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

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Corporate Research Team

Oldham MBC

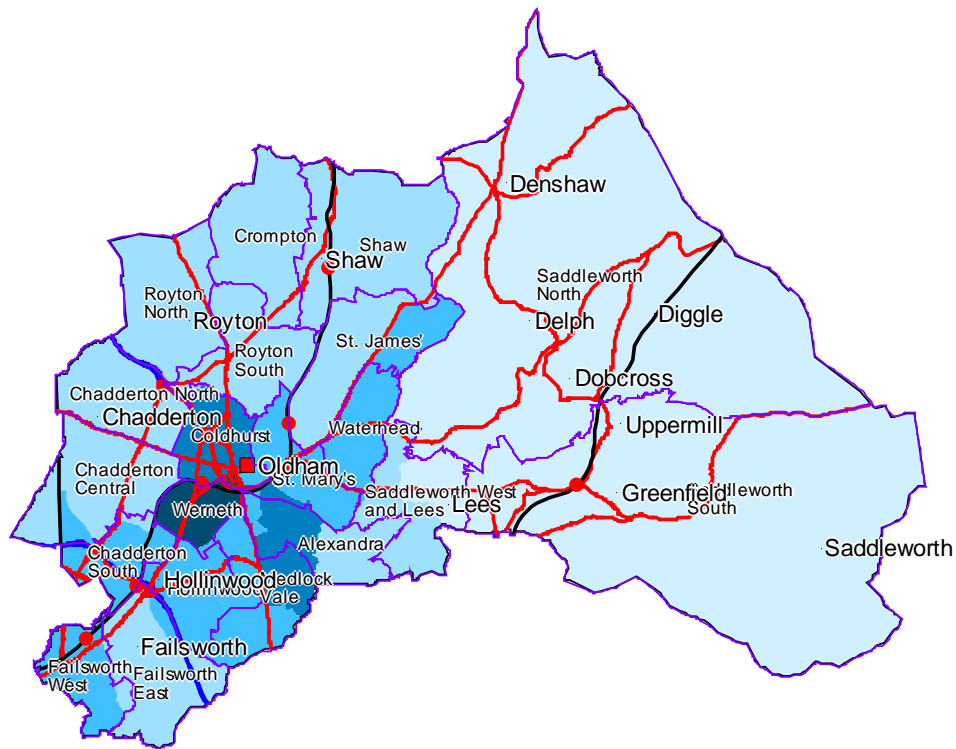# Some Dominant Ideas in Public Discourse

- 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)

Denshaw

Crompton
Shaw
Shaw

Royton
North
Royton
Royton
South

Saddleworth
North
Delph

Diggle

St. James'

