

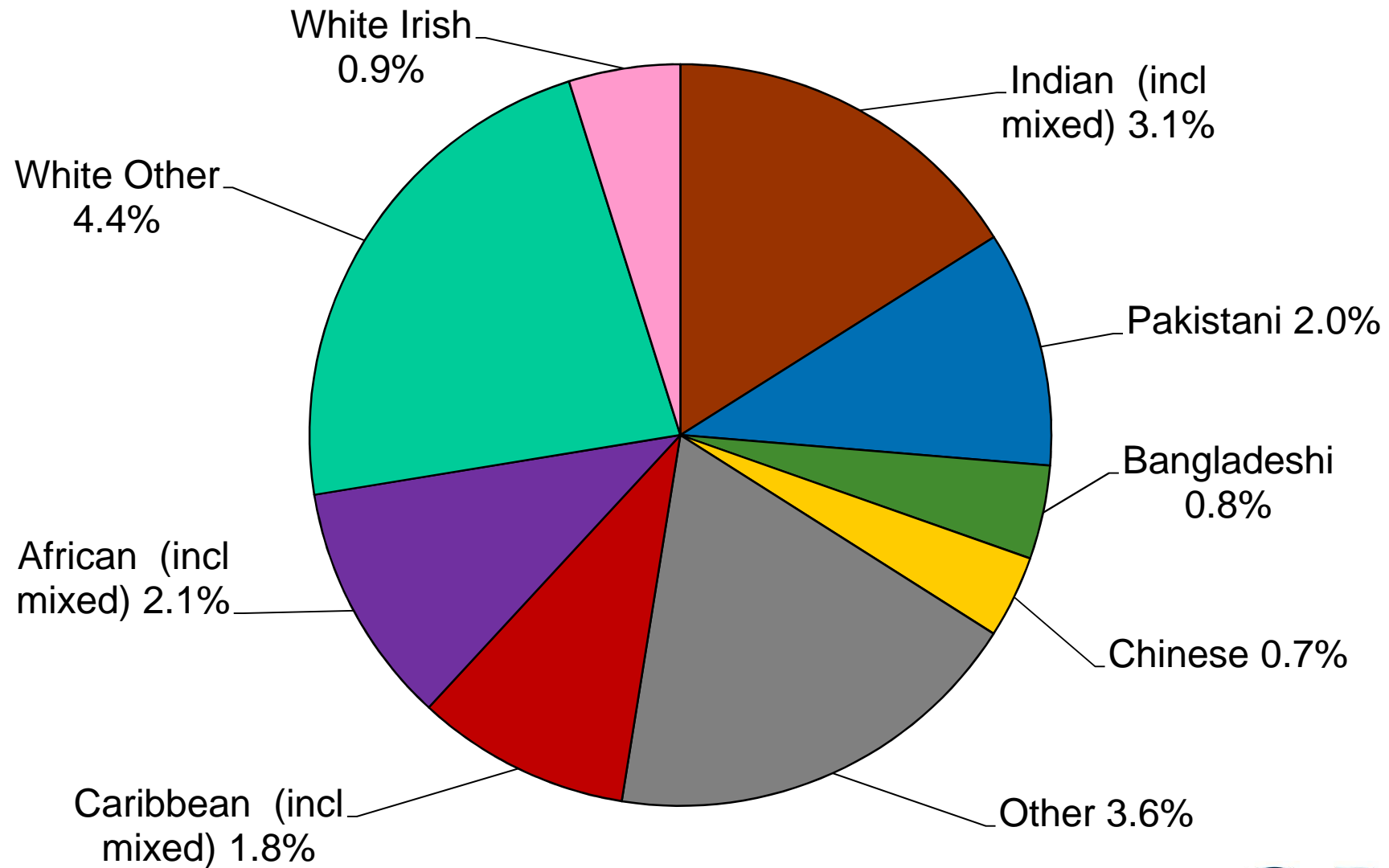
# Ethnic inequalities in later life

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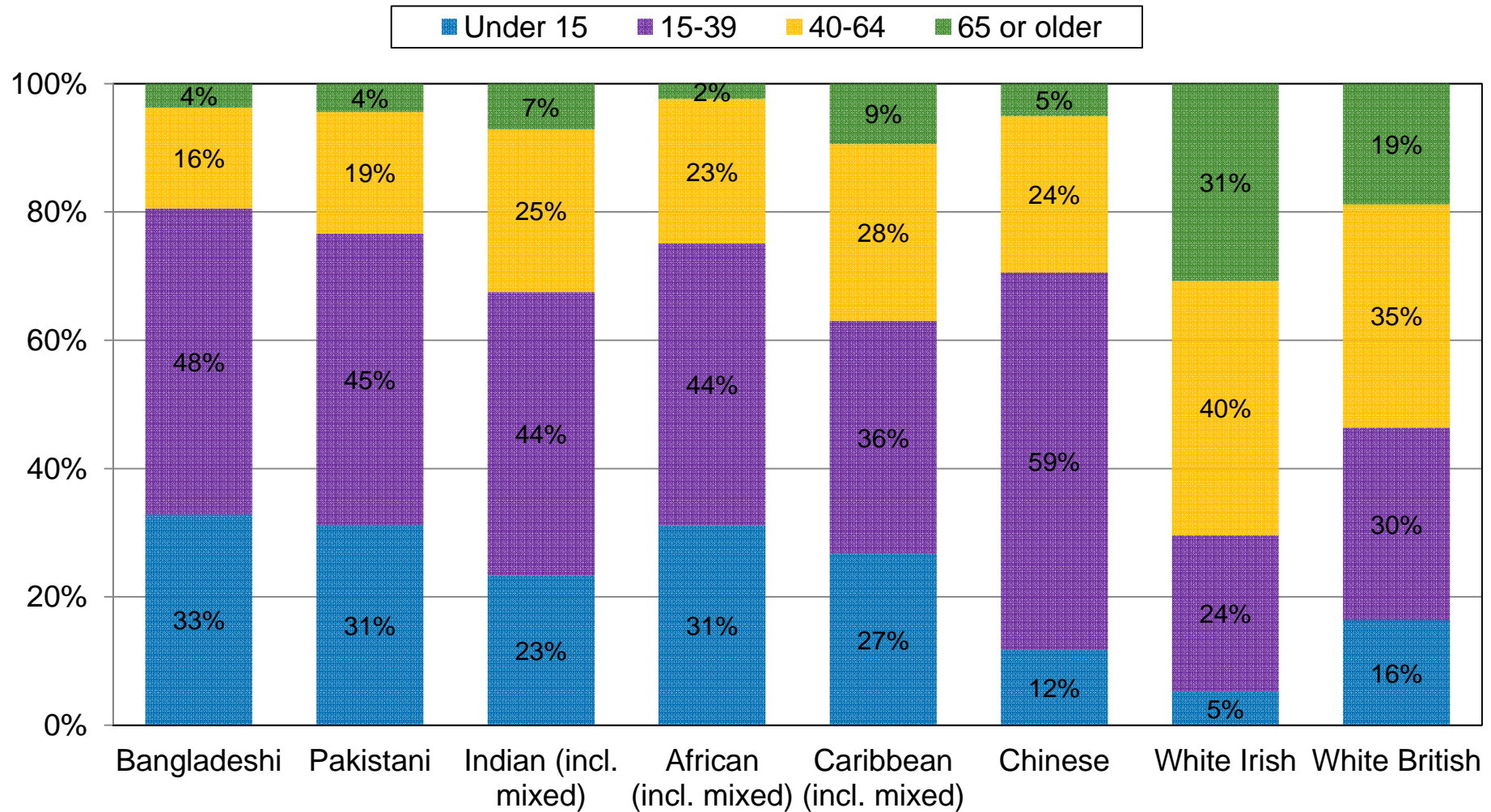
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[www.ethnicity.ac.uk](http://www.ethnicity.ac.uk)



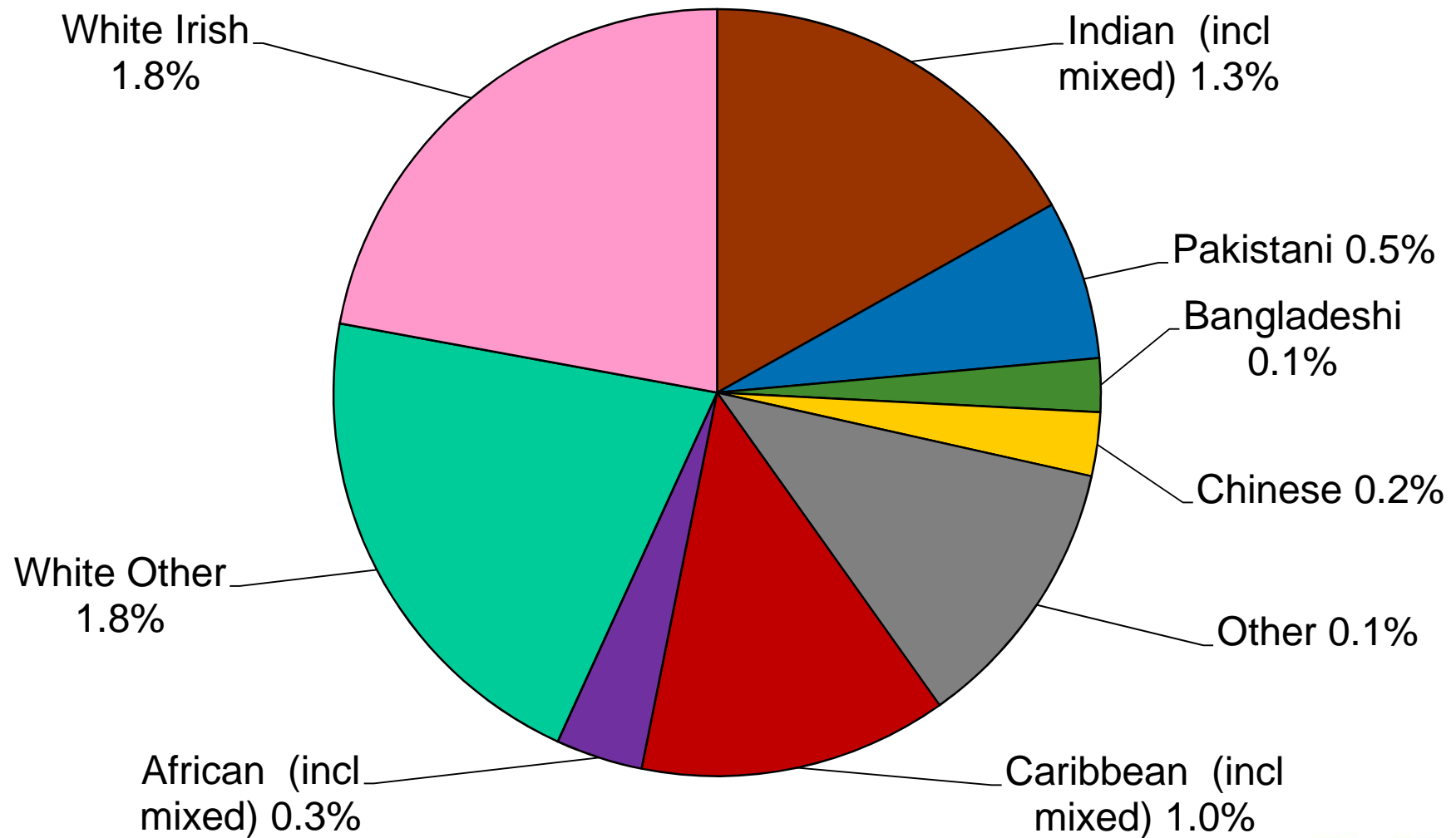
# The ethnic minority population of England & Wales (19.5% of the total population)



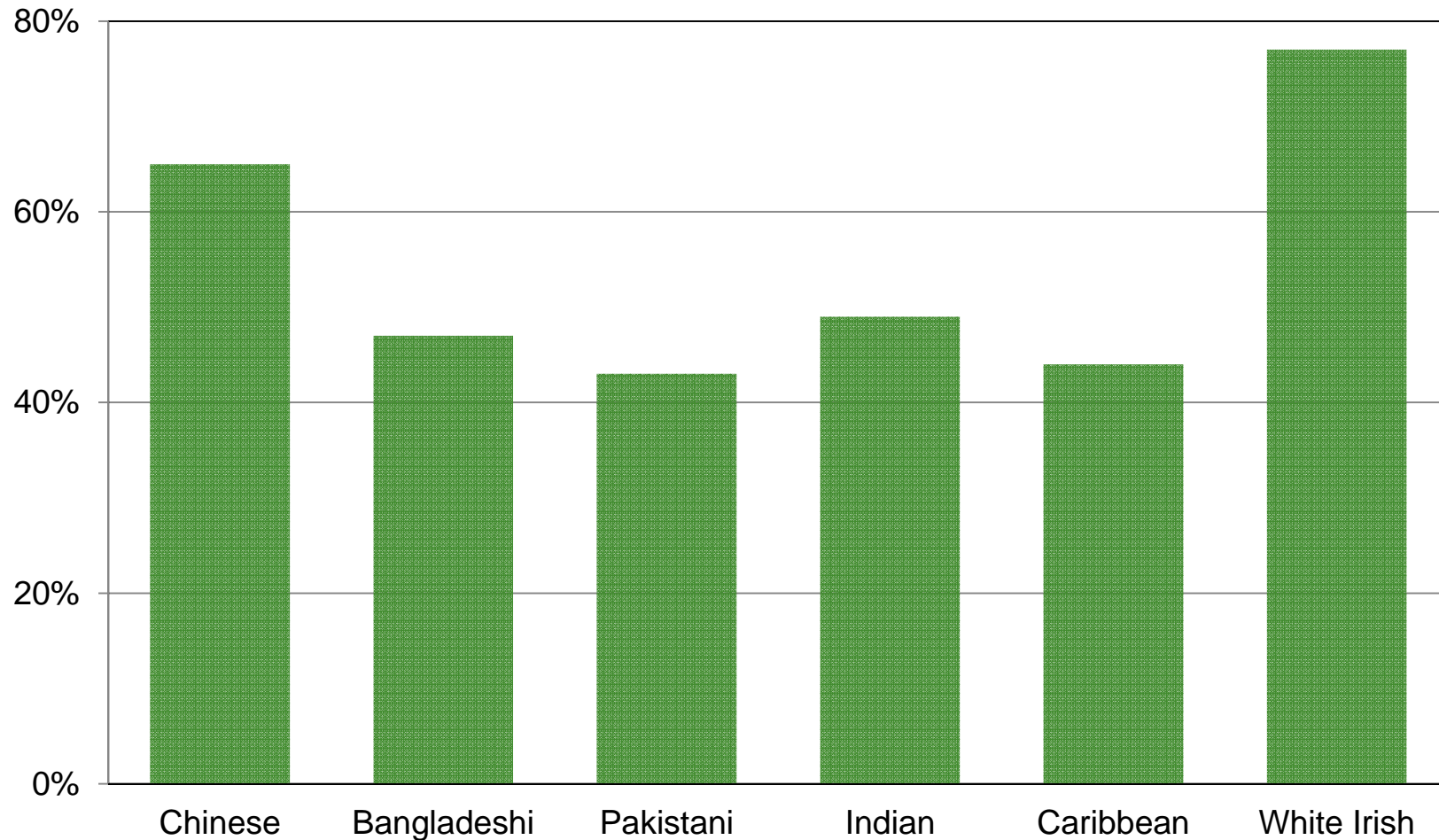
# Age profile of ethnic groups in England and Wales



