Somali born residents in Sheffield: 2,372
Somali pupils attending Sheffield schools: 1,263

3,000 - 10,000

There is no official figure on the number of Somali people in Sheffield and estimates vary considerably. This would represent around 1-2% of the population.

The only available statistics show the number of people born in Somalia, which does not show people born in Sheffield who are of Somali descent, and the number of school children. Whilst this will cover a proportion of the community, there will be a number who are not represented in the figures, such as second generation Somali adults.

1800s
- Somali mariners settle in port areas of the UK, such as London, Cardiff and Bristol
- The 1930s sees the first Somali settlers in Sheffield

1900s
- Britain's need for more workers after WWII led to an influx of workers from many nations, including Somalis, who gravitated towards Sheffield to work in the steel industry
- Industrial decline in the 1970’s and 1980’s saw the Somali community fall to as few as 100 people

2000s
- More recently, there has been a pattern of internal migration in Britain, family reunions from Somalia, and the arrival of European Somalis, who have migrated mainly from The Netherlands and Scandinavia during the last few years
- Civil war breaks out in Somalia in 1988, leading to many leaving the country as refugees. The UK government’s ‘family re-union arrangements’ led to many moving to Sheffield to live with existing Somali families in the city

Source: Census 2011
Source: Runnymede 2012

This profile is part of a series of profiles about different communities in Sheffield: www.sheffield.gov.uk
**DEMOGRAPHICS**

- **2,372** Sheffield residents born in Somalia
- **0.4%** Proportion of all residents who were born in Somalia
- **82%** Growth since 2001, proportional growth by 0.2 percentage points
- **20%** Under 16s 18% all persons
- **74%** Working age 66% all persons
- **6%** 65 and over 16% all persons

**Source:** Census 2011

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**LABOUR MARKET**

The Census doesn’t give information about economic activity or employment in the Somali community. A study of migrant communities, conducted by IPPR in 2007, does provide some insight into this at a national level, which is a useful indicator. However, when considering this, it is important to note that this research was published before the recession, and so these findings are likely to have been affected by the current economic climate as they have nationwide.

The study found that:

- **38%** 62% Proportion of all residents who were born in Somalia

**Source:** IPPR 2007

- **Nationally, 71% of Somali born people were economically inactive, compared with 18% of those born in the UK**
- **19% of Somali born people in England were in employment**
- **10% of the country’s Somali born population in England are unemployed**
- **The average hourly pay for Somali-born workers was significantly below the national level at the time**

**Source:** IPPR 2007

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0.1% of Sheffield City Council’s workforce are Somali

**Source:** SCC 2015
WHERE DOES THE COMMUNITY LIVE?

Somali Born Population in Sheffield

Source: Census 2011

Somali-born residents % of total OA population

- 0.2% - 2.5%
- 2.6% - 8.1%
- 8.2% - 21.7%

58%
513 Somalia-born people live in City ward, more than half of the whole community, with the majority living in the Broomhall area

32%
Darnall ward is home to around a further third of residents born in Somalia

20%
Another fifth of Somalia-born people live in Walkley ward

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Poverty and Deprivation

Two thirds of residents born in Somalia live in areas that are amongst the 10% most deprived in the country. This is well above the citywide average of 23%.

Source: DCLG 2015

66%

Top 5 Somali-born ward populations*:

1. Burngreave: 880 (3.3%)
2. Darnall: 282 (1.4%)
3. Broomhill and Sharrovale: 292 (1.3%)
4. Nether Edge and Sharrow: 205 (0.9%)
5. Walkley: 184 (0.8%)

* percentage represents community population as a proportion of the total ward population

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Somali

The official language of Somalia is Somali. In Sheffield, 2,074 people speak Somali as their main language. Nationally, 31% of those who speak Somali as a main language cannot speak English, or don't speak it very well.

Arabic

Arabic is also an official language of Somalia, spoken by many people. In Sheffield Arabic is the most commonly spoken main language other than English, with more than 5,000 speakers. However, as it is a language that is widely spoken throughout the world, it is hard to identify the proportion of these speakers who may be Somali.

Source: Census 2011

An estimated 98.8% of people in Somalia are Muslim, with the majority belonging to the Sunni branch of Islam.

CULTURE AND RELIGION

CALENDAR

A list of equality awareness events are available on the Sheffield City Council website:

www.sheffield.gov.uk/content/sheffield/home/your-city-council/equality-events.html

RELIGION IN THE SOMALI COMMUNITY
**EDUCATION**

The number of Somali pupils (years 0-14). The number has remained consistent over the last 8 years having no significant change, with numbers fluctuating up and down from year to year.

