

# Current Awareness Bulletin April 2021

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## Covid-19

[\*\*Unequal Impact? Coronavirus and BAME People: Government Response to the Committee's Third Report\*\*](#) House of Commons Women and Equalities Committee. 2 March 2021.

Recommendations of previous findings.

[\*\*Ethnic inequalities in COVID-19 mortality: A consequence of persistent racism\*\*](#) Runnymede Trust.

**January 2021.**

Ethnic minority people experience a much higher risk of COVID-19 related death, a stark inequality that impacts on all ethnic minority groups, including white minorities.

[\*\*Using an ecological and biological framing for an anti-racist Covid-19 approach\*\*](#) medRxiv preprint. 25

**January 2021.**

This article discusses poor health outcomes on the habitats people are forced to live in due to structural racism rather than the physiology of a person's race or ethnicity.

[\*\*Covid-19 must be a tipping point for tackling inequalities\*\*](#) The British Medical Journal. 12 February 2021.

It is not enough to tell people to have the vaccine. Based on previous reports on vaccine hesitancy and surveys during covid-19 there are numerous reasons why people may be undecided.

[\*\*Mitigating ethnic disparities in covid-19 and beyond\*\*](#) The British Medical Journal. 15 January 2021.

The disproportionate effect of covid-19 on ethnic minorities in some high income countries throws into sharp relief the effects of racism on health.

[\*\*Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic \(BAME\) communities: a qualitative study on the perspectives of BAME community leaders\*\*](#) MedRxiv. 3 March 2021.

The study highlights the perceived impact of COVID-19 pandemic on BAME communities.

[\*\*COVID-19 and vaccination resources for South Asian communities\*\*](#) Royal Society for Public Health, February 2021

The Royal Society for Public Health has collated these Covid-19 vaccination resources for South Asian communities, which have been put together by doctors, pharmacists and the wider healthcare workforce.

## Healthcare Workforce

[\*\*Workforce Race Equality Standard 2020 Data Analysis Report for NHS Trusts and Clinical Commissioning Groups\*\*](#) NHS Workforce Race Equality Standard (WRES). February 2021.

Analysis of this year's WRES data.

[\*\*Minority ethnic candidate chances of recruitment in NHS fall back, finds NHSE\*\*](#) Health Service Journal.

**25 February 2021.**

The likelihood of minority ethnic candidates being appointed from NHS shortlists compared to white applicants is at its lowest rate so far recorded.

[\*\*NHS England ‘reboots’ race work to ‘focus down hard’ on laggard trusts\*\*](#) **Health Service Journal.** 9 March 2021.

NHS organisations will be given specific actions to improve their progress on race equality.

[\*\*Tribunal victory for nurse victimised for raising racial segregation concerns\*\*](#) **Nursing Standard.** 4 March 2021.

An NHS trust has been ordered to pay £26,000 compensation to a nurse who was victimised for voicing concerns about racial discrimination.

[\*\*Findings on racism in psychiatry underpin the importance of equality action\*\*](#)

**British Medical Journal.** 3 March 2021.

A recent survey by the Royal College of Psychiatrists found that almost six in ten of Black, Asian and minority ethnic respondents had experienced racism in the workplace, affecting either themselves, their colleagues, or patients.

[\*\*Workforce ethnic diversity in older people’s care services: thinking back and thinking ahead in COVID-19 times\*\*](#) **Working with older people.** 15 February 2021. The ethnic makeup of the workforce reflects a complex reality based on multiple factors, including historical patterns of migration, gender and ethnic inequalities.

[\*\*Black women in medicine, rising above invisibility\*\*](#) **The Lancet.** 13 February 2021.

The voice and agency of Black women health professionals have been systematically neglected, despite progress towards egalitarianism in medicine.

[\*\*Are your diversity efforts othering underrepresented groups?\*\*](#) **Harvard Business Review.** 5 February 2021.

The term “diverse” erases individuals’ racial, gender, and disability characteristics, and it can result in “othering” the very people you want to include.

[\*\*The United Kingdom Research study into Ethnicity And COVID-19 outcomes in Healthcare workers \(UK-REACH\): Protocol for a prospective longitudinal cohort study of healthcare and ancillary workers in UK healthcare settings\*\*](#) **MedRxiv.** 2021.

This paper reports the protocol for a prospective longitudinal questionnaire study of UK HCWs, as part of the UK-REACH programme.

[\*\*Does a Narrow Definition of Medical Professionalism lead to Systemic Bias and Differential Outcomes?\*\*](#) **Sushruta Journal of Health Policy and Opinion,** 14(1), 1-12. 2021.

This review recommends root and branch reform of the definition of professionalism, by engagement with the public and the workforce, to incorporate principles of equality, diversity and inclusion.

[\*\*A rapid literature review on inequalities and ethnicity in healthcare workers’ experiences of delivering care during the COVID-19 pandemic\*\*](#) **OSFPreprints.** 5 March 2021.

There is a clear wealth of evidence which exemplifies inequalities in BAME HCWs’ experiences of care provision during COVID-19.

[\*\*Addressing racial inequalities in dental education: decolonising the dental curricula\*\*](#) **British Dental Journal** 230, 165-169. 2021.

The aim of this paper is to highlight the impact of racial disparities on the educational experiences of Black and minority ethnic students in healthcare education.

## **Health Inequalities**

[\*\*Structural racism is a fundamental cause and driver of ethnic disparities in health\*\*](#) **The BMJ,** 30 March 2021

The UK government report on race disparities is a missed opportunity and will lead to a worsening of systemic inequalities, say these authors.

