

Census 2021 results: *Protected characteristics*

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Children and Adults Services

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This profile brings together data on the Southwark population relating to the nine protected characteristics

BACKGROUND

This profile aims to provide an overview of the different population groups in Southwark, particularly focusing on the 'protected characteristics' covered under the Equality Act 2010. Specifically, the profile includes data on:

- Age
- Sex
- Race
- Pregnancy & maternity
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Sexual orientation
- Religion & belief
- Marriage & civil partnership

The profile draws on data from the Census 2021, published by the Office for National Statistics. More in-depth profiles on these characteristics are available via: www.southwark.gov.uk/jsna

The Census 2021 provides much new data on Southwark residents with protected characteristics

SUMMARY

The Census 2021 collected data relevant to all the protected characteristics included within the Equality Act 2010. Headline findings include:

- Despite Southwark's young population, older resident numbers have increased by one-sixth since 2011.
- Women substantially outnumber men among 20–25 yr olds and 65+ yr olds.
- Over one-sixth (16%) of residents report African ethnicity, over 1/20th Caribbean, 1/30th Chinese, and 1/30th Hispanic or Latin American.
- Two-fifth of residents are Christian, 1/10th are Muslim, and one-third have no religion.
- 1 in 6 residents is disabled (about 42,000 people); over two-fifths have their daily lives greatly affected; and 1 in 4 Southwark households has someone with a disability.
- The proportion of residents who are new parents is probably much higher in south-central Southwark.
- Substantially higher proportions of Southwark residents have never married, compared with London and England.
- At least 1 in 80 Southwark residents (about 3,200) has a gender identity different from their birth sex registration.
- At least 1 in 12 Southwark residents (about 20,700) identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual or another non-heterosexual identity.

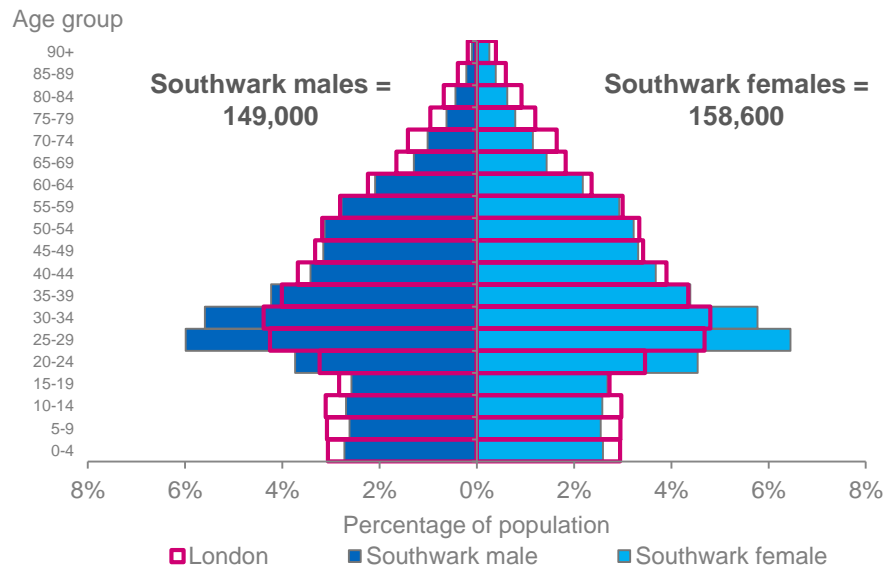
Southwark's comparatively young population is mainly due to young adults in their 20s & 30s

AGE & SEX: POPULATION STRUCTURE

On census day (21 Mar 2021), the usual resident population of Southwark was 307,600.

- The average age of Southwark residents is **32.4 yr**, more than 2 yr younger than London (34.9 yr) and 7 yr younger than England (39.4 yr).
- Southwark's comparatively young population is mainly due to large numbers of young adults in their 20s and 30s, rather than to children and teenagers.
- Since the last census, Southwark residents' average age has increased by more than a year (in 2011 it was 31.2 yr), while London's average age has increased by more than 2 yr.

Figure 1: Southwark and London 2021 population age structure

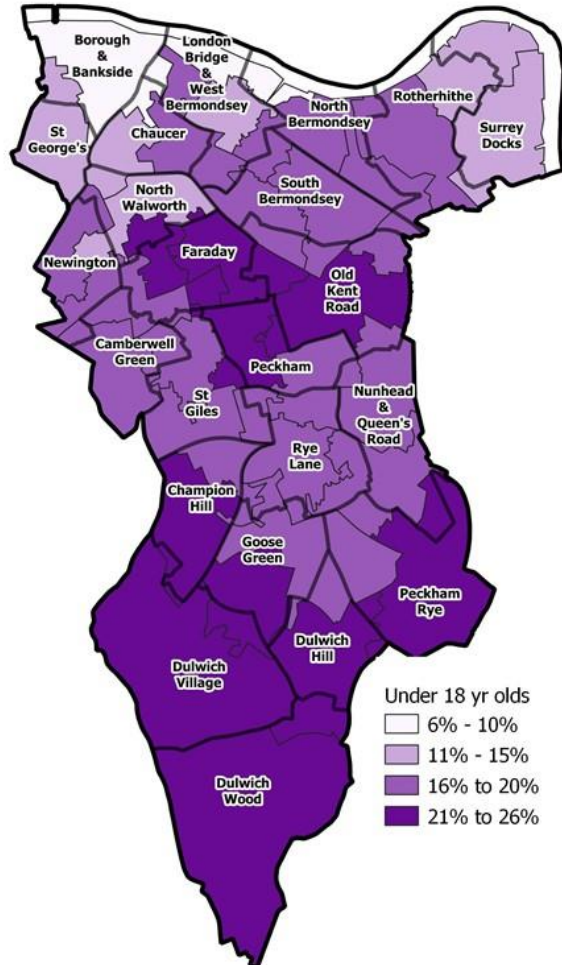


Reference

1. Population and household estimates, England and Wales: Census 2021. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

Highest levels of children (0–17 yr) are in southern and central Southwark

AGE: CHILDREN



On census day in 2021:

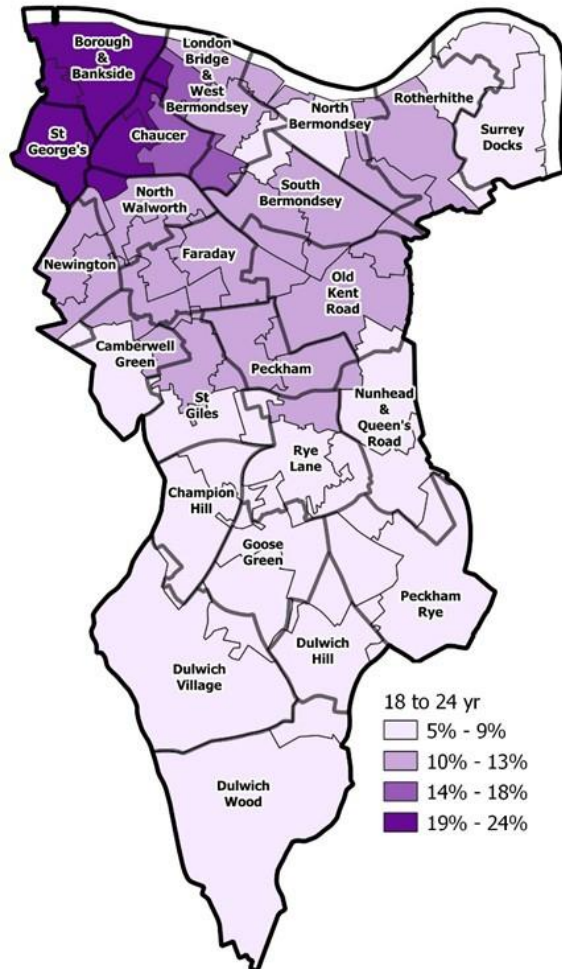
- Southwark had about 57,600 child residents (0–17 yr), about 1,500 (2%) fewer than in 2011.
- Children were most prevalent across central and southern Southwark.
- In most parts of Dulwich Village and Dulwich Wood, more than 1 in 4 (more than 25%) residents were children.
- In most of Borough & Bankside, fewer than 1 in 10 (less than 10%) residents were aged under 18 yr.

