

Profile of the demography of North East London

for the
North East London
Health & Care Partnership

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NEL Insights Team

North East London Health and Care Partnership is our integrated care system, which brings together NHS organisations, local authorities, community organisations and local people to ensure our residents can live healthier, happier lives.

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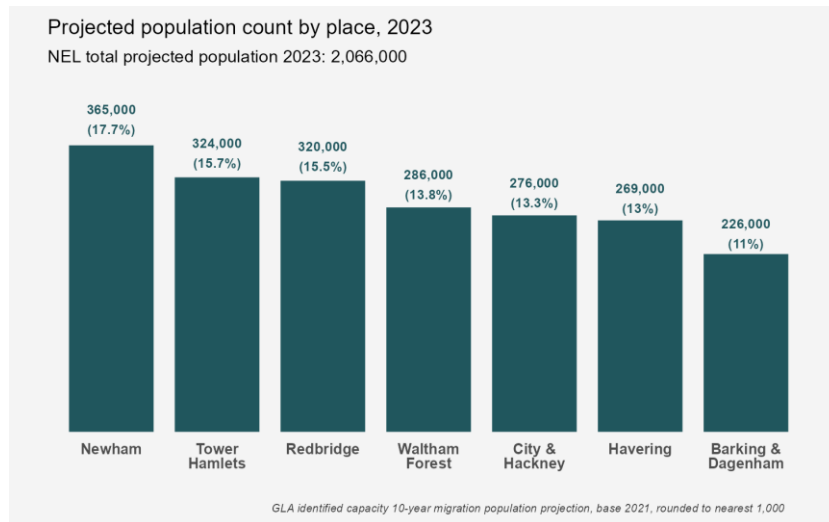
The size of the North East London population, 2021 to 2041

Population count

In 2023, the total North East London (NEL) resident population is estimated at 2.07m.

Across our places, Newham has the largest population (365,000) making up 18% of the NEL resident total; Barking & Dagenham the smallest at 226,000, 11% of the NEL total (fig 1).

Figure 1

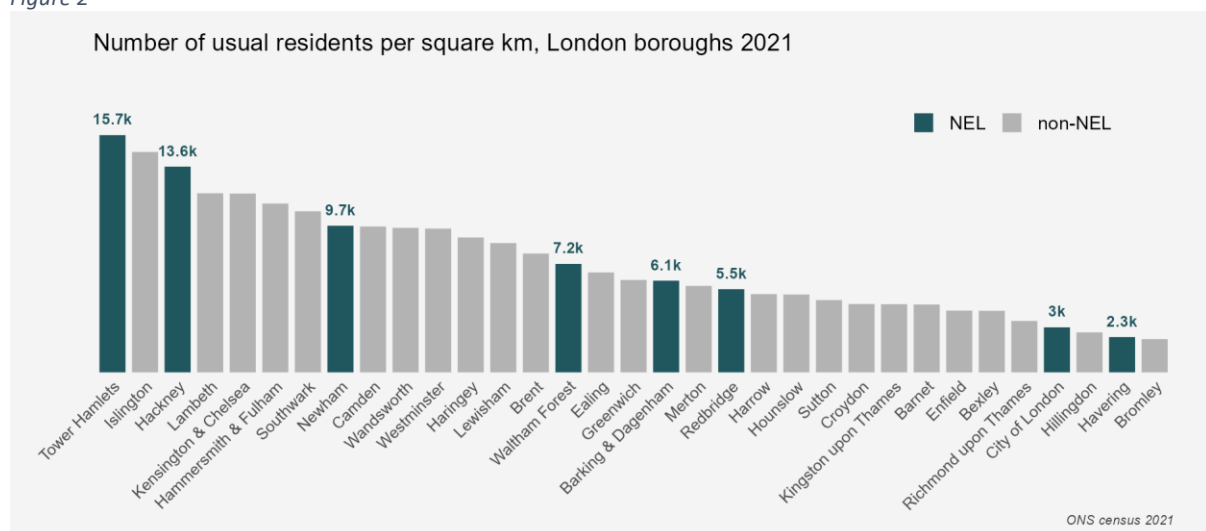


Population density

Tower Hamlets is the most densely populated local authority not only in London but in all England and Wales – within Tower Hamlets, there are c. 15,700 resident people per square kilometre; this is more than double the London average of 7,300 per square kilometre. Hackney is third most dense with 13,000 inhabitants per square kilometre, Newham is also above the London average with 9,700 per square kilometre (fig.2).

The high density is likely to be driven by a combined effect of more multi-person households, more concentrated housing units (e.g. flats) and fewer open spaces compared with other areas.

Figure 2



Projected growth, 2023 to 2041

By 2041, the NEL population is projected to grow to exceed 2.33 million – this is growth of 331,000 people since the 2021 census, or 266,000 from today’s population. This is equivalent to adding an additional borough to North East London (fig. 3).

Figure 3

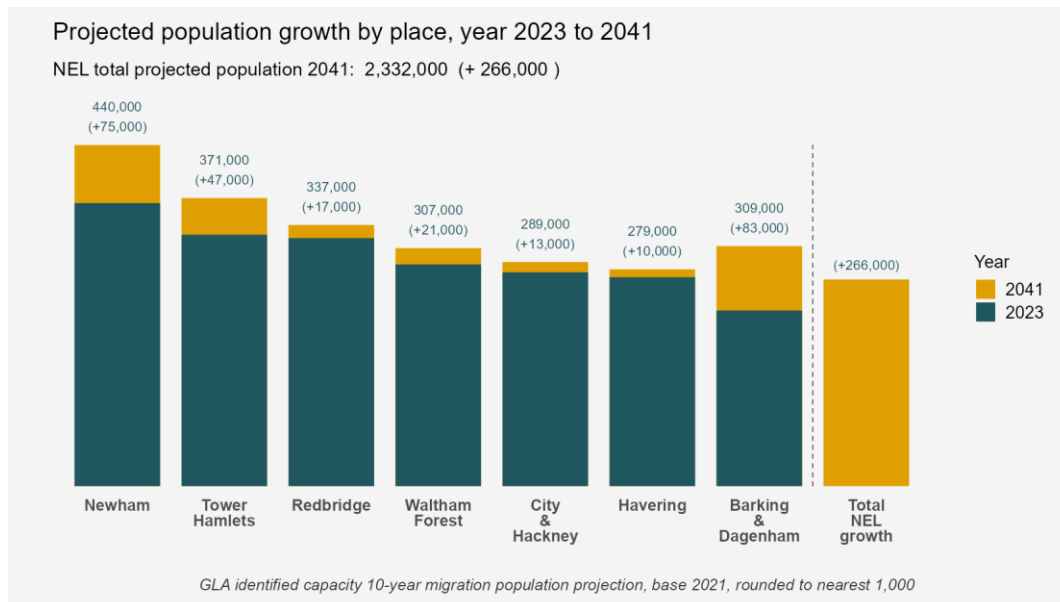
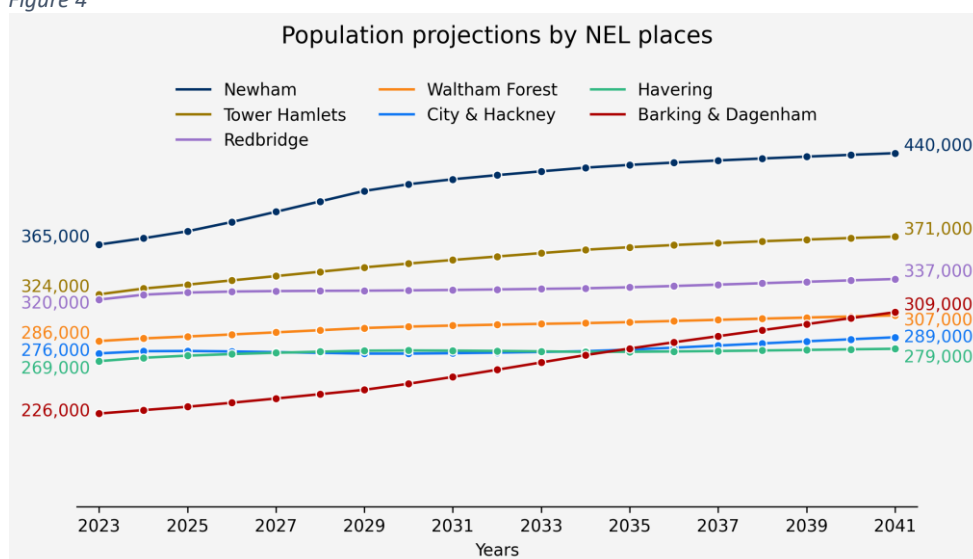


Figure 3 also shows that growth will not be even across NEL with Newham and Barking & Dagenham expecting the greatest population growth of 21% (75,000 people) and 37% (83,000) respectively by 2041. Combined, their growth accounts for almost 60% of the total NEL growth to 2041. Tower Hamlets is the third place by growth with an increase of 15% (47,000 people) by 2041.

Figure 4 offers a view of the population change over time, showing that Barking & Dagenham is expected to see a steep increase particularly after 2031. The borough’s size will exceed that of Waltham Forest, Havering or City & Hackney by 2040. Newham is expected to grow rapidly from 2025 to 2030, with a steadier increase afterwards. Tower Hamlets projections are showing a consistent increase over the next 18 years.

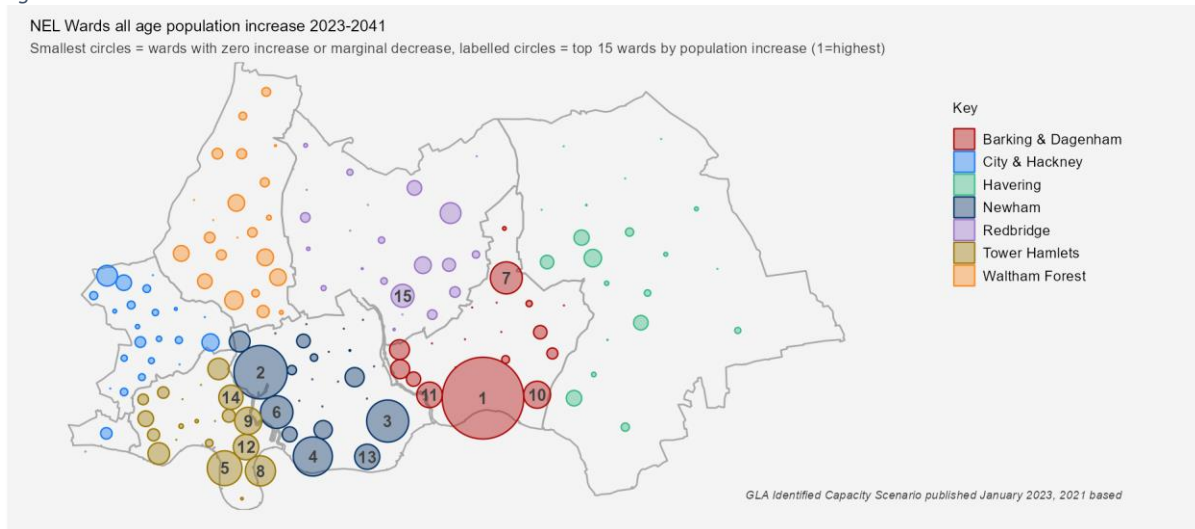
Figure 4



Population growth by ward

Analysis by ward reveals specific geographies affected by significant population growth over the next 20 years. Such change is driven predominantly by intensive land use development; in NEL we see this particularly adjacent to the river Thames and in Stratford.

Figure 5

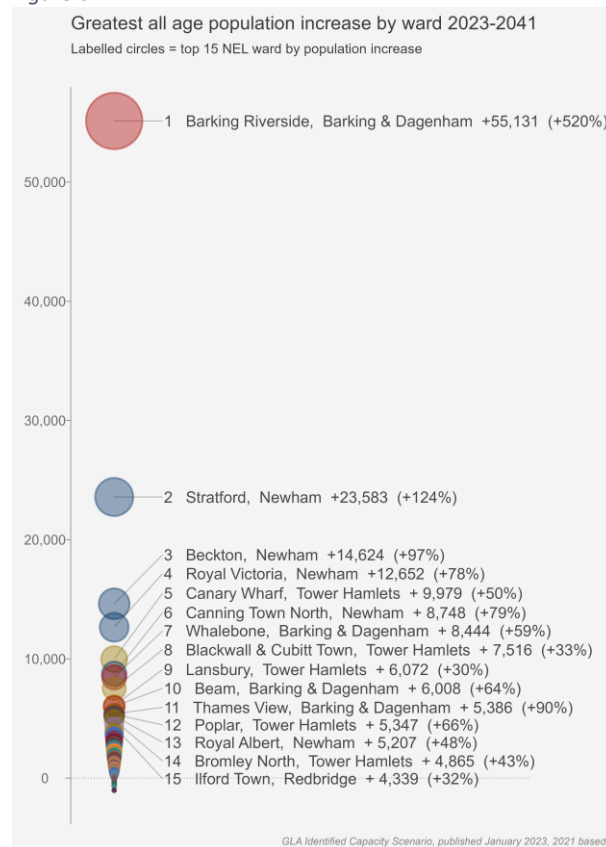


The 15 wards (numbered above) where population growth will be greatest are named in Figure 6. Taken together, growth across these 15 wards accounts for nearly 70% of total projected growth to 2041.

The largest growth will be seen in Barking Riverside where major development is planned to provide 10,000 new homes to house an additional 55,000 people – this is equivalent to growth of 520% of the current ward population.

The next biggest growth areas will be in the Newham wards of: Stratford - expecting an additional 23,600 people (+124%), Beckton - expecting growth of 14,600 people (+97%), and Royal Victoria – expecting an additional 12,600 people (+78%).

Figure 6



Effect of migration and population turnover

The population of NEL is constantly changing – it increases through new births as well as when people migrate into the area and decreases when people move away or die. The 2021 census showed the population to be 2.07 million and projections tell us this number increase annually.

