

E V E N S

EVIDENCE FOR EQUALITY
NATIONAL SURVEY

Inclusive data for understanding poverty and inequality

Reflections from the Evidence for Equality National Survey

UK Data Service, Poverty in Data: Perspectives on Poverty

24th April 2024

Nissa Finney (University of St Andrews and CoDE)



Nissa.Finney@st-andrews.ac.uk
@EVENSURVEY
ethnicity.ac.uk

CoDE CENTRE ON
DYNAMICS
OF ETHNICITY



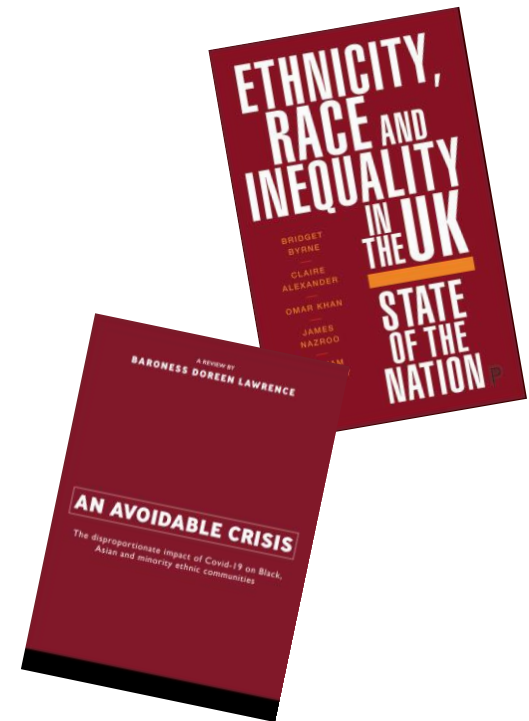
Ipsos UKRI Economic and Social Research Council

Data challenge: representation

- Data sources for understanding poverty in the UK: censuses, surveys, commercial data, administrative data
- The challenge in all these data is **representation**
 - *How to we ensure that ‘hard to reach’ populations are included?*
 - *How do we know whether ‘hard to reach’ populations are adequately included?*
- The EVENS project aimed to address this challenge with a focus on better representation across ethnic groups
- This is relevant for understanding poverty because we know that ethnic minorities are disproportionately in poverty

Origins of EVENS: a context of ethnic inequalities

- Evidence shows stark and persistent ethnic inequalities in the UK over recent decades across social realms (Byrne et al 2020)
- The pandemic has emphasised ethnic inequalities (Lawrence 2020, ONS 2020, Katikireddi et al 2021)



Data deficiencies: the 'ethnicity data gap'

There exists a challenge of data deficiency for understanding experiences of minoritised ethnic groups:

- ethnic minorities are not well represented in survey data in the UK
- censuses and administrative data are very limited in their topic coverage

→ CoDE undertook the Evidence for Equality National Survey (EVENS)

About EVENS – a unique data source

- all who consider themselves to be ethnic or religious minorities were invited to take part (non probability survey design)
- no exclusion/inclusion based on ethnic/religious minority identification or neighbourhood (non probability survey design)
- open link online (and telephone) survey, available in 14 languages
- data collection from February to October 2021
- Post-fieldwork adjustments (weighting) to enable the data to be used as representative of Britain's population

