

More than a quarter of the people living in Hackney are under 19 years old. Hackney's 57,500 children and young people come from a rich diversity of backgrounds and, as a group are more ethnically mixed than the population in general.

A disproportionate number of Hackney's young people also share similar characteristics and experiences that place them at a disadvantage compared to their peers living in other areas. A total of 37.7 per cent of young people are affected by deprivation as a result of living in households dependent on benefits, while 46 per cent of under 20s live in overcrowded households. One third of dependents live in single parent households.

Fewer school pupils in Hackney achieve good educational qualifications. In 2005, 47.2 per cent of 16 year olds gained five A*- C GCSE passes compared to 54.7 per cent in England overall. 13 per cent go onto higher education, a figure below the national level of 21 per cent.

2.1 General Population Statistics

About 27 per cent of Hackney residents (57,500 people) are under the age of 19, compared to 24 per cent in London and 25 per cent in England & Wales. The percentage of households in the borough with dependent children (see Table 2.1) is broadly similar to the London and national average but a higher proportion of these dependents are in single parent families. A third of Hackney's children live in lone parent households; this is 7 per cent higher than in London overall and 11 per cent higher than in England & Wales.

Table 2.1: Percentage of households with dependent children

	No dependent child	1 dependent child	2 or more dependent children	% of households with children that are lone parent households
Hackney	17%	13%	70%	33%
London	17%	12%	71%	26%
England and Wales	17%	12%	71%	22%

Source: Census 2001

Geographically the population of young people is unevenly distributed throughout the borough with the largest concentrations of 0-19 year olds towards the north and east in the wards of Springfield, Cazenove, New River and Lordship (Figure 2.1). There are lower percentages of young people in the west of Hackney.

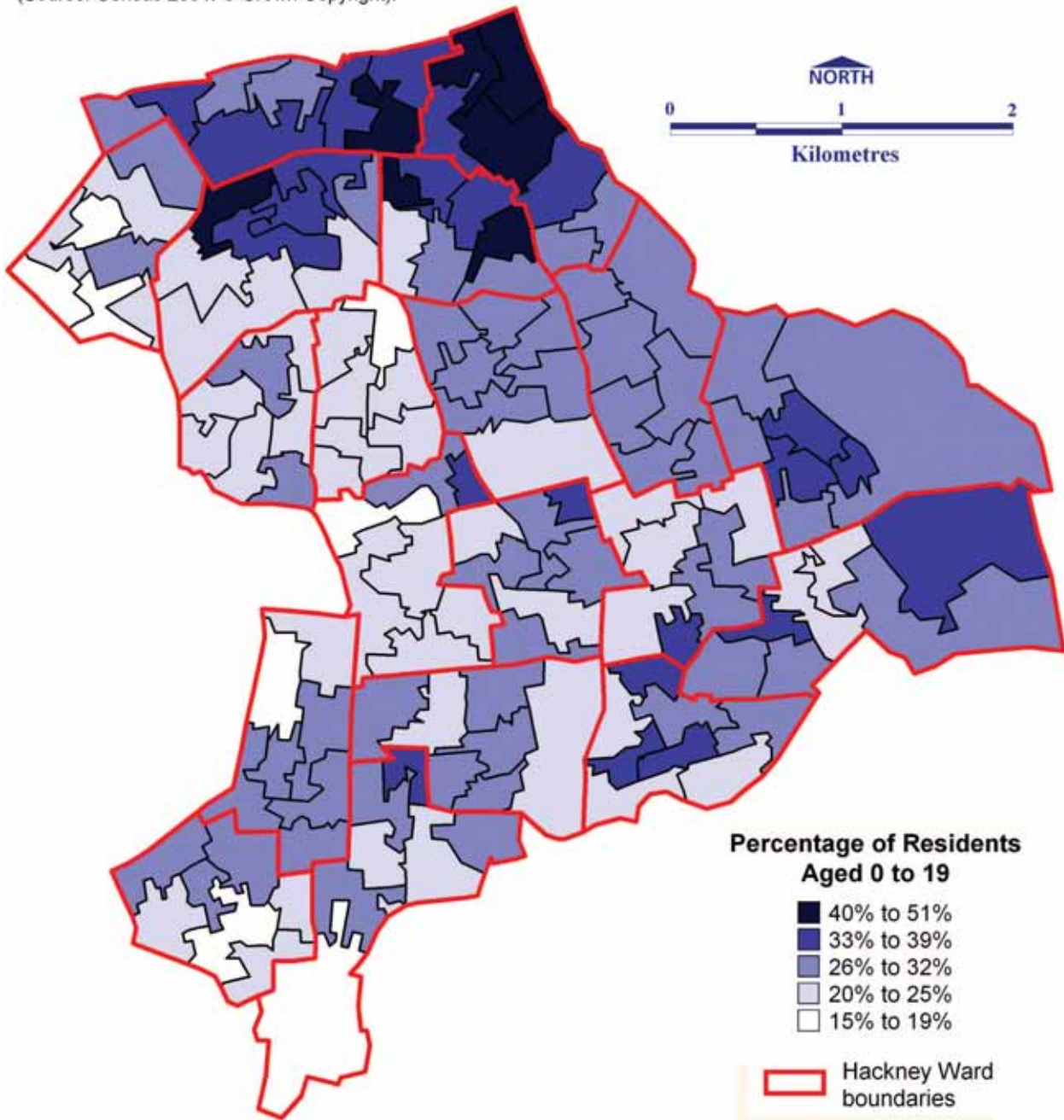
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Figure 2.1: Population density of 0 to 19 year olds

Residents Aged 0 to 19

Based on lower level Super Output Areas.
(Source: Census 2001. © Crown Copyright).



