

COVID-19 BAME ADVISORY GROUP – STATISTICAL EVIDENCE PAPER

INTRODUCTION

This paper summarises a range of analyses relating to the Black, Asian and minority ethnic group (BAME) population in Wales.

It focuses on areas where the impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and/or the subsequent preventative measures may disproportionately affect the BAME population. Numerous reports have highlighted issues which, for different ethnic groups, could affect the risk of the Covid-19 pandemic on their health and well-being either directly or through a disproportionate impact on socio-economic factors that could have longer term consequences. The analysis below presents the data that is available for Wales about a range of these issues and therefore sets the context for Wales within which wider England and Wales or UK evidence can be considered.

Annex A includes some of that wider UK information including analysis undertaken by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on Covid-19 deaths by ethnicity and by occupation and the latest information from the Intensive Care National Audit and Research Centre (ICNARC) about patients reported as critically ill in intensive care with confirmed Covid-19.

1 BACKGROUND DEMOGRAPHICS

Latest estimates from the Annual Population Survey (APS)¹ show that:

- 5.9% of the Welsh population described themselves as Asian, Black, 'Mixed/Multiple ethnic group' or 'Other ethnic group'.
- However, the proportion of the population identifying as BAME varied considerably by local authority – from 1.7% in Wrexham to 19.8% in Cardiff.
- Of the 1,397,400 people currently in employment in Wales, 5% identify as BAME.

2 EMPLOYMENT

The Well-being of Wales report, 2019 indicates that employment rates (2015-17) among the Welsh population aged 16-64 are highest among individuals with a White ethnicity (72 per cent), with employment rates lowest among individuals with an Other ethnicity (50 per cent). The equivalent rates among individuals with a Black, Asian and Mixed ethnicity are 59 per cent, 60 per cent and 69 per cent, respectively. Employment rates for ethnic groups differ for males and females, with the biggest gap in employment rates seen in the Mixed ethnic group (males 81 per cent compared to females 54 per cent). In addition, the ethnicity pay gap in Wales is 7.5 per cent. This means that employees from ethnic minority groups in Wales earned, on average, 7.5 per cent less per hour than White British employees in Wales in 2018

Employment patterns can have a variety of impacts during the Covid-19 pandemic. People working in some occupations, such as key workers, could be at higher risk of infection through the jobs that they do. Other people are working in insecure jobs, within industries

¹ Annual Population Survey, year ending December 2019

that have been told to close during the lockdown period or are self-employed and maybe at greater risk of the economic consequences of Covid-19.

2.1 Key Workers

Analysis of the critical (key) worker cohort in Wales (2019) by ethnicity has been produced from the APS.

However, note that this analysis is based on occupations that could be directly matched to those listed in the Welsh Government guidance. It is up to employers on the ground to determine which employees are key workers. Further to this, some occupations could not be matched to a specific occupation, for example, cleaners or caterers that work in health and social care.

Key points for Wales are summarised below:

- The proportion of key workers from a Black, Asian and minority ethnic background was slightly higher than the proportion of all in employment (5.8% of key workers compared with 5.2% of all in employment).
- 10% of key workers in health and social care were black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds
- There were higher proportions of female key workers than male in both broad ethnicity groups (White and BAME).

The analysis is available for different groups of key workers, such as those in education and childcare, transport, health and social care and food and other necessary goods.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies² in its analysis for England and Wales notes that particular ethnic minorities are more likely to be employed in key worker roles. They indicate that, across England and Wales, black African employees are much more likely than other ethnic groups to be employed as key workers, and particularly in health and social care.

2.2 Employment in occupations at higher risk of Covid-19

The ONS have published an analysis of Covid-19 related deaths by occupation (up to 20 April 2020) (see Annex A) which highlighted a few specific groups of occupations which could be considered to be at higher risk of Covid-19 or which, in their analysis for England and Wales were found to have higher mortality rates involving Covid-19 than people of the same age in the general population. The table below provides estimates of the numbers employed in some of those specific occupations in Wales, by ethnicity. Many of these occupations have also been raised by members of the Covid-19 BAME Advisory group.

