

# Census 2021 Results: *Demography and Migration*

Southwark Public Health Division

Children and Adults Services

December 2022

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# This profile presents key findings on Demography and Migration in Southwark at the time of the 2021 Census

## BACKGROUND

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

- The last census was conducted on Sunday 21 March 2021, and collected information on a range of themes, including:

Demography & Migration	Ethnicity, Identity, Language & Religion	Health & Disability	Housing
Work & Travel	Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity	Education	UK Armed Forces Veterans

- Results of the census are being released in a phased manner:
  - 28 June 2022: Headline population figures for local authorities
  - Phase 1 - Autumn-Winter 2022: Topic profiles for census themes
  - Phase 2 - Date to be confirmed: More detailed data becomes available

This profile focuses on **Demography & Migration** in the borough, and forms part of a suite of documents that profile the Southwark results of the 2021 Census. Further profiles will be released in the coming months as new data becomes available.

### Reference

1. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

# Southwark has a population that is substantially younger than the national average

## KEY HEADLINES

- The **average age in Southwark is 32.4 years**, more than two years younger than the average for London and seven years younger than the average for England.
- The 2021 Census recorded **130,800 households**, an increase of 10,000 since 2011.
- Average household size in Southwark was **2.3**, smaller than both London (2.5) and England (2.4). This has not changed since 2011.
- **Most residents were single** (never married and never in a civil partnership), making up 60% of the population aged 16 and over. This has increased since the 2011 Census.
- One quarter (25%) of all households included at least one dependent child, with a tenth (9%) of all households being **lone parent households with dependent children**.
- **Over 9,500 residents aged 66 or over were living alone**, equivalent to 7% of all households in Southwark.
- Around 2,900 Southwark residents reported that they had previously served in the **UK armed forces**, equivalent to 1.1% of the usual population.

### Reference

1. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

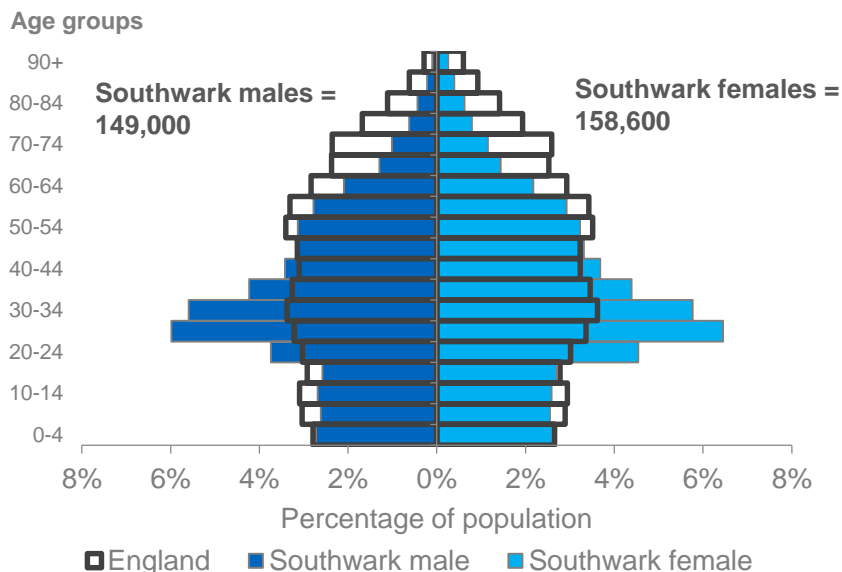
# Southwark's average age is more than two years younger than London and seven years younger than England

## POPULATION STRUCTURE

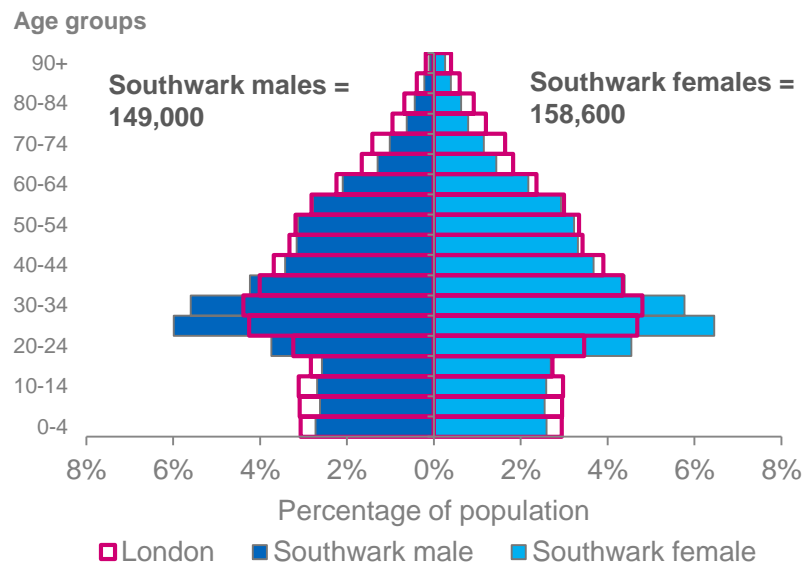
**On Census Day 2021, the usual resident population of Southwark was 307,600.**

- The average age of Southwark residents is **32.4 years**, which is more than two years younger than the average for London (34.9), and seven years younger than the average for England (39.4).
- The average age has increased by more than a year in the decade since the 2011 Census, when it was 31.2 years. Over the same period, London's population has aged by more than two years.
- While Southwark's population is comparatively young compared to London and England, this is not driven by a large number of children and young people. It is primarily the result of the large number of young adults in their 20s and 30s.

