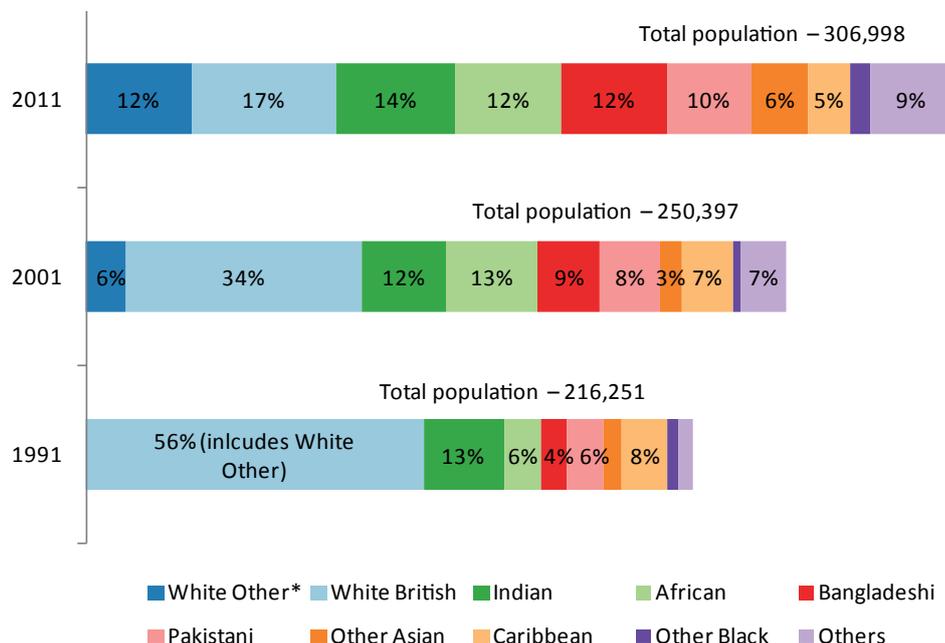


Geographies of diversity in Newham

Summary

- **The ethnic minority population, as measured by non-white residents, increased between 1991 and 2011 by 122,700 in Newham.**
- Despite this growth, the White British ethnic group, only measured since 2001, remains the largest ethnic group in the borough accounting for 17% of the population.
- Indian is the largest ethnic minority group in Newham accounting for 14% of the population. The group is fairly evenly distributed across the borough, but there are clusters in East Ham, Green Street East and Green Street West wards.
- The second largest ethnic minority group is African, which grew in Newham by one and three-quarters between 1991 and 2011. The group is evenly distributed across the borough with the greatest clusters in the southwest.
- **There is evidence of dispersal of ethnic minority groups from areas in which they have previously clustered.**
- The Indian, African, Other White and Bangladeshi ethnic groups are growing most rapidly in wards where they are least clustered and slower in wards where they are most clustered.
- **New measures in the 2011 Census show that Newham is not becoming less British, despite its increased ethnic diversity. More people report a British or English national identity than report White British ethnic identity.**
- Poor English language proficiency is higher in Newham than the national average reflecting a local need for support services. However, only a small minority of residents cannot speak English well even in those areas where the need is greatest.

