

COVID-19 Briefing for London Borough of Tower Hamlets



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The data presented in this briefing has been collated by the Research & Documentation Committee of the Muslim Council of Britain, drawing mainly on published sources. It is presented for discussion purposes only and will be updated to reflect corrections and new findings. For further information contact redocoffice@mcb.org.uk

Acknowledgments: Office for National Statistics, University of Essex, National Health Service England, Public Health England, GP Patient Survey.

Mid 2019 65+ Population Estimates, Ethnicity & Religion

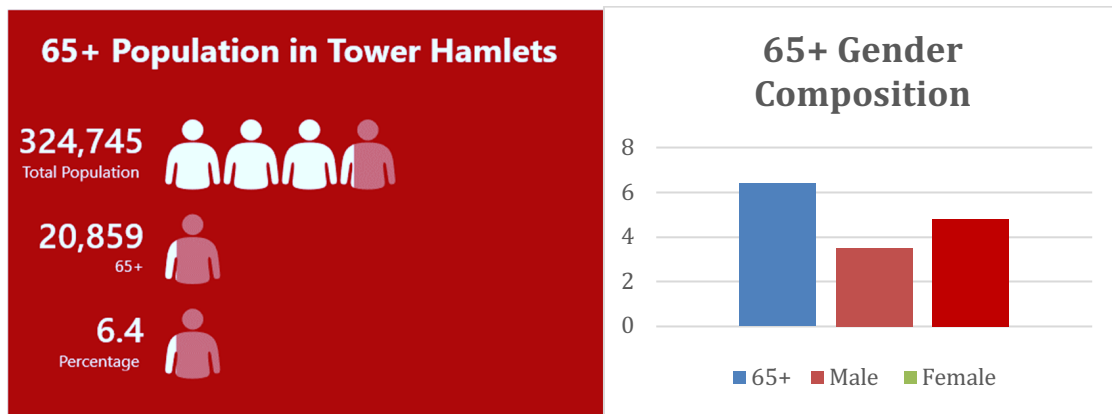


Figure 1: Tower Hamlets Population as at mid-2019

Total estimated population in Tower Hamlets at mid-2019 is 324,745 of which around 21,000 are aged 65 and over. Female population in 65+ category is higher than male population.

As at 2011 census, Tower Hamlets had the **fifth highest BAME population** of all the boroughs in London and has the **highest density** among all London local authorities, making social distancing difficult.

