

# 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%**.

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.



**Definition:** Following 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."

Applications submitted for NHS Research Governance approval in **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.

For further info, visit our website [www.apcrc.nhs.uk](http://www.apcrc.nhs.uk)

