

FUTURES NETWORK WEST MIDLANDS

WORKING PAPER 1

Demographic Issues facing the West Midlands

February, 2014

Preface

This paper has been prepared by members of the Futures Network West Midlands – a group comprising individuals from planning, academic and other professional backgrounds, who have experience and commitment to strategic and spatial planning with a particular interest in the West Midlands.

The paper formed the background to a seminar series organised by FNWM, in partnership with others, with the aim of identifying the implications of demographic change for a range of strategic policy issues (e.g. health, housing, transport) and the challenges this poses for spatial planning across the wider West Midlands. The paper was prepared before all of the census results were available and consequently there are a number of ‘gaps’ in information. Updated official population projections will be published later in 2014. We plan to analyse further 2011 Census and other demographic information as and when they becomes available.

Particular thanks go to Greg Ball and Richard Turkington and other members of the Network who have contributed to the preparation of this paper.

Geography

The main geographical breakdown presented is between the metropolitan (West Midlands County) area and the other shires and unitary authorities in the former West Midlands Region. Although less significant for policy purposes, this breakdown remains a powerful tool for illustrating the sharpest distinctions in demographic, social and economic circumstances between broad areas. At the same time, strong commuting and migration links remain between areas within the metropolitan area, while the influence of the wider metropolitan area extends well beyond its borders.

Terms and Disclaimer

The statistical information in this document has been adapted from data from the Office for National Statistics licensed under the Open Government Licence v.2.0.

The authors have taken care to extract and present data correctly. However, no warranty, express or implied, is given as to its accuracy and the Futures Network West Midlands does not accept any liability for error or omission.

The information has been provided solely to stimulate discussion and further research into demographic, social and economic issues affecting the West Midlands. The Network is not responsible for how readers use, interpret or rely on the information. Readers wishing to use the information for other purposes are advised to refer to the source data, which are available from the website of the Office for National Statistics (<http://www.ons.gov.uk/>).

The views expressed are intended to inform debate. They are not a formal expression of the views of the Network or its membership.

Recent Demographic Change in the West Midlands

The publication of the 2011 Census provides an opportunity to review, along with other evidence, what is happening to the population of the West Midlands and to consider some of the longer-term strategic policy implications.

This paper presents initial data on key population changes and their implications and focuses on the following:

- The population of the West Midlands has grown faster than previously anticipated but with variations between different areas.
- Births have been increasing rapidly since 2001, particularly in the Metropolitan area
- There are increasing numbers of elderly people across all parts of the West Midlands and particularly in Shire areas.
- There are increasing concentrations of younger people within the Metropolitan area with particular implications for housing and employment.
- International net in-migration has continued at a high rate, particularly into the Metropolitan area, but with variations from past patterns and in the origins of migrants.
- Net out-migration from the Metropolitan area to the Shires and Unitary authorities fell in the latter part of the last decade. More leave the Met area than arrive at all ages, with a concentration among those aged 25-44.
- Increased private renting is associated with a more mobile population with new challenges in many areas associated with less stable communities.
- Social inequality, driven by economic, social and demographic trends remains an issue with increased levels and patterns of multiple deprivation in some areas.
- Segregation between different cultural groups is continuing and there are distinct concentrations of minority ethnic communities in different parts of the West Midlands, and especially within the Metropolitan area.

The patterns and trends in population change will have different outcomes for different places within the West Midlands and their implications for longer-term sustainability and social stability vary from place to place. The data also suggests different implications for different public services/policy areas and raises issues and choices that can only be properly addressed on a longer term 'wider than local' strategic basis.

KEY POPULATION CHANGES

1. The population of the West Midlands has grown faster than previously anticipated but with variations between different areas.

The Census confirmed that population growth since 2001 has been very rapid, and that earlier official estimates and projections underestimated this to some extent. The Census estimate of the region's population in 2011 (5.61 million) is some 100,000 more than earlier estimates and projections.

The region's population grew by 335,000 between 2001 and 2011. Table 1.1 shows that this is much greater than growth in the 1990s. A continuation of recent trends would see the region's population grow by nearly 400,000 (6.8%) between 2011 and 2021.

Table 1.1: Recent and Projected Change in Population of the West Midlands

Population (millions)				% Change		
1991	2001	2011	2021*	1991-2001	2001-2011	2011-2021*
5.23	5.28	5.61	5.99	1.0	6.2	6.8

Sources: Mid Year Estimates and Interim 2011-based Population Projections, ONS, Crown Copyright

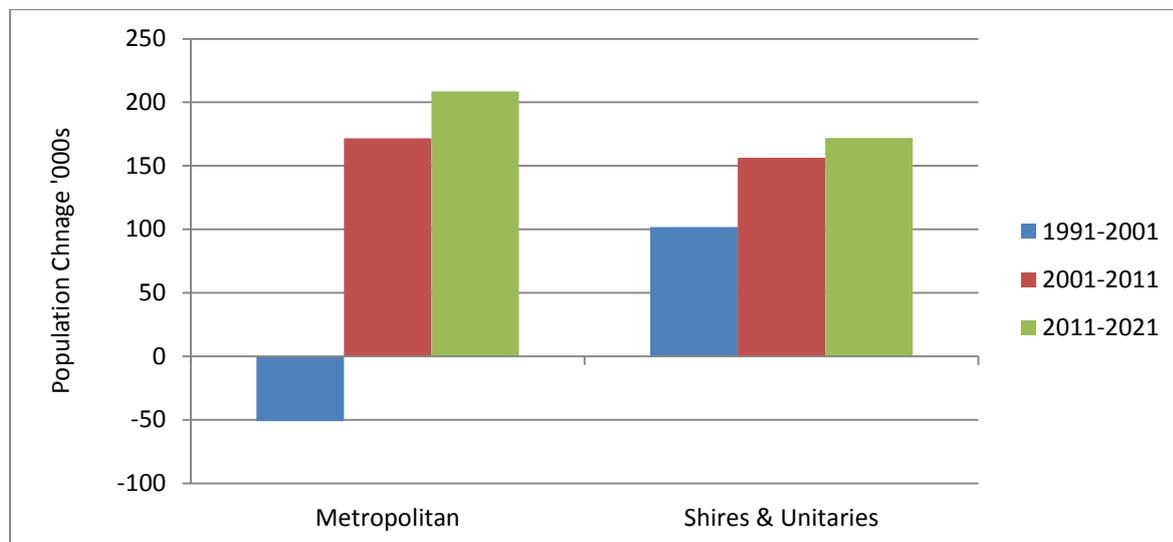
*2011-based interim sub-national population projections, ONS, Crown Copyright

There has also been a dramatic shift in the geographical pattern of demographic change since 2001. Figure 1.1 shows that during the 1990s, the metropolitan area¹ saw a continuation of a longer standing trend of reducing populations; this resulted mainly from net out-migration to surrounding shire areas. The transformation in the metropolitan area since 2001 has been dramatic; not only was population decline halted, but growth overtook that in the shires and unitary councils², even though growth in the latter also increased.

