

# Ethnic group measurement in England & Wales' censuses and surveys

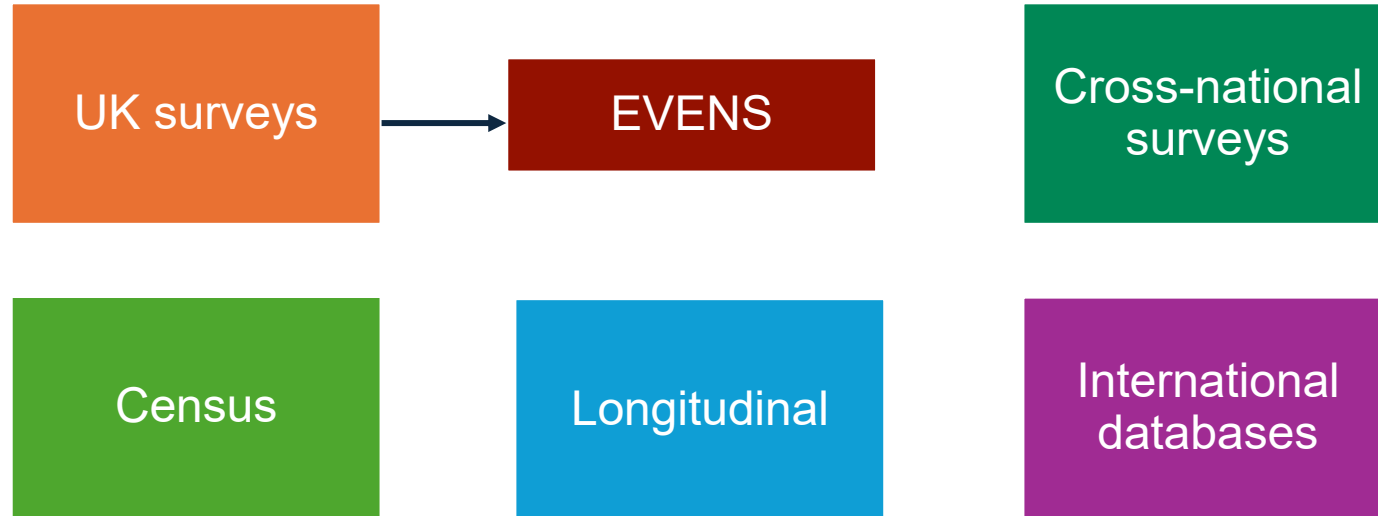
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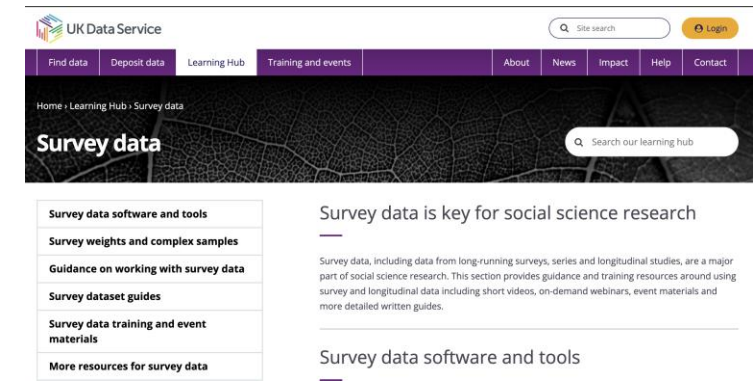
Geographies of Ethnic  
Diversity and Inequalities

# What data about ethnicity does the UKDS hold?



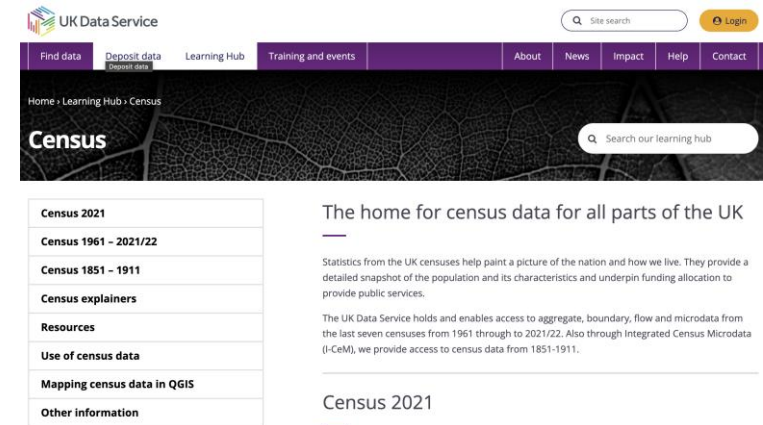
# Ethnicity in survey data: Some things to consider

