



Department
for Education

Ethnicity and children's social care

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Contents

Table of figures	4
Summary	6
Main points	6
Introduction	8
Literature review	9
Data and definitions	10
Section 1: Characteristics of children by ethnic group	12
1.1 Disproportionality of ethnic groups in social care	12
1.2 Unaccompanied asylum seeking children	12
1.3 Gender, age and disability	13
1.4 Geography	14
1.5 Free school meal status of children in need	14
Section 2: Journeys of children in social care	15
2.1 Referral sources	15
2.2 Reasons for social care intervention	17
2.2.1 Assessment factors	17
2.2.2 Assessment factors – extra-familial harms	19
2.2.3 Initial category of abuse for children on protection plans	20
2.3 Escalation through the social care system following referral	22
2.3.1 Escalation through the social care system after a referral by ethnic group	22
2.3.2 Child protection plans following referral: regression analysis	23
2.4 Children entering local authority care	26
2.4.1 Age at starting first care episode	26
2.4.2 Time between a child being referred and entering care	28
2.4.3 Social care interactions immediately before becoming looked after in 2019-20	29
2.4.4 Social care interactions in the 8 years prior to becoming looked after in 2019-20	31
Section 3: Looked after children - placements and outcomes	32
3.1 Placement types	32
3.2 Locality of placements	34

3.3	Placement moves during the year	35
3.4	Reasons for ceasing care	36
Section 4: Outcomes of care leavers		38
4.1	In touch with the local authority	38
4.2	Education, employment and training	39
4.3	Suitability of accomodation	40
References		41
Annexes		42
Annex A: Ethnic groups reference table		42
Annex B: Tables and charts for Section 1		44
Annex C: Logistic regression results		50
Annex D: Table for Figure 1 of referrals for each ethnic group in 2019-2020		57
Annex E: Table for Figure 2 showing the proportion assessment factors make up of an ethnicities total assessment factors in 2019-2020		60
Annex F: Table for Figure 4 showing the initial category of need for a child on a CPP		63
Annex G: Creation of the longitudinal children in need dataset		65

Table of figures

Figure 1. Sources of referrals for each ethnic group	16
Figure 2. Ten most common assessment factors in 2019-20 as a percentage of all assessment factors of an ethnic group	18
Figure 3. Percentage of assessment factors in 2019-20 which relate to extra-familial harms.....	20
Figure 4. Initial category of abuse for children who were the subject of protection plans at 31 st March 2020	21
Figure 5. Children referred to social care in 2018-19 that went on to have a section 47 (S47), child protection plan (CPP) or period of care (CLA) within 12 months of referral ..	22
Figure 6. Odds ratios for ethnic groups escalating to a child protection plan following a referral compared to a White British child	24
Figure 7. The age at which a child becomes looked after for the first time by ethnic group and gender for children who first became looked after between 2016 and 2020	26
Figure 8. Time between a referral and entering care by ethnic group, referrals within 2018-19 which converted within 12 months	28
Figure 9. Social care interactions of children in the month before entering care in 2019-20	29
Figure 10. Proportion of children who entered a period of care in 2019-20 following a CINP and CPP by ethnic group	30
Figure 11. Percentage of children who became looked-after in 2019-20 with previous social care activity since 2012-13	31
Figure 12. Proportion of children looked after at 31 st March 2020 who have had a residential care placement during the year	32
Figure 13. Proportion of children looked after at 31 st March 2020 in foster placements during the year.....	33
Figure 14. Proportion of children looked after at 31 st March 2020 who were placed outside of the local authority boundary	34
Figure 15. Proportion of children looked after at 31 st March 2020 who had 3 or more placement moves during the year	35
Figure 16. Reason for episode ceasing in 2019-20, proportion of ethnic group.....	37
Figure 17. The contact status of care leavers between the ages of 19 and 21, percent of ethnic group in 2021	38
Figure 18. The education, employment and training status of care leavers between the ages of 19 and 21 in 2021	39
Figure 19. Percentage of children in suitable accommodation by ethnic groups in 2021.	40

Table 1. Ethnic groups reference table	42
Figure 20. Ratio of the proportion of children in need or with a protection plan from each ethnic group in comparison to children aged 0-17 in the 2011 census	44
Figure 21. Ratio of the proportion of children looked after from each ethnic group in comparison to children aged 0-17 in the 2011 census.....	45
Table 2. Breakdown of looked after children by UASC of CLA, 31 March 2016 and 31 March 2020 and gender and age as a percentage of CLA, 31 March 2020	46
Table 3. Breakdown of children in need by gender and age percentage of CIN, 31 March 2020.....	47
Figure 22. Percentage of children in need at 31st March 2020 with a recorded disability	47
Figure 23. Proportion of pupils aged 5 to 15 who have been eligible for free school meals in the past 6 years in Spring 2020 for children who have and have not been in need in the past 6 years, by ethnic group.....	49
Table 4. The results of logistical regression model 1 and model 2 showing the odds ratio of each variable for both models.....	51
Table 5. Sources of referrals for each ethnicity as a percentage of all referrals for an ethnicity.....	57
Table 6. Percentage the top ten assessment factors for all children are within each ethnic group	60
Table 7. Primary category of abuse for children on a CPP broken down by ethnicity	63

Summary

This research report presents analysis commissioned by the independent review of children's social care of ethnic disparities in children's social care.

Main points

London is the only region where a majority of children in need are from ethnic minority backgrounds.	There is regional variation in children in need from White British and ethnic minority groups. The proportion of ethnic minority children ranges from 11% in the North East to 73% in London at 31 st March 2020.
Children from White and Mixed ethnic groups have higher rates of acute social care activity following referral to social care	Children from White and Mixed ethnic groups have the highest rates of having child protection plans and becoming looked after within a year of being referred. However, after controlling for childrens demographics and social care history, children of Mixed White and Black Caribbean ethnicity were around 30% more likely than White British children to have a child protection plan following a referral. Children from almost every other ethnic group were less likely to have a child protection plan following a referral compared to White British children.
Domestic violence followed by mental health were the most commonly identified factors at assessment for most ethnic groups, with the exception of children from White British, Chinese, Gypsy/Roma and Black African ethnic groups	For White British children, mental health factors were more commonly identified in assessments than domestic violence factors (19.3% compared to 17.7%). This was also the case for Chinese children (15.1% compared to 14.6%). Neglect was more commonly identified for Gypsy/Roma children than mental health (11.9% compared to 8.8%), and other factors were more commonly identified for Black African children than mental health (13.3% compared to 11.2%).
Children from Asian and Any Other ethnicities were around three times more likely than White or Mixed ethnicity children to have had no interaction with social care in the month prior to becoming a looked-after child	Almost half of children from Asian and Any Other ethnicities (42% and 46% respectively) didn't have a child in need or child protection plan in the month prior to becoming a looked-after child, compared to 14% and 17% of White and Mixed ethnic children.

<p>Black and Asian children were less likely than White or Mixed ethnicity children to have been on a child in need or a child protection plan in the month prior to becoming a looked after child, or at any point in the previous 8 years.</p>	<p>The most common activity in the month preceeding a period of care for White and Mixed ethnicity children was being on a child protection plan (51% and 47% respectively), whilst this is the case for only a quarter of children from Black and Asian ethnicities (26% and 27% respectively).</p> <p>Children from Black and Asian ethnic groups were also less likely to have had child in need or protection plans at any point in the 8 years prior to becoming looked-after in 2019-20 compared to White and Mixed ethnicity children (39% and 36% compared to 65% and 62%).</p>
<p>Children from Black ethnic groups were most likely to have multiple periods as a looked-after child.</p>	<p>Almost 1 in 5 Black children who became looked after in 2019-20 had previously been looked-after at some point in the previous 8 years (19% compared to 13% of all children entering care).</p>
<p>The most common reason for ceasing a period of care was returning to parents for most ethnic groups</p>	<p>In 2019-20, White and Mixed ethnicity children had the highest rates of ceasing a period of care due to adoption (13% and 15% respectively), whilst children from Asian, Black and Any Other ethnic groups had high rates of ceasing a period of care due to returning home or entering an independent living arrangement.</p>
<p>Care leavers from White and Mixed ethnic groups had the lowest rates in education, employment or training (46% and 47% respectively)</p>	<p>Around half of care leavers aged 19-21 from White and Mixed ethnic groups were in education, employment or training in 2019-20, compared to 73% of care leavers from Black ethnic groups.</p>

Introduction

This analysis was commissioned by the independent review for children's social care. In this analysis we examine differences in the representation, experiences and outcomes of children in social care by ethnic group. We present analysis on the following themes:

- [Characteristics of children by ethnic group](#) – Section 1 examines variation in the profile of ethnic groups by gender, age, disability, unaccompanied asylum seeker status, geography and free school meal status.
- [Journeys of children in social care](#) - Section 2 explores various aspects of children's journeys through social care including referral and assessment characteristics, outcomes of referrals to social care and social care histories for looked after children. The section includes a regression analysis of factors associated with children becoming the subject of a protection plan following referral to social care.
- [Looked after children: Placements and Outcomes](#) – Section 3 includes discussion of placement types of looked after children, placement stability and reasons for children ceasing care by ethnic group.
- [Outcomes of care leavers](#) – Section 4 presents analysis of rates of care leavers in touch with local authorities, in suitable accommodation, and in education, employment and training by ethnic group.

Where possible we present figures relating to individual (e.g. Black Caribbean) rather than aggregated ethnic groups (e.g. Black or Black British) in recognition of the diversity of experiences and outcomes of individual groups ([Race Disparity Unit 2020](#)). Where the use of individual ethnic groups would result in a large degree of suppression due to small sample sizes we present results for aggregated ethnic groups.

Literature review

Ethnic disparities are complex and the research base on ethnic disparities in children's social care is relatively small. Research examining ethnic disproportionality in child welfare cite the following factors as potentially influential (this list is not exhaustive):

- Differences in the prevalence of poverty and low socioeconomic status (Bywaters and Sparks 2017, Webb et al 2020).
- A lack of confidence amongst social workers in working with ethnic minority families (Gilligan and Akhtar 2006).
- Differences in social worker practice resulting in some ethnic groups experiencing less preventative services and more acute interventions (Ahmed 1994 and Barn 1990 in Williams and Soydan 2005).
- Some cultural practices associated with different ethnic groups may be protective or present a safeguarding risk to children (Briggs and Whittaker, 2018; Tedam, 2014).
- Differences in the prevalence of factors associated with increased use of child services such as domestic abuse and substance misuse (Bywaters et al 2019)
- Differences in rates of children with special educational needs (Bernard 2020)

Some studies include quantitative analysis on factors associated with interaction with children's social care including socioeconomic factors and other characteristics. The 'drivers of activity' research report includes results of multilevel modelling which controlled for individual, familial and neighbourhood factors on a dataset of c. 6 million children aged 6 to 15 (Department for Education 2022). The results show that children from Asian ethnic groups had lower likelihoods of being in need, on protection plans or in residential/foster care. Having Mixed White and Black Caribbean (for all outcomes) and Black Other (for being in need) ethnicity was associated with higher likelihood.

Webb et al (2020) examined ethnic and social disparities at the neighbourhood (lower super output area) level in 18 local authorities. They concluded that while poverty is an important factor in explaining why rates of intervention may differ between ethnic groups, they do not explain all differences. For example, children from Asian and Black ethnic groups have higher rates of low income than White British children yet children from Asian ethnic groups are underrepresented in social care and children from Black ethnic groups are overrepresented. In addition, the scale of socioeconomic inequalities in social care intervention differed by ethnic group.

Data and definitions

Overview of the datasets

The analysis in this report utilises data collected from local authorities in the annual [children in need](#) and [looked after children](#) censuses. Analysis on the characteristics, placements and outcomes of looked after children use snapshot data from these censuses for the year 2019-20 unless otherwise stated. Analysis on the journeys of children through the social care system is based on the matched, longitudinal data from these censuses between 2012-13 and 2019-20. This dataset contains details of the majority of referrals, assessments, child protection plans and periods of being looked after across the eight years.

Ethnic groups

This report refers to ethnic groups using the categories used by the Department for Education which are similar to categorisations adopted in the 2011 census. The children's social care services method of determining a child's ethnicity involves first asking the child about their ethnic identity. If they are not old enough to respond the children in need census [guidance](#) advises asking the child's primary carer.

The major difference is categories for children who do not have a recorded ethnic group due to refusal or the information not yet being obtained. The latter category includes more children who are unborn as the children in need census [guidance](#) advises that children who are unborn should have this ethnicity code.

There is some analysis which involves aggregated ethnic groups. [Annex A](#) provides details on the ethnic groups within the broad groupings as well as the equivalent ethnic groups in the 2011 census.

Children's social care definitions

Referral: a request for services to be provided by local authority children's social care via the assessment process outlined in Working Together to safeguard children 2018 and is either in respect of a child not previously known to the local authority, or where a case was previously open but is now closed. New information about a child who is already an open case does not constitute a referral for the purposes of the children in need census. Recording practices vary between local authorities.

Assessments: an assessment is carried out when a child is referred to children's social care to determine if the child is in need of children's social care services. These services can include, for example, family support, leaving care support, adoption support or disabled children's services (including social care, education and health provision). An assessment should be completed within 45 days working days of a referral.

Child in Need (CIN): a child is in need of services, which local authorities have an obligation to provide under section 17 of the Children Act 1989 if:

- they are unlikely to achieve or maintain, or to have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision for them of services by a local authority
- their health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired, without the provision for them of such services
- they are disabled

This group includes three main subgroups of children which are defined below: those on Child in Need and other Plans (CINP); those on Child Protection Plans (CPP), and Children Looked After (CLA).

Child in Need and other Plans (CINP): plans including family support (to help keep together families experiencing difficulties), leaving care support (to help young people who have left local authority care), adoption support or disabled children's services (including social care, education and health provision).

Section 47 enquiry (S47): If a local authority identifies there is reasonable cause to suspect the child is suffering, or is likely to suffer significant harm, it will carry out an assessment under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 to determine if it needs to take steps to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child.

Child Protection Plan (CPP): support for a child where there is reasonable suspicion that child is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm.

Children Looked After (CLA): Under the Children Act 1989, a child is looked-after by a local authority if they fall into one of the following:

- is provided with accommodation, for a continuous period of more than 24 hours
- is subject to a care order
- is subject to a placement order

Unaccompanied asylum seeking child (UASC): children aged under 18 who have applied for asylum in their own right and are separated from both parents and/or any other responsible adult. Local authorities have a legal duty to provide accommodation for these children.

Section 1: Characteristics of children by ethnic group

This section first explores disproportionality in the ethnicity of children in social care by comparing the proportion of children in an ethnic group in children's social care to their share in the general child population (**Section 1.1**). We use the 2011 census to assess this though as the census is now dated there is a possibility that the scale of the relationships will change when comparing to the 2021 census.

The section then assesses the extent to which demographics (UASC status, age, gender, disability, geography and free school meal status) of children in social care varies by ethnic group (**Section 1.2 – 1.5**).

The figures and tables for this section are available in Annex B.

1.1 Disproportionality of ethnic groups in social care

Figure 20 in Annex B shows the ratio of the share of children from each ethnic group compared to the 2011 census for children in need and on protection plans at 31st March 2020. Figure 21 in Annex B shows the equivalent for children looked after including and excluding unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

- Children from Black and Mixed ethnic groups tend to show overrepresentation in comparison to the general child population, with the exception of Black African children on protection plans.
- Children from White Irish Traveller, Roma and Gypsy ethnic groups show the highest degree of overrepresentation (around 4 times the share of the all 0-17 year olds).
- Children from Asian ethnic groups (apart from Any other Asian ethnic group) tend to be underrepresented amongst children in need, on protection plans and looked after compared to all children aged 0 – 17.
- Table 2 in Annex B shows looked after children from ethnic groups with high proportions of unaccompanied asylum seeking children (Black African, Any Other Asian, and Any Other ethnic groups) are overrepresented relative to all 0-17 year olds.

1.2 Unaccompanied asylum seeking children

Table 2 in Annex B shows the proportion of looked after children from each ethnic group who were UASC at 31st March 2020. Table 2 in Annex B also displays the proportions in 2016 to enable comparison over time.

For all looked after children, 6% were UASC at 31st March 2020, the same as at 31st March 2016. The proportion of children from each ethnic group who are UASC is mostly

similar between the two years. There is substantial variation between and within ethnic groups:

- Children from Black African, Any Other Asian, and Any Other ethnic groups have particularly high proportions of children who are UASC (40%, 65% and 67% respectively), compared to zero or a minority of children from 'Mixed' and 'White' ethnic groups.
- High proportions of UASC for Black and Asian ethnic groups are largely driven by a single ethnic group.
 - For example, the proportion of UASC children from Asian ethnic groups is relatively high (34%). This figure is driven mostly by the Any Other Asian ethnicity group where 65% of children are UASC. The other ethnicities within the Asian ethnic group have lower UASC proportions between 4 to 14% (excluding groups suppressed due to small numbers).