¹ Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall, Wolverhampton

² Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Stoke, Telford & Wrekin

Figure 1.1: population change 1991-2021



Sources: Mid Year Estimates and Interim 2011-based Population Projections, ONS, Crown Copyright

Table 1.2 sets out the factors that contributed to the difference in population between 2001 and 2011. The largest contributor to growth has been international migration, mainly focussed on the metropolitan area. The next major contributor was natural change, again primarily focused on the metropolitan area. In contrast, the metropolitan area saw a net movement out to other parts of the UK, and in particular to other parts of the region.

Table 1.2: Sources of Population Change 2001-2011

	thousands					Total Change
	Natural Change	Net UK Migration	Net International Migration	Unattributed Difference	Misc. (prisoners etc)	
Metropolitan County	122.1	-131.0	+142.3	+39.0	-0.4	171.7
Shires & Unitary	29.3	+60.1	+39.4	+25.8	+2.0	156.2
W M Region	151.4	-70.9	+181.6	+64.8	+1.6	327.9

Source: Mid Year Estimates 2001-2011, ONS, Crown Copyright

As noted earlier, the Census estimate of the population in many areas to be greater than had been expected. The Office for National Statistics has been unable to fully explain the reasons for this, but remains confident about the Census results. Nearly 65,000 of the difference between the region's population in 2001 and 2011 cannot be ascribed to a particular component of population change. This unattributed difference may stem from one, or a combination, of the following:

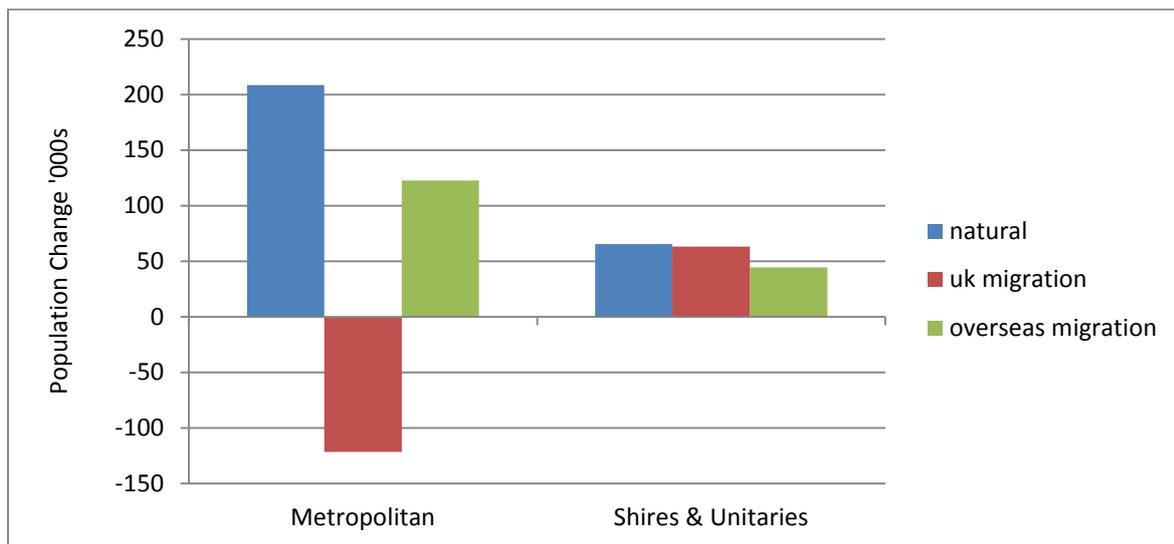
Errors and sampling variations in the 2001 and/or 2011 Census-based estimates

Errors in monitoring international and within UK migration

Interim, post-Census projections by the Office of National Statistics (Figure 1.2) point to the sources of possible future change in the West Midlands 2011-2021:

- Natural growth with more births than deaths.
 - Concentrated in metropolitan area, particularly Birmingham (42% of total)
- A high level of net immigration into the UK
 - Concentrated in metropolitan area (76%), particularly Birmingham (32%)
- Out-migration from metropolitan areas to other UK, mainly nearby shire districts.
 - Net migration gain in shires of 63,000, loss of 122,000 from metropolitan area (81,000 from Birmingham). Regional net out-migration of 59,000.

Figure 1.2: Projected Population Change 2011-2021



Sources: Mid Year Estimates and Interim 2011-based Population Projections, ONS, Crown Copyright

The fastest percentage growth is projected in Coventry (+13%), Rugby (+10%) and Stratford (+9%), but greatest absolute growth is in Birmingham (80,000), Coventry (47,000) and Sandwell (26,000).

Table 1.3: The Changing Age Profile of the West Midlands population

Year	% of West Midlands Population		
	Age 0-15	Age 16-64	Age 65+
2001	20.7	63.3	15.9
2011	19.5	63.5	17.0
2021	20.2	60.5	19.3

Sources: Mid Year Estimates and Interim 2011-based Population Projections, ONS, Crown Copyright

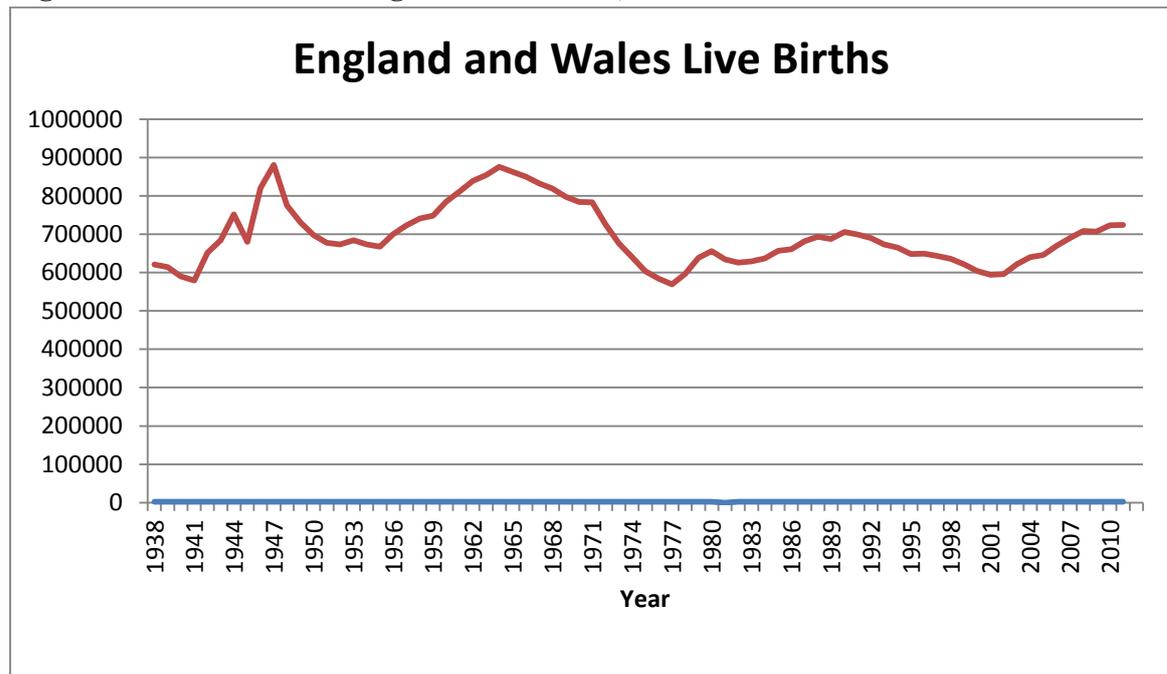
Implications of future change

- **Housing** - continued population growth will result in higher household growth and a greater need for new housing;
- **Employment** – the working age population will make up a smaller percentage of the population; the need for significant levels of job creation for all ages and groups will continue;
- **Socio-economic Diversity** - the growing population is likely to become increasingly diverse. Issues of discrimination, exclusion and social stability may arise and there will be implications for different services
- **Sustainability** – the changing population will have different implications for different places, including the need for infrastructure and pressures on the environment

2. Births have been increasing rapidly since 2001, particularly in the Metropolitan area

Figure 2.1 charts long-term variations in the number of births nationally, and identifies the twin peaks in post-war births in 1947 and 1964. These fluctuations exercise a long-term influence on the age composition of the population. The graph also shows that a period of reduction from 1990 ended in 2001; 2011 birth numbers were last reached in 1972.

