

**Whose problem is cohesion anyway?
Challenging misconceptions about social
integration and community cohesion.**

Dr. Adele Smaill
Corporate Research Team
Oldham MBC

Some Dominant Ideas in Public Discourse

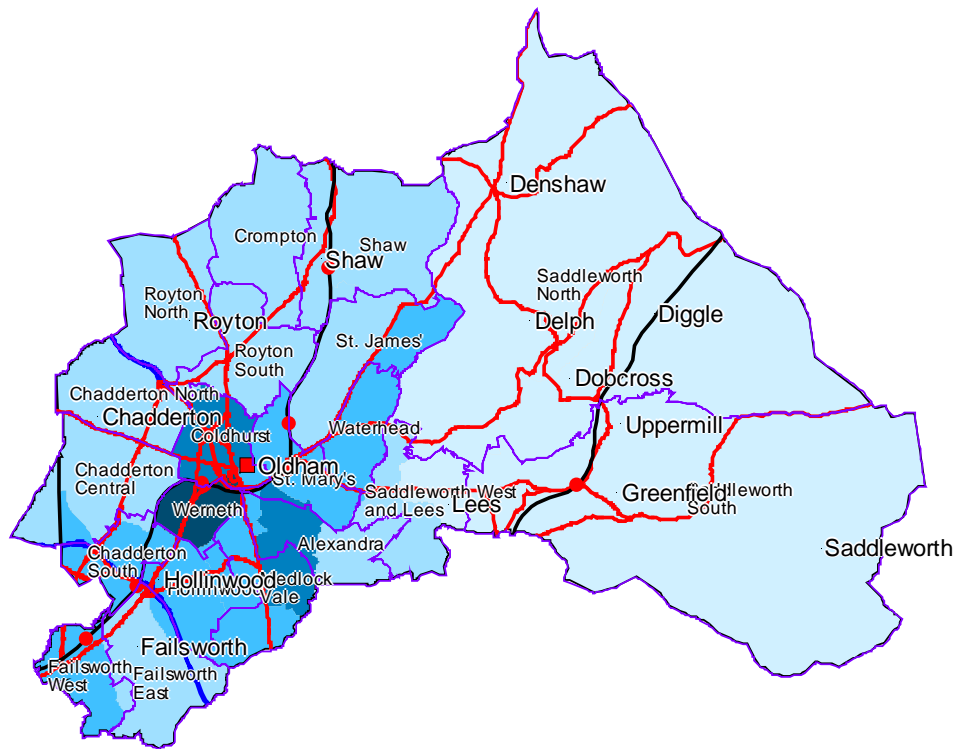
- British Muslim communities, especially Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities are 'inward-looking' and 'insular'
- British Muslims need to do more to integrate into 'mainstream' society
- Has multi-culturalism gone too far?

About Oldham Borough

- About 219, 000 people.
- Ethnically diverse (84% White British, 6.5% Pakistani British, 4.5% Bangladeshi British).
- Mostly established communities, but also newer arrivals from a range of places including Poland and Iraq.
- 50 languages spoken in the Borough.

Population Density in Oldham Borough (2001 Census)

© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council. Licence No. LA 076260 2003

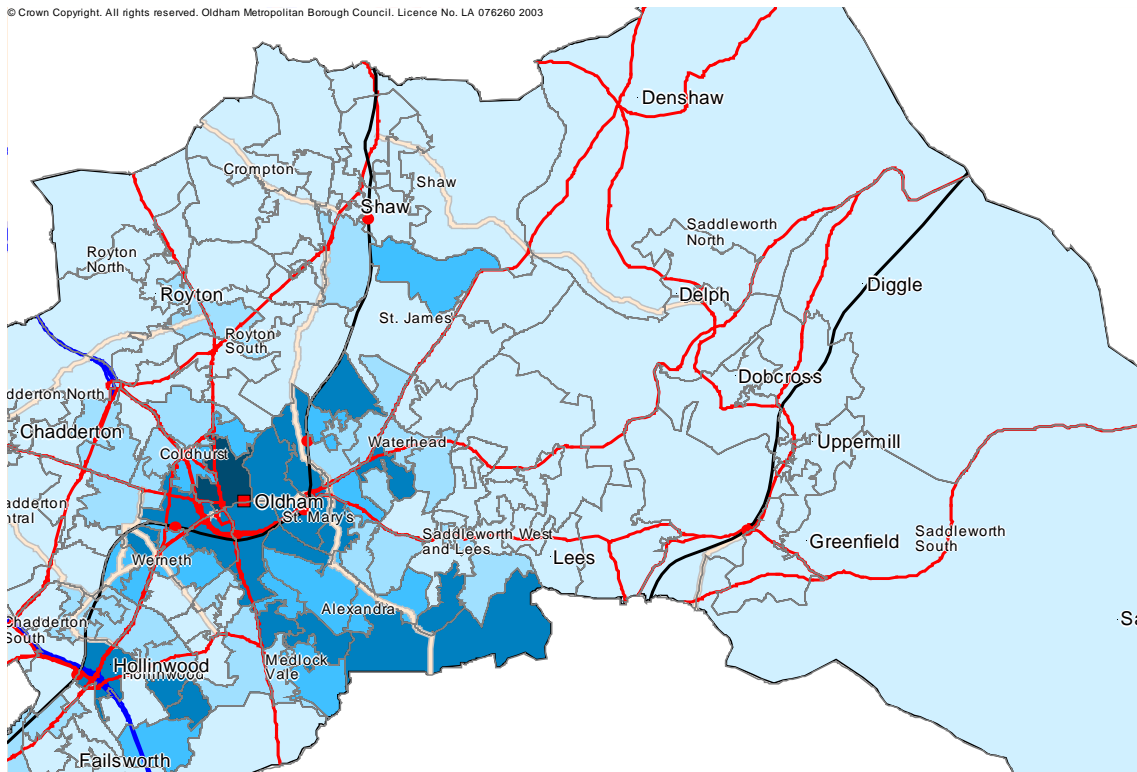


Note

| Statistics Legend | |
|---|---------|
| Theme: Oldham's Population -->Population Density | |
| Variable: Number of Persons per Hectare <i>Number</i> | |
| | 0 - 14 |
| | 14 - 28 |
| | 28 - 42 |
| | 42 - 56 |
| | 56 - 70 |

Deprivation in Oldham Borough (IMD 2004)

© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council. Licence No. LA 076260 2003



