

# State of Equalities in Islington

Annual Report 2019



**A FAIRER  
ISLINGTON**

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# Introduction



Islington Council's motivating force is making Islington fairer for all. The annual State of Equalities report provides the necessary data and insight for us to take stock of where we are as a borough, to make sure the raft of work the council undertakes is focusing on the right things, and that we are actively tackling areas of inequality.

I am immensely proud of the diversity of Islington, it's what makes it such a wonderful place to live and work. It should go without saying that everyone deserves to live free of fear and abuse. One of the key aims of the council's hate crime strategy is to encourage reporting, therefore the increase of hate crime reporting seen in this year's report must be taken in this context. Hate is not welcome here. With reporting increasing, it is, as ever crucial that we see effective action in terms of the sanction and detection of perpetrators so that we can stamp Hate out for good.

Addressing inequality is embedded throughout the council's work. It is vital that this work is meaningful and reflects the need of the borough if we are to make sure that everyone, whatever their background, has the same opportunity to reach their potential. Over the next year we will continue to focus on closing the gaps in a number of areas to ultimately make Islington fairer.

Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz  
**Executive Member for Community Development**

# How we are reducing inequality

Understanding the evidence and what it tells us about inequality is only the start of our responsibility to make Islington a fairer place. We are also taking action all across the council in response to the below findings.

For more information on these initiatives you may want to look at:

- ‘Building a fairer Islington’, Islington Council’s Corporate Plan, 2018-22:  
[www.islington.gov.uk/about-the-council/vision-and-priorities](http://www.islington.gov.uk/about-the-council/vision-and-priorities)
- Our corporate equality objectives:  
[www.islington.gov.uk/about-the-council/equality-and-diversity/equality-objectives](http://www.islington.gov.uk/about-the-council/equality-and-diversity/equality-objectives)
- The Employment Commission – the council’s continued work on the recommendations to lift residents out of poverty by getting them into work:  
[www.islington.gov.uk/about-the-council/vision-and-priorities/employment-commission](http://www.islington.gov.uk/about-the-council/vision-and-priorities/employment-commission)
- Equalities events programme – to celebrate our diverse communities:  
[www.islington.gov.uk/about-the-council/equality-and-diversity/equalities-events](http://www.islington.gov.uk/about-the-council/equality-and-diversity/equalities-events)
- The Fair Futures Commission - setting out how we will make Islington the greatest place for children and young people to grow up: [www.fairfutures.org](http://www.fairfutures.org)
- Our approach to tackling hate crime, including our hate crime strategy:  
[www.islington.gov.uk/community-safety/tackling-hate-crime](http://www.islington.gov.uk/community-safety/tackling-hate-crime)
- Health and wellbeing strategy:  
[www.islington.gov.uk/social-care-health/health/health-strategies-reports-and-data-protection](http://www.islington.gov.uk/social-care-health/health/health-strategies-reports-and-data-protection)
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment - looking at our approach to assessing health and wellbeing needs to address health inequalities:  
<https://evidencehub.islington.gov.uk/jsna/Pages/default.aspx>
- Voluntary and Community Sector strategy 2016-2020 - how we will work with partners to improve the lives of our residents:  
[www.islington.gov.uk/advice/vcs-organisations/vcs-strategy-2016-2020](http://www.islington.gov.uk/advice/vcs-organisations/vcs-strategy-2016-2020)

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# Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 protects people from discrimination on the basis of ‘protected characteristics’.

As a public authority we must comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty, which requires public bodies to have “due regard” to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a characteristic and those who do not
- Foster good relations between people who share a characteristic and those who do not

This report highlights inequalities that exist and provides an evidence base to work towards improved equality of opportunity for groups with protected characteristics.

There are nine ‘protected characteristics’ under the Equality Act:

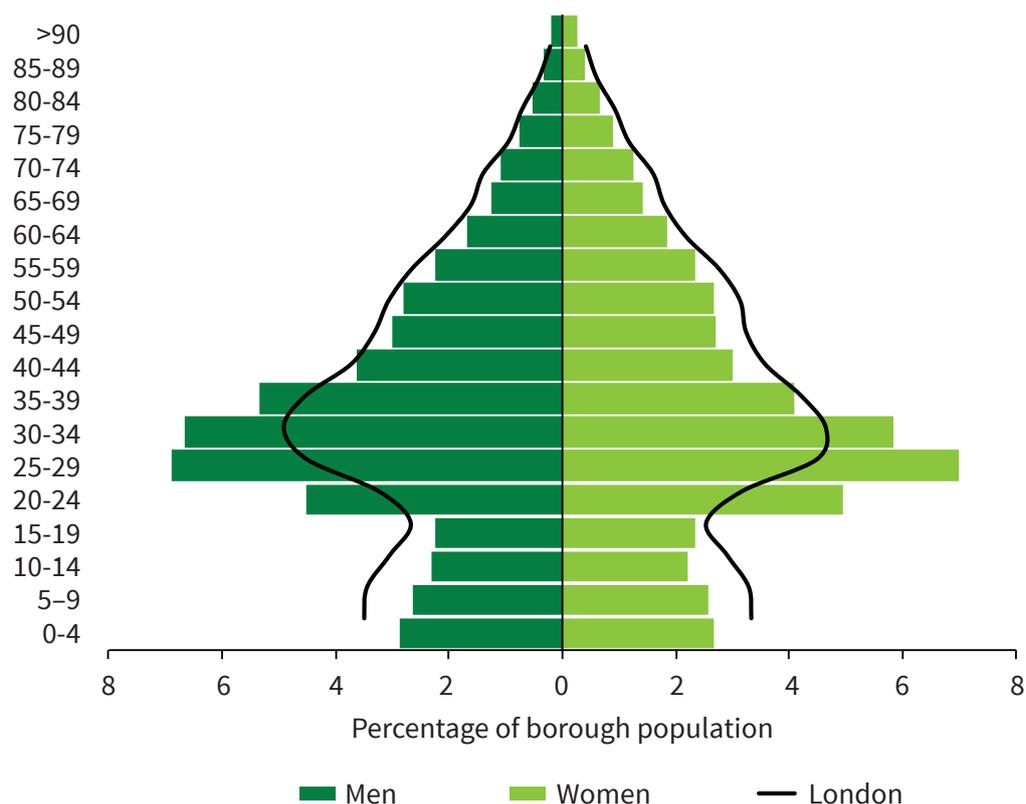
- Age
- Disability
- Religion and belief
- Sex
- Race
- Sexual orientation
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Gender reassignment
- Maternity and pregnancy

