

Being a Muslim in Europe Attitudes and Experiences

James Nazroo

Sociology, School of Social Sciences

james.nazroo@manchester.ac.uk

Saffron Karlsen

Department of Epidemiology and Public Health

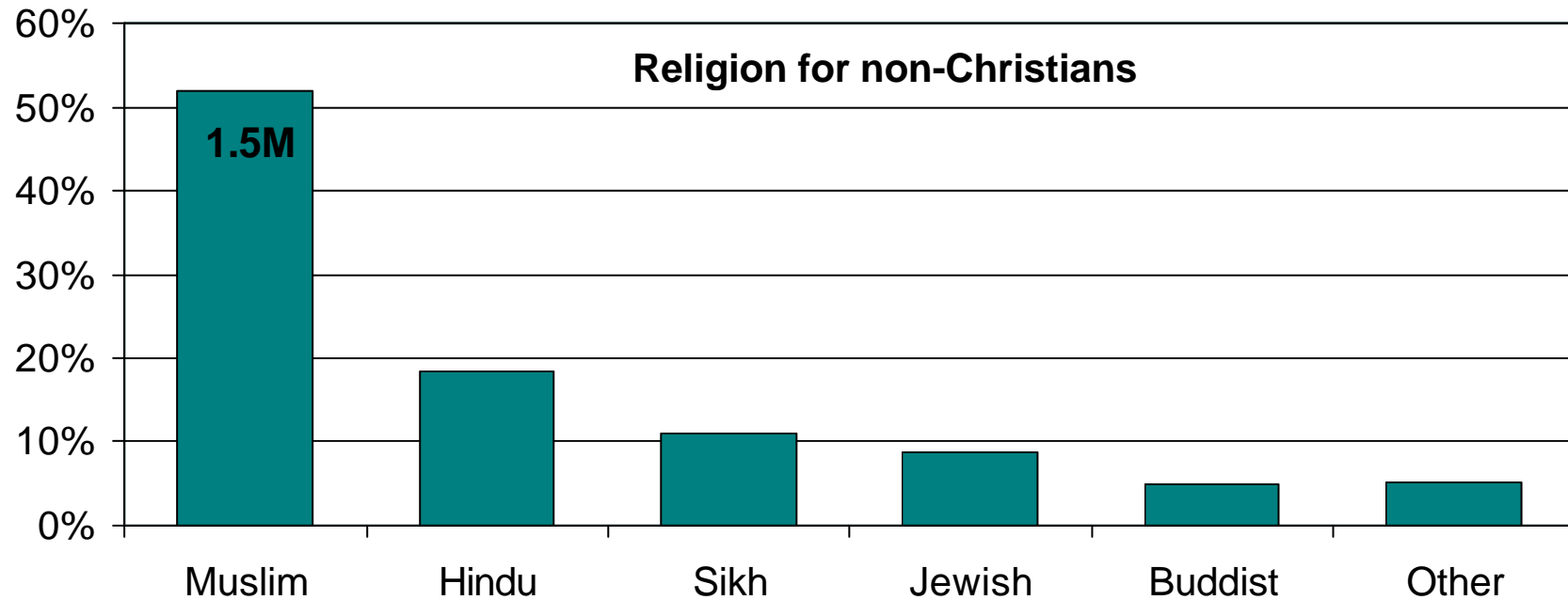
UCL

Background

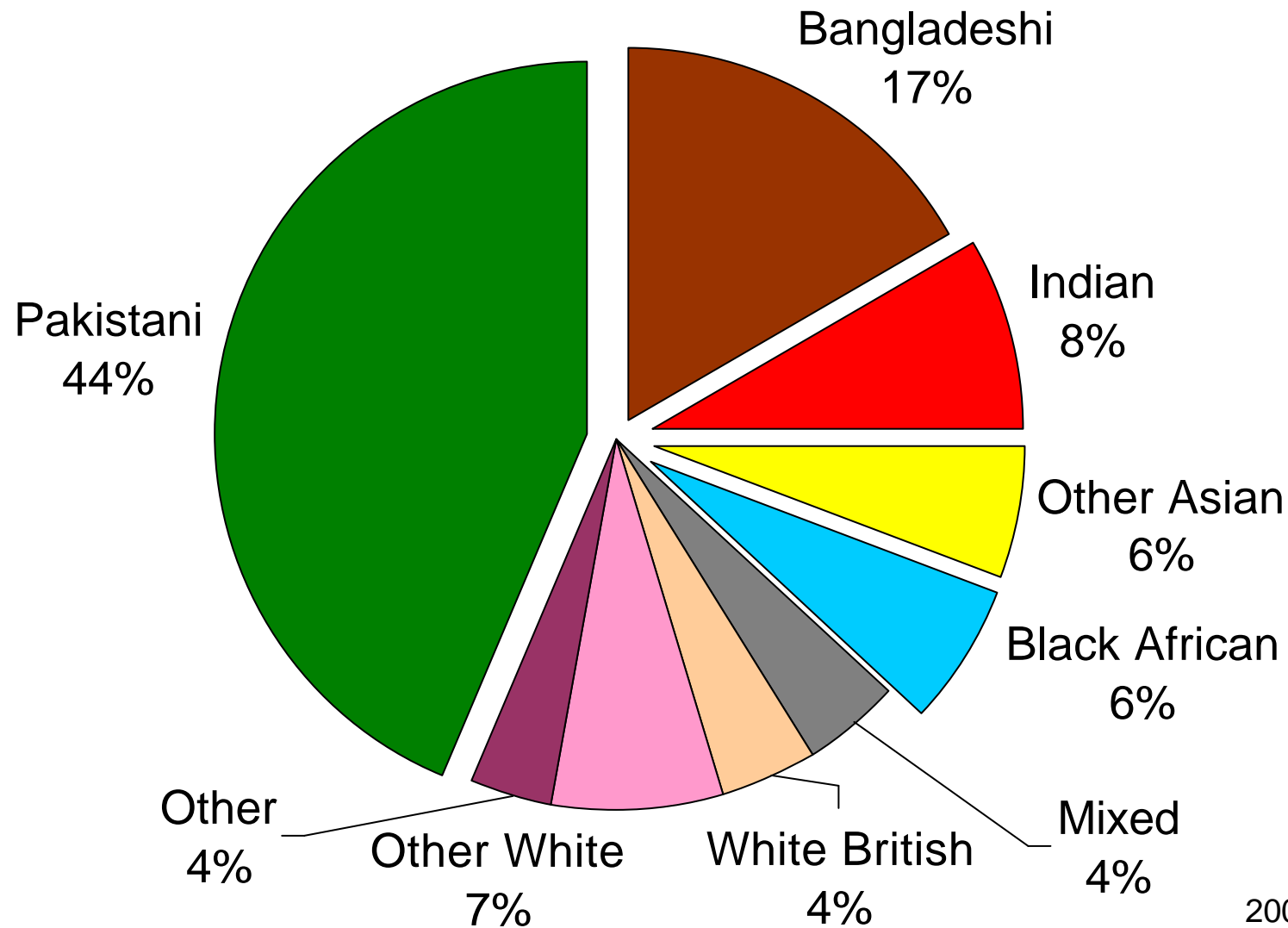
- Much of the work on social variations in demographic and socioeconomic circumstances has focussed on issues relating to class, region, gender, and broadly defined ethnic group.
- Such research has, not surprisingly, tended to neglect heterogeneity within the categories that are explored.
- A focus on heterogeneity allows for an unpacking of causal processes and, particularly with regards to ethnicity, an avoidance of explanation based on stereotyped and reified categories.
- Perhaps surprisingly, issues of religion have often been neglected in empirical investigations. But religion is both an important dimension of identity, and a marker of heterogeneity within ethnic groups.
- Data on religion were collected at the 2001 Census for the first time, but have been included in survey collections before then.

Religious affiliation of the UK population

- 72% describe themselves as Christian
- 15% state they have no religion
- 8% declined to answer the question (it was voluntary)
- 5.4% choose a religion other than Christian



The ethnic make-up of the UK Muslim population



2001 Census

Objectives

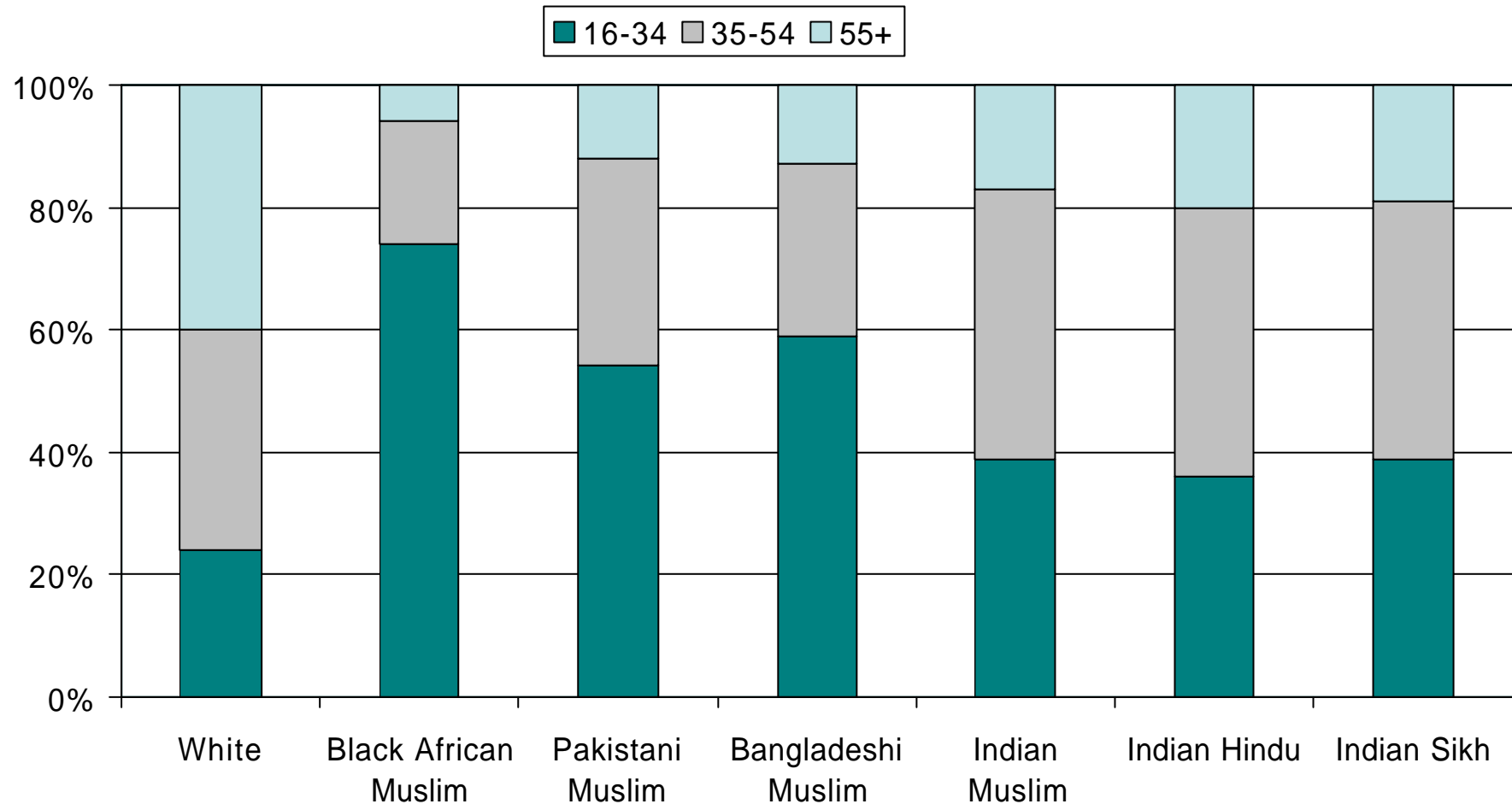
Examine the relationship between religion, religiosity, 'race' and ethnicity, and how they may each influence the experiences and attitudes of people living in Britain (and Europe).

