

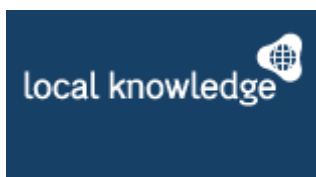
Foreword

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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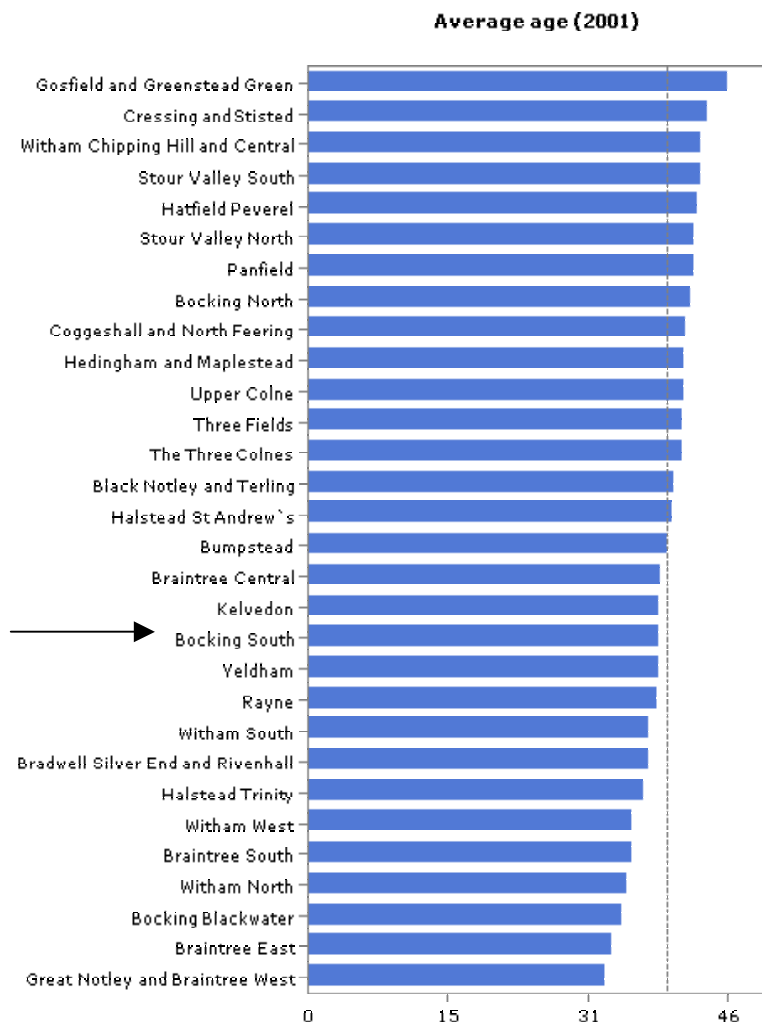
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Sources of this information are:

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

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Age Range



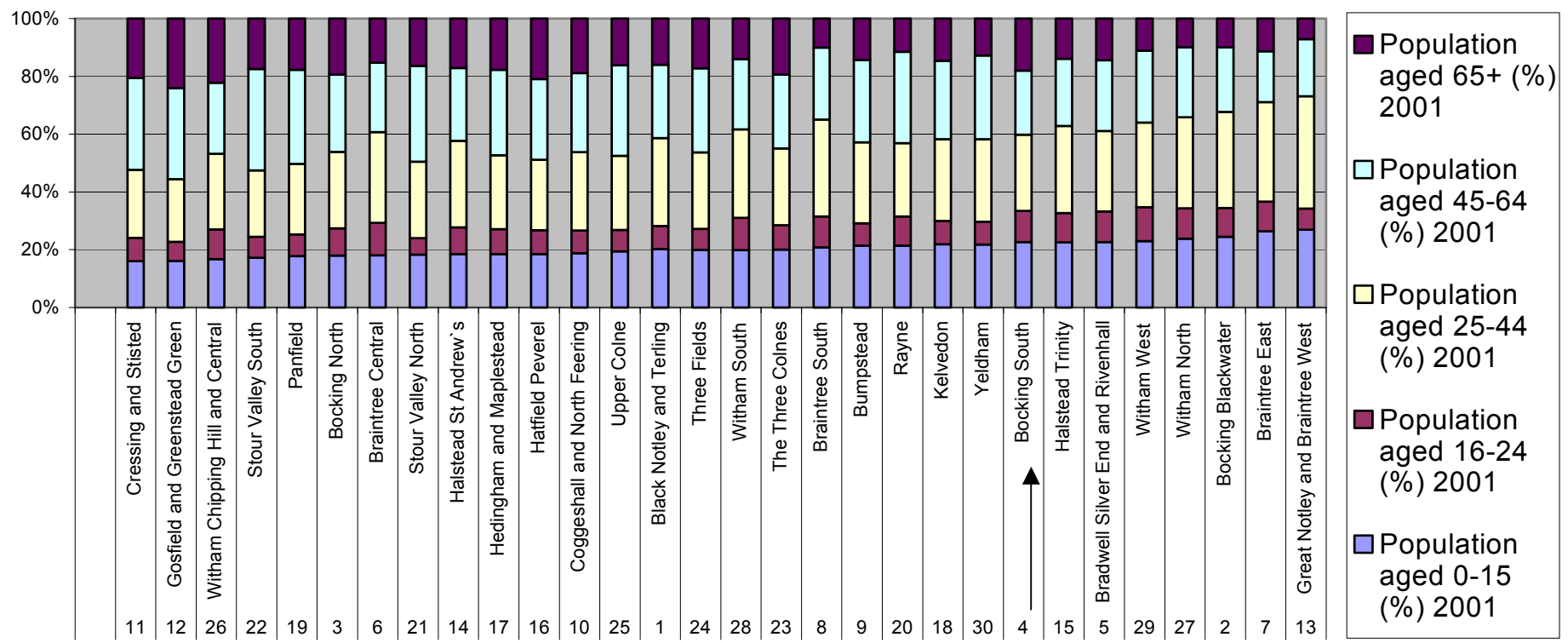
Interpretation

This graph shows the average age of residents in each Ward. It is clear that Gosfield and Greenstead Green 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.

Bocking South residents have an average age of 38.49 years; this is slightly lower than the District's average age of 39.89 years. However, the average age is noticeably lower than its geographical neighbour Bocking North where the average age was 42 years. This can be attributed to a variety of reasons such as different proportions of age groups. To look at this in more detail please refer to the graph on page 6.

