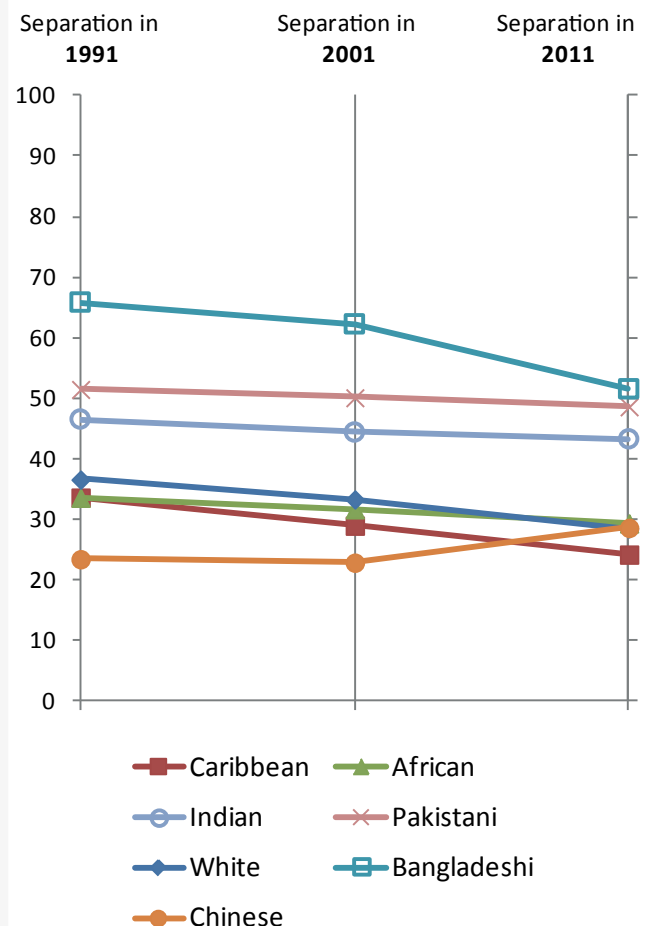


# Ethnic mixing in Newham

## Summary

- **Ethnic minority groups in Newham (other than White British), have grown and live in more even mixed areas in 2011 than before.**
- Every ethnic group measured in the census, except Chinese, is more evenly spread in 2011 than 1991 across East London boroughs.
- The decreased separation of the White, Caribbean, African, Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi groups is a result of dispersal away from the areas where they have been traditionally clustered.
- Eight out of 10 of the most diverse wards in East London boroughs are in Newham.
- **Plaistow North is the most diverse ward in Newham.**
- The population in Newham and the rest of East London is not only becoming more ethnically mixed residentially, but also within households.
- **The proportion of people living in multiple ethnic group households has increased in all boroughs in East London.** Excluding one person households, 34% of households in Newham include people from more than one ethnic group as compared with 12% nationally.
- **The Mixed ethnic group has increased by 65% and accounts for 5% of the population (or 13,900) in Newham.**

**Figure 1.** Change in ethnic group segregation in East London, 1991-2011



Notes: Separation (Index of Dissimilarity) across 131 wards in Barking & Dagenham, Greenwich, Hackney, Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest. 100% indicates complete separation. 0% indicates completely even spread of a group.

## Measuring segregation

The most commonly used measure of segregation is the Index of Dissimilarity, which calculates a summary measure of the spread of a group across space compared with the spread of the rest of the population. It is often referred to as the Segregation Index. The Segregation Index is calculated by comparing the percentage of a group's total population in Barking & Dagenham, Greenwich, Hackney, Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest that lives in a ward with the percentage of the rest of the population that lives in the same ward. The absolute difference is added up across the 131 wards, and then halved so that the index is between 0 and 100, with 0% indicating a completely even spread of the population and 100% meaning complete separation. Values of the Segregation Index tend to be higher when they are based on smaller areas because they magnify the differences between places.

