



Summary

This briefing presents 2011 Census statistics about levels of proficiency in spoken English in Tower Hamlets.

- Tower Hamlets is the 4th most linguistically diverse area in England & Wales: the Census identified at least 90 different languages being used in the borough.
- Over one third of adults (35 per cent) in Tower Hamlets use a main language other than English. While the majority of this group are fluent in English, around one quarter said they could not speak English 'well' or 'at all' - a total of 18,311 residents. This is equivalent to 9 per cent of the borough's adult population - the second highest proportion in England, after Newham.
- Certain groups were more likely than others to have poor proficiency in English, notably, Bangladeshi and Somali residents, women and older people.
- Over one quarter (27 per cent) of Bangladeshi adults could not speak English well or at all. The vast majority of this group were first generation residents born in Bangladesh. Bangladeshi residents comprised three quarters of all residents with low proficiency.
- Over one in five Somali-born adults (22 per cent) could not speak English well or at all.
- Women were twice as likely as men to have low proficiency levels (12 vs. 6 per cent).
- Older residents were more likely than younger residents to have low proficiency in English: one in five (21 per cent) residents aged 65 and over said they could not speak English well or at all, compared with just 3 per cent of young adults aged 16-24.

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- Strong patterns by age and gender are also evident within the Bangladeshi population: Bangladeshi women were twice as likely as Bangladeshi men to have poor proficiency in English (35 vs. 18 per cent). The vast majority (93 per cent) of older Bangladeshi women had poor proficiency levels.
- Proficiency in English is strongly associated with employment levels. Within the working age population, residents whose first language was English were almost three times more likely to be in work compared with those who had poor proficiency levels (71 vs. 25 per cent).
- Workers with poor proficiency in English were far more likely than average to work part-time (63 per cent compared with 25 per cent of workers generally). They were also more likely to be represented in both skilled trades occupations (eg builders, plumbers), and in lower paid 'elementary' occupations (eg cleaners, bar staff).

Background

This briefing presents statistics about levels of proficiency in spoken English in Tower Hamlets. The analysis is based on data from the 2011 Census and focuses on levels of proficiency among the borough's adult population (those aged 16 and over).

This analysis builds on research published in 2013, which presented Census data about the different languages used in the borough¹. More recently, new data have become available about proficiency in English, including analysis by residents' country of birth, ethnicity, age and gender². This briefing analyses these data for Tower Hamlets, and provides insight about the key factors associated with levels of language proficiency.

The Census question on language

The 2011 Census was the first ever Census to collect data about language.

The Census question was in two parts (Figure 1). First, residents were asked to state their 'main language' – this was intended to capture a person's first or preferred language.

Second, those residents whose main language was not English, were asked: How well can you speak English? They were asked to classify themselves into one of the four groups: can speak English very well; can speak English well; cannot speak English well; or cannot speak English at all.

Figure 1: Census language questions

18 What is your main language?

English → **Goto 20**

Other, write in (including British Sign Language)

19 How well can you speak English?

Very well Well Not well Not at all

How good is the question at capturing proficiency levels?

The Office for National Statistics carried out pre-testing³ of the question to assess how respondents' self-assessment compared with an objective assessment (by an interviewer) of their language ability.

The results suggested a tendency for people to underestimate their English proficiency at the 'very well / well' end of the spectrum (ie some who rated themselves as speaking English 'well' actually spoke English 'very well').

At the other end of the spectrum, the interviewer and respondent views were fairly consistent, so residents who rated their fluency as low or none were generally in line with the interviewer's assessment.

¹ Tower Hamlets Council, [Language in Tower Hamlets](#), April 2013

² Country of birth data (Table CT0633) were commissioned from the Office for National Statistics by Tower Hamlets Council and the Greater London Authority's Intelligence Unit.

³ ONS, [Final recommended questions for the 2011 Census](#), Language, October 2009

Linguistic diversity in Tower Hamlets

Tower Hamlets is home to one of the most diverse populations in the country and continues to attract migrants from all over the world. The 2011 Census found that 43 per cent of the borough's residents were born outside the UK, and that more than two thirds of the population were from ethnic minority groups⁴.

This diversity is reflected in the borough's language profile:

- The Census identified at least 90 different languages (or groups of languages) being used in the borough.
- Research by the GLA⁵ found that Tower Hamlets is the 4th most linguistically diverse area in England and Wales, in terms of the mix of languages spoken.
- Tower Hamlets has the largest number of Bengali (including Sylheti) speakers in England: 18 per cent of residents used Bengali as their main or first language. After English and Bengali, the largest language groups in Tower Hamlets are: Chinese, French, Spanish, Italian and Somali – each used by between 1-2 per cent of the population⁶.

Proficiency in spoken English

The Census found that just over one third (35 per cent) of adults in Tower Hamlets use a main language other than English. Within this group, while the majority were fluent in English, one quarter said they could not speak English well or at all.

When expressed a proportion of all adults in the borough population, the percentage who have poor (or no) fluency in English is 9 per cent - around one in eleven residents (equivalent to 18,311 residents - at the time of the 2011 Census).

Table 1: Proficiency in spoken English, Tower Hamlets , 2011

	Residents aged 16 and over	% of population	% of those whose main language was not English
All residents (aged 16 and over)	203,953	100	
Main language is English	131,623	65	
Main language not English	72,330	35	100
<i>by level of English proficiency:</i>			
Can speak English very well	30,455	15	42
Can speak English well	23,564	12	33
Cannot speak English well	14,768	7	20
Cannot speak English at all	3,543	2	5
<i>All cannot speak English well / at all</i>	18,311	9	25
<i>Source: ONS, 2011 Census (Table CT0633).</i>			

⁴ Ethnic minority is defined here as all ethnic groups except the White British group.

⁵ Greater London Authority, [2011 Census Snapshot: Main Language](#), February 2013

⁶ Tower Hamlets Council, [Language in Tower Hamlets](#). Statistics relate to those aged 3 +.

