

Diversity and Different Experiences in the North West

This document has been produced to give a North West view of an Office for National Statistics (ONS) article entitled 'Diversity and Different Experiences in the UK'.

Equality is recognised regionally, nationally and internationally as a key aspect of progress in society. This document provides an overview of diversity in the North West, in comparison to England, and then examines the experiences of different groups in relation to overall trends in economic well-being, health, education and employment. The article focuses on differences by ethnicity, disability, socio-economic and household status with some examples of gender and age differences.

Over the last few decades, the UK population has grown, become older and, while the majority ethnic group is White British, is becoming more ethnically diverse. The proportion of people reporting a limiting longstanding illness has generally decreased over the last decade but there is some evidence of a small increase in the proportion with underlying mental rather than physical conditions. The proportion of people living on their own in the North West has increased over the last 10 years (from 25.8% in 1996 to 31.6% in 2006), however, the proportion of older women living alone in the North West has decreased considerably compared to the England average.

Since 2000/1 the North West has experienced a gradual reduction in the proportion of children at risk of living in poverty but is still above the England average and in 2003 had a significantly higher than average proportion of homes which did not meet the statutory minimum standard for housing.

We are living longer and infant mortality rates have fallen dramatically over the decades but still remain higher in the North West at 5.8 than the England average of 5.0. Compared with other groups in the North West, White Irish males and females reported higher rates of poor health. In the North West, babies born to fathers in routine occupations experience twice the infant mortality rate of those with fathers in higher managerial and professional occupations. People living in the most deprived areas have more than double the suicide rate of the least deprived areas of the North West.

On average more children are achieving five or more good GCSEs or equivalent in the North West with girls continuing to outperform boys and fewer working age people have no qualifications (15.0% in 2007 compared with 19.0% in 2001) and more have qualifications at level 2 and above, however, while their attainment has almost doubled since 2003, children from Black ethnic groups in the North West achieve the lowest results at GCSE. Children receiving free school meals, which is often a proxy for deprivation, were considerably less likely to achieve five good GCSEs or equivalent in the North West.

We are increasingly likely to be in work and while pay for women is converging with men's, in 2007 the pay gap between men and women's median earnings was still 13.9%. In 2006 approximately a tenth of 16 and 17 year olds were Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET). The overall BME employment rate in the North West in 2007 was 54.2% compared to 60.3% in England and almost half (45.2%) of all working age disabled people in the North West were in work in 2007 compared with 50.8% in England.

In conclusion, while there is some evidence of progress in reducing inequality there are also areas where disadvantages have persisted.

1. Introduction

Last year, the Cabinet Office's 'Equalities Review' proposed an equality measurement framework and ONS welcomed the focus on improving coherence in measuring equality across Government and subsequently ONS led a cross-government 'Review of Equality Data' and proposed a number of recommendations which would improve the equality evidence base underpinning this measurement framework.

Reducing inequality is likely to remain a key policy concern. A recent report by the Cabinet Office's Strategy Unit entitled 'Realising Britain's Potential' concludes that 'there remain persistent gaps between the life chances of people from different backgrounds starting from birth and continuing throughout their lives. This is key future challenge for Britain.'

This document provides an overview of diversity in the North West and England and describes variations for diverse groups in the context of overall trends. Section 2 explores the changes in diversity in society with particular emphasis on ethnicity, socio-economic status, disability and household status. Sections 3 to 6 focus in turn on economic well-being, health, education and skills and employment and caring. It also reports on differing outcomes relating to gender and age of individuals where particularly relevant.

The most up to date data has been used where available, however, some data was only available from the 2001 Census.

Key Findings

A Diverse Population

The North West population is growing (Table 1), ageing and becoming more diverse.

Age

In 2006 a higher proportion of the population in the North West were aged under 16 and aged 65 and over than the England average (Figure 1) and the proportion of the population that were 80 years and over in the North West was slightly below the England average, however, the proportion had increased, since 1996, at a faster rate than for England. Age profiles of the different ethnic groups vary with most ethnic minority groups having a younger age structure than the White British population.

By 2031, it is projected that the North West population will be 7.7 million and the proportions of the population that will be aged under 15 and 65 and over are almost the same as the England average projections. It is also projected that 0.3 million people in the North West will be aged 85 or more which is a higher increase from 1996 than the England average. The ratio of young (under 15) to old (85 or more) is projected to decrease in the North West from 9.1 in 2006 to 4.4 in 2031 compared to a decrease from 8.5 to 4.3 in England.

Ethnicity

The main ethnic group of the North West population remains White and White British (Table 2), however, the proportion of White individuals has decreased since 2001. The North West is not as ethnically diverse as England, however, ethnic diversity differs geographically across the North West (Table 3) with Greater Manchester being the most diverse sub-region and Cumbria the least diverse.

Primary school age children show a greater degree of ethnic diversity (Table 5) than the total population again with Greater Manchester being the most diverse and Cumbria the least.

Socio-Economic Status

The trend towards more managerial and professional and fewer routine or semi-routine status jobs in the North West and English economy has continued over the last seven years (Table 6). Less women than men are employed as Managers and Senior Officials.

Disability

The proportion of people reporting a limiting longstanding illness has generally decreased between 1995 and 2006 (Table 7), in the North West. Of all those reporting limiting longstanding illness there was a small increase between 1995 and 2005 in the proportion with underlying mental rather than physical conditions and between 2001 and 2007 there was also an increase in the proportion reporting mental illnesses and behavioural disorders as the medical reason underlying claims for incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance (Table 8). In 2001 the highest rates of reported limiting long term illness in the North West were for White Irish men and women (Figure 2).

Household Status

The proportion of people living alone has increased in the North West over the 10 year period from 1996 to 2006, at a higher rate than for England (Table 9). Over the 10 years of 1996 to 2006 the proportion of younger women living alone in the North West has decreased where as the proportion of younger men has increased (Table 10). The proportion of older women living alone in the North West has decreased considerably compared to England and the proportion of older men living alone in the North West has marginally decreased.

In 2001 more Black people than Asians were living alone, more Asians were in married couples than Black people and more people of a mixed ethnicity were in cohabiting couples than Asians across the North West and England.

In 2001 a higher proportion of the North West population identified with a religion compared to England with the majority being Christian.

Economic Well-Being and Standard of Living

Over the period 1995 to 2006, Gross Value Added per head (Figure 3) and Gross Disposable Household Income per head (Figure 4) have grown at a slower rate in the North West compared to England.

Since 2000/1 the North West has experienced a gradual reduction in the proportion of children at risk of living in poverty but is still above the England average (Table 11).

In 2003 the North West had significantly higher than average proportions of homes across all tenures which did not meet the statutory minimum standard for housing with considerably higher than average proportions of their private sector stock below the standard (Table 12). Between 2001 and 2006 the proportions of unfit dwellings in the North West reduced at a greater rate than for England.

Health

Average life expectancies in the North West and England have increased steadily over the last century with females expecting to live longer than males (Table 13). In 2003–05, South Lakeland had the highest male and female life expectancy at birth in the North West but is well below the highest local area in England and Manchester had the lowest life expectancy at birth for males and Liverpool for females in England.

The proportion of overweight people including obese for males and females in the North West were lower than in England in 2006.

In 2006, a higher proportion of males, of all ages, in the North West and England reported 'fairly good' or 'good' health compared to females. Some ethnic groups reported higher rates of poor health than average (Figure 5) with White Irish men and women in the North West and England reporting the highest rates of 'not good health' in 2001 and Chinese men reported the lowest rates.

Over the 5 year period between 2003 and 2008 the number of Attendance Allowance claimants increased by approximately 10% for men and 25% for females with the number of female claimants being more than double that for men (Table 14).

In 2007 almost 80,000 people were affected by dementia in the North West with $\frac{2}{3}$ being females and it is forecasted that over the next 15 years the number of people affected by dementia in the North West will reach over 105,000 by 2021.

The proportion of adults aged 16 and over in the North West and England who smoke cigarettes has fallen dramatically between 1996 and 2006 and the prevalence of smoking among people in routine and manual occupation households was twice that of people in managerial and professional households in 2006 (Table 15). The higher the level of gross weekly household income, the more likely men and women were to exceed the recommended daily amounts of alcohol (Table 16).

Suicide rates in the most deprived areas in the North West and England from 1999 to 2003 were generally more than double those in the least deprived areas (Table 17).

