

Updated: Oct 2015
Checked: Nov 2017

225,000 Estimated Roma population in the UK

Source: CoE 2015 used figure

25,000 - 30,000 Estimated Roma population in Yorkshire and Humberside

Source: CoE 2015 used figure

**Slovak
or Czech** Roma from different countries populate particular areas in the UK. In Yorkshire, the vast majority originate from two countries



Source: Migration Yorkshire 2012

2,100 Estimated Slovak Roma people in Sheffield, according to local and national studies

1,500 Roma people living in Fir Vale/Page Hall

550-600 Roma people living in Tinsley/Darnall

Source: Migration Yorkshire 2012

WHO ARE ROMA?

The term 'Roma' has been in use in the EU since 1971. It is a generic name used to describe people with similar cultural characteristics, for example Roma, Sinti and Kalé .

Romani people are an ethnic group originating from India. Migrating around 1,000 years ago, Roma have suffered heavy persecution and discrimination, having been enslaved in the Balkans until 1851 and more recently an estimated 250,000 to 500,000 Roma lost their lives in the holocaust

There have been restrictions on movement for Eastern European Citizens during the Soviet Union era. Following the fall of the Soviet Union and the Berlin Wall in 1989, there was a larger amount of migration, with many Roma coming to the UK to claim asylum

2004 saw the expansion of the EU to include A8 countries, including Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia etc, countries with relatively high Roma populations

In 2007 the EU expanded further to include A2 countries Bulgaria and Romania, although with heavy restrictions on work only allowing those who are self-employed or had a work permit

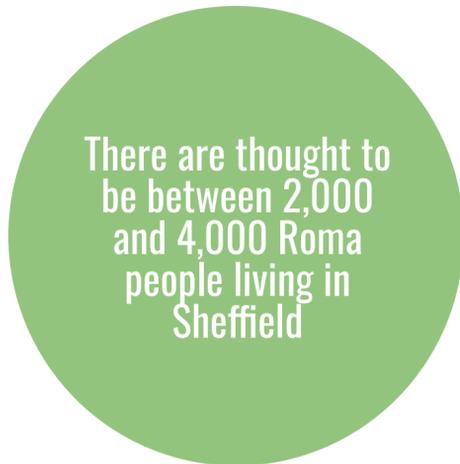
Current patterns of migration see most Roma settling in areas which already have established communities (European Dialogue (2009))

In 2014, these restrictions were lifted, allowing Bulgarian and Romanian migrants the freedom to live and work in the UK. Both countries have significant Roma populations, estimated at around 5% and 3% of the total, respectively

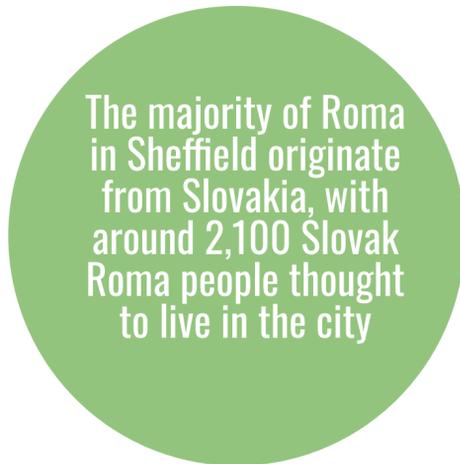
Source: IPPR 2013, European Dialogue 2009a

HOW MANY ROMA LIVE IN SHEFFIELD?

Roma populations are very difficult to estimate due to the stigma attached to the term, which causes many Roma to feel they need to hide their ethnicity. There are some estimates from relatively recent, but infrequent, research which has attempted to estimate the local Roma population:



