

Census Bulletin

Ethnicity and Religion in West Sussex

Issue 5

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The 2001 Census gathered information on ethnicity, country of birth and religion, which form the focus of this bulletin.

Ethnic Group

Each person's perceived ethnic group and cultural background was recorded in the 2001 Census. This information helps central and local government and health services to allocate resources and plan programmes to take account of the needs of ethnic minority groups. The majority of the population of England and Wales (E&W) (91%) gave their ethnic group as White. As shown in table 1, the proportion in West Sussex is higher (97%), although some variation exists within the county. Crawley, in fact, falls within the 20% of local authorities (LAs) in E&W with the lowest proportion of White people.

Figure 1: Non-White population by ethnic group for West Sussex

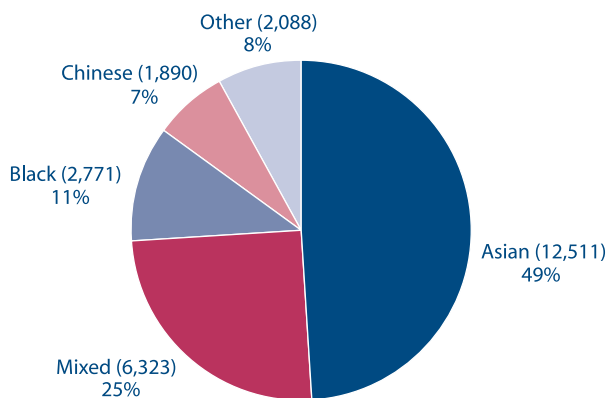


Figure 2: Age distribution of ethnic groups for West Sussex

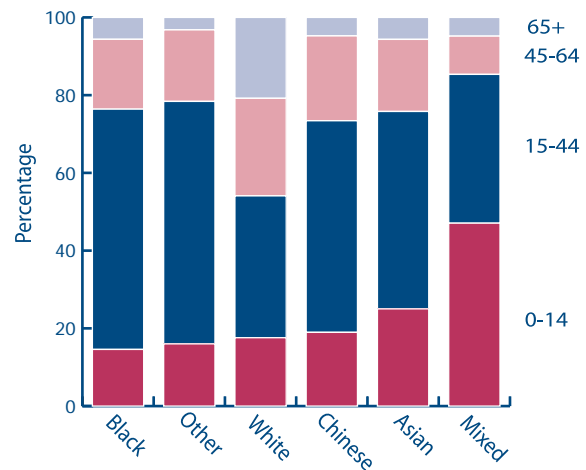


Figure 1 shows the ethnic breakdown of the non-White population of West Sussex. As in E&W, around half of the county's non-White population describe themselves as Asian. A further quarter class themselves as Mixed ethnic origin, a higher proportion than in E&W (15%). Just over 10% of the non-White population of West Sussex gave their ethnic group as Black compared to a quarter in E&W, while 7% of the county's non-White population describe themselves as Chinese in comparison to 5% in E&W.

The age distribution of each ethnic group of West Sussex is illustrated in Figure 2. It can be seen that the White population has an older age structure than the non-White populations, with approximately double the proportion of people aged 45 and over, and around four times the proportion of people aged 65 and over. The Mixed ethnic population has the youngest age structure,

Table 1: Number and percentage of people by ethnic group by local authority and for West Sussex

Ethnic Group	Adur		Arun		Chichester		Crawley		Horsham		Mid Sussex		Worthing		West Sussex	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
White ¹	58,127	97.5	138,619	98.5	104,703	98.4	88,308	88.5	119,417	97.8	124,003	97.4	94,854	97.2	728,031	96.6
Asian ²	501	0.8	618	0.4	371	0.3	8,299	8.3	676	0.6	1,127	0.9	919	0.9	12,511	1.7
Mixed ³	570	1.0	778	0.6	656	0.6	1,377	1.4	908	0.7	1,146	0.9	888	0.9	6,323	0.8
Black ⁴	152	0.3	311	0.2	211	0.2	1,112	1.1	337	0.3	336	0.3	312	0.3	2,771	0.4
Chinese	138	0.2	224	0.2	278	0.3	310	0.3	274	0.2	396	0.3	270	0.3	1,890	0.3
Other	139	0.2	209	0.2	231	0.2	338	0.3	476	0.4	370	0.3	325	0.3	2,088	0.3
Total	59,627	100	140,759	100	106,450	100	99,744	100	122,088	100	127,378	100	97,568	100	753,614	100

¹White includes White British, White Irish and any other White background

²Asian includes Asian or Asian British of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi or any other Asian background

³Mixed includes White & Black Caribbean, White & Black African, White & Asian or any other Mixed background

⁴Black includes Black or Black British of Caribbean, African or any other Black background

with just under half of its population below 15 years of age. Interestingly, the Black and Chinese populations have similar proportions of people below the age of 15 to the White population, whilst having higher proportions of 15-44 year olds to the White population.

