

Well-being of Wales 2023: Ethnicity and Well-being



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Foreword by the Chief Statistician

In recent years we have published a supplementary report alongside the regular Wellbeing of Wales report in order to explore an aspect of wellbeing in more depth. This year's supplementary report focuses on ethnicity and wellbeing.

Data from Census 2021 showed that Wales is becoming more ethnically diverse. In its Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan, the Welsh Government has committed to make Wales an anti-racist nation. Throughout the development of the Action Plan, the availability of data and evidence was a recurring theme. This supplementary report therefore aims to bring together existing evidence in order to explore progress towards the well-being goals for different ethnic groups. Statistical reports like this are one part of the evidence base and alongside other sources of evidence (including lived experience) this report will hopefully act as a useful tool to inform the longer-term evaluation of the plan.

This supplementary report is structured slightly differently to the main Wellbeing of Wales report. This report in its entirety is about progress towards the goal of A More Equal Wales: "a society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances". Therefore a dedicated chapter on this goal has not been included. There is also no chapter on A Resilient Wales as the national indicators for this goal are based on the physical environment rather than people, so none of the national indicator data relevant to this goal are available by ethnicity. Instead, the assessment in this report focuses on progress towards goals related to prosperity, health, communities, culture and global responsibility.

This report goes further than we have before in presenting data on national wellbeing indicators by ethnicity, but it is not a consistent picture across all 50 indicators. For some indicators, it is possible to provide relatively detailed insight for different ethnic groups. For other indicators, data is limited to two or three high-level ethnic groups only, which will likely hide differences between groups within these high-level categories. And for some indicators there is no ethnicity breakdown at all. In addition, small survey samples often mean it is not possible to detect genuine differences between ethnic groups. It is not enough to simply acknowledge these limitations. We must consider how we can continue to improve this picture. The Race Disparity Evidence Unit, established in 2022, is playing a key role in leading improved

availability and quality of evidence related to race and ethnicity, as set out in their [strategy and list of priority work areas](#). This includes research into what works for tackling barriers related to collecting data on ethnicity.

A note on terminology

The Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan acknowledges that there is no one single term that all could agree on to describe the diversity of groups from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds.

In producing this report we have also come across a lack of consistency in the terminology used among the wide range of data sources that we have drawn from. We have looked to use the same language in this report as was used in the original data collection, so that we are reflecting as best we can how people will have described themselves in those statistics. This means that the names of ethnic groups used throughout this report varies from source-to-source.

Main Points

- In 2021/22 the gap between White British pupils and Black, Asian and minority ethnic pupils widened at grade ranges A* to A and A* to C, with Black, Asian and minority ethnic pupils achieving better outcomes than White British pupils. The gap at A* to G was negligible.
- In 2022, a very similar proportion of working age adults in Wales who reported their ethnicity as White (including White minorities) or from Black, Asian or Minority ethnic groups were qualified to level 3 or higher (65.6% compared to 65.7%).
- The percentage of adults with two or more healthy behaviours was highest amongst those from an Asian or Asian British ethnic group (97%) and was lowest amongst those from a White or Mixed or multiple ethnic group (90% and 88% respectively, although due to uncertainties due to the size of the sample these were only statistically significant compared to those from a White ethnic group).
- There were no significant differences in the overall Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS) score between the combined groups Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic; White Irish, Gypsy, Irish Traveller or another White background; and White Welsh, English, Scottish or Northern Irish.
- A lower percentage of people from the group White Irish, Gypsy, Irish Traveller or another White background agreed that they belong to their local area compared with people from the White Welsh, English, Scottish or Northern Irish group.. There are no significant differences between the Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic group and the other two ethnic groups, except in 2021-22 when the percentage for that group was significantly lower than for the White Welsh, English, Scottish or Northern Irish group.
- In both 2018-19 and 2021-22, the percentage of people who agree with the statement that they can influence decisions affecting their local area was significantly higher for both the White Irish, Gypsy, Irish Traveller or another White background group, and for Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic groups compared with the White Welsh, English, Scottish or Northern Irish group.
- In the most recent year, Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic adults had the highest rate of regular sport participation, at 47%.

- The percentage of people able to speak Welsh fell in both the White and the Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups. In contrast, there were small percentage increases in the Asian, Asian Welsh or Asian British ethnic group; in the Black, Black Welsh, Black British, Caribbean or African ethnic group; and in the Other ethnic group.
- People from combined minority ethnic groups, White (Irish, Gypsy, Irish Traveller or another White background) and Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic were more likely to disagree it was sometimes necessary to smack a child (66%). This compared to 58% of people from the White (Welsh, English, Scottish or Northern Irish) ethnic group. There was no significant difference between the combined minority ethnic groups and the White (Welsh, English, Scottish or Northern Irish) ethnic group when looking at the percentage who agreed it was necessary.

A Prosperous Wales

Authors: Jonathan Price and Sue Leake

An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.

Attainment in schools and further education

Children from some ethnic groups continue to achieve better on average in school compared to others, with greater proportions of GCSE entries by Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic pupils awarded A*-A and A*-C grades in summer 2022 than White British pupils.

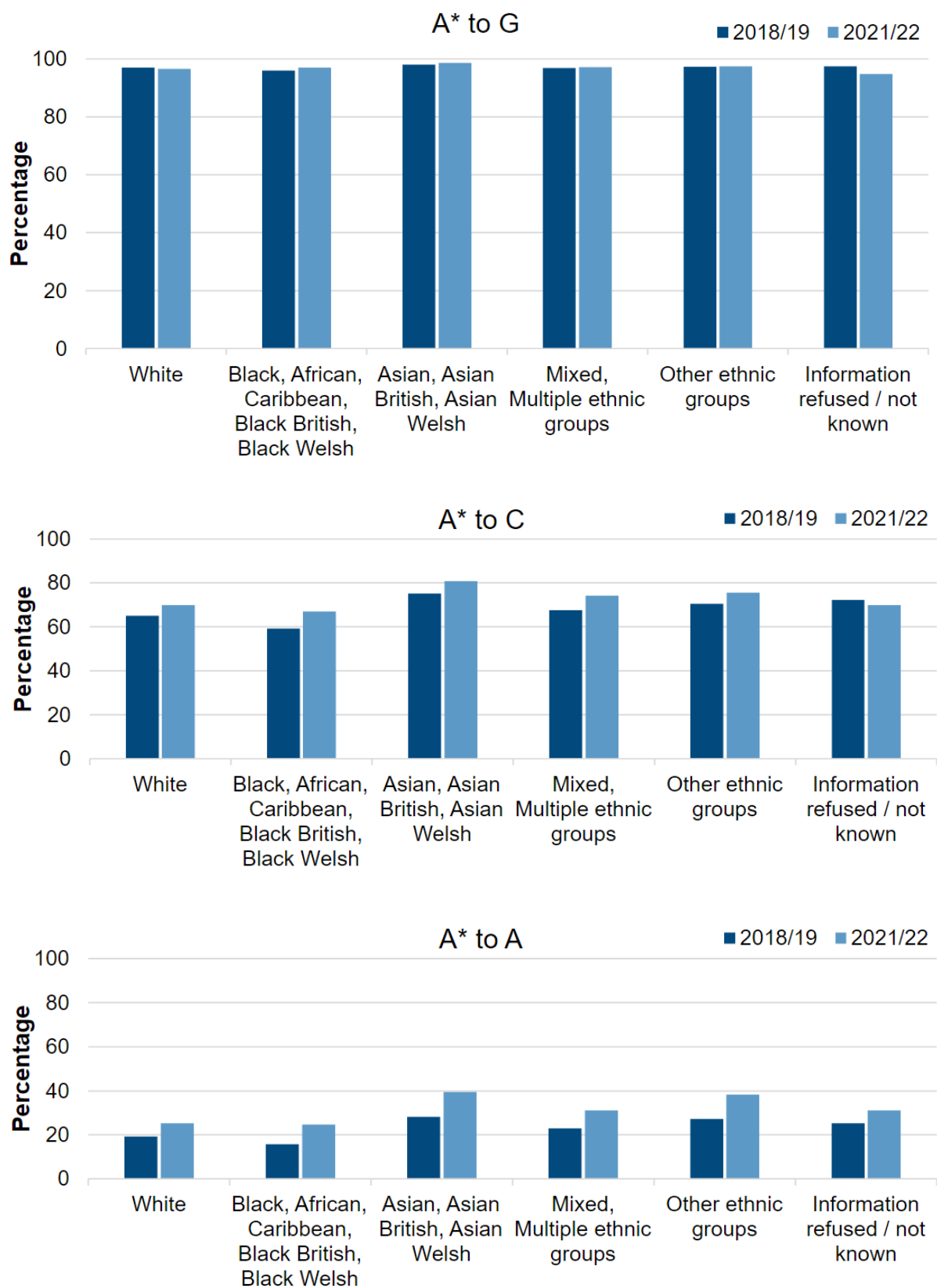
In 2021/22 the gap between White British pupils and Black, Asian and minority ethnic pupils widened at grade ranges A* to A and A* to C, with Black, Asian and minority ethnic pupils achieving better outcomes than White British pupils. The gap at A* to G was negligible.

Pupils with an Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh background achieved the highest outcomes at GCSE, with 39.4% of entries achieving A* to A

Within this high-level ethnic group, pupils with an Indian background achieved the highest outcomes at GCSE, with 57.8% of entries achieving A* to A.

Whilst a smaller proportion of pupils from a Black, African, Caribbean, Black British or Black Welsh background achieve grade ranges A* to C, the difference between these pupils and pupils from other ethnic backgrounds has reduced in 2021/22.

Figure 1.1: Percentage of Year 11 GCSE entries achieving grade range by broad ethnic group and academic year, Wales, 2018/19 and 2021/22 [Note 1]



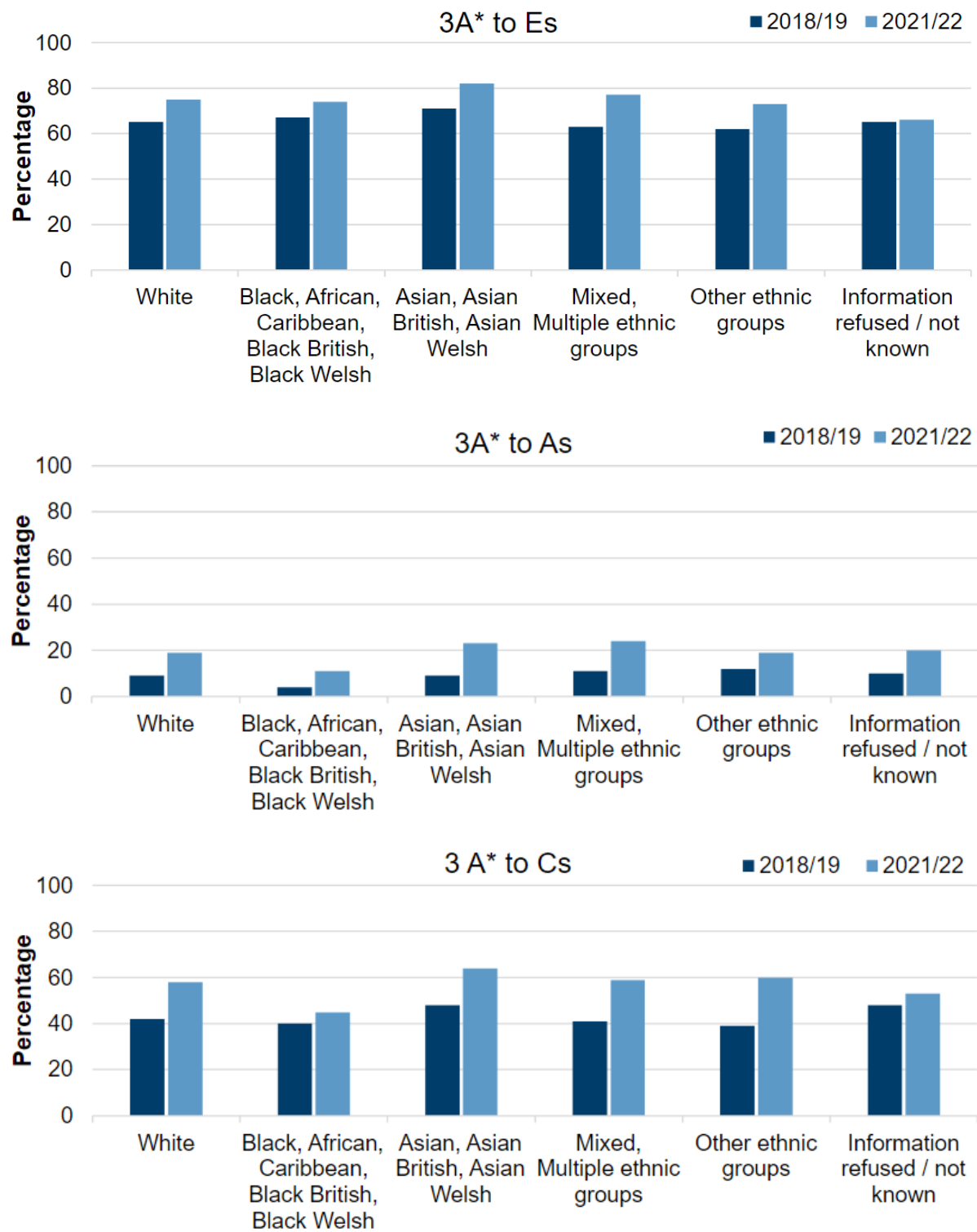
Description of Figure 1.1: Three bar charts, one each for grades A* to A, A* to C, and A* to G, showing that Year 11 pupils awarded GCSEs across all ethnic backgrounds had higher grades in 2021/22 than in 2018/19, but this was less true for White pupils. Pupils with Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh backgrounds had the highest outcomes at GCSE.

Source: Welsh Examinations Database

[Note 1] Does not include qualifications that use the 9-1 grading system used in England.

At A level, results for 2021/22 academic year show that learners across all backgrounds had higher grades in 2021/22 than in 2018/19, but this was less true for learners with Black, African, Caribbean, Black British or Black Welsh backgrounds. Learners with Asian, Asian British, Asian Welsh backgrounds had the highest outcomes.

Figure 1.2: Two-year achievement measures at A level by broad ethnic group and academic year, Wales, August 2021 to July 2022 [Note 1]



Description of Figure 1.2: A bar chart that shows that learners across all backgrounds had higher grades in 2021/22 than in 2018/19, but this was less true for learners with Black, African, Caribbean, Black British, or Black Welsh backgrounds. Learners with Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh backgrounds had the highest outcomes.

Source: Consistent performance measures for post-16 learning (achievement) August 2021 to July 2022.

[Note 1] includes outcomes for learners in sixth forms and colleges undertaking courses in general education (A levels).

A large inequality gap opened up for A level learners with Black, African, Caribbean, Black British or Black Welsh backgrounds. 58% of A level learners went on to get at least three 3 Cs in 2021/22, but only 45% of learners with Black, African, Caribbean, Black British or Black Welsh backgrounds did. This gap was much smaller before the pandemic in 2018/19. Across all ethnic backgrounds, the percentage of learners achieving at least three Cs was 16 percentage points higher than before the pandemic. It was 5 percentage points higher for learners with Black, African, Caribbean, Black British or Black Welsh backgrounds.

Summary data on absenteeism from school during the COVID-19 pandemic indicates that all main ethnic groups saw an increase in absence rates during the pandemic, but that pre-pandemic patterns of absence by ethnic group continued. Absence was highest amongst Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller pupils and lowest amongst pupils from a Chinese background.