- Some surveys have small sample sizes (but a few have ethnic minority boost samples)
- Some surveys have small number of ethnic categories
- Some surveys are limited to white/non-white
- Some surveys provide “Country of birth” or “Nationality”
- Ethnicity is not available in some surveys



# Ethnicity in census data

- Comprehensive coverage of ethnic groups in the census
  - The aggregate census: details at neighbourhood level
  - The microdata: multivariate analysis by ethnic group
- In the 2021/22 Census
  - Questions about ethnic group were asked in all countries in the UK
- Caution with census data (people reluctant to answer)
- UKDS Learning Hub contains explainers on the categories associated with some variables including ethnicity



The screenshot shows the UK Data Service Learning Hub website. The header includes the UK Data Service logo, a search bar, and a login button. The navigation menu contains links for Find data, Deposit data, Learning Hub, Training and events, About, News, Impact, Help, and Contact. The main content area is titled 'Census' and features a search bar. A table of contents is visible on the left, listing: Census 2021, Census 1961 - 2021/22, Census 1851 - 1911, Census explainers, Resources, Use of census data, Mapping census data in QGIS, and Other information. The main text on the right states: 'The home for census data for all parts of the UK' and 'Statistics from the UK censuses help paint a picture of the nation and how we live. They provide a detailed snapshot of the population and its characteristics and underpin funding allocation to provide public services. The UK Data Service holds and enables access to aggregate, boundary, flow and microdata from the last seven censuses from 1961 through to 2021/22. Also through Integrated Census Microdata (I-CeM), we provide access to census data from 1851-1911.'

|                             |
|-----------------------------|
| Census 2021                 |
| Census 1961 - 2021/22       |
| Census 1851 - 1911          |
| Census explainers           |
| Resources                   |
| Use of census data          |
| Mapping census data in QGIS |
| Other information           |

The home for census data for all parts of the UK

Statistics from the UK censuses help paint a picture of the nation and how we live. They provide a detailed snapshot of the population and its characteristics and underpin funding allocation to provide public services.

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Census 2021



# Measuring ethnicity in the England & Wales Census

**1991**

## Ethnic group

Please tick the appropriate box

If the person is descended from more than one ethnic or racial group, please tick the group to which the person considers he/she belongs, or tick the 'Any other ethnic group' box and describe the person's ancestry in the space provided.

|                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| White                  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Black-Caribbean        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Black-African          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Black-Other            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>please describe</i> |                          |
| <input type="text"/>   |                          |
| <input type="text"/>   |                          |
| Indian                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pakistani              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Bangladeshi            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chinese                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Any other ethnic group | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>please describe</i> |                          |
| <input type="text"/>   |                          |
| <input type="text"/>   |                          |

**2001**

**8 What is your ethnic group?**  
Choose ONE section from A to E, then tick the appropriate box to indicate your cultural background.

**A White**

British  Irish

Any other White background, *please write in*

**B Mixed**

White and Black Caribbean

White and Black African

White and Asian

Any other Mixed background, *please write in*

**C Asian or Asian British**

Indian  Pakistani

Bangladeshi

Any other Asian background, *please write in*

**D Black or Black British**

Caribbean  African

Any other Black background, *please write in*

**E Chinese or other ethnic group**

Chinese

Any other, *please write in*

**2011**

**16 What is your ethnic group?**  
Choose **one** section from A to E, then tick **one** box to best describe your ethnic group or background