2.2 Age Distribution

There are 17,200 children under five in the borough, making this, at 8.3% of the population, the largest age group among the under 19s. This proportion exceeds the national average by 2.6 per cent (see Figure 2.2). Among the older age bands the gap between Hackney and other areas is smaller. England & Wales have only 0.3 per cent more 10-14 year olds and an equal proportion of 15-19 year olds. Overall a larger proportion of Hackney's population is aged under 19 than in Inner London and London as a whole.

Figure 2.2: Population under 19 as percentage of total population



Source: Census 2001

2.3 Ethnicity

Young people in Hackney are more ethnically mixed than the borough's overall population. Over half belong to Black and ethnic minority groups. The White population is the single largest group in the area making up 47 per cent of the under 19s, a figure 12 per cent lower than Hackney's general population. 53 per cent of young people belong to ethnic minority groups with 30 per cent being Black or Black British.

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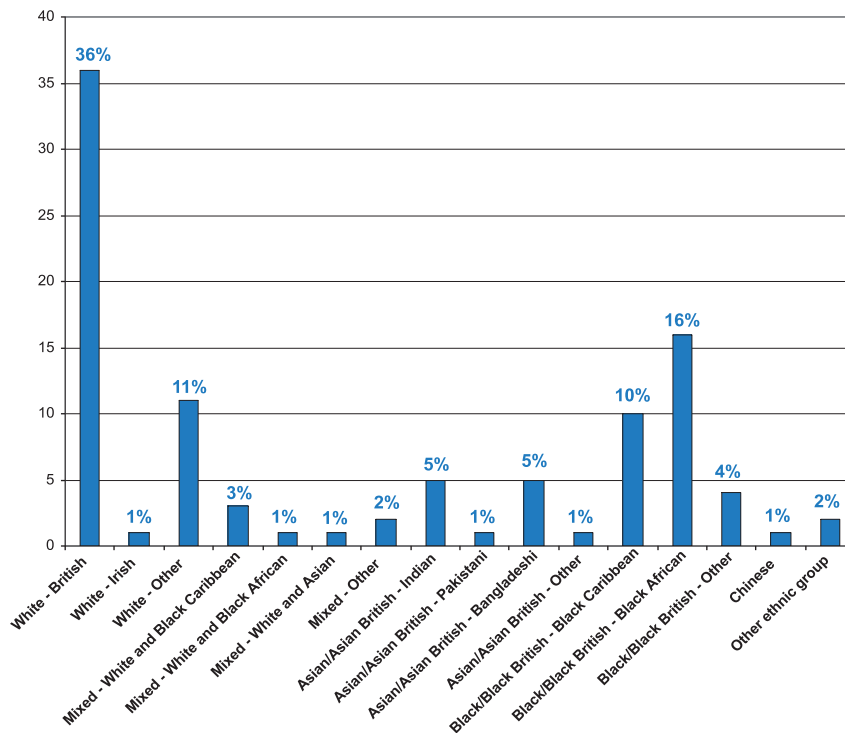
Table 2.2: Ethnicity of young people in direct comparison with the general population of Hackney

Ethnicity	Young people	Total Hackney population
White	47%	59.4%
Mixed	7%	4.2%
Asian/Asian British	12%	8.6%
Black/Black British	30%	24.7%
Chinese or other Ethnic Group	4%	3.2%

Source: Census 2001

A more detailed ethnic breakdown in Figure 2.3 shows that, excluding White British, the largest groups of young people are Black African (16%), White Other (11%) and Black Caribbean (10%). Because of the ethnic classification used to produce Census data, it is not possible to identify all cultural and ethnic groups living in this area but it is likely that the large number of Jewish and Turkish residents significantly contributes to the high proportion of the White Other group. Estimates based on DfES schools data, 2005 suggest that 2,499 pupils attended Jewish independent schools in 2005.

Figure 2.3: Hackney's young people by ethnicity in more detail



Source: Census 2001

Hackney's pupils are more likely to speak English as a second language than children from other areas, which can place them at an educational disadvantage. According to the DfES 52.6 per cent of Hackney's primary school pupils did not have English as their first language (Table 2.3). Although this figure is similar to that for Inner London as a whole, it is 15.2 per cent above the overall London level and 41 per cent higher than the national level.

