

Insight Update: First 2011 Census Outputs

Introduction

The census is a vital source of intelligence about localities and makes a huge contribution to our ability to understand and plan for the needs of customers and citizens. The most recent census took place on Sunday 27 March 2011 and the first release of data was published on 16 July 2012.

Barnet Council's involvement with the 2011 Census

Under the sponsorship of the council's Assistant Chief Executive, the council's Insight Unit oversaw a comprehensive campaign to promote participation in the 2011 census among residents. This included widespread communications across a range of channels, face-to-face engagement with elected members and public sector staff, posters in high visibility locations such as GP surgeries, NHS walk-in centres and student halls of residence, and targeted engagement with specific BME groups.¹ This effort was complemented by a programme of ONS-led local engagement under the guidance of the Census Area Manager.

In addition to the engagement exercise, council teams supported the census through:

- Address matching 900 anomalous properties to enable postage of questionnaires (this was the first time that the survey was posted rather than hand delivered);
- Providing intelligence to the Census Area Manager on 'hard-to-count' groups (eg. mobile young men, students, the isolated elderly, certain ethnic groups and very recent arrivals to the borough such as newly qualified teachers or international immigrants);
- Providing logistical support to ONS field staff, including training facilities, meeting spaces and secure storage as appropriate.

National headlines

- On census night, the population in England and Wales was 56.1 million – the largest the population had ever been.
- The population of England and Wales grew by 3.7 million in the ten years since the last census, an increase of 7.1 per cent. This was the largest growth in the population in England and Wales in any ten year period since census taking began, in 1801.
- The percentage of the population aged 65 and over was the highest seen in any census at 16.4 per cent; one in six people in the population was 65 or over. There were 430,000 residents aged 90 and over in 2011, compared with 340,000 in 2001 and 13,000 in 1911.
- In 2011, there were 3.5 million children under five in England and Wales – 406,000 more than in 2001.

¹ Full Communications Plan available on request.

