A GEORGE INSTITUTE
FACTSHEET



Equity by Evidence: Race and Ethnicity Inclusion in Research – June 2026

The George Institute for Global Health

FAST FACTS:

- A 2016 study found that White people are 64% more likely than ethnic minority groups to participate in health research in the UK.
- People from ethnic minority communities experienced higher mortality and severe outcomes during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The MBRRACE-UK 2024 report found that Black women were nearly four times more likely to die during pregnancy and childbirth compared to White women, while Asian women were almost twice as likely.

BACKGROUND:

- Health and care research often fails to represent ethnically diverse populations, resulting in findings that may not be relevant for everyone and thereby risking the reinforcement of existing health inequalities.
- Underrepresentation and poor consideration of race and ethnicity in research design, analysis and translation limits the relevance and impact of findings for minority communities.
- This can contribute to missed diagnoses, ineffective treatments and poorer care experiences for Black, Asian and ethnic minority populations.

AIMS:

- To improve health and care research by ensuring race and ethnicity are properly considered across the research lifecycle, from design to dissemination.
- To develop a sector-endorsed, evidence-based framework that enables more inclusive research and reduces health inequalities.

METHOD:

- Led by The George Institute and the NHS Race and Health Observatory (RHO), the project combines race and health inequalities expertise with methods pioneered through the MESSAGE project.
- The project brings together existing evidence, lived experience and sector expertise to identify barriers to ethnicity inclusion in research and co-develop practical solutions.
- A June 2025 cross-sector workshop with over 40 UK stakeholders, including researchers, funders, policymakers and community representatives, will be followed by three Policy Labs to refine recommendations and inform a roadmap, framework, tools and training.

IMPACT

- More inclusive research will produce higher-quality evidence that benefits the whole population and reduces health inequalities.
- Improved inclusion will contribute to better diagnosis, treatment and healthcare outcomes for Black, Asian and ethnic minority communities.
- A coordinated framework will strengthen research practices, policy decisions and healthcare delivery across the UK.

PROJECT CYCLE:

2026 - 2027

PARTNERS:

The George Institute for Global Health, India

The NHS Race and Health Observatory (RHO)

SUPPORTERS:

National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR)

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Dr Kate Womersley (TGI)

Dr Ngozi Kalu (NHS RHO)

CONTACT:

To learn about this project, its investigators or The George Institute please contact:

Tina Wall +61 410 411 983 OR
twall@georgeinstitute.org.au

THE GEORGE INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH:

We believe everyone has the right to a healthy life. The George Institute finds solutions to some of the world's biggest health problems, through high-quality, evidence-based research. By utilising our global footprint and local insights, our research findings can deliver real impact, particularly to those facing the most challenges, and we continue to advance our vision of global health equity.