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NORTH WALES SOCIAL CARE AND WELL-BEING
SERVICES IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVE

2021 Census

Topic summary: ethnic group

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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Betsi Cadwaladr
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Introduction

This bulletin looks at the topic summary data from the 2021 Census for England and Wales for the ethnic groups of usual residents and household ethnic composition. The data was published on 29 November 2022 by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). It provides unrounded population and household estimates at North Wales and unitary authority level.

Since 1991, the census for England and Wales has included a question about ethnic group.

The ethnic group question has two stages. Firstly, a person identifies through one of the following five high-level ethnic groups:

- White
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups
- Asian, Asian British, Asian Welsh
- Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African
- Other ethnic group

Secondly, a person identifies through one of the 19 available response options, which include categories with write-in response options.

There are many factors that may be contributing to the changing ethnic composition of Wales, such as differing patterns of ageing, fertility, mortality, and migration. Changes may also be caused by differences in the way individuals chose to self-identify between censuses.

The ONS has also published [Ethnic group, England and Wales: Census 2021 in England and Wales \(Office for National Statistics\)](#) which includes some data down to output area.

More data will be released in phases until the end of 2023 and will include detailed data at small area level about people, households and living arrangements, work and housing/amenities.

Changes between 2011 and 2021 may reflect how the Covid 19 pandemic affected people's choice of usual residence on Census Day (21 March 2021). Census results

for Gwynedd in particular are likely to have been affected by where students were counted. These changes might have been temporary for some and more long-lasting for others. It is also not clear how exiting the European Union has affected population change in Wales and across the UK.

Main points

- The population of North Wales is much less ethnically diverse than across England and Wales as a whole. There has been little change in the last decade in the overall proportions within each high-level ethnic group.
- 96.8% of the population (665,147 people) identified as “White” in the 2021 Census. This proportion is high when compared to national figures (England and Wales = 81.7% and Wales = 93.8%). The proportion was highest in Anglesey at 98.1% and lowest in Wrexham at 96.0%.
- Within the “White” category 93.3% of the total population identified as “Welsh, English, Scottish, Northern Irish or British”. (Wales = 90.6% and England and Wales = 74.4%). In North Wales the proportion was highest in Anglesey at 96.3% and lowest in Wrexham at 90.7%.
- Though the overall proportion of people in North Wales who identified as White decreased slightly between 2011 (97.5%) and 2021 (96.8%) the proportion of people who identified with the sub category “Any other White background” increased from 1.9% in 2011 to 2.9% or 19,802 people in 2021. This is likely to be a reflection of the increase in the last decade of people in North Wales who were born in the countries that joined the EU between April 2001 and March 2011 (especially Poland and Romania). [We reported on this in our 2021 Census topic report on demography and migration.](#)
- In North Wales, the highest proportions of people from “Any other White background” in 2021 were in Wrexham (4.8%) and Flintshire (3.9%).
- For North Wales as a whole, “Asian, Asian Welsh or Asian British” remained the second largest high-level ethnic group category in 2021 (9,400 people, 1.4% of all usual residents). This was also the second most common high-level category for all North Wales unitary authority areas except Anglesey, where it was “Mixed or multiple ethnic groups”. North Wales’ 1.4% of the population in this group compares to 2.9% for Wales and 9.3% for England and Wales as a whole.
- Though the number and proportion of people in all high-level ethnic group categories except “White” saw an increase in North Wales between 2011 and 2021, the increases were very small, (all between 0.1% and 0.3%). Some groups saw slight decreases for some unitary authority areas, but the rate of change at this more local level was also very low, ranging from a minimum -0.2% to a maximum +0.4% over the decade.