Infant mortality rates in the North West and England have fallen dramatically over the decades but remain higher in the North West than England. Infant mortality rates in the North West and England for infants with fathers in routine occupations was double the rate for infants with fathers in higher managerial and professional occupations (Table 18). The average infant mortality rate in the North West for 2006 was worse than the England average per 1,000 live births (Table 19).

Education and Skills

An increasing number of pupils in the North West and England are achieving five or more good GCSEs or equivalent. Girls continue to outperform boys in the achievement of five or more good GCSEs or equivalent (Table 20). There were a larger proportion of pupils from all ethnic groups achieving five or more good GCSEs or equivalent in 2007 compared with 2003. In 2007, Chinese pupils in the North West were most likely to achieve five or more good GCSEs or equivalent and pupils from Black ethnic groups least likely. Children receiving free school meals, which is often used as a proxy for deprivation, were considerably less likely to achieve five good GCSEs or equivalent.

The North West had a higher proportion than England of pupils attending compulsory age schooling that had statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN).

Permanent exclusion rates of children from schools are decreasing. In 2006/7 Travellers of Irish Heritage and Gypsy/Roma pupils had the highest proportion of half days missed due to overall absence (authorised and unauthorised), although it should be noted that a very small number of pupils were recorded in these categories, and the Chinese had the lowest proportion.

Approximately a tenth of 16 and 17 year olds were not in employment, education or training (NEET) at the end of 2006.

The proportion of all working age people in the North West that had a qualification at level 2 or above has increased at the same rate as England between 2007 and 2001, however, although the proportion of all working age people in the North West with no qualifications has fallen over the same period the rate is higher than the England average.

Employment and Caring

Employment rates in the North West and England have risen over the last ten years with more men in employment than women. Female employment rates in the North West have risen over the last five years for 20-24 year olds, 25-34 year olds and 35-39 year olds and in 2006 there was a higher employment rate in the North West across the selected age groups than there was in England which is reversed from 2001 (Figure 6).

Women continue to be more likely than men to work part-time and generally have lower median earnings. The gender pay gap is wider in the North West than England but has fallen in the recent past and has narrowed at a greater rate than in England.

In 2007 the employment rate of ethnic groups in the North West was generally below the England average (Table 21). The overall BME employment rate in the North West was 54.2% compared to 60.3% in England. In the North West the Indian working age population had the highest employment rate with the Pakistani/Bangladeshi population having the lowest rate with less than half being employed but this is affected by the low female employment rate for this ethnic group.

In 2007 the North West had a higher proportion of people with no qualifications and qualified to level 2 and above that were in employment compared to the England average. In 2007 there were slightly more working age men qualified to level 2 and above than women and the gap has narrowed between men and women considerably since 2001.

In 2007, the highest proportion of working age people in workless households was for British nationals and the North West ethnic profile was generally consistent with England (Table 22).

A lower proportion of working age disabled people were in work in the North West compared to England in 2007.

Carers also make an important contribution to the economy and the 2001 Census was the first to collect information on the provision of unpaid care in the population. In 2001 the North West had a higher proportion of children under the age of 16 and adults aged 20 and over providing unpaid care than England.

2. A Diverse Population

The population is growing (Table 1), ageing and becoming more diverse. As diversity increases, the nature of diversity within different groups in society is changing and different groups continue to have different experiences and outcomes.

Table 1 Population Estimates

Millions

Area	Mid 1981	Mid 1986	Mid 1991	Mid 1996	Mid 2001	Mid 2006
England	46.8	47.2	47.9	48.5	49.4	50.8
North West	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.9

Source: Mid Year Population Estimates, NOMIS

Age

The population is ageing (Figure 1). In 1996, 21.3% of the North West population were aged under 16, compared to 20.6 in England, while 15.9% of the North West population was aged 65 and over, compared to 15.9% in England.

In 2006, 19.3% of the North West population were aged under 16, compared to 19.1% in England and 16.2% per cent of the North West population were aged 65 and over, compared to 15.9% in England.

In 2006, 4.3% of the North West population were 80 years and over, compared to 4.5% in England, which compares to 3.9% of the North West population and 4.1% of the English population in 1996.

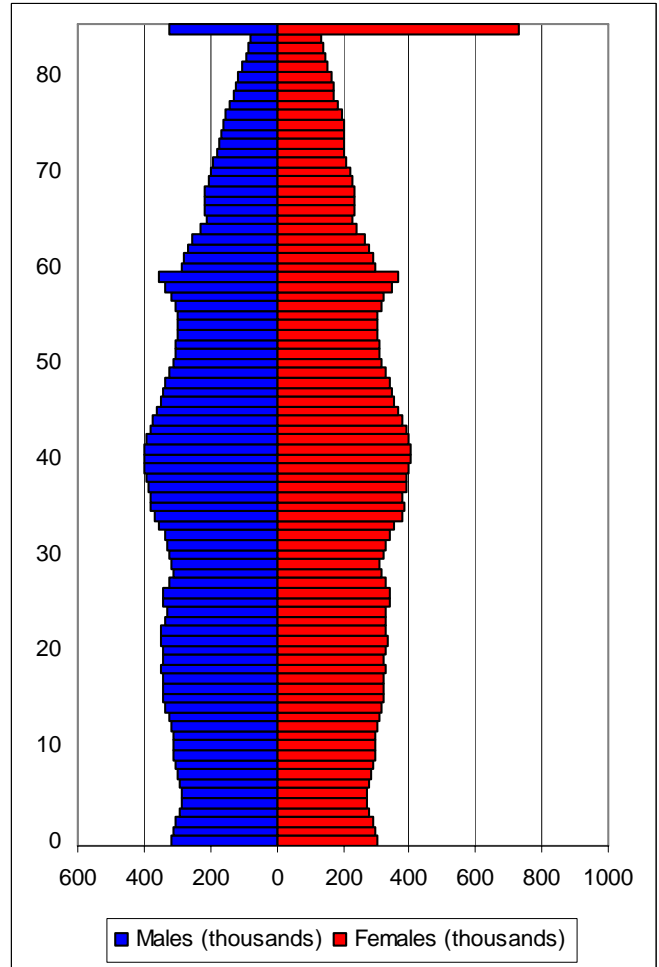
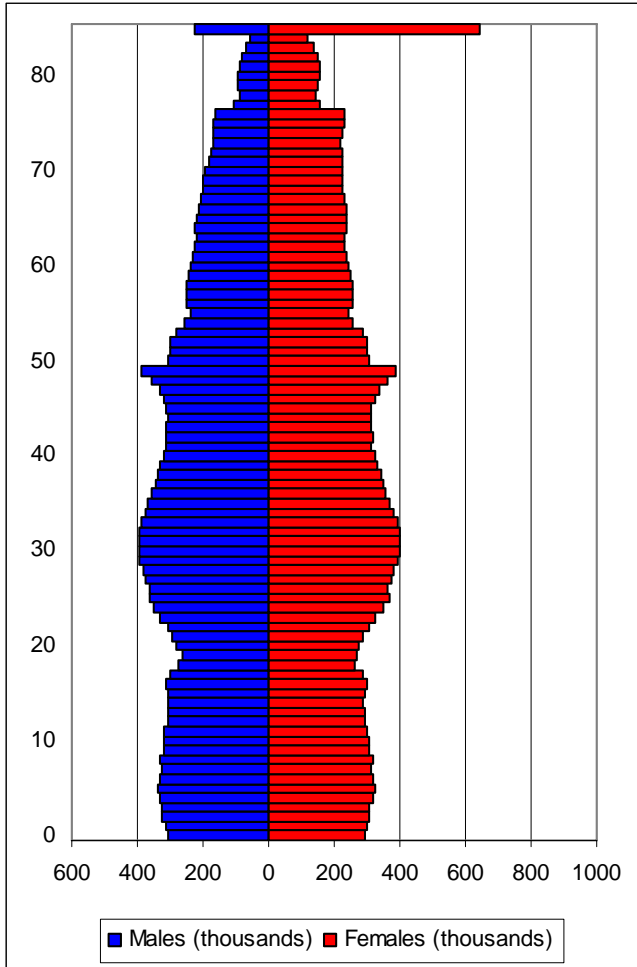
By 2031, it is projected that the North West population will be 7.7 million, with 17.0% of the population aged under 15 and 22.3% cent of the population aged 65 and over which compares to 60.4 million, 17.0% and 21.7% respectively for England. It is also projected that 0.3 million people in the North West will be aged 85 or more in 2031, compared with 0.1 million in 2006 and 0.1 million in 1996 which compares to 2.4 million, 1.1 million and 0.9 million respectively for England. The ratio of young (under 15) to old (85 or more) is projected to decrease in the North West from 9.1 in 2006 to 4.4 in 2031 compared to a decrease from 8.5 to 4.3 in England.

