

Briefing Sheet

01

Scotland's Black and Minority Ethnic Communities: A Demographic Overview





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The most accurate and comprehensive source of statistical data on Scotland’s Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities’ remains the Census. The figures in this report draw on the findings of the 2001 Census although it is recognised that this information will be updated in the near future by the 2011 Census.

Scotland is less ethnically diverse than other parts of the United Kingdom. The 2001 Census records Scotland’s BME population at 101,677 or 2.01% of the total population compared with 7.9% of the UK population as a whole. Since the 1991 Census, Scotland has undergone a period of rapid change evidenced by a 62% growth in its BME population, increasing from 62,634 to 101,677. Significant growth was reported in the Indian (49.6%), Pakistani (50.0%), Bangladeshi (74.7%) and Chinese (55.7%) populations. It should be noted, however, that comparisons between the 1991 and 2001 Census are problematic due to different ethnic classifications being utilised. For example, the ‘mixed’ category used in the 2001 Census was not used in 1991. Similarly, ethnic categorisation for the 2011 Census has been further refined.

Population Statistics

At the time of the last Census, the Pakistani community represented the largest single BME community in Scotland followed by the Chinese and Indian communities respectively.

Table 1: Scotland by Ethnic Origin (adapted from Table KS06)

Ethnic Origin	% of Total Population	Total Population
All	100.00	5,062,011
White Scottish	88.09	4,459,125
Other White British	7.38	373,576
White Irish	0.98	49,607
Other White	1.54	77,955
Indian	0.30	15,186
Pakistani	0.63	31,891
Bangladeshi	0.04	2,025
Other South Asian	0.12	6,074
Chinese	0.32	16,198
Caribbean	0.04	2,025
African	0.10	5,062
Black Scottish	0.02	1,012
Any Mixed	0.25	12,655
Other	0.19	9,618

Patterns of Settlement

Sixty percent of Scotland's BME population resides in the four major cities of Glasgow (31,552/5.46%), Edinburgh (18,259/4.07%), Aberdeen City (6,152/2.9%) and Dundee (5,331/3.66%) although every local authority and health board in Scotland has a BME population

Both East Renfrewshire and East Dunbartonshire recorded higher percentages of the total population as being from a BME background although the actual number recorded was smaller at 3,438 (3.85%) and 3,345 (3.09%) respectively.

Only 14 towns with a population of over 500 residents recorded a zero BME population.

Table 2: Local Authority by Minority Ethnic Population (adapted from Table KS06)

Local Authority Area	Local Authority by Population	% White	White Population	% Minority Ethnic	Minority Ethnic Population
Aberdeen City	212,125	97.10	205,973	2.90	6,152
Aberdeenshire	226,871	99.29	225,260	0.71	1,611
Angus	108,400	99.21	107,544	0.79	856
Argyll & Bute	91,306	99.21	90,585	0.79	721
Clackmannanshire	48,077	99.16	47,673	0.84	404
Dumfries & Galloway	147,765	99.35	146,805	0.65	960
Dundee City*	145,663	96.34	140,332	3.66	5,331
East Ayrshire	120,235	99.32	119,417	0.68	818
East Dunbartonshire	108,243	96.91	104,898	3.09	3,345
East Lothian	90,088	99.28	89,439	0.72	649
East Renfrewshire	89,311	96.15	85,873	3.85	3,438
Edinburgh	448,624	95.93	430,365	4.07	18,259
Eilean Star	26,502	99.36	26,332	0.64	170
Falkirk	145,191	98.97	143,696	1.03	1,495
Fife	349,429	98.73	344,991	1.27	4,438
Glasgow	577,869	94.54	546,317	5.46	31,552
Highlands	208,914	99.20	207,243	0.80	1,671
Inverclyde	84,203	99.11	83,454	0.89	749
Midlothian	80,941	99.09	80,204	0.91	737
Moray	86,940	99.13	86,184	0.87	756
North Ayrshire	135,817	99.32	134,893	0.68	924
North Lanarkshire	321,067	98.74	317,022	1.26	4,045