Dobcross

Chadderton North
Chadderton
Coldhurst

Waterhead

Uppermill

Chadderton
Central
Oldham
St. Mary's

Werneth

Saddleworth West
and Lees
Lees

Greenfield
Saddleworth
South

Chadderton
South

Alexandra

Saddleworth

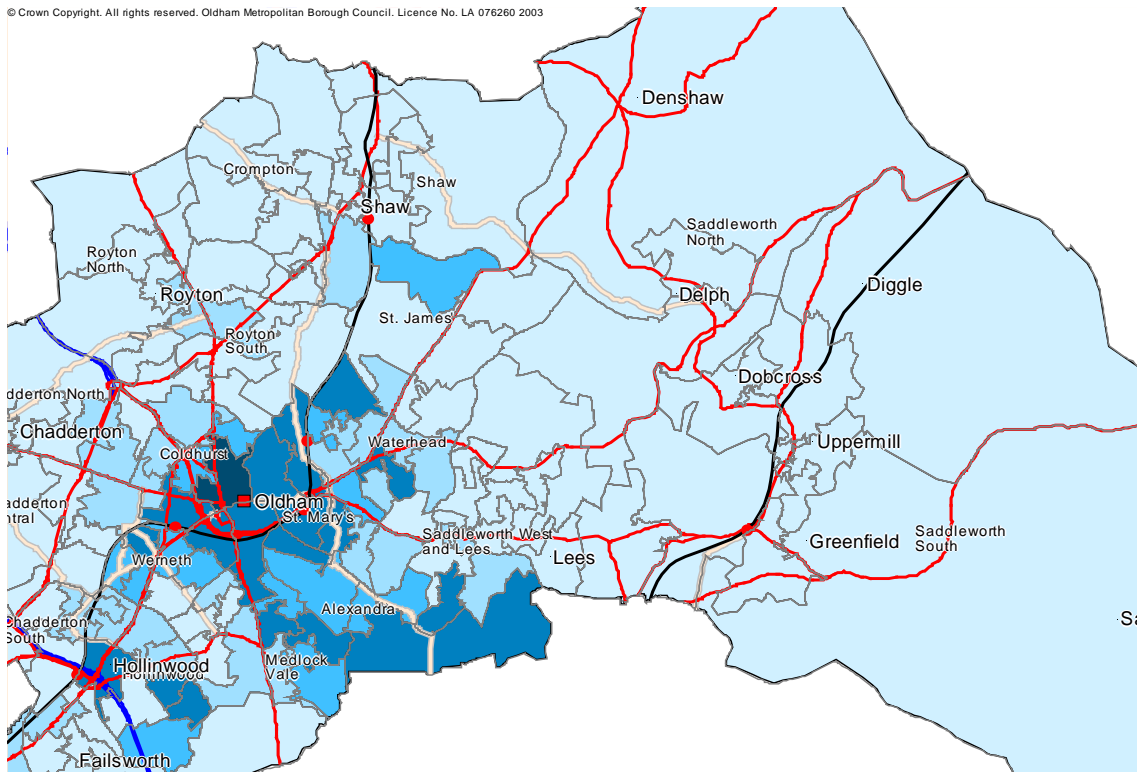Hollinwoodedlock
Vale

Failsworth

Failsworth
West
Failsworth
East

Note

Statistics Legend

Theme:
Oldham's Population
-->Population Density

Variable:
Number of Persons per
Hectare
Number

	0 - 14
	14 - 28
	28 - 42
	42 - 56
	56 - 70

Deprivation in Oldham Borough (IMD 2004)
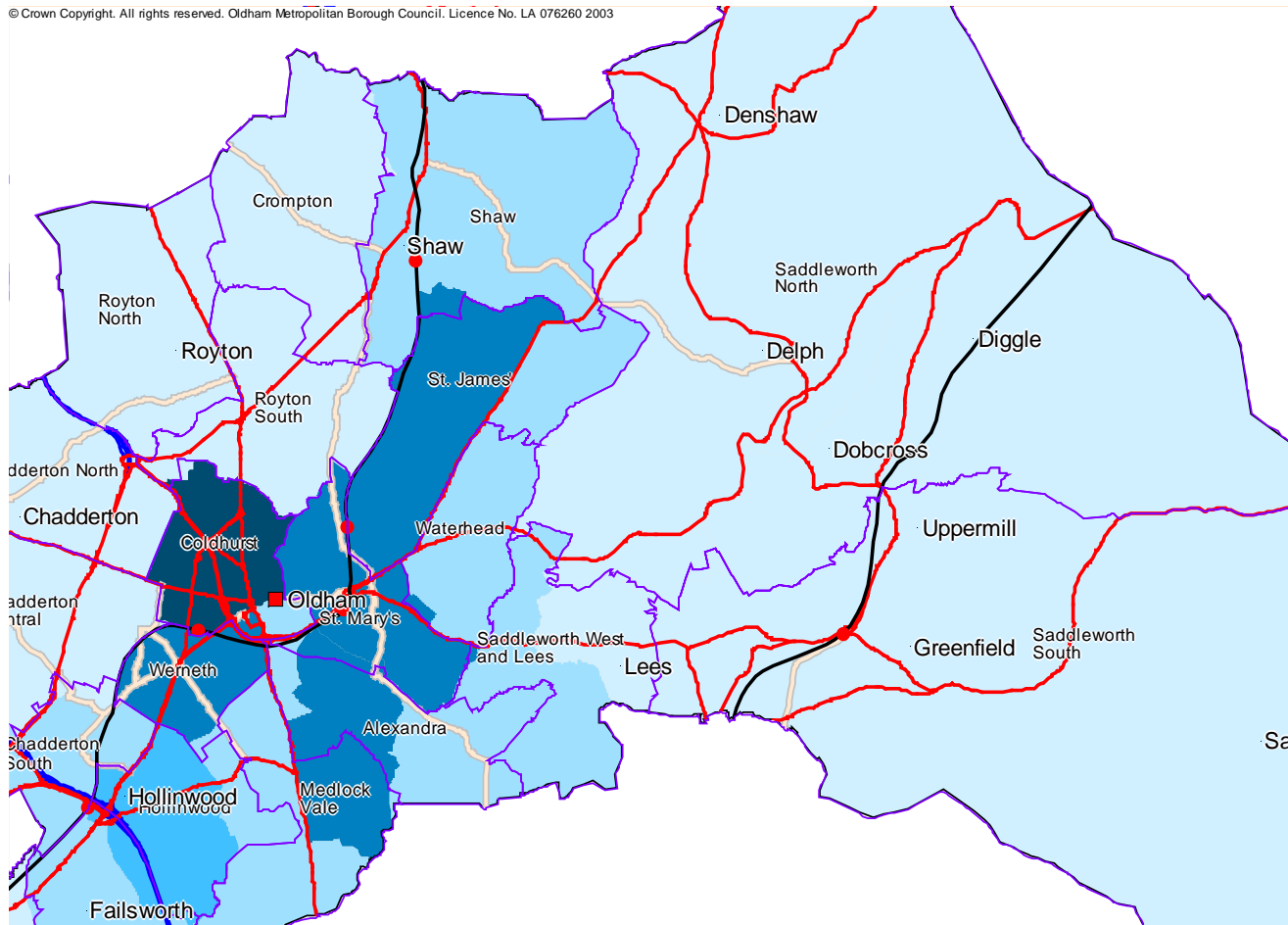
Statistics Legend

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)

Denshaw

Crompton

Shaw

Shaw

Royton
North

Saddleworth
North

Royton

Delph

Diggle

Royton
South

St. James'

dderton North

Dobcross

Chadderton

Coldhurst

Waterhead

Uppermill

adderton
entral

Oldham
St. Mary's

Werneth

Saddleworth West
and Lees

Lees

Greenfield

Saddleworth
South

Sad

Chadderton
South

Alexandra

Hollinwood
Hollinwood

Medlock
Vale

Failsworth

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)

