

Profiling the needs of faith communities in Hackney

This paper profiles the size, characteristics and needs of Hackney's faith communities. Its findings will be used to inform the work of the Hackney Faith Forum as well as the Council's approach to faith communities in Hackney.

Key findings

Religious groups in Hackney

Nearly 40% of Hackney's residents are **Christians**, **almost 15% Muslims** and **6% are of the Jewish faith**. **Nearly 30%** of residents have **no religious belief** and a further **10% did not state** a religion. There could be **up to 15, 000 Alevis** living in Hackney.

Other religious groups in Hackney include **Buddhist (1.2%)**, **Sikh (0.8%)**, **Hindu (0.6%)**, **other religions (0.5%)**.

Ethnicity

Almost **40% of White people** in Hackney are **non-religious**, compared with 28% of the population overall. People of Mixed racial heritage are also more likely than average to be non-religious, whereas just **11% of Black people** have **no religious beliefs**. **Over 70% of Black people** in Hackney are **Christians**, while **70% of Arab**, and **48% of Asian** people are **Muslim**.

Gender

Women outnumber men in the **Christian** faith – 54% to 46%. **Men are more likely** to identify as **non-religious**, or **not to state a religion** – **46% to 54%** in both cases.

Age

The age profile of the **Christian** community is **older** than the borough average, whereas the profiles of **Jewish**, **Muslim** and **non-religious** groups is **younger**. Over **40% of Jewish people** and **30% of Muslims** are **children** aged 15 and under, compared with 21% in Hackney overall.

Sexual orientation

National data suggests that **Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual** people are **less likely** to identify as religious than **Heterosexual people**, 65%, compared with 79%, however, those who identify as **'other'** are **almost as likely** as Heterosexual people to hold religious beliefs, 78%.

Disability

All religious groups, except the Jewish community, experience higher rates of disability and long-term health conditions. Disability rates are particularly **high** in the **Muslim** community, 20%, compared with 14% for Hackney residents overall. **One fifth** of **non-religious** people are also disabled.

Household composition

Nearly 60% of the **Jewish** community live in **married couple households**, while those with **no religion** and those **not stating** a religion are **more likely** to be in **single parent** households. **Non religion people** are

also more likely to be **cohabiting** or living in **'other'** household types, which are also more prevalent among **Sikh**, and **Hindu** households.

Children living in household

Over half of Jewish, over 60% of Muslim, and nearly 70% of Sikh households contain dependent or non-dependent **children**, whereas nearly **80%** of households headed by a **non-religious** person and **70%** of households where the religion was **not stated** contain children.

Qualifications

Nearly two thirds of non-religious people and **half** of adults who **do not state** a religion **have degrees** or above, compared with 40% of the population overall. **Over 40% of Jewish people** and **30% of Muslims** have **no formal qualifications**, compared with 18% of Hackney's population overall.

Employment status

Christians in Hackney are **more likely to be retired** than Hackney's residents overall. People of the **Jewish** faith are **less likely to be employed**, but **more likely to be studying** or **looking after the home** than Hackney residents overall. People from the **Muslim** faith are **less likely to be in employment**, 36% compared with 58% in Hackney overall, but **more likely to be sick or disabled** or **looking after the home**. Three quarters of people with **no religion** are **in employment**.

Incomes

Some 60% of Muslim and 58% of Christian households have incomes of less than £15,000 per annum whereas those with **no religion (42%)** or **with other religious beliefs (52%)** have **higher incomes**, over £30,000 per annum. Some **46%** of households of the **Jewish** faith have **low incomes**, but **41% have incomes over £30,000**.

Housing

Over 80% of Muslims are **renters**, nearly 70% live in social housing. **Over half of the Jewish population** live in **private rented accommodation** – less than 20% live in social rented accommodation.

Just over 20% of those with **no religion** are **social renters** compared with over 40% of Hackney's population overall, while over **40% rent from a private landlord**, compared with 30% overall. Those with no religion are **more likely to be home owners**, 35% compared with 26% overall.

Muslims and those from **other religious groups** are **more likely** to consider that they are **overcrowded**.

Country of Birth

People of the **Buddhist, Muslim and Christian** faiths are **less likely** to have been born in the UK, while people from the **Jewish, Sikh and non-religious** groups have **greater proportions** of people **born in the UK**.

Crime

Faith-based hate crime **was up 10%**, an additional 10 incidents **in the year to June 2016**, compared with the previous year. There were an additional 8 incidents of Anti-Semitic crimes, up 10%, the

number of Islamophobic crimes remained stable at 36, and the number of other faith-based crimes rose by 2 incidents to 11.

Community cohesion

Muslims and Christians in Hackney are **slightly less satisfied** with Hackney as a **place to live, 85% and 84% compared with 88%** overall. **Christians** are also **less likely** than other groups to believe that people from different backgrounds **get on well together, 88% compared with 90%** overall.

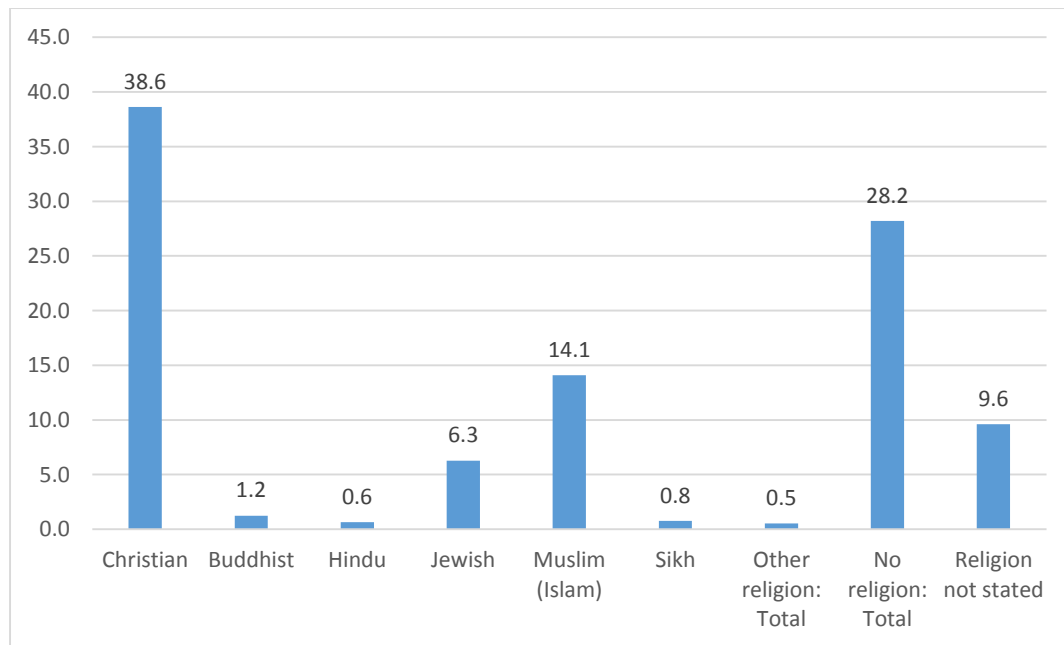
Muslims are **twice as likely to** feel socially isolated than the **White community**

Faith communities in Hackney

Chart 1 below illustrates the main religions and belief groups in Hackney as a percentage of the population.

