

# Ethnicity and Inequalities in Health Expectancies

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InHALE -

Inequalities in Healthy Active Life Expectancy: the role of time, place, person and methods

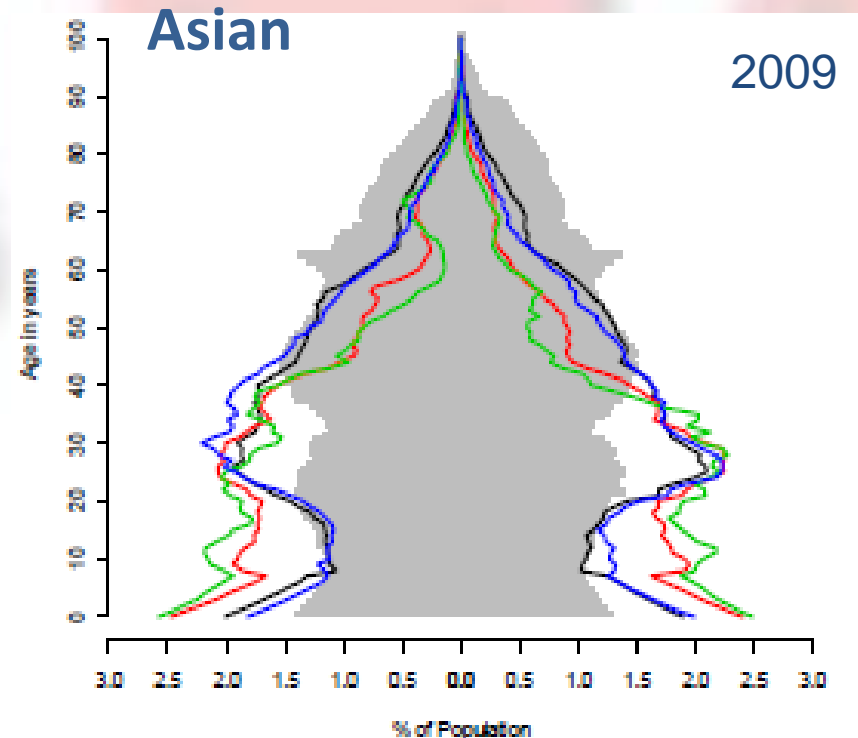
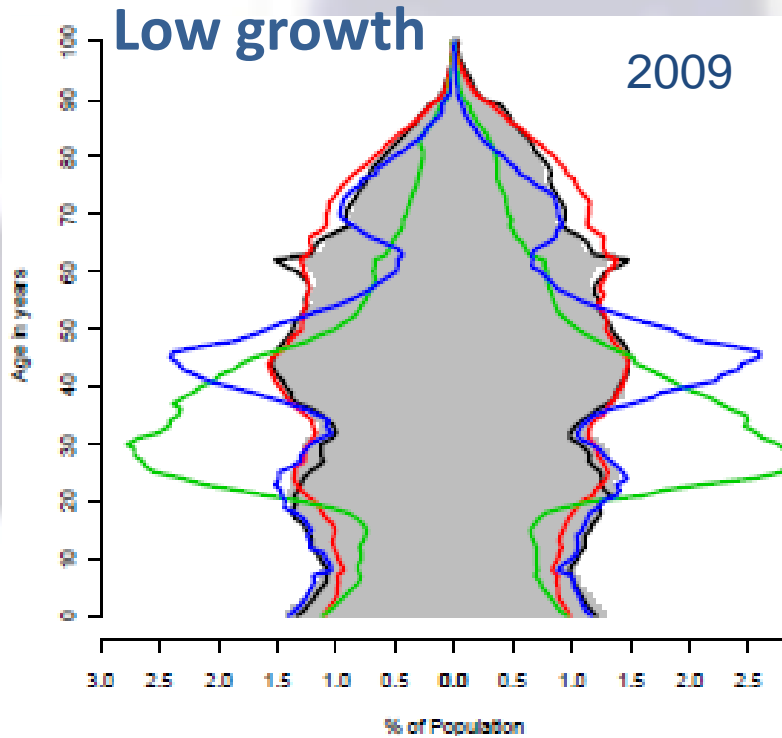
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<http://research.ncl.ac.uk/InHALE>

