



Are non-English Speakers being excluded from Research Studies?

Aim: To identify barriers to inclusion faced by non-English speakers in research studies through an audit of studies granted research governance approval

Audit Findings:

Audit 2009-11	Studies that excluded non-English speakers	Re-Audit 2012-14
47%		46%
Reasons Cited by Researchers		
39%	Lack of funding	35%
34%	Issues with Practicality or Feasibility	46%
15%	Issues with validity of instruments	16%
24%	No reason given	3%

The 2009-11 audit of studies granted research governance approval by APCRC showed that 47% of studies (n=87) excluded non-English speakers. The 2012-14 re-audit showed that 46% of studies (n=80) made no specific arrangements to address the communication needs of a diverse community.

The key themes around the reasons for exclusions remain the same and include a lack of funding, practicality and feasibility issues, issues with validity of instruments.

The most interesting change has been that the number giving no reason for inclusion has fallen from 24% to 3%.

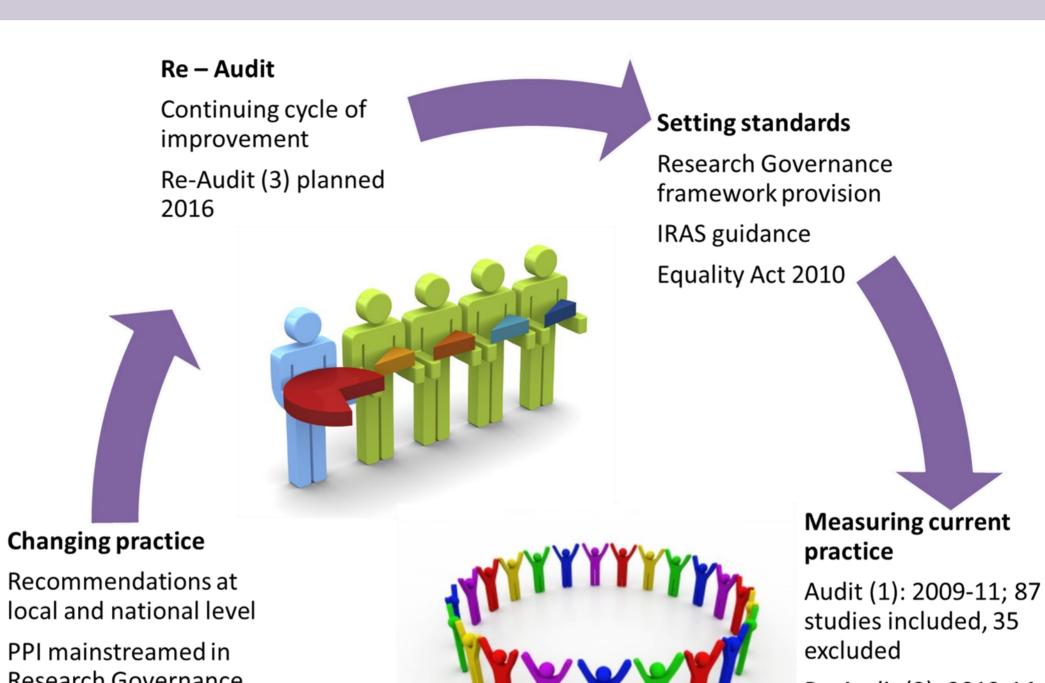
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An audit of projects granted research approval by the Avon Primary Care Research Collaborative in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire was undertaken in 2011 and 2014 to establish:

- Whether non-English speakers are excluded from primary care research
- What reasons were given for these exclusions
- Produce recommendations for increasing participation of non-English speakers in research

Results shows that around half make no special provision to include non-English **speakers.** There has been no improvement in this rate since the initial audit in 2011, however, more respondents were willing to cite a reason in the 2014 re-audit, which could suggest an encouraging increase in engagement with the PPI movement.



INVOLVE and others, 'non-English speakers' in this context means participants "who might not adequately and understand verbal explanations or written information in written English, or those who have special communication needs."

Definition: Following

PPI mainstreamed in Research Governance and ethics processes

Demand for guidance and evidence

Comparing results to standards

Inclusion is not equitable Gaps in planning and funding

Issues with Validity, feasibility and practicality

Applications submitted Re-Audit (2): 2012-14; for NHS Research

80 studies included, 64 Governance Governance approval in Content and thematic

excluded

analysis

NHS Bristol NHS North Somerset NHS South Gloucestershire

Recommendations

- NIHR/ INVOLVE could develop further guidance on standards aimed at overcoming barriers to inclusion
- Methods and criteria for auditing, monitoring and evaluating PPI throughout the research cycle must be strengthened and mainstreamed.
- Research Ethics Committees to request legitimate reasons for exclusion.
- Needs of non-English speakers to be addressed at planning stages.
- **Funding** to overcome barriers to exclusion required.

