

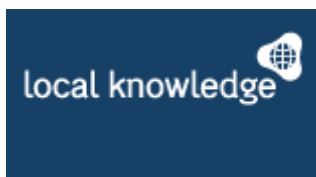
## Foreword

This Ward Profile is the initial step in developing a comprehensive database of information about each of the Wards in the District. Subsequent phases of this project will encompass a wider range of information with links to other existing databases, more sophisticated ways of illustrating the information, for example through Geographical Information Systems (GIS – Computer software allowing the presentation of statistical or other data in map form.), and where possible information at parish level and if able an even further specified local level.

It is intended that this material will provide an introduction to the potential benefits of analysing data at Ward and parish level. Not only will access to greater sources of information make us better informed but it will also help Braintree District Council and its partners to pin-point problems, highlight successful outcomes and focus our resources where they are most needed.

The Ward Profile project is being developed on-line, and its future development, including updates, will be web-based. Visit [www.braintree.gov.uk](http://www.braintree.gov.uk) for further information.

For additional information about the project or to suggest ways in which it can be developed further, please contact Dr Lynn Marston ([lynn.marston@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:lynn.marston@braintree.gov.uk) or telephone 01376 551414).



Local Knowledge is a database that has statistical information about our District collated from many different sources. We have used it to create Ward Profiles producing tables, graphs and maps.

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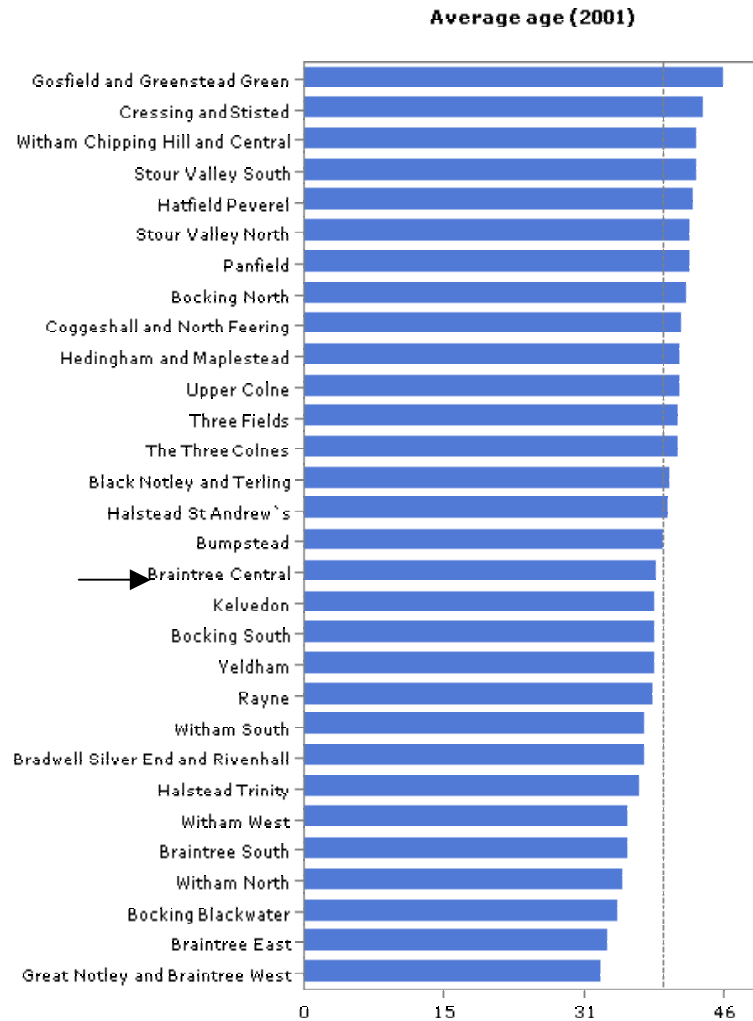
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### **Sources of this information are:**

- 2001 Census
- Annual Population Survey 2005/2006
- General Health Statistics 2001
- Essex Police

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## Age Range

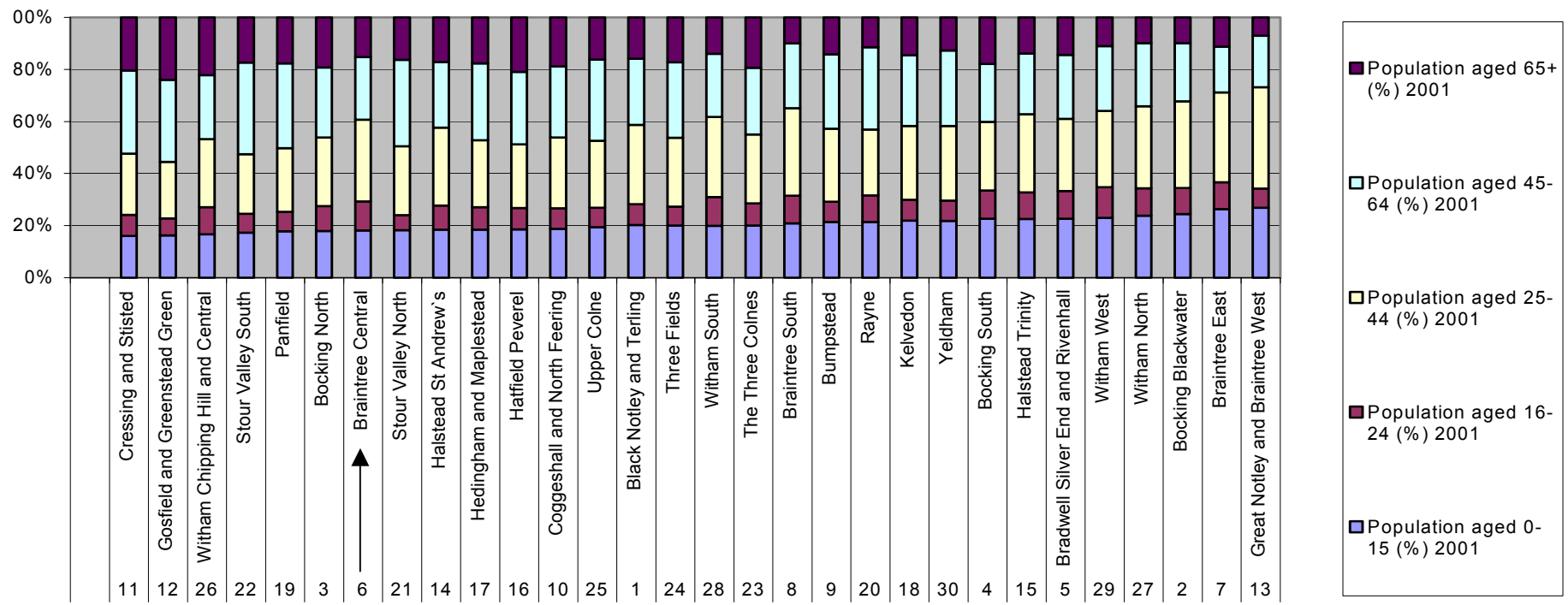


### Interpretation

This graph shows the average age of residents in each Ward. It is clear that Gosfield and Greenstead Green have the highest average age, which is 46 years, and Great Notley and Braintree West have the lowest, which is set at about 33 years.