It shows that Christianity, Islam and Judaism are the main beliefs among those who identify as religious, but that 28.2% of the population have no religion and a further 9.6% do not state a religion.

Chart 1: Religion as % of Hackney population



Source, 2011 Census, percentage of resident population

Other religions

Some 14% of Hackney’s population stated that they belonged to religious groups other than the main ones mentioned in Chart 1 above. Table 1 below lists these religions along with the number of adherents.

Table 1: Other religions practiced in Hackney by number of adherents

Religion	Number	Religion	Number
Animism	7	Pantheism	19
Baha'i	16	Rastafarian	227
Believe in God	60	Ravidassia	15
Brahma Kumari	1	Reconstructionist	4
Chinese Religion	14	Satanism	18
Church of All Religion	4	Scientology	17
Confucianist	0	Shamanism	1
Deist	8	Shintoism	11
Druid	12	Spiritual	122
Druze	3	Spiritualist	63
Eckankar	12	Taoist	42
Heathen	3	Theism	14
Jain	21	Thelemite	5
Mixed Religion	121	Traditional African Religion	12
Mysticism	12	Unification Church	0
Native American Church	1	Universalist	5
New Age	3	Vodun	2
Occult	3	Wicca	34
Own Belief System	12	Witchcraft	9
Pagan	209	Zoroastrian	27
		Other religions	142

Source, 2011 Census, number of residents

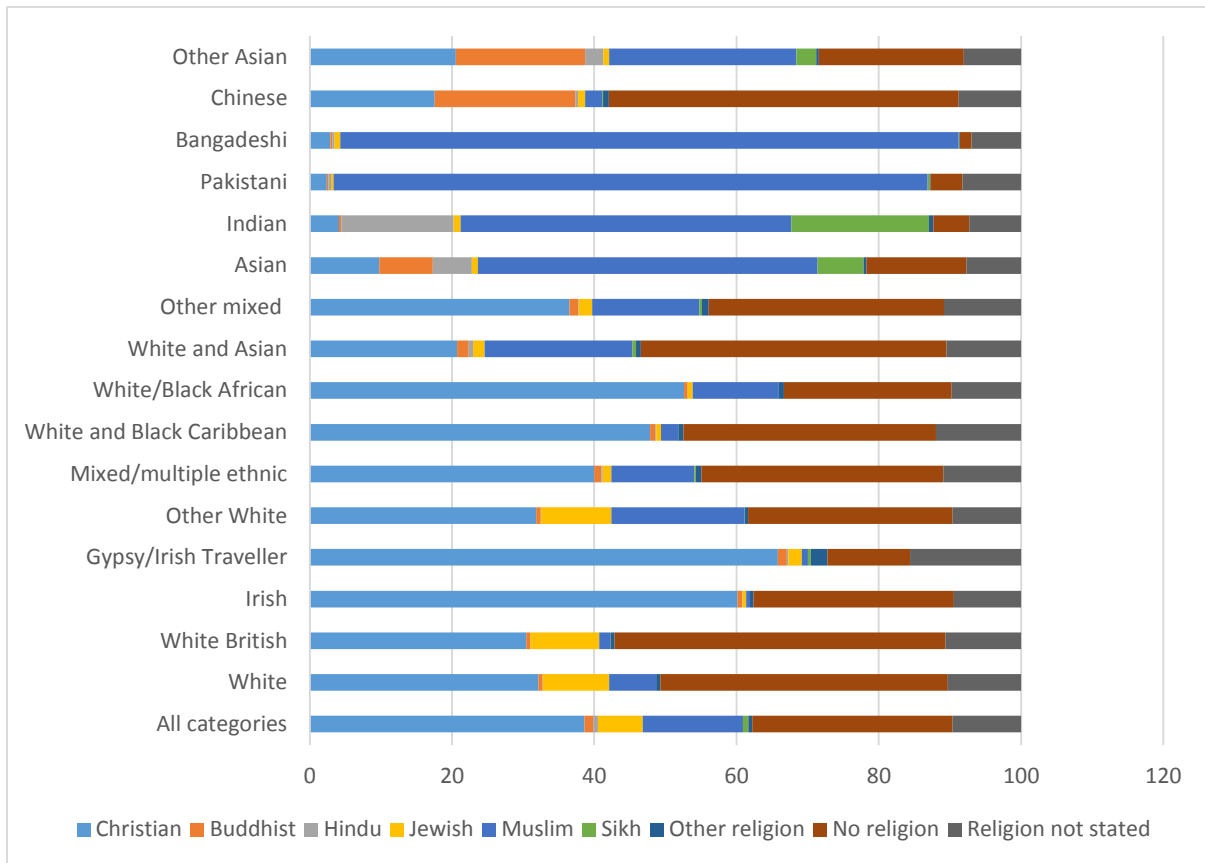
Alevism

Alevism is the second largest religious group in Turkey. Many people of Turkish and Kurdish origin living in Hackney identify as Alevis and many practice Alevism. As Alevism is not given as an option in the Census, some Alevis identify as Muslim, others may select 'other religion', others as non-religious, as some Alevis identify as Humanistⁱ. It is therefore difficult to estimate the size of the Alevi community in Hackney – but, given the size of the Turkish and Kurdish community in the borough (at least 4.5% of Hackney's population) it is reasonable to assume that up to 15,000 people in Hackney could identify as Alevi.ⁱⁱ

Ethnicity

Figure 2 shows religious belief by main ethnic group. People from Black communities are almost twice as likely to be Christian and those from Asian, Arab and Other ethnic backgrounds are more likely to be Muslims. White people are considerably more likely to have no religion, 40% compared with 28% of the population overall. This rate rises to 47% for White British people.

Figure 2: Religious belief by main ethnic group (%)



Source: 2011 Census, percentage of resident population

A look at the data by ethnic sub-category reveals that 60% of Irish people and 66% of those from Gypsy or Irish Traveller backgrounds regard themselves as Christian, over 20% higher than for white people overall. People from Other White backgrounds are less likely to be Christian, 32% compared with 39% overall, but more likely to be Jewish, 10% compared with 6% overall and Muslim 19%, compared with 14% overall.

