

CIS2014 - 14

Qualifications in London, 2011

December 2014



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Greater London Authority
December 2014

Published by

Greater London Authority
City Hall
The Queens Walk
London SE1 2AA

www.london.gov.uk

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Minicom 020 7983 4000

Cover photograph

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Introduction

The 2011 Census collected data on qualifications gained by all usual residents aged 16 and over. This report provides a detailed insight into qualifications in London, trends over time and also compares London with the national picture.

The Census data on qualifications was published in seven categories: No qualifications, Level 1, Level 2, Apprenticeship, Level 3, Level 4 and above, and Other¹. Additionally, data are published in two formats: qualifications gained and highest qualification. Tables concerned with qualifications gained count individuals multiple times if they have more than one qualification. Tables concerned with highest qualification count each individual once, just recording the highest qualification achieved. All data in this report are based on highest qualification bar the section comparing usual residents' GCSE attainment with the same for Year 11 pupils.

For the purposes of analysis, the qualification levels have been aggregated into the following categories in this document:

- Low or None No qualifications or Level 1 qualification
- Intermediate Level 2, Level 3 and Apprenticeships
- High Level 4 and above
- Other Other qualifications

Other qualifications are those which cannot be placed into the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF, see below). These are often non-UK qualifications for which there is no agreed upon comparative level. As a result qualifications of different types and levels are included in this category. Some non-UK qualifications, however, will have been included in the other six qualification levels, provided they were directly comparable with UK qualifications.

¹ The highest qualification held by each usual resident 16 and over was recorded; for example, if someone had GCSEs, A levels and a degree, they were recorded as having a Level 4 and above qualification.

Qualifications & Credit Framework

The QCF is the national credit transfer system for qualifications in England & Wales. The framework has eight levels², as follows:

Level 1 GCSE – Grade D-G

Level 2 GCSE – Grade A*-C

Apprenticeships

Level 3 A-level

Level 4 Certificate of Higher Education

Level 5 Diploma of Higher Education, Foundation degree, HND

Level 6 Bachelor degree

Level 7 Master's degree, Postgraduate Certificate

Level 8 Doctorate

² Please note that other qualifications types not listed here would be included in the appropriate level in this framework. For example, depending on what level, The Diploma can be the equivalent qualification to GCSE – Grade D-G, GCSE – Grade A*-C, or A-level.

Key findings

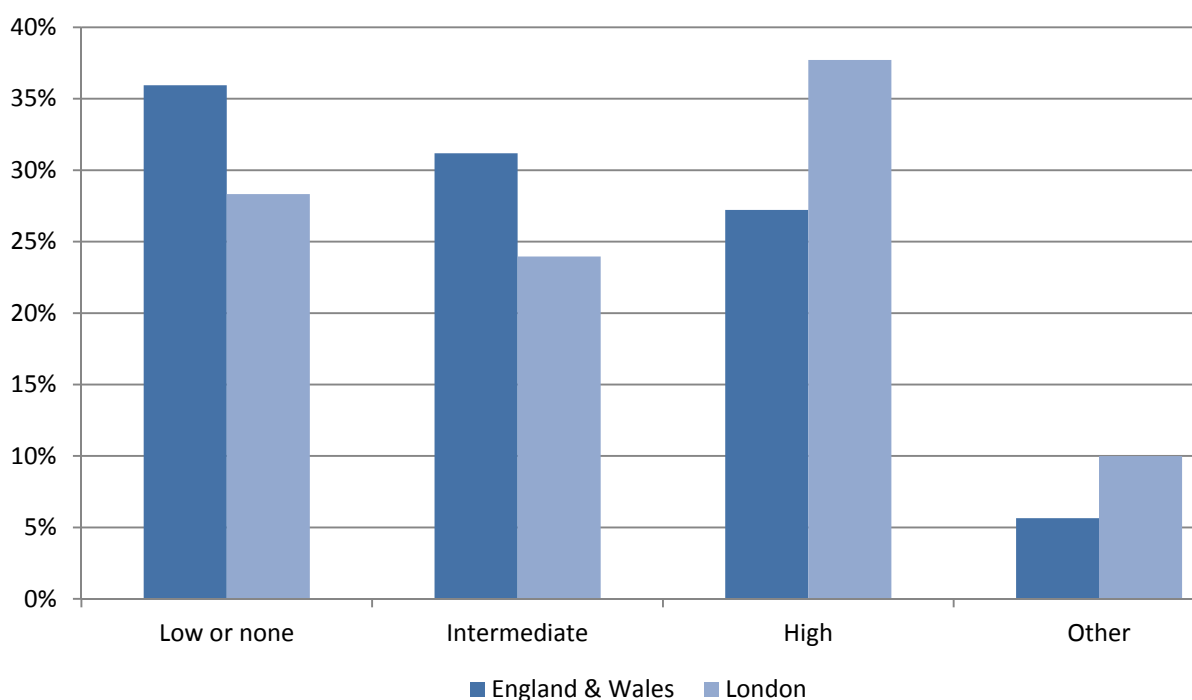
- The most common highest qualification held by Londoners was degree-level or higher, at 38 per cent.
- It was a different story in England & Wales, where residents were most likely to hold no or low qualifications. There was an 11 percentage point higher share of people holding high qualifications in London than England & Wales.
- Likely due to the much higher proportion of non-UK born residents in London, London had a much higher share holding Other qualifications than England & Wales (10 per cent compared to 6 per cent).
- Younger people were much more likely to hold high level qualifications, at over half of Londoners aged 25 to 34 compared with just one fifth of those aged 65 and over.
- Male residents were much more likely to hold apprenticeships. Of all with this qualification as their highest, over eight in ten were male and less than two in ten female.
- White British/Irish people in London were the ethnicity most likely to have low or no qualifications.
- Other White groups were most likely of the six main ethnic groups to have high qualifications, at 42 per cent. However, of all 18 ethnic sub-groups, Chinese were the most likely, with over half (52%) holding a degree or higher.
- The more limiting a health problem or disability was to day-to-day activities, the smaller the proportion with high qualifications. Those whose activities were limited a lot had a share just over a third of the London average, at 14 per cent, and six in ten had low or no qualifications; over double the London average share.
- Four in ten economically inactive Londoners, and a third of those that were unemployed, held no or low qualifications; much higher than average.
- Almost nine in ten London residents in Professional occupations held high level qualifications; 38 percentage points above the average.
- Those in Skilled trade and Process, plant and machine operative occupations were least likely to hold high qualifications at just 15 per cent.
- Londoners living in a couple household with dependent children were twice as likely to hold a degree-level qualification or higher than lone parents.

London overview

There were 6.5 million usual residents aged 16 and over³ in London in 2011. Londoners were most likely to hold high-level qualifications as their highest, at just under four in ten (38 per cent). Just under three in ten (28 per cent) held low or no qualifications, one quarter (24 per cent) intermediate and one in ten (10 per cent) Other qualifications.

Comparing the London picture with that for England & Wales shows on average Londoners were qualified to a higher level. Figure 1 shows the proportion of residents in both areas with each qualification level as their highest in 2011.

Figure 1: Highest qualification level held, London and England & Wales, 2011



2011 Census table DC501EW

Proportions were very different when comparing the two geographies. Nationally, there was a higher share of residents holding low or no qualifications than in London. 16.4 million people in England & Wales fell into this group, which made up 36 per cent of the total. This share was eight percentage points higher than in London, where 28 per cent (or 1.9 million residents) held low or no qualifications. The share holding intermediate qualifications as their highest (level 2, 3 or apprenticeships) was also larger nationally than London, by seven percentage points (31 and 24 per cent respectively).

Residents of England & Wales were most likely to hold no or low qualifications, however, in London, the qualification level in the highest proportions was High. There was an 11 percentage

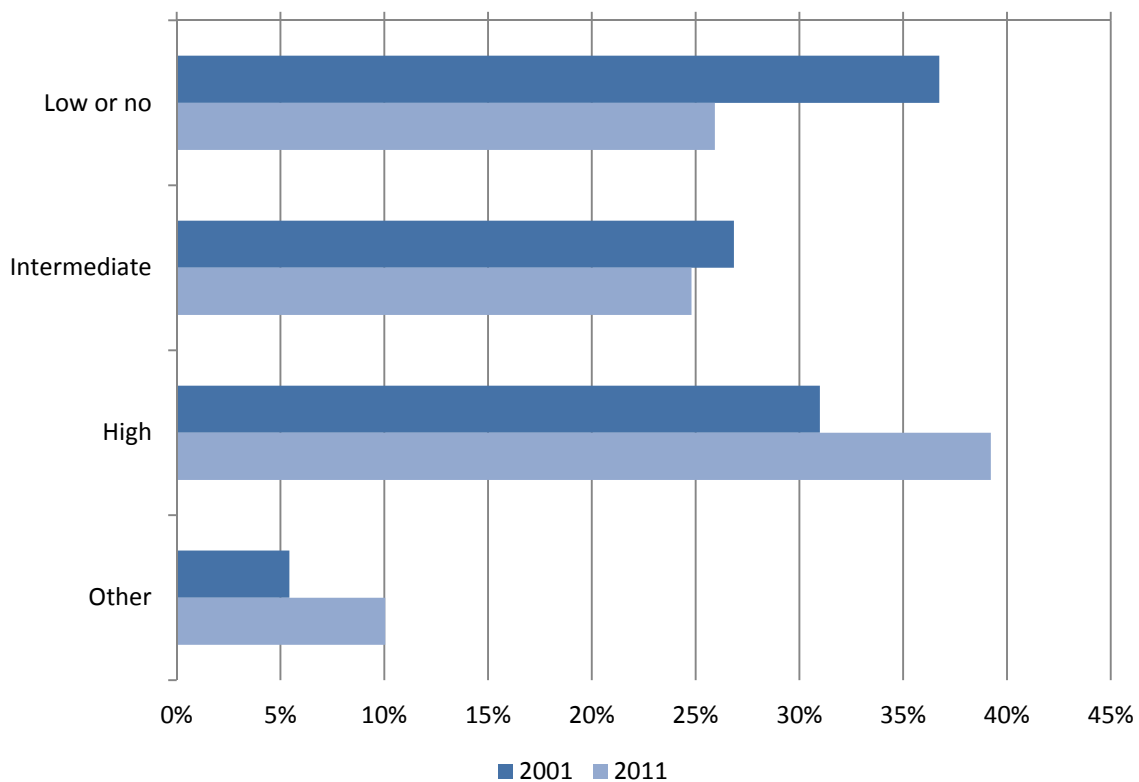
³ Throughout this report, unless otherwise stated, the population base is all usual residents aged 16 and over. Reference to people, residents, or Londoners will be referring to this group of people. All usual residents are anyone who was in the UK on census day and had stayed or intended to stay in the UK for a period of 12 months or more, or had a permanent address in the UK and was outside but intended to be outside the UK for less than 12 months. This population therefore excludes non UK-born short-term residents

point higher share of people holding high qualifications in London than England & Wales, at 38 per cent compared with 27 per cent.

London also had a much larger share of residents holding Other qualification types in 2011. This proportion in London was nearly double that in England & Wales (ten per cent and six per cent). Other qualifications are often non-UK qualifications, which could explain London’s higher share. Country of birth data show that London had a much higher proportion of usual residents that were born outside the UK than England & Wales; of the 6.55 million usual residents aged 16 and over in London, 2.80 million were born outside the UK; a share of 43 per cent. Nationally, this proportion was just 15 per cent (6.91 million of 45.50 million); a third that of London’s share.

Figure 2 compares the proportion of residents of London holding each qualification type as their highest in 2011 with 2001. The population base of the data from the 2001 Census was all usual residents aged 16 to 74, therefore data analysed for 2011 for Figure 2 is also for this age range to ensure the two datasets were comparable. There were significant changes over the intercensal period; most notably the shift towards higher qualified Londoners. In 2001, 31 per cent of London residents held a degree; this rose by eight percentage points to 39 per cent in 2011. Also of note was the share of people with Other qualifications, which doubled over the decade from five to ten per cent.

Figure 2: Highest qualification level held, London, 2001 and 2011



Source: 2001 Census table Uv004 and 2011 Census table QS103EW

Borough level

Table 1 below shows the percentage of all Londoners in each highest qualification category in 2011 by borough.

Table 1: Highest qualification level held, totals and percentages, London boroughs, 2011

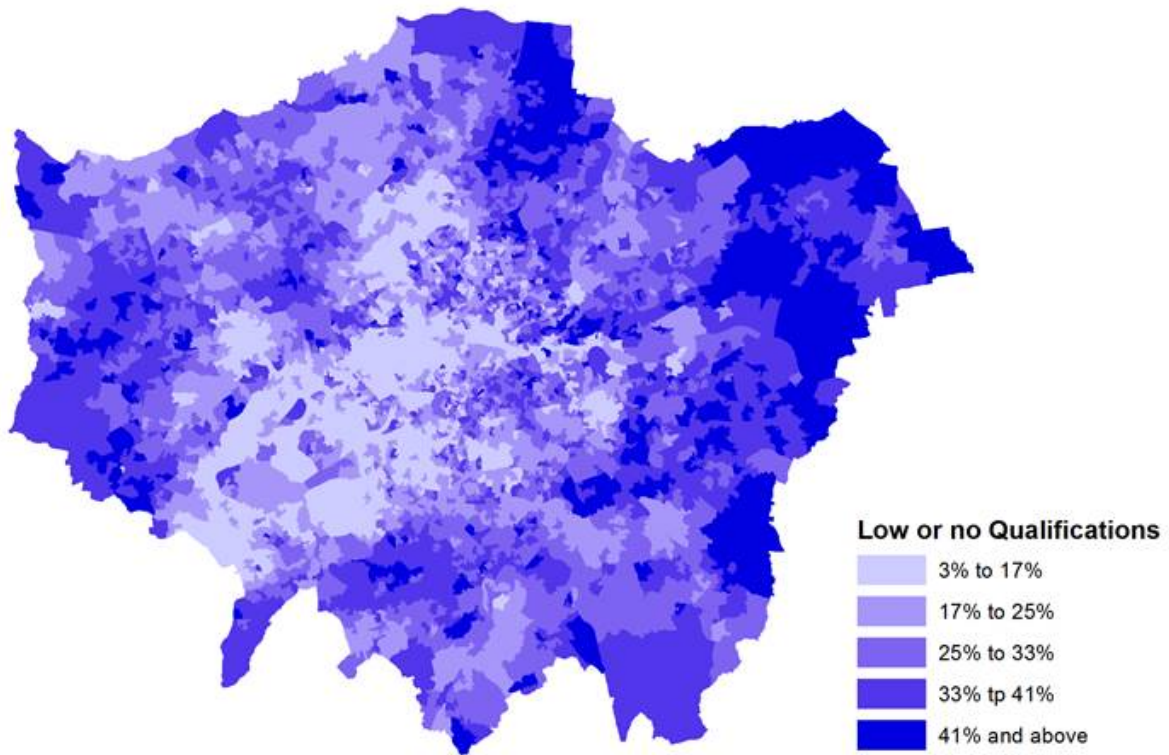
Borough	All usual residents	Low or none		Intermediate		High		Other	
		Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Barking&Dagenham	137,600	59,300	43	36,300	26	28,700	21	13,300	10
Barnet	282,200	71,100	25	66,500	24	113,800	40	30,700	11
Bexley	184,400	73,400	40	61,000	33	40,100	22	9,900	5
Brent	248,500	73,400	30	54,200	22	82,600	33	38,200	15
Bromley	248,800	78,400	32	75,400	30	82,300	33	12,600	5
Camden	184,900	36,000	19	38,400	21	93,500	51	17,100	9
Croydon	284,300	89,400	31	81,800	29	90,300	32	22,800	8
Ealing	269,600	71,000	26	58,000	22	99,800	37	40,700	15
Enfield	242,500	86,900	36	63,700	26	69,600	29	22,300	9
Greenwich	199,200	65,000	33	51,200	26	66,100	33	16,900	8
Hackney	195,100	55,700	29	39,600	20	81,600	42	18,300	9
Hammersmith&Fulham	152,900	30,200	20	30,800	20	75,800	50	16,000	10
Haringey	202,900	53,800	27	42,000	21	82,700	41	24,300	12
Harrow	191,000	52,800	28	47,600	25	70,200	37	20,300	11
Havering	192,800	83,200	43	62,600	32	37,500	19	9,600	5
Hillingdon	217,000	71,900	33	64,300	30	60,900	28	20,000	9
Hounslow	202,400	58,900	29	46,600	23	70,000	35	27,100	13
Islington	173,300	43,400	25	33,200	19	83,300	48	13,400	8
Kensington&Chelsea	134,300	21,300	16	25,000	19	70,700	53	17,300	13
Kingston upon Thames	129,800	30,100	23	35,800	28	53,800	41	10,100	8
Lambeth	248,300	56,500	23	51,000	21	115,800	47	25,000	10
Lewisham	218,700	63,000	29	54,100	25	83,100	38	18,500	8
Merton	160,800	40,300	25	37,500	23	66,100	41	17,000	11
Newham	238,100	76,200	32	52,600	22	71,800	30	37,500	16
Redbridge	216,100	66,300	31	54,200	25	73,300	34	22,300	10
Richmond upon Thames	150,100	27,000	18	34,100	23	79,600	53	9,300	6
Southwark	234,900	60,500	26	51,400	22	101,200	43	21,800	9
Sutton	152,200	49,900	33	46,800	31	45,800	30	9,600	6
Tower Hamlets	204,000	59,600	29	40,200	20	83,700	41	20,400	10
Waltham Forest	203,100	67,200	33	49,700	24	60,900	30	25,300	12
Wandsworth	256,000	46,500	18	49,400	19	137,100	54	22,900	9
Westminster, City of London (merged)	193,600	37,000	19	34,000	18	98,600	51	24,000	12
London	6,549,000	1,855,000	28	1,569,000	24	2,470,000	38	655,000	10

Source 2011 Census table DC5107EW

Low or no qualifications

1.9 million Londoners held low or no qualifications in 2011; almost three in ten. Borough-level proportions varied considerably from this average. The highest share across boroughs was 15 percentage points above the average, whereas the lowest was 12 percentage point below average. Figure 3 and 4 shows this distribution.

