

Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller Communities in Manchester

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

January 2024



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Introduction

What is a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)?

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012) states that every local authority must produce a **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)** covering the population(s) within its area.

Local Health and Wellbeing Boards are statutorily responsible for assessing the health and wellbeing needs of their population and for publishing a JSNA.

Local partners are responsible for agreeing the content, format and frequency of update of the JSNA. There are no national standards for this.

Local authorities, Integrated Care Boards (ICBs), and NHS England must have regard to the JSNA when planning health and care services for the populations they are responsible for.

Why is a JSNA Needed for GRT+ Communities?

This Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) provides a summary of the evidence and data regarding the current and anticipated future health and social care needs of the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities living in Manchester.

Findings of needs assessments and research conducted in other parts of the country suggest that Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities experience worse health outcomes when compared to the general population.

“Making Manchester Fairer” is an overarching strategy recently launched by Manchester City Council that aims to reduce health inequalities within Manchester. A JSNA that explores the needs of historically marginalised groups that are likely to experience health inequalities, such as Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities, is therefore both timely and important.

Defining "GRT+" Communities

The terms Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities do not refer to one homogenous group, and the acronym "GRT+" may refer to one of many groups, including:

- **Romany gypsy**
- **Roma**
- **Irish Traveller**
- **Scottish Traveller**
- **Show or Fairground people**
- **Circus people**
- **Boat Travellers**
- **New Travellers**

Though this list is not exhaustive.

These groups may have a shared disadvantage, but the health and social care needs for the different groups encompassed by the acronym "GRT+" cannot be assumed to be the same.

Defining "GRT+" Communities for the Census (2021)

Which one best describes your White ethnic group or background?

English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British

Irish

Gypsy or Irish Traveller

Roma

Any other White background

You can enter your ethnic group or background on the next question

Methods Used to Produce this JSNA

- Desktop Research
 - Data sources
 - Census 2021 data
 - Peer reviewed academic research
 - Systematic reviews
 - Health surveys
 - Secondary analysis of routinely collected GP data
 - Qualitative research
 - Reports and Grey literature
- Stakeholder and staff consultation
- Community engagement
 - Focus group
 - Photovoice methodology

Limitations of the Available Research and Data

- Data from surveys
 - Postal exclusion
 - Digital exclusion
 - Lower levels of literacy
- Census 2021 data gathered during COVID pandemic
 - Manchester City Council's own estimate suggests there could be as many as 33,000 residents and at least 7,000 households not appearing in the results, with most of those missing likely to be in 20-39 year age group
- Most research has been undertaken with communities that are settled in bricks and mortar or based on permanent sites
 - People who live a nomadic lifestyle may be systematically different from those who are settled and their health may have either better or worse than the research suggests.

The National Picture

Physical Health Issues Experienced by GRT+ Communities Nationally

A review of the literature has found a higher level of morbidity and poorer health-related quality of life amongst people belonging to Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities when compared to the general population.

Previous health surveys undertaken with Gypsy and Traveller communities report a higher smoking prevalence amongst Gypsies and Travellers. Survey findings also showed Gypsies and Travellers were more likely to consume diets with more fried foods and less fruit and vegetables.

The 2022 GP survey found a higher proportion of respondents who identified as Gypsy, Roma, or Traveller were smokers, had multiple long-term conditions and were more likely to report a musculoskeletal complaint when compared to the general population.

Mental Health Issues Experienced by GRT+ Communities Nationally

Significantly higher rates of suicide were reported in Irish Travellers in the All-Ireland Traveller Health Study (AITHS) when compared to the general Irish population.

Subsequent peer reviewed studies and anecdotal evidence reported in the grey literature also describe poorer mental health amongst members of Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities.

Child Health Issues Experienced by GRT+ Communities Nationally

There is a lower uptake of childhood immunisations amongst children from Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller families. Outbreaks of vaccine preventable communicable diseases due to lower rates of vaccination have previously been reported in these communities.

Authors of a 2017 qualitative study that explored Traveller and service provider views around barriers and facilitators to both child and adult vaccinations concluded there was overall reasonable levels acceptance of vaccines, particularly of routine childhood immunisations, but there remained issues with regards to accessibility.

Health Service Use for GRT+ Communities Nationally

Health service engagement in Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities is impacted by several factors;

- Physical access
 - impeded by arbitrary registration requirements and administrative burden
- Discrimination
- Cost of accessing services
 - direct and indirect
- Language or cultural barriers
 - Particularly for the Roma population due to a lack of Romani translators
- Lower levels of literacy
- Health belief system of communities

Health Service Access for GRT+ Communities Nationally

Difficulties in registering with a GP have been described in the grey literature, particularly if the individuals attempting to register did not have a fixed address or lived on site.

There is a lower uptake of cancer screening services amongst Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities, thought in part to be a result of mistrust in services by the community and the absence of culturally appropriate services.

Barriers in accessing end of life care have also been reported and felt to reduce the uptake of these services by these communities.

Wider Issues Experienced by GRT+ Communities Nationally

- Lower levels of educational attainment:
 - Lower proportions of Gypsy, Roma and Irish Traveller pupils achieve the expected standard in examinations when compared to other ethnic groups.
 - The proportion of children persistently absent, suspended, or permanently excluded were highest for Gypsy and Roma pupils.
 - Less than 0.007% of students enrolled in higher education institutions in 2021-2022 identified as Gypsy, Roma, Traveller, much lower than other ethnic groups.
- Higher levels of unemployment are observed in Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities.
- Reports suggest there are less employment opportunities available to members of Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities.
- A higher proportion of the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller population live in insecure and overcrowded accommodation.
- Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities describe discrimination when accessing statutory services.

Sources: Gov.UK Attainment 8, ONS reports of Census 2021 Data, UK Higher Education Statistics (HESA)

Discrimination Experienced by GRT+ Communities

Hate crimes against Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities described as "regular as rain".

Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller young people reported they were less likely to remain in education due to school bullying.

When in the workplace, some Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller young people disclosed they would hide their ethnicity due to fears of discrimination.

Groups that experience racial prejudice had worse outcomes in relation to coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Systemic racism has been identified as a key driver of health inequalities that lead to disproportionate morbidity and mortality in minoritised ethnic groups. Though there is no data available exploring the outcomes of Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities in relation to COVID-19, systemic racism likely contributes to other poorer health outcomes observed in these communities, such as reduced life expectancy .

Lived Experience of GRT+ Communities Nationally

Some participants felt that attitudes towards schooling had changed, and now there is more encouragement for children to attend and remain in mainstream schools, though some families were keen for children to remain home-schooled, some citing concerns around bullying.

Some participants expressed a desire to be more involved with the settled community and to access mainstream services. However, others expressed fears of prejudice from the settled community and preferred services to be separate.

Some participants felt the location of some sites and the standards of living at some sites have contributed to poor health within the community, and that certain community members are exposed to additional harm through occupational hazards.

Source: Gypsies' and Travellers' lived experiences, overview, England and Wales: 2022

