

# Briefing: 2021 Census First Results

July 2022



Knowledge & Improvement, Strategy Family

# 2021 Census

## Introduction ... and a warning

- **2021 Census** took place in March 2021. Census takes place **every 10 years**.
- **ONS published the First Results on 28 June 2022** providing data on local authority level population, occupied households and population density.
- **Presented here** are those initial 2021 Census findings ...

### **However, a warning that the figures should be treated with extreme caution!**

- 2021 Census took place in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- It is likely that some residents were temporarily away at this time (e.g. students, young furloughed workers, migrant workers). Research by the GLA suggests that many have since returned to the capital. For this reason, the census results need to be viewed in this context as a snapshot of the borough population – as at 21 March 2021.

# Camden Overview

**census**  
**2021**  
First release

210,100  
Camden population  
▼ 5%  
Decrease  
2011-21



26<sup>th</sup>  
largest borough  
population

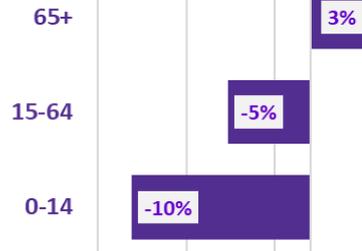


Population  
density  
9,647  
people  
per km<sup>2</sup>

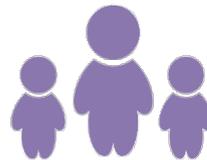
9<sup>th</sup> highest  
in England &  
Wales



Change  
by Age  
2011-21



30,300  
Children  
aged 0-14  
▼ 10%  
2011-21



155,100  
People  
aged 15-64  
▼ 5%  
2011-21

24,800  
Residents aged 65+  
▲ 3%  
2011-21



92,800  
Number of households  
▼ 5%  
Decrease  
2011-21



47% Male  
53% Female



Response rate  
95%

▲ up 8 percentage  
points since  
2011 Census

96% of  
households  
responded  
online



# Camden Summary

- **Population** On census day (21 March 2021), the ‘usually resident’ population of Camden was estimated as 210,100. This is 10,300 lower than the 2011 Census population, a -4.7% reduction over the decade. This compares to a 7.7% increase for Greater London and a 6.6% increase in England. Camden was one of only 3 London boroughs to lose population: the others were Westminster (-6.9%) and K&C (-9.6%). Camden’s rank in population position has fallen from 76<sup>th</sup> in 2011 to 87<sup>th</sup> in 2021, a drop of 11 places.
- **Occupied households** The 2021 Census recorded fewer occupied households: 92,800 compared to 97,534 in 2011 – a reduction of 4,734 (-4.9%). This compares to a 4.8% increase for Greater London and a 6.2% increase in England. Camden was one of 3 boroughs to have reduced numbers of occupied households over the decade, along with Westminster (-10.4%) and K&C (-14.8%).
- **Age** Camden has a comparatively young population, buoyed by a large student and younger working-aged people, rather than by children. The 2021 Census shows that Camden has:
  - Fewer children aged under 15 (14.1%) compared to London (18.1%) and England (17.4%).
  - More young people aged 15-24\* (16.2%) than London (12.3%) or England (11.7%). \*includes main HE student ages
  - A large working aged population aged 25-64 (57.6%), similar to London (57.7%), larger than England (52.4%).
  - Relatively fewer older people aged 65+ (11.8%), similar to London (11.9%), fewer than England (18.9%).
- **Sex** Overall, Camden has slightly more females (52.6%) than males (47.4%)
  - Ages 0-14 years, there are more males than females initially ...
  - As age increases, generally, there are more females than males, reaching a 2:1 female to male ratio at age 90+

# Camden Summary 2

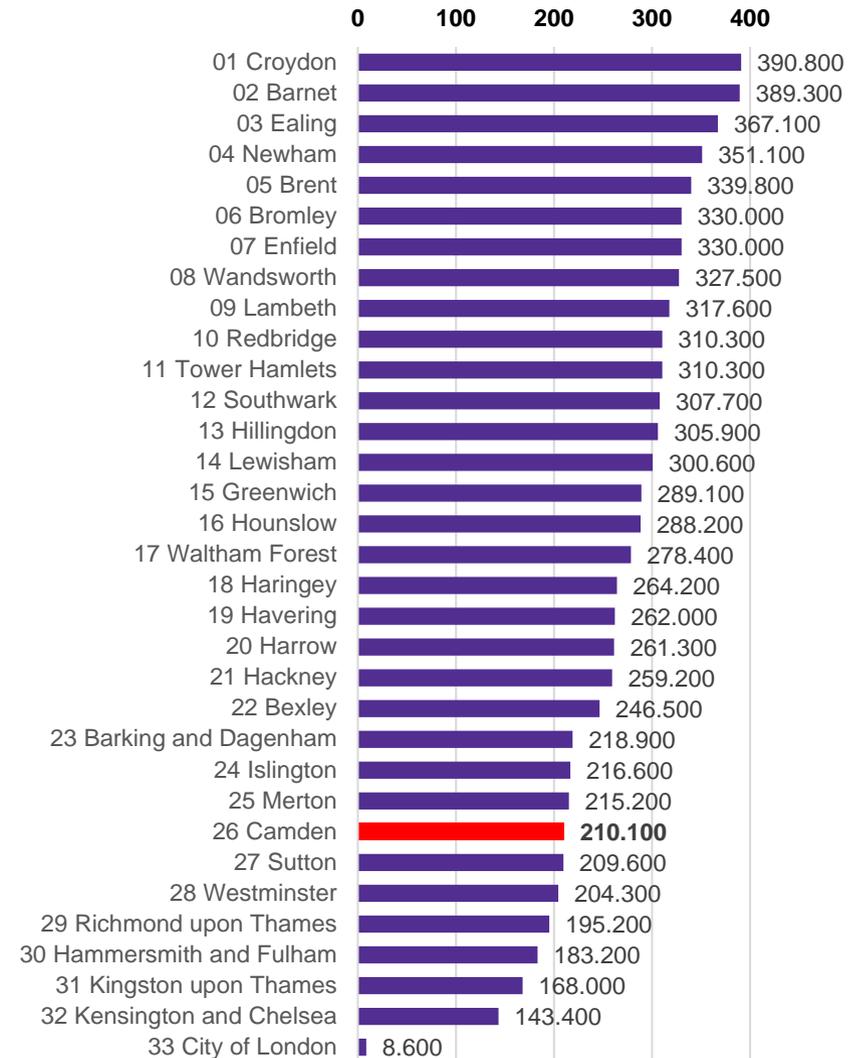
- **Population density** Camden has a population density of 9,647 people per square kilometre, ranking 9<sup>th</sup> highest among London boroughs.
- **Historical perspective** Camden's population grew rapidly in the 19th century and reached a peak in 1901 with 377 thousand residents. Camden's population then fell over the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to a low point in 1991 at 165 thousand – less than half its peak. The population increased rapidly into the 21<sup>st</sup> century to 220,300 in 2011.
- **Calculating the population estimate** The response to the 2021 Census questionnaires, by paper and online, counted 199,800 people usually resident in Camden. The Census Coverage Survey (a large sample survey carried out 6 weeks after the census) provided the means to adjust the census, for under- and over-counts and other corrections, to arrive at the final estimate of 210,100. This indicates that a person response rate of 95% was achieved in Camden.
- **Population uncertainty** Camden is one of the hardest local authority areas to estimate population for. The 10-yearly census is traditionally used to recalibrate population estimates whose accuracy may have drifted. Due to the exceptional times of conducting the census during COVID-19, the traditional census appears to have missed people who were temporarily removed from Camden and who may have now returned (e.g. students, people with second homes outside Camden and younger workers and/or those furloughed who may have moved to their parents/other family addresses). There is also a concern whether the census process was able to correctly count people in houses of multiple occupation (HMOs). These concerns are being pursued with ONS.

