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News

CRIS COVID-19 Publications

CRIS has been an integral part of our research into the COVID-19 pandemic. A new webpage on the Maudsley BRC website has been launched to document the publications coming out of the CRIS COVID work. This page also includes details of pre-print publications, these are research papers that have not been peer-reviewed by traditional academic journals. The benefits of pre-prints are that study information and data can be made publicly available in a shorter timeframe. You can view the page [here](#).

Project Update

I am pleased to let you know that project looking to link CRIS with the Police National Computer (PNC) has now received ethical approval. Once completed, this linkage will provide a key resource for investigating the impact of offending on mental health treatment and outcomes, and importantly, this includes examining inequalities in mental health care for individuals in contact with the criminal justice system. We will continue to keep you updated on the progress of the project.

Research Spotlight

Suicide Attempts Requiring Hospitalization in Patients with Eating Disorders: A Retrospective Cohort Study

Charlotte Cliffe, Hitesh Shetty, Hubertus Himmerich, Ulrike Schmidt, Robert Stewart, and Rina Dutta

Eating disorders include a variety of diagnoses such as anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and eating disorder otherwise not specified. Suicide attempts requiring hospitalization are known to be common in patients who are diagnosed with eating disorders, but despite this, there are very few studies with long follow-up periods that have been able to study patients with eating disorders who attempt suicide. Examining the association between eating disorders and attempted suicide is important as attempting suicide is a major indicator for those at risk of completed suicide.

A team at King's College London decided to use CRIS data linked to [Hospital Episode Statistics \(HES\)](#) to examine suicide attempts which required hospitalisation in patients with eating disorders. Using the linked data, the team were also able to examine the effect of comorbid psychiatric diagnoses (i.e. diagnoses that the individual may have in addition to their diagnosis of eating disorder) on the risk of suicide attempt.

Using CRIS, the team identified a cohort of 4,895 individuals who had received a diagnosis of an eating disorder within the study window. They were then able to use the linked HES data to identify who within the cohort had been admitted to hospital for a suicide attempt. A number of additional variables including age, ethnicity, marital status, and other psychiatric diagnoses were also extracted using CRIS.

The team found that within the total cohort, 46.3% of people had a diagnosis of anorexia, 29.0% had a diagnosis of bulimia, and 24.7% had a diagnosis of an eating disorder otherwise not specified. During the study window, 331 (6.8%) individuals had a suicide attempt which required hospitalization. 20.3% of the cohort had a comorbid psychiatric disorder, these included personality disorder, substance misuse, bipolar disorder, and depression.

This study demonstrates that eating disorders are associated with a high rate of suicide attempts which require hospitalization. The team found that those with a diagnosis of anorexia were most at risk of having a suicide attempt resulting in hospitalization in comparison to individuals with bulimia and an eating disorder otherwise not specified. Individuals with a comorbid psychiatric disorder were also significantly more at risk of a suicide attempt.

The team concluded that the assessment of suicidal ideation is crucial as part of routine risk assessment in patients with all forms of eating disorder, but in particular those with a diagnosis of anorexia and those with comorbid psychiatric illnesses.

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 17th September**, from **4-6pm**, location to be confirmed closer to the time.

Future Newsletters

We are still working remotely so 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 us via email: amelia.jewell@slam.nhs.uk / megan.pritchard@kcl.ac.uk.