



The settlement pattern of the BN(O) migrants

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Where in the UK are the BN(O) migrants settling down? Is their settlement pattern similar to previous cohorts of Hong Kongers in Britain? The Hong Kong BN(O) Migrants Panel Survey gives us some insights to these questions.

Figure 1 reports how Hong Kongers, defined as those who were born in Hong Kong, are distributed across the twelve regions of the UK in the last three censuses. Perhaps unsurprisingly, their settlement pattern has remained stable between 2001 and 2021/2, with London attracting about a quarter of the Hong Kong-born in the UK and just under a fifth living in the South East of England. By contrast, there are relatively few Hong Kong-born living in the North East of England, Wales, or Northern Ireland.

Broadly speaking, this settlement pattern also applies to the BN(O) migrants. But there is one notable exception: while in recent Censuses just under 10% of the Hong Kong-born were found in the North West of England, almost 20% of the BN(O)s live in that region.

This exception might seem an anomaly. But in their 2023 survey, the Welcoming Committee for Hong Kongers also finds the same pattern. So we are confident that our result is robust.

But what attracts the BN(O) migrants to the North West? Is it because housing is relatively affordable there? Or does it come down to good schools or even the famous football teams in that part of the country? If you live in the North West of England, perhaps you could send us a short message at bnopanelsurvey@ucl.ac.uk and let us know?

Geographical distribution of the Hong Kong born in UK Censuses and of the BN(O) survey respondents