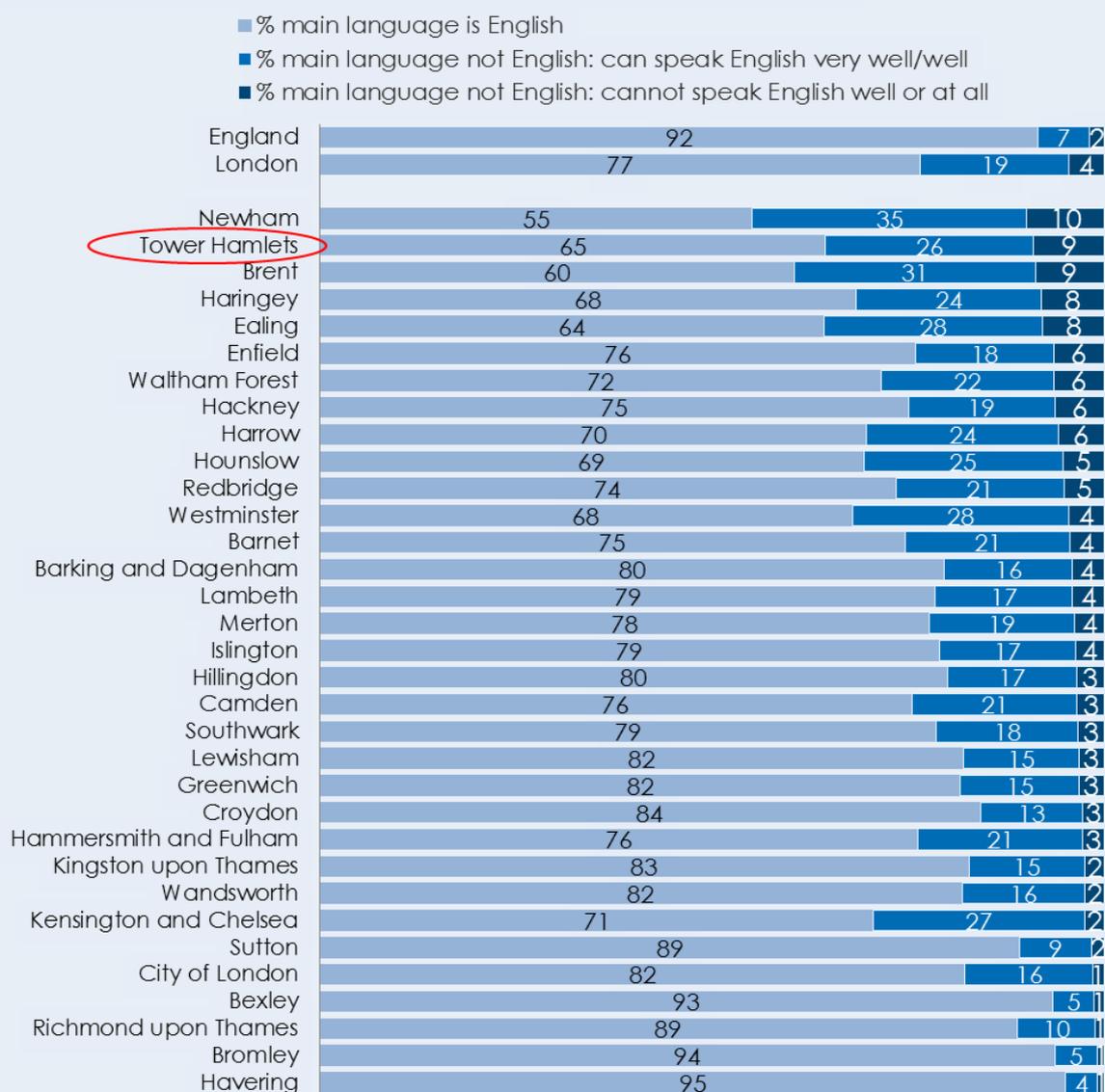
Proficiency by London borough

The proportion of residents who use a main language other than English is relatively high in Tower Hamlets: 35 per cent compared with 8 per cent nationally - the fourth highest percentage in England (out of 326 local authorities), after Newham, Brent and Ealing.

Tower Hamlets also has a relatively high proportion of residents with poor English proficiency levels: 9 per cent of Tower Hamlets residents said they could not speak English well or at all compared with 4 per cent across London and 2 per cent in England.

Tower Hamlets (along with Brent) had the second highest proportion of residents with poor proficiency levels in England, after Newham - where 10 per cent of residents said they could not speak English well or at all (figure 2).

Figure 2: Language proficiency, London boroughs, 2011



Source: 2011 Census Table LC2105

% residents aged 16 and over

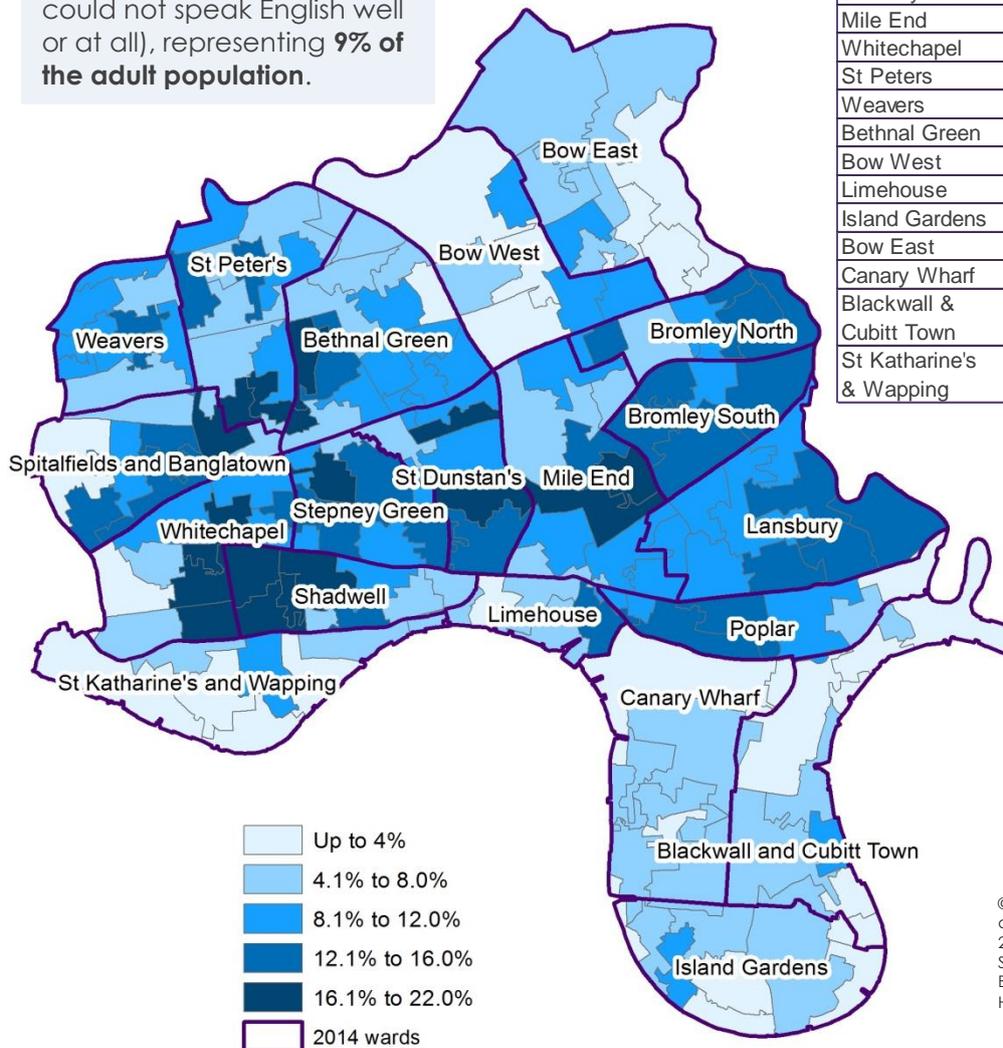
Proficiency by ward and LSOA

Levels of language proficiency also vary within the borough. [Map 1](#) shows the proportion of adults with poor proficiency in English across the borough's 144 Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs). At LSOA level, the percentage with poor proficiency ranges from just one per cent of residents in part of Canary Wharf up to 21 per cent in part of Whitechapel.

