

DYNAMICS OF DIVERSITY: EVIDENCE FROM THE 2011 CENSUS

Prepared by ESRC Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity (CoDE)

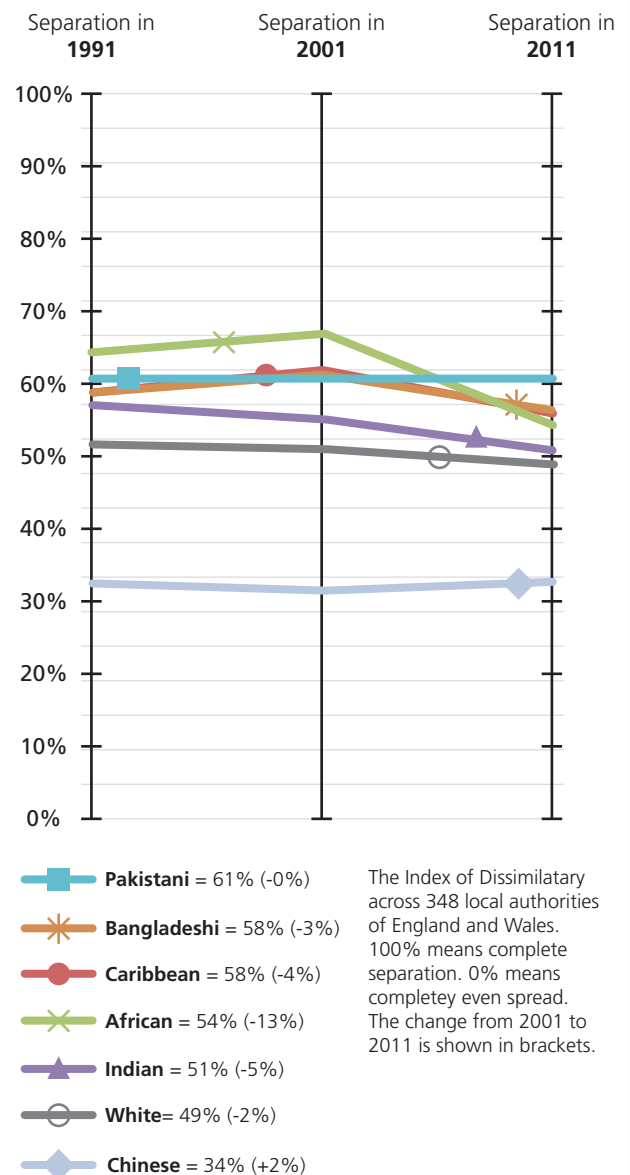
More segregation or more mixing?

Summary

- The ethnic minority populations of England and Wales have grown, and live in more mixed areas in 2011 than before. This 'spreading out' has accelerated in the past ten years.
- For example, Leicestershire has more Indian residents than ten years ago, but its Indian population is more evenly spread than it was.
- The Indian, White, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, African, Irish, Caribbean, Mixed White/Caribbean, White/African and White/Asian populations are all more evenly spread in 2011 than in 2001.
- Against the trend, the relatively small Chinese population is more concentrated than it was, possibly as a result of overseas Chinese students moving to University towns and cities.
- Among religion groups, only the relatively small Jewish population is more residentially concentrated than in 2001. The Christian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu and Buddhist populations are all less concentrated – more evenly spread.
- There has been rapid growth of the most intimate of mixing: the number of people identifying as belonging to a mixed ethnic group has risen from 1.3% in 2001 to 2.2% in 2011.
- The proportion of mixed households has grown in 346 out of 348 local authorities. Excluding one-person households, 1 in 8 households now have more than one ethnic group.
- The White British population is the only group that lives in relative isolation from others, on average living in Districts with 85% of White British residents. All ethnic minority groups live in Districts where on average they make up fewer than 10% of the residents. In smaller areas than local authority Districts, White British and other groups live in greater concentrations than this.

Integration of Britain's diverse communities accelerated during the 2000s, indicated by residential location, mixed ethnicity, and households with more than one ethnicity.