Braintree Central's average age at 38.65 is lower than the District average of 39.9 years. This may be due to the proportion of different age groups, and so to look at this area more fully, please consult the graph on page 6.

## Age proportion within the population



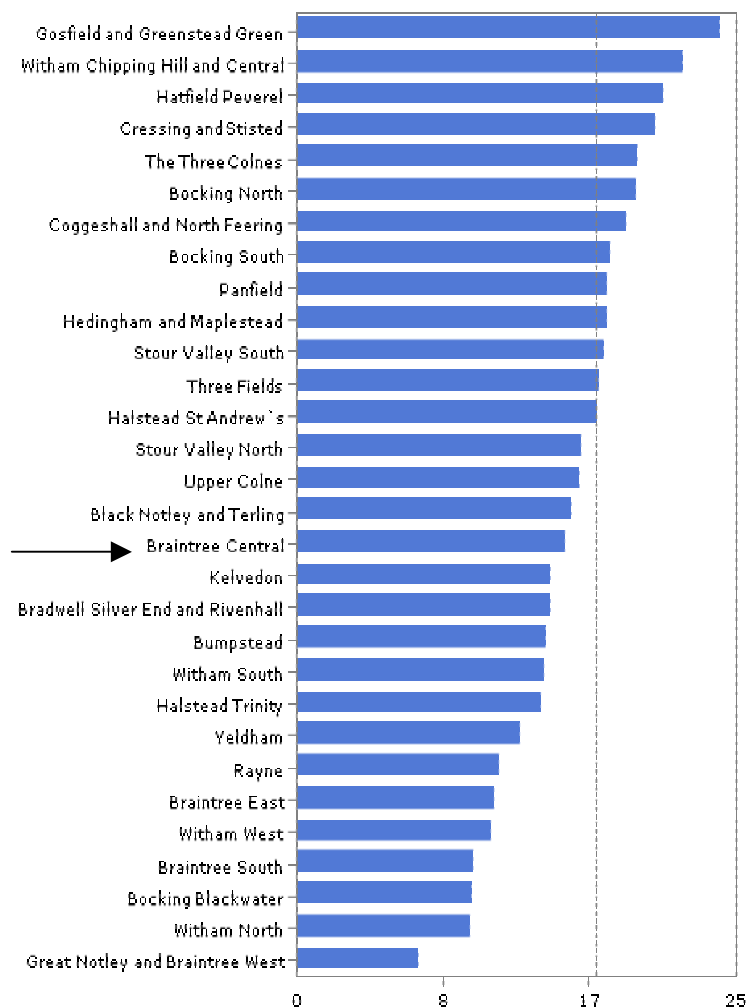
### Interpretation

This graph shows that in general the smaller the proportions of people in the 0-15 age group, the larger the corresponding proportion of 65+. Where there is a large proportion of 0-15 the proportion of 25-44 is also generally larger.

The pattern is evident in this Ward. Braintree Central has relatively small proportions of 0-15 at 18% and 65+ at 15% with its larger majority being with the 25-44 at 32%. The latter is a particularly high figure in comparison to the other Wards. The age ranges 16-24 have a percentage of 11% and 45-64 is 24%.

## Number of People that could be on a Pension

Proportion of population aged 65+ (2001)



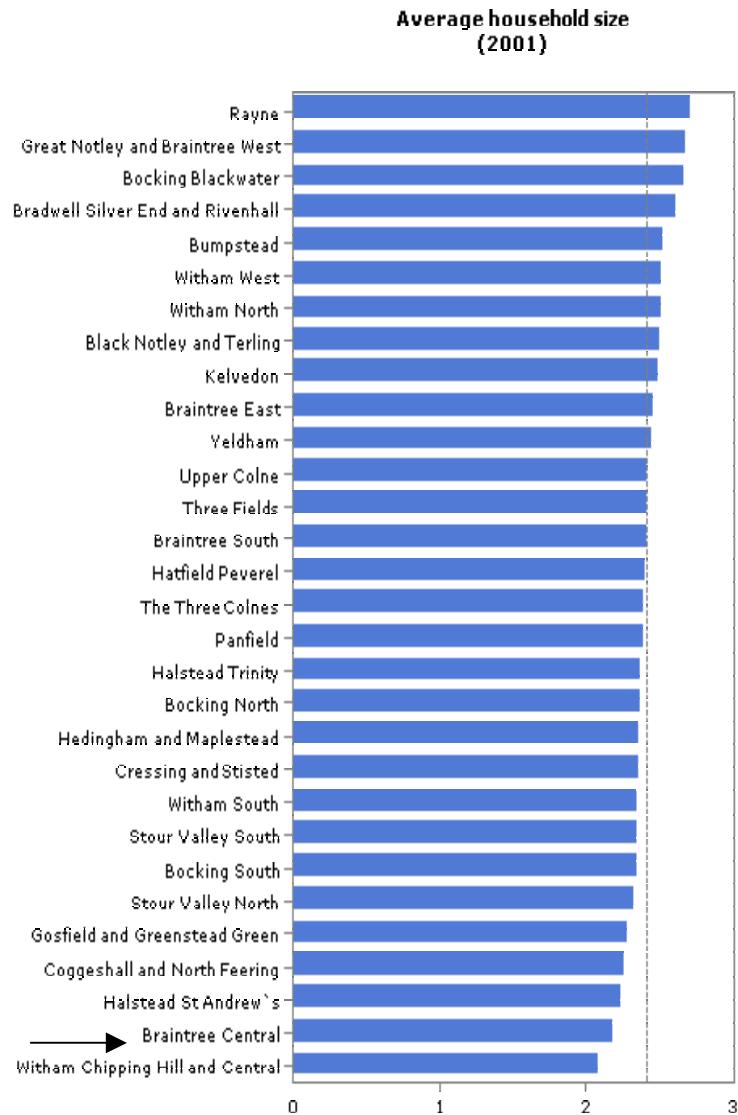
### Interpretation

As the normal age of retirement is 65, this graph implies that the ward with the highest proportion of people on a pension is Gosfield and Greenstead Green.

In Braintree Central the proportion of the population aged 65+ (and therefore likely to be in receipt of a pension) is 15.34%. This is slightly lower than the District average of 15.65%.

N.B. please note that there may well be people under 65 years of age that are on a pension, but they are not included in this information.

