

## LOCAL DYNAMICS OF DIVERSITY: EVIDENCE FROM THE 2011 CENSUS

Prepared by ESRC Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity (CoDE)

# Geographies of diversity in Leicestershire

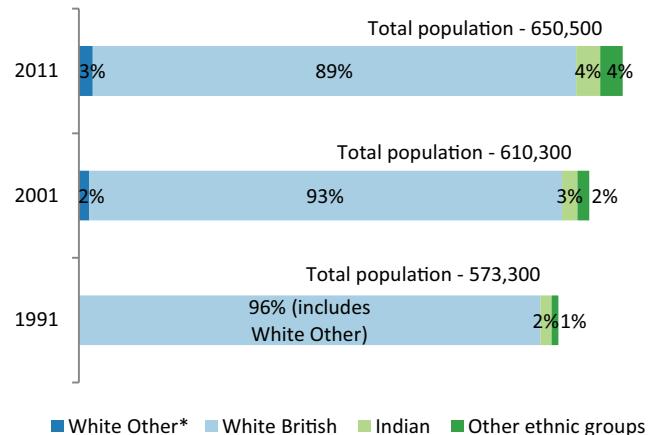


## Summary

- The ethnic minority population, as measured by non-white residents, increased between 1991 and 2011 by 34,000 in Leicestershire and 79,000 in Leicester City.**
- Despite this growth, the White British ethnic group, only measured since 2001, accounted for 89% and 45% of the population of Leicestershire and Leicester City.
- Indian is the largest ethnic minority group in Leicestershire (4%) and Leicester City (28%). The group is clustered in the eastern parts of the city in the wards of Latimer, Belgrave, Spinney Hills, Rushey Mead and Coleman.
- The second largest ethnic minority group is White Other, which has grown rapidly during the 2000s in Leicester City (growth of 160%) and in Leicestershire (growth of 57%).
- The African ethnic group has grown faster than any other comparable group during the past two decades, but accounts for less than 10% of the population in all wards in Leicestershire and Leicester City.
- There is evidence of dispersal of ethnic minority groups from areas in which they have previously clustered.**
- The Indian group is growing most rapidly in areas neighbouring those in which they are most clustered in Leicester, including Humberstone; and in some rural parts of the County, including Great Glen and Houghton on the Hill.
- New measures in the 2011 Census show that Leicestershire and Leicester City are not becoming less British, as more people report a British national identity than report White British ethnic identity.**
- Poor English language proficiency is greatest in those areas where ethnic minorities are most clustered. This may reflect a difficulty that a small minority of residents will face in participating in the wider community.

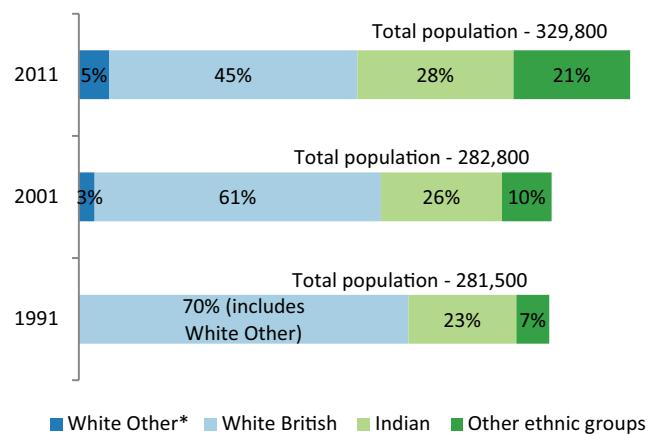
**Figure 1.** Increased ethnic diversity, 1991-2011

a) Leicestershire



Notes: White Other includes White Irish in 2001 (4,100 or 0.7%) and White Irish (3,500 or 0.5%) and White Gypsy or Irish Traveller (400 or 0.1%) in 2011. Figures may not add due to rounding.

b) Leicester City



Notes: White Other includes White Irish in 2001 (3,600 or 1.3%) and White Irish (2,500 or 0.8%) and White Gypsy or Irish Traveller (400 or 0.1%) in 2011. Figures may not add due to rounding.