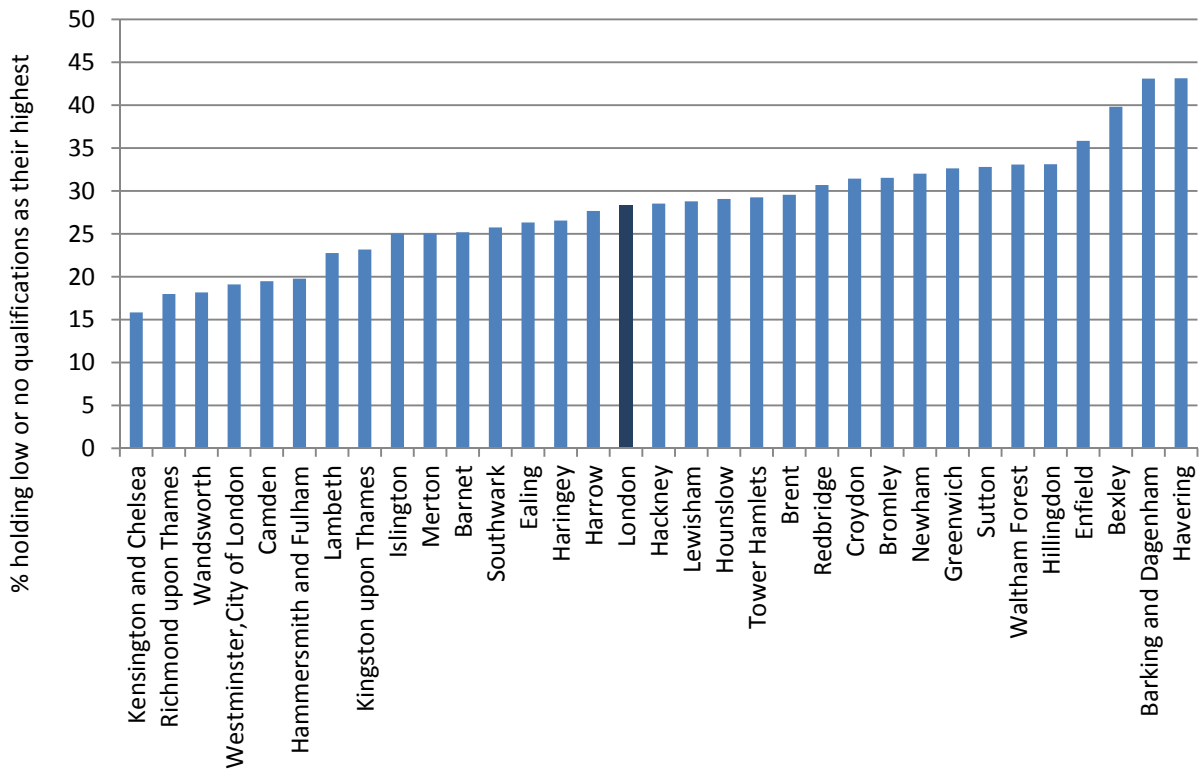
Figure 3: Map showing proportions of usual residents aged 16 and over holding low or no qualifications, LSOAs⁴ in London, 2011



Source: 2011 Census table QS510EW

⁴ LSOA stands for Lower Super Output Area, which had a minimum of 1,000 persons with an average of 1,500 persons when created for the 2001 Census data. They roughly equate to five output areas.

Figure 4: The percentage of people⁵ holding low or no qualifications as their highest, London boroughs, 2011



Source 2011 Census table DC5107EW

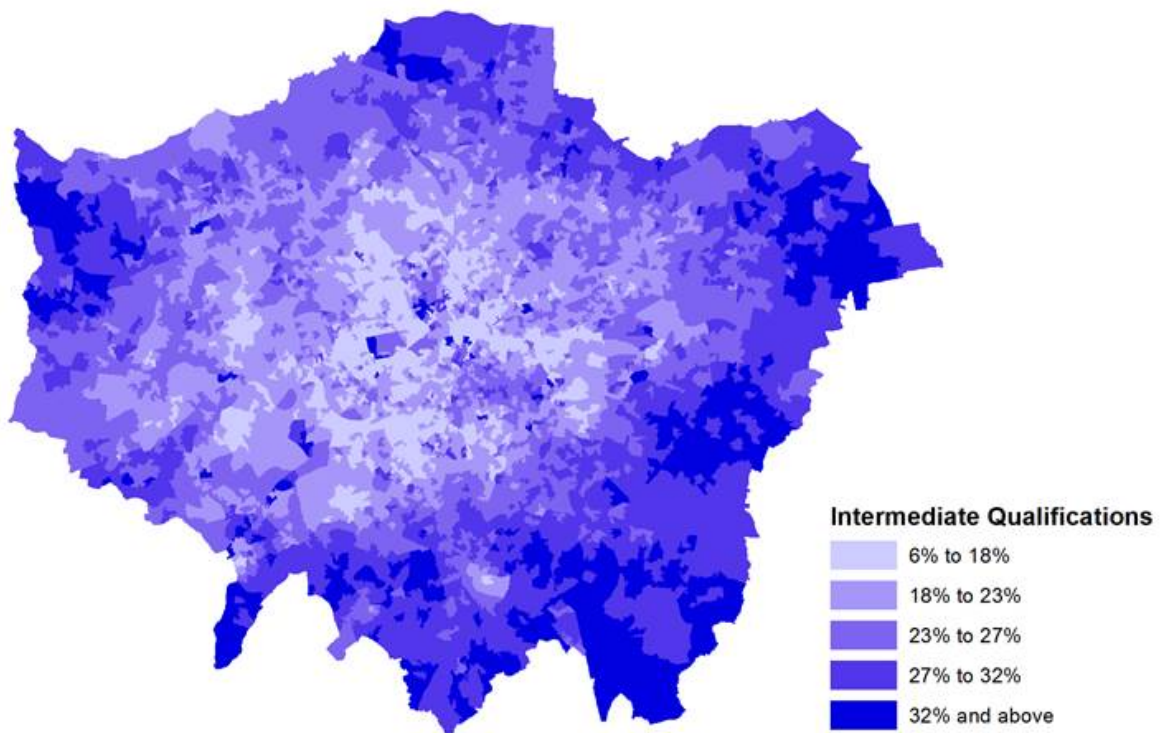
Seven in ten boroughs held a share within five percentage points of the average for London (of between 23 and 33 per cent). LSOAs in high proportions were mainly distributed around outer London. North-east London in particular had large clusters with rates of 41 per cent or above. Havering and Barking & Dagenham both had the highest shares of residents with low or no qualifications at 43 per cent, closely followed by Bexley with 40 per cent. At the other end of the spectrum, there were large areas of central and west central London where just 17 per cent or below of the population of LSOAs held low or no qualifications; over ten percentage points below average. Kensington & Chelsea held the lowest proportion, at just 16 per cent.

Intermediate qualifications

A quarter (1.57 million) of Londoners in 2011 held Intermediate level qualifications as their highest. At borough-level, proportions varied by 15 percentage points between boroughs with the highest and lowest shares, with the majority of boroughs' proportions within five percentage points of the London average.

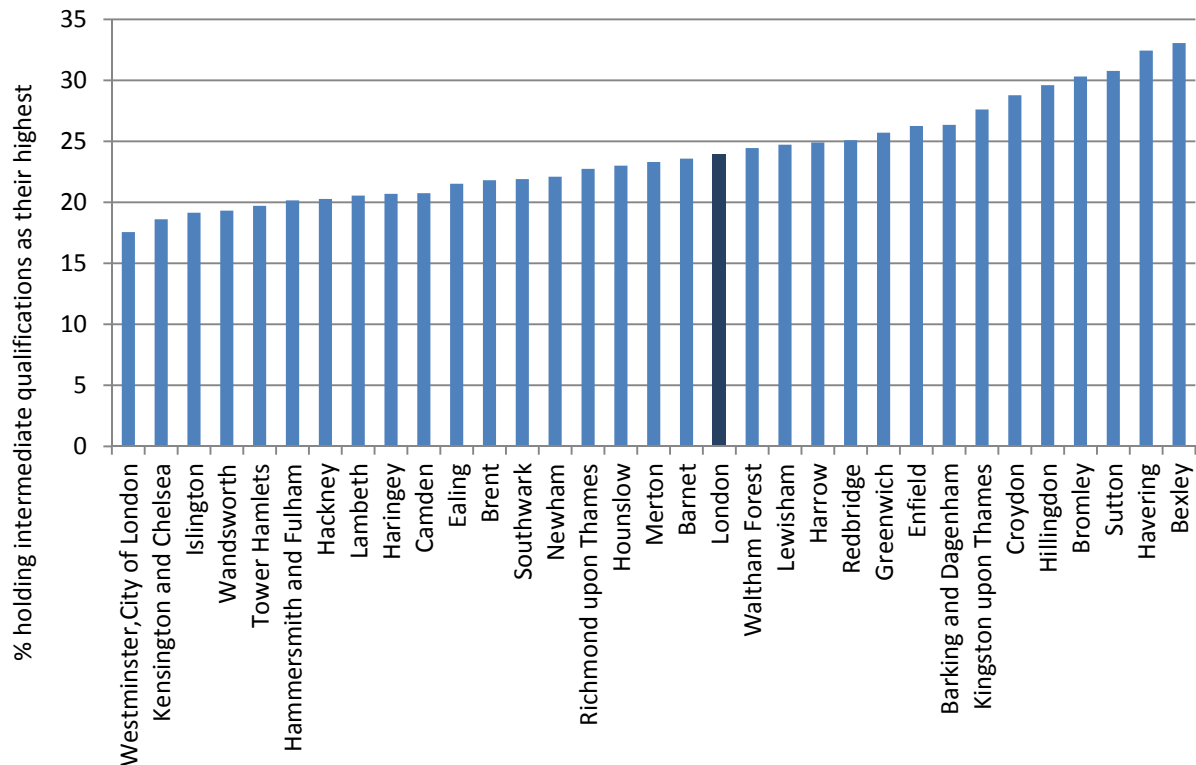
⁵ People here refers to all usual residents aged 16 and over

Figure 5: Map showing proportions of usual residents aged 16 and over holding intermediate qualifications, LSOAs in London, 2011



Source: 2011 Census table QS510EW

Figure 6: The percentage of people holding intermediate qualifications, London boroughs, 2011



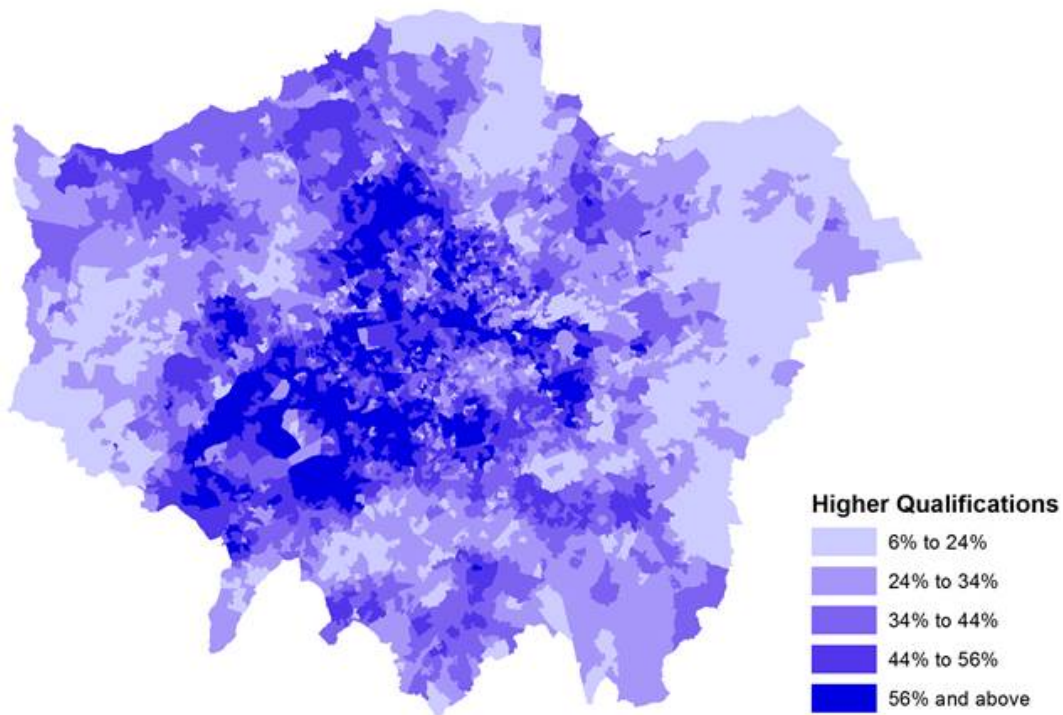
Source 2011 Census table DC5107EW

Figure 5 shows that LSOAs with the largest proportion of residents holding intermediate level qualifications were spread mainly around outer London. Here, in many LSOAs, 27 per cent or more residents held intermediate qualifications as their highest. Clusters of LSOAs with a rate of 32 per cent or above were mainly located in the east and south-east outer areas of London. Bexley had the highest proportion, at a third of residents (61,000); nine percentage points above the London average. Havering also had a high percentage (32 per cent), as did Sutton (31 per cent). Areas in the lowest proportions were mainly in inner London, with scatterings of LSOAs with just 6 to 18 per cent. The borough with the overall lowest proportion was Westminster/City of London (merged), at 18 per cent (34,000 residents).