- Islamophobia is longstanding within Europe, but recently has become particularly acute, because of associations with immigration and terrorism, as well as being 'other'. Evidenced by increasing levels of racist attacks.
 - Supposed lack of support for core British/European values of freedom, tolerance, democracy and sexual equality – riots in British cities associated with notions of culture clashes and a radicalisation of Muslim youth.
 - Pakistani and Bangladeshi people, who form the majority of Muslims in the Britain, experience considerable disadvantage in terms of employment, education, housing and geography.
-
- Examination of variation within the British Muslim category.
 - Comparison with other religious groups in the UK.
 - Comparison with Muslims in other European locations.

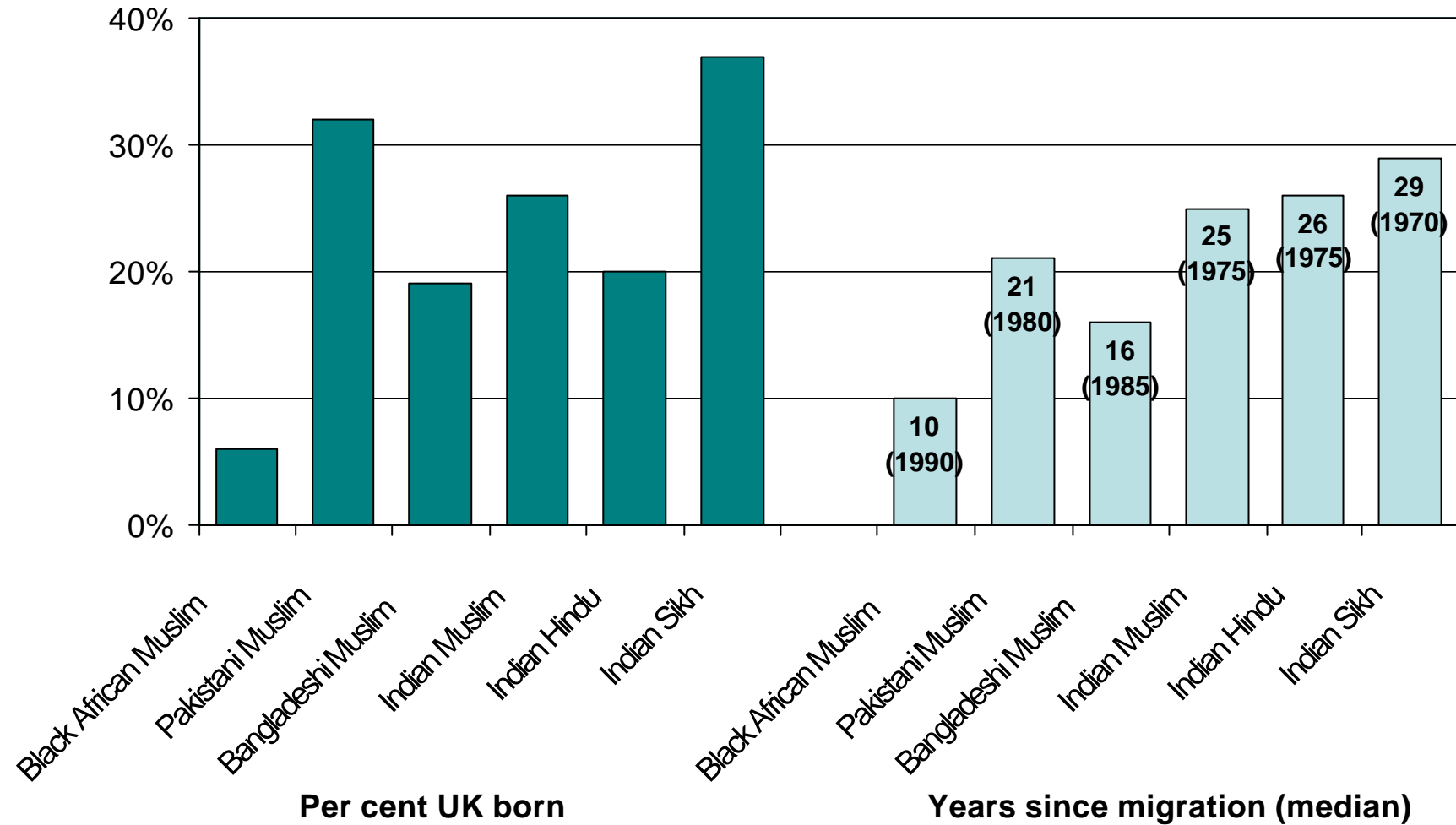
Data sources and coverage

- UK/England datasets
 - Health Survey for England 1999 (HSE 2004 also used)
 - EMPIRIC (Ethnic Minority Psychiatric Illness Rates In the Community)
 - ONS Longitudinal Survey
- European comparative/contextual data
 - Muslims in Europe study (Turkish in Berlin, Bangladeshi in London, and Moroccan in Madrid)
 - European Social Survey
- Cover demographics, socioeconomic circumstances, health, lifestyles, racism and discrimination, and attitudes
- Some data on how attitudes have been affected by the terrorist incidents in New York in 2001 and Madrid in 2004