# Population size

- **Population Size** On census day (21 March 2021), the 'usually resident' population of Camden was estimated as 210,100. Camden ranks 26<sup>th</sup> London borough by population and 87<sup>th</sup> of all 307 local authority areas in England.
- **Impact of COVID-19 on the census** The census aims to count all people who are 'usually resident' in an area and to make adjustments for those who might have been missed or double-counted. The census took place when a range of pandemic lockdown restrictions were still in place. It is likely that some residents were temporarily away at this time (e.g. students, furloughed and migrant workers). While some will still have been captured on the census at their usual/term-time address, others will not have been. [Research by the Greater London Authority](#) indicates that many such residents have since returned to the capital. **For this reason, census results need to be viewed in this context – as a pandemic snapshot of the borough population – as at 21 March 2021.**

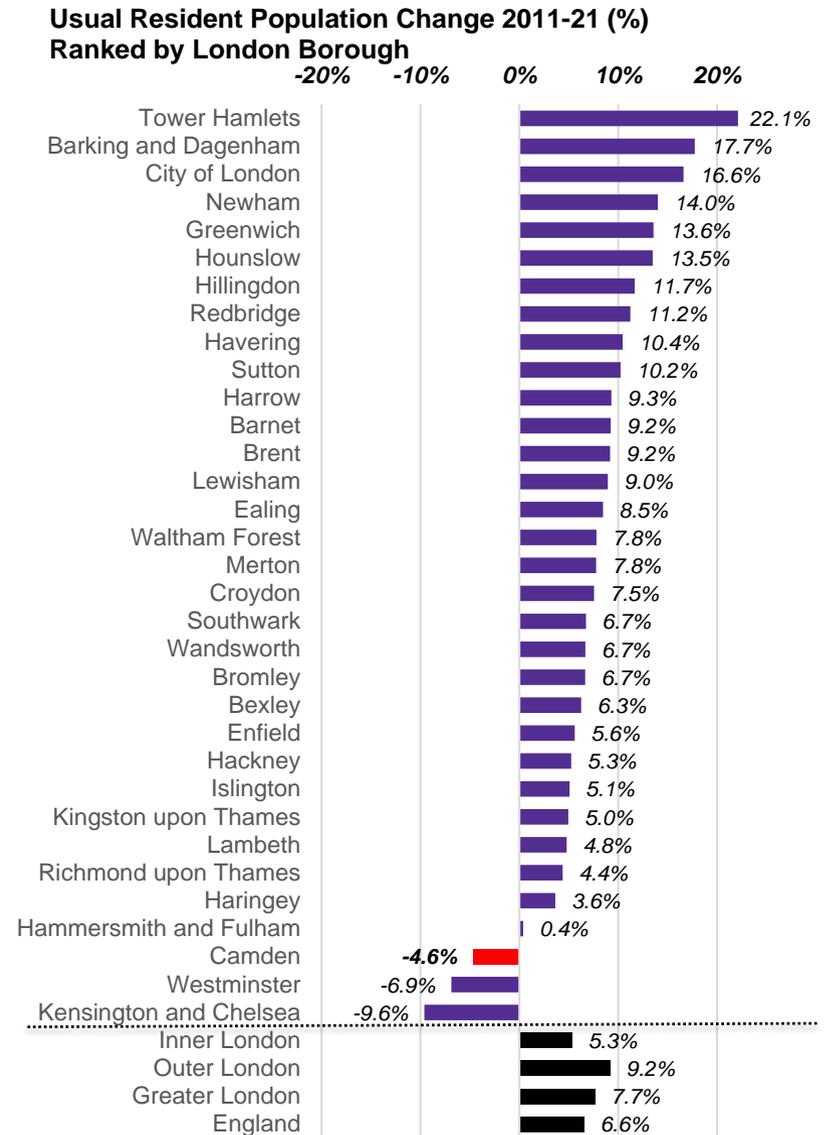
2021 Census Usual Resident Population

Thousands



# Population change

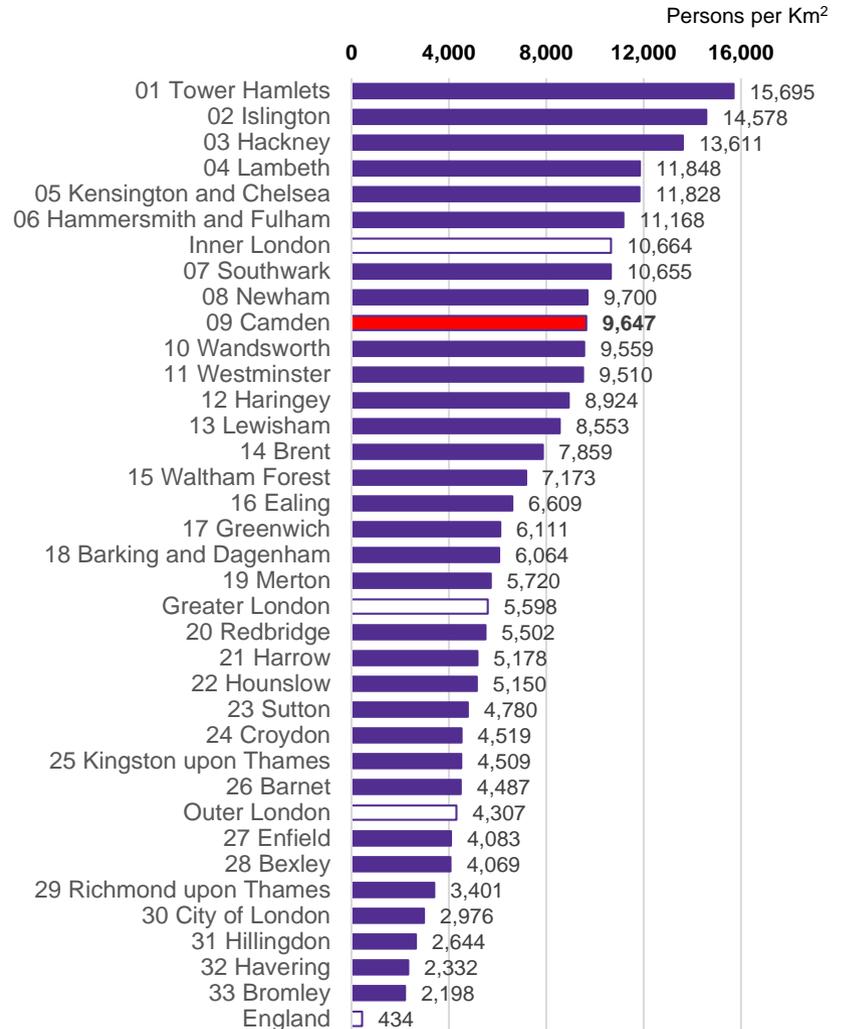
- Population change 2011 to 2021** Camden has seen a reduction in the usual resident population 2011-2021 of -10,300 (-4.7%). This fall in population contrasts with a increases of +7.7% across Greater London and +6.6% for England.
- Within London**, Tower Hamlets saw the fastest growth (+22.1%) while Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster showed the largest percentage population decline, with -9.6% and -6.9% respectively. Overall, higher growth was seen for Outer London boroughs (+9.2%) than Inner London boroughs (+5.3%).
- These patterns are likely to reflect a range of different factors, including levels of housing development across boroughs, but may well have been affected by the pandemic and Brexit-related impacts on the 2021 Census estimate, as well as the possibility of differential undercounting.



