

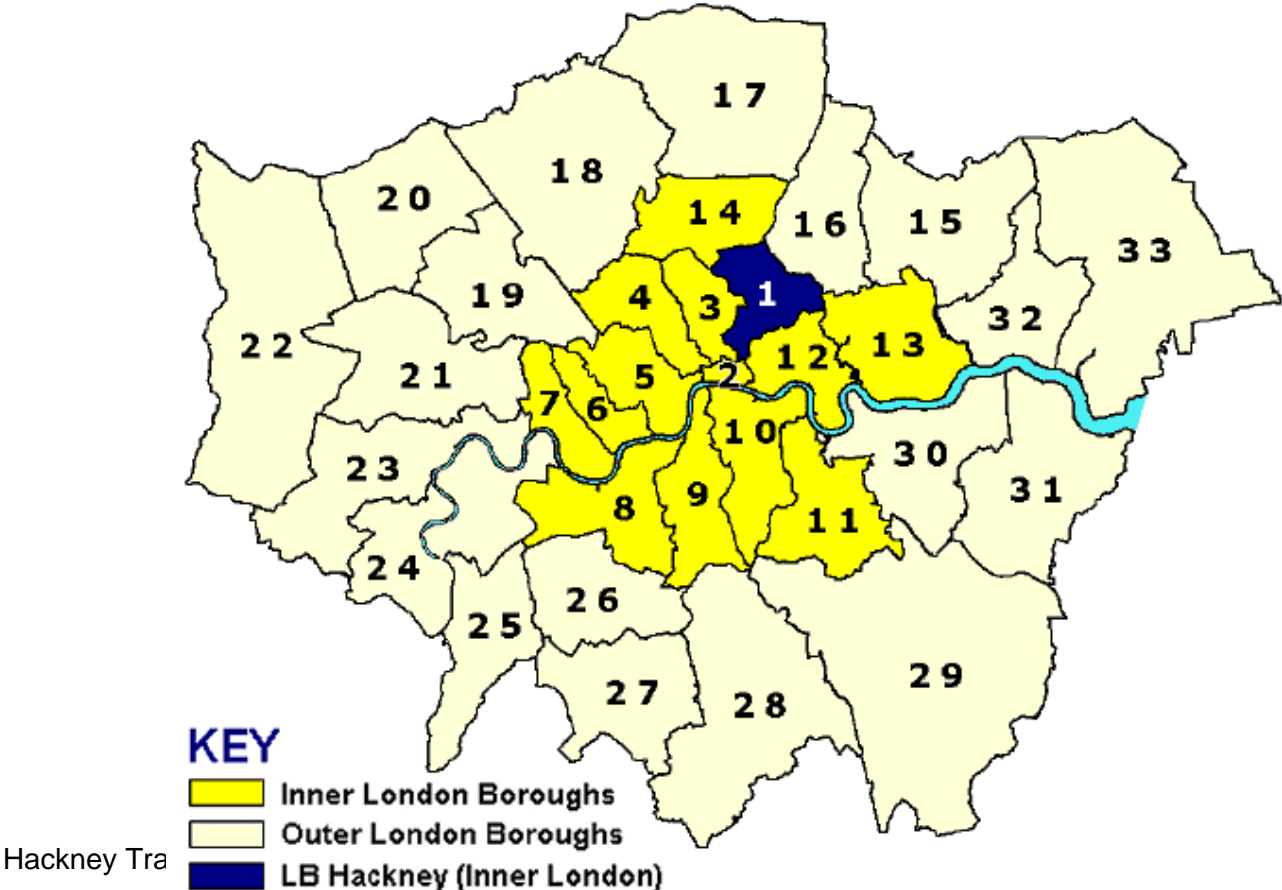
2. Local Socio-economic context

2.1 Geographical description of the borough

2.1.1 Hackney is an inner London borough located immediately north of the City of London and north east of the West End, and has a number of key east/west and north/south transport corridors (see Map 1). It is bordered by The City and Tower Hamlets to the south, Islington to the west, Haringey to the north and Waltham Forest and Newham to the east, as show in figure 1 below. The boundaries between the boroughs are administrative and travel behaviour transcends these boundaries.

2.1.2 Whilst the Borough is predominantly urban, Hackney Marshes provides large areas of green open space popular for recreation and leisure pursuits. The Lea Valley contains both the River Lea and the River Lea Navigation channel which connect down to the River Thames and link with the Grand Union Canal.

2.1.3 Hackney was, until 1965, three separate metropolitan boroughs of Shoreditch, Stoke Newington and Hackney. Hackney itself contained a further set of districts of Homerton, Clapton, Dalston and Shacklewell which are still distinctive today.