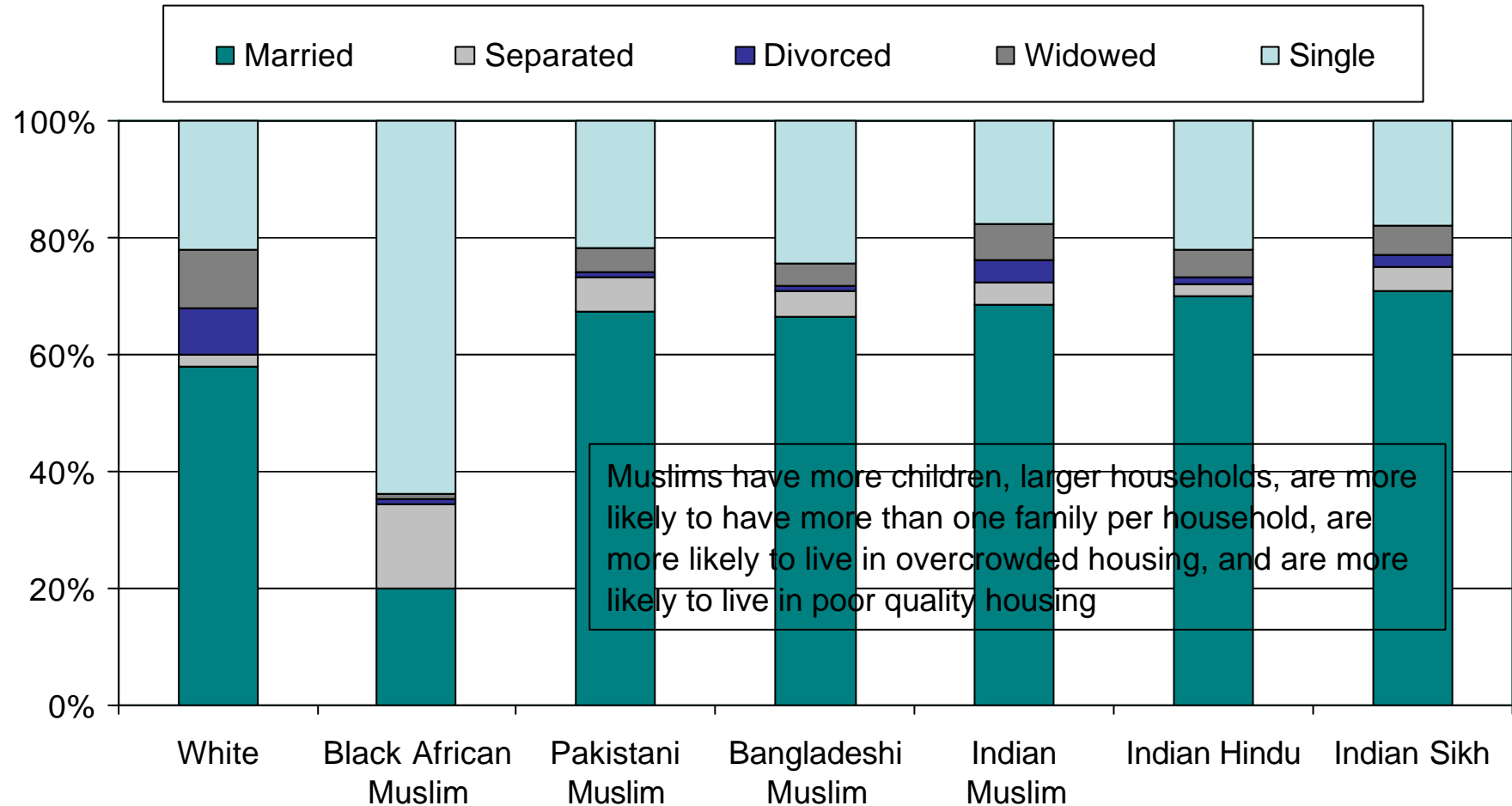
Age profiles of ethnic/religious groups



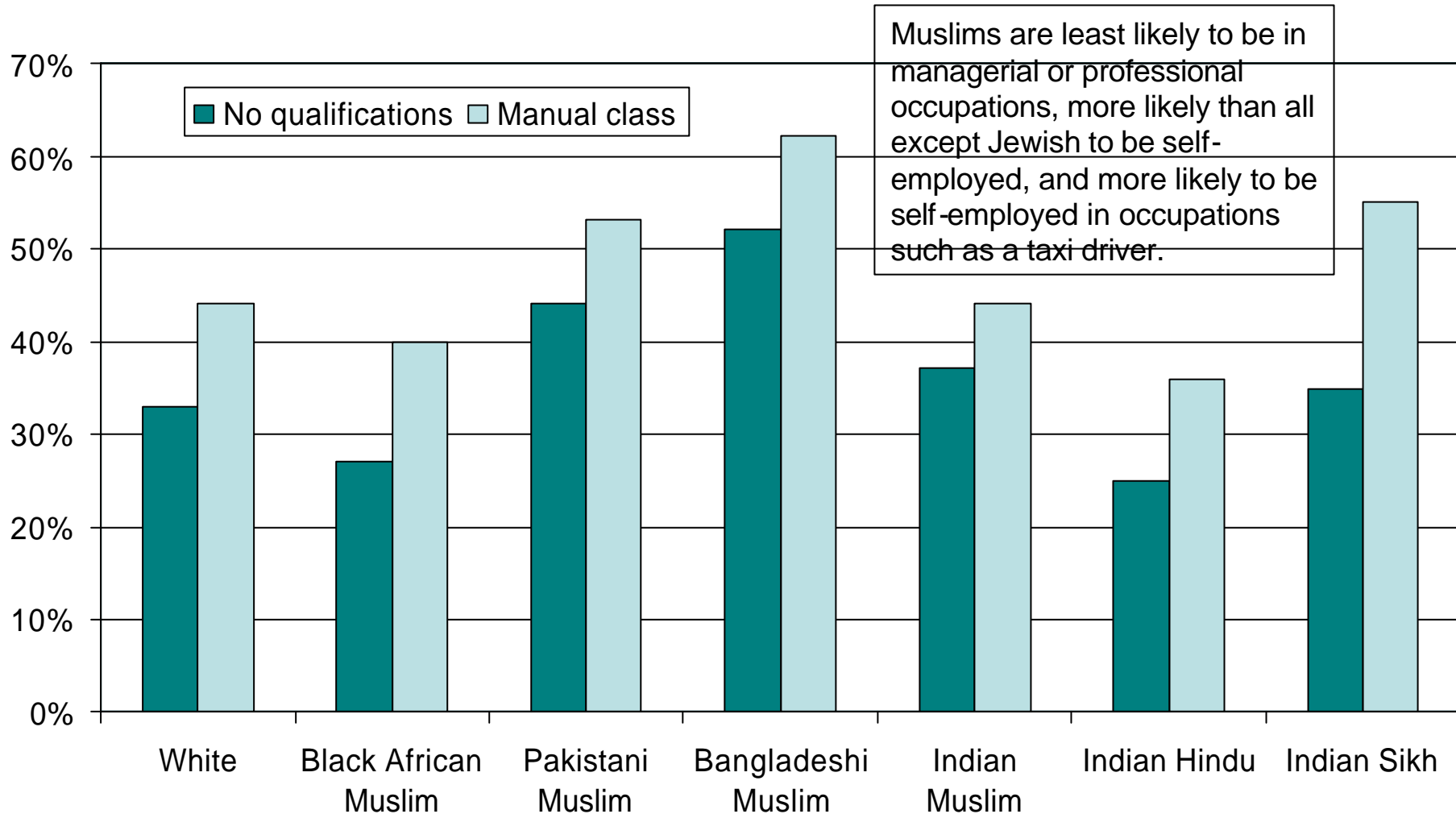
Migration history by ethnic/religious group



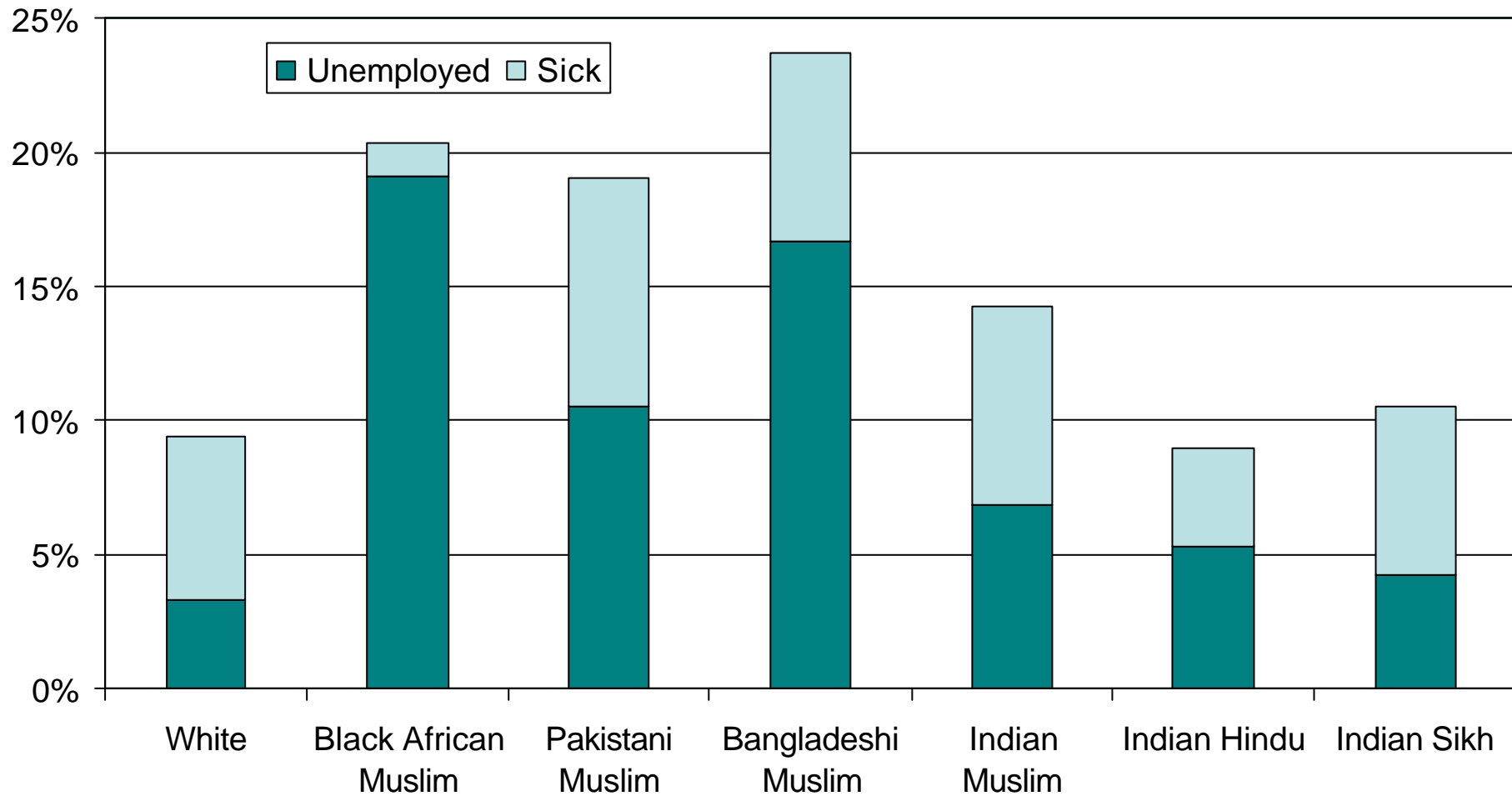
Marital status by ethnic/religious group



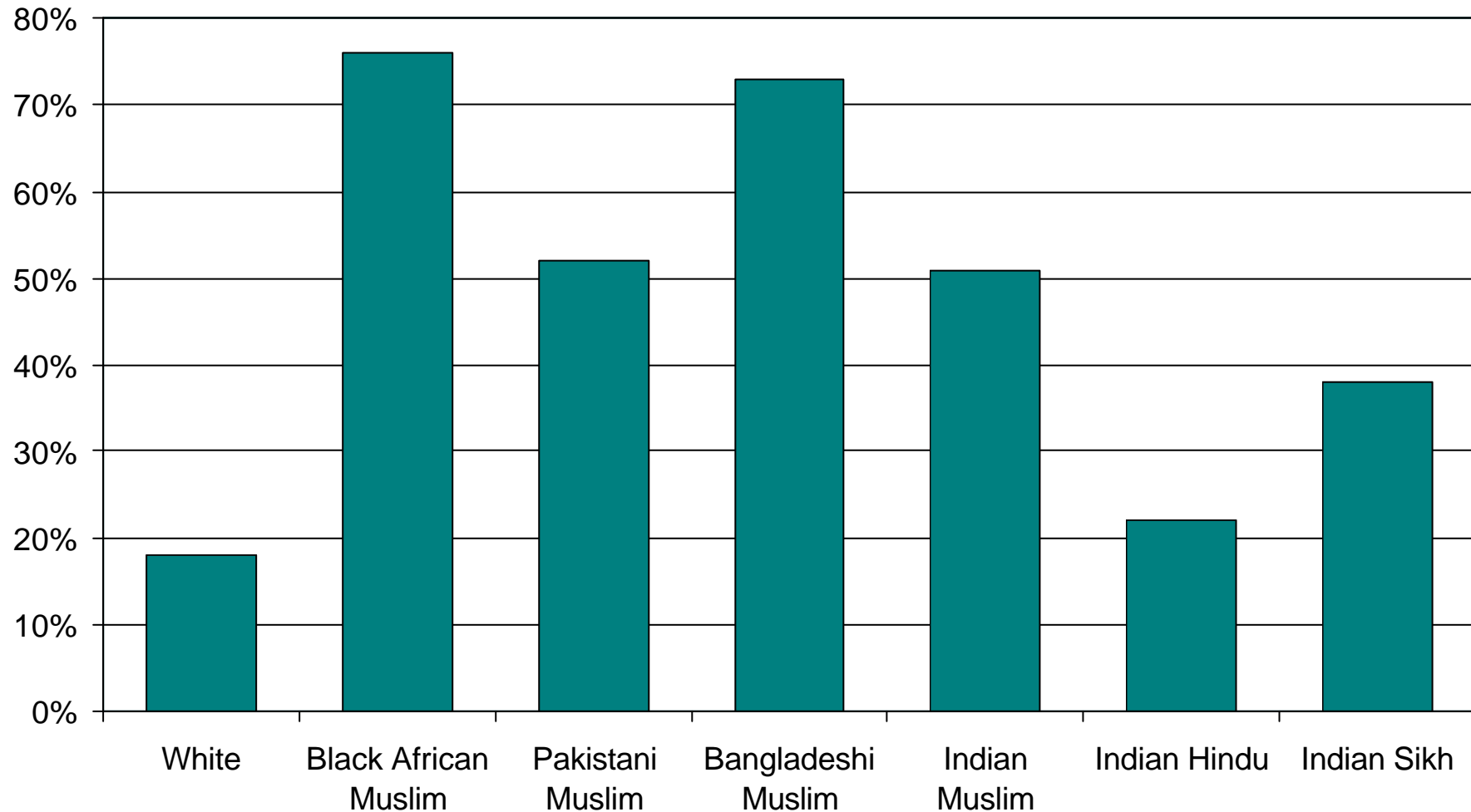
Qualifications and occupational class by ethnic/religious group