References

1. Sex by single year of age: Census 2021. Office for National Statistics, 2022. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/TS009/editions/2021>
2. Population estimates by single year of age and sex for local authorities in the UK: Census 2011. Office for National Statistics, 2013. [Link](#)
3. ONS, 2022. NOMIS official census and labour market statistics. <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

North-west Southwark has the highest levels of young people (18–24 yr)

AGE: YOUNG PEOPLE



On census day in 2021:

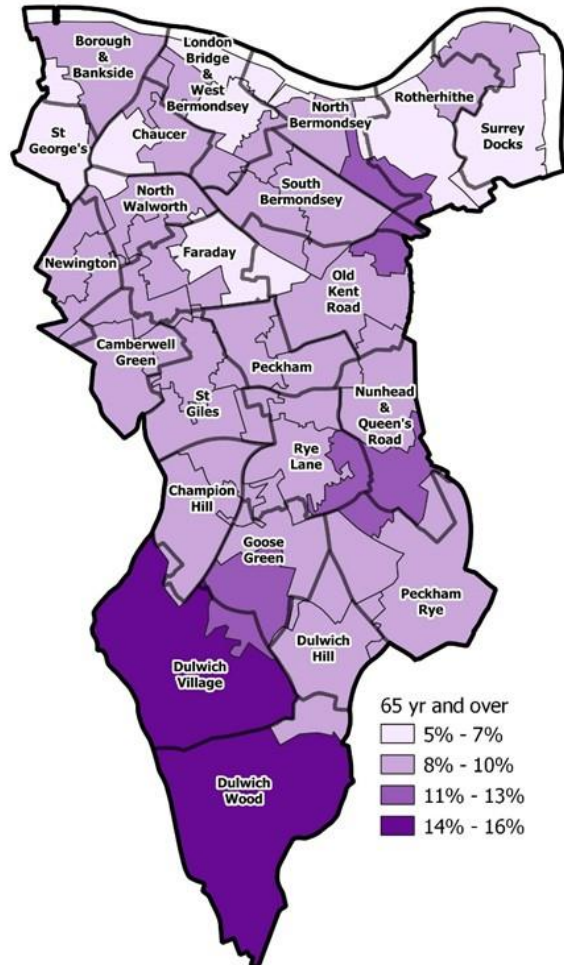
- There were about 32,600 young people (18–24 yr) in Southwark, 1,700 (5%) fewer than in 2011.
- In Borough & Bankside, St George's and half of Chaucer, at least 1 in 5 (20% or more) residents was aged 18–24 yr.
- In much of Goose Green, fewer than 1 in 20 (4.8%) of residents was aged 18–24 yr.

References

1. Sex by single year of age: Census 2021. Office for National Statistics, 2022. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/TS009/editions/2021>
2. Population estimates by single year of age and sex for local authorities in the UK: Census 2011. Office for National Statistics, 2013. [Link](#)
3. ONS, 2022. NOMIS official census and labour market statistics. <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

Levels of older people are highest in southern Southwark; numbers have grown by one-sixth since 2011

AGE: OLDER PEOPLE



On census day in 2021:

- There were about 25,700 older people (65+ yr) in Southwark, one-sixth (15%; 3,300) more than in 2011.
- In Dulwich Village, over 1 in 6 (16.1%) of residents is aged 65 yr or older.
- In parts of Chaucer and North Walworth, fewer than 1 in 20 (4.9%) of residents is 65 yr or older.

References

1. Sex by single year of age: Census 2021. Office for National Statistics, 2022. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/TS009/editions/2021>
2. Population estimates by single year of age and sex for local authorities in the UK: Census 2011. Office for National Statistics, 2013. [Link](#)
3. ONS, 2022. NOMIS official census and labour market statistics. <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

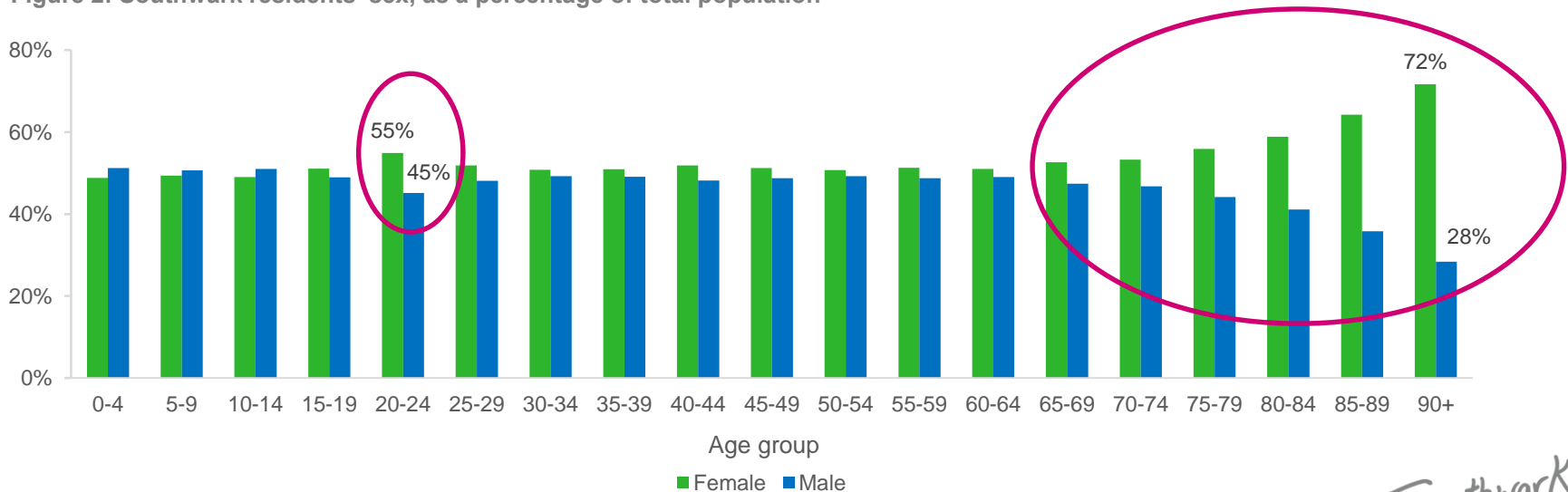
Southwark has slightly more females than males overall, and markedly more among 20–25 yr olds and older people

AGE & SEX

Census 2021 collected data on Southwark residents' sex and single year of age.

- Above the age of 15 yr, females slightly outnumbered males, with 6% (about 9,600) more females than males in the total all-age population.
- This difference was greatest among:
 - 20–25 yr olds, with one-fifth (22%; about 5,000) more females than males.
 - Older people, with progressively more females than males from 65 yrs onwards; among 90+ yr olds, there were 2 ½ times more females than males.

Figure 2: Southwark residents' sex, as a percentage of total population



Reference

1. Sex by single year of age: Census 2021. Office for National Statistics, 2022. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/TS009/editions/2021>

Southwark has over 280 ethnic groups; White (51%), Black (25%) and Asian (10%) ethnicities are most common

ETHNICITY & NATIONALITY

- Census 2021 recorded **286 different ethnicities** among Southwark residents.
- Just over **half (51%)** Southwark's population were from a **White** ethnic background (158,000 residents). **One-third (36%)** were **White British**, similar to London levels (37%), and lower than 2011 Southwark levels (40%).
- **One-quarter (25%)** of Southwark residents were from **Black, Black British, Caribbean or African** backgrounds (a total of about 77,300): over **one-sixth (16%; 48,300)** reported **African** ethnicity, **1 in 17 (6%; 18,200)** **Caribbean** ethnicity, and **1 in 25 (4%; 10,800)** **other Black** ethnicities.
- **1 in 10 (10%)** Southwark residents were from an **Asian or Asian British** background (30,500), most commonly Chinese ethnicity (3%; 8,400).
- **1 in 14 (7%; 22,000)** Southwark residents were from **Mixed or multiple** ethnicities.
- **About 1 in 30 (3%; 9,200)** residents reported **Hispanic or Latin American** ethnicities.
- **National identity** was most commonly **British or English (70%; 215,000)**; the most common non-UK national identity was **Spanish (2%)** (in 2011, it was Nigerian).
- **Main language** was most commonly **English** (four-fifths; 79%; 244,000) or **Spanish** (one-fifth; 20%; 13,000, double the number in 2011); Portuguese (1%) and French (1%) were next most frequent. Of those without English as their main language, one-fifth (19%; 10,200) could not speak English well.

References

1. Ethnic group, England and Wales: Census 2021. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>
2. National identity, England and Wales: Census 2021. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>
3. Language, England and Wales: Census 2021. Office for National Statistics, 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

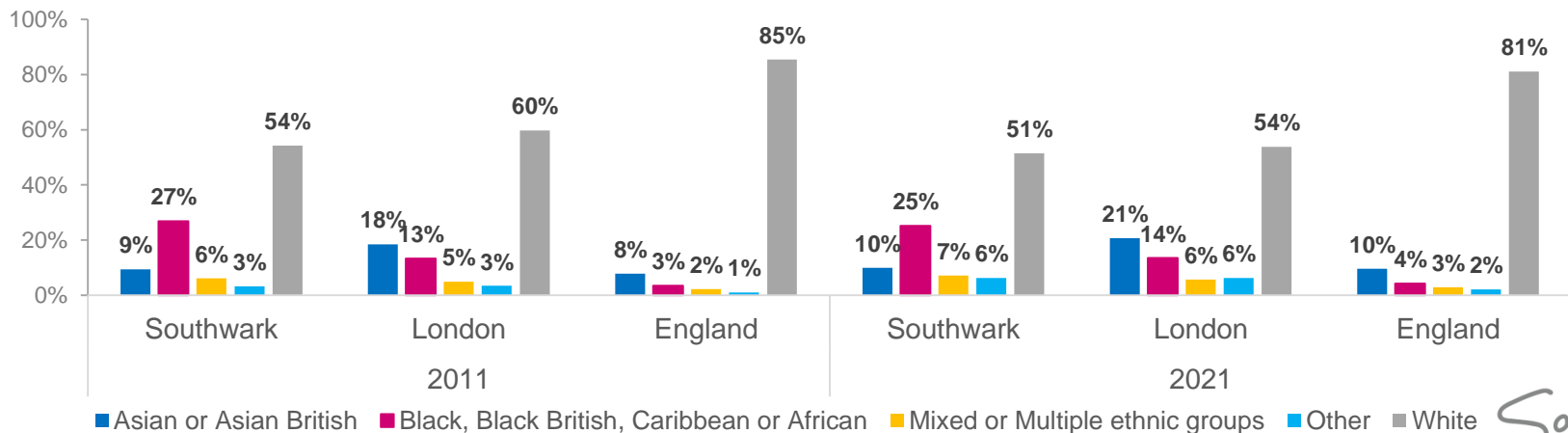
Broad ethnic group proportions in Southwark have not changed much since 2011

ETHNICITY: GEOGRAPHICAL COMPARISONS

Around half (51%) of Southwark residents reported their ethnicity as White, equivalent to 158,000 people. This proportion was slightly lower than London levels and substantially below England.

