Evidence for Equality National Survey (EVENS)

Introduction to the EVENS Teaching Dataset

Dr Nigel de Noronha (UK Data Service) and Professor Nissa Finney (University of St Andrews)

![UK Data Service logo]

Today's session

1. The EVENS Survey: a short introduction
2. Teaching with EVENS data
3. Ideas for teaching on racism, Covid-19 and political trust
4. Depression and anxiety measures in the EVENS Teaching Dataset
5. Final remarks and Q&A Discussion
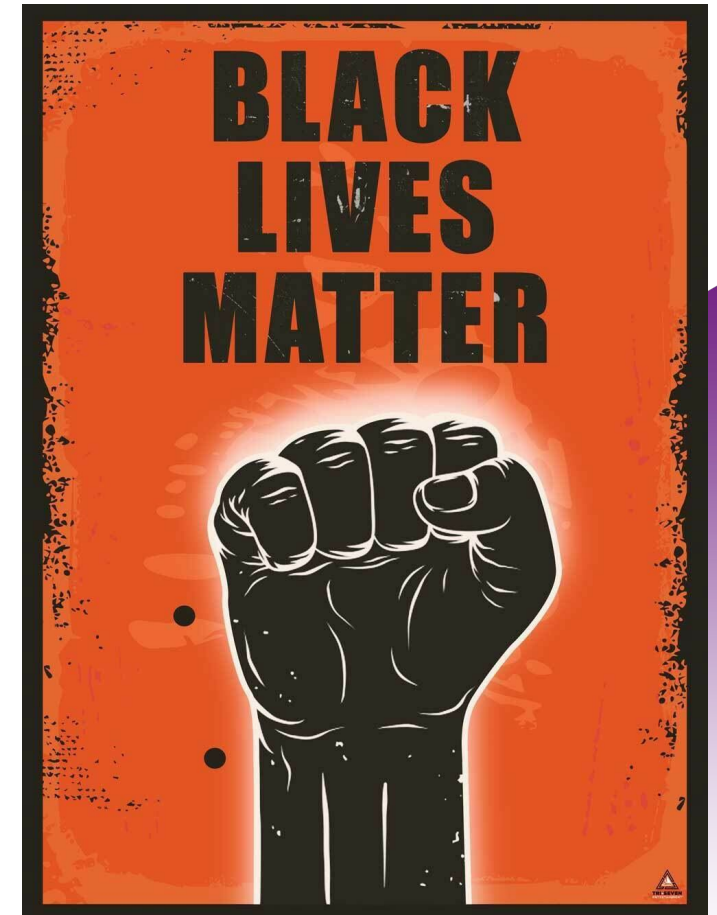
Welcome and introduction

The EVENS Survey: a short introduction

For further details see the UKDS training session:
[Introduction to the Evidence for Equality National Survey EVENS - YouTube](#)

What's new about EVENS?

EVENS is the **largest and most comprehensive** survey of ethnic and religious minorities in the UK.
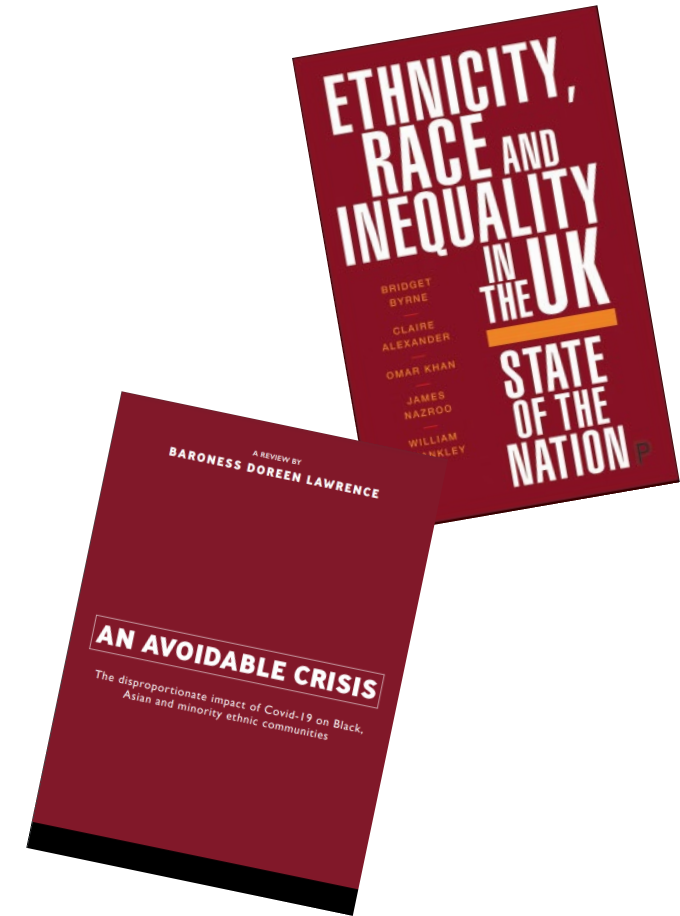
EVENS has **14,000 participants** including 10,000 who identify as ethnic minorities.

