

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 redoffice@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

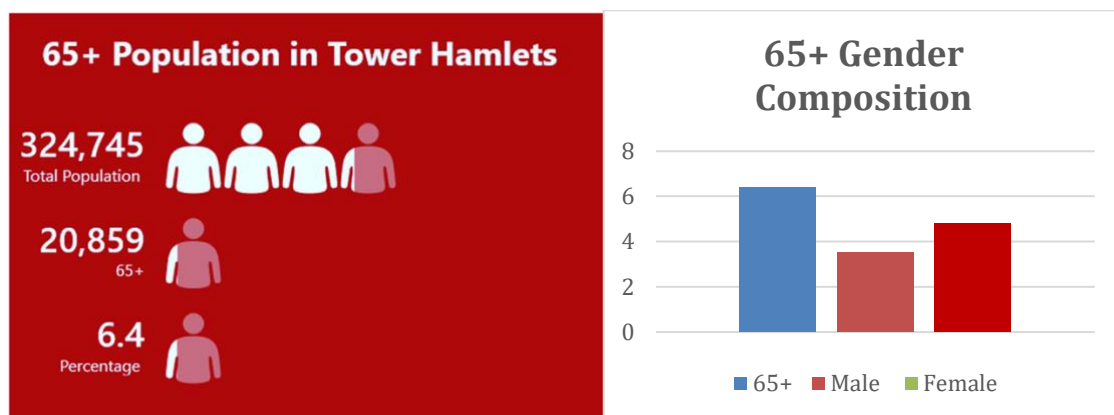


Figure 1: Tower Hamlets Population as at mid-2019

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.

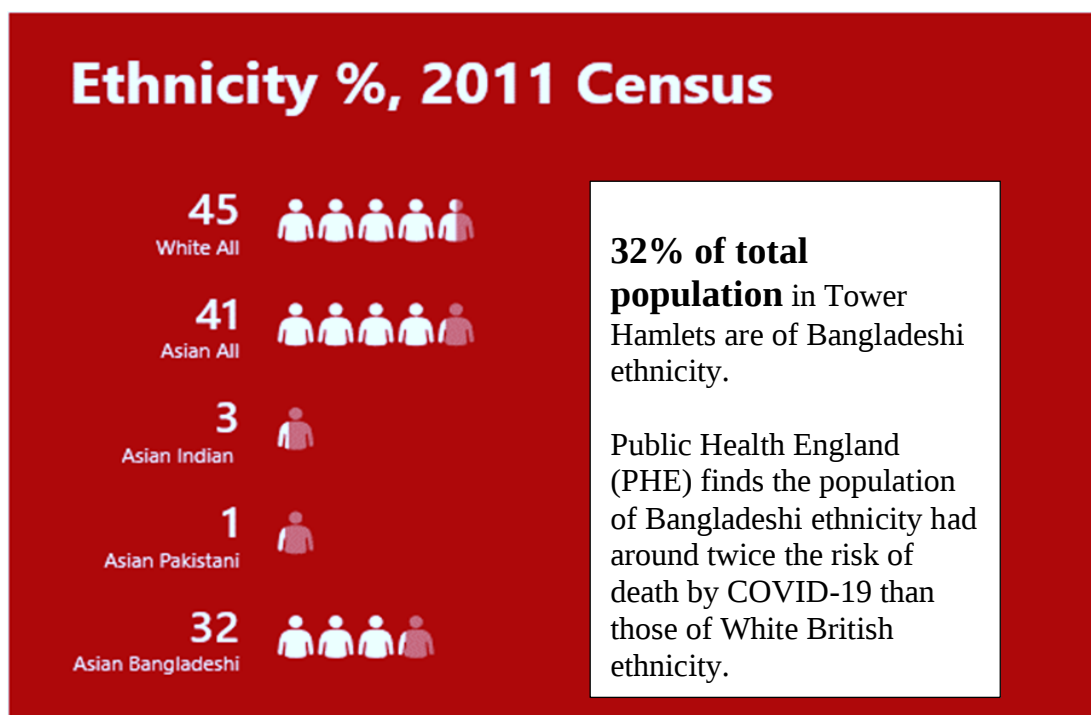


Figure 2: Ethnicity highlights in Tower Hamlets (2011 census)

