

The generation of people currently in their 50s and 60s is experiencing big societal shifts such as **longer working lives, a crisis of housing supply and quality**, and increasing **demand to provide care** for family and loved ones.

However, these challenges are not evenly shared among our society.

Older generations are becoming more diverse than ever. But also more unequal. There's an increasing level of inequalities in terms of health, wealth and life circumstances.

The inequalities described in this set of 'evidence cards' are particularly significant as older generations also become more ethnically diverse: the number of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people aged 50-70 is growing at a faster rate than the number of White people (ONS 1991, 2011).

In this slidepack, we highlight the contributions of and **shocking levels of inequalities experienced by Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups.**

It's vital that these inequalities are tackled so that no one misses out on a good later life.

This means better paid work, more affordable and better housing, and targeted measures to reduce ill-health for the generation approaching retirement age.

The security of having savings, owning a home and a good income is not equally shared.

People from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups are under-represented in the richest wealth group (12% compared to 21% for people from White backgrounds).

They are also over-represented in the poorest wealth group (29% compared to 19%).



Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups are more likely to be renters rather than home owners, meaning that they're likely to be spending more of their income on housing costs in later life.

Nearly half of White people (47%) in the sample we looked at owned their home outright compared to a third of Asian and just 13% of people from Black backgrounds.

People from Black ethnic backgrounds are more than twice as likely to be renting than people from White ethnic backgrounds.



Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups are more likely to be in paid work in their 50s and 60s than White groups and are less likely to have retired.

In the survey, Black men and women approaching retirement age were far more likely to be in paid work than people from White or Asian backgrounds (74% compared to 60% and 59% respectively).



People from Black ethnic backgrounds have significantly lower wages than those from White ethnic backgrounds.

In terms of wages, household weekly income is, on average, £100 lower for people from Black ethnic backgrounds than those from White ethnic backgrounds, according to the survey sample.

The average weekly income for people from White and Asian background is very similar at about £500.

-£100



Asian men and women are more likely to report that poor health impacts their ability to work.

In the survey, over half of Asian women (56%) and 43% of Asian men report that their mental or physical health has limited the amount or type of work they had been able to carry out recently.

This is compared to around one third of White (34%) and Black (37%) people



More people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds are struggling with their day-to-day bills than those from a White background.

One third of people from Black backgrounds report being behind on bills, rent and mortgage costs, compared to nearly one in five (17%) for all Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, in the sample data. One in 20 (5%) people from White backgrounds felt this way.



People from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Backgrounds have lower levels of life satisfaction.

Survey data showed that two fifths (40%) of people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds reported low levels of life satisfaction, compared to a quarter (26%) of people from White backgrounds.



Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups are more likely to feel isolated.

43% of people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds reported feeling isolated, compared to 35% of people from White backgrounds, according to the sample.

Asian women are most likely to experience isolation (52%).



Centre for Ageing Better

Source: Understanding Society, 2018. This survey question asked people to report if they felt isolated, left out or lacking companionship.

This pack pulls together some of the statistics we uncovered in our report, **‘Boom and bust? The last baby boomers and their prospects for later life’**. The figures presented here use the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing and Understanding Society survey data to highlight the ethnic inequalities faced by people of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds aged 50-70.

Please note that while this is the best available data, we are still unable to develop a complete picture for different sub-groups. Where Understanding Society data is presented, these findings are not generalisable to the whole population. They do, however, give an indication of common experiences and therefore, the scale of ethnic inequalities.

Unfortunately, the data used in this set of 'evidence cards' does not allow for more accurate and precise reflection of specific ethnic groups, beyond Black and Asian groupings (e.g. Black African or Pakistani).

We recognise that grouping together Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups can miss the nuances of their experiences. However, this should not lead us to conclude that there are no shared experiences.

The Centre for Ageing Better reinforces its previous calls for ethnicity data reporting to be made mandatory in all official and statutory statistics and data monitoring.