High qualifications

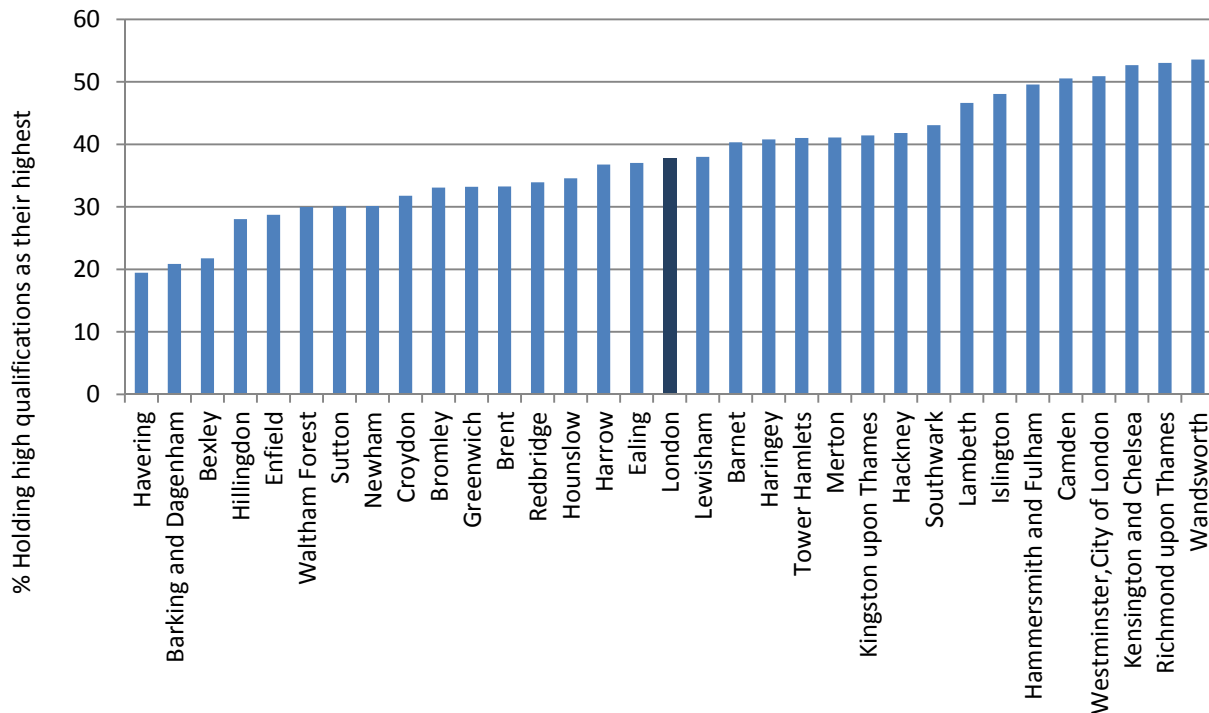
Londoners were most likely to hold high qualifications, with 38 per cent (2.47 million) reporting a level 4 or above. The range across boroughs in the proportion of residents holding high qualifications was the largest of all qualification types. There was a 35 percentage point difference between boroughs with the highest and lowest share of residents in this category.

Figure 7: Map showing proportions of usual residents aged 16 and over holding high qualifications, LSOAs in London, 2011



Source: 2011 Census table QS510EW

Figure 8: The percentage of people holding high qualifications, London boroughs, 2011



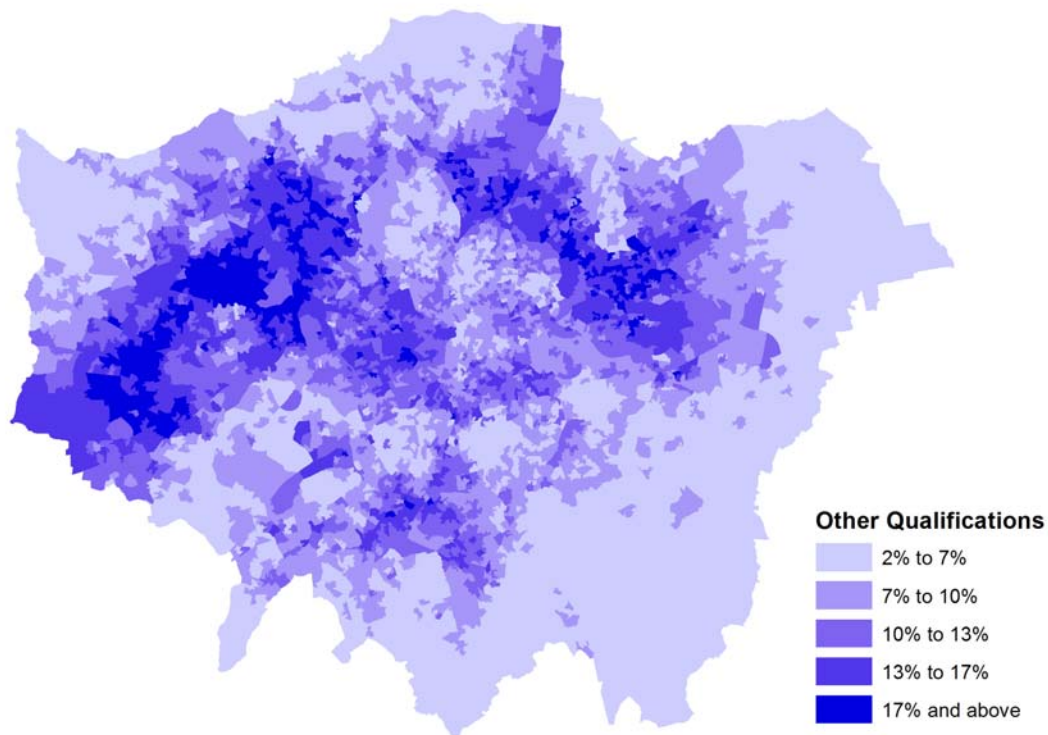
Source 2011 Census table DC5107EW

Inner and south-west outer London had large clusters of LSOAs where 56 per cent of residents held higher level qualifications in 2011. Wandsworth, Richmond upon Thames and Kensington & Chelsea were boroughs with the highest proportions, at 54, 53 and 53 per cent respectively. Most boroughs had proportions varying from 28 to 43 per cent, with Havering (19 per cent), Barking & Dagenham (21 per cent) and Bexley (22 per cent) having significantly lower shares than the majority.

Other

One in ten (654,600) Londoners aged 16 and over held Other qualifications as their highest in 2011. At borough-level, there was 11 percentage points between the boroughs with the highest and lowest shares, however the majority of boroughs held shares within two percentage points of the London average.

Figure 9: Map showing proportions of usual residents aged 16 and over holding 'other' qualifications, LSOAs in London, 2011

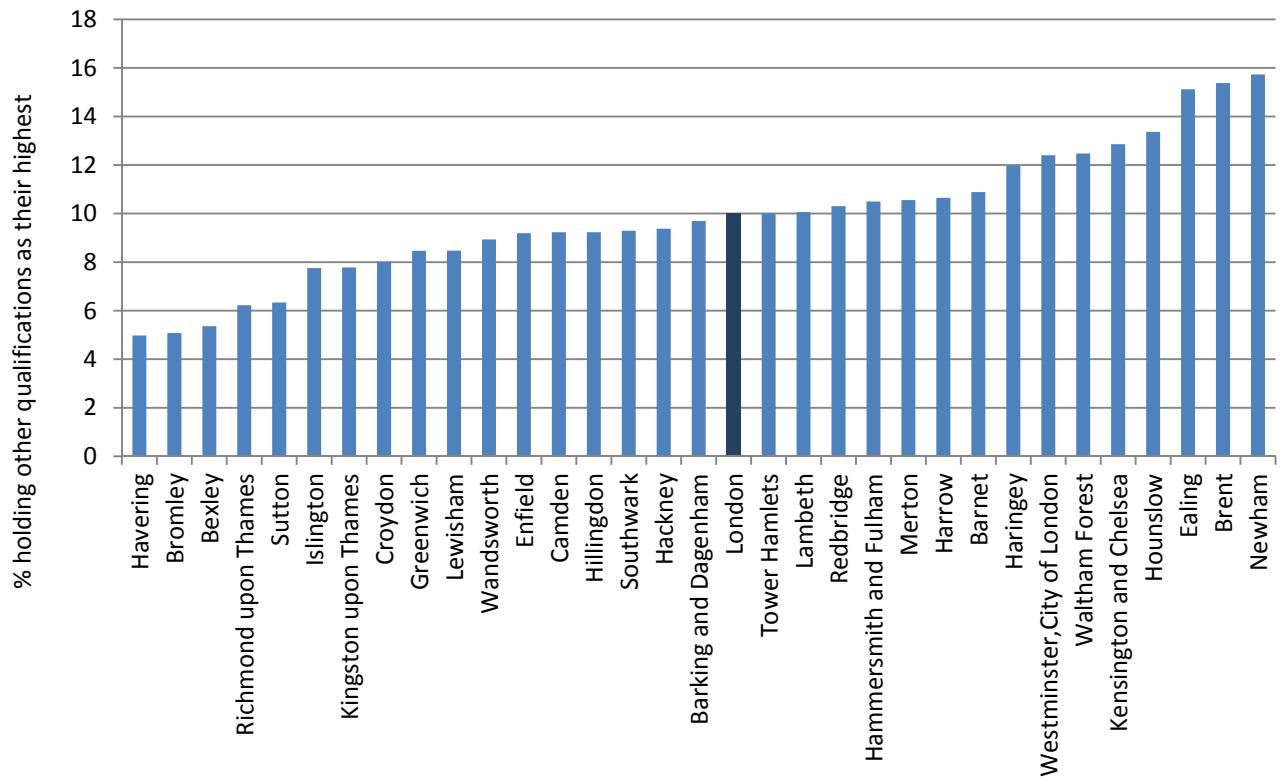


Source: 2011 Census table QS510EW

Boroughs in the highest proportions were situated in west London, with the exception of Newham in the east. Residents of Newham were the most likely to hold this level of qualification, with 16 per cent; 1.5 times the London average. The west London boroughs of Brent, Ealing and Hounslow also held high proportions, with 15 per cent of residents aged 16 and over in each of these boroughs holding Other qualifications.

Boroughs in low proportions were all situated in outer London. Havering, Bromley and Bexley all had a share of residents holding Other qualifications half the size of the London average at five per cent each. Also in small proportions were Richmond-upon-Thames and Sutton with six per cent.

Figure 10: The percentage of people holding Other qualifications, London boroughs, 2011

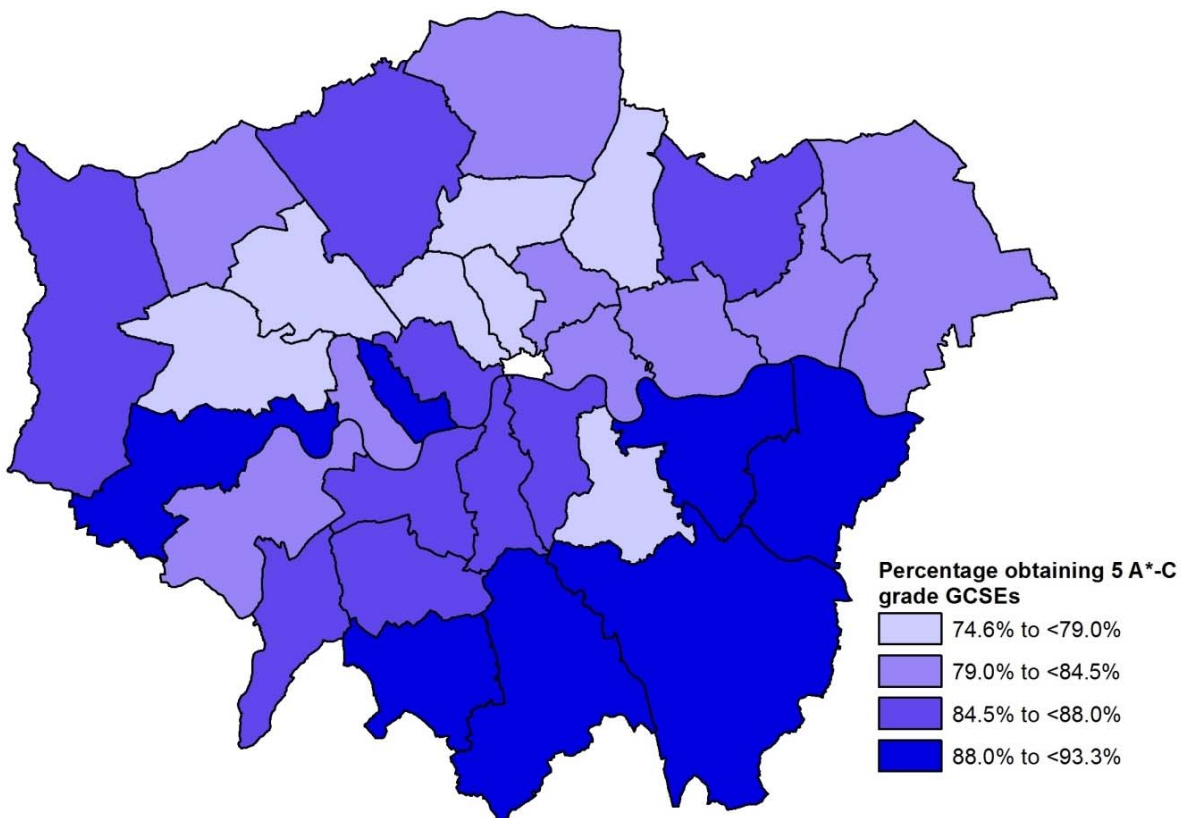


Source 2011 Census table DC5107EW

GCSE attainment rates, year 11 pupils

The following section analyses data from The Department of Education on the GCSE attainment rate of year 11 pupils in London for the school year 2011-2012 to demonstrate which boroughs had the highest and lowest GCSE rates. The section following this compares these rankings with the attainment of Londoners aged 16 and over. The percentage of pupils in England who obtained five A* to C grade GCSEs in the academic year 2011-2012 was 83 per cent (465,200 of a possible 559,100 eligible pupils). This figure was around the same for London, where the rate was 84 per cent, or 62,700 of 74,500 eligible pupils. Figure 11 below shows these results broken down by borough.