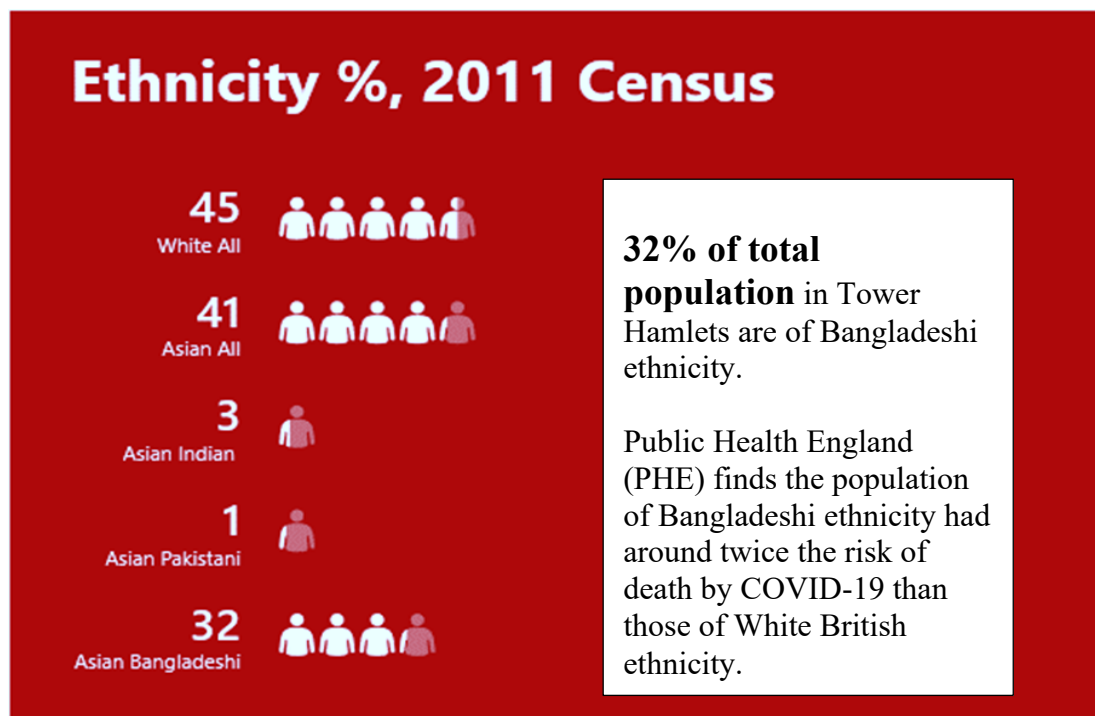


Figure 2: Ethnicity highlights in Tower Hamlets (2011 census)

3 most common ethnicity making up 55% BAME population of Tower Hamlets are 32% Bangladeshi, 4% Black African and 3% Chinese.

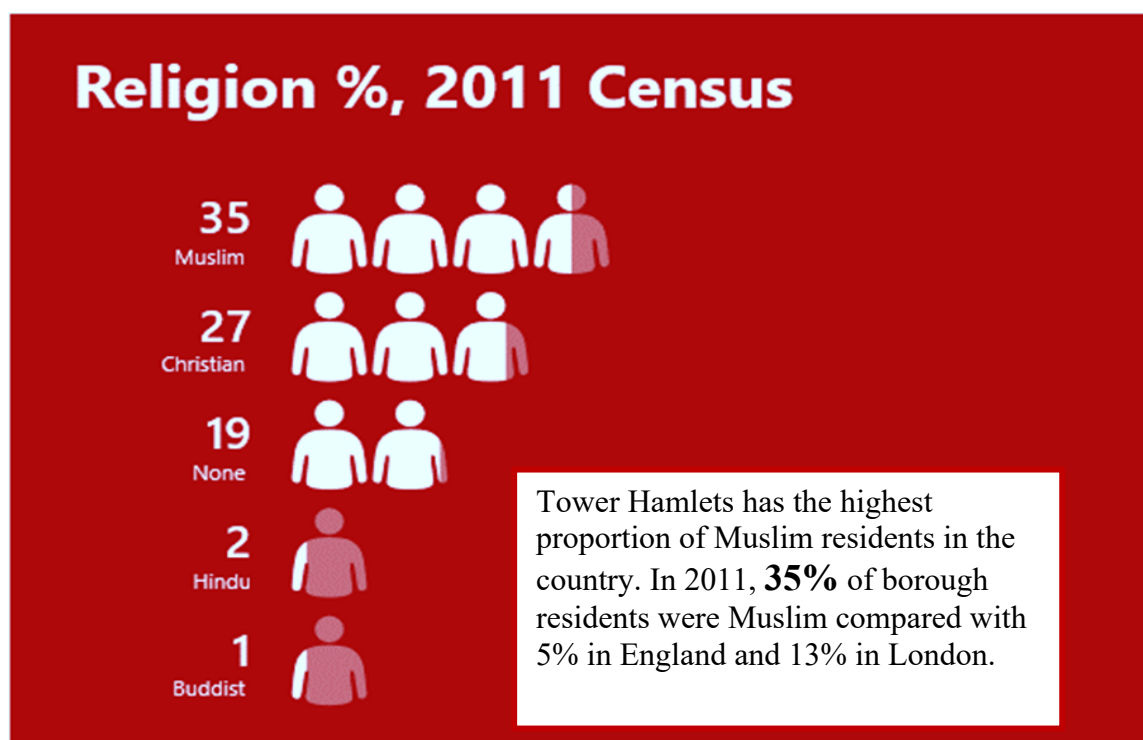


Figure 3: Religion composition in Tower Hamlets (2011 census)

Muslim (35%), Christian (27%) and No Religion (19%) are the 3 most popular religions followed by the resident population of Tower Hamlets.