The Manchester Picture

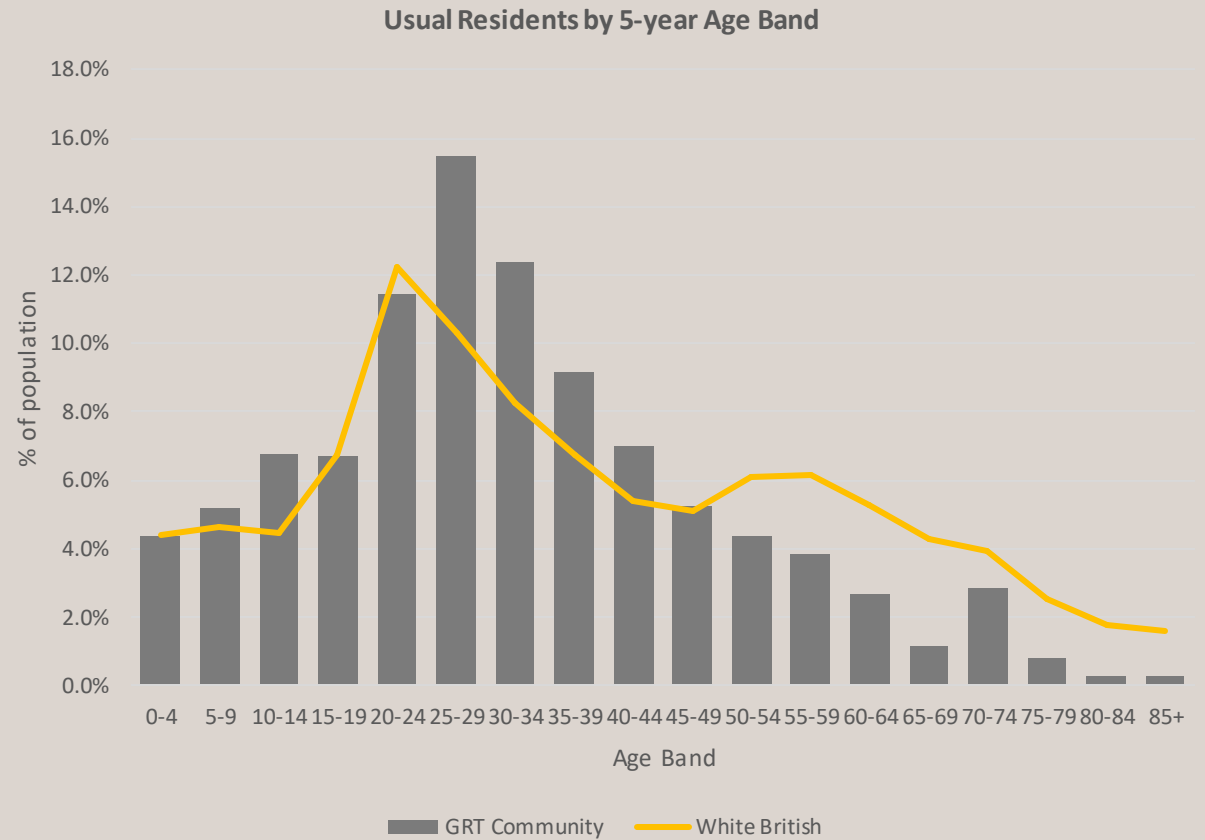
What do we Know about GRT+ Communities Living in Manchester?

- Manchester residents identifying as Gypsy, Irish Traveller or Roma is **1480**
- Manchester residents identifying as Gypsy or Irish Traveller **597**
- Manchester residents identifying as Roma **883**

Source: Census 2021 from the Office for National Statistics

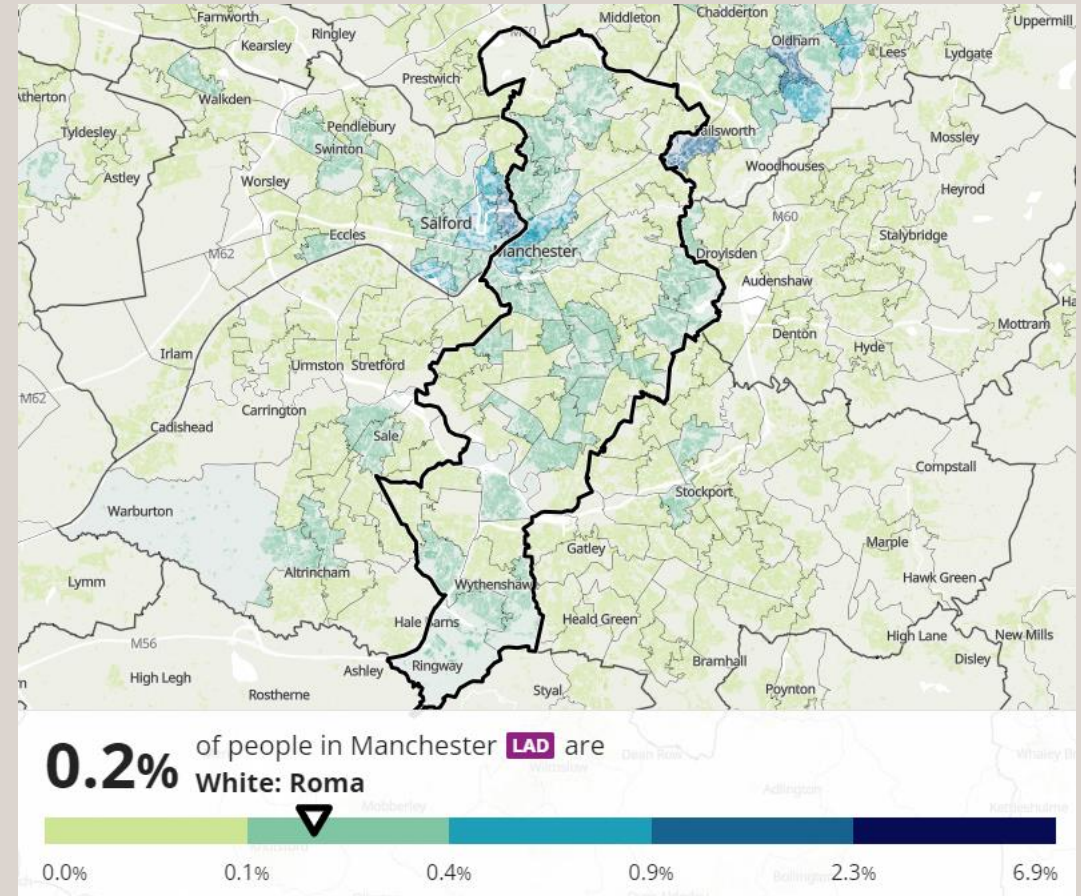
(Nb census estimates that there was a much lower response rates for Gypsy and Irish Traveller groups than White British and Roma groups)

Population Structure in Manchester



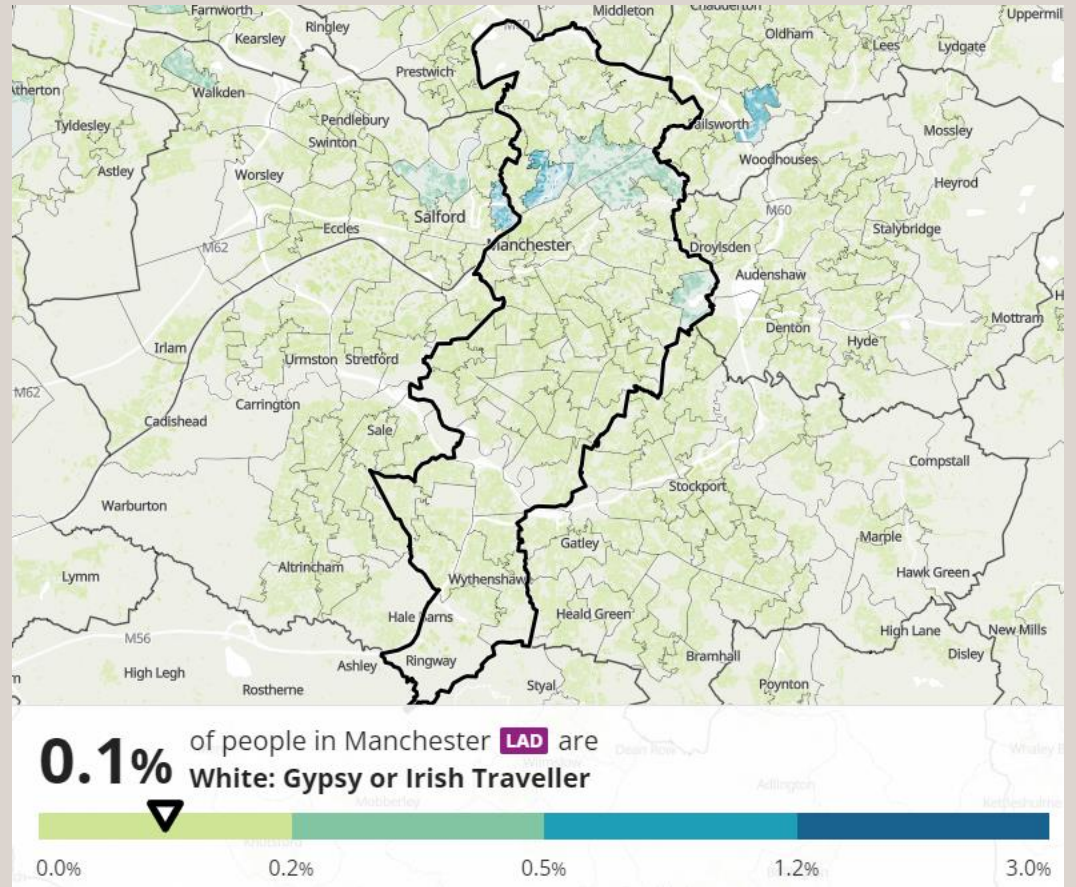
Source: Data from Census 2021 from the Office for National Statistics

Where in Manchester do GRT+ Communities Live?



