

A large, stylized letter 'B' graphic is positioned on the left side of the page. The 'B' is filled with a vibrant pink color and has a thick black outline. The interior of the 'B' is divided into sections of yellow and light blue. The background of the page is a mix of teal and pink.

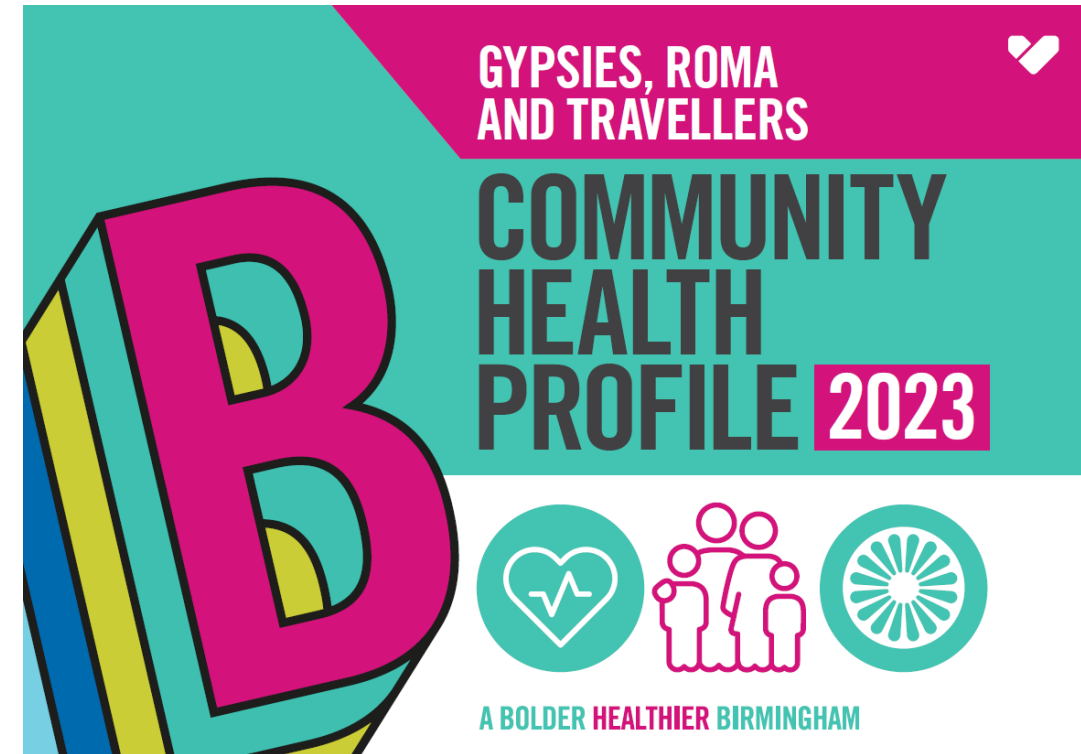
COMMUNITY HEALTH PROFILES

Understanding the health needs of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities: Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Community Health Profile

A BOLDER HEALTHIER BIRMINGHAM

Intro to Community Health Profiles

- Full reports and additional resources can be found on the [Community Health Profile Homepage](#)
- Further information on the research in this webinar can be found in the [Gypsies, Roma and Travellers Community Health Profile report](#)
- See also the [Infographic Summary](#)
- For more information on the background and research methodology of the profiles watch our '[Intro to Community Health Profiles](#)' video



Data Collection

2021 Census:

- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller identities included in the top 20 ethnic group categories within the 'White' ethnic category



Other Considerations:



- [BCC standard demographic data collection tool](#) recommends removal of 'White' prefix to ethnic categories
- Community feedback advises against use of 'GRT' acronym
- Understanding of variety of language used to define identity and ethnicity

Data Caveats and Limitations

- Variety of terms used to describe Gypsy, Roma and Traveller identities
- Census data on encapsulates identities as part of broader 'White' ethnic category
- Single quotation marks (') indicate the exact wording specified by the data sources

Terminology



- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller identities not captured in NHS
- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller populations diverse, and data only available for some subgroups
- Lack of Birmingham data