Source: European Dialogue 2009b



Source: Migration Yorkshire 2012



Source: Migration Yorkshire 2012

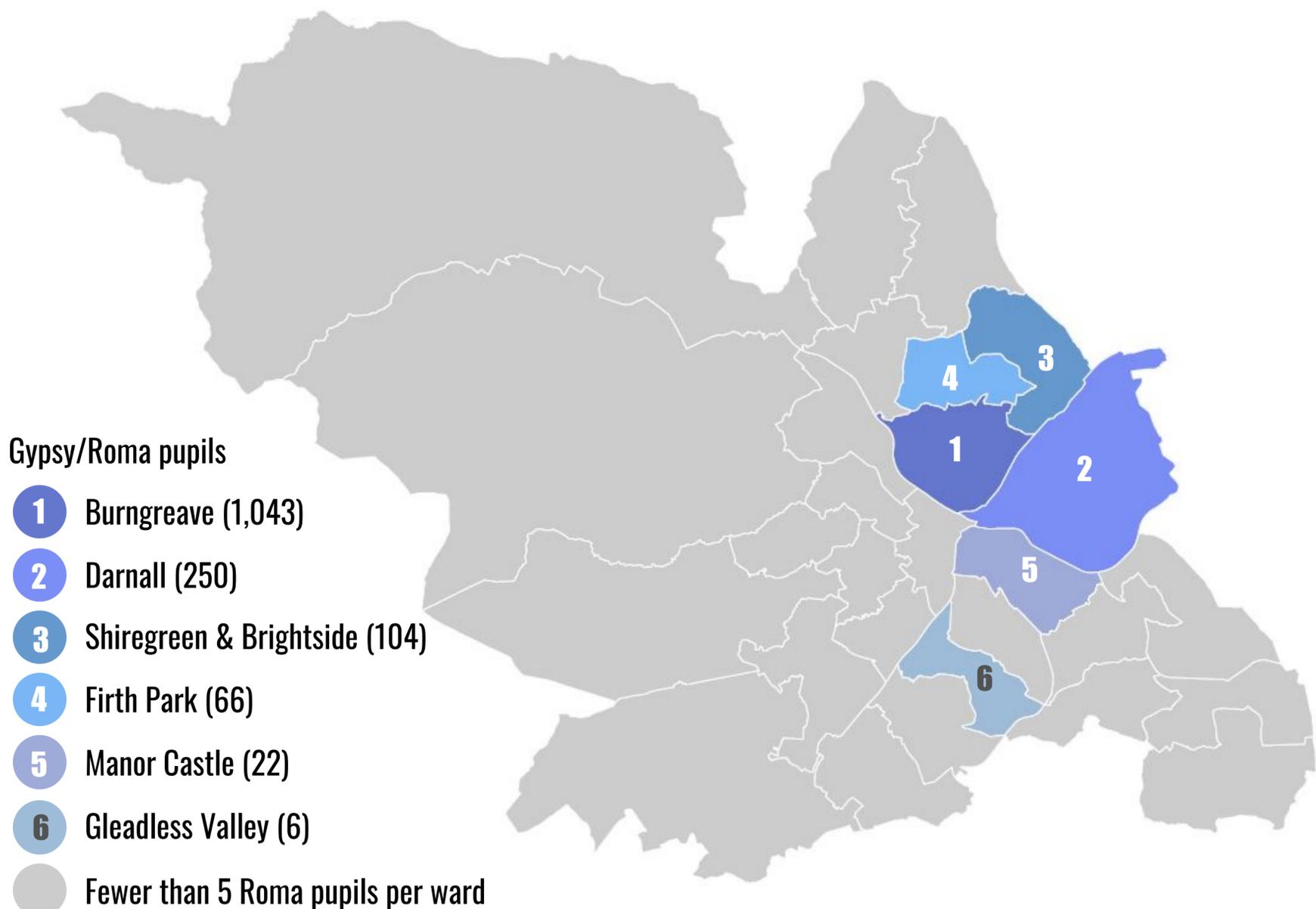
Whilst a useful guide these estimates help to highlight the lack of up-to-date and accurate information on the number of Roma people living in the city. The best local data comes from the School Census of pupils, with the rapid increase in number of pupils in recent years suggesting the current population of the community is likely to be considerably higher than previous estimates.

WHERE DO ROMA LIVE IN SHEFFIELD?

GYPSY / ROMA PUPILS IN SHEFFIELD

Schools data is currently the best information available in terms of plotting the distribution of the Roma community across the city:

Source: SCC Children's Services 2015





LABOUR MARKET

A 2009 Survey of Roma people found employment to be the main driving force behind Roma migration to the UK. More than half of those asked stated that they wanted to participate in a labour market that does not discriminate against them

Source: Runnymede 2011

Roma people are often barred taking many types of job and are forced to be self-employed or in short-term work. These limited opportunities make it harder for Roma to work legally.

Source: Runnymede 2011

Research suggests that many Roma people have low paid, irregular and short term employment and are vulnerable to exploitation by their employers or employment agencies.

