King's Research Portal

DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0171526

Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Link to publication record in King's Research Portal

Citation for published version (APA):
Kovalchuk, Y., Stewart, R., Broadbent, M., Hubbard, T. J. P., & Dobson, R. J. B. (2017). Analysis of diagnoses extracted from Electronic health records in a large mental health Case Register. PLoS One, 12(2), 1-12. [e0171526]. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0171526

Citing this paper
Please note that where the full-text provided on King's Research Portal is the Author Accepted Manuscript or Post-Print version this may differ from the final Published version. If citing, it is advised that you check and use the publisher's definitive version for pagination, volume/issue, and date of publication details. And where the final published version is provided on the Research Portal, if citing you are again advised to check the publisher's website for any subsequent corrections.

General rights
Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the Research Portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognize and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

• Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the Research Portal for the purpose of private study or research.
• You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
• You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the Research Portal

Take down policy
If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact librarypure@kcl.ac.uk providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

Download date: 23. Oct. 2023
Abstract

The UK government has recently recognised the need to improve mental health services in the country. Electronic health records provide a rich source of patient data which could help policymakers to better understand needs of the service users. The main objective of this study is to unveil statistics of diagnoses recorded in the Case Register of the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, one of the largest mental health providers in the UK and Europe serving a source population of over 1.2 million people residing in south London. Based on over 500,000 diagnoses recorded in ICD10 codes for a cohort of approximately 200,000 mental health patients, we established frequency rate of each diagnosis (the ratio of the number of patients for whom a diagnosis has ever been recorded to the number of patients in the entire population who have made contact with mental disorders). We also investigated differences in diagnoses prevalence between subgroups of patients stratified by gender and ethnicity. The most common diagnoses in the considered population were (recurrent) depression (ICD10 codes F32-33; 16.4% of patients), reaction to severe stress and adjustment disorders (F43; 7.1%), mental/behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol (F10; 6.9%), and schizophrenia (F20; 5.6%). We also found many diagnoses which were more likely to be recorded in patients of a certain gender or ethnicity. For example, mood (affective) disorders (F31-F39); neurotic, stress-related and somatoform disorders (F40-F48, except F42); and eating disorders (F50) were more likely to be found in records of female patients, while males were more likely to be diagnosed with mental/behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance use (F10-F19). Furthermore, mental/behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol and opioids were more likely to be recorded in patients of white ethnicity, and disorders due to use of cannabinoids in those of black ethnicity.
Introduction

In 2014, the Department of Health in England issued a report acknowledging that “for decades the health and care system in England has been stacked against mental health services” with the distribution of resources favouring only physical health services [1]. More funding was promised to improve mental health services [1–3] to ensure that mental and physical health conditions are treated equally [1, 4]. Decisions on allocating funding are frequently based on surveys and reports compiled by specialist groups [5–7] and charities [8]. Electronic healthcare records (EHRs) are another potentially rich resource of patient data, and analysis of such data can reveal patterns and trends in healthcare provision, patients’ profiles and their health problems. While a lot of effort still needs to be invested to integrate separate EHRs systems in order to generate a more complete picture of patients’ pathways [9–11], researchers and clinicians should make the most of existing systems owned by separate hospitals and NHS trusts.

In this paper, we analyse data from a database which contains information from service users at one of the largest mental health providers in Europe, the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM) [12]. SLaM serves a geographic catchment of over 1.2 million residents in four south London boroughs (Croydon, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark), and its EHR database includes patients’ demographic details, symptoms, diagnoses, test scores, medications prescribed, and records of clinical events (referrals, admissions, discharges, etc.). In order to facilitate research, a de-identified version of the SLaM EHR called the Clinical Record Interactive Search (CRIS) system [13] was developed in 2008.

The majority of information in the database is stored in the form of free text, including correspondence and narratives recorded by clinicians during healthcare encounters. In this study however, we focus on semi-structured fields, which contain patients’ diagnoses recorded as ICD10 codes [14]. This analysis sought to provide a benchmark to which the information we plan to mine from free text can be compared.

CRIS data have supported a range of research projects [15–21]. However, these studies have concentrated on developing tools or answering specific clinical or research questions. The aim of this paper is to present descriptive statistics of diagnoses recorded in the database. In particular, we report prevalence of the most common diagnoses in the entire patient population and in subgroups stratified by gender and ethnicity. This research is an updated and extended analysis of an earlier report [12]. More specifically, unlike the previous study which reports statistics based on primary diagnoses of active population only, this paper considers both primary and secondary diagnoses recorded for the entire population of patients accepted by SLaM up until May 2015, takes into account patients’ gender and ethnicity, as well as provides results on a more detailed level of ICD10 code hierarchy (we did not seek to take into consideration age of patients as age at first time episodes is currently not readily available in the database).