**Figure 1: Southwark population numbers and structure in 2021 compared to England**



**Figure 2: Southwark population numbers and structure in 2021 compared to London**



### Reference

1. Population and household estimates, England and Wales: Census 2021. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

# The majority of Southwark residents live in private households, with average household size at 2.3 people

## HOUSEHOLDS

**At the time of the Census 2021, the vast majority of Southwark residents were living in private households, with the average household size standing at 2.3 people.**

- In Southwark, there are approximately 130,800 households, an increase of over 10,000 since 2011.
- Around **98%** of the population in Southwark live in private households, with the remaining **2%** living in communal establishments including student accommodation. This is similar to London and England.
- The average household size for Southwark was **2.3**, the same as in 2011. The average household sizes for London and England were **2.5** and **2.4** respectively, which have also seen no change since 2011.

Figure 3: Household size in Southwark, by proportion of residents, 2021



**Note:** communal establishments are any providing managed or supervised residential accommodation, such as medical or care establishments, or student accommodation. Houses rented from the Council are private households and do not count as a communal establishment.

### Reference

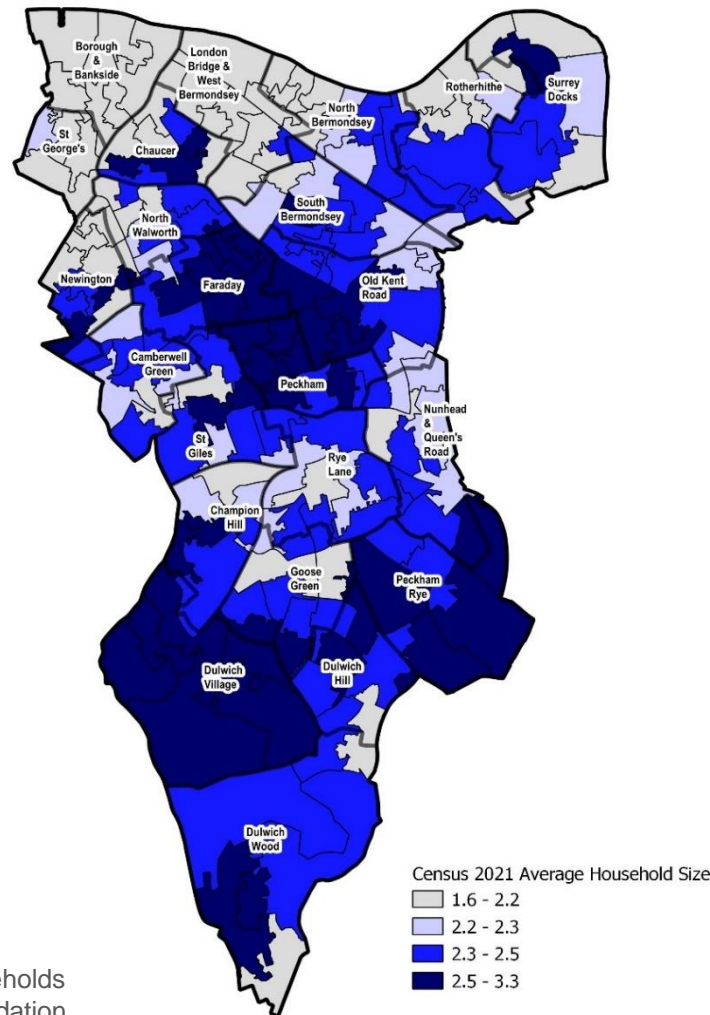
1. Household and resident characteristics, England and Wales: Census 2021. Office for National Statistics. 2022.  
<https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

# Average household size in the north of Southwark is generally smaller than seen in the south of the borough

## HOUSEHOLD SIZE

In Southwark, average household size is 2.3 people, but this varies notably across the borough.

- Average household size across the borough ranged from 1.6 people in Borough & Bankside, to 3.3 people in Faraday.
- Larger average household sizes were generally seen in the centre and south of the borough, whereas smaller household sizes tended to be in the north of Southwark.
- This is likely due to the larger numbers of new flats and development in the north of the borough.



**Note:** Average household size is calculated by dividing the number of usual residents in households by the total number of households, including communal establishments and student accommodation.

### Reference

1. Household and resident characteristics, England and Wales: Census 2021. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

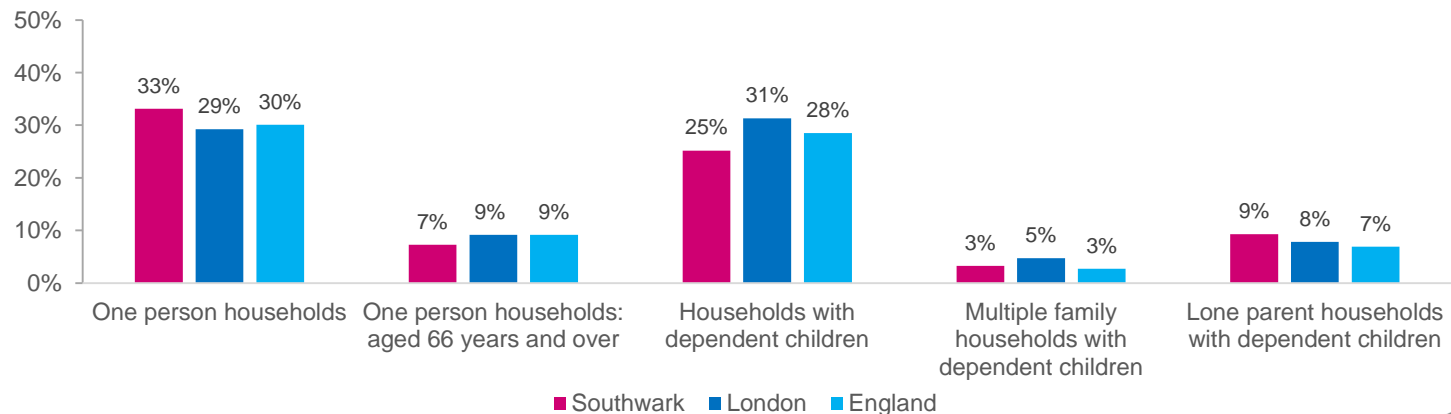
# At the time of the 2021 Census, over 9,500 residents aged 66 or over in Southwark were living alone

## HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

People living alone made up a significant proportion of household types in Southwark in 2021.