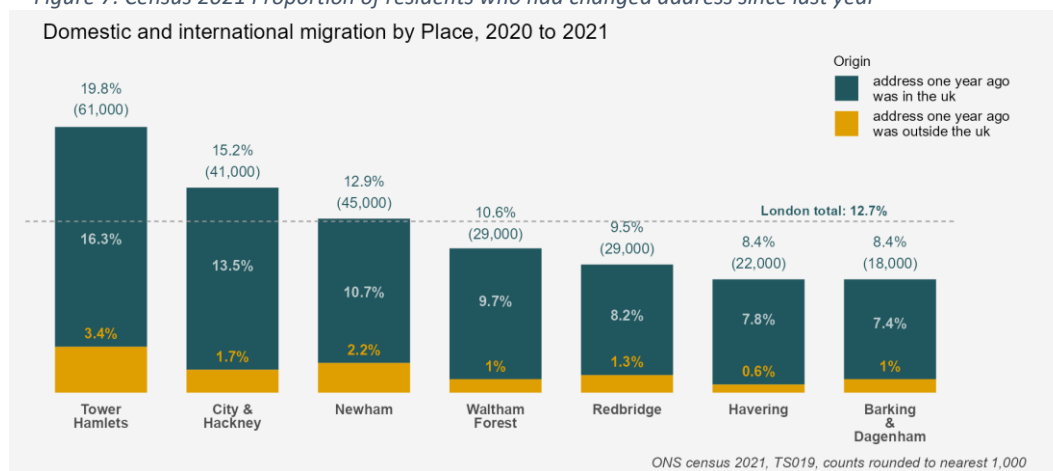
Migration into North East London

The 2021 census included a migrant indicator classifying usual residents by their address a year prior to determine migration status and splitting these to ‘within the UK’ or ‘from outside of the UK’.¹

NEL, as a whole, showed similar levels of total migrants (12.4% of residents) as for the London region (12.7%). However, proportions varied, with the two most inner-city places, City & Hackney and Tower Hamlets, having levels higher than London (figure 7).

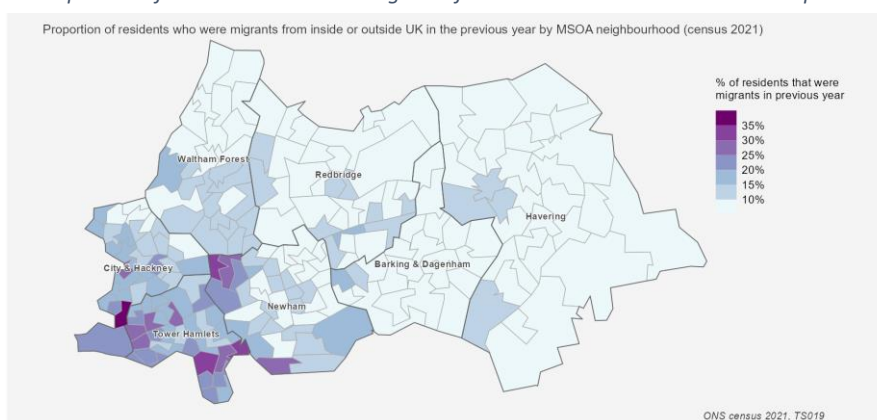
In Tower Hamlets, migration accounted for nearly 1 in 5 residents (or 60,000 people)

Figure 7: Census 2021 Proportion of residents who had changed address since last year



At neighbourhood level (figure 8), 7 out of 12 MSOAs with over 25% migrants were in Tower Hamlets. Four neighbourhoods had over 30% migrants in the previous year: ‘Shoreditch’ in City & Hackney, ‘Canary Wharf’ and ‘Leamouth’ in Tower Hamlets, and ‘East Village’ in Newham, with the latter three locations having recent large new residential developments.

Figure 8: Proportion of residents who were migrants from inside or outside the UK in the previous year, by MSOA



¹ It should be noted that the census took place at the end of the first year of the pandemic, and therefore population movements may have exhibited differing flows than was normal in other, non-pandemic years.

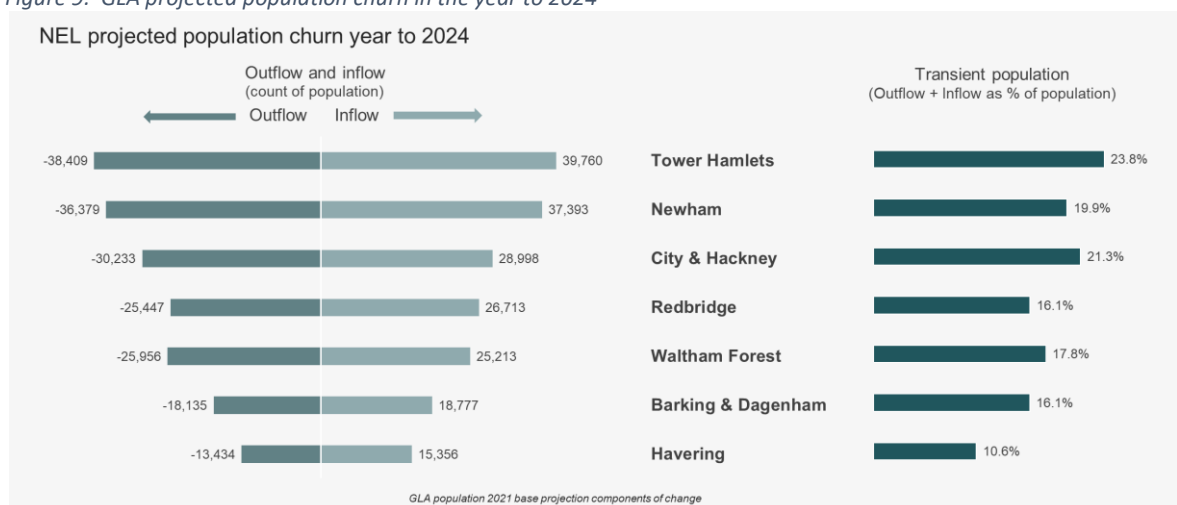
Population turnover and net flow

In addition to migration into our NEL places, there are also an element who move away every year creating turn-over (or churn) in our population. London typically has higher levels of churn than other areas of the country.

The GLA publishes components of change when it estimates population growth. Inflow and outflow of residents shows how much change, or population churn, is predicted to be due to people moving to and from a place for a given year.

In the year to 2024 for example, over 38,000 people will move out of Tower Hamlets while another nearly 40,000 will move in, with a similar figure for Newham. For Tower Hamlets this amounts to nearly 24% of its population as transient (figure 9).

Figure 9: GLA projected population churn in the year to 2024

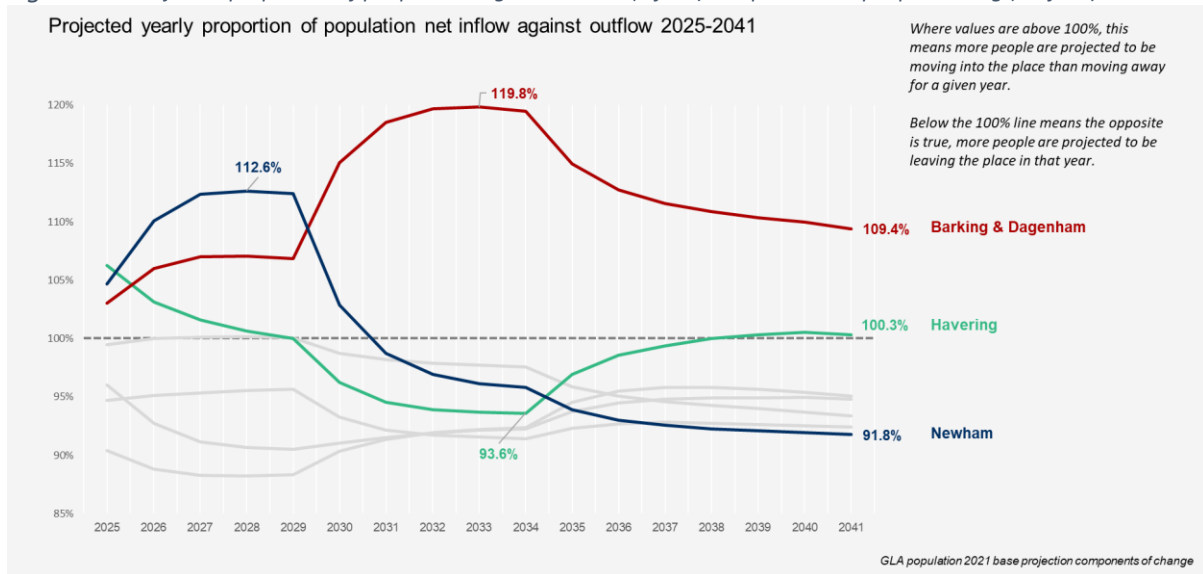


Over time, the relationship between people moving to a place and residents leaving can vary substantially. This can be for a number of reasons, including new housing developments.

Figure 4) shows how the predicted inflow of people compares to residents leaving a place over the period 2025 to 2041. Barking & Dagenham, Newham, and Havering show very changeable patterns over the period.

Barking & Dagenham has more people moving to the Borough over the whole period than leaving, with a pronounced increase in the middle years, and a peak of 119.8% of net inflow. Newham has an early peak of net inflow (112.6%), before it settles down to similar levels to most of NEL, where people arriving is approximately 90-95% of outflow. Havering also begins with a net inflow (values above 100%), but dips below before finishing around a net inflow to outflow of 0%.

Figure 10: Projected proportion of people moving into a Place (inflow) compared with people leaving (outflow)



Over this same period, 2025 to 2041, births and deaths remain fairly constant. Across NEL, births are predicted to constitute around 1.4% of the population in any one year, ranging from 1.1% (Havering) to 1.5% (Newham and Waltham Forest). Deaths in NEL account for 0.5% of the total population, ranging from 0.3% (Tower Hamlets) to 0.9% (Havering). (GLA population 2021 base projection components of change).

Age of our NEL population

The age and sex composition of our population greatly influence population health need and demand for healthcare and related services. Although services are used by people of all ages, there are certain ages which require higher levels of health care involvement.

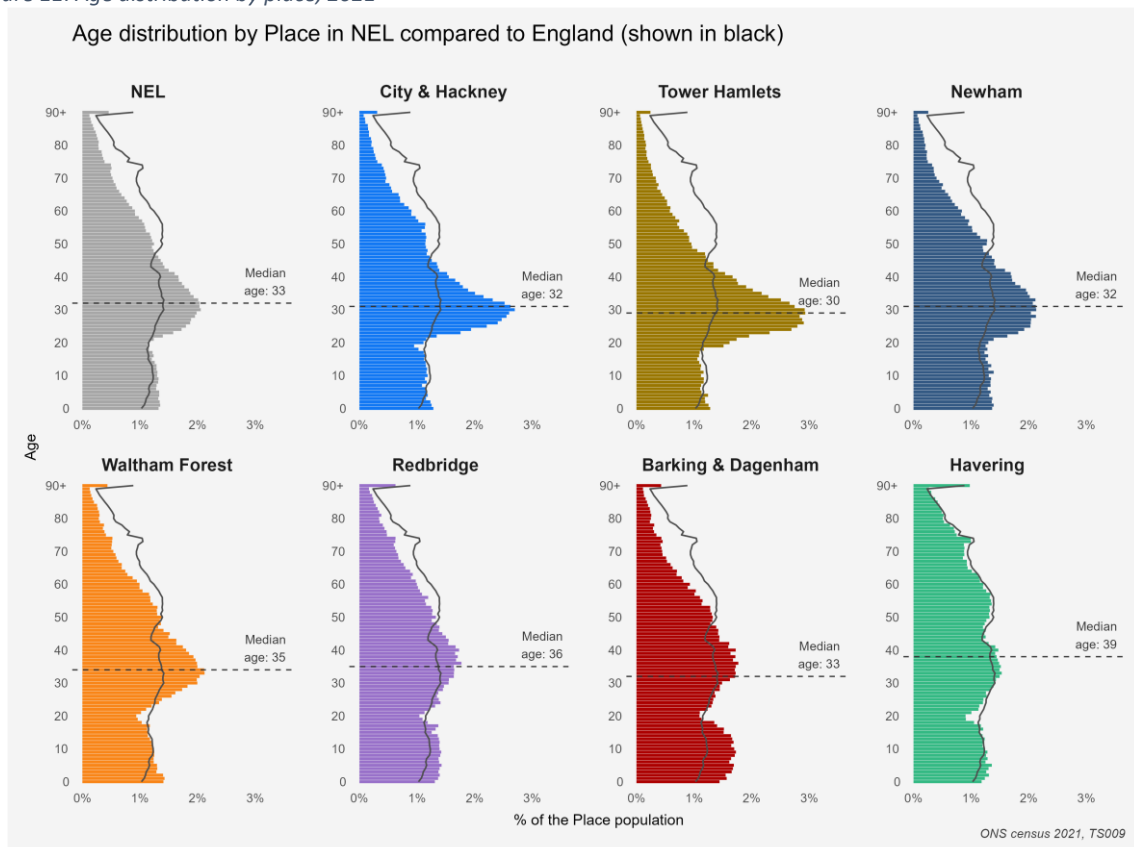
The ONS mid-year estimates only give estimates for male and female persons and do not provide data on transgender populations. However, for the first time, the 2021 census has collected data on gender identity, which can be found in a later section of the report.

Age distribution by NEL place

NEL has a young population relative to England due to its relatively greater proportion of people in the working age group and fewer in the older age groups from 50 and over. In 2021, the median age in England was 40.7 years; this compares to a median age of 33 years in NEL. Only Havering has a median age approaching that of the England average.

The charts below show how the distribution of age across our inner-city places differ greatly from England – there is a pronounced spike across the 20-40 age range; as we move out from the City, the distribution changes with this spike becoming less pronounced as slightly greater proportions are seen in the older age groups. This drives the change in the median range by place, varying across NEL from 30 in Tower Hamlets to 39 in Havering.

Figure 11: Age distribution by place, 2021



City & Hackney and Tower Hamlets have particularly large proportions of people aged between 25-34 living in the boroughs. Havering has the oldest population in NEL and has the lowest proportion of working age people in NEL.