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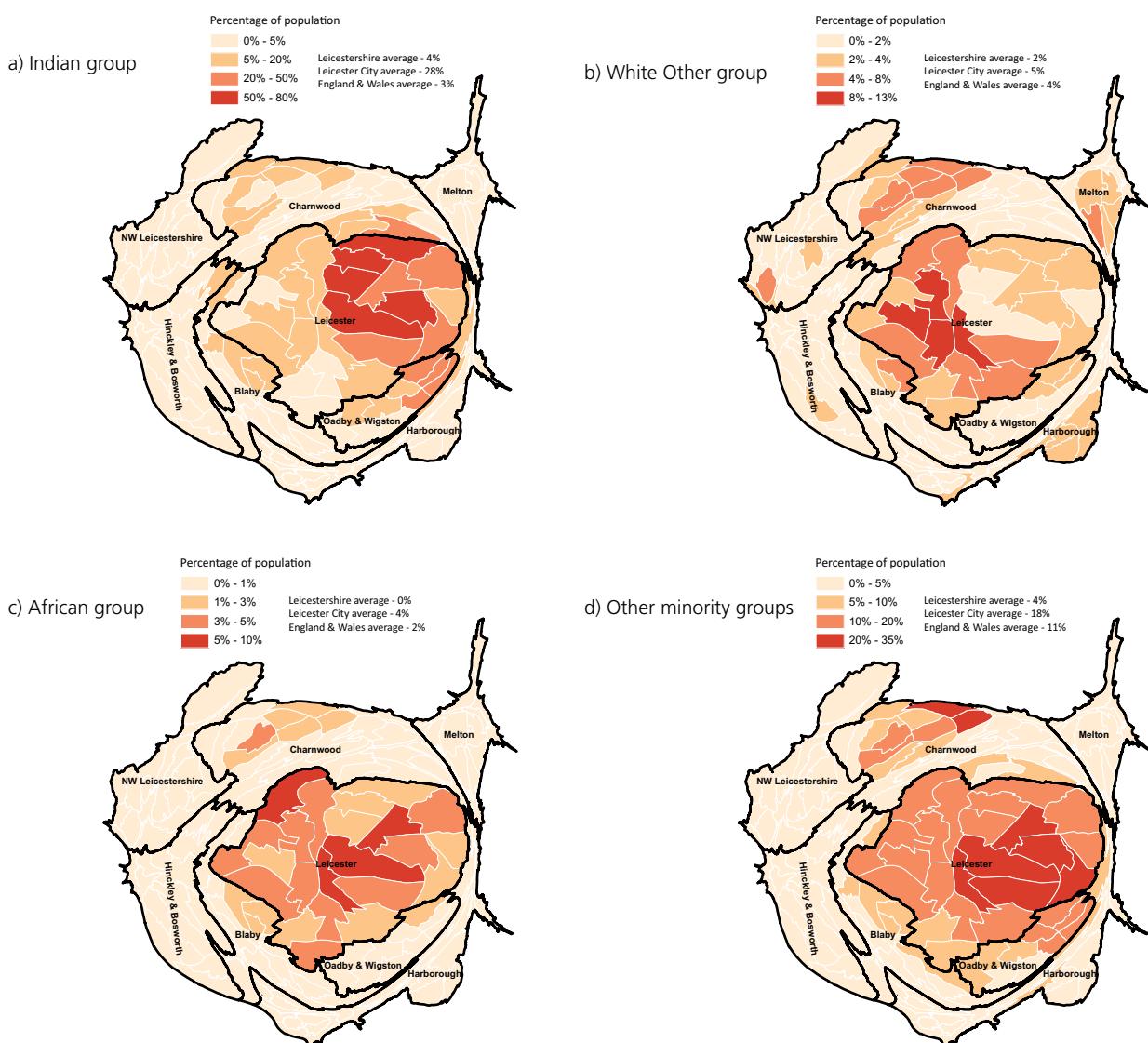
## The growth of ethnic diversity 1991-2011

