

# Census Bulletin

## Ethnicity, Language and Religion

### Census 2011

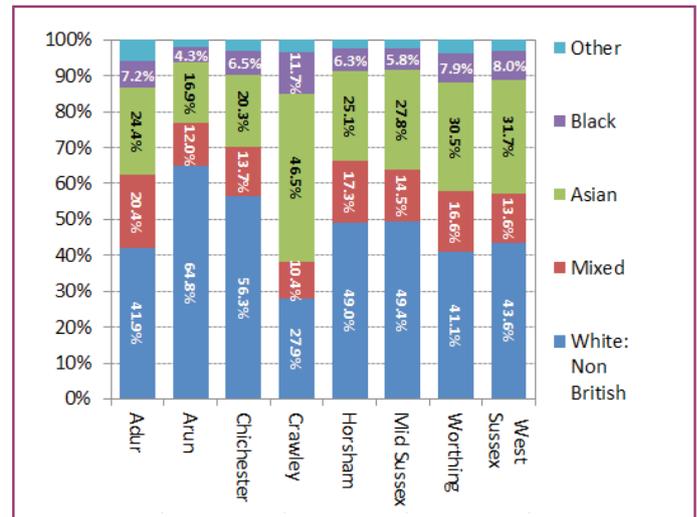
The 2011 Census gathered information on the ethnicity, country of birth, national identity, main language and religion of every person living in England and Wales. Ethnicity, country of birth and religion were also included in the 2001 Census, however questions on national identity and main language were new for 2011.

### Ethnicity

In West Sussex, 88.9% of the population are White British (English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish), a higher proportion than for the population of England and Wales (80.5%) and the South East (85.2%). There is little variation in the proportion of White British people across six of the seven districts, however in Crawley the proportion of White British drops to 72.1% of the total population.

A breakdown of the population who are not of White British ethnicity can be seen in Figure 1 for each district in West Sussex. Overall, 43.6% of the population who are not White British belong to the White Irish, White Gypsy or Irish Traveller or Other White ethnic groups. A further 31.7% are Asian and 11.2% are of Mixed or multiple ethnic groups. There are variations across the districts of West Sussex; in Arun, 64.8% of the population who are not White British belong to other White ethnic groups, while in Crawley 46.5% are Asian and 11.7% are Black.

Figure 1: Ethnic groups other than White British by district



Since the 2001 Census, the proportion of the population of West Sussex who are White British has decreased from 93.5% of the total in 2001 to 88.9% of the total in 2011. Correspondingly, the proportion of the population who belong to other ethnic groups has increased from 6.5% of the total in 2001 to 11.1% of the total in 2011. This equates to an increase of 40,479 people belonging to ethnic groups other than White British.

Table 1: Ethnic groups in West Sussex by district

Ethnic Group	Adur		Arun		Chichester		Crawley		Horsham		Mid Sussex		Worthing		West Sussex	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
White: British	56,843	92.9	137,024	91.6	105,841	93.0	76,888	72.1	121,020	92.2	126,341	90.3	93,594	89.4	717,551	88.9
White: Non British	1,820	3.0	8,094	5.4	4,481	4.0	8,292	7.8	5,042	3.9	6,677	4.8	4,542	4.4	38,948	4.8
Mixed	886	1.4	1,502	1.0	1,092	0.9	3,098	2.9	1,774	1.4	1,967	1.5	1,836	1.7	12,155	1.6
Asian	1,058	1.7	2,116	1.4	1,617	1.4	13,825	13.0	2,585	2.1	3,761	2.7	3,372	3.2	28,334	3.5
Black	313	0.5	538	0.3	518	0.5	3,469	3.2	651	0.4	788	0.5	869	0.9	7,146	1.0
Other	262	0.5	244	0.1	245	0.2	1,025	1.0	229	0.2	326	0.3	427	0.4	2,758	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>61,182</b>		<b>149,518</b>		<b>113,794</b>		<b>106,597</b>		<b>131,301</b>		<b>139,860</b>		<b>104,640</b>		<b>806,892</b>	

### National Identity

In West Sussex, 64.3% of the population identify themselves as English only, which is higher than the proportion in England and Wales (57.7%). Conversely, 17.0% of the population identify themselves as British only, lower than the proportion for England and Wales (19.1%). Overall, 94.4% of the population identify themselves as at least one of English, British, Scottish, Welsh or Northern Irish nationality. The remaining 5.7% of the population do not identify themselves as any of these nationalities.

