





Prevalence of physical ill-health in a cohort of adults with intellectual disabilities in Scotland

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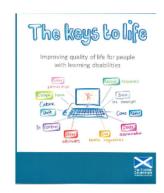






Background

- The Keys to life (Scottish Government, 2013) made a call for urgent action to address the health inequalities experienced by people with intellectual disabilities
- We need to have a better understanding of the health problems faced by people with intellectual disabilities and how we can improve their health and wellbeing





Literature

Common health problems experienced by people with intellectual disabilities are thought to include:

- Gastro-oesophageal reflux disorder
- Sensory impairments
- Osteoporosis
- Epilepsy
- Musculoskeletal problems
- Accidents
- Nutritional problems

However, most of these studies have methodological limitations (e.g. small scale, selected age groups/level of disability), few studies in the UK, no studies looking at certain physical health problems





Aim

To report the physical health conditions of adults with intellectual disabilities

Method

- Large prospective cohort study
- Adults (aged 16 and over) with intellectual disabilities living within the geographical area of Greater Glasgow Health Board, Scotland
- Of 1562 potential participants, 1023 adults consented to take part in the research (65.5%)





Method

Comprehensive health assessment:

- Review of primary health records
- Structured history
- Physical examination
- Investigations (e.g. blood protocol)
- Discussion/synthesis of all information (Diagnosis)
- · Coded and data entered into SPSS
- Physical health conditions were recorded using International Statistical Classification of Diseases (ICD -10)





Research Questions

- 1. What are the most prevalent physical health conditions?
- 2. What is the extent of multi-morbidity for this cohort?





Participants

- 1023 adults with intellectual disabilities
- 562 males (54.9%) and 461 females (45.1%)
- Mean age 43.9 years (range 16–83)
- · 96.4% of cohort White
- 95.7% single
- 186 (18.2%) with Down syndrome

• Levels of ability ranged from:

Level	n	%
Mild	398	38.9
Moderate	248	24.2
Severe	193	18.9
Profound	184	18
Total	1023	100

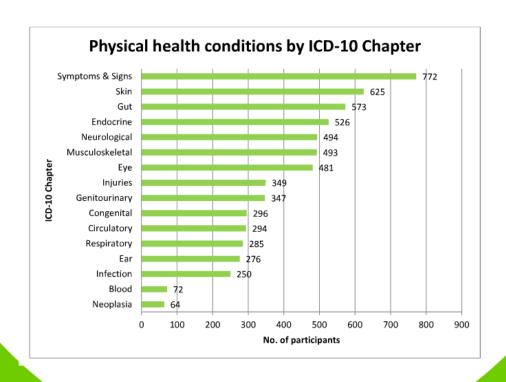
 Accommodation type: 390 live with family carer (38.1%), 102 live independently (10%), 467 live with paid support (45.7%), 64 congregate setting (6.3%)





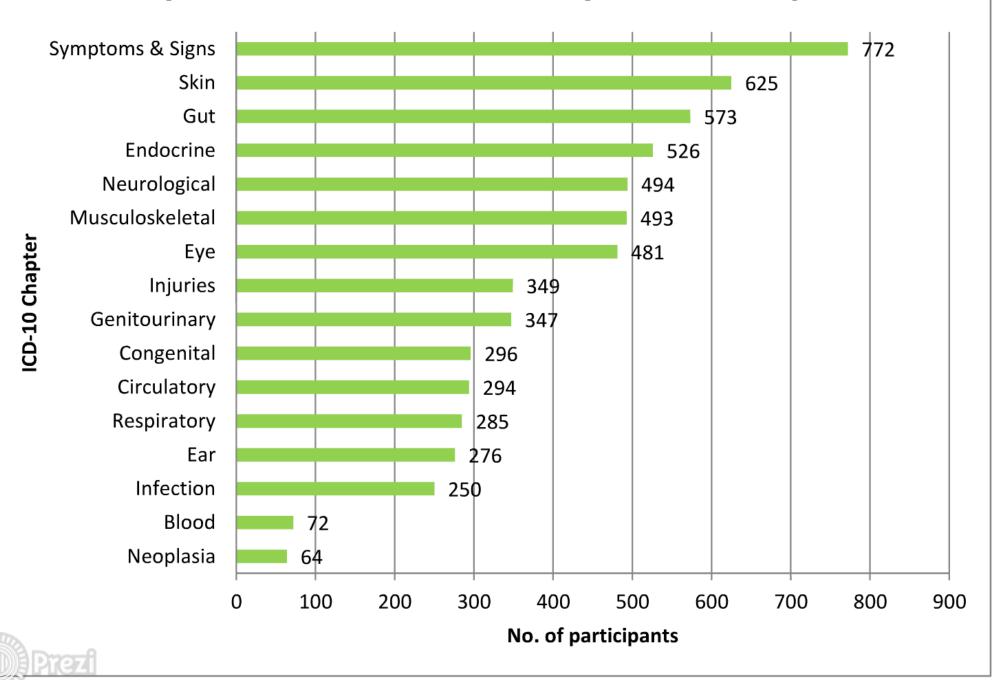
1. What are the most prevalent physical health conditions?