The ethnic minority population (or non-white population) increased by 34 thousand or 160% in Leicestershire and by 79 thousand or 94% in Leicester City between 1991 and 2011 (see Figures 1a-1b, Page 1). Despite this growth, the White British ethnic group, only measured since 2001 (see box, right), remains by far the largest group in the City and the County. In Leicester City, no one ethnic group is in the majority. The White British (45%) and Indian (28%) are the largest ethnic groups. The remainder of the population comprises a diverse mix of ethnic groups, including White Other (5%), Asian Other (4%), African (4%) and Pakistani (2%). In Leicestershire, the White British ethnic group accounts for almost nine-tenths of the population. The largest ethnic minority group is Indian, accounting for 4% of the population in 2011.

## Census ethnic group question

There has been a question on ethnicity in the UK Census since 1991. The question has changed over time in terms of how it is framed and the pre-defined response categories offered for people to choose from. In 1991, the census asked 'which ethnic group do you descend from: White; Black-Caribbean; Black-African; Black-Other; Indian; Pakistani; Bangladeshi and Chinese.' But in 2001, it asked about 'your ethnic group in terms of cultural background.' There were additional pre-defined categories of Mixed and White Irish in 2001 as well as an 'Other' category for each broad group of White, Mixed, Asian and Black. The 2011 question changed again, simply asking about 'your ethnic group or background' and there were categories added for White Gypsy or Irish Traveller and Arab. The changes in the phrasing of the question and the tick box response categories restrict comparison across censuses.

**Figure 2.** Geographical distribution of the largest ethnic minority groups in Leicestershire and Leicester City by ward, 2011



Notes: These maps are population cartograms where each ward is shown approximately proportional in size to its resident population.

## Geographical spread of diversity

Figures 2a-2d show the clustering of the largest ethnic minority groups in Leicestershire and Leicester City by ward in 2011. The Indian ethnic group is clustered in wards in and around the east of Leicester City (see Figure 2a, Page 2). More than half the population in the wards of Latimer (79%), Belgrave (65%), Spinney Hills (60%), Rushey Mead (54%) and Coleman (54%) have an Indian ethnic identity. In Leicestershire, more than a fifth of the population have an Indian ethnic identity in the wards of Oadby Uplands (44%), Oadby Woodlands (38%), Oadby Grange (33%), Oadby Brocks Hill (29%) and Thurmaston (23%).

The White Other ethnic group accounts for the greatest proportion of the population in the wards in the centre of Leicester City, including Fosse (13%), Westcotes (13%), Western Park (9%) and Castle (9%). There are smaller clusters of residents that have a White Other ethnic identity in Loughborough, Measham and Melton (see Figure 2b, Page 2). By far the largest White Other group in the City and County that was written in on the 2011 Census form was White Polish.

The African ethnic group accounts for fewer than 1 in 10 people in all wards in Leicestershire and Leicester City (Figure 2c, Page 2). More than 5% of the population have an African ethnic identity in the Leicester wards of Beaumont Leys (9%), Spinney Hills (7%), Charnwood (6%) and Castle (5%).

All other ethnic minority groups account for the greatest proportion of the population in the Leicester City wards of Stoneygate, Castle, Spinney Hills, Charnwood, Coleman and Evington. In each of these wards, no one ethnic minority group, except Indian or White Other,

accounts for more than 10% of the population. These wards are therefore very diverse areas. For example, in Castle ward 50% are White British, 9% are Chinese, 9% are White Other, 8% are Indian, 5% are African, 5% are Asian Other, 3% are Arab, 2% are Pakistani, 2% are Caribbean and the remaining 6% have a mixed or other ethnic identity.

