Mapping Poverty 2023

Introduction

Cambridge City is a prosperous place with good jobs and a nice environment, a place where people want to be and enjoy. This prosperity has led to a high cost of living and has masked a high level of inequality between different groups and communities in the city that have not been able to share in its wealth. Please refer to the State of the City Report to find out more about the place that is Cambridge City.

The purpose of this paper is to highlight low-income (poverty) in the city, its extent and distribution, and the communities and groups affected. Benefit claims from the council's administrative data are used as a proxy indicator of poverty, which are captured in a Low-Income Family Tracker (LIFT) provided to the council by Policy in Practice. Comparisons are also made with earlier Mapping Poverty reports from 2022, 2017 and 2013. It is appreciated that eligibility criteria and sanctions, economic conditions, and the growth of the city in terms of its population size and household numbers have changed during the coverage of the reports.

It is hoped that this paper and further insights from the LIFT system will assist council officers and partners in targeting vulnerable households with support. The council now has a Community Wealth Building Strategy and the evidence provided here will help inform its development.

Summary

- There were 7,688 households claiming benefit containing 12,818 people.
- This represents 13.3% of all households in the city.
- There were 3.3% (247) more households claiming compared to the same point last year, which was the lowest point over a ten-year period, but the trend is now upwards.
- 28% (2,157) of all benefit households were living in relative poverty.
- Nearly 22% (4,488) of all children in the city live in a benefit household and 10% (2,159) live in a benefit household experiencing relative poverty.
- Kings Hedges ward had the highest number of benefit claimant households, Trumpington ward the highest number of children living in a benefit household and Coleridge ward the highest number of pensioner claimants.
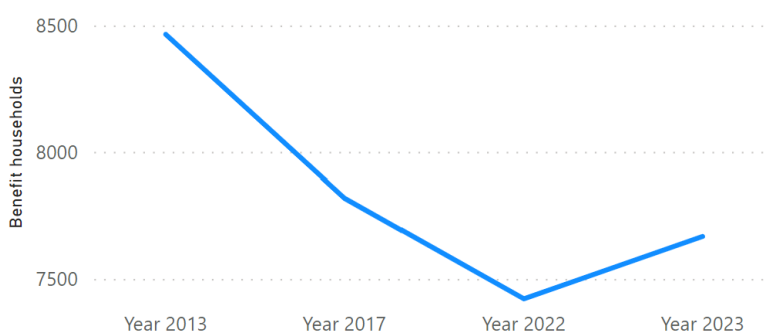
Benefit Households

At the reference point in 2023 there were 247 more (3.3%) claimant households compared to the figure taken at the same time last year. Benefit claiming households in the city in 2023 represented 13.3% (7,668) of all households in the city (57,747). In 2022 this figure was 13%, so this year saw a marginal increase in the proportion. Chart 1, below, shows this.

Chart 1: All households and benefit households by year
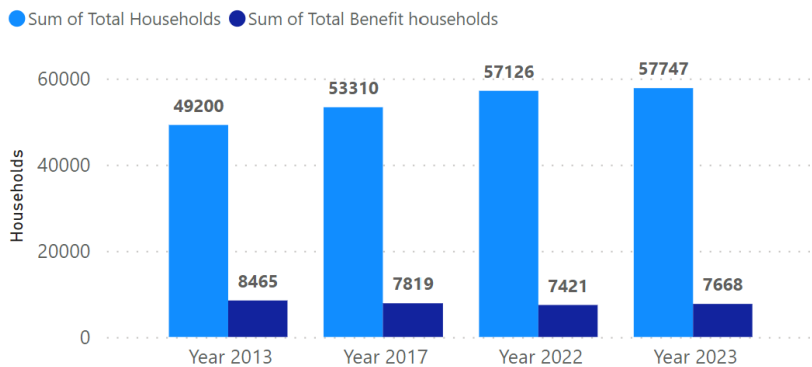
Between 2013 and 2022 there seems to have been a reduction in the number of benefit claimant households of around 10% (nearly 800 households) but since the reference point in 2022 the total figure has been rising again and seems to indicate and upward trend. Chart 2, below, shows this.

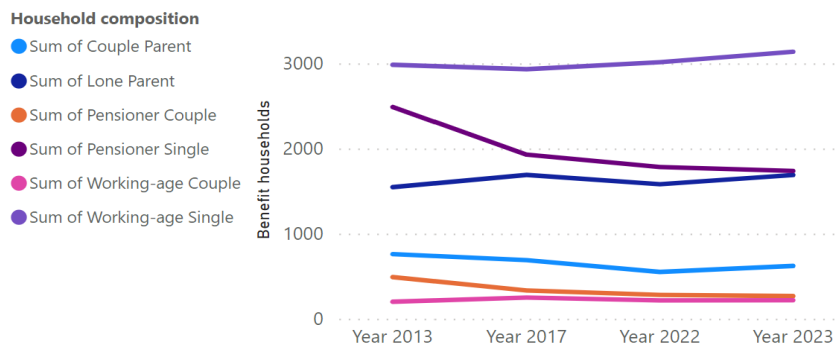**Chart 2: Total benefit claimant households by year**

Over the course of 2023, January saw the lowest household benefit claimant total at 7,350 households, rising to 7,845 households at the end of December, which is just above the 2017 reference point. Chart 3, below, shows this.

**Chart 3: Monthly total of benefit claimant households**

Since the reference point in 2013 the number of single person households has risen slightly (2,983 to 3,136) but the number of pensioner claimant households has decreased significantly by 33% (993). Other household groups have remained at about the same level (lone parents, couple parents and single people of a working age). Chart 4 shows this.

Chart 4: Changes in composition of benefit households between 2013 and 2023

At the reference point in 2023 Kings Hedges ward continued to have the highest number of benefit claimant households at 984 and Newnham ward the lowest at 51 claimant households. Four wards have benefit claimant household totals over 800 households. Chart 5, below, shows this.

Chart 5: Benefit households by ward
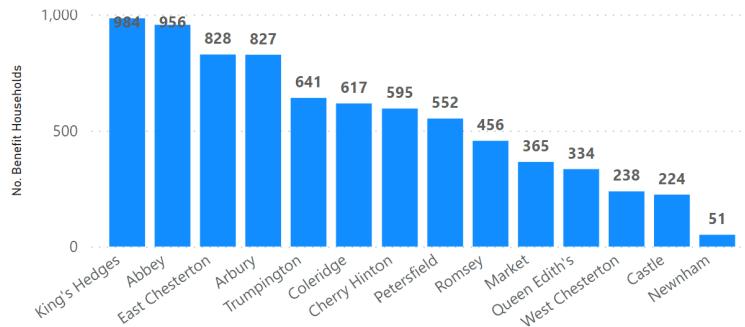
Relative Poverty of benefit households

Out of the total number benefit households at the reference point in 2023, just over 28% (2,157) were living in relative poverty or below the poverty line, that is an income below 60% of UK median income. A household in relative poverty has a greater risk of being in food and fuel poverty and running up rent and council tax arrears because the income they receive from benefits does not cover their essential costs[1]. The DWP also use the term relative low-income households and absolute low-income households when looking at children living in benefit households. The definition of these terms is shown in the appendix to this document.

Single parent claimant households are more likely to experience relative poverty at 40% (659) of single-parent households, than other groups, whilst pensioner claimant households were least likely to experience relative poverty at 10% (191). Chart 6, below, shows this.