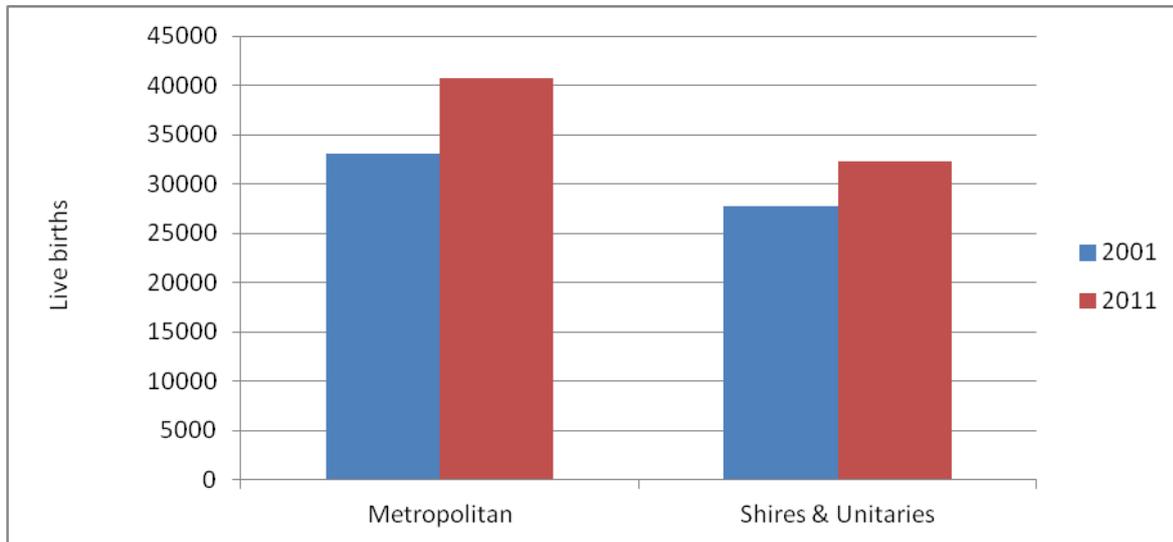
Figure 2.1: live births in England and Wales, 1938-2010



There were about 73,000 live births in the West Midlands in 2011: 12,000 (20%) more than in 2001. There are now more births to older women, and rapid increases in the numbers of births to women who themselves had been born overseas. Births to UK-born women increased by 9%, while those to non-UK born women rose by 74% across the West Midlands.

Fifty six per cent of births in 2011 were in the Metropolitan County, compared with 54% in 2001. Between 2001 and 2011, birth numbers increased more rapidly in the metropolitan county – by 23% compared with 17% in the shires and unitaries (Figure 2.2). Increases above 30% were recorded in Stoke-on-Trent, Coventry, Sandwell and Rugby.

Figure 2.2: live births in West Midlands Metropolitan and Shires and Unitaries areas, 2001-2010



Thirty per cent of births in the metropolitan county in 2011 were to overseas-born mothers, compared with 13% in the shires. However, in relative terms growth in births to non-UK mothers between 2001 and 2011 was more rapid in the shires and unitaries. It is notable that outside the metropolitan area, 45% of non-UK mothers were from the EU, compared with only 16% in the metropolitan county. This seems to accord with the more dispersed pattern of migration from the EU.

The growing number of births has created pressures on maternity and education services in many areas. However, some commentators consider the increase as a means of offsetting the overall ageing of the population profile.

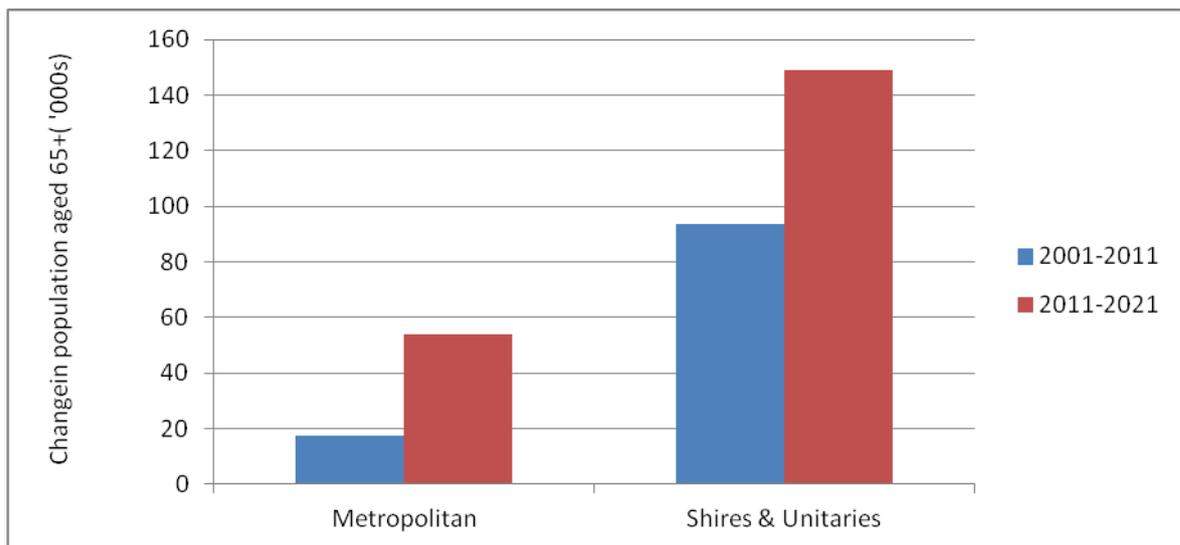
3. There are increasing numbers of elderly people across all parts of the West Midlands and particularly in Shire areas. This will present increasing challenges for health and social services

In 2011, 17% of the region’s population was aged 65 or older. The percentage was lower in the metropolitan area (15%), and higher elsewhere (nearly 19%).

Between 2011 and 2021 the population aged 65 or older is projected to grow by 203,000 (21%). Those aged 75 or older will increase by 29% or 128,000. This growth is due in part to increased longevity and partly through the ageing of the large birth cohorts of the mid 1940s.

Figure 3.1 shows that the acceleration in growth between 2011 and 2021 and the more rapid growth in the shire and unitary areas. The projected growth rate in the shires is 28%: 38% growth is projected for those aged 75 or older, compared with 18% in the metropolitan county.