At ward level, the proportion with low proficiency is highest in Shadwell ward (15 per cent) and lowest in St. Katharine's & Wapping ward (3 per cent).

Map 1: Percentage of adults with low proficiency in English by Lower Layer Super Output Area (and ward),
Tower Hamlets, 2011

The 2011 Census counted **18,311** adults in Tower Hamlets, with low proficiency in English (ie who could not speak English well or at all), representing **9%** of the adult population.

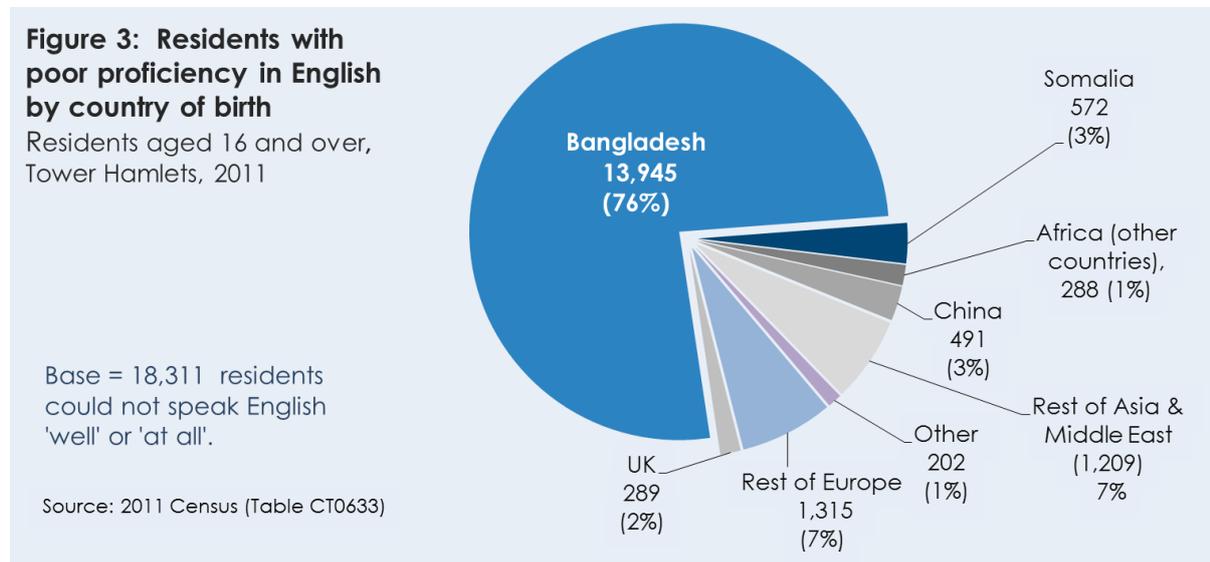


Low proficiency by ward		
	Number	As % of adults
Shadwell	1,388	14.7
St Dunstons	1,214	13.6
Bromley South	829	13.1
Poplar	674	13.1
Stepney Green	1,112	12.8
Lansbury	1,268	11.8
Spitalfields & Banglatown	1,257	11.7
Bromley North	826	11.6
Mile End	1,421	11.4
Whitechapel	1,307	10.9
St Peters	1,459	9.7
Weavers	913	8.6
Bethnal Green	1,297	8.3
Bow West	611	5.8
Limehouse	285	5.4
Island Gardens	596	5.0
Bow East	579	4.7
Canary Wharf	474	4.5
Blackwall & Cubitt Town	498	4.4
St Katharine's & Wapping	303	3.2

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Proficiency by country of birth

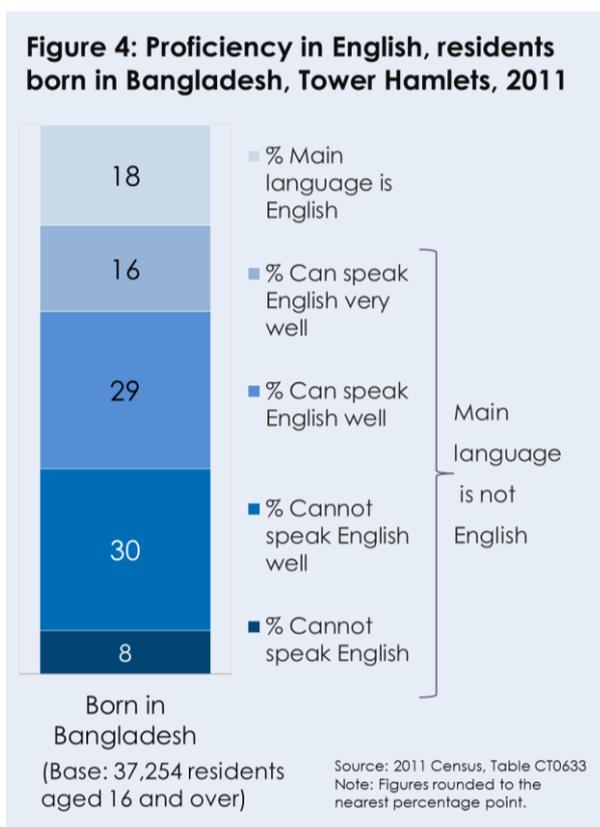
Figure 3 shows the breakdown of the 18,311 residents who say they do not speak English well (or at all) by their country of birth. Not surprisingly, the vast majority (98 per cent) were born in countries outside the UK; just 289 UK-born residents had poor proficiency in English (2 per cent).



Notably, three quarters were born in Bangladesh. This reflects the fact that this is the borough's largest single migrant population, in terms of population size, but also that a relatively high percentage of Bangladesh-born residents have poor proficiency in English. Indeed, 37 per cent of Bangladesh-born residents could not speak English well or at all (Figure 4).

Figure 5 compares proficiency levels across other migrant populations in the borough.

Overall, 17 per cent of the migrant population (those born outside the UK) report low levels of proficiency. However, this figure is heavily influenced by the profile of Bangladesh-born residents who are, by far, largest population.



If we exclude Bangladesh, and consider all those born outside the UK from other countries, the proportion with low proficiency is far lower - just 6 per cent.