**A White**

English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British

Irish

Gypsy or Irish Traveller

Any other White background, write in

**B Mixed / multiple ethnic groups**

White and Black Caribbean

White and Black African

White and Asian

Any other Mixed/multiple ethnic background, write in

**C Asian / Asian British**

Indian

Pakistani

Bangladeshi

Chinese

Any other Asian background, write in

**D Black / African / Caribbean / Black British**

African

Caribbean

Any other Black/African/Caribbean background, write in

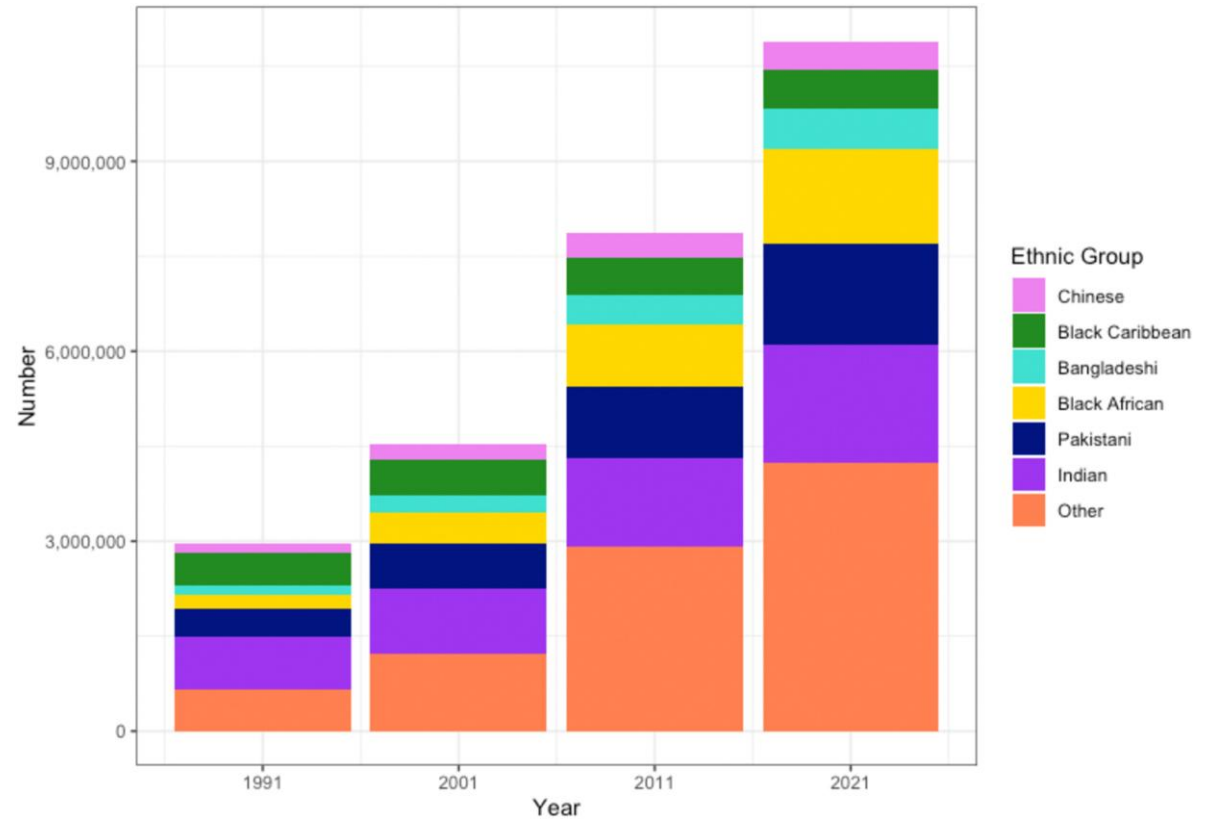
**E Other ethnic group**

Arab

Any other ethnic group, write in

# Ethnic diversity in England and Wales, 1991-2021

Source: Catney et al, 2023



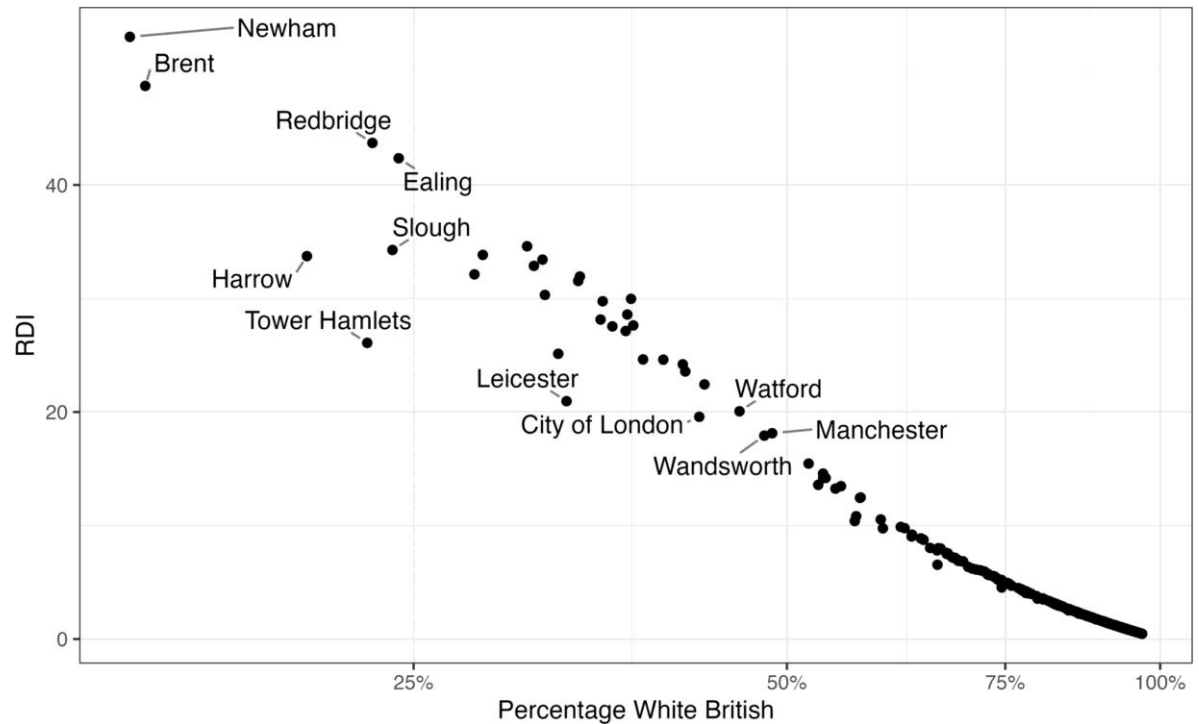






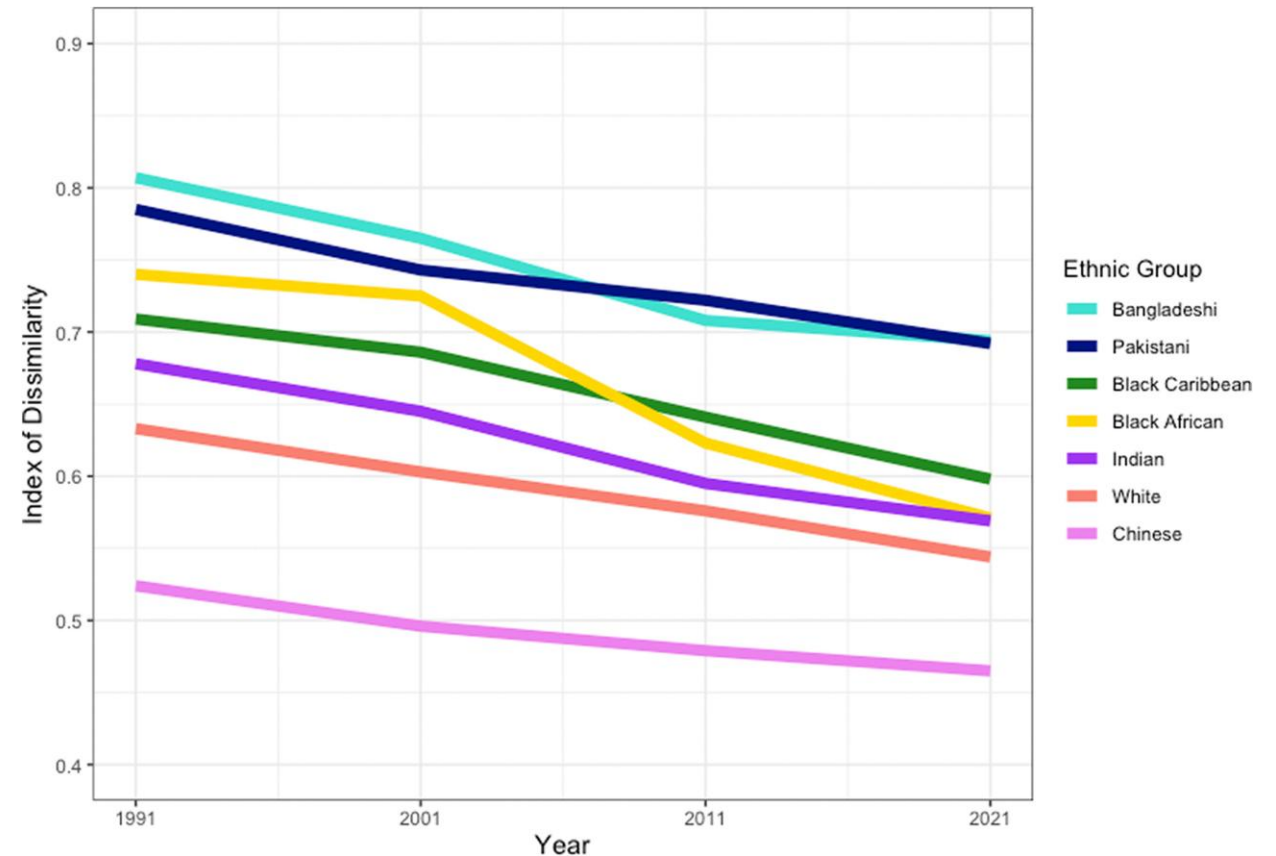
# Ethnic diversity index compared with percentage White British, 2021