Age proportion within the population

Key—From the top to the bottom of the graph

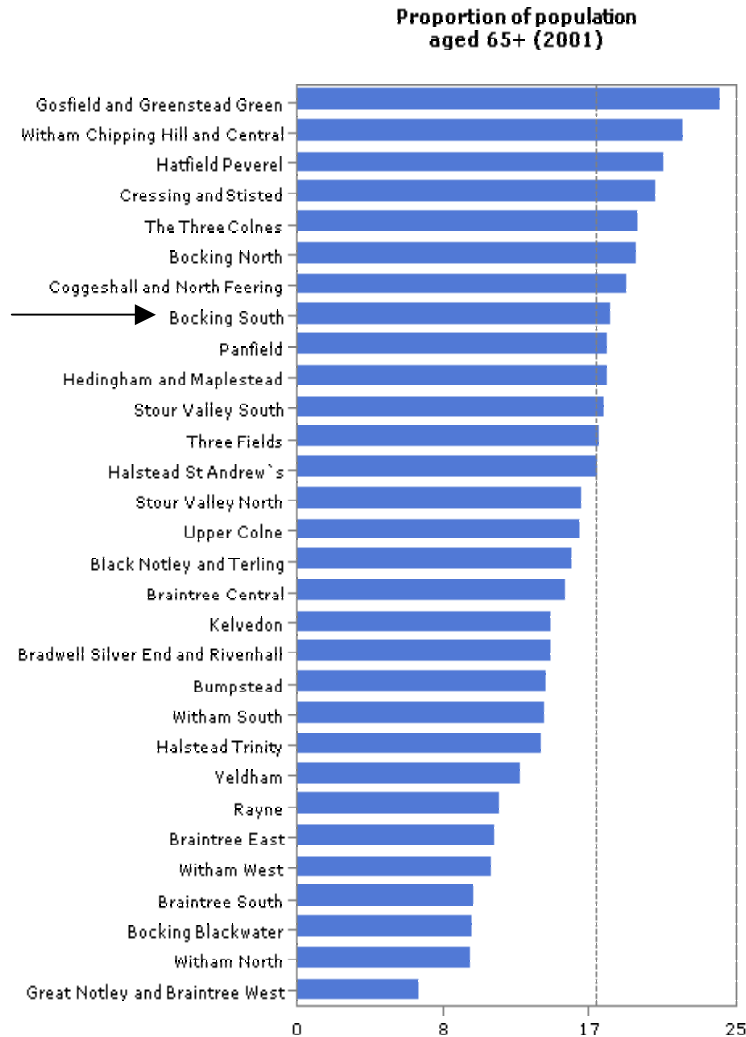


Interpretation

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.

This pattern is borne out by the local statistics for Bocking South Ward. Only 22.62% fall into the age range 0-15 and 17.92% into the 65+ range. There are 26.31% in the range 25-44 years also supporting the above comments. The figures for 16-24 and 45-64 are 10.81% and 22.14% respectively.

Number of People that could be on a Pension



Interpretation

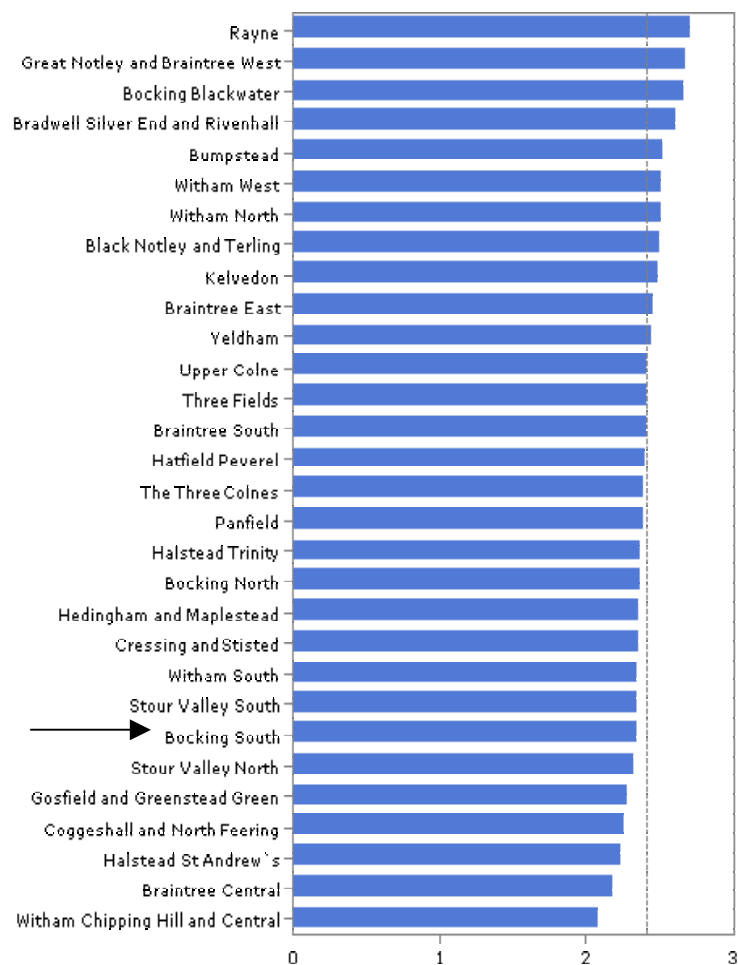
As the normal age of retirement is 65, this graph implies that the ward with the highest proportion of people on a pension is Gosfield and Greenstead Green.

Bocking South also has a higher than average proportion of people that are of retirement age at 17.92%. The average percentage for the District is 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

Average household size
(2001)