# The ethnic minority population of England & Wales, those aged 65 or older (8% of all aged 65 or older)



# Proportion born outside the UK

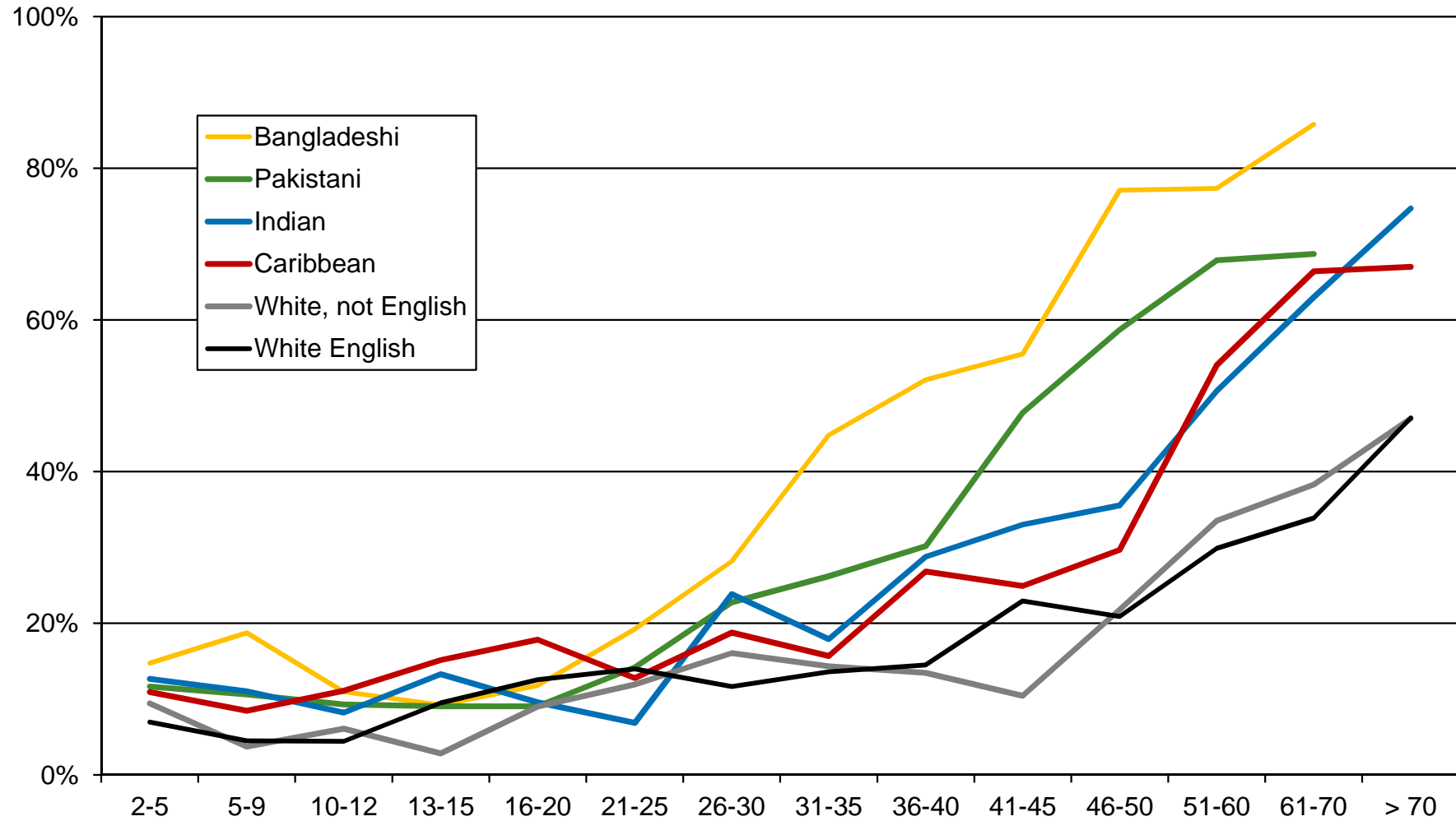


# Ethnicity, race and growing older in the UK

## Key themes

- Migration in a post-war, but also post-colonial, context (who migrated, when and why).
- Post-migration circumstances in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s.
- Changing significance of ethnic identities and how they structure social relations – prejudice, racism and discrimination, and their material consequences.
- Generation and period: contexts and change.
- Cumulative disadvantage across the life course – double/triple jeopardy?
- Establishing and building communities, the importance of neighbourhood and belonging – segregation, integration and community cohesion.
- Cross-national connections and return migration.