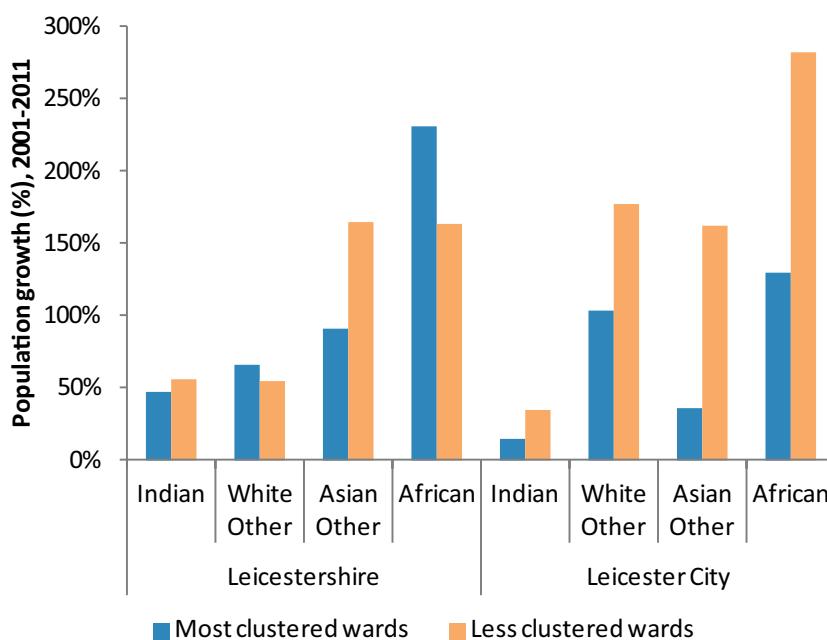
In Leicestershire, there are clusters of the Bangladeshi population in the Loughborough wards of Lemynton and Hastings where this group accounts for 14% and 12% of the population, respectively.

## Dispersal of ethnic diversity

Although ethnic minority groups are clustered in Leicester City wards and other selected wards in Leicestershire, there is evidence of dispersal towards suburban and rural areas. This is shown in Figure 3, which highlights the percentage change (2001-2011) in the population of the largest ethnic minority groups in Leicestershire wards and Leicester City wards where they are most clustered (those that contained a fifth of the population of each group in 2001), and the percentage change in each group in all other less clustered wards.

There is a clear pattern of greater population growth for each ethnic minority group in those wards where they are less clustered compared with smaller growth in the most clustered wards in both the City and County, except for the White Other and African ethnic groups in Leicestershire. The concentration of the White Other and African groups in the County may reflect recent immigration to the urban centres for employment and study. The deconcentration of all other groups is due to movement away from the areas where ethnic minorities are clustered and new immigration to areas where

**Figure 3.** Growth in population by largest ethnic groups Leicestershire and Leicester City in the wards where each group is most clustered, and everywhere else, 2001-2011



**Notes:** The 'most clustered wards' for each ethnic group include a fifth of an ethnic group's population in 2001 with highest percentage of the group, and the 'less clustered wards' include the remaining four-fifths. The most clustered wards are as follows for each group:

**Leicester City - Indian:** Spinney Hills, Stoneygate; **White Other:** Castle, Knighton; **Asian Other:** Spinney Hills; **African:** Spinney Hills.

**Leicestershire - Indian:** Wigston St Wolstan's, Ravenhurst and Fosse, Oadby Grange, Forest Thurmaston; **White Other:** Loughborough Southfields, Loughborough Nanpantan, Misterton, Loughborough Outwoods, Loughborough Lemynton, Loughborough Hastings, Loughborough Storer, Loughborough Ashby, Market Harborough-Logan, Loughborough Dishley and Hatherne, Oadby Grange; **Asian Other:** Oadby Grange, Oadby Uplands, Oadby Brocks Hill, Oadby Woodlands; **African:** Loughborough Nanpantan, Loughborough Southfields, Loughborough Ashby, Oadby Grange, Oadby Woodlands.

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there has been less immigration before. When more data is released from the 2011 Census, it will be possible to determine the relative importance of these components.

The indications would suggest there is a process of residential movement away from clustered areas, especially for the Indian population. This is because the wards that have seen the greatest growth of the Indian ethnic group (2001-2011) are adjacent to wards with large clusters. For example, the Indian population more than doubled in the Harborough wards of Glen (from 75 to 450) and Thurnby & Houghton (from 216 to 818). There is also dispersal eastwards within Leicester City. The Indian population increased by the greatest actual amount in Humberstone & Hamilton ward (4,100) during the 2000s.

