

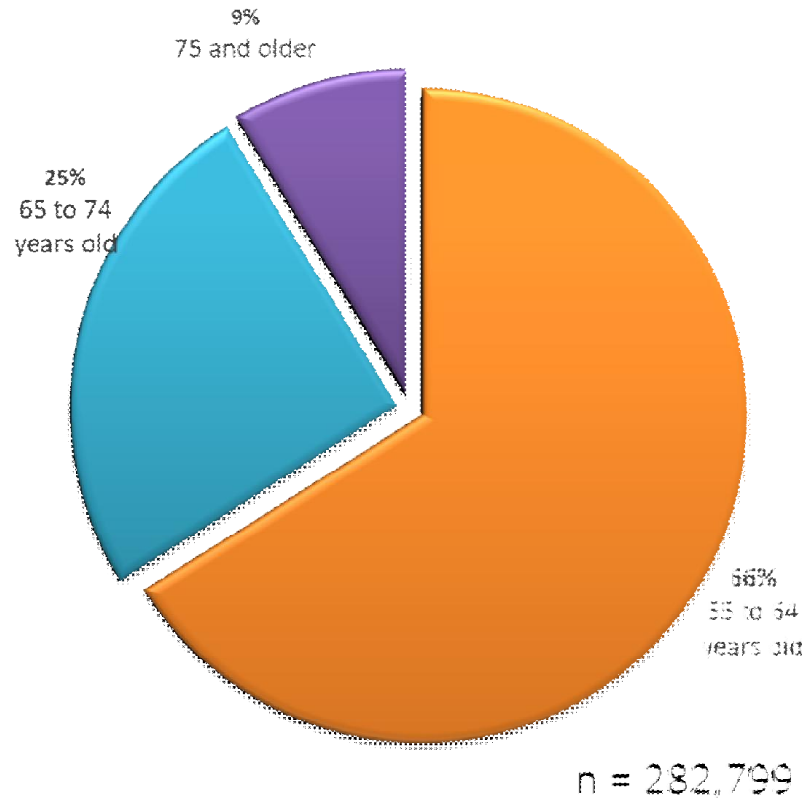
Housing and Care for Older People: Race and Inequalities

Jabeer Butt, OBE

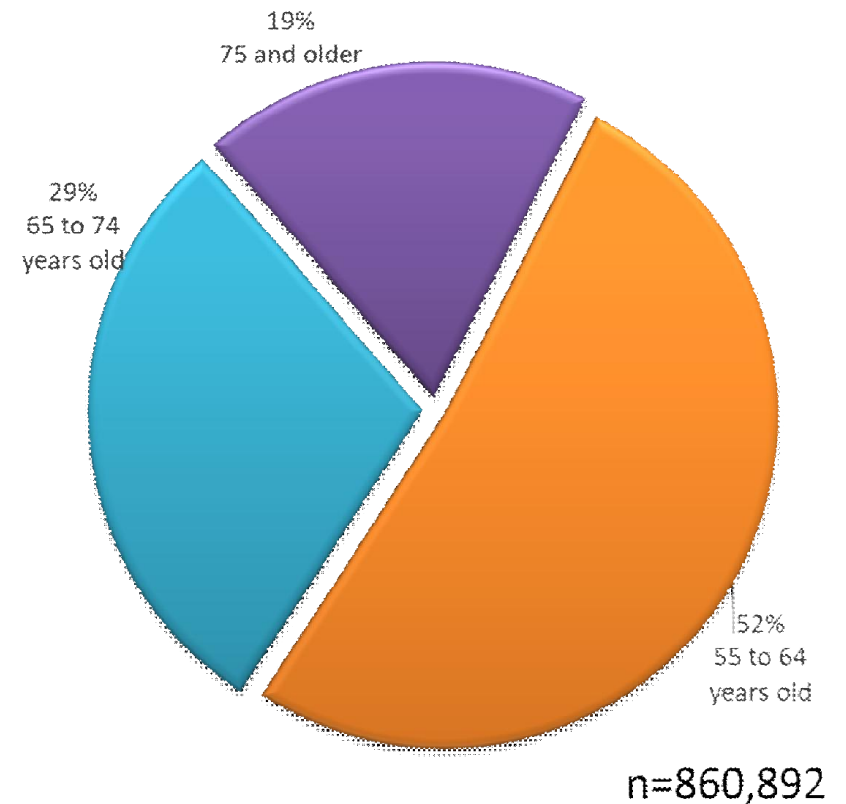
Chief Executive, Race Equality Foundation

