

# The ageing of the ethnic minority populations of England and Wales: findings from the 2011 census

A briefing paper from the Centre for Policy on Ageing

June 2013



The Centre for Policy on Ageing was set up by the Nuffield Foundation in 1947 and, in 2012, celebrated 65 years of policy analysis and information provision on older age issues during which it has produced over 150 reports and reviews.

CPA is an independent charity promoting the interests of older people through research, policy analysis and the dissemination of information. The Centre aims to raise awareness of issues around ageing, influence the development of policies to enable older people to live their lives as they choose, and to support good practice. CPA's overarching focus since its inception has been on empowering older people to shape their own lives and the services they receive. The fundamental touchstone of its approach is to discover and advocate what older people themselves want and need.

CPA is currently working in partnership with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation to support their Ageing Society programme which aims to respond positively to the opportunities and challenges of an ageing society.

The purpose of this briefing is to examine the ageing of the ethnic minority populations of England and Wales as revealed by the 2011 census. It complements the 2010 CPA/Runnymede report, *The future ageing of the ethnic minority population of England and Wales* which, using the 2001 census as a base, projected ethnic minority ageing for England and Wales to 2051.

The ageing characteristics of individual ethnic groups are examined and compared through key statistics and the 'population pyramids' for each group.

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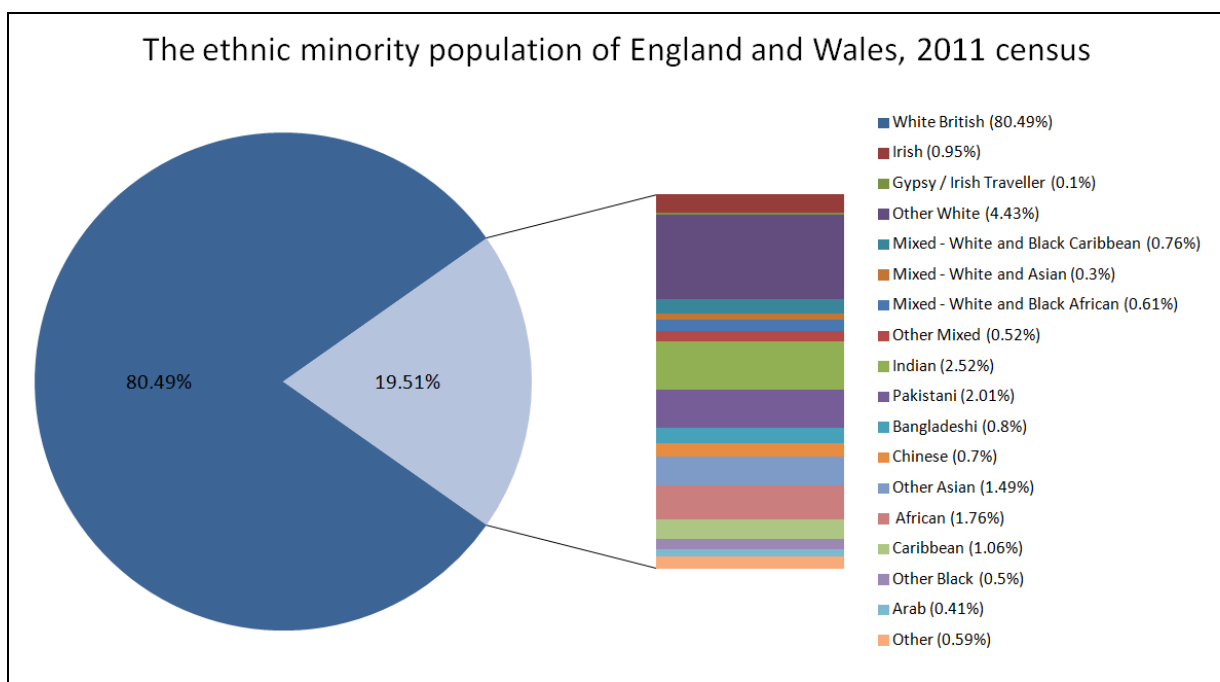
## Centre for Policy on Ageing

28 Great Tower Street London EC3R 5AT  
Telephone +44 (0)20 7553 6500 Fax +44 (0)20 7553 6501  
Email [cpa@cpa.org.uk](mailto:cpa@cpa.org.uk) Website [www.cpa.org.uk](http://www.cpa.org.uk)