Qualification levels

In 2022 an estimated 8.3% of all working age adults in Wales (aged 18 to 64 years) reported having no qualifications, whilst 43.3% had at least level 4 qualifications (equivalent to a degree or higher apprenticeship). The source of this data (Annual Population Survey, APS) does not allow for a breakdown by detailed ethnic group but does provide information for very broad ethnic groups. The results indicate that working age adults from ethnic minorities (excluding White minorities) are more likely

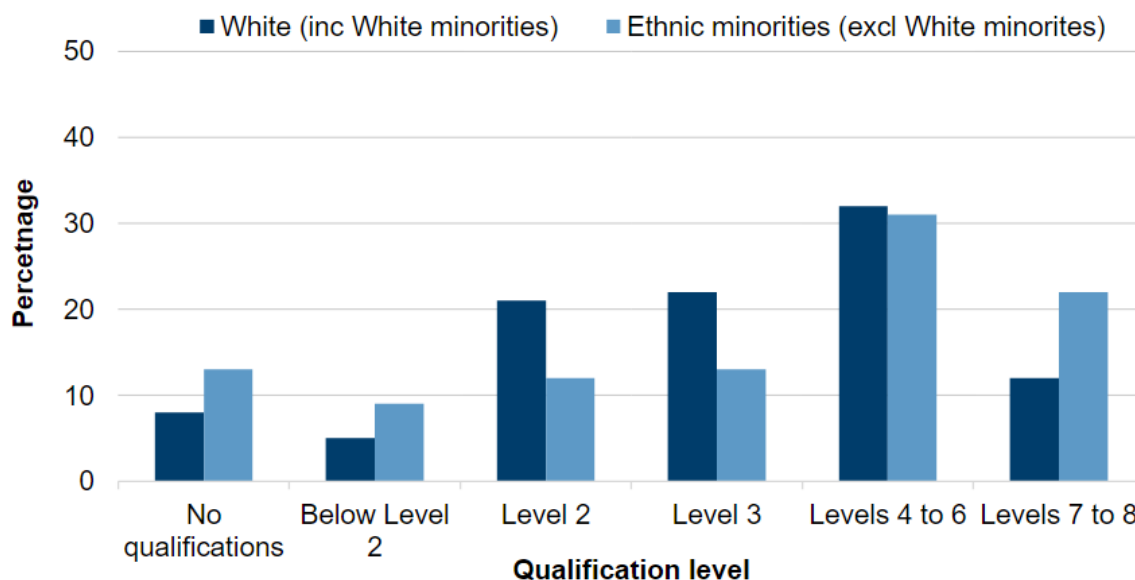
to have qualifications at level 4 or above (and in particular at level 7 or 8, higher degrees) than White working age adults but also more likely to have no qualifications.

There are two national milestones relating to highest qualifications. One of the national milestones on qualifications is that 75% of working age adults in Wales will be qualified to level 3 or higher by 2050. The other national milestone on qualifications relates to the percentage of working age adults with no qualifications.

In 2022, a very similar proportion of working age adults in Wales who reported their ethnicity as White (including White minorities) or from Black, Asian or Minority ethnic groups were qualified to level 3 or higher (65.6% compared to 65.7%).

This pattern may be impacted by the age profiles of different ethnic groups. Older adults are more likely to have no qualifications than younger adults and the age profile of many ethnic minority groups is younger than the White (including White minorities) population.

Figure 1.3: Highest level of qualification held by adults of working age (18 to 64 years), by ethnic group, 2022 [Note 1]



Description of Figure 1.3: Working age adults from ethnic minorities (excluding White minorities) are more likely to hold qualifications at levels 7 and 8 than White

(including White minorities) working age adults but are also more likely to have no qualifications and qualifications below level 2.

Source: Welsh Government Analysis of Annual Population Survey, Office for National Statistics

[Note 1] People in full-time education have been excluded to remove the impact of international students in higher education in Wales and thus inflate the proportion with Level 3+ qualifications.

The Census 2021 asked usual residents of Wales aged 16 or over to record the qualifications they had achieved. This was used to calculate the highest level of qualification. The census can provide analysis for more detailed ethnic groups. However, census statistics on qualification levels are not comparable to those from the APS. As well as the different data collection modes, the census statistics are based on all usual residents aged 16 and over whereas those from the APS are based on working age adults (aged 18 to 64).

In 2021 people within the “Asian, Asian Welsh or Asian British” high-level ethnic group were the most likely to report a qualification at Level 4 or above (43.9%) whilst those in the high-level “White” ethnic group were the least likely (31.0%).

People within the high-level “Other ethnic group” were the most likely to hold no qualifications (24.7%), with those in the high-level “Black, Black Welsh, Black British, African or Caribbean” (14.5%) and “Mixed or multiple ethnic groups” (15.2%) the least likely.

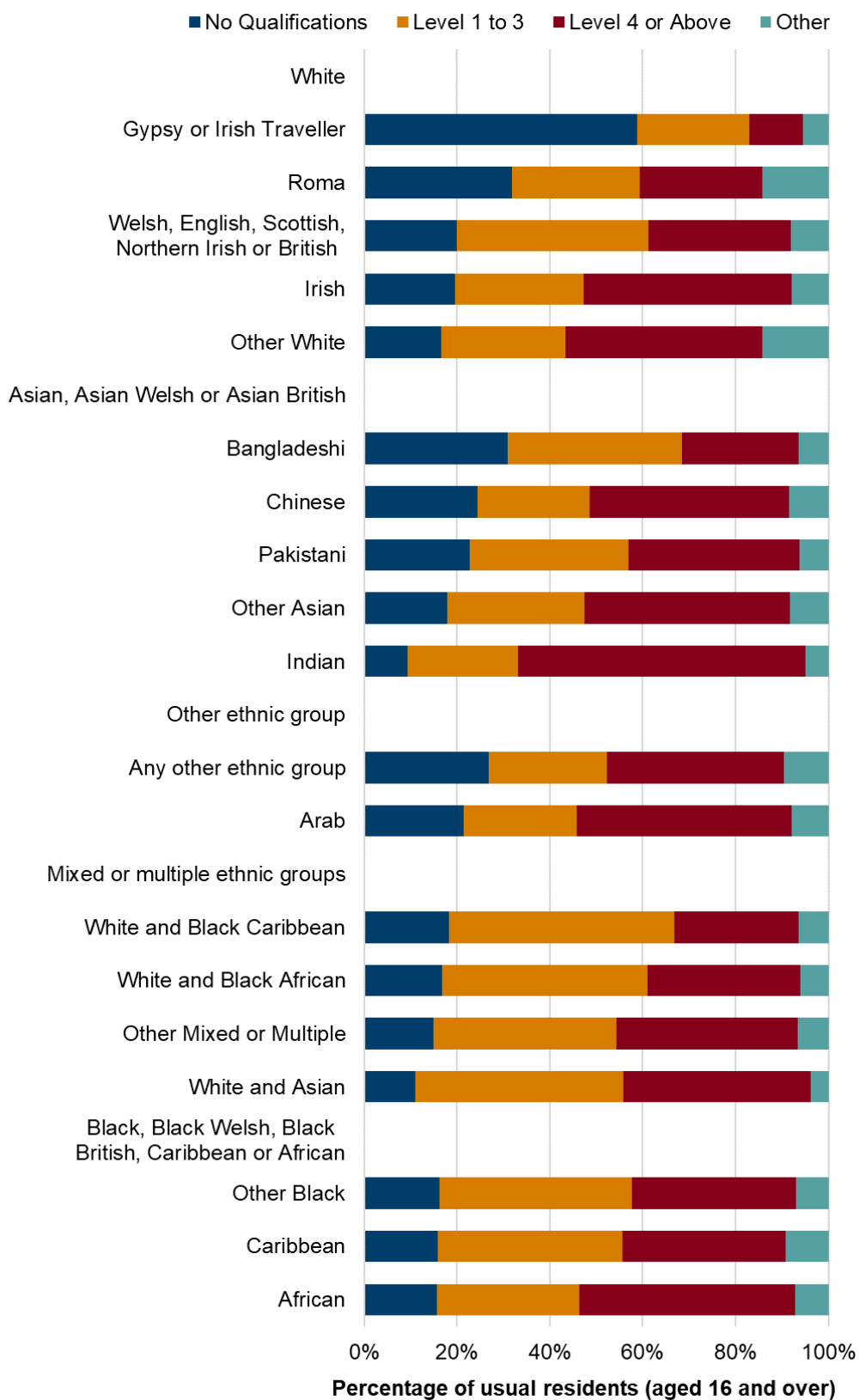
Within the more detailed ethnic groups, people who identified as “White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller” were the most likely to hold no qualifications (58.8%) and the least likely to hold qualifications at Level 4 or above (11.5%).

Just under a third of people who identified as “White: Roma” (31.8%) and “Asian, Asian Welsh or Asian British: Bangladeshi” (30.9%) held no qualifications.

People who identified as “Indian” (61.9%), “Arab” (46.3%) or “Black, Black Welsh, Black British: African” (46.4%), were the most likely to hold qualifications at Level 4 or above. Other ethnic groups with high levels of Level 4 qualifications included

“White: Irish” (44.7%), “Other Asian” (44.3%) and “Asian, Asian Welsh or Asian British: Chinese” (42.9%).

Figure 1.4: Ethnic groups by highest qualification level, for those aged 16 and over, Wales, 2021 [Note 1]



Description of Figure 1.4: A bar chart which shows the proportion of usual residents in Wales aged 16 and over within each ethnic group who fell into each of the four categories which represented their highest qualification level. People who identified as “White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller” were the most likely to hold no qualifications and the least likely to hold qualifications at Level 4 or above. People who identified as “Indian”, “Arab” or “Black, Black Welsh, Black British: African” were the most likely to hold qualifications at Level 4 or above.

Source: Census 2021

[Note 1] Apprenticeships are included within the “Other” category.

Poverty and deprivation

Households in which the head of household was from a Black, Asian or minority ethnic group were more likely to be in relative income poverty than those with a head of household from a White ethnic group.

For the period 2017-18 to 2021-22, there was a 40% likelihood of people whose head of household comes from a Black, Asian or minority ethnic group living in relative income poverty. This compares to a 22% likelihood for those whose head of household comes from a White ethnic group. However, because the vast majority of households in Wales have a head who is from a White ethnic group, most people (96%) who were living in relative income poverty were from such households.

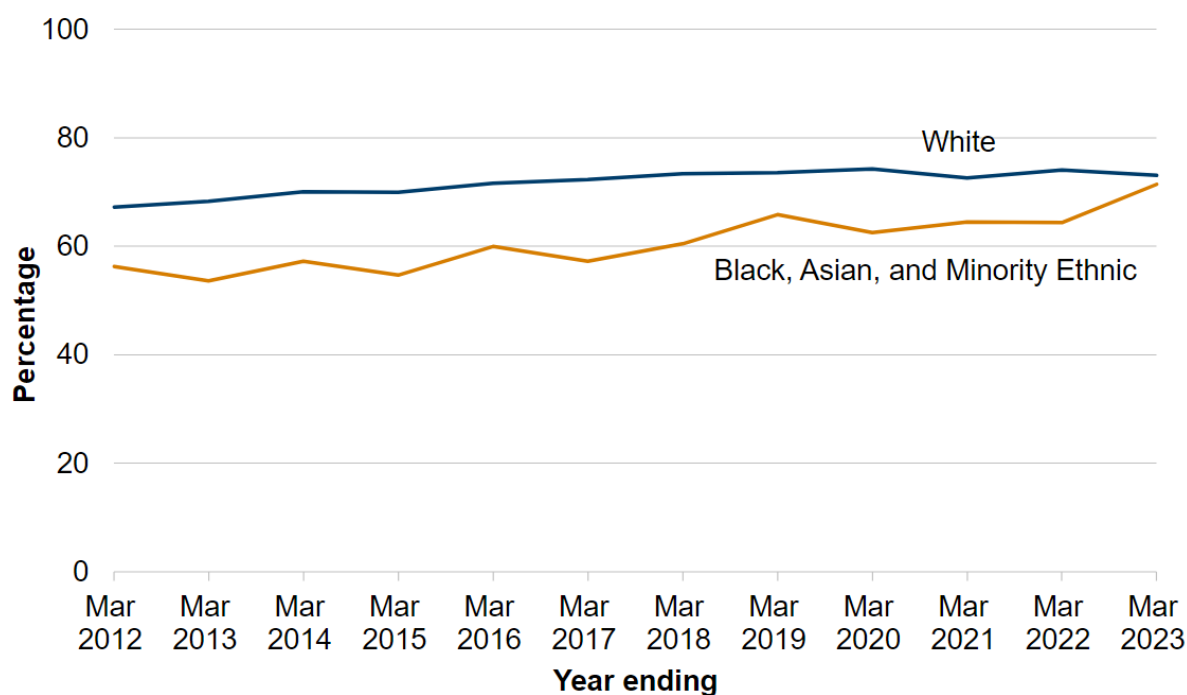
A higher proportion of adults from a Black, Asian or Minority ethnic group reported being in material deprivation (that is not being able to afford basic things like keeping the house warm) (25%) in 2022-23 than White adults (15%). Adults from an ethnic minority are also less likely to say that they are keeping up with all bills and commitments without any difficulties (54%) compared to White adults (63%).

Fair work and earnings

Economic activity

In 2022-23, the employment rate for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people aged 16 to 64 in Wales was 71.4%, an increase of 7.0 percentage points on the previous year. The employment rate for White people was 73.1%, a 0.9 percentage point decrease over the year. Note that in the Labour Force survey (the source of this data) respondents are asked what they consider to be their ethnic origin. The White category includes White – Welsh/English/Scottish/Northern Ireland/British and any other White background including Gypsy and Irish Travellers.

Figure 1.5: Employment rate for people aged 16 to 64 by ethnicity, year ending March 2012 to March 2023 [Note 1]



Description of Figure 1.5: A line chart showing the employment rate for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people aged 16 to 64 and White people aged 16-64 has generally increased since the year ending March 2012. Over the last three years (since the start of the coronavirus pandemic) the rate has been slightly more volatile for both groups. The employment rate for White people has remained higher than the rate for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people since the year ending March 2012.

Source: Annual Population Survey, April 2022 to March 2023, Office for National Statistics

[Note 1] Chart axis does not start at zero.

The unemployment rate for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people aged 16 and over in Wales was 6.6% more than double the rate for White people but a decrease of 2.8 percentage points on the previous year. The unemployment rate for White people was 3.1%, a 0.4 percentage point decrease over the year. Please note the data the unemployment rate for Black, Asian and minority Ethnic people shows particularly high volatility due to small sample sizes.

In the last few years, the employment rate for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people has increased at a higher rate than that of White people and the unemployment rate has reduced more.

The Census 2021 asked usual residents aged 16 and over questions about their economic activity status and can provide an indication of differences in economic activity for more detailed ethnic groups at that time. Note, however, that Census 2021 took place during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. As a result of the pandemic, the UK government had introduced furlough measures to ensure those who could not work were able to remain in employment. When completing the Census 2021 form, people on furlough were advised to say that they were temporarily away from work, as were those who were quarantining or self-isolating because of the pandemic. The number of people who were economically inactive might be higher than anticipated as it is possible that some people on furlough may have identified as economically inactive, instead of temporarily away from work. There are some differences between Census 2021 data on employment and data based on the Labour Force Survey. These differences are explained in the article [Comparing Census 2021 and Labour Force Survey estimates of the labour market, England and Wales](#), produced by the Office for National Statistics.

In the Census, the “White” high-level ethnic group had the highest proportion of usual residents aged 16 to 64 who were employees (59.8%), followed by “Mixed or multiple ethnic groups” (49.6%).

Self-employed status was highest amongst people within the “Asian, Asian Welsh or Asian British” high-level ethnic group (10.2%) and lowest amongst people within the “Black, Black Welsh, Black British, African or Caribbean” ethnic group (7.5%).

People within the “Black, Black Welsh, Black British, African or Caribbean” high-level ethnic group were the most likely to be unemployed (9.9%), whilst people within the “White” high-level ethnic group were the least likely (3.9%).

People (aged 16 to 64 years) within the high-level “Other ethnic group” were the most likely to be economically inactive (46.5%) and people within the high-level “White” group were the least likely (26.6%).

There was wide variation in employee status between individual ethnic groups. The ethnic groups with the highest percentage of employees were “Other White” (64.7%), “White: Welsh, English, Scottish, Northern Irish or British” (59.6%), “White: Irish” (59.5%) and “Asian, Asian Welsh or Asian British: Indian” (56.5%). The ethnic groups with the lowest percentage of employees were “White: Gypsy and Irish Traveller” (22.4%) and “Arab” (28.5%).

There was less variation in self-employed status between ethnic groups. The groups with the highest percentage of self-employed individuals were “Asian, Asian Welsh or Asian British: Pakistani” (13.2%), “White: Gypsy and Irish Traveller” (11.5%) and “Any other ethnic group” (11.4%). The groups with the lowest percentage of self-employed individuals were “Arab” (6.0%), “Black, Black Welsh, Black British: African” (7.1%) and “Mixed or multiple ethnicities: White and Black African” (7.2%).

People who identified as “Black, Black Welsh, Black British: African” were the most likely to be unemployed (11.0%). The ethnic groups least likely to be unemployed were “Asian, Asian Welsh or Asian British: Chinese” (3.4%), “White: Welsh, English, Scottish, Northern Irish or British” (3.9%), “White: Irish” (4.1%) and “White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller” (4.4%).

The ethnic groups most likely to be economically inactive (in the age group 16 to 64) were “White: Gypsy and Irish Traveller” (61.7%) and “Arab” (57.9%). The least likely were “Other White” (20.7%), “White: Irish” (25.5%) and “White: Welsh, English, Scottish, Northern Irish or British” (26.8%).