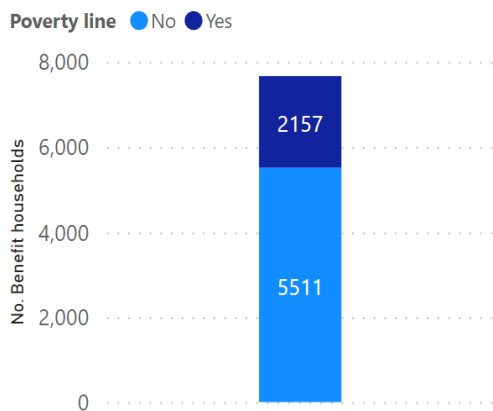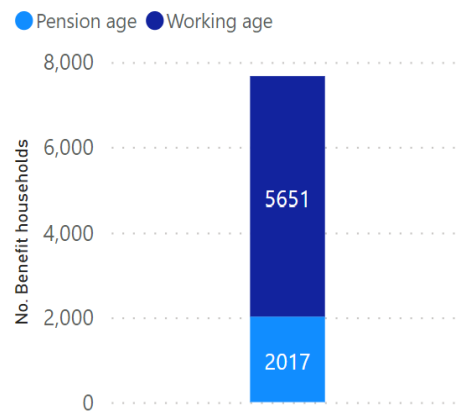## Chart 6: Benefit households in relative poverty

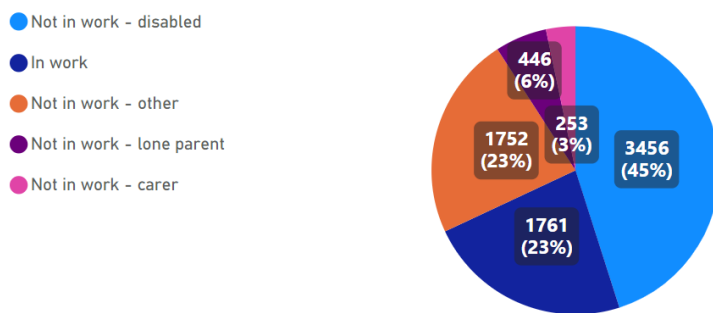## Chart 7:Pensioner or working age in benefit households

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[1] Guarantee our essentials - The Trussell Trust

Pensioner benefit claimant households made-up 36% (2,017) of all benefit claimant households. East Chesterton ward has the highest number of pensioner benefit claimant households at 257 followed by Coleridge ward at 236. Chart 7 above, shows this.

Out of the total benefit claimant households 23% (1761) were working. Trumpington ward had the highest proportion of households that were claiming benefit in work at 36% (228). Just over 45% (3,456) of the total benefit households in the city were not in work due to a disability. Abbey ward had the highest number of people not in work due to a disability at 476 households. Chart 8, below, shows this.

Chart 8: Economic status of benefit households

- Not in work – disabled
- In work
- Not in work – other
- Not in work – lone parent
- Not in work – carer

446 (6%)
253 (3%)
1752 (23%)
3456 (45%)
1761 (23%)

Most benefit claimants in the city are single, making up 64% (4,873) of all benefit claimant households. Arbury ward has the highest proportion of single benefit claimant households at 75% (617). Lone parents' make-up 22% (1,689) of the total benefit population in the city. Trumpington ward has the highest number of lone parent claimants at 265 and proportion of benefit claimant households in the ward at 41%. Chart 9, below, shows this.
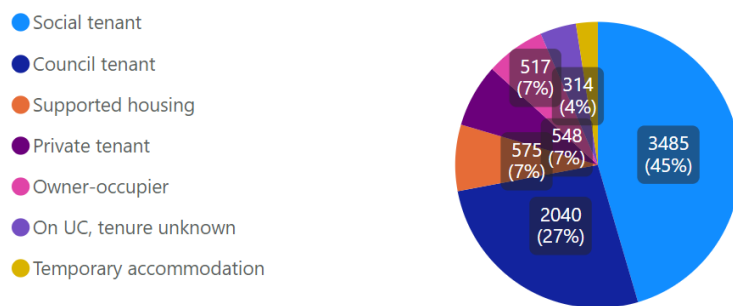
Chart 9: Benefit household composition

- Single
- Lone parent
- Couple with children
- Couple without children

621 (8%)
1689 (22%)
4873 (64%)
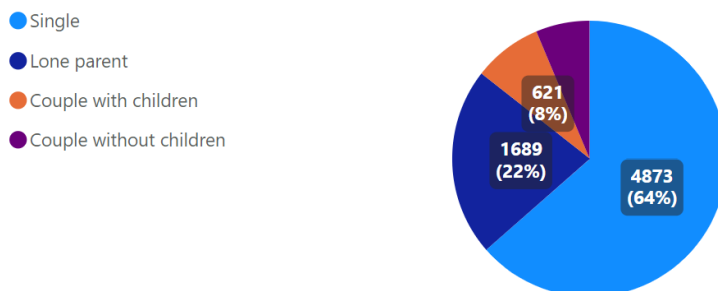
Non-council social tenants' make-up most benefit claimant households in the city at 45% or 3,845 households. East Chesterton ward had the highest number of social tenants claiming benefits at 526 households, but Trumpington ward had the highest proportion at 72% (462). Chart 10, below, shows this.

Council tenants' make-up 27% (2,040) of benefit claimant households in the city with Kings Hedges ward having the highest number at 324 for a ward but Coleridge ward has the highest proportion of council tenant benefit claimants of all benefit households at 42% (260). Just over 50% of council tenant households claiming benefits are pensioner households. 6% (132) of council tenants households claiming a benefit are in work and 63% (1,295) have a disability and not in work. 15% (268) of council tenant households in receipt of benefits are in relative poverty, however 33% (1,138) of social tenants (non-council) were living in relative poverty. Chart 10, below, shows this.

Chart 10: Tenure of benefit households

Legend:
- Social tenant
- Council tenant
- Supported housing
- Private tenant
- Owner-occupier
- On UC, tenure unknown
- Temporary accommodation

Pie chart values: 3485 (45%), 2040 (27%), 548 (7%), 575 (7%), 517 (7%), 314 (4%)

Children in benefit households

4,488 children were living in 2,310 households claiming benefits in the city at the 2023 reference point. Trumpington ward had the largest number of children living in benefit households at 757. Chart 11, below, shows this.

Chart 11: Sum of children in benefit households by ward
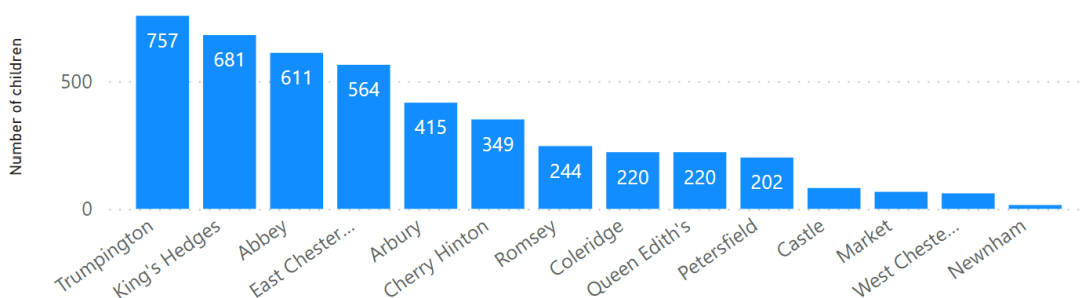
48% (2159) of children in all benefit households containing children were living in relative poverty. Chart 12, below, shows this.

Chart 12: Children in benefit households below the poverty line
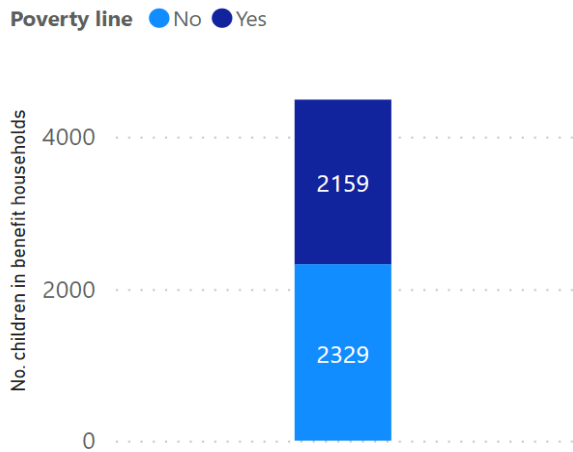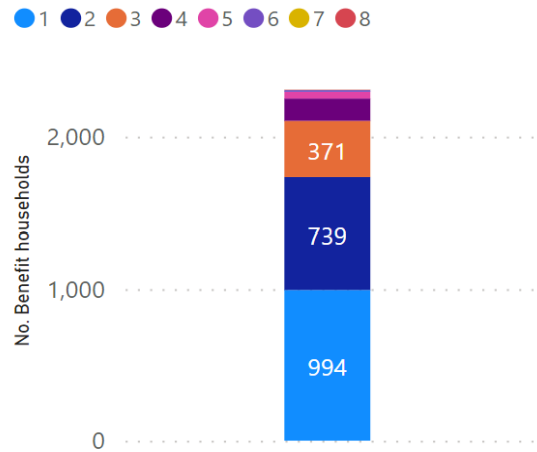

Chart 13: Number of children in benefit households

43%(994) of benefit households with children contained one child, 32% (739) contained two children,16% (371) contained three children and 9% (206) four or more children. Chart 13, above, shows this.

