

**Summary of MWC report**

**Date: 23/09/2021**

The MWC has published its report, [*Racial inequality and mental health services in Scotland*](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.mwcscot.org.uk%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2F2021-09%2FRacial-Inequality-Scotland_Report_Sep2021.pdf&data=04%7C01%7CAidan.Reid%40rcpsych.ac.uk%7C2ffd45f6b20a499ec00d08d97e66b028%7C75aac48a29ab4230adac69d3e7ed3e77%7C0%7C0%7C637679801773541286%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=QlUgtZW06rgFVdZNN9xAADXOUThydSZG4VJ%2BSoix%2Ffg%3D&reserved=0). It provides a greater focus on the experiences of our ethnically diverse communities in services, identifying systemic failings and proposing steps to take in response. Its key findings include:

* differences in how the Mental Health Act is applied when people from ethnic minorities are detained for mental health care and treatment compared to white Scottish people
* people from a community of colour disproportionately making up the population requiring care under the Mental Health Act.
* praise for third sector and community organisations for working with refugee communities to build bridges to MH services, but concern from these communities at the micro aggressions they faced and a lack of understanding from GPs.
* over 70% of staff surveyed stating there were gaps in ethnicity/diversity training provided by the NHS.
* Potential differential attainment within the NHS for those from an ethnically diverse community across senior roles.

Findings of particular relevance to psychiatry included:

* 63% of responding psychiatrists stated they rarely or never entered a patient’s ethnicity, citing difficulties in doing so during what can be emergency situations alongside other possible barriers
* People entered as African, Caribbean or Black being likelier than any other ethnic group to be perceived as a threat to others when being detained
* Data from the College in 2020 showed 16% of the Membership in Scotland is from a visible minority, but make up only 5% of our Fellows
* 30% of staff reported that they had experienced racism in their wards/teams. Many reported incidents were then not addressed, with one survey respondent saying they left their job because of a failure to address this.

Key recommendations include:

* Work must be undertaken by health authorities to establish and address barriers to care for these communities
* Health and social care partnerships must ensure appropriate reporting and support for the victims of racism, and escalation processes by September 2022.
* Promote the importance of recording ethnicity among patients, and raise awareness of link groups for staff from a ethnically diverse background
* Alter training and guidance for all NHS staff, including around asylum seekers.
* Enable NES to collect specific data on ethnicity and staff grade

There are two recommendations directly applying to the College:

* We are to consider the finding that people from an ethnically diverse community were likelier to be recorded as a risk to others, and less likely as a risk to themselves
* We are to explore the potential reasons behind a lower proportion of our College fellows from our communities of colour.