

The Research Heroes Study

It has long been recognised that despite an often-greater burden of disease, people from minority ethnic groups and other segments of society (including Gypsy Roma, non-English speakers, and those who are digitally excluded) are under-represented in clinical and health research.

This often-inadvertent exclusion has serious implications for medical science by limiting the validity and generalisability of study findings and for social justice by affecting the allocation of resources for services and research.

The **Research Heroes Study** was developed to understand existing barriers for under-representation in research. The anonymised survey-based study was co-produced with community champions including from Al-Manaar Mosque & the Nourish Hub.

To ensure the study is inclusive and more accessible, the survey was translated into 11 languages (العربية, বাংলা, English, Filipino, Français, ગુજરાતી, हिन्दी, Polski, ਪੰਜਾਬੀ, Română , Af-Soomaali , தமிழ், & اردو).

Anyone 16 years or over can choose to participate in the survey by following [this link](#).

Research questions

1. What are the perceptions and attitudes of community-dwelling adults regarding research participation, and how do these perceptions and attitudes vary among different demographic groups?
2. What proportion of the population understands what research is?
3. What are the barriers and enablers to research participation among the underrepresented population in the community, and how does it differ between different demographic groups?

Primary Aim

Investigate the factors that contribute to the underrepresentation of local population groups in research.

Secondary aims

1. Explore the perspectives of members of the community regarding research participation, their understanding of research, and the barriers they face to research participation.
2. Identify the specific barriers to research participation faced by underserved populations and develop to address these barriers.
3. Increase awareness and understanding of research among community groups.

We already collected data from 768 members of the community, but we are keen to engage with a larger sample from across London and the UK. Respondents to the survey may also choose to consent to be contacted for interview.

For more information about the Research Heroes Study, please contact Manisha Karki (m.karki@imperial.ac.uk) or Austen El-Osta (a.el-osta@imperial.ac.uk).

Short video about the Research Heroes Study: <https://tinyurl.com/ye2x4x23>