

Borough Equality Assessment 2024-2026

The Borough Equality Assessment brings together national, regional, and local data, as well as community insight to highlight inequalities in Tower Hamlets. It prioritises key issues to understand and communicate the needs of those within the borough, especially groups with a shared protected characteristic. **Key highlights include:**

Poverty

- Children in Tower Hamlets are more likely to grow up in poverty. In 2021/22, Tower Hamlets had the highest percentage of children living in relative low-income families in the entire country.
- Older individuals (65+) in the borough are also far more likely to live in low-income households compared to the average for England.

Employment

- Women from Black, Asian, and Multi-Ethnic backgrounds had lower rates of employment in Tower Hamlets. Seven female ethnic groups had an employment rate below 50%, whilst no male group did.
- Bangladeshi women had the lowest female employment rate in Tower Hamlets.
- Black, Asian, and Multi-Ethnic residents were much less likely to work in managerial, professional, or associate professional occupations compared to White residents.
- Residents with Muslim faith were the least likely to be in employment compared to other religious groups.





Health

- In 2022, Tower Hamlets had the lowest healthy life expectancy for women in London.
- Tower Hamlets has the highest rate of early death (Under 75), in London for those with Serious Mental Illness (SMI). Men with SMI experience a significantly higher rate of early death compared to females.
- Older Muslims aged 50+ were the most likely to report not being in good health compared to residents of other religious groups.
- Compared to London, Tower Hamlets has the 3rd highest percentage of estimated prevalence of common mental disorders in residents over 16.
- Younger residents aged 18-34 appear to be at higher risk of experiencing loneliness.

Housing

- Black and Asian residents disproportionately live in overcrowded housing compared to White residents in Tower Hamlets.
- In Tower Hamlets, residents from the ethnic groups White British, White Other, Black African, and Black Other are overrepresented among rough sleepers compared to the general population of their respective groups in the borough.

Education

- Across all key stages, boys attainment is lower than girls in Tower Hamlets. Students from White British, Any Other Mixed, Black Caribbean, and White-Irish groups achieved a lower Attainment 8 score than the Local Authority average.
- Women, disabled, and Asian residents had some of the lowest qualification rates in the borough.

Community Safety

- Compared to London, between September 2022-23, Tower Hamlets had the 2nd highest volume of domestic abuse offences.
- Women and residents with a health problem or disability are the least likely groups to feel safe at night.
- Between September 2022-23 Tower Hamlets had some of the highest volumes of racist, faith and homophobic hate crime offences in London.



[See the full assessment with measures on the council's website.](#)