

# SLOUGH DEMOGRAPHICS

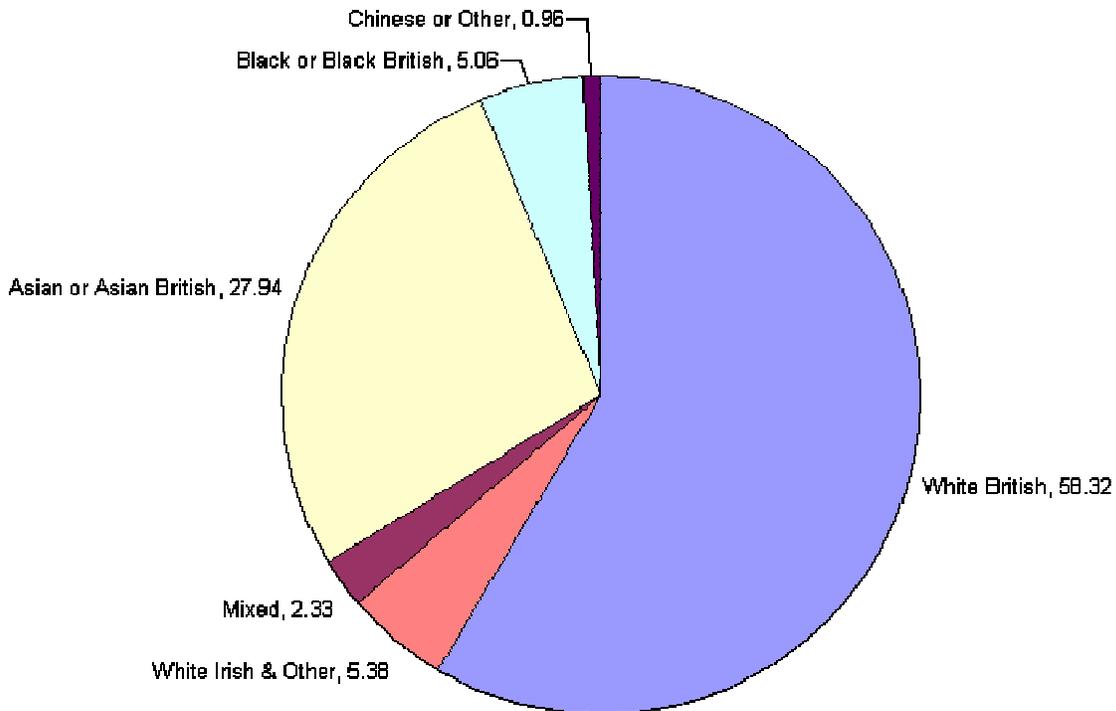
AN ANALYSYS BY Slough Race Equality Council

# Demographics

## Overview and Trends

Slough has an extremely diverse population with BME communities making up a large proportion.

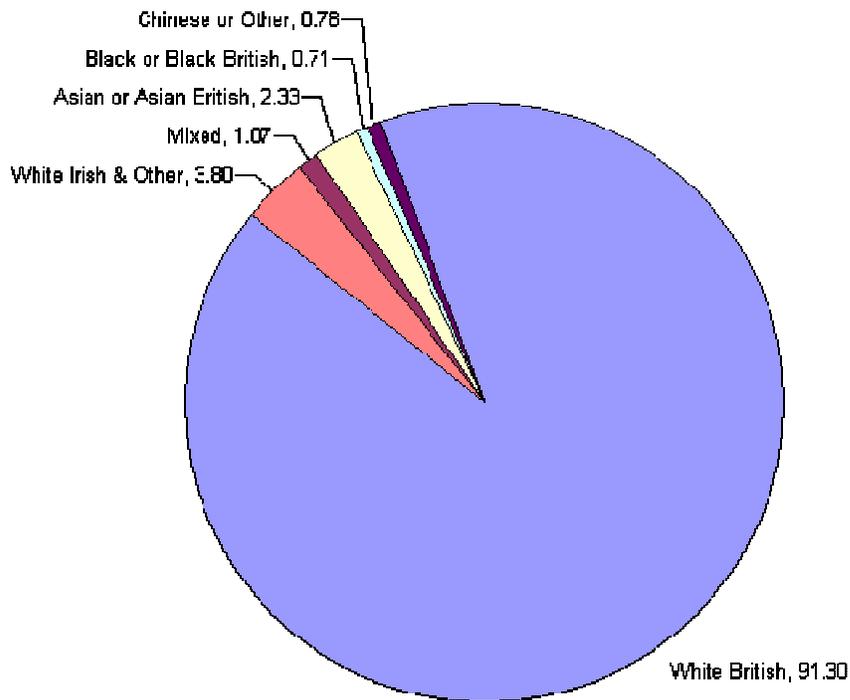
Its diversity stands out when comparing the breakdown of the main Census categories (percentages out of total population living in a given area) to the entire South East region, and with the whole England and Wales.