Table 2.3: Primary school pupils with English as a second language

	%
Hackney	52.6
Inner London	51.3
London	37.4
England	11.6

Source: DfES (2004)

The GCSE results for 2004, summarised in table 2.4, highlight a relationship in the local area between ethnicity and academic achievement. The percentage of pupils achieving five A* - C grades at GCSE in Hackney varies by as much as 23 per cent between different ethnic groups. The ethnic groups with the highest achievement are Indian and Bangladeshi where over 57 per cent of pupils achieved this level. In contrast, Black Caribbean (35.2%) and Kurdish (36.8%) pupils had the lowest overall percentages.

In addition to an ethnic variation in exam results, table 2.4 also reveals a gender divide with girls performing better than boys in almost all cases. Among Black African pupils 60.7 per cent of girls gained five A* - C grades compared to only 27.4 per cent of boys. The only exceptions to this are Kurdish pupils where boys are the higher achievers.

Table 2.4: Percentage achieving 5 A* - C grades at GCSE, by ethnicity

Ethnicity	Female	Male	Total
Black African	60.7	27.4	47.8
Bangladeshi	62.5	48.3	57.1
Black Caribbean	39.6	28.1	35.2
White British	52.6	53.6	52.9
Indian	62.5	51.9	58.2
Kurdish	27.3	50.0	36.8
Mixed Heritage	54.3	48.3	52.3
Turkish	39.0	34.0	36.3

Source: The Learning Trust (2004)

Indian boys were the group with the highest percentage of no GCSE passes at all, closely followed by 3.4 per cent of Black Caribbean males. Despite attaining a higher percentage of A* - C passes at GCSE, Turkish girls were more likely than Turkish boys to have no passes.

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Table 2.5: Percentage of pupils achieving no passes at GCSE

Ethnicity	Female	Male	Total
Black African	0.7	2.1	1.2
Bangladeshi	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black Caribbean	2.1	3.4	2.6
White British	0.9	1.2	1.0
Indian	0.0	3.7	1.5
Kurdish	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mixed Heritage	2.9	0.0	2.3
Turkish	2.4	2.0	2.2

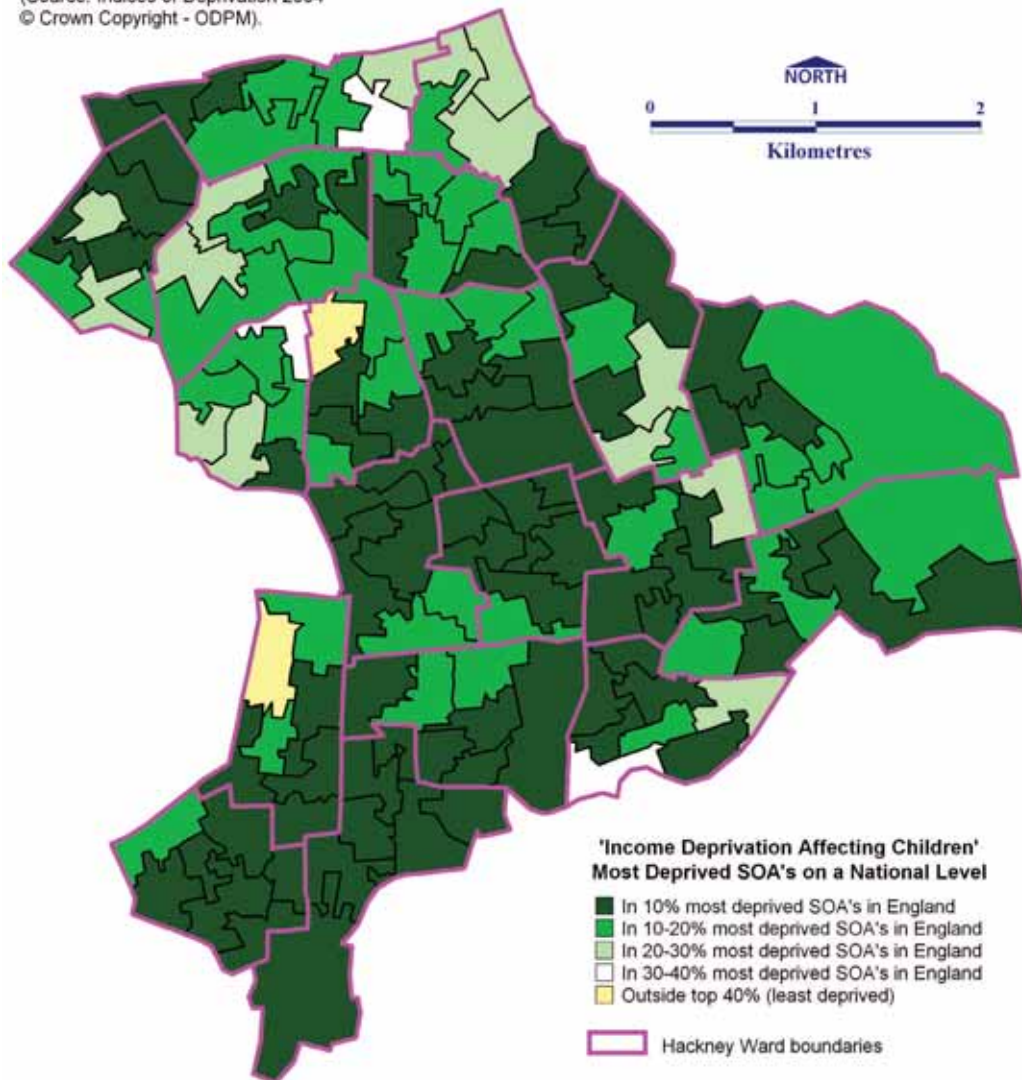
Source: The Learning Trust (2004)

