

# Latin American Health

*Southwark's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment*

Southwark Public Health Division

Autumn 2024

# Latin American Health

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# Acknowledgements

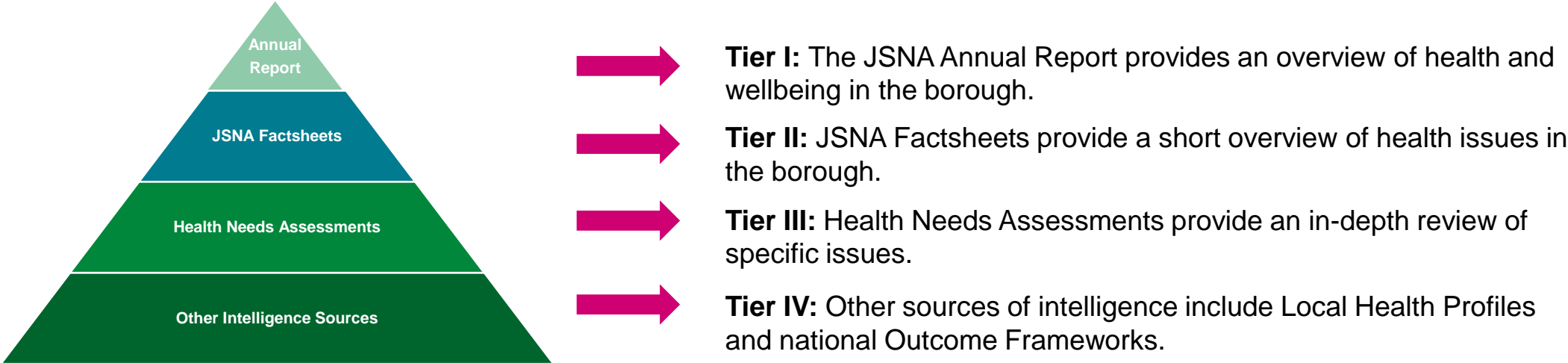
**This health needs assessment would not have been possible without the valued input of the following partners.**

- **Local Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations**
  - Latin American Women's Rights Service
  - Indoamerican Migrant and Refugee Organization
  - Voades
  
- **Southwark Council Teams**
  - Public Health
  - Community Engagement
  - Safer Communities
  - Local Economy
  
- **NHS South East London Integrated Care Board**

# Health Needs Assessments form part of Southwark's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment process

**The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is the ongoing process through which we seek to identify the current and future health and wellbeing needs of our local population.**

- The purpose of the JSNA is to inform and underpin the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and other local plans that seek to improve the health of our residents.
- The JSNA is built from a range of resources that contribute to our understanding of need. In Southwark we have structured these resources around 4 tiers:



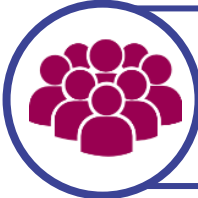
- This document forms part of those resources.
- All our resources are available via: [Southwark JSNA weblink](#)

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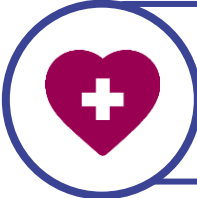
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# Section 1: Executive Summary

# Southwark has a number of Latin American communities who experience inequalities in access, experience & outcomes



Over 14,000 residents were born in a Latin American country and 9,200 reported Hispanic or Latin American ethnicity during the 2021 census



There is a higher prevalence of a range of long-term conditions among Latin American residents compared to White British/Irish residents



There is poor collection of data regarding Latin American ethnicity in local services, hindering our ability to identify and tackle inequalities



Latin American residents may refrain from seeking support with mental health due to cultural stigma and unfamiliarity with NHS services



Uptake of preventative health services such as vaccination and cancer screening is lower in Latin American communities than the general population



Latin American residents report poorer access to health services than residents who speak English or were born in the UK



The majority of Latin Americans in London have post-secondary school level qualifications but often work in low-paid and unsecure elementary occupations such as cleaning, service, or processing roles.



Local engagement highlighted significant difficulties in accessing translation services, and a lack of cultural sensitivity in the delivery of services

# This health needs assessment aims to describe the health and social needs of Southwark's Latin American communities

**This needs assessment forms part of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for Southwark. It aims to describe and evaluate the health and wellbeing needs of the Southwark Latin American Population.**

- Specific project objectives are to:
  - estimate the size of the Latin American population within Southwark using the most recent population data
  - explore key health and wellbeing issues that these communities experience
  - identify areas of health inequalities for Latin American communities
  - identify gaps in data collection and issues with data quality
  - understand the services available to Latin American communities (local authority, private, NHS, and third sector) that are currently operating in Southwark
  - create an action plan that addresses identified gaps in service provision or design and helps to reduce observed inequalities



# Southwark has one of the largest populations of Latin American residents in the UK

**More than 14,000 of Southwark's residents were born in a Latin American country and demonstrate a wide variety of health and care needs.**

- Southwark is a highly diverse borough, with over 280 different ethnicities recorded by residents in the 2021 Census.
- Southwark and Lambeth have the largest populations of Latin American residents compared to any other region of the UK.
  - Latin American communities include people from a number of different countries and a variety of migration statuses, including asylum seekers, refugees, and undocumented migrants. Community members also identify with other societal groups and communities e.g. LGBTQ+, and consequently have a broad range of health and wellbeing needs.
- Due to challenges in the recording of ethnic identity, attempts to quantify population size are often based on “Country of Birth” data. Some datasets may use other definitions e.g. cross-referencing ‘Country of Birth’ data with language or ethnicity
  - These estimates therefore exclude residents of Latin American ethnicity who were born within the UK, and those with irregular migration status who may not be willing to provide data via the Census and other tools
- There is an increasing awareness of the health and wellbeing needs of the Latin American population, with evidence demonstrating significant inequalities in access to health services, health outcomes, and in variety of other social factors such as housing and income.
- These inequalities arise because of differences in the conditions in which we are born, grow, live, and age, in addition to differences in how resources such as housing and money are distributed.

# Southwark's Latin American residents experience inequalities in accessing health services and in their health outcomes

**Although Southwark has taken steps to recognise and support the health and wellbeing of Latin American residents, inequalities still persist between these communities and the rest of the population.**

- Southwark was the first local authority in England to officially recognise Latin American as an ethnic group, moving to include Latin American in the ethnicity section of its monitoring forms since 2012.
- Despite this official recognition, Latin American residents experience significant barriers in accessing mainstream health and social care services, such as cancer screening, vaccination, and routine primary and secondary care services.
  - These barriers include administrative challenges, language barriers, and unfamiliarity with how NHS services operate in comparison to foreign health systems. As a result, Latin American residents often struggle to access treatment and support for both new and existing health concerns.
- Latin American residents are more likely to work in unsecure, low-wage occupations, while renting their homes from private landlords.
  - These residents may therefore struggle to take time off work when unwell, or attend appointments during business hours, further compounding the difficulties in accessing health and care services.
- Consequently, Latin American residents experience poorer outcomes in health and wellbeing in Southwark.

# Inequalities experienced by Latin American residents stem from a number of physical, structural, and social determinants

**The inequalities experienced by Latin American residents stem from a combination of physical and social determinants that are beyond the scope of any one organisation to address.**

- The inequalities in health and wellbeing experienced by Latin American residents in comparison to the general population stem from a combination of individual, social, and structural factors.
- Addressing these issues is beyond the scope of any one individual organisation or stakeholder, and will instead require cross-sectoral collaboration.
  - Collaboration between Public Health, South East London Integrated Care System (ICS), and voluntary and community sector stakeholders, in addition to service users and community members will be required to identify and address the drivers of inequality within Southwark and South East London.

# Collaboration between the Council, Integrated Care System, and Community is required to improve Latin American health

**The determinants of Latin American health in Southwark are varied and therefore beyond the ability or scope of any one individual organisation or group to address.**

- This needs assessment has identified four areas in which local services could improve in order to better support the health and wellbeing of Southwark's Latin American residents:
  - 1) Addressing Access
    - Identifying and removing the barriers that prevent Latin American residents from being able to access and utilise the services that exist within Southwark
  - 2) Promoting Partnerships
    - Involving members of the Latin American community in the design, delivery, and evaluation of services, and creating forums for communication between partners so that Southwark's health system can meet the needs of its Latin American residents.
  - 3) Wider Wellbeing
    - Recognising and working to improve the wider socioeconomic determinants that contribute to Latin American health
  - 4) Data & Monitoring
    - Ensuring a greater availability of accurate data regarding Latin American health in order to support the development of more effective services and identify gaps in provision

# Issue theme: Access

## The following issues have been identified as potential barriers to accessing existing services by Latin American residents:

- 1) Large proportions of Southwark's Latin American population have limited English language proficiency, and the majority of resources are only available in English. Despite high levels of utilisation reported to translation service commissioners, Latin Americans report experiencing difficulties in accessing translation services.
- 2) Latin American residents report being asked for ID, proof of migration status, or proof of address upon attempting to access health care services.
- 3) Many Latin American residents work antisocial hours in unsecure occupational roles and as a result may struggle to take time attend appointments during traditional working hours. Southwark has two extended access hubs providing out of hours appointments but awareness of these services and how to access them may be low.
- 4) Latin American residents may not be familiar with how to access health services via typical NHS structures and pathways.