Ethnicity pay difference

In 2022, the ethnicity pay difference in Wales was £2.23 (or 16.8%). This means that Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic employees in Wales earned, on average £2.23 less per hour than White employees. The pay difference has widened by £1.38 (9.9 percentage points) compared to the previous year which has been caused by a decrease of £0.44 in average hourly earnings for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic employees in addition to an increase of £0.94 in average hourly earnings for White employees.

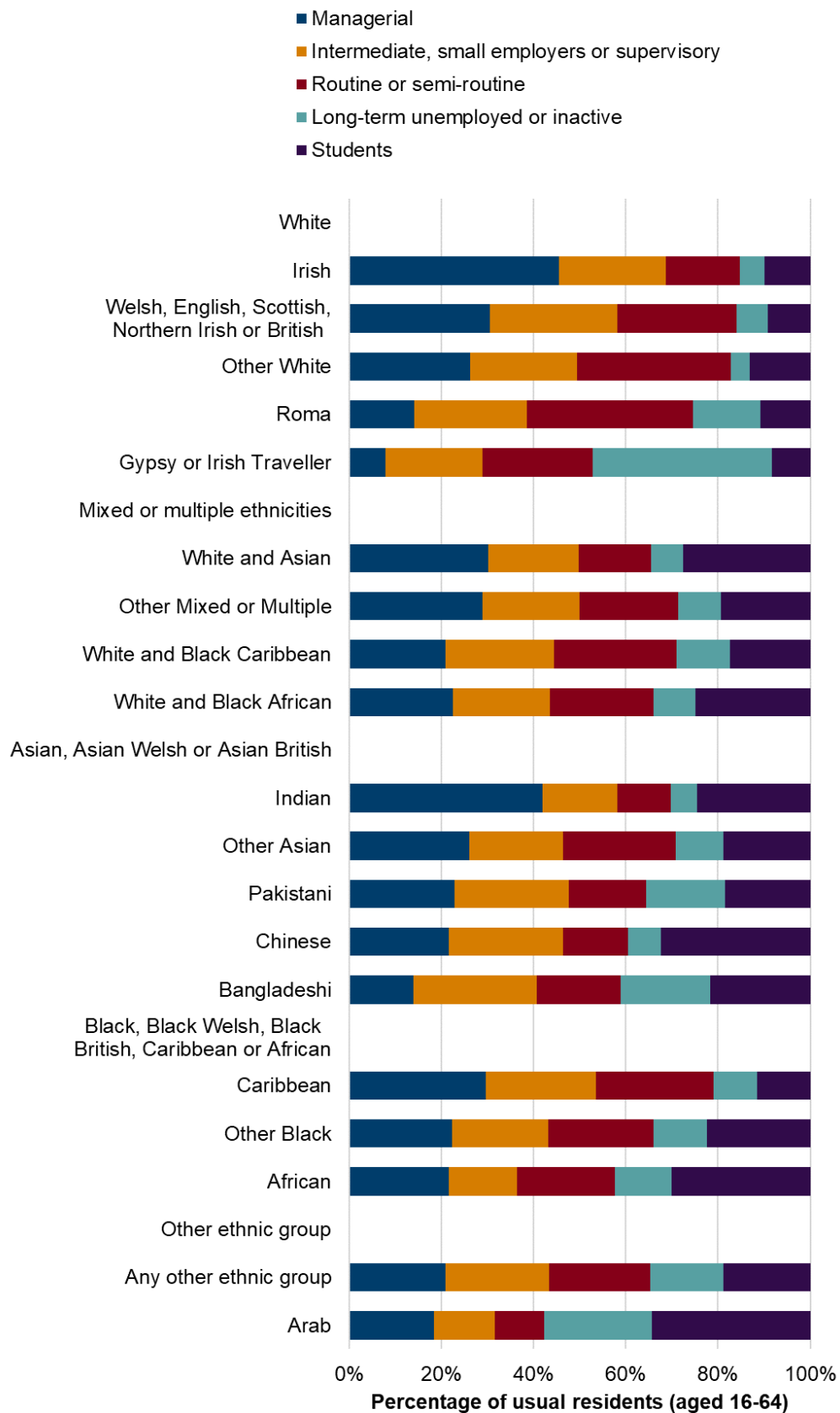
Due to the high volatility in the data for the ethnicity pay difference in Wales, short-term changes should be considered alongside longer-term trends where possible. Since 2019, the ethnicity pay difference has seen an overall increase where average hourly earnings for White employees have gradually increased and average hourly earnings for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic employees have remained relatively stable.

Socio-economic status

The National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) provides an indication of socio-economic position, based on responses to economic activity status, occupation and employment history questions in Census 2021.

There are 9 different NS-SEC categories, which have been condensed into 5 “high-level” categories for this analysis.

Figure 1.6: Ethnic groups by socio-economic status, for those aged 16-64, Wales, 2021



Description of Figure 1.6: A bar chart which shows the proportions of usual residents (aged 16 to 64) within each ethnic group who fell into each of the five socio-economic categories. People who identified as “Asian, Asian Welsh or Asian British: Indian” or “White: Irish” were the most likely of any group to report “Managerial” socio-economic status. People who identified as “White: Roma”, “Mixed or multiple ethnic groups: White and Black Caribbean” and “Other White” were the most likely to hold routine or semi-routine socio-economic status. People who identified as “Arab”, “Asian, Asian Welsh or Asian British: Chinese” or “Black, Black Welsh, Black British, African or Caribbean: African” were the most likely to report that they were students.

Source: Census 2021

Usual residents (aged 16 to 64) within the “White” high-level ethnic group were the most likely to hold “Managerial” socio-economic status (29.9%), followed by “Asian, Asian Welsh or Asian British” (26.6%) and “Mixed or multiple ethnic groups” (25.8%).

People in the “Black, Black Welsh, Black British, African or Caribbean” high-level ethnic group were the most likely to be students (24.8%), followed by “Other ethnic groups” (23.7%) and “Asian, Asian Welsh or Asian British” (21.2%) whilst only 6.8% of those in the “White” high level group were students.

There was considerable variation in socio-economic statuses across individual ethnic groups.

People who identified as “Asian, Asian Welsh or Asian British: Indian” (42.1%) or “White: Irish” (40.5%) were the most likely of any group to report “Managerial” socio-economic status.

People who identified as “White: Roma” (35.9%), “Mixed or multiple ethnic groups: White and Black Caribbean” (33.4%) and “Other White” (32.7%) were the most likely to hold routine or semi-routine socio-economic status.

People who identified as “Arab” (32.5%), “Asian, Asian Welsh or Asian British: Chinese” (29.5%) or “Black, Black Welsh, Black British, African or Caribbean: African” (29.0%) were the most likely to report that they were students.

Mode of Travel

A national indicator on the percentage of journeys by walking, cycling or public transport was added to the national indicator set in December 2021. This data will be sourced from a National Travel Survey for Wales which is currently under development. In the meantime, analysis of the Annual Population Survey for a period prior to the pandemic (2018) indicates that a higher proportion of people from a Black, Asian and minority ethnic background travelled to work in Wales by public transport (9.9% compared to 5.3% of White people).

Census 2021 data shows that households in which the household reference person is Black, Black Welsh, Black British, Caribbean or African people in Wales are less likely to have access to a car or van within the household (64% have such access) than households with a White: Welsh, English, Scottish, Northern Irish or British (81%) or Asian, Asian Welsh or Asian British (79%) household reference person.

Data sources and further reading

Poverty

[Relative Income Poverty: April 2021 to March 2022](#)

[Material Deprivation, National Survey for Wales](#)

Education

[Academic achievement of pupils in Foundation Phase baseline assessment and at Key Stage 3, 2022](#)

[Examination results: September 2021 to August 2022](#)

[Consistent performance measures for post-16 learning: Achievement, August 2021 to July 2022 \(experimental statistics\)](#)

[Levels of highest qualification held by working age adults: 2022](#)

Post-16 learning statistics by learners' ethnic group: August 2017 to July 2021

Fair work and earnings

Labour market statistics (Annual Population Survey): April 2022 to March 2023

Ethnic group differences in health, housing, education and economic status in Wales (Census 2021)

Comparing Census 2021 and Labour Force Survey estimates of the labour market, England and Wales (Office for National Statistics)

Employment and work analysis.

A Healthier Wales

Author: Dr William Perks

A society in which people's physical and mental wellbeing is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.

Maternal and baby health

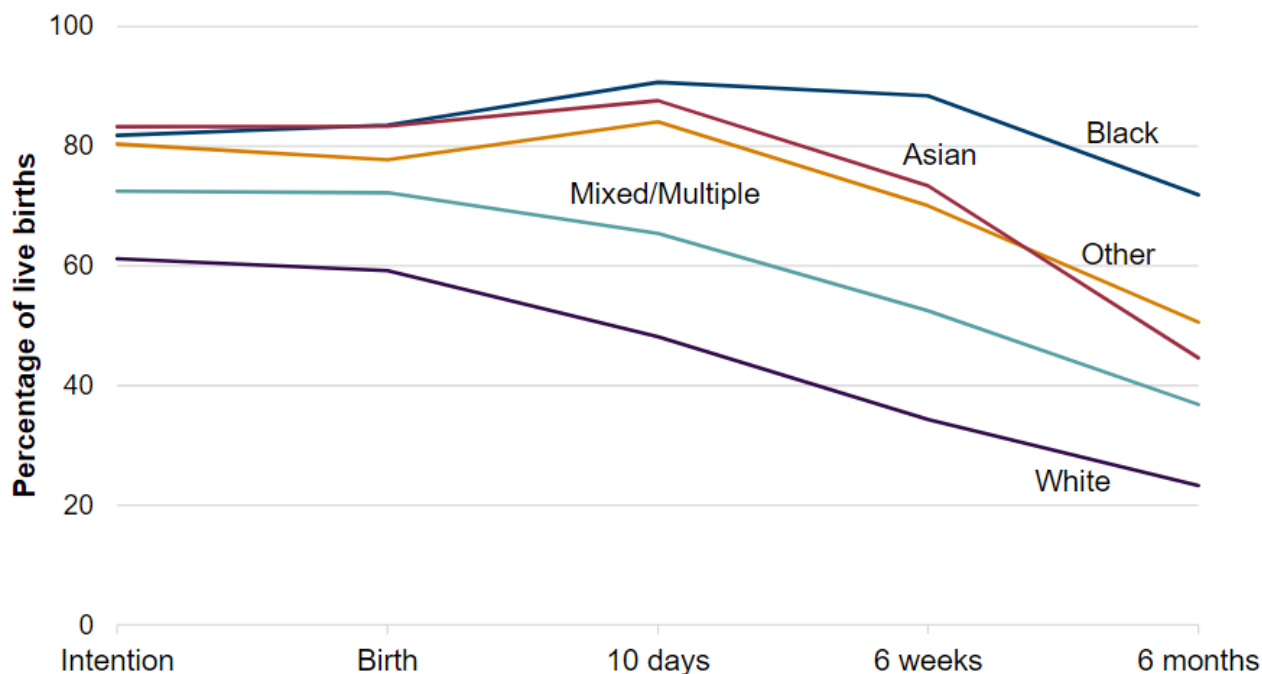
The number of low birthweight babies per year in Wales is small when categorised by ethnic group so there can be relatively large changes from year-to-year through natural volatility.

In 2022, a higher percentage of Asian babies (which includes those from a Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Chinese, Indian or any other Asian ethnic group) had a lower birthweight compared to those from other ethnic groups, which were all broadly similar to each other. Various academic studies (Wong et al 2002, Kelly et al 2008, Seaton et al 2011) suggest that this would be likely as babies of Asian ethnic background have lower mean birthweights, shorter mean lengths, and smaller mean head circumferences than babies from other ethnic groups. However, the percentage of babies from Asian ethnic backgrounds with low birthweight in Wales has been on a broad upward trend and reached 9.2% in 2022. This is 3.0 percentage points higher than the next ethnic group with the next highest percentage of low birthweight babies. A larger proportion of Asian babies also had lower birthweights than any other ethnic group in four out of the five years for which there is data available.

Breastfeeding rates for those from a Black ethnic group (which includes those from an African, Caribbean or any other Black ethnic group) were higher than any other ethnic group for all children's age points from birth to 6 months. Close to 9 in 10 Black children were breastfed at age 10 days and 6 weeks, and more than 7 in 10 Black children were breastfed at age 6 months. Intention to breastfeed is based on the ethnic group of the mother, whereas breastfeeding rates at other points in time refer to the ethnic group of the baby.

Breastfeeding rates for those from a White ethnic group (which includes those from any White ethnic group) were lower than any other ethnic group at all points at which data was collected. Close to 6 out of 10 mothers intended to breastfeed and a similar proportion of White children were breastfed at birth. The rate decreased to just less than half of White children breastfed at age 10 days, a third breastfed at age 6 weeks, and just less than a quarter breastfed at age 6 months. The breastfeeding rate for Black children was around three times higher than it was for White children at both 6 weeks and 6 months.

Figure 3.1 Breastfeeding by broad ethnic group and age of baby, Wales, 2022 [Note 1], [Note 2]



Description of Figure 3.1: Line chart showing that breastfeeding rates were highest for those from Black ethnic group and lowest for those from a White ethnic group. The rates at which breastfeeding changed with the age of the child were different by ethnic group.

Source: Breastfeeding data, Welsh Government

[Note 1] Intention to breastfeed is based on the ethnic group of the mother, whereas breastfeeding rates at other points in time refer to the ethnic group of the baby.

[Note 2] Each broad ethnic group includes the individual ethnic groups as follows: Black (African, Caribbean or any other Black ethnic group); Other (any other ethnic group); Asian (Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Chinese, Indian or any other Asian ethnic group); Mixed or multiple (White and Asian, White and Black African, White and Black Caribbean or any other mixed or multiple background); White (any White background).

The percentage of pregnant women who reported a mental health condition was highest in women from a Mixed or multiple ethnic group (39%) (which includes those from a White and Asian, White and Black African, White and Black Caribbean and any other mixed or multiple ethnic group) followed by women from a White ethnic group (33%). These two ethnic groups have seen similar increases since data was first collected in 2016, and both ethnic groups have been consistently higher than other ethnic groups.

Pregnant women from both Asian and Black ethnic groups reported the lowest percentage with a mental health condition (10%). This percentage has been a broadly stable trend since 2016 for both ethnic groups.

The percentage of pregnant women who reported a mental health condition from a Mixed or multiple ethnic group was nearly four times higher than women from Black and Asian ethnic groups in 2022.

A third of pregnant women from Black and White ethnic groups had a Body Mass Index score (BMI) of 30 or more. The percentage for both ethnic groups has been on broadly upward trends since data was first collected in 2016.

Almost one in three (29%) pregnant women from a Mixed or multiple ethnic group had a BMI of 30 or more, this group has had the steepest longer-term upward trend and was 10 percentage points higher in 2022 than in 2016.

The percentage pregnant women with a BMI of 30 or more was lowest amongst those from an Asian ethnic group (18%) and has remained relatively stable since data has been collected.

The percentage of pregnant women recorded as a smoker differs widely by ethnic group and was highest amongst those from a White ethnic group (16% at initial

assessment and 14% at birth), compared to those from an Asian ethnic group (1% at both initial assessment and birth).

Over the past five years smoking rates have decreased in those from a White or Mixed or multiple ethnic group, while rates have been broadly similar though at much lower levels for pregnant women of Other (which includes those from any other ethnic group), Black and Asian ethnic groups.

Healthy lifestyle behaviours in adults

The national milestone is to increase the percentage of adults with two or more healthy behaviours to 97% by 2050.

Due to the sample size of the National Survey for Wales breakdowns by ethnicity are limited, therefore the below analysis combines 4 years of data (2016-17 to 2019-20) to analyse healthy lifestyle behaviours by broad ethnic group. In addition, this analysis is based on age-standardised results to take account of differences in the age profile of different ethnic groups.

