

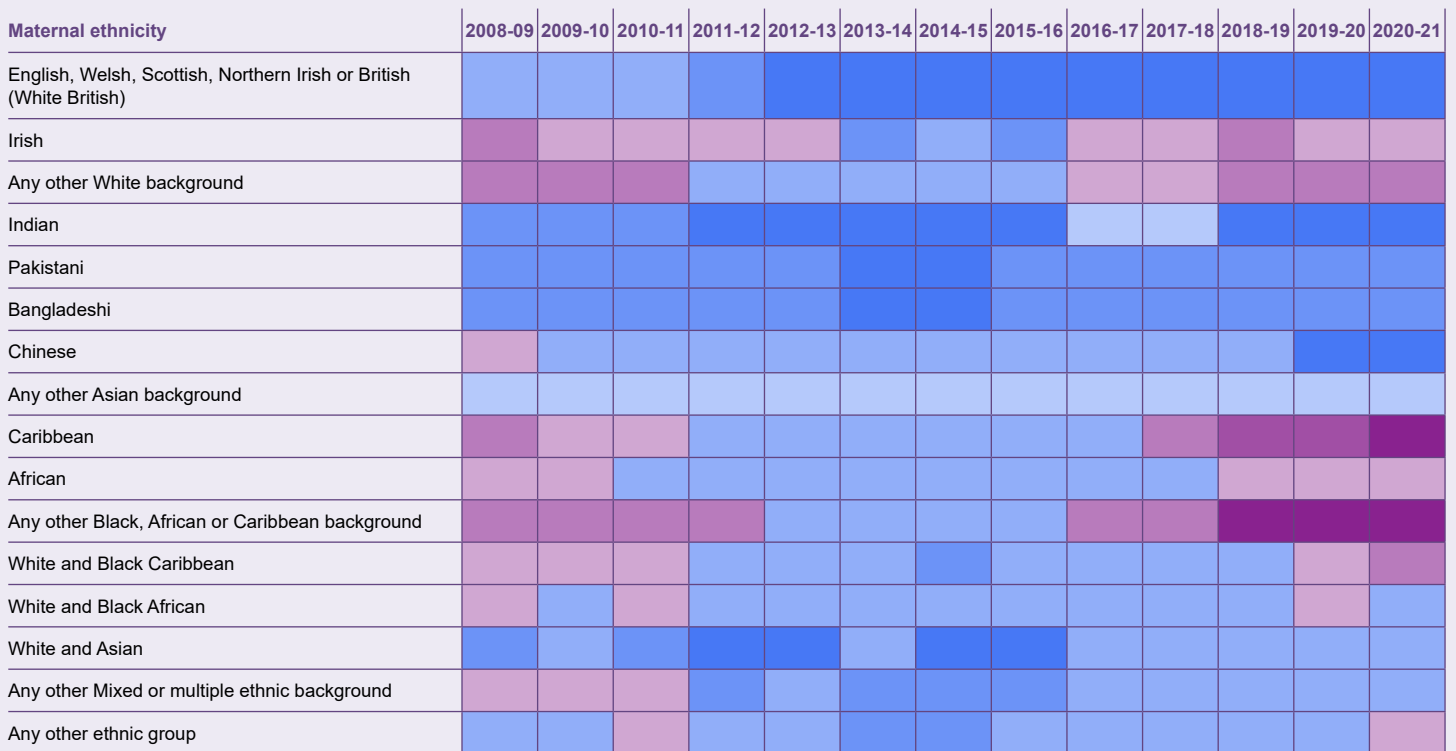


# Ethnic inequities in England's childhood vaccination programme

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 influenza (flu) vaccine.

## Summary of findings

- Between 2006 and 2021, children born to mothers in nine minority ethnic groups had lower vaccination coverage than the White British ethnic group across all vaccines in England's routine childhood vaccination schedule. MMR vaccination coverage by ethnic group is shown below as an example.
- Vaccine coverage gaps between ethnic groups widened over time, even before the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Ethnic inequities persisted and, in some cases, worsened between children receiving the first dose of a vaccination and receiving the full course.



MMR vaccine coverage (primary course) ≤65% (poor coverage) ≥95% (good coverage)

## Recommendations for policy and practice

Urgent action is needed to address the widening gap in vaccination coverage between ethnic groups. Policy makers should work together with GP practices, integrated care systems, local public health teams, other perinatal services (e.g. midwifery, health visiting and peer support programs), and researchers to:

- Improve understanding of why ethnic inequities exist at a local level
- Co-produce childhood vaccination strategies with minority ethnic communities
- Provide vaccination information that is tailored to different languages, health literacy levels, cultural backgrounds and religious beliefs
- Create opportunities for parents, caregivers and parents-to-be to discuss concerns about vaccination, and empower them to make informed decisions



Read the [full study](#).

