

Data shows virus death risk twice as high for black Britons

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Almost all ethnic minorities in Britain are at greater risk of dying with the coronavirus, and black men and black women are nearly twice as likely to die than white individuals, according to an analysis by the

national statistics agency.

The Office of National Statistics looked at the virus-related deaths in England and Wales from March 2 to April 10. Since ethnicity and race are not recorded on death certificates, researchers linked the mortality information to 2011 census data.

The [analysis](#) found that along with black Britons, people of Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Indian, and mixed ethnicity have a significantly heightened risk of COVID-19-related death compared with those who identified themselves as white.

After adjusting for factors such as age, social-economic background, health and disability, the study showed that [black people](#) were 1.9 times more likely to die with the coronavirus than whites in Britain, while Bangladeshi and Pakistani men were 1.8 times more likely to die than white males.

The Office of National Statistics said ethnic Chinese and those of mixed ethnicity have risks for virus-related deaths similar to white people.

The office said that a substantial part of the variation among [ethnic groups](#) in COVID-19 mortality can be explained by socioeconomic factors, noting that "other causes are still to be identified."

The report's authors said their model did not include some potentially relevant social-economic characteristics, such as employment.

Bangladeshi and Pakistani individuals are more likely to work in public transit than any other ethnic group, and are therefore at higher risk of infection, they said.

The findings echoed data from England's National Health Service and other studies. The British Medical Association says 90% of the doctors

who died after becoming infected with the coronavirus belonged to [ethnic minority](#) groups.

In a statement issued Thursday, the medical association agreed with the statistics office that the analysis left "an unexplained part of the difference in mortality rates that needs more detailed investigation.

"We have always said there are likely to be multiple factors behind this, and as this analysis suggests, social and economic reasons play a substantial part," the British Medical Association statement said. "We know that black, Asian and minority ethnic people are more likely to experience deprivation and live in overcrowded housing, which impacts their health, and that a greater number are in key worker roles, which lessens the chance of being able to socially distance."

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