# Issue theme: Partnerships

**The following issues have been identified as potential opportunities for improving the ways in which the health and wellbeing of Latin American residents can be improved through partnerships between multiple agencies:**

- 5) Local VCS groups are often provided with short-term funding in the form of individual grants which are subject to strict criteria and specific health issues.
- 6) Work to improve Latin American health within Southwark has largely been disconnected or disjointed without any one organisation taking responsibility for co-ordinating actions.
- 7) The burden of mental illness experienced by Latin American communities is likely underestimated by primary care records due to cultural stigma, and limitations in accessibility and data collection. Latin Americans unsure of how to access mainstream services turn to community groups for support.
- 8) Health needs and priorities for Latin Americans in Southwark are often set or prioritised by non-Latin Americans, leading to experiences of cultural insensitivity or lack of recognition of certain health needs by health specialists and service providers.
- 9) Other boroughs in London such as Lambeth and Brent also have large Latin American communities who experience inequalities in their health and socioeconomic circumstances.
- 10) There is a high incidence of HIV in Latin American communities compared with the general population, with potential underdiagnosis in Latin American women.

# Issue theme: Wider Wellbeing

## **The following issues have been identified as wider societal factors that affect the health and wellbeing of Latin American residents:**

- 11) Some Latin American residents are reluctant to access mainstream services due to uncertainty regarding legal entitlements to care, especially following Brexit and in situations where residents have irregular migration status.
- 12) Many Latin American residents have tertiary level qualifications but are unable to access related employment opportunities.
- 13) Large proportions of Southwark's Latin American population have limited English language proficiency, and women are less likely to be able to speak English than men.
- 14) Latin American women are assaulted approximately 60 times before seeking help in situations of domestic violence. Women with unsecure migration status may feel less able to access services due to fears of prosecution.

# Issue theme: Data & Monitoring

**The following issues have been identified in regards to the way in which data pertaining to the health and wellbeing of Latin American residents is collected:**

- 15) Demographic monitoring questions on data capture forms commonly don't include a "Latin American" option.
- 16) Identifying Latin American records in existing data sets can be difficult and time-consuming.
- 17) This JSNA represents the first holistic assessment of the health and social care needs reported by Latin American communities in Southwark. It takes a broad approach with the aim of creating a baseline understanding of need and does not explore differing levels of need reported by different groups within Latin American communities (e.g. LGBTQIA+ groups, Older adults, Children, people with disabilities).



## Section 2: Introduction

# Southwark's Latin American population is a diverse group of communities with a wide range of health and social needs

## Southwark's Latin American population is made up of multiple communities, groups, and networks.

- This population includes individuals from 19 sovereign nations and one dependent territory across the Caribbean, and South and Central America.
  - The Latin American community includes people with a variety of migration statuses, including asylum seekers, refugees, and undocumented migrants. Community members also identify with other societal groups and communities e.g. LGBTQIA+, and consequently have a broad range of health and wellbeing needs.
  - “Latin American” is therefore not a homogenous term and this variability between individual community members should be considered in all strategies and policies designed to support these groups.
- There is an increasing awareness of the health and wellbeing needs of the Latin American population, with evidence demonstrating significant inequalities in access to health services, health outcomes, and in variety of other social factors such as housing and income.<sup>1</sup>

# Southwark has one of the largest populations of Latin American residents compared to other areas of the UK

## According to the 2021 Census, London is home to over 157,000 Latin Americans.<sup>2</sup>

- The true size of the Latin American population is likely to be larger as these figures don't include second generation Latin Americans, or irregular migrants.
- Lambeth and Southwark have the largest populations of Latin American residents within the UK.
- Approximately 14,000 Southwark residents were born in a Latin American country, the majority of whom live in wards in the centre of the borough.
- 9,200 residents reported 'Hispanic or Latin American' ethnicity during the 2021 Census.<sup>3</sup>
- More than half (52%) of Southwark's Latin American residents are female, similar to the average for Latin Americans in London (51%).<sup>1</sup>
- Estimating the true size and age structure of the Latin American population within England and London remains difficult due to difficulties in accurately recording ethnicity.<sup>4</sup>

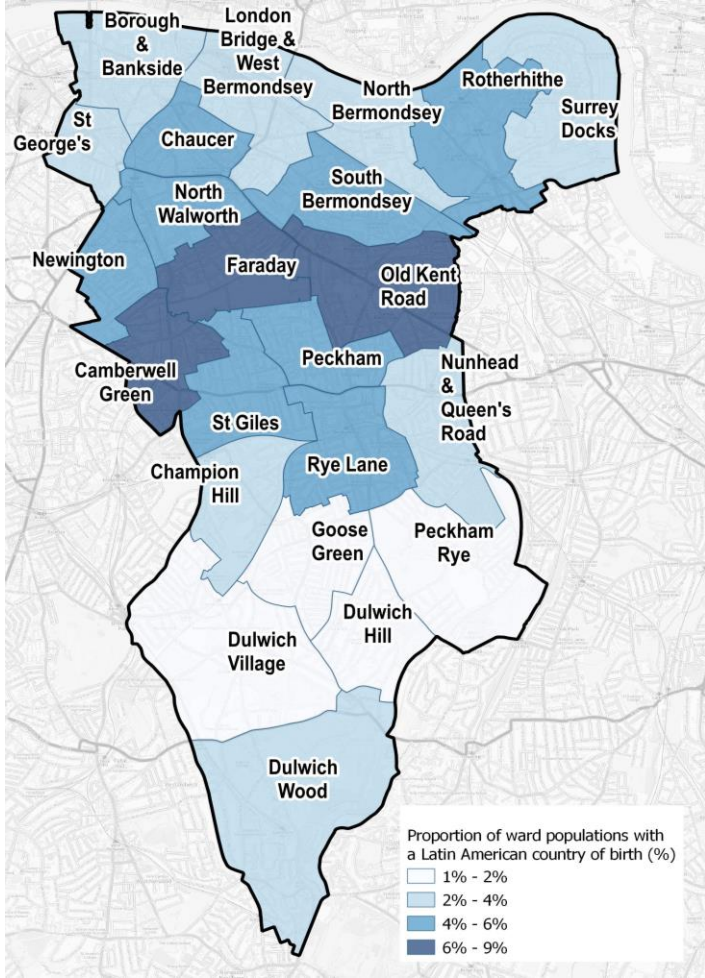


Figure 1: Percentage of Southwark Latin American residents by total ward population

# The health of Southwark's Latin American residents is influenced by several factors

## Health outcomes in the Latin American population can be shaped by multiple factors.

- These include direct health issues that affect individuals, such as:
  - Physical health conditions including maternal, sexual, and reproductive health
  - Mental health
  - Lifestyle factors e.g. smoking, alcohol consumption, diet
  - Unique health issues e.g. Chagas disease
- Health is also influenced by societal factors, such as:
  - Housing, employment, and income
  - Community networks
  - Discrimination and racism
- The health of Latin Americans in London is also shaped by difficulties in accessing health and care services.
- Limitations in data management also indirectly influence health outcomes by making it more difficult to understand the scale of inequalities or how to best improve existing services.

