

**Data Management and Analysis Group**

**2001 Census Profiles:  
The Irish in London**

**DMAG Briefing 2004/11  
April 2004**

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## **2001 Census Profiles: The Irish in London**

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## 2001 Census Profiles: The Irish in London

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## Summary of Key Findings

*The analysis and key findings in this report are based on currently available Census data which does not yet give enough detail to answer some of the questions raised in the main body of the report. In particular, more detailed age ranges will be commissioned for a number of topics. All the analysis in this report is based on Irish people identified in the Census as White Irish, which is a subset of all Irish.*

- 220,488 people living in London classified themselves as White Irish in the 2001 Census, as well as 458 people describing themselves as Irish Traveller and 6,382 people who classified themselves as Mixed Irish and Other White.
- The Census, therefore, identifies just over 3 per cent of London's population as Irish, compared with at least 11 per cent with Irish parents and 19 per cent with Irish grandparents in a recent GLA survey carried out by MORI. The 2001 Census question does give a count of people who chose a self-definition of Irish, but it is much lower than a count based on parentage or ancestry is likely to be.
- The Census identified 195,130 Londoners born in the Republic of Ireland in 2001 compared with 256,000 in 1991. It found only 5,000 children aged under 5 classified as Irish in London.
- The Census found the largest concentrations of Irish people at district/borough level in the country to be in Brent, Islington, Hammersmith & Fulham and Ealing, with proportions ranging from 6.9 to 4.7 per cent.
- The age distribution of Irish people in the Census suggests at least two major waves of migration from Ireland, with the people in each having very different characteristics.
- The Census suggests that two-thirds of the Irish in London were born in the Irish Republic; under a quarter were born in England. The results show that a larger percentage of Irish women than men in London were born in the Republic of Ireland.
- 93 per cent of Londoners born in the Irish Republic are classified as White Irish in the Census. Only 37 per cent of people born in Northern Ireland are classified as White Irish.
- The Census shows that Irish people in London have the lowest proportion of any ethnic group, other than the mixed groups, of households with all members having the same ethnic group identity. Even so, White Irish people in London are more likely than those living outside London to live in households where all members are White Irish.
- 84 per cent of Irish people are classified as Christian and 7 per cent as having no religion, compared with 58 and 19 per cent respectively for White British people. A further 8 per cent did not answer the question.
- The Irish group has the largest percentage of one person households of any ethnic group, 41 per cent. Irish has the lowest proportion of any ethnic group in households containing one family and no others.

- Irish households in London have the largest proportion of any ethnic group with no access to a car or van: nearly half had no car, compared with 35 per cent of White British households.
- Irish people have lower rates of home ownership than average and higher proportions in social rented housing.
- Irish people have considerably higher rates of long-term illness than all people in London.
- Rates of long-term illness among the Irish community vary by age, and are particularly high for those of working age, particularly for men aged 35-64.
- Rates of long-term illness were lower than average for Irish people aged 65 and over.
- Irish people in the Census have the highest rates of economic inactivity due to permanent sickness or disability in any ethnic group both nationally and in London. In Camden, for example, 21 per cent of Irish men aged 25 to 74 are economically inactive through being permanently sick or disabled.
- Economic activity rates are higher than average for Irish people aged 16-24 and lower for those aged 25 and over.
- One third of Irish people in London have no qualifications, compared with 25 per cent of White British Londoners. The proportions of Irish and White British Londoners with degree level qualifications are very similar, 28 and 29 per cent.
- For all ages up to 34 Irish Londoners are more likely to have a degree than White British Londoners. For all age groups 35 and over Irish Londoners are less likely to have a degree than White British Londoners. The age at which the relative qualifications level changes seems to be somewhere between 40 and 50, supporting the theory of two waves of migrants.
- Irish women of all ages except 55-59 are more likely than White British women to have degree level qualifications, and those aged 55 to 59 have an equal chance of having degree level qualifications.
- The largest single occupation group for Irish men in London is skilled trades (19 per cent) with managers and senior officials (18 per cent) second. For White British men in London the largest occupation group is managers and senior officials (20 per cent), followed by associate professional and technical occupations (18 per cent). Skilled trades ranks fourth for White British men.
- Larger proportions of Irish than White British women are managers and senior officials, in associate professional and technical occupations and in personal service occupations.
- 22 per cent of Irish men in London work in the construction industry, compared with 10 per cent of White British men.

## **Introduction**

This Briefing is one of a series of profiles based on the 2001 Census statistics on ethnic group, country of birth and religion. The groups that are included in this series are taken from the 2001 Census categories as they have been published, so that Irish in this context is only White Irish and not Irish that might have appeared under any of the other ethnic categories in the Census. In the future more data may be commissioned which will allow for some refinements of this, but at the time of writing this briefing all the detailed statistics that are available are based on White Irish.

There is no suggestion here that the 2001 Census has provided a full count of Irish people in London, because the long history of movements of Irish people between England and Ireland makes a full count almost impossible to determine or to define. For example, a recent GLA survey identified 11 per cent of Londoners as having Irish parents and 19 per cent of Londoners as having Irish grandparents. This compares with 3 per cent of London's population identified in the Census as White Irish. The Census clearly does not provide a count of people in London with Irish heritage, it is likely to count as Irish primarily people who were born in Ireland or who have very close ties with Ireland. These are the people who chose the self-definition White Irish. It does not capture the very much larger number of people of Irish descent to one degree or another.

Some of the issues relating to the question and its limitations in counting Irish people are alluded to below. It is beyond the scope of this Briefing to find a solution to these problems. What this briefing does do though is present a fairly detailed demographic picture of White Irish people in London identified in the Census, with a range of other characteristics such as country of birth, household composition, housing, employment and health characteristics. It highlights large differences in a range of characteristics within the Irish community identified, and also differences between Irish and White British Londoners. To this extent, therefore, the Census data is still very valuable.

## **2001 Census question**

The 2001 Census included Irish as a category with a pre-defined tick box for the first time. The 2001 Census question asked people 'What is your ethnic group?' and gave a choice of five main groups, each with a small number of sub-categories for which tick boxes were provided. Each of the main headings also allowed respondents to tick Other and to describe their ethnic group. Irish was placed under the heading 'White' as one of a list of three choices, British, Irish and Any other White background. The only facility for people who are not White to be identified as Irish was by ticking 'Any other background' and writing Irish in the space provided. Even if a number of people did this, the data provided so far is not sophisticated enough to have taken this into account. This briefing uses statistics on people who ticked Irish under the White category.

## **Development of the ethnic group question**

The 1991 Census included the first ever question on ethnic origin in a UK Census. This came after lengthy discussion and consultation about whether or not to include a question which the Census Offices regarded as sensitive. After the successful inclusion of this question in 1991,

there was, again, much debate and discussion about developments to the question for inclusion in the 2001 Census. It was recognised by most of the people and organisations involved in these discussions and deliberations that social change and change over time in people's own perceptions about ethnicity would both have an effect on the responses to the ethnic group question. This means that even if an identical question to that used in 1991 was included, people might still give a different answer to one they may have given ten years earlier.

Amongst the developments to the question that were proposed two major demands immediately spring to mind. These are the demand for an Irish category and the demand for the inclusion of Black British. Both were eventually accommodated - Irish as a sub-category of the White group and Black British as a main group with sub-categories that could be used in best fit comparisons with the 1991 Black categories. The inclusion of Irish under the White group does not cause any problems in comparisons of the White categories in 1991 and 2001, which was one of the issues under discussion at the time.

The question that was finally included in the 2001 Census questionnaire was a compromise between the conflicting demands for a question on ethnicity that people would be happy to answer, consisting of categories that respondents expected to see and would use to describe themselves given a free choice, and for a question that would allow some measure of comparability with the 1991 categories plus the vast amount of data and analysis that has been produced from the 1991 Census. It was also considered vital to be able to have some measure of change over time. This means that the effectiveness of policies or practices that might have been introduced based on the 1991 categories and data could be assessed. It also means that the changing circumstances of groups, for example in the areas of housing and employment, can be identified.

### **Who the 2001 Census identified as the Irish in London**

It was hoped that, by including Irish as a tick box in the ethnic group question, second and third generation Irish people in London would be counted and not just people born in Ireland. This would mean a larger number of Irish being identified. The statistics on London which have been published so far do not indicate an Irish population as large as many people expected. This may indicate that second and third generation Irish people do not always choose to be identified as Irish, or it could indicate that there is a much smaller Irish population than has been anticipated. Statistics from earlier Censuses suggest that the number of Irish born people in London has always been large, and it is quite feasible that large numbers of them and their descendants have integrated into society to such an extent that they do not want or need to be identified separately, or choose to emphasise other strands of their ethnicity.

There are also large movements of people between London (and England) and Ireland, so that the Irish population in London now might not be the same people who made up the Irish population in 1991. As the Census is a snapshot in time, the Irish in London in 2001 may be different from those in London in 1991. This makes comparisons between 1991 and 2001 slightly problematic.

### **Statistics on Irish people in London in 1991**

Statistics from the 1991 Census were limited to those based on country of birth and country of birth of head of household. This limits the statistics somewhat and excludes many second and third generation Irish who may not have been living in households where the head of household was born in Ireland. Despite its limitations, the statistics showed some clear evidence of social exclusion suffered by Irish people as well as many positive things about Irish people in London. In more practical terms, it meant that there was not the same range of information about Irish people in 1991 as there was about groups that were specifically identified under the ethnic group question. In particular there was not the same range of information about migration, causing problems for demographers working on methods for producing population projections for ethnic groups.

### **Statistics on Irish people in London in 1971**

The 1971 Census was unique in that it is the only Census to have included a question on parents' country of birth in addition to the usual question on country of birth. A limited number of tabulations were produced but there are some figures which relate to the recent GLA survey figures mentioned earlier, and they are shown in the table below. This table shows that 709,235 people resident in Great Britain in 1971 were born in the Republic of Ireland compared with 1,704,610 people having at least one Irish parent. There were two and a half times as many people in Great Britain with an Irish parent as there were people born in the Republic of Ireland.

In London a similar pattern is evident, with 241,220 people born in the Republic of Ireland and 515,310 people with at least one Irish parent, that is 6.9 per cent of Londoners.

### **Residents of Great Britain and London born in Ireland and with an Irish parent, 1971**

	Great Britain	Greater London
Total residents	53,978,535	7,452,345
Born Irish Republic and Ireland (part not stated)	709,235	241,220
Total residents with an Irish parent	1,704,610	515,310
Percentage born in Irish Republic and Ireland (part not stated)	1.3	3.2
Percentage with an Irish parent	3.2	6.9

*Source: 1971 Census, Country of Birth Tables; 1971 Census, GLC Commissioned Table DT1318*

## **This report**

The following sections give a range of information about Irish people in London in 2001. This includes the age and sex structure of the Irish population and how it differs from the White British population; the relationship between ethnic group and country of birth for the Irish and people born in Ireland; different ethnic identities within households; religion; household composition of Irish households; housing tenure, amenities, accommodation type, overcrowding and housing deprivation indicators; health and limiting long-term illness by age and sex; qualifications by age and sex; economic activity and unemployment; employment including occupation and industry. All of these topics are touched upon, and some are examined in more detail than others. The intention is to give an overall summary of the position of the Irish in London, and not necessarily to explain all the differences between the Irish and other groups. There are many issues that are raised that can be taken further with more time, some of these may well be the subject of further work.

## **Number of Irish people by age and sex**

There are, according to the 2001 Census, 220,488 Irish people living in London and 195,130 Londoners born in Ireland. These two, of course, overlap substantially. This compares with more than 256,000 Londoners born in Ireland in 1991. There has been, therefore, a decrease in the number of Irish people in London over the last decade, probably due to the favourable economic circumstances in Ireland during that time. Just over a third of all Irish people in England and Wales, as defined in the 2001 Census, live in London, making up just over 3 per cent of London's population.

There are, in addition to those people identified by the White Irish box on the Census form, two other categories for which we have counts which could be included in the Irish total. For example 458 people in London identified themselves as Irish Traveller. These are out of a total for England and Wales of 551. The other category which could be included in the total are those who identified themselves as Mixed Irish and Other White. A total of 6,382 people in London wrote in Irish and Other White under the mixed category. This is out of a total of 17,827 in England and Wales, around 36 per cent of the total living in London.

The largest proportions of White Irish in London and nationally are in Brent, Islington, Hammersmith and Fulham and Ealing. The proportions in these boroughs vary from 6.9 to 4.7 per cent. The only local authority districts outside London in the top 20 ranked on the size of the Irish population are Luton, Manchester, Coventry and Birmingham.

Map 1 shows the percentage of Irish in all wards in London and the concentrations in west London. The largest proportions are in Dollis Hill, Mapesbury and Dudden Hill in Brent, Junction in Islington, Kilburn, Willesden Green and Welsh Harp in Brent, followed by Wealdstone in Harrow. The lowest proportions of Irish in London wards are in Bromley and Newham - Biggin Hill in Bromley, Green Street East and West in Newham. The only 2 wards outside Bromley and Newham in the bottom 10 are Clayhall in Redbridge and Thames in Barking and Dagenham.

The geographical distribution of the Irish population in London is very different from that of

**Table 1 Percentage of Irish people by age, London 2001**

	White Irish	Males	Females	White British	Males	Females
All ages	100	100	100	100	100	100
0-4	2	2	2	6	6	6
5-15	5	5	4	12	13	11
16-59/64	69	75	63	64	68	60
60/65-74	17	12	21	10	7	13
75+	8	6	9	8	6	11

Source: 2001 Census, Standard Tables, ST101

the White British population shown in Map 2. While the scales of the two maps are different, with the darkest shading in the White British map indicating concentrations of 75 per cent of more and in the Irish map 4 per cent or more, there is a definite contrast in the areas of London containing the highest concentrations of each group. Added to this, the areas of west London with the highest concentrations of Irish people also have high concentrations of other ethnic minority groups. White British is the only group with such large proportions in outer south and east London, and with concentrations in areas that do not contain any other ethnic groups.

The age structure of the Irish population of London is given in Table 1. It shows the relatively small proportions of Irish children and large proportions of people of working age, especially for Irish men, and of younger pensionable age. The population pyramid, Figure 1, shows very clearly how the age structure of the Irish population of London differs from that of the overall population, with the very small numbers of children and two separate bulges at ages 30-39 and 50 to 64.

Along with other evidence discussed later, this suggests that there may have been at least two separate waves of migration of Irish people to London since the 1930s. Figure 2 shows the age structure of the White British population, and is very different from the structure shown in Figure 1. Later sections look at how the circumstances of Irish people of varying ages differ.