# Population density

- Population density** Camden has a population density of 9,647 people per square kilometre, ranking 9<sup>th</sup> highest among London boroughs.
- Camden's population density is slightly below the Inner London average of 10,664 per Km<sup>2</sup>.
- Then geographic composition of the London boroughs has not changed since the 2011 Census and so the changes in density directly relate to the changes in population size over the decade.
- The borough with the highest population density is Tower Hamlets (15,695 per Km<sup>2</sup>), while the lowest is the outer London borough of Bromley with a population density of 2,198 Km<sup>2</sup>.

2021 Census Population Density



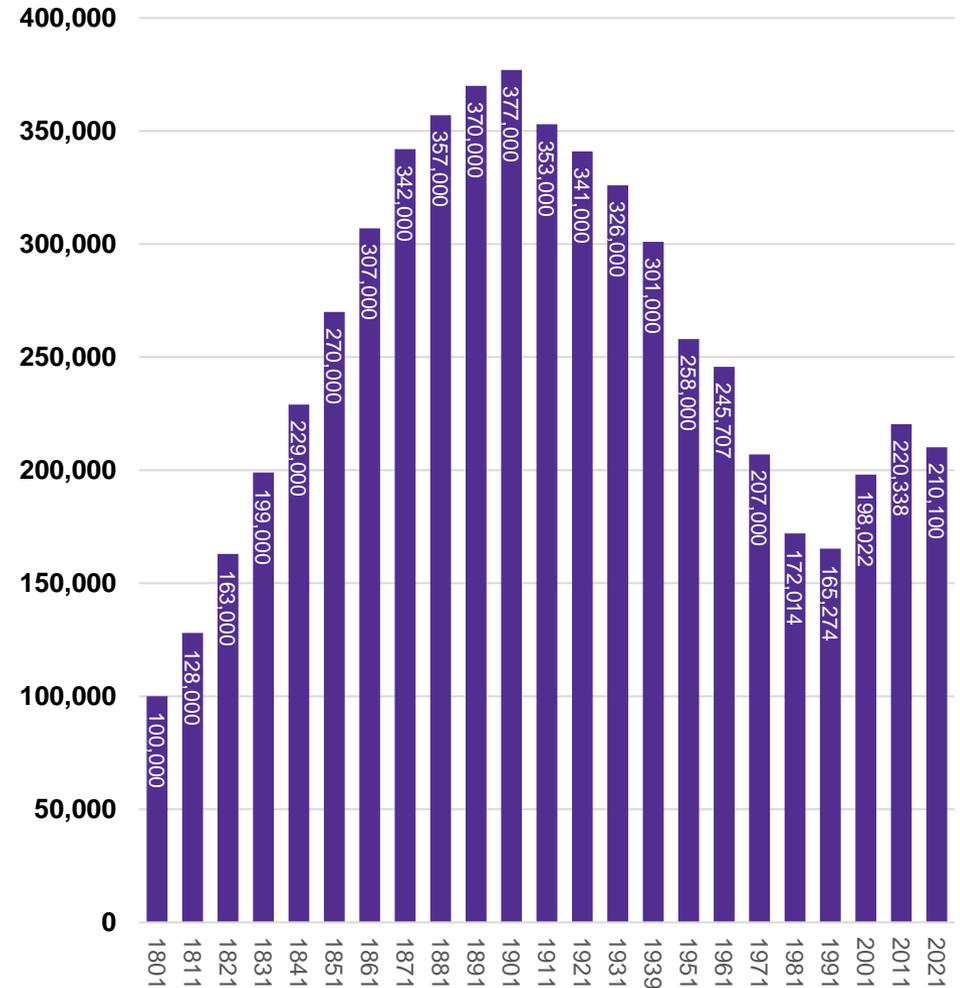
# Historical perspective

- Population change 1801 to 2021** Over the past 220 years of the census, Camden has seen a great deal of change. Being at the heart of London and with room to expand into the northern suburbs, the area covered by the current borough of Camden grew rapidly in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and reached a peak in 1901 with 377 thousand residents.
- Through most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Camden lost population**, initially with slum clearances and then accelerating post-WWII with the New Towns policy of the 1950s and 1960s. Camden's population reached a low point in 1991 at 165 thousand – less than half its peak. The population recovered and increased rapidly into the 21<sup>st</sup> century to 220,300 in 2011.
- Camden's drop in population in 2021 may be a blip in the series due to complications with 2021 Census.**

## Notes

- Figures for the years 1801-1971 are from research carried out by the Greater London Council in 1978. This analysis reworked historical census data by area to estimate counts for London boroughs. Later figures are published census counts and estimates for Camden.
- Figures for 1801-1981 relate to 'persons present' population definition, while later data relate to the current 'usual resident' definition.
- The 1941 Census was cancelled due to the Second World War. The 1939 figure shown is a count from the 1939 National Population Register.