Nearly 50% of all children are in benefit households that are in work. Nearly 18% (799) live in households that are not in work because of a disability of the claimant. Chart 13 shows this. Chart 14 shows this.

Chart 14: Economic status of child benefit household
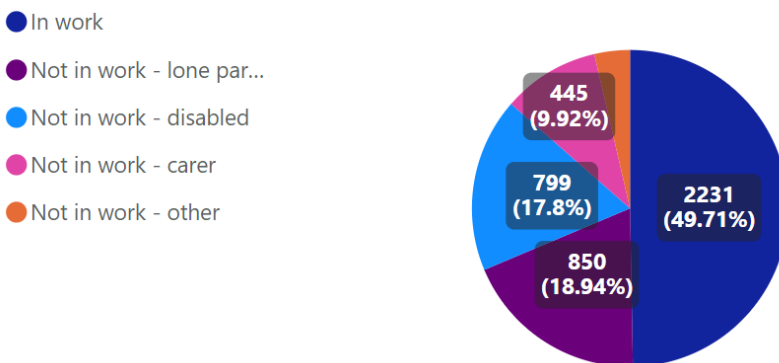
3,061 children live in 1,689 lone parent benefit households and 45% (1391) of these children are living in relative poverty. Chart 15, below, shows this.
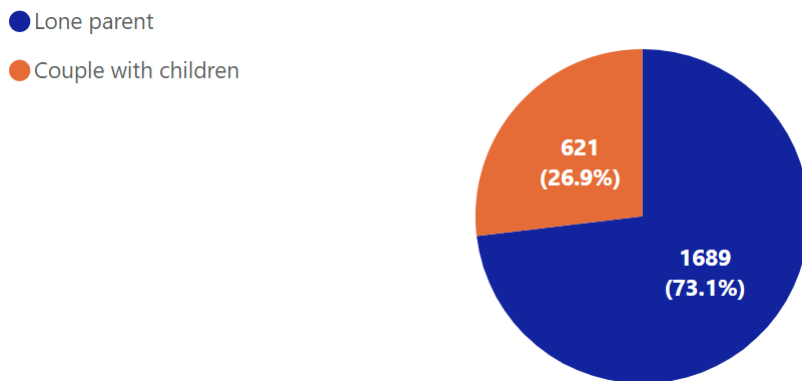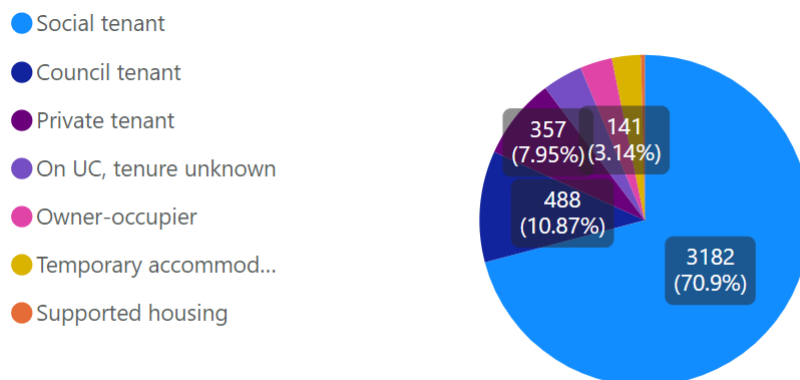
Chart 15: Child benefit household composition

Legend:
- Lone parent
- Couple with children

621 (26.9%)

1689 (73.1%)

Just over 70% (3,182) of children were living in a benefit household that is a social tenancy. Nearly 11% (488) live in a council tenancy.

Chart 16: Tenure of benefit households where a child is present.

Legend:
- Social tenant
- Council tenant
- Private tenant
- On UC, tenure unknown
- Owner-occupier
- Temporary accommod...
- Supported housing

357 (7.95%)   141 (3.14%)

488 (10.87%)

3182 (70.9%)

DWP statistics looking at children living in relative low-income households use a similar definition (shown in the Appendix) to the PiP LIFT definition of relative poverty. These figures are shown in Chart 18, below. For 2023 the number of children in the city living in relative low-income households was 2,832 representing 14% of the city's child population. This is 673 more children than LIFT shows, which indicates the broader range of benefits incorporated into the qualifying criteria. LIFT children in relative poverty make-up 10% of the city's child population.

The figures for LIFT children in relative poverty are similar to DWPs children in absolute poverty, which compares the income the households received in 2010 with their current income, so if the number of children decreases over time income to the household has improved, taking into account inflation and other cost of living pressures.

Chart 17: DWP statistics showing the number of children living in relative low-income and absolute low-income households in the city over a nine-year period.
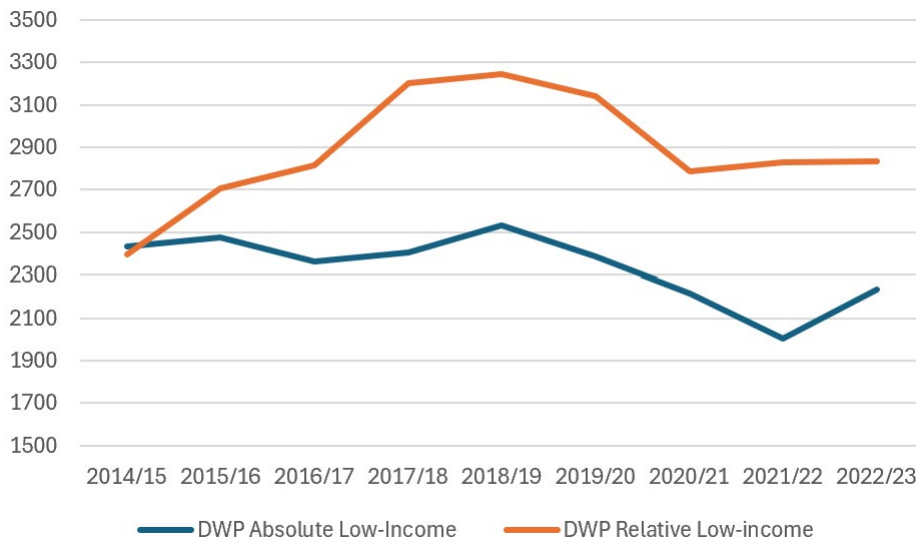
Benefit Population

12,818 people (benefit population) lived in 7,668 households claiming benefit in 2023 at the reference point. Nearly 9% of the total population in the city lived in a household claiming benefit. Kings Hedges ward had the highest number of people living in benefit households at 1,724, representing nearly 16% of its population. Chart, 18, below, shows this.

