Unequal Deaths: The Prostate Cancer Mortality Divide

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#10000 BLACK INTERNS

Background

- Prostate cancer is England's **most common** cancer (>**55,000 cases** and **12,000 deaths** yearly)[1].
- **Black men** are **twice as likely** to get prostate cancer (1 in 4 vs 1 in 8) and twice as likely to die from it than other men[2].
- However, how demographic and socioeconomic factors shape prostate cancer mortality remains unclear.
- This project investigates demographic and socioeconomic influences on ethnic inequalities in prostate cancer mortality.

Objectives

1. How do prostate cancer mortality rates vary by **ethnicity** in England?
2. Do ethnic inequalities in prostate cancer mortality persist across different levels of **deprivation**?
3. Are ethnic disparities in prostate cancer mortality greater in certain **socioeconomic groups**?

Methods

- **Data Source**: Office of National Statistics (ONS) England prostate cancer mortality dataset (21st Mar 2021 – 31st Jan 2023).
- **Design**: Population-based study, descriptive analysis.

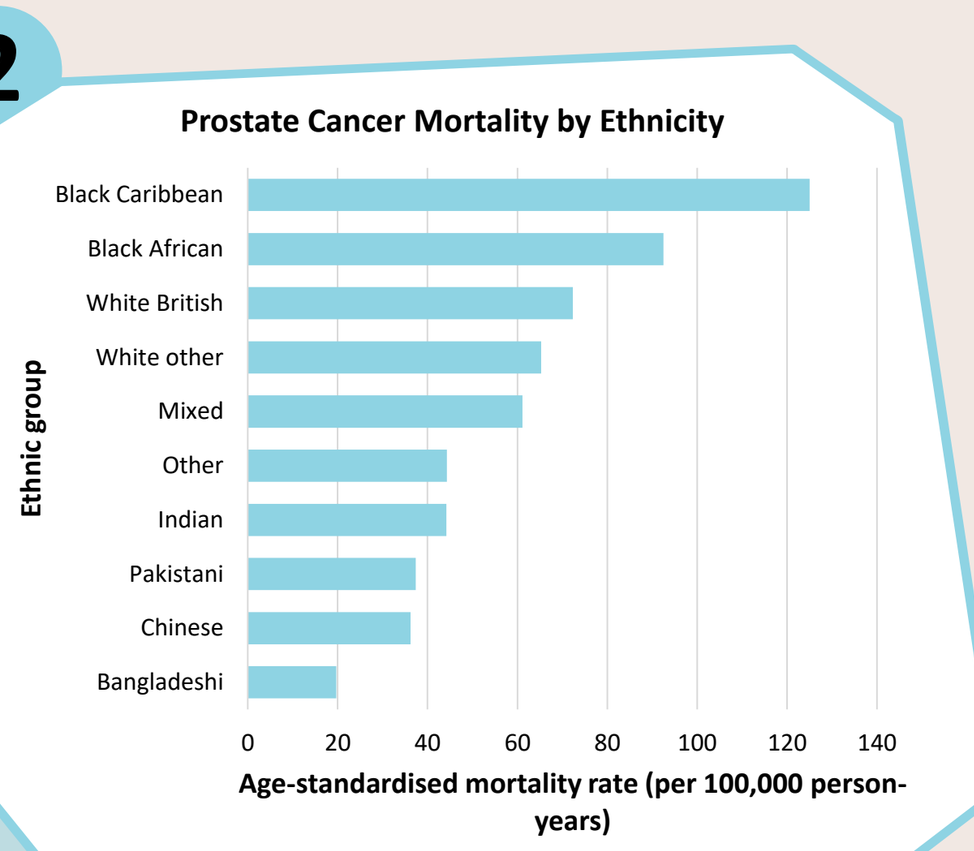
Results

1

Between 21st March 2021 and January 31st 2023, there were **26,270** prostate cancer deaths in England.

Ethnicity	White	Black	Asian	Mixed	Other
No. of Deaths	24,920	615	445	80	210

2



- Black groups have the highest rates (up to **2× White**, **6× Asian**).
- Within-group gaps: Black Caribbean > Black African; Indian > Bangladeshi.