- At the time of Census Day 2021, one-third (33%) of Southwark residents were living alone. This is slightly higher than the proportion seen across London and England, and remains similar to 2011.
- **Over 9,500 residents aged 66 or over were living alone.** Similar proportions of the household population were made up of older residents living alone at the time of the Census 2011.
- Around **25% of households included at least one dependent child.** This has declined from 28% in 2011, equivalent to a decrease of over 1,100 households in the past decade.
- The proportion of households with dependent children in Southwark is smaller than London and England.
- One-tenth (9%) of all households consisted of a lone parent with dependent children, equivalent to over 12,000 households.
- Multiple-family households with dependent children made up 3% of Southwark households, a smaller proportion than across London (see Appendix for classification of a 'family').

Figure 4: Proportion of households in selected household compositions in Southwark, London and England, 2021



### Reference

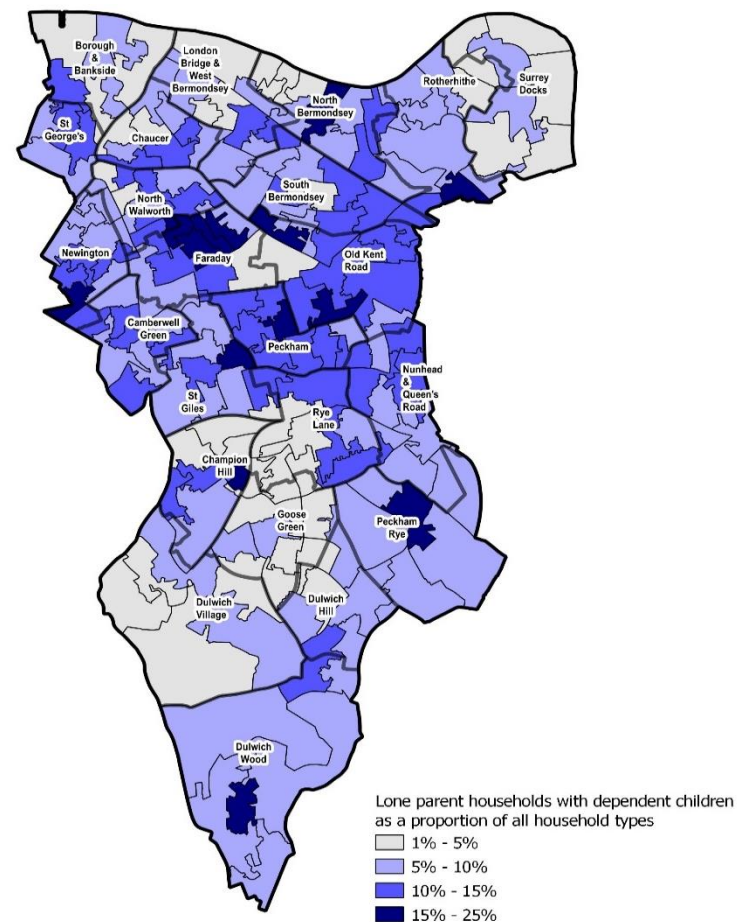
1. Household and resident characteristics, England and Wales: Census 2021. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

# In some parts of Southwark, as many as one-quarter of all households are lone parents with dependent children

## LONE PARENT HOUSEHOLDS: DEPENDENT CHILDREN

**In Southwark, over 12,100 households are made up of a lone parent with at least one dependent child.**

- Lone parent households with dependent children make up 9% of all household types in Southwark, though this varies substantially across the borough.
- Largest proportions of households consisting of lone parents with dependent children tend to be in the centre of the borough around Peckham, Faraday and Old Kent Road.
- Despite lower proportions in much of south Southwark, there is a pocket of a high number of households with dependent children around the Kingswood Estate, where one-quarter (25%) of all households are lone parents with dependent children.
- Lowest proportions are mostly seen in the north of Southwark, where as little as 1% of households are lone parents with dependent children.



**Note:** a dependent child is a person who lives in a family with their parent, parents, grandparent or grandparents, and is aged 0 to 15 years or 16 to 18 years in full-time education

### Reference

1. Household and resident characteristics, England and Wales: Census 2021. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

