



# The Impact of Structural Inequalities on Mortality Rates of Ethnic Minorities during the COVID-19 Pandemic

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# Outline

- Demographics
- Housing
- Occupations
- Health Disparities
- Impact of COVID-19
- Gaps in Data
- Conclusion



# Living Conditions

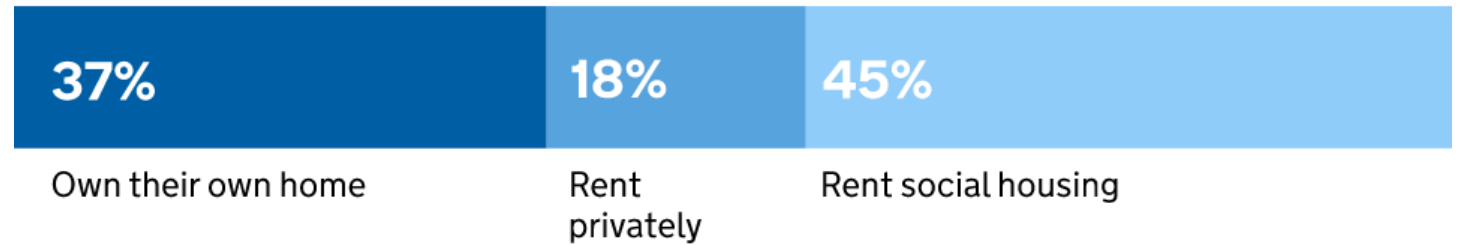
- “B.A.M.E. households have lower access to quality housing, are more likely to live in overcrowded houses and are more likely to face homelessness.”—Medact 2020
- “The Race Equality Foundation [shows](#) that Bangladeshi households are 63 per cent and Black African households 75 per cent more likely than white British households to suffer ‘housing deprivation’ (indicators of which include overcrowding and an absence of central heating).”



Home ownership  
and renting among  
Black Caribbean and  
White British  
households –ONS  
Data 2015-2017

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**Black Caribbean**



**White British**



# Occupation Data

- Twenty-eight percent of African ethnic groups were employed in the health and social work industry which rose to 41% among African people aged 50-60 years old.

<https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/census-results/at-a-glance/labour-market/>

- Historically minoritized populations have been more likely to experience unemployment than their white counterparts.
  - March 2015, 5% white people and 13 % of Black people and 9% Asian people who were working age were unemployed.

<https://irr.org.uk/research/statistics/poverty/>

# Health Disparities

- According to the Scottish Diabetes Survey 2019, Type 2 diabetes is more common and presents at an earlier age in South Asian populations compared with white ethnic groups.
- ONS data shows that 73.6% of Black adults were overweight or obese, which was the highest percentage of all ethnic groups.
- Between 2016-2017 the percentage of new cancer diagnoses decreased for all ethnic groups except Black and Other Ethnic populations.
- In England, Black African and Black Caribbean ethnic groups have a higher risk of hypertension than the general population.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-matters-combating-high-blood-pressure/health-matters-combating-high-blood-pressure#:~:text=Ethnicity,groups%20is%20not%20always%20apparent.>

# UK Racial Inequalities

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Housing: Black African (20%) and Arab (17%) groups had the lowest rate of home ownership compared to 68% white British populations.

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Education: Mixed white and Black Caribbean pupils were nearly 3 times as likely to permanently excluded than their white British pupils.