### G 1.1. – Ethnic Mix in Slough

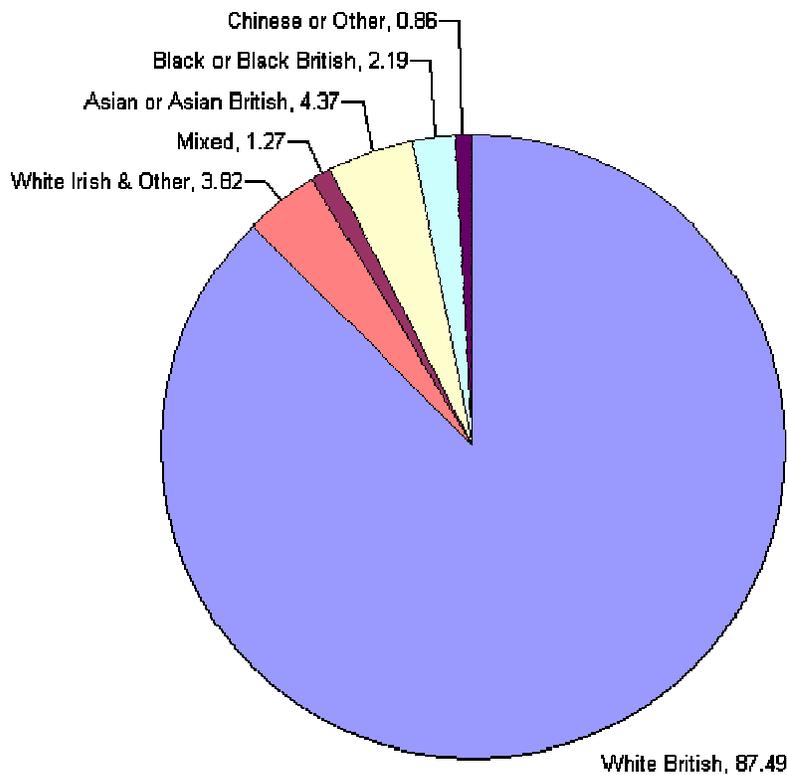
Values are percentages of the total population living in Slough. Source: 2001 Census

Please note that the 'White' category, as defined by the Census, is presented in this analysis split between 'White British' on one hand (blue in the graphs), and 'White Irish and White Other (orange in the graphs)'. This is to emphasize the fact that 'White' people can be a minority – obvious examples would be Irish, Scottish, Welsh, newly arrived people from Eastern Europe, etc.



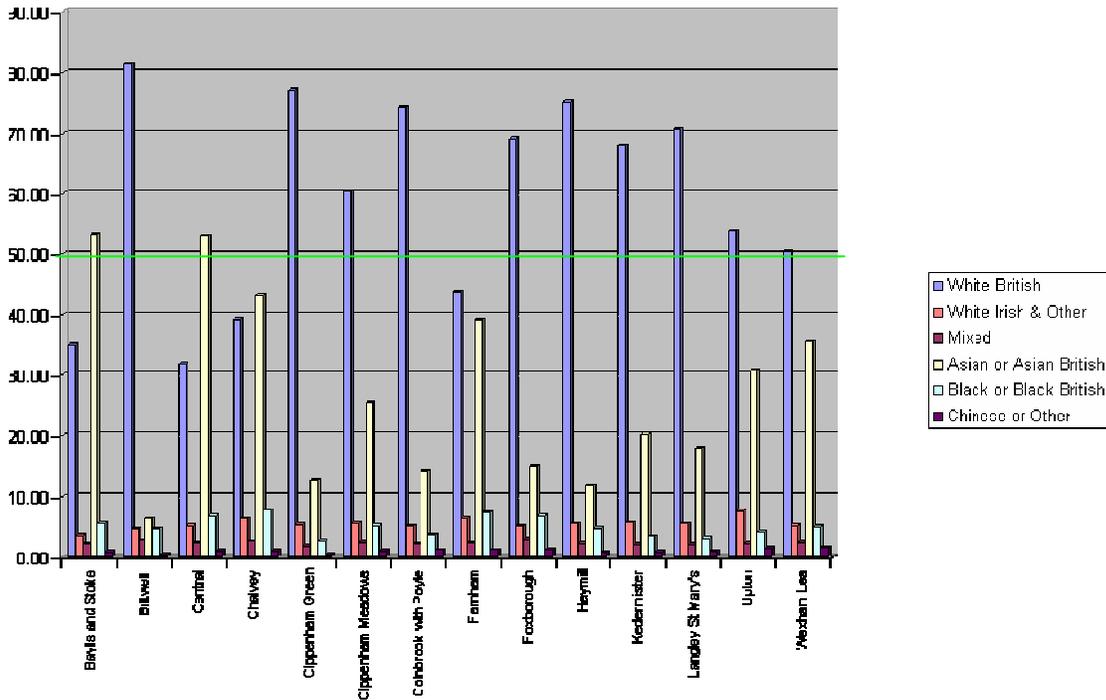
G 1.2. – Ethnic Mix in the South East

Values are percentages of the total population living in the South East. Source: 2001 Census



G 1.3. – Ethnic Mix in England & Wales. Source: 2001 Census

Currently there are areas of Slough where people falling into the “White British” category as defined by the 2001 census are actually a minority. Overall, the White British population of 4 of the 14 wards in Slough is less than 50% of the population living in those wards (hence they actually represent a minority), with 2 more wards where the percentage of White British is greater than, but very close to 50%.



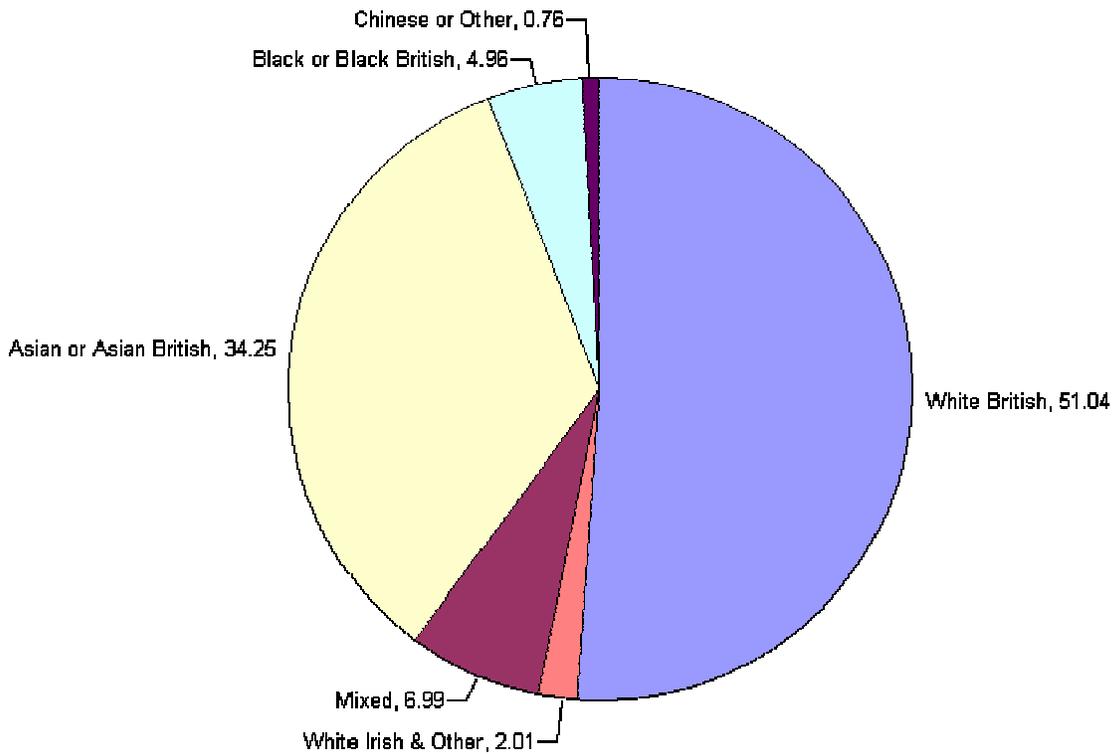
G 1.4. Slough Population Breakdown by Ward and Ethnicity – Total Population

