Overcrowding and Under-Occupation by Ethnic Group, 2011

Coverage: England and Wales
Date: 02 October 2014
Geographical Area: Local Authority and County
Theme: People and Places

Key Points

- In 2011, there were 1.1 million overcrowded households in England and Wales, with fewer bedrooms than the notional number recommended by the bedroom standard. Almost half (47.9%) of these households had a Household Reference Person (HRP) from a minority ethnic group (a group other than White British).
- Households with an HRP from a minority ethnic group represented 16.1% of all households but only 1 in 9 (11.1%) of the 16.1 million under-occupied households in England and Wales in 2011.
- Three-quarters (75.1%) of overcrowded households in London had a minority ethnic HRP compared with less than half (49.0%) of all households and only 38.4% of under-occupied households.
- Households with an HRP from the Bangladeshi ethnic group included a higher percentage (30.2%) of overcrowded households than those with an HRP of any other ethnic group.
- The highest proportions of households that were under-occupied were those with a White British or White Irish HRP (73.1% and 68.1% respectively).
- There were 16 local authorities in 2011 where overcrowded households with a HRP from a specific minority ethnic group were more numerous than overcrowded households with a White British HRP. In all local authorities, the total number of households with a White British HRP was highest.
- The five local authorities with the largest percentage of overcrowded households in 2011 all had at least 4 out of 5 of their overcrowded households with an HRP from a minority ethnic group.

Introduction

At the time of the 2011 Census there were 23.4 million households in England and Wales. An analysis of census data, Overcrowding and under-occupation in England and Wales, published in April 2014 used information on bedroom occupancy rating\(^1\) (OR), collected in the 2011 Census for the first time, and showed that:

- Less than 1 in 20 (1.1 million, 4.5%) households were considered to be overcrowded, having fewer bedrooms than the notional number recommended by the bedroom standard\(^2\).
Most households (16.1 million, 69.0%) were considered to be under-occupied, with at least one spare bedroom. More than a third of households (8.1 million, 34.6%) had two or more spare bedrooms. Overcrowding was much more prevalent in London than elsewhere in England and Wales, affecting 11.3% of households, more than double the next highest regional percentage, 4.5% in the West Midlands.

In this analysis, 2011 Census data are used to examine overcrowding and under-occupation for different ethnic groups. As the analysis focuses on households rather than individual residents, the ethnic group of the Household Reference Person (HRP) is used to characterise each household's ethnic group. This means that some individuals from a specific ethnic group may be classified as being in a household from a different group because of the ethnicity of the HRP.

This analysis includes sub-national data, including at local authority level. It also includes information about dependent and non-dependent children in households and data about overcrowding and under-occupation for individual residents, broken down by their ethnic group. Comparing the latter with the household statistics gives an indication of any effects of using the ethnic group of the HRP as a proxy for the household's ethnic group.

Comparisons are made in this analysis between ethnic groups. These groups classify people according to their own perceived ethnic group and cultural background and are distinct from country of birth and national identity classifications. The census glossary explains these and other terms used in the 2011 Census.

A further analysis of overcrowding and under-occupation data from the 2011 Census will focus on general health by occupancy rating.

Notes

1. Background Note 2 describes the occupancy rating and its definitions of overcrowding and under-occupation.

2. Background Note 3 has information about the Bedroom Standard.

3. Background Note 4 explains the concept of a Household Reference Person (HRP).

Occupancy Rating by Ethnic Group of HRP in England and Wales

In England and Wales in 2011, 16.1% (3.8 million) of the 23.4 million households had a Household Reference Person (HRP) in an ethnic group other than White British ("minority ethnic group"). As shown in Figure 1, this proportion varied between occupancy ratings:

- Almost half (47.9%) of the 1.1 million overcrowded households in England and Wales had an HRP from a minority ethnic group.
- Almost a quarter (23.5%) of households with a zero occupancy rating had an HRP from a minority ethnic group.
• A much smaller proportion (11.1%) of under-occupied households had an HRP in a minority ethnic group compared with overcrowded equivalents.

