



Child Poverty and Ethnicity

Diversity and Migration Workshop

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Scope

- Ethnic minorities rather than migrants
 - but generational issues
- Diversity between groups
 - but also within groups
- Poverty as income poverty
 - but material and multiple deprivation also important
- UK not London
 - but issues similar even if differences in scale, concentration, intensity.

Poverty Rates

Ethnic group	All individuals	Children	Working age adults	Pensioners
white	19	25	17	19
Mixed	32	40	28	36
Indian	28	32	25	30
Pakistani or Bangladeshi	59	65	55	48
Black or Black British - of which	38	46	35	27
Black Caribbean	30	37	28	26
Black non- Caribbean	46	54	41	31
Chinese or Other	37	44	36	26

Source: Households Below Average Income Data, from the *Family Resources Survey*. Notes: Figures have been calculated from three year rolling averages for the financial years 2002/03, 2003/04 and 2004/05, and relate to the whole of Great Britain. Ethnic group is measured at the level of the household and on the basis of the ethnicity of the household reference person. The poverty

threshold is calculated as 60% of median equivalised income after housing costs

Child Poverty Rates

	Before Housing Costs	After Housing Costs
White groups	18	25
Black	25	37
Caribbean		
Black African	35	56
Indian	28	32
Pakistani	56	60
Bangladeshi	62	74

Source: HBAI 2002/03-2004/05



Why differences in poverty?

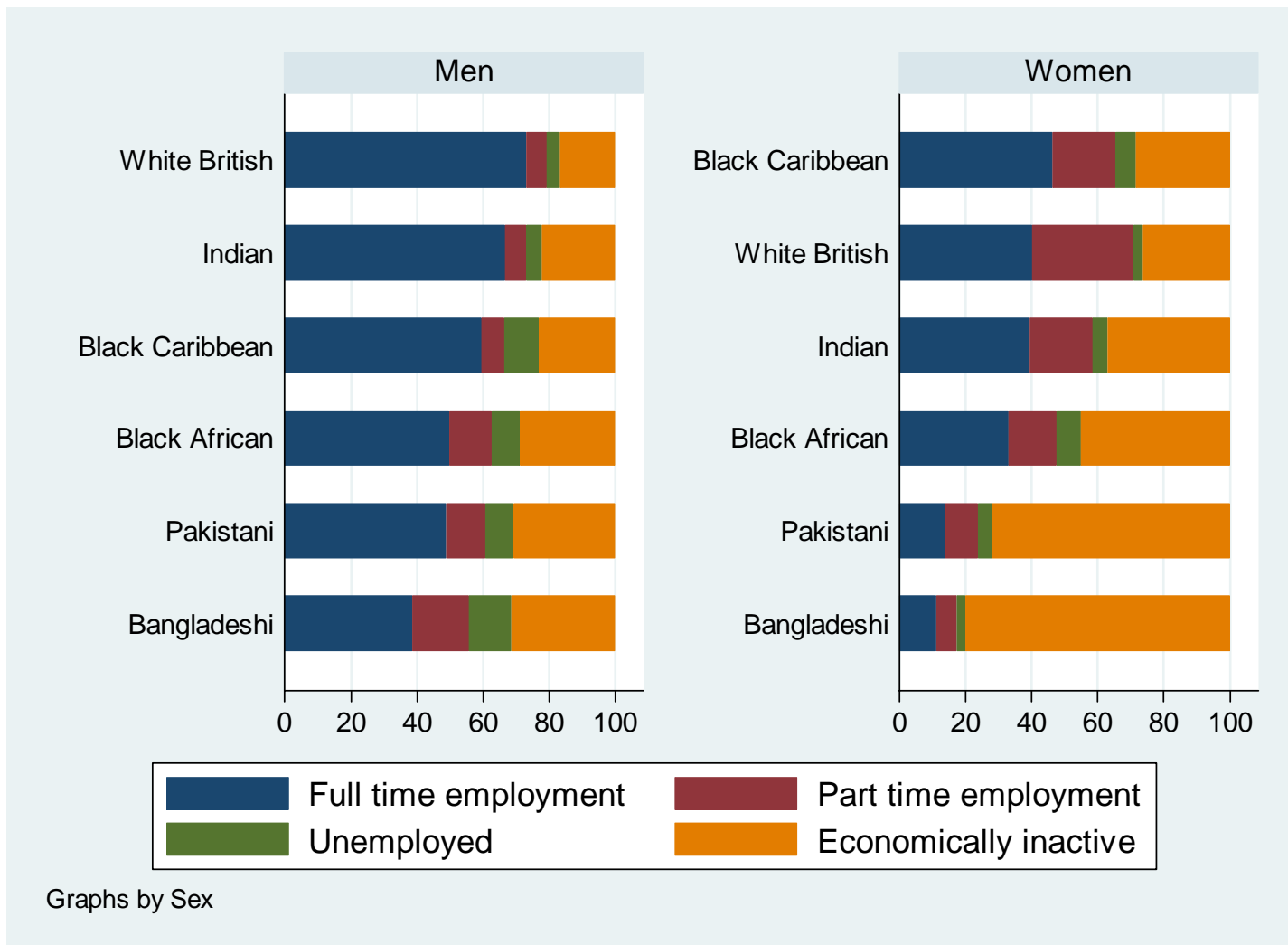
- Differences in incomes
 - from employment, benefits, assets etc.
- Differences in needs
 - family members to be supported by employees; additional costs; cumulative impact of poverty.