- Southwark had a higher proportion of residents (25%) reporting their ethnicity as 'Black, Black British, Caribbean or African', compared to London (14%) or England (4%).
- The proportion of residents identifying as 'Asian or Asian British' is notably smaller in Southwark (10% of population) than it is across London as a whole (21% of the population).
- 7% of residents reported their ethnicity as 'Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups', which is slightly higher than the proportion across London and England.
- The proportion of residents in Southwark reporting their ethnicity of 'Other' rose from 3% in 2011 to 6% in 2021, representing an increase of 10,000 people over the period.

Figure 3: Ethnicity in Southwark, London and England, in 2011 and 2021, as a proportion of the population



Reference

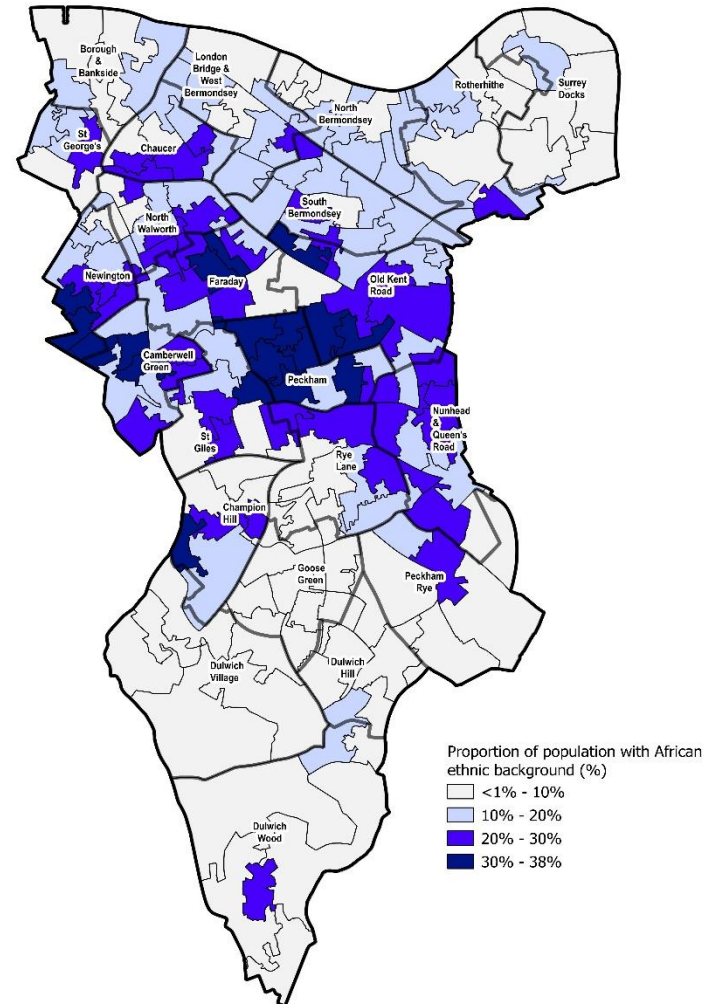
1. Ethnic group, England and Wales: Census 2021. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

In some central Southwark areas, almost two-fifths of residents identify as African

ETHNICITY: AFRICAN

Over one-sixth (16%; about 48,300) of Southwark's residents reported their ethnicity as African, but levels varied significantly across the borough.

- Highest levels of African ethnicity residents were in central Southwark, particularly Peckham, Old Kent Road, Camberwell Green, Newington and Faraday wards.
- In some of these areas, almost two-fifths (38%) of the population identified as African ethnicity.
- In contrast, in north and south Southwark, as few as 1 in 100 (1%) were of African ethnicity.



Reference

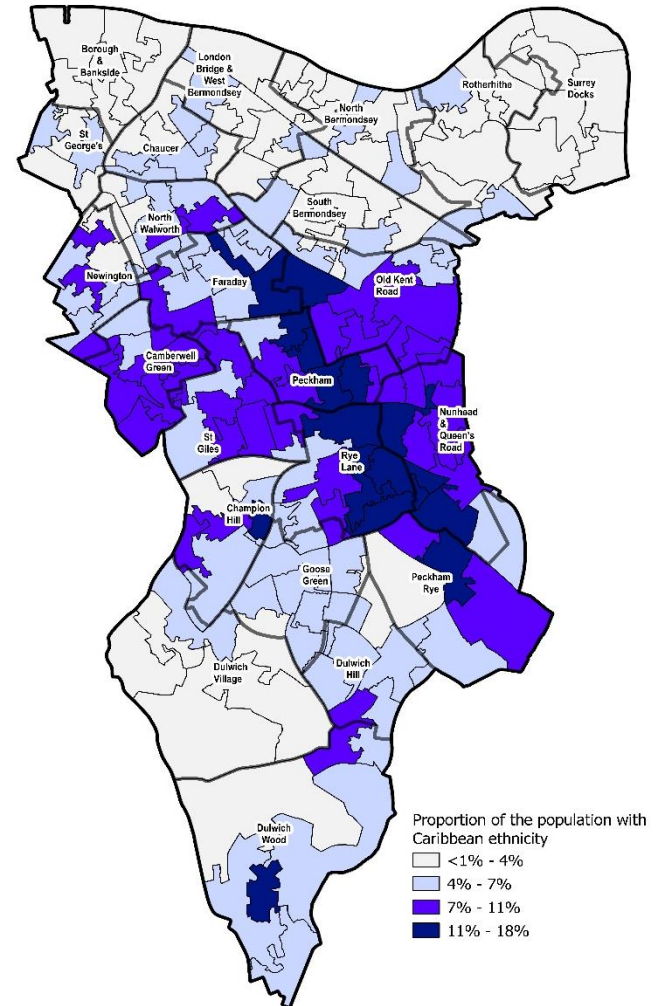
1. Ethnic group, England and Wales: Census 2021. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

In some areas of Peckham and Rye Lane, almost one-fifth of residents identify as Caribbean

ETHNICITY: CARIBBEAN

Residents identifying with Caribbean ethnicity account for 1 in 17 (6%; about 18,200) of Southwark's total population; levels differed substantially across the borough.

- Highest levels of Caribbean-identified residents were in central Southwark (similar to patterns for African identity).
- In some Peckham and Rye Lane areas, almost one-fifth (18%) of residents identified as Caribbean.
- In contrast, much of north Southwark had very few Caribbean-identified residents.



Reference

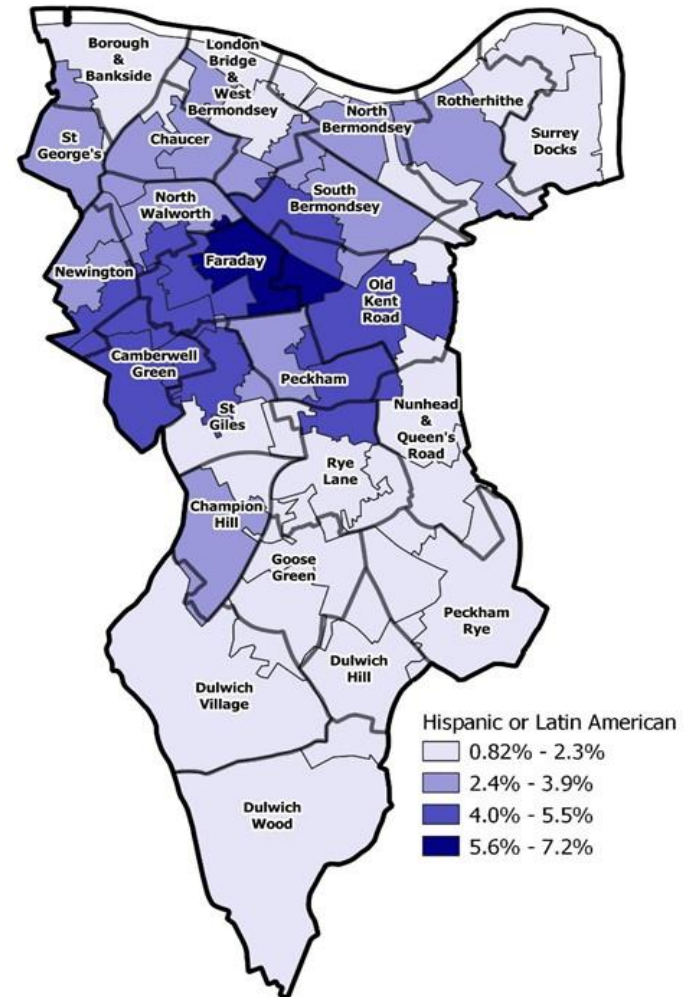
1. Ethnic group, England and Wales: Census 2021. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

Areas of Faraday and Old Kent Road have the highest levels of Hispanic and Latin American residents

ETHNICITY: HISPANIC AND LATIN AMERICAN

Census 2021 was the first to record data on Hispanic and Latin American ethnicities.