Looking into differences in health problems experienced by people with certain demographic characteristics may help to understand individual needs of patients and root causes of their mental health problems. It is suggested, for example, that “there are ethnic as well as socioeconomic dimensions to the prevalence of mental ill-health” [22] and that “different ethnic groups have different rates and experiences of mental health problems, reflecting their different cultural and socio-economic contexts and access to culturally appropriate treatments” [23]. For instance, according to a survey of black and minority ethnic people experiencing mental health difficulties (conducted during February to March 2013 in England) [24], Asians experienced more depression and anxiety than black groups, while more black people than Asians were diagnosed with schizophrenia.

There are also gender-specific differences in prevalence of mental health disorders. In 2001 and 2003 for example, the Office for National Statistics reported that women were more likely
to have been treated for a mental health problem than men (29% compared to 17%), with depression and anxiety being more prevalent in women, while alcohol or drug problems—in men [25, 26]. According to more recent surveys, the prevalence of autism is higher in men than women [27], while eating disorders are more common among women than men [28, 29].

Statistics provided in surveys are usually either general (reporting on all or several disorders combined) or focusing on a few specific disorders. Moreover, these statistics are likely to change over time, especially in recent years when more people become more aware of mental wellbeing [22, 30] and are more likely to step forward reporting potential problems. It is therefore important to regularly monitor changes in the usage of mental health services. With this paper, we aim to capture the current statistics for a broad spectrum of mental health issues, against which future shifts in diagnoses distribution across patient subgroups could be studied. Furthermore, we compare the statistics rendered from our EHR with other sources highlighting commonalities, differences and additional information not reported previously.

Data and methods

A de-identified version of the SLaM EHR called the Clinical Record Interactive Search (CRIS) system [13] was used as a data source for this study. Ethical approval as an anonymised database for secondary analysis was originally granted in 2008, and renewed for a further 5 years in 2013 (Oxford C Research Ethics Committee, reference 08/H0606/71+5). The study presented in this paper has been approved by the CRIS Oversight Committee [13].

For our analysis, we assembled a subset of records on 203,427 patients registered in the CRIS database between November 2008 and May 2015: 101,549 males and 101,813 females (65 with gender not recorded). Overall, there were 562,726 primary and secondary diagnoses recorded in structured fields for these patients, employing 2,531 unique ICD10 codes. We noted however, that not all diagnoses were recorded at their lowest (most specific) level of hierarchy, so as well as ‘F20.0—paranoid schizophrenia’ there are also cases of ‘F20 –Schizophrenia’, for example. To address this issue, we trimmed each code to its decimal point (i.e. taking only its letter and the following two digits). Since several diagnosis codes could be recorded for a patient, and the same diagnosis may be recorded several times on different dates for the same patient, we calculated overall and unique case counts for each code.

In this paper, we explore how unique diagnoses recorded for at least 100 unique patients were distributed across different genders and ethnicities and if there were any significant differences in their prevalence. We performed two statistical analyses, one comparing genders, and a second comparing ethnic groups. In both cases, we took the same cohort of 203,427 patients, but had to remove 65 patients from the gender analysis where no gender was recorded, and 29,559 patients from the ethnicity analysis where ethnicity was absent. While a detailed ethnic category was specified for each patient, we have aggregated them into four ethnic groups. The ‘White’ ethnic group includes ‘British’, ‘Irish’, and ‘Any other white background’ ethnic categories. The ‘Black’ group includes ‘African’, ‘Caribbean’, and ‘Any other black background’ categories. The ‘Asian’ group refers to ‘Bangladeshi’, ‘Chinese’, ‘Indian’, ‘Pakistani’, and ‘Any other Asian background’. The ‘Other’ ethnicity group includes patients with mixed backgrounds, such as ‘White and Asian’, ‘White and Black African’, ‘White and Black Caribbean’ and ‘Any other mixed backgrounds’.

To test statistical significance of diagnostic enrichment for a given gender and ethnic group, we calculated p-values for each diagnostic code generated from Chi-square scores. Since multiple comparisons were involved in the testing (110 codes for 2 and 4 categories of gender and ethnicity respectively), we also calculated q-values by adjusting each p-value using the False Discovery Rate Benjamini-Hochberg method [31]. We performed this analysis at two
different levels of the ICD10 code hierarchy: the third level (codes trimmed to letter and the following two digits) and the highest level (trimmed to include letter only). The first analysis informs about differences in the population across various mental health condition, while the second shows differences across the codes that belong to chapters other than 'V—Mental and Behavioural Disorders’.

Results

Overall, 36.7% of diagnoses made for all patients were repeated diagnoses, with average repetition rate of 16.9% per code (st. dev. = 19.2). Of all diagnoses, 14.3% (or 16.3% of unique records per patient) were 'F99—Unspecified mental disorder’, and 10.1% (or 12.1% of unique records per patient) were ‘Z71.1—Person with feared complaint in whom no diagnosis is made’, resulting in 46.0% of patients who had at least one of either F99 or Z71.1 code assigned, only about half of whom (23.6% of patients) had another (more specific) code recorded alongside; 22.4% of all patients did not have any other defined diagnosis recorded.

