

THE IRISH IN BRITAIN

Preliminary findings from the 2021 Census of England and Wales



First Summary Report – 6th April 2023

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Introduction

This report summarises key data and preliminary findings emerging from the analysis of the 2021 Census data, with particular regard to the Irish population in England and Wales. These include the datasets released from the ONS (Office for National Statistics) between November 2022 and March 2023.

The document has been produced as part of an ongoing collaborative project between '[Irish in Britain](#)' and a [team of researchers](#) led by Dr Alessio D'Angelo (Associate Professor at the University of Nottingham) and which includes Dr Neil Kaye (Research Fellow at UCL's Institute of Education), Dr Alastair Munro (Researcher at the University of Nottingham), and Professor Louise Ryan (Director of Global Diversities and Inequalities Research Centre at London Metropolitan University).

The team will continue to analyse Census data over the coming months, as further datasets are released by the ONS. A final report will be produced later in 2023, followed by various dissemination activities. Irish in Britain and the community organisations that make up its membership will use this information to ensure the changing profile of the community is better understood and that needs can be planned and provided for.

For further information about the **Irish in Britain Census 2021** project visit: www.irishinbritain.org/what-we-do/policy-and-representation/the-census

Overview

Overall, at the time of the 2021 Census, there were about 523,014 Irish-born people living in England and Wales (including the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland), nearly 100,000 fewer than a decade before. There are many factors that have contributed to this, including the age profile of the Irish population in Britain and a historic change of migration trends. In fact, we can anticipate a further reduction of these numbers in the coming years, as first generations become older.

As we discussed elsewhere¹, these figures have led to some media reports referring to a 'dwindling' community, promoting a narrative of decline. However, the story behind the official statistics is much more complex. First of all, focusing only on data about country of birth can lead to a simplistic reading of the wider picture. For example, 2021 data on 'passport held' has seen only a small reduction of Irish passports (364,725) compared to the previous Census (-2.1%). This is a reflection of the high number of UK residents who have applied for Irish citizenship in recent years, nearly compensating for the decrease in the number of first generation Irish.

As for the data on 'Ethnicity', on the one hand, the number of people who identified as 'White Irish' in 2021 (507,465) has fallen by 4.4% over a decade. On the other hand, it is important to point out that the proportion of White Irish remains unchanged relative to the total population, with 0.9% being the same figure recorded a decade ago. (Interestingly, during the same period of time the number of people self-identifying as 'Gypsy or Irish Traveller' has grown from 57,700 to 67,800). More to the point, these Ethnicity figures capture only a fraction of the second and third generations of Irish

¹ D'Angelo, A., Ryan, L. (2022), 'What the UK Census really says about the number of Irish in Britain'. RTE Brainstorm Blog, December 9th. - <https://www.rte.ie/brainstorm/2022/1208/1340723-uk-census-irish-population-britain-birth-country-passport-ethnicity/>

heritage. The very fact that the Census categories conflate Irishness with Whiteness is increasingly problematic (as further discussed in section 1).

Whilst on the one hand the Census data represent an essential instrument to inform our understanding of these populations, it is also important to differentiate between 'the Irish' as captured by any statistical snapshot and the reality of the broader 'Irish community'. As visits to Irish cultural and community centres across Britain will show, such community is thriving. The numbers of people frequenting these centres, as well as the profiles of those actively involved in running activities at these cultural hubs confirm the increasing diversity of people who embrace their Irish heritage across Britain (irrespective of their accent). The rich social and cultural contribution of these formal and informal organisations is something to celebrate, and not just for the Irish community.

Over the coming months, the ONS will publish more detailed Census datasets and we will keep analysing them – as well as triangulating them with other sources of information. The more we will be able to look at the intersection between nationality and ethnicity and break down data in terms of various socio-economic indicators, the more we will get a nuanced picture. 'Multivariate' data will allow us to explore relationships between different socio-economic and demographic characteristics, as well as examining these across local communities and – by comparing with the previous Census – over time.

The recent ONS release² of 15th March 2023 already provides us with some important insights, with 'Ethnic group' data by education, employment, health and housing. The preliminary summary included in this report show a 'White Irish' population whereby, for example, the proportions of highly-educated and of those working in 'managerial and professional occupations' are higher than the national average (see section 3). At the same time Irish people are less likely to report 'very good' general health and more likely to report 'bad or very' health - also as a reflection of the age profile (see section 4).

Focusing on Irish communities, our project also looks at those who identify as 'Gypsy and Irish Traveller'. The picture emerging from the 2021 Census confirms a growing population which is still characterised by high levels of socio-economic deprivation, with rates of unemployed and economically inactive nearly double the national average and nearly six times more likely to live in overcrowded housing (see section 5).

² ONS (2023) Ethnic group by education, employment, health and housing, England and Wales: Census 2021 - <https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/ethnicgroupbyeducationemploymenthealthandhousingenglandandwalescensus2021>

1. Size of the Irish population in England and Wales

The Irish remain a significantly-sized community in England and Wales. The exact size of this community, according to the latest census, depends on which group or groups we are interested in and how they are defined or self-identify. The 2021 census includes information on individuals' country of birth, countries from which a passport has been issued, ethnic group and national identity. Whilst country of birth explicitly refers to those born in Ireland (i.e. first-generation migrants), the other measures are broader and will include a substantial proportion of second and third-generation migrants, as well as those with mixed heritage or more distant Irish decent.

Country of birth

- At the latest 2021 census, there were more than 500,000 people living in England and Wales and born on the island of Ireland – comprising around 325,000 born in the Republic of Ireland and almost 200,000 born in Northern Ireland.
- This represents a decrease of over 99,000 people (-16%) since a decade ago, when the Irish-born population totalled 622,345 (of which 407,357 were born in the RoI).
- For context, the overall size of the non-UK born population in E&W has risen from 7.5 million in 2011 to 10 million in 2021 (+33%).
- The Irish-born population continues to fall in line with decreases seen at censuses since a peak in 1971. The size of the first-generation Irish population in England & Wales is now smaller than at any time since World War II.
- As a proportion of the total 2021 population of England & Wales, those born in Ireland represent 0.9% - less than half the proportion seen at its peak in 1961.

Figure 1 Irish-born population of England & Wales, 1921-2021

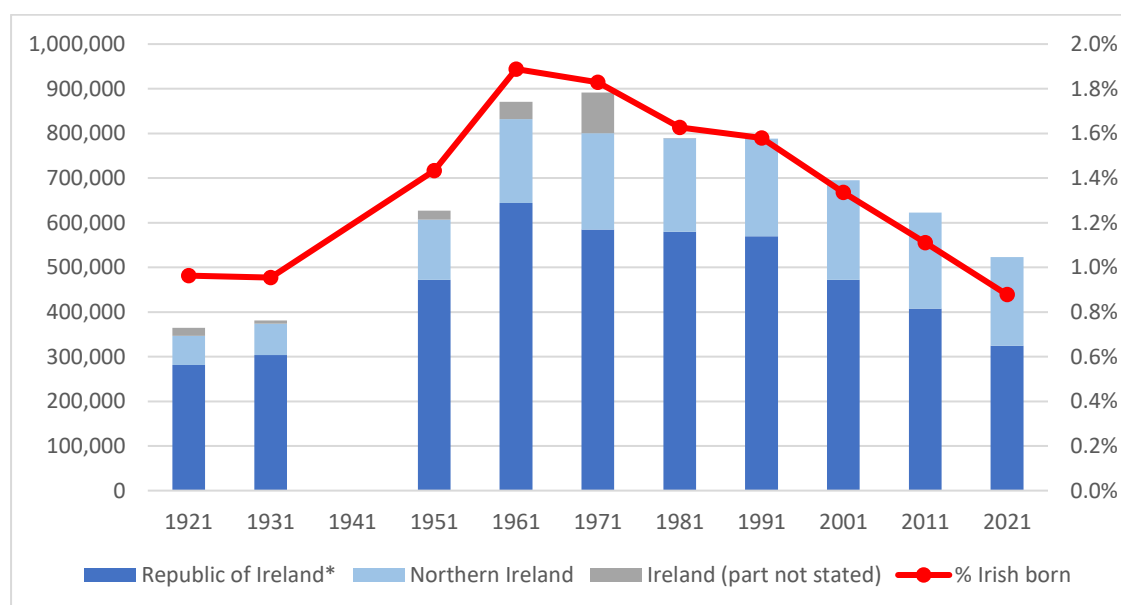


Table 1: Irish-born population of England & Wales, 1921-2021 (thousands)

	England & Wales									
	1921	1931	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021
Republic of Ireland (a)	281,190	303,676	471,958	644,398	584,560	579,833	569,759	472,380	407,357	324,670
Northern Ireland	65,491	70,056	134,965	187,549	215,800	209,042	218,521	222,975	214,988	198,344
Ireland (not stated)	18,066	7,357	20,098	38,498	91,310	551	-	-	-	-
All-Ireland	364,747	381,089	627,021	870,445	891,670	789,426	788,280	695,355	622,345	523,014
% Irish born (b)	1.0%	1.0%	1.4%	1.9%	1.8%	1.6%	1.6%	1.3%	1.1%	0.9%

(a) Irish Free State (1921-31), Irish Republic (1951-91), Republic of Ireland (2001-)

(b) as a percentage of the total population of England and Wales

Passports held

- Overall, there has been a slight (2.1%) fall, but with quite large regional variations. London has the largest drop-off (14%) but areas like South West England (16.1%) and North-East England (12.9%) have seen sizeable increases in Irish passport holders.

