

MIDLANDS ENGINE HEALTH

Focus on Health Diversity

Centre for BME Health

MIDLANDS
ENGINE



The Midlands covers a large area and there are significant differences in the demography of the region beyond a simple rural/urban divide. Ethnic diversity is particularly strong, with major black and minority ethnic (BME) communities predominantly in city areas, but increasingly in the county shires. There are major health issues within all ethnic minority communities in the Midlands, but crucially, there are significant disparities in health equalities. There is a higher prevalence of certain illnesses within specific communities and there are major concerns regarding access to healthcare.

The unique Centre for BME Health has one clear vision: to reduce ethnic health inequalities. This is achieved by working closely with patients, the public, community and voluntary sectors, researchers, health and social care organisations. The focus is on supporting individuals and organisations in planning and undertaking research and healthcare delivery that involves and aims to understand the health needs and issues of ethnic minorities and seldom-heard communities.

The Centre also offers training and existing infrastructure for public engagement and involvement to help improve the quality, quantity and impact of research output in the area of ethnic and migrant health



Professor Kamlesh Khunti, Director of the Centre for BME Health

"The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the wide ethnic disparities in health that have been present for a long time. The Centre has been working with researchers nationally through the pandemic to ensure ethnic minority groups are represented in Covid-19 studies. The Centre will continue building on the learnings from the pandemic to close the gap in health inequalities through our research and training."