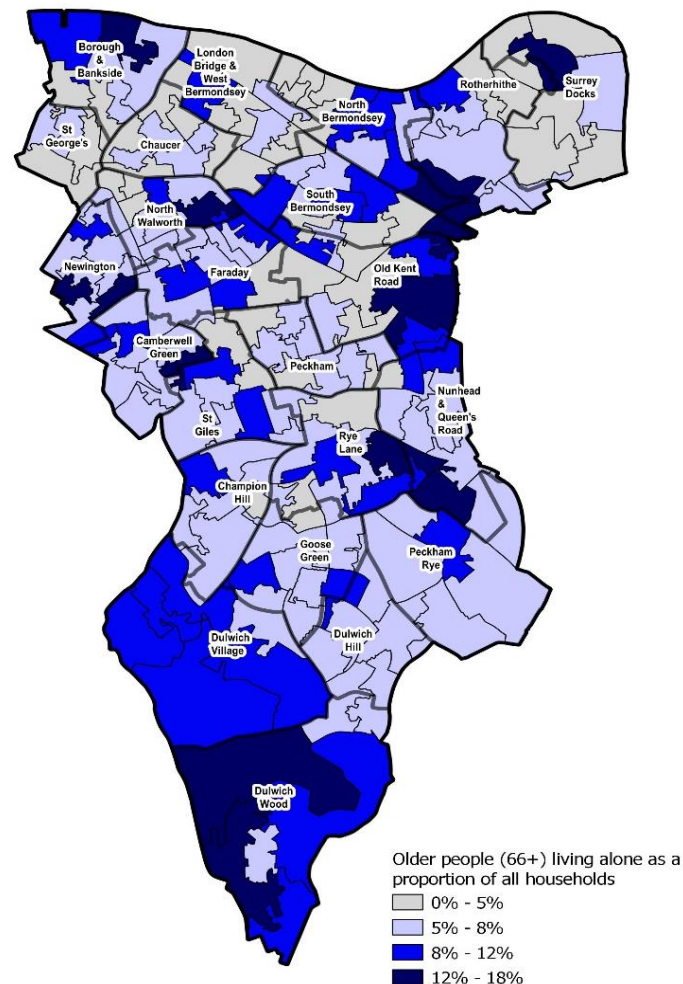


# In some areas across Southwark, almost a fifth of all households are made up of older residents living alone

## OLDER PEOPLE LIVING ALONE

In Southwark, 7% of residents are aged 66 and over and living alone. Proportions of households made up of older residents living alone varies across the borough.

- In Southwark, over 9,500 residents aged 66 or over live alone; equivalent to 7% of all households counted in the Census.
- Largest proportions of households consisting of older people living alone are seen in areas in the south of the borough in Dulwich Wood ward: up to one-fifth (18%) of all households.
- Other areas with high proportions of older residents living alone are dotted around the borough, notably in the centre around Old Kent Road.
- Lowest proportions are seen in the north of the borough, which likely reflects the presence of student accommodations in these areas and an overall younger population.



### Reference

1. Household and resident characteristics, England and Wales: Census 2021. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

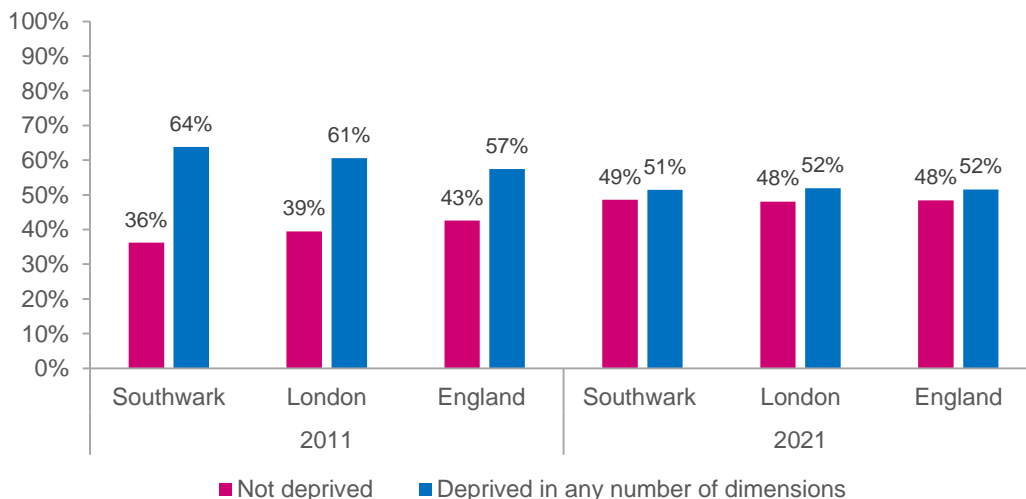
# Half of all households in Southwark are disadvantaged in at least one dimension

## HOUSEHOLD DISADVANTAGE

**Half (51%) of all households in Southwark are disadvantaged in any one or more of the following dimensions: employment, education, health and disability, and housing.**

- Households were classified in terms of dimensions of disadvantage, based on selected household characteristics. The specific classifications are noted in the Appendix.
- The number of households **not** disadvantaged in any dimension has increased since 2011. The numbers of households affected by all four dimensions of disadvantage has decreased since 2011, a change reflected across all London boroughs.
- This narrowing of disadvantage between households may be explained by an increase in the proportion of the population in employment, compared to 2011.

Figure 5: Household disadvantage in Southwark, London and England, 2011 and 2021



### Reference

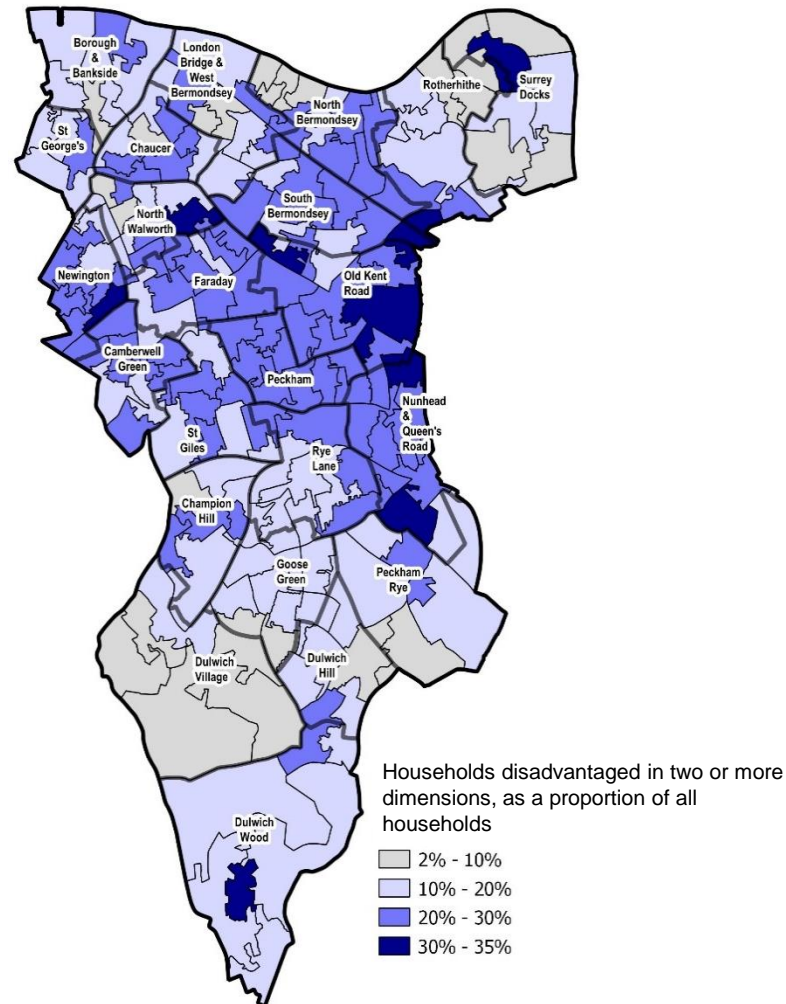
1. Household and resident characteristics, England and Wales: Census 2021. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>
2. Local Authority Health Profiles. OHID Fingertips Tool. Data to Nov 2022.