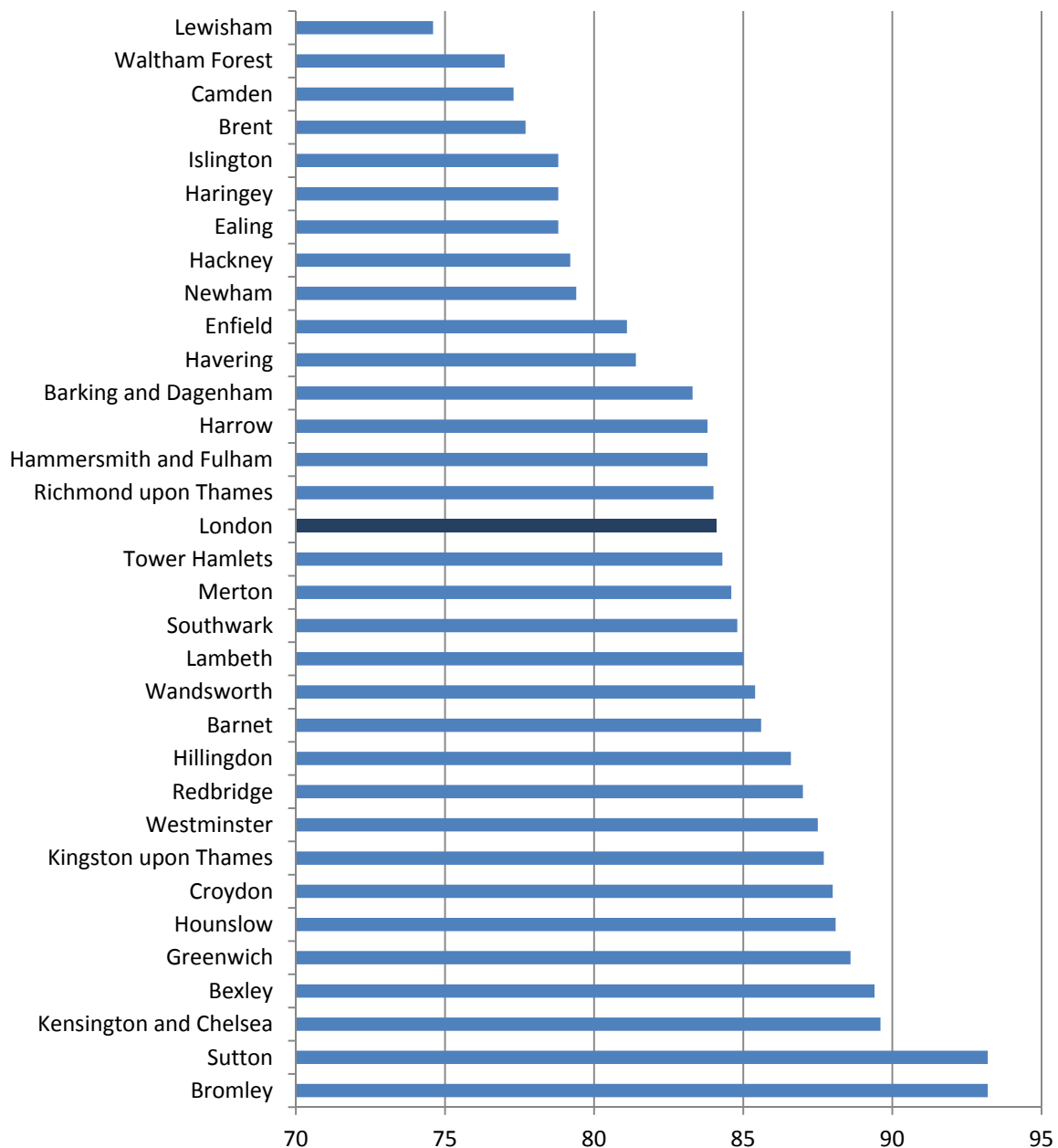
Figure 11: Map showing proportions of pupils achieving 5 A*-C grade GCSEs⁶, London Boroughs⁷, school year 2011-2012



⁶ Data from the Department for education, access here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-and-equivalent-attainment-by-pupil-characteristics-in-england>

⁷ Please note the borough City of London has been excluded from this dataset as they were disclosive.

Figure 12: The proportion of pupils achieving 5 A*-C grade GCSEs⁸, London Boroughs, school year 2011-2012



There was an 18 percentage point difference between the boroughs with the highest and lowest proportion of students obtaining five A* to C grade GCSEs in the school year 2011-2012. Boroughs in the highest proportions were situated in south outer London, with the exception of Kensington & Chelsea. Bromley and Sutton had the highest pass rate, with 93 per cent of students in each borough passing five GCSEs at A* to C grade, closely followed by Kensington &

⁸ Data from the Department for education, access here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-and-equivalent-attainment-by-pupil-characteristics-in-england>

Chelsea, Bexley and Greenwich, all with nine in ten pupils achieving this pass rate (90 per cent, 89 per cent and 89 per cent respectively).

Lewisham had the lowest proportion of pupils of the school year 2011-2012 passing five or more GCSEs at A* to C grades in London, with just three quarters (75 per cent) achieving this. This is interesting given that Lewisham is geographically surrounded by Greenwich, Bromley and Bexley; three of the boroughs in the highest proportions. Waltham Forest (77 per cent), Camden (77 per cent) and Brent (78 per cent) also were among the boroughs with the lowest pass rates after Lewisham; all situated in north London.

Previously there was a much larger divide in GCSE attainment levels between inner and outer London, however in recent years this gap has been greatly reduced. This is largely due to the significant improvement seen in GCSE attainment in inner London. In 2002, inner London had by far the smallest proportion of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C grade GCSEs of all regions in England⁹. However, by 2012, inner London had the second-highest GCSE results across all regions in England after outer London.

The London Annual Education report (2013) informs that the twenty most deprived¹⁰ LSOAs in London were all in the bottom 40 per cent achieving five A*-C grade GCSEs. Findings from the Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG)¹¹ somewhat supported this. This paper reported that the boroughs with high shares of children living in poverty¹² tended to also have the lowest GCSEs pass rates. The child poverty rate in England was 27 per cent. Islington had the second highest rate of child poverty of all London boroughs at 43 per cent, and was among the boroughs with the lowest proportions of children passing 5 A* - C grade GCSEs. Also of note were Hackney, Newham and Camden, all with high rates of child poverty (39 per cent, 37 per cent and 37 per cent respectively) and among the boroughs with the low GCSEs pass rates. Tower Hamlets, however, backs this trend, with the highest rate of child poverty across all London boroughs at 52 per cent, but with a proportion of children achieving 5 A* - C grade GCSEs the same as the London average, at 84 per cent.

⁹ Social mobility & child poverty commission, research report 'Lessons from London schools for attainment gaps and social mobility', June 2014, accessible at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/321969/London_Schools_-_FINAL.pdf

¹⁰ This is done using the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI), provided by the Department for Education. This measures the proportion of children in the area that are under the age of 16 living in low income households.

¹¹ Data taken from the AND (a new direction.org) paper 'The London Picture – infographic data tables', accessible at <http://www.anewdirection.org.uk/asset/view/658.pdf>

¹² Defined by children living in households defined as being 'Below Household Income' by Dpt Work and Pensions

GCSE attainment rates, year 11 pupils and residents aged 16 and over

The analysis below compares proportions of residents aged 16 and over who had five GCSEs at grades A* to C in 2011 (from 2011 Census data) with shares of pupils from the school year 2011-2012¹³ who achieved the same. Please note that 2011 Census data used here is not based on highest level of qualification (as in all other sections), but counts every person aged 16 with 5 GCSEs. These data have been analysed at borough-level, and the rank of each borough has been noted (see page 19).

The range in proportions achieving grade A*-C GCSEs or the equivalent across boroughs was much higher for adults¹⁴ than for pupils. Of adult residents of Richmond upon Thames, six in ten achieved at least this level of academic attainment. The share for Newham was half of this, at just three in ten. The differences between the boroughs in the highest and lowest proportions were much smaller among the younger generation. The share achieving 5 A* to C grade GCSEs in Bromley (ranked 1st) was 18 percentage points higher than Lewisham (ranked 32nd).

Newham had the lowest share of all adults with 5 A* to C grade GCSEs of all boroughs in 2011, at just 31 per cent. Barking & Dagenham ranked 31st of 32 boroughs, and Brent 30th. These boroughs also placed near the bottom in the attainment of GCSE pupils from the school year 2011-12, with Brent holding similar position of 29th of 32. Newham was several positions higher (24th) as was Barking & Dagenham (21st), however, these were still among the boroughs with the lowest shares of pupils achieving this level.

If we assume that the majority of pupils at GCSE-level are living with one or both of their parents; therefore in many cases data on parents' educational attainment will be recorded for the same borough as pupils. Comparing data on GCSE attainment at borough level for pupils with that for adults could be indicative of any potential relationship between parental and child educational achievement. The fact that some boroughs have low GCSEs attainment rates for both adults and pupils could suggest that pupils whose parents performed badly at GCSE are more likely to do less well themselves.

However, GCSE attainment data for adults and pupils in Hounslow do not support this. Hounslow was one of the lowest ranking boroughs for adult attainment, (38 per cent), ranking 29th of 32 boroughs. On the contrary, of all boroughs, Hounslow held the 6th highest share of pupils achieving five A* to C grade GCSEs (88 per cent). This was also the case for Greenwich, which was in the top five boroughs for the academic year 2011-12 (89 per cent), but one of the boroughs with the lowest share of adults with this level (43 per cent, ranked 21st of 32 boroughs).

¹³ The school year 11-12 has been used for GCSE attainment to ensure these pupils were not included in the 2011 census data and counted twice, as the population base of the 2011 Census dataset is people aged 16 and over.

¹⁴ This section will refer to all usual residents aged 16 and over as adults.

Table 2: GCSE attainment rates, usual residents aged 16+, 2011, and pupils in the school year 2011-2012, London

Borough	Percentage UR	Borough ranking UR	Percentage pupils	Borough ranking pupils
Barking & Dagenham	34	31st	83	21st
Barnet	46	15th	86	12th
Bexley	45	17th	89	4th
Brent	36	30th	78	29th
Bromley	52	4th	93	1st
Camden	48	8th	77	30th
Croydon	47	12th	88	7th
Ealing	40	27th	79	26th
Enfield	42	22nd	81	23rd
Greenwich	43	21st	89	5th
Hackney	46	14th	79	25th
Hammersmith & Fulham	48	9th	84	19th
Haringey	45	16th	79	27th
Harrow	44	18th	84	20th
Havering	43	20th	81	22nd
Hillingdon	43	19th	87	11th
Hounslow	38	29th	88	6th
Islington	49	6th	79	28th
Kensington & Chelsea	42	23rd	90	3rd
Kingston upon Thames	54	3rd	88	8th
Lambeth	51	5th	85	14th
Lewisham	48	10th	75	32nd
Merton	46	13th	85	16th
Newham	31	32nd	79	24th
Redbridge	42	24th	87	10th
Richmond upon Thames	60	1st	84	18th
Southwark	47	11th	85	15th
Sutton	49	7th	93	2nd
Tower Hamlets	41	25th	84	17th
Waltham Forest	39	28th	77	31st
Wandsworth	55	2nd	85	13th
Westminster	40	26th	88	9th

Source: The Department for Education

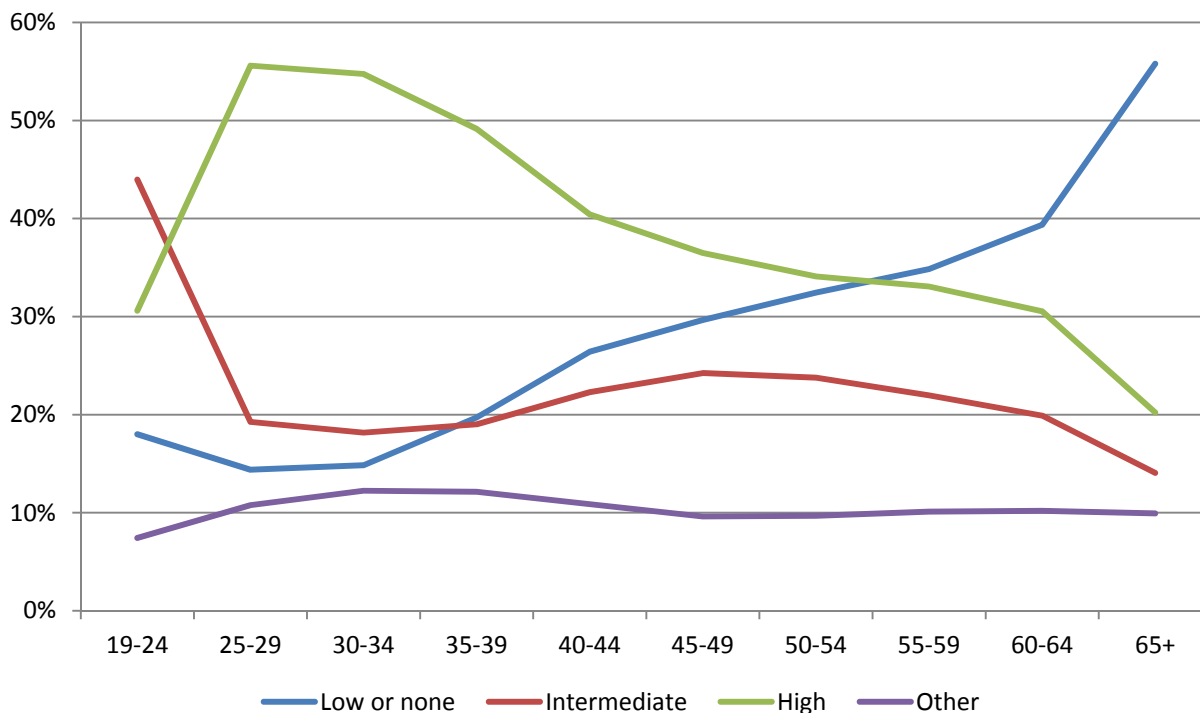
Highlighted cells are boroughs which have similar rankings for adults and pupils

Age and qualifications

Analysis in this section reports on data on age and highest qualification in London. In general terms, the older the person, the less likely they were to hold a high level qualification, and more likely to hold low or no qualifications. Figure 13 shows the proportion of each age category holding each qualification level.

Those aged 16 to 18 have been excluded from the analysis in this section on age, due to the high proportion that would have not taken their A-level examinations (or the equivalent intermediate level) and the considerable share that would not have completed secondary education (GCSEs) by the time the 2011 Census was taken. Removing this group from this section of analysis has resulted in the London average proportion for some qualification types differing slightly to other sections. The proportion of those holding low or no qualifications was still 28 per cent of the population, and the proportion holding Other qualification was also the same (10 per cent). However, of all Londoners aged 19+, 22 per cent held intermediate level qualifications, and 39 per cent high qualifications; slightly different proportions to data inclusive of those aged 16 to 18 years (24 per cent and 38 per cent respectively).

Figure 13: Highest qualification held by age, all residents aged 19+, London, 2011



Source: 2011 Census table DC5107EW

Low or no qualifications

The younger age groups were much less likely to hold low or no qualifications than the older age groups, as shown in Figure 13. Those aged 25 to 29 and 30 to 34 were least likely, with a share of just 14 and 15 per cent respectively; around half the London average (of 28 per cent).

Proportions holding low or no qualifications were larger from the older age groups, and were significantly larger than average from age group 55 to 59 (35 per cent). Four in ten (134,900 of

342,600) Londoners aged 60 to 64 held low or no qualifications in 2011, and this proportion was well over five in ten for those aged 65 and over at 504,800 of 904,700.

Although the proportion holding low or no qualifications was larger in England & Wales than in London, the trend of the younger age groups being less likely to hold this level of qualification was also apparent. In England & Wales, 36 per cent of people aged 19 and over held low or no qualifications; eight percentage points higher than London. However, the older the age group, the smaller this gap was between the two areas. For example, 35 per cent of those aged 55 to 59 in London held this level of qualification, and in England & Wales the share for this group was 37 per cent. Similarly, 56 per cent of those aged 65 and over in London held low or no qualifications, and 59 per cent in England & Wales.

Intermediate qualifications

The high peak seen in Figure 13 for the those aged 19 to 24 holding intermediate qualifications is very likely due to the large proportion that had not completed or started university due to their age, with a share of 44 per cent; double the average of 22 per cent.

People aged 25 to 39 were much less likely to hold intermediate qualifications (18 to 19 per cent) due to the large proportion of these residents holding high qualifications (see 'high' section below). Londoners of pensionable age (65 years and over) held a share eight percentage points lower than average, at just 14 per cent (127,200). This trend was also seen in England & Wales where the overall proportion holding intermediate qualifications was 30 per cent, but was just 17 per cent for those aged 65 and over.

High

The proportion holding high level qualifications varied considerably across age groups, with a 36 percentage point difference between the groups with the largest and smallest share. The younger age groups were much more likely to hold high level qualifications, with over half of those aged 25 to 29 (56 per cent) and 30 to 34 (55 per cent) holding a degree-level qualification or higher. Proportions were smaller than the 39 per cent average for age group 50 to 54 (34 per cent) and above. Those aged 65 and over were much less likely than any other age group, at just one fifth (20 per cent). Interestingly, residents aged 60 to 64 had a much larger proportion holding high qualifications than those aged 65+, by 11 percentage points (31 per cent).

In England & Wales, the younger age groups also had higher shares of people holding high qualifications than the older ages, with, as in London, residents aged 30 to 34 holding the highest share.

Other

Age did not appear to impact the likelihood of holding Other qualification types, as shown in Figure 13. All age groups had a share with these qualifications of around the average of ten per cent, with those aged 30 to 34 and 35 to 39 being slightly more likely than average by two percentage points (with a 12 per cent share for each).

