

# Census 2021: Ethnicity in Brent

## Topic briefing

6 January 2023



BUILDING A  
BETTER BRENT

A decorative horizontal line consisting of four colored segments: green, blue, purple, and orange.

# Summary

## census 2021

### Ethnicity in Brent

**65%** 

of residents from Black, Asian & minority ethnic groups  
▲ 2nd highest rate in England & Wales

**1 in 5**

of residents from White minority ethnic groups



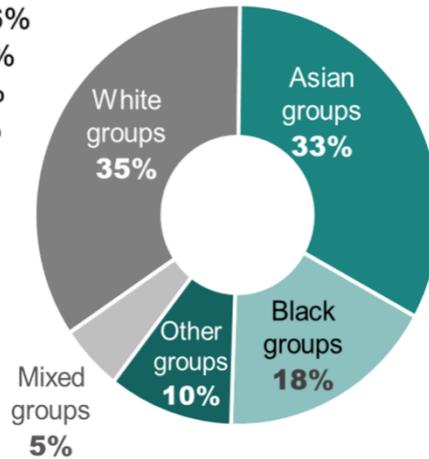
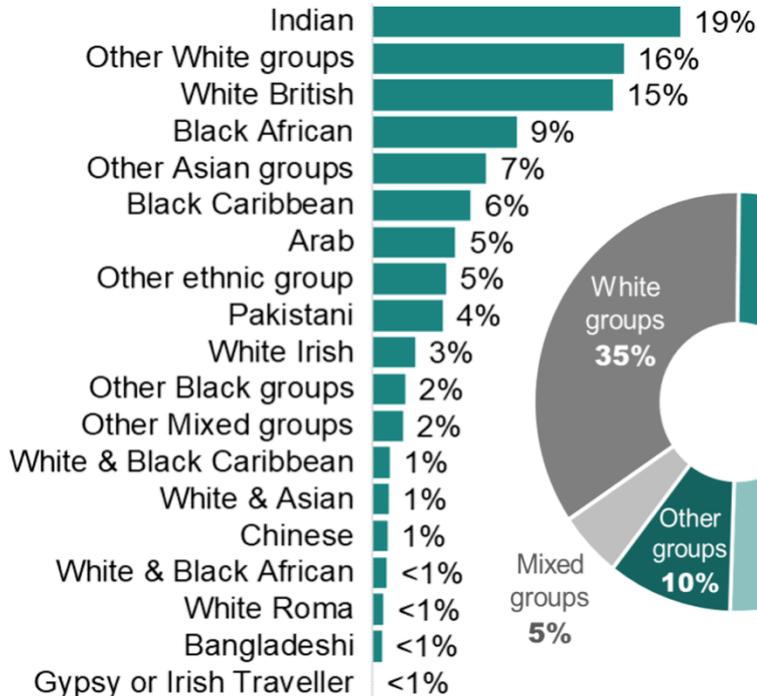
**15%**

of residents are White British - ▼ 2nd lowest rate in England & Wales

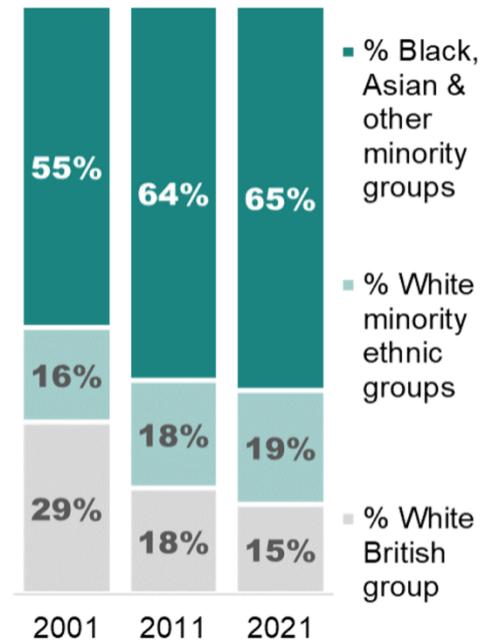
**23%** 

of households are multi-ethnic, containing residents from different ethnic groups

### Ethnic groups ranked



### Changing ethnic profile, Brent, 2001 to 2021



▲ **145%**

Big rise in those identifying as 'Any other ethnic group' between 2011-21 (+9,425)



Groups which declined in size during 2011-21 include: White British; Other Asian; Other Black; White Irish; Black Caribbean.

# Headlines (1)

This briefing summarises 2021 census data about residents by ethnicity. The analysis explores what the new statistics tell us about diversity in Brent and how things have changed since 2011. Key findings:

- **Overview:** Brent has one of the most ethnically diverse populations in the country. The majority of residents are from ethnic minority groups: 19% are from White minority groups and 65% are from Black, Asian and other minority ethnic groups (the 2nd highest rate in England & Wales, after Newham at 69%). Brent and Newham have the smallest White British populations nationally (15%).
- **Asian groups:** One third (33%) of Brent residents identified with one of the five Asian/Asian British ethnic groups, well above the rate across London and England & Wales (21% and 9%). The Indian ethnic group remains the borough's largest comprising around one in five residents (19%), the 5th highest rate nationally. Around 4% of residents identified as Pakistani, just above the national average (3%). Brent has a relatively small Bangladeshi population (0.6%) compared with London and England & Wales (3.7% and 1.1%).
- **The 'Other Asian' population:** Around 7% of Brent residents identified as having an 'Other Asian background' – the 7th highest rate in England & Wales. Respondents were invited to provide write-in details about their specific ethnic background and the largest five groups identified were: Sri Lankan, Afghan, Filipino, Tamil and Nepali (which includes Gurkha) – together these groups comprised over three quarters of the 'Other Asian' population.
- **The 'Other White' population:** Around 16% of residents belonged to the 'Other White' group, close to the London average (15%), but well above the rate nationally (6%). This group is very diverse and includes Eastern and Western European (e.g. Romanian) residents alongside a range of other groups (e.g. Brazilian, Australian).
- **Irish:** Brent has the 2nd highest percentage (2.7%) of White Irish residents nationally, after Islington (3.3%). Just 237 residents identified their ethnicity as 'Gypsy or Irish Traveller' (< 0.1% of the population).
- **Roma:** The 2021 census was the first to include 'Roma' as a separate White ethnic group. A total of 2,520 Brent residents identified as Roma – 0.7% of the population and the 3rd highest rate nationally. However, in terms of population number, Brent's Roma population was the largest in England & Wales.

# Headlines (2)

- **Black/Black British population:** Considered together, around 18% of Brent residents identified within one of the three Black/Black British categories, well above both the London and national averages (14% and 4%). Brent has the 10th highest percentage of Black/Black British residents in England & Wales.
- **Black African:** Around 9% of Brent residents identified as having a Black African background – the 13th highest rate nationally. Over two thirds of Black African respondents provided further details about their ethnicity: Somali residents were, by far, the largest population, followed by the Nigerian and Ghanaian populations.
- **The Somali population:** A total of 12,610 Brent residents specifically stated their ethnicity as ‘Somali’ or ‘Somalilander’ in one of the write-in categories. This equates to 3.7% of the Brent population – the highest percentage in England & Wales. However, this is likely to be an underestimate of the true size of the population because not all respondents provided further details about their ethnicity using the write-in option.
- **Caribbean and the ‘Other Black’ group:** Around 6% of residents identified as Black Caribbean, the 6th highest rate nationally. A further 2% of residents identified as having an ‘Other Black’ background – around two thirds of this group specified their ethnicity as ‘Black British’.
- **Mixed ethnic groups:** Around 5% of residents were from one of the four ‘mixed or multiple’ ethnic groups, just below the London average (6%), but above the national average (3%). This group comprised those identifying as: White & Black Caribbean; Black African & White; and White & Asian (each comprising around 1% of the population). The remaining 2% belonged to ‘Other mixed backgrounds’ (e.g. Black & Asian; White & Arab, Mixed European).
- **Arab:** Around 1 in 20 Brent residents belong to the Arab ethnic group – 5% of the population. Brent has the 2nd highest percentage of Arab residents in England & Wales, after Westminster (8%).
- **Other ethnic groups:** Around 5% of residents chose to identify under the final ‘Any other ethnic group’ category. Write-in descriptions suggest this group was extremely diverse (e.g. Iranian, Hispanic/Latin American, Tamil, Afghan, and Kurdish).