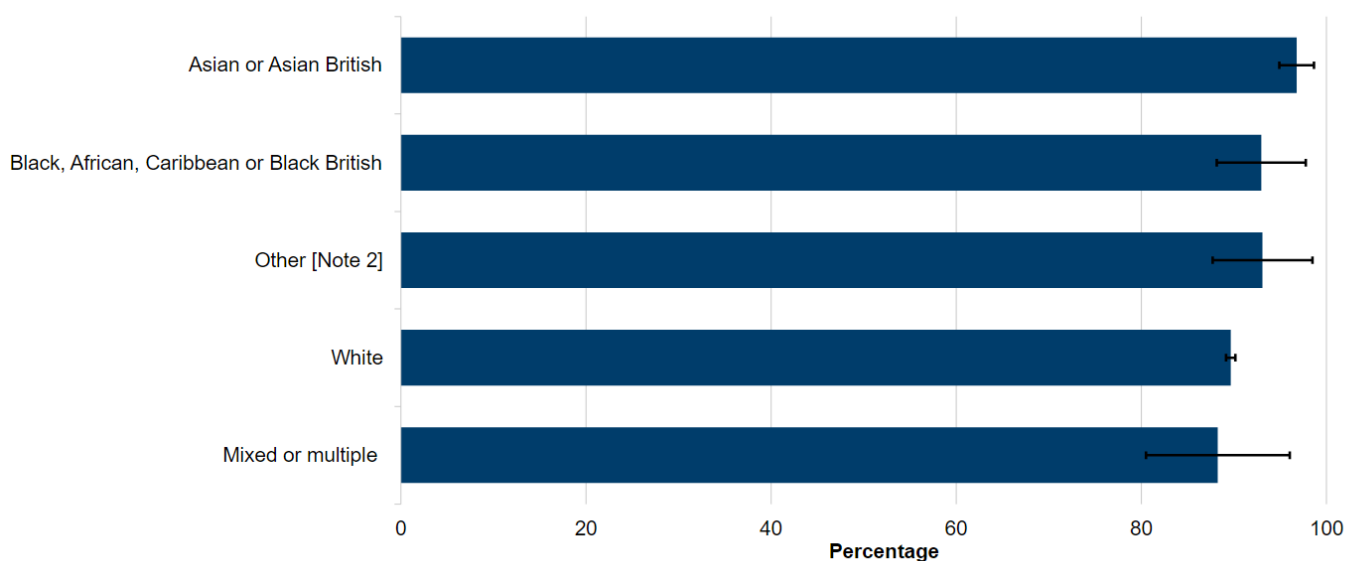
The percentage of adults with two or more healthy behaviours was highest amongst those from an Asian or Asian British ethnic group (97%) and was lowest amongst those from a White or Mixed or multiple ethnic group (90% and 88% respectively, although due to uncertainties due to the size of the sample these were only statistically significant compared to those from a White ethnic group).

Adults from an Asian or Asian British ethnic group and a Black, African, Caribbean or Black British ethnic group were more likely to be non-smokers, with those from a White or Mixed or multiple ethnic group less likely to be a non smoker. Adults from a White ethnic group were less likely to drink within alcohol guidelines than those in other groups.

Adults from a Black, African, Caribbean or Black British ethnic group were most likely to eat at least 5 portions of fruit and vegetables the previous day than other ethnic groups (although the difference compared with those in the Other ethnic group was not statistically significant).

Adults from a Mixed or multiple ethnic group were the least likely to be physically active and adults from an Asian or Asian British ethnic group were more likely to be a healthy weight than other ethnic groups (although due to uncertainties due to the size of the sample these were only statistically significant compared to those from a White ethnic group).

Figure 3.2: Age-standardised percentage of adults with two or more healthy behaviours, by broad ethnic group, 2016-17 to 2019-20
[Note 1] [Note 2]



Description of Figure 3.2: Bar chart showing the percentage of adults with two or more healthy behaviours was highest amongst those from an Asian or Asian British ethnic group and was lowest amongst those from a White or Mixed or multiple ethnic group.

Source: Adult lifestyle (National Survey for Wales) 2016-17 to 2019-20: additional analysis by disability, ethnic group, marital status religion, sexual orientation, Welsh Government

[Note 1] Due to the sample size of the National Survey for Wales breakdowns by ethnicity is limited, therefore this analysis combines 4 years of data to be able to analyse by broad ethnic group.

[Note 2] Other ethnic group includes Arab or Any other ethnic group, please describe.

Healthy lifestyle behaviours in children

The national milestone is to increase the percentage of children with two or more healthy behaviours to 94% by 2035 and more than 99% by 2050. Healthy lifestyle behaviours include not smoking, never or rarely drinking alcohol, eating fruit or vegetables every day and being physically active for an hour or more, seven days per week.

The School Health Research Network Student Health and Wellbeing survey showed the percentage of young people aged 11 to 16 in the 2021/22 academic year meeting the national indicator of two or more healthy behaviours was highest amongst those from an Indian ethnic group (95%) (although due to uncertainties due to the size of the sample for different groups the difference was only statistically significant compared to those from the White British, Pakistani, Caribbean or Black, and White Gypsy or Traveller ethnic groups).

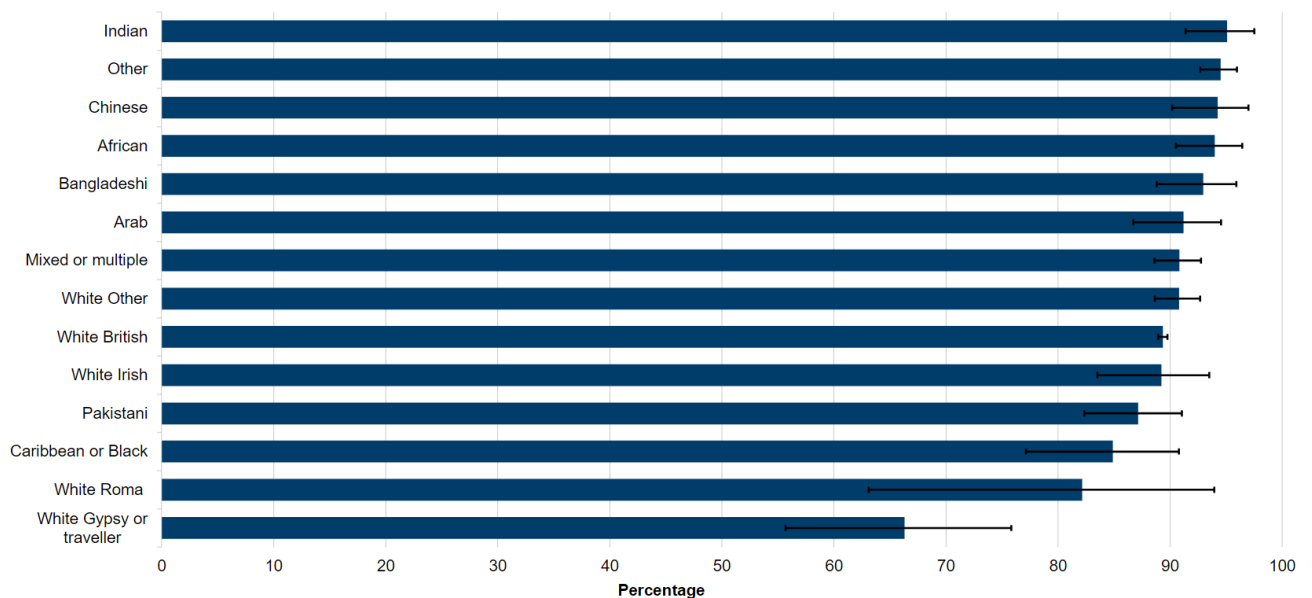
Those from a White Gypsy or Traveller ethnic group were the least likely to meet the national indicator of two or more healthy behaviours (66%) compared to all other ethnic groups.

Those from a White Gypsy or Traveller ethnic group were also the highest percentage of young people in the 2021/22 academic year who reported that they; currently smoke tobacco at least weekly, have ever tried e-cigarettes or used them weekly, drink anything alcoholic at least weekly, have been drunk at least four times in their life, have ever used drugs and they drink energy drinks or sugary soft drinks at least daily compared to those from other ethnic groups (although due to uncertainties due to the size of the sample these were not statistically significant for energy drinks or sugary soft drinks compared to those from the White Roma ethnic group).

The percentage of young people in the 2021/22 academic year who reported that they were physically active for at least 60 minutes per day in the past seven days

was lowest amongst those from a Bangladeshi (11%) or Chinese ethnic group (12%) compared to those from other ethnic groups (although due to uncertainties due to the size of the sample these were not statistically significant compared to those from the White Roma ethnic group).

Figure 3.3: Percentage of young people aged 11 to 16 with two or more healthy behaviours, by ethnic group, 2021/22 academic year



Description of Figure 3.3: A bar chart showing that young people from an Indian ethnic group reported the highest rates of two or more healthy behaviours compared to those from a White Gypsy or Traveller ethnic group who reported the lowest.

Source: Student Health and Wellbeing Survey, School Health Research Network

Health outcomes

The Census gathers limited information on health outcomes, including limiting illness and perception of general health. This section provides information on those health outcomes reported within the 2011 Census. Although self-reported, these indicators provide a good measure of how different ethnic populations perceive their health on a day-to-day basis.

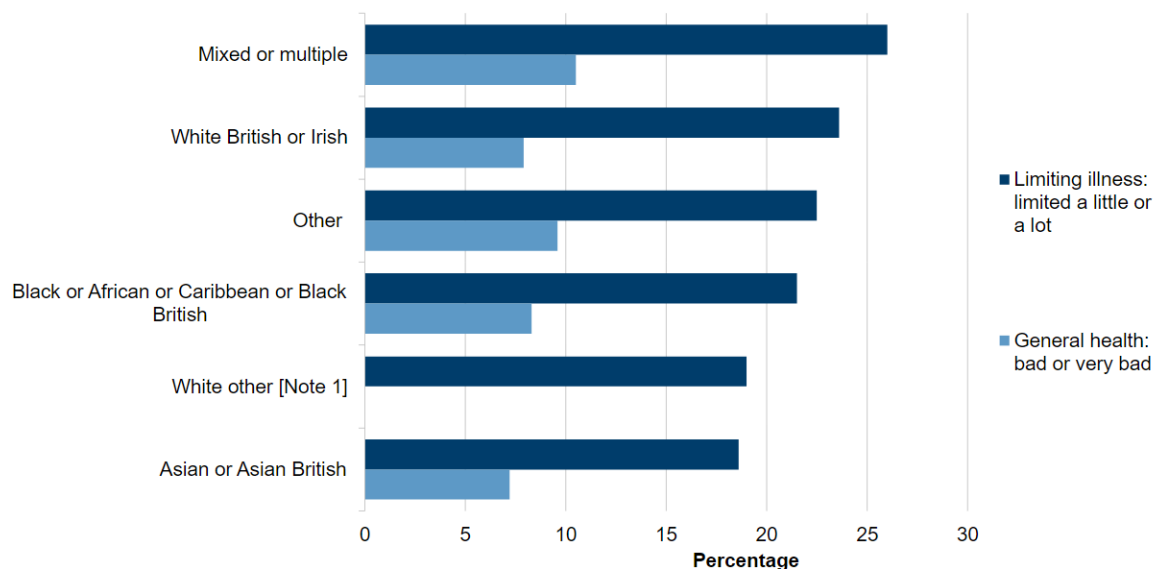
More recent analysis using data from the 2021 Census has been conducted and is provided in the “Data sources and further reading section” below but is not addressed in detail here as it combines both England and Wales preventing a view of the Wales specific picture and is yet to be age standardised.

Using data from the 2011 Census, poorer health outcomes increase sharply with age across all ethnic groups. As the age structure of ethnic groups in Wales differs markedly, the data presented in this section has been age standardised. Age standardised percentages allow comparisons to be made across groups taking those differences in age structure into account.

After accounting for age, the Mixed or multiple ethnic group has the highest percentage of its population reporting limiting illness followed by the White British or Irish group and the Asian or Asian British group the lowest. In the 65 plus age group there is less variation across the groups with the Asian or Asian British group having the lowest percentage.

The Mixed or multiple ethnic group also reported the highest percentage of those in bad or very bad general health. Whereas the Asian or Asian British group reported the lowest percentage. Amongst those aged 65 plus, the White group has the lowest percentage reporting their general health as bad or very bad. For this indicator, White British or Irish and White other have been grouped together to avoid the risk of disclosure.

Figure 3.4: Age standardised percentage reporting limiting illness and bad or very bad general health, by broad ethnic group, using the 2011 Census [Note 1]



Description of Figure 3.4: A bar chart showing that those from a Mixed or multiple ethnic group reported the highest rates of limiting illness and bad or very bad general health after standardising for age.

Source: Ethnicity and health in Wales (2015), Public Health Wales

[Note 1] For general health, White British or Irish and White other have been grouped together to avoid the risk of disclosure. White other includes White Gypsy or Irish Traveller.

Mental health and wellbeing in adults

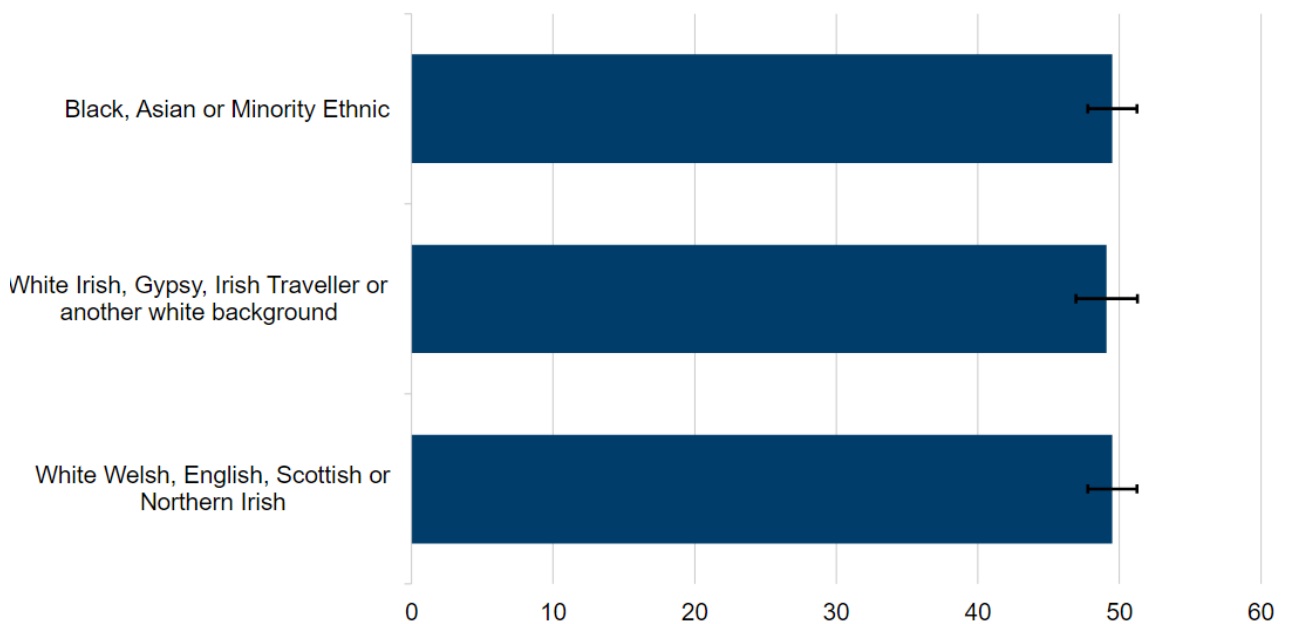
The national milestone on mental well-being is to improve adult and children's mean mental wellbeing and eliminate the gap in adult and children's mean mental wellbeing between the most deprived and least deprived areas in Wales by 2050.

Adults aged 16 plus were asked about their mental wellbeing and results were scored using the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS). A higher score (58 to 70) suggests high mental wellbeing, while scoring 44 or lower suggests having a low mental wellbeing. Scoring between 45 and 57 suggests the person has medium mental wellbeing. The overall WEMWBS score for adults in 2022-23 was 48.

Due to the sample size of the National Survey for Wales breakdowns by ethnicity are limited, therefore the below analysis has combined groups to avoid the risk of disclosure. When looking at these combined groups there were no significant differences in the overall WEMWBS score.

It is possible that within these broad ethnic groupings there is greater variability of the wellbeing of different groups, which may not be visible here due to the combining of groups. Data below on young people aged 11-16 mental wellbeing using the Short Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (SWEMWBS) from the Student Health and Wellbeing Survey is able to report on a more detailed breakdown of ethnic groups.

Figure 3.5: Average Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale score for adults, by broad ethnic group, 2022-23 [Note 1]



Description of Figure 3.5: A bar chart showing that there were no significant differences in the overall WEMWBS score for adults in these combined ethnic groups.

Source: Ad hoc data provided on request by the National Survey for Wales, Welsh Government

[Note 1] Due to the sample size of the National Survey for Wales breakdowns by ethnicity is limited, therefore this analysis has combined groups to avoid the risk of disclosure.

Mental health and wellbeing in children

The national milestone on mental well-being is to improve adult and children’s mean mental wellbeing and eliminate the gap in adult and children’s mean mental wellbeing between the most deprived and least deprived areas in Wales by 2050.

The mental wellbeing of young people aged 11 to 16 is measured using the Short Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (SWEMWBS) which covers both a

person's happiness and the extent to which a person is fully functional. A higher overall SWEMWBS score is indicative of more positive mental wellbeing.

The average SWEMWBS score in the 2021/22 academic year for young people was highest amongst those from Indian and African ethnic groups (both 24) (although due to uncertainties due to the size of the sample these were not statistically significant compared to those from White Roma, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Arab ethnic groups).