1.3 Gender, age and disability

Gender

- Table 2 and Table 3 in Annex B illustrate that the majority of children in need and looked after children at 31st March 2020 are male (54% and 56% respectively).
 - Apart from children looked after in Refused and Information not yet obtained groups this pattern is observed for all ethnic groups.
- For children from Black African, Any other Asian background and Any other ethnic group there is a high proportion of boys, especially amongst looked after children (68% to 80% of looked after Black African, Any other Asian background and Any other ethnic groups were Male at 31st March 2020). This is driven by the high proportion of UASC in these ethnic groups, as the majority of unaccompanied asylum seeking children are male ([Children Looked After Statistics](#)).

Age at 31st March 2020

- Table 2 and Table 3 in Annex B show that amongst children in need and looked after children at 31st March 2020 most children are aged 10 to 15 (32% and 39% respectively).
- The ethnic groups with the larger proportions of unaccompanied asylum seeking children have age 16 and over as the most common age group for looked after children, ranging from 54 to 66% of children from Any other Asian ethnic group, Black African and Any other ethnic group.
- For children where information is not obtained it is unborn or under 1, likely due to guidelines advising use of the category for unborn children. A similar pattern occurs for CLA.

Disability

- 13% of children in need at 31st March 2020 had a disability recorded. Figure 22 in Annex B indicates that many ethnic groups have a similar proportion of children with recorded disabilities.
 - Children of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi heritage the proportions are markedly higher, closer to 1 in 5 children in need (ranging from 17 to 20%).
 - Children in need from White Irish Traveller, White Gypsy or Roma and Information not yet obtained ethnic groups have lower proportions (6%, 6% and 2% respectively). For children whose ethnicity was not obtained the very low proportion may be influenced by the large proportion of unborn children.

1.4 Geography

Figure 22 in Annex B shows the proportion of White British (the majority ethnic group), ethnic minority and children whose ethnic group was refused or not obtained by region for children in need at 31st March 2020. There is notable regional variation which is similar to residential patterns of children in the 2011 census.

In England around two thirds (64%) of children in need are White, 32% are from ethnic minority backgrounds and 4% of children's ethnicities were refused or not obtained. London has the highest proportion of ethnic minority children (73%), the only region where ethnic minority children in need are the majority. The North East has the highest proportion of White British children in need (87%) where around 1 in 10 children are from ethnic minority backgrounds (11%). This is consistent with residential patterns of children in the 2011 census.

1.5 Free school meal status of children in need

Figure 23 in Annex B shows eligibility for free school meals in the past 6 years for children who have been in need in the past 6 years compared to children who have not in Spring 2020.

- Children who have been in need are more likely to have been eligible for free school meals in the past 6 years (63% compared to 20% of pupils who have not been recorded as in need). This pattern is the same for every ethnic group.
- Patterns in free school meal eligibility by ethnic group are similar amongst children in need and those who have not been in need in the past 6 years.
 - For example, children from Indian ethnic groups have the lowest free school meal eligibility amongst children who have not been in need (8%), and the second smallest proportion for children who have been in need (33%).

Section 2: Journeys of children in social care

In this section we examine ethnic disparities in the journeys of children through the social care system. **Section 2.1** shows differences in the source of referrals to social care. **Section 2.2** shows differences in the reasons for the social care intervention. **Section 2.3** explores differences in the rates of escalation following a referral. **Section 2.4** explores differences in the routes through social care of children who become looked after.

Note that children experiencing interactions with social care have unique needs and circumstances which are not wholly captured by the data collections. Therefore, whilst the analysis gives insight on how journeys vary by ethnic group we cannot determine the specific cause(s) of disparities.

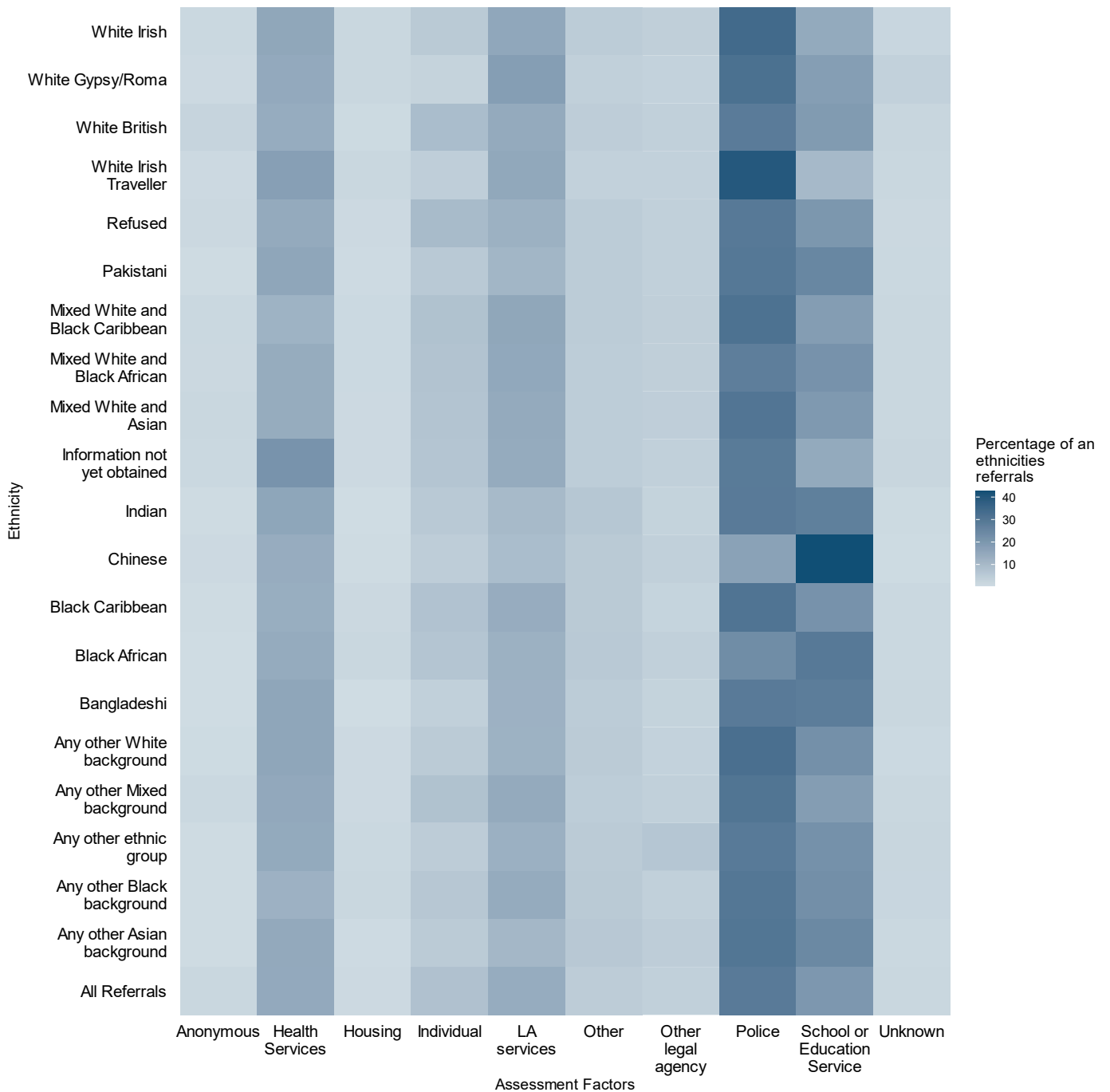
2.1 Referral sources

A referral is defined as a request for services to be provided by children's social care and is in respect of a child who is not currently in need. Figure 1 is a heat map showing the distribution of referral sources by ethnic group in 2019-20.

Figure 1 shows:

- Police, schools, LA services and health services contribute the majority of referrals for most ethnic groups. Police are the largest source of referrals for most ethnic groups.
 - White Irish Traveller children have the highest rate of referral from the police (34%).
 - Chinese children have the lowest proportion of referrals from police (17%).
- Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Chinese children have a larger proportion of their referrals coming from schools compared to other ethnic groups.
 - Schools or education services are the largest source of referrals for Chinese children (43% compared to 20% of all children).
 - Indian, Pakistani, and Bangladeshi children have similar proportions of referrals from schools and the police (around a quarter of referrals).

Figure 1. Sources of referrals for each ethnic group



Source: Children in need census

Notes:

1. The colour of each square represents the proportion of referrals from each source per ethnic group. Darker blue means the referral source was a high proportion of referrals for each ethnic group, lighter blue represents a lower proportion.
2. It is possible for the same child to be referred multiple times in a year.
3. Full data for the heatmap can be found in Annex D.

2.2 Reasons for social care intervention

2.2.1 Assessment factors

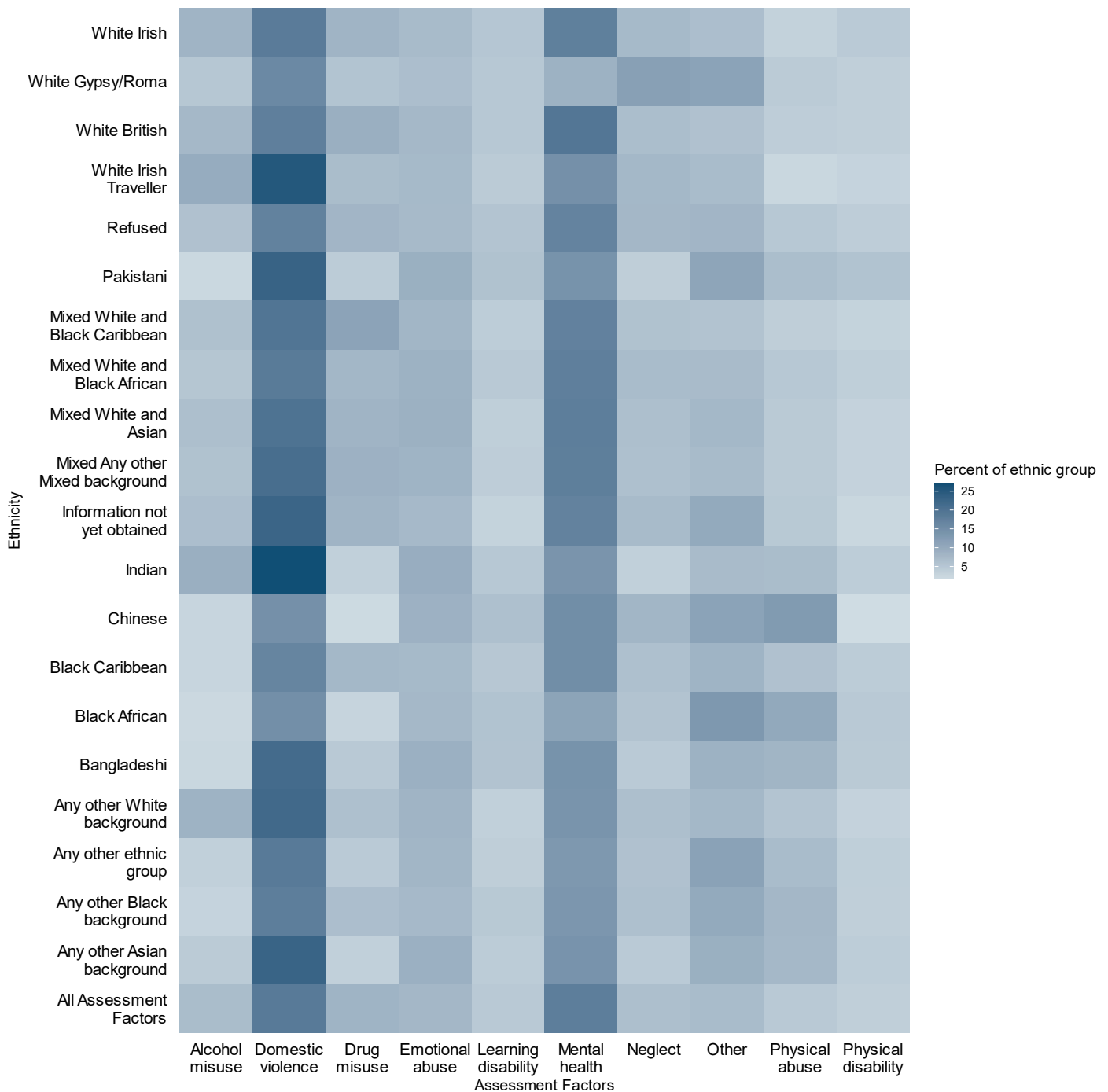
Factors identified at the end of assessment are factors that social workers record as being relevant in a case. Figure 2 is a heat map showing the percentage of assessments factors for each ethnic group in 2019/20.¹ This is shown for each of the 10 most frequent factors as a percentage of all factors of that ethnic group.

Figure 2 shows:

- For most ethnic groups the most frequently identified assessment factors are domestic violence and mental health.
 - Domestic violence is a higher proportion of assessment factors for Indian and Irish traveller children with these being the largest percentages of a single assessment factor within an ethnic group at 27% and 25% respectively.
- Roma children the highest proportion of their assessment factors being neglect compared to other ethnicities (12% compared to 8% for all children).

¹ The majority of children have more than one factor recorded for each episode of need. It should be noted that not all episodes have factors recorded.

Figure 2. Ten most common assessment factors in 2019-20 as a percentage of all assessment factors of an ethnic group



Notes:

1. Dark blue indicates a high proportion of children from the ethnic group had the category of abuse, light blue shows a low proportion and white means the data was suppressed due to small numbers.
2. A single assessment can have multiple assessment factors noted and a child can have multiple assessments in a year.
3. Full data for the heatmap can be found in the table in Annex E.

2.2.2 Assessment factors – extra-familial harms

This section examines the prevalence of extra-familial harms in assessments, defined as the occurrence of one or more the following factors:

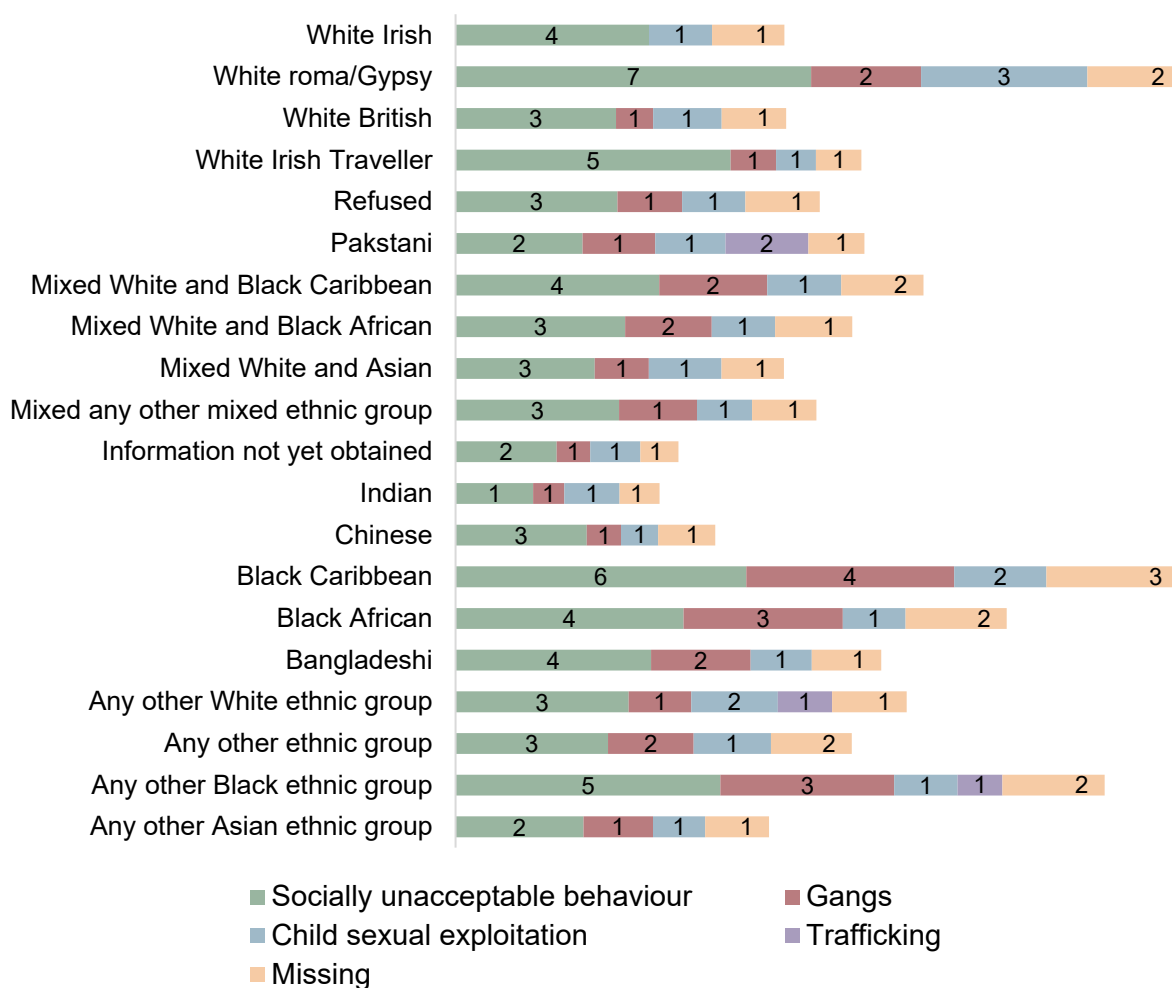
- Socially unacceptable behaviour
- Gangs
- Trafficking
- Child sexual exploitation
- Missing

Figure 3 shows the proportion of assessment factors which relate to extra familial harms by ethnic group (excluding unknown factors). Note that differing proportions may be influenced by a variety of factors such as the age profile of children being assessed, recording practices and potentially differential exposure to extra-familial harms.

