

Racial discrimination and health: exploring the possible protective effects of ethnic density

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Background

- Greater ethnic density is associated with lower rates of psychosis, suicide, psychiatric admissions
- Also associated with lower prevalence of low birthweight, higher breastfeeding rates
- Mixed evidence for CHD and all-cause mortality
- Study aims to explore the possible protective effects of ED

Why might ED be protective?

- Reduced exposure to racism in areas of higher ED (fewer perpetrators, racism not tolerated in high ED areas)
- Reduced effect of racism on health in areas of higher ED (common experience therefore not internalised, support to deal with experience)
- Greater ED promotes a sense of community among ethnic minority residents
- Greater political mobilisation

Objectives

- Examine associations between ethnic density and experiences of racism, social cohesion and political participation
- Explore how far the relationships between ethnic density and experiences and perceptions are a consequence of own group density or ethnic minority density more generally
- NB ethnically dense areas tend to be more deprived

Operationalising ethnic density

- Measured own ethnic density from 2001 census

Indian density = no. Indian residents /
total no. residents in MSOA

- Measured overall ethnic density from 2001 census

Overall ED = sum no. S. Asian & Black residents /
total no. residents in MSOA

- Perceived ethnic density from HOCS survey

“What proportion of all the people in this local area are of the same ethnic group as you?” all the same/more than half/about a half/less than a half

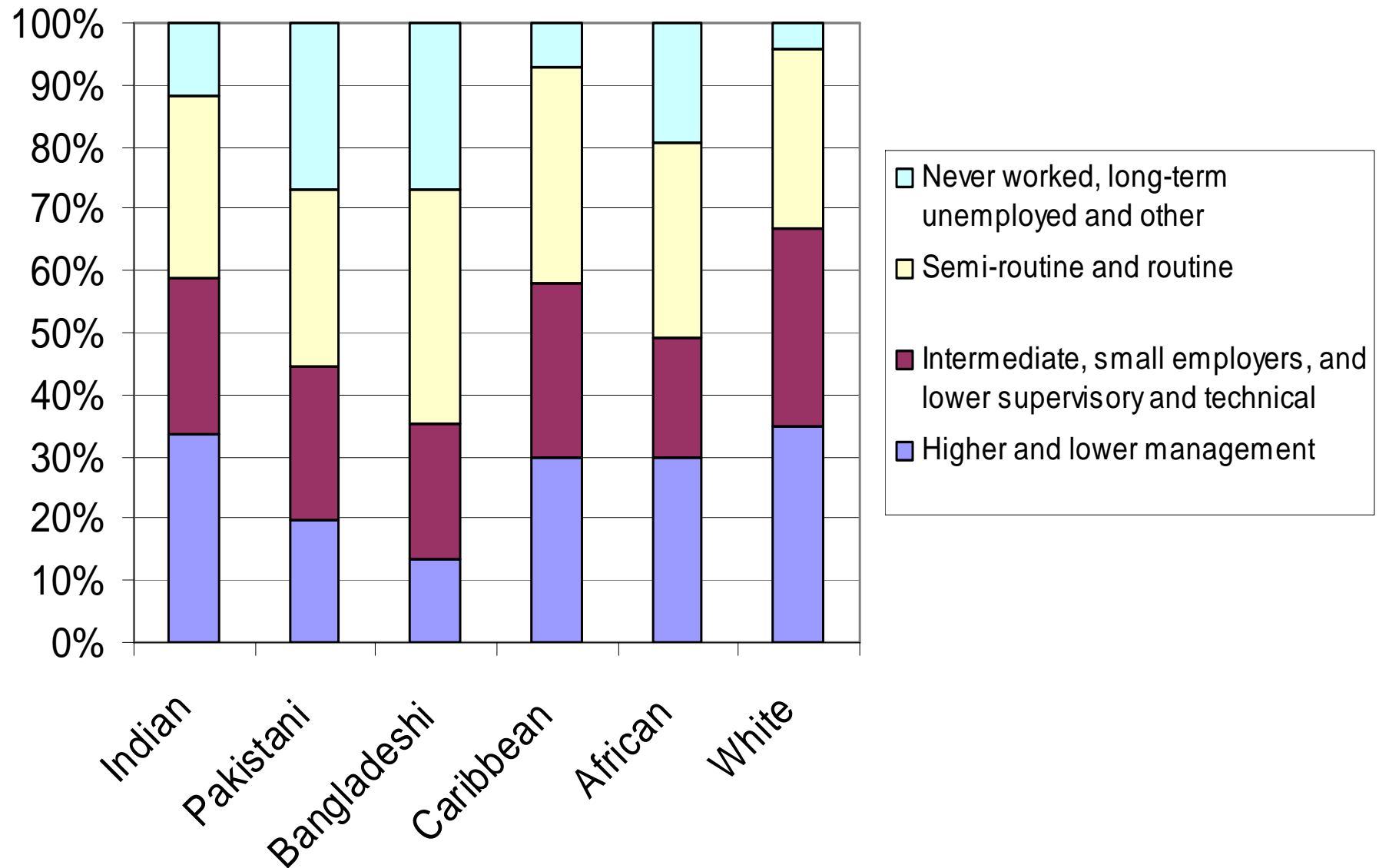
Data: The (Home Office) Citizenship Survey 2005 & 2007 combined