- About 1 in 30 (3%; 9,200) Southwark residents reported a Hispanic and/or Latin American ethnicity.
- In parts of Faraday and Old Kent Road, 1 in 14 (7.2%) residents reported a Hispanic or Latin American ethnicity.
- In contrast, in areas of Goose Green, Dulwich Hill and Peckham Rye, fewer than 1 in 100 (0.8%) residents identified with these ethnic groups.



Reference

1. Ethnic group, England and Wales: Census 2021. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

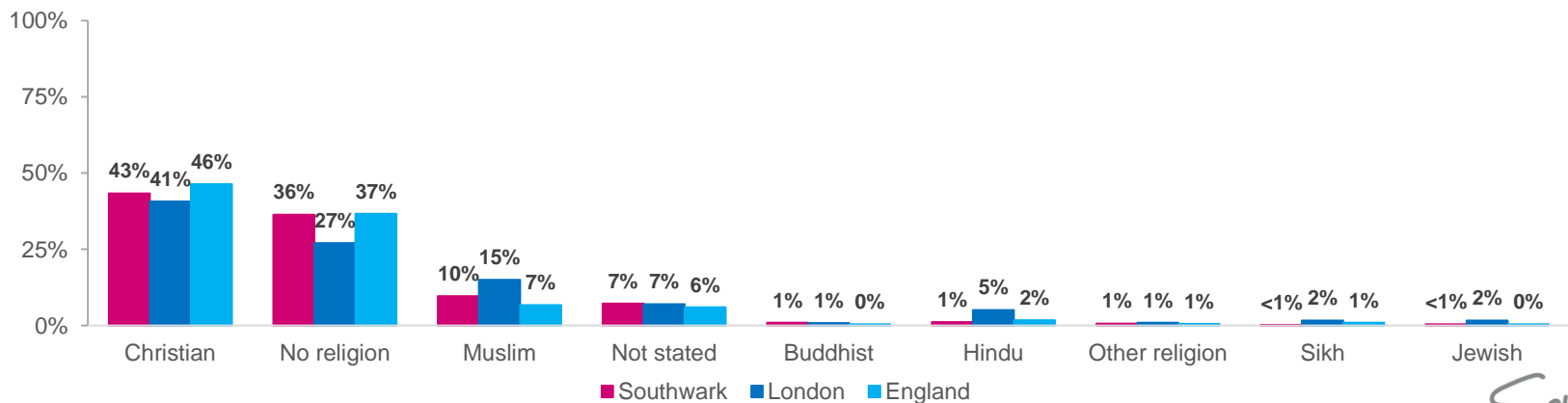
Southwark has substantially higher levels of non-religious residents than London

RELIGION

Over 40 distinct religions were identified among Southwark residents in 2021.

- Around 133,300 Southwark residents reported their religion as Christian: over two-fifths (43%) of the population. Levels have fallen substantially since 2011 (down from over one-half (53%), a drop of 18,100).
- England-wide, the Christian population proportion fell below half for the first time ever.
- 'No religion' was the second most common faith reported by Southwark residents: over one-third (36%) chose this option, substantially more than London (27%) but similar to England (37%).
- Over 29,600 Southwark residents reported their religion as Muslim, making up 1/10th (10%) of the population.
- Southwark has substantially lower levels of Muslim and Hindu residents than London.

Figure 4: Residents' religion in Southwark, London and England, 2021, as a proportion of total population



Reference

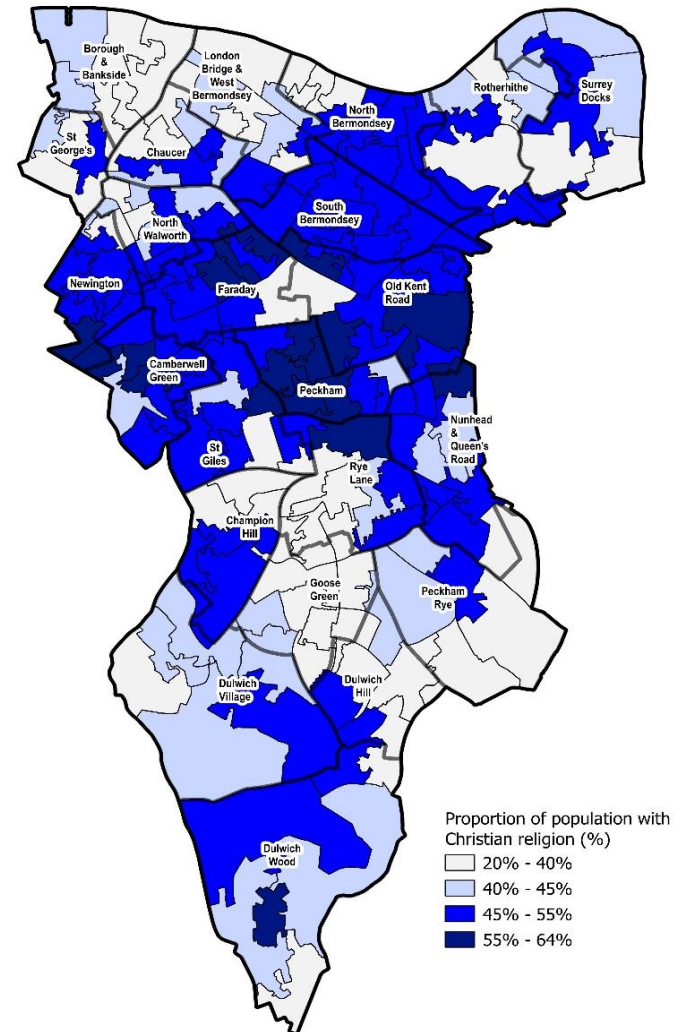
1. Religion, England and Wales: Census 2021. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

In some Peckham and Old Kent Road areas, almost two-thirds of residents are Christian

RELIGION: CHRISTIAN

Around 133,300 residents reported their religion as Christian, making up over two-fifths (43%) of Southwark's population.

- Large Christian populations were seen across many areas in the borough; Peckham and Old Kent Road in particular had large proportions of Christian residents.
- In some areas of these wards, between half (55%) and two-thirds (64%) of residents were of the Christian faith.
- Elsewhere, levels were as low as one-fifth (20%), such as in Borough & Bankside.



Reference

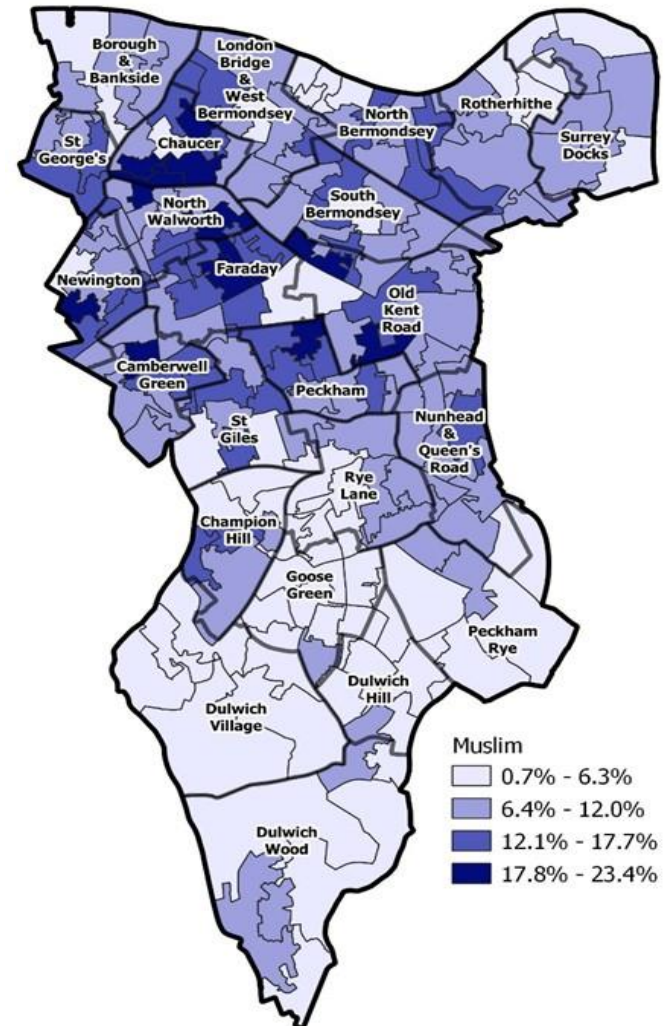
1. Religion, England and Wales: Census 2021. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

Muslim residents are most prevalent in a number of central and north Southwark neighbourhoods

RELIGION: MUSLIM

Muslim residents comprised the third most common religious group in Southwark, numbering about 29,600 (1/10th (10%) of the population).

- Small neighbourhood areas with higher levels of Muslim residents were found throughout north-central Southwark.
- In some neighbourhoods in Chaucer and North Walworth, almost 1 in 4 (23%) of the population were Muslim.
- In contrast, in parts of North Bermondsey, fewer than 1 in 140 (0.7%) were Muslim.



