

World in One Region - Contextual data to accompany interviews / personal stories

General context: (From Focus on Ethnicity and Religion, based on 2001 Census)

The White British population was unevenly distributed within certain local authority areas. For instance, although more than 81% of the people in MSOAs in the local authorities of Birmingham, Sandwell and Walsall, the areas contained two clusters where White British people accounted for less than 36% of the local population.

These were located around the centre of Birmingham, north of Moseley and around Handsworth and neighbouring parts of Sandwell. By contrast, MSOAs around Mere Green (North Birmingham) and Lonbridge Rubery and Northfield (South West Birmingham) had White British populations of more than 90%.

In two MSOAs near Moseley, Birmingham, just 9% of the population was White British, the lowest proportion anywhere outside of London.

Agnes' story & Wadang's story (Sudan)

From Focus on Ethnicity and Religion, based on 2001 Census data

- The Black African population has a long history of small-scale settlement in Great Britain with communities established from the late 1940s onwards in the sea ports of Liverpool, Cardiff and London.
- Migration for the purposes of obtaining training and education has always been a key feature of Black African migration to Britain.
- Since the 1970s political instability across the African continent has contributed to increased migration
- By April 2001 the Black African population was 485,000 – approaching the size of the Black Caribbean population – and 1% of total population of Great Britain.
- The population is one of the most diverse in terms of geographic origin, including 16% from Nigeria, 10% Ghana, Somalia 8%, Zimbabwe 4%, Uganda, Sierra Leone and Kenya 3% each and the rest of Africa 15.4%. The proportion born in England was 34%.
- In 2001, 69% described themselves as Christian and 20% Muslim. Just 2% said they have no religion.
- The age profile was relatively young, with the median age for men 27 years and 28 for women.
- The Black African population of working age included a large proportion (24%) of students.
- More than three-quarters (78%) of the Black African population lived in London, with 40% living in just seven boroughs.
- 36% of households with dependent children were headed by a lone parent; this status was also common amongst other Black groups, accounting for 48% Black Caribbean and 52% Other Black households with dependents.
- Black African groups were least likely to be owner occupiers. 50% rented from a council or housing association and just 26% owner occupiers.

- Black African households with dependent children were amongst the most likely group to contain no working adults, accounting for 34% households.

George Freeman (Poland)

From 'Who are the Other ethnic groups', based on 2001 Census data

- Of the 1.3 million people who identified themselves as Other White, 80% were born overseas; 14% were born in Eastern Europe, 3% in Poland.
- 43% of those born in Poland were aged 65 or over and this reflects the large influx of immigrants after World War 2, many of whom were exiled Poles who had fought alongside the Allies.
- Many had fled from eastern Poland, part of today's Ukraine
- Unemployment rates for the Other White group were 7% among men and 6% among women although the rates were highest amongst those born in Eastern Europe (16% men and 11% women).
- Women tend to have higher rates of economic inactivity, reflecting childrearing responsibilities.
- Just 8% of men from Eastern Europe belonged to a higher socio-economic group (ie, either a 'higher managerial' or higher professional' group).

Merton's story (Jamaica)

From Focus on Ethnicity and Religion, based on 2001 Census data

- Black Caribbean population numbered roughly 566,000 people and accounted for about 1% of the population of Great Britain.
- 57% of Black Caribbean population cited England as country of birth, followed by Jamaica (23%).
- 74% classified themselves as Christian; 11% had no religion and 1% Muslim.
- Black Caribbean population is younger than the White British population but has the oldest age profile among non-White groups, partly reflecting their earlier settlement in Britain – many having arrived in the 1950s and '60's. The median age in 2001 was 35 years for men and 36 years for women.
- The Black Caribbean population was exceptional in that women were more likely than men to be in a managerial or professional occupation group: 30% women, 24% men. Men were more likely to be in routine or manual occupations (37% men; 24% women).
- The Black Caribbean population was concentrated in two regions of England – London, home to 61% of the population, and West Midlands (15%), with particularly large groups in Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Sandwell.
- Black Caribbean households were the most likely to be one-person households, accounting for 38%, closely followed by White Irish (37%).
- The older age-structure of the Black Caribbean population is reflected in its being the most likely non-White group to consist of a pensioner living alone (10%, compared with 18% White Irish and 15% White British households).
- Yet it is also the most likely group to contain one person living alone below pension age (28%), followed by Black African (27%) and Chinese (23%). White populations were less likely to have this type of household, which accounted for 20% of White Irish and 15% White British.