Figure 1. Increased ethnic diversity in Newham, 1991-2011



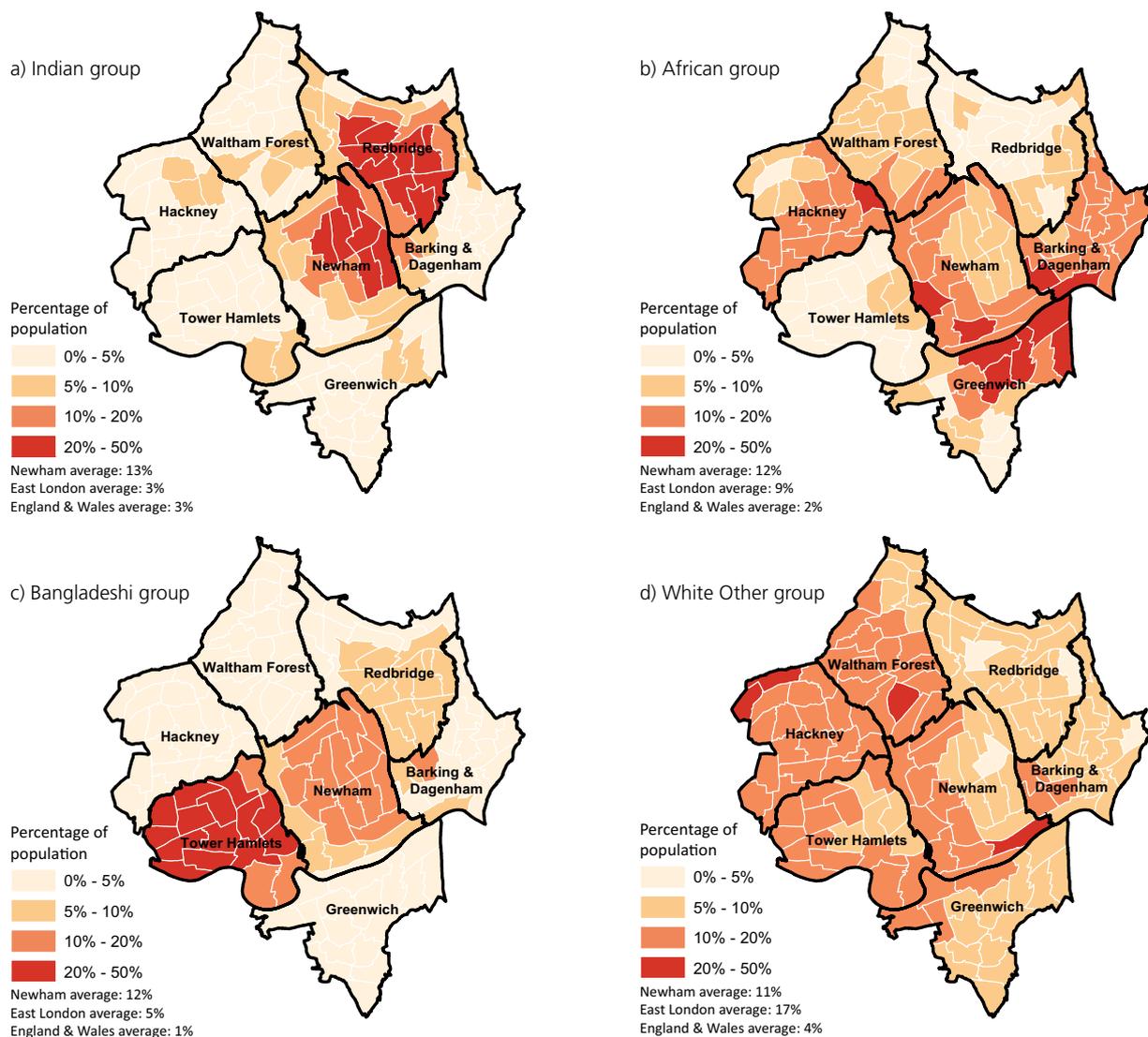
The growth of ethnic diversity 1991-2011

The ethnic minority population (or non-white population) increased by 122,700 or 128% in Newham between 1991 and 2011 (see Figure 1). Despite this growth, the White British ethnic group, only measured since 2001 (see box), remains the largest group in Newham. In Newham, no one ethnic group accounts for more than a fifth of the population. The White British (17%), Indian (14%), African (12%), Bangladeshi (12%) and Pakistani (10%) are the largest ethnic groups. The remainder of the population comprises a diverse mix of ethnic groups, including Other Asian (6%), Caribbean (5%) and Other Black (2%).