Reference

1. Religion, England and Wales: Census 2021. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

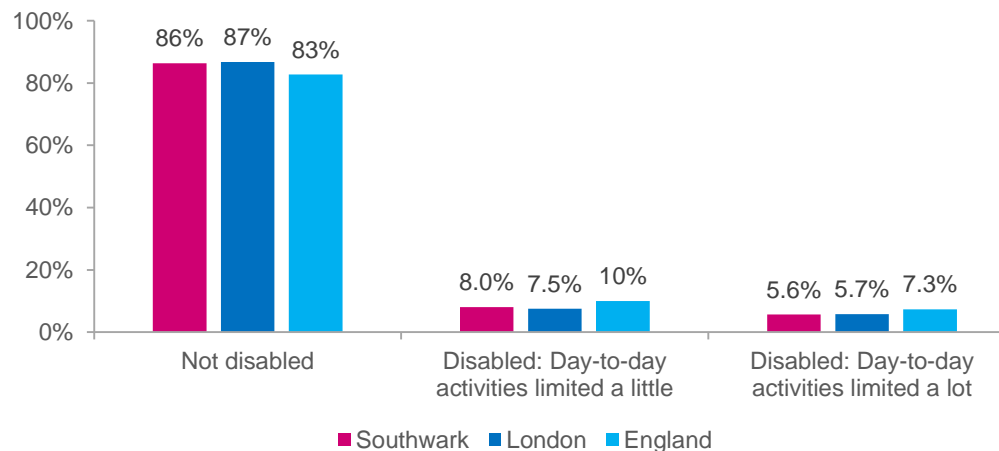
Almost 1 in 6 Southwark people reports being disabled: about 42,000 people, substantially more than in 2011

DISABILITY

On 2021 census day, almost 1 in 6 (14%) Southwark residents reported being disabled (based on 2010 Equality Act definitions), a similar proportion to London and England.

- Of these people, over two-fifths (41%; 17,400; about 6% of all Southwark residents) reported that their day-to-day activities were limited a lot.
- The number of disabled residents increased by 3,000 (8%) between 2011 and 2021.
- In addition to these numbers, 18,000 Southwark residents reported having long-term health conditions that did not affect their day to day activities.

Figure 5: Percentage of residents who are classed as disabled under the 2010 Equality Act, 2021



Reference

1. Disability, England and Wales: Census 2021, Office for National Statistics. 2023. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/bulletins/disabilityenglandandwales/census2021>

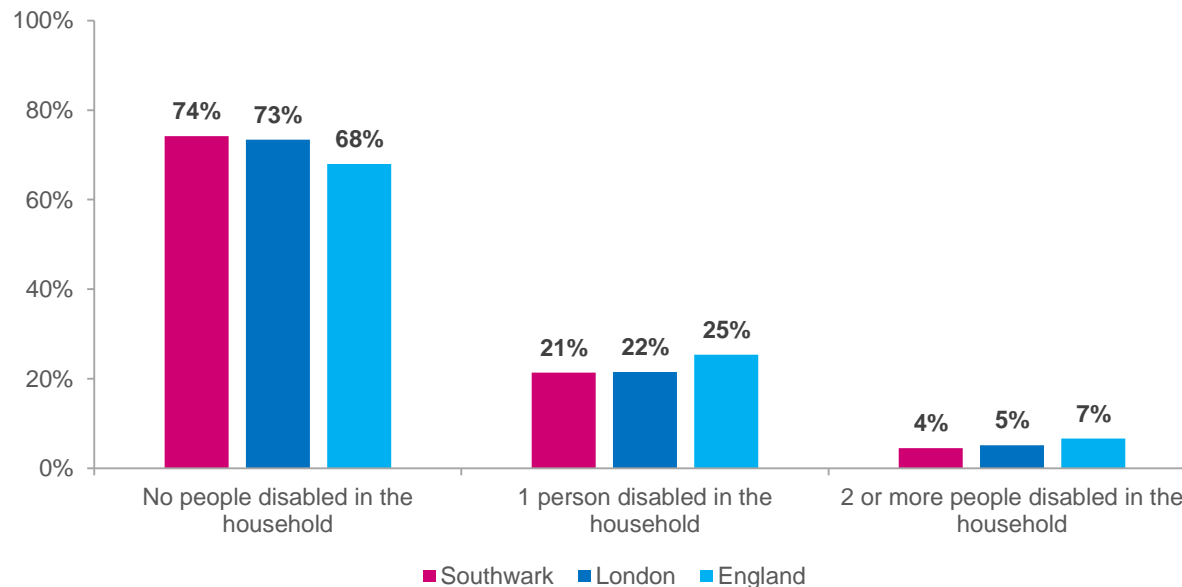
In 2021, 1 in 4 Southwark households (over 33,000) had someone with a disability

DISABILITY IN HOUSEHOLDS

A quarter (25%) of all households in Southwark had someone with a disability: 21% of households had 1 disabled member, and 4% had 2 or more disabled members.

- Southwark had a similar proportion of households with no disabled members compared to London.
- The 2021 proportion of Southwark households with disabled members was broadly comparable levels in 2011.

Figure 6: Percentage of households with disabled members, 2021



Reference

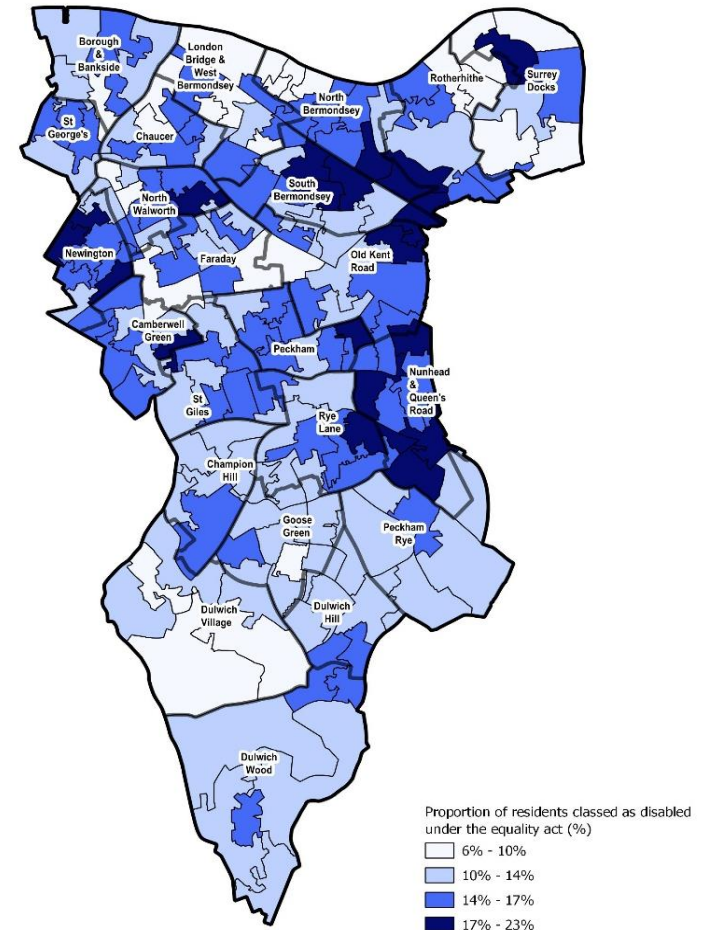
1. Disability, England and Wales: Census 2021, Office for National Statistics. 2023. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/bulletins/disabilityenglandandwales/census2021>

Disability levels in worst-affected areas were over 3 times higher than in least affected areas

DISABILITY: GEOGRAPHY

Neighbourhood areas with the highest proportions of disabled residents were in Newington, Nunhead & Queen's Road, Old Kent Road and North Bermondsey/Rotherhithe: in these areas, more than 1 in 5 (over 20%) residents were disabled.

- In the worst affected areas of Newington, close to 1 in 4 (23%) residents were disabled.
- The areas with lowest levels of disability were in London Bridge and Dulwich Village (as few as 1 in 20 (6%)).
- The worst-affected Southwark areas had disability levels over 3 times higher than least-affected areas.



Reference

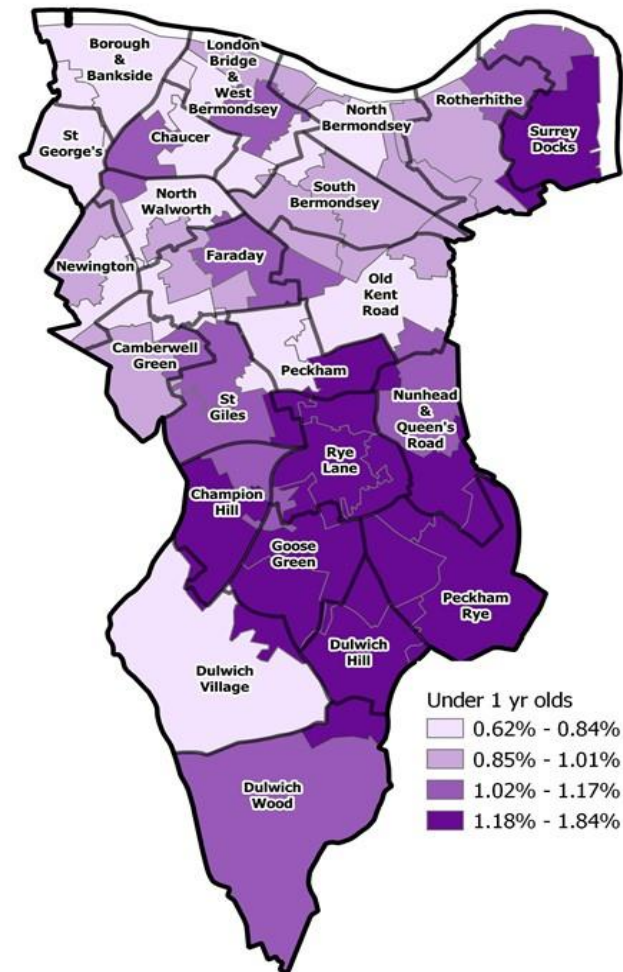
1. Disability, England and Wales: Census 2021, Office for National Statistics. 2023.
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/bulletins/disabilityenglandandwales/census2021>

New parents are probably most prevalent in south-central Southwark wards

PREGNANCY & MATERNITY

Although Census 2021 data is not yet available for family child age (and pregnancy was not assessed), data on local infants gives an indication of new parenthood.

