Diversity or deprivation – what's the issue?
Research evidence and policy recommendations from the University of Manchester

The population of England and Wales is increasingly diverse; in 2011, 20% of people identified with an ethnic group other than White British. This growth in ethnic diversity is reflected in the places where we live. But the areas where most ethnic minority people live are some of the most deprived in the country. Our research demonstrates the disadvantages of living in deprived areas, but also the positives of living in ethnically diverse areas.

Evidence in this brief summarises work conducted at the University of Manchester highlighting the need for policy to focus on poverty and deprived neighbourhoods, not on the ethnicity of the people who live in them. It shows the benefits that are associated with ethnic residential diversity once area deprivation is accounted for.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Poverty is the root cause of detrimental health and social outcomes. Policies should give priority to tackling the concentration of poverty in both people and places.

- There are several benefits of living in diverse neighbourhoods. Reducing poverty will allow the benefits of neighbourhood ethnic diversity to be more widely felt.

- Increased diversity is beneficial for all ethnic groups. The policy agenda should develop strategies for inclusiveness rather than marginalising minority identities, religions and cultures.

- Racial discrimination, through interpersonal contact or via institutions, is a cause of poor health and worse educational and employment prospects among ethnic minority people. Policies that address racism and racial discrimination will reduce ethnic inequalities in health and social outcomes.

- Neighbourhoods across Britain are becoming more ethnically diverse. Diversity has health and social benefits. Policies to de-stigmatise diverse neighbourhoods and promote positive representations will enhance social cohesion.

KEY FINDINGS

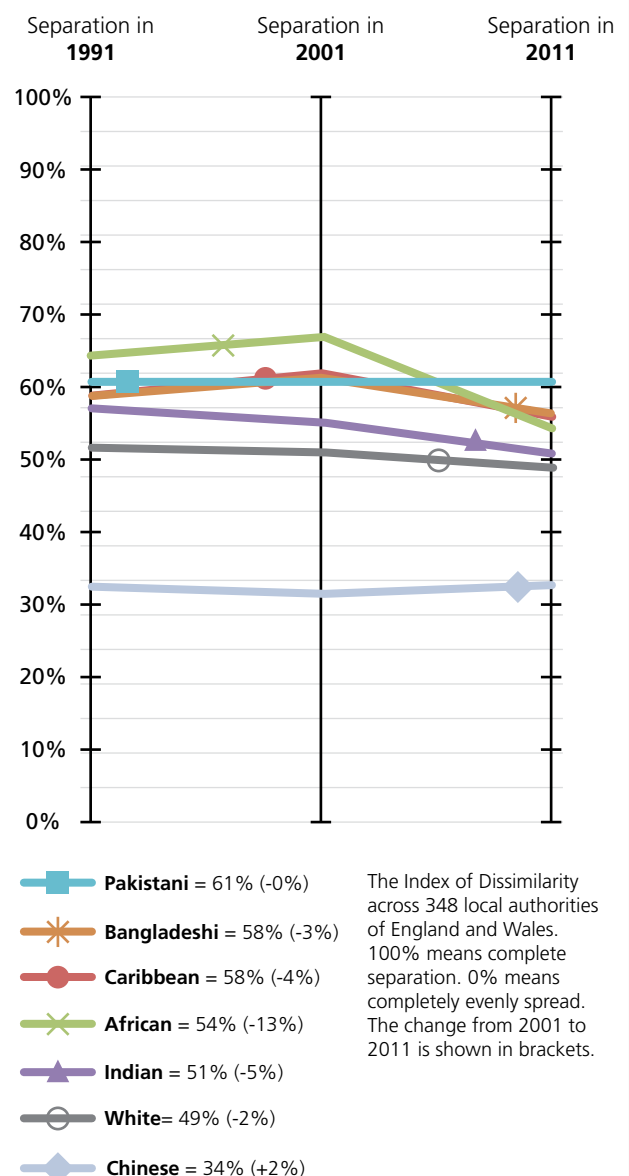### Increasing diversity and mixing in Britain's neighbourhoods

- In 2011, one-in-five people (20%) identified with an ethnic group other than White British compared with 13% in 2001. Ethnic minority groups remain clustered in certain diverse urban areas[1].

- The residential areas with the greatest growth of ethnic minority groups are those areas where they were fewest in 2001.