Data availability



- Gypsy, Roma or Traveller people may choose not to disclose their ethnicity – only those who self-identify included
- Some studies very small – limited generalisability

Data reliability



- Data from GP patient survey (GPPS) and Health Survey for England (HSE) have not been adjusted

Unadjusted Variables



Demographic Overview

- ❖ **Population Size:** 1,833 ('White: Roma'), 686 ('White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller').^[1]
 - ❖ Estimates suggest there are 300,000 'Gypsy or Traveller' people in the UK and '200,000' Roma
- ❖ **Religion and Faith:** 81% and 87% Christian respectively ('White: Roma' and 'White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller').^[1]
- ❖ **Main Language:** 'Other' European language or English.^[1]
- ❖ **National Identity:** non-UK identity only was primary identity for 'White Roma' (81%) and 'White Gypsy or Irish Traveller' (62%).^[1]

White Gypsy or Irish Traveller

67,788
England & Wales



6,207
West Midlands



686
Birmingham

White Roma

100,981
England & Wales



6,809
West Midlands

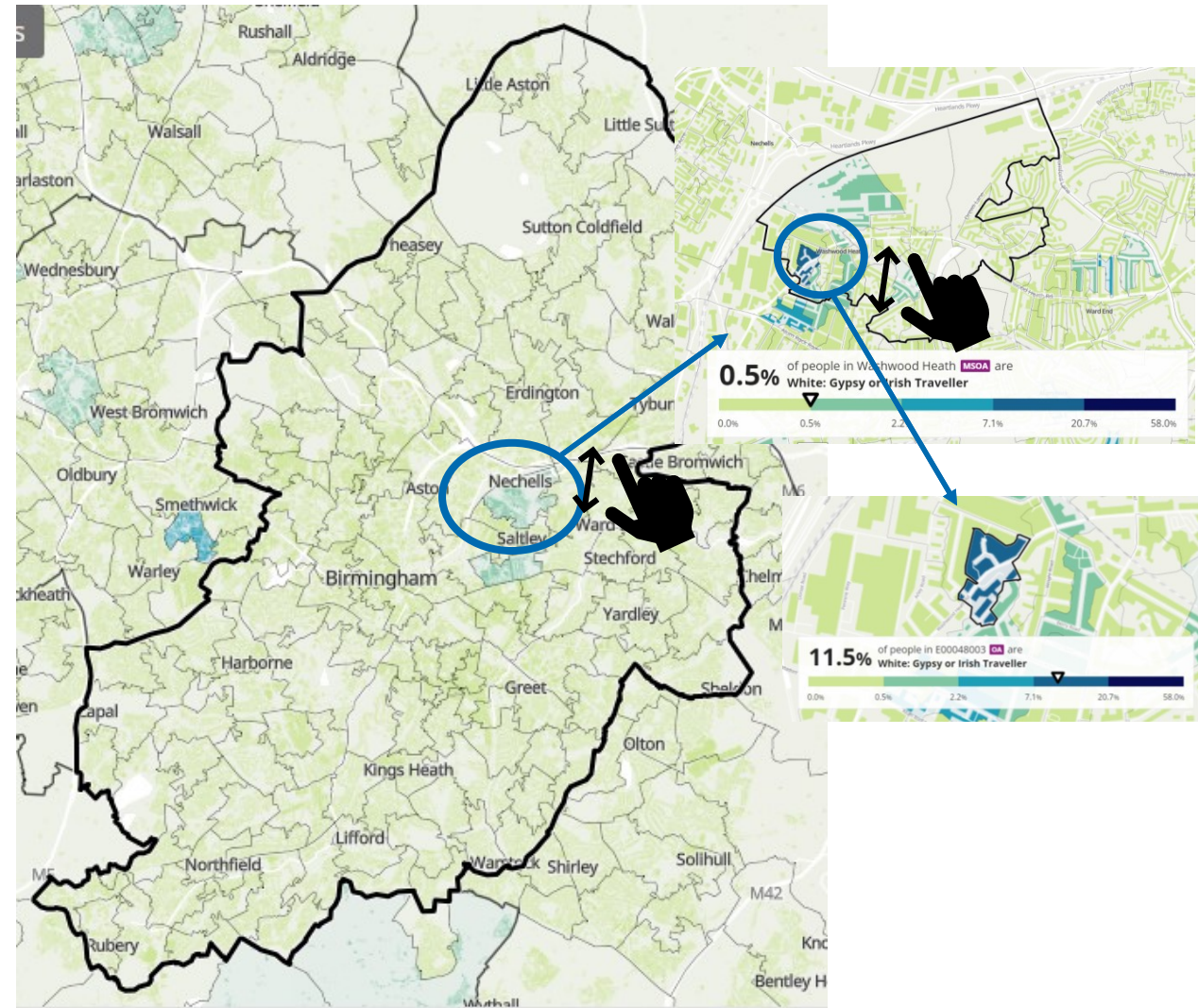


1,833