*This illustrates findings outlined above. Values are percentages of the population living in a given ward. For instance, for the Central ward (third ward from the left), the blue bar depicting the percentage of 'White British' people in that ward, with a value slightly above 30%, signifies that out of all the people living in Central, about 30% stated their ethnicity as 'White British' during the 2001 Census.*

*Please note the green line at 50%: values above that line outline a clear majority of a specific population group within a given ward; values below that line signify the fact that the given ethnic group is a minority if all other ethnic groups in the ward are cumulated*

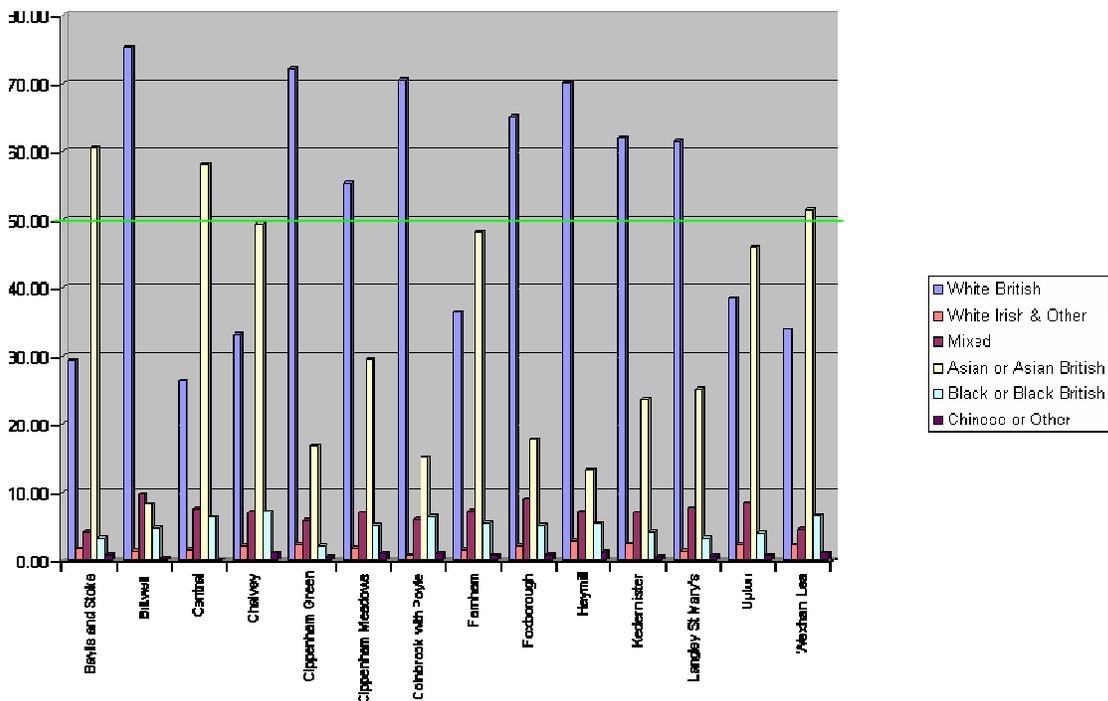
Source: 2001 Census

However, the demographics evolution is extremely important when analysing the makeup of the Slough population. Thus it is highly significant to look at the breakdown by ethnicity for people under 16, as the two categories specified by the 2001 census give an outlook as to the future evolution of Slough.



G 1.5. – Ethnic Mix in Slough, 0-4 Years Old.

Values are percentages of the population aged 0 to 4 living in Slough. Source: 2001 Census



