

census 2001

irish in london

New statistical data from the 2001 Census

The 2001 Census included the Irish as a named category in the Ethnic Question for the first time. This was in response to strong lobbying from Irish welfare and community groups who argued that the Irish had been disadvantaged by being subsumed into a blanket 'White' category in the 1991 Census. This had meant that:

- Statistical data about their needs was not collected by ethnic monitoring procedures.
- They were excluded from consideration when groups were consulted about their specific social, economic and cultural needs.

The Office for National Statistics accepted the recommendation to include a separate tick box for the Irish, which they decided to place as a subdivision of the White category. In England and Wales there were three subdivisions:

- British;
- Irish
- Any Other White background (Please describe).

Availability of Census data in published tables

The Irish community includes both **migrants**, the first generation who were born in Ireland, and their close **descendants**, the second and third generations, that is people born in Britain to one or two Irish-born parents and/or grandparents. There is increasing recognition of the need to include more than one generation in order:

- To recognise significant elements in people's cultural backgrounds and ensure that these are reflected in the content of services such as education, social services, childcare, libraries etc.
- To allow investigation of ongoing areas of disadvantage, such as health which has been shown to continue to be poorer than average in the second

- To place the Irish on a similar footing to, and allow comparisons with, other minority ethnic groups, who are defined by their ethnic background rather than their own birthplace.

Two types of data are available about the Irish community in Britain in the 2001 Census:

Birthplace: a small number of published tables provide data about people born in the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland. Data includes:

- Numbers
- Gender
- Three age categories (under 16, working age, pensionable age).

Ethnic group: for those who ticked 'White Irish' a fuller range of data is available, including:

- Numbers
- Gender
- Age categories (5 year groupings. eg 20-24, 25-29)
- Household structure
- Health
- Employment (industries, occupations)
- Educational qualifications
- Housing (tenure, quality, density of occupation).
- Communal establishments

Accuracy of the ethnic group category 'White Irish'

The White Irish category is thus by far the most comprehensive source of information about the Irish community in London, but needs to be treated with care for a number of reasons:

- It does not include all Irish-born people. In London, only 92.9% of people born in the Irish Republic ticked the box and only 36.8% of those born in Northern Ireland.
- It includes only a small proportion of those of immediate Irish descent. Only 31.0% of those ticking the box were born in Britain, whereas the second generation alone is calculated to number two and a half times the number of Irish-born people.

Thus about one in 10 of second generation Irish people nationally ticked the White Irish box.

The Mori poll conducted for the GLA in May 2004 showed that 3% of Londoners were born in Ireland, 8% were born in Britain to Irish-born parents and a further 8% had Irish grandparents. This would mean that 574,000 people had an Irish-born parent, but only 68,350 (12%) ticked 'White Irish' as their ethnic identity.

Reasons for the low response of people of Irish descent include:

- Unclear meaning of the question. Many assumed that the question was asking about nationality because the categories offered were 'British' and 'Irish'. They did not realise that 'cultural background' was being recorded.
- No provision for a mixed Irish and other category. Many people of Irish descent see themselves as both Irish and English/British/ London, but had to choose between the single labels 'British' and 'Irish'.
- No previous experience amongst those of Irish parentage being invited officially to express an Irish identity.

Second-generation Irish people have been discouraged from identifying themselves as Irish both by English people's incomprehension that those without an Irish accent would see themselves as anything other than 'English' and by the derogatory use of 'Plastic Paddy' by some Irish-born people.

*If self-identification is the criterion, a much more realistic total for the Irish community in London would be **double** then number of White Irish recorded. This would be equivalent to including **all Irish-born and half the number of second generation people** (taking into account the 'mixed' identities expressed by many).*

Comparative framework

This Profile places Census data relating to the Irish population in London within a broader framework of other ethnic groups. Tables compare statistics on the five largest ethnic groups in London which comprise people identifying as White British, White Irish, Asian Indian, Black Caribbean and Black African. Particular attention is paid to comparisons between data relating to the White Irish and White British ethnic groups since the Irish are frequently subsumed within an overarching White category, and important differences need to be noted.

NUMBERS AND AGE-GROUPS OF IRISH POPULATION

1. Irish-born population

Total numbers

The total number of Irish-born people in London declined by almost a quarter (24.0%) between 1991 and 2001. The fall was much greater amongst those born in the Irish Republic (-26.6%) than those born in Northern Ireland (-11.1%). The major reason for the fall was high rates of return migration to the Republic during the 1990s, the peak years being 1992, when 22,700 people moved into Ireland from the UK, and the period 1997-9 when over 20,000 immigrated in each year. However, increasing mortality in the ageing Irish-born population is also a factor.

Table 1.1 Change in Irish-born population in London 1991-2001			
	1991	2001	% change
Irish Republic	214,227	157,285	-26.6
Northern Ireland	42,243	37,574	-11.1
Total	256,470	194,859	-24.0

Source: Source: Source: 1991 Census Local base Statistics, London; 2001 Census Standard tables SO15. Crown Copyright

There is considerable variation in the rates of change in Irish-born populations by borough (Table 1.2).

- Highest rates of decline were experienced in Newham (-34.8%), Brent (-34.0%), and Lambeth and Westminster (both 32.9%). These included areas with recent migrants who returned to Ireland as jobs became available, older migrants with higher rates of mortality or central boroughs from which Irish-born people migrated to find cheaper housing further out.
- Lower rates were registered in the outer London boroughs of Richmond-on-Thames (0%), Hillingdon (-6.0%), Barking and Dagenham (-7.2%), Bexley (-7.8%), Sutton (-8.9%) and the inner London borough of Tower Hamlets (-9.0%). Reasons for lower numbers of Irish-born people in these boroughs include: fewer recent migrants, who were the group more likely to return when the opportunity arose, and in-migration from Irish-born people relocating within London, which would have boosted the numbers.

Table 1.2 Total Irish-born in London boroughs, 1991-2001			
	1991	2001	%Change
Barking & Dagenham	2,809	2,607	-7.2
Barnet	11,458	8,966	-21.7
Bexley	3,194	2,945	-7.8
Brent	21,936	14,477	-34.0
Bromley	5,342	4,706	-11.9
Camden	11,027	8,002	-27.4
City of London	151	240	+58.9
Croydon	8,468	6,670	-21.2
Ealing	16,374	12,006	-26.7
Enfield	7,803	6,436	-17.5
Greenwich	5,759	4,508	-21.7
Hackney	7,180	5,329	-25.8
Hammersmith & Fulham	10,117	7,398	-26.9
Haringey	10,536	7,532	-28.5
Harrow	9,875	7,052	-28.6
Havering	3,745	3,290	-12.1
Hillingdon	7,178	6,744	-6.0
Hounslow	7,799	5,874	-24.7
Islington	11,723	8,377	-28.5
Kensington & Chelsea	5,528	4,809	-13.0
Kingston upon Thames	3,597	3,228	-10.3
Lambeth	11,648	7,815	-32.9
Lewisham	7,788	6,091	-21.8
Merton	5,772	4,897	-15.2
Newham	4,531	2,952	-34.8
Redbridge	6,698	4,871	-27.3
Richmond upon Thames	4,722	4,724	0.0
Southwark	9,792	7,015	-28.4
Sutton	3,818	3,477	-8.9
Tower Hamlets	4,059	3,695	-9.0
Waltham Forest	6,134	4,401	-28.3
Wandsworth	10,575	7,750	-26.7
Westminster	9,334	6,262	-32.9
Inner London	8,142	5,947	-19.8
Outer London	7,499	5,888	-17.4
London	15,641	5,918	-18.6

Source: Source: 1991 Census Local base Statistics, London; 2001 Census Standard tables SO15. Crown Copyright

Impact of return migration to Ireland

The Census only provides *net* data on population change, rather than the *total numbers* entering or leaving. It is important to remember that immigration from Ireland continued in the 1990s, although at a lower rate than previously. Return migration was therefore probably at a higher rate than the census figures show, because the actual totals leaving have been offset by new arrivals.

Table 1.3 shows a markedly smaller number of Irish-born children in 2001 probably reflecting both lower immigration by families with young children as well as return migration of families.

However by far the largest decline in numbers was of women and men of working age (ages 16-59 for women and 16-64 for men). The net decline in this age group was 61,066 people, again undoubtedly an underestimate of the actual numbers returning. It was matched in the Irish Republic by a very large immigration of people who had previously lived for at least a year in the UK (Irish Census 2002 Usual Residence and Migration Table 26). The Irish Census data allows us to fill out more detail about the characteristics of returning migrants from the UK. Although they do not relate specifically to London, a very substantial proportion of these immigrants will have been living there before their move. They show that:

- The peak age of immigrants from the UK living in Ireland in 2002 was 30-39 for both women and men. Those in their thirties comprised nearly one third of the cohort of immigrants from the UK aged 15-65 (32.8% of women and 31.7% of men). They included 23,611 women aged 30-4 and 24,298 aged 35-9, together with 20,331 and 24,202 men in the same groups.
- This represented a very sharp rise from numbers in younger age groups. Relatively few movers/returners were aged 15-19 or 20-4 (women: 5,386 and 7,460; men 5,363 and 5,864 respectively), reflecting lower emigration rates but perhaps also a greater incentive for the more established workforce in their thirties to make the move. The recent demand for skilled labour in Ireland may be being met by those who left in the late 1980s when many highly-trained workers, including graduates, were unable to find work in the Irish Republic, but now welcome the opportunity to return. Those aged 25-9 occupied an intermediate position, still at only half of the rate of those five years older (women 14,538 and men 11,635).
- Amongst the 'bulge' groups of movers aged 30-9, there was a higher number of women (47,909 compared with 44,532 men). However, amongst the working age population, there was an almost identical level of decline between women and men (30,539 and 30,167 respectively).
- Another slight peak of immigration from the UK was recorded amongst those aged 55-9, in this case with a larger number of men (16,098, compared with 15,018 women). This appears to be associated with retirement from paid work.

The major change for the Irish community in London therefore has been the loss of a substantial group of young middle-aged Irish-born people taking with them their British-born school aged children.

Table 1.3 Change in age groups of Irish-born people in London, 1991-2001					
Age Group		Change			
		1991	2001	<i>n</i>	%
ALL					
0 – 15	<i>n</i>	8,826	3,703	-5,123	-58.0
	%	3.4	1.9		
16 – Pensionable Age	<i>n</i>	191,881	130,815	-61,066	-31.8
	%	74.8	67.1		
Pensionable Age	<i>n</i>	55,763	90,341	+4,578	+8.2
	%	21.7	31.0		
MEN					
0 – 15	<i>n</i>	4,460	1,892	-2,568	-57.6
	%	3.7	2.1		
16 – Pensionable Age	<i>n</i>	96,730	66,563	-30,167	-31.2
	%	80.9	75.0		
Pensionable Age	<i>n</i>	18,393	20,270	+1,877	+10.2
	%	10.8	30.5		
WOMEN					
0 – 15	<i>n</i>	4,366	1,811	-2,555	-58.5
	%	3.1	1.7		
16 – Pensionable Age	<i>n</i>	94,791	64,252	-30,539	-32.2
	%	69.2	61.6		
Pensionable Age	<i>n</i>	37,730	40,071	+2,341	+6.2
	%	27.6	38.4		
Note: Statistics are only available in this 3-group age-breakdown for birthplace groups					
<i>Source: Source: Source: 1991 Census Local base Statistics, London; 2001 Census Standard tables SO15. Crown Copyright.</i>					

Age groups of Irish-born in London

Published tables provide data on three age groups – children (0-15), people of working age (16-60 for women, 16-65 for men) and pensioners (60+ for women, 65+ for men) (Table 1.4). The main features are:

- There are far fewer children in the Irish-born populations than in the population as a whole, as expected in a migrant population where the majority arrive as adults.

- The Irish Republic-born population has a much larger proportion in the pensionable age groups (33.8% compared with 14.5% for the total London population).
- The Northern Irish-born population is younger, with a strong concentration in the working age groups (78.5% compared with 64.4% in the Republic-born population).

