

Census Bulletin

Educational Qualifications in West Sussex

Issue 8

Educational Qualifications in West Sussex

This bulletin looks at qualifications of 16 to 74 year olds by age, gender and ethnicity and by socio-economic status.

Highest qualification obtained

The 2001 Census asked people aged 16 to 74 years to identify all educational and professional qualifications they had obtained. The highest qualification held by a person was used to categorise people into one of five levels; level 1 being the least qualified and level 5 the most. The qualifications required to meet each level are shown in Table 1. Table 2 shows the highest level of qualification achieved by working age adults in each local authority in West Sussex, in West Sussex as a whole and in England and Wales (E&W). As in E&W, around a fifth of the total working age population in West Sussex have attained level 4/5 qualifications. Within the county this ranges from 14% in Adur to 23% in Chichester, Horsham and Mid Sussex. Just over a fifth (23%) of the West Sussex working age population have attained a highest qualification of level 2, while 9% have achieved qualifications at level 3. Nearly a quarter of all working age adults in West Sussex have no formal qualifications. This compares to 29% in E&W, and ranges within the county from 19% in Horsham and Mid Sussex to 31% in Adur.

Table 1: Qualifications required to meet each level

Level	Highest qualification obtained
1	1+ 'O' level passes, 1+ CSE/GCSE any grades, NVQ level 1, Foundation GNVQ
2	5+ 'O' level passes, 5+ CSEs (grade 1), 5+ GCSEs (grades A-C), School Certificate, 1+ 'A' levels/AS levels, NVQ level 2, Intermediate GNVQ
3	2+ 'A' levels, 4+ AS levels, Higher School Certificate, NVQ level 3, Advanced GNVQ
4/5	Degree, Higher degree, NVQ levels 4 and 5, HNC, HND, Qualified Teacher status, Qualified Medical Doctor, Qualified Dentist, Qualified Nurse, Midwife, Health Visitor
Other qualification / level unknown	Other qualifications (e.g. City and Guilds, RSA/OCR, BTEC/Edexcel), Other Professional Qualifications

Table 2: Highest level of qualification achieved by working age adults (16-74 year olds) by local authority, for West Sussex and E&W

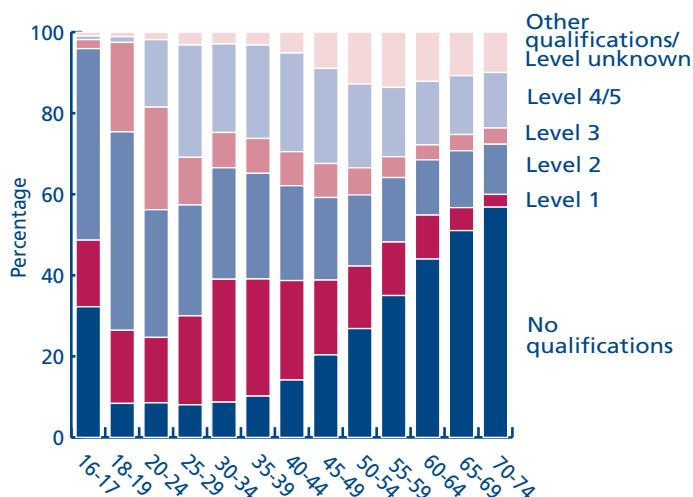
	No qualifications		Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		Level 4/5		Other qualifications/level unknown	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Adur	12,970	31	8,193	20	8,557	21	2,722	7	5,701	14	3,518	8
Arun	28,288	29	17,556	18	20,628	21	7,319	8	14,947	15	8,315	9
Chichester	17,931	24	11,263	15	16,180	22	7,029	9	17,511	23	5,302	7
Crawley	18,290	25	15,624	22	16,818	23	5,747	8	10,505	15	4,921	7
Horsham	16,853	19	14,780	17	21,302	25	8,283	10	20,244	23	5,417	6
Mid Sussex	17,056	19	15,878	17	22,648	25	9,097	10	20,946	23	5,713	6
Worthing	16,824	25	12,719	19	15,027	23	5,516	8	11,655	17	4,921	7
West Sussex	128,212	24	96,013	18	121,160	23	45,713	9	101,489	19	38,107	7
E&W	10,937,042	29	6,230,033	17	7,288,074	19	3,110,135	8	7,432,962	20	2,609,192	7

