

Your health and well-being during the COVID-19 crisis

Draft Survey Report - 6 July 2020

Summary

Healthwatch Newham launched an online survey at the end of April which has so far received 187 responses from Newham residents, of which 93 BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic), 89 white British (WB) and 5 unknown.

Below is an analysis of the responses from Newham residents so far.

Health

- 70% of all respondents did not experience any Covid-19 symptoms while 29% think they are or may have experienced symptoms, but they were not tested.
 - 33% of BAME vs 26% of WB think they are or may have experienced symptoms
- 18% reported being in fairly or very poor health (18% of BAME and 17% of WB)
- 55% of the 187 respondents reported having a disability or long-term condition. (54% of BAME, 55% of WB)
 - Of those that reported having a disability or long-term conditions:

Condition	total	Total among BAME	Total Among WB
Asthma	30%	32%	29%
Mental Health	24%	26%	22%
Diabetes	18%	20%	18%
Disability	16%	14%	20%

Access to Information

- While over 57% found it easy to find information about keeping safe, around 41% of respondents found the process somewhat or not at all easy. (37% of BAME and 43% of WB)
 - Of those with fairly or very poor health from BAME background 59% did not find it easy to find information, 56% from WB background.

Effect on Mental Health

- 81% of participants have experienced some form of concern or anxiety about work and health for themselves and their family and friends. As service delivery across health and social care has changed, been reduced or suspended, to cope with the new Covid-19 demand, some residents are feeling lost, as they struggle to access services and cope with their conditions during the lockdown. (49% from BAME and 49% from WB background)
 - Almost 70% of respondents feel they do not need support with their mental health despite feeling down or anxious.
 - 15% said they either cannot access services they used before Covid-19 or are unable to access services for the first time; while only 5% said they were able to access support.
 - Of those unable to access services 75% were from BAME background

Access to Healthcare for other conditions

- Over 55% of respondents felt that Covid-19 has affected their access to healthcare for other conditions. Of those affected 52% were BAME and 45% WB.

This includes not being able to attend cancer treatment, HIV clinic, dental appointments or having their surgery postponed. This has led to physical and emotional distress including some patients being in pain following their postponed treatment. Although there is an overarching sense that people do understand the reason for the delays and appreciate the very exceptional circumstances; as stress and sometimes physical pain increase, people are looking for some certainties and a clear plan on when their treatments can be resumed.