Figure 1

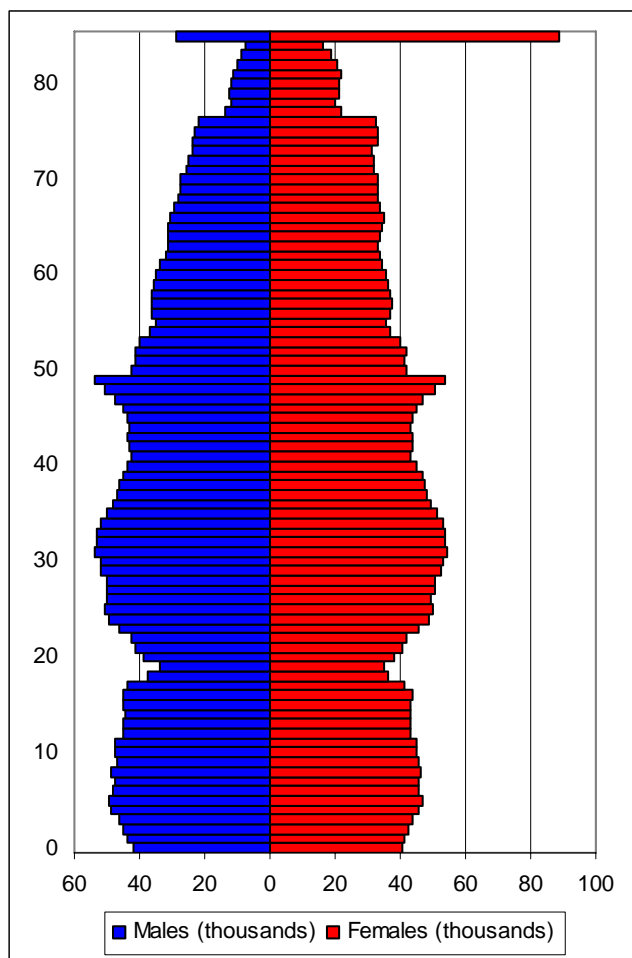
Estimated Age Structure of the Population: Mid 1996 and Mid 2006

1996 – England

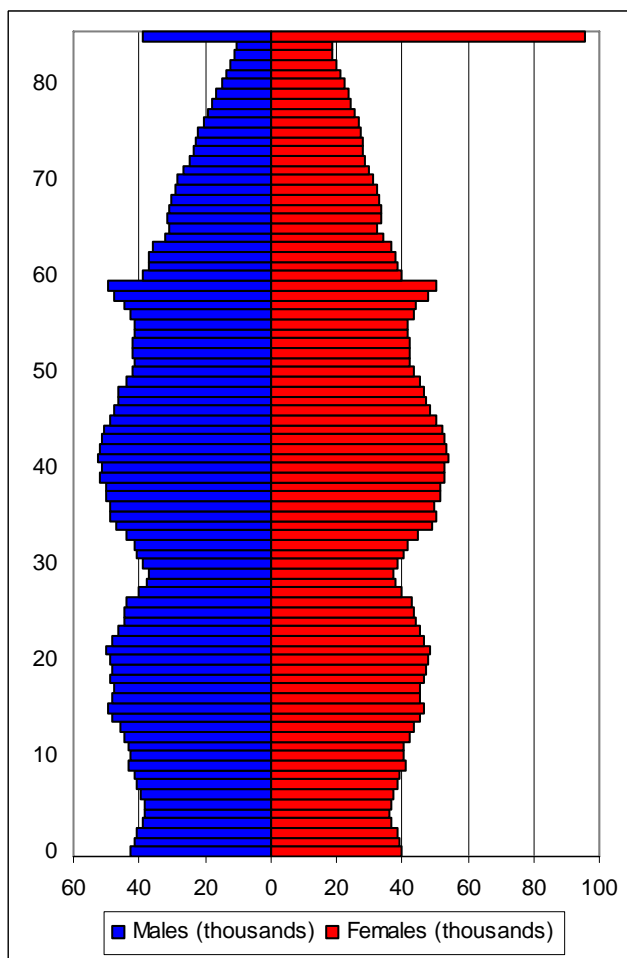
2006 - England



1996 – North West



2006 – North West



Source: Estimated Resident Population Mid Year (1996 and 2006) by Single Year of Age and Sex, ONS

Ethnicity

Table 2

Percentages of People by Ethnic Origin

	England		North West	
	2001	2005	2001	2005
White	90.8	89.1	94.3	92.9
Mixed	1.3	1.6	0.9	1.1
Asian or Asian British of which	4.6	5.3	3.5	4.1
Indian	2.1	2.4	1.1	1.3
Pakistani	1.5	1.6	1.8	2.0
Bangladeshi	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.5
Other Asian	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.3
Black or Black British of which	2.3	2.7	0.6	1.0
Black Caribbean	1.2	1.2	0.3	0.4
Black African	1.0	1.3	0.3	0.5
Black Other	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Chinese	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.6
Other	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.3

Source: Population Estimates by Ethnic Group (experimental), ONS
Figures may not add up due to rounding.

The population is also increasing in ethnic diversity (Table 2). While the population is predominantly White and White British remains the majority ethnic group, the proportion of White individuals decreased from 94.3% in 2001 to 92.9% in 2005 in the North West compared to England which decreased from 90.8% to 89.1% over the same period.

Ethnic diversity also differs geographically across the North West and England (Table 3). The North West is not as ethnically diverse as England; in 2005, 92.9% of individuals in the North West were White compared with 89.1% in England. Greater Manchester is the most diverse sub-region in the North West with only 88.9% of individuals from White groups compared to Cumbria at 98.4% which is the least diverse sub-region.

Table 3 Percentages of People by Ethnic Origin, by Place of Residence, 2005

	England	North West	Cheshire	Cumbria	Greater Manchester	Lancashire	Merseyside	Allerdale	Blackburn with Darwen	Manchester	Oldham	Pendle
White	89.1	92.9	97.3	98.4	88.9	92.1	95.9	98.6	77.3	77.6	84.4	84.3
Mixed	1.6	1.1	0.8	0.5	1.6	0.9	1.1	0.4	1.1	3.2	1.3	0.9
Asian or Asian												
British of which	5.3	4.1	1.0	0.6	6.5	5.9	1.1	0.4	20.3	10.3	12.8	14.1
Indian	2.4	1.3	0.5	0.2	1.7	2.3	0.5	0.2	10.2	2.3	0.9	0.4
Pakistani	1.6	2.0	0.3	0.2	3.3	3.0	0.2	0.1	8.8	5.8	6.7	13.1
Bangladeshi	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.9	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.4	1.0	4.9	0.1
Other Asian	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.9	1.2	0.5	0.4
Black or Black												
British of which	2.7	1.0	0.4	0.2	1.7	0.4	0.8	0.2	0.6	5.2	0.9	0.3
Black Caribbean	1.2	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	2.0	0.5	0.1
Black African	1.3	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.9	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.4	2.7	0.4	0.2
Black Other	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.0
Chinese	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.8	0.4	0.8	0.2	0.2	2.3	0.3	0.2
Other	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.3	1.4	0.2	0.2

Source: Population Estimates by Ethnic Group (experimental), ONS

Figures may not add up due to rounding.

NB: The table shows selected Local Authorities where there are significant variations from the North West average

The age profiles of different ethnic groups vary with most ethnic minority groups having a younger age structure than the White British population (Table 4). The Mixed, Black Other, Bangladeshi and Pakistani groups have the youngest age profiles and the White Irish group has the oldest profile.

Table 4 Age Structure for Different Ethnic Groups, 2005

	Percentages					
	Children (0-15)		Working Age (16-64M/59F)		Older People (65M/60F and Over)	
	England	North West	England	North West	England	North West
White British	18.8	19.1	61.1	61.1	20.2	19.7
White Irish	5.6	4.4	60.6	57.6	33.8	39.0
White Other	13.2	12.4	75.8	74.5	11.0	13.1
Mixed	46.0	45.4	50.8	51.6	3.3	2.8
Indian	19.2	22.6	72.0	70.7	8.8	6.8
Pakistani	31.7	32.5	62.7	62.4	5.5	5.2
Bangladeshi	33.8	36.5	61.2	58.7	5.0	4.8
Other Asian	20.7	22.4	72.6	72.6	6.7	5.4
Black Caribbean	18.3	14.9	66.6	67.8	15.1	17.8
Black African	25.7	19.5	70.9	76.5	3.4	4.0
Black Other	34.7	29.2	61.3	66.2	4.1	4.6
Chinese	13.3	14.3	81.1	79.3	5.6	6.4
Other	15.2	16.3	80.6	80.8	4.2	2.9
All Ethnic Groups	26.3	28.3	67.1	66.1	6.6	5.6

Source: Population Estimates by Ethnic Group (experimental), ONS
Figures may not add up due to rounding.