Statistics Legend

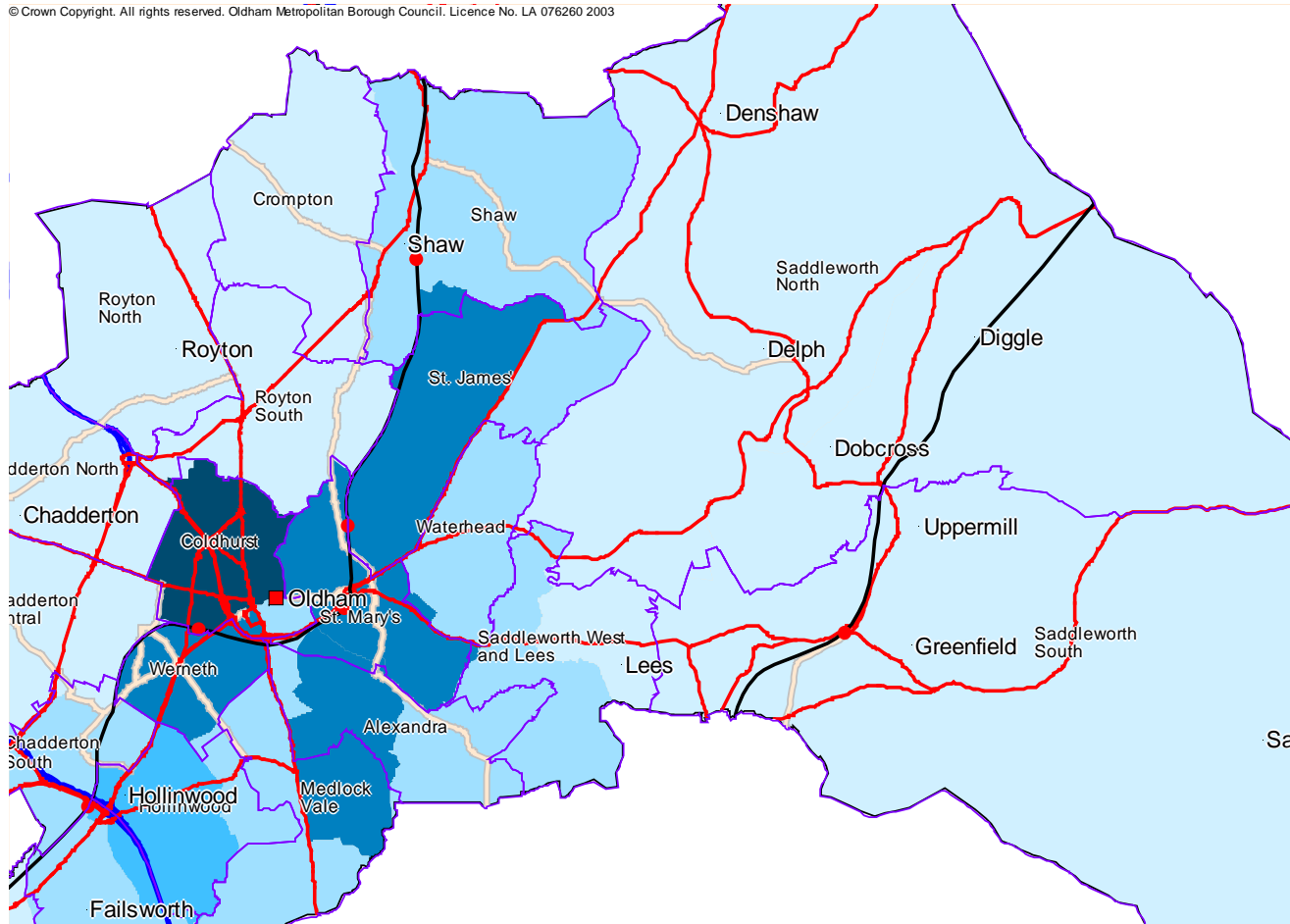
Theme:
 Oldham's Population
 --> Deprivation
 Indicators
 --> 2004 Indices of
 Deprivation

Variable:
 Multiple Deprivation
 Index (Rank)
 % most deprived
 areas

| | |
|--|----------|
| | 20 - 100 |
| | 10 - 20 |
| | 5 - 10 |
| | 1 - 5 |
| | 0-1 |

Pre-school Population of Oldham (2001 Census)

© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council. Licence No. LA 076260 2003



Statistics Legend

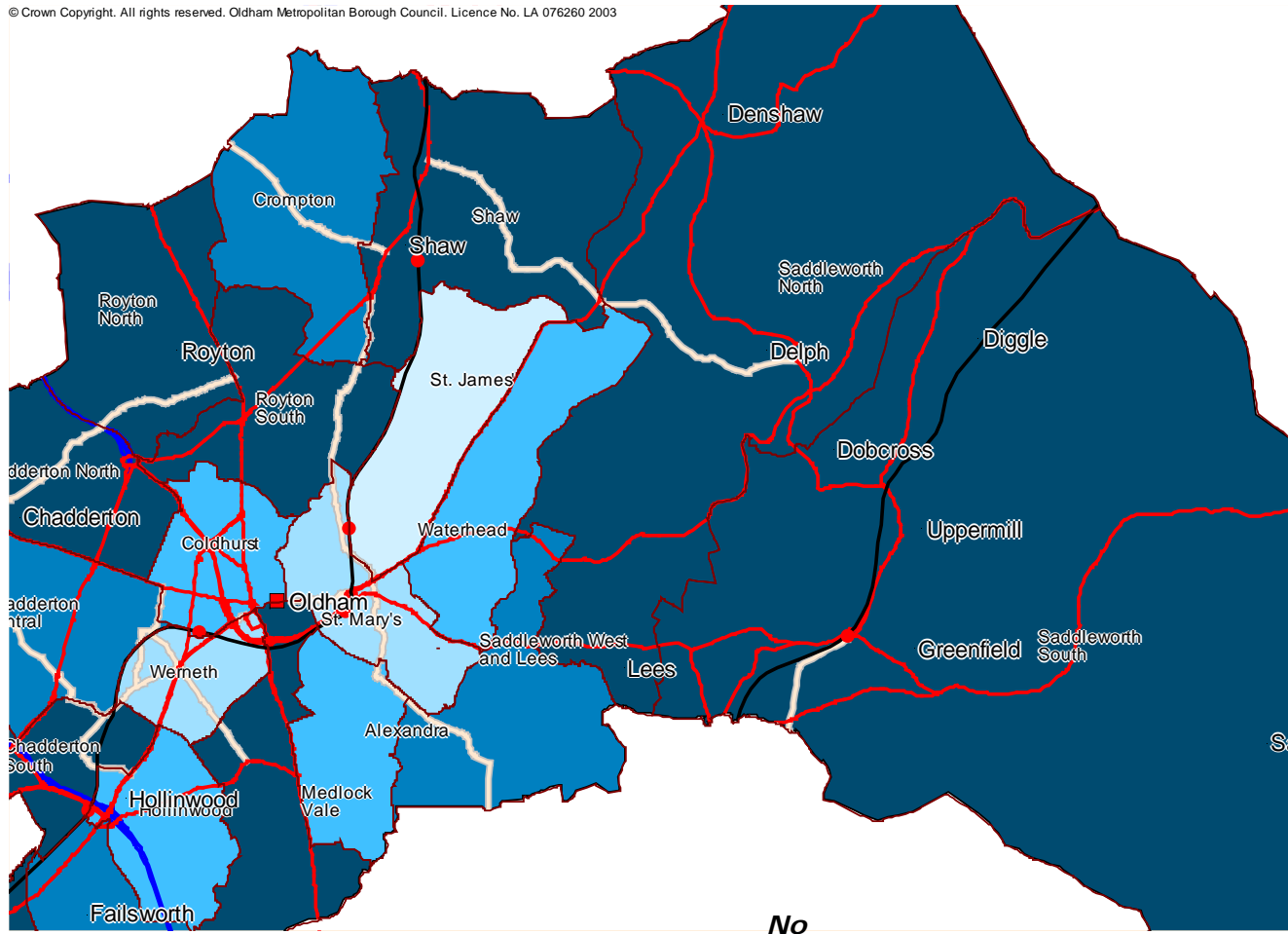
Theme:
Oldham's Population
-->Demographics
-->Age