## Indicators of barriers to community participation

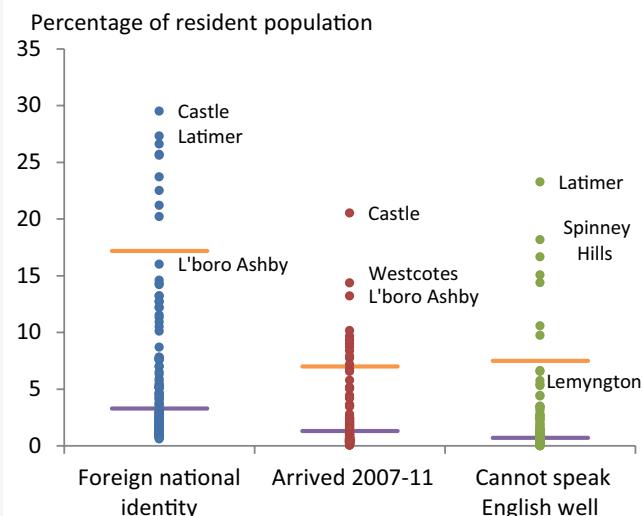
Ethnic identity does not provide a clear indication of the assistance some people will require from local authority services to participate in the communities they settle because many ethnic minority residents will have been born in the UK or have lived here for many years. Indeed, Britishness is multiethnic, as information first available in the 2011 Census tells us: in each and every ward in Leicestershire and Leicester City there is a higher proportion of the population that reports a British national identity than reports a White British ethnic identity. The 2011 Census provides new information about national identity, year of arrival of people born abroad and English language proficiency.

Figure 4 shows the proportion of people in each ward in Leicestershire and Leicester City who have a foreign national identity, arrived in the UK recently (2007-11) and cannot speak English well. The wards with the highest proportion of residents with a foreign national identity are located in Leicester City, including Castle (30%) and Latimer (27%). The average for the wards in Leicester City is 17%. The average in Leicestershire is 3% with the highest proportion in Loughborough Ashby (16%) in Charnwood district. Castle in Leicester and Loughborough Ashby are diverse wards where no one ethnic group, except White British, accounts for more than 10% of the population. They contain university halls of residence housing large numbers of international students.

The proportion of people with a foreign identity is strongly correlated ( $R=0.93$ ) with the proportion of people who arrived in the UK during 2007-11 across wards in Leicestershire and Leicester City. Castle ward has by far the highest proportion of residents who have arrived in this time period (20%). Westcotes (14%) in Leicester and Loughborough Ashby (13%) also have a large proportion of their population who have arrived in the last five years.

The wards with the proportion of the population that cannot speak English well is not as strongly correlated with the proportion with a foreign national identity ( $R=0.6$ ). Thus, English tuition needs are not necessarily greatest in areas of recent immigration. The wards with the greatest proportion of the population who cannot speak English well are Latimer (23%) and Spinney Hills (18%), which is where the Indian ethnic group is most clustered. The average for Leicester City is 8%. In Leicestershire, on average, fewer than 1% of people cannot speak English well, with the highest proportion in Loughborough Lemyngton ward (6%). This suggests that the majority of the population, even in the areas where ethnic minorities are clustered, can speak English well.

**Figure 4.** Alternative measures of immigrant history in Leicestershire and Leicester City wards, 2011



Notes: Base population for 'Cannot speak English well' only includes people aged 3 and over.

## Incompleteness of ethnic group data 1991-2001

Non-response (undercount) is thought to have been well-estimated within the 2011 Census, but incompletely estimated in 1991 and 2001. Non-response is concentrated in some ethnic groups. If this bias is not taken into account, comparisons of population can be misleading. In this briefing we have used the complete estimates for 1991 and 2001 available from the [UK Data Archive](#).

This briefing is one in a series, [Local dynamics of diversity: evidence from the 2011 Census](#).

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