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Preliminary Health Survey of African Caribbean Community in Greater Glasgow

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Background & Introduction

The 1991 and 2001 Census are the primary sources of data about Glasgow's African and Caribbean population. The 1991 Census shows that there are approximately 1614 persons who were classified as Black Caribbean, Black African and Black Other. The most recent figures from the 2001 Census indicate that the number of persons who classified themselves as African, Caribbean, Black Scottish or Other Black was 0.23% or approximately 1995. This represents an increase of 23.6% (about 381) from the 1991 Census.

Population	1991	2001
Black Caribbean (<i>Caribbean</i>)	243	347
Black African (<i>African</i>)	815	1388
Black Other (<i>Black Scottish or other black</i>)	556	260
Total	1614	1995

As far back as 1988, the African and Caribbean Advisory Service commissioned the Scottish Ethnic Minorities Research Unit to produce a report of the needs of African and Caribbean Community in Scotland (1). The report was probably the first in Scotland and highlighted issues such as isolation, harassment, poor housing, lack of access to employment and services and racism. The report also suggested that there was a lack of specific information relating to the needs, aspirations and general problems faced by these communities.

The recently completed audit of ethnic minority research in Scotland (2) showed that there has been little specific information/research available for African and Caribbean communities living in Scotland, in the last ten years. Two researches had been noted in the report. One of these was carried out by researchers working in the Department of General Practice in Edinburgh (3), who were interested in finding out the health provision for women of African origin in Scotland. The other was part of a submission for a Master's Degree study (4). More recently a paper on HIV/AIDS Awareness Teaching and Access to Services was presented at the 2nd UK African Women Leadership Institute Meeting 2003 (5).

The obvious lack of information and knowledge with respect to the health needs of African and Caribbean communities in Scotland is being addressed elsewhere. But more specifically and for the vast majority of these communities who live in Greater Glasgow, a short life working group was set up to suggest and carry out work to determine the basic and specific health needs of these communities. The membership of the working group included representatives from Greater Glasgow NHS Board, Greater Glasgow Primary Care NHS Trust, Glasgow Healthy City Partnership, Meridian (black and ethnic minority women information & resource centre) and an independent consultant who has worked extensively with African and Caribbean communities in and around Glasgow.

Aim

The purpose of this preliminary study is to provide baseline information on the particular and specific health needs of African and Caribbean Communities living in Greater Glasgow.

Objective

The objective for this work is two fold:

1. To use the information gathered from it to influence policy and planning and for determining further research,
2. To encourage community participation in mapping out their particular health needs and in suggesting changes that can be made by providers to better meet those needs.

Methodology

The working group designed a suitable methodology based on the working experience, proportion and dispersal of the community through out the city. A bilingual consultant was employed in 2002 to carryout the fieldwork. Two main methods of data collection (focus groups and interviews) were adopted for this needs assessment over a period of 12 weeks. A questionnaire was designed (see appendix) used for both the focus groups and one-to-one interviews. Interpreters were used to cater for a wide range of languages particularly in Somali language. It should be noted that there were also asylum seekers who took part in the needs assessment. In this survey people from Nigeria, Uganda, Malawi, South Africa, Zambia, Tanzania, Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Barbados, Somalia, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Angola, Cameroon Ethiopia, Ghana and Sudan took part. The following are the main methods of data collection used.

(1) One to one interviews

A total of 62 people were interviewed at homes as well as at community centres. Table 1 shows the background of those who took part in the interviews.

(2) Focus groups

There were four focus groups, with a total of 28 participants. For the composition of the focus groups please see table 2.

Table 1: Details of participants who took part in the one-to-one interview

Sample Group	No	Countries of origin of participants	Methodology used
Women	16	Nigeria, Uganda, Malawi, South Africa, Zambia, Tanzania, Congo, Kenya, Rwanda and Barbados	One to one interview
Men	10	Nigeria, South Africa, Ghana, Sudan, Malawi and Tanzania	One to one interview
Young People (Males)	6	Nigerian, Kenya, Uganda and Ghana	One to one interview
Young People (Females)	8	Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Kenya, South Africa, Malawi and Congo	One to one interview
Elderly Females	8	Nigeria, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Zimbabwe and Suda	One to one interview
Elderly Males	6	Nigeria, Ethiopia, Kenya and Zimbabwe	One to one interview

Table 2: Details of participants who took part in the focus groups

Women	16	Somalia, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Liberia, Angola, Cameroon, Uganda, Ethiopia and Rwanda	Focus group
Men	4	Nigeria and Uganda	Focus group
Young People (mixed)	18	Somalia (13) and Ethiopian (5)	Two individual focus group