Birmingham City Council

Ethnicity and Race Toolkit

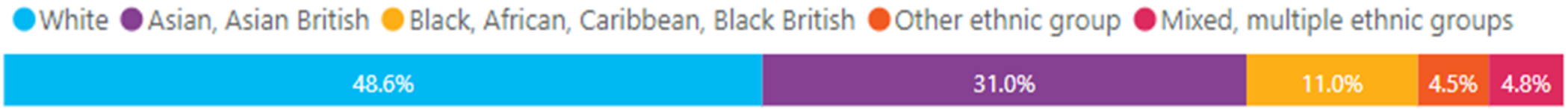
RESET RESHAPE RESTART

What are ethnicity and race about?

Ethnicity is defined as “the social group a person belongs to, and either identifies with or is identified with by others, as a result of a mix of cultural and other factors including language, diet, religion, ancestry and physical features traditionally associated with race" (Bhopal 2004). Ethnicity is self-defined and may change over time, it overlaps with the legally protected racial identity but is a broader term.

Race is a legally protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010. Race is defined under the Act as being part of a group of people who are identified by their nationality, citizenship, colour, national or ethnic origins.

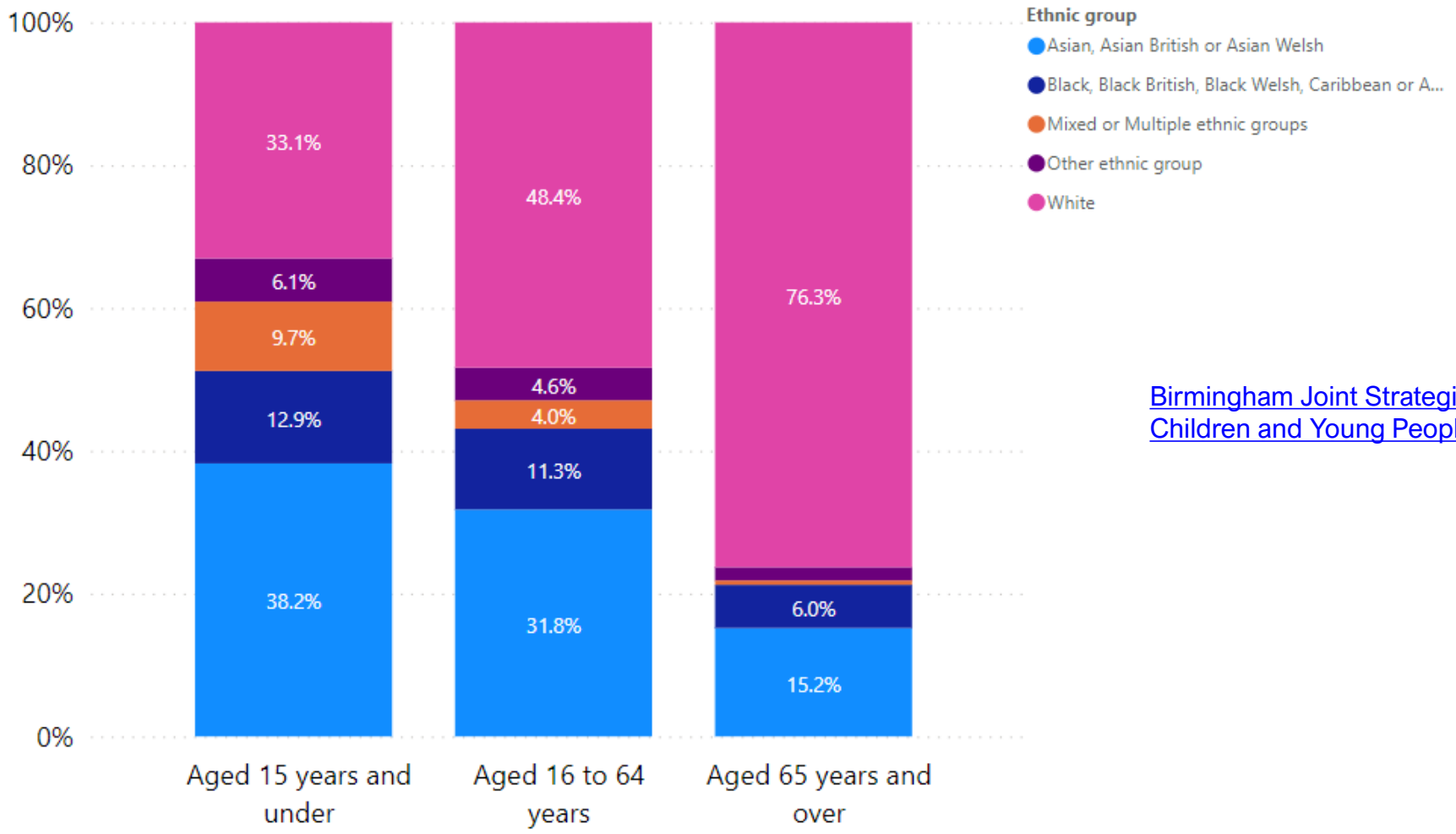
National and Local Context



Birmingham. 2021 Census

- 31.0% of people identify as Asian/Asian British or Welsh in Birmingham, with the national average only being 9.6%
- 48.6% of Birmingham's population identifies as White/White British or Welsh, with the national average being 81.7%
- 11.0% of people in Birmingham identify as Black/Black British or Welsh, with the national average being 2.5%

Ethnicity of Birmingham residents by 3-age category



[Birmingham Joint Strategic Needs Assessment: Children and Young People]

Source:
2021 Census (RM032)

Unit
%

Why do we want to measure Ethnicity and Race?

Individual Care:

- Measuring ethnicity and race can help provide culturally informed care and support to people from different backgrounds and experiences
- By collecting this information, we can tailor interventions and services to meet the diverse needs of users and avoid making assumptions based on skin colour

Service Improvement:

- Measuring ethnicity and race can help identify and address health disparities and inequalities among different groups