## Families and Housing

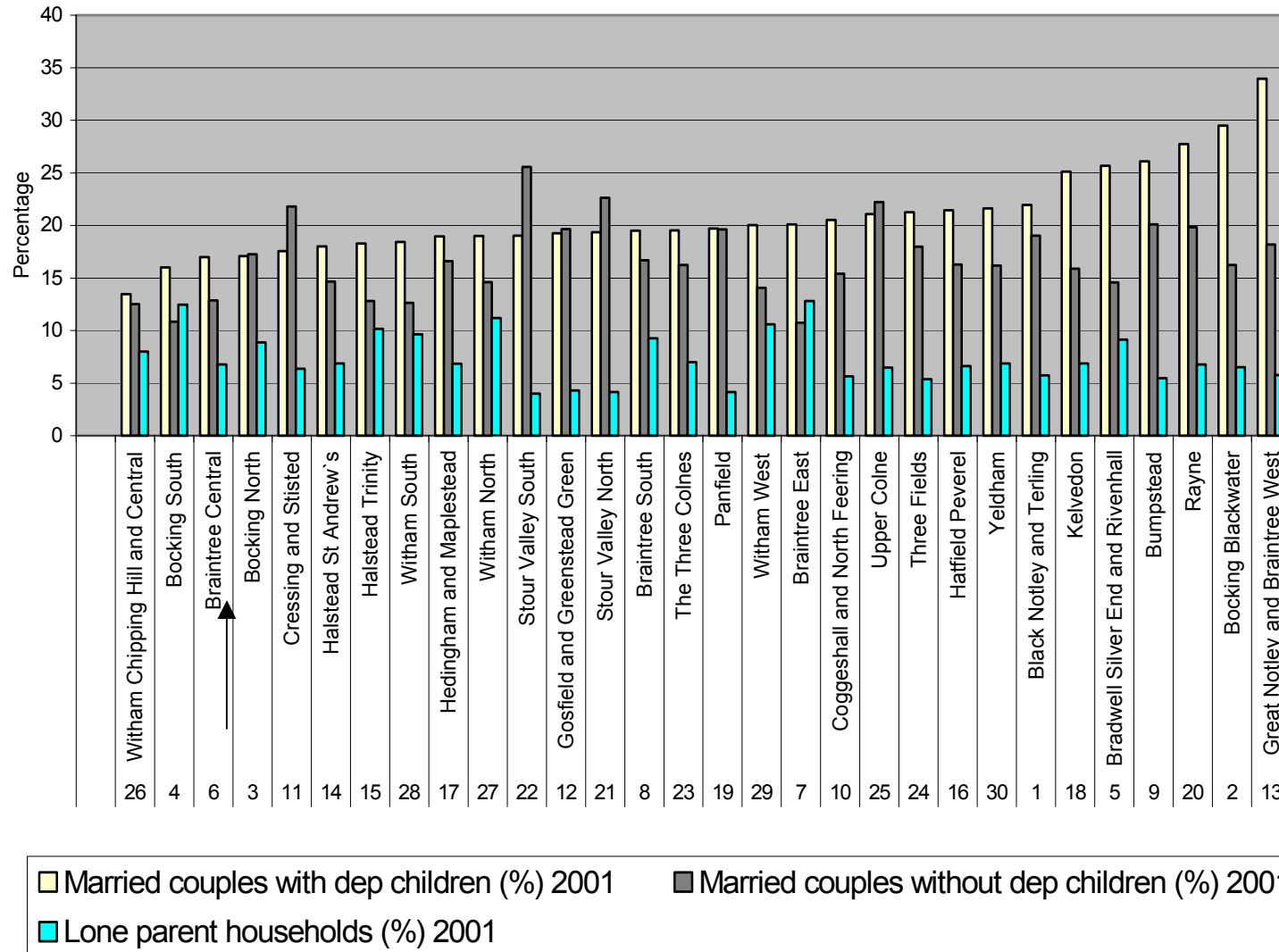


### Interpretation

The average District household size is 2.42 people. Although it does vary between Wards, the majority of Wards cluster a little either side of the District average, but a few Wards at either end of the spectrum exhibit significantly different household sizes. On average, the largest households are in Rayne, whereas Witham Chipping Hill and Central has the smallest.

Braintree Central has the second smallest household size with an average of 2.18 people per household.

## Households and Children

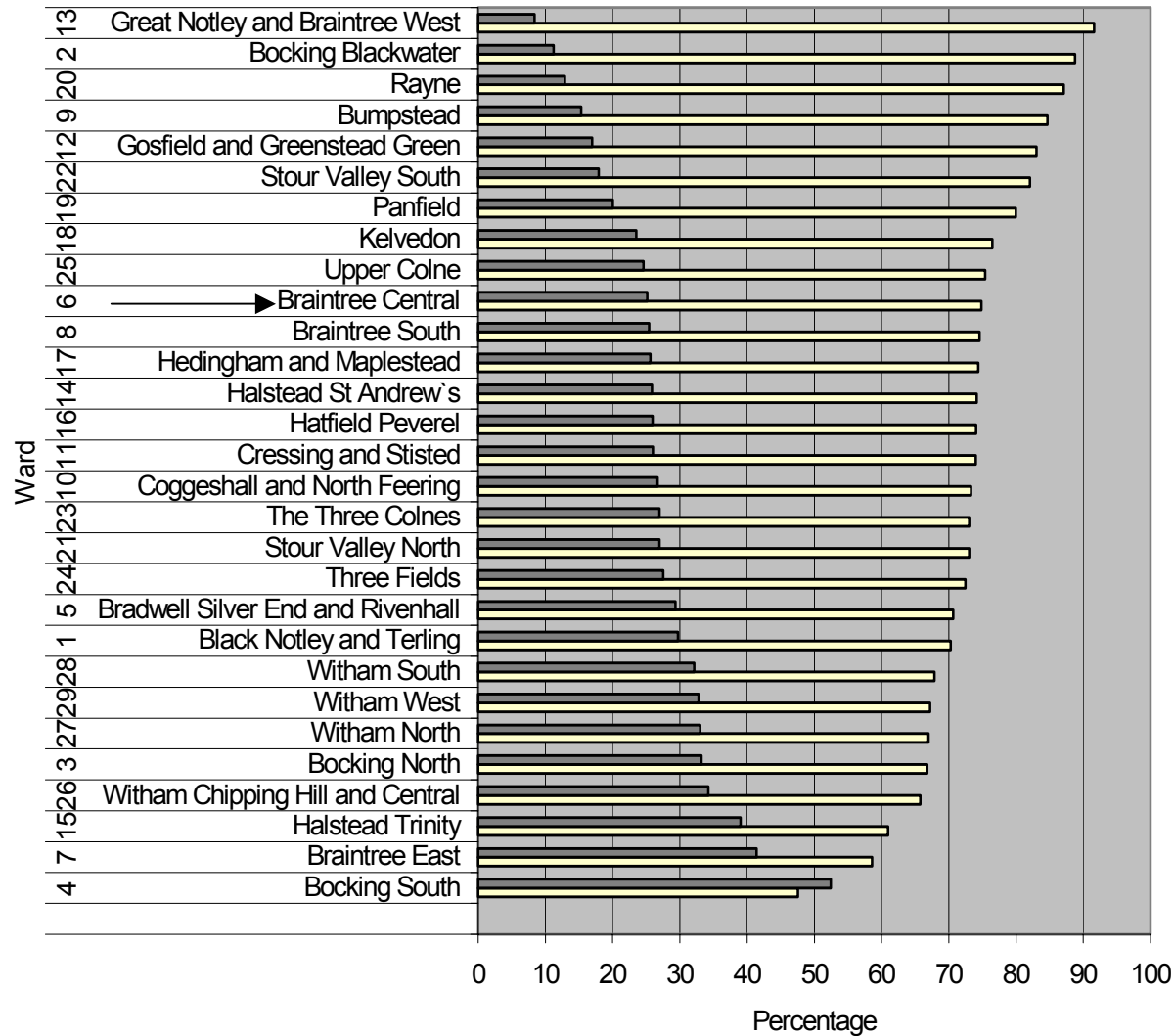


### Interpretation

This graph shows that there is no obvious pattern in the distribution of married couples with or without children. However, the data does appear to show a concentration of lone parent households in urban areas.

