



Bristol Health and Wellbeing Board

Title of Report:	The impact of COVID-19 on BAME communities
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Date of Board meeting:	25.06.20
Purpose:	Information and discussion

1. Executive Summary

The risk of death from COVID-19 is generally higher amongst black, Asian and ethnic minority (BAME) communities than white British people. This appears to be due to a complex mixture of factors including being poorer, where people live, overcrowded housing, types of job, other illnesses, and access to health services.

2. Purpose of the Paper

For the Board to understand the impact of COVID-19 on BAME communities and consider how it can contribute to the policy recommendations

3. Background and evidence base

There is increasing concern that COVID-19 may have a disproportionate impact on individuals from BAME backgrounds, including (though not limited to): impact of social distancing measures; effectiveness of communication about COVID-19 with and within BAME communities; impact on health and social care workers from BAME backgrounds; socio-economic impact.

This evidence review found that the risk of death from COVID-19 is generally higher amongst black, Asian and ethnic minority (BAME) communities than white British people. This appears to be due to a complex mixture of factors, and no one factor alone can explain all of the difference. Contributing factors include, in no particular order: being poorer, where people live, overcrowded housing, types of job, other illnesses, and access to health services.

4. Policy recommendations

- Ensuring adequate income protection for those in low paid or precarious employment
- Providing culturally and linguistically appropriate public health communications
- The removal of all NHS charges during this public health emergency could ensure that no migrant or individual from a BAME group delays seeking healthcare and risks death through fear of being charged for their NHS care
- Ethnic groups should be included in health inequalities work with senior leadership of this agenda
- Data should be collected and reported by ethnicity to understand local needs and whether they are being met
- Interventions need to work with cultural and religious understanding while recognising intra-group diversity and avoiding stereotyping
- There should be good representation of BAME communities in staff and leadership

5. Appendices

Mamluk, L. and Jones, T. The impact of COVID-19 on black, Asian and minority ethnic communities. 20 May 2020. Available from <https://arc-w.nihr.ac.uk/research-and-implementation/covid-19-response/reports/the-impact-of-covid-19-on-black-asian-and-minority-ethnic-communities/>