Primary school age children show a greater degree of ethnic diversity than the total population (Tables 3). In the North West, 13.7% of school children in maintained schools were from non-White ethnic groups compared to 19.4% in England; in Greater Manchester 22.0% were from non-White groups compared to 2.8% in Cumbria.

Table 5 Ethnicity of Children in Maintained Primary Schools, January 2008

	Percentages							Number of Pupils
	White	Mixed	Asian	Black	Chinese	Other Ethnic Group	Unclassified	
England	80.0	3.9	8.8	4.8	0.3	1.3	0.3	3,261,280
North West	85.9	2.4	8.2	1.6	0.4	0.8	0.3	460,360
Cheshire	95.5	1.8	1.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	66,060
Cumbria	96.6	0.8	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1	1.2	30,590
Greater Manchester	77.5	3.5	13.2	3.3	0.5	1.3	0.3	177,970
Lancashire	84.6	1.9	12.5	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	96,750
Merseyside	93.4	2.0	1.3	1.3	0.5	0.9	0.3	88,970
Blackburn with Darwen	57.1	1.8	39.6	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.1	11,830
Halton	97.1	1.6	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	8,380
Manchester	56.8	7.0	18.3	12.0	0.9	4.2	0.1	29,930
Sefton	97.1	1.3	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.1	17,560

Source: Pupil Characteristics and Class Sizes in Maintained Schools in England: January 2008 (Provisional), DCSF
Figures may not add up due to rounding.

Data is not available for all Local Authorities due to Local Education Authority reporting.

NB: The table shows selected Local Authorities where there are significant variations from the North West average

Socio-Economic Status

The trend towards more managerial and professional status jobs in the North West and English economy has continued over the last seven years (Table 6). For example, 31% of working age people in the North West were in managerial and professional work in 2007 compared to 34% in England which compares with 28% and 32% respectively in 2001. Fewer people were in routine or semi-routine work (24% in the North West and 22% in England in 2007 compared with 26% and 23% respectively in 2001).

Table 6

Percentages of Working Age People Classified by National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification. Age 16-64 for Men and 16-59 for Women

	Higher Managerial and Professional	Lower Managerial and Professional	Intermediate Occupations	Small Employers and Own Account Workers	Lower Supervisory and Technical	Semi-Routine Occupations	Routine Occupations	Never Worked and NEC Unemployed and NEC
2001 England	11	21	11	7	9	13	10	17
2001 North West	8	20	11	7	9	15	11	19
2007 England	12	22	10	8	8	13	9	19
2007 North West	10	21	10	7	8	14	10	20

Source: Labour Force Survey 2001 and 2007, ONS

Figures may not add up due to rounding.

NB: NEC refers to not elsewhere classified

Disability

The proportion of people reporting a limiting longstanding illness decreased, between 1995 and 2005, in the North West but saw an increase a year later where as England has been stable despite the ageing population (Table 7). This is reasonably consistent with other recent estimates, such as Labour Force Survey, which give disability rates of the population, over the last few years, at around 20% in the North West and 18% in the England. The proportion of the working age population in the North West with a disability in 2007 was 20.0% and in England it was 17.9%.

Table 7

Proportion of People Who Reported a Limiting Longstanding Illness

Percentages

1995		2005		2006	
England	North West	England	North West	England	North West
19	21	19	19	19	20

Source: General Household Survey, ONS

Of all those reporting limiting longstanding illness, whether or not they had significant difficulty with day to-day activities, there was a small increase over the ten year period 1995 to 2005 in the proportion with underlying mental rather than physical conditions (4.0% in 1995 to 6.7% in 2006 in the North West and 4.4% in 1995 to 6.0% in 2006 in England). There was also an increase in the North West in the proportion reporting mental illnesses and behavioural disorders as the medical reason underlying claims for incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance from 33.5% in 2001 to 42.2% in 2007, compared to an increase from 33.3% to 41.0% in England (Table 8).

Table 8

Combined Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Claimants by Type of Medical Reason

Percentages

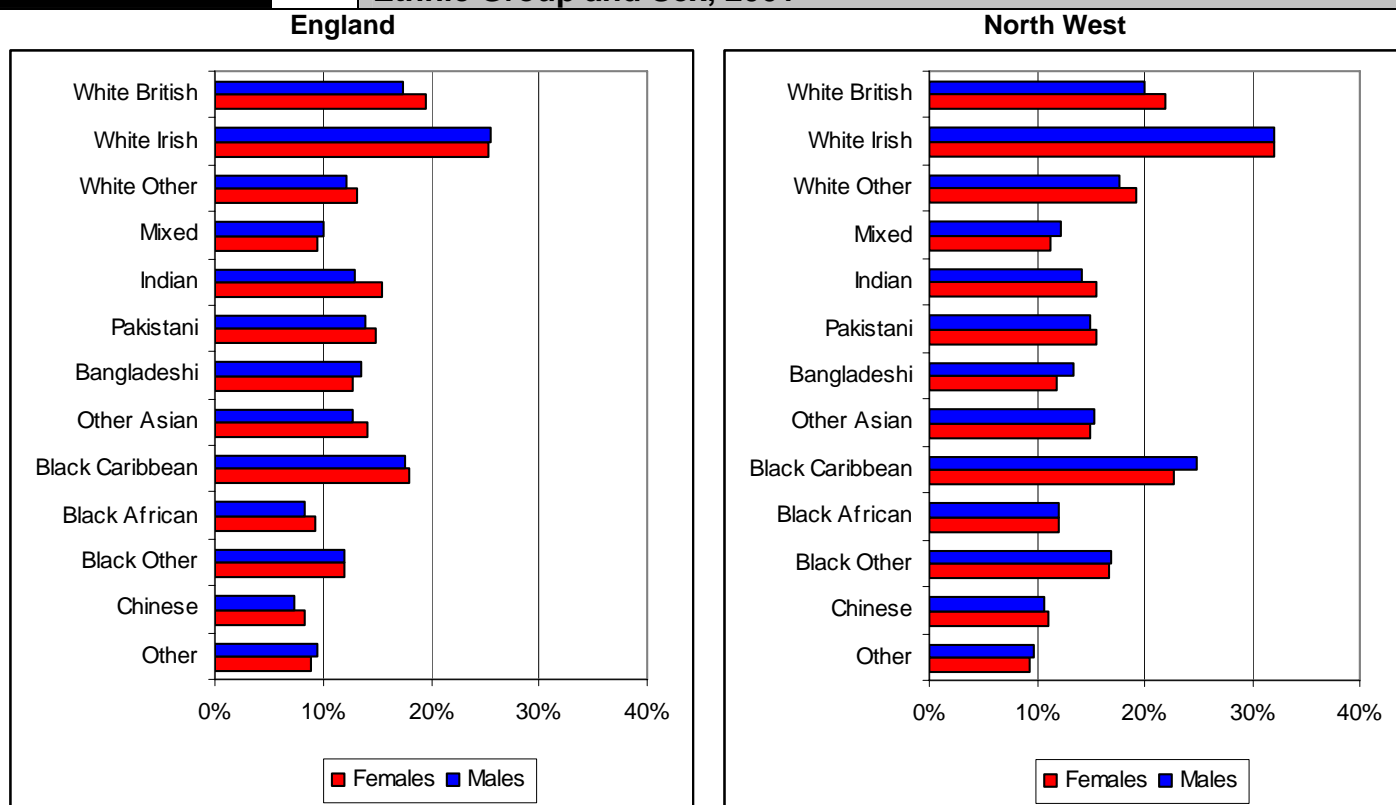
	2001		2007	
	England	North West	England	North West
Mental and Behavioural Disorders	33.3	33.5	41.0	42.2
Physical	66.7	66.5	59.0	57.8
Total Claimants (millions) = 100%	2.2	0.5	2.2	0.4

Source: May 2001 and May 2007 Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Benefit Claimants, DWP

In Census 2001, the highest rates of reported limiting long term illness were for White Irish men and women (Figure 2) with higher rates for men in all Mixed groups and rates were higher for men in the North West for all Black groups compared to England where the rates were higher for women for this group.