Denshaw

Crompton

Shaw

Shaw

Saddleworth
North

Royton
North

Royton

Delph

Diggle

Royton
South

St. James

dderton North

Dobcross

Chadderton

Coldhurst

Waterhead

Uppermill

adderton
ntral

Oldham
St. Mary's

Werneth

Saddleworth West
and Lees

Lees

Greenfield

Saddleworth
South

Sad

Chadderton
South

Alexandra

Hollinwood
Hollinwood

Medlock
Vale

Failsworth

No
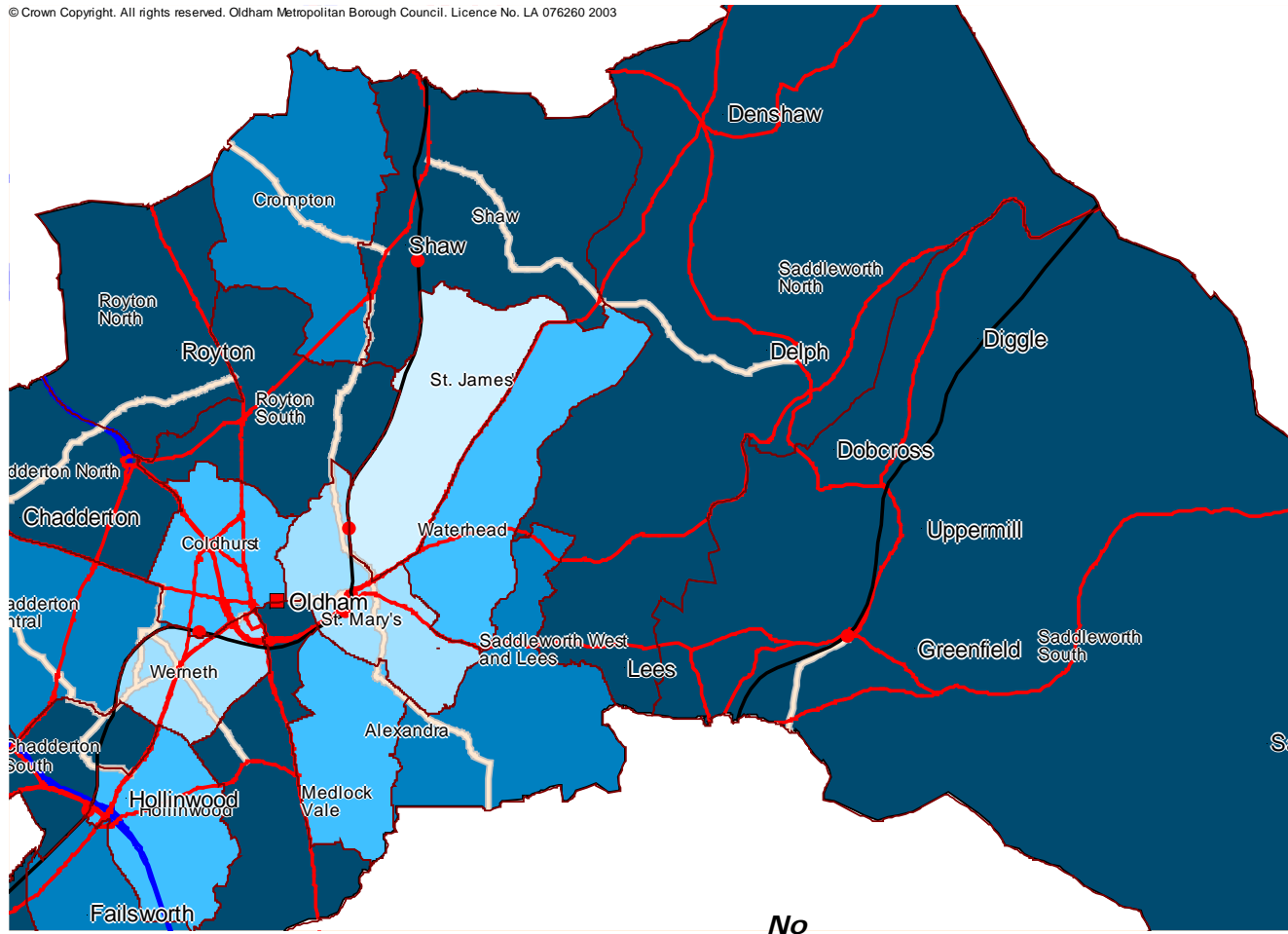
Statistics Legend

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)