## The ethnic minority population of England and Wales

Ethnicity is a self determined concept. It is a ‘multi-faceted and changing phenomenon’ that may reflect a combination of a number of factors including country of birth, nationality, language spoken at home, ancestral country of birth, skin colour, national or geographical origin, racial group and religion. Because ethnicity is self assessed, the ethnic composition of England and Wales will change, not only as a result of migration and natural change (births and deaths) but also as a result of changes in perceptions of ethnicity. The classification of individual ethnicity will also change between generations. For example, even when both parents describe themselves as ‘White Irish’ or ‘White Other’ they may describe a child born in England and Wales as ‘White British’.<sup>1</sup>

The 2011 Census for England and Wales identified 18 ethnic groups large and distinct enough for separate enumeration.



The Black, Asian and minority ethnic populations of England and Wales are not evenly distributed but are concentrated in London and the other urban conurbations of the West Midlands, Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire. In 2001, 63% of the BME population of England and Wales lived in these four conurbations. In the 2007 mid-year population estimates this had fallen to 55% but it has risen again to 59% in the 2011 census.

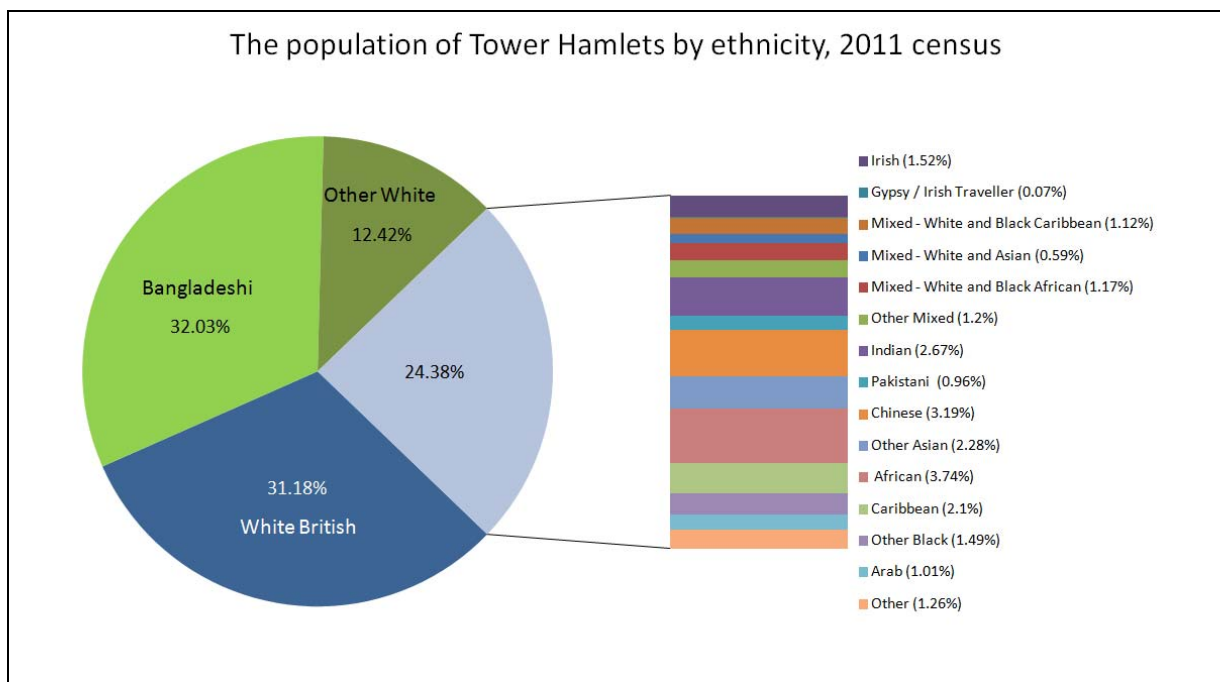
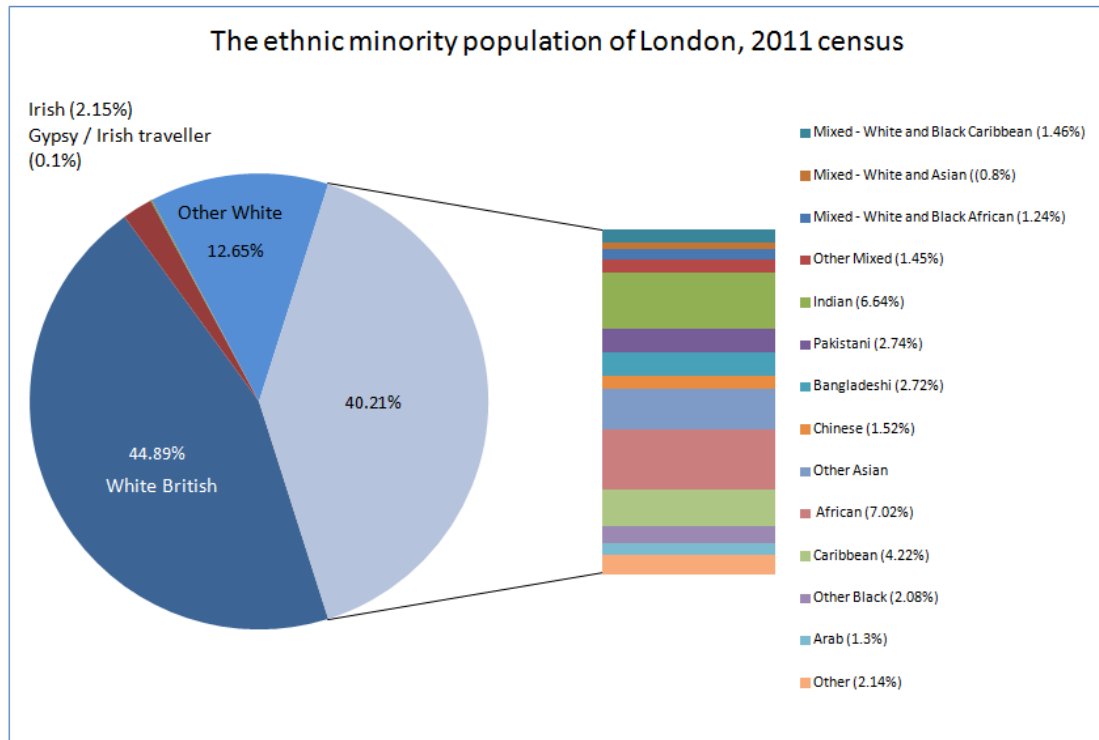
It has been argued that, over time, the ethnic minority population of England and Wales will spread more evenly across the country<sup>2</sup>. The evidence is conflicting. In 2001 nearly 70% of the three largest black ethnic groups in England and Wales lived in London (Black Caribbean 61%, Black African 79%, Black Other 63%). By 2007 this had fallen to 55% (Black Caribbean 53%, Black African 57%, Black

