

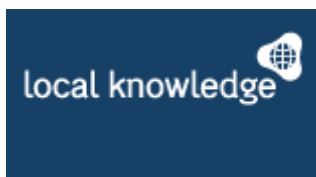
Foreword

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 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 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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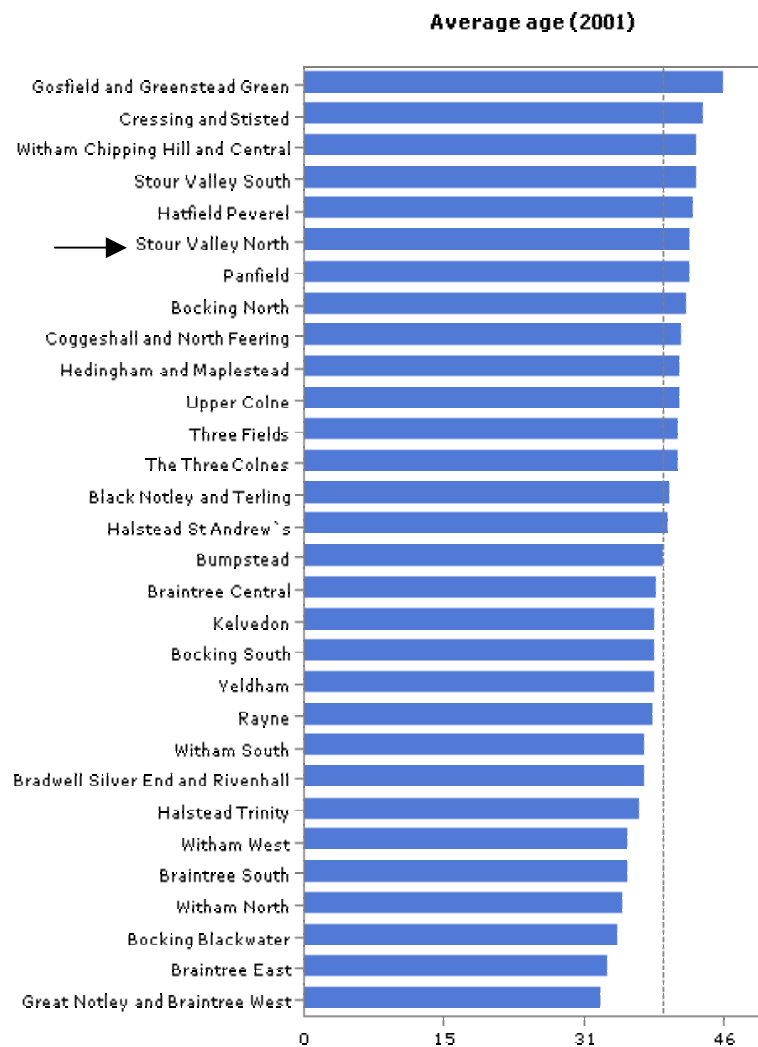
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Sources of this information are:

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

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Age Range



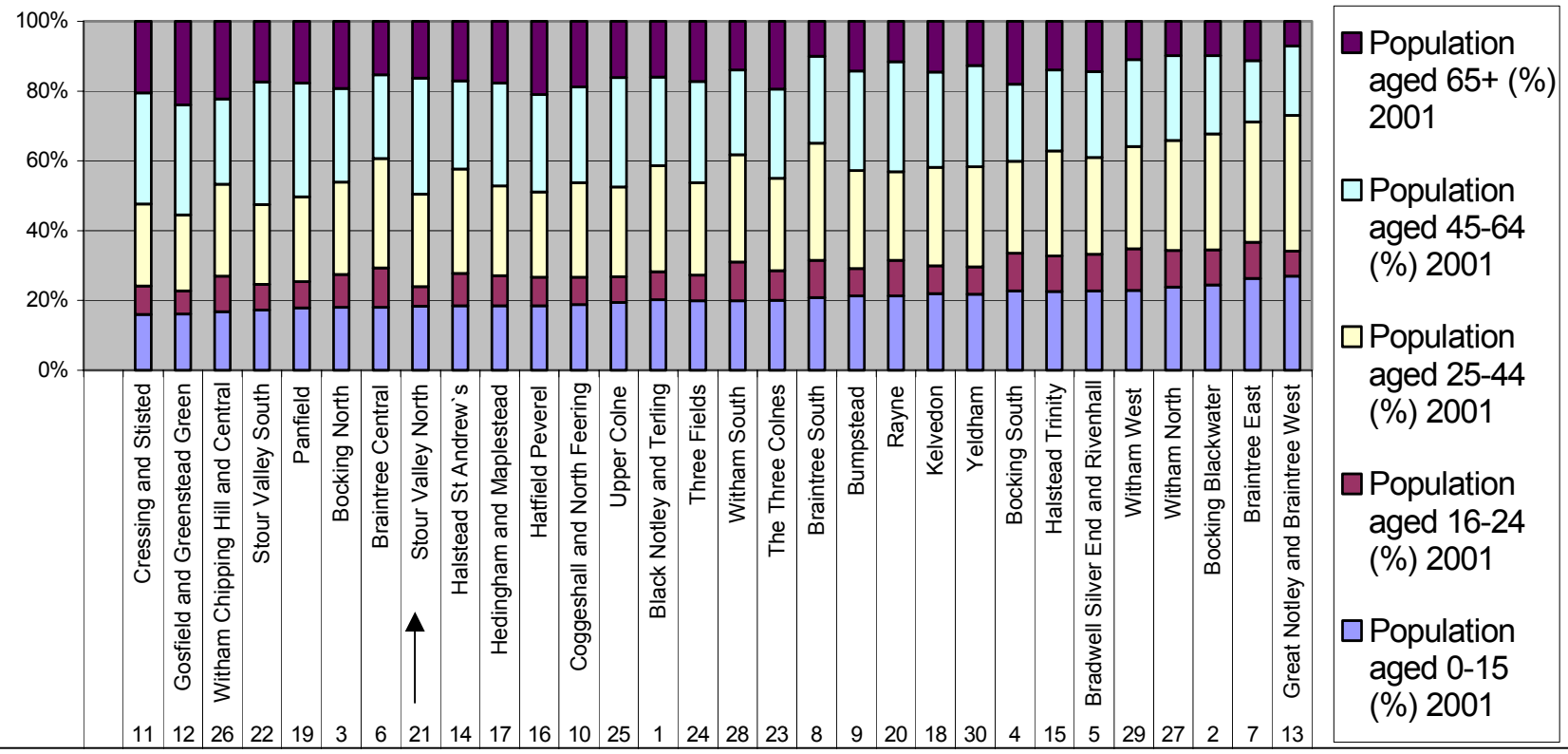
Interpretation

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

The average age for Stour Valley North Ward at 42 years is 2 years more than the District average of 40 years. It is the sixth highest average age in the District.