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.
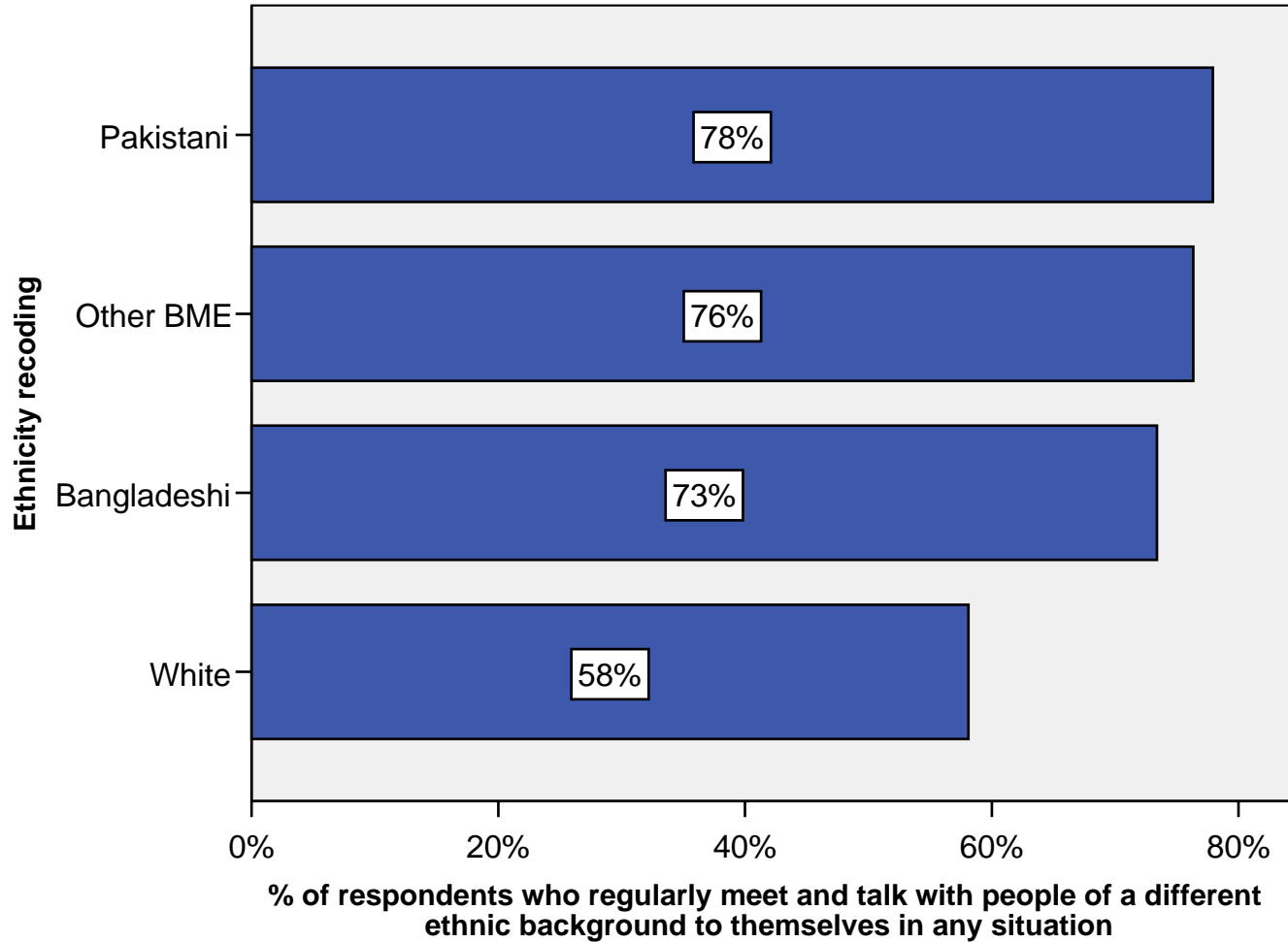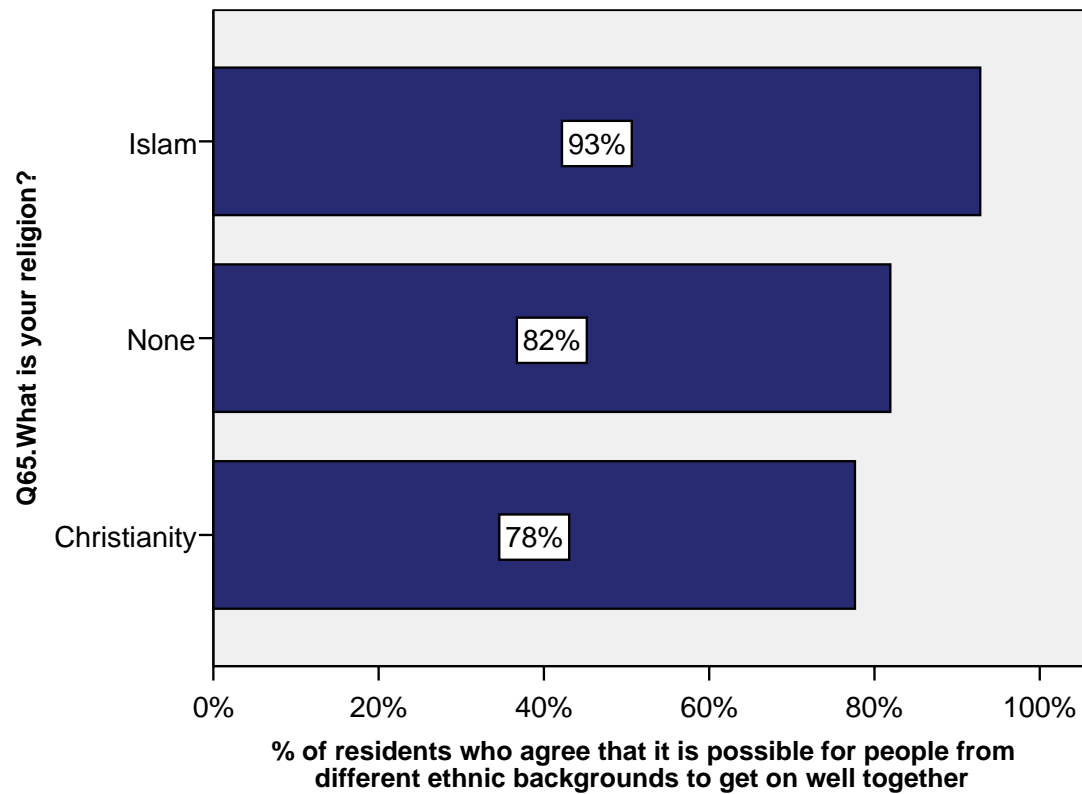
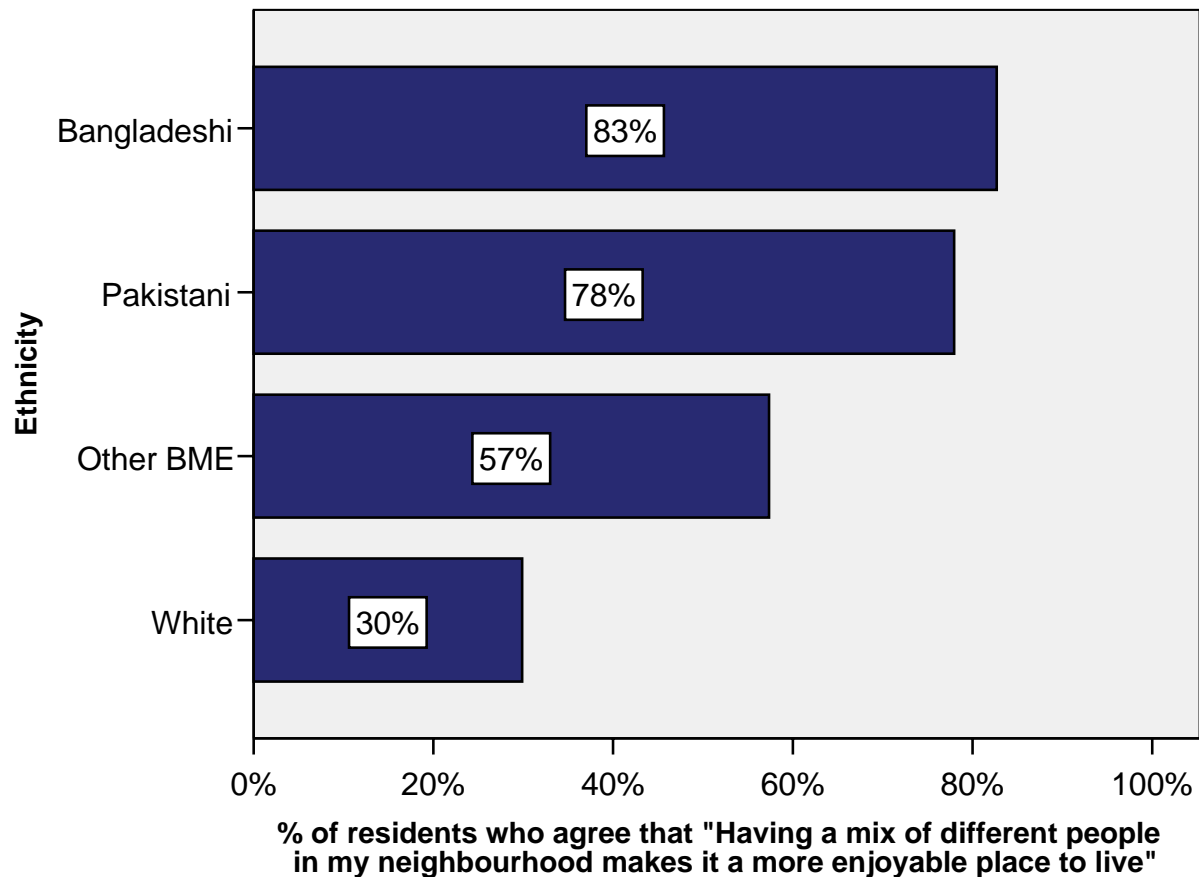# Interethnic interaction in at least one situation by ethnic group.
