

Ethnicity and Poverty: Initial Findings PSE 2012

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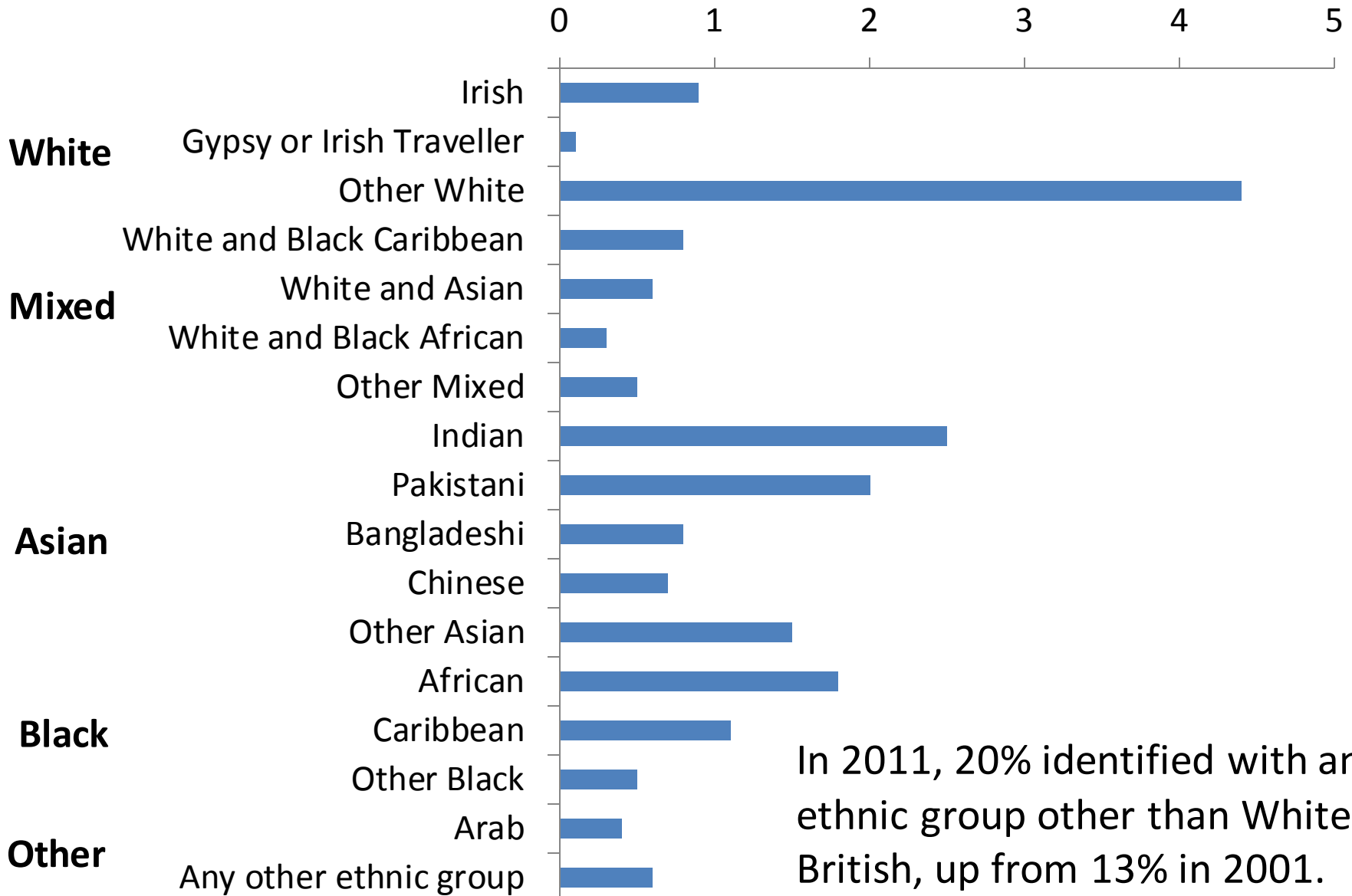
Third Peter Townsend Memorial Conference
Poverty and Social Exclusion in the UK



Overview

- Ethnic diversity in Britain
- Poverty and Ethnicity: existing evidence
- PSE Dataset
- Analysis – PSE poverty
 - Deprivation
 - Income
 - Subjective poverty
 - Employment and in-work poverty
- Conclusions

Ethnic diversity in England and Wales



Existing survey evidence

The general picture is also of ethnic diversity:

- Bangladeshi and Pakistani people are much more likely to be poor, Black Caribbeans and Black Africans are also disadvantaged but Indian and Chinese people are more affluent.