Islington Council has also decided to assess the socio-economic impact of strategic decisions when looking at proposed changes to our policies, procedures or functions.

# Islington's population

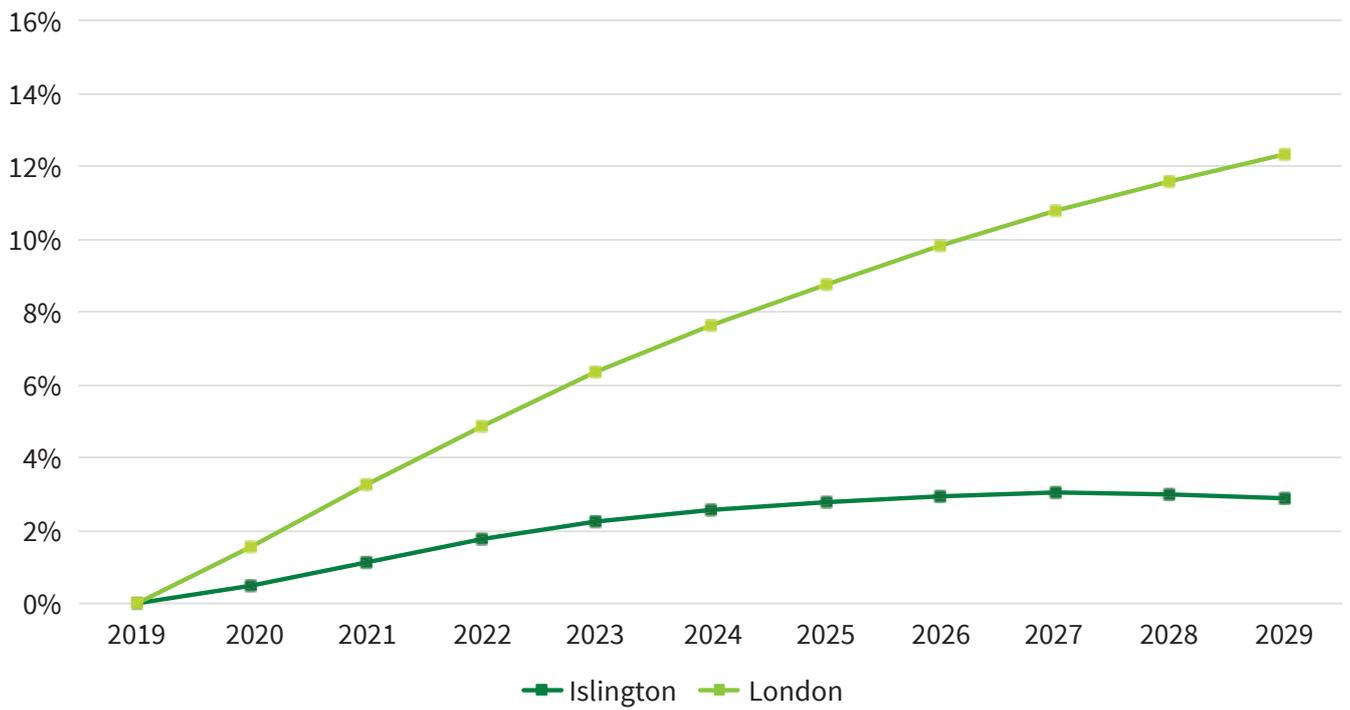
- The population of Islington is estimated to be 241,600 in 2019. This is an increase of approximately 17% (35,000 people) since 2011. <sup>1</sup>
- It is estimated that the population of Islington will grow by 3% (7,000 people) between 2019 and 2029. <sup>2</sup>
- Islington is the most densely populated local authority area in England and Wales, with 15,818 people per square km. This is almost triple the London average and more than 37 times the national average. <sup>3</sup>
- Islington is the second smallest borough in London covering 14.86 km squared. <sup>4</sup>
- Only 13% of the borough's land is green space, the second lowest proportion of any local authority in the country. <sup>5</sup>
- The 2015 Index of Multiple Deprivation shows that Islington has improved from being the 11th most deprived borough in the country to the 24th most deprived. This development is a result of significant improvements in a number of areas. <sup>6</sup>

## Resident population of Islington, by sex and age group 2019 estimates



Sources: GLA Mid 2016 housing-led population projections for 2019.