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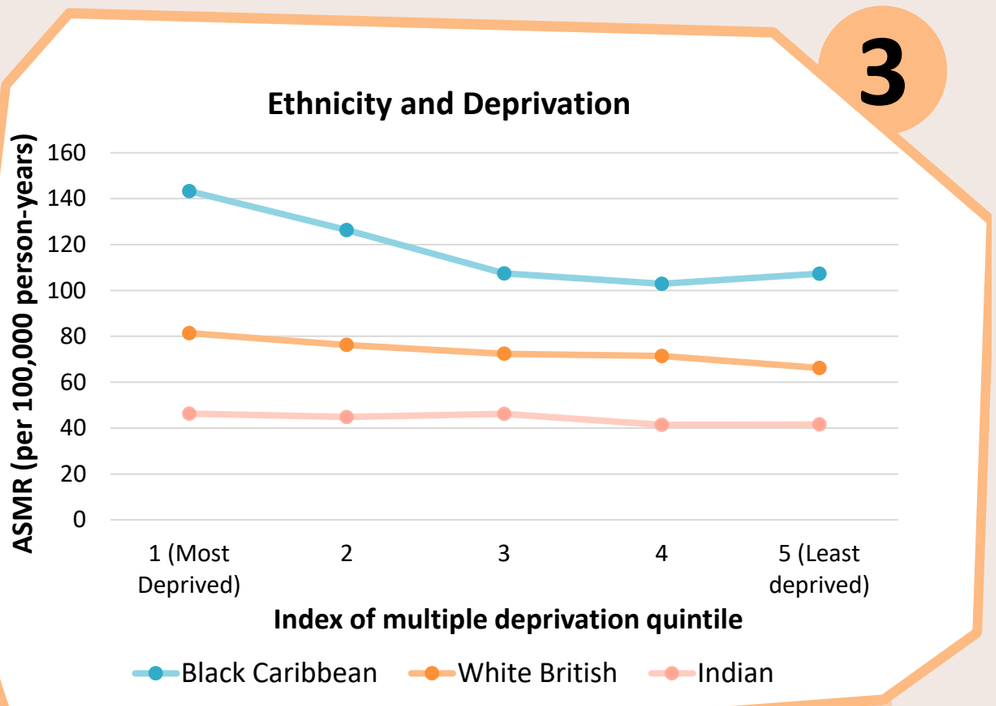

- Black Caribbean men had the highest rate in every deprivation level.
- Rates fall with less deprivation, but ethnicity gap persists.
- Biggest gap in the most deprived quintile.

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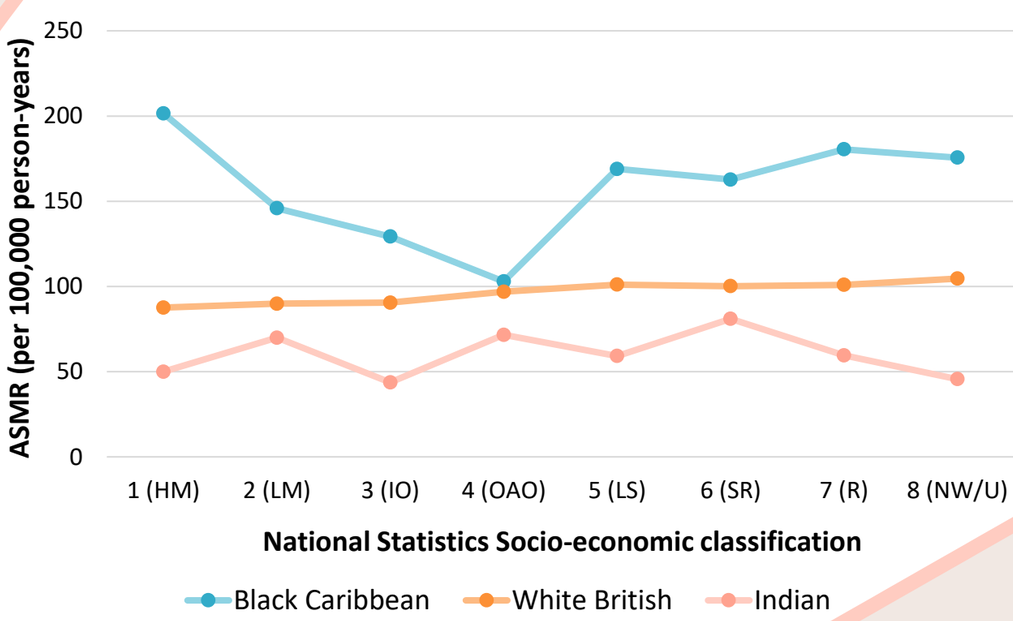

- Black Caribbean men highest in all NS-SEC groups.
- Pattern less consistent than deprivation
- Largest gap in highest NS-SEC group.

NS-SEC key:
1 (HM) – Higher Managerial Professional Occupations | 2 (LM) – Lower Managerial Professional Occupations| 3 (IO) – Intermediate Occupations | 4 (OAO) – Small Employers & Own Account Workers| 5 (LS) – Lower Supervisory & Technical Occupations| 6 (SR) – Semi-Routine Occupations | 7 (R) – Routine Occupations | 8 (NW/U) – Never Worked / Long-term Unemployed

Discussion

- Ethnic disparities exist both **between** and **within** major ethnic groups, with **Black men being most at risk**.
- Demographic and socioeconomic factors may contribute to ethnic inequalities, but do not fully explain them.
- Larger, better-quality ethnicity data are needed to strengthen evidence for ethnic minority groups.
- Future research should examine whether disparities persist across regions in England.

References:

1. Clarke N, Tree A, Van der Meulen J, Cowling T, Cook A, Mayne E, *et al.* National Prostate Cancer Audit State of the Nation Report. NATCAN; 2025 Jan.
2. Lloyd T, Hounsome L, Mehay A, Mee S, Verne J, Cooper A. Lifetime risk of being diagnosed with, or dying from, prostate cancer by major ethnic group in England 2008–2010. BMC Medicine. 2015 Jul 30;13(1).