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# Rationale

- Population ageing



**White British**

**White Irish**

**White Other**

**Black Caribbean**

**Total population**

**Indian**

**Pakistani**

**Bangladeshi**

**Other Asian**

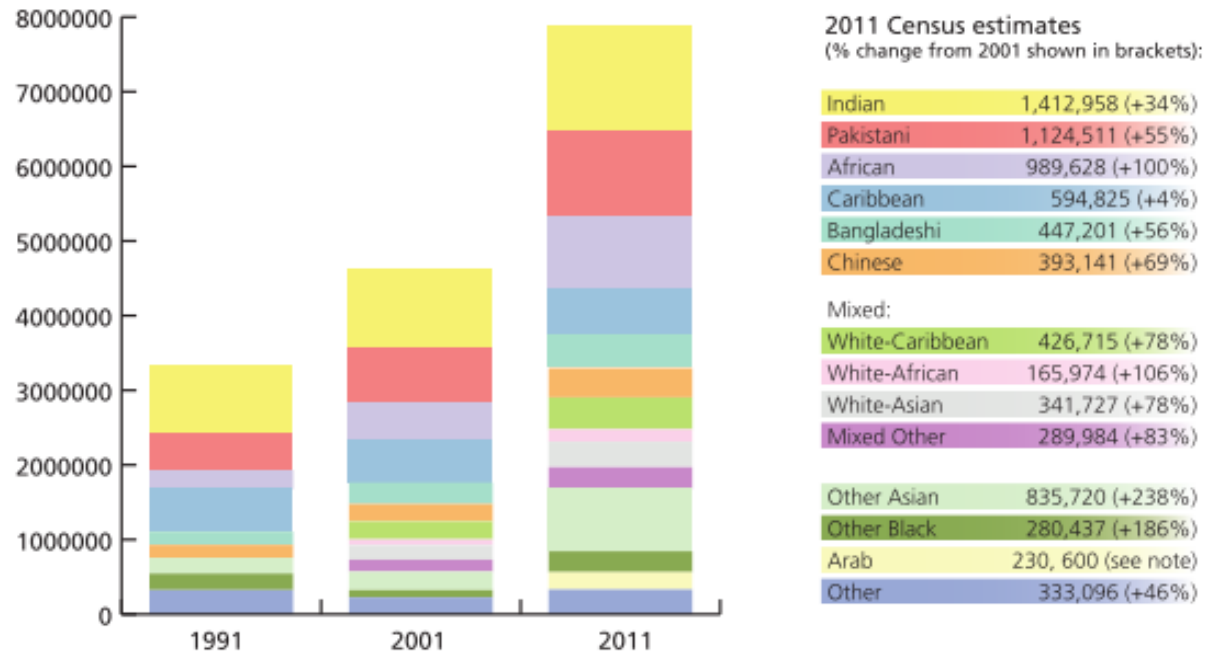
# Rationale

- Compositional change

Today (2011)

- ~14% of the population belong to ethnic minority group other than White
- 1 in 5 considers themselves as not White British

Figure 2. Growth in ethnic minority group population in England & Wales, 1991-2001-2011



Jivraj S. How has ethnic diversity grown 1991-2001-2011? In: Simpson LaJ, Stephen editor. *Dynamics of diversity: evidence from the 2011 Census*. Manchester: Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity, The University of Manchester, 2012.