As regards the gender breakdown of the ethnic groups, the Black and Asian populations are the only ethnic groups to have more males than females (Black: 52% male, Asian: 51% male). In the White population, by comparison, females make up 52% of the population. In interpreting these patterns in age-sex structure two principal factors come into play. Age-sex profiles are influenced by the timing of immigrations into an area, as migrants are mainly young adults. In addition, age structure is affected by differentials in fertility rates between the various groups. For example, there is evidence that South Asians, especially Pakistanis and Bangladeshis, have relatively high fertility rates, whilst Caribbeans and the Chinese have fertility rates closer to those seen in the White population.

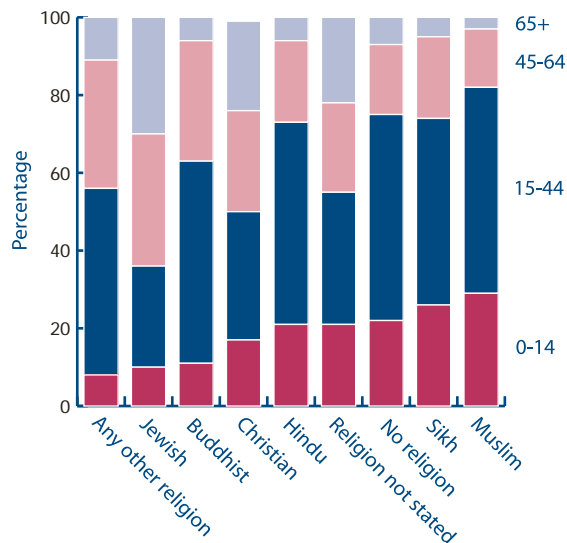
Country of birth

Of all people living in E&W, 91% gave their country of birth as the UK. The equivalent figure for West Sussex is slightly higher at 93%. Within West Sussex, Crawley has the lowest proportion of people born in the UK (88%), which is likely to reflect its elevated non-White population, whilst Adur and Arun have the highest proportion (both 95%). Of the population of West Sussex born outside the UK, 40% were born elsewhere in Europe, 27% in Asia, 18% in Africa, 9% in the Americas and 5% in Oceania.

Religion

For the first time a question was included in the 2001 Census asking people what religion they follow. In E&W, 72% of the population gave their religion as Christian. The percentage within West Sussex is very similar at 74% (Figure 3). Within the county, the proportion of Christians ranges from 67% in Crawley to 77% in Chichester. 'No religion' makes up the second largest category, both in E&W and West Sussex (15% and 16%

Figure 5: Religious status by age structure for West Sussex



respectively). In West Sussex, 7% of people did not state their religion (8% in E&W). A breakdown of the religions of the remaining 3% of the West Sussex population (19,576 people) is given in Figure 4. Islam is the commonest religion after Christianity.

Religious status by age group for West Sussex, shown in Figure 5, reveals that the Jewish population has the oldest age structure (64% aged 45 and over), followed by the Christian population (49% aged 45 and over). Muslims have the youngest age structure, with approximately three times the proportion of people below 15 years of age compared to the Jewish population. The largest differences in gender breakdown are seen between the Christian population (46% male), and the population who did not follow any religion (56% male). Religious status is often closely linked to ethnicity. The majority of Muslims, for example, are Pakistanis and Bangladeshis. These ethnic groups, as previously mentioned, have relatively high fertility rates, contributing to the young age structure observed in the Muslim population. Again, migration patterns in the various groups will also have an influence amongst other factors.

Figure 3: Percentage of people by religious status for West Sussex

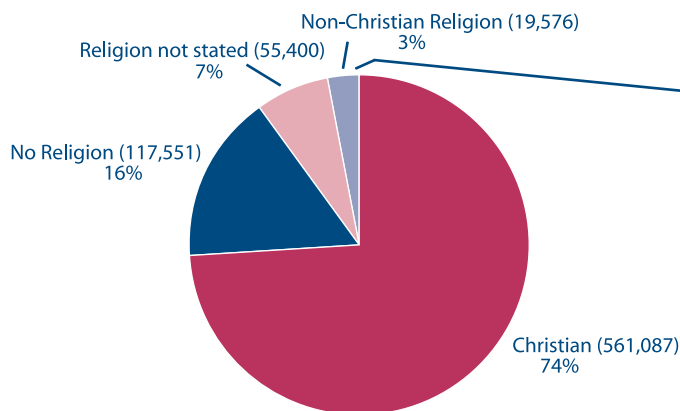


Figure 4: Breakdown of non-Christian religious population for West Sussex