Variable:
0 to 4
% of population

| | |
|--|------------|
| | 4.5 - 5.99 |
| | 6 - 7.49 |
| | 7.5 - 8.99 |
| | 9 - 10.49 |
| | 10.5 - 12 |

Residents aged 75+ in Oldham (Census 2001)

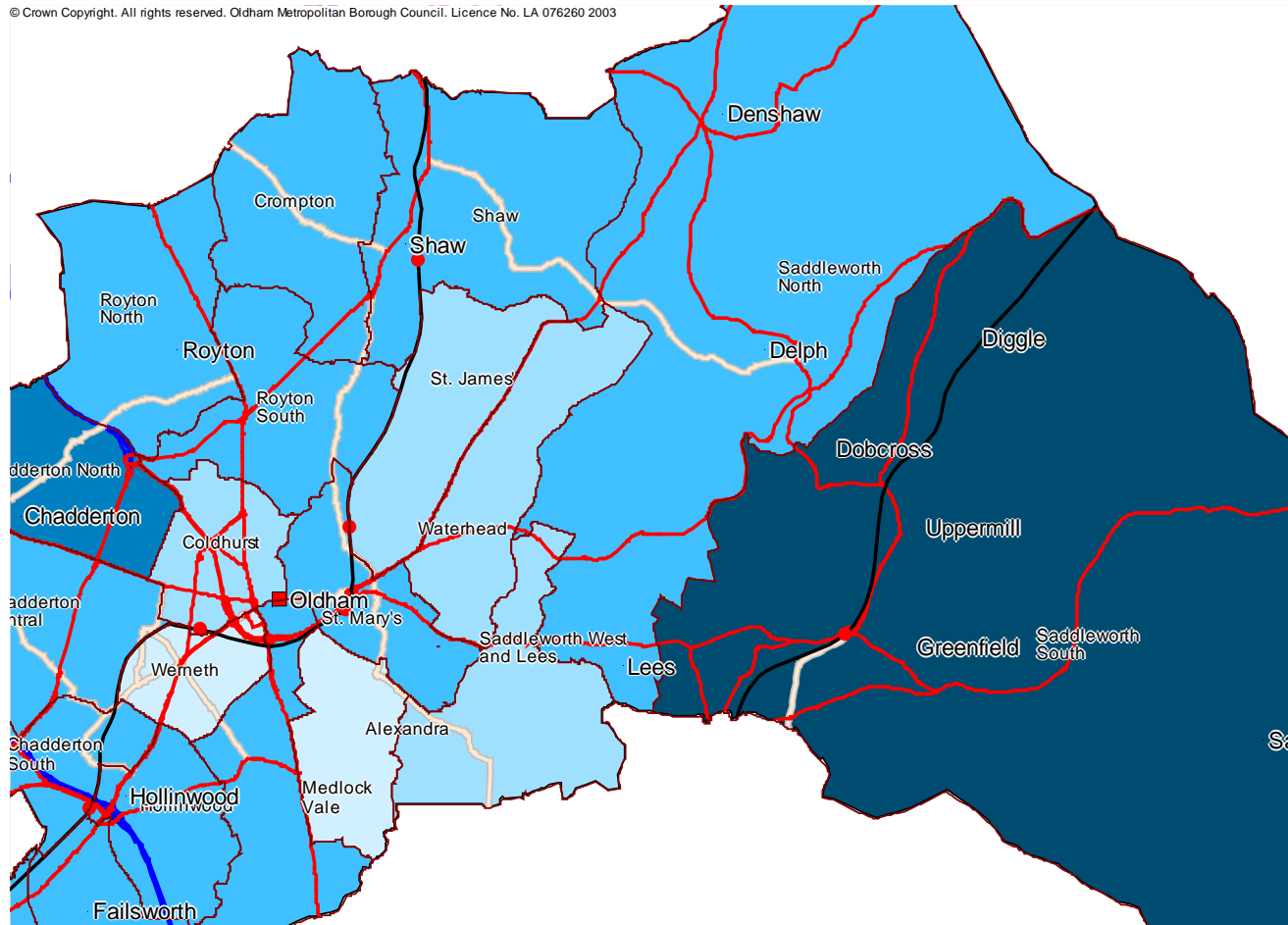
© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council. Licence No. LA 076260 2003



| Statistics Legend | |
|---|------------|
| Theme: Oldham's Population -->Demographics -->Age | |
| Variable: 75 and over % of population | |
| | 4 - 4.79 |
| | 4.8 - 5.59 |
| | 5.6 - 6.39 |
| | 6.4 - 7.19 |
| | 7.2 - 8.5 |

Female Life Expectancy in Oldham (ONS 2004)

© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council. Licence No. LA 076260 2003



Statistics Legend

Theme:
Health and Social
Care
-->Births/Deaths

Variable:
Life Expectancy
Females
Age

| | |
|--|-------------|
| | 74.5 - 76.5 |
| | 76.5 - 78.5 |
| | 78.5 - 80.5 |
| | 80.5 - 82.5 |
| | 82.5 - 84.5 |

You and Your Community Survey 2005

- Joint survey between Oldham MBC and Oldham PCT on community cohesion and health.
- Establishes baseline measures for community cohesion.
- Currently being used to inform the Local Area Agreement and the ongoing refresh of the Community Cohesion Strategy for Oldham Borough.
- MORI surveyed 2697 Oldham Borough residents (16+) using combination of postal surveys and face-to-face interviews.
- Survey gives representative results to ward level. We can also use results to compare across gender, age band, ethnicity, family composition, HMR/non HMR residence, religion, employment status etc.