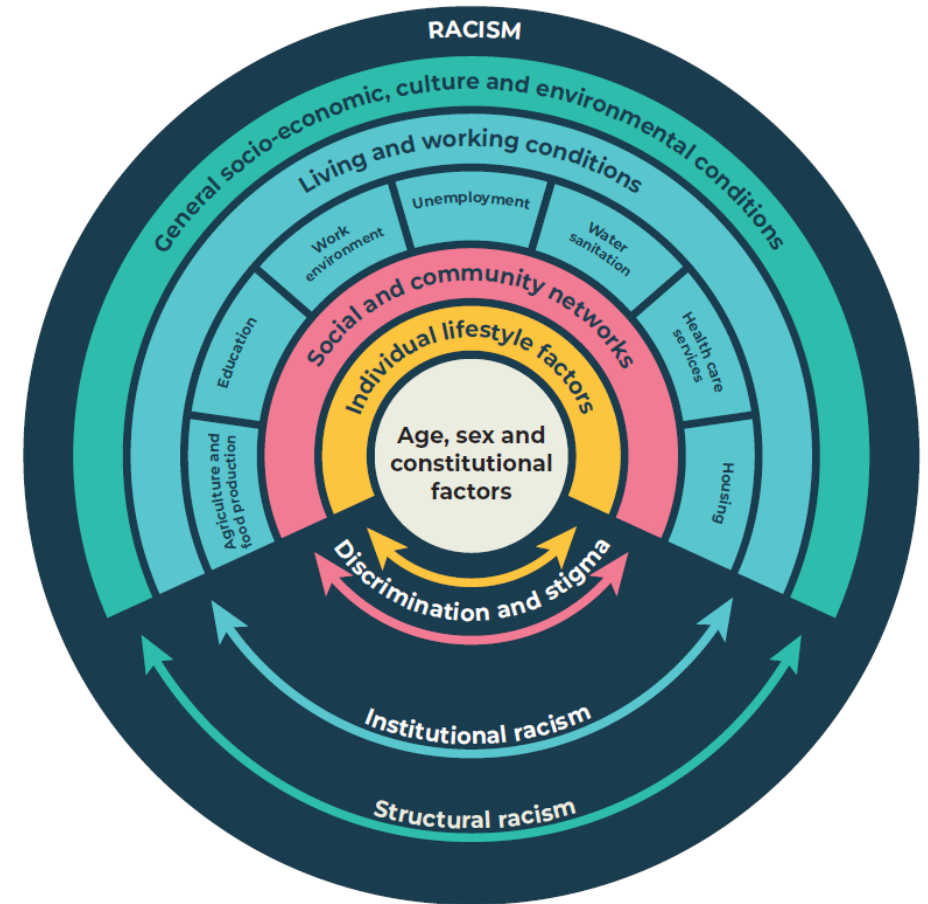


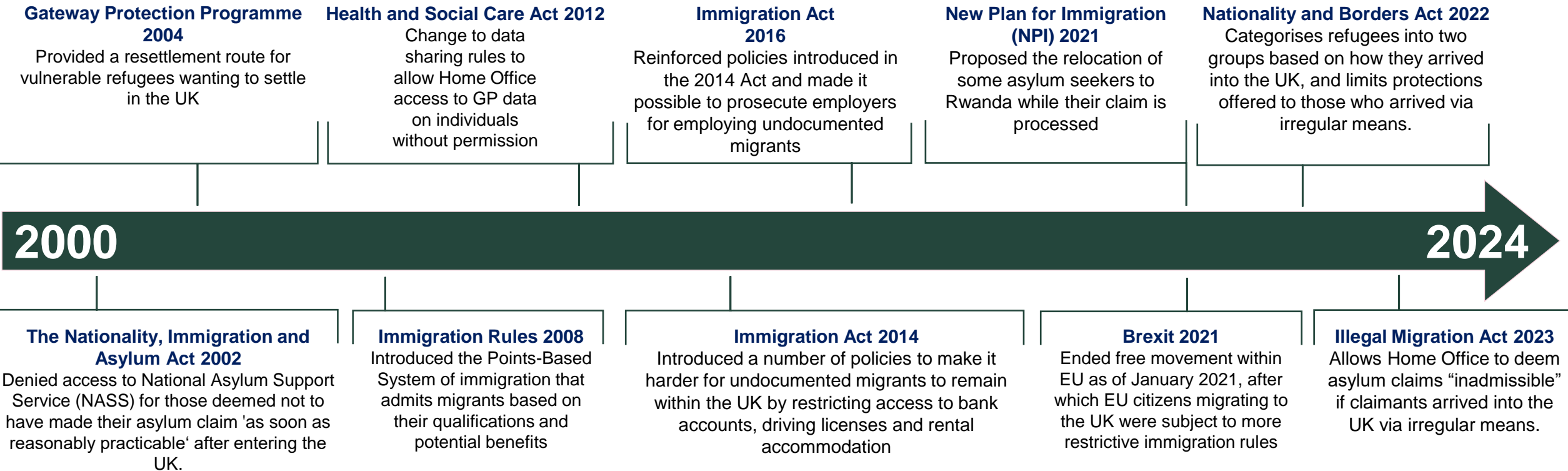
Figure 2: Adapted from Dahlgren and Whitehead, 1993, showing racism as a driving force for social determinants of health.<sup>5</sup>

## Section 3: Policy Context

# There have been significant changes to UK migration policy in the past two decades

National migration policy in England has undergone a series of changes in recent decades in response to rising net migration.

Figure 3: Timeline of relevant national policy, 2000-2024.



# These changes to policy have had a significant impact on Latin Americans and other migrant groups in the UK

**Frequent changes to migration policy in recent years has created confusion regarding entitlements amongst migrants and services that work with them.**

- This results in Latin Americans being afraid to access services for fear of being charged or having their details shared with the Home Office, even in situations where they have the lawful right to remain in the UK.
- Many Latin Americans hold EU citizenship (E.g. Spanish, Italian) and originally came to the UK without the need for a visa pre-Brexit.<sup>1</sup>
  - These individuals who lived in another country after leaving Latin America but before arriving in the UK are referred to as “Onward Latin Americans” (OLAs) within this report.
- Brexit has impacted Latin Americans living in Southwark, with some experiencing changes to their migration status as a result of the UK’s separation from the EU.<sup>6</sup>
  - This has resulted in growing distrust of government services amongst these communities, wherein those with newly irregular immigration status may hesitate to seek healthcare or access other services for fear of being reported to immigration authorities.

# Southwark Council has taken positive steps to recognise and support its Latin American residents

## **Southwark was the first local authority within the UK to recognise Latin Americans as an ethnic group.**

- Southwark first recognised Latin Americans as an ethnic group in 2012, with neighbouring boroughs following their lead soon after.<sup>7</sup>
  - As previously highlighted, this pan-ethnicity is not commonly included as an option in demographic monitoring tools, leading many Latin Americans to record their ethnicity within provided “Other” categories.
  - By formally recognising the Latin American pan-ethnicity, Southwark Council took steps towards making the community more visible in the eyes of local government and local services.
- Southwark’s Borough of Sanctuary group, formed in 2018, works to ensure the borough proudly welcomes refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.
  - Southwark Council was designated a 'Borough of Sanctuary' in 2024 and is welcoming migrants and refugees to Southwark's neighbourhoods.
- Southwark has recently established a maternity commission aimed at improving local services and reducing inequalities experienced by people who give birth, especially those from Black- and Minority Ethnic backgrounds.



## Section 4: Health Issues

# Efforts to explore the health needs of Latin Americans in London and the UK are limited by data availability

**The term “Latin American” is a pan-ethnicity consisting of a wide range of backgrounds and ethnic groups, rather than being a single ethnicity in itself.**

- Ethnic identity is difficult to define, and while many Latin Americans identify within “Other” categories on data collection forms, some Latin Americans in the UK will identify as “White – British”.<sup>1</sup>
- This makes it difficult to accurately quantify the size of the Latin American population within the UK.
- Health service data collection tools do not routinely include Latin American as an option when recording ethnicity of service users. Consequently, evaluating health service utilisation amongst Latin American residents proves difficult.
- Up to one-in-six London-based Latin Americans are not registered with a GP at all, meaning primary care health service data will likely exclude this proportion of the community.
- Identification of Latin American residents within health records requires the use of cross-referencing of multiple criteria including country of birth, language spoken, and these ethnicity codes, as carried out by Scuffel et al. in their review of Lambeth-based primary care data.<sup>8</sup>

# Latin Americans are more likely to be diagnosed with a range of physical health conditions such as diabetes and obesity

A retrospective review of 890,000 primary care records in Lambeth between 2005-2022 found that Latin American residents were more likely to be diagnosed with certain conditions when compared to White British/Irish residents.<sup>8</sup>

- Compared to White British/Irish ethnic groups, Latin Americans were more likely to be diagnosed with:
  - Connective tissue diseases such as lupus and arthritis
  - Diabetes
  - Moderate obesity (BMI 35-39.9)
  - High cholesterol levels
  - HIV
- Hazard ratios measure how often something occurs in one group in comparison to how often that same thing occurs in another group.
  - In this scenario, they measure how many more times a diagnosis will be made amongst Latin American patients compared to White British/Irish patients.
- For a hazard ratio of 2, it means for every 1 White British/Irish patients diagnosed with a disease, 2 Latin American patients will be diagnosed with the same condition.

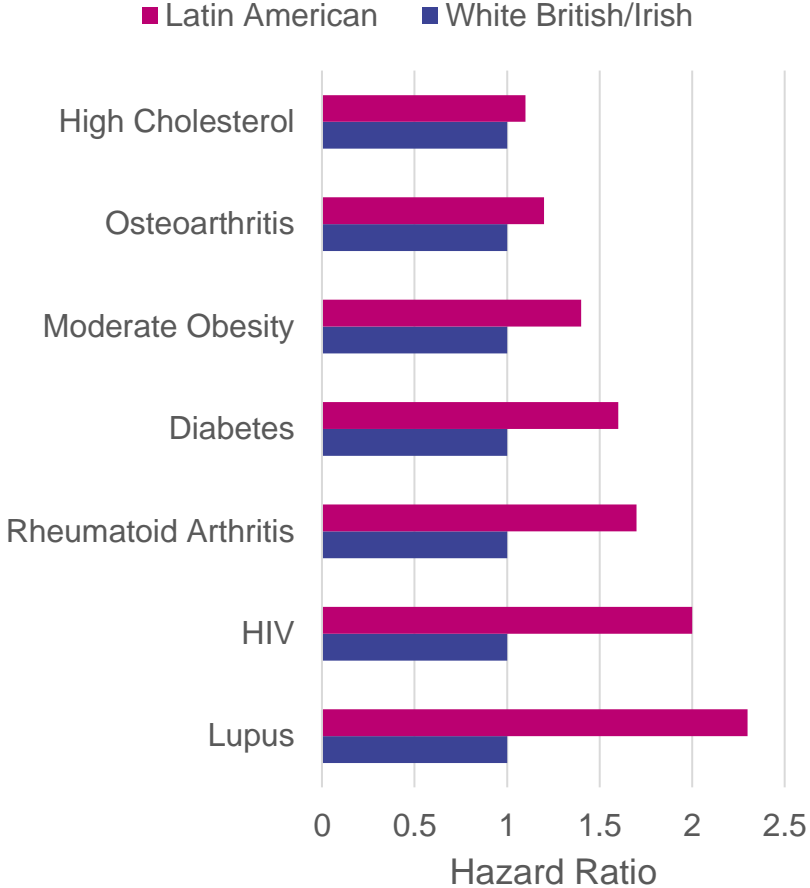


Figure 4: Hazard ratios of long-term conditions for Latin Americans adults compared to White British/Irish ethnic groups in Lambeth, 2005 – 2022.

# Latin Americans are less likely to be diagnosed with cancer, mental illness, or substance misuse disorders

## Some conditions were less likely to be diagnosed or reported amongst Latin Americans when compared to White British/Irish residents.<sup>8</sup>

- The same review of primary care records found that when compared to White British/Irish residents, Latin American residents were less likely to have:
  - Issues with substance dependency
  - Heart failure
  - Cancer
  - Chronic kidney disease
  - Mental illness such as anxiety or depression
- A hazard ratio of less than 1 means that Latin American patients are less likely to receive the diagnosis than White British/Irish patients.
  - For a hazard ratio of 0.5, for every 2 White British/Irish patients diagnosed with a disease, 1 Latin American patients will be diagnosed with the same condition.