Figure 1. Ethnic groups have become more evenly spread across England and Wales



[Click here for Figures 1, 2 and 3 data in Excel](#)

Figure 2. Other ethnic groups' spread across England and Wales

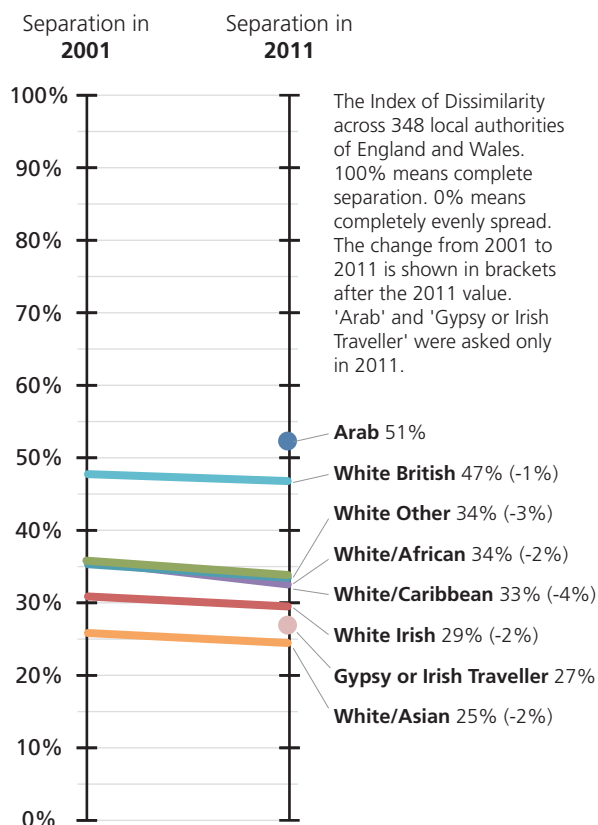
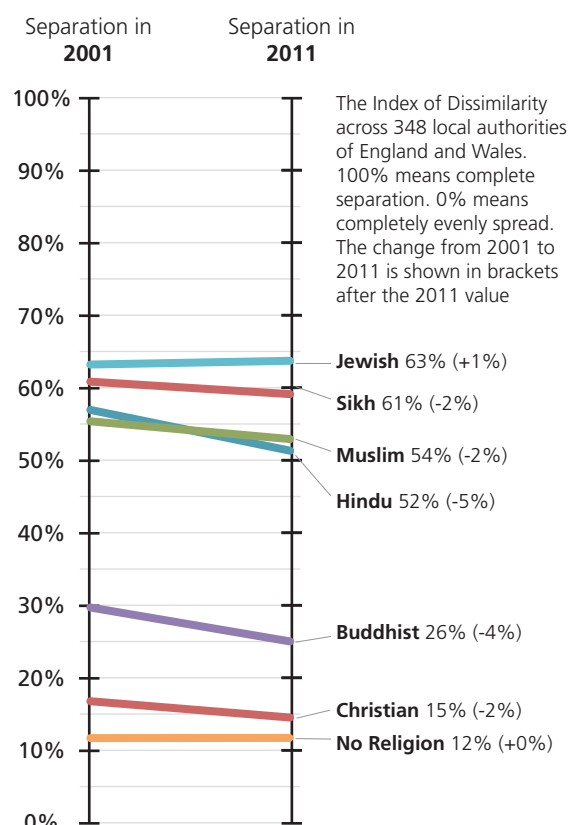


Figure 3. Religion's spread across England and Wales



[Click here for Figures 1, 2 and 3 data in Excel](#)

More mixing?

Measurement of residential clustering is difficult. Though a growing number of an ethnic group in one place is a bigger 'cluster', it does not mean any greater separation from others. For example, in the UK the Bangladeshi population has grown in size, leading to larger clusters of Bangladeshis across the country. At the same time there has been spreading out from the biggest Bangladeshi concentration in Tower Hamlets. The same is true of the Indian, Caribbean, Pakistani, and African groups, and of Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, Christians and Hindus. So, there are bigger clusters *and* more mixing at the same time.

The amount of residential separation is measured in the charts by the Index of Dissimilarity across local authority Districts (see box for the calculation).

Figure 1 shows that separation was only slightly decreasing in the 1990s but in the 2000s it decreased clearly. For the African, Indian, Bangladeshi, Caribbean and White groups, spreading out, and therefore mixing and diversity, has accelerated in the 2000s.

The calculations we have used for 'separation'

In Figures 1-3 we have used the most authoritative of indices, the Index of Dissimilarity, to calculate a group's spread across England and Wales compared to the spread of the rest of the population. This is what is usually used to measure 'segregation', or 'separation' as we have called it in the Figures. The percentage of the group's total population in England and Wales that lives in a local authority is compared to the percentage of the rest of the population that lives in that same local authority. The absolute difference in percentages is added up across the 348 local authorities of England and Wales, and then halved so that the Index is a figure between 0 and 100¹.

To make accurate comparisons over time, we have aggregated the data for 1991 and 2001 to the 2011 local authority districts. We have included a full allowance for estimated non-response in all three years².