Those from a White Gypsy or Traveller ethnic group reported the lowest SWEMWBS score (21) compared to all other ethnic groups (although due to uncertainties due to the size of the sample these were not statistically significant compared to those from White Irish ethnic group).

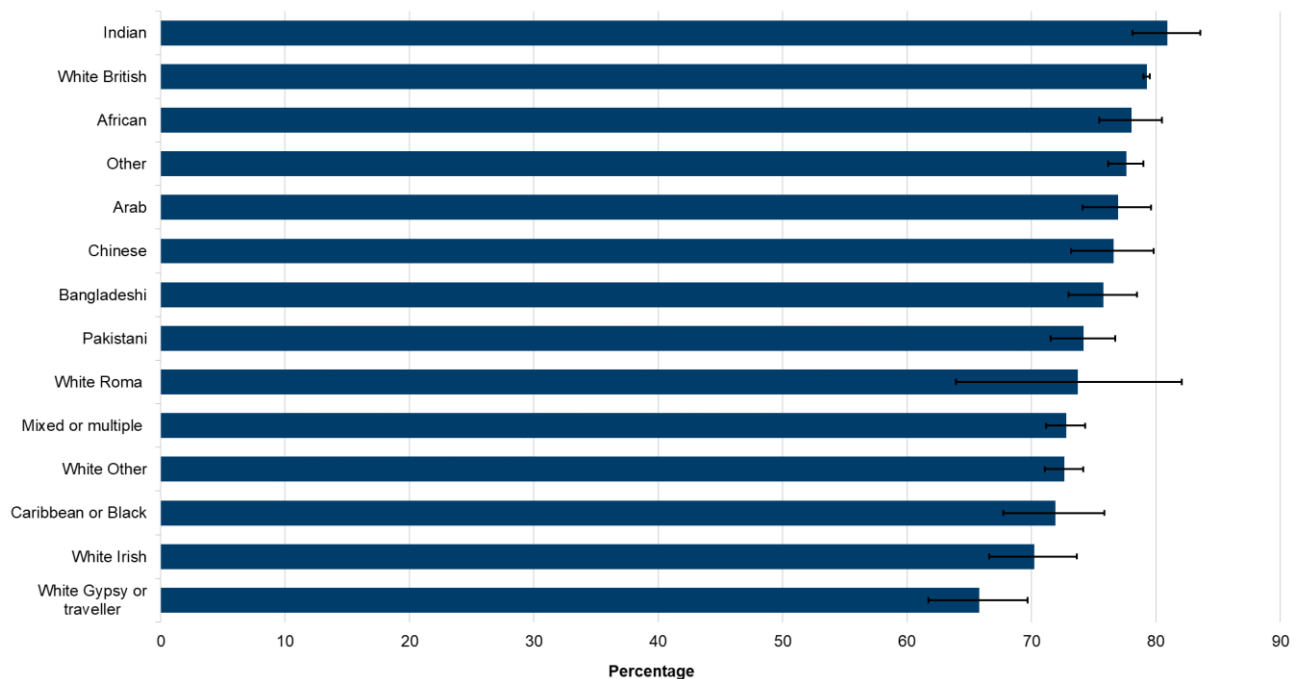
These were similar trends to those that have been reported since the 2017/18 academic year and there was not much difference between most ethnic groups.

The percentage of young people in the 2021/22 academic year who rated their life satisfaction as 6 or above on the Cantril Ladder (where scores range from 0 to 10, and a score of 6 or above was defined as high life satisfaction) was also highest amongst those from an Indian ethnic group (81%) (although due to uncertainties due to the size of the sample these were not statistically significant compared to those from the White Roma, Chinese, Arab, White British, Bangladeshi, African or Other ethnic groups).

The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) is a screening instrument for measuring psychological problems and strengths. A higher overall SDQ score indicates poorer mental health. The percentage of young people in the 2021/22 academic year who had a very high score on the SDQ was highest amongst those from a White Gypsy or Traveller ethnic group (41%) (although due to uncertainties due to the size of the sample these were not statistically significant compared to those from the White Irish ethnic group).

Those from an Indian ethnic group reported the best SDQ scores with 75% close to an average mental health score. These were similar trends between ethnic groups to those that have been reported previously.

Figure 3.6: Percentage of young people aged 11 to 16 satisfied with their life, by ethnic group, 2021/22 academic year



Description of Figure 3.6: A bar chart showing that young people from an Indian ethnic group reported the highest rates of satisfaction with their life compared to those from a White Gypsy or Traveller ethnic group who reported the lowest.

Source: Student Health and Wellbeing Survey, School Health Research Network

Life expectancy and causes of death

The national milestone on healthy life expectancy is to increase the healthy life expectancy of adults and narrow the gap in healthy life expectancy between the least and the most deprived by at least 15% by 2050.

Published Wales-specific analysis on life expectancy and causes of deaths by ethnicity is not currently available however there is contextual information that combines both England and Wales data based on linking the 2011 Census and

death registrations and is briefly summarised below. We intend to work with the Office for National Statistics to address this gap in future.

In the period 2011 to 2014 in England and Wales, both males and females in the White and Mixed or multiple ethnic groups had lower life expectancy at birth than all other ethnic groups, while the Black African group had statistically significant higher life expectancy than most groups.

Statistically significant higher age-standardised mortality rates from cancer were present among males and females of the White ethnic group compared with Black and Asian ethnic groups.

Statistically significant higher age-standardised mortality rates from circulatory (heart and related) diseases were present among Indian, Bangladeshi and Mixed males and Pakistani, Indian and Mixed females compared with the White group.

Cancers and circulatory diseases account for 61% of male and 53% of female deaths in the study and are therefore an important influence on the life expectancy differences seen between ethnic groups.

These results reveal complex patterns in life expectancy and mortality by ethnic group.

Finally, the COVID-19 pandemic, which is not covered in the analysis in this section, has had a disproportionately adverse effect on Black and Asian ethnic groups, which contrasts with the more favourable mortality pattern observed in the period 2011 to 2014 described above.

Data sources and further reading

Ad hoc data provided on request by the National Survey for Wales, Welsh Government

Adult lifestyle (National Survey for Wales) 2016-17 to 2019-20: additional analysis by disability, ethnic group, marital status religion, sexual orientation, Welsh Government

Breastfeeding data

Ethnicity and health in Wales, 2015 (Public Health Wales)

Ethnic differences in life expectancy and mortality from selected causes in England and Wales: 2011 to 2014 (Office for National Statistics)

Ethnic group differences in health, employment, education and housing shown in England and Wales' Census 2021 (Office for National Statistics)

Maternity and birth statistics

Student Health and Wellbeing Survey (School Health Research Network)

A Wales of Cohesive Communities

Author: Dr Steven Marshall

A Wales of cohesive communities: Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.

Community cohesion

The national indicator, having a sense of community, is made up of three measures of community cohesion – belonging to the local area, people from different backgrounds getting on well together, and treating each other with respect and consideration. In general, there has been no statistically significant difference in the measure by ethnic group between 2018-19, 2020-21 and 2021-22 as indicated by the [National Survey for Wales](#). The only exception was 2021-22, which had a lower percentage of people from White (Irish, Gypsy, Irish Traveller or another white background) agreeing with all three statements than the other two high-level ethnic groups.

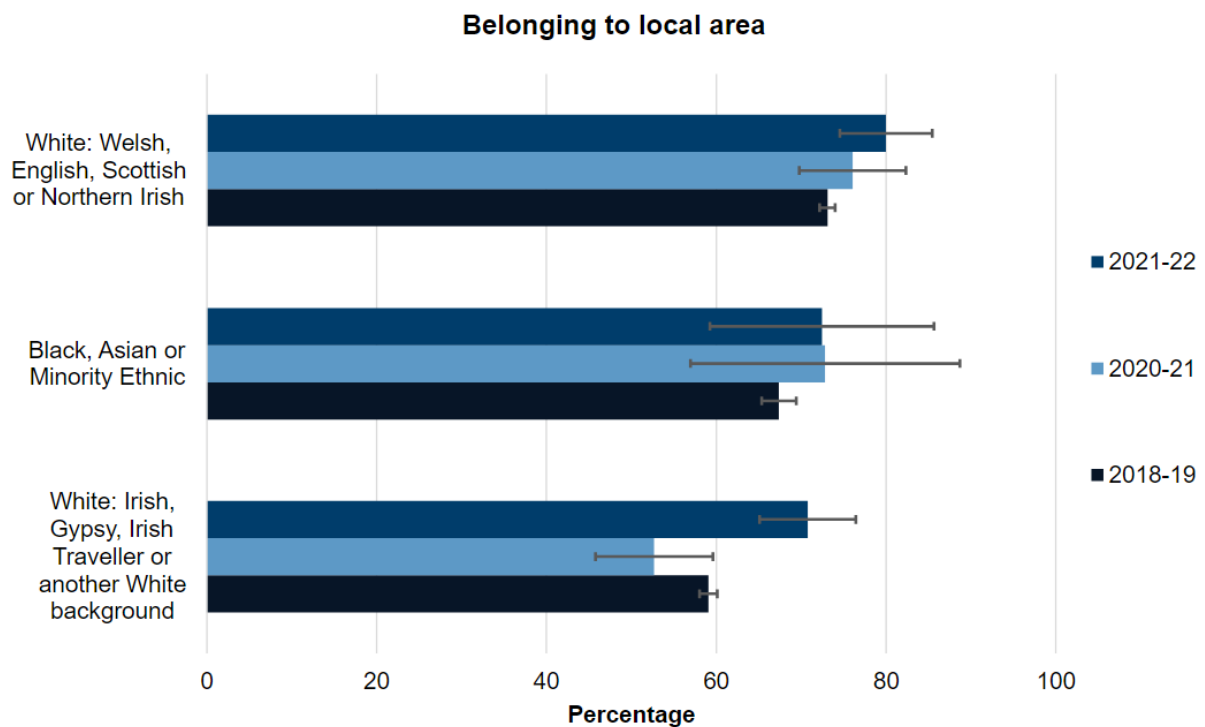
However, some differences by ethnic group have been observed within the three measures of community cohesion:

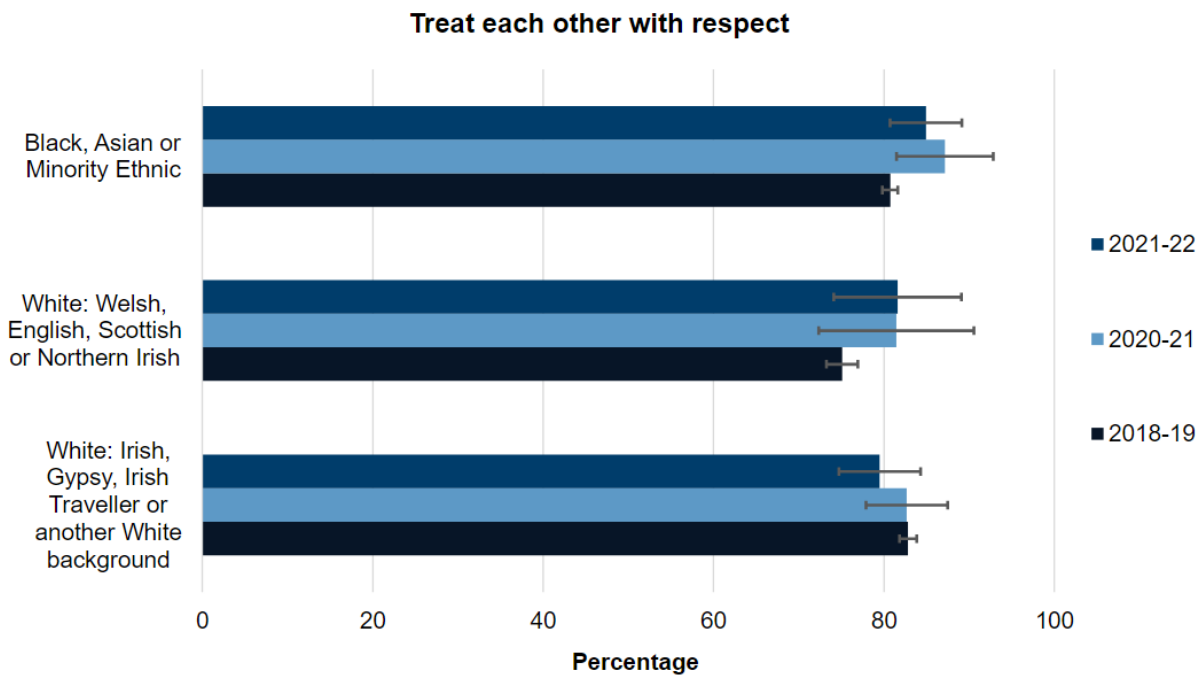
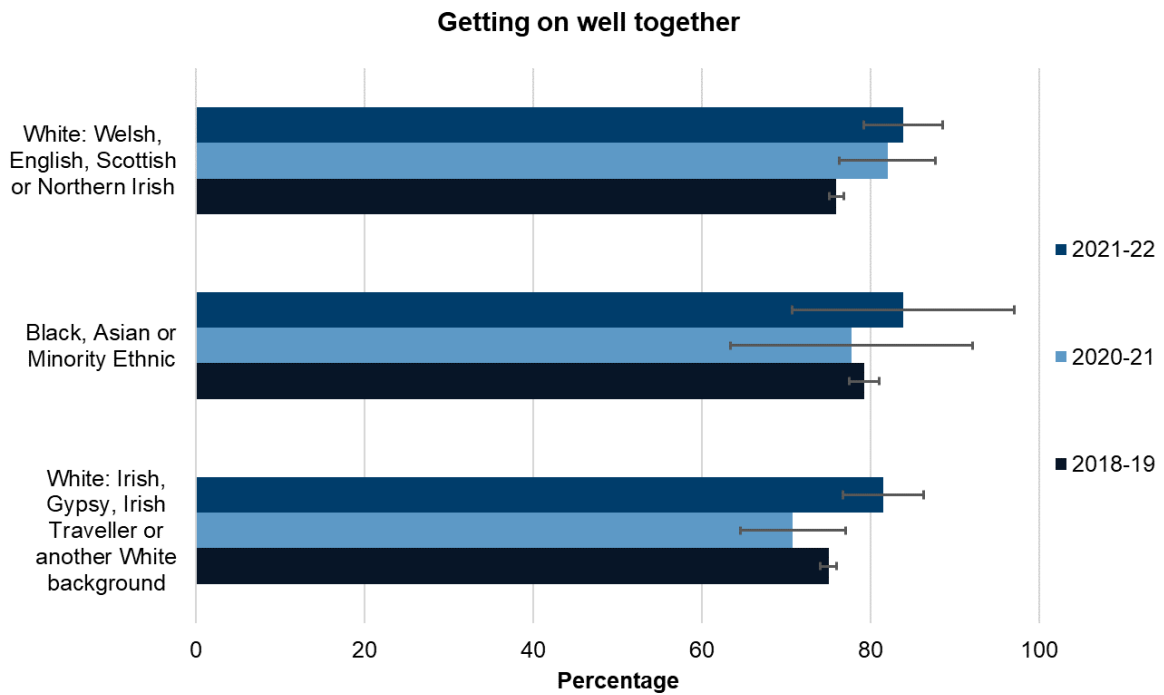
- belonging to the local area – the percentage of people from White (Irish, Gypsy, Irish Traveller or another White background) groups agreeing with that statement is lower than for those from White (Welsh, English, Scottish or Northern Irish) background for all the three survey years. There are no significant differences between the Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic group and the other two ethnic groups; the only exception is in 2021-22 when the percentage for that group is significantly lower than for the White (Welsh, English, Scottish or Northern Irish) (see Chart 5.1)
- people from different backgrounds getting on well together – there are no differences in the percentages of people agreeing with the statement across the three high-level ethnic groups.

- treating each other with respect and consideration – the percentage agreeing with the statement is generally higher for people from White (Irish, Gypsy, Irish Traveller or another White background) and Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic groups than for the White (Welsh, English, Scottish or Northern Irish) ethnic group, but with the exception of 2018-19, the differences are not statistically significant. (see Chart 5.1)

A possible explanation for the White (Irish, Gypsy, Irish Traveller or another white background) having a lower percentage for the overall measure of community cohesion in 2021-22 is that whilst the belonging in the local area and people from different backgrounds getting on well together follow the trend described above, the treating each other with respect component is not significantly higher than for the White (Welsh, English, Scottish or Northern Irish) group like in previous survey years (2018-19 and 2020-21).

Figure 5.1: Percentage of people who agree with the statements indicative of community cohesion





Description of Figure 5.1: Bar chart showing the percentage of adults who agree with the three individual measures of community cohesion: belonging to the local area, people from different backgrounds getting on well together, and people treating each other with respect and consideration. Results are broken down by ethnicity and displayed for three different survey years (2018-19, 2020-21 and 2021-22).

