

# Deprivation and Ethnicity in England: A Regional Perspective

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## Key points

- The ethnic mix of population in small areas can be provided from Census data. Analysing these using results from the Index of Multiple Deprivation gives differing patterns across regions of England.
- Some ethnic groups are more likely to live in areas which are more deprived. Bangladeshi and Pakistani groups make up a four times higher proportion of the population in the most deprived local areas than of England as a whole.
- Black African and Black Caribbean groups make up approximately two and a half times as high a proportion of the population in the most deprived local areas as for England as a whole.
- London had the highest proportions of all minority groups, but for a number of these there was a different pattern across deprivation levels than for other regions.

## Summary

This article uses a definition of local area deprivation developed by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to present a new way of describing variations in the mix of ethnic groups in England using 2001 Census data. Ethnic breakdowns by local area deprivation score within each region were analysed and compared with the proportion of the population of England, or national baseline, made up by each ethnic group.

It was found that some ethnic groups were more likely to live in local areas that have been classed as among the more deprived in England. The Bangladeshi and Pakistani groups were the most likely to live in deprived areas, making up four times as high a proportion of the population in the most deprived local areas as they did for England as a whole. For the Black African and Black Caribbean groups, this figure was approximately two and a half times as high a proportion of the population in the most deprived local areas than for England as a whole.

London was the region with the highest proportions of all minority groups, but a number of these groups showed different patterns across deprivation scores than other regions.

This analysis can be used as a starting point to identify regions where patterns in the relative proportions of a particular ethnic group were different across local areas with different levels of deprivation.

## Introduction

The 2001 Census included a question on ethnicity. Analysis by small areas is possible with Census data and a regional picture of ethnicity can be produced. This article describes how deprived areas are spread within each English region, and then looks at how different ethnic groups are spread over England by region and by levels of deprivation.

## Measurement of local deprivation

In recent years, local area deprivation in England has been measured through the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). The IMD take account of different types of deprivation such as health, employment and housing. Relevant indicators in these subject areas like levels of disability, unemployment and overcrowding are combined to assign a deprivation score to each local area. These scores are then ordered, ranging from

the most deprived area in England, with an IMD score of 1, to the least deprived with the highest score.<sup>1</sup>

For the analysis in this article, the 2004 IMD for England have been used to define the level of deprivation in an area and the 2001 Census has provided details of the ethnic mix. The 2004 IMD were produced for a new small area geography – ‘Lower Layer Super Output Areas’. These areas were designed using the 2001 Census to each contain similar numbers of people and to be as homogeneous as possible.<sup>2</sup> This analysis is therefore based on data at this level, referred to as local areas for the rest of this article.

In order to look at how deprivation is spread across the regions of England, the local areas were ranked according to their deprivation scores. The areas were then divided into ten equally sized groups, each making up 10 per cent of the total in England. These groups are called deciles and will be referred to as such throughout this article. Figure A3.1 shows how the spread of deprivation is different in each region. For example, more than 20 per cent of the North East’s local areas are among those in the most deprived decile in England. On the other hand, less than 3 per cent of local areas in the South East are in this decile.

## Deprivation and ethnicity

The following analysis compares the ethnic composition of local areas according to the Census with the distribution of deprivation across the different regions of England.

The proportion of each ethnic group in the population of England as a whole has been used as a baseline for this analysis. The proportion of each group within local areas in each decile is then compared with this baseline to show whether the group was present in relatively high or low proportions across different levels of deprivation. The same process was also completed for each region. This revealed regions where a particular group was present in large proportions in general, as well as how the relative size of the group varied across different levels of deprivation within that region. This was compared with that group’s situation for England as a whole.

This analysis allows the identification and examination of where ethnic groups are present in higher or lower proportions than the national baseline for that group. However, it does not compare the sizes of the different groups relative to each other, as the levels in different groups may be different. To illustrate this, in 2001 in England as a

whole, 2.1 per cent of the population were Indian and 0.6 per cent Bangladeshi. If Bangladeshis made up 1.2 per cent of the population in a region, this would be double their national baseline. However, this would still be a lower proportion of the population than if the Indian group was present at its baseline level of 2.1 per cent.

The following sections of this article look at individual ethnic groups. Figures A3.2 to A3.9 show how the proportions of each ethnic group<sup>3</sup> varied across different levels of deprivation in England as a whole, and within selected English Regions.<sup>4</sup> In the charts, the national baseline proportion for each group has been set to 100.

## Asian Indian group

Figure A3.2 shows how proportions of the Indian group varied across different levels of deprivation in England, and selected English regions.

England:

- There was a tendency for Indians to live in more deprived areas, with proportions larger than the national baseline living in the most deprived 50 per cent of local areas.
- There was a steady increase in proportions of Indians in the more deprived deciles.
- This was true except for local areas in the most deprived decile, where proportions were only just above baseline.

Regionally:

- London had the largest proportions of Indians compared with baseline but the pattern across different levels of deprivation was not the same as nationally. Most Indians lived in areas with medium deprivation scores, not in the most or least deprived 30 per cent.
- In the West Midlands (where proportions of the Indian group were generally lower than in London) the highest proportions were in the most deprived local areas. Here, the proportion of Indians in local areas in the most deprived decile was over two and a half times the national baseline, and was higher than in London.
- The South East and Yorkshire and the Humber illustrate regions where the Indian group was present in proportions below the national baseline.
- These regions also show different patterns across levels of

1 A fuller explanation of this classification can be found at <http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/>

2 A fuller explanation of output area geography can be found at <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/soa.asp>

3 Of the 16 ethnic categories presented in the 2001 Census, the ‘Other’ categories have been excluded as residual groups representing relatively few people. The ‘Mixed’ categories have also been excluded. The mixed categories were White mixed with either Asian, Black Caribbean or Black African. Again, these groups represent relatively few people, Mixed White and Black Caribbean and Mixed White and Black African show very similar results to the Black Caribbean and Black African groups, and the Mixed White and Asian group shows results very similar to the Indian group.