There are less than 5,000 Irish children under five in London. This could be because Irish people with young children are choosing to live in Ireland while their children are young, or because Irish people have described their children as British rather than Irish in the Census. It seems likely that Irish young adults are in London to work and avoid or delay family formation. There may be some evidence to support both theories, and the small number of under fives is likely to be for a combination of different reasons. Nearly 90 per cent of these children were born in the UK, with only just over 500 born outside the UK.

### Country of birth

Table 2 gives country of birth for Irish people in London. It shows that 97 per cent of the Irish in London were born in Ireland or England. Most (66 per cent) were born in the Republic of

**Table 2 Country of birth of Irish people in London, 2001**

	White Irish	Males	Females	All Irish	Males	Females
Total	220,488	103,235	117,253	100	100	100
Born in:						
Republic of Ireland	146,157	65,085	81,072	66.3	63.0	69.1
Northern Ireland	13,833	7,378	6,455	6.3	7.1	5.5
Ireland (part not stated)	222	96	126	0.1	0.1	0.1
England	53,736	27,421	26,315	24.4	26.6	22.4
Rest of UK, Channel Is.	1,354	717	637	0.6	0.7	0.5
Other Europe	678	307	371	0.3	0.3	0.3
Africa	1,124	600	524	0.5	0.6	0.4
Asia	450	219	231	0.2	0.2	0.2
America	1,684	778	906	0.8	0.8	0.8
Oceania	1,138	365	573	0.5	0.4	0.5
Elsewhere	112	69	43	0.0	0.1	0.0

Source: 2001 Census, Standard Tables, ST102

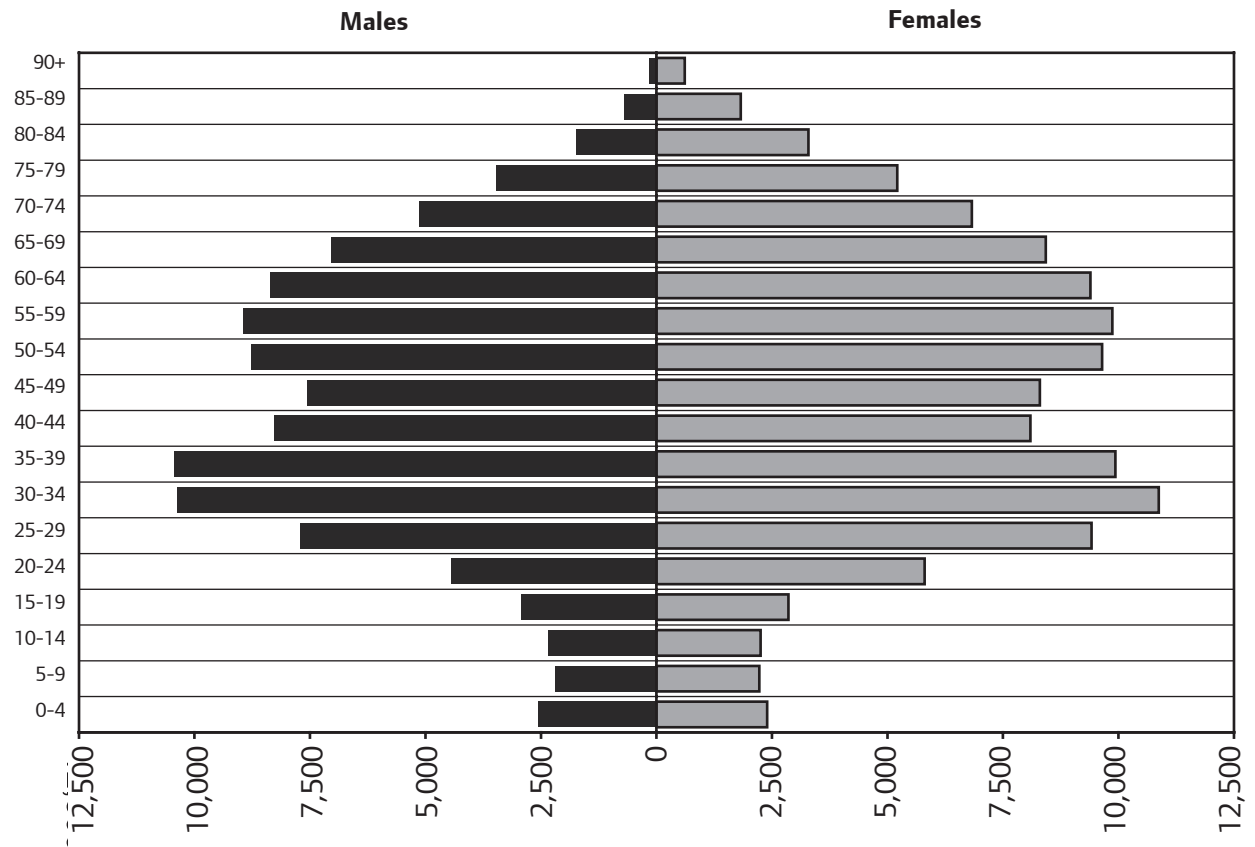
Ireland, 6 per cent were born in Northern Ireland, and 24 per cent born in England. The proportions born elsewhere are small but the largest numbers were born in America (1,684), Oceania, which is mainly Australia and New Zealand, (1,138), and Africa (1,124).

Map 3 shows the distribution across London of people born in the Irish Republic. As with the Irish ethnic group, there are heavy concentrations in west London, although there are people born in the Republic of Ireland all over London. Most of the wards in England and Wales with the largest proportions of people born in the Irish Republic are in London (22 out of the top 25, out of a total of nearly 9,000 wards). The top four wards in the country are in Brent - Dollis Hill, Mapesbury, Dudden Hill and Kilburn. Only three out of the top 25 wards in the country are outside London, and they are all in Luton - Farley, South and Limbury wards. Mapesbury and Dollis Hill in Brent are the wards with the largest numbers of people born in the Irish Republic in the country, both just over 1,000. There are only two other wards in England and Wales with more than 1,000 people born in the Republic of Ireland and they are both in Birmingham - Erdington and Fox Hollies wards. The sheer size of wards in Birmingham, which are around double the size of Mapesbury and Dollis Hill, means that they rank highly on absolute numbers but much lower on the proportions.

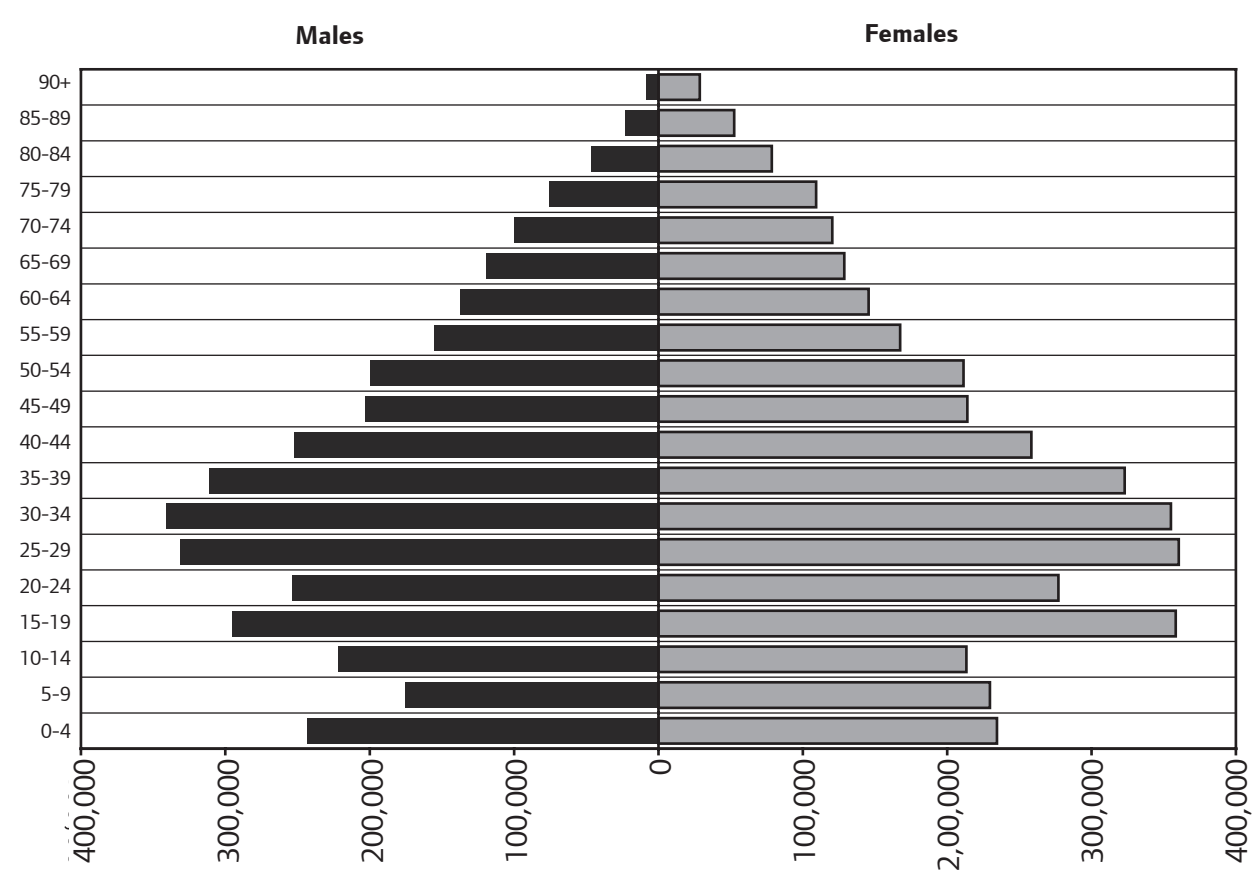
### **Ethnic group of people born in Ireland**

The previous sections have looked at the size and demographic structure of the Irish population of London, and where they were born. A further way of looking at the Irish in London is to look at the ethnicity of people born in Ireland and to use the relationship

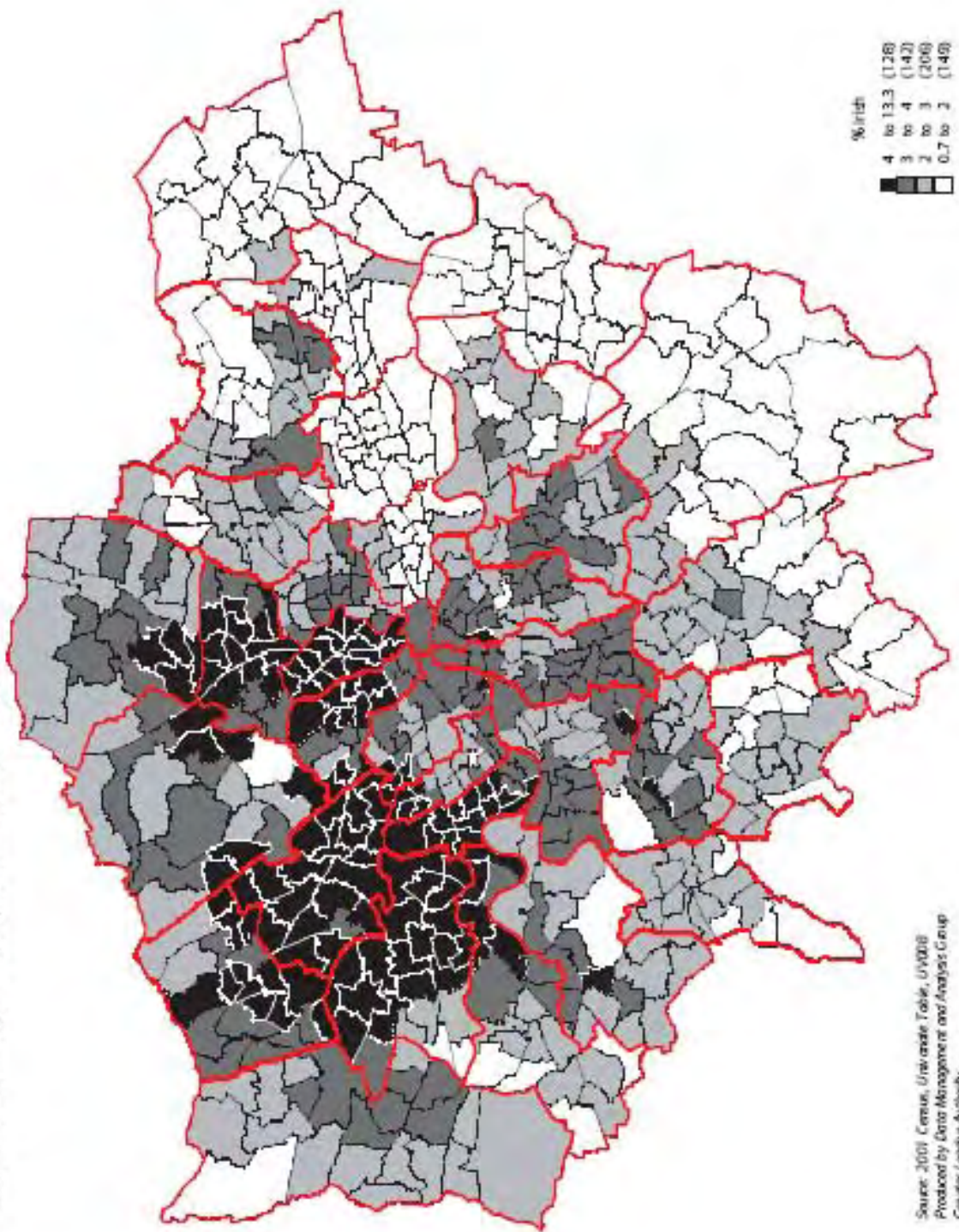
**Figure 1 Age structure of Irish people in London, 2001**



