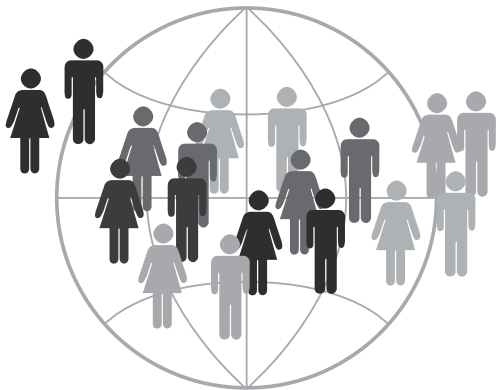


FOCUS ON Ethnicity & Identity



The 2001 Census revealed that the UK is more culturally diverse than ever. *Focus on Ethnicity and Identity* describes the ethnic groups that form the UK's population. This overview reveals that the differences between individual ethnic groups are often greater than between the minority ethnic population and the majority White British people.

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Population Size

7.9% from a non-White ethnic group

The majority of the UK population in 2001 were White (92 per cent). The remaining 4.6 million (or 7.9 per cent) people belonged to other ethnic groups.

Indians were the largest of these groups, followed by Pakistanis, those of Mixed ethnic backgrounds, Black Caribbeans, Black Africans and Bangladeshis. The remaining minority ethnic groups each accounted for less than 0.5 per cent of the UK population and together accounted for a further 1.4 per cent.

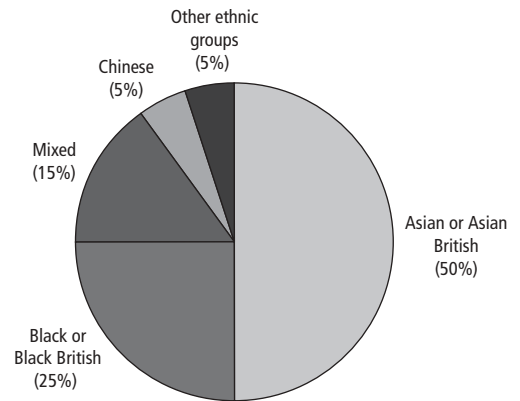
Around half of the non-White population were Asians of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi or other Asian origin. A further quarter were Black, that is Black Caribbean, Black African or Other Black. Fifteen per cent of the non-White population were from the Mixed ethnic group. About a third of this group were from White and Black Caribbean backgrounds.

There were almost 691,000 White Irish people in Great Britain accounting for 1 per cent of the GB population.

In Great Britain the number of people who came from an ethnic group other than White grew by 53 per cent between 1991 and 2001, from 3.0 million in 1991 to 4.6 million in 2001. In 1991 ethnic group data were not collected on the Northern Ireland Census.

The non-White population: by ethnic group, April 2001

United Kingdom
Percentages



Population: by ethnic group, April 2001

United Kingdom

	(Numbers)	Total population (Percentages)	Non-White population (Percentages)
White	54,153,898	92.1	.
Mixed	677,117	1.2	14.6
Indian	1,053,411	1.8	22.7
Pakistani	747,285	1.3	16.1
Bangladeshi	283,063	0.5	6.1
Other Asian	247,664	0.4	5.3
All Asian or Asian British	2,331,423	4.0	50.3
Black Caribbean	565,876	1.0	12.2
Black African	485,277	0.8	10.5
Black Other	97,585	0.2	2.1
All Black or Black British	1,148,738	2.0	24.8
Chinese	247,403	0.4	5.3
Other ethnic groups	230,615	0.4	5.0
All minority ethnic population	4,635,296	7.9	100.0
All population	58,789,194	100	

Sources:

Census, April 1991 and 2001, Office for National Statistics; Census, April 2001, General Register Office for Scotland; Census, April 2001, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

Notes:

Census ethnic group questions: In both 1991 and 2001 respondents were asked to which ethnic group they considered themselves to belong. The question asked in 2001 was more extensive than that asked in 1991, so that people could tick 'Mixed' for the first time. This change in answer categories may account for a small part of the observed increase in the minority ethnic population over the period. Different versions of the ethnic group question were asked in England and Wales, in Scotland and in Northern Ireland, to reflect local differences in the requirement for information. However, results are comparable across the UK as a whole.

In the table '.' means not applicable.

Non-White ethnic group includes all minority ethnic groups but not White Irish or Other White groups.



Geographic Distribution

45% of non-White people live in London

Non-White ethnic groups are considerably more likely to live in England than in the other countries of the UK. In 2001 they made up 9 per cent of the total population in England compared with only 2 per cent in both Scotland and Wales, and less than 1 per cent in Northern Ireland.

The non-White population of the UK is concentrated in the large urban centres. Nearly half (45 per cent) lived in the London region in 2001, where they comprised 29 per cent of all residents.

After London, the second largest proportion was in the West Midlands (with 13 per cent of the non-White population), followed by the South East (8 per cent), the North West (8 per cent), and Yorkshire and the Humber (7 per cent).

In contrast less than 4 per cent of those from non-White groups lived in the North East and the South West. Minority ethnic groups made up only 2 per cent of each of these regions' populations.

Seventy eight per cent of Black Africans and 61 per cent of Black Caribbeans lived in London. More than half of the Bangladeshi group (54 per cent) also lived in London. Other ethnic minority groups were more dispersed. Only 19 per cent of Pakistanis resided in London, while 21 per cent lived in the West Midlands, 20 per cent in Yorkshire and the Humber, and 16 per cent in the North West.

In Great Britain the highest concentration of White Irish people was in London. Almost a third (32 per cent) of the 691,000 White Irish people lived in London where they made up 3 per cent of the population. The English region with the lowest proportion of White Irish people was the North East, where they made up less than half a per cent of the population.