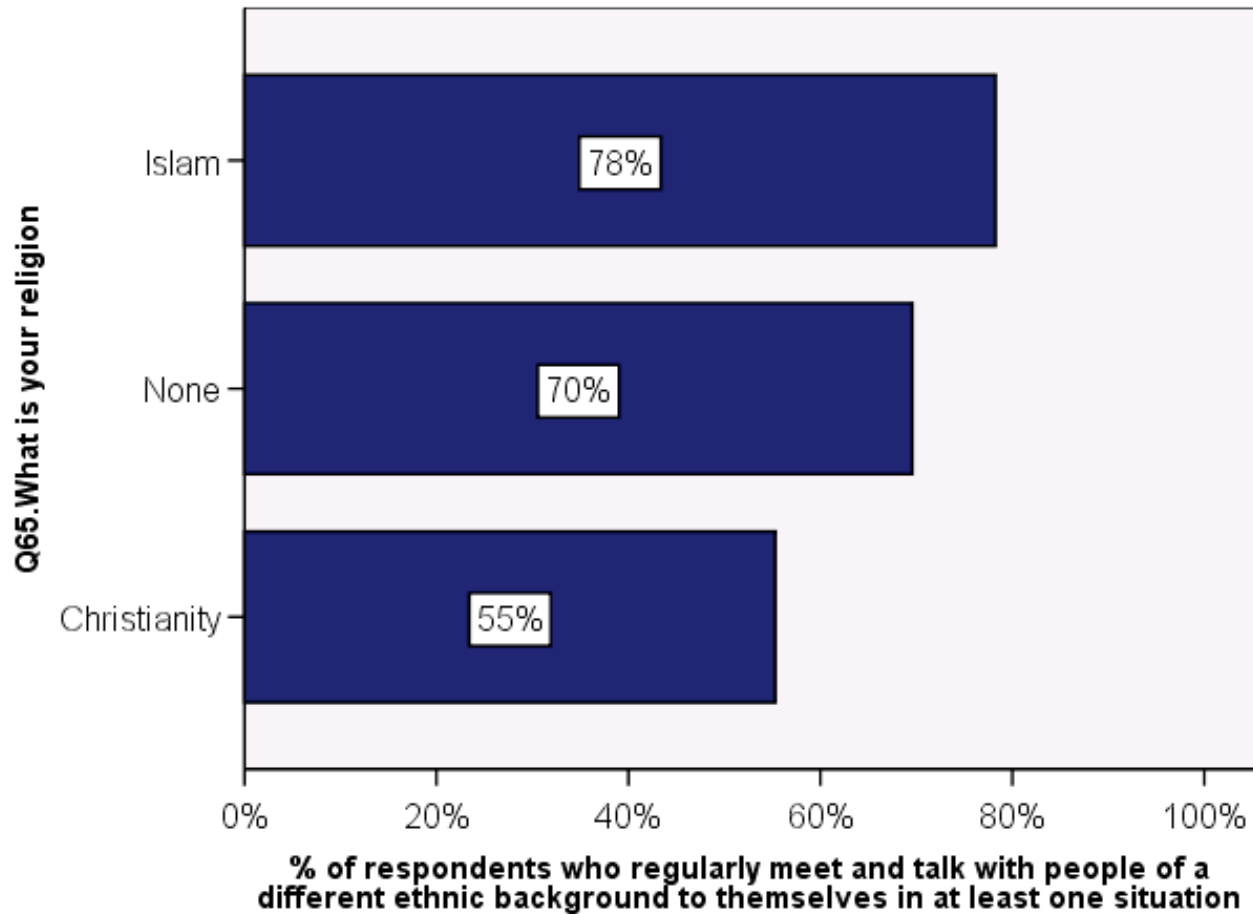
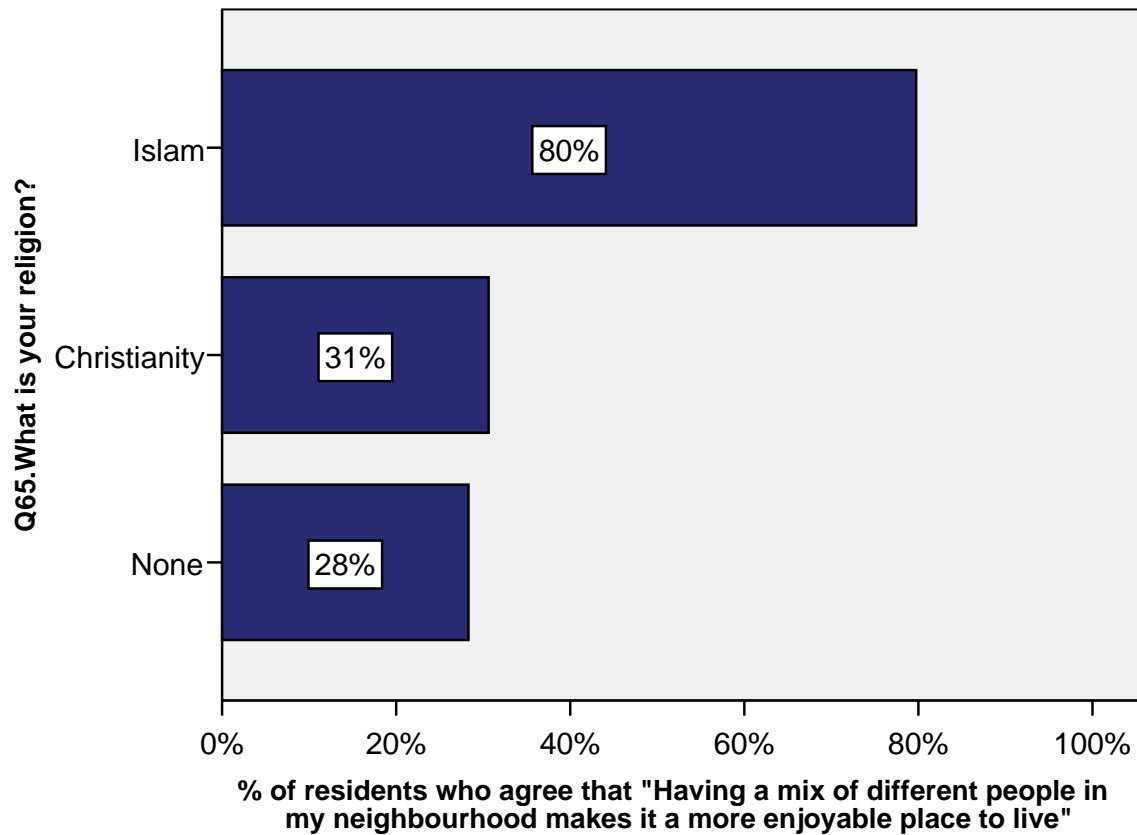"Is it possible for people from different ethnic backgrounds to get on well together?" by ethnic group.
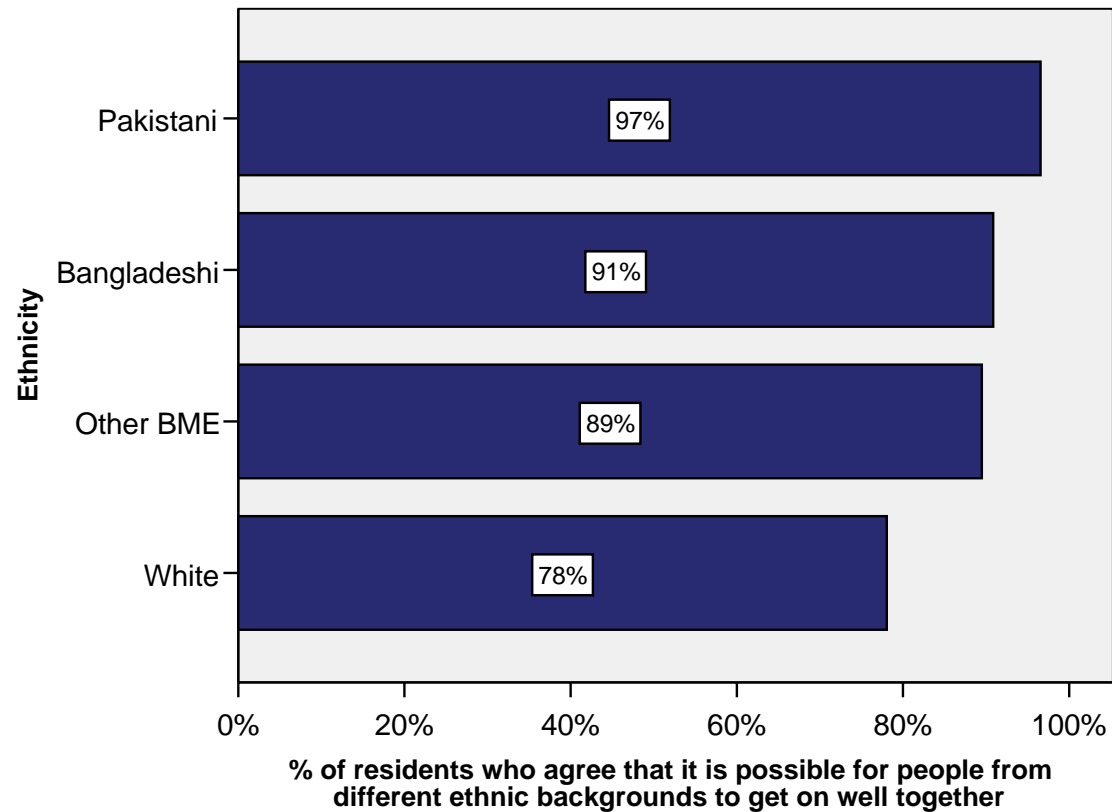
