019, there were 4,919 live births in Brent, which equates to a birth rate of 14.9 births per 1,000 compared with 13.2 across London and 10.8 in England. This was the 4<sup>th</sup> highest birth rate in London and 6<sup>th</sup> highest in England.
- On the general fertility rate, which takes into account the age and gender profile of the population, Brent is 7<sup>th</sup> highest in England, and 4<sup>th</sup> highest in London. Brent also has a high total fertility rate (TRF) compared with England (2.06 vs. 1.66) – this TFR is the average amount of children likely to be born to a woman in her lifetime if she were subject to the prevailing rate of fertility in the population.

## Births in Brent, 2015-19



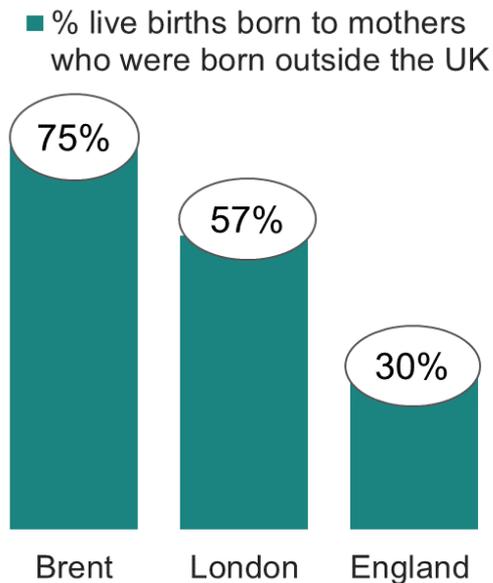
## Birth and fertility rates, Brent, London and England, 2019



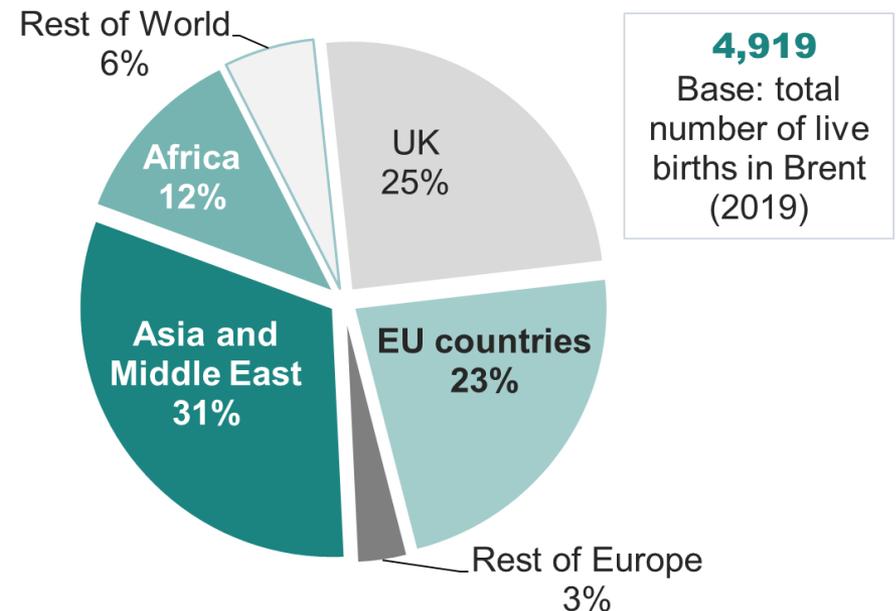
# Births by country of birth of mother

- Three quarters of all births in Brent were to women born outside the UK (75%) – this is the highest rate in England, well above both the London and national average (57% and 30%).
- Almost one third of all births in Brent were to mothers who were born in countries in Asia and the Middle East (31%), while 23% were to mothers born in European Union countries. Around one in eight births were to African-born mothers (12%)