**NUMBER OF PUPILS**

- **2007/08**: 1285
- **2008/09**: 1274
- **2009/10**: 1264
- **2010/11**: 1237
- **2011/12**: 1241
- **2012/13**: 1263
- **2013/14**: 1247
- **2014/15**: 1284

**GCSE ATTAINMENT**

Proportion of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at A* - C including maths and English

- **2013/14**
  - Somali pupils: 41%
  - All pupils: 54%

**Gender Attainment Gap**

- **Boys**: 41%
- **Girls**: 42%

**-3.4%**

Persistent absences have fallen at a faster rate than citywide since 2009/10, although the total figure is still higher than average.

**2%**

The fixed term exclusion rate for Somali pupils is slightly below the citywide average of 3%.

A 2005 study found 50% of working age Somali people had no qualifications at all. A lack of training and UK recognition of qualifications gained in Somalia mean some Somali adults struggle to access the local employment market.

**5%**

The proportion of Somali 16 to 19 year olds categorised as NEET.

**54%**

Not in Employment Education or Training.

**Somali attainment has improved in the last 10 years, compared with a growth of 16% for all pupils.**

**+17%**

The proportion of Somali 16 to 19 year olds categorised as NEET has improved in the last 10 years, compared with a growth of 16% for all pupils.

**2010**:
- Somali pupils: 8%
- All pupils: 11%

**2011**:
- Somali pupils: 4%
- All pupils: 8%

**2012**:
- Somali pupils: 5%
- All pupils: 9%
HEALTH AND WELLBEING

A&E ADMISSIONS
Somali community has one of the highest A&E admission rates

COPD
Persistently high Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

DIABETES
Higher than average diabetes diagnosis

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
According to the World Health Organisation FSM is estimated to be prevalent in around 98% of women and girls in Somalia. In 2001 in the UK, more than 65,000 women had undergone FGM with the largest numbers from Kenya and Somalia. Numbers are likely to have increased since then.

Health risks can include severe pain, haemorrhage, tetanus and other infections, septicaemia and even death. In the longer term, girls and women can also experience problems with their sexual, reproductive and general health.

Source: British Medical Association, 2011

Khat
Khat (qat, kat) is a plant that has been chewed as a social custom dating back thousands of years, including in Somali society, and until recently was legal in the UK. On the 24th June 2014 it was made an illegal Class C drug following opposition from within the Somali community. Being caught in possession of khat can result in a £60 fine, whilst supplying khat, including to friends and family, could mean up to 14 years imprisonment. Further information, including where to go for support and advice about giving khat up is available from the Home Office.

Khat has been linked to a number of health and social issues for men, women and young people, including:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEN</th>
<th>WOMEN</th>
<th>YOUNG PEOPLE/CHILDREN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wellbeing and togetherness</td>
<td>Relationship breakdown</td>
<td>Under achievement in education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial impact</td>
<td>Same issues as ‘men’ column</td>
<td>Unable to go to school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment/underemployment</td>
<td>Stress</td>
<td>Lack of parental support (using khat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relying on benefits</td>
<td>General decline in health</td>
<td>Care, growth and development suffers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental illness</td>
<td>Loneliness</td>
<td>Money/benefits go on khat before children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Financial pressure leading to drugs selling</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FGM is a mental, as well as physical, health issue for some Somali girls and women

Many Somalis are living with the after-affects of civil war, and the resulting refugee experience. A 2009 study of Somali refugees found around 1 in 3 suffered from long-term illnesses, including mental health conditions.

The concept of depression is not understood in the Somali language

Chewing Khat acts as a stimulant, but studies have found it can lead to psychosis and make pre-existing mental disorders worse. This is in addition to the adverse affects on physical health.

Source: Evans & Page 2010

Source: Patel et al 2005
**TENURE**

Estimates for Somali residents in the private rented sector were unavailable from this source

Estimated percentage of Somali people who owned or are buying a home, in England

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Somali pupils</th>
<th>All pupils</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>59%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Estimated percentage of Somali people living in Local Authority or Housing Association Housing, in England

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Somali pupils</th>
<th>All pupils</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.8 The average household size, compared to the UK average of 3.0

**COMMUNITY ACTIVITY**

A list of organisations, including contact details, is available from the [Sheffield Directory](http://www.sheffielddirectory.org) website.

Sheffield Directory is managed by Sheffield City Council. Whilst every effort is made to ensure accuracy, Sheffield City Council cannot accept responsibility for, any errors or omissions. Please note that the inclusion of any group in this report does not mean they have been vetted or recommended by Sheffield City Council.

**SOURCES**

- British Medical Association 2011, Female Genital Mutilation: Caring for patients and safeguarding children
- DCLG 2015, Indices of Deprivation
- Evans & Page 2010, 'Somali' refugees, mental health and employability in the Southwest: Exploring the barriers to inclusion, Centre for Employment Studies Research, UWE, Bristol
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- Runnymede 2012, Sheffield Migration Stories Runnymede, London