

# Understanding racial disparity

How it affects children in their early years and within the youth justice system  
**September 2021**

This summarises the following presentation: <https://prezi.com/view/HgycQ9URZcTBi4vtbSv0/>

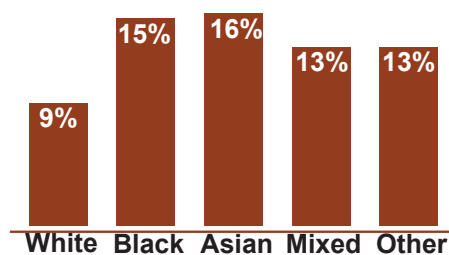
## Early years

Black children (5%) were **more likely** to be in care (8%) and **less likely** to be adopted (2%).



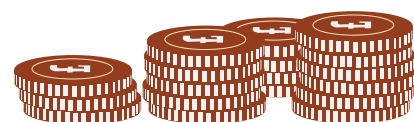
In England, when compared to the general population of under-18-year-olds (data from the 2011 Census).

People living in the most **deprived** 10% of neighbourhoods, by ethnicity:



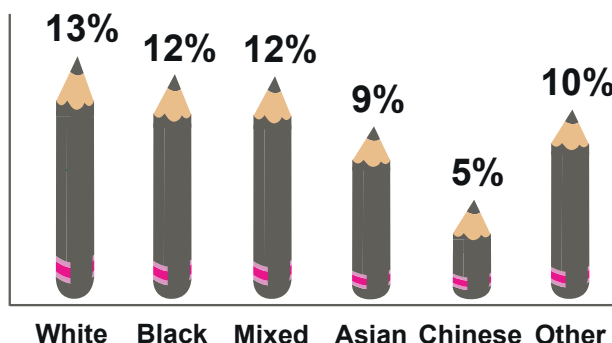
In England, out of all people (not just children).

Children in Asian (26%) and Black (21%) households were **more likely** to live in persistent low income than those in White (10%) households.



## Education

Percentage of pupils with special educational needs in England:



Traveller and Gypsy/Roma pupils had the highest overall **absence rates** at 17.0% and 13.0% respectively (in England, 2018 to 2019 school year).



Traveller and Gypsy/Roma pupils were also most likely to be **permanently excluded** (Autumn term 2019 to 2020).

## Health



For all ages, the rate of deaths involving COVID-19 for Black males was **3.3 times greater** than for White males of the same age. The rate for Black females was **2.4 times greater** than for White females.



In 2020, 18.8% of White children (5 to 16-year-olds) had a probable mental disorder, compared with 7.5% of children from ethnic minorities (excluding White minorities).

### Sources:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoption-2019-to-2020>
- <https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/uk-population-by-ethnicity/demographics/people-living-in-deprived-neighbourhoods/latest>
- <https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/work-pay-and-benefits/pay-and-income/low-income/latest#by-ethnicity-and-age-group-after-housing-costs>
- <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england#releaseHeadlines-tables>
- <https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/education-skills-and-training/absence-and-exclusions/pupil-exclusions/latest#main-facts-and-figures>
- <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/pupil-absence-in-schools-in-england-autumn-term>
- <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths>
- <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/mental-health-of-children-and-young-people-in-england/2020-wave-1-follow-up>

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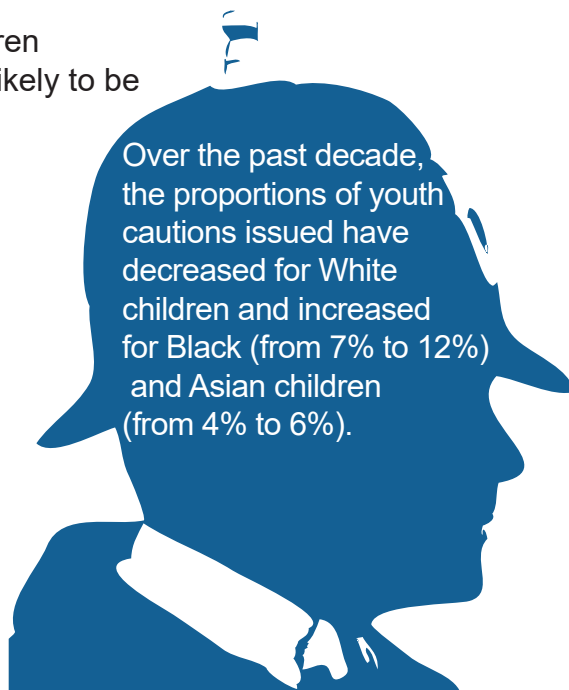
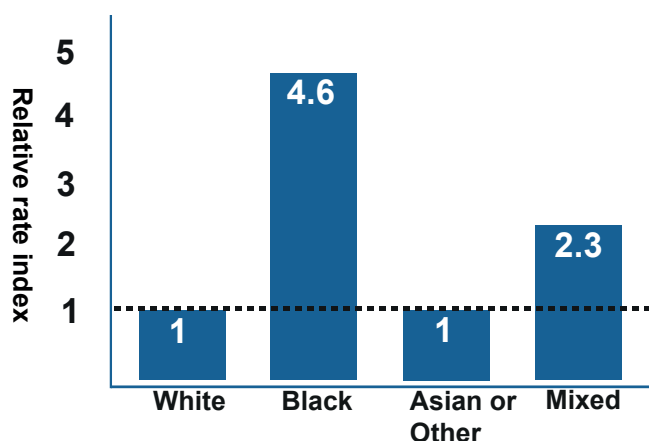
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## Pre-court