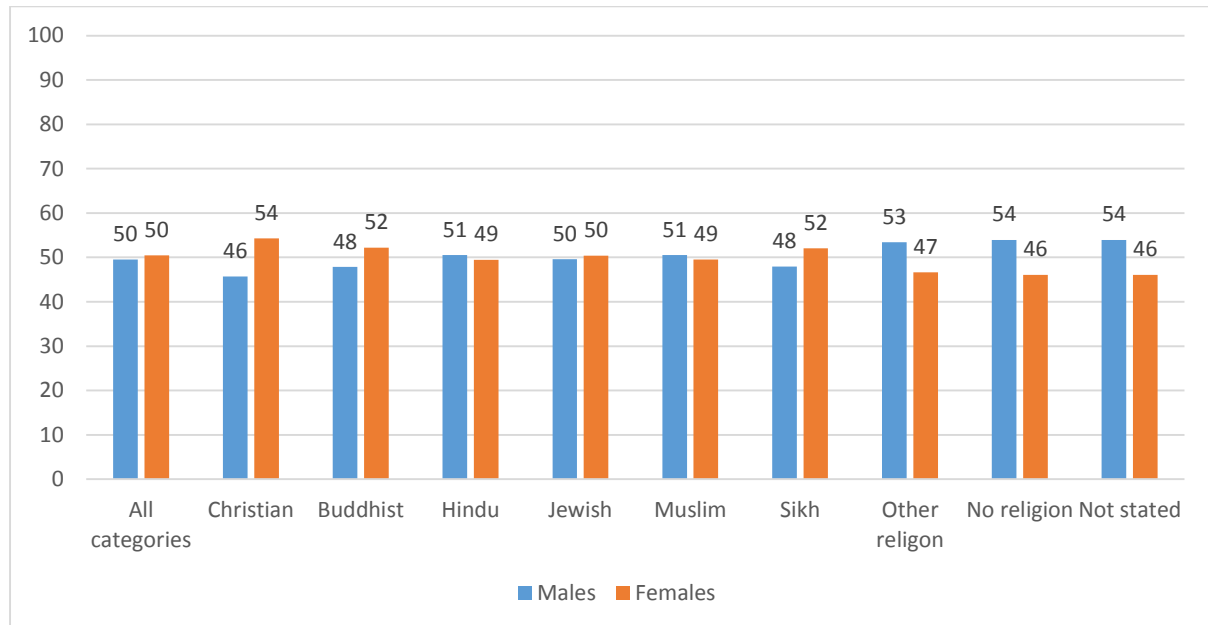
Some 84% of Pakistanis, and 87% of Bangladeshis are Muslim, compared with 49% of Asians as a whole and 14% of Hackney's population overall. While 18% of Chinese people describe themselves as Christian, 20% are Buddhist and 21% of Other Asians are Christian and 18% Buddhist.

Those from Black and Asian backgrounds are considerably less likely to have no religion, apart from people from the Chinese community, where almost half, 49%, have no religion.

Gender

Figure 3 below shows that women outnumber men in the Christian faith, 54% to 46% and to a lesser extent in the Buddhist and Sikh faiths but that men are more likely not to have a religious faith, or not to state a religious faith. There are also more men than women in the Muslim and 'Other religious' faiths.

Figure 3: Religious belief by gender (%)

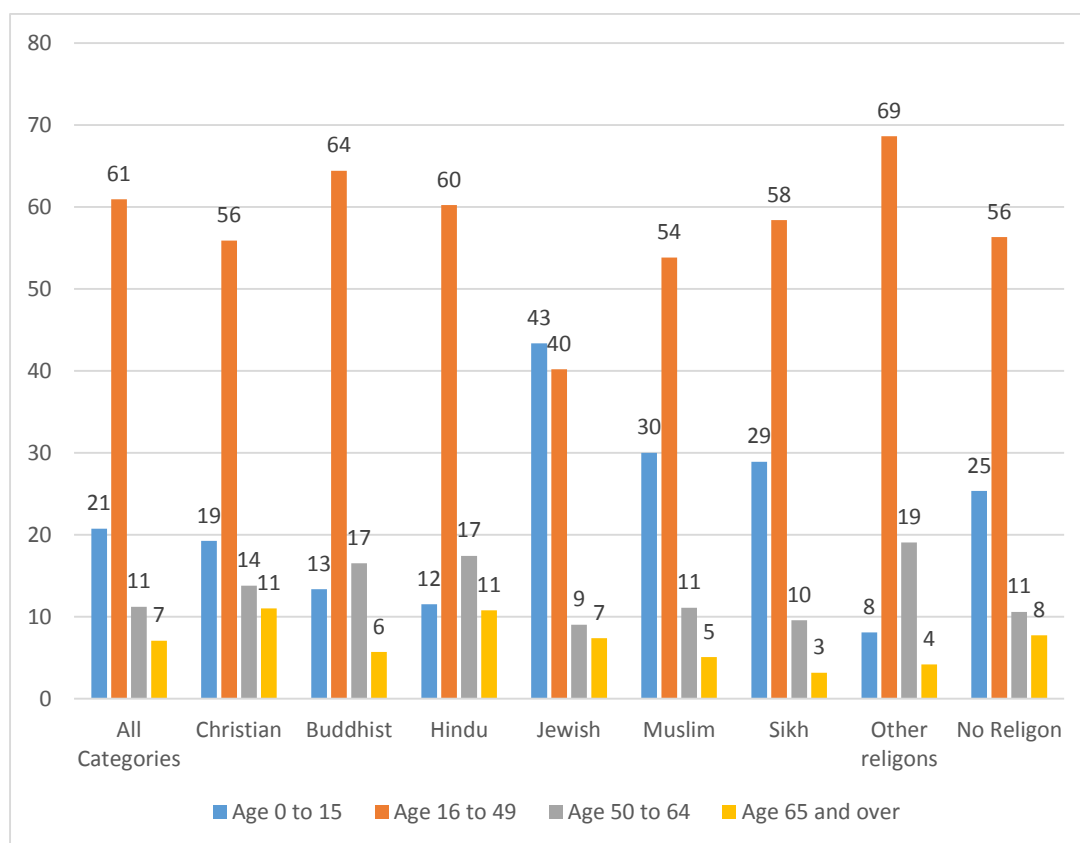


Source, 2011 Census, percentage of resident population

Age

Figure 4 below illustrates the age profile of each of the religious groups. The age profile of the Christian and Hindu groups tend to be older than the borough average, while the Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and non-religious communities tend to be younger. The Buddhist and 'other religious' communities have higher proportions of working aged residents, compared with Hackney overall.

Figure 4: Religious Belief by Age



Source: 2011 Census, percentage of resident population

Sexual orientation

There is no data on faith and sexual orientation at borough level, however national data suggests that lesbian, gay and bisexual people are less likely to be religious than other groups. However, nearly two thirds of lesbian, gay and bisexual people still classed themselves as religious, estimated at around 683,000 people nationally. People identifying as ‘other’ were almost as likely as heterosexual people to say they were religious. The proportion of people who considered themselves religious was higher among those who did not want to disclose their sexual orientation than for heterosexual people.

