



Data Linkage Service User Advisory Group Newsletter

Issue 19 November 2018

News

CRIS 10-Year Anniversary Celebration

Reminder: We are marking the 10th birthday of the CRIS system, with a series of talks and presentations by health informaticians, researchers, clinicians and collaborators, followed by a drinks reception. The event is being held on Thursday 6th December, from 12.45 to 6.30pm at the ORTUS Conferencing and Events Venue, 83-96 Grove Lane, London, SE5 8SN. If you would like to attend please RSVP by Friday 23rd November to anna.kolliakou@kcl.ac.uk. We hope to see you all there!

Research Spotlight

In each newsletter we will highlight recent research that has been conducted using linked data, if you would like to know more about any particular piece of work please let us know.

Depression and cause-specific mortality in an ethnically diverse cohort from the UK

Depression is associated with increased mortality, with a risk comparable to that of diabetes. While deaths by suicide or unnatural causes are commonly associated with depression, the majority of deaths are attributable to chronic physical conditions. Intriguingly, elevated risk for early mortality has been found to endure even four decades on from an individual's first depressive episode. However, few researchers have studied whether this pattern varies by ethnic group. Certain ethnic minority groups in the UK and USA are more susceptible to common physical conditions such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes. Therefore, research is needed to examine whether these groups are disproportionately affected by the enduring physical effects of depression.

For this reason, a team at the BRC investigated ethnic differences in mortality risk using mental health information from CRIS on individuals followed over eight years. They then linked this information to death certificate data provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The CRIS database only provides information on date of death; therefore, linkage with ONS data was crucial to determining *cause* of death. The ONS also collects data on emigrations out of the UK, which allowed the researchers to take this information into account in their analyses.

The team found that although individuals with depression in general had a higher mortality risk for both natural and unnatural causes, Black and minority ethnic individuals with depression were less affected than the White British group. Other risk factors for early mortality also included being male or experiencing co-occurring issues with alcohol/substance misuse, with both factors doubling mortality risk from unnatural causes within an eight year period.

The researchers concluded that more work is needed to understand differences in mortality risk between ethnic groups. Future data linkages could be used to obtain a more detailed understanding of how other individual-level socio-demographic factors, such as educational level or marital status, shape patterns between poor mental health and early mortality.

If you would like to read the paper in full it is available [here](#).

Upcoming

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 13th December**, from **4-6pm**, at the BRC Nucleus Meeting Room. We look forward to seeing you then!

Future Newsletters

If there is anything that you would like to see in future newsletters or if you would like more information about something mentioned in a newsletter, you can contact Amelia or Megan via email: amelia.jewell@slam.nhs.uk / megan.pritchard@kcl.ac.uk, or phone: 020 3228 8554.