Table 2: Irish passport holders

	Number of Irish passport holders	% population holding an Irish passport	Change in Irish passport holders since 2011
England & Wales	364,725	0.6%	-2.1%
England	354,923	0.6%	-2.2%
North East	5,956	0.2%	+12.9%
North West	42,243	0.6%	+8.6%
Yorkshire and The Humber	15,988	0.3%	+3.8%
East Midlands	18,115	0.4%	+5.0%
West Midlands	30,152	0.5%	-7.1%
East	41,559	0.7%	+4.7%
London	121,247	1.4%	-14.0%
South East	58,075	0.6%	+7.1%
South West	21,588	0.4%	+16.1%
Wales	9,802	0.3%	+2.7%

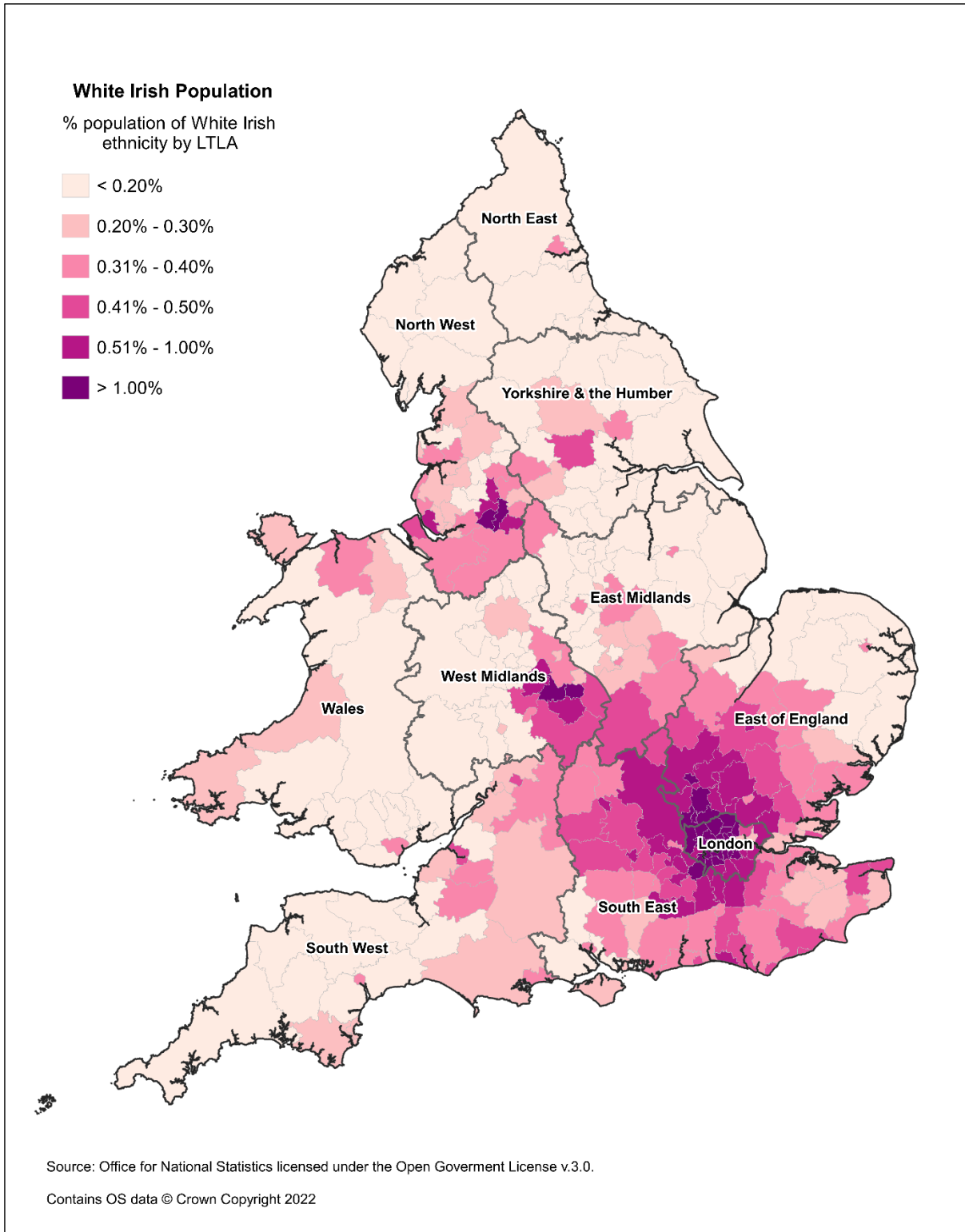
Ethnic group

- Overall, White Irish ethnicity has fallen by 4.4% (around 23,000) across E&W.
- However, this is much smaller than the fall seen between 2001 and 2011 – which was a 17.3% (around 110,000) fall.
- The largest decline in White Irish ethnicity was seen in the West Midlands (-13.3%) and London (-11.2%). By contrast, the South West saw a 10.8% increase in White Irish population. (See map on page 7)
- Nonetheless the White Irish group fell as a proportion of the total ethnic minority population in every region.

Table 3: White Irish ethnic group

	White Irish population	White Irish as a % of total population	White Irish as a % of ethnic minority population	Change in White Irish population size since 2011
England & Wales	507,465	0.9%	3.3%	-4.4%
England	494,251	0.9%	3.3%	-4.4%
North East	8,384	0.3%	3.4%	+4.3%
North West	61,422	0.8%	4.4%	-5.4%
Yorkshire and The Humber	25,215	0.5%	2.4%	-4.5%
East Midlands	27,130	0.6%	2.7%	-5.4%
West Midlands	47,886	0.8%	2.9%	-13.3%
East	57,964	0.9%	4.3%	+4.3%
London	156,333	1.8%	2.8%	-11.2%
South East	78,219	0.8%	4.0%	+6.3%
South West	31,698	0.6%	4.6%	+10.8%
Wales	13,214	0.4%	4.5%	-6.2%

Figure 2 - 'White Irish' as a percentage of total resident population – E&W and Wales Census 2021



National identity

- This is only the second census in which the ONS has collected data on individuals' national identity.
- In terms of national identity, the total number of people identifying as Northern Irish and/or Irish fell by 9.3% from around 520,000 to just over 470,000.
- The largest Irish population remains in London, where around 1 in 65 people identify, at least in part, as Irish or Northern Irish.
- The only region to see an increase in the proportion of people identifying as Irish and/or Northern Irish was the South West of England – correlating to some extent with the increase in White Irish population in this region.

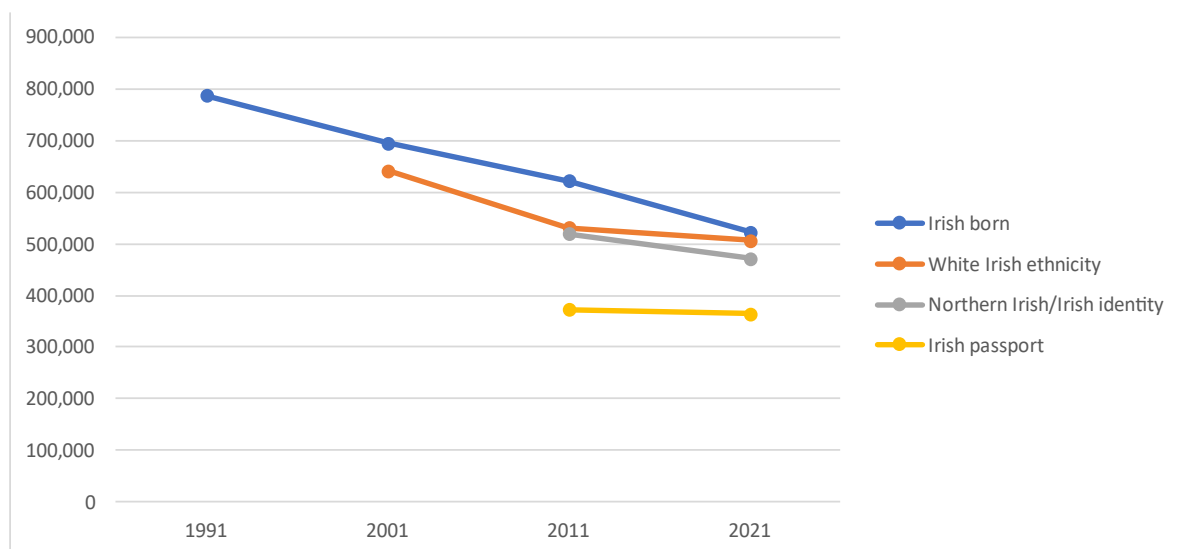
Table 4: Irish and/or Northern Irish national identity