Table 1.4 Age groups of Irish-born people in London, 2001				
Age Group		Total Population (000's)	Irish Republic Born	Northern Ireland Born
ALL				
0 – 15	<i>n</i>	1,448	2,858	845
	%	20.2	1.8	2.2
16 – Pensionable Age	<i>n</i>	4,686	101,330	29,485
	%	65.3	64.4	78.5
Pensionable Age	<i>n</i>	1,037	53,097	7,244
	%	14.5	33.8	19.3
MEN				
0 – 15	<i>n</i>	738	1,471	421
	%	21.3	2.3	4.2
16 – Pensionable Age	<i>n</i>	2,356	50,714	15,849
	%	67.9	67.2	77.6
Pensionable Age	<i>n</i>	373	17,614	2,656
	%	10.8	30.5	18.3
WOMEN				
0 – 15	<i>n</i>	709	1,387	424
	%	19.1	1.7	3.7
16 – Pensionable Age	<i>n</i>	2,330	50,616	13,636
	%	62.9	51.7	67.0
Pensionable Age	<i>n</i>	663	35,483	4,588
	%	17.9	46.6	29.2
Note: Only available in this limited breakdown for birthplace groups				
<i>Source: 2001 Census Standard Table S015, Crown Copyright</i>				

Irish-born Pensioners

The high proportion of the Irish-born in pensionable age groups, 33.8% of the Republic Irish-born (very similar to 30.2% of those born in the Caribbean and West Indies), can be considered in greater detail. For example, there are very marked variations between boroughs (Table 1.5). The number of Irish-born pensioners (women aged 60+ and men aged 65+) increased from 55,763 in 1991 to 60,341 in 2001, an overall increase of 8.2% (Table 1.6).

- The highest increases in numbers of pensioners were in Haringey (+55.5%), Enfield (+35.1%), Hillingdon (+34.3%), Bexley (+32.7%) and Croydon (+30.3%).
- Only five London boroughs registered a decline (Westminster -23.4%, Camden -16.7%, Wandsworth-9.6%, Kingston-on-Thames -1.2% and Tower Hamlets -0.5%).
- Numbers of Irish-born women of pensionable age were substantially higher than numbers of men in every borough (Table 1.6). This is to be expected because the statutory retirement age is lower – 60 for women and 65 for men. It also reflects greater longevity of women and a slightly larger number of older male returners to Ireland (Irish Census 2002, Usual Residence and Migration, Table 26).

Table 1.5 Irish-born pensioners in London boroughs, 1991 – 2001			
	1991	2001	% Change
Barking & Dagenham	868	1,053	+21.3
Barnet	2,532	2,913	+15.3
Bexley	837	1,111	+32.7
Brent	3,885	4,446	+14.4
Bromley	1,417	1,634	+8.1
Camden	3,030	2,525	-16.7
City of London	25	47	+88.0
Croydon	1,784	2,325	+30.3
Ealing	1,332	3,559	+16.3
Enfield	1,332	1,800	+35.1
Greenwich	1,266	1,318	+31.0
Hackney	1,253	1,413	+12.8
Hammersmith & Fulham	2,589	2,659	+2.7
Haringey	1,604	2,495	+55.5
Harrow	1,785	2,116	+18.5
Havering	1,054	1,381	+31
Hillingdon	1,563	2,100	+34.3
Hounslow	1,485	1,643	+10.6
Islington	2,476	2,507	+1.3
Kensington & Chelsea	1,689	1,819	+7.7
Kingston upon Thames	991	979	-1.2
Lambeth	2,742	2,361	-13.9
Lewisham	1,584	1,645	+3.9
Merton	1,263	1,466	+16.1
Newham	804	864	+7.5
Redbridge	1,264	1,609	+27.3
Richmond upon Thames	1,116	1,139	+2.1
Southwark	2,044	2,066	+1.0
Sutton	990	1,052	+15.6
Tower Hamlets	915	910	-0.5
Waltham Forest	910	1,052	+15.6
Wandsworth	2,574	2,327	-9.6
Westminster	3,131	2,397	-23.4
Inner London	1,890	1,694	+8.3
Outer London	1,457	1,826	+19.7
London	3,347	1,760	+14.0

Source: Source: Source: 1991 Census Local base Statistics, London; 2001 Census Standard tables SO15. Crown Copyright.

Table 1.6 Irish-born of pensionable age in London boroughs, by gender, 2001

	Women		Men	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Barking & Dagenham	651	46.0	402	33.7
Barnet	2,016	39.5	897	23.3
Bexley	775	44.5	336	27.9
Brent	2,874	37.6	1,572	23.0
Bromley	1,167	42.4	467	23.9
Camden	1,590	38.8	931	24.0
City of London	33	26.8	14	12.0
Croydon	1,517	41.3	808	27.0
Ealing	2,358	35.5	1,201	22.4
Enfield	1,216	33.0	584	21.2
Greenwich	893	36.7	425	20.5
Hackney	878	32.3	535	20.7
Hammersmith & Fulham	1,747	43.8	912	26.8
Haringey	1,293	32.3	635	18.0
Harrow	1,428	36.3	688	22.1
Havering	929	47.9	452	33.7
Hillingdon	1,410	37.8	690	22.9
Hounslow	1,096	33.7	547	20.9
Islington	1,551	36.5	913	22.2
Kensington & Chelsea	1,212	46.9	607	27.4
Kingston upon Thames	690	37.6	289	20.8
Lambeth	1,516	37.7	827	21.9
Lewisham	1,081	35.3	564	18.7
Merton	1,059	37.7	407	19.5
Newham	533	35.0	331	23.3
Redbridge	1,101	39.8	508	24.2
Richmond upon Thames	620	26.3	334	16.7
Southwark	1,321	36.2	745	22.2
Sutton	872	42.7	357	25.2
Tower Hamlets	563	33.4	347	17.4
Waltham Forest	732	29.9	320	16.5
Wandsworth	1,572	35.8	755	22.5
Westminster	1,588	45.9	809	29.0
Inner London	16,482	37.8	8,986	22.7
Outer London	23,589	37.7	11,284	23.0
London	40,071	37.8	10,135	22.9

Source: 2001 Census Standard Table S015, Crown Copyright

2. WHITE IRISH ETHNIC GROUP

Total numbers

The total numbers of people ticking the 'White Irish' box varies by London borough from 18,313 (7.0% of the total population) in Brent to 2,753 (1.7% of the total population) in Barking and Dagenham. (The City of London is not included in discussions because it has a very small residential population).

Table 2.1 White Irish in London boroughs, 2001		
	<i>n</i>	%
Barking & Dagenham	2,753	1.7
Barnet	10,545	3.4
Bexley	3,025	1.4
Brent	18,313	7.0
Bromley	4,652	1.6
Camden	9,149	4.6
City of London	241	3.4
Croydon	7,130	2.2
Ealing	14,285	4.7
Enfield	8,398	3.1
Greenwich	4,862	2.3
Hackney	6,117	3.0
Hammersmith & Fulham	7,893	4.8
Haringey	9,302	4.3
Harrow	9,057	4.4
Havering	3,390	1.5
Hillingdon	6,911	2.8
Hounslow	6,198	2.9
Islington	10,057	5.7
Kensington & Chelsea	5,183	3.3
Kingston upon Thames	3,201	2.2
Lambeth	8,689	3.3
Lewisham	6,990	2.8
Merton	5,464	2.9
Newham	3,231	1.3
Redbridge	5,559	2.3
Richmond upon Thames	4,805	2.8
Southwark	7,674	3.1
Sutton	3,664	2.0
Tower Hamlets	3,823	2.0
Waltham Forest	5,112	2.3
Wandsworth	8,151	3.1
Westminster	6,574	3.6
Inner London	93,163	3.5
Outer London	127,324	2.8
London	220,487	3.2

Source: 2001 Census Standard Table T13, Crown Copyright

The White Irish box was ticked by 220,487 people in London, making the ethnic category 13% larger than the Irish-born total of 195,130 alone. London was the only region of Britain where the White Irish outnumbered the Irish-born totals, illustrating the greater overall awareness of the option to tick 'White Irish' by those of Irish descent, and perhaps the greater willingness to do so. Nevertheless, there was considerable variation by borough in proportions of Irish-born people and those of Irish descent who ticked the box (Table 2.2).

These variations may reflect differences in:

- Levels of awareness of the option for people of Irish descent to tick the White Irish box, and/or;
- Different proportions of Irish-born and people of Irish descent living in these boroughs.

Table 2.2 Boroughs where White Irish numbers included highest proportions of non-Irish-born			
<i>(presented as a ratio: White Irish divided by Irish-born: ie, a value above 1000 means the White Irish total is larger than the Irish-born total)</i>			
Enfield	1,306	Newham	1,098
Harrow	1,285	Southwark	1,096
Brent	1,266	Greenwich	1,080
Croydon	1,071	Kensington & Chelsea	1,080
Haringey	1,237	Hackney	1,068
Islington	1,203	Hammersmith & Fulham	1,068
Ealing	1,191	Hounslow	1,056
Barnet	1,178	Wandsworth	1,053
Waltham Forest	1,166	Westminster	1,051
Hackney	1,153	Tower Hamlets	1,039
Lewisham	1,149	Havering	1,032
Camden	1,145	Bexley	1,027
Redbridge	1,143	Hillingdon	1,025
Merton	1,116	City of London	1,004
Lambeth	1,114		

Source: 2001 Census Standard Tables, Crown Copyright

The higher numbers of English-born people identifying as Irish in outer boroughs such as Enfield and Harrow probably reflects the outward movement of the second and third generation Irish in search of cheaper housing.

Only in three boroughs was the value below 1000 – Barking and Dagenham (765), Bromley (988) and Kingston-on-Thames (993). These boroughs recorded higher numbers of Irish-born than people identifying as White Irish.

The highest proportions of people identifying as White Irish are in the following boroughs (Table 2.3). If the multiplier recommended to produce a result more closely reflecting the origins and senses of identity of the Irish community is applied (a doubling of the proportion⁶), the true size of the Irish community would be twice as large.

Table 2.3 Boroughs with highest actual and estimated proportions of White Irish ethnic group		
	2001 Census %	% estimated using multiplier
Brent	7.0	14.0
Islington	5.7	11.4
Hammersmith & Fulham	4.8	9.6
Ealing	4.7	9.4
Camden	4.6	9.2
Harrow	4.4	8.8
Haringey	4.3	8.6
Westminster	3.6	7.2
Barnet	3.4	6.8
City of London	3.4	6.8
Kensington & Chelsea	3.3	6.6
Lambeth	3.3	6.6
Wandsworth	3.1	6.2

Source: 2001 Census Standard Table T13, Crown Copyright

Census briefings are published by Action Group for Irish Youth (AGIY) with data and analysis provided by Professor Bronwen Walter of Anglia Polytechnic University. AGIY is funded by the Association of London Government.

Action Group for Irish Youth
 London Voluntary Sector Resource Centre, 356 Holloway Road, London N7 6PA
 Telephone: 0207 700 8137, Fax: 0207 700 0099
 Email: agiy@irish.org.uk, Web: www.irish.org.uk

census 2001

irish in london

Employment

1. Occupations

The socio-economic position of the White Irish population in 2001 cannot be compared directly with the findings from the 1991 Census. Not only are the birthplace/ethnic categories different but occupational groupings changed between the two dates. However in broad terms the 2001 Census shows that although White Irish men have similar proportions to the White British in the highest grouping, they are also still clustered in distinct categories, including Skilled Trades, Processing and Elementary occupations. For Irish women on the other hand, the Census figures suggest a reduction in the difference in positioning between White Irish and White British women in London.

The main features of the occupation patterns of the White Irish group (Table 1.1) include:

Men:

- A slightly lower proportion of White Irish men (19.8%) are in the highest occupational grouping of Managers and Senior Officials, compared with the White British category (21.6%). Proportions in the Indian group are the highest of all (25.0%), but are much lower amongst Black African (11.9%) and Black Caribbean (22.1%) groups.
- Markedly fewer White Irish men (14.0%) are in the Associated Professional and Technical occupational grouping than White British men (19.0%). The White Irish proportion is very similar to that of men from the Black African (13.8%) and Black Caribbean (11.7%) groups.
- Conversely a substantially higher proportion of White Irish men (18.4%) are recorded in the Skilled Trades category. This is very similar to the percentage in the Black African population (18.7%), and well above those in the White British (13.6%), Indian (11.1%) and Black Caribbean (10.1%) groupings.
- Higher proportions of White Irish men are in the least skilled categories of Processing,

including plant and machine operatives (10.2%) and Elementary (10.9%) occupations, than amongst the White British (8.1% and 9.0% respectively). Black African men had higher proportions in each group (12.2% and 15.5% respectively). In 1991, proportions of Irish-born men from the Irish Republic were greater in the two lowest Registrar General's Social Class categories IV and V, but the changing Census categories of both class/occupation and ethnicity mean that direct measures of intercensal change are not possible.