Table 2: Sexual identity and religion

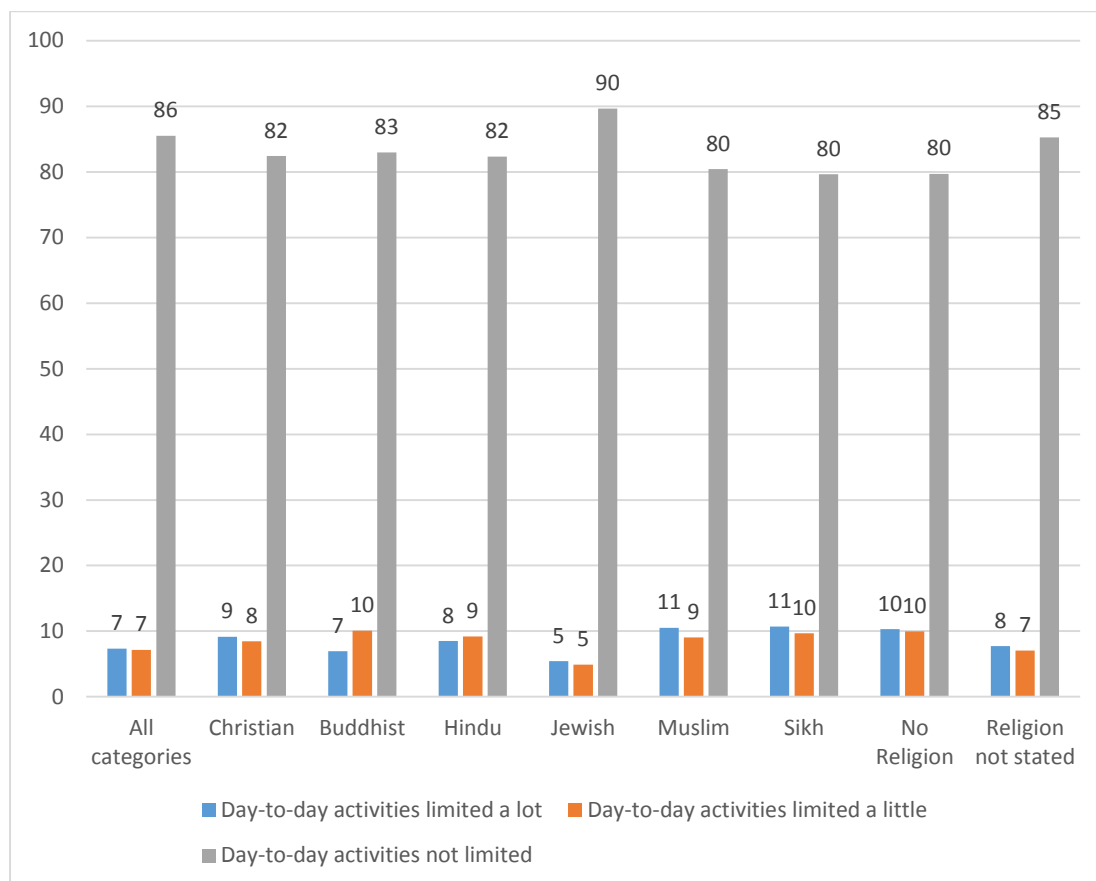
	Religious	Non-religious
Heterosexual	79.5%	20.5%
Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual	65.5%	30.5%
Other	78.5%	21.5%
Don't Know/Refused	80.6%	19.4%
No response	78.3%	21.7%

Source: ONS: Measuring Sexual Identity an Evaluation Report, 2010

Disability

Figure 5 below shows that, all groups, except the Jewish community, tend to experience higher rates of disability than the Hackney population overall. Among faith groups, Muslims and Sikhs seem to experience particularly high levels of disability. The Jewish community has lower levels of self-reported disability and long-term illness, possibly due to its younger age profile.

Figure 5: Disability and Long-Term Limiting Illness by religious group



Source: 2011 Census, percentage of resident population

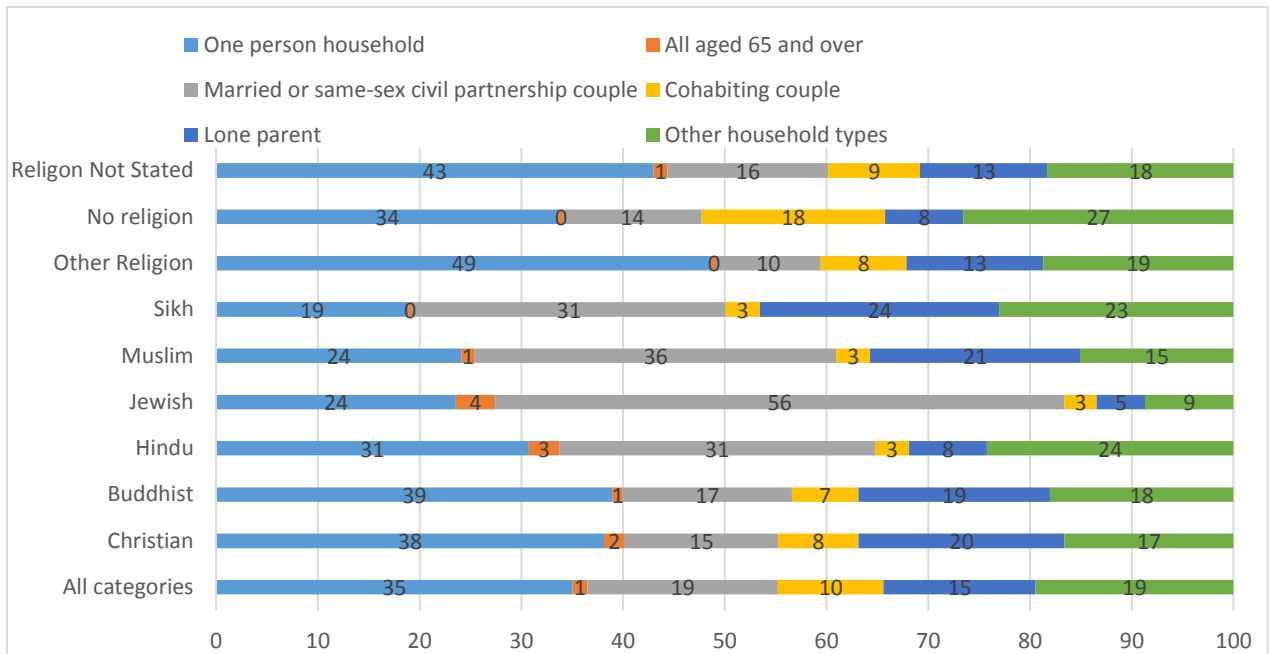
Household composition

Figure 6 below shows that those belonging to 'other' religious groups are far more likely to live in single person households, while households who adhere to the Jewish faith are far more likely to be living in married couple households.

Households with no religion and those who do not state a religion are less likely to be living in single parent households. Those with no religion are considerably more likely to be cohabiting, as well as living in 'other' household types – given the age profile of this group, these are likely to be groups of students or young professionals sharing.

The Sikh and Hindu communities have larger proportions of 'other household types' suggesting that multi-generational households are still present in these communities.