Detailed reference table 1: Population by age-group and place, North East London; counts and proportion

	Barking & Dagenham		City & Hackney		Havering		Newham		Redbridge		Tower Hamlets		Waltham Forest		North East London	
Younger people (0-19)																
0-9	35,500	16%	31,800	12%	33,400	13%	47,200	13%	42,900	14%	36,800	12%	36,400	13%	264,000	13%
10-19	33,300	15%	29,900	11%	30,400	12%	45,400	13%	40,700	13%	35,800	12%	31,700	11%	247,200	12%
Total 0-19 (young people)	68,000	31%	61,700	23%	63,800	24%	92,600	26%	83,600	27%	72,600	23%	68,100	24%	511,200	26%
Working age: 20-59 years																
20-29	28,400	13%	52,300	20%	31,000	12%	64,300	18%	40,700	13%	76,500	25%	38,100	14%	331,300	17%
30-39	36,700	17%	57,200	21%	38,500	15%	69,200	20%	51,100	16%	70,500	23%	55,600	20%	378,800	19%
40-49	32,000	15%	35,200	13%	33,600	13%	50,200	14%	45,900	15%	40,100	13%	42,400	15%	279,400	14%
50-59	25,100	11%	29,100	11%	34,400	13%	36,800	10%	36,400	12%	24,700	8%	33,600	12%	220,100	11%
Total 20-59 (working age)	122,200	56%	173,800	65%	137,500	52%	220,500	63%	174,100	56%	211,800	68%	169,700	61%	1,209,600	61%
Older people (60+)																
60-69	14,500	7%	17,900	7%	26,700	10%	21,900	6%	25,800	8%	14,500	5%	20,900	8%	142,200	7%
70-79	8,000	4%	9,400	4%	20,800	8%	10,300	3%	16,200	5%	7,100	2%	12,300	4%	84,100	4%
80-89	4,100	2%	4,100	2%	10,900	4%	4,900	1%	8,500	3%	3,500	1%	6,100	2%	42,100	2%
90+	1,000	0%	800	0%	2,600	1%	800	0%	1,900	1%	700	0%	1,200	0%	9,000	0%
Total 60+ (older people)	27,600	13%	32,200	12%	61,000	23%	37,900	11%	52,400	17%	25,800	8%	40,500	15%	277,400	14%
Total (all age) population	218,600	100%	267,700	100%	262,300	100%	351,000	100%	310,100	100%	310,200	100%	241,900	100%	1,998,200	100%

Source i. Census 2021, Population household estimates by sex and single year of age

The profile of deprivation across North East London

Living in a deprived area is associated with poor **health** and a shorter life; it negatively affects almost all health outcomes. Whilst it is an area-based measure, and is not applicable at an individual level, we frequently see patterns at population level showing poorer health outcomes and higher risk factors among people from more deprived areas. Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, many of the inequalities that were already widely associated with deprivation are expected to have worsened.

What is the Index of Multiple Deprivation and how is it measured?

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is the official measure of relative deprivation in England. It is the composite measure from the English Indices of Deprivation, a suite of outputs based on **39** (weighted) **indicators** and is calculated for every small area² (Lower-layer Super Output Area (LSOA)) in England.

The scores for each indicator are weighted and summed before being ranked from most deprived (1) to least deprived. Ranked areas are often divided nationally into **10 equal groups** (or **deciles**) according to their rank. Individual areas will then be compared by the decile in which their ranking occurs, e.g. Decile 1 most deprived decile, and decile 10 least deprived decile. Alternatively, national quintiles (5 equal groups) are often used in health commissioning to focus on areas in the 20% most deprived in England³.

Deprivation at place and small area level

The NEL inner London places of **Barking and Dagenham**, **Hackney** and to slightly lesser extent **Newham** and **Tower Hamlets** are some of the most deprived places in England. Barking and Dagenham is ranked 22nd and Hackney 23rd most deprived out of 317 local authority areas in England. Newham is ranked 43rd and Tower Hamlets 50th.

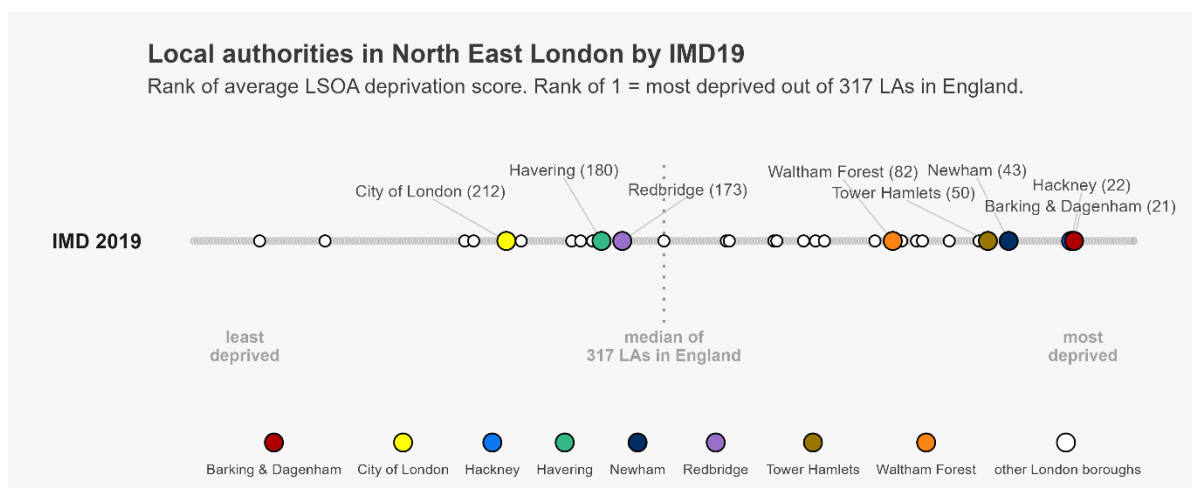


Figure 12

² LSOAs (Lower-layer Super Output Areas) are small areas designed to be of similar size, having average of about 1,500 residents or 650 households. There are 32,844 Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in England.

³ <https://www.england.nhs.uk/about/equality/equality-hub/national-healthcare-inequalities-improvement-programme/core20plus5/>

Waltham Forest is ranked at 82 – within the more deprived half of local authority areas.

Redbridge (173) Havering (180) and City of London (212) are in the less deprived half of local authority areas. However, each has small areas of high deprivation which may experience worse health outcomes and inequalities associated with deprivation.

Within place – by *small area* (LSOA)

There are 1,023 Lower Super Output Areas across north east London, Figure 2 shows these shaded according to their national IMD 2019 deprivation quintile (5 groups of 20% of all LSOAs).

The more deprived areas are illustrated by the **darker colours**. As can be seen in Figure 2, areas with the highest level of deprivation are concentrated in **four** of our seven places - i.e. City and Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Barking and Dagenham and Newham.

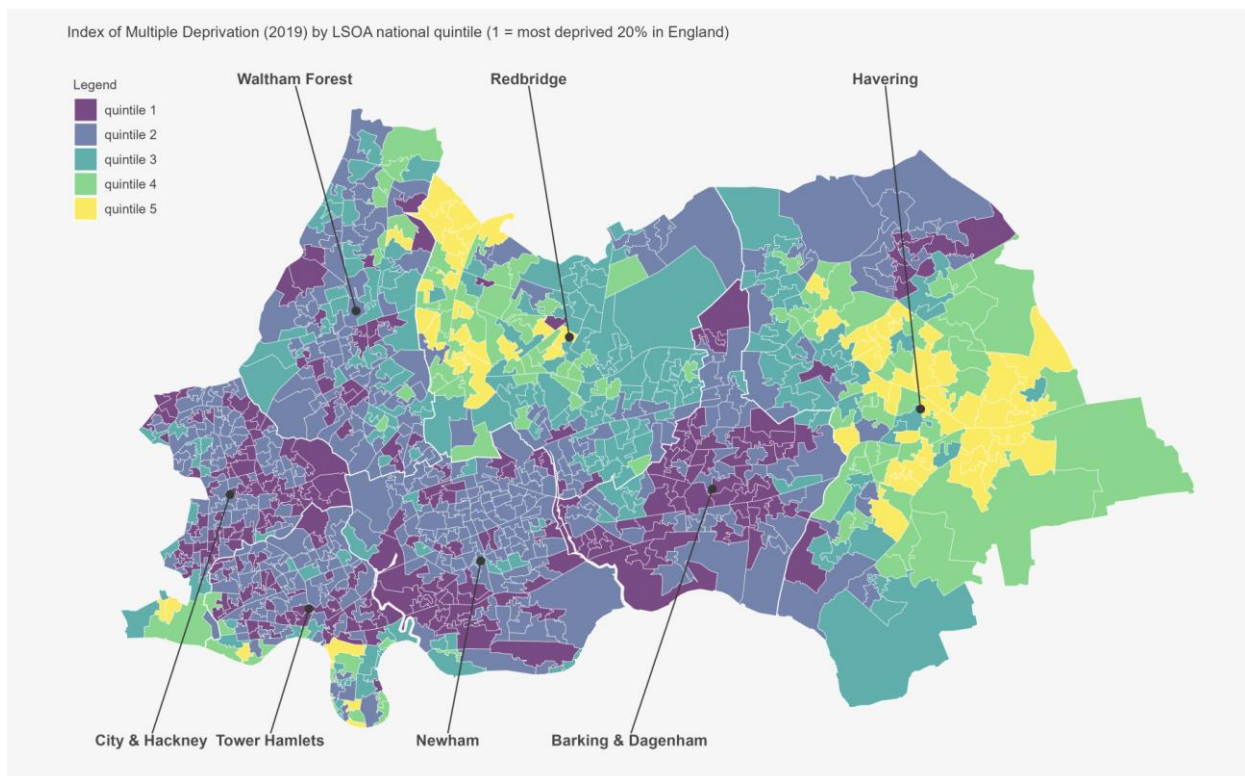


Figure 13

See **Appendix A** for the Index of Multiple Deprivation calculated for named neighbourhoods at middle super output level (MSOA).

What proportion of place populations live in the most deprived quintile?

Figure 14 shows the proportion of *place* population resident in each deprivation quintile, relative to England. The NHS **Core 20 plus 5** approach recommends targeted action to the population living in the most deprived 20%, or top two deciles – the **Core20**

Across **ALL NEL**, 24% of the population, or circa 489,000 people, live in areas ranked in the **Core20** most deprived in England. This masks much variation across our places.

In **Barking and Dagenham**, over half – **54% (114,000 people)** live in an area ranked among the **most deprived** two deciles. In **City and Hackney**, **40% of the population (117,000 people)** live in those most deprived deciles. Barking and Dagenham is notable in that 99% of their population live in an LSOA ranked in the most deprived 50% in England.

In **Tower Hamlets** and **Newham**, deprivation affects a considerable proportion of the population. In **Tower Hamlets 29% (95,000 people)** live in LSOA’s ranked in the **most deprived** two deciles, and in **Newham 24% (85,000 people)** live in LSOA’s ranked in the **most deprived** two deciles.

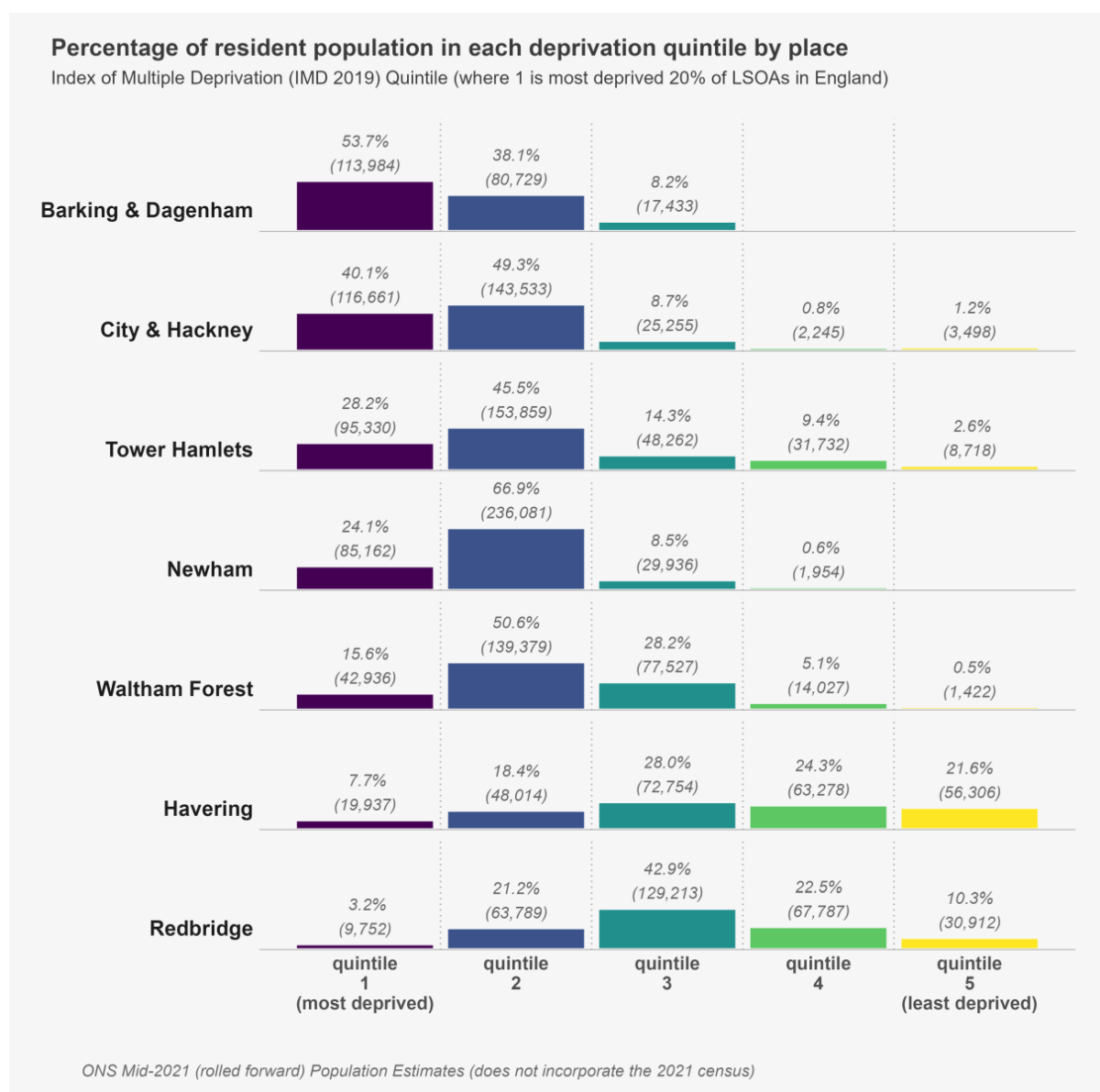


Figure 14

Domains which contribute most strongly to deprivation in North East London

The index of multiple deprivation comprises 39 separate indicators across seven domains:

- **Income deprivation** measures the proportion of the population experiencing deprivation due to low income (*this carries a 22.5% weight in the overall index score*)
- **Employment deprivation** measures the proportion of working age population involuntarily excluded from the labour market, including people who would like to work but are unable to do so due to unemployment, sickness or disability, or caring responsibilities (*22.5% weight*)
- **Education, skills, and training** measures the lack of attainment and skills (*13.5% weight*)
- **Health and disability** measures the risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of health through poor physical or mental health (*13.5% weight*)
- **Crime** measures the risk of personal and material victimisation at local level (*9.3% weight*)
- **Barriers to housing and services** measure the physical and financial accessibility of housing and services, including proximity of local services, housing affordability and homelessness (*9.3% weight*)
- **Living environment** measures the quality of both the 'indoor' and 'outdoor' local environment (*9.3% weight*)

Figure 15 illustrates the how deprivation in each domain is ranked; those domains where our places are ranked most highly, will be those where this aspect of deprivation is most acutely experienced (relative to England) and so contributes to the overall IMD ranking.

