2011 Census for England and Wales

© Office for National Statistics

Which Census Issues Affect Gypsies and Irish Travellers?

- No current definitive information
- If numbers and needs are highlighted,
  - ✓ Their needs can be addressed
  - ✓ Data will present solid and detailed evidence to influence policy and legal decisions
  - ✓ Will encourage and allow planning of services and sites
- Difficulty with Census engagement
- Ethnicity tick box: - Gypsies and Travellers combined into one box
- Enumeration - special enumerators trained for sites
- All communities within the UK need to be counted / included

© Office for National Statistics

What Has ONS Done About It?

- Targeted effort to engage / enumerate
- Enumerators from within all communities
- Working with Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officers
- Prior Engagement with Gypsy and Irish Traveller community groups
- Given own tick box
- All write-in responses will be analysed (including Roma)

© Office for National Statistics

WHY ONLY A SINGLE TICK-BOX FOR GYPSY AND IRISH TRAVELLER?

- 20 possible new tick-boxes considered
- Only space for two
- Gypsies and Irish Travellers are distinct groups but to have separate tick-boxes would mean:

  ✓Losing information about other groups with a strong user need.

  ✓Separate sample sizes for different Gypsy and Irish Traveller ethnic categories at risk of being too small for analysis

© Office for National Statistics

WHAT DOES THE ETHNIC QUESTION LOOK LIKE?

Section A of the Ethnic Group question

16 What is your ethnic group?

Choose **one** section from A to E, then tick **one** box to best describe your ethnic group or background

A White

- ☐ English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British
- ☐ Irish
- ☐ Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- ☐ Any other White background, write in

© Office for National Statistics

ONS ENGAGEMENT WITH GYPSY AND TRAVELLER GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

- Gypsy and Traveller Law Reform Coalition (Originally Gypsy Council)
- Consultation on issues regarding ethnicity, identity, language and religion with:
  - Cardiff Gypsy and Traveller Project,
  - Department for Communities and Local Government Gypsy and Traveller Unit
  - The alternative Gypsy Council(s)
  - Friends, Families and Travellers
  - Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group
  - Gypsy and Traveller Exchange (Leeds)
  - International Romani Union (Peterborough)
  - Romani Support Group (Newham)
- Cognitive testing with Gypsy and Irish Travellers
- The Gypsy Council is a member of the Census Diversity Advisory Group
- Improving contact with Gypsy or Irish Traveller groups is ongoing through Community Liaison programme
- Generous guidance and contribution from other, influential networks and Gypsy / Traveller welfare / assistance groups including APPG
- Other advisory groups, twice yearly open roadshows and special panels
- Local engagement through field staff and special enumerators
- And more….

© Office for National Statistics

2011 Census