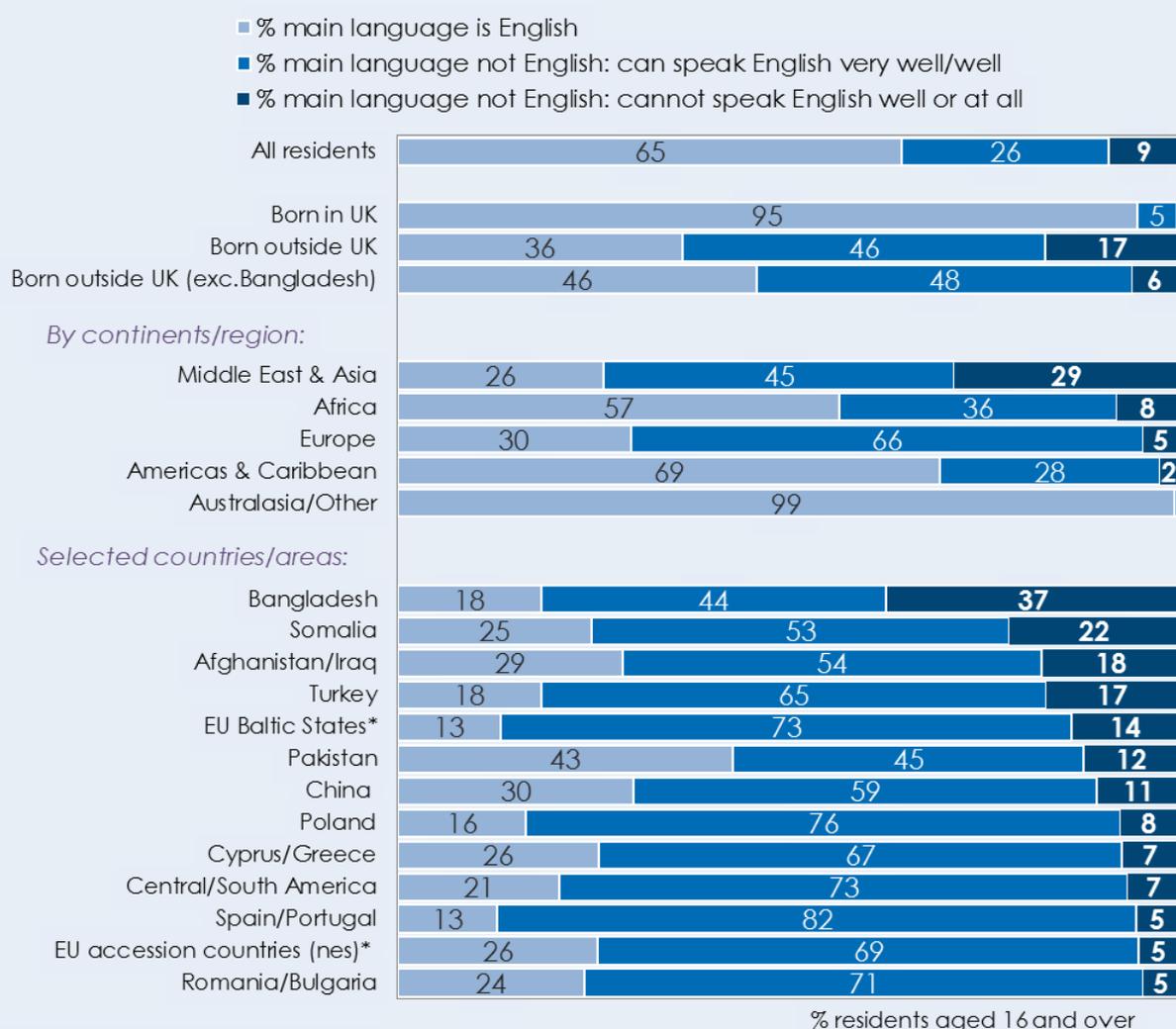
Just over one in five (22 per cent) of the Somali-born population reported low levels of proficiency in English - this equated to 572 Somali-born adults at the time of the Census. Other countries, where more than one in ten residents from that population cited low proficiency included those born in: Afghanistan/Iraq; Turkey; EU Baltic States of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia; Pakistan and China.

In contrast, those born in countries within Australasia and the Americas were very likely to either be English first language speakers or to be proficient in English.

There was more diversity within groups from areas such as Asia. For example, just 4 per cent of residents born in India had low proficiency in English compared with 37 per cent of those born in Bangladesh.

Appendix tables A1 and A2 provide more detail at country level, including the numbers affected, which is important given migrant populations vary considerably in size.

Figure 5: Proficiency in English by country of birth, Tower Hamlets, 2011



Source: 2011 Census (table CT0633).

* Countries listed are key countries/areas where the proportion with poor fluency is 5% or more. Appendix tables A1/A2 provide fuller detail for all areas/countries available (35 country groupings in total). EU Baltic States are Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia. EU Accession countries not elsewhere specified are: Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia, Malta.

Proficiency by ethnicity

This section explores patterns of proficiency by ethnicity in Tower Hamlets. Broadly speaking, ethnicity data mirrors the country of birth data: of the 18,311 adults with poor proficiency in English, just over three quarters (77 per cent) were Bangladeshi residents, the vast majority of whom were born in Bangladesh (Figure 6).

As before, this reflects the fact that the Bangladeshi population is one of the borough's largest ethnic groups in terms of size, but also, that a relatively high percentage of Bangladeshi residents have poor proficiency in English: over one quarter (27 per cent) of Bangladeshi adults had poor proficiency in spoken English: 21 per cent could not speak English well and 6 per cent could not speak English at all (Figure 7).

Figure 6: Residents with poor proficiency in English by ethnicity

Residents aged 16 and over, Tower Hamlets, 2011

Base = 18,311 residents could not speak English 'well' or 'at all'.

Source: 2011 Census (Table CT0558)

