

Neighbourhood ethnic density and health: evidence and explanatory pathways

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Outline

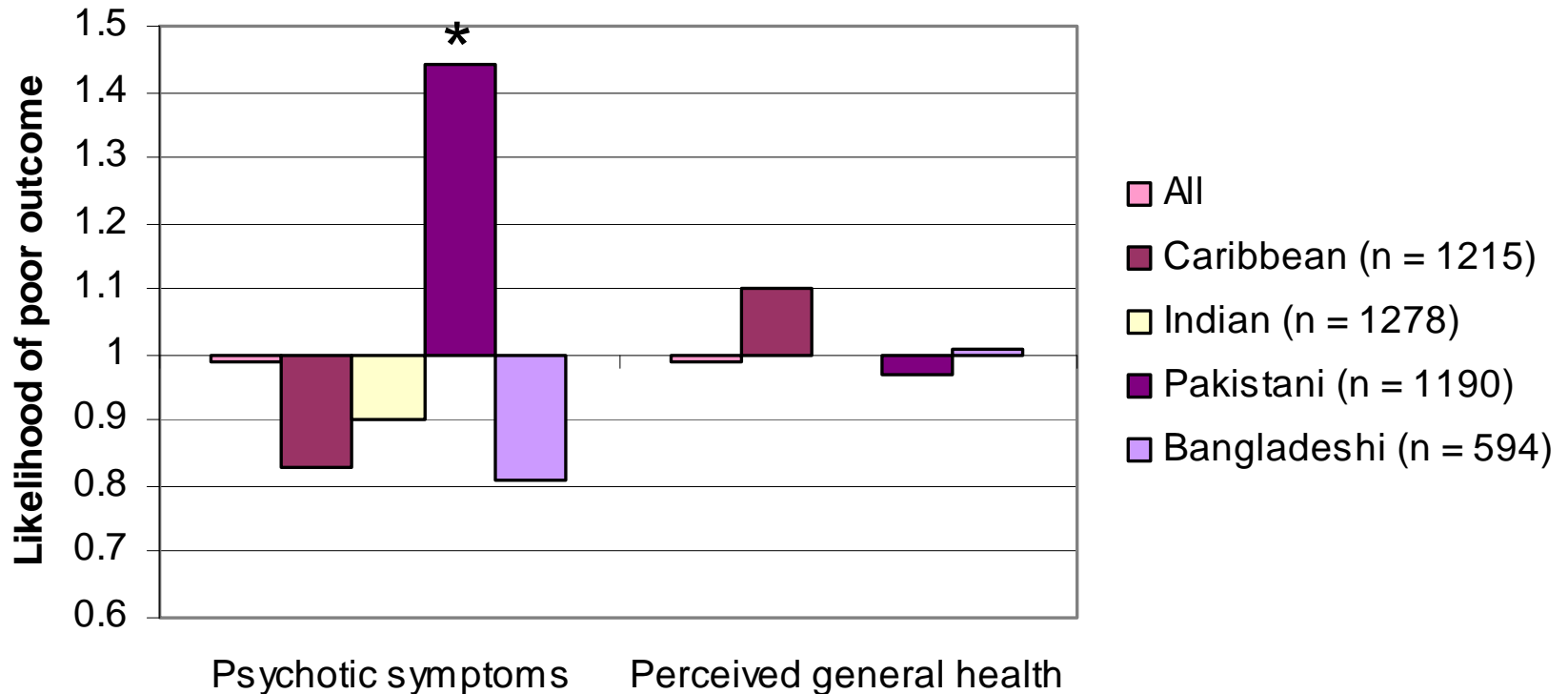
- Is ethnic density associated with health?
 - Depends on outcome of interest
 - Depends on measure of ethnic density
 - Depends on ethnic group
- What are the pathways that link ethnic density to health?
- Raises issues over measurement of ethnicity and neighbourhood factors
- Suggests psychosocial pathways linking ethnic density to health

Ethnic density and health

- Ethnic density as marker of deprivation: ethnic density may be associated with poorer health outcomes
- Studies suggest ethnic density may be protective for health outcomes of ethnic minorities
- Examined in 3 data sources
- Psychological health, general health, health behaviour
- How to operationalise ethnic density?