**Figure 2 Age structure of all people in London, 2001**

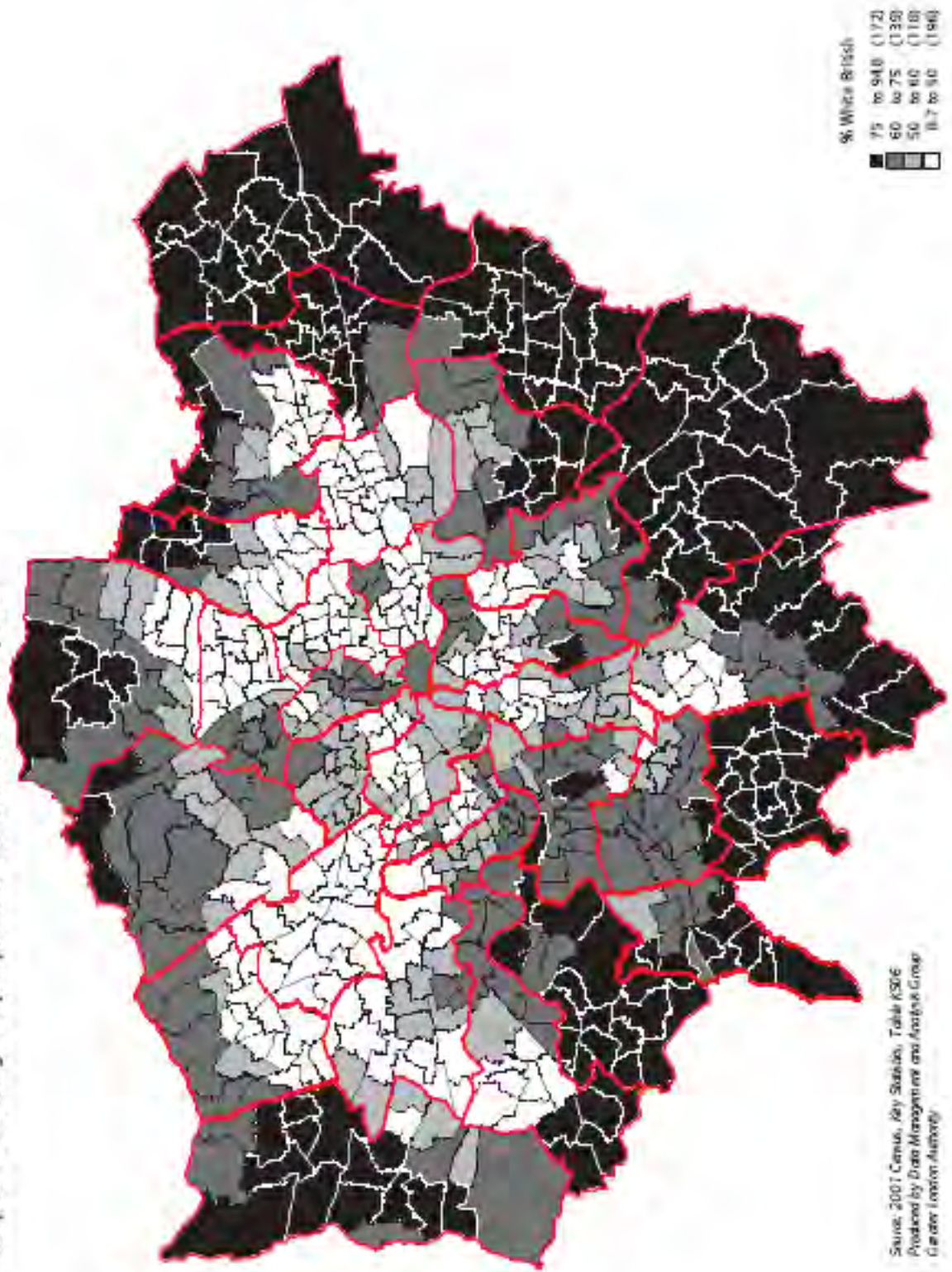


Map 1 Percentage of people who were Irish, 2001



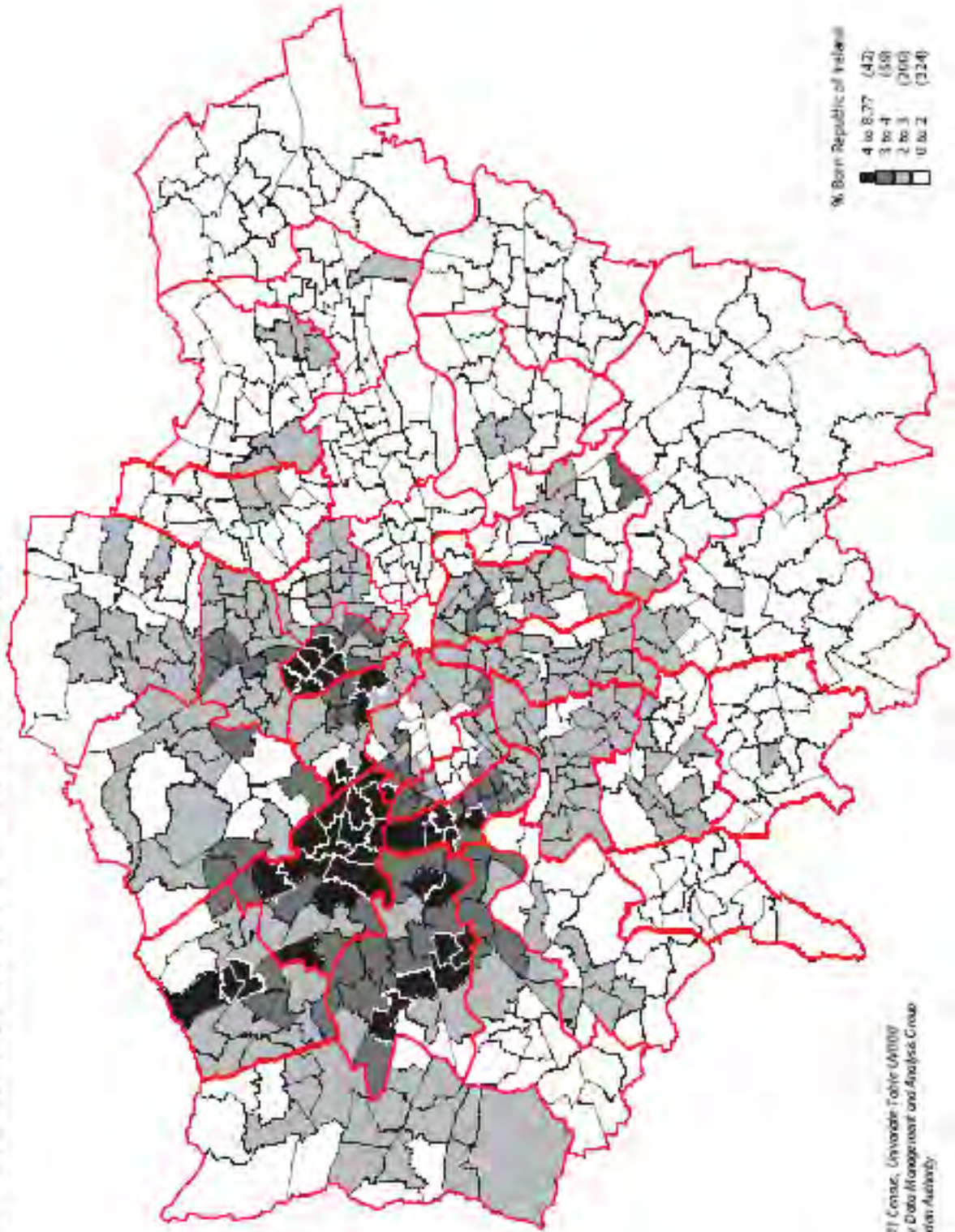
Source: 2001 Census, Unit route Table, U1008  
Produced by Data Management and Analysis Group  
Greater London Authority

Map 2 Percentage of people who were White British, 2001



Source: 2001 Census, Key Statistics, Table KS06  
Produced by Data Management and Analysis Group  
Greater London Authority

Map 3 Percentage of people born in the Republic of Ireland, 2001



**Table 3 Londoners born in Ireland by ethnic group, 2001**

	All people	People born in:			
		Ireland	Republic of Ireland	Northern Ireland	Ireland part not specified
All groups	7,172,081	195,130	157,285	37,574	271
White British	4,287,861	30,802	8,578	22,203	21
White Irish	220,488	160,212	146,157	13,833	222
Other White	594,854	1,654	954	683	17
Other groups	2,068,878	2,462	1,596	855	11
<i>Percentages</i>					
All groups	100	100	100	100	100
White British	60	16	5	59	8
White Irish	3	82	93	37	82
Other White	8	1	1	2	6
Other groups	29	1	1	2	4

Source: 2001 Census, Standard Tables, Table ST102

between ethnicity and country of birth to gain further insight into the Irish population. Table 3 gives the ethnic group breakdown of people who were born in the Irish Republic, Northern Ireland and Ireland when no part of Ireland was specified. The corresponding breakdown for all people is given for comparison.

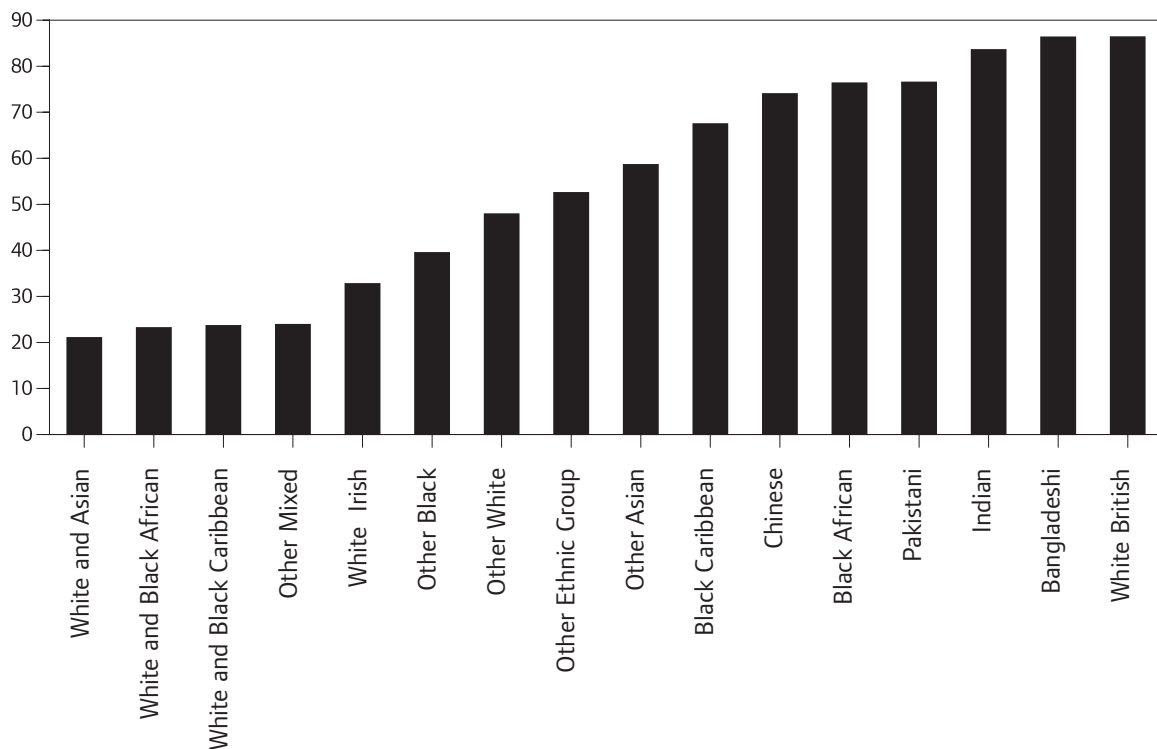
A large proportion of people born in the Republic of Ireland have White Irish as their ethnic group (93 per cent), with 5 per cent having White British. A small proportion stated Other White as their ethnic group (1 per cent or 954 people). There were small numbers of people born in the Irish Republic in all other ethnic groups used in the 2001 Census.

The picture is different for people born in Northern Ireland - with 59 per cent having White British as their ethnic group, while 37 per cent are White Irish and 2 per cent are Other White. Most of those who stated country of birth as Ireland without specifying which part were of White Irish ethnicity, 82 per cent, while 8 per cent were White British and 6 per cent Other White.

### **Ethnic identity within households**

One final aspect of ethnicity for the Irish population which can be examined using the 2001 Census data that is currently available is that of how far ethnic identity within households is the same for all members of the household, or how it differs between members of households. A commissioned table from the 2001 Census gives information on all households with two or more people and, based on the ethnic group of the household reference person (HRP, equivalent to the head of household in the 1991 and earlier Censuses), whether all members of the household have the same ethnic group or not. For those households where the ethnic groups of household members are different, it tells us whether the differences are only

**Figure 3 Percentage of households in London in which all household members have the same ethnic group, 2001**



between different generations or whether there are differences between couples and generations in the same household. To complete the picture it also gives details on households with other combinations of multiple ethnic identities.

Given the ethnic group classifications used in the 2001 Census, it would seem most likely that the four mixed ethnic groups would, by their nature, feature most often in households with multiple identities, and this does appear to be the case. Figure 3 shows the percentage of households, by ethnic group of the household reference person, in which all members of the household have the same ethnic group. The four mixed groups in London have only between 21 and 24 per cent with all members in the same ethnic group, therefore at least three quarters with multiple ethnic identities within the household.

For Irish households (excluding one person households), only one third of households in London with an Irish HRP have all members of the household with the same ethnic group, the lowest proportion of any ethnic group excluding mixed groups. White British is the ethnic group with the largest proportion of households having all members in the same ethnic group (86 per cent), followed by Bangladeshi (86 per cent), Indian (84 per cent) and Pakistani (77 per cent). Table 4 has the details for all ethnic groups.

Excluding mixed groups, Irish is the group most likely to have different identities between the

**Table 4 Multiple ethnic identities within households, London 2001**

	Total 2+ person households	Total 2+ person households	All household members have the same ethnic group	Different identities between the generations only	Different identities between generations and within partnerships	Any other combination of multiple ethnic identities	All with multiple ethnic identities
ALL HRPs	1,969,109	100	76	7	11	6	24
White British	1,204,262	100	86	2	8	4	14
White Irish	72,178	100	33	23	33	12	67
Other White	178,953	100	48	15	23	13	52
Indian	113,065	100	84	5	7	4	16
Pakistani	32,922	100	77	8	9	7	23
Bangladeshi	30,772	100	86	7	3	3	14
Other Asian	35,548	100	59	13	17	11	41
Black Caribbean	101,578	100	68	15	12	6	32
Black African	98,005	100	76	10	7	6	24
Other Black	11,961	100	40	22	22	17	60
Chinese	20,889	100	74	5	13	8	26
Other Ethnic Group	30,401	100	53	15	21	11	47
White and Black Caribbean	9,875	100	24	26	33	18	76
White and Black African	6,820	100	23	26	29	22	77
White and Asian	10,633	100	21	15	44	20	79
Other Mixed	11,247	100	24	18	38	20	76

Source: 2001 Census, Commissioned Table M243

generations only. Just over 23 per cent of households with an Irish HRP have different identities between generations, and not within partnerships, while a further 33 per cent of Irish households have different ethnic identities both between generations and within partnerships. In total, two thirds of households with an Irish HRP have multiple ethnic identities within the household.

Other ethnic groups, apart from the mixed groups, with more than half of households with multiple identities are Other Black (60 per cent), Other White (52 per cent). The groups with the most homogeneous households are White British and Bangladeshi (both 14 per cent), Indian (16 per cent) and Pakistani (23 per cent).