# Headlines (3)

- **‘Write-in’ ethnicity information:** Across all ethnic groups, the ten most common ‘write-in’ ethnicities stated were: Somali (or Somalilander); Romanian, Sri Lankan, Polish, Afghan, Black British, Filipino, Italian, Nigerian and Tamil. Brent ranked in the top 5 areas nationally on the size of its: Somali, Romanian, Filipino, Afghan and Brazilian populations.
- **Multi-ethnic households:** Around 23% of Brent households are multi-ethnic households, that is households that contain residents from more than one ethnic group. The remainder of the borough’s households are those where all members belong to the same ethnic group (50%) or those that are single person households (27%). The proportion of multi-ethnic households in the borough was similar to that across London (22%), but higher than the percentage in England & Wales (10%).
- **Trends:** In line with national trends, the borough’s population is becoming more ethnically diverse over time, though in Brent, the pace of change has been slowing. The percentage of residents from Black, Asian and other minority ethnic groups increased from 55% to 64% between 2001 and 2011, then rose just one more point to 65% by 2021. The percentage of residents from White minority groups increased from 16% to 19% over the 2001-21 period. Conversely, the percentage of residents who were White British fell from 29% to 18% between 2001-2011, and then down to 15% by 2021.
- **Change 2011-21:** The Brent population grew by 9% between 2011-2021. Across ethnicities, the ‘Any other ethnic group’ population saw the fastest growth, more than doubling in size (+145%), and mirroring similar trends nationally. Other groups to see high rates of growth included: Arab (+57%); ‘Other mixed’ groups (+33%); Black African (27%); Bangladeshi (+25%); and the ‘Other White’ group (+22%). In contrast, some groups declined in size including: ‘Other Black’ groups’ (-32%), White Irish (-24%); Other Asian (-14%), White & Black Caribbean (-12%); Black Caribbean (-10%), and White British (-8%) groups.

# Introduction

## About this report

This briefing summarises 2021 Census data about ethnicity in Brent. The new census data provide updated intelligence about the size of Brent's different ethnic group populations and how things have changed since 2011.

## About the data

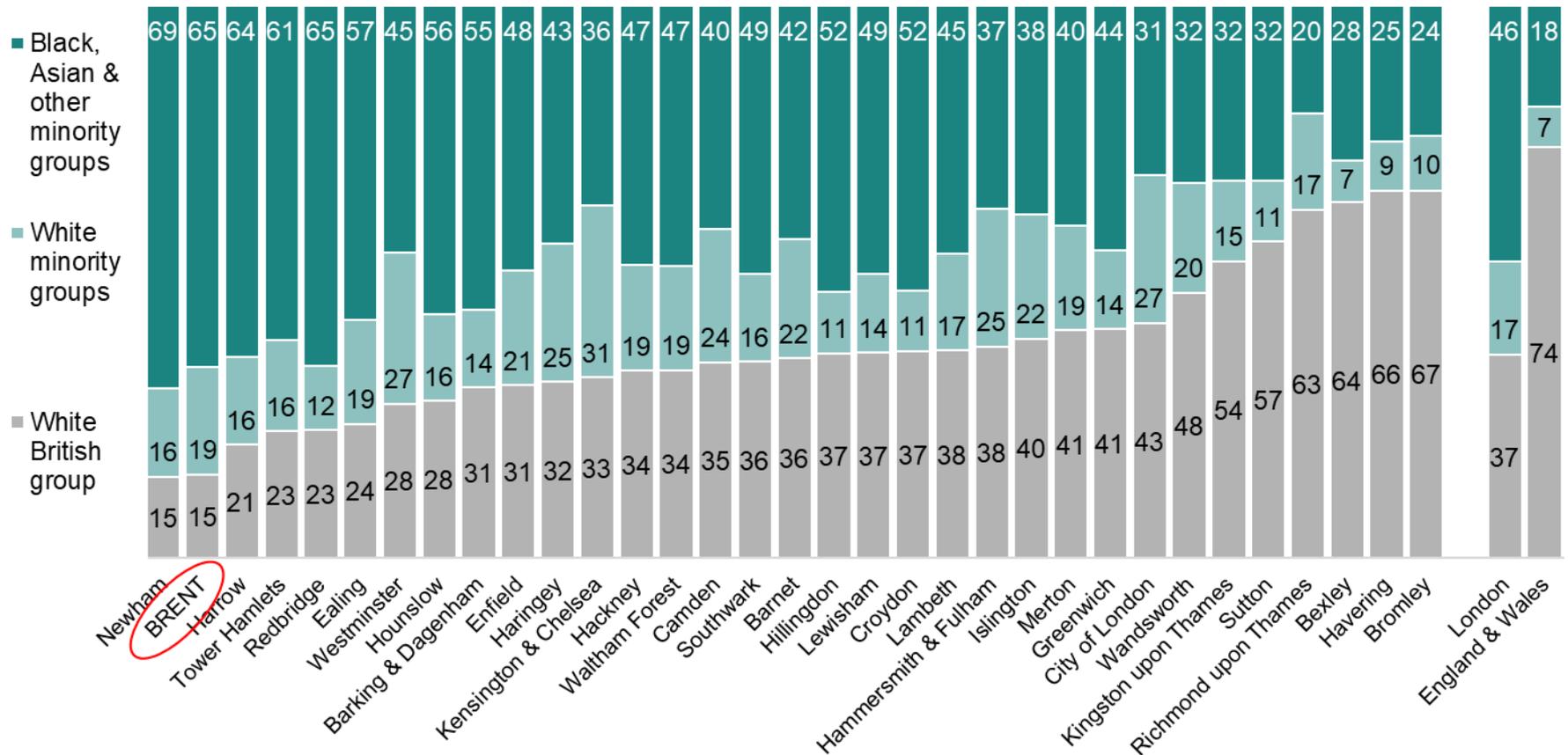
- **Ethnicity classification:** The census ethnicity classification comprises 19 groups, which are nested under 5 broader 'high level' headings, reflecting the two stage framing of the question. Some categories also allowed respondents to provide further written details about their specific ethnicity. The full classification is outlined in detail in [Appendix 1](#).
- **Terminology used in this report:**
  - **White British:** refers to those who identified as White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British.
  - **Ethnic minority groups:** refers to all ethnic groups excluding the White British group.
  - **Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups:** refers to all ethnic groups except the five White ethnic groups.
  - **White minority groups:** refers to four White groups – Other White, Irish, Roma, and Gypsy & Irish Traveller.
- **Rankings:** Brent rankings are out of 331 lower tier/unitary local authority areas in England & Wales and relate to rates (i.e. the percentage of the population that belong to a particular group), unless otherwise specified.
- **Rounding:** Most percentages in the narrative have been rounded to the nearest percentage point, unless otherwise specified (i.e. in cases where groups are relatively small in size and more precision is helpful).
- **Disclosure control:** The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has made adjustments to data to ensure no individual can be identified. This means that Brent totals presented here may differ slightly from totals published elsewhere.
- **Copyright:** The report is based on the topic datasets relating to ethnicity that were released by the ONS on 29 November 2022. Census statistics are licenced under the Open Government Licence v.3.0 © Crown Copyright.

**! Pandemic impacts:** The 2021 census took place in March 2021 when a range of pandemic lockdown restrictions were still in place. It is likely that some residents were temporarily away at this time (e.g. students, furloughed and migrant workers). While some will still have been captured on the census at their usual address, others will not have been. Census results need to be viewed in this context: as a snapshot of the population as at March 2021.

# Population by ethnicity, London Boroughs, 2021

Brent has one of the most ethnically diverse populations in the country. The majority of population (85%) are from ethnic minority groups (i.e. not White British): 19% are from White minority groups and 65% are from Black, Asian and other minority ethnic groups. Brent has the 2nd highest percentage of Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups in England & Wales, after Newham (69%). Brent and Newham also have the smallest White British populations nationally (15%).

## Population by ethnicity, London Boroughs & the City, 2021



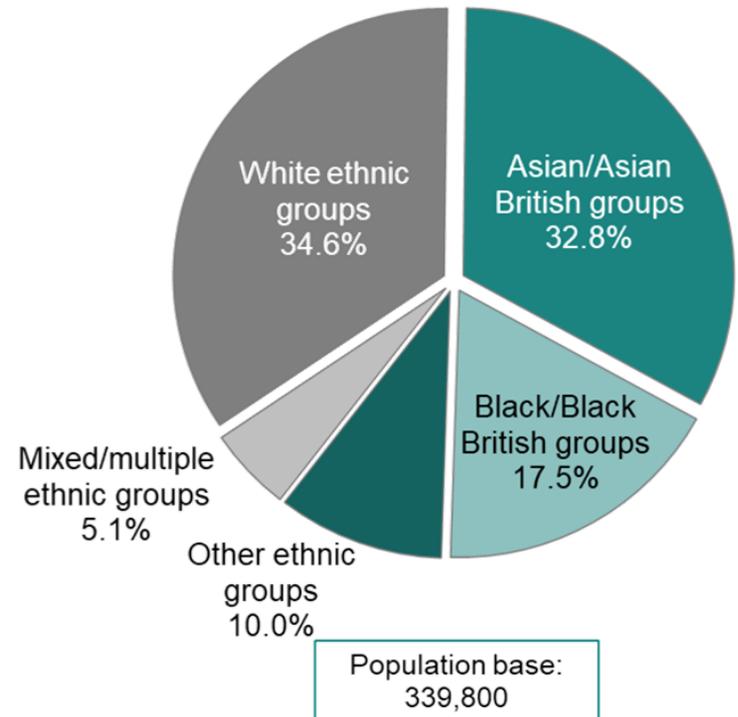
# Brent population by ethnic group: overview

- The census collected information on 19 ethnic groups. In Brent, the three largest groups were the Indian, 'Other White' and White British groups: together these groups make up around half (51%) of the Brent population.
- Considered together, 35% of residents were from White ethnic groups, 33% were from Asian/Asian British groups and 18% were from Black/Black British groups. Around 5% of residents were from one of the four mixed/multiple ethnic groups and the remaining 10% were from other groups (including the Arab population).