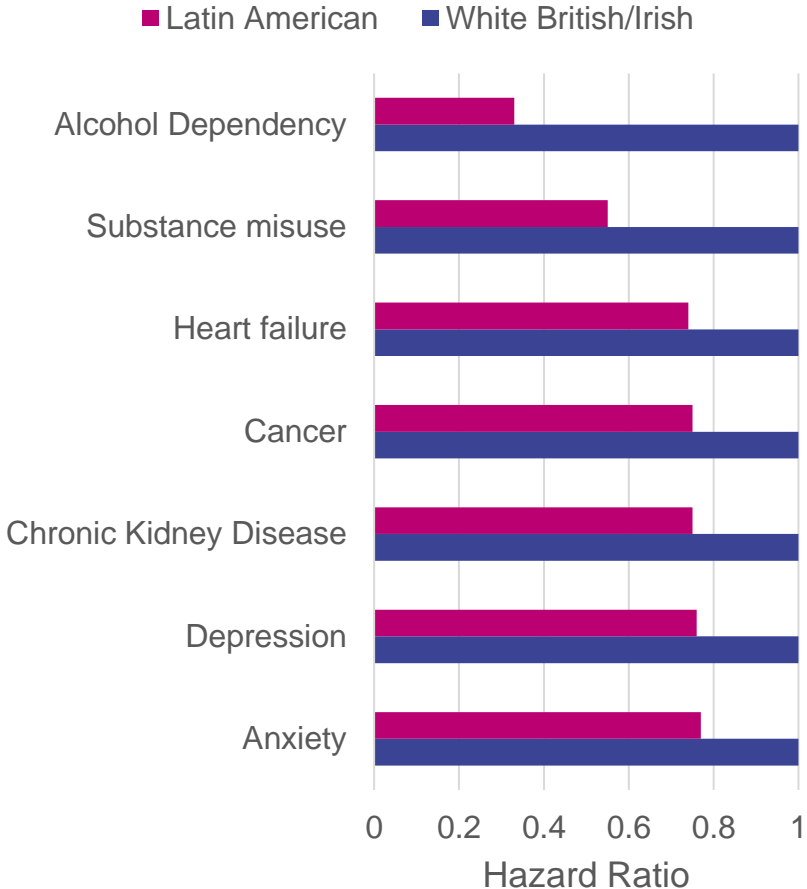


Figure 5: Hazard ratios of long-term conditions for Latin Americans adults compared to White British/Irish ethnic groups in Lambeth, 2005 – 2022.

# Results from the retrospective cohort study may be influenced by reported difficulties in accessing services

## Reported differences in diagnoses between Latin American and White British/Irish groups may be due to a number of factors.

- The results of the retrospective cohort study suggested that when compared to White British/Irish groups, the prevalence of certain long-term conditions was higher amongst Latin American patients.
- Given the aforementioned difficulties in accessing services, this data may represent under-reporting by Latin Americans without long-term conditions.
  - E.g. People who don't attend primary care services may be in better health and due to the difficulties in accessing care, may not see the process of registering with a GP to be worth their time.
- Other conditions were found to be less commonly diagnosed amongst Latin American patients, including mental health disorders and substance misuse. These results may represent under-reporting due to difficulties in accessing primary care.
  - E.g. anxiety and depression may be caused by and further exacerbate situations of social isolation experienced by Latin Americans. These individuals may therefore also lack the support to access health services and receive diagnoses or treatment, resulting in under-reporting.

# Low rates of mental illness recorded in primary care may be due to a variety of factors, such as data collection and stigma

## Mental illnesses were less commonly diagnosed amongst Latin American residents than White British/Irish groups in Scuffel et al's review of Lambeth-based primary care records.

- The rates of anxiety and depression were lower in Latin American patient records than White British/Irish groups, however this may not be a true reflection of the burden of mental illness within Latin American communities in Southwark for several reasons.
- Research carried out by Mas Giralt and LAWRS in 2014 found that in a survey of 37 Latin American women who had migrated to the UK from other European countries, 27 reported not knowing how to access mental health services.<sup>9</sup>
- Further research carried out in 2013 hypothesized that the Latin American culture of *Familismo*, wherein individual needs are preceded by the needs of the family, may lead individuals to hide symptoms, illnesses, and treatments from other family members.<sup>10</sup>
  - Given the role family members may play in providing informal translation services during healthcare appointments, this culture of *Familismo* may lead residents to downplay symptoms of mental ill-health, leading to underdiagnosis.
- Southwark's 2021 Vital 5 JSNA found that in a cross-sectional review of over 300,000 primary care records, mental health status was recorded at a statistically significantly lower level for both men and women of all ages than other Vital 5 characteristics (alcohol consumption, BMI, blood pressure, and smoking status).<sup>11</sup>
- Paired with the challenges in recording ethnicity in secondary care and specialised mental health services, these factors make it difficult to estimate the true burden of mental illness amongst Latin American residents in Southwark.

# Coverage of routine vaccinations is lower amongst Latin American residents

**Latin American residents are less likely to have been fully vaccinated against infectious diseases such as polio, measles, mumps, and rubella compared to the general Southwark population.**

- Stakeholder interviews highlighted that the observed inequalities in uptake of both vaccination was likely due to difficulties in accessing services rather than the result of misinformation or hesitancy.

Table 1: Differences in coverage of Polio vaccination between Latin American children aged 1-9 and the wider Southwark population aged 1-9.<sup>12</sup>

Received Vaccination	Latin American Coverage (% of eligible persons aged 1-9)	General Southwark Population Coverage (% of eligible persons aged 1-9)
Polio (6 in 1 + pre-school booster)	29.8	67.9

Table 2: Differences in uptake of MMR vaccination between Latin American patients aged 1-29 and the wider Southwark population aged 1-29.<sup>12</sup>

Received Vaccination	Latin American Coverage (% of eligible persons aged 1-29)	General Southwark Population Coverage (% of eligible persons aged 1-29)
MMR (full)	22.6	55.4
MMR (partial)	29.4	66.1

# Uptake of cancer screening programmes is lower amongst Latin American residents

**Latin American residents are less likely to attend routine cancer screening programmes such as those for bowel, breast, and cervical cancer.**

- While Latin American residents were found to have a lower prevalence of cancer compared to the general population in South East London (SEL) (1.5% vs 2.8%), uptake of cancer screening services was also lower.<sup>12</sup>
- Paired with the difficulties experienced by Latin Americans in accessing health services, it is possible that this difference represents under-diagnosis and under-reporting of cancer within patients from these communities.
- Furthermore, lower rates of screening uptake may lead to cancers may not being detected until the later stages of disease, making treatment more difficult and potentially leading to poorer outcomes in long-term cancer survival.

Table 3: Differences in uptake of cancer screening programmes between Latin American communities and the wider SEL population

Cancer Screening Programme	Latin American Uptake (% of eligible population)	General SEL Population Uptake (% of eligible population)
Bowel	53.0	63.9
Breast	41.1	55.1
Cervical	65.9	69.6



# HIV prevalence in Latin Americans is higher than the national average with marked under-diagnosis in women

**There is limited national and local data available on the sexual health needs of Latin American migrants, in part due to difficulties in collecting data regarding ethnicity within this group.**

- A study comparing the prevalence of HIV in Latin American migrants in the UK with the prevalence in their country of origin, found that of the 2,471 Latin Americans diagnosed with HIV in the UK, 90% were men. They estimate 50% of women with HIV from Argentina, Venezuela and Chile have not yet been diagnosed.<sup>13</sup>
- Southwark recently carried out a rapid health needs assessment examining the sexual and reproductive health needs of various groups within Southwark, including Latin American migrants.<sup>14</sup> This report identified:
  - HIV as a significant issue based on available data.
  - Latin American gay and bisexual men have seen an increase in prevalence of HIV over recent years, and Latin Americans as a whole have not seen the same progress as other groups when it comes to early diagnosis and treatment.

# Chagas disease poses a unique challenge for Latin Americans living in Europe

**Chagas Disease is estimated to affect approximately 4% of Latin Americans living in Europe.<sup>15</sup>**

- Chagas Disease is a parasitic infection spread by *Triatomine* insects in rural areas of Mexico, and Central and South America.
  - When untreated, it causes chronic infection which can lead to complications such as heart failure in up to 30% of people.
- Although the triatomine insect doesn't exist within the UK, infection can be spread through blood transfusions, organ transplant, and from mother-to-child via pregnancy and birth.
- Estimates suggest up to 6,000 people across London, and up to 560 Southwark residents could be infected with Chagas disease.
- Screening for Chagas Disease is important for early detection and initiation of treatment before development of complications.
- Treatment of Chagas disease can prevent development of cardiac and gastrointestinal complications.



Figure 6: Global Chagas distribution showing endemic (triatomine insects present) and non-endemic (no triatomine insects) settings.<sup>17</sup>

# Latin Americans often experience significant difficulties in accessing primary and secondary health services

**In 2023 Healthwatch Southwark published a report showing many Latin Americans in the borough struggle to access health and social care services.<sup>18</sup>**

- Healthwatch Southwark reports that in a series of focus groups, surveys and 1:1 interviews with 67 Latin American residents, 76% of respondents encountered obstacles when accessing these services. The report divided these barriers into three categories:
  - 1) Communications
    - Language barriers
    - Confusion regarding entitlements
    - Difficulty in accessing online communications
  - 2) Diversity and Inclusion
    - Negative staff behaviours
    - Challenges in recording ethnicity on NHS paperwork
  - 3) Appointments and Charges
    - Challenges in making appointments
    - Referrals and staff continuity
    - Charges for additional letters of support/evidence
- Latin American residents with irregular migration status may also be reluctant to access secondary care services due to fear of being charged to access NHS services and for fear of being reported to Home Office officials.