- By collecting data, we can monitor and evaluate the quality and effectiveness of our services for different groups and identify gaps and areas for improvement
- We can also use the data to design and implement policies and programmes that promote health equity and social justice

Measurement tool: Ethnicity and Race

Tool	Ethnicity & Race	
Question	**What is your ethnic group? If you have mixed ethnicity, please select which combination of ethnicities describes you best.**	
Options	❑White English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British ❑Gypsy or Irish Traveller ❑Roma ❑Central and Eastern European ❑Western and Southern European ❑Other White (write in) ❑Indian ❑Pakistani ❑Bangladeshi	❑Chinese ❑Other Asian (write in) ❑African ❑Caribbean ❑Black British ❑Other Black (write in) ❑Arab ❑Latin American ❑Any other ethnic group – free text box ❑Do not wish to answer
Question	**What is your country/countries of heritage? E.g. England, Nigeria, Poland**	
Options	Free text response	
Benchmark	Birmingham City Observatory 2021 Census Dashboard Birmingham City Observatory Ward Profiles Birmingham Community Health Profiles: Bangladeshi, Caribbean, Indian, Kenyan, Nigerian, Pacific Islands, Pakistani, Somali	
Source	ONS	

Specific risk and issues to consider

- Questions assume people have a clear and stable sense of their ethnic identity which may not be the case for people who are adopted or have experience migration and displacement. This could cause inaccurate results due to uncertainty by the participants. *The tool allows for multiple answers to mitigate this to some extent.*
- Some people may not have a clear understanding on what is meant by country/countries of heritage. *This reinforces why it is important to explain why we are asking the question.*
- Some people may choose to identify with regional terms rather than national such as Catalan vs Spanish. *This can be captured through the 'Other' option.*