## Population by ethnic group, Brent, 2021

	% population from group	Population (number)
Indian	19.5%	66,157
Other White groups	15.9%	54,019
White British	15.2%	51,611
Black African	9.1%	31,070
Other Asian groups	7.2%	24,562
Black Caribbean	6.3%	21,258
Arab	5.3%	17,924
Other ethnic group	4.7%	15,937
Pakistani	4.5%	15,217
White Irish	2.7%	9,314
Other Black groups	2.1%	7,167
Other Mixed groups	2.0%	6,683
White & Black Caribbean	1.1%	3,775
White & Asian	1.1%	3,607
Chinese	1.0%	3,393
White & Black African	0.9%	3,184
White Roma	0.7%	2,520
Bangladeshi	0.6%	2,186
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0.1%	237

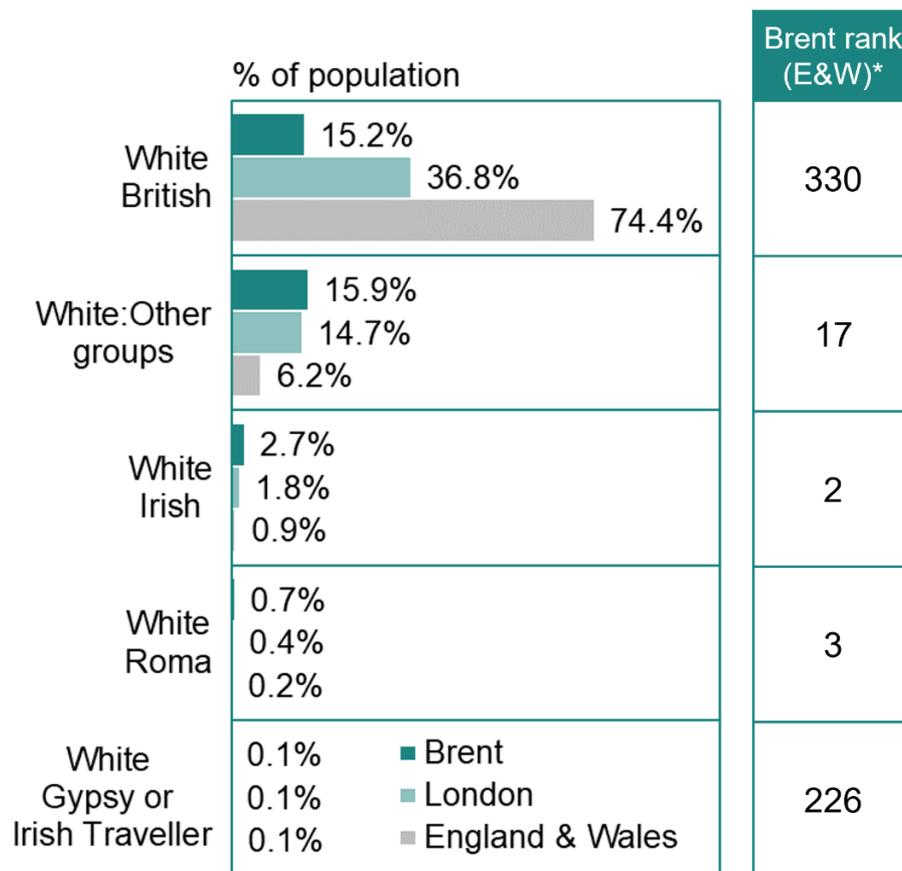
## Population by ethnicity: high level groupings, Brent, 2021



# White ethnic groups in Brent

- Over one third (35%) of Brent residents were from White ethnic groups, well below the London and national rates (54% and 82%).
- Around 15% identified as White British, the 2nd lowest percentage nationally, after Newham (Newham, 14.8%; Brent, 15.2%).
- Around 16% of residents belonged to the 'Other White' group, close to the London average (15%), but well above the rate nationally (6%). Kensington & Chelsea had the highest rate in England & Wales (28%).
- Brent has a relatively large Irish population: 2.7% identified as White Irish, the 2nd highest rate in England & Wales, after Islington (3.3%).
- The 2021 census was the first to include 'Roma' as a separate White ethnic group. A total of 2,520 Brent residents identified as Roma – 0.7% of the population, the 3rd highest rate nationally. However, in terms of population size, Brent's Roma population was the largest in England & Wales.
- Just 237 residents identified as 'Gypsy or Irish Traveller' (< 0.1% of the population).

Percentage of population from White ethnic groups  
Brent, London and England & Wales, 2021

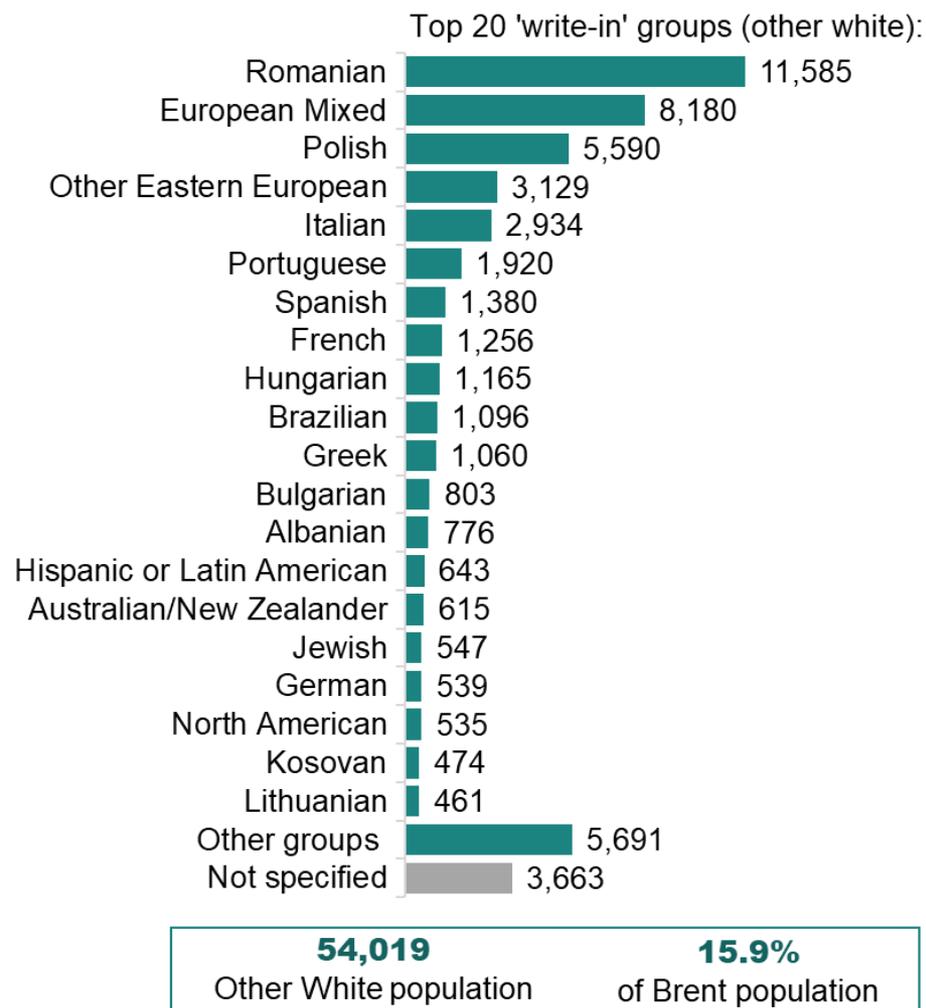


(\* ) Brent rate ranked out of 331 unitary and district areas in England & Wales (1=highest % rate, 331=lowest % rate)

# The ‘Other White’ population

- Those who identified their ethnic group as ‘Any Other White background’ were able to provide further ‘write-in’ details. The chart shows the largest 20 groups identified in Brent which account for most of the population.
- The largest were: Romanian, ‘European Mixed’, Polish, and ‘Other Eastern Europe’, followed by a number of Western European groups (e.g. Italian, Portuguese). As well as European residents, the population also included the following groups: Brazilian, Hispanic or Latin American, Australian, North American and Jewish – to name but a few. The figures illustrate the considerable diversity within this population.
- ! These figures are not complete counts of the respective populations: not all residents provide write-in details and some identify elsewhere. For example, while 11,585 Romanian residents are counted under the ‘Other White’ group, some will have identified under other groups (i.e. ‘Any other ethnic group’ or ‘Roma’). Indeed, census data about country of birth identified 17,722 Romanian-born Brent residents – 5% of the population, the 2nd highest rate nationally.
- Analysis that follows later provides combined counts of the largest ‘write-in’ ethnicities in Brent, aggregated across all ethnic group categories (See page [17](#)).