1	Hackney	9	Lambeth	18	Barnet	26	Merton
2	City of London	10	Southwark	19	Brent	27	Sutton
3	Islington	11	Lewisham	20	Harrow	28	Croydon
4	Camden	12	Tower Hamlets	21	Ealing	29	Bromley
5	Westminster	13	Newham	22	Hillingdon	30	Greenwich
6	Kensington & Chelsea	14	Haringey	23	Hounslow	31	Bexley
7	Hammersmith & Fulham	15	Redbridge	24	Richmond	32	Barking & Dagenham
8	Wandsworth	16	Waltham Forest	25	Kingston	33	Havering

Demographic description of the borough

- 2.2.1 Hackney is a dynamic and vibrant inner London Borough. The Borough currently consists of a population of 208,365 (2003 resident population estimate). The population of Hackney has grown equivalent to a 12% increase in ten years.
- 2.2.2 With the geographical area of only 18.98 km², Hackney is the fifth smallest borough in London. Whilst the population is relatively evenly spread, densities to the south of the borough, particularly in the Shoreditch area, are the highest.
- 2.2.3 The Borough has always been characterised by a multi-ethnic population. Hackney's non-white ethnic groups make up 41% of its population. This ranks the Borough 6th within London behind Newham, Brent, Tower Hamlets, Ealing and Harrow. Hackney's largest ethnic minority groups are Black Africans (11.98%), Black Caribbean's (10.29%) and Other Whites (12.26%). The Black African group indicates the largest increase from the Census 1991 population figures of 6.73%.
- 2.2.4 Appendix A shows the geographic distribution of Hackneys' residents who are not White British.
- 2.2.5 Altogether 44% of all people in Hackney are White British. Hackney was one of the eight Greater London boroughs reflecting 'Other White' populations of more than 12%, with Kensington and Chelsea (25.26%), Westminster (21.07%) and Haringey (16.05%) having the highest percentages for this

ethnic group. Table 1.1 illustrates the population breakdown in Hackney according to ethnicity.

Table 1-1 Population breakdown according to ethnicity

Census group	% of Hackney residents
White: British	44.12%
White: Irish	3.02%
White: Other White	12.26%
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	1.52%
Mixed: White and Black African	0.79%
Mixed: White and Asian	0.78%
Mixed: Other Mixed	1.11%
Asian or Asian British: Indian	3.76%
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	1.07%
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	2.94%
Asian or Asian British: Other Asian	0.82%
Black or Black British: Caribbean	10.29%
Black or Black British: African	11.98%
Black or Black British: Other Black	2.39%
Chinese or other ethnic group :Chinese	1.17%
Chinese or other ethnic group: Other Ethnic Group	2.00%

2.2.6 Religion was recorded for the first time at Census 2001. Hackney's largest religious groups were recorded as Christians (46.6%), Muslim (13.8%) and the Jewish (5.3%). 19% of Hackney's population stated that they did not have a religion and 12% did not state their religion at all. The table 1-2 illustrates the different faith groups in Hackney.

Table 1.2: Faith Groups in Hackney

Religious faith group (people stating religion in Census 2001)	Hackney	Inner London	Outer London
All people	202,824	2,766,114	4,405,977
Christian	46.56%	54.57%	60.52%
Buddhist	1.14%	1.00%	0.61%
Hindu	0.81%	1.90%	5.44%
Jewish	5.29%*	1.78%	2.28%
Muslim	13.76%	11.67%	6.45%
Sikh	0.85%	0.51%	2.04%
Other religions	0.57%	0.44%	0.55%
No religion	19.03%	18.34%	14.15%
Religion not stated	11.99%	9.79%	7.95%

2.2.7 It should be pointed out that some ethnic and religious groups are reluctant to specify their religious and ethnic groups based on various ethical, moral and safety grounds.

2.2.8 As the 'Religion' question on the Census form was voluntary, the 5.3% figure for the Jewish community is considered an undercount, as the charedi (or ultra orthodox Jewish) community alone representing between 8 and 10% of the borough's total population (source: 'Torah, worship and acts of loving kindness', 2002).

2.3 Education

2.3.1 32.9% of working age population stated they had a higher level qualification (first degree, higher degree, NVQ levels 4 and 5, HND and certain professional qualifications). This is slightly lower than the inner London average of 38.6%, but much higher than the national average of 19.8%.

2.3.2 Hackney has a high proportion of residents without formal qualifications. At 29%, the proportion of Hackney residents without any formal qualifications is higher than the inner London average of 22.7%, although in line with the national average, which is 29%.