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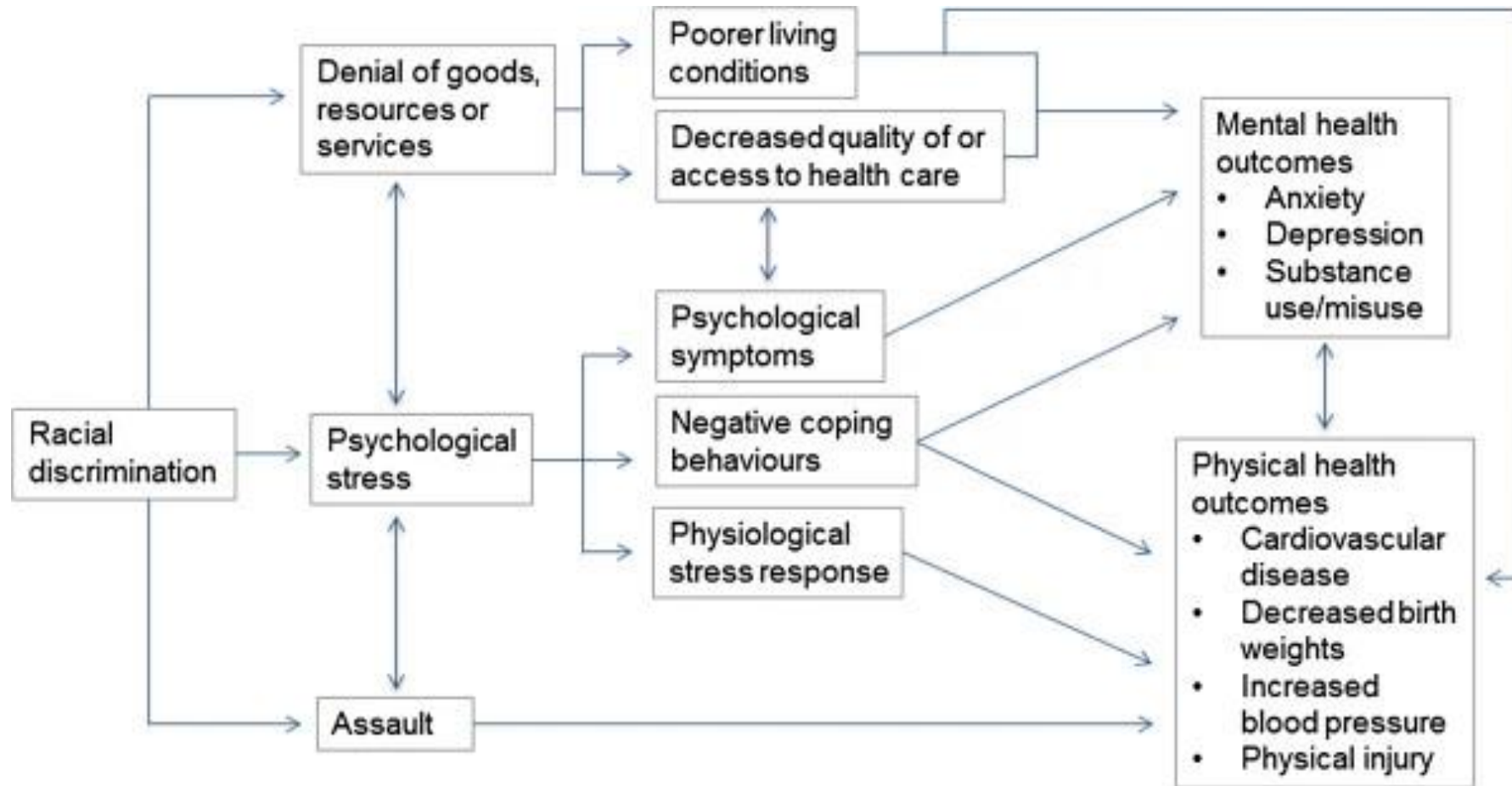
Unemployment: Black people had the highest unemployment rate of all ethnic groups. (9% compared to 4% of whites)

