

2011 Census Snapshot: Households and Families

December 2012

On 11th December 2012 ONS released the first Key Statistics for Local Authorities from the 2011 Census for England and Wales. These follow on from the release in July of the basic population statistics by age and sex, which have already been covered in GLA Intelligence Update 13-2012. This paper sets out the key findings for London in respect of the household and family information from the Key Statistics looking at specific aspects of the data release including:

- Residents in households and in communal establishments
- Marital and Civil Partnership Status
- Living Arrangements
- Household Composition
- Households with Dependent Children

Separate 2011 Census Snapshots cover the Diversity, Housing, Migrant population, Labour Market, Health and Unpaid Care and Qualifications data included in this release.

Key Findings

- The usually resident population of London on Census Day 2011 (27 March) was 8.17 million, nearly all of whom lived in private households.
- London is a city of contrasts and extremes in terms of the characteristics of its population and their living arrangements.
- London's average household size is larger than that of any other region, encompassing the local authorities with both the smallest (City of London and Kensington & Chelsea) and largest (Newham) household sizes.
- London includes the most densely populated parts of the country, with almost 140 residents per hectare in Islington, while in some Outer London boroughs such as Bromley, Havering and Hillingdon, the ratio was close to 20 persons per hectare.
- The number of single (never married or in civil partnership) residents aged 16 or over in London exceeded the number who were married for the first time in the 2011 Census. Further, less than half of all Londoners aged 16 or over now live in couples.

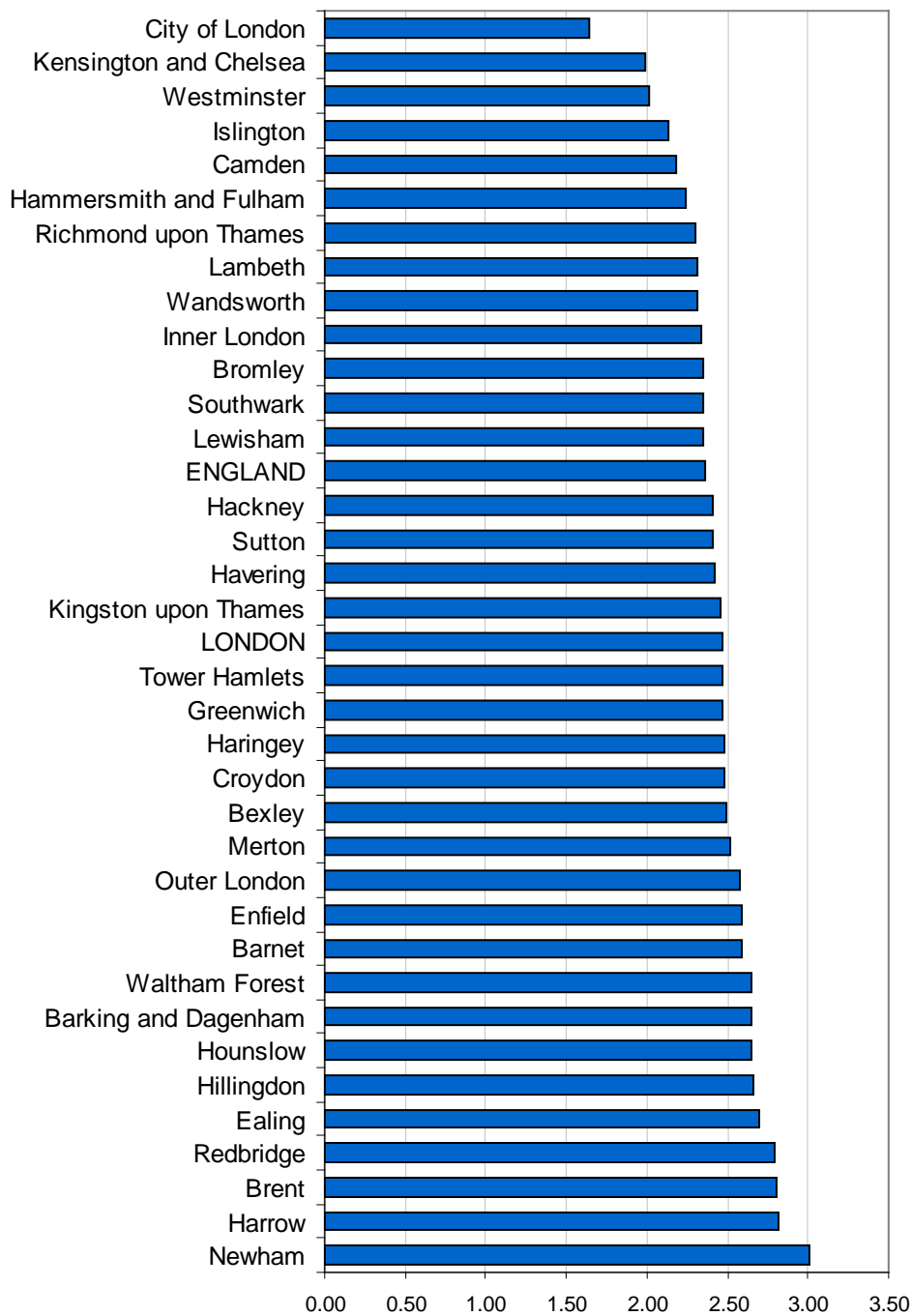
- The proportion of Londoners aged 16 or over in a same-sex civil partnership, at 0.4 per cent, was double the national rate.
- There were 3.27 million households in London, an increase of 250,000 since 2001. Nearly a tenth of the increase was in Tower Hamlets alone.
- In London, just 85 per cent of households were formed of a single family unit. More than a quarter of all households in England made up of more than one family unit were in London.
- Nearly a third of London's household comprised one person living alone, while just 30 per cent of those were someone aged 65 or over.
- Around 80 per cent of City households were one-person households, contrasting sharply with just 20 per cent in Harrow.
- London had twice as many households with more than one family unit with dependent children as the rest of England.
- The percentage of households including at least one dependent child ranged from less than ten per cent in the City of London to over 40 per cent in Barking & Dagenham.
- In five London boroughs, more than a quarter of households with dependent children had no adult in employment – Islington, Tower Hamlets, Hackney, Westminster and Barking & Dagenham

