

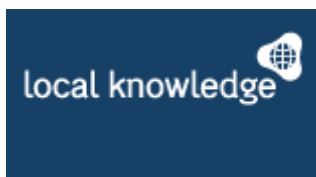
Foreword

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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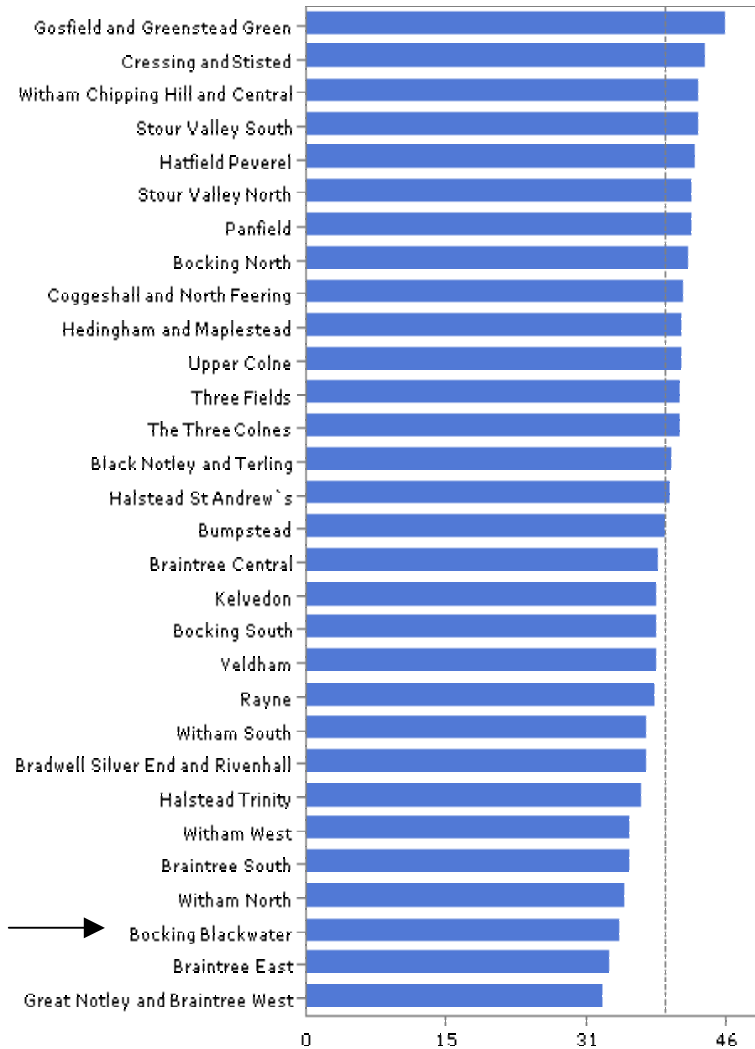
Sources of this information are:

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

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Age Range

Average age (2001)



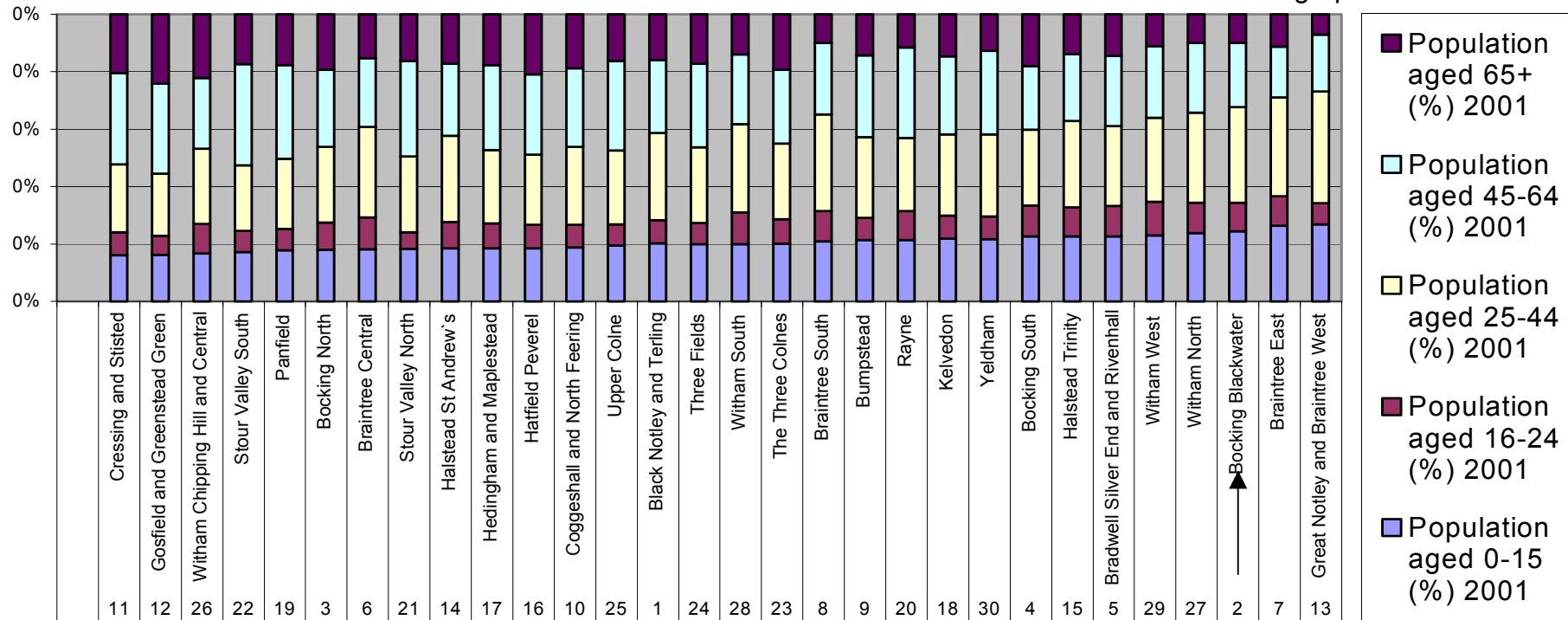
Interpretation

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 Blackwater is third from the bottom with a low average age of 34.38 years. This is probably due to a larger number of younger people in the area but for more information consider looking at the graph on page 6.

