



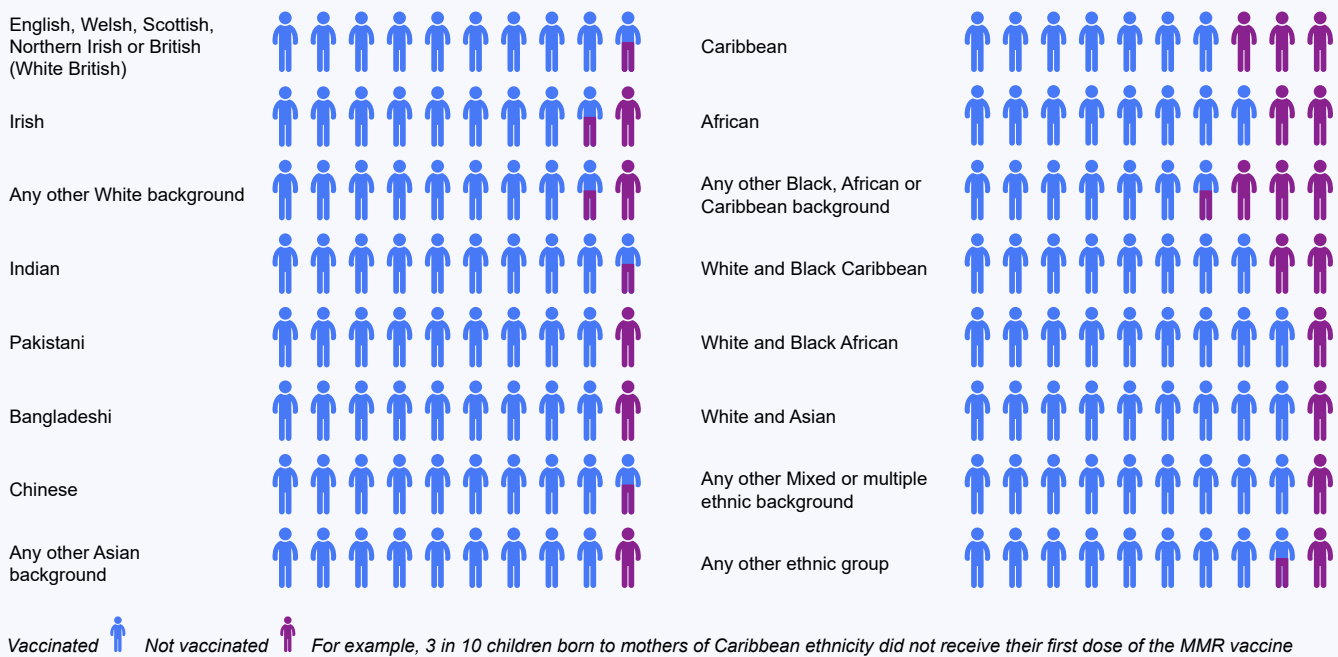
# Unequal childhood vaccination coverage in England

We used the GP records of over 1 million children aged five and under to compare vaccination coverage between ethnic groups. All of the vaccinations in England's routine childhood vaccination schedule were included in this study, with the exception of the flu vaccine.

## What did we find?

- Between 2006 and 2021, children born to mothers in nine minority ethnic groups had lower vaccination coverage than the White British group.
- Unequal coverage was seen across all childhood vaccines in England. We use MMR vaccination as an example below to show how unequal the coverage was between ethnic groups in 2020-21.
- These differences in vaccination coverage between ethnic groups got bigger over time. This started happening even before the COVID-19 pandemic.
- By the time children were due for booster vaccines, inequalities in coverage were sometimes even bigger than when they had their first vaccine doses.

**MMR vaccine coverage (first dose) in 2020-21 in different ethnic groups**



## What does this mean?

Gaps in vaccination coverage between ethnic groups need to be addressed urgently. Policymakers, commissioners, GPs and other health services should work closely with minority ethnic communities at a local level to understand why unequal vaccination is happening, and how to make vaccination programmes equal and fair. This includes:

- Making sure parents, caregivers and parents-to-be feel empowered to make informed choices about their child's vaccinations
- Giving parents, caregivers and parents-to-be the chance to ask questions and discuss concerns about vaccination at a time that is right for them
- Making vaccine information easy to understand, available in different languages, and sensitive to cultural and religious needs.



Read the [full study](#).