The key results for North Wales

- On Census Day, 21 March 2021, the proportion of people in North Wales who identified within the ethnic category “White” was 665,147 people or 96.8% of the population. This was slightly smaller than in 2011 (97.5%).
- This was much higher than the proportion of people identifying as White in England and Wales as a whole in 2021 (81.7%). The average across Wales was 93.8%.
- Within the “White” category, 641,186 people or 93.3% of the total population identified as “Welsh, English, Scottish, Northern Irish or British”. This was a decrease from 95.0% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 90.6% and England and Wales = 74.4%).
- The Isle of Anglesey had the highest proportion of people identifying with the high-level “White” ethnic group of all Welsh unitary authorities (98.1%). It also had the highest proportion of people identifying with the largest lower-level ethnic category “White: Welsh, English, Scottish, Northern Irish or British” (96.3%).
- Across all lower-level ethnic categories, the largest group after “White: Welsh, English, Scottish, Northern Irish or British” was “Any other White background”, with 2.9% of the population or 19,802 people selecting this option. This is an increase from 1.9% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 2.7% and England and Wales = 6.2%).
- In North Wales, the highest proportions of people from “Any other White background” in 2021 were in Wrexham (4.8%) and Flintshire (3.9%).
- The second largest high-level category in 2021 was “Asian, Asian Welsh or Asian British”, with 9,400 people identifying within this category. This was 1.4% of the population, compared to 1.3% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 2.9% and England and Wales = 9.3%).
- 7,241 people identified within the high-level category “Mixed or multiple ethnic groups”. This was 1.1% of the population compared to 0.7% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 1.6% and England and Wales = 2.9%).
- 2,326 people identified within the high-level category “Black, Black Welsh, Black British, Caribbean or African”. This was 0.3% of the population, compared to 0.2% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 0.9% and England and Wales = 4.0%).

- 2,802 people identified within the high-level category “Other ethnic group”. This was 0.4% of the population, compared to 0.3% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 0.9% and England and Wales = 2.1%).
- 4.3% of households (12,926) were multiple ethnic group households, up from 3.6% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 5.3% and England and Wales = 10.1%).

The key results for the Isle of Anglesey

- On Census Day, 21 March 2021, the proportion of people on the Isle of Anglesey who identified within the ethnic category “White” was 67,587 people or 98.1% of the population. This was slightly smaller than in 2011 (98.2%).
- This was much higher than the proportion of people identifying as White in England and Wales as a whole in 2021 (81.7%). The average across Wales was 93.8%.
- Within the “White” category, 66,339 people or 96.3% of the total population identified as “Welsh, English, Scottish, Northern Irish or British”. This was a decrease from 96.6% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 90.6% and England and Wales = 74.4%).
- The Isle of Anglesey had the highest proportion of people identifying with the high-level “White” ethnic group of all Welsh unitary authorities and the highest proportion of people identifying with the largest lower-level ethnic category “White: Welsh, English, Scottish, Northern Irish or British” (96.3%).
- Across all lower-level ethnic categories, the largest group after “White: Welsh, English, Scottish, Northern Irish or British” was “Any other White background”, with 1.1% of the population or 780 people selecting this option. This is an increase from 0.9% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 2.7% and England and Wales = 6.2%).
- The second largest high-level category in 2021 was “Mixed or multiple ethnic groups”, with 598 people identifying within this category. This was 0.9% of the population, compared to 0.7% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 1.6% and England and Wales = 2.9%).
- 430 people identified within the high-level category “Asian, Asian Welsh or Asian British”. This was 0.6% of the population compared to 0.7% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 2.9% and England and Wales = 9.3%).
- 104 people identified within the high-level category “Black, Black Welsh, Black British, Caribbean or African”. This was 0.2% of the population, compared to 0.1% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 0.9% and England and Wales = 4.0%).
- 160 people identified within the high-level category “Other ethnic group”. This was 0.2% of the population, compared to 0.3% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 0.9% and England and Wales = 2.1%).
- 3.4% of households (1,057) were multiple ethnic group households, down from 3.5% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 5.3% and England and Wales = 10.1%).

The key results for Gwynedd

- On Census Day, 21 March 2021, the proportion of people in Gwynedd who identified within the ethnic category “White” was 112,987 people or 96.2% of the population. This was slightly smaller than in 2011 (96.5%).
- This was much higher than the proportion of people identifying as White in England and Wales as a whole in 2021 (81.7%). The average across Wales was 93.8%.
- Within the “White” category, 109,548 people or 93.3% of the total population identified as “Welsh, English, Scottish, Northern Irish or British”. This was a decrease from 94.4% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 90.6% and England and Wales = 74.4%).
- Across all lower-level ethnic categories, the largest group after “White: Welsh, English, Scottish, Northern Irish or British” was “Any other White background”, with 2.3% of the population or 2,729 people selecting this option. This is an increase from 1.5% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 2.7% and England and Wales = 6.2%).
- The second largest high-level category in 2021 was “Asian, Asian Welsh or Asian British”, with 1,968 people identifying within this category. This was 1.7% of the population, compared to 1.8% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 2.9% and England and Wales = 9.3%).
- 1,333 people identified within the high-level category “Mixed or multiple ethnic groups”. This was 1.1% of the population compared to 0.8% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 1.6% and England and Wales = 2.9%).
- 513 people identified within the high-level category “Black, Black Welsh, Black British, Caribbean or African”. This was 0.4% of the population, compared to 0.2% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 0.9% and England and Wales = 4.0%).
- 591 people identified within the high-level category “Other ethnic group”. This was 0.5% of the population, compared to 0.7% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 0.9% and England and Wales = 2.1%).
- 4.6% of households (2,362) were multiple ethnic group households, up from 4.1% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 5.3% and England and Wales = 10.1%).

