Census 2021

Gypsy or Irish Traveller and Roma Topic Report July 2024









57

people in Ceredigion identified as a Gypsy or Irish Traveller

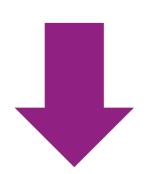


29

people in Ceredigion identified as Roma

-17

people in Ceredigion identifying as a Gypsy or Irish Traveller since the 2011 Census



0.08%

(86 people)

of Ceredigion's population identifying as either a Gypsy or Irish Traveller or Roma

Younger than average population



0.0%

of the Gypsy or Irish Traveller and Roma population live in a caravan or other mobile or temporary structure

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1.0. Background

The Census questionnaire asks individuals about their ethnic group, there are multiple options to choose from. This report will look specifically at those who noted that they identified as White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller, or White: Roma, in Wales and in Ceredigion.

Before the 2011 Census, it was established that those from a Gypsy or Traveller background often suffer from poor outcomes, therefore there was a need to collect characteristics on this group. For the first time in 2011, the Census included a specific option for Gypsy or Irish Travellers, and for the first time in 2021, the Census also included an option for Roma.

The term Gypsy, Roma and Traveller has been used by policymakers and researchers to describe a range of ethnic groups or those with nomadic ways of life who are not from a specific ethnicity. In Wales it is common to differentiate between:

- Gypsies (including English Gypsies, Scottish Gypsies or Travellers, Welsh Gypsies and Romani Gypsies)
- Irish Traveller (who have specific Irish roots)
- Roma, who are understood to be more recent migrants from Central and Eastern Europe. In continental Europe, however, all groups with nomadic histories are categorised as "Roma", a much broader term that, while it includes Gypsies and Irish Travellers, is not the way in which most British communities would identify themselves.

As well, the term Traveller can also encompass groups that travel. This includes, but is not limited to: New Travellers, Boaters and Show people.

Gypsies and some Travellers are recognised in law as being ethnic groups protected against discrimination by the Equality Act 2010. Migrant Roma are protected both by virtue of their ethnicities and their national identities. Whilst other groups, such as New Travellers are not recognised under the Act and are considered to be cultural groups.

It should be noted that often Gypsy or Travellers and Roma populations in Wales are underrepresented. This is because of low levels of engagement, which is due to a variety of reasons. It can be linked to the unwillingness of Gypsy or Traveller and Roma communities in disclosing their ethnicities due to fears of discrimination. Other factors contributing to underrepresentation include:

- Limiting literacy and/digital skills meaning that they cannot take part in the Census without aid.
- General distrust of public services / governance.
- Lack of knowledge around the importance of the Census.

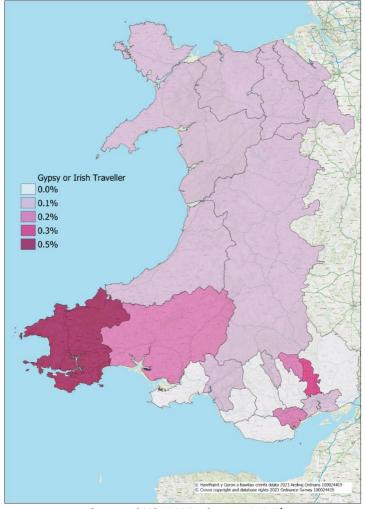
2.0. Wales

Gypsy or Irish Traveller

According to the 2021 Census, in Wales, 3,550 people noted that they identified as a Gypsy or Irish Traveller, this equates to just 0.1% of the total population of Wales. Since the 2011 Census, this is an increase of 765 people identifying as a Gypsy or Irish Traveller.

