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Census 2021: Ethnicity, language and religion

Public Health Briefing

August 2023

Public Health and Social Research Unit

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Background

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published topic summaries about ethnicity¹, language² and religion³ in England and Wales in 2021, as recorded in the 2021 Census. This briefing provides an update for West Sussex and its districts and borough, with comparisons to regional and national figures and to the previous Census in 2011.

Additional analyses by ethnic group of Census data relating to general health and disability, and wider determinants of health, such as home ownership, overcrowding, economic inactivity and unpaid care hours, are provided.

In the 2021 Census, people were asked to identify their ethnic group as one of five following broad categories:

- *Asian or Asian British*
- *Black, Black British, Caribbean or African*
- *Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups*
- *White*
- *Other ethnic group*

People were then asked to identify a specific ethnic group within these categories.

In West Sussex, the number of people who identified specifically as the *Other White* ethnicity, within the broad *White* ethnic grouping, surpassed the number who identified as each of the broad categories of minority ethnicity. For example, 12,600 more people identified as the *Other White* ethnicity compared to the next largest broad minority ethnic grouping, *Asian or Asian British*. Consequently, the *Other White* ethnic group is compared to the broad ethnic group categories throughout this briefing.

Key Points

Minority ethnicities

- In 2021, **15.8% of the West Sussex population identified as a minority ethnicity** (i.e., any ethnicity other than the majority *White British* group). This is an increase on the 11.1% of the population identifying as a minority ethnicity in the 2011 Census.
- The ***Other White* ethnic group was the most common minority ethnicity** across the districts and boroughs, bar Crawley. **Around 50,900 people were of *Other White* ethnicity**, equivalent to 5.8% of the West Sussex population (up from 4.0% in 2011). This is an increase of around 19,000 people since 2011.
- A **higher proportion of residents were of *Other White* ethnicity in the urban areas** of the county, including Bognor Regis and Littlehampton in Arun (6.3% of residents in Arun, representing around 10,400 people) and Crawley (10.5% of residents, representing nearly 12,500 people).
- **Crawley was by far the most ethnically diverse area, with 38.2% of the population identifying as a minority ethnicity** in 2021 (up from 27.9% recorded in the 2011 Census). The most common minority ethnicities in Crawley were *Asian or Asian British* ethnicities (15.4%, equivalent to around 18,200 people), followed by the *Other White* ethnicity.
- **Ethnic minority populations in West Sussex were generally younger** than the White British population. **Around 4-8% of minority ethnic groups were aged 65+**, compared to 25.5% in the ageing majority ethnic population.
- The **proportions of under 16s in the *Mixed or multiple ethnic groups* (45.8%), *Asian or Asian British* (23.0%) and *Black, Black British, Caribbean***

or African (23.7%) populations were noticeably higher than in the White British population (16.8%).

- The **Other White** ethnic group included the highest proportion of working age adults (16-64 years), at 77.9% of this population, with a particularly high proportion aged 30-44 years (38.6%).

Language

- Around 49,850 people did not speak English as their main language in West Sussex in 2021 (representing 5.8% of residents aged 3+). Excluding English, 23 languages were spoken by at least 500 people aged 3+ as their main language. Eastern European languages were the most commonly spoken main languages across the county and have increased substantially since 2011.
- Polish was the most common minority main language, with 8,280 speakers (up from 6,300 in 2011). Romanian speakers increased nearly nine-fold on 2011 numbers to become the second most common minority main language, with around 5,540 speakers. The number of Hungarian, Bulgarian and Portuguese speakers has also increased significantly from 2011 to 2021.
- Of those who did not speak English as their main language, 16.5% reported that they were not able to speak English well or at all, equivalent to 8,215 people. Although this was an increase in absolute numbers compared to 2011, it represents a slight decrease in people who are non-proficient in English as a proportion of those who do not speak English as their main language (down from 17.3% in 2011).
- Residents who were not able to speak English well or at all were largely aged 35-64 years. However, between 2011 and 2021, the number of non-proficient English speakers aged 50+ has nearly doubled.
- Arun and Crawley had the greatest number and proportion of residents unable to speak English well or at all. In several small areas in Bognor Regis and Langley Green, between 5-9% of residents were unable to speak English well or at all.

Religion

- Just under half of the total West Sussex population identified as Christian in the 2021 Census (48.1%, down from 61.8% in 2011). The number of residents identifying with no religion has increased from 2011 to become the second largest response (41.1% of the population in 2021, up from 26.9%). A further 4.7% of the population followed another religion in 2021.
- Crawley had the greatest number of people identifying with a religion other than Christianity, with comparatively much larger proportions of the population identifying as Muslim (9.7%) and Hindu (5.1%) than other areas in West Sussex.

General health and disability

- General good health was more commonly reported in ethnic minority populations in West Sussex, at 86-91% of residents, compared to the ageing White British population (81.9% of residents).
- Disability was less common in ethnic minority populations in West Sussex, ranging from 8-12% of people in these groups. Disability prevalence was greatest in the White British population (18.2% of residents), reflecting the ageing population structure of this group.

Home ownership and household overcrowding

- Home ownership was less common in ethnic minority populations in West Sussex, ranging from a low of 36.3% of households of Black, Black British, Caribbean or African ethnicity to 59.5% of households of Asian or Asian British ethnicity. Home ownership was greatest in the majority White British population, at 72.6% of households.
- Across West Sussex, overcrowding in households was more common in ethnic minority populations, at 10-19% of residents (compared to 3.9% in the White British population).
- Overcrowding in households was greatest in Crawley, where 12.1% of residents (of all ethnicities) lived in overcrowded homes (equivalent to around 14,200 people).

Economic inactivity and unpaid care

- **Economic inactivity was less common in ethnic minority populations** in West Sussex, ranging from 20-33% of people aged 16+ in these groups. **Economic inactivity due to retirement was most common in the ageing *White British* population** (70.1% of economically inactive people in this group were retired).
- **Economic inactivity due to being a student** was more common in people of *Black, Black British, Caribbean or African* ethnicity and *Mixed or multiple ethnic groups*, whilst a greater proportion

of people of *Asian or Asian British* ethnicity and an *Other ethnic group* were **economically inactive due to looking after home or family**.

- **Provision of unpaid care each week was more common in people of *White British* ethnicity**, with 9.2% of this population (aged 5+) providing unpaid care in West Sussex overall.
- **Provision of unpaid care of 19 or fewer hours per week was most common**, with 2-3% of minority ethnicity residents and 5.1% of *White British* ethnicity residents providing this level of care.

Ethnic backgrounds in West Sussex

West Sussex remained less ethnically diverse than the South East and England in 2021, with 84.2% of the population identifying as the majority *White British* ethnicity, compared to 78.8% in the South East and 73.5% in England (table 1).

By minority ethnicity:

- The *Other White* ethnic group was the most common minority ethnic group in all districts and boroughs in West Sussex, bar Crawley. This group accounted for 5.8% of the total West Sussex population, equivalent to around 50,900 people.
- Those of the broad *Asian or Asian British* ethnic grouping were the second most common minority ethnic group, at 4.3% of the West Sussex population (around 38,300 people, with nearly half of these living in Crawley). Within this broad group, people of *Indian* ethnicity were the most common, accounting for 1.6% of the total population (nearly 14,000 people).
- The broad *Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups* identity made up 2.4% of the population (around 20,800 people).
- The broad *Black, Black British, Caribbean or African* group made up 1.3% of the total population (around 11,400 people).

Of the West Sussex districts and boroughs, Crawley was by far the most ethnically diverse, with people of an ethnic minority accounting for 38.2% of the population in 2021 (table 2). The most common minority ethnicities in Crawley were *Asian or Asian British* ethnicities (15.4%, equivalent to around 18,200 people) – particularly those of *Indian* (6.2%) and *Pakistani* (5.2%) ethnicities – and the *Other White* ethnicity (10.5%, equivalent to around 12,500 people) (map 1).

The next most ethnically diverse areas in 2021 were Worthing (15.0%) and Mid Sussex (14.2%). People of *Other White* ethnicity were in the largest minority ethnic group in these districts, accounting for 5.2% of the population in each area (equivalent to around 5,800 people in Worthing and nearly 8,000 people in Mid Sussex). These people were largely concentrated in the urban towns of Worthing, Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill.

The urban areas in Arun district, such as Littlehampton and Bognor Regis, also had a higher proportion of residents of *Other White* ethnicity, compared to other areas in the county (map 1). In Arun, 6.3% of residents were of *Other White* ethnicity, equivalent to a population of around 10,400.