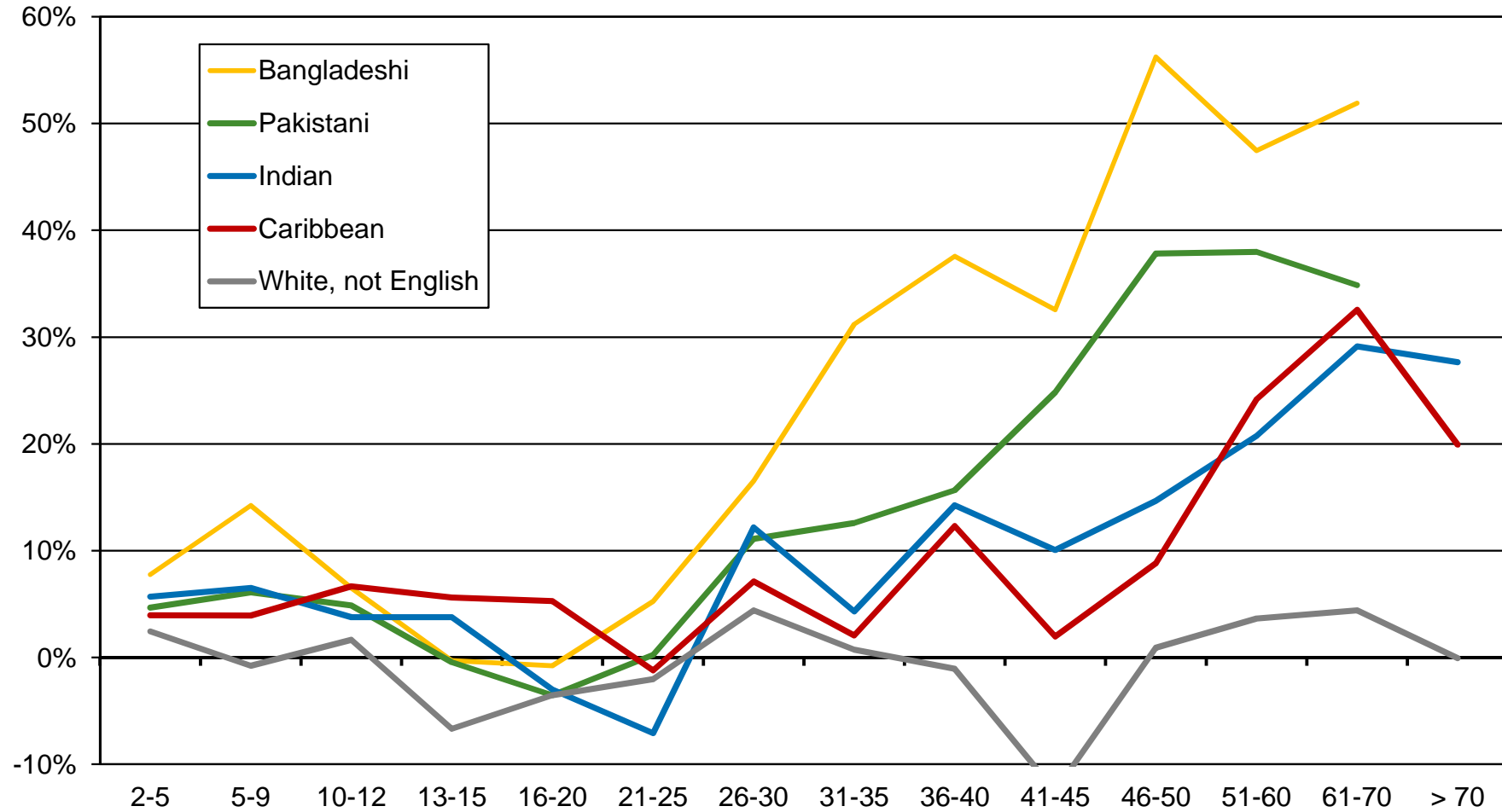
# Reported fair or bad health by age





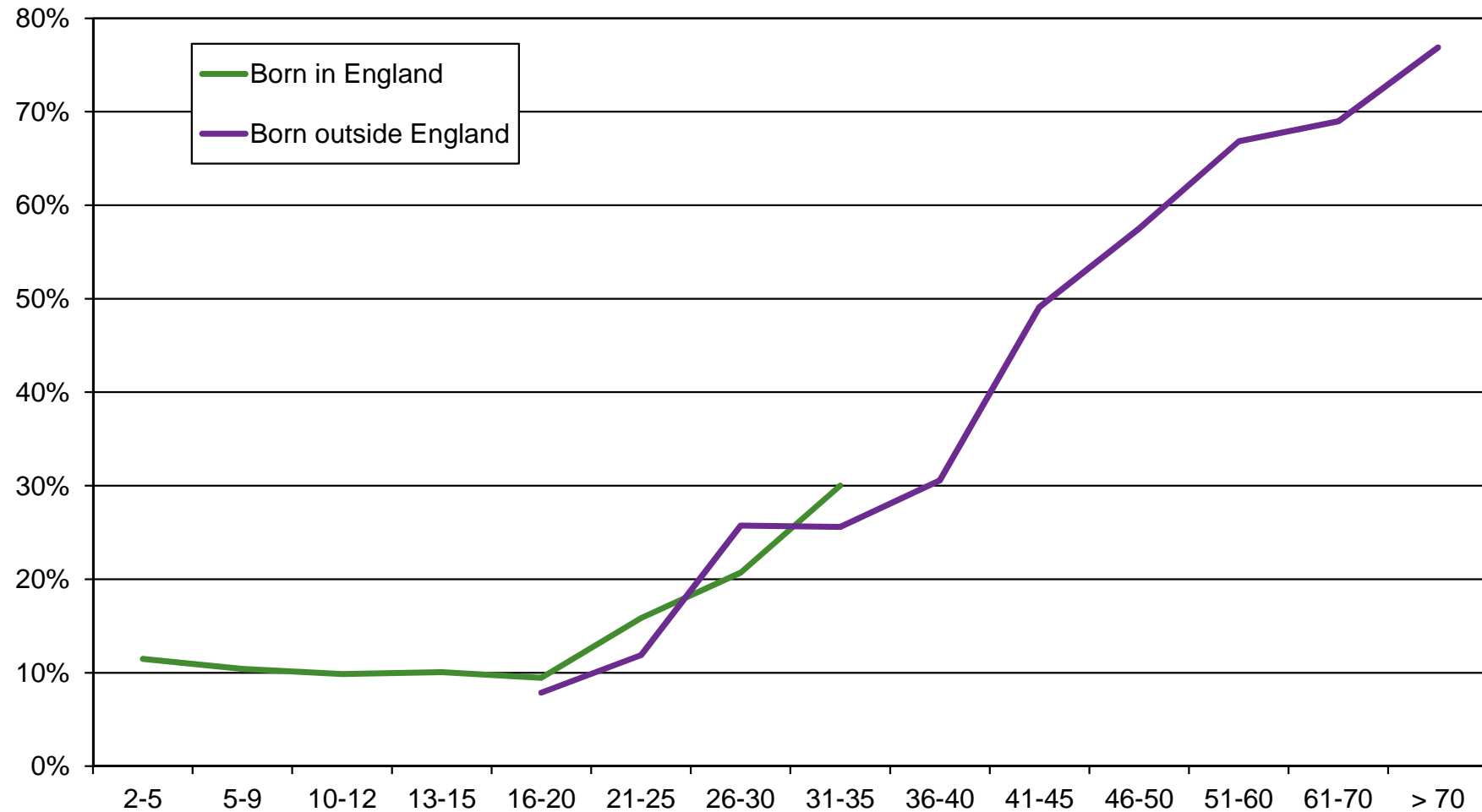
# Reported fair or bad health by age

Difference in Percent Compared with White English



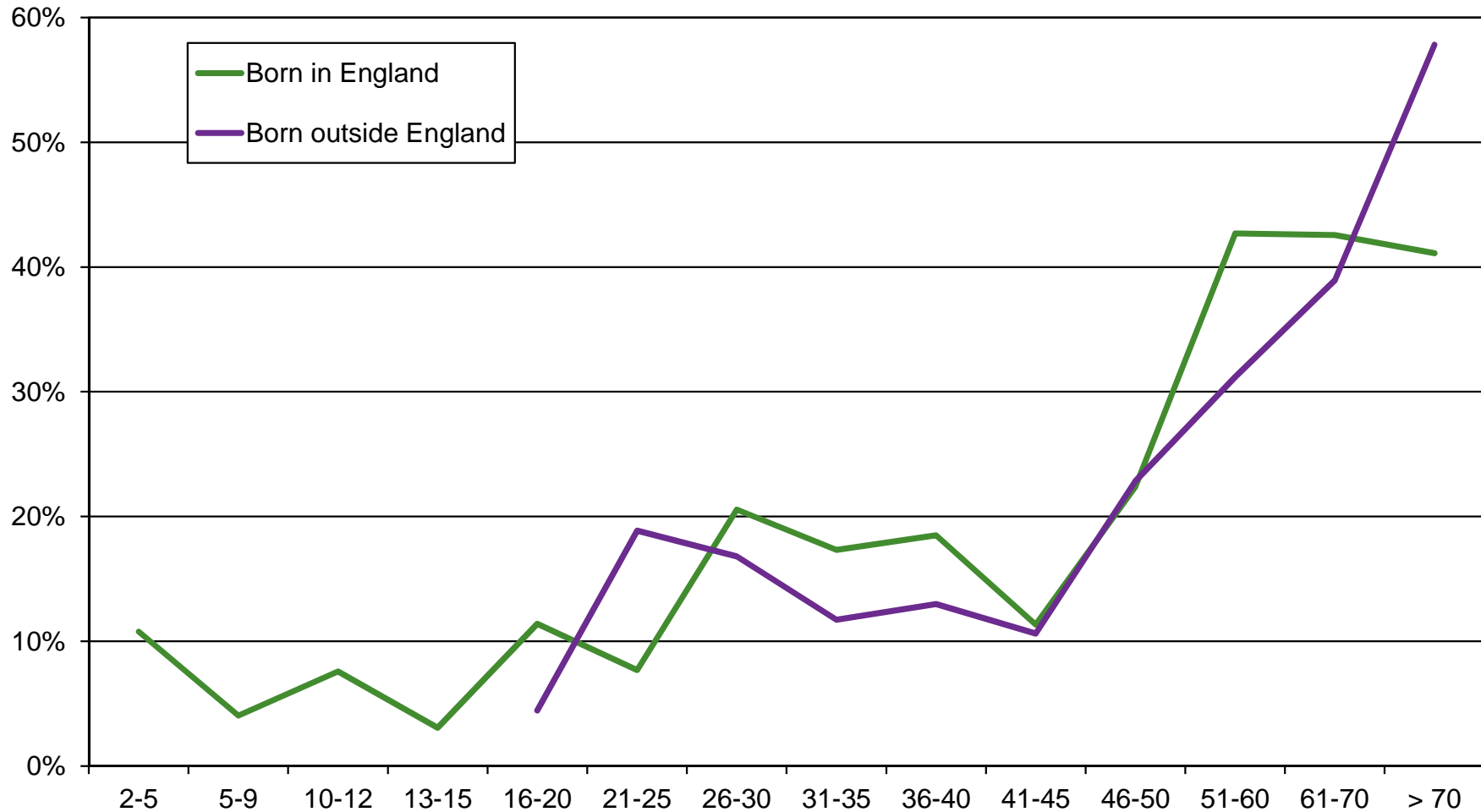
# Reported fair or bad health by migration