Highest qualification by age and gender

Figure 1 shows that wide variation exists in the highest qualifications attained by different age groups in West Sussex. In general, the older the age group the higher the proportion that have no formal qualifications and the smaller the proportions that have attained level 1, level 2 and level 3 qualifications. The proportion that have achieved level 4/5 qualifications peaks in the 25-29 age group and shows a steady decline after the age of 45. The 16-17 age group is not consistent with the general pattern as they are unlikely to have been examined beyond level 2.

In West Sussex, females account for more than half (55%) of those with no formal qualifications, but also for more than half (54%) of those with level 2 qualifications and just over half (51%) of those with level 3 qualifications. There is an even proportion of males and females amongst those with level 1 and those with level 4/5 qualifications.

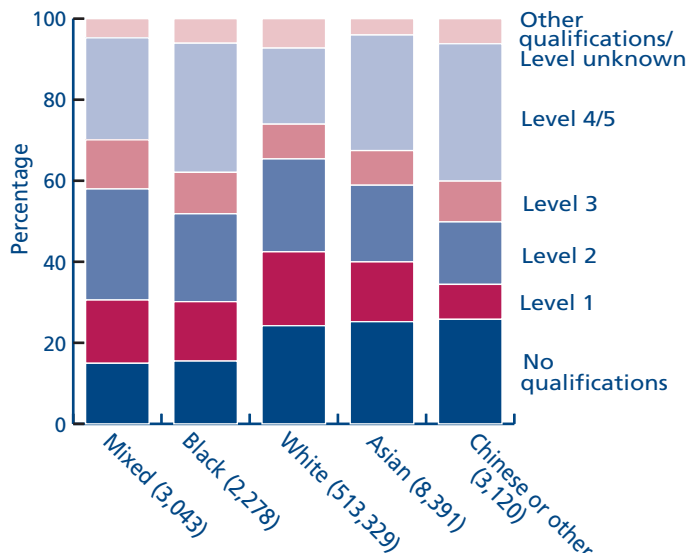
Figure 1: Highest qualification attained by age group for West Sussex



Highest qualification by Ethnic Group

The highest qualification attained by working age adults of each ethnic group in West Sussex is illustrated in Figure 2. The Chinese and Other ethnic population have the highest proportion of people with no formal qualifications (26%), although they also have the highest proportion with level 4/5 qualifications (34%). The Mixed ethnic population has the lowest proportion of people with no formal qualifications (15%), while the White population has the lowest proportion of people with level 4/5 qualifications (19%). These patterns are most likely to be explained by the older age structure of the White than the non-White population in West Sussex, bearing in mind the relationship between age and highest qualification attained, outlined previously.

Figure 2: Highest qualification attained by ethnic group for West Sussex



Highest Qualification by National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SeC)

The NS-SeC is an occupationally based classification that has rules to provide coverage of the whole adult population. It is based upon the occupation coded to the Standard Occupational Classification 2000 and details of employment status. For simplicity, the NS-SeC categories have been combined for this bulletin into five groups and these are shown in Figure 3 against the highest qualification attained. Attainment at school and participation in higher education is strongly related to people's social and economic background. In West Sussex, the 'never worked or long-term unemployed' group has the highest proportion of people with no qualifications (55%). Professional and managerial occupations contain the lowest proportion of people with no qualifications (6%) and also the highest proportion with level 4/5 qualifications (40%). The majority of full-time students (46%) and people in intermediate occupations, small employers or lower supervisory occupations (26%) have attained a highest qualification of level 2. Most of those in semi-routine or routine occupations have no formal qualifications (35%).

Figure 3: Highest qualification attained by National statistics Socio-economic Classification for West Sussex