[\*\*A Top Medical Journal Said “No Physician Is Racist.” Now Scientists Are Boycotting.\*\*](#) **BuzzFeed News,** 1 April 2021

After a podcast from the prestigious journal JAMA questioned whether systemic racism exists in medicine, doctors and researchers are pressing for sweeping changes.

[\*\*Health Inequalities Dashboard: March 2021 data update\*\*](#) Public Health England. 2 March 2021.

The gap in life expectancy between the most and least deprived areas of England has significantly widened in recent years for both sexes.

[\*\*Early childhood adversity, toxic stress, and the impacts of racism on the foundations of health\*\*](#) Annual Review of Public Health 42. April 2021.

This article concludes with the compelling need to protect the developing brain and other biological systems from the physiological disruptions of toxic stress that can undermine the building blocks of optimal health and development in the early childhood period.

[\*\*The Global Society on Migration, Ethnicity, Race and Health: why race can't be ignored even if it causes discomfort\*\*](#) European Journal of Public Health 31(1). February 2021.

The aim of the Congress was to bring together researchers, practitioners, community members, activists and policymakers from across the world who were working on at least one of these three intersecting health-related topics.

[\*\*Challenging racism in the use of health data\*\*](#) The Lancet. 3 February 2021.

Authors examine how structural inequalities are encoded in datasets and in the application of data science, and how this practice can reinforce health inequalities.

[\*\*Gypsy, Traveller and Roma experiences, views and needs in palliative and end of life care: a systematic literature review and narrative synthesis\*\*](#) BMJ Supportive & Palliative care. 22 February 2021.

There has been little focus on palliative care in Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities despite the well-recognised inequalities of access to palliative care in other minority ethnic groups.

[\*\*Hospice care access inequalities: a systematic review and narrative synthesis\*\*](#) BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care. 19 February 2021.

There is a wide range of substantial challenges to the hospice movement in ensuring equitable access for all.

[\*\*The reporting of race and ethnicity in medical and science journals\*\*](#) JAMA. 22 February 2021.

In medical and science journals, language and terminology must be accurate, and clear, and must reflect fairness, equity, and consistency in use and reporting of race and ethnicity.

[\*\*Recalibrating the use of race in medical research\*\*](#) JAMA. 25 January 2021.

The sordid history that considers black people as inferior is the underpinnings of race in medicine, including its use in medical research.

[\*\*The health of people from ethnic minority groups in England\*\*](#) King's Fund. 17 February 2021.

This explainer considers what's needed to reduce health inequalities.

[\*\*Embracing genetic diversity to improve Black health\*\*](#) New England Journal of Medicine. 10 February 2021.

The genetics of racial classifications has been discussed for centuries.

[\*\*Ethnic inequalities in health-related quality of life among older adults in England: secondary analysis of a national cross-sectional survey\*\*](#) The Lancet Public Health. 28 January 2021.

The paper recommends further research to understand the drivers of inequalities, together with policy changes to improve equity of socioeconomic opportunity and access to services for older adults from minority ethnic groups.

[\*\*Race and genetic ancestry in medicine: A time for reckoning with racism\*\*](#) New England Journal of Medicine 384:474-480. 4 February 2021.

Race and ethnicity are dynamic, shaped by geographic, cultural, and sociopolitical forces; they can influence people's socioeconomic position and lead to disproportionately high morbidity and mortality for racial and ethnic minorities.

[\*\*Misrepresenting race: The role of medical schools in propagating physician bias\*\*](#) New England Journal of Medicine. 6 January 2021.

Race is a social category that reflects the impact of unequal social experiences on health. Yet medical education and practice have not evolved to reflect these advances in understanding of the relationships among race, racism, and health.

## Mental Health

[Recognizing service users' diversity: social identity narratives of British Pakistanis in a mental health context](#) **The Journal of Mental Health Training, Education and Practice.** 17 February 2021.

This study aims to investigate how British Pakistani people talk about their social identity, in the context of mental health.

[Psychological interventions for maternal depression among women of African and Caribbean origin: A systematic review](#) **BMC Women's Health.** February 2021.

Maternal depression is a leading cause of disease burden for women in high-income countries (HICs).

[Why is Black History Month important to psychiatry?](#) **Psychiatric Times.** 22 February 2021.

The negative impact of pervasive racism exists in many forms.

[Migrant mothers' experiences of perinatal mental ill health in the UK and their expectations of healthcare](#) **Journal of Health Visiting.** 21 January 2021.

A large body of research has found that mothers from ethnic minority groups are at high risk of maternal mental health difficulties.

[Reducing loneliness and social isolation in migrants and ethnic minorities: new insights on interventions](#) **The Mental Elf.** 25 February 2021.

High rates of loneliness and social isolation have been found in migrants and people from ethnic minority backgrounds.

## Podcasts and Videos

[The bias diagnosis](#)

Audio book available in Amazon Audible platform. The link takes to a Guardian review of this and other resources.

[What Black leaders bring to the table](#)

**Harvard Business Review Podcast.** 2 March 2021. Author Chad Sanders outlines the benefits that marginalized people, operating with authenticity, offer in business.

[The Black Maternity Scandal: Dispatches](#)

Channel 4 documentary, screened 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Presenter and mother-of-three Rochelle Humes explores the shocking fact that Black women are four times more likely than White women to die during pregnancy and childbirth and up to six weeks after

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