Following the non-specific F99 and Z71.1 codes, the most common diagnoses were depressive episode (recorded in 13.2% of patients), reaction to severe stress and adjustment disorders (7.1%) and mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol (6.9%). Table 1 includes the top 10 most frequent (defined) diagnoses along with their unique and overall case counts, and percentages of the patients for whom the diagnoses were made. It is worth noting that some patients had a record of recurrent depressive episode (F33 code) following the diagnosis of depressive episode (F32) made on an earlier date. Combining the two diagnoses resulted in 16.4% of patients who had either ‘depressive episode’ (F32 code) or ‘recurrent depressive episode’ (F33 code) recorded. See S1 Appendix for a complete list of frequency and repetition rates for each diagnosis; the list is ordered by descending unique case count.

We found that many diagnosis codes were assigned to just one or only a few patients. When we grouped patient counts (1 patient, 2 to 20 patients, 11 to 100 patients, 101–1000 patients, and over 1000 patients) and calculated the number of unique diagnoses made per number of unique patients in each of these groups, we found that only 53 diagnoses (5.4%) were assigned to more than a thousand unique patients (Fig 1).

To study the difference of diagnoses prevalence across different genders and ethnicities, we only took diagnoses recorded for at least 100 unique patients (i.e. the last two groups on the right of Fig 1). Table 2 contains the number of SLaM patients in each of the gender and ethnicity group and proportion these counts make of the total respective (gender or ethnicity) cohort. The table also presents percentages of residents of different gender and ethnicity in the

| Table 1. Top 10 most frequent ICD10 codes. |
|--------------------------------------------|
| Code                                      |
| F32- Depressive episode                    |
| F43- Reaction to severe stress, and adjustment disorders |
| F10- Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol |
| F20- Schizophrenia                         |
| F41- Other anxiety disorders               |
| F33- Recurrent depressive disorder         |
| F00- Dementia in Alzheimer's disease       |
| F11- Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of opioids |
| F90- Hyperkinetic disorders                |
| F84- Pervasive developmental disorders     |
| Unique cases                              |
| 26759                                     |
| 14414                                     |
| 14013                                     |
| 11403                                     |
| 9601                                      |
| 8973                                      |
| 8373                                      |
| 7416                                      |
| 7258                                      |
| 6811                                      |
| Overall cases                             |
| 40786                                     |
| 20712                                     |
| 29545                                     |
| 37688                                     |
| 13867                                     |
| 15432                                     |
| 13363                                     |
| 15634                                     |
| 9979                                      |
| 11224                                     |
| % of patients                             |
| 13.2                                      |
| 7.1                                       |
| 6.9                                       |
| 5.6                                       |
| 4.7                                       |
| 4.4                                       |
| 4.1                                       |
| 3.7                                       |
| 3.6                                       |
| 3.4                                       |

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0171526.t001
SLaM catchment area, London and England as a whole, out of the entire population in the respective areas, derived from the 2011 UK Census [32]. Note, there are approximately the same number of males and females in the database, while representation of different ethnicities varies, with white patients being in majority and Asians in minority.

Table 3 summarises the findings highlighting the differences in codes related to mental health which have q-values below 0.01 in either gender or ethnicity testing, or both (results are provided in alphabetic order of the codes). Full results of gender and ethnicity enrichment analyses can be found in S2 Appendix, where for each diagnostic code we show numbers in diagnostic groups, Chi-square scores, p- and q-values. Results in S2 Appendix are provided in ascending order of p-values separately for gender and ethnicity, and at two levels of ICD10 codes hierarchy.

Women using mental health services were more likely than men to have received a diagnosis of mood (affective), neurotic, stress-related or eating disorder, while a diagnosis of mental or behaviour disorder due to substance use was more common in male service users. Most disorders causing dementia were recorded more often in female patients apart from dementia in Parkinson’s disease which was more common in male patients. Male patients were also more likely to have received diagnoses of schizophrenia, mental retardation, developmental disorders of speech and motor function, autism, conduct and hyperkinetic disorders, personality disorders due to brain disease, damage or dysfunction, and intracranial injury. The Z59 code (problems related to housing and economic circumstances) was recorded more often in males, while self-harm related (X) codes were more common in females.

Fig 1. Number of diagnoses in each of the unique patient count bins. A bar chart showing the number of diagnoses that were assigned to each of the considered number of patients: 1 patient; between 2 and 10; 11 and 100; 101 and 1000; more than 1000 patients.