<sup>1</sup> Lievesley N, *The Future Ageing of the Ethnic Minority Population of England and Wales*, CPA / Runnymede, 2010

<sup>2</sup> Wohland et al, *Ethnic population projections for the UK and local areas*, University of Leeds School of Geography, 2010

Other 53%), but in the 2011 census this has risen again to around 58% (Black Caribbean 58%, Black African 58%, Black Other 61%). This compares with 8% of the 'White British' population and 15% of the population of England and Wales overall that live in London.

An 'Index of Dissimilarity' calculated across all ethnic groups and for all local authority areas leads to the general conclusion that ethnic groups have become more spread between 2001 and 2011<sup>3</sup>.



<sup>3</sup> Simpson L, *More segregation or more mixing?*, Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity (CoDE), 2012

Ethnic ‘minority’ groups now make up more than 50% of the population of London as a whole and in some areas, such as the London Borough of Tower Hamlets there are much greater concentrations of individual ethnic groups

### **The ageing of the ethnic minority population**

As greater numbers from the ethnic minority populations of England and Wales reach older age their needs will have to be provided for. Care home provision will need to be ‘culturally competent’<sup>4</sup> and special provisions may be needed as cases of dementia increase.

The ethnic minority populations of England and Wales do not form a homogeneous group and their ageing is very different one from another.