	Northern Irish only	Northern Irish & British	Irish only	Irish and at least one UK identity	Total Irish and/or N. Irish identity	% Irish and/or N. Irish identity	Change in those with Irish and/or N. Irish identity since 2011
England & Wales	79,117	30,834	299,546	62,271	471,768	0.8%	-9.3%
England	75,497	30,180	290,790	60,290	456,757	0.8%	-9.3%
North East	3,474	1,554	4,755	1,398	11,181	0.4%	-1.4%
North West	15,113	4,868	35,407	6,546	61,934	0.8%	-7.8%
Y&H	5,919	2,421	13,312	3,698	25,350	0.5%	-9.2%
East Midlands	5,323	2,273	15,316	3,401	26,313	0.5%	-10.4%
West Midlands	6,757	2,497	25,698	4,950	39,902	0.7%	-18.6%
East	6,848	3,041	33,502	6,792	50,183	0.8%	-4.6%
London	13,917	4,504	99,780	16,941	135,142	1.5%	-15.2%
South East	11,501	5,572	45,521	11,029	73,623	0.8%	-1.9%
South West	6,645	3,450	17,499	5,535	33,129	0.6%	+3.2%
Wales	3,620	654	8,756	1,981	15,011	0.5%	-6.5%

Overall trends and mixed-heritage populations

- The overall downward trend in the size of the Irish community can be seen across all 'measures' of Irish identity – country of birth, ethnicity, national identity and passports held.
- Whilst those holding an Irish passport comprise the smallest of these groups in absolute terms, it is interesting to note that the decrease in size since the last census has been relatively minor – perhaps an indication that the prevailing decline has been countered to some extent by new applicants for Irish passports following Brexit.
- As for the 'Ethnicity' figures, as highlighted in our previous [project outputs](#), the ONS classification does not capture the diversity of the Irish community in Britain today. Conflating 'Irishness' with 'Whiteness' is increasingly inaccurate and problematic.
- Between the 2011 and 2021 census there has been a notable increase in 'Mixed or multiple ethnic groups': from 1.2 to 1.7 million people (2.9 percent of all residents). These would include, for example, many people of Irish heritage. Ethnicity also varies within households and across generations. In 2021, 10% of households had more than one ethnic group represented.
- Although the Census form allowed 'write in' responses, many people of mixed ethnicity would struggle to identify with any of the categories on offer and thus feel excluded. The Irish in Britain will continue to make recommendations to the ONS to better capture diversity in the UK.
- Once more data is released and more detailed analysis undertaken, it will be possible to get a more nuanced picture, including the intersection of variables such as Ethnicity, Country of Birth and Passport-Held, as well as the results of the 'write-in' questions in the Census questionnaires.

Figure 3: Irish population of England & Wales by various 'measures' of Irish identity



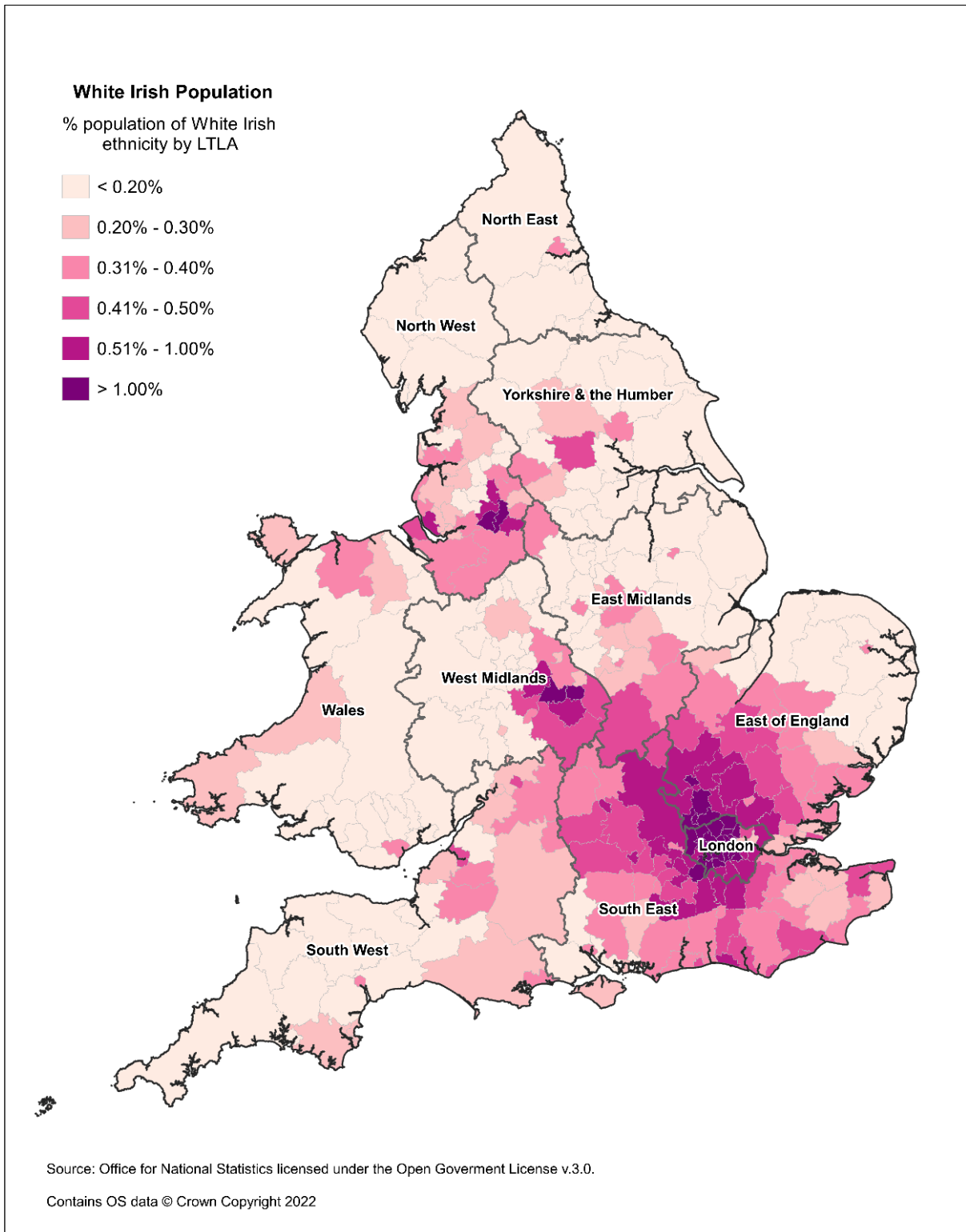
Gypsy and Irish Traveller population

- Looking at the Ethnic category ‘White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller’ (GIT) population, this has increased by 17.5% over the last decade, from 57,680 to 67,768.
- Some regions have seen significant increases in GIT population in that time, e.g., the North East (55.6%), the North West (38.4%), the East Midlands (35.2%) and Yorkshire & the Humber (34.6%).
- London was the only region to see a decrease in the GIT population – a fall of 14.2%, from around 8,000 to 7,000.

Table 5: White Gypsy or Irish Traveller ethnic group

	White Gypsy or Irish Traveller population	White Gypsy or Irish Traveller as a % of total population	White Gypsy or Irish Traveller as a % of ethnic minority population	Change in White Gypsy or Irish Traveller population since 2011
England & Wales	67,768	0.11%	0.4%	+17.5%
England	64,218	0.11%	0.4%	+17.0%
North East	2,621	0.10%	1.1%	+55.6%
North West	5,741	0.08%	0.4%	+38.4%
Y&H	5,891	0.11%	0.6%	+34.6%
East Midlands	4,620	0.09%	0.5%	+35.2%
West Midlands	6,207	0.10%	0.4%	+31.1%
East	8,977	0.14%	0.7%	+9.9%
London	7,031	0.08%	0.1%	-14.2%
South East	16,748	0.18%	0.9%	+15.2%
South West	6,382	0.11%	0.9%	+13.3%
Wales	3,550	0.11%	1.2%	+27.5%

Figure 4 - 'Gypsy and Irish Traveller' as a percentage of total resident population – E&W and Wales Census 2021



2. Structure of the Irish population in England and Wales

White Irish population by age and sex

- There are clear age profile differences between the White Irish population and the White British, with a greater proportion of older people (particularly the over 50s), whilst comparatively much fewer young people (under 20).
- There is also considerable variability across English regions (see figure 7), with the average age for White Irish ranging from 49 years in the North East to 59 years in the West Midlands.
- The age and sex distribution of the White Irish in England and Wales in 2021 remains broadly consistent with the 2011 census, highlighting a continuation of demographic trends.