"Is it possible for people from different ethnic backgrounds to get on well together?" by religion.
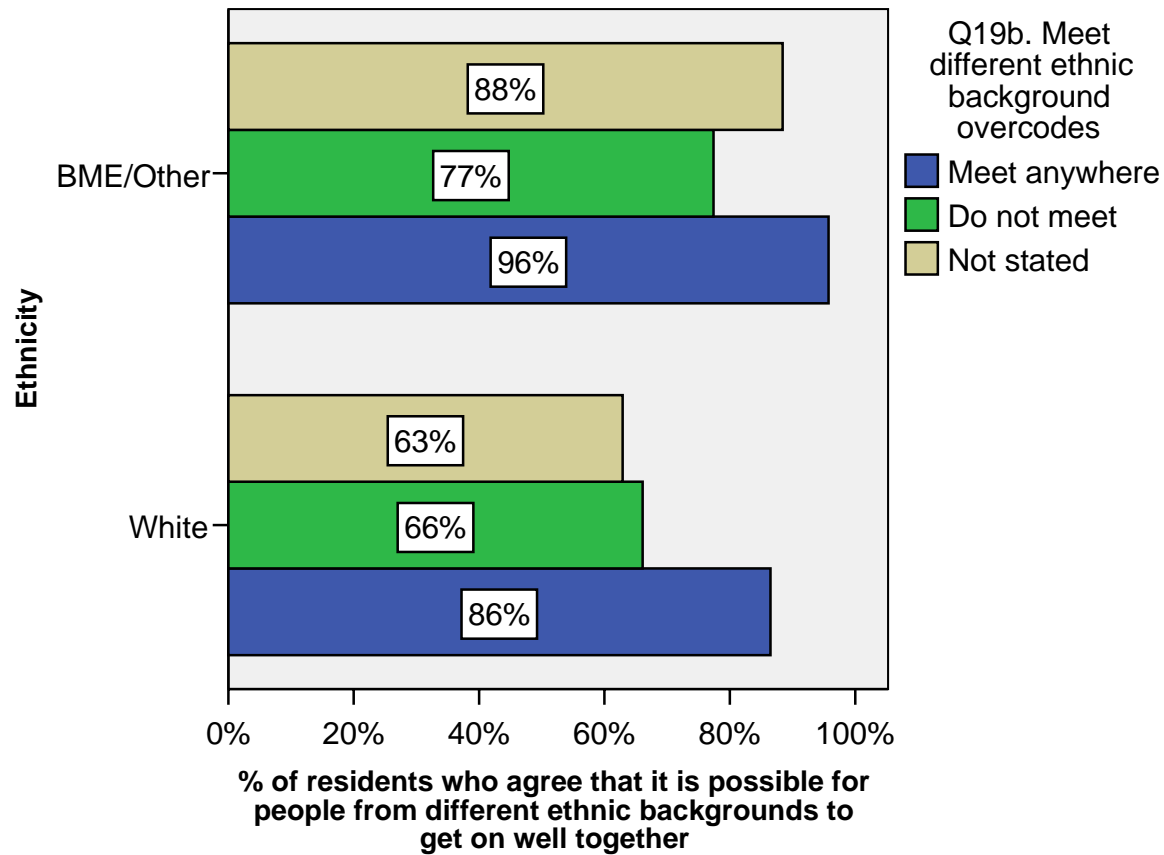
"Having a mix of different people in my neighbourhood makes it a more enjoyable place to live" by ethnic group.