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

EVENS uses **innovative non-probability survey methods** to improve representation across ethnic groups.

EVENS
EVIDENCE FOR EQUALITY
NATIONAL SURVEY

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 emphasised ethnic inequalities (Lawrence 2020, ONS 2020, Katikireddi et al 2021)

ETHNICITY, RACE AND INEQUALITY IN THE UK
STATE OF THE NATION

BRIDGET BYRNE
CLAIRE ALEXANDER
OMAR KHAN
JAMES NAZROO
WILLIAM SHANKLEY

A REVIEW BY BARONESS DOREEN LAWRENCE

AN AVOIDABLE CRISIS
The disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities

EVENS
EVIDENCE FOR EQUALITY
NATIONAL SURVEY

Nazroo and Becares (2020) argue that higher Covid-19 related mortality in areas of high ethnic minority population are:

"a consequence of social and economic inequalities driven by **entrenched structural and institutional racism and racial discrimination....** these factors should be central to any investigation of ethnic inequalities in COVID-19 outcomes."

Data deficiencies: the 'ethnicity data gap'

- Social surveys in the UK tend to represent a limited number of (broad) ethnic groups

- Survey sampling favours (by design) areas of residential clustering of ethnic minorities

- General surveys do not have questions bespoke to the concerns and experiences of minority groups

- Census/administrative data have good population coverage but limited topic coverage

- No prior application of rapidly developing non-probability survey methods to (numerically) small population in the UK

EVENS Recruitment
and data collection

Overview

- 30 minute questionnaire, developed in collaboration with partners
- Completed online via open web link or via Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI), available in 14 languages
- All who consider themselves to be ethnic or religious minorities are invited to take part (non probability survey design)
- No exclusion/inclusion based on ethnic/religious minority identification or neighbourhood
- Residency of England, Wales or Scotland required for eligibility
- Incentive of £10 (voucher) issued upon completion of survey
- Data collection from February to October 2021
- Original questions plus those borrowed/developed from existing surveys
- Administered by Ipsos
- Full ethical approval (including amendments), University of Manchester

English
Arabic
Bengali
Chinese
Gujarati
Polish
Portuguese
Punjabi: Gurmukhi
Punjabi: Shahmukhi
Romanian
Somali
Turkish
Urdu
Welsh

Responsive recruitment

- Using a non probability approach means there is no sampling frame and no (standard) response rates

- Target quotas were set by ethnicity*age*sex*region to maximise the representativeness of the sample

- An initial registration/screening questionnaire ensured eligibility in terms of GB residence and ethnic minority (self) identification

- Quota targets were monitored daily to enable responsive and adaptive recruitment i.e. increase/decrease recruitment efforts according to whether quota targets were being met

- Calculation of a 'R' indicator – multivariate indicator of 'representativeness' (Schouten et al 2017, 2009) to guide recruitment efforts

Recruitment methods: promotion and partnership

FFT Partnership: Community Interviewing

- Participation from people identifying as Roma or Gypsy Traveller was seen to be low in the first months of the survey

- Focus groups revealed concerns around trust, confidentiality and digital literacy

- In partnership with FFT (Friends, Families and Travellers) six community interviewers were trained to undertake face-to-face interviews to complete the EVENS online questionnaire

- Community interviewing fieldwork took place 12th July-15th August 2021

- 309 participants were recruited via this methods

The EVENS sample

EVENS sample: Ethnic group

Ethnic group	Sample size
Asian: Any other Asian background	673
Asian: Bangladeshi	406
Asian: Chinese	664
Asian: Indian	1,288
Asian: Pakistani	866
Black: African	1,049
Black: Any other Black/African/Caribbean background	180
Black: Caribbean	566
Jewish	674
Mixed: Any other mixed/multiple background	378
Mixed: White and Asian	525
Mixed: White and Black African	159
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	355
Other: Any other ethnic group	270
Other: Arab	152
White: Any other White background	698
White: Eastern European	363
White: English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	4,513
White: Gypsy/Traveller	251
White: Irish	118
White: Roma	73
Total	**14,221**

Larger sample sizes and more ethnic groups than any other UK social survey

UNWEIGHTED SAMPLE SIZES

EVENS sample: Religious group and region

Religious group	Sample size
Buddhist	285
Christian	5,080
Hindu	631
Jewish	674
Muslim	1,976
No religion	4,782
Sikh	248
Any other religion	67
Prefer not to say	478
Total	**14,221**

Region	Sample size
East Midlands	875
East of England	1,262
London	3,576
North East	367
North West	1,415
Scotland	1,170
South East	1,574
South West	843
Wales	902
West Midlands	1,324
Yorkshire and Humber	913
Total	**14,221**

Age Group	Sample Size
18-24	2225
25-34	3227
35-44	2609
45-54	1892
55-64	1386
65-74	952
75+	479
Total	**14,221**

UNWEIGHTED SAMPLE SIZES

Data adjustments: weights

- Weights have been created for the EVENS dataset. Applying the weights enables you to use the data as if it were representative of the GB population.

