



Interrogating ethnicity in your JSNA

Key questions to assess attention to ethnicity in a local JSNA

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The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) analyses the health needs of local populations to inform and guide the commissioning of health, well-being and social care services within local authority areas. The JSNA underpins health and wellbeing strategies. However, many JSNAs still lack detail on the ethnic profile of the local population, how indicators of health and wellbeing vary within and between ethnic groups, and how diverse needs can be addressed.

It is intended that this guide can be used by individuals or teams wanting to plan a JSNA refresh, or charged with writing a particular chapter, or even external parties (such as Third Sector organisations) who wish to highlight where a JSNA is missing critical detail on minority ethnic health issues.

This document brings together information from the Evidence and Ethnicity in Commissioning project to provide a brief guide to conducting an assessment of the quality of detail around ethnicity in a local JSNA. We have based the content on the experiences and observations of stakeholders involved in JSNAs provided through a series of interviews and a workshop which identified key questions and actions that can help to improve detail on minority ethnic communities.

It is important to remember that the process of creating and using the JSNA is as important as the document itself. To this end, participants at our workshop described the characteristics of their ideal JSNA as one that:

- * Informs the local health and wellbeing strategy
- * Supports commissioning to make improvements and reduce inequality
- * Informs and drive change
- * Is a two way dialogue with partners
- * Has dialogue with communities & third sector organisations from the start
- * Is clear and specific on the commissioner's role
- * Highlights priorities in strategic groups that commissioners can target
- * Is written to be useful to as many partners as possible
- * Is publically accessible so that people know how to influence the process

This tool provides a rating exercise for assessing the level of detail about ethnic health issues and inequalities in a local JSNA. It can be used either to assess your own JSNA, or by downloading a JSNA from another region and using it as an exercise for discussion.

There are some useful guides on integrating ethnicity into JSNAs, including:

[Culturally Responsive JSNAs](#), Department of Health and [Including migrant populations in JSNAs](#), from NEPHO.

RAG rating exercise

Look at an example JSNA chapter, and using the questions below, give the chapter an overall grade on attention to ethnicity, by filling in detail to support your grade in each category below.

Describes variation in levels and patterns of a condition for different ethnic groups (What)	
	No detail
	Some detail, few groups or simplistic grouping
	Good detail, considers different ethnic groups, age, generation etc and recognises information gaps

Describes factors that explain the differences between ethnic groups (Why)	
	No detail
	Some detail, limited understanding
	Good detail and understanding of factors; recognition of information gaps

Describes variation in service-related factors by ethnicity that may affect this condition, for example, access, diagnosis, experience, outcomes (How)

No detail

Limited description

Detailed consideration of multiple factors

Makes recommendations and sets priorities specific to the needs of minority ethnic groups for interventions, treatment or improvements to services

No recommendations

Basic recommendations, little prioritisation

Recommendations and priorities have clear targets/outputs and responsible parties

If you wish to interrogate your JSNA further, the following questions examine ethnic health issues in greater depth.

Describes other factors affecting health outcomes that may vary within ethnic groups: socio-economic deprivation, age, gender etc.

	No comparisons or controls
	Limited comparisons with white majority, basic factors such as age considered
	A wide variety of compounding factors detailed and controlled

Contains qualitative evidence, such as stories or patient experiences, to complement statistical data and provide a richer understanding

	No evidence
	One or a few limited examples
	A variety of perspectives, informing the recommendations of the chapter

Shows evidence of community consultation or engagement including with Third Sector organisations	
	No evidence
	Reference to limited consultation with key groups, possibly in a separate chapter or as an isolated box
	Deep engagement with many groups. Patient experience information included in the chapter and used to inform recommendations

Total Red	
Total Amber	
Total Green	

Next steps:

This rating exercise should allow you to identify areas of weakness in a JSNA. For any of the areas identified as red or amber, you should aim to get to the level specified in the 'green' grade.