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Social Focus in Brief: **Ethnicity 2002**

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About the Office for National Statistics

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is the
government agency responsible for compiling,
analysing and disseminating many of the
United Kingdom's economic, social and
demographic statistics, including the retail
prices index, trade figures and labour market
data, as well as the periodic census of the
population and health statistics. The Director
of ONS is also the National Statistician and the
Registrar General for England and Wales, and
the agency that administers the registration of
births, marriages and deaths there.

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Other contributors: Penny Babb, Robert Bumpstead, Suparna Chakraborty, Lucy Haselden, Richard Jenkins, Kate Myers, Amanda White..

Ethnic group classification

The subjective, multi-faceted and changing nature of ethnic identification makes it a particularly difficult piece of information to collect. There is no consensus on what constitutes an 'ethnic group'. Membership of any ethnic group is something that is subjectively meaningful to the person concerned and the terminology used to describe ethnic group has changed markedly over time. As a result, ethnic group, however defined or measured, will tend to change over time depending on social and political attitudes or developments. Basing ethnic identification upon an objective and rigid classification of ethnic groups is not therefore achievable in practice.

In many surveys and the Census, respondents are invited to select their ethnic group from a list of categories. Thus the data collected are based on a 'self-identification' measure. This report presents data from a variety of sources, some of which have used different classifications of ethnicity. These show small differences since the question and answer categories vary slightly.

The recommended output classification of ethnic group for National Statistics data sources changed in 2001 to be broadly in line with the 2001 Census. The new output categories support varying degrees of comparability with the censuses of the different countries of the United Kingdom. This change is described in more detail on the National Statistics website at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/Classifications/ns_ethnic_classification.asp. This new output classification is used for all data presented from the Annual Local Labour Force Survey as this relates to 2001/02. The categories are:

White

- British
- Irish*
- Other White

Mixed

- White and Black Caribbean
- White and Black African
- White and Asian
- Other Mixed

Asian or Asian British

- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Other Asian

Black or Black British

- Black Caribbean
- Black African
- Other Black

Chinese or Other ethnic group

- Chinese
- Other ethnic group

Apart from the Annual Local Labour Force Survey all other data sources relate to years before 2001. These data are therefore based on the 1991 Census output classification of ethnicity. These categories are:

White

Black Caribbean

Black African

Black Other

Indian

Pakistani

Bangladeshi

Chinese

Other ethnic group

The only exception to this is the 1999 Health Survey for England, which also includes an Irish category.

Whichever classification is used, groups are sometimes added together where numbers are too small to present reliable estimates for an individual group. For example, data are sometimes presented for the Pakistani and Bangladeshi groups combined.

* where possible

Population size

7.6% are from a minority ethnic group

The size of the minority ethnic population was 4.5 million in 2001/02 or 7.6 per cent of the total population of the United Kingdom.

Indians were the largest minority group, followed by Pakistanis, Black Caribbeans, Black Africans, and those of Mixed ethnic backgrounds. The remaining minority ethnic groups each accounted for less than 0.7 per cent but together accounted for a further 1.9 per cent of the UK population.

Ethnic group data were not collected on the Northern Ireland Census in 1991. However, in Great Britain the minority ethnic population grew by 44 per cent between 1991 and 2001/02, from 3.1 million in 1991 to 4.5 million in 2001/02.

Just over half of the total minority ethnic population were Asians of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi or other Asian origin. Just over a quarter of minority ethnic people described themselves as Black, that is Black Caribbean, Black African or Other Black. Eleven per cent of the minority ethnic population described their ethnic group as Mixed. Almost half of this group were from White and Black Caribbean backgrounds.

The UK population: by ethnic group, 2001/02

United Kingdom	Percentages	
	Percentage of total population	Percentage of minority ethnic population
White	92.2	na
Mixed	0.8	11.0
Asian or Asian British		
Indian	1.7	21.7
Pakistani	1.3	16.7
Bangladeshi	0.5	6.1
Other Asian	0.4	5.7
Black or Black British		
Black Caribbean	1.0	13.6
Black African	0.9	12.0
Other Black	0.1	1.5
Chinese	0.3	4.2
Other	0.6	7.4
Not stated	0.2	na
<i>All minority ethnic population</i>	7.6	100.0
All population	100.0	na

Sources and notes

Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey 2001/02, Office for National Statistics.

1991 Census (adjusted for Census under-enumeration), Office for National Statistics.

Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey Data: The Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey data presented here have been weighted to be consistent with the best population estimates available before the results of the 2001 Census were published. New regional and local mid-year population estimates for 1992-2000, which are consistent with the 2001 Census figures, will be published by ONS in early spring 2003. When these data are available, a reweighting of all the Labour Force Survey (LFS) series will be carried out. This will be complete in autumn 2003.