But there are methodological issues:

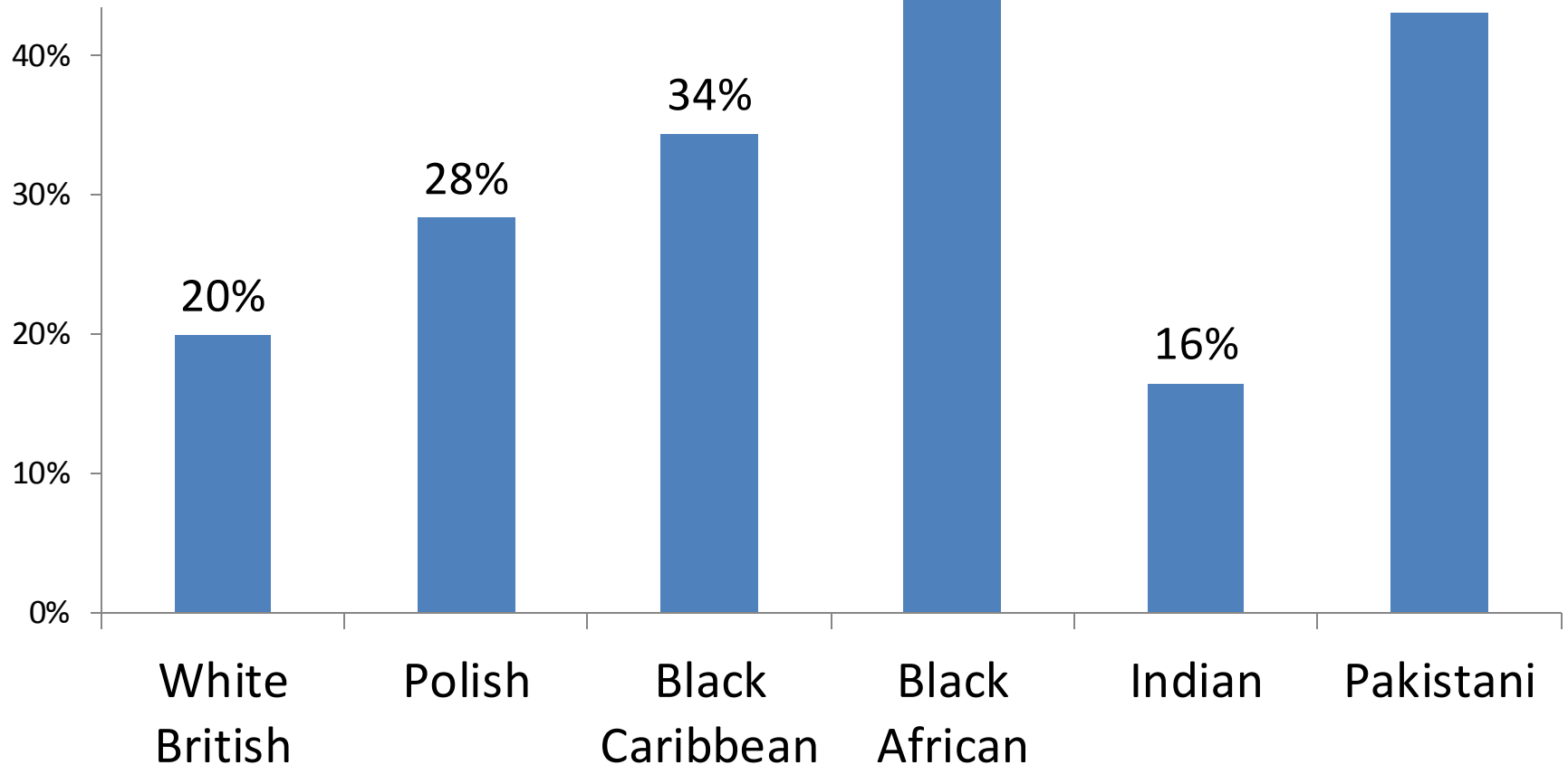
- There is little recent analysis
- The measures used are often income-based
- There is more limited evidence on Black African and minority White groups.