# Over a third of households around Old Kent Road and North Walworth are disadvantaged in two or more dimensions

## HOUSEHOLD DISADVANTAGE

In Southwark, a fifth (19%) of households are disadvantaged in two or more dimensions, equivalent to 25,000 households.

- The proportion of households disadvantaged in two or more dimensions increases to a third (35%) in some areas of the borough, particularly around Old Kent Road, North Walworth and Nunhead.
- Though Dulwich mostly has lower proportions of households experiencing substantial disadvantage, the small area encompassing the Kingswood Estate in the south of the borough has around one-third of all households disadvantaged in at least two dimensions.
- In comparison, as little as 2% of all households experience disadvantage in two or more dimensions in areas such as Dulwich Village and Bermondsey.



### Reference

1. Household and resident characteristics, England and Wales: Census 2021. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

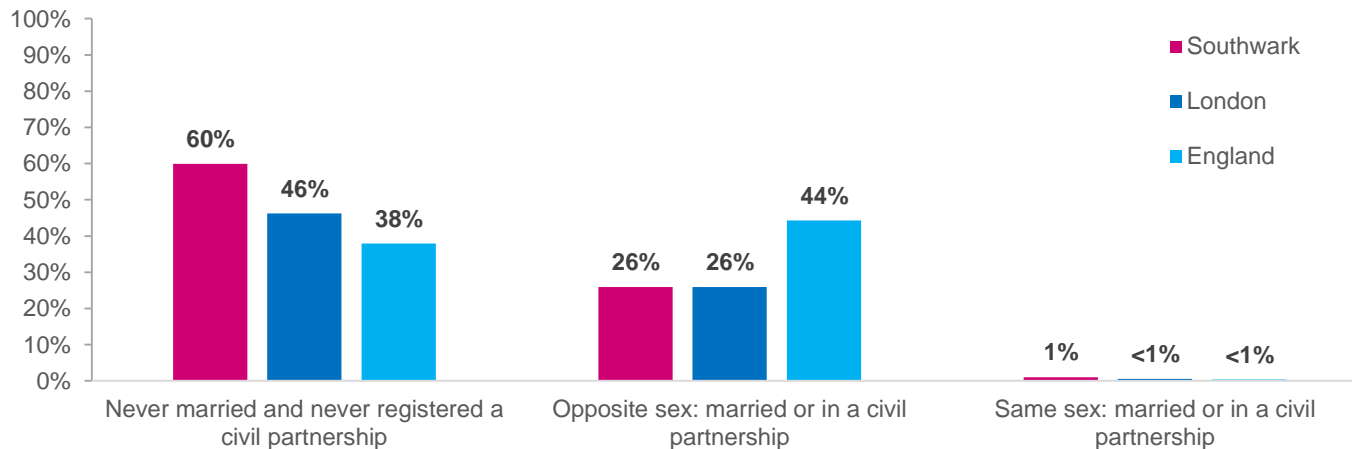
# Substantially higher proportions of Southwark residents have never been married, compared to London

## LEGAL PARTNERSHIP STATUS OF RESIDENTS

**The 2021 Census was the first census to collect data on same-sex marriage and opposite-sex civil partnerships.**

- The largest category of Southwark residents, representing 60% of those aged 16 and over, was those who are single (never been married and never been in a civil partnership). This has increased by a fifth (19%) since 2011.
- Southwark and London differ from England where there are substantially higher rates of opposite sex marriage and civil partnership than seen in the capital.
- Around 2,600 Southwark residents aged 16 and over reported being in a same-sex marriage or civil partnership, making a total of 1% of the population. This is slightly higher than the proportion across London and England (0.6% and 0.4%, respectively).

Figure 6: Legal status of residents in Southwark, London and England, 2021



### Reference

1. Household and resident characteristics, England and Wales: Census 2021. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

# Southwark is home to a large number of residents born outside of the UK and Ireland

## MIGRATION HEADLINES

- Results of the 2021 Census showed that over **121,000** Southwark residents were born outside the UK, Channel Islands and Ireland, comprising **40%** of Southwark's total residents.
- This aligns with **40%** across London, but is notably higher than across England (**17%** of residents).
- The top country of birth outside the UK and Ireland was **Nigeria**, making up around **4%** of Southwark residents. These other countries also made up a notable proportion of Southwark's population: **Italy, Jamaica, Spain and Ghana**.
- Since 2011, there has been a notable increase in residents born in the **Americas or the Caribbean**, making up **8%** of the population in 2021, with over half of these residents being born in countries in **South America**.
- Just over **41,600** people moved from elsewhere in England & Wales to a residence in Southwark in the year to March 2021, equivalent to **14% of Southwark's total population**.
- In addition, around **6,800 people** moved from outside the UK to an address in Southwark in the year to the March 2021 Census, equivalent to **2%** of the total population.