Employment Sectors & COVID-19

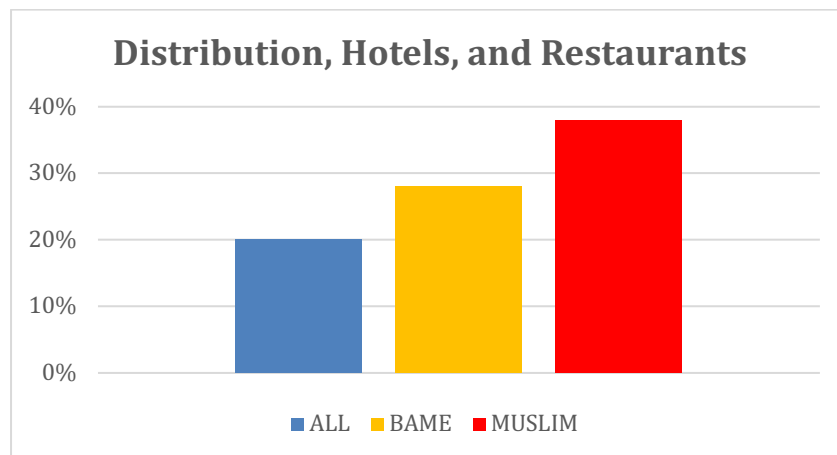


Figure 4: Distribution, Hotels and Restaurant sector in Tower Hamlets (2011 census)

Among workers in distribution, hotel, and restaurants COVID-19 cases are higher. Out of total resident population aged 16 and over of Tower Hamlets, 20% of All, 28% of BAME origin and 38% of Muslim faith are employed in this sector. This sector which is worst hit by COVID-19, because of lockdown and social distancing measures, is the most popular among Muslim employees.

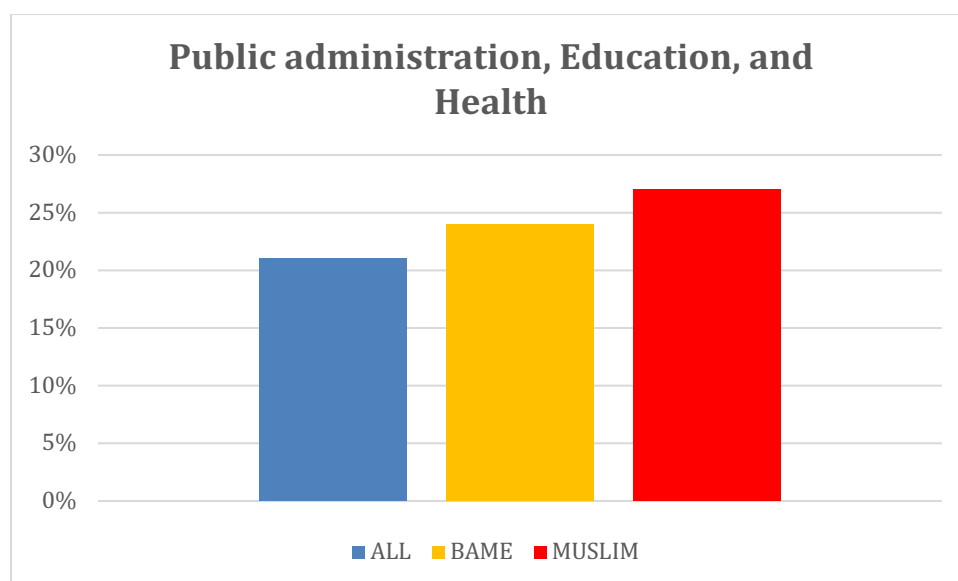


Figure 5: Public administration, education and health sector in Tower Hamlets (2011 census)

21% of the total, 24% of the BAME and 27% of the Muslim resident population aged 16 and over of Tower Hamlets are employed in public administration, education, and health sector. Senior management in this sector are disproportionately non BAME. Lower tier employees are mostly from BAME background and are often not able to work from home or enjoy flexibility as compared to higher tier managers.

