

1.3 Ethnicity

1.3.1 The Ethnic Mix of the Current Population

Outline

This section provides information on the ethnic mix of the county's population, in other words the way Northamptonshire is made up of groups of people differentiated from the rest of the community by racial origins or cultural background. Northamptonshire is a diverse county and this is reflected in its population. The majority of the population are white British, but a pattern of migration since the middle of the 20th century has introduced a number of ethnic groups. It is important for service providers to be able to understand the needs of all parts of the population, including different ethnic groups.

Data Description

The data is taken from the ONS 2007 Population Estimates by Ethnic Group. These are an experimental set of estimates from ONS, which means that they are in the testing phase and not yet fully developed. This set of data was preferred to the 2001 Population Census data, which was the only practical alternative because the 2001 Census data was seen as being out of date. Please also refer to the section on Migrant Population for further information and data referring to ethnicity.

Key Issues

- In 2007, the majority of the county's total population of 678,300 was in the White British ethnic group and tends to be less ethnically diverse than the population of England.
- The ethnic make of Northamptonshire across different age profiles demonstrates a rapidly changing population; retired population 97% are White, 0-15 years 89% are White
- Other sizeable ethnic groups in the county are the Asian or Asian British group and the Other White group with a population of around 20,000, (2.8%).
- Black and minority ethnic group populations vary by district, but are concentrated in Northampton and Wellingborough.
- The population of most ethnic groups has increased since 2001.
- As the current data is considered experimental by the Office of National Statistics it may not be an accurate picture of Northamptonshire. Comparison to schools data suggests that it may underestimate the proportion of the population that is not White British.

Consequences

Different ethnic groups have different risks for health conditions (e.g. Asian populations tend to have a high prevalence of diabetes). Ethnic mix should be taken into account when planning to ensure services are sensitive to different cultural backgrounds and needs of ethnic groups. The lack of accurate ethnicity data makes planning services for different ethnic groups challenging.

In Northamptonshire the ethnic mix of the population is changing, current population estimates an adult population of 92% white; component parts of the population have a very different make up: the retired population where 97% are white, the 0-15 years population of 89% white, and in addition there is an increased rate of births from non-UK mothers.

Ethnicity needs to be considered when planning and developing services, this will usually be undertaken through an Equalities Impact Assessment to ensure that a population is not disadvantaged by the planned development

Key Documents

Office of National Statistics. 2007. *Population Estimates by Ethnic Group (experimental)* (Online). Available from: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14238>

Office of National Statistics. 2009. *Focus on Ethnicity and Identity*. (Online). Available from: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/focuson/ethnicity/>

NHS Evidence. 2009. *Ethnicity and health*. (Online). Available from: <http://www.library.nhs.uk/ethnicity/>

Locality	All Groups	White: British	White: Irish	White: Other White	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British:	Chinese or Other Ethnicity
England	51,092.0	42,736.0	570.5	1,776.3	870.1	2,914.8	1,447.9	776.4
East Midlands	4,399.6	3,873.2	34.9	92.9	62.4	221.4	67.2	47.7
Northamptonshire	678.3	597.9	8.0	19.2	10.9	22.1	12.4	7.9
Corby	55.2	50.8	1.0	1.3	0.6	0.9	0.5	0.2
Daventry	79.1	72.1	0.6	2.1	0.9	1.9	0.8	0.6
East Northamptonshire	85.4	78.1	0.7	2.5	1.0	1.4	0.9	0.7
Kettering	89.5	81.1	0.8	2.5	0.9	2.5	0.8	0.7
Northampton	202.8	169.4	3.3	5.6	4.4	9.8	6.1	4.2
South Northamptonshire	90.3	81.8	0.8	3.4	1.1	1.5	1.1	0.7
Wellingborough	75.9	64.7	0.8	1.8	1.6	4.1	2.2	0.7

Table 1.3.1.1 Count of mid-year population estimate 2007 by ethnicity (experimental), ONS (Figures in thousands)

