

Research Proposal Form

MSc Public Health and Social Care in Practice Dissertation (CHS7004)

Fill in this form after discussions with your tutor.

The information will be formally submitted to your supervisor for approval.

Student Name	Student ID
Yasar Ahemed Mukhtar Ahemad	2241660

**Please adapt the text boxes accordingly*

Proposed Research Topic: Analyzing Socio-Economic Determinants and Access Barriers to Mental Health Services among travellers in the UK (Gypsies)

Research questions:

- ☐ What are the key socio-economic determinants that influence access to mental health services among travellers (Gypsies) in the UK?
- ☐ How can public health interventions be effectively designed and implemented to improve access to mental health services and reduce disparities among these populations?

Research methodology:

The study utilizes qualitative study which utilize a purposive sampling method and recruit 5-10 participants from Traveler (Gypsy) communities across the United Kingdom. To capture a range of perspectives, the sample will aim to include both men and women aged 18+ years old who self-identify as being of Gypsy/Traveler ethnicity. Participants will be recruited through outreach to local Traveler support organizations, community leaders, UK-based Traveller advocacy groups, and snowball sampling referrals. Eligibility criteria entails capacity to provide full informed consent and recent direct or family experience accessing mental health assessments or treatment services in the National Health Service (NHS) or private settings.

A brief overview (14-20 sentences, including 5 references)

Please provide a **brief overview** of the topic you intend to research in a lay public language, that is for a non-scientific audience:

Travelers, also often referred to as Gypsies, comprise a marginalized indigenous ethnic minority group that has resided within the United Kingdom for centuries (Smith, 2021). Population estimates suggest there are around 300,000 Travelers living across Britain, with the majority native to either England, Scotland or Wales (Travelers Movement, 2020). Though integral to British national heritage, Travelers have faced severe social disadvantage and discrimination for generations. Their communities grapple with substandard housing, hostility from non-Traveler “settled” society, and pressure to conform to mainstream cultural conventions (Ryder et al., 2019).

Compounding, researchers have documented major mental health disparities confronting the UK’s Traveler population today. Studies consistently demonstrate Travelers experience disproportionately high rates of anxiety, depression, psychological distress and suicidal ideation compared to national averages (Peters et al., 2016; Rogers, 2017). For illustration, suicide death was found to be 3-7 times more prevalent among Traveler versus non-Traveler groups regionally across Britain over a multi-year epidemiological surveillance study (Carr et al., 2019). Scholars attribute elevated rates of mental illness among Travelers to intersectional pressures of sociocultural exclusion, racism, poverty and geographical isolation many communities endure (Van Cleemput, 2020).

However, while the mental health needs of the Traveler population are increasingly recognized, major gaps exist around access to appropriate screening, treatment and support services for those suffering psychological issues. Available studies reveal Traveler uptake of mainstream mental health care and counseling interventions remains disproportionately low (Greenfields & Home, 2006). Though limited data have queried barriers, researchers cite cultural factors like mental health stigma, medical racism and perceived threats to community identity as shaping care avoidance (Cemlyn et al., 2009). Clearly, investigating obstacles that hinder Travelers from equitable access to mental health services represents an urgent public health concern. Exploring culturally appropriate solutions tailored to this marginalized population is essential to alleviating persistent mental health disparities (Matthews, 2016). This research aims to uncover why such mental health care disparities exist.

Aim (a broad statement capturing the overall purpose of this research)

Please provide the aim of the topic you intend to research:

The aim of this study is to analyse the socioeconomic determinants and barriers that influence access and utilization of mental health services among Traveller communities across the United Kingdom.

Objectives (outline 3-5 using bullet points)

Please provide the objectives of the intended research:

- To identify the key social, economic, cultural, and structural determinants that impact Travelers' access and utilization of mental health services across the UK.
- To explore Traveller perspectives and lived experiences regarding barriers to seeking, accessing, and receiving assessment, treatment, and support for mental health issues.
- To assess the availability, accessibility, affordability, acceptability, and quality of existing mental health assessment and treatment services for Travelers across various UK healthcare settings.
- To formulate evidence-based recommendations for policy and practice innovations aimed at enhancing mental health equity and reducing disparities in care access and outcomes between the Traveller and wider UK population

Ethical considerations (indicate ethical issues that are relevant to your research)

*Collecting primary data from human participants requires you to address these issues.
Using primary data sources still requires how you will address these issues.*

I will submit my research proposal and the UWTSD ethics form to my supervisor to receive ethical approval.

Yes/No

I will develop a research information letter and consent form to be handed to each participant.

Yes/No

Voluntary informed Consent will be asked of each participant:

Yes/No

I will ensure participants will not be subjected to coercion, intimidation, and undue influence to participate in this research.

Yes/No

I will ensure participants will be informed they have the right to withdraw and their data from this research.

Yes/No



I will ensure to store the obtained signed consent forms securely and anonymously.	Yes/No
I will ensure the collected data will be protected and stored securely and deleted after ending this study program.	Yes/No
I confirm that I have discussed and agreed every section of this form with my supervisor and will only conduct my research in line with what has been agreed in this document	
Signature :- Y.M.Saiyed	Date:.....
<u>Supervisor:</u>	
Signature.....	Date:.....
<u>Appendix:</u>	
A Participant research information form	
B Consent form	
C List of Questions / Interview schedule	

Reference List add here below

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Peters, J., Parry, G. D., Van Cleemput, P., Moore, J., Cooper, C. L., & Walters, S. J. (2016). The health and use of health services of Traveller mothers and children in Wales, UK. *European Journal of Public Health*, 26(Supplement_1). <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckw169.321>

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Van Cleemput, P. (2020). Barriers to health care for Gypsies and Travellers. *Journal of Health Services Research & Policy*, 25(1), 52-53.

Van Cleemput, P., Parry, G., Thomas, K., Peters, J., & Cooper, C. (2007). Health-related beliefs and experiences of Gypsies and Travellers: a qualitative study. *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health*, 61(3), 205-210.