

# Skin TONE (MISDOSS) Study

Thank you to participants!

22.07.2026



**We want to say thank you to everyone who took part in the Skin TONE (MISDOSS) study and for welcoming us into your community centre.**

We successfully completed the study thanks to all of you! By taking part in research you're helping to develop better care to change lives. This newsletter tells you what we found out.

## What did we aim to do?

- We know that devices like pulse oximeters that use light to measure blood oxygen levels do not work as well in brown and black skin. This is because the melanin in the skin absorbs the light.
- We wanted to understand how light travels in brown and black skin and how this changes with oxygen level. We wanted to find out which colours of light can measure oxygen levels in brown and black skin.

## How did you help us?

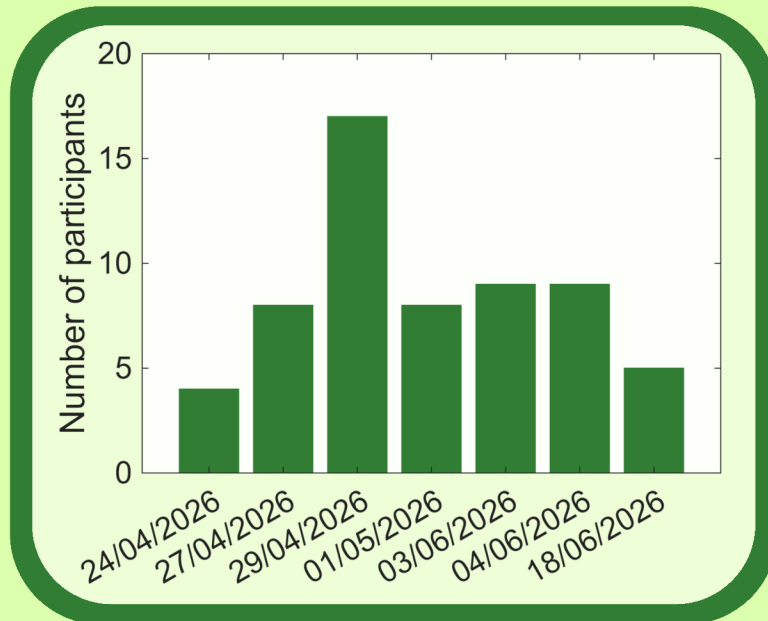
- 6 people took part in a focus group at Nurturing Foundations and helped us to plan the study. You told us that you preferred the terms 'brown' and 'black' when talking about skin tone.
- 60 people took part in our study over 3 months at Nurturing Foundations, Harpurhey Neighbourhood Project, and the Indian Senior Citizens Centre.

## What did we find out?

- We did not find any colours of light that could measure oxygen level without being affected by skin tone.
- We found that infrared light (that we cannot see with our eyes) might be less affected by skin tone.
- We found that measuring on the palms gave a better signal for measuring oxygen levels.

## Participant statistics

When did people take part in the study?



## What's next?

We are improving our understanding of how light interacts with brown and black skin. This is the first step towards making better oxygen measurements.

We might be able to use multiple colours of light and also infrared light to measure oxygen. We also might be able to measure on the palms.

We are planning to publish the data in a scientific journal. This will let us share what we found with other scientists. We will work with other scientists to find ways of measuring oxygen levels that work for everyone.

**We couldn't do any of this without you.  
Once again, from all of us, thank you!**

## Study timeline

### March 2026

Successful study focus group at Nurturing Foundations



### April and May 2026

37 people participated in the study at Harpurhey Neighborhood Project and Nurturing Foundations



### June 2026

23 people participated in the study at the Indian Senior Citizens Centre

With our best wishes and gratitude,



Rosie  
Barnes



Andrea  
Murray



Lorelee  
Dixon

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