Regional distribution of the non-White population, April 2001



Sources:

Census, April 2001, Office for National Statistics;
 Census, April 2001, General Register Office for Scotland;
 Census, April 2001, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.



Identity

9 in 10 of Mixed group identify as British

National identity

In most non-White ethnic groups in Britain, the majority of people described their national identity as either British, English, Scottish, Welsh, or Irish. This included 87 per cent of people from the Mixed group, 81 per cent of the Other Black group, 80 per cent of the Black Caribbean group, and three quarters of the Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi groups.

People from the White British group were more likely to describe their national identity as English rather than British. However, the opposite was true of the non-White groups, who were far more likely to identify themselves as British. For example, two thirds (67 per cent) of Bangladeshis said they were British, while only 6 per cent said they were English, Scottish, Welsh or Irish.

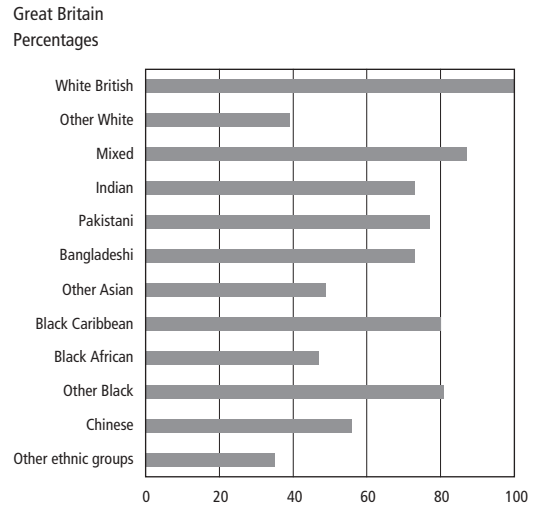
Country of Birth

Among people living in Great Britain, the proportion born in the UK (England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland) varied markedly by ethnic group.

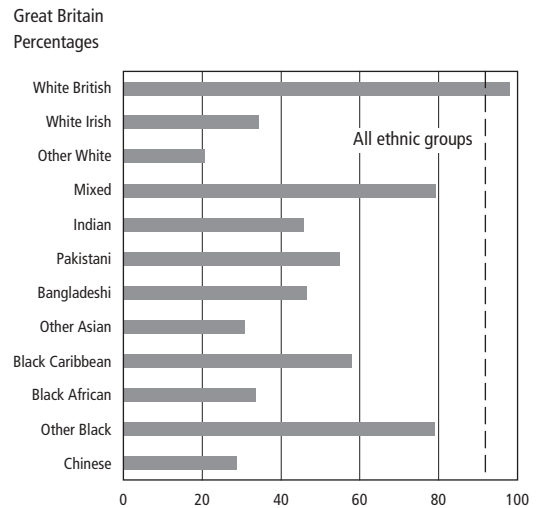
Almost all of the White British group were born in the UK. Other than this group, those most likely to be born in the UK were people from the Mixed ethnic group and from the Other Black group, 79 per cent in each. This reflects their younger age structures. A substantial proportion of the Other Black group were young people, who were born in Britain, and who chose to describe their ethnicity as Other Black and wrote in 'Black British' as their answer. Black Caribbeans were the next most likely group to be born in the UK.

Among all non-White ethnic groups the proportions born in the UK declined with age. For example, 83 per cent of Black Caribbeans aged 25 to 34 were born in the UK but this fell sharply for subsequent age bands so that only 5 per cent of those aged 45 to 64 were born here. For other non-White ethnic groups, this sharp decline occurred in younger age groups, reflecting their later immigration.

Proportion who consider their identity to be British, English, Scottish, Welsh or Irish: by ethnic group, 2001/02



People living in Great Britain who were born in the United Kingdom: by ethnic group, April 2001



Sources:

Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey, 2001/02, Office for National Statistics;
 Census, April 2001, Office for National Statistics;
 Census, April 2001, General Register Office for Scotland.



Education

Chinese pupils have best GCSE results

GCSE performance

In 2002 Chinese pupils were the most likely to achieve five or more GCSE grades A*-C in England, with 77 per cent of Chinese girls and 71 per cent of Chinese boys respectively. Indian pupils had the next highest achievement levels: 70 per cent of Indian girls and 58 per cent of Indian boys achieved these levels.

The lowest levels of GCSE attainment were among Black Caribbean pupils. Only 23 per cent of Black Caribbean boys and 38 per cent of Black Caribbean girls achieved five or more A*-C grade GCSEs. Pupils from the Other Black, Black African and Pakistani groups had the next lowest levels of attainment.

Within each ethnic group a higher proportion of girls than boys achieved five or more GCSE grades A*-C (or equivalent).

School exclusions

In 2001/02 Black pupils were more likely to be permanently excluded from schools in England than children from other ethnic groups.

The highest permanent exclusion rate was among Black Caribbean pupils, at 42 per 10,000. This was three times the rate for White pupils. Chinese and Indian pupils had the lowest exclusion rates, at 2 per 10,000 and 3 per 10,000 respectively.

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

Highest qualification

In 2001/02, only people from the Black Caribbean, Other Black, Pakistani and Bangladeshi groups were less likely than White British people to have degrees (or equivalent).

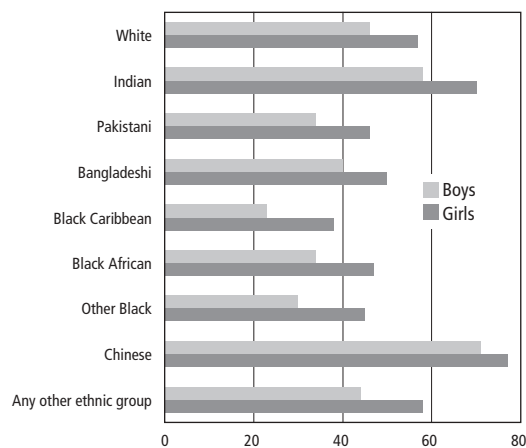
Among men, Black Caribbeans were the least likely to have degrees (8 per cent). Among women, Pakistanis/Bangladeshis were the least likely group to have degrees (7 per cent).