PSE Dataset

- The PSE dataset over-sampled FRS households which included at least one individual (adult or child) with an ethnic minority background.
- Response rate: 49% for the ethnic boost (58% overall)
- Ethnicity was self-defined using the 2011 Census categories. The 'Other' categories provide unique opportunities to examine a range of groups not included in other surveys e.g. Polish.
- The GB sample, and sample sizes, for these analyses are:
White British (N=5821); Polish (93); Black Caribbean (174); Black African (162); Indian (297); and Pakistani (183).

PSE Poverty

Black Africans, Black Caribbeans and Pakistanis are significantly more likely to be in poverty than white British and Indian people.



Average deprivation score

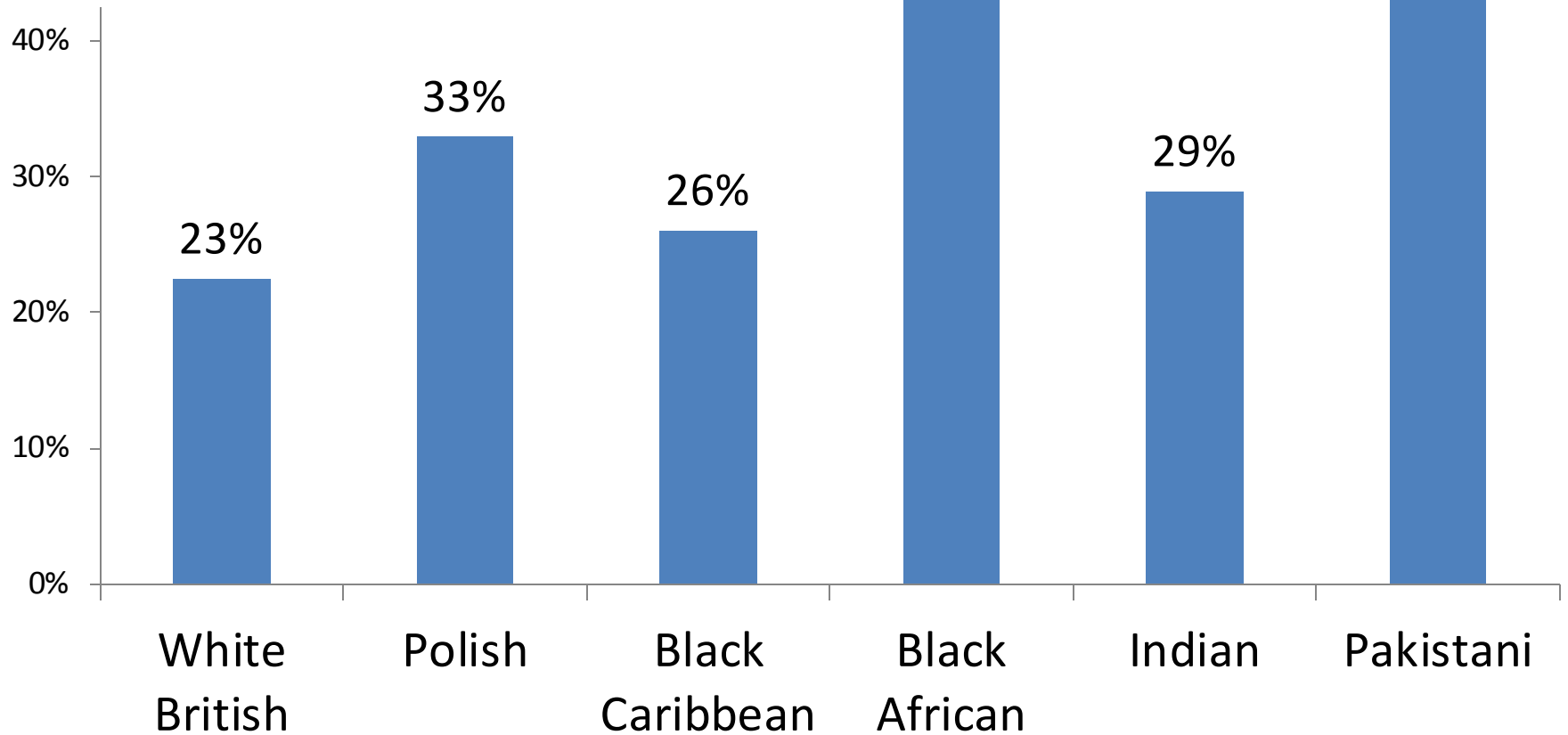
Ethnic group	Consensual deprivation all item index for adults (Mean)
Black African	5.1
Black Caribbean	3.7
Pakistani	3.2
White British	2.3
Indian	2.2
Polish	2.1

