

2021 Census Topic Summary 3: Ethnic group

A first look at the results for Suffolk County and our Districts and Boroughs, compared to England and Wales

The following univariate tables were released on 29th November 2022. This note presents a brief overview of the ethnic group data only. The remaining tables will be examined in an additional briefing paper.

| Topic | Table name | Minimum available geography |
|-------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| National identity | National identity (UK) | OA |
| | National identity (detailed) | MSOA |
| Religion | Religion | OA |
| | Religion (detailed) | MSOA |
| | Multiple religions in household | OA |
| Language | Household language (English and Welsh) | OA |
| | Main language (detailed) | LTLA |
| | Multiple main languages in household | OA |
| | Proficiency in English language | OA |
| Ethnic group | Ethnic group | OA |
| | Ethnic group (detailed) | MSOA |
| | Multiple ethnic groups in household | OA |

OA = Output Area. This is the smallest geography for which Census data is released. There are 2,527 OAs in Suffolk in 2021, with an average usual resident population of just over 300 people.
LSOA = Lower Super Output Area. All data available at OA level is also available for LSOAs. There are 449 LSOAs in Suffolk, with an average usual resident population of just under 1,700 people.

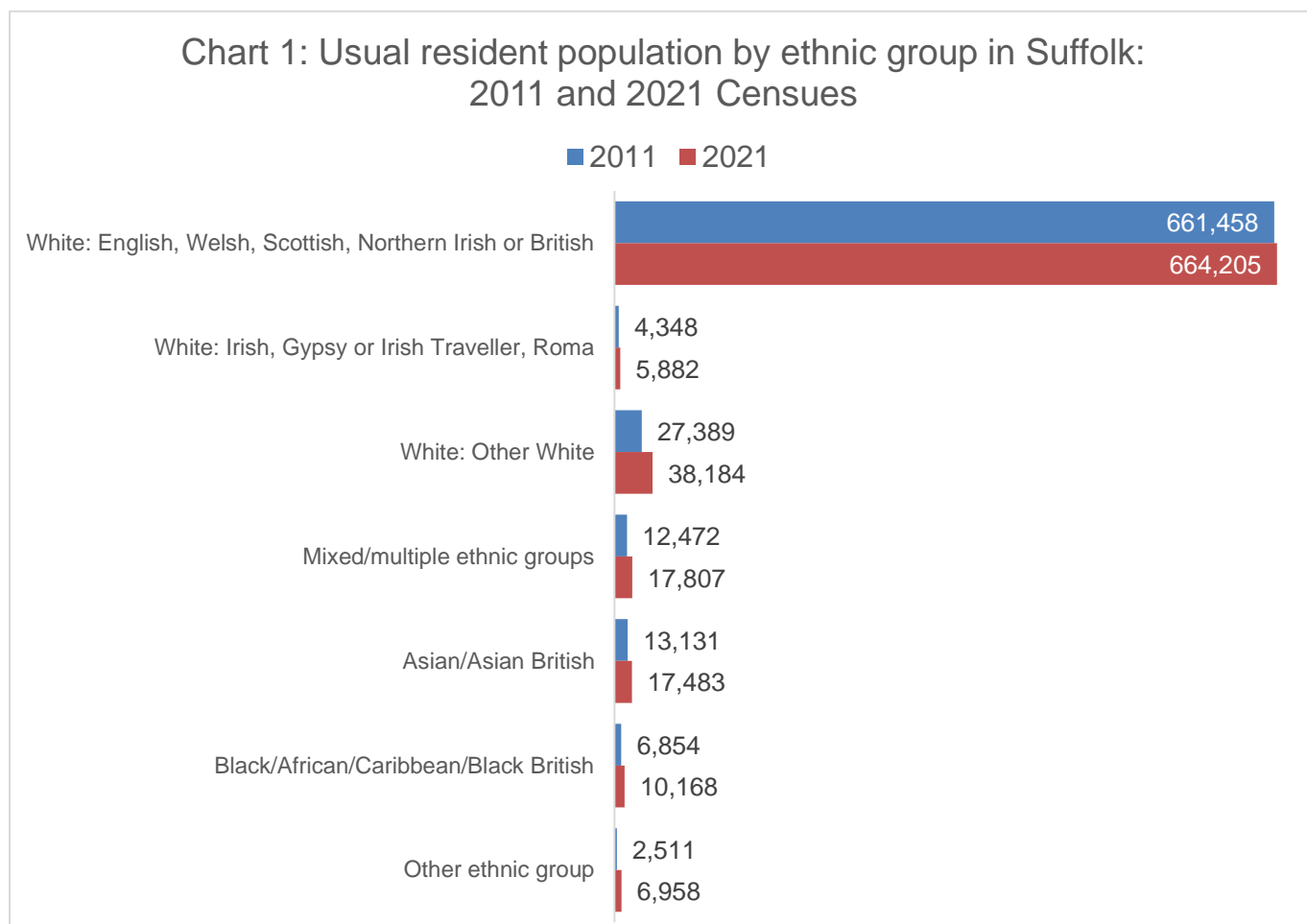
MSOA = Middle Super Output Area. There are 90 MSOAs in Suffolk, with an average usual resident population of just under 8,500 people.