More mixing? (continued)

The greatest increase in residential mixing has been for the African group. Its doubling in size during the 2000s has been achieved partly by families moving away from the areas they first settled, and partly by immigration into new areas. We don't know yet the balance of these processes. The index of separation for the African group was the highest in 1991 and 2001 but is now 54%, below that of the Pakistani (61%), Bangladeshi (58%) and Caribbean (58%) groups.

Chinese is the only group to have increased its separation during the last decade, from 32% to 34%. This is likely to be a result of overseas students settling in University towns. Despite this increase, the Chinese group remains the least separated from others, of all groups.

In general, the 2011 Census confirms what we already know from historic Irish, Jewish and other immigration. Immigrant populations are initially drawn to the UK by labour shortages in particular areas – whether road-building in the early 20th century, health and transport services in the 1960s, the textile industry in the 1970s, or agriculture in the 2000s. Once settled, some families move further away, leading to more mixed residential areas which make Britain more diverse.

The ethnic groups that, given changes in the ethnicity question, have been identified only since 2001 are shown in Figure 2. They also show a more even spread through England and Wales during the last decade. The Mixed groups tend to be more evenly spread through England and Wales than other groups.

Religion, a question on the last two censuses, to some degree overlaps with ethnic group. People who identify as Christian, Buddhist or Muslim may belong to one of several different ethnic groups, and tend to be relatively evenly spread through England and Wales (indices of separation of 15%, 26% and 54%). Jews, on the other hand, are a relatively small group mainly within the White population, which is the most separated (63%) of all religions and ethnic groups measured in the census.

Those with 'no religion' are spread very evenly through England and Wales. Their size increased from 15% to 25% during the 2000s. More people chose it in all Districts, as indicated by its unchanged and low degree of separation.

Are we 'isolated' from others?

Another way of looking at separation is to ask whether 'our' ethnic or religious group lives in areas that have mainly others like us. In England and Wales in 2011, all ethnic minority groups lived on average in areas with fewer than 10% of their own group. In contrast, the White British population lived on average in Districts where 85% of residents were also White British. These figures will all be larger when considering smaller areas, but the pattern will remain the same.

White British is the only population which mostly lives in areas that have few residents from other groups.

The most intimate mixing

The Census does not say much about mixing at work or in school, which are important aspects of socialising. But it does count the most intimate mixing which results in children of mixed ethnicity. The proportion of the population claiming mixed ethnic identity is 1.2 million or 2.2%. It has increased from 672 thousand in 2001 (1.3%), an increase of over one half. The total number of people with parents of different ethnicities is in reality much more than this, as many choose to identify with one of their parents' ethnicities.

Households with multiple ethnic groups

Multiple ethnic groups within a household is relatively common in 2011 – one in every eight households is formed of people from different ethnic groups living together. We count here only households of two or more people which can have multiple ethnic groups. In 2011 the number of households with multiple ethnic groups was 2.0 million or 12%. This figure has increased from 1.4 million in 2001, an increase of a half.

Half of multiple-ethnicity households have mixed ethnicity partnerships. About a quarter have different ethnicity only between generations, such as an Irish parent with White British children. The rest, about a fifth, are different combinations – including different ethnicities between unrelated people, for example lodgers or student households.

The percentage of households with multiple ethnic groups varies between geographical areas, at its highest (39%) in Inner London (Figure 4a). Those areas with the most households of multiple ethnic groups are also usually those with the greatest population from ethnic groups other than White British – in London and other major cities. This then, is further evidence that areas with least numbers of White British are diverse rather than segregated.

The number of multiple ethnicity households increased by a half between 2001 and 2011. It increased in every district except for small decreases in Burnley and Hyndburn in East Lancashire (Figure 4b).

Ethnic group has changed in the Census

The ethnic group question in the census has changed over time. White, Caribbean, African, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and White can be compared for three Censuses. For 2001 and 2011 we can also measure separation for the Mixed ethnic groups and for White Irish and Other White as in Figure 3. For 2011 only, we can measure it for the Arab and Gypsy/Traveller groups³. The question on religion was asked from 2001.