Orkney	19,245	99.56	19,160	0.44	85
Perth & Kinross	134,949	99.03	133,640	0.97	1,309
Renfrewshire	172,867	98.77	170,741	1.23	2,126
Scottish Borders	106,764	99.44	106,166	0.56	598
Shetland	21,988	98.94	21,755	1.06	233
South Ayrshire	112,097	99.32	111,335	0.68	762
South Lanarkshire	302,216	98.88	298,831	1.12	3,385
Stirling	86,212	98.51	84,927	1.49	1,285
West Dunbartonshire	93,378	99.29	92,715	0.71	663

Historically, migration into Scotland centred on urban areas of population where BME communities were well established and where opportunities for economic advancement were seen to be most advantageous. Conversely, rural and highland/island communities had much lower levels of migration as the opposite was perceived to be true.

Table 3: Health Board Area by Minority Ethnic Population (adapted from Table KS06)

Health Board	Total Population	% White	White Population	% Minority Ethnic	Minority Ethnic Population
Argyll & Clyde	420,491	99.01	416,328	0.99	4,163
Ayrshire & Arran	368,149	99.32	365,646	0.68	2,503
Borders	106,764	99.44	106,166	0.56	598
Dumfries & Galloway	147,765	99.35	146,805	0.65	960
Fife	349,429	98.73	344,991	1.27	4,438
Forth Valley	279,480	98.87	276,322	1.13	3,158
Grampian	525,936	98.37	517,363	1.63	8,573
Greater Glasgow	867,150	95.46	827,781	4.54	39,369
Highland	208,914	99.20	207,243	0.80	1,671
Lanarkshire	552,819	98.81	546,240	1.19	6,579
Lothian	778,367	97.20	756,573	2.80	21,794
Orkney	19,245	99.56	19,160	0.44	85
Shetland	21,988	98.94	21,755	1.06	233
Tayside	389,012	98.08	381,543	1.92	7,469
Western Isles	26,502	99.36	26,332	0.64	170

Age Profile

The most striking feature of Scotland's BME population is its markedly younger age profile. In stark contrast to the White majority population, 56.05% of the BME population are under 30 years of age compared to 36.2%. Conversely, only 6.75% of the BME population are aged 60+ compared with 21.3% of the White majority population.

The onset of older age in BME communities is widely regarded as commencing at 50+ years of age. Many reasons are cited for this. Overall poorer health status including the earlier onset of age related illnesses and a genetic predisposition towards certain conditions, the impact of fewer life opportunities both economic and social and cultural attitudes towards ageing have reinforced this understanding. This contrasts with the White majority population where concepts of ageing have undergone a radical overhaul in recent years. Better health care, longer working lives and more positive attitudes towards ageing, amongst other factors, have significantly and consistently shifted the parameters of older age upwards.

Research conducted by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation¹ illustrates the sense of detachment felt by Chinese older people both from their own community and from mainstream society. Several respondents to the study described their experience of older age as:

“Waiting to eat, waiting to sleep, waiting to die.”

Contributory factors included low expectations of their life in the UK, negative experiences of retirement, poorer mental and physical health and poorer self esteem.

Alison Norman writing in 1985 described the effects of ageing, racial and cultural discrimination and poorer access to services as one of ‘triple jeopardy’².

Table 4: Persons by Age and Ethnic Origin (adapted from Table 7)

Age	Total	White %	White Pop.	Indian %	Indian Pop.	South Asian %	South Asian Pop.	Chinese %	Chinese Pop.	Other %	Other Pop.
Total	5,062,011	98.0	4,906,334	0.3	15,037	0.8	39,970	0.3	16,310	0.6	30,360
0 – 15	972,065	19.0	942,658	23.1	3,473	32.1	12,827	21.6	3,524	31.6	9,583
16 – 29	883,780	17.2	855,081	29.7	4,470	27.0	10,777	32.0	5,219	27.1	8,233
30 – 44	1,162,958	22.9	1,137,616	24.9	3,746	24.2	9,693	25.3	4,126	25.6	7,777
45 – 59	976,575	19.5	964,834	14.0	2,104	10.5	4,196	13.9	2,267	10.4	3,174
60 – 64	261,733	5.2	259,407	3.1	467	2.6	1,021	2.4	393	1.5	445
65 +	804,900	16.1	800,738	5.2	777	3.6	1,456	4.8	781	3.8	1,148