Women:

- In contrast to the situation for White Irish men, White Irish women showed very similar levels of employment to White British women in the highest category of Managers and Senior Officials (15.3% and 14.9% respectively).
- Again in contrast to White Irish men, proportions of White Irish women in the lower professional category of Associated Professional and Technical occupations, were higher than for White British women (21.9% compared with 18.8%). This reflects the long-established trend of large numbers in nursing and teaching jobs.
- A slightly higher proportion of White Irish women was employed in the Personal Services category (10.8%) than amongst White British women (9.4%). However there were substantially higher proportions amongst women in both the Black African (16.9%) and Black Caribbean (13.1%) populations. Again this contrasts with findings in the 1991 Census where there were closer similarities between the Irish-born and Black Caribbean populations, but the Census category changes may partly account for this.
- In Elementary occupations, the least-skilled occupation category, Irish women were more prominent than White British women (8.8% and 6.6% respectively), but proportions were lower than amongst Indian (10.3%) and Black African (12.2%) women.

Table 1.1 Gender and Occupation by Ethnic Group					
	White British	White Irish	Asian or Asian British: Indian	Black or Black British: Black Caribbean	Black or Black British: Black African
Males					
Managers and Senior Officials	21.6	19.8	25.0	22.1	11.4
Professional Occupations	15.7	15.4	19.3	19.7	9.1
Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	19.0	14.0	17.3	11.7	13.8
Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	7.2	6.2	6.3	9.5	8.8
Skilled Trades Occupations	13.6	18.4	11.1	10.1	18.7
Personal Service Occupations	2.2	2.7	2.8	1.6	4.2
Sales and Customer Service Occupations	3.5	2.3	3.6	8.6	6.4
Process; Plant and Machine Operatives	8.1	10.2	4.6	7.6	12.2
Elementary Occupations	9.0	10.9	10.1	9.1	15.5
Females					
Managers and Senior Officials	14.9	15.3	11.5	9.2	7.7
Professional Occupations	13.6	13.3	13.1	9.5	9.9
Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	18.8	21.9	12.7	19.2	19.2
Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	25.9	21.6	25.2	29.6	18.9
Skilled Trades Occupations	1.5	1.7	1.5	1.7	2.6
Personal Service Occupations	9.4	10.8	5.6	13.1	16.9
Sales and Customer Service Occupations	8.2	5.6	15.6	9.2	11.1
Process; Plant and Machine Operatives	1.1	0.9	4.6	1.3	1.4
Elementary Occupations	6.6	8.8	10.3	7.2	12.2

Source: 2001 Census Standard Table S109, Crown Copyright

2. Unemployment

Unemployment is a key indicator of economic disadvantage, related to low incomes and poor life chances. In 1991 Irish-born men in London had substantially higher rates of unemployment than the White non-Irish population (17.1% compared with 11.6%), though not as high as men in the Black Caribbean population (24.2%). Amongst women, however, unemployment rates were considerably lower and much closer to the White non-Irish population (8.1% and 7.5% respectively). Again these were both lower than rates for the Black Caribbean women (13.9%). In 2001 the picture was quite different, with much lower overall rates for all groups.

Men

Table 2.1 shows that in April 2001, unemployment amongst White Irish men in London as a whole (4.9%) was only slightly higher than amongst White British men (4.2%). It was also higher than amongst Asian Indian men (4.5%) but markedly lower than amongst Black Caribbean (9.7%) and Black African men (11.5%).

**Table 2.1 Unemployment in London Boroughs by Ethnicity:
Males Aged 25 and Over**

	White British	White Irish	Asian or Asian British: Indian	Black or Black British: Black Caribbean	Black or Black British: Black African
Barking & Dagenham	4.5	3.4	4.4	6.0	11.8
Barnet	3.2	3.3	3.4	6.1	9.4
Bexley	2.7	2.2	2.6	5.1	7.3
Brent	4.7	4.6	3.5	9.0	12.1
Bromley	2.7	3.9	1.8	6.6	9.0
Camden	5.4	8.3	3.7	11.4	13.3
City of London	3.3	4.3	0.0	18.8	12.8
Croydon	3.3	4.5	4.3	7.5	9.4
Ealing	3.5	3.3	4.1	7.9	12.2
Enfield	3.9	3.7	4.0	7.1	10.2
Greenwich	5.6	5.4	4.2	10.1	11.0
Hackney	6.5	6.2	7.6	12.4	11.4
Hammersmith & Fulham	5.2	5.1	3.5	12.0	16.4
Haringey	4.8	5.9	4.6	11.6	11.5
Harrow	2.6	2.7	3.1	5.2	8.0
Havering	2.6	2.7	2.5	6.7	4.1
Hillingdon	2.3	2.7	3.6	4.7	9.8
Hounslow	2.8	3.0	3.1	6.6	10.1
Islington	6.2	6.8	5.1	12.0	13.3
Kensington & Chelsea	4.5	5.1	4.5	14.8	12.5
Kingston upon Thames	2.6	3.3	3.1	4.9	5.2
Lambeth	5.0	6.9	6.0	13.3	14.2
Lewisham	5.4	6.2	3.8	10.0	10.5
Merton	3.0	3.2	3.6	6.5	7.1
Newham	5.9	6.4	6.2	10.5	13.7
Redbridge	3.2	2.5	3.7	5.6	10.4
Richmond upon Thames	2.8	2.9	3.2	9.8	12.1
Southwark	5.9	6.9	4.9	13.2	11.2
Sutton	2.4	3.0	2.9	5.4	5.8
Tower Hamlets	6.1	5.0	7.8	14.0	15.8
Waltham Forest	4.1	3.8	6.8	8.1	12.3
Wandsworth	3.5	5.2	4.4	10.8	11.3
Westminster	4.3	4.9	3.1	12.0	16.1
Inner London	5.2	6.2	5.3	11.9	12.6
Outer London	3.2	3.5	3.6	7.4	10.3
London	4.2	4.9	4.5	9.7	11.5

Source: 2001 Census Standard Table S108, Crown Copyright

Women

Unemployment rates amongst White Irish women were much closer to those of White British women on average (2.5% and 2.4% respectively) (Table 2.2). The rates were lower than for men in both ethnic categories reflecting high demand for women's work and lower rates of registration as unemployed for those not in paid work. Unemployment was greater for women in the other large minority ethnic groups, Asian Indian (3.5%), Black Caribbean (4.9%) and Black African (8.1%). There were also smaller differences between the White Irish and White British women by borough. The greatest gaps between were in three inner London boroughs.

Table 2.2 Unemployment in London Boroughs by Ethnicity: Women Aged 25 and Over					
	White British	White Irish	Asian or Asian British: Indian	Black or Black British: Black Caribbean	Black or Black British: Black African
Barking & Dagenham	2.4	2.0	2.1	3.3	7.1
Barnet	2.0	2.1	3.4	3.8	7.9
Bexley	1.8	2.3	3.1	3.9	6.6
Brent	2.4	2.3	3.4	4.8	7.7
Bromley	1.6	1.3	2.6	4.2	6.5
Camden	3.3	3.5	3.9	5.0	8.4
City Of London	1.6	4.6	4.1	0.0	0.0
Croydon	2.0	1.9	4.3	3.4	6.8
Ealing	2.2	1.8	3.3	3.8	7.8
Enfield	2.1	1.8	2.8	3.8	6.7
Greenwich	3.1	2.8	3.3	5.3	8.9
Hackney	3.1	3.6	3.4	6.0	10.0
Hammersmith & Fulham	2.7	2.7	3.6	5.4	9.7
Haringey	2.8	3.0	2.8	6.2	9.3
Harrow	1.5	1.7	2.9	3.2	6.1
Havering	1.6	1.6	3.9	2.5	7.6
Hillingdon	1.6	1.8	3.2	3.5	4.5
Hounslow	1.9	1.8	2.6	3.5	8.2
Islington	3.6	3.0	5.1	6.7	9.9
Kensington & Chelsea	3.1	3.4	2.8	6.3	8.9
Kingston upon Thames	1.5	1.5	2.7	4.2	2.2
Lambeth	2.9	3.4	3.3	6.5	8.3
Lewisham	2.7	2.5	3.4	5.1	7.6
Merton	1.9	1.7	2.2	4.0	6.9
Newham	2.8	3.4	4.1	5.9	9.4
Redbridge	1.9	1.9	3.4	3.0	6.6
Richmond upon Thames	1.8	1.7	3.1	4.6	7.4
Southwark	3.0	3.2	3.5	5.7	9.2
Sutton	1.6	2.1	2.4	2.1	3.3
Tower Hamlets	3.2	3.4	3.4	5.7	8.3
Waltham Forest	2.3	2.0	3.5	4.4	6.7
Wandsworth	2.2	2.2	4.1	4.6	6.6
Westminster	3.1	2.8	3.9	6.2	8.8
Inner London	2.9	3.0	3.7	5.8	8.9
Outer London	1.9	1.9	3.2	3.9	7.2
London	2.4	2.5	3.5	4.9	8.1

Source: 2001 Census Standard Table S108, Crown Copyright

Differences between rates for White Irish and White British populations

Despite the similarities at city-wide level, gaps between the rates of unemployment of White Irish and White British populations at borough level were striking in some cases. Most notably Inner London boroughs recorded a larger gap between rates for White Irish and White British men (6.2% compared with 5.2%) than in Outer London boroughs (3.5% and 3.2% respectively). Some of the greatest differences were in the following boroughs:

Table 2.3 Largest unemployment differentials for men		
	White Irish	White British
Camden	8.3%	5.4%
Lambeth	6.9%	5.0%
Haringey	5.9%	4.8%
Southwark	6.9%	5.9%
Lewisham	6.2%	5.4%
Croydon	4.5%	3.3%
Bromley	3.9%	2.7%

Table 2.4 Largest unemployment differentials for women		
	White Irish	White British
Newham	3.4%	2.9%
Hackney	3.6%	3.1%
Lambeth	3.4%	2.9%

Census briefings are published by Action Group for Irish Youth (AGIY) with data and analysis provided by Professor Bronwen Walter of Anglia Polytechnic University. AGIY is funded by the Association of London Government.

Action Group for Irish Youth
London Voluntary Sector Resource Centre, 356 Holloway Road, London N7 6PA
Telephone: 0207 700 8137, Fax: 0207 700 0099
Email: agiy@irish.org.uk, Web: www.irish.org.uk

census 2001

irish in london

QUALIFICATIONS

Educational qualifications are closely related to people's occupational status and levels of employment. Table 1 shows that the White Irish occupy extreme positions which change sharply by age group.

- In the youngest adult age groups, many of whom are still completing their education and training, proportions of White Irish people with the **highest levels** (degree and equivalent qualifications) **are greater than for any other major group**. Amongst those aged 16-24, these included 26.7% of those identifying as White Irish, compared with 23.2% of the Indian population, 21.6% of the White British, 13.6% of the Black African and 8.9% of the Black Caribbean populations.
- For those aged 25-34, the proportion is even higher. **Almost half of the White Irish group (49.5%) had degree-level qualifications**, compared 46.1% the White British. The Indian population had the greatest percentage (56.1%). Proportions for the other major groups were 45.3% for the Black African and 27.4% for the Black Caribbean populations.
- The difference remains for those in middle age, where amongst White Irish people aged 35-49, one third (33.9%) had the highest level qualifications, compared with 30.3% of the White British. The proportion for the Black African population was much higher (45.6%). For the Indian and Black Caribbean populations they were 31.5% and 22.6% respectively.
- However at the older end of the age scale, the White Irish had the highest rates of people with **no qualifications**, those least likely have been in stable, well paid jobs. Of the White Irish population aged 50-59, for example, 48.2% had no qualifications, compared with only 36.6% of the White British, 35.9% of the Indian,

38.7% of the Black Caribbean and 18.2% of the Black African populations. In older age groups the proportions without any recorded qualifications were even higher (60.9% of White Irish people aged 60-64 and 68.1% of those aged 65-74).