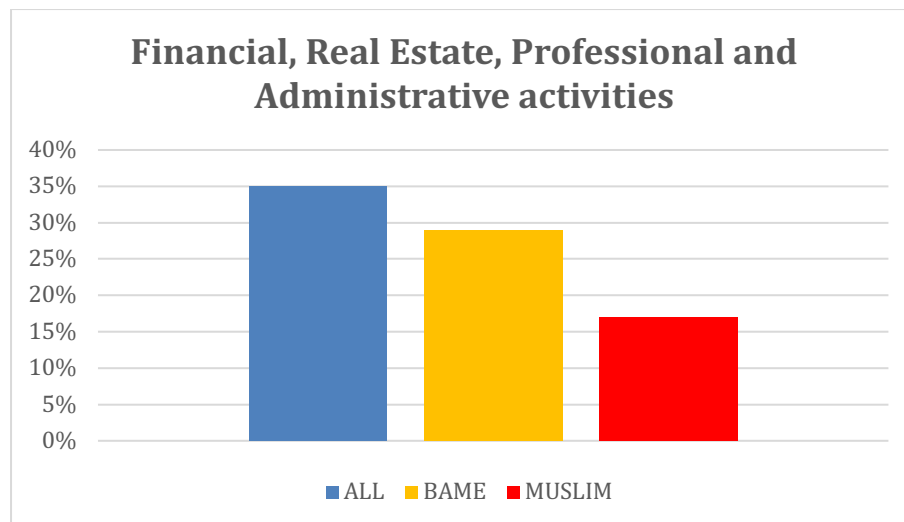


Figure 6: Financial, real estate, professional and administrative sector in Tower Hamlets (2011 census)

Financial, Real Estate, Professional and Administrative activities sector is where a third highest (17%) number of Muslims aged 16 and over are employed. 29% of the BAME and 35% of the total resident population aged 16 and over of Tower Hamlets work in this sector.

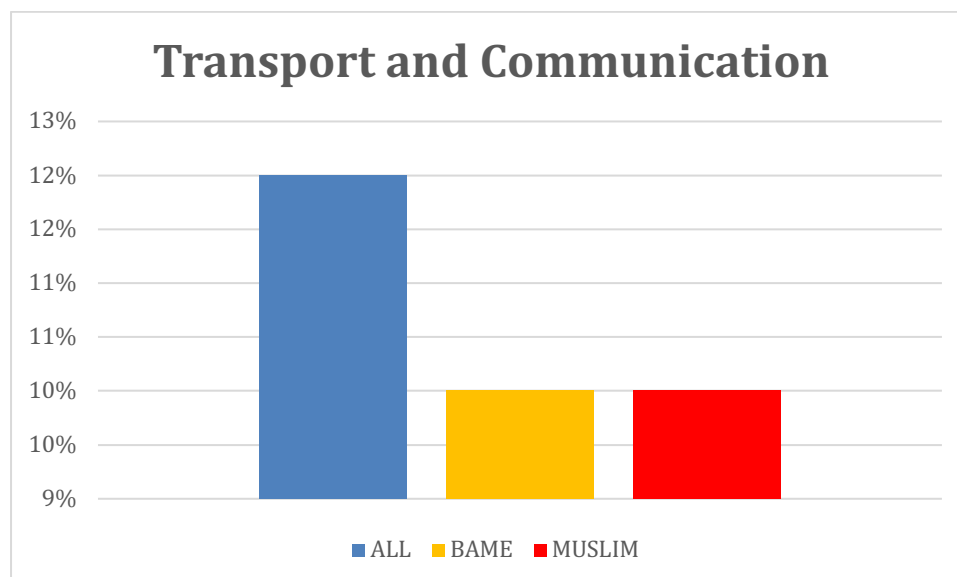


Figure 7: Transport and communication sector in Tower Hamlets (2011 census)

The fourth most popular sector in which Muslims are employed is the Transport and communication sector with 10% of Muslim population aged 16 and over working in this sector. 10% of BAME and 12% of All the resident population aged 16 and over are also employed in this sector. COVID-19 outcome has been bad for taxi and bus drivers and other public transport workers.

