

In the wake of the 2001 riots, Oldham has repeatedly been identified as being 'segregated' along racial and ethnic lines. Over the course of the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s a number of studies have shown that racist housing policies, particularly in the public sector, contributed to growing segregation within towns and cities across the country. In the early 1990s, the Commission for Racial Equality found the local authority in Oldham guilty of operating a segregationist housing policy. However, Census data shows that segregation decreased for most ethnic groups between 2001 and 2011, with people from most ethnic minority groups residing in a greater number of wards across Oldham. At the same time though, local White British and White Other populations were found to be living in areas that had become more ethnically homogenous. Local people also said that the town is experiencing a 'housing crisis'. Oldham's Fifth Homelessness Prevention Strategy notes that mortgage and rent arrears place a significant number of households at risk of homelessness, while Shelter identified Oldham as a 'repossession hotspot' in 2012. The Homelessness Prevention Strategy also reported that 2,659 local households had their homelessness prevented during 2014/15. In August 2018, the Local Government Chronicle reported that there had been a 16.6% increase in the number of households in arrears for council tax payments between 2016/17 and 2017/18. Residents also pointed to issues of class segregation and the polarisation between more affluent outlying areas and poorer neighbourhoods. In many cases, this polarisation was understood in terms of racial inequality, with the more affluent areas being referred to as white. Oldham Council's 2011 Census Ethnicity Report highlights that in comparison to white residents, people of Pakistani and Bangladeshi heritage are still more likely to live in overcrowded conditions.

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