



Ethnic Minority Health In Ireland



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Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

What is an Ethnic Identifier?

Ethnic identifiers are categories that classify individuals by their country of origin and/or cultural, religious, and racial background.

Why are Ethnic Identifiers important?

It is very important for the Health Service to collect this information so that it can ensure that the health care system is working effectively for all ethnic communities and that no group is discriminated against. With the information gathered through this question the Health Service can examine the impact of existing health care services and policies in order to develop policies in the future which best meet the needs of all ethnic communities.

What does the HSE do with this information?

The HSE wants to collect this information for a number of different reasons:

- For the allocation of resources different kinds of health care
- To monitor the health and well-being of people from different ethnic groups and backgrounds
- For international reporting purposes
- To monitor the impact of government policies on different groups in the health system and to inform the development of new healthcare policies

What we're doing...

We're working with local Traveller and Migrant groups to find out about health differences between majority and minority ethnic communities in Ireland. In particular, the use of ethnic identifiers in primary health care. We want to examine how they can be used in an effective and acceptable way, to get information about differences in healthcare needs.





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What we'd like your help with ...

If you agree to take part in this study, you will be invited to a group discussion to think together with other people about the best way to ask questions about peoples' ethnic background when they attend a General Practitioner. You may also be invited to an individual interview so we can understand better what are your views on this.



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For more information about taking part in this research, contact:

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