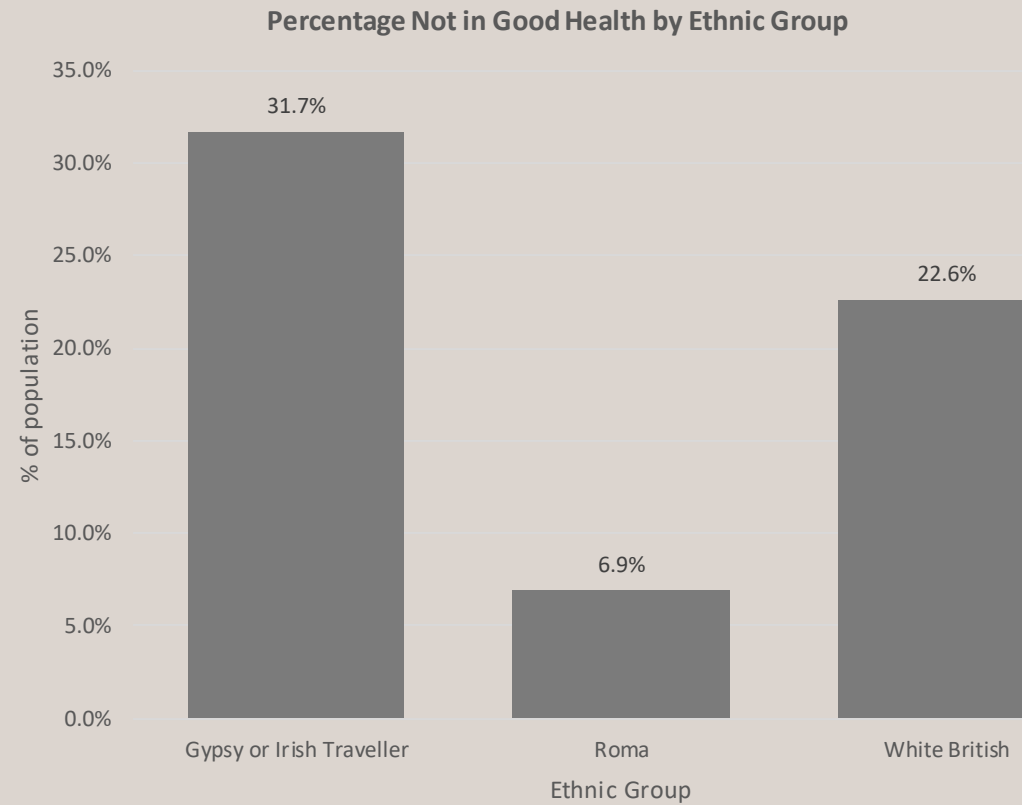
Source: Census 2021 from the Office for National Statistics

Where in Manchester do GRT+ Communities Live?



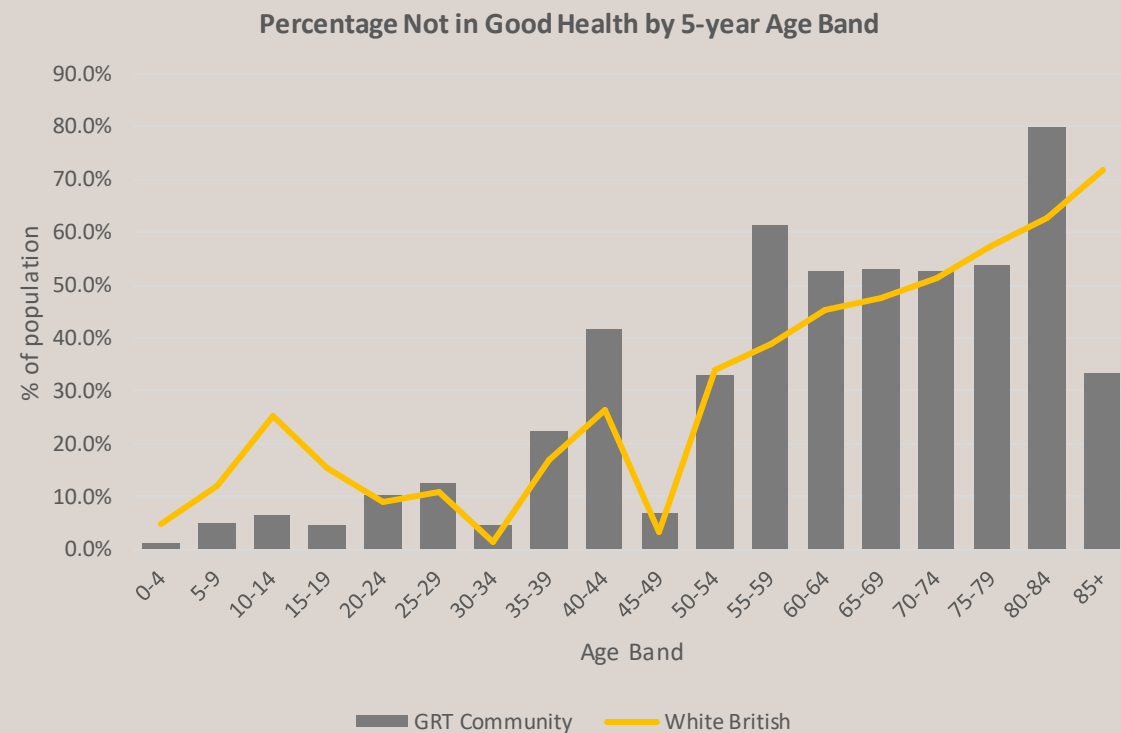
Source: Census 2021 from the Office for National Statistics

Self-reported Health Status



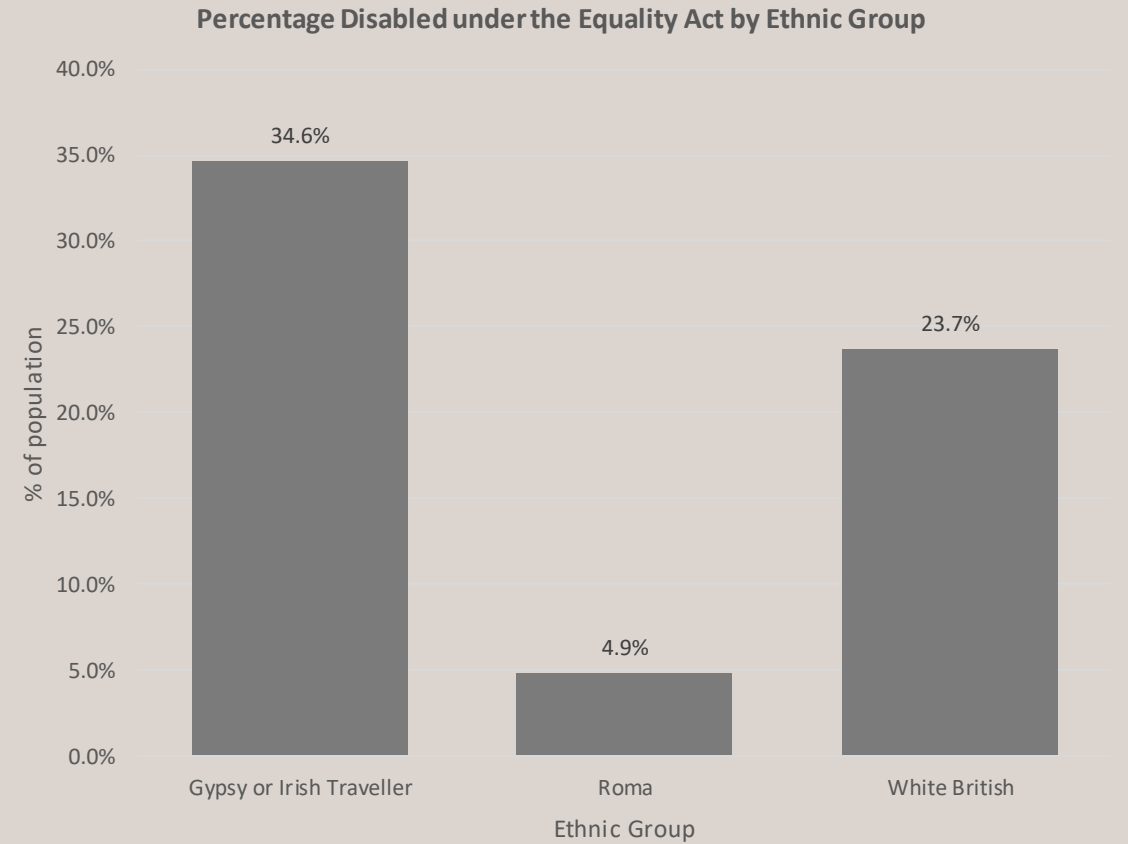
Source: Data from Census 2021 from the Office for National Statistics