Measured ethnic density and health

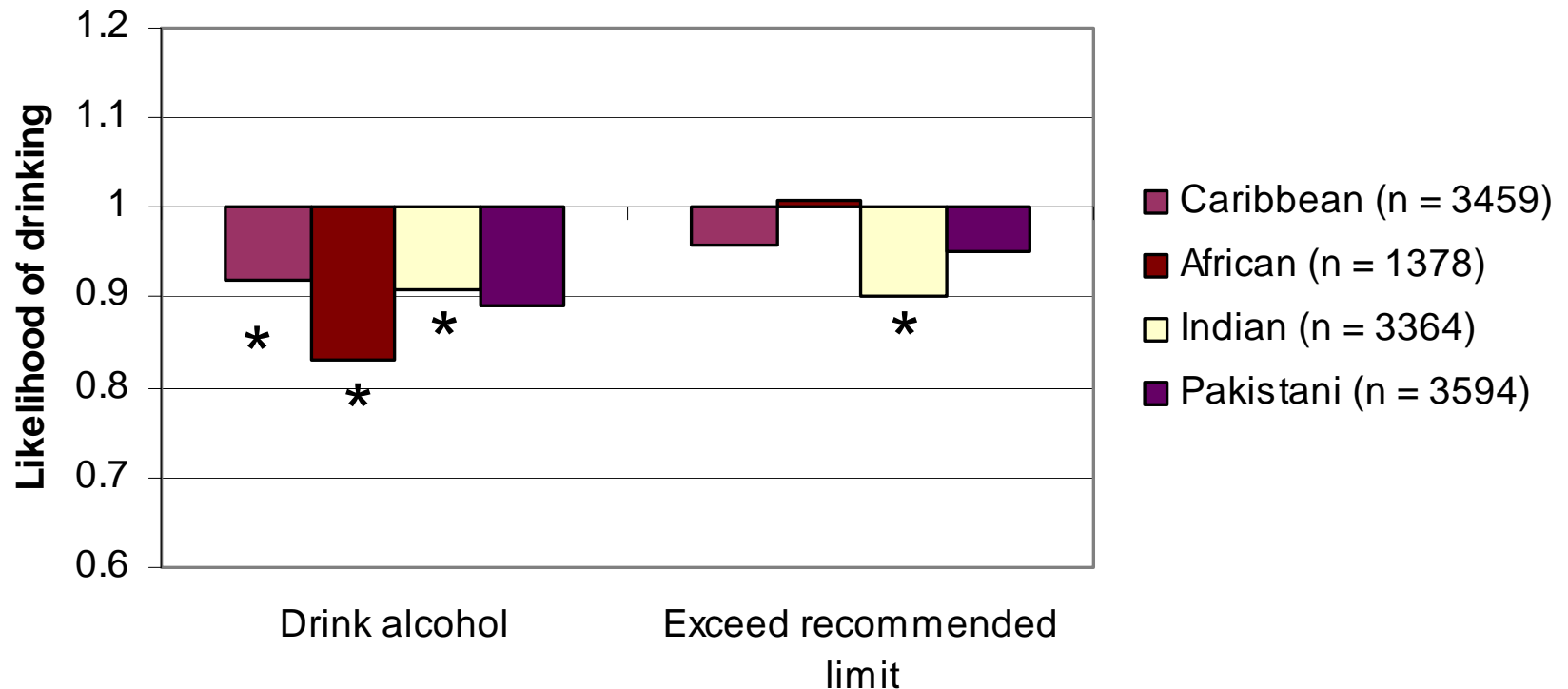
Fourth National Survey 1994



Adjusted for age, sex, household SES, area deprivation

Measured ethnic density and health

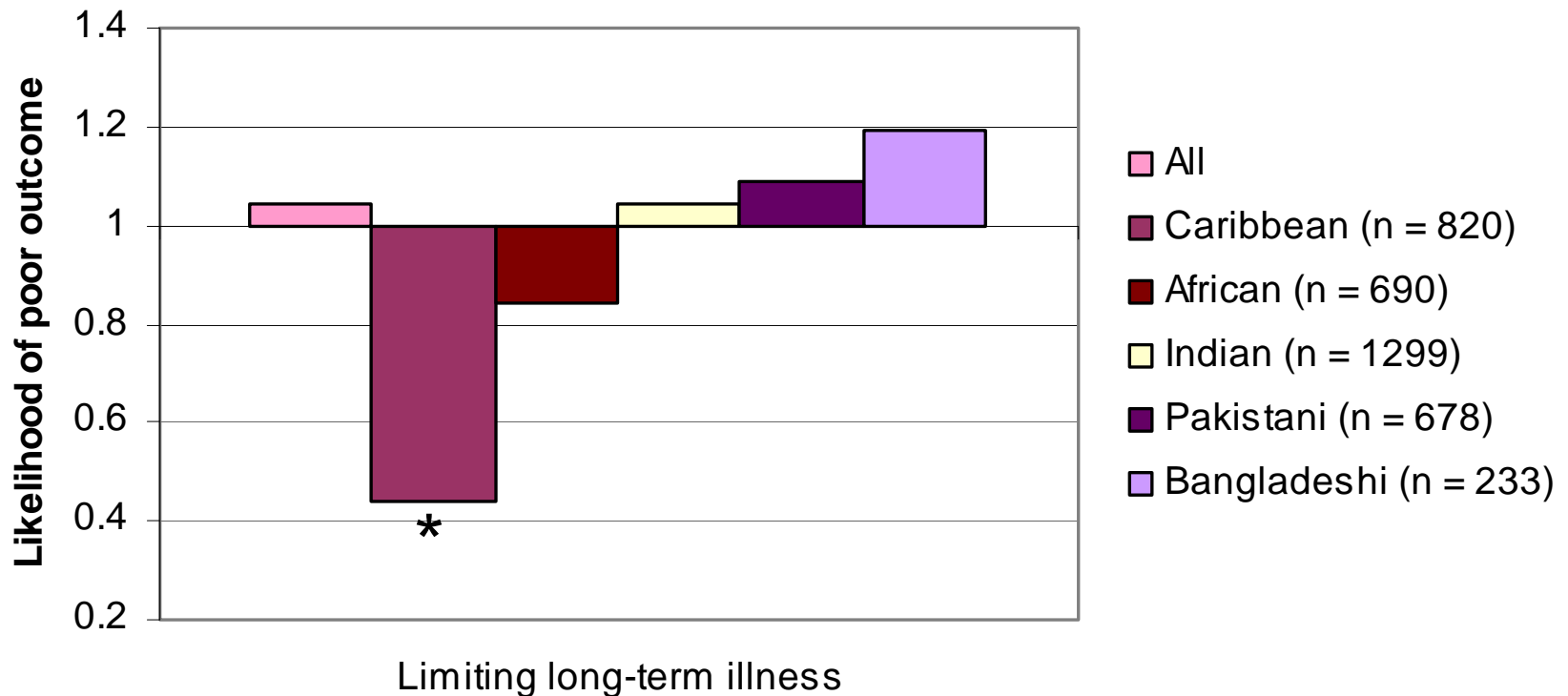
