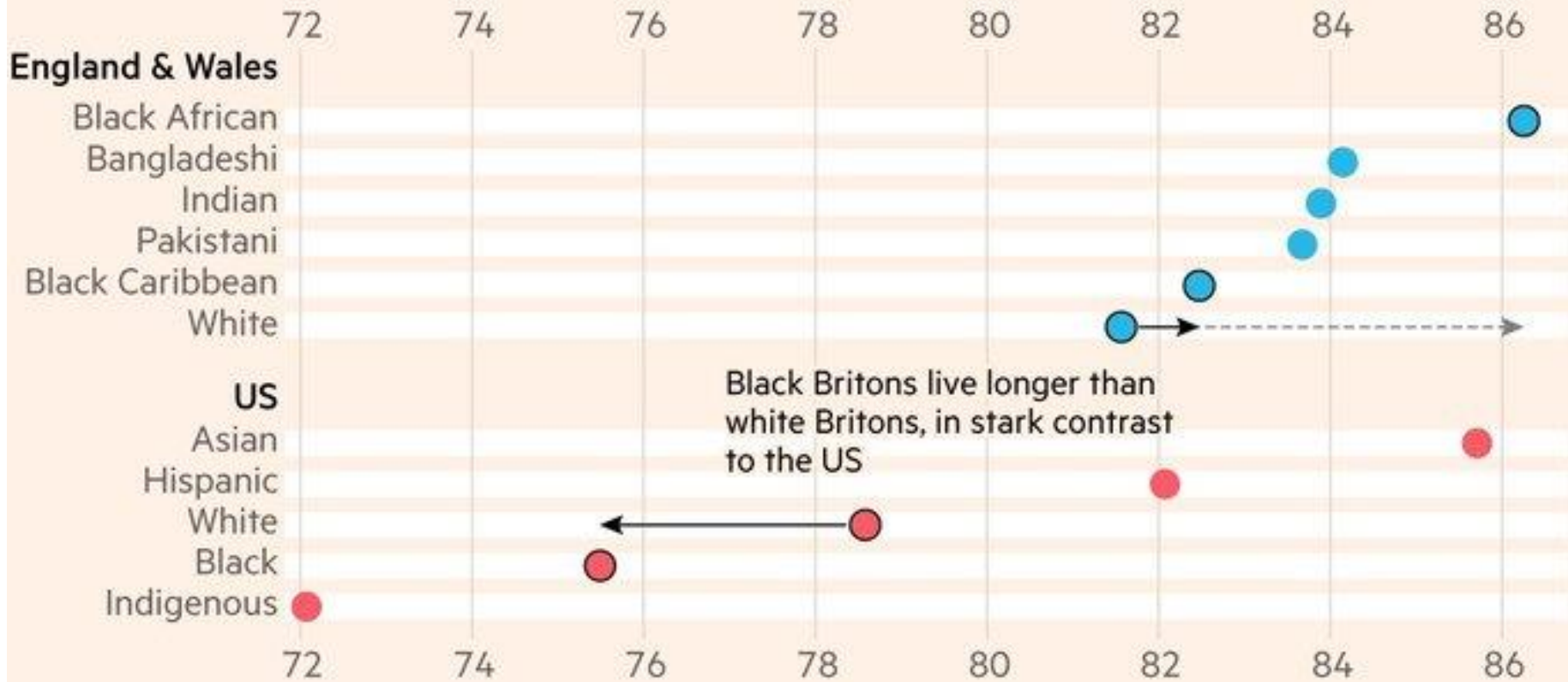


Racial inequality in the US is much wider than in the UK

Life expectancy by country and racial/ethnic group



Sources: US CDC; ONS

FT graphic: John Burn-Murdoch / @jburnmurdoch

© FT

Comment on the graph

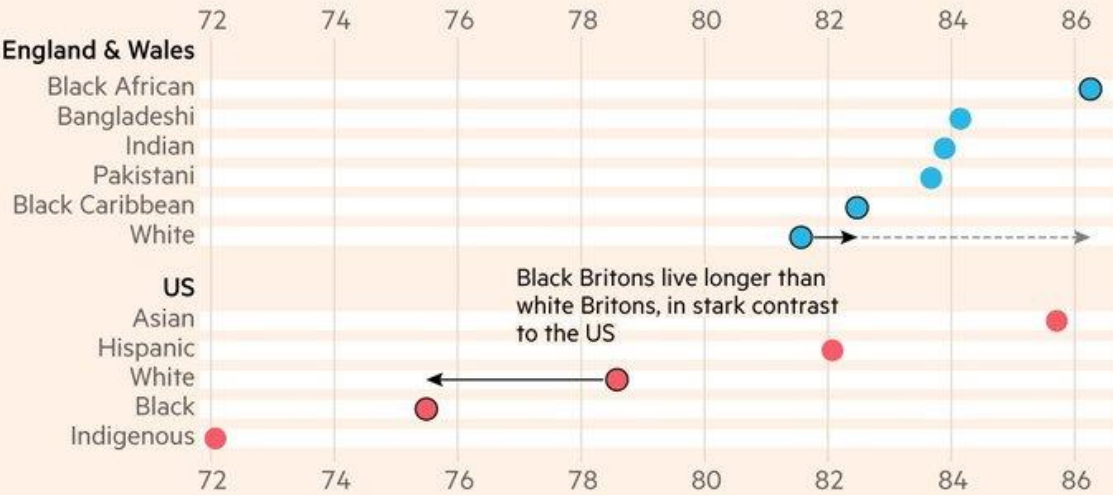
What The Graph 41: teacher notes

Notes/comments

- This comes from an article in the Financial Times that compared various social issues in the USA and in the UK, and concluded that the two countries are very different!
- There are lots of things for the students to point out, including:
 - The headline says “the UK”, but the data is for “England & Wales”, ignoring Scotland and Northern Ireland.
 - The ages go up in twos, and the scales are the same for the two countries.
 - The scales are aligned to show comparisons, even though none of the groups in the England & Wales graph are below 80.
 - The ‘racial/ethnic groups’ given are not the same in both countries. In the UK census people are asked to identify their own group, so perhaps similar data is collected in the US, and these groups have been used? Presumably some groups have been ignored (because they are small?).
 - What about people whose parents are from different groups? In the UK everyone is asked to self-identify.