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0171526.g001

Table 2. Patient counts and true population rates in subgroups stratified by gender and ethnicity.

|                          | Female | Male  | White | Black | Asian | Other |
|--------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| SLaM patient count       | 101813 | 101549| 114501| 3388  | 8568  | 17411 |
| % of total patient cohort| 50.1   | 49.9  | 56.3  | 16.4  | 4.2   | 8.6   |
| SLaM catchment (% of its true total population) | 50.9 | 49.1 | 55.1 | 24.7 | 10.8 | 9.4 |
| London (% of its true total population)           | 50.7  | 49.3  | 59.8  | 13.3  | 18.4  | 8.5  |
| England (% of its true total population)          | 50.8  | 49.2  | 85.5  | 3.4   | 7.7   | 3.4   |

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0171526.t002
Table 3. Prevalence of diagnoses (listed by ICD10 code) in subgroups of patients stratified by gender and ethnicity. M-Male; F-Female; W-White; B-Black; A-Asian; O-Other ethnicities; '-'—no significant difference. Shown gender is associated with higher recorded rates per diagnosis. Ethnicities mentioned in capitals have relative count for the diagnosis above the average across all 4 ethnicities, while lower case letters represent ethnicities with relative count below the average.

| Code | Name                                                                 | Gender | Chi-Square (1 df) | q-value | Ethnicity | Chi-Square (3 df) | q-value |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|------------------|---------|-----------|------------------|---------|
|      |                                                                      | M, F, -|                  |         | w,b,a, o,- |                  |         |
| F00  | Dementia in Alzheimer disease                                        | F      | 956.518          | <0.001  | WbAo      | 888.780          | <0.001  |
| F01  | Vascular dementia                                                    | F      | 82.280           | <0.001  | WbAo      | 266.434          | <0.001  |
| F02  | Dementia in other diseases classified elsewhere (mostly F02.3—Dementia in Parkinson disease) | M      | 36.350           | <0.001  | WbAo      | 52.270           | <0.001  |
| F03  | Unspecified dementia                                                 | F      | 203.309          | <0.001  | WbAo      | 326.040          | <0.001  |
| F05  | Delirium, not induced by alcohol and other psychoactive substances    | F      | 39.340           | <0.001  | WbAo      | 376.484          | <0.001  |
| F06  | Other mental disorders due to brain damage and dysfunction and to physical disease |        | 0.172            | 0.718   | WbAo      | 135.148          | <0.001  |
| F07  | Personality and behavioural disorders due to brain disease, damage and dysfunction | M      | 53.959           | <0.001  | WbAo      | 15.175           | 0.002   |
| F10  | Mental and behavioural disorders (MBD) due to use of alcohol          | M      | 1833.336         | <0.001  | WbAo      | 1505.215         | <0.001  |
| F11  | MBD due to use of opioids                                            | M      | 1403.687         | <0.001  | WbAo      | 804.068          | <0.001  |
| F12  | MBD due to use of cannabinoids                                       | M      | 630.262          | <0.001  | WbAo      | 263.450          | <0.001  |
| F13  | MBD due to use of sedatives or hypnotics                              | M      | 49.128           | <0.001  | WbAo      | 181.671          | <0.001  |
| F14  | MBD due to use of cocaine                                            | M      | 328.713          | <0.001  | WbAo      | 84.436           | <0.001  |
| F15  | MBD due to use of other stimulants, including caffeine                | M      | 84.827           | <0.001  | WbAo      | 14.020           | 0.004   |
| F16  | MBD due to use of hallucinogens                                       | M      | 15.680           | <0.001  | WbAo      | 1618.696         | <0.001  |
| F19  | MBD due to multiple drug use and use of psychoactive substances       | M      | 1298.514         | <0.001  | WbAo      | 99.786           | <0.001  |
| F20  | Schizophrenia                                                        | M      | 753.058          | <0.001  | WbAo      | 4003.993         | <0.001  |
| F22  | Persistent delusional disorders                                      | -      | 7.257            | 0.010   | WbAo      | 226.666          | <0.001  |
| F23  | Acute and transient psychotic disorders                              | M      | 16.736           | <0.001  | WbAo      | 1618.696         | <0.001  |
| F25  | Schizoaffective disorders                                            | -      | 4.270            | 0.052   | WbAo      | 916.484          | <0.001  |
| F28  | Other nonorganic psychotic disorders                                  | -      | 0.195            | 0.710   | WbAo      | 188.240          | <0.001  |
| F29  | Unspecified nonorganic psychosis                                      | M      | 69.873           | <0.001  | WbAo      | 940.170          | <0.001  |
| F30  | Manic episode                                                        | -      | <0.001           | 1       | WbAo      | 108.127          | <0.001  |
| F31  | Bipolar affective disorder                                           | F      | 180.123          | <0.001  | WbAo      | 15.214           | 0.002   |
| F32  | Depressive episode                                                   | F      | 1629.451         | <0.001  | WbAO      | 146.089          | <0.001  |
| F33  | Recurrent depressive disorder                                        | F      | 789.744          | <0.001  | WbAo      | 183.675          | <0.001  |
| F34  | Persistent mood [affective] disorders                                 | F      | 91.788           | <0.001  | WbAo      | 58.520           | <0.001  |
| F38  | Other mood [affective] disorders                                     | F      | 68.813           | <0.001  | WbAo      | 5.644            | 0.146   |
| F39  | Unspecified mood [affective] disorder                                | F      | 68.120           | <0.001  | WbAo      | 11.804           | 0.010   |
| F40  | Phobic anxiety disorders                                             | F      | 57.481           | <0.001  | WbAo      | 119.419          | <0.001  |
| F41  | Other anxiety disorders                                              | F      | 357.590          | <0.001  | WbAo      | 528.133          | <0.001  |
| F42  | Obsessive-compulsive disorder                                        | -      | 0.006            | 0.956   | WbAO      | 399.400          | <0.001  |
| F43  | Reaction to severe stress, adjustment disorders                      | F      | 236.409          | <0.001  | WbAO      | 600.891          | <0.001  |
| F44  | Dissociative [conversion] disorders                                  | F      | 233.983          | <0.001  | WbAo      | 49.464           | <0.001  |
| F45  | Somatoform disorders                                                 | F      | 118.929          | <0.001  | WbAo      | 67.779           | <0.001  |
| F48  | Other neurotic disorders                                             | F      | 227.153          | <0.001  | WbAo      | 246.767          | <0.001  |
| F50  | Eating disorders                                                     | F      | 3549.500         | <0.001  | WbAo      | 763.240          | <0.001  |
| F52  | Sexual dysfunction, not caused by organic dis.                        | M      | 254.526          | <0.001  | Wb Ao     | 32.379           | <0.001  |
| F60  | Specific personality disorders                                       | F      | 240.954          | <0.001  | WbAo      | 187.197          | <0.001  |
| F61  | Mixed and other personality disorders                                | M      | 24.641           | <0.001  | WbAo      | 25.092           | <0.001  |
| F64  | Gender identity disorders                                            | M      | 20.180           | <0.001  | wbaO      | 61.176           | <0.001  |
| F70  | Mild mental retardation                                              | M      | 108.092          | <0.001  | wbaO      | 38.853           | <0.001  |