- When those living in Inner and Outer London are compared (Tables 2 and 3), it can be seen that people identifying as White Irish in Outer London are more highly qualified. Indeed there are more White Irish than White British people with the highest qualifications in **all** age groups except 50-59 (Table 3). This reflects the greater likelihood of professional Irish people living in more expensive housing areas in outer suburbs of London.
- Conversely proportions of White Irish people with no qualifications living in Inner London are greater than those of the White British in all age groups, and outnumber all other major ethnic groups in ages over 50 (Table 2). This again reflects housing areas in London, those performing lower paid manual jobs being more likely to rent cheaper housing in traditional Irish areas of settlement.

Table 1 Qualifications by Ethnicity, London

	White British	White Irish	Asian or Asian British: Indian	Black or Black British: Black Caribbean	Black or Black British: Black African
	%	%	%	%	%
16 to 24 years					
No qualifications	13.6	13.0	8.4	15.4	12.6
Level 1	13.1	9.0	10.2	20.6	16.0
Level 2	29.3	25.9	28.9	35.8	34.6
Level 3	21.0	21.7	28.0	16.4	20.5
Level 4/5	21.6	26.7	23.2	8.9	13.6
Other qualifications/level unknown	1.4	3.7	1.3	2.9	2.7
25 to 34 years					
No qualifications	8.7	8.3	8.8	9.6	10.9
Level 1	16.4	8.2	11.6	24.5	10.0
Level 2	18.2	14.8	13.5	24.6	17.8
Level 3	8.1	14.2	7.2	8.4	10.6
Level 4/5	46.1	49.5	56.1	27.4	45.3
Other qualifications/level unknown	2.5	5.0	2.8	5.5	5.4
35 to 49 years					
No qualifications	18.9	21.3	24.5	15.5	11.9
Level 1	19.3	11.1	15.1	26.9	10.1
Level 2	18.7	16.3	17.2	20.9	17.3
Level 3	7.7	10.9	16.9	6.1	8.5
Level 4/5	30.3	33.9	31.5	22.6	45.6
Other qualifications/level unknown	5.1	6.5	4.8	8.0	6.6
50 to 59 years					
No qualifications	36.6	48.2	35.9	38.7	18.2
Level 1	12.5	7.9	11.0	10.9	9.2
Level 2	13.2	11.5	13.8	9.5	14.1
Level 3	5.7	6.6	5.5	3.6	6.2
Level 4/5	21.1	16.9	28.5	24.8	42.7
Other qualifications/level unknown	10.9	8.9	5.3	12.5	9.6
60 to 64 years					
No qualifications	51.7	60.9	58.3	47.4	26.6
Level 1	9.0	6.0	6.9	8.5	6.4
Level 2	10.3	8.6	6.0	9.6	11.5
Level 3	3.9	4.3	2.5	4.1	6.4
Level 4/5	15.1	13.1	14.3	25.8	43.6
Other qualifications/level unknown	10.0	7.1	12.0	14.6	5.5
65 to 74 years					
No qualifications	62.0	68.1	68.4	56.4	39.1
Level 1	3.6	3.6	4.2	6.7	5.0
Level 2	9.3	6.6	4.4	7.1	9.0
Level 3	3.6	3.4	2.2	3.9	6.8
Level 4/5	12.7	12.1	11.5	21.4	29.6
Other qualifications/level unknown	8.8	6.2	9.3	4.5	10.5

Table 2 Qualifications by Ethnicity, Inner London					
	White British	White Irish	Asian or Asian British: Indian	Black or Black British: Black Caribbean	Black or Black British: Black African
	%	%	%	%	%
16 to 24 years					
No qualifications	12.3	15.2	8.6	16.3	12.6
Level 1	9.4	8.2	9.1	21.5	16.7
Level 2	20.2	22.6	22.8	35.3	34.6
Level 3	23.6	19.4	32.1	15.4	20.5
Level 4/5	33.3	31.2	25.6	8.2	13.0
Other qualifications/level unknown	1.2	3.4	1.8	3.3	2.6
25 to 34 years					
No qualifications	7.3	8.3	10.2	11.1	10.7
Level 1	8.9	6.4	8.9	24.8	10.7
Level 2	12.0	10.9	10.2	24.2	18.5
Level 3	7.7	11.7	6.0	8.0	10.7
Level 4/5	62.4	58.5	61.9	25.9	43.8
Other qualifications/level unknown	1.7	4.2	2.8	6.0	5.6
35 to 49 years					
No qualifications	19.1	23.7	30.5	18.2	12.2
Level 1	12.7	9.1	12.6	26.2	10.8
Level 2	14.1	13.3	12.5	19.9	17.9
Level 3	8.3	10.07	5.6	6.1	8.6
Level 4/5	41.8	38.3	33.7	21.0	43.1
Other qualifications/level unknown	4.0	5.6	5.1	8.6	7.4
50 to 59 years					
No qualifications	35.9	51.9	40.3	42.7	19.9
Level 1	9.0	6.8	10.0	10.2	9.5
Level 2	11.8	9.8	11.0	9.2	13.9
Level 3	7.0	6.1	5.2	3.6	6.1
Level 4/5	28.8	18.0	28.8	21.8	40.0
Other qualifications/level unknown	7.5	7.4	4.7	12.5	10.6
60 to 64 years					
No qualifications	51.0	64.8	49.4	61.8	27.8
Level 1	6.9	5.1	8.3	6.6	6.3
Level 2	10.3	7.2	7.7	5.4	11.2
Level 3	5.1	4.1	4.1	2.6	6.9
Level 4/5	19.6	12.6	25.8	12.4	35.0
Other qualifications/level unknown	7.1	6.2	4.7	11.2	12.8
65 to 74 years					
No qualifications	63.4	70.5	56.7	70.4	39.1
Level 1	3.0	6.1	6.4	4.2	5.1
Level 2	8.0	5.4	6.8	3.9	9.2
Level 3	4.2	3.4	4.7	2.0	7.4
Level 4/5	15.0	11.9	21.2	10.7	28.5
Other qualifications/level unknown	6.4	2.7	4.2	8.8	10.7

Table 3 Qualifications by Ethnicity, Outer London

	White British	White Irish	Asian or Asian British: Indian	Black or Black British: Black Caribbean	Black or Black British: Black African
	%	%	%	%	%
16 to 24 years					
No qualifications	14.3	11.5	8.3	14.2	12.6
Level 1	15.2	9.6	10.6	19.3	15.0
Level 2	34.3	28.3	30.8	36.5	34.5
Level 3	19.5	23.4	26.7	17.7	20.7
Level 4/5	15.2	23.3	22.4	9.9	14.5
Other qualifications/level unknown	1.5	3.9	1.2	2.4	2.7
25 to 34 years					
No qualifications	9.8	8.3	8.3	7.8	11.2
Level 1	21.9	9.9	12.4	24.4	9.1
Level 2	22.7	18.1	14.4	25.4	16.8
Level 3	8.4	16.4	7.6	8.9	10.4
Level 4/5	34.1	41.7	54.4	29.7	48.1
Other qualifications/level unknown	3.1	5.6	2.9	3.8	4.4
35 to 49 years					
No qualifications	18.8	19.6	23.3	12.5	11.4
Level 1	22.6	12.5	15.6	27.6	8.9
Level 2	21.0	18.5	18.2	22.0	16.4
Level 3	7.4	11.5	7.1	6.0	8.3
Level 4/5	24.6	30.7	31.0	24.3	49.5
Other qualifications/level unknown	5.6	7.2	4.8	7.6	5.5
50 to 59 years					
No qualifications	36.9	45.8	35.0	34.2	15.1
Level 1	14.0	8.7	11.2	11.7	8.4
Level 2	13.8	12.7	14.4	9.9	13.9
Level 3	5.2	6.9	5.6	3.6	6.0
Level 4/5	18.0	16.2	28.5	28.1	45.2
Other qualifications/level unknown	12.1	12.7	5.3	12.5	11.4
60 to 64 years					
No qualifications	52.0	58.1	47.0	53.6	24.6
Level 1	9.8	6.7	8.6	7.3	6.6
Level 2	10.4	9.6	10.0	6.7	12.0
Level 3	3.5	4.4	4.1	2.5	5.5
Level 4/5	13.2	13.5	25.8	17.0	39.7
Other qualifications/level unknown	11.1	7.7	4.5	12.9	11.6
65 to 74 years					
No qualifications	61.5	66.3	56.3	65.2	39.3
Level 1	3.9	4.0	6.8	4.3	4.8
Level 2	9.8	7.5	7.1	5.1	8.6
Level 3	3.3	3.5	3.8	2.4	5.8
Level 4/5	11.7	12.1	21.5	12.7	31.3
Other qualifications/level unknown	9.8	6.6	4.5	10.3	10.2

Source: 2001 Census Standard Table S117. Crown Copyright.

The highest level of qualification variable uses both the educational and vocational qualifications question; and the professional qualifications question.

- **No qualifications:** No academic; vocational or professional qualifications.
- **Level 1:** 1+ 'O' levels/CSE/GCSE (any grade); NVQ level 1; Foundation GNVQ.
- **Level 2:** 5+ 'O' levels; 5+ CSEs (grade 1); 5+ GCSEs (grade A - C); School Certificate; 1+ A levels/AS levels; NVQ level 2; Intermediate GNVQ or equivalents.
- **Level 3:** 2+ 'A' levels; 4+ AS levels; Higher School Certificate; NVQ level 3; Advanced GNVQ or equivalents.
- **Level 4/5:** First degree; Higher Degree; NVQ levels 4 - 5; HNC; HND; Qualified Teacher Status; Qualified Medical Doctor; Qualified Dentist; Qualified Nurse; Midwife; Health Visitor or equivalents.
- **Other qualifications/level unknown:** Other qualifications (e.g. City and Guilds; RSA/OCR; BTEC/Edexcel); Other Professional Qualifications.

Census briefings are published by Action Group for Irish Youth (AGIY) with data and analysis provided by Professor Bronwen Walter of Anglia Polytechnic University. AGIY is funded by the Association of London Government.

Action Group for Irish Youth
London Voluntary Sector Resource Centre, 356 Holloway Road, London N7 6PA
Telephone: 0207 700 8137, Fax: 0207 700 0099
Email: agjy@irish.org.uk, Web: www.irish.org.uk

1. Housing Tenure

The housing tenure of the White Irish can be compared with that of the other major ethnic groups (Table 1.1). The main features are:

- The White Irish (52.1%) continue to have lower rates of owner-occupation than the White British majority (61.9%), as the Irish-born did in 1991. The greatest difference is between those who have mortgages in each group (30.0% of the Irish-born compared with 41.5% of the White British), rather than those who own outright (21.0% and 26% respectively).
- Owner-occupation is higher amongst the White Irish (52.1%) than for those identifying as Black Caribbean (44.6%) and Black African (23.5%), but substantially lower than for the Indian population (74.3%).
- Conversely a higher proportion of the White Irish live in social housing. Occupation of both council housing (20.9% compared with 15.4% of the White British) and housing association properties (11.7% compared with 7.8%) is greater than for the White British, but at a lower rate than for the Black Caribbean (46.9%) and Black African (57.0%) populations.
- Private rented rates are slightly higher for the white Irish (13.6%) than for the White British (13.4%), but lower than for the Black African population (16.4%).

Although comparisons with 1991 cannot be made directly, the White Irish ethnic group is still placed in an intermediate position between the White British and several other large ethnic groups.

For example, in 1991 30.5% of the Irish-born and 37.4% of Black Caribbean groups were owner occupiers with mortgages, compared with 39.2% of the White non-Irish. In 2001, the figures were 30.0% for the White Irish, 32.0% for the Black Caribbean and 35.1% for the White British respectively. Similarly in 1991, those renting social housing from the local authority included 8.0% of the Irish-born, 10.5% of the Black Caribbean population but only 5.1% of the White non-Irish. In 2001 the figures for the related ethnic categories were 20.9%, 29.3% and 15.4% respectively. This suggests that the position of Irish people in the London housing market still lags behind that of their white British peers and is, in fact, more comparable to other minority ethnic groups, especially the Black Caribbean population.

