

# Baby deaths in the UK: 2020

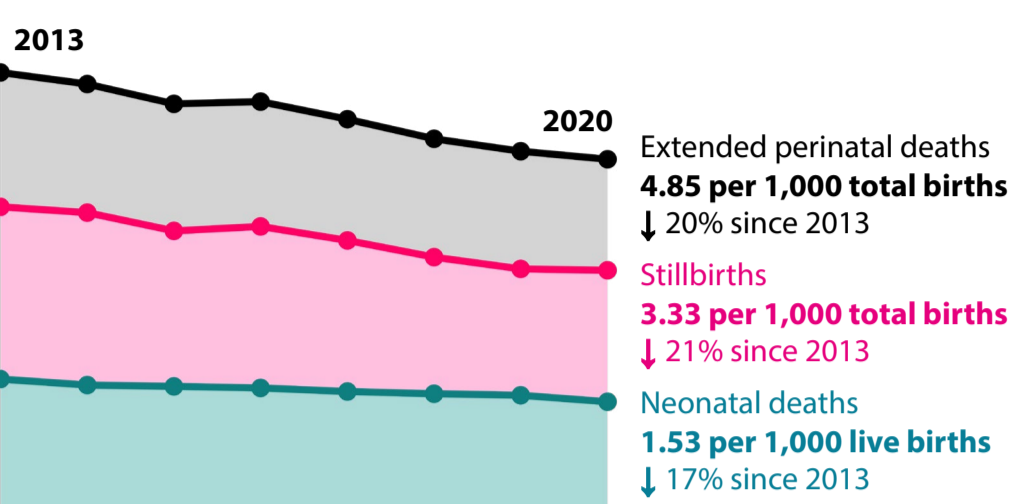
## Summary of key findings

 **689,004**  
babies born in 2020

 **2,292**  
stillbirths

 **1,051**  
neonatal deaths

### 1 Rates of baby death from 24 weeks of pregnancy have reduced since 2013

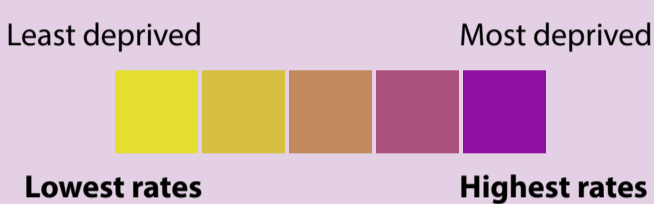


A **stillbirth** is a death occurring before or during birth once a pregnancy has reached 24 weeks.

A **neonatal death** is a baby born at any gestation who lives, even briefly, but dies within 4 weeks of birth.

Stillbirths and neonatal deaths together are called **extended perinatal deaths**.

### 2 Stillbirth and neonatal death rates increased with deprivation across all ethnic groups



You can find more on how ethnicity and deprivation affect baby deaths on pages 2 and 3.



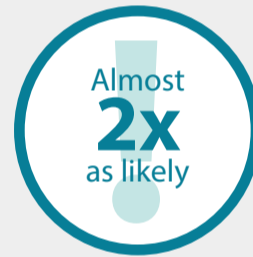
The lowest stillbirth rates were for babies of White ethnicity from the least deprived areas, at **2.78 per 1,000 total births**.

The highest stillbirth rates were for babies of Black African and Black Caribbean ethnicity from the most deprived areas, at around **8 per 1,000 total births**.



The neonatal death rate for babies of White ethnicity from the least deprived areas was **1.26 per 1,000 total births**.

The highest neonatal death rates were for babies of Pakistani and Black African ethnicity from the most deprived areas, at **over 3 per 1,000 live births**.



Compared with other ethnicities, babies of **Black African, Black Caribbean, Pakistani and Bangladeshi** ethnicity are nearly twice as likely to be from deprived areas. They are **much more affected** by the higher rates of stillbirth and neonatal death associated with deprivation.

