

How Diverse is Britain?

Fact Sheet

This information is taken from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) website:
www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk

At the 2001 Census, 92.1 per cent of the UK population described themselves as white (though not necessarily British). The remaining 7 per cent (4.6 million) belonged to non-white ethnic minority groups. Britain is a diverse society with a long history of immigration. During the last fifty years in particular, it has become increasingly multicultural. The 2001 Census figure quoted above represented a 53 per cent growth in the minority ethnic population between 1991 and 2001 (ie, from 3.0 million in 1991, to 4.6 million).

| | Count | Total Population % | Minority Ethnic Population % |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|---|
| White | 54,153,898 | 92.1 | n/a |
| Mixed | 677,117 | 1.2 | 14.6 |
| Asian or Asian British | | | |
| Indian | 1,053,411 | 1.8 | 22.7 |
| Pakistani | 747,285 | 1.3 | 16.1 |
| Bangladeshi | 283,063 | 0.5 | 6.1 |
| Other Asian | 247,664 | 0.4 | 5.3 |
| Black or Black British | | | |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|-----|------|
| Black Caribbean | 565,876 | 1.0 | 12.2 |
| Black African | 485,277 | 0.8 | 10.5 |
| Black Other | 97,585 | 0.2 | 2.1 |
| Chinese | 247,403 | 0.4 | 5.3 |
| Other | 230,615 | 0.4 | 5.0 |
| <i>All Minority Ethnic Population</i> | 4,635,296 | 7.9 | 100 |
| All Population | 58,789,194 | 100 | n/a |

Around half of the non-White population in 2001 were Asians of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi or other Asian origin. A further quarter were Black, and fifteen per cent of the non-White population were from the Mixed ethnic group. About a third of this group were from White and Black Caribbean backgrounds.