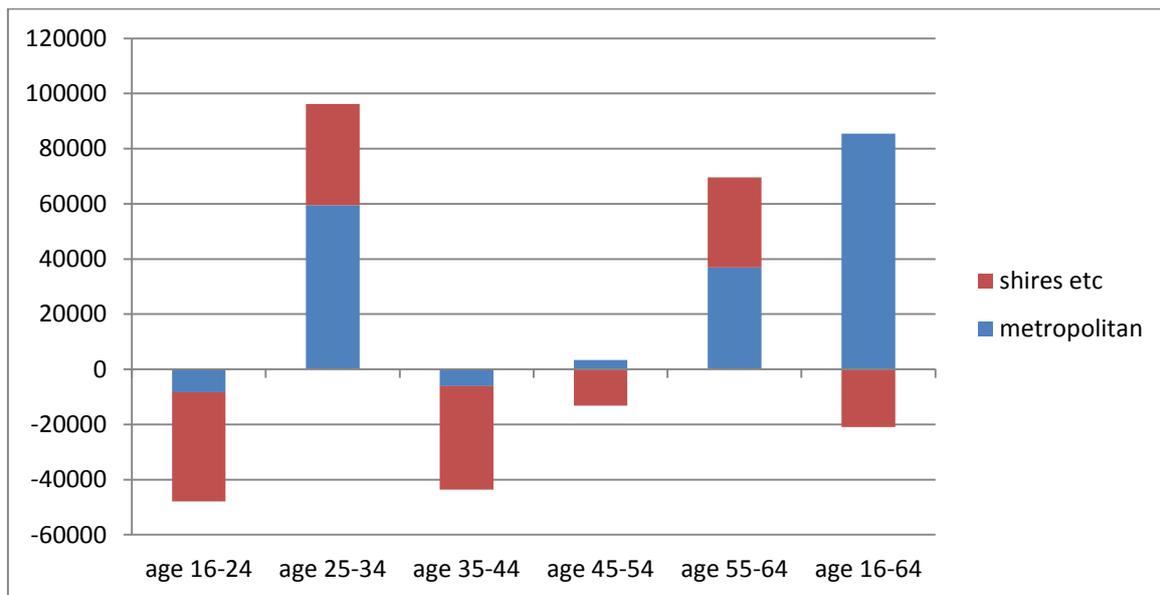
Figure 3.1: Residents aged 65 or older: Projected Change 2011-2021



4. There are increasing concentrations of younger people within the Metropolitan area with particular implications for housing and employment.

Figure 4.1 shows projected changes in different age groups in the metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas. The overall population aged 16-64 is expected to grow by about 80,000 (5%) in the metropolitan area and fall slightly elsewhere (by 21,000 or 1%). Perhaps more striking are the age breakdowns, with growth projected in the 25-34 and 55-64 age groups. In percentage and absolute terms, these changes are greater in the metropolitan area.

Figure 4.1: Residents aged 16-65: Projected Change 2011-2021



Source: Interim 2011-based Population Projections, ONS, Crown Copyright

The 25-34 age group is a key group for transition in the employment and housing circumstances of younger people. There is uncertainty about these projections as change in this age group will be heavily influenced by migration, both within the UK and across national borders. Nevertheless the projections suggest a period of challenge and opportunity in the housing and labour markets.

Predictions of changes in the 55-64 age group should be more reliable as they will be more driven by the ageing of the existing population and long-standing intra-regional migration trends. During this period, the circumstances of many people in this age band will differ from those of their immediate predecessors as the state pension age increases, mainly for women, but also for men at the end of the period.

The projected decrease in those aged 16-24 reflects earlier dips in birth numbers. This is a mobile age group with large volumes of movements into and out of higher education. There has been rapid growth in Higher Education since 2001 fuelling migration flows within the UK and internationally, but the future of HE is now less certain.

5. International net in-migration has continued at a high rate, particularly into the Metropolitan area, with changes from past patterns and in the origins of migrants.

International migration flows have been large since 2001, but due to deficiencies in monitoring, doubt remains as to the actual scale of immigration and emigration. Nevertheless, initial Census results provide evidence of the impact on the population.

Table 5.1: Recently Arrived Residents born outside the UK, 2011 Census

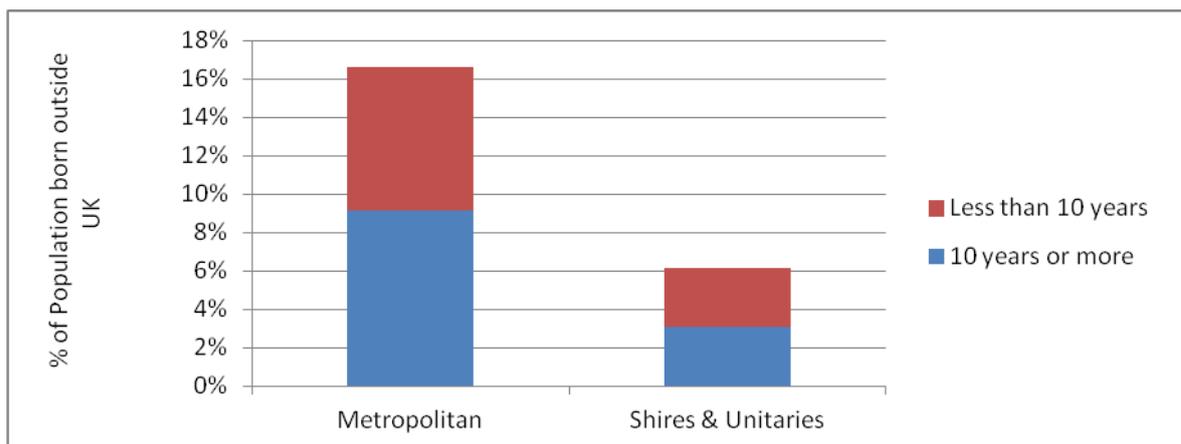
Area	Residents born abroad and arrived in the UK between 2001 and 2011	
	number	% of 2011 population
Metropolitan County	203,400	7%
Shires & Unitary	88,100	3%
W M Region	291,500	5%

International migration has been a major contributor to growth in the region’s population. The metropolitan area has attracted the major share of migrants.

The figures include international students, many of whom will leave the UK on completion of their studies. In addition to migrants who settle long-term, the Census estimates that there are 15,300 migrants in the region intending to stay for less than a year.

Figure 5.1 shows the population born outside the UK by length of residence. Evidence from other sources and Census data on country of birth indicate that white European migrants have a more dispersed pattern of settlement than other new arrivals.

