

Ethnicity and deprivation in England: How likely are ethnic minorities to live in deprived neighbourhoods?

Summary

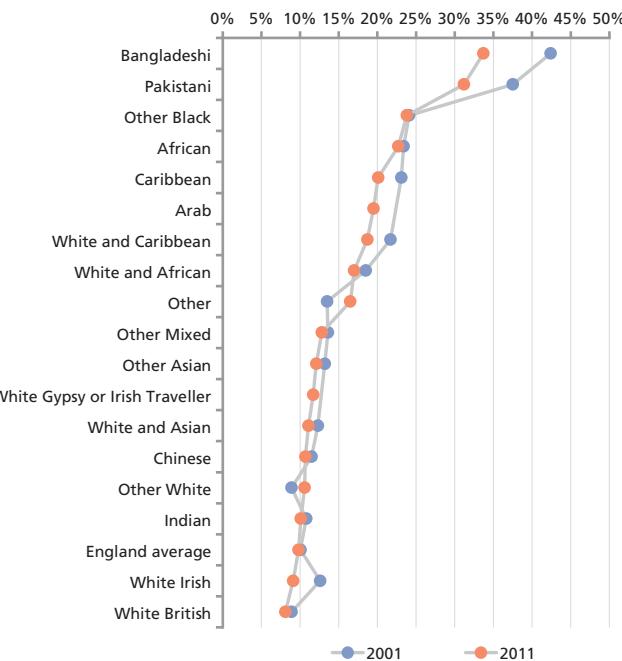
This briefing shows that all ethnic minority groups in England are more likely to live in deprived neighbourhoods than the White British majority.

- The proportion living in the most deprived neighbourhoods decreased for most ethnic groups between 2001 and 2011 as a result of faster population growth in all other neighbourhoods.
- In 2011, more than one in three in the Bangladeshi and Pakistani groups lived in a deprived neighbourhood, which is considerably more than any other ethnic group.
- Ethnic group inequality in the proportion of the population that lived in a deprived neighbourhood varies across regions.
 - Ethnic inequality is greatest in the Midlands and smallest in the South.
- Some groups are more likely to live in particular types of deprived neighbourhood.
 - The Bangladeshi ethnic group was the most likely to live in neighbourhoods deprived because of low income (46%) and barriers to housing and services (32%).
 - The Pakistani ethnic group was the most likely to live in neighbourhoods deprived because of living environment (39%), education (23%), health (20%) and employment (16%).
- The broad Asian ethnic group has worse labour market outcomes than the White British group in better-off neighbourhoods, but similar outcomes in deprived neighbourhoods.
- The Mixed and Black ethnic groups have worse labour market outcomes regardless of whether they live in better-off or deprived neighbourhoods.

Ethnicity and neighbourhood deprivation

The 2011 Census tells us that the unemployment rate of ethnic minorities is almost twice that of the White British population. Disparities in employment are greatest for Black ethnic groups compared with the White British majority (see *Ethnic inequalities in the labour market Briefing*). One explanation for these inequalities is labour market discrimination¹, which itself is compounded by disadvantages

Figure 1: Ethnic minority groups were more likely to live in deprived neighbourhoods in 2001 and 2011



Note: figure shows the percentage of each ethnic group in the 2001 and 2011 Censuses that lived in an LSOA in the 10% most deprived on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (the 2004 IMD for the 2001 Census, and the 2010 IMD for the 2011 Census).

[Click here for data in Excel](#)

in education, health and housing. Moreover, the concentration of ethnic minorities in the poorest parts of the country may further restrict their employment opportunity in what can be described as a 'double disadvantage'. This refers to the combined effect of individual and neighbourhood disadvantage, for example, being unemployed in an area of high unemployment.

What proportion of ethnic minorities live in deprived neighbourhoods?

All ethnic minority groups in England are more likely to live in deprived neighbourhoods (for a definition, see box) compared with the White British population (Figure 1). In 2011, more

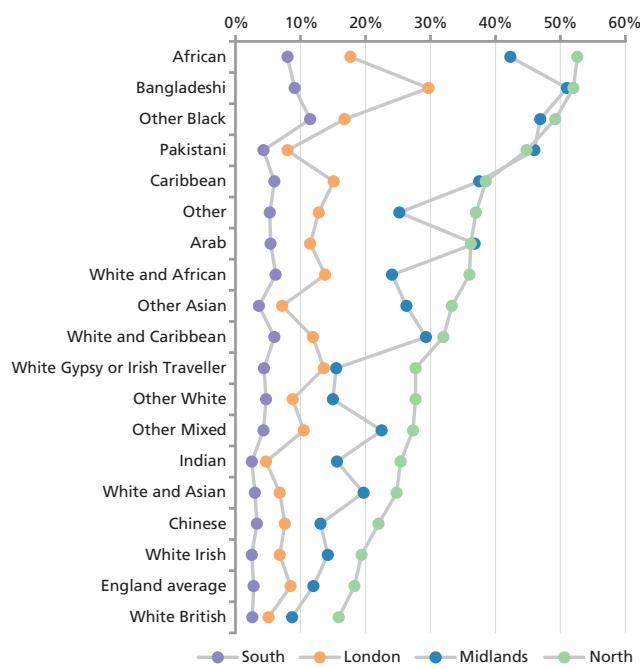
than one in three in the Bangladeshi and Pakistani groups lived in a deprived neighbourhood, which is considerably more than any other ethnic group. This is compared to fewer than one in twelve in the White British group. Among the Other Black, African, and Caribbean ethnic groups, more than one in five lived in a deprived neighbourhood.

