



East London
NHS Foundation Trust
Information Governance
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10 December 2024

Our reference: FOI DA5732

I am responding to your request for information received 18 November and clarified on 19 November. This has been treated as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am now enclosing a response which is attached to the end of this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me on the contact details above if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Coordinator

If you are dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your FOIA request then you should contact us and we will arrange for an internal review of this decision.

If you remain dissatisfied with the decision following our response to your complaint, you may write to the Information Commissioner for a decision under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113
Web: www.ico.org.uk

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Chief Executive Officer: Lorraine Sunduza
Chair: Eileen Taylor

Request: I'm interested in cross-analysis of the census compared to Tower Hamlets Autism Service (THAS) ethnicity statistics, as well as compared to general statistics on how common autism is. Under the Freedom of Information Act as a lifelong Tower Hamlets resident, and autistic person diagnosed by THAS, I'd like to request access to any non-sensitive records the service may have about race of the service users.

Clarification: I would like to request information for between 2011 and now, as I am also using the 2011 census, the most recent census, and the Tower Hamlets State of The Borough document from 2023. By non-sensitive, I mean general statistics and nothing specific to any patients. I simply am looking for information like percentage split of which ethnicities have been diagnosed by THAS, to then discern if there is a racial bias in diagnostic criteria that may be a barrier to non-white members of the population from being diagnosed with autism. If possible, I would also like ages, as part of my study will include analysing POC being diagnosed much later in life compared to their white peers.

Answer: Please see table below:

Autism diagnoses at the Tower Hamlets Autism Service from January 2011 to the present (December 2024)		
Ethnicity	Number of patients	Percentage of patients
All	431	100.0%
Asian or Asian British - Any other Asian background	6	1.4%
Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi	59	13.7%
Asian or Asian British - Indian	8	1.9%
Asian or Asian British - Pakistani	6	1.4%
Black or Black British - African	3	0.7%
Black or Black British - Any other Black background	7	1.6%
Black or Black British - Caribbean	5	1.2%
Mixed - Any other mixed background	5	1.2%
Mixed - White and Black African	1	0.2%
Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	3	0.7%
Not known	50	11.6%
Not stated	19	4.4%
Other Ethnic Groups - Any other ethnic group	50	11.6%
Other Ethnic Groups - Chinese	5	1.2%
White - Any other White background	38	8.8%



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White - British	160	37.1%
White - Irish	6	1.4%
Age category	Number of patients	Percentage of patients
18-24	127	29.5%
25-49	266	61.7%
50-64	31	7.2%
65-plus	7	1.6%
Grand Total	431	100.0%



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