LTLA = Lower Tier Local Authority (District and Borough Council areas)

All data used in this paper were sourced from the 2021 and 2011 ONS Census outputs. Some total counts may differ slightly.

Ethnic group

Comparison of Suffolk and England and Wales



- At the time of the 2021 Census, there were 664,205 White English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British usually resident in Suffolk, 87.3% of the county's population.
- Across England and Wales as a whole, 74.4% of the population is White English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British.
- 96,482 Suffolk residents are of other ethnic groups. 5,882 are White Irish, Gypsy or Irish Traveller or Roma, 38,184 are other White, 17,807 are of mixed/multiple ethnic groups, 17,483 are Asian/Asian British, 10,168 are Black/African/Caribbean/Black British and 6,958 are of another ethnic group. The breakdown is shown in chart 1 above and table 1 below.

Table 1: Usual resident population by ethnic group in Suffolk: 2011 and 2021 Censuses, including change and percentage change

| | Suffolk | | | |
|--|---------|---------|--------|----------|
| | 2011 | 2021 | Change | % change |
| White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British | 661,458 | 664,205 | 2,747 | 0.4% |
| White: Irish, Gypsy or Irish Traveller, Roma | 4,348 | 5,882 | 1,534 | 35.3% |
| White: Other White | 27,389 | 38,184 | 10,795 | 39.4% |
| Mixed/multiple ethnic groups | 12,472 | 17,807 | 5,335 | 42.8% |
| Asian/Asian British | 13,131 | 17,483 | 4,352 | 33.1% |
| Black/African/Caribbean/Black British | 6,854 | 10,168 | 3,314 | 48.4% |
| Other ethnic group | 2,511 | 6,958 | 4,447 | 177.1% |
| Total | 728,163 | 760,687 | 32,524 | 4.5% |

- The usual resident population of every ethnic group in Suffolk has increased from 2011 to 2021.
- The largest population increase over the past decade was in the other white group. There were 38,184 other white people resident in Suffolk in 2021; 10,795 more than in 2011. This group accounts for a third of the total population increase in Suffolk over the past decade.
- Other White residents now make up 5% of Suffolk's population, an increase of 1.3 percentage points since 2011.
- The largest percentage increase of any ethnic group was among the "other ethnic group" population. The Suffolk population in this group more than doubled from 2011 to 2021.
- The population of white Irish, Gypsy or Irish Traveller or Roma and Asian/Asian British in Suffolk grew by around a third between the two Censuses, rising from 4,348 in 2011 to 5,882 in 2021.
- Suffolk is now home to almost 18,000 people of mixed/multiple ethnic background. The multiple/mixed ethnic population in the county increased by more than 5,000 from 2011 to 2021, a rise of 42.8%.
- Just over 10,000 Black/African/Caribbean/Black British people are resident in Suffolk in 2021; growth of almost 50% over the past decade.