Number of people diagnosed with condition by ICD-10 Chapter





Physical health conditions by ICD-10 Chapter



Examples of physical health conditions from each ICD-10 Chapter

ICD-10 Chapter	Examples of physical health conditions
Symptoms & Signs	Ataxic/gait disorders, Dysphagia
Skin	Eczema/Dermatitis, Nail disorder
Gut	Constipation, Dental/Oral
Endocrine	Obesity, Malnutrition
Neurological	Migraine, Epilepsy
Musculoskeletal	Bone deformity, Arthritis
Eye	Cataracts, Glaucoma
Injuries	History of soft tissue, History of fracture of forearm
Genitourinary	Bladder infection, Urinary Tract Infection
Congenital	Congenital heart defect, Congenital intestine disorder
Circulatory	Cerebrovascular disorder/stroke, Heart failure
Respiratory	LRTI, Asthma
Ear	Ear infection, Tinnitus
Infection	Fungal infection, Viral infection
Blood	Anaemia, White blood disorder
Neoplasia	Malignant breast, Malignant brain





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	Physical health condition	n	%
1	Vision impairment	481	47
2	Constipation	366	35.8
3	Epilepsy	349	34.1
4	Ataxic/gait disorders (e.g. lack of muscle co-ordination)	312	30.5
5	Hearing impairment	276	26.9
6	Nail disorder (e.g. ingrowing nail)	242	23.6
7	Epidermal thickening/xerosis	219	21,4
8	Cerebral palsy and other paralytic syndromes	191	18.7
9	Osteoporosis	189	18.5
10	Fungal infection	176	17.2
11	Hypertension	168	16.4
12	Dysphagia	159	15.5
13	Musculoskeletal pain/dorsalgia	158	15.4
14	Bone deformity	155	15.1
15	Obesity	153	14.9
16	Eczema/Dermatitis	150	14.7
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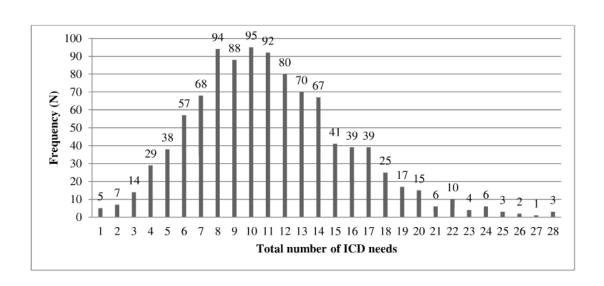
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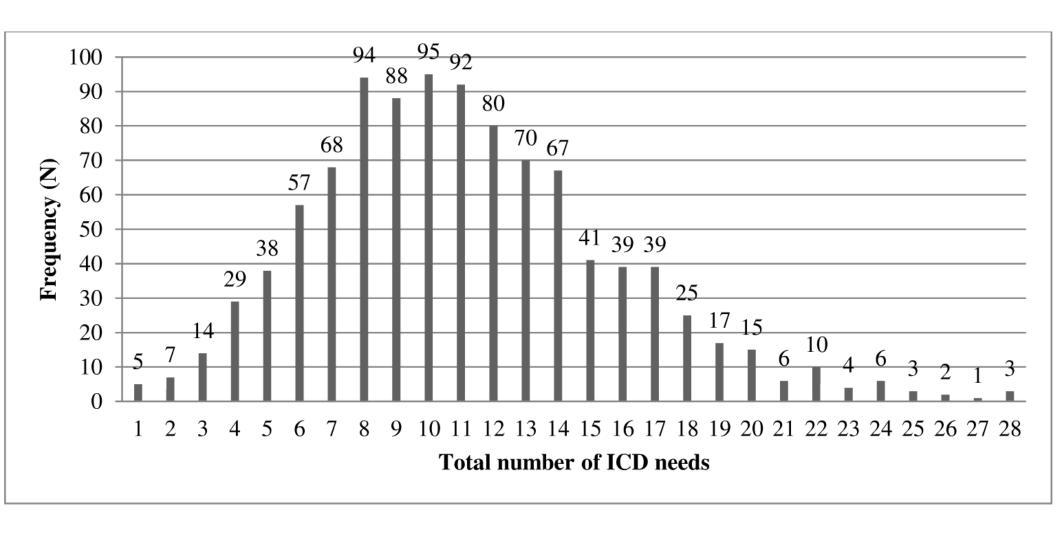
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- Total Physical health conditions (M = 11.00, SD = 4.7)
- Males (M = 10.45, SD = 4.52)
- Females (M = 12.02, SD = 3.91)
- 99.2% (n = 1,015) of participants had at least one condition
- 98.7% (n = 1,010) had two or more conditions



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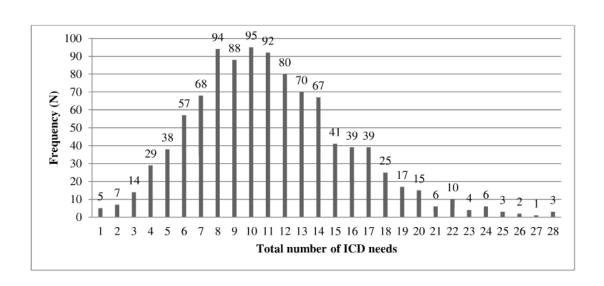


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Strengths and Limitations

Limitations

- Some individuals were still under investigation from the health assessment when data entry was concluded. Therefore there may be an under count of some diagnoses
- · Data only carried out in one area of Scotland

Strengths

- First study in Scotland to use a comprehensive health assessment which included the ICD-10 (WHO, 2010) to identify all physical health problems in this population
- · Large sample size and high participation rate
- Adds to UK based data by providing prevalence rates on musculoskeletal impairments, constipation and gastro-esophageal reflux disease among people with intellectual disabilities, conditions previously unreported in the UK research literature



Conclusion

This study has reported the high prevalence of physical health problems in this population

The average number of co-morbid conditions was 11

The majority of people with intellectual disabilities had multiple morbidities

All of the conditions reported have a detrimental effect on quality of life and many of them can be treated if identified and reported in time

These findings reinforce the importance of health checks in order to identify and meet individual health needs







Thank you



