Source: National Survey for Wales

Feeling safe

The data for 2020-21 and 2021-22 showed no statistically significant differences between the three high-level ethnic groups of White (Irish, Gypsy, Irish Traveller or another White background); Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic; and White (Welsh, English, Scottish or Northern Irish). This was true for each of the components of the measure as well as the headline figure of 'feeling safe after dark'.

The national indicator on feeling safe relates to people aged 16 and over. There are no directly comparable measures for children on feeling safe but the SHRN Student Health and Wellbeing Survey collects information on children experiencing bullying.

In the 2021/22 SHRN Student Health and Wellbeing Survey, 32% of 11 to 16 year olds in Wales reported being bullied at school in the past couple of months, compared to 33% in 2019/20.

In the 2021/22 SHRN Student Health and Wellbeing Survey, there were large variations by ethnic group in the percentage of 11 to 16 year olds in Wales who reported being bullied at school or cyber-bullied in the past couple of months. However, for ethnic groups with smaller sample sizes, it is not clear what are 'real' differences due to wide confidence intervals.

What is clear from the data is that young people who identified as White Gypsy/Traveller, White Irish, White Other or where a specific category was not chosen (i.e. the 'other' option) were significantly more likely than young people overall to report being bullied at school. Those who identified as Other, White Gypsy/Traveller, White Irish, White Other or White Roma were significantly more likely than young people overall to report being cyber-bullied.

It is also clear that young people who identified as African, Bangladeshi, Indian or Pakistani were significantly less likely than young people overall to report being bullied at school. Those who identified as African or Indian were also significantly less likely than young people overall to report being cyber-bullied.

Satisfaction with local area

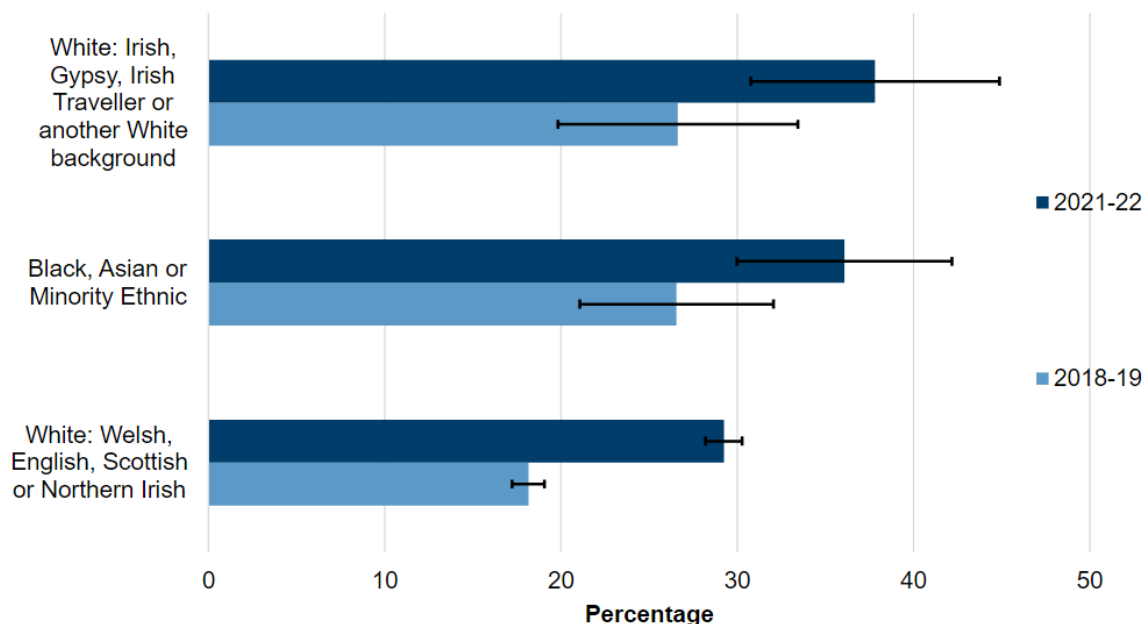
The data for 2018-19, 2020-21 and 2021-22 showed no statistically significant differences between the high-level ethnic groups of White (Irish, Gypsy, Irish Traveller or another White background); Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic and White (Welsh, English, Scottish or Northern Irish).

Influencing local decisions

There has been a marked overall increase in the percentage of people who agree with the statement that they can influence decisions affecting their local area from 2018-19 compared to 2021-22. This may reflect real change as a direct result of the pandemic, but it requires monitoring in future survey years. However, the same pattern isn't necessarily reflected when the indicator is broken down by ethnic group, with only the White (Welsh, English, Scottish or Northern Irish) category seeing a statistically significant change between 2018-19 and 2021-22.

Despite the change in overall level, the percentages for both White (Irish, Gypsy, Irish Traveller or another White background), and Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic groups are significantly higher than for White (Welsh, English, Scottish or Northern Irish) in both 2018-19 and 2021-22.

Figure 5.2: Percentage of people who feel they can influence decisions affecting their local area



Description of Figure 5.2: Bar chart showing the percentage of people who agree with the statement that they can influence decisions about their local area for 2018-19 and 2021-22, broken down by high-level ethnic groups. The proportion of people who feel they can influence decisions about their local area is higher in 2021-22 than in 2018-19 across all ethnic groups.

Source: National Survey for Wales

Volunteering

In 2022-23 there were no statistically significant differences in the percentage of people volunteering between the high-level ethnic groups of White (Irish, Gypsy, Irish Traveller or another White background); Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic; and White (Welsh, English, Scottish or Northern Irish). The figures for 2022-23 are very similar for each group (28%, 34% and 30% respectively).

In 2019-20 the percentage for White (Irish, Gypsy, Irish Traveller or another White background) was lower (18% compared to an overall figure of 26%), although without data for other years this difference is difficult to interpret.

The national indicator relates to those aged 16 and over, however, similar data is available on 11 to 16 years olds from the [School Health Research Network \(SHRN\) Student Health and Wellbeing Survey](#).

In the 2019/20 SHRN Student Health and Wellbeing Survey, 32% of 11 to 16 year olds in Wales reported volunteering for a club or organisation in their free time outside of school, and 14% at school. Around a half of young people (53%) reported they did not volunteer.

Boys were most likely to report volunteering outside of school (34%), compared to 30% of girls and 28% of those who identified as neither a boy nor a girl. Volunteering outside of school decreased with age, from 39% in year 7 to 24% in year 11. Young people in the high family affluence group (on the HBSC Family Affluence Scale) were also more likely to report volunteering outside of school than those in the low family affluence group (38% vs. 22% respectively).

In the 2019/20 SHRN Student Health and Wellbeing Survey, there were large variations by ethnic group in the percentage of 11 to 16 year olds in Wales who reported volunteering for a club or organisation in their free time outside of school. However, for ethnic groups with smaller sample sizes, is it not clear what are 'real' differences due to wide confidence intervals.

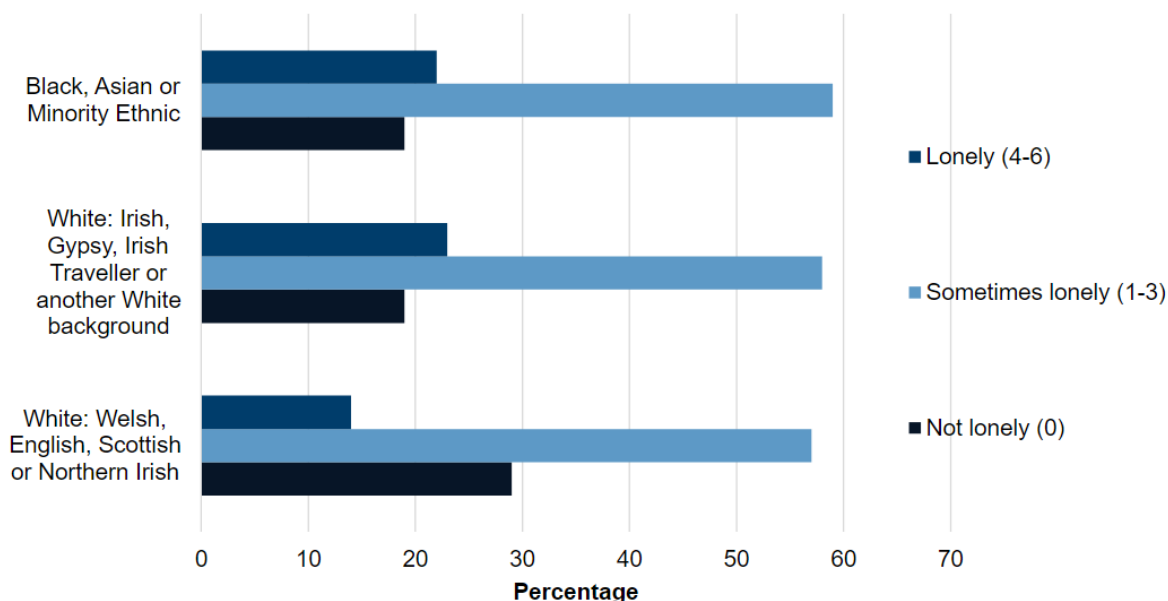
What is clear from the data is that young people who identified as Bangladeshi, Chinese, Mixed or multiple ethnic group, Pakistani or White Gypsy / Traveller were significantly less likely than young people overall to report volunteering outside of school.

Loneliness

The overall measure of loneliness has remained the same in recent years, but as seen in the main report there is more change within the six components of the overall measure. This increased level of change is also seen when an ethnicity breakdown of the measure is considered. However, it is not clear what are 'real' differences due to wide confidence intervals as well as the interactions with the COVID-19 pandemic, changes in survey collection methodology and ethnicity.

What is clear from the data is that across three of the last four years (2019-20, 2021-22 and 2022-23) the percentage 'not lonely' is lower for both White (Irish, Gypsy, Irish Traveller or another white background) and Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic than for White (Welsh, English, Scottish or Northern Irish). There is more change for White (Irish, Gypsy, Irish Traveller or another white background) and Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic between 'lonely' (i.e. lonely on four or more of the six measures) and 'sometimes lonely' (i.e. lonely on one to three of the six measures). However, if the percentages are averaged over the last 4 years then the 'sometimes lonely' category stabilises to be the same across all groups and the national indicator of 'lonely' is lower for the White (Welsh, English, Scottish or Northern Irish) than for the other two ethnic groups: White (Irish, Gypsy, Irish Traveller or another white background) and Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (14% compared to 23% and 22% respectively). While further work would be needed to understand the level of statistical confidence in these differences there are strongly indicative of there being real underlying levels of higher loneliness for White Irish, Gypsy, Irish Traveller or another white background and Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic.

Figure 5.3: Loneliness measure of adults averaged across 4 years

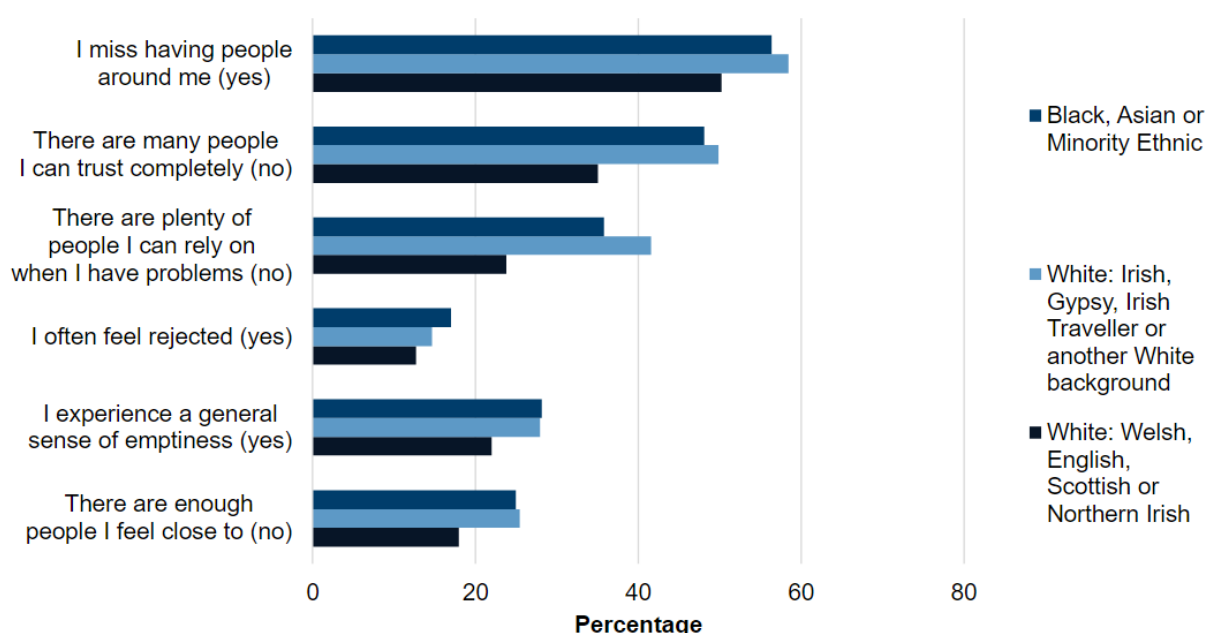


Description of Figure 5.3: Bar chart showing percentage of adults classified into three loneliness groups, broken down by ethnicity. The results are averaged across four years, spanning 2019 through to 2023.

Source: National Survey for Wales

Looking at the six components of the loneliness measure, the percentages lonely on each measure are generally higher for both White (Irish, Gypsy, Irish Traveller or another white background) and Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic than for White (Welsh, English, Scottish or Northern Irish). However, the differences are not statistically significant but they are consistent across years. An average over the last 4 years shows an indication of how these components of loneliness vary by ethnicity.

Figure 5.4: Percentage of people feeling lonely by reason



Description of Figure 5.4: Bar chart showing the percentage of adults agreeing (yes) or disagreeing (no), broken down by ethnicity, with six individual components of the loneliness measure. The results are averaged across four years (2019-2023).

Source: National Survey for Wales

The national indicator relates to those aged 16 and over, however, similar data is available on 11 to 16 years olds from the [School Health Research Network \(SHRN\) Student Health and Wellbeing Survey](#).

In the 2021/22 SHRN Student Health and Wellbeing Survey, 14% of 11 to 16 year olds in Wales reported often feeling alone, compared to 12% in 2019/20.

In the 2021/22 SHRN Student Health and Wellbeing Survey, there were large variations by ethnic group in the percentage of 11 to 16 year olds in Wales who reported feeling lonely at least some of the time during the last summer holiday. However, for ethnic groups with smaller sample sizes, it is not clear what are 'real' differences due to wide confidence intervals.

What is clear from the data is that young people who identified as Chinese, Mixed or multiple ethnic group, White Irish or White Other were significantly more likely than young people overall to report feeling lonely at least some of the time during the last

summer holiday. Young people who identified as African, Bangladeshi or Indian were significantly less likely than young people overall to report feeling lonely at least some of the time during the last summer holiday.

Homelessness

Statutory homelessness data show that in 2022-23 78% of lead applicants that were threatened with homelessness and eligible for assistance were White (White (Welsh, English, Scottish or Northern Irish) and White Irish, Gypsy, Irish Traveller or another White background), 9% were Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic and 12% were unknown.

Victims of Crime

The Crime Survey in England and Wales (CSEW) is unable to provide robust estimates of proportions of victims by ethnicity for Wales and so the data presented here relates to England and Wales. It should not be assumed that the comparisons would be the same in Wales.

The CSEW showed a higher percentage (15.1%) of those from mixed or multiple ethnic backgrounds were victims of crime (excluding fraud) in 2022-23. For all other ethnic groups between 9.5% and 10.6% were victims of crime. All ethnic groups have seen a fall in the percentage who were victims of crime in the available time series from 2014-15, the largest decrease being of those in the mixed or multiple ethnic background (down from 27.9% in 2014-15).

Similarly, a higher percentage (3.4%) of those from mixed or multiple ethnic backgrounds were victims of personal crime, and the next highest percentage (3.1%) was where a specific category was not chosen (i.e. the 'other' option). For all other ethnic groups between 1.8% and 2.6% were victims of personal crime. All ethnic groups have seen a general downward trend in these percentages over this time series, although there has been some fluctuation.

Data sources and further reading

School Health Research Network (SHRN) Student Health and Wellbeing Survey

Households for which assistance has been provided during the year, by ethnic group of applicant

A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language

Author: Stephanie Howarth

A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language: A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, sports and recreation.