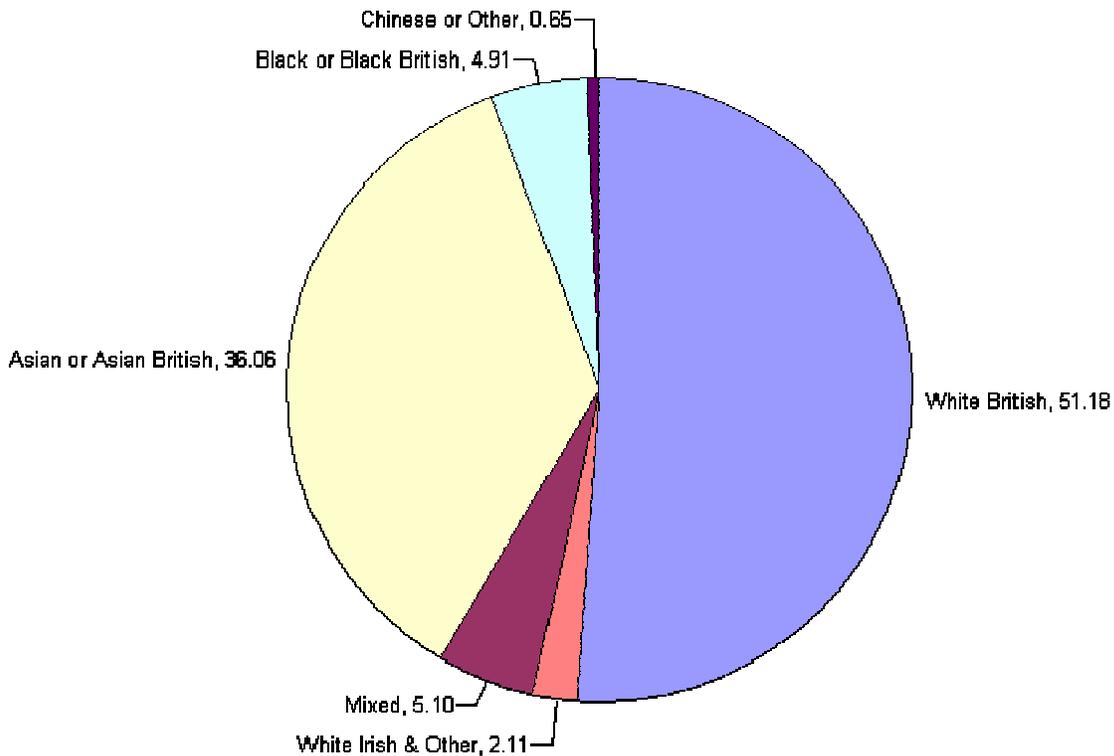
G 1.6. Slough Population Breakdown by Ward and Ethnicity – 0-4 Years Old

Source: 2001 Census

By looking at a breakdown of the 0 to 4 years old in Slough, we come to the conclusion that the trend is for the percentage of BME population in Slough to increase – for instance, overall, the percentage of White British people decreases from 58.32% for all age groups (G.1.1.) to 51.04% for 0-4 years old (G.1.5.)

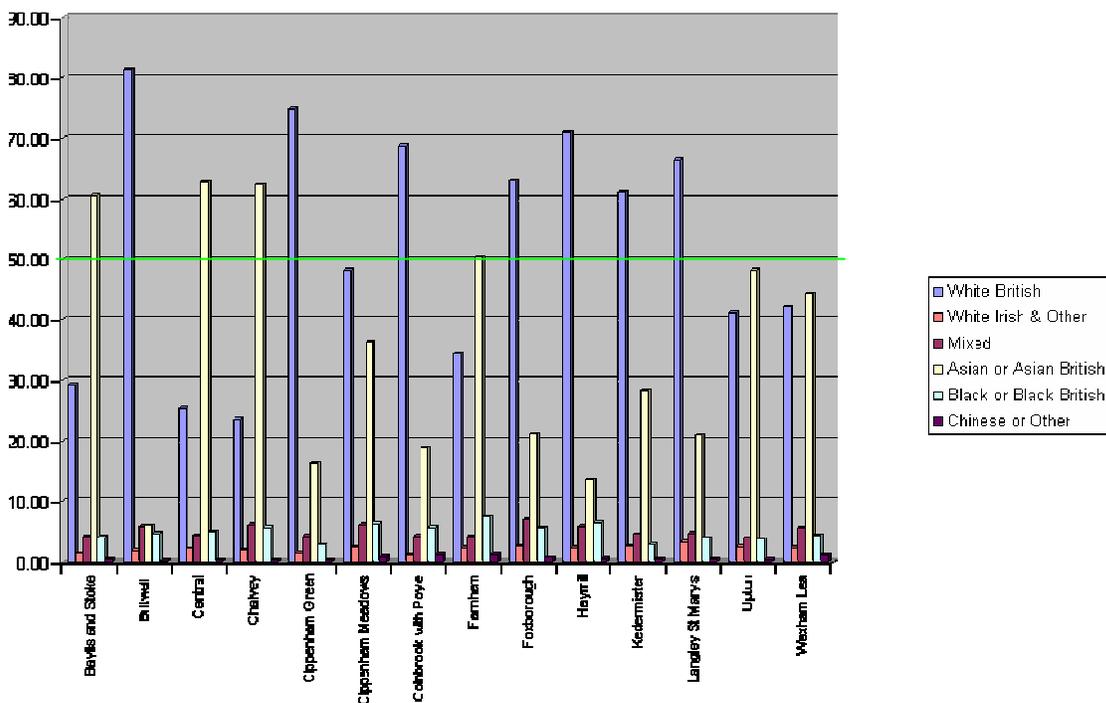
Also, for this particular age group, the number of wards where the White British population is a minority (represents less than 50% of the population of a given ward for that particular age group) is 6, as compared to 4 wards for all age groups combined (Graphs G.1.4. and G.1.6.)

The trend is confirmed in the 5 to 15 years old age group with half of the wards of Slough comprising of White British minorities.



#### G.1.7. Ethnic Mix in Slough, 5-15 Years Old

Source: 2001 Census



G 1.8. Slough Population Breakdown by Ward and Ethnicity – 5-15 Years Old

Source: 2001 Census

Also noteworthy is the increase of the percentage of people of mixed ethnic background (2.33% of total population, but 5.10% of the 5-15 years old group and 6.99% of the 0-4 year old group). Several factors can be related to this increase.

## Evolution

It is also of paramount importance to note that the ethnic mix of Slough is evolving continually, and many factors play a part in its evolution. Such factors include:

- **The EU enlargement**

Prior to May 2004, EC Association Agreements between EC member states and various countries on the accession path to the EC became better known by nationals of such countries. The ECA Agreements with states from Central and Eastern Europe allow for nationals of those countries to set themselves up in business in the UK. The vast majority of the applications for establishment in the UK under the provision of this type of agreement were received / processed in 2002 and 2003 (source: the Sutton report on the handling of ECAA applications, commissioned by the Home Secretary, published in June 2004). At a national level, around 30,000 such applications have been processed between April 2002 and March 2004.

Since May 2004, Slough has seen a dramatic increase in numbers in some of the communities from Central and Eastern Europe. Notable examples would be the Polish community, communities of people from the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania).