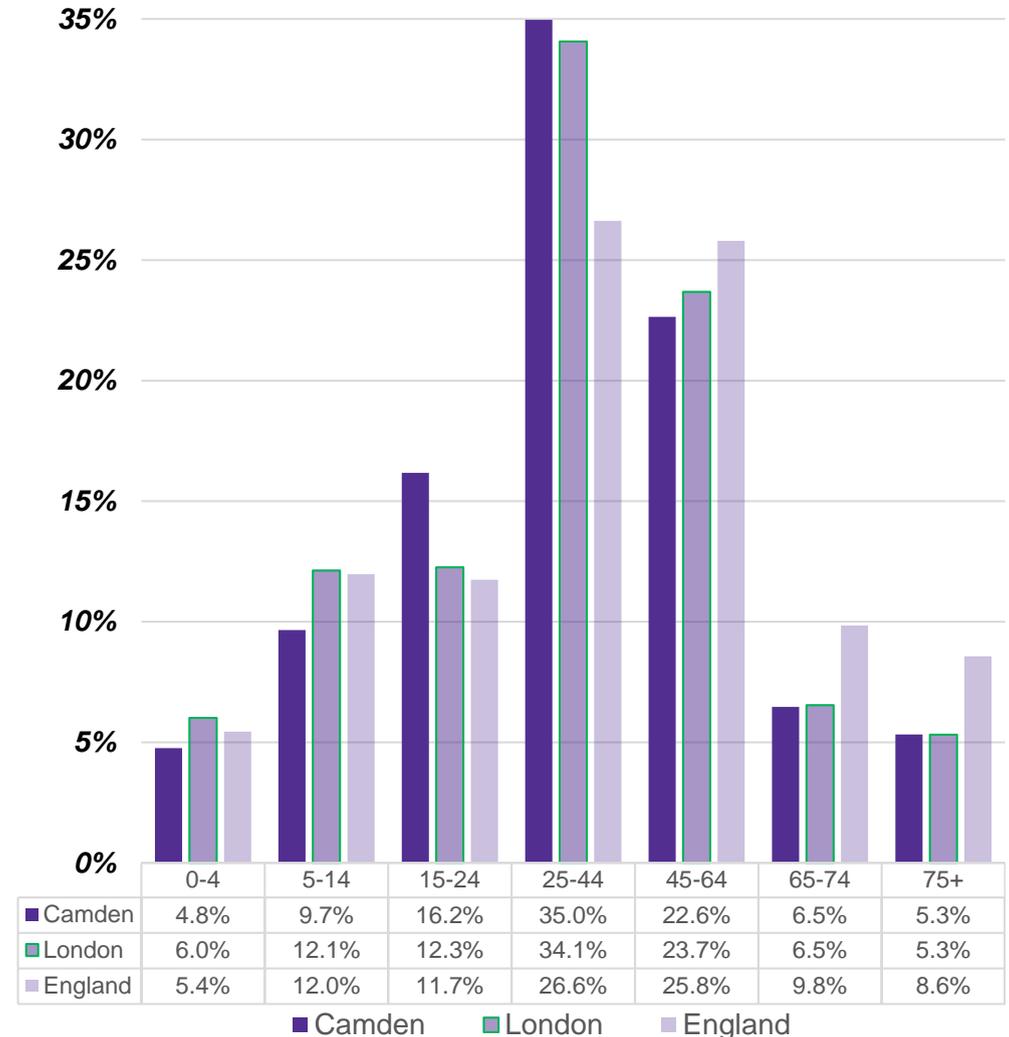
Census Population of Camden 1801-2021



# Age

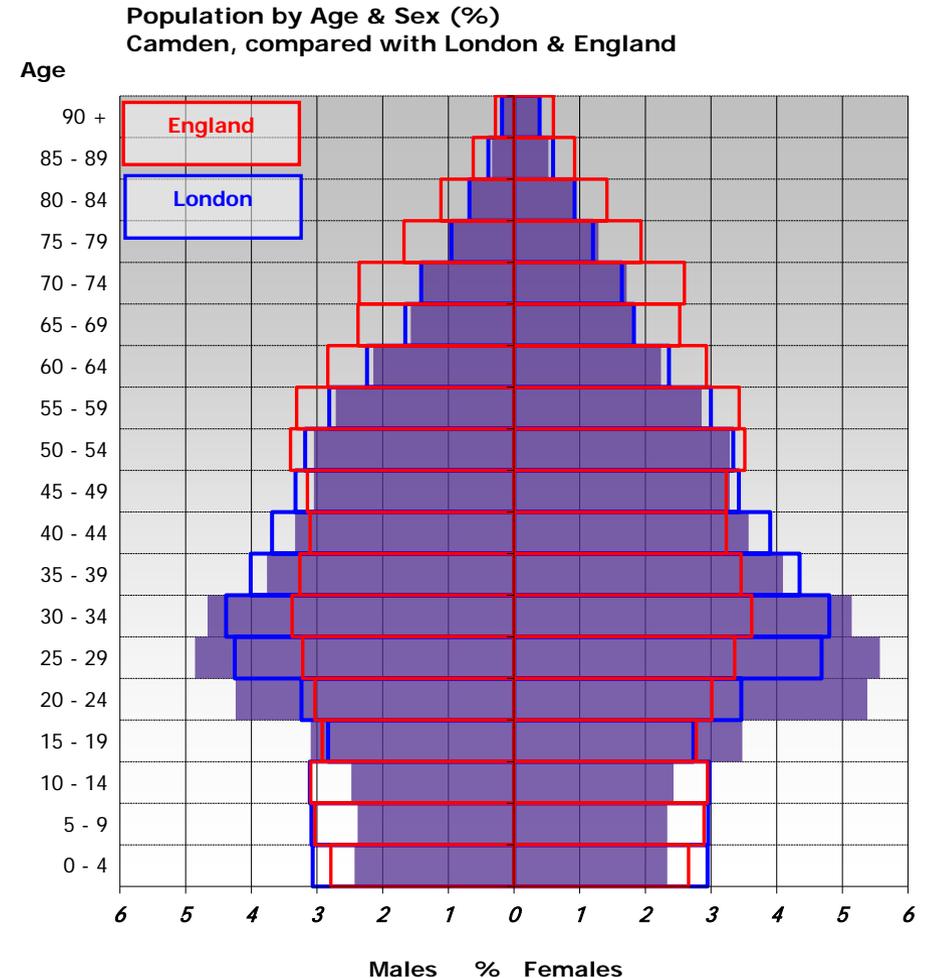
- **Camden has a young age profile** In common with other London Boroughs, Camden has a younger age profile when compared with England, buoyed by a large student and younger working-aged population rather than by children.
- **Camden has relatively fewer children** aged under 15 years (14.4%), compared with Greater London (18.1%) or England (17.4%)
- **Young people and the younger working aged** (15-44) in Camden make up over half the population (51.1%), compared to 46.3% for Greater London and 38.4% in England.
- **Camden fewer residents aged 45 and over** (34.4%) compared to England (44.2%) but similar to Greater London (35.5%),
- **11.9% of Camden residents were aged 65+** compared with 18.4% for England, though similar level to Greater London (11.9%).
- **The proportion of 75+** (5.3%) is the same for Camden and London, but smaller than the proportion for England (8.6%).

