

Black Africans in Britain

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A growing population

- 2001 0.8% of UK population.
- Numbers predicted to double by 2020.
- 98% of adults have both parents born outside the UK.
- 49% of adults came to UK in last 7 years; 35% in the last 5 years.

Method and datasets used

- Selected indicators of integration.
- Labour Force Survey (LFS)
- Citizenship Survey
- Health Survey for England (HSE)
- National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles II, 2000-2001 (NATSAL II)
- Annual School Census (PLASC)
- Lambeth PCT
- Millennium Cohort Study
- Census 2001 CAMs

Main findings

Black Africans:

- Huge diversity in demographic characteristics and socio-economic outcomes by country of birth.
- Integration highest for southern Africans.
- Integration lowest for migrants from central Africa and Horn of Africa.

Waves of immigration

Most established:

- Ghana
- Sierra Leone
- Nigeria

Most recent:

- Central Africa
- Southern Africa
- Zimbabwe

Also: Black African, born outside UK or sub-Saharan Africa

Black Africans

- Religion features strongly in Black Africans' identity.
- Majority feel strong sense of 'belonging to the Britain'.
- Not all Anglophone.
- Highly educated.
- Are positive about where they live.
- Poor housing.
- Distrust police.
- Racism.
- Restricted social networks.

Language

First language at home

Ethnic group	English	Other
Black African	55.6	44.4
Black African, UK born	89.8	10.2
Nigeria	68.9	31.1
Ghana	66.5	33.5
Uganda	52.0	48.0
Zimbabwe	41.8	58.2
Somalia	9.3	90.7

Source: LFS June-August 2003 & Q3 2006

Language

Difficulties with interview because of language problems

	Black African - central/east	Black African - west Africa
Yes, severe	1.4	1.1
Yes, some	25.4	14.4
No problem	73.1	84.5

Source: NATSAL II

Somalis

- Largest % of child migrants.
- High proportion of widows.
- High rates of separation (11%).
- Extremely large families.
- Very high levels of lone parenthood.
- Tend to live in household with other Black Africans.
- 98% Muslim.
- Speak Somali at home.

Somalis

- Very high proportion in social housing.
- Particularly poor housing.
- 67% on Income Support
- Low employment – high inactivity.
- Over-represented in 'routine' occupations.
- Similar in many ways to Bangladeshis.

West Africans

- Lowest % of child migrants.
- Divorce rate higher than for white British.
- Comparatively high levels of lone parenthood.
- Some Muslims.
- Particularly high level of religious observance.
- Nigerians have relatively high levels of British identity.

Zimbabweans

- 59% female.
- 95% Christian.
- Least likely to identify as British.
- Fluent in English.
- Least spatially concentrated.
- Higher employment rate than white British.
- Typically in privately rented housing.
- Disability and health problems low.

Implications

- Skill and qualifications are under-used.
- Limitations of community groups.
- Schools, health services and local authorities are among institutions which have to meet the challenges of growing linguistic complexity.
- Policy should focus on the most deprived groups.
- Persistent inequalities - require sustained application of social policies.