- The ethnic minority populations of England and Wales have grown, and live in more mixed areas in 2011 than before. As Figure 1 shows, this 'spreading out' has accelerated in the past ten years[2].

- The most diverse local areas (electoral wards) are in districts which have seen a decrease in segregation for the majority of ethnic minority groups[3]. Figure 2 presents an example of the diversity in two different local authorities: Newham and Manchester.

- Despite the clustering of ethnic minority people in certain areas, the vast majority of ethnic minority people state that they have a strong sense of belonging to Britain, feel part of Britain, and feel that Britishness is compatible with other cultural or religious identities[4].

Harms of neighbourhood deprivation

- Neighbourhoods that are diverse are also often deprived. Caribbean, Black African, Pakistani, and Bangladeshi people are disproportionately represented in the most deprived neighbourhoods[5].

- Living in a deprived neighbourhood is associated with poor physical and mental health, and low social cohesion[6,7,8].

- Living in a deprived neighbourhood is associated with experiencing racial discrimination. Experiencing racial discrimination leads to poorer mental health, high blood pressure, increased smoking, and lower self-esteem[8].

Figure 1. Ethnic groups have become more evenly spread across England and Wales

Separation in **1991**   Separation in **2001**   Separation in **2011**

- **Pakistani** = 61% (-0%)
- **Bangladeshi** = 58% (-3%)
- **Caribbean** = 58% (-4%)
- **African** = 54% (-13%)
- **Indian** = 51% (-5%)
- **White** = 49% (-2%)
- **Chinese** = 34% (+2%)

The Index of Dissimilarity across 348 local authorities of England and Wales. 100% means complete separation. 0% means completely evenly spread. The change from 2001 to 2011 is shown in brackets.

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Benefits of neighbourhood ethnic diversity

- For ethnic minority people, living in diverse neighbourhoods is associated with improved mental health after area deprivation is accounted for[7].

- Ethnic minority people living in ethnically diverse neighbourhoods are less likely to report experiences of racial discrimination when compared to ethnic minority people living in less diverse areas[7].

- Figure 3 shows the clear difference between deprivation and diversity. After adjusting for area deprivation, neighbourhood ethnic diversity is associated with higher social cohesion and greater feelings that people in the area get on well together and respect ethnic differences[5]. In contrast, increased area deprivation is strongly associated with poor social cohesion, including reports that people in the area do not get on well together.

- An important factor predicting whether ethnic minority people feel they belong to Britain is whether they feel they would be a victim of institutional racism – those who feel this are almost half as likely to feel they belong to Britain[4].

Figure 2. Residential Composition of Manchester and Newham

Manchester: White British 298k (59%), Pakistani 43k (9%), African 26k (5%), Other White 25k (5%), Chinese 14k (3%), White Irish 12k (2%), Other Asian 12k (2%), Indian 11k (2%)

Newham: White British 52k (17%), Indian 42k (14%), African 38k (12%), Bangladeshi 37k (12%), Other White 35k (11%), Pakistani 30k (10%), Other Asian 20k (6%), Caribbean 15k (5%), Other Black 7k (2%), Other 7k (2%)
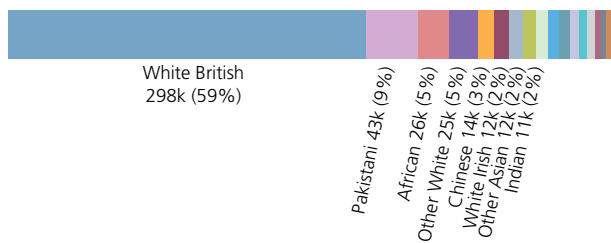
Manchester

Manchester's African population has more than trebled in the past decade. Of Manchester's 503 thousand residents, 376 thousand were born in the UK. 298 thousand have ethnic group White British, while 418 thousand have a British identity. 25% of households have more than one ethnicity, and 5% residents are of mixed ethnicity themselves. Of the 127,061 born abroad, 51% arrived since 2004. 17 of the 18 ethnic groups counted in the 2011 Census have one thousand or more residents.
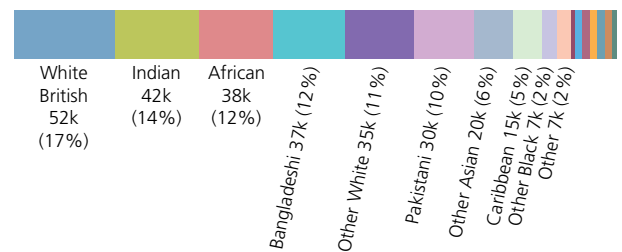
Newham