Age proportion within the population

Key—From the top to the bottom of the graph

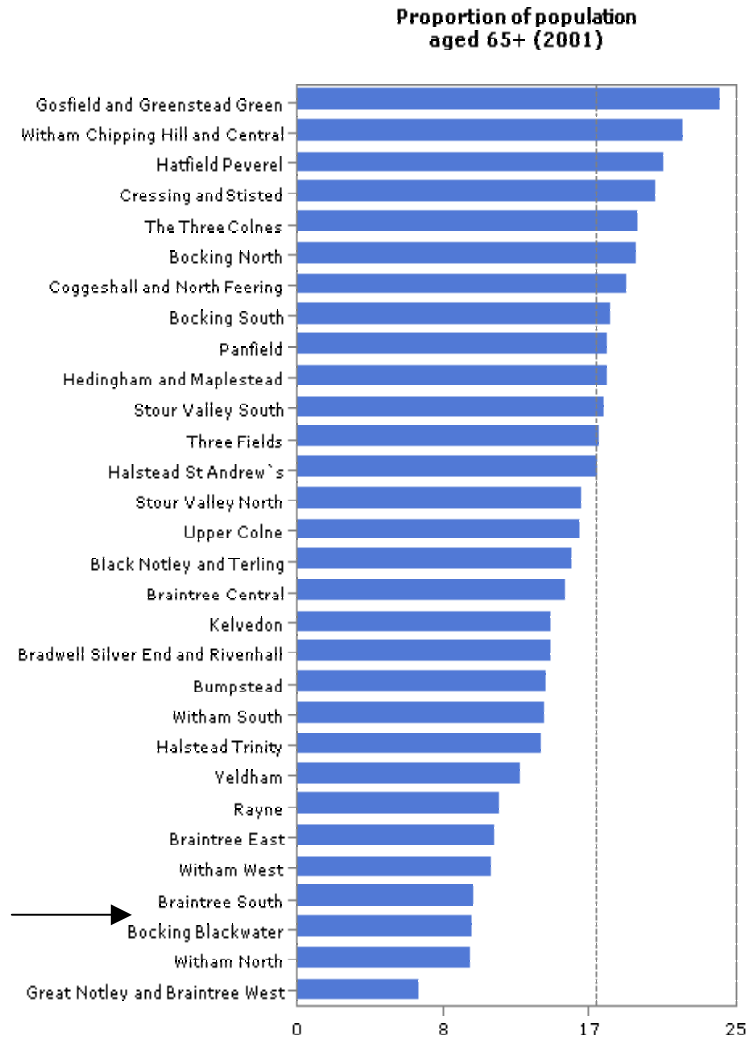


Interpretation

This graph shows that in general the smaller the proportion 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.

A significantly large proportion (nearly a quarter – 24.65%) of the population of the Bocking Blackwater Ward falls within the age range 0-15 years. A similar proportion at 22.52% were aged between 45-64, with a larger proportion, 33.54% aged between 25-44 years. The proportion in the age range 16-24 was 10.04% and 65+ years was 10%

Number of People that could be on a Pension



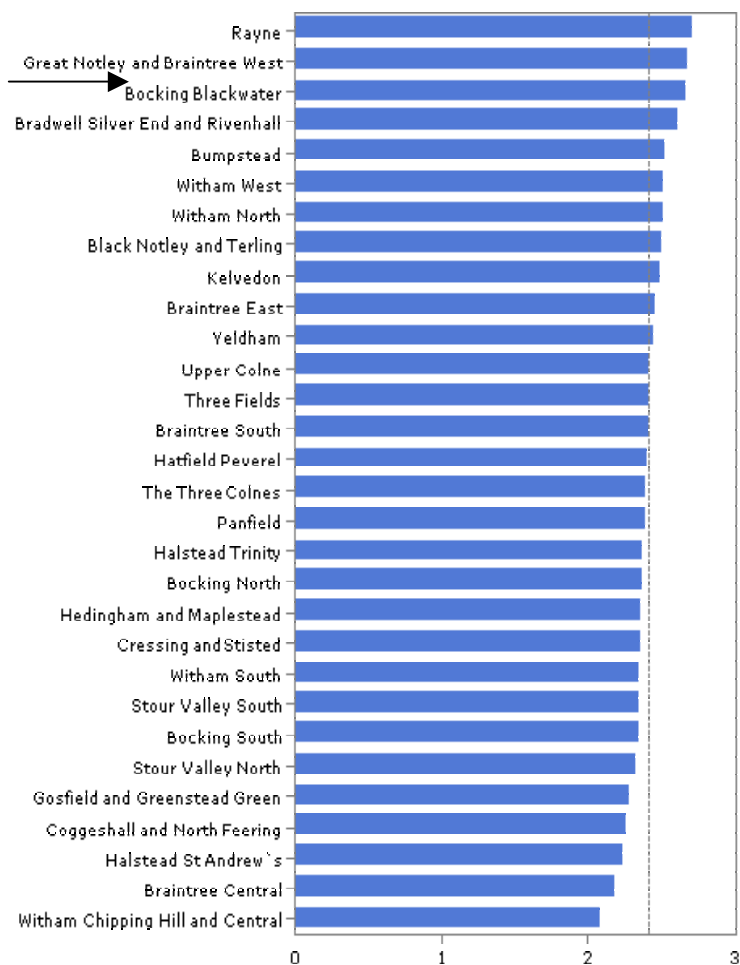
Interpretation
 As the normal age of retirement is 65, this graph implies that the ward with the highest proportion of people on a pension is Gosfield and Greenstead Green.

Within the Bocking Blackwater Ward there are 10% that fall in to this category. This figure is considerably lower than the District average of 15.65%, and the graph indicates that relatively few people are retired and living on a pension in this Ward.

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)