Of all domains, deprivation in the domain of **Barriers to Housing and Services** is experienced most acutely by the population of NEL. Of our places, Newham is ranked 1, Barking and Dagenham – ranked 2, Hackney – ranked 4, Waltham Forest – ranked 7 and City of London - ranked 10th most deprived for this domain **of 312 local authority areas** in England.

Income, living environment and crime are further domains where our places ranked among the most deprived in England.

Local authorities in North East London by IMD19 domain

Rank of average LSOA deprivation score. Rank of 1 = most deprived LA in England.

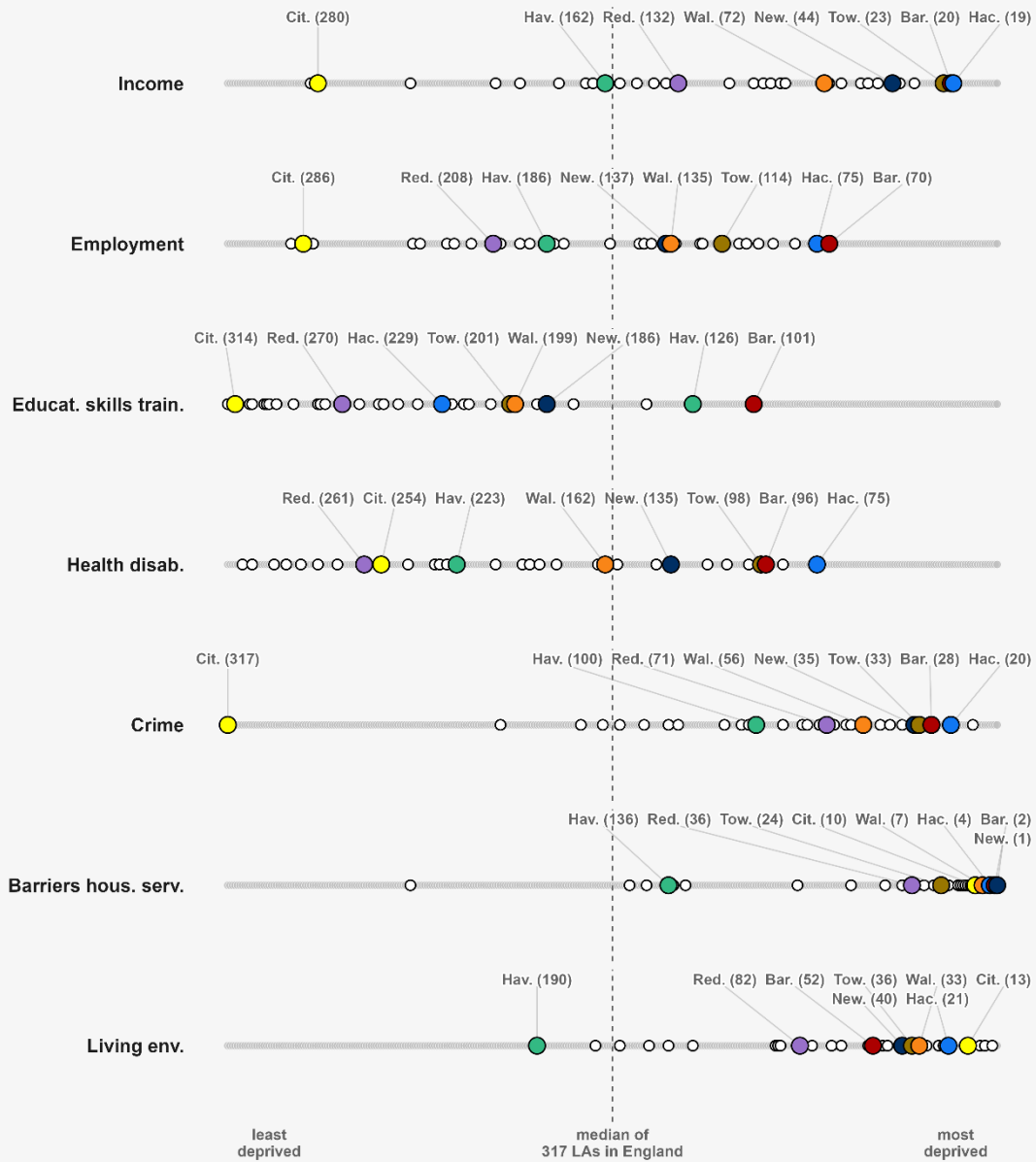


Figure 15

Additional Income indexes

In addition to the overall IMD score and domains, two supplementary indices were created, which are subsets of the Income Deprivation Domain:

- **Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)**, the proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families.
- **Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOP)**, the proportion of all those aged 60 or over who experience income deprivation

These two measures are based on families or older people receiving income support, such as Universal Credit, jobseekers' allowance, or Pension Credit⁴. They are easier to interpret, as the score for each LSOA is an actual percentage of the population group experiencing this kind of deprivation.

Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)

The IDACI index varies in NEL by Place, ranging from 7% to 27% of those aged under 16 (figure 5). Three Places had some of the highest levels in England. On average around 25% of children in Tower Hamlets, Hackney and Barking & Dagenham were estimated to be income deprived.

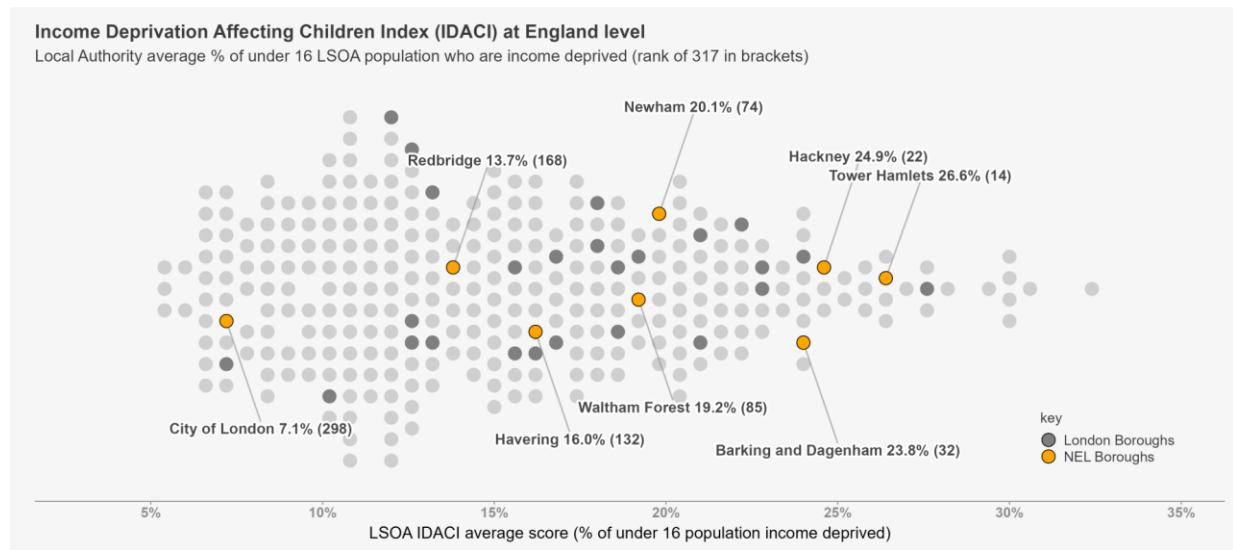


Figure 5

The geographic distribution of the most income deprived proportions of children (figure 6) generally follows the pattern of the overall deprivation index by LSOA across NEL (figure 2 above).

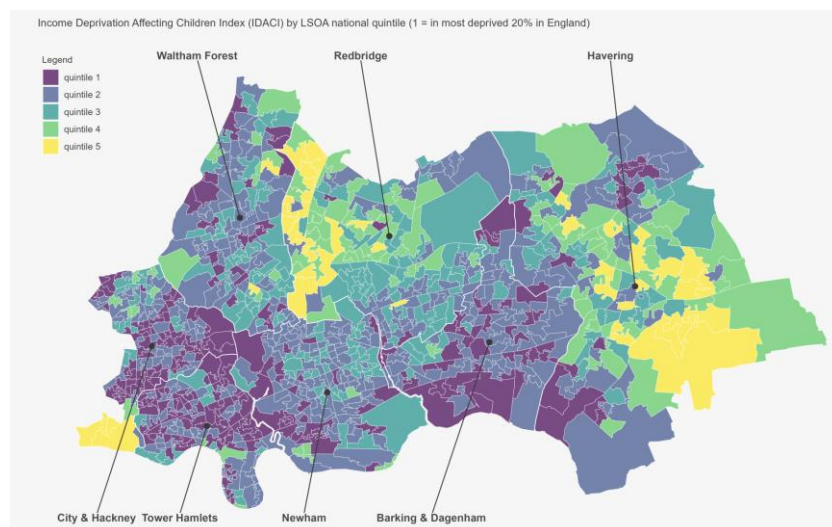


Figure 6

Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOP)

⁴ See page 33 here for more details:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5d8b387740f0b609909b5908/loD2019_Technical_Report.pdf

However, the picture for the IDAOPI is much more stark, both in terms of comparison with local authorities in England, as well as geographically.

Tower Hamlets (44%), Hackney (41%) and Newham (37%) have extremely high relative proportions of older people affected by income deprivation, with the national average being around 12% (figure 7). In these three Boroughs alone this equates to nearly 30,000 people, based on population levels from the 2021 census.

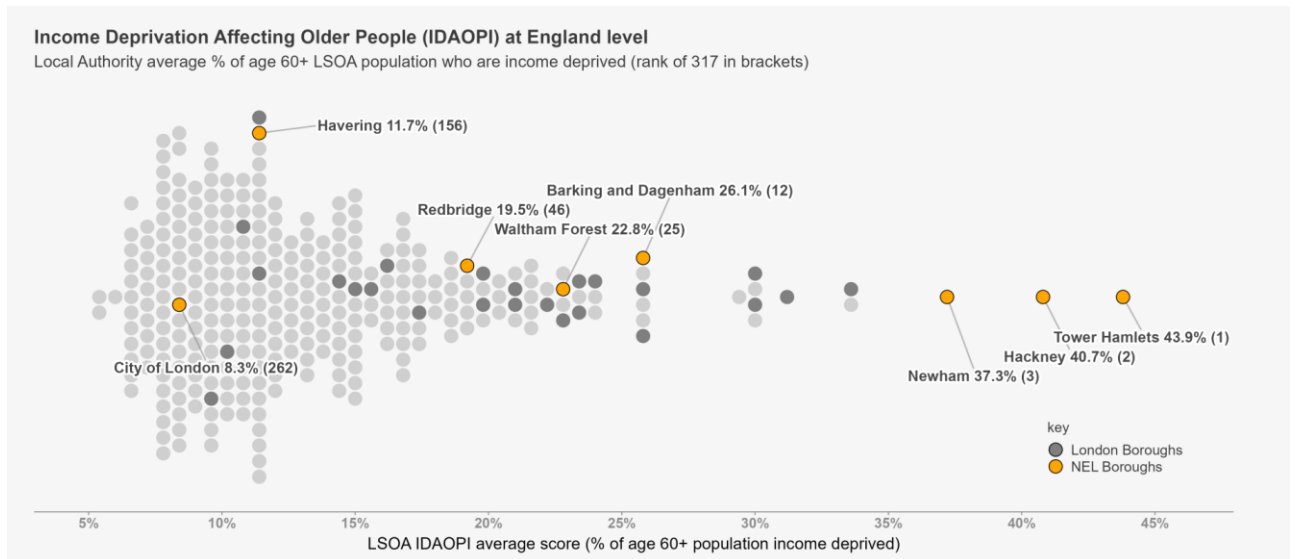


Figure 16

Across NEL, higher levels of Income Deprivation Affecting Older People are much more uniformly spread (figure 8) than other domains and for the overall index of multiple deprivation itself with virtually all of the majority of LSOAs in Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Newham in the highest 20% of LSOAs nationally for IDAOP.