Chart 18: Total population and benefit population by ward
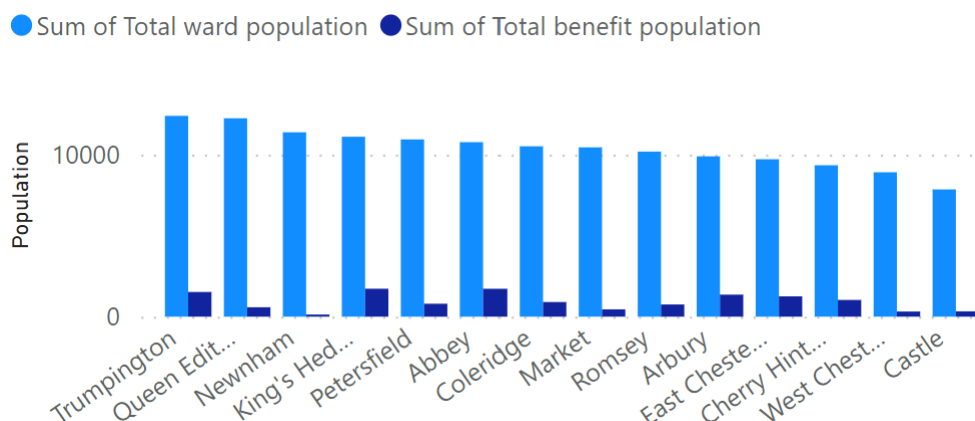
Nearly 22% (4,488) of children in the city live in a household claiming benefit. Trumpington ward had the highest number children living in a benefit household at 757 children making up nearly 25% of all children in the ward. Kings Hedges and

Abbey wards had a higher proportion of children living in benefit households at 34% and 33% respectively but lower numbers than Trumpington.
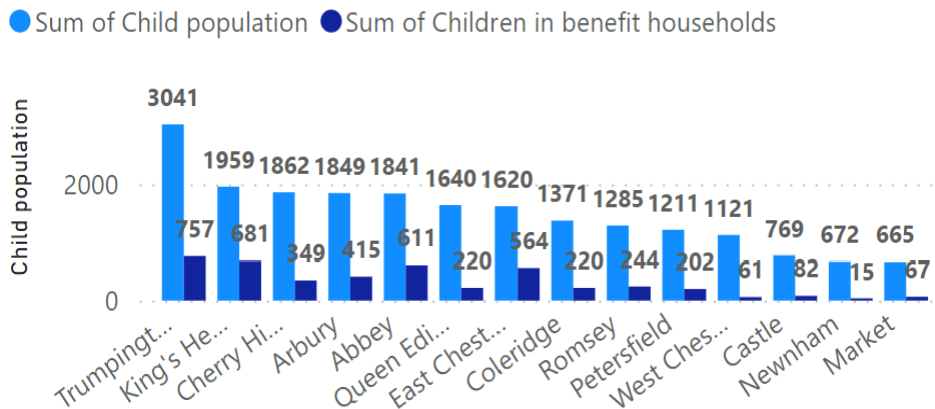
Chart 19: Total child population and children in benefit households by ward

Just over 12% (2,053) of pensioners in the city live in a household claiming benefit. Coleridge ward had the highest number of pensioners in benefit households at 261, representing 22% of all households in the ward. Chart 20, below, shows this.

Chart 20: Total pensioner and pensioner benefit population
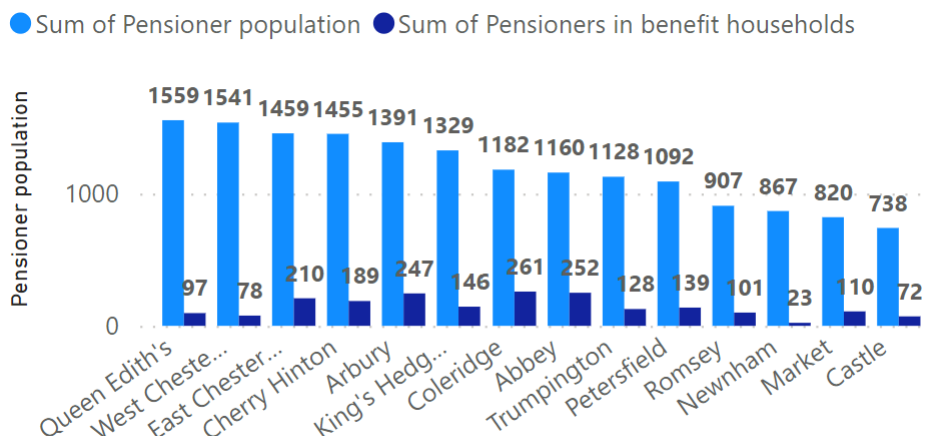
Nearly 6% (6,277) of people of a working age in the city live in a household claiming benefit. Kings Hedges ward had the highest number of working-age people living in a benefit household at 897 people or just over 11% of working-age people in the ward. Chart 21, below, shows this.

Chart 21: Total working-age population and people of a working-age in benefit households

Sum of Working age adult population ● Sum of Working age adults in benefit ...

Working-age population values (Sum of Working age adult population / Sum of Working age adults in benefit):

| Area	Working age adult population	Working age adults in benefit
Newnham	9839	35
Queen Edith's	9043	264
Market	8964	274
Petersfield	8635	457
Trumpington	8224	637
Romsey	7993	408
Coleridge	7961	422
King's Hedg...	7815	897
Abbey	7767	858
Arbury	6654	697
East Chester...	6635	481
Castle	6345	174
West Cheste...	6248	179
Cherry Hinton	6026	494

Income Inequality

IMD 2019 incorporated a number of domains of deprivation, including an "Income Donain" that measures the number of people experiencing deprivation relating to low-income, including people in and out of work who have low-incomes.

Chart 22, below, shows the percentage distribution in 2019 and 2015 of LSOAs within Cambridge City in each decile of the Income Deprivation Domain. It can be seen that there is one LSOA in the city in the worst 20% of income deprived LSOAs in the country and 26 LSOAs in the city in the 20% least deprived LSOAs. This is known as the 20:20 measure.

Chart 22: Proportion of City LSOAs in each Income Deprived decile

10% most deprived   10% least deprived

2019

2015

0   25   50   75   100

Percentage of LSOAs
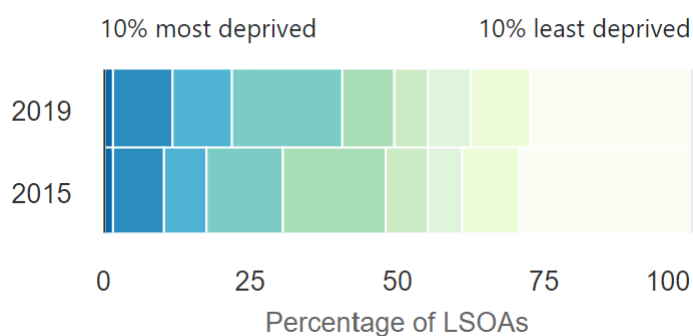
Map 1 shows the difference in the 20:20 measure of LSOAs in the city highlights the imbalance of income distribution in the city with the contrast between the "green" LSOAs in the 20% least deprived and the "red" in the 20% most deprived of all LSOAs in the country. The "red" LSOA has consitantly featured as the most income derived LSOA in the city over the past three IMDs, it ranking deteriorating over time.

Map 1: 20:20 spatial income imbalance in city
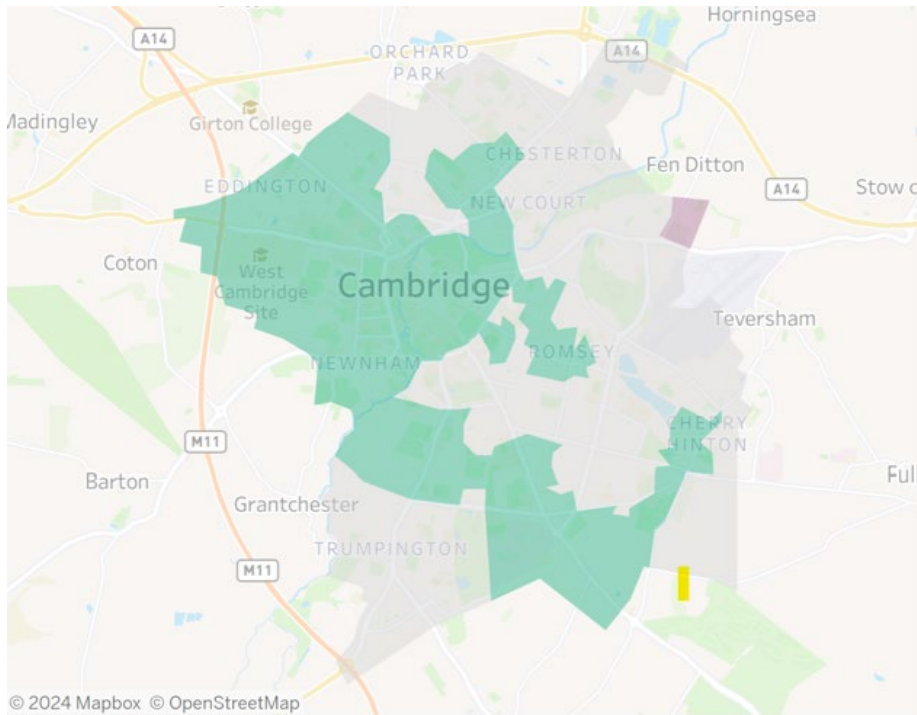
Measures used in domain;
• Adults and children in Income Support families
• Adults and children in income-based Jobseeker's Allowance families
• Adults and children in income-based Employment and Support Allowance families
• Adults and children in Pension Credit (Guarantee) families
• Adults and children in Universal Credit families where no adult is classed within the 'Working - no requirements' conditionality group..