### Population estimates from Islington and London



Source: Population estimates from Islington and London – derived from GLA Mid 2016 housing-led population projections

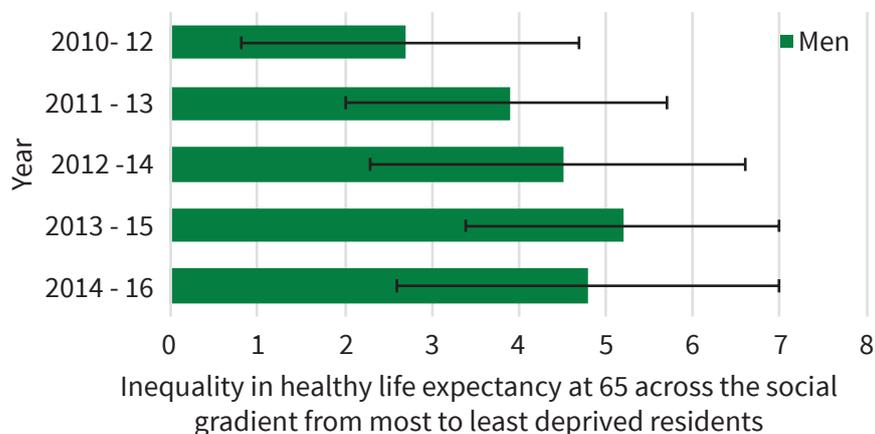
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# Children and young people

- 35% of children under the age of 16 live in low income households, as measured by the children living in income deprived households (IDACI) measure. This is the 3rd highest nationally and an improvement from second in 2010. <sup>7</sup>
- Child poverty is closely linked to unemployment - around 20% of Islington children under 16 live in households receiving out-of-work benefits. <sup>8</sup>
- In 2018/19, 47% (6,539) of primary school pupils in Islington's schools are eligible for the deprivation Pupil Premium - a grant aimed at raising the attainment of disadvantaged pupils. The proportion is even higher for secondary school pupils where 67% (5,148 pupils) are eligible for the deprivation Pupil Premium. <sup>9</sup>
- In Islington, the average attainment 8 score at GCSE for disadvantaged pupils in 2017/18 was 42.6 compared to 52.8 for all other pupils. Across England, disadvantaged pupils scored on average 36.8 compared to 50.3, while in London disadvantaged pupils scored on average 42.7 compared to 53.3. <sup>10</sup>
- 18.7% of Islington school pupils have some form of Special Educational Needs. This compares to 14.3% across London and 14.6% across England. <sup>11</sup>
- In Islington, 59% of young people cautioned or sentenced by Youth Offending Teams in the year ending March 2017 were from BAME groups. In comparison, 40% of offenders were from White groups. <sup>12</sup>
- As of March 2018, there were almost 1,000 children under 18 in temporary accommodation in Islington. <sup>13</sup>
- In 2016, 3.4% of Islington 16-17 year olds were not in education, employment or training (NEET) or whose activity was not known. This was lower than the London (5.3) and England (6.0) figure. <sup>14</sup>
- As of March 2018, 88% of Islington 16-17 year olds were in full time education or training and 3% were participating in apprenticeships. <sup>15</sup>

# Older people

- People aged 65 and over living in Islington make up 9% of Islington’s resident population. This means the borough has a relatively young population: 12% of the population of London and 18% of England are aged 65 and over. <sup>16</sup>
- There are 7,710 beneficiaries of Pension Credit, a means-tested benefit for older people, in Islington. This represents approximately 41% of pensioners, compared to 26% in London and 17% nationally. <sup>17</sup>
- Older people make up a significant proportion of Islington’s social housing households and pensioner households also have a considerably lower income than the rest of the borough. There are also high numbers of affluent older adults in Islington, many of whom choose to self-fund their social care needs. <sup>18</sup>
- Based on figures from the 2011 Census, the proportion of the population aged 65 and over in Islington (11.8%) who are unpaid carers is greater than in any other age group, except residents age 50 to 64. If the proportions from the 2011 Census are assumed to be unchanged, there are an estimated 2,490 unpaid carers in Islington in 2018. <sup>19</sup>
- 36% of Islington’s 60+ population are living in income deprived households. The 5th highest proportion of 60+ persons living in income deprived households relative to all other London Boroughs. <sup>20</sup>
- Men in Islington who have reached the age of 65 can expect to live a further 19 years, while women in Islington who have reached the age of 65 can expect to live a further 21 years. <sup>21</sup>
- Men living in the worst off areas of Islington who have reached the age of 65 can expect to live 4.8 fewer years in good health than their counterparts living in the best off areas of Islington. There is not a significant difference in healthy life expectancy at the age of 65 among women living in the worst off and best off areas of Islington. <sup>21</sup>