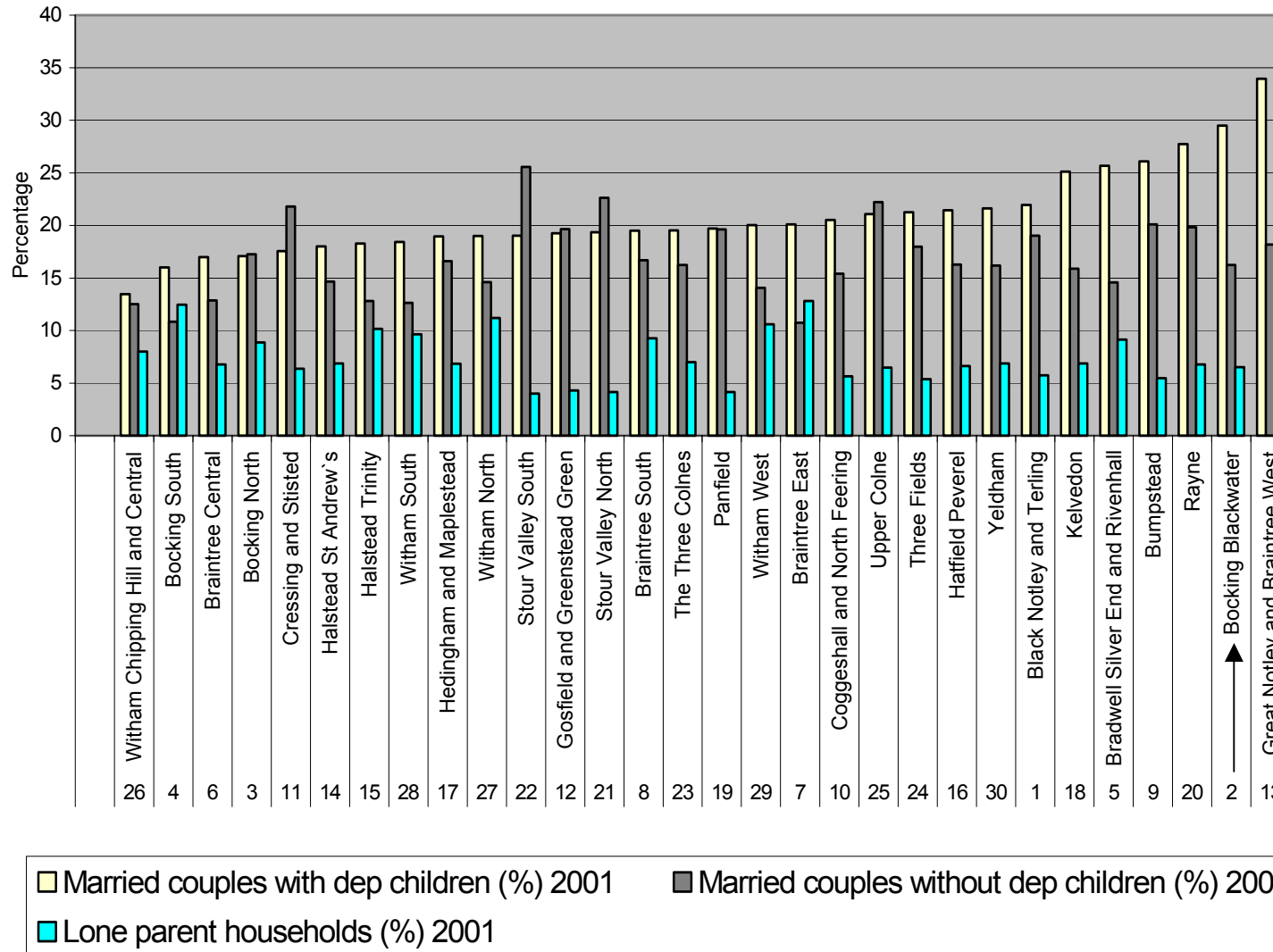


Interpretation

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 Blackwater has the third highest average household size for the District at 2.67 people.

Households and Children

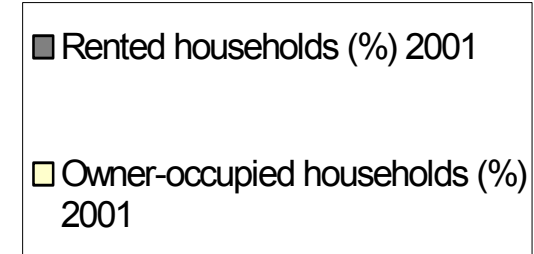
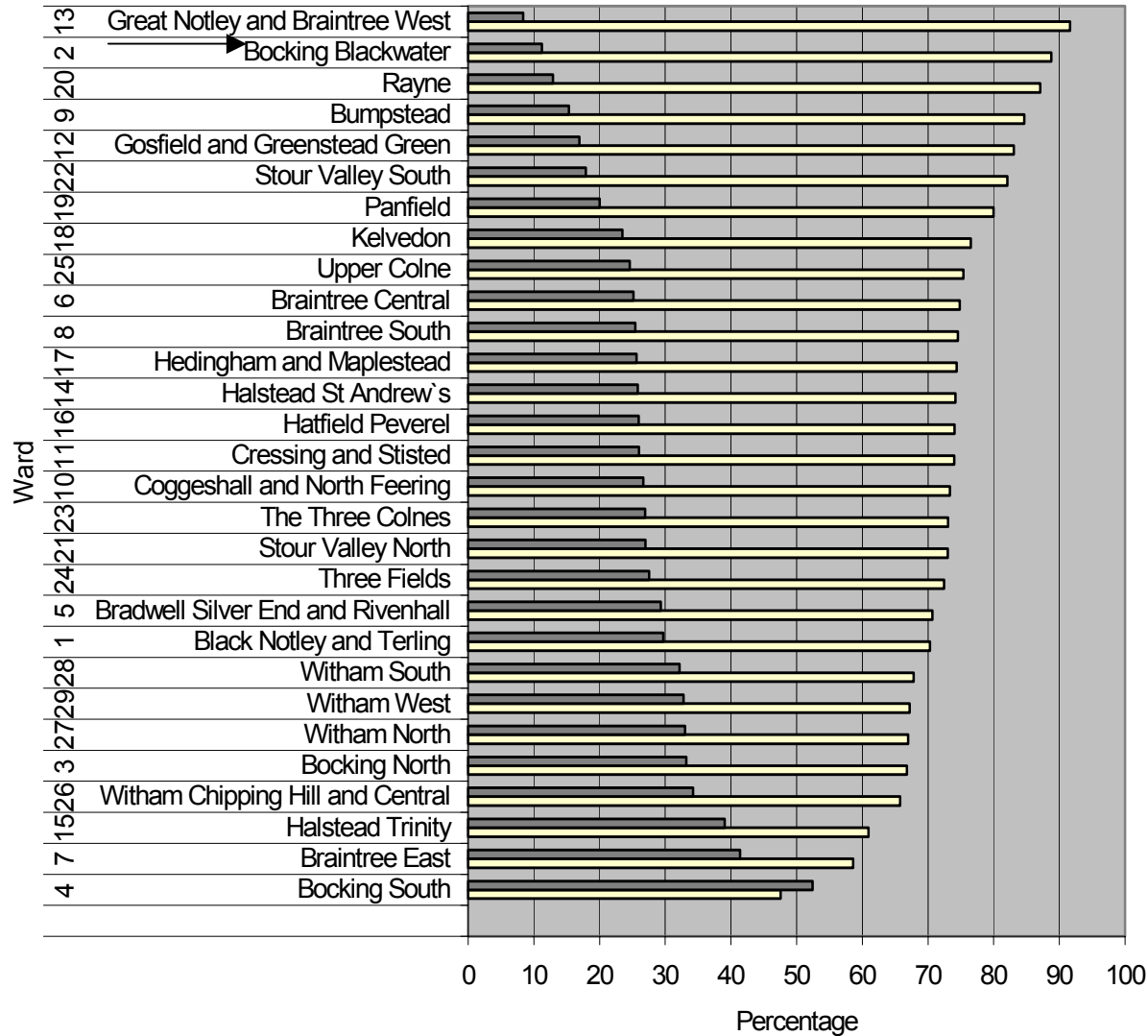


Interpretation

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.