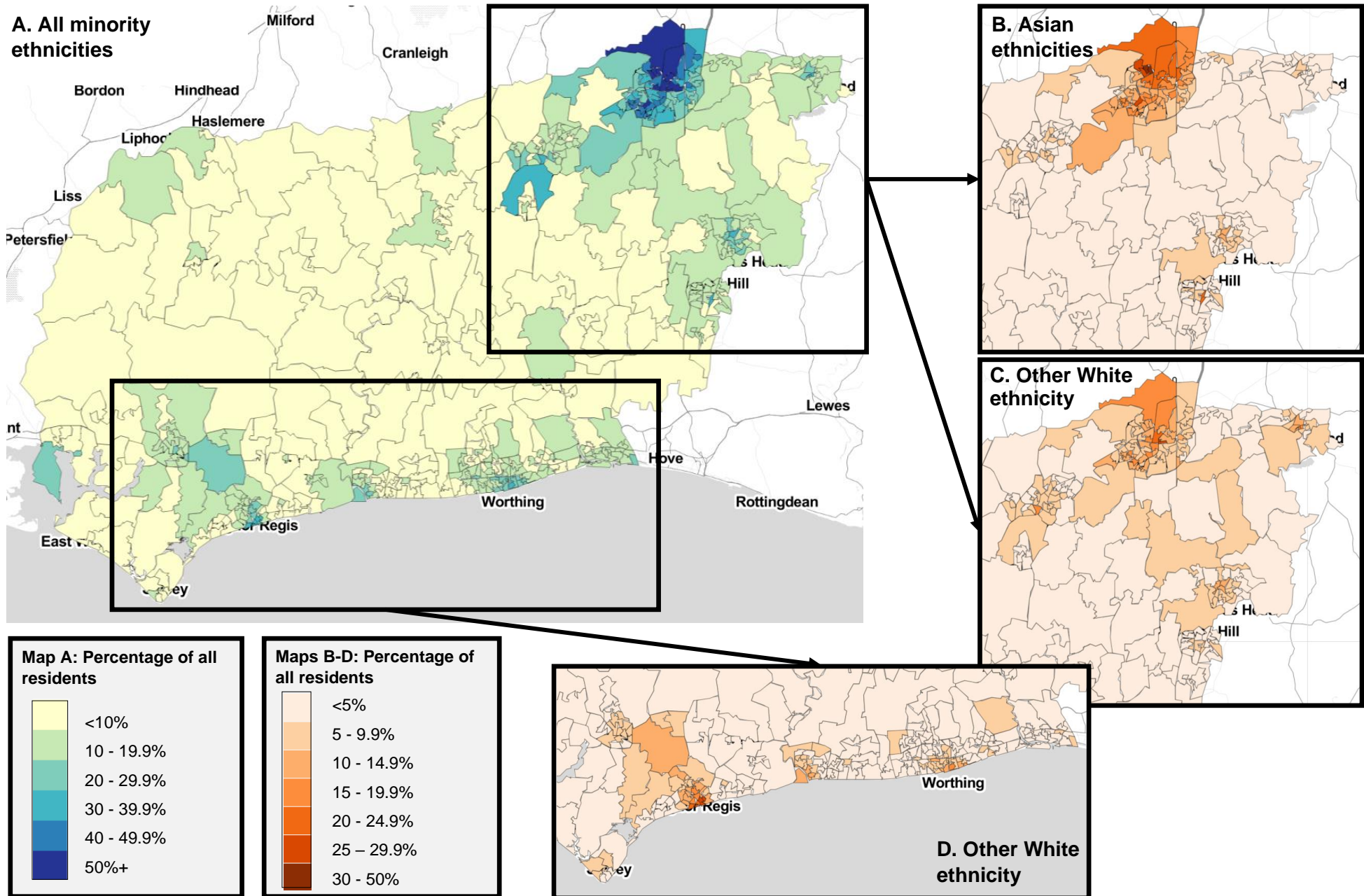
Table 1. Number (N) and percentage (%) of ethnicities in the West Sussex, South East and England populations in Census 2021. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. Source: Census 2021.

Ethnic grouping	West Sussex		South East		England	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total population	882,669	100	9,278,066	100	56,490,037	100
Asian or Asian British	38,292	4.3	650,547	7.0	5,426,388	9.6
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	3,285	0.4	39,881	0.4	629,567	1.1
Asian or Asian British: Chinese	3,468	0.4	64,329	0.7	431,162	0.8
Asian or Asian British: Indian	13,990	1.6	241,537	2.6	1,843,248	3.3
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	7,329	0.8	145,313	1.6	1,570,285	2.8
Asian or Asian British: Other Asian	10,220	1.2	159,487	1.7	952,126	1.7
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	11,426	1.3	221,586	2.4	2,381,724	4.2
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African: African	7,265	0.8	150,542	1.6	1,468,474	2.6
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African: Caribbean	2,047	0.2	43,523	0.5	619,418	1.1
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African: Other Black	2,114	0.2	27,521	0.3	293,832	0.5
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	20,813	2.4	260,871	2.8	1,669,381	3.0
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: White and Asian	7,069	0.8	88,106	1.0	474,193	0.8
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: White and Black African	3,519	0.4	38,631	0.4	241,528	0.4
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: White and Black Caribbean	4,171	0.5	62,087	0.7	499,310	0.9
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: Other Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	6,054	0.7	72,047	0.8	454,350	0.8
Other ethnic group	8,623	1.0	135,682	1.5	1,229,149	2.2
Other ethnic group: Arab	1,813	0.2	29,572	0.3	320,203	0.6
Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group	6,810	0.8	106,110	1.1	908,946	1.6
White	803,515	91.0	8,009,380	86.3	45,783,395	81.1
White: British	743,569	84.2	7,315,057	78.8	41,540,789	73.5
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	1,208	0.1	16,748	0.2	64,216	0.1
White: Irish	6,761	0.8	78,220	0.8	494,251	0.9
White: Roma	1,084	0.1	12,786	0.1	99,137	0.2
White: Other White	50,893	5.8	586,569	6.3	3,585,002	6.4

Table 2. Number (N) and percentage (%) of ethnicities in the West Sussex districts and borough populations in Census 2021. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. Source: Census 2021.

Ethnic grouping	Adur		Arun		Chichester		Crawley		Horsham		Mid Sussex		Worthing	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total population	64,537	100	164,892	100	124,076	100	118,492	100	146,775	100	152,563	100	111,335	100
Asian, Asian British	1,389	2.2	2,633	1.6	2,160	1.7	18,239	15.4	3,972	2.7	5,508	3.6	4,387	3.9
Asian, Asian British: Bangladeshi	367	0.6	522	0.3	176	0.1	628	0.5	264	0.2	600	0.4	727	0.7
Asian, Asian British: Chinese	265	0.4	437	0.3	406	0.3	561	0.5	637	0.4	588	0.4	573	0.5
Asian, Asian British: Indian	303	0.5	726	0.4	622	0.5	7,335	6.2	1,414	1.0	2,489	1.6	1,099	1.0
Asian, Asian British: Pakistani	87	0.1	108	0.1	63	0.1	6,125	5.2	399	0.3	280	0.2	264	0.2
Asian, Asian British: Other Asian	367	0.6	840	0.5	893	0.7	3,590	3.0	1,258	0.9	1,551	1.0	1,724	1.6
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	532	0.8	857	0.5	785	0.6	5,334	4.5	1,316	0.9	1,343	0.9	1,278	1.2
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African: African	362	0.6	501	0.3	452	0.4	3,298	2.8	896	0.6	873	0.6	891	0.8
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African: Caribbean	109	0.2	222	0.1	218	0.2	681	0.6	257	0.2	311	0.2	250	0.2
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African: Other Black	61	0.1	134	0.1	115	0.1	1,355	1.1	163	0.1	159	0.1	137	0.1
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	1,624	2.5	2,484	1.5	2,050	1.7	4,838	4.1	3,131	2.1	3,820	2.5	2,852	2.6
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: White and Asian	534	0.8	784	0.5	720	0.6	1,293	1.1	1,158	0.8	1,593	1.0	980	0.9
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: White and Black African	317	0.5	419	0.3	296	0.2	1,002	0.9	399	0.3	552	0.4	534	0.5
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: White and Black Caribbean	303	0.5	583	0.4	450	0.4	1,081	0.9	575	0.4	634	0.4	546	0.5
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: Other	470	0.7	698	0.4	584	0.5	1,462	1.2	999	0.7	1,041	0.7	792	0.7
Other ethnic group	698	1.1	912	0.6	668	0.5	3,145	2.7	915	0.6	1,173	0.8	1,109	1.0
Other ethnic group: Arab	209	0.3	118	0.1	148	0.1	674	0.6	206	0.1	208	0.1	248	0.2
Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group	489	0.8	794	0.5	520	0.4	2,471	2.1	709	0.5	965	0.6	861	0.8
White	60,294	93.4	158,006	95.8	118,413	95.4	86,936	73.4	137,441	93.6	140,719	92.2	101,709	91.4
White: British	57,390	88.9	146,178	88.7	111,822	90.1	73,178	61.8	129,349	88.1	130,970	85.9	94,680	85.0
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	106	0.2	217	0.1	293	0.2	100	0.1	234	0.2	175	0.1	80	0.1
White: Irish	488	0.8	1,019	0.6	865	0.7	831	0.7	1,163	0.8	1,455	1.0	943	0.9
White: Roma	53	0.1	161	0.1	94	0.1	337	0.3	98	0.1	149	0.1	195	0.2
White: Other White	2,257	3.5	10,431	6.3	5,339	4.3	12,490	10.5	6,597	4.5	7,970	5.2	5,811	5.2

Map 1. Population density of residents of minority ethnicities in West Sussex lower super output areas (LSOAs) in 2021. Map A shows the proportion of residents who are of any minority ethnicity (i.e., the total of all ethnic groups except for the majority *White British* group). Maps B-D show the proportion of residents of either *Asian or Asian British* or *Other White* ethnicities. NB: the key in map A differs from the key used in maps B-D. Source: Census 2021.



Population age and sex structure by ethnic group

Ethnic minority populations in West Sussex were generally younger than the majority *White British* population (figure 1 and table 3). Notably:

- The proportion of under 16s in the broad *Mixed or multiple* ethnicities group (45.8%) was nearly three-times greater than in the majority *White British* ethnic population (16.8%).
- *Asian or Asian British* and *Black, Black British, Caribbean or African* ethnic groups also included a higher proportion of under 16s than the majority ethnic group, at 23.0% and 23.7% of their populations, respectively.
- The *Other White* ethnic group included the highest proportion of working age adults (16-64 years), at 77.9% of the population, with a particularly high proportion aged 30-44 years (38.6%) compared to other ethnic groups.
- Around 70% of the population of most other broad minority ethnic groups were aged 16-64 years, compared to 57.7% of the majority *White British* ethnic population.
- Only around 4-8% of people in minority ethnic groups were aged 65+, compared to 25.5% in the ageing *White British* population.
- Females accounted for a substantially greater proportion of the *Other White* population compared males, with a nearly 10-percentage-point difference between females aged 16+ (47.6%) and males aged 16+ (38.4%).

Table 3. Proportion (%) of total ethnic populations by age and sex in West Sussex in Census 2021. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. Source: Census 2021.