Figure 5: England & Wales population by age and sex (2021)

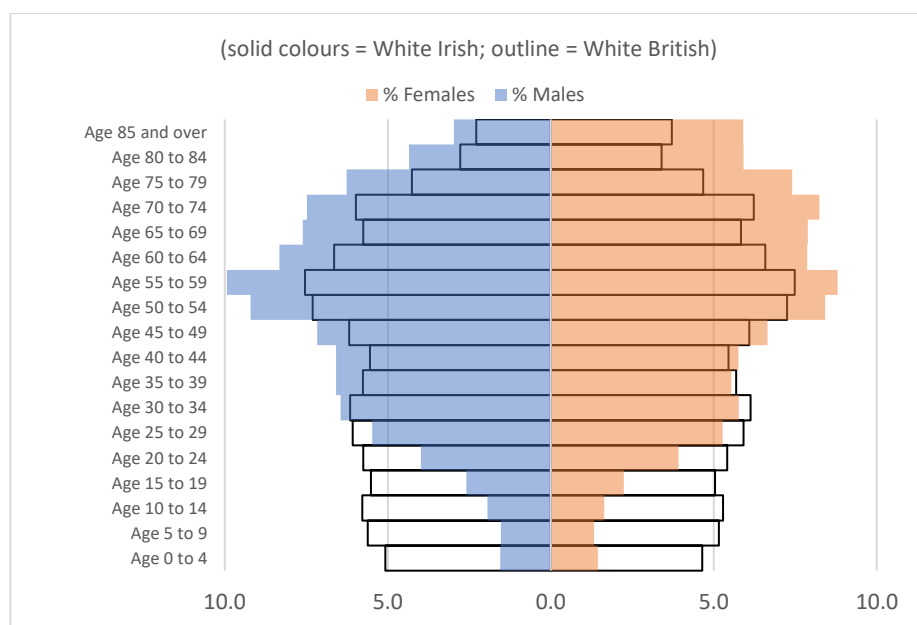


Figure 6: White Irish population by age and sex (2011-2021)

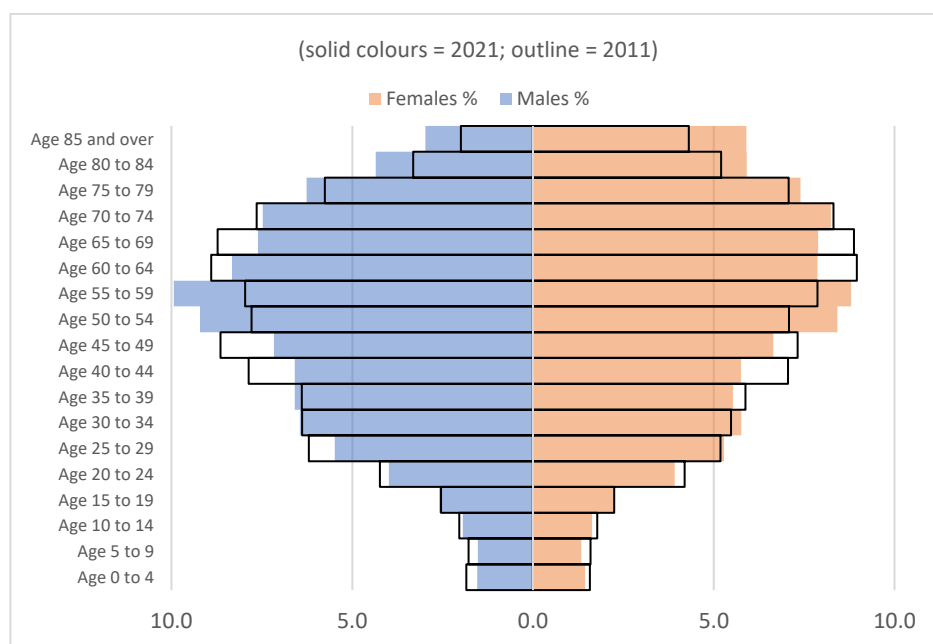
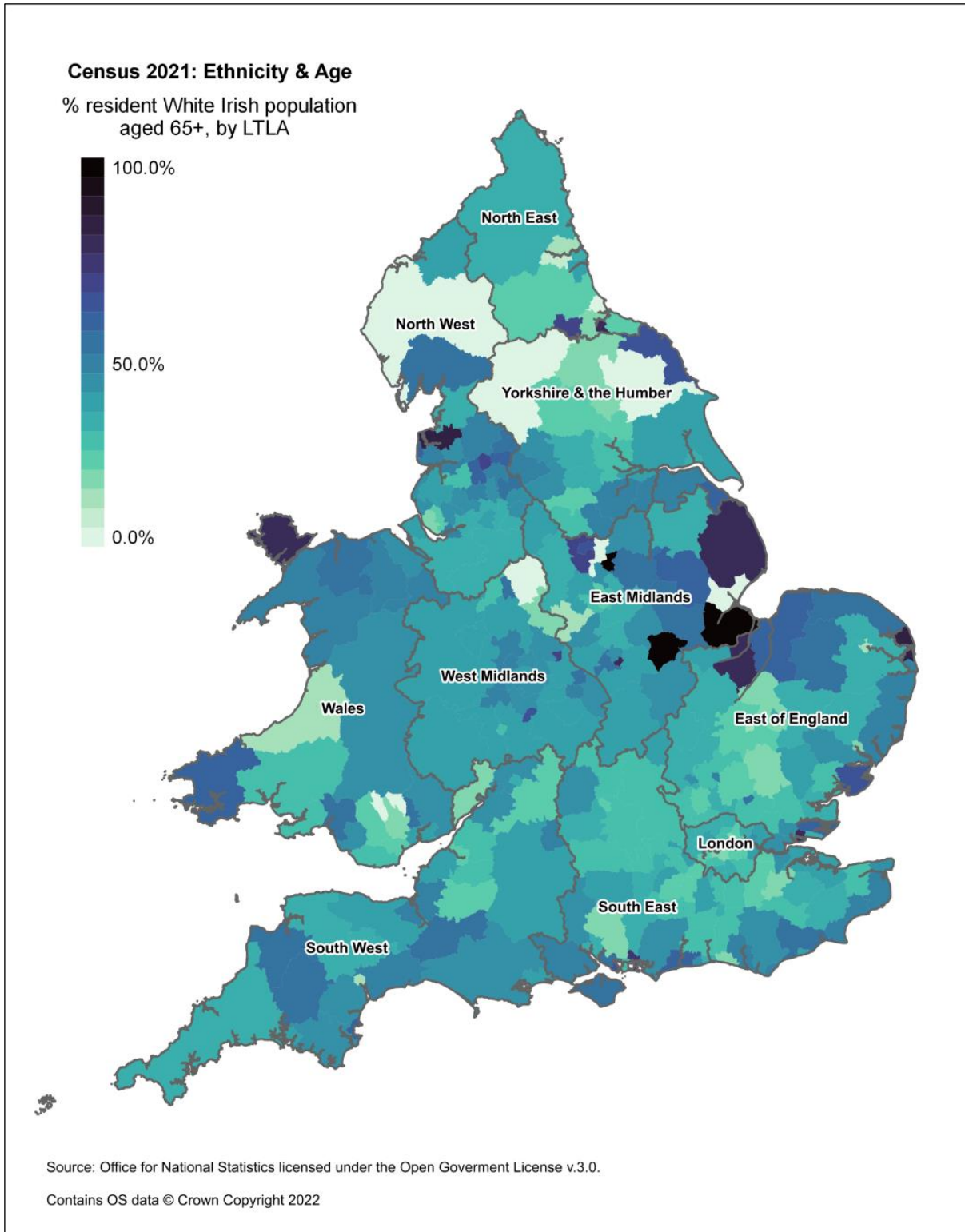


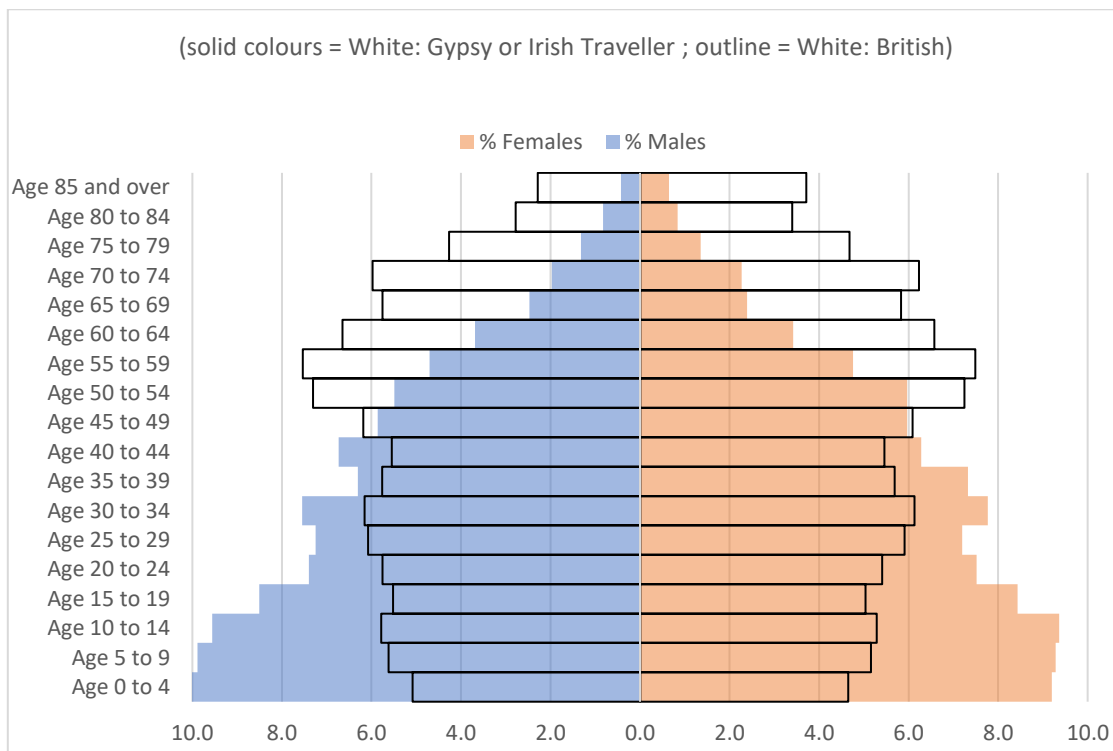
Figure 7 - Percentage of 'White Irish' residents aged 65+ - E&W and Wales Census 2021



White Gypsy or Irish Traveller population by age and sex

- There is a substantial number of young people (under 24) and relatively much fewer older people in the White Gypsy or Irish Traveller community. This pattern has remained consistent over the past decade.