# Research Questions

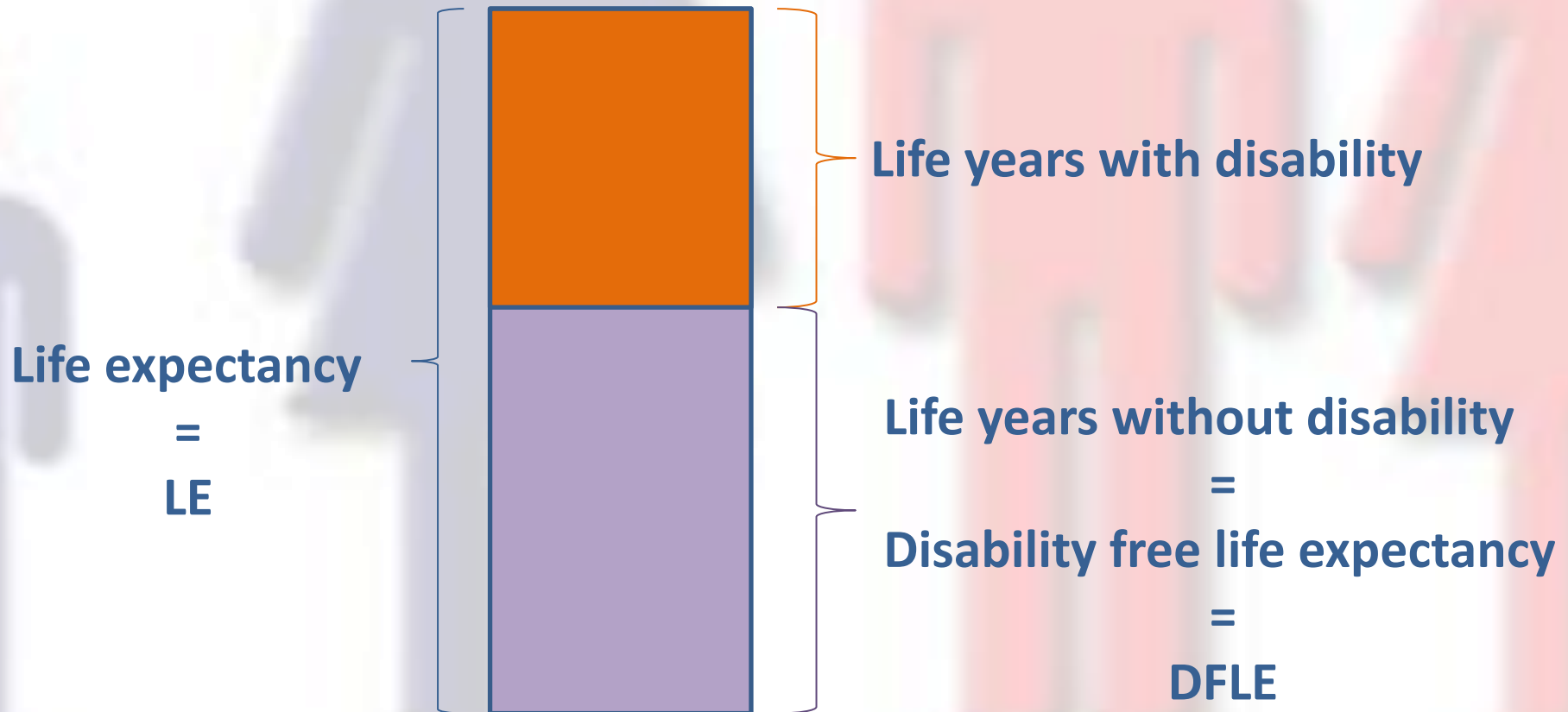
- How do health expectancies vary for ethnic groups in England and Wales?
- Are those differences significant?

Why don't we know this already?

➔ Lack of mortality data for ethnic groups

# What are health expectancies?

## Example: Disability free life expectancy



# Ethnic groups England & Wales (2001)

☐ Self identified / 16 options

- **White** (British, Irish, Other)
- **Mixed** (White & Black Caribbean, White & Black African, White & Asian, Other)
- **Asian or Asian British** (Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Other)
- **Black or Black British** (Caribbean, African, Other)
- Chinese or **Other** Ethnic Group.

# Data

- **Mortality estimates for ethnic groups** (Rees *et al.* 2009)
- **2 Census questions**

**11** Over the last twelve months would you say your health has on the whole been:

- Good?
- Fairly good?
- Not good?

*Healthy life expectancy  
-HLE*

**13** Do you have any long-term illness, health problem or disability which limits your daily activities or the work you can do?

◆ Include problems which are due to old age.