4 It was not possible to show all regions for reasons of space. Regions with different patterns from England as a whole or each other were chosen, using the same regions throughout to allow comparability as far as possible. The North East and South West were generally excluded as they had very low proportions of most groups. The West and East Midlands often showed similar patterns and the West Midlands was used throughout. Yorkshire and the Humber and the North West generally showed similar patterns and the former has been analysed throughout.

Figure A3.1 Percentage of each region made up of areas within each decile across England of the 2004 IMD

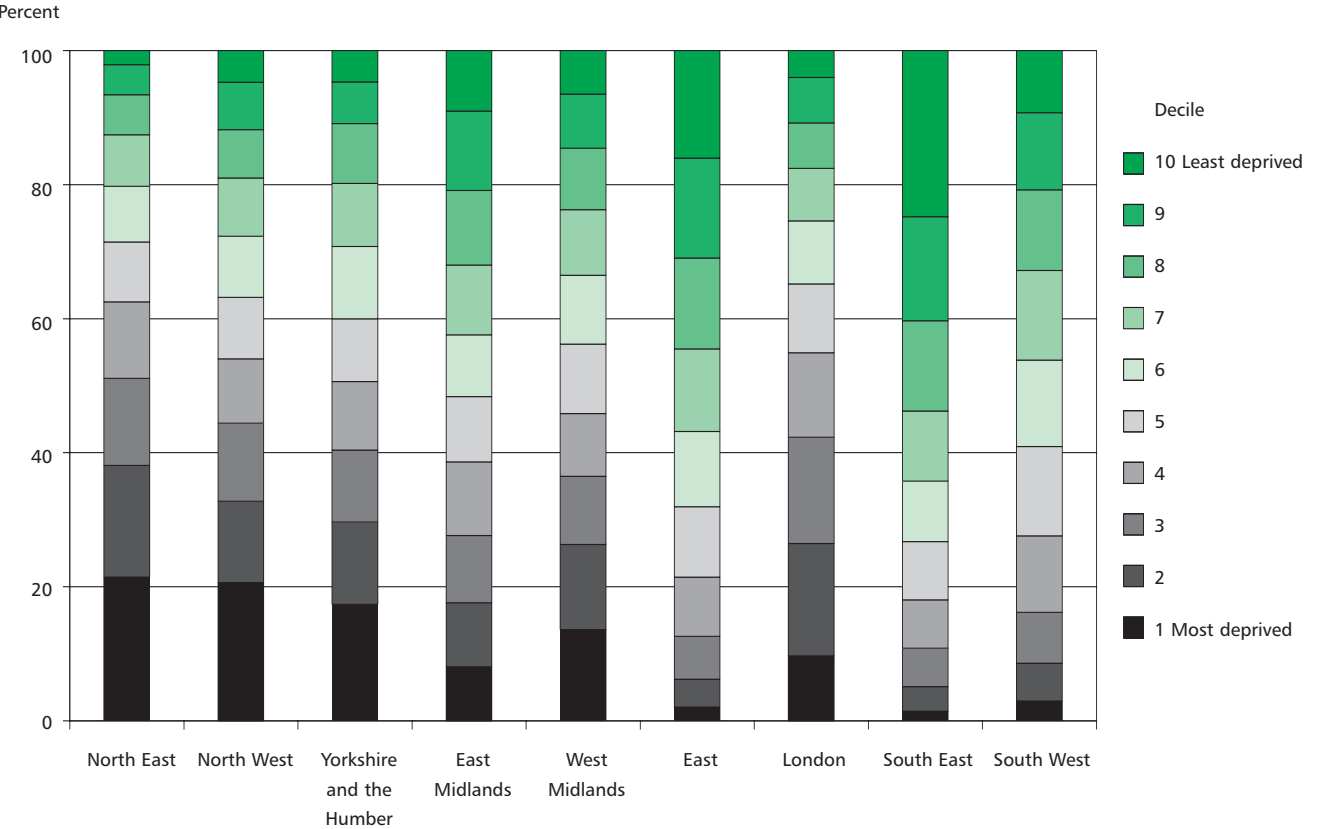
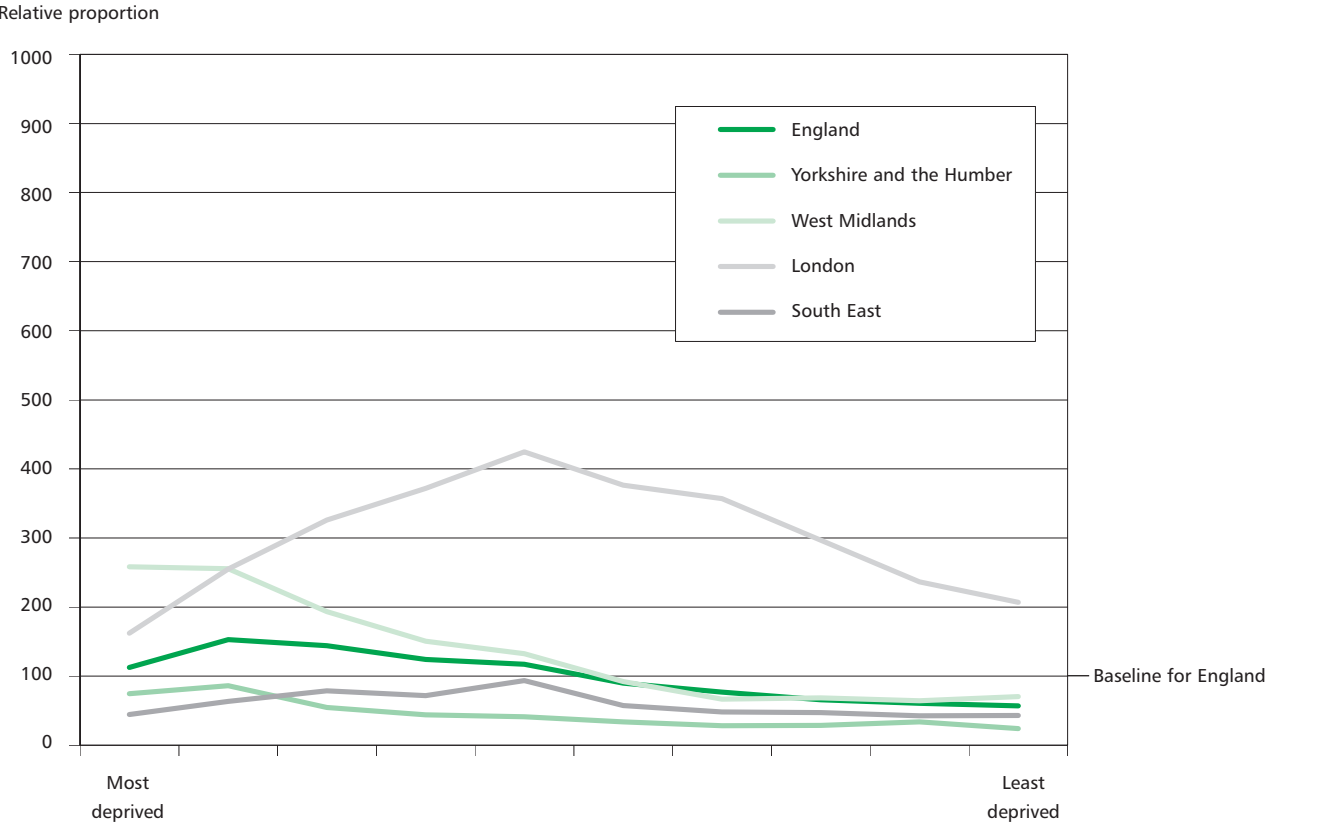