Change in the age breakdown of black and minority ethnic over the age of 55 according to the 1991 and 2011 Censuses

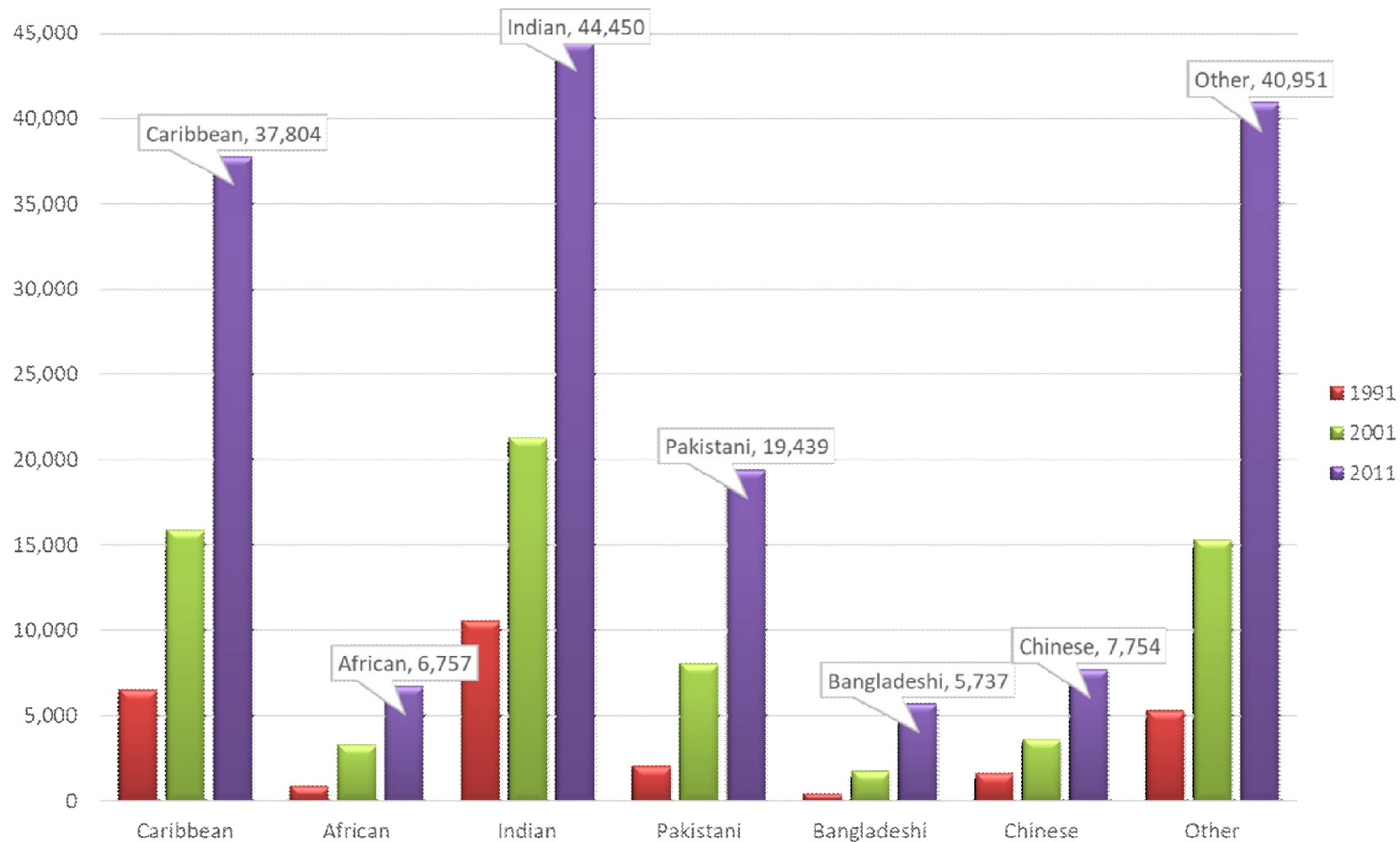
Black and minority ethnic people aged 55 and over from 1991 Census