2.4 Economic Deprivation

More than one third of Hackney's young people are affected by income deprivation. Figure 2.4 shows that the majority of the wards in the borough rank within the top 20 per cent of the most income deprived areas in the country. There are however areas such as parts of Hackney Downs, Victoria, Chatham and Haggerston which are significantly more deprived than this, ranking within the top five per cent and three per cent nationally.

Figure 2.4: Income deprivation affecting children; national comparison

Based on lower level Super Output Areas.
 (Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004
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Income deprivation affecting children (ie. those children under 16 years of age and living in families who are in receipt of income benefits) is shown in Figure 2.4. Fifty-five per cent of the Super Output Areas in Hackney are within the 10 per cent most deprived areas in the whole of England.

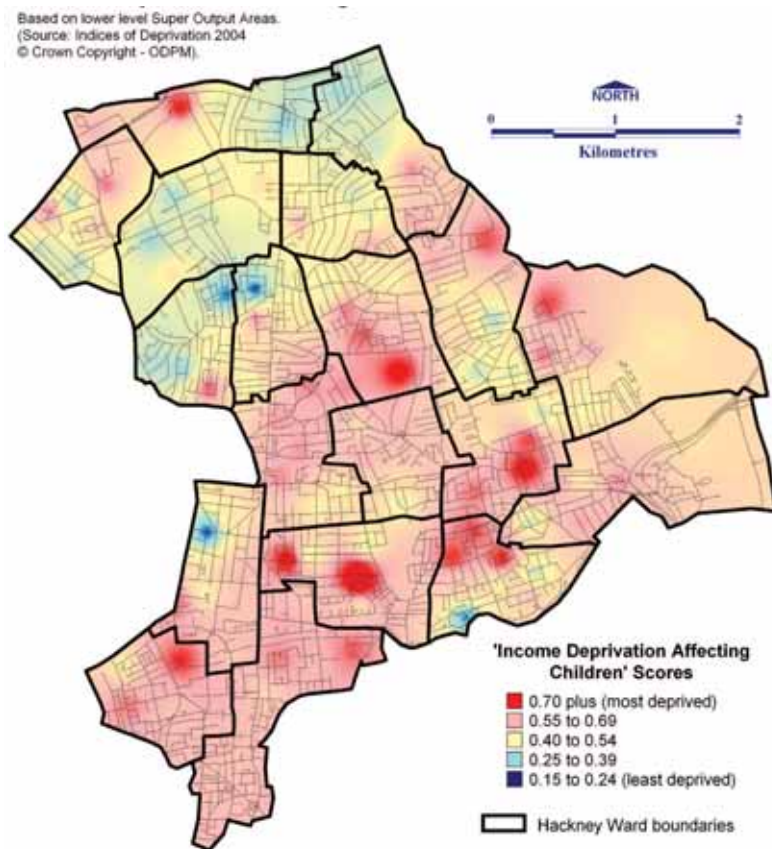
The distribution of young people in low income families is given in Figure 2.5 and shows a higher incidence of deprivation in the south of the borough with hotspots scoring over 0.70 in the wards of Queensbridge, Victoria and Chatham¹. The least deprived areas are in Clissold, Stoke Newington Central and Springfield. When the income deprivation and population density maps (Figure 2.1) are compared, they highlight that some of the areas with large population numbers of under 20 years olds (such as Victoria) are also hotspots for deprivation.

¹Index of deprivation affecting children score. This is the percentage by Super Output Area (SOA) of children under 16 who are living with families in receipt of benefits.

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Figure 2.5: Income deprivation affecting children



Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004

The percentage of under 20 year olds who are dependent on someone claiming income support is much higher in Hackney than in other parts of the country (Table 2.6). The borough has more than twice the percentage of young people dependent on benefits than the rest of England and 14.2 per cent higher than in London overall.

Table 2.6: Number of under 20s dependent on someone on income support, 2002

	Total population aged under 20	Total dependents of Income Support claimants, aged under 20	% of under 20s who are dependent on someone on IS	Total claimants aged under 20	% of under 20s claiming Income Support
Hackney	57,603	21,700	37.7%	410	0.7%
London	1,782,183	418,159	23.5%	8,653	0.5%
England	12,310,418	1,900,982	15.4%	60,212	0.5%

Source: National Statistics website: www.statistics.gov.uk

Overcrowding affects 35 per cent of Hackney's population but the problem is even more acute among Hackney's children and young residents with more than half of 16 to 19 year olds living in homes with too few rooms (Table 2.7). Overall 46 per cent of under 20s are in overcrowded accommodation, a much higher figure than the London and England average.