Health Survey for England 1999 & 2004



Adjusted for age, sex, country of birth, household SES, area deprivation

Measured ethnic density and health

Citizenship Survey 2005



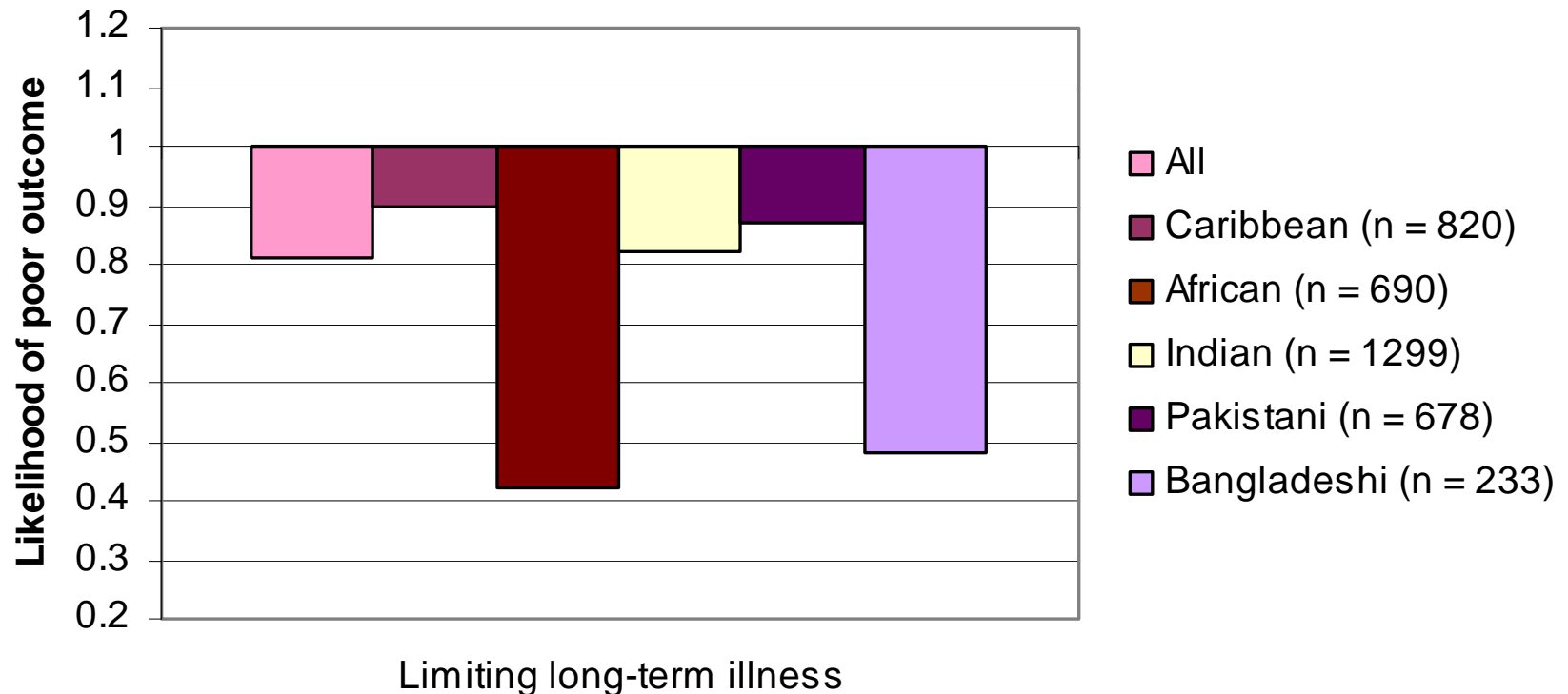
Adjusted for age, sex, household SES, area deprivation