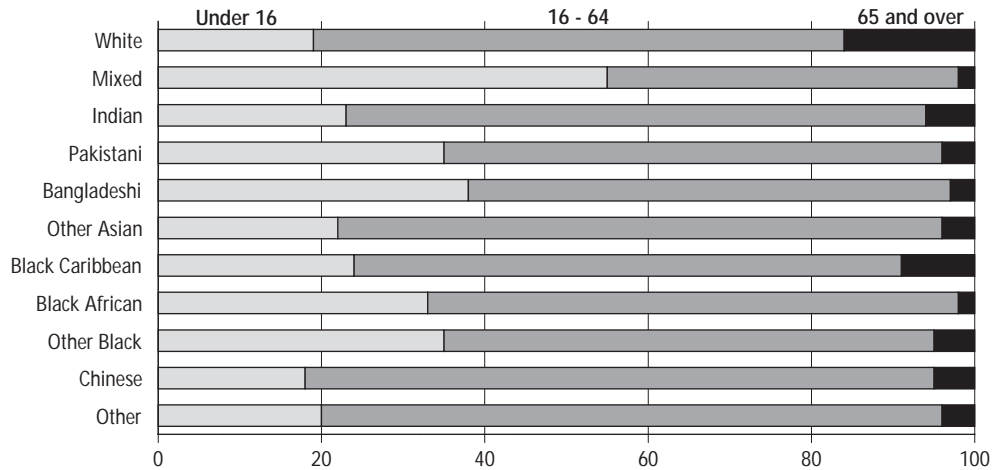
Age distribution

Ethnic groups have younger age structure

Age distribution: by ethnic group, 2001/02

United Kingdom

Percentages



Minority ethnic groups have a younger age structure than the White population, reflecting past immigration and fertility patterns. The first large-scale migration of people of minority ethnic origin came from the Caribbean shortly after the Second World War and during the 1950s.

Immigrants from India and Pakistan arrived mainly during the 1960s. Many people of African-Asian descent came to the UK as refugees from Uganda during the 1970s. Most Chinese and Bangladeshi people came to Britain during the 1980s. Many of the Black Africans came during the 1980s and 1990s.

In 2001/02 the Mixed group had the youngest age structure - more than half

(55 per cent) were under the age of 16. The Bangladeshi group also had a young age structure, with 38 per cent aged under 16. This was double the proportion of the White group where only 19 per cent were under the age of 16.

In contrast, the White group had the highest proportion of people aged 65 and over at 16 per cent. Nine per cent of Black Caribbeans were aged 65 or over, reflecting the first large-scale migration to Britain back in the 1950s.

Progressive ageing of the minority ethnic population is anticipated in the future, but changes will depend on fertility levels, mortality rates and future net migration.

Source and note:

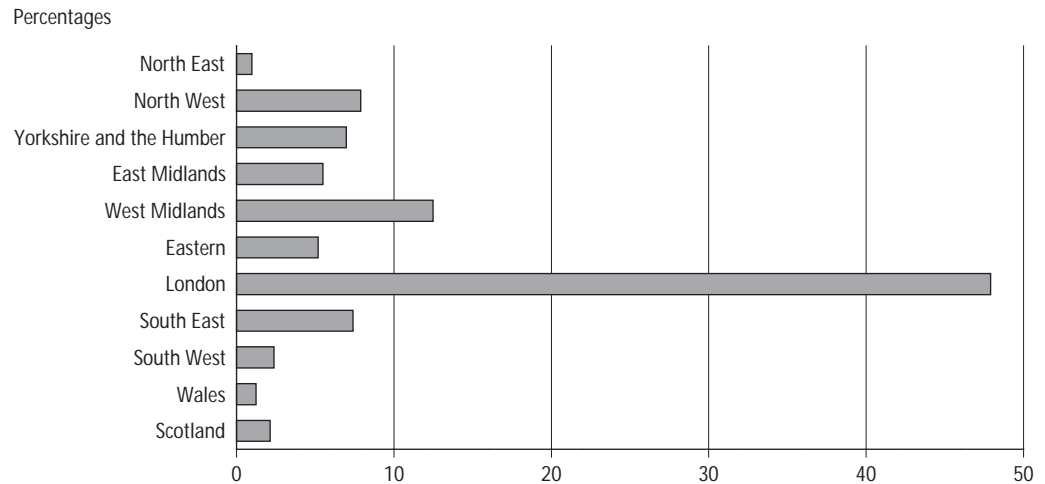
Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey 2001/02, Office for National Statistics.

For the chart sample sizes were too small for a reliable estimate of the Other Black group aged 65 and over.

Regional distribution

48% of minority ethnic people live in London

Regional distribution of the minority ethnic population, 2001/02



In 2001/02 minority ethnic groups were more likely to live in England than in Scotland or Wales. In England, they made up 9 per cent of the total population compared with only 2 per cent in both Scotland and Wales. Chinese people were the only group that were as likely to live in Scotland or Wales as in England. They made up around 0.3 per cent of the total population in each country.

The minority ethnic populations were concentrated in the large urban centres. Nearly half (48 per cent) of the total minority ethnic population lived in the London region, where they comprised 29 per cent of all residents.

After London, the region with the next biggest share of the minority ethnic

population was the West Midlands (with 13 per cent of the minority ethnic population), followed by the North West (8 per cent), the South East (7 per cent), and Yorkshire and the Humber (7 per cent). The English region with the smallest proportion of the minority ethnic population was the North East where minority ethnic groups made up less than 2 per cent of the region's population.