Newham is Britain's most ethnically diverse local authority; eight ethnic groups are represented by 5% or more of its residents. Of Newham's 308 thousand residents, 143 thousand were born in the UK. 52 thousand have ethnic group White British, while 203 thousand have a British identity. 34% of households have more than one ethnicity, and 5% residents are of mixed ethnicity themselves. Of the 165,414 born abroad, 47% arrived since 2004. 17 of the 18 ethnic groups counted in the 2011 Census have one thousand or more residents.

Figure 3. If Diversity or Deprivation increases by 10%, what happens to the odds of people thinking 'people in the area respect ethnic differences'?

Adjusted for age, gender, SES, years in neighbourhood, and nativity

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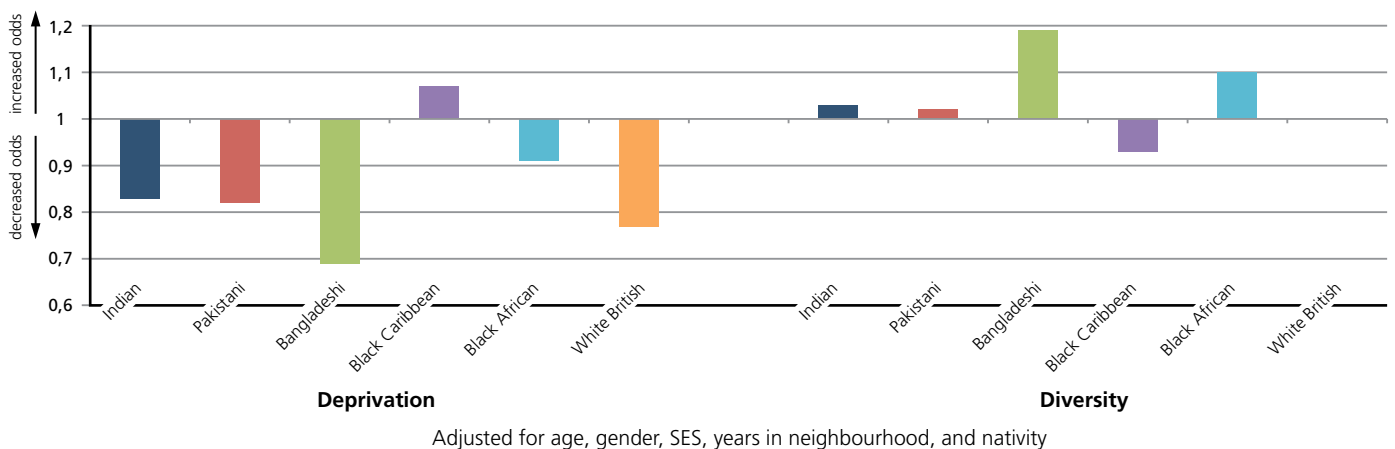
[1] Catney (2013); Simpson (2012); Jivraj (2012), 'Dynamics of Diversity: Evidence from the 2011 Census' Briefings' available at www.ethnicity.ac.uk/census.

[2] See also Finney, N. and Simpson, L. (2009) 'Sleepwalking to segregation'? Challenging myths of race and migration Bristol: Policy Press.

[3] Catney (2013) 'Has neighbourhood ethnic segregation decreased?' Dynamics of Diversity: Evidence from the 2011 Census Briefing available at www.ethnicity.ac.uk/census.

[4] Karlsen, S., Nazroo, J. Y. (2010). The Circumstances and Attitudes of Different Muslims Groups in England and Europe. In Stillwell, J., Norman, P., Thomas, C., Sturridge, P. (Eds.). Spatial and Social Disparities (Vol. 2 pp.143-162). Springer Verlag

[5] Bécares, L., Stafford, M., Laurence, J. & Nazroo, J. (2011) Composition, concentration, and deprivation. Exploring their association with social cohesion among different ethnic groups in the UK. Urban Studies, 48(13), 2771-2787.

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[7] Bécares, L., Nazroo, J., Albor, C., Chandola, T., & Stafford, M. (2012). Examining the differential association between self-rated health and area deprivation among white British and ethnic minority people in England. Social Science & Medicine, 74, 616-624.

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