Figure 8: England & Wales population by age and sex (2021)



3. Education and employment

The following sections present findings from cross-tabulations of a number of socioeconomic, health, welfare and housing indicators with respondents' ethnic group. For each table, the White: Irish group and the White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller group are compared both to the majority White: British group and the overall population of England and Wales.

Educational level

- Overall, around 18% of people reported having no formal qualifications, with around 1-in-3 having achieved qualifications at degree level or above.
- Amongst the White Irish population, around 20% have no formal qualifications (slightly higher than the national average), whilst those with higher-level qualifications represent a significantly higher proportion of this group (43.4%), compared to either the White: British group (30.8%) or overall population (33.8%). This may well be reflective of the relatively older population profile of the White Irish group, who will have had longer to attain higher levels of education.
- As in the previous Census³, the White GIT group have the highest levels of those with no formal qualifications and the lowest proportion of those with higher-level qualifications. Whilst both these figures represent an improvement on the rates seen ten years ago, more than half of GIT individuals have no qualification; whilst the proportion managing to attain a degree remain substantially below the national average.

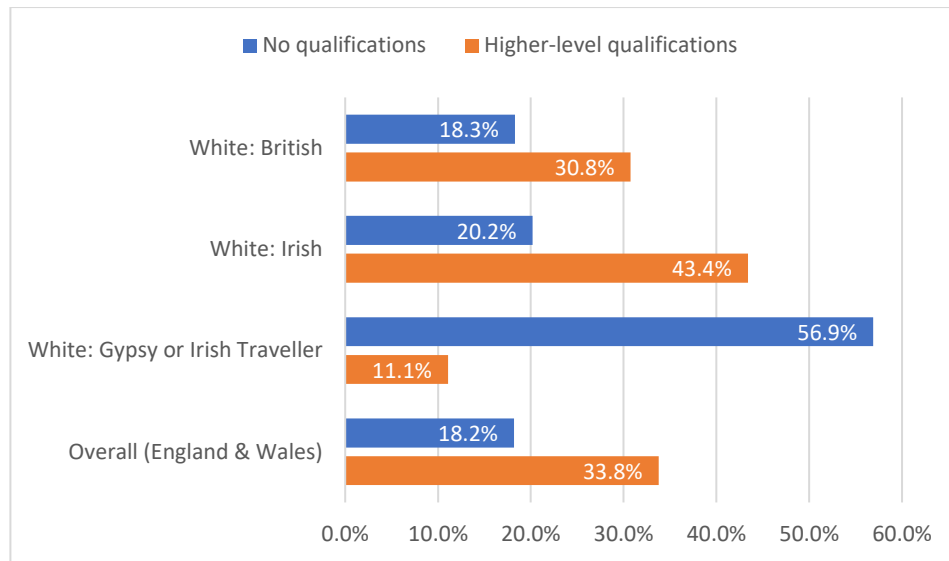
Table 6: Educational level by ethnic group

	No formal qualifications		Higher-level qualifications*	
	#	%	#	%
White: British	6,763,575	18.3%	11,346,420	30.8%
White: Irish	97,095	20.2%	208,960	43.4%
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	26,815	56.9%	5,225	11.1%
Overall (England & Wales)	8,827,470	18.2%	16,413,230	33.8%

* Degree level or above

³ See e.g. Ryan, L., D'Angelo, A., Puniskis, M., Kaye, N. (2014), Analysis of 2011 Census Data. Irish in Britain www.irishinbritain.org/what-we-do/publications/census-analysis-reports

Figure 9: Educational level by ethnic group (%)



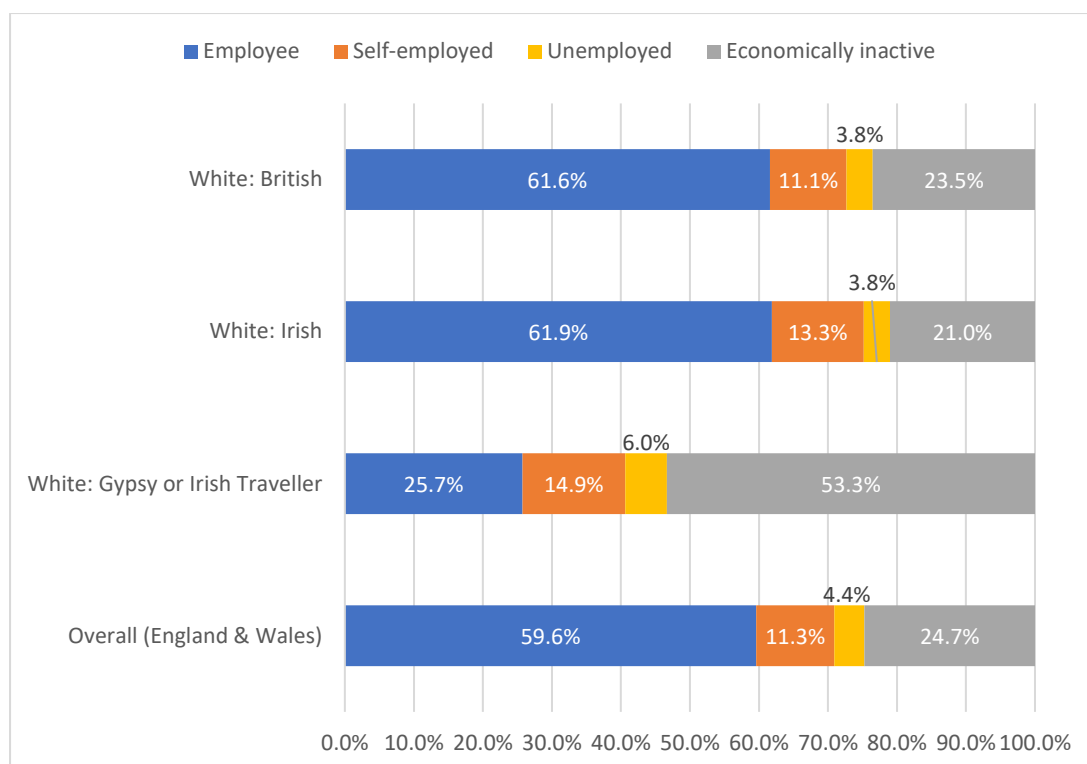
Economic activity status

- The economic activity status of those identifying as White Irish is broadly similar to that of the White British population, with a slightly higher proportion of self-employed workers (13.3%, compared to 11.1%) offset by a slightly smaller proportion of economic inactive people (21%, compared to 23.5%).
- Over half of the White GIT group (53.3%) report being economically inactive, whilst only a quarter are employed as an employee (less than half the national average). The 6% of GIT individuals reporting being unemployed is also significantly above the average for England & Wales.