**Figure 1: Bedroom Occupancy Rating (OR) by Broad Ethnic Group of HRP**

England and Wales Households, 2011

![Chart showing bedroom occupancy rating by broad ethnic group.](chart.png)

Source: Census - Office for National Statistics

**Notes:**

1. Data from 2011 Census Table DC4206EW

**Download chart**

[XLS format](chart.xls) (27 Kb)

At the time of the census, the Other White ethnic group\(^6\) had more than double the number of households of any of the 16 other minority ethnic groups\(^7\), almost one million in total. Because of this, there were also more overcrowded households with an HRP of Other White ethnicity. However, comparing the percentages of households within each ethnic group that had specific occupancy ratings shows that households with HRPs from other, non-white, ethnic groups were more likely to be overcrowded, as Figure 2 highlights:

• Over 3 in 10 households (30.2%) with an HRP from the Bangladeshi ethnic group were overcrowded, a higher percentage than for any other ethnic group of HRP.
• The next highest proportions of overcrowded households were those with an HRP from the Pakistani ethnic group (22.3%) and those with an HRP from the Black African ethnic group (21.8%).
The lowest proportions of households that were overcrowded were those with an HRP of White British ethnicity (2.8%) or an HRP of White Irish ethnicity (3.6%). This was partly due to the age structure of such households.

The highest proportions of households that were under-occupied were also those with an HRP from the White British or White Irish ethnic group (73.1% and 68.1%, respectively).

In four additional HRP ethnic groups more than half of households were under-occupied in 2011: Indian (57.3%), Chinese (55.6%), Mixed White and Asian (55.3%) and Black Caribbean (50.1%).

Figure 2: Percentage of Bedroom Occupancy Rating (OR) by Ethnic Group of HRP

England and Wales Households, 2011

Source: Census - Office for National Statistics

Notes:
1. Data from 2011 Census Table DC4206EW

Although percentages varied across England and Wales in 2011, the same broad pattern of occupancy rating by ethnic group existed in London, elsewhere in England and in Wales. This is shown in Figure 3 and the data indicate that:

- In all three areas, the percentages of overcrowded households were more than three times greater for those with a Household Reference Person (HRP) from a minority ethnic group (not White British) than for those with a White British HRP, partly due to the differing age structures. In London, 17.4% of households with a minority ethnic HRP were overcrowded compared with 5.5% of those with a White British HRP.
- In 2011, the number of households in London was split almost equally between those with White British HRPs and those with a minority ethnic HRP. Therefore, for London only, Figure 3 shows the relative totals for occupancy ratings for households with White British and minority ethnic HRPs as well as the relative proportions. Three-quarters (75.1%) of overcrowded London households had an HRP from a minority ethnic group but this was true of less than two fifths (38.4%) of under-occupied London households.
- In England outside of London, just over 1 in 40 (2.6%) of households with a White British HRP were overcrowded, compared with more than 1 in 10 (10.8%) of minority ethnic households.
- In Wales, the proportion of households with a White British HRP that were overcrowded was, again, just over 1 in 40 (2.6%) but the proportion of households with a minority ethnic HRP that
were overcrowded was smaller than in England (8.4%). About one sixth (16.5%) of overcrowded Welsh households had a minority ethnic HRP.

- Over three-quarters (76.4%) of Welsh households with a White British HRP were under-occupied as were 57.8% of minority ethnic households. Both percentages were higher than in England (even if London is excluded).

**Figure 3: Bedroom Occupancy Rating (OR) by Broad Ethnic Group of HRP**

Households in London; England excluding London; and Wales, 2011

Source: Census - Office for National Statistics

Notes:
1. Data from 2011 Census Table DC4206EW

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**Occupancy Rating by Detailed Ethnic Group of HRP - London**

Overcrowding in 2011 was much more prevalent in London than in the rest of England and Wales. The previous release suggested that one potential reason for this was relatively higher house prices and rents in London. These could encourage more sharing among families and individuals who
would otherwise have occupied separate bedrooms, leading to a higher prevalence of overcrowding. The census analysis of concealed families provides further information.