Age proportion within the population

Key—From the top to the bottom of the graph

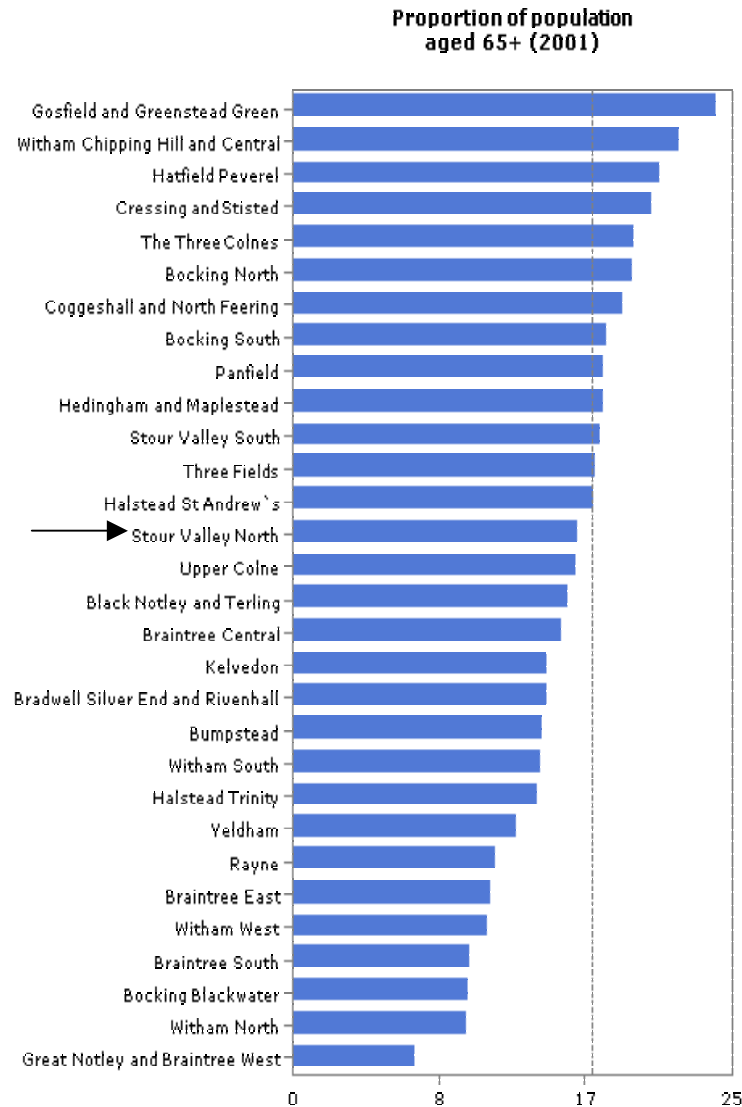


Interpretation

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.

In the Stour Valley North Ward 18% of the population are between the ages of 0-15, 6% between 16-24, 26% are between 25-44, 33% are aged 45-64 and 16% are aged 65 years and over.

Number of People that could be on a Pension



Interpretation

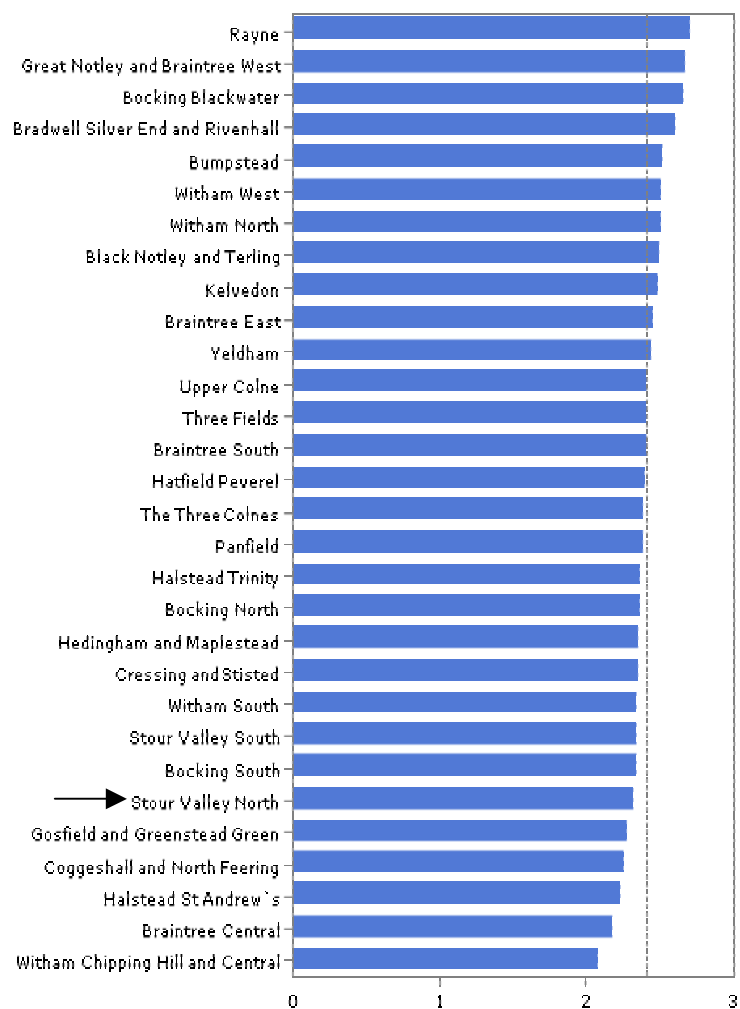
As the normal age of retirement is 65, this graph implies that the ward with the highest proportion of people on a pension is Gosfield and Greenstead Green.

In Stour Valley North 16% of the inhabitants are 65 years or over, close to the average for the District overall.

