

SECTION 3: GYPSY ROMA TRAVELLER

Gypsy and Traveller (in Scotland, 'Gypsy Traveller') is a collective term used to describe a wide variety of cultural and ethnic groups. There are many ways in which ethnicity may be established, including language, nomadic way of life and, crucially, self-identification. Defining a person as a Gypsy or Traveller is a matter of self-ascription and does not exclude those who are living in houses. Ethnic identity is not lost when members of the communities settle, but it continues and adapts to the new circumstances. Although most Gypsies and Travellers see travelling as part of their identity, they can choose to live in different ways, including permanently 'on the road', in caravans or mobile homes, or in settled accommodation (for part or all of the year).

(Source: Extract from EHRC Glossary)

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/about-us/our-work/key-projects/britain-fairer/supporting-evidence/glossary>

In County Durham and Darlington the Gypsy Traveller community form the largest single ethnic minority grouping in the area. However due to a number of reasons it has historically been difficult to both identify and engage with this community which has resulted in a poor understanding of their health and associated health needs.

The 2011 Census collected information about Gypsy and Irish Travellers as a specific grouping. Roma are treated as a separate group collected in 'other' ethnicity. Nationally, Census 2011 identified 58,000 Gypsy or Irish Travellers. This is just 0.1% of the population; the smallest of all the ethnic groups.

The proportion of Darlington residents that identify themselves in the 2011 Census as Gypsy and Travellers is three times higher than the national average but equates to only 0.3% of the population. The Census return shows 350 individuals declaring as Gypsy or Irish Traveller locally. School Census 2015 information shows that 1.3% of the school population of Darlington is from the Gypsy and Traveller community. This is 3.7 times the national average.

Nationally, 39% of those that identify as Gypsy and Traveller are under 20 years of age compared to 24% for the population as a whole. The group also has a low median age of 26, compared to the overall median aged for England and Wales of 39. This low median figure is likely to be because unfortunately the average lifespan for males is lower than for the population as a whole.

- **Gypsy or Irish Travellers reported the worst health out of all ethnic minorities.**
Gypsy or Irish Travellers had the lowest proportion of people rating their general health as 'very good' or 'good' at 70% compared to 81% of the overall population of England and Wales.
- **Gypsy or Irish Travellers had the highest proportion with no qualifications.**
Gypsy or Irish Travellers (over the age of 16) had the highest proportion of no qualifications for any ethnic group at 60%, higher than for England and Wales as a whole (23%).

- **Just under half of Gypsy or Irish Travellers were economically active.**

Gypsy or Irish Travellers had the lowest proportion of economically active at 47%, compared with 63% for England and Wales as a whole. Over half of those who were economically active were employed (51% compared to 75% for the total of England and Wales) and 20% were unemployed (compared to 7% for the whole of England and Wales). They had the highest proportion of self-employed out of the ethnic groups at 26% compared to 14% for England and Wales. Just over half were economically inactive; the most common reason was looking after the home or family (27%) which was higher than that for England and Wales (11%).

- **Elementary occupations was the most common employment type for Gypsy or Irish Travellers.**

For Gypsy or Irish Travellers (16 and over) in employment, elementary occupations (such as farm workers, process plant workers or service staff) were the most common type of employment at 22% (11% for England and Wales). The second highest occupation was skilled trades at 19% such as agricultural, electric and building trades, higher than England and Wales and all other ethnic groups.

The most recent Household Survey continues to include Gypsy/Irish Traveller information:

- Gypsy/Irish Travellers are four times more likely to die between the ages of 55-74
- Alcohol intake over the recommended maximum intake is lower among the Traveller community

Note:

There are differences in data collection across the UK for 'Gypsy, Traveller or Irish Traveller', which make it difficult to produce a UK estimate. Gypsy, Traveller or Irish Traveller is collected in England and Wales and 'Gypsy/Traveller' is collected in Scotland and they are both output under 'White'. However, if there is a need to show a UK output for, 'Gypsy, Traveller or Irish Traveller'(and the numbers are not small or disclosive,) the responses from the GB questions can be combined with the responses from the 'Irish Traveller' category from Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland's framework for monitoring minority ethnic and migrant people' published by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister in July 2011 recommends that Roma is categorised under 'Other' ethnic group. This is because there is a distinct category for Irish Travellers, who by law (Race Relations Order) are categorised as an ethnic group in their own right. Roma is not a subset of the Irish Traveller group and the need is to have accurate data on both Roma and on Irish Travellers).

Additional information about Gypsy and Travellers can be found using the following link.

Gypsy and Traveller Health 2016 -<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gypsy-and-traveller-health-accommodation-and-living-environment>