Equalities Profile
Gypsies, Roma and Irish Travellers
living in Bristol

1.0 Population in Bristol

For the first time ‘Gypsy or Irish Traveller’ was included as a tick box on the 2011 Census ethnic group question. Results show that there were 359 people stating their ethnic group as Gypsy or Irish traveller usually resident in Bristol in 2011. Gypsy or Irish travellers account for 0.1% of the total population of Bristol, this is the same proportion as in the whole of England and Wales.

The Census can tell us where the Gypsy or Irish traveller population living in Bristol were born. The majority (69%) of Gypsy or Irish travellers were born in the UK, 4% were born in Ireland and 26% were born in other parts of Europe.

Persons included in the census results presented here are those people usually resident in the UK. This includes students and school boarders at their term time address and long-term migrants (i.e. coming to UK for more than a year).

Figure 1: Population by ethnic group in Bristol
Source: 2011 Census ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 5 June 2013]
2.0 Characteristics

Figure 3: Gypsy or Irish Traveller population by age group
Source: 2011 Census ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 5 June 2013]

The age profile of the Gypsy or Irish traveller population living in Bristol is younger than that of the population as a whole – 80% of the population are under 40 compared to 59% in the population as a whole. In particular there is a large proportion of children - more than a third (34.5%) of Gypsy or Irish travellers are children compared to the Bristol average (18.4%). Less than 5% of Gypsy or Irish travellers are aged 65 and over compared to 13% of the total population.
In terms of religion, more than half (55.4%) of Gypsy or Irish travellers are Christian and 23.7% stated that they have no religion.

3.0 Work

Economic activity

Economic activity levels are much lower for the Gypsy or Irish traveller population than for the population as a whole. Just over half (56%) of Gypsy or Irish travellers aged 16 and over are economically active (ie either in employment or unemployed but looking for work) compared to the Bristol average of 65.2%. Consequently economic inactivity levels are much higher with 44% of Gypsy or Irish travellers economically inactive (Bristol average 34.8%). The economically inactive include higher than average proportions of people looking after the home or family (10.2%) and long-term sick or disabled (10.2%).

Figure 4: Economic activity
Source: 2011 Census ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 5 June 2013]
4.0 Housing

Like the population as a whole, the majority of Gypsy or Irish travellers (64.8%) live in houses rather than flats or temporary accommodation. However the proportion living in flats or temporary accommodation (35.2%) is much higher than in the population as a whole (25.8%).

Most Gypsy or Irish travellers (56.5%) rent privately from a private landlord or letting agency, a much higher proportion than in the population as a whole (22.3%). Just 16.1% own their own home which is much lower than the city average of 55.5%.

Figure 5: Tenure
Source: 2011 Census ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 5 June 2013]
Occupancy ratings provide a measure of whether a household's accommodation is overcrowded or under occupied. An occupancy rating of -1 implies that a household has one fewer bedrooms than required, whereas +1 implies that they have one more room/bedroom than the standard requirement. Overcrowding is an issue for the Gypsy or Irish traveller population with more than a third (36.6%) of Gypsy or Irish travellers living in households with fewer bedrooms than required compared to the Bristol average of 9.5% of people.

Car ownership levels are much lower than the city average with 39.5% of households not having access to a car.

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October 2014