On average, for all children in need, extra familial harms represent a minority of assessment factors (7%). Figure 3 shows:

- Children of White Roma/Gypsy ethnicity have the highest proportions of assessment factors representing extra familial harms (16%).
- Assessment factors representing extra familial harms represent 11%, 14% and 12% of all assessment factors for Black African, Black Caribbean and children from Any other Black ethnic group.
- White Roma/Gypsy children have the largest proportion of child sexual exploitation assessment factors (3% compared to 1% for all children).
- Gangs comprise 3-4% of assessment factors for children in Black ethnic groups compared to 1% for all children.

Figure 3. Percentage of assessment factors in 2019-20 which relate to extra-familial harms



Notes:

1. A child may have multiple assessments within a year and multiple factors recorded per assessment.

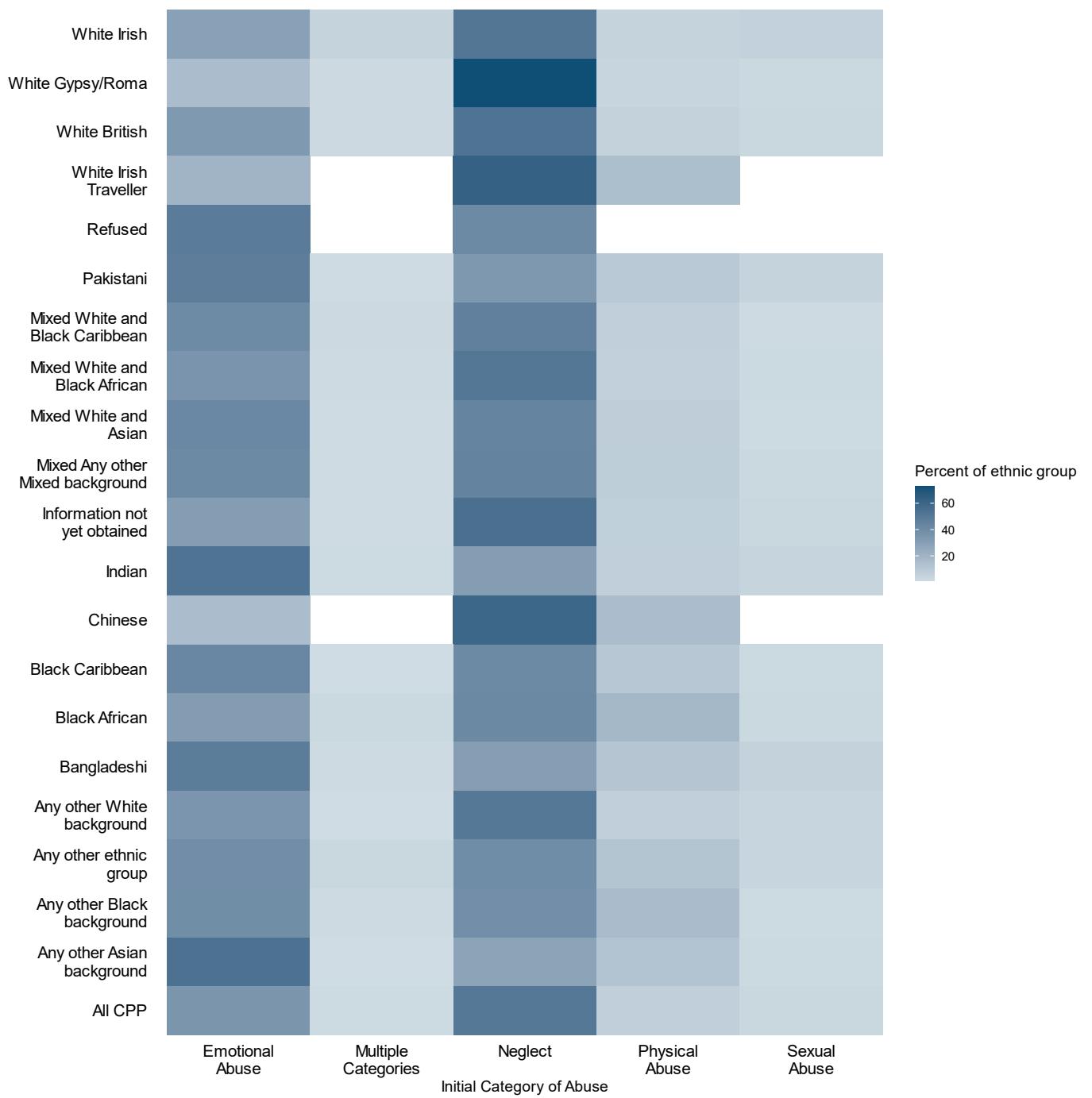
2.2.3 Initial category of abuse for children on protection plans

Figure 4 shows differences in the initial categories of abuse per ethnic group for children who were on protection plans at 31st March 2020.

Figure 4 shows:

- While neglect is the most common category for most ethnic groups, emotional abuse was the most common category for children from Asian Indian (53%), Bangladeshi (48%), Pakistani (48%), Any other Asian ethnic group (54%), Refused (49%), Black Caribbean (43%) and Any other Black ethnic groups (40%).
 - For Black Caribbean and Black Other ethnic groups proportions were similar to neglect (less than 1 percentage point difference).
- Proportions of children with physical abuse as the initial category of abuse were relatively high for Black African (19%), Black Other (16%), Chinese (16%, though overall numbers of children on protection plans were small) and White Irish Traveller (15%) ethnic groups compared to all children on a protection plan (7%).

Figure 4. Initial category of abuse for children who were the subject of protection plans at 31st March 2020



Source: Children in need census

Notes:

1. Dark blue indicates a high proportion of children from the ethnic group had the category of abuse, light blue shows a low proportion and white means the data was suppressed due to small numbers.
2. White Irish Traveller, Refused, and Chinese for multiple categories are suppressed. Refused for Physical Abuse is suppressed. White Irish Traveller, Refused, and Chinese for sexual abuse are suppressed.
3. Full data can be found in Annex F.

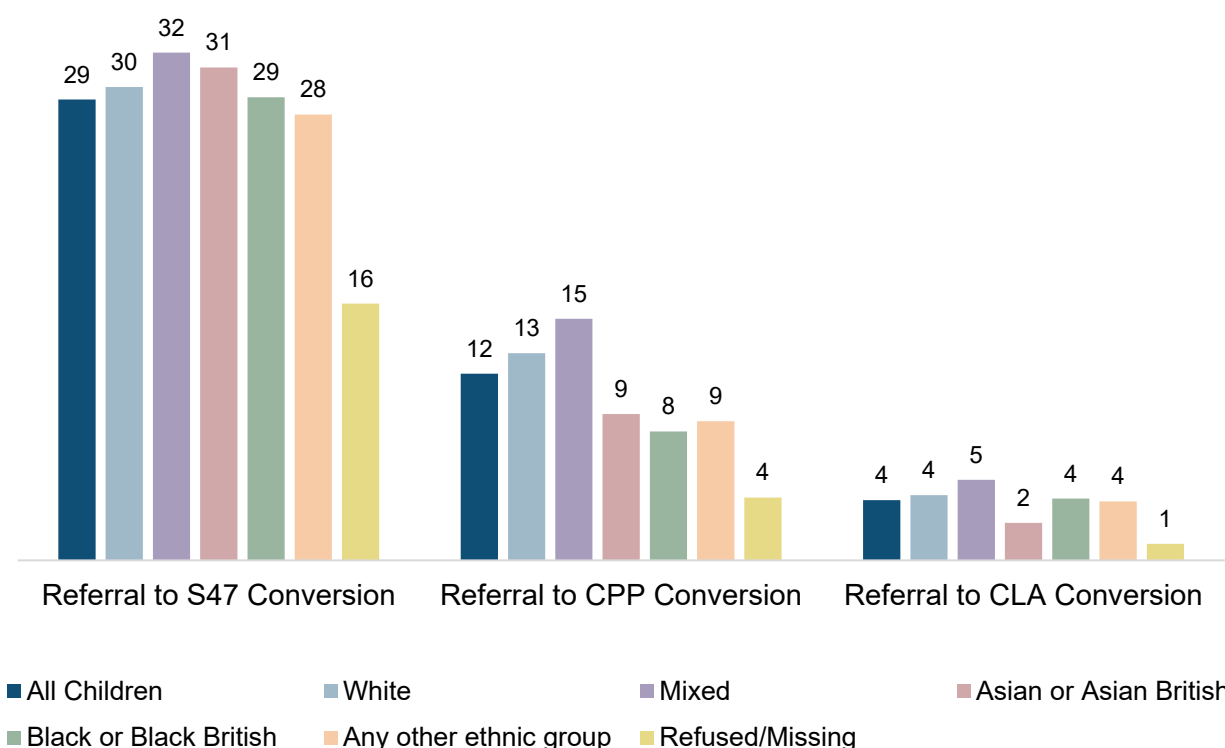
2.3 Escalation through the social care system following referral

2.3.1 Escalation through the social care system after a referral by ethnic group

The analysis in this section shows the rate of escalation from referral to section 47 assessments, child protection plans and becoming looked-after within 12 months of the referral. The analysis is based on referrals between April 1st 2018 and March 31st 2019. Unaccompanied asylum seeking children are excluded from the analysis and it is possible for children to have multiple escalations per year.

Figure 5 shows the percentage of children per ethnicity group who had a section 47 assessment, protection plan and period of care within 12 months of a referral.

Figure 5. Children referred to social care in 2018-19 that went on to have a section 47 (S47), child protection plan (CPP) or period of care (CLA) within 12 months of referral



Source: Longitudinal children in need database

Figure 5 shows:

- Around 3 in 10 children from most ethnic groups had a **section 47 assessment** within 12 months of referral. This was lowest for children with Refused/Missing ethnicities (16%).
- Around 1 in 10 children had a **child protection plan** within 12 months of referral (12%).

- Mixed and White ethnicity children had the highest rates of conversion to a protection plan (15% and 13% respectively).
- Children from Asian, Black and Any Other ethnic groups had lower rates of conversion to a protection plan (9%, 8% and 9% respectively).
- Refused/Missing children have the lowest rate of conversion to a CPP (4%).
- Only 4% of children became **looked after** within 12 months of referral.
 - Mixed ethnicity children had the highest rate of becoming looked after following referral (5%), whilst Refused/Missing/Unknown children had the lowest rate of conversion (1%).
 - Asian children have the second lowest rate of conversion to becoming looked after (2%), around half the rate of Mixed ethnicity children.
 - Similar rates of White, Black and Any Other ethnic groups became looked after following referral (4%).

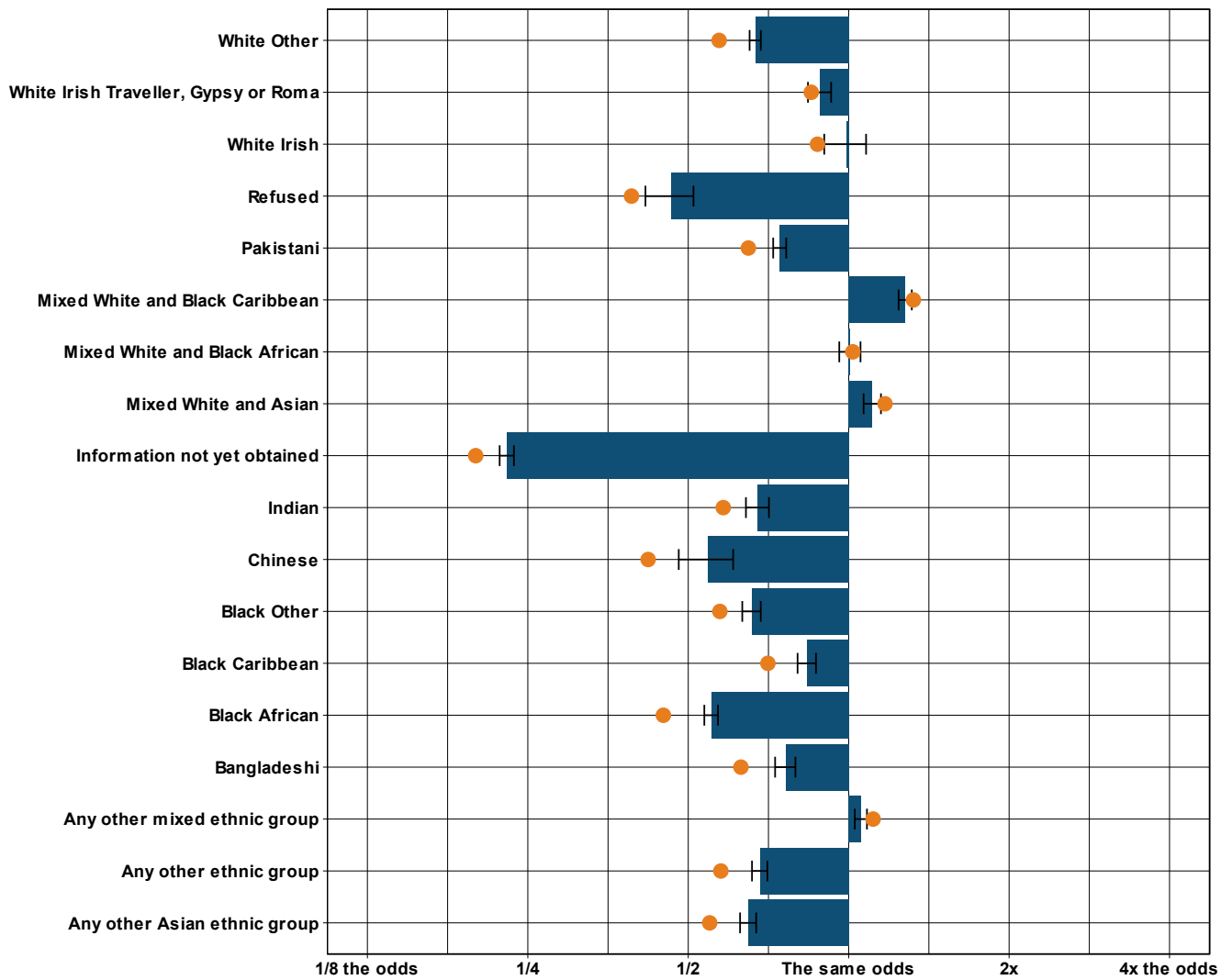
2.3.2 Child protection plans following referral: regression analysis

[Section 2.3.1](#) showed that while White and Mixed ethnicity children have higher rates of conversion to a protection plan following referral, there are a variety of factors which could play a role in this such as age and social care history. To examine the factors associated with becoming the subject of a protection plan following referral we conducted a logistic regression. The dataset is comprised of children who were referred from April 1st 2018 to 31st March 2019, excluding unaccompanied asylum seeking children. The analysis controlled for the demographics and needs of the child, whether the child had been on a CPP or CLA previously, location and deprivation. See Annex F for further detail on the variables and methods used in the the modelling.

The results from this model should not be interpreted causally, meaning that the results do not show factors that cause a child referred to social care to escalate to a child protection plan but show the association. The results may also change if other factors were included in the modelling.

Figure 6 shows the results for ethnic groups followed by a discussion of the effects of other factors.

Figure 6. Odds ratios for ethnic groups escalating to a child protection plan following a referral compared to a White British child



Source: Longitudinal CIN database

Notes:

- Figure 6 displays the likelihood of a referral for a child from each ethnic minority group escalating to a child protection plan compared to the likelihood of a referral from a White British child, controlling for the range of factors listed above (odds ratios for ethnic groups) shown in the blue bars. The orange points show the odds ratio when only accounting for ethnicity.
- Coefficients are given as odds ratios. An odds ratio of 1 shows equal likelihood of escalating to a protection plan following referral to the reference group (e.g. White British for ethnic groups). A ratio higher than 1 shows increased likelihood compared to the reference group and less than 1 shows reduced likelihood.
- Full data can be found in Annex C.