Source: European Dialogue 2009b



LANGUAGE

Romani is the language most widely spoken in the Roma community, although there are different dialects and varieties (Matras 2011). Romani is also predominantly an oral one and not widely written down, and evidence suggests literacy levels are relatively low.

As it isn't a written language, requests made by the community to Sheffield Council's Language and Interpretation service are predominantly for Slovakian. Indeed in 2013/14 Slovak was the most requested language for both Interpretations, with 2,140 requests, more than twice as many as the next most requested language, Arabic. There were also 53 translation requests, again the most requested language.

Evidence suggests, however, that many people making requests to the service may not be able to read or understand the translations and interpretations that are provided to them.

Source: Sheffield City Council 2015



HOUSING

The average Roma household size is 6 people, according to research



Source: European Dialogue 2009b

Overcrowding is a major problem, and can affect health and school attendance



Source: Runnymede 2011

Migrant Roma often settle in areas with high numbers of cheap, poorer quality rental properties

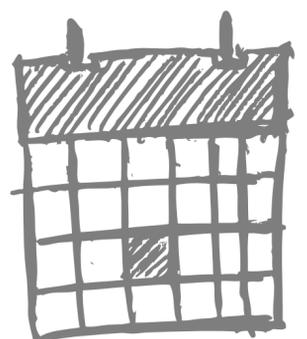


Source: Craig 2011

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



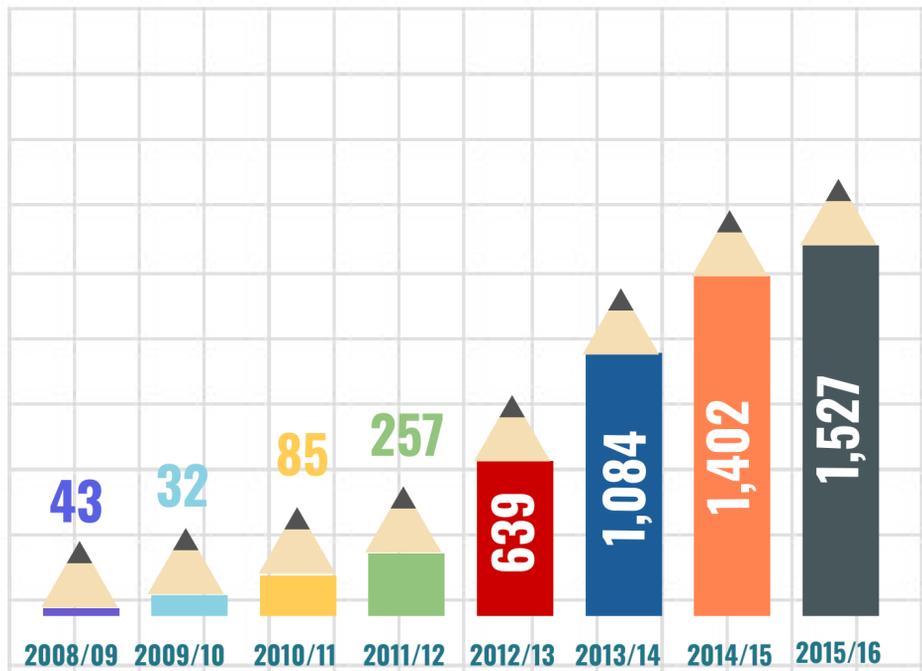


EDUCATION

This section uses data produced by Sheffield City Council, using the Gypsy/Roma pupil group. However, it is likely that many Roma pupils are also included within the White Eastern European pupil group, and so education figures for this group have also been included.