Figure 2

Percentage of Population with Limiting Long Term Illness by Ethnic Group and Sex, 2001



Source: Census 2001, ONS

Household Status

Over the last 10 years, the proportion of people living alone has increased in the North West from 25.8% in 1996 to 31.6% in 2006 and from 27.4% to 27.9% in England (Table 9).

Table 9

People in Households by Type of Household and Family

Percentages

	1996		2006	
	England	North West	England	North West
One Person	27.4	25.8	27.9	31.6
One Family Households				
Couple				
No Children	28.5	26.4	31.2	28.2
Dependent Children	25.3	26.8	22.3	21.1
Non Dependent Children Only	6.4	8.0	5.2	5.1
Lone Parents	9.1	10.7	9.5	9.9
Other Households	3.3	2.4	3.9	4.2

Source: General Household Survey 1996-1997 and 2006, UK Data Archive

Over the last 10 years, the proportion of younger women living alone in the North West and England has decreased where as the proportion of younger men has increased (Table 10). In the North West and England the proportion of older women living alone has decreased over the last 10 years with a considerable change in the North West compared to England. The proportion of older men living alone in the North West has marginally decreased but has increased in England, nevertheless, significantly more women aged 75 or over were living alone than men aged 75 or over in 2006.

Table 10 Proportion of Men and Women Living Alone by Age

Percentages

	1996		2006	
	England	North West	England	North West
Women Aged Between 25 and 44	30.1	16.7	16.9	14.5
Women Aged 75 and Over	90.4	92.3	87.0	86.0
Men Aged Between 25 and 44	12.7	13.6	14.9	18.1
Men Aged 75 and Over	33.8	34.6	37.7	33.3

Source: General Household Survey 1996-1997 and 2006, UK Data Archive

In 2001 the highest proportion of an ethnic group that were living alone in the North West were within the Black population (42.2%) compared to the lowest proportion being amongst the Asian population (12.4%) which is consistent with the England averages at 34.9% and 14.2% respectively. The highest proportion that were in a married couple in the North West were amongst the Asian population (54.7%) with the lowest proportion being amongst the Black population (20.0%) which again is consistent with the England averages of 51.5% and 20.9% respectively. The highest proportion of people in cohabiting couples in the North West were of mixed ethnicity (10.9%) and the lowest proportion were Asian (2.6%) compared to 10.9% and 2.4% respectively across England. There is slight variation when looking at lone parents with the highest proportion in the North West being amongst the mixed population (21.2%) and the lowest amongst the Asian population (8.7%) which compares to England where the highest is amongst the Black population (22.5%) and the lowest amongst the Chinese population (8.5%)

Other Key Aspects of Diversity

In understanding diversity and equality it is also important to consider religion and belief, sexual orientation and transgender status.

In Census 2001, 82.3% of the North West population identified with a religion compared to 77.7% in England, with 78.0% (71.7% in England) Christian, 3.0% (3.1% in England) Muslim, 0.4% (1.1% in England) Hindu and 0.8% (1.8% in England) for any other religion. Of the remaining population, 10.5% (14.6% in England) identified with having no religion and 7.2% (7.7% in England) did not respond to the question.

There are no comprehensive official statistics on sexual identity but currently it is estimated that the lesbian, gay men and bisexual population is between 5% and 7% of the total population. There are also no official statistics on transgender people.

3. Economic Well-Being and Standard of Living

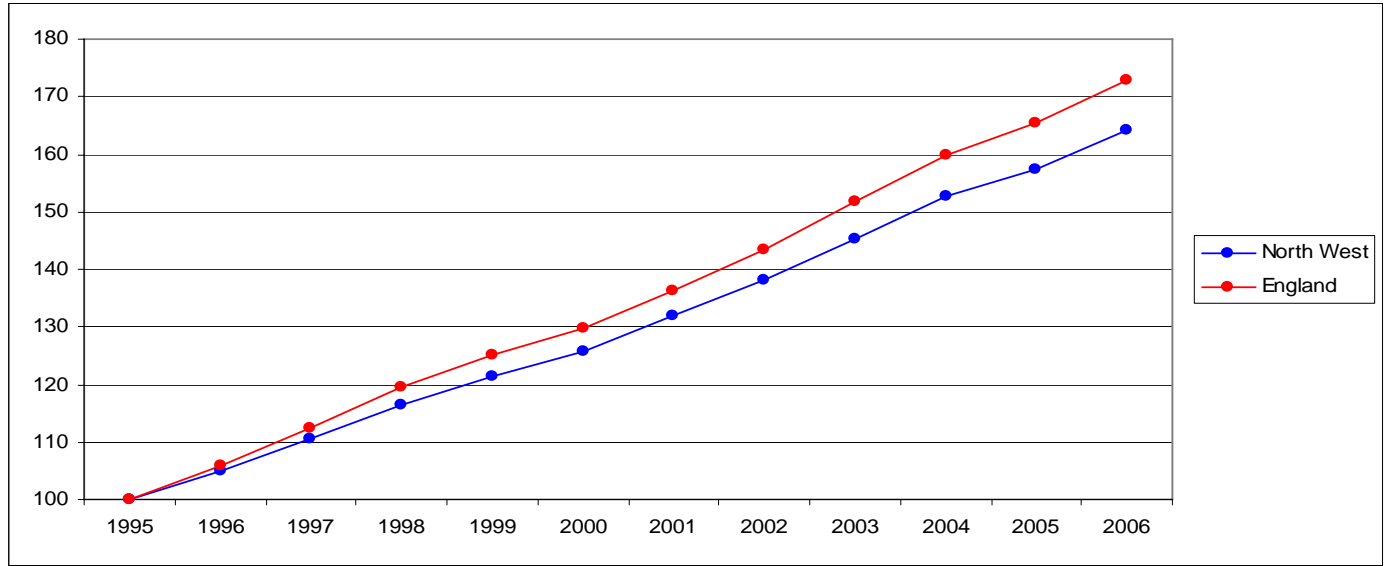
Overall Trends

Over the last 10 years, Gross Value Added per head has grown at rates faster than Gross Disposable Household Income per head in both the North West and England. This is shown in Figures 3 and 4.

Over the period 1995 to 2006, Gross Value Added per head has grown by 64.1% in the North West compared to 72.7% in England. Over this time Gross Disposable Household Income per head has grown by 59.7% in the North West compared to 61.2% in England.

Figure 3

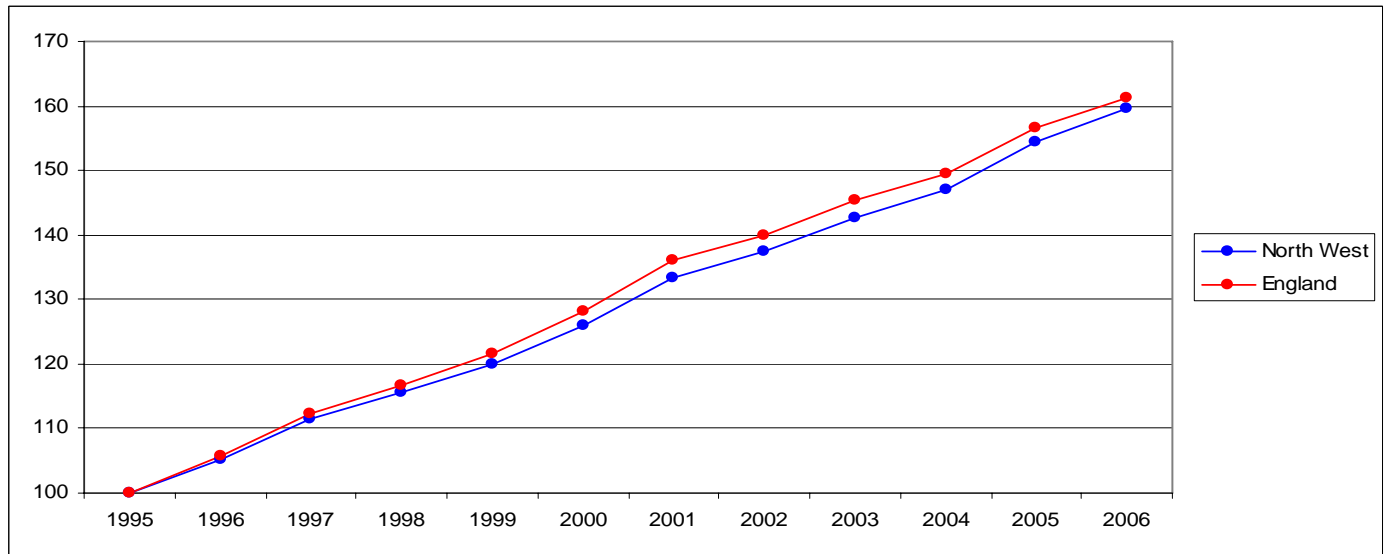
Gross Value Added Growth Per Head



Source: Regional Accounts 2007, ONS

Figure 4

Gross Disposable Household Income Growth Per Head



Source: Gross Disposable Household Income 2008, ONS

Since 2000/1 the North West has experienced a gradual reduction in the proportion of children at risk of living in poverty to 25% whereas England has been stable for the last four years at 22% (Table 11).