Figure A3.2 Relative proportions of the Indian ethnic group compared with baseline proportions (100), by region and deprivation decile



deprivation. In the South East, proportions were higher in local areas with medium deprivation scores but in Yorkshire and the Humber, proportions were highest in the most deprived 20 per cent of areas.

## Asian Pakistani group

Figure A3.3 shows how proportions of the Pakistani group varied across different levels of deprivation in England, and selected English regions.

England:

- There was a strong tendency for proportions of the Pakistani group to be higher in more deprived local areas, and proportions were above the national baseline living in the most deprived 30 per cent of areas.

Regionally:

- In the West Midlands and Yorkshire and the Humber, proportions of the Pakistani group were higher than nationally, but only in the most deprived deciles.
- At the most extreme, the proportion of Pakistanis in local areas in the most deprived decile in the West Midlands was almost nine times the baseline for England.
- Different patterns were seen in London and the South East. Here, the Pakistani group made up more of the population

in moderately deprived local areas but then tailed off to relatively low proportions in the most deprived decile.

- Apart from London, the Pakistani group was present in proportions far below the national baseline in the least deprived 40 per cent of areas.

## Asian Bangladeshi group

Figure A3.4 shows how proportions of the Bangladeshi group varied across different levels of deprivation in England, and selected English regions. The graph has been rescaled in this instance due to the large proportions in the most deprived areas of London (over 17 times the national baseline).

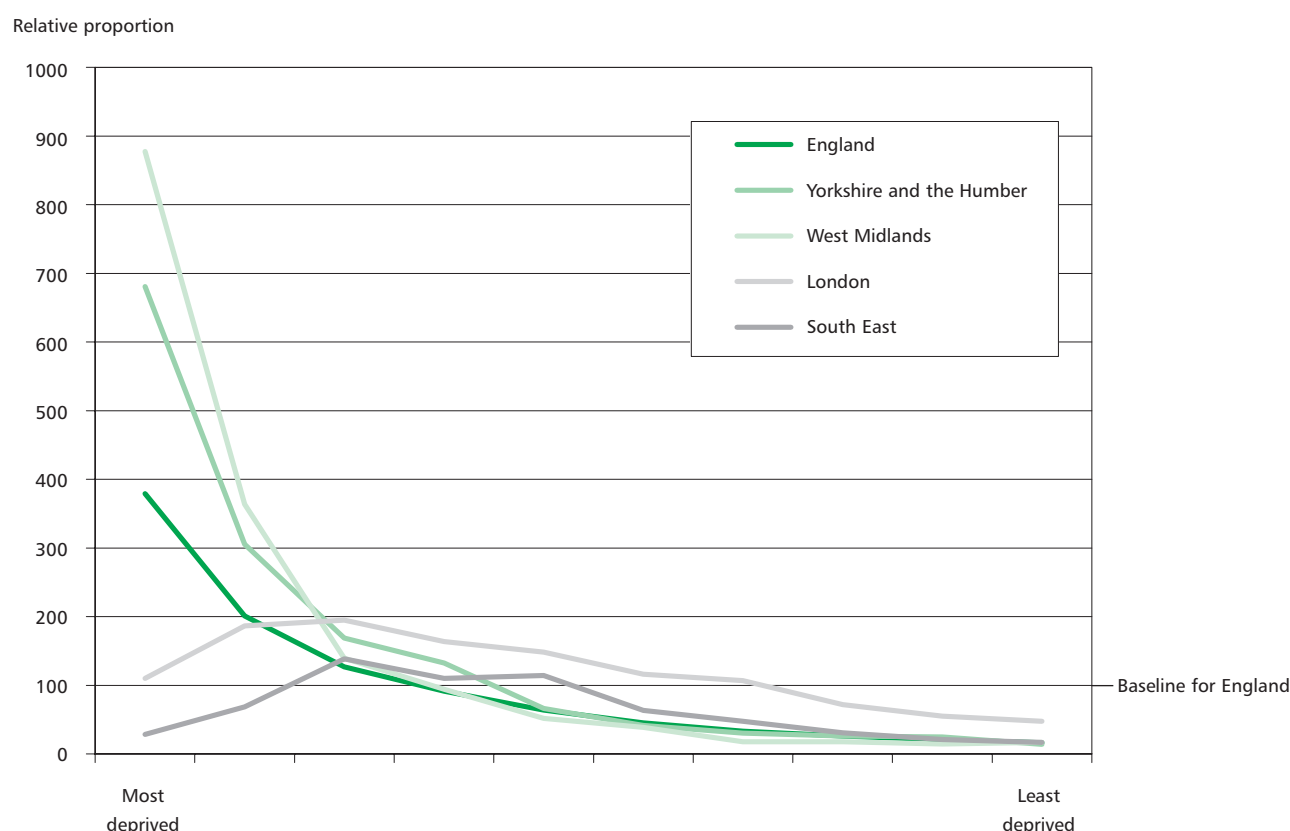
England:

- The variation in proportions of the Bangladeshi group across areas with different levels of deprivation was very similar to the Pakistani group, with above average representation in the most deprived local areas.

