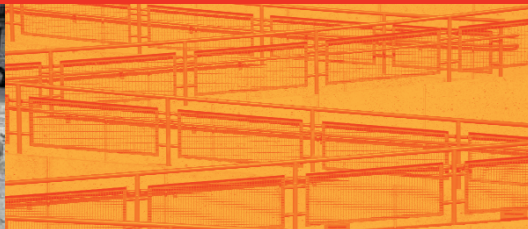


Ensuring equality for all

Everybody has the right to equality and inclusion. At MVA, our research delves deep into the needs of excluded groups, helping to represent them in the ways that count.

The issues

Social and economic inequalities are deeply entrenched in our everyday lives. Increasing numbers of people are excluded due to factors beyond their control such as race, age, gender or sexual orientation. These challenges are highly complex and case-specific, encompassing both real and perceived barriers, with direct and indirect consequences. Their solutions require thorough research into the needs and priorities of particular groups, rather than relying on assumptions. At MVA, we have the tools to ensure that everyone's voice can be heard.



How we can help

Through robust research we help ensure equalities are addressed and upheld in policy design and service provision. We offer:

- specialist skills to access hard to reach groups;
- tried and tested quantitative methods to construct a reliable picture of particular groups and social issues;
- sophisticated qualitative methods to illicit understanding at a grass-roots level; and
- highly developed understanding of current social justice issues, from which meaningful recommendations can be made.

Developing Appropriate Policies

For Lewisham Council, we designed mixed method research, including innovative online focus groups with the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities to help develop appropriate policy priorities in line with their needs and expectations.

Ensuring Equality in Mental Health Services

We identified elements of good practice and gaps in the provision of mental health and community care services for a number of equality/hard to reach groups. We reviewed the needs of sensory impaired adults for the Scottish Government. For Kingston Primary Care Trust and Kingston Council we assessed the needs of those aged over 65, including men; BME communities; those living on lower incomes; and carers and families of older people with mental health problems. We also undertook co-ordinative work for the Choose Life Suicide Prevention Strategy, where we assessed the effectiveness of services including community education; social work; homeless services; addiction services; asylum seeker groups; men's, woman's and youth services; and mental health services.

Reducing Institutional Inequalities

For the Judicial Appointments Board for Scotland we considered the extent of under-representation and produced a baseline of diversity in the legal profession, as well as identifying the nature and significance of barriers to judicial appointments. We have also undertaken extensive research on behalf the Metropolitan Police, including an assessment of Caribbean groups' perceptions of racism, and identification of performance development needs of the police in relation to their professional interaction with the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) community.

Designing and Evaluating Immigration

We designed research to measure the social impact of migration at a Local Authority level for the Welsh Assembly Government. Three case study areas were considered and better estimates of the numbers of migrant workers produced, as well as reviewing existing and likely future demands migrant workers made on services, the impact on local communities, and barriers to migrant workers accessing services. We also undertook consultation analysis for the Home Office regarding the Border and Immigration Agency's reforms of the UK immigration system and the enforcement of laws. This involved the analysis of both qualitative and quantitative consultation responses on the effectiveness and efficiency of the UK immigration system.

Improving Access to Services

We conducted qualitative case-study research into some of the most deprived regions in the West of Scotland, identifying the main social problems and residents' real needs and priorities. We also looked at the role which better transport links could play in addressing social problems such as anti-social behaviour and unemployment.

We have also undertaken extensive research into improving access to services for the mobility and sensory impaired. This has included numerous studies into the Blue Badge scheme and access to the public transport network. We have also tested various information formats to help inform disabled people about accessing services and facilities.