- Yes
- No

*Disability free life  
Expectancy -DFLE*

- **Sullivan method**



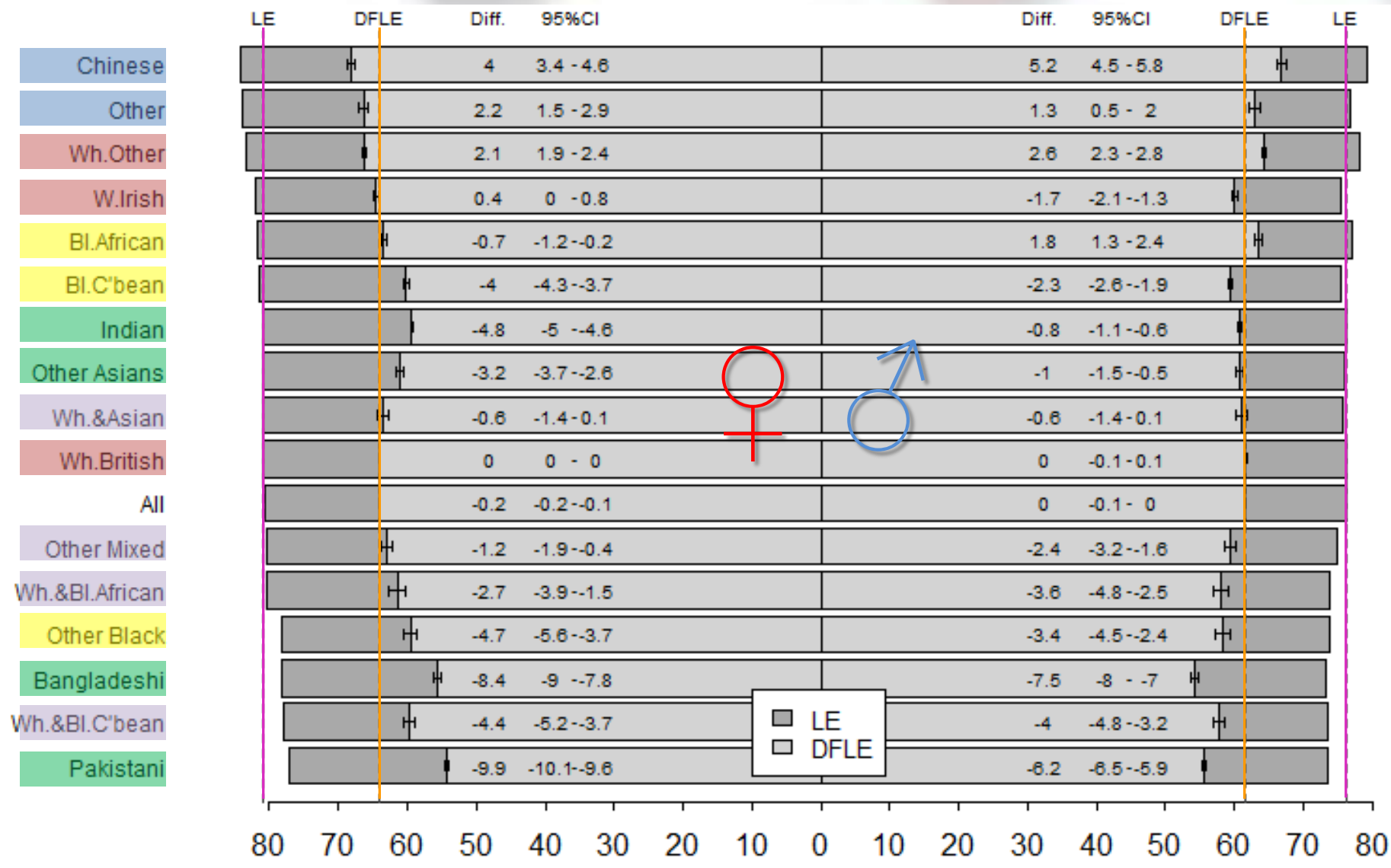
# Results



# Life expectancy and