

## Ethnicity and mortality from COVID 19

On the 7<sup>th</sup> May ONS achieved two significant milestones in the analysis of the health of ethnic groups in England and Wales by publishing a statistical bulletin on COVID 19 deaths by ethnic group (1).

First, this is the initial output from a project to link 90 percent of deaths to the 2011 Census. This provides a more robust and less biased method of determining the mortality risk of ethnic groups than was possible in many recent attempts (2) (3) (4) (5).

Second, it provides the first authoritative estimates of the odds of people in each non-white ethnic group dying with COVID 19 on the death certificate compared to their white counterparts, before and after taking account of a range of demographic, socio-economic and health characteristics recorded in the 2011 Census.

In summary, the odds are greatest for black men and women both before and after accounting for Census characteristics - odds ratios of around 4.2 and 1.9 before and after accounting for Census characteristics, respectively. Odds were also raised for men and women of Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Indian origin. A similar pattern was also seen among men in a group labelled "other" that mainly comprised people of Arab origin.

The dataset provides the opportunity for more detailed analyses of causes of death in each ethnic group in the years prior to the COVID 19 pandemic, as well further detailed analyses of deaths during the COVID 19 pandemic (including analysis of deaths that do not have COVID 19 on the certificate) - once all the deaths that occur in the first wave of the pandemic have been registered.

## References

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