Private and Communal Population

The vast majority of Londoners live in private households - 8,073,700 of the total of 8,173,941 residents lived in 3,266,173 households, that is, 98.8 per cent of the population. In Bexley, this proportion was up to 99.5 per cent – the fifth highest in England and Wales. The remaining 1.2 per cent of London's population lived in communal establishments. That is just two thirds of the proportion for England as a whole of 1.8 per cent, though some boroughs have significantly higher proportions of communal residents. In Camden, 3.6 per cent, double the national proportion, lived in communal establishments.

The average household size for London was 2.47, up from around 2.40 in 2001, and the largest of any region in England or Wales. This compares with 2.36 for England as a whole in 2011. But London is a city of contrasts and includes the local authorities with both the lowest and highest average household sizes. The City of London and Kensington & Chelsea were the only two authorities in England and Wales where there are fewer than two residents per household on average (1.64 and 1.99 respectively), while Westminster sits just above, at 2.02. Newham, at the other end of the scale, is the only local authority where the average was greater than three residents per household (3.01, up from 2.70 in 2001). Harrow, Brent and Redbridge were next largest with averages of 2.81 for Harrow and 2.80 for both Brent and Redbridge.

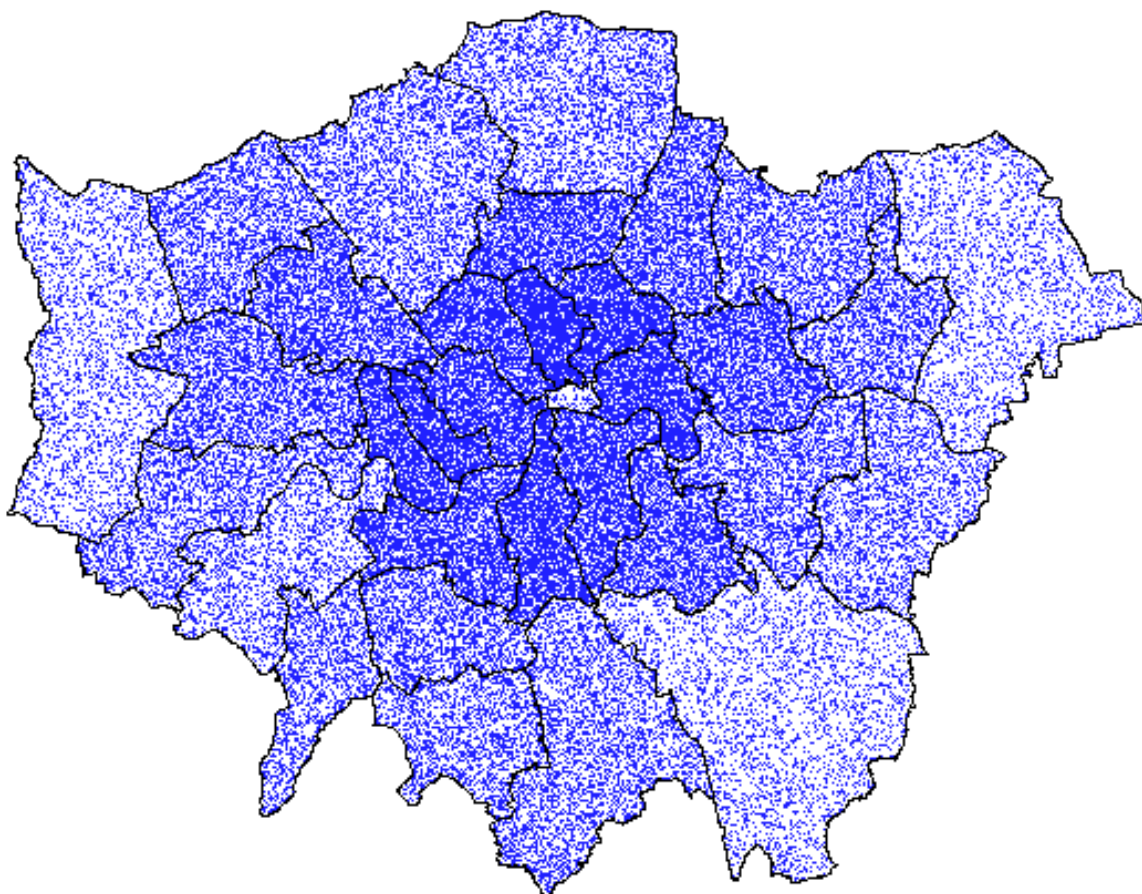
Figure 1: Average Household Size, London Boroughs