Table 2.7: Children and young people in overcrowded households (one or more rooms too few)

	People in overcrowded households	% in overcrowded households	0 to 4 years	5 to 15 years	16 to 17 years	18 to 19 years	Under 20s
	number	%	%	%	%	%	%
Hackney	70,657	35	46	45	54	51	46
London	1,506,389	21	28	28	35	33	29
England	4,290,369	9	12	12	18	17	13

Source: Census 2001

Eligibility for free school meals is another indicator used to measure deprivation. Eligibility among Hackney's pupils is similar to the Inner London average, but above the London level and more than two and a half times that of England (see Table 2.8).

Table 2.8: Children eligible for free school meals

	% known to be eligible for free school meals
Hackney	38.6
Inner London	38.7
London	23.9
England	14.0

Source: Schools and Pupils in England 2005, DfES

2.5 Education

A total of 32,250 children attend schools in Hackney². This figure comprises the whole range of schooling available in the borough including nursery, primary, secondary, special schools, pupil referral units, academies and independent schools. 25,198 pupils attend maintained primary and secondary schools in Hackney and 5,989 go to independent schools.

²School population figures taken from 'Schools and Pupils in England', DfES, January 2005

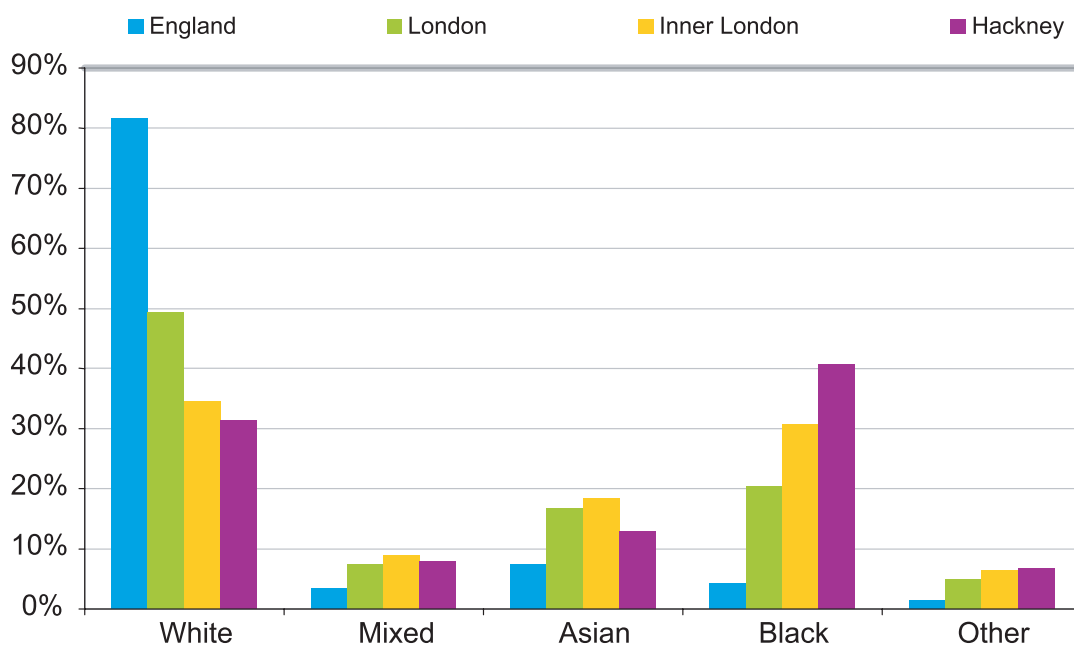
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Primary Schools

Maintained primary schools are attended by 17,976 and a further 3,630 children are in independent primary schools³. The estimated resident population in this age group calculated using the 2001 Census was 20,288 indicating that most local children attend Hackney's primary schools.

Figure 2.6: Primary school pupils by ethnicity



Source: Ofsted (2004)

Black children constitute the largest ethnic group within primary schools representing 40.7 per cent of the pupil population and exceeding the Inner London average by 10 per cent (see Figure 2.6). This is followed by White pupils who make up just over 30 per cent of students while Mixed, Asian and Other ethnic groups each constitute less than 15 per cent.

Authorised absences in the borough's primary schools, although broadly similar to London, are slightly above the percentage for England. However, unauthorised absence rates in Hackney are almost three times as high as those for England. They surpass the rest of London by 0.43 per cent and push Hackney's total absence percentage above the regional and national average.