Figure 5.1: Length of residence in UK of Population Born Overseas, 2011 Census



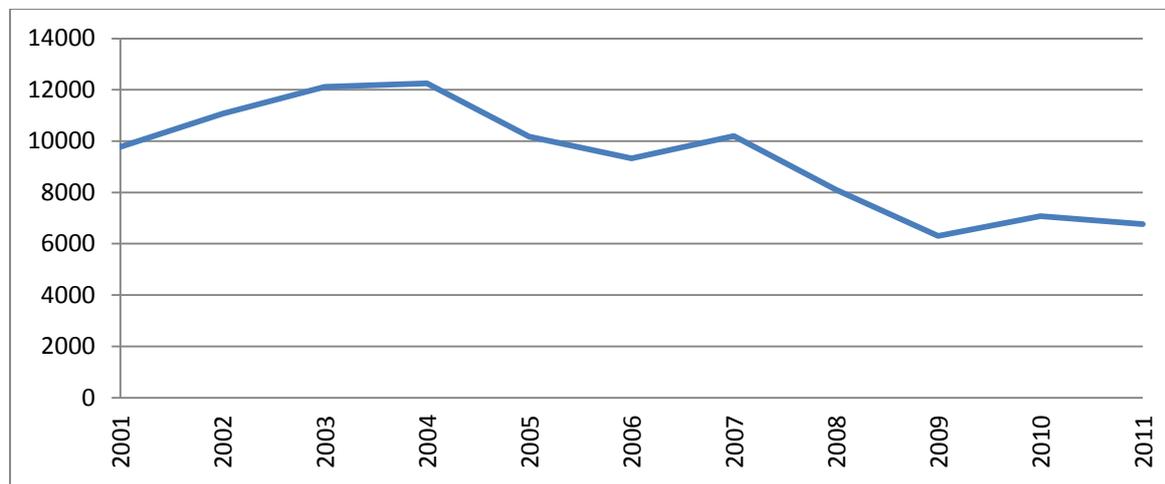
6. Net out-migration from the Metropolitan area to the Shires and Unitary authorities fell in the latter part of the last decade. More leave the Met area than arrive at all ages, with a concentration among those aged 25-44.

Most moves to a new residence are over a short distance, generally within the same local authority. In the year ending June 2011 about 113,000 people moved between authorities in the West Midlands: 2% of the total population. There was little difference in the volume of moves between council areas in 2001 and 2011 but there were more moves between metropolitan authorities and fewer to and within shire areas.

The net balance of migration flows between areas is much smaller. In 2010-11 net migration from the metropolitan areas to the shires was about 6,800; between 2001 and 2011 the total net outflow was about 103,000. This is small in relation to the overall population, but is a significant contributor to population change. To put this in context, the metropolitan population grew by 172,000 in the decade, while the shires and unitary areas saw population increase by 150,000.

Figure 6.1 shows declining net flows from metropolitan areas to the rest of the region since 2007. The reasons for this are open for debate: they might include planning and regeneration policies, the state of the housing market and economy generally, the effect of an ageing population in the rural areas on the supply of second-hand properties. At the same time the private rental sector has been growing, while owner occupation has stagnated

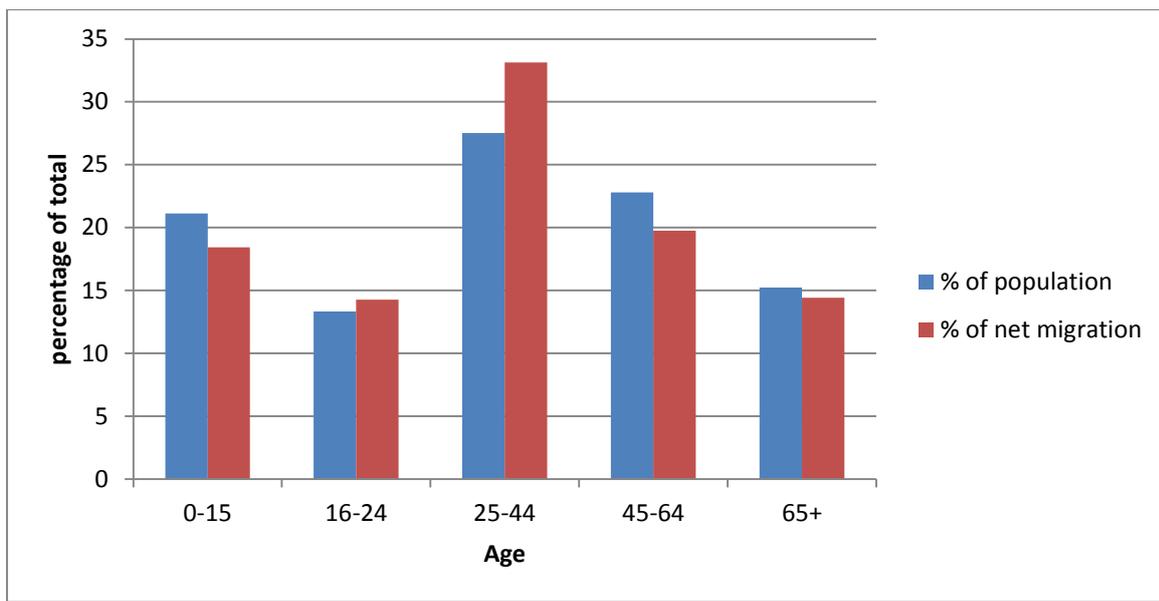
Figure 6.1: Net migration to Shires and Unitary areas from Metropolitan County



Source: Mid-year Population Estimates, Office for National Statistics, Crown Copyright

In 2011 there was an overall net migration flow from the metropolitan area to the shires and unitary areas in all broad age groups. Figure 6.2 compares the age structure of the metropolitan population with the age makeup of net migrant outflows. There is a relative concentration of out-migrants in the 25-44 age group.

Figure 6.2: Age structure of population and net migration from metropolitan area to shire and unitary areas: 2011



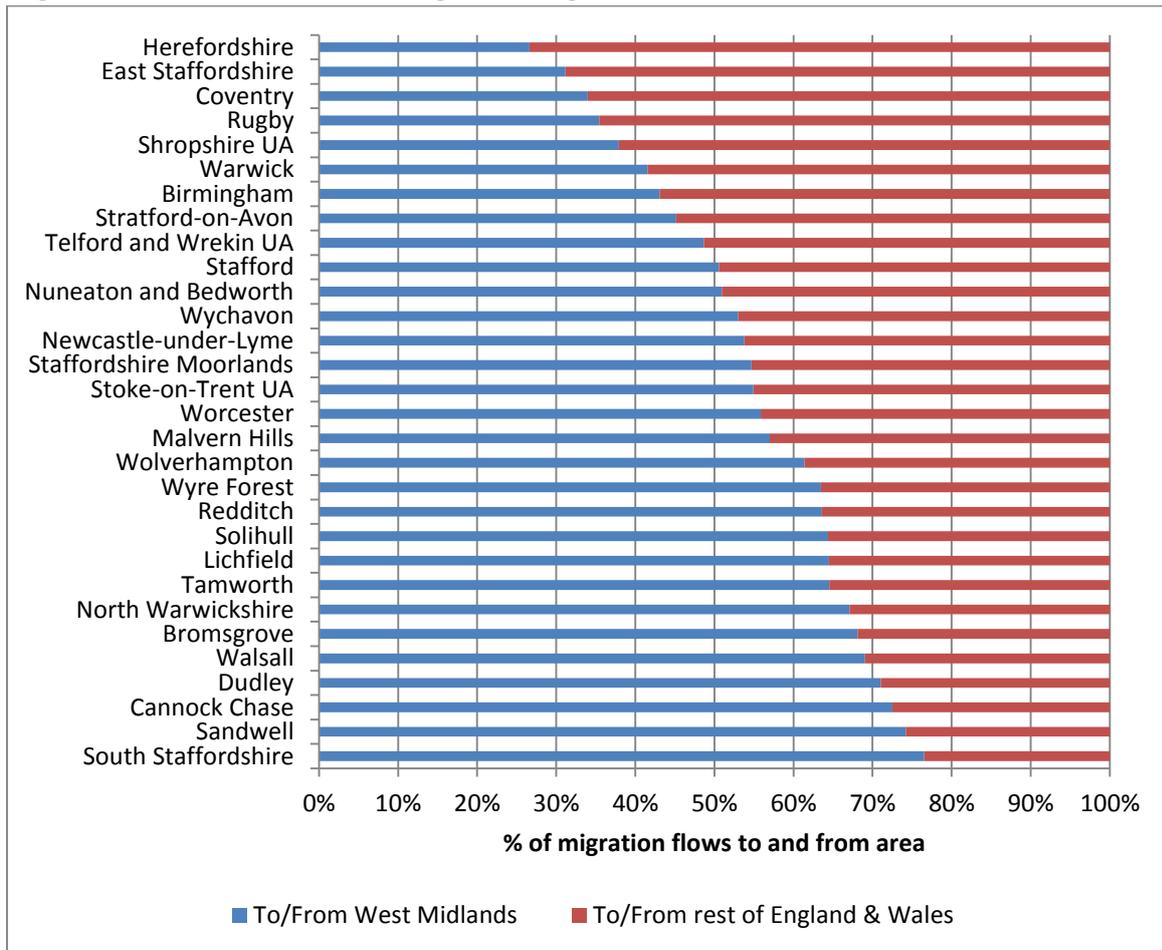
Source: Mid-year Population Estimates, Office for National Statistics, Crown Copyright