Source: Census 2011 Key Statistics KS101 and KS105

The City of London and Kensington & Chelsea also top the list for the local authorities with the smallest geographical size, followed by Islington. Indeed, 11 of the 20 smallest local authorities are in Inner London, but they are generally not so small in terms of population. The 19 local authorities with the highest population densities are all in London, topped by Islington, with almost 140 residents per hectare. Only seven boroughs were outside the top 35, including the City of London, which had a resident population density of 25.5 people per hectare – just half the average for London. Bromley, Havering and Hillingdon were the only boroughs with lower population densities.

Figure 2: Population Density, London Boroughs



Each dot represents 100 people.

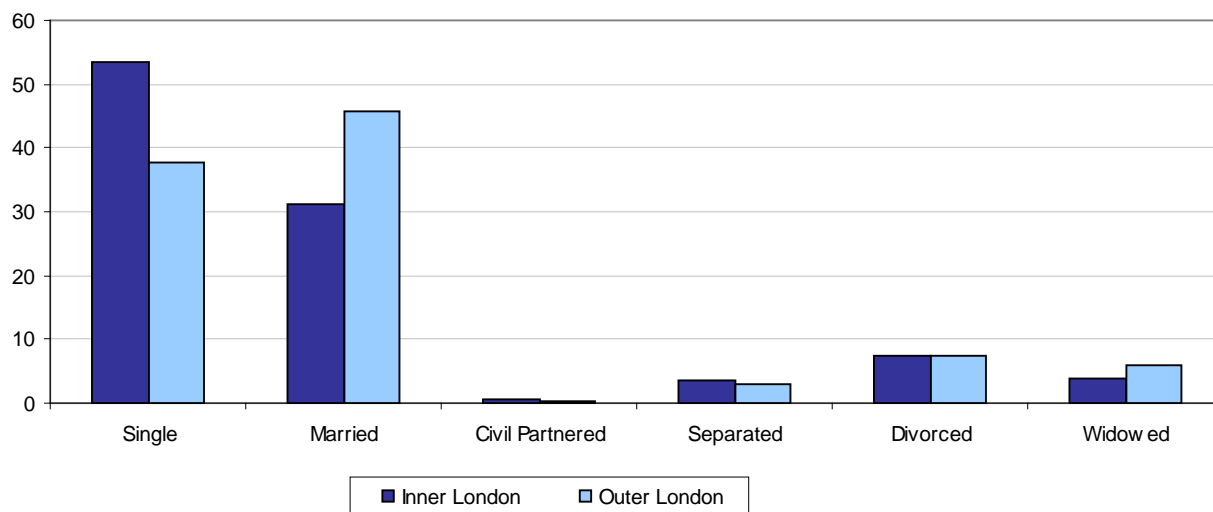
Source: Census 2011 Key Statistics KS101

Marital and Civil Partnership Status

The largest category of Londoners in 2011, representing 44 per cent of all those aged 16 or over, was those who are single, that is, have never been married or in a civil partnership, the first time this group has been larger than the number who are married for London as a whole. In borough terms, 13 of the 20 local authorities with the highest proportions that were single are Inner London boroughs, topped by Islington (almost 60 per cent single).

