



Data Linkage Service User Advisory Group

Newsletter

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News

CRIS Linkage with Child and Family Court Data (CAFCASS) Project Update

You may remember a previous presentation from Dr Linda Wiljaars in March last year regarding a project looking to understand the health needs of women involved in family court cases. This project involved linking mental health data from CRIS with information on family court cases from CAFCASS. You will be pleased to know that this project has now received all of the appropriate legal and ethical approvals and the data linkage will be taking place in the next few weeks. We will invite Dr Wiljaars back to give an update once the team have conducted their initial analysis.

CRIS Linkage with the National Cancer Registration and Analysis Service (NCRAS) Project Update

In similar news, a long standing project with the aim of linking mental health data from CRIS with information on cancer, hospital admissions, and mortality from Public Health England (PHE) has finally received all necessary approvals and the linkage has now taken place. This is an exciting project hoping to generate information on improving cancer detection and care for people with mental illness in the UK, with the aim of enhancing mental healthcare among cancer patients and improving the quality of end of life care for people with comorbid cancer and mental disorders.

New CRIS Blog

Dr Giouliana Kadra, Postdoctoral Research Associate, has written a blog describing her CRIS work examining whether long-term prescriptions of multiple antipsychotics contribute to the reduced life expectancy of patients with serious mental illness. You can read it [here](#).

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.

General Hospital Admission Rates in People Diagnoses with Personality Disorder

Personality Disorder (PD) affects up to 10% of the general population and is associated with considerable burden to individuals, their families, and wider society. Specifically, individuals with

PD experience significantly poorer general health compared to the general population. This can have a heavy toll and it has recently been reported that people with a diagnosis of PD have considerably shortened lives. Despite this, there has not yet been any investigation into the association between PD and physical disorders resulting in admission to hospital. Therefore a group of researchers at the Maudsley BRC set out to examine the frequency of hospital admissions amongst people with PD using the mental health data from CRIS linked to hospital admission data from the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) dataset.

The HES data contain details on all admissions to hospitals in England and Wales, including information such as diagnosis, method of admission, and procedures/ operations. Using the CRIS data the study team identified a cohort of 7,677 people with a diagnosis of PD; they then used the linked HES data to obtain information on all hospital admissions and associated diagnoses for this group. Using the linked data the team found that the number of general hospital admissions, excluding those for mental health conditions, were almost three times higher than expected. This included admissions for a wide range of diseases for all major body systems, e.g. circulatory, respiratory, nervous, and digestive. This higher rate of hospital admissions was found in both men and women with PD, indicating that as a group, individuals diagnosed with PD are at a significantly higher risk of being admitted to general hospitals for a range of medical conditions.

The team concluded that further research is needed to determine why people with PD experience such a wide range of physical diseases. Furthermore, these findings highlight the urgent need for targeted interventions to improve the physical health of individuals with PD.

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

Upcoming

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 21st March**, from **4-6pm**, in Seminar Room 6 in the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience main building. 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.