Black Africans living in poverty:

- 5% cannot afford two meals a day (compared to the overall PSE average of 2%)
- 15% do not have enough money to have two pairs of all-weather shoes (compared to 8% overall)
- 18% reported having four or more housing-related problems and 15% cannot afford to heat their home (compared to 8% overall)
- 21% cannot afford a hobby or a leisure activity (compared to 8% overall)
- 55% don't have enough money to keep home in a decent state of decoration (compared to 32%)
- 77% cannot afford to pay for an unexpected, but necessary, expense of £500 (compared to 33% overall)

Income poverty

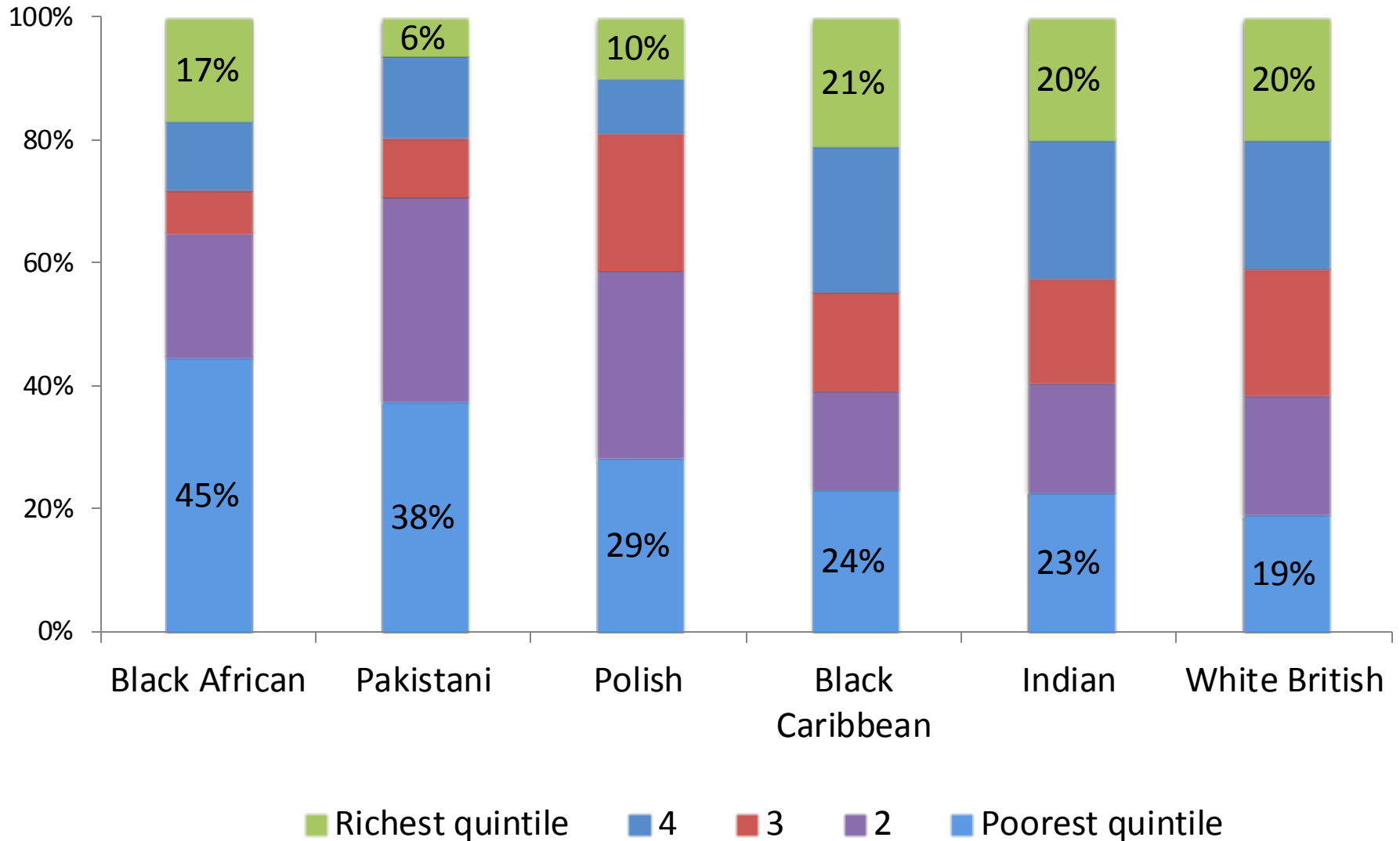
Black African and Pakistani people are significantly more likely to experience income poverty than white British, Black Caribbean and Indian people.