- EVENS weights account for **coverage errors** and **selection bias**
  - Adjustments for coverage error align the EVENS sample with the GB population in terms of key demographic characteristics: ethnic group, age (group), sex, region
  - Adjustments for selection bias correct for the greater likelihood of some people (with particular characteristics) being more likely to take part in a/the survey
  - Propensity score approach (quasi randomisation) is used that links EVENS participation to that from a reference probability sample (Baker et al 2013, Elliot and Valliant 2017), using responses to questions that are asked in the reference data and in EVENS
  - Selection bias was adjusted on the basis of: voting eligibility, interest in politics, subjective general health, participation in religious events, religiosity, citizenship, trust in parliament, trust in the police
  - Supporting data used: Censuses 2011 and 2021, Annual Population Survey, Ethpop estimates (2019), European Social Survey

IT IS VITAL TO USE WEIGHTS WHEN USING EVENS DATA, INCLUDING FOR TEACHING

The EVENS Teaching Dataset Offers 2 weight variables:

bkweight weights used in the EVENS book, for use when replicating those analyses

weight updated variable to be used for all other analyses

EVENS topics and analyses

Topics covered by the full EVENS dataset

- Socio-economic & financial circumstances
- Ethnic/racial identity
- Housing and demographics
- Health and wellbeing
- Black Lives Matter
- Social cohesion and belonging
- Attitudes towards the police
- Covid-19 'compliance'
- Trust in government (local/regional/national)
- Racism and discrimination

The EVENS Teaching Dataset draws from across EVENS topics, particularly those highlighted

Racism and discrimination variables

- Insulted "for reasons to do with your ethnicity, race, colour or religion"
- Damage to property
- Physical attack
- Treated unfairly
  - In education
  - In your job
  - Out in public
  - By family or friends
  - Housing
  - In general
  - Other
- Neighbours "made life difficult for you or your family"
- Worry about being harassed
- Change in unfair treatment since the coronavirus outbreak

In the past year
Past 5 years
Last 10 years
Over 10 years ago

"How did you respond to these experiences of discrimination or unfair treatment?
- Tried to do something about it
- Accepted it as a fact of life
- Worked harder to prove them wrong
- Talked to someone
- Expressed anger
- Prayed

Current projects of the EVENS/CoDE team

- Lifecourse experiences of racism across ethnic groups in Britain
- Connection between experiences of racism, ethnicity and loneliness
- Protective effect of religion for loneliness during the pandemic
- Social connectedness, ethnicity, migration and loneliness
- Prevalence of common mental disorders during the Covid-19 pandemic
- Ethnicity and local neighbourhood belonging
- Articulations of ethnic identity and lessons for official ethnic group categories
- Political trust and compliance with Covid-19 measures
- Producing robust non-probability survey data

EVENS book

- The EVENS book (Finney et al 2023) illustrates the capabilities and key (descriptive) findings from EVENS

- The book is available as a free ebook: [Evidence for Equality National Survey (EVENS) - Centre on the Dynamics of Ethnicity - The University of Manchester](#)

Note: the analyses in the book use V1 weights ('bkweight' in the Teaching Dataset)
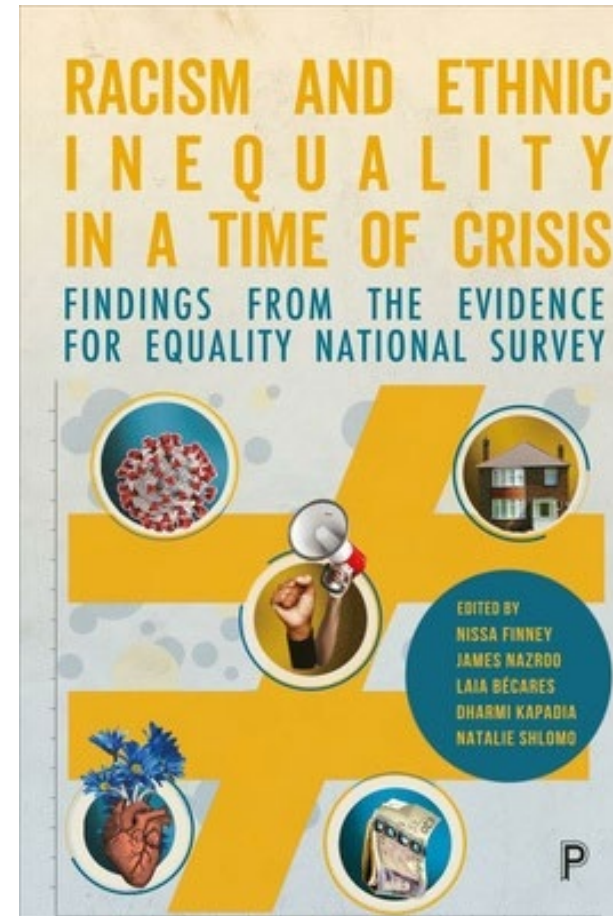
Teaching with EVENS data

EVENS Teaching Resources

The UK Data Service provides:

- EVENS Teaching dataset
  - Open access version of EVENS data with fewer variables than the main dataset, curated for teaching across social science disciplines
- Data Dictionary
  - Guide to the variables included in the EVENS Teaching Resource
- Teaching with EVENS User Guide
  - Suggestions for how to use EVENS in teaching

