

FAMILY SUPPORT — WHY THIS MATTERS NOW

HOUSEHOLDS

10.1% (2.5 MILLION) of households in England and Wales contained people from two or more ethnic groups in 2021, up from 8.7% in 2011.

YOUNG

19 YEARS was the median age of people identifying as Mixed or Multiple — the youngest of the five high-level ethnic groups. Nearly half of White & Asian and White & Black African groups were aged 0–15.

GROWING

1.7 MILLION (3.0%) people in England identified as Mixed or Multiple in Census 2021. Mixed Britain is a substantial and exceptionally young part of the population.

YOUTH JUSTICE

18% — UP FROM 10% of children in youth custody were Mixed in 2024/25. The proportion has risen the most of any ethnic group over the last decade, despite the overall custody population falling.

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These figures show demographic change and disproportionality; they do not imply that mixed identity causes offending.

Sources: ONS Census 2021 (Ethnic group; Ethnic group by age and sex); Youth Justice Board, Youth Justice Statistics 2024–25.

LIVERPOOL: MIXED IS MORE THAN THE BOX



1 IN 7
multi-person
households in
Liverpool contain
more than one
ethnic group.

18,812 households in
Census 2021 — about
14.3% of Liverpool
households with more than
one person.

WHAT THE LIVERPOOL DATA ADDS

3.5% MIXED OR MULTIPLE

Liverpool rose from 2.5% in 2011 to 3.5% in 2021 — above the North West average of 2.2%. But this counts only people who chose the Mixed or Multiple category.

58.5% “BRITISH ONLY”

National identity is a separate census question from ethnicity. ‘British’ does not tell us a person’s ancestry, and mixed heritage can be recorded outside the Mixed box.

DEEP, MIXED ROOTS

Liverpool is home to Britain’s oldest Black community and Europe’s oldest Chinese community, alongside long-established Irish, Jewish, Middle Eastern and Mediterranean communities.

MIXED LIVERPOOL IS NOT NEW.

The ‘Mixed’ census
category only arrived
in 2001.

In a debate still too
often framed as Black
or White, mixed
families make the
complexity of British
identity impossible to
ignore.

FAMILY SUPPORT — NEXT STEPS

SUPPORT BEFORE CRISIS. RECOGNISE COMPLEXITY BEFORE IT BECOMES INVISIBILITY.

1

PARENTS

Provide accessible guidance on talking about race, racism, colourism, heritage and belonging. Help parents recognise that siblings may be racialised differently, and support children to hold all parts of their heritage.

2

SERVICES

Fund mixed-specific peer and professional support from early years through adolescence. Train schools, GPs, counsellors, social care and youth services to listen without assumptions and intervene before crisis.

3

SYSTEMS

Make mixed-specific outcomes visible across education, health and youth justice. Co-design policy with mixed people and families, and challenge Black/White frameworks when they erase mixed experience.