Self-reported Health Status



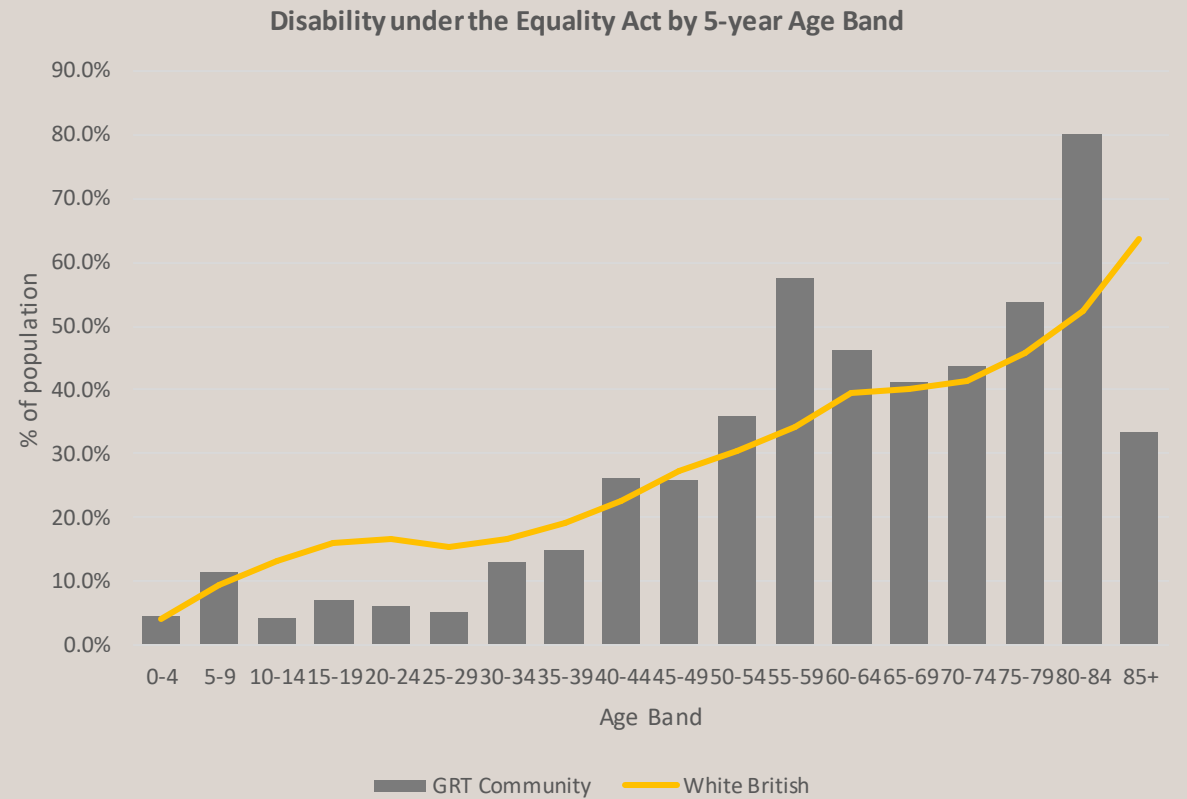
Source: Data from Census 2021 from the Office for National Statistics