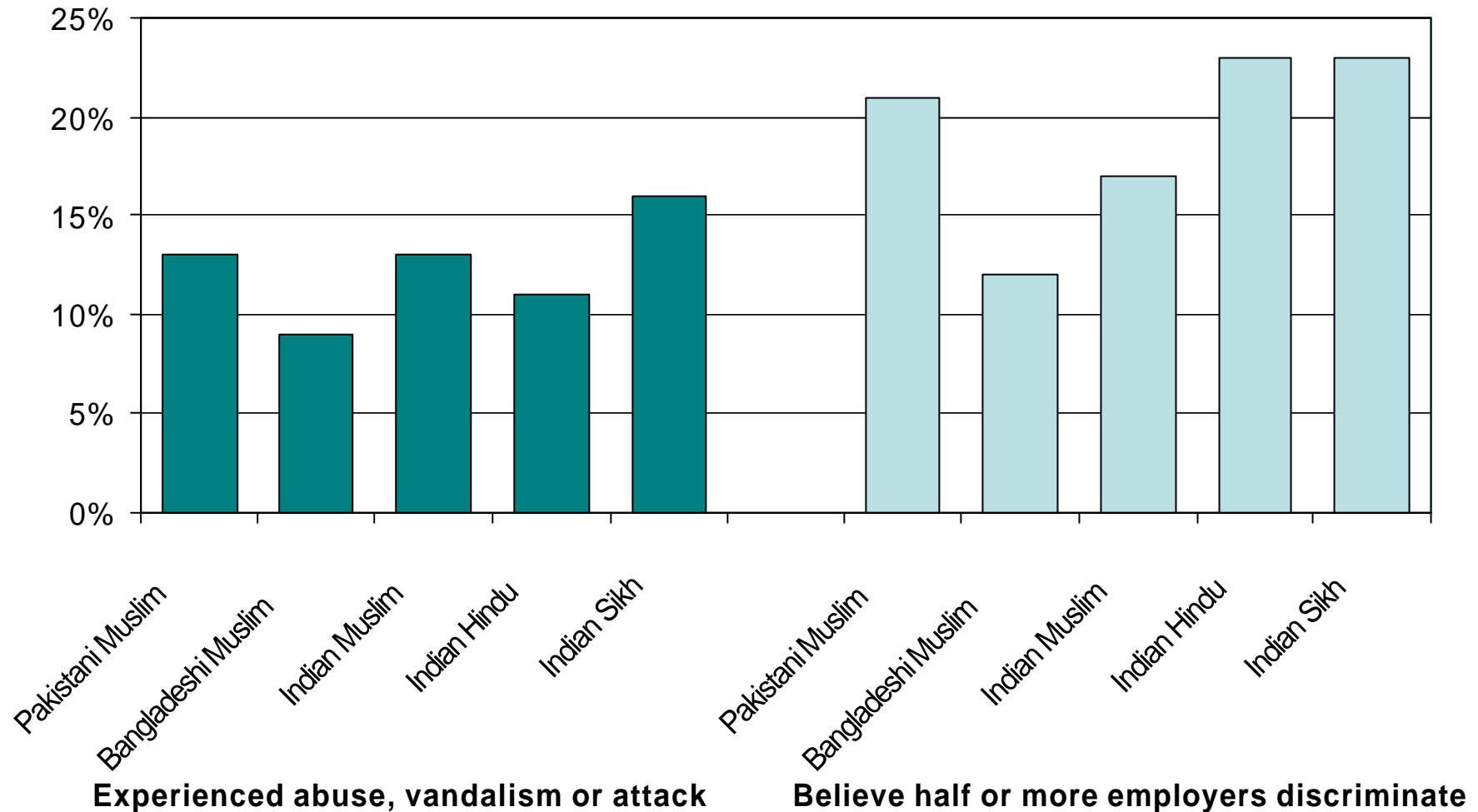
Unemployment by ethnic/religious group



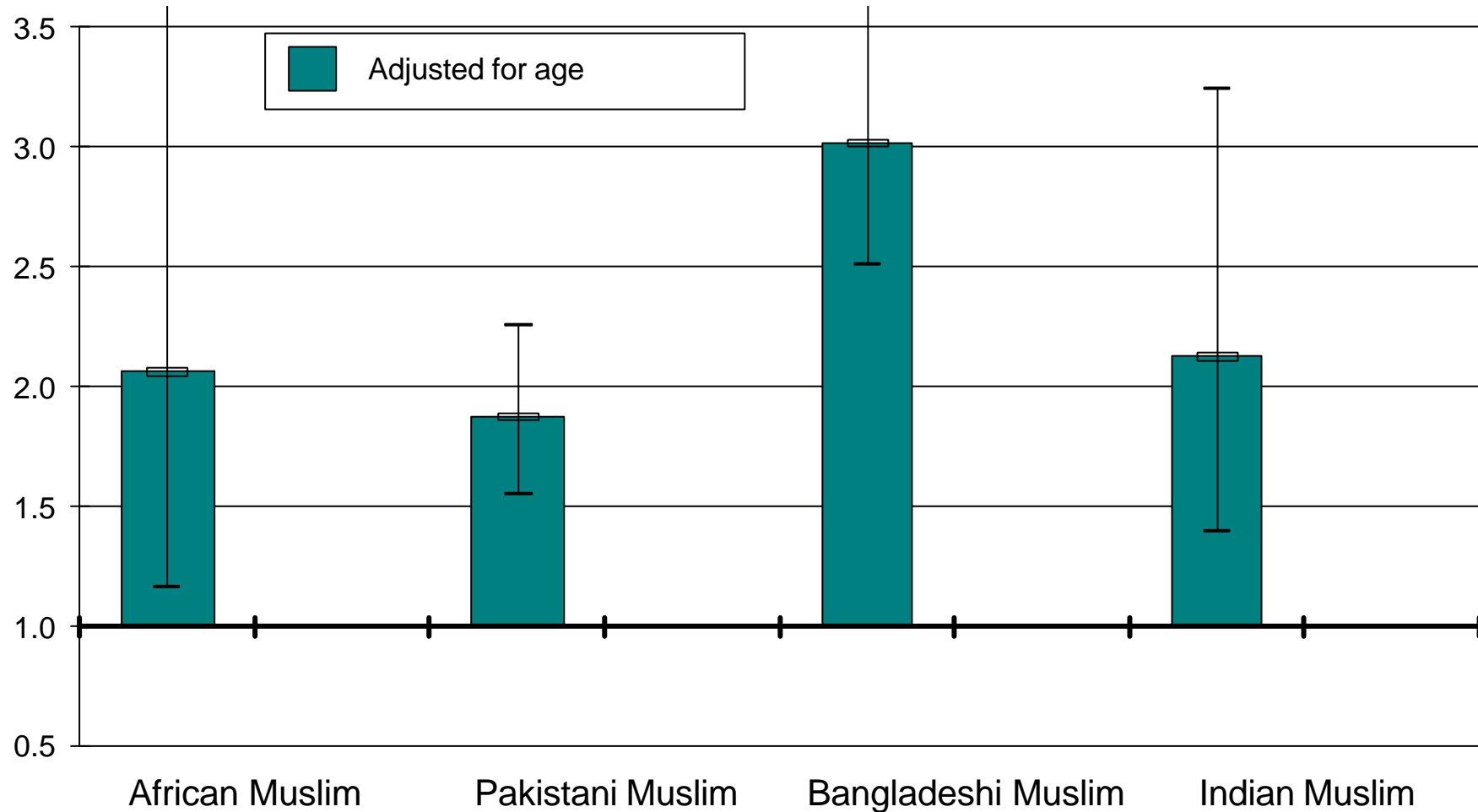
Per cent in the bottom (equivalised) income quintile by ethnic/religious group



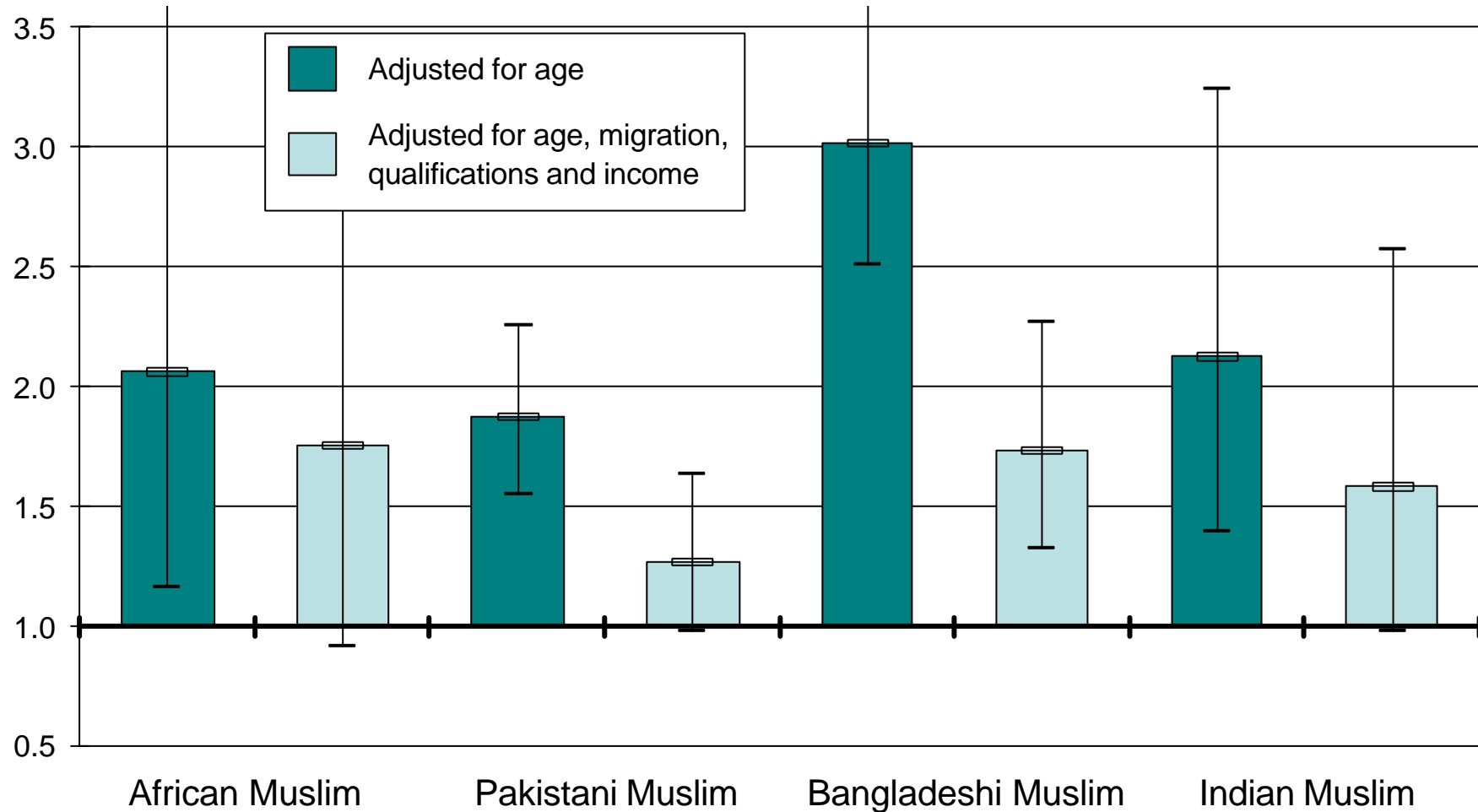
Experience and perceptions of racism and discrimination: South Asian people