The White Irish, Chinese, and Indian groups were among those most likely to have degrees, but they also had fairly high proportions with no qualifications (19 per cent of White Irish, 18 per cent of Indians, and 20 per cent of Chinese). This compared with 16 per cent of the White British group having no qualifications.

Pakistanis and Bangladeshis were the 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 28 per cent of men had no qualifications.

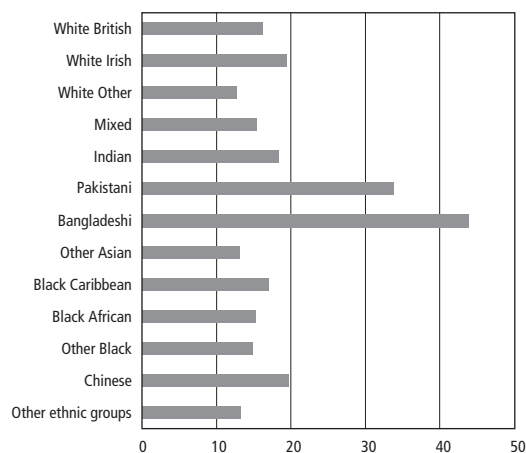
Pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C at GCSE/GNVQ: by sex and ethnic group, 2002

England
Percentages



People of working age with no qualifications: by ethnic group, 2001/02

Great Britain
Percentages



Sources:

Version 2.2 of the National Pupil Database, Department for Education and Skills;
Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey, 2001/02,
Office for National Statistics.

Notes:

The chart showing people with no qualification is shown as a proportion of all the working age population (males aged 16-64, females aged 16-59).



Employment Patterns

Pakistanis most likely to be self-employed

Self-employment

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

Industry

Certain ethnic groups are concentrated in particular industries. In 2001/02, two thirds of Bangladeshi and half of Chinese men in employment worked in the distribution, hotel and restaurant industry compared with just 16 per cent of their White British counterparts.

Pakistani men were the group most likely to work in the transport and communication industry, 25 per cent of them worked in this sector compared with 10 per cent of men overall. White Irish men were more likely than other men to work in the construction industry - 21 per cent compared with 12 per cent overall.

Bangladeshi and Chinese women are also concentrated in the distribution, hotel and restaurant industry. Forty per cent of each group worked in this industry in 2001/02, compared with 22 per cent of all women in employment. Half (51 per cent) of Black Caribbean women worked in the public administration, education or health sector, which was the highest proportion for any ethnic group.

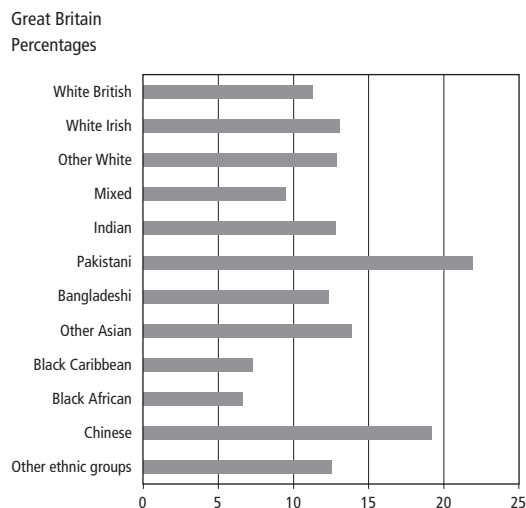
Occupation

Those most likely to be employed in professional occupations were from the Indian, Chinese, White Irish, and other non-British White groups, between 17 and 20 per cent. White British people had relatively low rates of people working in professional occupations (11 per cent overall). The only groups with lower rates of professionals were Black Caribbeans, Bangladeshis, Pakistanis, and, among women only, those from the Mixed group, at between 8 and 10 per cent. The pattern was similar for managers and senior officials.

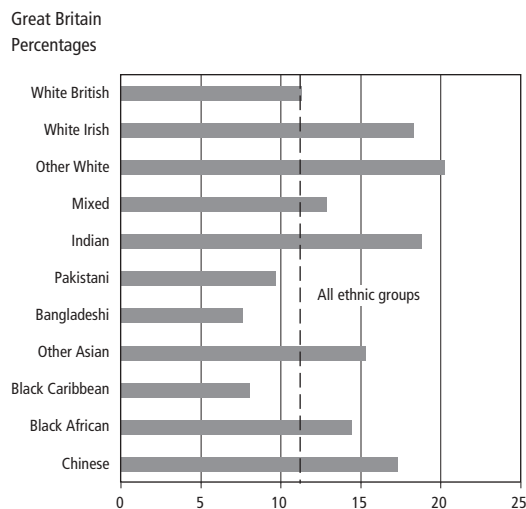
Looking at particular jobs, one in six Pakistani men in employment were cab drivers or chauffeurs, compared with one in 100 White British men. Two in five Bangladeshi men were either cooks or waiters, compared with one in 100 White British men. The proportion of Indian men working as doctors, at 5 per cent, was almost 12 times higher than the rate for all White British men.

Among women in employment, around one in ten Black African women and White Irish women were working as nurses in 2001/02, compared with only three in 100 White British women. Indian women were five times more likely to be working as sewing machinists and packers, bottlers, canners and fillers than White British women.