### Reference

1. International migration, England and Wales: Census 2021. Office for National Statistics. 2022.  
<https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

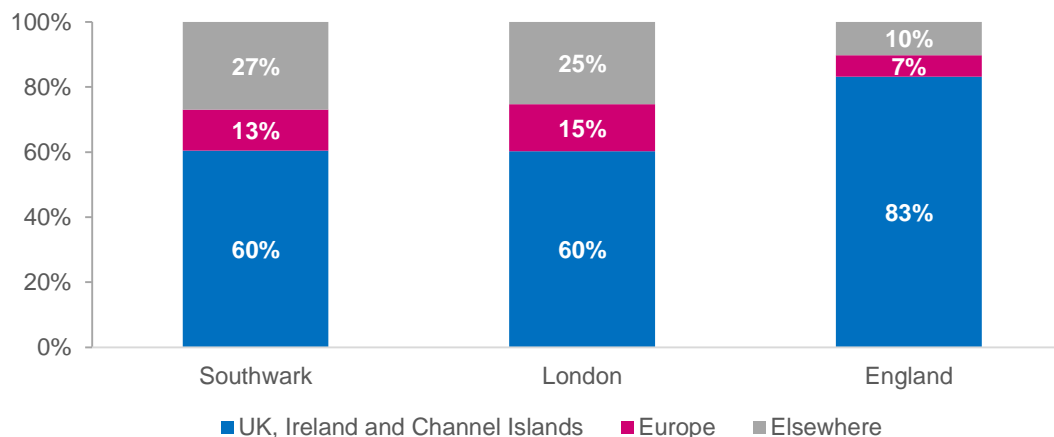
# The proportion of Southwark residents born outside the UK reflects the London average, but far exceeds England

## COUNTRY OF BIRTH

**At the time of the Census in March 2021, 40% of Southwark residents had been born in a country that was not part of the UK, Ireland or Channel Islands. This is comparable to London as a whole.**

- Over a tenth (**13%**) had been born in a European country, with the highest number of residents from Europe being born in **Italy (5,900 residents), Spain (4,500 residents) or France (3,800 residents).**
- This has changed from 2011, when the highest number of residents born in a European country were born in Poland, comprising 12% of Southwark's European-born population at the time. In 2021, there were 600 less residents who were Poland-born.
- Between 2011 and 2021, substantial increases in numbers of residents born in Romania were seen across London and England. While still a smaller population in Southwark, the number of people born in Romania increased by over 1,000 people in the decade.
- There was a significant increase in EU migration to the UK between 2013 and 2015. The UK then exited the European Union in 2016, which will likely have impacted EU in-migration to Southwark.

Figure 7: Residents' country of birth as proportion of total population, 2021



### Reference

1. International migration, England and Wales: Census 2021. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

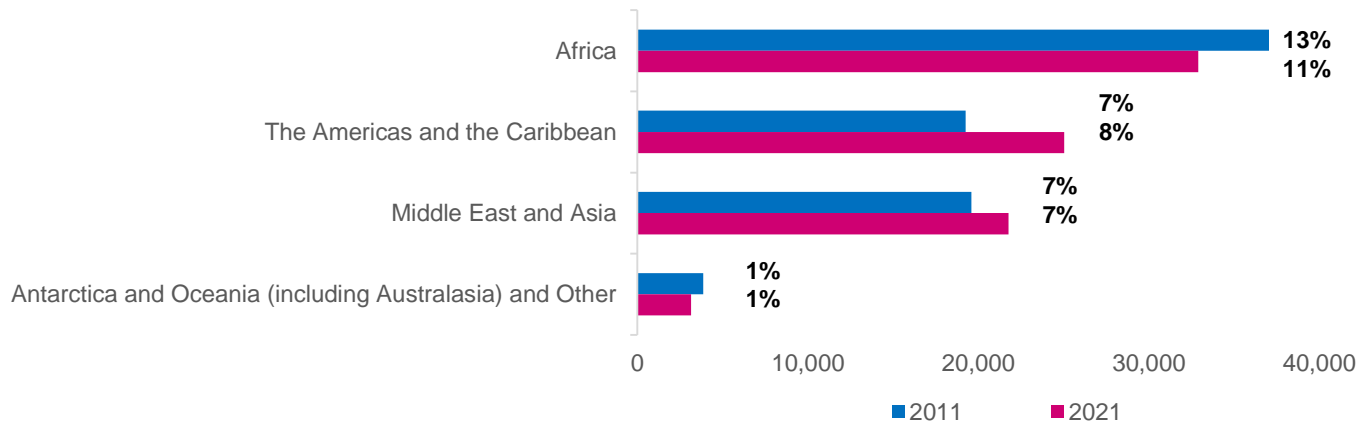
# Southwark has large numbers of residents born in African and South American countries

## COUNTRY OF BIRTH

**Over a quarter of Southwark residents were born in a country outside the UK\*, Ireland or Europe.**

- Just under 33,000 (11%) Southwark residents were born in Africa. This is substantially higher than the proportion seen across both London and England as a whole.
- This has declined since 2011, when 37,000 residents or 13% were born in Africa.
- Around 22,000 (7%) were born in the Middle East and Asia, which is notably lower than the proportion across London as a whole. This has increased by around 3,000 residents since 2011, but makes up roughly the same proportion of the population.
- Around 25,000 (8%), were born in the Americas or the Caribbean, with over half of these residents being born in countries in South America, a substantial proportion of the total population.
- Numbers of residents from this region have increased by around 6,000 since 2011, making up an extra 1% of the total population in 2021.