Source: Catney et al, 2023



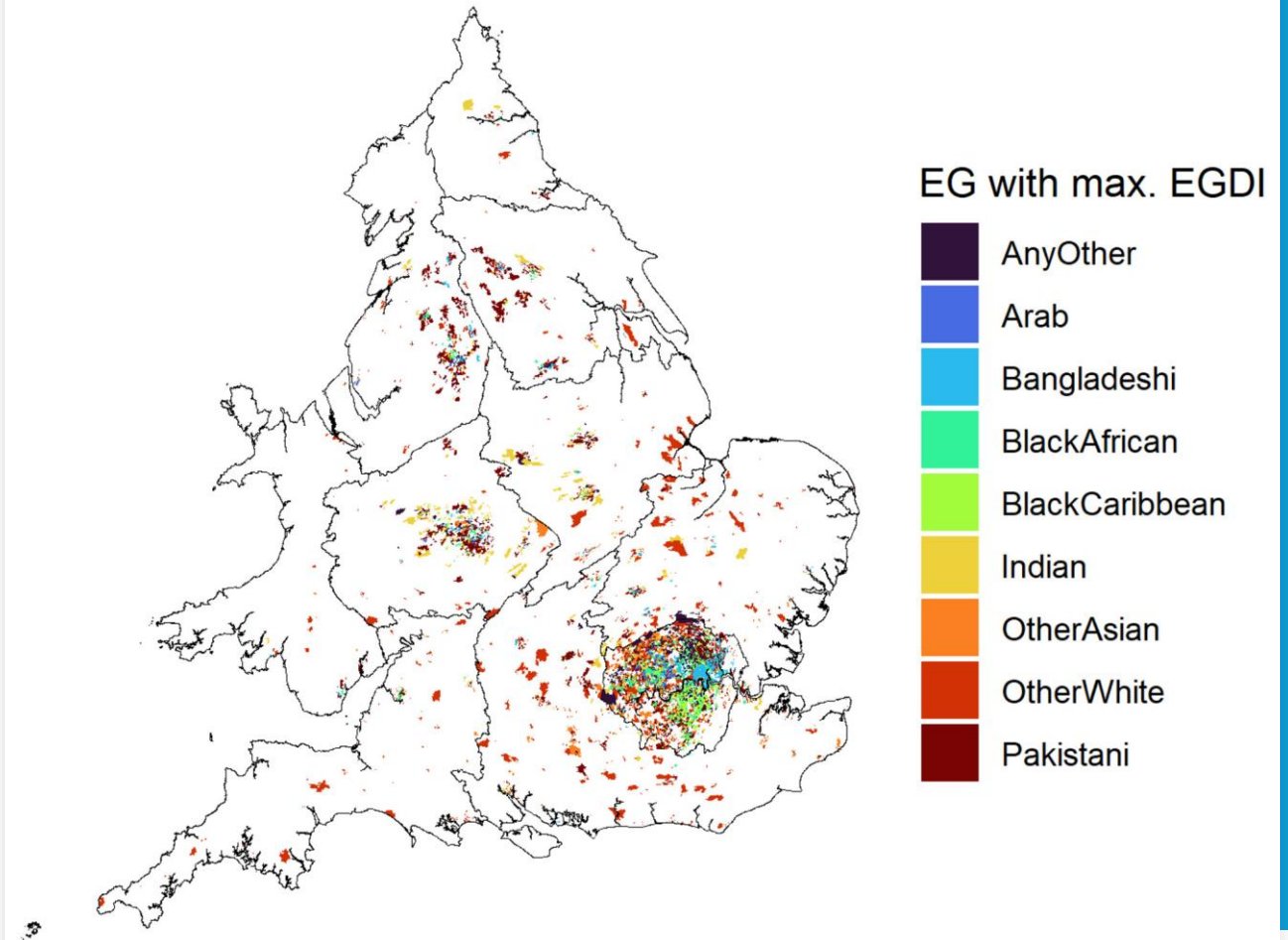
# Change in ethnic residential segregation in England and Wales, 1991-2021