The previous release also highlighted that, in 2011, London had the highest percentage of rented households of any region (about a half compared with about a third elsewhere in England and Wales) and the highest population density (52 people per hectare).

Figure 4 illustrates that, taking into account higher overall percentages, the pattern of the ranking by ethnic group in London was very similar to that for England and Wales as a whole, as shown in Figure 2:

- Over a third of London households (35.7%) with a Household Reference Person (HRP) from the Bangladeshi ethnic group were overcrowded in 2011. This was the highest percentage of any ethnic group of HRP, as was the case in England and Wales as a whole.
- The next highest proportions of overcrowded households in London were the same ethnic groups of HRP as nationally: Black African (26.7%) and Pakistani (25.3%).
- In only three ethnic groups of HRP were more than half of households in London under-occupied in 2011: White British (59.7%), White Irish (55.7%) and Indian (51.0%). In England and Wales as a whole this was true for six ethnic groups of HRP (see Figure 2).
Figure 4: Percentage of Bedroom Occupancy Rating (OR) by Ethnic Group of HRP
London Households, 2011

Source: Census - Office for National Statistics

Notes:
1. Data from 2011 Census Table DC4206EW

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(21 Kb)
Overcrowding by Broad Ethnic Group of HRP – Top 10 Local Authorities

The census analysis published in April 2014, *Overcrowding and under-occupation in England and Wales*, showed that the local authorities where overcrowding was most common tended to be in London. Figure 5 shows the 10 local authorities with the highest percentages of households that were overcrowded (with an occupancy rating of -1 or less). It illustrates how these percentages were broken down by broad ethnic group. All 10 were in London.

**Figure 5: Overcrowded households as a percentage of all households, by Broad Ethnic Group of HRP**

Top 10 Local Authorities 2011

![Bar chart showing overcrowding by broad ethnic group for top 10 local authorities in London.](chart)

Source: Census - Office for National Statistics

Notes:
1. Data from 2011 Census Table DC4206EW

Download chart

XLS XLS format

(28 Kb)

In each of the 10 local authorities with the largest percentage of households that were overcrowded in 2011, the majority of overcrowded households had a Household Reference Person (HRP) from one of the minority ethnic groups (i.e. other than White British). The top five local authorities all had
at least 4 out of 5 overcrowded households with such an HRP and this was at least 1 in 8 of all households in each case. The broad ethnic breakdowns varied among the 10 local authorities:

- Newham had the highest proportion of households that were overcrowded (25.2%) of all local authorities in England and Wales in 2011. It had a particularly high percentage of households that were overcrowded and had an HRP from an Asian ethnic group (11.9%).
- Tower Hamlets and Brent had the second and third highest percentages of households that were overcrowded with an HRP from an Asian ethnic group in England and Wales (9.0% and 6.4%, respectively).
- Southwark (6.6%), Newham (5.9%) and Hackney (5.1%) had the highest percentages of households in England and Wales that were overcrowded and had an HRP from a Black ethnic group.
- Haringey (5.0%), Brent (3.8%) and Newham (3.5%) had the highest percentages of households in England and Wales that were overcrowded and had an HRP from a White ethnic group other than British.
- Barking and Dagenham (4.6%) had the highest percentage of households in England and Wales that were overcrowded and had a White British HRP. Brighton and Hove (4.3%) and Harlow (4.0%) were ranked second and third but neither was one of the 10 local authorities with the highest percentage of overcrowded households.

**Overcrowding by Detailed Ethnic Group of HRP - Local Authorities**

Tables 1 and 2 focus on overcrowding within more detailed ethnic groups, using the 18 groups that were included on the census form (see background note 1). They highlight areas where there were relatively large populations of Household Reference Persons (HRPs) from a specific ethnic group that were within overcrowded households in 2011. Table 1 lists the 10 combinations of local authority and ethnic group of HRP where overcrowded households formed the highest proportions of all households. Table 2 is similar but does not list households with a White British HRP.