Birmingham

**All demographic data relates to the Birmingham population only. National data may differ.*

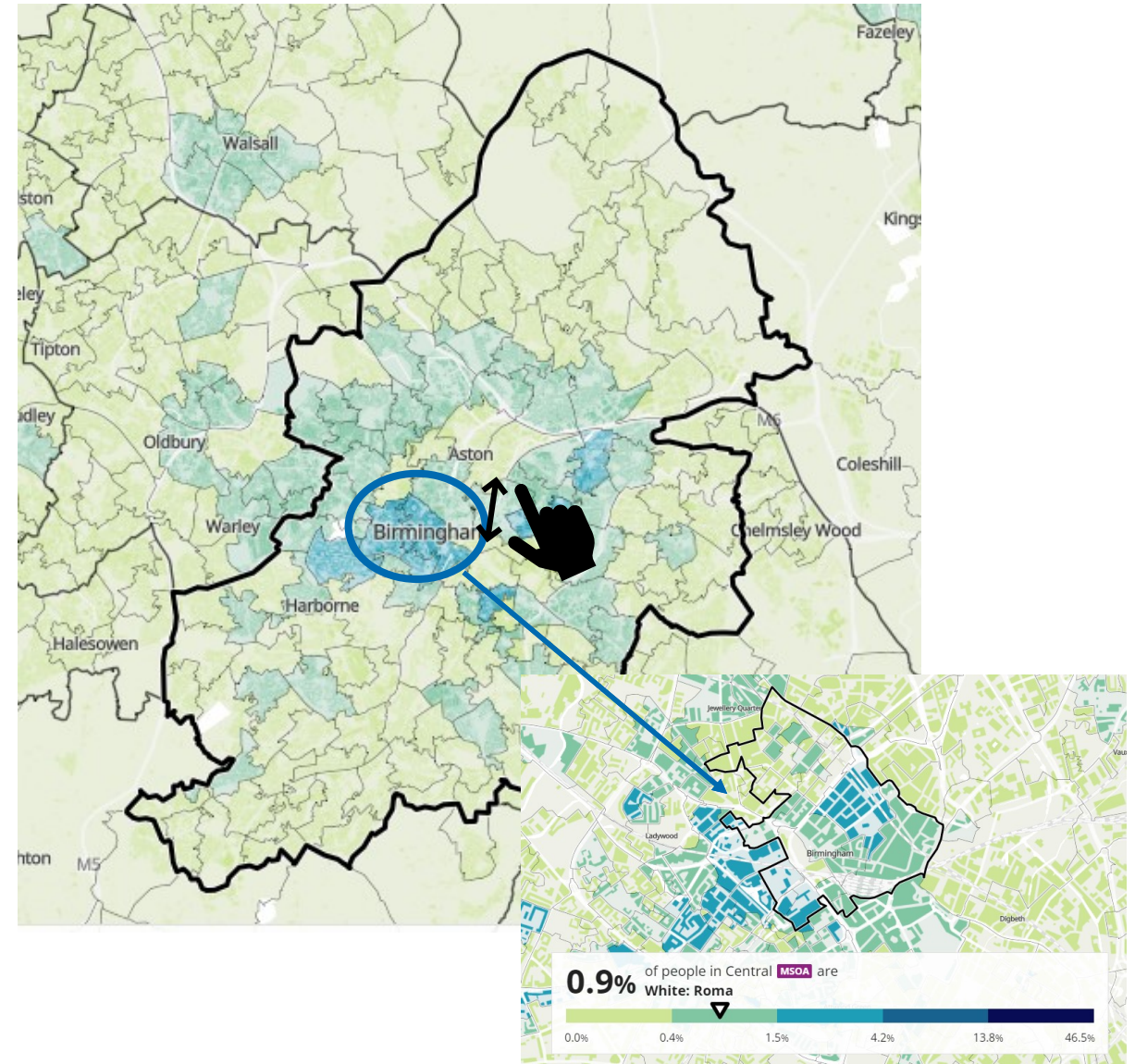
Geography Overview

- ❖ [Census mapping tool](#): ethnic group data available to output area (OA)
- ❖ 'White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller' identity ranges from <math><0.1\%</math> to 0.54% of MSOAs
- ❖ MSOA by population density:
 1. Washwood Heath (0.54%)
 2. Bordesley Green North (0.27%)
 3. Saltley East (0.24%)



Geography Overview (2)

- ❖ ‘White: Roma’ identity ranges from <0.1% to 0.94% of MSOAs
- ❖ MSOA by population density:
 1. Central (0.94%)
 2. Ward End and Bromford West (0.76%)
 3. Five Ways North (0.65%)
- ❖ Both ‘White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller’ and ‘White: Roma’ populations likely underestimated



Experiences of Discrimination

- ❖ Racist assaults among ‘Gypsies/Travellers’: [2]
 - **62%** before the COVID-19 pandemic and **41%** during
 - Highest levels of any racist assaults of any ethnic group
- ❖ **43%** of ‘English Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers’ experienced harassment because of their background.[3]
- ❖ Despite moderate awareness of the laws against discrimination (**56%**), few incidents of racially motivated discrimination (**26%**), physical attack (**10%**) or harassment (**10%**) were reported to police, often because victims thought they wouldn’t be taken seriously or believed (**23%**) or because there would be no resulting action (**54%**).[3]
- ❖ **44%** of adults expressed ‘net negative’ attitudes towards ‘Gypsies, Roma and/or Travellers’.[4]

Getting the Best Start in Life

- ❖ Some of the poorest educational attainment outcomes of any ethnicity in the UK
- ❖ Progress 8 scores: ‘White Gypsy/Roma’ (-1.0), ‘White Traveller of Irish Heritage’ (-1.03), White British (-0.18).^[5]
- ❖ GCSE attainment – grades 4 or above in English and mathematics:
 - ‘White Gypsy/Roma’ (19%), ‘White Traveller of Irish Heritage’ (33%), White British (68%).^[5]

Barriers to Education



Institutional Barriers: lack of cultural visibility, lack of funding for support services, cooperation between schooling bodies



Attitudes: low teacher expectations, experiences of discrimination, unconscious bias