Map 2, below, shows the range of Income Deprivation deciles across the city highlighting greater income deprivation in the North-East of the city.

Map 2: Distribution of IMD 2019 Income Domain deciles in city
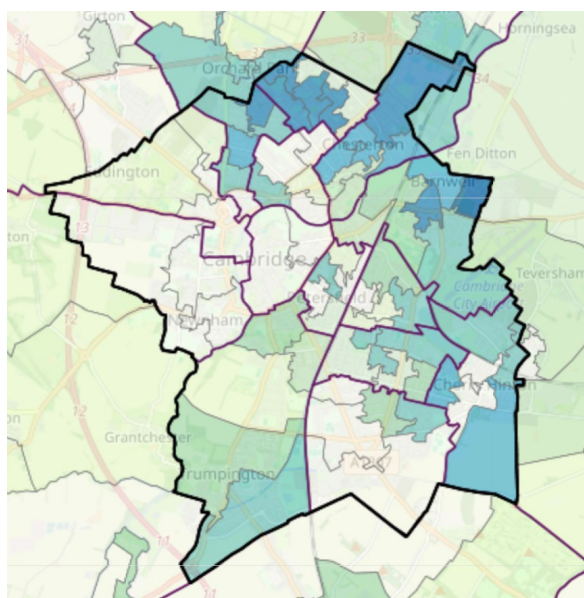
Ethnic Groups affected by deprivation

The Ethnic Group Deprivation Index (EGDI) is an ethnic group-specific neighbourhood deprivation measure that ranks levels of deprivation for ethnic communities living in neighbourhoods (Lower Super Output Areas) and shows inequalities between ethnic groups living in these neighbourhoods.

For more information about EGDI and its authors please refer to the paper: An ethnic group specific deprivation index for measuring neighbourhood inequalities in England and Wales in the Geographical Journal, 29 November 2023.

Table 1, below, shows neighbourhoods that have the lowest (worst) rankings that fall within the most deprived 10% of all LSOAs in local authorities. In Cambridge City four neighbourhoods (LSOAs) appear in the most deprived EGDI decile (worst ten percent). It shows that the most deprived ethnic group (GroupMx) compared to the least deprived ethnic group (Group Mn) in the same neighbourhood.

Table 1: Most deprived ethnic communities in city neighbourhoods (LSOAs)

LSOA21	Sum of Top EGDI decile (1 = most deprived 10%)	GroupMx	GroupMn	Sum of IMDDEC	Sum of Range
E01017998	1	AnyOther	WhiteBritish	9	0.91
E01017953	1	Bangladeshi	OtherWhite	4	0.85
E01017948	1	WhiteBritish	OtherWhite	2	0.84
E01017980	1	WhiteRoma	WhiteBritish	7	0.68

The location of the four most deprived EGDI neighbourhoods is shown in Map 3, below. It is interesting that the LSOAs are dispersed across four different wards, probably reflecting the settlement patterns of the different ethnic communities.

Map 3: Location of most deprived EDGI neighbourhoods
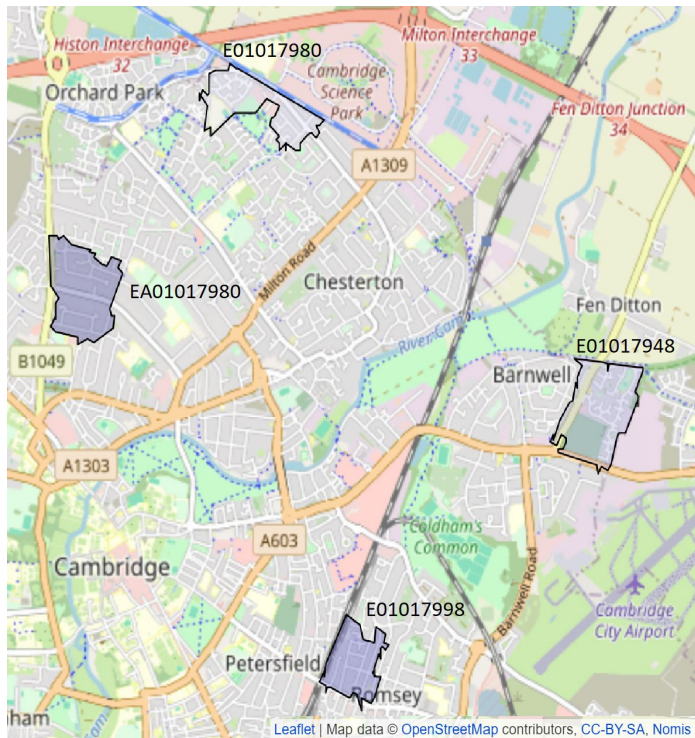
EDGI also allows you to look at the level of inequality between the most deprived ethnic group and the least deprived ethnic group in a neighbourhood. Table 2, below, shows the sum of the range of difference between the most deprived and least deprived ethnic groups in a neighbourhood for the ten neighbourhoods with the highest ranked level of inequality.

Table 2: Top ten LSOAs with the largest range of inequality between ethnic groups

LSOA21	Sum of Top EGDI decile (1 = most deprived 10%)	GroupMx	Sum of IMDDEC	Sum of Range
E01017998	1	AnyOther	9	0.91
E01017953	1	Bangladeshi	4	0.85
E01017948	1	WhiteBritish	2	0.84
E01017967	3	Bangladeshi	5	0.71
E01017980	1	WhiteRoma	7	0.68
E01017952	3	Bangladeshi	3	0.68
E01017944	3	WhiteBritish	3	0.65
E01017994	4	WhiteBritish	6	0.65
E01017997	2	WhiteAsian	5	0.63
E01017971	2	Bangladeshi	3	0.62

Deep Dive into Neighbourhoods with the largest deprived ethnic groups

ONS Census Maps allow us to look in more detail at the identity of different ethnic communities highlighted by EDGI. The Low-Income Family Tracker tool used by the council also allows us to assess the extent of low-income in a small area, alongside IMD 2019. The following looks at is intended to highlight how these tools could be used to provide additional insight into the most deprived ethnic communities in the city.

This deep dive looks at the Bangladeshi community, in the neighbourhood E01017953, and compares it to the least deprived ethnic group in the same neighbourhood, White Other. It also looks at the White Roma community in the neighbourhood LSOA E01017980.

Bangladeshi community in LSOA E01017953

In Census 2021, 2,847 people identified themselves as belonging to the Bangladeshi community in Cambridge City. In this LSOA there are 583 people identifying as Bangladeshi, which represents just over 20% of the total Bangladeshi community in the city.

Map 4: Area covered by the LSOA
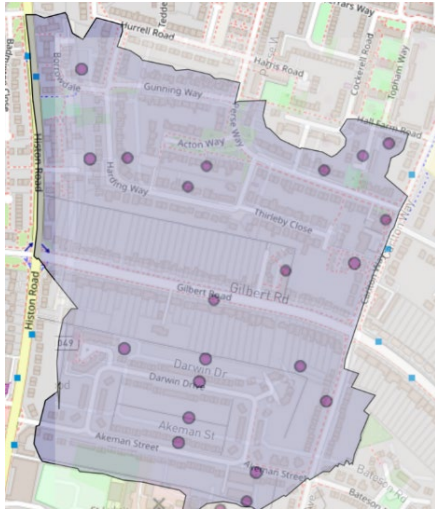
EGDI and IMD deciles for the LSOA

- The LSOA has an overall IMD score placing it in the fourth decile nationally.