# Latin Americans may be forced to seek alternative healthcare services when encountering barriers to access in London

**As a result of barriers faced when accessing local health and social care services, Latin Americans may attempt to access care privately or in other countries.**

- Some Latin Americans report feeling forced to attend emergency departments for conditions they recognise are not emergencies.<sup>18,19</sup>
- Others feel that in order to reliably get an appointment, they must pay for private healthcare.
- Furthermore, Latin American residents are often unfamiliar with the gatekeeping role that primary care providers play within the NHS, and in their home settings may be used to seeking care directly from secondary care specialists.
- Latin Americans with European citizenship may travel abroad to access healthcare services.<sup>1</sup>
  - A survey of 400 Onward Latin Americans (OLAs) in 2016 found that 15% of participants had travelled abroad in order to access healthcare.
  - 20% of OLAs had also used private healthcare services.
- Interviews with local VCS groups suggested that use of alternative medicines in the Latin American community is low overall.
  - When unable to access mainstream services, Latin Americans are more likely to share medications or seek private care than seek alternative therapies or complementary medicine.

## Section 5: Socioeconomic Issues

# More than a quarter of Southwark's Latin American residents struggle with speaking English

## English language proficiency varies amongst Latin American communities depending on nationality.

- 17% of Latin Americans living in London either cannot speak English, or cannot speak it very well.<sup>1</sup>
  - Amongst Ecuadorians, Bolivians and Paraguayans, this rises to 25% (i.e. one in four)
- Latin American women are also more likely to have a limited understanding of English than Latin American men.
  - 14% of Latin American men speak little to no English, compared with 20% of Latin American women.
- Southwark has the highest proportion of Latin Americans with limited English language proficiency in London.
  - Approximately 27% of Latin Americans living in Southwark struggle with English, compared to 22% of those living in Lambeth.

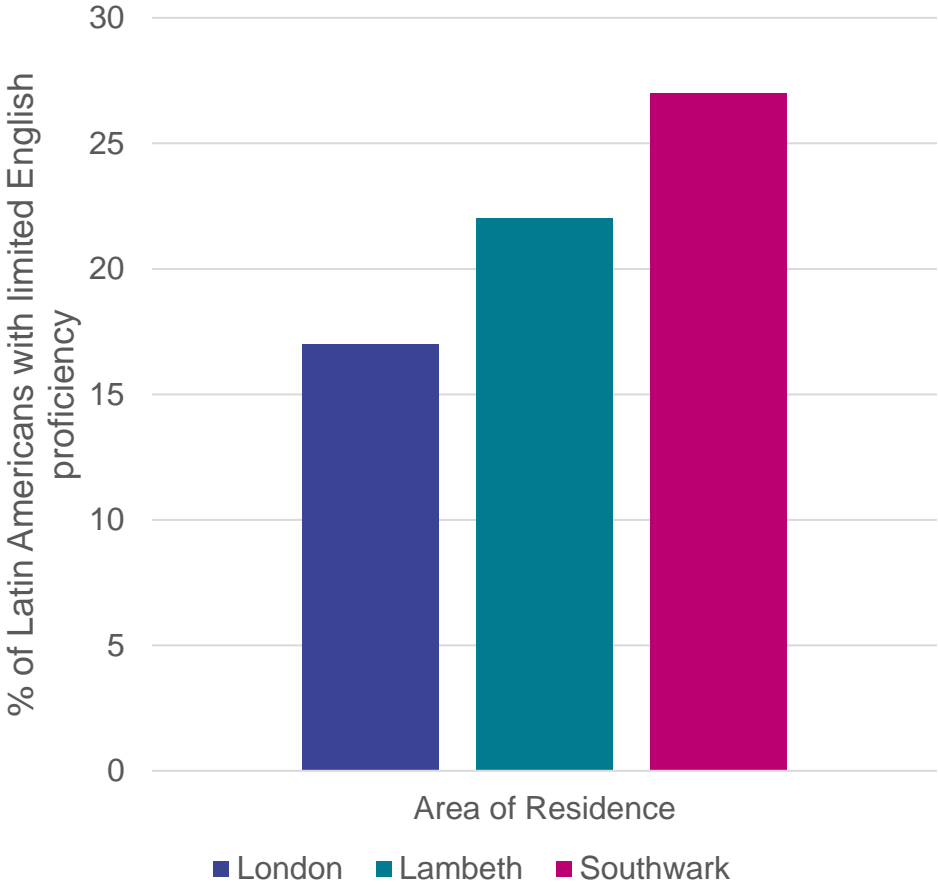


Figure 9: Percentage of Latin American residents living in London, Lambeth and Southwark with limited English proficiency.

# Most London-based Latin Americans live in privately rented accommodation

## Latin Americans in London are more likely to rent and less likely to own their own home compared to the London population.

- Data from the 2021 Census indicates 23% of Latin Americans in London owned their home (either outright or via mortgage) compared to the London average of 49%.<sup>1</sup>
  - This proportion is lower in Southwark, where only 15% of Latin American residents own their own home.
- The majority of Latin Americans in rental accommodation rent from a private landlord.
  - 70% of Latin Americans living in rental accommodation rent from a private landlord.
  - 27% of those renting, rent from local authorities, housing associations, or other social landlords.

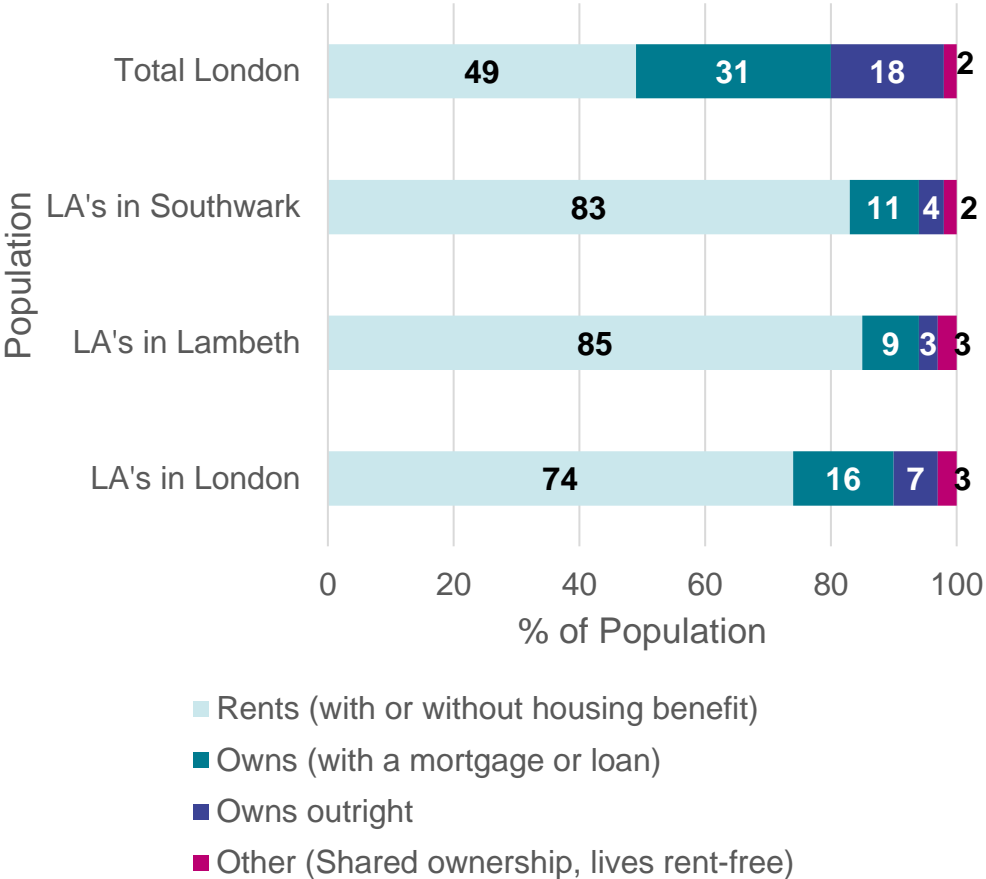


Figure 7: Housing Tenure Type among Latin Americans in London.

# Over half of London-based Latin Americans have university or college level qualifications by the time they arrive in the UK

## The majority of Latin Americans in London have received tertiary (post-secondary school) level qualifications.

- Analysis of 2011 Census data demonstrates that on average, approximately 51% of Latin Americans in London have received tertiary level education.<sup>1</sup>
  - A further 21% have completed upper secondary school level studies, while 18% have attained lower secondary school level education.
- Levels of attainment vary between individual Latin American nationalities.
  - Colombian's have lower levels of tertiary education than the Latin American average, with 42% having attained such qualifications.
  - Conversely, groups such as Argentinian's and Mexican's have higher proportions of tertiary qualifications than average, at 76%.
- Educational attainment also varies between boroughs.
  - 47% of Latin Americans living in Lambeth had tertiary qualifications, compared to 53% of Southwark-based Latin Americans