Table 1.1 Housing Tenure by Ethnicity

	White British	White Irish	Asian or Asian British: Indian	Black or Black British: Black: Caribbean	Black or Black British: Black African
	%	%	%	%	%
Owned	62.0	52.1	74.3	44.6	23.5
Owns outright	26.0	21.0	24.4	10.5	4.4
Owns with mortgage or loan	35.1	30.0	49.3	32.0	17.7
Shared ownership	0.9	1.1	0.6	2.1	1.3
Social rented	23.2	32.6	11.2	46.9	57.0
Rented from council	15.4	20.9	6.8	29.3	37.3
Other Social rented	7.8	11.7	4.4	17.6	19.6
Private rented	13.4	13.6	12.7	7.5	16.4
Private landlord or letting agency	12.3	12.5	11.5	6.9	15.5

Source: 2001 Census Standard Table S111, Crown Copyright

2. Overcrowding

The 2001 Census provides fewer published measures of housing quality than in the 1991 Census. One indication of the adequacy of housing for the White Irish group is the extent to which they live in overcrowded conditions. This is defined as having one or more rooms too few for the number of people living in the accommodation.

In common with other indicators of quality of life in this Profile, including unemployment, Table 2.1 shows that the White Irish population in London experiences on average poorer provision than the White British (18.1% living in overcrowded accommodation compared with 14.1% of the White British population). However those in the other large ethnic minority groups have considerably higher levels of overcrowding (Black Caribbean 27.1%, Asian Indian 31.0% and Black African 51.8%).

Highest rates of overcrowding amongst the White Irish population are in:

	White Irish	White British
Kensington & Chelsea	32.1%	24.6%
Camden	29.8%	24.0%
Westminster	29.6%	24.3%
Hammersmith & Fulham	27.5%	22.6%
Islington	25.4%	21.6%
Hackney	25.3%	21.2%

Each of these boroughs has rates for the White Irish which are substantially higher than for the White British populations.

Table 2.1 Overcrowding by Ethnicity (1+ rooms too few for the number of occupants)					
	White British	White Irish	Asian or Asian British: Indian	Black or Black British: Black Caribbean	Black or Black British: Black African
Barking & Dagenham	14.9	11.3	30.8	18.9	43.2
Barnet	9.2	13.2	23.1	21.4	43.8
Bexley	6.1	8.9	17.4	16.7	37.6
Brent	15.6	20.2	31.5	31.1	52.9
Bromley	5.6	8.0	15.3	14.6	35.6
Camden	24.0	29.8	33.7	38.2	59.5
City of London	28.2	39.2	32.7	45.7	60.2
Croydon	8.3	10.1	20.1	16.8	39.0
Ealing	14.3	16.3	32.2	28.2	55.5
Enfield	10.7	12.6	21.0	21.0	49.1
Greenwich	12.3	14.5	26.3	22.1	47.7
Hackney	21.2	25.3	39.9	37.2	60.8
Hammersmith & Fulham	22.6	27.5	32.8	41.3	58.1
Haringey	15.1	18.0	30.8	28.8	58.6
Harrow	7.1	9.7	22.7	16.8	39.7
Havering	6.6	7.3	19.0	13.3	29.3
Hillingdon	9.8	12.1	25.2	19.6	44.9
Hounslow	13.3	13.2	27.3	25.4	50.3
Islington	21.6	25.4	40.8	36.2	60.2
Kensington & Chelsea	24.6	32.1	31.1	46.9	60.9
Kingston upon Thames	8.3	10.4	19.9	17.2	38.5
Lambeth	15.5	18.1	26.8	31.2	53.2
Lewisham	13.6	19.8	25.9	25.8	49.0
Merton	9.9	11.0	21.6	17.0	41.9
Newham	17.6	18.4	41.8	28.1	57.3
Redbridge	7.2	8.2	22.0	14.7	43.9
Richmond upon Thames	7.0	10.6	17.2	12.4	34.5
Southwark	18.8	21.0	33.7	35.7	63.0
Sutton	7.9	7.7	13.4	15.2	36.9
Tower Hamlets	21.5	23.2	49.8	36.8	57.3
Waltham Forest	11.0	12.3	30.4	21.4	50.8
Wandsworth	13.0	16.3	29.4	32.3	51.1
Westminster	24.3	29.6	31.8	42.3	53.8
Inner London	18.8	23.3	36.3	32.6	57.4
Outer London	9.3	12.9	25.6	21.6	46.2
London	14.1	18.1	31.0	27.1	51.8

Source: 2001 Census Standard Table S123, Crown Copyright

3. Access to Resources by Borough

Table 3.1 brings together a number of measures of housing and quality of life from the 2001 Census. It shows that White Irish households, that is those where the person designated the household reference person (HRP) identified themselves as White Irish, had very varied living arrangements by borough.

- Highest rates of owner occupation were found in Havering (79%), Bexley (78%), Enfield (77%), Harrow (75%), Hillingdon (74%), Sutton (73%) and Bromley (72%). These are all outer London boroughs where, in general, cheaper properties are available. In 1991, boroughs with the highest proportions of Irish-born people in owner-occupation were very similar, though the proportions were slightly lower. They included Bexley 74.6%, Havering 73.9%, Enfield 70.0%, Hillingdon 67.8%, Bromley 66.9%, Redbridge 66.8% and Harrow 66.5%.
- Highest rates of social rented housing were in Islington (62%), Southwark (59%), Camden (57%), Hackney (53%), Tower Hamlets and Westminster 51%) and Hammersmith and Fulham 50%). Some of these are areas of

traditional settlement for Irish migrants. Property purchase prices are also significantly higher in these boroughs. Again these are similar areas to those recorded for the Irish-born in 1991, including (in Local Authority housing) Tower Hamlets 61.5%, Southwark 57.0%, Islington 55.4%, Camden 51.9% and Hackney 51.7%.

- Proportions living in houses were highest in Havering (82%), Bexley and Hillingdon (78%), Barking and Dagenham (76%), Harrow (75%) and Redbridge (74%).
- Proportions living in flats were greatest in Westminster (87%), Camden and Kensington and Chelsea (86%), Tower Hamlets (81%), Hounslow and Islington (79%), Southwark (74%), Hackney (73%) and Hammersmith and Fulham (70%).
- Lack of car ownership in White Irish households was highest in Westminster (71%), Camden (70%), Islington and Tower Hamlets (68%), Kensington and Chelsea (67%), Hackney (66%), Southwark (65%), Hammersmith and Fulham (64%) and Lambeth (62%). These low rates are similar to the 1991 proportions, which included 75.9% of the Irish-born population in Westminster, 73.0% in Tower Hamlets, 72.6% in Camden, 69.8% in Hackney and 69.6% in Hammersmith and Fulham.
- Car ownership rates were highest amongst White Irish households in Harrow and Hillingdon (only 27% without cars), Enfield and Sutton (only 29%) and Bexley and Bromley (only 30%). Again Hillingdon (only 31.8% without cars), Harrow (33.3%), Sutton (33.7%), Havering (33.8%), Bexley (35.3%) and Bexley and Enfield (both 35.3%) had highest car ownership rates amongst the Irish-born in 1991.

It is noticeable that these observations follow an inner/outer London pattern. As this correlated with housing quality in 1991 it is likely that car ownership reflects income differences in the two parts of the city.

Lack of car ownership is an important measure of relative disadvantage within single boroughs. It limits access to employment, service facilities and leisure opportunities. Table 3.2 shows comparative rates of car ownership by major ethnic group.

- The White Irish group had significantly lower car ownership rates than *all* other major groups, especially in Inner London boroughs where 62.6% did not own a car, compared with 57.9% of Black Caribbean, 52.05% of Black African, 47.9% of White British and 40.6% of Asian Indian households.
- Boroughs where the difference between White British and White Irish car ownership were particularly marked included Kensington & Chelsea (67.5% and 44.4% respectively), Hammersmith & Fulham (64.1% and 43.4%), Westminster (70.7% and 51.9%) and Islington (68.3% and 54.7%).

Table 3.1 Irish households by tenure, accommodation type and car ownership 2001

Borough	Irish Households	% of Irish Households				
		Owned	Socially Rented	No Car	In Houses	In Flats
City of London	149	37	29	70	0	87
Barking & Dagenham	1,583	62	30	48	76	23
Barnet	5,458	65	20	35	61	37
Bexley	1,637	78	15	30	78	20
Brent	9,517	57	27	44	54	44
Bromley	2,554	72	17	30	66	32
Camden	5,559	23	57	70	12	86
Croydon	3,891	69	17	34	68	30
Ealing	7,374	64	22	39	57	41
Enfield	4,176	77	11	29	69	30
Greenwich	2,838	47	43	49	54	44
Hackney	3,781	32	53	66	24	73
Hammersmith & Fulham	4,912	33	50	64	28	70
Haringey	5,105	47	34	54	47	51
Harrow	4,367	75	13	27	75	24
Havering	1,805	79	14	31	82	18
Hillingdon	3,623	74	16	27	78	20
Hounslow	3,270	59	25	36	58	40
Islington	6,228	26	62	68	19	79
Kensington & Chelsea	3,416	29	48	67	12	86
Kingston upon Thames	1,688	69	16	32	63	34
Lambeth	5,022	35	47	62	30	69
Lewisham	3,850	53	35	47	51	48
Merton	3,003	71	15	35	66	33
Newham	1,958	47	37	59	58	40
Redbridge	2,901	76	11	31	74	25
Richmond upon Thames	2,471	65	15	30	58	39
Southwark	4,570	29	59	65	24	74
Sutton	2,025	73	17	29	69	29
Tower Hamlets	2,493	30	51	68	16	81
Waltham Forest	2,771	63	20	43	62	37
Wandsworth	4,593	50	30	52	36	62
Westminster	4,342	26	51	71	10	87
Inner London	55,981	35	48	63	27	71
Outer London	66,957	67	20	36	64	34
Greater London	122,938	52	33	48	47	51
England & Wales	357,289	61	26	40	69	29

Source 2001 Census, Standard Tables, Table ST111 and Commissioned Table SCT001, and Howes, E (2004) 2001 Census Profiles: The Irish in London, DMAG Briefing 2004/11

Table 3.2 Lack of Car Ownership by Ethnicity					
	White British	White Irish	Asian or Asian British: Indian	Black or Black British: Black: Caribbean	Black or Black British: Black African
Barking & Dagenham	38.1	47.6	23.4	33.1	38.2
Barnet	26.7	34.7	16.3	33.7	35.7
Bexley	23.6	29.7	12.9	26.6	30.3
Brent	38.9	43.5	18.8	44.6	46.6
Bromley	22.4	30.0	15.9	32.9	37.6
City of London	57.1	69.8	61.3	63.6	79.0
Camden	52.7	69.7	46.5	64.6	62.5
Croydon	28.3	34.5	23.3	35.3	41.3
Ealing	32.2	39.4	20.0	38.5	45.8
Enfield	29.3	28.9	16.6	31.1	37.1
Greenwich	40.8	48.6	21.4	45.5	42.1
Hackney	55.7	65.7	40.5	64.3	50.1
Hammersmith & Fulham	43.4	64.1	43.2	64.2	58.0
Haringey	43.0	53.6	37.7	54.5	52.4
Harrow	25.2	26.8	12.1	23.8	33.3
Havering	23.2	31.1	14.0	22.8	26.8
Hillingdon	22.2	27.2	10.7	25.5	37.2
Hounslow	29.8	36.1	17.3	33.0	45.0
Islington	54.7	68.3	53.8	65.5	59.3
Kensington & Chelsea	44.4	67.5	50.8	70.4	66.5
Kingston upon Thames	23.9	31.9	16.9	28.7	37.6
Lambeth	47.2	61.7	40.1	59.9	51.0
Lewisham	41.3	47.0	42.7	45.0	43.7
Merton	30.5	35.5	20.5	32.1	32.5
Newark	52.6	58.6	33.9	51.5	49.5
Redbridge	27.7	30.6	13.9	27.5	41.2
Richmond upon Thames	23.7	29.5	13.9	26.5	38.2
Southwark	50.2	64.6	39.1	61.3	47.7
Sutton	23.5	28.9	12.4	23.3	35.9
Tower Hamlets	55.6	67.8	51.2	67.1	61.7
Waltham Forest	37.8	43.3	26.6	42.6	48.2
Wandsworth	37.8	52.1	33.8	55.2	51.2
Westminster	51.9	70.7	47.9	70.0	63.7
Inner London	47.9	62.6	40.6	57.9	52.0
Outer London	28.1	35.5	17.0	36.3	40.8
London	52.1	66.8	37.3	65.3	66.8

Source: 2001 Census Standard Table S111, Crown Copyright

Census briefings are published by Action Group for Irish Youth (AGIY) with data and analysis provided by Professor Bronwen Walter of Anglia Polytechnic University. AGIY is funded by the Association of London Government.

