Initially, Shefield's Yemeni community consisted mainly of men, with their wives and children remaining in Yemen. However, in the 1970s families of Yemeni workers began to move to Britain, increasing the population and seeing the start of a generation of British-born Yemenis.

There is no official figure for the number of Yemeni people in Sheffield, with estimates varying considerably. Yemen is not included amongst the countries of birth highlighted in the 2011 Census.

**TIMELINE**

- **1800s**: The Yemeni community in Britain dates from the 19th century when Yemeni sailors began arriving in British ports. These early settlers stayed in places such as Cardiff, South Shields and Liverpool.
- **1900s**: The biggest wave of immigration occurred in the 1950s and 60s, encouraged to cover labour shortages following World War II. This included Yemenis, helped by previous colonial links. The decline of shipping industries meant many Yemenis were seeking unskilled and semi-skilled work in heavy industry, which in Sheffield was predominantly steel manufacturing.
- **2000s**: The 1990 Civil War forced many Yemenis to seek refugee status in Britain, predominantly settling with families who were already in established communities, including Sheffield.

**MIDDLE EAST**

7,017 Sheffield residents were born in the Middle East, according to the 2011 Census. 1,255 of these residents were born in Iran, with a further 5,762 born in 'Other Middle East' countries. Whilst not being specifically identified, it is likely many of these people will have been born in Yemen, due to the fact there is a long established community within the city.
YEMENI COMMUNITY

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
An estimated 99% of people in Yemen are Muslim, with the majority belonging to the Shafii school of Sunni Islam.

LANGUAGE
Modern Standard Arabic is the official language of Yemen.

In Sheffield, 5,043 people speak Arabic as their main language. Nationally, 18% of those who speak Arabic as a main language cannot speak English, or don't speak it very well.

However, it is not possible to derive from the data what percentage of Arabic speakers are from the Yemeni community.

Source: Census 2011

Arabic was the 2nd most requested language from Sheffield Council's Translation and Interpretation service in 2012/13. Again, the data does not describe the proportion of these requests made by the Yemeni community.

Source: Sheffield City Council 2015

LABOUR MARKET
The 1960s saw hundreds of Yemeni men emigrate to the UK to work in the steel industry to cover the shortfall of labour after the Second World War. It is estimated that as many as 1,000 Yemenis came to Sheffield during this time.

The decline of the steel industry in the 1970s and 1980s saw many Yemenis return home, but some stayed to set up their own businesses. It is estimated that economic problems around this time left around 72% of Yemeni men out of work. There is no reliable up to date information that can verify how the situation has changed for the Yemeni community in recent years.

Source: Mohamed 1995

Approximately 0.2% of employees at Sheffield City Council are Yemeni.

Source: SCC 2015
EDUCATION

1,200 The number of Yemeni pupils (years 0-14). This figure has fallen by 18% in the last 8 years.

NUMBER OF PUPILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Pupils</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007/08</td>
<td>853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008/09</td>
<td>909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>1041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>1064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>1118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>1153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GCSE ATTAINMENT

Proportion of pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs (A*- C inc. maths and English)

- Yemeni pupils: 46%
- All pupils: 53%

GCSE Gender Attainment Gap

- Boys: 44%
- Girls: 49%

+17% Yemeni attainment has improved in the last 10 years, compared with a growth of 16% for all pupils.

ABSENCES / EXCLUSIONS

- Persistent absences: 3%
- Fixed term exclusions: 4%

- Persistent absences are lower than the city average (5%). They have also fallen by 6% in the last five years, compared with a fall of 4 percentage points in Sheffield as a whole.
- Fixed term exclusions are slightly above the city average (3%). They have fallen by 1 percentage point in the last five years, compared with no change in Sheffield as a whole.

NEETS

- Not in Employment, Education or Training: 8%
- The proportion of Yemeni 16 to 19 year olds categorised as NEET

- 2010: 10%
- 2011: 9%
- 2012: 8%

Source: SCC Children's Services 2015
The Yemeni community has one of the highest A&E admission rates. Over 65s were more likely to be admitted for types of respiratory infections. All ages are likely to be treated for coronary heart disease problems. Higher than average diabetes diagnosis.

Source: Yemeni Community Profile 2006

**NEEDS AND SUPPORT**

A study conducted for the 2006 Sheffield Yemeni profile looked at the health and support needs of the Yemeni community. It identified that only around half of young people were registered with a dentist and that Yemeni elders were concerned about access to medication, waiting times and the process of booking appointments.

In addition to this, the community as a whole felt that if families were helped with their English language proficiency, then they would be more likely to access health services and feel comfortable asking for help.

Source: Yemeni Community Profile 2006

**Khat**

Khat (qat, kat) is a plant that has been chewed as a social custom dating back thousands of years, including in Yemeni 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 with the Yemeni 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>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Normalisation of drug use</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NDAREC 2009
The majority of the Yemeni community currently live in social housing: either local authority or housing association owned. However, there are also some owner occupiers within the population.

One of the major issues facing Yemeni occupants of properties is overcrowding. This is firstly due to relatively large average family sizes. Secondly, there has been a historic trend of Yemeni men moving to Sheffield to work and finding accommodation in very overcrowded accommodation with others in a similar situation. Although some men in this situation might either return to Yemen or be reunited with their families and find their own accommodation, many remain in these conditions if they are either made unemployed or are unable to work through illness or disability. This can result in them being completely reliant on benefits and unable to move on.

Figures from January 2014 show that there were 585 Yemeni council house tenants, just over 1% of the total. Nearly three quarters of Yemeni tenants live in the east of the city.

A list of organisations, including contact details, is available from the Sheffield Directory website.

Sheffield Help Yourself and Sheffield Directory are 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**

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