The Gypsy and Irish Traveller population in Wales is relatively small and communities tend to be concentrated in South and South-West Wales (Figure 1). Although Cardiff County had the highest number of people identifying as a Gypsy or Irish Traveller (673 people), Pembrokeshire had the highest percentage of its population identifying as Gypsy or Irish Travellers (0.5%/575 people). This is an increase since the 2011 Census, where approximately 0.4% of Pembrokeshire's population identified as a Gypsy or Irish Traveller (454 people). The Welsh local authorities with the lowest percentage of Gypsy or Irish Travellers within its population (0.0%) are located in the South, including Bridgend, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Swansea, and the Vale of Glamorgan. The County of Monmouthshire had the lowest number of people identifying as a Gypsy or Irish Traveller (36 people).

Figure 1: Map of percentage of people identifying as Gypsy or Irish Traveller by Local Authority.



(Source: ONS (2022): Census 2021)1

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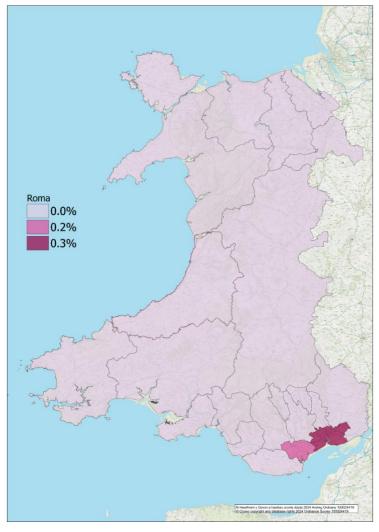
¹ ONS (2022). Census 2021. TS021 - Ethnic group. Available at:

The distribution patterns of the Gypsy or Irish Traveller communities can be attributed to a variety of factors. Many communities have historical ties to specific areas due to traditional travelling routes; other areas have better employment opportunities (for example, local authorities with agricultural or manual labour markets); while some local authorities have established Gypsy and Traveller Sites or housing specifically allocated for Gypsy and Irish Travellers (e.g., Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Cardiff, Newport etc.), which may contribute to higher populations within these areas.

Roma

In Wales 1,843 people identified as Roma, according to the 2021 Census, this is equivalent to 0.1% of the total population in Wales. The Roma population in Wales is relatively small and concentrated in a few local authority areas in South Wales (Figure 2). Newport has the highest percentage of its population identifying as Roma (0.3%/306 people), whereas Cardiff had the highest number of people identifying as Roma (593 people). The local authority with the lowest number of people identifying as Roma is Blaenau Gwent (14 people).

Figure 2: Map of percentage of people identifying as Roma by Local Authority.



(Source: ONS (2022): Census 2021)2

² ONS (2022). Census 2021. TS021 - Ethnic group. Available at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?mode=construct&version=0&dataset=2041&geog=lacu2021

3.0. Ceredigion

This section looks at the key demographic data from the 2021 Census on the outcomes and experiences of the Gypsy or Irish Travellers and Roma population in Ceredigion, relative to the outcomes and experiences of all ethnicities (referred to in this report as 'Ceredigion's overall population').

Gypsy or Irish Traveller

According to the 2021 Census, approximately 57 people in Ceredigion identified as a Gypsy or an Irish Traveller. This is just 0.1% of the total population in Ceredigion and is the same as the Welsh average. Ceredigion had the 6th lowest number of people identifying as a Gypsy or Irish Traveller in Wales, joint with Bridgend (57).

Since the previous Census in 2011, the number of people identifying as a Gypsy or Irish Traveller has reduced by 17 (from 74), although the percentage of the population this group represents remained the same (0.1%).

Roma

Approximately 29 people in Ceredigion identified as Roma, this is equivalent to 0.0% of Ceredigion's total population, and is below the Welsh average of 0.1%. Across Wales, Ceredigion had the 7th lowest number of people identifying as Roma.

3.1. Age & Sex

Studies surrounding the Gypsy or Irish Traveller and Roma population in Wales suggests that the population pyramid for these population groups show similar characteristics to that of a developing country. The characteristics represent high-birth rates and low life expectancy. The data below (Figure 3) shows us that this is the case in Ceredigion, where we have a younger than average Gypsy or Irish Traveller and Roma population and a lower-than-average percentage of people aged over 65 within these population groups. In addition to higher birth rates and lower than average life expectancy, this unique demographic profile could also be driven by socio-economic and cultural factors, such as, migration patterns of different age groups, healthcare access and cultural practices.³

Gypsy or Irish Traveller

The age and sex structure of the Gypsy or Irish Traveller population differs to Ceredigion's overall population, with the Gypsy or Irish Traveller population being younger.

