

**The diverse population of South Yorkshire**  
**(updated October 2014)**

**South Yorkshire** is a metropolitan county in the Yorkshire and Humber region of England. According to the 2011 census results, it has a population of 1.33 million. It consists of four metropolitan boroughs: Barnsley (231,000), Doncaster (302,000), Rotherham (257,000), and the city of Sheffield (553,000). South Yorkshire was created on 1 April 1974, as a result of the Local Government Act 1972.

Lying on the east side of the Pennines, South Yorkshire is landlocked, and borders Derbyshire (to the south-west), West Yorkshire (to the northwest), North Yorkshire (to the north), the East Riding of Yorkshire (to the northeast), Lincolnshire (to the east) and Nottinghamshire (to the southeast). The Sheffield Urban Area is the ninth most populous conurbation in England, and dominates the western half of South Yorkshire.

Table 1. White British and Black & Minority Ethnic (BME) groups in 2011

Urban Area	Total Population	% White British	% Black and Minority Ethnic
<b>Barnsley</b>	231,221	96.1%	3.9%
<b>Doncaster</b>	302,402	91.8%	8.2%
<b>Rotherham</b>	257,280	91.9%	8.1%
<b>Sheffield</b>	552,698	80.8%	19.2%
<b>Total</b>	1,343,601	88.1%	11.9%

Across the four urban areas of South Yorkshire, the composition of the black and minority ethnic groups differs markedly.

Table 2. Most populous BME groups by Urban Area

Rank	Barnsley	Doncaster	Rotherham	Sheffield	All South Yorkshire
<b>1.</b>	White: Polish (1377)	White: Polish (4469)	Asian: British Pakistani (7609)	Asian: British Pakistani (21990)	Asian: British Pakistani (32538)
<b>2.</b>	Black: British African (995)	Asian: British Pakistani (2728)	Black: British African (1672)	Black: British African (11543)	Black: British African (15519)
<b>3.</b>	Mixed: white & black Caribbean (644)	Asian: British Indian (1865)	Asian: British Indian (961)	Other: Arab (8432)	Asian: British Chinese (9551)
<b>4.</b>	White: Irish (567)	Mixed: white & black Caribbean (1413)	Mixed: white and Asian (865)	Asian: British Chinese (7398)	Arab (9412)
<b>5.</b>	Asian: British Indian (442)	Black: British African (1309)	White: other East European (824)	Asian: British Indian (5868)	Asian: British Indian (9136)
<b>6.</b>	Asian: British Chinese (440)	White: Irish (1183)	Mixed: white and black Caribbean (787)	Black: British Caribbean (5506)	White: Polish (8839)

## **Patterns and Trends:**

- The Arab group is the fourth most numerous group in the county, but is concentrated in the Sheffield area
- The Asian: British Pakistani group is among the most numerous in all areas except Barnsley, and is the most numerous across the county as a whole
- The White: Polish group is the most numerous in Barnsley and Doncaster, but does not appear in the top 6 of Sheffield or Rotherham
- In Rotherham, the White: Polish group is outnumbered by the White: Other East European group
- The Black: British African group features in the top 5 of all four areas and is the second most populous across the county
- The Asian: British Chinese group is the third most populous group overall, but is concentrated largely in Sheffield
- The Asian: British Indian group appears in the top 5 of all four areas, and is the fifth most populous across the county
- The Mixed: white and black Caribbean group appears in the top 6 of Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham, but not Sheffield or the county as a whole
- The White: Irish group appears in the top 6 of only Barnsley and Doncaster
- The Mixed: white and Asian group appears in the top 6 of Rotherham only

## **SHEFFIELD**

Sheffield is easily the most ethnically diverse area of South Yorkshire with 19.2% of its population from black and minority ethnic groups. The largest of these groups is the Pakistani community. This community displays a high degree of geographical concentration, living in two main areas: The 'inner city' Darnall, Fir Vale and Tinsley neighbourhoods, and Sharrow and Nether Edge wards further towards the western fringe of the city core.

The Asian: British Indian community is smaller but well established. A number of the families have lived in the Sheffield area for 40 – 50 years. The 2001 Census indicated just over 3,000 residents as being Asian or Asian-British Indian. A significant number of Indians in Sheffield can be found in Broomhall.

In May 2004 the European Union was increased to incorporate 8 new accession states. These were Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. In 2007 two further countries, Romania and Bulgaria were included and migration from all of these states into Britain followed. In Sheffield, White: Polish is the most highly represented of these groups.