EVENS as a resource for understanding poverty

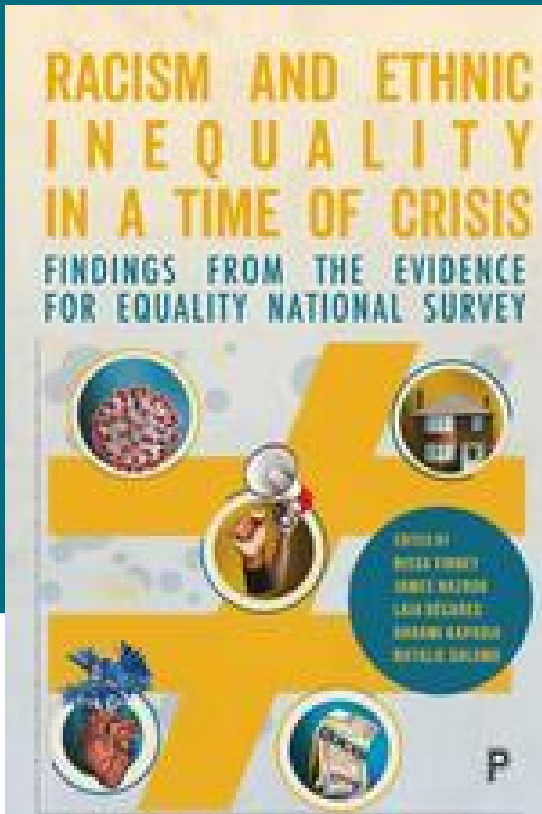
- Survey covers demographics, ethnicity and identity, socio-economic circumstances, work and employment, physical and mental health, Covid-19 experiences, political trust and affiliation, experiences of racism and discrimination
- Detailed information to understand poverty including:
Accommodation, tenure, water & sanitation, outdoor space, internet access, type of work, employment situation, employer status, main job, working from home, job change during Covid-19, childcare, household income, managing financially, worry about finances/job security, benefit/welfare receipt, racism/discrimination in work/education/housing

EVENS is the largest and most comprehensive survey of ethnic and religious minorities in the UK.

EVENS has 14,000 participants including 10,000 who identify as ethnic minorities.

EVENS provides novel, robust data and is a unique, rich resource for understanding experiences of minoritised ethnic groups.





Data and resources
available via UKDS



What worked to get better representation in EVENS?

- Partnership working
- Responsive survey design
- Post-fieldwork non-probability adjustments

EVENS IS A PARTNERSHIP WITH



Tim Cymorth
Lleiafrifoedd Ethnig
& Ieuenctid Cymru



STUART HALL
FOUNDATION



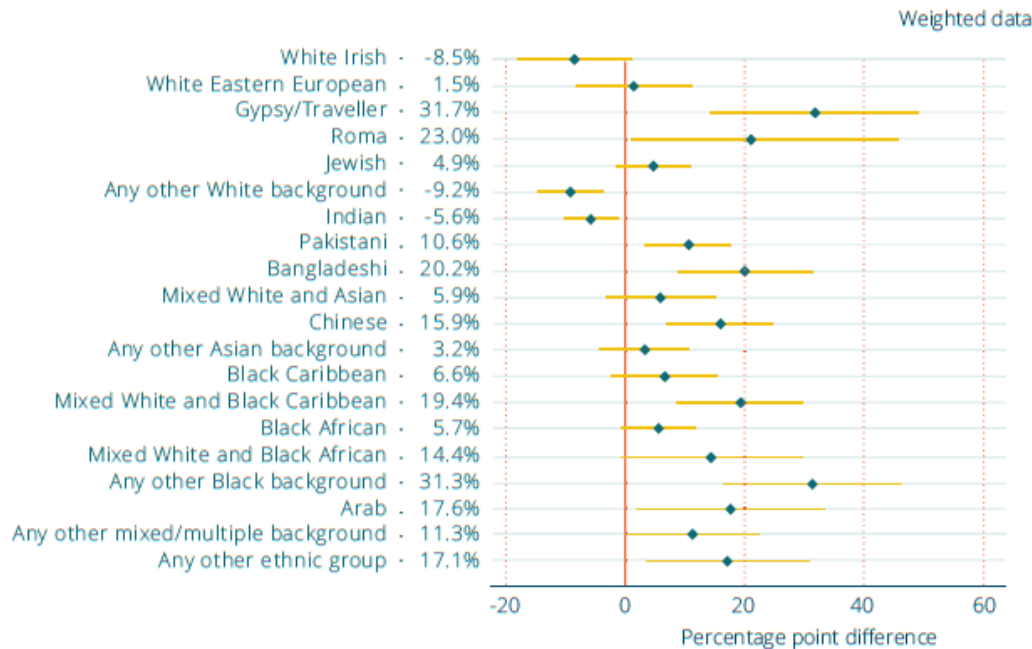
jpr /
Institute for
Jewish Policy Research



EVENS is being undertaken by researchers at The University of Manchester, The University of St Andrews and The University of Sussex with Ipsos MORI and is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.

