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5.3-O6

The changing ethnic profiles of Scotland and Glasgow, and the implications for population health  
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## Background

Scotland's population is becoming increasingly ethnically diverse. The aim was to better understand future changes to the ethnic profile of the population, and their implications for population health.

## Methods

The literature regarding the links between ethnicity and health, particularly in a Scottish context, was reviewed, alongside analyses of past trends and new future projections (2011-2031) in the size of the non-White ethnic minority population in Scotland and Glasgow.

## Results

The literature emphasises that the relationships between ethnicity, socioeconomic position (SEP), and health are extremely complex. In Scotland this complexity is arguably enhanced, given the less disadvantaged SEP profile of many ethnic minority groups compared with those in other countries.

Although indicators of overall health (e.g. life expectancy) have been shown to be better among many non-White ethnic minority groups compared with White Scots, such analyses mask a highly complicated set of varying risks of particular diseases among different groups. This complexity extends to understanding the underlying causes of these differences, including the 'healthy migrant' effect, 'acculturation', and the impact of different types and measures of SEP.

The proportion of the population belonging to a non-White ethnic group increased four-fold in both Scotland and Glasgow between 1991 and 2011. New projections suggest that by 2031, c.20% of Glasgow's total population (25% of children) will belong to a non-White minority group.

## Conclusions

Given the above, there is a clear need for policy-makers and service-planners to seek to understand the possible implications of these changes to the Scottish population.

## Main messages

Ethnic minority groups in Scotland are characterised by a highly complex set of varying risks of different diseases compared with White Scots.

New projections suggest the size of the minority non-White population is set to increase markedly: policy-makers and service-planners need to understand the potential implications of these population changes.