

*Crime, Fear and Blame: Does
respondent ethnicity make a
difference?*

*A Study of British Crime
Survey Data*

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Background

- The **British Crime Survey (BCS)**
 - An in-depth, face-to-face victimisation survey utilising a *nationally representative sample* of adult, private household residents
- This Research
 - Uses BCS data from **2001 through 2007**
 - Focuses on differences by **BME** status
 - Takes into account regional variation by **Police Force Area (PFA)**

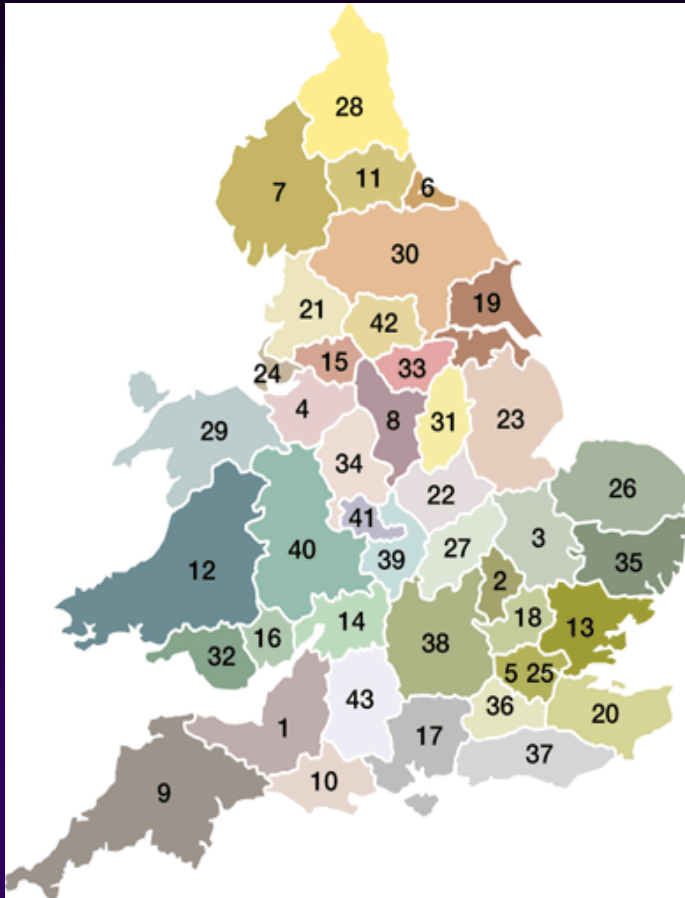
Today's Presentation

- Reports on the results of over 80 *multivariate* and *multilevel* analyses examining ethnic differences in
 - *Victimisation*
 - *Prevalence*: the likelihood of being victimised (yes/no)
 - *Incidence*: the number of times one has been victimised
 - *Fear of Crime*
 - Respondent assessments of how *fear of crime affects their Quality of Life*
 - *Fear of crime index*
 - *Perceptions of the Criminal Justice System (CJS)*
 - *Perceived causes of crime*
 - *Lenient sentencing*
 - *Too few police*
 - *Criminal Justices System perceptions index*

Potential Level One Influences

- Respondent Age
- Female respondent
- Marital Status dummies
- In a higher professional occupation
- Health
- Paid Work
- Educational Qualifications
- Years in Area
- Years at Address
- Number Pub Visits per week
- Number Club Visits per week
- Hours away from home daily
- Year “Dummy” Variables
- Predicted values (prevalence)*
- Drunk problem in area
- Noisy Neighbour Problem
- Teens loitering problem
- Litter problem in area
- Vandalism problem in area
- Skin colour attack problem
- Drug Problem in area
- Area Index (composite)
- Rented HH
- Inner City HH
- HH type dummies (e.g. Flat)
- Child in HH
- Adult male in HH
- Single adult HH
- Security Index (composite)

Level Two: Police Force Areas



- England and Wales are currently divided into 43 geographical areas
 - These specify jurisdictional and administrative boundaries for criminal justice agencies
 - The Police, Prison and Probation Services
 - Magistrates' and Crown Courts