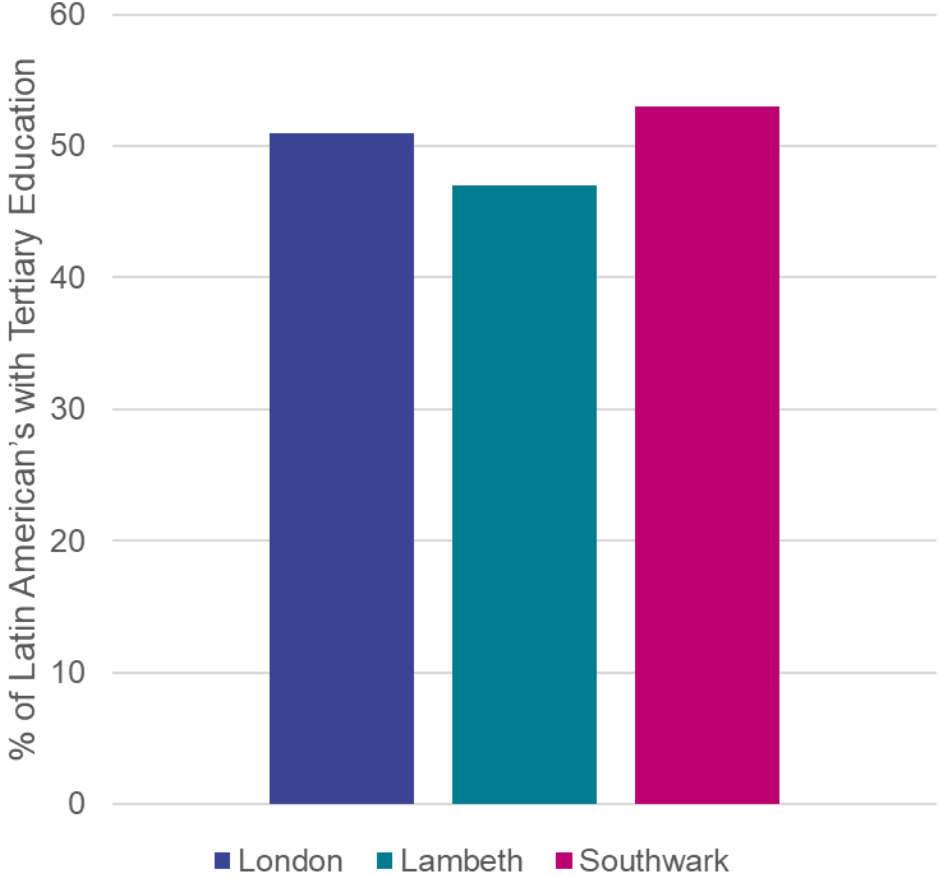


Figure 8: Percentage of Latin Americans living in London, Lambeth, and Southwark who have attained tertiary level qualifications



# Latin Americans in London are more likely to be employed than the general population

**Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, employment amongst Latin Americans was higher than the London average.**

- Data from the 2011 Census showed approximately 69% of working-age Latin Americans in London were employed, compared to the London average of 61%.<sup>1</sup>
  - These rates varied between boroughs, ranging from 62% in Islington to 75% in Haringey, with Latin American employment in Southwark at 69%.
  
- Despite high levels of university level qualifications, almost half of Latin Americans worked in low-paid elementary jobs in service, cleaning, caring, and processing jobs.
  - According to the 2011 Census, 46% of Latin Americans in London worked within these sectors.
  
- Latin Americans working within the domestic sector may also find themselves at a heightened risk of exploitation, as indicated in reports from the Latin American Women’s Rights Service.<sup>20</sup>



Figure 10: Occupational status of Latin Americans in London compared to the total population.

# Women from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds often experience poorer maternal health outcomes

## **Latin American women experience difficulties in accessing maternal health services and are more likely to experience birthing complications than people from other ethnic backgrounds.**

- Women from a minority ethnic background experience higher rates of complications and mortality during pregnancy and child-birth when compared to women from white backgrounds.
  - These inequalities are often linked to structural barriers and socioeconomic disadvantage – 8% of women who died during or up to a year after pregnancy in the UK in 2017-2019 were significantly disadvantaged.<sup>21</sup>
  - These elements of disadvantage can include health disorders, socioeconomic status, substance misuse, and domestic violence.
- Issues relating to data availability and recording ethnicity mean that specific data regarding maternal health outcomes for Latin American women are not routinely available outside of information available from specific qualitative engagement exercises.
- Preliminary findings from Southwark's Maternity Commission demonstrate that Latin American respondents were:
  - Most likely to be unsure of how to contact local services
  - More likely to experience mental health issues during pregnancy than any other ethnic group
  - More likely to experience complications compared to any other ethnic group, other than women from Mixed ethnic backgrounds

# Women from Latin American communities are at a high risk of experiencing Gender-Based Violence

**Women from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic groups are disproportionately impacted by abuse and exploitation, but find it harder to access support services.**

- Women from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic groups facing domestic violence need to make an average of 17 contacts with support services before they receive the help they need.<sup>22</sup>
  - Comparatively, women from non-minority backgrounds need to make 11 contacts.
- Latin American women are made especially vulnerable in situations of insecure immigration status and potentially having “No Recourse to Public Funds”.
  - Latin American Women’s Rights Service (LAWRS) estimate that undocumented Latin American women are assaulted 60 times before they make their first contact to the police, compared to 35 times amongst women in general.<sup>23</sup>
  - Undocumented immigration status may also be used as a tool of abuse, wherein men who have “legal” status may use it to leverage power over partners who are otherwise afraid to report to the authorities for fear of deportation.
- Differences in English language proficiency between men and women also leave Latin American women vulnerable to exploitation
  - As previously noted, approximately 20% of Latin American women have a limited English language proficiency, leaving them having to depend on others for translational support and access to English-speaking services.

## Section 6: Community & Stakeholder Views

# This JSNA has been informed by the views and experiences of Latin Americans within Southwark

**The findings of this health needs assessment have been informed by a variety of engagement exercises carried out by the Public Health team and external partners.**

- These engagement exercises have included:
  - Primary interviews with representatives from local Latin American voluntary and community sector (VCS) groups
    - Indoamerican Refugee and Migrant Organization (IRMO)
    - Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS)
    - Voades
  - Community engagement work commissioned by South East London Integrated Care Board and carried out by Mabadiliko CIC involving focus groups. Themes included:
    - What types of healthcare services and support are required?
    - How can we maximize access to support?
    - What are the principles of service design?
    - How can Southwark best support outcomes that matter to Latin American communities?
  - A Latin American health stakeholder engagement event
    - An event was held at Southwark Council's Tooley Street site, inviting colleagues from VCS groups, health and social care organisations, South East London Integrated Care Board and others.

# Interviews with community organisations provided important information on the experiences of Latin American residents

## Interviews with Latin American VCS groups were vital in providing contextual understanding of issues and barriers faced by members of the community.

- Due to limitations in data availability, this needs assessment relied on published literature and reports based on secondary data analysis.
  - IRMO and LAWRS were involved in the writing and dissemination of many of these reports published within the last decade.
- Conversations with these local VCS groups confirmed that the findings of these reports were still valid and relevant to Latin Americans in Southwark in 2024.
- Interviews also provided additional information not available from routine sources.
  - While quantifying the number of undocumented Latin Americans in London is not possible using routine data, interviewees reported that insecure immigration status is still a common issue amongst the people they support.
- These interviews were also useful in understanding why uptake of services such as vaccination and screening is lower amongst Latin American residents.

# Focus groups confirmed the importance of improving access and providing culturally sensitive care across all services

**Mabadiliko CIC carried out a series of focus groups with Latin American residents to inform the development and improvement of health services in a way that matters to community members.**

Table 4: Key health service requests from Latin American residents who attended Mabadiliko focus groups

Services	What Latin American Residents Wanted
<b>Dental</b>	Services that are affordable and accessible
<b>Preventative health check-ups and screening</b>	Clearly signposted services, especially regarding the management of long-term conditions such as diabetes and hypertension
<b>Vaccinations</b>	Clear and understandable information regarding how to access services
<b>Mental health</b>	Culturally appropriate mental health care that can address unique stressors such as migration, acculturation, and social isolation
<b>Women’s health</b>	Support services that are culturally sensitive, available in Spanish and Portuguese or with reliable translators, and provide post-natal support for people who give birth
<b>Health education and promotion</b>	Culturally tailored programmes that address issues such as nutrition, exercise, and long-term conditions
<b>Language support</b>	Reliable access to accurate and effective translation services across all healthcare settings
<b>Community outreach and navigation</b>	Recognition of the value that these services provide in helping residents understand and access services

# Stakeholders were invited to assist in shaping recommendations throughout the JSNA

**A multidisciplinary event was held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024, bringing together stakeholders from Southwark Council, South East London ICB, local VCS groups, and local healthcare providers.**

- 33 stakeholders from a variety of organisations and backgrounds attended including:
  - VCS Organisations
  - Public Health
  - South East London Integrated Care Board (ICB) representatives
  - Local Councillors
  - Clinicians and health specialists
  - Healthwatch Southwark
- Attendees received a variety of presentations from local VCS groups and community members, in addition to the interim findings of the Latin American Health JSNA.
- Attendees were divided into groups and asked to discuss the following themes with a view to improving services, identifying and removing barriers to access, and informing the JSNA recommendations:
  - Primary care
  - Health & wellbeing promotion
  - Sexual & reproductive health
  - The wider determinants of health



# This needs assessment has also drawn on other recent research and engagement with Latin American residents

Information was also drawn from recent community engagement exercises carried out within Southwark in recent years.