Is the proportion of ethnic minorities living in deprived neighbourhoods decreasing?

There has been a substantial reduction in the proportion of the Bangladeshi (9 percentage points) and Pakistani (6 percentage points) groups that live in a deprived neighbourhood since 2001 (Figure 1). This is driven by a higher rate of population growth in less deprived neighbourhoods compared with the most deprived neighbourhoods, rather than the neighbourhoods where these groups are concentrated becoming better-off. The proportion of the total population living in the 10% most deprived neighbourhoods has decreased, because population growth has been greater in better-off areas, as noted for the Pakistani and Bangladeshi groups.

The Other White ethnic group increased the proportion of their population in deprived neighbourhoods from 9 to 11 percent between 2001 and 2011. This may reflect the immigration of Eastern Europeans to relatively more deprived parts of the country that have more affordable rental housing.

Figure 2: Greater disparity across ethnic groups in the likelihood of living in a deprived neighbourhood in Midlands and North than South and London, 2011



Note: figure shows the percentage of each ethnic group in the 2011 Census that lived in an LSOA in the 10% most deprived nationally on the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010.

[Click here for data in Excel](#)

English indices of multiple deprivation: what is a deprived neighbourhood?

The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010 (IMD 2010) identifies neighbourhood concentrations of multiple deprivation². The term multiple deprivation refers to seven dimensions: income, employment, health, education, barriers to housing and services, crime, and living environment. The domains are brought together using a weighting scheme, where income and employment carry the most importance, to create an overall deprivation score. The overall score and domain scores are calculated for each Lower layer Super Output Area (LSOA) in England defined using 2001 Census boundaries and have relatively even population size, on average containing 1,500 people. They are referred to as neighbourhoods throughout this briefing. We define a deprived neighbourhood using a cut off of the 10% most disadvantaged on the overall IMD and on each domain.

Is there regional variation across ethnic groups?

Figure 2 shows that the gap between ethnic minority groups and the White British majority is greater in some regions compared with others. For example, in the Midlands more than half of the Bangladeshi group lived in a deprived neighbourhood in 2011 compared with 9% of the White British group. In the South, 11% of the Other Black group lived in a deprived neighbourhood compared with 3% of the White British group.

There are considerable regional differences within each ethnic group. For example, almost half of the Pakistani group that live in the Midlands and North lived in a deprived neighbourhood, compared with 4 and 8 percent of those living in the South and London.

How does the type of neighbourhood deprivation compare across ethnic groups?

Figure 3 shows the proportion of each ethnic group that lived in the most deprived neighbourhoods on each domain in the IMD 2010. The disparity across ethnic groups is greatest for income deprivation and smallest for employment deprivation.

The ranking of ethnic groups on the proportion that lived in an income deprived neighbourhood (i.e. a neighbourhood with a high proportion of adults in receipt of means tested benefits) is very similar to the overall deprivation measure. Almost half (46%) of the Bangladeshi group – by far the highest proportion – lived in such neighbourhoods, reflecting the low income of people in places where this ethnic group is most concentrated, such as Tower Hamlets in London. The White British group (7%) had the lowest proportion living in an income deprived neighbourhood.

The employment domain of IMD 2010 measures involuntary exclusion from the labour market rather than low income. The Pakistani group (16%) had the highest proportion that

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lived in an employment deprived neighbourhood, whereas the Indian group (6%) had the lowest proportion. This may reflect the spatial concentration of the Pakistani group in depressed labour markets in parts of the Midlands and Northern England.

The Pakistani and Bangladeshi groups had the highest proportion that lived in a health deprived neighbourhood at 23 and 20 percent, respectively. In contrast, only 8% of the Indian group lived in a health deprived neighbourhood. This may reflect the association between income, employment and health deprivation.