¹ Yu, W K (2000) *Meeting the Needs of Chinese Older People*: Joseph Rowntree Foundation

² Norman, A (1985) *Triple Jeopardy: Growing Old in a Second Homeland* Centre for Policy on Ageing London

Health Status

Information from the Census is available on the extent of limiting longterm illness disaggregated by ethnicity although it must be noted that the data is based on self classification and perception. Overall, 20.3% of the total population reported a limiting longterm illness compared with 14% in 1991. 20.5% of the White majority population reported a limiting longterm illness compared with 12.4% of the total BME population. Within individual ethnic groups the highest percentage of limiting longterm illness was reported by Black Scottish or Other Black at 17.2%, Pakistani at 16.8% and African Caribbean at 14.2%. The lowest levels of limiting longterm illness were reported by Other Ethnic Groups, Africans and Chinese at 7.8%, 8.0% and 9.1% respectively.

All ethnic groups reported the highest levels of limiting longterm illness in the 65+ age group. Within BME communities, Pakistani's reported the highest level of limiting longterm illness for this age cohort at 67.7%. Similar levels were recorded for the Indian population at 62.7%, Bangladeshi's at 52.4% and the Chinese at 53.5%.

Table 5: Limiting Longterm Illness by Ethnic Group (adapted from Table S238)

Ethnic Group	Population Size	%	Limiting Longterm Illness
White	4,960,334	20.5	1,016,868
Indian	15,037	12.7	1,910
Pakistani	31,793	16.8	5,341
Bangladeshi	1,981	11.9	236
Other South Asian	6,196	13.1	812
Chinese	16,310	9.1	1,484
Caribbean	1,778	14.2	252
African	5,118	8.0	409
Black Scottish/Other Black	1,129	17.2	194
Any Mixed Background	12,764	12.1	140
Other Ethnic Group	9,571	7.8	747

Table 6: Limiting Long-term Illness by Adults Aged 16+ & Ethnicity

Ethnic Group	% With Limiting Longterm Illness	% Without Limiting Longterm Illness	Base
White Scottish	25	75	3,568,744
Other White British	20	80	335,542
White Irish	27	73	46,650
Other White	16	84	66,740
Indian	15	85	11,564
Pakistani	21	79	21,301
Bangladeshi	15	85	1,372
Other South Asian	16	84	4,470
Chinese	11	89	12,786
African Caribbean	16	84	1,464
African	9	91	3,902
Black Scottish or Other Black	22	78	794
Any Mixed Background	18	82	7,116
Other Ethnic group	9	91	7,501
All adults aged 16 and over	24	76	4,089,946

Table 7: % of Limiting Long-term Illness by Age & Ethnicity (adapted from Table S238)

Ethnic Group/Age	0 – 15	16 – 24	25 – 34	35 – 59	60 – 64	65 +
White	4.7	6.2	9.5	19.1	39.0	55.0
Indian	3.8	4.6	5.9	17.8	44.3	62.7
Pakistani	5.1	6.6	9.8	28.4	63.6	67.7
Bangladeshi	5.2	7.7	6.2	20.8	32.5	52.4
Other South Asian	4.9	4.9	9.8	19.1	47.0	55.1
Chinese	3.6	2.9	3.4	11.7	38.9	53.5
Caribbean	5.1	7.0	8.6	15.5	47.2	48.0
African	4.5	5.5	4.8	10.8	47.2	48.0
Black Scottish/Other Black	4.8	7.6	12.2	22.8	45.8	56.4
Any Mixed Background	5.0	6.9	12.0	22.0	47.5	56.2
Other Ethnic Group	3.8	3.8	3.8	11.2	30.8	50.4