Diversity in incomes and needs

- Employment incomes
 - differences in employment rates of individuals and families
 - differences in hours worked
 - differences in pay
- Family size and structure
 - differences in large families
 - differences in lone parent families
 - differences in caring responsibilities

Types of economic (in)activity



Graphs by Sex

Source: Labour Force Survey 2002-2005

Risk factors

across households with children

	% of house- holds with no-one in work	% of house- holds with long-term ill adult	% of house- holds with working age ill	% lone parent families	% large families (4+ children)
White British	14	35	35	22	4
Black Caribbean	27	34	32	52	5
Black African	38	24	24	36	9
Indian	9	38	34	10	4
Pakistani	25	51	46	13	19
Bangladeshi	32	51	47	12	28

Source: Source: HBAI 2002/03-2004/05; 2001 Census; Iacovou and Berthoud 2006



Influences composition of those in poverty...

Ethnic Group	Family structure			Employment status	Disability status
	Lone parents	Families with 3+ children	Couple parents: no full-time workers	Households with one or more earners	Households with 1+ disabled adults
White groups	46	38	22	49	23
Indian	20	45	36	64	28
Pakistani / Bangladeshi	14	69	54	54	24 42
Black Caribbean /Black African	69	47	16	35	15



Source: HBAI 2002/03-2004/05

But risks still vary

Ethnic Group	Family structure			Employment status	Disability status
	Lone parents	Families with 3+ children	Couple parents: no full-time workers	Households with one or more earners	Households with 1+ disabled adults
White groups	48	32	62	15	36
Indian	55	46	86	24	52
Pakistani / Bangladeshi	63	66 79	83	54	63 83
Black Caribbean /Black African	59	54	82	25	32

Source: HBAI 2002/03-2004/05

Challenges

- 'Making work pay'
 - concentration in low-paying employment
 - progression/promotion options
 - rates of pay (and of NMW)
- Increasing skills and qualifications not just among labour market entrants but those in the market place
- Tackling discrimination
 - employer discrimination, but also
 - co-employee/client discrimination, and
 - racial harassment that may make some labour markets less viable or attractive
- Caring responsibilities and levels of long-term ill health for some groups.
- Addressing potential inequities in the benefit system (and non-take-up).

Acknowledgements and sources

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I am grateful to ONS for use of the Labour Force Survey and to the UK Data Archive at the University of Essex for making it available. Neither ONS nor the Data Archive, however, bear any responsibility for the analysis or interpretation offered here.

I am grateful to the DWP for the use of HBAI and to Will Driskell and Frances Goodwin for supplying the HBAI figures based on rolling averages used in the tables.

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