Table 7: Economic activity status by ethnic group

	White: British		White: Irish		White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller		Overall (England & Wales)	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Employee	16,580,545	61.6%	197,075	61.9%	10,855	25.7%	22,351,005	59.6%
Self-employed	2,987,570	11.1%	42,380	13.3%	6,270	14.9%	4,241,500	11.3%
Unemployed	1,027,540	3.8%	12,065	3.8%	2,545	6.0%	1,645,905	4.4%
Economically inactive	6,322,835	23.5%	66,940	21.0%	22,490	53.3%	9,264,620	24.7%
Total	26,918,490	100%	318,460	100%	42,160	100%	37,503,030	100%

Figure 10: Economic activity by ethnic group (%)



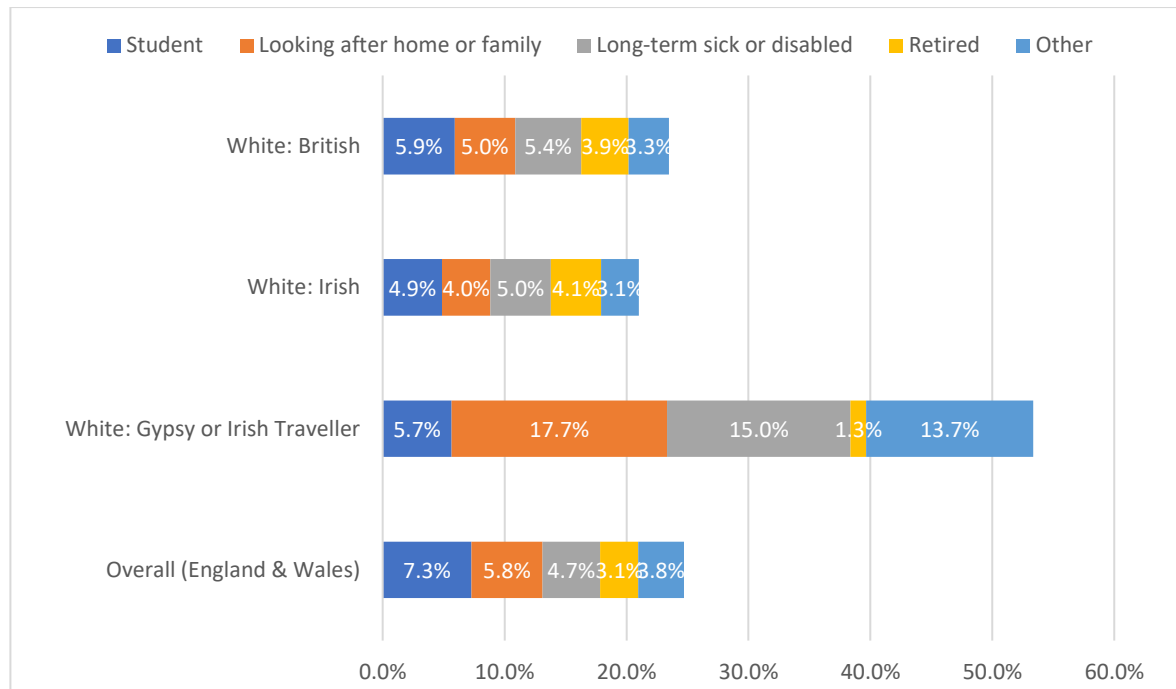
Reasons for economic inactivity

- Amongst the economically inactive, around 9% of White Irish report being long-term sick or disabled or retired. Whilst this may be indicative of this group’s older age profile, it is not significantly higher than the rate seen for the White British group.
- As noted above, the GIT group report significantly higher rates of overall economic inactivity than the national average. This comprises primarily of those looking after home or family (17.7%) and those reporting long-term sickness or disability (15%). Around 1-in-7 report being economically inactive for ‘some other reason’.

Table 8: Reasons for economic inactivity by ethnic group

	White: British		White: Irish		White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller		Overall (England & Wales)	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Student	1,590,180	5.9%	15,490	4.9%	2,385	5.7%	2,727,510	7.3%
Looking after home or family	1,335,655	5.0%	12,630	4.0%	7,450	17.7%	2,188,540	5.8%
Long-term sick or disabled	1,458,805	5.4%	15,815	5.0%	6,340	15.0%	1,771,795	4.7%
Retired	1,047,035	3.9%	13,075	4.1%	545	1.3%	1,170,070	3.1%
Other	891,160	3.3%	9,930	3.1%	5,770	13.7%	1,406,705	3.8%

Figure 11: Reasons for economic inactivity by ethnic group (%)



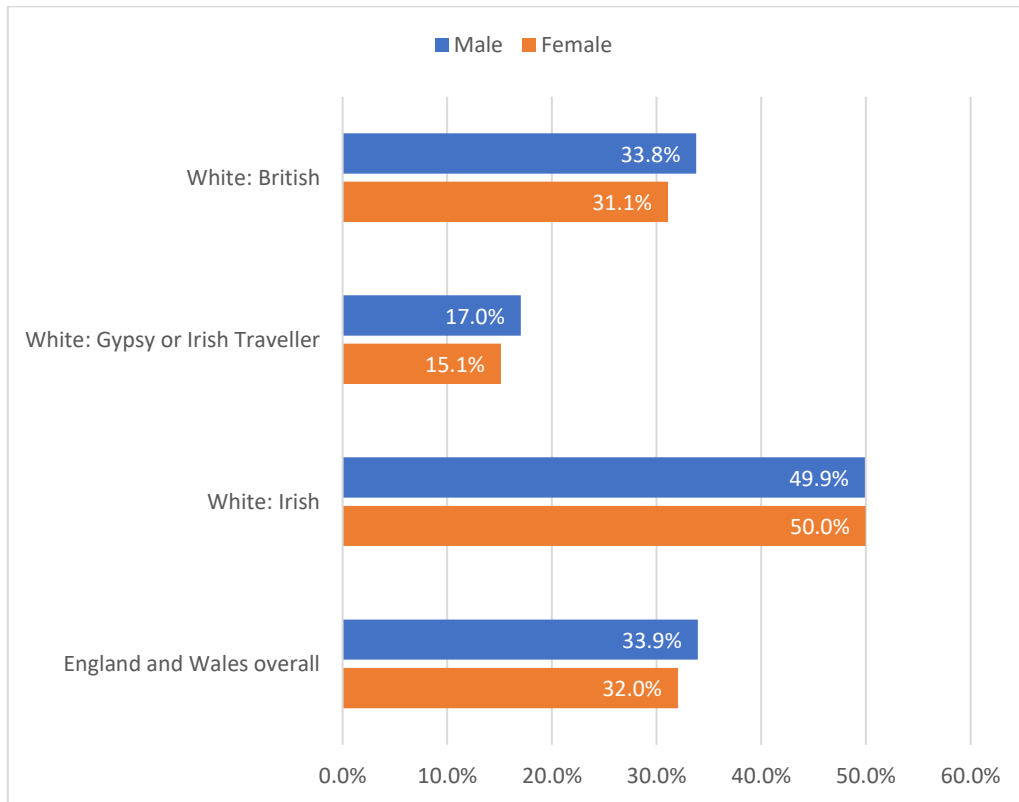
Occupations

- The census classifies occupations into one of nine broadly hierarchical groups, from (1) Managers, Directors and Senior Officials to (9) Elementary occupations. The following table and chart present the proportion of each ethnic group classified into one of the highest two categories.
- For both men and women, the White Irish population have a significantly greater proportion of people in managerial/professional occupations compared to the national average. Around a half of White Irish individuals in employment were in these higher occupational status groups.
- By contrast, only around one-sixth of GIT individuals in employment were in managerial/professional occupations – around half the rate seen nationally. It is important to note, as presented above, that the proportion of GIT population in employment is additionally much lower than for the national population as a whole.

Table 9: Employment in Managerial/professional occupations by ethnic group and sex

	Managerial / professional occupations			
	Male		Female	
	#	%	#	%
White: British	3,421,095	33.8%	2,936,000	31.1%
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	1,730	17.0%	1,050	15.1%
White: Irish	62,145	49.9%	57,450	50.0%
Overall (England & Wales)	4,664,630	33.9%	4,115,905	32.0%

Figure 12: Employment in Managerial/professional occupations by ethnic group and sex (%)



4. Health and welfare

General health

- Whilst overall in England & Wales, close to half of people reported being in ‘very good’ health, for the White Irish, only 41% reported this level of general health. This may be, again, due to the older age profile of this group.
- White GIT individuals also, on average, reported lower levels of ‘very good’ general health, compared to the White British population or the national average.
- For all groups, men reported slightly higher levels of ‘very good’ general health than women.
- Both the White Irish and White GIT reported higher levels of poor health (‘bad’ or ‘very bad’) compared to the national average of 5.2%
- 7.7% of White Irish people reported being in poor health, whilst more than 1-in-8 White GIT people (12.6%) report poor health – more than twice the rate seen in the population as a whole.

Table 10: General health by ethnic group and sex

		Very Bad	Bad	Fair	Good	Very Good
White: British	Male	1.3%	4.2%	13.5%	34.1%	47.0%
	Female	1.4%	4.9%	14.5%	34.2%	45.0%
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	Male	3.5%	8.1%	14.9%	27.5%	45.9%
	Female	4.0%	9.6%	15.8%	26.9%	43.8%
White: Irish	Male	1.9%	5.4%	15.8%	35.2%	41.7%
	Female	2.0%	6.1%	16.4%	33.9%	41.6%
England and Wales Overall	Male	1.1%	3.7%	12.2%	33.5%	49.6%
	Female	1.3%	4.4%	13.3%	33.8%	47.2%

Figure 13: General health by ethnic group and sex (%)