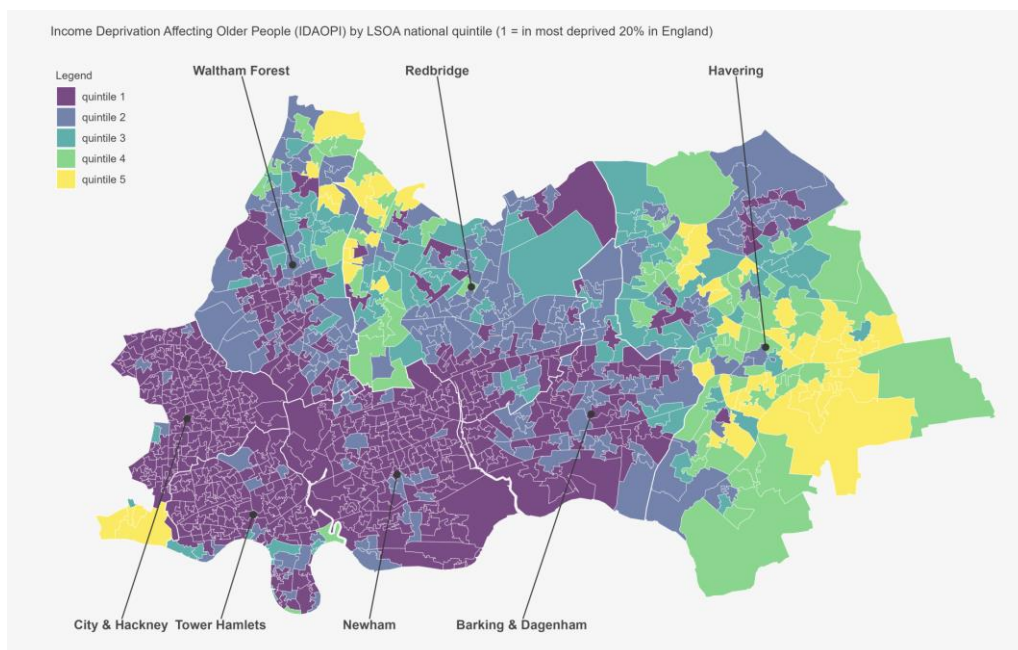
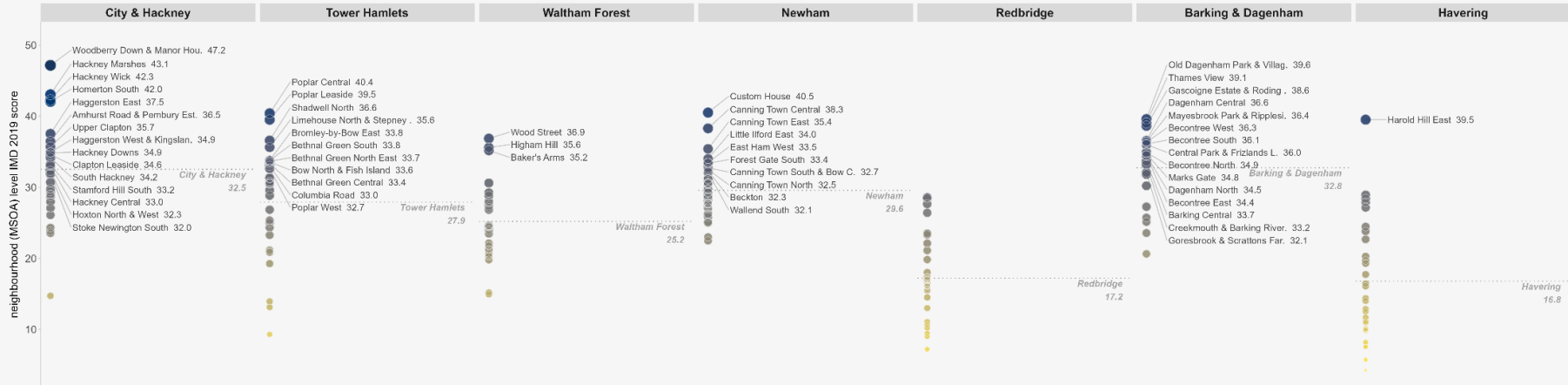


Figure 8

Appendix A: Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 by neighbourhood (middle super output area (MSOA) 2011)

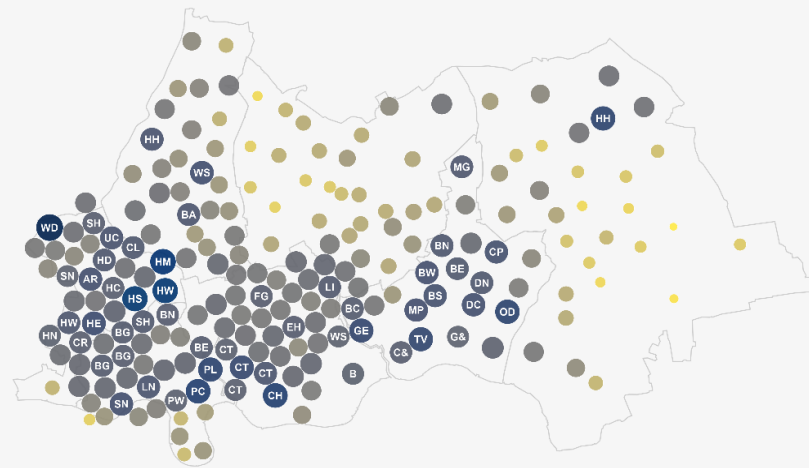
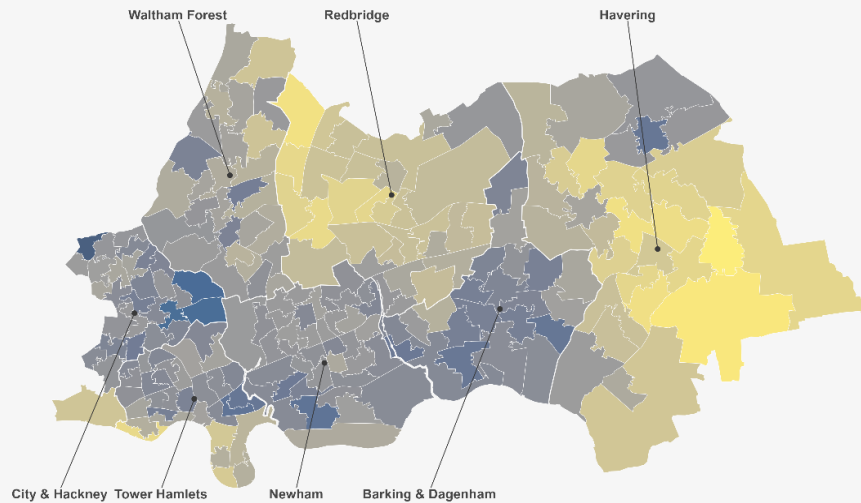
Which are the most deprived neighbourhoods in North East London?

Higher score = more deprived. Only neighbourhoods (MSOA) in the most deprived 20% in England are labelled. MSOA level deprivation is derived by aggregating constituent LSOA IMD scores weighted by population (see MHCLG IMD 2019 Research Report, Annex A).



IMD 2019 score by neighbourhood (MSOA level). Darkest colours are most deprived. Map (below) and cartogram (right) show the same data as chart above.

Neighbourhoods in the most deprived national quintile are labelled in the chart above and diagram below (abbreviated). Circle size equates to deprivation score.



Ethnic diversity across north east London

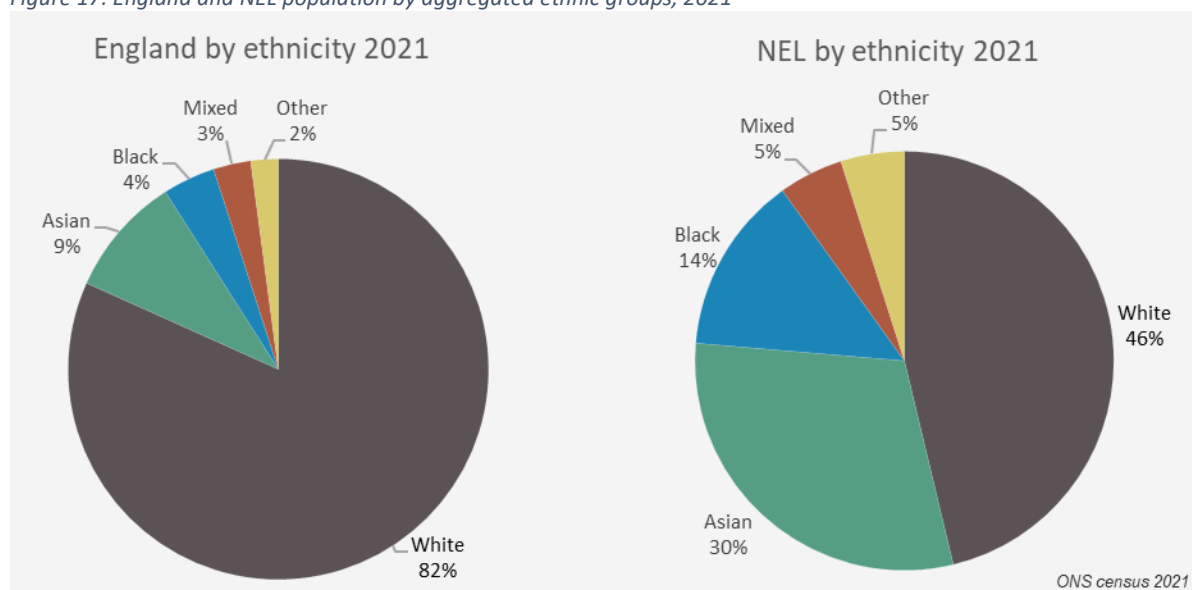
The population of north east London is hugely diverse by ethnicity, country of birth and language. Understanding this diversity is important as evidence shows that health and other outcomes can be influenced by these factors. They are also important to consider as we work with communities and design, plan and deliver the appropriate services to maintain and improve health in north east London.

This section examines ethnic diversity across North East London using the census ethnicity groupings. This approach gives good insight on aggregated ethnicity but also has limitations, for example, some local areas have large Romanian or Somali populations – falling into the white or black African grouping respectively. These distinctions will be masked within the census groupings and, although further insight is gained using the language and country of birth data in the following sections, local knowledge of communities gained through work at place and neighbourhood is important.

Ethnic diversity across NEL

More than half (54%) of NEL's population is made up of people of the global majority (all ethnic groups except white British and other white groups), compared with 18% across England overall. Overall across north east London, using aggregated ethnicity groupings the make-up is 46% white, 30% Asian, 14% black and 5% each: mixed and other ethnic groups; this picture varies significantly by place

Figure 17: England and NEL population by aggregated ethnic groups, 2021

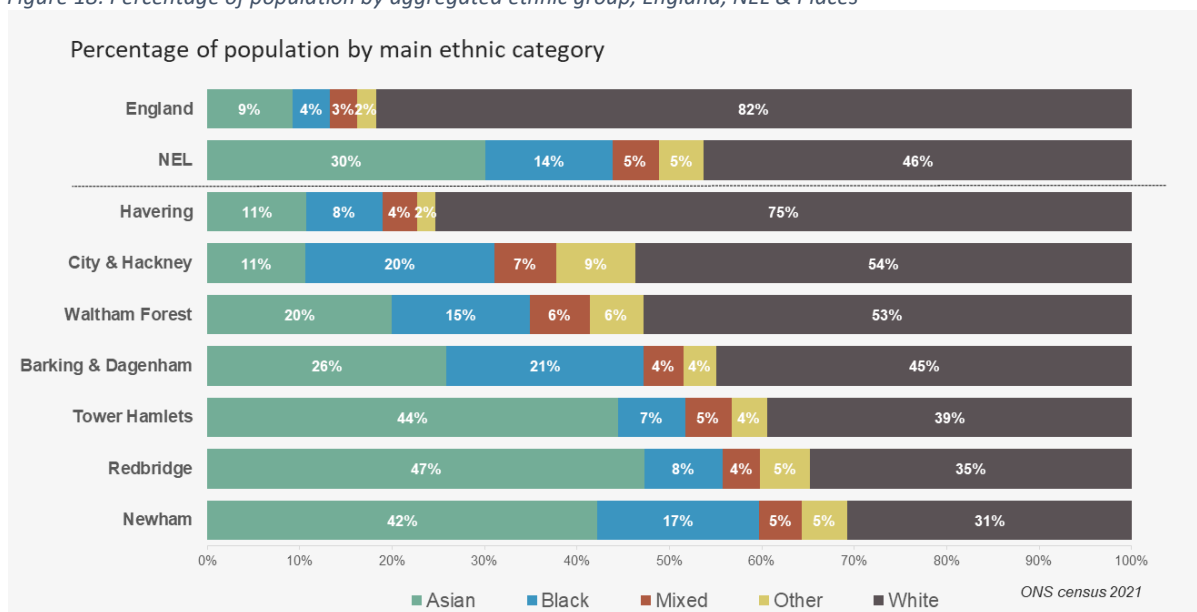


Ethnic diversity by place

Figure 13 shows how the aggregated ethnicity groupings apply in each place with all seven being more ethnically diverse than England but the extent varying considerably between places.

Of all NEL places, Havering has an ethnicity profile closest to the England average with 75% of the population being of a white ethnic group and 25% from the global majority, this compares to 82% / 18% in England. In contrast, Newham is the most ethnically diverse of NEL places and also one of the most diverse in England.