³Independent primary school estimate based on 'Schools and Pupils in England', DfES, January 2005

Table 2.9: Absences from maintained primary schools as a percentage of all school days

	Total authorised absences	Total unauthorised absences	Total absences
Hackney	5.33	1.16	6.49
London	5.20	0.73	5.93
England	5.08	0.41	5.49

Source: DfES (2004)

Key Stage 2

Key stage 2 results are a measure of primary school performance and show educational achievement of eleven year olds in the last year of their primary school education.

Results for English and Maths (Table 2.10) show that a lower proportion of students in the borough than in London and England are achieving level 4, the expected level for eleven year olds at Key Stage 2⁴. Although the borough's performance has been improving in recent years, a performance gap remains.

Table 2.10: Percentage of pupils achieving Level 4 at Key Stage 2 (2004)

	English			Maths		
	1997	2004	% points difference	1997	2004	% points difference
Hackney	48	70	22	49	65	16
London	60	77	17	59	73	14
England	63	78	15	62	74	12

Source: DfES (2004)

Secondary Schools

There are 7,222 students in Hackney's maintained secondary schools and a further estimated 1,640 pupils in independent schools⁵. The ethnic make up of the secondary school population (Figure 2.7) is similar to that of primary schools; Black pupils again constitute the largest ethnic group followed by White students. The populations of mixed heritage, Asian and Other pupils were again much smaller and closer to each other in size.

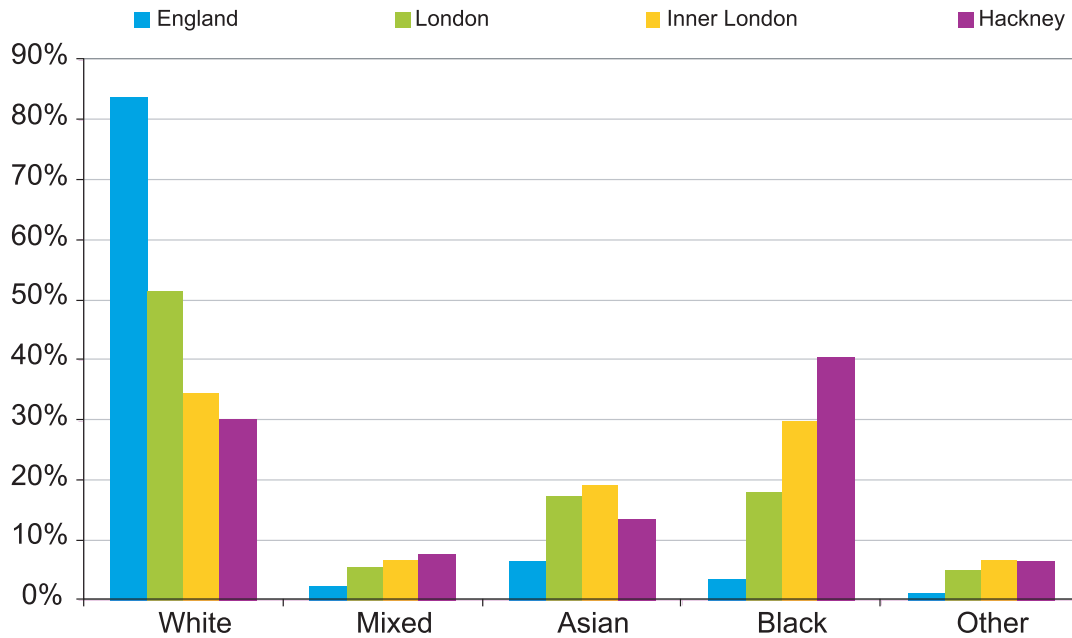
⁴DfES

⁵Estimate calculated from 'Schools And Pupils In England', DfES, 2005 data

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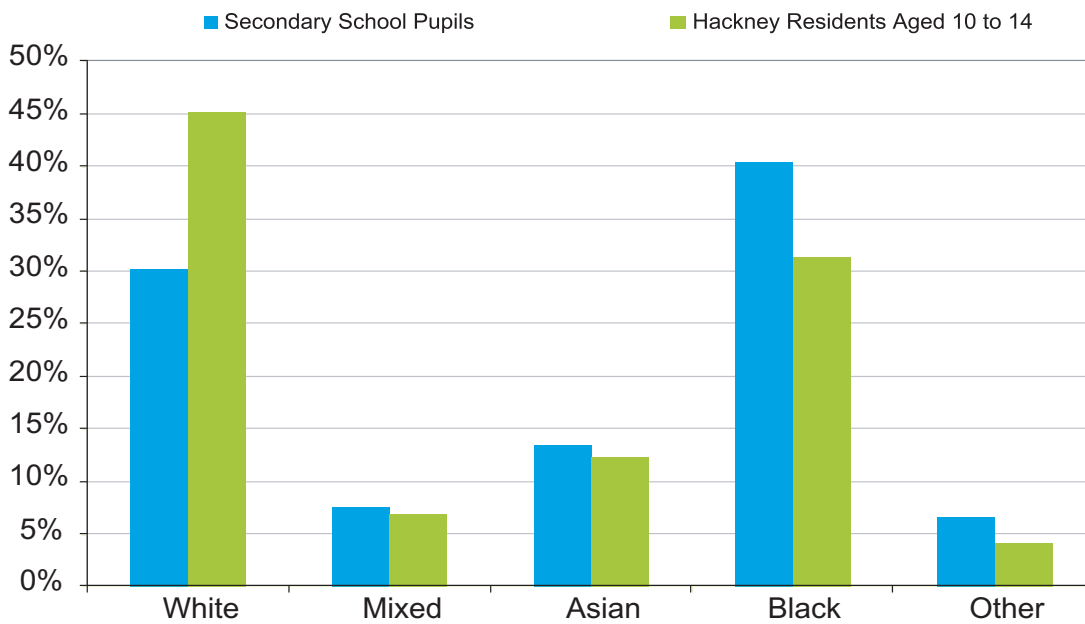
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Figure 2.7: Secondary school pupils by ethnicity