You and Your Community Survey (2005)

- Neighbourhood satisfaction
- Perceptions of change in neighbourhood
- Community relations (including factors such as ethnicity, age and social background)
- Interaction
- Community involvement and volunteering
- Confidence in public institutions
- Self-reported health
- Diet and exercise
- Mental health
- Tobacco and alcohol use
- Demographic factors
- Car and computer access

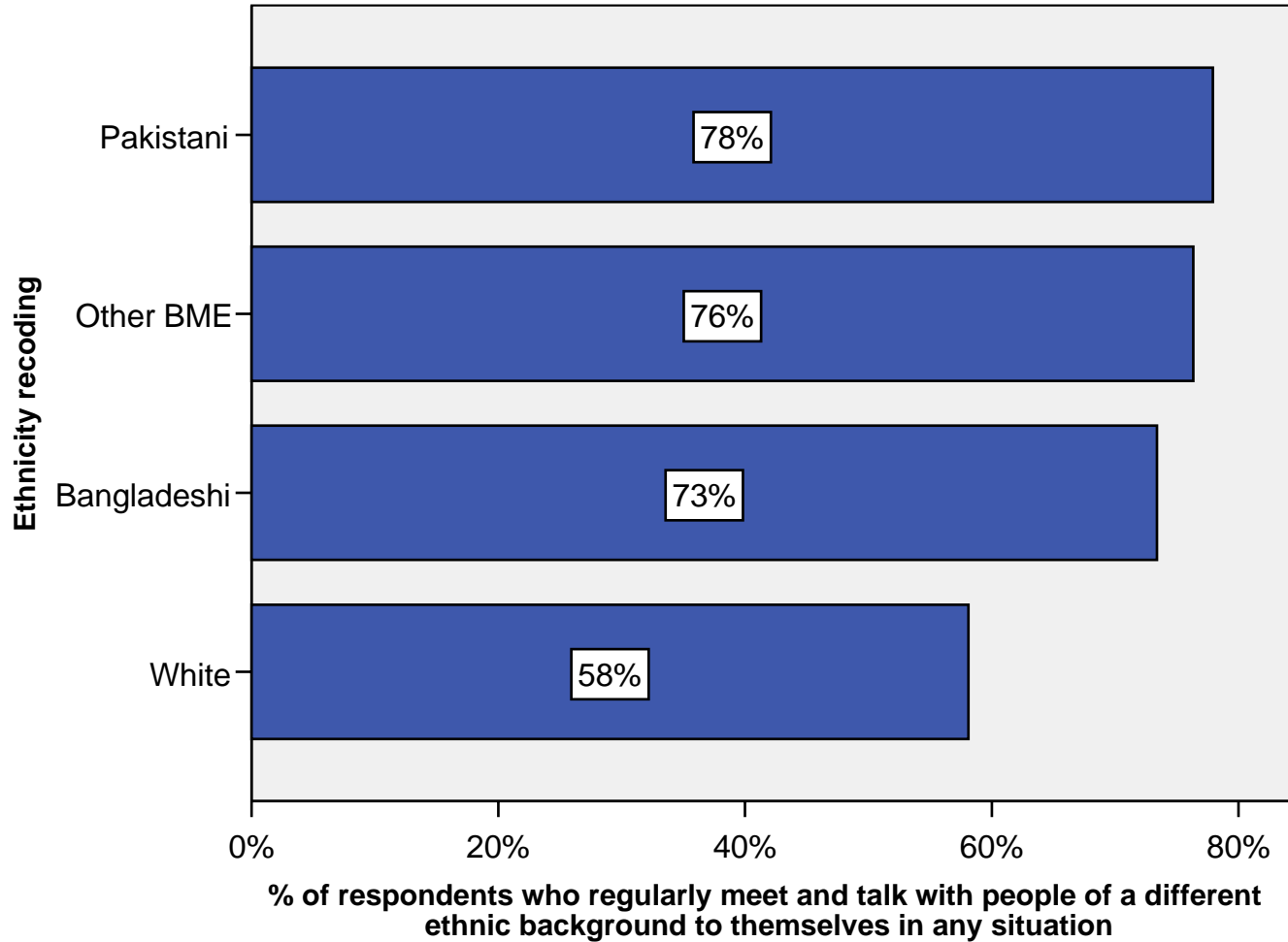
Ethnicity and Religion

- 79% of white respondents identified as Christian and 19% identified as having no religion.
- 98% of those who identified as Christian gave their ethnicity as White British, Irish or Other.
- 95% of those who identified as having no religion gave their ethnicity as White British, Irish or Other.
- 99% of Pakistani and 96% of Bangladeshi respondents identified as Muslim.
- 91% of respondents who identified as Muslim gave their ethnicity as Pakistani or Bangladeshi.

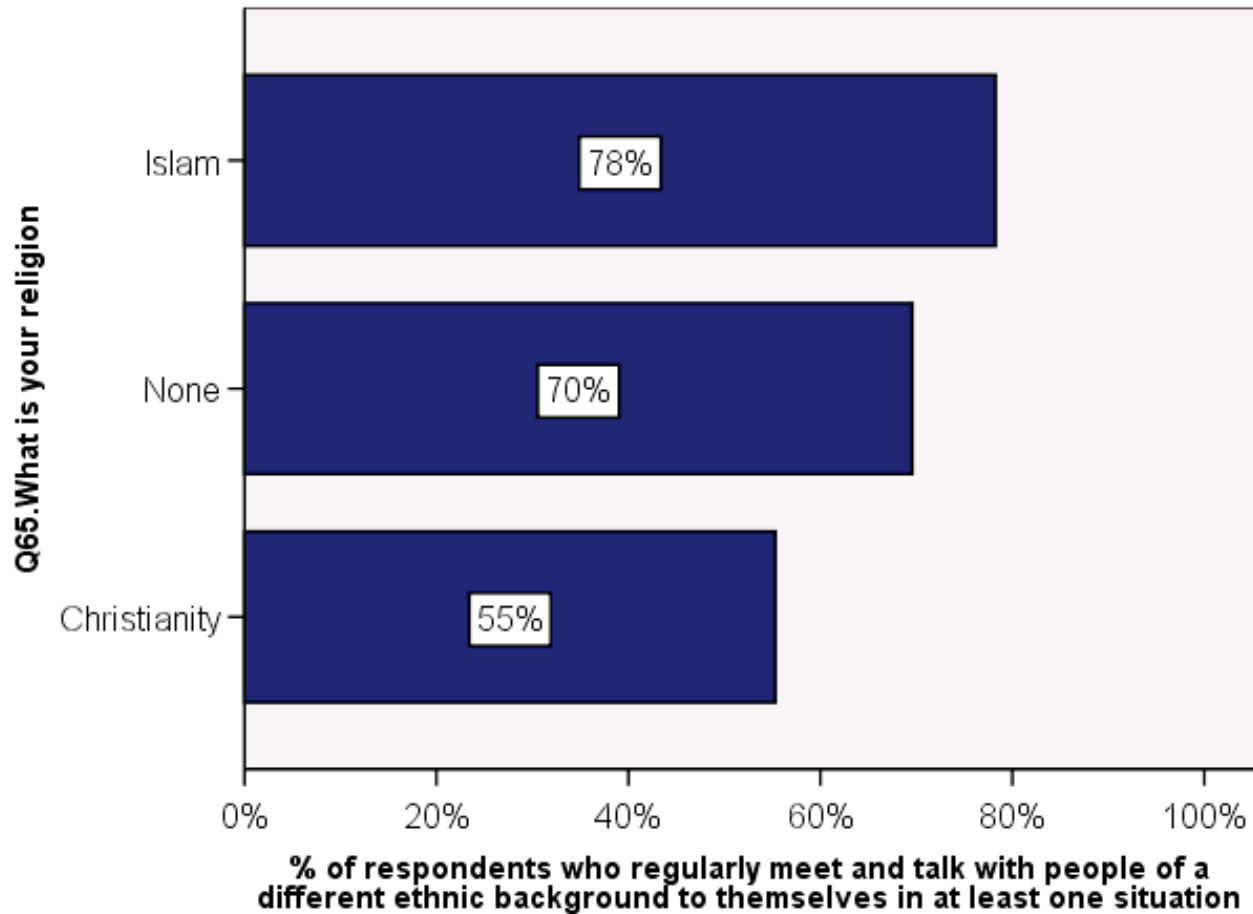
In which of the following situations do you meet and talk with people (excluding family members) who are of a different ethnic background to yourself?