The 2011 Census was the first since civil partnerships became legally recognised in 2005. The proportion of Londoners aged 16 or over in a same-sex civil partnership, at 0.4 per cent, was double the national rate. The City of London had the highest percentage of its population with this status of any local authority in England and Wales, at 1.7 per cent. Brighton & Hove and Lewes are the only two local authorities outside Inner London among the 15 authorities with the highest rates. The Inner London exception is Newham, which, with a proportion of 0.3 per cent, was still above the national average.

Figure 3: Percentage distribution by marital status, Inner and Outer London



Notes: Single is never married and never in same-sex civil partnership

Separated is still legally married or still legally in same-sex civil partnership

Divorced includes people who were formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved

Widowed includes surviving partners from same-sex civil partnerships

Source: *Census 2011 Key Statistics KS103, Office for National Statistics*

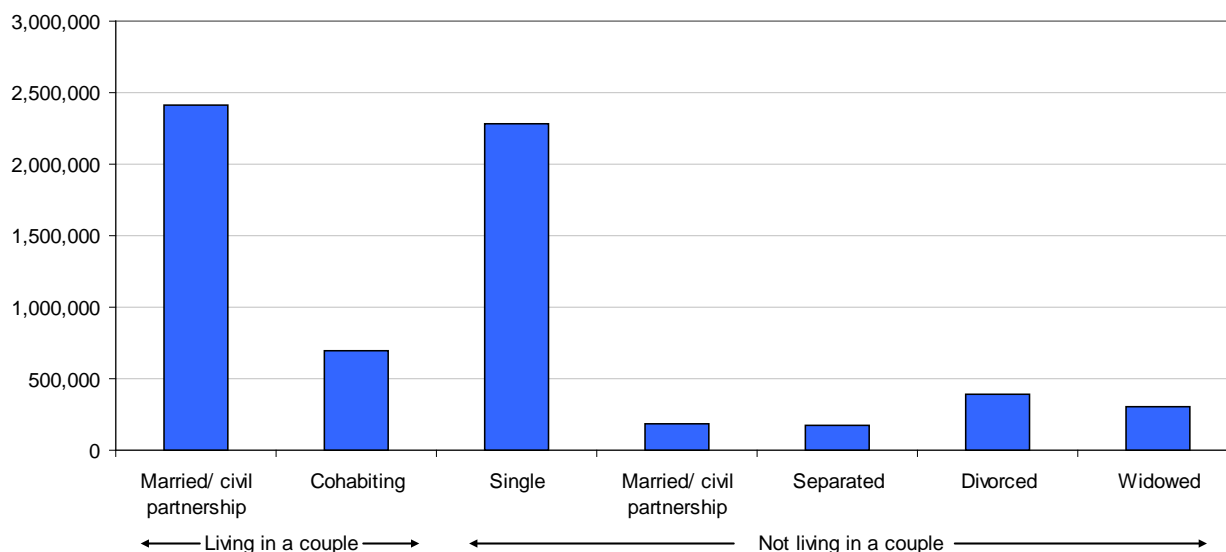
The extremes of London are also evident in the proportion of the population aged 16 or over who were married. Just less than two in five Londoners were married, down from nearly 42 per cent who were married or re-married in 2001. This is again the lowest for any region of England or Wales and Islington had the lowest proportion of all local authorities, at less than one in four, well below half the proportion in Harrow. The differences between Inner and Outer London are clear, with below one in three Inner Londoners married, contrasting with almost 46 per cent of Outer Londoners, almost matching the national average. Newham again proved to be the exception for Inner London boroughs, the only one where more than 40 per cent of the population were married.

The proportion of Londoners who were separated but still legally married or in a civil partnership was just a little higher than for England as a whole, at 3.2 per cent, compared with 2.7 per cent. Nevertheless, nine of the local authorities with the highest rates were in London, with rates of 4.3 per cent in Hackney, Lewisham and Southwark, double those in Kingston upon Thames. The proportion of London’s population who were divorced, at 7.4 per cent, is below the national average of 9.0 per cent.

Living Arrangements

As well as legal marital status, the 2011 Census also asked people aged 16 or over whether or not they were living in a couple. Not surprisingly, this does, to a large extent, reflect marital/civil partnership status. Less than half of all Londoners aged 16 and over now live in couples, falling from just over 50 per cent in 2001, contrasting with nearly 58 per cent for England as a whole in 2011. Nearly all of this difference is due to a decrease in Outer London boroughs, falling from 55.5 per cent in 2001 to less than 53 per cent in 2011.