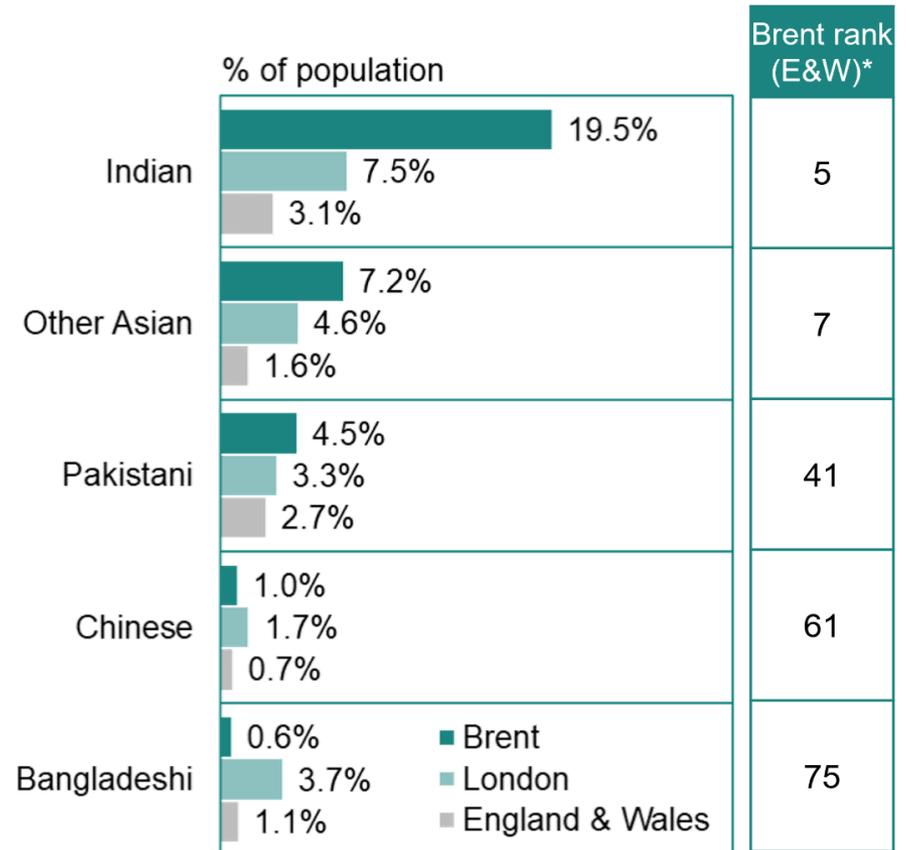
## Breakdown of the ‘Other White’ population Top 20, Brent, 2021



# Asian/Asian British ethnic groups in Brent

- One third (33%) of Brent residents identified with one of the five Asian/Asian British ethnic groups, well above the average across London and England & Wales (21% and 9%), and the 11th highest rate nationally.
- Around one in five residents identified as Indian (19% of the population, 66,157 in number). Brent has the 5th highest percentage of Indian residents across England & Wales. Leicester and Harrow had the highest rates nationally (34% and 29%).
- Around 4% of residents identified as Pakistani compared with 3% across London and England & Wales.
- Brent has a relatively small Bangladeshi population comprising 0.6% of the population, lower than London and national averages (3.7% and 1.1%).
- Brent has a large 'Other Asian' population. A total of 24,562 residents identified as having an 'Other Asian background' – around 7% of the population and the 7th highest rate across England & Wales.

**Percentage of population from Asian groups**  
Brent, London and England & Wales, 2021

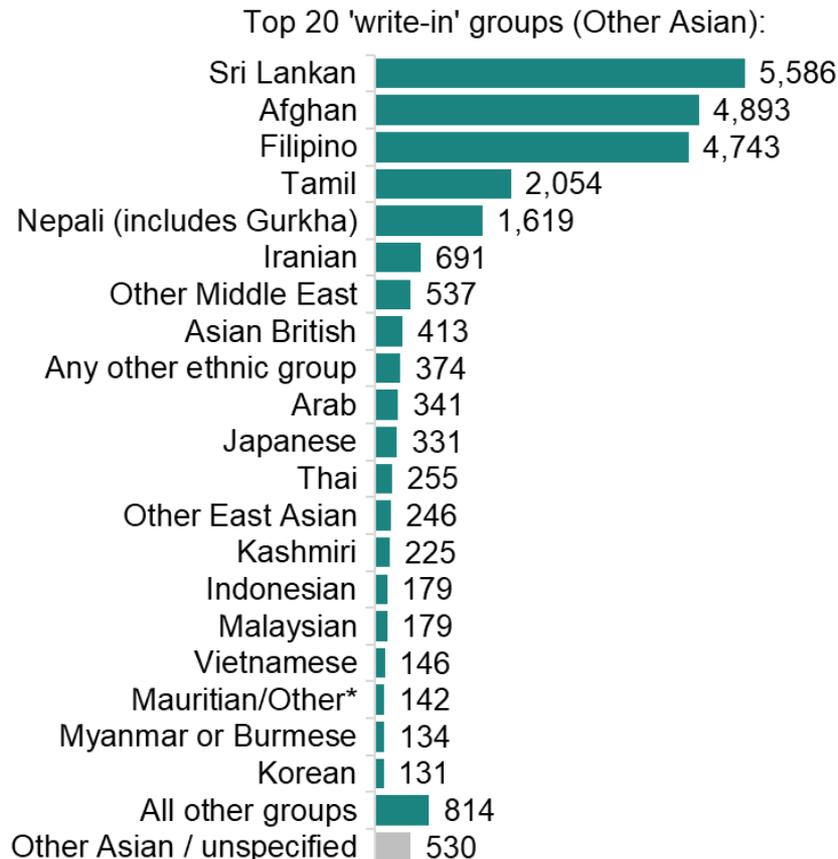


(\* ) Brent rate ranked out of 331 unitary and district areas in England & Wales (1=highest % rate, 331=lowest % rate)

# The 'Other Asian' group

- Those identifying as 'Other Asian Background' were able to provide additional written detail on the form to describe their ethnicity. The census table identifies 35 different 'Other Asian' ethnic groups. The chart shows the largest 20 groups in Brent, which account for most of this population.
- The largest five groups were: Sri Lankan, Afghan, Filipino, Tamil and Nepali (which includes Gurkha). Together these five groups comprise over three quarters of the population.
- However, not all respondents from these five ethnic groups identified under the 'Other Asian' category, some chose to identify under the 'Any other ethnic group' category. For this reason, the totals shown here are not complete counts of those populations.
- Analysis that follows later provides combined counts of the largest 'write-in' ethnicities in Brent, aggregated across all ethnic group categories (See page [17](#)).

## Breakdown of the 'Other Asian' population (top 20) Brent, 2021



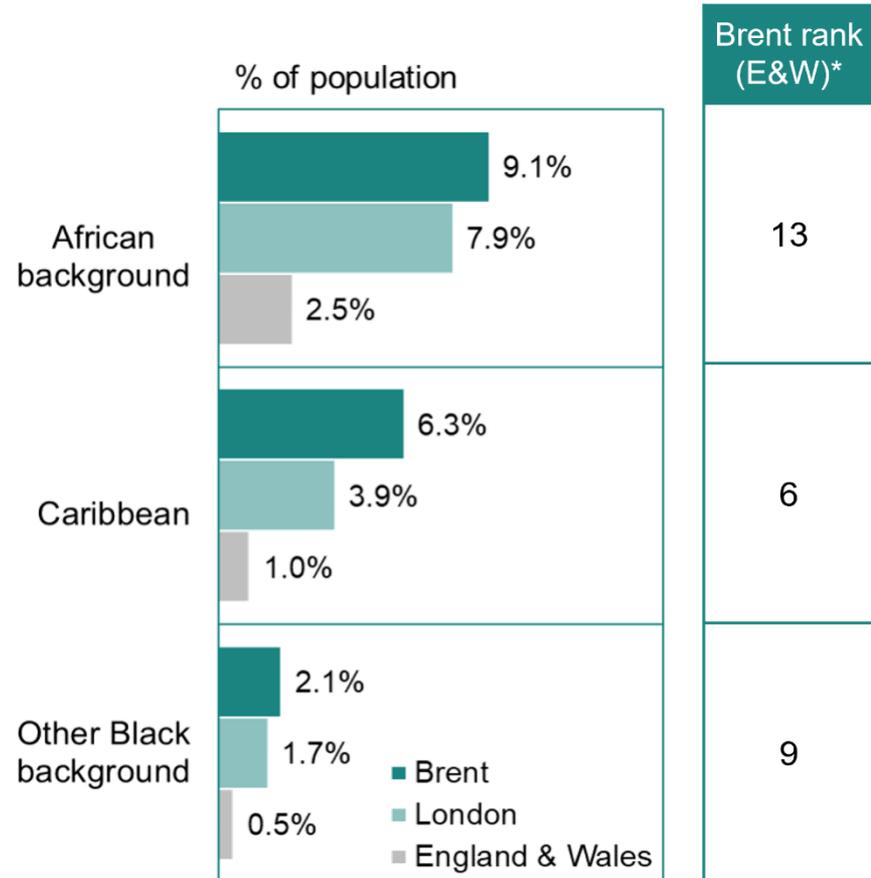
<b>24,562</b>	<b>7.2%</b>
Other Asian population	of Brent population