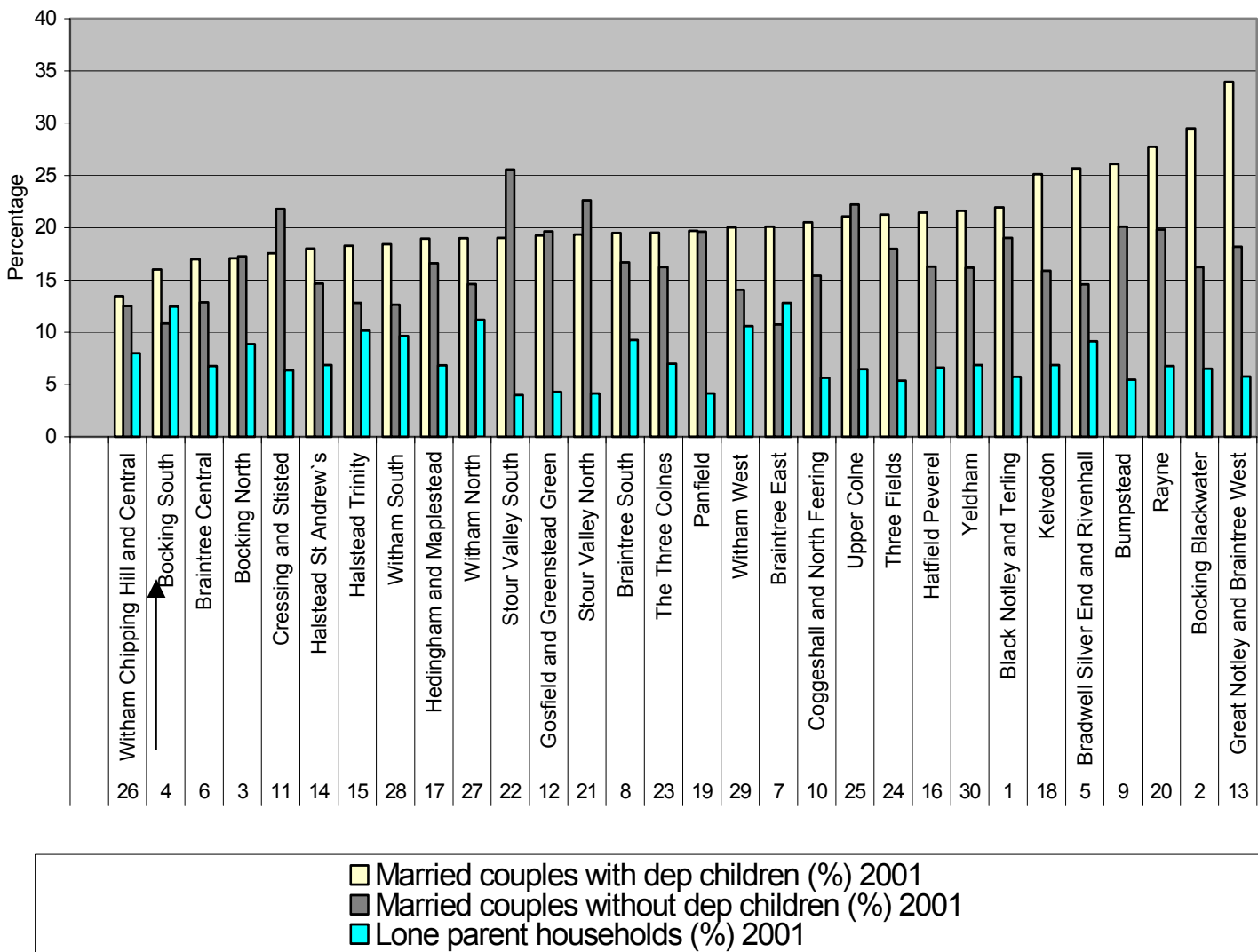


Interpretation

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.

Bocking South is positioned seventh from the bottom with an average household size of 2.35 people. This is lower than the District average.

Households and Children

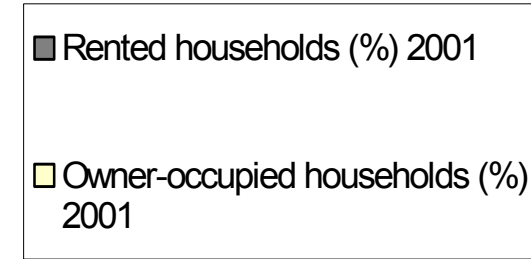
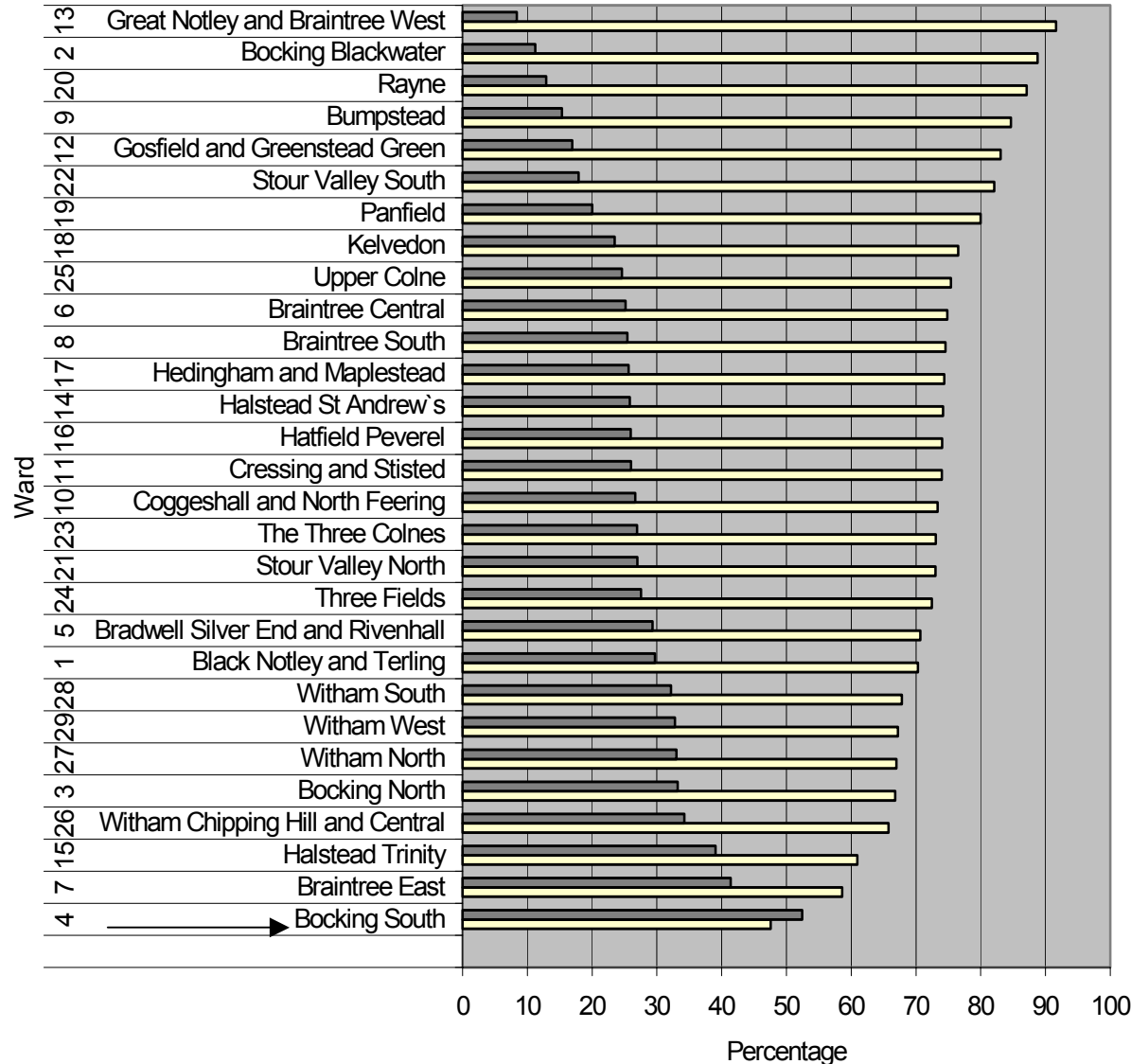


Interpretation

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.