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

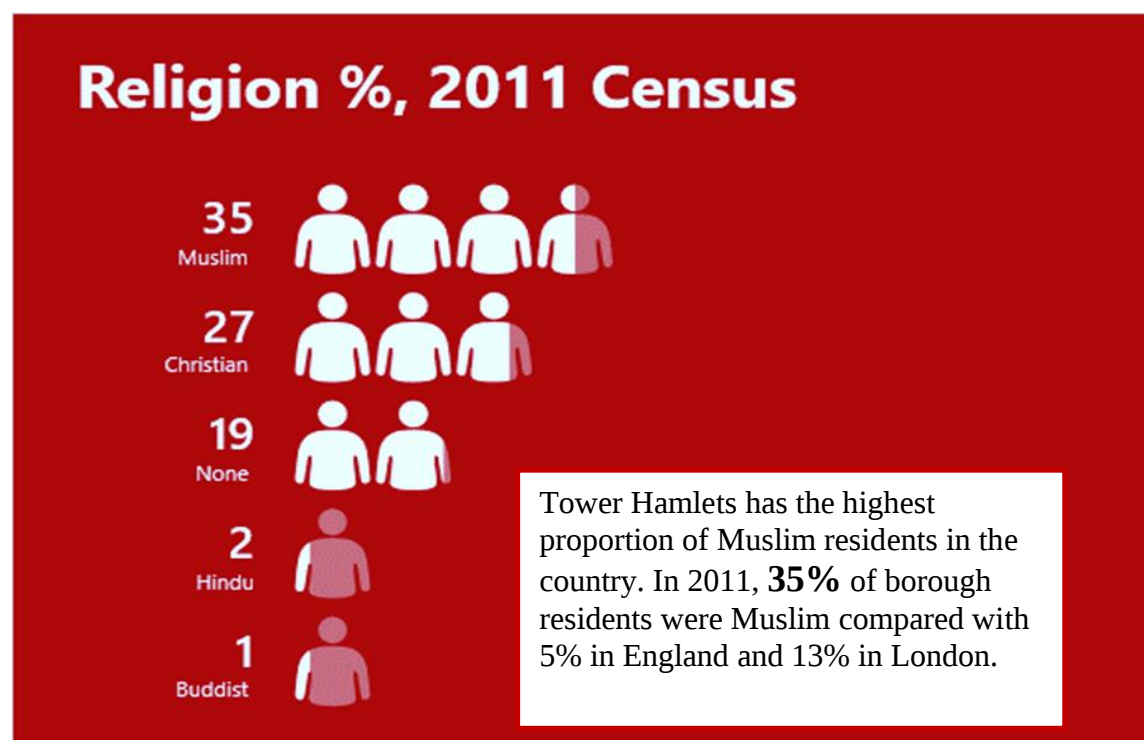


Figure 3: Religion composition in Tower Hamlets (2011 census)

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

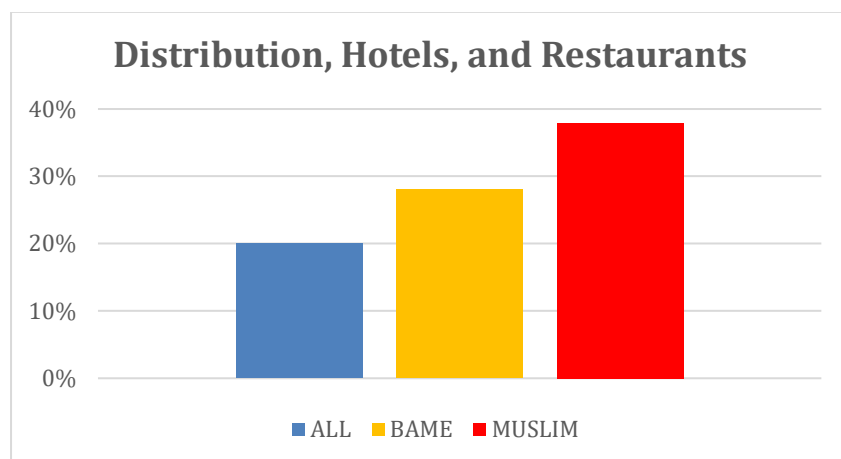


Figure 4: Distribution, Hotels and Restaurant sector in Tower Hamlets (2011 census)

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.