Years combined	N
Indian	2,687
Pakistani	1,503
Bangladeshi	536
Black Caribbean	1,644
Black African	1,536

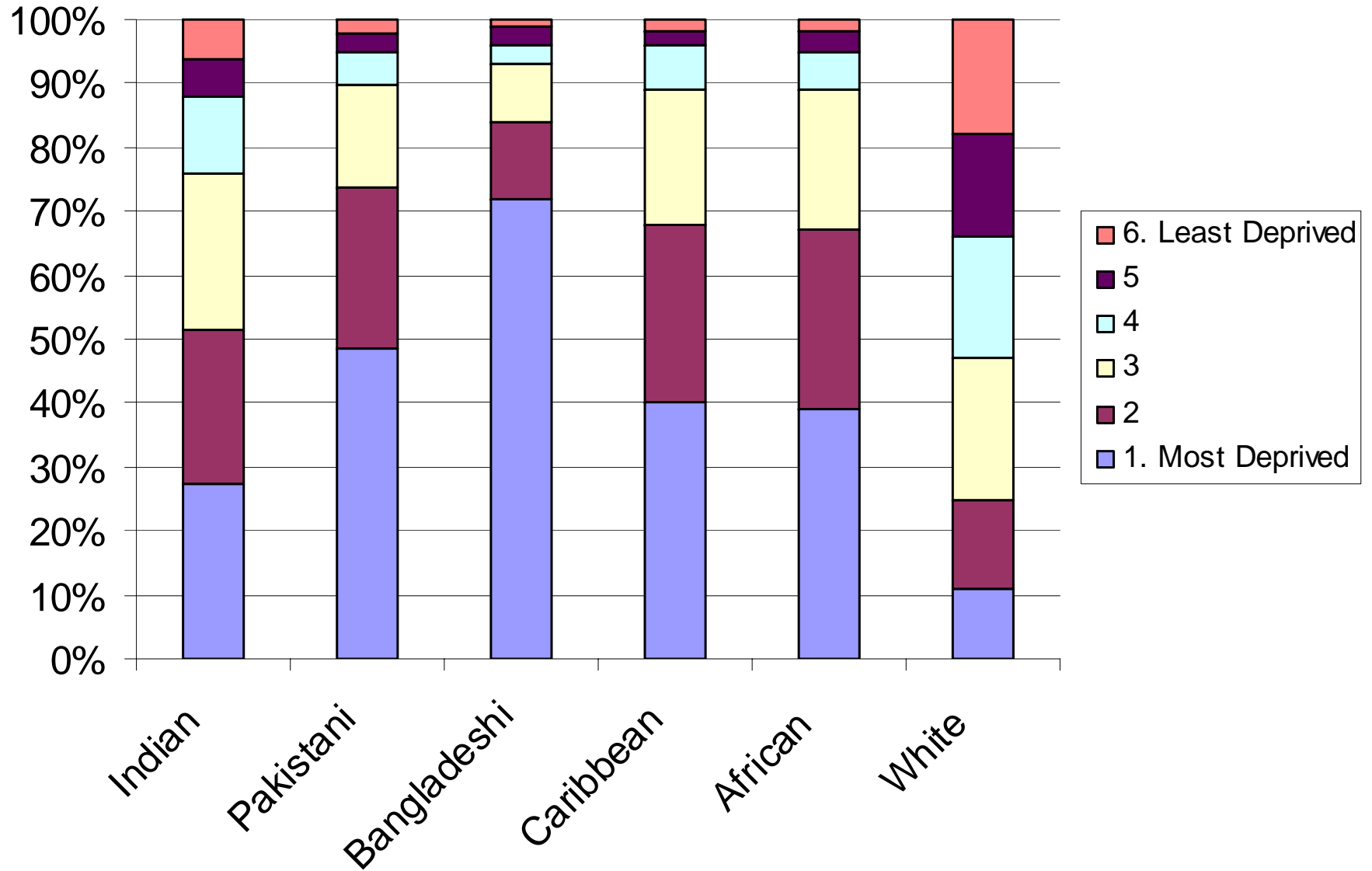
Sample Characteristics

	Indian (n=2687) %	Pakistani (n=1503) %	Bangladeshi (n=536) %	Caribbean (n=1644) %	African (n=1536) %
Age M(SD)	42(16)	37(14)	35(13)	46(17)	37(12)
Sex					
Male	50	51	49	41	41
Female	50	49	51	59	59

Employment Characteristics



Area Deprivation



Measures of racism

Worry about being victim of racial/religious attack (34%)

Refused a job or a promotion (5%)