(Continued)
Diagnoses of schizophrenia, schizotypal, delusional disorders and manic episodes were recorded more frequently for patients of black and Asian ethnicities compared to those of white and other ethnicities. Patients of black ethnicity were more likely to have a record of problems related to childhood, upbringing, social environment and psychosocial circumstances (Z60s codes), while patients of other (mixed) ethnicities were more likely to have received diagnoses of gender identity disorders, mixed and other personality disorders, and intentional self-harm. Substance use disorders involving alcohol, opioids and sedatives/hypnotics were more common among patients of white ethnicities, those involving cannabinoids were more common in black groups, and cocaine-related disorders were more common in both black and white ethnicities compared to other groups.

Table 3. (Continued)

| Code | Name                                                                 | Gender | Ethnicity |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----------|
|      |                                                                     | M, F,- | Chi-Square (1 df) | q-value | w,b,a, o,- | Chi-Square (3 df) | q-value |
| F71  | Moderate mental retardation                                         | M 77.455 | <0.001 | wBao | 64.696 | <0.001 |
| F72  | Severe mental retardation                                           | M 100.200 | <0.001 | wBao | 145.710 | <0.001 |
| F78  | Other mental retardation                                            | M 19.417 | <0.001 | wBao | 26.483 | <0.001 |
| F79  | Unspecified mental retardation                                      | M 13.641 | <0.001 | wBao | 69.221 | <0.001 |
| F80  | Specific development dis of speech and language                     | M 261.996 | <0.001 | wBao | 175.098 | <0.001 |
| F81  | Specific developmental dis of scholastic skills                     | M 159.399 | <0.001 | wBao | 14.130 | 0.004 |
| F82  | Specific developmental disorder of motor function                   | M 56.457 | <0.001 | - | 3.061 | 0.382 |
| F83  | Mixed specific developmental disorders                               | M 26.674 | <0.001 | wBao | 33.551 | <0.001 |
| F84  | Pervasive developmental disorders                                   | M 2354.041 | <0.001 | wBao | 48.657 | <0.001 |
| F89  | Unspecified dis of psychological development                        | M 25.135 | <0.001 | wBao | 51.500 | <0.001 |
| F90  | Hyperkinetic disorders                                              | M 2292.562 | <0.001 | wBao | 186.085 | <0.001 |
| F91  | Conduct disorders                                                   | M 581.926 | <0.001 | wBao | 264.079 | <0.001 |
| F92  | Mixed disorders of conduct and emotions                              | M 130.335 | <0.001 | wBao | 491.193 | <0.001 |
| F93  | Emotional dis with onset specific to childhood                       | F 22.375 | <0.001 | wBao | 210.708 | <0.001 |
| F94  | Disorders of social functioning with onset specific to childhood and adolescence | M 14.295 | <0.001 | wBao | 42.653 | <0.001 |
| F95  | Tic disorders                                                       | M 100.754 | <0.001 | wBao | 28.918 | <0.001 |
| F98  | Other behavioural and emotional dis with onset usually occurring in childhood and adolescence | M 67.050 | <0.001 | wBao | 327.208 | <0.001 |
| G20  | Parkinson disease                                                   | M 22.851 | <0.001 | wBao | 37.211 | <0.001 |
| R53  | Malaise and fatigue                                                 | F 215.564 | <0.001 | wBao | 208.310 | <0.001 |
| S06  | Intracranial injury                                                 | M | <0.001 | - | 3.726 | 0.309 |
| X60  | Intentional self-poisoning by nonopioid analgesics, antipyretics and antirheumatics | F 146.905 | <0.001 | wBao | 20.379 | <0.001 |
| X78  | Intentional self-harm by sharp object                               | F 203.422 | <0.001 | wBao | 15.016 | 0.002 |
| Z59  | Problems related to housing and economic circumstances              | M 17.404 | <0.001 | - | 10.383 | 0.019 |
| Z61  | Problems related to negative life events in childhood               | - 3.310 | 0.090 | wBao | 85.581 | <0.001 |
| Z62  | Other problems related to upbringing                               | - 2.969 | 0.109 | wBao | 27.235 | <0.001 |
| Z63  | Other problems related to primary support group, incl. family circumstances | - 3.777 | 0.069 | wBao | 33.757 | <0.001 |
| Z64  | Problems rel. to certain psychosocial circumstances                | - 0.022 | 0.907 | wBao | 16.985 | 0.001 |
| Z65  | Problems rel. to other psychosocial circumstances                   | - 0.492 | 0.553 | wBao | 17.501 | <0.001 |
| Z72  | Problems related to lifestyle; (mostly Z72.2 drug use, Z72.1 alcohol use) | M 543.598 | <0.001 | wBao | 104.018 | <0.001 |