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

Average household size
(2001)

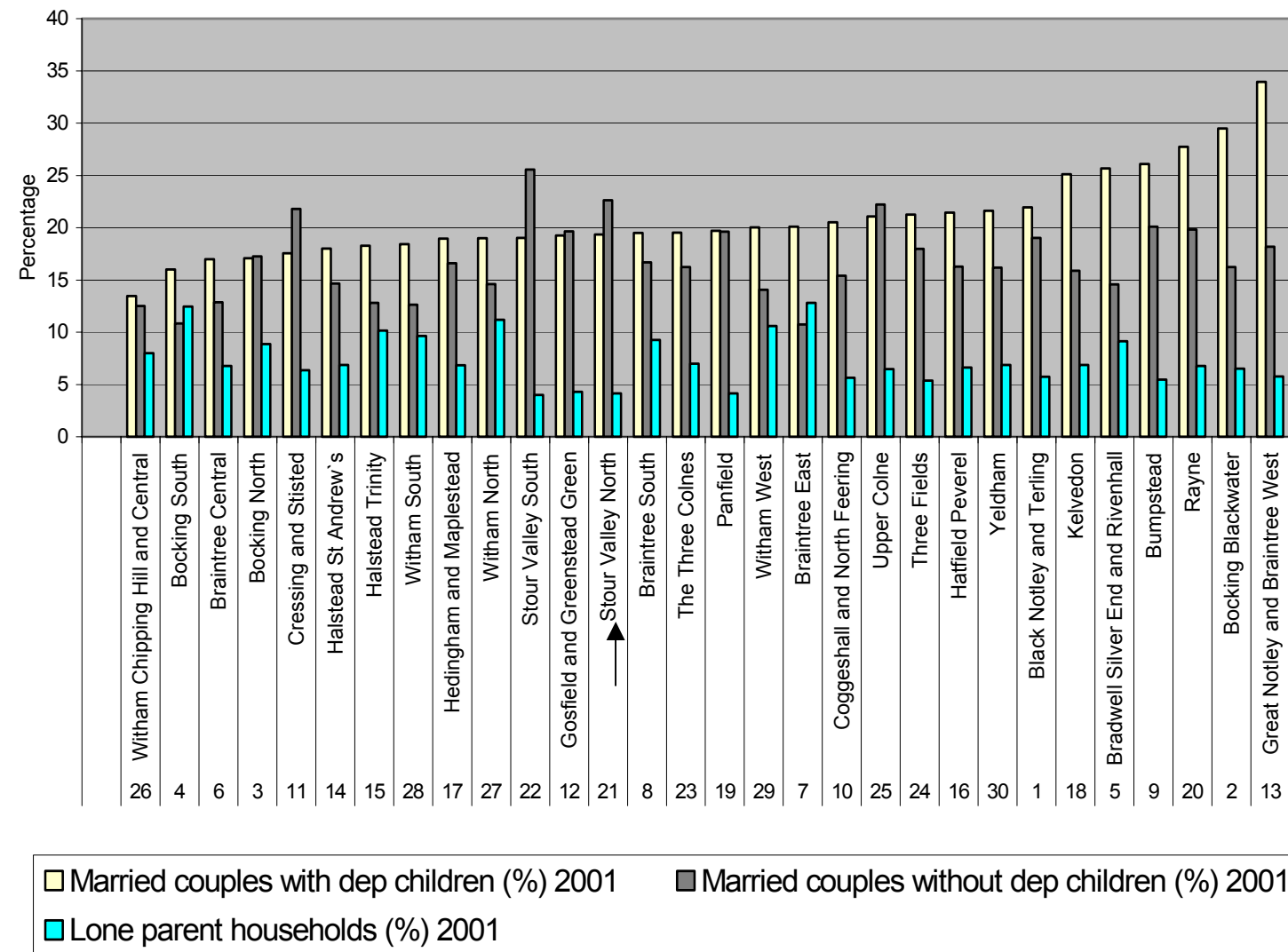


Interpretation

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.

The Average Household size for Stour Valley North is 2.33 people per household, this is the sixth smallest in the District, and therefore well under the District average.

Households and Children

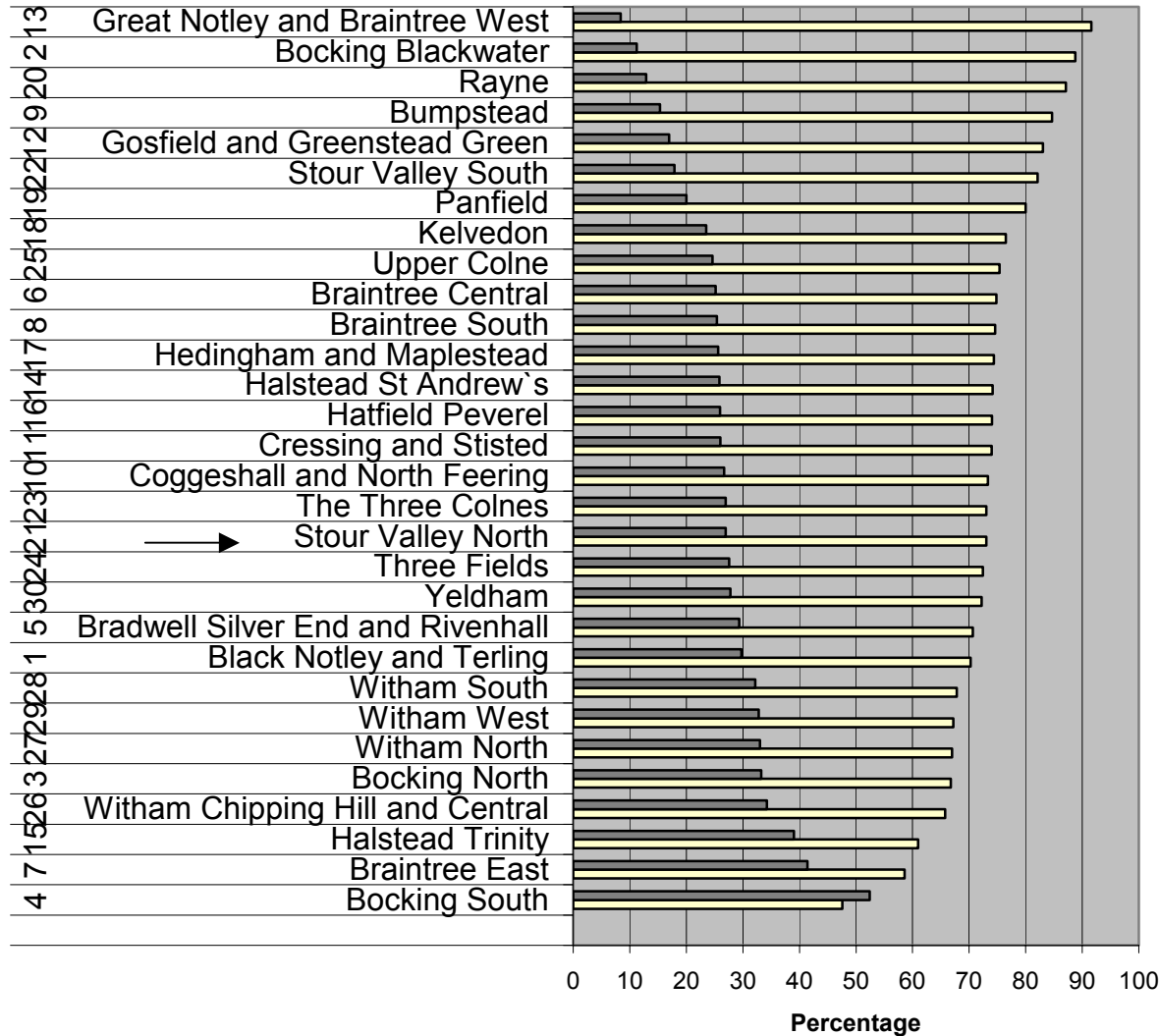


Interpretation

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.