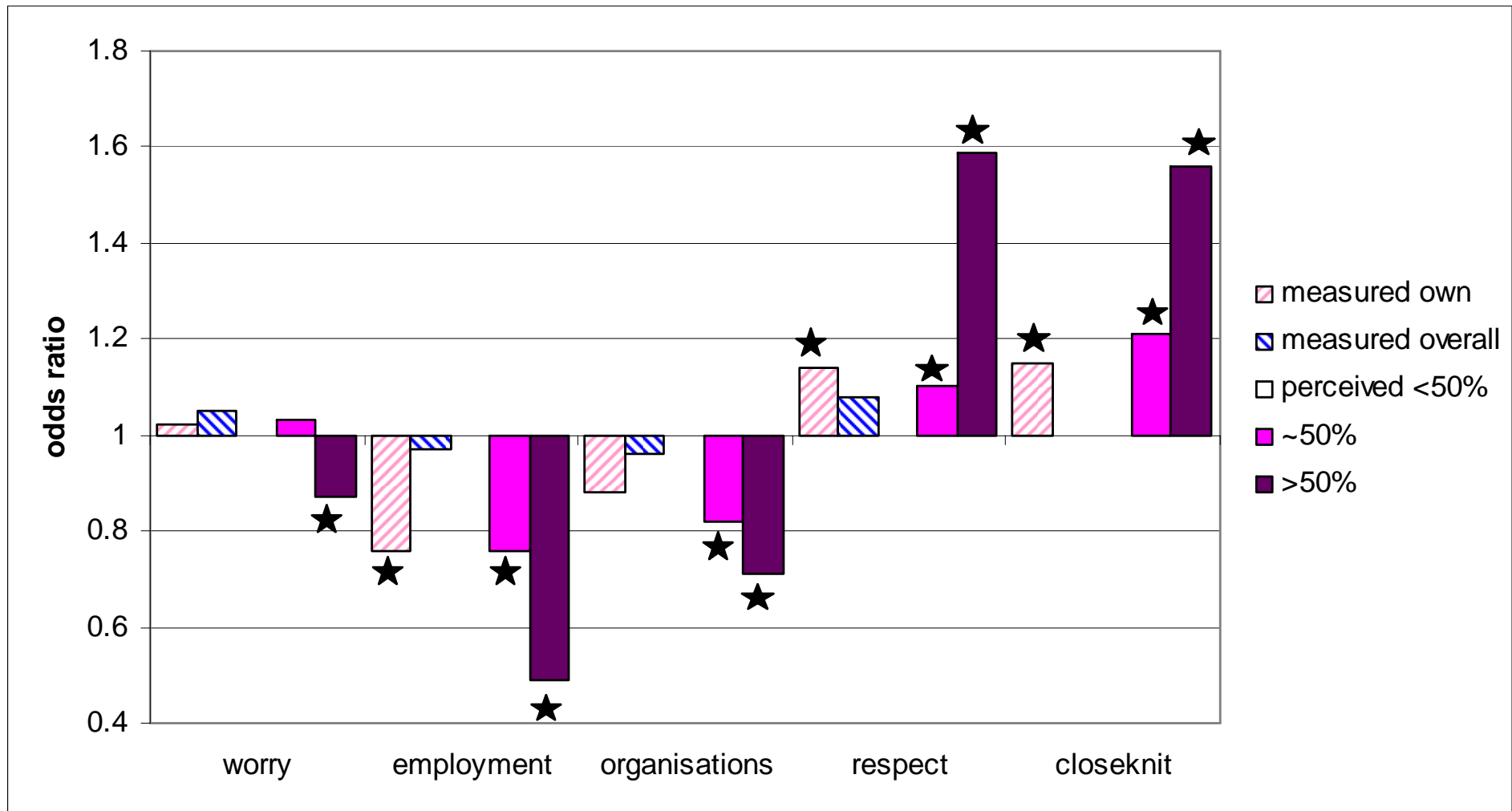
Perceived racial discrim by organisations (local GP, health service, local school, education service, social housing dept, local council, landlord, courts, CPS, police, immigration service) (31%)

Measures of social cohesion

Agree residents respect ethnic differences (84%)