Other ways of capturing ED

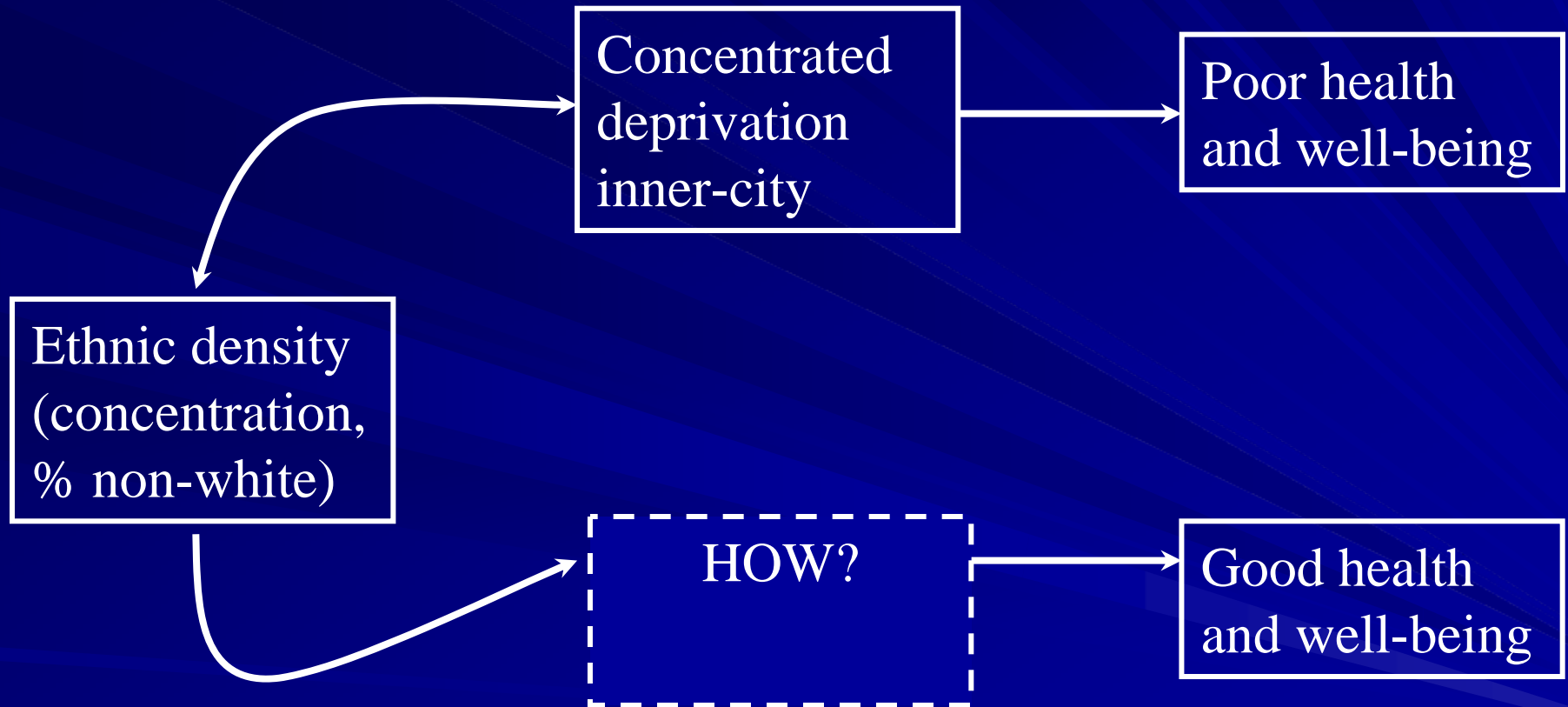
- What proportion of people in this area are same ethnic background as yourself?
 - All the same
 - More than half the same
 - About half the same
 - Less than half the same