Braintree Central, although a more urban area, does not have a high lone parent household rate (7%) in comparison to other areas. The percentage of people married with children is 17% and married without children is 13%.

## Tenure

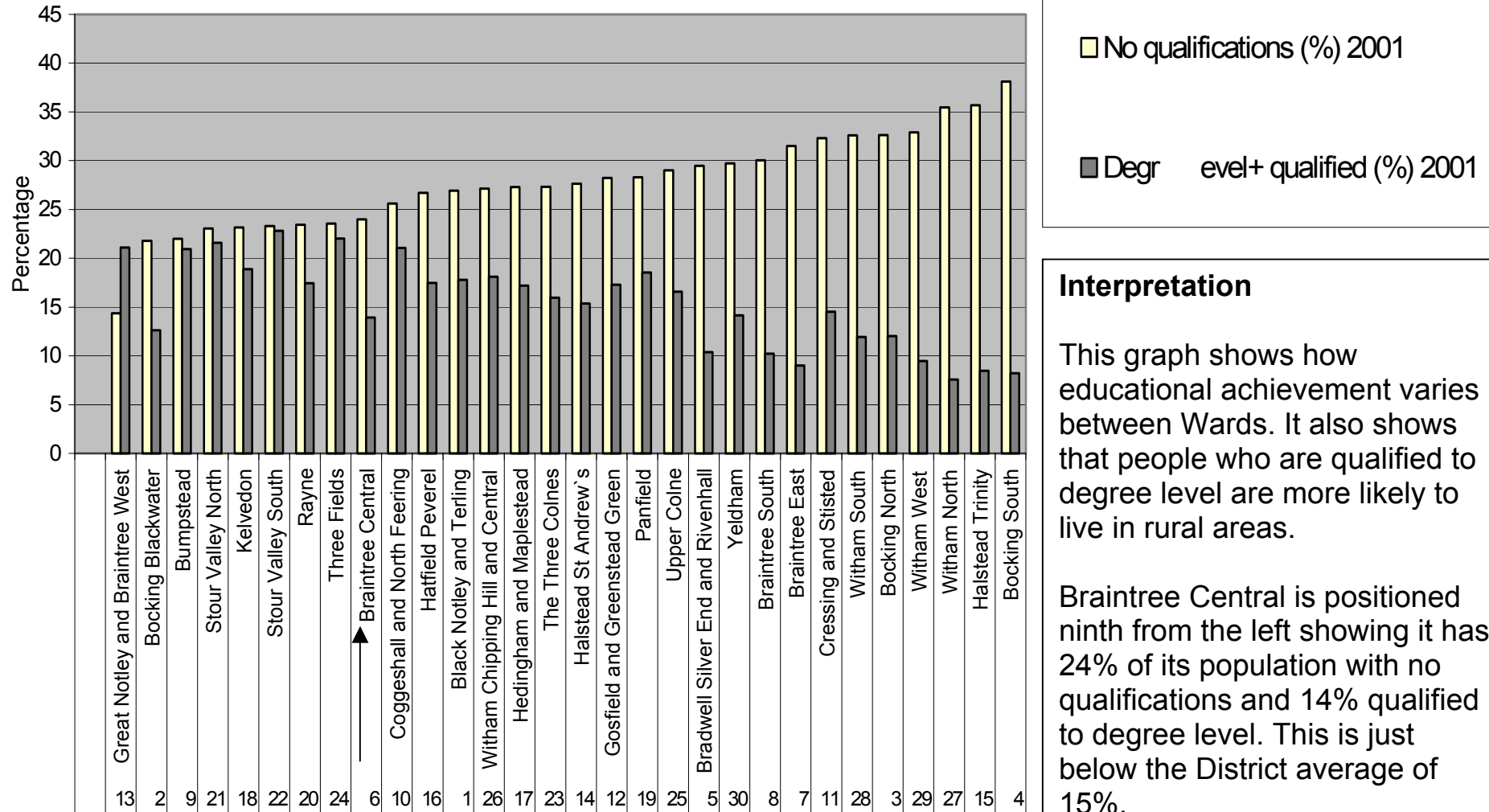


■ Rented households (%) 2001  
 □ Owner-occupied households (%) 2001

**Interpretation**  
 This graph shows that the majority of people own, rather than rent their homes. The eight places where renting is significantly higher, are the more urban areas of the District. This may be attributed to a number of different factors, such as the availability of rented accommodation and age and income structures.

Braintree Central has an owner occupied percentage of 75% and a renting proportion of 25%.