So far, information on this particular group of newcomers to Slough is limited and mostly anecdotal, but it is important to note the fact that the motivation of these new migrants is different, namely economic and not political. Also, it is extremely significant to note the importance of differentiating within the "White" group the various subgroups that make it up. While most of the East European newcomers would fall within the "White" group, most of them would typically fall within the "White Other" category as defined by the 2001 census.

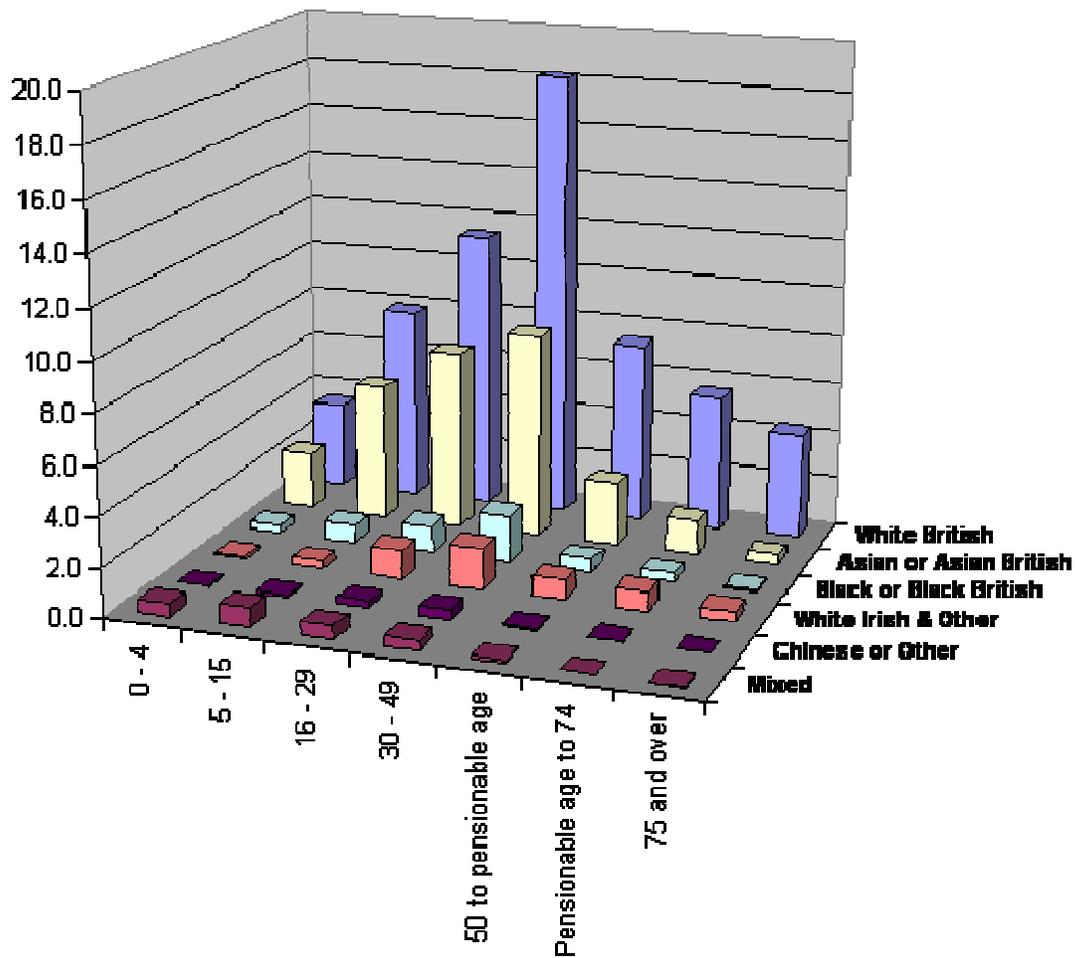
- **Political turmoil / oppressive regimes / wars around the world**  
We have noted a sharp rise in the number of refugees and asylum seekers during the past few years and despite the fact that Slough is not a priority dispersal area, people flock to the area, and public services must still support them and provide appropriate services. Such communities include people coming from countries such as:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Congo-Brazzaville, DR Congo, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, India, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Kosovo, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe

Noteworthy is also the fact that people coming to Slough as refugees or asylum seeker have had, in most cases, extremely damaging experiences in dealing with authorities. This reduces significantly the likelihood of them participating in any census initiative.

The meaning of the above findings is that in fact the percentages / numbers of people from ethnic minority backgrounds are in reality higher now than what the 2001 Census may suggest. The Community Profiles, soon to be published, will provide more detail on this topic.

The population in Slough tends to be younger when compared to the South East and England and Wales. This is also due to the fact that a smaller percentage of BME communities are of pensionable age and above, as compared with the White British population.