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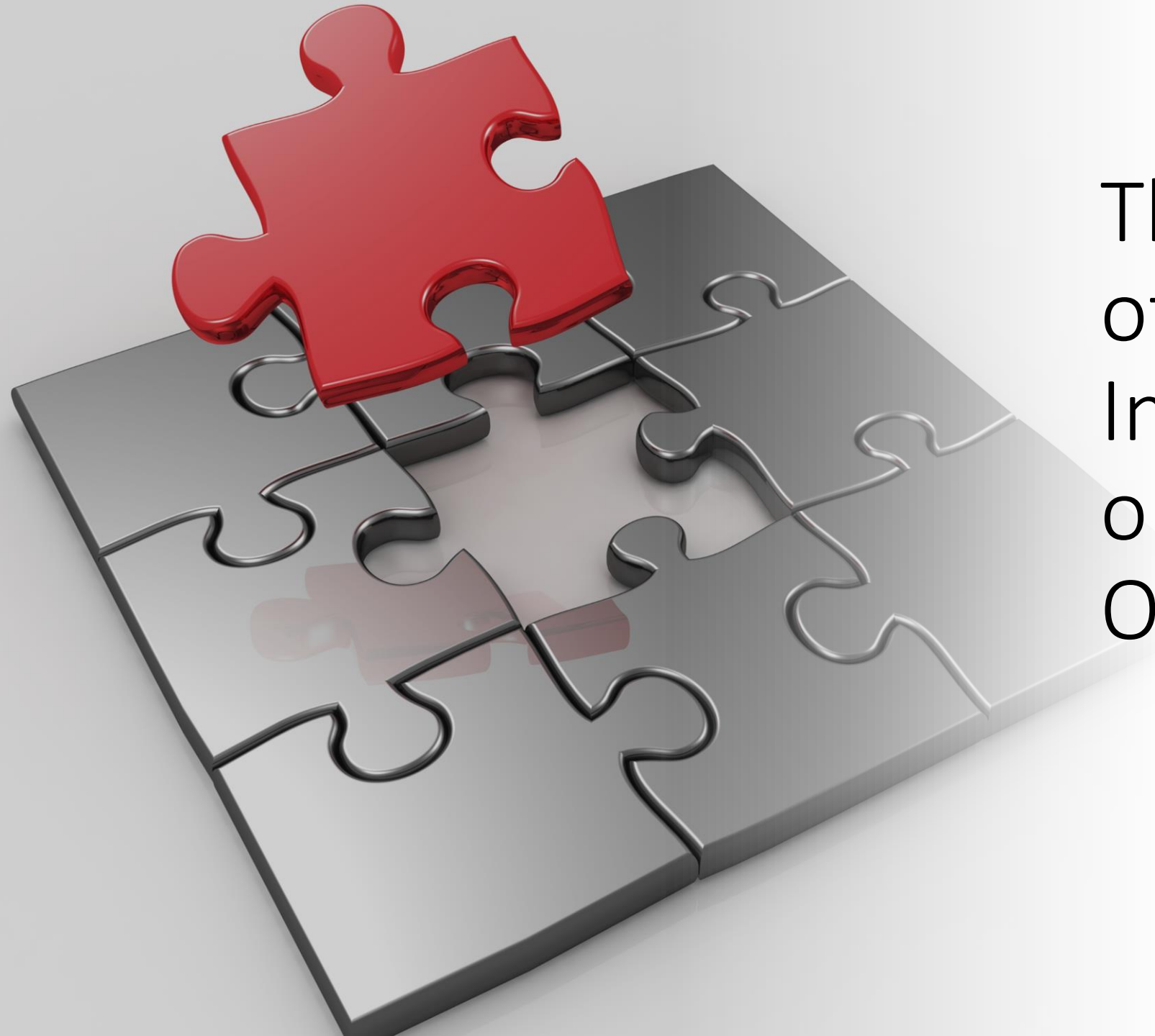
Policing: Black ethnic groups experienced the highest rates of stop and search out of all ethnic groups.



