

Participant Information Sheet

An exploration of the sexual health experiences and motivators of Black British men in Bristol: A qualitative study.

You are invited to take part in a research study taking place at the University of the West of England, Bristol. The research is being conducted as part of the Professional Doctorate in Health Psychology degree.

Before you decide whether to take part, it is important for you to understand why the study is being done and what it will involve. Please read the following information carefully and if you have any queries or would like more information please contact:

Researcher: Mr Uzochi Nwaosu, Faculty of Health and Applied Sciences, University of the West of England, Bristol. Email: Uzochi2.Nwaosu@live.uwe.ac.uk.

Research supervisor (Director of Studies): Dr Jane Meyrick, Faculty of Health and Applied Sciences, University of the West of England, Bristol. Email: Jane.Meyrick@uwe.ac.uk.

What is the aim of the research?

We want to develop a better understanding of the psychological processes associated with sexual behaviours including, multiple sexual partners and condomless sex among Black-British men in Bristol. We also want to better understand how local peer culture on sexual attitudes, motivators and behaviours. It is hoped that the findings from this research will contribute to work being done to improve the sexual health of Black men and support to develop culturally appropriate sexual health services for Black men in the UK.

We want to know:

- What is it like to be a Black British man from Bristol ?
- What is it like living in Bristol and how does this impact on how people have sex, their sexual relationships and what they think about this?
- What is the Bristol Black British male experience of sexual partnerships and how does condom use in these partnerships vary?
- What motivates Black British men from Bristol to use condoms during sex?
- In what way does the experience of racism impact on how Black British men from Bristol engage with sexual health services?

To help us answer these questions I will be conducting completely anonymous and confidential interviews. You are not required to disclose your real name and are more than welcome to use a fake name. If you choose to use a fake name, it is important that you remember the details you provided. The aim of the interviews will be to collect information that will be made anonymous. Common ideas shared will be put into a report for my doctoral thesis and made available on the University of the West of England's open-access repository. The anonymised results may also be used in conference papers and peer-reviewed academic papers. If you would like a copy of the

report, please let me know at the end of your interview. You can also request a copy by emailing me at Uzochi2.Nwaosu@live.uwe.ac.uk.

Why have I been invited to take part?

As a sexually active Black-British man, I am interested in hearing about your experience of growing up in Bristol, your sexual behaviours, attitudes and motivators. The interview will therefore ask you about these things. The purpose of the questions will be to gain an understanding of your experience growing up in Bristol and how you feel this has contributed to your sexual health behaviours, attitudes and motivators. I will not be asking questions about the identity of your sexual partners and you are under no obligation to answer any questions that you do not feel comfortable answering. Your interview will be anonymised, preventing you from being identified.

Do I have to take part?

You do not have to take part in this research. It is up to you to decide whether or not you want to be involved. If you decide to take part, you will be given a copy of this information sheet to keep and will be asked to sign a consent form. If you decide to take part, you can pull out from the research without giving a reason until the point that your interview is anonymised and can therefore no longer be traced back to you. This will be approximately 5 months from the date you sign the consent form. If you want to pull out from the study, please email Uzochi2.Nwaosu@live.uwe.ac.uk. Deciding not to take part or pull out from the study does not have any consequence.

What will happen to me if I take part and what do I have to do?

If you agree to take part you will be initially contacted via telephone call by the researcher to confirm eligibility, confirm consent, provide you with a participant number and schedule either a 1:1 telephone interview or video interview at a time convenient for you. Video interviews will be conducted through Skype, Facetime or WhatsApp video call. You will be asked to indicate your preferred interview method and provide relevant contact details. The interview will last approximately 1 hour.

The subject and focus of the discussion will be your experience of growing up in Bristol and your sexual behaviours, attitudes and motivators. Your answers will be fully anonymised.

Your interview will be audio recorded on a voice recorder but the recording will not contain your name. Only my research supervisor and I will hear your audio recorded interview.

Your participant number will be used to re-identify you if you choose to pull out from the study within the withdrawal period, up to 5 months after the date you signed the consent form. At the point of transcribing interviews, your voice recording will be deleted. Your data will be anonymised at this point and will be analysed with interview data from other anonymised participants.

Any data you provide will be stored securely and managed in line with Data Protection legislation.

What are the benefits of taking part?

Your participation will contribute gaining the required understanding to be able to develop culturally relevant and appropriate sexual health interventions for Black-British heterosexual men in the UK.

Your time will be compensated with a free haircut/shape-up to the value of £20 at the barbershop you were recruited from. You will receive details on how to access your free haircut/shapeup at the end of your interview.

What are the possible risks of taking part?

I do not foresee or anticipate any risk to you in taking part in this study. If, however, you feel uncomfortable at any time you can ask for the interview to stop. If you need any support during or after the interview then I will be able to put you in touch with suitable support agencies. I am an experienced sexual health practitioner and sensitive to the subject area.

What will happen to your information?

All the information we receive from you will be treated in the strictest confidence.

All the information that you give will be kept confidential and anonymised approximately 5 months from the date of your signed consent form. The only circumstance where we may not be able to keep your information confidential is if you disclose something during the interview that makes me believe that either you or somebody else could be at risk of imminent harm. I will make this clear at the time.

You will be allocated a participant number to protect your anonymity. Research material with identifiable information will be stored in a locked, password protected and secure setting to which only the researchers will have access in accordance with the University and Data Protection Act 2018 requirements.

Voice recordings of the interviews may be passed to a transcription company or contractor to convert interview audio to text. Only companies with a formal data processing agreement with the university will be considered.

Voice recordings will be destroyed securely immediately after anonymised transcription. Your anonymised data will be analysed together with other interview and file data, and we will ensure that there is no possibility of identification or re-identification from this point.

Where will the results of the research study be published?

A report will be written containing the research findings. This report will be available on the University of the West of England's open-access research repository. The report will also be submitted for publication in peer-reviewed academic journals. A hard copy of the report will be made available to all research participants if you would like to see it.

Key findings will also be shared both within and outside the University of the West of England at various conferences. Anonymous and non-identifying direct quotes may be used for publication and presentation purposes.

Who has ethically approved this research?

The project has been reviewed and approved by the Faculty of Health and Applied Sciences Research Ethics Committee. Any comments, questions or complaints about the ethical conduct of this study can be addressed to the Research Ethics Committee at the University of the West of England at Researchethics@uwe.ac.uk.

What if something goes wrong?

Should you have any concerns, queries or complaints, please contact my Director of Studies, Dr Jane Meyrick at Jane.Meyrick@uwe.ac.uk.

What if I have more questions or do not understand something?

If you would like any further information about the research please contact me in the first instance at Uzochi2.Nwaosu@live.uwe.ac.uk.

Thank you for agreeing to take part in this study. You will be given a copy of this Participant Information Sheet and your signed Consent Form to keep.