## Education



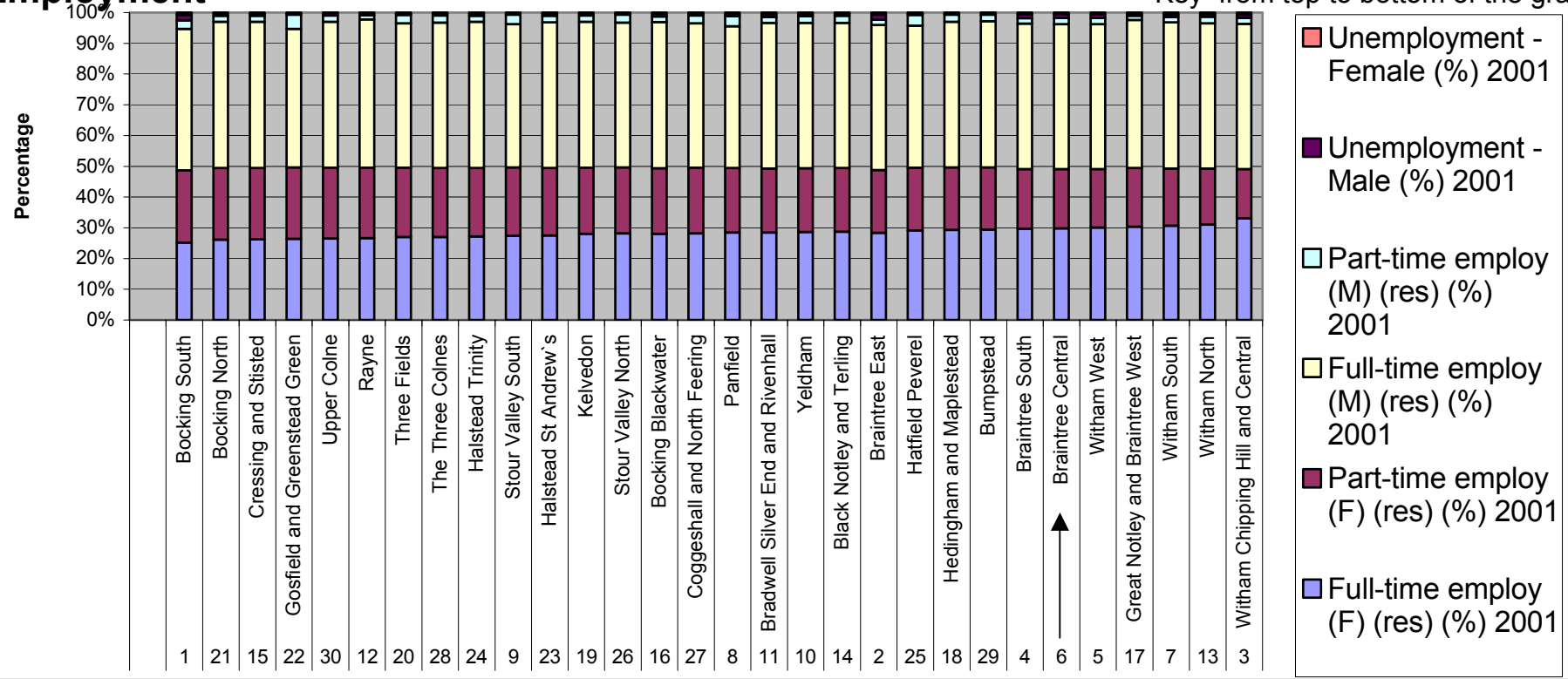
### Interpretation

This graph shows how educational achievement varies between Wards. It also shows that people who are qualified to degree level are more likely to live in rural areas.

Braintree Central is positioned ninth from the left showing it has 24% of its population with no qualifications and 14% qualified to degree level. This is just below the District average of 15%.

# Employment

Key—from top to bottom of the graph



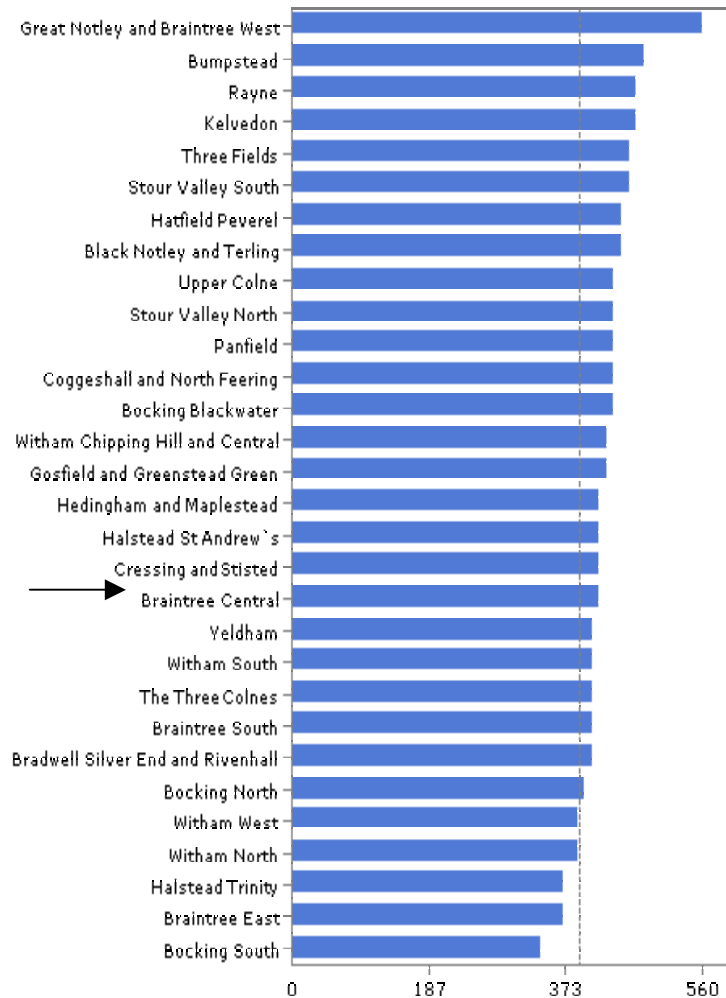
## Interpretation

Throughout the District you can see that there are more men than women in full time employment, and more women than men in part time employment. The District unemployment rate is 3.9%, an extremely low figure, making it difficult to display on a graph.

Braintree Central has a large proportion of women in full time employment (61%) compared to 39% in part time. There are 96% of men in full time employment and only 3% in part time employment leaving very few unemployed overall.

## Average Income

Net Weekly Household  
Income Estimate (before  
housing costs) (2002)