## Residential mixing

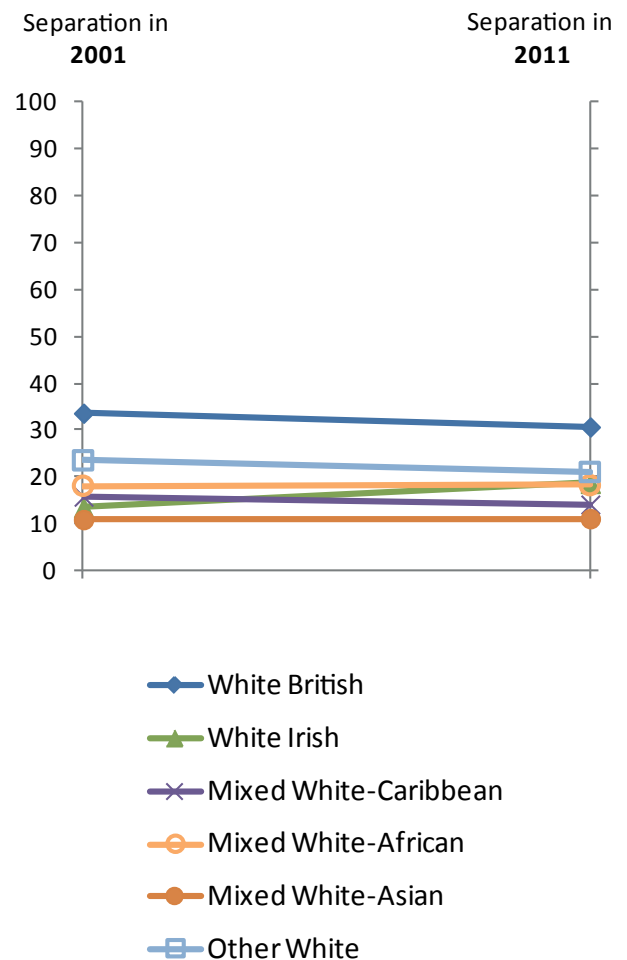
Measuring residential ethnic segregation is a challenge because its meaning and measurement have become politically loaded. Figure 1 shows the Segregation Index (see box) for East London<sup>1</sup> by ethnic groups that can be measured in each of the last three censuses. The Segregation Index shows that the Bangladeshi group (66%) was most separated and the Chinese group (23%) was the least separated in 1991.

<sup>1</sup> consists of Barking & Dagenham, Greenwich, Hackney, Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest.

During the 1990s the separation of each ethnic group decreased. There has been continued, or accelerated, spreading out during the 2000s, except for the Chinese group which became more separated. This is in accordance with the national trend of increased separation of the Chinese group across England and Wales; it is likely to reflect the settlement of new migrants attending Higher Education institutions which grew rapidly during this period. The decreased separation of all other minority groups represents a residential dispersal across East London and beyond. The increased spreading out has been particularly rapid for the Bangladeshi group during the 2000s.

The groups that have only been identified by the census since 2001 are shown in Figure 2. The White Irish, White Other and Mixed groups are more evenly spread through East London than other ethnic groups and have very low levels of segregation. There has been very little change in the separation of the Mixed ethnic groups during the 2000s. The White Irish population, which remains one of the most evenly spread in East London, increased its separation between 2001 and 2011. This group has reduced in size by a fifth during the decade.

**Figure 2.** Change in ethnic group segregation in East London, 2001-2011

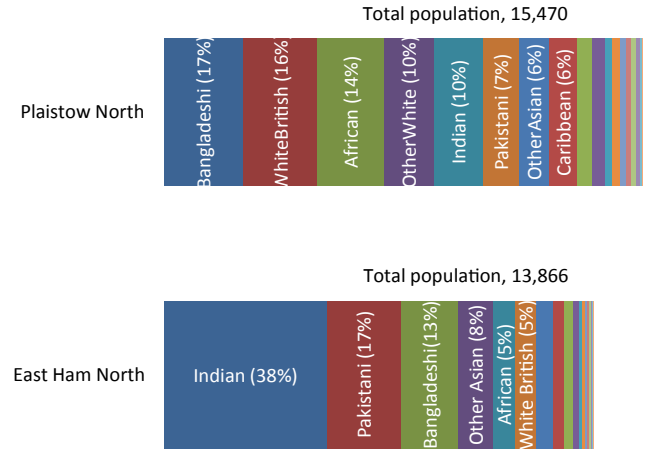


**Notes:** Separation (Index of Dissimilarity) across 131 wards in Barking & Dagenham, Greenwich, Hackney, Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest. 100% indicates complete separation. 0% indicates completely even spread of a group.