Figure 18: Percentage of population by aggregated ethnic group, England, NEL & Places



Ethnic diversity by age

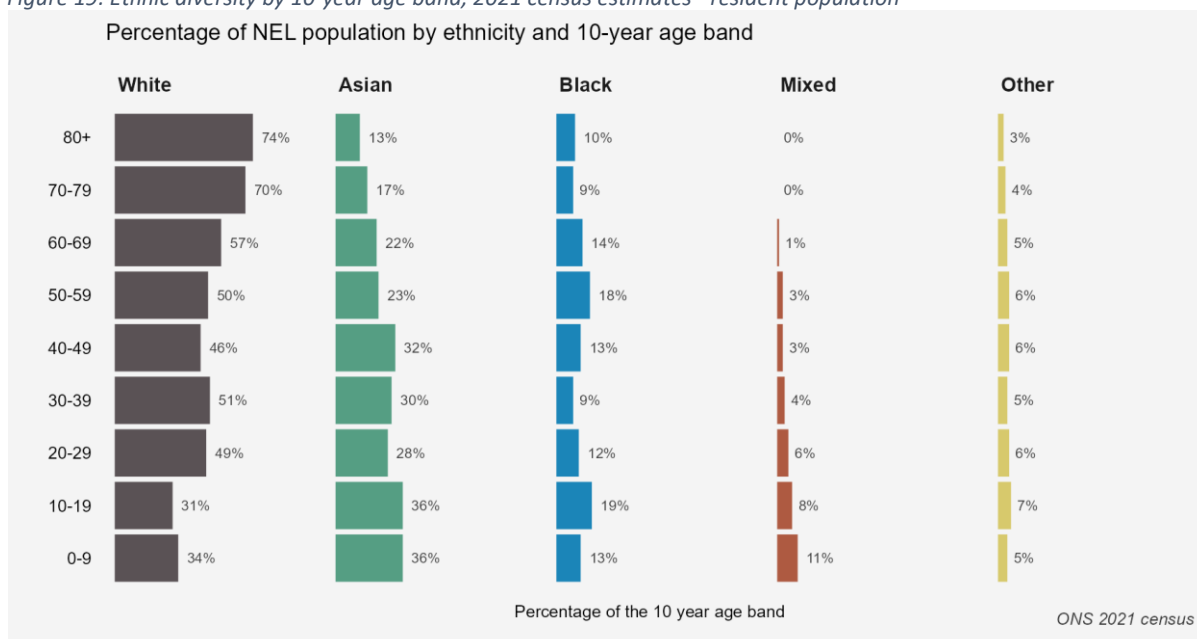
Shown in Figure 14, the aggregated white groups make up the majority in all ages over 20 years and almost three quarters (74%) of the 80+ population are of a white ethnic group.

The global majority (including all groups except white British and other white groups) is generally higher in the young population, 0-24 years, compared to the older population aged 60 and over.

Excluding the small dip in the white ethnic group from ages 40-59, there is a positive correlation with age and the percentage of the white ethnic group.

In age groups 0-9 and 10-19 years (young people) the Asian population represents the majority at 36%.

Figure 19: Ethnic diversity by 10-year age band, 2021 census estimates - resident population



Detailed reference table 2:: Population by ethnic group and place, North East London; counts and proportion, 2021 Census – Usual residents (data updated 28 March 2023)

	Barking & Dagenham		City & Hackney		Havering		Newham		Redbridge		Tower Hamlets		Waltham Forest		North East London		England	
Asian																		
Bangladeshi	22,393	10%	6,841	3%	4,774	2%	55,677	16%	31,895	10%	107,333	35%	5,166	2%	228,918	13%	644,900	1%
Indian	11,503	5%	9,153	3%	11,292	4%	38,642	11%	51,183	16%	10,135	3%	9,134	3%	131,913	8%	1,864,304	3%
Pakistani	15,799	7%	2,494	1%	5,683	2%	31,216	9%	44,000	14%	3,341	1%	28,740	10%	102,538	6%	1,587,822	3%
Other Asian	6,888	3%	9,842	4%	6,401	2%	22,652	6%	19,755	6%	17,047	5%	12,505	4%	82,590	5%	1,418,429	2%
Total: Asian	56,583	26%	28,330	11%	28,150	11%	148,187	42%	146,833	47%	137,856	44%	55,545	20%	545,944	32%	5,515,455	9%
White																		
White British	67,550	31%	91,576	34%	174,232	66%	51,819	15%	71,844	23%	71,177	23%	94,766	34%	528,203	31%	44,355,044	74%
Other white	30,725	14%	52,088	19%	23,082	9%	56,128	16%	36,130	12%	51,089	16%	52,258	19%	249,247	14%	4,344,187	7%
Total: White	98,275	45%	143,664	54%	197,314	75%	107,947	31%	107,974	35%	122,266	39%	147,024	53%	777,445	45%	48,699,231	82%
Black																		
African	35,101	16%	29,631	11%	14,138	5%	40,874	12%	14,573	5%	15,373	5%	18,759	7%	149,695	9%	1,488,387	2%
Caribbean	5,824	3%	17,957	7%	4,832	2%	13,586	4%	8,452	3%	4,930	2%	17,587	6%	55,586	3%	623,115	1%
Other black	5,882	3%	7,289	3%	2,597	1%	6,842	2%	3,071	1%	2,390	1%	5,301	2%	28,076	2%	297,781	0%
Total: Black	46,807	21%	54,877	20%	21,567	8%	61,302	17%	26,096	8%	22,693	7%	41,647	15%	233,347	14%	2,409,283	4%
Mixed																		
White and Asian	1,550	1%	3,870	1%	2,344	1%	3,324	1%	3,577	1%	4,374	1%	3,875	1%	19,044	1%	488,228	1%
White and black	5,350	2%	7,586	3%	4,759	2%	7,570	2%	4,871	2%	5,829	2%	7,912	3%	35,970	2%	762,633	1%
Other mixed	2,420	1%	6,501	2%	2,644	1%	5,525	2%	4,288	1%	5,206	2%	6,196	2%	26,589	2%	467,116	1%
Total: Mixed	9,320	4%	17,957	7%	9,747	4%	16,419	5%	12,736	4%	15,409	5%	17,983	6%	81,593	5%	1,717,977	3%
Other																		
Other ethnic group	7,886	4%	22,903	9%	5,274	2%	17,175	5%	16,622	5%	12,082	4%	16,229	6%	81,947	5%	1,255,632	2%
Total: Other ethnic group	7,886	4%	22,903	9%	5,274	2%	17,175	5%	16,622	5%	12,082	4%	16,229	6%	81,947	5%	1,255,632	2%
Total: population (Of known ethnic group)	218,871	267,731	262,052	351,030	310,261	310,306	278,428	1,720,276	59,597,578									

Ethnic category definitions used by ONS/census:

- Other white includes Irish, Gypsy or Irish traveller, Roma and other white groups e.g. European and many American groups
- Other Asian includes Chinese and other Asian Other ethnic group includes Arab

Region of birth

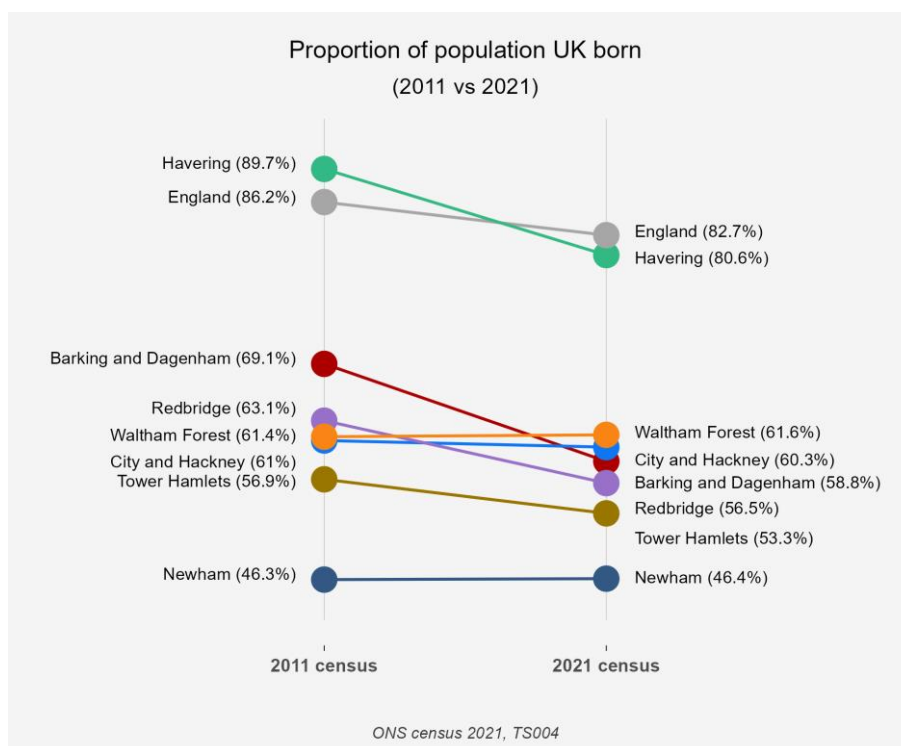
UK or non-UK born

The diversity of the NEL population is driven also by country of origin. Across NEL, around 60% (3 in 5 people) are born in the UK – with 40% born elsewhere in the world. This compares to 83% of the England population being UK born (more than 4 in 5).

There is some difference by place, with Havering having the greatest proportion that are UK born – 80.6%, not dissimilar to England. In all other NEL places, that proportion is around 50-60%. In Newham less than half the population, 46.4%, are UK born.

The graph shows that the proportion of the population that are UK born has decreased in the 10 years from 2011 to 2021 in England and for most NEL places. This may reflect changing migration patterns.

Figure 20, Proportion of the population that are UK born, England & Places, 2011 & 2021



Region of birth (outside of UK)

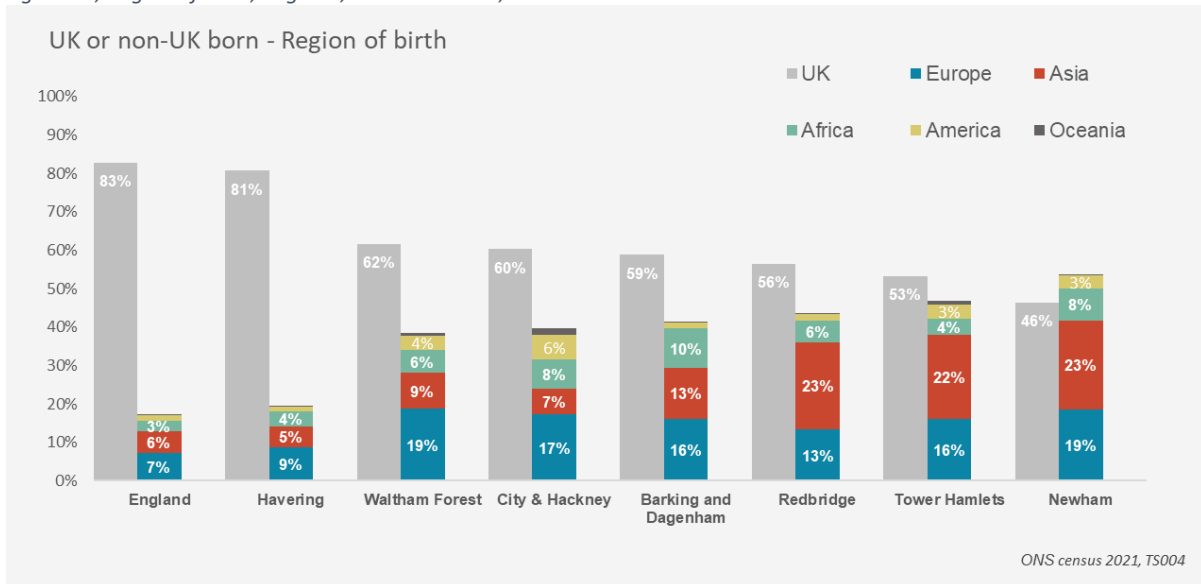
Figure 17 shows the region of birth of the NEL population by place compared to England. North East London boroughs are more diverse compared to England as a whole, with a lower proportion of UK-born residents and higher proportions of residents born in Africa, America, Asia, and Europe.

The population of Havering is not dissimilar to that of England with around 80% (4 in 5) of the population UK born, and the next largest proportion being from Europe – in Havering this section is 9%. After UK born, in Waltham Forest, City & Hackney and Barking & Dagenham, the largest section of the population was born in Europe.

Barking and Dagenham has the highest proportion of Africa-born residents (10%), nearly four times the England average and City & Hackney stands out with the highest proportion of America-born residents (6%), over five times the England average. Redbridge, Tower Hamlets and Newham each have nearly a quarter of their populations who were Asia born.

In terms of Oceania-born residents, the numbers are relatively small across all boroughs, but generally above the England average except for Barking and Dagenham and Havering.

Figure 21, Region of birth, England, NEL and Places,



Main language spoken

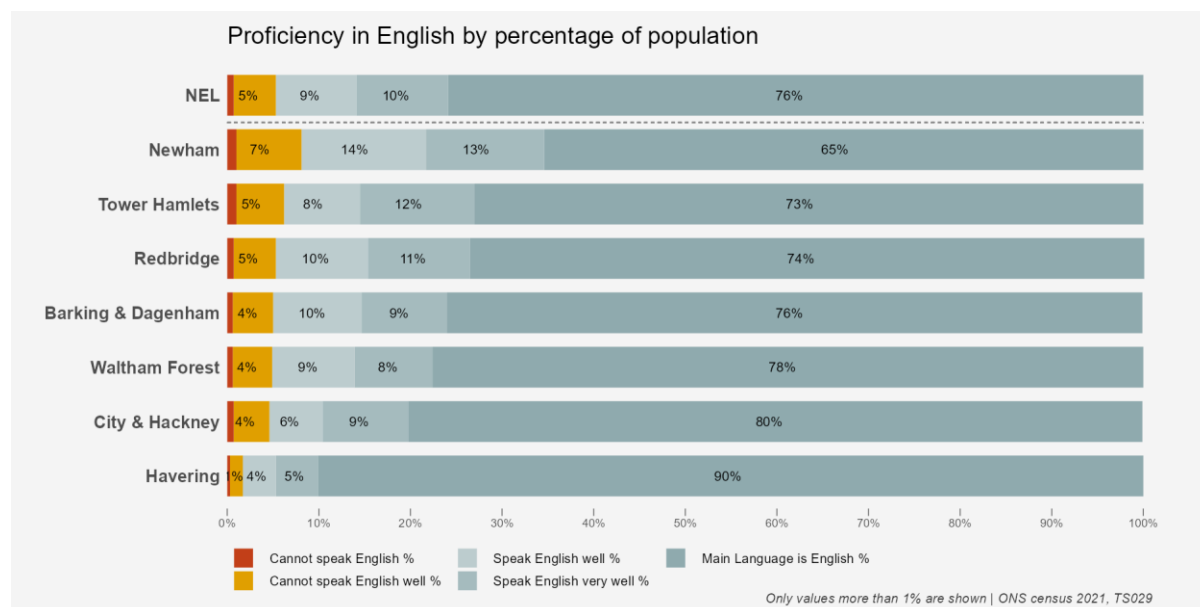
The diversity of the NEL population in terms of ethnicity and country of origin extends also to the languages spoken. This is important for planning and delivering services as it cannot be assumed that information given in English will be understood well, or at all, by some parts of the population if English is not a first language.