Sex and qualifications

There were 3.20 million males and 3.35 million females aged 16 and over living in London¹⁵ in 2011. There were few differences in highest qualification held between the two sexes; 30 per cent of females (1.01 million) held low or no qualifications, which was a three percentage point higher share than males held (27 per cent or 850,000). A slightly higher proportion of males held high level qualifications than females, at 39 per cent compared with 37 per cent.

The only significant difference between the two sexes was the proportion holding apprenticeships as their highest level of qualification, with men being much more likely than women. There were 107,700 Londoners with apprenticeships as their highest level of qualification in 2011; over eight in ten of these were males (87,800) and just two in ten females (19,900).

¹⁵ Inclusive of all usual residents, which is anyone who was in the UK on census day and had stayed or intended to stay in the UK for a period of 12 months or more, or had a permanent address in the UK and was outside but intended to be outside the UK for less than 12 months. This population therefore excludes non UK-born short-term residents.

Ethnicity and qualifications

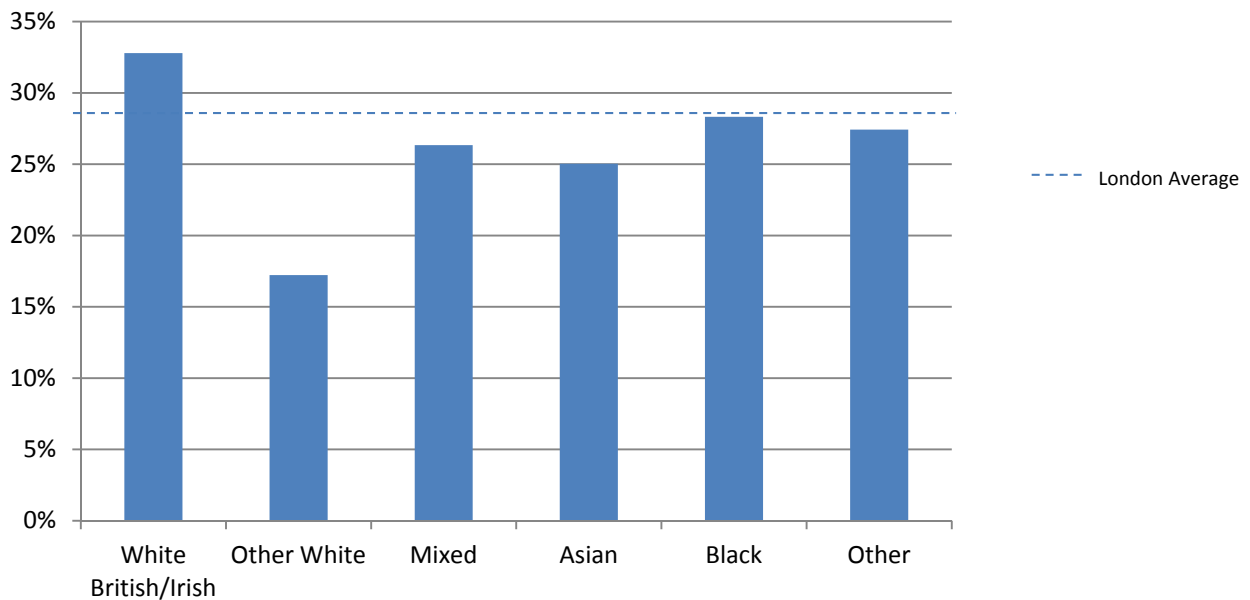
In London in 2011, half of the 6.55 million Londoners aged 16 and over were of White British/Irish ethnicity¹⁶ (3.24 million). Almost one in five (18 per cent or 298,000) were from an Asian ethnic group, one in seven were Other White¹⁷, and one in eight were of Black ethnicity. Those of Mixed ethnicities and Any other ethnic groups¹⁸ held shares of less than five per cent each. The section below reports on qualification level by ethnic group, and identifies any differences in academic attainment by ethnicity.

It is worth noting here that differences in the academic attainment between ethnic groups could at least in part be attributed to the different age structure apparent across ethnic groups. For example, White British residents have the oldest age structure, with the highest proportion of residents aged 50 and over. As seen in the qualifications and age section, the older age groups tended to have lower or no qualifications than any other age group. The group Other White were most likely to be of a younger age, having the highest proportion aged 25 to 34 of all groups, and the younger-aged residents were the most likely to have high level qualifications.

Low or no qualifications

The ethnic group with the highest proportion of residents with low or no qualifications in London was White British/Irish. One third (1.06 million) of all people of this ethnicity had level 1 or no qualifications; five percentage points above the average for London (of 28 per cent).

Figure 14: The proportion holding low or no qualifications as their highest by ethnicity, usual residents aged 16+, London, 2011



Source: 2011 Census table DC5209EW

¹⁶ The ethnic groups White British and White Irish have been combined for the purposes of this analysis as they share similar characteristics.

¹⁷ Other White consists of all White ethnic groups other than White British or White Irish, including Gypsy or Irish Travellers. A high proportion of this group are residents of White European ethnicities.

¹⁸ Any other ethnic group refers to any ethnicity that does not come under the other five main categories.

Most other groups held shares around the London average, bar Other White, whose share was just half that of White British/Irish residents, at 17 per cent (153,600 of 892,200). The category Other White is very broad, therefore main language data has been used here, and provides some indication of Other White ethnicities holding the smallest proportions with low or no qualifications. Unfortunately, county of birth data cross-tabulated with qualifications is not provided for single countries (rather very broad grouped country categories), therefore 2011 Census data on main language has been looked at instead.

There were 715,000 Londoners who spoke a European language (other than English) as their main in 2011, and of those, 21 per cent held low or no qualifications. However, analysing this data more closely reveals interesting differences among this population. Just 12 per cent (9,200) of those whose main language was French held low or no qualifications; a third of the average share. The main languages Spanish (18 per cent) and Polish (17 per cent) also had much lower than average proportions holding low or no qualifications. On the other hand, 28 per cent of those speaking Portuguese as a main language held low or no qualifications; the same as the London average, and those with an other European Language (non EU) as their main were much more likely to hold this level of qualification than average, at 38 per cent (45,600 of 120,800).

Overall, there was an eight percentage point higher share of people holding low or no qualifications living in England & Wales (36 per cent) than in London (28 per cent). However, this difference was not apparent when comparing ethnic groups. The groups Black and Other had the same proportions holding low or no qualifications in both geographies, at 27 per cent for Other and 28 per cent for the group Black/Black British in both London and England & Wales. This suggests qualification level could have more of a relationship with ethnicity than area of residence.

Intermediate qualifications

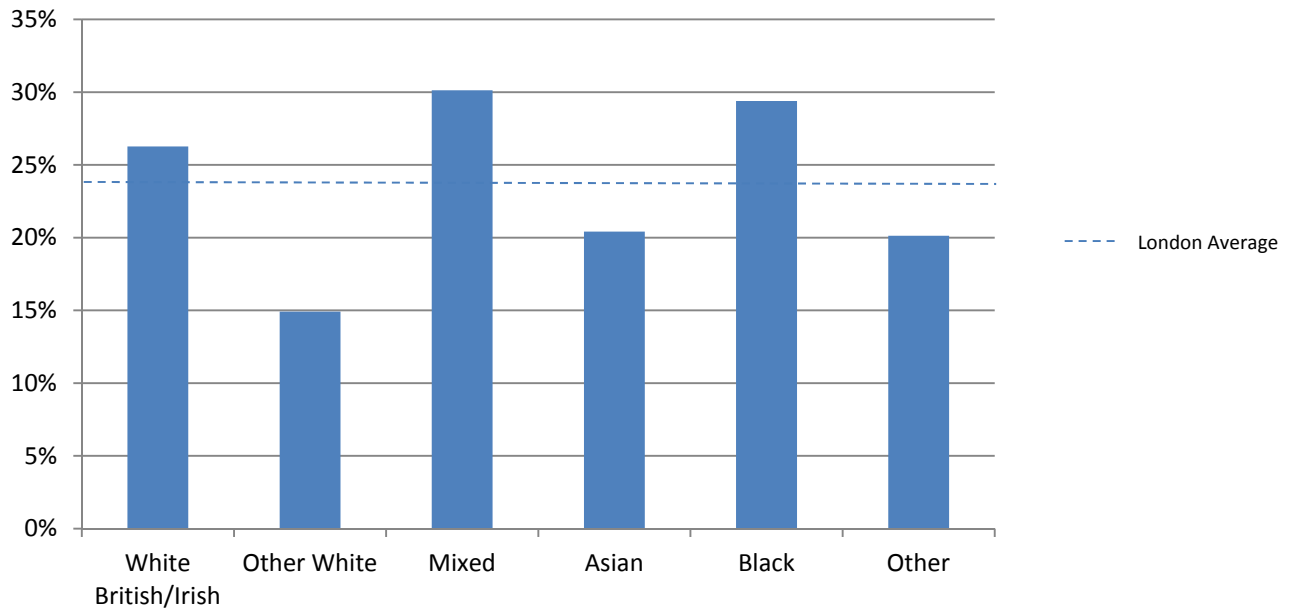
Overall in London, just under one quarter (24 per cent) of residents held intermediate level qualifications¹⁹ as their highest in 2011. Londoners of Mixed ethnicity were most likely to hold this level of qualification, with a share six percentage points above average at three in ten (69,200 of 229,900). Residents of black ethnic groups also had larger than average shares at 29 per cent (229,000 of 779,300).

When breaking the Mixed group down into sub-categories, large variations in proportions were apparent. Londoners of Mixed White and Black Caribbean decent were most likely to hold this level, with a share of 36 per cent; 12 percentage points above the overall average and six percentage points above the average for the Mixed group. On the contrary, residents of Mixed White and Asian ethnicities and Other Mixed ethnicities held shares much lower than this, at 28 and 27 per cent. Amongst the Black ethnic group, residents of Black Caribbean ethnicity also had a higher than average share (31 per cent).

As with the low or no qualifications group, residents of Other White ethnicities had a much lower proportion holding intermediate qualifications as their highest, at 15 per cent; half the share held by those of Mixed ethnicity.

¹⁹ Intermediate level qualifications include Level 2 (GCSE grades A*- C or equivalent), Level 3 (AS and A-levels or equivalent) and Apprenticeships

Figure 15: The proportion holding intermediate qualifications as their highest by ethnicity, usual residents aged 16+, London, 2011



Source: 2011 Census table DC5209EW

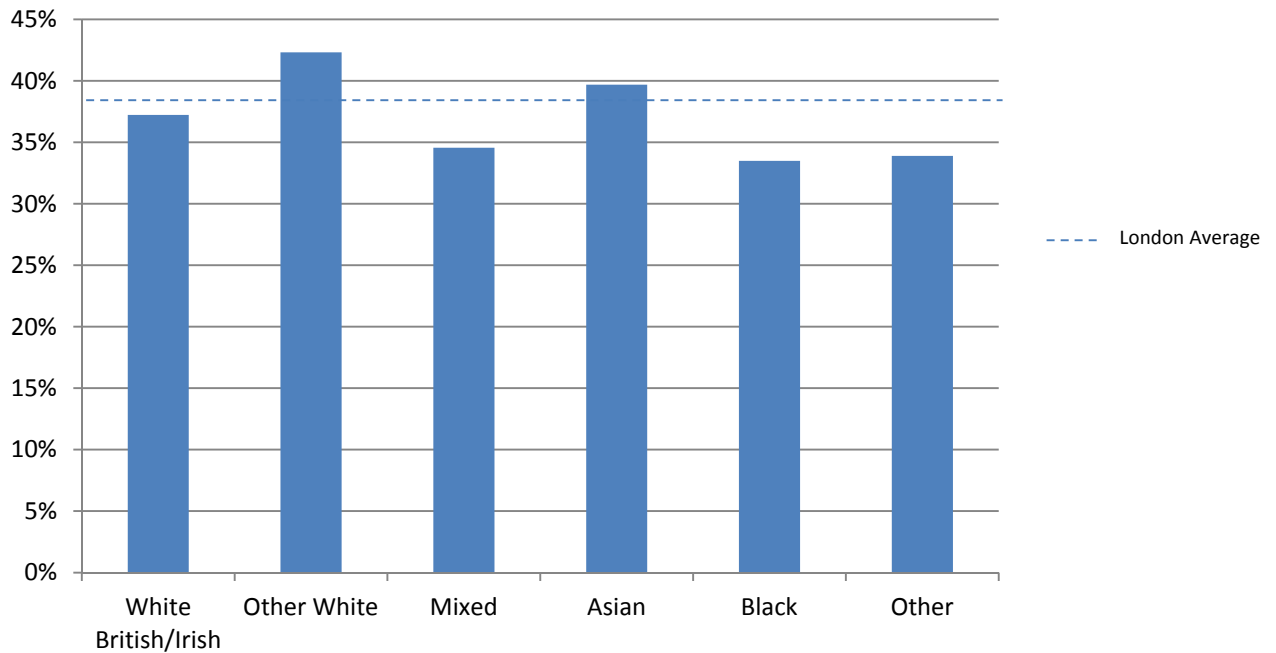
England & Wales had a seven percentage point higher share of residents holding intermediate qualifications than London (31 per cent and 24 per cent respectively). However, around the same proportions of those of Asian, Black and Other ethnic groups held intermediate qualifications in England & Wales as in London. As with in London, their counterparts living in England & Wales of Mixed ethnicity were the most likely of all ethnic groups to hold intermediate level qualifications (35 per cent). However, unlike in London, where the group in the next highest proportions was Black, the ethnicity with the next highest share in England & Wales was White British/Irish (33 per cent).

High qualifications

In London, high qualifications²⁰ were the most common qualification level held, at almost four in ten (38 per cent). Across all ethnic groups in London this trend was also apparent, however, shares varied considerably. Most noticeable was the share of those of Other White ethnicities, which was four percentage points above the average for London, at 42 per cent (377,500 of 892,200).

²⁰ Level 4 (degree level or equivalent) and above

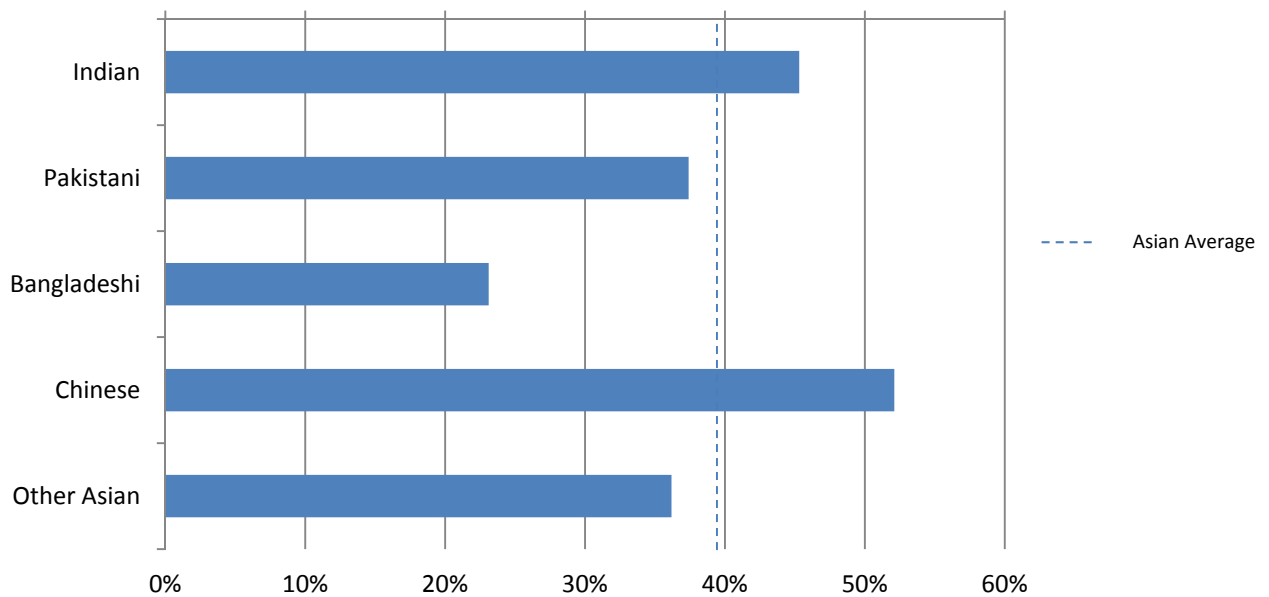
Figure 16: The proportion holding high qualifications as their highest by ethnicity, London, usual residents aged 16+, 2011



Source: 2011 Census table DC5209EW

There was also a high proportion of residents of Asian ethnicities holding high level qualifications, at 40 per cent. However, when breaking this group down into Asian sub-categories, a huge variation was apparent, with a difference of 29 percentage points between the groups with the highest and lowest proportions (see Figure 17).