² Are some ethnic groups more vulnerable to COVID-19 than others?, IFS , 2020

Employment in specific, high risk occupations in Wales by ethnicity and occupation, 2019

Occupation	White		BAME	
	No.	%	No.	%
Healthcare workers	106,200	88.8%	13,400	11.2%
Social care workers	68,900	92.8%	5,400 !	7.2% !
Taxi drivers and chauffeurs	2,800 !	59.8% !	1,900 !!	40.2% !!
Bus, coach and goods vehicle drivers	32,400	95.2%	1,600 !!	4.8% !!
Chefs	7,500	74.0%	2,300 !!	22.8% !!
All occupations	1,385,400	94.8%	75,900	5.2%

Source: Welsh Government analysis of the Annual Population Survey

Notes:

Percentages are of all employed in the occupation group and may not sum to 100% due to those who did not state their ethnicity.

! and !! are used to note that data items are based on small sample sizes (25-40 and 10-25 respectively and should be treated with caution.

2.3 Employment within Industries told to close

Analysis to estimate the numbers of people in Wales employed in industries told to close from 23 March 2020 for the period that the COVID-19 restrictions have been in place has been produced. This analysis uses the initial UK government list of types of business that should remain closed during the current crisis. The same list has been used by WG.

Note that this analysis uses the latest available data about businesses operating within certain industries. It does not necessarily reflect businesses that have actually stopped operations. Although it is highly likely that most will have closed, some will have changed their business models to continue to operate (i.e. selling takeaway food instead of operating as a restaurant).

The table below shows that 15,400 (6.7%) of the people employed in industries told to close due to COVID-19 identified as BAME. This is similar to, but slightly higher than, the 5.2% of all in employment.

Employment in closed industries by Region and Ethnicity, 2019

Region	White		BAME		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.
North Wales	53,700	97.6%	1,300	2.4%	55,000
Mid and South West Wales	64,200	93.5%	4,400	6.5%	68,700
South East Wales	95,600	90.9%	9,600	9.1%	105,200
Wales	213,500	93.3%	15,400	6.7%	228,900
UK	4,080,400	86.3%	649,500	13.7%	4,729,800

Source: Welsh Government analysis of the Annual Population Survey

However, further analysis shows that there is some notable variation between industries.

For example, people of BAME backgrounds comprise 11% of employees within food and beverage service activities in Wales. This accounts for over a quarter (28%) of the people from BAME backgrounds employed in industries told to close due to COVID-19 (compared to 14% of the equivalent people from a White background).

The Institute for Fiscal Studies³ in its analysis for England and Wales notes that particular ethnic minorities are more likely to be employed in shutdown sectors. They indicate that, across England and Wales, Bangladeshi men are four times as likely as white British men to have jobs in shut-down industries, due in large part to their concentration in the restaurant sector, and Pakistani men are nearly three times as likely, partly due to their concentrations in taxi driving. Black African and black Caribbean men are both 50% more likely than white British men to be in shut-down sectors.

2.4 Self-employment

Whilst the UK Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (JRS) provides income for many of those employed in sectors told to close, the Self-Employment Support Scheme (SEISS) provides support for those who were self-employed before the pandemic. The delay in availability of those funds until late May 2020 may have impacted those who are unemployed to a greater extent than those eligible for the JRS.

Analysis of self-employment by ethnicity sourced from the APS⁴ shows that:

- 4.4% of self-employed people in Wales were from a BAME background.
- Of the 9,400 self-employed people from a BAME background, 80% were men and 63% were domiciled in South East Wales.
- The proportion of people from a BAME background who were self-employed was 8.2% - broadly equivalent to the proportion of self-employed people in the Welsh population as a whole (8.3%).

The Institute for Fiscal Studies⁵ in its analysis for England and Wales notes that particular ethnic minorities are more likely to be self-employed. Among those of working age, Pakistani and Bangladeshi men are much more likely to be in self-employment.

3 HOUSING

3.1 Housing Tenure

Analysis of the latest available APS data for Wales shows that:

- Half of the BAME population in Wales live in rented properties, compared to just under a third of the white population.
- BAME people who rent are more likely to live in privately rented properties than socially rented properties (compared to broadly similar proportions of white people who live in privately rented properties and socially rented properties).