- At the local shops
- At work or at a place of study (e.g. school or college)
- At a place of worship
- In my or someone else's home
- Around my neighbourhood
- On public transport
- At fitness centres / community centres
- In other public places (e.g. at restaurants, pubs, cinemas, etc)
- Through being in a club or sports group
- Spending time with friends
- Somewhere else
- Not applicable – I do not meet with anyone different

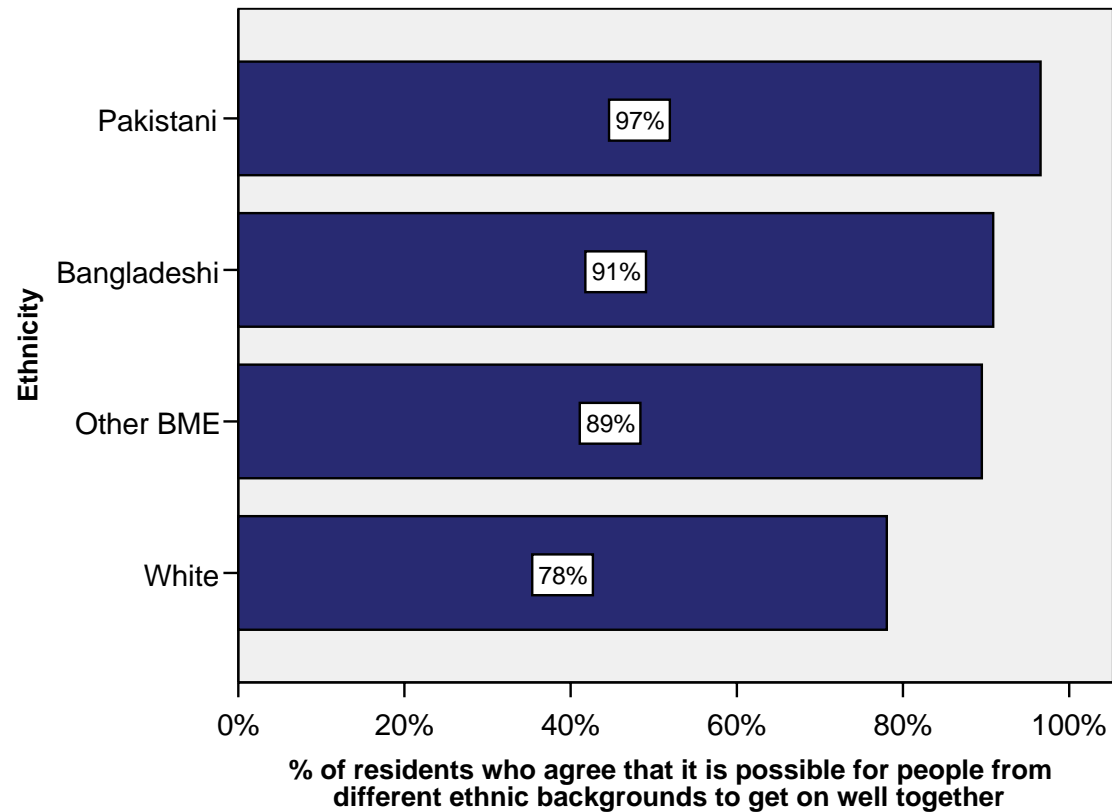
Interethnic interaction in at least one situation by ethnic group.



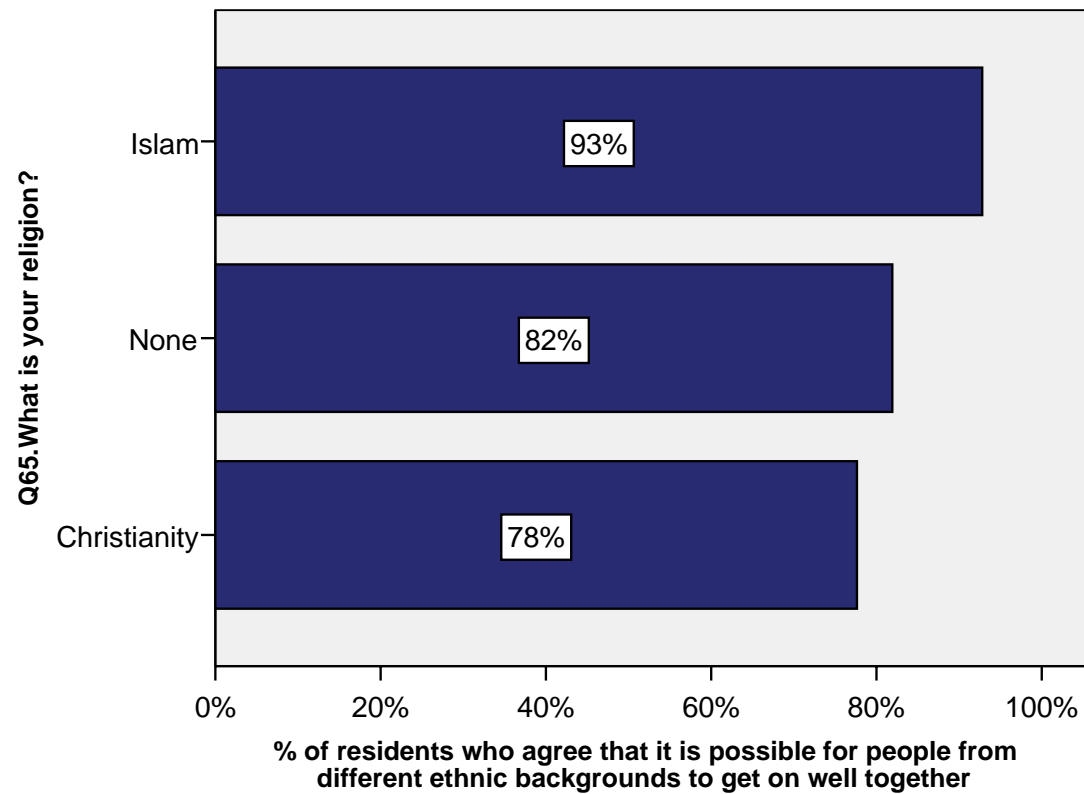
Interethnic interaction in at least one situation by ethnic group.