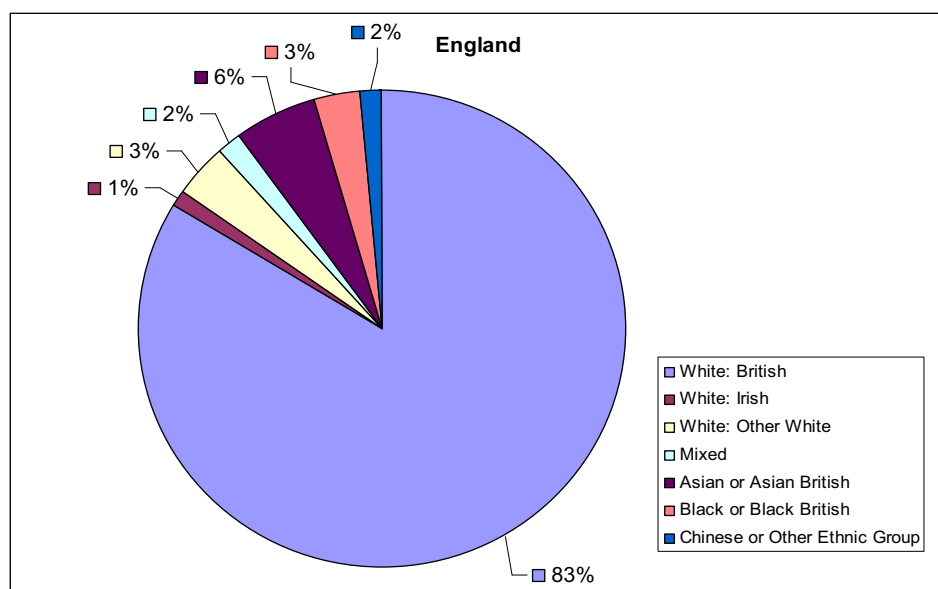


Figure 1.3.1.1 Mid-year population estimate 2007 by ethnicity in England (experimental), ONS

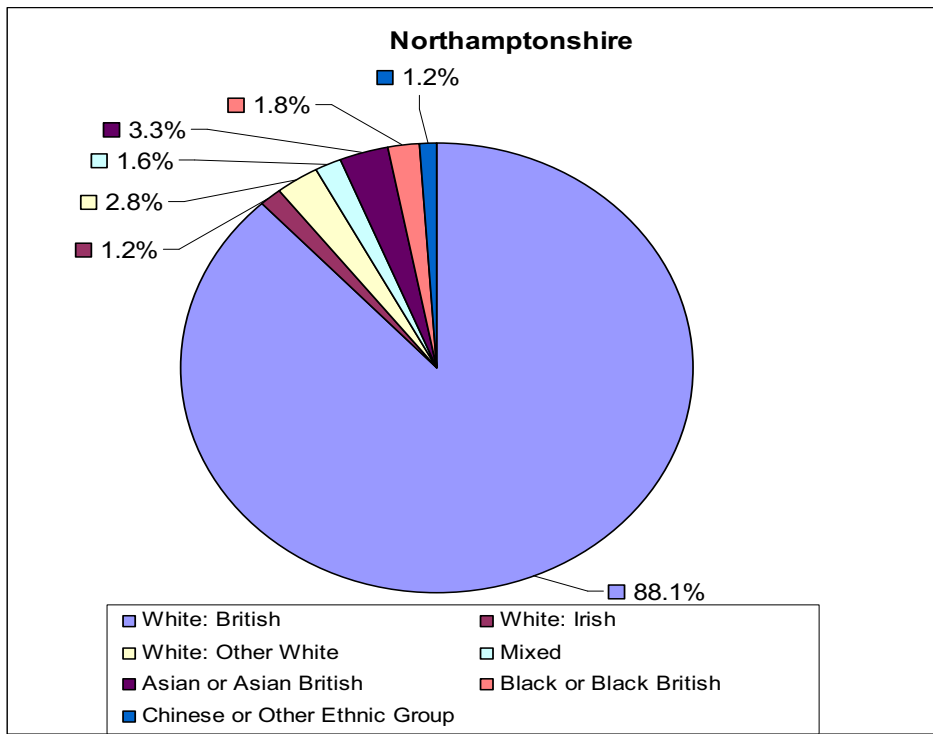


Figure 1.3.1.2 Mid-year population estimate 2007 by ethnicity in Northamptonshire (experimental), ONS