Ethnic grouping	0 to 15 years		16 to 64 years		65+ years		Total (all ages)	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Asian or Asian British	11.0	12.0	36.3	32.8	4.3	3.6	51.6	48.4
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	11.5	12.2	34.1	36.9	3.2	2.1	48.8	51.2
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	22.5	23.3	26.3	24.0	2.2	1.7	51.0	49.0
Other ethnic group	9.2	9.6	35.4	37.3	4.5	4.2	49.0	51.0
White: British	8.2	8.6	29.1	28.6	14.0	11.5	51.3	48.7
White: Other White	6.8	7.2	42.4	35.5	5.2	2.9	54.4	45.6

Change in ethnic backgrounds – 2011 to 2021

The proportion of the West Sussex population who are of minority ethnicities has increased from 2011 to 2021, rising from 11.1% of the population to 15.8% overall. Crawley has seen the greatest overall increase in residents of minority ethnicities, rising from 27.9% of the population in 2011 to 38.2% in 2021. Mid Sussex and Worthing have seen the next greatest overall increases, with the proportion of the population who are of a minority ethnicity increasing from 9.7% to 14.2% in Mid Sussex and from 10.6% to 15.0% in Worthing.

By ethnic group, the largest increase in West Sussex and in each of the districts and boroughs is in the *Other White* ethnicity (figure 2). The most substantial increase is in Crawley, rising from 6.8% of the population in 2011 to 10.5% in 2021, representing an additional ~5,200 people. The South East and England have seen a similar percentage rise to West Sussex in the *Other White* population.

Figure 1. Population age and sex structure of ethnic groups in West Sussex in 2021. Source: Census 2021.

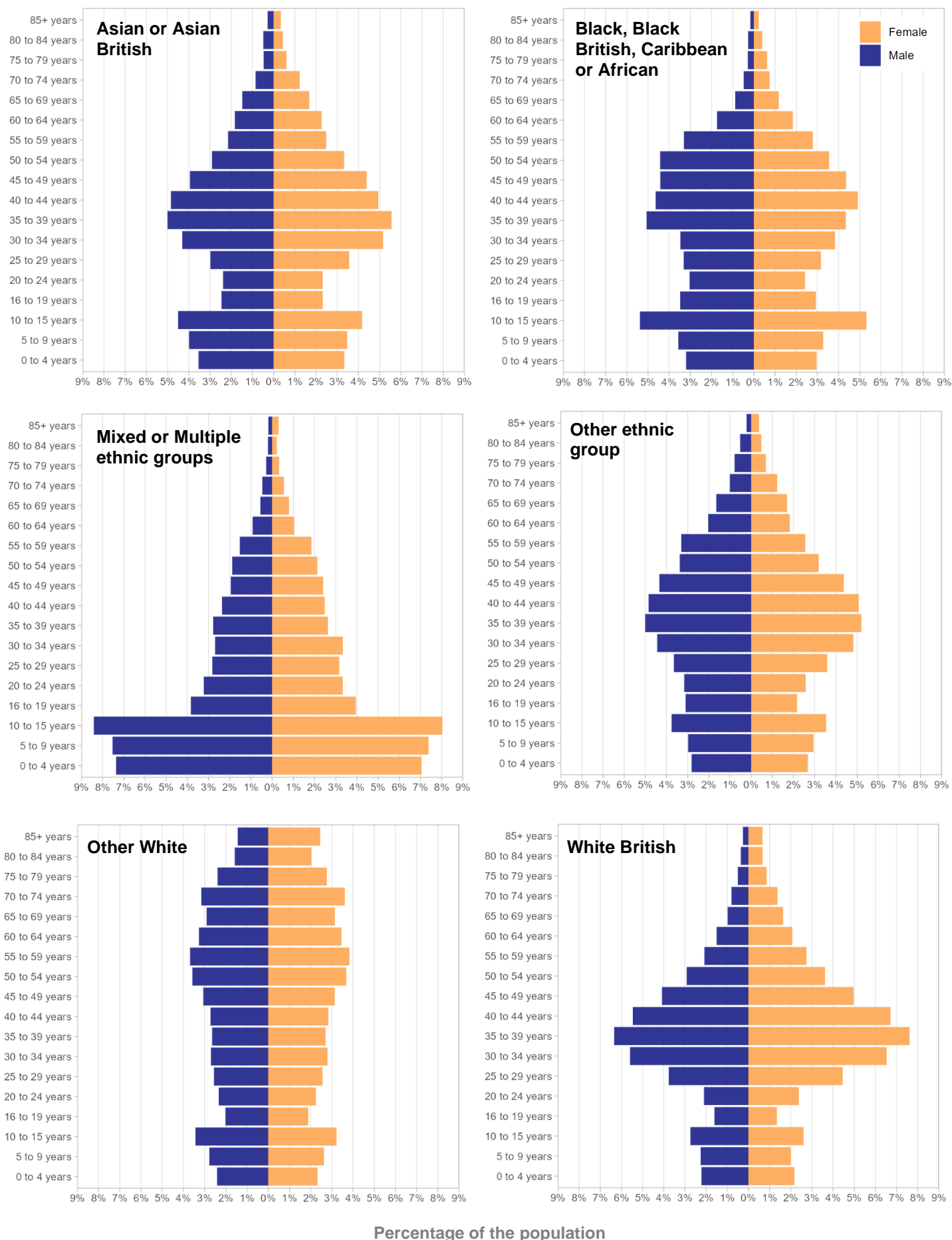
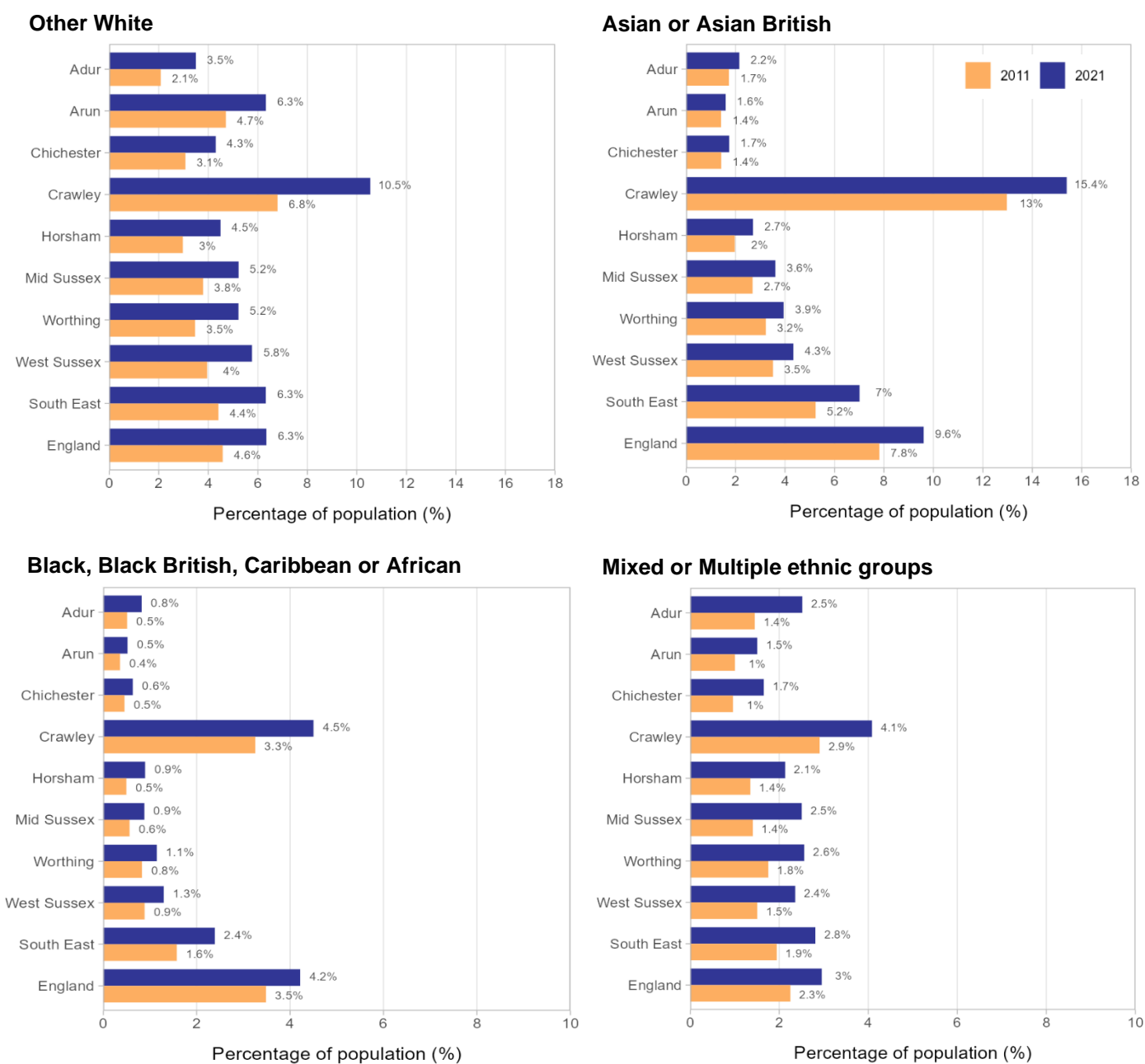


Figure 2. Minority ethnicities as a proportion of population of the West Sussex districts and boroughs, West Sussex, the South East and England, by Census year. NB: the top-line graphs have a different scale to the bottom two. Source: Census 2011 and Census 2021.



Main languages and English proficiency

In West Sussex, there were 23 languages spoken by at least 500 people aged three and above as their main language (excluding English) in 2021 (full details in table 4).

European languages, particularly Eastern European languages, were the most commonly spoken main languages across the county, with around 8,280 Polish and around 5,540 Romanian speakers. Eastern European language speakers were particularly common in Arun, with around 5,690 Polish, Romanian, Lithuanian and Bulgarian speakers collectively, and in Crawley, with around 5,630 Polish, Romanian, Lithuanian and Hungarian speakers collectively.

Main speakers of Asian languages were more common in the north and east of the county; although, in Horsham, Mid Sussex and Worthing, no individual language within the South Asian and East Asian broad categories had at least 500 speakers.

Approximately 15.7% of the Crawley population did not speak English as their main language (all other districts and boroughs had around 3-6% of their populations who did not speak English as their main language). In addition to around 9,160 European language speakers, there were around 5,340 speakers of South Asian languages in Crawley.

