Brent Diversity Profile

Our population

July 2014
Introduction

We are proud that Brent is one of the most diverse boroughs in the UK. To work effectively in such a diverse setting, we need a good understanding of all our communities.

The equality characteristics have an important influence on the changing identities and needs of local people. This is part of a series of profiles that provide an overview of the diversity of our service users and residents. They will be used to:

- ensure best quality services that are appropriate for our local communities
- identify any gaps in service use or outcomes
- demonstrate where our services are working effectively
- check who could be affected by changes to policies or services
- measure the effects of the council's decisions on local people.
Data notes

These diversity profiles bring together information from the 2011 Census and other data sources about the demographic, social and economic characteristics of the local population across the borough, including:

- age
- sex
- disability and bad health
- ethnicity
- religion or belief
- gender reassignment
- sexual orientation
- pregnancy and maternity
- income status.

We benchmark census data for Brent against England and Wales, London, Inner London and Outer London and data from other sources against London and Great Britain. The profile will be reviewed every two years. There may be differences between 2011 Census data and data more recently collected by service areas.

All data used in this profile can be found here.
Executive summary

The 2011 census showed that:
• the profile of Brent’s population varies greatly from ward to ward – see ward profiles
• the population of Brent increased by 18.1% from 263,464 people in 2001 to 311,215 people in 2011
• the number of 0-4 year olds increased by 37.7% from 16,306 in 2001 to 22,446 in 2011
• 1 in 7 (14,482) residents felt that their health limited their day-to-day activities, which is on par with London rates
• Brent had the 2nd largest proportion of black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) people in England and Wales
• 44.9% of Brent’s population were born in the UK and 65.0% have a UK passport
• 82.5% of Brent’s residents had a religion and the Muslim population experienced the greatest increase
• the conception rate in Brent was much higher than average, except for the under 16 rate which was very low.

Other data sources tell us that:
• the median household income in Brent is one of the lowest in London at £31,601.

The census did not include information about sexual orientation and gender reassignment. Stonewall estimates that lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) people make up 5-7% of the UK population. The Gender Identity Research and Education Society estimates that 1% of the UK population experience gender variance and 0.02% of the UK population will undergo gender transition. The number of people seeking treatment for gender variance goes up by 20% every year – by 2012 there were 180,000 people in the UK aged 16+ who had undergone gender transition. This equates to an LGB population in Brent between 15,561–21,785; 3112 people experiencing gender variance and 62 transgender people. These estimates apply the UK average to Brent and do not take into account variance; they are not definitive estimates.
The population of Brent increased by 18.1% from 263,464 people in 2001 to 311,215 people in 2011. The population growth varied widely across the borough – some wards grew by as much as 40%.

This surpasses the previous highest Brent population of 310,457 people in 1951. The population has been increasing since a low of 248,569 in 1991.

The number of households in Brent increased by 10.3% from 99,991 households in 2001 to 110,286 households in 2011. The mean household size increased from 2.6 people in 2001 to 2.8 people in 2011. The mean household size varied across the borough, from 2.2 people in Kilburn to 3.4 people in Alperton and Wembley Central.

For more detail, see the Population Table in [this report](#).
The census showed that Brent has a young population. A quarter of the population was under 18 and a quarter was aged 30 to 44 years old. 1 in 10 residents were aged 65 or over.

Although the age profile of Brent’s population was similar to that of London, Brent’s median age, 32 was one year younger than London, 33. The median age varied across Brent, from 29 years old in Stonebridge to 38 years old in Kenton.

For more detail, see the Averages Table in this report.
Sex

Men made up just over half the population of Brent: 156,468 people in Brent were men and 154,747 were women.

The median age for both men and women in Brent was 32 years old. This is similar to the median ages of men and women in Inner London, 32 and 31 years old respectively.

Brent’s population aged 65 and over had a greater number of women (17,957) than men, (14,719). This women to men ratio increased as the population 65 and over aged. Conversely There were 1,556 more men than women aged 30 to 44 years old.

For more detail, see the Gender Table in this report.

Population pyramid by 5 year age bands for Brent and London 2011
Disability in the borough

The proportion of residents who felt that they had good health increased from 70.2% in 2001 to 82.9% in 2011.

In February 2014, 0.8% (1,650 people) Brent residents of working age - aged 16 to 64 - were claiming disability benefits (Nomis). This rate was lower than the rate for London, 0.9%.

In the census, 1 in 7 (14.5%) Brent residents considered that their health had a limiting impact on their day to day activities. This is comparable to the rate for London (14.2%) and 3.4% lower than the rate for England and Wales.

7% of residents felt their day-to-day activities were limited a lot and 7.5% of residents felt their day-to-day activities were limited a little. The majority of residents who felt that their day to day activities were limited were aged 65 and over.