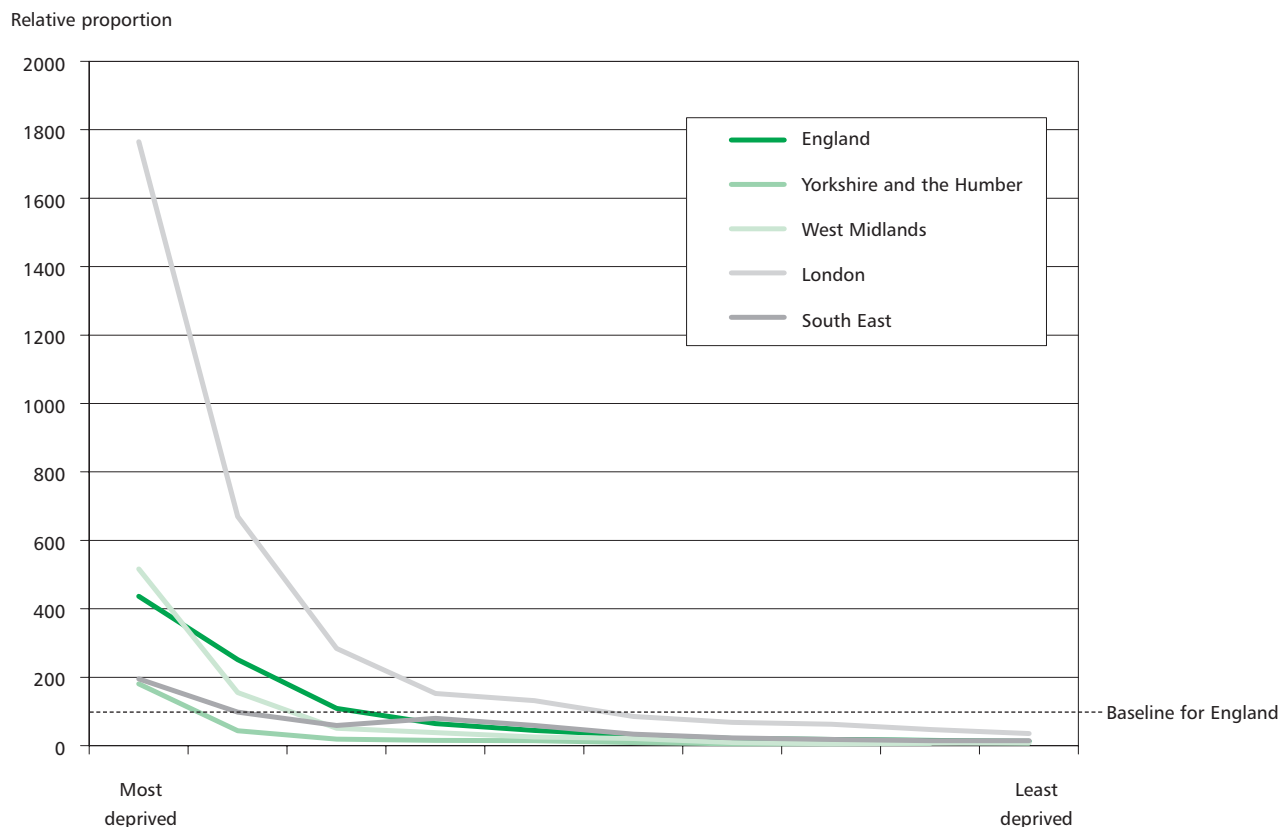
Regionally:

- Bangladeshis made up a far greater proportion of the population in London than in other regions.
- The variation across areas with different levels of deprivation within each region followed patterns similar to

**Figure A3.3** Relative proportions of the Pakistani ethnic group compared with baseline proportions (100), by region and deprivation decile



**Figure A3.4** Relative proportions of the Bangladeshi ethnic group compared with baseline proportions (100), by region and deprivation decile



England, with Bangladeshis making up greater proportions of the population in the most deprived local areas.

- This variation was seen in London and the South East as well as other regions. This differs from the Pakistani group where different patterns across different levels of deprivation were seen in these two regions.
- Bangladeshis made up well below baseline proportions of the population in the least deprived 60 per cent of local areas in all regions except London, and even here, the discrepancy within London between these areas and the most deprived was very large.

### Black African group

Figure A3.5 shows how proportions of the Black African group varied across different levels of deprivation in England, and selected English regions.

England:

- The Black African group made up a greater proportion of the population in the most deprived 40 per cent of local areas than nationally, with a peak in the second decile where proportions were more than two and half times the baseline.

Regionally:

- Compared with nationally, the Black African group made

up large proportions of the population in London, where the pattern across different levels of deprivation was more pronounced than for England as a whole.

- The proportion of Black African people living in local areas in the most deprived decile in London was just over 13 times larger than the national baseline.
- In both the South East and the West Midlands, proportions of the Black African group were below the baseline for England. Within each region, the proportion of the population made up by this group was at its largest in the more deprived local areas, but still below the national baseline.
- Apart from in London, the Black African group made up very small proportions of the population in the least deprived 40 per cent of local areas.