Health Inequality & COVID-19 Cases in Tower Hamlets



Figure 8: Self-declared health (2011 census)

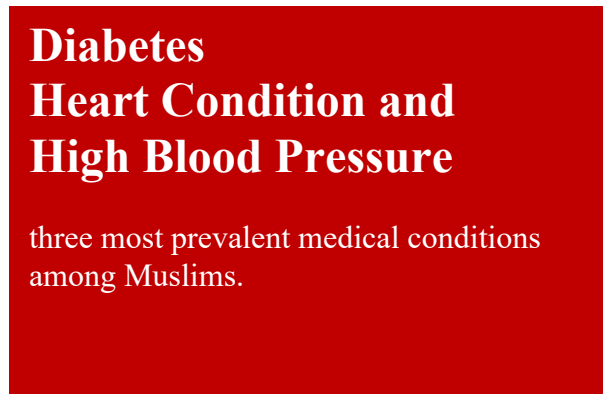


Figure 9: GP Patient Survey 2018

According to 2011 census in Tower Hamlets self-declared General State of Health, among population aged 65 and over, 45% of Muslim and 39% of BAME population had bad or very bad health. The risk of COVID-19 death is higher in older people with pre-existing medical condition. Over-65s are 34 times more likely to die of coronavirus than working-age Britons.



Figure 10: COVID-19 Cumulative Hospital Cases up to 11/09/2020



Figure 11: COVID-19 Cumulative Total Deaths up to 11/09/2020 but registered up to 19/09/2020

For Tower Hamlets actual COVID-19 cumulative hospital cases are **26% less** than expected taking the size of its mid-2019 population in to account. However, the actual COVID-19 deaths are **80% more** than expected allowing for Tower Hamlets' age and sex profile.

COVID-19 Impact on Household Earnings and Jobs in UK



Figure 12: Impact on Household Earnings (June 2020)



Figure 13: Impact on Job (June 2020)

Result of **COVID-19 Impact analysis by Social and Economic Research at the University of Essex, June 2020** concluded that BAME workers have suffered 24% more from job loss and unemployment than their non BAME counterparts due to COVID-19 and also that there are 13% fewer BAME worker receiving furlough payment than non BAME workers.

Table 1: Cumulative COVID-19 death up to 11/09/2020 but registered up to 19/09/2020 by place of death

Local Authority	Home	Hospital	Care Home	Hospice	Other Communal Establishment	Elsewhere	Total	Hospital Death Rate /100,000	Total Death Rate /100,000
Barking and Dagenham	18	129	21	0	0	0	168	61	77
Barnet	36	325	95	2	0	1	459	82	113
Bexley	12	184	35	9	0	2	242	74	89
Brent	50	395	42	4	0	2	493	120	146
Bromley	18	240	78	9	0	1	346	72	100
Camden	16	122	22	1	0	2	163	45	59
Croydon	27	356	108	4	0	2	497	92	125
Ealing	25	266	103	17	0	4	415	78	118
Enfield	36	260	95	1	0	1	393	78	114
Greenwich	10	189	22	5	1	1	228	66	77
Hackney and City of London	24	184	20	3	0	3	234	63	79
Hammersmith and Fulham	17	88	61	4	0	2	172	48	90
Haringey	23	222	26	0	0	3	274	83	98
Harrow	23	327	46	3	1	2	402	130	156
Havering	14	217	43	1	2	0	277	84	105
Hillingdon	20	220	62	8	4	2	316	72	100
Hounslow	23	182	15	10	8	2	240	67	83
Islington	14	103	36	2	0	0	155	42	61
Kensington and Chelsea	12	86	27	2	0	0	127	55	79
Kingston upon Thames	9	86	35	0	1	1	132	48	73
Lambeth	25	234	27	6	1	0	293	72	86
Lewisham	23	241	26	3	0	1	294	79	94
Merton	21	151	30	2	0	1	205	73	97
Newham	34	225	43	3	1	4	310	64	86
Redbridge	23	255	34	0	0	2	314	84	102
Richmond upon Thames	14	97	37	4	1	1	154	49	74
Southwark	20	170	61	2	0	2	255	53	77
Sutton	7	129	41	2	0	1	180	63	85
Tower Hamlets	28	128	29	1	0	2	188	39	57
Waltham Forest	24	202	24	0	0	2	252	73	89
Wandsworth	21	157	26	2	7	4	217	48	64
Westminster	16	137	28	3	1	3	188	52	70