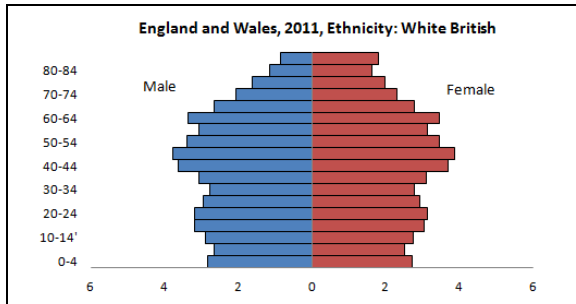
The ethnic minority populations of England and Wales are however, in general, younger than the majority White British population with the notable exceptions of the White Irish and Black Caribbean ethnic groups.

<b>Ethnic group</b>	<b>Median age</b>
White Irish	53.4
White British	42.5
Black Caribbean	40.7
Indian	32.9
Other White	32.1
Other	31.7
Other Asian	31.6
Chinese	28.7
Black African	28.0
Arab	27.5
Gipsy / Irish Traveller	26.9
Pakistani	25.8
Bangladeshi	24.3
Other Black	23.7
Other Mixed	21.0
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	18.3
Mixed: White and Asian	17.4
Mixed: White and Black African	16.6

The ageing characteristics of individual ethnic groups are best examined and compared through key statistics and the associated ‘population pyramid’ for each group.

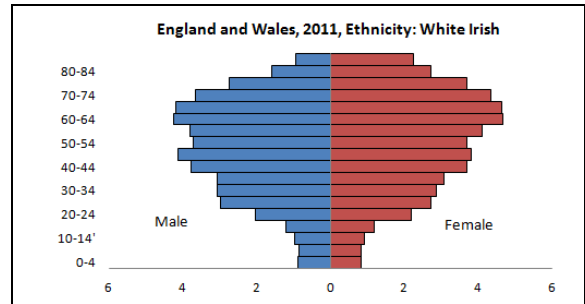
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<sup>4</sup> Bowes, Avan and Macintosh, *Dignity and respect in residential care: issues for black and minority ethnic groups*, Panicoa, 2012



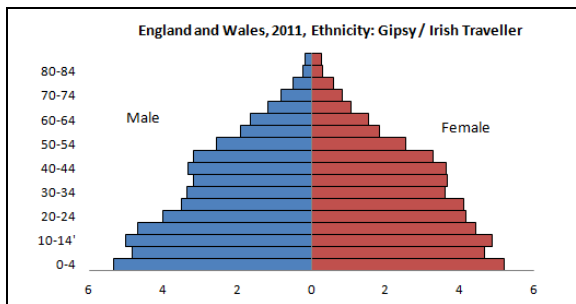
Ethnic group:	White British
Population size	45,134,686
% of total population	80.49%
% Male	49.11%
% aged 50 and over	38.66%
% aged 65 and over	18.80%
% aged under 15	16.34%
Median age	42.5

The White British population pyramid shows the classic shape of a long established 'mature' population with declining birth rates. The predominance of females in the older age groups can also be clearly seen.



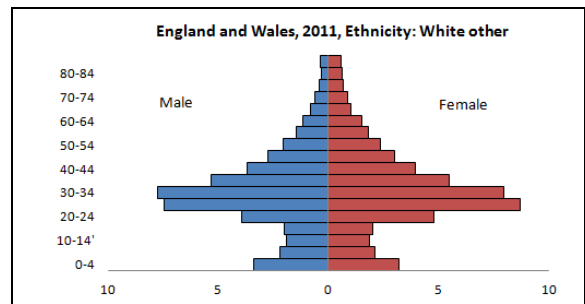
Ethnic group:	White Irish
Population size	531,087
% of total population	0.95%
% Male	47.91%
% aged 50 and over	55.00%
% aged 65 and over	30.74%
% aged under 15	5.29%
Median age	53.4

The 'top heavy' shape of the White Irish pyramid results, at least in part, from children of White Irish parents, born in England and Wales, leaving the group and their ethnicity being declared as White British.



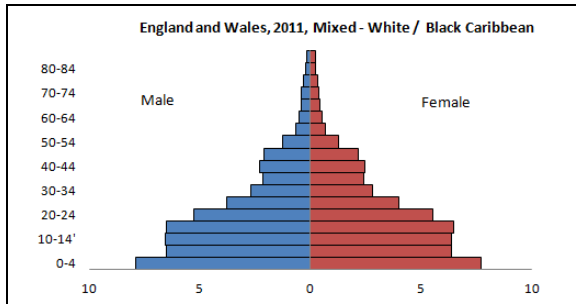
Ethnic group:	Gipsy / Irish Traveller
Population size	57,680
% of total population	0.10%
% Male	49.58%
% aged 50 and over	17.99%
% aged 65 and over	5.94%
% aged under 15	29.89%
Median age	26.9

Gipsies / Irish Travellers are the smallest ethnic group making up only one tenth of one percent of the total population of England and Wales. The driver of population growth appears to be births rather than migration.