Population Proportions (%) by Age, 2021 Census:  
Camden, London and England



# Age and sex

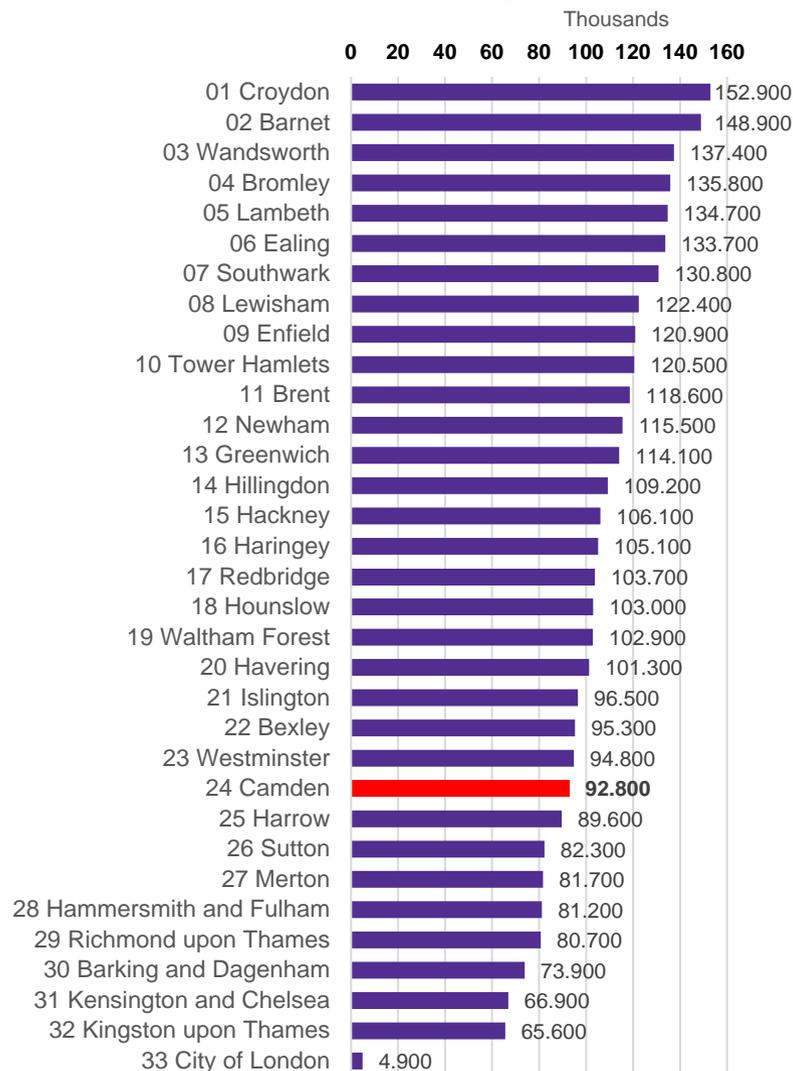
- **The population by age and sex** The age/sex structure chart (population pyramid) shows a comparison of the proportions of the population in each 5 year age and sex group for Camden (block purple), Greater London (blue outline) and England (red outline).
- The chart emphasises the **relatively small child population in Camden**, compared to both Greater London and England.
- **Camden's student and younger working-aged population** (20-34) is also apparent. The male/female imbalance in these ages *may* indicate an undercount of men in these age groups in the census.
- **Camden has fewer people in the older working ages** (35-64/69) compared to Greater London, while the England population becomes larger in ages 50 and over.
- **In the retirement ages** (65+) Camden and Greater London have a similar profile, but with very much fewer older people than in England which has a very much larger older population.



# Occupied households

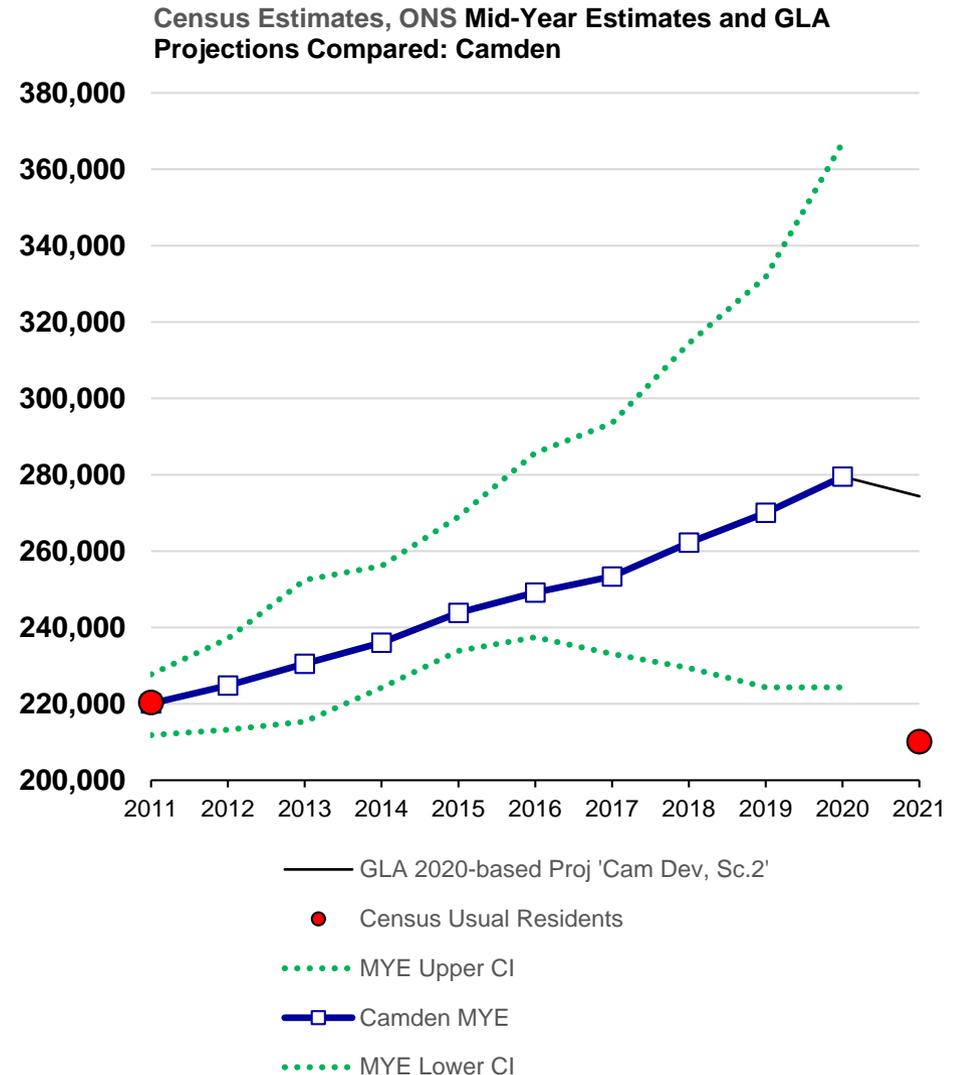
- **Census households** In the census, a household is defined as one person living alone or a group of people (not necessarily related), living at the same address who share cooking facilities and share a living room or dining area.
- **The 2021 Census recorded 92,800 occupied households in Camden**, i.e. households containing one or more persons. This is a fall of 4.9% since 2011 (-4,700). This compares to a rise of 4.8% across Greater London, and 6.2% across England.
- **Camden has 24<sup>th</sup> largest number of households** by London borough.
- **Impact of COVID-19 on the number of occupied households** It is likely that some households were temporarily away during the census (e.g. students, furloughed and migrant workers). While some will still have been captured on the census at their usual/term-time address, others will not have been. **Until more research has been done it is sensible to treat these numbers with extreme caution.**