The proportion of the Pakistani group (24%) that lived in an education deprived neighbourhood was considerably higher than any other ethnic group. This is likely to be a consequence of the lack of opportunities in the neighbourhoods where the Pakistani group is concentrated. It does not necessarily mean that the Pakistani group has poor educational outcomes, but that the areas where they live contain high proportions of people with educational disadvantage. The White Irish ethnic group (6%) had the lowest proportion that lived in education deprived neighbourhoods.

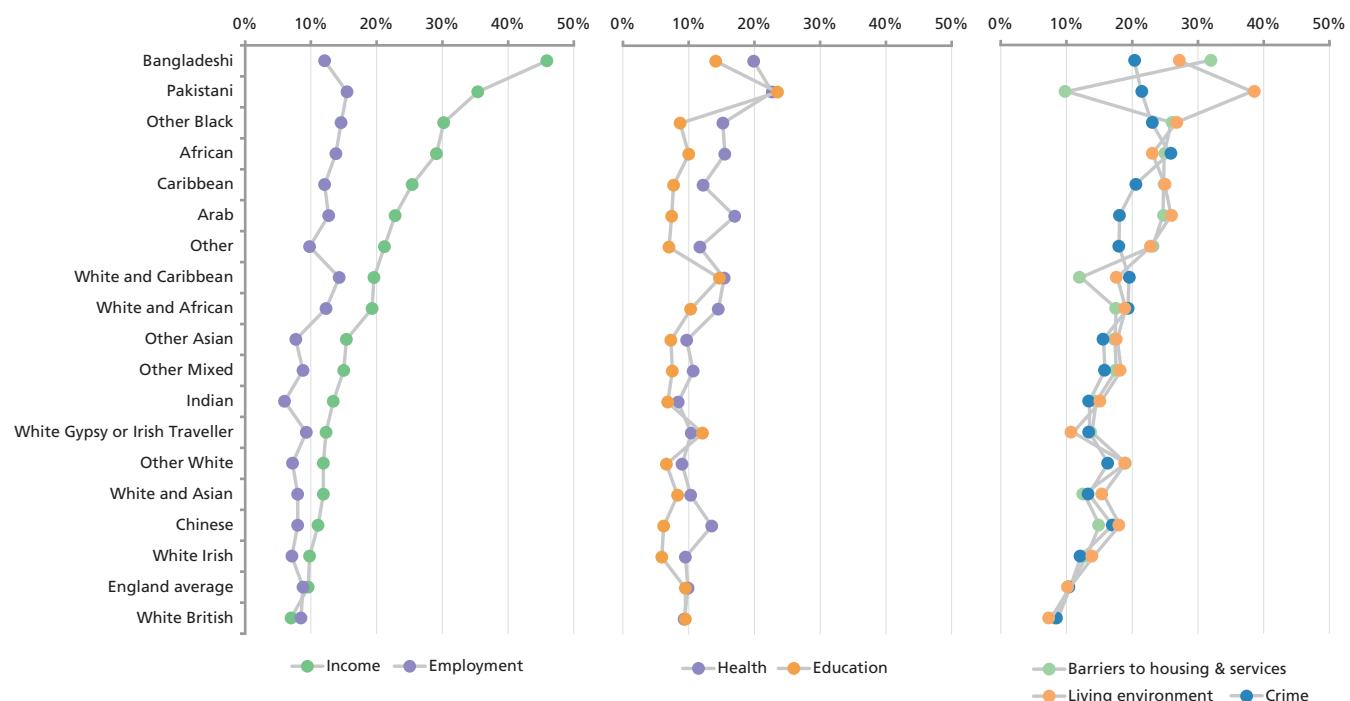
The IMD 2010 provides an indication of barriers to housing and services deprivation. The domain is calculated using measures of overcrowding, homelessness, home ownership affordability, and distance to a GP, supermarket, primary

school and Post Office. The Pakistani group had a low proportion that lived in neighbourhoods deprived by barriers to housing and services. This may be a result of affordable house prices in the places where this group is most concentrated and their relatively high rate of home ownership (see *Ethnic difference in housing tenure Briefing*). The Bangladeshi group (32%) had the highest proportion that lived in barriers to housing and services deprived neighbourhoods. The White British group had the lowest proportion at 8%.

The African group had the highest proportion of its population that lived in crime deprived neighbourhoods at 26%. This is likely to reflect the concentration of this group in the centre of cities where the opportunity for the crime types measured in the IMD 2010 (violence, burglary, theft and criminal damage) is greatest. The White British group (9%) had the lowest proportion that lived in crime deprived neighbourhoods.

Living environment deprivation combines measures of housing in poor condition or without central heating, and measures of air quality and road traffic accidents. The Pakistani group had by far the highest proportion that lived in living environment deprived neighbourhoods at 39%. The White Gypsy or Irish Traveller group (11%) had a lower proportion in living environment deprived neighbourhoods than all other ethnic groups, except for the White British group (7%).