Table 2: Cumulative hospital COVID-19 cases up to 11/09/2020 and hospital death up to 11/09/2020 but registered up to 19/09/2020

Local Authority	Rank by IMD	IMD Average Score	COVID-19 Cases Hospital	Case Rate /100,000	COVID-19 Deaths Hospital	Death Rate /100,000	Incident Rate Hospital %	Population Mid-2019	Density Person /Sq. Km.
Barking and Dagenham	1	32.8	997	468	129	61	13%	212,906	5,914
Barnet	26	16.1	2,071	523	325	82	16%	395,869	4,550
Bexley	25	16.3	1,236	498	184	74	15%	248,287	4,070
Brent	10	25.6	2,076	630	395	120	19%	329,771	7,669
Bromley	29	14.2	1,750	527	240	72	14%	332,336	2,216
Camden	20	20.1	927	343	122	45	13%	270,029	12,274
Croydon	15	22.5	2,130	551	356	92	17%	386,710	4,497
Ealing	14	22.7	1,981	580	266	78	13%	341,806	6,104
Enfield	9	25.8	1,526	457	260	78	17%	333,794	4,121
Greenwich	13	24.5	1,153	400	189	66	16%	287,942	6,126
Hackney and City of London	2	32.3	1,317	453	184	63	14%	290,841	13,220
Hammersmith and Fulham	16	22.3	1,017	549	88	48	9%	185,143	11,571
Haringey	4	28.0	1,055	393	222	83	21%	268,647	8,955
Harrow	27	15.0	1,583	630	327	130	21%	251,160	5,023
Havering	23	16.8	1,267	488	217	84	17%	259,552	2,317
Hillingdon	21	18.2	1,430	466	220	72	15%	306,870	2,645
Hounslow	18	21.5	1,464	539	182	67	12%	271,523	4,849
Islington	6	27.5	755	311	103	42	14%	242,467	16,164
Kensington and Chelsea	17	21.5	784	502	86	55	11%	156,129	13,011
Kingston upon Thames	31	11.4	884	498	86	48	10%	177,507	4,797
Lambeth	11	25.4	1,742	534	234	72	13%	326,034	12,075
Lewisham	7	26.7	1,452	475	241	79	17%	305,842	8,738
Merton	28	14.6	1,092	529	151	73	14%	206,548	5,435
Newham	3	29.6	1,687	478	225	64	13%	353,134	9,809
Redbridge	22	17.2	1,512	495	255	84	17%	305,222	5,450
Richmond upon Thames	32	9.4	726	367	97	49	13%	198,019	3,474
Southwark	8	25.8	1,773	556	170	53	10%	318,830	10,994
Sutton	30	14.0	1,133	549	129	63	11%	206,349	4,690
Tower Hamlets	5	27.9	1,194	368	128	39	11%	324,745	16,237
Waltham Forest	12	25.2	1,282	463	202	73	16%	276,983	7,102
Wandsworth	24	16.6	1,586	481	157	48	10%	329,677	9,696
Westminster	1	32.8	997	468	129	61	13%	212,906	5,914

Table 3: Cumulative hospital COVID-19 cases up to 11/09/2020 and total COVID-19 death up to 11/09/2020 but registered up to 19/09/2020