Seventy eight per cent of Black Africans and 56 per cent of Bangladeshis lived in London. Other ethnic minority groups were more dispersed. Only 20 per cent of Pakistanis resided in London, 22 per cent lived in the West Midlands, 20 per cent in Yorkshire and the Humber, and 17 per cent in the North West.

Source

Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey 2001/02, Office for National Statistics.

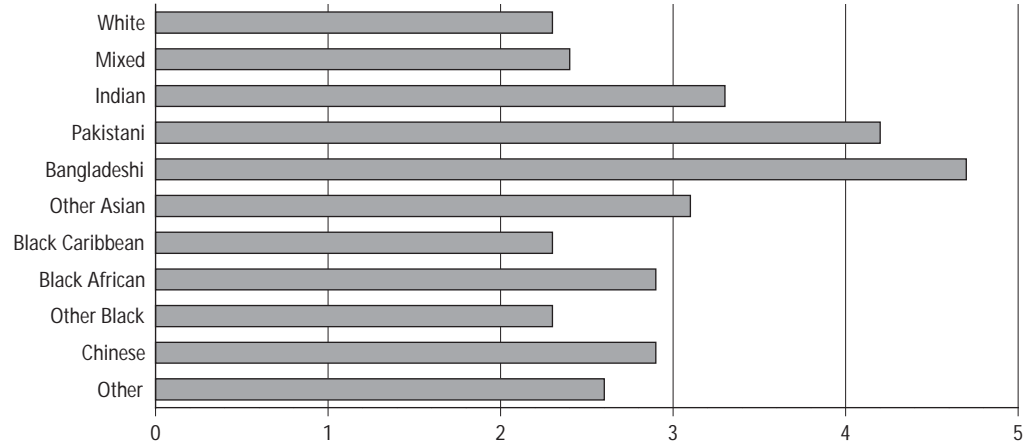
Households

Bangladeshis have largest households

Household size: by ethnic group of head of household, Spring 2002

United Kingdom

Average number of people per household



Asian households tend to be larger than those from other ethnic groups. In spring 2002, Bangladeshi households were the largest with an average of 4.7 people, followed by Pakistanis (4.2 people) and Indians (3.3 people). Such households may contain three generations with grandparents living with a married couple and their children.

Black Caribbean and Other Black households were generally the same size as White households at 2.3 people.

Different demographic structures, cultural traditions and economic characteristics of

the various ethnic groups in the United Kingdom underlie distinctive patterns of family size and household composition.

In spring 2002, more than half of families with dependent children headed by a person of Mixed origin (61 per cent) or headed by a Black Caribbean (54 per cent) were lone parent families. Asians were least likely to live in lone parent families; 9 per cent of Indian and 15 per cent of Pakistani families were lone parent families. The percentage of lone parent families among the White population was somewhere in between at 23 per cent.

Source

Labour Force Survey Spring 2002, Office for National Statistics.

Labour Market

Bangladeshis have highest unemployment

Economic activity

There were marked differences between the economic activity rates of different ethnic groups, that is, the proportion of people who either have a job or are looking for a job.

Men and women from the White group are more likely to be economically active than their counterparts in minority ethnic groups. In 2001/02 rates were 85 per cent for White men and 74 per cent for White women. Black Caribbean women had economic activity rates almost as high as White women at 72 per cent. Bangladeshis had the lowest economic activity rates among both men (69 per cent) and women (22 per cent). Pakistani women also had very low economic activity rates at 28 per cent. Within all ethnic groups economic activity rates are higher for men than women.

Unemployment

In 2001/02 people from minority ethnic groups had higher unemployment rates than White people. This was the case for men and women.

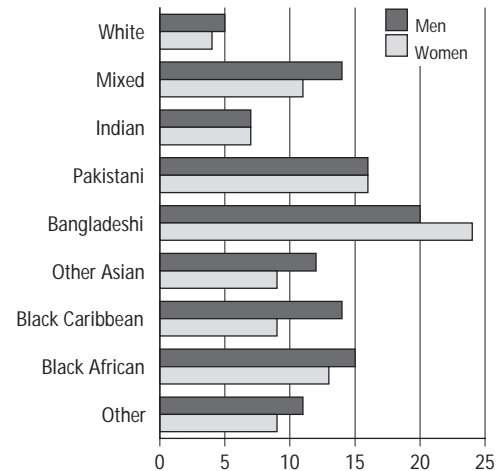
Bangladeshi men had the highest unemployment rate at 20 per cent - four times that for White men. The unemployment rate among Indian men was only slightly higher than that for White men, 7 per cent compared with 5 per cent. For all the other minority ethnic groups, unemployment rates were between two and three times higher than those for White men. This pattern was the same across different age groups.

For men from all ethnic groups unemployment was much higher among young people aged under 25 than for older people. Over 40 per cent of young Bangladeshi men were unemployed. Young Black African men, Pakistanis, Black Caribbeans, and those belonging to the Mixed group also had very high unemployment rates – they ranged between 25 per cent and 31 per cent. The comparable unemployment rate for young White men was 12 per cent.

Unemployment rates: by ethnic group and sex, 2001/02

United Kingdom

Percentages



The picture for women was similar to that for men. Bangladeshi women had the highest unemployment rate at 24 per cent, six times greater than that of White women (4 per cent). Seven per cent of Indian women were unemployed. Women in all other ethnic groups had rates between 9 per cent and 16 per cent. Rates for young women under the age of 25 years were considerably higher than for older women and this was true for all ethnic groups.