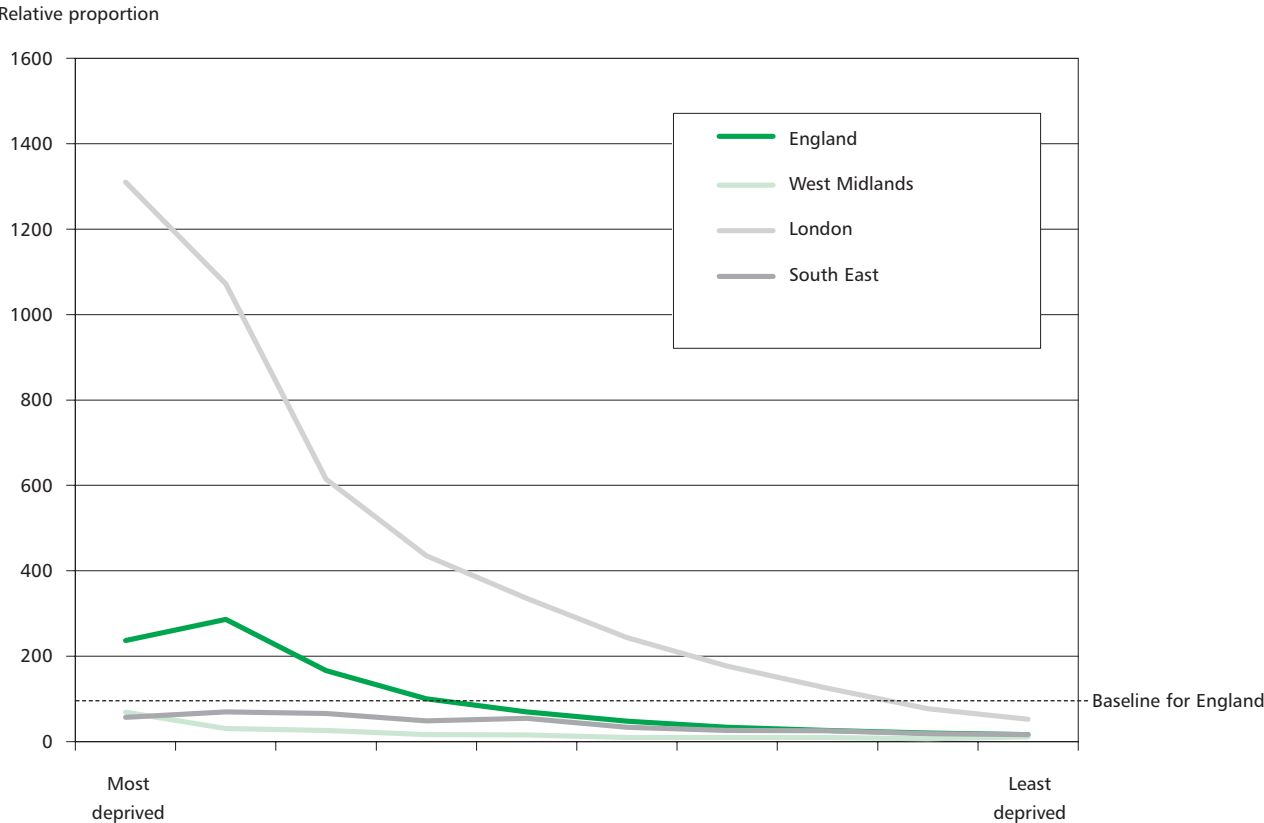
### Black Caribbean group

Figure A3.6 shows how proportions of the Black Caribbean group varied across different levels of deprivation in England, and selected English regions.

England:

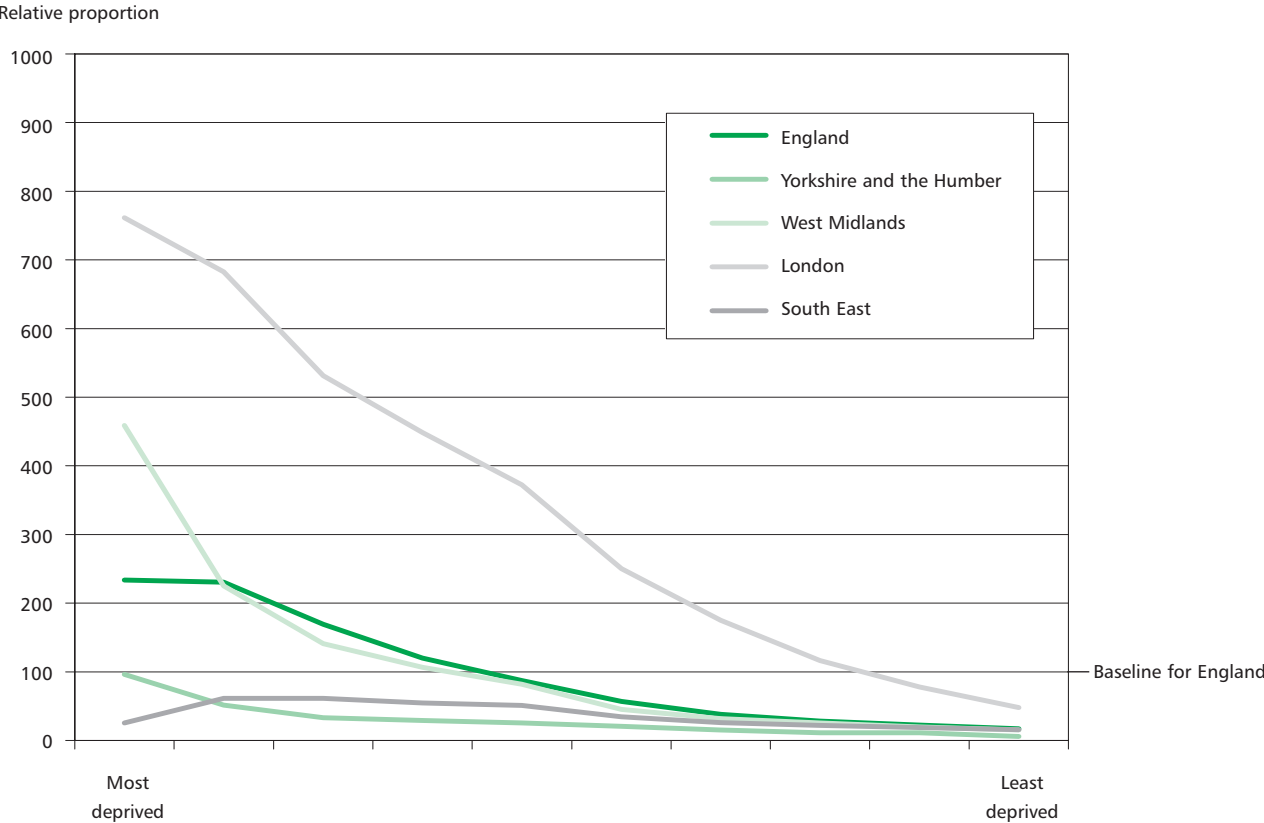
- The patterns for the proportion of the population made up by the Black Caribbean group compared with baseline were very similar to the Black African group across regions, and between areas with different levels of deprivation.