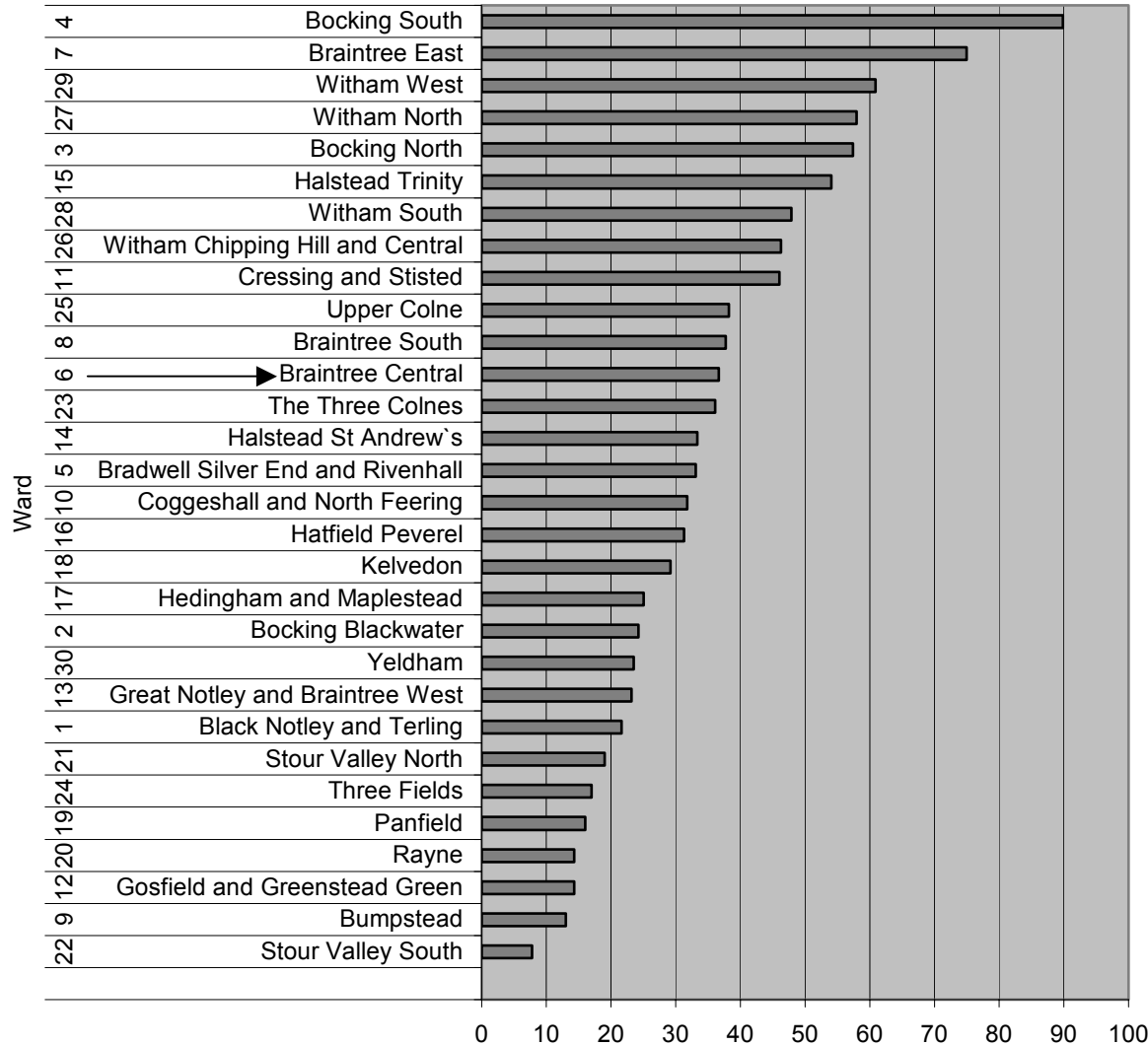
### Interpretation

The graph of net weekly household income estimate (before housing costs) demonstrates that there is a clear distinction between rural and urban Wards, with Wards like Great Notley and Bumpstead in the top quartile and Braintree East and Bocking South in the lower.

The income per household is adjusted to reflect the number of people in the property and the number of people bringing in an income. This method is called McClements Equivalence Scale and it is the standard method for calculating a household's income. It makes a distinction, for example, between two households each consisting of two or three people but one household with multiple incomes and the other with a sole earner.

This Ward, Braintree Central, has an average income of £420, which is just below the District average of £428, and it is positioned eleventh from the bottom of the graph.

### Claimants: Income support (per 000 over the age of 16) 'Feb 2006



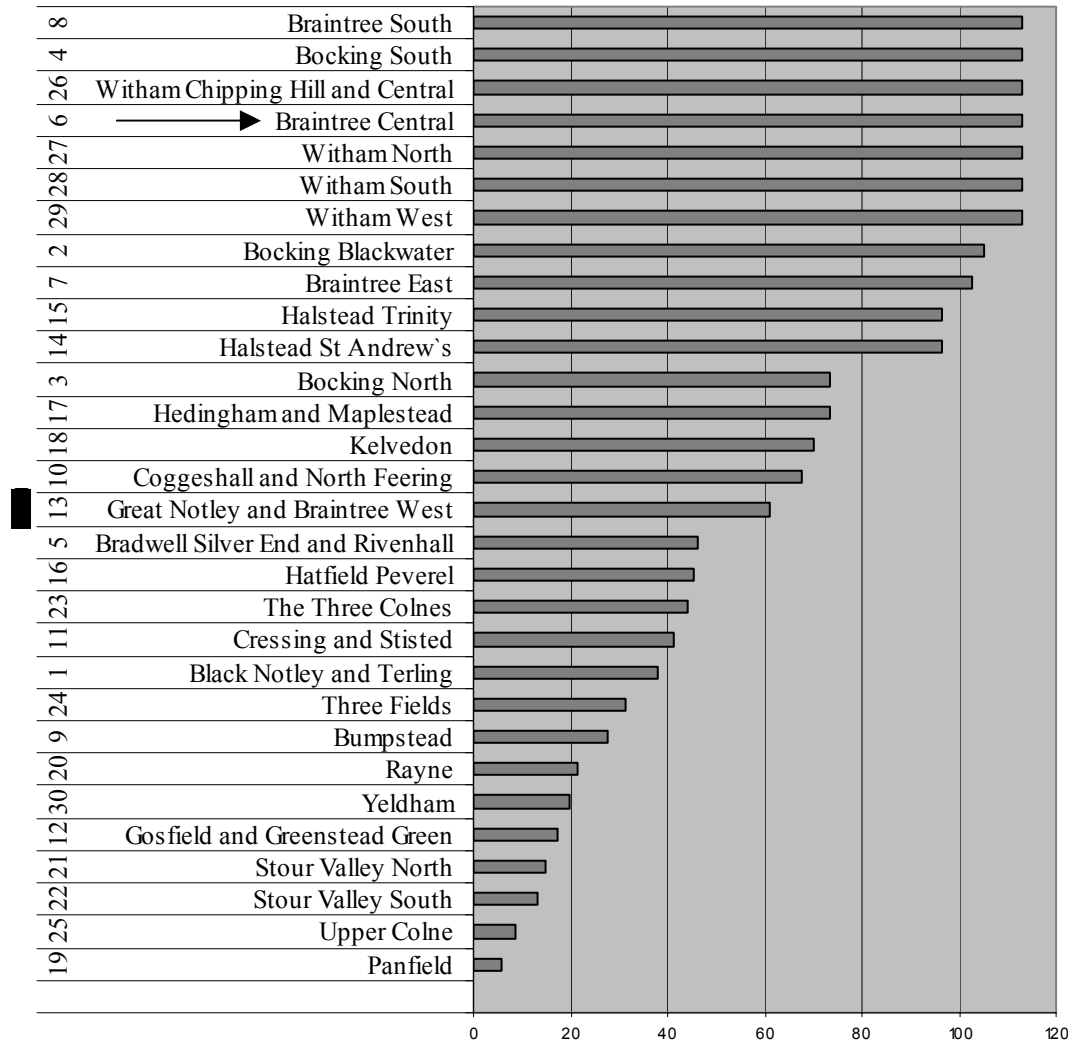
■ Claimants: Income support (per 000 people over the age of 16) August 2006

**Interpretation**

Braintree Central has 37 people per 1000 of its working age population claiming income support. This is twelfth from the top of the graph and just above the District average of 35 people per 1000.

It may be helpful to consider these results alongside other tables, such as, education received, household type and tenure.