Evidence from EVENS: benefit receipt

FIGURE 8.8: BENEFIT RECEIPT RATE COMPARED WITH THE WHITE BRITISH GROUP



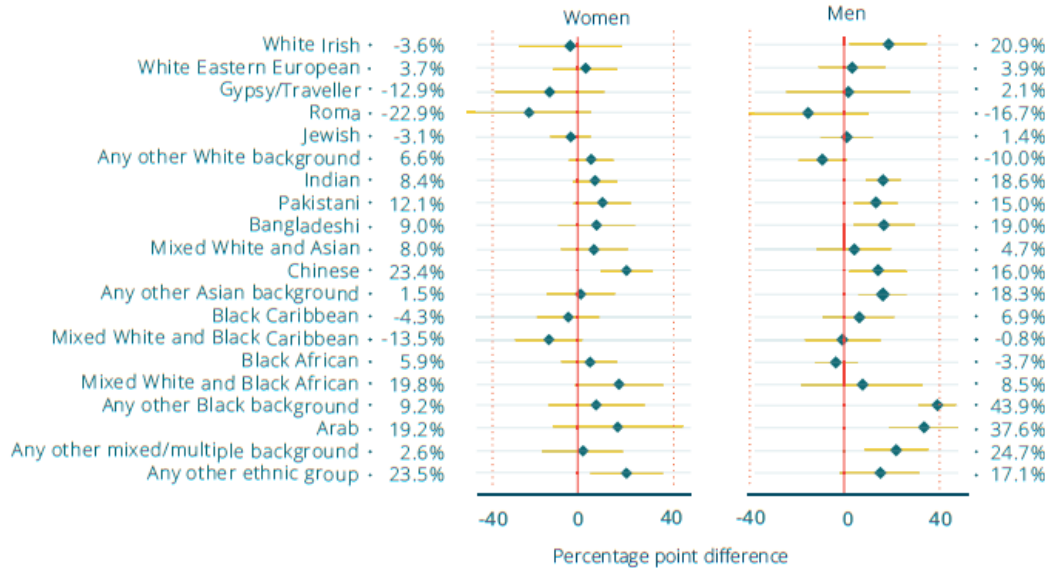
Note: Chart shows age- and sex-adjusted percentage point difference, actual rates can be found in Table 8.6

Considerably higher proportions of some ethnic minority groups compared to White British are in need of welfare support, notably people of **Gypsy/Traveller** and **Other Black** ethnic groups

Finney et al (2023)

Evidence from EVENS: worry about job security

FIGURE 7.8. PROPORTION WORRYING ABOUT JOB SECURITY COMPARED WITH THE WHITE BRITISH GROUP



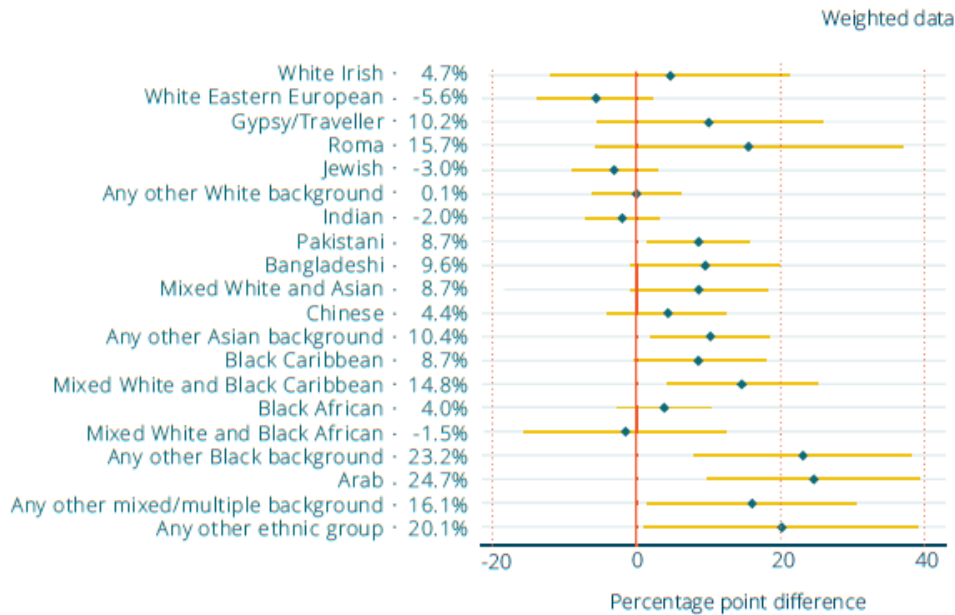
Note: Chart shows percentage point difference for employed people, the age-adjusted rate for White British women is 50.7% and for White British men is 50.9%