Figure 6 shows:

- Referrals from children of Mixed White and Black Caribbean ethnicity were more likely to escalate to CPP, compared to referrals of White British children.
- Referrals from children of any Asian ethnic group, Chinese, Black African, Any Other Black, Any Other White, Any Other, Refused and Information not yet obtained ethnic groups were less likely to escalate to CPP, compared to referrals of White British children.

The model also found the following characteristics are associated with a substantive **increase** in the odds of a referral escalating to a child protection plan compared to their reference group:

- Children who were aged 4 or under at referral compared to aged 10 to 15.
- Children with a recorded disability.
- Children who had previously been on a protection plan.
- Children living in local authorities in the North East compared to London.
- Children referred by local authority services compared to the Police.

The following characteristics were associated with a substantive **decrease** in the likelihood of a referral escalating to a child protection plan compared to their reference group:

- Indeterminate gender compared to Male.
- Aged 16 and over compared to aged 10 to 15.
- Previously looked after.
- Primary need at referral that was not abuse or neglect.
- Referred from other legal agency compared to the Police.

The full results of the model are provided in Annex F.

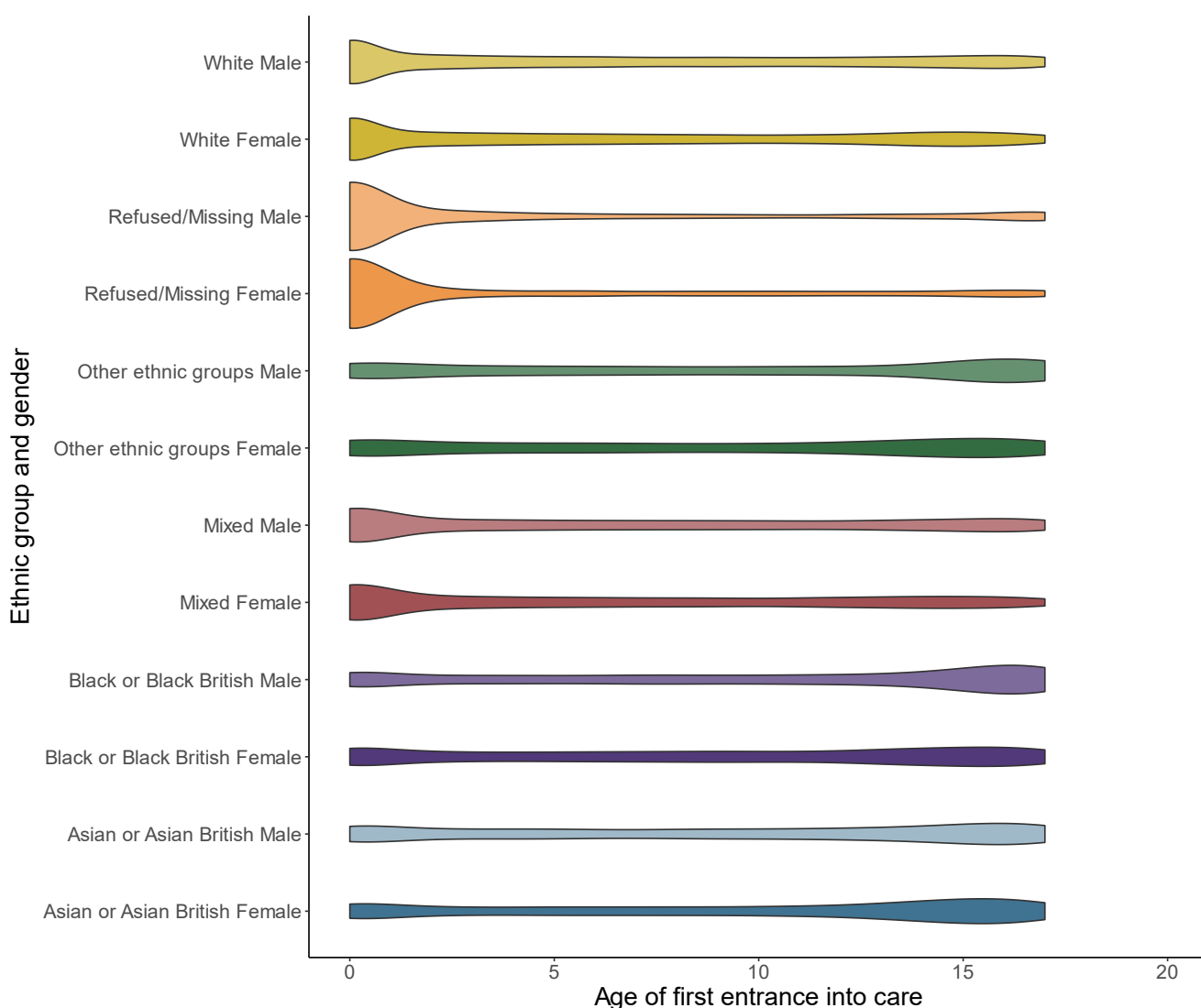
2.4 Children entering local authority care

The analysis in this section looks at differences by ethnicity in the age at first entry to care, the time between referral and entry to care, social care interaction in the month prior to entering care, and social care interactions at any point in the 8 years prior to entering care.

2.4.1 Age at starting first care episode

Figure 7 shows the age profiles of when children first entered care by ethnic group and gender.

Figure 7. The age at which a child becomes looked after for the first time by ethnic group and gender for children who first became looked after between 2016 and 2020



Source: SSDA903

Notes:

1. UASC and respite care not included.
2. A wider part of the plot means more children from that group entered care at that age compared to a thinner part of the plot.

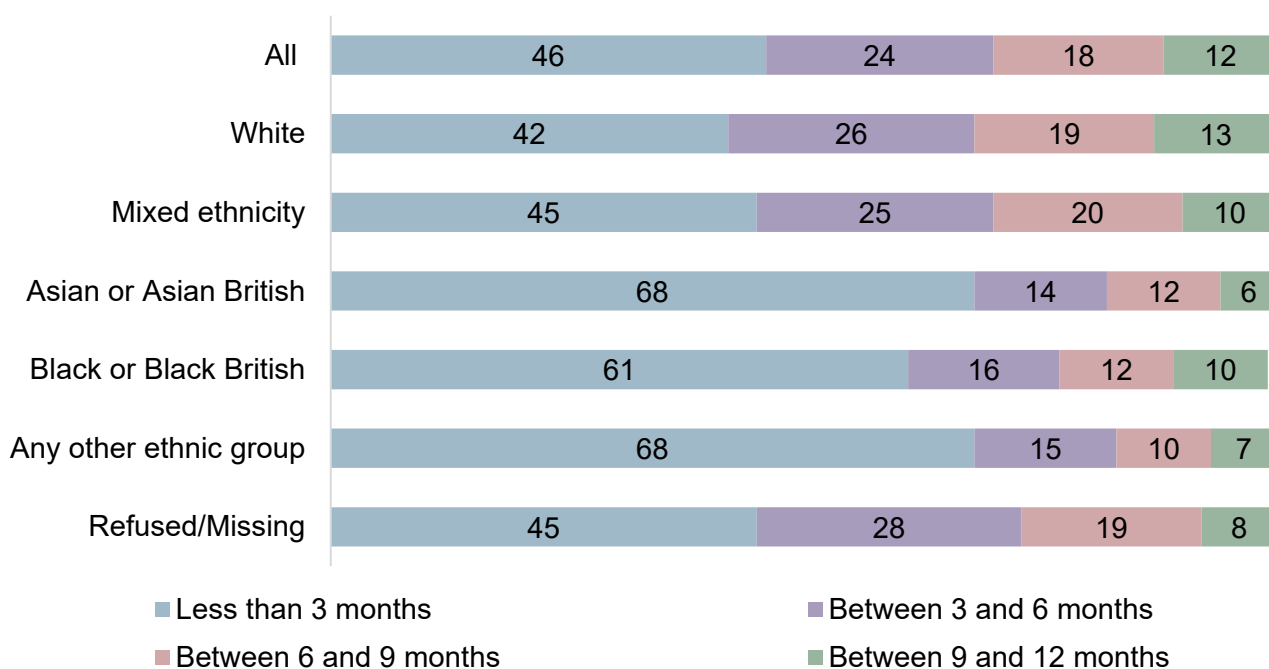
Figure 7 shows:

- The most common ages for children entering care for the first time are less than 1 year old or as a teenager.
- White and Mixed ethnicity children are more likely to enter care for the first time as a very young child whereas Asian, Black and Other Ethnic Group children are more likely to enter care as teenagers.
- Male children are more likely to enter care later. A notable exception to this is Asian female children are more likely to enter care at an older age than Asian male children.
- Refused/Missing ethnicity are much more likely to enter care as a baby than any ethnic group but as unborn children are more likely to have an unknown ethnic group this is expected.

2.4.2 Time between a child being referred and entering care

The time between a referral and entering care may depend on multiple factors including other types of intervention before moving into care or the urgency of children's circumstances. For referrals in 2018-19 which led to a period care within the next 12 months, Figure 8 shows how the time between referral and entry to care varied by ethnicity.

Figure 8. Time between a referral and entering care by ethnic group, referrals within 2018-19 which converted within 12 months



Source: Longitudinal children in need database

Notes:

1. UASC and respite care not included.

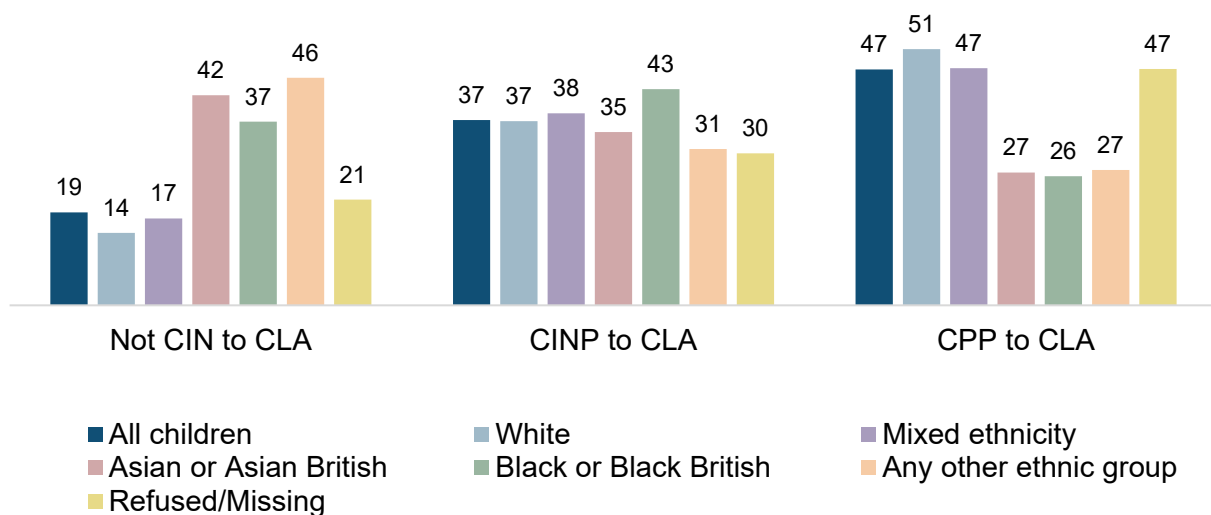
Figure 8 shows:

- Children from Asian, Black, and Any Other ethnic groups tended to have less time between a referral and entering care (1 month or less on average) than White or Mixed ethnicity children (3 months on average).
- More than half of children from Asian (68%), Black (61%) and Any Other ethnic group (68%) entered care within 2 months of being referred, compared to less than half of White and Mixed ethnicity children (42% and 45% respectively).

2.4.3 Social care interactions immediately before becoming looked after in 2019-20

Figure 9 shows differences by ethnicity in the most common social care interactions in the month prior to entering care for those children who became looked after between April 1st 2019 and March 31st 2020².

Figure 9. Social care interactions of children in the month before entering care in 2019-20



Source: Longitudinal CIN database

Notes:

1. UASC and respite care not included.
2. Due to the structure of the data it is possible that children had other social care interactions in the same month as becoming looked after which would not be captured by this analysis. However, this would represent a rapid rate of conversion.

² The analysis looked at which, if any, interactions with the children social care system a child had in a month. Social care activity between April 1st 2016 and March 31st 2020 was included in the analysis. UASC and respite care was not included. If a child had two or more interactions in a given month the more acute intervention was counted. The order, from least to most acute intervention is not a child in need, referred and assessed to be not in need, child in need plan, child protection plan and looked after child. Definitions of these events can be found the [Data and definitions](#) section. Subsequences describe part of a children’s journey so the same child with different subsequences are not mutually exclusive. If a child moves into care multiple times in that period they will have multiple subsequences into care.

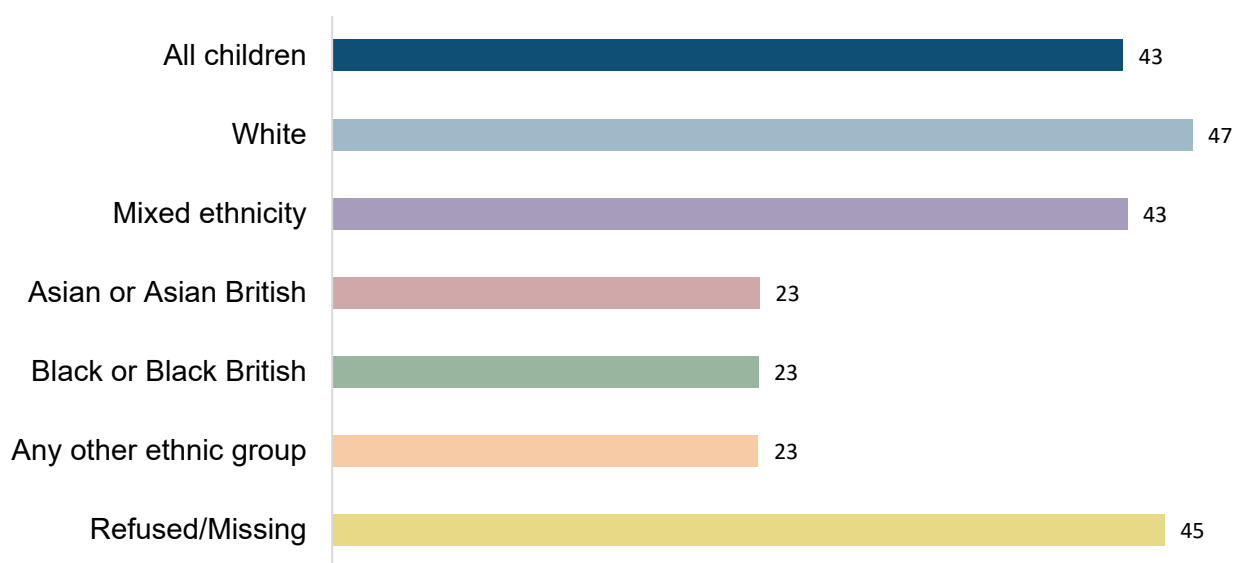
Subsequence analysis was performed on ethnic groups to identify the most common sequences of events immediately before and after entering care. Subsequences describe part of a child’s journey so the same child with different subsequences are not mutually exclusive. If a child moves into care multiple times in that period they will have multiple subsequences into care. Events with missing start or end dates were removed from the analysis. UASC children were excluded from the analysis.

Figure 9 shows:

- On average, entry to care after a protection plan was most common (47%).
- Children of White and Mixed ethnicities were more likely to enter a period of care after a protection a protection plan compared to children from Asian, Black, and Any other ethnic groups.
- More than double the proportion of children from Asian, Black and Any Other ethnic groups entered care following no social care activity compared to all children (42%, 37% and 46% respectively compared to 19% for all children).
 - This is also substantially higher compared to White, Mixed ethnicity and Refused/Missing ethnic groups (14%, 17% and 21% respectively).

Looking at longer sequences of social care activity, the most common entry to care involving two transitions was escalation from a children in need plan to a protection plan before becoming looked-after (43%). This is shown as a percentage of each ethnic group in Figure 10.