This graph shows that Bocking Blackwater has a very high number of married couples with dependant children; the Ward's figure is 29% when the District average is 22%. Married couples without dependant children are 16% and lone parent households are 7%.

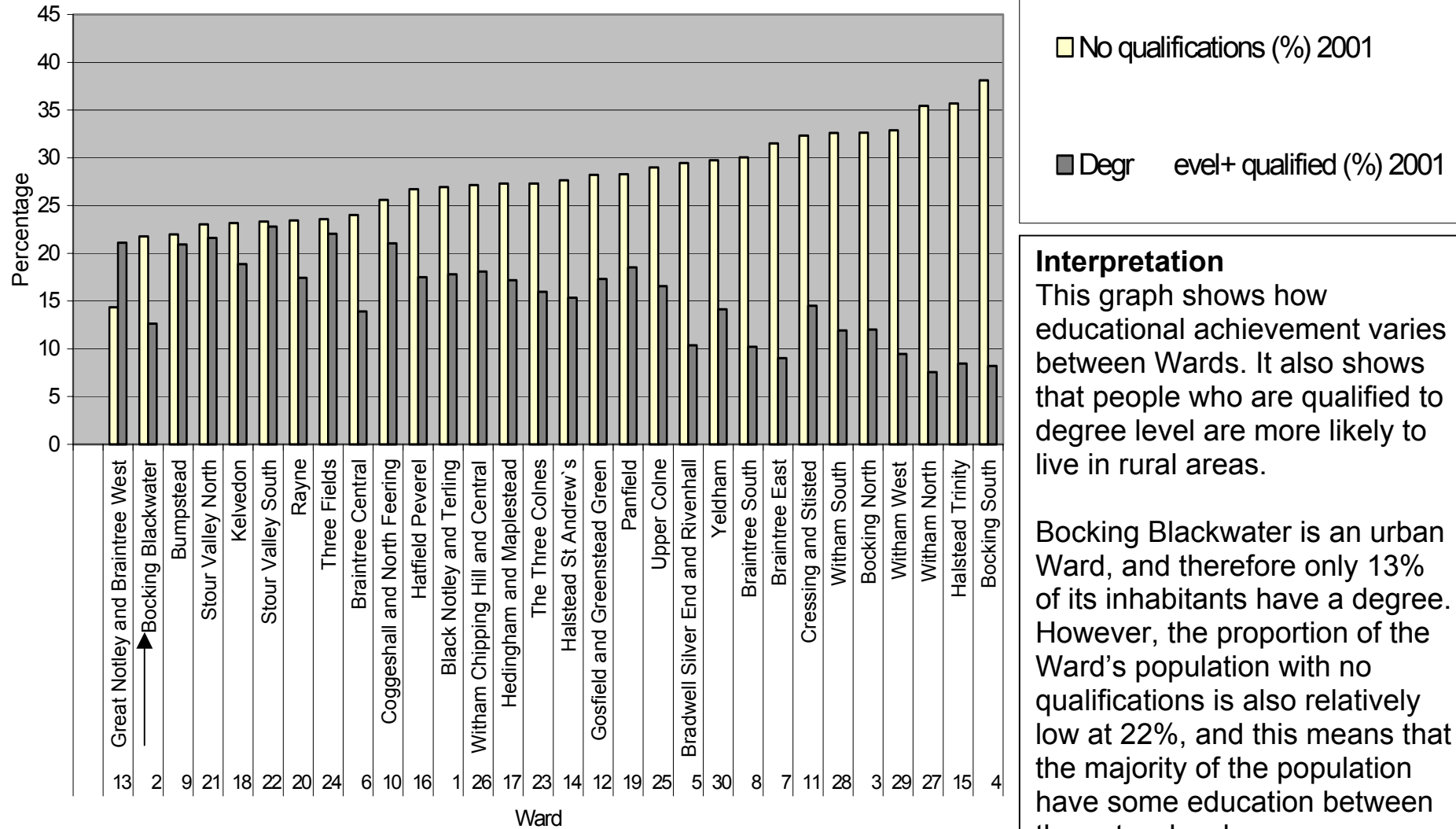
Tenure



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.

89% of residents in the Bocking Blackwater Ward own the house they are living in. This is significantly above the District average of 71% and is nearly eight times larger than the percentage of people renting, which is 11%.