Benefits of using EVENS

- Topic of substantive interest in many disciplines

- Opportunity for use in substantive and methods teaching

- Ability to explore broad range of data affecting comprehensive range of ethnic minorities. The Teaching Dataset covers:
  - racism, identity and national belonging
  - impact of COVID on health, employment and education; well-being as measured by standard scales for depression and anxiety
  - political attitudes and trust

- Support for descriptive analysis, basic statistical models including logistic and linear regression

Learning outcomes with EVENS

Substantive

Engages with recent data about the real world

Links more naturally with other modules students are engaged with

Addresses curricular inclusion of equality and diversity cross-cutting theme and encourages critical approaches to evidence

Methodological

Can be used for exercises across the introductory statistical training in Social Sciences

Encourages better interpretation of data

Stimulates focus on the methodology of data collection and processing

EVENS Teaching Dataset User Guide: Contents

- Summary information
- Three themes teaching guides:
    1. Racism, identity and belonging
    2. Health, wellbeing and the impact of Covid-19
    3. Political trust and attitudes
- Each themed section contains:
    - research topics and potential research questions
    - suggested areas of analyses
    - sample outputs from the EVENS book that can be replicated
    - suggested exploration of associations between variables
    - advice on building regression models
- More detailed information about the two mental health scales provided:
    - eight-item depression scale from the Centre for Epidemiological Studies (CES-D-8)
    - seven item Generalised Anxiety and Depression scale (GAD-7)

Issues to be aware of in the teaching dataset

- The missing values (e.g. when a respondent was not asked a specific question) have been set as a valid category, 'Not applicable' to allow them to be incorporated in models

- Reduced specificity of country of birth (30 or more respondents)

- Reduced specificity of party intend to vote for

- No occupational social class – highest level of qualification may be a useful substitute. Income may also be useful but needs to be adapted for household size

- Incomplete tenure (rented does not break down into private and social)

- Limited household composition – relationships not captured

Ideas for teaching with EVENS on racism, Covid-19 and political trust

Demographic data

- Age
- Sex
- Country of birth
- Ethnicity
- Year of arrival in the UK
- Household structure
- Number of children
- Religion
- Tenure
- Highest level of qualification
- Length of residence
- Number of generations
- Region
- Household income
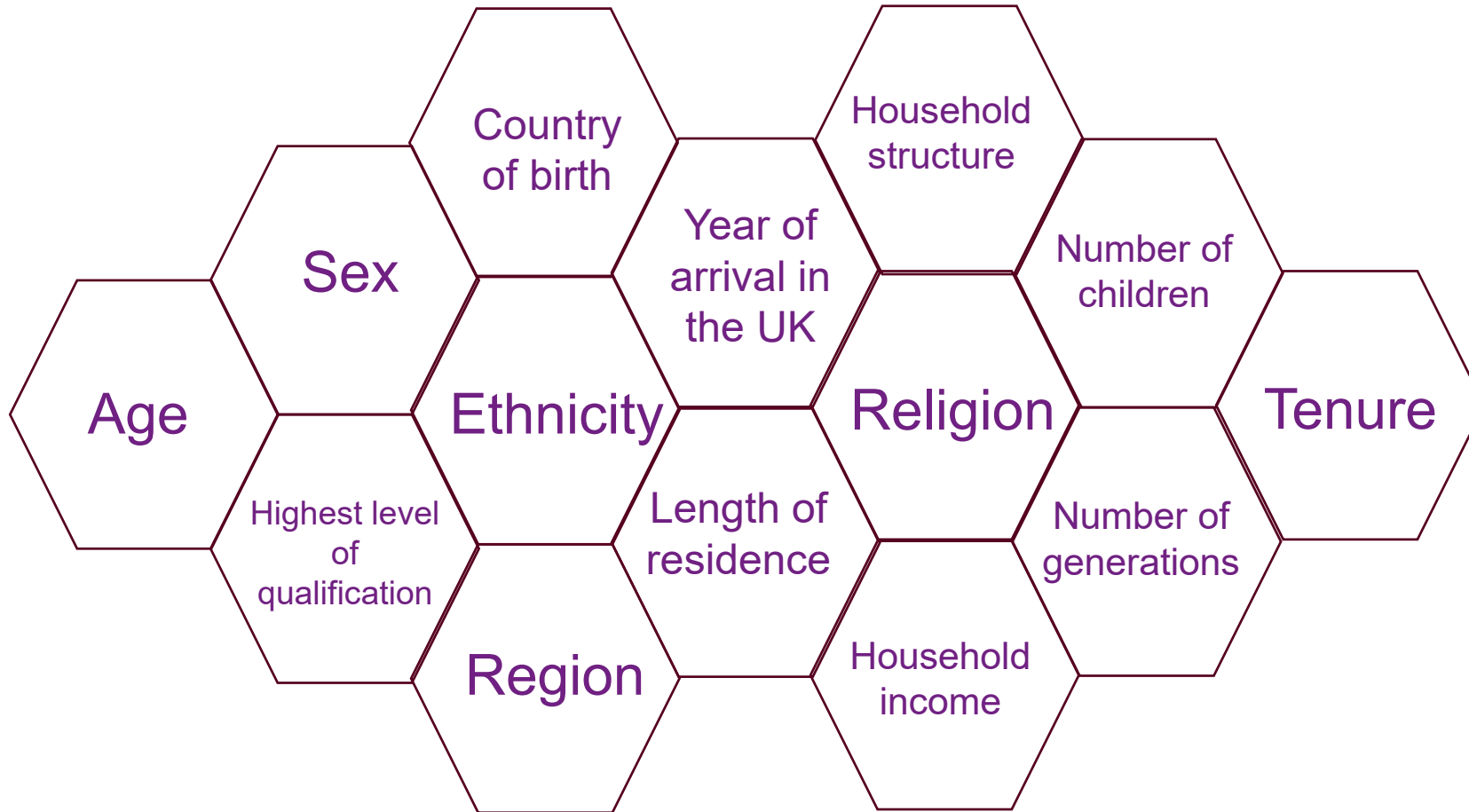
Example exercise:
How does the highest level of qualification differ by ethnic group?