Source: Catney et al, 2023



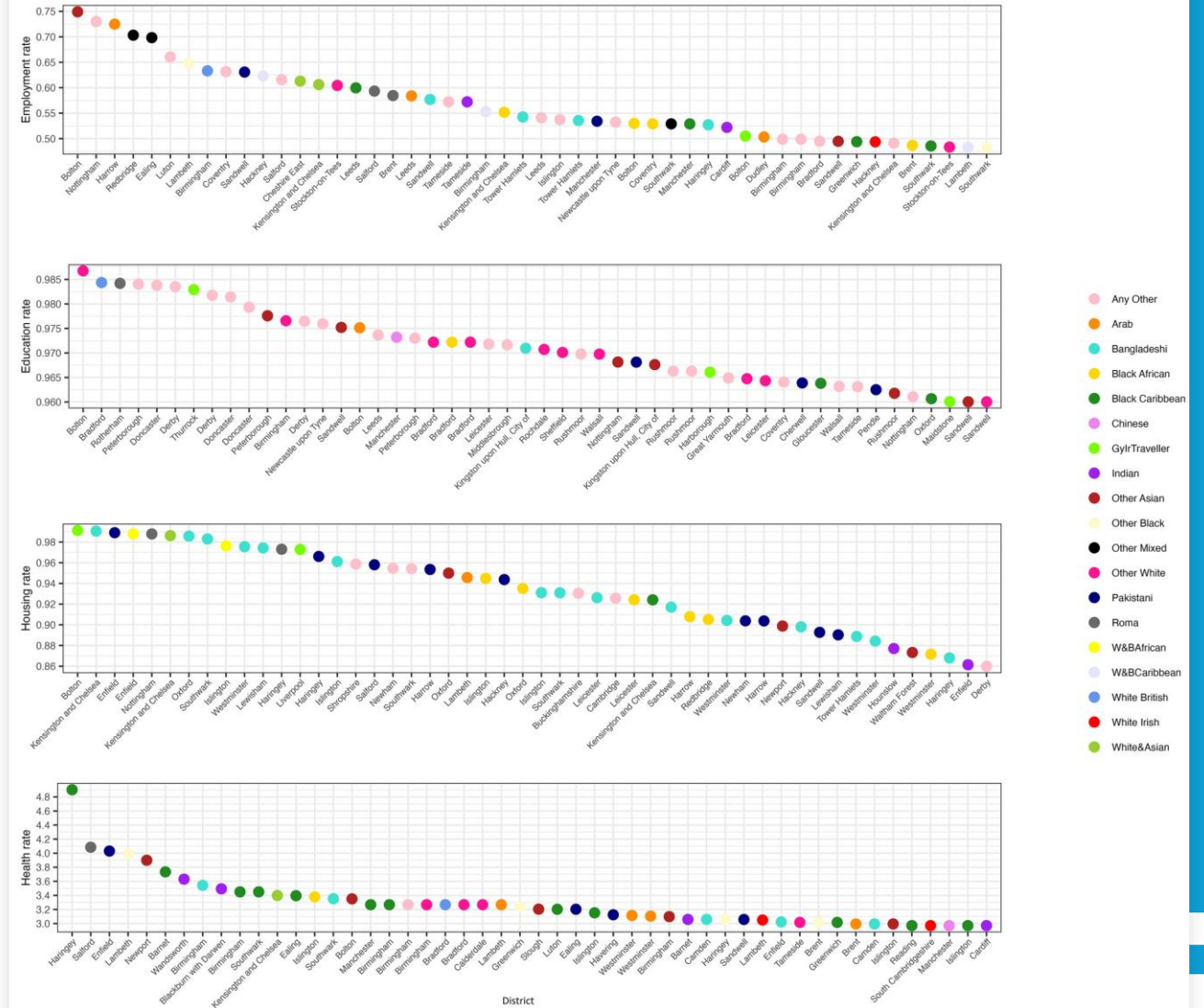
# Minority ethnic group with the highest Ethnic Group Deprivation Index (EGDI) score

Source: Lloyd et al, 2024



# Top 50 rates by deprivation domain by ethnic group, labelled with Local Authority

Source: Lloyd et al, 2024



# Between group difference in deprivation

Source: Lloyd et al, 2024