**Figure A3.5** Relative proportions of the Black African ethnic group compared with baseline proportions (100), by region<sup>1</sup> and deprivation decile



<sup>1</sup> Yorkshire and the Humber has been excluded for presentational purposes because patterns were similar to those for the West Midlands.

**Figure A3.6** Relative proportions of the Black Caribbean ethnic group compared with baseline proportions (100), by region and deprivation decile



Regionally:

- In London, the proportion of the population made up of the Black Caribbean group was largest in local areas in the most deprived decile, with proportions well over seven times the baseline.
- The main difference from the Black African group was in the West Midlands, where the Black Caribbean group made up a far greater proportion of the population than in England as a whole. Within the West Midlands, proportions were highest in the most deprived local areas – well over four times the national baseline.

Chinese group

Figure A3.7 shows how proportions of the Chinese group varied across different levels of deprivation in England, and selected English regions.

England:

- The proportion of the population made up of the Chinese group was similar across local areas at all levels of deprivation.

Regionally:

- In London, the proportion of the population made up of the Chinese group was approximately two and half times the national baseline. Within London, the lowest

proportions were seen in local areas in the least deprived decile.

- Two examples of other regions are shown. In both the West Midlands and Yorkshire and the Humber, the Chinese group made up less of the population than nationally. Both regions showed limited variation across areas with different levels of deprivation, although proportions were highest in the least deprived local areas where they were close to the national baseline.

White Irish group

Figure A3.8 shows how proportions of the White Irish group varied across different levels of deprivation in England, and selected English regions.

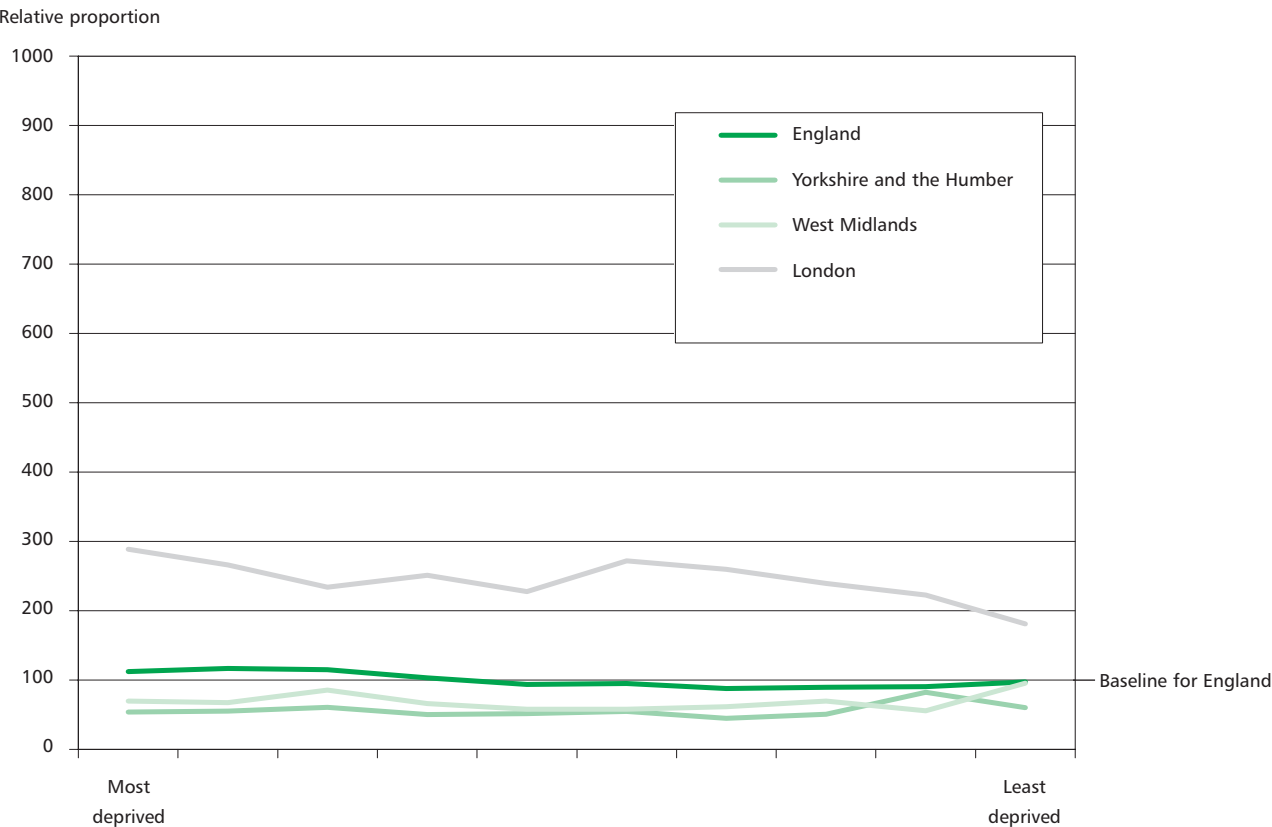
England:

- The proportion of the population made up by the White Irish group varied very little across local areas at all levels of deprivation. Proportions were slightly higher than nationally in the most deprived 50 per cent of local areas, and slightly lower in the least deprived 50 per cent of areas.