Each percentage in the first column of data can be divided by the equivalent percentages in the second and third columns to give, respectively, the proportion of overcrowded households that had an HRP of the named ethnic group and the proportion of households with such an HRP that were overcrowded.
## Table 1: Local Authorities with the highest percentages of households that were overcrowded and had an HRP from a specific ethnic group

### Top 10, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Authority (Region)</th>
<th>Ethnic Group of HRP</th>
<th>% of All Households in Local Authority</th>
<th>Overcrowded AND in named ethnic group</th>
<th>Overcrowded (All ethnic groups)</th>
<th>Named Ethnic Group (All occupancy ratings)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tower Hamlets (LO)</td>
<td>Bangladeshi</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwark (LO)</td>
<td>Black African</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haringey (LO)</td>
<td>Other White</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>15.9</td>
<td>22.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barking and Dagenham (LO)</td>
<td>White British</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>57.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brighton and Hove (SE)</td>
<td>White British</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>83.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newham (LO)</td>
<td>Black African</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>25.2</td>
<td>12.8</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harlow (EA)</td>
<td>White British</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>86.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knowsley (NW)</td>
<td>White British</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>96.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merthyr Tydfil (WA)</td>
<td>White British</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>95.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newham (LO)</td>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>25.2</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table source:** Office for National Statistics

**Table notes:**
1. Data from 2011 Census Table DC4206EW.

**Download table**

[**XLS format**](#) (29 Kb)
Table 2: Local Authorities with the highest percentages of households that were overcrowded and had an HRP from a minority ethnic group

Top 10, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Authority (Region)</th>
<th>Ethnic Group of HRP</th>
<th>% of All Households in Local Authority</th>
<th>Overcrowded AND in named ethnic group</th>
<th>Overcrowded (All ethnic groups)</th>
<th>Named ethnic group (All occupancy ratings)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tower Hamlets (LO)</td>
<td>Bangladeshi</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwark (LO)</td>
<td>Black African</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haringey (LO)</td>
<td>Other White</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>15.9</td>
<td>22.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newham (LO)</td>
<td>Black African</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>25.2</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newham (LO)</td>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>25.2</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leicester (EM)</td>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newham (LO)</td>
<td>Bangladeshi</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>25.2</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newham (LO)</td>
<td>Other White</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>25.2</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brent (LO)</td>
<td>Other White</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slough (SE)</td>
<td>Pakistani</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table source: Office for National Statistics

Table notes:
1. Data from 2011 Census Table DC4206EW
2. Key for regions: EM East Midlands, LO London, SE South East

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(27 Kb)

Tables 1 and 2 show that, in 2011:

- Although every local authority in England and Wales had more households with White British HRPs than with any other ethnic group of HRP, this was not true for overcrowded households.
- In Tower Hamlets, for example, 7.7% of households were overcrowded and had an HRP from the Bangladeshi ethnic group. This was the highest percentage of any combination of local authority and ethnic group. The values in the second and third columns indicate that households with a Bangladeshi HRP made up almost half of the overcrowded households in Tower Hamlets (7.7 out of 16.4) and that almost 2 in 5 of all households with such an HRP in the local authority area were overcrowded (7.7 out of 19.3).
• Tower Hamlets was the only local authority where overcrowded households with HRPs from a specific ethnic group (including White British) made up more than 1 in 20 of households in 2011.
• The second and third highest percentages of households that were overcrowded also related to those with HRPs from minority ethnic groups – Black African in Southwark (4.9% of all households) and Other White in Haringey (4.7%).
• Barking and Dagenham in London had the largest proportion (4.6%) of households that were overcrowded and had an HRP from the White British ethnic group, but the next four highest were local authorities outside of London: Brighton and Hove (4.3%), Harlow (4.0%), Knowsley (4.0%) and Merthyr Tydfil (3.8%).
• Newham appears four times in Table 2, highlighting the extent of overcrowding in the local authority as a whole and reflecting four specific ethnic groups of HRP that occurred most in the broad patterns of overcrowding shown in Figure 5. The data in Table 2 indicate that higher proportions of households with these ethnic groups of HRP were overcrowded than the overall percentage of overcrowded households in Newham (25.2%). In particular, more than 2 in every 5 households in Newham with an HRP from the Bangladeshi ethnic group were overcrowded (3.4 out of 7.9).