Action Group for Irish Youth
 London Voluntary Sector Resource Centre, 356 Holloway Road, London N7 6PA
 Telephone: 0207 700 8137, Fax: 0207 700 0099
 Email: agiy@irish.org.uk, Web: www.irish.org.uk

census 2001

irish in london

Health

Health

Some of the clearest indicators of difference between the White Irish and White British populations in Britain are those relating to health. The 2001 Census included three measures of self-assessed health including:

- Limiting long-term illness
- General health
- Permanently sick and unable to work

In order to provide an overall index of poor health, this Profile utilises data representing people recording *both* Limiting Long-term Illness *and* Not Good Health.

There has been a substantial amount of research on the health of the Irish in Britain over the past fifteen years. For England and Wales the most useful statistical source is the ONS Longitudinal Study which allows Census data from 1971 to be linked up with National Health Service records (Raftery, Jones and Rosato 1990; Harding and Balarajan 1996; Harding 1998, 1999; Harding, Brown, Rosato and Hattersley 1999; Williams and Ecob 1999). Use has also been made of the General Household Survey which also includes health questions (Pearson, Madden and Greenslade 1992).

These analyses all show that Irish-born people in Britain suffer higher rates of ill-health than their counterparts born in Britain, and moreover are the only migrant group whose life expectancy is lower in Britain than it would be in their homeland. In addition, what is particularly important to note in the light of the new White Irish ethnic category is that **the health of the second-generation Irish is also poorer than that of the 'white' British population of equivalent age and social status.** Raftery et al (1990) show that the high standardised mortality ratios (SMRs) found in the migrant generation extend also to the second generation, regardless of Republic or Northern Ireland birthplace or whether one or two parents were Irish-born.

Although those in higher social classes had better health than those in lower ones, this did not fully explain overall differences between the two population groups.

Raftery et al (1990) dismiss the selection effect, that is the migration from Ireland of families with poorer health. Instead they argue that persistent raised mortality may reflect longstanding disadvantage. Older migrants appeared to have relatively poorer health than more recent ones, despite leaving Ireland at a time when SMRs were lower than in Britain, again suggesting that damage to health has taken place after arrival. They argue that 'the raised mortality ratios in a group of some two and a quarter million persons, or over 4% of the UK population give grounds for serious concern'. An even more detailed study of the health of second-generation Irish people using Longitudinal Study data for the period 1971-89 was carried out by Harding and Balarajan (1996). The researchers derived sex-specific SMRs for all causes of death adjusted for age and year. Findings were presented for age adjusted mortality, including as of 'working age' men 15-64 and women 15-59.

The results showed significantly higher mortality amongst second-generation Irish women and men than amongst all women in these age groups. This was true over most major causes and was particularly noticeable for cancers for working age men, and women over 59. For these older women, early deaths from respiratory diseases were also significantly higher than average. Amongst younger women excess deaths from 'other cancers' peaked at the young age of 35-44.

Harding and Balarajan concluded that the patterns showed strong similarities to the poor health patterns of the Irish-born cohort. They put forward a number of factors which need fuller investigation, including lifestyle factors (especially smoking and drinking), economic and social upheaval arising out of migration, lack of support for Irish identities in Britain, for example by institutions such as the Catholic church, and negative impact of the Northern Ireland conflict for those living in Britain. They argue strongly for further research into these qualitative aspects, citing the large size of the population involved, including a growing third generation.

1. London as a Whole

The main features of Table 1 include:

- Higher rates of poor health amongst the White Irish than the White British in all age groups.
- Highest rates of poor health amongst the White Irish aged 16-49 than in any of the five main ethnic groups in London
- Particularly high rates of poor health amongst White Irish men compared with women: in the 16-49 age group, 6.2% compared with 4.5%, in the 50-64 age group 20.3% compared with 16.2% and in the 65+ age group, 22.7% compared with 21.9%.
- The greatest gap between the White Irish and all other major ethnic groups is amongst men in the older middle aged group aged 50-64.

Table 1.1 Health: Limiting long-term illness and not good health London, 2001					
	White Irish	White British	Black: Caribbean	Black: African	Asian: Indian
	%	%	%	%	%
All					
16-49	5.3	3.7	4.4	2.9	3.3
50-64	18.1	11.9	19.7	12.4	18.2
65+	22.3	13.6	29.0	19.6	28.8
Men					
16-49	6.2	3.6	4.0	2.6	2.9
50-64	20.3	12.3	18.3	10.0	15.6
65+	22.7	19.8	26.0	17.2	23.0
Women					
16-49	4.5	3.8	4.6	3.2	3.8
50-64	16.2	11.6	20.6	14.5	20.6
65+	21.9	21.7	31.8	22.1	34.5

Source: Census 2001. Crown Copyright

2. Variations by borough by working age groups

There are sharp differences in the rates of poor health by London borough (Table 2.1).

White Irish Men aged 16-49

Younger White Irish men in the working age group 16-49 have significantly poorer health than their White British counterparts. Boroughs with the greatest gap between the two groups include:

Table 2.1 Boroughs with largest differentials health of men aged 16-49		
	White Irish	White British
Camden	13.4%	5.3%
Islington	11.4%	5.4%
Barking & Dagenham	10.5%	5.6%
Tower Hamlets	10.3%	5.4%
Hammersmith & Fulham	9.0%	3.3%
Southwark	8.8%	4.5%
Westminster	8.6%	3.7%
Kensington & Chelsea	7.4%	5.4%
Greenwich	7.3%	5.0%
Lambeth	7.2%	3.8%

White Irish Men aged 50-64

Gaps are also large in the older working age group.

Table 2.2 Boroughs with largest differentials in health of men aged 50-64		
	White Irish	White British
Hackney	35.5%	20.5%
Islington	34.0%	17.9%
Tower Hamlets	32.8%	22.6%
Camden	30.8%	16.4%
Southwark	26.7%	17.6%
Hammersmith & Fulham	25.3%	14.1%
Kensington & Chelsea	23.4%	9.5%
Greenwich	23.1%	15.5%
Lambeth	23.0%	15.9%
Haringey	22.6%	13.7%
Lewisham	22.2%	15.2%

White Irish women aged 16-49

The gap for White Irish women is smaller, but still consistent in boroughs with large White Irish populations, although smaller than that for men in the same age category.

Table 2.3 Boroughs with largest differentials in health of women aged 16-49		
	White Irish	White British
Islington	8.6%	5.1%
Westminster	7.7%	4.1%
Camden	7.4%	4.7%
Southwark	7.2%	4.5%
Hackney	7.0%	5.0%
Tower Hamlets	6.6%	6.6%
Hammersmith & Fulham	6.2%	3.3%

White Irish women aged 50-64

A gap also exists for women in the older middle aged category, but at a smaller rate from that of men.

Table 2.4 Boroughs with largest differentials in health of women aged 50-64		
	White Irish	White British
Hackney	28.5%	21.1%
Westminster	24.7%	12.3%
Islington	24.6%	18.9%
Hammersmith & Fulham	23.1%	13.3%
Southwark	23.0%	16.5%
Barking & Dagenham	21.6%	16.9%
Camden	21.5%	13.3%

Table 2.5 People reporting *both* Long-term Illness and Not Good Health: Men Aged 16-49

	White British	White Irish	Asian or Asian British: Indian	Black or Black British: Black Caribbean	Black or Black British: Black African
Barking & Dagenham	5.6	10.5	3.1	3.7	1.3
Barnet	2.9	3.0	2.3	4.2	1.8
Bexley	2.7	2.9	2.3	1.7	1.0
Brent	3.6	6.2	2.6	2.6	3.2
Bromley	2.7	3.6	1.2	2.1	1.6
Camden	5.3	13.4	2.2	6.2	5.2
City of London	3.6	7.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Croydon	3.4	4.9	2.5	2.8	2.1
Ealing	2.9	3.6	3.2	3.7	2.7
Enfield	3.5	3.3	2.6	3.0	2.6
Greenwich	5.0	7.3	3.5	3.8	1.8
Hackney	5.7	9.5	7.3	6.9	2.9
Hammersmith & Fulham	3.3	9.0	3.4	5.7	3.7
Haringey	3.7	6.7	3.7	5.3	3.2
Harrow	2.8	3.4	1.9	2.4	3.2
Havering	3.0	3.2	1.4	2.3	1.1
Hillingdon	2.8	4.5	2.6	3.0	2.6
Hounslow	3.4	4.8	2.6	3.7	2.9
Islington	5.4	11.4	3.9	9.2	4.9
Kensington & Chelsea	3.8	7.4	3.5	5.9	5.0
Kingston upon Thames	2.0	2.5	1.0	3.0	3.2
Lambeth	3.8	7.2	2.9	4.3	2.2
Lewisham	4.0	4.5	3.1	3.5	1.5
Merton	2.5	3.2	2.5	1.8	1.2
Newham	7.6	9.0	4.3	3.7	2.9
Redbridge	3.2	4.2	3.3	2.5	3.0
Richmond upon Thames	2.2	1.7	1.5	2.1	2.3
Southwark	4.5	8.8	2.3	4.3	1.7
Sutton	2.8	5.2	0.5	3.7	1.3
Tower Hamlets	5.4	10.3	4.4	5.6	3.9
Waltham Forest	4.0	6.4	4.0	3.2	3.1
Wandsworth	2.6	5.5	3.3	4.3	2.2
Westminster	3.7	8.6	2.1	5.4	6.3
Inner London	4.3	8.5	3.8	4.9	2.8
Outer London	3.2	4.4	2.6	2.9	2.4

Table 2.6 People reporting *both* Long-term Illness and Not Good Health: Men Aged 50-64

	White British	White Irish	Asian or British: Indian	Black or Black British: Black Caribbean	Black or Black British: Black African
Barking & Dagenham	17.6	24.9	21.0	12.8	4.3
Barnet	9.3	15.5	12.8	12.2	7.1
Bexley	10.0	12.4	12.3	9.8	3.3
Brent	14.0	20.1	14.6	16.2	11.9
Bromley	8.5	12.4	9.4	11.6	3.7
Camden	16.4	30.8	12.7	22.4	18.3
City of London	9.9	25.0	37.5	0.0	50.0
Croydon	10.0	11.6	12.8	14.7	4.8
Ealing	12.2	16.3	18.8	17.3	10.7
Enfield	12.0	12.4	13.2	12.2	6.4
Greenwich	15.5	23.1	20.8	20.1	6.5
Hackney	20.5	35.5	30.3	31.1	11.2
Hammersmith & Fulham	14.1	25.3	12.4	22.5	10.7
Haringey	13.7	22.6	19.6	21.0	11.9
Harrow	7.9	10.5	11.0	9.3	11.3
Havering	10.8	15.6	10.4	13.2	6.5
Hillingdon	10.3	13.2	14.4	11.2	7.4
Hounslow	12.0	14.5	15.9	18.1	20.4
Islington	17.9	34.0	22.8	22.7	16.2
Kensington & Chelsea	9.5	23.4	11.3	20.5	17.1
Kingston upon Thames	8.5	13.3	8.5	6.5	7.3
Lambeth	15.9	23.0	19.5	21.9	8.6
Lewisham	15.2	22.2	18.4	14.4	8.7
Merton	9.8	14.4	11.8	14.6	5.6
Newham	24.1	24.7	24.9	18.6	10.9
Redbridge	10.8	13.0	16.5	12.2	9.4
Richmond upon Thames	7.3	12.2	9.4	13.5	11.5
Southwark	17.6	26.7	15.6	20.9	7.1
Sutton	9.2	13.2	12.3	7.4	3.2
Tower Hamlets	22.6	32.8	40.0	23.3	19.5
Waltham Forest	13.3	18.9	21.5	18.8	7.4
Wandsworth	13.0	20.3	14.7	16.5	10.7
Westminster	11.5	21.2	11.9	18.6	13.4
Inner London	16.0	26.7	20.2	21.2	11.2
Outer London	10.7	15.5	14.6	14.9	8.2

Table 2.7 People reporting *both* Long-term Illness and Not Good Health: Women Ages 16-49