- In March 2021, there were about 3,200 infants under 1 yr living in Southwark.
- The highest prevalence of under 1 yr olds was in southern central Southwark, especially in Rye Lane, Goose Green, Peckham Rye and Dulwich Hill; in areas of Goose Green and Peckham Rye, over 1 in 60 (1.8%) residents were aged under 1 yr.
- In areas of Borough & Bankside and St George's, as few as 1 in 160 (0.62%) residents were aged under 1 yr.
- Numbers of local infants fell by almost one-third (31%) in the 10 years between 2011 and 2021.



References

1. Sex by single year of age: Census 2021. Office for National Statistics, 2022. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/TS009/editions/2021>
2. Population estimates by single year of age and sex for local authorities in the UK: Census 2011. Office for National Statistics, 2013. [Link](#)

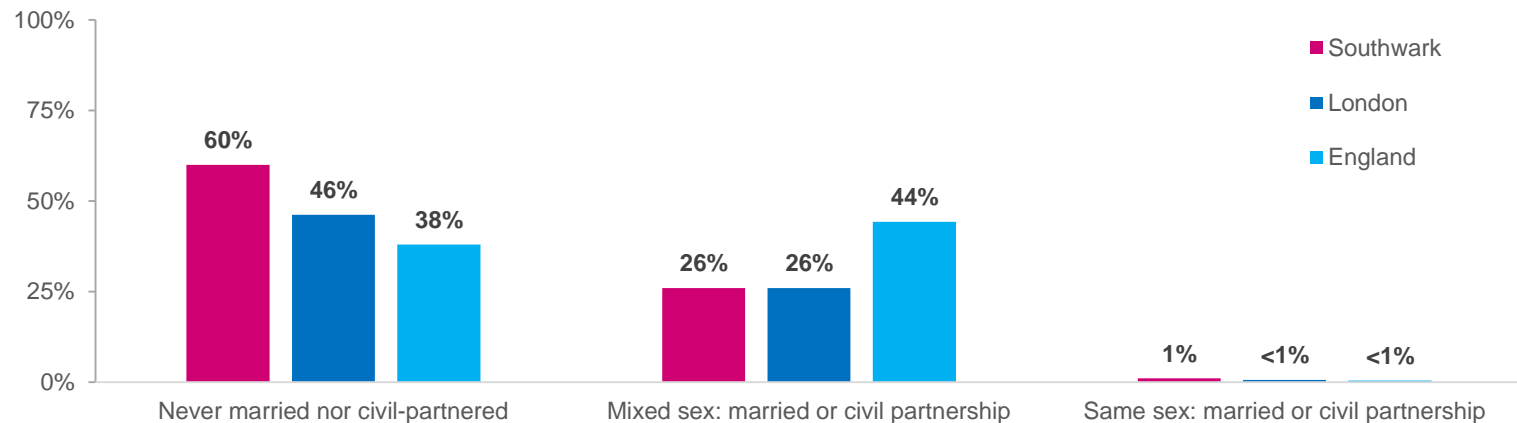
Substantially higher proportions of Southwark residents have never married, compared with London and England

MARRIAGE & CIVIL PARTNERSHIP

The Census 2021 was the first to collect data on same-sex marriage and mixed-sex civil partnership.

- The largest partnership category among Southwark residents was never married nor civil-partnered: 60% of 16+ yr adults. Levels were well above London and England, and had risen one-fifth (19%) since 2011.
- In Southwark and London, rates of mixed-sex marriage and civil partnership were two-fifths lower than in England (26%, 26% and 44%, respectively).
- Around 2,600 Southwark 16+ yr adults were in same-sex marriages or civil partnerships, representing 1% of the population; this was higher than London and England levels (0.6% and 0.4%, respectively).

Figure 7: Legal partnership status of residents in Southwark, London and England, 2021



Reference

1. ONS, 2022. Household and resident characteristics, England and Wales: Census 2021. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

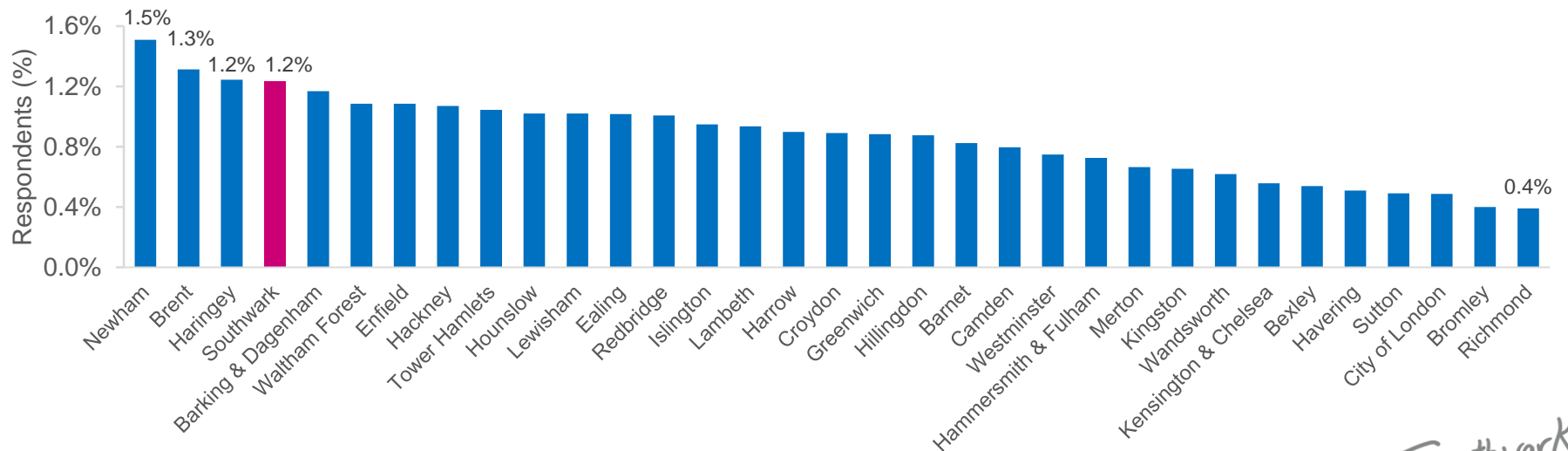
At least 3,200 Southwark people have a gender identity different from their sex at birth, making up 1 in 80 residents

GENDER REASSIGNMENT

Census respondents were asked whether their gender identity was the same as their sex registered at birth.

- In Southwark, about 1 in 80 (1.2%; 3,200) residents reported a gender identity different from their birth sex registration, significantly higher than London (0.9%) and England (0.5%) levels.
- Southwark ranked 5th highest in England and 4th highest in London for levels of trans/non-binary identity.
- These are probably substantial under-estimates. 7.3% of Southwark residents did not answer.

Figure 8: Census respondents with a gender identity different from their sex registered at birth, as a proportion of all 16+ yr



Reference

1. ONS, 2023. Gender identity, England and Wales: Census 2021. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/genderidentity/bulletins/genderidentityenglandandwales/census2021>

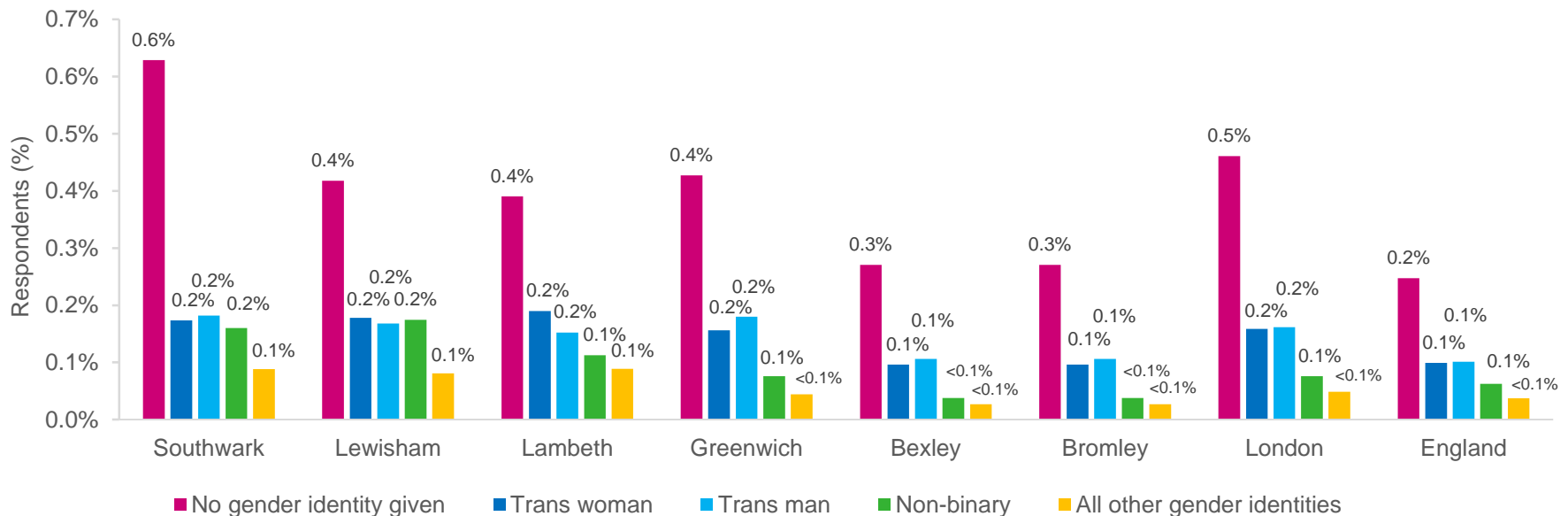
Half Southwark trans/non-binary people use no specific identity term; most others use 'trans woman', 'trans man' or 'non-binary'

GENDER REASSIGNMENT: IDENTITY TYPES

Census respondents whose gender identity differed from their sex registration at birth were asked to write in their gender identity.