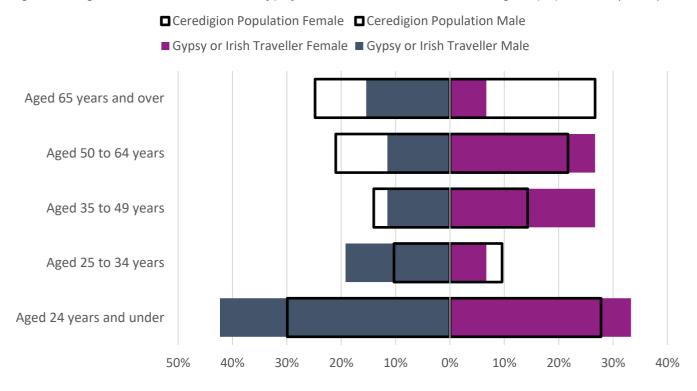
³ Garrett, J and Mitchell, M. (2021). Locked out: A snapshot of access to General Practice for nomadic communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Available at: <u>Locked-out-A-snapshot-of-access-to-General-Practice-for-nomadic-communities-during-the-COVID-19-pandemic.pdf</u> (gypsy-traveller.org)

⁴ House of Commons (2019). Gypsies and Travellers. Available at: <u>Gypsies and Travellers - House of Commons Library</u> (parliament.uk).

Of the total Gypsy or Irish Traveller population in Ceredigion, 53.6% (30) were female (compared to 51.1% of Ceredigion's population) and 46.4% were male (compared with 48.9% of Ceredigion's population). Half (50.0%, 27) of the Gypsy or Irish Traveller population in Ceredigion were under 35 years old (compared with 38.7% of Ceredigion's total population). Just under a third (30.4%, 17) of the Gypsy or Irish traveller population in Ceredigion were aged over 50 (compared to 47.1% of Ceredigion's total population).

Figure 3 below outlines the age and sex structure of the Gypsy or Irish Traveller and Ceredigion's population in 2021.

Figure 3: Age and sex structure of Gypsy or Irish Traveller and Ceredigion population (2021).



(Source: ONS (2022): Census 2021)⁵

Roma

Similar to the Gypsy or Irish Traveller population in Ceredigion, the Roma population is younger and has a slightly higher proportion of females compared to the general population.

Of the total Roma population in Ceredigion, 54.8% (17) were female (compared with 51.1% of Ceredigion's population) and 45.1% were male (compared with 48.9% of Ceredigion's population). Almost half (45.2%, 14) of the Roma population in Ceredigion were under 25 years old (compared with 28.8% of Ceredigion's total population). Just 5.9% (1) of the Roma population in Ceredigion were aged 65 years and over (compared to 25.7% of Ceredigion's total population).

⁵ ONS (2022). Census 2021. RM032 - Ethnic group by sex by age. Available at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?mode=construct&version=0&dataset=2132&geog=lacu2021

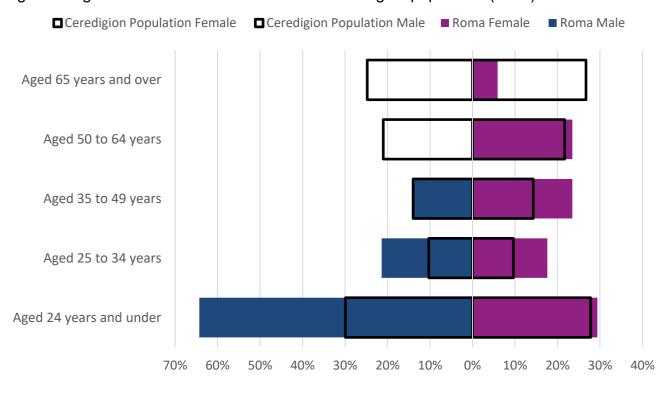


Figure 4: Age and sex structure of Roma and Ceredigion population (2021).