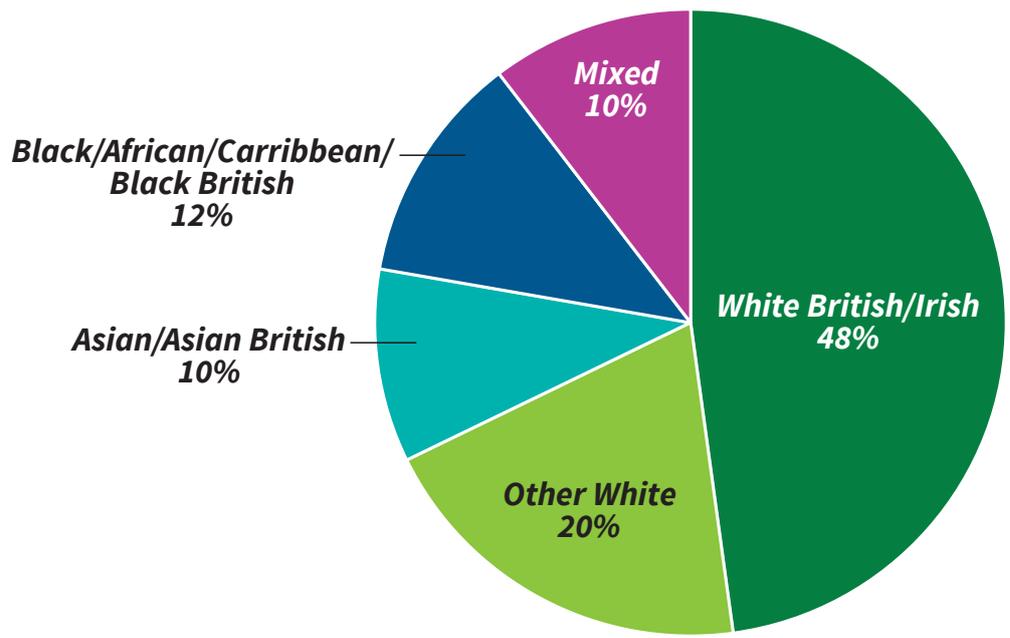
- Over the next ten years in Islington, the highest rate of population growth will be amongst the older population (28% increase for people aged 65 and over), although in absolute numbers, the older population will remain the smallest age group. <sup>22</sup>

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# Race

- Less than half (44%) of Islington residents are estimated to be “White British” in 2019, compared to 39% in Greater London. 4% of Islington residents are estimated to be “White Irish”, compared to 2% in Greater London. <sup>23</sup>
- 32% of residents were in Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups and 20% of residents were in “Other White” in 2019, compared to 32% and 17%, respectively, in 2011. “Other White” consists of Caucasian people from Europe, America, Africa and Asia and Oceania. White Gypsy and Traveller groups were also included in the “Other White” category. <sup>24</sup>
- While the proportion of Islington residents of Mixed or Asian or Asian British ethnicity slightly increased from 2011 to 2019 (from 6% to 7% and 9% to 10%, respectively), the proportion of residents of Black or Black British ethnicity slightly decreased, from 13% to 12%. <sup>25</sup>
- Children growing up in BAME households in Islington are more likely to be living in poverty in comparison to white children. <sup>26</sup>
- From December 2017 – November 2018, the rate of stop and searches of people of Black ethnicity in Islington was more than three times higher than the rate of stop and searches of people of White ethnicity and almost twice as high as people of Asian ethnicity. <sup>27</sup>
- In Islington schools in 2017/18, when looking at average attainment 8 score among GCSE students by broad ethnic categories, the lowest scoring group on average was students from Black ethnic groups (43.7), and the highest scoring group on average were students from Asian ethnic groups (52.5), a gap of nine points. This gap is in line with the London-wide gap, and higher than the England gap of 5 points. <sup>28</sup>
- In 2017/18, more than half of the statutorily homeless population in Islington was of a BAME group (57%), compared to 43% of a White ethnicity. <sup>29</sup>