	White British	White Irish	Asian or Asian British: Indian	Black or Black British: Black Caribbean	Black or Black British: Black African
Barking & Dagenham	5.6	4.5	6.1	4.8	1.9
Barnet	3.3	3.9	3.2	4.0	2.6
Bexley	3.0	3.1	3.2	2.3	1.1
Brent	3.9	5.0	3.6	4.7	3.9
Bromley	2.9	3.0	1.7	4.0	0.9
Camden	4.7	7.4	2.5	6.3	5.3
City of London	2.3	4.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Croydon	3.7	4.8	3.3	3.1	2.4
Ealing	3.2	3.5	4.5	4.3	3.9
Enfield	3.8	2.8	3.6	3.5	3.3
Greenwich	5.1	4.1	2.7	3.5	2.2
Hackney	5.0	7.0	6.6	6.4	2.9
Hammersmith & Fulham	3.3	6.2	3.3	5.5	3.4
Haringey	3.8	3.6	4.6	5.2	3.6
Harrow	3.5	2.7	2.7	2.7	3.0
Havering	3.5	3.1	3.1	4.4	1.7
Hillingdon	3.4	2.8	3.4	2.9	3.5
Hounslow	3.8	3.4	4.0	4.1	4.6
Islington	5.1	8.6	4.5	7.8	5.0
Kensington & Chelsea	3.7	4.9	3.2	4.9	5.1
Kingston upon Thames	2.7	3.1	2.1	3.0	2.3
Lambeth	3.3	4.5	4.1	5.1	3.1
Lewisham	4.2	5.1	3.1	4.4	2.4
Merton	2.8	2.0	3.5	3.5	2.1
Newham	7.8	7.2	6.1	4.8	3.3
Redbridge	3.5	4.1	4.6	3.8	3.7
Richmond upon Thames	2.3	1.8	3.9	5.8	3.7
Southwark	4.5	7.2	1.9	5.8	2.3
Sutton	3.2	2.9	1.7	1.1	1.9
Tower Hamlets	5.8	6.6	3.2	5.1	3.2
Waltham Forest	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.0	3.5
Wandsworth	2.6	3.0	4.1	5.7	3.7
Westminster	4.1	7.7	2.6	5.8	5.4
Inner London	4.2	5.9	4.6	5.4	3.3
Outer London	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.8	3.0

Table 2.8 People reporting <i>both</i> Long-term Illness and Not Good Health: Women Aged 50-64					
	White British	White Irish	Asian or Asian British: Indian	Black or Black British: Black Caribbean	Black or Black British: Black African
Barking & Dagenham	16.9	21.6	23.4	16.0	11.9
Barnet	8.9	9.7	15.5	14.3	10.8
Bexley	9.1	12.2	23.3	11.0	5.6
Brent	13.3	14.4	19.6	19.2	13.6
Bromley	7.8	9.3	9.8	18.0	8.7
Camden	13.3	21.5	19.6	24.4	19.1
City of London	8.0	16.7	31.6	0.0	0.0
Croydon	9.7	12.1	18.0	14.9	11.6
Ealing	11.4	14.1	25.8	16.2	13.1
Enfield	11.3	12.1	16.5	14.9	11.9
Greenwich	15.2	21.4	29.4	21.7	11.8
Hackney	21.1	28.5	37.0	26.9	15.8
Hammersmith & Fulham	13.3	23.1	20.0	24.4	14.5
Haringey	13.7	19.3	20.1	24.0	18.3
Harrow	7.9	10.7	16.0	12.0	8.6
Havering	9.7	10.2	13.1	11.3	15.8
Hillingdon	9.9	11.3	22.0	9.8	19.6
Hounslow	11.2	13.0	22.2	13.7	17.6
Islington	18.9	24.6	25.0	30.7	18.4
Kensington & Chelsea	9.0	16.6	10.0	19.2	27.1
Kingston upon Thames	7.7	7.7	14.8	11.8	15.2
Lambeth	14.8	17.5	20.6	25.0	13.9
Lewisham	14.5	18.9	19.8	22.0	11.4
Merton	9.8	15.3	18.5	15.6	11.5
Newham	21.6	21.9	31.0	23.5	16.5
Redbridge	10.4	11.2	22.6	19.5	10.0
Richmond upon Thames	6.9	9.1	15.6	6.0	20.0
Southwark	16.5	23.0	19.6	22.5	11.8
Sutton	8.7	11.8	7.5	12.3	7.7
Tower Hamlets	21.2	23.2	31.9	27.3	27.9
Waltham Forest	13.1	15.0	24.9	20.5	14.1
Wandsworth	12.5	15.9	20.4	18.2	11.7
Westminster	12.3	24.7	14.5	22.6	19.1
Inner London	15.2	21.4	23.9	23.9	15.8
Outer London	10.2	12.7	19.9	16.7	12.3

Table 2.8 People reporting *both* Long-term Illness and Not Good Health: Women Aged 50-64

	White British	White Irish	Asian or Asian British: Indian	Black or Black British: Black Caribbean	Black or Black British: Black African
Barking & Dagenham	16.9	21.6	23.4	16.0	11.9
Barnet	8.9	9.7	15.5	14.3	10.8
Bexley	9.1	12.2	23.3	11.0	5.6
Brent	13.3	14.4	19.6	19.2	13.6
Bromley	7.8	9.3	9.8	18.0	8.7
Camden	13.3	21.5	19.6	24.4	19.1
City of London	8.0	16.7	31.6	0.0	0.0
Croydon	9.7	12.1	18.0	14.9	11.6
Ealing	11.4	14.1	25.8	16.2	13.1
Enfield	11.3	12.1	16.5	14.9	11.9
Greenwich	15.2	21.4	29.4	21.7	11.8
Hackney	21.1	28.5	37.0	26.9	15.8
Hammersmith & Fulham	13.3	23.1	20.0	24.4	14.5
Haringey	13.7	19.3	20.1	24.0	18.3
Harrow	7.9	10.7	16.0	12.0	8.6
Havering	9.7	10.2	13.1	11.3	15.8
Hillingdon	9.9	11.3	22.0	9.8	19.6
Hounslow	11.2	13.0	22.2	13.7	17.6
Islington	18.9	24.6	25.0	30.7	18.4
Kensington & Chelsea	9.0	16.6	10.0	19.2	27.1
Kingston upon Thames	7.7	7.7	14.8	11.8	15.2
Lambeth	14.8	17.5	20.6	25.0	13.9
Lewisham	14.5	18.9	19.8	22.0	11.4
Merton	9.8	15.3	18.5	15.6	11.5
Newham	21.6	21.9	31.0	23.5	16.5
Redbridge	10.4	11.2	22.6	19.5	10.0
Richmond upon Thames	6.9	9.1	15.6	6.0	20.0
Southwark	16.5	23.0	19.6	22.5	11.8
Sutton	8.7	11.8	7.5	12.3	7.7
Tower Hamlets	21.2	23.2	31.9	27.3	27.9
Waltham Forest	13.1	15.0	24.9	20.5	14.1
Wandsworth	12.5	15.9	20.4	18.2	11.7
Westminster	12.3	24.7	14.5	22.6	19.1
Inner London	15.2	21.4	23.9	23.9	15.8
Outer London	10.2	12.7	19.9	16.7	12.3

Census briefings are published by Action Group for Irish Youth (AGIY) with data and analysis provided by Professor Bronwen Walter of Anglia Polytechnic University. AGIY is funded by the Association of London Government.

Action Group for Irish Youth
 London Voluntary Sector Resource Centre, 356 Holloway Road, London N7 6PA
 Telephone: 0207 700 8137, Fax: 0207 700 0099
 Email: agiy@irish.org.uk, Web: www.irish.org.uk

References

- Harding S. (1998a) The health of the second generation Irish living in England and Wales in *The Health of the Irish in Britain: a report of a community conference* London: Federation of Irish Societies
- Harding S. (1998b) 'The incidence of cancers among second generation Irish living in England and Wales', *British Journal of Cancer* 78.7:958-961
- Harding S. and Balarajan R. (1996) 'Patterns of mortality in second generation Irish living in England and Wales: longitudinal study', *British Medical Journal* 312:1389-1392
- Harding S., Brown J., Rosato M. and Hattersley L. (1999) 'Socio-economic differentials in health: illustrations from the Office for National Statistics longitudinal study', *Health Statistics Quarterly* 01:5-15
- Pearson M., Madden M. and Greenslade L. (1991) *Generations of an invisible minority: the health and well being of the Irish in Britain* Occasional Papers 2, Institute of Irish Studies, University of Liverpool
- Raftery J., Jones D. and Rosato M. (1990) 'The mortality of first and second generation Irish immigrants in the UK', *Social Science of Medicine* 31.5:577-584
- Williams R. and Ecob R. (1999) 'Regional mortality and the Irish in Britain: findings from the ONS longitudinal study', *Sociology of Health and Illness* 21:344-367

Irish Women in London

Irish women comprise 54.5% of the Irish-born population in London and have distinctive experiences of living in London. The greater proportion of women is a characteristic of the Republic-born section of the population, numbers of women and men being almost equal amongst those born in Northern Ireland. Women formed a slightly smaller proportion than this of those ticking the White Irish box (53.2%), with a greater gender difference amongst those born in Northern Ireland (39.0% of men and 34.9% of women) than in the Irish Republic (93.2% of men and 92.7% of women).

This section provides more detail on aspects of Irish women's lives and brings together data from elsewhere in the Profile.

Irish-born numbers by gender and birthplace in Ireland

Irish-born women from the Republic outnumber men in London, reflecting higher rates of immigration especially in the past, greater longevity and possibly differential rates of return to Ireland (Table 1).

Table 1 Totals of Irish-born women and men, London, 2001			
	Women	Men	Total
Irish Republic	87,486	69,799	157,285
Northern Ireland	18,648	18,926	37,574
Total	106,134	88,725	194,859

Source: 2001 Census Standard Table S015, Crown Copyright

Geographical location of Irish-born women

Although substantial numbers of Irish-born women are located in every London borough, they are particularly clustered in

Inner and adjacent Outer boroughs on the west side of London (Table 2).

The average proportion of the population in London boroughs is 3.1% in Inner London and 2.9% in Outer London.

- boroughs where they comprise the largest proportion of the total population (over 4%) include Brent (5.6%), Islington and Hammersmith and Fulham (both 4.6%), Ealing (4.3%) and Camden (4%). These are adjacent boroughs immediately west of the city centre.
- boroughs where they comprise the smallest proportions (under 2%) are Newham (1.2%), Bexley (1.5%), Barking and Dagenham (1.6%), Havering and Tower Hamlets (1.7%). These extend eastwards from the city centre in the opposite direction.

Change in numbers 1991-2001

There has been a sharp decline in numbers of Irish-born women in every borough since 1991 (with the exception of the very sparsely populated City of London) (Table 3). The rate varies from Barking and Dagenham where unusually there was almost no change (-0.1%) in the decade to Lambeth which lost over one third of its female Irish-born population (-34.1%).

- Boroughs which recorded greatest losses (over 30%) were Lambeth (-34.1%), Westminster (-33.0%), Brent (32.0%), Islington (-30.9%) and Newham (-30.3%). These include boroughs with large Irish populations, perhaps of more recent origin and with stronger Irish connections.
- Boroughs with smallest losses (under 10%) were Barking and Dagenham (-0.1%), Richmond upon Thames (-2.5%), Bexley (-4.7%), Sutton (-7.0%), Havering (-9.4%) and Hillingdon (-5.3%). These are generally Outer London boroughs, perhaps with longer-established and more settled Irish-born women.

Numbers identifying as White Irish, 2001

Proportions of Irish-born women ticking the 'White Irish' box in the 2001 Census varied by borough, particularly in the case of women born in Northern Ireland. This may reflect a number of factors including the different responses by women from nationalist and unionist backgrounds, class differences and different exposure to campaigns informing people about the availability of the new categories. Table 4 shows that:

- in total 92.7% of women born in the Irish Republic ticked the 'White Irish' box.
- there were almost equal proportions in Inner (92.8%) and Outer (92.6%) boroughs.
- these ranged from a high value of 96.4% in Brent, followed by 94.4% in Enfield and 94.3% in Haringey and Harrow, to 88.3% in Hillingdon and 88.7% in Bromley at the lowest end of the scale.
- for Northern Irish-born women, however, there was much greater variation, the average of 34.6% ticking the 'White Irish' box ranging from 37.3% in Inner London to 32.5% in Outer London. In individual boroughs the range was from Brent (46.2%) to Bromley (21.1%).
- highest rates of response (over 40%) to this ethnic category were in Brent (46.2%), Islington (44.3%), Hackney (44.0%) and Ealing (41.0%).
- lowest rates (under 30%) were in Bromley (21.1%), Hillingdon (25.1%), Havering (26.5%) Kingston-upon-Thames (27.8%), Barking and Dagenham (28.2%), Bexley 28.4%, Sutton (29.1%) and Croydon (29.8%).

