

COST OF LIVING, HEALTH INEQUALITIES AND RACE EQUITY

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Working in collaboration with the North East Anti-Racism Coalition (NEARC), Newcastle University has conducted a survey and collected evidence from organisations in the region about the nature and extent of racism in the North East. The survey attracted 639 valid responses. This included responses from all North East postcode regions (DL, DU, NE, SR and TS). The respondents include a diversity of ages from teenagers to the early 80s, ethnicities (51% white British, nearly 20% Black, 15% Asian, 3% Arab and 5% mixed race), faiths, and genders.



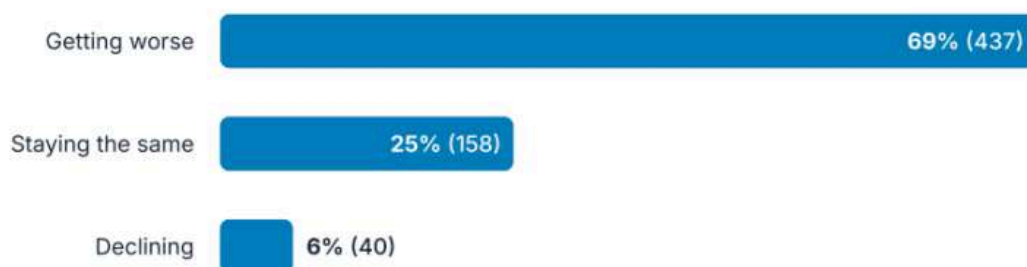
Following the riots of summer 2024, there was a recognition that this was just another manifestation of the discrimination that has persisted in society for generations. It was agreed that it was necessary to convene a broader community of people to help understand what was happening and to work towards creating a more inclusive region. NEARC was formed in response to this and as part of the conversations that emerged, it was identified that research about the nature and extent of racism was needed.

Key findings from the survey analysis include:

- 78% of those who completed the survey felt that racism was either an everyday or regular issue in the North East, and 69% felt that racism was getting worse.
- 54% of respondents had directly experienced racism and this included verbal abuse (85%), physical abuse (24%), and/or racism on social media (30%). 19% recorded damage to buildings and property.
- Most racist incidents took place in the street (62%), in a shop, restaurant or pub (43%) and on public transport (33%). Half the respondents had experienced racism at work, 26% at school, and 13% at college or university.
- 73% of those who had experienced racism did not report it to the police.
- 73% of respondents had family members, friends or colleagues who had experienced racism (14% said no to this) and the most common form this took was verbal abuse (92%), on social media (37%) and/or physical abuse (30%). 21% referred to damage to property and buildings.
- 44% of respondents had a fear of experiencing racism, and 44% had altered their behaviours as a result of experiencing racism or due to a fear of experiencing it.
- 73% felt that racism had an impact on educational outcomes, 84% on employment opportunities, 68% on access to public services, 65% on access to healthcare, 80% on mental health and 88% on wellbeing and confidence.
- In terms of ethnicity, 69% said that you are at higher risk of experiencing racism if you are African, 54% said Arabic, and 49% said South Asian.
- In terms of factors that increase racism, 81% selected print media, with 79% broadcast media, 91% social media, and 88% the language used by some politicians and other public figures.

3. Is racism getting worse, staying the same, or declining in the North East?

Responses: 635



Recommendations

- The findings should be reviewed by the NEARC research advisory group to assess their validity and to ensure their dissemination is maximised.
- The findings should be shared with specific groups (e.g. the police, educational and health leaders, local authorities etc) before formal publication in order to bring them on board and to encourage them to take action on specific issues, where appropriate.
- Once specific groups have been consulted, the final report can be launched.

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