(Source: ONS (2022): Census 2021)6

3.2. Health

Research shows that Gypsy or Irish Traveller and Roma communities are often associated with health inequalities.⁷ The reason for these health inequalities are complex, but include their invisibility in mainstream datasets, meaning the needs of this population group are not identified within services, lack of trust in services, as a consequence of fear of seeking help or experiences of discrimination, and lack of digital skills and low literacy, leading to members of the community unable to access necessary services.

Gypsy or Irish Traveller & Roma

The Gypsy or Irish Traveller population and Roma population reported poorer general health compared to the general population in Ceredigion (see Figure 5). The 2021 Census revealed that 14.0% (8) of the Gypsy or Irish Traveller population and 10.0% (3) of Roma population in Ceredigion reported that they were either in 'bad' or 'very bad' health, which is greater than the general population (6.2%). On the other hand, a greater proportion of the Roma population in Ceredigion reported 'very good health' (60.0%) compared to the general population (45.0%).

⁶ ONS (2022). Census 2021. RM032 - Ethnic group by sex by age. Available at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?mode=construct&version=0&dataset=2132&geog=lacu2021

⁷ Welsh Government (2015). Travelling to Better Health. Available at: travelling-to-better-health.pdf (gov.wales).

However, the higher proportion of reported poorer health in these groups (particularly the Gypsy or Irish Traveller community) is a concern, especially as we know these groups are younger than Ceredigion's population, and therefore poorer reported health cannot be associated with old age.

100% 90% 80% 70% 60. 60% 50% 33.7% 33.3% 28.1% 40% %9 20.0% 30% 24. % 15. 20% 10% 0% Very Bad Health Fair Health Good Health Very Good Health Bad Health ■ Roma ■ Gypsy or Irish Traveller ■ Ceredigion Population

Figure 5: Self-reported general health of Gypsy or Irish Traveller, Roma and Ceredigion population (2021).

(Source: ONS (2022): Census 2021)8

3.3. Disability

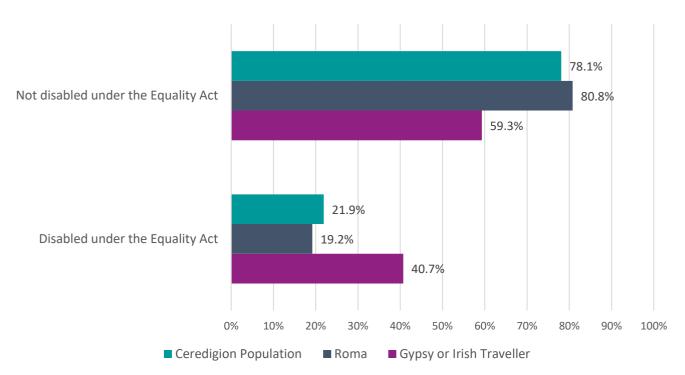
The Census asks participants whether their day-to-day activities are limited by a long-term physical or mental health condition or illness, if the answer to this question was 'yes, a little' or 'yes, a lot' participants are then considered to be disabled under the Equalities Act. This is a self-assessing question, which should be considered when analysing the data. Census data tells us that these population groups tend to have poorer health, this could be because of a disability, or may result in a disability.

Gypsy or Irish Traveller & Roma

Results from the 2021 Census show that those from a Gypsy or Irish Traveller ethnic background are more likely to be disabled under the Equality Act 2010 compared to Ceredigion's average disabled population. As is shown on Figure 6 below, just under half (40.6%) of the Gypsy or Irish Traveller population in Ceredigion are considered to be disabled under the Equalities Act, this is compared to under a quarter (21.9%) of the Ceredigion average.