Figure 6, Religious belief by household composition

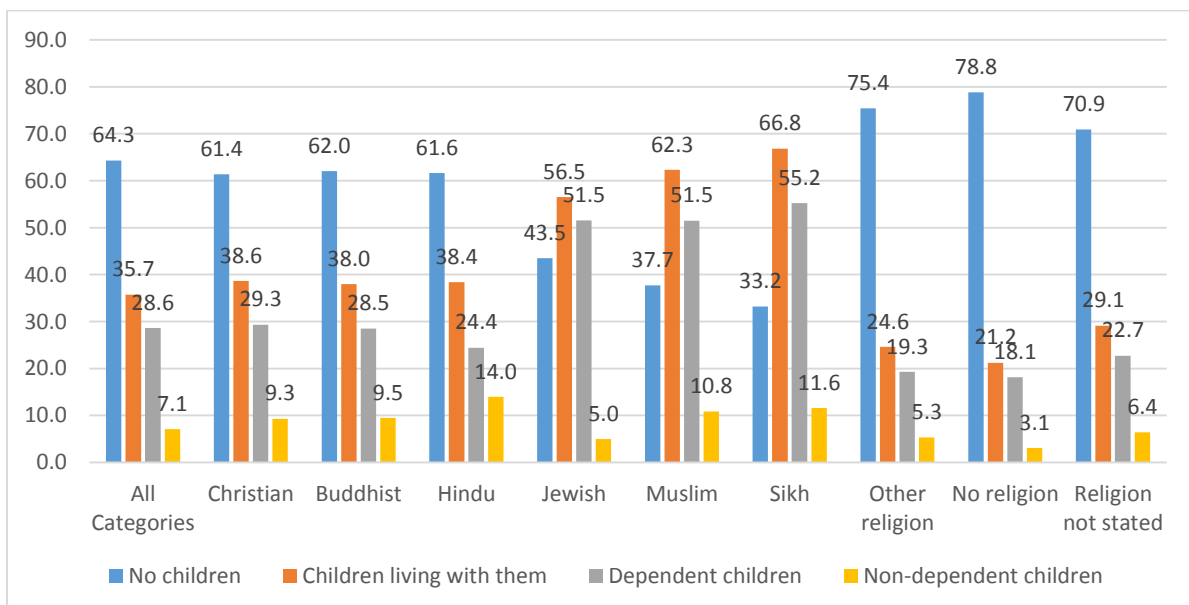


2011 Census, percentage of resident households

Children living at home

Figure 7 below shows the religious allegiance of households with children living with them. The majority of people of the Jewish and Muslim faiths have children living with them, with over half of all households in these groups with dependent children, while almost 80% of people with no religion and 70% of people who did not state a religion have no children living with them.

Figure 7: Households with children living at home by religious group



Source: 2011 Census, percentage of households

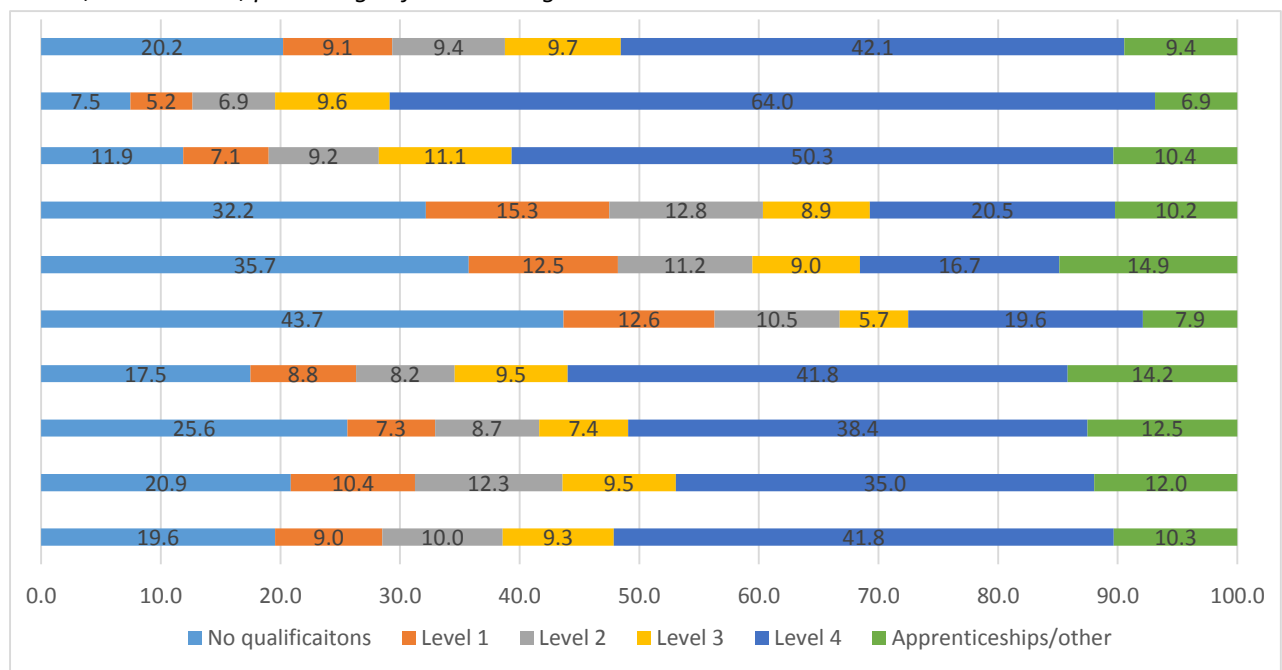
Educational attainment

Figure 8 below shows Hackney’s population, broken down by religious groups and highest level of qualifications.

Those with no religion and those from other religious groups have the highest proportions with Level 4 qualifications. Over 40% of people from the Jewish faith, over a third of Muslims, just under a third of Sikhs and just over a quarter of Buddhists have no formally recognised qualifications, compared to just 18% of the population overall.

Figure 8, Highest level of qualification by religion

Source, 2011 Census, percentage of residents aged 16 and above



Economic activity

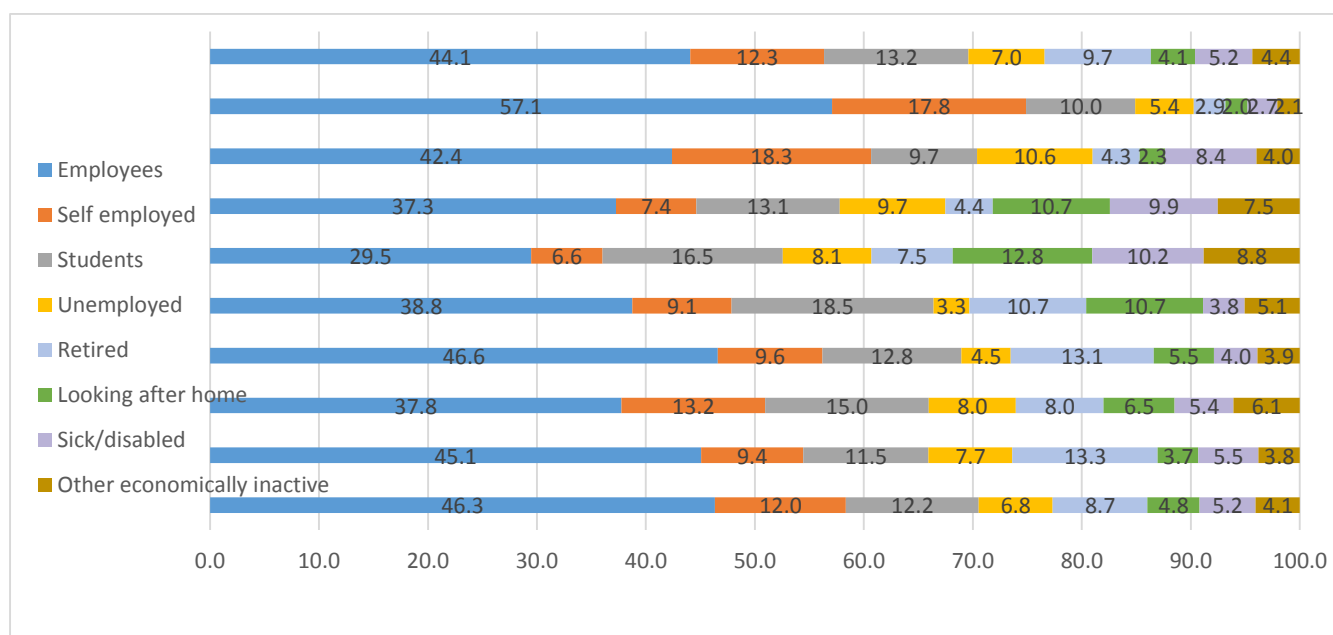
Chart 9 below illustrates types of economic activity and inactivity by religious group.

