

ONS LS Beta Test project 401003: Ethnic and religious change in Britain, 1991-2011

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Intergenerational social mobility of ethnic minorities (LP CZ)

We investigated the intergenerational social mobility of ethnic minority groups, by exploiting the potential of the ONS LS to provide information about the parents of the LS members when they are children and subsequently about their employment and occupational outcomes between 10 and 40 years later. First, we explored the extent to which taking account of family background could account for differences in ethnic minorities' access to the labour market and attainment of a higher social class position. We examined the relationships for different ethnic groups and separately for men and women, and found that, for given levels of educational attainment, social class origins helped to explain but did not fully account for differences in employment outcomes across groups. Specifically Pakistani and Caribbean men and Pakistani and Bangladeshi women suffered an employment deficit, and Chinese men and Indian women were more likely than their White British counterparts to be in employment, even when family background was factored in. In terms of attaining a professional or managerial social class position among those in employment, we found that the disadvantage associated with lower social class backgrounds was an important factor in explaining differential occupational outcomes across groups.

We also looked at the extent to which neighbourhood characteristics were linked to subsequent social class outcomes and found that being brought up in an area of higher ethnic minority concentration was associated with lower chances of attaining a professional or managerial class position for Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi women, but was associated with greater chances of such an outcome for Pakistani men.

White Flight and Counterurbanisation (EK GC GH)

Census 2011 results showed a 600,000 drop in white British population in London since 2001 at a time when the city grew by more than a million and became increasingly diverse. We found that 38 Local Authorities appeared in the top 50 list for both largest gains in minority population and greatest loss in white British. Given intense public interest and academic debate in these moves, we used the ONS LS to explore them further alongside the smaller BHPS/Understanding Society dataset which has a wider range of attitudinal questions but a limited longitudinal sample.

We sorted the 8,850 wards of England and Wales by share of minorities, and then allocated these to five quintiles in which each quintile contains a fifth of the minority population (as per Simpson 2007) Thus the minority-rich quintiles have few wards while the whitest quintile contains about 85 percent of the wards in England and Wales.

We asked whether, among those who had moved wards, a white British individual was more likely to have moved away from diversity and less likely to have moved toward a diverse ward than a 'non-White' individual during 2001-11. We controlled for a range of individual and ward-level characteristics. These include: individuals' marital status, housing, age, class, education, employment, distance moved, national identity, dependent children and location in a mixed ethnicity household; and for wards: ethnic quintile at 2001, population density and relative deprivation at 2001 and 2011. A White British individual is significantly more likely to have moved to/less likely to have moved away from a less diverse quintile than a minority individual during 2001-11, but working-class whites tend to move to less diverse wards than professional whites. These findings add to current explanations focused on professional counter-urban flows, the affordability of urban housing, the residential choices of the less affluent and barriers to urban-suburban or urban-rural migration which minority groups may face.

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