Figure 10. Proportion of children who entered a period of care in 2019-20 following a CINP and CPP by ethnic group



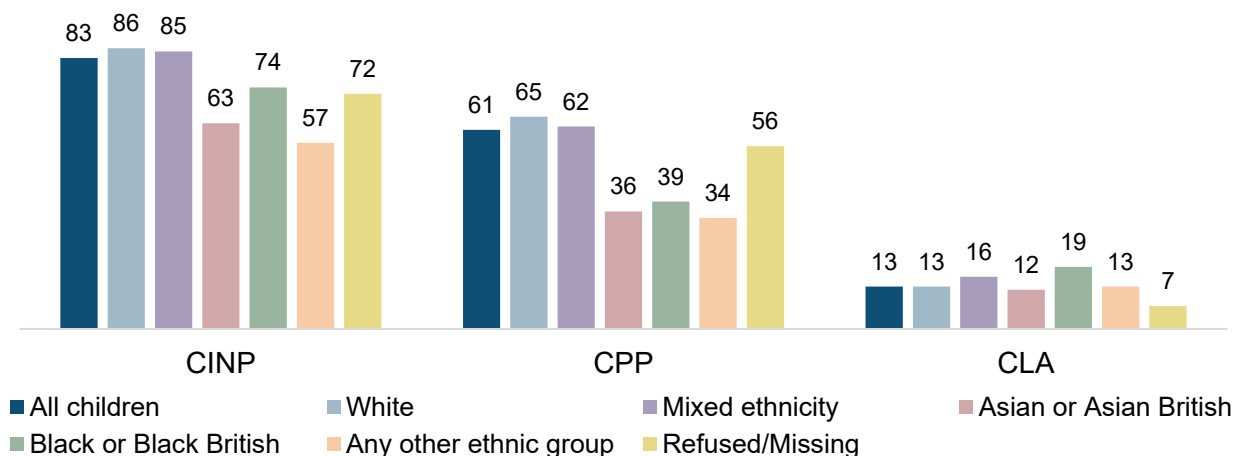
Source: Longitudinal CIN database

Figure 10 shows children from White and Mixed ethnicities were around twice as likely to escalate from CINP to CPP to CLA compared to children from Asian, Black or Any Other ethnic groups (47% and 44%, compared to 23%).

2.4.4 Social care interactions in the 8 years prior to becoming looked after in 2019-20

Children who begin a period as a looked after child may have had previous interactions with the children’s social care system. Figure 11 shows the percentage of children who have had a child in need plan, child protection plan or have been in non-respite local authority care before entering care in 2019-20. Unaccompanied asylum seeking children were not included in the analysis.

Figure 11. Percentage of children who became looked-after in 2019-20 with previous social care activity since 2012-13



Source: Longitudinal CIN database

Notes:

1. Previous interactions are not mutually exclusive so rates may sum to more than 100%.
2. CLA does not include UASC or respite care.

Figure 11 shows of children who became looked-after during 2019-20:

- Children of White and Mixed ethnicities are most likely to have had a CINP before entering care (86% and 85% respectively).
- Children of White or Mixed ethnicities are almost twice as likely to have been on a CPP.
- White children are more likely to have had a CPP (65%) than children of Asian or Any other ethnic group ethnicity are to have had a child in need plan before entering care (63% and 57% respectively).
- Black children were most likely to have had another period in care before entering care in 2018-19 (19%).

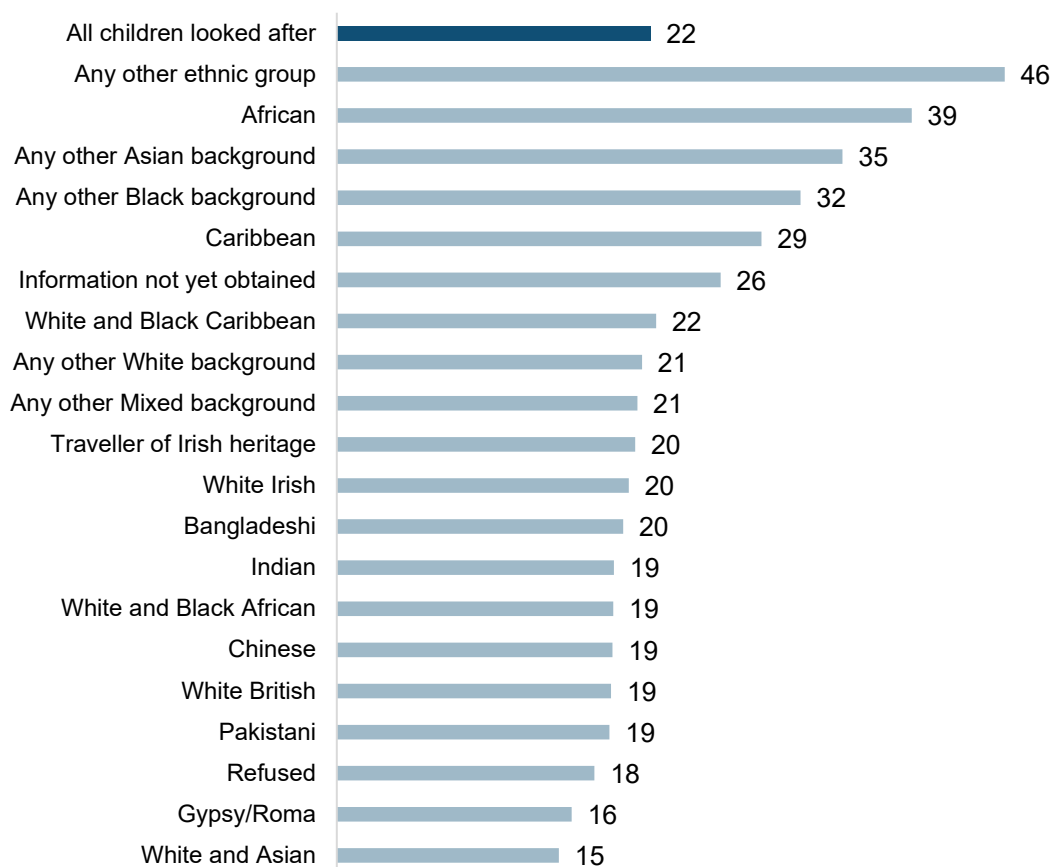
Section 3: Looked after children - placements and outcomes

This section examines patterns in the locality and type of placements, and reasons for ceasing care for looked after children in 2019-20. **Section 3.1** looks at the proportion of looked after children who have had residential and foster placements during how they both vary by ethnicity. **Section 3.2** shows differences by ethnicity in the proportion of looked after children who are placed outside of the local authority of their home. **Section 3.3** investigates differences by ethnicity in the number of looked after children who have three or more placement moves in a year. **Section 3.4** shows differences by ethnicity in the reasons for ceasing care.

3.1 Placement types

Figure 12 and Figure 13 show the proportions of children looked after at 31st March 2020 from each ethnic group who have been in residential and foster care placements during the year.

Figure 12. Proportion of children looked after at 31st March 2020 who have had a residential care placement during the year

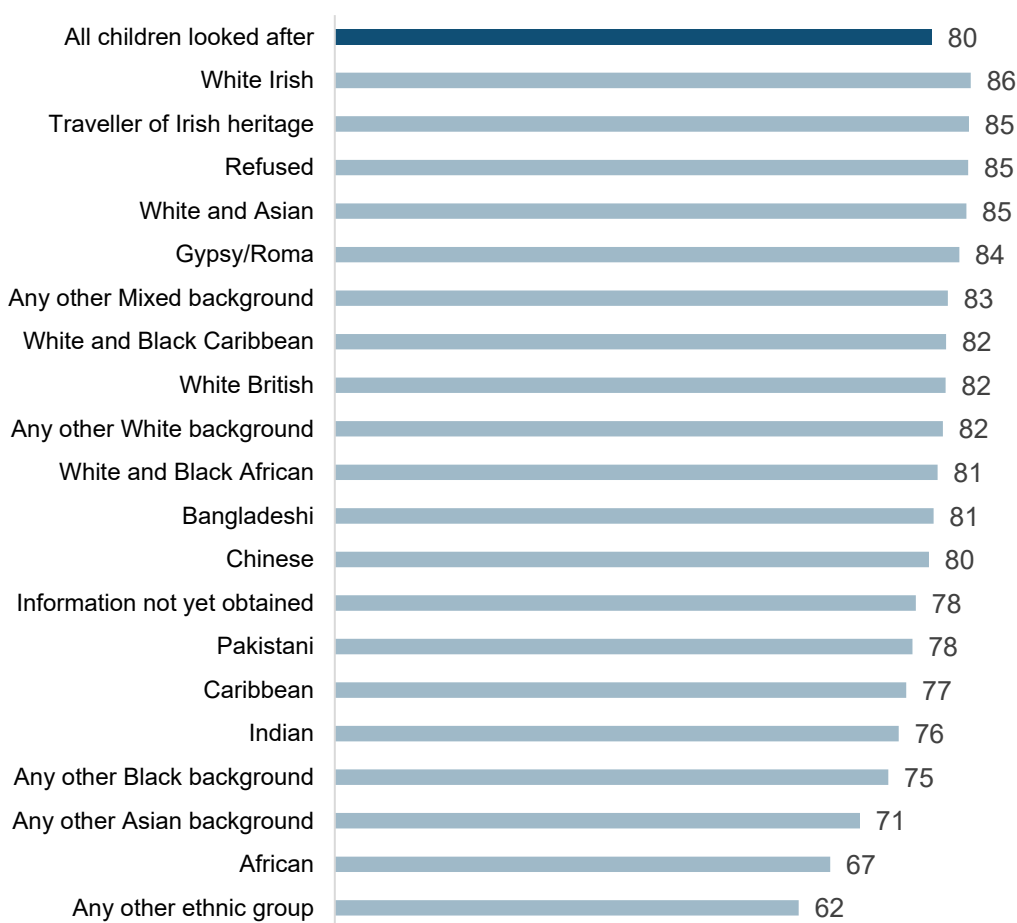


Source: Children looked after census (SSDA903)

Figure 12 shows:

- Around 1 in 5 children looked after at 31st March 2020 experienced a residential placement during the year (22%).
- Groups with higher proportions of UASC (such as children from Any other, Any other Asian and Black African ethnicities) have substantially higher proportions who experienced a residential placement .
- Proportions were also high, close to 1 in 3, for children from Black Caribbean and Any other Black ethnic groups .

Figure 13. Proportion of children looked after at 31st March 2020 in foster placements during the year



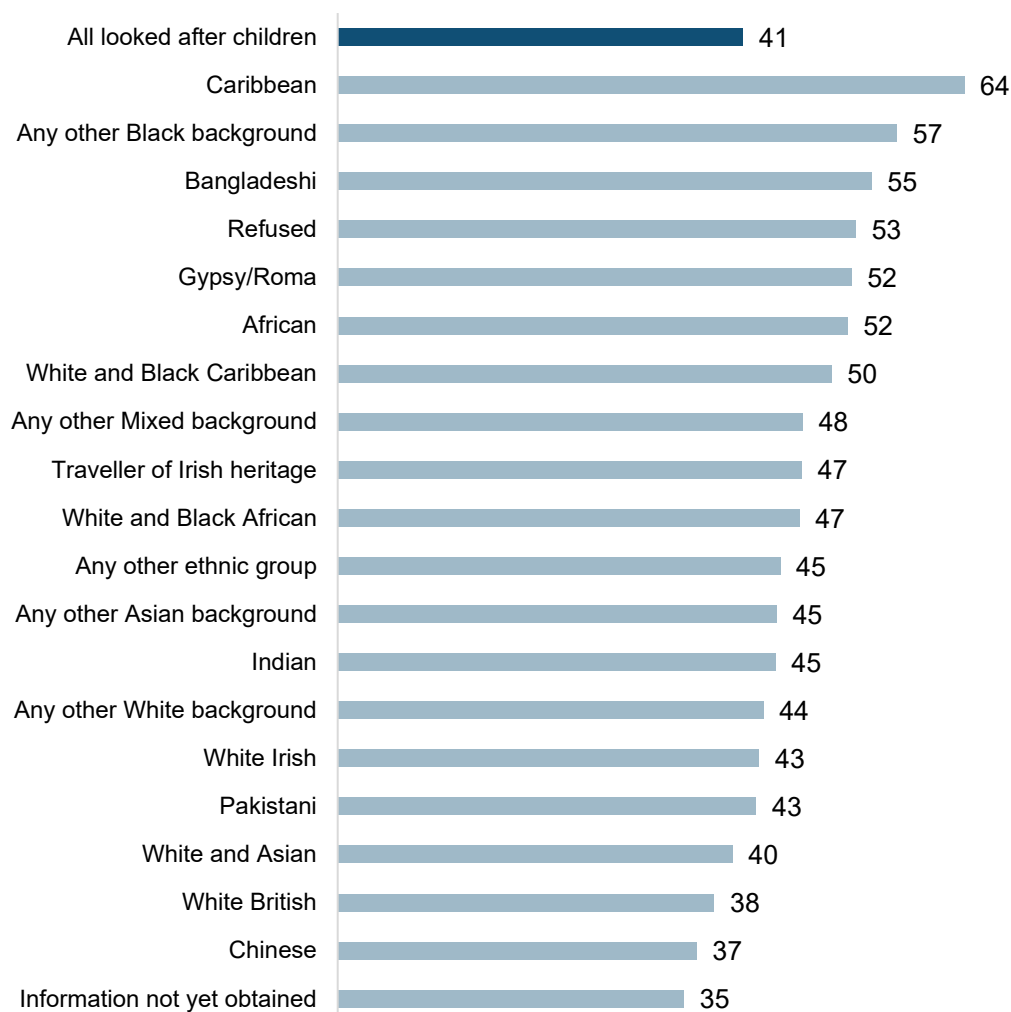
Source: Children looked after census (SSDA903)

Figure 13 shows the majority of children looked after at 31st March 2020 had a foster placement during the year (80%). This is the case for all ethnic groups but is relatively lower for children from Any other ethnic group, Black African and Any other Asian ethnic group (62 to 71%).

3.2 Locality of placements

Figure 14 shows the proportion of looked after children at 31st March 2020 who were placed outside of their home local authority boundary. Note these measures will not account for the ease and accessibility of travel between children's home local authority and those that they are placed in, nor the suitability of placements locally.

Figure 14. Proportion of children looked after at 31st March 2020 who were placed outside of the local authority boundary



Source: Children looked after census (SSDA903)

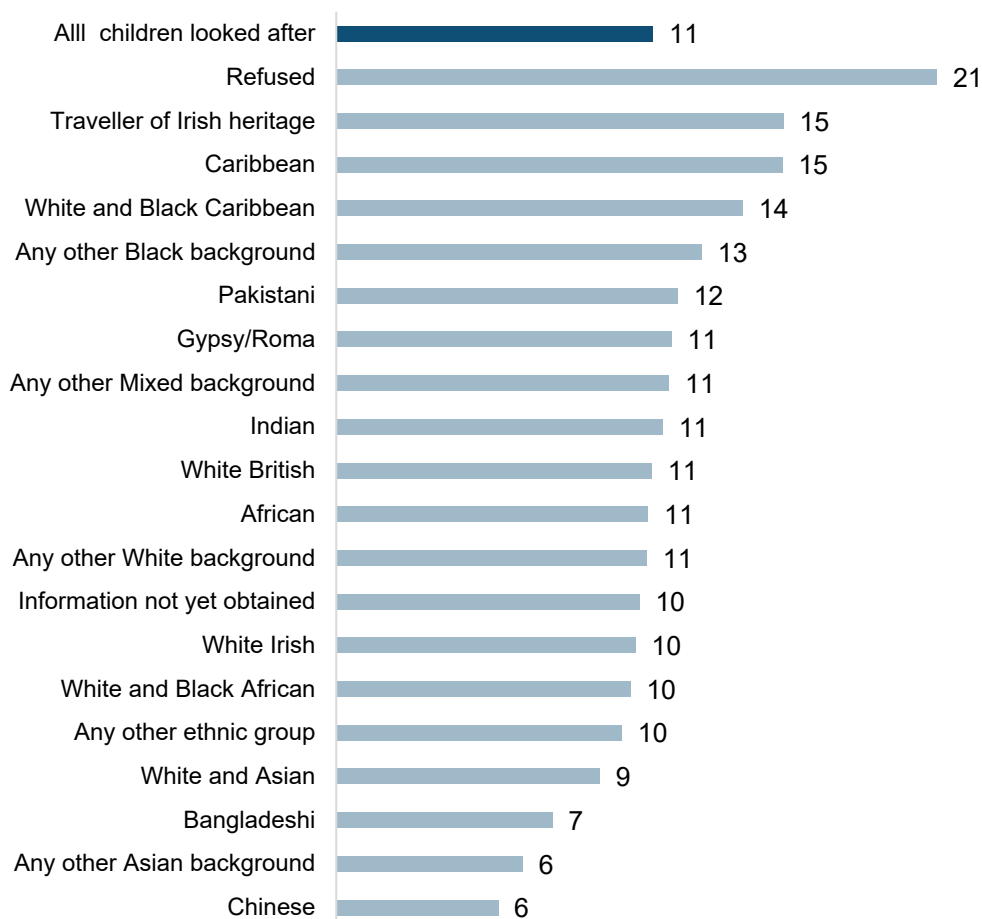
Figure 14 shows:

- For most ethnic groups a minority of children were placed outside of their home council boundary.
- In contrast, for children from Caribbean, Any other Black background, Bangladeshi, Refused, Gypsy/Roma and African ethnic groups a majority (52 – 64%) were placed outside of the local authority boundary.
- Black Caribbean children had the highest proportions placed outside of local authority boundaries.