In 2011, the percentage of all households with White British HRPs was higher than for any other ethnic group of HRP in every local authority in England and Wales. However, there were 16 local authorities where the number of overcrowded households was highest for HRPs from a minority ethnic group and these are listed in Table 3.
Table 3: Local Authorities where the highest number of overcrowded households had an HRP from a minority ethnic group, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Authority (Region)</th>
<th>Ethnic Group of HRP with most overcrowded households</th>
<th>% of Overcrowded Households in Local Authority</th>
<th>% of All Households in Local Authority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>With HRP from named ethnic group</td>
<td>With White HRP from ethnic group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pendle (NW)</td>
<td>Pakistani</td>
<td>51.6</td>
<td>40.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston (EM)</td>
<td>Other White</td>
<td>47.3</td>
<td>46.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tower Hamlets (LO)</td>
<td>Bangladeshi</td>
<td>46.8</td>
<td>18.5</td>
</tr>
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<td>Bradford (YH)</td>
<td>Pakistani</td>
<td>38.3</td>
<td>36.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leicester (EM)</td>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>36.1</td>
<td>26.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwark (LO)</td>
<td>Black African</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>23.0</td>
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<td>Haringey (LO)</td>
<td>Other White</td>
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<td>20.2</td>
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<td>Slough (SE)</td>
<td>Pakistani</td>
<td>25.8</td>
<td>18.5</td>
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<td>Luton (EA)</td>
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<td>21.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrow (LO)</td>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>22.6</td>
<td>14.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hounslow (LO)</td>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>22.6</td>
<td>22.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waltham Forest (LO)</td>
<td>Other White</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>17.1</td>
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<td>Ealing (LO)</td>
<td>Other White</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>16.6</td>
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<td>Brent (LO)</td>
<td>Other White</td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>10.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redbridge (LO)</td>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>15.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newham (LO)</td>
<td>Black African</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>8.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table source: Office for National Statistics

Table notes:
1. Data from 2011 Census Table DC4206EW.

Table 3 highlights three local authorities where around half of all overcrowded households in 2011 had an HRP from a specific minority ethnic group:

• Two of these, Pendle in Lancashire and Boston in Lincolnshire, had relatively low percentages of overcrowded households overall (5.2% and 4.0%) but the proportions of overcrowded households with, respectively, HRPs from Pakistani and Other White ethnic groups were about five times the proportions of all households with such HRPs.
• The third of these local authorities, Tower Hamlets, had the third highest percentage of overcrowded households overall (16.4%) of any local authority and the proportion of these that had an HRP from the Bangladeshi ethnic group was more than twice the equivalent proportion of all households.

For most of the other local authorities in Table 3 the percentage of overcrowded households for the specific ethnic group of HRP was quite similar to the percentage of all households but in four of them the former was more than twice the latter. These were Bradford, Slough and Luton where the most common ethnic group of HRP in overcrowded households was Pakistani, and Southwark where it was Black African.

Under-Occupation by Detailed Ethnic Group of HRP - Local Authorities

Tables 4 and 5 provide information at a local level about under-occupation and, as with Tables 1 to 3, focus on the 18 ethnic groups that were included on the census form. Table 4 lists the 10 combinations of local authority and minority ethnic group of Household Reference Person (HRP) where under-occupied households formed the highest proportions of all households. Table 5 provides the same information for households with a White British HRP. The other columns give contextual information about the overall level of under-occupation and of the specific ethnic group.
### Table 4: Local Authorities with the highest percentages of households that were under-occupied and had an HRP from a specific minority ethnic group