- These additional exercises included:
  - ***Access to Health and Social Care Services for Latin American Communities in Southwark. Healthwatch Southwark, 2023.***
    - This project explored the accessibility of health and social care services for Latin American communities within the borough using a written survey, a focus group, and 1-1 interviews to collect the views of 67 Latin American residents in Southwark
  - ***A health outreach project for the Latin American community: Access to healthcare & the covid vaccine. Southwark Council, LAWRS, and IRMO, 2022.***
    - Between January and June 2022, the project's outreach team reached a total of 657 people. Out of this total, the team provided 144 people with in-depth 1:1 support and engaged in conversations with another 513 people
  - ***The Experiences of London's Latin American Migrants during Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic. Centre on Migration, Policy, and Society (COMPAS), University of Oxford, 2021.***
    - From June 2020 to June 2021, COMPAS and LAH gathered Latin Americans' qualitative accounts of Brexit and the pandemic through focus groups and interviews with 73 Latin Americans living in London, 15 Latin American Year 11 students, and 39 experts and community workers from London-based Latin American NGO's

## Section 7: Local Response & Services

# Programmes are already underway to make Southwark a healthier place for Latin American residents

**Southwark's health system is collaborating with local VCS groups to provide targeted services that support Latin American residents access cancer screening and weight management programmes.**

- In recognition of the inequalities and disadvantages experienced by Latin American residents, various organisations, groups, and networks have already commenced a variety of programmes designed to improve the health and wellbeing of people within these communities.
- **Southwark Council**
  - Grant funding for VCS organisations to reduce inequalities in cancer screening
  - Initiatives to address barriers to vaccination uptake
  - A healthy weight service providing support with exercise, dietary choice, and cooking skills
  - An audit of Southwark's Primary Care providers and their adherence to the Safe Surgeries programme
  - Establishing a community health ambassador network
- **South East London Integrated Care Board**
  - Inclusion of Latin American population flag in data dashboards
  - NHS Core20PLUS5
- **Community and Voluntary Sector Organisations**
  - Community networks
  - Advocacy and support services
  - Targeted health services

# Southwark Council provided grant funding to local VCS organisations to reduce inequalities in cancer screening

**Indoamerican Refugee and Migrant Organization (IRMO) received £15,000 to support Latin American residents in Southwark in accessing cancer screening programmes and identifying early warning signs.**

- Funding was delivered over a period of one year from November 2022.
- During this period, IRMO:
  - Developed 9 leaflets (3 leaflets in 3 languages)
  - Informed more than 3,000 people digitally
  - Delivered 2 early diagnosis workshops in collaboration with health specialists, reaching over 40 people
  - Led 6 outreach activities and a survey, reaching 300 people
  - Supported 114 people to register with GP's and 24 people to book appointments with screening services
- IRMO also delivered a focus group, identifying that the most commonly encountered barriers to screening uptake were:
  - Working hours
  - Language barriers
  - Unfamiliarity with the NHS and/or English screening eligibility criteria

# Southwark Council provided grant funding to local VCS organisations to reduce inequalities in vaccination

**Southwark Council have led several activities in collaboration with NHS partners and VCS groups to understand and address barriers to vaccination uptake among Latin American communities.**

- Locally available data demonstrate that uptake of key childhood vaccinations is significantly lower within Latin American communities compared to the general population.
- Southwark Council have led a number of initiatives to address this inequality, including:
  - Providing funding to local community group for Latin American mothers, Espacio Mamá, to survey Latin American mothers of children aged 0-5 to understand their views on vaccination. Findings were used to deliver outreach sessions in partnership with health visitors and midwives, focusing on vaccination and childhood development.
  - Providing additional funding to IRMO to improve awareness and understanding of the UK vaccination schedule and the risks of vaccine preventable disease in Latin American communities.
  - Collaborating with South East London Integrated Care Board to develop a Latin American filter for the South East London's childhood immunisations dashboard, providing data on Latin American vaccine uptake for the first time in the UK.

# A newly commissioned healthy weight programme aims to support residents in reducing obesity and improving wellbeing

**A new adult weight management service commenced in mid-May 2024 and supports Latin American residents with healthy cooking, exercise, and making informed choices regarding diet.**

- Delivered by Everyone Health Southwark in collaboration with IRMO and Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS), the project aims to deliver support to at least 200 Latin American people over a one-year period.
- As highlighted previously, Latin American residents are at a higher risk of moderate obesity as a result of a variety of personal and socioeconomic factors.
  - This project aims to support residents in their efforts to maintain a healthy weight through a combined approach examining diet, cooking, and exercise.
- This project aligns with Southwark's 2022-2027 Healthy Weight strategy, that places additional focus on the health and inequalities experienced by residents from an ethnic minority background.

# All of Southwark’s primary care providers are members of the Safe Surgeries programme

The Safe Surgeries programme is an initiative led by ‘Doctors of the World’, intended to make primary care services more accessible to migrant groups and people who may lack certain documents.

- Once registered, member practices agree to adhere to a set of commitments that include:
  - Training staff
  - Displaying declaration documents and posters
  - Updating registration policies accordingly
  - Advertising their status as a Safe Surgery on their website
- A recent audit found that although all practices in the borough were members, many were not displaying posters and some were unaware of their status as a Safe Surgery.
- A series of recommendations are currently being implemented to help improve adherence to the programme guidance and to improve access to primary care within Southwark.



Figure 11. Safe Surgeries Toolkit – 7 Steps

# Southwark Council maintains a network of over 150 Community Health Ambassadors

**Supported by Healthwatch Southwark and Community Southwark, Southwark Council's Community Health Ambassadors support health promotion and education programmes throughout the borough.**

- Ambassadors come from a diverse range of cultural, professional, and social backgrounds, allowing them to influence and support a wide variety of events and initiatives across Southwark.
  - Ambassadors assist with health education and promotion events, in addition to providing a reliable source of information regarding health services within their communities, and are paid for their time.
- The Ambassador network includes several volunteers from Latin American communities.
- Ambassadors regularly support events and initiatives within Latin American communities in Southwark, including activities such as:
  - Collaborating with local organisations to deliver Latin American focussed health events with support from Southwark's Council's health promotion van
  - Supporting local community groups such as UK Latin American CIC, which delivers a holiday fun and food programme, or the Bolivian and Latin community group for adults aged 50+, BLAS UK
  - Supporting research and service improvement programmes. E.g. Ambassadors provided translation services for Healthwatch Southwark's recent 'Access to Health and Social Care Services for Latin American Communities in Southwark' Report, in addition to facilitating focus groups



# South East London Integrated Care Board is making it easier to identify Latin American records within existing datasets

**By adding 'Latin American' data filters to existing data sets, South East London's Integrated Care Board is making it easier to identify and address inequalities affecting Latin American communities.**

- Due to the previously highlighted challenges in accurately capturing Latin American ethnicity and service utilisation trends, proposing and measuring interventions to support and improve the health of Latin American communities is difficult.
- Using a similar approach to that employed by Scuffell et al, South East London Integrated Care Board have created 'Latin American' data filters in their primary care datasets.<sup>8</sup>
  - These filters have been created by cross-referencing data from data fields such as country of birth, language spoken, and ethnicity, in order to identify Latin American health records.
- This initiative has allowed for the identification and quantification of inequalities in uptake of screening and vaccination services, as described previously in this report.
- Inclusion of these data flags in existing datasets will support future initiatives aimed at tackling inequalities and promoting the health and wellbeing of Latin American residents.

# The NHS' national Core20PLUS5 initiative offers an opportunity to recognise communities at risk of inequalities

**The Core20PLUS5 approach encourages local authorities and the NHS to identify Latin American communities as population groups that require additional support in improving health and wellbeing.**

- NHS England's Core20PLUS5 approach defines a series of populations in order to inform and direct actions aimed at reducing health inequalities in a given area.<sup>24</sup>
- These populations are:
  - Core20
    - The most deprived 20% of the population as identified via Index of Multiple Deprivation
  - PLUS
    - Additional population groups identified at local levels, including a variety of inclusion health groups, people from ethnic minority backgrounds, people with long-term health conditions etc
  - 5
    - Five clinical areas of focus requiring accelerated improvements, including maternity, severe mental illness, respiratory health, cancer, and hypertension.
- Southwark's Health and Wellbeing Board has listed local Latin American communities as a PLUS group as of July 2024.

# London's Latin American communities are supported by a number of highly active community organisations

**London is home to a number of local voluntary and community sector organisations led by and for Latin Americans, providing vital support and signposting to residents in need of assistance.**

- With more than 150,000 Latin American residents, London is home to a number of active and engaged voluntary and community sector organisations that work to support and advocate for Latin American communities.
- Many of the improvements to the Latin American experience of living in London and the UK have been implemented as a direct result of these organisations' actions and advocacy.
- Organisations and community groups vary in their size, structure, and remit, offering a variety of services and support. They include but are not limited to:
  - **Community Networks**
    - Coalition of Latin American's in the UK (CLAUK)
    - Community Southwark's Latin American Network
  - **Advocacy and support services**
    - Indoamerican Refugee and Migrant Organization (IRMO)
    - Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS)
  - **Targeted health services**
    - Aymara
    - Voades

## Section 8: Summary & Recommendations

# Inequalities in Latin American health stem from multiple issues and are exacerbated by limited access to services

## **The specific health needs experienced by Latin Americans are shaped by difficulties in accessing health and social care services.**

- Language barriers, antisocial working patterns, and uncertainty regarding healthcare entitlements leave many Latin Americans unable to access the care they need.
- Latin Americans are well-educated and economically active members of society, but often work in unsecure occupations for low wages.
  - Despite commonly holding tertiary level qualifications, almost half of Latin Americans work in low-paid elementary level occupations.
- Data pertaining to Latin American health needs is limited due to challenges in recording ethnicity.
  - Ethnicity is commonly recorded as “Other”, making it difficult to separate the Latin American experience from other residents who fall within this category.
- Local VCS groups work to try and meet needs for support and advice that aren’t being met by local services, however capacity is limited.
  - VCS groups such as IRMO, LAWRS, Aymara, and Voades carry out vital work for Latin Americans in Southwark and other boroughs, but are limited by constraints such as staffing, and short and often unpredictable funding cycles.