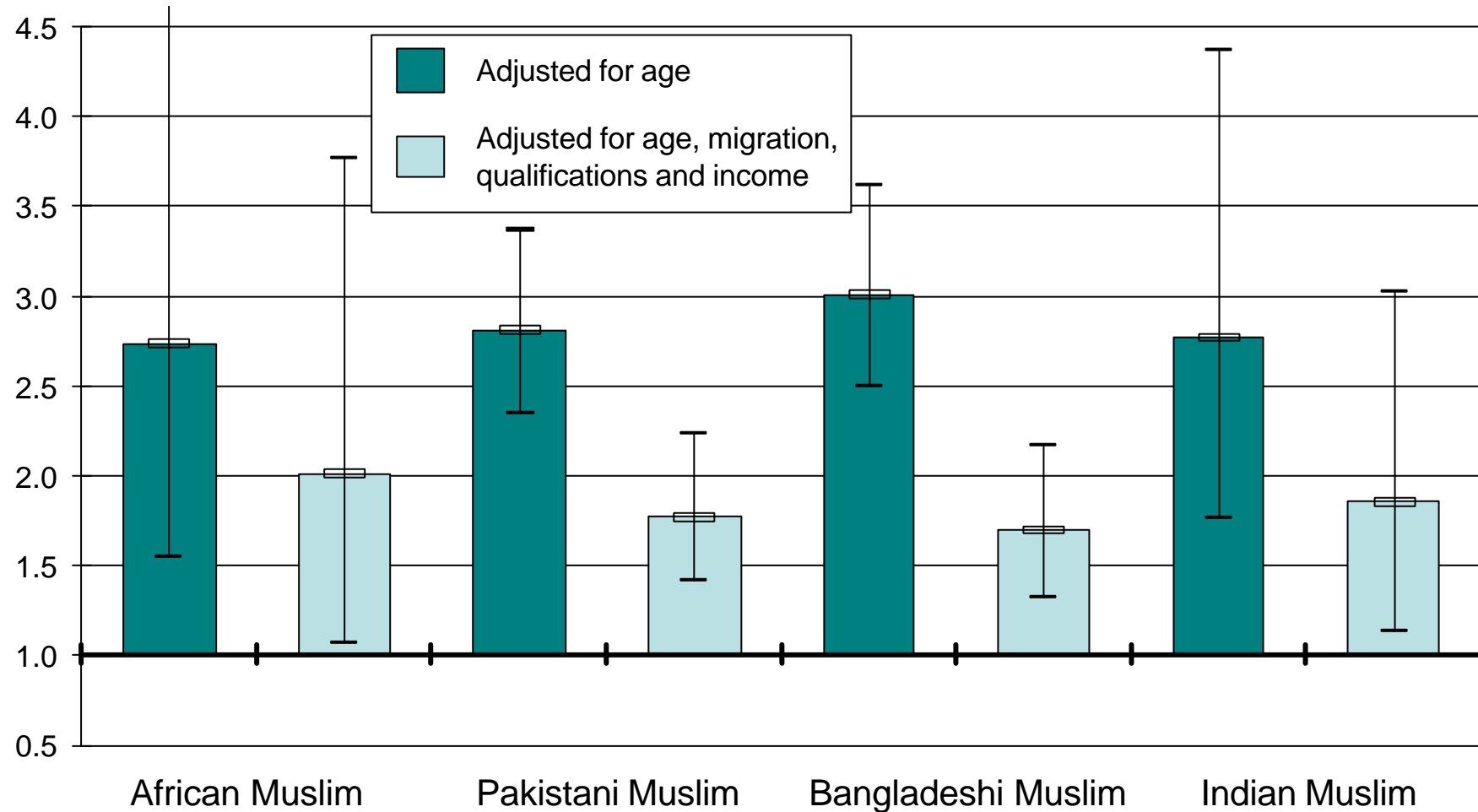
Self-assessed health: odds ratio (95% c.i.) for men compared with white English



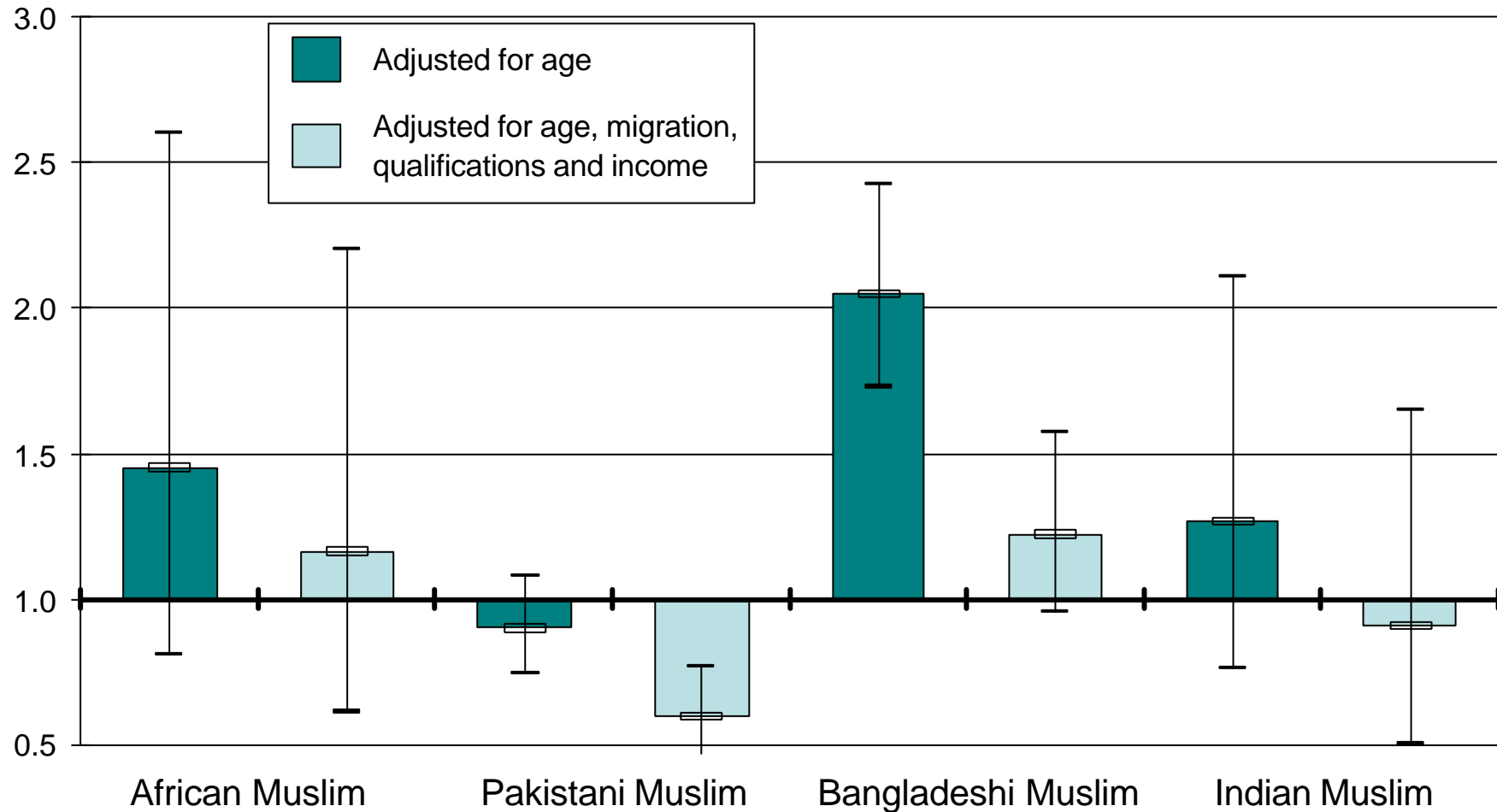
Self-assessed health: odds ratio (95% c.i.) for men compared with white English



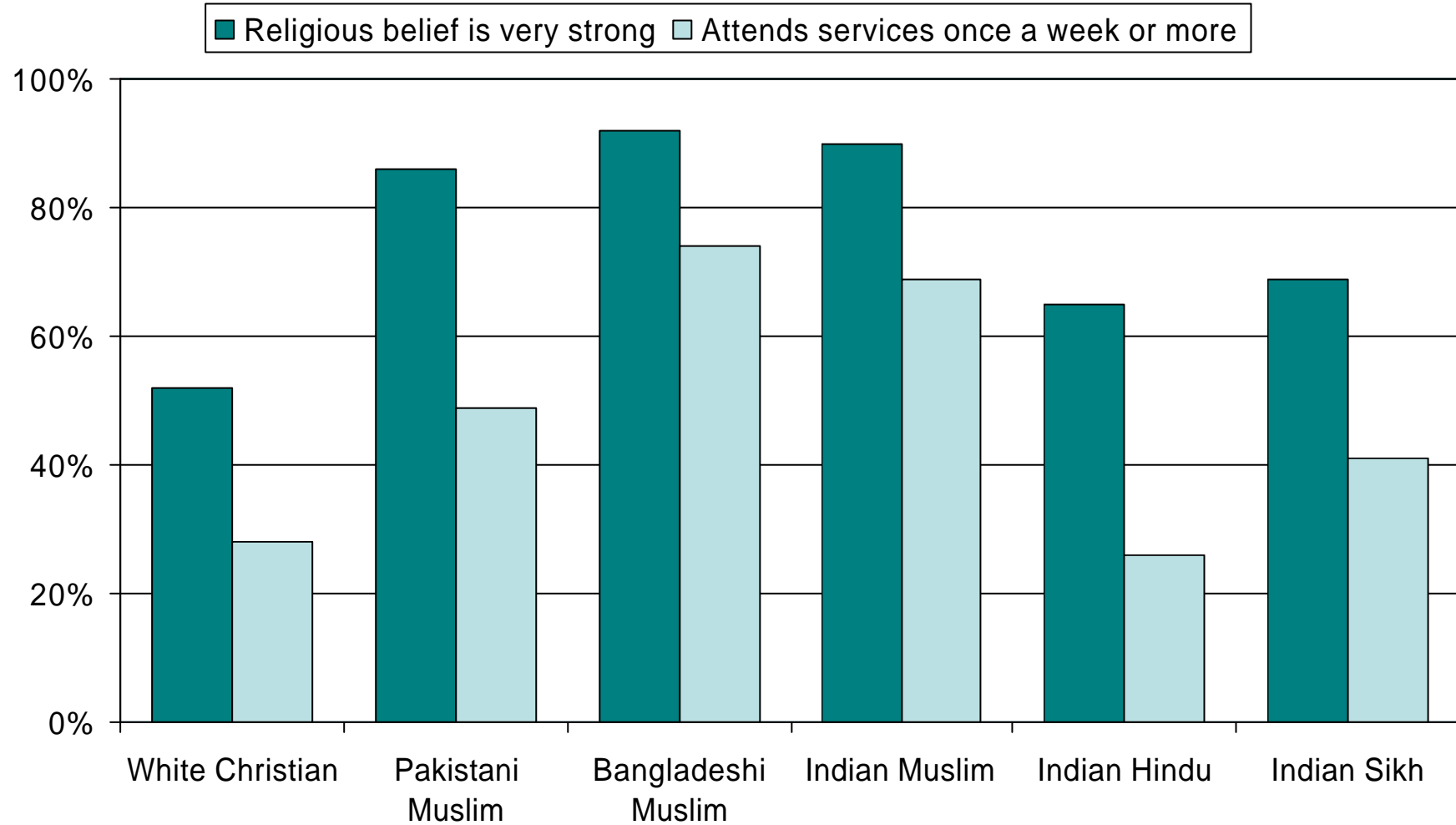
Self-assessed health: odds ratio (95% c.i.) for women compared with white English