2021 Census Occupied Households:  
Households containing one or more persons



# Population uncertainty

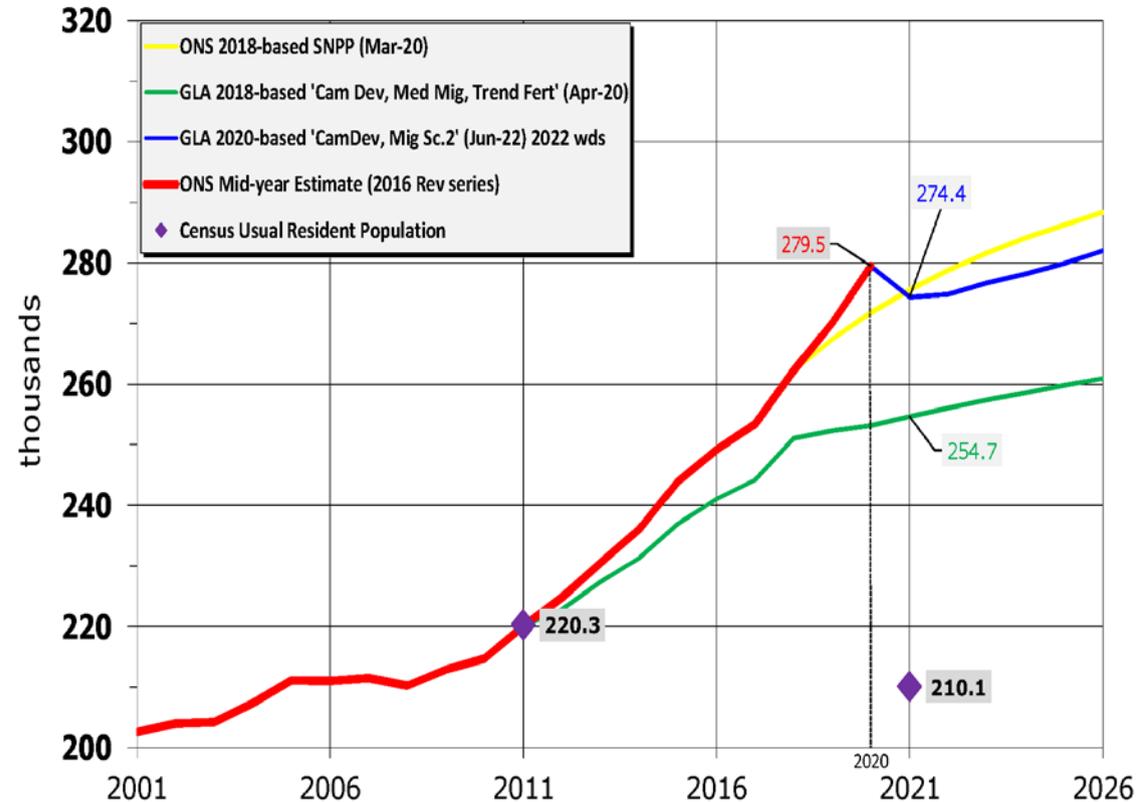
- **Census population for Camden was 69,400 lower than the last ONS mid-year population estimate (MYE) at mid-2020 (279,500).** The census figure represents a huge correction to Camden's 'official' population estimate (-25%).
- **Interpreting the difference between these two figures is not straightforward** as the figures relate to slightly different time periods, but more importantly, the 2020 mid-year estimates for Camden have very large confidence intervals attached to them, i.e. the annual estimates are subject to significant uncertainty (see graph).
- **GLA Projections** shadow the MYEs in terms of total population only, with the mid-2021 figure reflecting a fall due to the pandemic and Brexit.
- **The census results will inform future population estimates and projections**, which will be revised to take account of the new data. **It is unclear how ONS will make adjustments to future population estimates, to account for the temporary impacts Brexit and COVID-19 have had on London's census estimates.**



# Comparator sources

- The 2021 Census population correction is out-of-step with all previous expectations.** See graph comparing 2011 and 2021 census estimates, ONS Mid-year Estimates (MYEs) and GLA Projections 2018-based and 2020-based projections.
- Compared to Camden's 'official' population estimate** (red line). The comparison is between ONS' latest Mid-year Estimate for 30 June 2020 with Census Day 21 March 2021 - **a reduction of 25%**, i.e. 210,100 compared to 279,516.
- GLA projections for Camden up to the 2018-based set** (green line) **were NOT coupled to ONS MYE totals**. Ignoring COVID-19, this gave a population difference at 2021 of -44,600 (-17%), i.e. 210,100 compared to 254,700.
- GLA's latest projections for Camden, the 2020-based set ARE coupled with the ONS MYE totals** (blue line). This method, adjusting for the pandemic, gives a population difference at 2021 of -64,300 (-23%), i.e. 210,100 compared to 274,400.

Latest ONS and GLA Population Estimates and Projections, LB Camden 2001-2041



Sources:  
 Censuses 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001, 2011; 2021  
 ONS Mid-year Estimates 1961-;  
 GLA Demographic Projections - housing constrained, COVID-19 adjusted;  
 ONS (unconstrained) Subnational Population Projections

# 2021 Census Estimate Method

- Calculating the 2021 Census population estimate** The start point for the census estimate is the actual number of people included on the responding paper or online questionnaires. The census found 199,800 people in Camden.
- The Census Coverage Survey (CCS)** was conducted 6 weeks after the census in May 2021 was used to assess both how the census might have under-counted, or over-counted, the population in each local authority area.
- Adjustment for under-coverage or over-count in households** includes people who were missing from the census but found in the CCS, or where there were duplicate responses. Led to a net adjustment of +8,300.
- Adjustments for under-coverage in communal establishments** includes student halls of residence, care homes, hostels and amounted to +1,700 people.
- Other local adjustments** (unknown) +300 people.