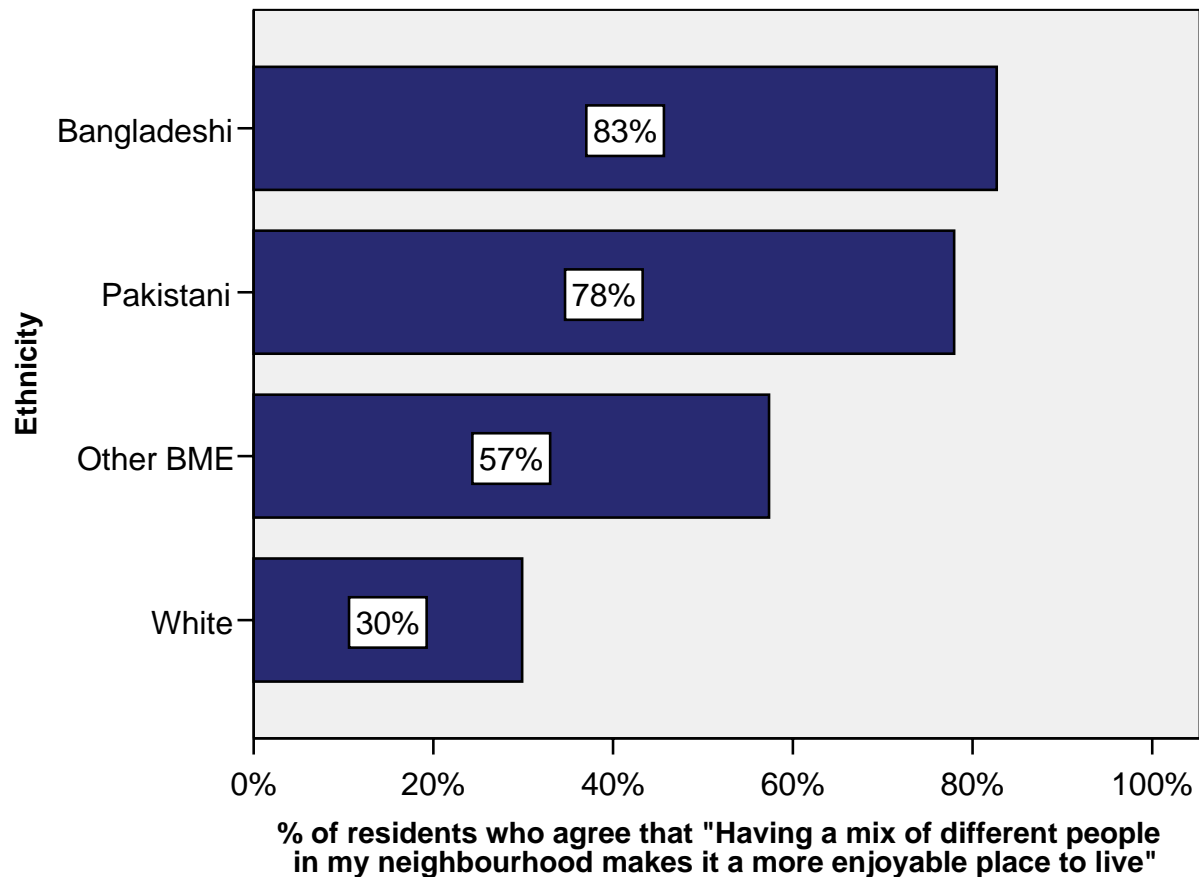
“Is it possible for people from different ethnic backgrounds to get on well together?” by ethnic group.



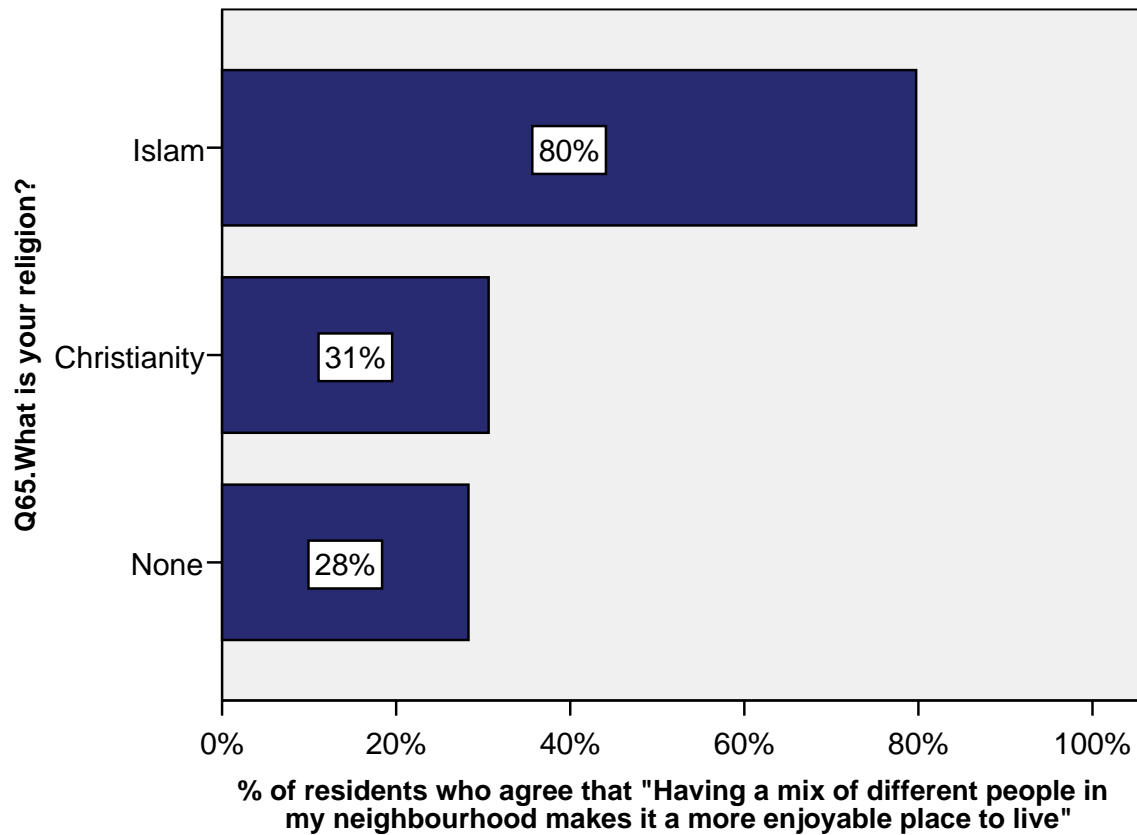
“Is it possible for people from different ethnic backgrounds to get on well together?” by religion.