Top 10, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Authority (Region)</th>
<th>Ethnic Group of HRP</th>
<th>% of All Households in Local Authority</th>
<th>Under-occupied AND in named ethnic group</th>
<th>Under-occupied (All ethnic groups)</th>
<th>Named ethnic group (All occupancy ratings)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harrow (LO)</td>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>59.0</td>
<td>23.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kensington and Chelsea (LO)</td>
<td>Other White</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>43.8</td>
<td>29.2</td>
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<td>Leicester (EM)</td>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>55.4</td>
<td>22.7</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Westminster (LO)</td>
<td>Other White</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>37.7</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oadby and Wigston(EM)</td>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>77.1</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Heath (EA)</td>
<td>Other White</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>72.9</td>
<td>11.6</td>
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<td>Enfield (LO)</td>
<td>Other White</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>53.0</td>
<td>17.3</td>
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<td>Barnet (LO)</td>
<td>Other White</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>57.1</td>
<td>15.7</td>
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<td>Hounslow (LO)</td>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>48.8</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge (EA)</td>
<td>Other White</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>60.8</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table source:** Office for National Statistics

**Table notes:**
1. Data from 2011 Census Table DC4206EW

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(26.5 Kb)
Table 5: Local Authorities with the highest percentages of households that were under-occupied and had a White British HRP

Top 10, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Authority (Region)</th>
<th>Under-occupied AND with a White British HRP</th>
<th>Under-occupied (All ethnic groups)</th>
<th>White British HRP (All occupancy ratings)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Kesteven (EM)</td>
<td>82.6</td>
<td>85.3</td>
<td>96.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Lindsey (EM)</td>
<td>81.4</td>
<td>84.0</td>
<td>96.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rutland (EM)</td>
<td>81.0</td>
<td>84.0</td>
<td>96.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eden (NW)</td>
<td>80.8</td>
<td>82.6</td>
<td>97.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadland (EA)</td>
<td>80.3</td>
<td>82.8</td>
<td>96.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Northamptonshire (EM)</td>
<td>80.2</td>
<td>84.5</td>
<td>94.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copeland (NW)</td>
<td>80.0</td>
<td>81.5</td>
<td>97.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Dorset (SW)</td>
<td>79.8</td>
<td>82.1</td>
<td>96.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hambleton (YH)</td>
<td>79.6</td>
<td>81.7</td>
<td>97.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allerdale (NW)</td>
<td>79.5</td>
<td>80.9</td>
<td>97.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table source: Office for National Statistics

Table notes:
1. Data from 2011 Census Table DC4206EW.

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Tables 4 and 5 highlight that, in 2011:

- Of the six combinations of local authority and minority ethnic group of HRP with the highest proportions of their households being under-occupied, three had an HRP of Indian ethnicity and the other three had an HRP from the Other White ethnic group.
- Two of those with an HRP from the Indian ethnic group were in Leicestershire (Leicester; Oadby and Wigston) with the other in Outer London (Harrow). Two of the three with an HRP from the Other White ethnic group were in Central London (Kensington and Chelsea; Westminster) with the other in Suffolk (Forest Heath). The latter includes several large US Air Force bases.
• There were seven local authorities where four out of five households were under-occupied and had a White British HRP, four in the rural East Midlands, two in the Lake District and one in Norfolk.

Households with Children by Ethnic Group of HRP

This section analyses census data to give additional context to the analysis of overcrowding and under-occupation by ethnic group. Figure 6 provides a broad summary of census data on household type broken down by ethnic group of the household reference person (HRP).

Figure 6: Households with Dependent and Non-Dependent Children by Ethnic Group of HRP
England and Wales Households, 2011

Source: Census - Office for National Statistics
Notes:
1. Data from 2011 Census Table DC4206EW

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(28.5 Kb)

Comparing Figure 6 with Figure 2 shows that the ethnic groups with high proportions of households containing dependent children in 2011 also had high proportions of households that were overcrowded. It was also true that those ethnic groups with low percentages of households with children had lower percentages of overcrowded households. The chart particularly highlights that:

• More than half of households with an HRP from the Bangladeshi, Pakistani or Black African ethnic groups had one or more dependent children and these ethnic groups of HRP were the only ones where more than a fifth of households were overcrowded (see Figure 2).
• Only 18.2% and 26.9%, respectively, of households with a White Irish or White British HRP had dependent children and these were the only ethnic groups of HRP where fewer than 1 in 20 households were overcrowded (see Figure 2). This reflects the age profiles of HRPs from these ethnic groups.