Source: DfES (2004)

Figure 2.8: Secondary school pupil's ethnicity versus ethnicity of residents aged 10 to 14



Source: DfES (2004)

Figure 2.8 depicts the borough's secondary school population against the borough's young population of equivalent age and therefore identifies which groups of young people are attending secondary schools outside Hackney. Most of the pupils who do not attend the borough's secondary schools come from two ethnic backgrounds: 15 per cent of White children aged 10-14 and close to ten per cent of Black children attended schools outside Hackney.

Absence data for maintained secondary schools shows that unauthorised absences, while higher than those in Hackney's primary schools, are closer to London and national levels (Table 2.11). Authorised absences are lower than those in the capital and England resulting in a total absence figure similar to London's and below that of England.

Table 2.11: Absences from maintained secondary schools as a percentage of all school days

	Total authorised absences	Total unauthorised absences	Total absences
Hackney	5.96	1.86	7.86
London	6.52	1.31	7.83
England	6.93	1.14	8.07

Source: DfES (2004)

In total 47.2 per cent of pupils achieved five A* - C passes in 2005. Despite falling below the London and England average, the percentage of pupils gaining A* - C grades in Hackney went up by 16.8 per cent which was 2 per cent above the London increase and 7.2 per cent above the average increase for England. It is important to note that these results reflect the educational achievements of Hackney's school population. There may be some discrepancy between the results of this group and Hackney's residents of equivalent age because of the high proportion not attending maintained schools in Hackney.

The percentage of pupils gaining five or more A* - G results stands at 87 per cent, slightly below the London and England average. However this statistic has been improving since 1997, reducing the gap during this period (Table 2.12).

Table 2.12: Percentage of pupils achieving five A* - C and A* - G grades at GCSE

	Achieving 5+ A*-C		% points difference	Achieving 5+A* -G		% points difference
	1997	2005		1997	2005	
Hackney	30.4	47.2	16.8	78.8	87	8.2
London	40.4	55.2	14.8	85.5	90.5	5.0
England	45.1	54.7	9.6	87	89.9	2.9

Source: DfES (2005)

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2.6 School leavers and further education

Overall 79 per cent of Hackney's school leavers continued into further education (see Table 2.13). Of those school leavers who did not continue their education, 6.5 per cent were unemployed, 3.5 per cent entered employment or non further education based training, while close to 10 per cent moved away or could not be contacted.

Table 2.13: Destination of school leavers, 2003

Destination	%
Continued in education	79.6
Entered training (voluntary)	2.4
Employment with training, including Modern Apprenticeship	1.1
Entered employment without training	0.4
Voluntary and part-time activities	0.3
Unemployed	6.5
Moved away/unavailable	4.8
Unknown	4.9

Source: London East Connexions Partnership (2003)

Hackney made considerable progress throughout 2004 in reducing the number of 16 to 18 year olds not in employment, education or training to 10 per cent. This represents a drop of 22 per cent from the previous year. Overall, 9.2 per cent of London's young population are classified as not in employment, education or training.

Almost half of the young people who continue on to further education attend educational establishments outside the borough (Table 2.14). The single largest college attended by the borough's young people was Hackney Community College which recruited 811 residents, although students travelled to as far afield as Barking, Lewisham and Barnet.

Table 2.14: Hackney pupils' further education provider, 2003

Institution	Total Hackney residents	Institution	Total Hackney residents
Hackney Community College	811	Barnet College	59
City and Islington College	773	Enfield College	49
The Sixth Form College	334	Newham Sixth Form College	26
Brooke House College of North East London	265	Redbridge College	20
Sir George Monoux College	192	Hertford Regional College	16
Leyton Sixth Form	185	Barking College	15
Waltham Forest College	147	St Charles Catholic Sixth Form College	14
Westminster Kingsway College	147	The Open Learning Partnership Ltd	14
Newham College of Further Education	103	Southwark College	13
Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College	88	The City Literary Institute	12
Epping Forest College	88	Lewisham College	12
Southgate College	83	Merton College	12
Tower Hamlets College	66	50 Other Institutions with less than 10 learners	133
City of Westminster College	62	Total	3,774

Source: DfES, 2004

Only 12.9 per cent of Hackney's 18 year olds continue onto higher education compared to 21.4 per cent in England & Wales (Table 2.15). Hackney's current levels of participation fall short of the government target to increase participation in higher education to 50 per cent among 18 to 30 year olds by the end of the decade⁶.