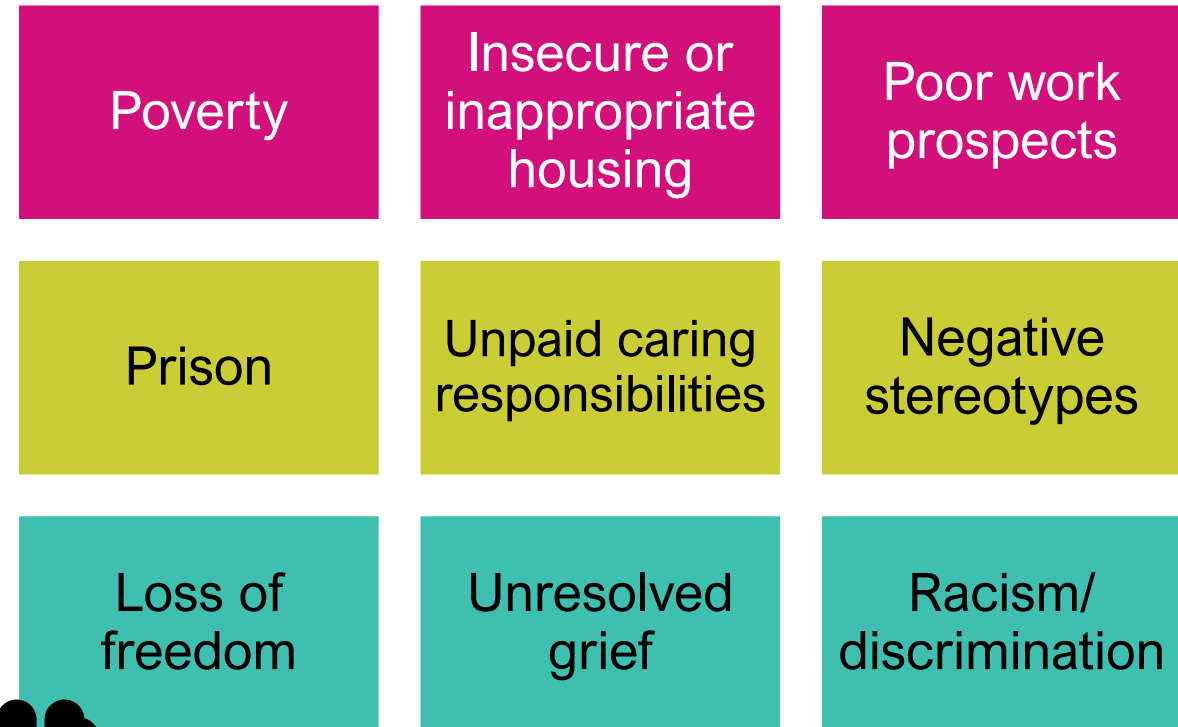


Characteristics: English literacy, low educational starting points, disrupted education due to travelling

Mental Wellness and Balance

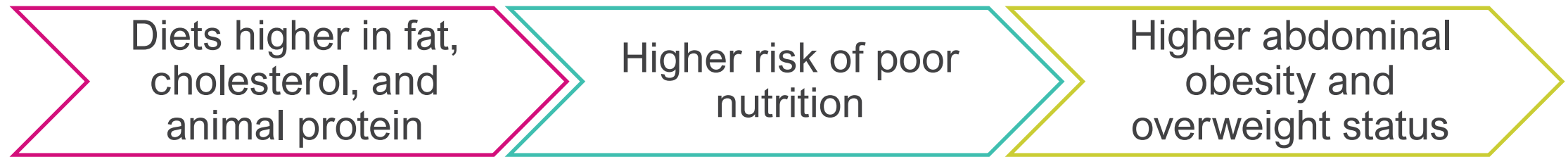
- ❖ Prevalence of self-reported mental health conditions: [6]
 - **29%** of ‘White Gypsies or Irish Travellers’
 - **6.6%** of ‘White Roma’
 - **14%** of ‘White British/Northern Irish’
- ❖ Feelings of isolation: [6]
 - **28%** of ‘White Gypsies or Irish Travellers’
 - **8.9%** of ‘White Roma’
 - **12%** of ‘White British/Northern Irish’
- ❖ Stigma and fear around mental ill-health, particularly among men

Factors associated with poor mental health



Healthy and Affordable Food

- ❖ Very little evidence regarding diet, nutrition or body weight, however....
- ❖ A systematic review of global evidence (2003 to 2012) found compared with non-'Roma', 'Roma' had: [7]



- ❖ Barriers to healthy eating include cost and practical problems of inadequate facilities for cooking and storing fresh food due to sub-optimal living conditions.[8,9]
- ❖ 7% of 'English Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers' went to bed hungry in the past month at least once because there was not enough money for food.[3]

Living, Working and Learning Well

Health and Wellbeing:

- ❖ Significantly poorer health status and high rates of long-term illness and disability compared with general population.
- ❖ 68% of 'White Gypsy or Irish Travellers' reported long-term health condition (58% White British).^[6]
- ❖ Health status may be related to accommodation type and quality.^[10]
 - Currently only one operational active travel site in Birmingham