Figure 4: Living arrangements of residents aged over 16, London



Notes: Single is never married and never in same-sex civil partnership

Separated is still legally married or still legally in same-sex civil partnership

Divorced includes people who were formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved

Widowed includes surviving partners from same-sex civil partnerships

Source: *Census 2011 Key Statistics KS104, Office for National Statistics*

As would be expected from the high proportion of single people living in Islington, and the relatively low proportion who are married, that borough had the lowest proportion of people living as a couple who were married or in a civil partnership, at less than 24 per cent. However, it had among the highest proportions of people living in cohabiting couples, over 15 per cent. Together, this means that over 39 per cent lived in couples, which is higher than the total for Hackney or Lambeth. The eight local authorities with the lowest overall proportions of residents living in couples were all Inner London boroughs, with a further seven London boroughs in the lowest twenty. The proportion of Hackney residents living in a couple (37.7 per cent) was a little over half of the proportion for South Northamptonshire, which had the highest proportion living in a couple (68.8 per cent).

The unique characteristics of Londoners are clear in these data too. Newham had the highest proportion of its population not living in a couple who were married or in a civil partnership, but not separated, at six per cent. Most of the other local authorities with high proportions are also London boroughs. Hackney tops the list of local authorities ranked by the proportion of the population not living in a couple that described themselves as separated, while Harrow and Tower Hamlets had the lowest proportions who are not living in a couple and are divorced or were formerly in a civil partnership which has been legally dissolved. Very low proportions of Londoners are widowed or the surviving partner of a civil partnership, compared with the national average – only Bexley and Havering were above the England figure for this category (6.9 per cent), so it follows that the proportion who were widowed or the surviving partner and not living in a couple is also low for London boroughs – the fourteen local authorities ranked with the lowest proportions are all the Inner London authorities, followed by Brent and Waltham Forest.

Figure 5: Ten local authorities with the highest/ lowest percentages of each living arrangement

Lowest percentage living in a couple:

Married/Civil Partnered

Westminster	30.0
City of London	29.6
Tower Hamlets	28.8
Manchester	28.5
Camden	28.1
Hammersmith and Fulham	27.5
Southwark	26.0
Hackney	24.4
Lambeth	24.0
Islington	23.9

Highest percentage not living in a couple:

Separated

Hackney	3.6
Southwark	3.5
Lewisham	3.4
Barking and Dagenham	3.4
Haringey	3.3
Enfield	3.2
Lambeth	3.2
Newham	3.1
Hastings	3.1
Greenwich	3.1

Lowest percentage living in a couple:

Cohabiting

Hillingdon	9.1
Ealing	8.9
East Dorset	8.8
Chiltern	8.8
Enfield	8.4
Barnet	8.3
Brent	7.6
Newham	7.5
Redbridge	6.9
Harrow	5.7

Lowest percentage not living in a couple:

Divorced

South Staffordshire	5.3
Wandsworth	5.3
Chiltern	5.2
Oadby and Wigston	5.2
Wokingham	5.1
South Cambridgeshire	5.1
Redbridge	5.1
Hart	5.1
Tower Hamlets	4.9
Harrow	4.5

Highest percentage not living in a couple:

Single

Lambeth	46.5
Hackney	46.2
Islington	45.9
Hammersmith and Fulham	45.1
Tower Hamlets	44.7
Camden	42.9
Southwark	42.5
Manchester	42.2
Westminster	41.4
Wandsworth	41.0

Lowest percentage not living in a couple:

Widowed

Newham	3.9
Kensington and Chelsea	3.8
Islington	3.7
Haringey	3.7
Tower Hamlets	3.6
Southwark	3.6
Hammersmith and Fulham	3.5
Wandsworth	3.5
Hackney	3.3
Lambeth	3.2

Highest percentage not living in a couple:

Married/Civil Partnered

Newham	6.0
City of London	5.6
Brent	5.0
Ealing	4.1
Westminster	4.0
Kensington and Chelsea	3.8
Slough	3.7
Hounslow	3.6
Waltham Forest	3.5
Tower Hamlets	3.5

Source: Census 2011 Key Statistics KS10,4 Office for National Statistics

Household Composition

A household is made up of all the individuals living at the same address that share living space¹ and/or cooking facilities. This means that while some people live alone, there may be more than one household at an address, but there may also be more than one family unit² within a household. In London, there were 3.27 million households counted in the 2011 Census, an increase of 250,000 over the decade since the 2001 Census, mainly due to an increase in the number of available dwellings in the capital. Nearly a tenth of the increase was in Tower Hamlets alone.