Regionally:

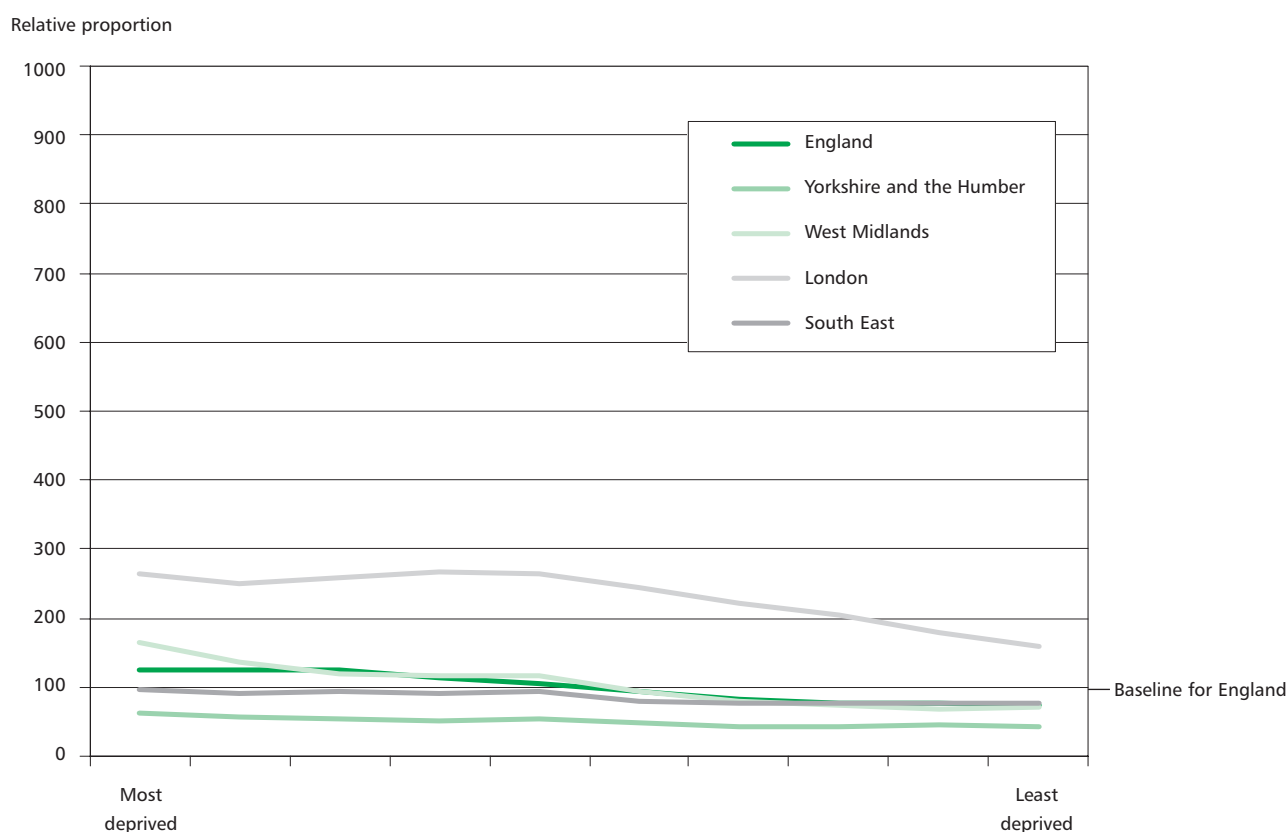
- In London, in the most deprived 50 per cent of local areas, the White Irish group made up approximately two and half

Figure A3.7 Relative proportions of the Chinese ethnic group compared with baseline proportions (100), by region<sup>1</sup> and deprivation decile



1 The South East has been excluded for presentational purposes because patterns were similar to those for the West Midlands.

**Figure A3.8** Relative proportions of the White Irish ethnic group compared with baseline proportions (100), by region and deprivation decile



times as much of the population as for England as a whole.

- Proportions of the White Irish group were lower in the less deprived local areas of London, but still above the national baseline.
- In the West Midlands, proportions of the White Irish group were similar to nationally, with similar patterns across local areas with different levels of deprivation.
- In the South East and Yorkshire and the Humber, the White Irish group made up a smaller proportion of the population than nationally.
- Within these regions, the White Irish group made up slightly higher proportions of the population in the more deprived local areas.

### White British group

Figure A3.9 shows how proportions of the White British group varied across different levels of deprivation in England, and selected English regions. The graph has been rescaled due to the significantly different patterns seen for this group. This is because in England, the White British group is in the majority and made up approximately 87 per cent of the population in 2001. As this was set as a baseline, there was little potential for large values, even in areas where the White British group made up 100 per cent of the population.

England:

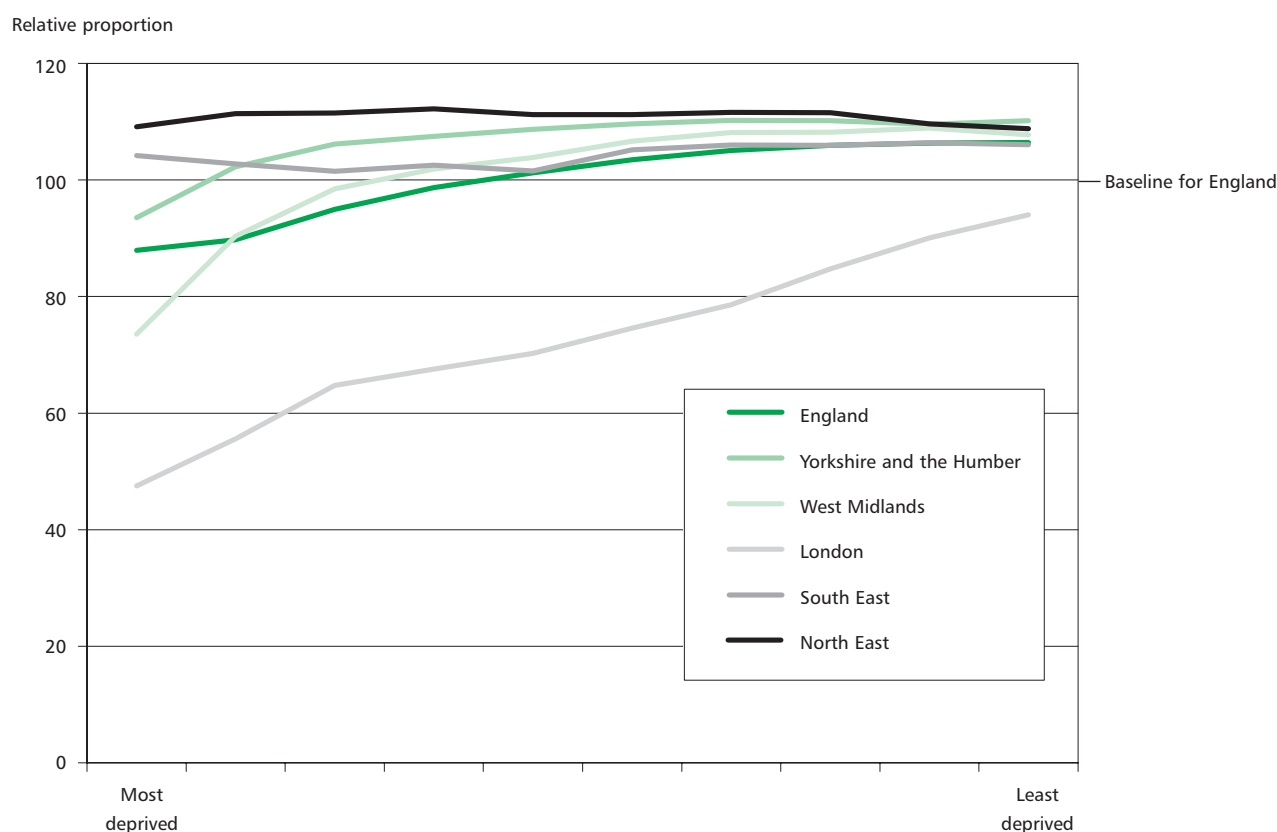
- The White British group made up more of the population in the least deprived 50 per cent of areas than in England as a whole. The largest departure from baseline was in the most deprived local areas, where proportions were less than 90 per cent of baseline.

