

## Health awareness

- 49.7% of respondents knew how HIV was transmitted.
- 53.7% of male respondents had not heard of testicular cancer and only 9.9% male respondents had received information on self-examination.
- 22.5% of female were not attending regular mammograms despite being called.  
57.5% were unaware of why mammograms were performed.
- Just over half of females (51.6%) attended cervical screening and 34.4% of female being unaware of why cervical screening were carried out.
- 65.8% of females did not carry out self-breast examination with 42.9% never being instructed.

## Awareness of facilities/services

- 86.4% of respondents were unaware that they could borrow special aids/have adaptations to their home to assist with independent living.
- 55 years plus age group were unaware that eligible people were entitled to the following services:
  - Ring and Ride (90%)
  - Meals on wheels (95%)
  - Repairs on prescription (84.6%)

## Other

- 23.8% of respondents reported to be hearing impaired
- 62.6% of respondents did not attend annual eye tests
- 52.9% of respondents did not attend annual dental checks
- 6.6% of respondents reported to be a Carer
- 62.7% of respondents did not have a fire alarm fitted at home

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**Yemeni Community  
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## **Summary Health Profile of the Yemeni Community in Sandwell (2001)**



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## Background information

The Yemeni Community Association (YCA) is a small community-based organisation that seeks to represent and meet the particular needs of the community in Sandwell.

The Yemeni population is mainly concentrated in three parts of the borough, West Bromwich, Smethwick and Cradley Heath.

The profile of the Yemeni families in the area tends to be one of low employment with low skill base. Other issues of concern within the community include the generally poor health of many individuals, high poverty levels and an increasingly disaffected youth.

In 2001/2002 a survey was carried out on the Yemeni community within Sandwell. The main aims of this survey were:

To identify the health needs of the Yemeni community and to aid understanding of the difficulties they encounter in gaining access to health services.

To gather information to enable the YCA to promote healthy living as well as improve access to health services amongst the Yemeni community.

The Community Health Profile (CHP) consisted of a postal or face to face questionnaire covering health status and lifestyle as well as access to health information. This methodology was adopted to overcome communication and literacy barriers. The target sample was chosen subjectively to ensure that the CHP was a representative as possible. A response rate of 86% was achieved through a gift voucher incentive for completed questionnaires encouraging a high response rate

## Summary findings

### Profile of respondents

46.5% female and 53.5% male  
Age range 16 – 75 years plus  
75.6% of households do not have access to a car  
45.3% spoke little/no English  
49.5% read little/no English  
45% read little/no Arabic  
22% illiteracy rate  
69.4% not in employment

### Perceptions of health

59% described their health as good/very good.  
12.2% perceived their present health as being poor/very poor.  
Respondents with limited language capabilities were less likely to describe their health as good/very good.  
32.5% reported long-term illness – mainly asthma, diabetes, back problems and arthritis.  
20% had other health concerns – mainly weight problems, tiredness and lack of sleep.  
Commonly used services were doctors (90.8%) and pharmacists (82.9%).  
Least likely used services were specialist – district nurses (4.6%) and chiropodists (2%), raising questions of knowledge of how to access these services.

### Home, area and health

67.3% live in terraced housing with 55.9% being owner-occupier.  
Key housing concerns – damp, poor garden facilities and keeping the home warm. Implying poor conditions of owner-occupied terraced housing.  
Perceived problems with their area relate to crime and anti-social behaviour (68.2%) and mugging and vandalism by three out of ten respondents.  
Likes about the area they lived in 65.8% identified friendly people/neighbours.

### Information about health

TV, friends and professional advice identified as main choices for delivery of health information.

#### Note verbal information.

78% would/had picked up health information from the YCA.

### Food

46% felt food affected their health, of whom ½ identified putting on weight as a possible outcome. Few identified potential for disease/illness  
38.4% ate fruit every day. 17.5% rarely/never ate fruit.  
36.8% ate vegetables/salad every day  
55 years plus age group were more likely to eat fruit and vegetables on a regular basis.  
Despite these findings 72.7% claimed their diet was healthy.

### Smoking and drugs

27.7% smoked tobacco.  
14.3% smoked the Sheesha.  
31.8% of those smoking stated that they had received professional advice on smoking cessation.  
44.5% chewed Oat (75% in the Community Engagement Project).  
49.3% claimed to be aware of risks of chewing Oat and 40.8% claimed to be aware of smoking the Sheesha.  
5.6% claimed to have taken illegal drugs. (Further research presently being carried out around this area)

### Family health

Concerns relating to school age children were:

loss of religious beliefs (84.9%)  
bullying (74.2%)  
drugs (62.4%)

Less than 47.5% felt they were getting all the help and information they needed to address these concerns.