# Collaboration between Council, ICS, and Community stakeholders will be required to improve Latin American health

**The determinants of Latin American health in Southwark are varied and therefore beyond the ability or scope of any one individual organisation or group to address.**

- This needs assessment has identified four areas in which local services could improve in order to better support the health and wellbeing of Southwark's Latin American residents:
  - 1) **Addressing Access**
    - Identifying and removing the barriers that prevent Latin American residents from being able to access and utilise the services that exist within Southwark.
  - 2) **Promoting Partnerships**
    - Involving members of the Latin American community in the design, delivery, and evaluation of services, and creating forums for communication between partners so that Southwark's health system can meet the needs of its Latin American residents.
  - 3) **Wider Wellbeing**
    - Recognising and working to improve the wider socioeconomic determinants that contribute to Latin American health.
  - 4) **Data & Monitoring**
    - Ensuring a greater availability of accurate data regarding Latin American health in order to support the development of more effective services and identify gaps in provision.

# Recommendation theme: Access

Issue	Recommendation	Responsible Party
<p>1) Large proportions of Southwark's Latin American population have limited English language proficiency, and the majority of resources are only available in English. Despite high levels of utilisation reported to translation service commissioners, Latin Americans report experiencing difficulties in accessing translation services.</p>	<p>Expand existing bank of translated health resources regarding screening, vaccination, and how to access NHS services.</p>	<p><b>Southwark Public Health; Local VCS Groups</b></p>
	<p>Ensure translated resources are accessible for service providers across primary and secondary care settings.</p>	
	<p>Explore barriers to translation service utilisation and availability within Southwark.</p>	<p><b>Integrated Care Board</b></p>
	<p>Provide extended appointment times for residents in need of translation services to support staff in being able to provide high quality care.</p>	<p><b>Local healthcare providers</b></p>
	<p>Translate JSNA report and recommendations into Latin American Spanish and Portuguese languages and make translated versions available online alongside English report.</p>	<p><b>Southwark Public Health</b></p>

# Recommendation theme: Access

Issue	Recommendation	Responsible Party
<p>2) Latin American residents report being asked for ID, proof of migration status, or proof of address upon attempting to access health care services</p>	<p>Support local primary care providers to implement Safe Surgeries policies in line with their status as “Safe Surgery” programme members.</p>	<p><b>Integrated Care Board; Southwark Public Health</b></p>
	<p>Incorporate training on legal entitlements to care into existing healthcare professional training programmes.</p>	<p><b>Integrated Care Board; Primary Care Training Hubs</b></p>
<p>3) Many Latin American residents work antisocial hours in unsecure occupational roles and as a result may struggle to take time attend appointments during traditional working hours. Southwark has two extended access hubs providing out of hours appointments but awareness of these services and how to access them may be low.</p>	<p>Promote availability of evening or weekend appointments via existing extended access hubs in Southwark for residents struggling to attend appointments within traditional working hours.</p>	<p><b>Integrated Care Board; Local healthcare providers</b></p>
	<p>Create translated materials that describe extended access hub services and explain how to book appointments with these services.</p>	
<p>4) Latin American residents may not be familiar with how to access health services via typical NHS settings and pathways.</p>	<p>Ensure that healthcare outreach services are provided in locations and settings that are easily accessible and welcoming to Latin American communities, such as community centres or places of worship.</p>	<p><b>Integrated Care Board; Southwark Public Health</b></p>
	<p>Develop series of in-person sessions or online webinars held in Latin American Spanish/Portuguese to raise awareness of how to access existing services aimed at supporting the health and wellbeing of Latin American residents.</p>	<p><b>Latin American Health Working Group</b></p>



# Recommendation theme: Partnerships

Issue	Recommendation	Responsible Party
<p>5) Local VCS groups are often provided with short-term funding in the form of individual grants which are subject to strict criteria and specific health issues.</p>	<p>Explore options to support longer-term funding of key partners who have existing links to Latin American communities to allow them to expand their activities across Southwark and South East London.</p>	<p><b>Southwark Council; Integrated Care Board</b></p>
	<p>Explore options of providing funding for holistic horizontal health programmes rather than single issue vertical initiatives.</p>	<p><b>Southwark Council; Integrated Care Board</b></p>
<p>6) Work to improve Latin American health within Southwark has largely been disconnected or disjointed without any one organisation taking responsibility for co-ordinating actions.</p>	<p>Create Latin American health working group to carry forward actions and recommendations from JSNA and co-ordinate programmes with a focus on Latin American health.</p>	<p><b>Southwark Council</b></p>
	<p>Host regular forums in which partners can come together to discuss matters of importance to Latin American health and promote cross-sectoral collaboration.</p>	<p><b>Latin American Health Working Group</b></p>
	<p>Review publications and reports from Latin American VCS groups in past several years to identify other recommendations and incorporate these into future action plans.</p>	
<p>7) The burden of mental illness experienced by Latin American communities is likely underestimated by primary care records due to cultural stigma, and limitations in accessibility and data collection. Latin Americans unsure of how to access mainstream services turn to community groups for support.</p>	<p>Explore scale of mental health need in collaboration with local VCS groups who provide mental health support services to Latin American residents using locally held data.</p>	<p><b>Latin American Health Working Group</b></p>
	<p>Consider targeted and culturally informed campaign aimed at raising awareness of how to access mental health support for Latin American residents in Spanish and Portuguese.</p>	

# Recommendation theme: Partnerships

Issue	Recommendation	Responsible Party
8) Health needs and priorities for Latin Americans in Southwark are often set or prioritised by non-Latin Americans, leading to experiences of cultural insensitivity or lack of recognition of certain health needs by health specialists and service providers	Establish a point-of-care Chagas disease screening service led by Latin American VCS groups or SME's in collaboration with the UK Chagas Hub.	<b>Southwark Public Health</b>
	Invite local community partners to attend funded health promotion training e.g. Make Every Contact Count.	<b>Southwark Public Health</b>
	Invite local VCS partners to deliver training events for local Public Health, ICS, and NHS teams to help increase cultural awareness and sensitivity of staff gro.	<b>Integrated Care Board / Southwark Public Health</b>
9) Other boroughs in London such as Lambeth and Brent also have large Latin American communities who experience inequalities in their health and socioeconomic circumstances	Develop pan-London partnerships with other local authorities to share data, highlight areas of best practice, and develop holistic policies that support Latin Americans in a unified manner.	<b>Latin American Health Working Group</b>
10) There is a high incidence of HIV in Latin American communities compared with the general population, with potential underdiagnosis in Latin American women.	Increase point of care testing for HIV in the community targeting populations who are at high risk and least likely to engage in mainstream services.	<b>Southwark Public Health</b>
	Ensure that there are pathways in place to refer positive tests to services and follow up to support with treatment compliance.	<b>Integrated Care Board, Southwark Public Health</b>
	Encourage GPs to routinely test everyone who is having blood tests, for HIV, as is done in A&E and some GP practices.	<b>Integrated Care Board</b>

# Recommendation theme: Wider Wellbeing

Issue	Wider Wellbeing	Responsible Party
11) Some Latin American residents are reluctant to access mainstream services due to uncertainty regarding legal entitlements to care, especially following Brexit and in situations where residents have irregular migration status.	Collaborate with relevant VCS organisations such as LAWRS and IRMO to improve provision of legal advice and support to Latin American residents, especially those with irregular migration status.	<b>Community Engagement Team*</b>
12) Many Latin American residents have tertiary level qualifications but are unable to access related employment opportunities.	Explore ways in which to better utilise the education and experience of Latin American residents with tertiary level qualifications.	<b>Local Economy Team*; Public Health; Local VCS Groups</b>
13) Large proportions of Southwark's Latin American population have limited English language proficiency, and women are less likely to be able to speak English than men.	Collaborate with Southwark's ESOL providers to create funded opportunities for Latin Americans with provision of additional single-sex classes for women and financial incentives for attendance.	<b>Local Economy Team*; Public Health; Local VCS Groups</b>
14) Latin American women are assaulted approximately 60 times before seeking help in situations of domestic violence. Women with unsecure migration status may feel less able to access services due to fears of prosecution.	Create and strengthen partnerships with existing Latin American domestic violence support services within Southwark and South East London and invite them to influence the development of policies and outreach programmes.	<b>Safer Communities*; Public Health</b>
	Incorporate information regarding migration status and barriers experienced by people from ethnic minority backgrounds into existing VAWG training initiatives.	<b>Safer Communities*; Public Health; Local VCS Groups</b>
	Provide information regarding legal entitlements and support resources to all Latin American women's spaces in South East London.	

# Recommendation theme: Data & Monitoring

Issue	Recommendation	Responsible Party
<p>15) Demographic monitoring questions on data capture forms commonly don't include a "Latin American" option</p>	<p>Standardise options for data capture tools to include Latin American ethnicity across local primary and secondary care services.</p>	<p><b>Integrated Care Board; Public Health; Local healthcare providers</b></p>
	<p>Ensure appropriate data capture of ethnicity across all commissioned health and care services.</p>	
<p>16) Identifying Latin American records in existing data sets can be difficult and time-consuming</p>	<p>Integrate "Latin American" ethnicity data flags into all existing health data dashboards for South East London to allow for identification of inequalities.</p>	<p><b>Integrated Care Board</b></p>
<p>17) This JSNA represents the first holistic assessment of the health and social care needs reported by Latin American communities in Southwark. It takes a broad approach with the aim of creating a baseline understanding of need and does not explore differing levels of need reported by different groups within Latin American communities (e.g. LGBTQIA+ groups, Older adults, Children, people with disabilities)</p>	<p>Evaluate implementation of JSNA recommendations at annual intervals following publication.</p>	<p><b>Southwark Public Health</b></p>
	<p>Annual evaluations should provide further recommendations making use of updated demographic data as improvements to data capture are implemented.</p>	
	<p>Repeat JSNA in 5 years to ensure continued focus on improving health for Latin American communities.</p>	
	<p>Repeat JSNA's should include additional focus on specific groups within Latin American populations to explore the potential effects of intersectionality and the potential for compounding effects of inequalities.</p>	

## Section 9: References

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