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 Newham's largest ethnic minority groups across East London by ward, 2011



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 Newham across wards in East London in 2011. The Indian ethnic group is clustered in wards in parts of Newham and Redbridge (see Figure 2a). In Newham, more than a third of the population in East Ham North ward (38%), more than a quarter of the population in the wards of Green Street East (33%) and Green Street West (32%), and more than a fifth of the population in the wards of East Ham Central (23%), Wall End (21%) and Manor Park (20%) have an Indian ethnic identity.

The African ethnic group accounts for a fifth of the population in the Newham wards of Canning Town North and Custom House (see Figure 2b). There are larger clusters of the African group in parts of Greenwich, including Thamesmead Moorings (36%), Abbey Wood (24%) and Woolwich Common (24%), and in parts of Barking and Dagenham, including Thames (27%) and Gascoigne (26%).

The Bangladeshi ethnic group is the most clustered ethnic group in East London (see Figure 2c). More than two-fifths of the population in the Tower Hamlets wards of St Dunstan's & Stepney Green (47%), Bethnal Green South (45%), Bromley-by-Bow (45%), Shadwell (44%), Mile End East (43%) and Whitechapel (40%) are Bangladeshi. In Newham, the largest clusters of the Bangladeshi population are in Little Ilford (20%) and Manor Park (19%) wards.

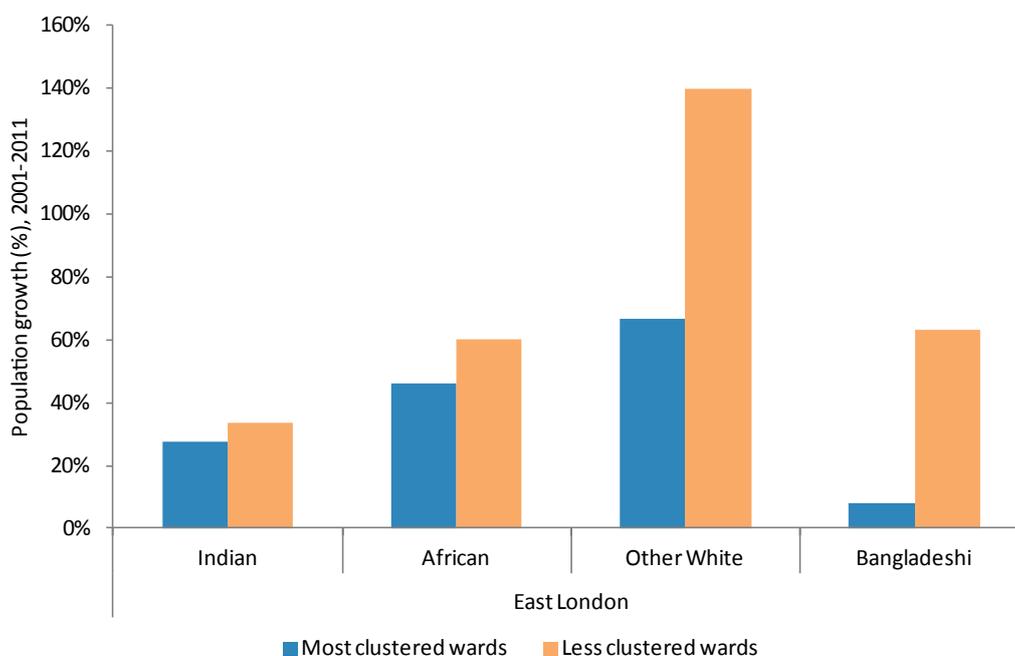
The White group is more evenly distributed across East London than the Indian, African and Bangladeshi groups. The Other White group accounts for the greatest proportion of the population in the wards of Grove Green – Waltham Forest (22%), New River - Hackney (22%), Beckton - Newham (21%) and Brownswood – Hackney (21%) (see Figure 2d). The Other White ethnic group is very diverse in Newham, including people were categorised as European Mixed (7,308), Baltic States (5,486), Other Eastern European (5,268), Polish (4,686) and Other Western European (2,390) using categorisations of the write in responses.