Self-employment

People from Pakistani and Chinese groups are far more likely to be self-employed than those in other groups. Around one-fifth of Pakistani (22 per cent) and Chinese (19 per cent) people in employment were self-employed in 2001/02 compared with only one in ten White people and less than one in ten Black people.

Certain ethnic groups were concentrated in particular industries. Self-employed Pakistani people were more likely than other people to work in the transport and communication industry, over half of them worked in this sector compared with 7 per cent of people overall. Chinese people were more likely to work in the distribution, hotel and restaurant sector; 71 per cent did so compared with an overall figure of 18 per cent.

Source and notes

Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey 2001/02, Office for National Statistics.

Other Black and Chinese groups were omitted from the chart because sample sizes were too small for reliable estimates.

ILO Unemployment: This is an International Labour Organisation (ILO) recommended measure, used in household surveys such as the Labour Force Survey, which counts as unemployed those aged 16 and over who are without a job, are available to start work in the next two weeks, who have been seeking a job in the last four weeks or are waiting to start a job already obtained.

Unemployment rate: based on the ILO definition as a percentage of all economically active.

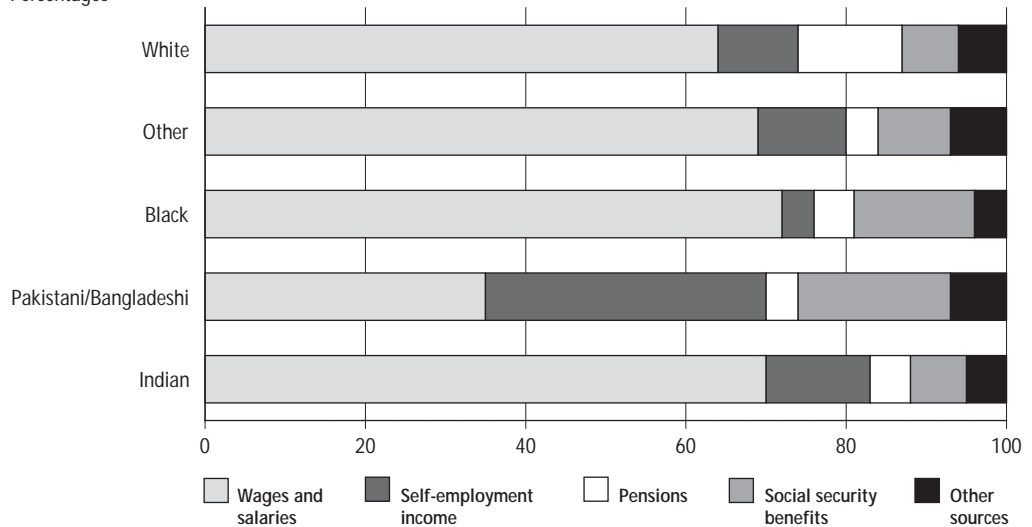
Sources of income

Benefits are 19% of Pakistani and Bangladeshi income

Sources of total weekly gross household income: by ethnic group of head of household, 2000/01

United Kingdom

Percentages



Minority ethnic groups have lower levels of household income than the White population. This pattern reflects considerable variation in the main sources of income.

Pakistani and Bangladeshi households were heavily reliant on social security benefits – which made up nearly a fifth (19 per cent) of their income. Benefits were also a considerable source of income for the Black group (15 per cent).

Pakistani and Bangladeshi households were the least likely to obtain income from earnings, reflecting their higher unemployment rates. Wages and salaries

made up only around a third (36 per cent) of their total household income, whereas for other groups this proportion was around two-thirds. Pakistani and Bangladeshi households were much more reliant on earnings from self-employment than other groups. Over a third of their total income came from this source compared with 13 per cent for Indians and around a tenth or less for other groups.

Pensions accounted for around 5 per cent of household income for each of the minority ethnic groups compared with 13 per cent for White people. This reflects the older age structure of the White population.

Source and note

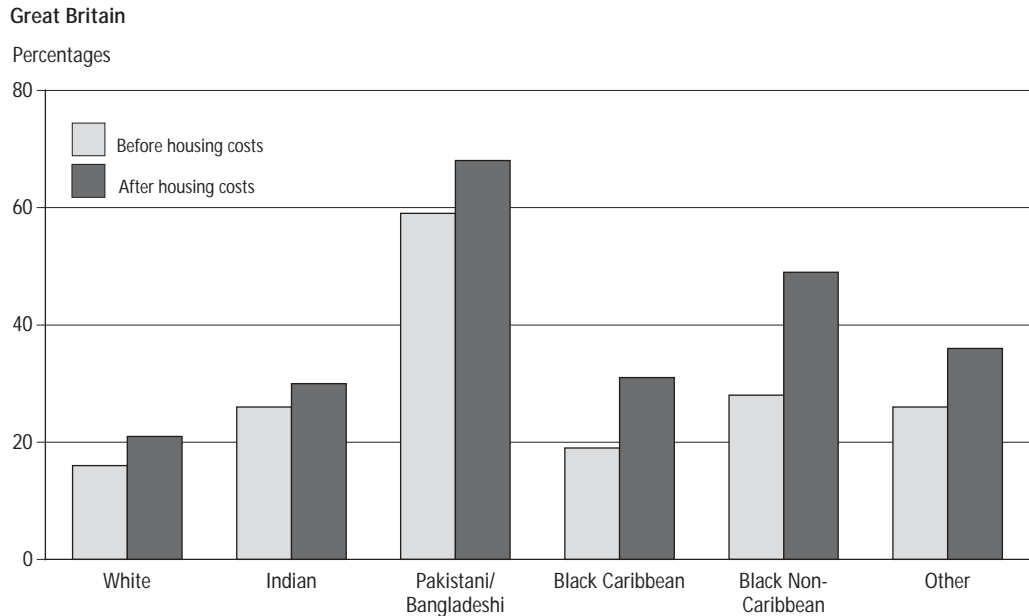
Family Resources Survey, Department for Work and Pensions 2000/01.