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0171526.t003
Discussion

South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM) is one of the largest mental health providers in Europe serving a geographic catchment of over 1.2 million residents in four south London boroughs: Croydon, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark. In this paper, we analysed over 500,000 diagnoses recorded before June 2015 in the SLaM database for a population of approximately 200,000 patients who have been referred to SLaM with mental disorders.

According to our analysis, the largest group of patients (22.4%) did not have any defined diagnosis recorded, but were assigned with non-specific diagnosis codes (F99 and/or Z71.1) only. One factor contributing to this finding is the pressure on mental health services to have a diagnosis recorded on all people receiving care. This means that non-specific codes tend to get applied initially, during the period when patients are being assessed and before a specific diagnosis is concluded, which may represent a high proportion of patients’ time with the service. During the assessment phase, some patients may drop out and never receive a diagnosis; others may be not found to have a defined disorder. When a specific diagnosis is established, a treatment plan can be initiated and the patient can be discharged back to their primary care doctor (GP) with instructions. In such cases, there is a risk of clinicians making a diagnosis but not altering the diagnosis code in the database. One way around this administrative issue, is to perform text mining over unstructured clinicians’ notes to extract specific diagnoses, something we plan to do in the future. Text mining can also be useful to address the issue of many diagnosis codes not identifying meaningful patient groups (we established only 53 diagnoses, 5.4% of all, that are applied to groups of more than 1000 patients) and in cases when healthcare specialties find that most of the patients they see do not have one of the diagnoses determining the specialty (i.e., have ‘medically unexplained symptoms’).

In addition to the cases discussed above, many people with mental disorders do not receive secondary mental healthcare, so the patients represented in the SLaM database are a subset of everyone with mental disorders. This means that our findings cannot be directly compared to results presented in population based surveys and the intention of the following discussion is to demonstrate how our rates of defined diagnoses relate to the true population rates reported by others. Note also that our data do not capture potential differences in pathway to care that may affect different gender and minority groups. For example, a higher prevalence in one group compared to another might be because the first group have a higher risk of the disorder, or it might be that they have the same risk but the people in the first group are more likely to access mental healthcare (and therefore appear in the SLaM database).

We established that the most common diagnoses in the considered population were (recurrent) depression (ICD10 codes F32-33; 16.4% of patients), reaction to severe stress and adjustment disorders (F43; 7.1%), mental/behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol (F10; 6.9%), and schizophrenia (F20; 5.6%). We also found a substantial number of diagnoses that are more likely to be found in patients of a certain gender or ethnicity (q-values < 0.01). For example, our results support findings from previous surveys showing autism and problems related to alcohol and drugs being more prevalent in men [25–27], while depression, anxiety and eating disorders are more likely to be experienced by women [25, 26, 28, 29].

Consistently with the Dementia UK 2007 report [33], we found that dementia in Alzheimer’s disease is more common in women, while dementia in Parkinson’s disease is more prevalent in men. Our analysis does not support the reported statistics for vascular dementia; in our service, the diagnosis was recorded more often in women than men. However, it should be noted that gender ratios for dementia vary across age groups [33]. In particular, early onset dementia is higher in men than in women aged 50–65, while late onset dementia is marginally more common in women than in men (which could be related to longer life span on average in women).
Research suggests that the gender ratio relating to occurrence of deliberate self-harm changes with age [34]. Across all age groups however, our study supports the often reported statistics that self-harm related diagnoses are more prevalent among female patients [35].

Consistent with the earlier survey of ethnic minorities [24], we found that more people of Asian background were diagnosed with depression (ICD10 codes F32 and F33) and some anxiety disorders (F41 codes) compared to the black minority group. However, we found no difference between the two groups for phobic anxiety disorders (F40 codes).