The data suggests that people of the Muslim faith are less likely to be employees, 29.5% compared to 46% of the population overall. Rates of self-employment are highest among those with no religion and those from other religious groups. People from the Jewish and Muslim faith are more likely to be studying full time than the population overall.

Unemployment is highest among the Sikh and ‘other religious’ communities, and lowest in the Jewish and Hindu communities. Christians and Hindus have the highest proportion of retirees, while there are higher proportions of people looking after the home and family in the Jewish, Muslim and Sikh communities.

There are particularly high levels of sickness and disability in the Muslim community, and twice as many Muslims otherwise economically inactive.

Figure 9, Economic activity status by religious group



Source, 2011 Census, percentage of residents aged 16 and over

Income

Table 3 below illustrates household income by religious belief in Hackney. It shows that Muslim and Christian households are more likely to have low incomes, less than £15,000 per annum and those with no religion or with other religious beliefs are more likely to have higher incomes, over £30,000 per annum.

Table 3, Household income by religious group

Income band	Non-Religious	Christian	Jewish	Muslim	Any Other
Less than £5,000	9.4%	15.9%	5.8%	15.5%	8.4%
£5,000-£10,000	11.7%	31.5%	21.0%	33.5%	19.3%
£10,000-£15,000	5.1%	10.5%	16.9%	11.2%	8.0%
£15,000-£20,000	5.7%	7.7%	7.7%	9.3%	4.8%
£20,000-£30,000	14.7%	9.4%	6.3%	13.0%	7.3%
£30-£40,000	12.3%	8.2%	16.3%	5.4%	10.5%
£40,000-£60,000	18.2%	8.4%	5.3%	6.0%	4.1%
£60,000 plus	22.9%	8.5%	20.8%	6.1%	37.4%

Source: 2014 Hackney Housing Needs Survey, percentage of households

Housing tenure

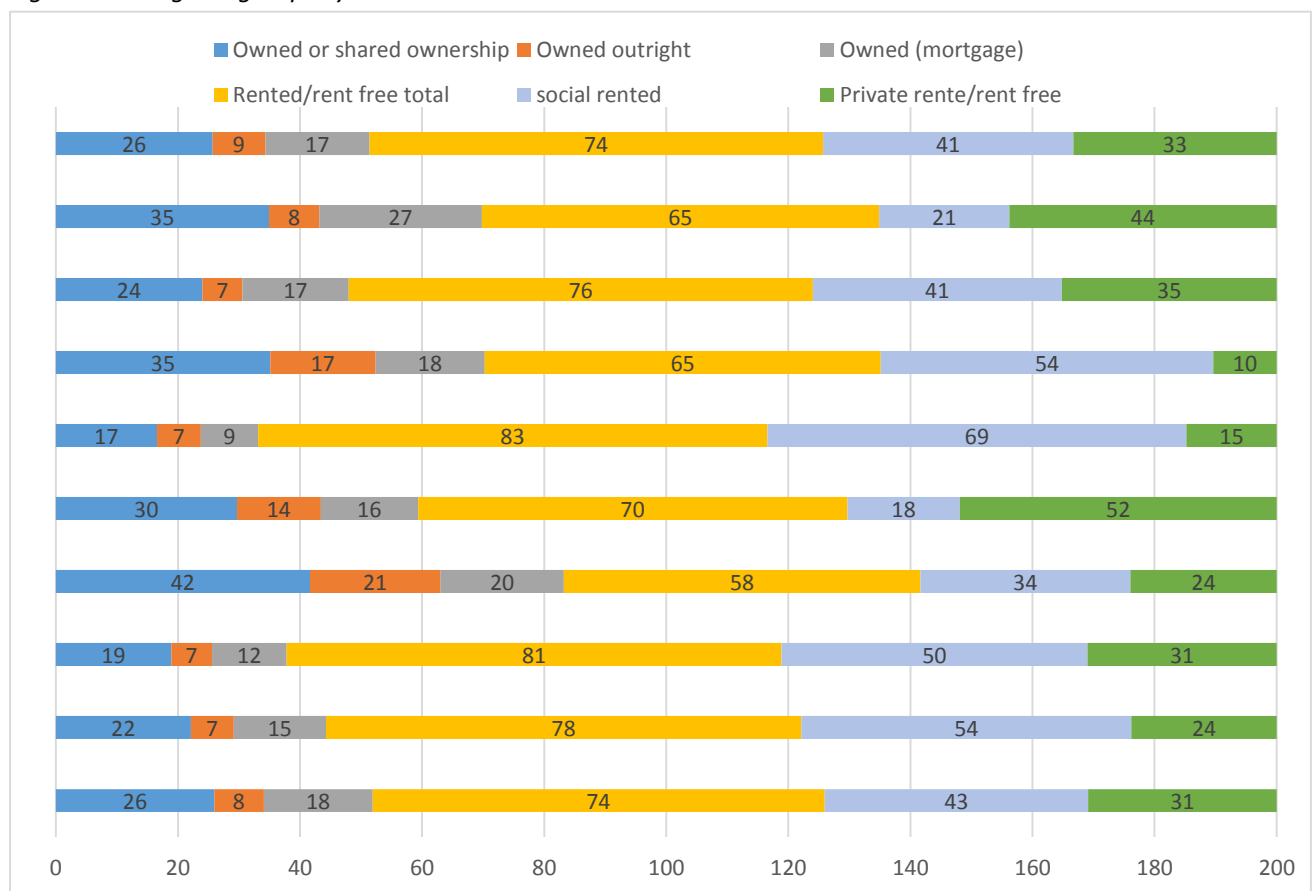
Figure 10 below shows the proportion of residents by faith group and housing tenure.

Those from the Hindu faith and people with no religion are more likely to be home owners than the population overall, while Muslims are less likely.

Over 80% of Buddhists and Muslims are renters, nearly 70% of Muslims rent from a social landlord. Over half of the Jewish population live in homes rented from a private landlord – less than 20% live in social rented accommodation. Just over 20% of those with no religion are social renters, while over 40% rent from a private landlord.