Perceived ethnic density and health

Citizenship Survey 2005



Adjusted for age, sex, household SES, area deprivation

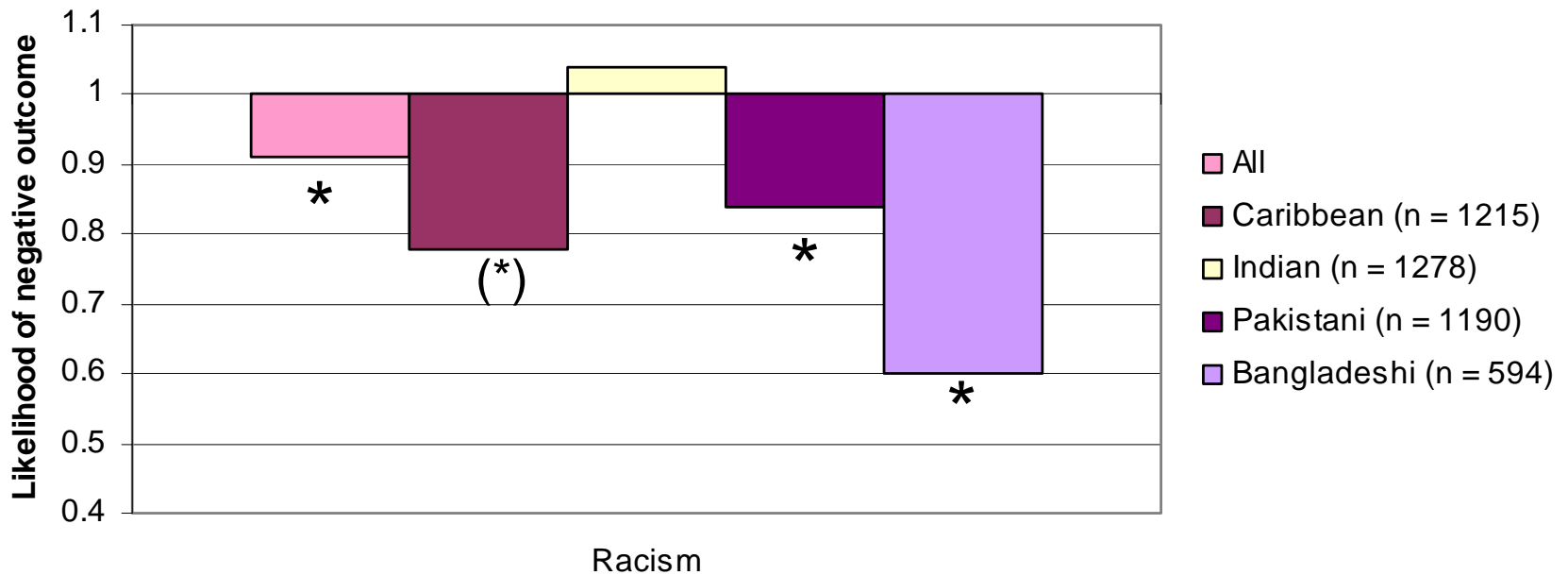


Why might ED be protective?

- Reduced exposure to racism & reduced effect of racism in areas of higher ED
- Greater ED promotes social cohesion for ethnic minority residents
- Greater political mobilisation
- More services & amenities