Bocking South has a low proportion of married couples with dependant children at 16%. This is the second lowest percentage in the District. In comparison to the rest of the District the Ward has a relatively high ratio of lone parent households at 12%. There are 11% of married couples without dependant children.

Tenure

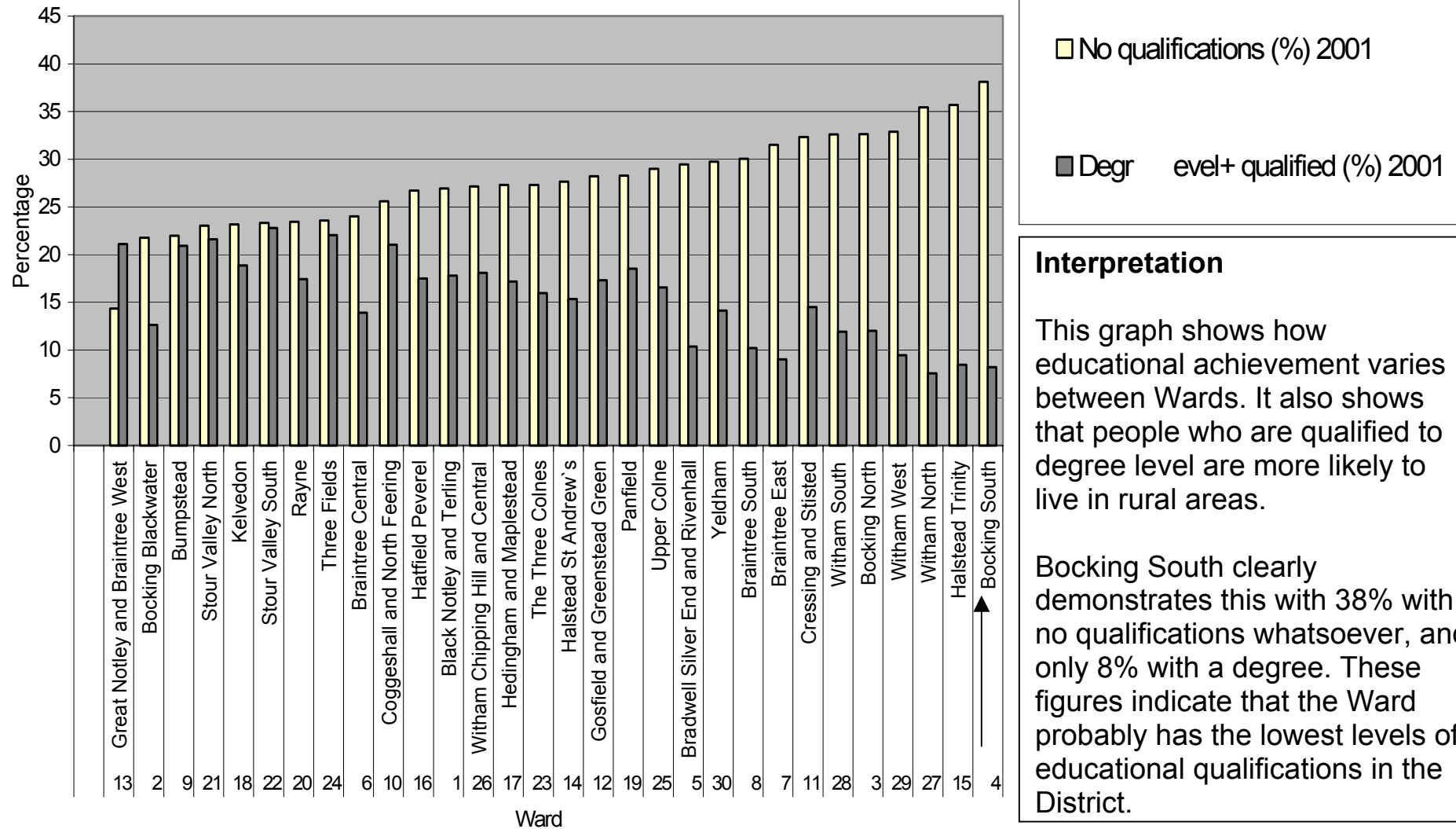


Interpretation

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.

Bocking South has the largest proportion of people in rented accommodation with 52%. It is the only Ward that has a larger ratio renting than owning the building they are living in. The owner occupied percentage at 43% is the lowest in the District.