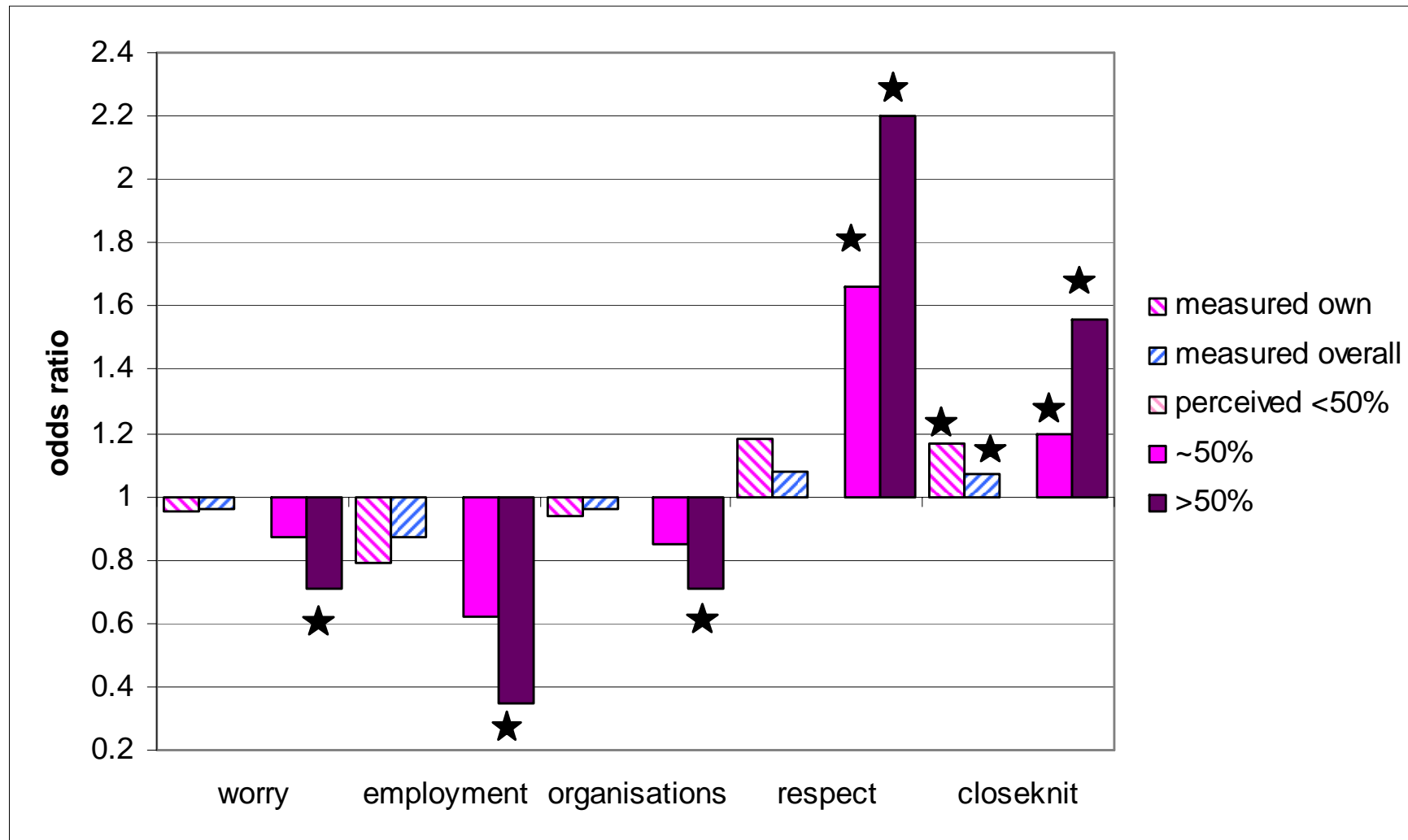
Agree this is a close-knit community (62%)

