



Planning research

People in Bolton

2011 Census Factfile no. 3

National Identity

Communicating research and
sharing knowledge

People in Bolton 2011 Census

National Identity Factfile - October 2013

People in Bolton factfiles provide key facts and figures about people who live or work in the borough of Bolton. These current factfiles are based on information from the most recent Census in 2011.

Other related publications, including more detailed information on a range of topics can be accessed at: www.bolton.gov.uk/researchandinformation

The latest census was held on Sunday 27 March 2011, with results released from July 2012 onwards. This briefing note outlines the key issues on national identity.

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1. Summary

- The 2011 Census introduced a question on national identity for the first time. A person's national identity is a **subjective** measure of their own identity with respect to the country or countries with which they feel an affiliation. This assessment of identity is not the same as country of birth, legal nationality or ethnicity.
- The most ticked box in Bolton for national identity was **English**, with over three-quarters of people in Bolton described themselves as English as at least part of their national identity. Around a third of people described their identity as **British**.
- Despite the fact that around 1 in 10 of the population in Bolton were born outside of the UK and 1 in 5 come from a minority ethnic group, just 5% of the population viewed their national identity as entirely 'other'.

2. Introduction

The census has collected information about the population every 10 years since 1801 (except in 1941). The latest census in England and Wales took place on **27 March 2011**.

Census statistics describe the characteristics of an area, such as how many men and women there are and their ages. The statistics are used to understand similarities and differences in population characteristics locally, regionally and nationally, and inform policy and planning.

The 2011 Census introduced a question on national identity for the first time. This was due to an increased interest in 'national' consciousness and demand from people to acknowledge their national identity in addition to their ethnic & cultural background. National identity is **multi-dimensional**, so the 2011 Census respondents were allowed to tick more than one national identity if they wished to.

A person's national identity is a **subjective** measure of their own identity with respect to the country or countries with which they feel an affiliation. This assessment of identity is not the same as country of birth, legal nationality or ethnicity. The national identity question included six tick box responses - one for each of the four parts of the UK (English, Welsh, Scottish and Northern Irish), one for British, and one for 'Other'. Where a person ticked 'Other' they were asked to write in the name of the country.

People were asked to tick all options that they felt applied to them. This means that in results relating to national identity people may be classified with a single national identity or a combination of identities.