Figure 17: The proportion holding high qualifications as their highest, Asian/Asian British ethnicities aged 16+, London, 2011



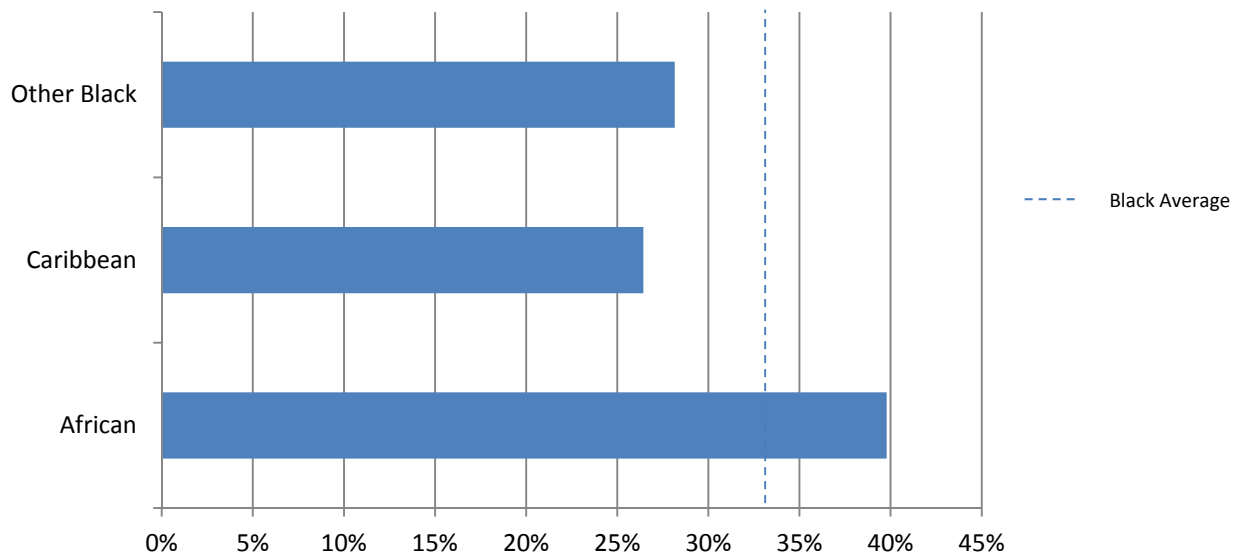
Source: 2011 Census table DC5209EW

Londoners of Chinese ethnicity were the most likely of all Asian sub-groups to hold a degree or higher qualification, at over half (57,600 of 110,600). This share was 12 percentage points above the average for the Asian ethnic group (40 per cent). Those of Indian ethnicity also held higher than average shares, at 45 per cent.

The proportion of Bangladeshi residents with a degree or higher was the most notable. This group was by far the least likely of all Asian sub-groups to hold these qualifications, at just 23 per cent (34,500 of 149,400). This was 15 percentage points below the London average and 17 percentage points below the average for the Asian group.

Londoners of Black ethnicities were least likely of the six main ethnic groups to hold high-level qualifications, at 33 per cent (261,000 of 779,300); five percentage points below average. However, when breaking down into sub-groups, there was much variation in shares, as shown in Figure 18.

Figure 18: The proportion holding high qualifications as their highest, Black/Black British ethnicities aged 16+, London, 2011



Source: 2011 Census table DC5209EW

Four in ten (158,600 of 398,700) Black African Londoners held high level qualifications; two percentage points above the overall London average and seven points above the average for the Black ethnic group. This high share was not apparent among the Black Caribbean residents, with just over a quarter (73,400 of 277,800) holding qualifications at this level; 14 percentage points below their Black African counterparts. As mentioned at the start of this section, this is likely to be at least partly influenced by the age structures of these two populations in London, which are very different. The Black African community is a much younger one, with notably higher proportions aged 16 to 49 years than the Caribbean group, who held much higher shares of residents aged 50 and above.

Patterns holding high level qualifications among most ethnic groups in England & Wales were similar to London, with those of Other White ethnicity holding a much larger share than average (36 per cent, average for England & Wales 27 per cent). However, the share those of Black and Other ethnic groups held in England & Wales was quite different. Unlike in London where residents of these ethnicities were considerably less likely than average to hold these qualifications, in England & Wales these residents held shares notably higher than average. One third of those of Other and Black ethnic groups (34 and 33 per cent respectively) were qualified to a high level, compared to the national average of 27 per cent. These proportions were almost the same as in London, suggesting there is potentially a stronger relationship between an individual's personal characteristics, such as ethnicity, with qualifications and the area people live in.

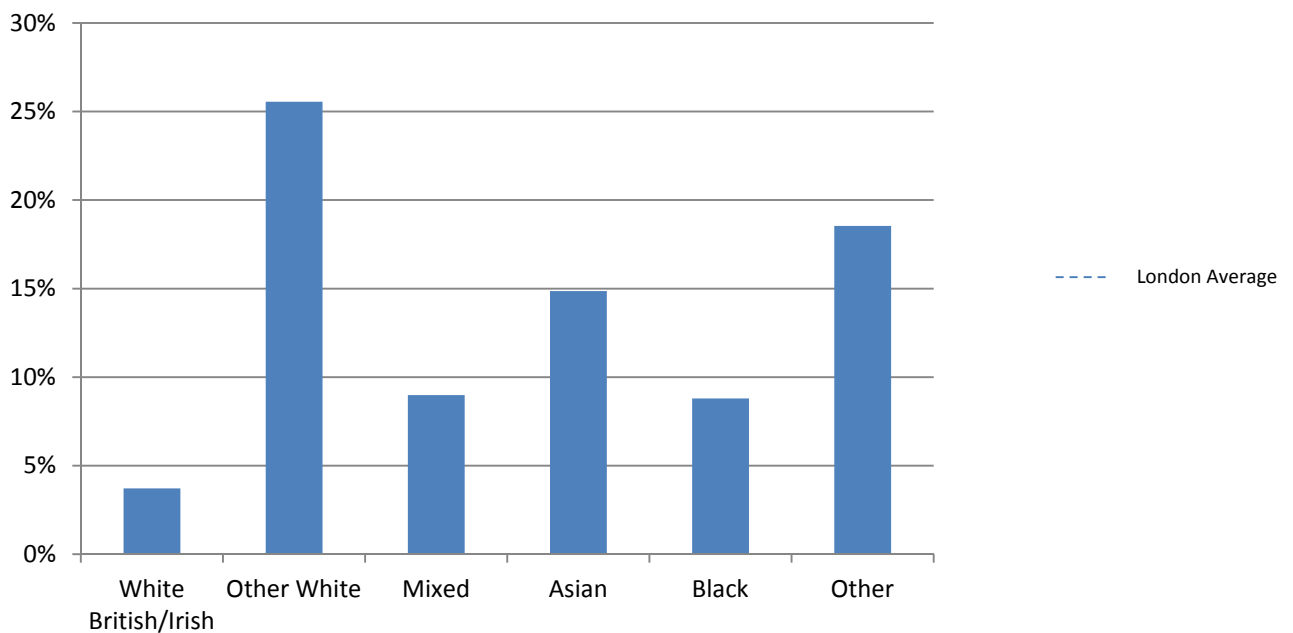
Other qualifications

Other qualifications are those which cannot be classified by the QCF²¹. Non-UK qualifications that could be compared to UK level qualifications were recorded by their UK equivalent in the census, and those for which there is no agreed comparative level were placed in the Other category. Different types and levels of qualifications are therefore included in this category.

One in ten Londoners held Other qualifications in 2011. As show in Figure 19, proportions varied considerably across ethnicities. Most notable was the much larger than average share the Other White group held. One quarter (228,000 of 892,200) of this group held Other qualifications; a share over double that of the average. This high proportion of Other qualifications held by the Other White group goes some way at least to explaining the low proportions held of no or low and intermediate qualifications.

Also of note was the share those of Other ethnic groups held, which was almost double the average (19 per cent). Conversely, residents of White British/Irish ethnicities had half the London average share of residents with Other qualifications. This is indicative that a high proportion of the Other qualification group were foreign qualifications, which will be discussed further in the next section on country of birth.

Figure 19: The proportion holding Other qualifications as their highest by ethnicity, usual residents aged 16+, London, 2011



Source: 2011 Census table DC5209EW

Following on from the last point, England & Wales had a lower share of residents with Other qualifications than London (six per cent and ten per cent respectively). However, proportions held across all ethnic groups were almost identical between the two geographies. This is likely attributed to the high proportion of residents of England & Wales of White British/Irish

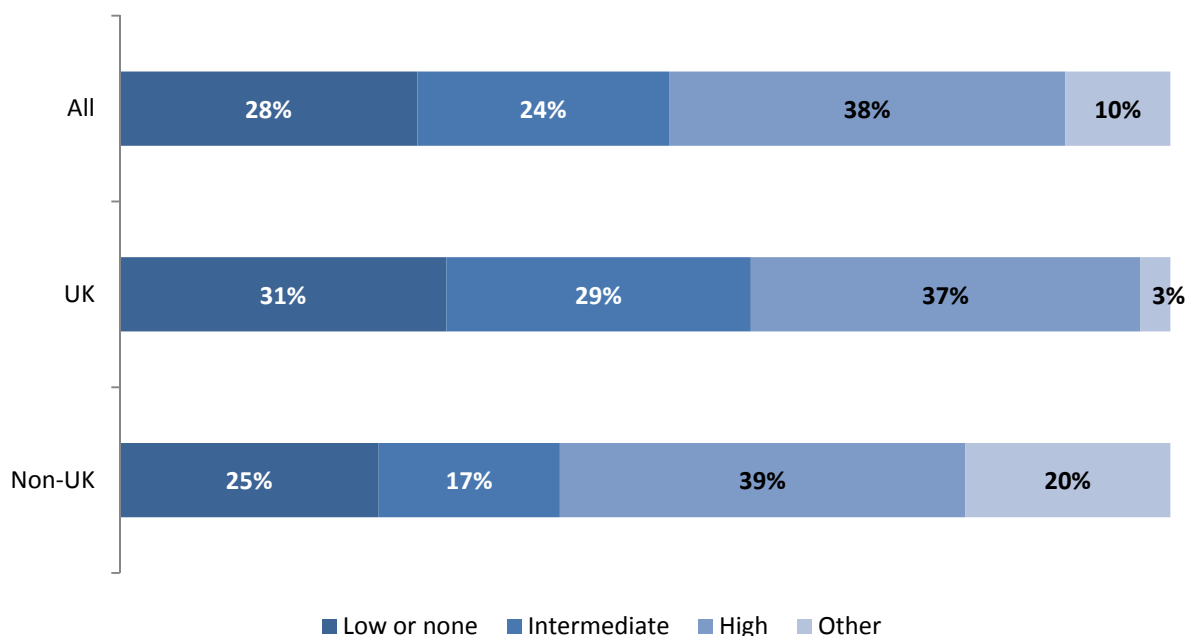
²¹ The QCF is the national credit transfer system for qualifications in England & Wales – see introduction for further details.

ethnicity, of 83 per cent, compared to the much lower share they held in the total population of London (of 49 per cent). The proportion of the White British/Irish group holding Other qualifications would therefore have much greater impact on the overall average for this geography than their London counterparts share on the overall average for London.

Country of Birth

In London, 57 per cent of residents aged 16 and over were born in the UK and 43 per cent outside of the UK. Figure 20 shows the proportion of each group holding low or no, intermediate, high, and other qualifications as their highest.

Figure 20: Highest qualification level held by country of birth, usual residents aged 16+, London, 2011



Source: 2011 Census table DC5203EW

As with those who speak a main language that is not English, Londoners born outside of the UK were much more likely to hold Other types of qualifications than average, with a share double the average at two in ten (548,000 of 2.80 million). Londoners born in the UK were more likely to hold lower level qualifications than those born outside. The proportion holding intermediate-level qualifications was almost twice that those born outside the UK held (1.09 million of 3.74 million), and the share holding low or no qualifications was six percentage points larger.

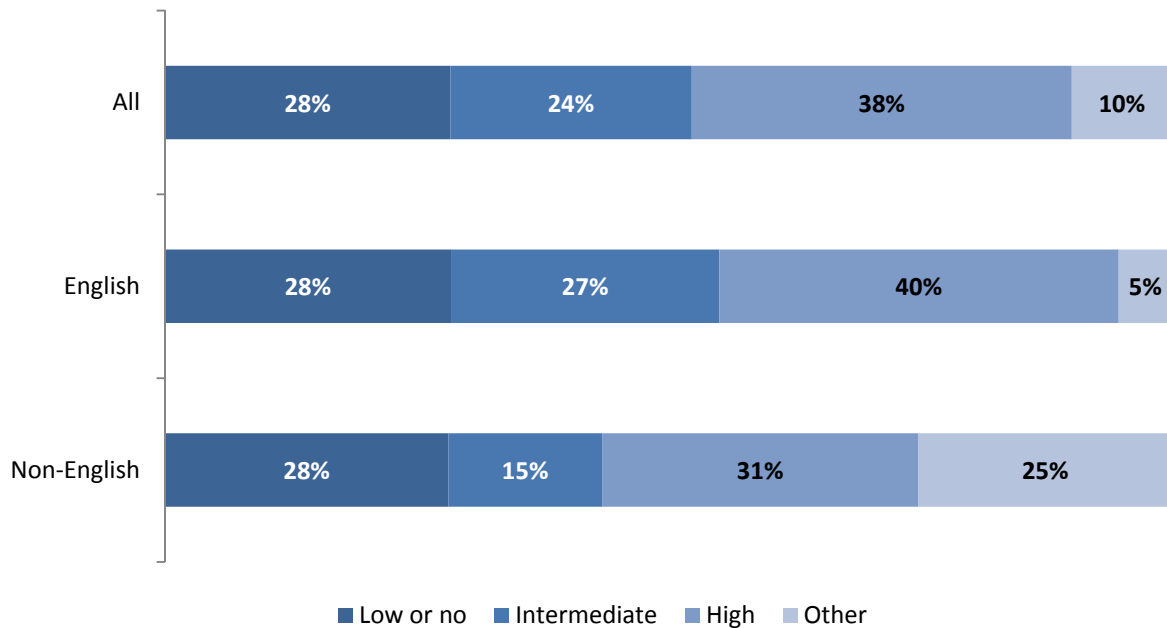
In England & Wales, unlike London, the share of residents born outside the UK was much smaller at 16 per cent (6.79 million of 42.99 million). The patterns of qualification levels for residents of England & Wales was similar, with those born outside the UK more likely to hold higher level qualifications and other qualifications than those born in the UK.

However, the share of those living in England & Wales born outside the UK that held high qualifications was much larger than the average for England & Wales, unlike in London where the share was just one percentage point larger. The proportion of all residents of England & Wales holding high level qualifications was 27 per cent; however the share for those living there born outside the UK was eight percentage points higher at 35 per cent. The tight conditions around immigration from non EU countries which often require a certain level of qualification to be held could be the reason for this. In London, residents are qualified to a higher level than in England & Wales; therefore the difference between the UK born and non-UK born population was smaller.

