

NICE and health inequalities

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NICE principles

The principles that guide the development of NICE guidance and standards include consideration of health inequalities throughout the guideline prioritisation, development, consultation and implementation pathway:

- **Principle 1.** Prepare guidance and standards on topics that reflect national priorities for health and care.
- **Principle 4.** Take into account the advice and experience of people using services.
- **Principle 5.** Offer people interested in the topic the opportunity to comment on and influence our recommendations.
- **Principle 9.** Aim to reduce health inequalities.
- **Principle 10.** Consider whether it is appropriate to make different recommendations for different groups of people.



What is NICE's role in addressing health inequalities and prevention?

1. A targeted approach to health inequalities in our guidance production

As a public authority, NICE should be able to demonstrate it is showing due regard to health inequalities throughout its core guidance processes, but this needs to be a targeted approach to achieve maximum impact from the resources available to us.

2. Supporting implementation of our guidance to take action on health inequalities

NICE can provide some support to health and care decision makers as they apply our guidance to address health inequalities.

3. Developing partnerships to support action on health inequalities

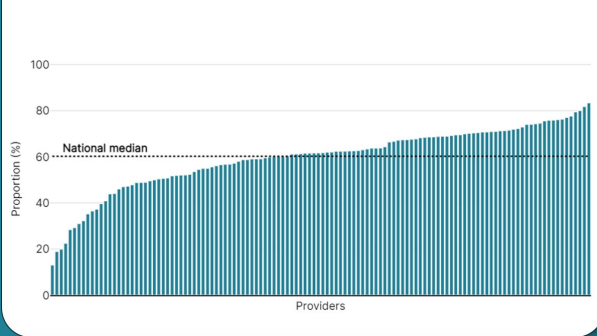
NICE can also support local implementation of its guidance to address health inequalities through partnerships with NHS and voluntary and community sector organisations.

4. Having a health inequalities focus in our organisation

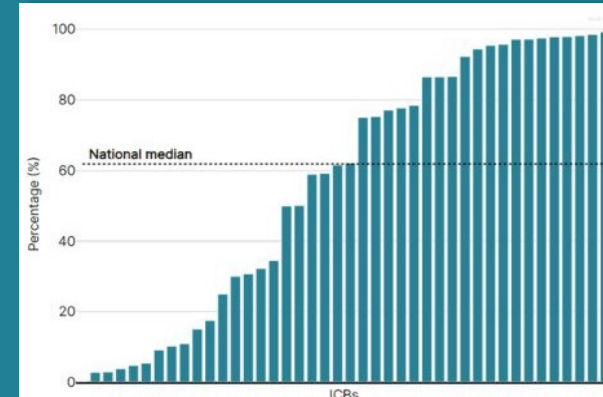
NICE can address health inequalities directly as an employer and as a purchaser of goods and services.

Some practical examples: addressing inequalities in uptake of NICE guidance

The proportion of booking appointments held by 10 weeks of pregnancy by provider, England, Apr 2022 to Mar 2023

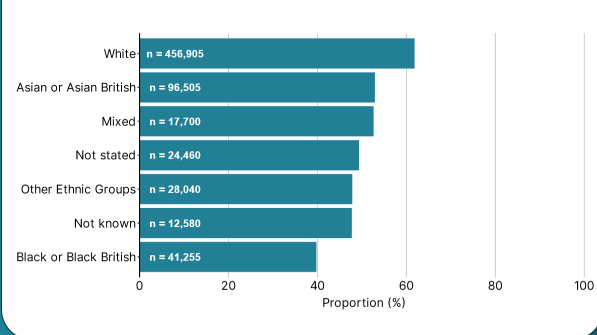


The variation between providers for booking appointments held by 10 weeks ranged from 80% at the highest to less than 20% at the lowest.



There is huge variation between ICBs for risk assessments that include a recorded mental health assessment.

The proportion of booking appointments held by 10 weeks of pregnancy by ethnicity, England, Apr 2022 - Mar 2023



The proportion of white women who have a booking appointment by 10 weeks of pregnancy is **22 percentage points** higher than that of black or black British women.

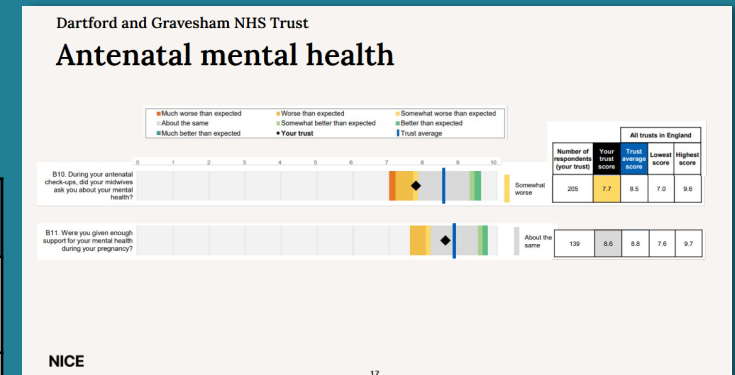
We engaged externally to understand the data and develop actionable insights. This included engagement with:

- NICE committee special advisors
- Race and Health Observatory (RHO)
- NHSE specialist advisor for obstetrics
- and a GP.

- We undertook an external engagement campaign to understand the variation in uptake, supported by data insights.
- We identified a selection of ICBs and providers with high or low uptake of recommendations and produced bespoke data packs.
- Discussions took place with ICBs and providers, NHSE regional teams and the devolved administrations.

Common reasons included:

Reasons	Types of issues
Health inequalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language barriers, different cultures, vulnerable groups – late presentation • Literacy/understanding – unclear about importance.
Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixture of self-referral and referral • High cancellation/DNAs • Lack of knowledge of processes to follow.
Workforce issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skill mix – use of technology, knowledge/skills outside of maternity • Workforce capacity.
Data quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coding and inputting errors • Limited ethnicity data.



Addressing inequalities in uptake in partnerships

Addressing health inequalities in partnership: InHIP

- NICE is an active partner in the InHIP programme, hosted by NHSE Health Inequalities team and Health Innovation Networks.
- In the first wave, NICE-recommended innovations in CVD, maternity, cancer diagnosis and respiratory care have been increased across 38 ICS.

Race Health Observatory (RHO)

- NICE now has a formal partnership with the RHO.