2.3.2 The youthfulness of Hackney's population, where according to Census 2001 over 25% of residents are under the age of 17, is illustrated by the fact that in 2001 there were 18,596 full-time students in the borough. This accounted for 12.6% of the working age population.

2.4 Health

2.4.1 The City and Hackney Public Health Profile (2004) states that although the City and Hackney are exciting places to live, they are not always the healthiest places to live.

2.4.2 The general levels of health and illness in Hackney are similar to England as a whole. The City has a healthier population than the English average.

- Proportionately more white people have limiting long-term illnesses than other ethnic groups, reflecting their older age profile.

2.4.3 Hackney is one of five London boroughs with more than 15% of people who have limiting long term illnesses. The borough is ranked 2nd of all London boroughs, with the borough of Barking and Dagenham being ranked 1 with a very close comparison of 15.97%. Hackney has the highest number of permanently sick or disabled people in Greater London at 7% (10,340 people) and is ranked 70th nationally.

2.4.4 As Hackney has a young population, the similarity in overall health reflects comparatively poorer health in younger age groups in Hackney. Meanwhile, one in ten of the residents of Hackney of a working age have a long-term illness or disability, which is 1% higher than the Inner London average and 2% higher than the average for England.

2.4.4 On a ward level, the largest concentrations of people with long term illness are found in Queensbridge (21.2%), Hoxton (20.2%) and De Beauvoir and Chatham wards (19.4% in both).

2.4.5 Life expectancy is a measure of how long a new born baby would live if current death rates remained the same.

- People in Hackney, especially men, have relatively low life expectancy compared to other English local authorities.
- There are far fewer deaths per head of population in City and Hackney than in England as a whole. This is because the population is relatively young.
- When the local death rate is adjusted for age, deaths in Hackney rise above the national average. The age-standardised rate in the City remains low.

Life expectancy at birth				
	Males		Females	
	Life expectancy (years)	Rank (in 352 authorities)	Life expectancy (years)	Rank (in 352 authorities)
Hackney	73.8	312	80.0	232
London	75.5	-	80.3	-
England	75.5	-	80.3	-
Best in England	79.0	1	83.5	1

2.4.6 The major causes of death in Hackney are circulatory disease, especially coronary heart disease and stroke, and cancer.

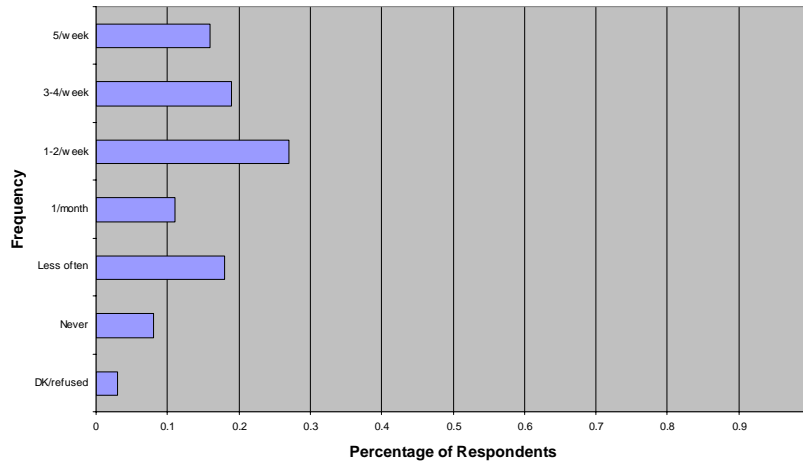
- When adjusted for age, the profile of causes of death is broadly similar to the national profile.
- There are, however, unusually high rates of death from hypertensive disease (high blood pressure), diabetes, infectious diseases, epilepsy and tuberculosis.

2.4.7 London wide, Hackney has the 3rd highest proportion of carers who provide 50 or more hours of unpaid care per week (23.05%) within Inner London, with the neighbouring borough of Tower Hamlets having the highest proportion at 27.80%.