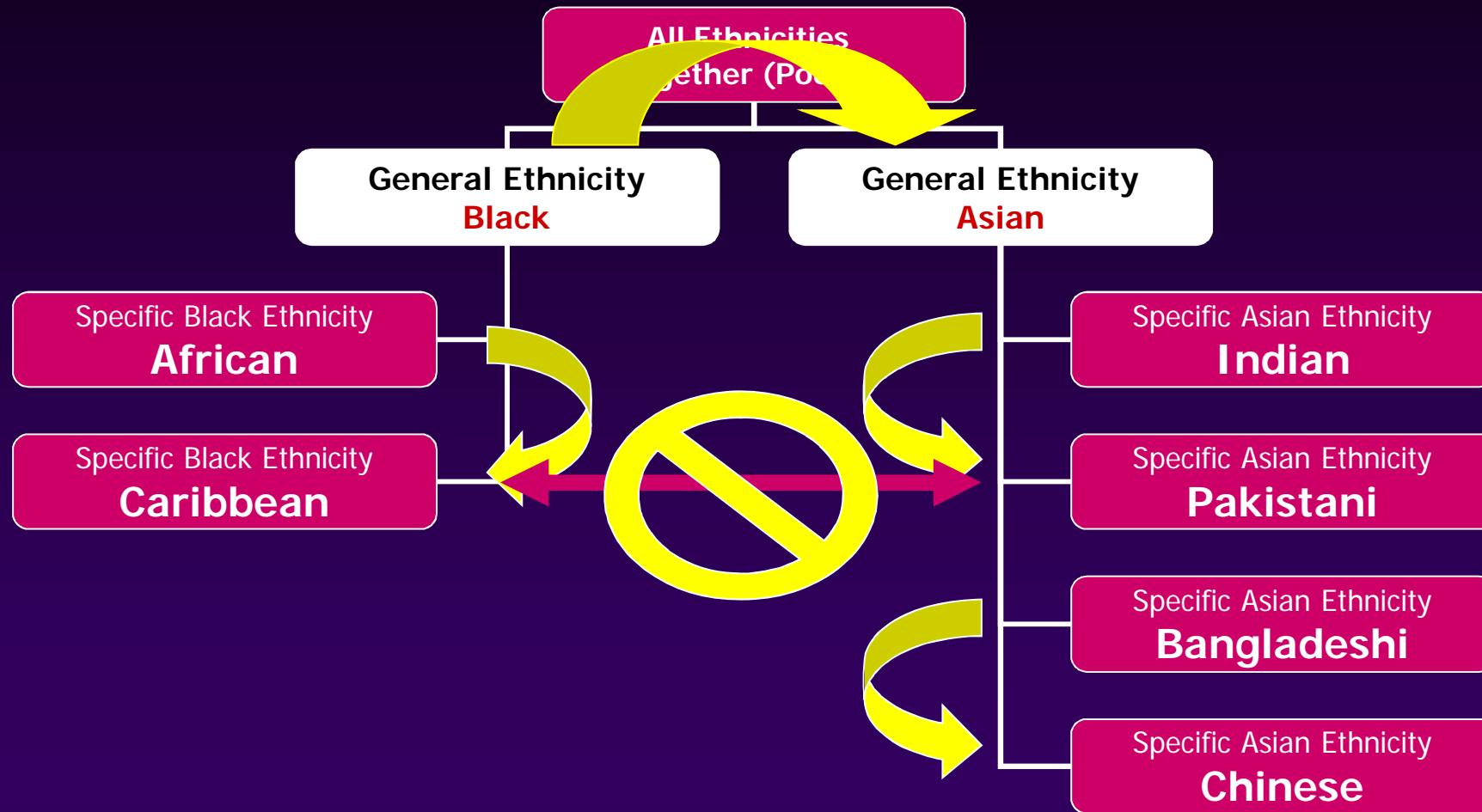
Why examine by Ethnicity?

- Although comprising **less than 10%** of the population, adverse differential treatment of **BME** persons has been well documented in multiple areas
 - Immigration, health care, housing, employment
- Particularly the case with the Criminal Justice System
 - Institutional racism
 - Pre-emptive criminalisation
- **Why expect differences between BMEs?**
 - Integration expectations
 - Cultural background
 - Residential settlement patterns