Education

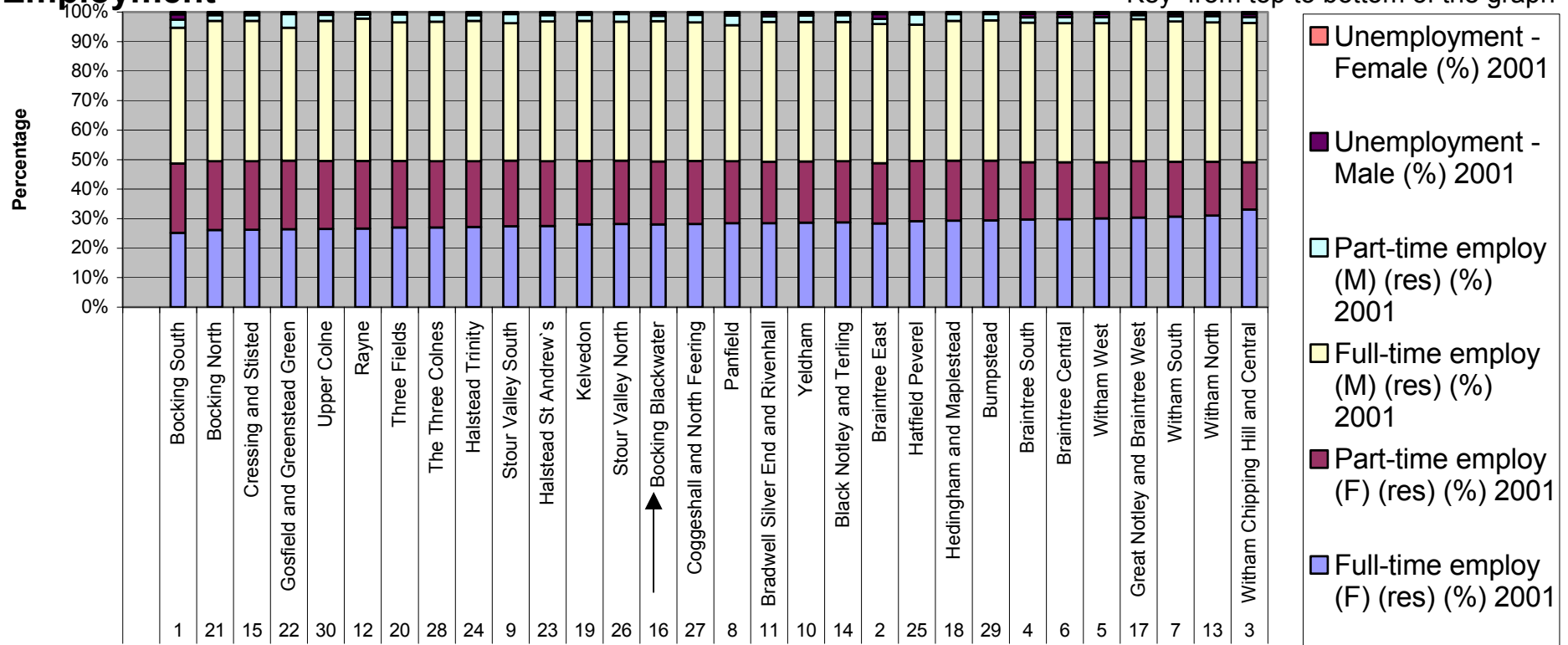


Interpretation
 This graph shows how educational achievement varies between Wards. It also shows that people who are qualified to degree level are more likely to live in rural areas.

Bocking Blackwater is an urban Ward, and therefore only 13% of its inhabitants have a degree. However, the proportion of the Ward's population with no qualifications is also relatively low at 22%, and this means that the majority of the population have some education between these two levels.

Employment

Key—from top to bottom of the graph



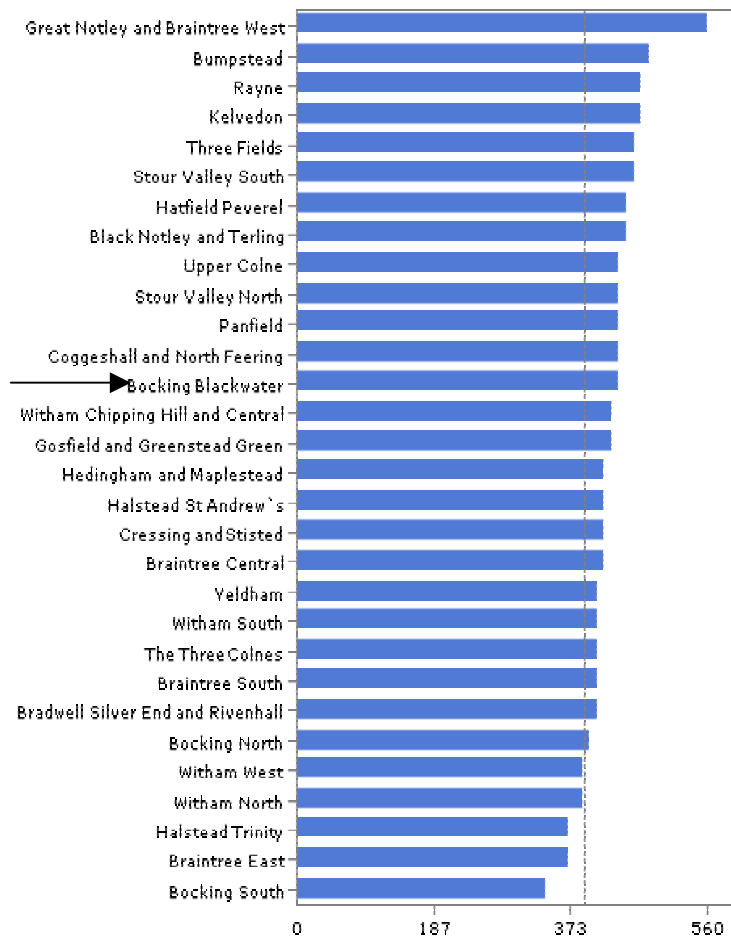
Interpretation

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 Blackwater is just off centre of the graph. It has a large proportion of men in full time work at 96%, compared to 57% of women. There are 43% of women in part time employment and only 4% males.