Table 11

Percentage of Children at Risk of Living in Households with Less than 60% of Contemporary Median Household Income Before Housing Costs

Percentages

2000/1		2001/2		2002/3		2003/4		2004/5		2005/6		2006/7	
Eng	NW	Eng	NW	Eng	NW	Eng	NW	Eng	NW	Eng	NW	Eng	NW
24	30	23	27	22	26	22	26	22	24	22	24	22	25

Source: Households Below Average Income (HBAI) 1994/95-2006/07, DWP

Variations

Gross disposable household income per head measures how people's income has been changing on average. However, income is not evenly distributed across the population and people at different points of the income distribution may experience different levels of income growth.

A decent home is one that meets the current statutory minimum standard for housing, it is in a reasonable state of repair, it has reasonably modern facilities and services and it provides a reasonable degree of thermal comfort. In 2003 the North West had significantly higher than average proportions of homes across all tenures with 34.0% of homes which did not meet the statutory minimum standard for housing compared to 31.3% in England with considerably higher than average proportions of their private sector stock below the standard at 34.0% compared to the England average of 30.3% (Table 12).

Table 12 Dwellings Not Meeting the Decent Homes Standard

	England		North West	
	2001	2003	2001	2003
All Tenures	7,063,000 (33.3%)	6,717,000 (31.3%)	1,034,000 (35.1%)	1,011,000 (34.0%)
Private Sector	5,416,000 (31.9 %)	5,275,000 (30.3%)	782,000 (34.0%)	799,000 (34.0%)
Social Sector	1,647,000 (38.9%)	1,442,000 (35.4%)	251,000 (39.1%)	210,000 (33.7%)

Source: English House Condition Survey 2003 Regional Report, DCLG

Between 2001 and 2006, the number of unfit dwellings in the North West fell from 255,387 to 158, 679, with the proportion of unfit dwellings falling from 8.5% to 5.2% this compares to a reduction from 1,325,137 to 922,183 unfit dwellings in England, with the proportion falling from 6.2% to 4.2%

4. Health

Overall Trends

Average life expectancies in the North West and England have increased steadily over the last century. In 2004 males born in the North West could expect to live for around 75 years and females for around 80 years compared with 77 years for men and 81 years for women in England.

In 2006, 84.5% of males and 81.0% of females of all ages in the North West reported 'fairly good' or 'good' health compared to 84.8% and 82.2% respectively in England.

The proportion of adults aged 16 and over in the North West who smoked cigarettes has fallen from 44.2% in 1996 to 17.0% in 2006 compared to a decline from 40.2% to 14.9% in England.

Infant mortality rates in the North West and England have fallen dramatically over the decades and have fallen from 6.2 deaths per 1,000 live births in the North West in 2000 to 5.8 in 2005 compared to a drop from 5.6 to 5.0 in England.

Variations

In 2003–05, the North West local area with the highest male and female life expectancy at birth was South Lakeland (78.6 years and 82.7 years respectively) which compares to 82.2 years and 86.2 years respectively for the highest local area in England (Kensington and Chelsea) and the lowest was Manchester (72.5 years for males) and Liverpool (78.1 years for females) which are also the lowest local areas in England. A recent report on health inequalities in England concludes that while there is improvement in life expectancy across social groups, there is no narrowing of the inequality gap between the most disadvantaged areas and the national averages.

66% of males and 55% of females in the North West were overweight including obese in 2006 which compares to 67% and 56% respectively in England. This compares to 65% for males and 59% for females in the North West and 65% for males and 56% for females in England in 2003.

There is increasing life expectancy at birth in the North West and England (Table 13).

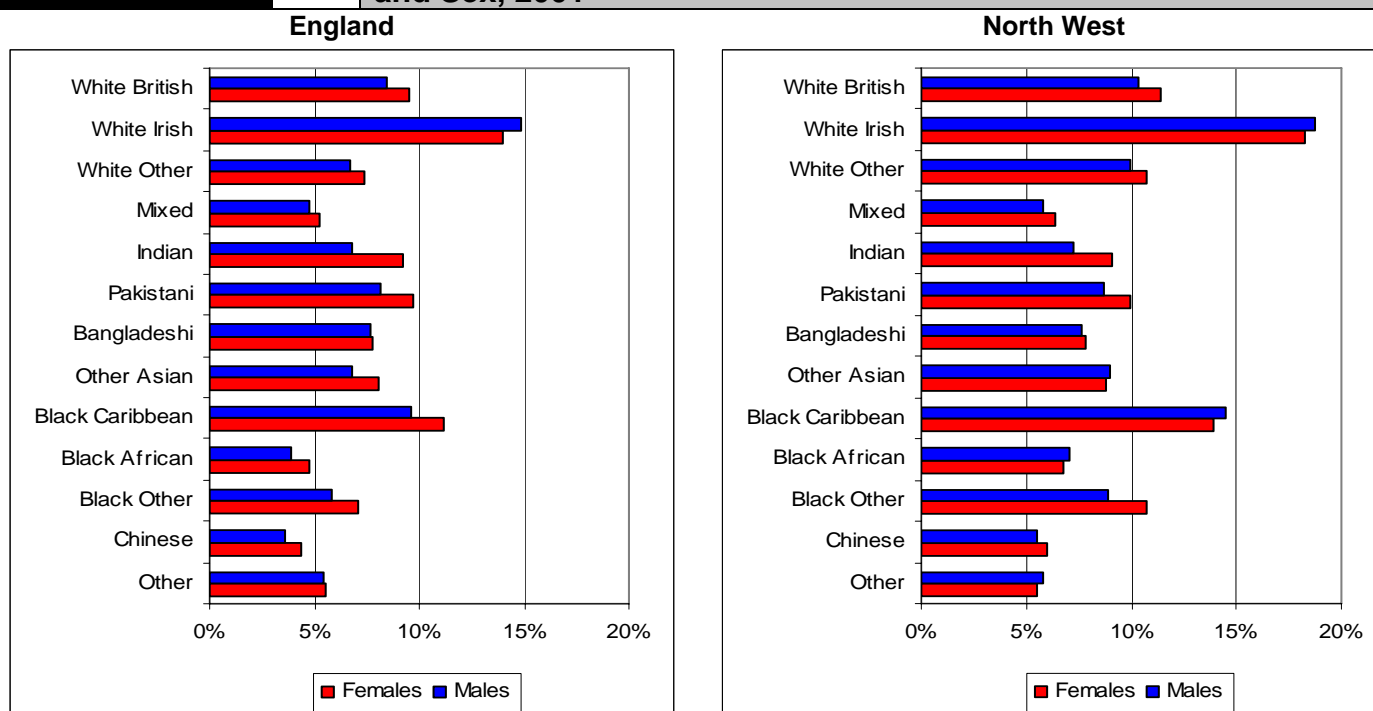
Table 13 Life Expectancies at Birth and Years Spent in Poor Health by Gender

	2001		2004	
	England	North West	England	North West
Life Expectancy at Birth (Males)	76.0	74.6	76.9	75.4
Life Expectancy at Birth (Females)	80.7	79.4	81.1	79.9
Years Spent in Poor Health from Birth (Males)	6.9	8.2	Data is not available	
Years Spent in Poor Health from Birth (Females)	8.4	9.5	Data is not available	

Sources: Male and Female Life Expectancy at Birth (Years), ONS

Some ethnic groups reported higher rates of poor health than average in Census 2001 (Figure 5). White Irish men and women in the North West and England reported the highest rates of 'not good health' in 2001 (18.8% and 18.2% respectively for the North West and 14.9% and 13.9% for England) and Chinese men reported the lowest rates of 'not good health' (5.5% in the North West and 3.6% in England) which matches very closely the relative proportions reporting limiting long-standing illness as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 5 Percentage of Population with 'Not Good' Health by Ethnic Group and Sex, 2001



Source: Census 2001

Over the 5 year period between 2003 and 2008 the number of Attendance Allowance claimants in the North West has increased by approximately 10% for men and 25% for females with the number of female claimants being more than double the number for men. The regional picture is consistent with the England average (Table 14).