## Pakistani

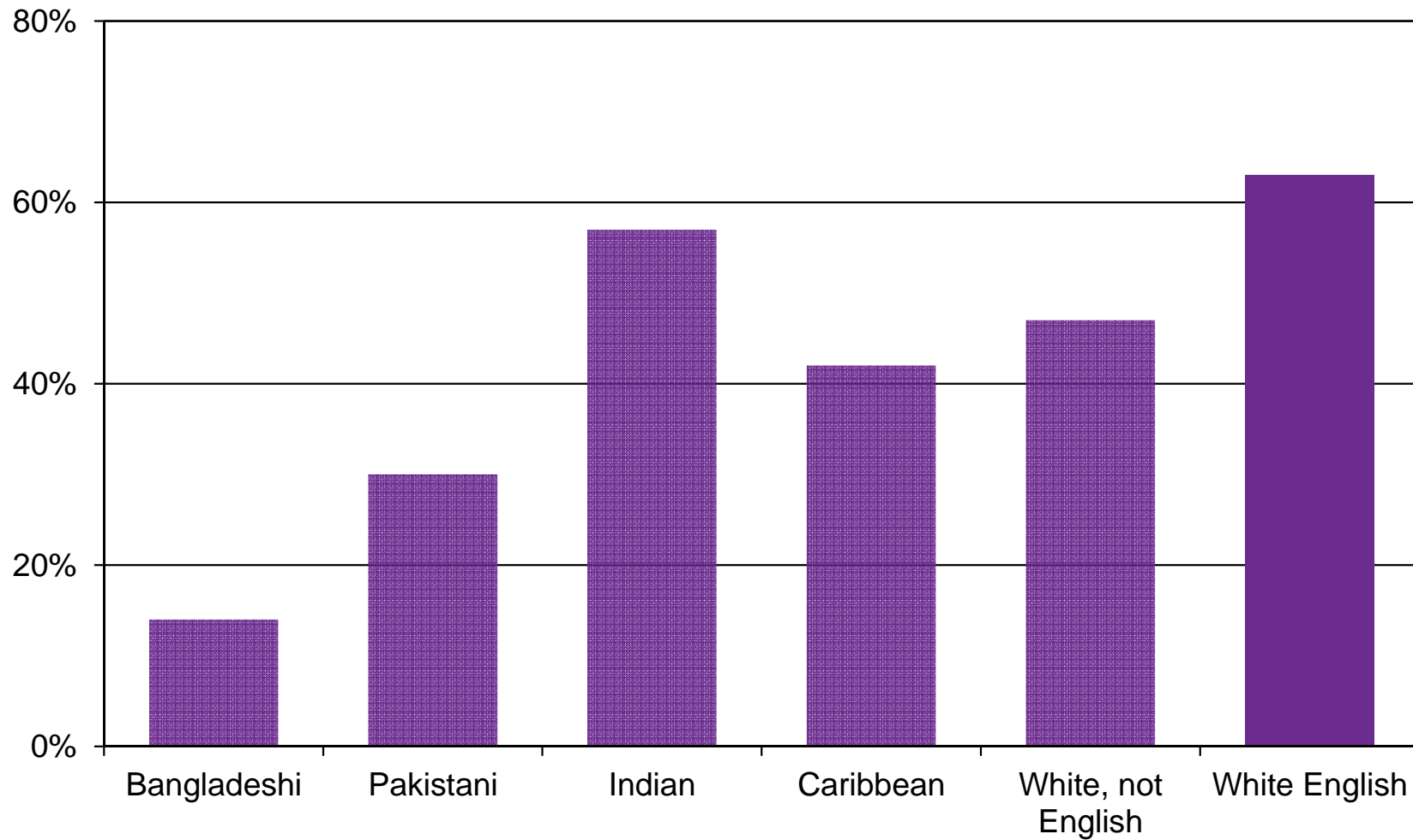


# Reported fair or bad health by migration

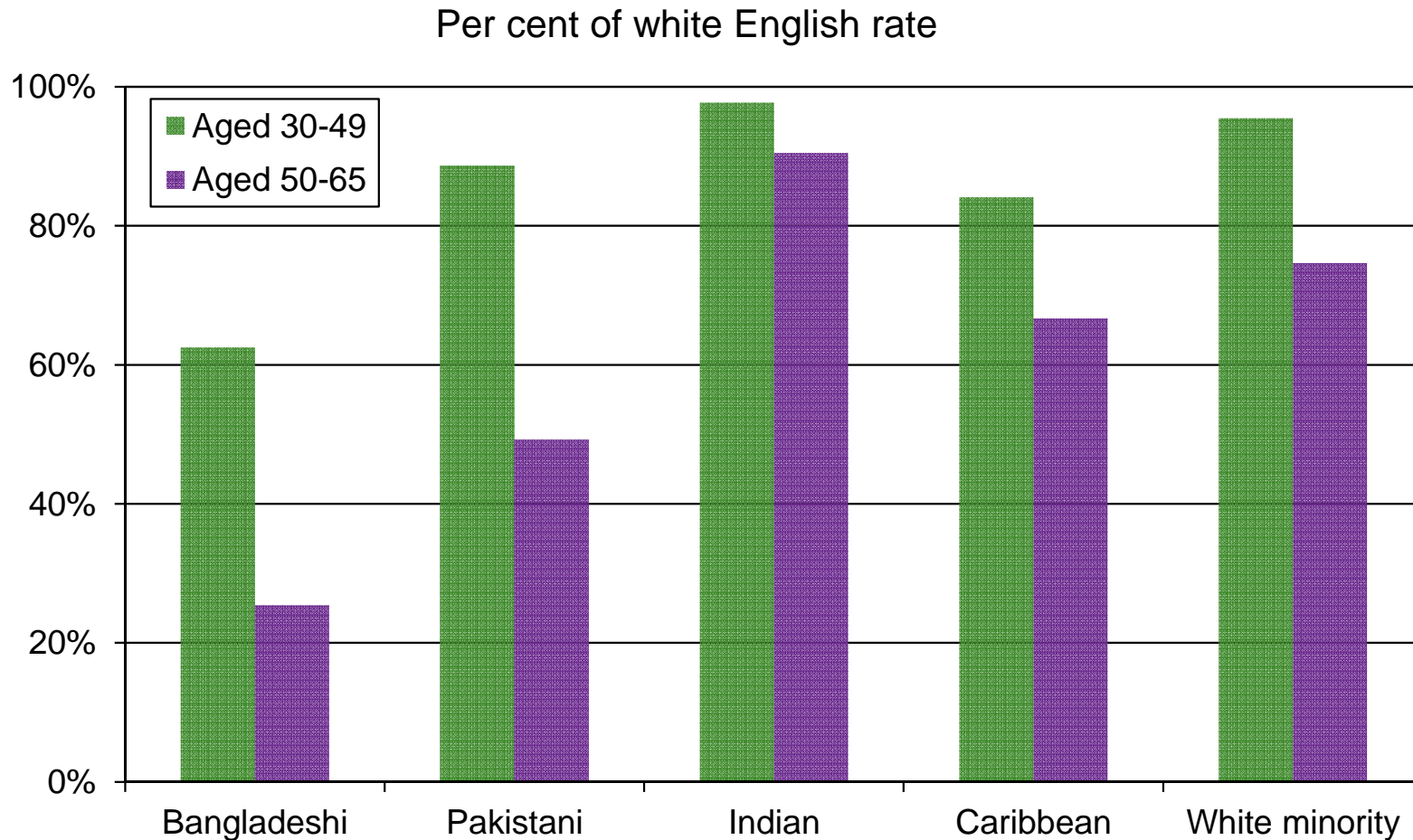
White, not English



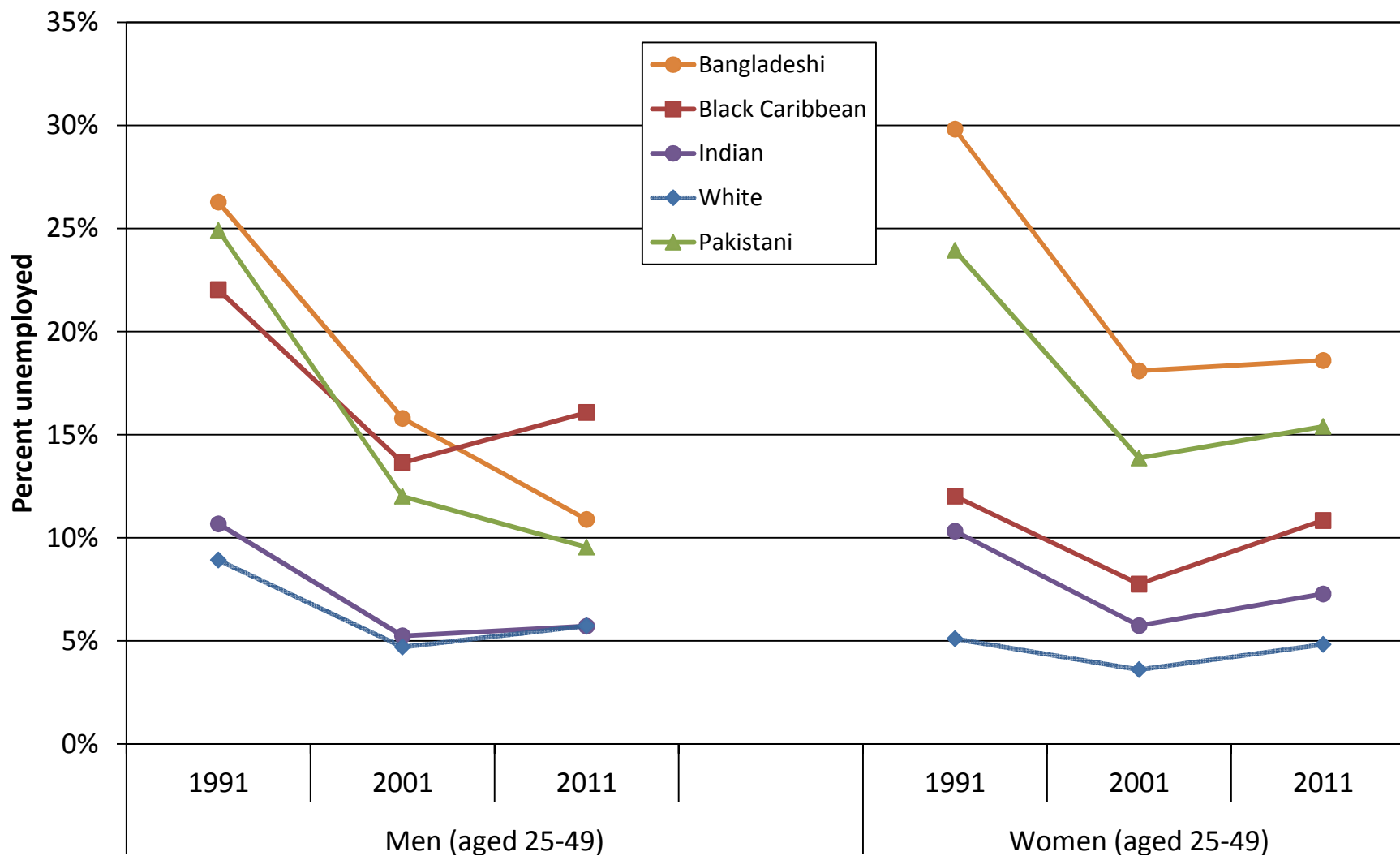
# Employment rates: men aged 50 to 65



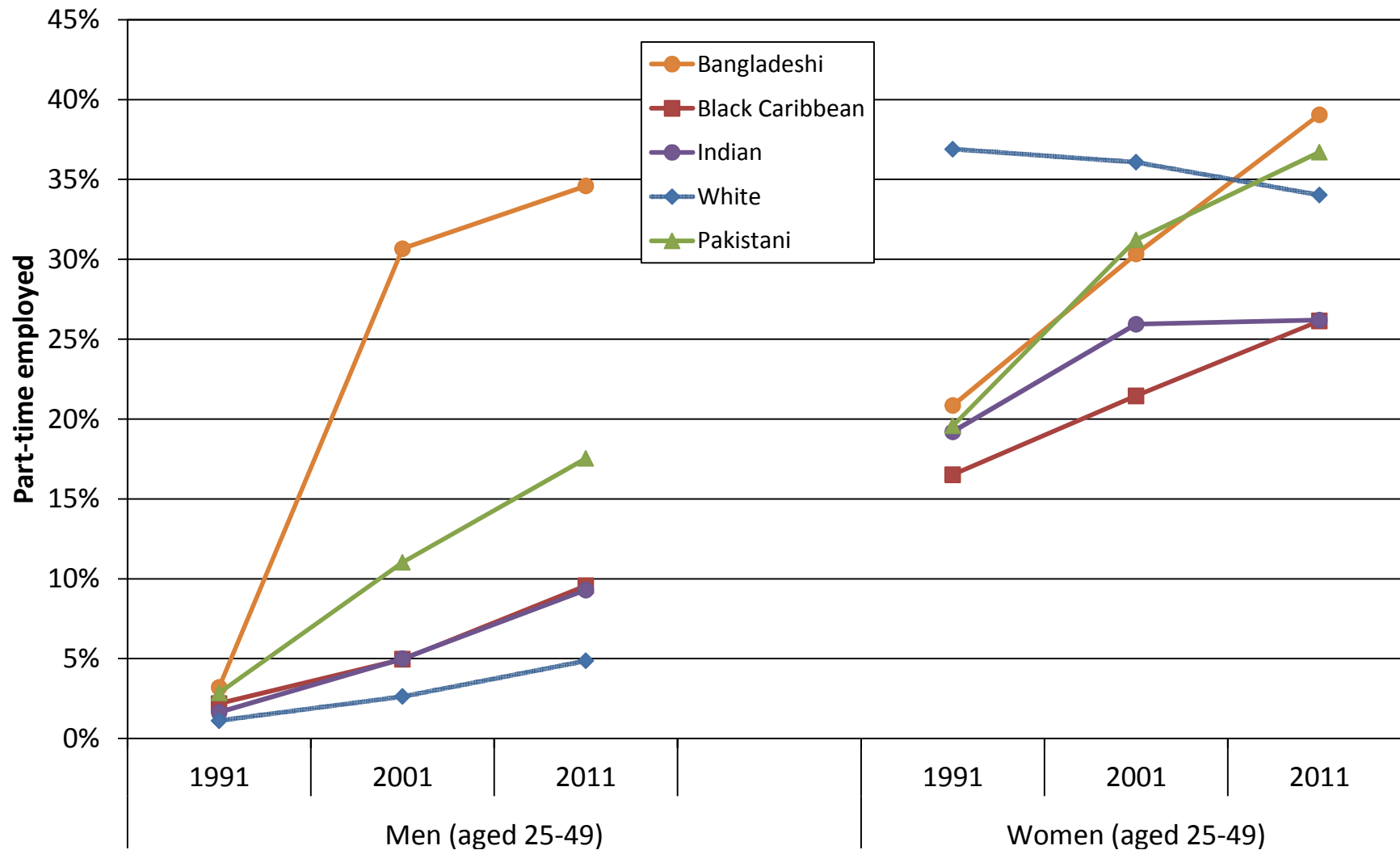
# Male employment rates: old compared with young



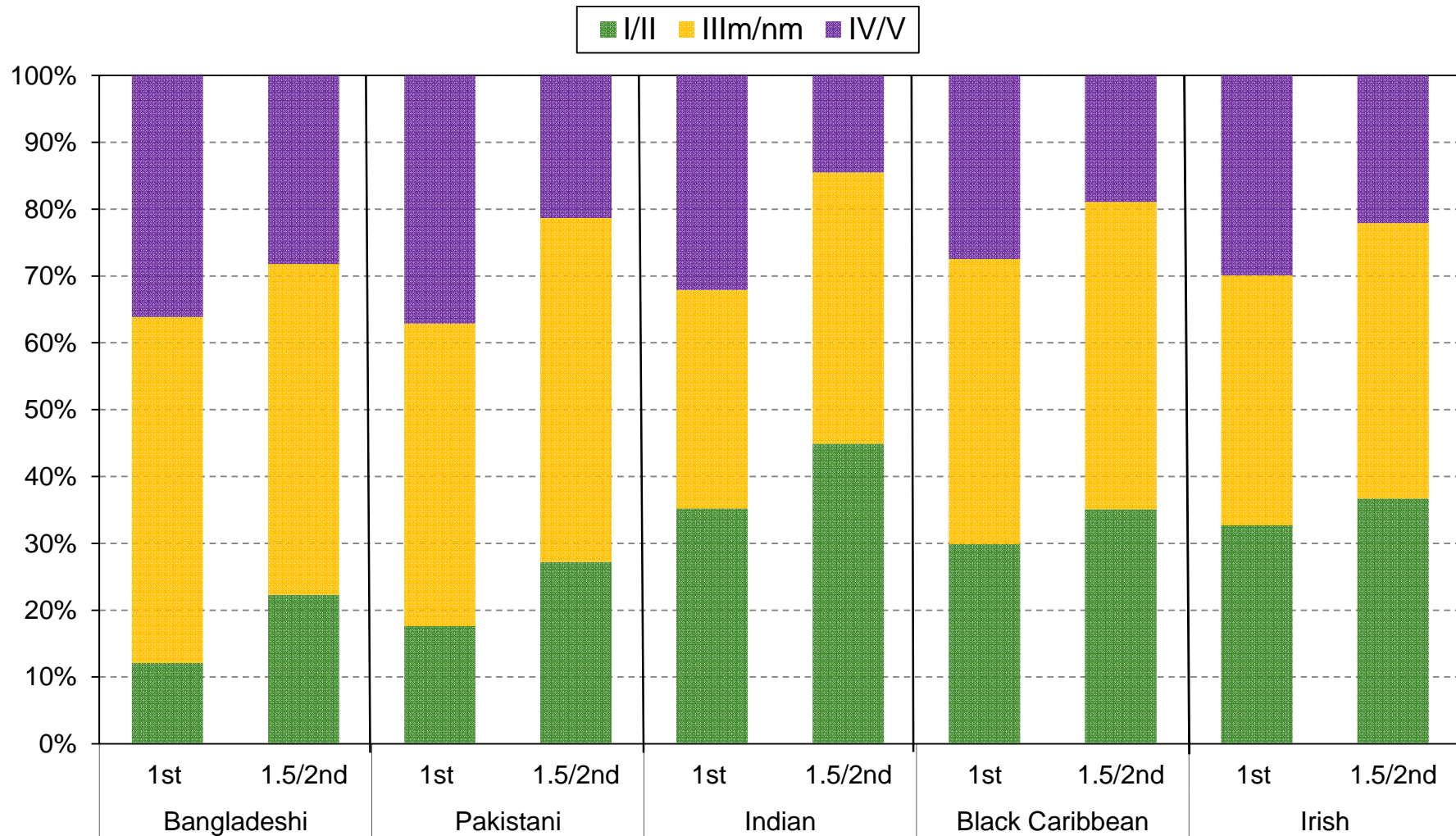
# Persisting ethnic inequalities in unemployment 1991-2001-2011



