

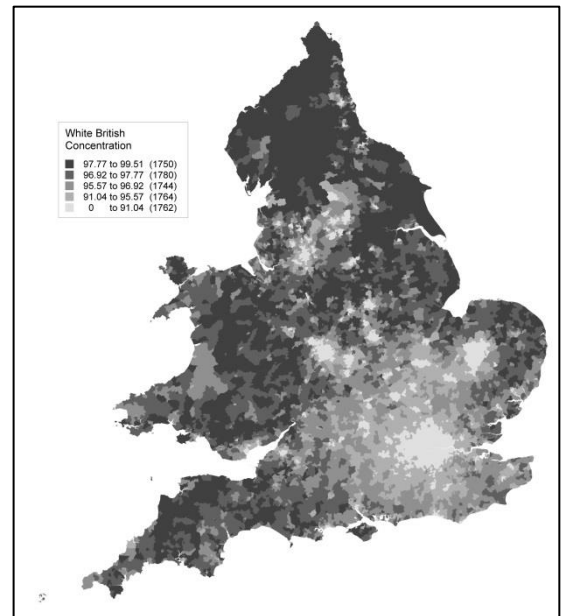
Research Briefing N° 30

Ward level Migration of People from Minority Ethnic Groups within England and Wales

This research interrogates the migration patterns of different ethnic groups (minority groups and White-British) within England and Wales at the ward level.

Key words: migration; ethnic groups; ward

Key findings



- For almost all of the ethnic groups examined, net-migration was towards wards with a low concentration of their own ethnic group, particularly for the Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi, White Irish and Black groups. The White-British ethnic group were more likely to move towards areas of high concentration of their own ethnic group.
- All ethnic groups moved away from wards with high concentrations of minority ethnic populations, with the result that the minority ethnic groups became more dispersed.
- Migration patterns are more complex than simply 'white flight' or 'white avoidance': areas of high minority ethnic concentrations with low inflows of the White-British ethnic group are also areas of low outflows of the White-British ethnic group; areas of high minority ethnic concentrations with high inflows of the White-British ethnic group are also areas of high outflows of the White-British ethnic group.
- Concentration of own ethnic group has a limited utility for explaining patterns of inflow and outflow at the ward level. Other characteristics of the ward, such as the rural-urban classification of the ward and housing tenure were stronger predictors than concentration.

What we did

At the time this research was carried out, relatively little was known about the internal migration of different ethnic groups within Britain, particularly 'ward-by-ward' analyses examining the extent of self-selected segregation (choosing to live with other people of the same ethnic group as themselves) amongst a wide range of minority ethnic groups. This issue is socially significant because ethnic segregation/clustering is often perceived as a negative feature of migration, giving rise to debates about the possible links between concentrations of different ethnic groups and racial tensions and hostility in certain areas of the UK.

This research considered the role of 'white flight', 'white avoidance' and 'self-segregation' in explaining internal migration patterns at the electoral ward level of ethnic groups within England and Wales. The study was funded as part of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) programme 'Understanding Population Trends and Processes' and carried

out between November 2007 and November 2008.

How we did it

The analysis used data from a specially commissioned table, obtained from the Office for National Statistics, from the 2001 census which is now publicly available through the Census Interaction Data Service (CIDER, table C0355). The table specified information about the movement of certain ethnic groups within England and Wales at the electoral ward level (average wards contain approx. 5,000-6,000 people). Analysis models examined the inflow, outflow and net-inflow rates of minority ethnic groups in relation to concentrations of their own group. They also examined the inflow, outflow and net-inflow rates of the White-British majority group in relation to minority ethnic concentrations. Concentration was examined before and after controlling for three socio-economic characteristics of the area which were hypothesised to have an influence on these patterns: the rural-urban characteristic of the ward, economic activity and housing tenure.

Further information

Publications from this research:

Simon, A. (2011). White Mobility and minority Ethnic Concentrations: Exploring Internal migration Patterns for Electoral Wards in England and Wales using the 2001 Census. *Journal of Intercultural Studies*, Volume 32, 2, pp.173-188.

Simon, A. (2010). Do ethnic groups migrate towards areas of high concentration of their own groups within England and Wales? Ethnicity and Integration, Chapter 7 In Stillwell, J. and van Ham, M. (eds.) *Ethnicity and Integration Understanding Population Trends and Processes Volume 3*. Springer, Dordrecht, pp. 133-151. DOI: 10.1007/978-90-481-9103-1_7.

For a detailed research summary see: ['Exploring the Movement of People from Different Ethnic Groups Into and Out of Wards with High Or Low Density Of Their Own Group'](#)

See link to project website: [Understanding Population Trends and Processes \(UPTAP\)](#)

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