Further analysis of a pooled APS dataset (combining 3 years of APS data) shows that:

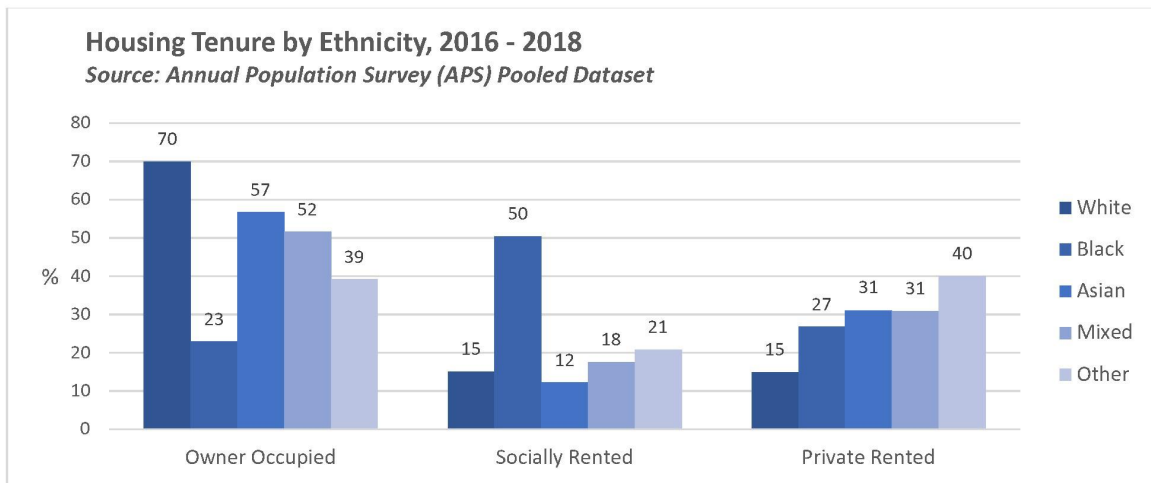
- 77% of people from a Black ethnic background in Wales were living in a rented property. Of those renting, nearly twice as many were living in a socially rented property compared to a privately rented property.

³ Are some ethnic groups more vulnerable to COVID-19 than others?, IFS , 2020

⁴ Annual Population Survey, year ending September 2019

⁵ Are some ethnic groups more vulnerable to COVID-19 than others?, IFS , 2020

- People from an Asian ethnic background were the most likely of the BAME groups to live in a property they owned (57%). However, this proportion was still 13 percentage points lower than the equivalent figure for people from a White background.



- We know from the Welsh Housing Condition Survey (2017-18) that the private rented sector generally has the oldest housing stock and a higher proportion of poor quality housing (e.g. containing damp or other hazards).
- In March 2020 the Bevan Foundation reported on what type of households in Wales might have sufficient liquid assets to replace regular income, should income be lost for 1, 2 or 3 months. Based on an analysis of the Wealth and Assets Survey, they reported that renters would be particularly badly hit if their income suddenly stopped – only 44% of private renters and 35% of social renters in Wales have enough savings to cover one month of their regular income.
- The Resolution Foundation reported in April that those who live in social rented housing or private rented housing are more likely to be impacted in their ability to work (UK Labour Force Survey analysis) than those who are owner occupiers.