Education



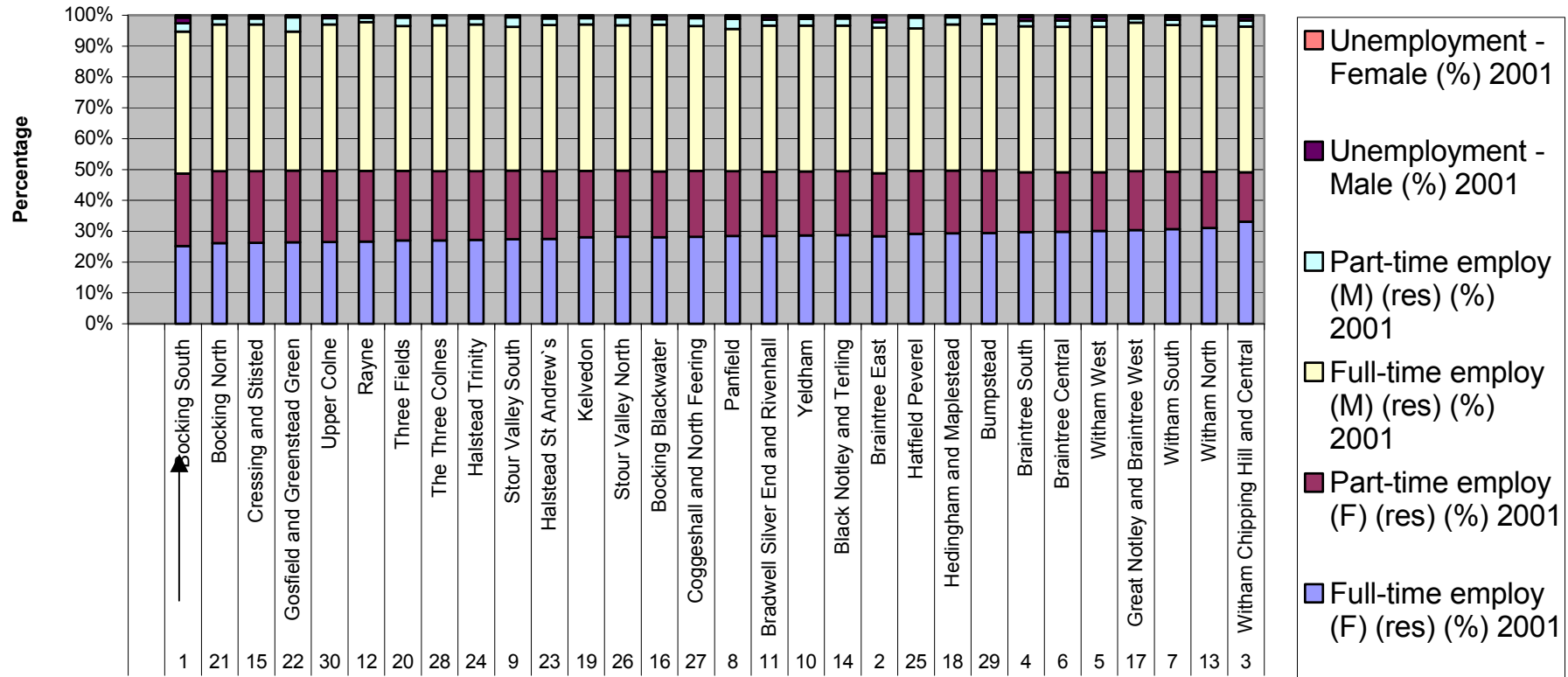
Interpretation

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.

Bocking South clearly demonstrates this with 38% with no qualifications whatsoever, and only 8% with a degree. These figures indicate that the Ward probably has the lowest levels of educational qualifications in the District.

Employment

Key—from top to bottom of the graph



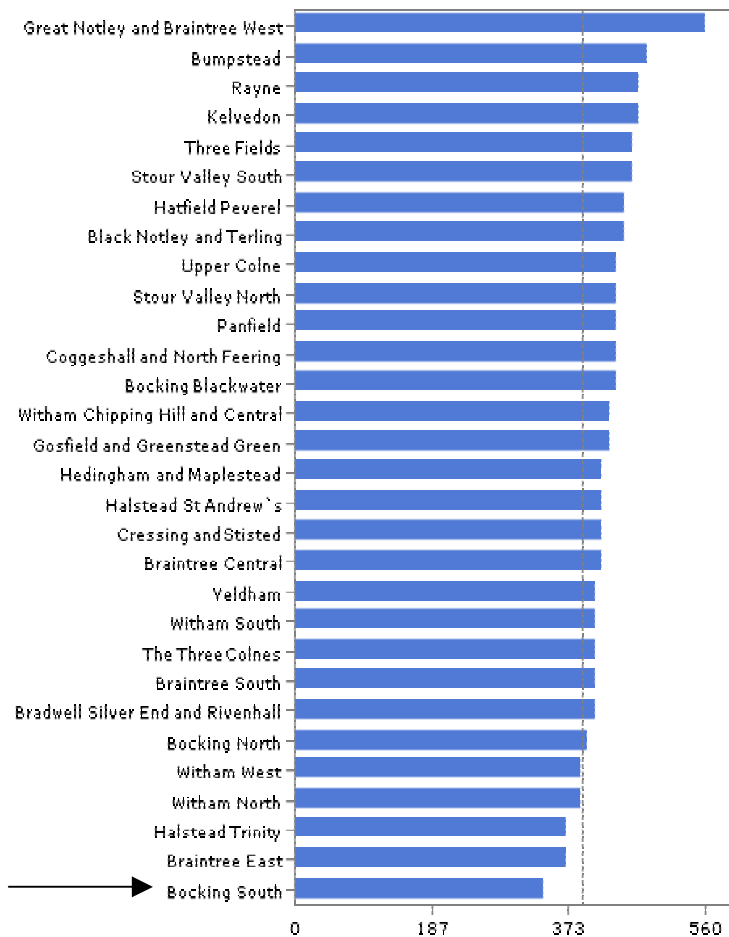
Interpretation

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.

Bocking South full time employment for men is 94% and 51% for women. For part time work the pattern is reversed, with 48% of women in part-time employment but only 5% of men. Leaving very low unemployment.