# Growing ethnic inequalities in part-time employment 1991-2001-2011

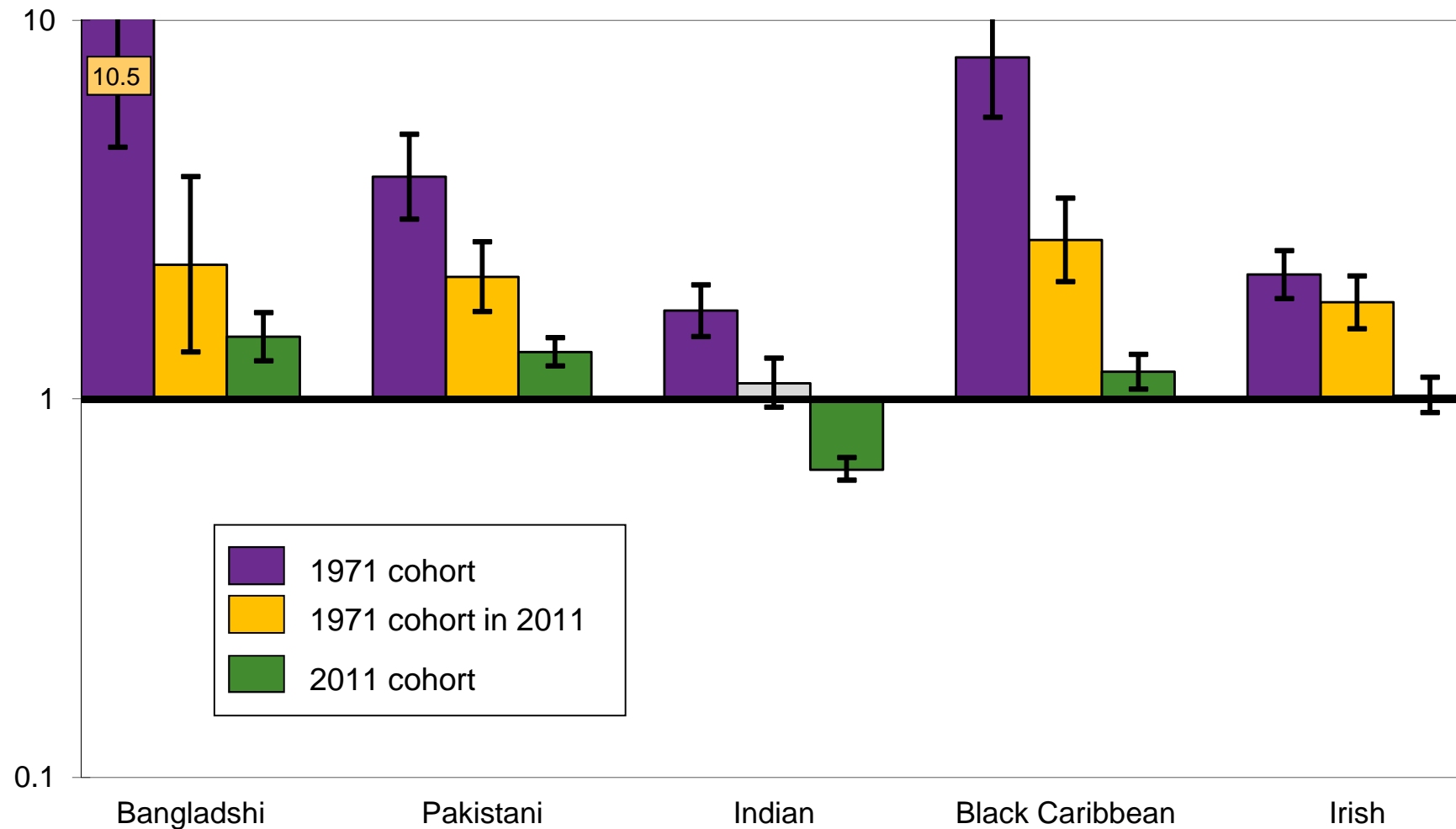


# Ethnicity, generation and occupational class

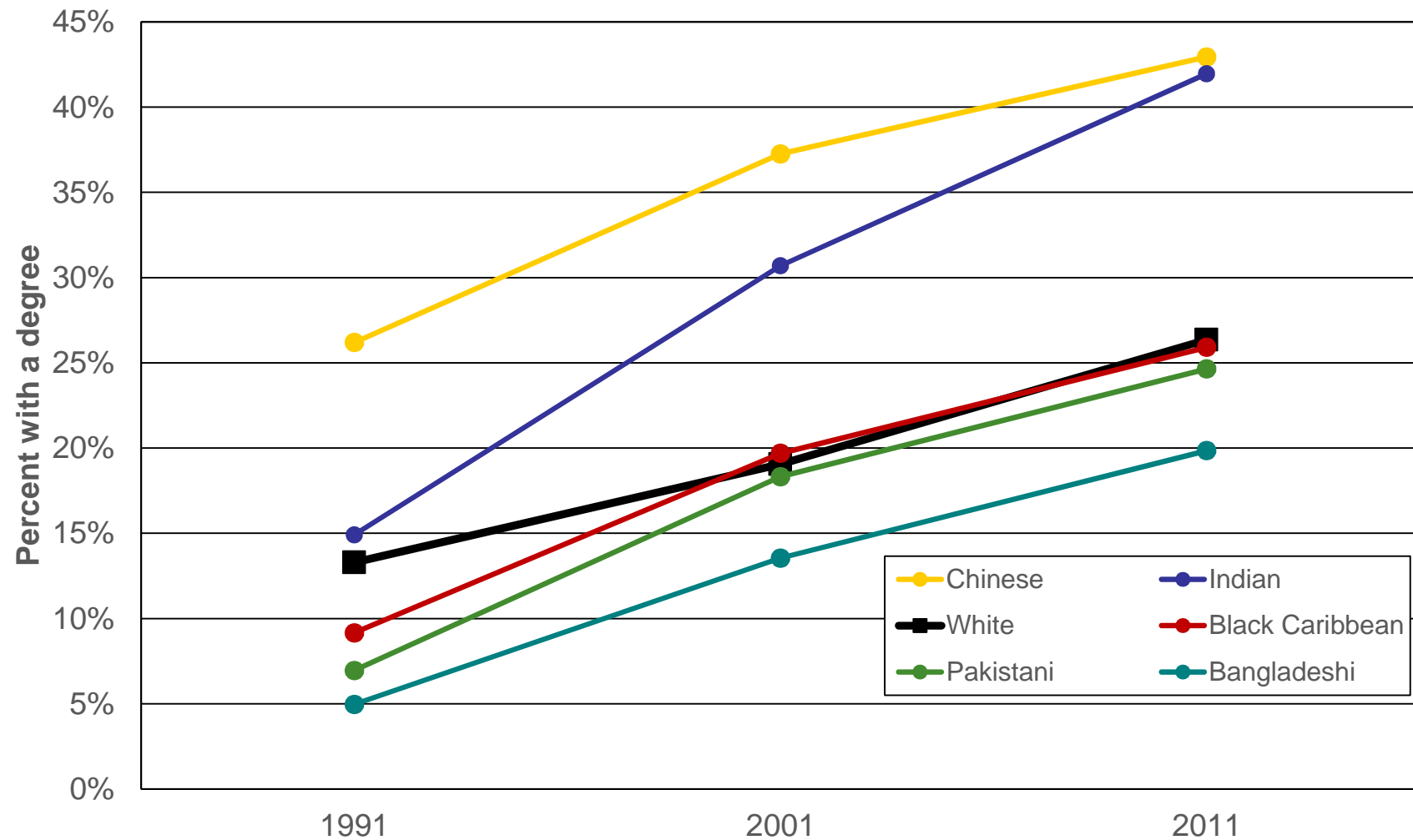




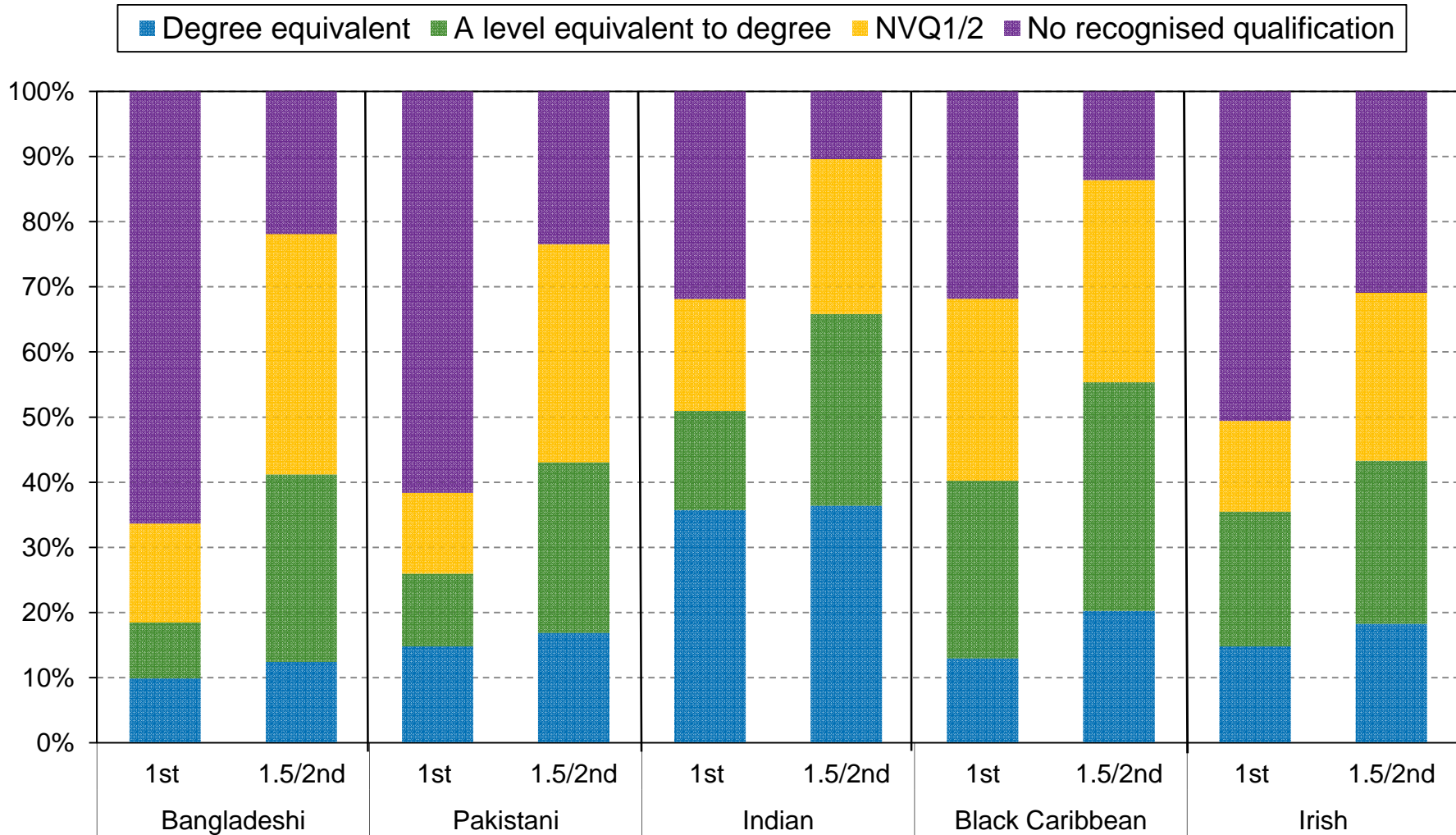
# Period and cohort effects: odds of manual occupational class compared with white British (men)



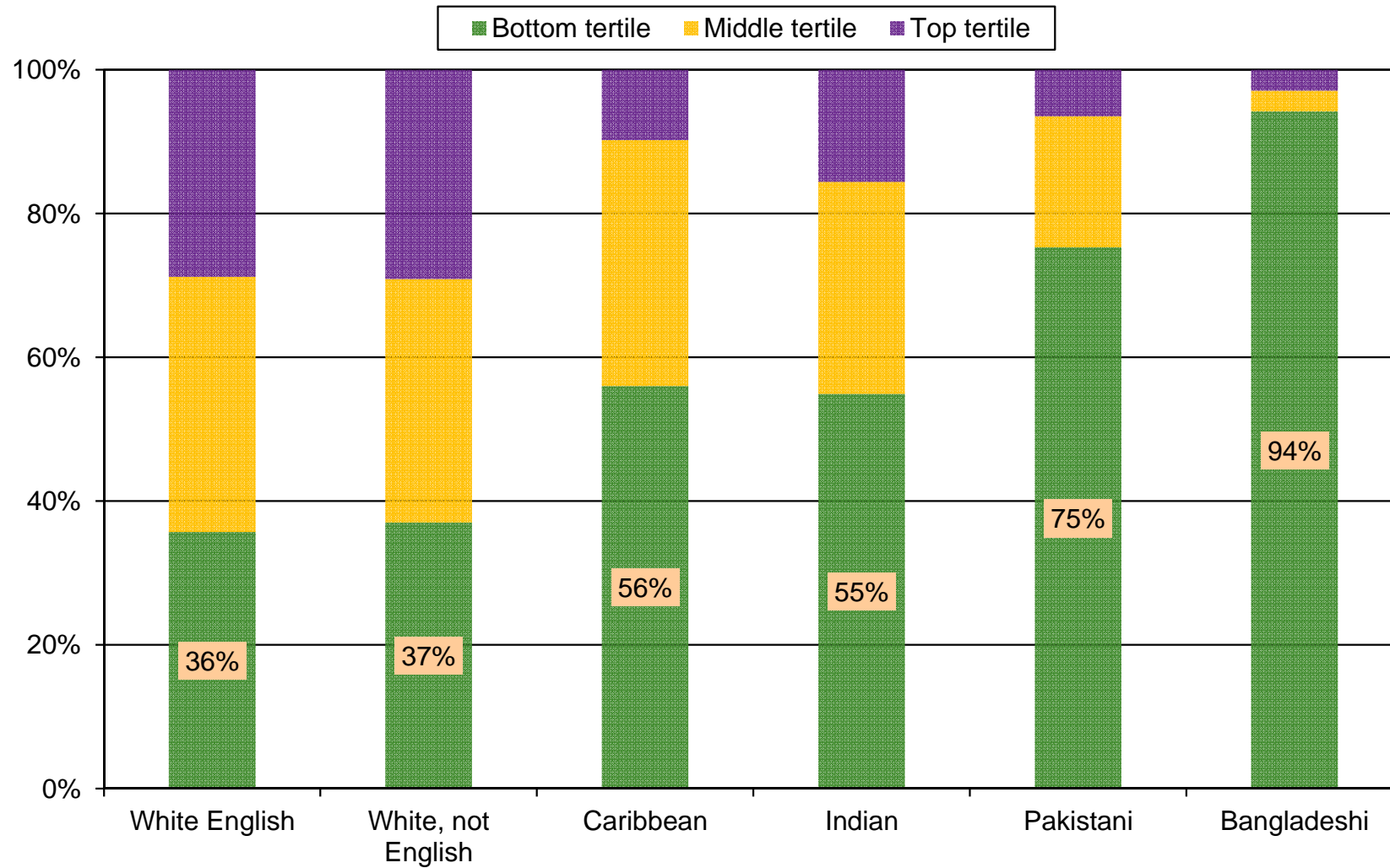
# Changing ethnic inequalities in education 1991-2001-2011



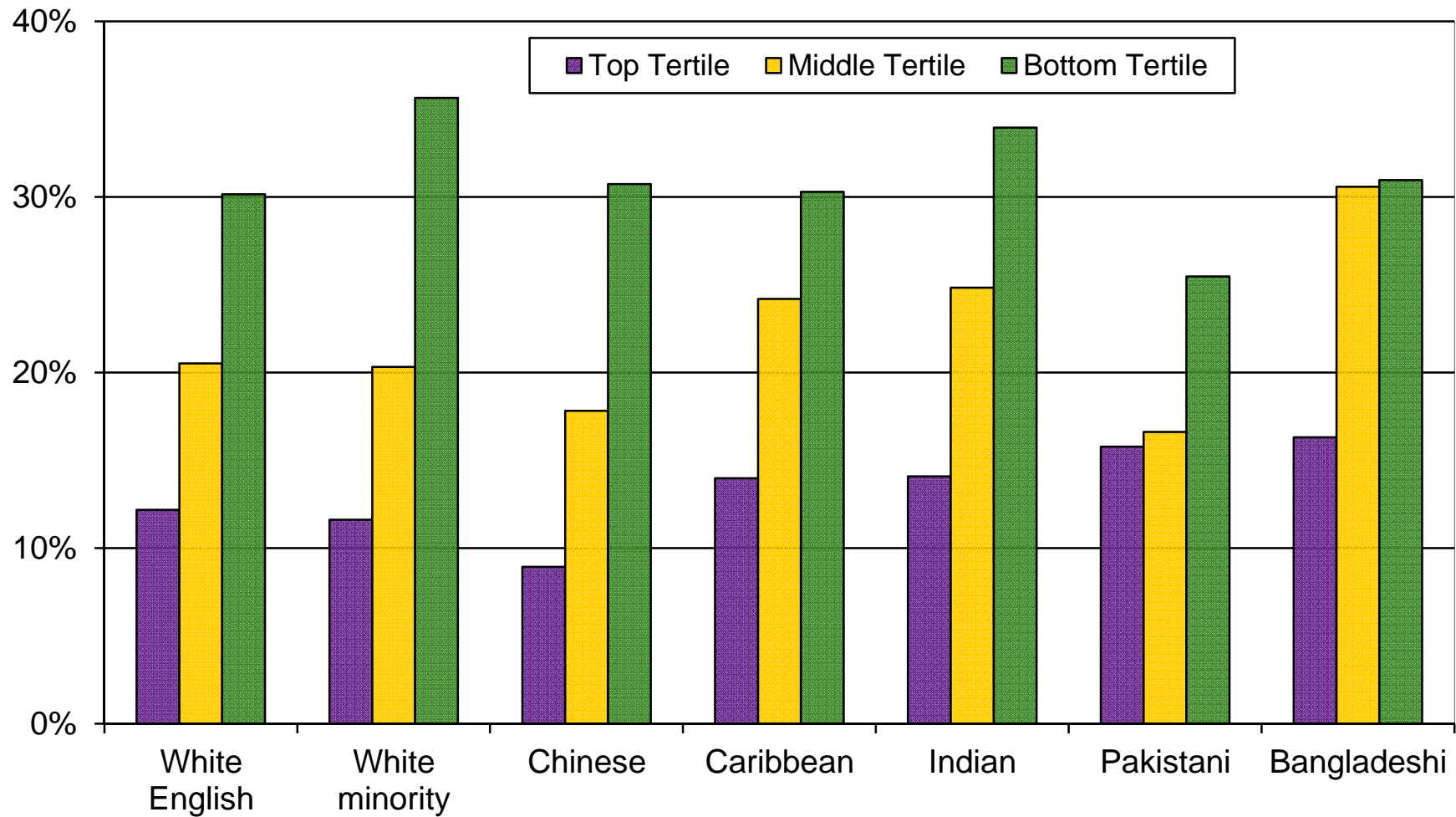
# Ethnicity, generation and educational level