The 'other sources' bar in the chart also includes investments and tax credits.

Low-income households

Low income for 60% of Pakistanis/ Bangladeshis

Households on low-income: by ethnic group of head of household, 2000/01



Source and notes

Households Below Average Income, Family Resources Survey, 2000/01, Department for Work and Pensions.

The data include the self-employed and are based on the whole population.

Low-income household: A low-income household is defined as having less than 60 per cent of the median equivalised disposable income.

Disposable Income: The income measure that has been used is that of household disposable income. This is the total income from wages and salaries, self-employment, and social security benefits minus deductions for income tax, local taxes, and contributions towards pensions and National Insurance. Thus it is the amount people have available to spend or save – and it is a measure that is commonly used to describe people’s ‘economic well-being’.

Income before and after housing costs: In order to take into account variations in housing costs, two measures of income are used in the Households Below Average Income data. These are before housing costs and after housing costs. Each measure has imperfections as a guide to differences in, and changes to, living standards. Neither should be given pre-eminence over the other.

Equivalisation: The data have been equivalised. Household disposable income is adjusted to take account of the size and composition of the household. This is in recognition of the fact that, for example, to achieve the same standard of living a household of five would require a higher income than would a single person. This process is known as equivalisation.

People from minority ethnic groups were more likely than White people to live in low-income households in 2000/01. There was considerable variation among the different minority ethnic groups.

Pakistanis and Bangladeshis were much more likely than other groups to be living on low incomes. Almost 60 per cent of the 1 million people in this group were living in low-income households before housing costs were deducted. This increased to 68 per cent after housing costs.

A substantial proportion (49 per cent) of Black Non-Caribbean households also lived

on low incomes after housing costs had been deducted. However, the risk of low-income for this group was much less pronounced in comparison with other ethnic groups if income before housing costs is used.

The White population were least likely to be living in low-income households, 16 per cent did so before housing costs were deducted and 21 per cent after housing costs.

Education

Indian pupils have best GCSE results

GCSE performance

In 1999, a higher proportion of girls than boys in each ethnic group achieved five or more GCSEs at grades A*- C (or equivalent).

Indian pupils are more likely to get these qualifications than those in other ethnic group, with 66 per cent of Indian girls and 54 per cent of Indian boys doing so in 1999. This contrasts with only 37 per cent of Pakistani and Bangladeshi girls and 22 per cent of Pakistani and Bangladeshi boys.

Of those who achieved five or more A*- C grade GCSEs, only half of Black pupils achieved very high results (8 or more A*- C grades) whereas at least two-thirds of all other ethnic groups achieved this level.

Between 1997 and 1999 all ethnic groups, with the exception of Pakistani and Bangladeshis, saw a rise in achievement of five or more A*- C grade GCSEs by sixteen year olds. This meant that the gap between the lowest and highest achieving ethnic groups widened over this time period.

School exclusions

In 2000/01, Black pupils were more likely to be permanently excluded from schools in England than children from any other ethnic group.

The highest permanent exclusion rates were among children belonging to the 'Other Black' group (40 in every 10 thousand pupils) and Black Caribbean pupils (38 in every 10 thousand). This compared with 13 in every 10 thousand White children. The lowest rate of permanent exclusions was for Indian pupils (3 in every 10 thousand).

For all ethnic groups, the rate of permanent exclusions was higher for boys than for girls.

Proportion of boys and girls aged 16 who achieved 5 or more GCSEs (grade A*-C), 1999

England & Wales	Ranked percentages
Indian girls	66
White girls	55
Indian boys	54
Black girls	46
White boys	45
Other group girls	44
Other group boys	40
Pakistani/bangladeshi girls	37
Black boys	31
Pakistani/Bangladeshi boys	22

Highest qualification

In 2001/02 people from some minority ethnic groups in the United Kingdom were more likely to have degrees (or equivalent) than White people. Those most likely to have degrees were Chinese people, Indians, Black Africans and Other Asians.

Among men, Black Caribbeans were the least likely to have degrees (8 per cent).

Among women, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis were the least likely to have degrees (7 per cent).

Despite some ethnic groups being more likely than the White population to have a degree, they were also more likely to have no qualifications at all.