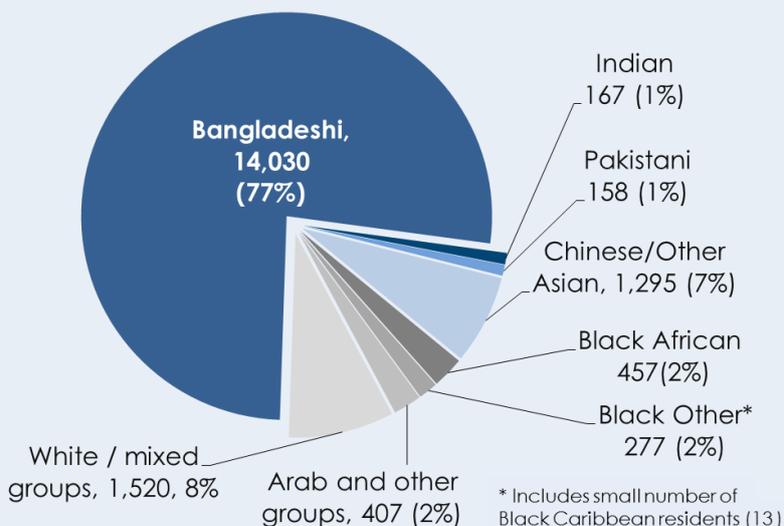
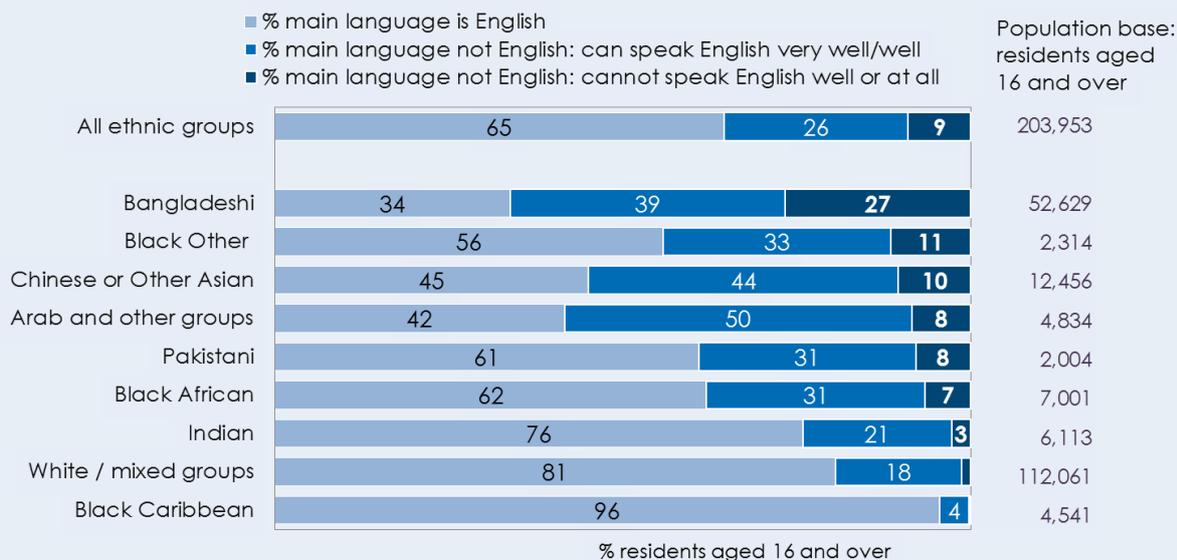


Figure 7: Proficiency in English by ethnicity, Tower Hamlets, 2011

Residents aged 16 and over



Source: 2011 Census (table CT0558). Note: Census data about language and ethnicity have only been published for broad ethnic grouping - that is - the data are not available for all 18 individual ethnic groups, instead some have been grouped together (eg All White and Mixed ethnic groups are grouped).

Figure 7 compares the percentage with low proficiency across all ethnic groups. The vast majority of residents from the White & Mixed ethnic group population⁷ were either fluent in English or were first language English speakers: just 1 per cent of residents from these groups had poor proficiency in English.

Within the Black population, there is more diversity: while the vast majority of Black Caribbean residents are fluent English speakers (under 1 per cent have low proficiency levels), 11 per cent of those from the Black Other group, and 7 per cent of Black African residents, reported low proficiency levels.

Around one in ten residents from the Chinese & Other Asian group had low proficiency - around 1,295 residents. This group includes the borough's Vietnamese and Chinese populations.

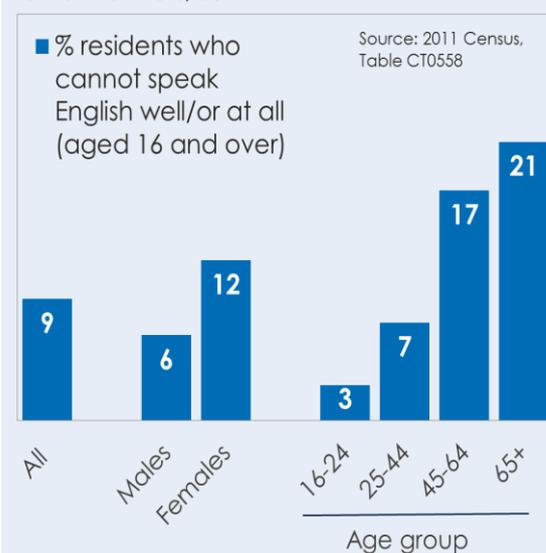
Proficiency by age and gender

Levels of proficiency in English are lowest among women and older people (Figure 8).

Within the borough's adult population, women were twice as likely as men to have poor proficiency in English (12 vs. 6 per cent). In terms of numbers, women comprise almost two thirds (64 per cent) of all those with low proficiency in the borough: of the 18,311 residents with poor proficiency levels, 11,671 were women.

By age, around one in five (21 per cent) residents aged 65 and over have poor proficiency in English compared with just 3 per cent of those aged 16-24.

Figure 8: Percentage of residents with low proficiency in English, by age & gender
Tower Hamlets, 2011



Proficiency by age and gender within the Bangladeshi population

These age and gender differentials are also evident within the Bangladeshi population (Figure 9): Bangladeshi women were twice as likely as Bangladeshi men to have poor proficiency in English (35 vs. 18 per cent). Of the 14,030 Bangladeshi residents with poor proficiency in English, two thirds were women (9,195 women).

By age, levels of language proficiency were extremely low among older Bangladeshi residents: 75 per cent of those aged 65 and over could not speak English well (or at all) compared with just five per cent of younger Bangladeshi residents (aged 16-24).

⁷ Note: Census data about language and ethnicity have only been published for broad groupings ie the data are not available for all 18 individual ethnic groups, instead some have been grouped together (eg All White and Mixed ethnic groups are grouped).

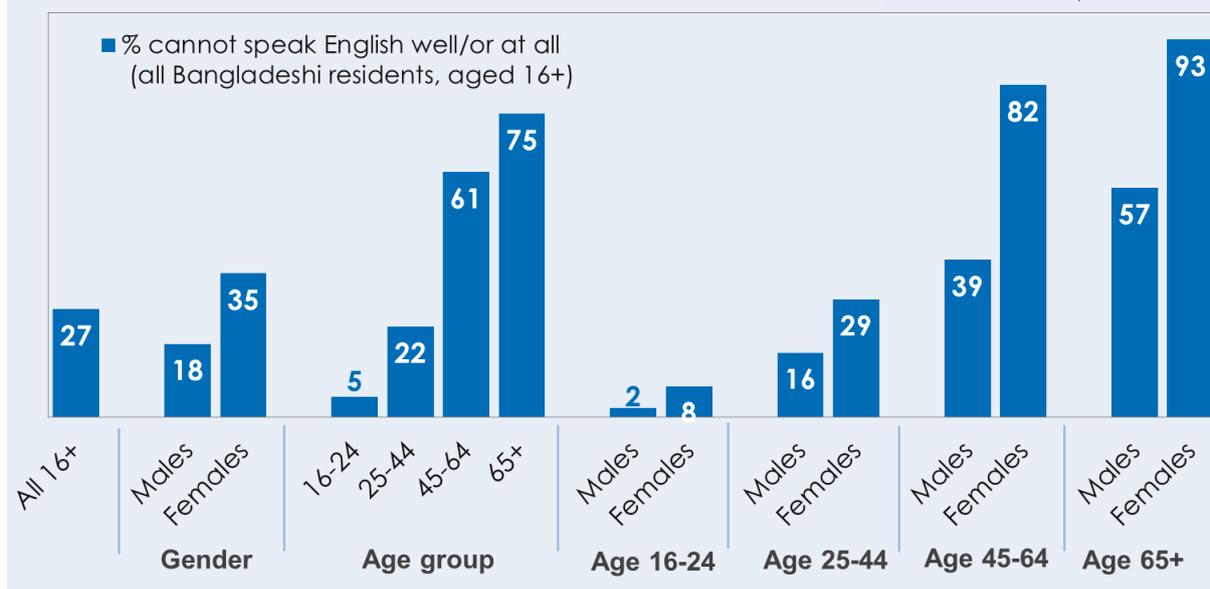
The gender divide in language ability is evident within all age groups, so older Bangladeshi women typically face the lowest levels of proficiency. In fact, the majority (93 per cent) of older Bangladeshi women (aged 65 and over) had poor proficiency in English compared with 57 per cent of older Bangladeshi men.