## Access to Services

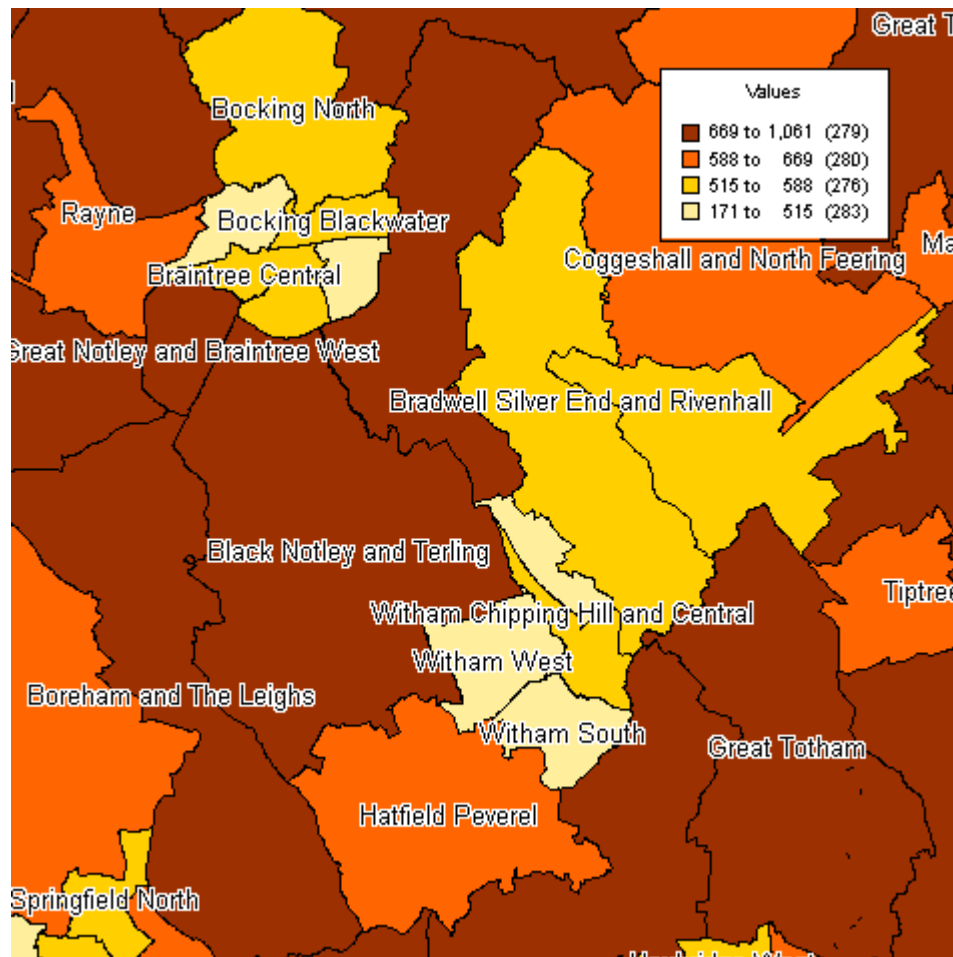


### Interpretation

This graph shows how accessibility to services varies throughout the Braintree District. "Accessibility" is here defined as access to facilities such as GP surgeries, shops, cash machines and supermarkets. It does not take into account things such as bus services and village halls. The scale, which is used here, is 100 being the national average, and no access being 0.

Braintree Central has an extremely high level of access to services. The District average is 64 while Braintree Central is 113. This is also higher than the national average (100).

## Number of Cars

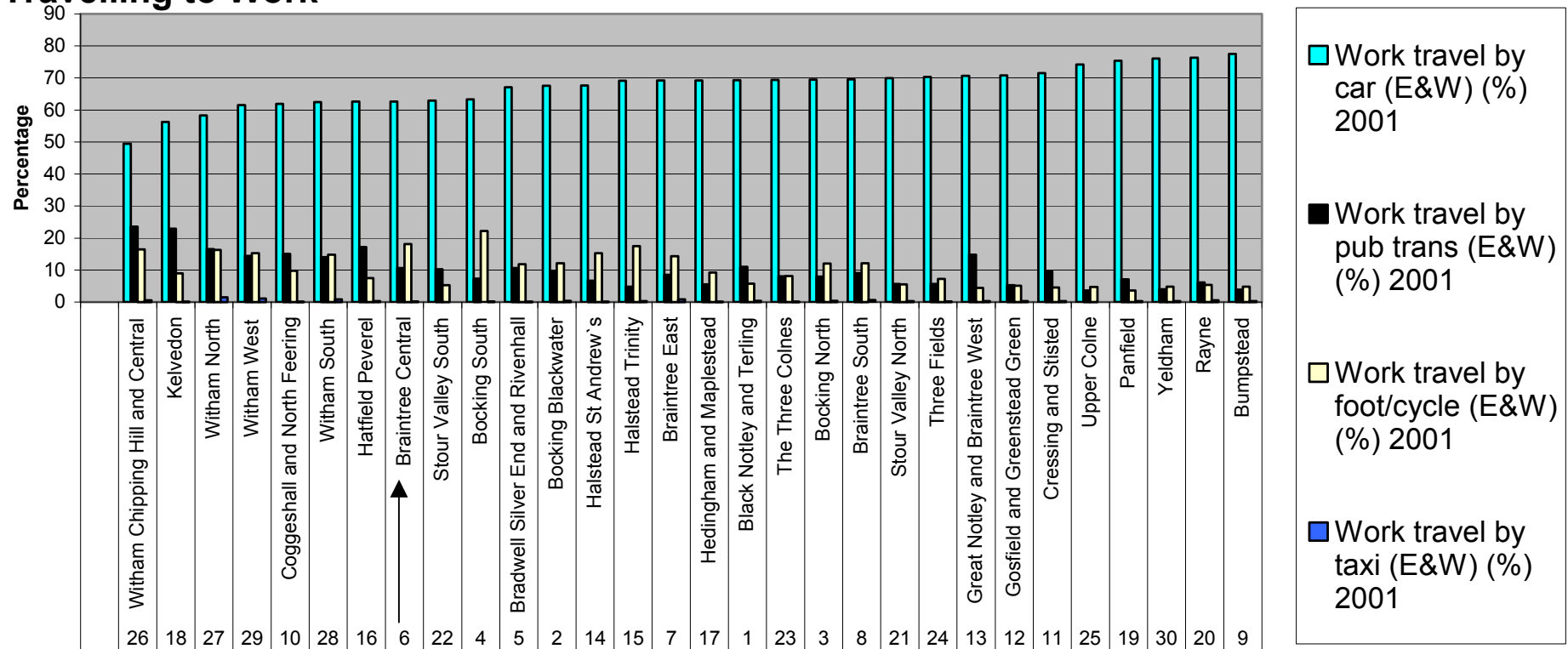


### Interpretation

This map shows that there are fewer cars in the built up areas of the District. Social and economic factors including greater access to public transport, facilities and differing income levels may help to explain the distribution of car ownership.

Braintree Central is shown on the top left hand corner of the map coloured a dark yellow, showing that there are fewer cars here than in many areas, with 586 per 1000 population.