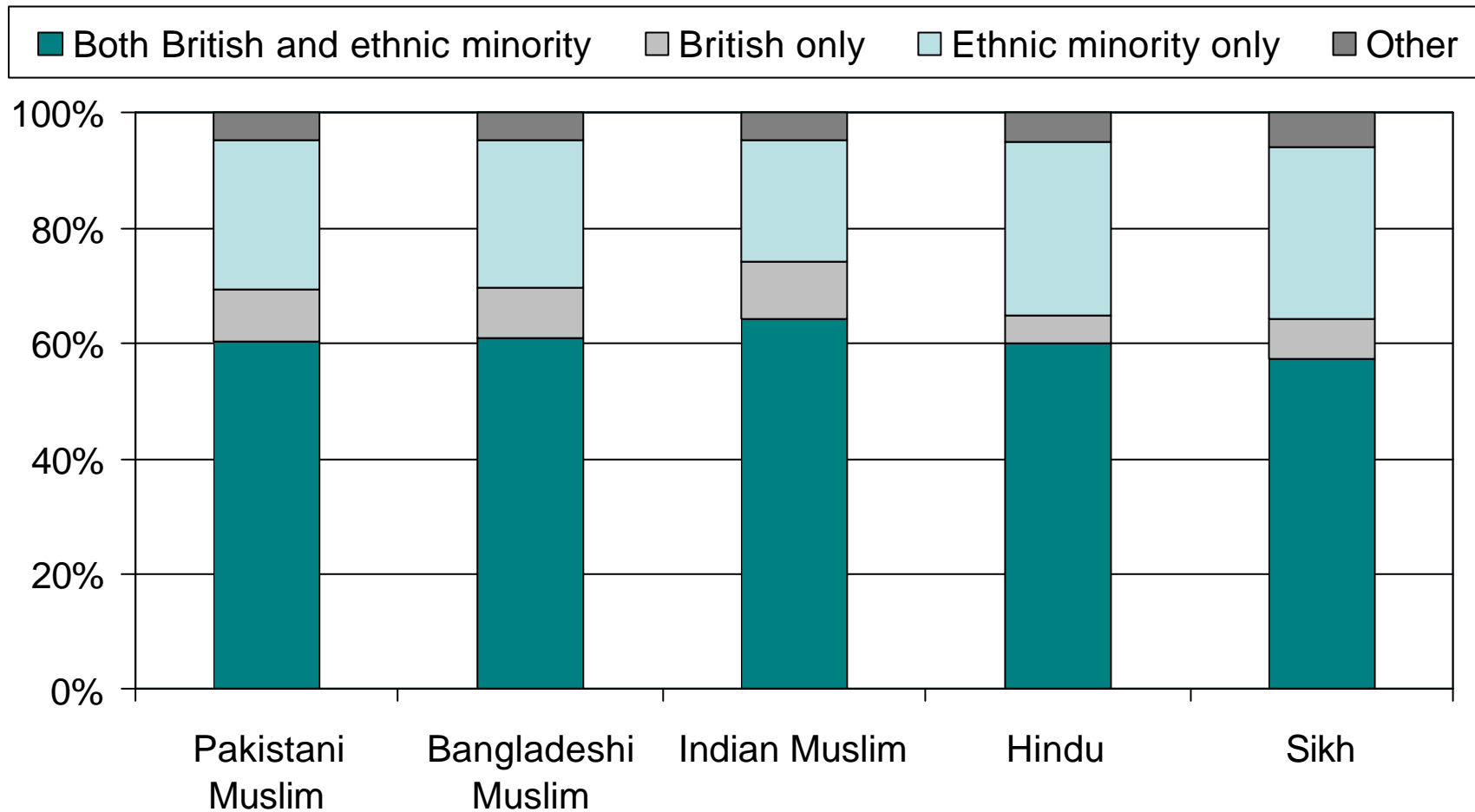
Currently use tobacco: odds ratio (95% c.i.) for men compared with white English



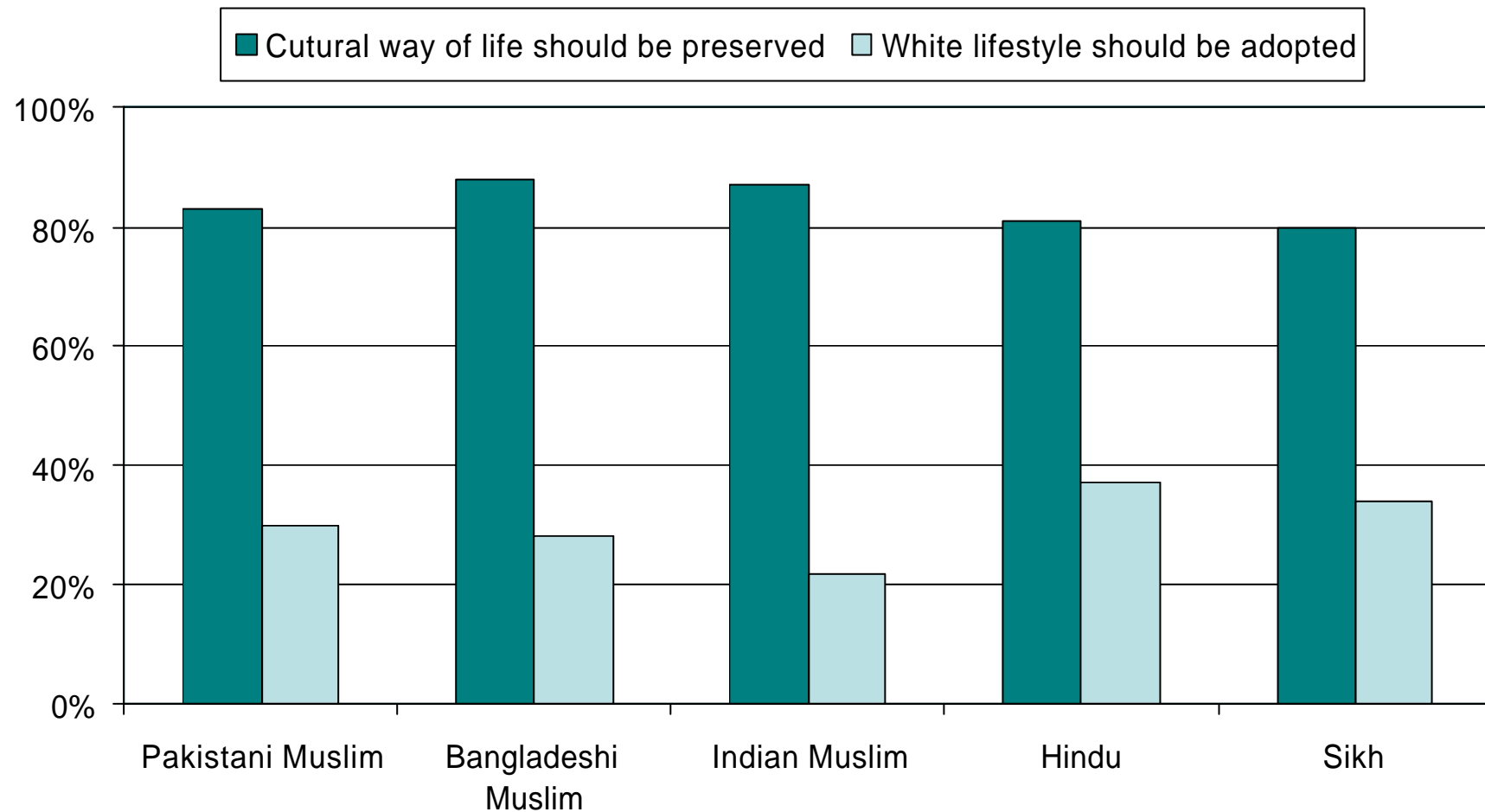
Importance of religion: White Christians and South Asians



Religion and national identity: South Asian people



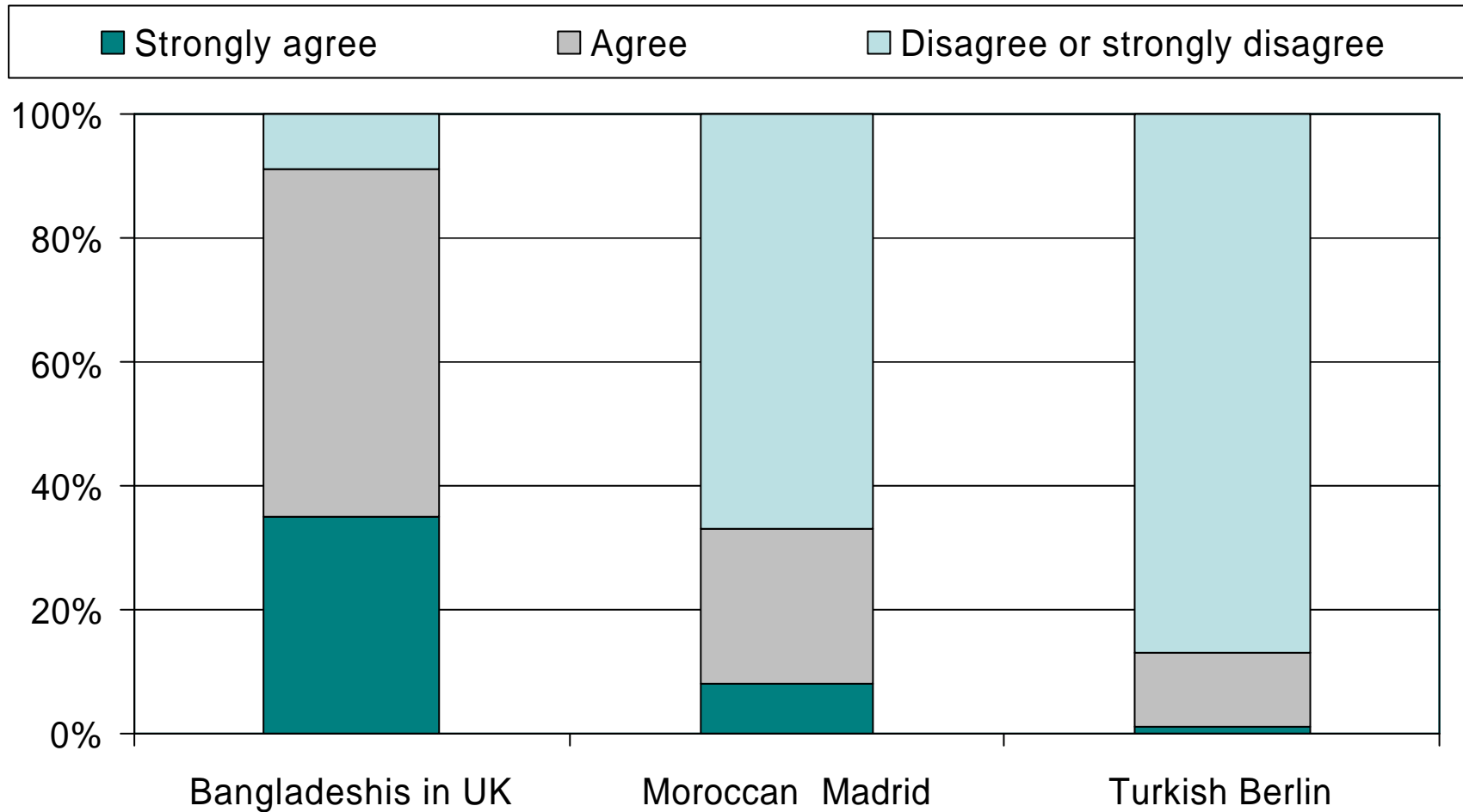
Religion and 'acculturative' beliefs: South Asian people