⁸ ONS (2022). Census 2021. General Health by Ethnic Group from Census 2021 Custom Data Tool. Available at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/create

Figure 6: Gypsy or Irish Traveller, Roma, and Ceredigion population with disability (2021).



(Source: ONS (2022): Census 2021)9

Differing from the Gypsy or Irish Traveller population, the Roma population group in Ceredigion are less likely to be disabled under the Equality Act 2010, compared to the Ceredigion average. Just under one in five (19.2%) of the Roma population are considered disabled under the Equality Act, compared to 21.9% of the Ceredigion population.

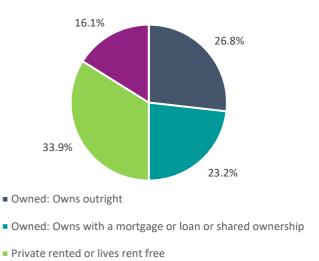
Although the Roma population have a poorer assessment of their overall health (as reflected in Figure 5), a lower proportion have a disability compared to the general population.

⁹ ONS (2022). Census 2021. Disability by Ethnic Group from Census 2021 Custom Data Tool. Available at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/create

3.4. Housing Tenure

Gypsy or Irish Traveller

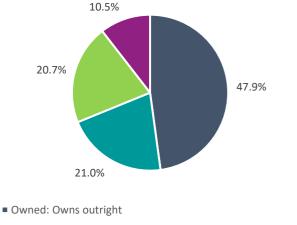
Figure 7: Percentage of Gypsy or Irish Traveller population by Tenure (2021)



■ Rented: Social rented

(Source: ONS (2022): Census 2021)10

Figure 8: Percentage of Ceredigion population by Tenure (2021)



- Owned: Owns with a mortgage or loan or shared ownership
- Private rented or lives rent free
- Rented: Social rented

(Source: ONS (2022): Census 2021)11

Most of the Gypsy or Irish Traveller population in Ceredigion rent privately or live rent free (33.9%). While this population group are least likely to rent their homes within the social rented sector (16.1%), this however, is higher than the Ceredigion average (10.5%).

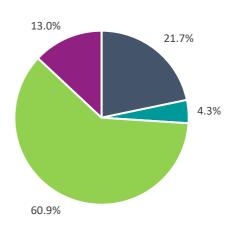
Gypsy or Irish Travellers are less likely to own a home compared to the Ceredigion average (50% of Gypsy or Irish Travellers compared to 68.9% of general population). This maybe because of the younger age profile of this population and therefore less likely to have purchased a home. Gypsy or Irish Travellers are also known for their nomadic lifestyles, therefore purchasing a property might be undesirable for some.

¹⁰ ONS (2022). Census 2021. Tenure by Ethnic Group from Census 2021 Custom Data Tool. Available at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/create

¹¹ ONS (2022). Census 2021. Tenure by Ethnic Group from Census 2021 Custom Data Tool. Available at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/create

Roma

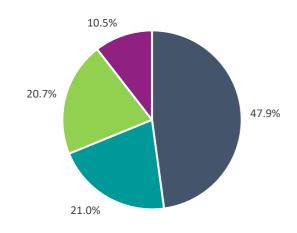
Figure 9: Percentage of Roma population by Tenure (2021).



- Owned: Owns outright
- Owned: Owns with a mortgage or loan or shared ownership
- Private rented or lives rent free
- Rented: Social rented

(Source: ONS (2022): Census 2021)¹²

Figure 10: Percentage of Ceredigion population by Tenure (2021).



- Owned: Owns outright
- Owned: Owns with a mortgage or loan or shared ownership
- Private rented or lives rent free
- Rented: Social rented

(Source: ONS (2022): Census 2021)13

Over half (60.9%) of the Roma population in Ceredigion rent privately or live rent free, whereas just over a quarter own their home (26.0%), and 13.0% rent within the social sector. The Roma population are far less likely to own their home compared to the Ceredigion average (26.0% compared to 68.9%). Again, the younger age profile of this population means they have had less of a chance to get on the property ladder, or their migratory characteristics could mean that purchasing a home would be inappropriate.