Ethnicity

- Bangladeshi — 83%
- Pakistani — 78%
- Other BME — 57%
- White — 30%

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

% of residents who agree that "Having a mix of different people in my neighbourhood makes it a more enjoyable place to live"
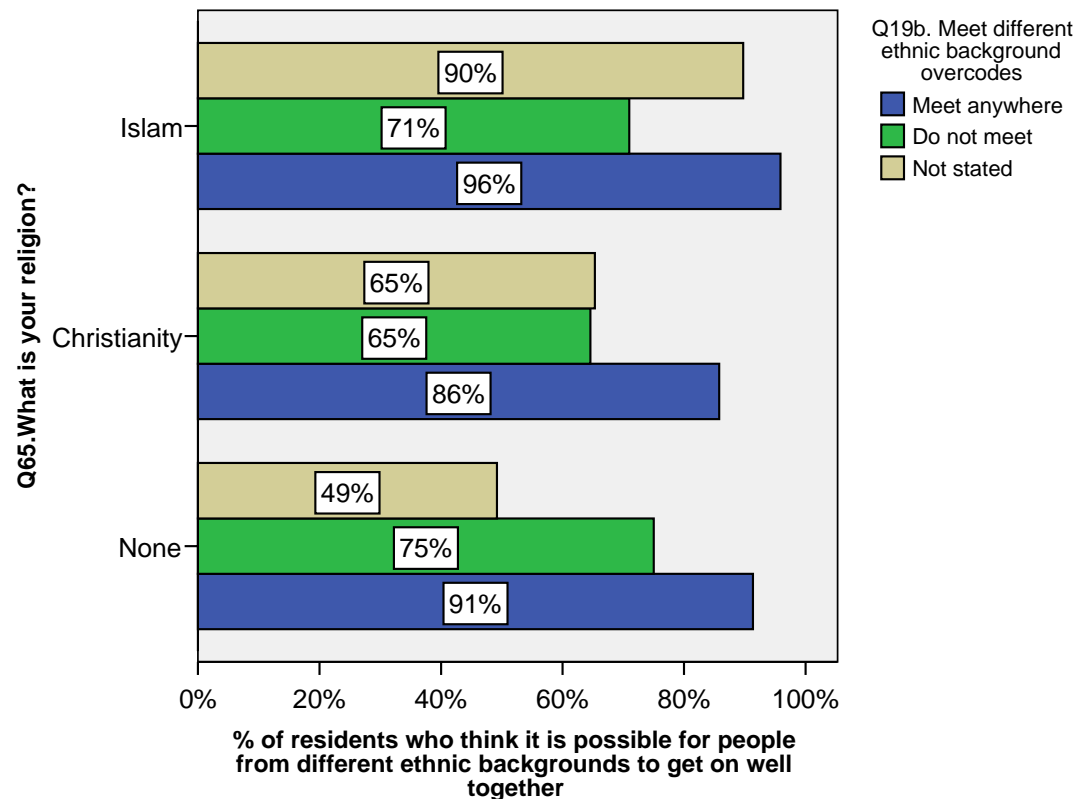
"Having a mix of different people in my neighbourhood makes it a more enjoyable place to live" by religion.
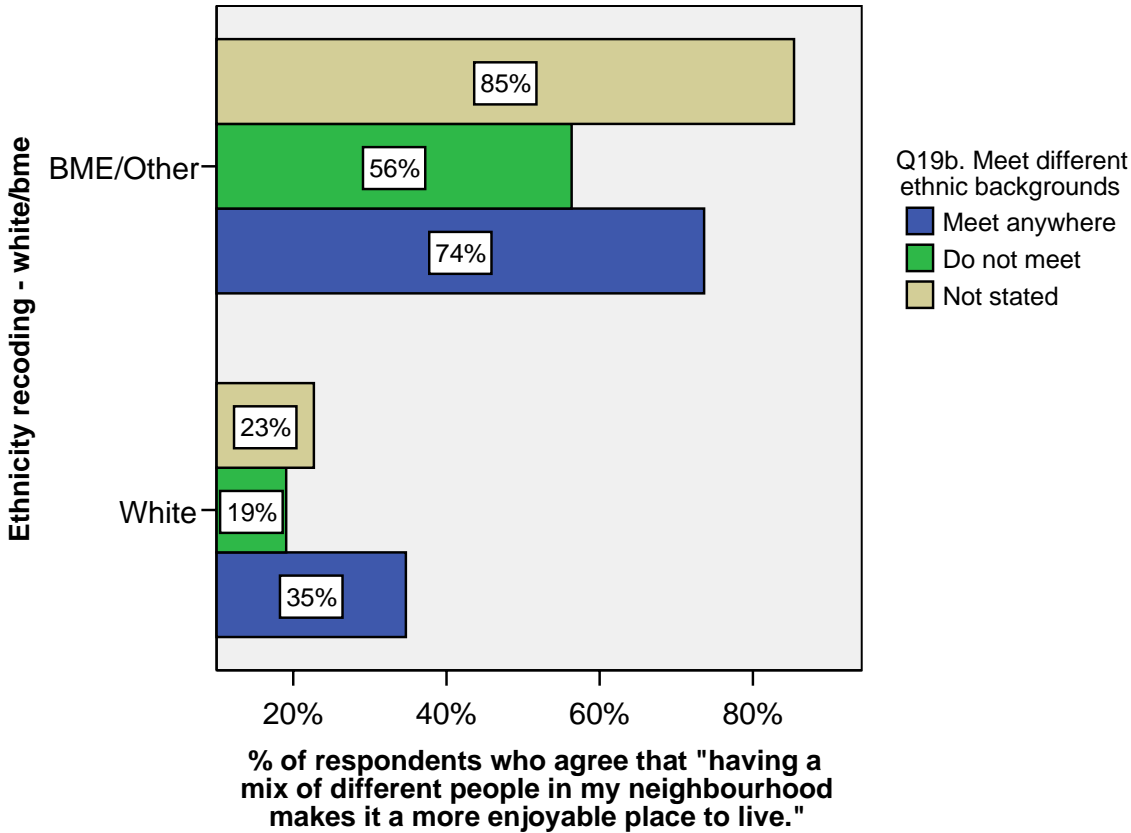
"Is it possible for people from different ethnic backgrounds to get on well together?" by experience of interaction and white/BME split.