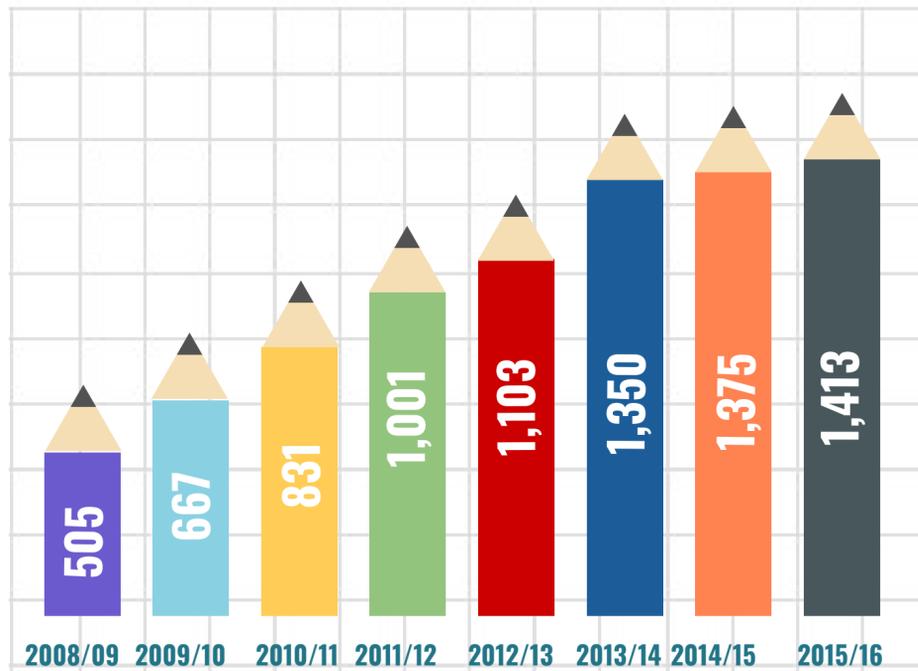
1,527

The number of Gypsy/Roma pupils (years 0-14). This figure has grown by 1,422 pupils in the last 8 years



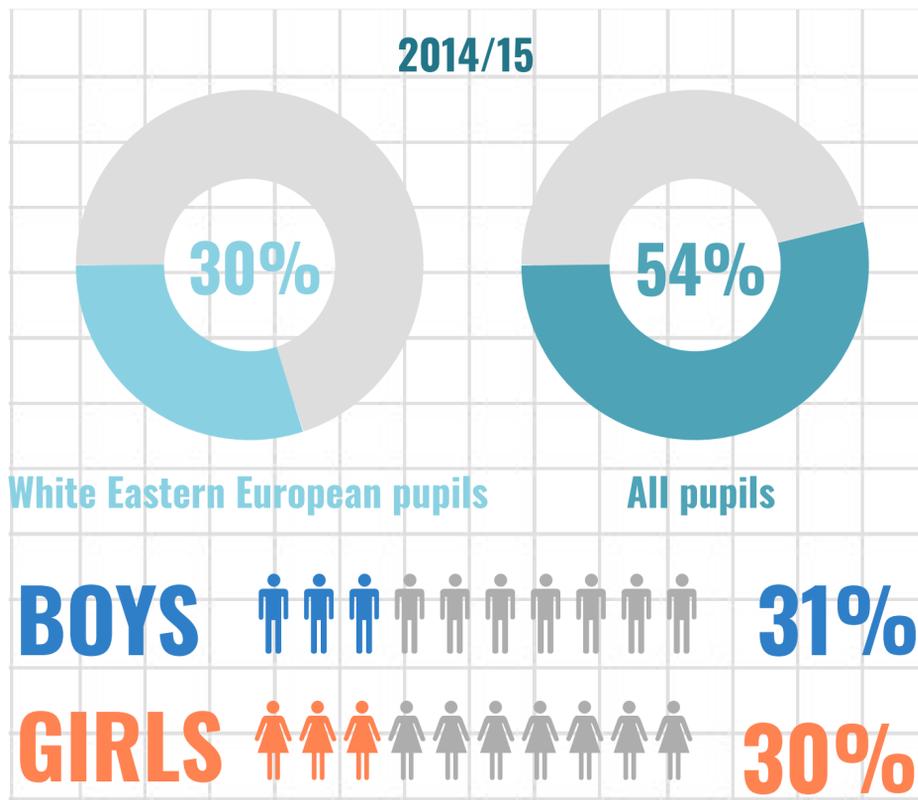
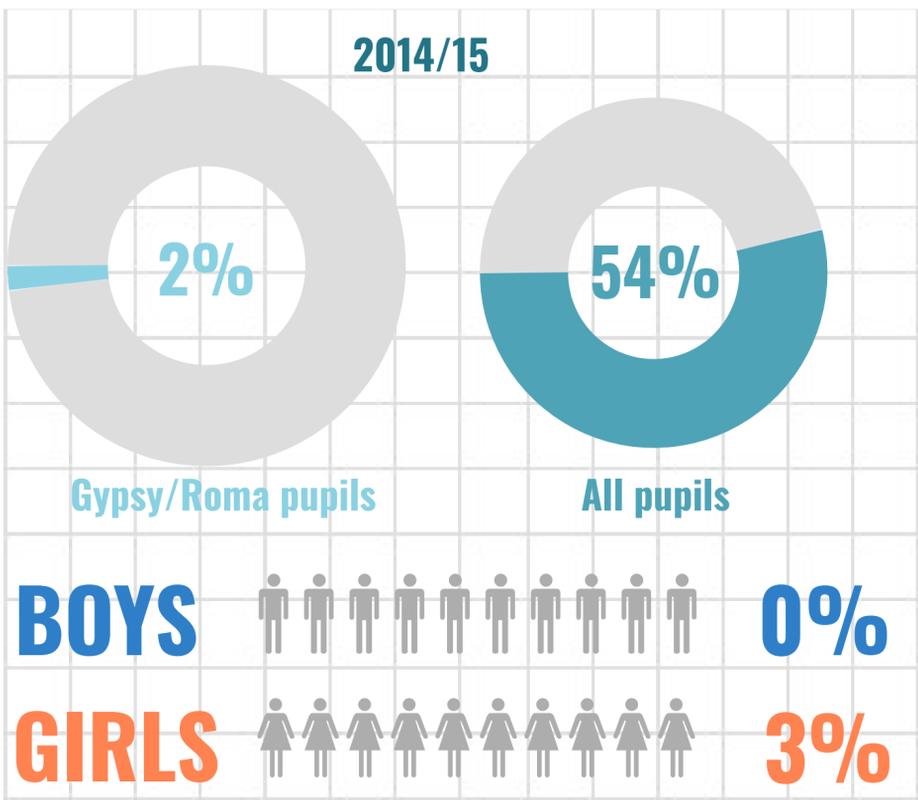
1,448