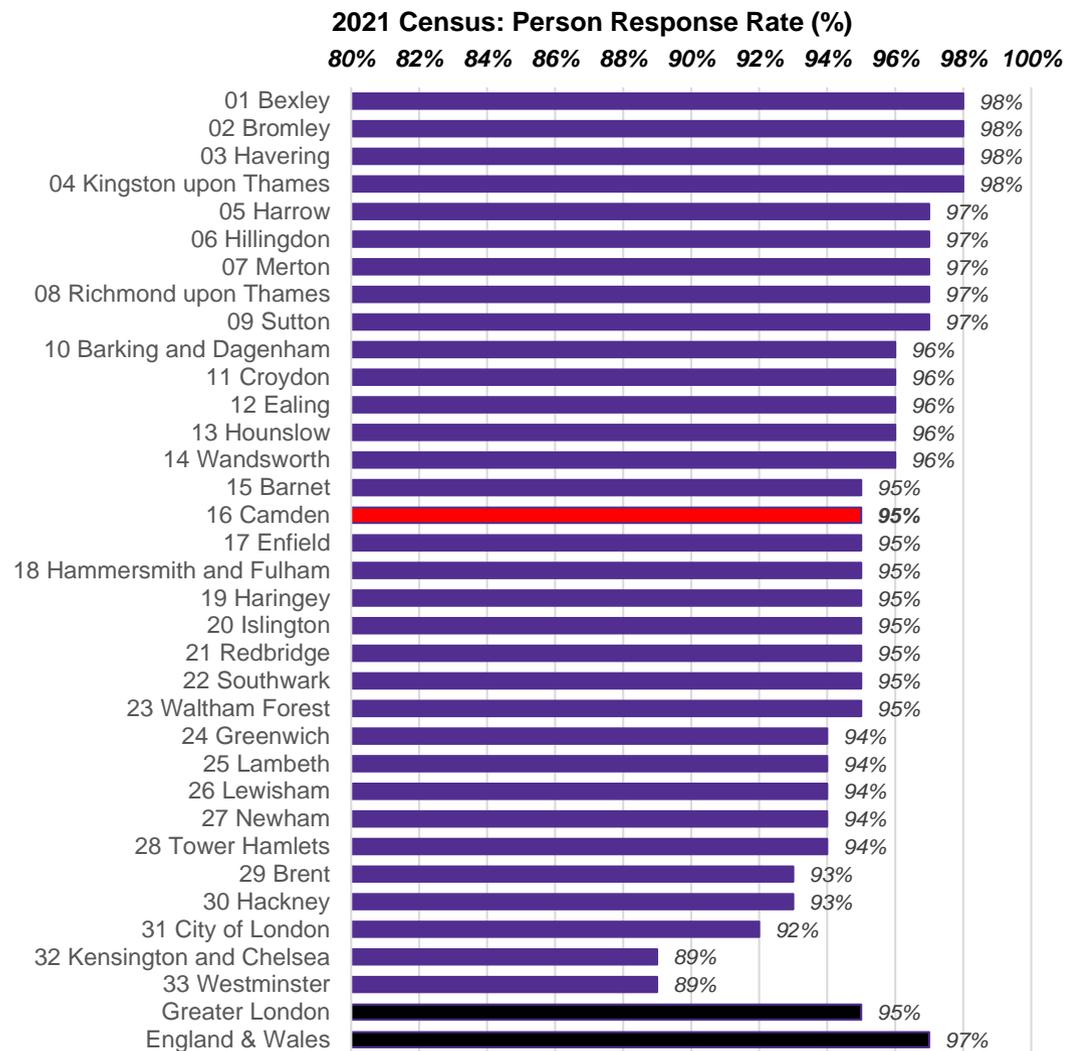
Measure	Camden 2021
<b>Census estimate of usual residents</b>	<b>210,100</b>
Census count of usual residents	199,800
Response rate for usual residents	95%
Estimate of households occupied by at least one usual resident	92,800
Council Tax occupied households	99,500
<b>Census estimate of usual residents</b>	<b>210,100</b>
Count of usual residents	199,800
Adjustment for under-coverage in households	10,500
Adjustment for over-count in households	-2,200
Adjustment for under-coverage in communal establishments	1,700
Other local adjustments	300

- Census response rate** is calculated as the number of people found in the initial census response expressed as a proportion of the final adjusted census estimate – in Camden equating to 95%.
- 98,800 occupied households in Camden were found by the census.** The comparison with Council Tax ‘occupied households’ suggests that there are a large discrepancy (7,300). However, definitional differences in the data make conclusions hard to draw.

# Response rates

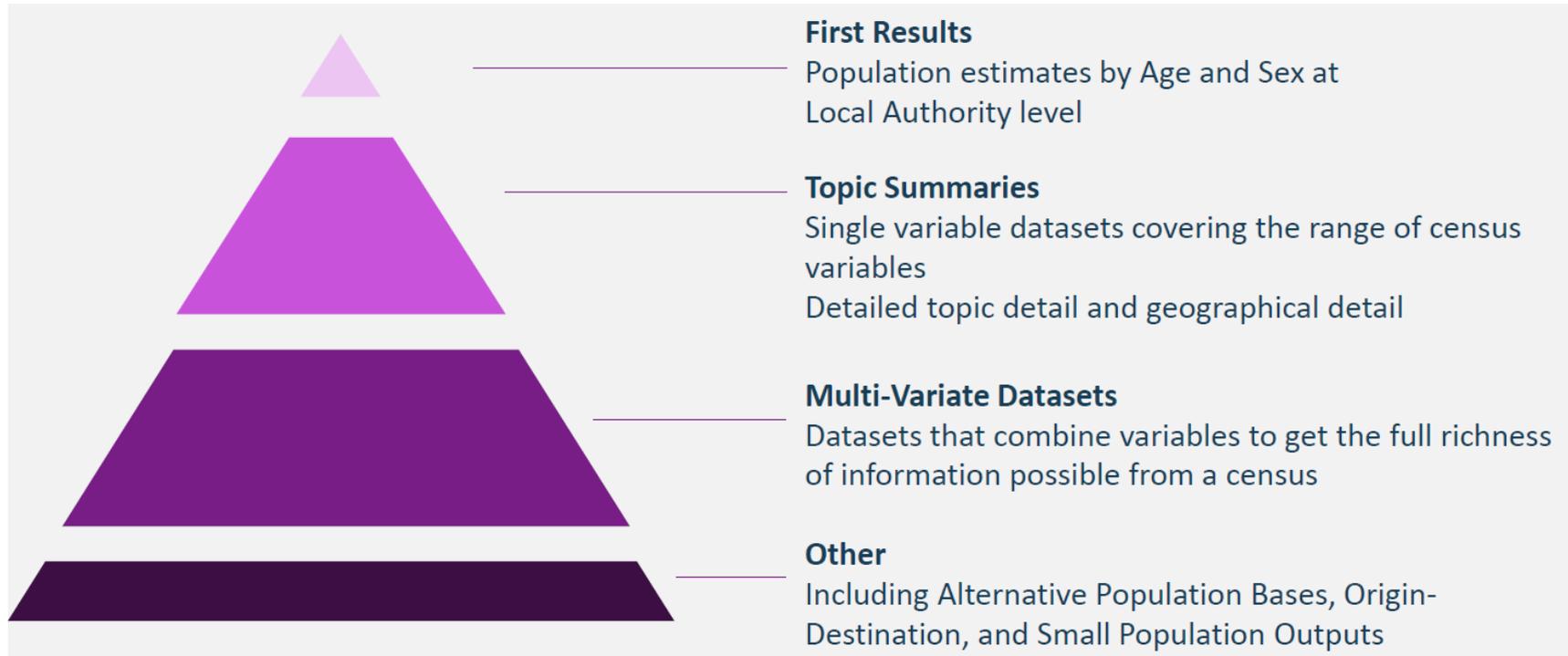
- The 2021 Census overall person response rate for Camden was 95%.** This is very high compared to previous censuses: 87% in 2011 (which was considered ‘good’) and 76% back in 2001. This compares to the England & Wales person response rate in 2021 of 97%.
- The response rates have been output to the nearest whole percentage point, so it is not possible to rank local authorities (LAs) accurately,** i.e. LAs with the same response rate will be ranked alphabetically. By this process:

  - Camden ranks 297<sup>th</sup> of 331 LAs in E&W
  - Camden ranks 16<sup>th</sup> of 33 London authorities
- Camden household response rate** was slightly higher at 96%. This compares with 96% overall for London and 97% for England & Wales.
- The higher rates of response in 2021** could be attributed to many people being at home during the pandemic and the ease of making an online response (the vast majority of responses), but it *could* also indicate inaccuracy with the census adjustments method.

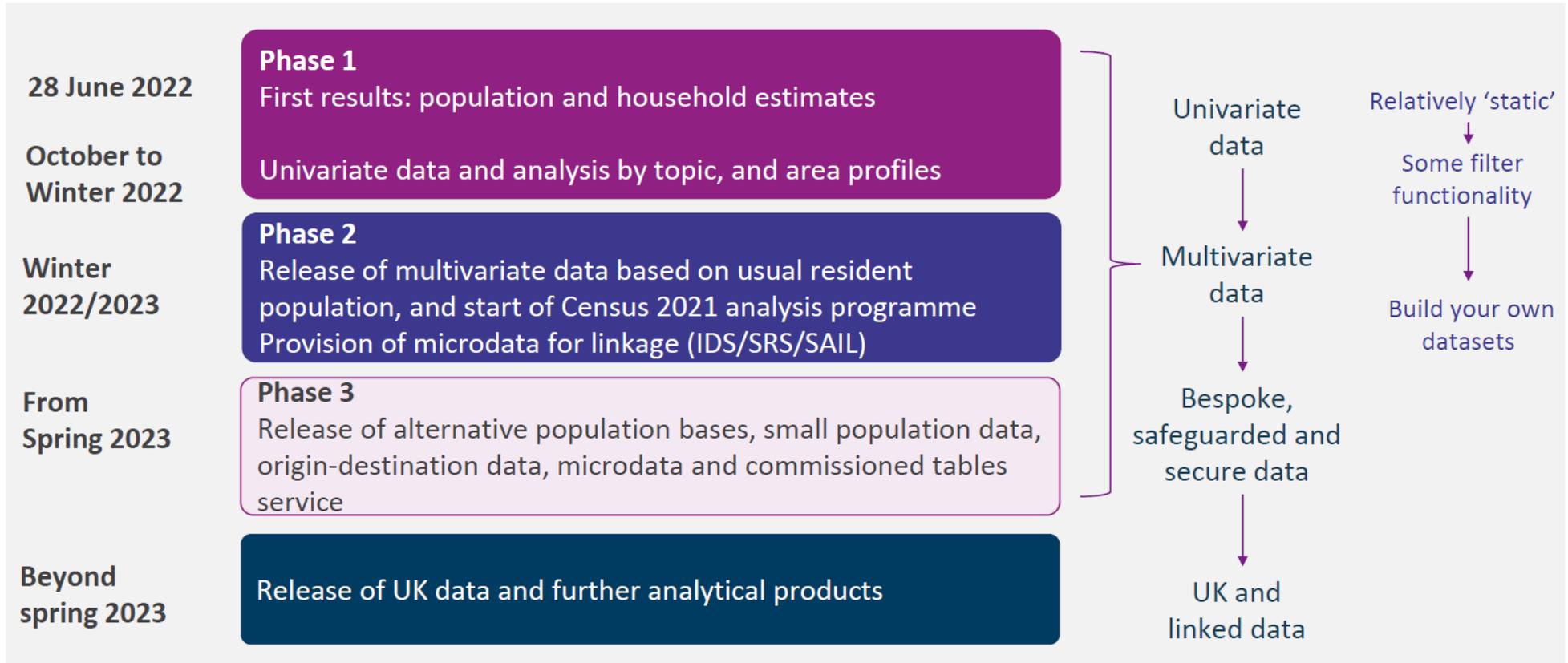


# Much more to come

- **The 2021 Census 'First Results' are just the 'tip of the iceberg'.** The First Results that were published on 28 June 2022 were overall population and households for local authority areas in England & Wales.
- **The diagram is a representation of the entirety of the outputs** that we can expect from the 2021 Census. The indicated top portion is where we are at the moment with the First Results, while there is an increasing amount of detail still to come, both in terms of the breadth of population and household characteristics and for different levels of geography, from the national down to local level.



# 2021 Census outputs release schedule



# 2021 Census Phase One Release Plans

28 June 2022

## First results

Population and household estimates, at local authority level, by sex by age

October  
through  
December  
2022

## Topic summaries, primarily univariate data

1. Demography and migration

2. Ethnic group, national identity, language and religion

3. UK armed forces veterans

4. Housing

5. Labour market and travel to work

6. Sexual orientation and gender identity

7. Education

8. Health, disability, and unpaid care

# Further information

- **Data** For access to the data used to create this report:
  - **2021 Census first release** datasets for local authorities can be downloaded from the [ONS website](#).
  - **2011 Census** data can be found on the [NOMIS](#) website.
- **ONS interactive visual** ONS has produced an interactive web-based guide to how population has changed in different areas – see the story for [Camden](#).
- **London analysis and pandemic impacts** The Greater London Authority (GLA) has carried out a pan-London analysis of the first release results, available on [GLA datastore](#). The GLA has also carried out analysis on pandemic impacts on recent population trends: Population change in London during the COVID-19 pandemic (February 2022 update), also available on [GLA datastore](#).
- **Future census data** The first release is only a small part of the census results – the majority of statistics are still to come. More detailed results about the characteristics of the population, and localities, will be released by the ONS from Autumn 2022 into 2023. The timetable for future census releases can be found on the [ONS website](#).
- **Open Data Camden** For more facts and figures about Camden please see the [Open Data Camden](#) website.
- **Contact** This report was produced by Camden Council’s Knowledge & Improvement team, part of the Strategy Family. For more information please email: [population@camden.gov.uk](mailto:population@camden.gov.uk).