Average weekly income

Ethnic group	Equivalised Net Weekly Household Income (AHC)
Pakistani	£273
Polish	£296
Black African	£332
Black Caribbean	£396
Indian	£421
White British	£425

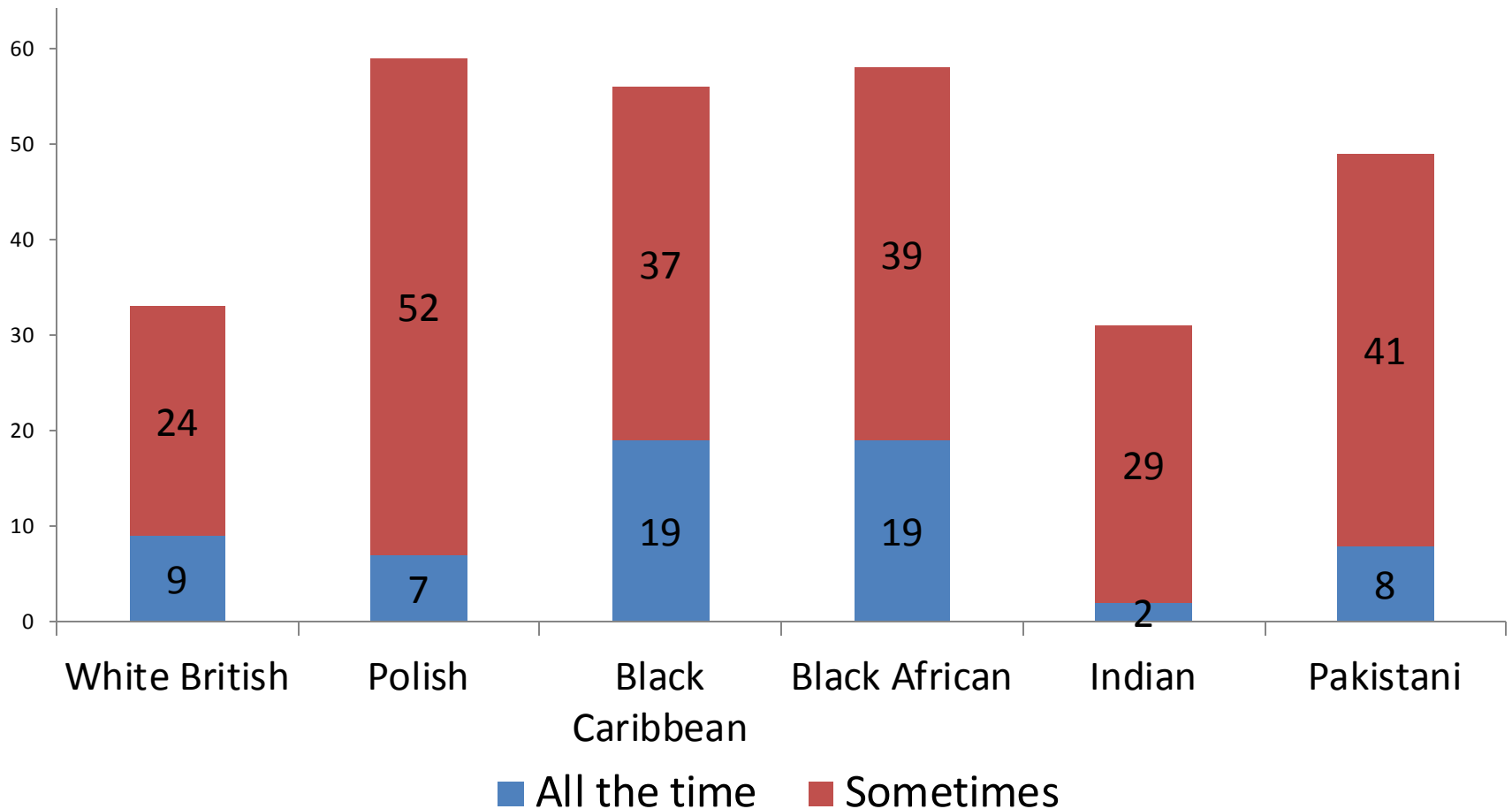
Distribution of Income



Subjective Poor: Do you feel poor now?