In this Ward 19% of couples are married with dependant children, 23% couples with out dependent children and 4% lone parent households. The proportion of couples without dependant children is significantly higher than the District average of 17%.

Tenure

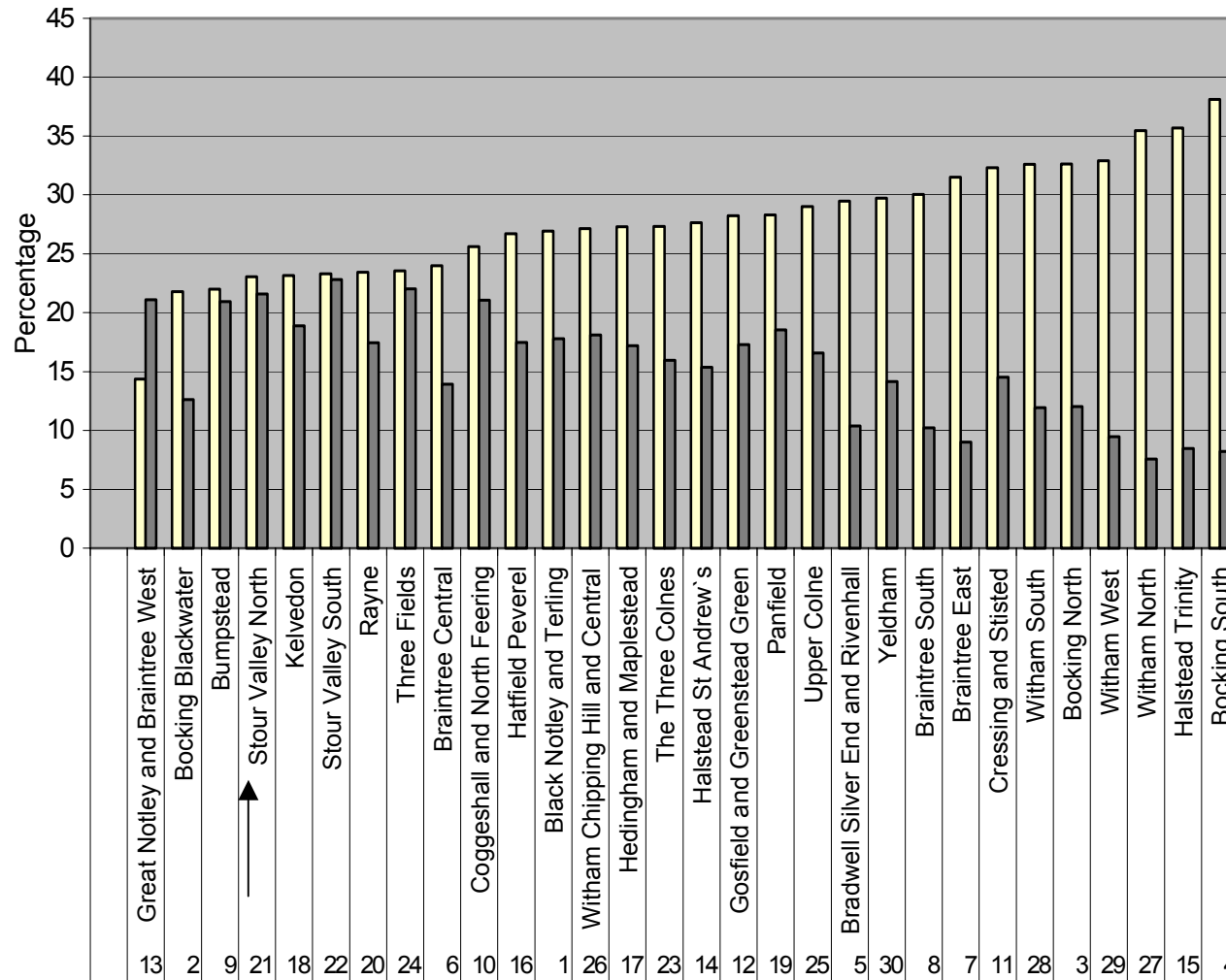


■ Rented households (%) 2001
 □ Owner-occupied households (%) 2001

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.

In the Stour Valley North Ward 73% of the residents are owner-occupiers, which is 2% above the District average (71%). Only 27% of residents live in rented accommodation.