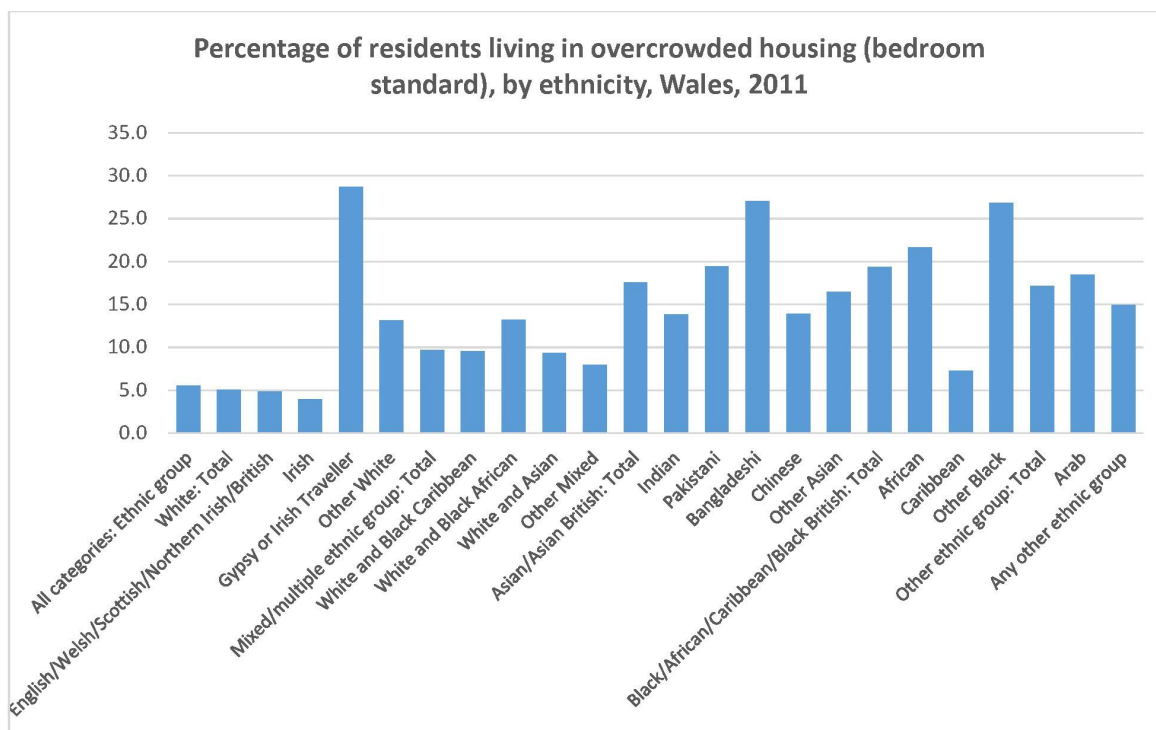
3.2 Poor quality housing

- A recent exploratory analysis of small areas where there are higher proportions of BAME population and the likelihood of poor quality housing (WIMD 2019 poor quality housing indicator) shows that in urban areas there is a correlation between those small areas which have a higher proportion of BAME residents and areas more likely to have poor quality housing. This does not hold true, however, for rural areas of Wales.

3.2 Overcrowded housing

- People from a number of Black, Asian or Minority ethnic groups are more likely to live in overcrowded housing than White British people.
- In 2011, 28.7% of Gypsy or Irish Travellers and 27% of Bangladeshi's lived in overcrowded housing (that is, they had fewer bedrooms than they needed to avoid undesirable sharing), whilst 19.4% of Black people and 18.5% of Arabs did so compared

to 4.9% of White British people. Black Caribbeans were less likely to live in overcrowded housing than Black Africans (21.7%) and those of other Black ethnic backgrounds (26.9%).



Source: 2011 Census

3.3 Homelessness

- Of those households who applied to local authorities in 2018-19 for housing assistance because they were threatened with homelessness, 8 per cent were from a Black or Ethnic minority background. However, 14 per cent of households who are assessed as unintentionally homeless and in priority need are from a BAME background and of these 83 per cent accepted an offer of settled suitable accommodation.

4 RELATIVE INCOME POVERTY

Someone is defined as living in relative income poverty if he or she is living in a household where the total household income from all sources is less than 60 per cent of the average UK household income (as given by the median).

Analysis of the most recent Households Below Average Income (HBAI) dataset shows that:

- People who were living in households in Wales where the head of the household was from a non-white ethnic group were more likely to be in relative income poverty compared with those where the head of the household was from a white ethnic group.
- There was a 25% likelihood of people from a non-white ethnic group living in relative income poverty compared to a 23% likelihood for those from a white ethnic group in 2014-15 to 2018-19 (averaged over 5 financial years).

5 DEPRIVATION

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) is the official measure of deprivation for small areas in Wales.

Figures produced from the latest pooled APS dataset were analysed alongside the recently released WIMD 2019 data. The resulting analysis showed that people from a BAME background were markedly more likely to be living in deprived areas - specifically:

- Almost 11% of the people living in the most deprived 10% of small areas were from a BAME background. This is more than double the proportion of BAME people in the total population.
- Only 3.3% of people living in the least deprived 50% of small areas were from a BAME background.
- Over a third (34.9%) of people from a Black ethnic background were living in the most deprived 10% of small areas.
- All BAME groups were more likely to be living in the most deprived 10% of small areas compared to people from a White background.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) recently published an analysis of deaths involving COVID-19 by local area and socio-economic deprivation.

This analysis showed that the most deprived areas of Wales had a mortality rate for deaths involving COVID-19 of 44.6 deaths per 100,000 population, almost twice as high as the mortality rate for the least deprived areas of Wales (23.2 deaths per 100,000 population).