Change in main languages – 2011 to 2021

From 2011 to 2021, there have been large increases in the number of West Sussex residents speaking Eastern European languages as their main language (figure 3):

- Polish remains the most common minority main language, with the number of speakers increasing from around 6,300 to 8,280 people.
- Romanian speakers have increased by nearly nine-fold, putting Romanian as the second most common minority main language in the county, with around 5,540 speakers.
- Hungarian speakers have more than doubled, to around 2,000 main speakers.
- Bulgarian speakers have increased by nearly four-fold, to around 1,670 main speakers.

Residents speaking Portuguese as their main language – the third most common minority main language in West Sussex – have also increased, rising from around 1,970 in 2011 to 3,380 speakers in 2021.

Across the South East region and England, the numbers of people speaking the above languages as a main language have increased by similar factors.

Figure 3. Main languages with 500+ speakers (aged 3+) in West Sussex in 2021, compared to the number of speakers in 2011. *Bengali includes Sylheti and Chatgaya. Source: Census 2011 and Census 2021.

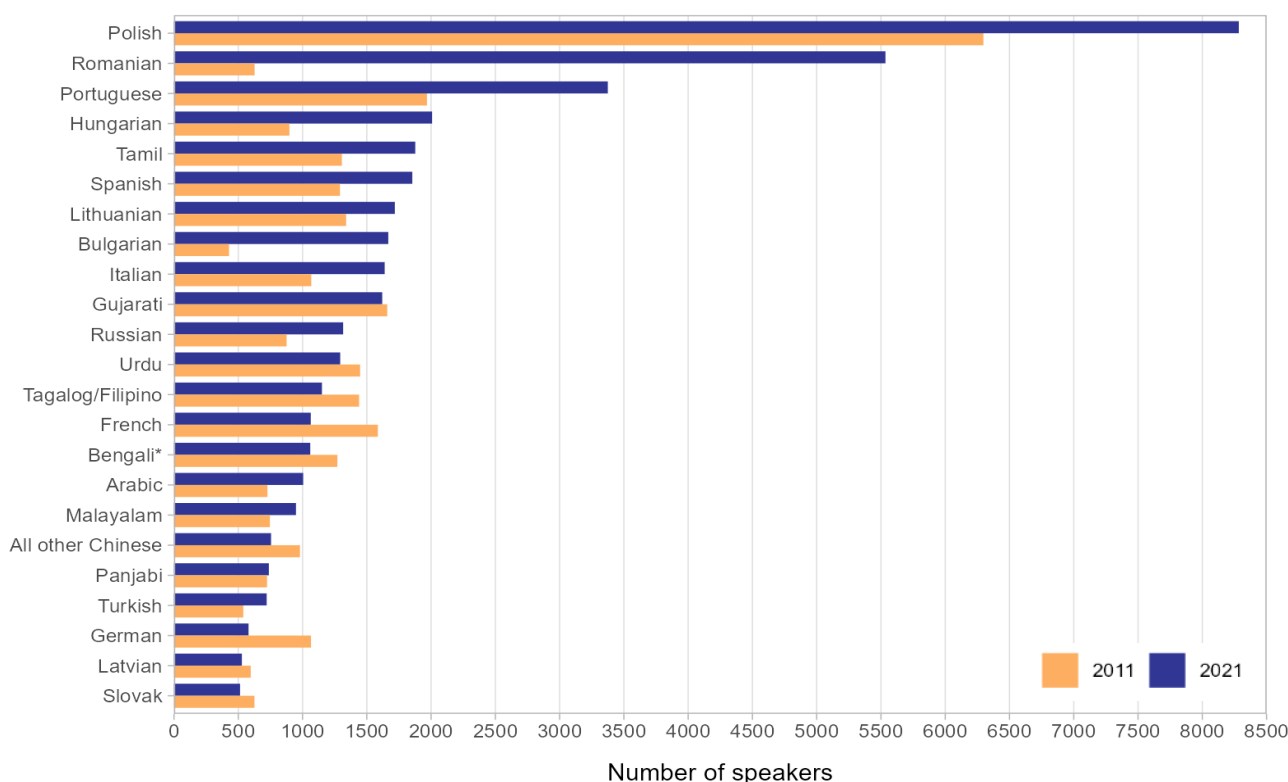


Table 4. Main languages spoken by at least 500 people aged 3 and over (number (N) of speakers and percentage (%) of the population) in West Sussex and the West Sussex districts and borough, in Census 2021. Languages with fewer than 500 speakers that contribute to the total number of speakers of the broad language categories (shown in bold) are not included; specific languages may not therefore sum to the broad language total. Source: Census 2021.

Language	West Sussex N (%)	Adur N (%)	Arun N (%)	Chichester N (%)	Crawley N (%)	Horsham N (%)	Mid Sussex N (%)	Worthing N (%)
Total population	882,669	64,537	164,892	124,076	118,492	146,775	152,563	111,335
English (English or Welsh in Wales)	806,940 (94.2%)	60,751 (96.9%)	151,197 (94.1%)	116,962 (96.7%)	96,070 (84.3%)	137,720 (96.6%)	141,876 (96.0%)	102,364 (94.7%)
European language (EU and non-EU)	30,972 (3.61%)	747 (1.19%)	7,291 (4.54%)	2,266 (1.87%)	9,164 (8.04%)	2,131 (1.49%)	2,603 (1.76%)	2,619 (2.42%)
Polish	8,284 (0.97%)	-	3,492 (2.17%)	915 (0.76%)	1,992 (1.75%)	-	502 (0.34%)	652 (0.60%)
Romanian	5,535 (0.65%)	-	884 (0.55%)	-	2,368 (2.08%)	531 (0.37%)	627 (0.42%)	582 (0.54%)
Portuguese	3,375 (0.39%)	-	632 (0.39%)	-	1,543 (1.35%)	-	-	-
Hungarian	2,008 (0.23%)	-	-	-	771 (0.68%)	-	-	-
Spanish	1,854 (0.22%)	-	-	-	502 (0.44%)	-	-	-
Lithuanian	1,718 (0.20%)	-	764 (0.48%)	-	500 (0.44%)	-	-	-
Bulgarian	1,667 (0.19%)	-	547 (0.34%)	-	-	-	-	-
Italian	1,639 (0.19%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
French	1,064 (0.12%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
German	580 (0.07%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Latvian	528 (0.06%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slovak	514 (0.06%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Asian language	8,897 (1.04%)	-	-	-	5,337 (4.68%)	606 (0.43%)	1,057 (0.72%)	842 (0.78%)
Tamil	1,877 (0.22%)	-	-	-	1,426 (1.25%)	-	-	-
Gujarati	1,620 (0.19%)	-	-	-	1,271 (1.12%)	-	-	-
Urdu	1,293 (0.15%)	-	-	-	1,081 (0.95%)	-	-	-
Bengali (with Sylheti and Chatgaya)	1,060 (0.12%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malayalam	949 (0.11%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Panjabi	738 (0.09%)	-	-	-	584 (0.51%)	-	-	-
East Asian language	3,735 (0.44%)	-	-	-	-	749 (0.53%)	688 (0.47%)	756 (0.70%)
Tagalog or Filipino	1,151 (0.13%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All other Chinese	755 (0.09%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Russian	1,316 (0.15%)	-	517 (0.32%)	-	-	-	-	-
Arabic	1,005 (0.12%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Turkish	721 (0.08%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Proficiency in English language

In the 2021 Census, people who did not give English as a main language (aged 3+) were asked to report how well they could speak English.

Of the 49,850 people in West Sussex who did not speak English as their main language (5.8% of residents aged 3+), around 16.5% reported not being able to speak English well or at all, equivalent to 8,215 people.

Arun and Crawley had the greatest number of residents unable to speak English well or at all. In all areas in West Sussex, these people were largely aged 35-64 years (figure 4).

In most small geographical areas in West Sussex (lower super output areas (LSOAs), containing 1,000-3,000 people), people who were not able to speak English well or at all accounted for 2% or less of the population (map 2). Areas with a higher proportion of residents unable to speak English well or at all were largely concentrated in Crawley and Arun. In two LSOAs in central Bognor Regis, around 9% of residents were unable to speak English well or at all, nor could 5-8% of residents in a further eight LSOAs in the Bognor Regis and Langley Green areas.

Map 2. Population density (as a proportion of all residents) of those unable to speak English well or at all, by West Sussex lower super output areas (LSOAs) in 2021. Maps B and C show magnified sections of map A. All maps use the same key. NB: the Horsham LSOA with a relatively high population density of residents unable to speak English well or at all contains a Japanese-language boarding school. Source: Census 2021.