Average Income

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



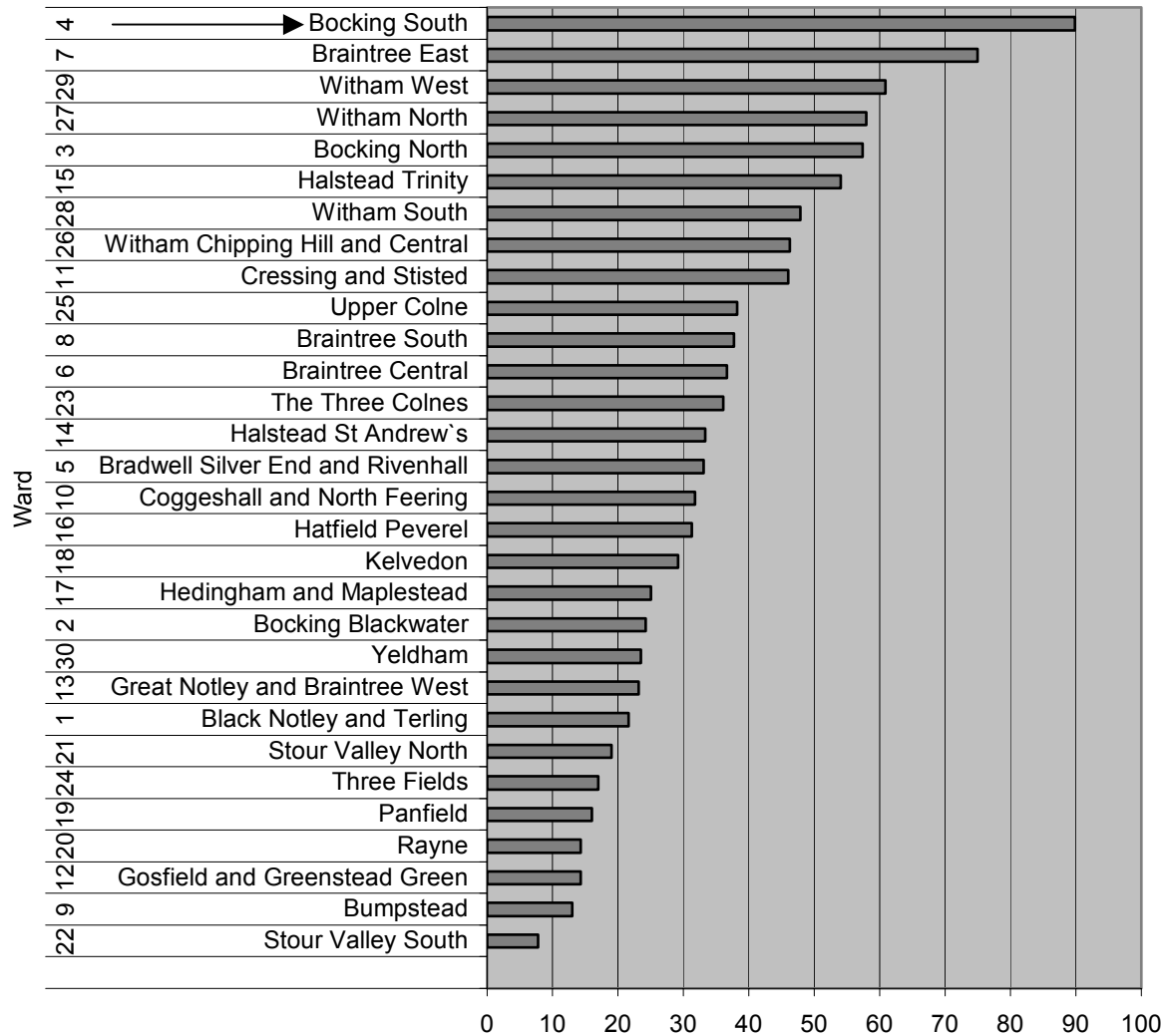
Interpretation

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 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.

Bocking South has an income of £340, which is significantly lower than the other Wards. It is therefore positioned at the very bottom of the graph.

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



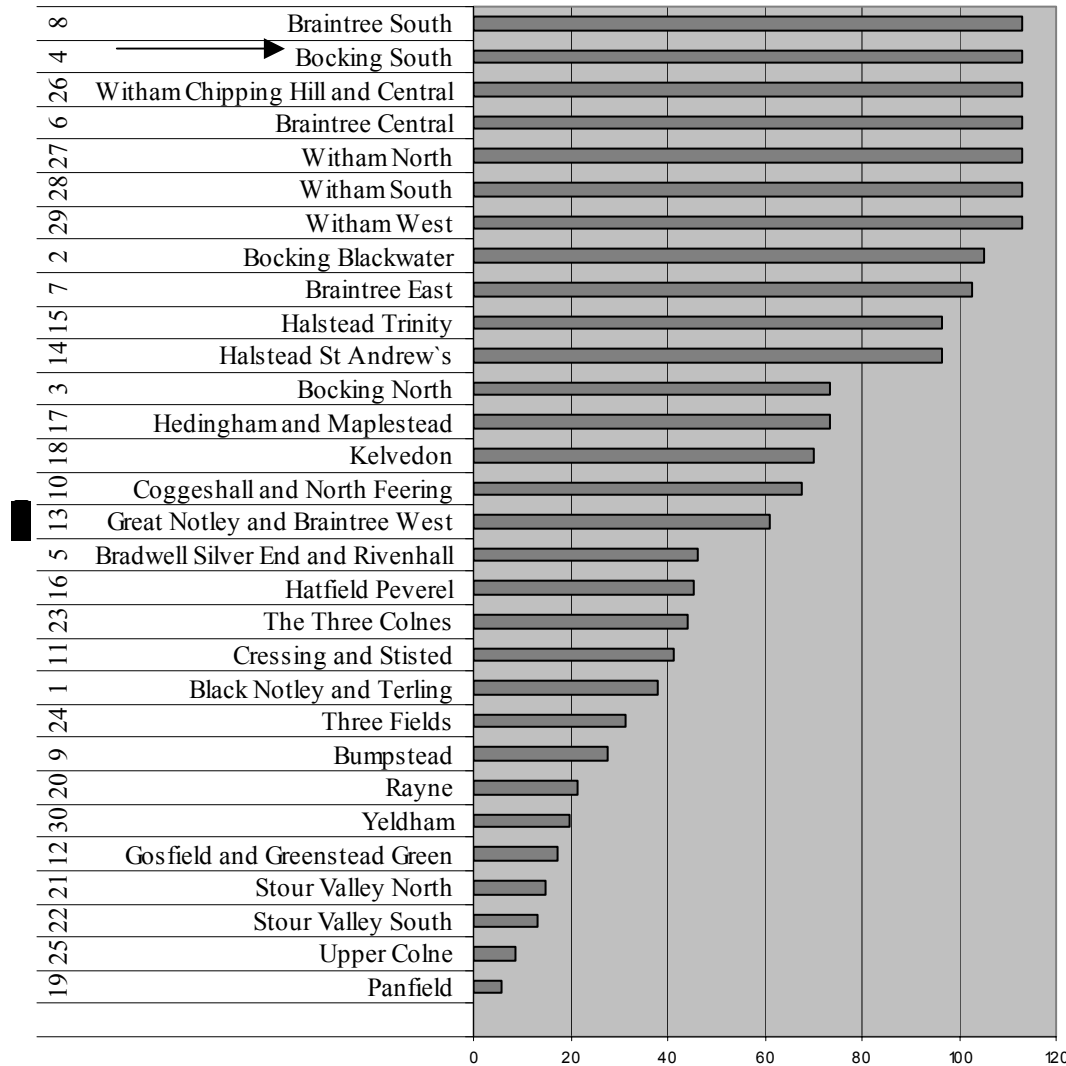
■ Claimants: Income support (per 000 people over the age of 16) August 2006

Interpretation

Bocking South has the highest proportion of the working age population claiming income support, 90 people per 1000. This is over two and a half times more than the District average, which are 35 per 1000.

