

NORTH EAST **RACE EQUALITY FORUM** **RESEARCH BRIEFING** **No.2**



Local Ethnic Inequalities: *Ethnic Differences in Education, Employment, Health and Housing in Districts of England and Wales, 2001–2011*

The University of Manchester in association with The Runnymede Trust has recently produced a report on inequalities between ethnic groups across England and Wales, and changes over the period 2001-2011. This is a summary of the report. This study aimed to:

- Produce measures of ethnic inequality for local authority areas across England and Wales in 2001 and 2011 for indicators of education, employment, health and housing.
- Analyse change in local ethnic inequalities in England and Wales between 2001 and 2011.
- Highlight to policy audiences the need to tackle racial and ethnic inequality in contemporary Britain.
- Generate evidenced-based debate that can result in initiatives to reduce ethnic inequalities across the country.

Key findings of the project areas were as follows:

- Ethnic inequalities in education, employment, health and housing are widespread in England and Wales and persistent since 2000.
- There has been an increase in ethnic inequalities in employment and housing.
- Ethnic inequalities exist in diverse and deprived areas (e.g. Tower Hamlets) but also in areas with low ethnic minority concentrations, in more affluent

areas, and rural areas.

- Many of the districts that have become more unequal between 2001 and 2011 are semi-rural and rural districts that had low ethnic diversity levels and small ethnic minority populations at the start of the decade. (Within the North East Region this would apply to many areas in County Durham and Northumberland).
- Some districts are success stories (e.g. Bradford) for having reduced ethnic inequalities over the 2000s.



For ethnic minorities, the Index of Multiple Inequality (IMI) indicates that the most unequal districts of England and Wales are Lambeth, Haringey, Rotherham, Oldham, and Tower Hamlets. The most equal districts are Knowsley, Copeland, and Hartlepool.

Local Ethnic Inequalities in Education

- For minorities as a whole, education inequality worsened in nearly half of all districts in England and Wales between 2001 and 2011.
- Inequality in education is most severe for the White Other and Mixed groups with three quarters of districts having worse outcomes for the White Other compared to the White British group and two-thirds of districts having worse outcomes for the Mixed group compared to the White British group.

Local Ethnic Inequalities in Employment

- Local ethnic inequalities in terms of higher levels of unemployment for ethnic minorities than the White British are most widespread for the Mixed group, the Black group and the Asian group.
- In over a third of districts there were increases in ethnic inequalities in employment over the 2000s.

Local Ethnic Inequalities in Health

- Health inequality is most severe for the Mixed group which fares worse in

terms of health than the White British group in the majority of districts.

- In terms of ethnic minorities as a whole, in nearly half of the districts in England and Wales ethnic minorities fared better in terms of health compared to the White British in both 2001 and 2011. During this period health inequality increased in just seven local authority districts, most located in London.



Local Ethnic Inequalities in Housing

- Housing inequality for the Black group has worsened between 2001 and 2011 in terms of the average level of absolute inequality in overcrowding across districts and the proportion of districts with a higher incidence of overcrowding compared with the White British group.
- In all districts in England and Wales in 2011, ethnic minority groups had higher levels of overcrowding than the White British.

Methods

Absolute inequality for ethnic minorities in relation to the White British population in education, employment, health and housing was calculated using data from the 2001 and 2011 censuses. The indicators of inequality are: percent aged 16–24 with no qualifications (education); percent aged 25 and over who are unemployed (employment); percent with a limiting long term illness (indirectly age standardised) (health); percent living with an occupancy rating of -1 or below, indicating overcrowding (housing). An Index of Multiple Inequality (IMI) has been calculated as an average of the ranks of each indicator of inequality, for district-ethnic group combinations that have a score on at least two indicators. Inequality is calculated when district ethnic group populations are 100 or more. The full dataset, covering individual local authorities, available in the Local Ethnic Inequalities Local Area Profiler (www.ethnicity.ac.uk) contains full data and calculations. It contains calculations of inequality measures for seven larger ethnic minority groups.

Conclusions: Ethnic inequalities are found in districts across England and Wales, where there are small and large minority populations with high and low deprivation levels.

Many of the districts that have become more unequal between 2001 and 2011 are less deprived, semi-rural and rural districts with relatively small ethnic minority populations. Addressing inequality is not purely an issue for authorities with diverse and poor populations. Some districts need to address inequality across several social dimensions. Others can target policy initiatives at particular outcomes and populations. However, ethnic inequalities in employment and housing should be a concern for authorities across the country.



Contact: For further information, back copies of Information Briefings or Research Briefings, or to join the Network, email gary.craig@galtres8.co.uk

The North East Race Equality Forum is a Network of around 300 individuals and organisations in the North East Region committed to promoting racial equality in the context of social justice. No one organisation is necessarily committed to every idea published in the name of the Forum. The Forum is supported by the 'Race', Crime and Justice Regional Research Network, which includes researchers from each University in the region.