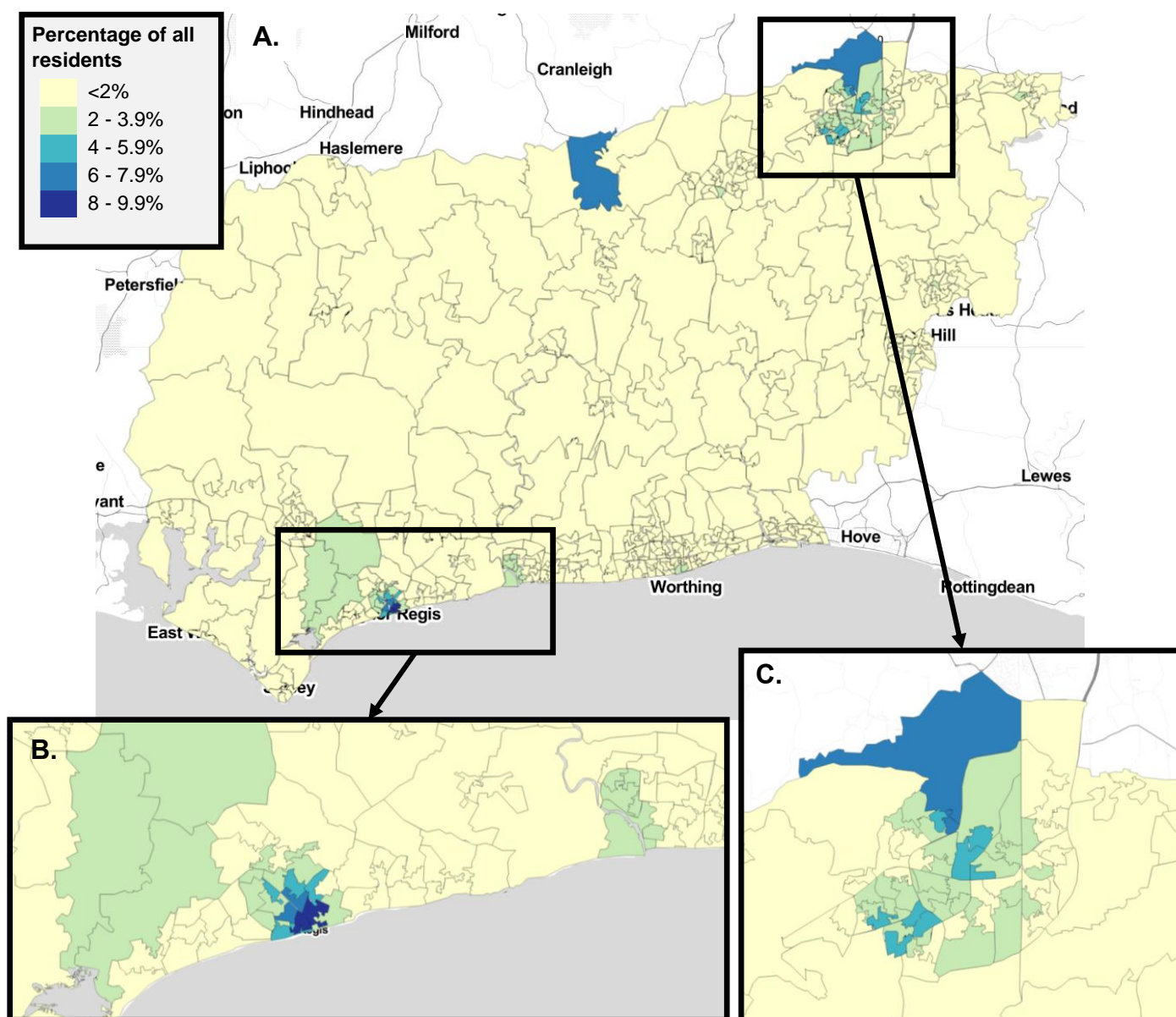
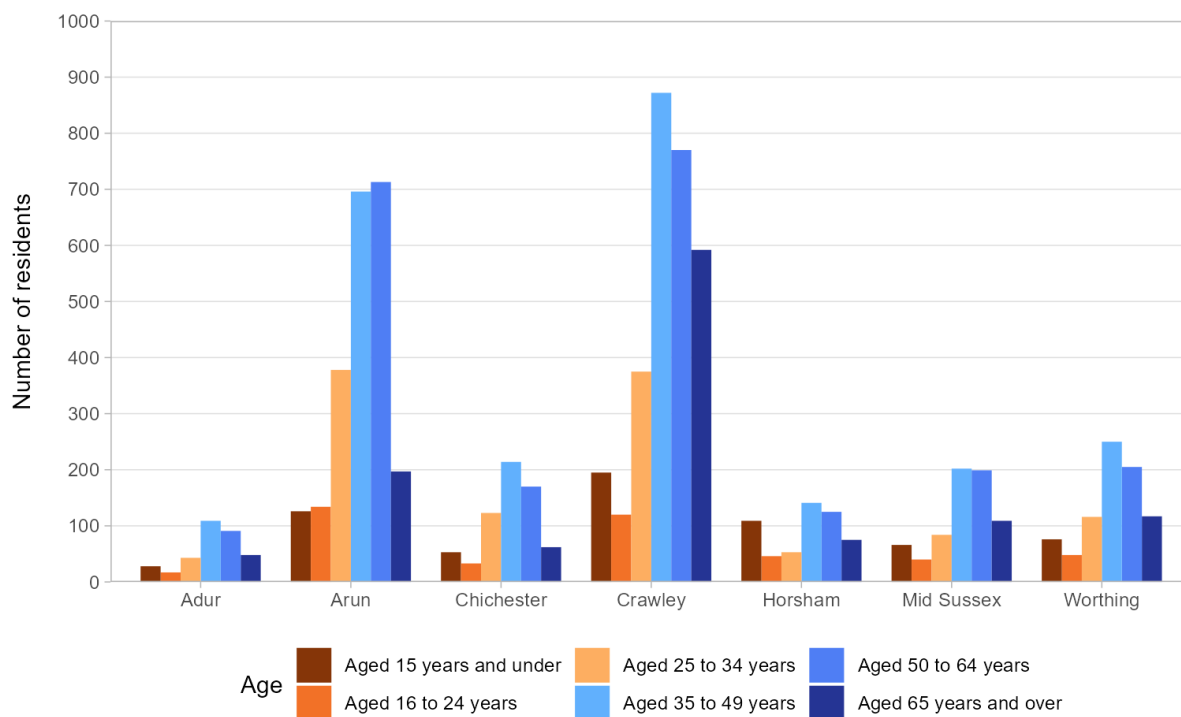


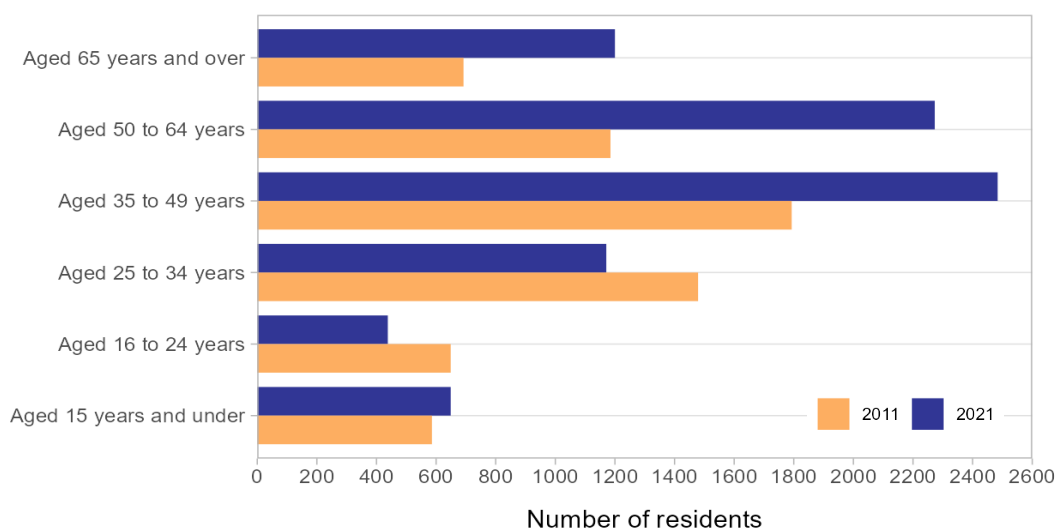
Figure 4. Non-proficiency in English language (those aged 3+ who reported that they cannot speak English or cannot speak English well) by age-band in the West Sussex districts and boroughs in Census 2021. Source: Census 2021.



Due to population increases, the overall number of people non-proficient in English in West Sussex has increased from 2011 to 2021. However, as a proportion of the people who do not speak English as their main language, those who are non-proficient in English has decreased slightly (down from 17.3% in 2011).

The increase in residents who are not proficient in English is almost entirely in those aged 35 years and older and particularly in those aged 50 years and above, the number of whom has nearly doubled from 2011 to 2021 (figure 5).

Figure 5. Non-proficiency in English language (those aged 3+ who reported that they cannot speak English or cannot speak English well) by age-band in West Sussex in 2021, compared to 2011. Source: Census 2011 and Census 2021.



Religion

The Census question asking with which religion did people identify was voluntary. In the 2021 Census, 93.9% of West Sussex residents responded to this question.

Just under half of the West Sussex population identified as Christian in the 2021 Census, at 48.1% (table 5). No religion was the second most common response, at 41.1% of the population. A further 4.7% of the population followed another religion.

Table 5. Religion stated by residents (number (N) and percentage (%) of the population) in West Sussex, the South East and England in Census 2021. Source: Census 2021.

Religion	West Sussex		South East		England	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Buddhist	3,778	0.4	54,433	0.6	262,433	0.5
Christian	424,495	48.1	4,313,319	46.5	26,167,899	46.3
Hindu	10,128	1.1	154,748	1.7	1,020,533	1.8
Jewish	1,707	0.2	18,682	0.2	269,283	0.5
Muslim	19,225	2.2	309,067	3.3	3,801,186	6.7
Sikh	1,385	0.2	74,348	0.8	520,092	0.9
Other religion	5,108	0.6	54,098	0.6	332,410	0.6
No religion	363,051	41.1	3,733,094	40.2	20,715,664	36.7
Not answered	53,799	6.1	566,279	6.1	3,400,548	6.0
Religion other than Christianity	41,331	4.7	665,376	7.2	6,205,937	11.0

There was some variation across the districts and boroughs (table 6), with a lower proportion of the population identifying as Christian in Adur, Crawley and Worthing (between 42-44%). No religion surpassed Christian as the most common response in Adur and Worthing (in contrast to the 2011 Census).

Crawley had the greatest number of people identifying with a religion other than Christianity, with comparatively greater proportions of the population identifying as Muslim (9.7%) and Hindu (5.1%) than other areas in West Sussex (and the South East and England).