There is as yet no 2011 Census data on the economic status of migrants. Data from the 2001 Census suggested that there was a net outflow of those in the managerial and professional economic groups. The 2001 Census also showed large scale commuting inflows by managerial and professional workers into the metropolitan areas from the shires.

Intra-regional connectivity

Figure 6.3 shows the degree to which migration links are stronger with other parts of the West Midlands or with the rest of England and Wales. Not surprisingly, some authorities on the edge of the West Midlands are more connected with other regions. Coventry and Birmingham have strong national links, partly because of their large student populations. In most areas within or near the metropolitan county, intra-regional migration is much more important than movements to or from other regions.

Figure 6.3: Intra- and Inter-Regional Migration to and from Local Authorities: 2011



7. Increased private renting is associated with a more mobile population with new challenges in many areas associated with less stable communities.

Figure 7.1 and 7.2 refer to changes in the percentage and the numbers of households in different tenures. The proportion of households in private renting doubled (from 7% to 14%) between 2001 and 2011. The long established trend of increasing owner occupation halted and had been followed by a small decline. The numbers of owner occupiers fell in the metropolitan area, although they increased in the rest of the region. Social renting also reduced in the metropolitan area. Private renting increased strongly in both areas. The chart also shows that overall household growth was greater in the shires and unitary areas. This contrasts with the more rapid growth in population in the metropolitan area. In part, this may reflect the ageing population in the shires, but further analysis is needed.

Figure 7.1: Households in different Tenures: West Midlands, 2001 and 2011 (%)

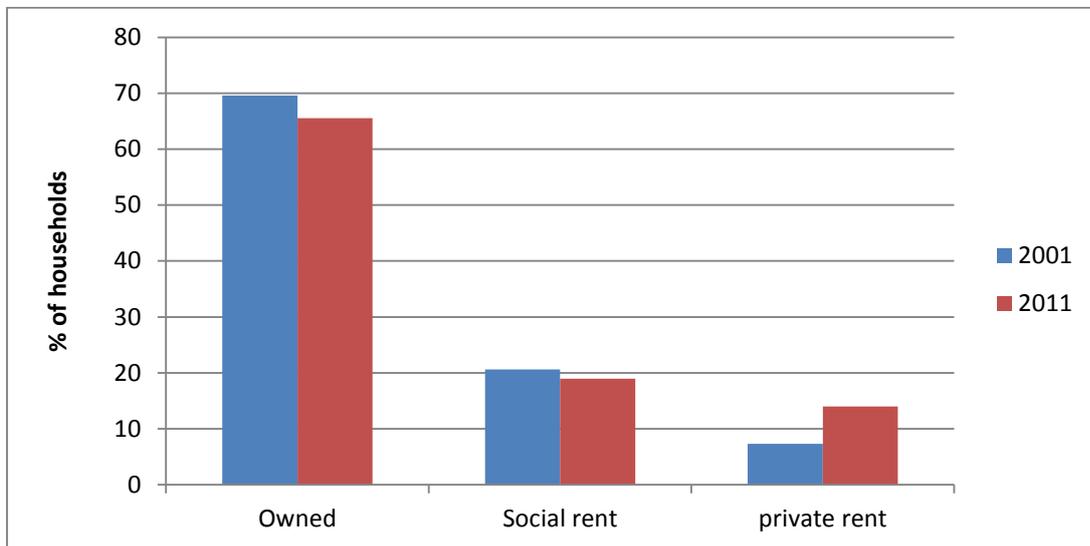
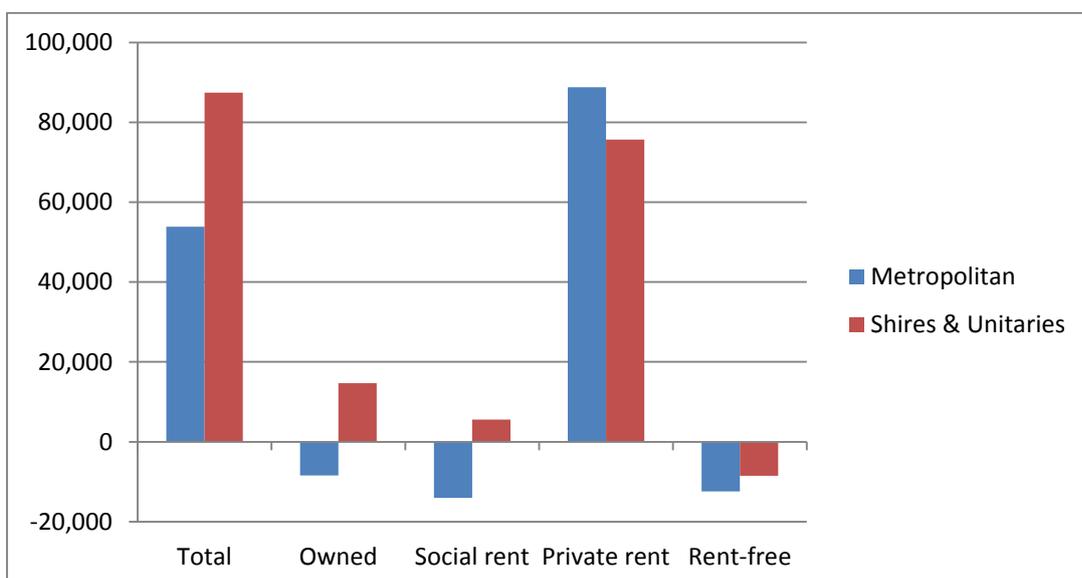


Figure 7.2: Households in different Tenures: West Midlands, 2001 and 2011 (number)



8. Social inequality, driven by economic, social and demographic trends remains an issue with increased levels and patterns of multiple deprivation in some areas.