Disability



Source: Data from Census 2021 from the Office for National Statistics

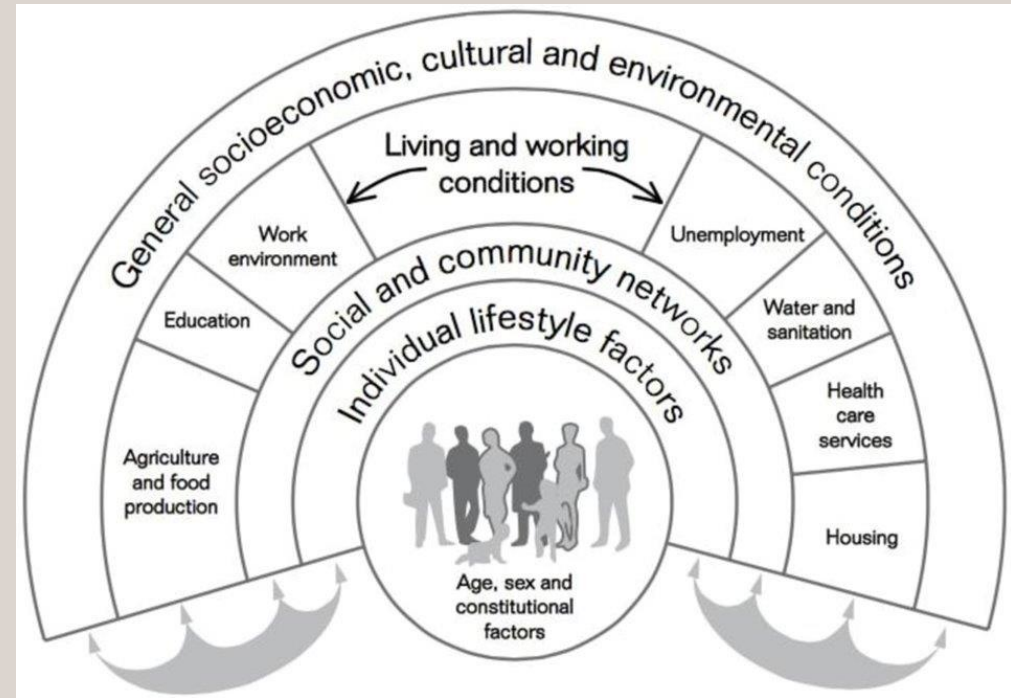
Disability



Source: Data from Census 2021 from the Office for National Statistics

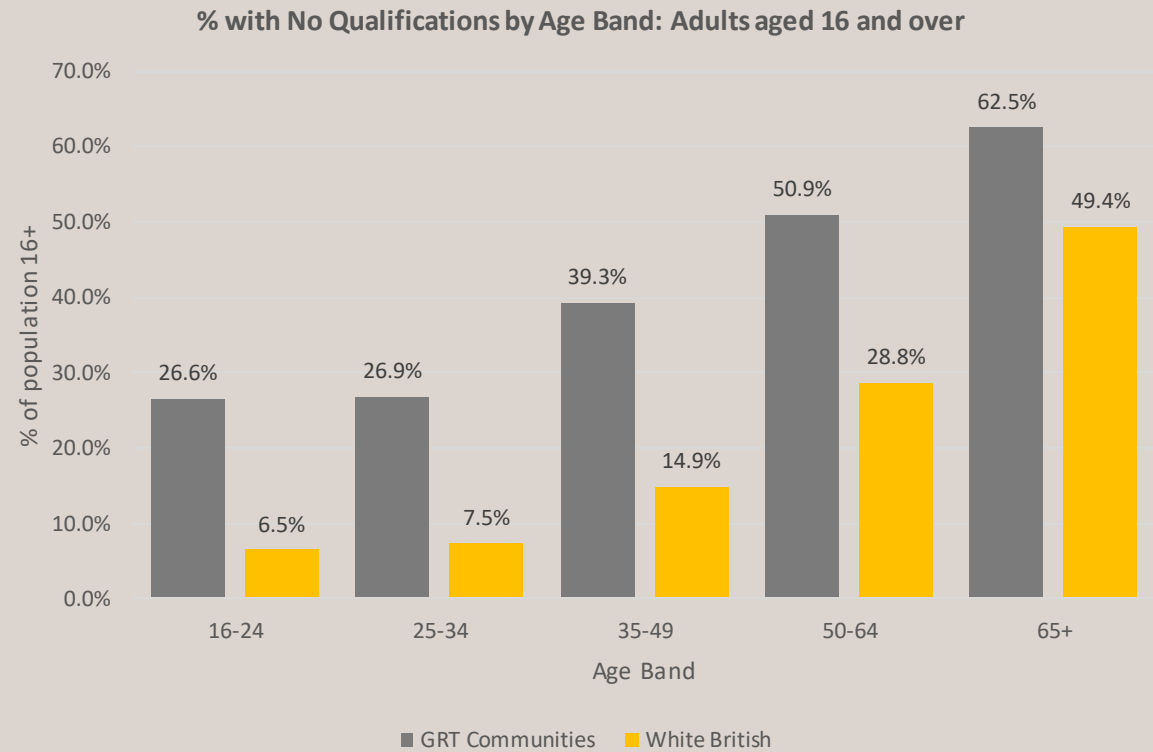
Determinants of Health

Health outcomes are not only determined by our genetics or access to healthcare, but are impacted by our living and working conditions and the wider socio-economic context.



Source: Dahlgren and Whitehead (1991)

Education



Source: Data from Census 2021 from the Office for National Statistics

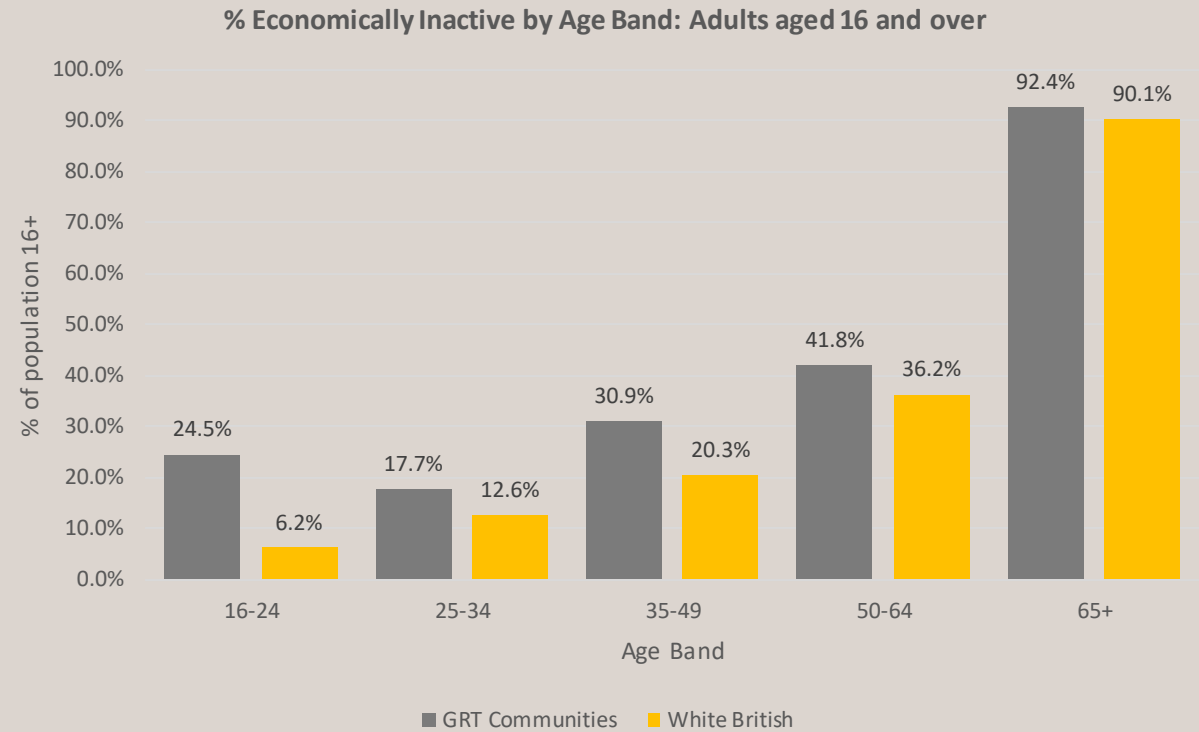
Education

The total number of children that live in Manchester, attend school in Manchester, and that identify as Gypsy, Roma, or Traveller is low (**183 in 2019 and 174 children in 2020**).

Analyses of local data have shown children who identify as Gypsy, Roma, or Irish Traveller are less likely to perform to the expected standard when compared to Manchester and National averages at all key stages.

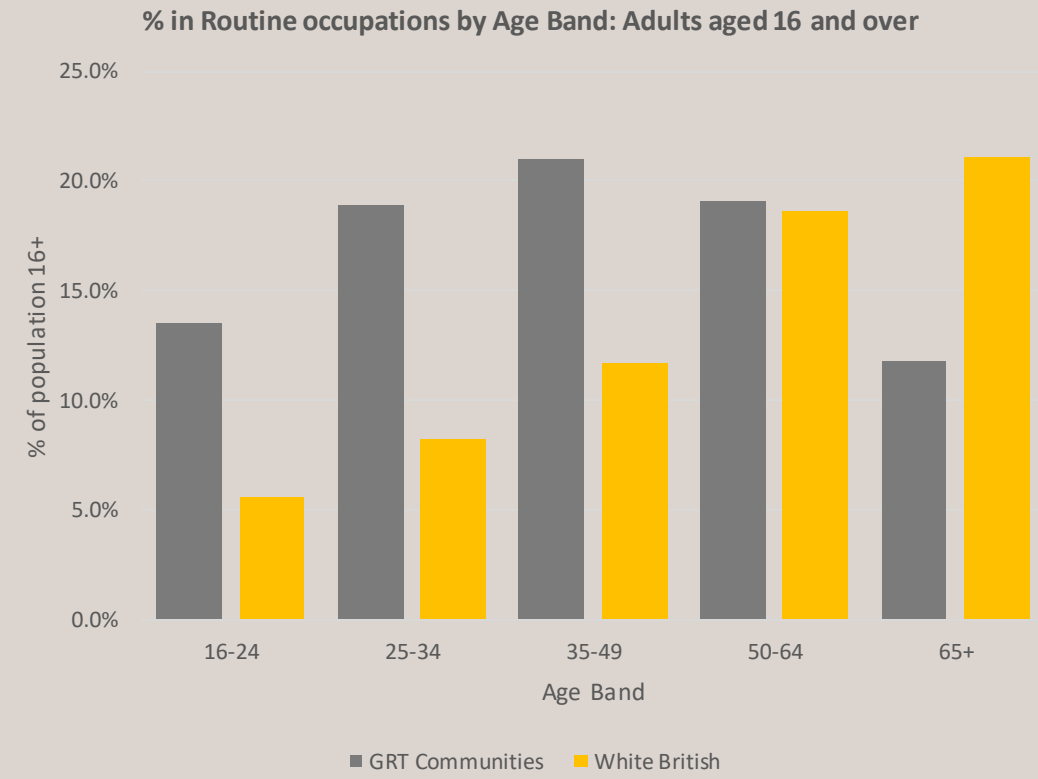
However, due to the small numbers of Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller pupils recorded in the education system in Manchester, it is not possible to determine whether observed differences in educational attainment in this group are due to real change or random variation.