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

Access to Services

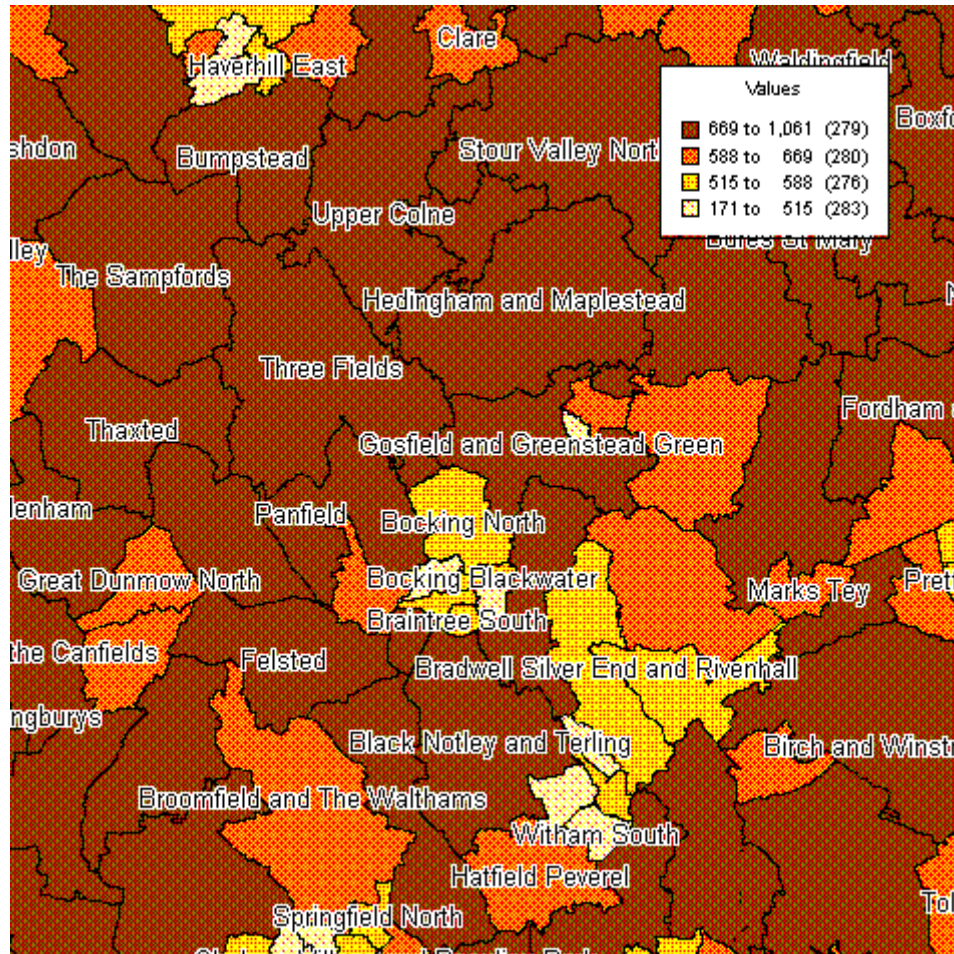


Interpretation

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.

Bocking South ward has a score of 113, exceeding the national average of 100, showing that it has very good accessibility to services. It is second within the District.

Number of Cars

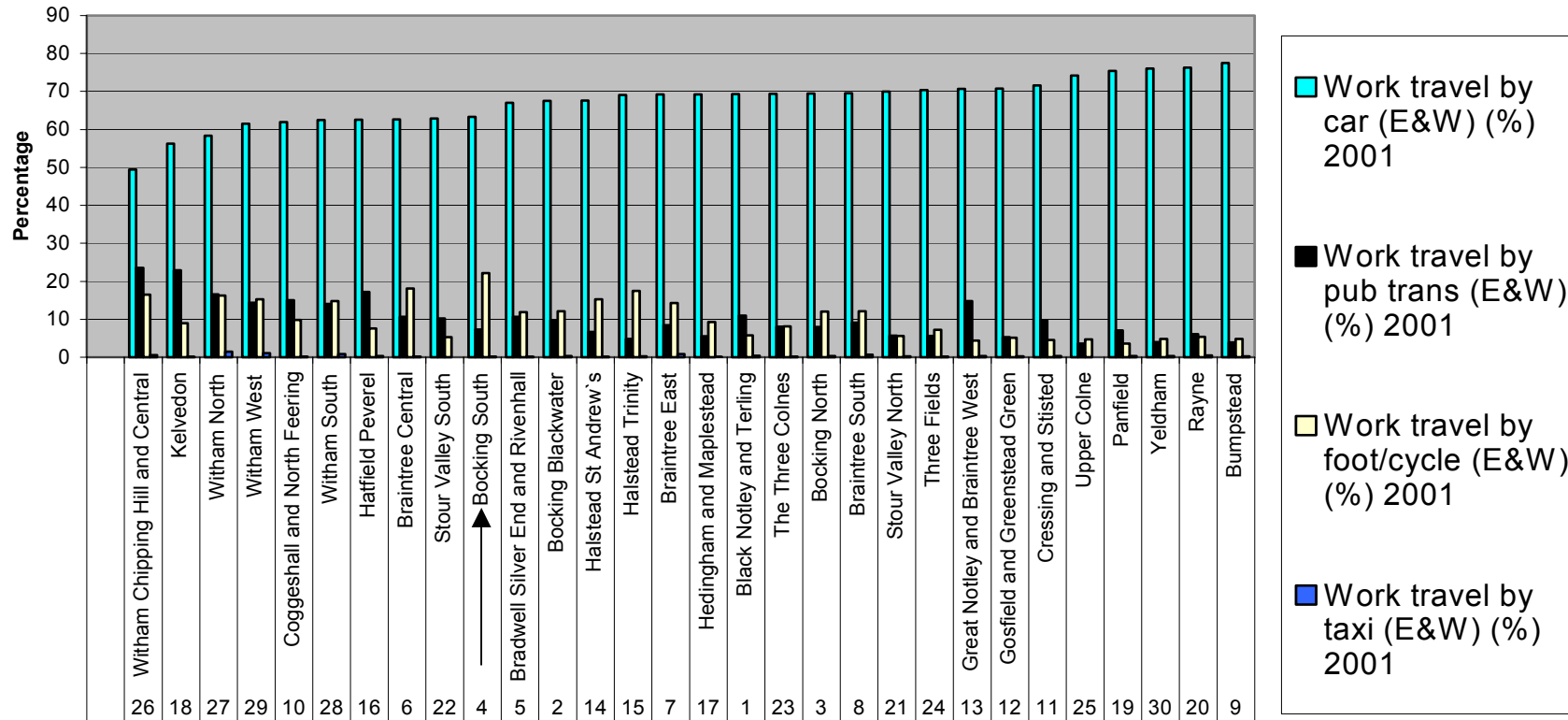


Interpretation

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.

Bocking South falls within the urban areas and has a relatively low number of 424 cars per 1000 people in the area.