### 3 Most babies who died were born or stillborn before 37 weeks of pregnancy



**Over 70% of babies** who died were born or stillborn before 37 weeks of pregnancy



Between 2016 and 2020 there was a **19% reduction** in the rate of stillbirth from 37 weeks of pregnancy



The **greatest reduction** in neonatal death was for babies born before 28 weeks of pregnancy

### 4 Stillbirth and neonatal death rates increased for twins between 2016 and 2020



There was a **19% increase** in the twin stillbirth rate and a **16% increase** in the twin neonatal death rate



The gap between singleton and twin death rates is **becoming wider**



Compared to singletons the risk of stillbirth is **over twice as high** in twins and the risk of neonatal death is **over 3 times higher**

#### ABOUT MBRRACE-UK

MBRRACE-UK is a team of researchers, clinicians and representatives of parent groups and charities. Every year MBRRACE-UK collects and analyses data about baby deaths from UK hospitals. We then produce a "Perinatal Mortality Surveillance" report which summarises the rates of stillbirth and neonatal deaths in all four UK nations and for organisations planning and delivering maternity and neonatal care in the UK. The report has recommendations for action to reduce baby deaths.

This year's report includes the period covered by the first nine months of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the first national "lockdown". Hospitals all responded in different ways, and data on how maternity and neonatal care was affected is not collected by MBRRACE-UK. We aim to look at the national impact of the pandemic in our next report.

**READ THE FULL REPORT:**



[www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/mbrance-uk](http://www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/mbrance-uk)

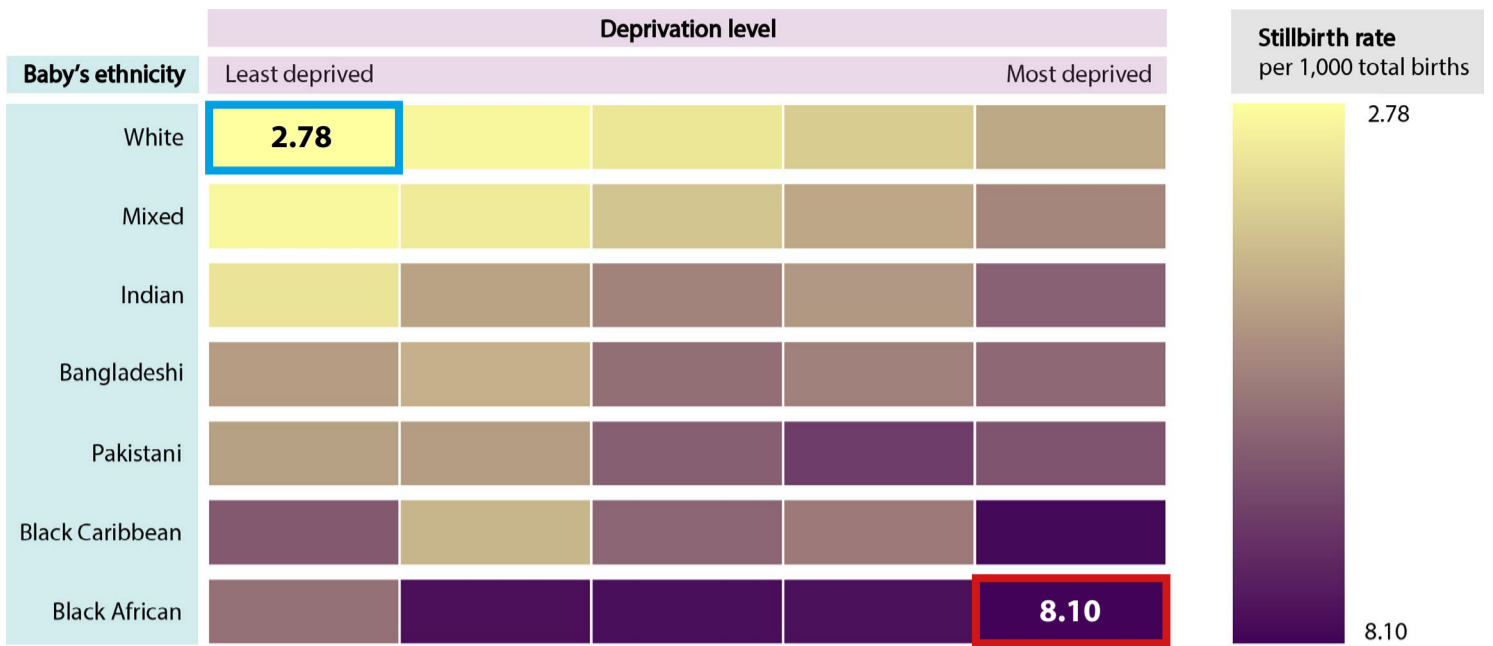
Summary by MBRRACE-UK in conjunction with Bliss, Group B Strep Support, Multiple Births Foundation, Sands, Twins Trust and University of Bradford.