Dispersal of ethnic diversity

Despite the fairly even spread of most ethnic minority groups in Newham and the rest of East London, there is evidence of dispersal away from those areas where they are most clustered. This is shown in Figure 3, which highlights the percentage change (2001-2011) in the population of the Indian, African, Other White and Bangladeshi ethnic minority groups in East London 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. The deconcentration is due to movement away from

Figure 3. Geographical spreading of Newham's largest ethnic minority groups across wards in East London, 2001-2011



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

Indian: East Ham North, Green Street East, Green Street West, Seven Kings, Goodmayes, Clementswood; **African:** Royal Docks, Canning Town South, Custom House, Canning Town North, Stratford and New Town, King's Park, Haggerston, Thamesmead Moorings, Woolwich Riverside, West Ham, Hoxton; **Other White:** New River, Lordship, Brownswood, Springfield, Cazenove, Millwall, Dalston, Clissold, Haggerston, Stoke Newington Central, Hoxton, St Katharine's and Wapping; **Bangladeshi:** Bethnal Green South, Whitechapel, Shadwell, St Dunstan's and Stepney Green.

the areas where ethnic minorities are clustered and new immigration to areas where 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.

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 Newham, almost four times as many people report a British or English national identity than report a White British ethnic identity.

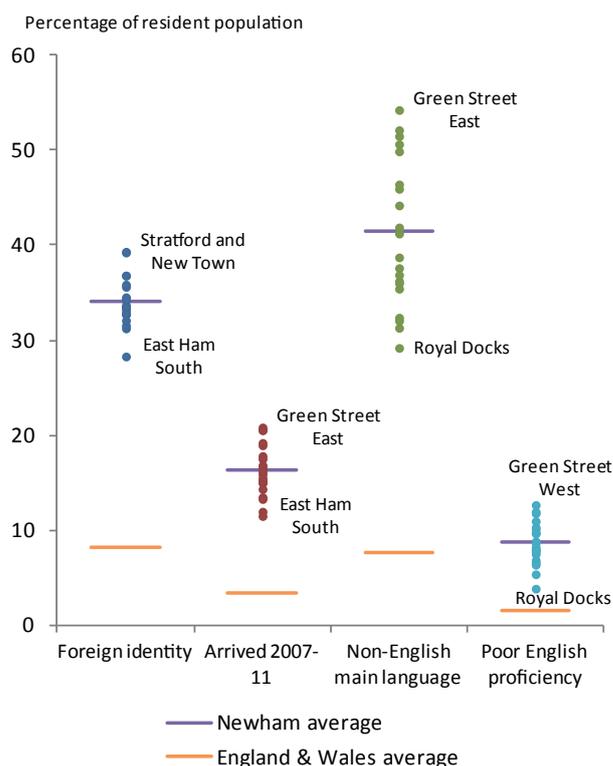
Figure 4 shows the proportion of people in each ward in Newham who have a foreign national identity, arrived in the UK recently (2007-11), speak a non-English main language and cannot speak English well. The average proportion of people with a foreign identity is 34% in Newham, well above the national average of 8%. Stratford and New Town ward (39%) has the highest proportion and East Ham ward (28%) has the lowest.

The proportion of people with a foreign identity is strongly correlated ($R=0.88$) with the proportion of people who arrived in the UK during 2007-11 across wards in Newham. This shows that areas with higher proportions of people with a foreign identity have higher proportions of people who have recently arrived. Green Street East, East Ham Central, and Stratford and New Town wards have the highest proportion of residents who arrived in the four years prior to the 2011 Census (21%). In Newham, East Ham South ward has the lowest proportion its population who recently arrived in the UK (12%) which is considerably higher than the national average of 3%.

The proportion of the population who cannot speak English well is not as strongly correlated with foreign national identity ($R=0.51$). 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 Green Street West (12%), East Ham North (11%) and Green Street East (11%). The average for Newham is 9%, which is higher than the national average

of 2% suggesting a need for English language tuition in the borough. Nonetheless, the 2011 Census shows that the vast majority of the population in Newham, even in the areas where ethnic minorities are clustered, can speak English well.

Figure 4. Alternative measures of immigrant history in Newham 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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