disability free life expectancy at birth

• Ordered by Women LE

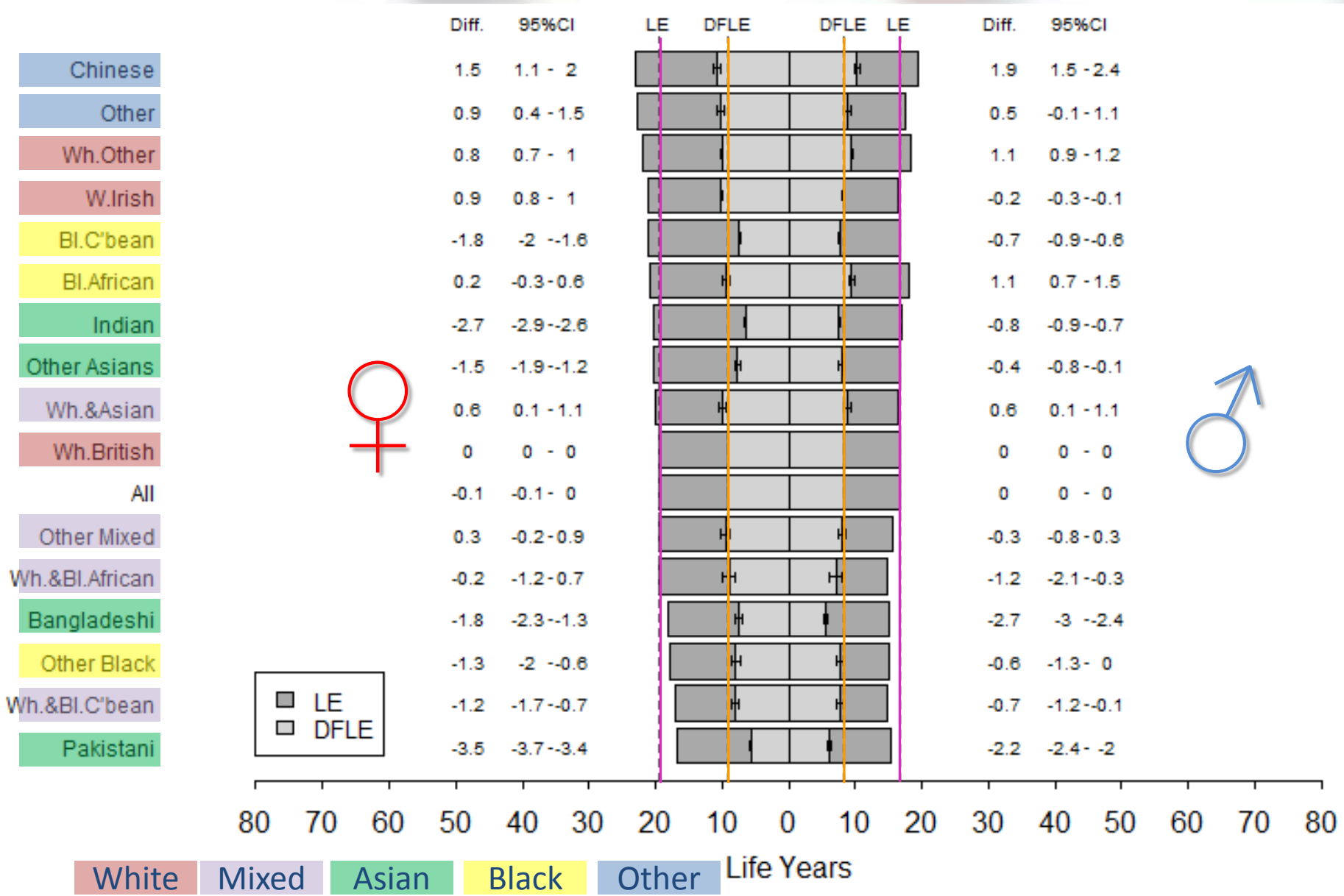
Differences compared to White British group