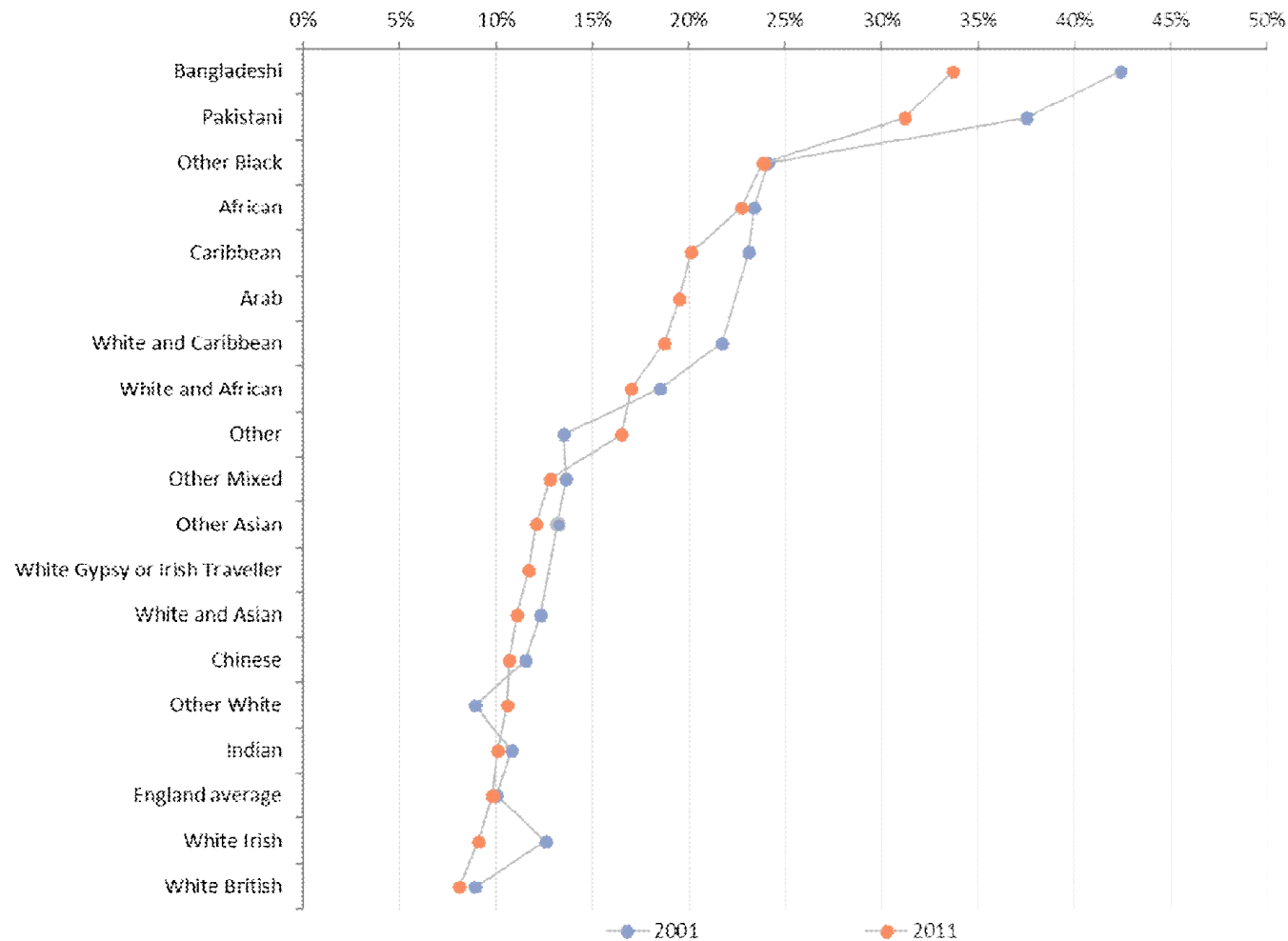
Black and minority ethnic people aged 55 and over from 2011 Census



Black and minority ethnic people 75 years and older, 1991 to 2011



Ethnic minority groups are more likely to live in deprived neighbourhoods in 2001 and 2011



Race inequalities in housing



Using evidence to promote
race equality in housing



- BME households and recent migrants are far more likely to experience housing deprivation overall*
- Additional risk factors include:
 - Living in London (though inequality persists in all regions)
 - Renting property
 - Larger households
- Particular risks in private rented sector:
 - BME households more likely to privately rent
 - Evidence of higher level of poor housing conditions in private rented sector
- Evidence of significant increased costs to NHS and wider society as a result of these inequalities affecting BME communities