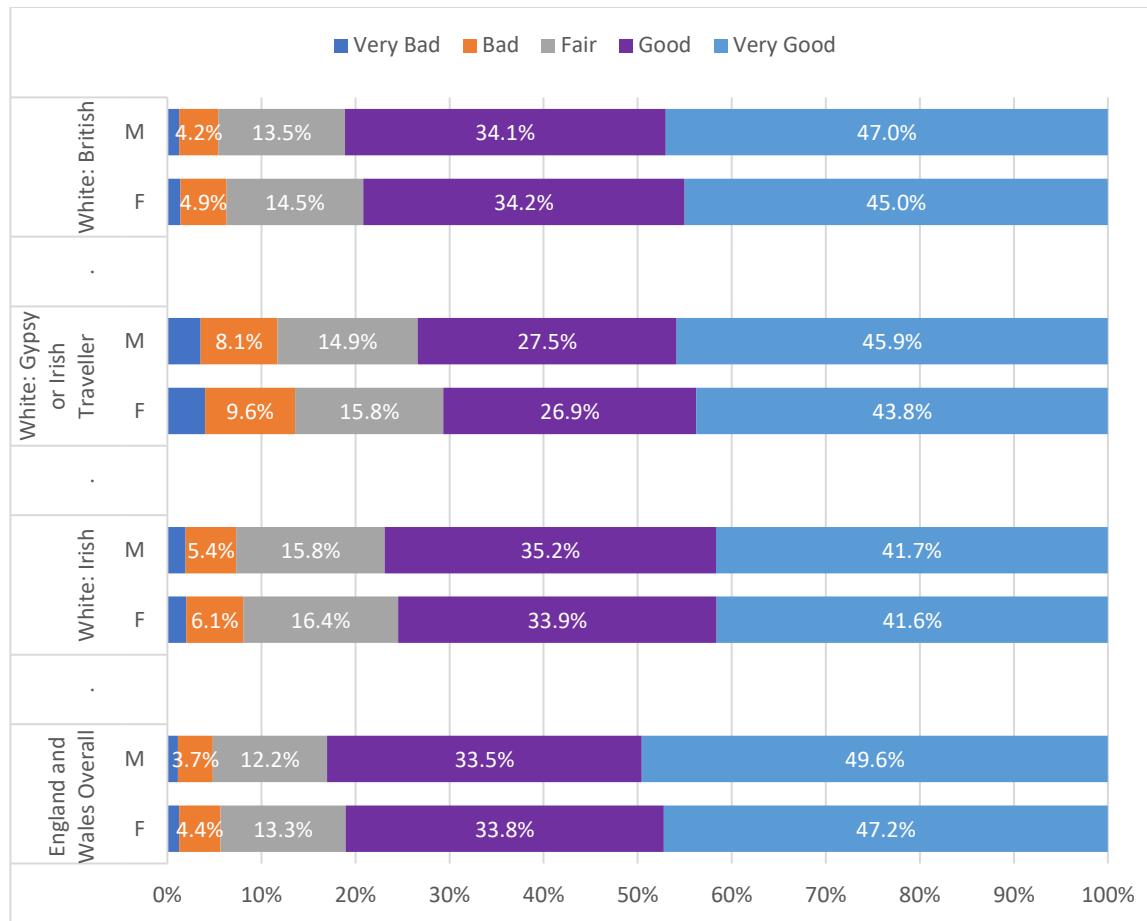
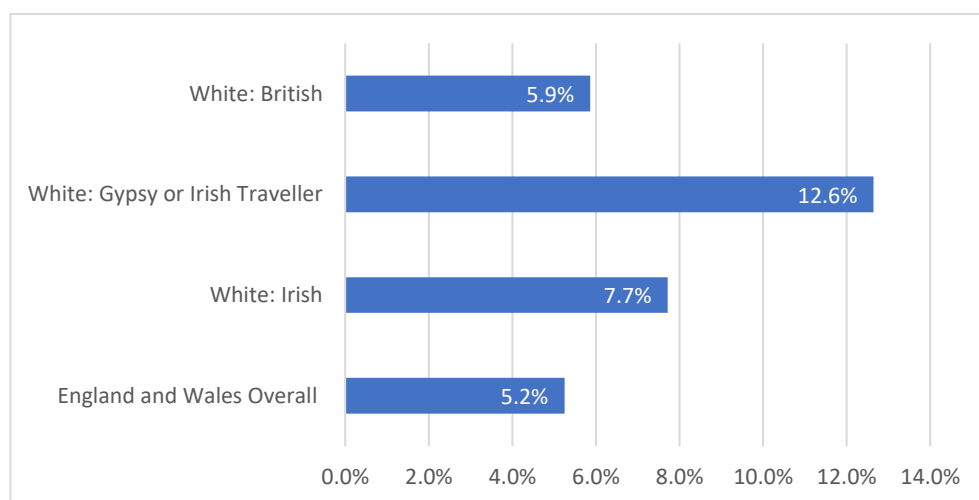


Figure 2: Reporting 'bad' or 'very bad' general health by ethnic group (%)



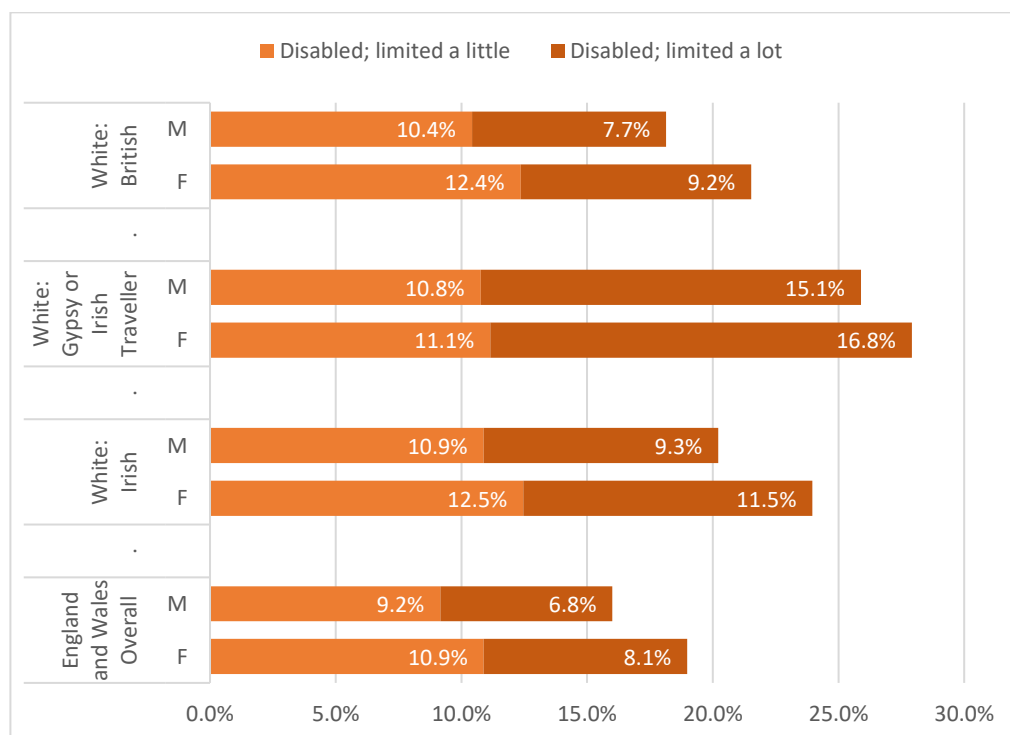
Disability status

- Overall, in England & Wales, 17.5% of the population reported having a disability which limits their daily activities a little or a lot; this is higher for women (19%) than men (16%).
- The White GIT group reported the highest levels of disability for both women (27.9%) and men (25.9%).
- White Irish people are also significantly more likely to report a limiting disability (women: 24%; men: 20.2%) compared to the national average.

Table 11: Reporting a disability that limits daily activities 'a little' or 'a lot' by ethnic group and sex

		Disabled; limited a little		Disabled; limited a lot		TOTAL
		#	%	#	%	
White: British	Male	2,271,610	10.4%	1,684,505	7.7%	21,799,600
	Female	2,786,655	12.4%	2,069,115	9.2%	22,555,435
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	Male	3,640	10.8%	5,115	15.1%	33,815
	Female	3,785	11.1%	5,695	16.8%	33,955
White: Irish	Male	26,525	10.9%	22,785	9.3%	243,845
	Female	32,850	12.5%	30,300	11.5%	263,620
England and Wales Overall	Male	2,672,515	9.2%	1,997,540	6.8%	29,177,340
	Female	3,312,500	10.9%	2,462,225	8.1%	30,420,210

Figure 3: Disability status by ethnic group and sex (%)