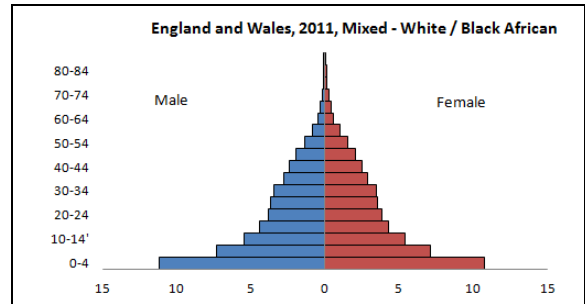
Ethnic group:	White Other
Population size	2,485,942
% of total population	4.43%
% Male	47.47%
% aged 50 and over	16.65%
% aged 65 and over	6.26%
% aged under 15	14.60%
Median age	32.1

'White Other' form the second largest ethnic group in England and Wales after 'White British'. The relatively large size of the 20-44 age groups within this population may indicate that migration, rather than births, has been the main driver of population growth for this group.



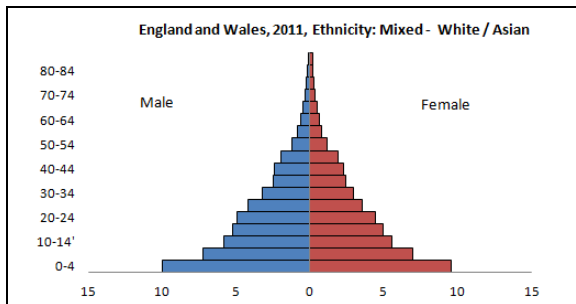
Ethnic group:	Mixed – White / Black Caribbean
Population size	426,715
% of total population	0.76%
% Male	49.59%
% aged 50 and over	7.96%
% aged 65 and over	3.08%
% aged under 15	41.46%
Median age	18.3

Mixed populations are the youngest, on average, as they include children from parents of other ethnic groups. Nearly one half of Mixed – White / Black Caribbeans are under the age of 18.



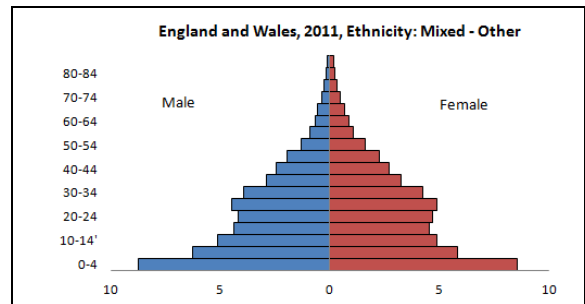
Ethnic group:	Mixed – White / Black African
Population size	165,974
% of total population	0.30%
% Male	50.00%
% aged 50 and over	7.68%
% aged 65 and over	1.86%
% aged under 15	47.23%
Median age	16.6

The Mixed – White / Black African ethnic group is the second smallest ethnic group in England and Wales after Gipsies / Irish Travellers. It is also the youngest ethnic group on average, with over one half of its members under the age of 17.



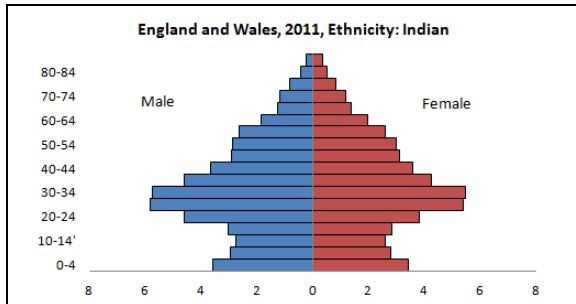
Ethnic group:	Mixed – White Asian
Population size	341,727
% of total population	0.61%
% Male	51.41%
% aged 50 and over	8.05%
% aged 65 and over	2.74%
% aged under 15	45.12%
Median age	17.4

As for other mixed ethnic groups, the Mixed – White / Asian ethnic group is predominantly young with nearly one half of its members under the age of 17.