While Irish have the highest proportion of multiple identities apart from the mixed groups, Irish

**Table 5 Irish households with multiple ethnic identities, Government Office Regions 2001**

	All households with 2+ members	All households with 2+ members	All household members have same ethnic group	Household members have different identities
England and Wales	223,303	100	25	75
England	217,137	100	26	74
<i>Regions</i>				
North East	3,034	100	15	85
North West	27,514	100	23	77
Yorkshire and the Humber	11,812	100	19	81
East Midlands	12,941	100	21	79
West Midlands	26,691	100	28	72
East of England	22,146	100	24	76
London	72,178	100	33	67
South East	29,272	100	19	81
South West	11,549	100	15	85
Wales	6,166	100	16	84

Source: 2001 Census, Commissioned Table M243

households in London are actually significantly more likely than Irish households in any other region to have all members with the same ethnic group. This may reflect the different lengths of time that Irish people in different regions have lived in this country, with more recent migrants more likely to come to London rather than other regions, and to come with partners. Later sections also show a very large proportion of Irish one person households, which may also be more recent arrivals.

Table 5 shows the details for all Government Office regions. It shows that Irish households in the North East and South West are least likely to have all members with the same ethnic group (15 per cent). Other regions which have less than 20 per cent of Irish households with all members having the same ethnic group are Wales, the South East and Yorkshire and the Humber.

### **Religion**

Christian is by far the largest religion for Irish people in London, with 84 per cent of Irish reporting this as their religion. A further 7 per cent had no religion and 8 per cent did not state a religion. The proportion having no religion is lower than average for all groups in London, but is still the second largest category after Christian. Very small numbers of Irish people had any other religion.

In terms of numbers of people, Table 6 shows that there are nearly 186,000 Irish Christians in

**Table 6 Religion of White Irish people, London 2001**

	All people	White British	Irish	Other White
All people	7,172,091	4,287,861	220,488	594,854
Christian	4,176,175	2,874,189	185,921	334,457
Buddhist	54,297	9,629	444	2,098
Hindu	291,977	1,741	52	694
Jewish	149,789	122,658	506	21,504
Muslim	607,083	32,888	452	82,952
Sikh	104,230	1,177	46	228
Any other religion	36,558	13,010	485	2,798
No religion	1,130,616	856,093	15,508	93,177
Religion not stated	621,366	376,476	17,074	56,946
<i>Percentages</i>				
All people	100	100	100	100
Christian	58	67	84	56
Buddhist	1	0	0	0
Hindu	4	0	0	0
Jewish	2	3	0	4
Muslim	8	2	0	14
Sikh	1	0	0	0
Any other religion	1	0	0	0
No religion	16	19	7	16
Religion not stated	9	9	8	10

Source: 2001 Census, Standard Tables, Table ST104

London, compared with just over 17,000 Irish people choosing not to answer the question on religion and just over 15,500 people stating that they have no religion. The only other significant religions identified are 506 Irish Jews, 485 people in other religions, 452 Irish Muslims and 444 Buddhists.

### Household composition

Table 7 shows the household composition of Irish households in London, alongside that of all households and all other White households. Just under half of households with an Irish household reference person (HRP) contained one family and no other people, that is 48 per cent of Irish households. This is lower than average, and is the lowest proportion for any ethnic group. Irish is the only group with less than half of households containing one family and no others. The range for the other ethnic groups is from 51 per cent of Chinese household to

**Table 7 Household composition of White Irish households, 2001**

	All HRP's	White British	Irish	Other White
All households	3,015,997	1,950,689	122,938	247,309
<i>Percentage of household type:</i>				
All households	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
One Person	34.7	38.3	41.3	27.6
- pensioner	12.7	16.1	16.0	6.2
- other	22.0	22.2	25.3	21.5
One family	53.1	52.1	48.4	54.0
- All pensioners (2+ people)	5.4	7.0	5.6	2.9
- Married couple - with dependent children	15.2	12.8	10.1	18.4
- Married couple - no dependent children	13.3	14.0	14.7	14.8
- Cohabiting couple - with dependent children	2.5	2.7	1.9	1.9
- Cohabiting couple - no dependent children	5.6	6.4	5.3	7.9
- Lone parent - with dependent children	7.6	6.0	5.5	5.4
- Lone parent - no dependent children	3.5	3.4	5.4	2.7
Other households	12.2	9.6	10.3	20.0

Source: 2001 Census, Standard Tables, Table ST106

more than 68 per cent of Bangladeshi households containing one family and no others.

Within the one family households, the Irish have lower proportions than White British in all categories that include dependent children, as well as lower proportions of all pensioner households.

The explanation for low proportions of one family households is related to the fact that Irish is the ethnic group with the largest proportion of one person households - 41 per cent of Irish households contain only one person. This large proportion of one person households is likely to be related to the age structure of the Irish population, and there may be a large number of more recent migrants in the younger age groups who have not yet formed relationships or had families. The proportion of Irish one person households mainly differs from the White British proportion by having a larger proportion of non-pensioner one person households. The proportions of households that are one pensioner are almost the same for the White British and Irish populations. This is also likely to be a result of the age structure of the Irish population, and the large proportion of young adults.

One in ten Irish households contains other groups of people and/or families, including student households, groups of unrelated adults, households with more than one family or more than two generations in a family (which is then classified as two or more families). This proportion is

**Table 8 Tenure of White Irish households, London 2001**

	All groups	White British	White Irish	White Other
All households	3,015,990	1,950,689	122,938	247,309
<i>Percentage in tenure:</i>				
All households	100	100	100	100
Owned	57	62	52	45
Owns outright	22	26	21	17
Owns with mortgage or loan	34	35	30	27
Shared ownership	1	1	1	1
Social rented	26	23	33	18
Rented from council	17	15	21	11
Other Social rented	9	8	12	7
Private rented	15	13	14	35
Private landlord or letting agency	14	12	12	33
Employer of a household member	0	0	0	0
Relative or friend of a household member	1	1	1	1
Other	0	0	0	0
Living rent free	2	1	2	3

Source: 2001 Census, Standard Tables, Table ST111

slightly higher than the White British, but only half of that of the White Other group.

### Housing tenure

Just over half of Irish households in London are owner occupiers, with 21 per cent owning outright and 31 per cent buying with a mortgage or loan or in shared ownership. The rates of home ownership are considerably lower for Irish households than for White British households - 52 compared with 62 per cent. The rates are lower for those owning outright and buying with a mortgage or loan.

One third of Irish households rent from a local authority or housing association. The proportions in social rented housing are higher for Irish than for White British households - 33 compared with 23 per cent.

Just under 14 per cent of Irish households rent from a private landlord, slightly higher than the rate for White British households but considerably lower than the rate for White Other households.

### Accommodation type

Just under half (47 per cent) of Irish households live in houses, compared with 55 per cent of White British households. The proportions are lower for Irish households for all types of house -

**Table 9 Accommodation type of White Irish households, London 2001**

	All groups	White British	White Irish	White Other
All households	3,015,990	1,950,689	122,938	247,309
<i>Percentage in accommodation type:</i>				
All households	100	100	100	100
Detached house	6	7	4	3
Semi-detached house	19	21	18	12
Terraced house	26	27	25	29
Purpose Built block of flats or tenement	33	30	33	39
Part of a converted or shared house	14	13	17	16
Commercial Building	2	2	2	1
A caravan or other mobile or temporary structure	0	0	0	0

Source: 2001 Census, Commissioned Table SCT001

detached, semi-detached and terraced. This difference may reflect the length of time that Irish people have been in England as well where they live in London, the tenure in which they live, alongside a range of other economic factors, some of which are looked at later in this briefing.

One third of Irish households in London live in purpose built flats, reflecting their relative concentration in social rented housing and the parts of London in which they live. This compares with 30 per cent of White British households. A higher proportion of Irish than White British households live in part of a converted or shared house possibly because of the age structure of the Irish in London.

### **Overcrowding/occupancy rating**

Given that the Irish have the largest proportion of one person households than any other

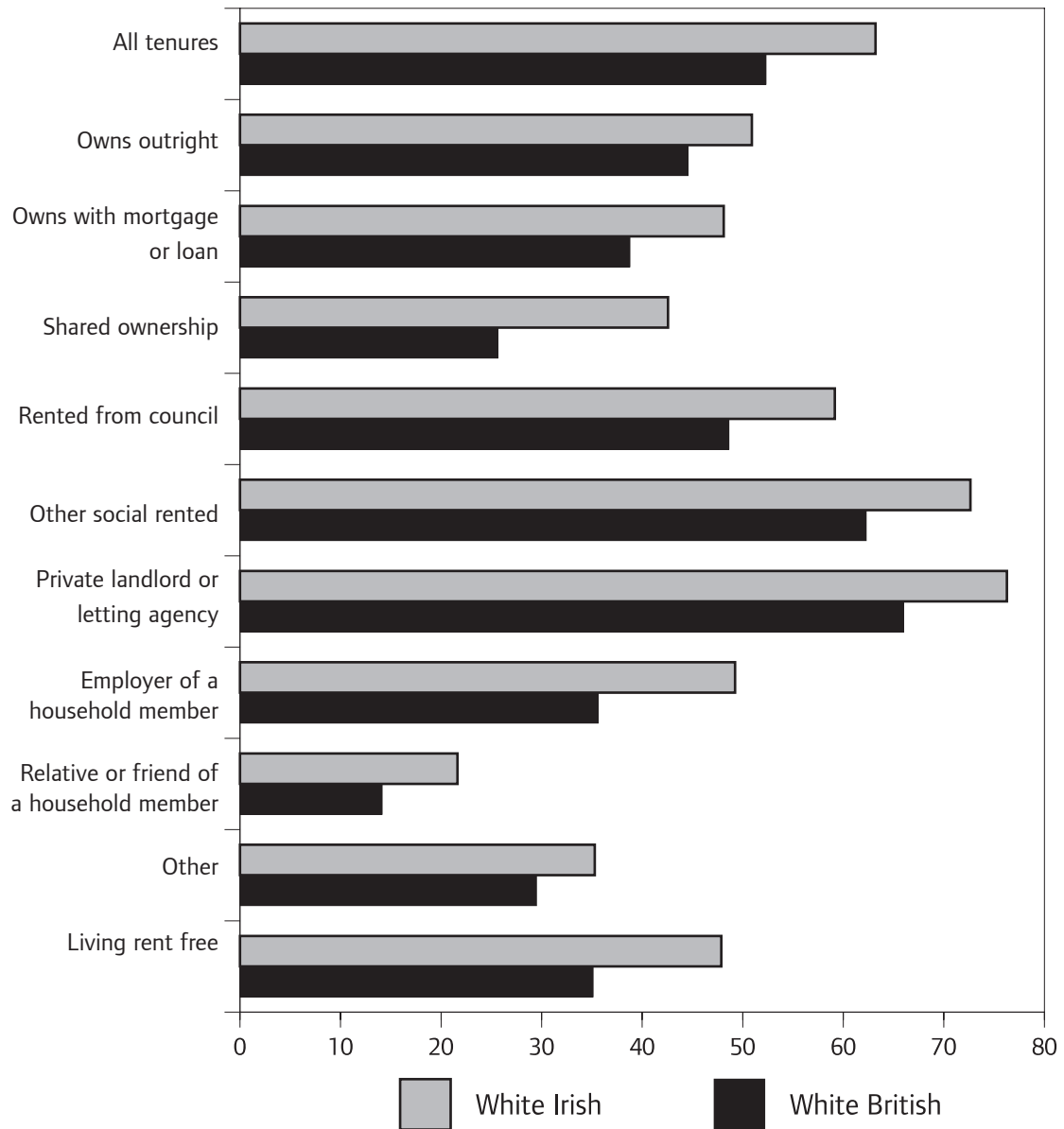
**Table 10 Occupancy rating of White Irish households, London 2001**

	All groups	White British	White Irish	White Other
Total	3,015,997	1,950,689	122,938	247,309
+ 1 or more	1,705,027	1,239,190	69,170	117,482
0	788,499	497,754	34,127	65,932
- 1 or less	522,471	213,745	19,641	63,895
<i>Percentages</i>				
Total	100	100	100	100
+ 1 or more	57	64	56	48
0	26	26	28	27
- 1 or less	17	11	16	26

Source: 2001 Census, Commissioned Table M268

An occupancy rating of +1 indicates that a household has at least one room more than is deemed necessary, -1 indicates at least one room less, hence to be overcrowded.

**Figure 4 Percentage of Irish and White British households in London with no car by tenure, London 2001**



ethnic group, it would be reasonable to expect the levels of overcrowding to be lower than average. Table 10 indicates that this is not the case. An occupancy rating of -1 or less for a household indicates that the household needs at least one more room than they have. Around 16 per cent of Irish households have an occupancy rating of -1 or less, compared with 11 per cent of White British households.

Around 56 per cent of Irish households have an occupancy rating of +1 or more compared with 64 per cent of White British households.

**Table 11 Number of cars or vans owned by White Irish households, London 2001**

	All groups	White British	White Irish	White Other
Total	3,015,997	1,950,689	122,938	247,309
<i>Number of cars/vans:</i>				
None	1,130,649	684,974	58,851	110,091
One	1,298,481	853,737	45,507	100,171
Two	476,185	331,839	15,071	30,330
Three	86,470	62,096	2,693	5,273
Four or more	24,212	18,043	816	1,444
All households	100	100	100	100
<i>Percentage owning number of cars/vans:</i>				
None	37	35	48	45
One	43	44	37	41
Two	16	17	12	12
Three	3	3	2	2
Four or more	1	1	1	1

Source: 2001 Census, Commissioned Table M268

## Cars

Just under half of Irish households do not have access to a car, compared with 35 per cent of White British households. Figures in Table 11 show that a higher proportion of White British than Irish households own one, two, three and four or more cars. Figure 4 shows that Irish households of all tenures are less likely than White British households to own a car.

## Amenities

A large majority of Irish households live in self-contained accommodation (99 per cent), have sole use of a bath/shower and toilet (99 per cent) and 91 per cent have central heating. These proportions are the same for White British households.

The 2001 Census data includes a housing deprivation indicator which indicates the presence of one or more measures from an occupancy rating of -1 or less, lives in a shared dwelling, does not have sole use of bath/shower and toilet or has no central heating. According to this indicator, nearly 23 per cent of Irish households are deprived in the housing dimension, compared with only 18 per cent of White British households.