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# Stillbirths in the UK: 2016-2020

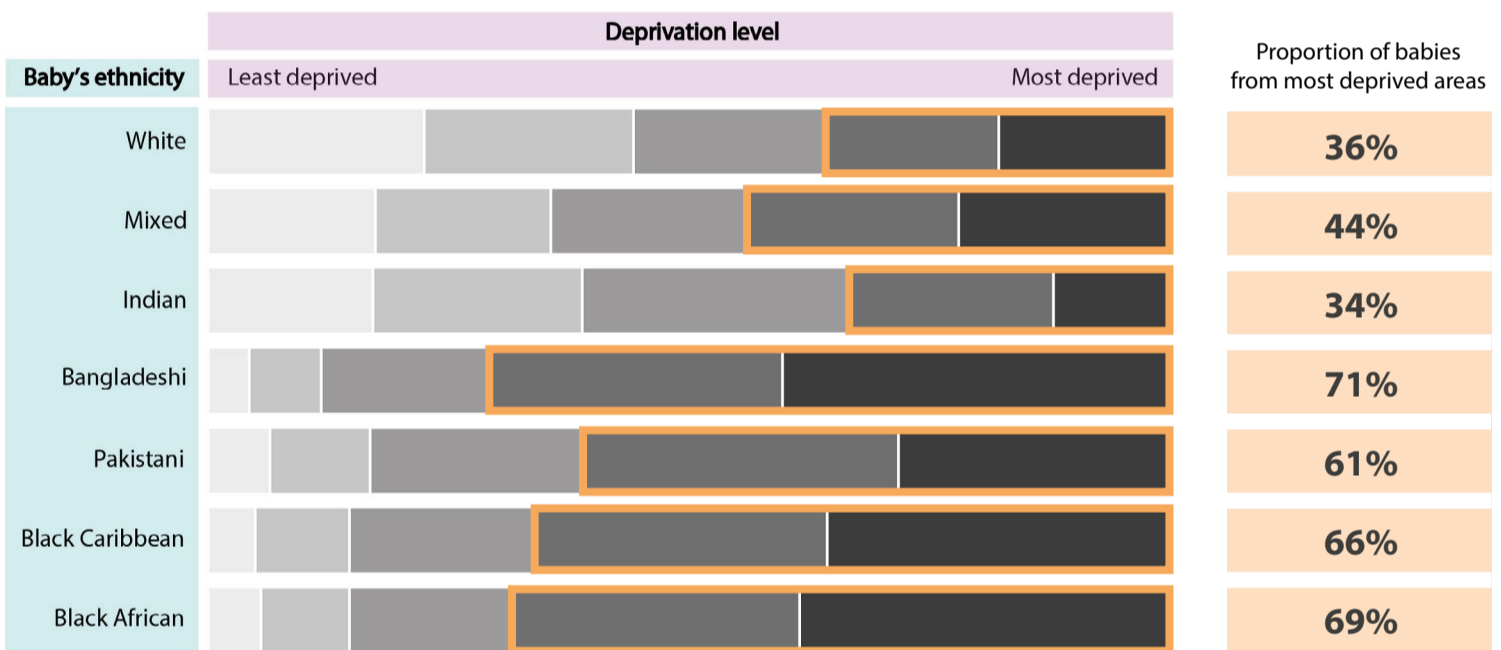
## Effects of ethnicity and deprivation

### 1 Stillbirth rates increased with deprivation across all ethnic groups

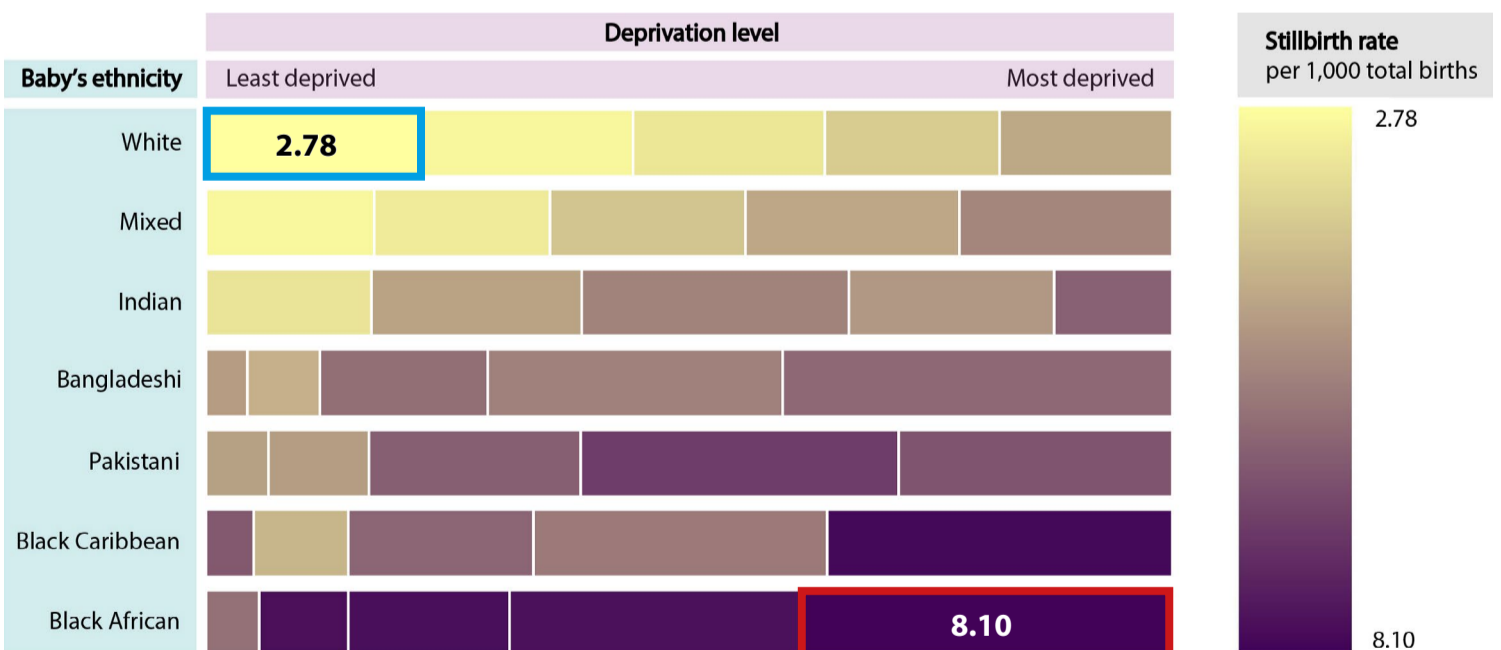


Deprivation is measured by looking at the proportion of families with low incomes in each local area. We then divide the number of babies born into five equal groups, from the least deprived to the most deprived.

### 2 Some ethnic groups have a much greater proportion of babies born to families from deprived areas



### 3 Combining the two charts shows how some ethnic groups are much more affected by the higher rates of stillbirth associated with deprivation