# Equivalised income (aged 50 and older)



# Income, ethnicity and reported fair or bad health



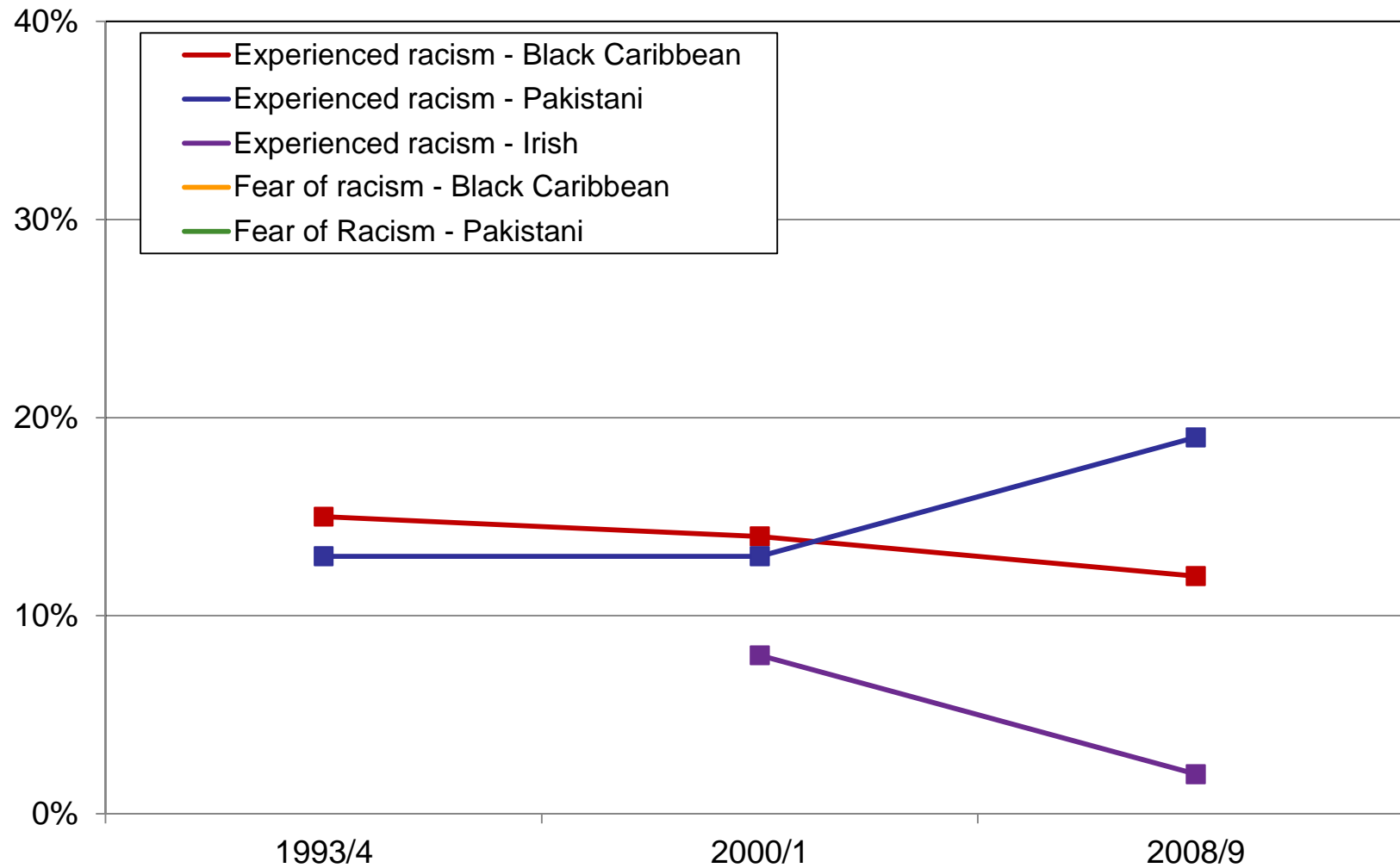
# Experiences of racism and discrimination

- One in eight ethnic minority people report experiencing racial harassment over the last year.
- Repeated racial harassment is a common experience.
- 25% of ethnic minority people say they are fearful of racial harassment.
  
- 20% of ethnic minority people report being refused a job for racial reasons, and almost three-quarters of them say it has happened more than once.
- 20% of ethnic minority people believe that most employers would refuse somebody a job for racial reasons, only 12% thought no employers would do this.
  
- White people freely report their own prejudice:
  - One in four say they are prejudiced against Asian people;
  - One in five say they are prejudiced against Caribbean people.

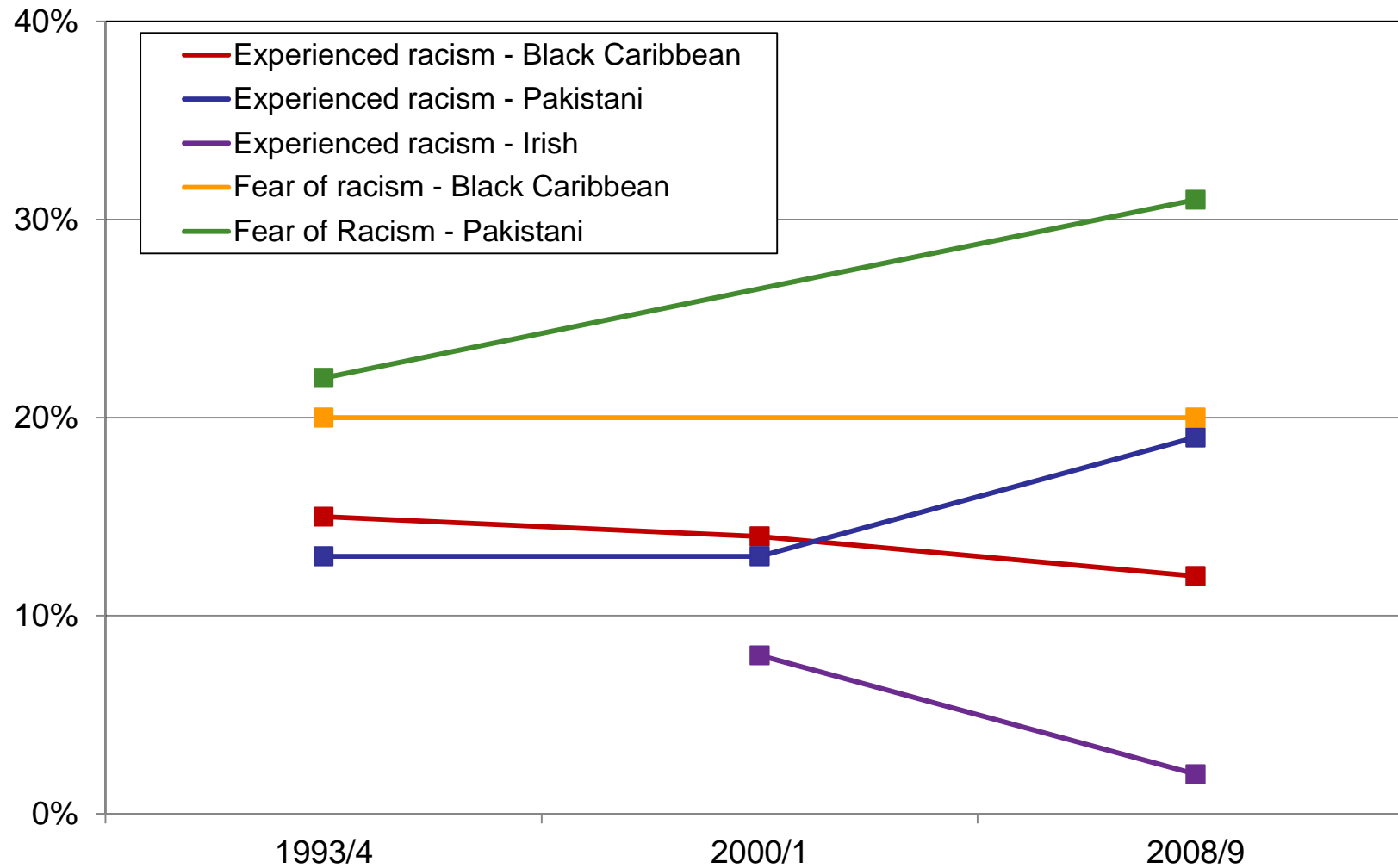
Modood *et al.* (1997)

[www.ethnicity.ac.uk](http://www.ethnicity.ac.uk)