**Table 12 Long-term illness and general health of White Irish people, 2001**

	All groups	White British	Irish	Other White
All people	7,172,091	4,287,861	220,488	594,854
With Limiting Long-Term Illness	1,111,284	732,428	50,518	66,789
Good or Fairly Good Health	625,407	419,980	24,864	35,764
Not Good Health	485,877	312,448	25,654	31,025
Without Limiting Long-Term Illness	6,060,807	3,555,433	169,970	528,065
Good or Fairly Good Health	5,952,769	3,493,186	165,426	518,676
Not Good Health	108,038	62,247	4,544	9,389
<hr/>				
All people	7,172,091	4,287,861	220,488	594,854
% With Limiting Long-Term Illness:	15	17	23	11
Good or Fairly Good Health	9	10	11	6
Not Good Health	7	7	12	5
% Without Limiting Long-Term Illness:	85	83	77	89
Good or Fairly Good Health	83	81	75	87
Not Good Health	2	1	2	2

Source: 2001 Census, Standard Tables, Table ST107

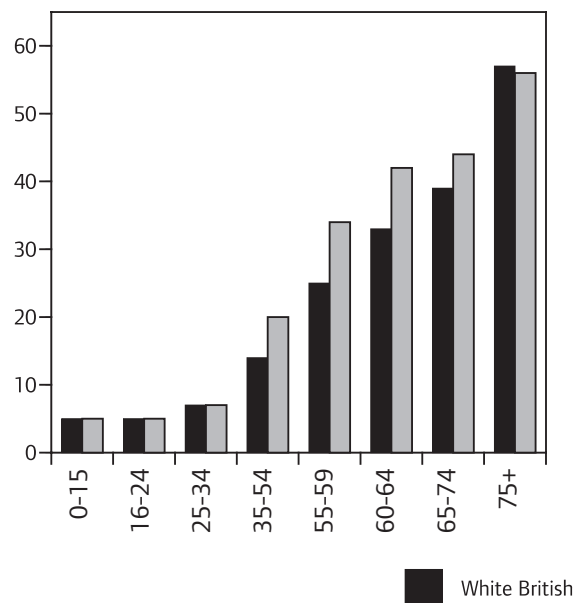
### Health and long-term illness by age and sex

There were two questions related to health in the 2001 Census, one asking about limiting long-term illness and very similar to the question in the 1991 Census (except for changing the word handicap, which was used in 1991, to disability) and the other asking about general health in the previous year.

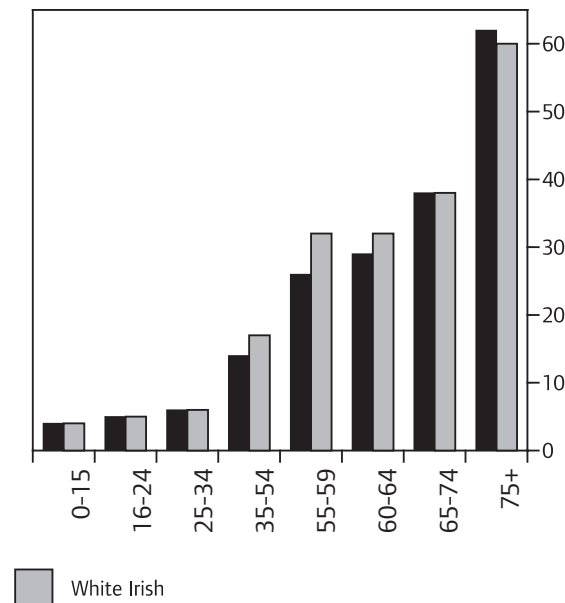
The results for limiting long-term illness show that 23 per cent of Irish people living in London have a long-term illness that limits their daily activities. This compares with 17 per cent of White British Londoners. Just under half of those Irish people with a limiting long-term illness were in good or fairly good health and just over half were in not good health. Most people without a limiting long-term illness were in good or fairly good health.

Rates of limiting long-term illness and less than good general health are strongly related to age. Figures 5 and 6 illustrate the different rates of long-term illness by age for Irish and White British men and women. Overall the rates of illness are similar for Irish and White British men and women up to the age of 34: they are quite low and increase with age. For the age groups shown in the diagram, rates of illness are higher for Irish men and women aged 35 or

**Figure 5 Percentage of Irish and White British men in London with limiting long-term illness by age, 2001**

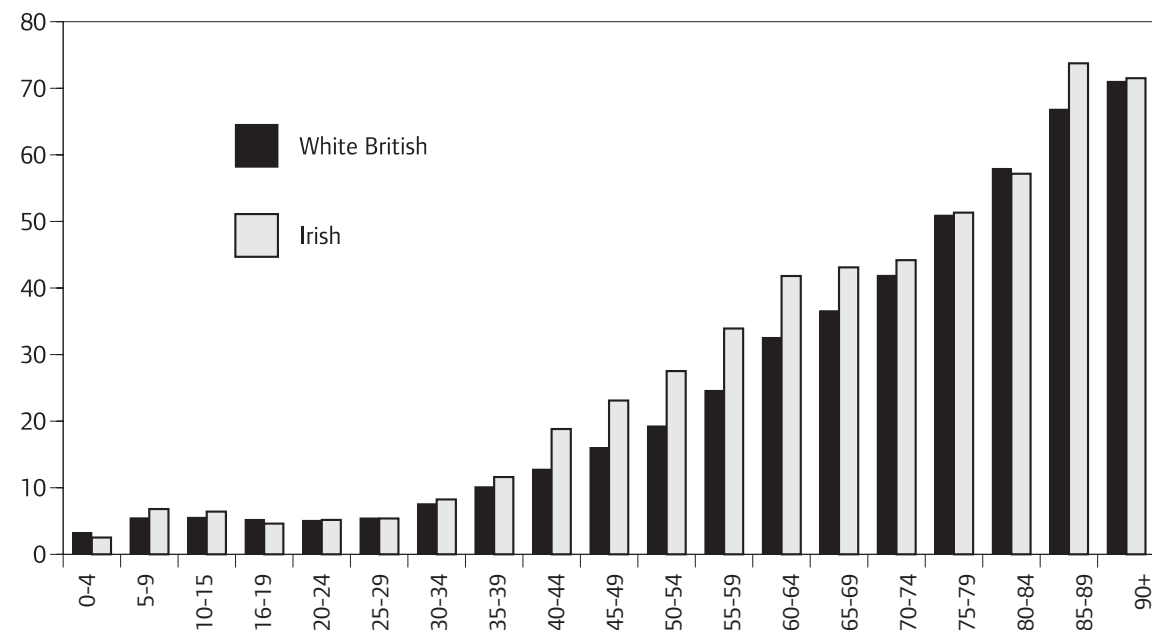


**Figure 6 Percentage of Irish and White British women in London with limiting long-term illness by age, 2001**



over. The largest differences, though, are likely to be for those aged 50 or over rather than for those aged 35 to 49. This would be consistent with the earlier suggestion of two separate waves of migration to London, with the two groups experiencing very different circumstances. A more detailed 5 year age breakdown for England and Wales shows that Irish people between the ages of 40 and 80 are more likely to have a limiting long-term illness than White British

**Figure 7 Percentage of Irish and White British men in England and Wales with limiting long-term illness by age, 2001**



people of the same ages.

The differences between Irish and White British rates of long-term illness in London are much larger for men than for women, although the rates for women in similar age groups are also higher for Irish women than for White British women. The only age group for which rates of limiting long-term illness are lower for Irish than White British people is for both men and women aged 75 and over. A similar pattern is evident when looking at good health.

In England and Wales, men in 5 year age groups between 35 and 80 are more likely to have a limiting long-term illness than White British men, as are boys aged 5 to 9, shown in Figure 7. For women, those aged 40 to 70 have higher rates of limiting long-term illness than White British women of the same age.

### Qualifications by age and sex

There is more detail available from the 2001 Census on qualification levels in the population than there was from the 1991 Census. The information on level of qualifications collected in 1991 was based on qualifications normally gained after the age of 18, whereas that collected in the 2001 Census gave a much wider range of qualifications for people aged 16 to 74.

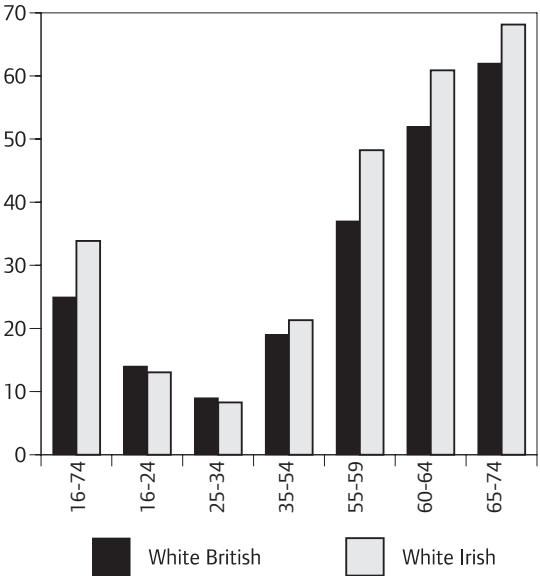
The levels of qualifications include: no qualifications; level 1, equivalent to 1 or more 'O' levels/CSE/GCSE, NVQ level 1; level 2, equivalent to 5 or more 'O' levels/CSE/GCSE, NVQ level 2; level 3, 2 or more 'A' levels, 4 or more 'AS' levels, NVQ level 3; level 4/5, first degree,

**Table 13 Qualifications held by White Irish and White British people, percentages 2001**

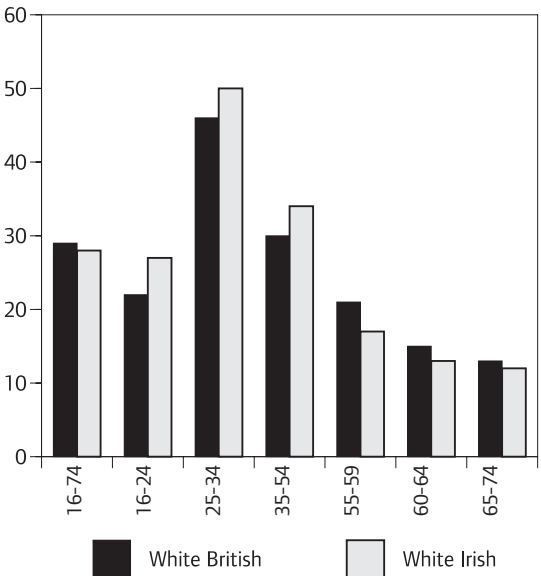
	All groups	White British	White Irish
Total	100	100	100
No Academic or Professional Qualifications	24	25	34
1+ O level/CSE/GCSE (any grades): NVQ; Foundation GNVQ	13	14	8
5+ O levels; 5+ CSEs (grade 1); 5+ GCSEs (grades A-C); 1+ A levels/AS levels; NVQ level 2; Intermediate GNVQ	17	18	14
2+ A levels; 4+ AS levels; Higher school certificate; NVQ level 3; Advanced GNVQ	10	9	10
First degree; Higher degree; NVQ levels 4-5; HNC; HND; Professional Qualifications	31	29	28
Other Qualifications; Other Professional Qualifications	5	5	6

Source: 2001 Census, Commissioned Table M244

**Figure 8 Percentage of White Irish and White British people in London with no qualifications by age, 2001**



**Figure 9 Percentage of White Irish and White British people in London with degree level qualifications by age, 2001**



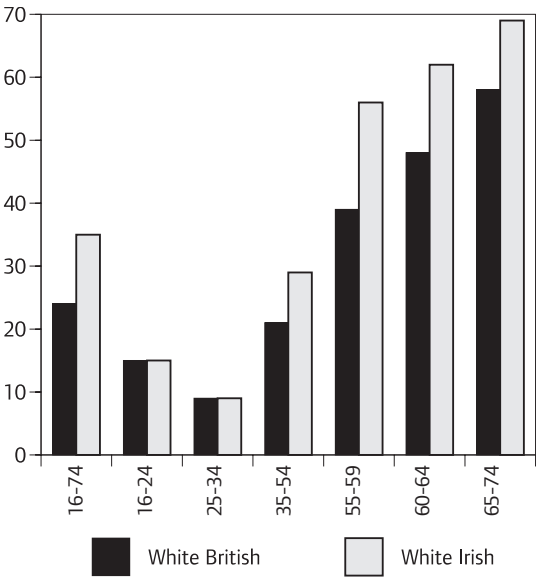
higher degree, NVQ levels 4 or 5; and other qualifications not included in another category. See Table 13 for more detail.

Overall, just over one third of Irish people in London had no qualifications compared with 25 per cent of White British Londoners. The details are given in Table 13. Lower level qualifications (levels 1 and 2) are more likely to be held by White British than White Irish people in London, while level 3 qualifications are more likely to be held by White Irish than White British Londoners. Both White Irish and White British had slightly lower than the London average proportions with higher level qualifications and slightly above average proportions of people with no qualifications.

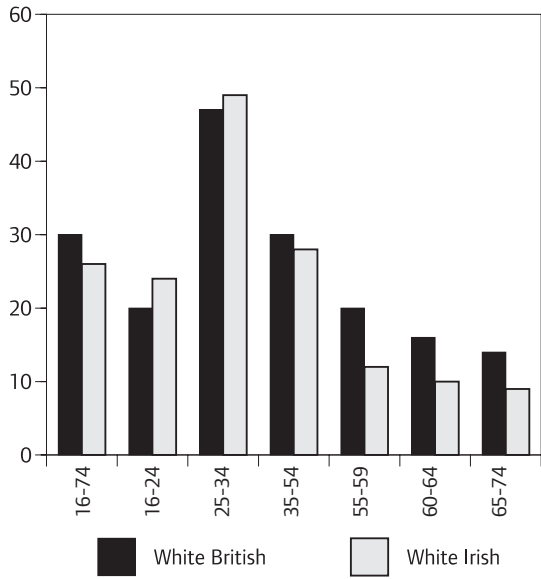
The level of qualifications for the Irish population of London also varies considerably by age, as does the comparison with the White British population in the same age groups, supporting the earlier suggestion of there being two distinct 'waves' of migration from Ireland to England. Figure 8 illustrates the percentage of people with no qualifications by age for Irish and White British people in London. It shows that for the younger age groups of 16 to 24 and 25 to 34 White British people are more likely to have no qualifications than Irish people. The positions then reverse, and for all ages above 35 Irish Londoners are more likely than White British Londoners to have no qualifications. The gap between the Irish and White British Londoners is much larger for the older age groups than for the younger ones, and is largest for people aged 50 to 59. In this age group 48 per cent of Irish Londoners have no qualifications compared with 37 per cent of White British Londoners.