In the years ending March 2010 to 2020, Black children in England and Wales were nearly **five times** more likely to be arrested than White children.

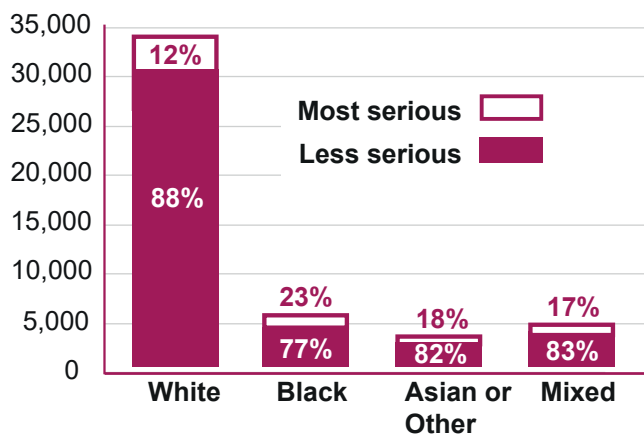


While the number of 10 to 17-year-old first time entrants (FTEs) to the youth justice system has been falling for each ethnicity over the last ten years.

The proportion of FTEs from a Black background has increased over the same period, from 9% to 16%.

The number and proportion of serious and non-serious proven offences by ethnicity, year ending March 2020:

## Offences



A quarter of all **homicide victims** in the year ending March 2020 (105 or 15%) were Black.

When compared to the general population, Black people are **five times** more likely than White people to become victims of homicide.

### Sources:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/police-powers-and-procedures-england-and-wales>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-justice-statistics-quarterly>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-justice-statistics-quarterly>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/youth-justice-statistics>
- <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/homicideinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2020>

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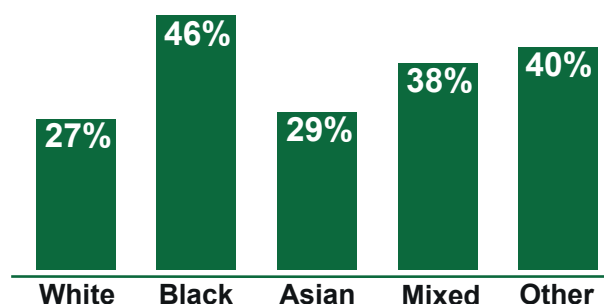
## Court

Over the last year, the number of sentences to immediate custody for children fell by just under 40%.

The numbers fell by over 30% for all ethnic groups **except for children from a Mixed background**, which only fell by 10%.

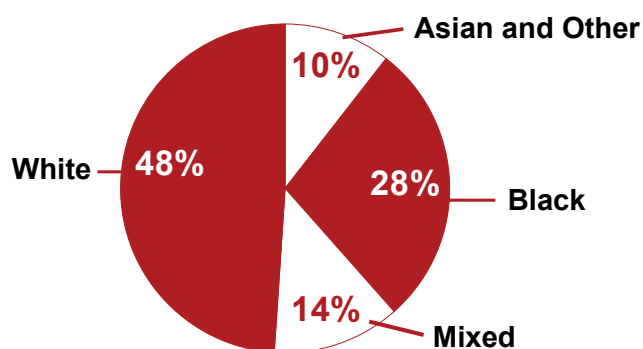
Assessing the needs of sentenced children in the youth justice system

Assessed risk of serious harm, year ending March 2020:



## Custody

Proportion of children in custody by ethnicity, year ending March 2021:



The number of children **remanded** to youth custody has decreased for each ethnic group, except for children from a Black background.

In the most recent data, Black children made up 35% of all children on remand, up from 33% in the previous year.

This is the **highest proportion** in the last ten years and compares to 21% ten years ago.

## Reoffending

Black children have the **highest reoffending rate** at 45%, Asian children have the lowest at 30%.

However, Black children have also shown the greatest decline in reoffending, it has decreased by 3.2 percentage points from the same quarter in the previous year.

White children have shown a decrease of 2.7 percentage point and Asian children have shown no change.



### Sources:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/criminal-justice-system-statistics-quarterly-december-2020>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/youth-justice-statistics-2019-to-2020>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/youth-justice-statistics-2019-to-2020>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/youth-justice-statistics-2019-to-2020>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/proven-reoffending-statistics-january-to-march-2019>