**Breakdown of Islington population by ethnicity. 2019 population estimates.**

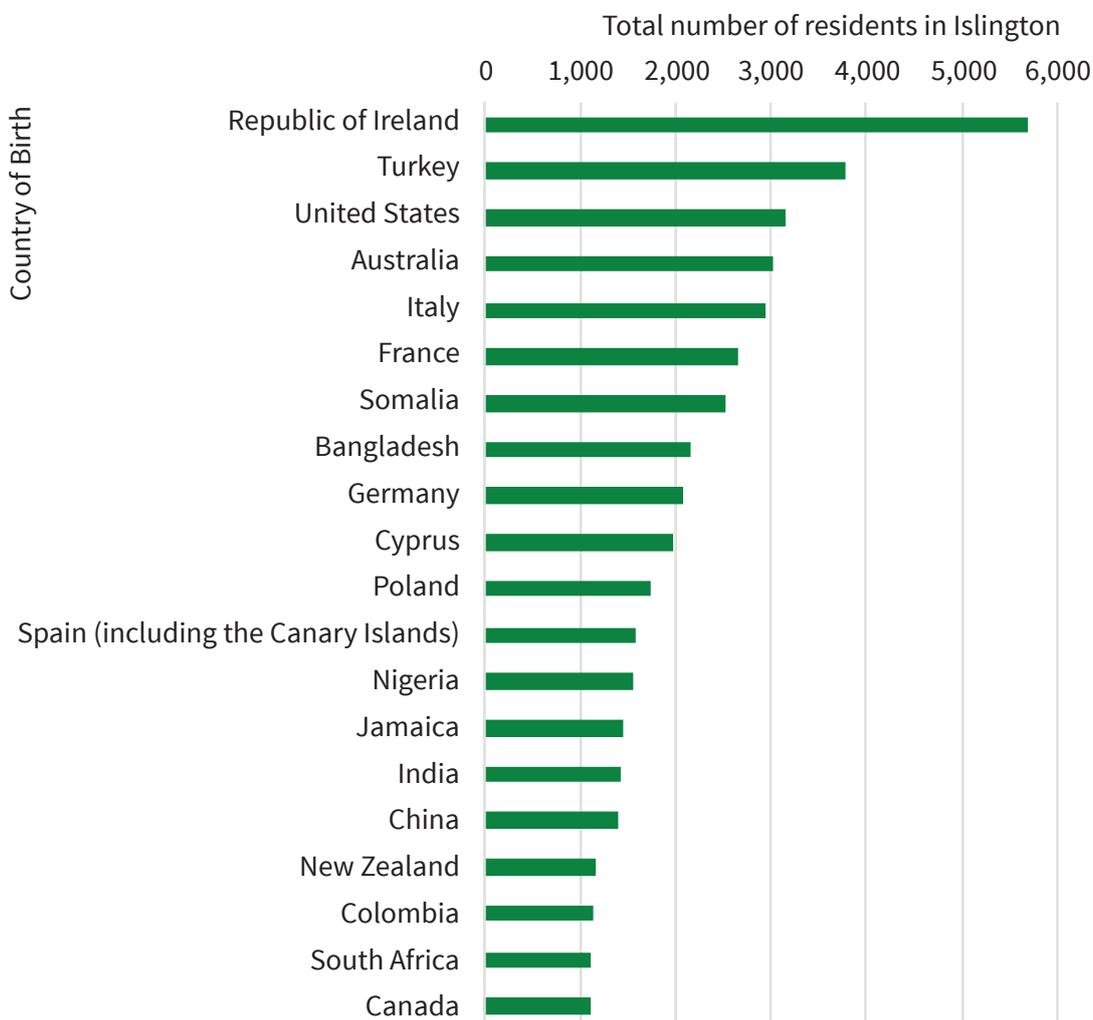


Source: GLA 2016 ethnic group population projections (Housing-led)

# Refugees and migrants

- 39% of Islington residents were born outside of the United Kingdom compared to 14% nationally.<sup>30</sup>
- The most common countries of birth for Islington residents outside of the UK are: Ireland, Turkey and the United States.<sup>31</sup>
- The total number of households Islington’s No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) team has worked with across 2018 was 71, slightly higher than in 2017 when the team supported 67 households. The number of cases supported at the end of December 2018 was 42, which is 8 cases lower than the previous year. This means that NRPF team closed 29 cases during 2018.<sup>32</sup>
- In London in 2013-15, 90% of workers from the EU worked in the private sector and 10% in the public sector. Similarly, 85% of workers from non-EU countries worked in the private sector and 14% in the public sector. A larger percentage of workers from the United Kingdom worked in the public sector, 23%.<sup>33</sup>