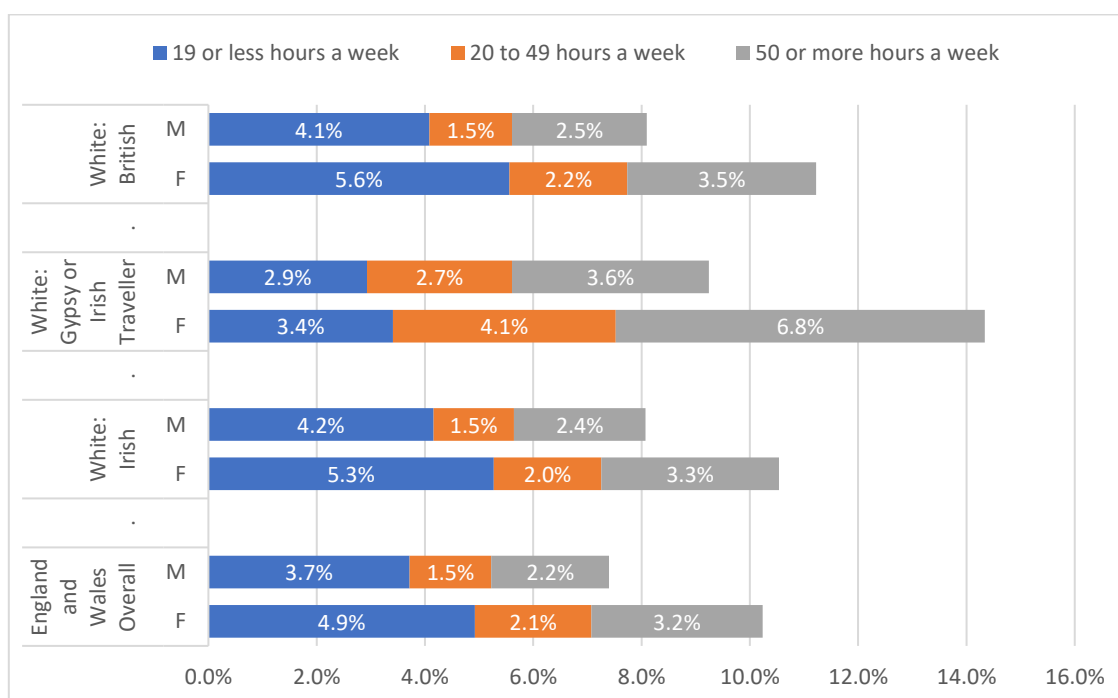
Unpaid care

- People in ethnic groups with higher rates of disability and poorer health typically also provided more unpaid care.
- Levels of unpaid care provision within the White Irish population are broadly similar to the overall England and Wales population.
- Among the White GIT group, about 5% provided more than 50 hours a week of unpaid care, with more than 1-in-10 providing at least some unpaid care.
- As may be expected, the provision of unpaid care is heavily gendered for each of the groups presented. Overall, around 10% of women provide unpaid care, compared to only 7.4% of men. Within the White GIT population, the gender difference is even greater: 1-in-7 women (14.3%) report providing care, compared to only 1-in-11 men (9.2%).

Table 12: Provision of unpaid care by ethnic group and sex

		19 or less hours a week		20 to 49 hours a week		50 or more hours a week		TOTAL
		#	%	#	%	#	%	
White: British	Male	844,185	4.1%	316,315	1.5%	514,430	2.5%	20,692,540
	Female	1,195,985	5.6%	467,945	2.2%	749,480	3.5%	21,506,230
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	Male	890	2.9%	815	2.7%	1,105	3.6%	30,405
	Female	1,050	3.4%	1,270	4.1%	2,100	6.8%	30,830
White: Irish	Male	9,980	4.2%	3,565	1.5%	5,835	2.4%	240,080
	Female	13,695	5.3%	5,160	2.0%	8,520	3.3%	259,820
England and Wales Overall	Male	1,022,055	3.7%	415,820	1.5%	599,040	2.2%	27,522,645
	Female	1,419,995	4.9%	619,545	2.1%	912,560	3.2%	28,842,860

Figure 4: Amount of unpaid care provided by ethnic group and sex (%)



5. Housing and overcrowding

Two key indicators of socioeconomic disadvantage relate to housing: whether an individual lives in socially-rented accommodation, and overcrowding (whether an individual lives in accommodation that has fewer bedrooms than occupants).

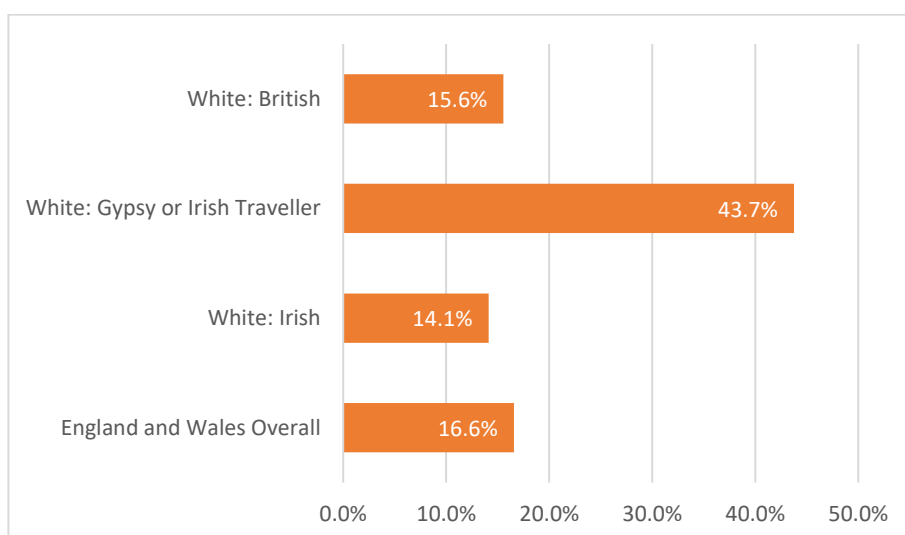
Housing tenure

- Across the population of England and Wales, around 1-in-6 people live in social rented housing.
- This rate is slightly lower amongst the White Irish population, for whom 1-in-7 find themselves in social rented accommodation.
- By contrast, more than two-fifths (43.7%) of White GIT people are living in social rented housing.

Table 13: Living in social rented housing by ethnic group

	Social rented housing		TOTAL
	#	%	
White: British	6,787,095	15.6%	43,629,865
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	28,680	43.7%	65,555
White: Irish	70,055	14.1%	496,700
Overall (England & Wales)	9,706,005	16.6%	58,555,850

Figure 17: Living in social rented housing by ethnic group (%)

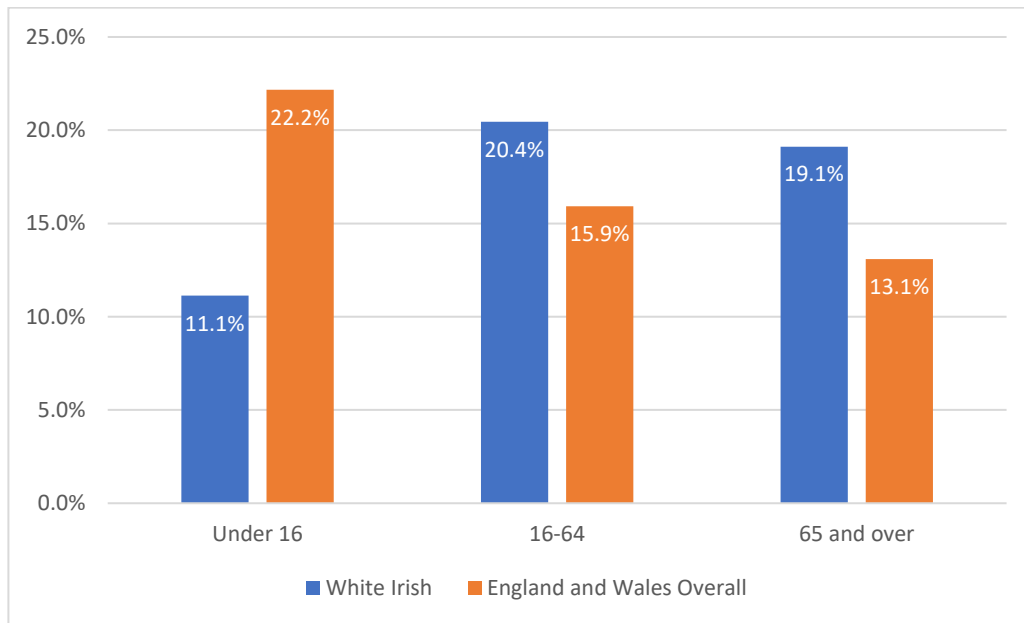


- Despite the overall rate of White Irish people in social rented housing being below the national average, breaking this down by age reveals that for working-age and retired people the rate is significantly higher than within the overall population of England & Wales.

Table 14: Living in social rented housing by ethnic group and age group

	White Irish			England and Wales Overall		
	Social rented		TOTAL	Social rented		TOTAL
	#	%		#	%	
Under 16	2,860	11.1%	25,695	2,437,575	22.2%	10,996,090
16-64	63,770	20.4%	311,880	5,860,025	15.9%	36,799,055
65 and over	30,430	19.1%	159,125	1,408,395	13.1%	10,760,695

Figure 18: Living in social rented housing by ethnic group and age group (%)



Overcrowding

- The White Irish have the lowest rate of overcrowding of any ethnic group. Only 3.5% of this group lives in housing with fewer bedrooms than required.
- By contrast, more than a quarter of the White GIT population (26.3%) live in overcrowded housing, which is around 3 times the overall rate in England and Wales (8.4%) and around 6 times the rate seen amongst the White British population (4.4%).

Table 15: Living in overcrowded housing by ethnic group

	Living in overcrowded housing*		TOTAL
	#	%	
White: British	1,903,915	4.4%	43,629,870
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	17,230	26.3%	65,550
White: Irish	17,325	3.5%	496,695
Overall (England & Wales)	4,915,340	8.4%	58,555,855

* Household's accommodation has fewer bedrooms than required

Figure 19: Living in overcrowded housing by ethnic group (%)