The strong association with age may well reflect the fact that older residents are highly likely to be first generation residents who were born in Bangladesh, while younger Bangladeshi residents are more likely to have been born in the UK.

Appendix tables A4 and A5 provide more detail on proficiency levels by age and gender.

Figure 9: Proficiency in English by age and gender, Bangladeshi residents Tower Hamlets, 2011

Source: 2011 Census, Table CT0558

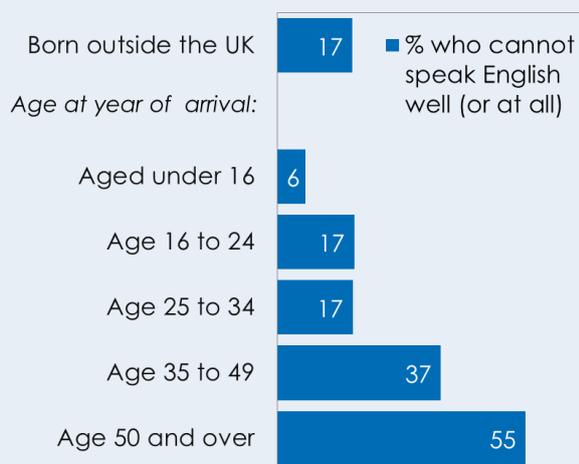


Proficiency and year of arrival

The Census also records the age people were when they first came to live in the UK. These data show that the age migrant residents were - when they first arrived - is also associated with their current level of language proficiency.

In general, those who arrived as children, are more likely to be proficient in English, compared with those who arrived when they were older: 6 per cent of those who arrived as children had low proficiency levels compared with over half of those who arrived after the age of 50 (Figure 10).

Figure 10: Low proficiency in English by age of arrival in UK, Tower Hamlets, 2011



Source: 2011 Census, Table DC2803EW

Proficiency and employment

Numerous studies have evidenced the strong association between language proficiency and employment⁸. Recent research by the Office for National Statistics highlighted that those with low proficiency in English had far lower employment rates than those fluent in English. These patterns are particularly pronounced in Tower Hamlets.

Figure 11 presents employment rate estimates⁹ by language proficiency for the working age population. Residents whose first language was English were almost three times more likely to be in work compared with those who had poor proficiency levels (71 vs. 25 per cent).

Those residents who used a first language other than English, but who were fluent in English had an employment rate of 61 per cent, more than twice as high as the rate for those with poor proficiency.

The employment rate differentials observed may - in part - reflect the older age profile of the population with poor proficiency (which comprises proportionately more residents aged 55 and over). The differentials are also consistent with the relatively low employment rates within the borough's Bangladeshi population¹⁰, who make up the majority of the low proficiency group.

Patterns of employment

Once in employment, those with poor proficiency in English are far more likely to work part-time than average: almost two

Figure 11: Employment rates by English proficiency, Tower Hamlets, 2011

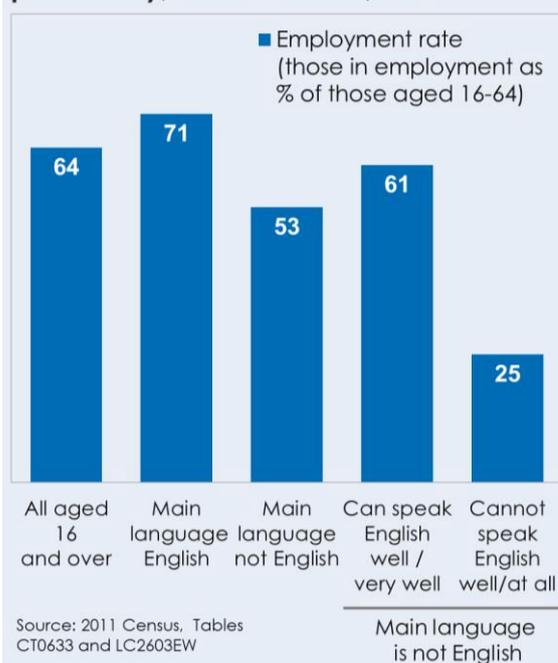
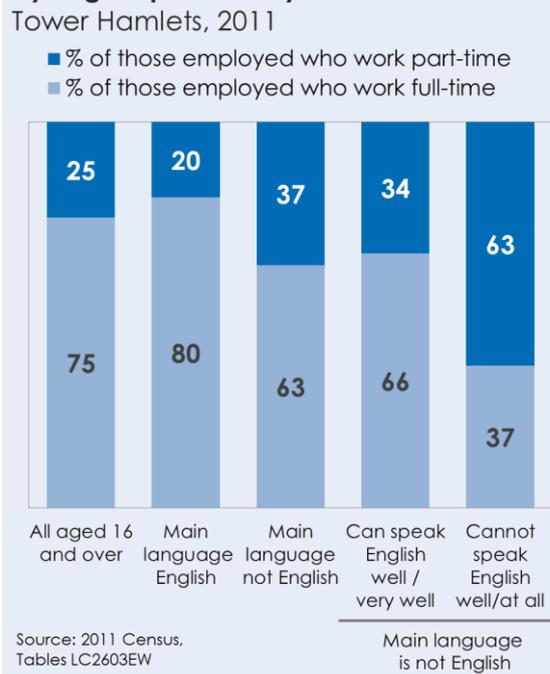


Figure 12: Full and part-time employment by English proficiency Tower Hamlets, 2011



⁸ eg Office for National Statistics, [English Language Proficiency in the Labour Market](#), 2014

⁹ These estimates provide a proxy measure for the working age employment rate. Borough data about employment and language are only published for those aged 16 and over. To estimate the rate for those aged 16-64, the number in employment aged 16 and over has been expressed as a proportion of the population aged 16 to 64. This is a reasonable proxy because, in Tower Hamlets, only one per cent of those employed are aged 65 or over.