3.3 Placement moves during the year

Of children who were looked after at 31st March 2020, a minority (11%) had 3 or more placements during the year. Figure 15 shows how this varies by ethnic group.

Figure 15. Proportion of children looked after at 31st March 2020 who had 3 or more placement moves during the year



Source: Children looked after census (SSDA903)

Figure 15 shows:

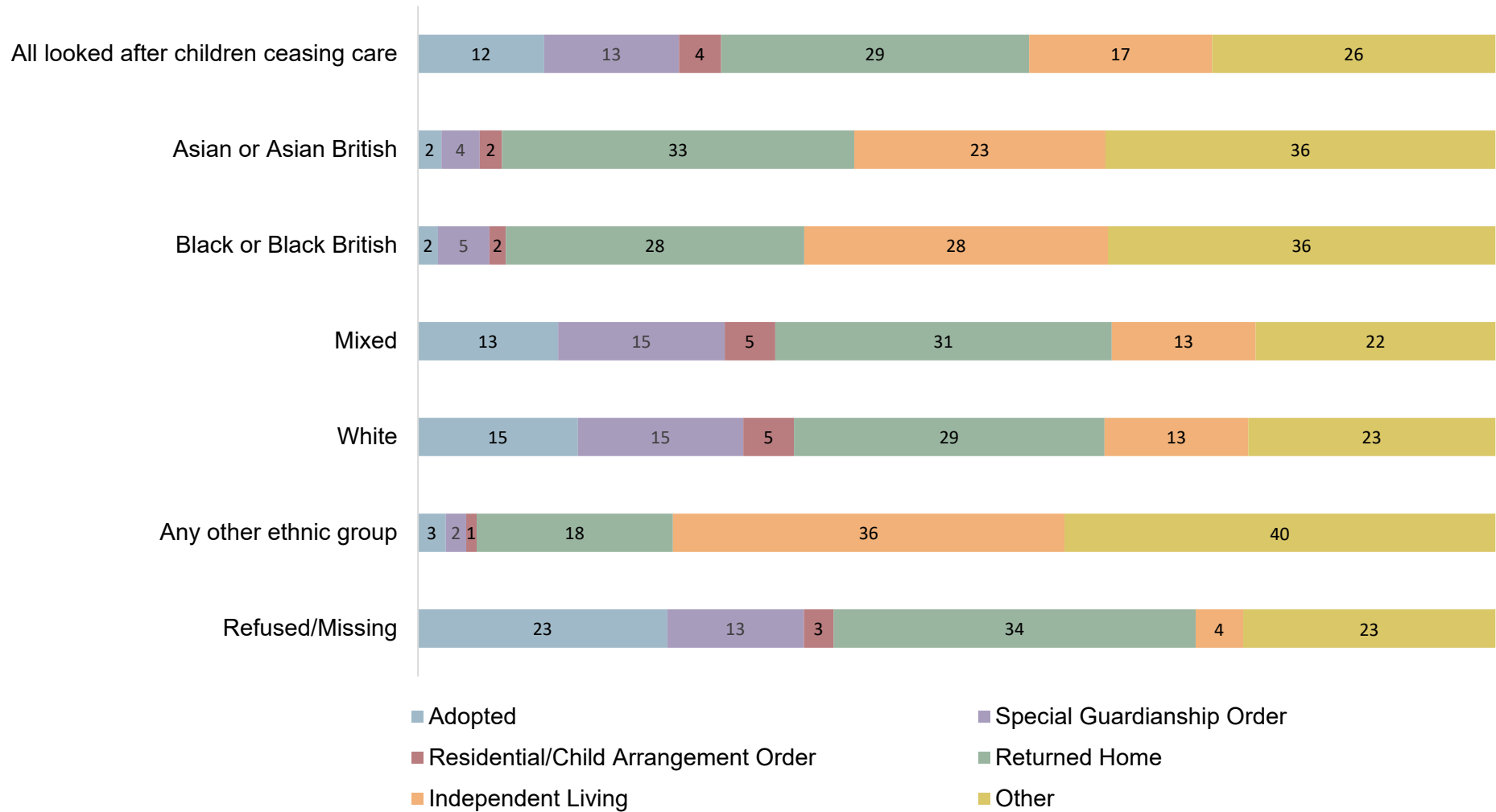
- For most ethnic groups the proportion of children experiencing 3 or more placements during the year is similar to the proportion of all children looked after.
- Children from Bangladeshi, Any other background and Chinese ethnic groups have lower proportions with 3 or more placements (6-7%).
- Children whose ethnic group was Refused, White Traveller of Irish heritage and Black Caribbean have notably higher proportions (15-21%).

3.4 Reasons for ceasing care

Figure 16 shows the reason for ceasing care for children in 2019-20 by ethnic group. The use of aggregated categories means that these statistics are presented differently compared to the Children looked after in England including adoptions publication.

- The most common reason for ceasing being looked after in the 2019-20 financial year was returning home to parents (29% of all looked after children). This is the case for every aggregated ethnic group apart from children from Any Other ethnic group.
 - The majority of children in Any other ethnic group being unaccompanied asylum children is likely to influence in this as the majority of UASC who cease being looked after cease care due to independent living arrangements.
- Children from White, Mixed and Refused/Missing ethnic groups had higher proportions of children ceasing care due to an adoption or special guardianship order compared to other ethnic groups (30%, 28% and 36% respectively compared to 5-7% of children from Asian, Black and Other ethnic groups).
 - This may be in part influenced by the younger profile of White and Mixed ethnicity children in care.
- Children from Asian, Black and Any other ethnic groups had high proportions of children returning home or going on to independent living (54-61% compared to 38-44% for Refused/Missing, White and Mixed ethnic groups).
- Children from these groups also had higher proportions of children leaving care for other reasons such as moving abroad (36-40% compared to 26% for all children).

Figure 16. Reason for episode ceasing in 2019-20, proportion of ethnic group



Source: Children looked after census (SSDA903)

Section 4: Outcomes of care leavers

Care leavers are defined as all children who had been looked after for at least 13 weeks which began after they reached the age of 14 and ended after they reached the age of 16. Data on their experiences is recorded as on their birthdays between the ages of 17-21. To control for age differences across ethnicities we have limited the data in the charts for care leavers between 19 and 21.

The analysis in this section looks at the contact status between the care leaver and the local authority (**Section 4.1**), the activity status of the care leaver (**Section 4.2**), and the suitability of accommodation (**Section 4.3**). UASC children are included in this analysis.

4.1 In touch with the local authority

Figure 17 shows the percentage of care leavers in touch with the local authority by ethnic group. A care leaver may not be in contact with the local authority because the local authority is not in touch, the care leaver refuses contact or the care leaver no longer requires services. The reasons why these status occur is not recorded in the data.

Figure 17. The contact status of care leavers between the ages of 19 and 21, percent of ethnic group in 2021

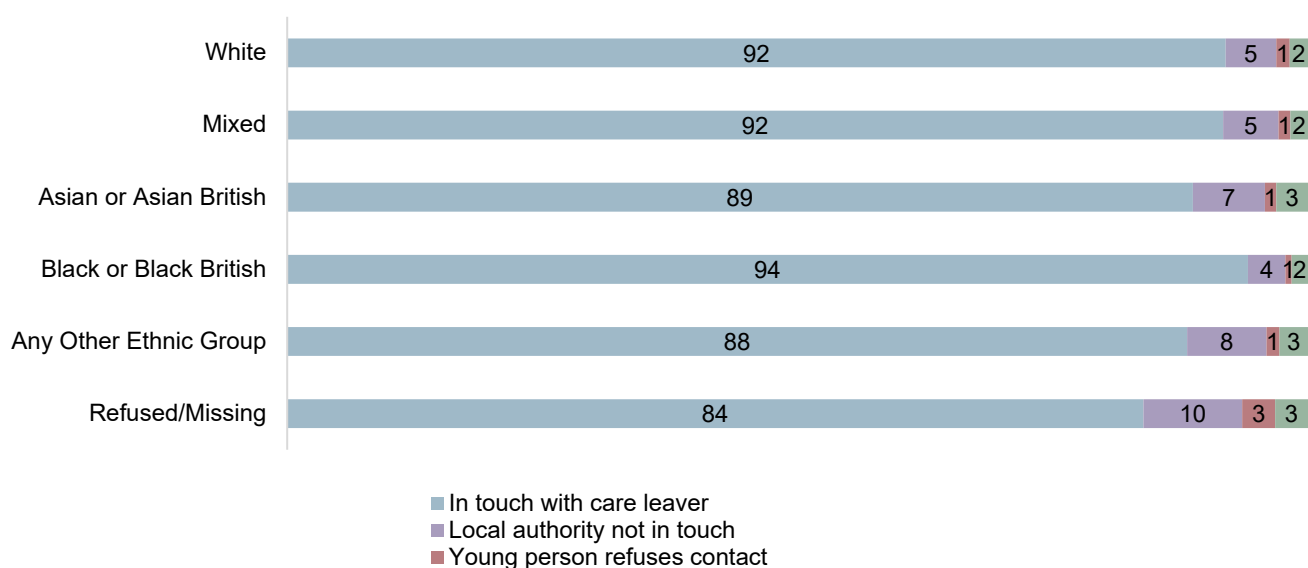


Figure 17 shows:

- The majority of children for all ethnic groups were still in touch with the local authority.
- Just over 90% of white, mixed and black children were in touch with their local authority.
- 84% of refused/missing/unknown children were still in touch.
- Refused/Missing ethnicity children had the largest percentage of children who refused contact at around 3% compared to 1% for the other ethnic groups.

4.2 Education, employment and training

Figure 18 shows the education, employment or training status of care leavers by ethnic group.

Figure 18. The education, employment and training status of care leavers between the ages of 19 and 21 in 2021

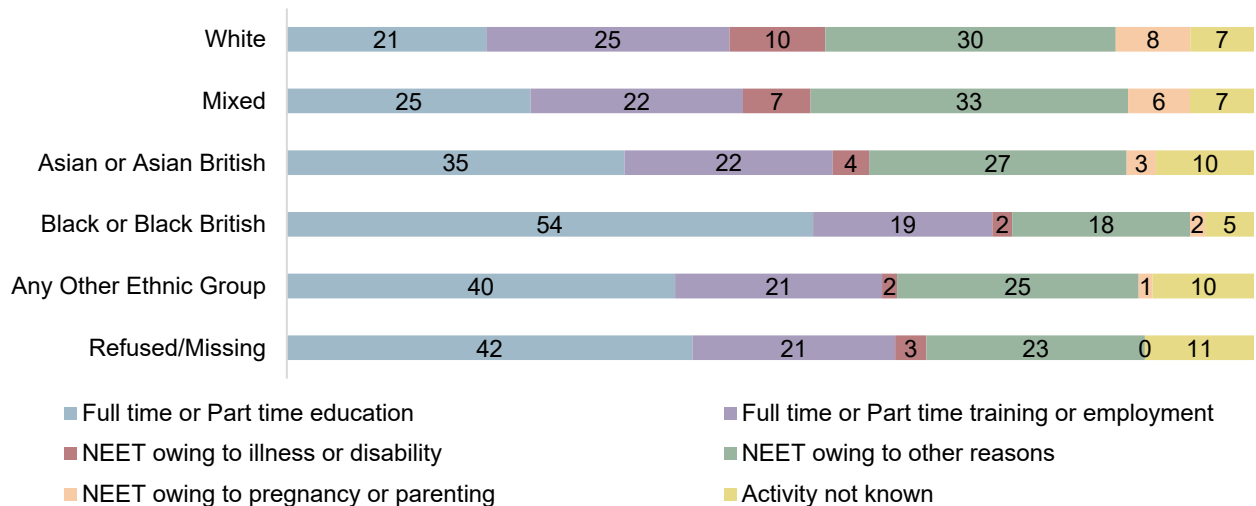


Figure 18 shows:

- Black children have the highest percentage in education, training or employment (73%).
- Around half of White and Mixed ethnicity care leavers are in education, training or employment; the lowest proportion of any ethnic group.
- White children have the highest percentage of NEET due to illness or disability, and NEET due to pregnancy or parenting and the second highest NEET due to other reasons.

4.3 Suitability of accommodation

Figure 19 shows the accommodation suitability of care leavers by ethnic group as reported by the LA. No information is typically as a result of the care leaver not being in contact with the local authority. Unknown suitability is due to the care leaver having gone abroad, being deported or where residence not known.

Figure 19. Percentage of children in suitable accommodation by ethnic groups in 2021

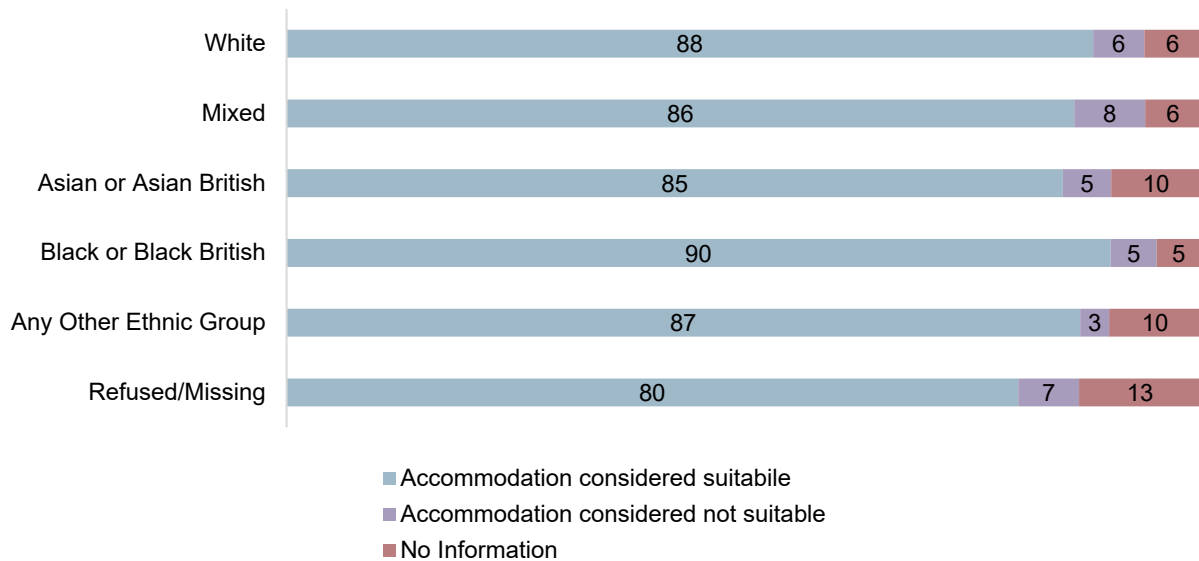


Figure 19 shows:

- The majority of care leavers in all ethnic groups were in suitable accommodation.
- Refused/Missing/Unknown ethnicity care leavers had the lowest percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation at 80%.
 - The lower percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation is primarily due to the care leaver not being in contact with the LA so suitability cannot be known.
- Mixed ethnicity care leavers had the largest percentage of children known to be in accommodation deemed unsuitable at 8% which is double the lowest for Any Other ethnic group care leavers at 3%.

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Annexes

Annex A: Ethnic groups reference table

A table showing the department for educations ethnic groups, the broader aggregated groups they are in and the equivalent group in the 2011 census.

