



Ethnic Minority Covid-19 Research and Covid-19 Vaccine Trial Public Perceptions

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Presentation outline

- Covid-19 research
- Study Findings: Covid-19 vaccine trial perceptions and willingness to participate
- Conclusion

Primary research on ethnic minorities and Covid-19

- Understanding attitudes and beliefs about Covid-19 and the impact of the pandemic on health and wellbeing
- Covid-19 vaccination perception and willingness to participate in vaccine clinical trials

Areas of Covid-19 research contributions

- Impact of Covid-19
- Clinical outcomes: Incidence and mortality
- Inequality
- Inclusion in research
- Pre-existing health conditions and Covid-19
- Policy recommendations
- Covid-19 vaccine trials

Covid-19 impact and outcomes



International Journal of Epidemiology, 2020, 1951–1962
doi: 10.1093/ije/dyaa208
Advance Access Publication Date: 8 December 2020
Original article

COVID-19

Ethnic-minority groups in England and Wales—factors associated with the size and timing of elevated COVID-19 mortality: a retrospective cohort study linking census and death records

July 3, 2020

The Independent Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE)

The Independent SAGE Report 6

Disparities in the impact of COVID-19 in Black and Minority Ethnic populations: review of the evidence and recommendations for action

BMJ 2020;369:m1548 doi: 10.1136/bmj.m1548 (Published 20 April 2020)

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EDITORIALS

Is ethnicity linked to incidence or outcomes of covid-19?

Preliminary signals must be explored urgently

Inequality and inclusion in Research

Comment 

COVID-19 and ethnicity: who will research results apply to? 

NIHR | National Institute
for Health Research

**Ensuring ethnic diversity in COVID-19
research**

November 13, 2020 The Independent Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE)

The Independent SAGE Report 21

COVID-19 and Health Inequality

Pre-existing health conditions and Covid-19



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Diabetes & Metabolic Syndrome: Clinical Research & Reviews

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/dsx

ELSEVIER

Check for updates

COVID-19, ethnicity and cardiometabolic disease self-management in UK primary care

DIABETICMedicine

DOI: 10.1111/dme.143

Review

Managing People with Diabetes Fasting for Ramadan During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A South Asian Health Foundation Update

Policy recommendations

EDITORIALS

Covid-19 and ethnic minorities: an urgent agenda for overdue action

The government's report falls seriously short on commitment

Journal of Public Health | pp. 1-3

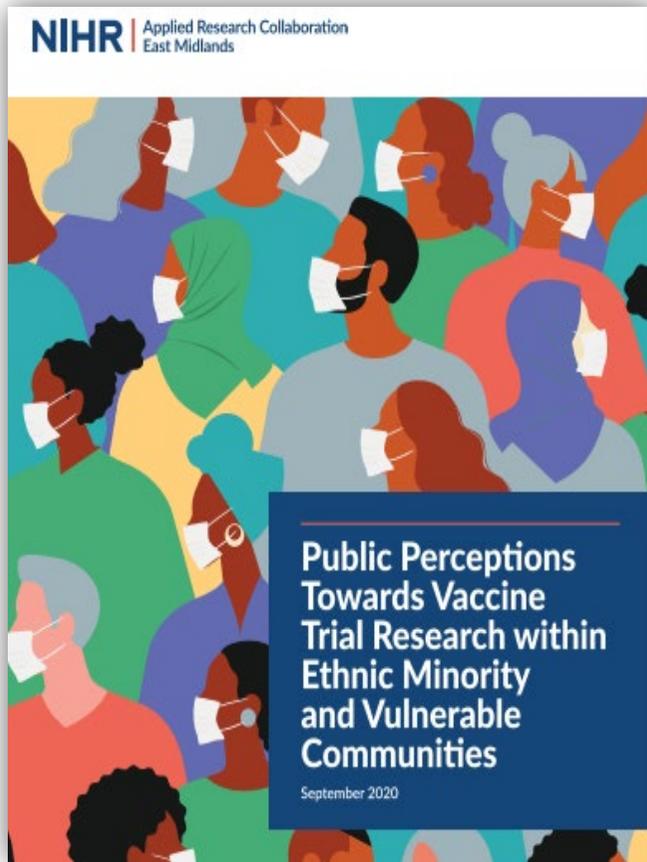
Correspondence

The need for improved collection and coding of ethnicity in health research



Urgent actions and policies needed to address COVID-19 among UK ethnic minorities