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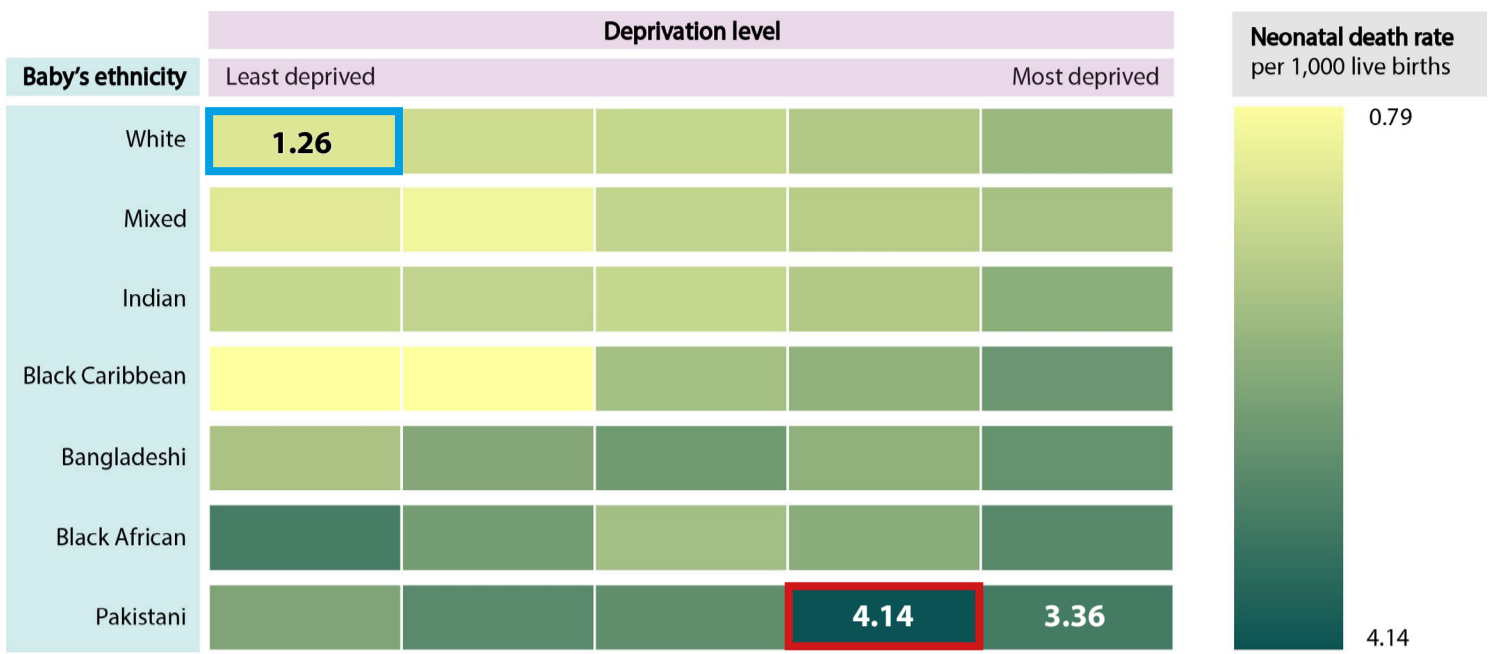


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# Neonatal deaths in the UK: 2016-2020