## Ethnically diverse wards in Newham

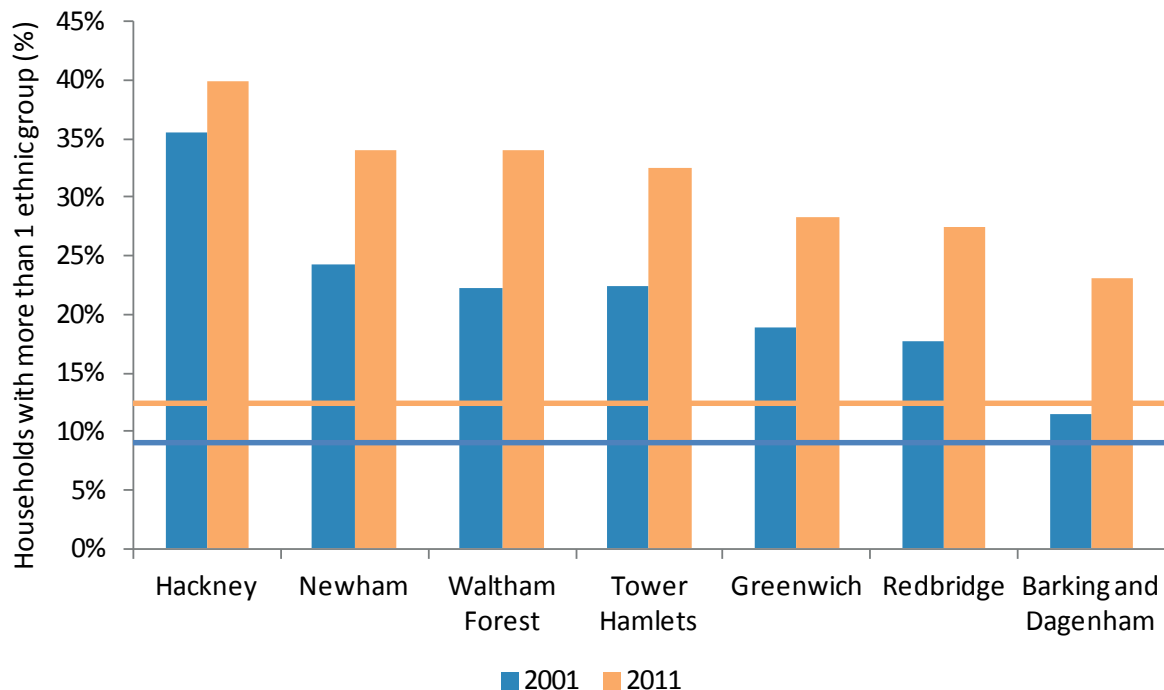
Diversity can be measured by calculating how close a ward is to having an equal number of residents in each ethnic group (see box). The most diverse ward in Newham as well as England and Wales as a whole is Plaistow North with a standardised value (0 to 100) of 49. The average for England and Wales is 3.6, with the most diverse wards in Newham and other parts of inner London. Figure 3 shows that no one ethnic group accounts for more than a fifth of the population in Plaistow North, with the Bangladeshi group the largest (17%), followed by White British (16%), African (14%), Other White (10%), Indian (10%), Pakistani (7%), Other Asian (6%) and Caribbean (6%). Eight of the 10 most diverse wards in East London are in Newham: Plaistow North, Forest Gate South, West Ham, Plaistow South, Boleyn, Forest Gate North, East Ham South, Little Ilford. Leyton and Cathall wards in Waltham Forest are the ninth and tenth most diverse in East London.

**Figure 3.** Super-diversity of selected wards in Newham, 2011



Notes: labels show ethnic groups which account more than 5% of the population.

**Figure 4.** Growth in households with more than one ethnic group in East London boroughs, 2001-2011



Notes: horizontal line indicates national average. Measured as a proportion of households with two or more people.

## Measuring diversity

Ecologists have a very useful notion of diversity which is applied to calculate how closely each ward in Barking & Dagenham, Greenwich, Hackney, Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest is to having an equal number of each ethnic group measured in the census. Called the 'Reciprocal Diversity Index' the ecologists sum each of the eighteen ethnic group proportions, first squaring them, and divide into 1. The Index is greatest when there are equal numbers in each group, when it is equal to 18, and lowest when there is only one group in an area, when it is equal to 1. The index is standardised by stretching it to be always within the range 0 to 100. The average across Newham is 55 and England & Wales is 3.6

## Mixing within households and families

The population in Newham, East London and the rest of England and Wales is not only becoming more mixed residentially, but also in terms of the ethnic diversity within households and families. Figure 4 shows that the proportion

of households with two or more people that contain people from more than one ethnic group (i.e. multiple ethnic group households) grew during the 2000s in each East London borough. Multiple ethnic group households account for a third of households in Newham, considerably more than the national average of 12%. In each borough in East London, the proportion of multiple ethnic group households is above the national average, with the greatest proportion in Hackney (40%) and the lowest proportion in Barking and Dagenham (23%).

The number of people with a Mixed ethnic identity provides an indication of the most intimate form of integration of peoples. Nationally, the proportion of people with a Mixed ethnic identity is 1.2 million or 2.2% of the population. It has increased by more than three quarters from 672,000 in 2001. There has been a similar level of increase in Newham (see Figure 5). The Mixed population accounts for 5% of the population in Newham. The largest and fastest growing Mixed ethnic group in the borough is Mixed Other. This is a very diverse group reflecting the level of ethnic diversity in Newham.

**Figure 5.** Growth of Mixed ethnic group populations in Newham, 2001-2011



This briefing is one in a series, *Local dynamics of diversity: evidence from the 2011 Census*.

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