### Travelling to Work

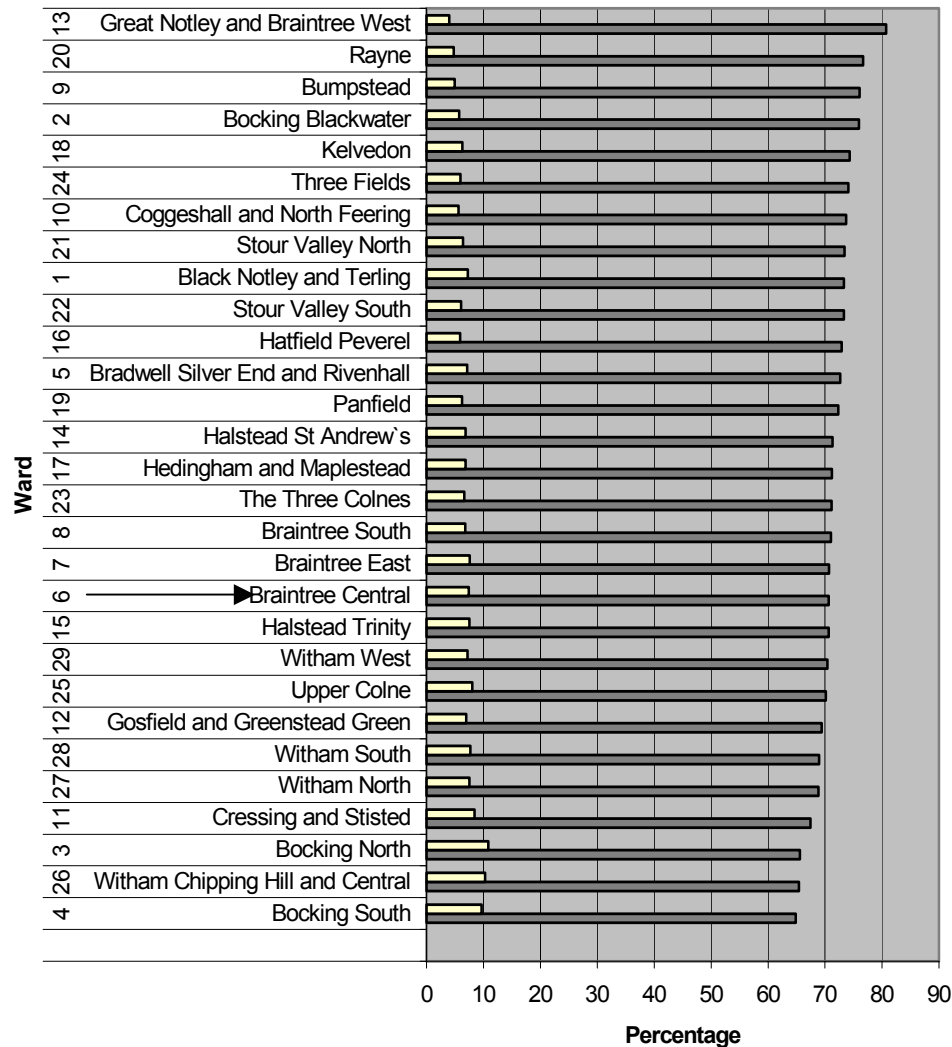


#### Interpretation

This graph shows that people within the towns are less likely to travel to work by car, reflecting the overall lower number of cars in such areas (see previous graph page 16). Walking and public transport are the second favoured modes of transport, but there is a great difference in the proportions between Wards.

Braintree Central has a smaller proportion of people travelling to work by car than the District average of 67% with a percentage of 63%. It does have a higher than average amount travelling to work by foot or cycle with the average at 10% and the Ward at 18%. In this Ward 10% travel by public transport and 0.17 by taxi.

## Health



Population not in good health (%) 2001

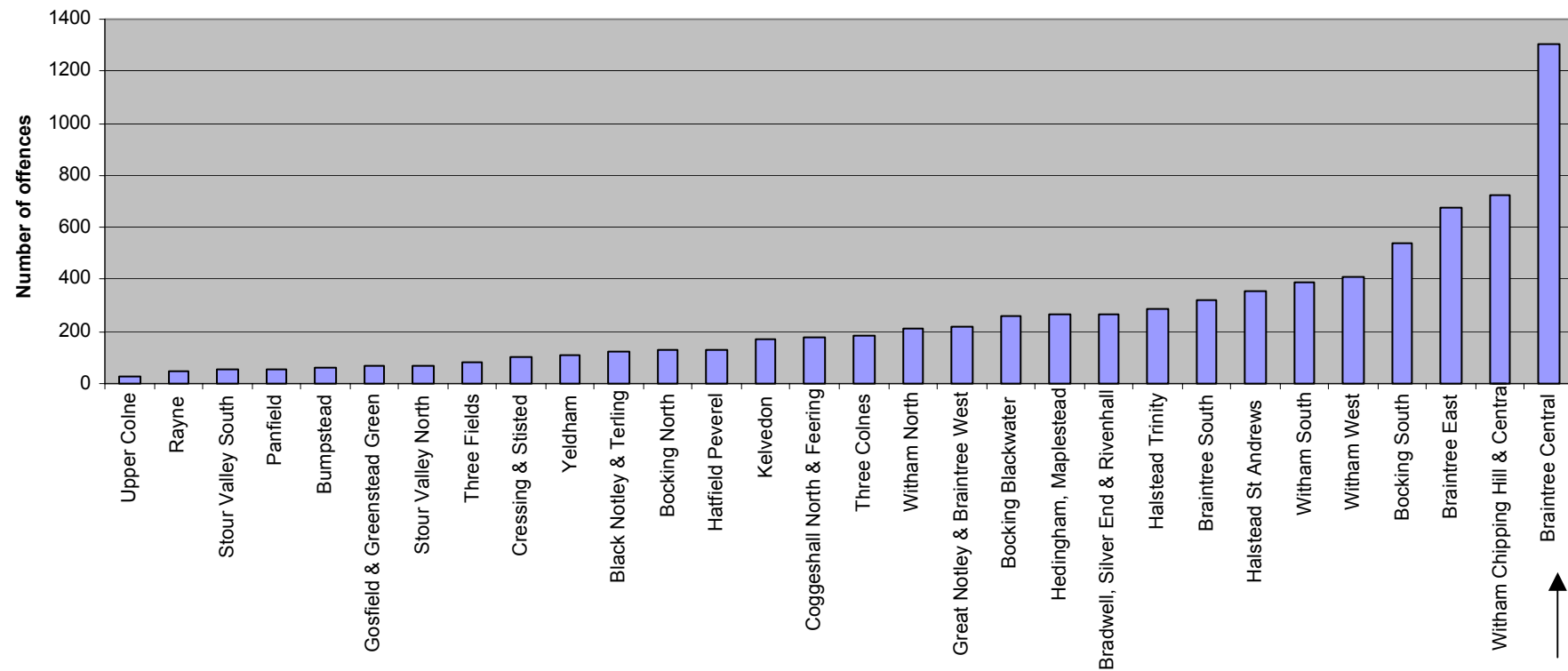
Population in good health (%) 2001

### Interpretation

This graph shows the balance of “in good health”/ “not in good health” between the Wards in the District. The pattern of health is related to factors including age structure and social and economic welfare. Thus graphs pertaining to Age Proportions, Households and Children, Tenure, Employment, etc. should be used to provide relevant context.

Braintree Central sits on the District average for its percentage of people “not in good health”, with a figure of 7%. The same is apparent for the proportion of people “in good health” with a number of 71%.

## Crime Statistics



### Interpretation

These crime statistics display the number of crimes that have taken place over the past financial year of 2006 and 2007. It shows a lower crime rate in the rural areas, while the rates in more urban built up Wards are distinctively higher.

Braintree Central has nearly double the crime rate of Witham, Chipping Hill and Central, which is its closest statistical neighbour. It has a crime rate of 1305, which is roughly five times higher than the District average of 261.