Table 14 Claimants of Attendance Allowance¹

	England		North West	
	2003	2008	2003	2008
Males	360,780	442,790	57,510	70,360
Females	890,770	974,150	146,320	156,500
Total	1,251,550	1,416,930	203,830	226,870

Source: Attendance Allowance Claimants, DWP

¹ Attendance Allowance is a tax-free benefit for people aged 65 or over who need help with personal care because they are physically or mentally disabled.

In 2007 there were almost 80,000 people affected by dementia in the North West with 26,462 (33.2%) being males and 53,256 (66.8%) females compared to over 575,000 people being affected in England with 195,599 (34.0%) being males and 379,512 (66.0%) females. It is forecasted that over the next 15 years the number of people affected by dementia in the North West will reach over 105,000 by 2021 with 40,510 (38.5%) being males and 64,791 (61.5%) being females compared to almost 780,000 people being affected in England with 302,486 (38.8%) being males and 477,185 (61.2%) being females.

The prevalence of smoking among people in routine and manual occupation households was twice that of people in managerial and professional households (Table 15).

Table 15 Smoking Prevalence by Socio-Economic Group

	Percentages			
	Routine and Manual Occupation Households		Managerial and Professional Households	
	England	North West	England	North West
Men	27.2	28.7	12.7	13.8
Women	26.0	31.0	13.8	16.7

Source: General Household Survey 2006, UK Data Archive

In general, the higher the level of gross weekly household income, the more likely men and women were to exceed the recommended daily amounts of alcohol (Table 16).

Table 16 Percentage Drinking More Than the Recommended Daily Amounts by Gross Weekly Income

	£200 or Less		Over £1,000	
	England	North West	England	North West
Men	29.2	39.2	50.2	54.1
Women	20.9	28.2	47.0	45.2

Source: General Household Survey 2006, UK Data Archive

Mental health issues and suicides vary by age, ethnicity and deprivation.

Table 17 Age Standardised Suicide Rates from 1999-2003 per 100,000 Population

	Most Deprived Areas		Least Deprived Areas	
	England and Wales	North West	England and Wales	North West
Men Aged 15 and Over	25.4	27.8	11.9	11.6
Women Aged 15 and Over	7.4	8.2	3.6	4.8

Source: Suicide trends and geographical variations in the United Kingdom, 1991-2004 as published in Health Statistics Quarterly 31 - Autumn 2006, ONS

Suicide rates in the most deprived areas in the North West and England from 1999 to 2003 were generally more than double those in the least deprived areas (Table 17).

The infant mortality rate, per 1,000 live births, for infants with fathers in higher managerial and professional occupation was 3.3% in the North West and England compared to the mortality rate for infants with fathers in routine occupations at 7.3% and 6.6% respectively in the North West and England per 1,000 live births (Table 18).

Table 18 Infant Mortality (Deaths Under 1 Year of Age Per 1,000 Births) by Socio Economic Group¹ for 2004-5

	England	North West
Higher Managerial and Professional	3.3	3.3
Semi-Routine Occupations	6.4	6.3
Routine Occupations	6.6	7.3

Source: Sustainable Development Regional Factsheets, DEFRA
Births inside marriage and outside marriage/joint registrations only
1 Based on father's occupation

The average infant mortality rate in the North West for 2006 was worse than the England average per 1,000 live births at 5.5% compared to 4.9%. The rate in the North West fell from 11.3% in 1981 compared to England where the rate was down from 10.9%.

Table 19 Live Births, Stillbirths and Infant Deaths

	England		North West	
	2001	2006	2001	2006
Live Births	563,744	635,748	75,201	84,155
Rates¹				
Stillbirths	5.3	5.3	6.1	5.4
Perinatal	8.0	8.0	8.7	8.3
Neonatal	3.6	3.5	3.8	3.8
Post Neonatal	1.8	1.5	2.1	1.7
Infant	5.4	4.9	5.8	5.5

Source: Mortality statistics - childhood, infant and perinatal, ONS

1 Stillbirths and perinatal deaths per 1,000 live births and stillbirths and neonatal, post neonatal and infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

5. Education and Skills

Overall Trends

An increasing number of pupils in the North West and England are achieving five or more good GCSEs or equivalent with a rise from 48.9% in 2002 to 59.6% in 2007 in the North West compared to a rise from 52.6% to 59.3% in England.

Permanent exclusion rates are decreasing. In 2006/7, there were around 1,250 permanent exclusions from school of children in the North West compared with 1,504 in 2001/2 which compares to 8,680 down from 9,535 in England.

In 2007, 64.0% of all working age people in the North West had a qualification at level 2 or above which is an increase of 5 percentage points since 2001 compared to 64.1% in England which again increased by 5 percentage points. The proportion of all working age people in the North West with no qualifications has fallen from 19.0% in 2001 to 15.0% in 2007 compared to England which fell from 16.2% to 12.9%.

Variations

Of the 1.1 million pupils attending compulsory age schooling in the North West in 2008, 32,780 (3.0%) had statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN) compared to 223,610 (2.8%) of a total of 8.1 million pupils in England.

Girls continue to outperform boys at all stages of education. In 2006/7, 64.8% of girls in the North West achieved five or more good GCSEs or equivalent compared with 56.1% of boys which is a 54.1% for girls and 43.9% for boys in 200/3. Girls have risen to 66.4%, from 57.8%, and boys have risen to 57.7%, from 47.5%, in England.

In the North West and England, a bigger proportion of pupils from all ethnic groups achieved five or more good GCSEs or equivalent in 2007 compared with 2003 with the Black ethnic group achievement rate almost doubling since 2003 (Table 20).

Table 20 Pupils Achieving 5 or More A*-C GCSEs or Equivalents by Ethnic Group

Percentages

	England					North West				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
White	51.3	52.3	55.2	57.2	59.5	49.6	51.0	54.4	56.6	59.9
Mixed	49.3	49.7	54.8	55.7	57.8	47.4	48.1	52.7	56.7	57.1
Asian	52.8	55.3	59.2	60.9	63.0	45.8	51.0	52.8	54.5	58.3
Black	36.3	39.0	45.8	47.9	52.8	37.8	38.4	46.2	46.9	56.4
Chinese	74.8	74.2	82.3	79.8	83.7	74.3	73.3	76.3	77.6	81.0
All Pupils	50.7	51.9	55.0	57.0	59.3	49.1	50.6	54.1	56.2	59.6

Source: National Curriculum Assessment, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, DCSF

In 2007, Chinese pupils in the North West were most likely to achieve five or more good GCSEs or equivalent (81.0%) and pupils from Black ethnic groups least likely (56.4%) compared to England which were 83.7% and 47.9% respectively. For children receiving free school meals, which is often used as a proxy for deprivation, in the North West 34.9% achieved five good GCSEs or equivalent in 2007 compared with 64.5% of other children compared to 35.5% and 62.9% respectively for England.

In 2006/7 in the North West pupils with a background of Travellers of Irish Heritage (22.8%) and Gypsy/Roma (20.9%) had the highest proportion of half days missed due to overall absence (authorised and unauthorised), although it should be noted that a very small number of pupils were recorded in these categories, and the Chinese (3.2%) had the lowest proportion and this is consistent with the England average.

For 16 and 17 year olds in the North West, 9% were not in employment, education or training (NEET) at the end of 2006 compared with 8 % across England.

