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Introduction



Why an Annual Public Health Report?

Every year NHS Haringey produces an Annual Public Health Report to draw attention to key issues of concern to public health and provide a snapshot of the health of the population of Haringey. The aims of this report are:

- To describe the epidemiology and health needs of minority ethnic communities and migrants in Haringey.
- To describe current public health interventions and provision of services for minority ethnic communities and migrants in Haringey.
- To provide examples of good practice.
- To identify gaps in data and services.
- To inform strategy and commissioning of health services.
- To improve access to services.

The report has been produced by NHS Haringey in partnership with Haringey Council and community organisations.

Why a focus on Black and Minority and migrant health?

Haringey's population is now estimated at 226,200², of which over 120,000 people are from a Black and Minority Ethnic group.³ While most of these people were born in the UK, around 37% were born outside the UK and came here as migrants.⁴

Despite the significant size of this population, we still do not know enough about the health needs and health outcomes of Black and Minority Ethnic groups. However, we do know that some Black and Minority Ethnic groups experience worse health than White British residents of the borough and are less likely to use some key health services. The reasons behind this are complex and some of the difference in outcomes can be explained by the increased likelihood of certain ethnic groups experiencing deprivation, itself a cause of poor health.

We need to understand much more about the experiences of Black and Minority Ethnic communities so that we can better design and deliver our services. If we ignore this challenge, we risk exacerbating inequalities in health between ethnic groups and contributing to the persistence of injustice.

For this reason, we have decided to focus this year's Annual Public Health Report on Black and Minority Ethnic health. We have also sought to highlight the specific health issues experienced by migrants where possible, because we know that some migrant groups, such as refugees and asylum seekers, face particular barriers to accessing services.

The data

An emerging theme of the report is that data collection and analysis on ethnicity and health is inadequate. This report uses a wide range of data sources, including information on ethnicity, country of birth and ways of migration, where this is available. It is important to acknowledge that there will be some inconsistencies in the way in which data is presented, depending on the source and the way information is recorded. Furthermore, some data has started to be collected only recently, whereas other sources of data may stretch back a number of years.

The importance of partnership

NHS Haringey cannot solve the problems described in this report by acting alone. Many of the initiatives that are developing new ways of improving the health and well-being of Black and Minority Ethnic groups have been led by those communities themselves. Other service providers in the borough have also developed more accessible ways of delivering services. In this report we have highlighted some examples of new approaches to health and well-being that are proving effective.

What is clear is that addressing the health needs of Black and Minority Ethnic groups and reducing health inequalities will require improved partnership working and a commitment to real engagement with communities themselves. This report is intended as a first step in what we acknowledge will be a long-term challenge. We hope it will prove a useful resource for all those committed to improving the health and well-being of Haringey residents.