(\* ) Mauritian/Other includes: Mauritian, Seychellois, Maldivian, Sao Tomean and St Helenian

# Black/Black British ethnic groups in Brent

- Considered together, around 18% of Brent residents identified with one of the three Black/Black British categories, well above both the London and national averages (14% and 4%).
- Brent has the 10th highest percentage of Black residents in England & Wales. The South London boroughs of Lewisham, Southwark and Lambeth, rank highest nationally on the size of their Black populations (24%-27%).
- Around 9% of the population identified as having a Black African background, just above the London average (8%).
- Brent also has a large Black Caribbean population: around 6% identified as Caribbean – the 6th highest rate across England & Wales. Lewisham ranks highest nationally with 11%.
- The remaining 2% of residents identified as having an 'Other Black' background. Of this group, around two thirds identified as 'Black British' (i.e. Black British, British, English, Welsh, Scottish or Northern Irish).

Percentage of population from Black ethnic groups Brent, London and England & Wales, 2021



(\*) Brent rate ranked out of 331 unitary and district areas in England & Wales (1=highest % rate, 331=lowest % rate)

# The Black African population

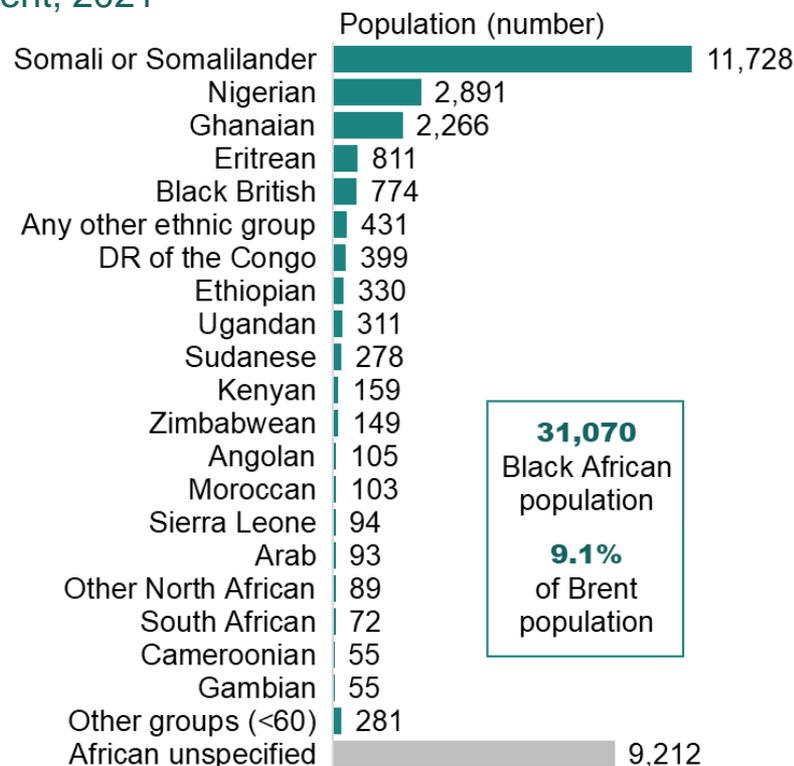
- The 2021 census was the first to include a 'write-in' option for those who identified as Black African, and over two thirds of respondents provided further details.
- Somali residents emerged, by far, as the largest group within Brent's Black African population. Other significant groups (numbering >1,000) included the Nigerian and Ghanaian populations.

## The Somali population

- A total of 11,728 residents stated their ethnicity as Somali, or Somalilander, within the Black African group. In addition, a further, 882 residents identified as Somali, or Somalilander, under two other 'write-in' categories (i.e. 'Other Black background' and 'Any other ethnic group'). Including these residents, provides a total of 12,610 identifying as Somali, or Somalilander, in the census – 3.7% of the Brent population – the highest percentage in England & Wales (followed by Ealing at 3.0%).

! As 'write-in' information was only provided by around 70% of Black African respondents, population counts for the various groups are likely to understate the true size of these populations.

## Breakdown of the Black African population (top 20) Brent, 2021

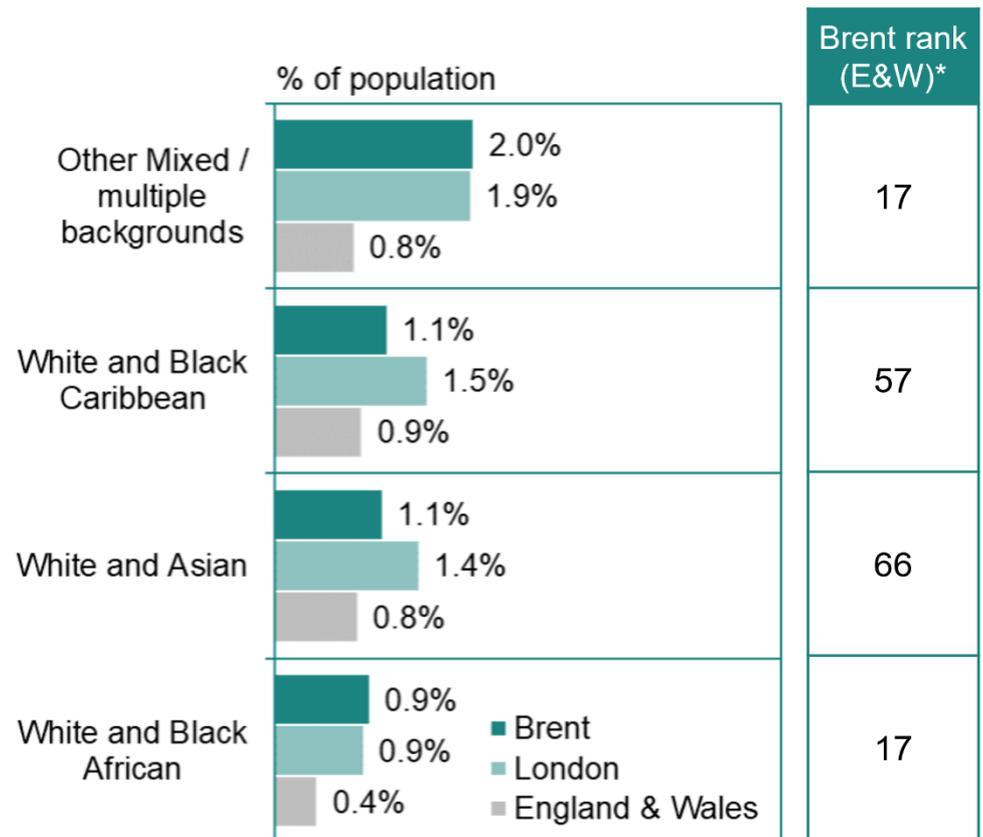


Residents identifying as Somali or Somalilander, Brent, 2021		
By ethnic category:	Number	% population
Black African background: Somali	10,396	3.1%
Black African background: Somalilander	1,332	0.4%
Other Black group: Somali	379	0.1%
Other ethnic group: Somali	443	0.1%
Other ethnic group: Somalilander	60	<0.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,610</b>	<b>3.7%</b>

# Mixed or multiple ethnic groups in Brent

- Considered together, 5% of Brent residents were from one of the four 'mixed or multiple' ethnic groups, just below the London average (6%), but well above the England & Wales average (3%).
- This group included those identifying as: White & Black Caribbean, Black African & White, and White & Asian (each comprising around 1% of the population).
- The remaining 2% belonged to 'Other mixed or multiple backgrounds'. This group was extremely diverse. Examples of some of the 'other' mixed backgrounds specified in the write-in part of the form included: Hispanic or Latin American; Black & Asian; White & Arab; Brazilian, Mixed European and Caribbean Asian.
- Further information: A full breakdown of all write-in ethnicity information provided has been published alongside this report in spreadsheet form.