# Impact of Racial Discrimination on Health-Paradies Y. 2013

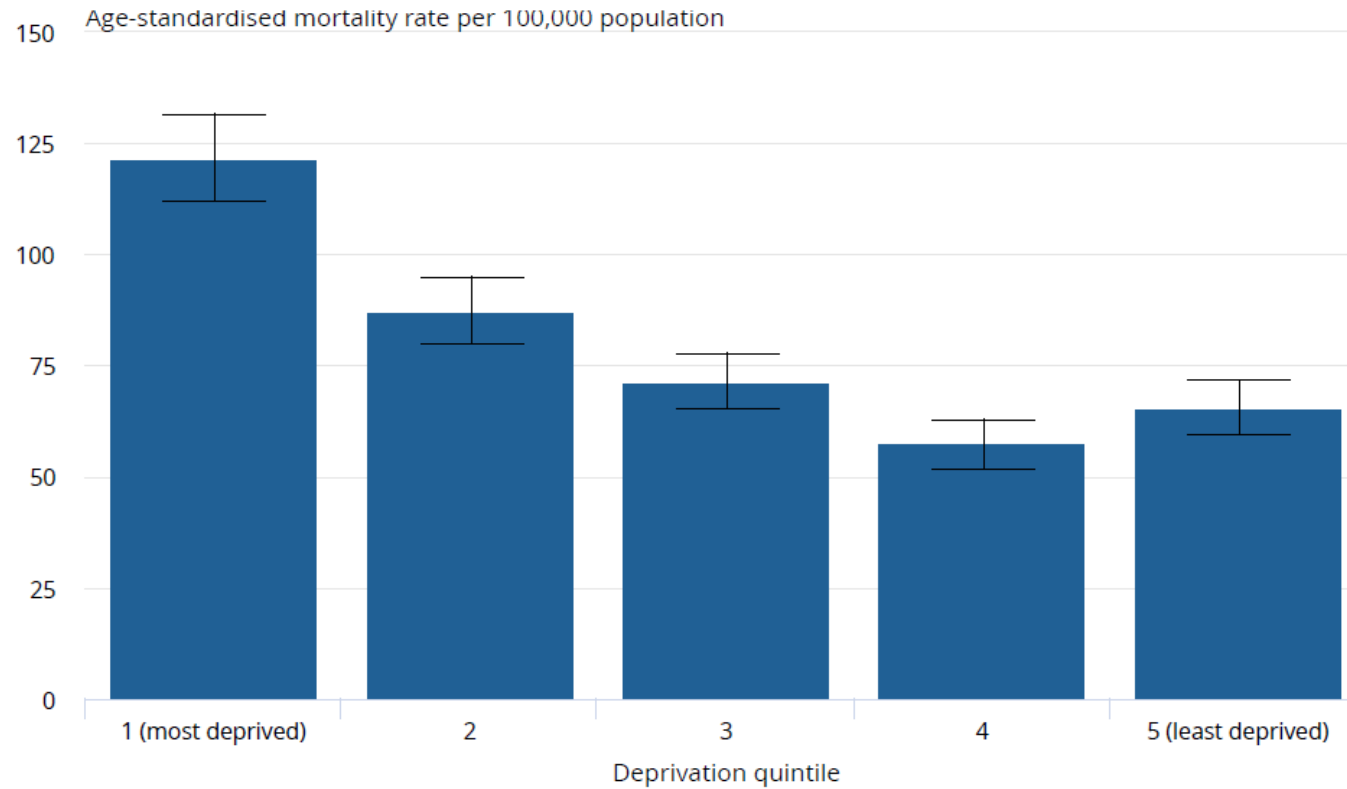






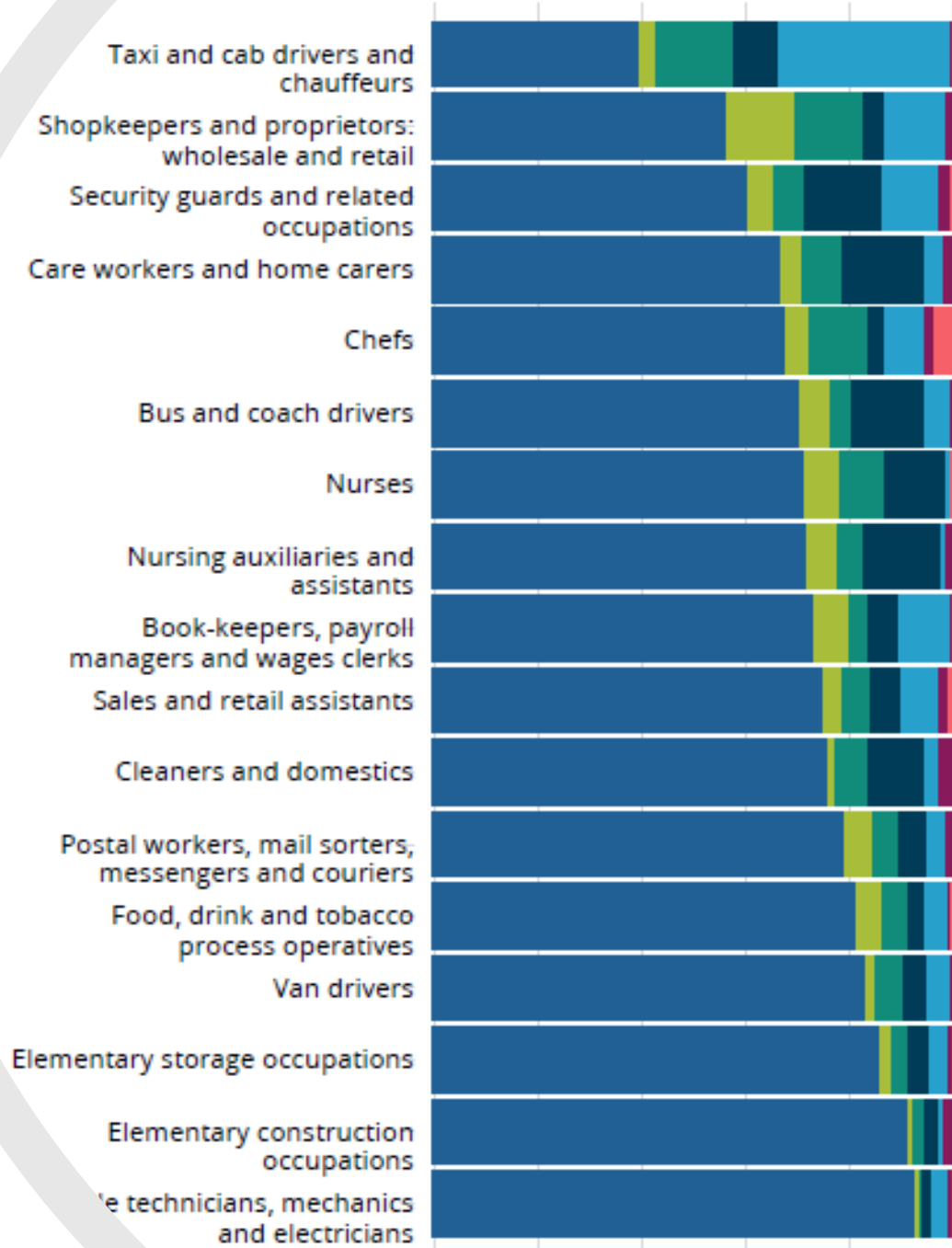
# The Impact of Structural Inequalities on Covid-19 Outcomes

**Age-standardised mortality rates, all deaths and deaths involving the coronavirus (COVID-19), Index of Multiple Deprivation, England, deaths occurring between 1 March and 31 July 2020**