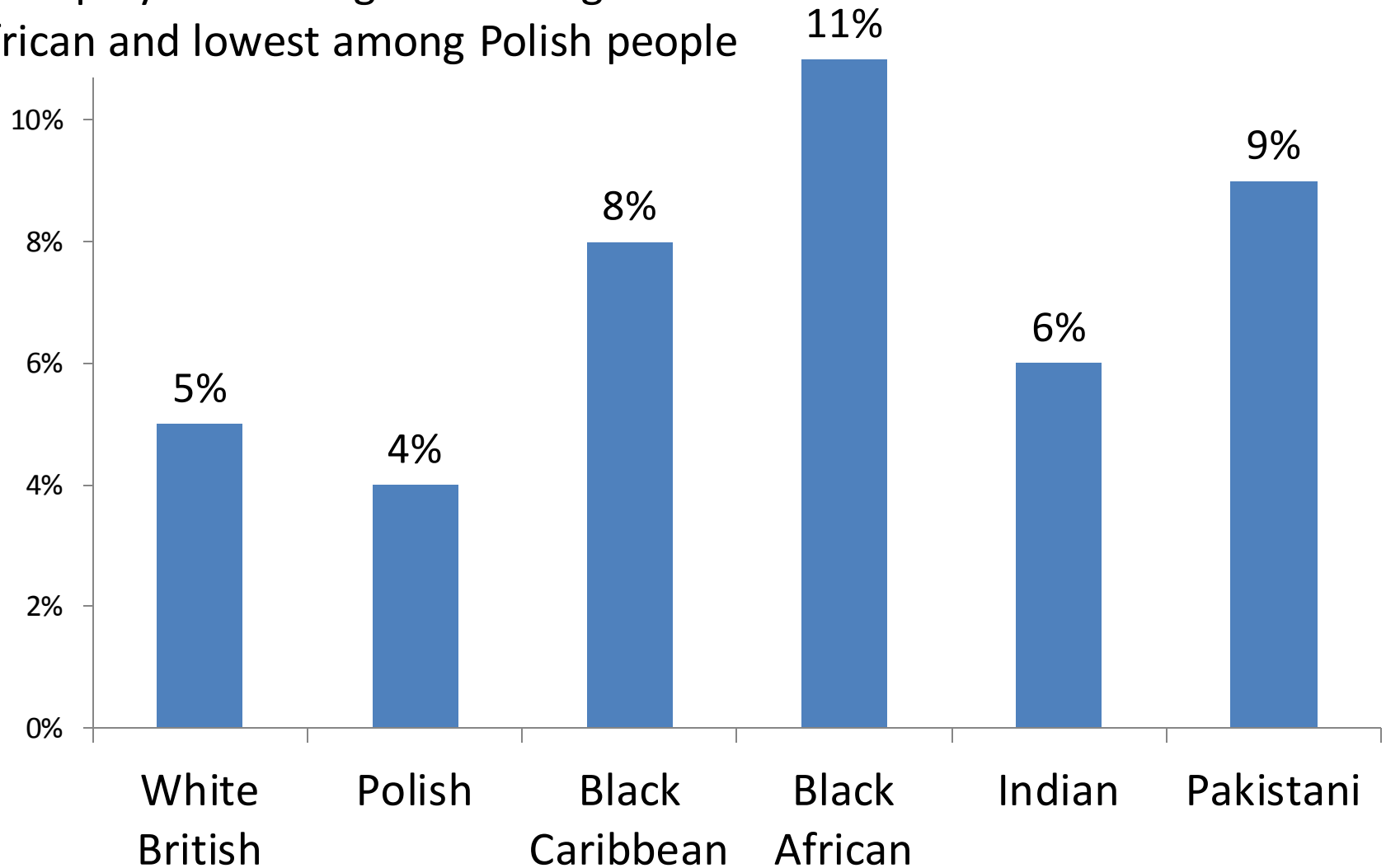
Similar proportions of Polish people report feeling poor to other disadvantaged groups.