## Percentage of population from Mixed ethnic groups Brent, London and England & Wales, 2021

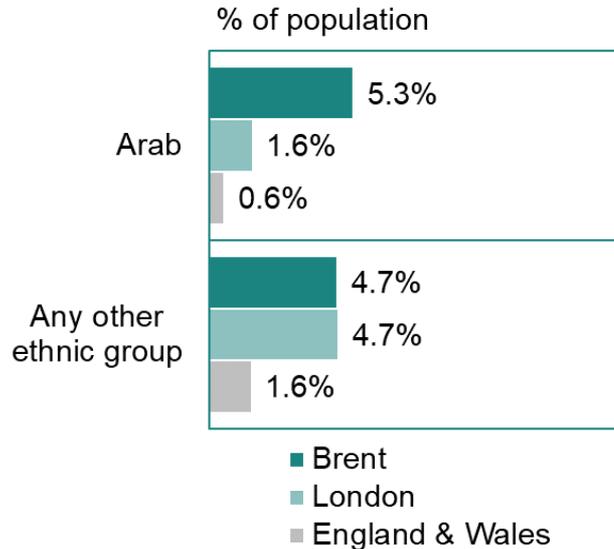


(\*) Brent rate ranked out of 331 unitary and district areas in England & Wales (1=highest % rate, 331=lowest % rate)

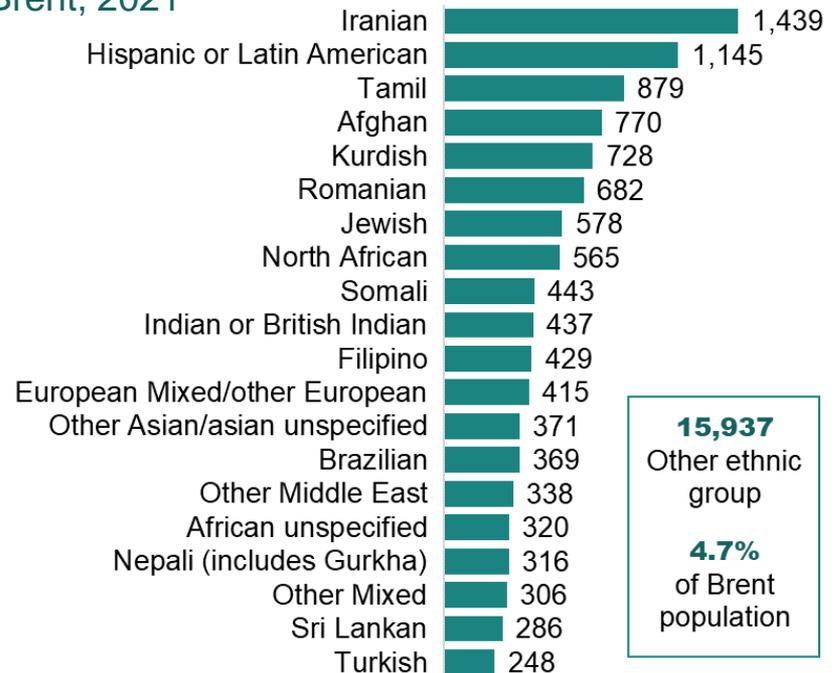
# Arab and other ethnic groups in Brent

- Around 1 in 20 Brent residents belong to the Arab ethnic group – 5% of the population. Brent has the 2nd highest percentage of Arab residents in England & Wales, after Westminster (8%).
- A further 5% of residents chose to identify under the ‘Any other ethnic group’ category and write-in descriptions suggest this population is extremely diverse. The chart below shows the largest 20 groups, which, together, account for around two thirds of the group. The largest five were: Iranian, Hispanic/Latin American, Tamil, Afghan, and Kurdish. Many of these ethnic groups were also well represented under other ‘write-in’ ethnic categories. For example, while some Iranian, Tamil and Afghan residents identified here, others identified within the ‘Other Asian’ group. Aggregated, and more complete, counts for these, and other significant groups in Brent, are shown next.

**Arab and other groups**  
Brent, London & England & Wales, 2021



**Other ethnic group – breakdown (top 20)**  
Brent, 2021



# 'Write-in' ethnic groups – combined

- This chart shows the largest 'write-in' ethnic groups identified in Brent (i.e. population totals combined across all write-in categories). The two largest ethnicities were: Somali (or Somalilander) and Romanian, followed by Sri Lankan, Polish, Afghan, Black British, Filipino. Italian, Nigerian and Tamil.
- A total of 2,328 residents identified as Iranian (0.7% of the population – the 9<sup>th</sup> highest rate nationally). Iranian residents identified under four different categories: 'Other Asian', 'Other Mixed', 'Other White' and 'Any other group'. This illustrates the complexity, and nuance, of the ethnicity classification, with regard to how people choose to self-identify.
- A total of 1,705 residents identified as Brazilian (0.5% of the population) – this was the highest rate in England & Wales, and the largest in terms of population size.
- Brent also ranks in the top 5 areas nationally on the size of its Somali, Romanian, Filipino, and Afghan populations.

! These counts only include those residents who chose to specify their ethnicity in a 'write-in' category so will not count everyone from these groups.

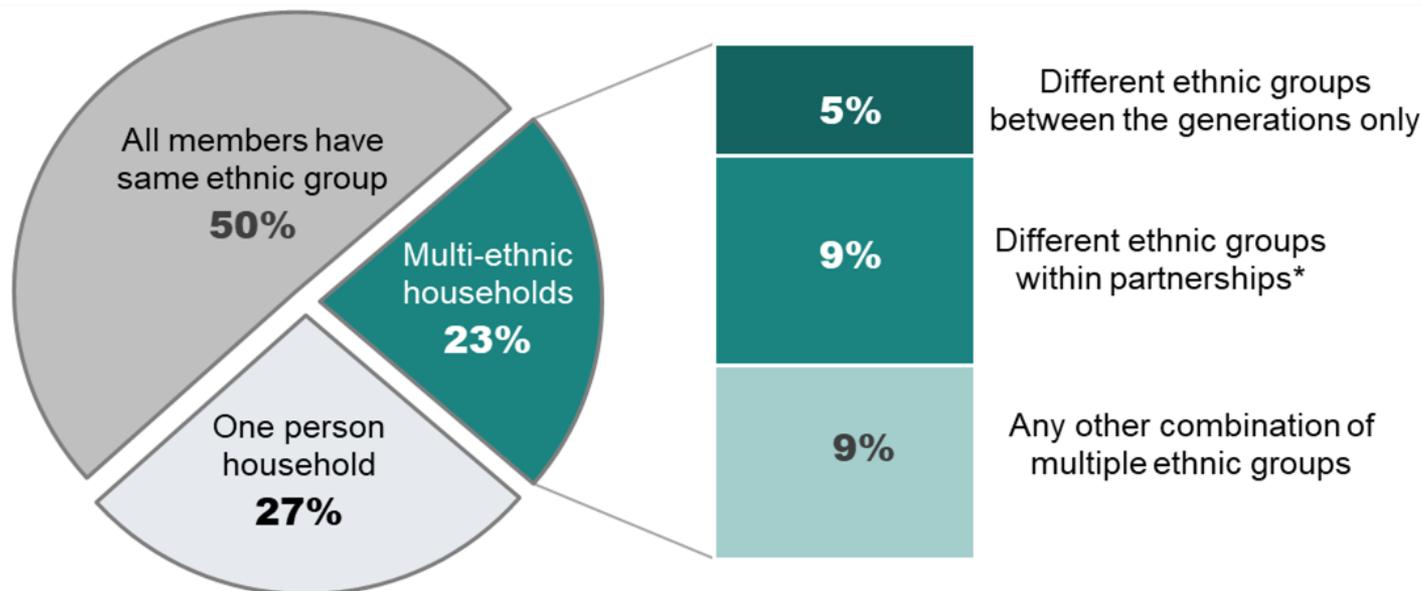
## Largest 'write-in' ethnic groups identified in Brent, 2021 (populations > 1,000, across all 'write-in' groups)

	population	%	Brent rank (E&W)*
Somali or Somalilander	12,610	3.7%	1
Romanian	12,267	3.6%	2
Sri Lankan	5,872	1.7%	8
Polish	5,711	1.7%	43
Afghan	5,663	1.7%	5
Black British	5,439	1.6%	10
Filipino	5,172	1.5%	3
Italian	3,074	0.9%	16
Nigerian	2,962	0.9%	33
Tamil	2,933	0.9%	8
Iranian	2,328	0.7%	9
Ghanaian	2,308	0.7%	16
Portuguese	2,188	0.6%	11
Hispanic or Latin American	2,161	0.6%	21
Nepali (includes Gurkha)	1,935	0.6%	24
Brazilian	1,705	0.5%	1
Spanish	1,452	0.4%	20
French	1,256	0.4%	19
Jewish	1,195	0.4%	17
Hungarian	1,165	0.3%	8
Greek	1,118	0.3%	20
Grouped:			
European Mixed	8,180	2.4%	25
Other Eastern European	3,296	1.0%	9
Other Mixed	2,497	0.7%	15
Other Middle East	1,149	0.3%	6

# Multiple ethnic groups within households

- Around 23% of Brent households are multi-ethnic households. These are households that contain residents from more than one ethnic group. The remainder of the borough's households are those where all members belong to the same ethnic group (50%) or those that are single person households (27%).
- Around 5% of households in Brent were multi-ethnic households with different ethnicities across the generations and 9% of households were households containing partners from different ethnic groups. The remaining 9% were other household types with a mix of people belonging to different ethnic groups (e.g flatmates).
- The proportion of multi-ethnic households in the borough was similar to that across London (22%), but higher than the percentage in England & Wales (10%).