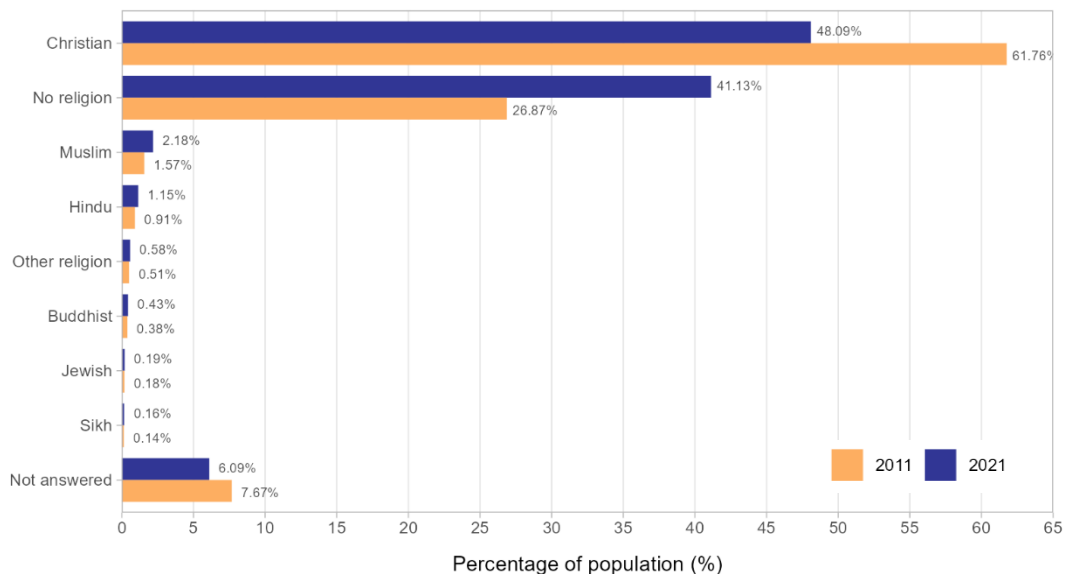
Since the 2011 Census, the proportion of the West Sussex population identifying as Christian has decreased significantly (from 61.8% to 48.1%), whilst the proportion identifying with no religion has increased by a similar magnitude (from 26.9% to 41.1%) – see figure 6.

The proportion of all other religious identities reported in Census 2021 has remained similar or increased slightly compared to the 2011 Census.

Table 6. Religion stated by residents (number (N) and percentage (%) of the population) in the West Sussex district and boroughs in Census 2021. Source: Census 2021.

Religion	Adur		Arun		Chichester		Crawley		Horsham		Mid Sussex		Worthing	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Buddhist	274	0.4	502	0.3	611	0.5	529	0.4	581	0.4	577	0.4	704	0.6
Christian	27,836	43.1	85,922	52.1	65,910	53.1	50,497	42.6	72,325	49.3	73,108	47.9	48,897	43.9
Hindu	209	0.3	391	0.2	312	0.3	6,090	5.1	814	0.6	1,573	1.0	739	0.7
Jewish	249	0.4	262	0.2	226	0.2	96	0.1	272	0.2	328	0.2	274	0.2
Muslim	840	1.3	1,157	0.7	685	0.6	11,521	9.7	1,270	0.9	1,841	1.2	1,912	1.7
Sikh	31	0.0	79	0.0	43	0.0	851	0.7	105	0.1	148	0.1	124	0.1
Other religion	392	0.6	861	0.5	664	0.5	634	0.5	658	0.4	1,121	0.7	778	0.7
No religion	30,890	47.9	65,762	39.9	47,977	38.7	41,555	35.1	61,763	42.1	64,207	42.1	50,895	45.7
Not answered	3,820	5.9	9,953	6.0	7,640	6.2	6,720	5.7	8,990	6.1	9,666	6.3	7,013	6.3
Religion other than Christianity	1,995	3.1	3,252	2.0	2,541	2.0	19,721	16.6	3,700	2.5	5,588	3.7	4,531	4.1

Figure 6. Religions in West Sussex stated in the 2021 Census, compared religions stated in the 2011 Census. Source: Census 2011 and Census 2021.



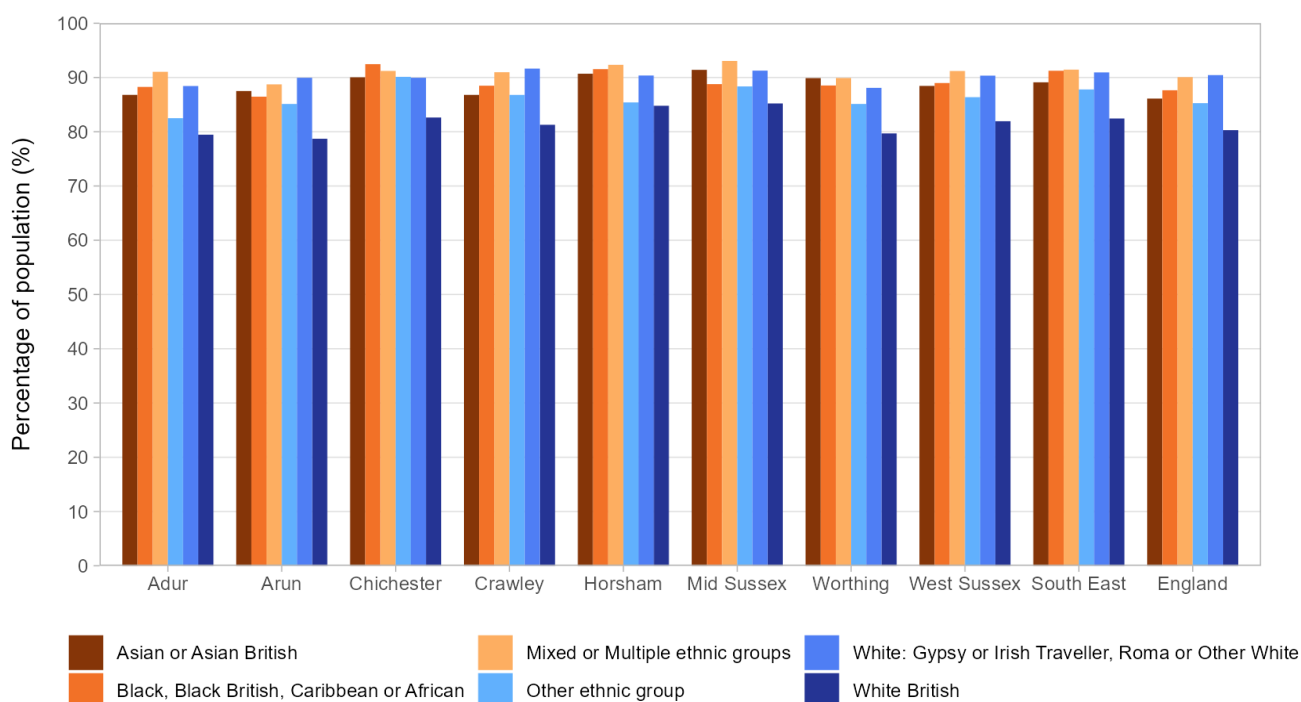
General health and disability by ethnicity

General health

In West Sussex overall, 83.0% of residents reported that they were in good health generally in 2021, similar to the South East region (84.0%) and England (82.2%). There was little variation across the districts and boroughs (ranging from 79.8% in Arun to 86.0% in Mid Sussex).

General good health was more common in ethnic minority populations in West Sussex, at 86-91% of residents, compared to the ageing *White British* population (81.9% of residents) (figure 7).

Figure 7. General good health reported by residents in the West Sussex districts and boroughs, West Sussex, the South East and England in 2021, by ethnicity. Source: Census 2021.



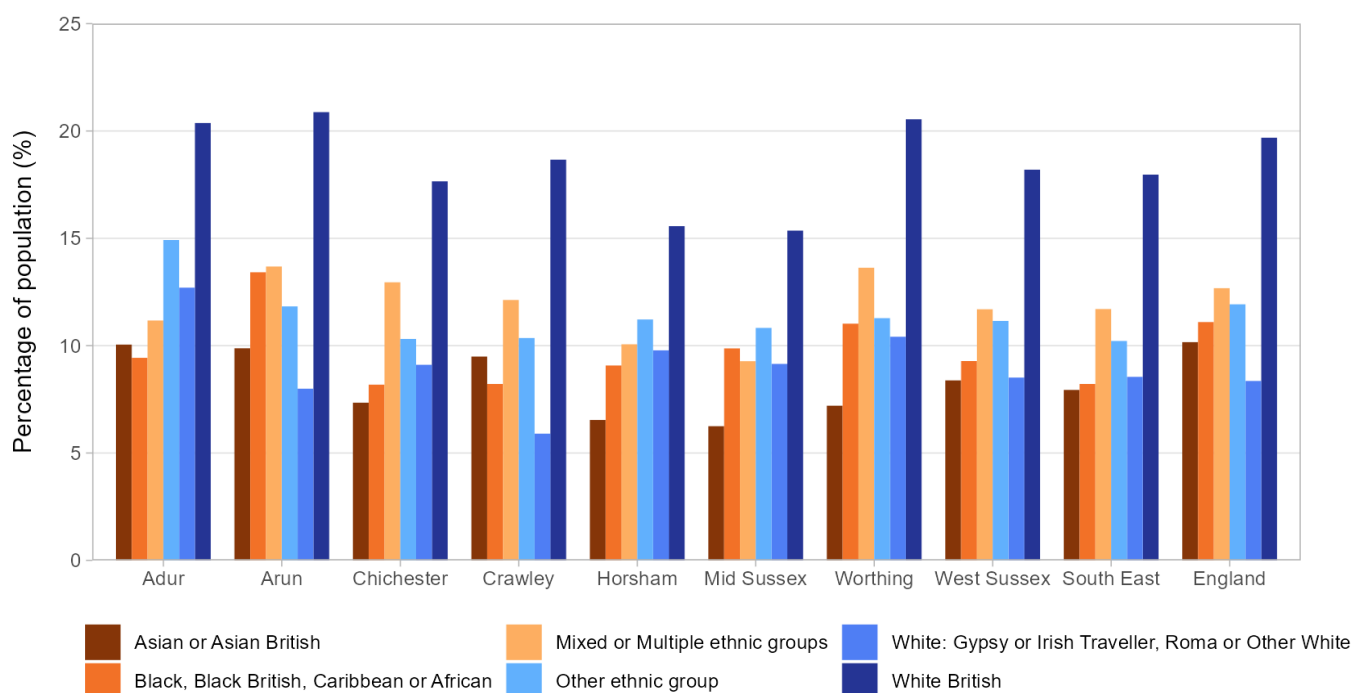
Disability

In West Sussex overall, 16.9% of residents regarded themselves as disabled under the Equality Act in 2021.