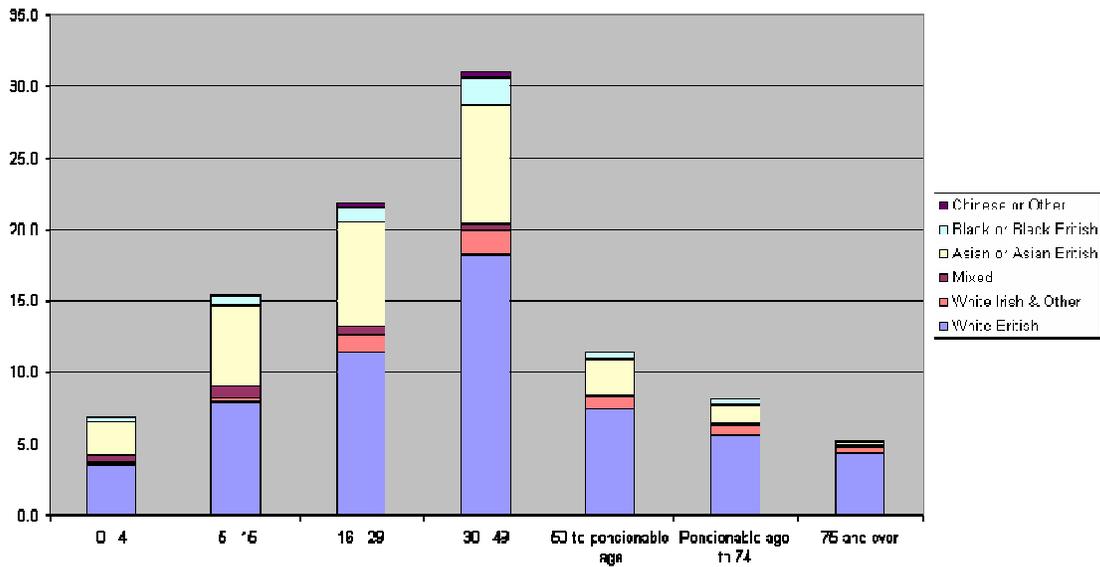


### G.1.9. Population Structure in Slough – Age Group / Ethnicity

Total population in this area = 100%.

This graph depicts the ethnic mix of Slough, and each ethnic group's population is split by age groups. Each bar represents the percentage of that particular ethnicity / age group in the total population of Slough. For instance, the rightmost blue bar in this graph, towards the back of the 3D graph (next to White British), tells us that out of the entire Slough population, people who are White British, aged 75 and over, represent roughly 6%.

Source: 2001 Census

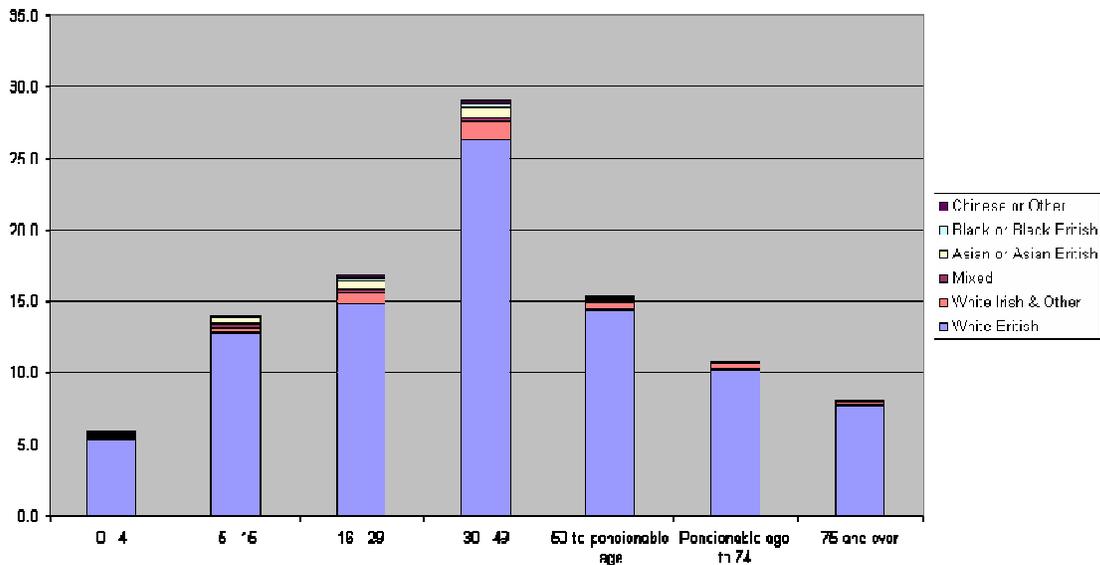


### G.1.10. Population Structure in Slough – Age Group / Ethnicity

Total population in this area = 100%.

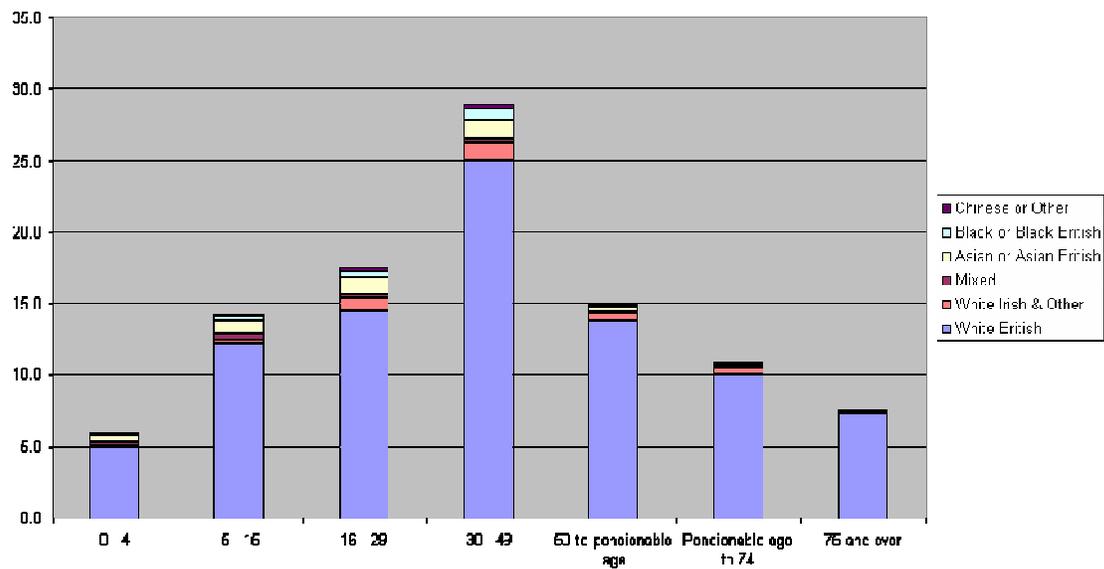
This graph is similar to the previous one (G.1.9.) but in this case, all bars for a given age group are stacked one on top of the other. This presents us with an overall image of Slough's population by age groups, while also allowing us to see, within a given age group, its ethnic makeup. The vertical (y) axis represents percentages of population.