Black Caribbean and African people were significantly more likely to feel poor 'all the time'



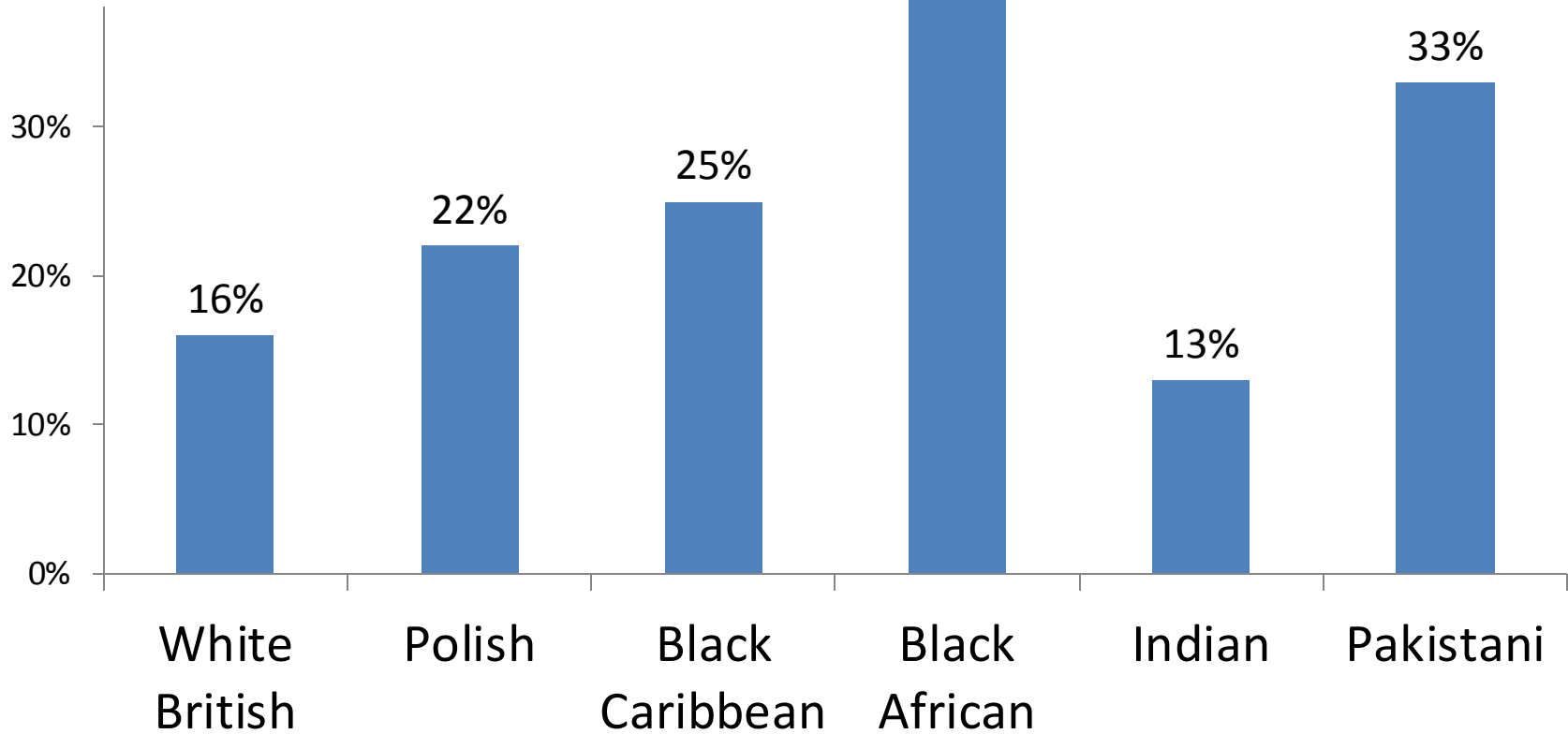
Unemployment

Unemployment is highest among Black African and lowest among Polish people



In-Work Poverty

Almost half of Black African and a third of Pakistani people in work are in poverty.



Conclusions

- The experience of poverty varies across ethnic groups.
- The opportunity to look at additional groups offered by the PSE provides important new insights into the experiences of poverty among people with different ethnicities in Britain.
- There is also further evidence of the need to look at variations within groups

“Name any group whose poverty causes national concern - pensioners, disabled people, one-parent families, the unemployed – Pakistanis and Bangladeshis were poorer.”

(Berthoud 1997:768)