

Where have all the Irish Babies gone?

Transgenerational Patterns of Ethnicity: Ethnic Group: White Irish

Key points

- The note outlines work done to compare the ethnicity of children under 1 (infants) with that of their parents to understand ethnic change between Irish adults in London and children under 1 living in the same household.
- Analysis is of data from a specially commissioned 2001 Census table.
- A more substantive briefing looking at Transgenerational ethnicity patterns for all ethnic groups in London is currently work in progress.

Specially commissioned table, C0200, from the 2001 Census provided ethnic group information for all children under the age of 1 living in private households. It also contained the ethnicity information of their mother, and the father if the father was present or his ethnicity was known. From this we are able to investigate the ethnicity of children born to Irish fathers as well as the ethnicity of children born to Irish mothers. It also allows us to analyse the likelihood of an Irish infant sharing its ethnicity with both parents.

London's Irish population, some 220,000 people, make up 3% of all Londoners. Of a total 87,400 infants in private households in London, only 969 were infants with the ethnicity White Irish. Of these, 851 infants have one or both White Irish parent. However, the number of infants with one or both White Irish parent totalled nearly 3,700. It seems that the majority of White Irish parents in London are opting for ethnic categories other than White Irish in spite of one or both of them being White Irish themselves.

Of the total 969 White Irish infants, 18% either had no father present or did not know the ethnicity of the father.

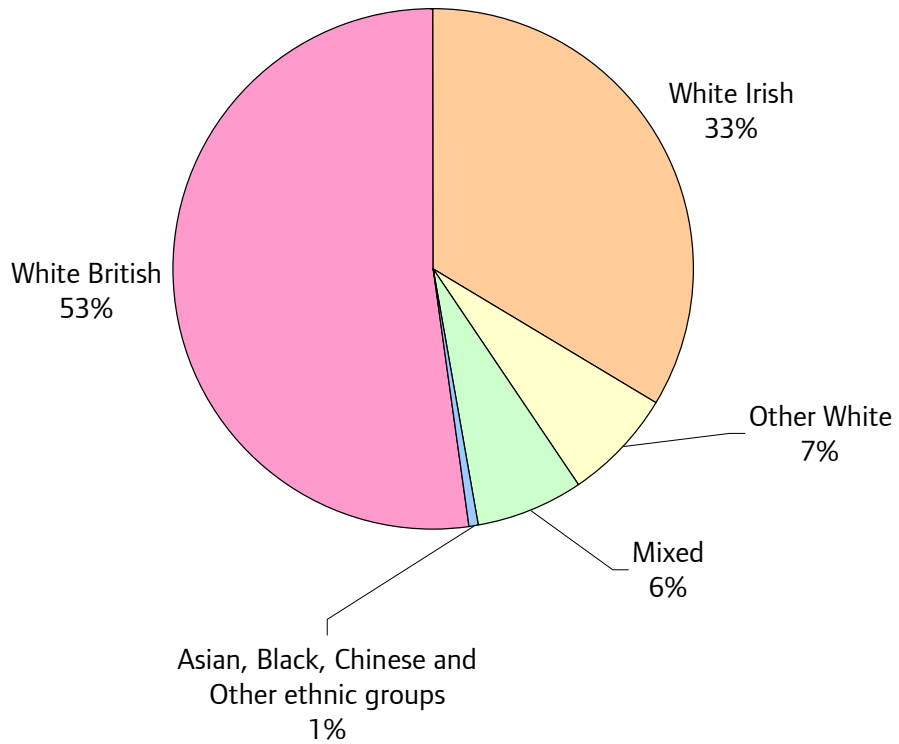
Some 76% of all White Irish infants had a White Irish mother, 15% had a White British mother. Of the 969 White Irish infants, only 64% had an Irish father. Of all White Irish infants, 53% shared their ethnicity with both parents. According to the commissioned table 12% of all White Irish infants have neither parent Irish. This could be due to adoption, imputation errors or the incorrect completion of the Census form. For instance there are 3 White Irish infants whose parents' ethnicity is Pakistani. Since parents complete the form the data may not be incorrect, although results such as this would be unusual.

Only a third of all infants born to White Irish fathers have White Irish ethnicity. Over half of these infants had White British ethnicity (53%).

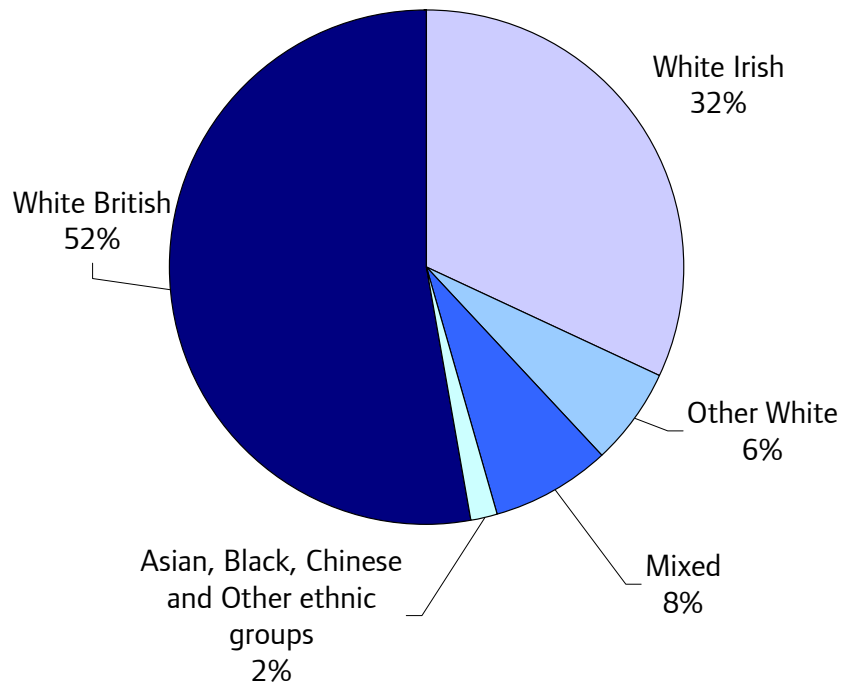
53% of all infants with a White Irish mother were White British, 32 % were White Irish, 8% were one of the four Mixed ethnic categories and 6% were White Other.

Further work is being carried out to analyse the likelihood of women from a particular ethnic group having children with a different ethnic group. However the analysis reported in this update has shown that many White Irish people are having children who have a different ethnic group than their own. In particular only 27% of infants with one or more White Irish parent have White Irish ethnicity.

Ethnicity of all infants whose father is White Irish



Ethnicity of all infants whose mother is White Irish



Comments or further information:

If you have comments or would like further information, please contact Baljit Bains (020 7983 4613) of the GLA Data Management and Analysis Group.

Baljit.Bains@london.gov.uk

© Crown Copyright