

# Improving Equity of Access to National Breast Screening Programmes for Ethnic Minority Women

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## Background

Ethnic minority women continue to face challenges resulting in lower breast cancer screening rates. Numerous initiatives have attempted to promote uptake for screening in various ethnic minority groups, but evaluations are sparse, so knowledge is not cumulative.

## Results

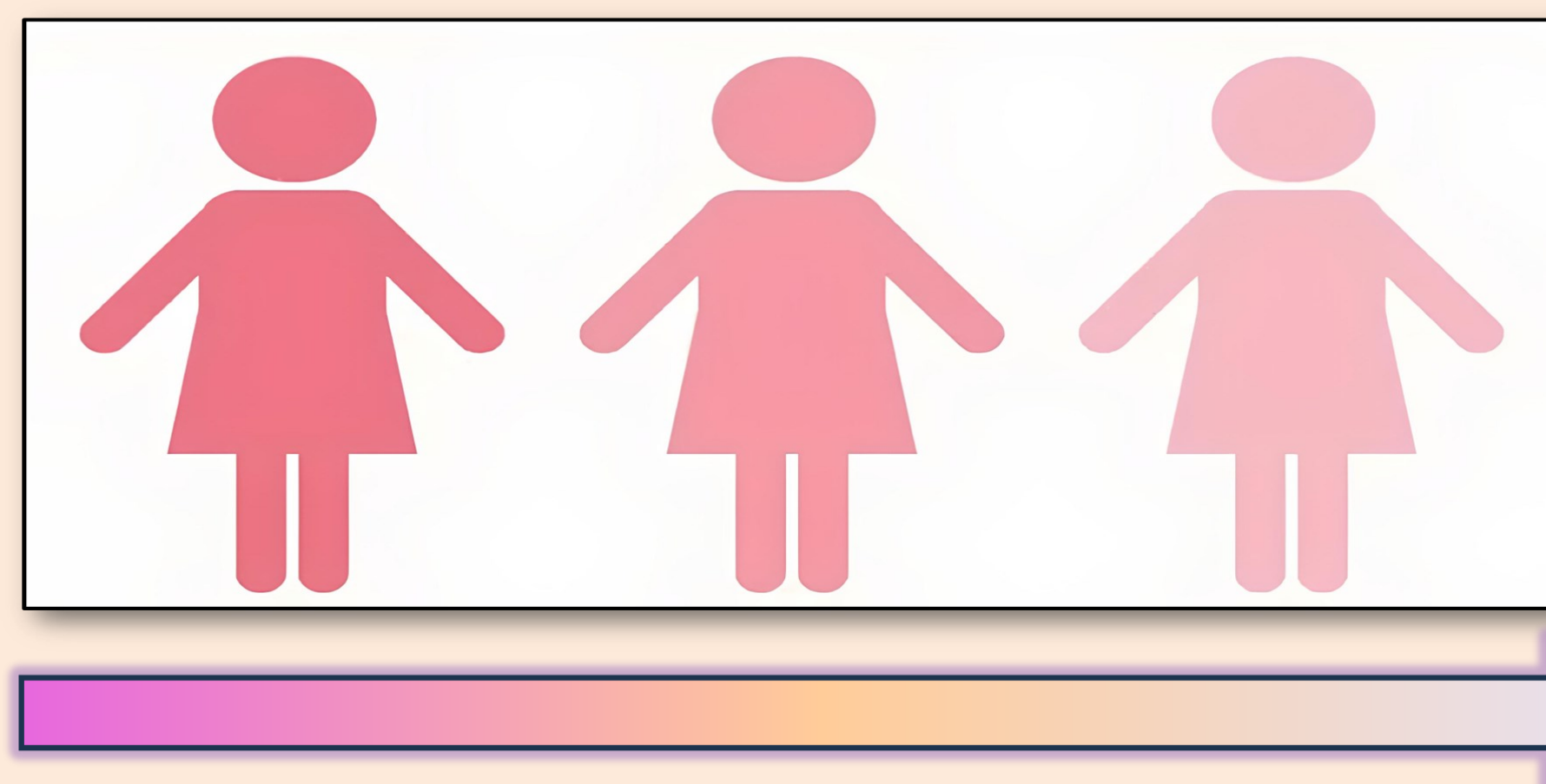
### Ethnicity Data



Nationally around 18% of the population are non-white. However, the national picture conceals variation by region. In Greater Manchester (GM) 40% of the population are from an ethnic minority group. Ethnicity data is not routinely recorded at outpatient appointments.

### Breast Screening Uptake

The acceptable breast screening standard is 70%>. During 2021-2022 in England 49.3% of women invited for their first invitation for routine screening aged 50 to <71 attended their appointment. Breast screening uptake was 48.3% in GM in 2022.



### Breast Screening Uptake - GM

Recent data from January 2024 across Greater Manchester has shown a **20% difference** in uptake between the **highest** and **lowest** uptake neighbourhoods these are:

**66.3% Brooklands and Northenden; 46.1% Ardwick and Longsight**

It is not clear whether this difference is due to ethnicity or socioeconomic status.

## Next Steps

To address gaps in knowledge: **1.** A qualitative study will investigate the experiences of healthcare providers involved in implementing initiatives for breast cancer screening among ethnic minority women. **2.** A systematic review of experiences and views of ethnic minority women in nationally-organised breast screening programmes. Our work will feed into more evidence-based research at increasing tailored, culturally adapted interventions.

1. National statistics, official statistics. NHS Breast Screening Programme, England 2020-21. 6 February 2023.  
2. List of ethnic groups - GOV.UK [www.gov.uk.https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/style-guide/ethnicgroups](https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/style-guide/ethnicgroups). 2021.  
3. Manchester City Council. Manchester City Council Report for Information. Cancer Screening Update. 10 January 2024.  
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