The vast majority of households are formed of a single family unit. In England, 92 per cent of households were formed of one person living alone or a single family³. In London, people are far more likely to share, so just 85 per cent of households were formed of a single family unit. More than a quarter of all households in England made up of more than one family unit were in London.

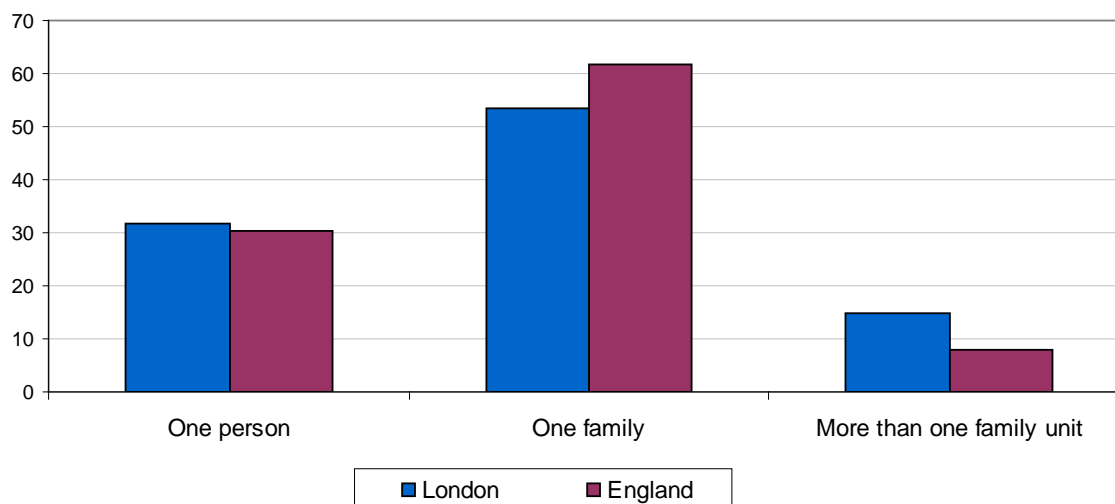
Overall, the proportion of households made up of just one person was similar in London to England – nearly 32 per cent for London compared with just over 30 per cent for England, though there are striking differences, reflecting the different age structure, in the proportions of those living on their own who were aged over or under 65. In England as a whole, over 40 per cent of those living alone were aged over 65, whereas in London, the proportion was just 30 per cent, so that more than one in five of all households in London was a person aged under 65 living alone.

In the City of London, well over half of all households consisted of one person, nearly 80 per cent of them under 65, whereas in Harrow just 22 per cent of households were one-person, close to half of them aged 65 or over. Tower Hamlets had the lowest proportion of one-person-over-65 households in the country, at just six per cent of the total, with seven other Inner London boroughs also amongst the ten local authorities with the lowest proportions. In contrast, nine of the ten local authorities with the highest proportions of one-person-under-65 households were also Inner London boroughs, several of them the same as those with the highest proportion of one-person-over-65 households.

¹ Living space means a living or sitting room or dining space etc

² A family unit is either one person living alone or a family.

³ A family in this context is one person living with his/her child(ren), of any age, or a couple with or without their children. Other relations or non-relatives form separate family units.

Figure 6: Household composition, London and England

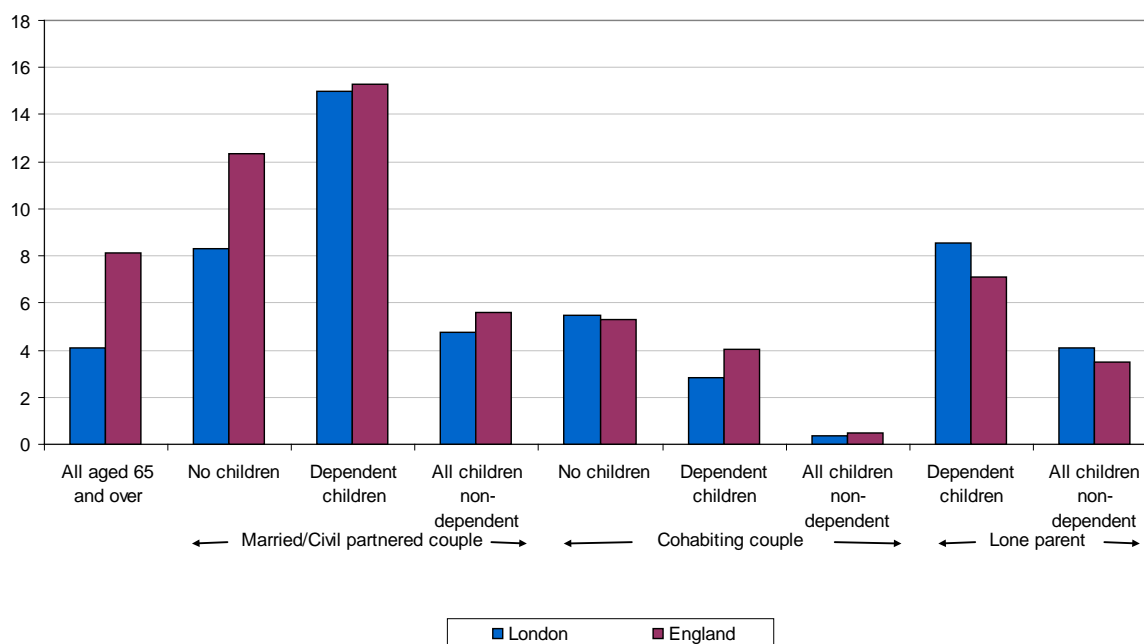
Source: Census 2011 Key Statistics KS105, Office for National Statistics