3.5. Accommodation Type

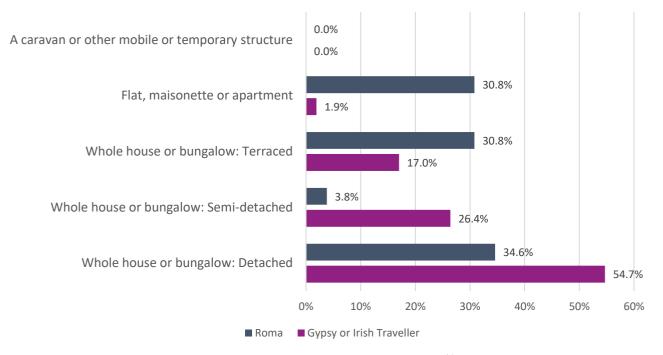
Gypsy or Irish Traveller & Roma

Over half (54.7%) of the Gypsy or Irish Traveller population in Ceredigion live in a detached whole house or bungalow, just 1.9% live in a flat, maisonette or apartment and 0.0% live in a caravan or other mobile or temporary structure (Figure 11). The distribution across accommodation type is slightly more varied for the Roma population, with a more distinct split across the different types. A slight majority of the Roma population in Ceredigion live in a detached house or bungalow (34.6%). This is closely followed by a flat, maisonette or apartment, and a terraced whole house or bungalow (both with 30.8%).

¹² ONS (2022). Census 2021. Tenure by Ethnic Group from Census 2021 Custom Data Tool. Available at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/create

¹³ ONS (2022). Census 2021. Tenure by Ethnic Group from Census 2021 Custom Data Tool. Available at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/create

Figure 11: Percentage of Gypsy or Irish Traveller and non-Gypsy or Irish Traveller population by Accommodation Type (2021).



(Source: ONS (2022): Census 2021)14

The low proportion of Gypsy or Irish Travellers residing in a caravan in Ceredigion is surprising given that we would normally associate these groups' lifestyles involving travel. Across Wales, Gypsies and Irish Travellers are almost a hundred times more likely to live in a mobile home or caravan compared to the non-Gypsy or Irish Traveller population, however, this is not the case in Ceredigion. There are no known Transit Sites in Ceredigion for the Gypsy or Irish Traveller community to reside on. We know that this population group do not usually live with other people of a different ethnicity, and therefore would be unlikely to live on a regular residential caravan site. This may explain why most of this population group reside in bricks and mortar in Ceredigion. Furthermore, the very low proportion of Gypsy or Irish Traveller and the Roma population residing in a caravan may highlight that these population groups are absent from official Census results, because they move around, which is supported by research. 16

3.6. Overcrowded Households

The Census allows us to look at the occupancy ratings by bedrooms of households. Below we look specifically at overcrowding (households with -1 or less bedrooms). People who live in overcrowded households are more exposed to negative outcomes. Studies suggest that family relationships can become strained because of overcrowding, which can result in poor mental health, stress and anxiety. If

¹⁴ ONS (2022). Census 2021. Accommodation Type by Ethnic Group from Census 2021 Custom Data Tool. Available at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/create

¹⁵ ONS (2022). Gypsies' and Travellers' lived experiences, culture and identities, England, and Wales: 2022. Available at: <u>Gypsies' and Travellers' lived experiences, culture and identities, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics</u> (ons.gov.uk)

¹⁶ UK Parliament (2012). What we know about inequalities facing Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities. Available at: <u>Tackling inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities - Women and Equalities Committee - House of Commons (parliament.uk)</u>