Main Language

This analysis identifies any differences in qualification level between residents whose main language²² was English and those who spoke any other language as their main in 2011. There were 6.55 million usual residents of London aged 16 and over, and of these, 23 per cent (1.54 million) spoke a language other than English as their main language.

Figure 21: Highest qualification level by main language, usual residents aged 16+, London, 2011



Source: 2011 Census DC5208EW

Most noticeable was the share of Londoners whose main language was not English holding Other qualifications. One quarter (387,600) held Other qualifications; a share five times that of those whose main language was English. This is likely because many of these residents holding non-UK qualifications.

Due to the high share with Other qualifications, the proportions holding high and intermediate level qualifications were lower among these people than their counterparts whose main language was English (see Figure 21). The proportion holding low or no qualifications were the same for both groups, at 28 per cent.

In England & Wales, just eight per cent of residents spoke a main language other than English; a third of the share in London (28 per cent). There were some interesting differences in proportions held for the two geographies. As with London, the share of residents speaking other languages with Other qualifications in England & Wales was much larger than those whose main language was English (26 per cent compared with 4 per cent respectively).

²² A person's first or preferred language.

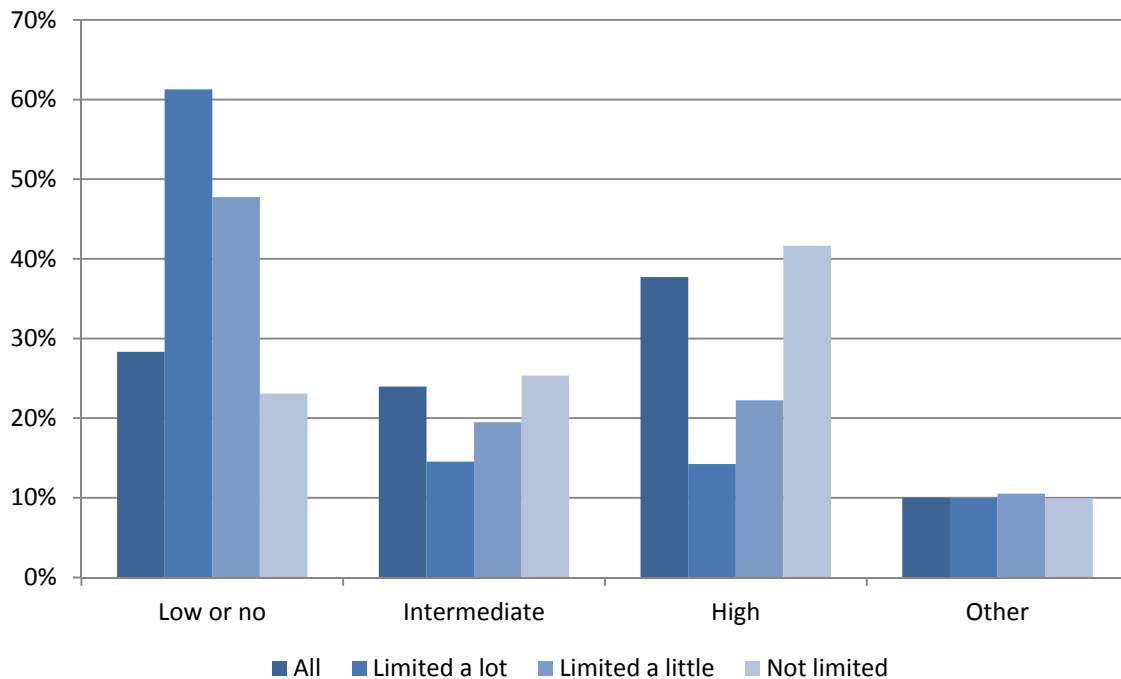
However, unlike in London (where shares were the same) and similar to the story when looking at country of birth, a higher proportion of residents whose main language was English held low or no qualifications than their counterparts with a different main language, at 36 per cent compared with 30 per cent.

Also of note was that the difference in shares holding high qualifications between those speaking English and a main language and those that did not in London was not apparent in England & Wales, where shares were around the same (28 per cent and 27 per cent respectively).

Health and disability

The 2011 Census asked respondents if their day-to-day activities were limited a lot, a little, or not at all by a long-term health problem or disability. Over eight in ten Londoners (83 per cent) had no limit to their day-to-day activities, almost one in ten (nine per cent) had their activities limited a little, and eight per cent had their activities limited a lot.

Figure 22: Highest qualification level by long-term limiting health problem or disability²³, usual residents aged 16+, London, 2011



Source: 2011 Census table DC5301EW

Figure 22 shows the proportion of all residents in each LLTI category holding low or no, intermediate, high and other qualifications as their highest. The more limiting the health problem or disability was to day-to-day activities, the less likely a person was to have high-level qualifications. On average, 38 per cent of Londoners held high qualifications in 2011. Those whose activities were limited a lot had a share just over a third of this at 14 per cent (75,100 of 527,500). Londoners whose day-to-day activities were limited a little also had a much lower proportion, with a share 16 percentage points lower than average (22 per cent).

Given the above, those with an LLTI had much higher shares of people with low or no qualifications. Six in ten (323,200 of 527,500) people with activities limited a lot had low or no qualifications; over double the London average (28 per cent).

Londoners without a LLTI were less likely than average to hold low or no qualifications, with a share of 23 per cent; five percentage points below the average for London (28 per cent). As expected then, a higher than average share of these residents held high qualifications, at 42 per cent compared with the 38 per cent average.

²³ LLTI – Limiting Long-term Illness

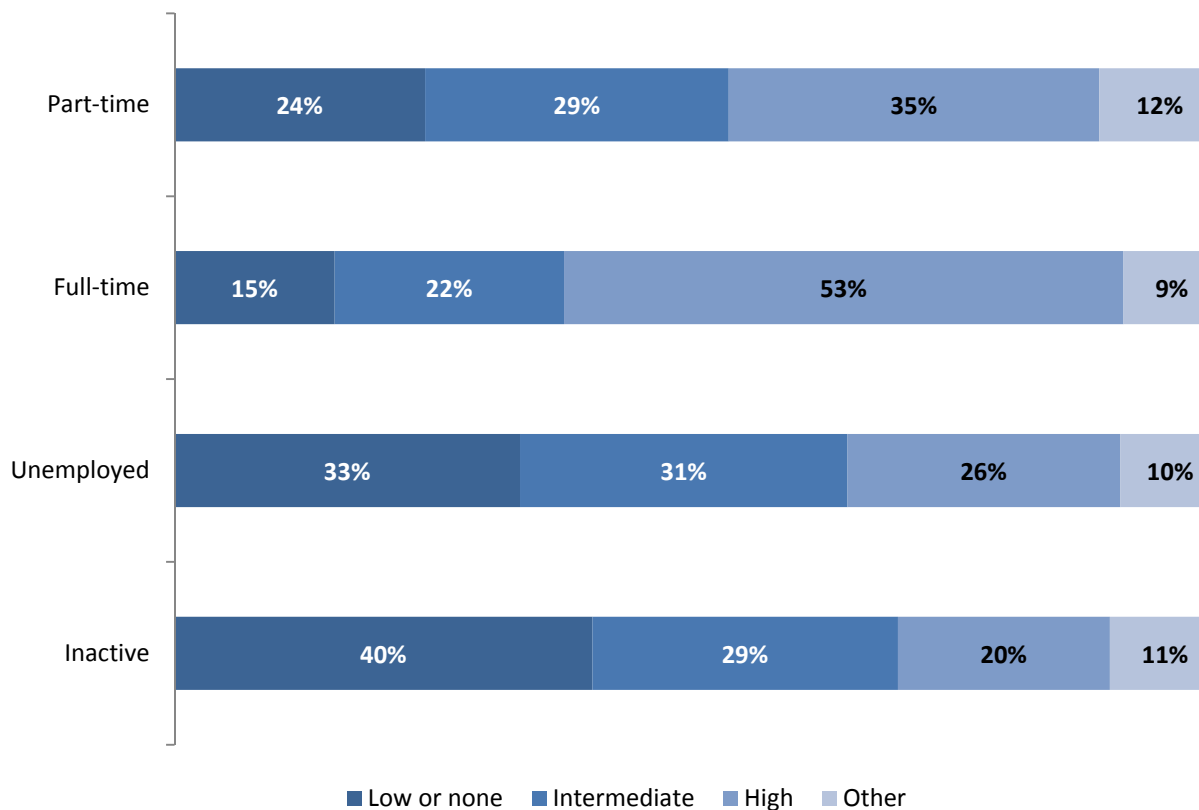
England & Wales saw the same trends as London for qualifications and limited day-to-day activities. Over half (52 per cent) of residents of England & Wales with disabilities or health problems that limited their activities a little held low or no qualifications, and this rate was even higher for those whose activities were limited a lot at 66 per cent (average for England & Wales of 36 per cent).

Census Information Scheme document CIS2014-15 reports in more detail on health indicators for the Census. This reports on the apparent negative impact health problems have on workforce participation. It is likely that low working rates among those with disabilities or poor health are a result of the lower educational attainment of these individuals as outlined above, in addition to post-educational barriers to employment and age. The next section looks at economic activity and qualifications.

Economic activity

In London in 2011, three quarters of residents aged 16 to 64 years were economically active²⁴ (4.29 million) and a quarter were economically inactive (1.36 million). Economic inactivity includes those who are retired, looking after the home or family, and long-term sick or disabled. Among the economically active residents, 68 per cent were working full-time (either as an employee or self-employed), 23 per cent were part-time, and 9 per cent were unemployed (see footnote 20). The analysis below uses 2011 Census table DC501EW, and unlike the previous data, the population base for these data is all usual residents of working age (16 to 64 years).

Figure 23: Highest qualification held by economic activity, usual residents aged 16 – 64, London, 2011



Source: 2011 Census table DC5601EW

²⁴ A person is described as economically active if, in the week before the census, they were: in employment as an employee or self-employed, not in employment but were seeking work and ready to start work within two weeks, or not in employment but waiting to start a job already obtained and available.

Table 3: Highest qualification held by economic activity, usual residents aged 16 – 64, London, 2011

Economic activity	All		Low or none		Intermediate		High		Other	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
All	5,644,000		1,350,000	24%	1,442,000	26%	2,287,000	41%	564,800	10%
Economically active	4,288,000		808,600	19%	1,046,000	24%	2,012,000	47%	421,300	10%
Part-time	977,400		234,100	24%	283,700	29%	346,300	35%	113,300	12%
Full-time	2,927,800		44,810	15%	642,000	22%	1,566,400	53%	271,300	9%
Unemployed	382,600		126,400	33%	119,800	31%	99,700	26%	36,700	10%
Inactive	1,356,600		541,900	40%	396,300	29%	274,900	20%	143,500	11%

Source: 2011 Census table DC5601EW

Low or no qualifications

The proportion of Londoners aged 16 to 64 holding low or no qualifications was 24 per cent (1.35 million). When breaking down by the economic activity subgroups, some considerable variations were apparent. Four in ten economically inactive Londoners of this age held no or low qualifications; 16 percentage points above average. Those who were unemployed were also much more likely to hold low or no qualifications, at a third. Among economically active residents, part-timers were much more likely than their full-time counterparts to hold low or no qualifications, by nine percentage points.

Intermediate qualifications

Just over one quarter of Londoners aged 16-64 held intermediate level qualifications as their highest. Most economic activity groups held shares similar to this, with those who were unemployed or inactive being slightly more likely at 31 per cent and 29 per cent.

High qualifications

This was the qualification level with the most variation in shares across economic activity categories, with a difference of 33 percentage points between the groups with the highest and lowest proportions. On average, just over four in ten Londoners aged 16 to 64 held this level of qualification. The share of inactive residents holding high qualifications was half of this, at just two in ten, and those that were unemployed were also much less likely, with one quarter holding high qualifications (15 percentage points below average). Conversely, over half of Londoners working full-time held a degree or higher; 12 percentage points above the average. Interestingly, those working part-time were much less likely than full-timers to hold high qualifications, and also less likely than the London average, at 35 per cent.

Other

There seemed to be no link between economic activity and those holding Other qualifications. One in ten residents in London aged 16 to 64 held Other qualifications as their highest, and the shares among each economic activity group were within two percentage points of this average, with those working part-time being slightly more likely (12 per cent) and full-time slightly less likely (9 per cent).

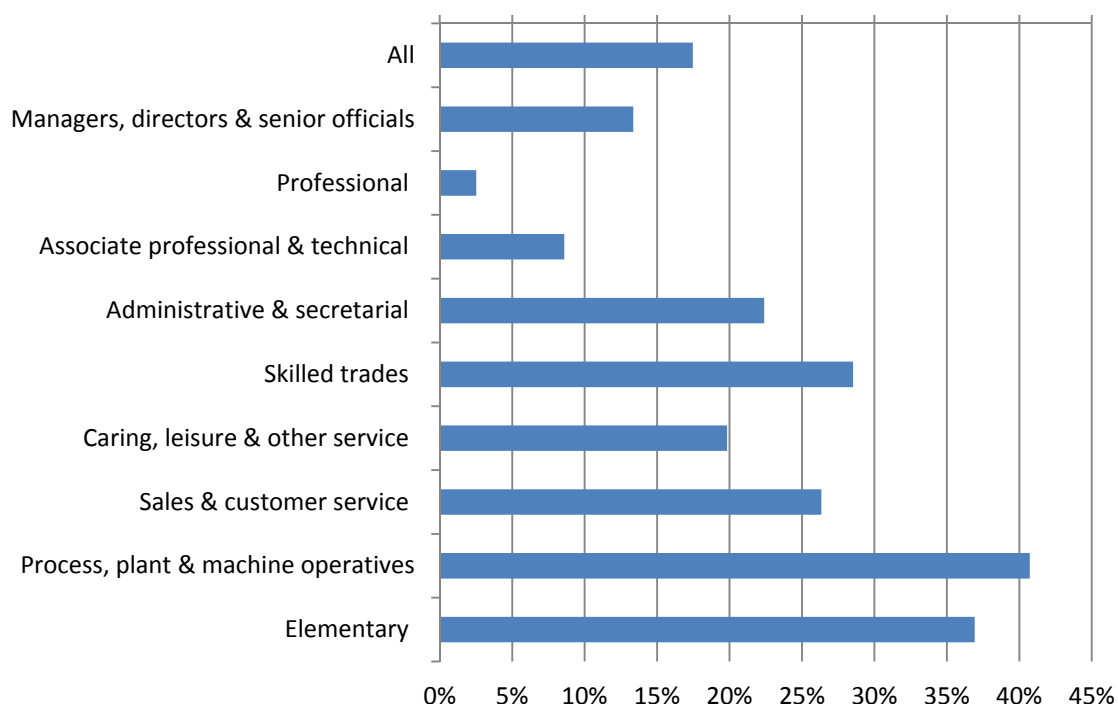
Occupation

The analysis in this section focuses on occupation type and qualification level. The table available from ONS has a population base of all residents aged 16 to 64, in employment a week before the census. Unfortunately the table has the qualification type Apprenticeships grouped with Other qualifications, therefore data has been analysed with these qualifications as one group, and intermediate level only includes level 2 and 3 qualifications in this section. The majority of the group Apprenticeship and Other will be people holding Other qualifications, as of all residents of London (including those not working), just two per cent (106,800) held apprenticeships as their highest level of qualifications, whereas ten per cent (644,100) held Other qualifications.

Low or no qualifications

Overall, 17 per cent of workers (682,200) aged 16 to 64 living in London held low or no qualifications. There were large variations to this average share across occupation types, as shown in Figure 24. Process, plant and machine operatives were most likely to hold low or no qualifications, with a share well over double the average at 41 per cent. Elementary occupations also held a share much larger than average, at 37 per cent (138,200 of 374,200). The proportion of those in Skilled trade occupations holding these qualifications was also much higher, at almost three in ten.