The top three areas of residence for people in the Black: British Caribbean group were listed as the Woodside, Burngreave and Wybourn areas of Sheffield, whereas

for the Black: British African group, the main areas of residence are Woodside, Burngreave and Broomhall.

The 'Chinese' community in Sheffield has its origins in Hong Kong rather than mainland China and is well established but small compared to those found in other English cities. The hub of this community is along the London Road area, which is home to a Chinese Community Centre. There is also a successful Chinese Christian Church in Heeley. Other communities of Chinese residents exist in Sharrow, Endcliffe, Broomhall and Broomhill areas of Sheffield.

A similarly well-established Irish community exists in Sheffield, but its numbers have not grown as quickly as those of some more recent arrivals.

A Bangladeshi community resides mainly in the Darnall, Highfield and Sharrow areas of Sheffield.

Somalis, part of the Black: British African group, are one of the oldest minority ethnic groups in Sheffield, arriving to work in the steel industry in the 1930s. Civil war broke out in Somalia in 1988 leading to further migration. The Somali community in Sheffield has further grown through internal migration of Somalis within Britain, through family reunions and through the arrival of European Somalis who have migrated mainly from The Netherlands and Scandinavia over more recent years.

The history of the Yemeni community in Britain can be traced back to 1885. The Yemeni community was the first Arab community and one of the first ever ethnic groups to settle in the UK. The community at the time was mostly single men working as sailors and donkey workers on British Merchant navy ships. Some Yemeni men joined the British Army and others worked at the docks. Yemeni men gradually moved from sea life to steel factories and foundries in towns and cities such as Sheffield, Newport and South Shields.

In Sheffield, a large percentage of the Other: Arab group are from Yemen, as a continuation of the city's long-standing connection with that country. The Kurdish Community Centre is located within Burngreave where there are now significant numbers of this community residing. This Centre highlights the community belief that there are 300 to 400 *homeless* Kurds. The other top areas of residence are Netherthorpe, Parkhill, Darnall, Burngreave and Firvale.

## **DONCASTER**

Doncaster is the largest Metropolitan Borough in England covering an area of 225 square miles.

Doncaster's most numerous BME group is White: Polish, though there is representation from all East Europe accession states. The central locations of Hyde Park, Hexthorpe, Balby and Wheatley have the highest number of East European residents.

Doncaster is a designated distribution area for immigrants and hosts an official immigration removal centre.

The 2011 census suggests numbers of less than 600, but it is widely recognised that Doncaster has a large Gypsy and Traveller population (approx 4,000-6,000 recorded as resident only, according to Doncaster council). The majority of these are Romany

Gypsies residing in the Armthorpe, Bentley, Stainforth and Thorne areas. According to the South Yorkshire police gypsy liaison officer there are around 30 Gypsy and Traveller sites comprising of private and council owned and a large number of the community now reside in houses.

Asian: British Pakistani communities have predominately settled in the Hyde Park, Hexthorpe, Balby and Wheatley areas. Black British Caribbean communities mainly reside in the Hexthorpe and Hyde Park areas of Doncaster.

Doncaster has a long-established Asian: British Indian community of Sikh religion.

## **ROTHERHAM**

Rotherham's largest and most established ethnic minority population is Asian: British Pakistani. This community are predominantly located in and around the urban core of Rotherham Town Centre. A possible measure of the long-standing establishment and integration of this group is the fact that the Mixed: White and Asian group is the fourth most populous in Rotherham, more numerous than any East European, Arabic or Chinese group.

There is evidence locally to show that people from the Czech Republic and Slovakia in Rotherham are frequently of Roma heritage and there is an emerging community of Czech and Slovakian Roma families in the Eastwood area.

There is a significant White: Irish population. The areas of Rotherham most populated with Irish residents are North and South Anston.

## **BARNSELEY**

Barnsley has the smallest population of the four major urban areas in South Yorkshire. Barnsley's most numerous BME group is White: Polish, and there is increasing representation from other East Europe accession states.

In contrast to all other areas of South Yorkshire, Barnsley has been settled in very low numbers by the Asian: British Pakistani group. The Black: British African group is more numerous, but this is not confined to any particular area of the town.

There is a small Chinese community residing around the Kendray and Worsbrough areas and this is directly related to small businesses such as restaurants and takeaways in the vicinity.