Chart 2: Suffolk: change in population by ethnic group, 2011 Census to 2021 Census

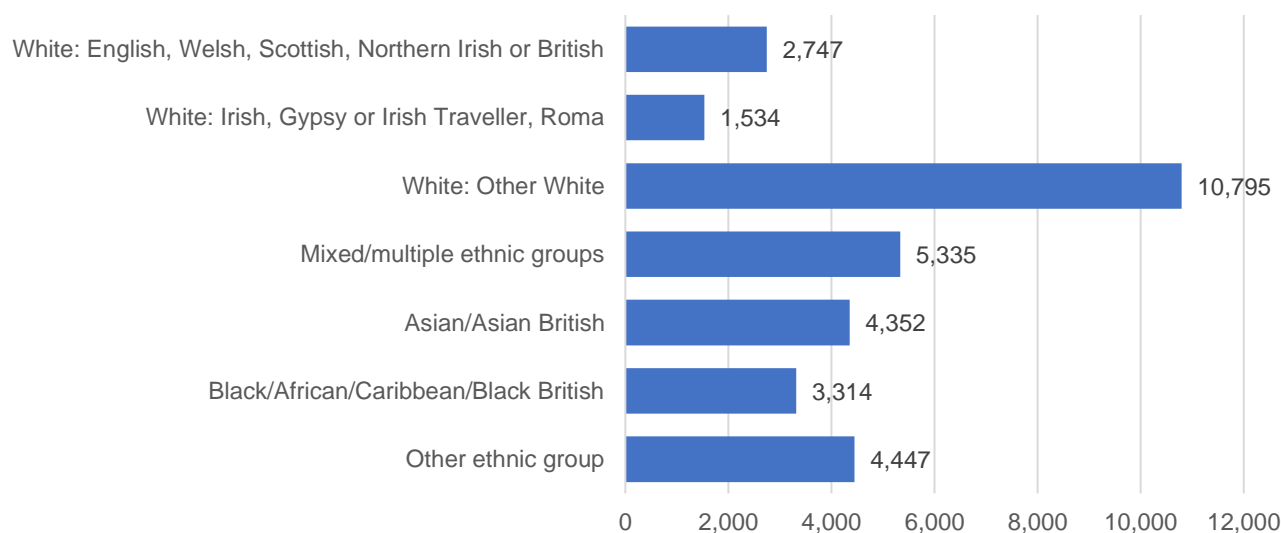


Table 2: Percentage of usual resident population by ethnic group in Suffolk and England and Wales: 2011 and 2021 Censuses