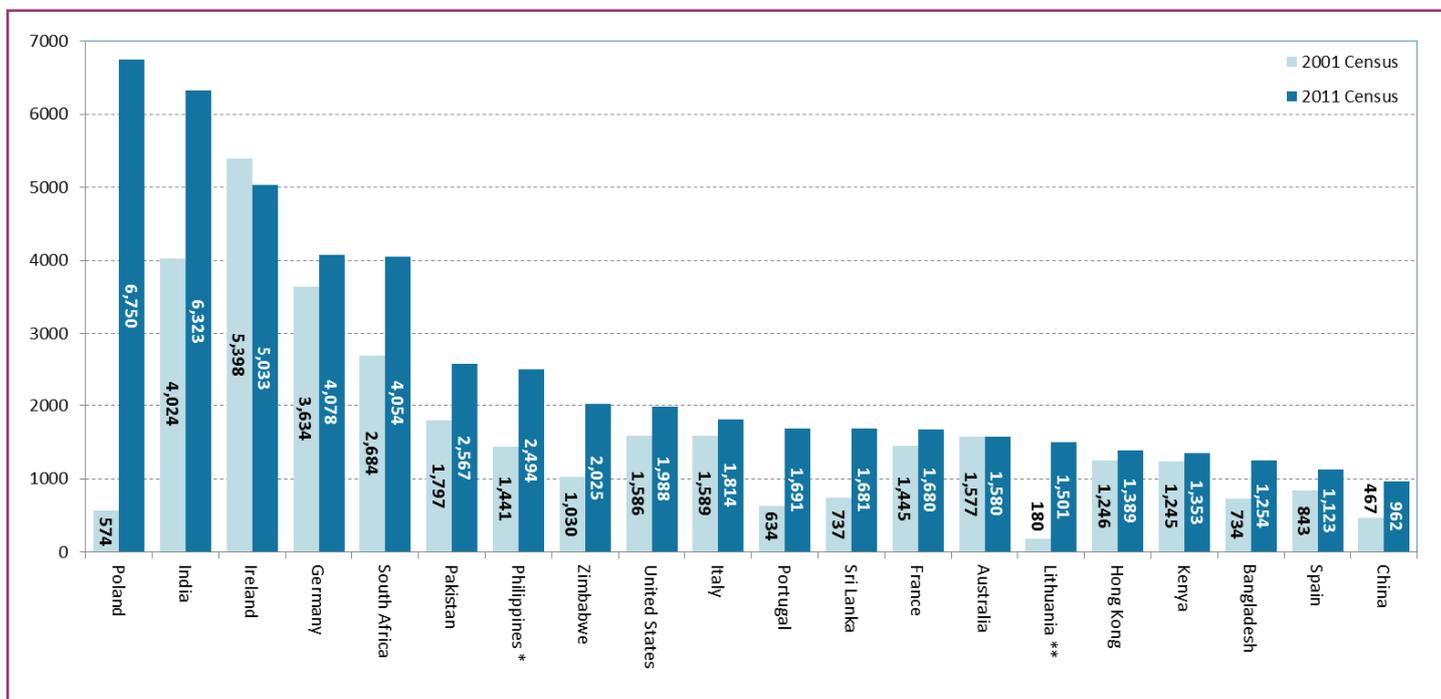
### Country of Birth

89.9% of the population of West Sussex were born in the UK, a slightly higher proportion than in England and Wales (86.6%) as well as the South East (87.9%). A further 4.4% were born elsewhere in Europe, 2.7% in the Middle East and Asia and 1.8% in Africa. Those born in the Americas and the Caribbean (0.8%) and Antarctica and Australasia (0.3%) were less common in West Sussex.

The proportion of the West Sussex population who were born in the UK has decreased from 93.2% of the population in 2001 to 89.9% in 2011. The proportion born outside the UK has increased: those born elsewhere in Europe increased from 2.7% in 2001 to 4.4% in 2011; born in the Middle East and Asia from 1.8% in 2001 to 2.7% in 2011; and born in Africa from 1.2% in 2001 to 1.8% in 2011.

Populations for the 20 most common countries of birth outside the UK in 2011 compared to 2001 are shown in Figure 2. The Polish population has shown the greatest increase, up by 6,176 people from 2001 to 2011. This is followed by the Indian population in West Sussex, up by 2,299 people from 2001 to 2011.

**Figure 2: Top 20 countries of birth outside the UK in West Sussex, 2001 vs. 2011**



These 20 countries of birth account for a total of 51,340 people in West Sussex, or 63.1% of all people born outside the UK. Across the districts of West Sussex, Arun and Crawley both have sizeable Polish populations, with lower numbers in the other five districts. Within Crawley there are also significant populations of people born in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Portugal. People born in Ireland, Germany and South Africa are more evenly spread across the districts.

## Language

Overall, 95.3% of the population of West Sussex speak English as their main language. A further 3.9% speak a different main language, but can speak English 'very well' (2.1%) or 'well' (1.8%). The remaining 0.8% of the population cannot speak English well (0.7%) or cannot speak English at all (0.1%). This equates to 5,475 people who cannot speak English well and 909 people who cannot speak English at all in West Sussex.