Self-employment as a percentage of all in employment: by ethnic group, 2001/02



People in professional occupations as a percentage of all in employment: by ethnic group, 2001/02



Source:

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

Notes:

The White Irish group has been derived using the Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey national identity variables. Self-employment, occupation and industry rates are as a proportion of all in employment. The sample size is too small for reliable estimates for the Other Black group.



Care

1 in 10 White and Indian people provide unpaid care

Informal care

People from White British and White Irish backgrounds together with Indian people are most likely to be providing informal care, that is unpaid care to relatives, friends or neighbours. Ten per cent of each of these groups in Great Britain provided informal care in April 2001. Those least likely to be providing informal care were people from Mixed backgrounds (5.1 per cent), Black Africans (5.6 per cent) and the Chinese (5.8 per cent).

This pattern to some extent reflects the different age structures of the different ethnic groups, as informal care is most likely to be provided by people aged 50 to 60. The White groups have older age structures and are therefore more likely to both provide and need care.

The amount of time that people spend caring differs by ethnic group. Groups most likely to provide very substantial amounts of care (50 hours per week or more) tend to be the same groups who provide care in the first place. The White Irish (2.5 per cent), Bangladeshi (2.4 per cent), Pakistani (2.4 per cent) and White British (2.2 per cent) groups had the highest rates of spending 50 hours a week or more caring. Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Other Asian groups had the highest rates of spending 20 to 49 hours a week caring (1.5 per cent or slightly more for each group).

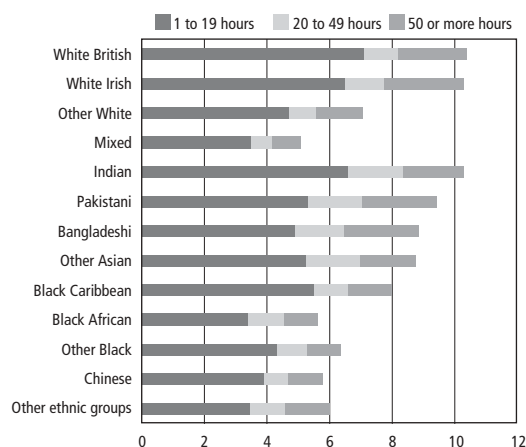
In April 2001, 109,000 children under the age of 16 in Great Britain were providing some informal care. Indian, Bangladeshi and Pakistani children were the most likely to be carers, around 1.5 per cent of each group. Black African children were least likely to provide care, at 0.7 per cent. Among White British children, 0.9 per cent were providing some unpaid care.

Residential care

In April 2001, 0.8 per cent of the population of Great Britain were resident in hospitals or other care establishments. This percentage varied greatly by ethnic group from 0.1 per cent among Bangladeshis and Pakistanis to 1.0 per cent among the White Irish group.

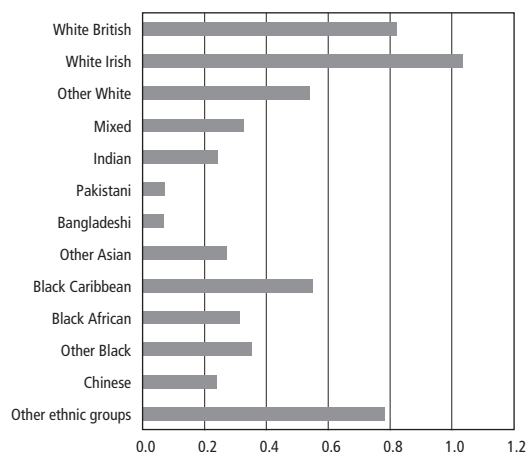
Carers: by ethnic group and time spent caring per week, April 2001

Great Britain
Percentages



Population in hospitals and other care establishments: by ethnic group, April 2001

Great Britain
Percentages



Sources:

Census, April 2001, Office for National Statistics;
Census, April 2001, General Register Office for Scotland.

Notes:

Hospitals and other care establishments are as classified as 'Medical and Care establishments' in the 2001 Census: NHS Psychiatric hospitals/homes, other NHS hospitals/homes, Local Authority children's homes, LA nursing homes, LA residential care homes, other LA homes, Housing association homes or hostels, other nursing homes, other residential care homes, other children's homes, other psychiatric hospitals/homes, other hospitals and other medical and care homes.



Victims of Crime

Highest risk for Pakistanis/Bangladeshis

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.

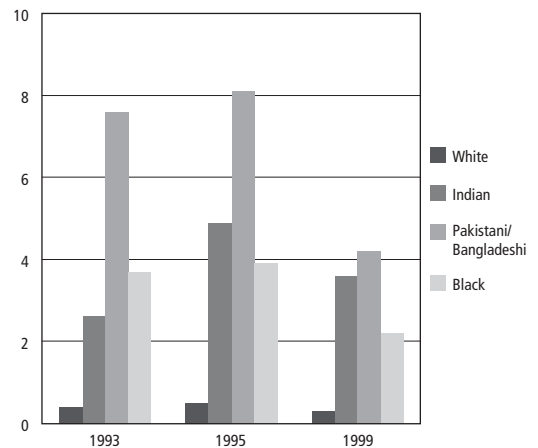
According to the British Crime Survey, the estimated number of racially motivated offences in England and Wales fell from 390,000 in 1995 to 280,000 in 1999. The number of racially motivated incidents against Black, Indian, Pakistani, and Bangladeshi people also fell, from 145,000 in 1995 to 98,000 in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

Risk of being a victim of a racially motivated incident: by ethnic group

England & Wales
Percentages



Source:

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.

Notes:

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. 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. Household crimes include: bicycle theft; burglary; theft in a dwelling; other household theft, thefts of/from vehicles, and vandalism to household property/vehicles.