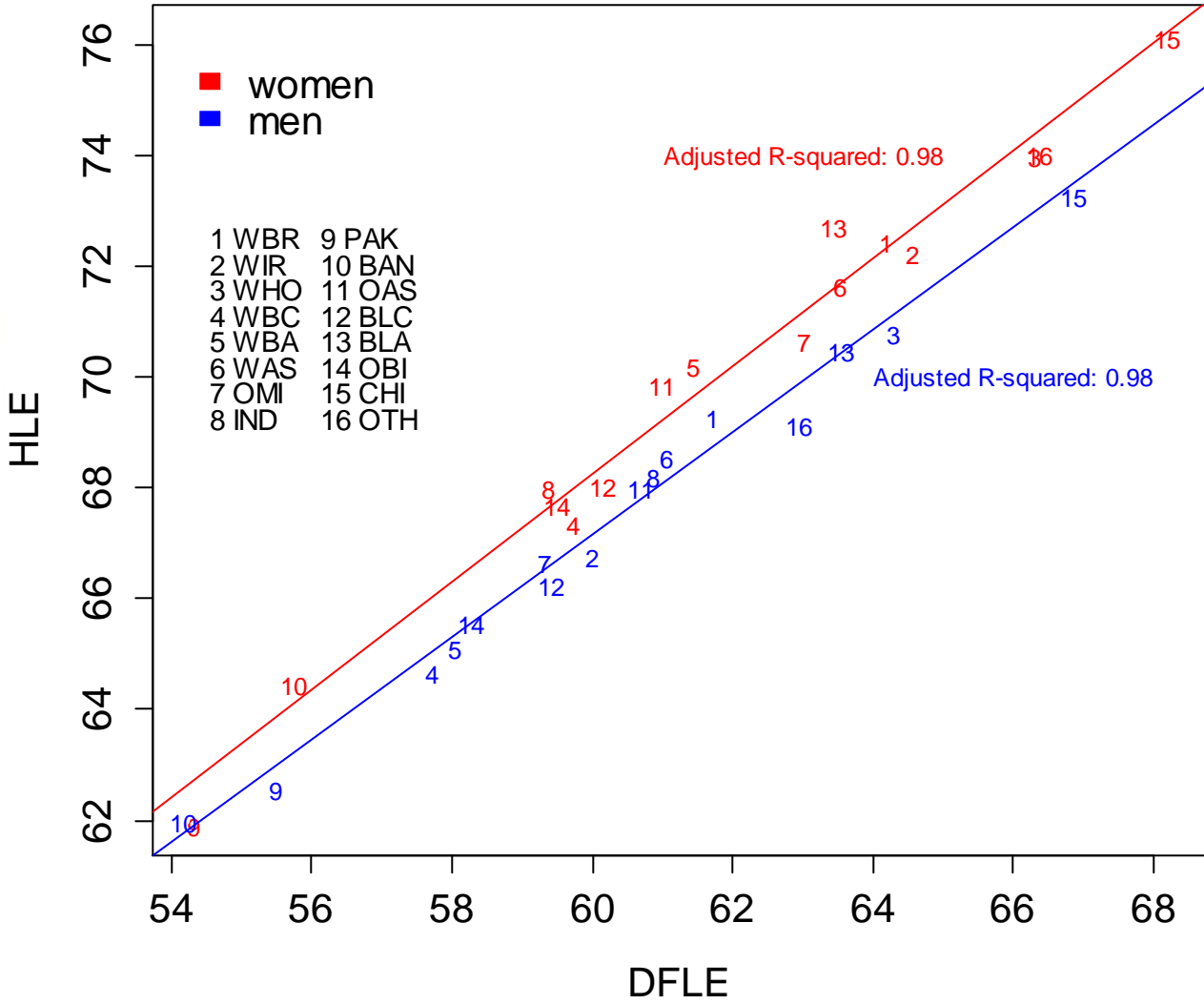
White Mixed Asian Black Other Life Years

# Life expectancy and disability free life expectancy at 65

- Ordered by Women LE
- Differences compared to White British group



# DFLE & HLE at birth, ethnic groups, men and women



# Summary

- **Variation in DFLE at birth: men 12.7 years, women 13.9 years for women, double of life expectancy**
- **DFLE at birth highest for Chinese men & women**
- **Over half of ethnic groups (men:10, women:9) significantly lower DFLE than White British**
- **Low DFLE in some Black, Asian and Mixed ethnic groups, lowest: Bangladeshi men & Pakistani women**
- **Indian women LE similar to White British, but low DFLE**

# Conclusions and Discussions

- **Mortality inequalities underestimate health inequalities**
- **Two Health expectancy measures – more confident in results**
- **Not all variation explained by socioeconomic factors**
- **More non-White British people in population – importance to pick ethnic groups at higher risk of disability to target appropriate interventions**





THANKS



Questions?



Scotland - Edinburgh - REVES 2014

The background features several stylized human figures in various colors (blue, red, grey) that are blurred and semi-transparent. These figures are arranged in a loose line across the top and middle of the page, serving as a decorative backdrop for the text.

**How does England and Wales  
compare to other countries?**



# References

- Data source: Adapted from data from the Office for National Statistics licensed under the Open Government Licence v.1.0.
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