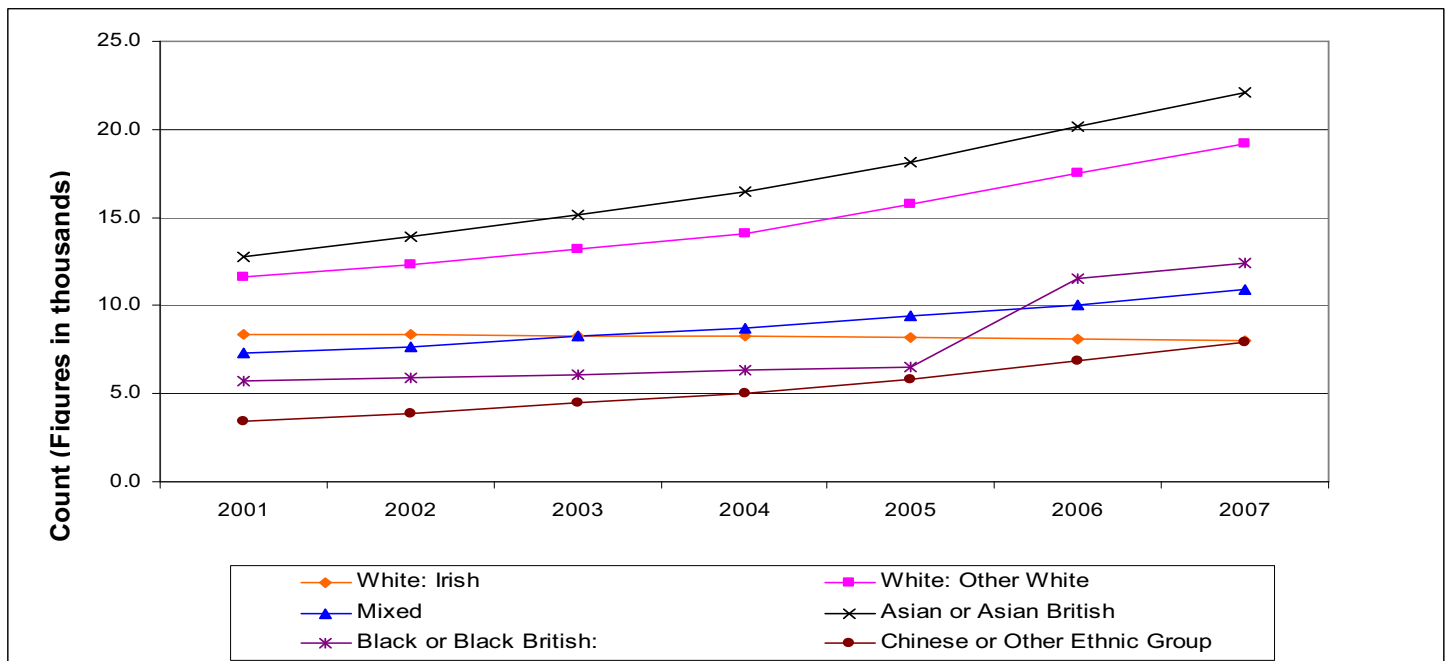


Figure 1.3.1.3 Trend in the count of mid-year population estimate 2007 by ethnicity (experimental) in Northamptonshire, ONS