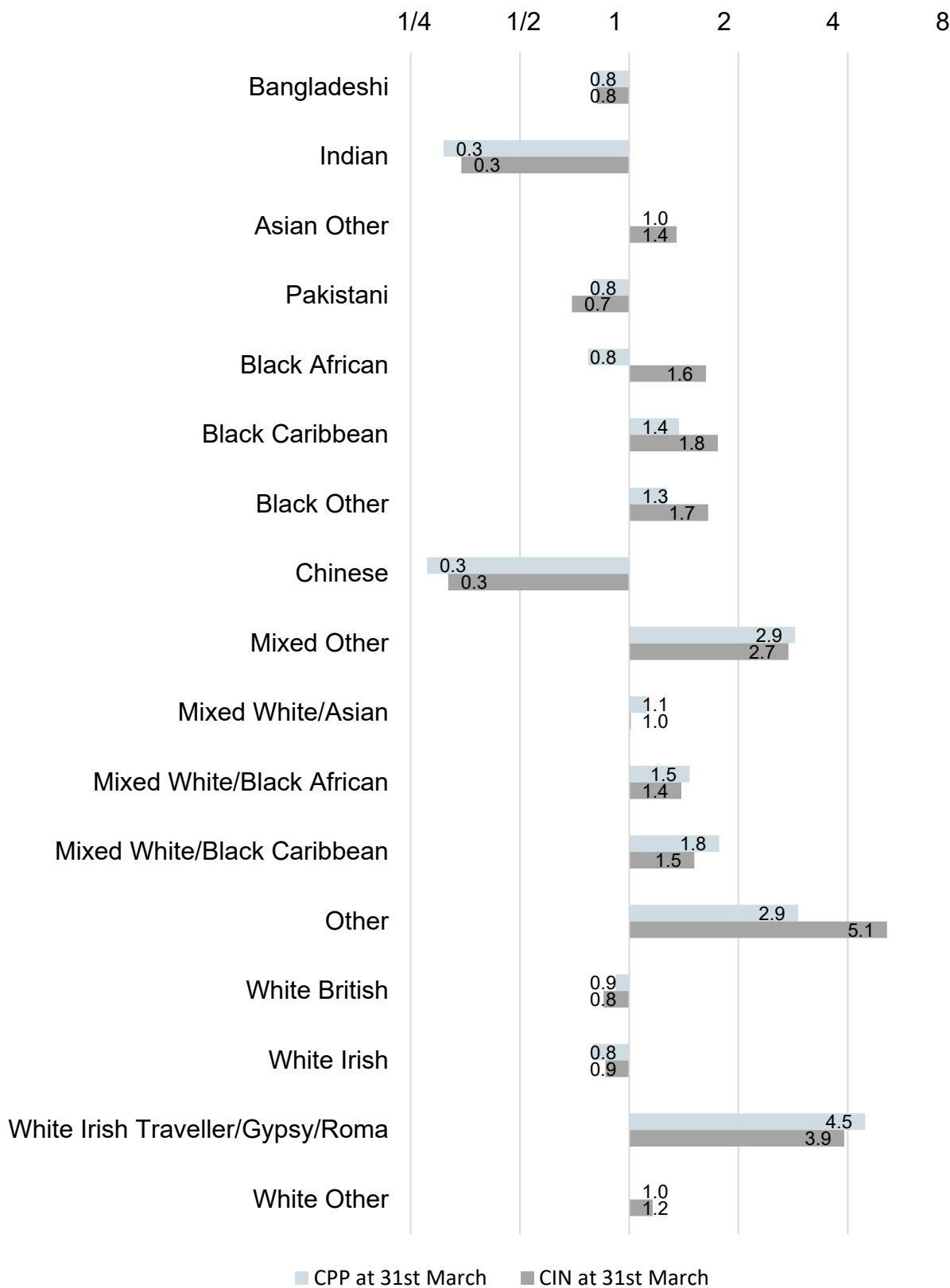
Table 1. Ethnic groups reference table

Ethnic group (Department for Education)	Aggregated ethnic group	Census 2011 ethnic group
Indian	Asian or Asian British	Indian
Pakistani	Asian or Asian British	Pakistani
Bangladeshi	Asian or Asian British	Bangladeshi
Any other Asian background	Asian or Asian British	Any other Asian background
Chinese	Asian or Asian British	Chinese
African	Black or Black British	African
Caribbean	Black or Black British	Caribbean
Any other Black background	Black or Black British	Any other Black, African or Caribbean background
White and Black Caribbean	Mixed	White and Black Caribbean
White and Black African	Mixed	White and Black African
White and Asian	Mixed	White and Asian
Any other Mixed background	Mixed	Any other Mixed or multiple ethnic background

Ethnic group (Department for Education)	Aggregated ethnic group	Census 2011 ethnic group
White British	White	English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British
White Irish	White	Irish
Traveller of Irish heritage	White	Gypsy or Irish Traveller
Any other White background	White	Any other White background
Gypsy/Roma	White	Gypsy or Irish Traveller
Any other ethnic group	Other ethnic groups	Other ethnic group (including Arab)
Refused	Refused/Missing	N/A
Information not yet obtained	Refused/Missing	N/A

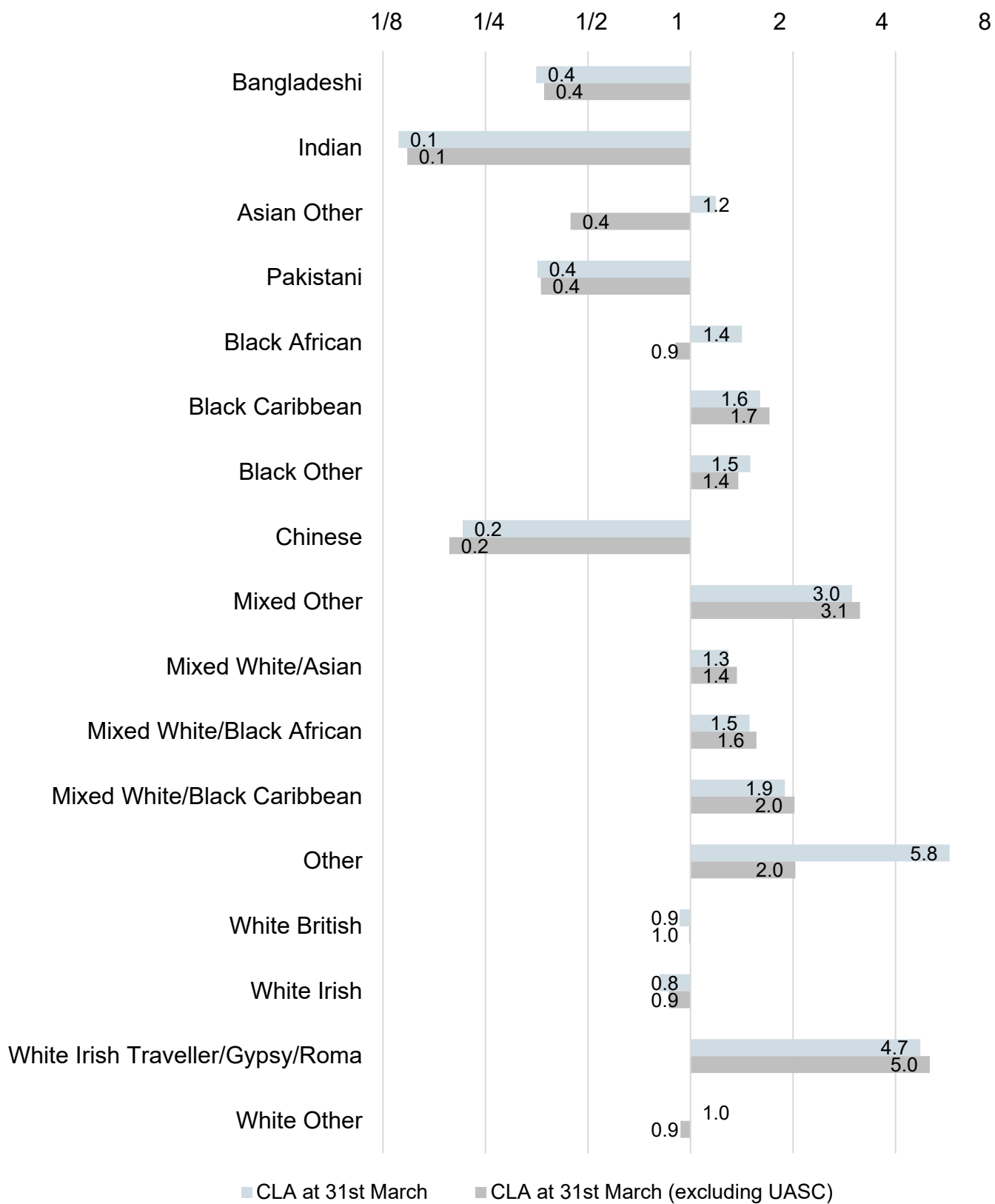
Annex B: Tables and charts for Section 1

Figure 20. Ratio of the proportion of children in need or with a protection plan from each ethnic group in comparison to children aged 0-17 in the 2011 census



Sources: Census 2011 and Children in need census

Figure 21. Ratio of the proportion of children looked after from each ethnic group in comparison to children aged 0-17 in the 2011 census



Sources: Children looked after census (SSDA903) and Census 2011

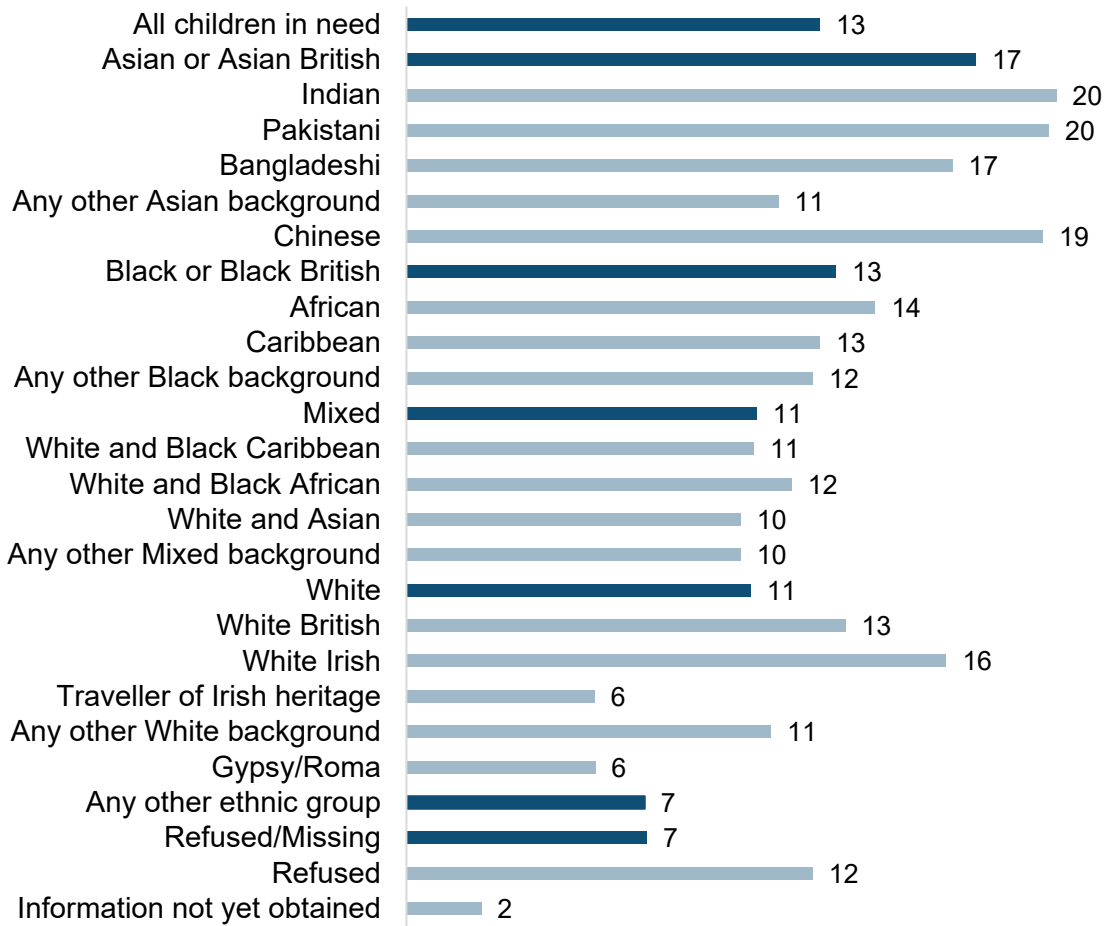
Table 2. Breakdown of looked after children by UASC of CLA, 31 March 2016 and 31 March 2020 and gender and age as a percentage of CLA, 31 March 2020

	UASC 2016	UASC 2020	Gender Male	Gender Female	Aged under 1/ unborn	Aged 1 to 4	Aged 5 to 9	Aged 10 to 15	Aged 16 and above
All looked after children	6	6	56	44	5	14	18	39	24
Asian or Asian British	33	34	58	42	2	7	12	34	44
Indian	c	c	50	50	c	c	20	41	29
Pakistani	3	4	52	48	4	10	17	41	28
Bangladeshi	4	c	51	49	3	11	16	47	22
Any other Asian background	64	65	74	26	2	5	7	25	62
Chinese	20	14	60	40	~	9	19	46	27
Black or Black British	21	25	61	39	2	7	11	35	45
African	35	40	68	32	2	5	10	30	54
Caribbean	0	c	58	42	3	8	12	45	32
Any other Black background	8	14	58	42	4	11	15	37	34
Mixed	1	1	54	46	6	16	20	41	17
White and Black Caribbean	0	0	55	45	6	15	18	42	19
White and Black African	1	2	54	46	5	17	21	41	16
White and Asian	c	1	52	48	5	17	23	40	15
Any other Mixed background	1	1	54	46	8	17	19	39	17
White	1	1	54	46	5	14	20	41	19
White British	c	0	54	46	6	15	20	41	19
White Irish	0	0	50	50	6	12	19	37	26
Traveller of Irish heritage	c	0	55	45	7	15	22	42	13
Any other White background	25	13	58	42	4	14	18	36	28
Gypsy/Roma	0	c	53	47	4	15	25	41	15
Any other ethnic group	69	67	80	20	1	5	6	22	66
Refused/Missing	4	14	50	50	36	27	8	15	15
Refused	c	0	44	56	c	c	c	41	c
Information not yet obtained	3	15	55	45	37	28	7	12	16

Table 3. Breakdown of children in need by gender and age percentage of CIN, 31 March 2020

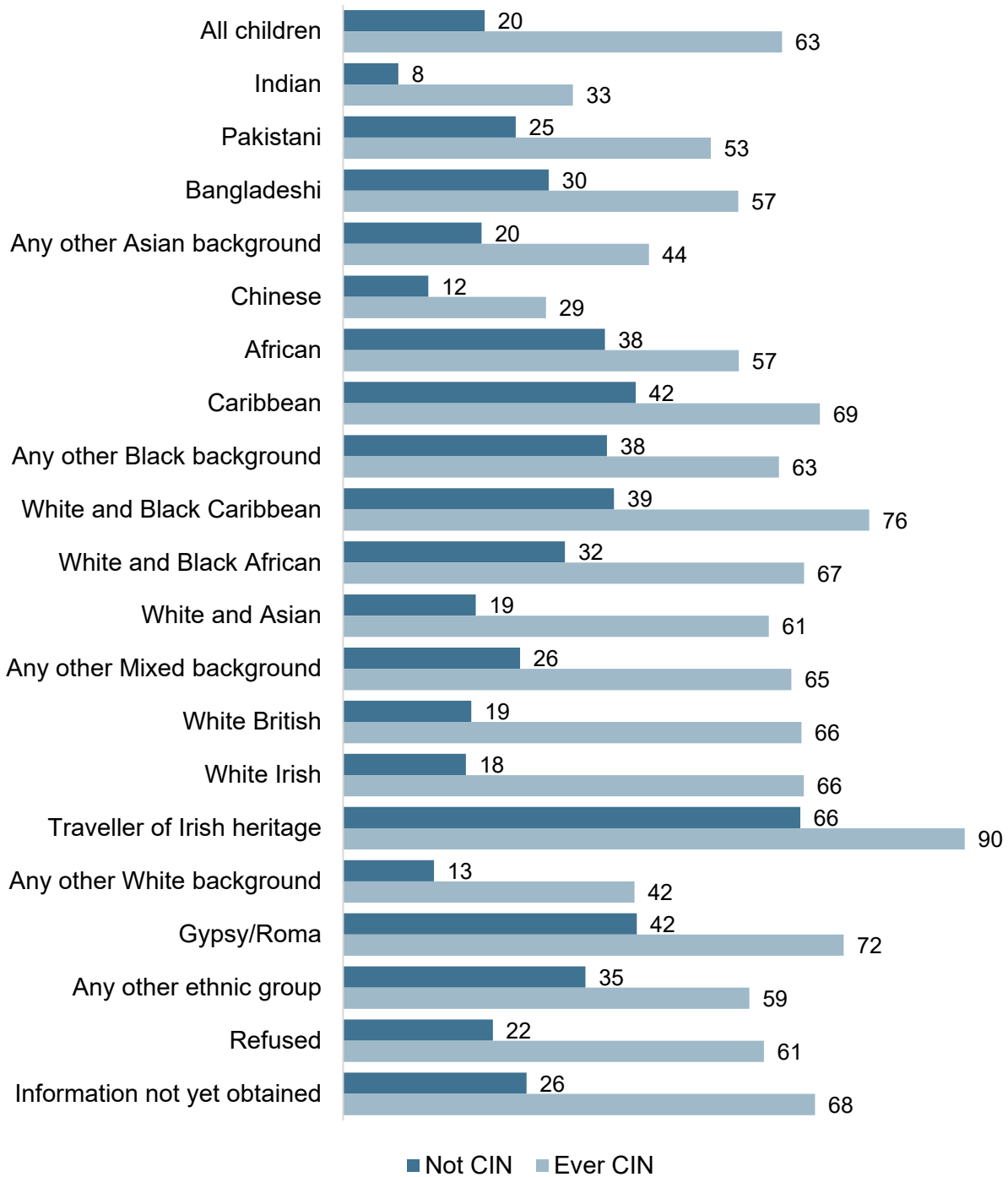
	Gender Male	Gender Female	Gender Unknown	Aged under 1/ unborn	Aged 1 to 4	Aged 5 to 9	Aged 10 to 15	Aged 16 and above
All children in need	54	44	2	7	16	22	32	23
Asian or Asian British	57	42	1	4	14	23	32	28
Indian	54	45	1	3	15	28	36	18
Pakistani	53	46	1	4	15	25	35	20
Bangladeshi	54	45	1	4	14	24	36	22
Any other Asian background	64	35	1	3	11	17	26	42
Chinese	57	41	1	4	14	24	38	20
Black or Black British	60	39	1	4	11	19	29	37
African	62	37	1	3	10	18	27	41
Caribbean	56	43	1	4	11	18	33	34
Any other Black background	58	41	1	5	15	21	31	29
Mixed	53	46	1	6	18	23	32	20
White and Black Caribbean	53	46	1	5	17	22	33	23
White and Black African	55	44	1	5	18	25	33	19
White and Asian	52	47	1	6	18	25	33	18
Any other Mixed background	54	45	2	8	20	23	30	19
White	53	46	1	6	17	23	33	21
White British	53	46	1	6	17	23	33	21
White Irish	53	45	1	5	11	19	34	31
Traveller of Irish heritage	53	46	1	6	18	27	33	16
Any other White background	55	44	1	5	16	22	32	25
Gypsy/Roma	50	49	1	5	16	25	37	17
Any other ethnic group	70	29	1	3	10	14	22	51
Refused/Missing	40	37	23	35	22	17	18	7
Refused	49	46	4	10	19	25	29	17
Information not yet obtained	40	37	24	36	22	17	18	7

Figure 22. Percentage of children in need at 31st March 2020 with a recorded disability



Source: Children in need census

Figure 23. Proportion of pupils aged 5 to 15 who have been eligible for free school meals in the past 6 years in Spring 2020 for children who have and have not been in need in the past 6 years, by ethnic group



Sources: Children in need census, Schools census

Annex C: Logistic regression results

To examine the factors associated with becoming the subject of a protection plan following referral we conducted a logistic regression. The dataset is comprised of children who were referred from April 1st 2018 to 31st March 2019, the outcome is whether the child becomes the subject of a protection plan or does not. Unaccompanied asylum seeking children are not included in the dataset meaning 450,983 referral records are included in the analysis.