Age/Sex Distribution

Non-White groups are younger

White groups have an older age structure than other ethnic groups, reflecting past immigration and fertility patterns.

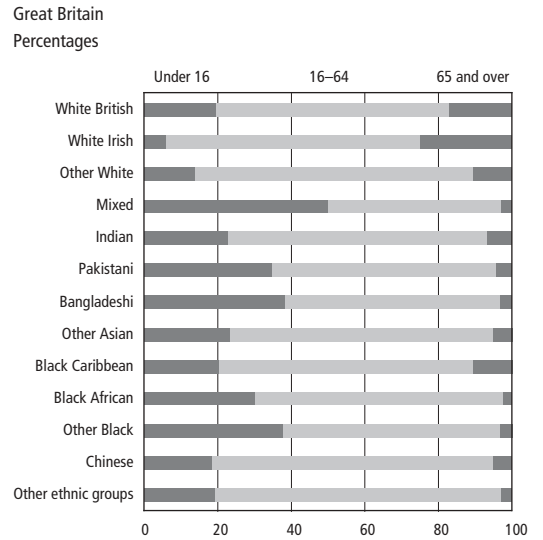
The White Irish group had the oldest age structure of all in 2001, with one in four people in Britain aged 65 and over. Among the non-White group, Black Caribbeans had the largest proportion of people aged 65 and over (11 per cent) reflecting the first large-scale migration of non-White groups to Britain back in the 1950s.

The Mixed group had the youngest age structure - half (50 per cent) were under the age of 16. The Bangladeshi, Other Black and Pakistani groups also had young age structures: 38 per cent of both the Bangladeshi and Other Black groups were aged under 16, and 35 per cent of Pakistani also fell into this age group. This was almost double the proportion of the White British group where one in five (20 per cent) were under the age of 16.

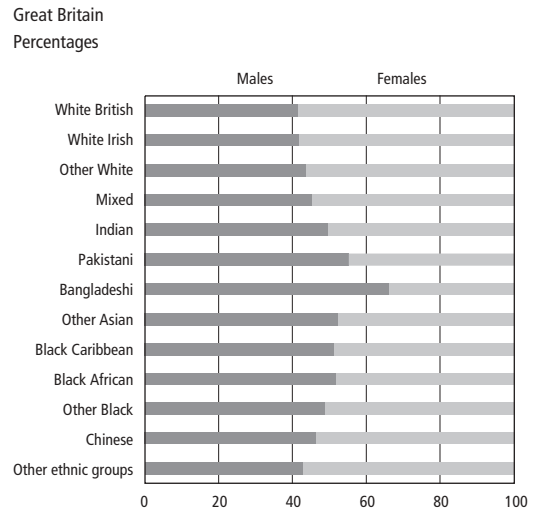
Progressive ageing of the non-White ethnic groups is anticipated in the future, but this will depend on fertility levels, mortality rates and future net migration.

Differences in mortality rates mean that women aged 65 and over normally outnumber men. This can clearly be seen in the White (with 58 per cent women), Mixed (55 per cent) and Chinese ethnic groups (54 per cent). However for some ethnic groups this has been affected by differing immigration patterns. This is particularly evident in the Bangladeshi group where only one third (34 per cent) of those aged 65 and over were women. Similarly, for the Pakistani group, women made up 45 per cent of the 65 and over age group.

Age distribution: by ethnic group, April 2001



Sex distribution of people aged 65 and over: by ethnic group, April 2001



Sources:

Census, April 2001, Office for National Statistics;
Census, April 2001, General Register Office for Scotland.



Households

Asians have largest households

Household size

Asian households are larger than households of any other ethnic group. Households headed by a Bangladeshi person were the largest of all with an average size of 4.5 people in April 2001, followed by Pakistani households (4.1 people) and Indian households (3.3 people).

The smallest households were found among the White Irish (average size 2.1 people). Black Caribbean and White British households were the next smallest, both with an average size of 2.3 people. All these groups have an older age structure than other ethnic groups, and contain a higher proportion of one-person households. Thirty-eight per cent of Black Caribbean households, 37 per cent of White Irish households and 31 per cent of White British households contained only one person. Only 9 per cent of Bangladeshi households contained just one person.

Types of household

Three quarters (74 per cent) of Bangladeshi households contained at least one dependent child. This was the highest proportion for any ethnic group and was nearly three times that of White British households (28 per cent). Households headed by a Pakistani or Indian person were also more likely than non-Asian households to contain at least one dependent child - 66 per cent of Pakistani and 50 per cent of Indian households did so.

Asians are least likely to live in lone parent households. Among households with dependent children, only 10 per cent of Indian households and 13 per cent of both Pakistani and Bangladeshi households contained a lone parent. In contrast, around half of Black Caribbean (48 per cent) and Other Black (52 per cent) households with dependent children were headed by a lone parent. The percentage for the White British group was 22 per cent.

The highest proportions of married couples under pension age, with or without children, were found in Asian households. Over half of Bangladeshi (54 per cent), Indian (53 per cent) and Pakistani (51 per cent) households contained a married couple, compared with 37 per cent of those headed by a White British person. Just one fifth (19 per cent) of Black Caribbean households contained a married couple, which was the lowest proportion of any ethnic group. Asian households were also the least likely to contain a cohabiting couple.