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Locality	White: British	White: Irish	White: Other White	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese or Other Ethnicity
England	83.6%	1.1%	3.5%	1.7%	5.7%	2.8%	1.5%
East Midlands	88.0%	0.8%	2.1%	1.4%	5.0%	1.5%	1.1%
Northamptonshire	88.1%	1.2%	2.8%	1.6%	3.3%	1.8%	1.2%
Corby	92.0%	1.8%	2.4%	1.1%	1.6%	0.9%	0.4%
Daventry	91.2%	0.8%	2.7%	1.1%	2.4%	1.0%	0.8%
East Northamptonshire	91.5%	0.8%	2.9%	1.2%	1.6%	1.1%	0.8%
Kettering	90.6%	0.9%	2.8%	1.0%	2.8%	0.9%	0.8%
Northampton	83.5%	1.6%	2.8%	2.2%	4.8%	3.0%	2.1%
South Northamptonshire	90.6%	0.9%	3.8%	1.2%	1.7%	1.2%	0.8%
Wellingborough	85.2%	1.1%	2.4%	2.1%	5.4%	2.9%	0.9%

Table 1.3.1.2 Percentage of the mid-year population estimate 2007 by ethnicity (experimental), ONS

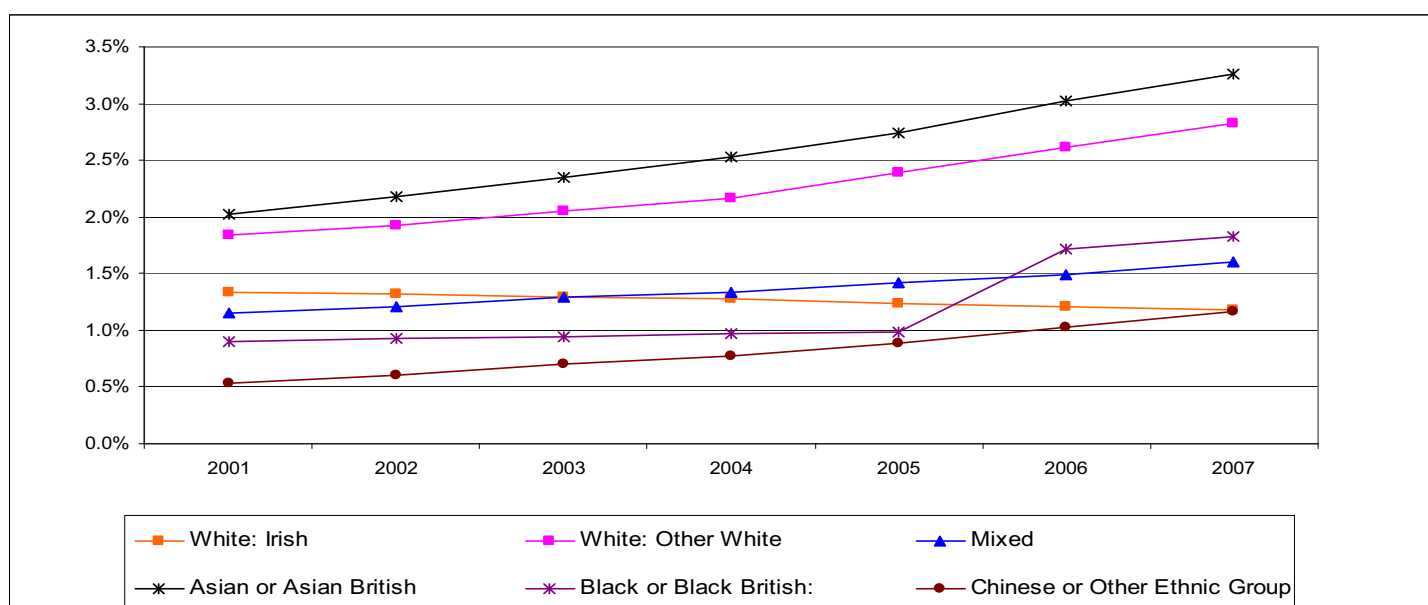


Figure 1.3.1.4 Percentage trend of the mid-year population estimate 2007 by ethnicity (experimental) in Northamptonshire, ONS