Table 2 Numbers and proportions of women by birthplace and White Irish ethnicity						
	Irish-born				White Irish (All Women)	
	Irish Republic	Northern Ireland	Total	%	<i>n</i>	%
Barking & Dagenham	1,239	177	1,416	1.6	1,479	1.7
Barnet	4,333	772	5,105	3.1	5,832	3.5
Bexley	1,379	363	1,742	1.5	1,735	1.5
Brent	6,957	679	7,636	5.6	9,501	7.0
Bromley	2,106	649	2,755	1.8	2,630	1.7
Camden	3,641	641	4,102	4.0	4,689	4.6
City of London	82	41	123	3.7	126	3.8
Croydon	2,972	697	3,669	2.1	3,816	2.2
Ealing	5,716	926	6,642	4.3	7,625	5.0
Enfield	3,145	536	3,681	2.6	4,640	3.2
Greenwich	1,873	557	2,430	2.2	2,526	2.3
Hackney	2,241	477	2,718	2.6	3,142	3.0
Hammersmith & Fulham	3,326	665	3,991	4.6	4,231	4.9
Haringey	3,265	737	4,002	3.5	4,931	4.4
Harrow	3,401	536	3,937	3.7	4,897	5.5
Havering	1,603	336	1,939	1.7	1,932	1.7
Hillingdon	3,051	680	3,731	3.0	3,738	3.0
Hounslow	2,686	569	3,255	3.0	3,426	3.2
Islington	3,556	693	4,249	4.6	5,055	5.5
Kensington & Chelsea	2,112	470	2,582	3.1	2,710	3.3
Kingston upon Thames	1,370	464	1,834	2.4	1,758	2.3
Lambeth	3,204	818	4,022	3.0	4,396	3.3
Lewisham	2,448	612	3,060	2.4	3,475	2.7
Merton	2,231	579	2,810	2.9	3,000	3.1
Newham	1,248	277	1,525	1.2	1,650	1.3
Redbridge	2,326	440	2,766	2.3	2,988	2.4
Richmond upon Thames	1,987	732	2,719	3.1	2,672	3.0
Southwark	2,978	674	3,652	2.9	3,932	3.1
Sutton	1,655	405	2,060	2.2	2,078	2.2
Tower Hamlets	1,277	408	1,685	1.7	1,751	1.8
Waltham Forest	2,025	420	2,445	2.2	2,757	2.5
Wandsworth	3,404	984	4,388	3.2	4,492	3.3
Westminster	2,829	631	3,460	3.7	3,631	3.9
Inner London	2,544	581	3,111	3.2	48,209	3.4
Outer London	2,740	554	3,293	2.7	69,042	3.0
London	2,642	568	3,202	3.0	117,251	3.2

Source: 2001 Census Standard Tables S015, S102 & T13, Crown Copyright

Table 3 Change in numbers of Irish-born women in London boroughs, 1991 -2001, %	
	% Change
Barking & Dagenham	-0.1
Barnet	-20.0
Bexley	-4.7
Brent	-32.0
Bromley	-10.9
Camden	-28.9
City of London	+86.4
Croydon	-20.3
Ealing	-23.4
Enfield	-14.1
Greenwich	-20.4
Hackney	-26.4
Hammersmith & Fulham	-26.4
Haringey	-25.7
Harrow	-24.8
Havering	-9.4
Hillingdon	-5.3
Hounslow	-22.4
Islington	-30.9
Kensington & Chelsea	-16.2
Kingston upon Thames	-11.5
Lambeth	-34.1
Lewisham	-23.7
Merton	-10.9
Newham	-30.3
Redbridge	-22.6
Richmond upon Thames	-2.5
Southwark	-27.8
Sutton	-7.0
Tower Hamlets	-12.7
Waltham Forest	-26.7
Wandsworth	-24.2
Westminster	-33.0
London	-16.5

Source: Source: Source: 1991 Census Local base Statistics, London; 2001 Census Standard tables SO15. Crown Copyright.

Table 4 Birthplace and ethnicity: women ticking 'White Irish' as percentage of Republic and Northern Irish-born totals of women in London, 2001, %

	Born in	
	Irish Republic	Northern Ireland
Barking & Dagenham	91.0	28.2
Barnet	93.1	35.9
Bexley	89.7	28.4
Brent	96.4	46.2
Bromley	88.7	21.1
Camden	93.8	37.8
City of London	90.2	36.6
Croydon	89.8	29.8
Ealing	94.1	41.0
Enfield	94.4	38.2
Greenwich	91.0	32.9
Hackney	91.9	44.0
Hammersmith & Fulham	93.5	36.2
Haringey	94.3	41.0
Harrow	94.3	35.1
Havering	91.1	26.5
Hillingdon	88.3	25.1
Hounslow	93.4	31.1
Islington	94.0	44.3
Kensington & Chelsea	88.4	32.1
Kingston upon Thames	89.6	27.8
Lambeth	92.8	39.6
Lewisham	92.5	38.6
Merton	89.6	27.8
Newham	93.4	41.2
Redbridge	92.4	30.2
Richmond upon Thames	89.1	30.9
Southwark	92.7	36.9
Sutton	90.8	29.1
Tower Hamlets	92.6	33.1
Waltham Forest	95.1	38.1
Wandsworth	91.9	28.4
Westminster	92.6	33.1
Inner London	92.8	37.3
Outer London	92.6	32.5
London	92.7	34.9

Source: 2001 Census Standard Table S015 & T13, Crown Copyright

Irish-born women of pensionable age

A very high proportion, well over a third of the female Irish-born population in London (37.8%), was aged 60+ in 2001.

- Boroughs with the highest proportions were Havering (47.9%), Kensington and Chelsea (46.9%) and Barking and Dagenham (46.0%). There large proportions in the East End and central parts of the city reflect residual settlement from earlier periods of settlement as well as the lack of attraction of these economically declining areas to recent migrants.
- Lower proportions of pensioners are found in Richmond-upon-Thames (26.3%) and Waltham Forest (29.9%).

Table 5 Irish-born women of pensionable age in London boroughs, 2001		
	<i>n</i>	%
Barking & Dagenham	651	46.0
Barnet	2,016	39.5
Bexley	775	44.5
Brent	2,874	37.6
Bromley	1,167	42.4
Camden	1,590	38.8
City of London	33	26.8
Croydon	1,517	41.3
Ealing	2,358	35.5
Enfield	1,216	33.0
Greenwich	893	36.7
Hackney	878	32.3
Hammersmith & Fulham	1,747	43.8
Haringey	1,293	32.3
Harrow	1,428	36.3
Havering	929	47.9
Hillingdon	1,410	37.8
Hounslow	1,096	33.7
Islington	1,551	36.5
Kensington & Chelsea	1,212	46.9
Kingston upon Thames	690	37.6
Lambeth	1,516	37.7
Lewisham	1,081	35.3
Merton	1,059	37.7
Newham	533	35.0
Redbridge	1,101	39.8
Richmond upon Thames	620	26.3
Southwark	1,321	36.2
Sutton	872	42.7
Tower Hamlets	563	33.4
Waltham Forest	732	29.9
Wandsworth	1,572	35.8
Westminster	1,588	45.9
Inner London	16,482	37.8
Outer London	23,589	37.7
London	20,036	37.8

Source: 2001 Census Standard Table S015, Crown Copyright

For data relating to Irish women in London, see also

- Demography: Table 1.3, Change in age groups of Irish-born people in London, 1991-2001
- Demography: 1.4, Age groups of Irish-born people in London, 2001
- Occupation: Table 1.1, Gender and Occupation by Ethnic Group
- Occupation: Table 2.2, Unemployment in London Boroughs by Ethnicity
- Health: Table 1.1, Limiting long-term illness and not good health, London, 2001
- Health: Table 2.7/2.8, People reporting *both* Long-term Illness and Not Good Health

Census briefings are published by Action Group for Irish Youth (AGIY) with data and analysis provided by Professor Bronwen Walter of Anglia Polytechnic University. AGIY is funded by the Association of London Government.

Action Group for Irish Youth
 London Voluntary Sector Resource Centre, 356 Holloway Road, London N7 6PA
 Telephone: 0207 700 8137, Fax: 0207 700 0099
 Email: agiy@irish.org.uk, Web: www.irish.org.uk

census 2001

irish in london

CONCLUSION

The inclusion of a White Irish tick-box in the 2001 Census placed the self-identified Irish population in London into an officially recognised 'ethnic' category, rather than simply a birthplace group, as it had been defined in 1991. This strengthened the case for inclusion of an Irish dimension in ethnic monitoring procedures and consultations involving minority communities.

However the statistics relating to the Irish in London are now less clear cut. Ethnic responses are the most widely used set of statistical data relating to migrant groups and their descendants and in 2001 much fuller tables were published using ethnic than birthplace data. But the form of the Census question and uncertainties about its meaning resulted in a very mixed set of responses from Irish people, which failed to include the full range of those they were intended to represent.

This means that comparisons with 1991 cannot be made with any degree of accuracy. In London, the largest proportion (66.3%) of those ticking 'White Irish' were born in the Irish Republic, who had formed 83.5% of the 'Born in Ireland' category in 1991. The second largest proportion (24.4%) was people who were born in England and had never been included before.

Very strongly under-represented were the Northern Irish born, who comprised only 6.3% of the 2001 category, but had made up 16.5% of the Irish birthplace group in 1991. Moreover the mix of responses by those born in different parts of Ireland and those born in England of Irish descent varied by borough. It is likely therefore that the 'White British' category contains a significant minority of Irish-born and people of recent Irish descent, who did not respond to the invitation to define themselves by their 'cultural background' (as invited to do by the rubric in the ethnic question), in the way intended by the Census designers.

Nevertheless, striking continuities on a broad scale continue to be apparent. Although the inclusion of what are widely thought to

be 'assimilated' people of Irish descent might have been expected to 'dilute' evidence of Irish difference, including disadvantage, this did not occur on a large scale. In key areas, such as housing tenure, car ownership and especially poor health, a differential remains between the majority White British population and those now defined as White Irish. This suggests both that important sections of the Irish-born population continue to be employed in lower-paying sections of the economy and to require affordable housing, and that the second, and perhaps third, generations born in England continue to experience poorer health, as recent research has demonstrated.

At the same time, there are pointers to improvements in the positioning of sectors of the broadly-defined Irish population. Smaller proportions of men, and especially women, are located in occupations requiring the lowest levels of skill.

Moreover, amongst those with no qualifications, who are least likely to obtain stable, well paid jobs, the White Irish are best placed in the youngest adult age groups, 16- 29. For example, only 2.6% of the White Irish population aged 24-34 had no qualifications, compared with 3.2% of the White British, 3.3% of the Black Caribbean, 3.8% of the Asian Indian and 5.3% of the Black African populations.

The 2001 Census remains by far the most detailed source of statistical data about the Irish community in London, despite the problems which have been outlined. The availability of information at a variety of geographical scales from citywide to ward level makes it unique in its coverage. Moreover, key elements of the Irish experience in London are recorded, including both improvements in the overall socio-economic position as well-educated younger migrants and second-generation Irish people have entered the labour force and the continuing issues of disadvantage amongst sections of the older, mainly Irish-born, population. There is clearly a need for an Irish ethnic category in future censuses and attention must now be paid to devising the most effective 'Irish' tick-box.

summary

Census briefings are published by Action Group for Irish Youth (AGIY) with data and analysis provided by Professor Bronwen Walter of Anglia Polytechnic University. AGIY is funded by the Association of London Government.

Action Group for Irish Youth
London Voluntary Sector Resource Centre, 356 Holloway Road, London N7 6PA
Telephone: 0207 700 8137, Fax: 0207 700 0099
Email: agiy@irish.org.uk, Web: www.irish.org.uk