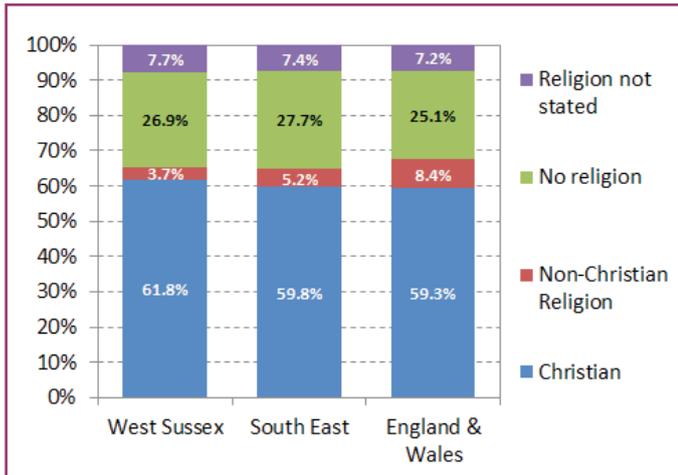
With the exception of Crawley, at least 95% of the population in each district speak English as their main language. The total proportion who speak English 'very well' or 'well', including as a main language, varies from 98.8% in Arun to 99.7% in Horsham and Mid Sussex. In Crawley, the proportion who speak English as their main language drops to 86.9% of the total population. However, the total proportion who speak English 'very well' or 'well' remains high at 97.6% of the population, while just 0.3% of the population of Crawley do not speak English at all.

The most commonly spoken non-English language is Polish, with 6,299 people speaking Polish as their main language, slightly smaller than the Polish born population living in West Sussex. The second most commonly spoken non-English main language is Portuguese, with 1,954 people speaking Portuguese as their main language. The Indian, Pakistani and Sri Lankan populations in West Sussex – mainly in Crawley – speak a variety of main languages including Gujarati, Urdu and Tamil. These are the 3rd, 5th and 8th most commonly spoken main languages respectively in West Sussex. Indian and Bangladeshi populations elsewhere in West Sussex are more likely to speak Bengali.

## Religion

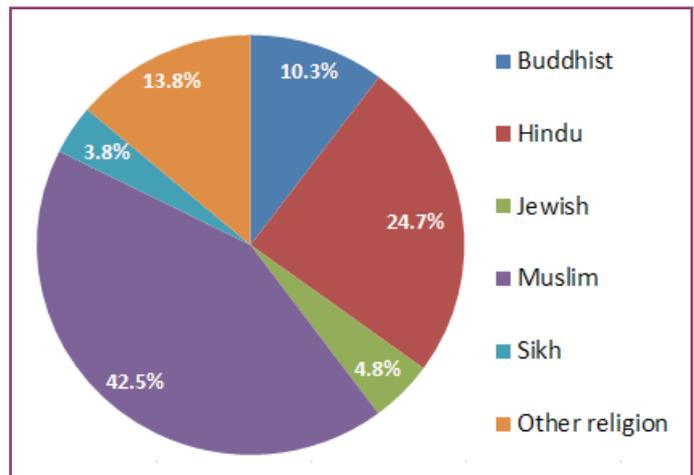
A breakdown of the population by religion for West Sussex, the South East and England and Wales is shown in Figure 3, while Figure 4 shows a detailed breakdown of the non-Christian population in West Sussex. West Sussex remains predominantly Christian by religion, with 61.8% of the population describing themselves as such. This is slightly higher than the proportion for the South East (59.8%) and England and Wales (59.3%). A further 26.9% of the population in West Sussex have no religion, a slightly higher proportion than in England and Wales but lower than the South East region. Just 3.7% of the population described themselves as having a non-Christian religion, less than half the proportion for England and Wales (8.4%).

**Figure 3: Religion in West Sussex**



Of the 3.7% of the population who have a non-Christian religion, 42.5% are Muslim and 24.7% are Hindu. The Muslim, Hindu and Sikh populations are concentrated in Crawley, with at least 60% of the West Sussex total living in Crawley for each of these three religions. Buddhist, Jewish and Other religions are more evenly spread across West Sussex.

**Figure 4: Non-Christian Religions in West Sussex**



Since the 2001 Census, the proportion of the population of West Sussex who are Christian has decreased from 74.5% of the total in 2001 to 61.8% of the total in 2011. Over the same period, the proportion who have a non-Christian religion has increased from 2.6% of the total in 2001 to 3.7% of the total in 2011. However, most of the decrease in the Christian population can be attributed to an increase in the proportion that state they have no religion, up from 15.6% in 2001 to 26.9% in 2011. This mirrors the trend seen across England and Wales, with many of those who had previously identified themselves as Christian in the 2001 Census now stating they have no religion.

ONS Census tables used: KS201EW, KS202EW, KS204EW, KS209EW, QS203EW, QS204EW (2011), KS05, KS06, KS07, UV08 (2001).

Source data for this bulletin, including calculations, is available on the West Sussex data store.