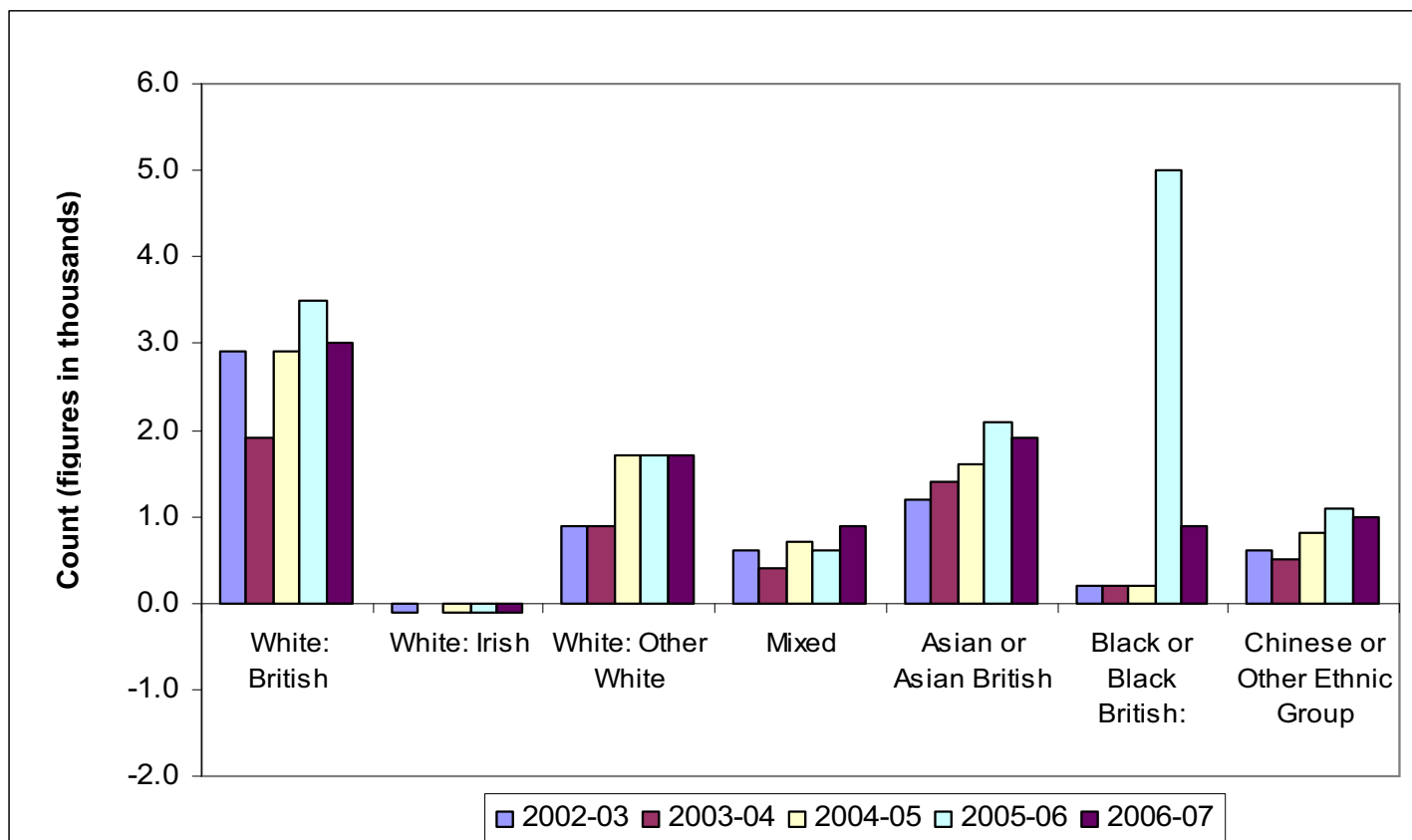


Figure 1.3.1.5 Year on year change in mid-year population estimates 2007 by ethnicity (experimental) in Northamptonshire, ONS