

Issue 24 July 2019

News

New CRIS Blog

Sarah Carpenter is an artist and designer with a background in dance choreography and theatre directing. She produces mixed media and some of her recent projects include a commission inspired by the British Museum and work exhibited at Saatchi Gallery. Earlier in 2019, she was invited by the curator at the Bethlem Gallery to work on a project focusing on systems of measure, specifically around the questions “What do we measure and why?” and “What does art help us to value?”. She was pointed in the direction of the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience (IoPPN) and encouraged to look into any areas of interest, which is how she first came across CRIS. You can read the blog post [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.

Hospitalisation of People with Dementia

The management of individuals with dementia in general hospitals is challenging as they often have multiple health conditions including neuropsychiatric symptoms (such as agitation and psychosis) and generally receive more antipsychotics and sedatives.. Furthermore, people with dementia have difficulty engaging with management plans and have longer and more costly hospital admissions. Therefore reducing the number of avoidable hospital admissions in people with dementia would be beneficial for both the patient and the care-provider.

A team of researchers from University College London University, King’s College London University and the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust set out to understand the factors leading to hospital admissions in people with dementia using information from CRIS linked to hospitalisation data from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES). Initially the team used CRIS to identify a cohort of 10,137 individuals aged over 65 with a diagnosis of dementia, they then collected information on all non-psychiatric hospital admissions (planned and emergency) for this group using data from HES. Other information (such as age, sex, ethnicity, and clinical symptoms) was also collected using CRIS to see if these factors were associated with admission to hospital.

The team found that half of the group were admitted to hospital during the first year after their dementia diagnosis and in total three quarters of the group were admitted to hospital at least once during the follow-up period of the study. They also found that admission rates rose between 2008 and 2016. With regards to emergency admissions specifically, they found that people with dementia had 2.1 times more emergency admissions than people of equivalent age without a dementia diagnosis. Higher rates of emergency hospital admissions were found in people who were:

- Older;
- Male;
- White ethnicity;
- More socio-economically deprived;
- Diagnosed with non-Alzheimer's dementia;
- Experiencing worse activities of daily living and problems with their living conditions;
- Diagnosed with physical illness or depressed mood at diagnosis.

Whereas, planned hospital admissions were more frequent in individuals who were:

- Younger;
- African/ Caribbean ethnicity;
- Less socio-economically deprived;
- Diagnosed with milder dementia.

The team concluded that whilst rates of emergency hospital admissions are high in people with dementia, a number of factors associated with admissions (such as problems with living conditions) can potentially be modified, suggesting ways in which the number of hospital admissions could be reduced. Understanding the causes of hospital admissions informs the development of strategies and interventions that aim to reduce avoidable admissions.

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 12th September**, from **4-6pm**, in Seminar Room 6 in the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience. 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.