The proportion of people living rent free is relatively small at just over 1% of the population

Figure 10: Religious groups by tenure



Source, 2011 Census, Percentage of all usual residents

Perception of overcrowding

The Hackney Housing Needs Survey asked respondents to say whether they felt their homes had too few rooms. Table 4 summarises responses by faith group. The data shows that Muslims and those from other religious groups are more likely to consider that they are overcrowded. The Housing Needs Survey also found that 16% of Jewish households believed they had too few rooms, despite living in relatively large housing – however household sizes are larger in the Jewish community than Hackney’s households overall.

Table 4, Perception of overcrowding

Religious belief	% citing too few rooms
No religion	12%
Christian	14%
Jewish	16%
Muslim	22%
Other	19%

Source, 2014 Hackney Housing Needs Survey

Mobility

According to the 2014 Housing Needs Survey, people of no religious faith and those in other religious groups are most likely to want or need to move in the next two years. They were more likely to say they would move out of Hackney. Jewish respondents were most likely to expect to move within the borough.

Country of Birth

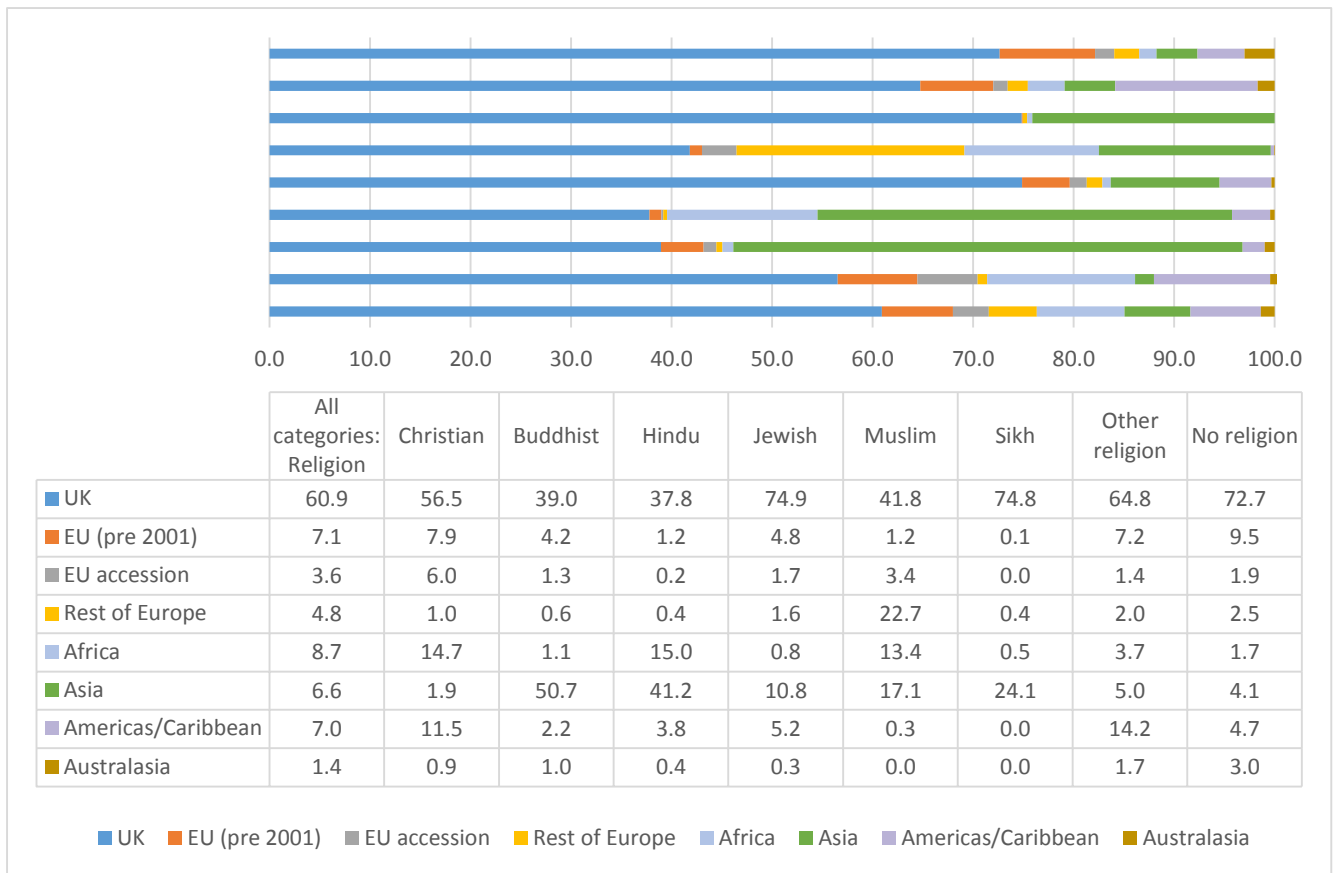
Figure 11 below shows the religious groupings in Hackney by country of birth. It shows that people of the Buddhist and Muslim faith are least likely to have been born in the UK, and people from the Jewish, Sikh and non-religious groups have greater proportions of people born in the UK.

A greater proportion of people born in Western Europe are non-believers, while those from EU accession states (Eastern Europe) are more likely to be Christian. Those from the remainder of Europe are most likely to be Muslim. Over 22% of Muslims living in Hackney are from the rest of Europe – this may account for some of Hackney’s Turkish and Kurdish population.

Those from Africa are more likely to be Christian, Muslim or Hindu and are far less likely to have no religion.

Those born in the Americas or the Caribbean are more likely to be Christian or to practice other religions than the population as a whole, while those from Australasia are more likely to be non-believers.