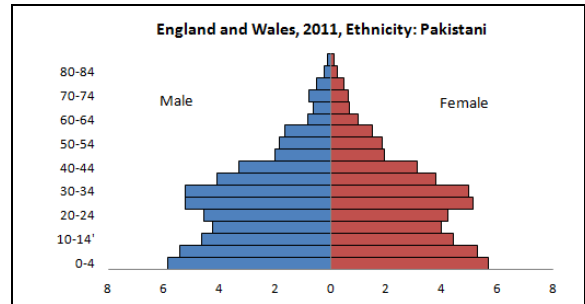
Ethnic group:	Mixed - Other
Population size	289,984
% of total population	0.52%
% Male	48.71%
% aged 50 and over	9.80%
% aged 65 and over	3.37%
% aged under 15	39.42%
Median age	21.0

The Mixed – Other ethnic group is the oldest of the mixed ethnic groups but still has one half of its members under the age of 21.



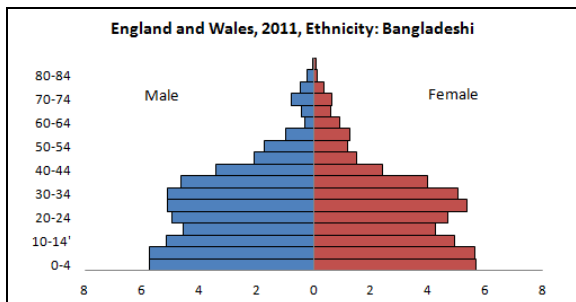
Ethnic group:	Indian
Population size	1,412,958
% of total population	2.52%
% Male	50.95%
% aged 50 and over	23.06%
% aged 65 and over	8.14%
% aged under 15	18.11%
Median age	32.9

The Indian ethnic group is the third largest in England and Wales and is also the second oldest non-white group after Black Africans. Nearly one half of Indians are aged 33 and over and nearly one quarter (23%) are aged 50 and over.



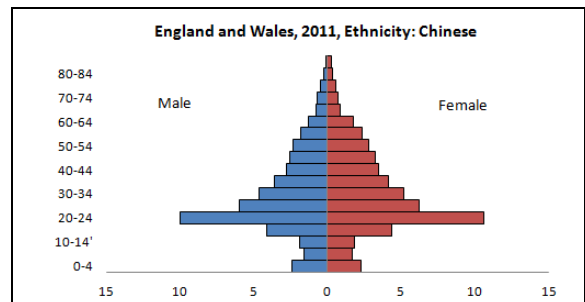
Ethnic group:	Pakistani
Population size	1,124,511
% of total population	2.01%
% Male	51.24%
% aged 50 and over	13.05%
% aged 65 and over	4.40%
% aged under 15	31.25%
Median age	25.8

The Pakistani ethnic group is comparable in size to the Indian ethnic group but with a younger population structure. Nearly one third (31%) of Pakistanis are under the age of 15 while only 4% are aged 65 and over.



Ethnic group:	Bangladeshi
Population size	447,201
% of total population	0.80%
% Male	51.63%
% aged 50 and over	10.08%
% aged 65 and over	3.71%
% aged under 15	32.83%
Median age	24.3

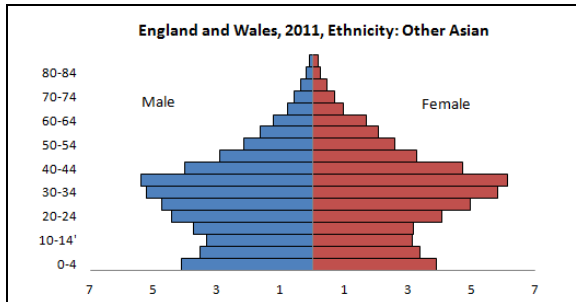
Although much smaller in number, the Bangladeshi ethnic group has a similar age structure to the Pakistani ethnic group with nearly one third (33%) under the age of 15. The shortfall in men in the 60-69 age groups may be explained by losses in the 1971 war of independence.