Ethnic density and racism

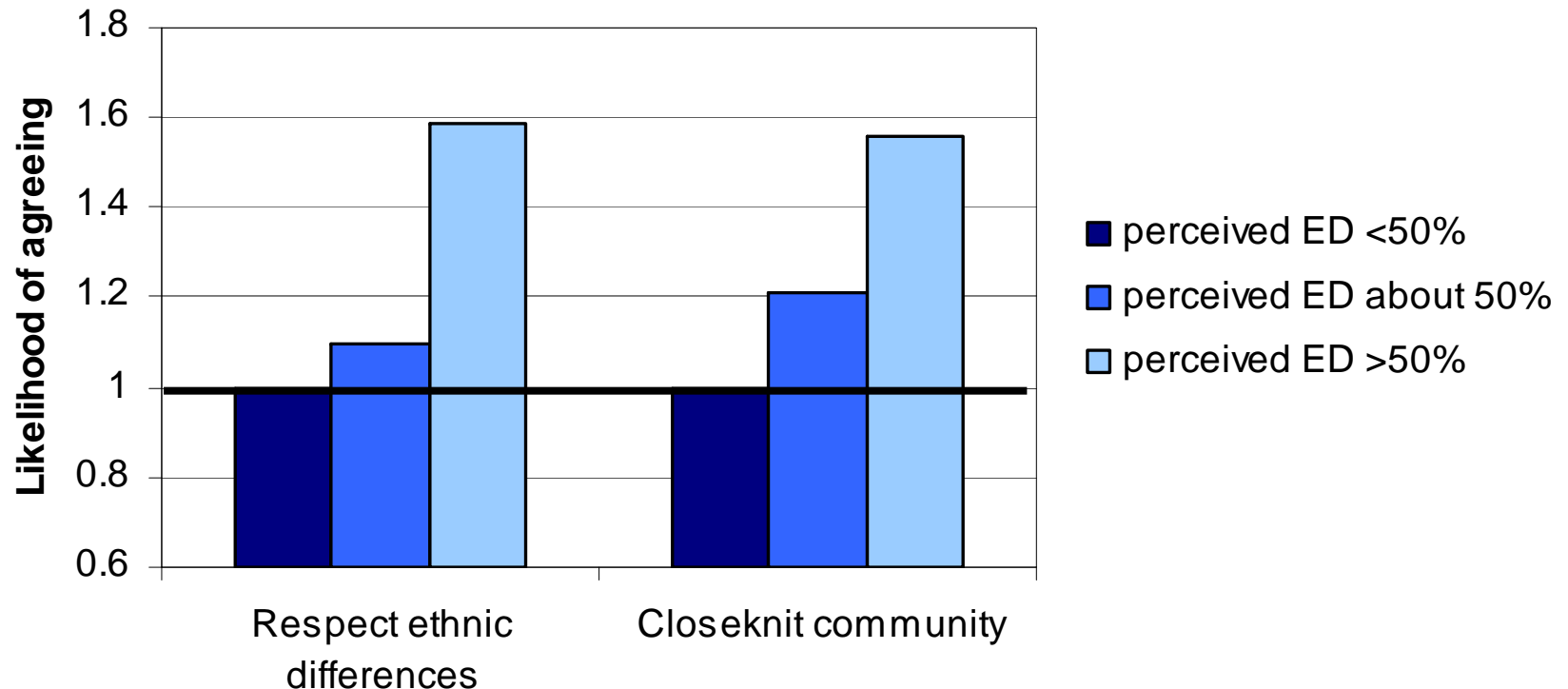
Fourth National Survey 1994



Adjusted for age, sex, household SES, area deprivation

Ethnic density and social cohesion

Citizenship Survey 2005: all BMEGs combined



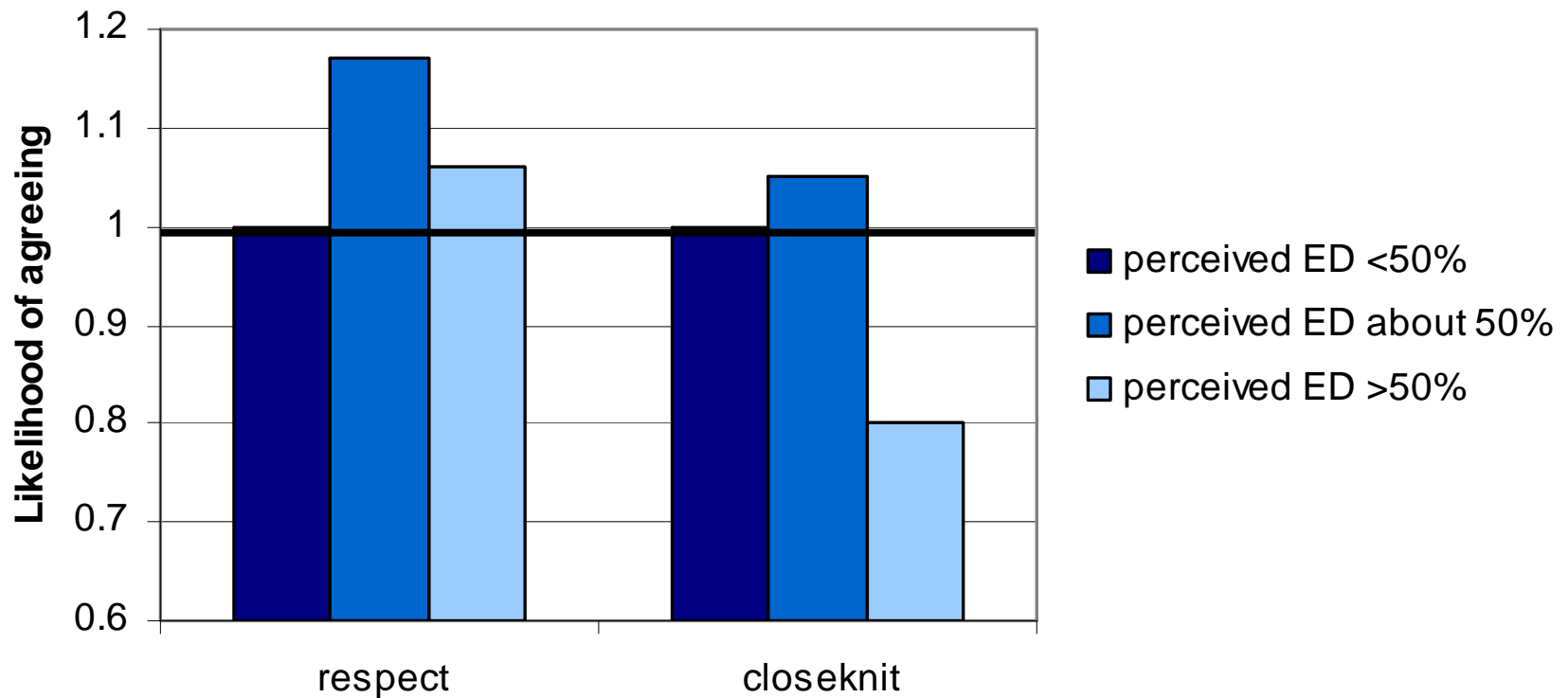
Adjusted for age, sex, household SES, area deprivation

TO ADD

- Add trust to the figure above.
- Shows similar direction and magnitude of association with ED
- Also show measured ED and social cohesion indicators
- Again shows same direction