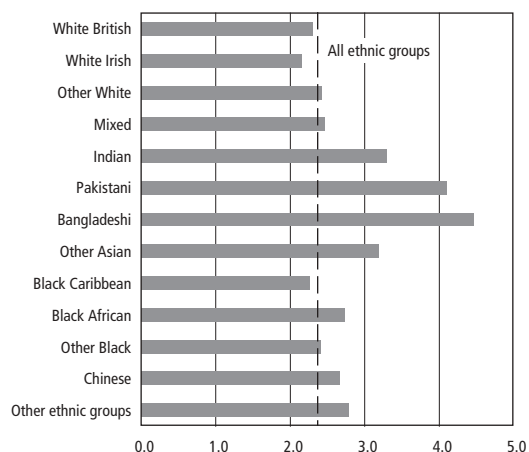
The proportion of pensioner households ranged from 2 per cent of Bangladeshi households to 27 per cent of White Irish households. Among the non-White ethnic groups, Black Caribbeans were most likely to live in households which only contained pensioners (13 per cent).

Households containing more than one family with dependent children are most likely to be headed by people from Asian ethnic groups. These types of households made up 2 per cent of all households in Great Britain whereas among the Bangladeshi community they made up 17 per cent of households.

Average household size: by ethnic group of household reference person, April 2001

Great Britain

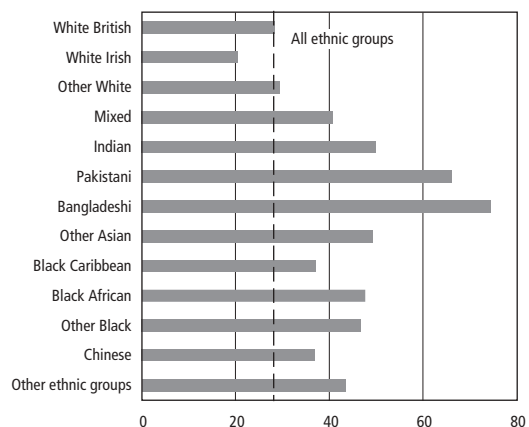
People per household



Households with dependent children as a proportion of all households: by ethnic group of household reference person, April 2001

Great Britain

Percentages



Source:

Census, April 2001, Office for National Statistics;
Census, April 2001, General Register Office for Scotland.

Notes:

Household Reference Person was introduced in 2001 and replaces Head of Household. The Household Reference Person is used to assign the ethnic group of the household. It does not follow that everyone in the household will be of the same ethnic group as the Household Reference Person.

A dependent child is a person aged 0 to 15 in a household or aged 16 to 18 in full-time education and living with his or her parents.

Married couple and lone parent households contain at least one person below pensionable age.



Religion

7 in 10 identify as White Christian

The 2001 Census collected information about ethnicity and religious identity. Combining these results show that while the population of England and Wales is more culturally diverse than ever before, White Christians remain the largest single group by far. In England and Wales, 36 million people (nearly 7 out of 10) described their ethnicity as White and their religion as Christian.

Majorities of Black people and those from Mixed ethnic backgrounds also identified as Christian (71 and 52 per cent respectively). In total there were 810,000 Black Christians and 347,000 Christians from Mixed ethnic backgrounds.

Among other faiths the largest groups were Pakistani Muslims (658,000) and Indian Hindus (467,000) followed by Indian Sikhs (301,000), Bangladeshi Muslims (260,000) and White Jews (252,000).

The Indian group was religiously diverse: 45 per cent of Indians were Hindu, 29 per cent Sikh and a further 13 per cent Muslim. In contrast the Pakistani and Bangladeshi groups were more homogenous, Muslims accounting for 92 per cent of each ethnic group.

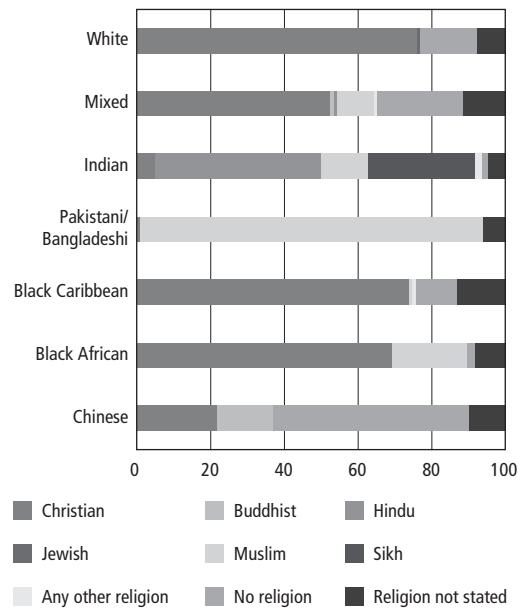
Some faith communities were concentrated in particular ethnic groups. For example, 91 per cent of Sikhs were Indian and 97 per cent of Jews described their ethnicity as White. Other faiths were more widely dispersed. Considerable proportions of Buddhists were found in the White, Chinese, Other Asian and Other ethnic groups.

Overall, 15 per cent of the English and Welsh population reported having no religion although variation by ethnicity was marked. Just over half of all Chinese people, and one quarter of people from Mixed ethnic backgrounds, stated they had no religion. Asian, Black African and White Irish people were least likely to have no religion. Fewer than 1 in 200 Pakistanis and Bangladeshis reported having no religion.

Fourteen per cent of people in the Other Black group chose not to answer the religion question, almost twice the average for England and Wales as a whole. Similar proportions of people in the Black Caribbean and Mixed ethnic groups also gave no answer.

Religious composition of ethnic groups, April 2001

England & Wales
Percentages



Source:

Census, April 2001, Office for National Statistics.

Notes:

The Census question about religion was voluntary.



Labour Market

Bangladeshis' unemployment highest

Unemployment rates for people from non-White ethnic groups were higher than those for White people, for both men and women.

In 2001/02, among men, Bangladeshis had the highest unemployment rate in Great Britain at 20 per cent - four times that for White British or White Irish men.

The unemployment rate among Indian men was only slightly higher than that for White British or White Irish men, 7 per cent compared with 5 per cent for the other two groups. Unemployment rates for all other non-White men were between two and three times higher than those for White British or White Irish men.