Education



□ No qualifications (%) 2001

■ Degree level+ qualified (%) 2001

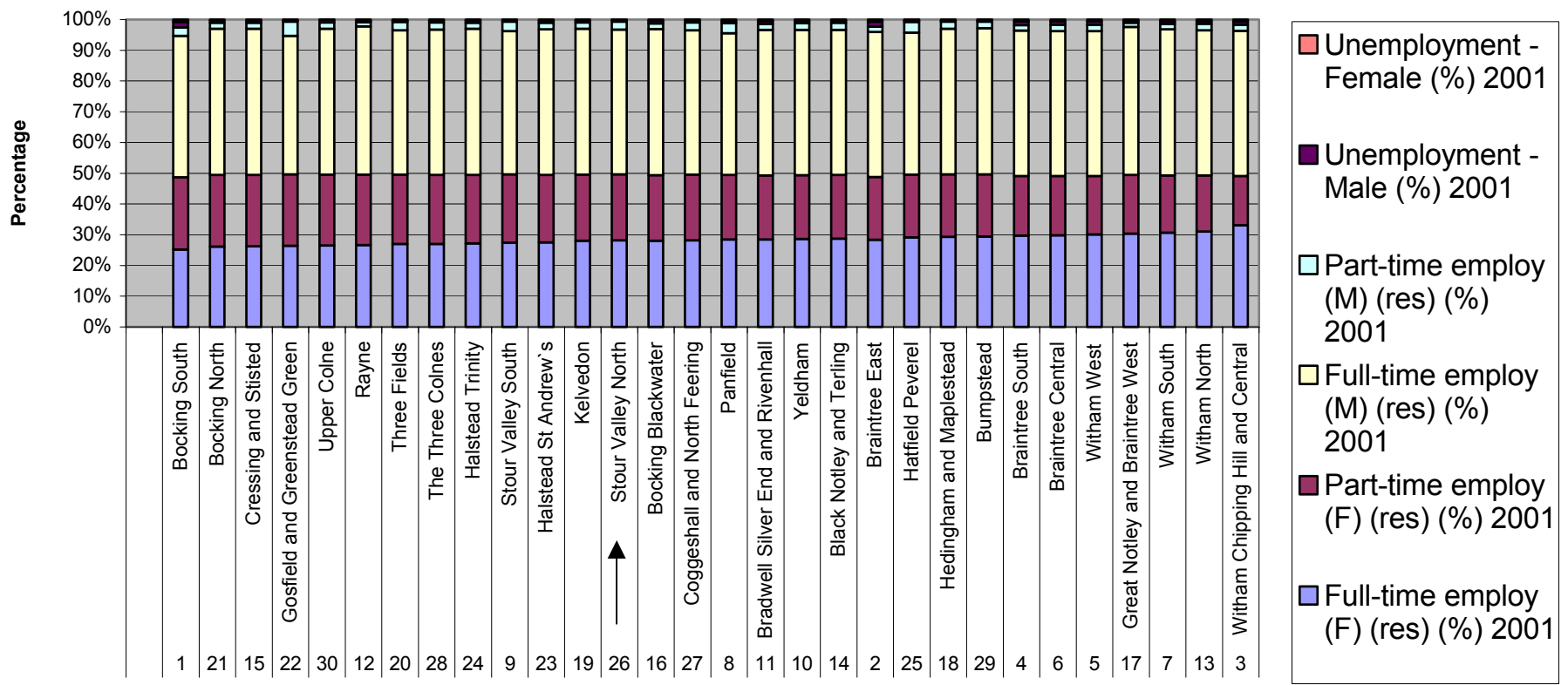
Interpretation

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.

Stour Valley North has the fourth lowest proportion of residents with no qualifications at 23%. This is 5% lower than the District average. The Ward's average for residents qualified to Degree level at 21% is well above the District average of 15%.

Employment

Key—from top to bottom of the graph



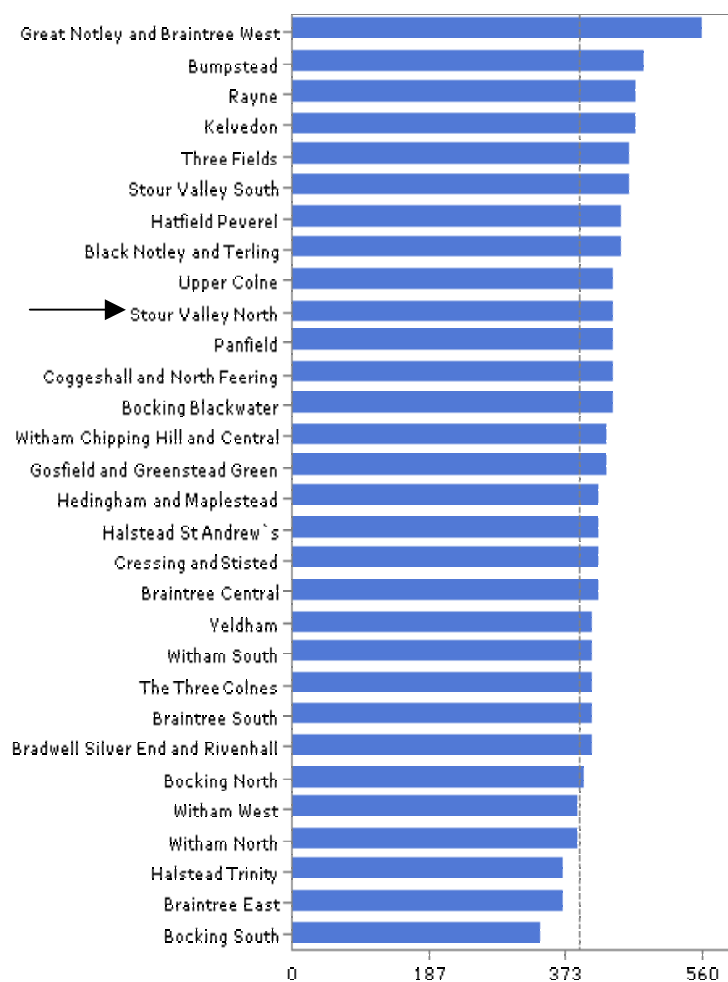
Interpretation

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.

The figures for the Stour Valley North Ward match the District averages: 95% of men and 57% of women in full time employment. The remaining 43% of women and 5% of men are in part time employment.

