

1 . Main points

- This provisional analysis has shown that the risk of death involving the coronavirus (COVID-19) among some ethnic groups is significantly higher than that of those of White ethnicity.
- 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.
- These results show that the difference between ethnic groups in COVID-19 mortality is partly a result of socio-economic disadvantage and other circumstances, but a remaining part of the difference has not yet been explained.

2 . Introduction

This article presents provisional analysis of deaths involving the coronavirus (COVID-19) by ethnicity for England and Wales. The analysis includes deaths involving COVID-19 that occurred between 2 March and 10 April 2020, registered by 17 April.

Ethnicity is not recorded on the death certificate. To enable us to undertake this analysis, deaths involving COVID-19 have been linked to the 2011 Census, which allowed us to ascertain the self-reported ethnicity of the deceased and other demographic factors. Analysis included those aged nine years and above. More details on the data used can be found in [Section 7](#) and in the [Technical appendix](#).

The breakdown of ethnicity we have used in this publication was guided by the number of deaths available for use in analyses and its distribution across ethnic groups. Table 1 shows the breakdown of ethnic groups used. We will repeat this analysis in the future as more data become available; this will include age-standardised mortality rates of deaths involving COVID-19 and, where possible, more detailed breakdowns.