## Percentage of births born to mothers born outside the UK, 2019



## Births by country of birth of mother, Brent, 2019

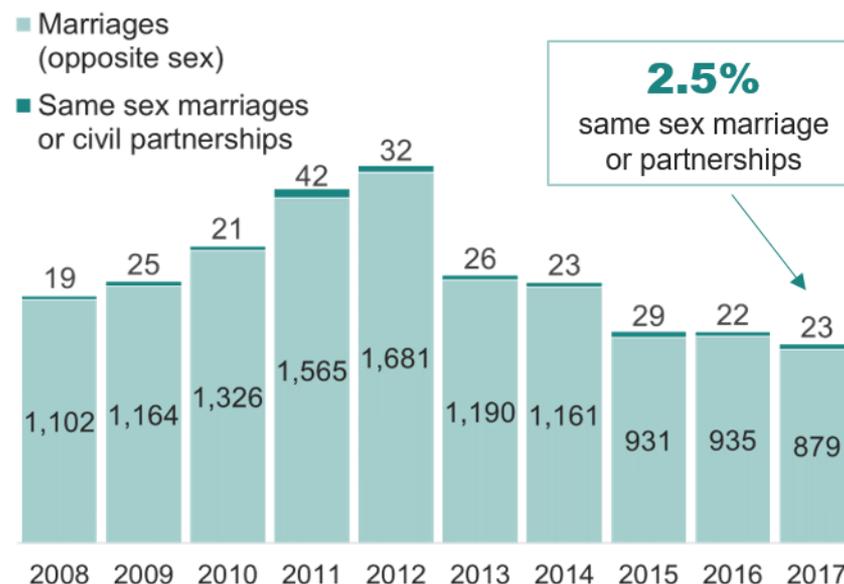


# Marriage and civil partnership

- The Civil Partnership Act 2004 enabled same-sex couples to gain legal recognition of their relationship. Marriage was extended to same sex couples in 2013 and civil partnerships were extended to opposite sex couples in 2019.
- The Census provides a snapshot of the marital status of Brent residents in 2011: at this time, 43% were married and 0.3% were in a civil partnership (648 residents).
- In line with national trends, the number of people (of opposite sex) getting married in Brent has been declining: since 2012 numbers have almost halved from a high of 1,681 to 879 in 2017.
- Of the 902 partnerships that were formed in Brent in 2017, 2.5% were same sex marriages or civil partnerships (23 in number: 17 marriages and 6 civil partnerships). Numbers have ranged between 22 and 29 over the last five years, down from a peak of 42 in 2011.