The following factors in the model:

- Personal characteristics: Gender, age at referral, ethnic group, whether the child has a recorded disability.
- Primary need identified at referral.
- Whether the child had been subject to a protection plan which ended before April 1st 2018.
- Whether the child had a care episode which ended before April 1st 2018.
- Source of referral (e.g. police).
- Region.
- Income deprivation affecting children average score of the child's local authority (IDACI).

Regarding the measure for income deprivation, a more granular indicator of low income at the individual level would be preferable for use in the model (e.g. the household income or free school meal status), this could not however be ascertained for children aged under 5 or over 16 because of the coverage of the various education censuses and indicators. We decided to use a local authority measure and retain children from the aforementioned age groups in the dataset. This means that the inclusion of an indicator of children's socioeconomic status or other factors which may affect the likelihood of escalation from a referral to child protection plan could return different results.

Model 1 shows odds when only ethnicity is taken into account and the pseudo R^2 value is 0.02. Model 2 shows the odds when the multiple factors listed above are taken into account. Model 2 is better than Model 1 as indicated by a higher pseudo R^2 (0.11) and lower AIC and BIC scores.

Model 2 achieved an area under curve score of 0.73. The score indicates the classification ability of the model, where 0.5 means the model is no better than a random predictor and 1 means it is perfect. A score of 0.8 is generally considered excellent. The addition of other factors such as family socioeconomic status may increase the score further.

Table 4. The results of logistical regression model 1 and model 2 showing the odds ratio of each variable for both models.

Variable	Variable/Factor Name	Odds ratio - Model 1	Standard error - Model 1	Odds Ratio - Model 2	Standard error - Model 2
Ethnic group (Reference: White British)	Bangladeshi	0.63***	0.03	0.76***	0.03
Ethnic group (Reference: White British)	Indian	0.58***	0.03	0.68***	0.03
Ethnic group (Reference: White British)	Any other Asian ethnic group	0.55***	0.02	0.65***	0.02
Ethnic group (Reference: White British)	Pakistani	0.65***	0.02	0.74***	0.02
Ethnic group (Reference: White British)	Black African	0.45***	0.01	0.55***	0.02
Ethnic group (Reference: White British)	Black Caribbean	0.71***	0.03	0.84***	0.03
Ethnic group (Reference: White British)	Black Other	0.57***	0.02	0.66***	0.03
Ethnic group (Reference: White British)	Chinese	0.42***	0.05	0.54***	0.06
Ethnic group (Reference: White British)	Any other mixed ethnic group	1.11***	0.03	1.05*	0.03
Ethnic group (Reference: White British)	Mixed White and Asian	1.17***	0.04	1.11**	0.04

Variable	Variable/Factor Name	Odds ratio - Model 1	Standard error - Model 1	Odds Ratio - Model 2	Standard error - Model 2
Ethnic group (Reference: White British)	Mixed White and Black African	1.02	0.04	1.01	0.05
Ethnic group (Reference: White British)	Mixed White and Black Caribbean	1.32***	0.04	1.28***	0.04
Ethnic group (Reference: White British)	Information not yet obtained	0.2***	0.01	0.23***	0.01
Ethnic group (Reference: White British)	Any other ethnic group	0.58***	0.02	0.68***	0.02
Ethnic group (Reference: White British)	Refused	0.39***	0.04	0.46***	0.05
Ethnic group (Reference: White British)	White Irish	0.87	0.08	0.99	0.09
Ethnic group (Reference: White British)	White Other	0.57***	0.01	0.67***	0.02
Ethnic group (Reference: White British)	White Irish Traveller, Gypsy or Roma	0.85***	0.04	0.88*	0.04
Gender (Reference: Male)	Unknown gender			0.05***	0.00
Gender (Reference: Male)	Female			0.99	0.01
Gender (Reference: Male)	Indeterminate gender			0.15***	0.03

Variable	Variable/Factor Name	Odds ratio - Model 1	Standard error - Model 1	Odds Ratio - Model 2	Standard error - Model 2
Age group (Reference: 10 to 15)	Unborn			9.01***	0.17
Age group (Reference: 10 to 15)	Under 1			1.85***	0.04
Age group (Reference: 10 to 15)	Aged 1 to 4			1.48***	0.02
Age group (Reference: 10 to 15)	Aged 5 to 9			1.19***	0.02
Age group (Reference: 10 to 15)	Aged 16 and over			0.28***	0.01
CPP (Reference: No previous protection plan)	Previous protection plan			2.48***	0.03
CLA (Reference: Not previously looked after)	Previously looked after			0.8***	0.03
Region (Reference: London)	East Midlands			1.09***	0.02
Region (Reference: London)	East of England			0.97	0.02
Region (Reference: London)	North East			1.28***	0.03

Variable	Variable/Factor Name	Odds ratio - Model 1	Standard error - Model 1	Odds Ratio - Model 2	Standard error - Model 2
Region (Reference: London)	North West			1.17***	0.02
Region (Reference: London)	South East			1.13***	0.02
Region (Reference: London)	South West			1.02	0.02
Region (Reference: London)	West Midlands			1.19***	0.02
Region (Reference: London)	Yorkshire and the Humber			1.07***	0.02
Primary Need (Reference: Abuse or Neglect)	Not stated			0.46***	0.01
Primary Need (Reference: Abuse or Neglect)	Child's disability			0.22***	0.01
Primary Need (Reference: Abuse or Neglect)	Parental disability or illness			0.89***	0.03
Primary Need (Reference: Abuse or Neglect)	Family in acute distress			0.59***	0.01
Primary Need (Reference: Abuse or Neglect)	Family dysfunction			0.8***	0.01

Variable	Variable/Factor Name	Odds ratio - Model 1	Standard error - Model 1	Odds Ratio - Model 2	Standard error - Model 2
Primary Need (Reference: Abuse or Neglect)	Socially unacceptable behaviour			0.63***	0.02
Primary Need (Reference: Abuse or Neglect)	Low income			0.34***	0.04
Primary Need (Reference: Abuse or Neglect)	Absent parenting			0.51***	0.03
Primary Need (Reference: Abuse or Neglect)	Cases other than children in need			0.37***	0.02
Primary Need (Reference: Abuse or Neglect)	No primary need code			0.02***	0.00
Referral source (Reference: Police)	Individual			0.95**	0.02
Referral source (Reference: Police)	Schools/Education services			0.91***	0.01
Referral source (Reference: Police)	Health services			0.87***	0.01
Referral source (Reference: Police)	Housing			0.86**	0.04
Referral source (Reference: Police)	Local authority services			1.56***	0.02

Variable	Variable/Factor Name	Odds ratio - Model 1	Standard error - Model 1	Odds Ratio - Model 2	Standard error - Model 2
Referral source (Reference: Police)	Other legal agency			0.56***	0.02
Referral source (Reference: Police)	Other referral source			0.93***	0.02
Referral source (Reference: Police)	Anonymous			0.87***	0.03
Referral source (Reference: Police)	Unknown			4.12***	0.89
Referral source (Reference: Police)	Recorded disability			1.33***	0.03
Income deprivation affecting children score	IDACI score			1	0.11
Intercept	-	0.15***		0.13***	
AIC	-	335139.00		304109.00	
N	-	450983.00		450983.00	
BIC	-	335359.00		304748.20	
Pseudo R ²	-	0.02		0.11	
AUC	-	0.60		0.73	

*** p < 0.001; ** p < 0.01; * p < 0.05.

Annex D: Table for Figure 1 of referrals for each ethnic group in 2019-2020

A table showing all the data that composes Figure 1. The data shows the source of referrals for each ethnicity in the financial year 2019-2020. A child could have multiple referrals in a year and so contribute multiple times to this table. UASC children were excluded from this analysis.

Table 5. Sources of referrals for each ethnicity as a percentage of all referrals for an ethnicity

Ethnicity	Anonymous	Health Services	Housing	Individual	LA services	Other	Other legal agency	Police	School or Education Service	Unknown
All Referrals	2	15	1	8	14	5	4	29	20	2
Any other Asian background	1	15	1	5	11	6	5	30	24	2
Any other Black background	1	13	2	6	14	6	4	30	22	2
Any other ethnic group	1	15	2	5	13	5	7	29	22	2
Any other Mixed background	2	15	1	8	15	5	4	31	19	2
Any other White background	1	16	1	5	12	5	3	32	22	2
Bangladeshi	1	16	1	4	13	5	3	29	28	2

Ethnicity	Anonymous	Health Services	Housing	Individual	LA services	Other	Other legal agency	Police	School or Education Service	Unknown
Black African	1	14	2	7	13	6	4	23	29	2
Black Caribbean	1	14	2	8	14	6	3	31	22	2
Chinese	1	14	1	5	9	6	4	17	43	1
Indian	1	16	1	6	10	7	3	29	27	1
Information not yet obtained	2	21	1	7	14	5	4	29	15	2
Mixed White and Asian	2	14	1	7	15	5	4	30	20	2
Mixed White and Black African	2	14	2	7	15	5	4	28	22	2
Mixed White and Black Caribbean	2	12	2	8	16	5	4	31	18	2
Pakistani	1	16	1	6	11	5	4	30	25	2
Refused	2	15	1	10	13	5	4	29	20	2
White Irish Traveller	1	18	2	4	15	4	4	40	10	2

Ethnicity	Anonymous	Health Services	Housing	Individual	LA services	Other	Other legal agency	Police	School or Education Service	Unknown
White British	3	14	1	9	15	5	4	28	19	2
White Gypsy/Roma	1	15	2	3	18	4	3	32	18	4
White Irish	2	16	2	6	15	5	4	34	15	2

Annex E: Table for Figure 2 showing the proportion assessment factors make up of an ethnicities total assessment factors in 2019-2020

A table showing the data that composes Figure 2. The table shows the percentage of assessment factors (of the top 10 assessment factors for all children) for each ethnic group in the financial year 2019/2020. A single assessment can have multiple factors associated with it and a child can have multiple assessment in a year so a child can contribute to multiple columns multiple times. UASC are excluded from the data.

Table 6. Percentage the top ten assessment factors for all children are within each ethnic group

Ethnicity	Alcohol misuse	Domestic violence	Drug misuse	Emotional abuse	Learning disability	Mental health	Neglect	Other	Physical abuse	Physical disability
All Assessment Factors	7	19	9	8	5	18	7	7	5	4
Any other Asian background	5	23	4	9	4	14	5	9	8	4
Any other Black background	3	18	7	8	5	14	6	10	8	4
Any other ethnic group	4	19	5	8	4	13	6	12	7	4
Any other White background	9	22	7	8	4	14	7	8	6	3
Bangladeshi	3	21	5	9	6	14	5	9	8	5

Ethnicity	Alcohol misuse	Domestic violence	Drug misuse	Emotional abuse	Learning disability	Mental health	Neglect	Other	Physical abuse	Physical disability
Black African	2	15	3	8	6	11	6	13	10	5
Black Caribbean	3	17	8	8	5	15	6	9	6	4
Chinese	3	15	2	9	7	15	8	11	13	2
Indian	9	27	4	10	5	14	4	7	7	4
Information not yet obtained	7	23	8	8	3	17	7	10	5	3
Mixed Any other Mixed background	6	21	9	9	4	18	6	7	5	3
Mixed White and Asian	7	20	8	9	4	18	7	8	5	3
Mixed White and Black African	6	19	8	9	5	18	7	7	5	4
Mixed White and Black Caribbean	6	20	11	8	4	17	6	6	4	3
Pakistani	3	23	5	9	6	14	4	11	7	6
Refused	6	17	8	7	6	17	8	8	5	4

Ethnicity	Alcohol misuse	Domestic violence	Drug misuse	Emotional abuse	Learning disability	Mental health	Neglect	Other	Physical abuse	Physical disability
White Irish Traveller	10	25	7	8	5	15	8	7	3	3
White British	8	18	9	8	5	19	7	6	4	4
White Gypsy/Roma	5	16	6	7	5	9	12	11	5	4
White Irish	8	18	8	7	5	18	8	7	4	5

Annex F: Table for Figure 4 showing the initial category of need for a child on a CPP

A table showing the full data for the Figure 4 showing the initial category of abuse for children who were on protection plans at 31st March 2020.

Table 7. Primary category of abuse for children on a CPP broken down by ethnicity

Ethnicity	Emotional Abuse	Multiple Categories	Neglect	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse
All CPP	36	3	51	7	4
Any other Asian background	54	1	28	13	3
Any other Black background	40	2	39	16	3
Any other ethnic group	40	4	40	12	5
Any other White background	36	2	50	7	5
Bangladeshi	48	2	31	12	6
Black African	32	3	42	19	3
Black Caribbean	43	2	42	11	3
Chinese	16	c	60	16	c
Indian	53	3	32	7	5
Information not yet obtained	32	2	55	7	4
Mixed Any other Mixed background	41	2	45	8	3
Mixed White and Asian	42	2	45	8	3
Mixed White and Black African	37	2	51	7	3

Ethnicity	Emotional Abuse	Multiple Categories	Neglect	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse
Mixed White and Black Caribbean	41	3	46	8	2
Pakistani	48	2	34	10	5
Refused	49	c	41	c	c
White Irish Traveller	21	c	63	15	c
White British	34	3	53	6	4
White Gypsy/Roma	16	3	73	5	3
White Irish	30	6	52	6	7

Annex G: Creation of the longitudinal children in need dataset

The dataset contains data on 3.1 million children referred to or in need of support from children's social care services between April 2012 and March 2020. The dataset includes the demographics of children and dates of referrals, assessments, section 47 enquiries, initial child protection conferences, child protection plans and periods of being looked-after per child as reported in the CIN and CLA census. Some additional data such as referral sources, assessment factors and reasons for case closure are also included. Data on child in need and other plans (CINP) was not explicitly collected in the CIN census over this period and was therefore derived as a period of at least 30 days when the child was known to be in need but not recorded as either having a child protection plan or as being looked-after.

The dataset was created by linking together all the data from the CIN census between the years 2012-13 to 2019-20 using unique identifiers derived from local authority child identifiers. This linking took account of changing identifiers across years and local authority reorganisations. The linking accounted for children who moved across local authorities where the Unique Pupil Number (UPN) was recorded in both authorities, therefore cases where a child moved but the UPN was not known will appear as distinct children in the dataset. Data from the CLA census was also matched in for this eight-year period. A small proportion of children from the CLA census (c.1%) were not matched in due to inconsistent reporting of identifiers across the two censuses.

Linking the annual censuses underlined a number of known data quality issues where information was inconsistent from one year to the next, or within a single year. These issues were flagged and where possible resolved, for example, if a child had more than one reported ethnicity over the years then the most recent record was used in the analysis. Where issues could not be resolved, sensitivity analysis was conducted to ensure inclusion of such data did not skew results.



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