- It has the second highest level of inequality between ethnic communities in an LSOA, the difference in deprivation between ethnic groups in the city, so between the Bangladeshi and the White Other group in this instance, with a range of 0.846.

- The EDGI decile for the Bangladeshi community in the LSOA places it in the top decile (1 being the most deprived 10% of small ethnic communities in LSOAs in the country).

- The White Other group in this LSOA is placed in the lowest EDGI decile in the country.

Identity in the LSOA

- Chart 23 shows that the Bangladeshi community has a population of 583 or 28% of the total population of the LSOA, which is 2,104. The White Other group is 300 or 14%.

- Map 5 shows that Bangladeshi community in the LSOA is concentrated in two Output Areas (63.1% for OA E00187632 and 51.6% for OA E00187642)

- Map 6 shows that for the White Other group in the LSOA the largest concentration is in the Output Area E0090560 at 24.7% followed by OA E00090541 at 24.5%

- For the OA with the largest proportion of White Other ethnic group in OA E0090560, 25.9% had a non-UK identity, whilst the OA with the highest Bangladeshi proportion in the LSOA had 9.6% non-UK identity.

Work, deprivation and low-income

- LIFT identifies 22 households claiming benefit in the LSOA representing 3% of all households (723) in the LSOA. 37 people live in benefit households, representing 2% of the LSOAs population (1,892). In terms of low-income the LSOA is a better-off area

- For the main White Other OA, above, 42.4% are one person households, 58.5% economically active and 19% work in higher managerial, administrative, and professional occupations.

- For the main Bangladeshi OA, above, 36.8% are one person households, 56.9% economically active and 8.2% work in higher managerial, administrative, and professional occupations.

- For the main White Other OA, 67.9% of households are not deprived in any dimension whilst for the main Bangladeshi OA, 32.8% are not deprived in any dimension, using the ONS dimensions of deprivation. For Cambridge 56.5% of households are not deprived on any dimension.

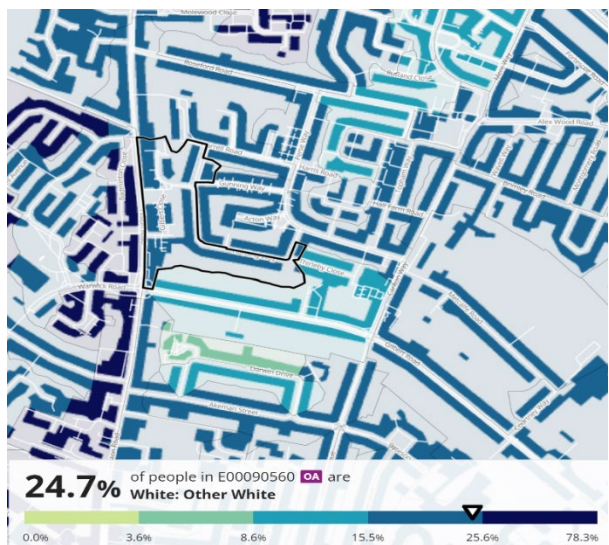**Chart 23: Ethnic groups in LSOA E01017998 with over 30 people represented.**
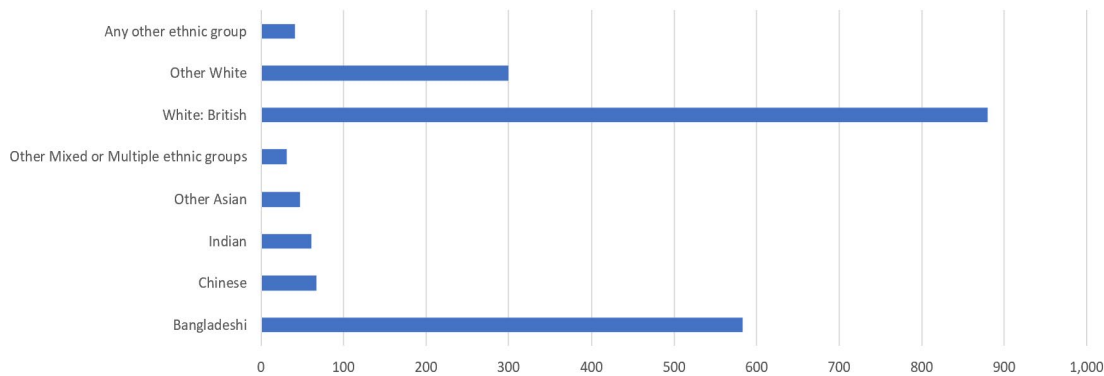
**Map 5: OA with highest concentration of Bangladeshi community in LSOA E01017953**
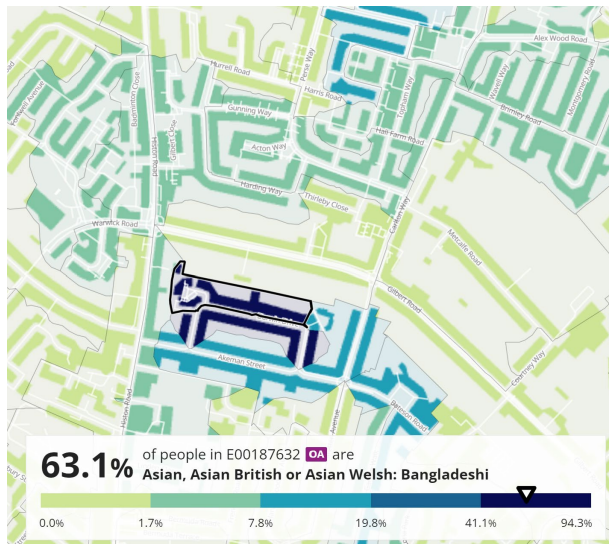
Map 6: OA with highest concentration of White Other groups in LSOA E01017998

White Roma community in LSOA E01017980

In Census 2021, 885 people identified themselves as belonging to the White Roma community in Cambridge City. In this LSOA there are 241 people identifying as Bangladeshi, which represents just over 27% of the total White Roma community in the city.

Map 7: Area covered by the LSOA
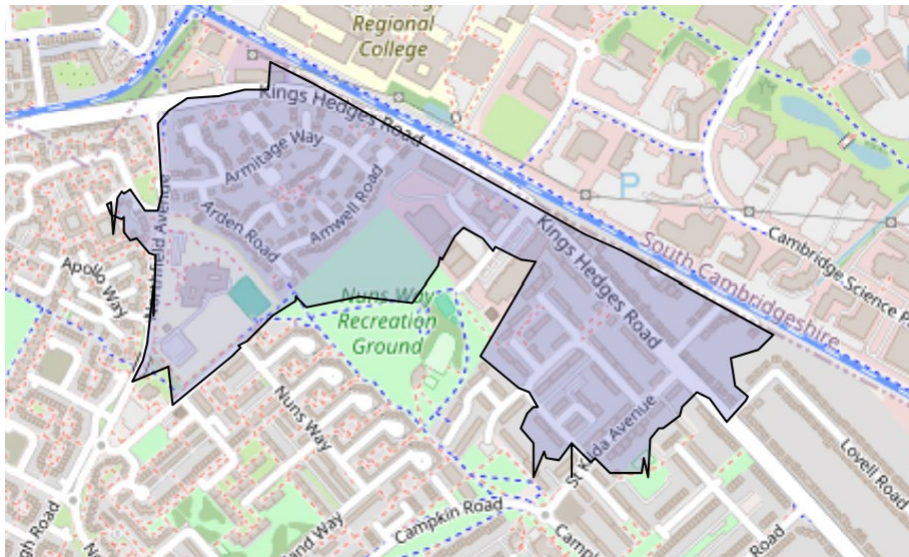
EGDI and IMD deciles for the LSOA

- The LSOA has an overall IMD score placing it in the seventh decile nationally, so has relatively low levels of deprivation overall.