Travelling to Work

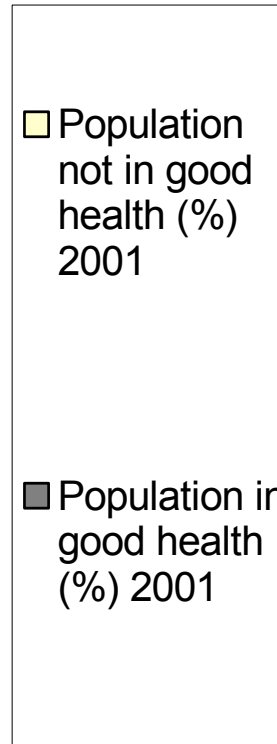
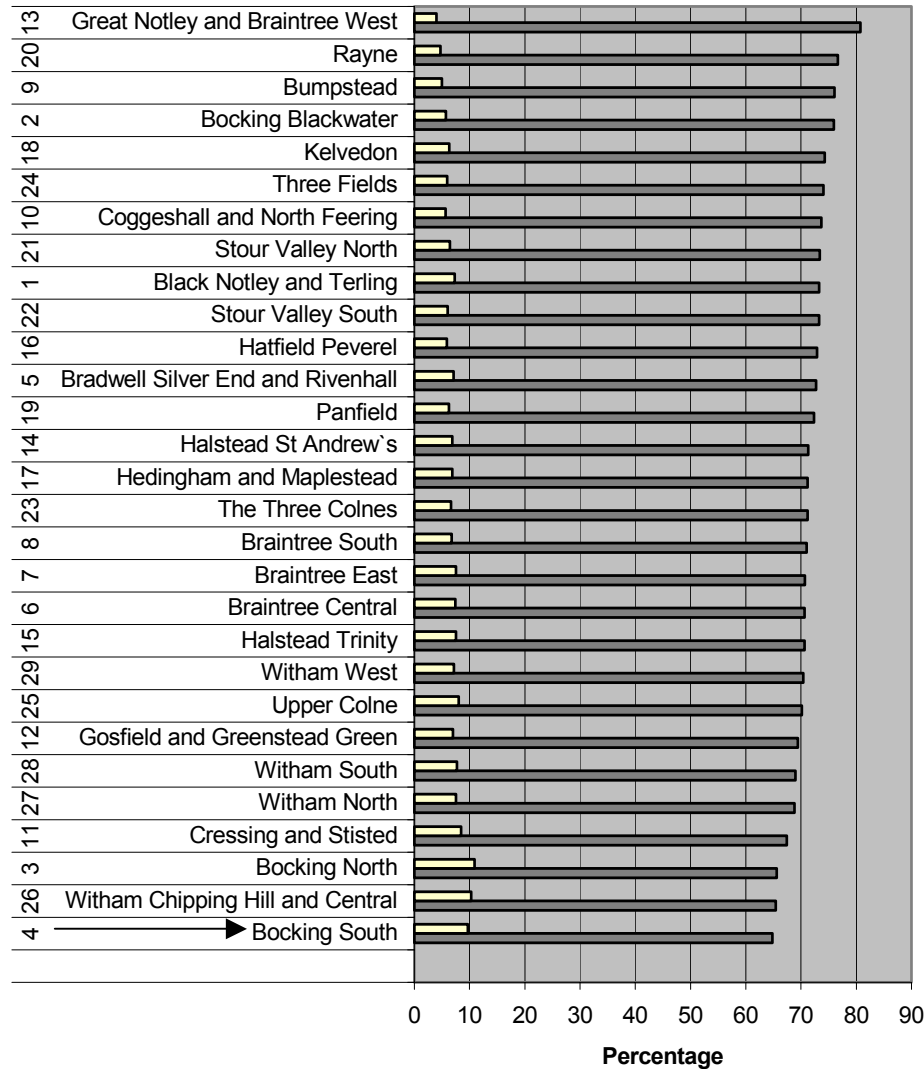


Interpretation

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.

Bocking South has 63.29% of people travelling to work by car; this is lower than the District average, which is 67.38%. 22.16% travel to work by foot or cycle, 7.28% by public transport, and 0.19% by taxi.

Health

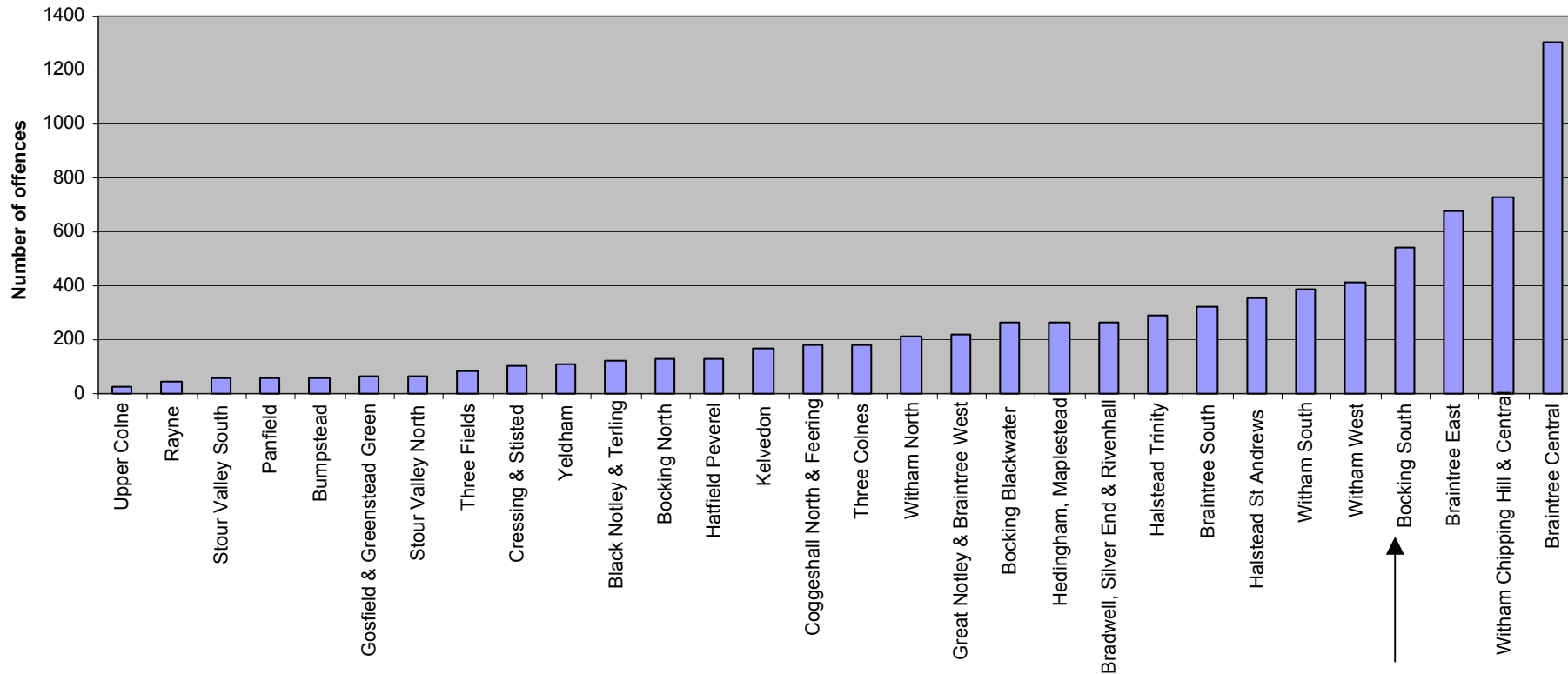


Interpretation

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.

Bocking South has 64.83% of its population “in good health” against a District average of 71.71% which is a noteworthy difference. 9.66% of the population are “not in good health”, which is higher than the average of 6.97%. There are significant differences here, and Bocking South clearly has the poorest overall health level in the District.

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 rate in more urban built up Wards is distinctively higher.

Bocking South has a crime level of 540, which is significantly higher than the District average of 261 and its geographical neighbour Bocking North at 128.