As a further insight into substance use disorders, we found that those involving alcohol, opioids and sedatives/hypnotics were more common among patients of white ethnicities, those involving cannabinoids were more common in black groups, and cocaine-related disorders were more common in both black and white ethnicities than other groups.

In our analysis we included diagnostic codes related to physical health as they were recorded in our database (see S1 and S2 Appendices). Some of these codes have q-values below 0.01 (e.g., HIV, diabetes, asthma, hypertension, diseases of liver etc.). However, one should be careful interpreting these results as information related to physical health is likely to be recorded inconsistently by a mental health service provider.

Conclusion and future work

In this paper, we reported frequencies of different diagnoses in the entire population of patients from the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (see S1 Appendix) and explored prevalence of diagnoses (recorded for at least 100 patients) in subgroups of patients stratified by gender and ethnicity (see S2 Appendix).

Unfortunately, valid dates of diagnoses and encounters with mental health services, as well as age at first time episodes are not always available in our records; significant additional work is required to allow for any temporal analysis. Once we have addressed this issue, we will look into differences in diagnosis prevalence across subgroups of patients stratified by age, as well as analyse time-series of diagnoses. We also plan to employ additional information mined from free text and other relevant linked datasets, in order, for example, to obtain a more accurate picture of physical health of patients with mental health problems.

Research on the anonymised patient records data in the Case Register of the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust can be carried out subject to a collaborative agreement which adheres to strict patient-led governance.

Supporting information

S1 Appendix. Diagnosis frequencies.
(XLSX)

S2 Appendix. Chi-square scores, p- and q-values of diagnoses tested on enrichment for gender and ethnicity.
(XLSX)

Acknowledgments

This paper represents independent research funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Biomedical Research Centre at South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust and King’s College London. The views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the NHS, the NIHR or the Department of Health.
Author Contributions

Conceptualization: YK RS TJPH RJBD.
Data curation: YK MB.
Formal analysis: YK.
Funding acquisition: TJPH RJBD.
Investigation: YK.
Methodology: YK TJPH RJBD.
Project administration: YK.
Resources: MB.
Software: YK.
Supervision: TJPH RJBD.
Validation: YK RS MB TJPH RJBD.
Visualization: YK.
Writing – original draft: YK.
Writing – review & editing: YK RS MB TJPH RJBD.

References

1. Achieving Better Access to Mental Health Services by 2020. Department of Health, 2014 [Internet]. Available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/361648/mental-health-access.pdf
2. Mental health service reform. Department of Health [Internet, last retrieved in 2016]. Available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/mental-health-service-reform
3. Andy McNicoll A. News Mental Health, May 29, 2015 [Internet]. Available from: http://www.communitycare.co.uk/2015/05/29/government-quells-fears-scraps-coalitions-mental-health-funding-pledge/
4. PM on plans for a seven-day NHS, 18 May 2015 [Internet]. Available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-on-plans-for-a-seven-day-nhs
5. The Mental Health Policy Group, How Mental Illness loses out in the NHS [report]. The Centre for Economic Performance, the London School of Economics and Political Science, June 2012. Available from: http://cep.lse.ac.uk/pubs/download/special/cepsp26.pdf
6. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Tier 4 Report. NHS England, CAMHS Tier 4 Steering Group, July 2014. Available from: http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/camhs-tier-4-rep.pdf
7. The National Mental Health, Dementia and Neurology Intelligence Network [Internet, last retrieved in 2016]. Available from: http://www.yhpho.org.uk/default.aspx?RID=191242
8. Weaks L. Improving mental health: recognising the vital role of charities, 15 May 2015 [Internet]. Available from: http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/topics/mental-health
9. Liang SF, Taweel A, Miles S, Kovalchuk Y, Spiridou A, Barratt B, et al. Semi-Automated Transformation to OWL Formatted Files as an Approach to Data Integration: A Feasibility Study Using Environmental, Disease Register and Primary Care Clinical Data. Methods of Information in Medicine. 54, 1, 2015. p. 32–40. doi: 10.3414/ME13-02-0029 PMID: 24903775
10. Ibrahim ZM, Cruz LF, Stringaris A, Goodman R, Luck M, Dobson RJ. A Multi-Agent Platform for Automating the Collection of Patient-Provided Clinical Feedback. Proceedings of the 2015 International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems; AAMAS 2015; Istanbul, Turkey; May 4–8, 2015, p. 831–839.
11. Kovalchuk Y, Chen Y, Miles S, Liang SF, Taweel, A. Provenance-aware pervasive computing in clinical applications. IEEE 9th International Conference on Wireless and Mobile Computing, Networking and Communications (WiMob); 1 Dec 2013. p. 297–302.