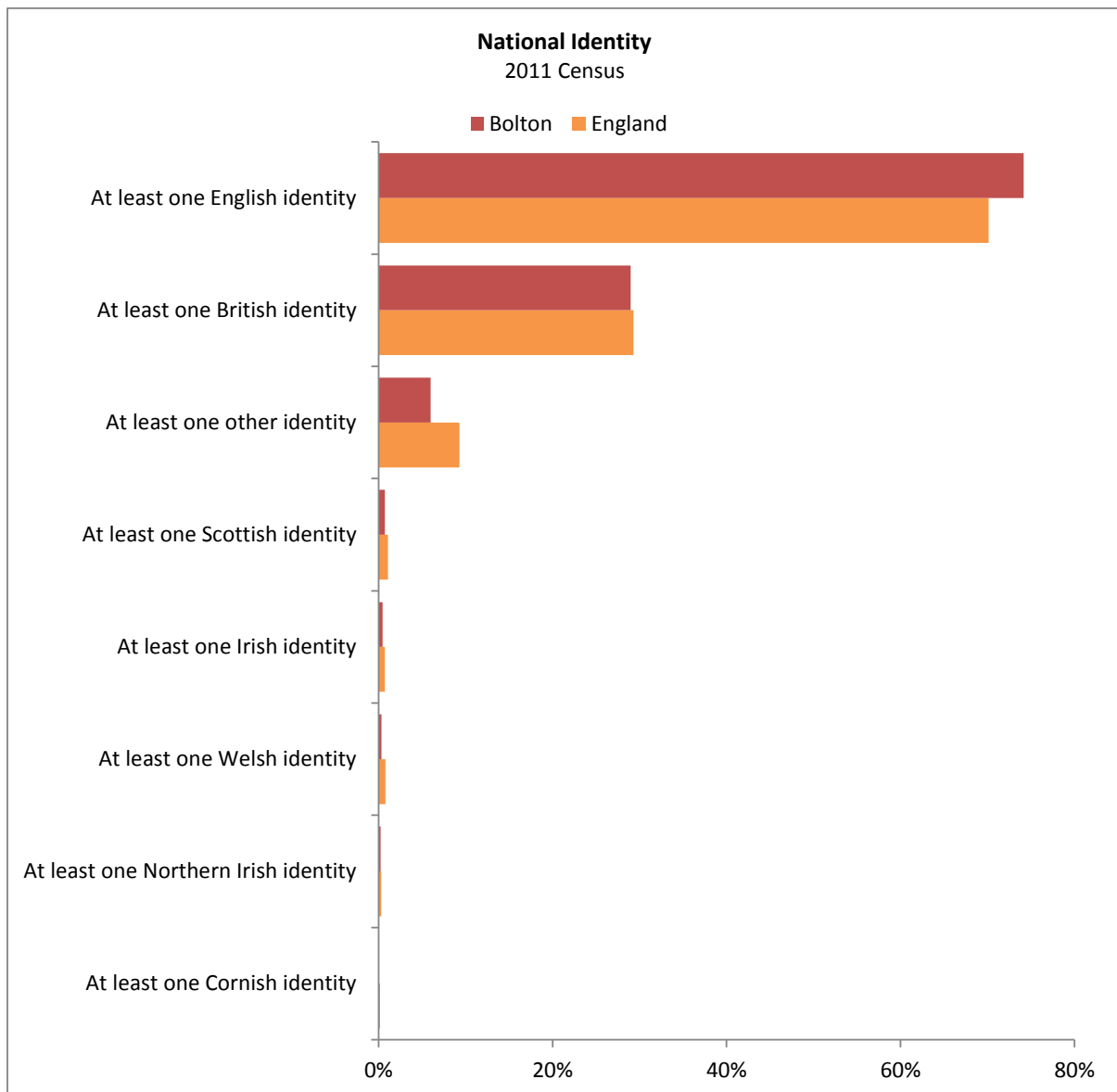
3. National Identity in Bolton

Although people were allowed to tick as many boxes as they liked for this question, the most ticked box in Bolton for national identity was English (either on its own or in combination with other identities). Over three-quarters of people in Bolton described themselves as English as at least part of their national identity. This was closely followed by British, with around one-third of people including it as at least one of their options. People in Bolton were slightly more likely to select 'English' and less likely to select 'Welsh', 'Scottish', 'Northern Irish', 'Irish' or 'Cornish' as part of their national identity than other parts of England.

Despite the fact that around 1 in 10 of the population in Bolton were born outside of the UK and 1 in 5 come from a minority ethnic group, **a very strong majority in Bolton affiliated themselves as members of the United Kingdom or Ireland in terms of their current national identity.** Around 95% of the population said they were at least one or more of English, British, Welsh, Scottish, Irish, Northern Irish or Cornish, (compared to 91% nationally). Just 5% of people in Bolton viewed their national identity as entirely 'other'.

		Bolton (%)	England (%)
English	At least one English identity	74.2	70.1
	English only identity	64.4	60.4
	English and British only identity	9.4	9.1
	Other English combined background identity	0.3	0.7
	No English identity	25.8	29.9
Welsh	At least one Welsh identity	0.3	0.8
	Welsh only identity	0.2	0.6
	Welsh and British only identity	0.0	0.1
	Other Welsh combined background identity	0.1	0.1
	No Welsh identity	99.7	99.2
Scottish	At least one Scottish identity	0.7	1.0
	Scottish only identity	0.6	0.8
	Scottish and British only identity	0.1	0.2
	Other Scottish combined background identity	0.1	0.1
	No Scottish identity	99.3	99.0
Northern Irish	At least one Northern Irish identity	0.2	0.3
	Northern Irish only identity	0.2	0.2
	Northern Irish and British only identity	0.0	0.0
	Other Northern Irish combined background identity	0.0	0.0
	No Northern Irish identity	99.8	99.7
British	At least one British identity	29.0	29.3
	British only identity	19.0	19.2
	British and any other identity	10.0	10.1
	No British identity	71.0	70.7
Cornish	At least one Cornish identity	0.0	0.2
	Cornish only identity	0.0	0.1
	Cornish and British only identity	0.0	0.0
	Cornish and at least one of English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish identities (with or without British)	0.0	0.0
	No Cornish identity	100.0	99.8
Irish	At least one Irish identity	0.4	0.7
	Irish only identity	0.4	0.6
	Irish and British only identity	0.0	0.0
	Irish and Northern Irish only identity	0.0	0.0
	Irish, Northern Irish and British only identity	0.0	0.0
	Irish and at least one of English/Welsh/Scottish identities (with or without British)	0.0	0.0
	Irish, Northern Irish and at least one of English/Welsh/Scottish identities (with or without British)	0.0	0.0
	No Irish identity	99.6	99.3
Other	At least one Other identity	6.0	9.3
	Other identities only	5.4	8.3
	Other identities and at least one of English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British only	0.5	0.9
	No Other identity	94.0	90.7
At least one of English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British/Cornish identities		94.6	91.7

Source: 2011 Census, Key Statistics Table KS202, 'National Identity', Office for National Statistics, Crown Copyright.



Source: 2011 Census, Key Statistics Table KS202, 'National Identity', Office for National Statistics, Crown Copyright.

4. Distribution of National Identity Groups

As stated previously, 6% of the population (16,500 people) included an 'Other' as at least one part of their national identity, with 5.4% (15,000) being completely 'Other' with no UK or Ireland national identity at all.

The map below shows the distribution of people who have *only* included an 'Other' countries as part of their national identity. As expected, people who selected 'other' tended to be clustered around the town centre areas of **Crompton, Halliwell, Rumworth** and **Great Lever**, with smaller numbers in Harper Green, Farnworth and Tonge with the Haulgh. (This fits with the trends seen in earlier chapters where BME groups and migrants were more likely to reside). For instance output areas in Crompton and Rumworth had between around one-quarter and one-third of people who had a

national identity that was 'other', whilst the rest of the borough showed fairly consistently low levels of 6% or less.

Only a few places in Bolton had output areas where people's identity was entirely UK/Ireland based – these were mainly situated in the outer areas of the borough, including Horwich, Westhoughton, Hulton, Smithills, Little Lever, Bradshaw and Bromley Cross.