Ethnic group:	Chinese
Population size	393,141
% of total population	0.70%
% Male	47.32%
% aged 50 and over	17.36%
% aged 65 and over	5.05%
% aged under 15	11.79%
Median age	28.7

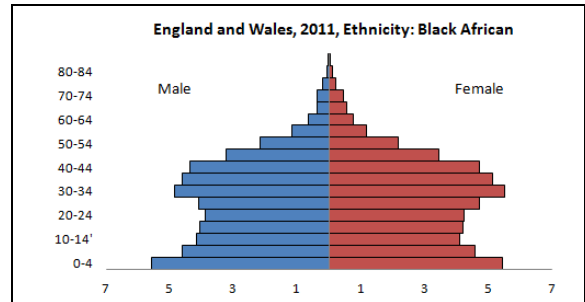
The age structure of the Chinese ethnic group is compatible with a population whose growth is driven by inward migration rather than births. The disproportionately large numbers in the 20-24 age group may reflect the Chinese student population.





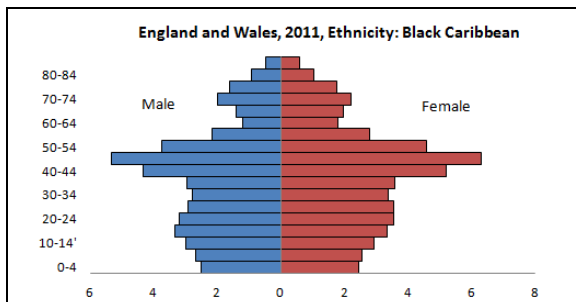
Ethnic group:	Other Asian
Population size	835,720
% of total population	1.49%
% Male	48.72%
% aged 50 and over	15.97%
% aged 65 and over	4.58%
% aged under 15	21.38%
Median age	31.6

The 'Other Asian' ethnic groups taken together, have, on average, a similar age to the Indian ethnic group but with a much smaller proportion of members over the ages of 50 and 65.



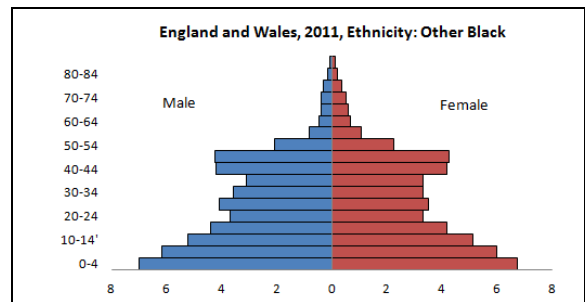
Ethnic group:	Black African
Population size	989,628
% of total population	1.76%
% Male	48.48%
% aged 50 and over	10.52%
% aged 65 and over	2.42%
% aged under 15	28.44%
Median age	28.0

The Black African ethnic group shows a well established 'mature' population structure but with recent births reflecting the numbers of child-bearing age



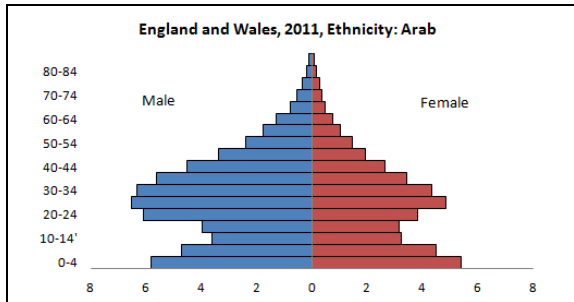
Ethnic group:	Black Caribbean
Population size	594,825
% of total population	1.06%
% Male	46.56%
% aged 50 and over	30.16%
% aged 65 and over	13.93%
% aged under 15	16.11%
Median age	40.7

Black Caribbeans form, on average, the oldest non-white ethnic group. The disproportionately large numbers in the 40 – 54 age range, may reflect an earlier peak of inward migration around 1990.



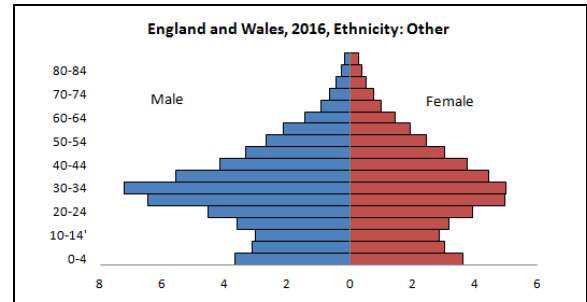
Ethnic group:	Other Black
Population size	280,437
% of total population	0.50%
% Male	50.44%
% aged 50 and over	10.43%
% aged 65 and over	3.12%
% aged under 15	36.22%
Median age	23.7

'Other Black's encompass, overall, a smaller and much younger set of ethnic groups but with the same disproportionate peak in numbers in the 40 – 49 age range which may reflect a temporary peak in inward migration in the late 1980s and early 1990s.