Ethnic density effects on racism and social cohesion

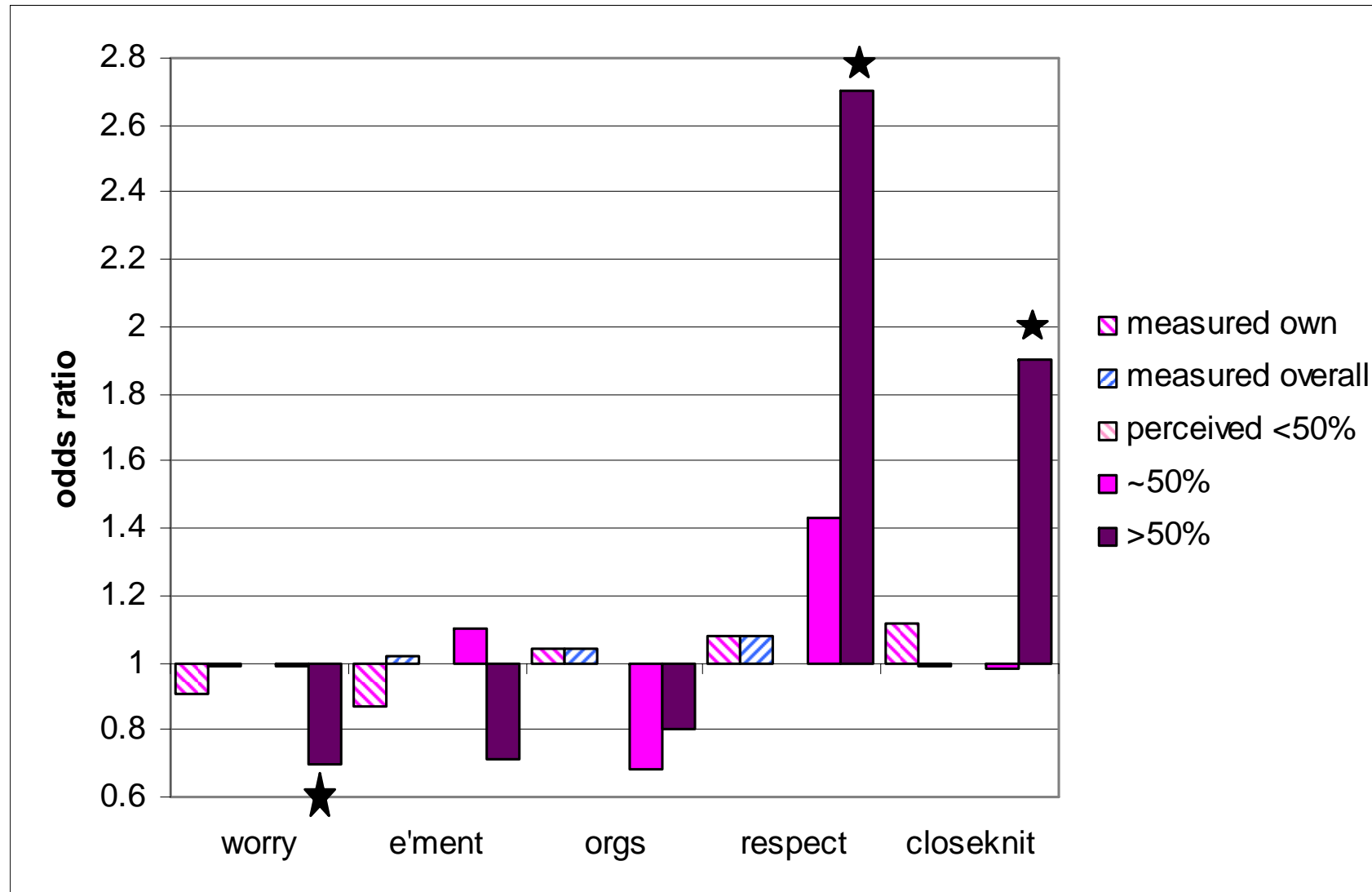


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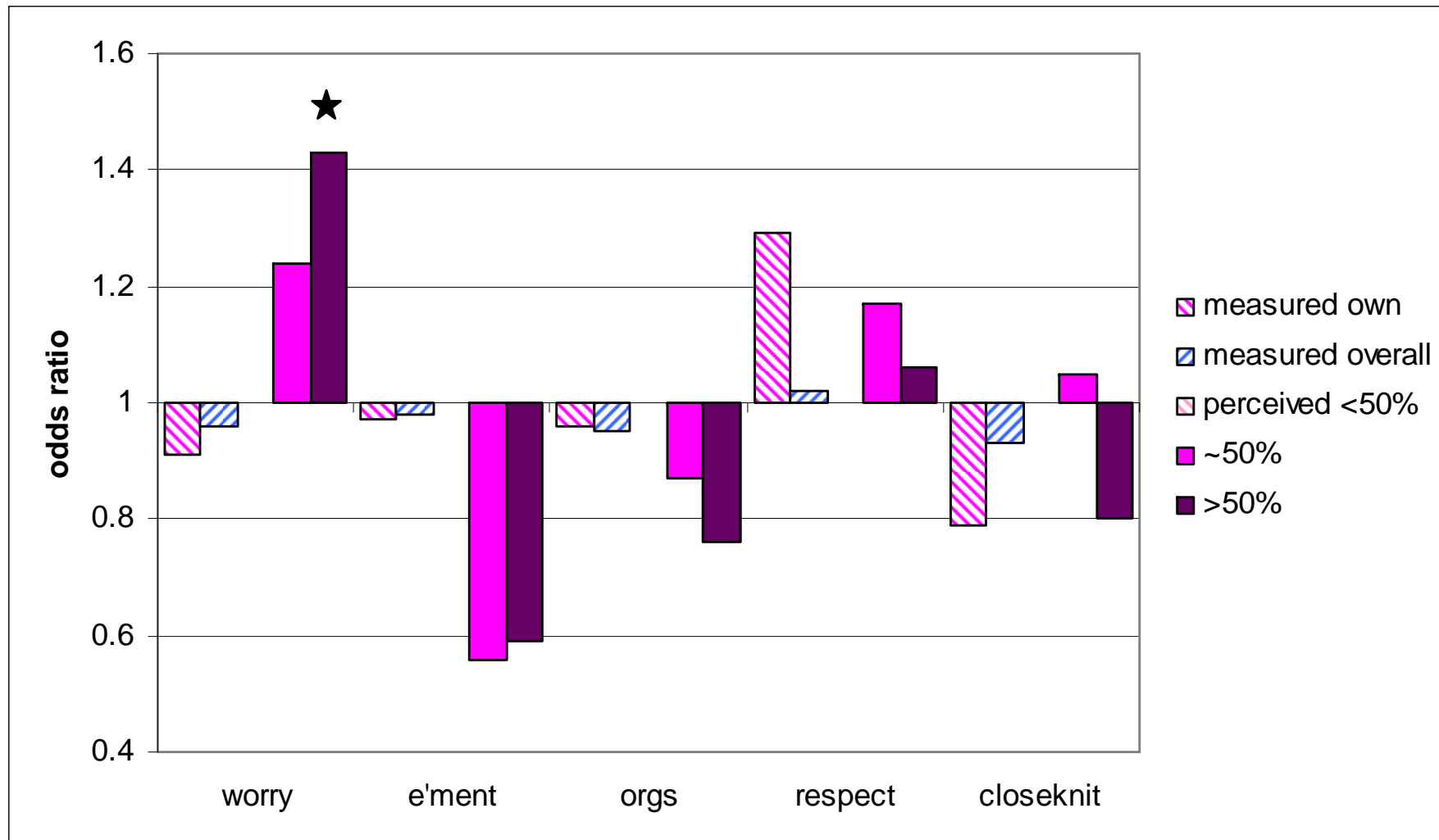
Ethnic density effects : Indians



Ethnic density effects : Pakistanis



Ethnic density effects: Caribbeans



Summary

Higher ED is assoc with lower likelihood of experiencing/perceiving racism

Elements of social cohesion (respect and sense of community) are greater in areas of higher ED

True for most ethnic minorities considered, but not for Caribbeans

Perceived ED (and measured own ED) most clearly related to racism and cohesion

Implications

Ethnic minorities have some benefits from living in more ethnically dense areas

To enable ethnic minorities greater residential choice, need to continue to tackle racism/worry about racism

Opportunity to learn how to promote/preserve social cohesion through looking at high ED areas – generalisable to whole population?

Further work needed – why not applicable to Caribbeans?
Religious density vs ethnic density. Meaning of ethnic identity to Caribbeans cf other groups.

Racial discrimination/social cohesion by ethnicity

	White	Indian	Pakistani	Bangladeshi	Caribbean	African
Worry	9	41	39	43	25	36
E'ment	0.2	3	4	2	6	10
Orgs	29	24	29	30	44	37
Respect	82	86	86	84	81	87
Close-knit	66	67	67	70	61	59

	Indian	Pakistani	Bangla- deshi	Caribbean	African
N East					
N West					
Yorks & Humber		23%			
E Mids	15%				
W Mids	15%	20%	14%	14%	
East of England					
London	44%	28%	66%	64%	76%
S East					
S West					
Wales					