# Changes in levels of racism

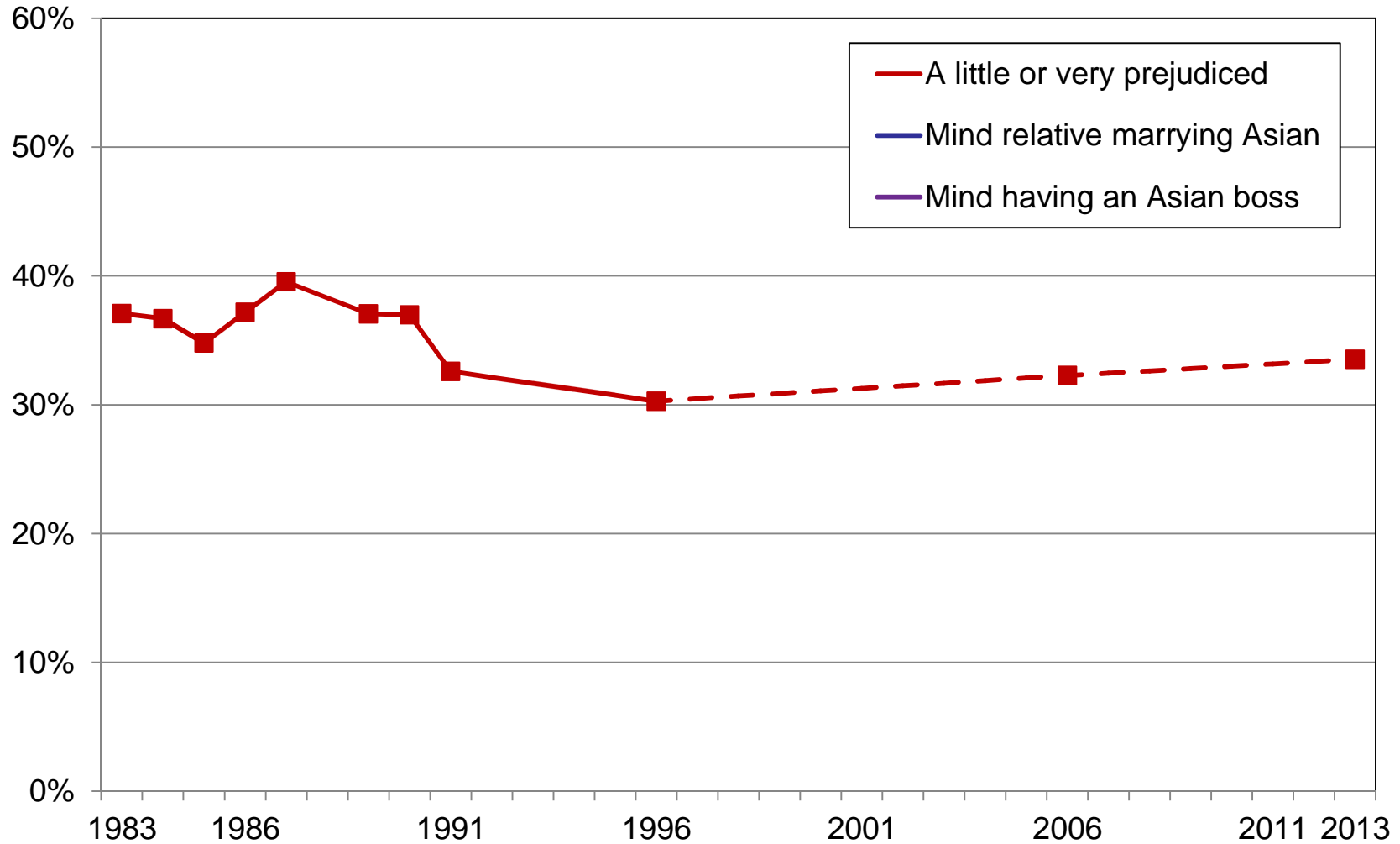


# Changes in levels of racism

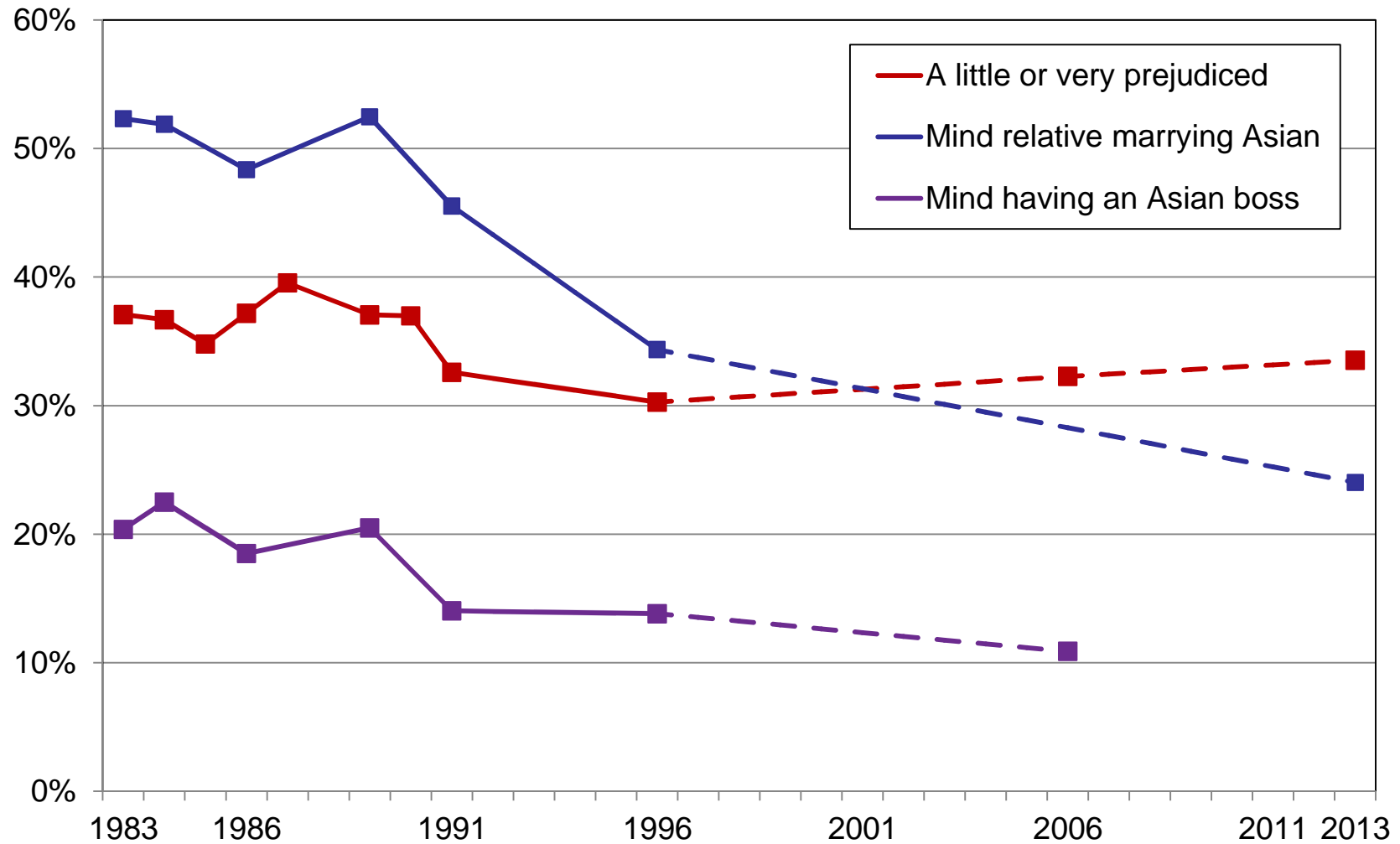




# Changes in levels of racial prejudice

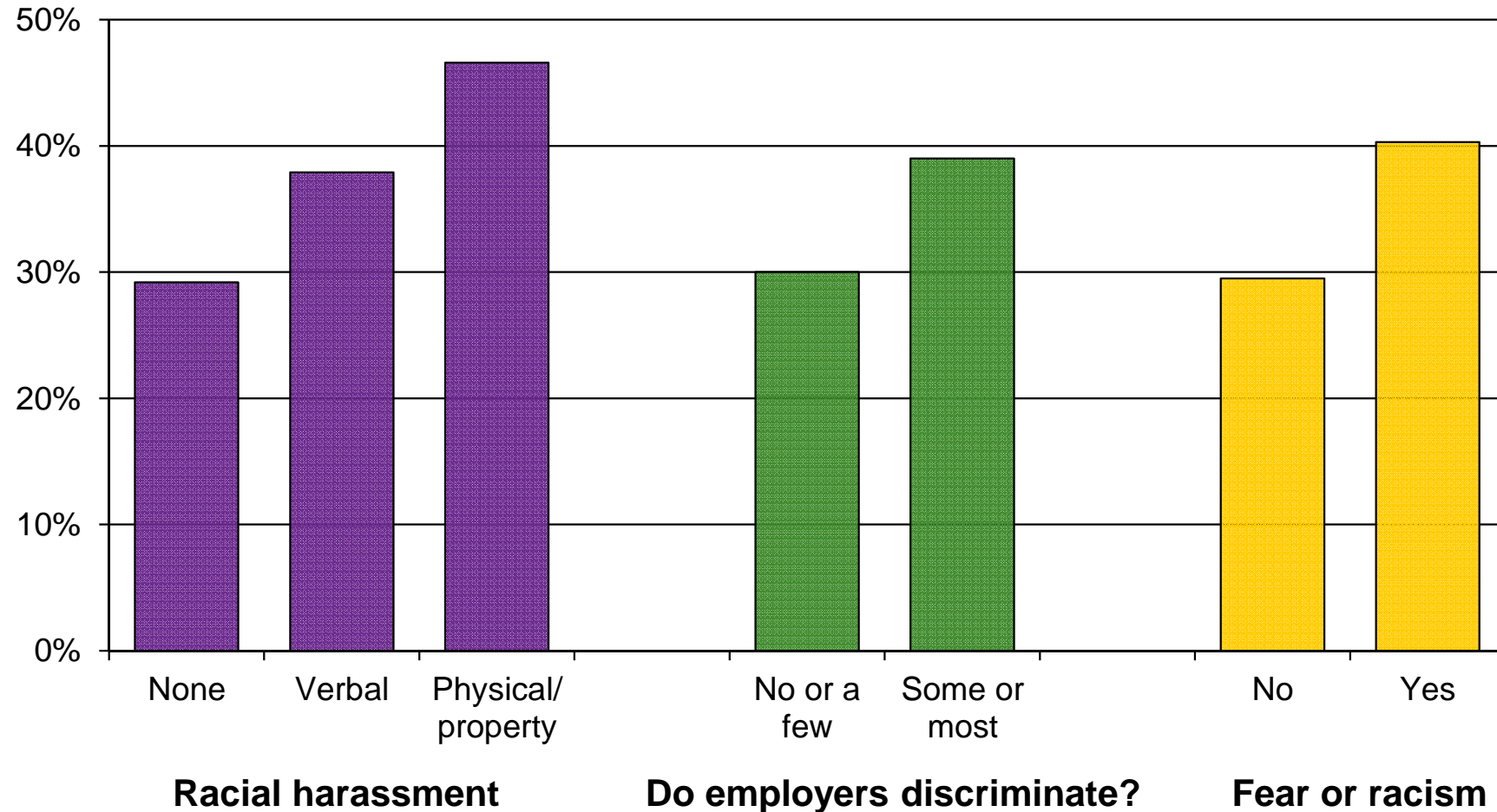


# Persisting prevalence of racial prejudice



# Racism, discrimination and health

Predicted per cent reporting fair or poor health



# Influences on quality of life: what older people say

- Income and wealth
- Health: mental and physical, coping
- Relative independence and dealing with dependency
- Support networks
- Having time
- Having a role
  - Grandparenting, caring for parents and partners;
  - Closeness to family, multigenerational households;
  - Opportunities related to the local community/neighbourhood, often channelled through ethnicity and/or religion;
  - Paid and unpaid work (significance of employment history and route into retirement).

# Pakistani man, 70s, the importance of community

I: So you go to the Mosque at 3 in the morning?

R: 3.30am ... I go and open the doors, I get there first ... At every prayer ... [the Mosque] is very close down there (inaudible) it is about five minutes. I open the doors for all five prayers.

[Later in the interview]

R: We bought [the Mosque] as a factory, there were small rooms we knocked them down and made a big hall. These others have been newly built, the land was bought and they were made but the Sufi Abdullah one (inaudible), there is one on Belgrave Road, Jammia Masjid, the one that was built first. There are many Mosques, there are many facilities the children go to read there.

I: You have started Madrasas (schools for religious education)?

R: Yes Madrasas. We have Allah's blessing every thing is very nice.

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# Pakistan man, mid 60s, the pressure of community

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I know so many people in Birmingham and there is no week without having to attend 2 or 3 weddings because they call me and if you don't go then there is no respect and they think he didn't come because of the money but they don't know your financial position, the government doesn't give you money for the weddings.

## Jamaican man, late 60s, informal work and social networks

R: And weekends I go up to the family and muck about in the garden there, help bits and pieces. I'm a handy person in that way.

I: When you say help bits and pieces do you mean...?

R: I'm a handy person, what they call a handyman. I'm quite handy really, as I say I'm a carpenter and do a bit of electrical work. Fix the washing machine and things like that. I got quite a (words indistinct) my friends have anything broken down.

I: So you go round to family and to friends and so on and do things ...

R: If they have anything wrong I'll go and fix it, keep me occupied.

## Pakistani man, aged late 60s, the importance of a place in the family

R: My role ... I'm the head of the family and decision-maker and I advise my children ...

I: ... So decisions, are those family decisions for the whole family or just the family that lives in this house?

R: No the whole thing.

I: The whole family ... In your household then what kind of decisions do you make for everybody?

R: About marriages. Or um ... (pause) Any problem if they have got.

I: Give me an example.

R: Row between husband and wife and which slowly gradually growing up and coming to the end point where there is going to be a breakdown and then the matter comes to me. And then I sort that matter out and keep going like that.



## White man, late 60s, formal work and human/social capital

R: I now work three days a month for them. For a while ... But my knowledge becomes out of date ... yeah it will fade away, I've no illusions about that. But at the moment it's great and they're paying well for it, so that's it.

I: Was that an idea you had that you wanted to stay working for a little bit of time or ...

R: Yeah. And you know also there are other people there that have done it. It's the kind of job that you can do that ... [Employers] rely on experts in part and therefore for them it's quite interesting to have someone on a retainer ... they can call in a known expert. So it's something that the company is used to doing, having people that they bring in, as opposed to having them working there full time and doing all the hard slog ...

I: And was that important to you or not to be able to do that?

R: Yeah I think it was, yeah 'cos it just took the edge off complete isolation.

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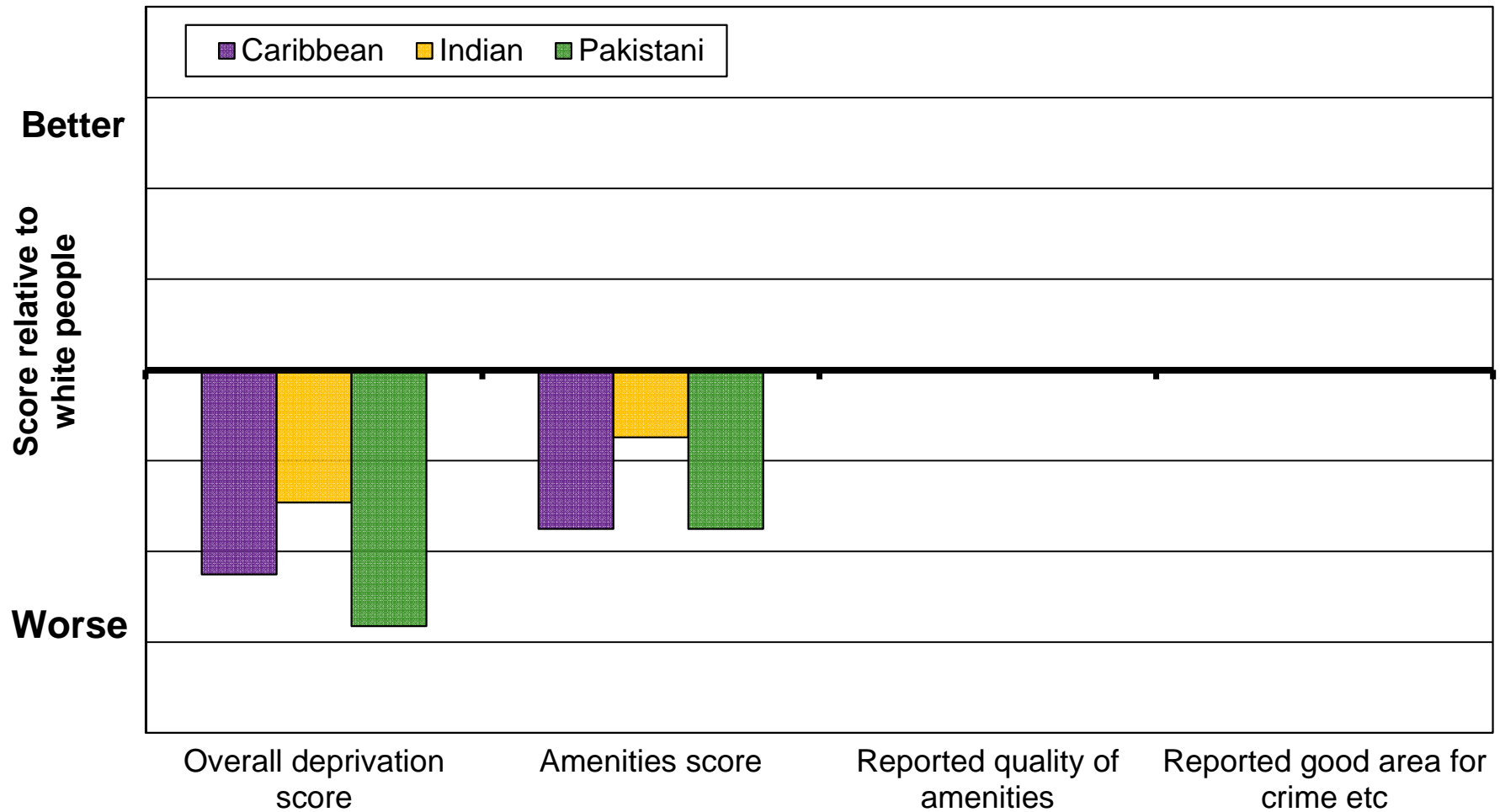
# What people say about the benefits of diverse areas

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- Help generate longstanding local social connections, because of the stability of the population in the local area and because of knowing other local residents with similar ethnic backgrounds.
- Local community centres make an important contribution to the positive character of the area.
- Having a place of worship within easy reach enables people to maintain connections with their 'community' and also provides friendship networks that last over long periods of time.
- Such areas provide opportunities for volunteering and other forms of civic engagement.

