

Ethnic inequalities in health: Drivers and positive actions to reduce disparity

Wednesday, 25th November 2020, 10am – 12pm. This is an online event which will be held via zoom.

Chair - Cllr Tim Hutchings, Cabinet Member for Public Health & Prevention, Hertfordshire County Council

Speakers

Dr Daksha Trivedi - Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Research in Public Health and Community Care (CRIPACC); Co-chair Hertfordshire Public Health Connect Strategic Group

Dr Shivani Sharma - Head of Psychology Division; Executive Lead EDI; Health inequalities researcher (University of Herts)

Faizal Hakim - Equalities & Diversity Manager, Hertfordshire County Council

Victoria Gabrel - Programs Manager, Black Thrive, Lambeth

Iffat Tejani - Cycle leader and participant, Stanmore Jafferys Ladies Cycling and Watford Cycle Hub

Caroline Roche - Sports and Physical Activity Development Manager, Watford Borough Council

The aim of this masterclass is to provide an overview of the contextual backdrop of ethnic inequalities in health and to draw on case examples to share practices that have helped address important dimensions of ethnic disparity in health.

Health inequalities, or unfair and avoidable differences in health outcomes, are longstanding. Despite the national emphasis on a utilitarian model of healthcare, it is clear that not all groups in society enjoy the same level of health and well-being. Multiple national reports highlight ethnic inequalities specifically. Some examples of disparity include:

- Higher prevalence of psychotic disorder in Black men (Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey, 2014).
- Risk of diabetes being 3-5 times higher amongst minority ethnic communities and with earlier onset (Goff, 2019).
- Stark differences in smoking prevalence, with Bangladeshi men reporting use of tobacco more often than any other group (Public Health England, 2017).
- Ethnic variation in overweight and obesity in children (Strugnell et al, 2020).
- Lower uptake of cancer screening in people of Indian origin (PHE EoE review, unpublished).

Health disparities rest on many factors, but a key part of any solution should be better engagement with people from minority ethnic communities - a key theme within this masterclass. We will also provide an overview of tools available to help commissioners, public health teams, and other health services understand the drivers of disparity and to identify suitable actions. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought such issues into sharper focus. Minority ethnic communities have been hit hard with rates of infection, symptom severity and COVID related fatalities all being considerably higher (Public Health England, 2020). We must do something about this and that involves understanding the factors that contribute to disadvantage and learning from actions that are already helping to narrow disparity.

This event is free for all relevant professionals working in Hertfordshire, whether statutory, private or voluntary sector

This session is aimed at: Public health practitioners, Minority ethnic community groups, Community advocacy groups, Council of voluntary services, Primary care practitioners including mental health services.

Academics and researchers (including from nutrition, dietetics, public health, psychology, behavioural and social sciences, primary care, pharmacy)

To register, or to find further information please visit the

[Eventbrite page](#) (password:publichealth123)

Please direct any queries regarding this event to publichealth@hertfordshire.gov.uk