"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.
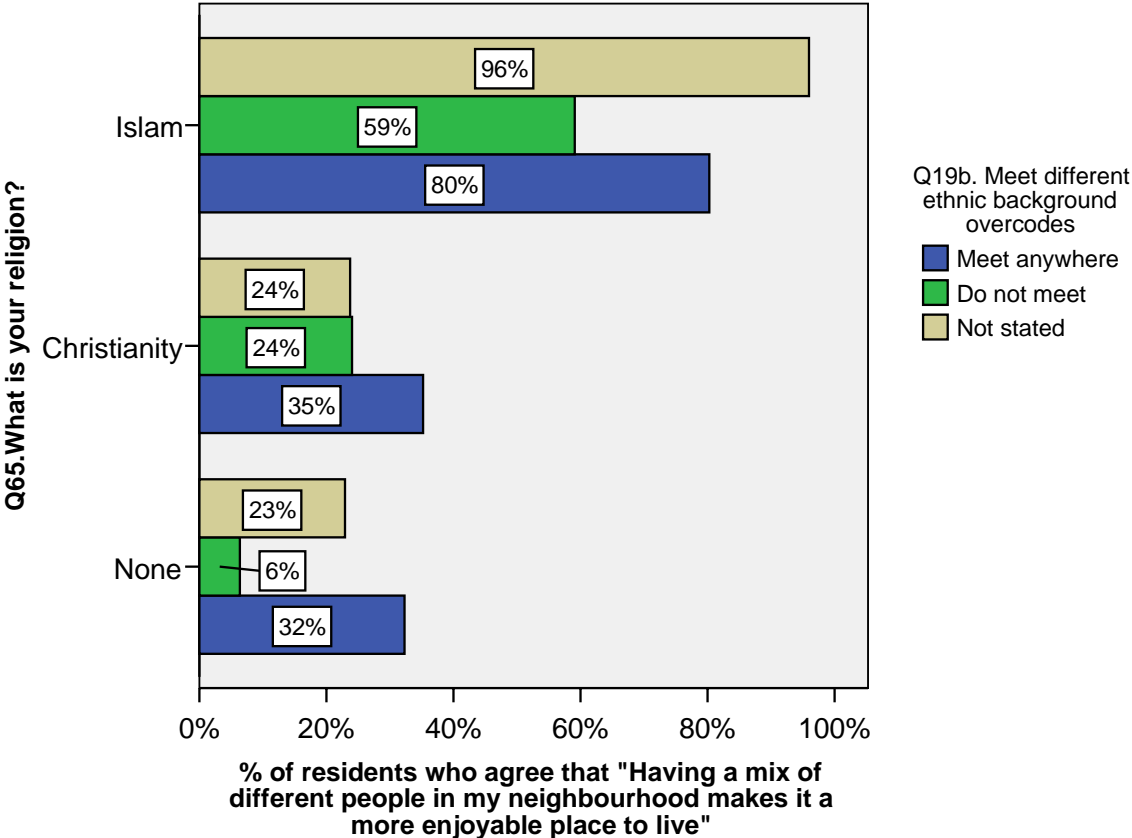
In conclusion – what do we need to do?

- 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.