Knowledge & Analytical Services

29 May 2020

Published analysis (i) from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on Covid-19 deaths by ethnicity and by occupation and (ii) from ICNARC on critically ill patients with confirmed Covid-19

1. COVID-19 RELATED DEATHS BY ETHNIC GROUP, ENGLAND AND WALES

Further analysis recently published by the ONS shows that:

- The risk of death involving COVID-19 among some ethnic groups, in England and Wales, is significantly higher than that of those of White ethnicity. This is partly a result of socio-economic disadvantage and other circumstances, but part of the difference has not yet been explained.
- When taking into account age in the analysis, Black males are 4.2 times more likely to die from a COVID-19-related death and Black females are 4.3 times more likely than White ethnicity males and females.
- People of Bangladeshi and Pakistani, Indian, and Mixed ethnicities also had statistically significant raised risk of death involving COVID-19 compared with those of White ethnicity.
- After taking account of age and other socio-demographic characteristics and measures of self-reported health and disability at the 2011 Census, the risk of a COVID-19-related death for males and females of Black ethnicity reduced to 1.9 times more likely than those of White ethnicity.
- Similarly, males in the Bangladeshi and Pakistani ethnic group were 1.8 times more likely to have a COVID-19-related death than White males when age and other socio-demographic characteristics and measures of self-reported health and disability were taken into account; for females, the figure was 1.6 times more likely.

An update of this analysis is due to be published on 19 June 2020 (as part of a release detailing COVID-19 mortality by religion, ethnicity and disability status).

2. COVID-19 RELATED DEATHS BY OCCUPATION, ENGLAND AND WALES

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) recently published an analysis of COVID-19 related deaths by occupation for England and Wales.

Key points for England and Wales are as follows:

- A total of 2,494 deaths involving the coronavirus (COVID-19) in the working age population (those aged 20 to 64 years) of England and Wales were registered up to and including 20 April 2020.
- Nearly two-thirds of these deaths were among men (1,612 deaths), with the rate of death involving COVID-19 being statistically higher in males, with 9.9 deaths per 100,000 compared with 5.2 deaths per 100,000 females (882 deaths).
- Compared with the rate among people of the same sex and age in England and Wales, men working in the *lowest skilled occupations had the highest rate of death* involving COVID-19, with 21.4 deaths per 100,000 males (225 deaths); men working as security guards had one of the highest rates, with 45.7 deaths per 100,000 (63 deaths).

- Men and women working in social care, a group including care workers and home carers, both had significantly raised rates of death involving COVID-19, with rates of 23.4 deaths per 100,000 males (45 deaths) and 9.6 deaths per 100,000 females (86 deaths).
- Healthcare workers, including those with jobs such as doctors and nurses, were not found to have higher rates of death involving COVID-19 when compared with the rate among those whose death involved COVID-19 of the same age and sex in the general population.
- Among men, a number of other specific occupations were found to have raised rates of death involving COVID-19, including: taxi drivers and chauffeurs (36.4 deaths per 100,000); bus and coach drivers (26.4 deaths per 100,000); chefs (35.9 deaths per 100,000); and sales and retail assistants (19.8 deaths per 100,000).

Note that this analysis does not prove conclusively that the observed rates of death involving COVID-19 are necessarily caused by differences in occupational exposure; ONS adjusted for age, but not for other factors such as ethnic group and place of residence. ONS have also published an article that explores possible differences in occupation exposure to COVID-19.

3. ICNARC REPORTS ON COVID-19 IN CRITICAL CARE

The **Intensive Care Audit and Research Centre (ICNARC)** has been reporting weekly on cases in critical care units in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Since April, these have regularly shown that of the **cases admitted to critical care with confirmed Covid-19, a third of those whose ethnicity is recorded were recorded as being from Black, Asian or minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds**. This is confirmed by the latest report with data up to 28 May 2020.

The report shows that the proportion of Black, Asian and other ethnic background patients critically ill with Covid-19 appears to be higher than the local populations from which they come (based on 2011 Census ward data*).

On 22 May, ICNARC published, for the first time, a separate report for Wales covering patients critically ill with confirmed Covid-19 reported to ICNARC up to 4pm on 21 May 2020 from critical care units in Wales participating in the Case Mix Programme (the national clinic audit for adult critical care).

To date, ICNARC have been notified of 367 admissions for critical care with confirmed COVID-19 in Wales. Of these, early data covering the first 24 hours of critical care have been submitted to ICNARC for 337 admissions for 313 patients. The analysis shows that of those whose ethnicity is recorded **14.7%** were from Black, Asian or minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds.

Whilst 85.3% of admissions to critical care with confirmed COVID-19 in Wales were of white people; 7.4% were from Asian backgrounds, 1.7% from black ethnic groups; 1.0% of mixed ethnicity and 4.7% from other ethnic groups. The proportion of those of Asian and of other ethnic backgrounds admitted to critical care with Covid-19 appear noticeably higher than the local populations from which they come (based on 2011 Census ward data*).

*Some caution should be exercised as the Census data may not reflect the current make up the local populations.