The opposite picture emerges when looking at degree level qualifications, shown in Figure 9. For all ages up to 34 Irish Londoners are more likely to have a degree level qualification than White British Londoners and for all aged 35 or over Irish Londoners are less likely than White British Londoners to have a degree level qualification. Other tabulations show that the actual

**Figure 10 Percentage of White Irish and White British men in London with no qualifications by age, 2001**



**Figure 11 Percentage of White Irish and White British men in London with degree level qualifications by age, 2001**



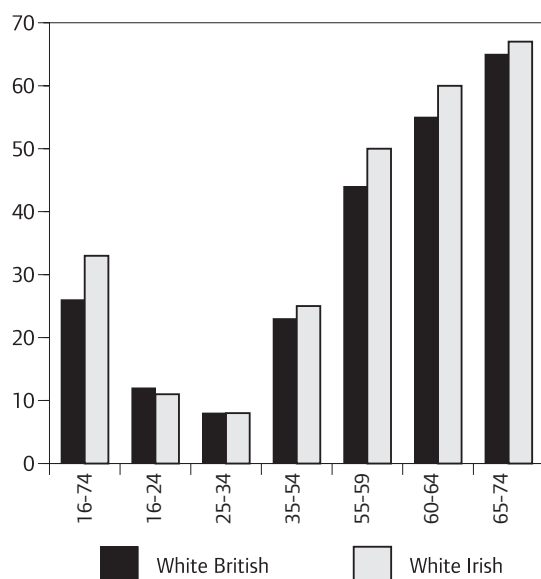
age at which Irish Londoners become less qualified than White British is around 50, and the age detail currently available is not detailed enough to show the full age range. Yet another factor to consider is the difference between men and women by age, as there are even more pronounced differences when looking at this data by gender. Figure 10 shows the proportions of Irish and White British men with no qualifications by age. A similar pattern is apparent as when looking at the distribution for all people in Figure 7, but the differences between Irish and White British men are even greater than the differences between all Irish and White British Londoners. The proportions of men with no qualifications are the same for Irish and White British men for the age groups 16 to 24 and 25 to 34. For all age groups above these the proportion of men with no qualifications is much larger for Irish than White British men. The largest difference is for the age group 55 to 59, where 39 per cent of White British and 56 per cent of Irish men have no qualifications.

Irish men aged under 35 are more likely to have a degree level qualification than White British men, although the difference between Irish and White British men is smaller than the difference between all Irish and White British Londoners with degree level qualifications. Irish men in all the older age groups are less likely than White British men of the same age to have degree level qualifications. This is consistent with the theory that the age at which the relative qualification levels change is around 50. Figure 11 illustrates this.

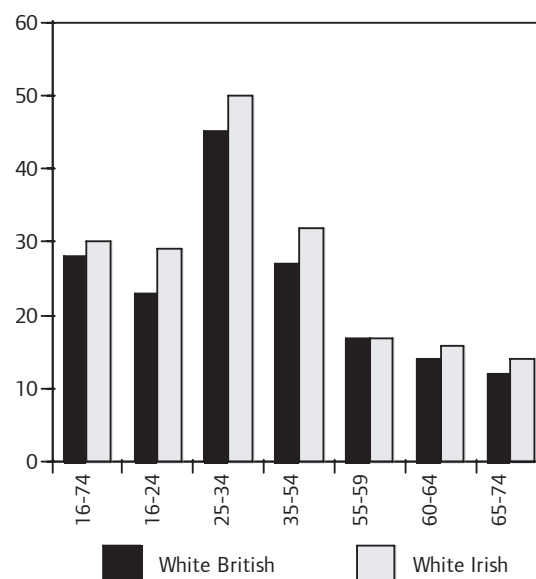
For Irish men in England and Wales, more detailed age breakdowns confirm that the age at which the relative positions on degree level qualifications changes is 50, while for no qualifications the age at which the positions of Irish and White British men reverse is 40.

Irish women are more likely than White British women to have no qualifications, but the

**Figure 12 Percentage of White Irish and White British women in London with no qualifications by age, 2001**



**Figure 13 Percentage of White Irish and White British women in London with degree level qualifications by age, 2001**



difference between the two groups is less than the difference for men, see Figure 12. For those aged 16 to 24 the proportion of Irish women with no qualifications is slightly lower than that of White British women and for women aged 25 to 34 the proportions are the same. For all age ranges from 35 upwards the proportions of Irish women with no qualifications is higher than the proportions of White British women with no qualifications. The differences between Irish and White British women are much smaller than the differences between Irish and White British men.

**Table 14 Economic activity of White Irish people, 2001**

	All people aged 16+	White British	White Irish: People	Males	Females
All people aged 16 and over	5,300,331	3,164,081	188,466	89,525	98,941
<i>Percentage</i>	100	100	100	100	100
Economically Active	68	70	63	69	58
Economically Inactive	32	30	37	31	42
Retired	10	12	16	13	18
Student	7	4	3	3	3
Looking after home/family	7	6	6	1	10
Permanently sick or disabled	5	5	8	10	6
Other	4	3	5	4	5

Source: 2001 Census, Standard Tables, Table ST108

**Table 15 Economic activity of White Irish people by age, 2001**

	All people	White British	White Irish: People	Males	Females
Aged 16-24 years	864,950	457,685	15,044	6,879	8,165
<i>Percentage</i>	100	100	100	100	100
Economically Active	60	69	66	68	64
Economically Inactive	40	31	34	32	36
Retired	0	0	0	0	0
Student	32	24	25	25	25
Looking after home/family	3	3	3	0	5
Permanently sick or disabled	1	1	1	1	1
Other	4	3	5	6	4
Aged 25 years & over	4,435,381	2,706,396	173,422	82,646	90,776
<i>Percentage</i>	100	100	100	100	100
Economically Active	69	70	63	69	57
Economically Inactive	31	30	37	31	43
Retired	12	14	17	14	20
Student	2	1	1	1	1
Looking after home/family	8	7	6	1	10
Permanently sick or disabled	5	5	9	11	7
Other	4	3	5	4	5

Source: 2001 Census, Standard Tables, Table ST108

Irish women in London are more likely than White British women to have a degree level qualification. This applies to all age groups except 55 to 59, and in this age group the proportions are the same. Figure 13 illustrates this.

### **Economic activity**

Table 14 shows that a lower proportion of Irish than White British people in London are economically active, 63 per cent compared with 70 per cent, and that a correspondingly higher proportion of Irish people than White British are economically inactive.

The rates of economic activity are higher for Irish men than women, as would be expected, and a larger proportion of women than men are retired, again not surprising given that there are more older women than men in all groups. It is also possible that Irish men die earlier or that more Irish men than women return to Ireland on retirement.

A larger proportion of Irish people are economically inactive, 37 per cent compared with 30 per cent of White British. Irish people are more likely than White British to be inactive because they are permanently sick or disabled or retired, while they are less likely to be students or looking

**Table 16 Percentage rates of permanent sickness ranked by ethnic group for people aged 25 to 74, England & Wales and London 2001**

England and Wales		London	
White Irish	9.0	White Irish	8.8
Pakistani	8.6	Pakistani	7.8
Bangladeshi	7.2	Bangladeshi	7.6
White and Black Caribbean	7.1	White and Black Caribbean	6.7
Black Caribbean	6.6	Black Caribbean	6.3
White and Black African	6.4	Other Black	6.1
White British	6.4	White and Black African	5.9
<i>All groups</i>	6.3	Indian	5.7
Other Black	6.3	Other mixed	5.5
Indian	6.3	White and Asian	5.4
Other mixed	5.6	Other Asian	5.3
Other Asian	5.5	<i>All groups</i>	5.3
White and Asian	5.4	White British	5.3
Black African	3.8	Other	4.0
White Other	3.7	Black African	3.9
Other	3.2	White Other	3.7
Chinese	2.1	Chinese	2.2

Source: 2001 Census, Standard Tables, Table ST108

after the home or family. Just under half of the economically inactive Irish are retired, and around half of that number again are inactive through being permanently sick or disabled.

The pattern is similar for people aged 16 to 24, shown in Table 15, although younger Irish people are slightly more likely than White British Londoners aged 16 to 24 to be economically active full-time students. While the pattern is also similar for people aged 25 and over, the differences between Irish and White British are much bigger than for those aged 16-24. In particular the rates of permanently sick or disabled inactive are even higher, with 9 per cent of all Irish people aged 25 to 74 being economically inactive because they are permanently sick or disabled. Irish men have a greater chance than Irish women of being permanently sick or disabled, with 11 per cent of Irish men aged 25 to 74 permanently sick, compared with 7 per cent of Irish women of the same age and 5 per cent of all Londoners.

Table 16 shows that White Irish have higher rates of permanent sickness or disability than any other ethnic group, both in London and in England and Wales, with the rate even higher outside London. Within London the highest rate of permanently sick or disabled is in Camden, at nearly 16 per cent of Irish people aged 25 to 74. Outside London the rates is highest in

**Table 17 Economically active in employment and unemployed, percentages 2001**

	All people	White British	White Irish
Economically active (excluding full-time students)	3,423,376	2,158,382	116,402
Percentage of economically active:	100	100	100
In Employment	93	95	94
Employee	79	80	79
Self employed with employees	4	4	5
Self employed without employees	9	10	10
Unemployed	7	5	6
Economically active full-time students	156,978	62,537	2,573
Percentage of economically active:	100	100	100
In Employment	81	88	86
Employee	78	85	82
Self employed with employees	1	1	1
Self employed without employees	2	3	3
Unemployed	19	12	14

Source: 2001 Census, Commissioned Table M248

Easington, where 22 per cent of Irish people aged 25 to 74 and 30 per cent of Irish men aged 25 to 74 are permanently sick or disabled. In Easington this is likely to be because of previous occupation, as it is a former mining area. In many other areas it is also likely to be linked with former occupation, which is usually some kind of heavy industry, but it is not easy to generalise for the areas concerned. The areas with the highest rates of permanently sick or disabled Irish people after Easington are Salford (18 per cent), Burnley (17 per cent), Manchester (17 per cent), Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn, Hartlepool, Camden and Stoke-on-Trent all with (16 per cent). Islington ranks 11th out of all districts in England and Wales, Hackney comes 23rd, and Tower Hamlets 25th. Hammersmith & Fulham, Newham, Westminster and Barking & Dagenham also appear in the top 50 local authority districts in the country and all have at least 12 per cent of Irish people permanently sick or disabled.

In all nearly all these areas the rates are considerably higher for men than women, for example in Easington the rates are 30 per cent for men and 16 per cent for women. In Camden the rates are 21 per cent for men and 10 per cent for women. There are a small number of districts where the rates of permanent sickness or disability are higher for Irish women than for Irish men: the four with the largest differences between men and women are Derwentside, Ryedale, Wansbeck and Castle Morpeth. The rates in Derwentside for Irish men and women are nearly 16 per cent for women and 10 per cent for men. The former industries and occupations of people in these areas are likely to be a factor in this - mill towns and former mining areas are showing high rates of permanent sickness, as well as areas with other types of heavy industry.

**Table 18 Unemployment by age and sex in London, percentages 2001**

<i>All people</i>	All people	White British	White Irish
All ages	7	5	6
16-24	12	9	10
25-34	6	4	5
35-54	6	4	6
55-59	6	5	7
60-64	6	4	6
65-74	4	3	4
<i>Men</i>			
All ages	8	6	7
16-24	14	11	11
25-34	7	5	5
35-54	6	5	7
55-59	7	6	9
60-64	8	6	9
65-74	4	3	4
<i>Women</i>			
All ages	6	4	4
16-24	10	7	8
25-34	6	4	4
35-54	5	4	5
55-59	4	3	5
60-64	2	2	2
65-74	4	4	4

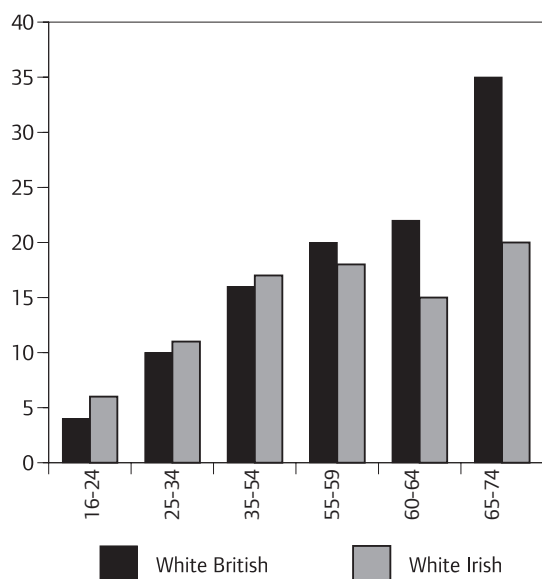
Source: 2001 Census, Commissioned Table M248

## Unemployment

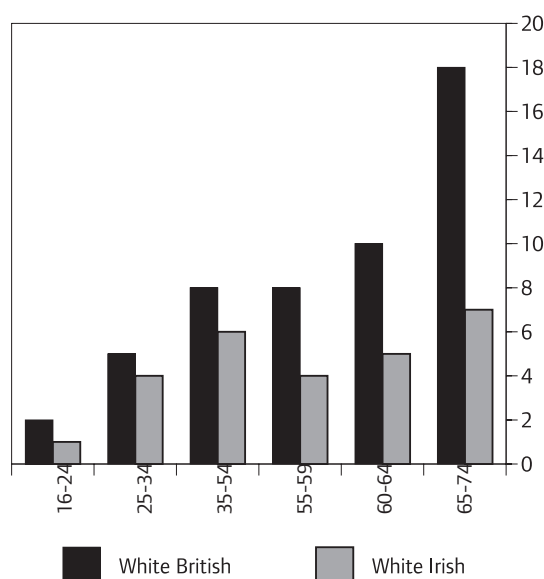
Table 17 shows the details of employment status and unemployment for economically active Irish and White British people in London. The unemployment rate overall is slightly higher for Irish people, 6 per cent of Irish compared with 5 per cent of White British. Generally the differences in unemployment rates between Irish and White British people in total are small.

Where there are differences, though, are for some age groups for men and women. Irish people age of all ages are slightly more likely to be unemployed than White British of the same age, but the differences are quite small. For Irish men, it is only in the age groups above 35 that the unemployment rates for Irish men are higher than the rates for White British. For Irish women,

**Figure 14 Irish and White British men self-employed without employees, London 2001**



**Figure 15 Irish and White British women self-employed without employees, London 2001**



the unemployment rates are the same as White British women for ages 25-34 and 65 to 74 and slightly higher for all other ages groups, as shown in Table 18.

The category of economic activity for which there are substantial differences between Irish and White British people is self-employed without employees. The proportions of White British and Irish men and women in this category are illustrated in Figures 14 and 15. Irish men under 55 are more likely than White British men of the same age to be self-employed without employees, but for all ages groups from 55 upwards White British men are more likely to be self-employed and the difference grows with age. White British women of all ages are more likely than Irish women to be self-employed without employees.

## Employment

### Occupation

The occupation profile of Irish people in London is given in Table 19. This shows the distribution by major occupation group. As with the White British population, the largest proportions of Irish people in London are in occupation groups 1 to 4. There are equal proportions who are managers and senior officials and in associate professional and technical occupations, the largest occupation groups.

