

February, 2009

This is the final instalment of our health section which focuses on important health issues for the South Asian community such as Cancer, Schizophrenia, Organ Donation, Sickle Cell and Pregnancy.



Schizophrenia

One study suggests that Asian people are **1.5 times** more likely to have a diagnosis of schizophrenia compared with other ethnic groups, although this may vary across age groups.

However, Asian people have **better rates of recovery** from schizophrenia which may be linked to the level of family support.

Source – Mental Health Foundation

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Cancer

Asian Women have an average age of **52** at the time of breast cancer diagnosis, compared to nearly **63** years of age for all other ethnic groups.

Three times as many women under 40 from the Asian ethnic group were diagnosed with breast cancer, compared to other ethnic groups.

Source – London School of Hygiene and Tropical diseases, 2005

- **One in nine** women in the UK will develop breast cancer in their lives Source – British Medical Journal of Cancer 2004

- **1 in 3** people develop cancer in their lives

- **1 in 4** people die from cancer Source – ONS

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Organ Donation

About **1,000** people are expected to die this year waiting for a transplant.

The UK still has one of the **lowest** organ donation rates in Europe.

Members from Black and Asian ethnic groups are **three times** more likely to need a kidney transplant

In the past seven years there were only **four** Black or Asian donors but **twelve** patients from ethnic backgrounds on the waiting list.

Typically patients from ethnic minorities are likely to wait up to **twice** as long for a transplant than the general population.

Source – BBC



Pregnancy

Asian Women are **twice** as likely to have a stillbirth compared to their white British counterparts.

Source – British Medical Journal

Many South Asian women book late for antenatal care, which is a **risk factor** for low birth weight.

Source – Oxford University

Sickle Cell

Around **12,000** people in the UK have sickle cell disease and it is one of the most common reasons for hospital admissions. This normally affects people of African, Caribbean and Asian descent.

Source – BBC

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