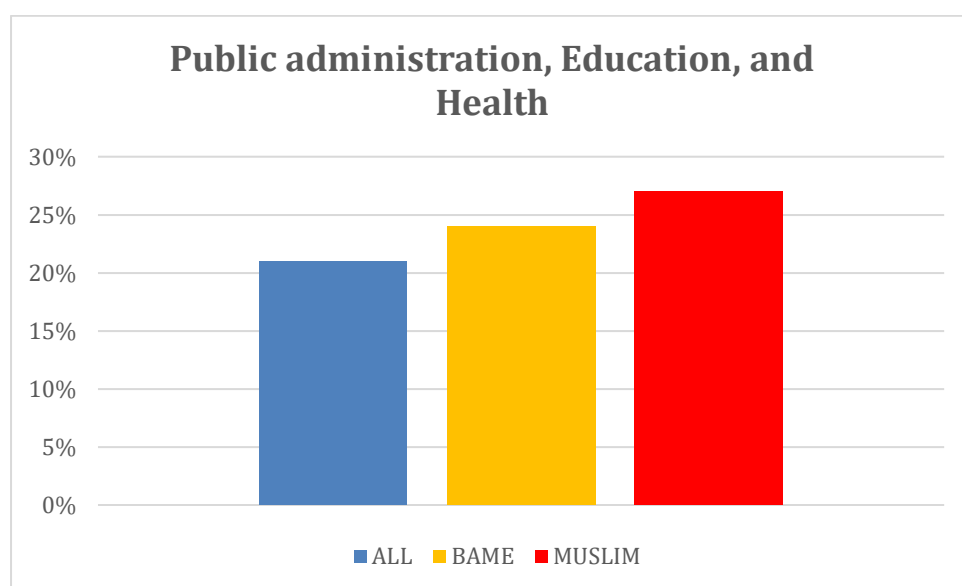


Figure 5: Public administration, education and health sector in Tower Hamlets (2011 census)

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.

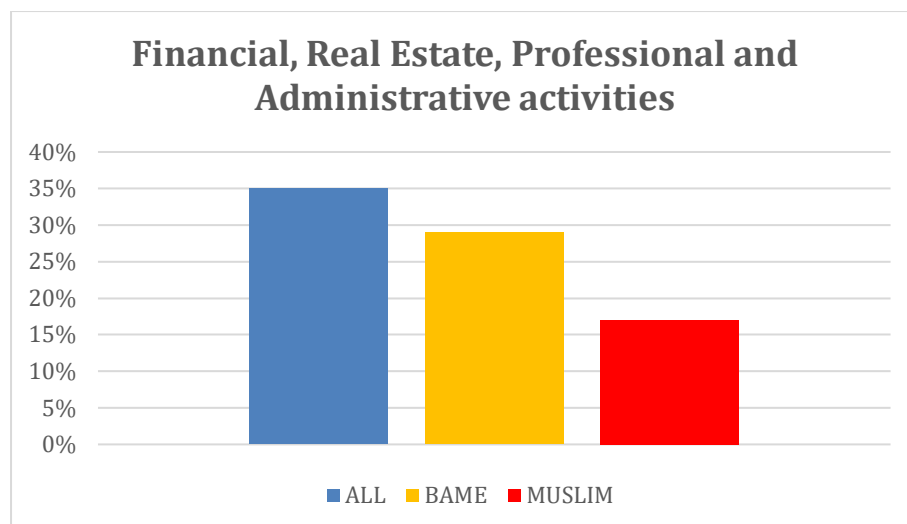


Figure 6: Financial, real estate, professional and administrative sector in Tower Hamlets (2011 census)

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.