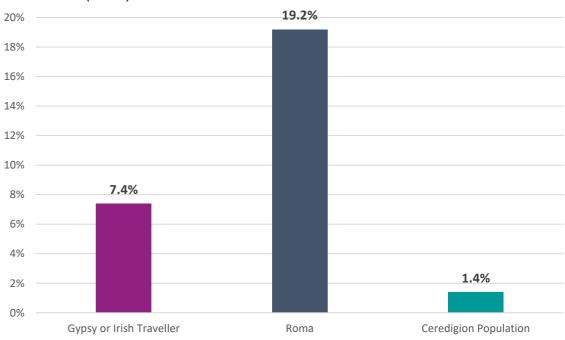
there are children present in the household, their education is likely to be affected because of these outcomes.¹⁷

Gypsy or Irish Traveller & Roma

Results from the 2021 Census show us that the Gypsy or Irish Traveller population and Roma population in Ceredigion are more likely to live in an overcrowded household (7.4% and 19.2% respectively) compared to the Ceredigion average (1.4%).

Research suggests that Gypsy or Irish Travellers and Roma populations are more likely to live in overcrowded households because they reside in caravans or mobile homes, which can be small with only a few bedrooms. However, this is not the case for these groups in Ceredigion as none of them reside in a caravan or mobile home. These figures may suggest that there is a lack of appropriate housing in Ceredigion for the Gypsy or Irish Traveller and Roma population and/or these populations may not be able to afford appropriate housing.

Figure 12: Gypsy or Irish Traveller, Roma and Ceredigion population living in Overcrowded Households (2021).



(Source: ONS (2022): Census 2021)18

¹⁷ Shelter (2005). Full house? How overcrowded housing affects families. Available at: Full house2.indd (ctfassets.net)

¹⁸ ONS (2022). Census 2021. Occupancy Rating by Ethnic Group from Census 2021 Custom Data Tool. Available at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/create

3.7. Economic Activity

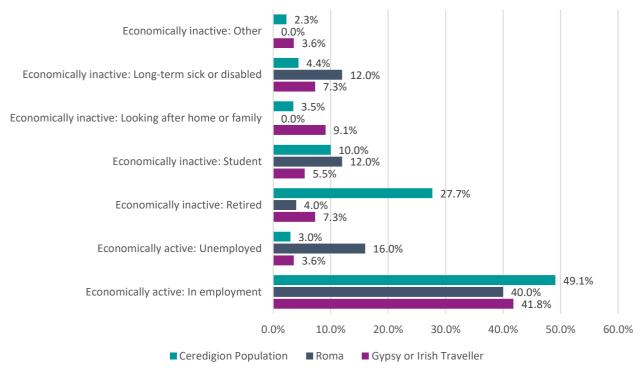
Gypsy or Irish Traveller & Roma

Figure 13 below shows the economic activity of the Gypsy or Irish Traveller and Roma populations alongside the Ceredigion average figures. There is some variation between both groups and the overall population. There is a higher number of the Gypsy or Irish Traveller and Roma populations that are economically inactive because of long-term sick, or disability (7.3% and 12.0% respectively) compared to the Ceredigion average (4.4%).

Additionally, there is a far greater percentage of the Ceredigion population that are economically inactive because of retirement (27.7%), compared to the Gypsy or Irish Traveller population in Ceredigion (7.3%) and Roma population (4.0%). This is unsurprising given the age structure of the Gypsy or Irish Traveller and Roma population in Ceredigion, we know that these population groups are much younger compared to Ceredigion's average population.

One stark difference between the Roma population is the proportion of those who are unemployed, with a greater proportion of the Roma population unemployed (16.0%) compared to the Gypsy or Irish Traveller (3.6%) and general population (3.0%).

Figure 13: Economic Activity of Gypsy or Irish Traveller, Roma, and Ceredigion population (2021).



(Source: ONS (2022): Census 2021)19

¹⁹ ONS (2022). Census 2021. Economic Activity by Ethnic Group from Census 2021 Custom Data Tool. Available at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/create

3.8. Qualifications

The Gypsy or Irish Traveller and Roma populations are often associated with poor education and lack of qualifications. There are a number of reasons that could attribute to these poorer outcomes, including, high secondary school drop-out rates, a lack of inclusive teaching environments, bullying, digital exclusion, parents' lacking in literacy skills and unable to help with home learning and insufficient support for travelling families to access and maintain education.²⁰ These factors can then have an impact on the type and number of qualifications someone may hold.