Produce cross tabulation and check for statistical significance of differences

Outcome

Highest level of qualification for Asian, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Chinese respondents

Qualification level	Asian	Indian	Pakistani	Bangladeshi	Chinese
post graduate degree	30%	35%	27%	22%	32%
degree	23%	25%	19%	22%	26%
Other higher education qualification	6%	7%	6%	7%	6%
A-Level, Baccalaureate or equivalent	16%	13%	18%	22%	18%
Vocational qualifications	7%	7%	8%	6%	7%
GCSE / O-Level / CSE	11%	10%	13%	11%	7%
Other	3%	2%	3%	5%	2%
No formal qualifications	3%	1%	6%	5%	1%

Weighted percentages using weight

Racism, identity and belonging

Feeling British, English, Scottish Welsh, own ethnic identity

National identity

Local belonging

Experience of racism

Importance of ethnic background

Importance of religious background

Feeling part of Britain, England, Scotland Wales

Change in local belonging

Response to racism

Worry about racism

Explore by ethnicity, age, sex and region

Example exercise
How do experiences of racism in the local neighbourhood vary between ethnic groups?

How does this vary by sex, age, migration history and region?

Tables and potential to develop logistic regression model for experiences of racism

Outcome for full 21 ethnic groups

Percentage experiencing racism in neighbourhood in last five years
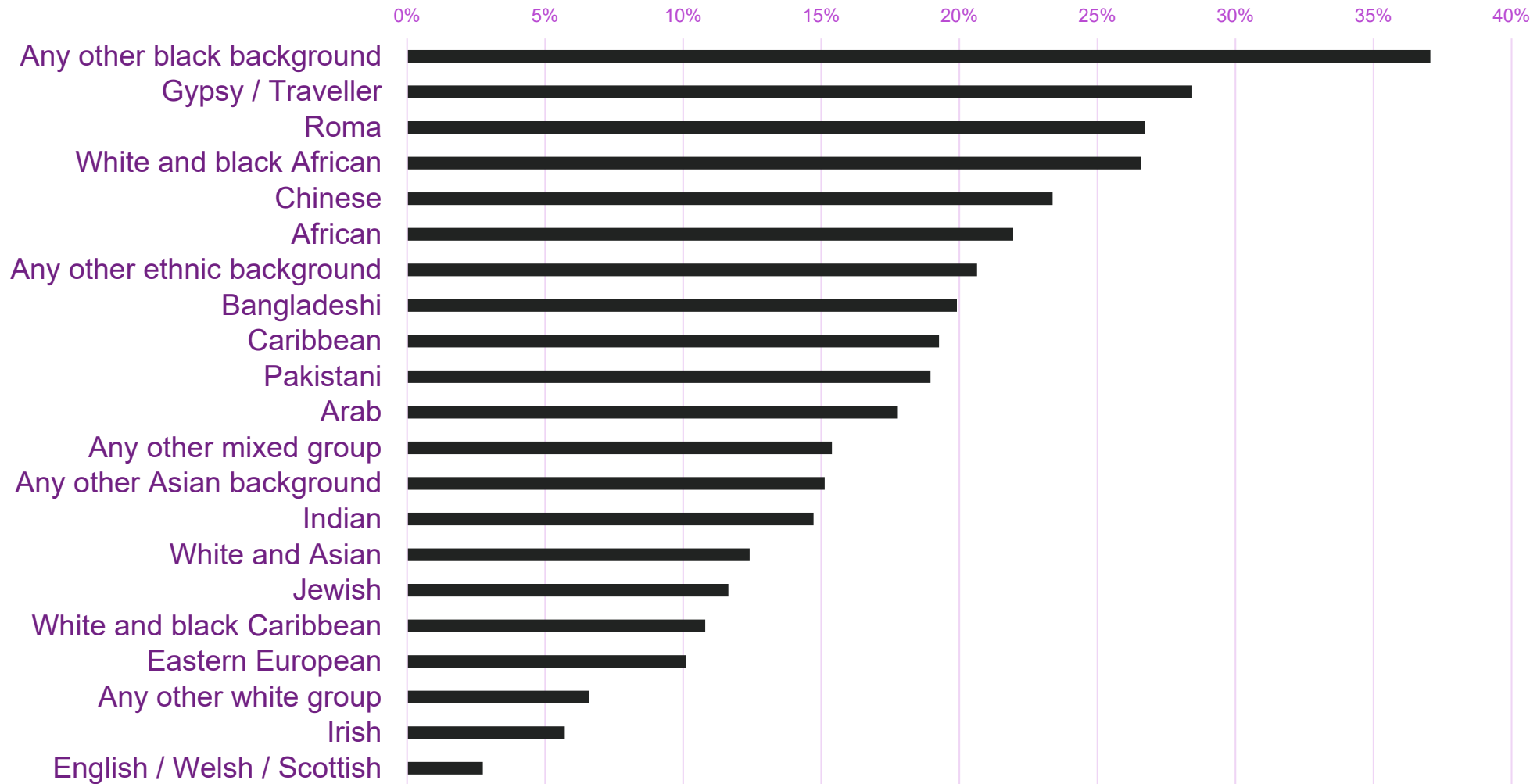
Weighted percentages using weight