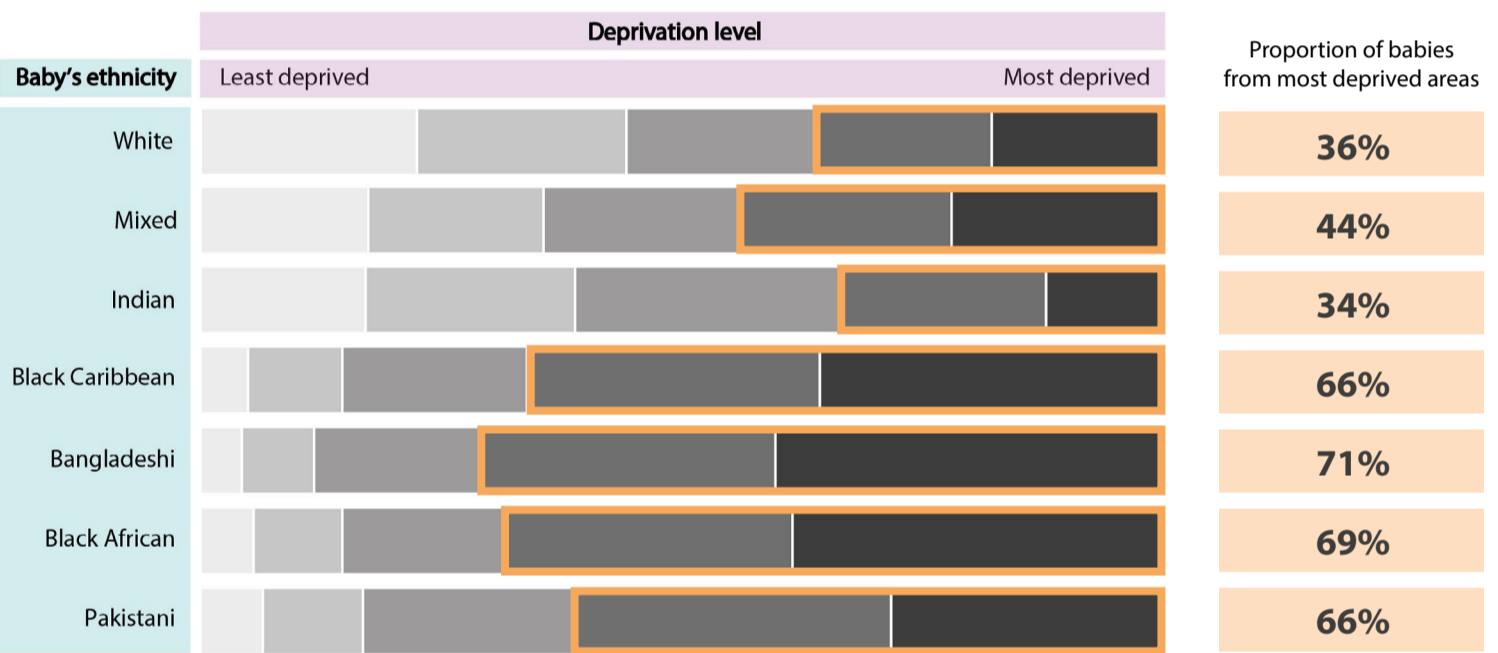
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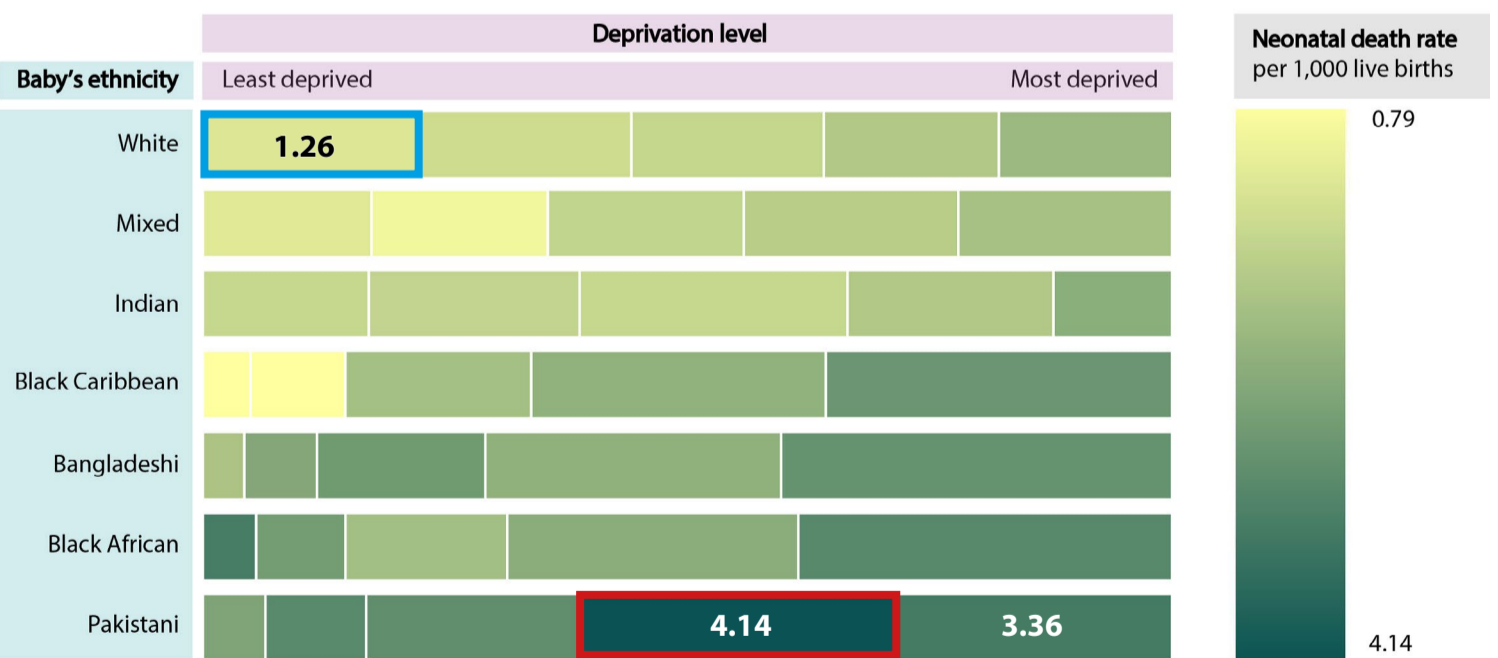


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