Figure 4a. Households with more than one ethnic group in 2011

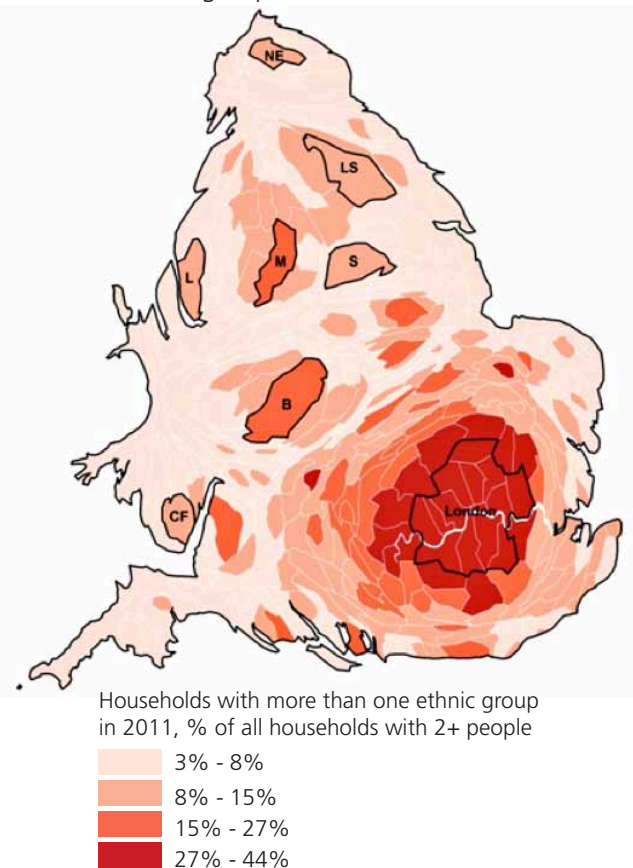
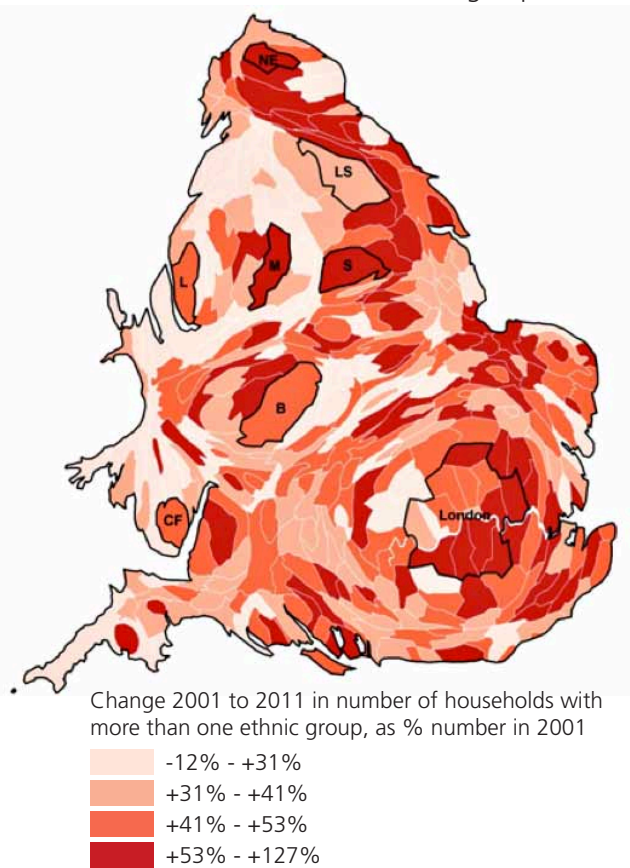


Figure 4b. Change 2001 to 2011 in number of households with more than one ethnic group in 2011



[Click here for Figure 4 data in Excel](#)

Notes: These maps are population cartograms where each local authority district is shown approximately proportional in size to its resident population¹. The highlighted areas are intended to act as reference points: Inner London and other principal cities: Manchester (M), Liverpool (L), Sheffield (S), Newcastle upon Tyne (NE), Birmingham (B), Leeds (LS), and Cardiff (CF). For a more detailed key of each local authority district click [here](#).

¹ Simpson, L. (2007). Ghettos of the mind: the empirical behaviour of indices of segregation and diversity. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series A (Statistics in Society)*, 170(2), 405-424.

² Sabater, A., & Simpson, L. (2009). Enhancing the Population Census: A Time Series for Sub-National Areas with Age, Sex, and Ethnic Group Dimensions in England and Wales, 1991-2001. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 35(9), 1461-1477.

³ Further resources on comparing ethnic group populations over time at www.ethnicity.ac.uk

⁴ Dorling, D., & Thomas, B. (2011) *Bankrupt Britain: An Atlas of Social Change*, Bristol: Policy Press.

Sources: the 2011 Censuses (Crown Copyright), and complete population estimates based on them. Map base for this Briefing kindly provided by Bethan Thomas.

This briefing is one in a series, *The Dynamics of Diversity: evidence from the 2011 Census*.

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