Health, well-being and the impact of Covid-19

Explore by ethnicity, age, sex and region

Subjective health

Limiting long-term condition

Access to care

Depression

Anxiety

Bereavement

Covid test

Covid symptoms

Covid app

Covid vaccination

Childcare

Working from home

Access to outdoors

Lifestyle changes

Employment security

Employment impact

Economic activity

Employment status

Employment worries

Financial worries

Financial impact
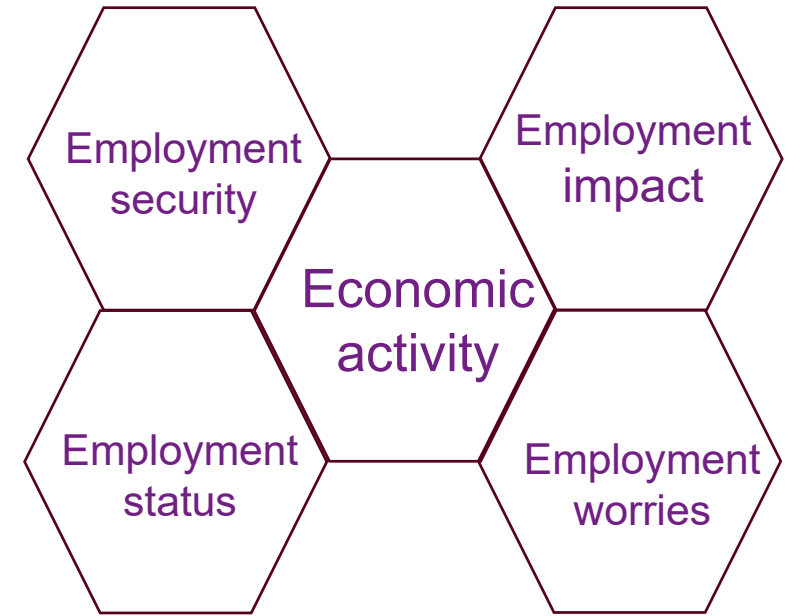
FIGURE 5.2: EXPERIENCE OF COVID-19-RELATED BEREAVEMENT AND BEREAVEMENT OF ANY KIND COMPARED WITH THE WHITE BRITISH GROUP

COVID-19 RELATED BEREAVEMENT

Ethnic group	Odds ratio
White Irish	2.31
White Eastern European	1.13
Gypsy/Traveller	2.75
Roma	0.53
Jewish	3.13
Any other White background	1.62
Indian	5.54
Pakistani	4.21
Bangladeshi	4.03
Mixed White and Asian	2.45
Chinese	0.64
Any other Asian background	2.46
Black Caribbean	4.26
Mixed White and Black Caribbean	1.91
Black African	2.57
Mixed White and Black African	3.30
Any other Black background	5.70
Arab	3.41
Any other mixed/multiple background	2.05
Any other ethnic group	2.32