Ethnic density and social cohesion

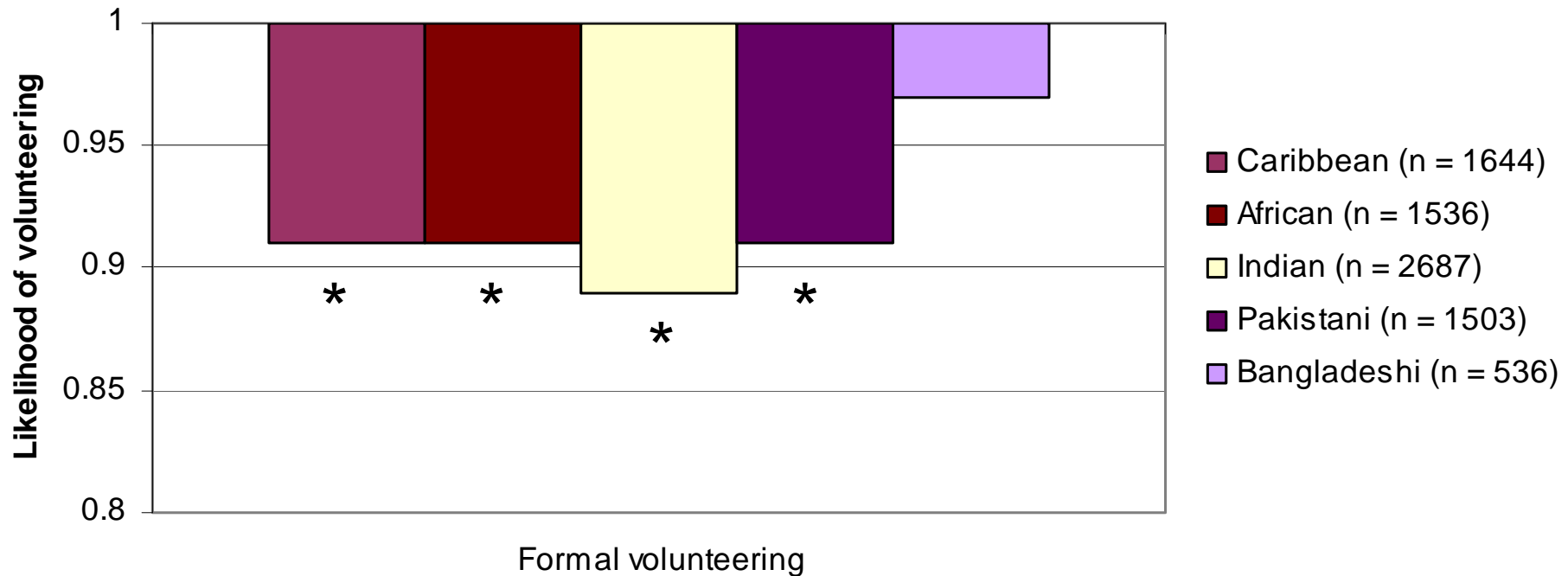
Citizenship Survey 2005: Caribbean participants



Adjusted for age, sex, household SES, area deprivation

Ethnic density and civic engagement

Citizenship Survey 2005 & 2007



Adjusted for age, sex, household SES, area deprivation

Ethnic density and services/amenities

Citizenship Survey

No association: figures in preparation

Summary: ED and health

- Association between ED and health is complex:
 - possible evidence of protective association for psychotic symptoms
 - no clear evidence of association in either direction for general health or long-term limiting illness
 - ED may be associated with lower likelihood of drinking alcohol
- Clearer association if use respondent perceived ED rather than census based ED

Summary: pathways

- ED is associated with lower likelihood of experiencing racism
- ED is positively associated with indicators of social cohesion
 - trust
 - close-knit community
 - respecting ethnic differences
- ED is associated with lower likelihood of civic engagement
- No evidence here that services and amenities are better in higher ED areas

Discussion/next steps

- Psychological vs physical outcomes
- Inconsistent findings across ethnic groups
- Selection effects
- Data sources lack required information
- Operationalising ED
 - What is the most appropriate areal unit?
 - Is it interaction with own ethnic group, ethnic minorities generally, the combination of ethnic groups that matters? What about surrounding areas?

Conclusions

- Ethnic minorities derive some benefits from living in more ethnically dense areas
- To enable ethnic minorities greater residential choice, need to continue to tackle racism & worry about racism
- Opportunity to learn how to promote/preserve social cohesion through looking at high ED areas – generalisable to whole population?

Thank you for listening

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