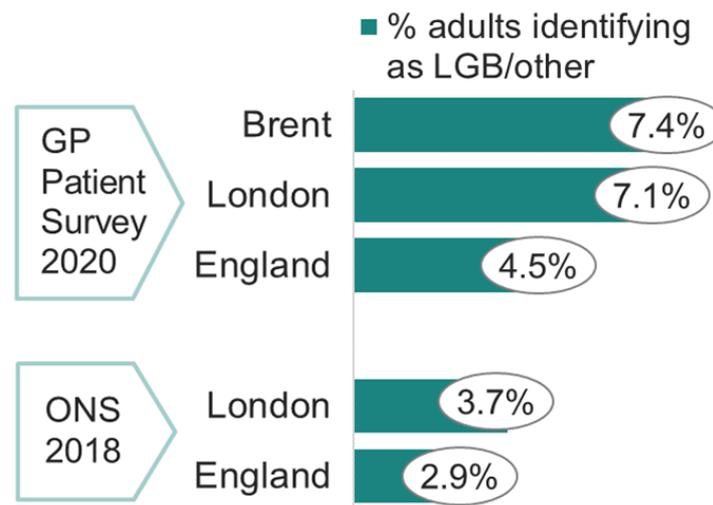


### Number of marriage/civil partnerships formed in Brent, 2008-17

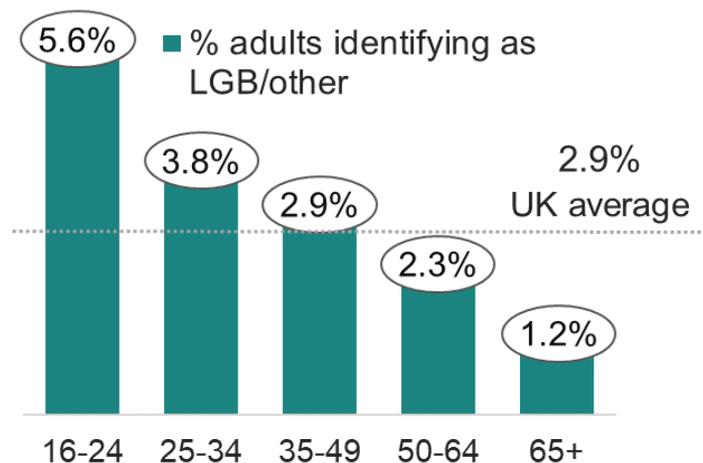


- Currently, there is no single, widely accepted, measure of the size of the Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual (LGB) population in Britain - available estimates vary considerably. The 2020 GP Patient Survey found that 7.4% of Brent adults surveyed identified as LGB or 'Other'. The percentage in Brent was close to the London average (7.1%) but well above the England estimate (4.5%).
- The GP Survey is one of the few sources that provides Borough level data and tends to provide slightly higher estimates compared with other sources. ONS figures provide lower estimates for London and England (3.7% and 2.9%). The ONS survey found that young adults were more than four times as likely to identify as LGB than those aged 65+ (5.6% vs. 1.2% - UK).
- It is recognised that issues of non-response, and unwillingness to disclose sexual orientation on surveys, can have an impact on estimates. To improve data in this area, a new question on sexual orientation has been included on the 2021 Census - results expected in Spring 2022.

## LGB estimates compared



## % LGB by age (ONS estimates, 2018)



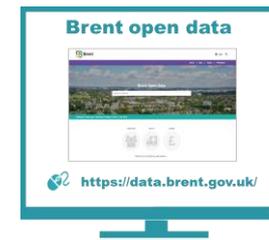
- Gender reassignment refers to people who undergo a process for the purpose of reassigning their sex by changing physiological or other attributes of sex, while gender identity is about the way in which an individual identifies with a gender category. The term 'transgender' is used to refer to people whose gender identity is different from the gender assigned to them at birth. Robust statistics in this area are extremely limited.
- The Government Equalities Office tentatively estimates that transgender people comprise around 0.3-0.8% of the population. In Brent, this would equate to around 1,000 to 2,500 people. The Gender Identity Research and Education Society estimates that around 1% of the UK population are gender nonconforming to some degree.
- Trans people can change their legal gender by meeting conditions as set out in the Gender Recognition Act. Over the period 2005-2020, 5,871 people have been issued with a Gender Recognition Certificate in the UK – 0.009% of the population.
- There are no borough level statistics on gender identity or gender re-assignment. To improve data in this area, a new question on gender identity was included on the 2021 Census - results are expected in Spring 2022.

## Gender re-assignment and gender identity – national estimates

% UK population		Characteristic	Source
	<b>1%</b>	May experience some form of gender variance	GIRES
	<b>0.3-0.8%</b>	Estimate of the percentage of transgender people in the UK	Government Equality Office
	<b>0.20%</b>	Likely to seek medical treatment for their condition at some stage	GIRES
	<b>0.03%</b>	Received such treatment already	GIRES
	<b>0.02%</b>	Having already undergone transition	GIRES
	<b>0.009%</b>	Has obtained a gender recognition certificate	Ministry of Justice

## Brent Open Data

For facts and figures about the council and Brent, explore the council's open data portal: [Brent open data](https://data.brent.gov.uk).



## Community profile

This [report](#) collates intelligence about Brent's different communities and explores data by ethnicity, nationality, country of birth and language. The report was designed to inform 2021 Census planning and engagement work.

## 2019-20 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

The [JSNA](#) provides an assessment of health and social care needs in Brent.

## Deprivation in Brent

The [briefing](#) provides analysis of the latest deprivation indices (2019) for Brent and includes maps different dimensions of deprivation (eg income, employment and health deprivation).

## Ward diversity profiles

[Profiles](#) that bring together information from the 2011 Census and other data sources about the demographic, social and economic characteristics of the local population across the borough, including: age, sex, disability, health, ethnicity, religion and income status.

For more information, email us on: [open.data@brent.gov.uk](mailto:open.data@brent.gov.uk)