Average Income

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



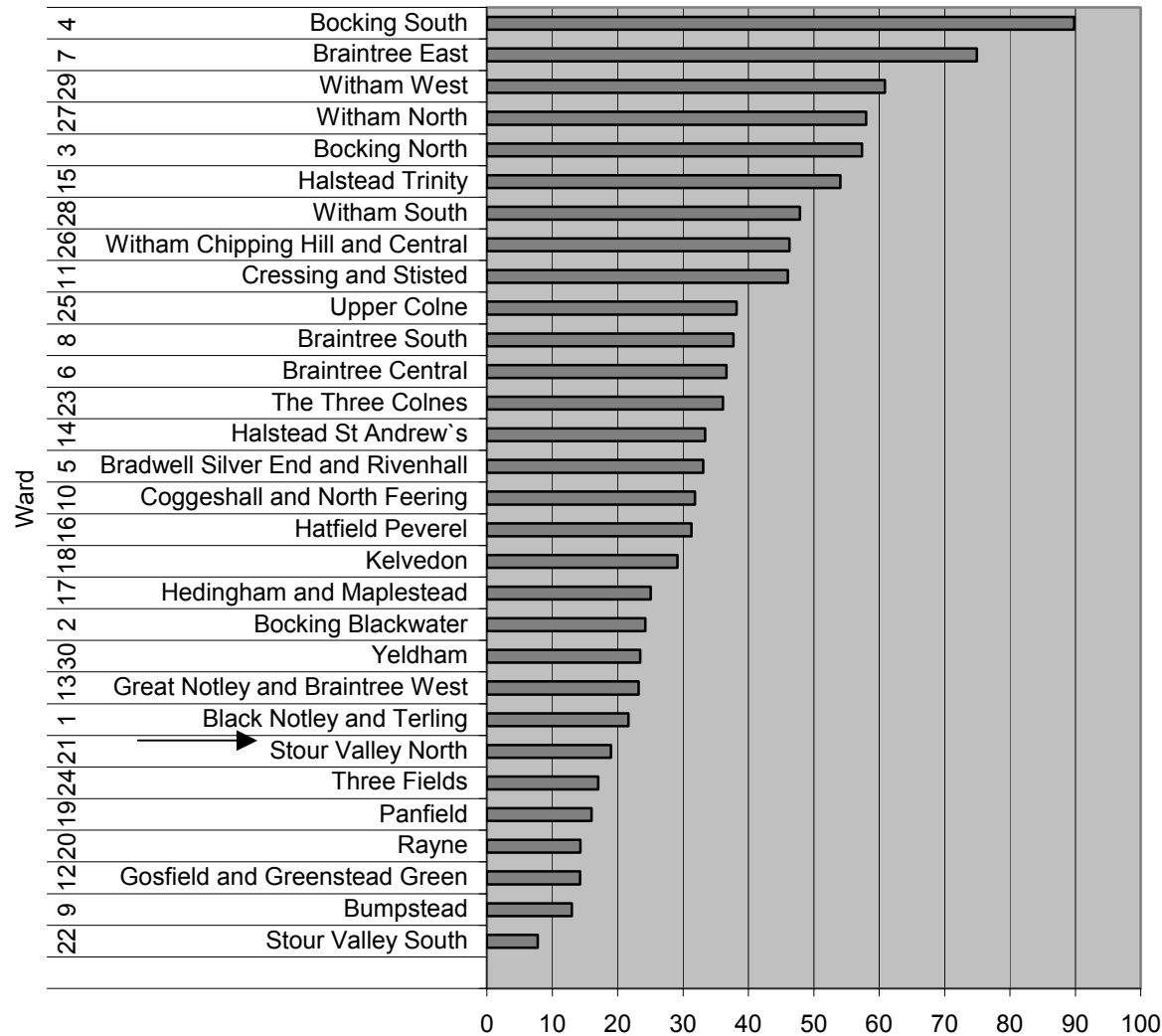
Interpretation

The graph of net weekly household income estimate (before housing costs, including mortgages) 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 make 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.

Stour Valley North has the tenth highest weekly income in the District at £440.

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



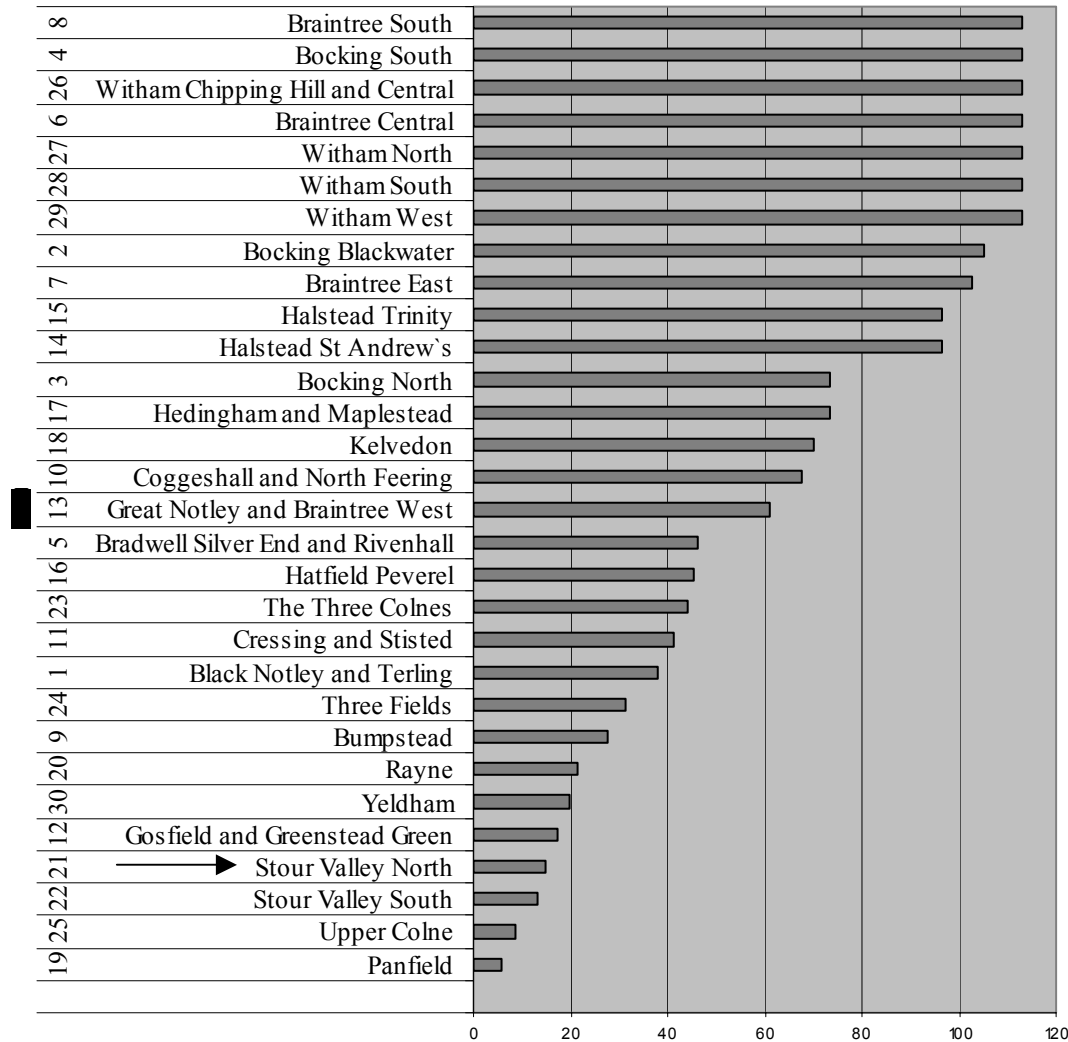
■ Claimants: Income support (per 000 people over the age of 16) August 2006

Interpretation

In the Stour Valley North Ward 19 per 1000 of the working age citizens are claiming income support. This is significantly lower than the District average of 35 per 1000 and gives Stour Valley North the seventh lowest ranking in the District.

