

# Why do People From Ethnic Minorities Have a Higher Mortality Risk from COVID-19 in England?

Vasileios Antonopoulos  
(Cabinet Office)

Richard Laux  
(Cabinet Office)

## **Abstract:**

The coronavirus pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on ethnic minorities in the UK. For example, men from the Black African ethnic group had 3.7 times the risk of dying from COVID-19 compared to White men of the same age during the first wave in England (4 January 2020 to 11 September 2020) (ONS, 2021). Analysis from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), Public Health England (PHE) and academia revealed that a range of socioeconomic and geographical factors coupled with pre-existing health conditions were contributing to the higher infection and mortality rates for ethnic minority groups, with a part of the excess risk remaining unexplained for some groups.

This paper aims to present the analysis undertaken within England on the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on ethnic minorities. It will present analysis conducted from government sources, academic and scientific groups. The first section of this paper presents the risk factors related to infection and mortality from COVID-19 and how they link with issues faced by ethnic minority groups within the UK. The paper focuses on risk factors such as geography, housing, occupation and pre-existing health conditions. The second section presents mortality analysis and how different risk factors explain the higher risk of dying from COVID-19 for some ethnic minorities in England. It also describes how the risk of dying from COVID-19 changed between the two waves in England for different ethnic groups. Lastly the paper discusses why some ethnic minority groups still have a higher risk from dying from COVID-19 than the White group, after taking into account factors such as geography, occupation, housing and health conditions.