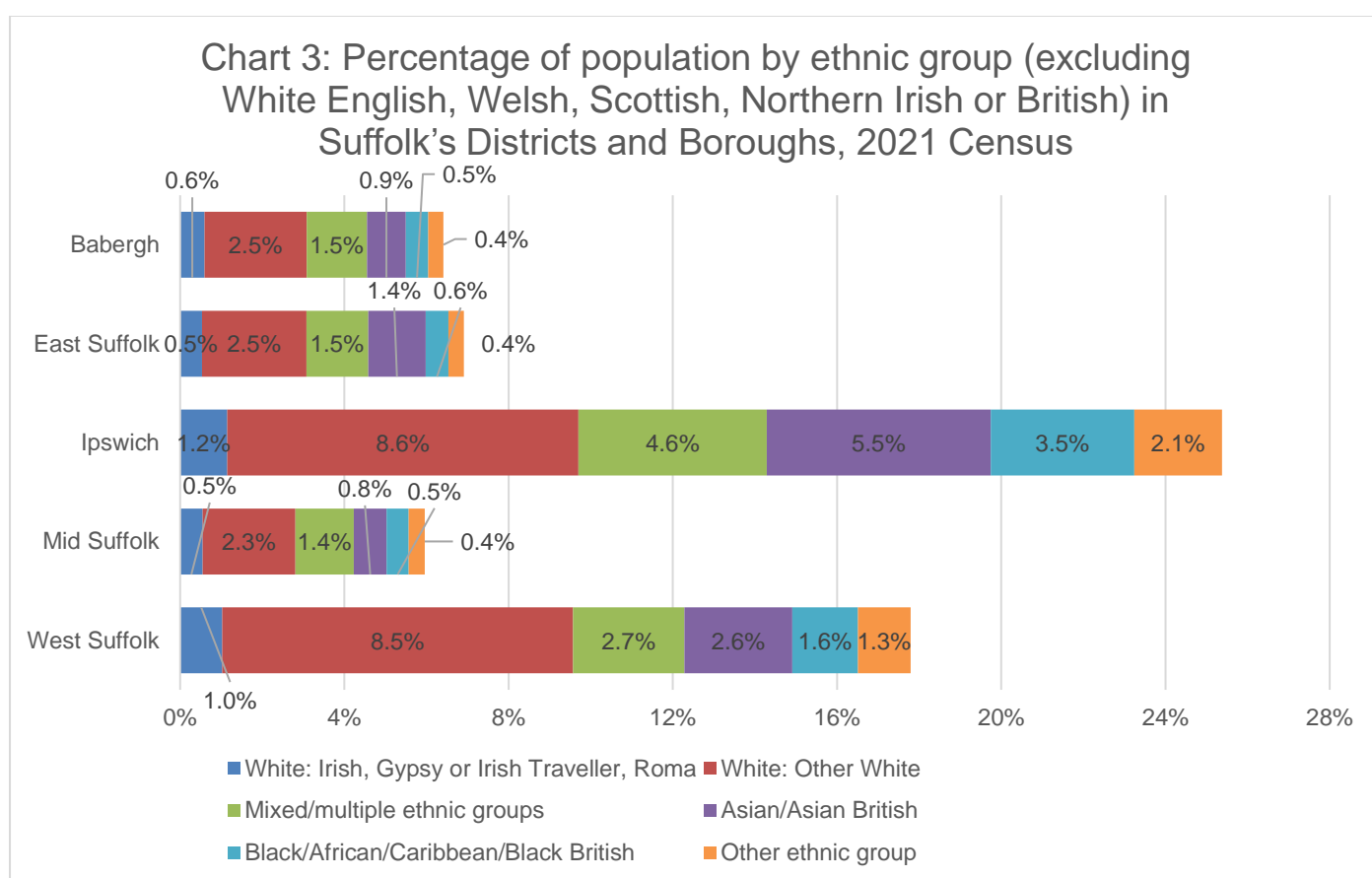
| | Suffolk | | England and Wales | |
|--|---------|-------|-------------------|-------|
| | 2011 | 2021 | 2011 | 2021 |
| White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British | 90.8% | 87.3% | 80.5% | 74.4% |
| White: Irish, Gypsy or Irish Traveller, Roma | 0.6% | 0.8% | 1.0% | 1.1% |
| White: Other White | 3.8% | 5.0% | 4.4% | 6.2% |
| Mixed/multiple ethnic groups | 1.7% | 2.3% | 2.2% | 2.9% |
| Asian/Asian British | 1.8% | 2.3% | 7.5% | 9.3% |
| Black/African/Caribbean/Black British | 0.9% | 1.3% | 3.3% | 4.0% |
| Other ethnic group | 0.3% | 0.9% | 1.0% | 2.1% |

- Suffolk's population remains less diverse than that of England and Wales overall.
- The percentage of the Suffolk population that are not White English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British has increased from 9.2% in 2011 to 12.7% in 2021, but remains less than half of the England and Wales figure of 25.6%.
- White Irish, Gypsy or Irish Traveller and Roma communities account for a similar proportion of the population in Suffolk (0.8%) to across England and Wales (1.1%) as a whole.
- The Asian/Asian British and Black/African/Caribbean/Black British ethnic groups in particular represent a much smaller proportion of the Suffolk population than nationally.
- Around 1 in 43 people in Suffolk is Asian/Asian British, compared to 1 in 11 in England and Wales.
- The proportion of the population of England and Wales that is Black/African/Caribbean/Black British (4.0%) is about three times higher than in Suffolk (1.3%).
- 1 in 20 Suffolk residents on Census day 2021 were other White, compared to 1 in 16 in England and Wales.
- Asian/Asian British people account for around 2.3% of the population of Suffolk in 2021, compared to 9.3% across England and Wales.
- Other ethnic groups accounted for around 1 in 100 Suffolk residents and 1 in 50 people nationwide.