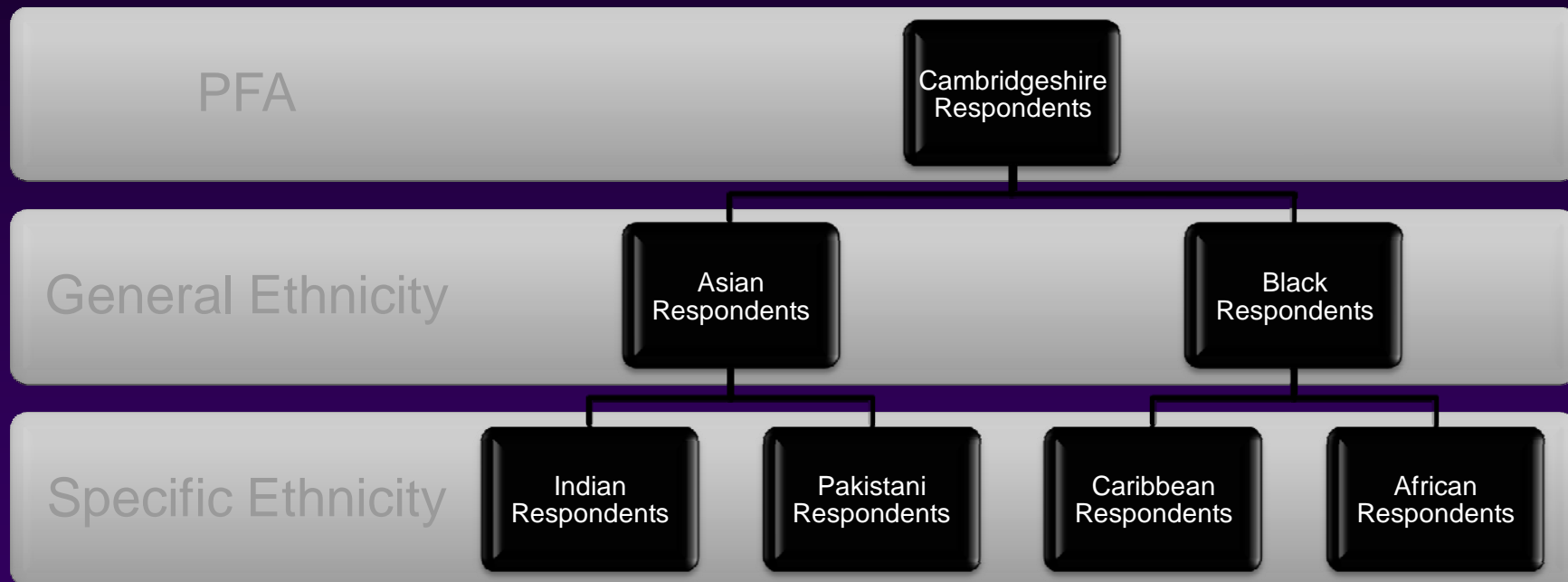
Ethnicity in BCS data: Anomalies

- As captured, only 'Whites' can be simply 'British'
 - 'Black' or 'Asian' respondents cannot simply be 'British'
 - Rather, a **specific** ethnicity is **always** attached
 - 'Black or Black-British– Caribbean' ; 'Asian or Asian-British— Indian'
- Because the BCS categorises respondents in this way, they can be partitioned at two ethnic tiers
 - **General Ethnicity**
 - A larger group differentiated mainly by the traditional 'racial' groupings
 - White, Black, Asian
 - **Specific Ethnicity**
 - A more refined comparison within general ethnicity
 - Under 'Asian', differences between the sub-groups 'Indian', 'Pakistani', 'Bangladeshi' and 'Chinese' can be compared

Ethnicity Modelling and Comparison Strategy



Tying PFA and Ethnicity together



Comparison Problems

- Majority of respondents are '*White British*'
 - Much smaller numbers of the Asian and Black General Ethnicities
- There are even fewer of the specific ethnicities
 - These are not evenly distributed
 - e.g. many more Indians than Chinese



To understand the complexity, multiply by ten...



Victimisation Results

- General ethnicity PFA comparison
 - Prevalence (y/n)
 - Asians 40% less likely to be victimised than whites
 - Effect of ethnicity varies significantly by **PFA non-white population %**
 - % increase = decrease odds Black; increase odds Asian
 - Incidence (number)
 - No difference between the general ethnicities
 - However, significant variation in effect of General Ethnicities by % non-white population of the PFA
 - % increase = decreases number of victimisations for Black and Asian respondents
 - **Both** suggest that the impact of general ethnicity over likelihood of victimisation **varies by location**

Multilevel Victimization Prevalence Comparisons

- **Key Results** for *Specific Ethnicities*
 - No differences by 'Black' ethnicities
 - Pakistanis are *more likely* to be victimised than Indians but Chinese are *less likely*
 - The impact of the specific Asian ethnicities over victimisation varies significantly by PFA
 - ***e.g. Pakistanis range from being 14% to 34% more likely than Indians to be victimised depending upon the PFA***