In particular Pakistanis and Bangladeshis were most likely to be unqualified. Nearly half (48 per cent) of Bangladeshi women and 40 per cent of Bangladeshi men had no qualifications. Among Pakistanis, 40 per cent of women and 27 per cent of men had no qualifications.

Sources

Youth Cohort Study cohort 10, sweep 1 - survey of young people of academic age 16 conducted in spring 2000. Table on GCSE performance is based on year 11 exams taken the previous summer (1999) when cohort was academic age 15, Department for Education and Skills.

Department for Education and Skills 2002.

Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey 2001/02, Office for National Statistics.

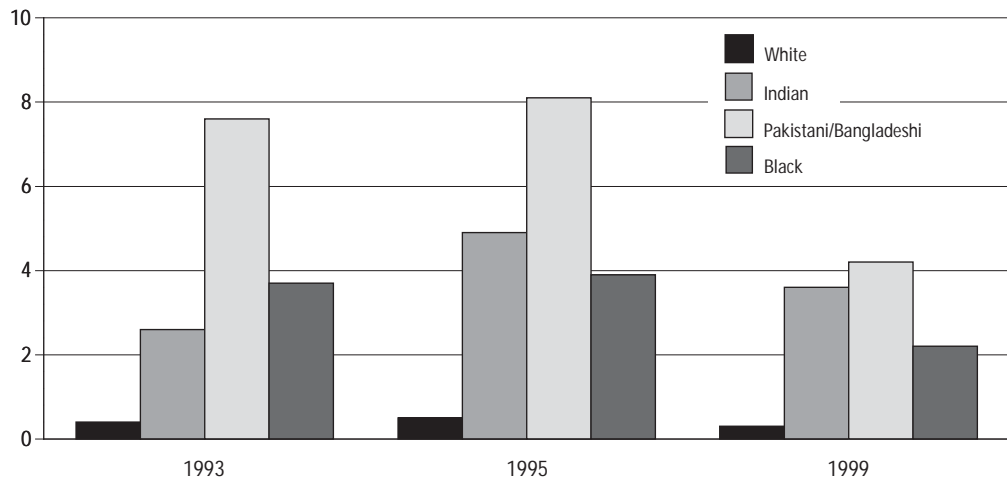
Victims of racial crime

Highest risk for Pakistanis/ Bangladeshis

Risk of being a victim of a racially motivated incident, 1993, 1995 and 1999

England & Wales

Percentages



Source and notes

Clancy, A., Hough, M., Aust, R. and Kershaw, C. (2001). *Crime, Policing and Justice: the experience of ethnic minorities: Findings from the 2000 British Crime Survey*, Home Office Research Study 223.

Victims are defined as anyone who judged that racial motivation was present in any household or personal crime which they had experienced in the relevant year, including threats.

Racially motivated crime: British Crime Survey respondents are asked, in respect of all crimes of which they were victims, whether they thought the incident was racially motivated. This definition is broadly in line with the definition recommended by the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry, which has subsequently been adopted by the police: "A racist incident is any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person." (Macpherson, 1999). This superseded the definition used previously by the police: "A racial incident is any incident in which it appears to the reporting or investigating officer that the complaint involves an element of racial motivation, or any incident which includes an allegation of racial motivation made by any person."

Household crimes: For household offences, all members of the household can be regarded as victims, so the respondent answers on behalf of the whole household. The offence categories concerned are: bicycle theft; burglary; theft in a dwelling; other household theft, thefts of and from vehicles, and vandalism to household property and vehicle.

In 1999, the risk of being the victim of a racially motivated incident was considerably higher for members of minority ethnic groups than for White people. The highest risk was for Pakistani and Bangladeshi people at 4.2 per cent, followed by 3.6 per cent for Indian people and 2.2 per cent for Black people. This compared with 0.3 per cent for White people.

Racially motivated incidents represented 12 per cent of all crime against minority ethnic people compared with 2 per cent for White people.

According to the British Crime Survey the estimated number of racially motivated offences in England and Wales fell from 390,000 in 1995 to 280,000 in 1999. The number of racially motivated incidents against Black, Indian, Pakistani, and Bangladeshi people also fell, from 145,000 in 1995 to 98,000 in 1999. This indicates that

increased levels of racially motivated incidents as recorded by police statistics, relate to improvements in recording and higher levels of reporting such incidents.

Emotional reactions to racially motivated incidents were generally more severe than for non-racially motivated incidents. In 1999, 42 per cent of victims of racially motivated crime said that they had been 'very much affected' by the incident, compared with 19 per cent of victims of other sorts of crime. Black victims were most likely to report being 'very much affected', 55 per cent compared with 41 per cent for both Asian and White victims.

Indian, Bangladeshi and Pakistani people are more likely to be victims of household crime than Black or White people. Indians were particularly more at risk of burglary than others.

