

# Audit on the documentation of ethnicity within CAMHS

## Background

Evidence suggests children from minority ethnic groups have lower rates of referrals to CAMHS, are more likely to present to services late, more likely to be detained under the mental health act and less likely to have access to therapies than children from white backgrounds. In order to understand how ethnicity influences individuals and ensure service innovation meet these needs data collected has to be accurate. The Mental Health Services Data Set outlines all children and families receiving NHS care should have ethnicity included as a mandatory data submission and services are performance managed on this.

## Aims

100% of patients within York and North Yorkshire(Y&NY) CAMHS should have their ethnicity documented

## Methods

Integrated Information Centre (IIC) was used to collect data on the documentation of ethnicity for patients under Y&NY CAMHS on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020. This extracts data from ESR, Paris and Datix systems.

We used the data to find out:

- Total number of patients under CAMHS
- The number of patients with no ethnicity documented
- The number of patients with 'unknown ethnicity' documented – this includes 'do not wish to disclose' and 'unknown' entries.

## Results

■ Ethnicity documented

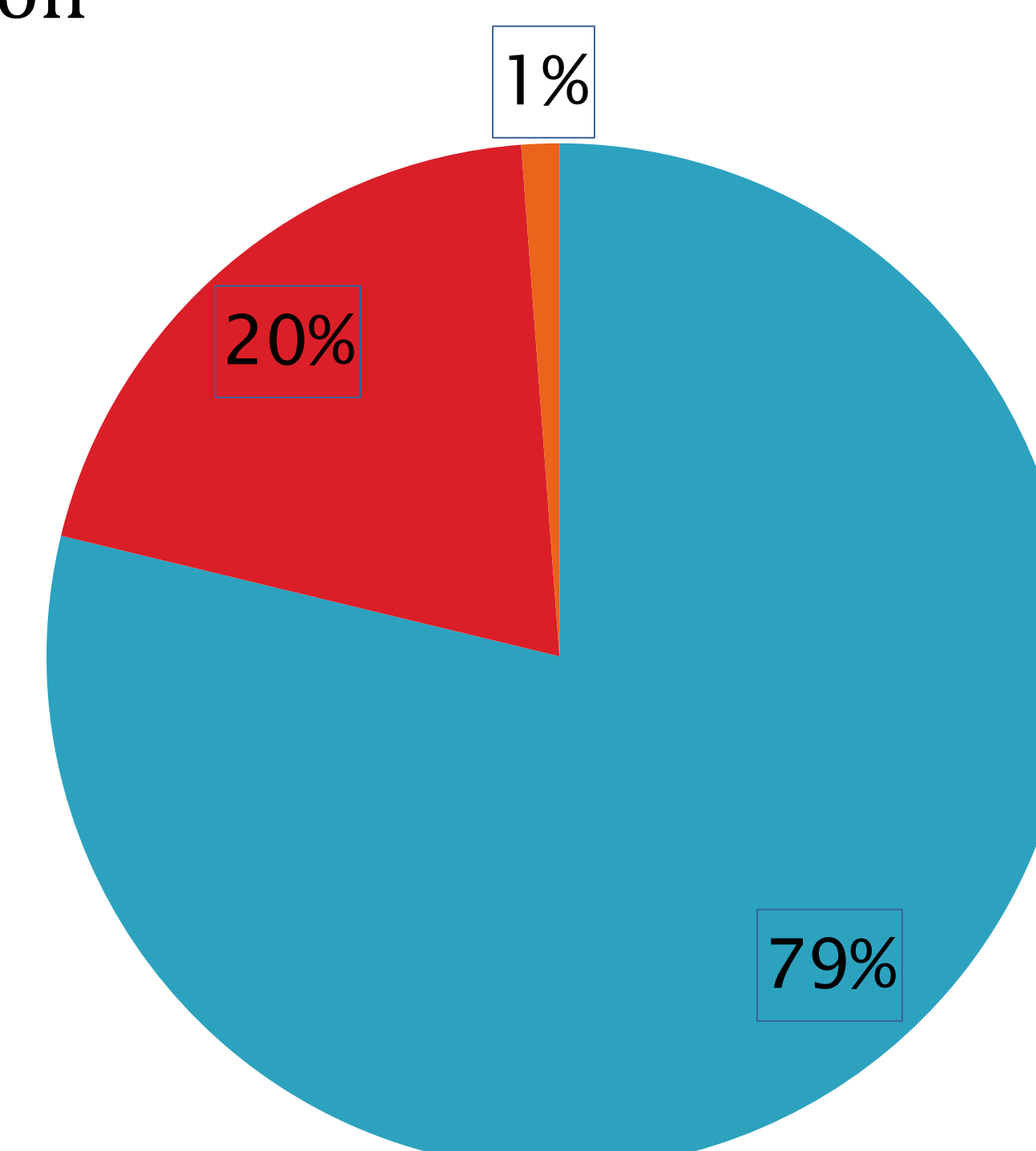
■ Unknown ethnicity (clinician has entered unknown or patient has chosen not to disclose)

■ No documentation

The total caseload was 4109 patients.

823 (20%) had their ethnicity documented as 'unknown' (the clinician had entered 'unknown' or the patient has 'declined to disclose').

49 (1.2%) patients had no entry regarding ethnicity (missing)



## Conclusions

We recommend further exploration to consider why 1 in 5 patients have 'unknown ethnicity' documented.

We recommend:

- conducting a refined search considering the percentage of 'declined to disclose' and 'not stated' within the 'unknown ethnicity' section
- emailing care coordinators for patients with 'unknown ethnicity' or 'missing ethnicity'
- conducting a questionnaire to gather the opinions and experiences of clinicians, patients and families
- reviewing the process for documenting ethnicity to improve accuracy
- This could lead to some training for staff within CAMHS to explore and consider ways to ask and talk about ethnicity as well as how to inform service users about why the information is collected.

Following this intervention we will aim to re-audit and consider if this has improved the rates of documentation of ethnicity.

## References

Mental Health Services for Minority Ethnic Children and Adolescents, Mhemooda Malek and Carol Joughin (eds), London, Jessica Kingsley, 2004, pp. 224, ISBN 1 84310 236, Joyce Owens-Smith. The British Journal of Social Work, Volume 35, Issue 1, January 2005, Pages 159-160, <https://doi.org/10.1093/bjsw/bch174>

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