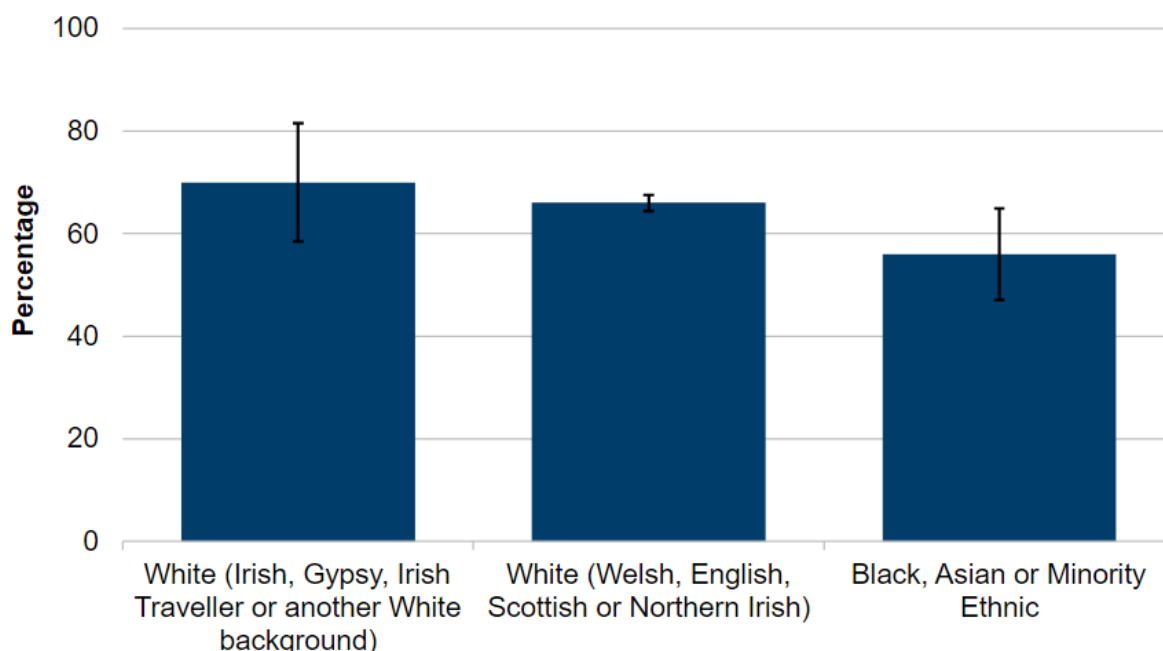
Arts, culture and heritage

The national indicator on arts, culture and heritage looks at whether adults have attended or participated in arts, culture or heritage three times or more over the last year. When looking at Wales as a whole, this national indicator has been falling since it was first collected in 2017-18, and this pattern is also seen across the three high-level ethnic groups.

There are large differences in attendance and participation between some groups, for example, by age or deprivation. However, the National Survey for Wales did not find any statistically significant differences between ethnic groups in 2022-23. All three of the high-level ethnic groups have seen decreases in attendance and participation in arts, culture and heritage since 2017-18.

Due to the sample size of the National Survey, it is only possible to investigate differences between three high-level ethnic groups. There may be differences within these ethnic groups that are not recorded here.

Figure 6.1: Percentage of adults attending or participating in arts, culture and heritage three or more times a year, by high-level ethnic group, 2022-23



Description of Figure 6.1: A bar chart showing the national indicator on regularly attending or participating in arts, culture and heritage for three broad ethnic groups. There are no statistically significant differences between the groups.

Source: National Survey for Wales

Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic adults are more likely to have visited a library over the last year compared to the White: Welsh, English, Scottish and Northern Irish ethnic group – 37% compared to 24%.

People from the ethnic group White: Irish, Gypsy, Irish Traveller or another White background were more likely to have visited a heritage site over the last year. 75% report they had visited a heritage site in the previous 12 months, compared to 63% for the White: Welsh, English, Scottish or Northern Irish group. The figure was 61% for the Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic group, but this was not a statistically significant difference compared to other groups.

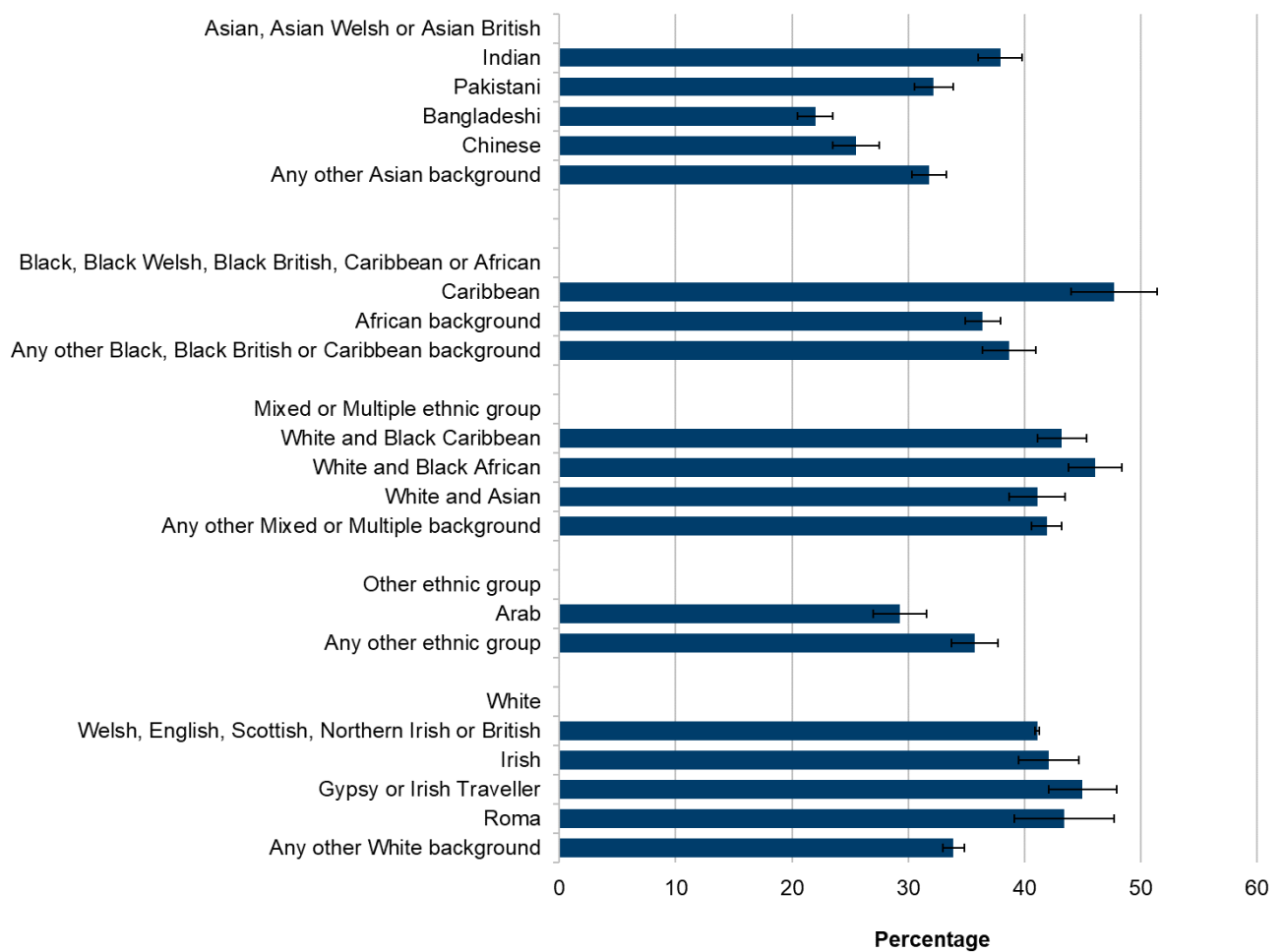
Sport participation in children

The School Sport Survey provides data for the national indicator on sport participation in children. When looking at high-level ethnic groups, pupils from Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups had the highest rates of sports participation, with 43% taking part in sport three or more times a week. Pupils who did not give their ethnic group had the lowest levels of regular sport participation, followed by Asian, Asian Welsh and Asian British pupils, at 30%.

Asian pupils were more likely to report no frequent activity (less than once a week) compared with their peers from White, Black, or Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups.

Looking at detailed ethnic groups, there was wide variation in frequent sport participation among Asian pupils, ranging from 22% for Bangladeshi pupils to 38% for Indian pupils. Within the White ethnic group, Gypsy or Irish Traveller pupils were most likely to take part in sport three or more times a week, followed by Roma pupils (45% and 43% respectively). The Caribbean ethnic group had the highest overall percentage of pupils taking part in sport frequently, at 47%.

Figure 6.2: Percentage of children participating in sport three or more times a week, by detailed ethnic group, 2022



Description of Figure 6.2: A bar chart showing regular sports participation in children by detailed ethnic groups. There is wide variation between groups, although many differences are not statistically significant.

Source: School Sport Survey 2022

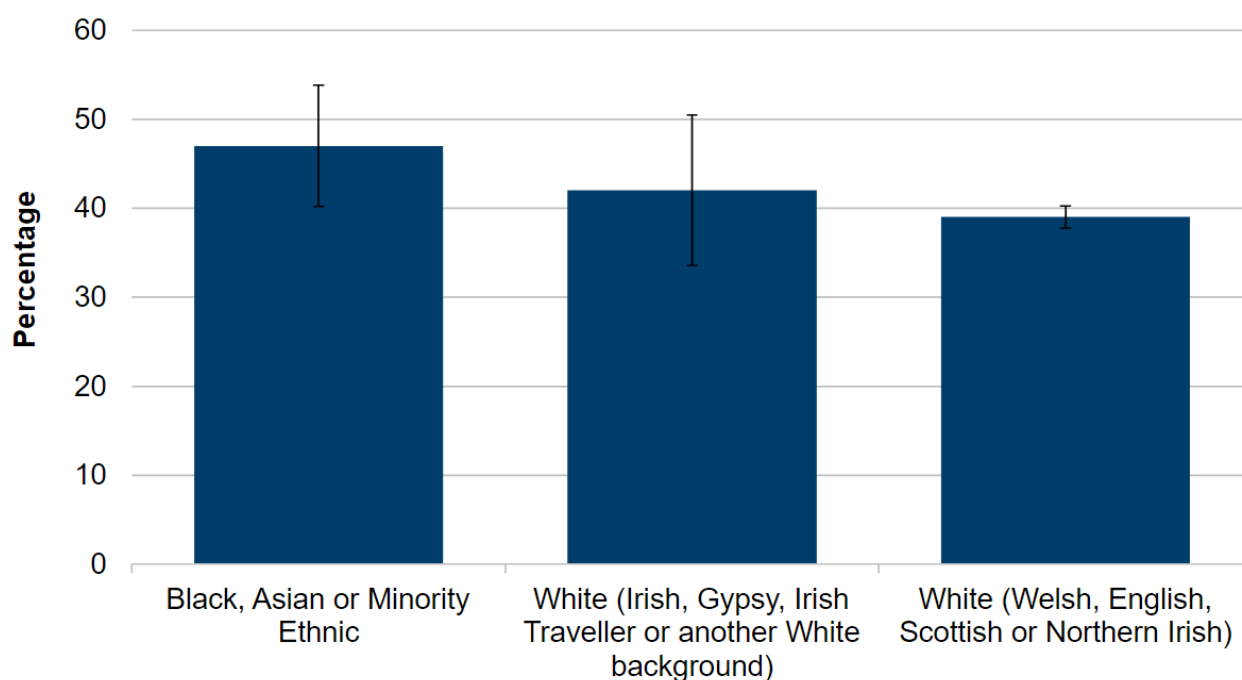
Sport participation in adults

The national indicator on sport for adults looks at whether people take part in sport three or more times a week. According to the National Survey for Wales, most high-level ethnic groups have seen increases in regular sport participation since the data

was first collected in 2016-17. (The change for the White: Irish, Gypsy, Irish Traveller group was not statistically significant.)

In the most recent year, Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic adults had the highest rate of regular sport participation, at 47%. This was a statistically significant difference when compared with the White: Welsh, English, Scottish or Northern Irish group, where 39% of adults regularly took part in sport. 42% of adults in the ethnic group White: Irish, Gypsy, Irish Traveller or another white background were estimated to regularly take part in sport, but this was not significantly different to other groups.

Figure 6.3: Percentage of adults participating in sports three or more times a week, by ethnic group, 2022-23



Description of Figure 6.3: A bar chart showing the national indicator on regular participation in sport by high-level ethnic group. Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic adults had the highest participation.

Source: National Survey for Wales

Welsh language

Census 2021 provides data on the number of people able to speak Welsh in Wales. This is used to monitor progress towards the national milestone of one million Welsh speakers by 2050.

While the total number of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh fell between 2011 and 2021, this was not experienced across all ethnic groups. The number of people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh increased in the following ethnic groups:

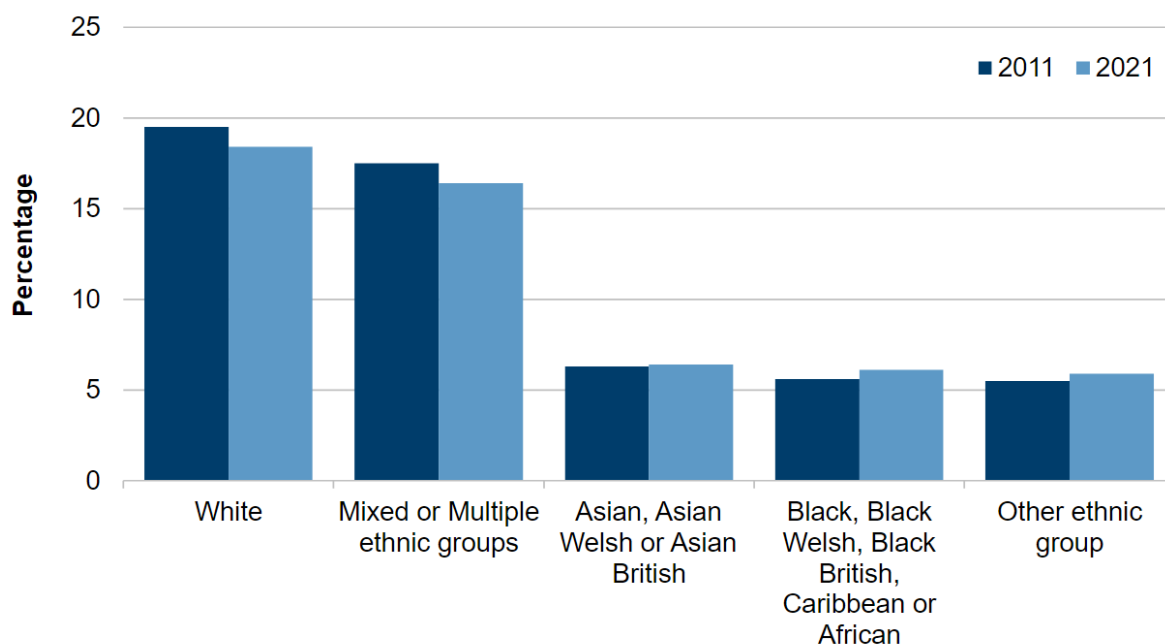
- Asian, Asian Welsh or Asian British
- Black, Black Welsh, Black British, Caribbean or African
- Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups
- Other ethnic group

In total, these groups made up 16,000 Welsh speakers in 2021, up from 11,000 in 2011.

The percentage of people able to speak Welsh fell in both the White and the Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups. In contrast, there were small percentage increases in the Asian, Asian Welsh or Asian British ethnic group; in the Black, Black Welsh, Black British, Caribbean or African ethnic group; and in the Other ethnic group.

Welsh speakers identifying with the four high-level minority ethnic groups were much younger than White Welsh speakers, even after accounting for differences in the age profile of the population.