Higher proportions of some ethnic minority groups compared to White British worry about job security, notably **Chinese women, Arab, Other Black, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi men**

Finney et al (2023)

Evidence from EVENS: experiencing financial difficulties

FIGURE 8.5: RATE OF EXPERIENCING FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
COMPARED WITH THE WHITE BRITISH GROUP



Note: Chart shows age- and sex-adjusted percentage point difference, actual rates can be found in Table 8.4

Higher proportions of some ethnic minority groups compared to White British experienced financial difficulties during Covid-19, **Other Asian, Mixed, Other Black and Arab** ethnic groups

Finney et al (2023)

Concluding remarks

- There remain challenges in translating evidence about poverty and inequalities into action and meaningful changes in **policy and practice**
- Nevertheless, producing **relevant and high quality data** should remain a priority
- Particularly, in the ‘big data’ era, questions of who is included and **who is missed** come to the fore
- Innovative survey methods, such as in EVENS, offer possibility for **inclusive data** that represents often-hidden groups and provides information on circumstances, experiences and perceptions that are not available elsewhere

References

Byrne, B., Alexander, C., Khan, O., Nazroo, J. and Shankley, W., (2020), *Ethnicity and Race in the UK: State of the Nation*. Policy Press, Bristol.

Elliot, M.R. and Valliant, R. (2017). Inference for Nonprobability Samples. *Statistical Science* 32(2): 249-264.

Finney et al (2023) *Racism and ethnic inequality in a time of crisis. Findings from the Evidence for Equality National Survey*. Bristol: Policy Press

Finney, N., Nazroo, J., Shlomo, N., Kapadia, D., Becares, L., Byrne, B. (2023). *Evidence for Equality National Survey: a Survey of Ethnic Minorities During the COVID-19 Pandemic, 2021*. [data collection]. UK Data Service. SN: 9116, [DOI: http://doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-9116-1](https://doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-9116-1)

Katikireddi SV, Lal S, Carrol ED, et al Unequal impact of the COVID-19 crisis on minority ethnic groups: a framework for understanding and addressing inequalities *J Epidemiol Community Health* 2021;**75**:970-974.

Lawrence, D. (2020), 'An Avoidable Crisis: The disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities', The Doreen Lawrence Review. Available at: https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/5f5bdc0f30fe4b120448a029/5f973b076be4cad5045fad3_An%20Avoidable%20Crisis.pdf

Nazroo, James and Bécaries, Laia (2020) *Evidence for ethnic inequalities in mortality related to COVID-19 infections: findings from an ecological analysis of England*. *BMJ Open*, 10 (12). a041750 1-6. ISSN 2044-6055

ONS (2020)

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/articles/whyhaveblackandsouthasianpeoplebeenhithardestbycovid19/2020-12-14>

Schouten, B. and Shlomo, N. (2017). Selecting Adaptive Survey Design Strata with Partial R-indicators. *International Statistical Review* 85(1): e 1, 143-163.

Nissa.Finney@st-andrews.ac.uk