Average Income

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



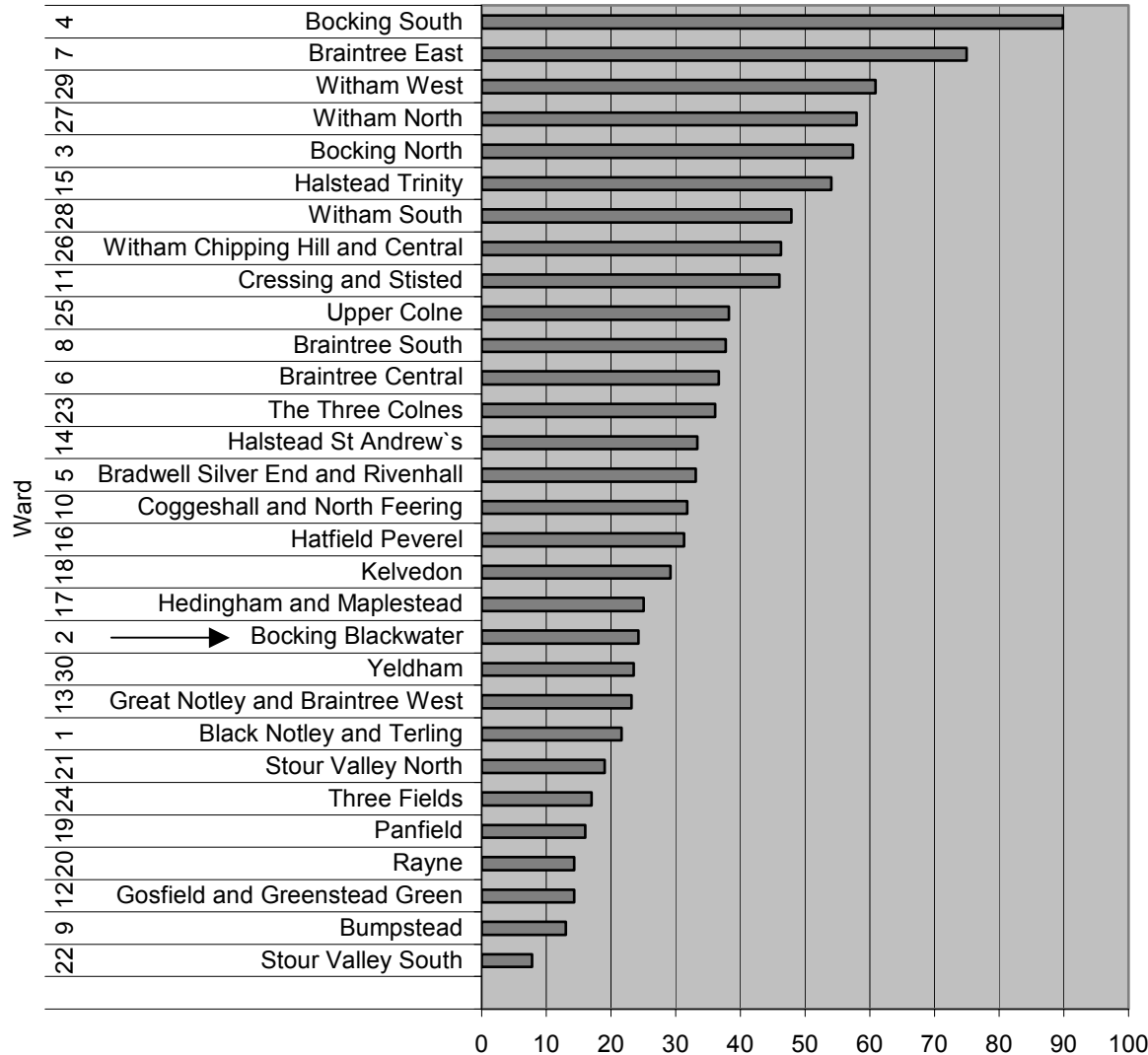
Interpretation

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 rural Wards like Great Notley and Bumpstead in the top quartile and urban ones such as 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 Blackwater has an average income of £440. This is the thirteenth highest in the District, just above the District average, which is £428.

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



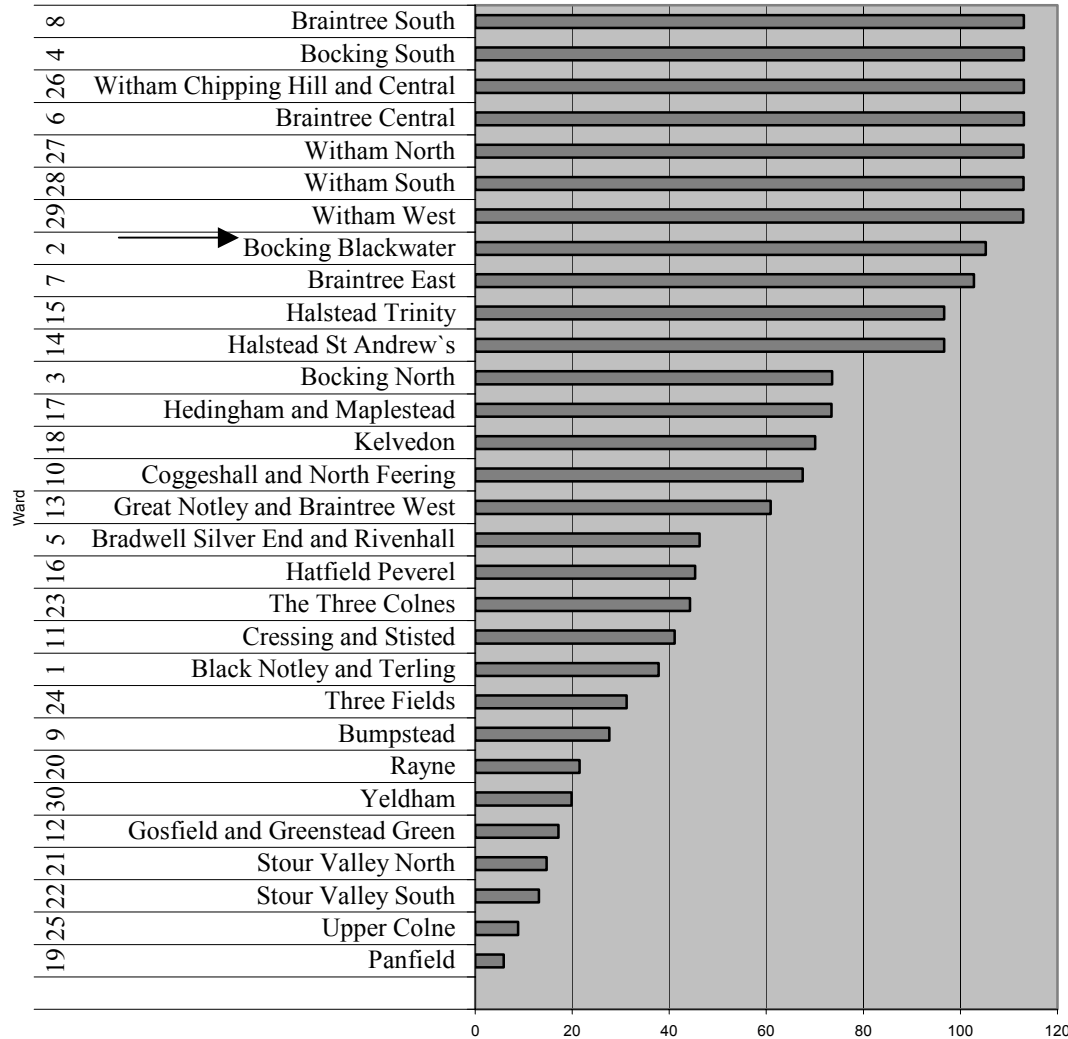
■ Claimants: Income support (per 000 people over the age of 16) August 2006

Interpretation

Bocking Blackwater is ranked eleventh from the bottom of this graph. It has a proportion of 21 per 1000 of its working age population that are on income support, compared to the average for the District which is 35.