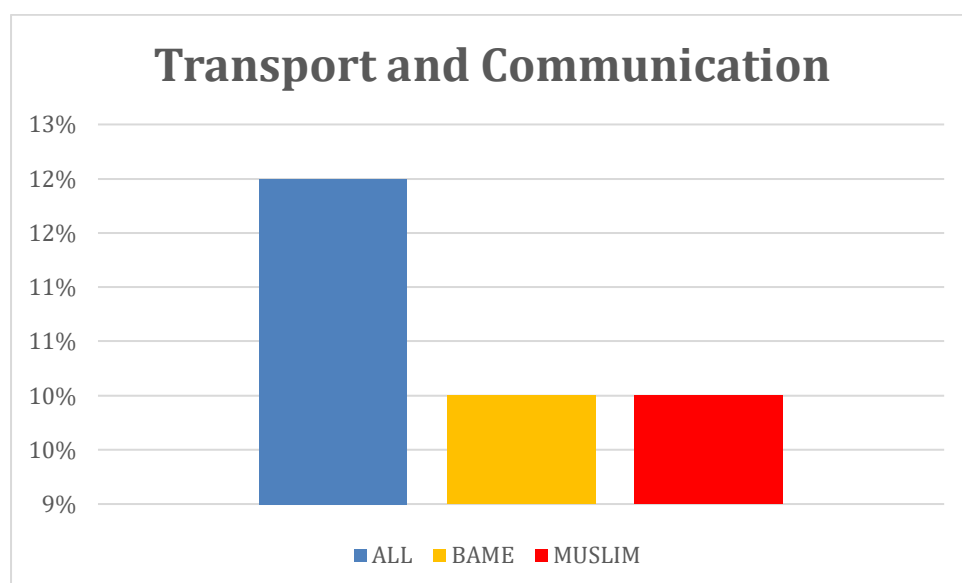


Figure 7: Transport and communication sector in Tower Hamlets (2011 census)

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 12/06/2020



Figure 11: COVID-19 Cumulative Total Deaths up to 12/06/2020 but registered up to 20/06/2020

For Tower Hamlets actual COVID-19 cumulative hospital cases are **35% less** than expected taking the size of its mid-2019 population in to account. However, the actual COVID-19 deaths are **92% 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 12/06/2020 but registered up to 20/06/2020 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
City of London	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	41	41
Barking and Dagenham	16	127	20	0	0	0	163	60	77
Barnet	34	318	94	2	0	1	449	80	113
Bexley	11	169	30	8	0	2	220	68	89
Brent	48	388	41	4	0	2	483	118	146
Bromley	16	237	71	7	0	1	332	71	100
Camden	16	120	21	1	0	1	159	44	59
Croydon	24	351	104	3	0	2	484	91	125
Ealing	24	257	100	17	0	4	402	75	118
Enfield	34	253	93	1	0	1	382	76	114
Greenwich	9	188	20	4	1	1	223	65	77
Hackney	23	172	20	3	0	3	221	61	79
Hammersmith and Fulham	16	87	59	4	0	1	167	47	90
Haringey	22	215	24	0	0	3	264	80	98
Harrow	22	320	44	3	1	2	392	127	156
Havering	13	215	42	0	2	0	272	83	105
Hillingdon	20	216	59	7	4	2	308	70	100
Hounslow	22	170	14	9	8	2	225	63	83
Islington	13	99	35	1	0	0	148	41	61
Kensington and Chelsea	11	85	25	2	0	0	123	54	79
Kingston upon Thames	9	84	35	0	1	0	129	47	73
Lambeth	22	227	26	6	1	0	282	70	86
Lewisham	21	239	25	3	0	1	289	78	94
Merton	20	148	29	2	0	1	200	72	97
Newham	33	220	43	3	1	4	304	62	86
Redbridge	23	254	31	0	0	2	310	83	102
Richmond upon Thames	13	93	36	3	1	0	146	47	74
Southwark	19	165	59	2	0	1	246	52	77
Sutton	7	126	40	2	0	1	176	61	85
Tower Hamlets	28	126	29	1	0	2	186	39	57
Waltham Forest	23	199	22	0	0	2	246	72	89
Wandsworth	21	155	25	2	6	3	212	47	64

Westminster	16	135	27	2	1	3	184	52	70
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Table 2: Cumulative hospital COVID-19 cases up to 12/06/2020 and hospital death up to 12/06/2020 but registered up to 20/06/2020