Households made up of one family represented a little more than half of all households in London, but somewhat less than the national average, and less than for any other region. The overall figure for London has changed little for London since 2001, remaining at just over 53 per cent. In Havering and Bexley, these households made up nearly two thirds of the total. However, this broad category can be broken down into several different types of households –families where all people were aged 65 or over, other couples with or without children and lone parents, and further divided into whether or not any of the children are dependent⁴.

The proportions of one-family households with dependent children in London and England were virtually the same overall (just over a quarter), though London had slightly fewer cohabiting couples with dependent children, balanced by slightly more lone parents. One-family households where all the children were non-dependent, made up just under one in ten of the total, for both London and England, but in London there was relatively little difference between the numbers with lone parents and married/civil partnered couples (just 15 per cent more married/civil partnered couples), whereas in the rest of England there were around 70 per cent more with married couples. The key differences between London and England in the one-family household types are that in England they were more likely to consist of either a family where all members were aged 65 or over, or a married couple where at least one of the couple was aged under 65 with no children in the household.

⁴ A dependent child is one that is either aged under 16 or aged 16-18, in full-time education, living in a parental home and with no spouse, partner or children of their own in the household.

Figure 7: One-family households, London and England



Source: Census 2011 Key Statistics KS105, Office for National Statistics

The more complex household types, consisting of more than one family unit, again show the differences between London and the rest of England. London households were twice as likely as those in the rest of England to be other households with dependent children. Often these are households with a third generation, such as a grandparent, or other relatives living in the household. In Newham, these types of households made up more than one in ten of all households. All-student households and households comprising only people aged 65 or over from more than one family unit made up similar proportions of the total in London and in England as a whole – both well under one per cent. However, other households without dependent children with more than one family unit were a much larger group, comprising nearly one in ten of all London’s households. This is two and a half times the proportion in the rest of England, and within London, the proportion had grown by over 20 per cent since 2001. Many of these households are unrelated people sharing housing, though the category would also include three-generation households where the youngest are no longer dependent children, among others.

Households with Dependent Children

Around 30 per cent of households included at least one dependent child in both London and England, ranging from less than ten per cent in the City of London to over 40 per cent in Barking & Dagenham. In fact, nine of the ten local authorities with the highest proportions, and four of the ten local authorities with the lowest proportions were London boroughs. Around half of the households with dependent children in London included at least one child aged under five, whereas this proportion for the rest of England was just below 40 per cent.