## Multi-ethnic households in Brent % households 2021



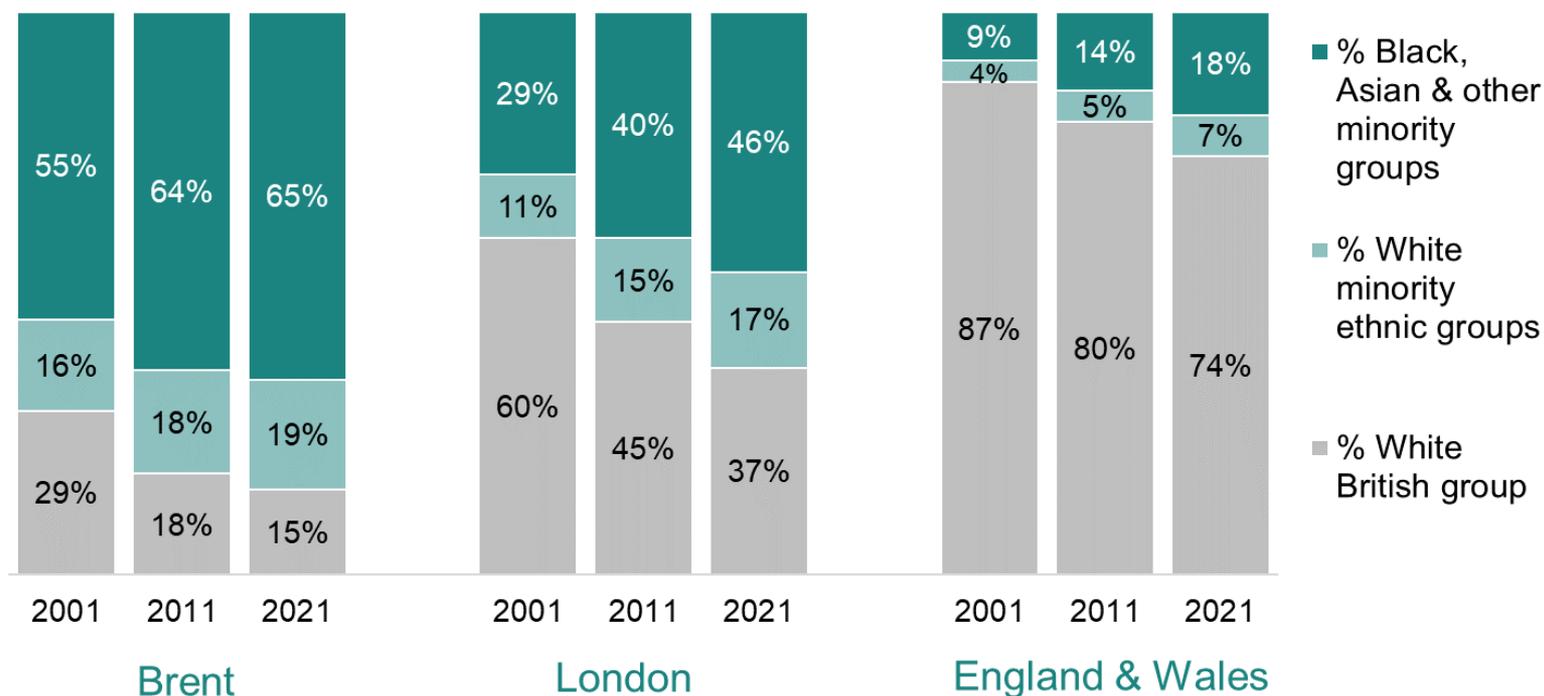
Base: 118,612 Brent households

\* whether or not different ethnic groups also evident between generations

# Ethnic diversity: change 2001-21

- Trend data for the last twenty years show the population is becoming more ethnically diverse over time. Since 2001, the percentage of residents from ethnic minority groups has increased while the percentage of White British residents has decreased. Similar trends are evident across London and nationally, though in Brent, the pace of change was much faster between 2001 and 2011, than over the last ten years (2011-21).
- The percentage of Brent residents who are White British fell from 29% to 18% between 2001-2011, and then down to 15% in 2021. Over the same period, the percentage of residents from Black, Asian and other minority ethnic groups increased from 55% to 64% between 2001-2011, rising one more point to 65% by 2021. The percentage of residents from White minority groups increased from 16% to 19% over the 2001-21 period.

## Population by ethnicity 2001-2021 Brent, London and England & Wales

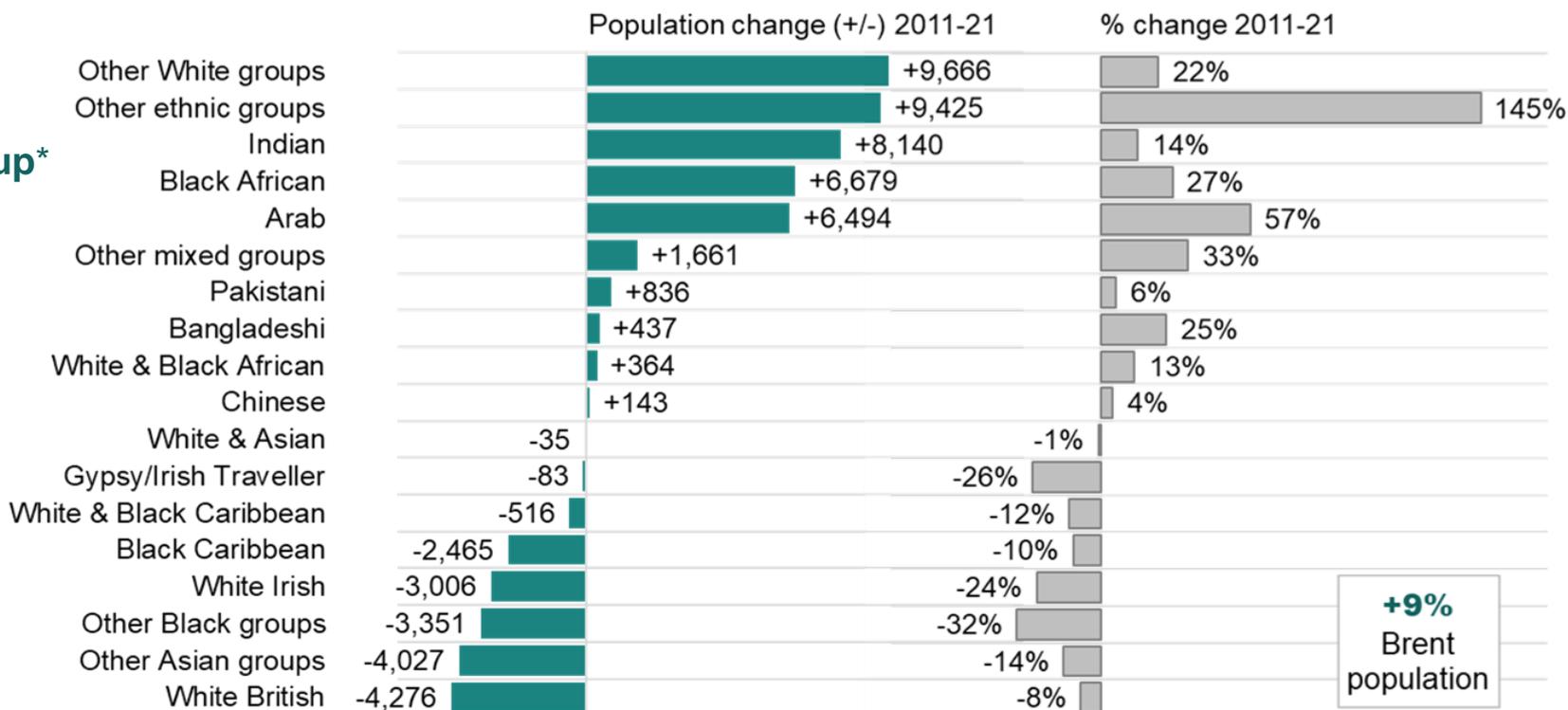


# Change 2011-21: individual groups

- The Brent population grew by 9% between 2011-2021. Across ethnicities, the 'Any other ethnic group' population saw the fastest growth, more than doubling in size (+145%). This group also saw the sharpest rise across London and nationally. Other groups to see high growth rates included: Arab (+57%); 'Other mixed' groups (+33%); Black African (27%); Bangladeshi (+25%); and the 'Other White' group (+22%).
- Some groups have seen a decline in population. These included the: 'Other Black' group (-32%), White Irish (-24%); 'Other Asian' (-14%), White & Black Caribbean (-12%); Black Caribbean (-10%) and White British (-8%).

! Change data need careful interpretation as there were changes to the question in 2021 that may have influenced which group some chose to identify with. These included: a new 'write-in' option for the Black African group; new 'search-as-you-type' functionality on the online form for the five 'other' write-in categories; and the introduction of the new Roma category.