* For more information about the research underpinning this evidence, please go to: <http://www.raceequalityfoundation.org.uk/>

Race inequalities in housing and care for older people:*

- Younger BME people more likely (compared to older groups) to be living in poor housing, however some groups of older people more likely to experience:
 - Poor health related quality of life
 - Language barriers, affecting access to services, inc housing/ care
 - Higher levels of loneliness
 - Older BME women may find it difficult to access services in general, and are at higher risk of financial insecurity in later life
- However, there is 'no evidence for ethnic differences in the provision of support [and care] to household members'
- Intersectional issues are critical: not just race and age, but also gender, class and other aspects of identity – impact of multiple disadvantage

*For more information about the research underpinning this evidence, please see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/race-disparity-audit> and <https://www.ageing-better.org.uk/publications/inequalities-later-life>



Race inequalities in housing and care for older people: what we don't know*



Centre for Ageing Better notes paucity of evidence on a raft of areas including:

- ‘Astonishing lack of evidence’ relating to inequalities in later life experienced by BME groups in general
- Particular lack of research on ‘relationship between living environments and race inequalities in later life’
- Tendency of research and thinkers in this area ‘to look at older people as a single group rather than investigating how different subgroups of older people might experience different outcomes in housing and their surroundings’
- ‘While design, adaptation needs, housing wealth, and adequacy of homes are all important subjects that feature in analysis for older people, [the Centre for Ageing Better could not] identify a significant body of literature considering how this relates to inequality’
- Apparent lack of quantitative and qualitative evidence about the lived experiences of older BME people, and about their diverse housing and care needs and aspirations



* See Centre for Ageing Better: <https://www.ageing-better.org.uk/publications/inequalities-later-life>

Next Steps – future research priorities?

- Fill in **key gaps in the evidence base** – note forthcoming work commissioned jointly by Housing LIN and Race Equality Foundation
- Highlight groups of **BME older people at most risk of poor housing**, ill-health, unmet care needs and social isolation
- **Identify protective factors / effective approaches** in enabling older BME people to access high quality housing which promotes health and wellbeing
- Understand the varied **experiences, aspirations and needs of older people from minority groups** – including their perspectives on desirability / design / inclusivity of specialist older people's housing / housing with care provision



Lessons from Oldham*(1)

BME elders Housing and Health Promotion Project (Feb '17)

- A two part study undertaken and funded by a range of partners during 2013, with follow up in 2014-16.
- The project worked with Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities living in Oldham to understand their current housing needs and future housing aspirations, and explored the potential to facilitate healthy lifestyle behaviour change within these communities.
- 2013 findings show:
 - Language is a fundamental barrier preventing older people from BME communities accessing services;
 - Cultural and religious values remained significant in determining choices;
 - People aware of housing options for older people, but confused over differences between sheltered housing, extra care and residential/nursing care;
 - Low take up of care /support services, yet some people felt they needed services but did not know how to access them



Housing LIN

Connecting people, ideas and resources



Lessons from Oldham*(2)

- Subsequent project (2014-16) co-funded by partners inc. local council, housing providers and CCG with aims to:
 - Understand current and future housing needs and aspirations, and raise awareness of housing options;
 - Explore potential for healthy lifestyle changes among older BME people;
 - Explore what care and support might be needed in the future;
 - Improve outcomes for older BME people living with dementia
- Key outcomes – through deployment of outreach workers, the project:
 - Identified need for culturally sensitive dementia awareness package
 - Developed a pathway to communicate with and involve local mosques in health and housing agendas
 - Established successful grassroots approach, raising awareness of healthy lifestyle behaviour among BME communities
 - Raised awareness of local sheltered / extra care schemes, leading to increased interest in these as housing options



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Discussion



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Chair: Kurshida Mirza, Housing LIN Ambassador for the East Midlands Region

- Your local experiences and insights
- Any evidence, research, or major issues we have missed?
- Local examples of good practice which we could all learn from
- What do you think the priorities for further research or action should be?
- Next steps for Housing LIN, Race Equality Foundation and other partners

If you have further ideas, suggestions or information to contribute to this ongoing programme of work, or you would like to get involved, please contact: c.skidmore@housinglin.org.uk