The picture for women was similar to that for men, although the levels of unemployment were generally lower. Bangladeshi women had the highest unemployment rate of all at 24 per cent, six times greater than that for White British or White Irish women (4 per cent each). The rate for Indian women was slightly higher than for White women at 7 per cent.

For all ethnic groups unemployment was highest among young people aged under 25. Over 40 per cent of young Bangladeshi men were unemployed. Young Black African men, Pakistani men and women, Black Caribbean men and women, and men belonging to the Mixed group had unemployment rates in excess of 20 per cent. The comparable unemployment rate for young White British men was 12 per cent and 9 per cent for young White British women.

Economic inactivity

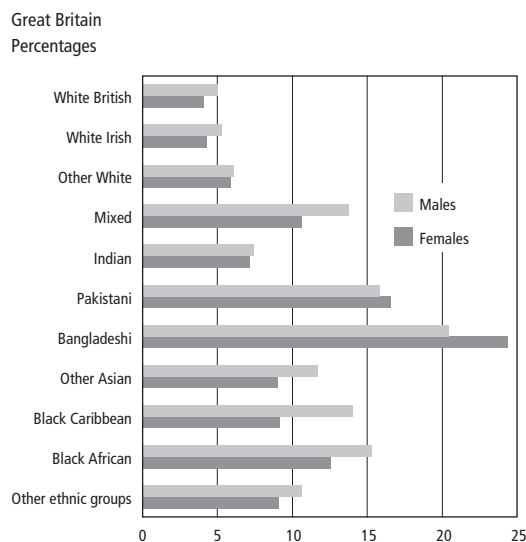
Men and women from non-White ethnic groups were more likely than their White counterparts to be economically inactive, that is, not available for work and/or not actively seeking work. Reasons include being a student, being disabled, or looking after the family and home.

In 2001/02 Bangladeshi and Chinese men had high male economic inactivity rates - 31 per cent for each group. However the reasons for inactivity among these two groups were very different. Three quarters of inactive Chinese men were students compared with just under half of inactive Bangladeshi men; two fifths of inactive Bangladeshi men were long-term sick or disabled.

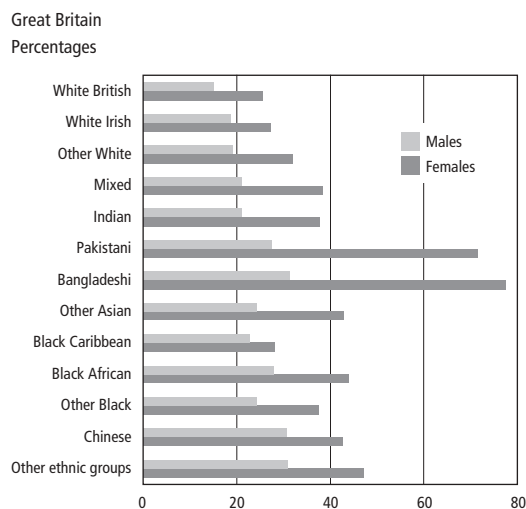
Bangladeshi and Pakistani women had the highest female economic inactivity rates (78 per cent and 72 per cent respectively). The majority of these women were looking after their family or home.

White British men and women had the lowest economic inactivity rates (15 per cent and 26 per cent respectively). Within each ethnic group women were more likely than men to be economically inactive.

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



Economic inactivity rates for people of working age: by ethnic group and sex, 2001/02



Source:

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

Notes:

Unemployment 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.

Economically inactive: people who are neither in employment nor unemployed. For example, those looking after the home, the retired, or those permanently unable to work.

Economic inactivity rates are expressed as a proportion of the working age population (men aged 16 to 64, women aged 16 to 59).

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



Health

Asians have worst self-reported health

Pakistani and Bangladeshi men and women in England and Wales reported the highest rates of 'not good' health in 2001.

Pakistanis had age-standardised rates of 'not good' health of 13 per cent (men) and 17 per cent (women). The age-standardised rates for Bangladeshis were 14 per cent (men) and 15 per cent (women). These rates, which take account of the difference in age structures between the ethnic groups, were around twice that of their White British counterparts. Chinese men and women were the least likely to report their health as 'not good'.

Women were more likely than men to rate their health as 'not good' across all groups, apart from the White Irish and those from Other ethnic groups.

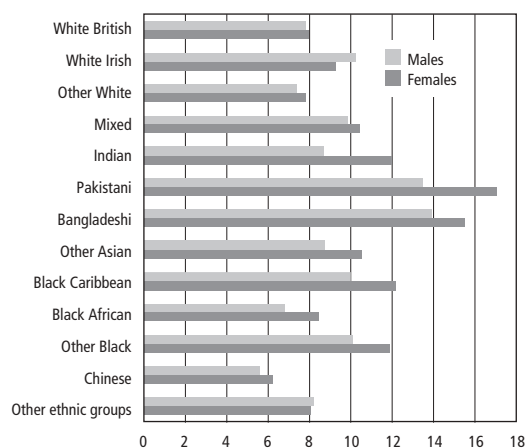
Reporting poor health has been shown to be strongly associated with use of health services and mortality. White Irish and Pakistani women in England had higher GP contact rates than women in the general population. Bangladeshi men were three times as likely to visit their GP than men in the general population after standardising for age.

There were marked variations in rates of long-term illness or disability which restricted daily activities between different ethnic groups in England and Wales. After taking account of the different age structures of the groups, Pakistani and Bangladeshi men and women had the highest rates of disability. Rates were around 1.5 times higher than their White British counterparts. Chinese men and women had the lowest rates.