Source: 2001 Census



### G.1.11. Population Structure in the South East – Age Group / Ethnicity

Source: 2001 Census



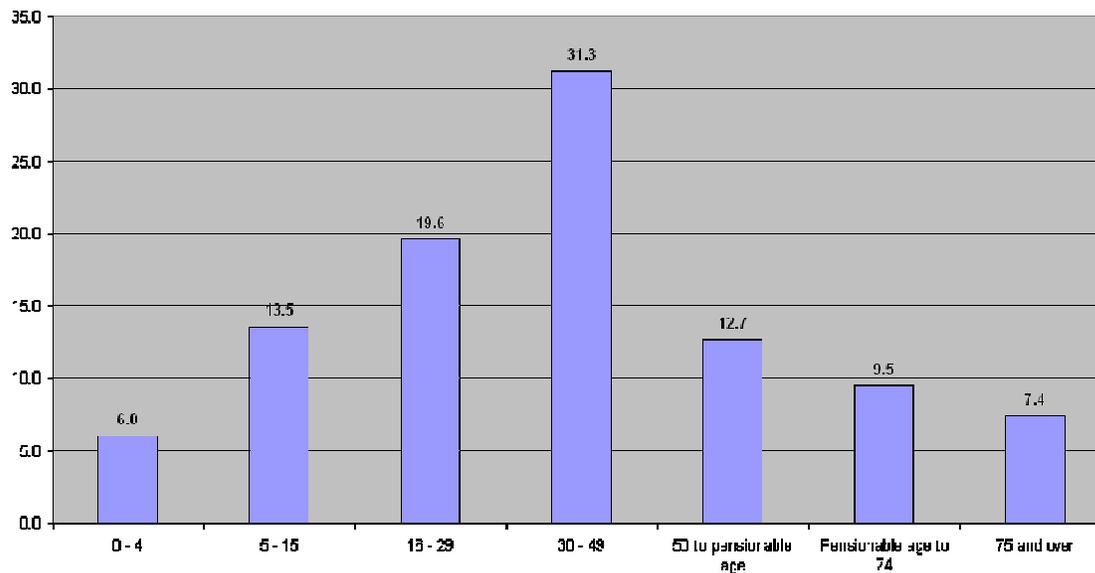
### G.1.12. Population Structure in England and Wales – Age Group / Ethnicity

Source: 2001 Census

It is readily apparent that the percentage of people of working age in Slough is significantly higher, especially in the 16 to 29 years old age group, than in the South East and England & Wales (21.8% in Slough, vs. 16.8% in the South East and 17.5% in England & Wales)

Similarly, for age groups above pensionable age, the percentage of Slough inhabitants who fit in those categories is significantly smaller than the same percentages for the South East and England & Wales respectively.

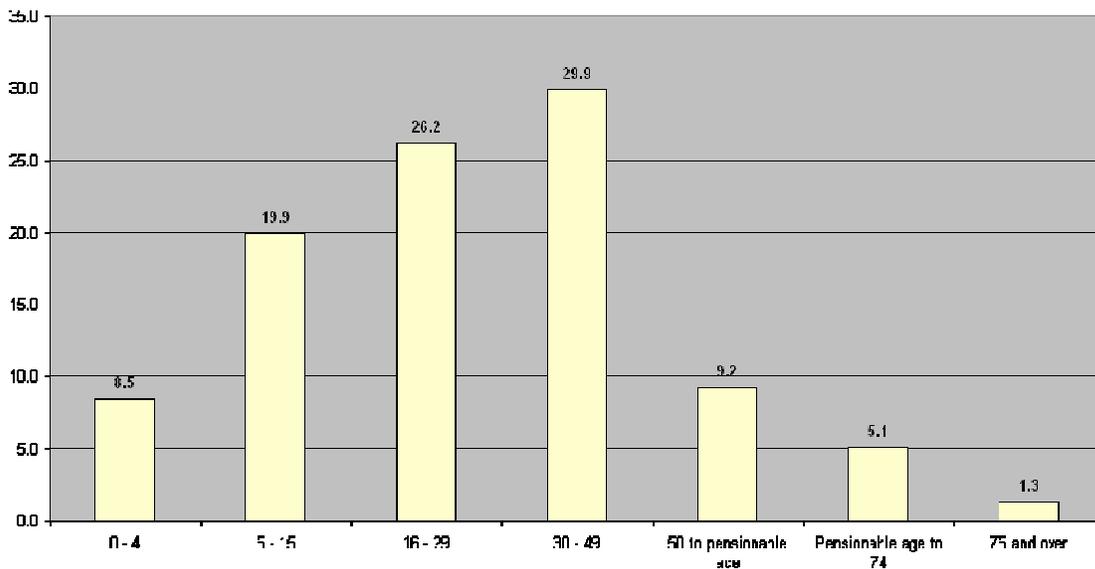
It is also interesting to look at how, for a given ethnic group, its total population is split into age groups.



### G.1.13. Age Group Structure of White British population in Slough

*In this graph, all White British people in Slough represent 100%. Each bar in the graph represents the percentage of White British people, out of the total number of White British people in Slough, that fit within a given age group.*