Figure 24: The proportion holding low or no qualifications as their highest by occupation, all residents aged 16-64, London, 2011



Source: 2011 Census Table DC6501EW

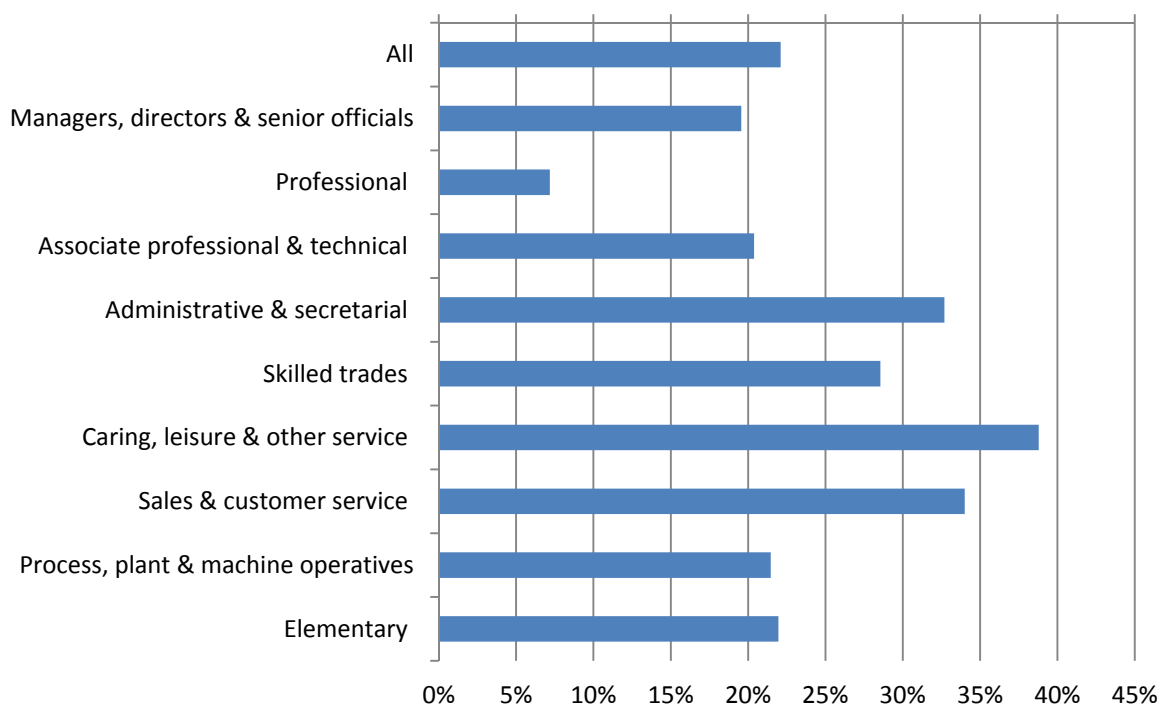
In England & Wales, 24 per cent (6.17 million) of workers aged 16 to 64 held low or no qualifications. The two occupation types with the highest shares, as with London, were also Process, plant and machine operatives (46 per cent), and Elementary occupations (47 per cent). A notable difference between the two areas was that those in Caring, leisure and other service occupations were considerably less likely than the average for the area (England & Wales or London) to hold low or no qualifications if living in England & Wales compared with in London,

where they had notably higher shares than average. This could be attributed to the fact that Londoners were qualified to a higher level than those living in England & Wales, therefore the London average was much higher.

Intermediate occupations

Just over two in ten (22 per cent) workers aged 16 to 64 in London held intermediate qualifications²⁵. Those working in Caring, leisure and other service occupations were much more likely than average, at just under four in ten (119,000 of 306,900); 17 percentage points above average. Those in Sales and customer service occupations, and Admin and secretarial occupations were also much more likely to be qualified to intermediate level (34 per cent and 33 per cent). Most other occupations held around the average share, bar Professional occupations, whose share was a third of the average at just seven per cent (63,100 of 877,900).

Figure 25: The proportion holding intermediate qualifications as their highest by occupation, all residents aged 16-64, London, 2011



Source: 2011 Census Table DC6501EW

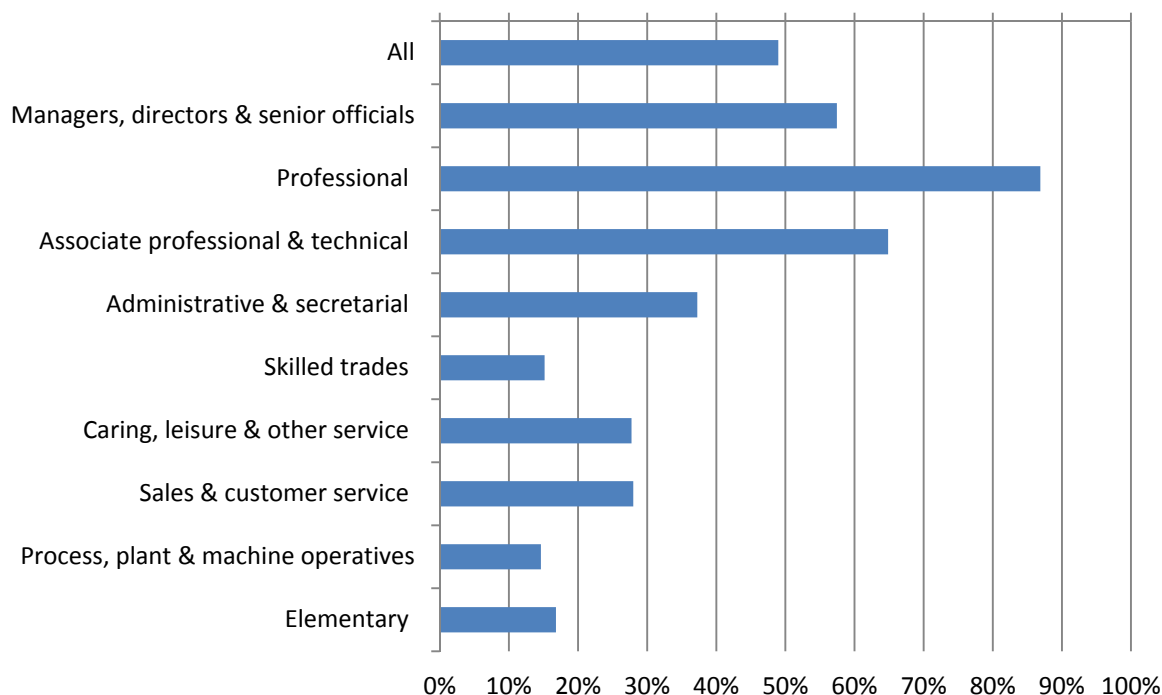
In England & Wales in 2011, a much higher proportion of residents held intermediate qualifications as their highest, at just over three in ten (32 per cent or 8.22 million) . However, although the proportions were different to proportions in London, the pattern across occupation types was the same. Half (50 per cent) of people in Caring, leisure and other service occupations held qualifications at this level, closely followed by Sales and customer service occupations and Administrative and secretarial occupations (both with shares of 44 per cent).

²⁵ For this section intermediate occupations are levels 2 and 3 (A* to C grade GCSEs and AS/A levels)

High

Half of all workers aged 16 to 64 in London held high qualifications (1.91 of 3.92 million). This qualification type saw the most variation in proportions by occupation, with a range between different occupation types of up to 72 percentage points (see Figure 26).

Figure 26: The proportion holding high qualifications as their highest by occupation, all residents aged 16-64, London, 2011



Source: 2011 Census Table DC6501EW

Almost nine in ten London residents in Professional occupations held high level qualifications (762,800 of 877,900); 38 percentage points above the average. Interestingly, although Managers, directors and senior are the occupation types most likely to require high level qualifications of all, these residents were much less likely to hold high qualifications than their counterparts in Professional occupations, with a share only eight percentage points above average and 30 percentage points below those in Profession occupations (57 per cent or 259,200 of 451,200). People in Associate professional and technical occupations also held a share higher than Managers, directors and senior officials, with 65 per cent of these workers holding a degree-level qualification or higher (415,200 of 640,200).

Londoners in the remaining occupations had much smaller shares holding level 4 and above qualifications, with those in Skilled trade and Process, plant and machine operative occupations holding the lowest at just 15 per cent.

9.07 million of the 25.75 million residents of England & Wales aged 16 to 64 held high level qualifications (35 per cent), much lower than the 50 per cent share of Londoners. However, the picture for England & Wales when breaking down by occupation looked very similar to that of London, with those in Professional occupations and Associate professional and technical occupations holding the highest shares (85 per cent and 50 per cent). Interestingly, despite a higher proportion of Londoners holding higher qualifications than England & Wales by 14 percentage points, the share of those in Professional occupations holding level 4 and above

qualifications was almost the same for both geographies (London 87 per cent, England & Wales 85 per cent).

Apprenticeships and Other

There was a huge variation in proportions holding an apprenticeship or Other qualifications as their highest across occupation types. In London in 2011, 11 per cent (447,100) of people aged 16 to 64 in work held an apprenticeship or Other qualifications. Those in Skilled trade occupations had a share almost three times this, at 18 per cent (90,100 of 324,600). Londoners working in Elementary occupations also had higher than average shares, at just under one quarter (90,900 of 374,200).

This is partly explained by the high proportion of Other qualifications that were non-UK qualifications. Country of birth data shows that residents of England & Wales²⁶ born outside the UK were more likely to be in Elementary occupations (16 per cent) than those born in the UK (10 per cent).

Residents of England & Wales were slightly less likely to hold an Apprenticeship or an Other qualification than their counterparts in London, at 9 per cent (2.29 million) compared with 11 per cent. The occupation groups with the highest and lowest share of workers holding these qualifications were the same for England & Wales as in London.

However, despite there being only two percentage points between the averages of the two areas, the proportion of people in some occupation groups holding these qualifications were much higher in England & Wales than in London. Those in England & Wales in Caring, leisure and other service occupations holding Apprenticeships or Other qualifications held a share of 14 per cent of the total, where as their equivalents in London held a of eight per cent. Also of note was that residents of England & Wales in Sales and customer service occupations were twice as likely to hold these qualifications (12 per cent) than those in London in this occupation group (6 per cent).

To conclude these sections on economic activity and occupation; there are stark differences in the qualification levels of Londoners in different economic and occupational positions, many findings are what you may expect. Those not in work were much more likely than employed residents to hold low or no qualifications; which could be one reason for their unemployment or inactivity. Also unsurprising was that workers in typically lower paid job such as caring, leisure and other service occupations, and sales and customer service occupations also had a much higher share of people holding low or no qualifications. Conversely, those in typically high paid careers such as professional occupations were significantly more likely than average to have a degree or higher, whereas managers were less likely to.

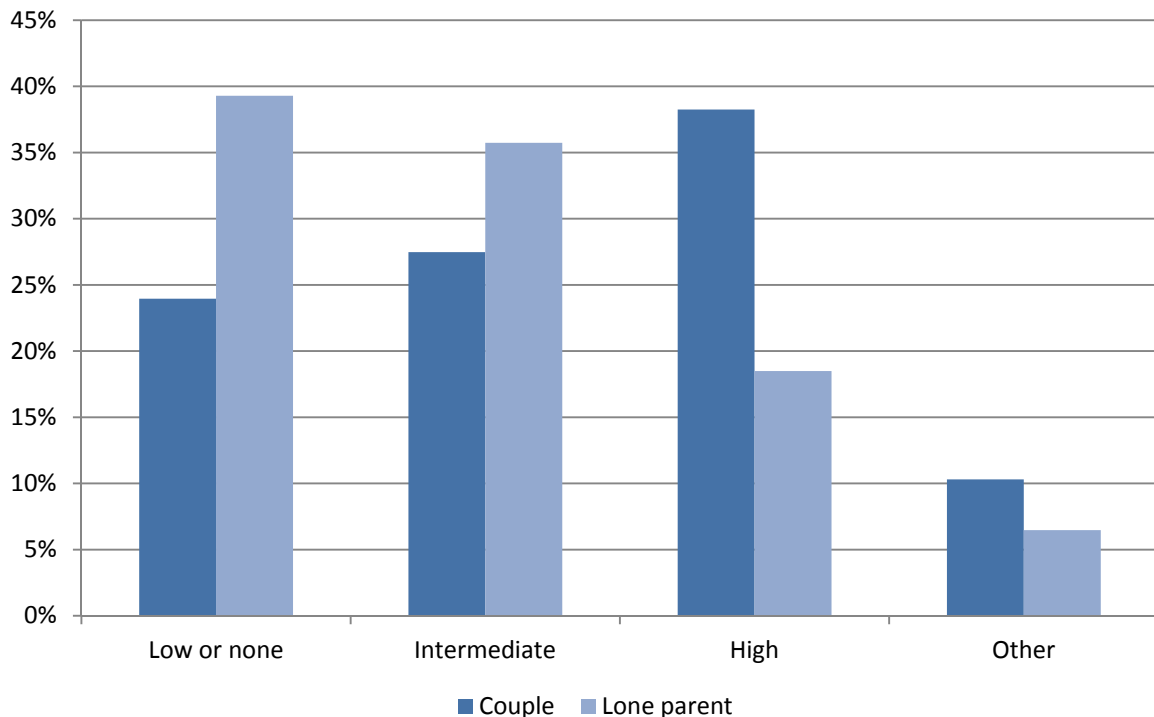
²⁶ London data not available as an ONS Census output.

Households with dependent children

The 2011 Census reports the type of household residents live in, cross tabulated with their highest level of qualification. The analysis below compares the qualification level of those who live in couple with dependent children²⁷ households²⁸ with those who live in one-parent households. Households with dependent children described as 'Other households' have not been included in this section, due to the breadth of the category. This category could include couple or lone parents with various other people living with them, including other family members, other families, or lodgers.

There were 6.45 million people aged 16 and over living in households in London in 2011. Just over two in ten (1.39 million) were living in a couple with dependent children, and six per cent (405,300) were lone parents with dependent children.

Figure 27: Highest qualification level held, all usual residents aged 16 and over in couple with dependent children households and lone parent with dependent children households, London, 2011



Source: 2011 Census Table DC5103EW

There were some very significant differences between couple and lone parent households with dependent children in highest qualification level held, as shown in Figure 27. Londoners living in a couple household with dependent children were twice as likely to hold a degree-level qualification or higher than their lone parent counterparts, at 38 per cent compared with 18 per

²⁷ A dependent child is any person aged 0 to 15 living in a household, or a person aged 16 to 18 in full-time education living in a household without a spouse, partner or child living in the house.

²⁸ Includes married or same-sex civil partnership couples and cohabiting couples.

cent. This suggests that there may be a relationship between lone parenting and the achievement of high qualifications, although causality cannot be established from this analysis.

Given the last, lone parents with dependent children were much more likely to hold low or no qualifications than their couple counterparts, by 15 percentage points (39 per cent and 24 per cent respectively). There was also a higher proportion holding intermediate qualifications. 144,800 lone parents with dependent children held these qualifications in 2011 in London, a share of 36 per cent of all lone parents. The equivalent for couple with dependent children households was 27 per cent (382,600 of 1.39 million).

Also notable was the lower share of lone parents holding Other qualification types compared with their equivalents in couples (six per cent compared with ten per cent), and also lower than the London average share, which was the same as couples with dependent children. Data described in earlier sections has shown that those holding other qualifications were more likely to be born outside the UK, and to speak a main language other than English.

There were 10.73 million residents living in couple with dependent children households in England & Wales, and 2.34 million living in lone parent equivalent households. England & Wales had the same trends as London when comparing proportions holding different qualification levels. In England & Wales, like London, lone parents with dependent children had just half the likelihood of holding high qualifications (15 per cent) than those in a couple with dependent children (31 per cent).

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