 - In the US the difference between each of the groups mentioned is about 3.5 years, which feels like a lot.
- Can students work out what the arrows mean?
- I tweeted the author of the graph to ask. He replied to say that they show the difference between people who are White and Black. There are two different relevant groups in England & Wales, so both are shown (with one being dotted).
- Why might there be these differences? In the US healthcare is expensive (it requires either insurance or needs to be paid for). In the UK the NHS is free at the point of use (paid for via tax). Does diet have an effect? Poverty?
- The next slide shows two versions of the graph. The left-hand one comes from the Financial Times webpage. The right-hand one was tweeted by the creator of the graph. There are differences!
 - The middle 4 groups for England & Wales form a straight line on the right, but not on the left.
 - In the US, the White group is over 79 on the right, but under 79 on the left.
 - Lots of other differences.
- The final slide shows one graph overlaid onto the other. I made one transparent and stretched it to the years are aligned. This makes the differences obvious.

Racial inequality in the US is much wider than in the UK

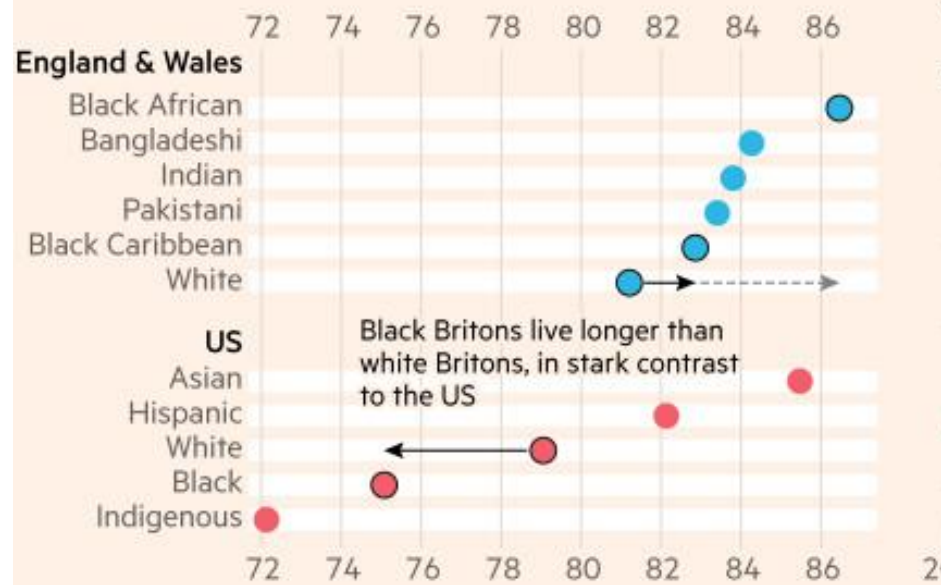
Life expectancy by country and racial/ethnic group