Figure 8: Southwark resident country of birth, by world region, total number of residents and proportion of population



\*Note: Reference to UK here includes the Channel Islands

### Reference

1. International migration, England and Wales: Census 2021. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

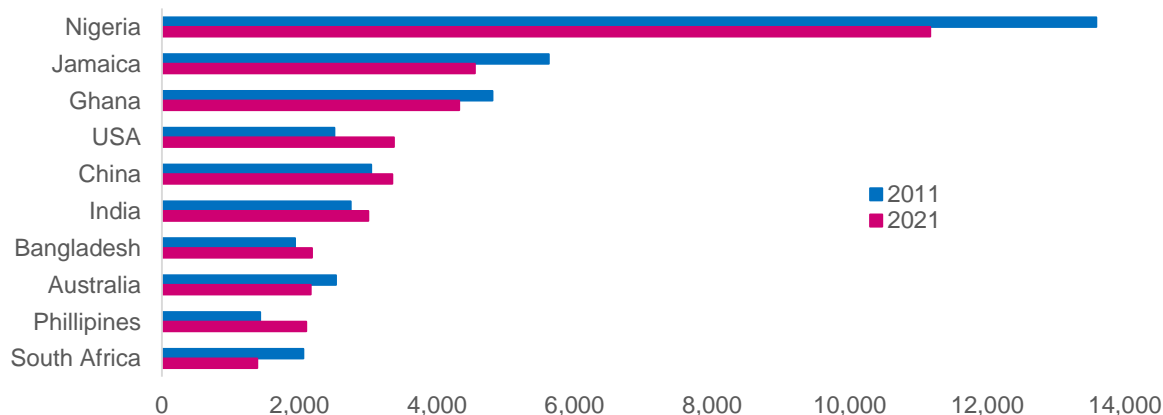
# Nigeria remains the most common country of birth outside the UK and Europe for Southwark residents

## COUNTRY OF BIRTH

**Over a quarter of Southwark residents were born in a country not in the UK, Ireland or Europe.**

- At the time of the 2021 Census, **27%** of Southwark residents were born in a country not in the UK, Ireland, Channel Islands or Europe. This is similar to 2011, when the proportion was 28%.
- This is similar to that seen across London (25%), but substantially higher than in England (10%).
- Highest numbers born *outside these regions* were born in **Nigeria, Jamaica and Ghana**. This has not changed since 2011, but the numbers of residents born in each of these countries has decreased.
- This differs from London, where the top countries of birth outside of the UK, Ireland and Europe were in South Asia: India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.
- Data was not collected for all individual countries and therefore is not always comparable to 2011 data:
  - Residents born in Sierra Leone counted as the fourth highest 'Other' country in 2011. However in 2021, Sierra Leone was included in the broader 'Other Central and Western Africa'.
  - There will therefore be distinct countries of birth that are unaccounted for in Figure 9.

Figure 9: Highest number of Southwark residents born in countries outside the UK, Ireland or Europe, 2011 and 2021



### Reference

1. International migration, England and Wales: Census 2021. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>



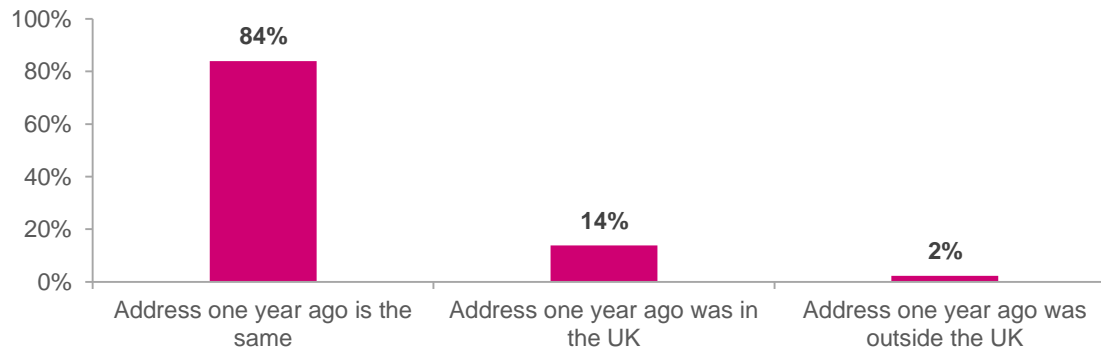
# A considerable proportion of Southwark's population migrated into Southwark between 2020 and 2021

## MIGRATION FLOWS IN YEAR PRIOR TO CENSUS DAY

**Almost 49,000 people moved from elsewhere to a residence in Southwark in the year up to March 2021, equivalent to 16% of the total population.**

- Migration in this year was substantially higher than seen a decade earlier; at the time of the 2011 Census, 9% of the population had migrated into Southwark from elsewhere in the year prior.
- This highlights the high level of migration between 2020 and 2021, despite the data collection occurring during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Most of this in-migration was people moving from an address elsewhere in the UK, equivalent to 14% of the population, or over 41,000 people.
- Over **6,800** people moved from an address outside the UK to a residence in Southwark in the year prior to March 2021, equivalent to 2% of the population. This compares to 3% of the population in 2011, likely reflecting lower levels of international in-migration during the COVID-19 pandemic year.
- Current numbers of international in-migrants are likely to be greater than recorded in the Census, due to many residents' arriving since the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly with current greater job opportunities in sectors such as hospitality and entertainment that were previously restricted.