Table 2.15: Proportion of 18 year olds entering higher education, 2003

	% of 18 year olds entering higher education
Hackney	12.9
England and Wales	21.4

Source: Department for Education and Skills, UCAS data

⁶From the government white paper "The Future of Higher Education," DfES (2003)

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2.7 Social Welfare

A total of 472 children were looked after by Hackney Council in 2004 (Table 2.16). Over three quarters were from Black and White ethnic groups (78 per cent) while 17 per cent came from other ethnic backgrounds. Only a small number belong to Asian and Mixed ethnic groups. The largest single group are White British children who account for 27 per cent of those in care. Compared to the ethnic breakdown of Hackney's young population (see Table 2.2), 16 per cent more Black children and 15 per cent fewer White children are looked after by the Council.

Table 2.16: Number of children looked after by Hackney Council, by ethnicity

Ethnicity	Number of children	% of children looked after
White Any other white background	15	3%
White British	127	27%
White Irish	8	2%
White Total	150	32%
Black African	64	14%
Any other black background	82	17%
Unspecified	7	1%
Caribbean	63	13%
Black Total	216	46%
Asian Bangladesh	5	1%
India	4	1%
Pakistan	4	1%
Asian Total	13	3%
Mixed Any other mixed background	11	2%
White and black African	1	0%
White and black Caribbean	3	1%
Mixed Total	15	3%
Other Total	78	17%
Total	472	

Source: Hackney Council's Children and Families Social Services 2004

There were also 204 children living in Hackney on the Child Protection Register in 2004. The most common reason for registration in the borough was neglect.

Teenage Pregnancy

Teenage pregnancy rates have declined in Hackney since 1998 (Table 2.17). The borough now ranks well below boroughs such as Lambeth and is at a similar level to Haringey and Lewisham. Whilst the number of pregnancies in the borough has decreased, the percentage of teenage girls having terminations has gone up by 5.6 per cent to 59.8 per cent. There is little variation between this and the levels found in other Inner London boroughs.

Table 2.17: Teenage conceptions by Inner London borough, 2003

Borough	Rate		% leading to abortion	
	1998	2003	1998	2003
Camden	49.3	44.4	58.5	58.1
Hackney & City of London	77.1	70.0	54.2	59.8
Hammersmith and Fulham	69.0	52.5	59.0	64.4
Haringey	62.3	71.0	46.3	51.7
Islington	58.3	59.0	62.6	54.4
Kensington and Chelsea	41.7	27.1	74.0	64.3
Lambeth	85.3	101.5	53.4	57.6
Lewisham	80.0	74.0	52.7	61.6
Newham	59.9	53.4	42.2	46.9
Southwark	87.2	88.0	62.6	62.7
Tower Hamlets	57.8	43.2	43.7	58.0
Wandsworth	71.1	59.1	60.4	53.6
Westminster	40.8	40.7	64.4	68.6

Source: Teenage Pregnancy Unit, DfES

2.8 Crime

Motoring offences were the most common crime committed by young people in Hackney, accounting for 30.8 per cent of all offences. This was followed by drug offences and violent crimes (both at 12.2 per cent). The ethnic profile of young people committing offences shows that the majority of offences were committed by Black British (51.8 per cent) and White young people (30.8 per cent), reflecting the fact that these are the largest ethnic groups in the area.

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Table 2.18: Number of offences committed by young people by type, 2003/4

Type of Crime	Number of offences	% of all offences
Violence Against Person	160	12.2
Racially Aggravated	3	0.2
Sexual Offences	4	0.3
Motoring Offences	402	30.8
Robbery	67	5.1
Domestic Burglary	27	2.0
Non Domestic Burglary	9	0.6
Vehicle Theft	56	4.3
Theft & Handling	135	10.3
Fraud & Forgery	40	3.0
Criminal Damage	53	4.0
Drug Offences	160	12.2
Public Order	61	4.6
Other	25	1.9
Breach of Conditional Discharge	2	0.1
Breach of Statutory Order	30	2.3
Breach of Bail	66	5.0
TOTAL	1,300	100%

Source: Youth Justice Board Quarterly Return (2004)

Table 2.19: Number of offences by young people by ethnicity, 2003/4

Ethnicity of offender	Number of offences	% of all offences
White	401	30.8
Mixed	87	6.7
Asian/Asian British	84	6.5
Black/Black British	674	51.8
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group	8	0.6
Unknown	47	3.6

Source: Youth Justice Board Quarterly Return (2004)

Anti-Social Behaviour Orders

A total of 12 people in Hackney were subject to Anti-Social Behaviour Orders in 2004, six of whom were under 18⁷.

⁷London Borough of Hackney Community Safety Team