Thinks of self as British

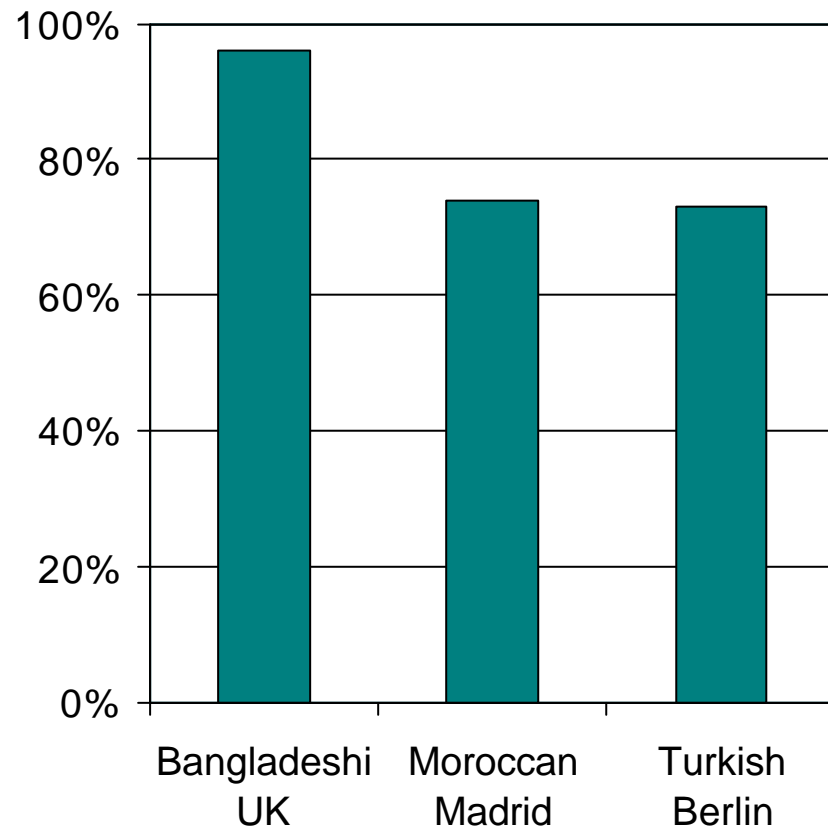
| | Partial model | Full model* |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Caribbean Christian | 1 | 1 |
| Pakistani Muslim | 0.82 (0.62-1.09) | 1.00 (0.72-1.39) |
| Bangladeshi Muslim | 0.72 (0.53-0.98) | 1.00 (0.68-1.45) |
| Indian Muslim | 1.17 (0.57-2.40) | 1.34 (0.61-2.95) |
| Indian Hindu | 0.73 (0.51-1.06) | 0.97 (0.66-1.42) |
| Indian Sikh | 0.67 (0.46-0.98) | 0.78 (0.53-1.15) |
| Age | 0.92 (0.89-0.96) | 0.96 (0.92-1.01) |
| Female | 0.59 (0.48-0.72) | 0.53 (0.42-0.67) |
| Born in UK | - | 1 |
| Migrated age 11 or younger | - | 0.49 (0.34-0.69) |
| Migrated aged over 11 | - | 0.28 (0.20-0.39) |
| Thinks most employers discriminate | - | 0.70 (0.55-0.89) |

