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Race Disparity Audit: Measurement and Trends in Inequalities of Opportunity in the UK

Vasileios Antonopoulos

Richard Laux

What this paper will discuss:

The UK's approach on measuring inequalities of opportunity related with ethnicity by establishing the world's first race disparity audit.

The differences in outcomes on income, employment, education, well-being and health for the main ethnic groups in the UK and different UK regions.

The differences in outcomes by ethnicity and other subgroups, such as gender and disability.

Abstract

The UK's Cabinet Office launched the world's first race disparity audit in 2016, with the aim of tackling “burning injustices” in the UK informed by data on the experiences and outcomes related to public services for different ethnic groups. Since then, the Race Disparity Audit has monitored progress against a wide set of topics

Crime, Justice and the Law;

Culture and community;

Education, skills and training;

Health;

Housing;

UK population;

Work, pay and benefits; and

Workforce and business.

Based on the above topics the Race Disparity Audit (RDA) has published more than 170 indicators on a variety of outcomes by ethnicity, including, for example, employment rates, educational attainment for a variety of age groups, GP satisfaction rates and internet use. In doing so, the RDA has provided more transparent and accessible data on inequalities facing ethnic groups through its Ethnicity facts and figures website, which has been positively received for its presentation, clarity, quality of data and level of usability.

This paper aims to introduce the work of the team responsible for the Audit and present the main findings of the Audit related to inequalities of opportunity. The first section of the paper will introduce the Audit's approach to measuring outcomes by ethnicity and will present a selection of indicators to illustrate how we monitor outcomes by ethnicity. The second section will present the differences in outcomes related to income, employment, education, well-being and health for the main ethnic groups in the UK. Following this, it will examine the regional dimension of the inequalities of opportunity by ethnicity including employment and education. It will also present inequality of opportunities by other subgroups such as gender, disability and socioeconomic status where the data are available.

The third section will discuss the relationship between ethnicity and outcomes by presenting the results of a regression analysis. The authors will use a logistic model to estimate differences observed in the outcomes between ethnic groups taking into account individual characteristics. Finally, the paper will describe the future developments of the Audit, such as our strategy to improve the quality (at the macro and micro levels) of ethnicity data in the UK.