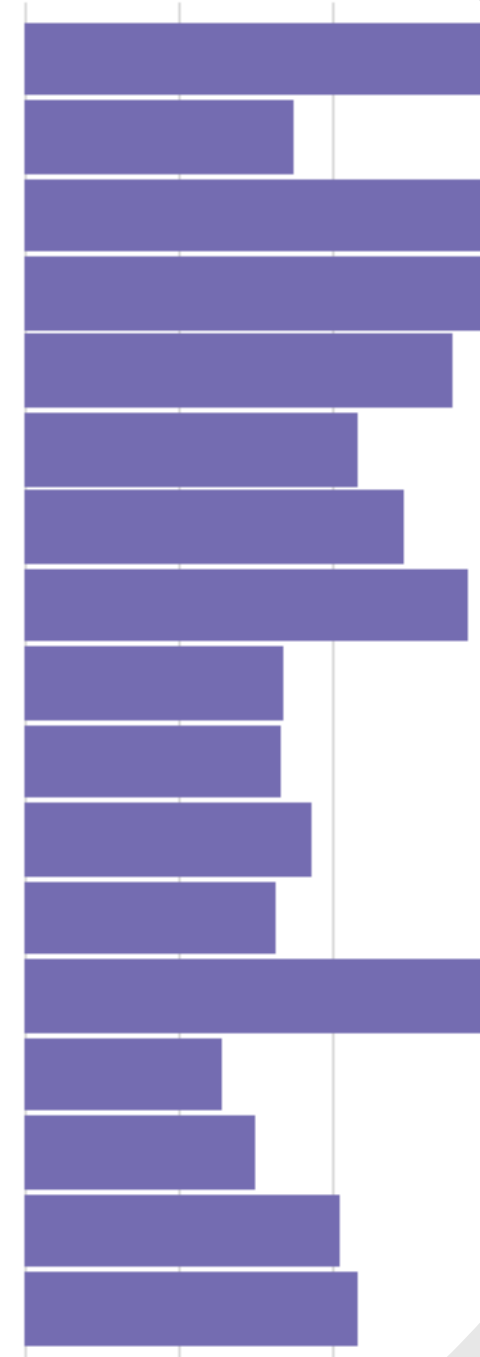


**Source: Office for National Statistics - Deaths involving COVID-19 by local area and socioeconomic deprivation**

**Occupations by ethnic group**



**Deaths involving COVID-19**



# Working In Fear

- UNISON's survey found that Black workers are living and working in fear:
  - more fearful of infection
  - more concerned about PPE access
  - more fearful of onward infection to family
  - less likely to get sick pay
  - more fearful of losing their job
  - more worried about reduced income
  - more concerned about meeting living costs.

# Impact of COVID-19 on Ethnic Minority Pregnant women

- Black women in the UK are 4 times as likely to die from a pregnancy related complication.
- Knight et al reported that as of the 8th of June, Ethnic Minority women represented 54% of the all-pregnant patients admitted to hospital following a diagnosis of Covid-19 in the U.K despite the fact that only 20% of all pregnant patients in the U.K. are from Ethnic Minority communities at any given time.

- Institutional,

***...and when they've asked, they have refused to stitch it back again, and they just told them to take...keep taking painkillers, because they were in huge pain. And my friend, I have seen she couldn't sit...***

- Personally mediated,

***"like if I had a really bad experience with my first one, maybe I would have thought the same and maybe I would have delivered in India or something."***

- Internalised

***"oh, it's nothing that serious, but at the same time, there was white women who were having the same issue, but being taken more seriously"***