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.
City of London	28	14.7	18	185	4	41	22%	9,721	3,240
Barking and Dagenham	1	32.8	503	236	127	60	25%	212,906	5,914
Barnet	26	16.1	1,313	332	318	80	24%	395,869	4,550
Bexley	25	16.3	736	296	169	68	23%	248,287	4,070
Brent	10	25.6	1,489	452	388	118	26%	329,771	7,669
Bromley	30	14.2	1,288	388	237	71	18%	332,336	2,216
Camden	20	20.1	638	236	120	44	19%	270,029	12,274
Croydon	15	22.5	1,520	393	351	91	23%	386,710	4,497
Ealing	14	22.7	1,224	358	257	75	21%	341,806	6,104
Enfield	9	25.8	890	267	253	76	28%	333,794	4,121
Greenwich	13	24.5	711	247	188	65	26%	287,942	6,126
Hackney	2	32.5	662	235	172	61	26%	281,120	14,796
Hammersmith and Fulham	16	22.3	672	363	87	47	13%	185,143	11,571
Haringey	4	28.0	601	224	215	80	36%	268,647	8,955
Harrow	27	15.0	1,046	416	320	127	31%	251,160	5,023
Havering	23	16.8	722	278	215	83	30%	259,552	2,317
Hillingdon	21	18.2	799	260	216	70	27%	306,870	2,645
Hounslow	18	21.5	761	280	170	63	22%	271,523	4,849
Islington	6	27.5	467	193	99	41	21%	242,467	16,164
Kensington and Chelsea	17	21.5	504	323	85	54	17%	156,129	13,011
Kingston upon Thames	32	11.4	531	299	84	47	16%	177,507	4,797
Lambeth	11	25.4	1,221	375	227	70	19%	326,034	12,075
Lewisham	7	26.7	1,001	327	239	78	24%	305,842	8,738
Merton	29	14.6	700	339	148	72	21%	206,548	5,435
Newham	3	29.6	1,012	287	220	62	22%	353,134	9,809
Redbridge	22	17.2	771	253	254	83	33%	305,222	5,450
Richmond upon Thames	33	9.4	417	211	93	47	22%	198,019	3,474
Southwark	8	25.8	1,283	402	165	52	13%	318,830	10,994
Sutton	31	14.0	764	370	126	61	16%	206,349	4,690
Tower Hamlets	5	27.9	645	199	126	39	20%	324,745	16,237
Waltham Forest	12	25.2	773	279	199	72	26%	276,983	7,102
Wandsworth	24	16.6	1,006	305	155	47	15%	329,677	9,696

Westminster	19	20.3	683	261	135	52	20%	261,317	12,444
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Table 3: Cumulative hospital COVID-19 cases up to 12/06/2020 and total COVID-19 death up to 12/06/2020 but registered up to 20/06/2020

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 %	
City of London		29	21%	18	30	-39%	4	8	-49%	6%
Barking and Dagenham		14	42%	503	650	-23%	163	96	70%	14%
Barnet		20	36%	1,313	1,209	9%	449	276	62%	10%
Bexley		30	18%	736	758	-3%	220	198	11%	2%
Brent		2	64%	1,489	1,007	48%	483	189	155%	19%
Bromley		31	16%	1,288	1,015	27%	332	273	21%	3%
Camden		22	34%	638	825	-23%	159	151	5%	12%
Croydon		12	45%	1,520	1,181	29%	484	246	97%	8%
Ealing		6	51%	1,224	1,044	17%	402	206	95%	16%
Enfield		17	39%	890	1,019	-13%	382	208	84%	17%
Greenwich		19	38%	711	879	-19%	223	139	61%	7%
Hackney		11	45%	662	859	-23%	221	101	119%	14%
Hammersmith and Fulham		23	32%	672	565	19%	167	91	83%	10%
Haringey		15	39%	601	820	-27%	264	123	114%	14%
Harrow		3	58%	1,046	767	36%	392	190	106%	12%
Havering		33	12%	722	793	-9%	272	222	22%	2%
Hillingdon		16	39%	799	937	-15%	308	196	57%	11%
Hounslow		7	49%	761	829	-8%	225	146	54%	14%
Islington		24	32%	467	741	-37%	148	98	52%	9%
Kensington and Chelsea		25	29%	504	477	6%	123	112	9%	10%
Kingston upon Thames		27	26%	531	542	-2%	129	117	10%	6%
Lambeth		13	43%	1,221	996	23%	282	132	114%	7%
Lewisham		9	46%	1,001	934	7%	289	138	110%	6%
Merton		21	35%	700	631	11%	200	122	64%	8%
Newham		1	71%	1,012	1,079	-6%	304	124	145%	32%
Redbridge		4	57%	771	932	-17%	310	184	69%	23%
Richmond upon Thames		32	14%	417	605	-31%	146	143	2%	3%
Southwark		10	46%	1,283	974	32%	246	127	93%	9%
Sutton		28	21%	764	630	21%	176	148	19%	4%
Tower Hamlets		5	55%	645	992	-35%	186	97	92%	35%
Waltham Forest		8	48%	773	846	-9%	246	141	74%	22%
Wandsworth		26	29%	1,006	1,007	0%	212	144	47%	8%
Westminster		18	38%	683	798	-14%	184	152	21%	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 kilometer 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 to be proportion to mid-2019 population of the local authority
- 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, and others