Employment



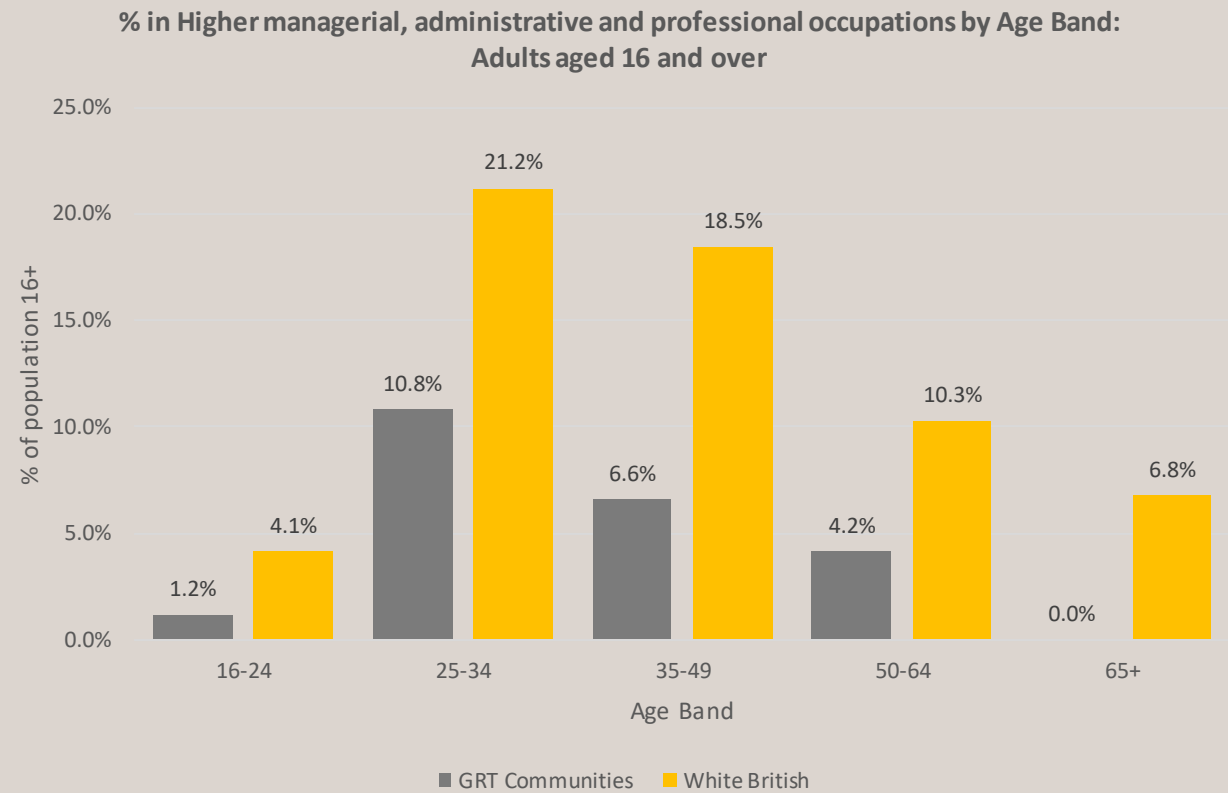
Source: Data from Census 2021 from the Office for National Statistics

Employment



Source: Data from Census 2021 from the Office for National Statistics

Employment



Source: Data from Census 2021 from the Office for National Statistics

Accommodation

There are currently no approved Traveller sites in the city of Manchester following the closure of the Dantzic Street site in 2021.

An Impact Assessment for the closed Dantzic street site highlighted the existence of unauthorised encampments within Manchester, reporting there were 32 encampments in the years 2021-2022 of which 6 were on private land. The impact assessment also acknowledged that Manchester does not currently have any provision for Travellers who are visiting or passing through Manchester.

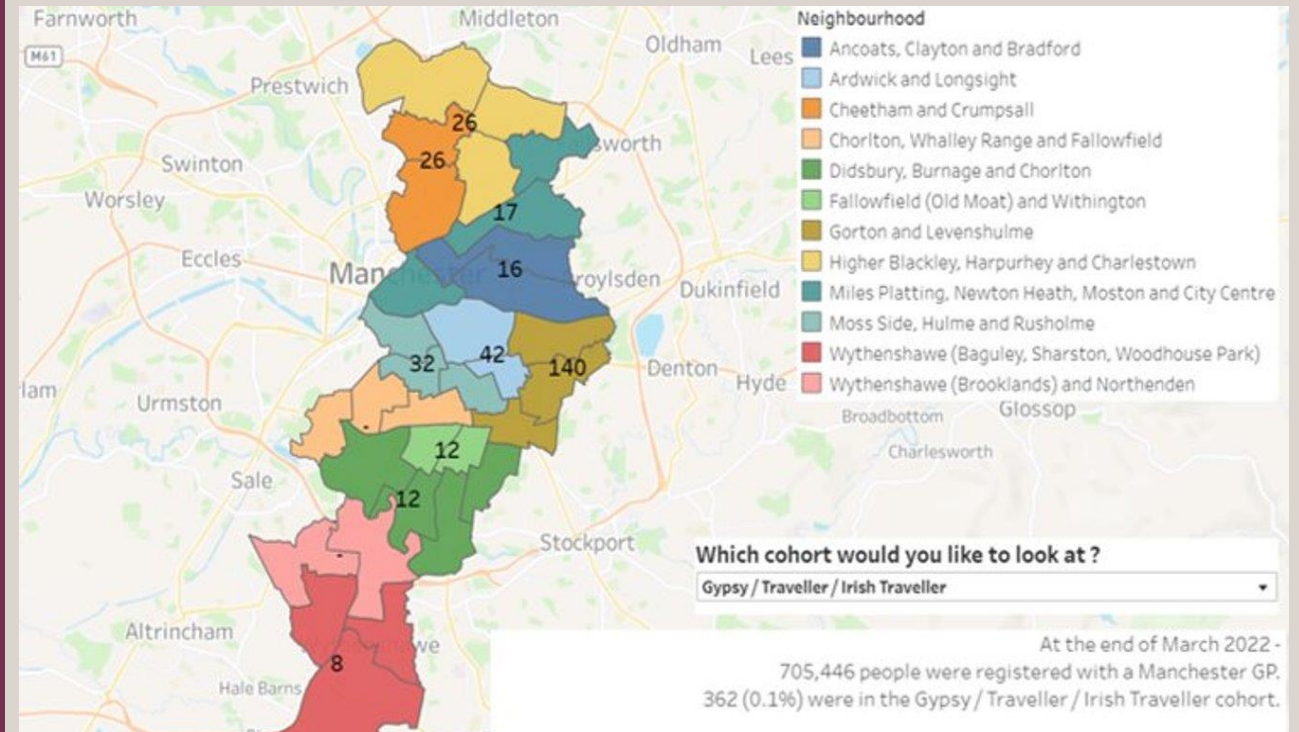
The 2022 Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) reported there are currently three Travelling Showperson yards in Manchester providing a total of 73 residential plots. A need for 56 additional plots over the period 2017/18 to 2035/36 was evidenced. Soft intelligence indicates concerns have been raised with regards to the standards of accommodation at these sites.

Access to Health Care

Only **576** patients registered with a GP in Manchester identified their ethnicity as Gypsy, Roma, or Traveller as per an audit conducted in April 2023

This is much less than the **1480** residents identified in the 2021 census.

Where in Manchester are People who Identify as GRT+ Registered with a GP?



Source: Data from Manchester Health Care Commissioning Social Care Data Warehouse Ethnicity Cohorts Health Profile (mhctableau.nhs.uk)

Please note the total number of patients recorded on the map in March 2022 (362) is less than the number of patients identifying as Gypsy, Roma, or Traveller captured in the most recent audit undertaken in April 2023. This may be due to different nomenclature or an increase in GP registration amongst these communities since 2022.

Access to Health Care

A higher rate of Emergency Department attendance was observed for Gypsies and Irish Travellers (459 per 1000) when compared to the general Manchester population (383 per 1000) between March 2021 and March 2022.

For those patients that go on to require an admission, the length of stay in hospital is typically shorter for Gypsy, Traveller and Irish Traveller patients and over half of the emergency hospital admissions in the Gypsy, Traveller, and Irish Traveller population end in a same day discharge.

This data only includes people who are already registered with a GP. This suggests something other than not being registered with a GP may be driving emergency and urgent care service use and warrants further exploration.