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

Access to Services

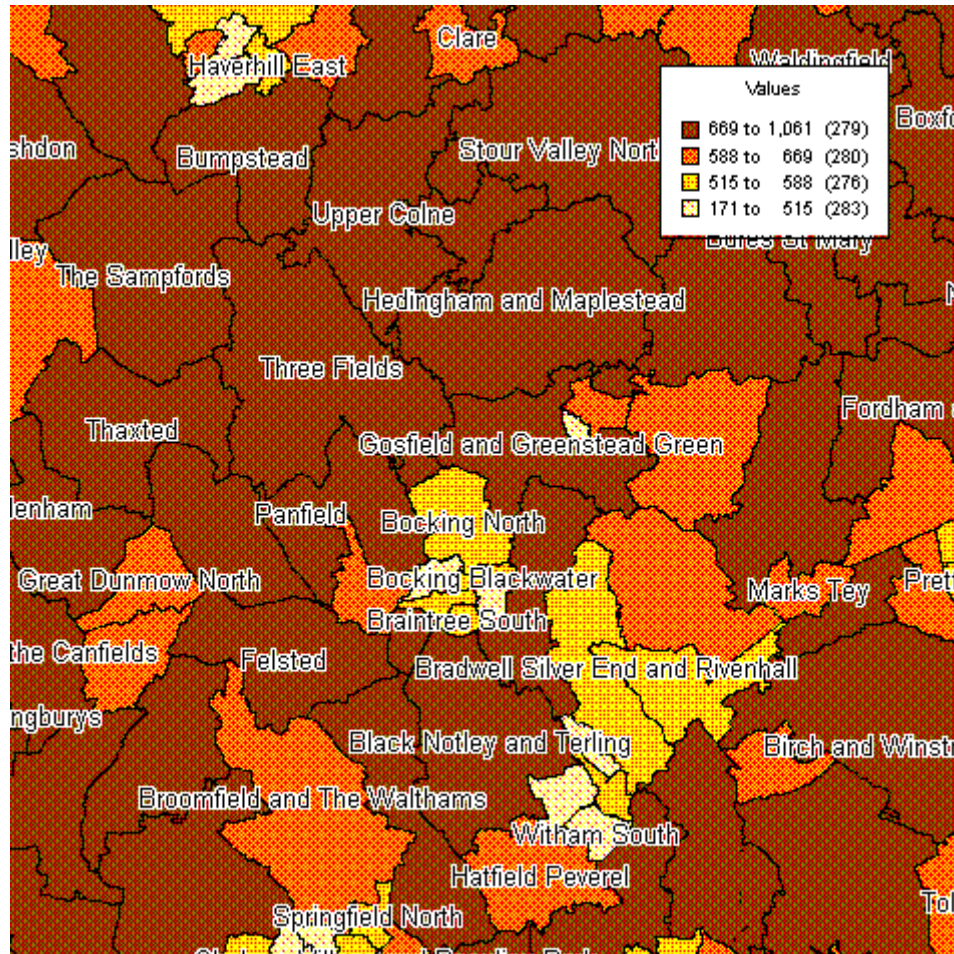


Interpretation

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.

The level at Bocking Blackwater is 105.25, towards the top end of the range for the District, and therefore this Ward can be said to have relatively good access to services.

Number of Cars

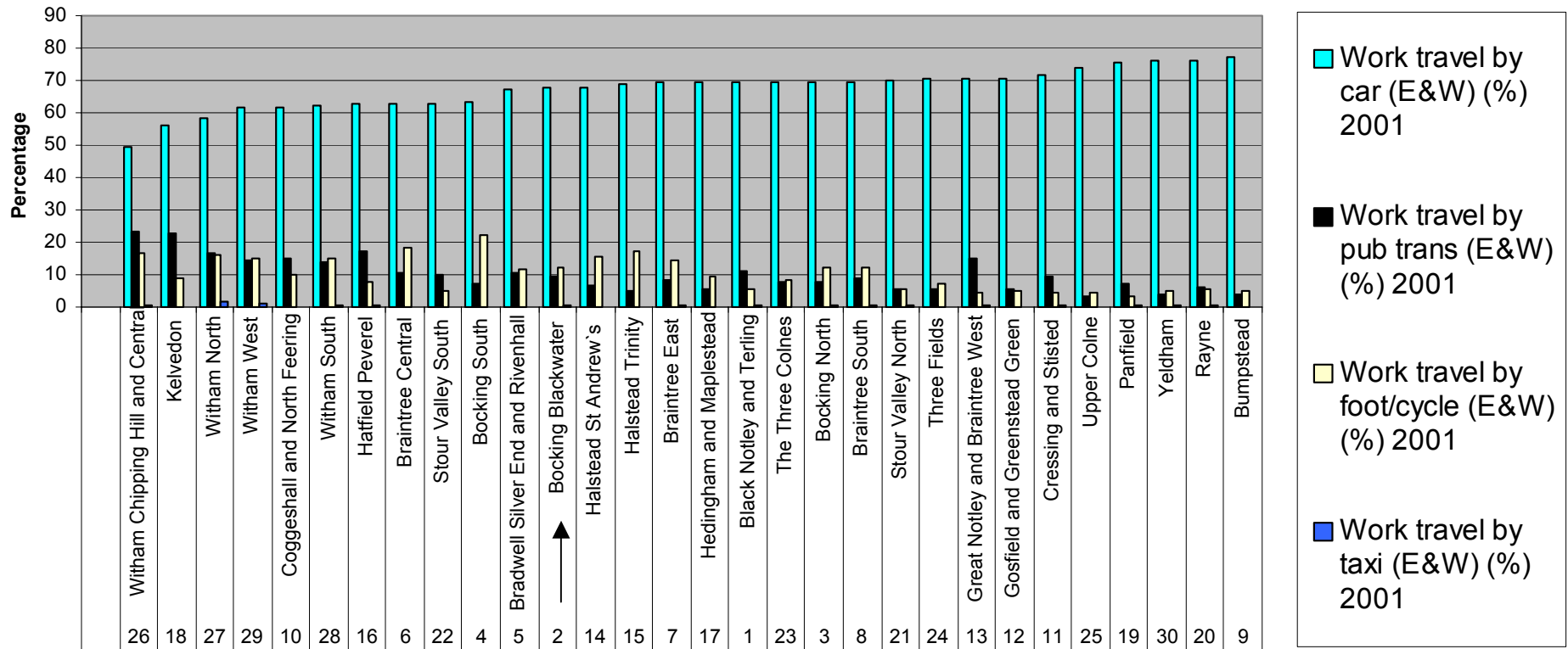


Interpretation

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.

The map here shows that the Bocking Black water area does not have a large amount of cars compared to the rest of the District. That finding could be usefully compared with the suggested factors above.