For technical reasons it is unwise at this stage to compare socio-economic indicators in 2001 and 2011 Censuses. However, the 2011 Census shows major differences between areas.

Table 8.1: Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC) for the population aged 16-74, 2011

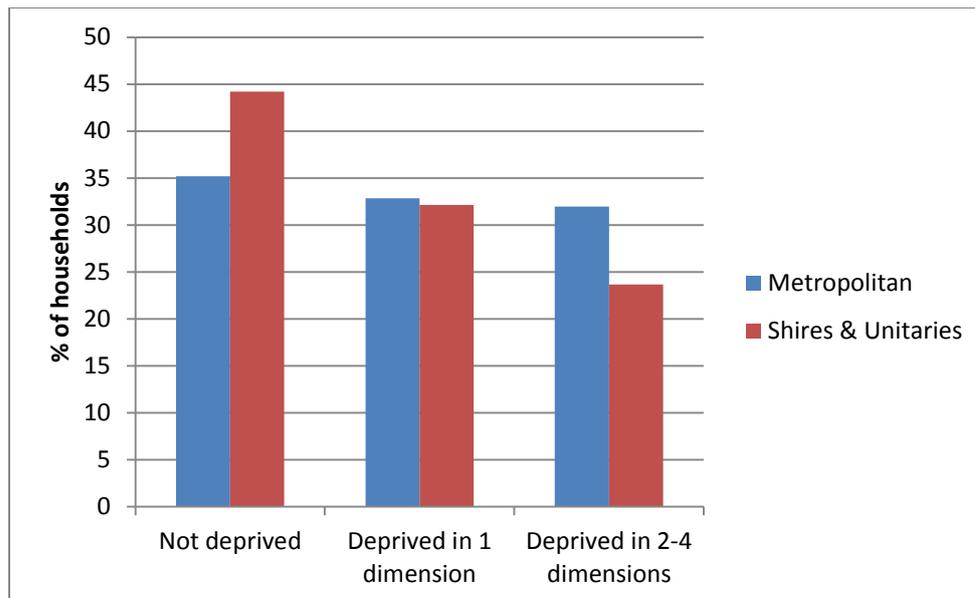
NS-Socio-Economic Classification	Metropolitan	Shires & unitary	Difference
1. Higher managerial, administrative, professional	8%	10%	-2%
2. Lower managerial, administrative, professional	17%	21%	-4%
3. Intermediate occupations	12%	13%	0%
4. Small employers, Own account workers	7%	10%	-3%
5. Lower supervisory and technical	7%	8%	-1%
6. Semi-routine occupations	16%	15%	1%
7. Routine occupations	13%	13%	0%
8. Never worked & long-term unemployed	10%	4%	6%
L15 Full-time students	11%	7%	4%

Table 8.1 indicates differences in the socio-economic composition of the population between the metropolitan area and the rest of the region. The metropolitan area has smaller percentages of professionals, managers, small employers and own-account workers. Conversely it has higher percentages in the never-worked and student categories.

Within the metropolitan areas there are clear differences. In Solihull there are 13% in the higher managerial and professional category and 23% in the lower managerial and professional; in Sandwell the percentages are much lower: (5 and 14). Stoke-on-Trent has similar low percentages to Sandwell, and a number of other districts have lower shares in the higher managerial category.

The Census also measures household deprivation related to education, employment, housing and health. Thirty two per cent of households in the metropolitan area are in multi-deprivation, compared with 24% in the rest of the region (Figure 8.1). Household multiple-deprivation is most severe in the Black Country, Stoke and Birmingham (all over 30%) and above the regional average in Coventry and Cannock. In contrast, about 50% of households in Bromsgrove, Stratford and Warwick are not deprived in terms of any of the Census indicators.

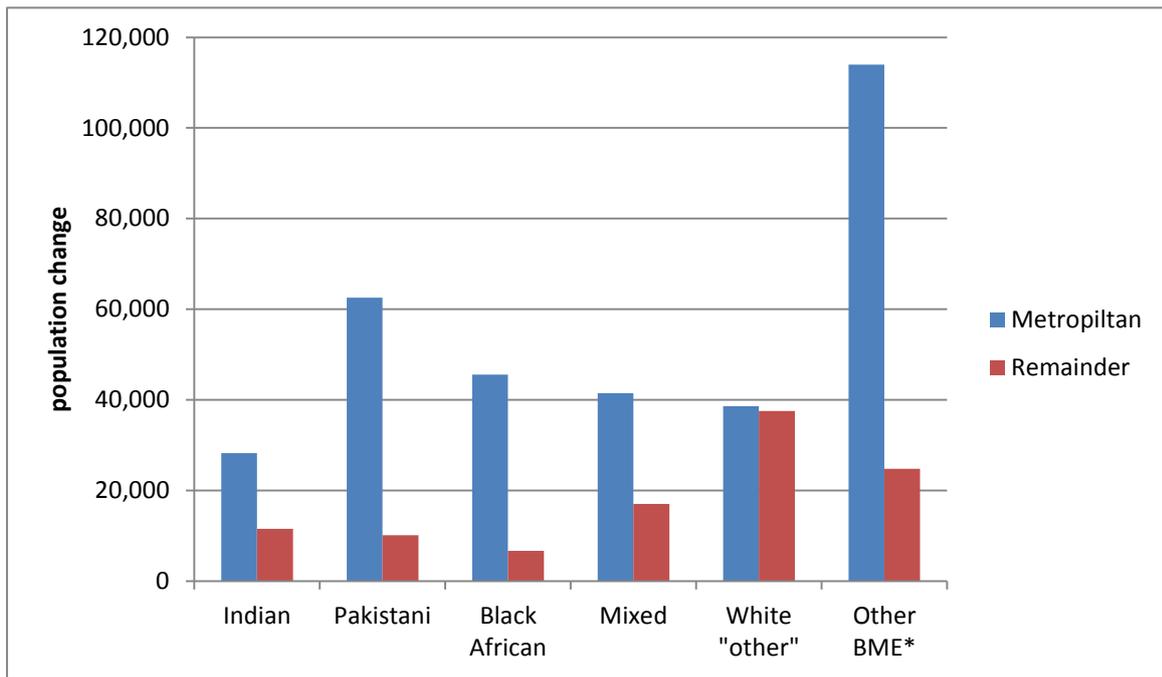
Figure 8.1: Household Deprivation, 2011 Census



9. There remain distinct concentrations of minority ethnic communities in different parts of the West Midlands, and especially within the Metropolitan area.

Most minority ethnic groups in the West Midlands have grown in numbers from 2001 to 2011. White British residents form the vast majority (79%) of the region's population although this is a reduction from 86% in 2001. The minority populations in the West Midlands County grew from 23% in 2001 to 34% in 2011; in the shires and unitary areas the percentage grew from 5% to 8%. The highest percentage was in Birmingham (46%), up from 34% in 2001.