Source: Data from Manchester Health Care Commissioning Social Care Data Warehouse Ethnicity Cohorts Health Profile (mhcctableau.nhs.uk)

Cancer Screening in Manchester

Cancer Screening uptake is lower in Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities (GRT) in Manchester when compared to the general Manchester population

- ❑ Bowel cancer screening age 60-74 every 2- years rate for GRT communities 29% (Manchester average 57%)
- ❑ Breast cancer screening age 50-70 every 3 years rate for GRT communities 18% (Manchester average 39%)
- ❑ Cervical cancer screening age 24-49 every 3.5 years rate for GRT communities 41% (Manchester average 56%)
- ❑ Cervical cancer screening age 50-64 every 5.5 years rate for GRT communities 60% (Manchester average 70%)

Source: Manchester Health Care Commissioning Social Care Data Warehouse
Screening and Immunisations

Morbidity Data for GRT+ Communities in Manchester

When compared to the general Manchester population, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities in Manchester have

- Higher smoking prevalence (GRT+ 26.8% vs General Manchester population 16.9%)
- Higher proportion of patients diagnosed with COPD (GRT+ 2.5% vs General Manchester population 1.7%)
- Higher obesity prevalence (GRT+ 18.8% vs General Manchester population 12.5%)
- Higher proportion of patients diagnosed with diabetes (GRT+ 8% vs General Manchester population 5.2%)

Source: Data from Manchester Health Care Commissioning Social Care Data Warehouse Ethnicity Cohorts Health Profile

Vaccine Uptake Amongst GRT+ Communities in Manchester

There was a lower uptake of vaccinations against both COVID-19 and flu in Gypsy, Traveller, and Roma identifying Manchester residents when compared to Manchester residents from other ethnic backgrounds

- COVID 19
 - Gypsy / Traveller 20.8%
 - Roma 30.5%
- Flu
 - Gypsy / Traveller 21%
 - Roma 31%

However, the flu vaccine uptake has increased from 6% to 31% in the Roma community since the COVID-19 pandemic

Absolute numbers are small, but this could suggest that engagement work during the pandemic has been beneficial in encouraging flu vaccination in this group

Source: Manchester Health Care Commissioning Social Care Data Warehouse Screening and Immunisations

Mental Health and Wellbeing in GRT+ Communities in Manchester

A higher proportion of GP registered Gypsy and Traveller patients are on the mental health register (1.9%) when compared with other Manchester residents (1.2%) though data on mental health condition prevalence is not available.

The commissioned Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) services use nationally determined ethnicity categories that do not have either a Gypsy / Traveller, or Roma ethnic category, so it is not known how many people identifying as Gypsy, Roma, or Traveller are using these services and whether access is equitable or whether this is a barrier that results in a higher number of residents on the mental health register.

Source: Data from Manchester Health Care Commissioning Social Care Data Warehouse Ethnicity Cohorts Health Profile (mhcctableau.nhs.uk)

Support Available to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities in Manchester

What is Manchester City Council Doing to Support GRT+ Communities?

The different roles of the Council may result in conflicting priorities, for example when considering the Council's role to enforce versus to deliver welfare support, which may impact community engagement.

The Council recognises this may put GRT+ communities at risk of reduced access to services, therefore plans have been discussed to engage third parties to help deliver welfare support services, demonstrating a commitment to supporting GRT+ residents.

There have been delays in identifying a new permanent site for the community, and at present the lack of culturally appropriate accommodation is having a negative impact on the community.

No GRT+ specific commissioned services are routinely available for GRT+ communities in Manchester.

VCSE Organisations working to support GRT+ Communities in Manchester: National Organisations

National VCSE Organisations offer support to Manchester residents who identify as Gypsy, Roma, or Traveller through remote and online services.

These are:

- Friends Family Travellers (FFT)**
- National Association of Teachers of Travellers and Other Professionals (NATT+)**
- Advisory Council for the Education of Romany and other Travellers (ACERT)**
- The Gypsy Council**
- The Traveller Movement**
- The Roma Support Group**
- National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Group**

VCSE
Organisations working
to support GRT+
Communities in
Manchester: ICC

Irish Community Care (ICC) is a voluntary organisation based in Manchester that works closely with the Irish community, including Irish Travellers. They offer advice and information to Greater Manchester residents on accessing benefits and services. They are also funded to provide more intensive support and advocacy services for Manchester residents.

They run several community engagement programs including social lunches and young women support groups in South Manchester and are looking to expand to offer more community group activities in North Manchester. They also provide cultural awareness training that is available for Council employees and those working in commissioned services.

VCSE
Organisations working
to support
GRT+ communities in
Manchester: Europia

Europia is a voluntary organisation based in Manchester that works closely with migrants and the Roma community. Europia provide administrative support to help the local Roma community navigate systems, for example through translation provision or help for those with lower levels of literacy. The support provided includes welfare advice, immigration advice, and health and wellbeing support.

Europia also provide weekly drop-in sessions that have been well attended by the local community, that includes a health hub.

Europia have also worked collaboratively with local health partners and academic institutions to facilitate community consultation and health service engagement.

What are Local GP Practices Doing to Support GRT+ Communities in Manchester?

Focused Care workers from a Levenshulme GP surgery worked with Europaia to attend the homes of local Roma families when children had not attended planned vaccination or GP appointments.

Through this work, it was identified that some of the families had not understood the letter that had been sent to them that was written in English.

In another instance, there had been a misunderstanding about the need for a follow-up appointment with the GP as the families believed it was not necessary as they had already been seen in A&E.

As a result of this outreach work, communication to these families was improved, misunderstandings were addressed, the children were followed up by the GP, and vaccinations were administered as appropriate. Additional wrap around support by Europaia was also offered. This shows how outreach can lead to improved access to healthcare for families.

Lived Experience of Roma Communities in Manchester

Photovoice Focus Groups: Methods

A community engagement photovoice project has been undertaken in partnership with Europa with a small number of people from the Roma community in Greater Manchester.

Participants brought photos to focus groups that were representative of things that made it easy or hard to be healthy and discussed what the images meant to them with the group. The sample was small and as such cannot be assumed to be representative of the wider community.

However, some interesting themes arose from the discussions around the photos taken that can inform actions moving forward.

Of note, many participants brought in photographs of things that impacted their mental wellbeing, and this was what participants wanted to spend time in the focus group discussing.

Photovoice Focus Group Findings: Food

Photovoice Theme: Food

Several participants brought photos of food. Discussions highlighted the importance of both eating a diet that allows you to feel healthy and how preparing and sharing food with family and friends improves wellbeing.

Through discussion, some of the barriers identified to following a healthy diet included lack of money and resources.

Participants that had previously been reliant on food vouchers discussed how food that was available from food banks is often unhealthy or “typically English food” and thus not culturally appropriate.

It was noted that participants did not feel they lacked the knowledge or skills to make healthy meals.

Photovoice Focus Group Findings: Pets, Transport and Surroundings

Photovoice theme: Pets, Transport & Surrounding Environment

Many participants brought in photos of pets, citing the love and connection they felt as a contributor to their wellbeing.

The ability to access greenspace and be in nature was considered important to participants, and barriers to this included health conditions that limited mobility, as well as distance from greenspace and the need for a car to access some greenspaces.

Though cars were cited as having a positive impact by allowing freedom to get around, traffic was also highlighted as a significant cause of stress and ill health. When the suggestion of using alternative forms of transport was discussed, such as public transport, or active travel, participants identified poor weather as a barrier to cycle, and the unreliability of bus and tram schedules as a barrier to using public transport.

Photovoice Focus Group Findings: Religion and Self-Care

Photovoice theme: Religion and Self-care

One participant brought in photos of objects that represented self-care rituals such as make up brushes and perfumes, leading to a wider discussion by the group of how important it is to partake in regular "self-care" activities to look after your mental wellbeing.

One participant brought in photos of the bible and religion was felt to be very important to several participants. The focus was primarily on the sense of purpose following a religion gave their lives, and the importance of a connection with a higher being, as both were felt to improve wellbeing. Less importance was assigned to the sense of community associated with organised religion.

Photovoice Focus Group Findings: "Bad Habits"

Photovoice Theme: "Bad Habits"

A picture of cigarettes was brought in by a participant who smoked who recognised the negative impact smoking was having on her health, describing this as her "bad habit". However, they described seeking support to quit smoking from the GP, but that a barrier to a successful quit attempt was that everyone around her continued to smoke, and so when she tried, she was unsuccessful.

Interestingly, participants that attended the focus group did not indicate lack of access to healthcare services had a significant impact on their health, and many participants with long term health conditions discussed how they would regularly see their GP and hospital consultants. However, it is important to note this focus group may not be representative of the wider community.

Photovoice Focus Group Findings: Ideas for Europa's Health Hub

Photovoice: Ideas for Europa's Health Hub

When discussing what they would like to change and what sessions they would like Europa to put on through their health hub, participants requested a reduction in traffic, and that they would appreciate sessions to support mental health and wellbeing.