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

Access to Services

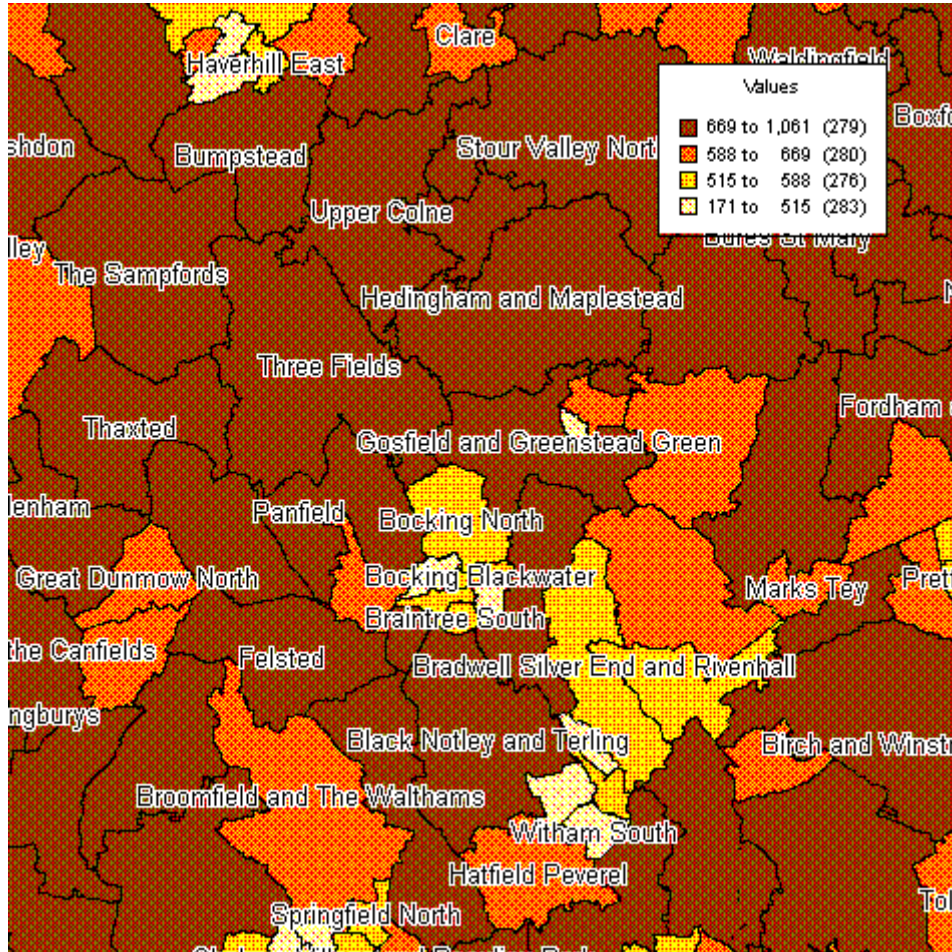


Interpretation

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.

Stour Valley North has a level of 15, significantly lower than both the National average (100) and the District average of 64. It ranks as the fourth lowest in the District.

Number of Cars

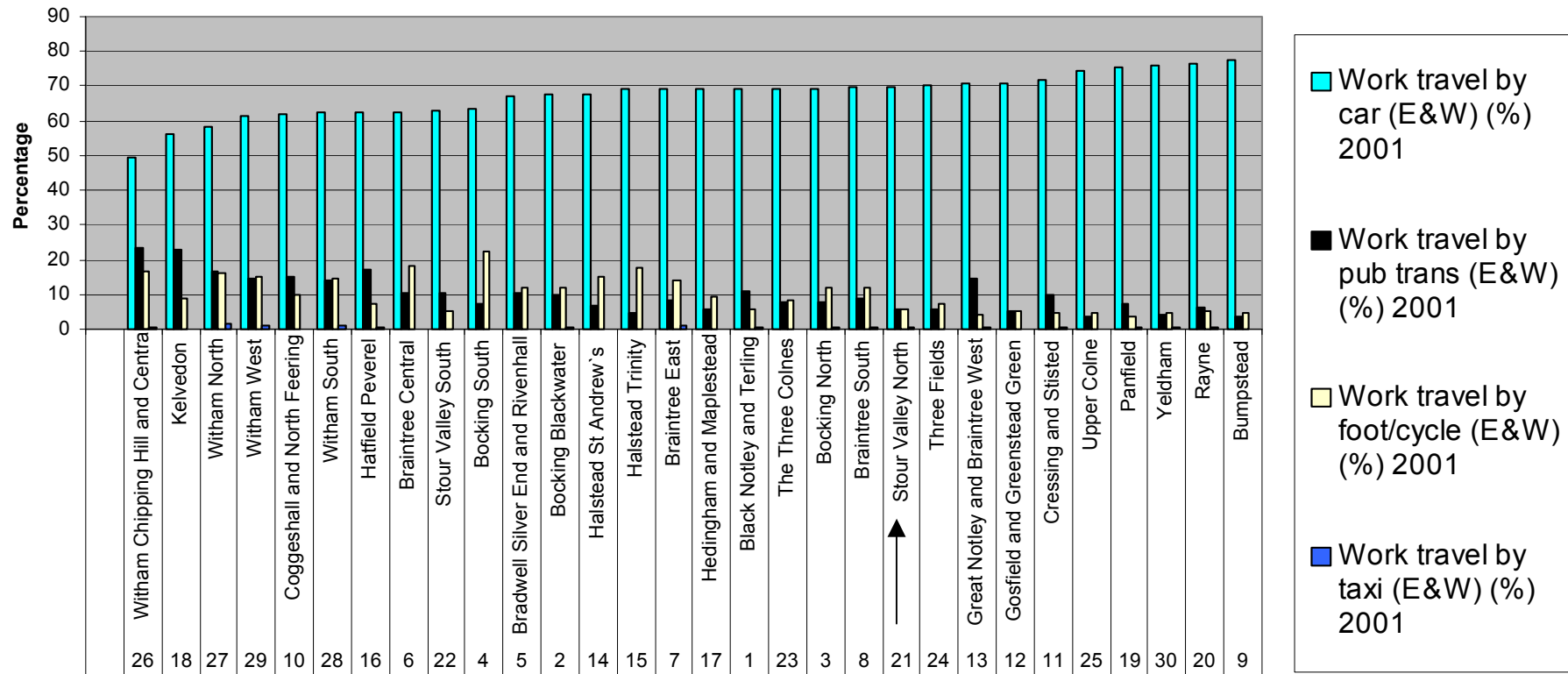


Interpretation

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.

Stour Valley North, at the top of the map and coloured dark red, has a high proportion of cars at 761 per 1000 residents. The level of car ownership in the ward is above the District average of 621 and is the highest in the District.