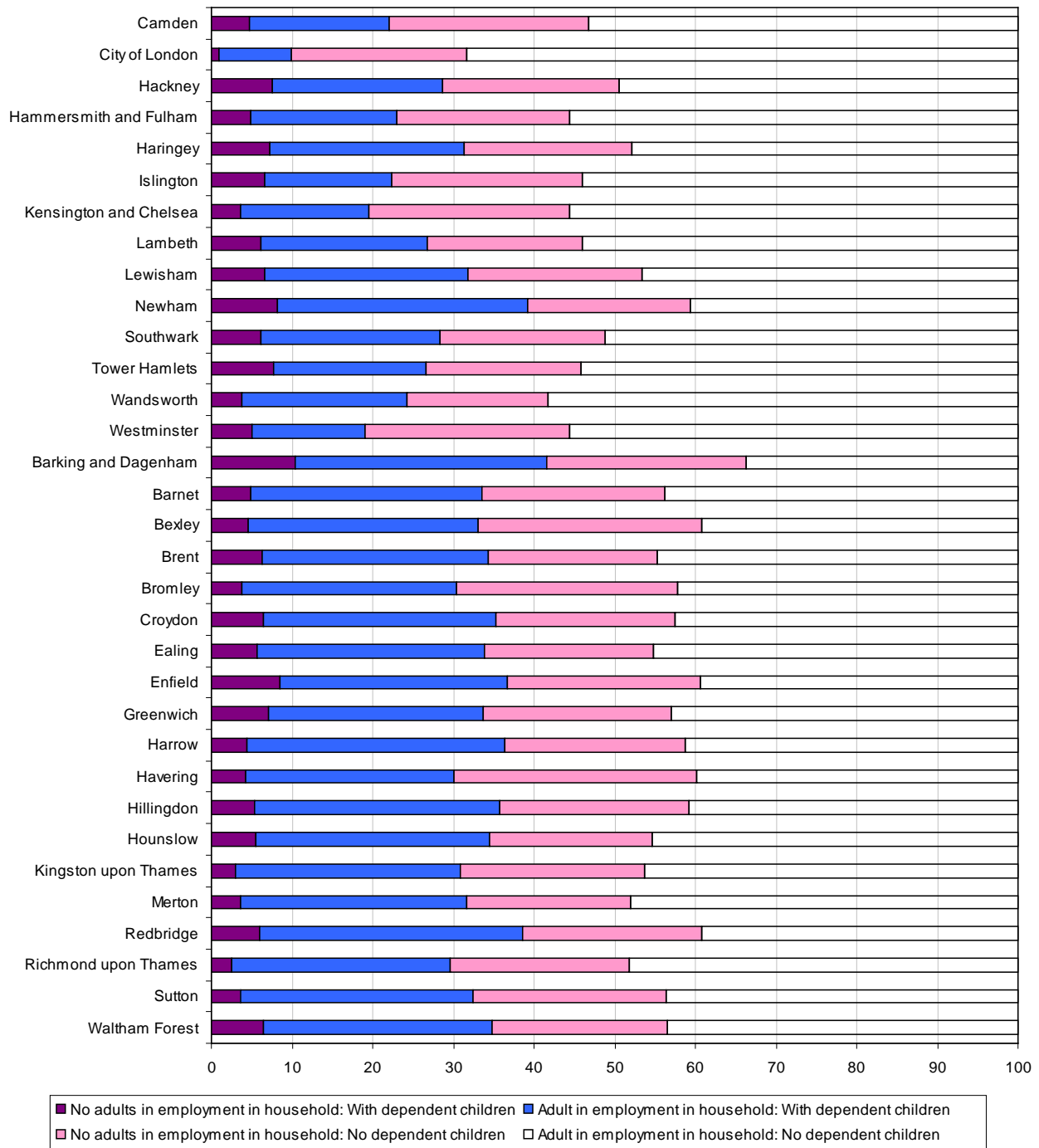
A separate Census Snapshot details some of individuals’ circumstances in respect of their economic position. Census data also allows this to be considered at a household level. Most households have at

least one adult⁵ in work. In London, this was true for just over seven in ten households – higher than for the rest of England, where just over one in three households had no one in work. Much of the difference may be due to the relatively low number of older people, particularly households with all residents aged 65 or over, in the capital. However, London had a much higher percentage of households with no adult in employment but with dependent children – nearly six per cent of all households in the region. Barking & Dagenham, Enfield and Newham were the only local authorities where this proportion was over eight per cent. In Barking & Dagenham it was more than one in ten of all households in the borough.

In nine local authorities, more than a quarter of households with dependent children had no adult in employment. Five of these were London boroughs – Islington, Tower Hamlets, Hackney, Westminster and Barking & Dagenham – while in the rest of England, the proportion was less than one in seven. Across London as a whole, the proportion was 18 per cent, but this was down from 23 per cent in 2001, when more than a quarter of households with dependent children in all the inner London boroughs except Kensington & Chelsea and Wandsworth had no adult in employment, ranging up to over 40 per cent in Tower Hamlets.

⁵ An adult is anyone who is not a dependent child.

Figure 8: Household employment and dependent children, London boroughs



Source: Census 2011 Key Statistics KS106, Office for National Statistics

Among lone parents with dependent children⁶, employment rates were over 50 per cent in London, as a whole, but below 50 per cent in Inner London. Nationally, they were nearer to 60 per cent. Lone parents in certain London boroughs were among the least likely to be employed. In Tower Hamlets, the employment rate was below 40 per cent, and in Westminster and Islington it was below 45 per

⁶ Where the lone parent family is the only family in the household

cent. Barking & Dagenham, Enfield and Kensington & Chelsea, Hackney, Manchester, Camden and Leicester were the only other local authorities where fewer than half of lone parents with dependent children were in employment.

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