Barriers to Accessing Care



Difficulty registering with GP due to lack of documentation



Previous experiences of stigma and discrimination



Low levels of literacy and language barriers



Poor cultural competency of staff

Protect and Detect

- ❖ No routine data on screening, vaccination, sexual health, infectious diseases or oral health
- ❖ A systematic review of global evidence (2003-2012) found 'Roma' had higher rates of influenza, acute bronchitis, intestinal infections, otitis media, pneumonia, and viral diseases.^[7]
- ❖ Outbreaks of hepatitis A and measles.^[11,12]
- ❖ Prevalence of current hepatitis B (Sheffield, 2007-2013):^[13]
 - 9.4% of 'Slovak Roma' patients
 - 3.0% of non-'Slovak Roma' patients

Barriers to screening and vaccination uptake

- Limited tools to identify population
- Language and literacy
- Barriers to accessing services
- Experiences of discrimination
- Mistrust of health professionals



Ageing and Dying Well

- **10-12 years lower** among 'Gypsies and Travellers'
- **2-10 years lower** among 'Roma' populations

Life
Expectancy



- Higher mortality risk and excess mortality in 'Roma' populations compared with 'non-Roma' [7]

Mortality



- Often not spoken about
- Highlighted need for specialist bereavement services and support [13,14]

Bereavement



Other Key Inequality Data and Conclusions

Other Key Inequality Data

Maternal and
infant outcomes

Child poverty
and children in
care

Pollution and
access to green
spaces

Social exclusion

Conclusions:

- CHP provide an evidence summary to start building co-produced solutions. Important to note that the CHP is **not** a fully inclusive document that will accurately map the experience of all Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. Should use as a **starting point**.
- Important to decrease stigma and experiences of discrimination to enable communities to feel comfortable to self-identify in national datasets.

Opportunities for Engagement: Profile Review

Potential Feedback Areas:



Appropriate language used throughout



Community area of importance not included



Missing dataset or relevant report



General comments and feedback

- Encouraged to read full report/area of interest in report
- Feedback may be added to future versions of profile
- Organisation details may be added
- Feedback can be submitted to CommunitiesTeam@Birmingham.gov.uk

Opportunities for Engagement: Dissemination of Findings

- ✓ Team members
- ✓ Wider organisation
- ✓ Partner organisation(s)
- ✓ Community organisations working with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities

Have you shared the profile with?



- ✓ Referencing the profile in a new project
- ✓ Including findings in project/service proposal
- ✓ Influencing discussions with relevant stakeholders
- ✓ Making your daily practice more inclusive

Have you used the profile by?



References and Further Reading

References

[1] [ONS Custom Data Tool](#)

[2] Ellingworth D, Becares L, Stastna M, Nazroo J. Chapter 4: Racism and racial discrimination. Racism and Ethnic Inequality in a Time of Crisis - Findings from the Evidence for Equality National Survey. Bristol: Bristol University Press; 2023

[3] European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (2021). [Roma and Travellers in six countries](#).

[4] Abrams D, Swift H, Houston D. Developing a national barometer of prejudice and discrimination in Britain. Manchester: Equality and Human Rights Commission; 2018.

[5] Department for Education (2023). [Key stage 4 performance](#).

[6] NHS England (2022). [GP Patient Survey](#)

[7] Cook B, Wayne GF, Valentine A, Lessios A, Yeh E. Revisiting the evidence on health and health care disparities among the Roma: a systematic review 2003-2012. International Journal of Public Health. 2013;58(6):885-911.

References and Further Reading (2)

References

- [8] Public Health England (2018). [Local action on health inequalities - understanding and reducing ethnic inequalities in health.](#)
- [9] World Health Organisation (2014). [Obesity and inequities - Guidance for addressing inequities in overweight and obesity.](#)
- [10] The Traveller Movement (2016) [Impact of insecure accommodation and the living environment on Gypsies' and Travellers' health.](#)
- [11] Friends, Families and Travellers (2021). [Call to action to address the health inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities.](#)
- [12] Kelly D, O'Hare C, McKeown P, Cianci F, Doyle S. Detection and control of an ongoing international outbreak of hepatitis A among the Irish Traveller community beginning September 2020. *Epidemiology and Infection.* 2022;150:e57.
- [13] Gregory A, Vedio A, Stone B, Green S, Bronsdon C. Targeted testing in primary care demonstrates high prevalence of hepatitis B infection within the Slovak-Roma population in Sheffield, UK. *Journal of Viral Hepatitis.* 2014;21(10):138-9.