Districts and Boroughs

Table 3: Population by ethnic group in Suffolk's Districts and Boroughs, 2021 Census

| | Babergh | East Suffolk | Ipswich | Mid Suffolk | West Suffolk |
|--|---------|--------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British | 86,418 | 229,063 | 104,208 | 96,581 | 147,935 |
| White: Irish, Gypsy or Irish Traveller, Roma | 547 | 1,318 | 1,606 | 562 | 1,850 |
| White: Other White | 2,304 | 6,246 | 11,943 | 2,320 | 15,371 |
| Mixed/multiple ethnic groups | 1,351 | 3,707 | 6,409 | 1,463 | 4,880 |
| Asian/Asian British | 875 | 3,447 | 7,611 | 821 | 4,731 |
| Black/African/Caribbean/Black British | 503 | 1,357 | 4,882 | 553 | 2,873 |
| Other ethnic group | 344 | 922 | 2,984 | 401 | 2,308 |
| Total | 92,342 | 246,060 | 139,643 | 102,701 | 179,948 |



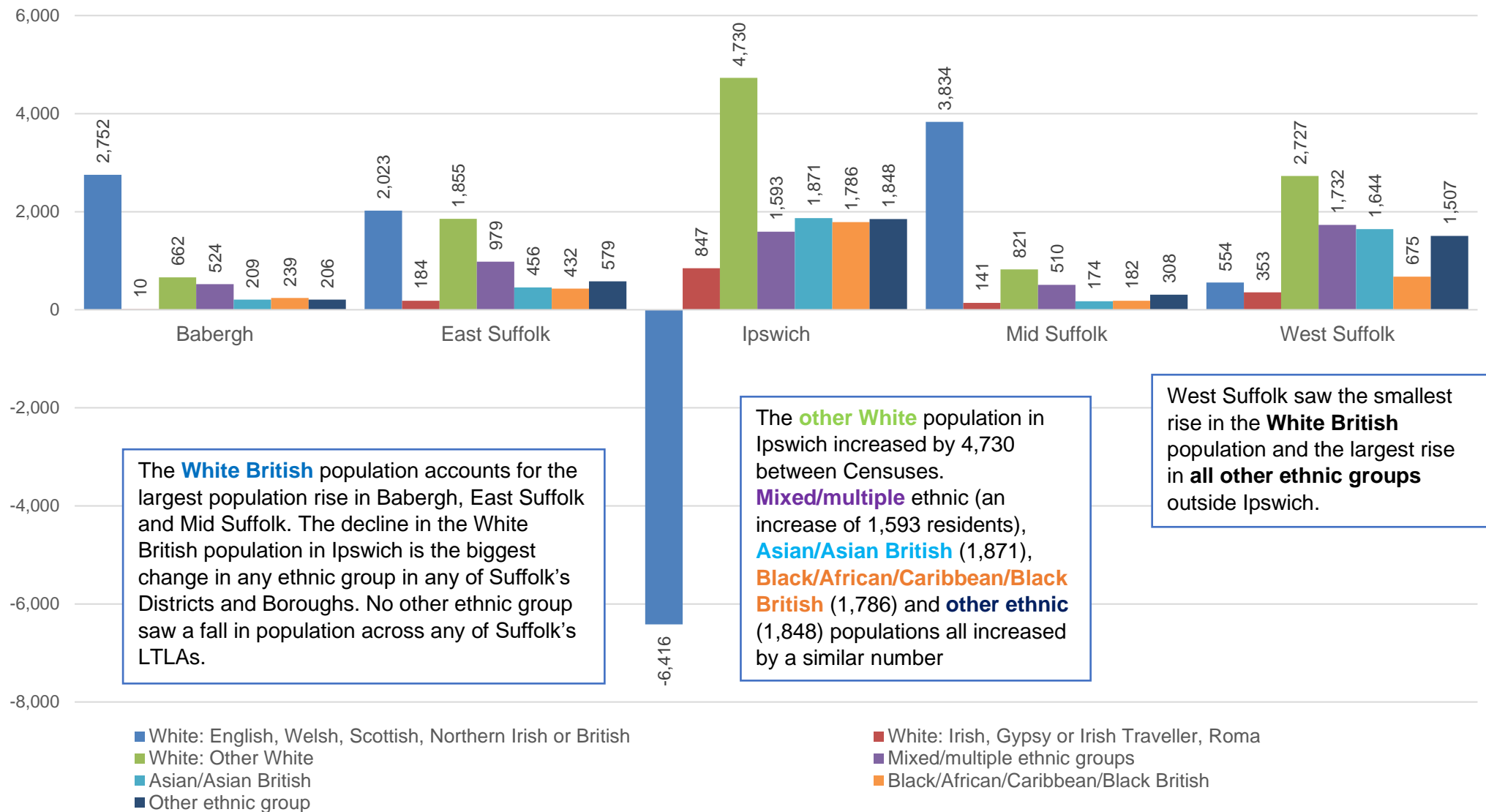
- Ipswich has the most diverse population of Suffolk's Districts and Boroughs. Ipswich has the largest percentage of residents in each of the ethnic groups other than White British (White Irish, Gypsy or Irish Traveller, Roma, other White, mixed/multiple ethnic groups, Asian/Asian British, Black/African/Caribbean/Black British and other ethnic group).
- Around a quarter of Ipswich's population is not White English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British, a very similar to the national proportion, albeit with a different composition.
- A larger proportion of Ipswich's population is other White and mixed/multiple ethnic groups than the England and Wales average.

