



Data Linkage Service User Advisory Group

Newsletter

Issue 16 July 2018

News

New CRIS Blog

There is a new blog on our website written by Dr Margaret Heslin about a recent publication looking at the effect of environmental factors, such as deprivation and population density, on time spent in hospital for patients with psychosis. If you would like to read it you can check it out here:

<https://www.maudsleybrc.nihr.ac.uk/posts/2018/june/cris-blog-inpatient-use-and-area-level-socio-environmental-factors-in-people-with-psychosis/>.

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.

Predictors of severe relapse in pregnant women with psychotic or bipolar disorders

Relapse of severe mental illness (SMI) in pregnant women is potentially devastating for a woman and her unborn child. It may affect her ability to care for herself and even result in custody loss of children, suicide and infanticide. Many studies have reported increased risk of relapse of psychosis in the early post-partum. However, there are limited data on prevalence and predictors of relapse in pregnancy. Therefore, the team aimed to investigate risk and predictors of severe relapse in pregnancy in a cohort of women with SMI.

Using CRIS linked to maternity Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), a historical cohort was assembled of women pregnant from 2007-2011 whose pregnancies continued beyond first trimester. The first severe relapse of SMI during pregnancy was measured. To assure that all significant relapses were included, relapse was defined as admission to mental health inpatient care, referral for home treatment or an episode of self-harm.

The team looked at 454 pregnancies in 389 women with a history of SMI within SLAM. In 454 pregnancies there were 83 (18.3%) relapses. Characteristics associated with relapse in pregnancy included smoking, substance misuse and non-white ethnicity. Women who continued to take medication had fewer relapses than women who were medication free.

These findings provide some reassurance that although relapse can occur in pregnancy, most women in this cohort did not have episodes needing acute care or manifesting as self-harm. While the risks and benefits of taking medication in pregnancy must be weighed up for each individual, this study has identified those at a particularly high risk of relapse.

If you would like to read this paper in full it can be accessed here:

[https://kclpure.kcl.ac.uk/portal/en/publications/predictors-of-severe-relapse-in-pregnant-women-with-psychotic-or-bipolar-disorders\(2c35b1d5-4966-4b4f-9a85-04384c85bea9\).html](https://kclpure.kcl.ac.uk/portal/en/publications/predictors-of-severe-relapse-in-pregnant-women-with-psychotic-or-bipolar-disorders(2c35b1d5-4966-4b4f-9a85-04384c85bea9).html)

Upcoming

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 27th September**, from **4-6pm**, at 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.