Figure 11, Country of Birth by Religious Group

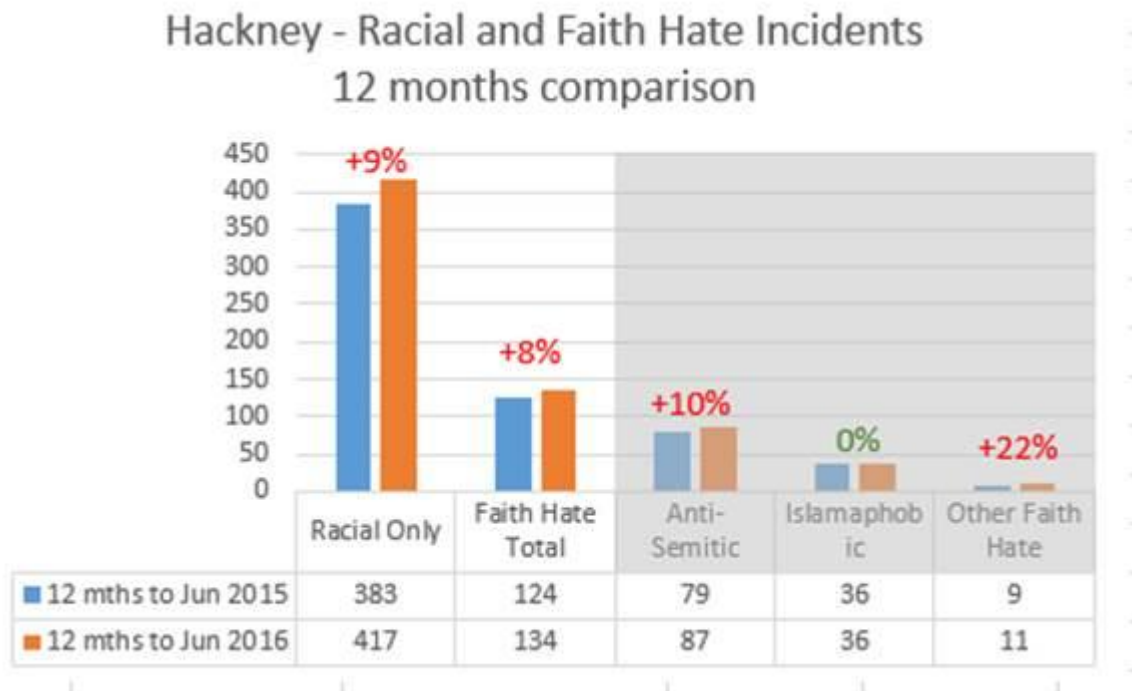


Source: 2011 Census, percentage of all usual residents

Faith, crime and safety

Figure 12 below summarises racial and faith-hate incidents reported to the Metropolitan Police during the years to June 2016. It shows that racially motivated hate crime is up 9% (an additional 34 incidents) and faith-based hate crime is up 10% (an additional 10 incidents). There were an additional 8 incidents of Anti-Semitic crimes, up 10%, the number of Islamophobic crimes remained stable at 36, and the number of other faith-based crimes rose by 2 incidents to 11.

Figure 12



Source, Metropolitan Police

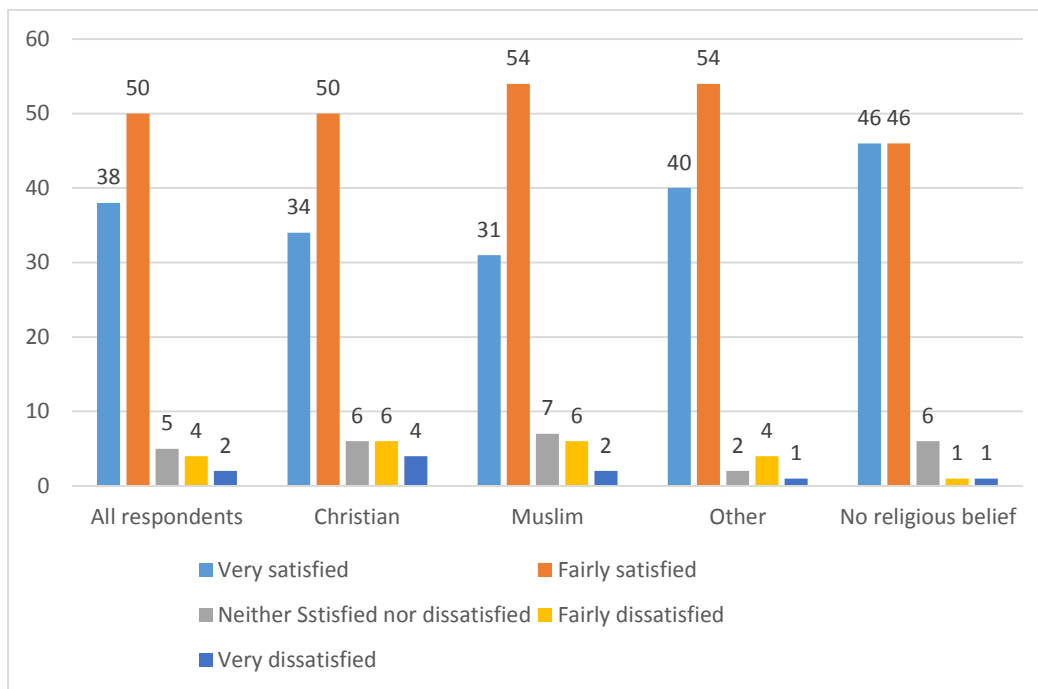
Satisfaction with Hackney as a place to live

Figure 13 below summarises responses to a recent residents survey, in which respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction with Hackney as a place to live.

Muslims and Christians were less likely than the population overall to be very satisfied with the borough, while other and no religion are more likely to be very satisfied although over half of Muslims and a half of Christians rate themselves as fairly satisfied, bringing both groups within a few points of the borough average in terms of overall satisfaction, above 80%.

Both Muslims and Christians are also more likely to feel neutrally or be dissatisfied with the borough than the population overall.

Figure 13, Overall Satisfaction with Hackney as a Place to Live by Religious Group

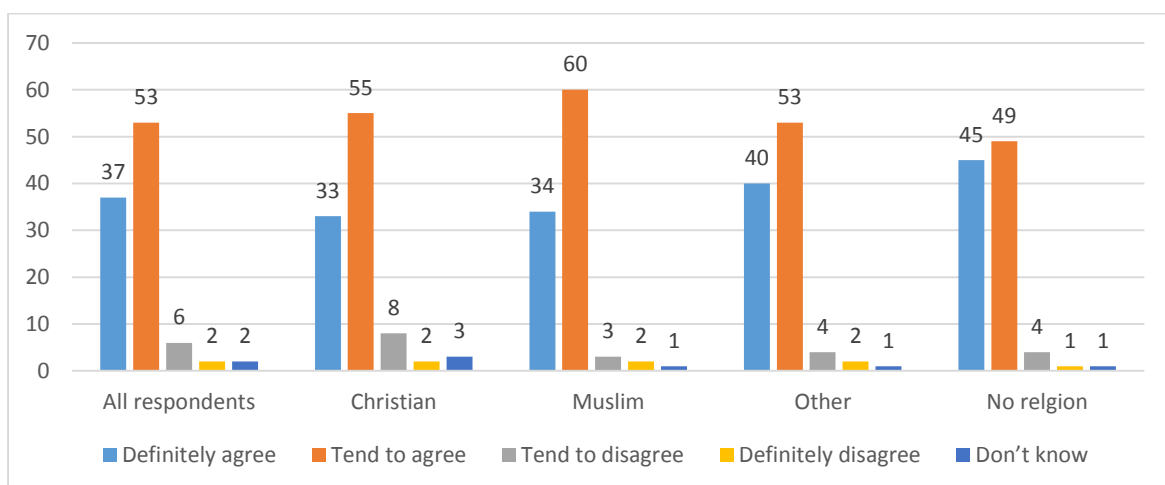


Source, 2015 Hackney Resident Survey, IPSOS MORI, percentage of respondents

Community Cohesion

The 2015 Resident’s Survey also asked respondents to gauge the extent to which people from different backgrounds get on well together in Hackney. The results for religious groups are broken down in Figure 14 below and show that Christians are slightly less likely to agree that people from different backgrounds get on well together, than those from other religious groups non-believers and the population as a whole. Although 88% of Christians believe Hackney is a cohesive borough, compared with 90% and above for all other groups.

Figure 14, Extent to which respondents believe that people from different communities get on well together in Hackney



Source: 2015 Resident Survey, IPSOS MORI, percentage of respondents

The 2015 Hackney residents survey also revealed that Muslims are twice as likely to feel socially isolated than the White community.

ⁱ Basic Beliefs of Alevism, British Alevi Foundation

ⁱⁱ 2015, Hackney Borough Profile, LBH