Victimisation *Incidence* : Multilevel Results

- **Key Results:** 'Black' Model
 - African respondents have *higher incidence* than Caribbean
 - This effect varies by PFA, from 4.6% to 52% higher
- **Key Results:** 'Asian' Model
 - Indians have lower incidence than Pakistanis but higher than Chinese
 - The influence of being Pakistani or Chinese as well as perceiving a **racial attack problem** varies by PFA

Overall Victimisation Patterns

- **Clear ethnic variation by PFA and offence type for prevalence and Incidence**
- **Area indicators are generally***
 - More important for Asian respondents than Black and African respondents than Caribbean*
 - Little difference between Asian ethnicities for prevalence but not so for incidence
 - Several differences between Indian and Pakistani respondents
- **Individual characteristics, Household factors and Routine Activities variables vary in effect by both ethnicity and offence type**

Fear of Crime Index

- Higher scores mean greater fear
- Pooled Multilevel Model
 - 'Black' and 'Asian' respondents have higher scores than 'Whites'
 - *These vary by PFA*
 - The effect of the 'Black' General ethnicity also varies significantly by the *percentage of the PFA population that is non-White*
- 'Asian' model
 - Scores are lower for 'Pakistani' and 'Bangladeshi' than for 'Indian'
- 'Black' model
 - 'Africans' have *higher scores* than 'Caribbeans'
 - The size of the difference varies by PFA
- Single level comparisons
 - Number of observed security measures positive effect for Asian; no effect Black
 - Vandalism/graffiti and Drug User problem has a larger positive effect for Asian than Black

Fear of Crime Affects Quality of Life

- 10 point scale capturing responses to “*What effect does fear of crime have over your quality of life?*”
 - One equals ‘no effect’; 10 equals ‘a total effect’
- ***Results***
 - ***Quality of Life*** for ***both*** Black and Asian respondents is affected ***more adversely*** by fear of crime than for Whites
 - Varies by PFA
 - Ranges from ½ point to 1 point higher for ‘Black’ respondents between PFAS
 - Range is from no difference to half a point difference for ‘Asian’ respondents

Overall Patterns in *Fear of Crime*

- **General Ethnicity**
 - Household and area influences more important for 'Asians'
 - Individual factors more important for 'Black' respondents
 - Routine Activities influences important for both but vary
- **Specific Ethnicity**
 - **Black ethnicities**
 - The effect of Area, Individual and Routine Activity factors vary between 'African' and 'Caribbean' respondents
 - **Asian ethnicities**
 - Pakistanis shows a pattern of influences distinct from the other Asian groups
 - Additional factors influential for Pakistanis
 - When there are differences in effect, the effect size is **larger** for Pakistanis

CJS Perceptions Index

- Higher scores indicate greater confidence in the CJS
 - Pooled results
 - Assessment of the CJS was ***significantly better*** amongst 'Asian' and 'Black' respondents as compared to 'Whites'
 - The impact of being either 'Asian' or 'Black' varied by PFA
 - The ***higher*** the ***percentage of the PFA population that was non-white***, the ***lower*** the 'Asian' assessment of the CJS; ***no impact*** for 'Black' respondents
 - General Ethnicity
 - ***Prior Victimisation lowered*** CJS assessment for 'Asian' Respondents
 - ***Having been a juror in a criminal case improved*** 'Asian' CJS assessments but ***lowered*** 'Black' CJS assessments

CJS Assessments

- ***‘Too lenient sentencing is a major cause of crime in Britain’***
 - Likelihood of ‘yes’ lower for ‘Asian’ and ‘Black’ than ‘White’ (varying moderately by PFA)
 - As the % non-white population of a PFA increases, so does the Asian likelihood of saying ‘yes’
- ***‘Too few police is a major cause of crime in Britain’***
 - Likelihood of ‘yes’ lower for ‘Asian’ *and* ‘Black’ than ‘White’ (varying moderately by PFA)
 - As the % non-white population of a PFA increases, so does the ‘Asian’ likelihood of saying ‘yes’

Findings, Implications and Conclusions

- The results demonstrate the dangers of treating different **BME** groups as *interchangeable*
 - Different factors play a role for each group
 - BME-based variations in the size of effect are present
- The findings reinforce the notion that *cultural factors* play a significant role in respondents' experiences and assessments
 - These should be taken into account when designing interventions meant to impact fear of crime or improve perceptions of the CJS
 - Not accounting for them can produce strategies that work only for the dominant group

Questions?

Thank you