English as a main language

In 2021, 76% of NEL residents aged 3 and over (1.46 million out of 1.92 million) had English as a main language, but this proportion varies considerably by place.

A further, 19% (360,000) were proficient in English, so they spoke English either “well” or “very well”. The remaining 6% of the population (102,000) residents either cannot speak English well or at all, this is a significantly higher proportion compared to national value which is 1.9%.

Figure 22, Percentage of population with proficiency in English, NEL and Places



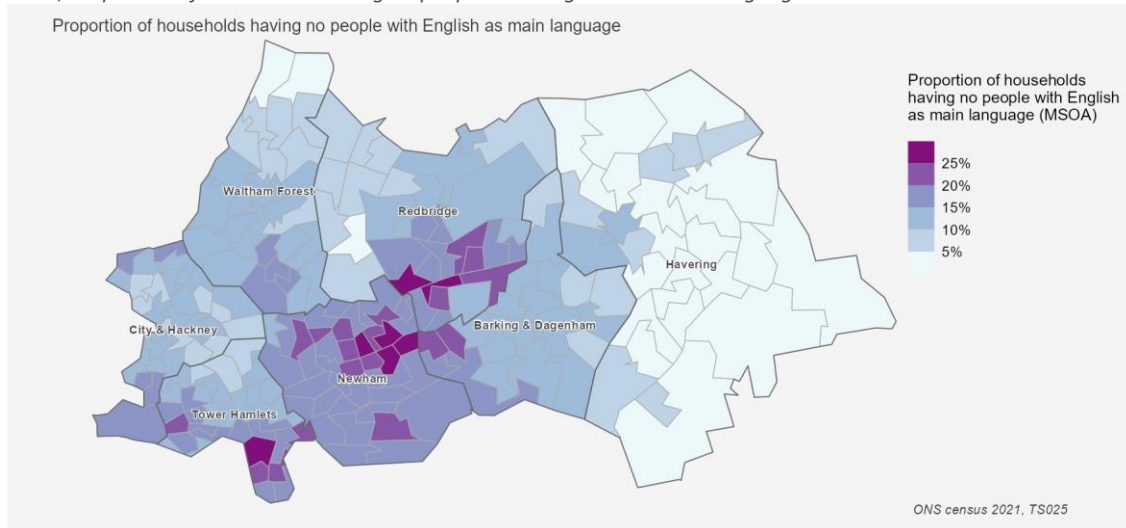
Newham has the highest proportion of residents not speaking English well or at all (8.1%), followed by Tower Hamlets and Redbridge (6.2% and 5.3%). Barking & Dagenham, Waltham Forest and City & Hackney have relatively smaller proportions of people not speaking English well or at all (5% and 4.6%), Havering is showing the equivalent proportion as England (1.8%).

Households having no people with English as main language

The diversity of the NEL population can also be mapped using the household language dataset and by visualising the proportion of households having no people with English as main language by MSOA (fig.18).

The darkest colour shows the small areas where 20-30% of households have no people with English as a main language. This affects the largest number in Newham, but also the Canary Warf area in Tower Hamlets and pockets of Redbridge. Across all of Newham but one small area, there are at least 15% of households having no people with English as a main language.

Figure 23, Proportion of households having no people with English as a main language



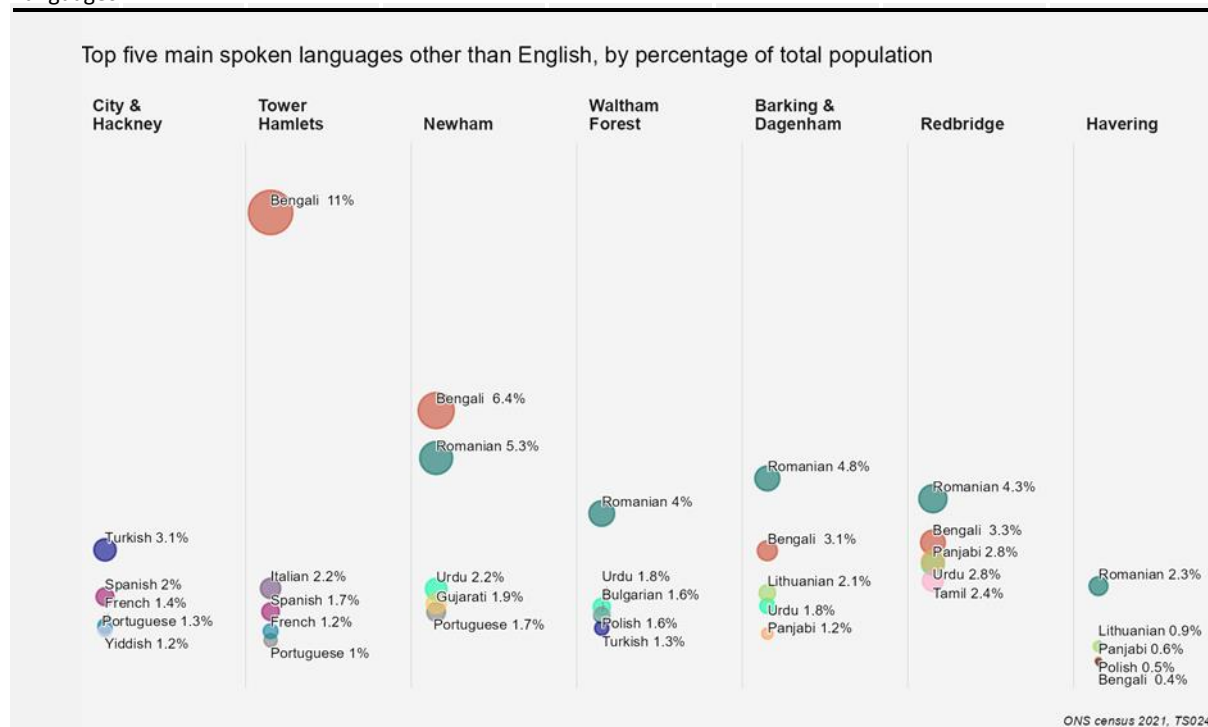
Language other than English

The Census identified almost 100 different, main, languages spoken in NEL; the most commonly spoken other than English are: Bengali, Romanian, Urdu, Spanish and Panjabi.

Figure 19 shows the proportion of residents, aged 3 and over, with English as main language compared to other languages and what are the top five languages other than English by place.

Figure 24, Most commonly spoken languages other than English by place

Main Language	City & Hackney	Tower Hamlets	Newham	Waltham Forest	Barking & Dagenham	Redbridge	Havering
English	80%	73%	65%	78%	76%	74%	90%
All other languages	20%	27%	35%	22%	24%	27%	10%



Of NEL places, Newham has the highest proportion of residents with a main language other than English (35%); Havering has the smallest proportion (10%).

Bengali is spoken most in Tower Hamlets and Newham (11% and 6.4% of total population), Romanian is more prevalent across Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Redbridge, Waltham Forest and Newham. City & Hackney have a different composition than the rest of north east London, with Turkish as first language followed by Spanish and Yiddish.

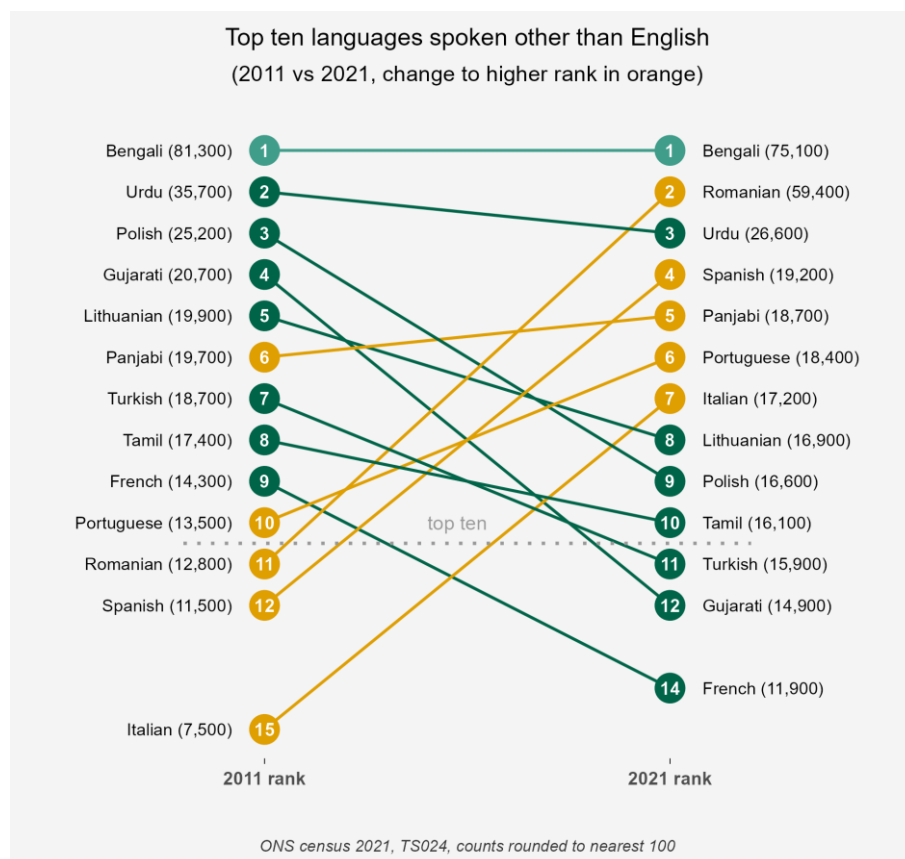
How common languages have changed over time

Looking at the main spoken languages recorded in the 2021 census compared with those recorded in the 2011 census, some major changes have occurred in the past 10 years (fig.2).

While Bengali is still the most spoken non-English language in NEL, Romanian is now the second moving up nine positions since 2011 with an increase of 46,600 people. Spanish also moved up eight positions since 2011 (from 12th to 4th), similar with Italian (from 15th to 7th).

In contrast, Polish, Gujarati and French-speakers have seen their populations reduce significantly since 2011.

Figure 25, Change in most common languages (other than English), 2011 to 2021



Religion

The population of NEL has a diverse range of cultural, spiritual and religious beliefs and practices. These beliefs and practices can impact on health linked behaviours, use of healthcare and decision-making regarding treatment.

Different religions across NEL

There were 55 different religions identified in the NEL resident population in the Census. These fall into the following broader categories: Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Jewish, Buddhist, No religion and Other Religion. 6.6% of people in NEL did not answer this question.

The three dominant religions are Christianity (36%), Islam (25%) and no religion (24%). Those who follow other religions make up less than 10% of the NEL population.

Table: Religion in NEL, 2021

Religion	Count of usual NEL residents	% of North East London usual residents	% of England usual residents
Christian	714,654	38%	46%
Muslim	507,925	27%	7%
No religion	469,470	25%	37%
Hindu	82,481	4%	2%
Sikh	36,166	2%	1%
Jewish	28,649	2%	<1%
Other	15,226	<1%	<1%
Buddhist	12,917	<1%	<1%

Religious communities by neighbourhood (MSOA)

The following maps show the proportion of each MSOA population who identified as a Muslim, Christian or with no religion in the 2021 census.

The highest concentration of Muslim communities is around the tri-borough borders of Redbridge, Barking & Dagenham and Newham, and also throughout Tower Hamlets.

Figure 26, Percentage of neighbourhood population identifying as Muslim

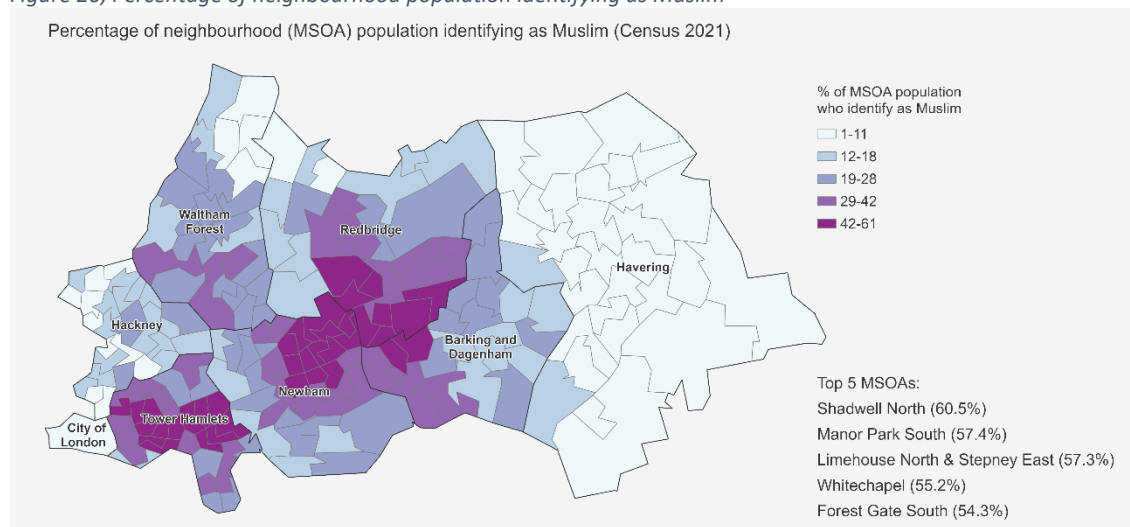
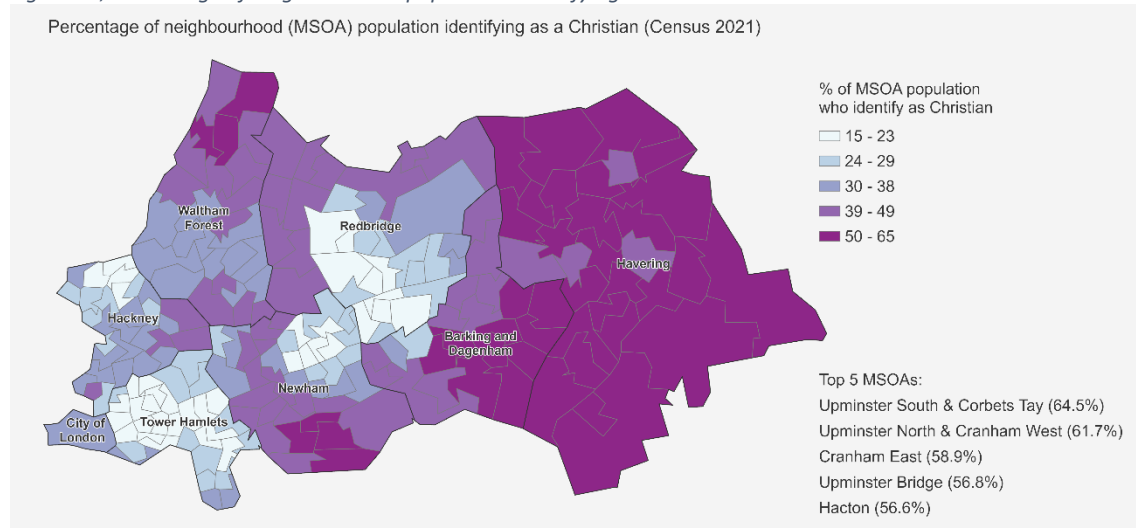