Figure 10: Migration flows in the year prior to the 2021 Census, Southwark



### Reference

1. International migration, England and Wales: Census 2021. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

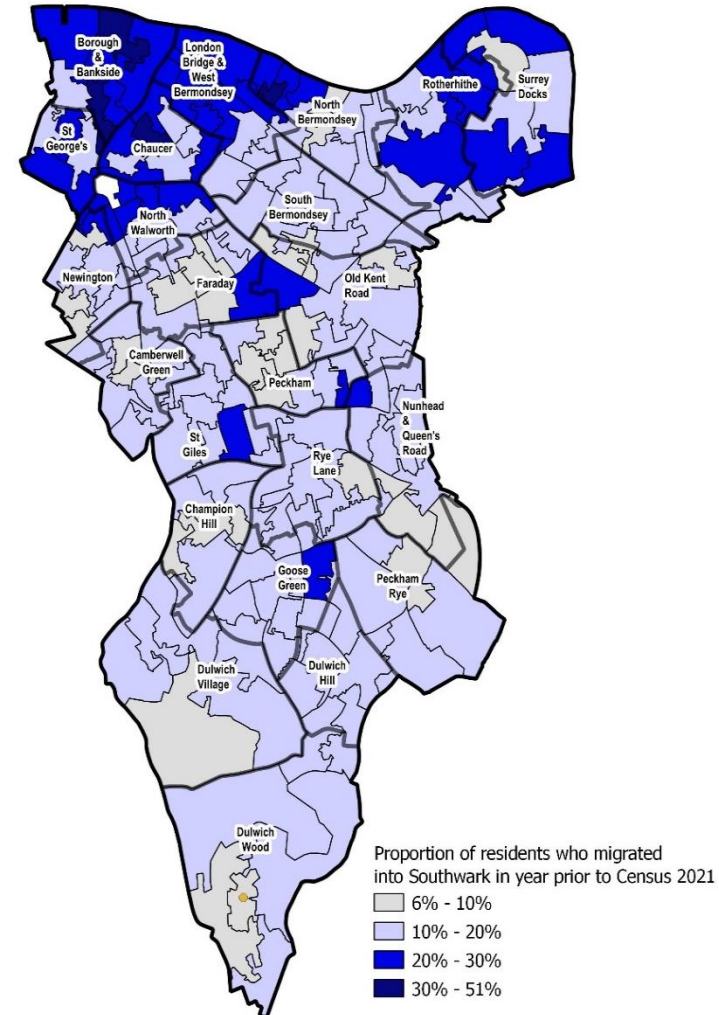
# In the north of the borough, a significant proportion of residents moved to Southwark between 2020 and 2021

## MIGRATION FLOWS IN YEAR TO CENSUS DAY

**Almost 49,000 residents moved into Southwark from an address elsewhere in the year to March 2021.**

- Around 16% of Southwark's population is therefore made up of residents who moved in the year prior to the Census, but this varies substantially across the borough.
- In the north of the borough, a notable proportion of residents had moved into Southwark in the previous year, particularly in areas in Borough & Bankside, where as much as half of all residents had migrated into Southwark between 2020 and 2021.
- In comparison, the vast majority of residents throughout the centre and south of the borough had been living there for at least one year.
- This is likely due to the fact people moving into Southwark are more likely to move to the north of the borough where there are larger amounts of new housing and development.

Note: numbers do not include residents with a student term-time address elsewhere in the year prior to the Census.



### Reference

1. International migration, England and Wales: Census 2021. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

# Results from the 2021 Census need to be considered alongside a number of influencing factors

## CONSIDERATIONS

- **The census was taken during the COVID-19 pandemic**, with respondents required to answer questions based on their place of residence on Census Day. At this time many COVID-19 restrictions were still in place.
- There is likely to have been **substantial population movement and change in the period since the March 2021 Census**. Notably, students returning to campus' after a time of remote learning, a return of workers in hospitality and entertainment sectors, and a return of people who left London temporarily during the pandemic.
- As with all self-completion questionnaires, some will have **contained incomplete, missing or incorrect information** about an individual or household. However, ONS will have taken steps to correct these inconsistencies.

### Reference

1. Quality and methodology information (QMI) for Census 2021. Office for National Statistics. 2022. <https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>
2. 2021 Census: First release. Greater London Authority. 2022.

## APPENDIX (1 of 2)

### Classification of household disadvantage in the Census 2021

Households in England and Wales were classified in terms of dimensions of disadvantage, based on selected household characteristics. Households were considered to be disadvantaged if they met one or more of the following four dimensions:

- **Employment:** where any member of a household, who is not a full-time student, is either unemployed or long-term sick
- **Education:** no person in the household has at least five or more GCSE passes or equivalent qualifications, and no person aged 16 to 18 is a full-time student
- **Health and disability:** any person in the household has general health that is 'bad' or 'very bad' or is identified as disabled
- **Housing:** the household's accommodation is either overcrowded, with an occupancy rating of negative 1 or less (implying that it has one fewer room or bedroom required for the number of occupants), or is in a shared dwelling, or has no central heating

#### Reference

1. Household and resident characteristics, England and Wales: Census 2021. Office for National Statistics. 2022.  
<https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

## APPENDIX (1 of 2)

### Classification of a family in the Census 2021

A family is a group of people who are either:

- Married, civil partnered or cohabiting couple with or without children
- A lone parent with children
- A married, civil partnered or cohabiting couple with grandchildren but where the parents of those grandchildren are not present
- A single or couple grandparent with grandchildren but where the parents of those grandchildren are not present

A 'multi-family household' may therefore be:

- Unrelated: for example, two unrelated couples sharing a house
- Related and multi-generational: for example, cohabiting couple plus children and elderly parents
- Related but not multi-generational: for example, cohabiting couple plus son and girlfriend; or two brothers and their partners sharing a house

#### Reference

1. Household and resident characteristics, England and Wales: Census 2021. Office for National Statistics. 2022.  
<https://census.gov.uk/about-the-census>

**Find out more at**  
**[southwark.gov.uk/jsna](https://southwark.gov.uk/jsna)**

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