Covid-19 vaccine trial perception



Correspondence

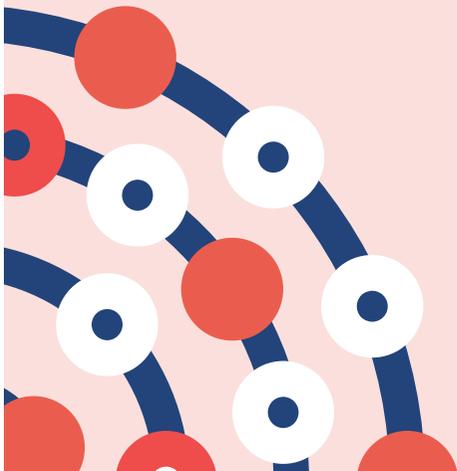
The views of ethnic minority and vulnerable communities towards participation in COVID-19 vaccine trials

Journal of Public Health | pp. 1-3





Covid-19 Vaccine Trial Perception and Willingness to Participate



Purpose of study

- To conduct **community consultation** to support understanding and delivery of Covid-19 vaccine studies
- To explore **perceptions towards participation** in vaccine trials amongst ethnic minority and vulnerable communities towards achieving higher recruitment rates.
- To understand the **socioeconomic and cultural factors, and healthcare access** that influence Covid-19 disparities and vaccine trials

Study approach

- **Study 1 – Qualitative investigation**

- July–August 2020
- Focus groups and interviews with 70 public and patient involvement (PPI) network representatives
- **Ethnic and vulnerable groups** represented:
 - South Asian, African and Afro-Caribbean, White Polish and British
 - Mental health, Homeless, and Gypsy, Roma and Travellers (GRT)

- **Study 2 – Quantitative investigation**

- October 2020
- Online survey with 411 participants
- Diverse ethnic and socioeconomic groups

Findings – Study 1 (Perception)

- Wide agreement on clinical **research importance**
- **Discomfort** attending hospitals for research
- **Fears of Covid-19 infection**, side effects, lack of support and language barriers
- Demand for **cultural appropriate information** and transparency at all stages of trials
- Some issues were expressed more amongst certain groups, e.g.
 - **Religious concerns** amongst South Asians
 - **Suspicious of vaccine agendas** amongst Black communities
 - Need for **third sector involvement** for homeless people and mental health sufferers

Findings – Study 2 (Willingness to participate)

- More **negative responses** among ethnic minorities compared to white communities
- **Willingness to participate** increased with age and level of education
- **Preferred location** for trial was less formal settings like community centres or outdoor tents/drive-throughs
- **Main motivation** for participations included willingness to contribute to finding solutions to control Covid-19 within own communities
- Factors that would **encourage participation** including access to information, location, supportive services and evidence of transparency

Other findings

- **Lack of information** influenced apprehension, scepticism and low levels of trust towards vaccine research
- **Variation in willingness to participate** in vaccine trial highlights priority areas to be addressed in all health research
- **Heterogeneous nature of ethnic minorities** contributed to missed opportunities for vaccine trial involvement

Recommendations

- Addressing concerns from each group need targeted information, resources and support services
- Need for both active and reactive measures to support trial participants
- Clear reassurance of safety to alleviate fears of side-effects
- Enhance collaborative communication and publicity strategies and resources



Conclusion



Conclusion

- Wide research engagement with communities, academic and policy makers
- Active information dissemination to support ways to tackle Covid-19 challenges
- Identified concerns of ethnic minority and vulnerable communities related to Covid-19 vaccines trials
- Outlined recommendations to improve involvement of minority and vulnerable groups in health research

Acknowledgements

- Centre for Black and Minority Ethnic Health (CBMEH)
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