¹⁰ 2011 Census: 42% of working age Bangladeshi residents were in work compared with 64% across all groups.

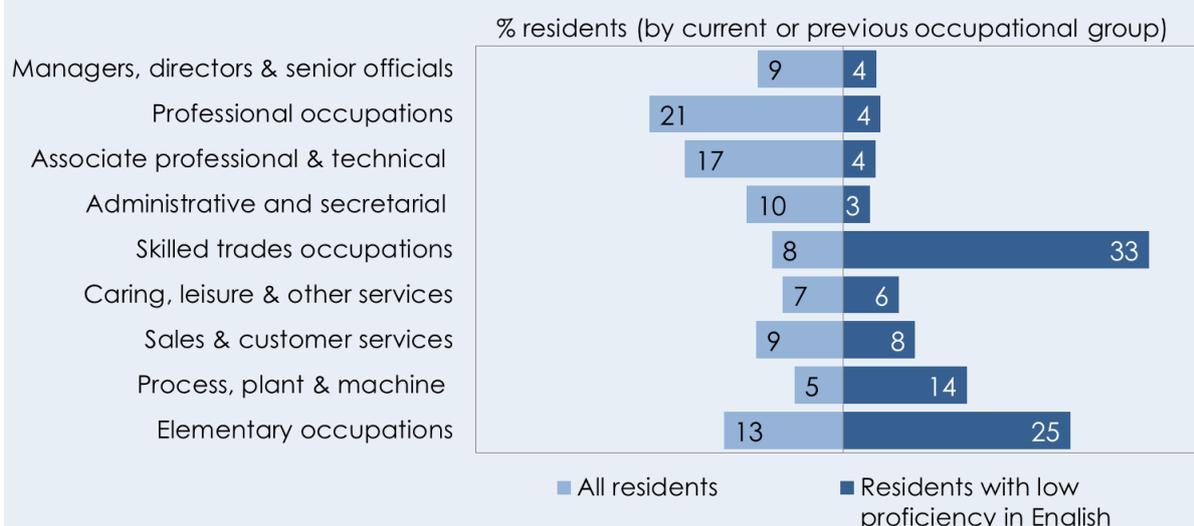
thirds of workers with poor proficiency in English work part-time, compared with one in five of those whose first language is English (63 vs. 20 per cent) (Figure 12).

Workers with low proficiency in English also have a very different occupational profile compared to that of workers generally. Figure 13 classifies all residents who have ever worked, by their current or previous occupation, and compares the occupational profile of those with low proficiency to that of residents generally.

Those with low proficiency in English are particularly over-represented in the skilled trades occupations (eg builders, plumbers, electricians): one third of residents with low proficiency in English were (or had been) employed in the skilled trades compared with eight per cent of workers generally.

Those with low proficiency were also twice as likely to be represented in elementary occupations (25 vs. 13 per cent) - these are typically lower paid occupations, for example cleaners, retail staff and kitchen assistants¹¹.

Figure 13: Employment by current (or previous) occupation, by language proficiency, Tower Hamlets, 2011



Source: 2011 Census, Table LC2602EW (Base: All residents aged 16 and over who had ever worked)

¹¹ Standard Occupational Classification 2010

Further information

This report was produced by the Council's Corporate Research Unit, which is based in the Corporate Strategy and Equality Service. The Unit produces a wide range of analysis and research about Tower Hamlets and its residents.



For access to the team's previous research publications, please see the [Borough Statistics](#) part of the Council's website. The team publishes all its research briefings here by theme. Topics include: population, diversity, economy, labour market, poverty, health, housing and lots more.

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Appendix: Data tables

A1: Residents by main language and country of birth, Tower Hamlets, 2011				
	Number of residents			% whose main language not English
	Persons aged 16 and over	Main language is English	Main language not English	
All residents	203,953	131,623	72,330	35
Born in UK	98,566	93,258	5,308	5
Born outside UK	105,387	38,365	67,022	64
<i>Born outside UK by country of birth:</i>				
Europe	28,347	8,457	19,890	70
Ireland	2,826	2,758	68	2
France	2,901	517	2,384	82
Germany	2,235	823	1,412	63
Italy	2,959	386	2,573	87
Spain/Portugal	2,723	348	2,375	87
Cyprus/Greece	1,352	348	1,004	74
Poland	2,556	420	2,136	84
Romania/Bulgaria	1,240	297	943	76
EU Baltic States*	1,633	216	1,417	87
Other EU Accession countries*	1,546	396	1,150	74
Other EU15 countries*	2,339	729	1,610	69
Turkey	968	178	790	82
Remainder of Europe	3,069	1,041	2,028	66
Asia and middle east	54,316	14,356	39,960	74
Bangladesh	37,254	6,830	30,424	82
India	3,694	2,345	1,349	37
Pakistan	1,100	472	628	57
Sri Lanka	254	184	70	28
Afghanistan/Iraq	382	110	272	71
China	4,675	1,411	3,264	70
Philippines	609	307	302	50
Rest of Middle East and Asia	6,348	2,697	3,651	58
Africa	10,798	6,102	4,696	43
Somalia	2,633	655	1,978	75
South Africa	1,469	1,327	142	10
Nigeria	1,224	1,038	186	15
Ghana	710	548	162	23
Kenya	396	334	62	16
Remainder of Africa	4,366	2,200	2,166	50
Other	11,926	9,450	2,476	21
United States/Canada	2,983	2,872	111	4
Jamaica	724	720	4	1
Rest of North America/Caribbean	1,455	1,370	85	6
Central/South America	2,843	590	2,253	79
Australasia/Other	3,921	3,898	23	1

Source: ONS, 2011 Census (Table CT0633).

* EU Baltic States are Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia. EU Accession countries not elsewhere specified are: Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia, Malta. Other EU 15 countries not elsewhere specified are: Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Austria.

A2: Residents by proficiency in English by country of birth, Tower Hamlets, 2011

	Persons aged 16 and over	% Main language English	Main language is not English		Number who cannot speak English well/at all
			% speak English well/very well	% Cannot speak English well (or at all)	
All residents	203,953	65	26	9	18,311
Born in UK	98,566	95	5	0	289
Born outside UK	105,387	36	46	17	18,022
<i>Born outside UK by country of birth:</i>					
Europe	28,347	30	66	5	1,315
Ireland	2,826	98	2	0	10
France	2,901	18	81	2	47
Germany	2,235	37	62	1	20
Italy	2,959	13	83	4	124
Spain/Portugal	2,723	13	82	5	148
Cyprus/Greece	1,352	26	67	7	99
Poland	2,556	16	76	8	193
Romania/Bulgaria	1,240	24	71	5	57
EU Baltic States*	1,633	13	73	14	224
Other EU Accession countries*	1,546	26	69	5	79
Other EU15 countries*	2,339	31	68	1	16
Turkey	968	18	65	17	165
Remainder of Europe	3,069	34	62	4	133
Asia and middle east	54,316	26	45	29	15,645
Bangladesh	37,254	18	44	37	13,945
India	3,694	63	32	4	166
Pakistan	1,100	43	45	12	134
Sri Lanka	254	72	26	1	3
Afghanistan/Iraq	382	29	54	18	67
China	4,675	30	59	11	491
Philippines	609	50	47	3	16
Rest of Middle East and Asia	6,348	42	45	13	823
Africa	10,798	57	36	8	860
Somalia	2,633	25	53	22	572
South Africa	1,469	90	10	0	0
Nigeria	1,224	85	14	1	9
Ghana	710	77	21	2	11
Kenya	396	84	13	3	10
Remainder of Africa	4,366	50	44	6	258
Other	11,926	79	19	2	202
United States/Canada	2,983	96	4	0	0
Jamaica	724	99	1	0	0
Rest of N. America/Caribbean	1,455	94	5	1	11
Central/South America	2,843	21	73	7	187
Australasia/Other	3,921	99	0	0	4

Source: ONS, 2011 Census (Table CT0633).