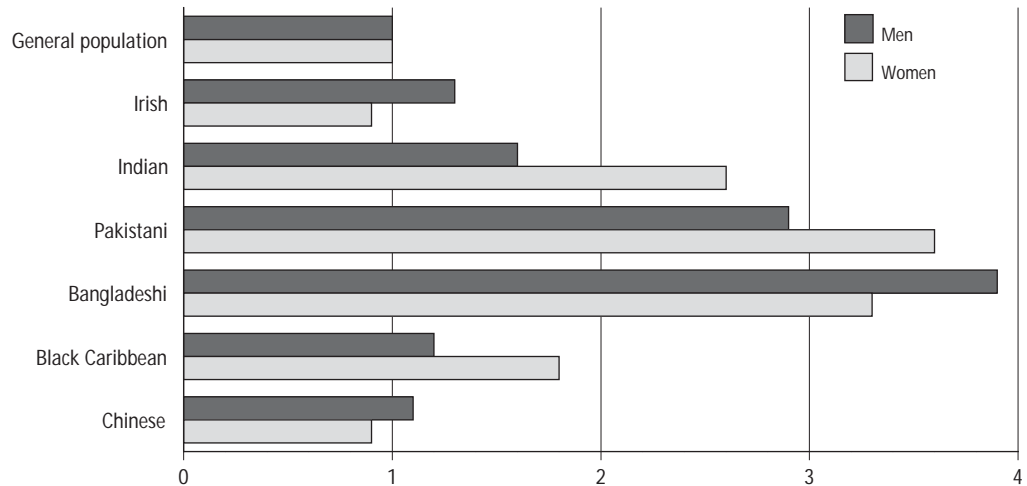
Health

Asians have worst self-reported health

Self-assessed bad or very bad general health: by ethnic group and sex, 1999

England

Standardised risk ratio



Source and notes

The Health of Minority Ethnic Groups, Health Survey for England 1999, Department of Health.

Standardised risk ratios:

Differences between the minority ethnic groups and the general population in their health status (or risk factors) may be partly due to their age differences. Age standardisation is therefore used to remove the age element of the difference when comparing groups. Age-standardised risk ratios do this by comparing each minority ethnic group to the overall general population figure (separately for men and women). The general population is taken as the base of 1. A value greater than 1 suggests that a member of the minority ethnic group is more likely to have the condition than the population in general. A value less than 1 suggests that a condition is less likely in that minority ethnic group than in the general population. For example, a risk ratio of 1.5 means that the prevalence is 50 per cent higher in that minority ethnic group than in the general population, after allowing for age differences. Similarly, a risk ratio of 0.7 means that the prevalence of the condition is 30 per cent lower in that group than in the population as a whole.

In 1999 Asians were considerably more likely than the general population to describe their health as bad or very bad. Bangladeshi and Pakistani men and women were three to four times more likely than the general population to rate their health as bad or very bad. Bangladeshis had risk ratios of 3.9 (men) and 3.3 (women). The risk ratios for Pakistanis were 2.9 (men) and 3.6 (women).

Indians were also more likely than the general population to rate their health as bad with standardised risk ratios of 1.6 for men and 2.6 for women.

Black Caribbean women were the only other minority ethnic group who were significantly more likely than the general population to describe their health as bad or very bad after standardising for age. The standardised risk ratio for this group was 1.8.

As well as differences in self-assessed general health, men and women from

different minority ethnic groups varied in their likelihood of having specific diseases. One area where this was particularly marked was in the prevalence of self-reported diabetes.

After standardising for age, Bangladeshi men and women were nearly six times more likely to report having this condition than the general population. Risk ratios among Pakistani men and women were almost as high as those for the Bangladeshi group. Indian men and women were almost three times as likely as the general population to report having diabetes.

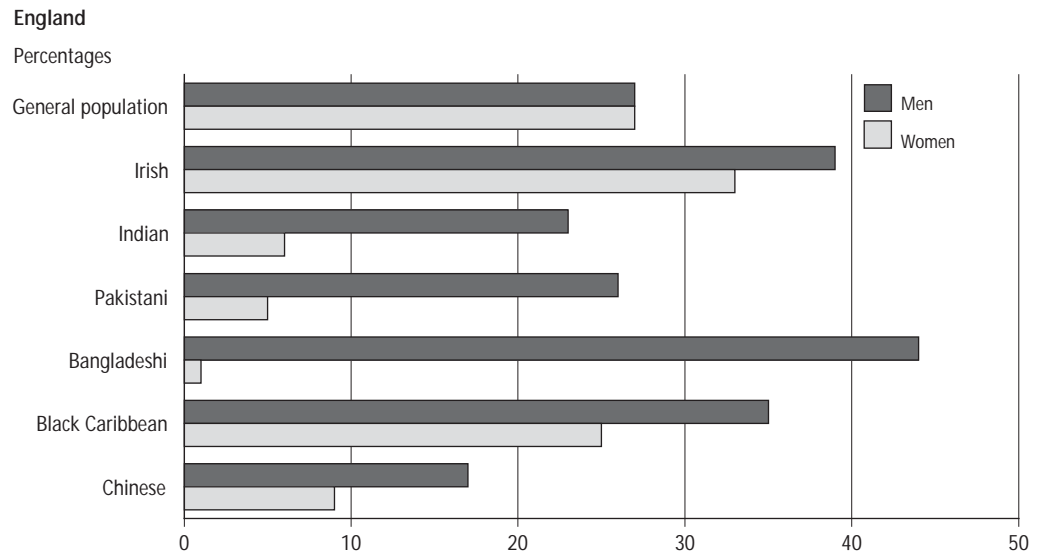
Black Caribbeans were also more likely than the general population to suffer from diabetes particularly Black Caribbean women (risk ratios of 2.5 for men and 4.2 for women).