The key results for Conwy County Borough

- On Census Day, 21 March 2021, the proportion of people in Conwy County Borough who identified within the ethnic category “White” was 111,176 people or 96.9% of the population. This was slightly smaller than in 2011 (97.7%).
- This was much higher than the proportion of people identifying as White in England and Wales as a whole in 2021 (81.7%). The average across Wales was 93.8%.
- Within the “White” category, 107,926 people or 94.1% of the total population identified as “Welsh, English, Scottish, Northern Irish or British”. This was a decrease from 95.4% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 90.6% and England and Wales = 74.4%).
- Across all lower-level ethnic categories, the largest group after “White: Welsh, English, Scottish, Northern Irish or British” was “Any other White background”, with 2.0% of the population or 2,284 people selecting this option. This is an increase from 1.5% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 2.7% and England and Wales = 6.2%).
- The second largest high-level category in 2021 was “Asian, Asian Welsh or Asian British”, with 1,651 people identifying within this category. This was 1.4% of the population, compared to 1.1% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 2.9% and England and Wales = 9.3%).
- 1,254 people identified within the high-level category “Mixed or multiple ethnic groups”. This was 1.1% of the population compared to 0.8% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 1.6% and England and Wales = 2.9%).
- 271 people identified within the high-level category “Black, Black Welsh, Black British, Caribbean or African”. This was 0.2% of the population, compared to 0.2% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 0.9% and England and Wales = 4.0%).
- 391 people identified within the high-level category “Other ethnic group”. This was 0.3% of the population, compared to 0.3% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 0.9% and England and Wales = 2.1%).
- 4.5% of households (2,357) were multiple ethnic group households, up from 4.0% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 5.3% and England and Wales = 10.1%).

The key results for Denbighshire

- On Census Day, 21 March 2021, the proportion of people in Denbighshire who identified within the ethnic category “White” was 92,488 people or 96.5% of the population. This was slightly smaller than in 2011 (97.4%).
- This was much higher than the proportion of people identifying as White in England and Wales as a whole in 2021 (81.7%). The average across Wales was 93.8%.
- Within the “White” category, 90,470 people or 94.4% of the total population identified as “Welsh, English, Scottish, Northern Irish or British”. This was a decrease from 95.6% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 90.6% and England and Wales = 74.4%).
- Across all lower-level ethnic categories, the largest group after “White: Welsh, English, Scottish, Northern Irish or British” was “Any other White background”, with 1.5% of the population or 1,440 people selecting this option. This is an increase from 1.2% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 2.7% and England and Wales = 6.2%).
- The second largest high-level category in 2021 was “Asian, Asian Welsh or Asian British”, with 1,650 people identifying within this category. This was 1.7% of the population, compared to 1.5% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 2.9% and England and Wales = 9.3%).
- 1,052 people identified within the high-level category “Mixed or multiple ethnic groups”. This was 1.1% of the population compared to 0.8% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 1.6% and England and Wales = 2.9%).
- 268 people identified within the high-level category “Black, Black Welsh, Black British, Caribbean or African”. This was 0.3% of the population, compared to 0.2% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 0.9% and England and Wales = 4.0%).
- 362 people identified within the high-level category “Other ethnic group”. This was 0.4% of the population, compared to 0.1% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 0.9% and England and Wales = 2.1%).
- 4.0% of households (1,677) were multiple ethnic group households, up from 3.4% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 5.3% and England and Wales = 10.1%).