* EU Baltic States are Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia. EU Accession countries not elsewhere specified are: Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia, Malta. Other EU 15 countries not elsewhere specified are: Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Austria.

A3: Language proficiency by ethnicity, residents aged 16 and over, Tower Hamlets, 2011

	All aged 16 and over	Main language is English	Main language not English	Main language is not English	
				Can speak English very well or well	Cannot speak English well or at all
Number of residents					
All ethnic groups	203,953	131,623	72,330	54,019	18,311
White / mixed ethnic groups	112,061	90,321	21,740	20,220	1,520
Bangladeshi	52,629	17,837	34,792	20,762	14,030
Indian	6,113	4,639	1,474	1,307	167
Pakistani	2,004	1,221	783	625	158
Chinese or Other Asian	12,456	5,619	6,837	5,542	1,295
Black African	7,001	4,344	2,657	2,200	457
Black Caribbean	4,541	4,338	203	190	13
Black Other	2,314	1,291	1,023	759	264
Arab / other ethnic group	4,834	2,013	2,821	2,414	407
% total (row totals)					
All ethnic groups	100	65	35	26	9
White / mixed ethnic groups	100	81	19	18	1
Bangladeshi	100	34	66	39	27
Indian	100	76	24	21	3
Pakistani	100	61	39	31	8
Chinese or Other Asian	100	45	55	44	10
Black African	100	62	38	31	7
Black Caribbean	100	96	4	4	0
Black Other	100	56	44	33	11
Arab / other ethnic group	100	42	58	50	8
% total (column totals)					
All ethnic groups	100	100	100	100	100
White / mixed ethnic groups	55	69	30	37	8
Bangladeshi	26	14	48	38	77
Indian	3	4	2	2	1
Pakistani	1	1	1	1	1
Chinese or Other Asian	6	4	9	10	7
Black African	3	3	4	4	2
Black Caribbean	2	3	0	0	0
Black Other	1	1	1	1	1
Arab / other ethnic group	2	2	4	4	2

Source: 2011 Census (Table CT055)

Note: Census data about language and ethnicity has only been published for summary ethnic groups ie the data are not available for all 18 individual ethnic groups, instead some have been grouped together (eg White and Mixed ethnic groups have been grouped together under one heading).

A4: Proficiency in English by gender and age, Tower Hamlets, 2011

	Number			Percentage totals (%)		
	All	Males	Females	All	Males	Females
All aged 16 and over	203,953	105,368	98,585	100	100	100
Main language is English	131,623	69,537	62,086	65	66	63
Main language not English:	72,330	35,831	36,499	35	34	37
- Can speak English well/very well	54,019	29,191	24,828	26	28	25
- Cannot speak English well/at all	18,311	6,640	11,671	9	6	12
Age 16 to 24	42,781	20,888	21,893	100	100	100
Main language is English	29,478	14,378	15,100	69	69	69
Main language not English:	13,303	6,510	6,793	31	31	31
- Can speak English well/very well	12,182	6,127	6,055	28	29	28
- Cannot speak English well/at all	1,121	383	738	3	2	3
Age 25 to 44	110,402	58,724	51,678	100	100	100
Main language is English	67,388	37,110	30,278	61	63	59
Main language not English:	43,014	21,614	21,400	39	37	41
- Can speak English well/very well	35,019	18,547	16,472	32	32	32
- Cannot speak English well/at all	7,995	3,067	4,928	7	5	10
Age 45 to 64	35,200	18,649	16,551	100	100	100
Main language is English	23,733	13,111	10,622	67	70	64
Main language not English:	11,467	5,538	5,929	33	30	36
- Can speak English well/very well	5,480	3,525	1,955	16	19	12
- Cannot speak English well/at all	5,987	2,013	3,974	17	11	24
Age 65 or over	15,570	7,107	8,463	100	100	100
Main language is English	11,024	4,938	6,086	71	69	72
Main language not English:	4,546	2,169	2,377	29	31	28
- Can speak English well/very well	1,338	992	346	9	14	4
- Cannot speak English well/at all	3,208	1,177	2,031	21	17	24

Source: 2011 Census (Table CT0558)

A5: Proficiency in English by gender and age, Bangladeshi residents, Tower Hamlets, 2011

	Number			Percentage totals %)		
	All	Males	Females	All	Males	Females
All aged 16 and over	52,629	26,719	25,910	100	100	100
Main language is English	17,837	9,695	8,142	34	36	31
Main language not English:	34,792	17,024	17,768	66	64	69
- Can speak English well/very well	20,762	12,189	8,573	39	46	33
- Cannot speak English well/at all	14,030	4,835	9,195	27	18	35
Age 16 to 24	14,023	7,145	6,878	100	100	100
Main language is English	8,196	4,153	4,043	58	58	59
Main language not English:	5,827	2,992	2,835	42	42	41
- Can speak English well/very well	5,140	2,831	2,309	37	40	34
- Cannot speak English well/at all	687	161	526	5	2	8
Age 25 to 44	27,541	14,066	13,475	100	100	100
Main language is English	9,001	5,076	3,925	33	36	29
Main language not English:	18,540	8,990	9,550	67	64	71
- Can speak English well/very well	12,379	6,750	5,629	45	48	42
- Cannot speak English well/at all	6,161	2,240	3,921	22	16	29
Age 45 to 64	7,750	3,854	3,896	100	100	100
Main language is English	520	384	136	7	10	3
Main language not English:	7,230	3,470	3,760	93	90	97
- Can speak English well/very well	2,535	1,973	562	33	51	14
- Cannot speak English well/at all	4,695	1,497	3,198	61	39	82
Age 65 or over	3,315	1,654	1,661	100	100	100
Main language is English	120	82	38	4	5	2
Main language not English:	3,195	1,572	1,623	96	95	98
- Can speak English well/very well	708	635	73	21	38	4
- Cannot speak English well/at all	2,487	937	1,550	75	57	93
Source: 2011 Census (Table CT0558)						