Source: 2001 Census



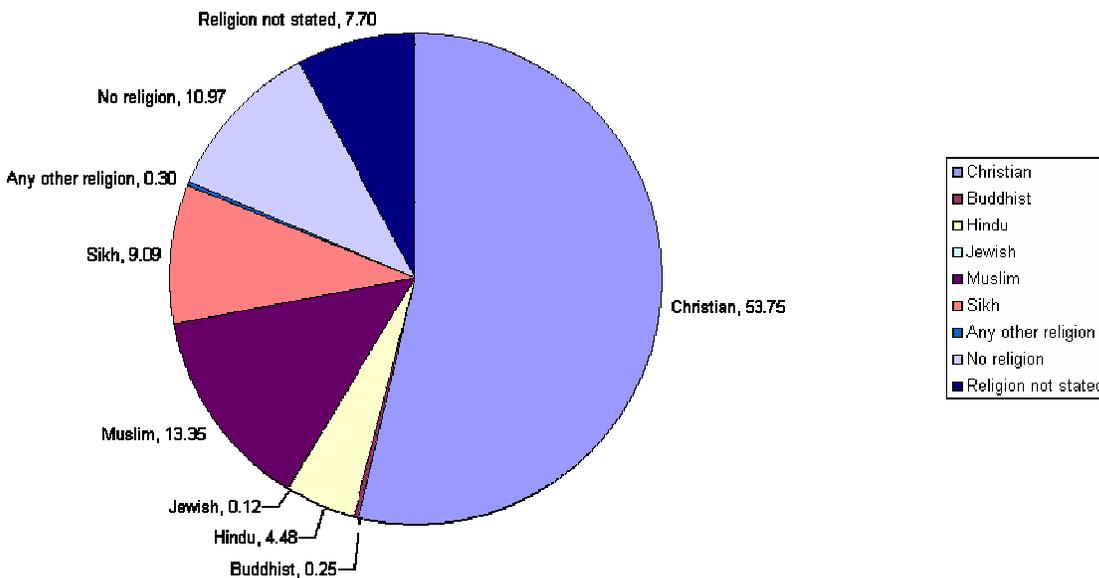
### G.1.14. Age Group Structure of Asian or Asian British population in Slough

Source: 2001 Census

It is clear that by comparing, as above, the structure of the White British population in Slough with the structure of the Asian or Asian British ethnic group, there is a marked drop in the Asian group at and above pensionable ages.

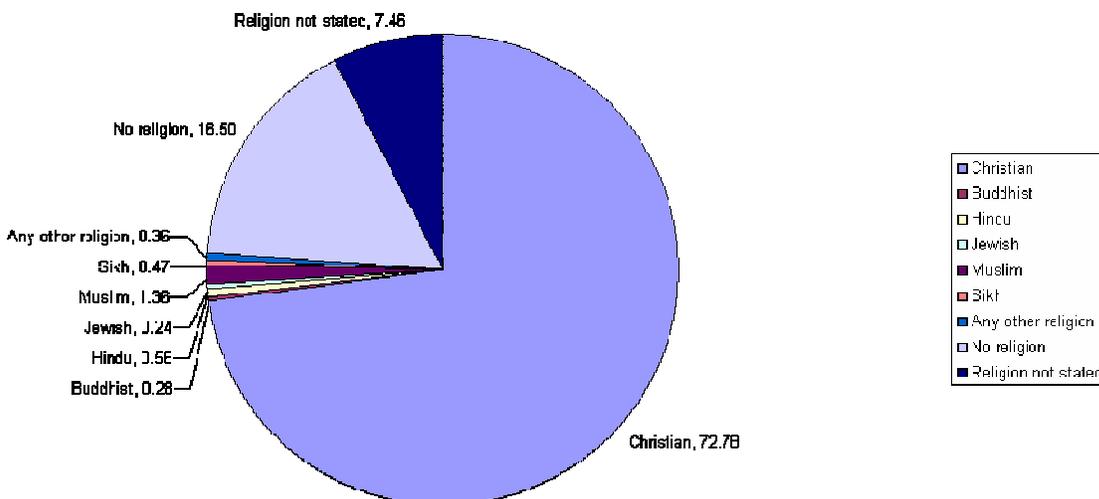
## Religion

Another interesting statistic relates to religion. With 9% of the population in Slough declaring their religion as “Sikh”, this makes Slough the area with the highest proportion of Sikhs in Britain. To be noted that in 2001, Sikhs were not recognized as a specific, distinct ethnic group.



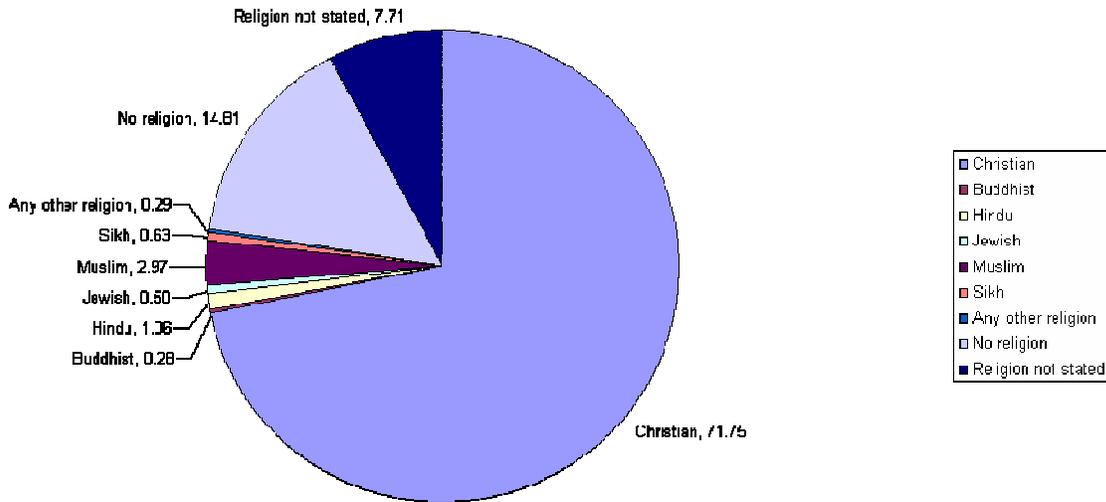
G.1.9. Religion in Slough.

Source: 2001 Census



G.1.10. Religion in the South East.

Source: 2001 Census



#### G.1.11. Religion in the England & Wales.

Source: 2001 Census

So far this analysis has been based on data from the 2001 census. More recent information (such as data published by the Slough Refugee Support Group or interpreting session information from the Slough Translation and Interpreting Service) provide a more accurate and up to date picture in regards to the population of Slough.

To summarize, the proportion of BME's living in Slough is much higher than that of surrounding areas, the South East average or the average in England & Wales. Moreover, their proportion in relation to the whole population of Slough is set to increase constantly.