The key results for Flintshire

- On Census Day, 21 March 2021, the proportion of people in Flintshire who identified within the ethnic category “White” was 151,232 people or 97.6% of the population. This was slightly smaller than in 2011 (98.5%).
- This was much higher than the proportion of people identifying as White in England and Wales as a whole in 2021 (81.7%). The average across Wales was 93.8%.
- Within the “White” category, 144,356 people or 93.2% of the total population identified as “Welsh, English, Scottish, Northern Irish or British”. This was a decrease from 95.9% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 90.6% and England and Wales = 74.4%).
- Across all lower-level ethnic categories, the largest group after “White: Welsh, English, Scottish, Northern Irish or British” was “Any other White background”, with 3.9% of the population or 6,049 people selecting this option. This is an increase from 2.1% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 2.7% and England and Wales = 6.2%).
- In North Wales, the highest proportions of people from “Any other White background” in 2021 were in Wrexham (4.8%) and Flintshire (3.9%).
- The second largest high-level category in 2021 was “Asian, Asian Welsh or Asian British”, with 1,455 people identifying within this category. This was 0.9% of the population, compared to 0.8% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 2.9% and England and Wales = 9.3%).
- 1,446 people identified within the high-level category “Mixed or multiple ethnic groups”. This was 0.9% of the population compared to 0.6% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 1.6% and England and Wales = 2.9%).
- 292 people identified within the high-level category “Black, Black Welsh, Black British, Caribbean or African”. This was 0.2% of the population, compared to 0.1% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 0.9% and England and Wales = 4.0%).
- 535 people identified within the high-level category “Other ethnic group”. This was 0.3% of the population, compared to 0.1% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 0.9% and England and Wales = 2.1%).
- 4.4% of households (2,929) were multiple ethnic group households, up from 3.2% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 5.3% and England and Wales = 10.1%).

The key results for Wrexham

- On Census Day, 21 March 2021, the proportion of people in Wrexham who identified within the ethnic category “White” was 129,677 people or 96.0% of the population. This was slightly smaller than in 2011 (96.9%).
- This was much higher than the proportion of people identifying as White in England and Wales as a whole in 2021 (81.7%). The average across Wales was 93.8%.
- Within the “White” category, 122,547 people or 90.7% of the total population identified as “Welsh, English, Scottish, Northern Irish or British”. This was the lowest of all North Wales unitary authority areas, and was a decrease from 93.1% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 90.6% and England and Wales = 74.4%).
- Across all lower-level ethnic categories, the largest group after “White: Welsh, English, Scottish, Northern Irish or British” was “Any other White background”, with 4.8% of the population or 6,520 people selecting this option. This is an increase from 3.4% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 2.7% and England and Wales = 6.2%).
- In North Wales, the highest proportions of people from “Any other White background” in 2021 were in Wrexham (4.8%) and Flintshire (3.9%).
- The second largest high-level category in 2021 was “Asian, Asian Welsh or Asian British”, with 2,246 people identifying within this category. This was 1.7% of the population, compared to 1.7% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 2.9% and England and Wales = 9.3%).
- 1,558 people identified within the high-level category “Mixed or multiple ethnic groups”. This was 1.2% of the population compared to 0.7% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 1.6% and England and Wales = 2.9%).
- 878 people identified within the high-level category “Black, Black Welsh, Black British, Caribbean or African”. This was 0.6% of the population, compared to 0.5% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 0.9% and England and Wales = 4.0%).
- 763 people identified within the high-level category “Other ethnic group”. This was 0.6% of the population, compared to 0.2% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 0.9% and England and Wales = 2.1%).
- 4.4% of households (2,544) were multiple ethnic group households, up from 3.6% in 2011. (Wales in 2021 = 5.3% and England and Wales = 10.1%).

About the Census

The census happens every 10 years and gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales.

Your answers to census questions help organisations make decisions on planning and funding public services in your area, including transport, education and healthcare.

Census Day was on Sunday 21 March 2021.

[As data from the 2021 Census becomes available, the Regional Innovation Coordination Hub website will be publishing key results and providing analysis for North Wales and our unitary authority areas.](https://www.northwalescollaborative.wales/census/)

(<https://www.northwalescollaborative.wales/census/>)

[A statistical bulletin summarising the key results for Wales is available.](https://gov.wales/ethnic-group-national-identity-language-and-religion-wales-census-2021-html)

(<https://gov.wales/ethnic-group-national-identity-language-and-religion-wales-census-2021-html>)

[The main census website](https://census.gov.uk/) is:

<https://census.gov.uk/>

[Welsh Government's main Census website](https://gov.wales/census-population) is:

<https://gov.wales/census-population>

The full [release schedule for the 2021 Census](https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/censustransformationprogramme/census2021output/s/releaseplans) is available.

(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/censustransformationprogramme/census2021output/s/releaseplans>)