Travelling to Work

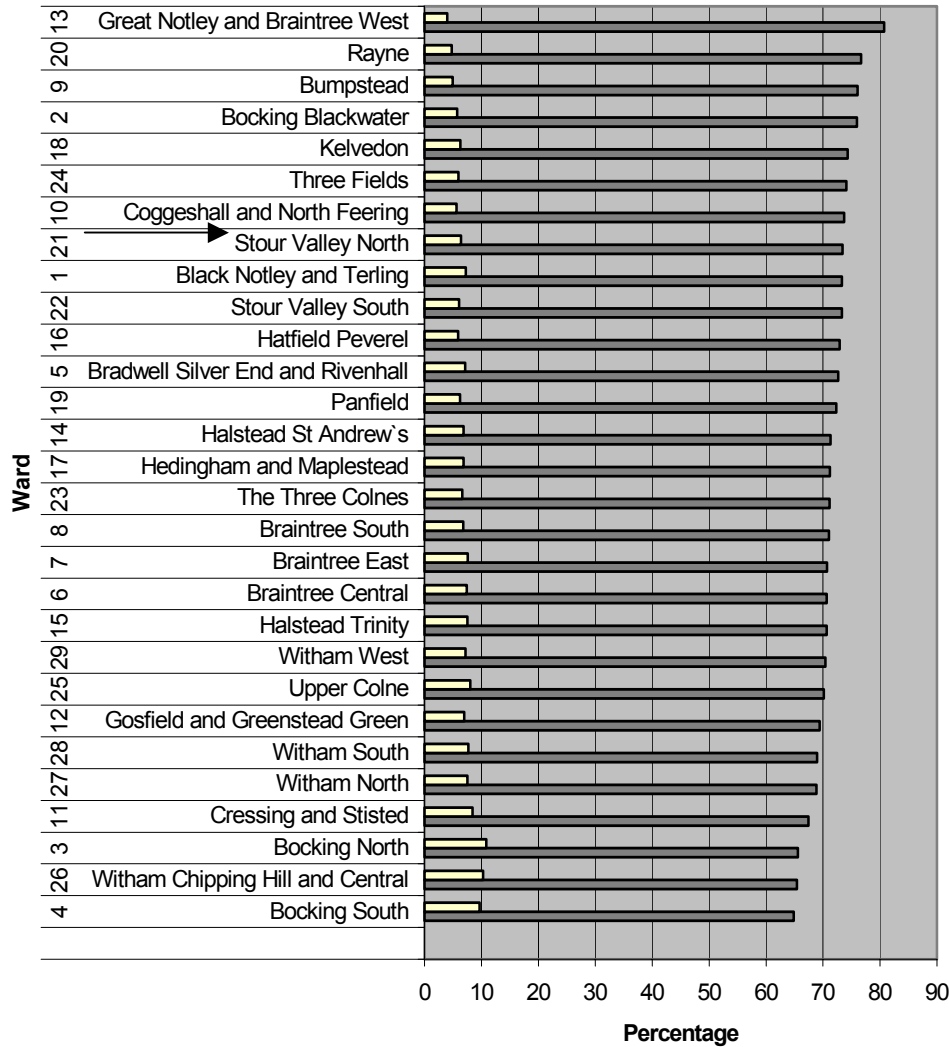


Interpretation

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.

In this Ward 70% of residents travel to work by car, 6% by foot or cycle, 6% by public transport and less than 1% by taxi.

Health



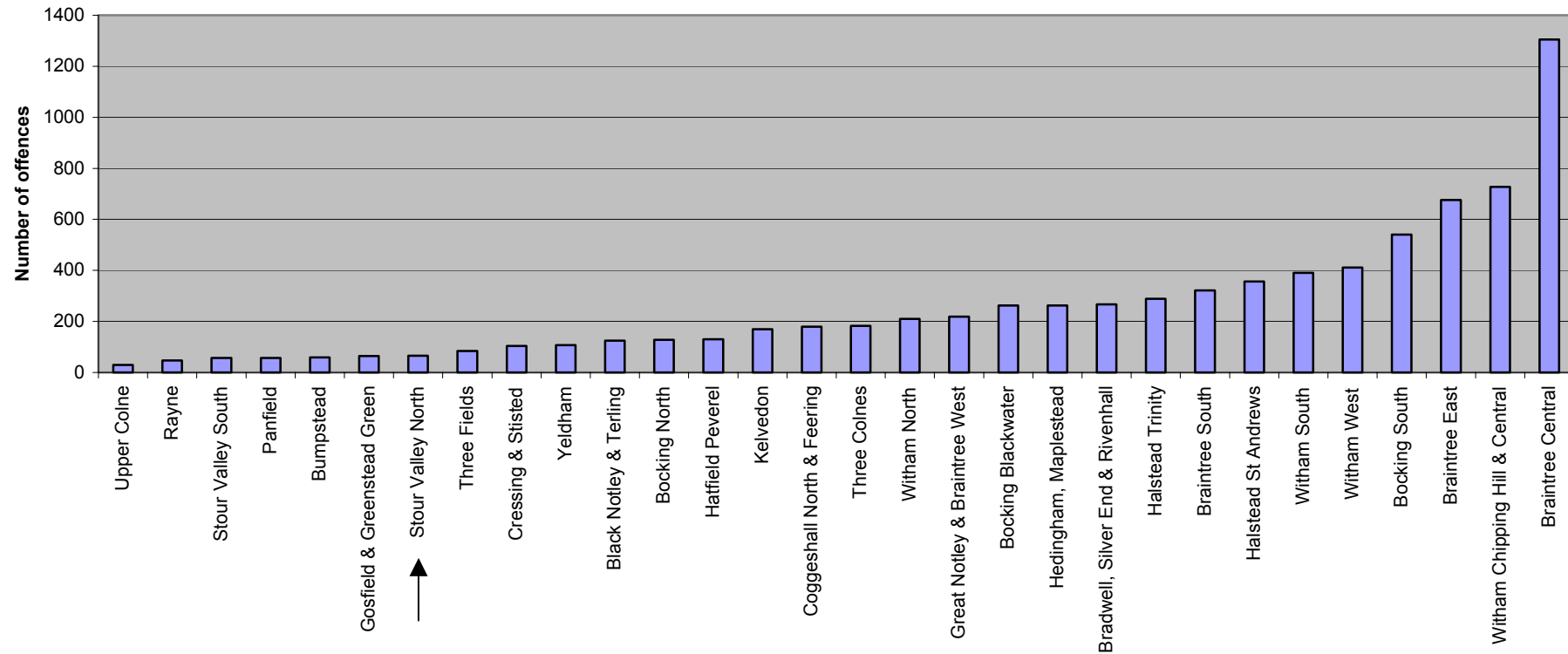
Population not in good health (%) 2001
 Population in good health (%) 2001

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.

In Stour Valley North 73% of the residents are “in good health”, which is 1% above the District average. There are 6% “not in good health”.

Crime Statistics



Interpretation

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

Stour Valley North has a low crime rate at 66 reported crimes, compared to the District average of 261. It is the seventh lowest in the District.