Sources: US CDC; ONS
 FT graphic: John Burn-Murdoch / @jburnmurdoch
 © FT

Racial inequality in the US is much wider than in England & Wales

Life expectancy by country and racial/ethnic group

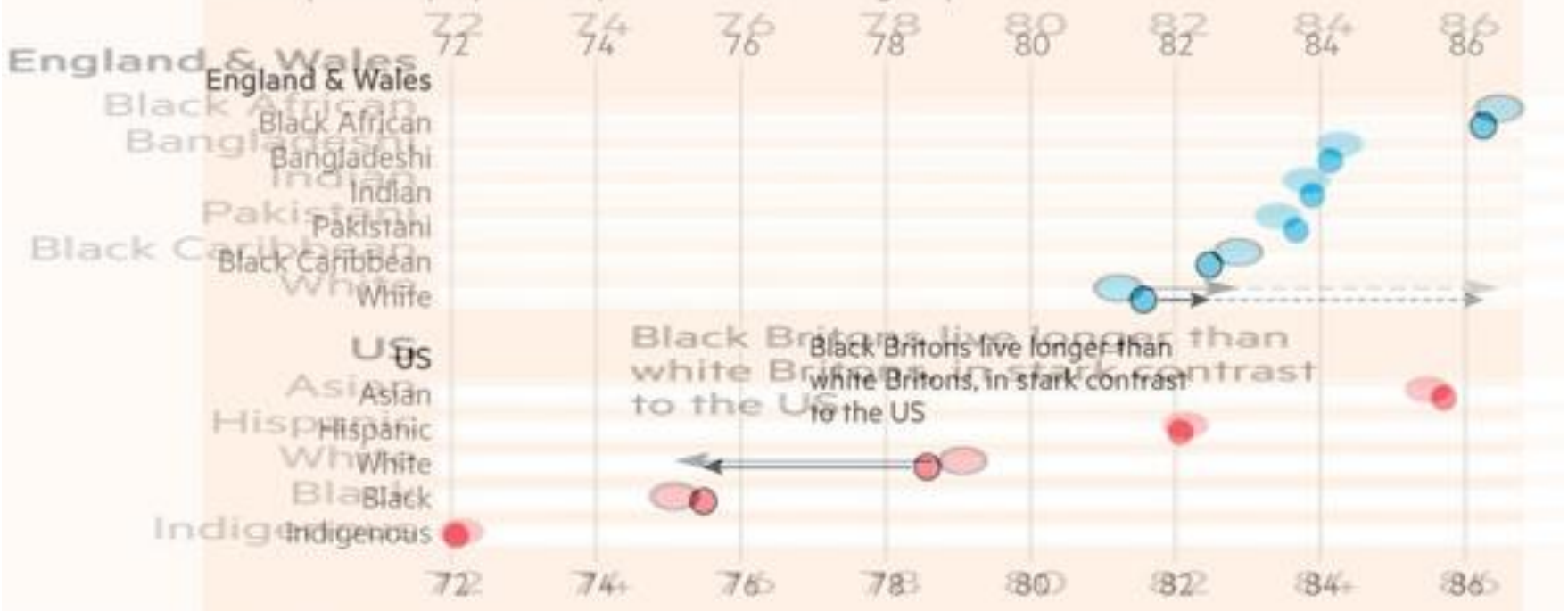


Sources: US CDC; Economic Policy Institute; ONS; FT analysis of Annual Population Survey
 FT graphic: John Burn-Murdoch / @jburnmurdoch
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Spot the difference!

Racial inequality in the US is much wider than in the UK

Life expectancy by country and racial/ethnic group



Black Britons live longer than white Britons, in stark contrast to the US

Sources: US CDC; ONS; Economic Policy Institute; ONS; FT analysis of Annual Population Review 2019
 FT graphic by John Burn-Murdoch / @burnmurdoch
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