12. Stewart R, Soremekun M, Perera G, Broadbent M, Callard F, Denis M, et al. The South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust Biomedical Research Centre (SLAM BRC) case register: development and descriptive data. BMC psychiatry, 9:51, 2009. doi: 10.1186/1471-244X-9-51 PMID: 19674459

13. Fernandes AC, Cloete D, Broadbent MT, Hayes RD, Chang C-K, Jackson RG, et al. Development and evaluation of a de-identification procedure for a case register sourced from mental health electronic records. BMC medical informatics and decision making, 13(1):71, 2013.

14. World Health Organization. The International Classification of Diseases (ICD). World Health Organization web-site [Internet, last retrieved in 2016]. Available from: http://www.who.int/classifications/icd/en/

15. Jackson R, Ball M, Patel R, Hayes RD, Dobson R, Stewart R. TextHunter–A User Friendly Tool for Extracting Generic Concepts from Free Text in Clinical Research. Proceedings of AMIA 2014.

16. Mallah R, Iqbal E, Jackson RG, Ball M, Broadbent M, Dzahini O, Stewart R, Johnston C, Dobson RJB. Identification of adverse drug events from free text electronic patient records and Information in a Large Mental Health Case Register, PLOS ONE 10(8): e0134208; 2015. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0134208 PMID: 26273830

17. Taylor CL, Stewart R, Ogden J, Broadbent M, Pasupathy D, Howard LM. The characteristics and health needs of pregnant women with schizophrenia compared with bipolar disorder and affective psychoses. BMC Psychiatry, 15, 88; 17 Apr 2015. doi: 10.1186/s12888-015-0451-8 PMID: 25868140

18. Bogdanowicz KM, Stewart R, Broadbent M, Hatch SL, Hotopf M, Strang J et al. Double trouble: Psychiatric comorbidity and opioid addiction-All-cause and cause-specific mortality. Drug and Alcohol Dependence; 148; 1 Mar 2015. p. 85–92. doi: 10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2014.12.025 PMID: 25578253

19. Rashmi P, Wilson R, Jackson R, Ball M, Shetty H, Broadbent M, Stewart R, McGuire P, and Bhattacharyya S. Cannabis use and treatment resistance in first episode psychosis: a natural language processing study. The Lancet 385: S79; 2015.

20. Rashmi P, Shetty H, Jackson R, Broadbent M, Stewart R, Boydell J, McGuire P, and Taylor M. Delays before Diagnosis and Initiation of Treatment in Patients Presenting to Mental Health Services with Bipolar Disorder. PLOS ONE e0126530; 2015. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0126530 PMID: 25992560

21. Rashmi P, Lloyd T, Jackson R, Ball M, Shetty H, Broadbent M, et al. Mood instability is a common feature of mental health disorders and is associated with poor clinical outcomes. BMJ open; 5, 5; 22 May 2015.

22. Mental Health: Poverty, Ethnicity and Family Breakdown. The Centre for Social Justice. Interim Policy Briefing, February 2011.

23. Mental Health Foundation [Internet, last retrieved in 2016]. Available from: http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/help-information/mental-health-a-z/bme-communities/

24. Rehman H and Owen D. Mental Health Survey of ethnic minorities, research report. Ethnos Research and Consultancy and University of Warwick, October 2013.

25. The Office for National Statistics Psychiatric Morbidity report, 2001.

26. Better or Worse: A Longitudinal Study Of The Mental Health Of Adults In Great Britain, National Statistics, 2003.

27. Brugha T, Cooper SA, McManus S, Purdon S, Smith J, Scott FJ, Spiers N, Tyrer F. Estimating the Prevalence of Autism Spectrum Conditions in Adults: Extending the 2007 Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey. The Information Centre for Health and Social Care, January 2012.

28. The Information Centre for Health and Social Care. Eating disorders: Hospital admissions up by 8 per cent in a year. News archive, January 30, 2014. Available from: http://www.hscic.gov.uk/article/3880/Eating-disorders-Hospital-admissions-up-by-8-per-cent-in-a-year

29. Priory Group [Internet, last retrieved in 2016]. Available from: http://www.priorygroup.com/eating-disorders/statistics

30. Attitudes to mental illness, NHS Information Centre, 2011.

31. Benjamin Y, Hochberg Y. Controlling the false discovery rate: a practical and powerful approach to multiple testing. J R Stat Soc Series B Stat Methodol 57: 289–300; 1995.

32. Office for National Statistics, 2011 Census. Available from: https://data.gov.uk/dataset/2011_census

33. Alzheimer’s Society. Dementia UK 2007 report materials: A report into the prevalence and cost of dementia. Available from: https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/site/scripts/download_info.php?fileID=2

34. Hawton K, Harriss L. The changing gender ratio in occurrence of deliberate self-harm across the life-cycle. Crisis; 2008; 29(1):4–10. doi: 10.1027/0227-5910.29.1.4 PMID: 18389640
35. The Information Centre for Health and Social Care datasheet. Available from: http://www.hscic.gov.uk/media/14858/Self-HarmAreaTeamagegender2011-2014/xls/SelfHarm_AreaTeam_age_gender_2011-2014.xlsx.