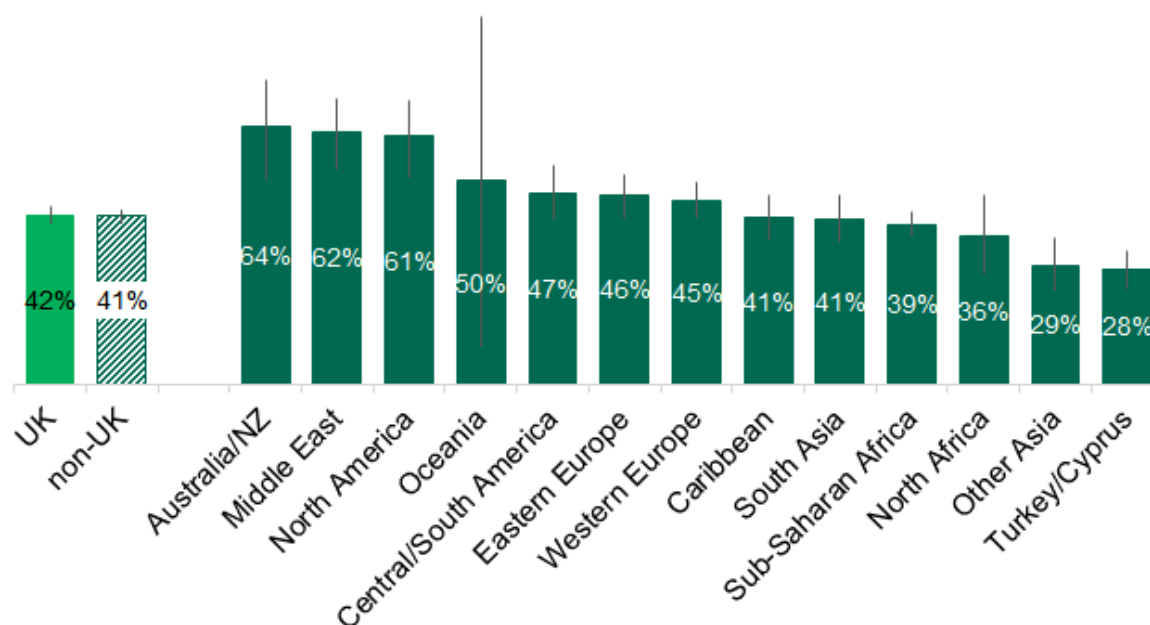


NHS Health Check uptake by country of birth in Hackney and the City of London

It is becoming increasingly important to understand how migration impacts health. Two in five residents immigrate to Hackney and the City of London from outside the UK (Census 2011). As part of a Migrant Health Needs Assessment, we explored NHS Health Checks activity in different migrant populations using GP patient records.

The results indicated a difference in NHS Health Checks uptake¹ between some migrant groups and the non-migrant population². The results were also important for indicating the heterogeneity in health behaviour and health outcomes between different migrant groups. Rates of acceptance of the NHS Health Check were significantly lower among individuals from the regions of Turkey, Cyprus and Asia (not including South Asia) compared to the UK born population. Individuals from Australia, New Zealand, North America and the Middle East were significantly more likely to take up the NHS Health Check compared to the non-migrant population.

Figure 1: Percentage of NHS Health Checks uptake in City and Hackney patients by country of birth (aged 40-74, 2017)



Source: Clinical Effectiveness Group, Queen Mary University of London (2017)

Note: Data captures City and Hackney GP patients who have ever received an NHS Health Check.

Reflecting on the project it was clear that we need to ensure that country of birth is coded as part of standard data collection procedure in the future: only 13% of our patient records had country of birth accurately coded. Future research is needed to understand the mechanisms behind the differences in uptake. We need to understand how country of origin might influence attitudes to health, understandings of health care systems, and ultimately, reticence when it comes to health seeking behaviour.

¹ Uptake is the percentage of those who receive an NHS Health Check out of those offered.

² For the purposes of this analysis, we define 'migrant' as those who were born outside of the UK who are now living in Hackney and the City of London. 'Non-migrant' are those who were born in the UK; this may include the UK born children of foreign born migrants.