



Access to Social Services by Older People in Doncaster

Aims

Doncaster MBC and Doncaster PCT, using neighbourhood renewal funding, commissioned Mayhew Associates (MA) to undertake a detailed assessment of population and deprivation in Doncaster. Based on administrative data sources, MA *nkm techniques* were used to estimate the Doncaster population. The resulting database was used to study the relationship between patients aged 65 and over and their use of Social Services. Combining information from the 'RAP' database and hospital admissions, we analysed factors such as hospital admissions, housing tenure, age and whether a person lived alone to see if they were good predictors of people likely to be known to social services. Such information could be a valuable check on whether social services was meeting needs in the most critical groups.

What we did

In partnership with the PCT and local authority, we obtained and linked data from each agency to the Local Property Gazetteer. We then risk assessed all current residents aged 65 and over using the following risk factors: receiving RAP services from Social Services, aged 75 and over, admitted to hospital in previous 12 months, living alone and in local authority housing (see table). We analysed all current Doncaster residents aged 65 and over and hospital admissions made between December 2005 and December 2006.

Row	number in category	age 75+	admitted to hospital in last 12 months	living alone	living in local authority housing	% known to social services	lower confidence limit	upper confidence limit
1	477	Y	Y	Y	Y	44.7	40.1	49.2
2	706	Y	Y	Y		34.6	31.1	38.2
3	267	Y	Y		Y	33.7	28.1	39.7
4	3345	Y		Y	Y	32.0	30.4	33.6
5	172		Y	Y	Y	29.7	22.9	37.1
6	240		Y		Y	27.5	22.0	33.6
7	1126	Y	Y			26.5	23.9	29.1
8	5583	Y		Y		20.8	19.8	21.9
9	1902	Y			Y	20.8	19.0	22.7
10	361		Y	Y		19.4	15.4	23.9
11	9136	Y				18.7	17.9	19.5
12	1584			Y	Y	14.6	12.9	16.5
13	1390		Y			13.1	11.4	15.0
14	2269				Y	11.0	9.8	12.4
15	3792			Y		6.6	5.8	7.4
16	15639					4.9	4.5	5.2
total	47989	22542	4739	16020	10256	14.7	14.4	15.0

Risk factor segmentation of Doncaster population aged 65 and over and receiving Social services

Results

Our logistic regression model showed that each of the factors was significant and tended to increase the odds of receiving (RAP) services from social services. Age over 75 was the most important factor, increasing the odds by 3.3 times. Admission to hospital during the previous 12 months increases the odds by 2.1 times. Living in local authority housing increases the odds by 1.7 times and living alone increases the odds 1.3 times. Further, geographical, analysis will show if the provision of services matches local need.

Tailoring services to local needs