Local Authority	Rank by BAME Population	BAME %	Actual COVID-19 Cases Hospital	Expected COVID-19 Cases Hospital	Actual Cases Higher/Lower than Expected %	Actual COVID-19 Deaths Total	Expected COVID-19 Deaths Total	Actual Deaths Higher/Lower than Expected %	MUSLIM %
Barking and Dagenham	14	42%	997	988	1%	168	103	63%	14%
Barnet	20	36%	2,071	2,012	3%	459	297	54%	10%
Bexley	29	18%	1,236	1,186	4%	242	212	14%	2%
Brent	2	64%	2,076	1,642	26%	493	203	143%	19%
Bromley	30	16%	1,750	1,656	6%	346	294	18%	3%
Camden	22	34%	927	1,308	-29%	163	163	0%	12%
Croydon	12	45%	2,130	1,960	9%	497	264	88%	8%
Ealing	6	51%	1,981	1,709	16%	415	221	87%	16%
Enfield	17	39%	1,526	1,664	-8%	393	223	76%	17%
Greenwich	19	38%	1,153	1,408	-18%	228	149	53%	7%
Hackney and City of London	11	45%	1,317	1,424	-8%	234	117	100%	14%
Hammersmith and Fulham	23	32%	1,017	833	22%	172	98	75%	10%
Haringey	15	39%	1,055	1,300	-19%	274	133	107%	14%
Harrow	3	58%	1,583	1,202	32%	402	204	97%	12%
Havering	32	12%	1,267	1,249	1%	277	239	16%	2%
Hillingdon	16	39%	1,430	1,514	-6%	316	210	50%	11%
Hounslow	7	49%	1,464	1,316	11%	240	157	53%	14%
Islington	24	32%	755	1,154	-35%	155	105	48%	9%
Kensington and Chelsea	25	29%	784	671	17%	127	121	5%	10%
Kingston upon Thames	27	26%	884	790	12%	132	126	5%	6%
Lambeth	13	43%	1,742	1,621	7%	293	141	107%	7%
Lewisham	9	46%	1,452	1,508	-4%	294	148	99%	6%
Merton	21	35%	1,092	953	15%	205	131	57%	8%
Newham	1	71%	1,687	1,773	-5%	310	133	133%	32%
Redbridge	4	57%	1,512	1,505	0%	314	197	59%	23%
Richmond upon Thames	31	14%	726	905	-20%	154	154	0%	3%
Southwark	10	46%	1,773	1,581	12%	255	137	86%	9%
Sutton	28	21%	1,133	951	19%	180	159	13%	4%
Tower Hamlets	5	55%	1,194	1,614	-26%	188	104	80%	35%
Waltham Forest	8	48%	1,282	1,347	-5%	252	152	66%	22%
Wandsworth	26	29%	1,586	1,641	-3%	217	155	40%	8%
Westminster	18	38%	1,060	1,259	-16%	188	164	15%	18%

Notes to Table 1

1. The different boroughs vary enormously in population size. Areas with larger populations will tend to have more cases and deaths than those with smaller populations. To account for the different population sizes, rates are calculated. The count of cases and deaths for each area is divided by the total population and multiplied by 100,000. Populations are the 2019 Mid-year Estimates from the [Office for National Statistics](#)

Notes to Table 2

1. IMD Average score – The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Average Score is the population (mid-2018) weighted average of the combined scores for the Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in a local authority. The higher the average score the more deprived the area. (Taken from English indices of Deprivation 2019 on Gov.UK)
2. Rank by IMD – The IMD Average Score for local authority ranked, where the rank 1 (most deprived) is given to the area with highest IMD Average Score.
3. COVID-19 cases only include hospital confirmed cases provided by PHE and taken from coronavirus.data.gov.uk
4. COVID-19 deaths are only hospital deaths that have COVID-19 mentioned in the death certificate taken from the [Office for National Statistics](#).
5. The rates are easier to compare than the raw counts, but they do not take into account other factors that may affect the numbers of cases, such as ethnicity of the population or the amount of testing carried out.
6. Incident Rate is calculated by dividing Death Rate by Case Rate and gives a very rough estimate of COVID-19 mortality.
7. Rates are crude rates and are not standardised by age or gender.
8. Mid-2019 population numbers are taken from the [Office for National Statistics](#)
9. Density is mid-2019 population divided by area in square kilometre of the local authority taken from the [Office for National Statistics](#)

Notes to Table 3

- 1) BAME % and MUSLIM % of the population are from 2011 census.
- 2) Expected COVID-19 cases are calculated by drawing a line of best fit through the data.
- 3) Expected COVID-19 deaths are calculated by applying indirect standardisation method using England and Wales Male age-specific mortality rate for males and England and Wales Female age-specific mortality rate for females.
- 4) COVID-19 case and death data at local authority level is not detailed enough to break it down by ethnicity or any other criteria of interest.
- 5) Total deaths include COVID-19 deaths at home, hospital, care-home, hospice, other communal establishment and elsewhere.