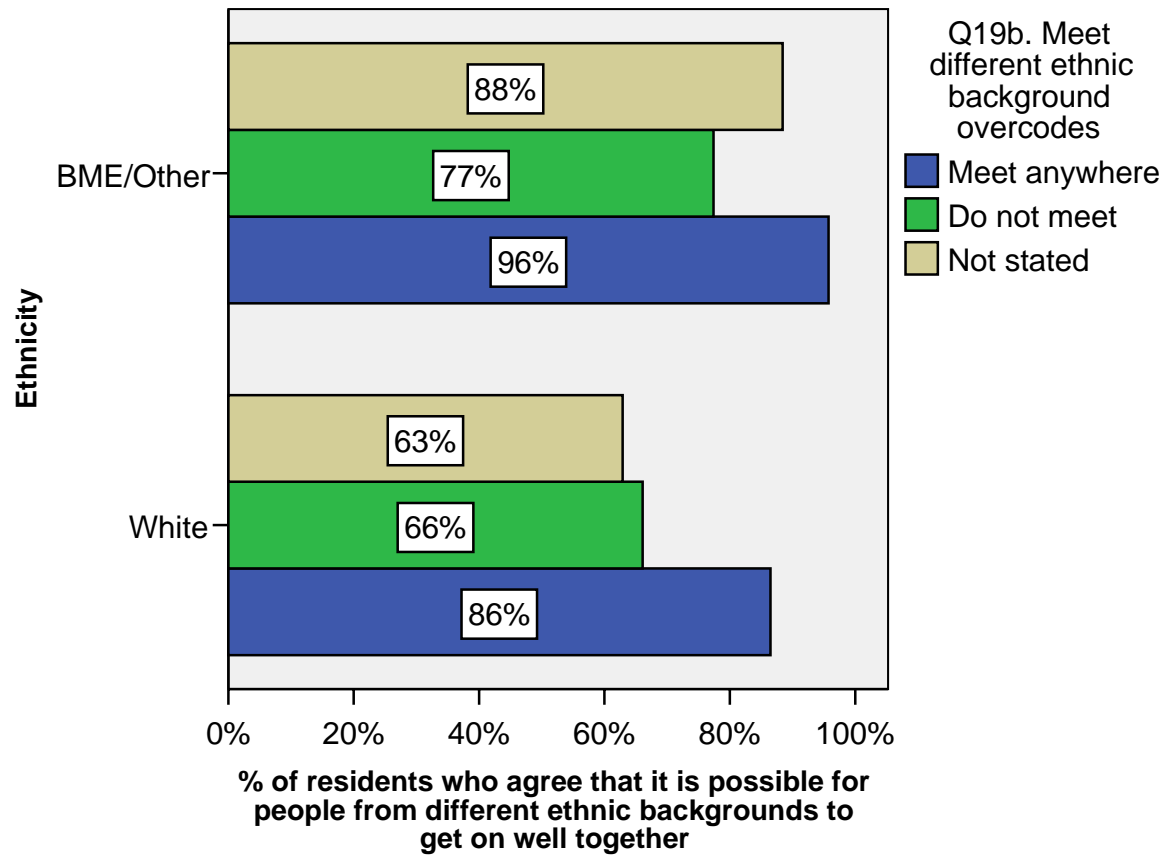
“Having a mix of different people in my neighbourhood makes it a more enjoyable place to live” by ethnic group.



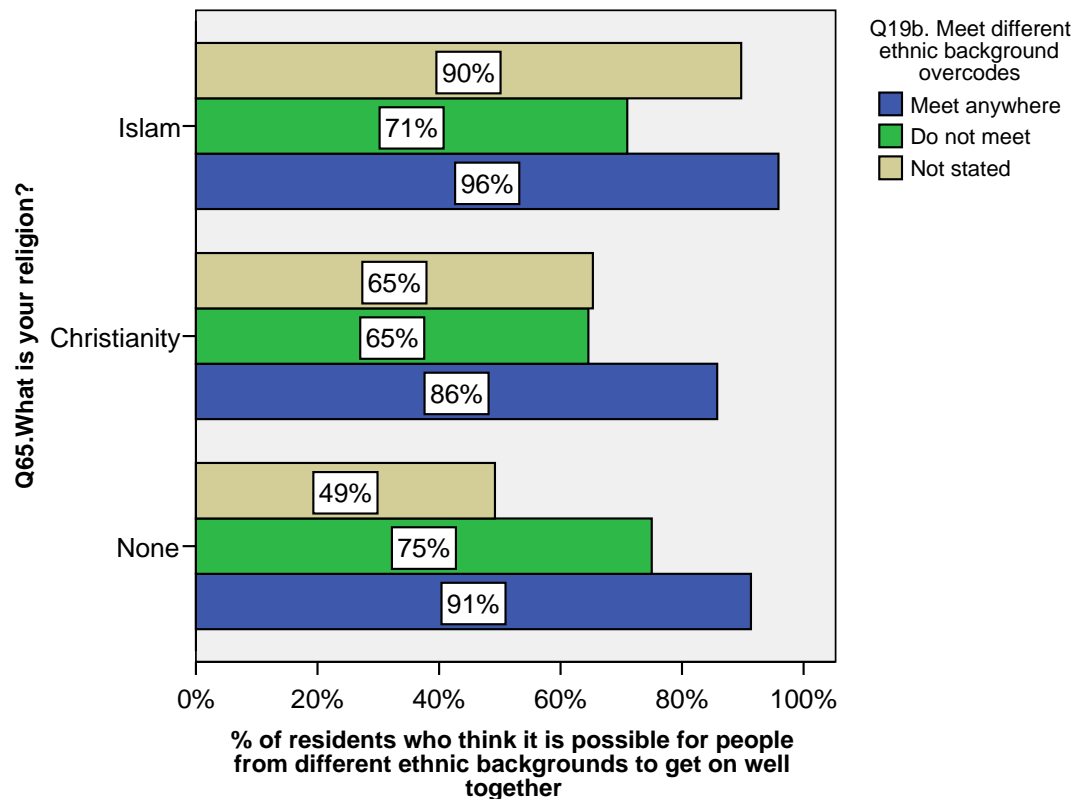
“Having a mix of different people in my neighbourhood makes it a more enjoyable place to live” by religion.