Figure 9.1: Most rapidly growing Minority Groups, 2001-2011

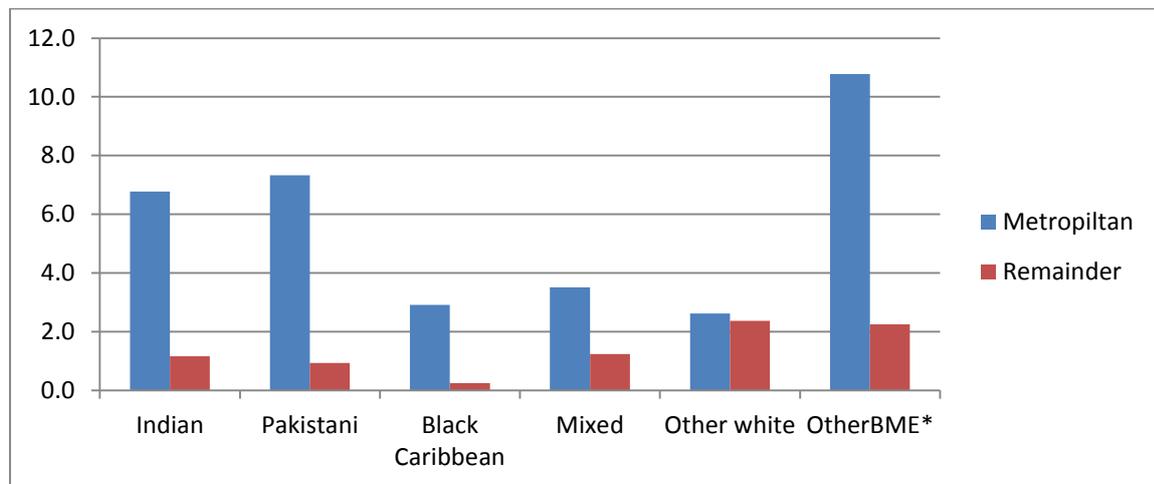


* includes white Irish

Growth in the major longstanding Asian communities continued (Figure 9.1), but previously small groups grew rapidly, notably those from Eastern Europe and Africa. Numbers of people with mixed backgrounds increased. The growing variety of ethnic, religious and national groups makes generalisations about patterns and trends difficult.

In the metropolitan county, the size of the White British group fell by 150,000. White British numbers grew somewhat, by 46,000, in most shire and unitary areas, with notable exceptions in Stoke on Trent and Newcastle under Lyme. Minority groups have grown in number in all districts across the West Midlands. Figure 9.2 shows the different pattern and scale of change in the metropolitan area and the rest of the West Midlands. Particularly noticeable is the even split in growth in the "White Other" category, which will include Eastern Europeans. In this chart also Black African is shown rather than Black Caribbean; The African group has increased rapidly, by over 400% from a fairly small base in 2001. In contrast, growth in the Caribbean group has been modest.

Figure 9.2: Percentage of Total Population in Larger Minority Ethnic Groups, 2011

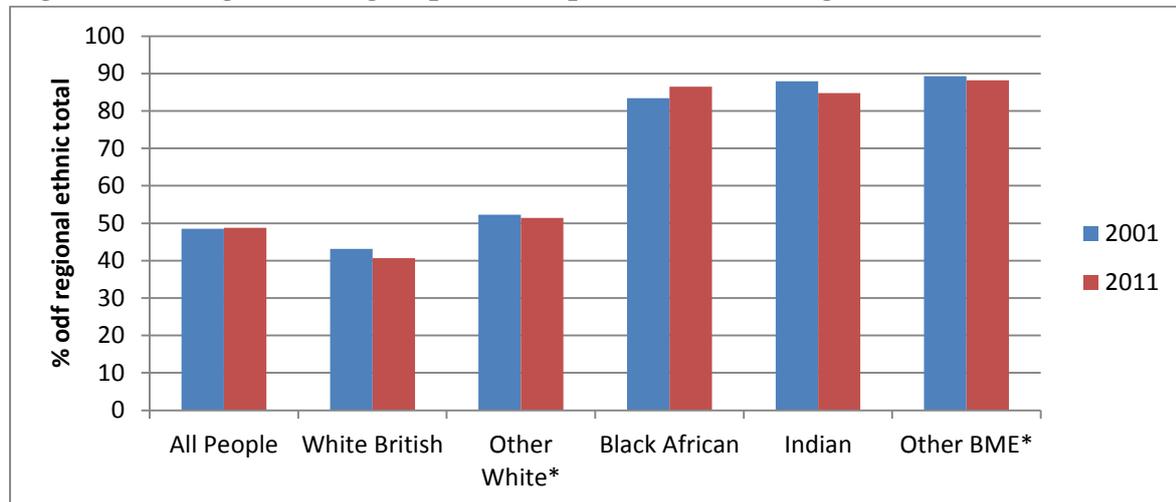


*Includes white Irish

At present we do not have the full range of Census data related to these changes. The older age profile of the White British population and the youthful age profiles of many minority groups create a natural momentum for a shifting ethnic balance. Fertility rates vary across ethnic groups. Large flows of immigrants since 2001 have contributed; unfortunately, less is known about emigration. The long-standing trend of net migration from the metropolitan area to the shires is also likely to have contributed.

Whether separation of ethnic groups has increased or decreased remains controversial, both in terms of measurement and implications. A briefing from Manchester University in December 2012 argues that the Census shows that minority populations are spreading out. However, Figure 9.3 suggests that, at the broad geographical scale, in the West Midlands the change in the distribution of major groups has been very small.

Figure 9.3: Larger ethnic groups - metropolitan share of regional total, 2011



This broad analysis conceals local changes. Examples of such changes include:

- Stoke-on-Trent’s established Pakistani population has grown.
- Despite increasing numbers, the proportion of the region’s Pakistani population living in Birmingham has fallen while Dudley, Sandwell and Solihull have increased shares.
- Coventry experienced very rapid growth in its African population.

At a more local level, there are only 5 electoral wards where a single BME group represents over 40% of the population. Four of these wards are in Birmingham with a total population of 131,000; 68% of the population in these wards is from an Asian ethnic group, including a Pakistani population of 65,000. Some groups have high geographical concentrations: 50% of the region’s Bangladeshi residents live in eight wards. About 10% of wards in the region have 3 or more ethnic groups, each with at least 5% of the population.

In summary, the main story is of growth in minority communities across the region. There are high concentrations of some groups in some metropolitan areas, and in general most residents of minority groups continue to live in the metropolitan areas. The scale of deconcentration in the longer established communities seems to have been modest, and outweighed by overall growth, but further analysis is needed to identify local patterns.

CONCLUSIONS

This paper has highlighted some early results from the 2011 Census. These provide new insights into the dynamics of demographic and social change across the West Midlands.

The patterns and trends referred to have different consequences for different parts of the region and their implications for longer-term sustainability and social stability vary from place to place. Although the metropolitan/shire divide appears less relevant for policy purposes than in the past, the analysis demonstrates the continuing divide in conditions between the major metropolitan areas and other parts of the region. It also shows the continuing influence that the metropolitan area has on other parts of the west Midlands. The data also suggests different implications for different public services and different policy areas and raises issues and choices that can only be properly addressed on a longer term, 'wider than local', strategic basis.

With increasing uncertainties around demographic trends and their inter-action with other socio-economic changes, new approaches to policy making will be necessary including the need to consider alternative 'futures' rather than relying on simple projections.

FNWM – February 2014

For further information about the Futures Network West Midlands , please contact dthew@blueyonder.co.uk