Think of yourself as British, or Spanish, or German

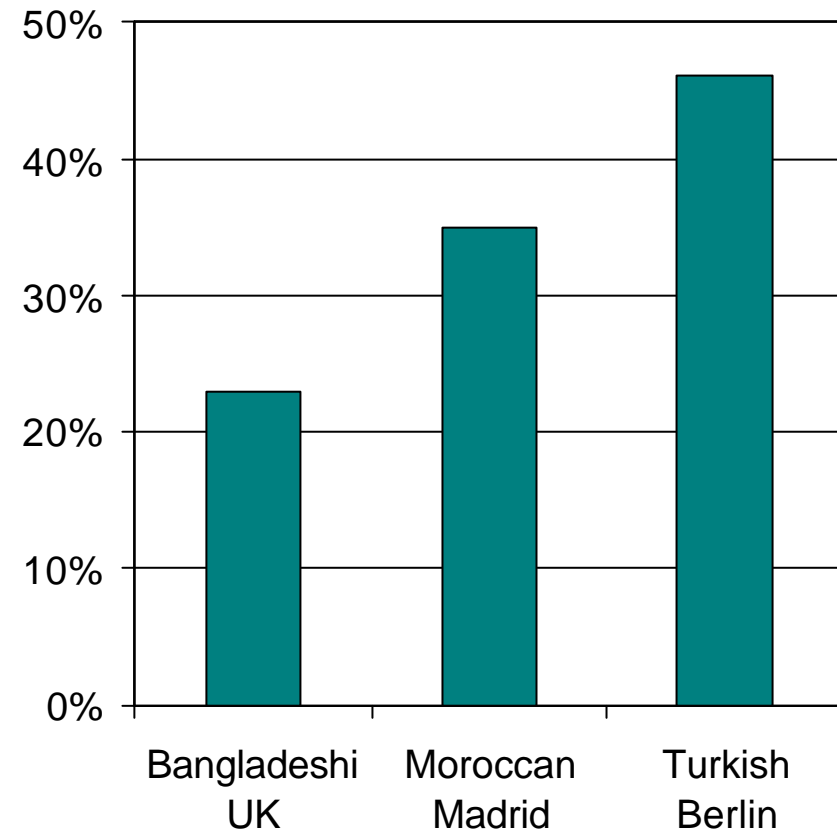


Experiences in 'host' country

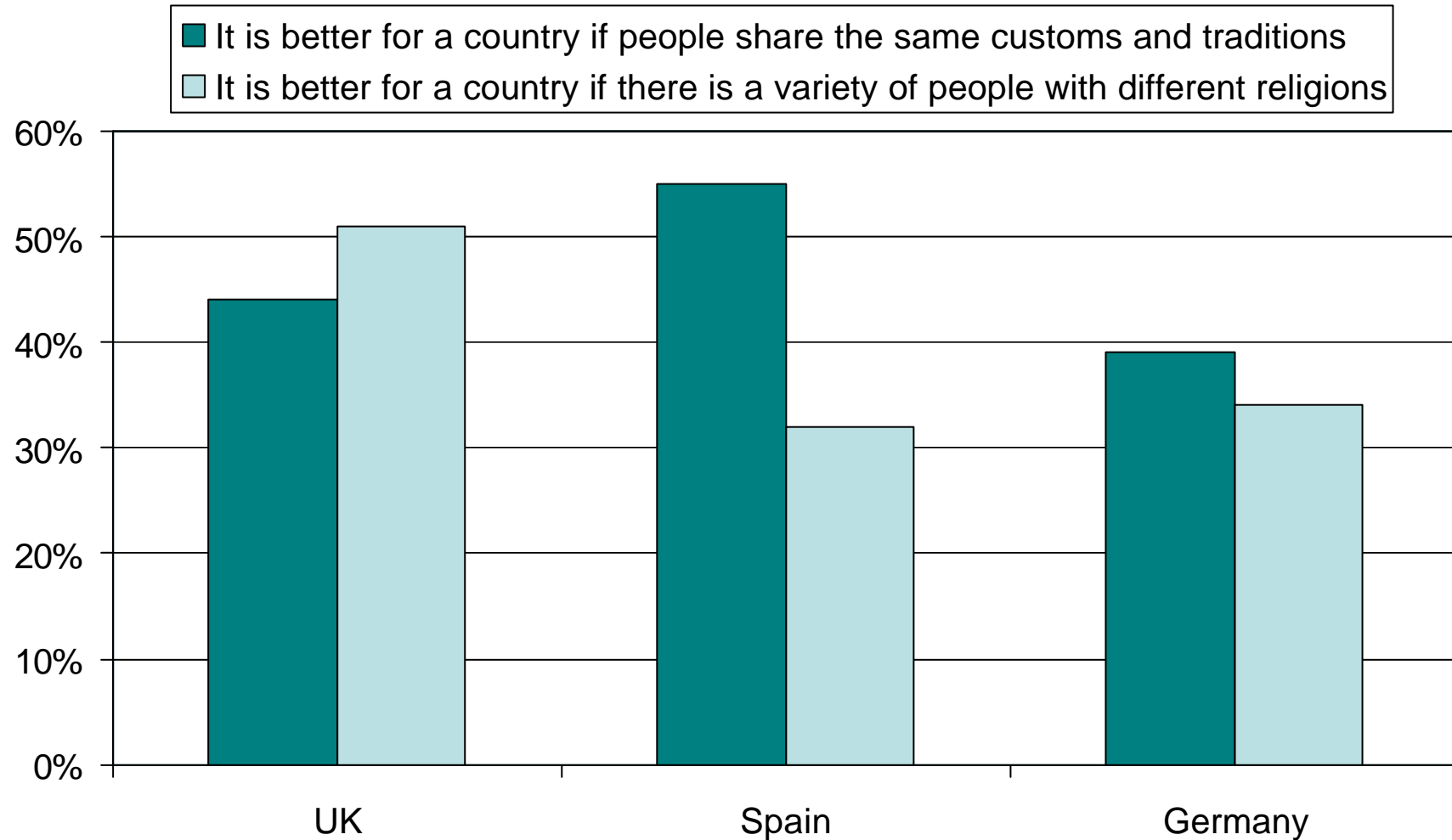
Feel at home



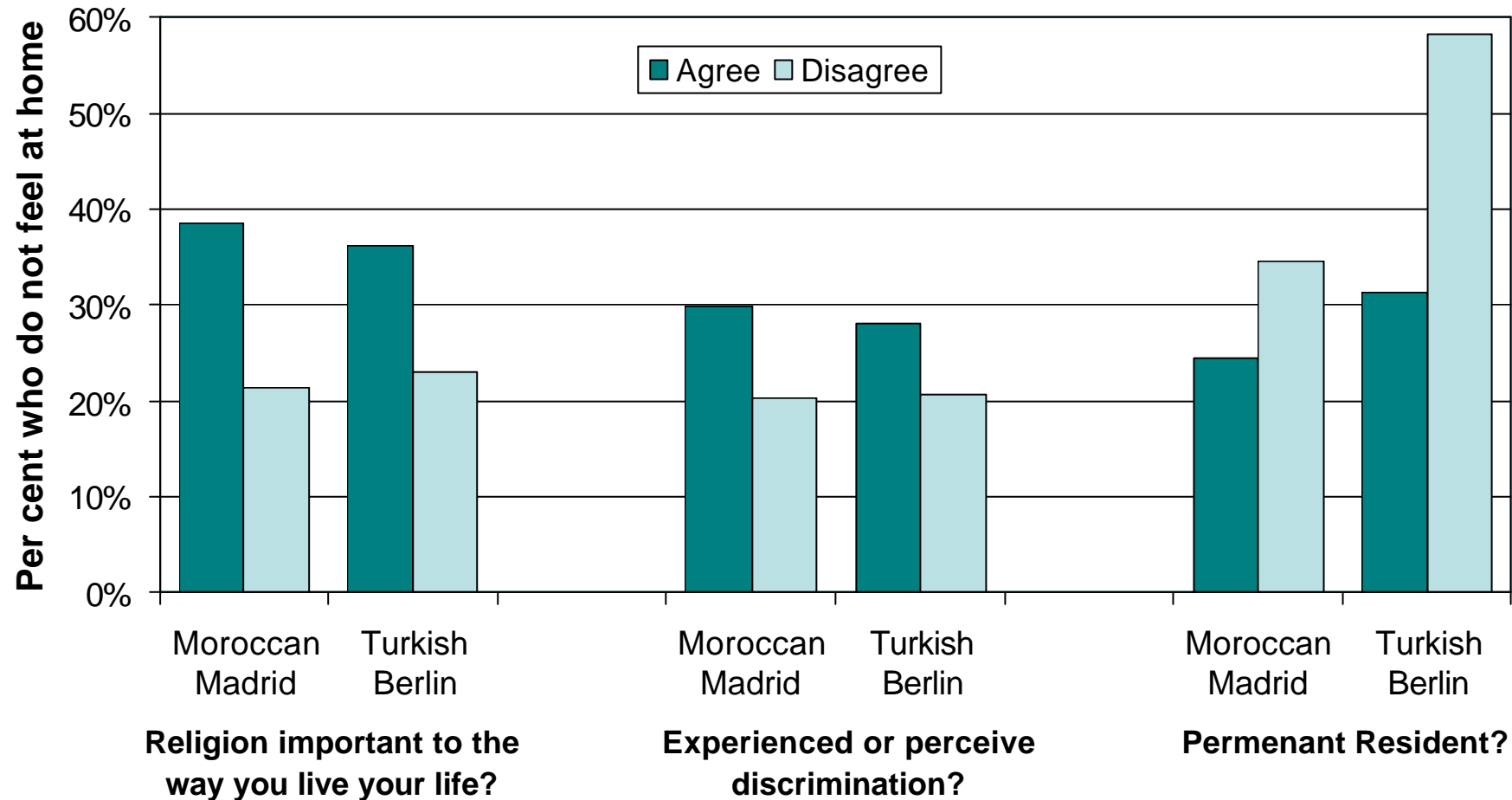
Agree group faces discrimination



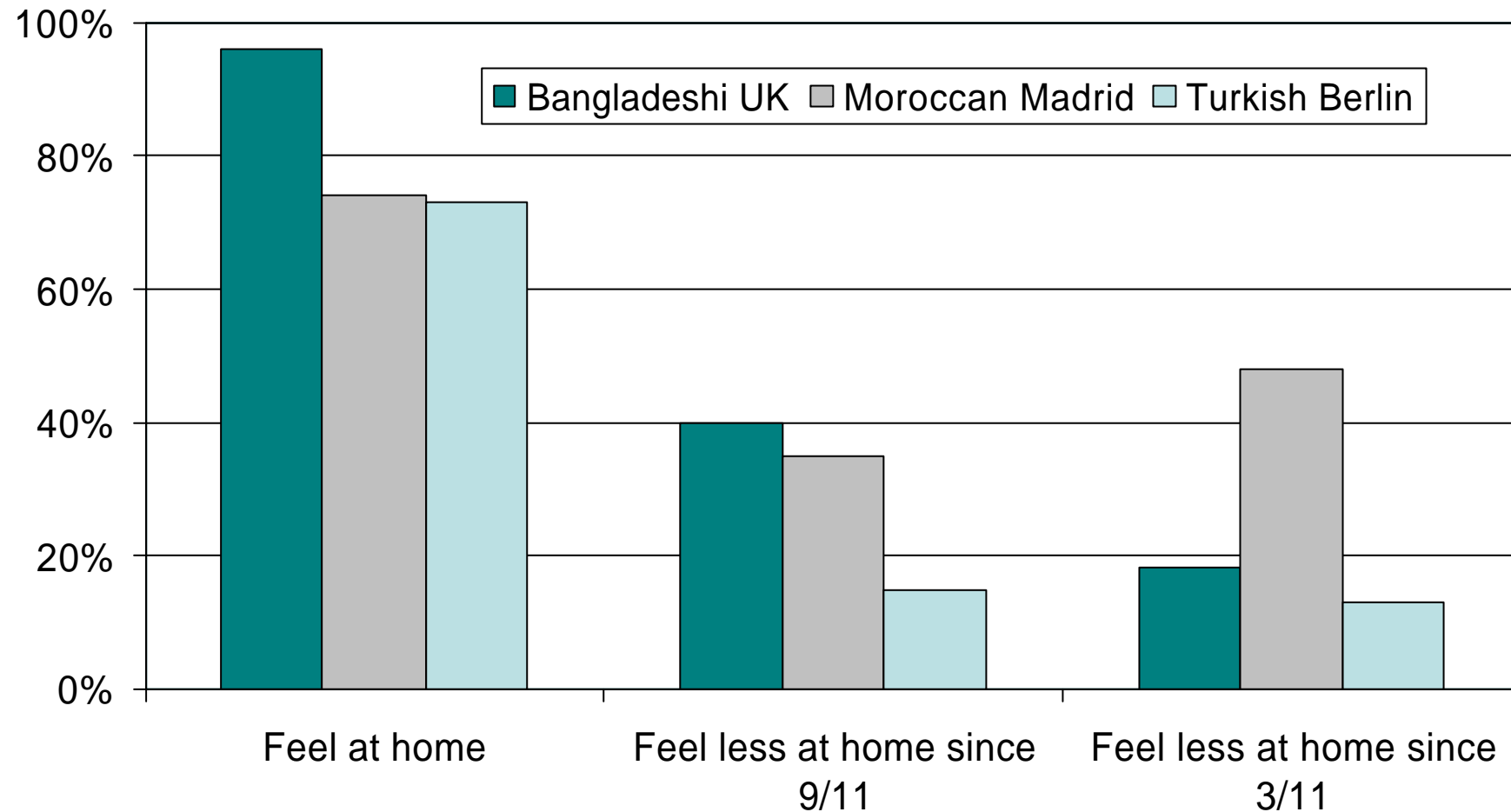
General population views on 'multiculturalism' and 'assimilation'



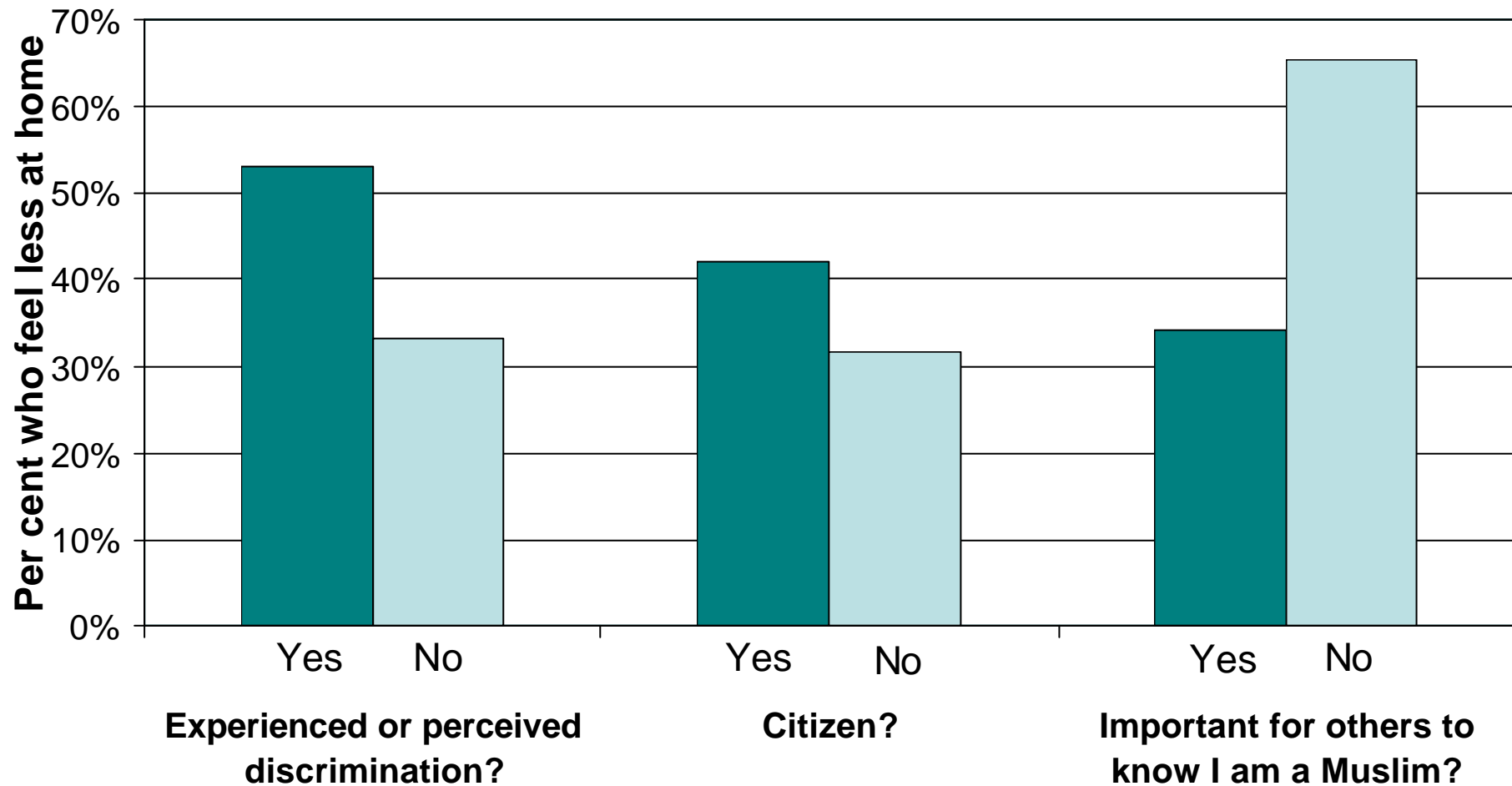
Do not feel at home – Muslims in Madrid and Berlin



Feeling at home in 'host' country: impact of terrorist events



Feeling less at home since 11th September 2001 Bangladeshis in the UK



Conclusions

- Extent of economic and social disadvantage, across all markers, experienced by Muslims in England.
- Marked inequalities in health, strongly related to social and economic disadvantage.
- Compatibility of more than one national identity, and of Britishness with religion, religiosity and traditional views.
- Diversity of experiences within broad categories, such as South Asian, Indian and Muslim.
- Importance of considering class, age and generation.
- Significance of institutional context (international comparisons).
- Significance of historical and contemporary context.