- Around half (51%; 1,600) of all Southwark trans/non-binary people did not write in a specific gender identity; other South East London boroughs, London and England had a similar pattern.
- As at March 2021, Southwark had 500 trans man, 450 trans woman and 400 non-binary identified residents.

Figure 9: Respondents with a gender identity different from their sex registered at birth, as a proportion of all 16+ yr respondents

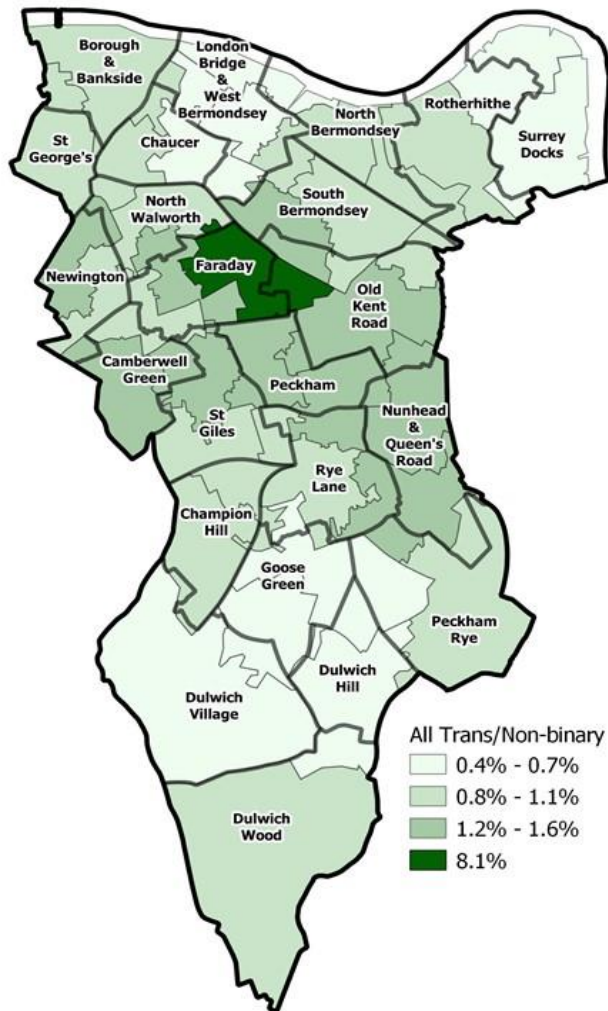


Reference

1. ONS, 2023. Gender identity, England and Wales: Census 2021. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/genderidentity/bulletins/genderidentityenglandandwales/census2021>

Southwark's Burgess Park area has the highest prevalence of trans/non-binary residents in England: 8%

GENDER REASSIGNMENT: ALL TRANS/NON-BINARY



Census 2021 data showed the prevalence of trans and non-binary identity at large neighbourhood level.

- Over 1 in 12 (8.1%; 600) of residents in Southwark's Burgess Park neighbourhood area (extending across Faraday and Old Kent Road) identified as trans/non-binary; this was the highest trans/non-binary prevalence in England (far ahead of 3.8% in East Central Oxford and 2.4% in Manor Park, Newham).
- The next highest ranking Southwark neighbourhoods had far lower prevalences: around 1 in 70 (about 100 residents):
 - Nunhead North, 1.6%
 - Peckham Park Road, 1.6%
 - Walworth South, 1.6%
- Southwark's Herne Hill & Dulwich Park area had the lowest proportion of trans/non-binary residents, at 0.4% (fewer than 1 in 200).

Reference

1. ONS, 2023. Census 2021: gender identity. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/TS078/editions/2021/versions/1>

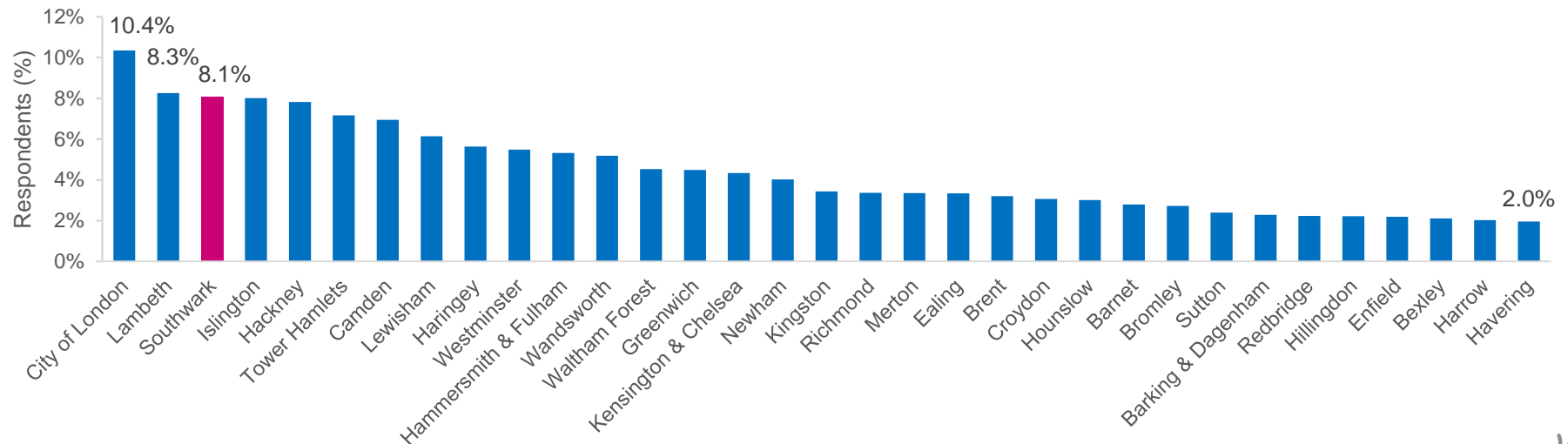
More than 1 in 12 Southwark residents have an LGB+ sexual identity, equating to around 20,700 residents

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Census respondents were asked which term best described their sexual orientation: straight or heterosexual; gay or lesbian; bisexual; or another orientation.

- In Southwark, more than 1 in 12 (8.1%; 20,700) residents reported an LGB+ sexual identity, around double the levels for London (4.3%) and England (3.2%).
- Southwark ranked 4th highest in England and 3rd highest in London. Seven of the top 10 local authorities were in London.
- Just under 1 in 10 Southwark residents did not answer the question.

Figure 10: Census respondents with an LGB+ identity, as a proportion of all 16+ yr respondents



Reference

1. ONS, 2023. Sexual orientation, England and Wales: Census 2021. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/sexuality/bulletins/sexualorientationenglandandwales/census2021>

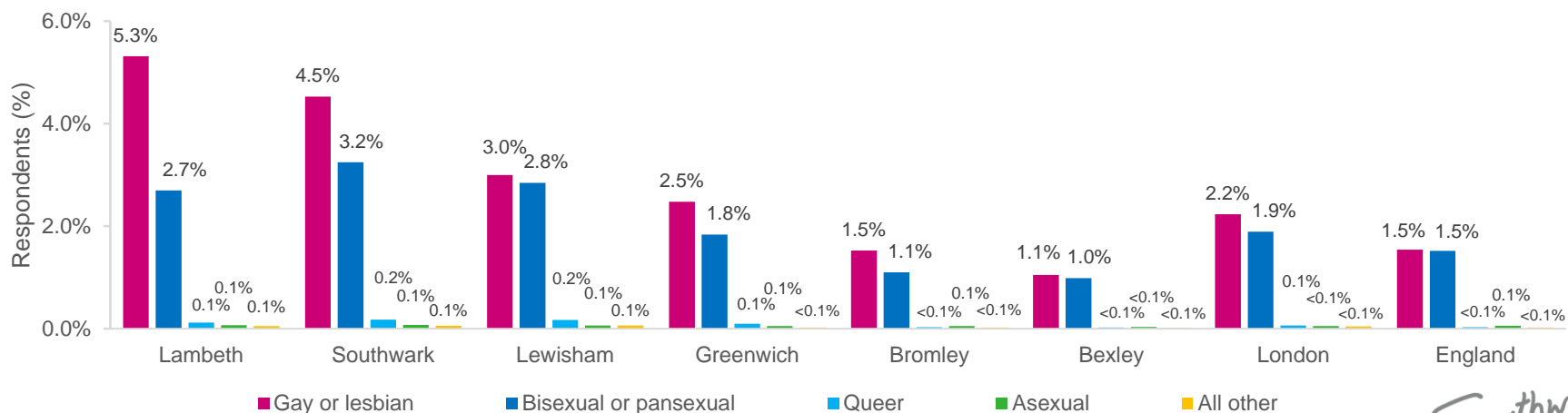
1 in 20 Southwark residents identified as lesbian or gay, while 1 in 30 identified as bisexual or pansexual

SEXUAL ORIENTATION: IDENTITY TYPES

Census respondents who chose 'other sexual orientation' were asked to write in the orientation with which they identified.