They also requested any sessions adopted a positive focus.

Photovoice Focus Group Findings: Key Take Home Messages

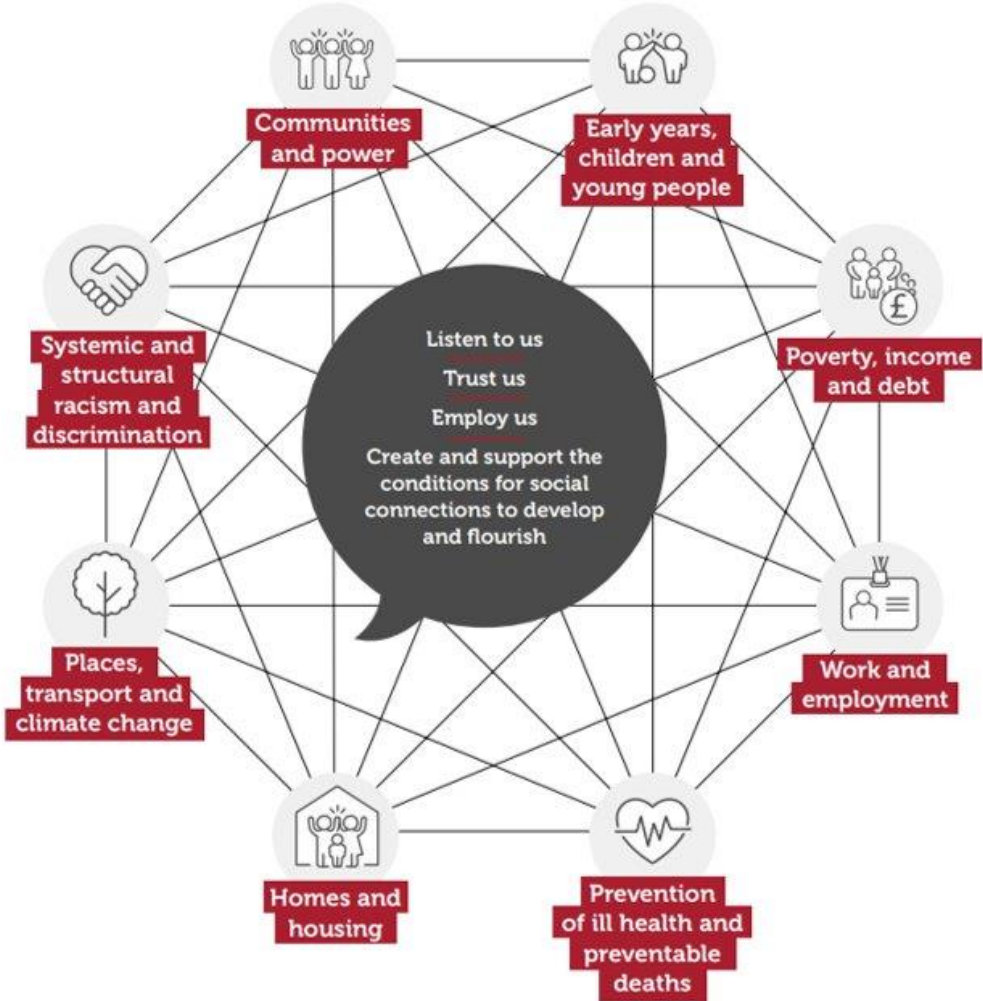
Mental Wellbeing is of paramount importance to the community when considering things that impact health.

Food, surroundings, religion, and self-care were all identified as important factors that influence mental wellbeing and therefore health.

The absence of culturally appropriate or healthy food from food banks is a barrier to health.

There was a preference for "focusing on the positives" when delivering interventions or supporting the community.

Opportunities for Action



Opportunities for Action: Early Years, Children, Young People

Early Years, Children, Young People

Review antenatal care and health visitor support available for mothers from GRT+ communities and consider local VCSE collaboration to co-develop initiatives.

Acknowledge poorer educational attainment in pupils from GRT+ backgrounds in schools and prioritise Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller pupils in kickstarter program.

Enable more pupils from Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller backgrounds to enter Higher Education (for example by asking anchor institutions such as the University of Manchester to adopt the GTRSB pledge).

Opportunities for Action: Poverty, Income, Debt

Poverty, Income, Debt

Anti-poverty strategy needs to specifically consider why members of Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities are more prone to poverty.

Closer working with local VCSE organisations that already support these communities to ensure all appropriate advice can be accessed during one port of call.

Direct consultation with local community members and VCSE groups to address the gaps in current service provision.

Opportunities for Action: Work and Employment

Work and Employment

Employment opportunities available for people from Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities need to be improved.

Local intelligence should be used to design and target interventions to reduce the barriers to learning and employment that these communities face.

Closer working with VCSE organisations and support the Neighbourhood work through the Bringing Services Together network.

Community-led training should be delivered for frontline work teams delivering local work club provision so services are culturally appropriate.

Larger GM commissioned back to work programmes can help ensure tailored employment support can be provided.

Opportunities for Action: Prevention of Ill Health and Preventable Deaths

Prevention of Ill Health and Preventable Deaths

A harmonised data standard must be adopted across all services to effectively monitor health inequalities.

Mainstream healthcare services need to be inclusive, therefore the implementation of the following interventions should be considered:

- Cultural sensitivity and awareness training for staff.
- Flexibility around appointments and the provision of drop-in services.
- Consultation with local communities and health service providers to determine possible barriers to service uptake.
- Further work should focus on the drivers of preventable deaths such as smoking, cancer screening, and obesity.

Opportunities for Action: Homes and Housing

Homes and Housing

The Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment from 2022 identified the need for 17 pitches and recommended 2 new sites should be developed to meet the needs of the 2 extended families requesting site accommodation.

The planning team need to identify new sites as matter of urgency and commit to the development of new sites to meet this need.

Opportunities for Action: Places, Transport, Climate Change

Places, Transport, Climate Change (1)

- Adoption of a negotiated stopping policy
 - Provision of basic amenities at temporary sites, such as bins and toilets, will help reduce the impact of transient communities on neighbourhoods.
 - This will help foster better relationships between transient Traveller communities and settled residents, thus improving the environment and surroundings of the areas in which residents live.
 - Land which has the potential to accommodate smaller numbers (up to 10 caravans) and larger numbers (up to 34 caravans) should be identified for future transit use.

Opportunities for Action: Places, Transport, Climate Change

Places, Transport, Climate Change (2)

The increased vulnerability of Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities to climate change should be formally recognised.

This may be achieved through:

- Specific consideration of these communities in adverse weather plans.
- Caravan sites at risk of flooding to be included as a climate change vulnerability indicator for ongoing monitoring of the health impacts of climate change.

Opportunities for Action: Communities and Power

Communities and Power

Manchester City Council needs to demonstrate trustworthiness and commitment to tackling inequalities.

More direct consultation with the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities is urgently needed.

Collaborative working with trusted VCSE partners is required to achieve this

- *community engagement projects*
- *participatory research*

Opportunities for Action: Systemic and Structural Racism and Discrimination

Systemic and Structural Racism and Discrimination

This must not be viewed as a stand-alone theme but must cross-cut all other themes.

Cultural awareness training for both front line staff and those involved in the strategic development of services is needed to ensure services delivered are not discriminatory.

- ICC offer both online and face to face training accessible for Council employees via learning hub.
- ICC also offer this training to other services.

Tackling discrimination may help reduce the burden of poorer mental health in these communities.

Ongoing direct consultation with Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities will then determine how effective these measures have been in tackling discrimination and the effect this has on the wellbeing of these communities.

Summary

People belonging to Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities have poorer health outcomes when compared with the general population.

This is driven by inequalities in the wider determinants of health.

There is limited data on how equitable health service access is for people from these communities in Manchester but the data that is available suggests GRT+ communities are less likely to access primary and preventative health care.

Opportunities for action to tackle these health inequalities have been aligned to the 8 MMF Themes.

The council and commissioned services must commit to the accurate monitoring of inequalities through adoption of harmonised data standards.

Sources

In addition to analysis of locally gathered data, the following sources were used to compile this JSNA

- 2021 Census data and associated reports published by the Office of National Statistics and Gov.UK concerning the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities
- Making Manchester Fairer Strategy
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