## Top 20 non-UK countries of birth in Islington, 2011



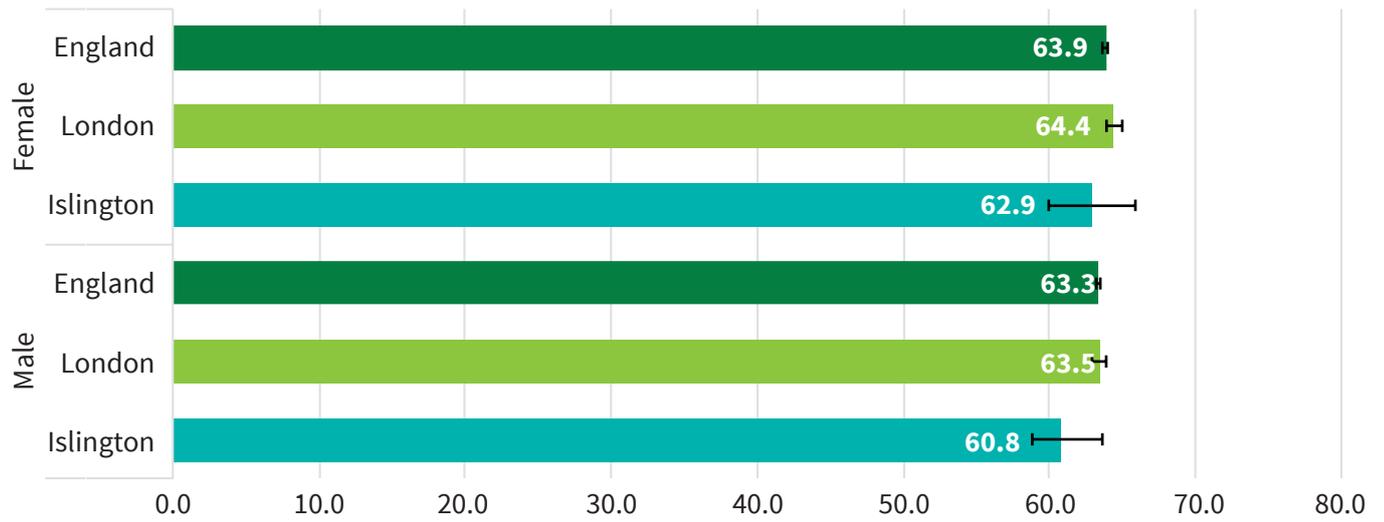
Source: ONS Census, 2011

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# Sex

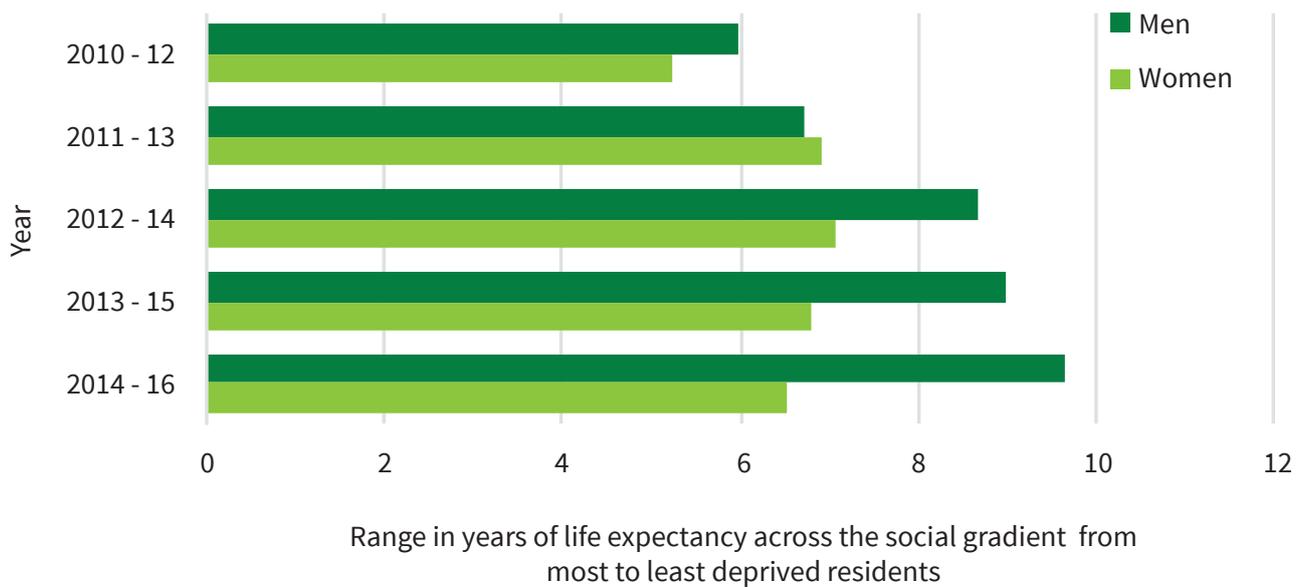
- The proportions of men and women in the borough are broadly similar: 123,000 men and 118,600 women. <sup>34</sup>
- Men in Islington have the 10th lowest life expectancy out of all London boroughs. <sup>35</sup>
- A man born in Islington can expect to live for 79.5 years on average and a woman 83.4 years on average. These figures are similar to the national average (male life expectancy in England 79.5 years and women 83.1 years). <sup>36</sup>
- Islington has a healthy life expectancy of 60.8 years for men, and 62.9 for women. Both of these are not significantly different than London (63.5 and 64.4 for males and females, respectively) or England (63.3 and 63.9). <sup>37</sup>
- 93% of lone parents with dependent children are female. This is significant because unemployment rates among lone parents are far higher than the wider population - this is likely to affect household income and therefore deprivation levels. In Islington 56% of lone parents are not in employment while just 21% are in full-time employment - half the figure for the wider population. <sup>38</sup>
- In 2017/18, Islington girls outperformed Islington boys by 3 points in average attainment 8 score among GCSE students. The equivalent gap for England was 6.2 points. This difference can be explained by the fact that girls in Islington were on average 0.2 points ahead of girls nationally while Islington boys were on average 3.4 points ahead of boys nationally. <sup>39</sup>
- There has been a long and sustained increase in domestic violence, which affects both men and women: the number of reported incidents in Islington has increased by 52% over the past 5 years mirroring the rest of London. Of these: <sup>40</sup>
  - 73% of female victims were aged between 18 – 44 years, with nearly a third of all victims aged between 25 – 34 years. Women aged 18-44 make up only 54% of the total residential female population. <sup>41</sup>
  - There is an over representation of victims from BAME groups compared to the residential population. <sup>42</sup>
- In Islington, men who live in the worst off areas are expected to live 9.7 fewer years than men living in the best off areas in the borough. Women have less inequality in life expectancy (6.5 years) across the social gradient (average life expectancy measured against local deprivation decile between 2014-16). Inequality in life expectancy for men has been rising more rapidly over the last 5 years than among women. <sup>43</sup>