Ethnic group:	Arab
Population size	230,600
% of total population	0.41%
% Male	58.17%
% aged 50 and over	12.06%
% aged 65 and over	3.40%
% aged under 15	27.32%
Median age	27.5

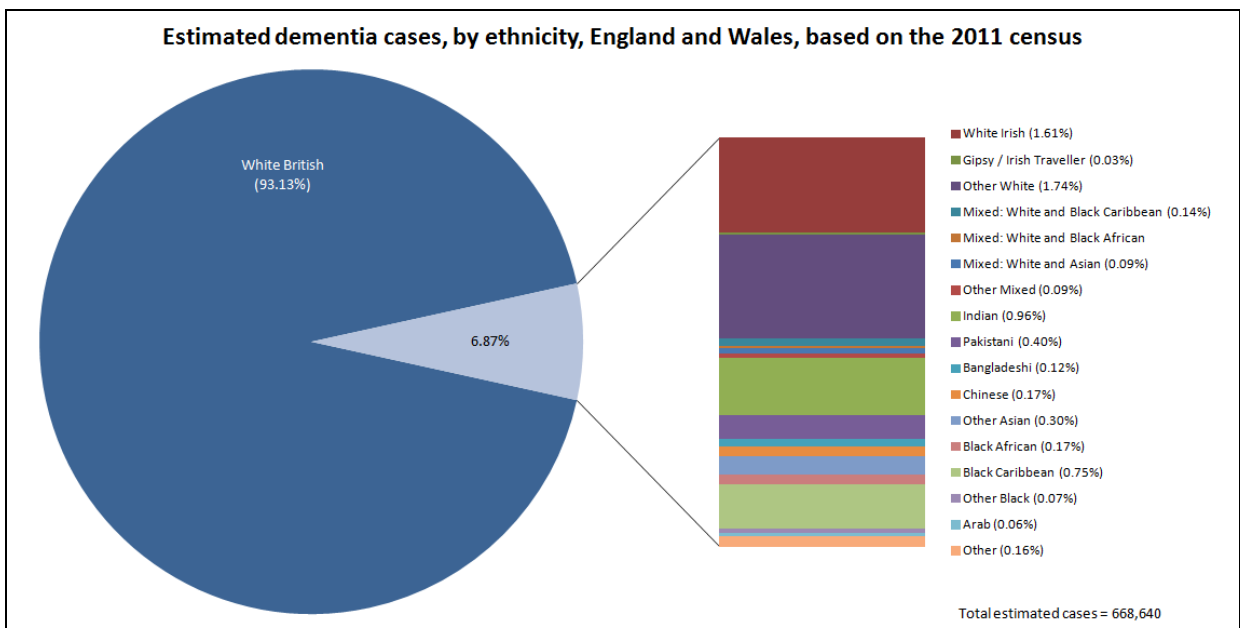
The Arab ethnic group, included for the first time in the 2011 census, has many more men than women, particularly for those of 'working' age, 15 - 64.



Ethnic group:	Other
Population size	333,096
% of total population	0.59%
% Male	53.57%
% aged 50 and over	17.52%
% aged 65 and over	5.42%
% aged under 15	19.34%
Median age	31.7

The 'Other' ethnic group covers many different smaller ethnicities. It is heterogeneous but again this group shows a predominance of males, particularly for young adults in the 20 – 39 age range.

The ethnic minority populations of England and Wales are, on average, younger than the majority White British population. They therefore tend to make less use of health and care services other than maternity services. For example, on the assumption that the prevalence of dementia is dependent only on age and gender but not ethnicity we can estimate that, in 2011, only 7% of the 668,640 dementia cases in England and Wales occurred in the ethnic minority populations. This situation will however change significantly as these populations age.<sup>5</sup>



<sup>5</sup> Lieveley N, *The Future Ageing of the Ethnic Minority Population of England and Wales*, CPA / Runnymede, 2010