- It has the fifth highest level of inequality between ethnic communities in an LSOA, the difference in deprivation between ethnic groups in the city, so between the White Roma group and the White British group in this instance, with a range of 0.68.

- The EDGI decile for the White Roma group in the LSOA places it in the top decile (1 being the most deprived 10% of small ethnic communities in LSOAs in the country).

- The White British group in this LSOA is placed in the eight EDGI decile in the country.

Identity in the LSOA

- Chart 24 shows that the White Roma community has a population of 241 or 17% of the total population of the LSOA, which is 1,436. The White British group is 659 or 46%.

- Map 8 shows that the White Roma community in the LSOA is concentrated in two Output Areas (38.2% for OA E00187722 and 32.5%% for OA E00187702)

- Map 9 shows that for the White British group in the LSOA the largest concentration is in the adjoining Output Area E0090672 at 66.2%

- For the OA with the largest proportion of White British ethnic group in OA E0090672, 19.7% had a non-UK identity, whilst the OA with the highest White Roma proportion in the LSOA had 53.7% non-UK identity.

Work, deprivation and low-income

- LIFT identifies 22 households claiming benefit in the LSOA representing 3% of all households (723) in the LSOA. 37 people live in benefit households, representing 2% of the LSOAs population (1,892). In terms of low-income the LSOA is a better-off area

- For the main White British OA, above, 59.2% are single-family households, 66.9% economically active and 11.4% work in higher managerial, administrative, and professional occupations.

- For the main White Roma OA, above, 37.5% are multiple family households, 88.3% economically active and 8.9% work in higher managerial, administrative, and professional occupations.

- For the main White British OA, 41.2% of households are not deprived in any dimension whilst for the main White Roma OA, 32.5% are not deprived in any dimension, using the ONS dimensions of deprivation. For Cambridge 56.5% of households are not deprived on any dimension.

Chart 24: Ethnic groups in LSOA E01017998 with over 30 people represented.
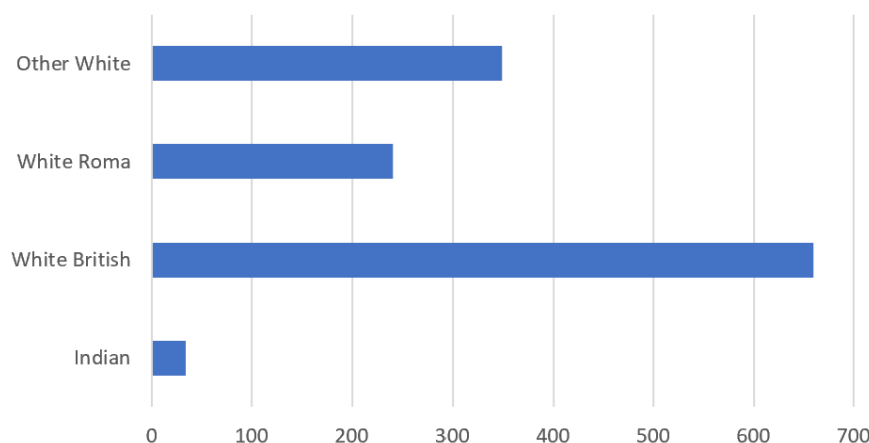
Map 8: OA with highest concentration of Roma White community in LSOA E01017998
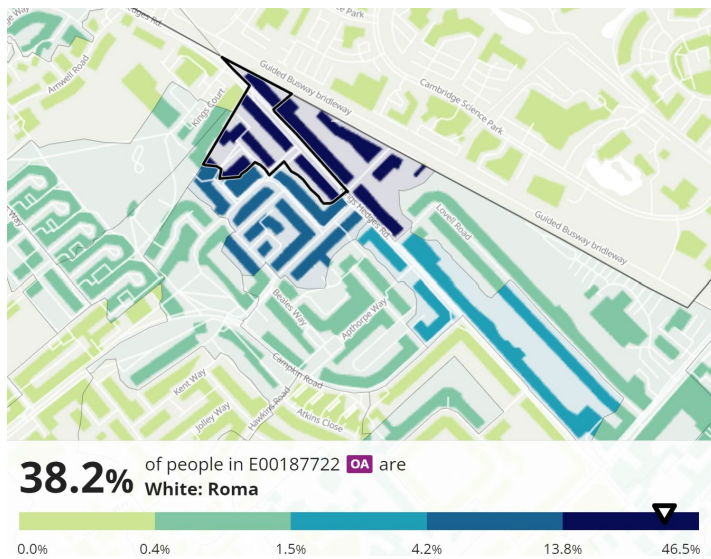
38.2% of people in E00187722 OA are
White: Roma

0.0%   0.4%   1.5%   4.2%   13.8%   46.5%

Map 9: OA with highest concentration of White Other groups in LSOA E01017998

66.2% of people in E00090672 OA are
White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British

0.0%   28.3%   51.3%   71.4%   87.1%   100.0%
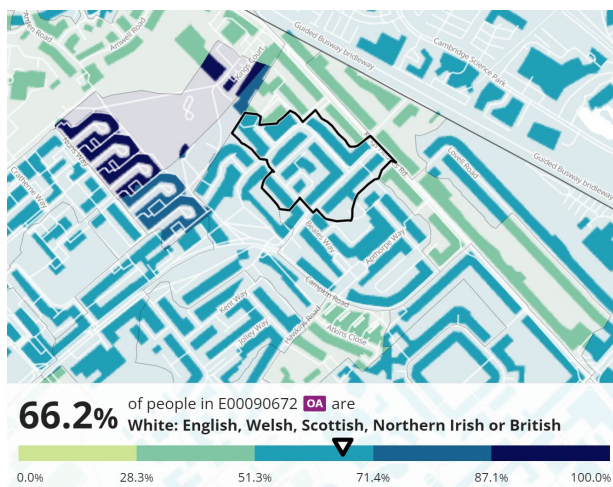
ONS Dimensions of Deprivation

ONS uses dimensions of deprivation, derived from Census 2021, to classify households based on indicators of deprivation covering four selected household characteristics or dimension of deprivation.

Households are shown in Output Areas (OA) and grouped into a dimension by virtue of the majority having the characteristics of dimension.

In Cambridge, overall, 56.5% of households are not deprived on any dimension. This compares to an average of 60.7% for all local authorities. The lowest OA in the city is 21% and the highest is 80% not deprived in any dimension.

Map 10: Distribution of households not deprived in any dimension
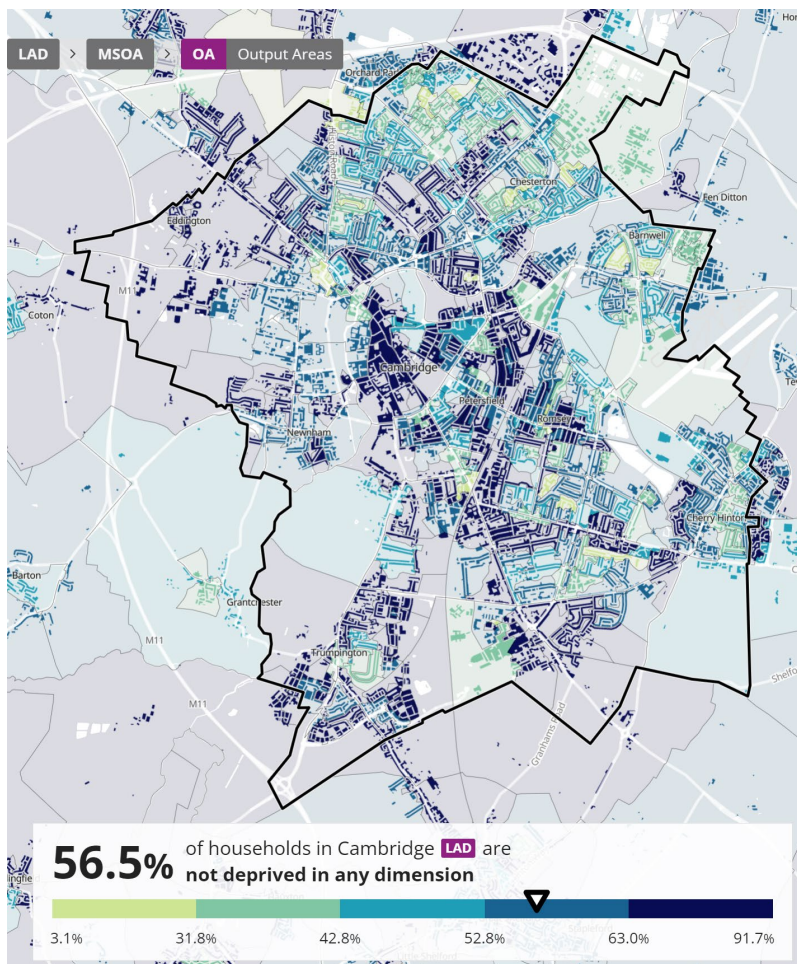
It can be seen from Map 10, above, that the distribution of deprivation is similar to that shown by IMD 2019 in Map 2.