Odds ratio (95% CI) — 0.1, 1.0, 10.0

BEREAVEMENT OF ANY KIND

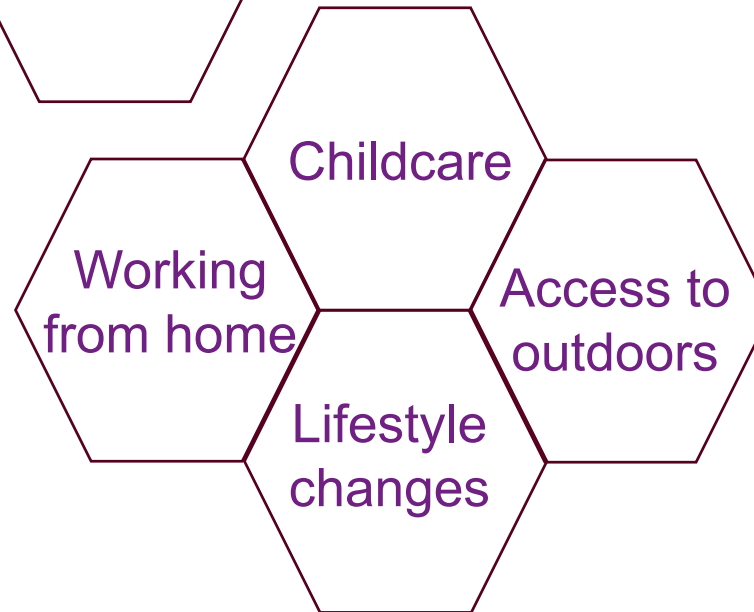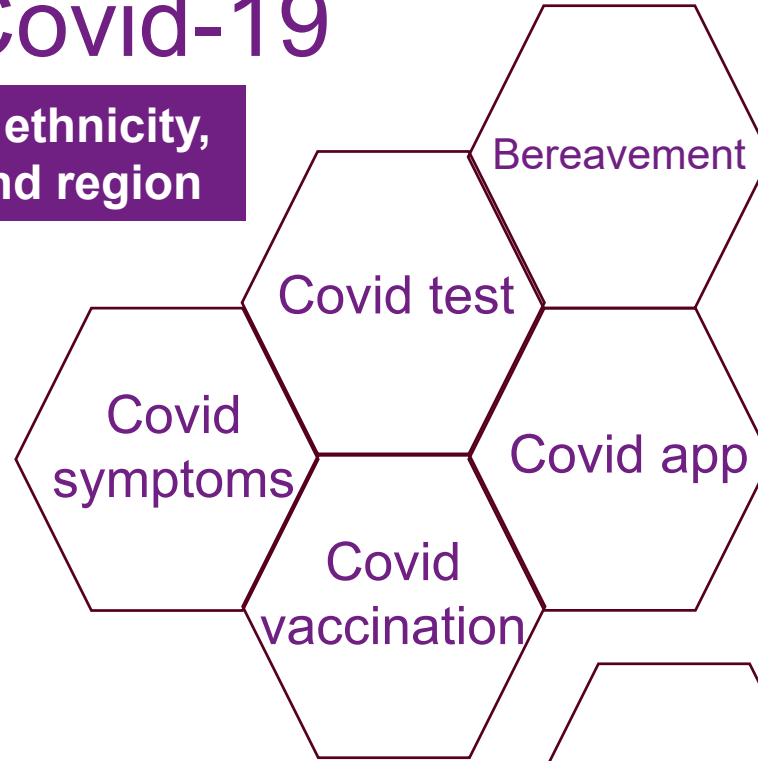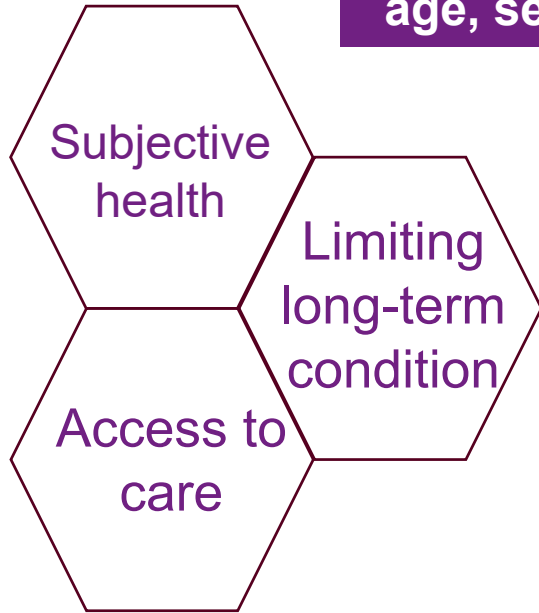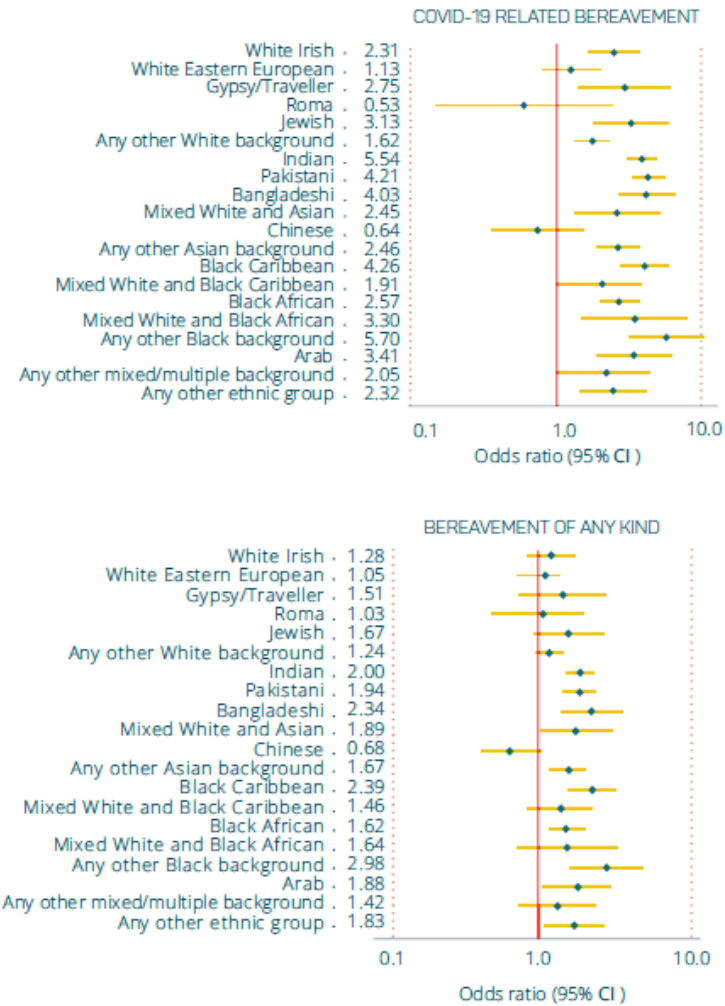| Ethnic group	Odds ratio
White Irish	1.28
White Eastern European	1.05
Gypsy/Traveller	1.51
Roma	1.03
Jewish	1.67
Any other White background	1.24
Indian	2.00
Pakistani	1.94
Bangladeshi	2.34
Mixed White and Asian	1.89
Chinese	0.68
Any other Asian background	1.67
Black Caribbean	2.39
Mixed White and Black Caribbean	1.46
Black African	1.62
Mixed White and Black African	1.64
Any other Black background	2.98
Arab	1.88
Any other mixed/multiple background	1.42
Any other ethnic group	1.83