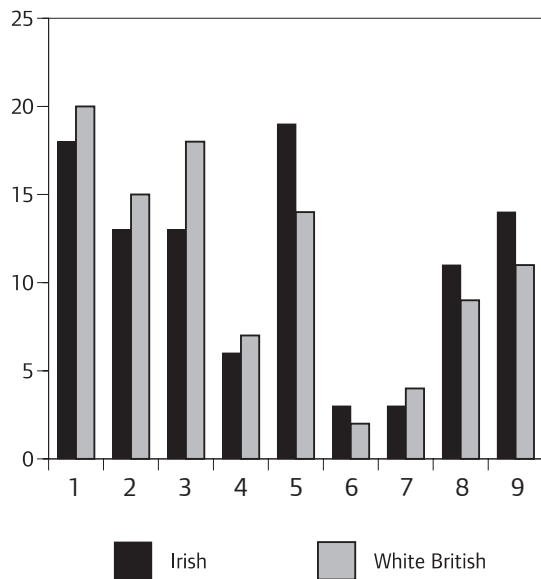
The comparison with White British Londoners shows that larger proportions of White British than Irish in the first four occupation groups and in group 7, sales and customer service occupations. There are larger proportions of Irish in skilled trades, personal service occupations, process, plant and machine operatives and in elementary occupations.

**Table 19 Major occupation group for men and women in London, percentages 2001**

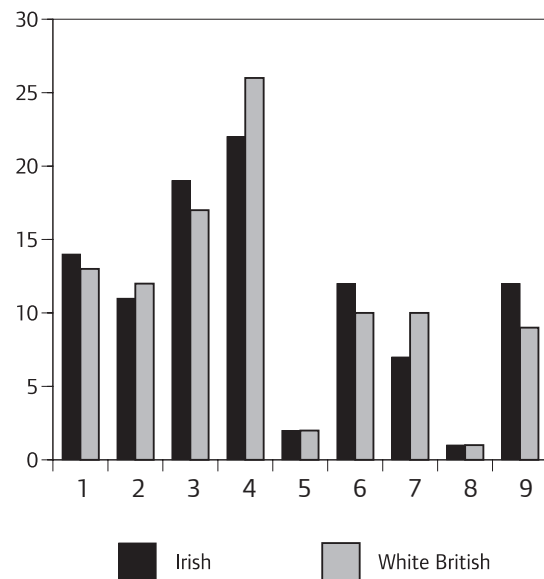
Major occupation group	All people	White British	White Irish
<i>All people</i>	100	100	100
1 Managers and Senior Officials	16	17	16
2 Professional Occupations	13	13	12
3 Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	16	17	16
4 Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	16	17	14
5 Skilled Trades Occupations	8	8	10
6 Personal Service Occupations	6	6	7
7 Sales and Customer Service Occupations	8	7	5
8 Process and Plant and Machine Operatives	5	5	6
9 Elementary Occupations	11	10	13
<i>Men</i>	100	100	100
1 Managers and Senior Officials	19	20	18
2 Professional Occupations	15	15	13
3 Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	16	18	13
4 Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	8	7	6
5 Skilled Trades Occupations	13	14	19
6 Personal Service Occupations	3	2	3
7 Sales and Customer Service Occupations	5	4	3
8 Process and Plant and Machine Operatives	9	9	11
9 Elementary Occupations	12	11	14
<i>Women</i>	100	100	100
1 Managers and Senior Officials	12	13	14
2 Professional Occupations	12	12	11
3 Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	17	17	19
4 Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	25	26	22
5 Skilled Trades Occupations	2	2	2
6 Personal Service Occupations	10	10	12
7 Sales and Customer Service Occupations	11	10	7
8 Process and Plant and Machine Operatives	2	1	1
9 Elementary Occupations	10	9	12

Source: 2001 Census, Commissioned Table M253

**Figure 16 Percentage of Irish and White British men in London by major occupation group, 2001**



**Figure 17 Percentage of Irish and White British women in London by major occupation group, 2001**



The differences in the occupation profiles of Irish and White British people in London are even more apparent when looking at them by gender. For all ethnic groups the occupation profiles of men and women are different, so comparing Irish and White British men and women sheds more light on the real differences between the types of jobs that people do.

Figure 16 shows the occupation distribution of Irish and White British men. The largest occupation for Irish men in London is skilled trades, with 19 per cent, closely followed by 18 per cent who are managers and senior officials. For White British men skilled trades ranks fourth out of the nine major occupation groups with 14 per cent, behind managers and senior officials, associate professional and technical occupations and professional occupations. There are lower proportions of Irish than White British men in all of the first four major occupation groups and in sales occupations.

Figure 17 shows the occupation distribution of Irish women compared with White British women. Larger proportions of Irish than White British women are managers and senior officials, in associate professional and technical occupations and in personal service occupations.

### *Industry*

The industries in which Irish Londoners work are shown in Table 20. The largest proportion work in real estate, renting and business activities, as do the largest proportion of all Londoners. The second largest industry for Irish Londoners is health and social work, followed by construction and retail trades. The industry distribution is different for men and women, with Irish men concentrated in the construction industry (22 per cent or 16,578 in London). This compares with only 10 per cent of White British men. Figure 18 compares the industry distribution of Irish and White British men and shows the very large difference between the proportions in the construction industry and the lower proportions of Irish men in

**Table 20 Major industry group for Irish and White British people in London, and Irish men in London and England and Wales, percentages 2001**

Major industry group		All people	White British	White Irish	Men	
					Men	Men E&W
Total		100	100	100	100	100
A	Agriculture, hunting, forestry	0	0	0	1	1
B	Fishing	0	0	0	0	0
C	Mining	0	0	0	0	1
D	Manufacturing	8	8	6	8	14
E	Electricity, gas and water supply	0	0	0	1	1
F	Construction	5	6	12	22	20
G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods	16	14	11	10	11
H	Hotels and Restaurants	5	4	6	5	4
I	Transport, storage and communications	8	8	7	10	9
J	Financial intermediation	7	8	7	7	4
K	Real estate, renting and business activities	19	20	17	17	14
L	Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	5	5	5	4	4
M	Education	7	8	8	4	5
N	Health and Social Work	10	9	14	5	6
O,P,Q	Other	8	9	7	7	5

Source: 2001 Census, Commissioned Table M252

manufacturing, retail trades, and real estate, renting and business activities. For women, shown in Figure 19, the biggest difference between Irish and White British women is in health and social work.

There is a long history of Irish men working in the construction industry. In 1966, when there was a Sample Census, there were 30,410 men born in the Irish Republic living in London and working in the construction industry. If Northern Ireland is included, nearly 70 per cent of foreign born workers in the construction industry living in London were born in Ireland. In Great Britain as a whole, 86,660 men born in the Irish Republic were working in the construction industry in 1966, again with nearly 70 per cent of all foreign born construction workers being born in Ireland. A similar pattern is shown in the 1971 Census, with 76,040 men born in the Irish Republic working in the construction industry in Great Britain.

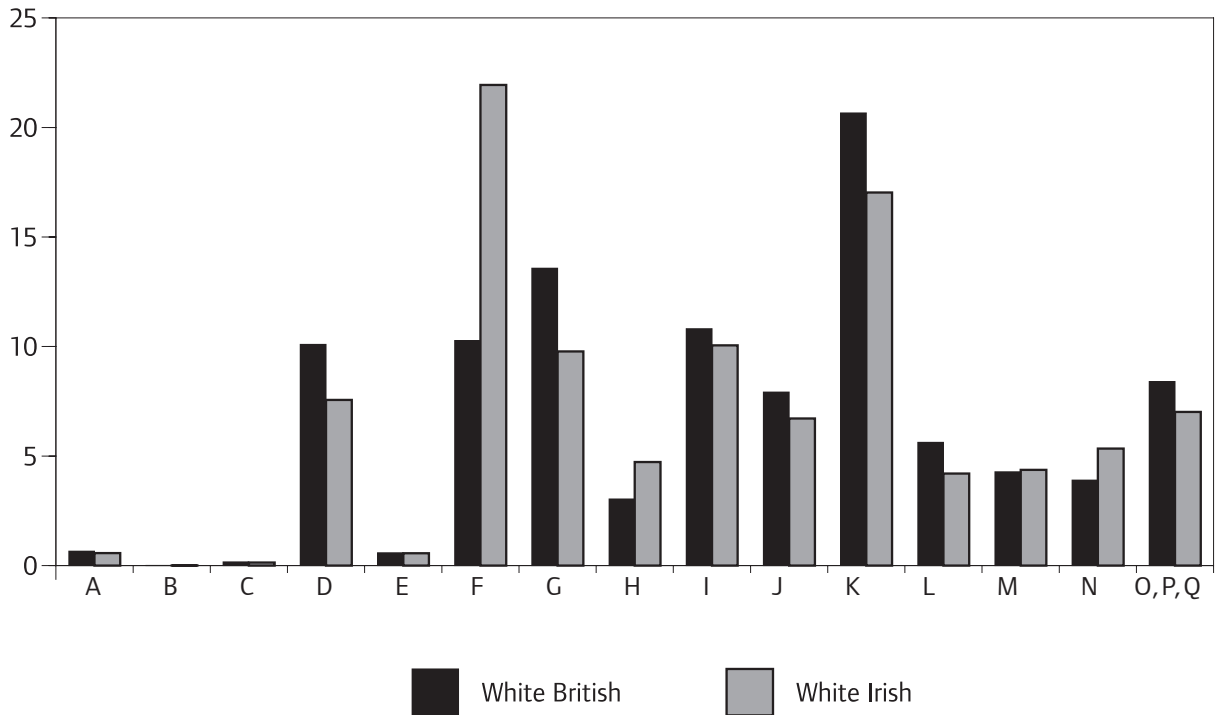
### **Prison service establishments**

A further topic which is included in the 2001 Census and which is of interest when comparing other ethnic groups with White British is the number of people living in a range of communal establishments, one of which is prison service establishments. There are a number of reasons to be very careful when interpreting this data, one of which is that the figures include residents and staff, although the number of staff who actually live in prison service establishments is likely to be small. Another factor is that residents in prisons may not be British residents, for example drug smugglers or others may be taken off planes at airports and taken straight to prison, and if they receive a sentence of more than six months then they may be considered resident at the establishment they are in when the Census was taken. A further complication is that prisoners may not remain in the same prison during their sentence and are only considered resident if they have been, or expect to be, at the same prison for six months or more.

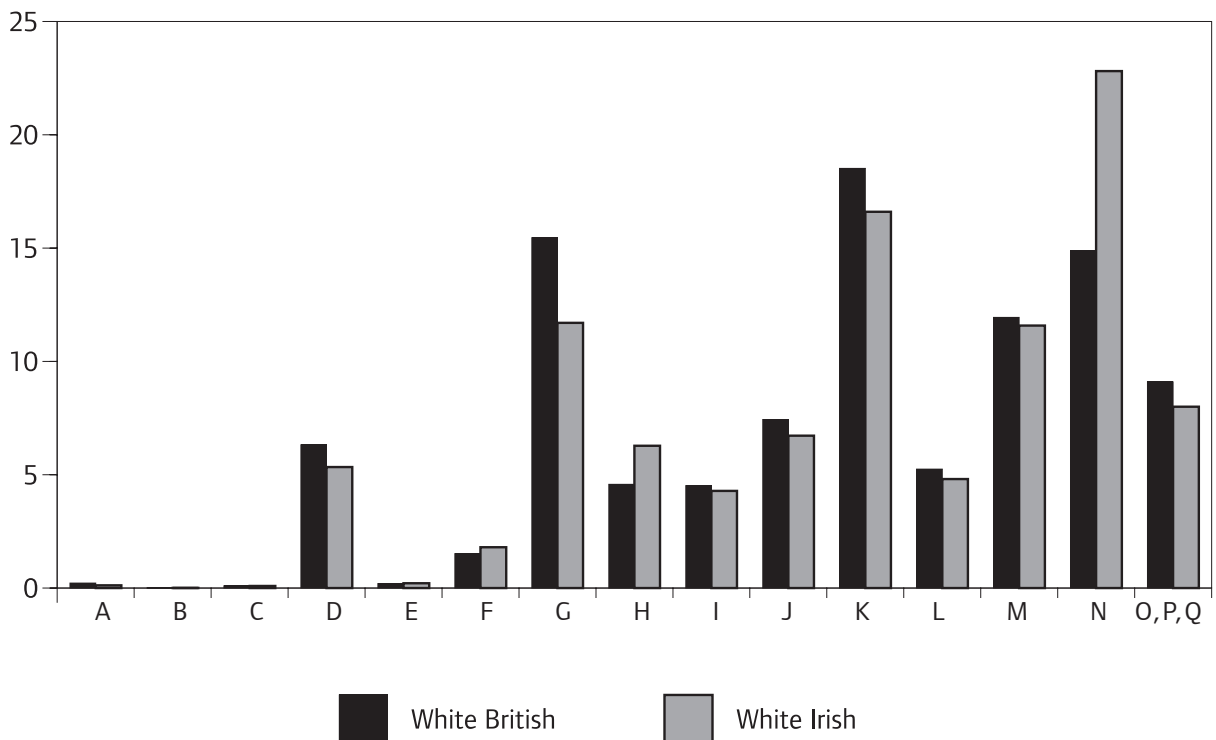
Table 21 gives the ethnic group breakdown of people in prison service establishments by sex for London and England and Wales. The national figures are more meaningful, because Londoners convicted and sentenced to six months or more in prison will not necessarily serve their sentence in prison in London, they could be anywhere in the country. So while London figures are available, they may not be very meaningful.

Table 21 gives the numbers and the ratio of the percentage of each ethnic group in prison service establishments to the percentage of White British people in prison service establishments. The percentages of the total populations are very small for all groups, so the ratios of other groups to White British are a much better illustration of the differences between other ethnic groups and White British. For example, the ratio for White Irish men in England and Wales is 2.5, suggesting that Irish men are 2 and a half times more likely than White British men to be in a prison service establishment. The corresponding ratios for some other ethnic groups are much larger than the Irish, and most are larger than one, indicating that most ethnic groups have a higher chance than White British of being in prison service establishments, for a variety of reasons.