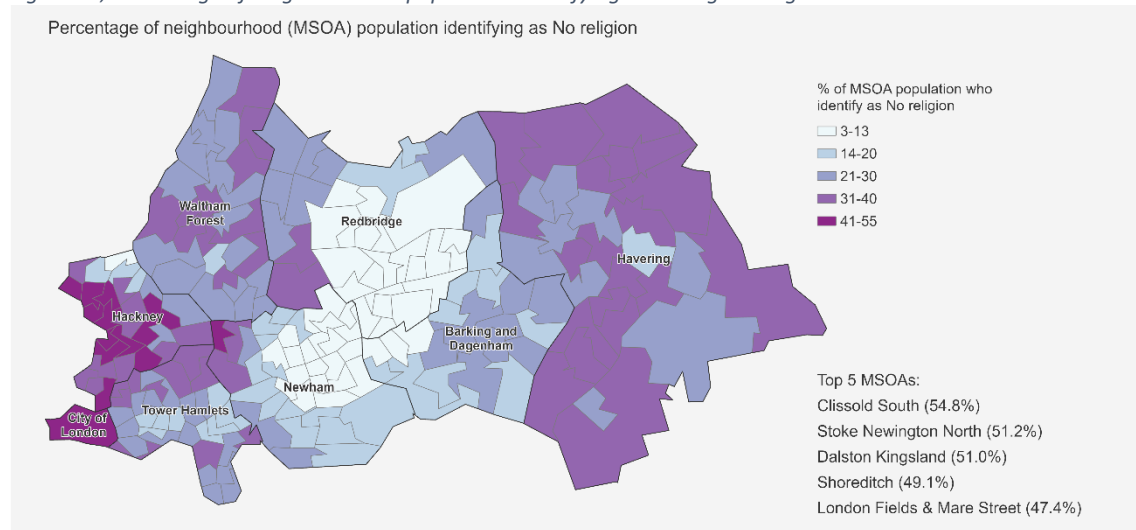
Figure 23 shows the highest concentration people who identify as Christian are in Havering where, across most of the borough at least half of residents identify as being Christian.

Figure 27, Percentage of neighbourhood population identifying as Christian



One in four (25%) of usual NEL residents identified as having no religion when asked in the 2021 Census. Figure 24, shows that in the City of London and Hackney, in some neighbourhoods more than 40% of people identify as having no religion. Redbridge and Newham have large areas where few people identify as having no religion.

Figure 28, Percentage of neighbourhood population identifying as having no religion



Religion by age in NEL

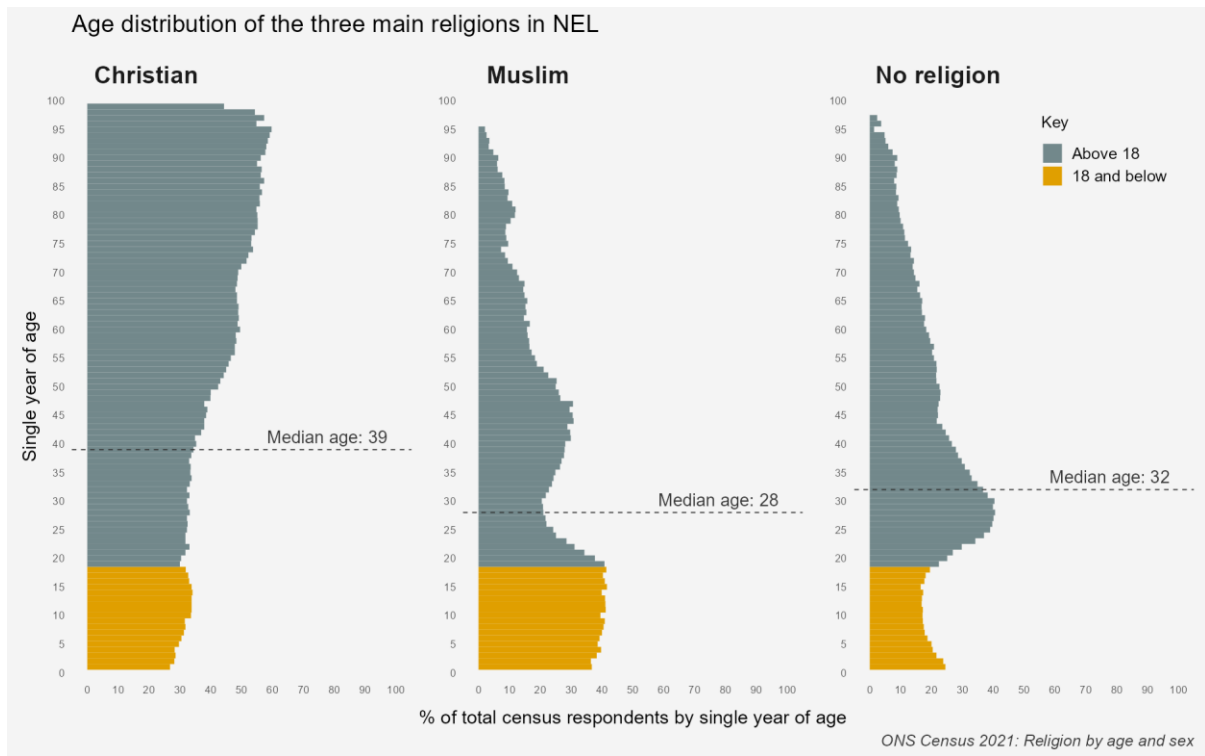
Given the different health requirements of different age groups, and the potential impact of religious beliefs on a variety of health related factors, it's important to understand how religion and age interact.

For the top 3 religions in NEL, there were very different patterns according to age of resident. Christian religion was most common in older residents (peaking at age 95 at 59.7%), median age being 39. Comparatively, non-religious and Muslim residents had a younger age profile.

Non-religion peaked at age 28 (40.6%), with the median age being 32 whereas Muslim religion peaked in those age 15 (41.6%), with average age being 28.

It is worth noting that although Muslim religion peaked in those age 15, there was another peak of similar size at age 44 (30.8%). Patterns of religion and age were explored further by place and are available upon request.

Figure 29, Age distribution of the three main religions in NEL



Gender identity and sexual orientation

Questions on sexual orientation and gender identity were included in the 2021 census, making these the first, fully representative statistics on gender identity or sexual orientation. Previously, we had only estimates modelled from survey sources such as the annual population survey; including the question in the census enables a more detailed understanding of gender identity and sexual orientation.

Respondents aged 16 and over were asked voluntary questions on whether the gender they identify with is the same as their registered sex at birth, and how they would describe their sexual orientation.

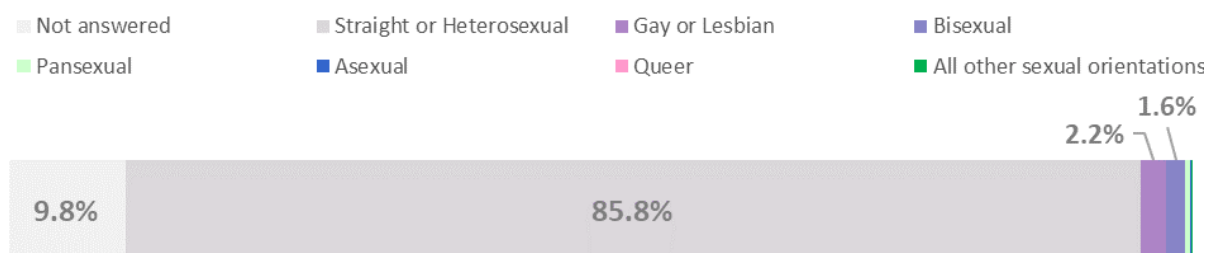
Sexual orientation

Across NEL, 1.43 million people (90.2% of the population aged 16 years and over) answered the voluntary question.

In total, 1.36 million (85.8%) identified as straight or heterosexual. Nearly 70,000 people (4.4%) across NEL identified with an LGB+ orientation (“Gay or Lesbian”, “Bisexual” or “Other sexual orientation”).

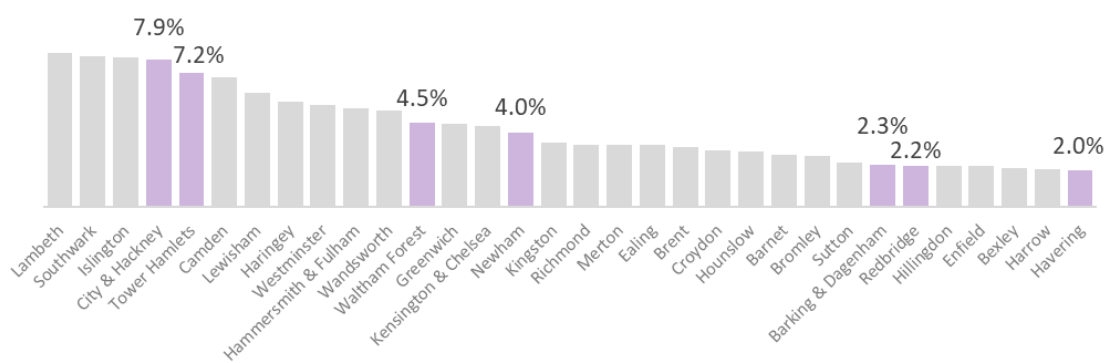
The remaining 156,000 (9.8%) did not answer the question.

Figure 30, Sexual orientation of NEL census respondents age 16+
Sexual orientation as reported by NEL census respondents aged 16+, 2021



Across England, the region with the highest proportion of people who identified as LGB+ was London at 4.3%. Of our NEL Places, City & Hackney has the largest LGB+ population (7.9%) aged 16+, followed by Tower Hamlets at 7.2%; Waltham Forest also has a larger LGB+ than the London average. Havering was the London borough with the lowest proportion who identified as LGB+.

Figure 31, Proportion of London census respondents (age 16+) identifying as LGB+
London census respondents with an LGB+ identity as a proportion of 16+ respondents, by Local Authority, 2021



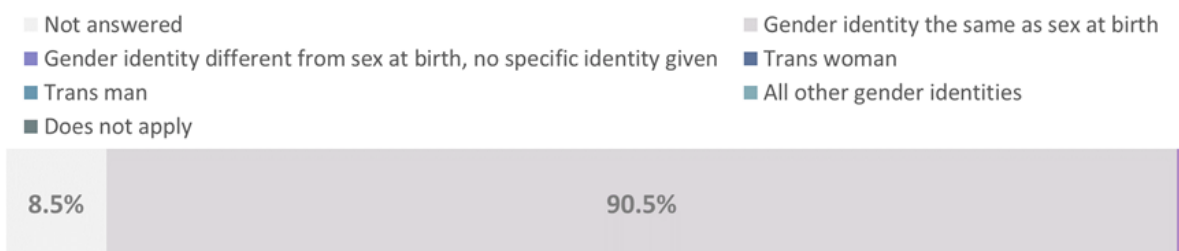
Gender identity

Census respondents aged 16+ were asked if their gender identity was the same as their sex registered at birth.

Across NEL 1.45 million people (91.5% of the population aged 16 and over) answered the voluntary question. 17,000 respondents (1.1%) have a gender identity different to sex at birth.

Figure 32, Gender identity of NEL census respondents age 16+

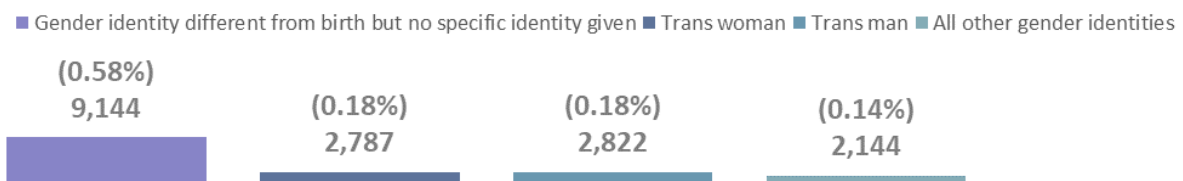
Gender identity, 2021, North East London



More than 9,000 of the 17,000 respondents with gender different to sex at birth did not specify their current gender identity.

Figure 33, Count and proportion of NEL census respondent (age 16+) who identify with a gender different to that at birth

Gender identity different from birth - NEL, 2021



While numbers are small, across NEL and across London, the proportion of people with a gender different to sex at birth varies greatly. Newham ranked the highest in London for proportion of trans/non-binary identity.

Figure 34, Proportion of London census respondents (age 16+) identifying with a different gender to that at birth

London census respondents aged 16+ who reported their gender identity to be other than was registered at birth, 2021