Gypsy or Irish Traveller & Roma

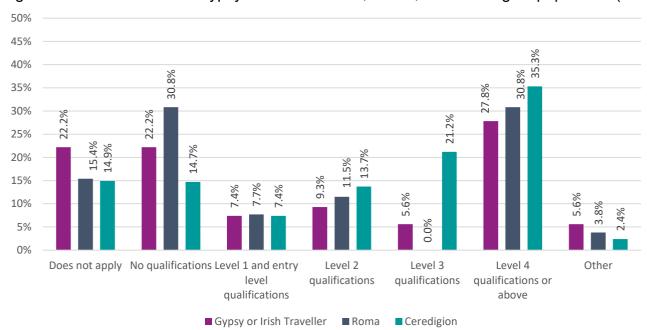


Figure 14: Qualifications of Gypsy or Irish Traveller, Roma, and Ceredigion population (2021).

(Source: ONS (2022): Census 2021)²¹

Figure 14 shows the percentage of qualifications achieved by the Gypsy or Irish Traveller and Roma populations compared with the Ceredigion average. More of the Gypsy or Irish Traveller population and Roma population have no qualifications (22.2% and 30.8% respectively) compared to the general population in Ceredigion (14.7%). Another difference between these ethnicities and the Ceredigion average, is those who have achieved a level 3 qualification.²² Just 5.6% of the Gypsy or Irish Traveller population and 0.0% of the Roma population have achieved this, compared to 21.2% of Ceredigion's general population. However, when comparing the other types of qualifications achieved (level 1, level 2 & level 4) with the Ceredigion population, the results are similar, particularly so for the Roma population.

²⁰ Friends, Families & Travellers (2023). Education inequalities facing Gypsies, Roma, and Travellers in England. Available at: https://www.gypsy-traveller.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Education-inequalities-faced-by-Gypsies-Roma-and-Travellers-in-England-briefing.pdf

²¹ ONS (2022). Census 2021. Qualifications by Ethnic Group from Census 2021 Custom Data Tool. Available at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/create

²² Level 3 qualifications include 2 or more A levels or VCEs, 4 or more AS levels, Higher School Certificate, Progression or Advanced Diploma, Welsh Baccalaureate Advance Diploma, NVQ level 3; Advanced GNVQ, City and Guilds Advanced Craft, ONC, OND, BTEC National, RSA Advanced Diploma.

4.0. Conclusion

The 2021 Census significantly improves our understanding of the Gypsy or Irish Traveller and Roma communities in Ceredigion and across Wales. The data provides an insight into the demographics of both the Gypsy or Irish Traveller and Roma populations, highlighting that most of both population groups are under the age of 35, reflecting the high birth rates and lower life expectancy associated with these population groups.

Moreover, information from the 2021 Census suggests that there is a link between the Gypsy or Irish Traveller and Roma population and poorer self-reported health. The Gypsy or Irish Traveller and Roma populations both reported poorer health compared to Ceredigion's average. Furthermore, it is more common for the Gypsy or Irish Traveller population to be disabled under the Equality Act compared to Ceredigion's average. This is not the case for the Roma population, where a lower percentage of this population group are disabled compared to Ceredigion's average.

This data tells us that the Gypsy or Irish Traveller and Roma populations are far more likely to be living in an overcrowded household, compared to the rest of the population in Ceredigion. Additionally, none, or very little of these population groups are residing in caravans, mobile homes, or temporary structures, therefore, we cannot attribute overcrowding to this. It is likely that there is a lack of suitable and affordable housing for these population groups.

It is hoped that this data and insight will help ensure that the local authority, along with other service providers and charities, can continue to provide the best possible service and support to the Gypsy or Irish traveller and Roma communities where it is needed most.

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- Figure 14: Qualifications of Gypsy or Irish Traveller, Roma, and Ceredigion population (2021).

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