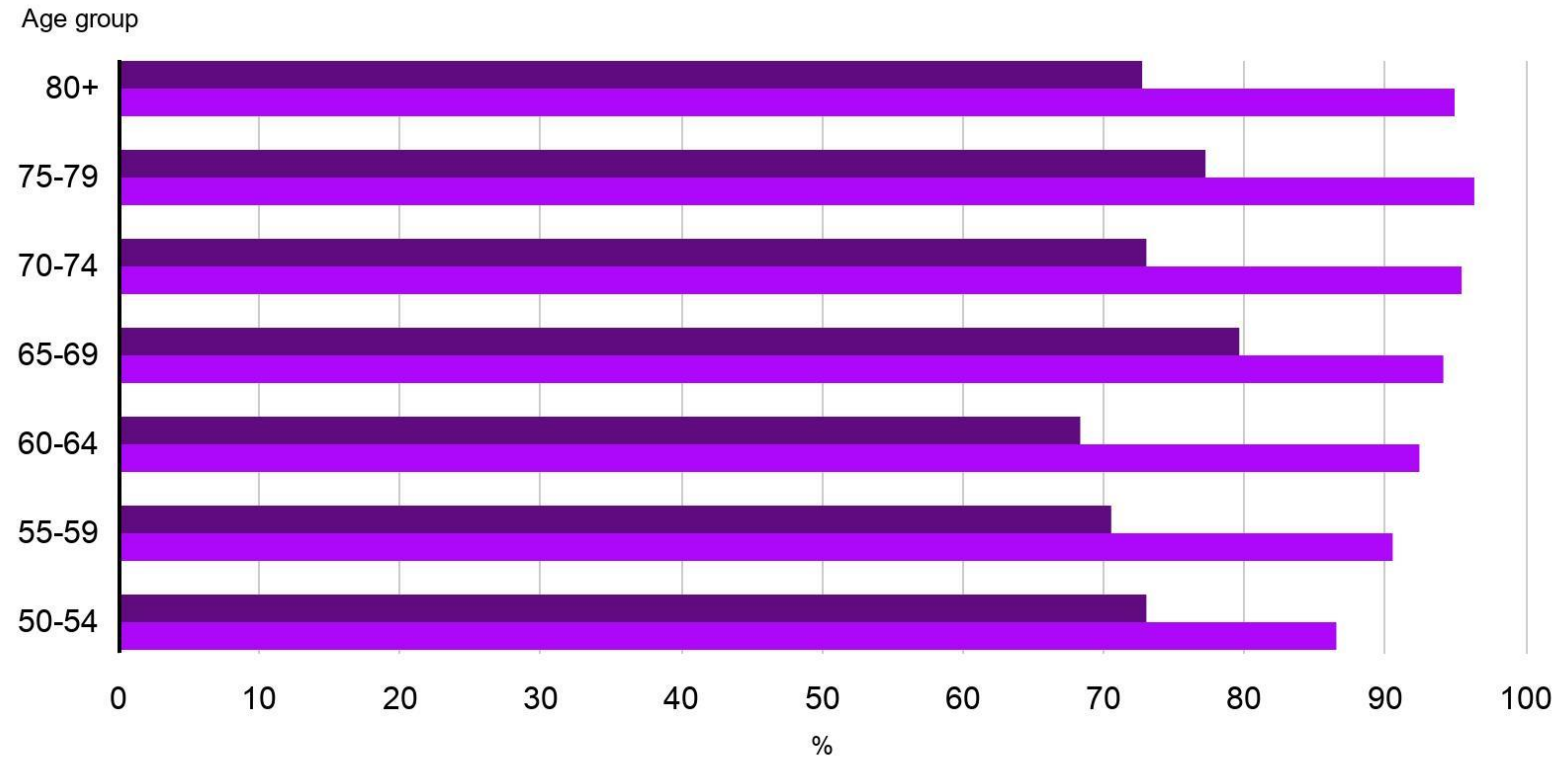
# Impact on Ethnic Minorities

- Public Health England (PHE) newly published research, minoritized people were significantly more likely (13%) to report having had their hours reduced compared with those from a nationally representative sample (9%).
- They are also nearly twice as likely to report having lost their job (7% compared with 4% nationally from May and 3% from June). Source:  
<https://www.personneltoday.com/hr/covid-19-job-losses-disproportionately-hit-ethnic-minorities/>
- Ethnic Minority families were least likely to have access to green spaces during lockdown. (42% in England)
- Ethnic Minorities experience higher rates of food insecurity during lockdown.



## Vaccine uptake among the African community is lower in every age group

■ African  
■ Total uptake



Source: Public Health Scotland

# Conclusion

- Ethnic and Racial health disparities require more attention and awareness.
- COVID-19 has highlighted pre-existing disparities but did not create them.
- Racism and discrimination need to be a central part of future research on health outcomes.