The census analysis story "How do Living Arrangements, Family Type and Family Size Vary in England and Wales?" provides further context, but provides information broken down by country of birth rather than ethnic group.

Occupancy Rating by Ethnic Group of Individual Resident

Census analysis of occupancy ratings is usually presented at a household level, with a household reference person (HRP) used to define each household according to his or her characteristics and, therefore, to provide further derived statistics. However, the census also provides data about the levels of overcrowding and under-occupation experienced by the 55.1 million usual residents of households in England and Wales and this section presents this information broken down by the ethnic group of the individual. Note that this excludes just over 1 million individuals who resided in communal establishments at the time of the census.

In total:

• 4.6 million (8.3%) individuals lived in overcrowded households.
• 34.6 million (62.9%) lived in under-occupied homes
• 15.8 million (28.8%) reported a zero or standard occupancy rating

Figure 7 shows occupancy rating data for individuals from each of the 18 ethnic groups that had a tick-box on the 2011 Census form. The ethnic groups are sorted in descending order of the percentage of individuals in overcrowded households.
Figure 7: Occupancy Rating (Bedroom) by Ethnic Group
England and Wales Household Residents, 2011

Source: Census - Office for National Statistics

Notes:
1. Data from 2011 Census Table LC2404Ewls

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The order in which ethnic groups are listed in Figure 7 is almost identical to the order in Figure 2. In particular:

- The highest proportion of residents in overcrowded households in 2011 was for those in the Bangladeshi ethnic group (41.3%) and the same was true for HRPs.
Residents from the Pakistani (32.3%) and Black African (31.5%) ethnic groups had the second and third highest percentages living in overcrowded households and the same was true for HRPs.

The White British (5.1%) and White Irish (5.6%) ethnic groups had, by some distance, the lowest percentages of residents in overcrowded households as well as the lowest percentages of HRPs.

The results in Figure 7 highlight that, for all ethnic groups, the proportion of individuals within overcrowded households was larger than the proportion of households with HRPs from that group. The similarity of breakdowns by ethnic group of individual and of HRP indicates that the effects of representing households that have more than one ethnic group by HRPs from a single ethnic group are minimal. Therefore, any further analysis of overcrowding or under-occupation within households can reasonably use the ethnic group of the HRP as a proxy for the ethnic group of the household.

Background notes

1. The ethnic group question is a self-defined question and has been asked on the England and Wales census since 1991. The number of tick-boxes has grown from nine to the 18 shown in the 2011 Census form.

   The Ethnic Group Question
   2011 Census Form
The Ethnic Group Question

16 What is your ethnic group?

Choose one section from A to E, then tick one box to best describe your ethnic group or background

A White
- English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British
- Irish
- Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- Any other White background, write in

B Mixed/multiple ethnic groups
- White and Black Caribbean
- White and Black African
- White and Asian
- Any other Mixed/multiple ethnic background, write in

C Asian/Asian British
- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- Any other Asian background, write in

D Black/African/Caribbean/Black British
- African
- Caribbean
- Any other Black/African/Caribbean background, write in
The list of tick-boxes was designed to enable the majority of the population to identify themselves in a manageable way. It wasn't possible to include a separate tick-box for all ethnic groups, therefore a tick-box with a write-in option for ‘Any Other’ background was provided within each of the five categories. This would ensure that minority groups were not excluded as they could write in their response. Some examples of what could be found within the written responses of the ‘Any Other’ ethnic groups could include:

- ‘Any Other White’ – Polish, Greek
- ‘Any Other Mixed’ – Black British and White Asian, White African and Black African
- ‘Any Other Asian’ – Korean, Japanese
- ‘Any Other Black’ – Black American, Black European
- ‘Any Other ethnic group’ – Polynesian, Melanesian

It is important to note that assumptions should not be made about a particular ethnic group, there are some people in ethnic minorities that could (or wish to) belong under any of the ‘Other’ categories.