**Figure 18 Percentage of Irish and White British men in London by major industry, 2001**



**Figure 19 Percentage of Irish and White British women in London by major industry, 2001**



**Table 21 People in prison service establishments by ethnic group, 2001**

<i>England and Wales</i>	Prison service establishments			Ratio of group % to White British		
	People	Males	Females	People	Males	Females
All groups	46,875	44,237	2,638	1.2	1.1	1.3
White British	35,512	33,802	1,710	1.0	1.0	1.0
Irish	1,197	1,140	57	2.4	2.5	2.3
Other White	1,591	1,445	146	1.5	1.5	2.8
White and Black Caribbean	1,134	1,035	99	6.1	5.9	11.1
White and Black African	289	273	16	4.7	4.6	5.4
White and Asian	260	237	23	1.8	1.6	3.3
Other Mixed	297	259	38	2.4	2.3	6.5
Indian	532	517	15	0.7	0.7	0.4
Pakistani	952	925	27	1.7	1.7	1.0
Bangladeshi	197	188	9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Other Asian	261	252	9	1.4	1.3	1.1
Black Caribbean	2,665	2,340	325	6.1	5.9	14.7
Black African	871	807	64	2.3	2.3	3.5
Other Black	520	461	59	6.9	6.6	16.0
Chinese	116	112	4	0.7	0.7	0.5
Other	180	160	20	1.1	1.1	2.2
<hr/>						
<i>London</i>	Prison service establishments			Ratio of group % to White British		
	People	Males	Females	People	Males	Females
All groups	2,686	2,454	232	1.1	1.1	1.5
White British	1,443	1,354	89	1.0	1.0	1.0
Irish	113	108	5	1.5	1.6	1.1
Other White	186	159	27	0.9	0.9	2.1
White and Black Caribbean	82	72	10	3.4	3.3	6.6
White and Black African	25	25	-	2.2	2.4	-
White and Asian	16	12	4	0.8	0.6	3.3
Other Mixed	28	22	6	1.4	1.2	4.6
Indian	44	44	-	0.3	0.3	-
Pakistani	37	34	3	0.8	0.7	1.1
Bangladeshi	20	16	4	0.4	0.3	1.3
Other Asian	33	27	6	0.7	0.6	2.4
Black Caribbean	376	324	52	3.3	3.3	6.7
Black African	150	138	12	1.2	1.2	1.5
Other Black	65	57	8	3.2	3.2	6.1
Chinese	9	9	-	0.3	0.4	-
Other	25	22	3	0.7	0.7	1.2

*Source: 2001 Census, Standard Tables, Table ST101 and ST125*

**Table A1 Number and percentage of Irish people in London boroughs, 2001**

	All people	Irish	% Irish
City of London	7,198	237	3.3
Barking and Dagenham	163,957	2,753	1.7
Barnet	314,555	10,545	3.4
Bexley	218,303	3,026	1.4
Brent	263,466	18,313	7.0
Bromley	295,529	4,652	1.6
Camden	198,028	9,149	4.6
Croydon	330,580	7,130	2.2
Ealing	300,955	14,285	4.7
Enfield	273,565	8,398	3.1
Greenwich	214,406	4,862	2.3
Hackney	202,820	6,118	3.0
Hammersmith and Fulham	165,240	7,983	4.8
Haringey	216,512	9,302	4.3
Harrow	206,816	9,057	4.4
Havering	224,244	3,390	1.5
Hillingdon	243,005	6,911	2.8
Hounslow	212,359	6,198	2.9
Islington	175,801	10,057	5.7
Kensington and Chelsea	158,919	5,183	3.3
Kingston upon Thames	147,269	3,199	2.2
Lambeth	266,193	8,689	3.3
Lewisham	248,935	6,990	2.8
Merton	187,904	5,462	2.9
Newham	243,884	3,231	1.3
Redbridge	238,623	5,559	2.3
Richmond upon Thames	172,342	4,805	2.8
Southwark	244,857	7,674	3.1
Sutton	179,754	3,664	2.0
Tower Hamlets	196,100	3,824	2.0
Waltham Forest	218,334	5,113	2.3
Wandsworth	260,378	8,151	3.1
Westminster	181,291	6,574	3.6
Inner London	2,766,114	93,164	3.4
Outer London	4,405,975	127,324	2.9
Greater London	7,172,091	220,488	3.1
England and Wales	52,041,916	641,804	1.2

Source: 2001 Census, Standard Tables, Table ST101

**Table A2 Percentage of Irish people born in Ireland and England in London boroughs, 2001**

	All Irish	Percentage born in:			
		England	Northern Ireland	Republic of Ireland	Elsewhere
City of London	100	20	11	62	7
Barking and Dagenham	100	21	5	73	1
Barnet	100	26	5	66	2
Bexley	100	25	6	68	1
Brent	100	26	4	69	2
Bromley	100	26	6	66	2
Camden	100	22	7	67	4
Croydon	100	25	6	67	2
Ealing	100	25	5	68	2
Enfield	100	32	5	61	2
Greenwich	100	25	8	65	3
Hackney	100	25	8	64	3
Hammersmith and Fulham	100	18	6	71	5
Haringey	100	29	8	60	3
Harrow	100	31	4	63	1
Havering	100	22	5	73	1
Hillingdon	100	25	5	69	1
Hounslow	100	21	6	71	2
Islington	100	25	7	64	3
Kensington and Chelsea	100	17	6	66	11
Kingston upon Thames	100	23	8	66	3
Lambeth	100	24	9	64	4
Lewisham	100	26	8	64	3
Merton	100	25	7	64	4
Newham	100	22	8	68	2
Redbridge	100	26	5	67	1
Richmond upon Thames	100	23	9	63	5
Southwark	100	22	7	68	3
Sutton	100	24	6	68	2
Tower Hamlets	100	20	9	66	4
Waltham Forest	100	25	7	66	2
Wandsworth	100	22	7	66	5
Westminster	100	18	6	70	7
Inner London	100	23	7	66	4
Outer London	100	26	5	67	2
Greater London	100	24	6	66	3
England and Wales	100	22	9	66	3

Source: 2001 Census, Standard Tables, Table ST103

**Table A3 Household composition of Irish households in London boroughs, 2001**

	Irish households	Percentage:			
		All households	One person	One family	Other
City of London	150	100	66	27	7
Barking and Dagenham	1,584	100	36	58	6
Barnet	5,459	100	34	56	10
Bexley	1,630	100	32	63	5
Brent	9,519	100	36	51	12
Bromley	2,558	100	35	59	6
Camden	5,556	100	55	34	10
Croydon	3,892	100	37	56	7
Ealing	7,376	100	36	53	11
Enfield	4,175	100	32	60	7
Greenwich	2,839	100	44	49	7
Hackney	3,783	100	50	40	10
Hammersmith and Fulham	4,910	100	51	37	12
Haringey	5,106	100	42	47	12
Harrow	4,369	100	28	63	10
Havering	1,803	100	31	63	6
Hillingdon	3,623	100	30	63	7
Hounslow	3,267	100	37	51	12
Islington	6,224	100	53	37	10
Kensington and Chelsea	3,417	100	58	31	11
Kingston upon Thames	1,687	100	36	56	8
Lambeth	5,023	100	45	43	13
Lewisham	3,852	100	39	49	12
Merton	3,003	100	36	54	10
Newham	1,963	100	46	44	10
Redbridge	2,903	100	32	58	10
Richmond upon Thames	2,473	100	37	53	10
Southwark	4,574	100	45	43	11
Sutton	2,024	100	34	61	5
Tower Hamlets	2,488	100	54	33	13
Waltham Forest	2,770	100	36	53	12
Wandsworth	4,593	100	41	43	15
Westminster	4,341	100	59	32	9
Inner London	55,981	100	49	39	11
Outer London	66,957	100	35	56	9
Greater London	122,938	100	41	48	10
England and Wales	357,289	100	38	55	8

Source: 2001 Census, Standard Tables, Table ST106

**Table A4 Irish households by tenure, accommodation type and car ownership, 2001**

	Irish households	Percentage of Irish households:				
		Owned	Social rented	No car	In houses	In flats
City of London	149	37	29	70	0	87
Barking and Dagenham	1,583	62	30	48	76	23
Barnet	5,458	65	20	35	61	37
Bexley	1,637	78	15	30	78	20
Brent	9,517	57	27	44	54	44
Bromley	2,554	72	17	30	66	32
Camden	5,559	23	57	70	12	86
Croydon	3,891	69	17	34	68	30
Ealing	7,374	64	22	39	57	41
Enfield	4,176	77	11	29	69	30
Greenwich	2,838	47	43	49	54	44
Hackney	3,781	32	53	66	24	73
Hammersmith and Fulham	4,912	33	50	64	28	70
Haringey	5,105	47	34	54	47	51
Harrow	4,367	75	13	27	75	24
Havering	1,805	79	14	31	82	18
Hillingdon	3,623	74	16	27	78	20
Hounslow	3,270	59	25	36	58	40
Islington	6,228	26	62	68	19	79
Kensington and Chelsea	3,416	29	48	67	12	86
Kingston upon Thames	1,688	69	16	32	63	34
Lambeth	5,022	35	47	62	30	69
Lewisham	3,850	53	35	47	51	48
Merton	3,003	71	15	35	66	33
Newham	1,958	47	37	59	58	40
Redbridge	2,901	76	11	31	74	25
Richmond upon Thames	2,471	65	15	30	58	39
Southwark	4,570	29	59	65	24	74
Sutton	2,025	73	17	29	69	29
Tower Hamlets	2,493	30	51	68	16	81
Waltham Forest	2,771	63	20	43	62	37
Wandsworth	4,593	50	30	52	36	62
Westminster	4,342	26	51	71	10	87
Inner London	55,981	35	48	63	27	71
Outer London	66,957	67	20	36	64	34
Greater London	122,938	52	33	48	47	51
England and Wales	357,289	61	26	40	69	29

Source: 2001 Census, Standard Tables, Table ST111 and Commissioned Table SCT001

**Table A5 Health and unemployment of Irish people in London boroughs, 2001**

	Irish people	% with limiting long-term illness	% not good health	% aged 16-74 permanently sick	% econ. active unemployed
City of London	243	15	12	6	5
Barking and Dagenham	2,752	30	19	11	5
Barnet	10,543	19	11	5	4
Bexley	3,026	22	11	6	4
Brent	18,313	22	13	8	6
Bromley	4,651	19	10	5	4
Camden	9,148	31	20	15	11
Croydon	7,132	20	11	5	5
Ealing	14,285	19	11	7	4
Enfield	8,401	17	10	5	4
Greenwich	4,864	25	16	10	7
Hackney	6,115	31	19	14	9
Hammersmith and Fulham	7,986	30	19	12	7
Haringey	9,301	22	13	9	7
Harrow	9,056	16	9	4	3
Havering	3,389	24	13	6	4
Hillingdon	6,912	19	11	5	4
Hounslow	6,197	19	11	6	4
Islington	10,056	32	20	14	9
Kensington and Chelsea	5,183	27	16	9	7
Kingston upon Thames	3,200	18	10	3	3
Lambeth	8,688	25	15	9	9
Lewisham	6,992	22	14	8	7
Merton	5,462	18	10	5	4
Newham	3,229	28	17	12	9
Redbridge	5,564	21	10	6	4
Richmond upon Thames	4,806	14	8	3	3
Southwark	7,674	28	18	12	9
Sutton	3,666	21	11	5	4
Tower Hamlets	3,823	30	20	13	7
Waltham Forest	5,114	20	12	7	4
Wandsworth	8,151	21	12	6	5
Westminster	6,577	30	19	12	7
Inner London	93,164	27	17	11	8
Outer London	127,324	20	11	6	4
Greater London	220,488	23	14	8	6
England and Wales	641,804	26	15	8	5

Source: 2001 Census, Standard Tables, Tables ST107 and ST108

**Table A6 Irish Londoners by qualifications, occupation and industry, 2001**

	Irish people aged 16-74	% with no qualifs	% with degree level qualifs	% in occs 1 & 2*	% in skilled trades J & K**	% in inds. J & K**	% in con- struction
City of London	211	13	63	57	4	45	-
Barking and Dagenham	2,314	48	14	21	14	17	14
Barnet	8,801	31	27	32	11	24	13
Bexley	2,578	36	18	27	11	24	13
Brent	15,421	41	18	23	16	19	20
Bromley	3,957	28	30	36	9	27	11
Camden	7,804	37	31	34	7	27	8
Croydon	5,976	31	24	31	11	23	14
Ealing	12,286	33	27	31	12	22	14
Enfield	7,116	30	23	28	13	21	16
Greenwich	4,126	37	25	31	11	24	12
Hackney	5,367	38	32	37	7	26	7
Hammersmith and Fulham	6,893	40	28	34	8	33	8
Haringey	8,023	31	32	33	10	23	12
Harrow	7,448	30	21	26	15	21	20
Havering	2,840	36	21	25	11	21	13
Hillingdon	5,868	34	19	28	12	18	16
Hounslow	5,335	30	26	32	9	21	9
Islington	8,744	42	27	32	9	28	10
Kensington and Chelsea	4,402	28	42	47	5	42	4
Kingston upon Thames	2,710	25	34	38	7	25	10
Lambeth	7,538	34	35	36	7	27	8
Lewisham	6,052	35	28	29	12	24	13
Merton	4,700	28	33	33	11	28	12
Newham	2,753	42	21	26	11	24	14
Redbridge	4,681	31	28	30	12	21	16
Richmond upon Thames	4,144	16	43	47	5	33	5
Southwark	6,703	40	28	32	7	27	10
Sutton	3,116	30	25	29	12	21	13
Tower Hamlets	3,468	35	37	39	6	41	6
Waltham Forest	4,474	31	29	28	10	21	12
Wandsworth	7,049	29	40	42	7	36	7
Westminster	5,560	33	35	39	6	36	5
Inner London	80,572	36	32	35	8	30	9
Outer London	107,894	33	25	30	12	22	14
Greater London	188,466	34	28	32	10	25	12
England and Wales	540,313	38	25	31	10	20	11

Source: 2001 Census, Standard Tables, Tables ST109, ST110 and ST117; \* Occupations 1 and 2 are managers and senior officials, and professional occupations; \*\* Industries J & K are financial intermediation, real estate, renting and business activities

## Regular briefings and data from GLA Data Management and Analysis Group

The latest DMAG Briefings are:

DMAG 2004/1	2003 Round Ward Population Projections	Georgia Hay
DMAG 2004/2	London's Workers Part 1: 2001 Census results	Eileen Howes
DMAG 2004/3	Borough Demographic Profiles	Georgia Hay
DMAG 2004/4	DMAG Annual Review 2003	Jackie Maguire/ Rob Lewis
DMAG 2004/5	2003 Round Demographic Projections	John Hollis
DMAG 2004/6	Londoners' Qualifications: An analysis of 2001 Census data	Gareth Piggott
DMAG 2004/7	The Parliamentary General Election, 2001	Michael Minors/ Dennis Grenham/ Jackie Maguire
DMAG 2004/8	Constituency Demographic Profiles	Georgia Hay
DMAG 2004/9	Measuring Unemployment	Lorna Spence
DMAG 2004/10	Measures of Income	Rachel Leeser/ Lorna Spence
DMAG 2004/11	2001 Census Profiles: The Irish in London	Eileen Howes
DMAG 2004/12	Health in London: Age-standardised Rates	Gareth Piggott
DMAG 2004/13	Data Sources on Refugees and Asylum Seekers	Ed Klodawski

If you would like copies of previous briefings, please contact Jackie Maguire at the GLA, [jackie.maguire@london.gov.uk](mailto:jackie.maguire@london.gov.uk).

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