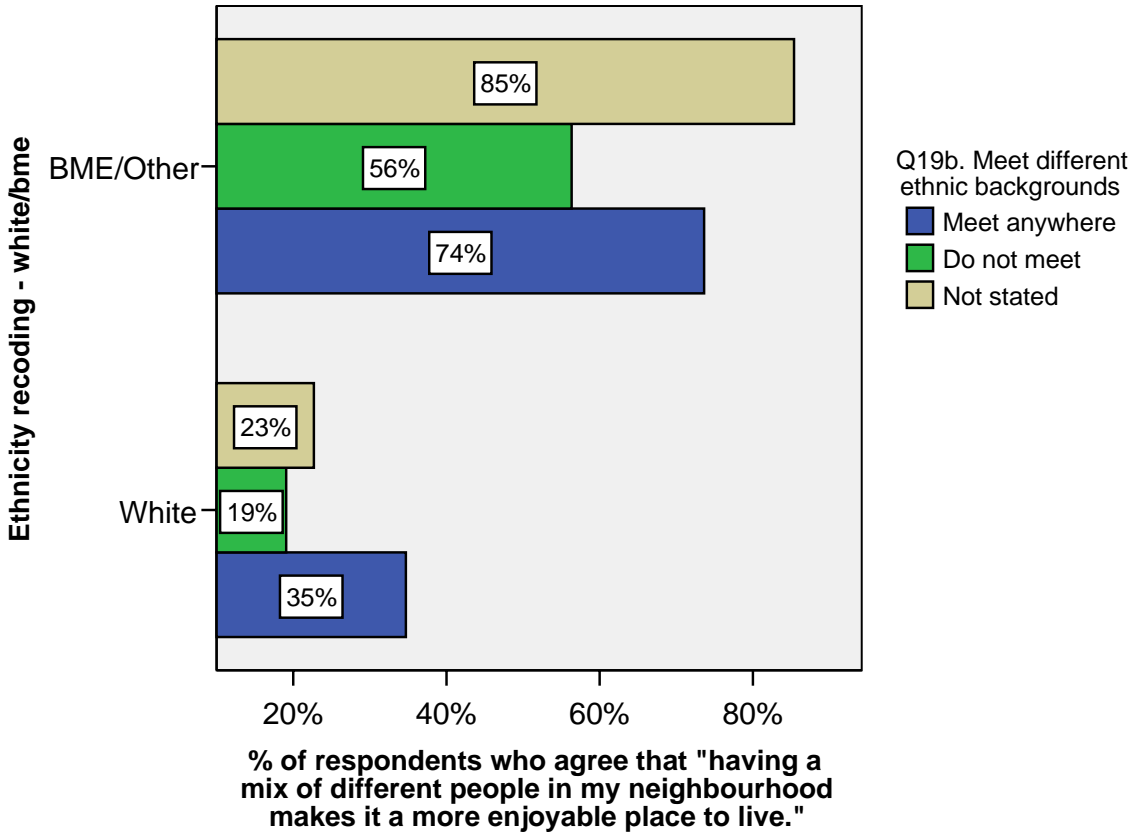
“Is it possible for people from different ethnic backgrounds to get on well together?” by experience of interaction and white/BME split.



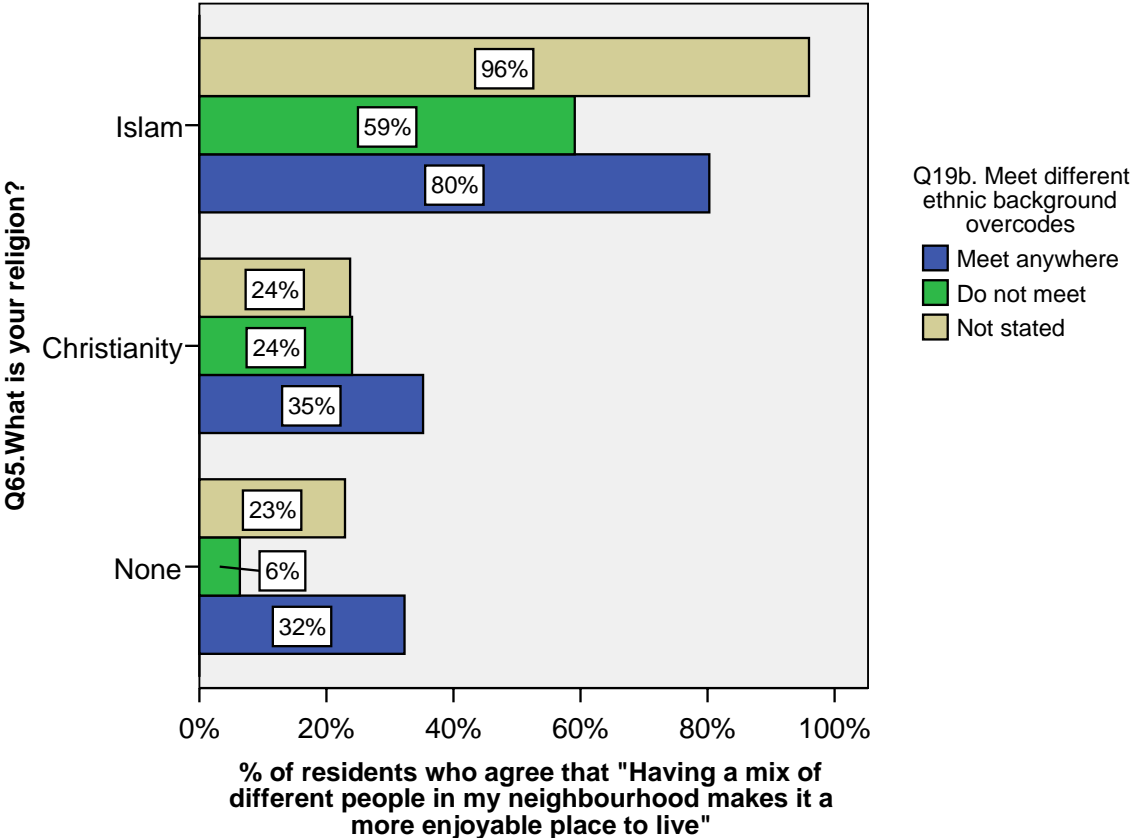
“Is it possible for people from different ethnic backgrounds to get on well together?” by religion and experience of interaction.



“Having a mix of different people in my neighbourhood makes it a more enjoyable place to live” by experience of interaction and white/BME split.



“Having a mix of different people in my neighbourhood makes it a more enjoyable place to live” by experience of interaction and religion.



In conclusion – what do we need to do?

- Tackle social and economic inequalities that limit people's life opportunities (which include their opportunities to meet and talk with people from different ethnic backgrounds to themselves).
- Recognise that experience of interaction has an impact on attitudes and perceptions.
- Encourage and provide opportunities for interaction between people from different ethnic backgrounds – and recognise that at present, white British residents are the ethnic group that are least likely to have such experiences of interaction as part of their daily lives.