Disability was less common in ethnic minority populations in West Sussex, ranging from 8-12% of people in these groups. Disability was greatest in the *White British* population, at 18.2% of residents, reflecting the ageing population structure of this group.

Across the districts and boroughs, the prevalence of disability was generally lowest in people of *Asian or Asian British* ethnicities, ranging from 6-10% of this population (figure 8).

Figure 8. Disabled residents under the Equality Act in the West Sussex districts and boroughs, West Sussex, the South East and England in 2021, by ethnicity. Source: Census 2021.



Wider determinants of health by ethnicity

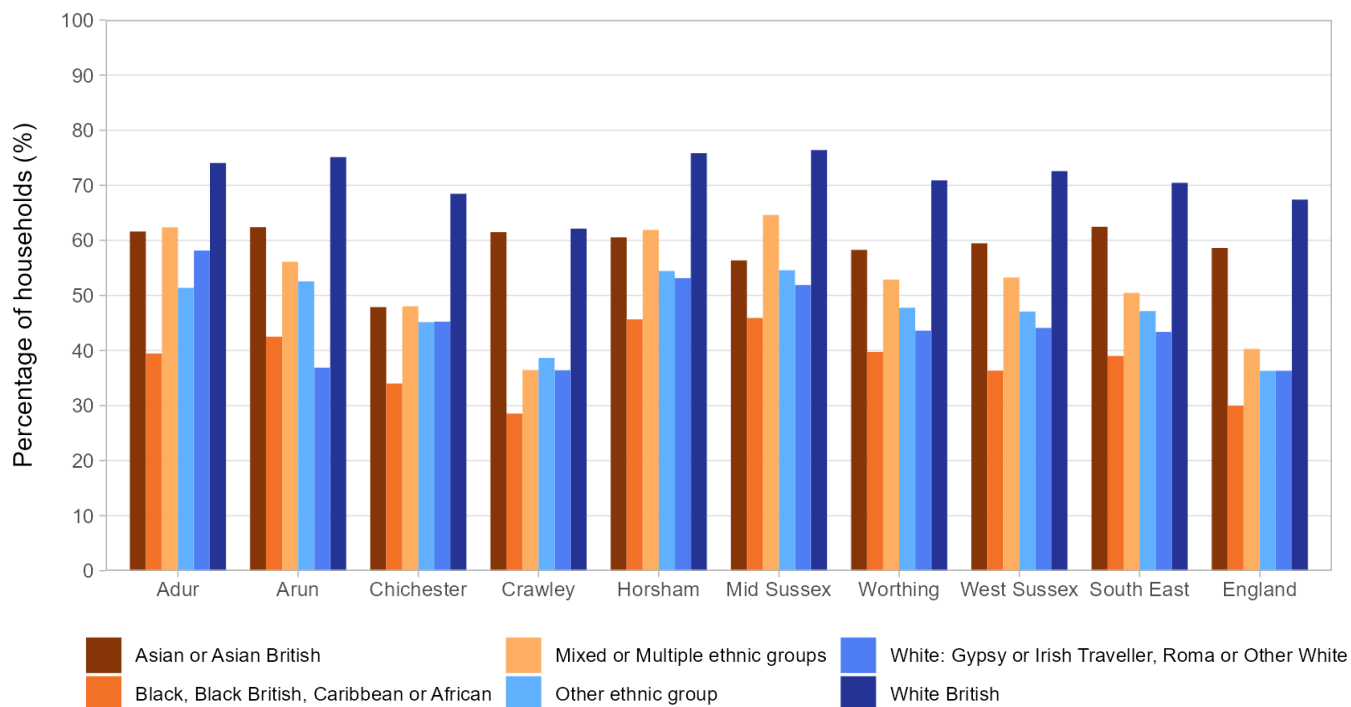
Home ownership

In West Sussex overall, 69.7% of households owned their own home (either outright or with a mortgage, loan or shared ownership). This proportion was similar to the South East region (67.1%) and higher than England (62.3%). There was some variation across the county, with home ownership lowest in Crawley (57.0% of households).

Home ownership was less common in ethnic minority populations in West Sussex, ranging from 36.3% of households of *Black, Black British, Caribbean or African* ethnicity to 59.5% of households of *Asian or Asian British* ethnicity (NB: household ethnicity is based on the household reference person). Home ownership was greatest in the majority *White British* population, at 72.6% of households.

Across the districts and boroughs, home ownership was consistently lowest in people of *Black, Black British, Caribbean or African* ethnicity, with less than half of all households owning their own home (figure 9). Home ownership was also comparatively low in *Other ethnic group* households (ranging from 39-55%) and *White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller, Roma or Other White* households (ranging from 36-58%).

Figure 9. Home ownership in the West Sussex districts and boroughs, West Sussex, the South East and England in 2021, by ethnicity. Source: Census 2021.



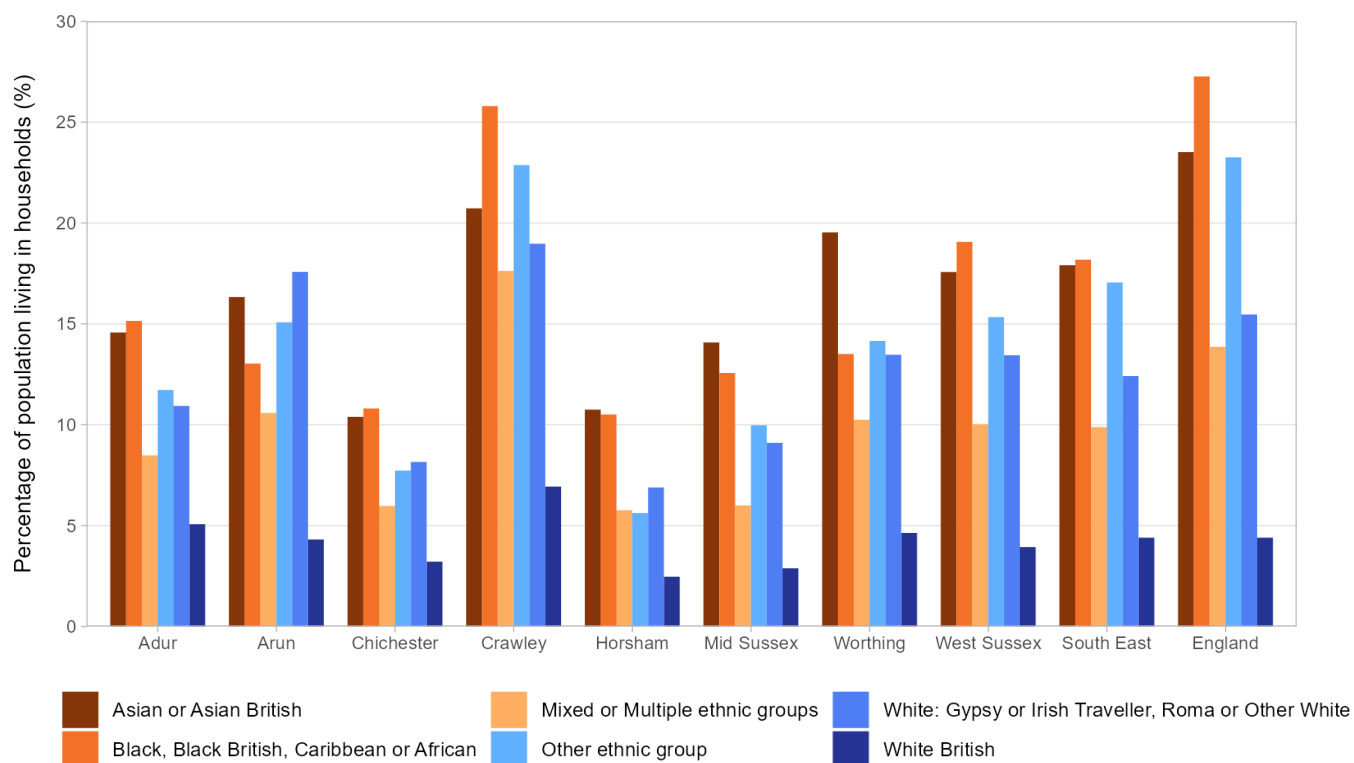
Overcrowding

Overcrowding in households is calculated by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), based on the persons living at a residence and number of bedrooms and communal rooms. A rating of ‘overcrowded’ implies that a household has fewer bedrooms than is typically required for the number of occupants⁴.

In West Sussex, 5.5% of residents were living in overcrowded households in 2021, equivalent to nearly 48,000 people. This proportion was lower than the South East region (6.5%) and England (8.6%), although there was some variation across the county. Overcrowding in households was greatest in Crawley, where 12.1% of residents were in overcrowded homes (equivalent to around 14,200 people).

Overcrowding in households was more common in ethnic minority populations in West Sussex, at 10-19% of residents in households, than in the majority *White British* population (3.9% of people living in households) (figure 10).

Figure 10. Overcrowding (i.e., fewer bedrooms than required for the number of occupants) in the West Sussex districts and boroughs, West Sussex, the South East and England in 2021, by ethnicity. Source: Census 2021.