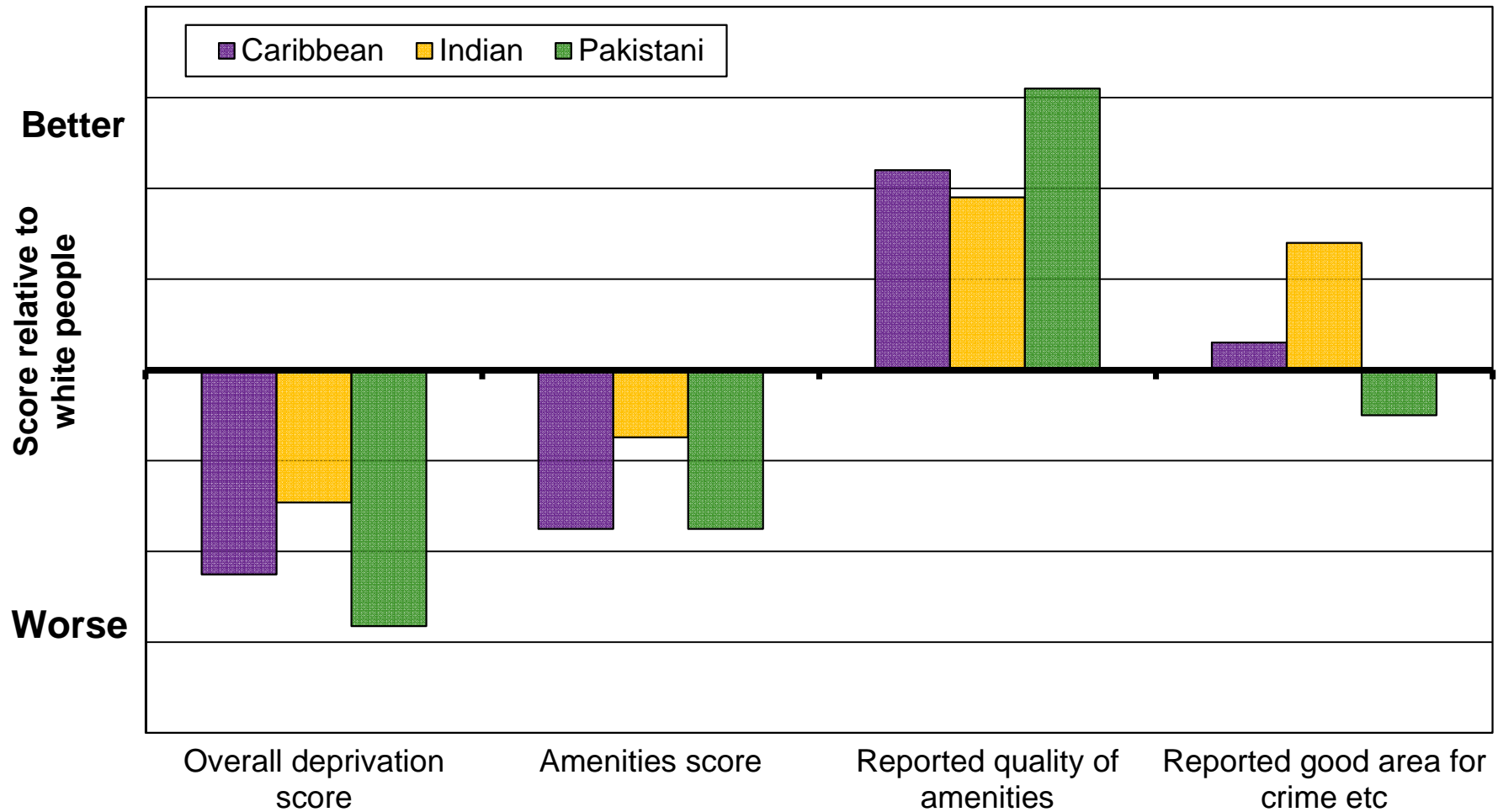
# Measured and perceived quality of local area

(those aged 45 and older)



# Measured and perceived quality of local area

(those aged 45 and older)



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# Experiences of area deprivation and diversity

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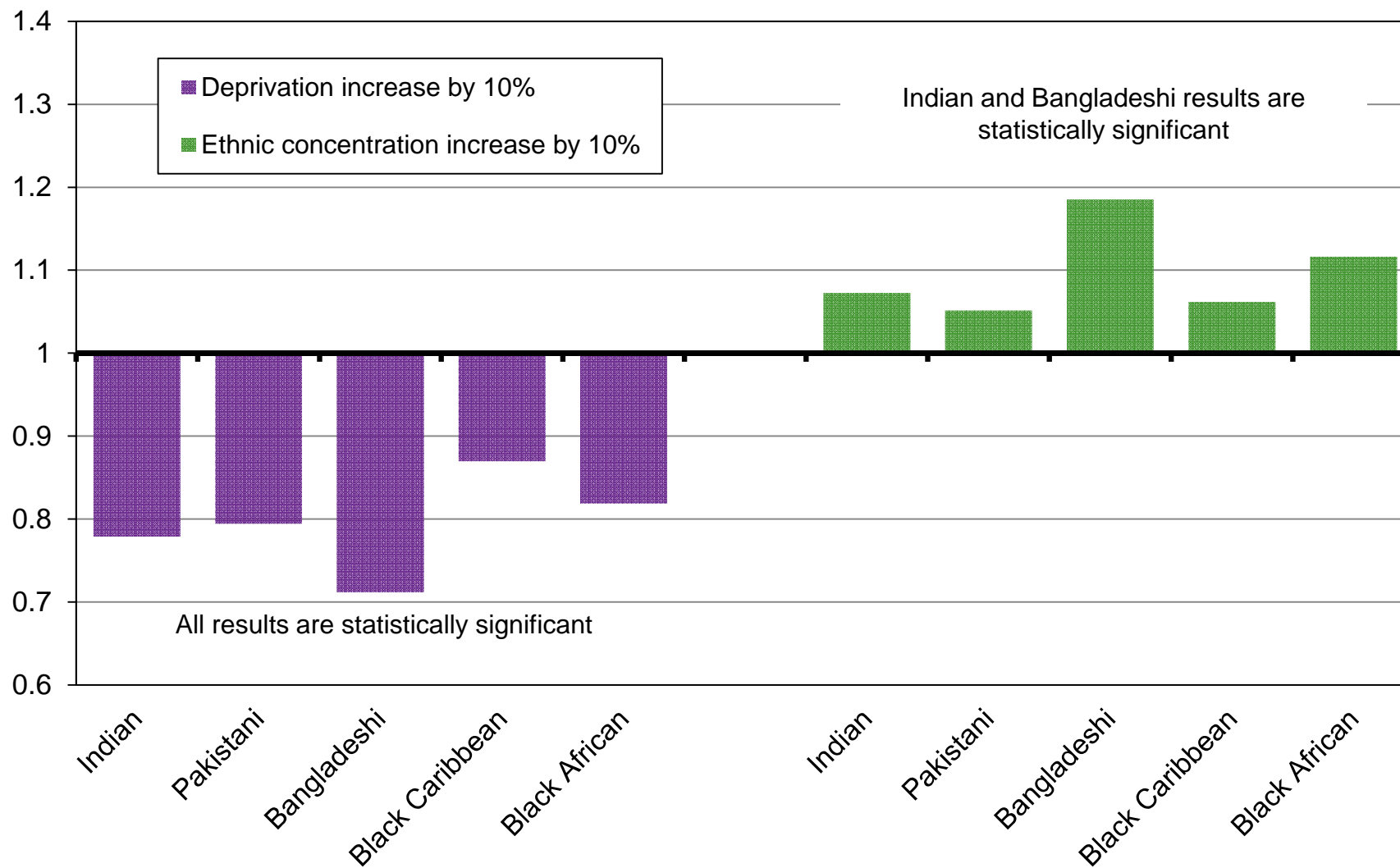
There are a lot of our people around here. No one fights, everyone is nice and friendly ... everyone is nice to me. They always say hello to me ... Yes it is all right. It is safe. There are many of our people here so it feels safe.

(Indian man in his late 60s/early 70s)

Oh yeah, we had a stabbing. And they had a shooting. Yeah. Drug related thing ... Otherwise it's not too bad ... I didn't know about the stabbing until I saw it on the telly and it was two houses from me. And the shooting thing ... I saw [friend] in the yard and I asked him what happened. And then he told me that somebody shot somebody... I thought 'Oh' ... you sort of feel scared really in it, to see something like that happen so close to home, you know.

(Caribbean woman in her mid 60s)

# Impact of deprivation and ethnic concentration on social cohesion



# Benefits of ethnic diversity for health

- There is evidence that the concentration of ethnic minority people in areas with those of similar ethnicity is beneficial, particularly for mental health.
- What might lie behind this:
  - Increased security – lower exposure to racial harassment and discrimination;
  - Maybe increased support when exposed to racism;
  - Increased practical and emotional support more generally;
  - More traditional and protective health behaviours;
  - Increased social cohesion, political mobilisation and civic involvement;
  - Stronger and more legitimised membership of the neighbourhood, characterised by the social and material fabric of the neighbourhood.

## White man, mid 60s, early retired with good pension

R: Well, we go on holiday 5, 6 times a year ... we went away for a week to Northumberland and Edinburgh, and when I'm there I can afford to buy a ticket for the Royal Tattoo, you know it's just money isn't it you know ... Then at the end of September I'm going walking in Switzerland for a couple of weeks and then ... well this year it's a bit different. My daughter's getting married at New Year, then February I'm going to Equador, so yeah I travel a lot.

I: And money makes that possible ...

R: Makes it possible yeah of course. I mean that's what I spend my money on. And certain other things, but I spend it on holidays 'cos that's what I like to do.



## White man, mid 70s, interviewed with his wife

R: I enjoy driving that's all there's to it ... Like as I say it's a bit rough at the moment with the cost of petrol and all that but we like to ... that's our pleasure getting around.

W: We only can go out say once fortnight or a month now, can't we?

R: If we can keep the car moving we're quite happy ... we bomb off to a different town nearly every week. When it's good weather we'll do over the mountain way to Aberystwyth and up round the dams (Laughs) some people think we're a bit crazy ... In the winter and that we're just the same, we go off out and ... the car's warm.

W: It's warmer in the car than in here because we can't afford to have our central heating on all the time, can we ... ?

R: It don't matter who you vote for or what you vote for but anybody who votes for this lot who's got a car must be mentally deficient because that's out of all sense and reason what they've done to it. If you work out what you're paying ... for blooming petrol.

# Conclusions

- Marked ethnic inequalities in later life: health, income, economic activity, etc.
- Evidence of accumulation of disadvantage across the life course: inequalities grow as people get older.
- Evidence of intergenerational continuities of disadvantage: UK born and more recent generations face similar levels of inequality – but the possibilities of educational mobility.
- Persisting climate of prejudice and racism.
- Importance of meaningful social roles to provide valued identities.
- Importance of place and belonging, being part of and shaping communities.
- But, at a micro level, issues of identity, belonging, lack of connection, isolation, or loneliness, are not the issues driving ethnic inequalities.
- Rather, discrimination, racism, poverty and area deprivation are key.

# Reflecting on policy

- There has been little development of policy to specifically address ethnic inequalities in later life, with no real evaluation of the impact of policies related to ageing on ethnic inequalities.
- But not a policy vacuum, there are clear policies around identity, culture, community, segregation and migration, all of which are likely to impact negatively on ethnic minority groups.
- And it is likely that ethnic minority people are being disproportionately impacted on by public sector retrenchment (austerity measures).
- As are poorer older people.
- In fact, the evidence base strongly suggests that policy development should focus on the social and economic inequalities faced by older ethnic minority people, rather than aggravate them.
- We need policies that promote equitable life chances and that address racism and the marginalisation of older people with ethnic minority backgrounds.

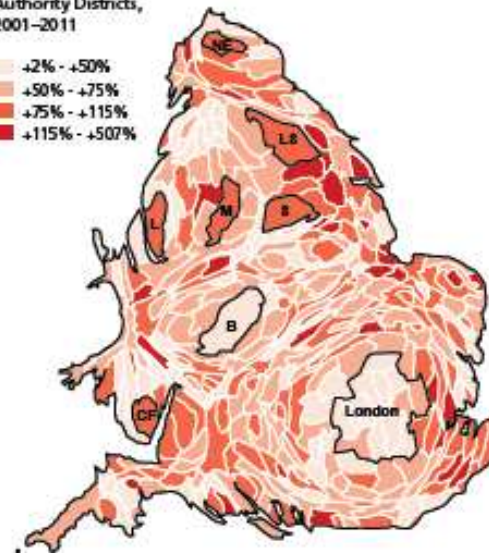
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Visit our website for analysis of the latest data  
on ethnic inequalities in the UK

Topics covered include

- Ethnic diversity
- Neighbourhood segregation
- National identity
- Education
- Employment
- Health
- Housing
- Deprivation
- Language
- Ethnic population growth
- Changes in ethnic identities
- Counting immigrant populations

Change in ethnic  
diversity in Local  
Authority Districts,  
2001-2011



Cartogram of Local Authorities, with Inner London and other principal cities marked:

Manchester (M), Liverpool (L), Sheffield (S), Newcastle upon Tyne (NE), Birmingham (B), Leeds (LS), and Cardiff (CF)

Sources: the 2011 Censuses (Crown Copyright). Map base: Bethan Thomas.