

# Newsletter Issue 1, Spring 2021

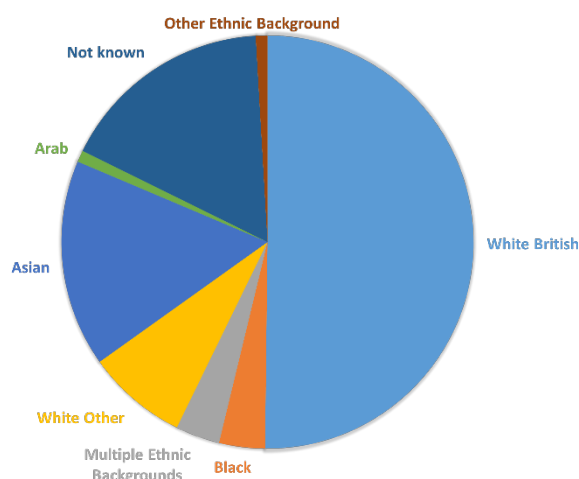


**Dr Manish Pareek**  
UK-REACH Chief  
Investigator

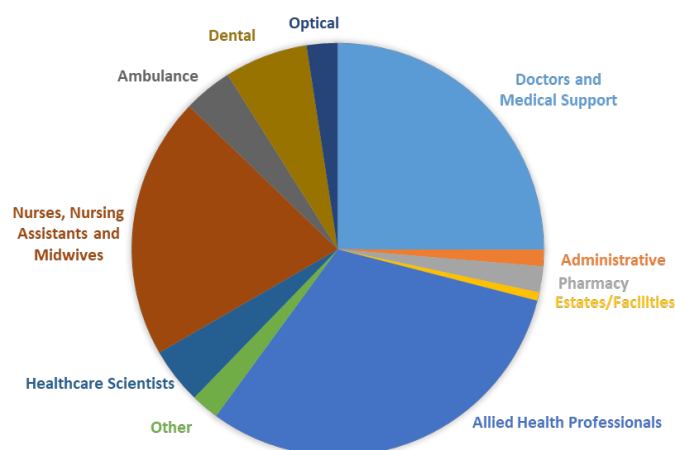
“We are very thankful to each and every one of the 18,000+ healthcare workers across the UK who have agreed to take part in UK-REACH. We are in the process of analysing your responses which will enable the team to look at the effect that the pandemic has had on the lives of healthcare workers and ensure that this is communicated appropriately. It is important that we continue to analyse this impact over the course of the pandemic, so I would urge you to complete the follow-up questionnaire, invites will be going out in the coming weeks.”

## UK-REACH questionnaire in numbers

- ~18,000 health care workers recruited across all 4 nations of the UK
- Around a third of our participants are from an ethnic minority background



**Ethnic background**



**Job role**

**Interim analyses:** We have now pulled all of the data from the first questionnaire, thank you to all of those who participated. We are in the process of analysing this huge dataset and will be publishing data on a number of different themes shortly. This includes which healthcare roles have been at greatest risk of infection and the impact of the pandemic on both the physical and mental health of healthcare workers. We also have a pre-print out which looks at the reasons healthcare workers may not be confident to take up a vaccine at this time (more on this over the page).



**Follow-up questionnaire launching:** Invites from the UK-REACH team will be going out over the coming weeks so please check your inbox. On completion you will be entered into a prize draw with the chance to win one of ten £250 Amazon vouchers.

Our collaborating institutions:



THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH  
Edinburgh Law School



Swansea University  
Prifysgol Abertawe



The University of  
Nottingham



UNIVERSITY OF  
OXFORD



## Vaccine Hesitancy

Much media attention has been focused on the vaccine rollout and reasons for lower vaccine uptake in some groups. The UK-REACH team have been looking at data collected from our questionnaires, and interviews and focus groups with healthcare workers, to understand the reasons for this.

**Analysis of interim questionnaire data** has found nearly a quarter of healthcare workers were hesitant about COVID-19 vaccines. Hesitancy was greater in some ethnic groups; in women - especially pregnant women; in younger healthcare workers; and in those who had previously tested positive for COVID-19. Being less positive about vaccines in general, having lower trust in employers, and greater belief in COVID conspiracies were also predictors of hesitancy.

**The qualitative research** has provided important insight into the accessibility and trustworthiness of health information and messaging, the role that trust and perceived risk play in influencing decisions about the vaccine, and ways of moving forward.

The Guardian recently featured an article on this research ([www.theguardian.com/world/2021/apr/29/nearly-a-quarter-of-british-health-workers-wary-of-covid-19-vaccine](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/apr/29/nearly-a-quarter-of-british-health-workers-wary-of-covid-19-vaccine)). For a detailed read please see our pre-print on Medrxiv. (doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.04.26.21255788>).

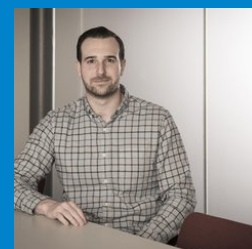
We will shortly be publishing a paper on this so keep an eye on our website and twitter feed for updates.

## Policy Report on the legal and ethical implications of analysing large healthcare datasets

Two of our researchers, Edward Dove and Ruby Reed-Berendt, from the University of Edinburgh, have published a policy report on the legal and ethical issues arising from the collection and use of health care workers' data which includes a series of recommendations.

*"Our report aims to chart a path for UK-REACH (and projects like it) to use and link sensitive data in a way that is legally, ethically and socially acceptable".*

The full report is published on our website: [www.uk-reach.org/main/publications](http://www.uk-reach.org/main/publications)



All findings from the study will be made available on our website, including submitted papers in pre-print form. Visit our website for a full list of current publications.

We would like to thank all of the partner organisations who have contributed to the study

[www.uk-reach.org/main/partners/](http://www.uk-reach.org/main/partners/)



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