The number of White Eastern European pupils (years 0-14). This figure has grown by 1,422 pupils in the last 8 years



GCSE ATTAINMENT

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



ABSENCES / EXCLUSIONS

16% Persistent absences are significantly higher than the city average (5%). However, this figure has more than halved during the last 5 years

27% Fixed term exclusions at secondary level are significantly higher than the city average (7%). This figure is the same as 5 years ago, despite falling to 7% in 2012/13, before rising again.

11% The proportion of Gypsy Roma 16 to 19 year olds categorised as not in education, training or employment (NEET) - 2% citywide

Source: SCC Children's Services 2015

ABSENCES / EXCLUSIONS

13% Persistent absences are significantly higher than the city average (5%). However, this figure has fallen by 14 percentage points during the last five years

13% Fixed term exclusions at secondary level are higher than the city average (7%). This figure has risen by 1 percentage point in the last five years.

4% The proportion of White Eastern European 16 to 19 year olds categorised as not in education, training or employment (NEET) - 2% citywide

Source: SCC Children's Services 2015



HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Health professionals identified the following issues within the Slovak Roma community:

- Diabetes Mellitus
- Coronary Heart Disease
- Obesity
- Teenage Pregnancy
- Hepatitis A, B, & C and TB
- Nutritional deficiencies
- Neonatal health issues including issues relating to consanguinity
- Childhood Anaemia
- Impetigo
- Cultural issues relating to health care and homeopathy

Source: NHS 2011

Practitioners have identified the following issues facing the Slovak Roma community in Sheffield:

- Lack of health education and promotion for Slovak Roma community
- High A & E use, often unnecessarily,
- The Slovak health system does not use appointments for accessing care - UK appointment-based system is a barrier
- Translation services are available in practices with the highest number of Roma families, but they are limited in their available time, making it difficult for members of the community to access services outside of these times.

Source: NHS 2011

There is evidence that hearing loss is an issue amongst children in the Roma community. Sheffield Council's Service for Deaf and Hearing Impaired Children recorded 7% of all Roma school pupils as having significant hearing loss. In addition to this, an audit of Audiology clinics at Sheffield Children's hospital showed 20% of users were Slovakian.

Source: Migration Yorkshire 2012

LIFE EXPECTANCY For Roma, life expectancy is estimated to be around 10 years less than the European average.

INFANT MORTALITY Roma child mortality rates are 2 to 6 times higher than those for the general population.

Source: Migration Yorkshire 2012

COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

A list of organisations, including contact details, is available from the [Sheffield Directory](#) 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

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