In some groups the difference between men and women in their rates of disability was much greater than in others. In the Indian, Pakistani, Black Caribbean and Black African groups, women had higher rates than men. In the White British and White Irish groups it was men who had higher rates than women.

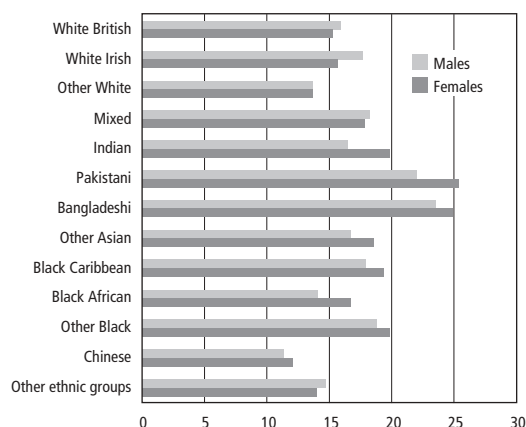
Age standardised 'not good' health rates: by ethnic group and sex, April 2001

England & Wales
Percentages



Age standardised rates of long-term illness or disability which restricts daily activities: by ethnic group and sex, April 2001

England & Wales
Percentages



Sources:

Census, April 2001, Office for National Statistics; Health Survey for England, The Health of Minority Ethnic Groups, 1999, TSO (London 2001).

Notes:

The question in the 2001 Census was "Over the last twelve months would you say your health has on the whole been Good, Fairly Good, Not Good".
Age-standardised rates allow comparisons between populations with different age structures. The method used here is direct standardisation using the European Standard Population.
The term disability is used to refer to limiting long term illness or disability which restricts daily activities. It is calculated from a 'Yes' response to the question in the 2001 Census: "Do you have any long-term illness, health problem or disability which limits your activities or the work you can do?"



Smoking and Drinking

Bangladeshi men have highest smoking rates

Bangladeshi men were the most likely group in England to smoke cigarettes (44 per cent in 1999), followed by White 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.

Like men, White Irish and Black Caribbean women had the highest smoking rates in 1999 (33 per cent and 25 per cent respectively), although only White Irish women had a rate higher than the general population (27 per cent). However, unlike men, women in every other minority ethnic group were much less likely to smoke than women in the general population.

Patterns of cigarette smoking among the different ethnic groups remained the same after allowing for differences in their age structures.

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 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.

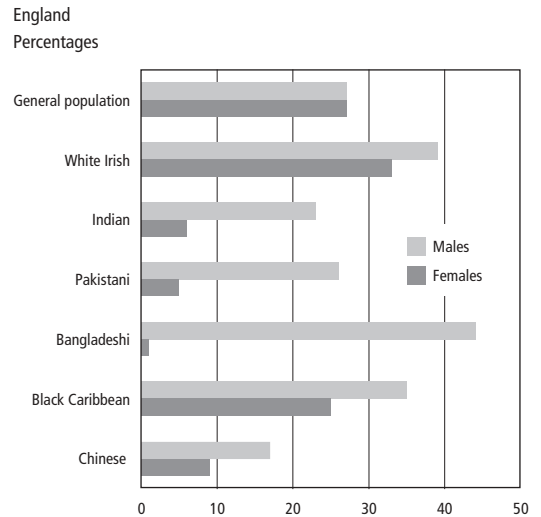
Drinking

White Irish men and women were more likely than any other ethnic group to drink in excess of government recommended guidelines. Current guidelines are no more than 3 to 4 units per day for men and 2 to 3 units per day for women. Fifty eight per cent of men and 37 per cent of women from a White Irish background drank in excess of the recommended daily levels on their heaviest drinking day in the week before interview in 1999. All other minority ethnic groups were much less likely than the general population to have consumed alcohol in excess of the daily guidelines.

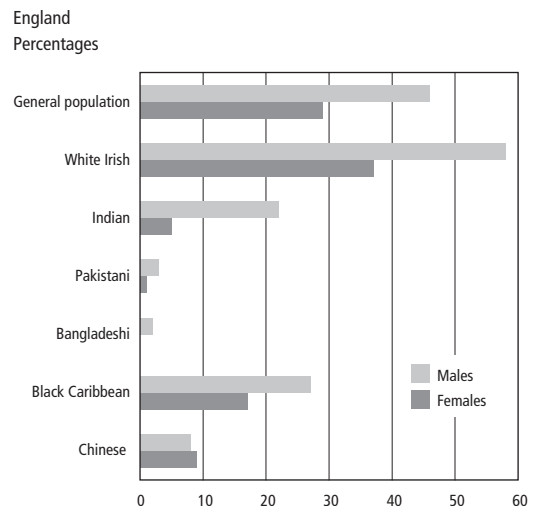
After the White Irish, Black Caribbeans were most likely to drink above the guidelines. Twenty seven per cent of Black Caribbean men and 17 per cent of Black Caribbean women did so.

Less than 10 per cent of men and women from the Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Chinese groups drank more than these recommended amounts on their heaviest drinking day. Very few Indian women exceeded the guidelines (5 per cent) but 22 per cent of Indian men drank above this level.

Current cigarette smoking: by ethnic group and sex, 1999



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



Source:

The Health of Minority Ethnic Groups, Health Survey for England 1999, TSO (London 2001).

Notes:

Age-standardised rates allow comparisons between populations with different age structures. The method used here is direct standardisation using the European Standard Population.

The Health Survey for England report compares minority ethnic groups drawn from special boost samples with the general population. The sample for the general population was drawn using standard random sampling techniques. It should be noted that the minority ethnic group samples analysed in the HSE report and on this web page included not only those in the boost samples but those found within the general population sample. The latter grouped were included both within the general population and within the minority ethnic group samples, appropriate weights being applied to equalise selection probabilities.

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