**Average healthy life expectancy at birth 2013-15**



Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework, 2018

**Inequality by gender - life expectancy in Islington.**



Source: Public Health Outcomes Framework, 2018

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# Trans

- An absence of local and national data makes it difficult to gauge the extent of issues currently faced by trans people, and data for this group is often difficult to extract from the wider group of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) within which information is often collected. <sup>44</sup>
- At present, there is no official estimate of the transgender or transsexual (trans) population, either locally or nationally. Existing studies estimate the number of trans people in the UK to be between 65,000 and 300,000. <sup>45</sup>
- 58% of trans people say that waiting times for medical services have negatively affected their mental health. <sup>46</sup>
- In 2015, though, a parliamentary inquiry heard evidence about trans experiences of interacting with the state, including that 46% of non-binary people felt the need to hide their identity as non-binary while accessing NHS services. <sup>47</sup>
- There were 24 incidents of transgender hate crime reported in Islington between November 2017 and November 2018, an increase of 53% from the previous 12 months. <sup>48</sup>
- Trans people are more likely to experience poverty, discrimination, and mental health problems. These factors are correlated with a greater use of alcohol and drugs as well as riskier drug using behaviours. <sup>49</sup>

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# Sexual orientation

- There is a significant dearth of data on the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual (LGB) population in the borough, requiring the use of proxy datasets to help set policy.
- If Islington replicates the London average for lesbian, gay and bisexual population, there are approximately 5,500 LGB residents in the borough in 2019. <sup>50</sup>
- Young LGB and trans people under 26 are more likely to attempt suicide and to self-harm than the rest of the population. Research indicates that this is closely correlated with experiences of bullying by peers, in family settings and in school as well as negative experiences of coming out. <sup>51</sup>
- Research has found that there are two other major mental health issues which disproportionately affect LGB people: alcohol issues in lesbian and bisexual women and body image issues for gay and bisexual men. <sup>52</sup>
- In Islington, homophobic hate crime has increased by 2% in the last 12 months to November 2018 compared to the previous 12 months. <sup>53</sup>
- In these last 12 months, Islington had the 6th highest number of homophobic hate crime incidents in London (113). <sup>54</sup>

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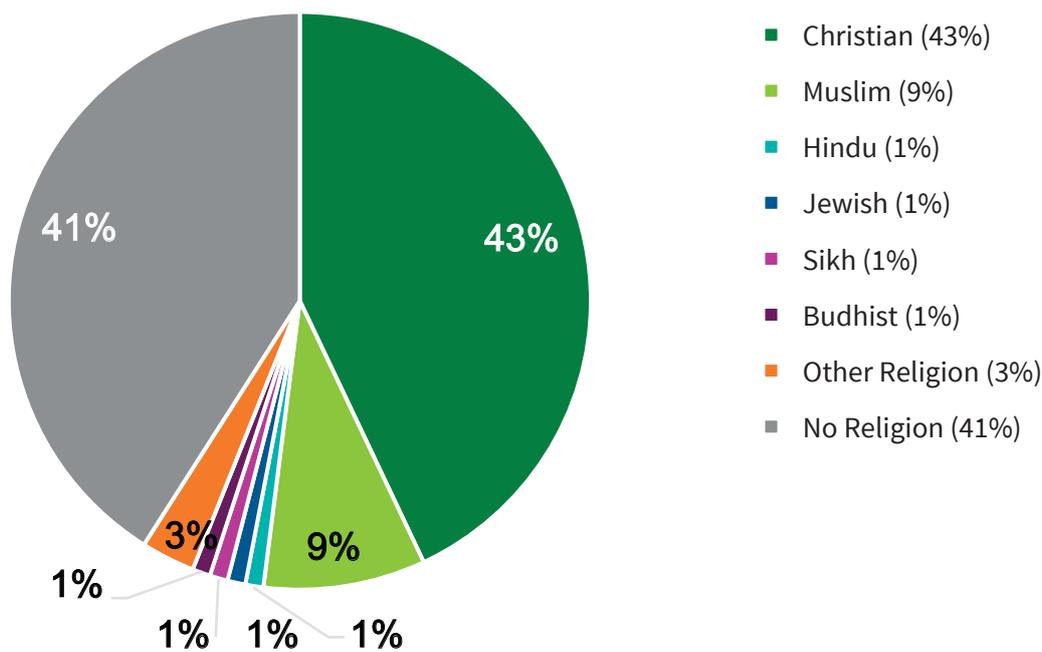
# Disability

