

NIHR Greater Manchester PSTRC

Plain English Publication Summary

Publication: [Patient safety in marginalised groups: a narrative scoping review](#)

Publication details (Vancouver format)

Cheraghi-Sohi, S., Panagioti, M., Daker-White, G. *et al.* Patient safety in marginalised groups: a narrative scoping review. *Int J Equity Health* **19**, 26 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12939-019-1103-2>

What are the most important findings/conclusions in this paper? Why are they important?

The findings in this paper show there is very little research on marginalised groups, which we define as people living 'outside of mainstream society'. In our review of research on patient safety in marginalised groups, we found that only 13 different groups and only 12 patient safety issues had been studied. Medication-related safety issues and studies around ethnicity were the two areas with the most evidence.

Our work highlights that people in marginalised groups are more likely to experience a patient safety incident versus the general population, but we are less likely to know what the safety gaps are and more importantly, how to close them.

What did you do?

To understand where to direct our research, we looked for existing literature reviews about marginalised groups and patient safety, but we found none. We decided therefore to do a 'mapping' review to look for published studies about marginalised groups and patient safety. We reviewed over 3000 potential studies and after careful review by the research team, we included a total of 67 studies. We then analysed these by the type of group they included and the safety incident.

Why did you conduct this research?

Marginalised groups are often neglected in research. As we started our research we wanted to see what research had been done with marginalised groups and what gaps might exist, to help us direct our own research. A mapping or scoping review was the best way to see what research on this topic was already out there, so that is what we did.

What was known before your paper was published?

We know that marginalised patients experience differences in the healthcare they receive, which can result in poorer health or early death. They are also at a higher risk of experiencing patient safety incidents compared to the general population. What we didn't know was which groups and patient safety issues had been the focus of previous research.

What is next? What is the potential impact of the work in this paper? What will change as a result of this paper (or the study it describes)?

The scoping review was always designed to help us direct our research activities within the Marginalised Groups research theme at the GM PSTRC. The results of the review exposed so many gaps that it gave us confidence that all the work we would do in the theme would add value to an area of research that is under-researched. We also hope that the review encourages other patient safety researchers to focus their work on marginalised groups.

Does this paper link in to a particular study / project? If so, please summarise the study and explain how this paper has improved understanding, or will move the study forward.

This scoping review will help to define all the research that takes place in the Marginalised Group theme at the GM PSTRC.