Travelling to Work

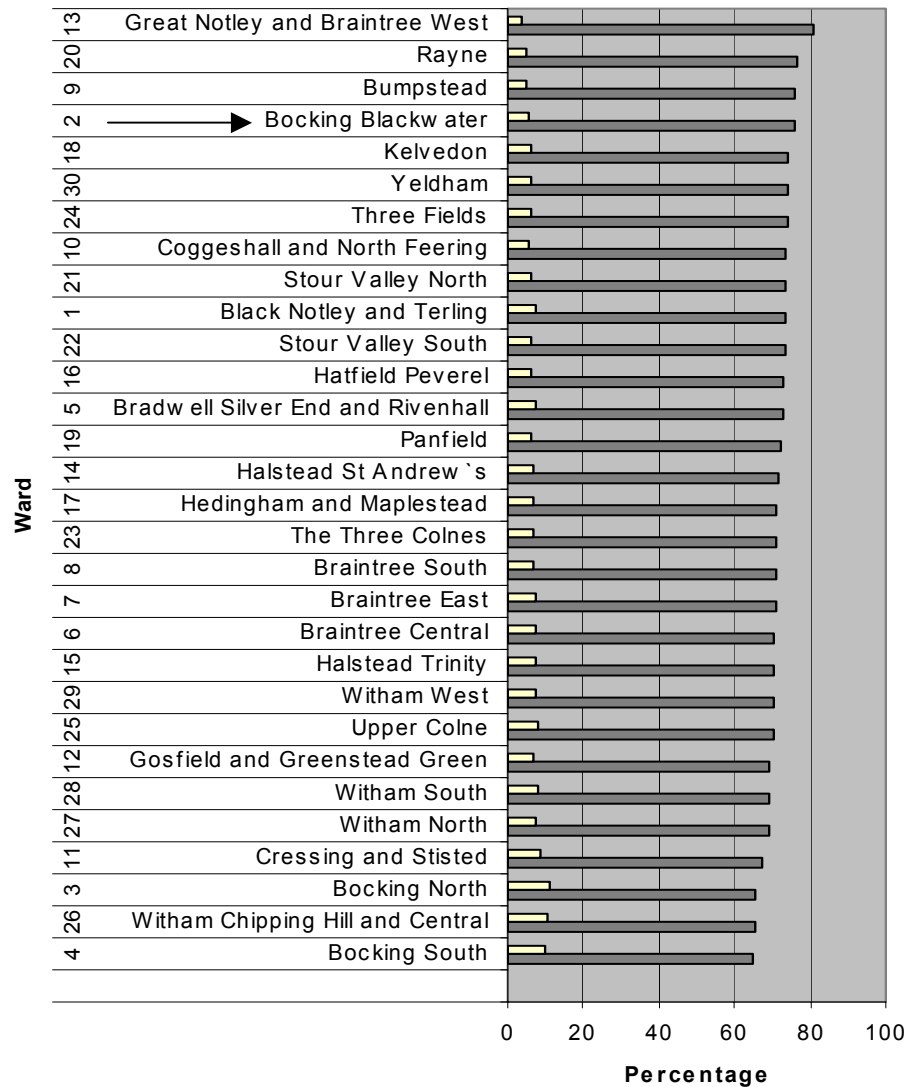


Interpretation

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 Blackwater has 67.56% travelling to work by car, virtually identical to the average for the District at 67.38%. The Ward has 9.7% travelling by public transport, 12.08 by foot or bicycle, and 0.33 by taxi.

Health

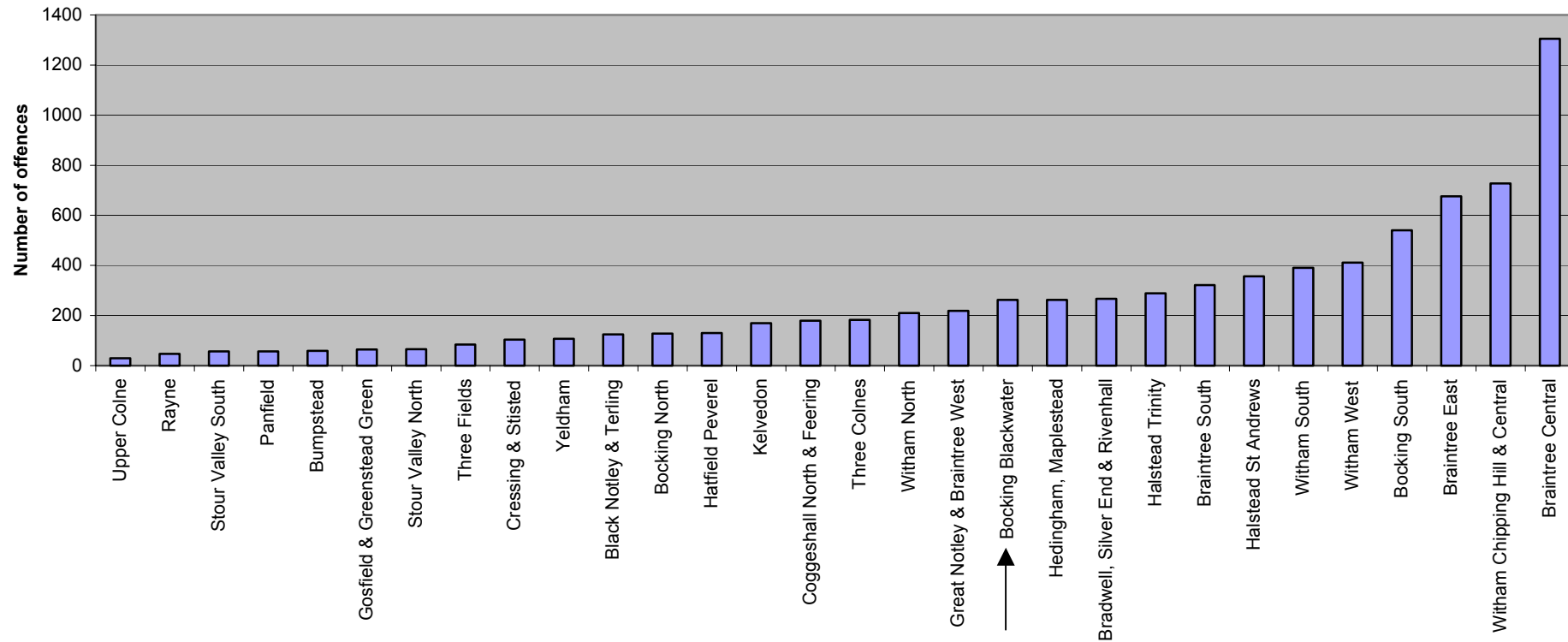


Interpretation

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 Blackwater has 75% of its population “in good health”. This figure is higher than the average of 72%, but there is hardly any variation between this Ward and the other Wards. It has a population proportion of “not in good health” of 6%, just lower than the average of 7%. Taken together, the two statistics suggest that the population of Bocking Blackwater is slightly more healthy than average for 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 more urban built up Wards are distinctively higher.

Bocking Blackwater despite being closer to the town centre has a crime statistic of 262. This is higher than the District average of 261, but only marginally.