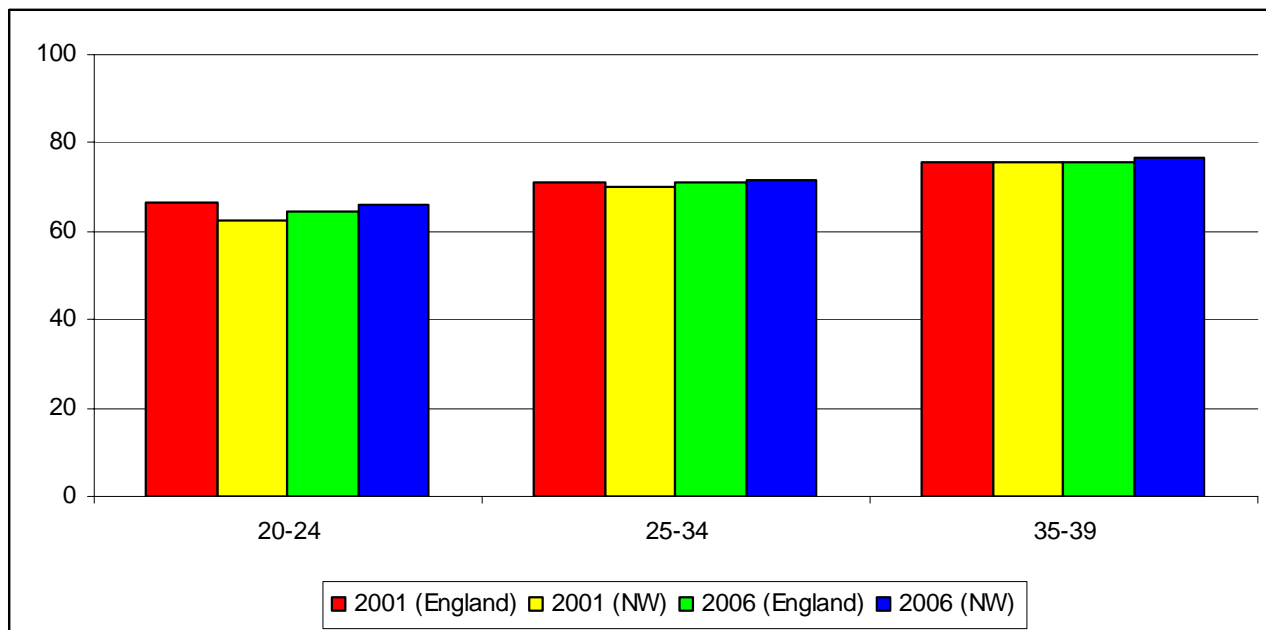
6. Employment and Caring

Overall Trends

Employment rates in the North West and England have risen over the last ten years since 1997 from 70.1% to 72.3% and 73.5% to 74.4% respectively. 68.6% of working age women worked in the North West in 2007, up from 65.1% in 1997 compared to England that rose to 69.6% in 2007 from 67.9%. More men were working than women in 2007 (75.7%) up from 74.9% in 1997 in the North West compares to England that rose to 78.8% in 2007 from 78.7%.

Female employment rates in the North West have risen over the last five years for the selected age groups increasing from 62.3% in 2001 to 66.0% in 2006 for 20-24 year olds, from 69.8% to 71.6% for 25-34 year olds and 75.5% to 76.9% for 35-39 year olds, however, England has seen a decline in employment of 20-24 year olds from 66.5% in 2001 to 64.3% in 2006 and a rise across 25-34 year olds from 71.0% to 71.1% and 35-39 year olds from 75.4% to 75.6%. In 2006 there was a higher employment rate in the North West across the selected age groups than there was in England which is reversed from 2001 (Figure 6).

Figure 6 Percentage of Women in Full-Time or Part-Time Work



Source: Local Area Labour Force Survey 2001 and Annual Population Survey 2006, ONS

In 2007 the employment rate of ethnic groups in the North West was generally below the England average. The overall BME employment rate in the North West was 54.2% compared to 60.3% in England. In the North West the Indian working age population had the highest employment rate with the Pakistani/Bangladeshi population having the lowest rate with less than half being employed but this is affected by the low female employment rate for this ethnic group. The regional picture is consistent with the England average (Table 21).

Table 21 Employment Rate of Ethnic Groups, 2007

	Percentages					
	England			North West		
	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female
Mixed	64.1	63.2	65.0	58.3	59.9	56.9
Indian	70.3	77.1	62.6	70.8	77.1	63.7
Pakistani/Bangladeshi	44.7	63.9	24.8	43.4	59.1	27.8
Black or Black British	63.9	67.6	60.6	57.8	54.4	61.6
Other Ethnic Group	59.6	68.7	50.4	53.8	62.9	44.6

Source: Annual Population Survey 2007, ONS

In 2007, 8.9% of those in the North West without qualifications were in employment compared with 8.3% in England and of those qualified to level 2 and above 70.7% were in employment in the North West compared to 69.4% in England.

In 2007, there were slightly more working age men in the North West qualified to level 2 and above than women (64.4% compared to 63.5%) which is consistent with England (64.6% compared to 63.6%). The gap has narrowed in the North West from 63.1% of men compared with 54.0% of women in 2001 and in England from 62.9% of men compared with 55.2% of women and this reflects the higher attainment of young women compared with young men.

Carers also make an important contribution to the economy. The 2001 Census was the first to collect information on the provision of unpaid care in the population. In 2001 there were approximately 690,000 adults aged 20 and over in the North West providing unpaid care, constituting approximately 10.4% of the population living in private households which compares to over 4.6 million (9.7%) unpaid carers in England.

Variations

Despite convergence over the last 35 years in employment rates, women (39.5% in the North West and 40.7% in England) continue to be more likely than men to work part-time (9.9% in the North West and 9.8% in England) and generally have lower median earnings. The gender pay gap (as measured by the median hourly pay excluding overtime of full-time employees) is wider in the North West than England but has fallen in the recent past and has narrowed at a greater rate than in England moving from a gap of 17.4% in 2002 to 13.9% in 2007 compared to 15.6% and 12.9% respectively in England, however, the current rate of narrowing should not give rise to complacency as it will be a long time into the future before parity is achieved.

The patterns of occupations remain quite different by gender with only 10.3% of women in the North West and 11.7% in England employed as Managers and Senior Officials (compared with 17.1% and 19.1% of men respectively) in 2007.

In 2007, the proportion of working age people in workless households was highest for British nationals and the North West (88.7%) ethnic profile was generally consistent with England (82.6%), however, there was a lower proportion of Indians and Black Caribbean in workless households in the North West than England (Table 22).

Table 22 Percentage of Working Age People from Different Ethnic Groups in Workless Households

	Percentages	
	England	North West
British	82.6	88.7
Other White	4.6	2.2
White and Black Caribbean	0.6	0.6
White and Black African	0.2	0.2
White and Asian	0.2	0.0
Other Mixed	0.3	0.2
Indian	1.4	0.5
Pakistani	2.1	2.3
Bangladeshi	1.1	0.8
Other Asian	0.8	0.1
Black Caribbean	1.6	0.5
Black African	1.8	1.1
Other Black	0.2	0.3
Chinese	0.5	0.6
Other	2.1	2.0

Source: Labour Force Survey 2007, ONS

45.2% of working age disabled people in the North West and 50.8% in England were in work in 2007, compared with 79.1% in the North West and 79.5% in England of non-disabled people. Disabled people account for 12.5% of all working age people in employment in the North West compared to 12.2% in England.

In 2001, 14,539 (1.0%) children under the age of 16 in the North West were providing some informal care compared to 90,431 (0.9%) in England.

7. Looking To The Future

This document has been produced to give a North West view of an Office for National Statistics (ONS) article entitled '[Diversity and Different Experiences in the UK](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/articles/nojournal/NSA_article.pdf)' (http://www.statistics.gov.uk/articles/nojournal/NSA_article.pdf) which was written by Karen Dunnell, National Statistician in April 2008 which set out to describe overall trends in society and experiences of different groups which complements other reports which provide more detail on some aspects of equality such as Focus on Social Inequalities. ONS plan to produce a regular series of articles which provide an overview of the latest statistics on aspects of society.

There are considerable improvements which can and should be made in the way equality is measured and the ONS report from the Review of Equality Data made 22 recommendations for improvements and work is well underway to take these forward.

In 2007 the Regional Strategy Team commissioned Experian to undertake a project with the aim of building a detailed and up-to-date picture of the trends, drivers and implications of demographic change, migration and diversity in the North West to directly inform the policy response.

The project has delivered two working papers, Demographic Trends and the Drivers of Change together with the final report and a dataset underpinning the project. The project has identified five emerging trends in the demography of the North West together with the challenges and opportunities each trend presents and the strategic actions policy makers should take to respond. The outputs are available via the Regional Intelligence Unit Extranet at <http://www.nwriu.co.uk/researchprogramme/2369.aspx>.

In the medium term, there are anticipated improvements in the information collected on sexual identity as a result of a project underway in ONS which will lead to the development of a question or set of questions which can be used in social surveys and for equality monitoring. In addition, agreement on a family of questions on disability for social surveys and equality monitoring and the new Disability Survey will considerably aid the understanding of outcomes for disabled people.

There is also more to be done to make clearer distinctions between the different dimensions of religious diversity such as affiliation, practice and belief and to better understand the extent and significance of each.