- The populations of Babergh, East Suffolk and Mid Suffolk have a similar ethnic composition. White English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British people account for 93%-94% of the population in each of these Local Authorities.
- West Suffolk's other White population (15,371) is higher than that of Ipswich (11,943) and represents a similar proportion of the overall population of the Local Authority. West Suffolk also has a higher proportion of other ethnic groups than the other predominantly rural Districts in Suffolk. The United States Air Force (USAF) population in the area is a key reason for this.

Table 4: Percentage of population by ethnic group in Suffolk's Districts and Boroughs, 2021 Census

| | Babergh | East Suffolk | Ipswich | Mid Suffolk | West Suffolk | Suffolk | England and Wales |
|--|----------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British | 93.6% | 93.1% | 74.6% | 94.0% | 82.2% | 87.3% | 74.4% |
| White: Irish, Gypsy or Irish Traveller, Roma | 0.6% | 0.5% | 1.2% | 0.5% | 1.0% | 0.8% | 1.1% |
| White: Other White | 2.5% | 2.5% | 8.6% | 2.3% | 8.5% | 5.0% | 6.2% |
| Mixed/multiple ethnic groups | 1.5% | 1.5% | 4.6% | 1.4% | 2.7% | 2.3% | 2.9% |
| Asian/Asian British | 0.9% | 1.4% | 5.5% | 0.8% | 2.6% | 2.3% | 9.3% |
| Black/African/Caribbean/Black British | 0.5% | 0.6% | 3.5% | 0.5% | 1.6% | 1.3% | 4.0% |
| Other ethnic group | 0.4% | 0.4% | 2.1% | 0.4% | 1.3% | 0.9% | 2.1% |

Chart 4: Change in population by ethnic group in Suffolk's Districts and Boroughs, 2011 Census to 2021 Census



Appendices: full tables

Table 5: Ethnic group by District and Borough: 2011 Census and 2021 Census

| | Babergh | | East Suffolk | | Ipswich | | Mid Suffolk | | West Suffolk | |
|--|---------|--------|--------------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|---------|--------------|---------|
| | 2011 | 2021 | 2011 | 2021 | 2011 | 2021 | 2011 | 2021 | 2011 | 2021 |
| White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British | 83,666 | 86,418 | 227,040 | 229,063 | 110,624 | 104,208 | 92,747 | 96,581 | 147,381 | 147,935 |
| White: Irish, Gypsy or Irish Traveller, Roma | 537 | 547 | 1,134 | 1,318 | 759 | 1,606 | 421 | 562 | 1,497 | 1,850 |
| White: Other White | 1,642 | 2,304 | 4,391 | 6,246 | 7,213 | 11,943 | 1,499 | 2,320 | 12,644 | 15,371 |
| Mixed/multiple ethnic groups | 827 | 1,351 | 2,728 | 3,707 | 4,816 | 6,409 | 953 | 1,463 | 3,148 | 4,880 |
| Asian/Asian British | 666 | 875 | 2,991 | 3,447 | 5,740 | 7,611 | 647 | 821 | 3,087 | 4,731 |
| Black/African/Caribbean/Black British | 264 | 503 | 925 | 1,357 | 3,096 | 4,882 | 371 | 553 | 2,198 | 2,873 |
| Other ethnic group | 138 | 344 | 343 | 922 | 1,136 | 2,984 | 93 | 401 | 801 | 2,308 |
| Total | 87,740 | 92,342 | 239,552 | 246,060 | 133,384 | 139,643 | 96,731 | 102,701 | 170,756 | 179,948 |