Regionally:

- The White British group made up the smallest proportion of the population in London compared with other regions. This is intuitively clear because where other groups are found in large numbers, as in London, proportions of this group will be relatively low.
- In the most deprived areas of London, the White British group made up less than half the proportion of the population that it did nationally.
- The West Midlands and Yorkshire and the Humber showed similar patterns across different levels of deprivation, with lower proportions of the White British group in the more deprived local areas. However, these regions generally had higher proportions of the White British group in the population overall.
- In the South East, and particularly the North East, the White British group made up above-average proportions of the population.



**Figure A3.9** Relative proportions of the White British ethnic group compared with baseline proportions (100), by region and deprivation decile



## Summary

The analyses above show how the different ethnic groups were spread regionally, and across different levels of deprivation, in 2001. Patterns for the White British group basically mirrored a composite of the patterns seen for the other groups – that is, where large proportions of minority groups were present, proportions of the majority group were relatively low.

London was the region with the highest proportions of all minority groups, but for a number of groups showed different patterns across deprivation scores than other regions. This was particularly true for the Pakistani group, and to a lesser extent the Indian group. Proportions of the population made up by the Pakistani group were often very high in the most deprived areas of other regions, but not in London. For example, the Pakistani group was at about the national baseline level in local areas in the most deprived decile in London, compared with nine times baseline in the West Midlands. The Indian group showed the highest proportions for areas in the fifth decile in London, but higher proportions in the more deprived deciles nationally.

The Bangladeshi and Pakistani groups were the most likely to live in deprived areas on a national basis, making up four times as much of the population in the most deprived local

areas as they did for England as a whole. For the two Black groups, this figure was approximately two and a half times their national baselines. The Indian, Chinese and White Irish groups made up approximately the same proportion of the population in the most deprived areas as they did for England as a whole. By contrast with these patterns for other groups, the proportion of the most deprived areas made up by the White British group was only 90 per cent of the baseline proportion for this group.

In general, a far greater proportion of minority groups live in urban areas, and these are more likely to contain deprived local areas. This is part of the explanation why proportions of the White British group are higher in the less deprived areas, and minority groups are higher in more deprived areas. This pattern is not however a general one and varies across regions and ethnic groups. For example the Indian and Pakistani groups in London have a different pattern of relative proportions across areas with different levels of deprivation than in the national picture.

In terms of overall population, all groups except the White British group grew between 1991 and 2001.<sup>5</sup> Whether through natural growth or through immigration, social and family links will mean growth tends to occur in areas where members of that group are already present in relatively high

<sup>5</sup> See A Guide to Comparing 1991 and 2001 Census Ethnic Group Data (released 31 March 2006 on the ONS website).

proportions.<sup>6</sup> As discussed, these areas may be in inner city areas and among the most deprived in England – for example, the growth of the Bangladeshi population in Tower Hamlets in London. This area is quite deprived but has a large Bangladeshi community which in turn may give rise to growth in this group in this area. However, the accessibility of the surrounding areas of lower deprivation may mitigate the level of hardship and social exclusion experienced by those living in a deprived area. For example, access to services and employment opportunities in nearby areas of lower deprivation will be easier from deprived areas in London than from similar areas elsewhere because of the available transport infrastructure.

Nationally, certain groups have a tendency to show high or low rates for some of the indicators included in the IMD. For example, the Bangladeshi group suffers from high levels of unemployment and long-term disability,<sup>7</sup> and the IMD takes into account unemployment and incapacity among its

indicators. As such, large numbers of a particular group suffering such disadvantages may have as much to do with a local area being classed as deprived as the area itself affecting their quality of life. On the other hand, indicators such as distance to the nearest GP are included and these apply to all population groups in the locality. Care should therefore be taken in considering what the causative factors may be for the associations seen between ethnic groups and deprivation.

This article has used a definition of local area deprivation to present a new way of describing variations in the mix of ethnic groups across the regions of England. This analysis can be used as a starting point to identify regions where patterns in the relative proportions of a particular ethnic group were different across local areas with different levels of deprivation. As has been shown, patterns in London were often different from other regions for many groups. London is the region where the proportion of the population made up by most minority groups is highest.

6 Rees P and Phillips D (1996) 'Geographical spread: the national picture', in Ratcliffe P (ed) *Social Geography and Ethnicity in Britain: Geographical spread, spatial concentration and internal migration* (London: HMSO), 23-110.

7 More information and evidence for this statement can be found at <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/CCI/nugget.asp?ID=1089&Pos=1&ColRank=2&Rank=768>