

Understanding racial attitudes, ethnicity and inequality through the UK Data Service



Evidence-based research into racial inequalities, racism and racial prejudice has the potential to support and drive policy development and reform that will help to bring about ethnic and racial equality.

This poster highlights key studies, datasets, surveys and case studies in the UK Data Service collection that are vital in building a picture of the circumstances experienced by the ethnic minority populations in the U.K. and their relationships to the ethnic majority population.



The UK Data Service provides access to the largest collection of economic, social research and population data for teaching, learning and public benefit. This includes a rich collection of datasets based on research into the lives of ethnic minorities.

“For ethnic minority groups in the UK, there is some mistrust of government institutions which has been exacerbated by the failure of the UK government to sufficiently address the stark ethnic inequalities in COVID-19 prevalence and mortality.”

Dr Dharmi Kapadia

REAL LIFE EXPERIENCE:

Jonathan, a white British surgeon born in Scotland, who is married to a British Asian woman born in St Albans, told The Guardian that his three children “have all been asked ‘where are you really from?’ “Lots of what some would call ‘ignorance’ I would call racism. It has really angered me that my children or wife can never be from St Albans if they are brown. They are always made to feel slightly ‘other’.”

Key data

2023 – Evidence for Equality National Survey (EVENS), UK’s first and largest survey to document the impact of COVID-19, and the lockdowns, on the lives of ethnic and religious minority people.

2019 – British Integration Survey – data on levels of diversity in respondents’ networks, their interactions with people from different backgrounds, and attitudes towards different social groups.

2018 – British Election Study, Brexit as a Social Cleavage: Attitudes to Immigration and Race in Britain, uses an online panel sub-sample to ask about attitudes towards ethnic minorities, racist behaviours, immigrants, and people who voted for Leave and Remain in the Brexit referendum.

2017 – British Social Attitudes Survey, NatCen’s report on racial prejudice in Britain today – a series run in most years since 1983, designed to produce annual measures of attitudinal movements in Great Britain.

2010 – British Election Study Ethnic Minority Survey an investigation of the political views and behaviours of Britain’s ethnic minority populations.

2006 – The Ethnic Minority Young People: Differential Treatment in the Youth Justice System, this study examines how teenagers are treated by the youth justice system in the UK and highlights clear patterns of under- and over-representation of ethnic minority groups.

Influence

The UK Data Service holds a number of datasets that are used to help inform government policy.

Data on ethnicity in large-scale government surveys has traditionally covered: ethnic identity, country of birth, nationality, parents’ country of birth, national/geographical origin, race and religion.

2021 – A new survey is launched to explore Black Women’s Experience of Pay Disparity – published in The Voice on 7 June using the Labour Force Survey in the UK data Service collection.

2019 – The UK Data Service hosted the latest Data Impact event through Jisc to challenge data methodologies and lead dialogues nationally for data to become properly inclusive: **#IdentityinData: Who counts? Visibility, voice and culture in data collection and use.**

At both local and national levels, this information is vital in building a picture of the circumstances of ethnic minority populations and their relationships to the ethnic majority population over time in order to ensure effective development of policy, such as addressing ethnic inequalities.

Background

Funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) through the Economic and Social Research Council, we have become world leaders in data curation; active long-term digital preservation; research data management; data skills training; access to high quality research data; and data impact.

Between April 2020 – March 2022, over 47,000 registered users from 148 countries downloaded 160,000 curated datasets through the UK Data Service.

Our trusted reputation and expertise continues to lead and enhance methodological and technical advancements in the collection, curation and use of data globally, driving equality of data; and future data services.

Research

Race and migration in numbers – Dr. Nigel de Noronha, UK Data Service, wrote a blog about what Census 2021 tells us about race and migration in the UK: blog.ukdataservice.ac.uk/race-and-migration-in-numbers

Data Impact 2021 – Continuing the Discussion – Dr Dharmi Kapadia, an expert on research into ethnicity in the UK and a member of the ESRC Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity, wrote a blog about the lack of data about ethnic minorities in many research studies: blog.ukdataservice.ac.uk/dataimpact2021-continuing-discussion

The Impact of EU Migration on UK Productivity – A Dissertation Case Study – Valeria Pasco Garfias University of Manchester investigated how immigration affects productivity in the UK: <https://ukdataservice.ac.uk/case-study/the-impact-of-eu-migration-on-uk-productivity-a-dissertation-case-study/>

What do the data tell us about ‘Is Britain Fairer?’ – Karen Hurrell, from the Equality and Human Rights Commission, has written a case study about how the **Is Britain Fairer? 2018** study helps to measure how well the U.K. is performing in terms of equality and human rights.

Impact and Media

2023 – Census reveals first data on sexuality and gender by religion and ethnicity – published in The Evening Standard on 6 April, using Census 2021 in the UK Data Service collection.

2022 – ‘If you ask me, I am British’: joys and trials for Britain’s multi-ethnic households – published in The Guardian on 2 December, using Census 2021 in the UK Data Service collection.

2021 – Race and allocation: who are the new tenants getting social housing, and is it equitable? – published in Inside Housing on 13 August, using The English Housing Survey in our collection.

2020 – London ethnicity pay gap at almost a quarter – published in Personnel Today on 13 October, using The Annual Population Survey in our collection.

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The UK Data Service is affiliated with the following organisations:
UK Data Archive, University of Essex – Lead partner; Cathie Marsh Institute for Social Research, University of Manchester; Jisc; Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis, Department of Information Studies, University College London; EDINA, University of Edinburgh.

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