Odds ratio (95% CI) — 0.1, 1.0, 10.0

Note: Chart shows odds ratios with 95% confidence intervals, adjusted for age, age squared, and sex. The White British rates were 8.1% (N=13,389) for COVID-19 related bereavement and 22.7% (N=13,675) for bereavement of any kind, both with an odds ratio of 1 (represented by the solid line).

Example analysis to show ethnic minorities have a higher likelihood that the general (White British) population of having been recently bereaved, particularly in relation to Covid-19

The figure is taken from the EVENS book and can be replicated in class

EVENS
EVIDENCE FOR EQUALITY
NATIONAL SURVEY

Trust, political attitudes and behaviours

Explore by ethnicity, age, sex and region

Interest in politics

Trust in government handling of Covid-19

Attitude to Black Lives Matter

Black Lives Matter action

Intention to vote

Attitude to and experiences of police

Example analysis shows that across Britain, ethnic minorities have higher levels of trust in UK Parliament than White British

The figure is taken from the EVENS book and can be replicated in class

FIGURE 9.2: REGIONAL DIFFERENCES IN THE LEVEL OF TRUST IN THE UK PARLIAMENT IN RELATION TO ITS MANAGEMENT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, ETHNIC MINORITY RESPONDENTS COMPARED TO WHITE BRITISH RESPONDENTS

Note: Weighted percentages of responding 'A lot' and 'Fair amount of trust' to the question 'How much do you trust the UK Parliament in relation to its management of the coronavirus outbreak?' England: N=10,830; Scotland: N=1,038; Wales: N=782

EVENS
EVIDENCE FOR EQUALITY
NATIONAL SURVEY

40

Depression and Anxiety measures in the EVENS Teaching Dataset

Depression CES-D-8

1 Feeling depressed in last week

2 You felt everything you did was an effort in the last week

3 Your sleep was restless in the last week

Optional second factor

(4) You were happy in the last week

5 You felt lonely in the last week

(6) You enjoyed life in the last week

7 You felt sad in the last week

8 You could not get going in the last week

One factor for all questions

Anxiety GAD-7

Generalized Anxiety Disorder Screener (GAD-7)

Over the *last 2 weeks*, how often have you been bothered by the following problems?	Not at all	Several Days	More than half the days	Nearly every day
1. Feeling nervous, anxious or on edge	0	1	2	3
2. Not being able to stop or control worrying	0	1	2	3
3. Worrying too much about different things	0	1	2	3
4. Trouble relaxing	0	1	2	3
5. Being so restless that it is hard to sit still	0	1	2	3
6. Becoming easily annoyed or irritated	0	1	2	3
7. Feeling afraid as if something awful might happen	0	1	2	3
	Add columns			
	Total Score			

Accessing the data

- Version deposited with UKDS and will be available shortly

- Available via the link on the event page (dataset, user guide and data dictionary)

- Further information in [main study SN 9116](#)

Teaching materials

If you would like to talk about developing teaching materials please feel free to contact me.

If you would like to share materials for using the EVENS Teaching dataset then let me know and we can add them to the UKDS documentation for the study.

References

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

Finney, N., Nazroo, J., Becares, L., Kapadia, D., Shlomo, N. (Eds) (2023) *Racism and Ethnic Inequality in a time of Crisis: Findings from the Evidence for Equality National Survey* Policy Press. www.ethnicity.ac.uk/research/projects/evens

Keep in touch!

nigel.denoronha@manchester.ac.uk
nissa.finney@st-andrews.ac.uk

https://ukdataservice.ac.uk
www.ethnicity.ac.uk

@EthnicityUK