For more detail, see Disability Table in this report.
Disability by ward

Disability and ill health varied from ward to ward. In large parts of Brent, 7% to 8% of residents felt that their health limited a lot their day to day activities. There were only 4 wards where 6% to 7% of residents felt that they had bad or very bad health.

For more detail, see the Disability Table in this report.

Percentage day to day activities limited by health a lot by ward

Percentage residents with bad health by ward
Brent was the first local authority in the UK to have a majority black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) population. In the 2011 Census, 63.7% of the population were BAME. By contrast, 14% of people in England and Wales and 40% of people in London were BAME.

The largest ethnic groups in Brent were Asian: Indian or British Indian people (18.6% of Brent’s population compared to 8.8% of the Outer London population) and White: English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/ British people (18.0%).

Brent had a higher proportion of the following ethnic groups than London and nationally: Black African people (7.8%), Black Caribbean people (7.6%), White Irish people (4%), Arab people (3.7%), White Polish people (2.9%) and White: Other Eastern European people (2.1%). 0.1% of Brent’s population were White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller which was on par with London and national figures.

For more detail, see the Ethnicity Table in this report.
A 2011 school census found that 149 languages were spoken in Brent. The national census showed that English was the main language in 57% of Brent households. This was the 2nd lowest rate for any borough in England and Wales.

The proportion of households where no one was able to speak English varied by ward and was highest in Alperton and Wembley Central.

For more detail, see the Household Language Table in this report.
Religion or Belief

More people in Brent had a religion than London and nationally: 1 in 10 Brent residents stated they had no religion, compared to 1 in 5 people in London and 1 in 4 people in England and Wales.

The largest religious groups in Brent were:
- Christian (41% compared to 48.4% in London)
- Muslim (18.6% compared to 12.4% in London)
- Hindu (17.8% compared to 5.5% in London).

The biggest changes to religious groups in Brent were:
- 79% increase to the proportion of Muslim people
- 72% increase to the proportion of Buddhist people
- 32% decrease to the proportion of Jewish people.

2,462 people stated that they were Jain and 1,709 people stated that they were Sikh.

For more detail, see the Religion Table of this report.
Pregnancy and maternity

The General Fertility Rate (GFR) is the number of live births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44. The GFR in Brent in 2012 was 72, higher than Outer London (71.8) and nationally (64.8).

There were 7,430 conceptions to all women in Brent in 2011. 17 (0.2%) of these were to women aged under 16.

The conception rate for all women in Brent was 1 in 10 (99 per 1000), higher than the England and Wales and London rates (80.4 and 89.5 per 1000 respectively).

For women aged under 16, the conception rate in Brent was almost half (3.2 per 1000) the rate for England and Wales (6.1 per 1000).

For more detail, see the Fertility Table of this report.
In 2014, the median income in Brent is £31,601. Within London, Brent ranks as the 6th lowest borough in terms of median household income.

Income varies widely from ward to ward. Stonebridge has the lowest median household income (£22,188) and Queen’s Park has the highest (£41,423).

For more detail, see the Income Table of this report.

Median household income (CACI 2014)
Equality analysis guidance

When officers are performing equality analysis, we suggest they use the information in these diversity profiles to help answer the following questions:

- What differences are there between the diversity profile of your customers and the local area? Are people with some equality characteristics under or over represented?

- Who is likely to be affected by any changes to your policies, strategies and services?

- How can you ensure that consultation exercises reach all relevant stakeholders and communities including potential service users?

- Would projects and services that worked well elsewhere need to be tailored for our diverse local communities?

Remember to think about the needs of all local people, including smaller groups such as the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender (LGBT) community, Gypsies and Travellers, Eastern European and white working class people.

These profiles are only a starting point to understanding the nuances of Brent and its rich diversity. We encourage officers to draw on additional information from the borough profile and Brent data and to engage with communities to build a fuller picture of the needs and concerns of all our residents.

If officers have any further questions, please contact the Equality Team on equality@brent.gov.uk.
Further data

For more information on the topics covered in this diversity profile, please use the following links:

Number of men and women at each age in 2001 and 2011
Number of people per hectare and per household in 2011
Number of people by main religion in 2001 and 2011 for Brent and regions
Number of people by main religion in 2001 and 2011 for wards in Brent
Number of people by healthiness in 2001 and 2011 for Brent and regions
Number of people by healthiness in 2001 and 2011 for wards in Brent
Number of people by selected ethnic group in 2001 and 2011 for Brent and regions
Number of people by selected ethnic group in 2001 and 2011 for wards in Brent
Number of people by their ability in English in 2011 for Brent
Number of people by their ability in English in 2011 for the wards in Brent