- Based on estimates of the prevalence of disability in an inner London borough in 2016/17, the estimated number of Islington residents with a disability in 2019 is 33,822, or 14% of the population. <sup>55</sup>
- In May 2018, there were 7,350 Disability Living Allowance claimants in Islington. <sup>56</sup>
- National research has demonstrated that disabled jobseekers need to apply for 60% more jobs than their non-disabled counterparts. <sup>57</sup>
- The 2011 Census reported that 20,950 dependent children were living in households with adults not in employment and people with a long-term health problem or disability. <sup>58</sup>
- Nationally, the prevalence of disability among people of working age has risen in recent years, from 50.5% economically active in Q2 of 2013 to 51.8% in employment in Q2 of 2018. <sup>59</sup>
- In Islington in the 12 months to November 2018, there were 27 incidents of disability hate crime reported, a 25% increase from the previous 12 months. <sup>60</sup>
- In Islington in 2017, 13,000 people were estimated to be living with moderate or severe hearing impairment, and a further 260 with profound hearing impairment. <sup>61</sup>
- In Islington, an estimated 4,120 people are living with sight loss in 2017 (1.7% of the population). Of these, 500 people are estimated to be living with blindness. <sup>62</sup>
- There are an estimated 19,899 people in Islington living with depression, the second highest recorded prevalence of depression in London. <sup>63</sup>
- There are 3,943 people in Islington living with a serious mental illness, the highest prevalence of serious mental illness in London. <sup>64</sup>
- About 1,223 people were diagnosed with dementia in Islington in 2017/18. <sup>65</sup>
- About 10% of students with a Special Educational Need are currently enrolled in special schools in Islington as of January 2018. <sup>66</sup>
- Nationally, across all ages and both sexes, the prevalence of disability is higher among those living in the most deprived areas of the country compared to the least deprived areas of the country. The difference is most pronounced between the ages of 30 and 84. <sup>67</sup>
- Individuals who interact with the criminal justice system are particularly vulnerable to mental ill health. Up to 90% of prisoners have some form of mental health problem, and 10% of male and 30% of female prisoners have previously experienced a psychiatric acute admission to hospital. <sup>68</sup>

# Religion and belief

- 52% of Islington's population reported a religious affiliation in 2017, compared to 63% in 2013. <sup>69</sup>
- Faith hate crime has increased by 63% in 2017/18 compared to the previous year. However, the general trend in reported faith hate crime indicates a more gradual increase over the previous 5 years. <sup>70</sup>
- Of all of the London boroughs, Islington has the fifth highest number of faith hate crimes recorded as taking place within its boundary within the year 2017/18. <sup>71</sup>

Percentage of Islington population by religion. 2015

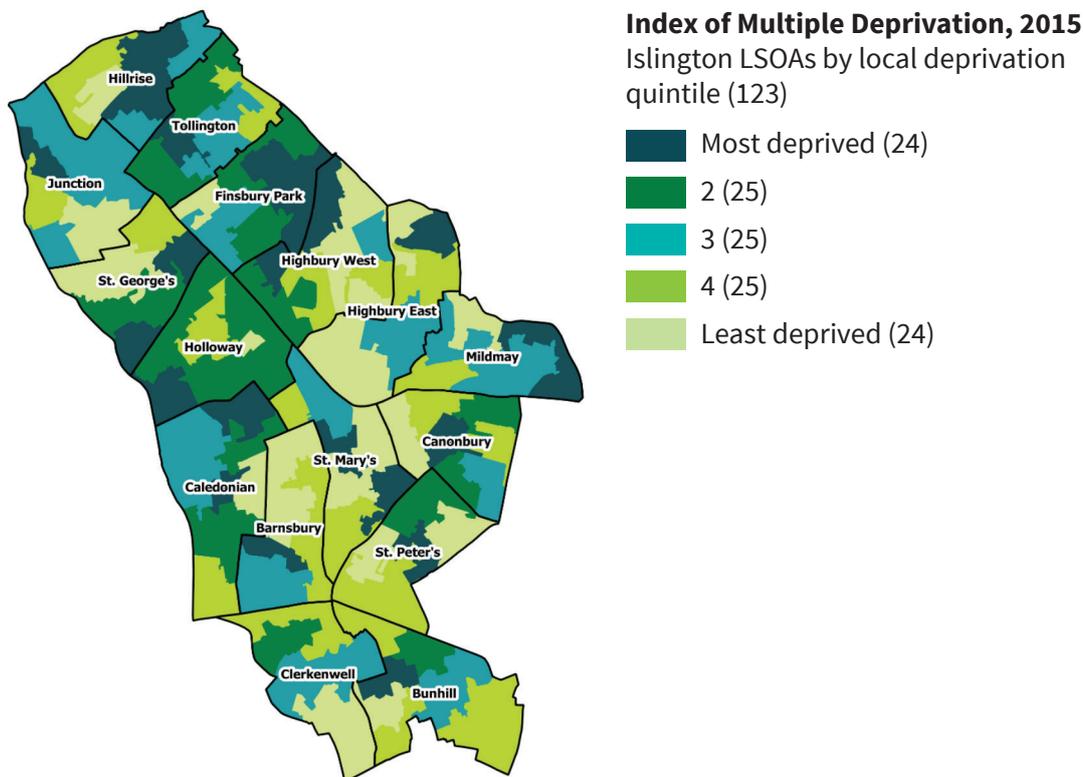


Source: Annual Population Survey, 2006 to 2015, ONS (2016), downloaded from London Datastore (accessed Jan 2018)

# Socio-economic deprivation

- Islington ranks third nationally on the income deprivation indicator for children, and fifth for income deprivation affecting older people. <sup>72</sup>
- Poverty is an issue in every part of the borough: there is a neighbourhood in every ward in Islington that is among the poorest 20% of neighbourhoods in England <sup>73</sup>
- As of 2015, the 5 most deprived wards in the borough were (in order of most deprived-least deprived): Finsbury Park, Caledonian, Tollington, Holloway and Hillrise. <sup>74</sup>
- 21.7% of the Islington population are living in income deprived households. <sup>75</sup>
- 15.9% of all Islington are workless. <sup>76</sup>

## Spread of deprivation among Islington by Local Super Output Area, 2015.



Source: English indices of deprivation 2015

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