Sources

- [Topic Summaries - 2021 Census - Census of Population - Data Sources - home - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics (nomisweb.co.uk)](#)
- [Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Insight – Population – Local Population Estimates and Forecasts (cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk)](#)
- LIFT Dashboard: [Street view: Street level - LIFT dashboard](#) extracts from September, October and December 2023

Other Tables

Table 4: Benefit population and total population by group and ward

Ward	Children in benefit households	Child population	Working age adults in benefit households	Working age adult population	Pensioners in benefit households	Pensioner population	Total benefit population	Total ward population	Lone parent in benefit households	Lone parent population
Abbey	611	1,841	858	7,767	252	1,160	1,721	10,768	232	491
Arbury	415	1,849	697	6,654	247	1,391	1,359	9,894	158	364
Castle	82	769	174	6,345	72	738	328	7,852	37	112
Cherry Hinton	349	1,862	494	6,026	189	1,455	1,032	9,343	131	350
Coleridge	220	1,371	422	7,961	261	1,182	903	10,514	96	270
East Chesterton	564	1,620	481	6,635	210	1,459	1,255	9,714	178	408
King's Hedges	681	1,959	897	7,815	146	1,329	1,724	11,103	248	478
Market	67	665	274	8964	110	820	451	10,449	45	123
Newnham	15	672	35	9,839	23	867	73	11,378	6	85
Petersfield	202	1,211	457	8,635	139	1,092	798	10,938	95	298
Queen Edith's	220	1,640	264	9,043	97	1,559	581	12,242	75	289
Romsey	244	1,285	408	7,993	101	907	753	10,185	98	245
Trumpington	757	3,041	637	8,224	128	1,128	1,522	12,393	265	567
West Chesterton	61	1,121	179	6,248	78	1,541	318	8,910	25	162

Table 5: Benefit households by group and year

Year	Couple Parent	Lone Parent	Working-age Couple	Working-age Single	Pensioner Couple	Pensioner Single	Total Benefit households	Total Households
Year 2023	621	1,689	218	3,136	267	1,737	7668	57,747
Year 2022	550	1,580	216	3,013	280	1,782	7421	57,126
Year 2017	689	1,690	249	2,931	332	1,928	7819	53,310
Year 2013	759	1,546	200	2,983	490	2,487	8465	49,200

Table 6: Children in relative low-income households and absolute low-income households

	DWP Absolute Low-Income	Proportion of child population	DWP Relative Low-income	Proportion of child population	LIFT Relative Poverty	Proportion of child population	LIFT child population	Proportion of child population	Child Population
Abbey	332	18%	417	23%	362	20%	611	33%	1841
Arbury	239	13%	322	17%	261	14%	415	22%	1849
Castle	28	4%	35	5%	22	3%	82	11%	769
Cherry Hinton	198	11%	233	13%	161	9%	349	19%	1862
Coleridge	154	11%	208	15%	120	9%	220	16%	1371
East Chesterton	238	15%	305	19%	264	16%	564	35%	1620
King's Hedges	379	19%	472	24%	324	17%	681	35%	1959
Market	36	5%	42	6%	21	3%	67	10%	665
Newnham	27	4%	27	4%	6	1%	15	2%	672
Petersfield	96	8%	126	10%	73	6%	202	17%	1211
Queen Edith's	134	8%	162	10%	120	7%	220	13%	1640
Romsey	127	10%	155	12%	115	9%	244	19%	1285
Trumpington	205	7%	263	9%	258	8%	757	25%	3041
West Chesterton	45	4%	56	5%	17	2%	61	5%	1121
Totals	2238	11%	2823	14%	2124	10%	4488	21%	20906

Additional Charts

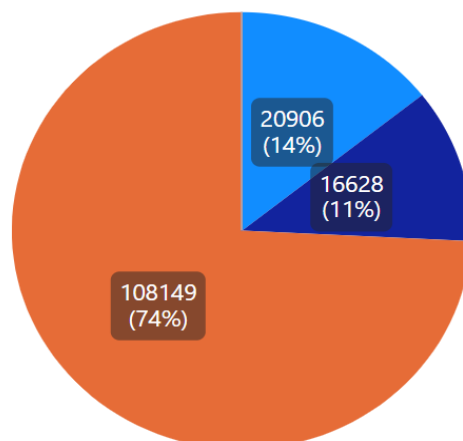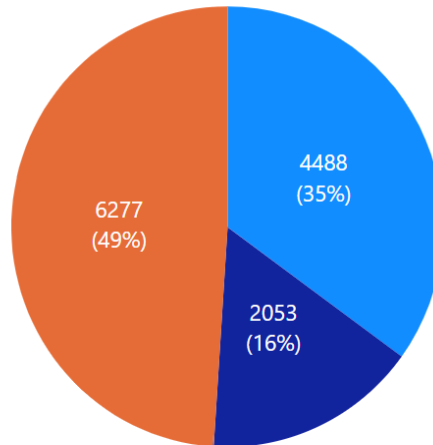## Chart 25: Make-up of total population by group

Chart 26: Make-up of benefit population by group

● Sum of Children in benefit households   ● Sum of Pensioners in benefit hous...   ● Sum of Working age adults .

Definitions

Policy in Practice Definition of Relative Poverty

Although there is no single definition of poverty, *relative poverty* is one of the commonly accepted definitions and is employed by various departments across the UK Government. According to this definition, a household is considered to be in relative poverty if their income is below 60% of UK median income (this is often called the 'poverty line'). The poverty line is calculated each year by the UK Government, using the Households Below Average income (HBAI) dataset to capture median income (the income earned by households in the 50th percentile of the income distribution). A family earning less than 60% of the median household income is therefore said to be in relative poverty.

Households are considered to be at risk of being in relative poverty if their total equivalised household income is below the UK poverty line (defined as 60% of median household income).

DWP Relative low-income households

Relative low-income is defined as a family in low income Before Housing Costs (BHC) in the reference year. A family must have claimed Child Benefit and at least one other household benefit (Universal Credit, tax credits, or Housing Benefit) at any point in the year to be classed as low income in these statistics. Gross income measure is Before Housing Costs (BHC) and includes contributions from earnings, state support and pensions.

DWP Absolute low-income households

Absolute low-income is defined as a family in low income Before Housing Costs (BHC) in the reference year in comparison with incomes in 2010/11. A family must have claimed Child Benefit and at least one other household benefit (Universal Credit, tax credits, or Housing Benefit) at any point in

the year to be classed as low income in these statistics. Gross income measure is Before Housing Costs (BHC) and includes contributions from earnings, state support and pensions.

ONS Definitions used for Dimensions of Deprivation

Education: A household is classified as deprived in the education dimension if no one has at least level 2 education and no one aged 16 to 18 years is a full-time student.

Employment: A household is classified as deprived in the employment dimension if any member, not a full-time student, is either unemployed or economically inactive due to long-term sickness or disability.

Health: A household is classified as deprived in the health dimension if any person in the household has general health that is bad or very bad or is identified as disabled. People who have assessed their day-to-day activities as limited by long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses are considered disabled. This definition of a disabled person meets the harmonised standard for measuring disability and is in line with the Equality Act (2010).

Housing: A household is classified as deprived in the housing dimension if the household's accommodation is either overcrowded, in a shared dwelling, or has no central heating.