2. For each household, a bedroom occupancy rating (OR) is derived by subtracting the notional number of bedrooms recommended by the bedroom standard (see Note 2) from the number of bedrooms actually available. An occupancy rating could indicate overcrowding or under-occupation within a household as follows:

- Occupancy rating of zero: implies that a household has the precise notional number of bedrooms recommended by the bedroom standard, for the number and composition of people living within the household.
- Occupancy rating of -1 or less: indicates that a household has at least one bedroom too few for the number and composition of people living in the household and is considered overcrowded by the bedroom standard.
- Occupancy rating of +1: indicates that a household has one bedroom more than is recommended for the number and composition of people living in the household and is considered under-occupied by the bedroom standard.
- Occupancy rating of +2 or more: indicates that a household has two or more bedrooms more than is recommended for the number and composition of people living in the household and is also considered under-occupied.

This analysis focuses on occupancy rating for bedrooms; however, data on occupancy rating for rooms is also available from the 2011 Census.

3. The Housing (Overcrowding) Bill of 2003 defines the bedroom standard as: “(4) For the purposes of the bedroom standard a separate bedroom shall be allocated to the following persons:

(a) A person living together with another as husband and wife (whether that other person is of the same sex or the opposite sex)
(b) A person aged 21 years or more
(c) Two persons of the same sex aged 10 years to 20 years
(d) Two persons (whether of the same sex or not) aged less than 10 years
(e) Two persons of the same sex where one person is aged between 10 years and 20 years and the other is aged less than 10 years
(f) Any person aged under 21 years in any case where he or she cannot be paired with another occupier of the dwelling so as to fall within (c), (d) or (e) above."

Please note that while the 2011 Census uses the bedroom standard definition stated above, the Housing Bill of 2003 also takes account of uninhabitable bedrooms and rooms with less than 50ft² floor space in determining bedrooms or rooms available to a household. The census does not collect this information and it is therefore not used in deriving the 2011 Census bedroom occupancy ratings.

Please note also that households with one bedroom include those which indicated having no bedrooms in their census responses.

4. The concept of a Household Reference Person (HRP) was introduced in the 2001 Census (in common with other government surveys in 2001/2) to replace the traditional concept of the 'head of the household'. HRPs provide for an individual person within a household to act as a reference point for producing further derived statistics and for characterising a whole household according to characteristics of the chosen reference person.

For a person living alone, it follows that this person is the HRP.

If a household contains only one family (with or without ungrouped individuals) then the HRP is the same as the Family Reference Person (FRP).

For families in which there is generational divide between family members that cannot be determined (Other related family), there is no FRP. Members of these families are treated the same as ungrouped individuals.

If there is more than one family in a household, the HRP is chosen from among the FRPs using the same criteria used to choose the FRP. This means the HRP will be selected from the FRPs on the basis of their economic activity, in the priority order:

- Economically active, employed, full-time, non-student
- Economically active, employed, full-time, student
- Economically active, employed, part-time, non-student
- Economically active, employed, part-time, student
- Economically active, unemployed, non-student
- Economically active, unemployed, student
- Economically inactive, retired
- Economically inactive, other

If some or all FRPs have the same economic activity, the HRP is the eldest of the FRPs. If some or all are the same age, the HRP is the first of the FRPs from the order in which they were listed on the questionnaire.
If a household is made up entirely of any combination of ungrouped individuals and other related families, the HRP is chosen from among all people in the household, using the same criteria used to choose between FRPs.

Students at their non term-time address and short-term migrants cannot be the HRP.

5. Details of the policy governing the release of new data are available by visiting www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html or from the Media Relations Office email: media.relations@ons.gsi.gov.uk

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This document is also available on our website at www.ons.gov.uk.

Supporting Information

Further information

2011 Census Analysis
Occupancy ratings by household type in England and Wales, 2011 Census analysis.

2011 Census Analysis
Family types and size were analysed for the usually resident population in England and Wales using 2011 Census data; variations in size and type by country of birth were highlighted.

2011 Census Analysis
2011 Census statistics provide a rich source of information about the number, distribution and characteristics of the population in England and Wales. 2011 Census Analysis products present specific analyses on a variety of topics, including ethnicity, families, health, labour market, language, migration, and national identity, and religion. In particular, many of the analyses focus on geographical variations, changes over time, and how the census differs to other data sources.