## Population change by ethnic group\* Brent, 2011-2021

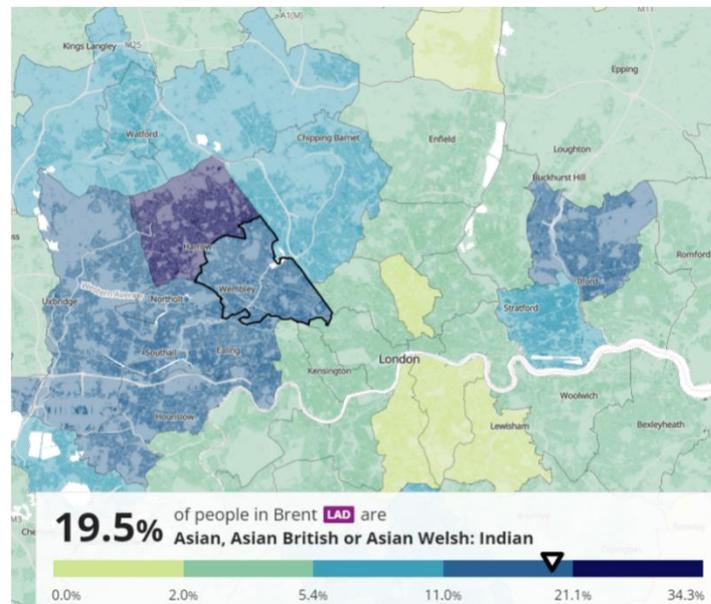


# Further information

- **2021 Census data:** 2021 Census topic summary datasets can be found on the [NOMIS website](#). NOMIS also provides access to statistics from previous censuses.
- **ONS mapping tool:** ONS has produced an interactive [mapping tool](#) which allows exploration of the data for different ethnic groups across local authority areas and small areas.
- **Future census data:** This ‘topic summary’ data is part of the phase 1 release of the 2021 Census datasets. More detailed results are expected during 2023. A timetable summarises the release timetable can be found on the [ONS website](#).
- **Brent Open Data:** For more facts and figures about the borough of Brent please see the [Brent Open Data website](#).
- **Contact:** This report was produced by Brent Council’s Data and Insight team. For more information please email the team at: [open.data@brent.gov.uk](mailto:open.data@brent.gov.uk)



## ONS mapping tool



<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps>

# Appendices

# Appendix 1: Ethnicity classification

## Ethnicity classification

The ethnicity question was first added to the census in 1991 and has evolved over time with each census. The classification is subject to extensive consultation and testing by the Office for National Statistics and is widely used for statistical and equality monitoring purposes. The 2021 question asked: *What is your ethnic group?*

The question was in two stages: first, a person identifies through one of the five high-level ethnic groups: (e.g. Asian/Asian British) and then, they identify through one of the 19 available response options, which include some categories with write-in response options. The more detailed census data table (TS022) provides counts for 287 different ethnic categories.

## Changes since 2011

There were two changes to the census classification between 2011 and 2021:

- the 'Roma' group was added under the 'White' ethnic group
- a write-in response was added for the 'Black African' ethnic group to improve collection of data on groups within the Black African group.

## 2021 census question on ethnicity (England & Wales)

**15 What is your ethnic group?**  
Choose **one** section from A to E, then **tick one box** to best describe your ethnic group or background

**A White**

English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British

Irish

Gypsy or Irish Traveller

Roma

Any other White background, write in

**B Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups**

White and Black Caribbean

White and Black African

White and Asian

Any other Mixed or Multiple background, write in

**C Asian or Asian British**

Indian

Pakistani

Bangladeshi

Chinese

Any other Asian background, write in

**D Black, Black British, Caribbean or African**

Caribbean

African background, write in below

Any other Black, Black British or Caribbean background, write in

**E Other ethnic group**

Arab

Any other ethnic group, write in

# Appendix 2: Population by ethnicity, 2021

## Population by ethnicity, Brent, London and England & Wales, 2021

	Brent	London	England & Wales	Brent	London	England & Wales	Brent ranking*
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>339,821</b>	<b>8,799,725</b>	<b>59,597,542</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	
White groups	117,701	4,731,172	48,699,249	34.6%	53.8%	81.7%	330
White British	51,611	3,239,281	44,355,038	15.2%	36.8%	74.4%	330
White Irish	9,314	156,333	507,465	2.7%	1.8%	0.9%	2
White Gypsy or Irish Traveller	237	7,031	67,768	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	226
White Roma	2,520	37,689	100,981	0.7%	0.4%	0.2%	3
Other White groups	54,019	1,290,838	3,667,997	15.9%	14.7%	6.2%	17
Asian/Asian British groups	111,515	1,817,640	5,515,420	32.8%	20.7%	9.3%	11
Bangladeshi	2,186	322,054	644,881	0.6%	3.7%	1.1%	75
Chinese	3,393	147,520	445,619	1.0%	1.7%	0.7%	61
Indian	66,157	656,272	1,864,318	19.5%	7.5%	3.1%	5
Pakistani	15,217	290,549	1,587,819	4.5%	3.3%	2.7%	41
Other Asian groups	24,562	401,245	972,783	7.2%	4.6%	1.6%	7
Black/Black British groups	59,495	1,188,370	2,409,278	17.5%	13.5%	4.0%	10
Black African	31,070	697,054	1,488,381	9.1%	7.9%	2.5%	13
Black Caribbean	21,258	345,405	623,119	6.3%	3.9%	1.0%	6
Other Black groups	7,167	145,911	297,778	2.1%	1.7%	0.5%	9
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups	17,249	505,775	1,717,976	5.1%	5.7%	2.9%	29
White and Asian	3,607	125,188	488,225	1.1%	1.4%	0.8%	66
White and Black African	3,184	77,341	249,596	0.9%	0.9%	0.4%	17
White and Black Caribbean	3,775	132,555	513,042	1.1%	1.5%	0.9%	57
Other Mixed groups	6,683	170,691	467,113	2.0%	1.9%	0.8%	17
Other groups	33,861	556,768	1,255,619	10.0%	6.3%	2.1%	4
Arab	17,924	139,791	331,844	5.3%	1.6%	0.6%	2
Any other ethnic group	15,937	416,977	923,775	4.7%	4.7%	1.6%	15
Ethnic minority groups (all)	288,210	5,560,444	15,242,504	84.8%	63.2%	25.6%	2
White minority groups	66,090	1,491,891	4,344,211	19.4%	17.0%	7.3%	13
Black, Asian & other minority ethnic groups	222,120	4,068,553	10,898,293	65.4%	46.2%	18.3%	2

Source: 2021 Census (TS021)

(\*) Brent rate ranked out of 331 unitary and district areas in England & Wales (1=highest % rate, 331=lowest % rate)

# Appendix 3: Change by ethnicity, 2011-2021

## Population by ethnic group, change 2011-21, Brent, London and England & Wales

	Brent				London	England & Wales
	2011	2021	Change 2011-21	% change 2011-21	% change 2011-21	% change 2011-21
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>311,215</b>	<b>339,821</b>	<b>28,606</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>6%</b>
White groups	112,880	117,701	4,821	4%	-3%	1%
White British	55,887	51,611	-4,276	-8%	-12%	-2%
White Irish	12,320	9,314	-3,006	-24%	-11%	-4%
White Gypsy or Irish Traveller	320	237	-83	-26%	-14%	17%
White Roma*	n/a	2,520	2,520	-	-	-
Other White groups	44,353	54,019	9,666	22%	25%	48%
Asian/Asian British groups	105,986	111,515	5,529	5%	20%	31%
Bangladeshi	1,749	2,186	437	25%	45%	44%
Chinese	3,250	3,393	143	4%	19%	13%
Indian	58,017	66,157	8,140	14%	21%	32%
Pakistani	14,381	15,217	836	6%	30%	41%
Other Asian groups	28,589	24,562	-4,027	-14%	1%	16%
Black/Black British groups	58,632	59,495	863	1%	9%	29%
Black African	24,391	31,070	6,679	27%	21%	50%
Black Caribbean	23,723	21,258	-2,465	-10%	0%	5%
Other Black groups	10,518	7,167	-3,351	-32%	-14%	6%
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups	15,775	17,249	1,474	9%	25%	40%
White and Asian	3,642	3,607	-35	-1%	23%	43%
White and Black African	2,820	3,184	364	13%	18%	50%
White and Black Caribbean	4,291	3,775	-516	-12%	11%	20%
Other Mixed groups	5,022	6,683	1,661	33%	44%	61%
Other groups	17,942	33,861	15,919	89%	98%	123%
Arab	11,430	17,924	6,494	57%	32%	44%
Any other ethnic group	6,512	15,937	9,425	145%	138%	177%
Ethnic minority groups (all)	255,328	288,210	32,882	13%	23%	39%
White minority groups	56,993	66,090	9,097	16%	22%	41%
Black, Asian & other minority ethnic groups	198,335	222,120	23,785	12%	24%	39%

Source: 2021 Census (TS021); 2011 Census (QS201EW)

Notes: (\*) New category added in 2021.