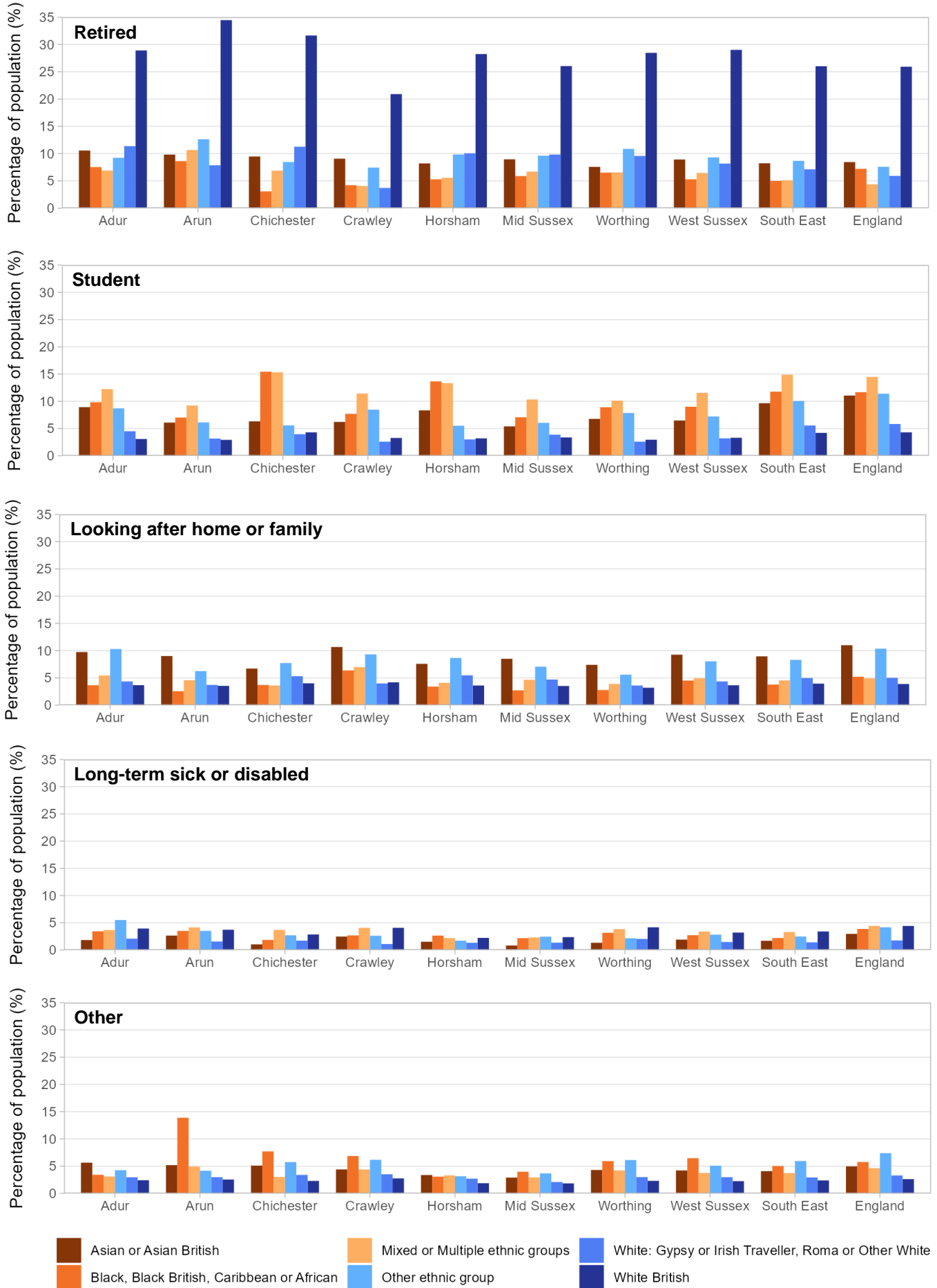
Economic activity

In West Sussex overall, 39.3% of residents aged 16+ were economically inactive, equivalent to 285,500 people, and similar to the South East region (37.8%) and England (39.1%). Two-thirds of those who were economically inactive in West Sussex were retired, whilst 10.2% were looking after home or family, 9.3% were students, 7.7% were long-term sick or disabled, and 6.3% were economically inactive for another reason.

Economic inactivity was less common in ethnic minority populations in West Sussex, ranging from 20.2% of the *White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller, Roma or Other White* population to 32.5% of the *Other ethnic group* population. Economic inactivity was most common in the ageing *White British* population, at 41.4% of this population, with 70.1% of these people being retired.

Across the districts and boroughs, a greater proportion of economically inactive people of *Black, Black British, Caribbean or African* ethnicity and *Mixed or multiple ethnic groups* were students, whilst more people of *Asian or Asian British* ethnicity and an *Other ethnic group* were looking after home or family (figure 11).

Figure 11. Economic inactivity status in residents aged 16+ in the West Sussex districts and boroughs, West Sussex, the South East and England in 2021, by ethnicity. Source: Census 2021.

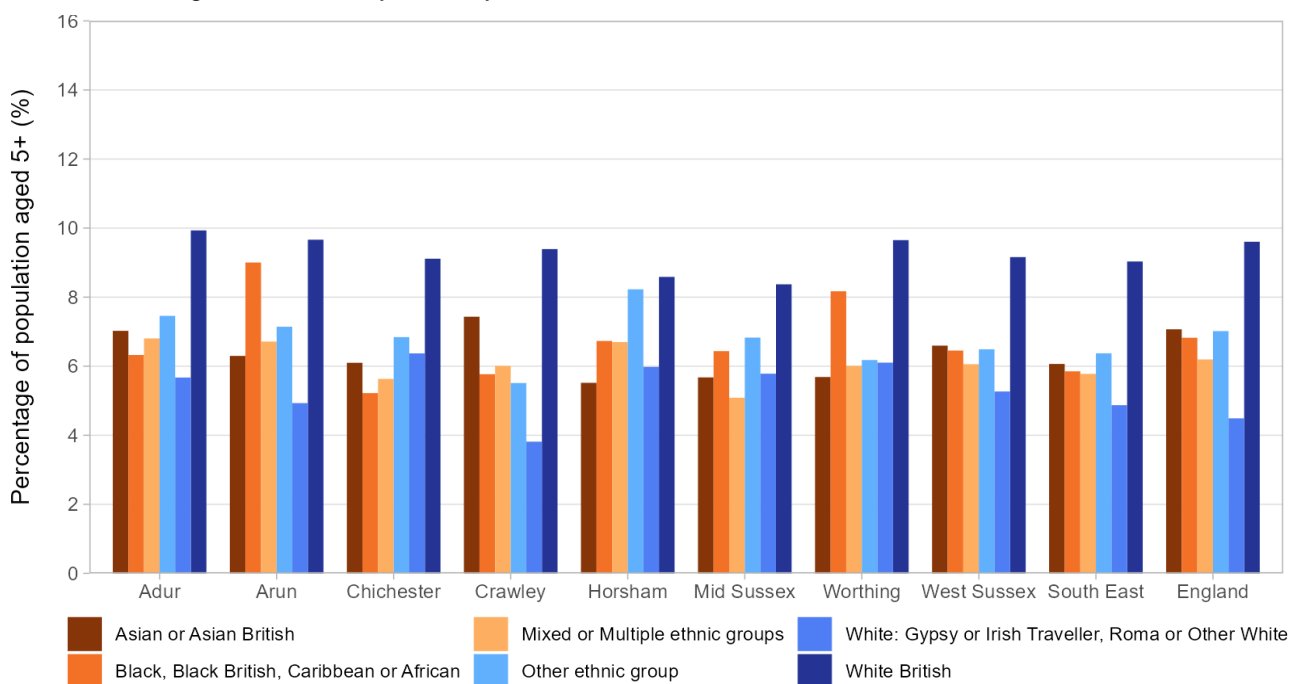


Unpaid care

In West Sussex overall, 8.7% of residents aged 5+ reported providing unpaid care each week, similar to the South East region (8.4%) and England (8.8%). There was little variation in overall unpaid care across the districts and boroughs.

Residents providing unpaid care each week were more commonly of *White British* ethnicity, ranging from 8-10% of residents of this ethnic group across the districts and boroughs in West Sussex (and 9.2% of residents in West Sussex overall) (figure 12).

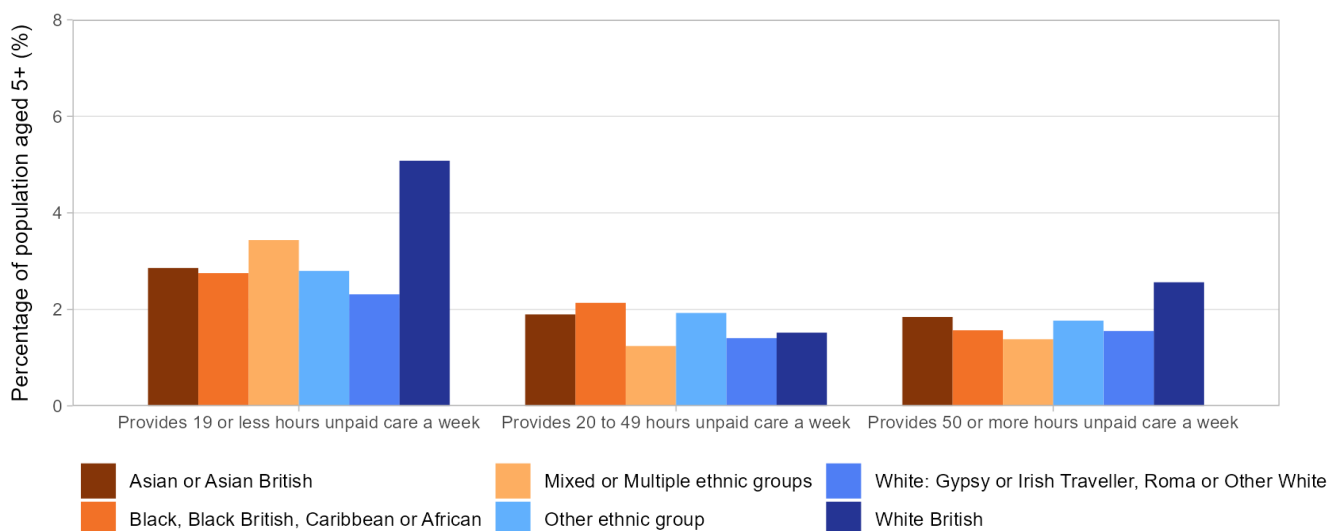
Figure 12. Unpaid care hours by residents aged 5+ in the West Sussex districts and boroughs, West Sussex, the South East and England in 2021, by ethnicity. Source: Census 2021.



Provision of unpaid care of 19 or fewer hours per week was most common, with around 2-3% of residents of minority ethnicities and 5.1% of *White British* ethnicity residents providing this level of care (figure 13).

Around 1-2% of residents of minority ethnicities provided 50 or more hours of unpaid care per week, whilst 2.6% of *White British* ethnicity residents provided this level of care.

Figure 13. Unpaid care hours by residents aged 5+ in West Sussex in 2021, by ethnicity. Source: Census 2021.



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