



ARC East of England Understanding inequalities in access to breast cancer care for South Asian women

Exploring South Asian women's experience of breast cancer care

Compared to Caucasian women, women from ethnic groups are less likely to be aware of breast cancer symptoms or attend preventative screenings, leading to poorer recovery and survival outcomes. In addition, there is little holistic support available, such as culturally tailored support, to aid people through their breast cancer journey.

What was the aim of the project?

In partnership with the Asian Women's Cancer Group (AWCG) and the NHS Cancer Alliance East of England, this project aimed to use community engagement to inform recommendations to improve care for women of South Asian background living with breast cancer.

What did we do?

We attended AWCG meetings and facilitated group interviews with their members to hear about their experiences with their cancer journeys. From this, we co-produced recommendations with the AWCG members, aiming to improve cancer treatment and care.

How did we involve people?

Working together with public and community contributors and partners has been central to the project from the start. We met with the women of the AWCG to discuss their cancer journeys and the level of support, if any, that they received. We informed the group of our findings and presented them at local forums.

What has the impact been so far?

We have identified that breast cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment need to be improved. People with limited understanding of written and spoken English may not understand what they are being told, leading to negative experiences and reducing engagement with treatment.

Therefore, it is important that we work with communities to develop culturally tailored support to overcome these difficulties and help people have more positive treatment experiences. We are working with the NHS Cancer Alliance East of England to make sure NHS Cancer Services are aware of our findings.

What next?

We have completed this project, but we are going to carry on working with the NHS Cancer Alliance to try and find ways to get the findings out to stakeholders and possibly apply for further funding to develop more recommendations and training outputs.

For more information about this project

Scan the QR code or contact the Principal investigator, Professor Daksha Trivedi (d.trivedi@herts.ac.uk).



What is NIHR ARC East of England?

The National Institute for Health and Care Research Applied Research Collaboration (NIHR ARC) East of England is one of the 15 NIHR ARCs. We collaborate with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust and the Universities of Cambridge, East Anglia, Hertfordshire and Essex, along with other NHS Trusts, Local Authorities, Integrated Care Systems, patient-led organisations, charities, and industry partners.

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