2.5 Levels of physical activity

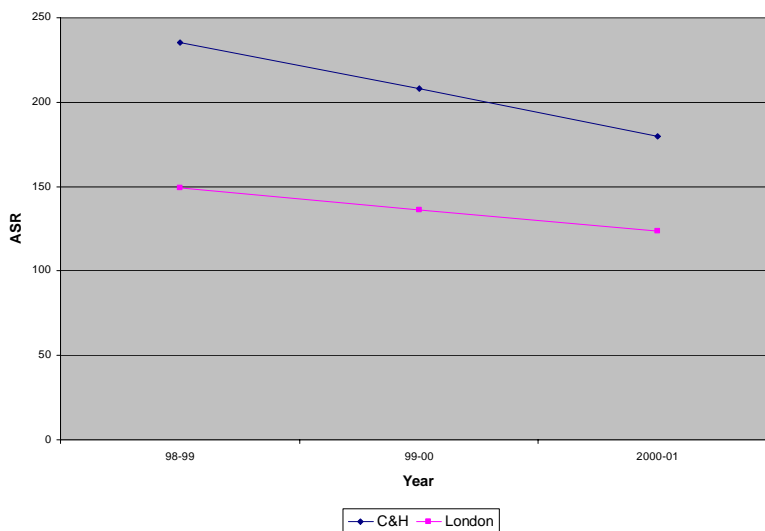
2.5.1 In terms of the levels of physical activity, Hackney scores much lower than London average. Only 15% of the Hackney residents engage in the Government recommended minimum levels of physical activity, which is half of the London average, as illustrated by table 2.4.

Table 2.4 – levels of physical activity in Hackney



2.5.2 There is also a proven link between air pollution and hospital admissions due to asthma attacks. While table 2.5 show that hospital admissions in Hackney due to asthma attacks in fell at a rate faster than the London average, Hackney residents are still more likely to be admitted to hospital due to asthma attacks than an average London resident.

Table 2.5 – hospital admissions due to asthma attacks



2.6 Employment

- 2.6.1 In September 2005 there were 7,691 claiming job seekers or National insurance Credits, which amounted to 8.6% of working age population. The figures for inner London were 6.0% and 4.6 for Greater London.
- 2.6.2 The industrial structure of Hackney is broadly similar to the wider London economy. The two most significant differences are that Hackney has a higher degree of manufacturing activity (11% compared with Greater London) and a slightly lower level of real estate, renting and business activity (38% compared to 40% across London). The recent changes in Hackney economy reflect that it is moving away from a traditional manufacturing economy to towards one dominated by services. In Hackney, this is driven by pressure on traditional employment land and expansion of the service sector in the South Shoreditch area bordering the City.

2.7 Housing

- 2.7.1 In 2001 Hackney had 86,042 households, an increase of 10,411 since 1991. One third (32.9%) of all households were owner-occupied, which is the third lowest in England and Wales.
- 2.7.2 At 50.8% the proportion of social housing (housing rented from the Council or Housing Association) was remarkably higher than the London average of 26.2% and England and Wales average of 19.2%.

2.8 Crime

- 2.8.1 Between April 2003 and April 2004 39,035 offences of crime were reported in Hackney. This figure showed a slight drop of 1% for from the previous year.
- 2.8.2 Hackney's Crime and Disorder reduction and Combating Drugs Misuse Strategy for 2005-2008 sets out the borough's Strategic approach to tackling crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour for the next three years. We aim to achieve a target of an overall reduction in crime of 20% based upon ten target crimes – including burglary and robbery – by March 2008.
- 2.8.3 Crime hotspots in the borough are: Shoreditch, Mare Street and Dalston.

2.9 Social deprivation

- 2.9.1 Indices of deprivation, published by the ODPM, are used by local authorities as a means of allocating funding to targeted areas, i.e. those areas identified as having the greatest need.
- 2.9.2 The latest study, the Indices of Deprivation 2004, is based on newly created small areas called lower level Super Output Areas (SOA's). The previous studies in 1998 and 2000 were both based on wards. The advantages of using SOA's is that they are consistent in population size (unlike wards) and are therefore easier to compare; their smaller physical sizes also allow for a more

detailed knowledge of deprived areas. Hackney has 137 lower level Super Output Areas and each one will contain, on average, 1,500 residents.

- In 2004, Hackney's average ranks (based on SOA's) make it the most deprived local authority in England; ahead of Tower Hamlets (2nd), Manchester (3rd), Islington (4th) and Liverpool (5th).
- 89% of Hackney's areas - the highest proportion out of all 354 local authorities in England - are in the top 20% most deprived SOA's (see map below).
- One area in Chatham ward (covering Wyke estate, Marian Court and Bridge House) is in the top 2% most deprived in England. The least deprived area in Hackney (but still in the top 40% most deprived in England) is located in De Beauvoir ward (around Ardleigh Road).
- Three areas in Hackney are within the top 3% most deprived areas in England: an area in Chatham ward (covering Wyke estate), one area in Hoxton (covering St. John's estate) and an area around the Woodberry Down estate in Brownswood ward.

2.9.3 The Deprivation Related Indicators figure in Appendix B shows the geographic analysis of the deprivation related indicators from the 2001 census – this shows a broad spread across the borough of households who show indications of multiple deprivation. Appendix D contains a geographic analysis of the percentage of households who have a car or van – the households without this access match very closely those with most multiple deprivation indicators.