Figure 3: Greater disparity across ethnic groups in the likelihood of living in an income deprived neighbourhood than other deprivation domains, 2011



Note: figures shows the percentage of each ethnic group in the 2011 Census that lived in an LSOA in the 10% most deprived on each domain of the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010.

[Click here for data in Excel](#)

Are ethnic minorities better or worse off in deprived neighbourhoods?

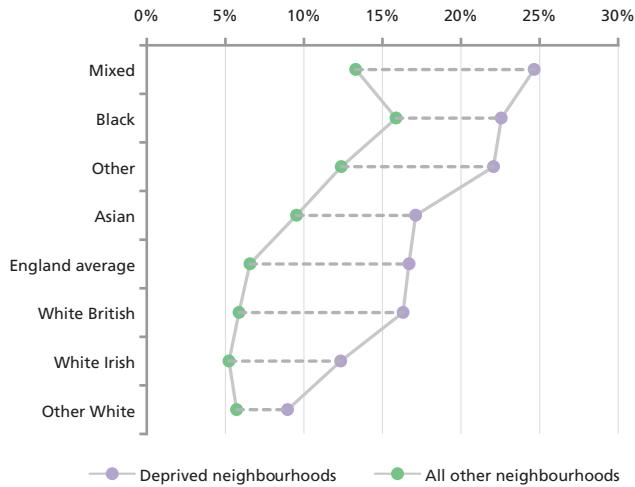
Thus far this briefing has only considered the likelihood of an ethnic group living in a deprived neighbourhood and not the extent to which ethnic minorities who live in deprived areas are themselves disadvantaged. The published 2011 Census data do not provide a detailed ethnic group breakdown by neighbourhood and indicators that can represent whether an individual is deprived or not, such as unemployment. Consider also the above that the White Gypsy and Traveller group is less likely to live in living environment deprived neighbourhoods: these neighbourhoods may be relatively better off on this domain, but the White Gypsy and Traveller group is likely disproportionately represented among the relatively few people who live in poor quality housing in these areas.

Figure 4 presents the most detailed ethnic group breakdown available for unemployment by the overall IMD 2010 score. It shows that people who lived in deprived neighbourhoods (17%) are considerably more likely to be unemployed than those who lived in better-off neighbourhoods (7%). It also shows that the difference in the unemployment rate between deprived and better-off neighbourhoods is greatest for the White British and Mixed broad ethnic groups.

The people in the Asian ethnic group, which contains Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Chinese, are no more likely to be unemployed if they lived in a deprived neighbourhood than the White British group, both at 17%. However, 10% of the Asian group that lived in a better-off neighbourhood were unemployed compared with 6% for the White British population. This suggests that employment disadvantage is worse for this group, in relative terms, in better-off neighbourhoods.

The Mixed and Black ethnic groups had considerably higher rates of unemployment than the White British group in the most deprived and better-off neighbourhoods.

Figure 4: Unemployment gap between deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of England greatest for White British and Mixed ethnic groups, 2011



Note: figure shows the difference (dotted line) in the unemployment rate of each ethnic group between LSOAs that fall within the most deprived 10 per cent on the 2010 IMD and the rest nationally.

[Click here for data in Excel](#)

This suggests that these groups face similar levels of employment disadvantage whether they live in a deprived neighbourhood or not. Nonetheless, the difference between deprived and non-deprived neighbourhoods is much smaller for the Black group than for the Mixed ethnic group.

The Other White group had a similar rate of unemployment in better-off neighbourhoods (6%) to the White British group, but a considerably lower rate in the most deprived neighbourhoods relative to the White British group (9% compared to 15%). This group had the smallest difference in employment disadvantage between those living in deprived and better-off neighbourhoods.

¹ Fieldhouse, E. (1999). Ethnic Minority Unemployment and Spatial Mismatch: The Case of London. *Urban Studies*, 36(9), 1569-1596; Platt, L. (2006). *Pay Gaps: The Position of Ethnic Minority Women and Men*, Manchester: Equal Opportunities Commission; Wood, M., Hales, J., Purdon, S., Sejersen, T., & Hayllar, O. (2009). *A test for racial discrimination in recruitment practice in British cities*, London: Department for Work and Pensions.

² DCLG (2011). *The Indices of Deprivation 2010*. London: Department for Communities and Local Government.

³ Sabater, A., & Simpson, L. (2009). Enhancing the Population Census: A Time Series for Sub-National Areas with Age, Sex and Ethnic Group Dimensions in England and Wales, 1991-2001. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 35(9), 1461-1477.

Matched Census and IMD data at 2001 LSOA boundaries available [here](#).

Sources: the 2001 and 2011 Censuses (Crown Copyright), and complete population estimates based on them; IMD 2004 and 2010.

This briefing is one in a series, *The Dynamics of Diversity: evidence from the 2011 Census*.

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