- Southwark's LGB+ population predominantly identified as lesbian/gay (56%) or bisexual/pansexual (40%).
- Around 1 in 20 Southwark residents (4.5%; 11,600) identified as lesbian or gay; about 1 in 30 (3.2%; 8,300) identified as bisexual or pansexual; and 0.2% identified as queer (450), 0.1% as asexual (200) and 0.1% with another LGB+ identity (150).
- Southwark had over double the lesbian/gay prevalence and over one-half higher bisexual/ pansexual prevalence, compared with London and England levels.

Figure 11: Census respondents with an LGB+ identity, as a proportion of all 16+ yr respondents, by specific identity term selected or volunteered



Reference

- ONS, 2023. Sexual orientation, England and Wales: Census 2021. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/sexuality/bulletins/sexualorientationenglandandwales/census2021>

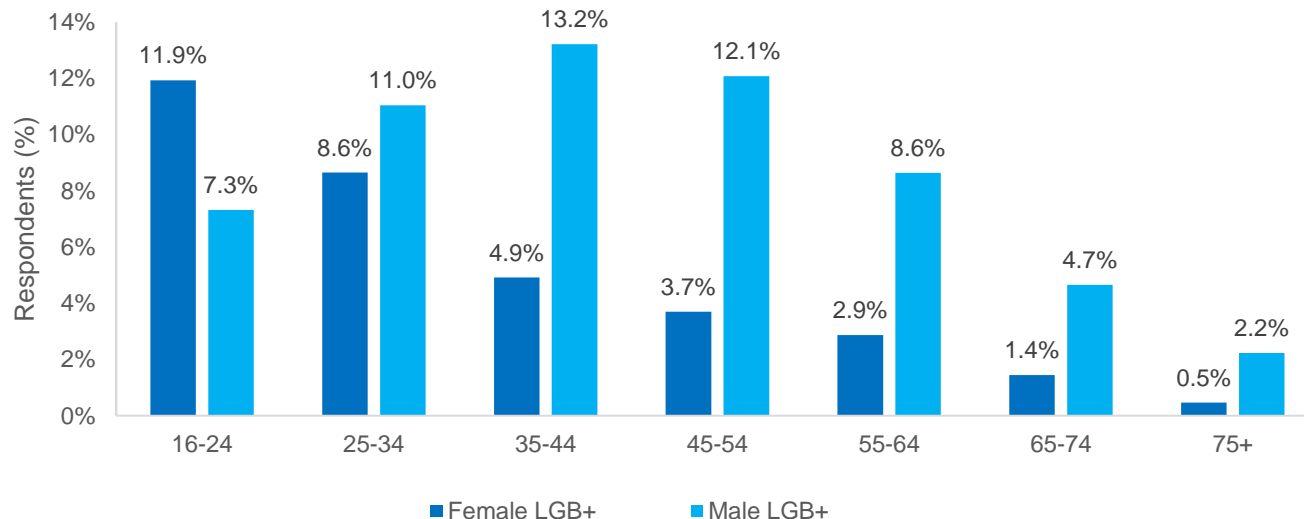
1 in 16 Southwark women and 1 in 10 men are LGB+; levels are highest in young women and middle-aged men

SEXUAL ORIENTATION: AGE GROUP

Age data is available for LGB+ residents; figures are probably under-estimates.

- At least 1 in 16 Southwark women (6.2%; 8,300) identify as LGB+. Levels peak in young people: at least 1 in 8 among those aged 16–24 (11.9%; 2,500). Over two-thirds of Southwark LGB+ women (69%) are aged under 35.
- More than 1 in 10 Southwark men (10.1%; 12,400) identify as LGB+. Levels peak in middle-aged adults, with more than 1 in 8 of those aged 35–44 (13.2%; 3,100) identifying as LGB+. Over three-quarters of Southwark LGB+ men (76%) are aged between 25 and 54.

Figure 12: Southwark population identifying as LGB+ by age and sex

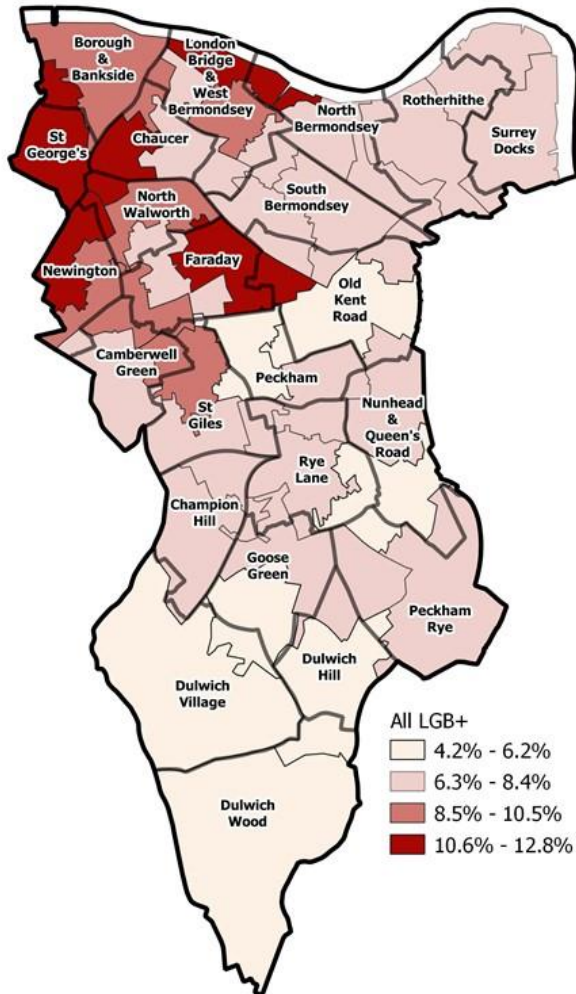


Reference

- ONS, 2023. Sexual orientation (4 categories) by age and sex, England and Wales: Census 2021. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/sexuality/datasets/sexualorientation4categoriesbyageandsex/englandandwalescensus2021>

Southwark's Burgess Park area has the largest LGB+ population, equating to over 1 in 8 residents

SEXUAL ORIENTATION: ALL LGB+



ONS census data indicates prevalence of LGB+ identity by large neighbourhood area.

- The highest ranking Southwark neighbourhood was Burgess Park (extending across Faraday and Old Kent Road), where over 1 in 8 (12.8%; about 950) residents reported an LGB+ identity.
- The next highest ranking Southwark MSOAs all had prevalences of more than 1 in 10:
 - Newington, Kennington East & Walworth West MSOA, 12.7%
 - Elephant & Castle MSOA, 11.7%
 - Southwark St George's MSOA, 11.1%
- Southwark's Herne Hill & Dulwich Park areas had the lowest proportion of LGB+ residents, at 4.2% (fewer than 1 in 20).

Reference

1. ONS, 2023. Census 2021: Sexual orientation. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/TS077/editions/2021/versions/1>

Results from the 2021 Census need to be considered alongside a number of influencing factors

CONSIDERATIONS

- **The census was taken during the COVID-19 pandemic**, with respondents required to answer questions based on their place of residence on Census Day. At this time many COVID-19 restrictions were still in place.
- There is likely to have been **substantial population movement and change in the period since the March 2021 Census**. Notably, students returning to campus' after a time of remote learning, a return of workers in hospitality and entertainment sectors, and a return of people who left London temporarily during the pandemic. This means the population make-up and the respective characteristics may be notably different to what was reported in the Census.
- As with all self-completion questionnaires, some will have **contained incomplete, missing or incorrect information** about an individual or household. However, ONS will have taken steps to correct these inconsistencies.

Reference

1. Quality and methodology information (QMI) for Census 2021. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>
2. 2021 Census: First release. Greater London Authority. 2022.

The Census 2021 provides much new data on Southwark residents with protected characteristics

SUMMARY

The Census 2021 collected data relevant to all the protected characteristics included within the Equality Act 2010. Headline findings include:

- Despite Southwark's young population, older resident numbers have increased by one-sixth since 2011.
- Women substantially outnumber men among 20–25 yr olds and 65+ yr olds.
- Over one-sixth (16%) of residents report African ethnicity, over 1/20th Caribbean, 1/30th Chinese, and 1/30th Hispanic or Latin American.
- Two-fifth of residents are Christian, 1/10th are Muslim, and one-third have no religion.
- 1 in 6 residents is disabled (about 42,000 people); over two-fifths have their daily lives greatly affected; and 1 in 4 Southwark households has someone with a disability.
- The proportion of residents who are new parents is probably much higher in south-central Southwark.
- Substantially higher proportions of Southwark residents have never married, compared with London and England.
- At least 1 in 80 Southwark residents (about 3,200) has a gender identity different from their birth sex registration.
- At least 1 in 12 Southwark residents (about 20,700) identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual or another non-heterosexual identity.

Find out more at
southwark.gov.uk/jsna

Southwark Public Health Division
Children and Adults Services

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