Table 6: Percentage of total population by ethnic group by District and Borough: 2011 Census and 2021 Census

| | Babergh | | East Suffolk | | Ipswich | | Mid Suffolk | | West Suffolk | |
|--|---------|-------|--------------|-------|---------|-------|-------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| | 2011 | 2021 | 2011 | 2021 | 2011 | 2021 | 2011 | 2021 | 2011 | 2021 |
| White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British | 95.4% | 93.6% | 94.8% | 93.1% | 82.9% | 74.6% | 95.9% | 94.0% | 86.3% | 82.2% |
| White: Irish, Gypsy or Irish Traveller, Roma | 0.6% | 0.6% | 0.5% | 0.5% | 0.6% | 1.2% | 0.4% | 0.5% | 0.9% | 1.0% |
| White: Other White | 1.9% | 2.5% | 1.8% | 2.5% | 5.4% | 8.6% | 1.5% | 2.3% | 7.4% | 8.5% |
| Mixed/multiple ethnic groups | 0.9% | 1.5% | 1.1% | 1.5% | 3.6% | 4.6% | 1.0% | 1.4% | 1.8% | 2.7% |
| Asian/Asian British | 0.8% | 0.9% | 1.2% | 1.4% | 4.3% | 5.5% | 0.7% | 0.8% | 1.8% | 2.6% |
| Black/African/Caribbean/Black British | 0.3% | 0.5% | 0.4% | 0.6% | 2.3% | 3.5% | 0.4% | 0.5% | 1.3% | 1.6% |
| Other ethnic group | 0.2% | 0.4% | 0.1% | 0.4% | 0.9% | 2.1% | 0.1% | 0.4% | 0.5% | 1.3% |

Table 7: Ethnic group: 2021 Census

| Ethnic group | Babergh | East Suffolk | Ipswich | Mid Suffolk | West Suffolk | Suffolk | England and Wales |
|--|---------|--------------|---------|-------------|--------------|---------|-------------------|
| Total: All usual residents | 92,342 | 246,060 | 139,643 | 102,701 | 179,948 | 760,687 | 59,597,542 |
| White | 89,269 | 236,627 | 117,757 | 99,463 | 165,156 | 708,271 | 48,699,249 |
| White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British | 86,418 | 229,063 | 104,208 | 96,581 | 147,935 | 664,205 | 44,355,038 |
| White: Irish | 481 | 1,095 | 587 | 442 | 1,387 | 3,990 | 507,465 |
| White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller | 40 | 146 | 356 | 93 | 268 | 905 | 67,768 |
| White: Roma | 26 | 77 | 663 | 27 | 195 | 987 | 100,981 |
| White: Other White | 2,304 | 6,246 | 11,943 | 2,320 | 15,371 | 38,184 | 3,667,997 |
| Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups | 1,351 | 3,707 | 6,409 | 1,463 | 4,880 | 17,807 | 1,717,976 |
| Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: White and Asian | 383 | 1,054 | 3,016 | 480 | 899 | 5,832 | 513,042 |
| Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: White and Black African | 210 | 579 | 1,151 | 200 | 840 | 2,980 | 249,596 |
| Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: White and Black Caribbean | 382 | 1,072 | 820 | 365 | 1,169 | 3,805 | 488,225 |
| Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups: Other Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups | 376 | 1,002 | 1,422 | 418 | 1,972 | 5,190 | 467,113 |
| Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh | 875 | 3,447 | 7,611 | 821 | 4,731 | 17,483 | 5,515,420 |
| Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Bangladeshi | 234 | 1,034 | 2,366 | 204 | 1,442 | 5,280 | 1,864,318 |
| Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Chinese | 37 | 261 | 376 | 33 | 493 | 1,200 | 1,587,819 |
| Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Indian | 107 | 283 | 2,015 | 36 | 286 | 2,727 | 644,881 |
| Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Pakistani | 177 | 740 | 749 | 176 | 600 | 2,440 | 445,619 |
| Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh: Other Asian | 320 | 1,129 | 2,105 | 372 | 1,910 | 5,836 | 972,783 |
| Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African | 503 | 1,357 | 4,882 | 553 | 2,873 | 10,168 | 2,409,278 |
| Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African: African | 124 | 422 | 1,508 | 166 | 561 | 2,781 | 623,119 |
| Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African: Caribbean | 287 | 712 | 2,483 | 274 | 1,312 | 5,068 | 1,488,381 |
| Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African: Other Black | 92 | 223 | 891 | 113 | 1,000 | 2,319 | 297,778 |
| Other ethnic group | 344 | 922 | 2,984 | 401 | 2,308 | 6,958 | 1,255,619 |
| Other ethnic group: Arab | 37 | 112 | 357 | 44 | 234 | 782 | 331,844 |
| Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group | 307 | 810 | 2,627 | 357 | 2,074 | 6,176 | 923,775 |