Rates of diabetes among the Chinese and Irish groups were not significantly different from the general population.

Smoking

Bangladeshi men have highest smoking rates

Current cigarette smoking: by ethnic group and sex, 1999



In 1999, Bangladeshi men were the most likely group to smoke cigarettes (44 per cent), followed by Irish (39 per cent) and Black Caribbean men (35 per cent). Men from each of these ethnic groups were more likely to smoke than men in the general population (27 per cent). Chinese men (17 per cent) were the least likely to smoke. Similar proportions of Pakistani (26 per cent) and Indian (23 per cent) men smoked as in the general population. This pattern remained the same after allowing for the differences in age structures between the different ethnic groups.

Like men, Irish and Black Caribbean women had the highest smoking rates in 1999 (33 per cent and 25 per cent respectively), although only Irish women had rates higher than the general population (27 per cent). However, unlike men, women in every other ethnic group were much less likely to smoke than women in the general population. As with men, the pattern remained the same after allowing for differences in age structure.

Although very few Bangladeshi women smoked cigarettes, a relatively large proportion (26 per cent) chewed tobacco. This method of using tobacco was also popular among Bangladeshi men (19 per cent), but they tended to use it in conjunction with cigarettes.

In the general population men and women were equally likely to be smokers. However, among minority ethnic groups women were less likely to smoke than men. The sex difference was particularly marked among the Bangladeshi group.

Smoking behaviour is also strongly related to a person's socio-economic class. People from lower socio-economic classes are more likely to smoke than those from higher classes. Part of the pattern of smoking among the different ethnic groups is explained by the socio-economic differences among the groups. For example, Bangladeshi men were over represented in the lowest socio-economic class (semi-routine or routine occupations), and these men also had the highest rates of smoking.

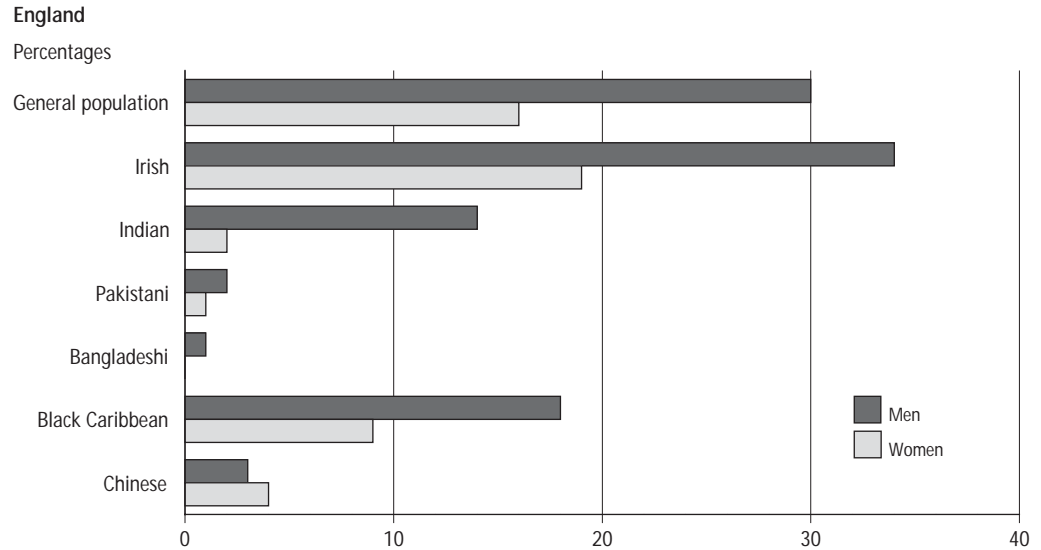
Source

The Health of Minority Ethnic Groups, Health Survey for England 1999, Department of Health.

Alcohol consumption

Irish most likely to exceed advised levels

Adults drinking above recommended alcohol guidelines: by ethnic group and sex, 1999



Irish men and women were more likely than any other ethnic group to drink in excess of 1995 weekly recommended guidelines. A third of men (34 per cent) and a fifth of women (19 per cent) drank in excess of these levels. All other ethnic minority groups were much less likely than the general population to be drinking above these weekly limits.

Eighteen per cent of Black Caribbean men and 9 per cent of Black Caribbean women did so.

Less than 5 per cent of men or women from the Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Chinese groups drank more than these recommended amounts. Very few Indian women exceeded the guidelines (2 per cent) but 14 per cent of Indian men drank above this level. This picture did not change after age standardisation.

After the Irish, Black Caribbean men and women were most likely to drink above the

Source and notes

The Health of Minority Ethnic Groups, Health Survey for England 1999, Department of Health.

Age standardisation:

Differences between the minority groups and the general population in their health status may be partly due to their age differences and so age standardisation is used to remove the age element of the difference when comparing groups.

Government recommended alcohol guidelines are no more than 3-4 units per day for men and 2-3 units per day for women. The data reported here are weekly consumption estimates (above 21 units for men, and above 14 units for women) and are based on earlier guidelines as these are still widely used figures in public health.

Related links

Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey Summary Report
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=9651>

Classification of ethnic groups
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