Figure 6.4: Percentage of the population aged three years or older who can speak Welsh, by high-level ethnic group, 2011 and 2021

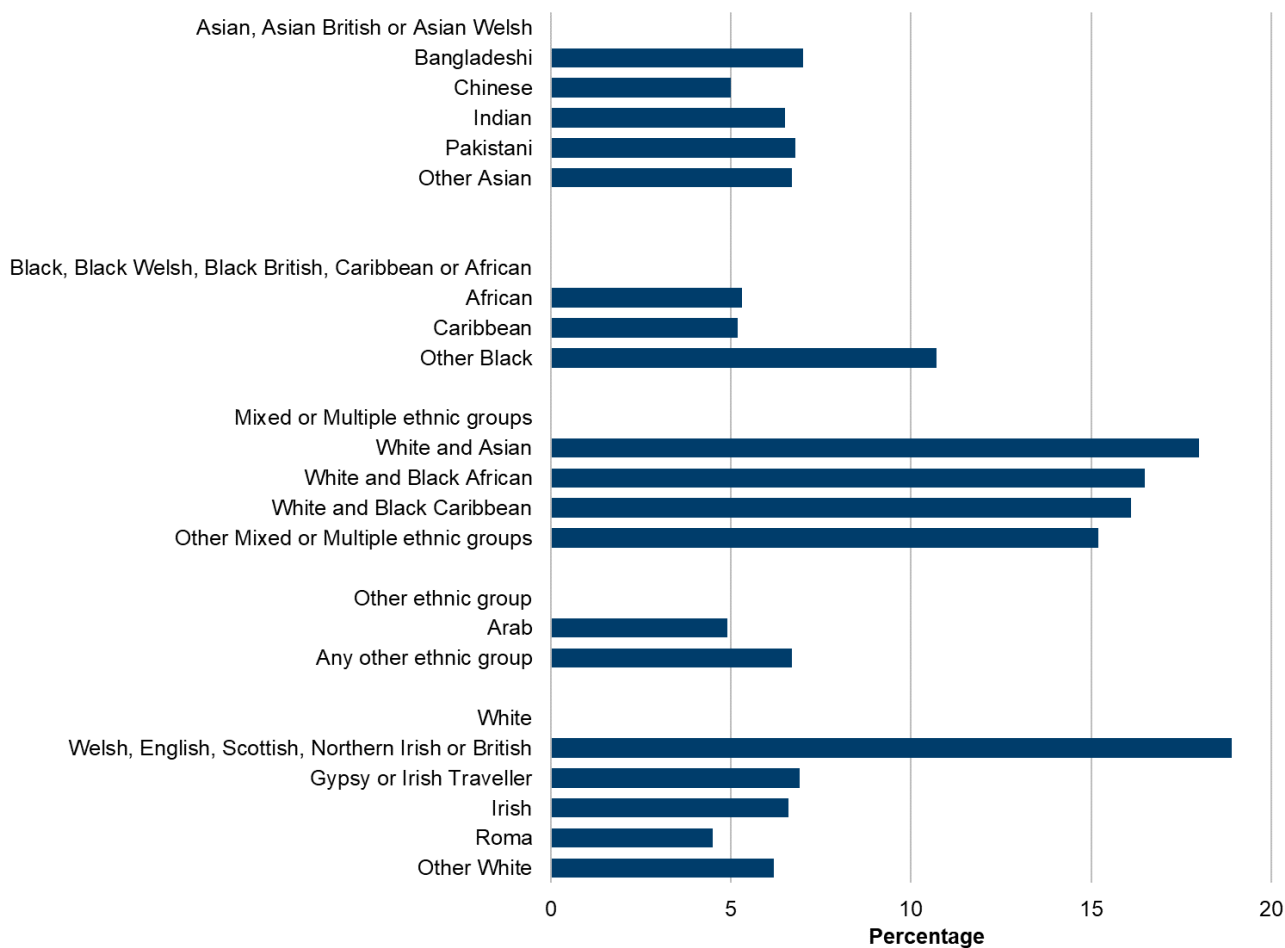


Description of Figure 6.4: A bar chart showing changes in the percentage of people able to speak Welsh between 2011 and 2021 for five high-level ethnic groups. There were falls for people in the Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups category and for the White group, and increases for the remaining three groups.

Source: Census of population

Looking at detailed ethnic groups from Census 2021, the percentage of the population aged three years or older who were able to speak Welsh was highest among the White: Welsh, English, Scottish, Northern Irish or British ethnic group (18.9%) and lowest among the Roma population (4.5%). Among those who noted Mixed or multiple ethnic groups, the percentage of Welsh speakers was highest for those who noted White and Asian ethnicities (18.0%).

Figure 6.5: Percentage of the population aged three years or older who can speak Welsh, by ethnic group, 2021



Description of Figure 6.5: A bar chart showing the percentage of people able to speak Welsh for 19 ethnic groups. Percentages range from 4.5% to 18.9%.

Source: Census of population

Data sources and further reading

[National Survey for Wales](#)

[School Sport Survey 2022 \(Sport Wales\)](#)

[Census 2021](#)

A Globally Responsible Wales

Author: Stefanie Taylor

A globally responsible Wales: A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global wellbeing. This goal recognises that in an inter-connected world what we do to make Wales a sustainable nation can have positive and adverse impacts outside of Wales.

Climate Change

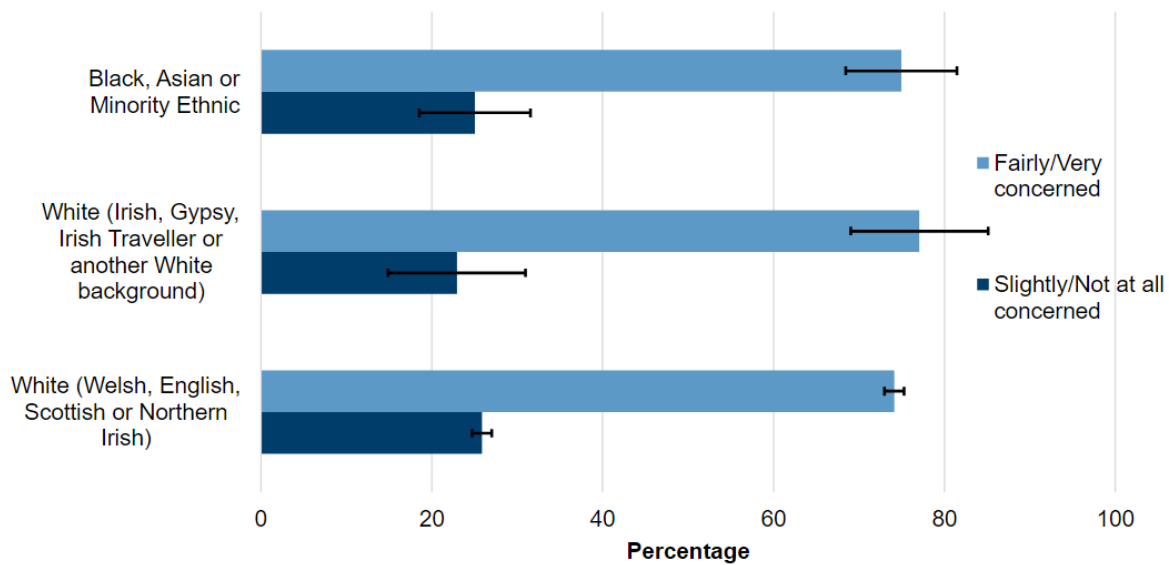
Goal 13 of the UN SDGs is to “take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”.

People in Wales are concerned about climate change.

The National Survey for Wales results for 2022-23 show that the vast majority (97%) of people in Wales think the world’s climate is changing. In 2022-23, 74% of adults were fairly concerned or very concerned about climate change. There is no significant difference between high-level ethnic groups.

In 2022-23, 56% of people think that climate change is mainly or entirely due to human activity. Again, there is no significant difference between high-level ethnic groups.

Figure 7.1: Level of concern about climate change, 2022-23



Description of Figure 7.1: Bar chart showing the level of concern about climate change in 2022-23 for three high level ethnic groups. There is no significant difference between ethnic group responses.

Source: National Survey for Wales

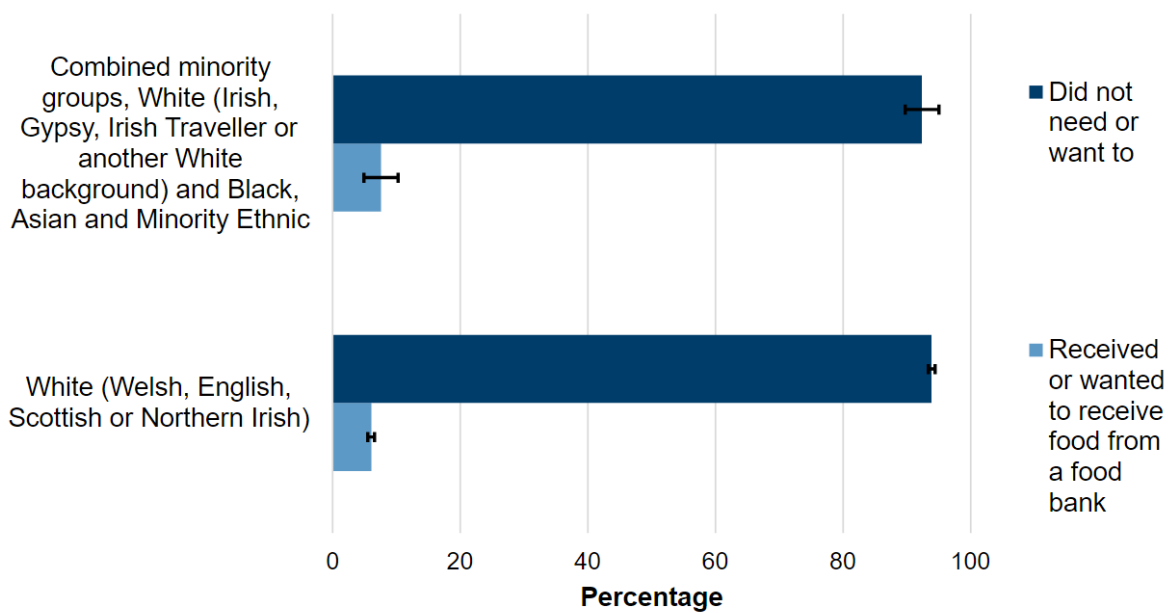
Food Poverty

Some adults in Wales are facing food poverty and are concerned about affording food.

The UN SDG ‘Zero Hunger’ aims to end hunger and achieve food security and improve nutrition.

The 2022-23 National Survey for Wales reported that 6% of households had received food from a food bank or that they hadn’t but had wanted to in the past 12 months. There is no significant difference between ethnic groups.

Figure 7.2: Whether have received food from a food bank in the past 12 months, 2022-23

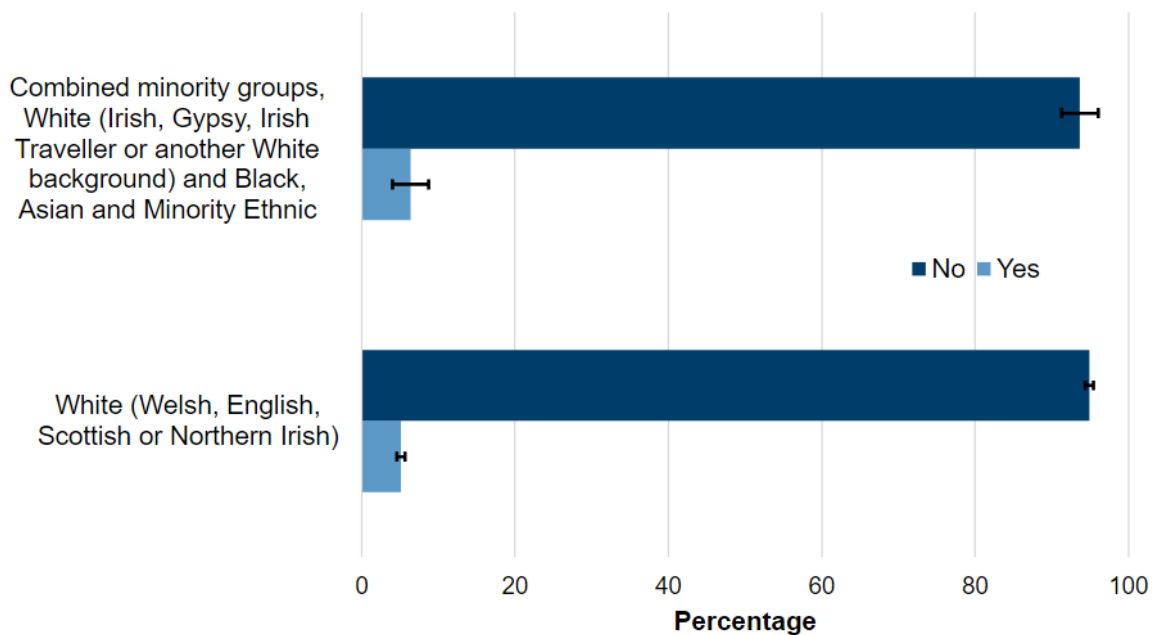


Description of Figure 7.2: Bar chart showing whether they have received food from a food bank in the past 12 months for 2022-23 for two ethnic groups. There is no significant difference between ethnic groups.

Source: National Survey for Wales

The survey also reported that 5% of White (Welsh, English, Scottish or Northern Irish) adults said there was at least one day in the previous fortnight where they had gone without a substantial meal. Again, there is no significant difference between ethnic groups.

Figure 7.3: Whether had a day without a substantial meal in the past fortnight, 2022-23



Description of Figure 7.3: Bar chart showing for high level ethnicity breakdowns whether responses had a day without a substantial meal in the past fortnight. There was no significant difference between ethnic groups responding yes or no.

Source: National Survey for Wales

Vaccination coverage

The UN SDG Sustainable Development goal 'Good Health and Well-being' states the importance of providing access to affordable and essential medicines and vaccines.

The most recent stage of the COVID-19 vaccination programme was the roll out of the 2023 spring booster for all people 75 years of age and older, the severely immunosuppressed and older adults resident in a care home. Uptake was higher in the combined White ethnic groups compared to the combined Black, Asian, Mixed and Other ethnic groups. This was the case in all of the spring booster eligibility

groups. There was a 28 percentage point gap in uptake between the White (69%) and Black, Asian, Mixed and Other ethnic groups (41%).

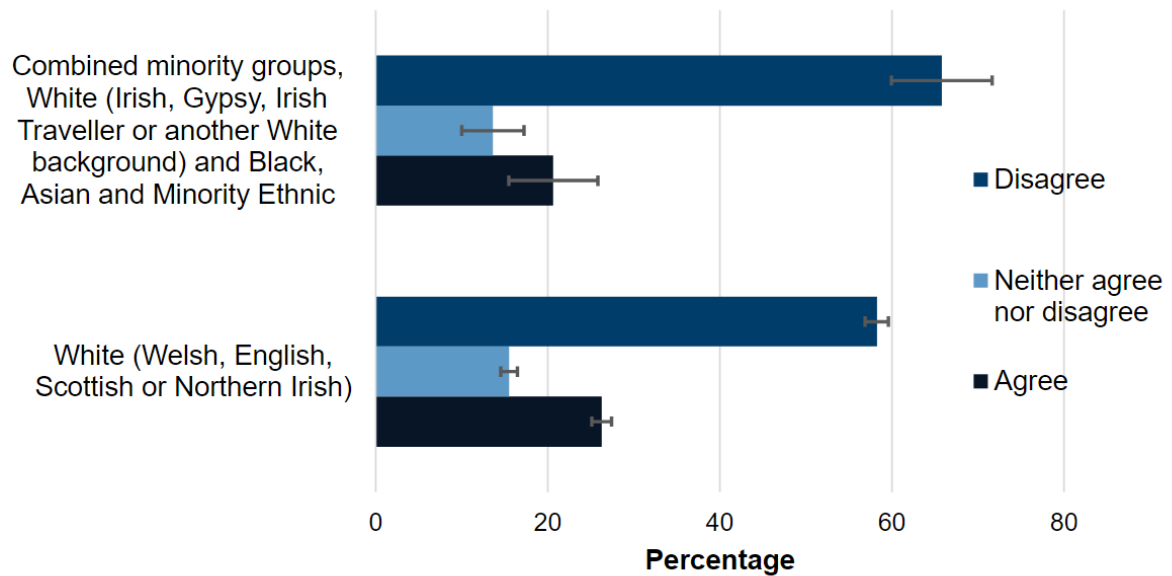
Physical punishment of children

The physical punishment of children became illegal in Wales on March 21, 2022.

Parents and non-parents were asked about their views on smacking children and whether they agreed or disagreed that it was sometimes necessary. Responses included strongly agree, tend to agree, neither agree or disagree, tend to disagree, and strongly disagree. Due to small response sizes, disagree and strongly disagree, and agree and strongly agree have been combined.

People from combined minority ethnic groups, White (Irish, Gypsy, Irish Traveller or another White background) and Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic were more likely to disagree it was sometimes necessary to smack a child (66%). This compared to 58% of people from the White (Welsh, English, Scottish or Northern Irish) ethnic group. There was no significant difference between the combined minority ethnic groups and the White (Welsh, English, Scottish or Northern Irish) ethnic group when looking at the percentage who agreed it was necessary.

Figure 7.4: Whether agree if sometimes necessary to smack a child, 2022-23



Description of Figure 7.4: A bar chart showing whether adults tend to disagree or strongly disagree by high level ethnic group.

Source: National Survey for Wales

Data sources and further reading

[Wales COVID-19 vaccination enhanced surveillance equality report \(Public Health Wales\)](#)

[Ending physical punishment of children in Wales](#)

[Ad-hoc request of National Survey for Wales data \(see corresponding data tables\)](#)