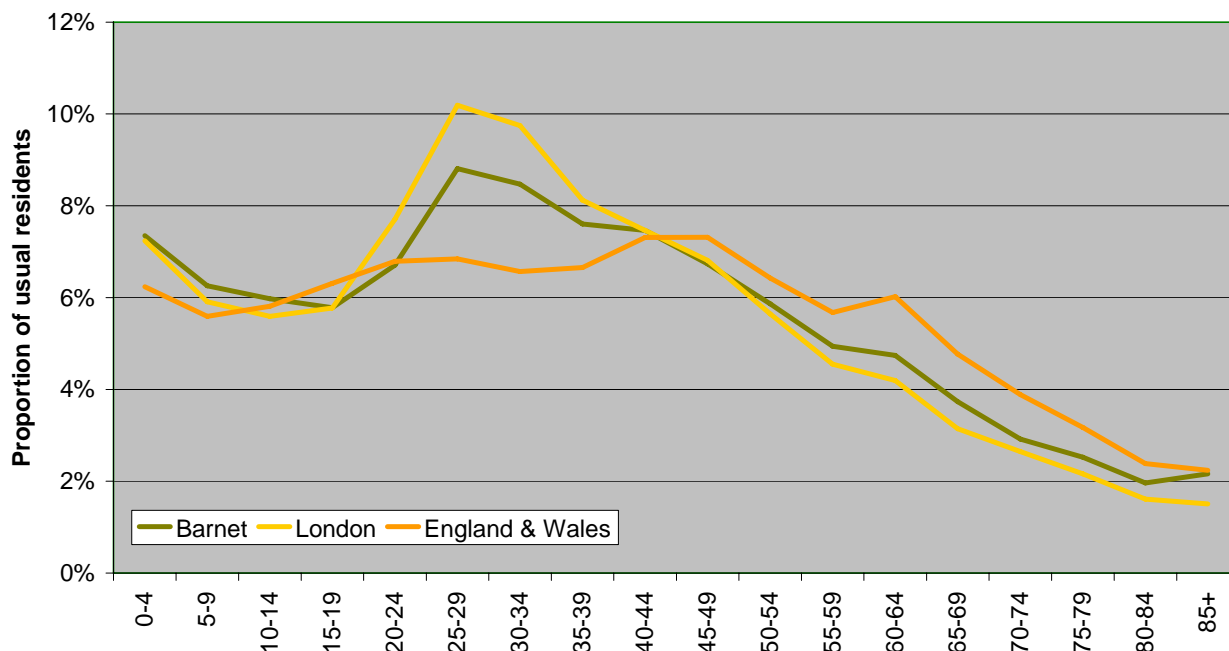
Local headlines

- On census night, **the population of Barnet** was 356,400. This was the second largest population in Greater London, behind Croydon whose population was estimated to be 7,000 people more than Barnet at 363,400. This means that Barnet's population has increased by 41,800 (+11.5%) since the 2001 census. London as a whole grew by 11.6%.²
- The census identified 135,900 **occupied households** (occupied by at least one person) in 2011 – fewer than other sources suggest (though the alternative data include all dwellings – occupied or otherwise). Further analysis will need to take place on this.
- 3,600 individuals in Barnet live in **Communal Establishments**. This is slightly lower than the number in 2001, perhaps due to the redevelopment of Colindale Hospital.
- 91.1% of Barnet residents took part in the census. This **response rate** was higher than the London average (90.4%) and the local response rate in 2001 (89.6%). 93.1% of households responded to the census. A further 31,700 residents were identified using follow up analysis. This calculation is detailed in full in Appendix A.
- 21.6% of Barnet census returns were **completed online**, with the highest rate of online returns originating from Hendon (25.4%), West Hendon (24.6%), Childs Hill (24.4%) and West Finchley (24.3%). The lowest online response rates were found in Underhill (17.2%), High Barnet (18.0%) and East Barnet (18.1%). Across London, the online response rate was 21.9% - the highest in the country.
- 51.5% of the Barnet population are **female** – higher than the London proportion, rising to 67.5% among over 85s. Conversely, among the under 20s, **males** predominate, at 51.4%.
- The census reveals that there are more **children and young people** in Barnet than the prevailing projection suggested, with an additional 1,650 0-19 year olds and 1,300 more 20 to 24 year olds compared to the prevailing hybrid data. While this represents an absolute increase in children and young people, the proportion of the 0-19 cohort within the wider population remains the same at 25.4%.
- The data also shows an increase in the **adult population** compared to previous projections, with particular increases in the 25-34 year old group (+5,000 against Barnet Population Hybrid). Overall, the **older adult** population is smaller than expected, with fewer residents aged over 75. However, the census reveals more residents aged 65-74 (and particularly 70-74), suggesting that the full effects of the ageing population are yet to impact the borough.
- There are an estimated 3,000 **short term migrants** in Barnet in addition to the 356,400 population base – the eighth highest number and proportion in London. These are individuals who intend to stay in the country for between three and twelve months. There is no further detail on these individuals in this release, but across London the majority of short-term migrants are aged 15-44, with more females than males aged 15-24, and the reverse among 25-44 year olds.

² This comparison is based on the 2001 mid-year estimate from ONS, not the 2001 census estimate which was broadly accepted to be too low.

Age profile

All Persons - Age Comparisons



What next?

This census estimate will be used by ONS to develop new short-term population projections (published October 2012) which will be used to inform local authority grant allocations.

The Insight Unit and colleagues from services will continue to analyse these outputs and produce further briefings. The next major release of census data will be in November 2012, with data at ward level on themes including:

- Usual resident population
- Age structure
- Living arrangements
- Marital and civil partnership status
- Country of birth
- Ethnic group
- Religion
- Health and provision of unpaid care
- Economic activity
- Hours worked
- Main language
- Passports held
- Household language
- National identity
- Length of residency in the UK

If you have particular questions about this release or future census data, please don't hesitate to contact Insight at intelligence@barnet.gov.uk.

Appendix A: Understanding the local population estimate

Census Estimate for Barnet	356,400	This is the final figure for the total Barnet population as at March 2011 based on census returns and subsequent adjustments as detailed below.
<i>of which:</i>		
Count of usual residents	324,700	This is the number of residents that completed the census questionnaire. This represents 91.1% - higher than the London average and the response rate in 2001.
Change due to estimation and sample bias	21,500	These are additional residents who did not complete the census survey itself but were identified from the Census Coverage Survey. ³
Change due to overcount adjustment	-2,500	This represents duplicate records which need to be removed from the total to avoid double counting, such as students counted at both their home and term time addresses, or children of separated parents counted at both addresses.
Change due to bias adjustment	7,600	Some people actively avoid being counted out of principle or to conceal fraudulent behaviours. This adjustment accounts for these 'hidden' individuals using an alternative household estimate.
Change due to national adjustment	4,700	This adjustment represents local application of quality assurance which suggests over or under counts at the national level.
Change due to CE adjustment	400	This adjustment accounts for individuals living in communal establishments (eg. halls of residence) who have been under-counted due to the nature of their accommodation, based on comparisons to administrative sources.

³ The census uses a Dual System Estimation method to identify individuals not counted in the original questionnaire. This [ONS booklet](#) explains the methodology in an accessible manner.