Table 8: Ethnic group: 2011 Census

| Ethnic Group | Babergh | East Suffolk | Ipswich | Mid Suffolk | West Suffolk | Suffolk | England and Wales |
|---|--|--------------|---------|-------------|--------------|---------|-------------------|
| All usual residents | 87,740 | 239,552 | 133,384 | 96,731 | 170,756 | 728,163 | 56,075,912 |
| White | 85,845 | 232,565 | 118,596 | 94,667 | 161,522 | 693,195 | 48,209,395 |
| White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British | 83,666 | 227,040 | 110,624 | 92,747 | 147,381 | 661,458 | 45,134,686 |
| White: Irish | 486 | 992 | 610 | 345 | 1,311 | 3,744 | 531,087 |
| White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller | 51 | 142 | 149 | 76 | 186 | 604 | 57,680 |
| White: Roma | Not listed as a separate group in 2011 | | | | | | |
| White: Other White | 1,642 | 4,391 | 7,213 | 1,499 | 12,644 | 27,389 | 2,485,942 |
| Mixed/multiple ethnic groups | 827 | 2,728 | 4,816 | 953 | 3,148 | 12,472 | 1,224,400 |
| Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: White and Asian | 216 | 814 | 637 | 298 | 822 | 2,787 | 341,727 |
| Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: White and Black African | 92 | 422 | 655 | 120 | 496 | 1,785 | 165,974 |
| Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: White and Black Caribbean | 306 | 858 | 2,579 | 311 | 679 | 4,733 | 426,715 |
| Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: Other Mixed | 213 | 634 | 945 | 224 | 1,151 | 3,167 | 289,984 |
| Asian/Asian British | 666 | 2,991 | 5,740 | 647 | 3,087 | 13,131 | 4,213,531 |
| Asian/Asian British: Bangladeshi | 65 | 241 | 1,687 | 38 | 222 | 2,253 | 447,201 |
| Asian/Asian British: Chinese | 161 | 771 | 666 | 158 | 403 | 2,159 | 393,141 |
| Asian/Asian British: Indian | 180 | 949 | 1,801 | 170 | 899 | 3,999 | 1,412,958 |
| Asian/Asian British: Pakistani | 9 | 171 | 242 | 17 | 258 | 697 | 1,124,511 |
| Asian/Asian British: Other Asian | 251 | 859 | 1,344 | 264 | 1,305 | 4,023 | 835,720 |
| Black/African/Caribbean/Black British | 264 | 925 | 3,096 | 371 | 2,198 | 6,854 | 1,864,890 |
| Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: African | 133 | 477 | 1,025 | 164 | 825 | 2,624 | 989,628 |
| Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Caribbean | 89 | 308 | 1,554 | 126 | 432 | 2,509 | 594,825 |
| Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Other Black | 42 | 140 | 517 | 81 | 941 | 1,721 | 280,437 |
| Other ethnic group | 138 | 343 | 1,136 | 93 | 801 | 2,511 | 563,696 |
| Other ethnic group: Arab | 10 | 66 | 151 | 7 | 86 | 320 | 230,600 |
| Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group | 128 | 277 | 985 | 86 | 715 | 2,191 | 333,096 |

Further reading

- All of the 2021 data referenced here is available on the [Office for National Statistics website](https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/ethnicgroupnationalidentitylanguageandreligioncensus2021inenglandandwales) <https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/ethnicgroupnationalidentitylanguageandreligioncensus2021inenglandandwales>
- Data from the 2021 Census and previous editions of the Census [can also be found on NOMIS](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/) <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>
- 2021 Census data for Suffolk will also be made available on the [Suffolk Observatory](https://www.suffolkobservatory.info/) <https://www.suffolkobservatory.info/>
- For further information and analysis of some of the topics addressed in this paper, [see the Suffolk Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\) on the Healthy Suffolk website](https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/jsna/index-of-reports) <https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/jsna/index-of-reports>