Cohort profile: Working age adults accessing secondary mental healthcare services in South London (UK) and benefits – A data linkage of electronic mental healthcare records and benefits data

Ava Phillips¹, Ray Leal¹, Sarah Dorrington¹, Matthew Hotopf¹, Matthew Broadbent², Amelia Jewell², Johnny Downs¹, and Sharon Stevelink¹

¹King’s College London, London, United Kingdom
²NIHR Maudsley Biomedical Research Centre, London, United Kingdom

Objectives

To present an overview of a cohort of working age adults accessing secondary mental healthcare services and benefits related to unemployment, sickness, disability, or income support and describe the different benefit types received across diagnostic and sociodemographic groups.

Methods


Results

We identified n=150,348 patients of working age (18-65 years), who had attended SLaM secondary mental health care services, 78.3% of which had received a benefit relating to unemployment, sickness, disability, or income support. Of this group, 68% had a recorded primary psychiatric diagnosis. We found that a much higher percentage of those with a primary psychiatric diagnosis received more than one benefit (69.4%) compared to those who had not received a primary psychiatric diagnosis (30.6%).

Conclusion

We showed types of benefits received among working age adults accessing secondary mental health care services. This cohort will be further examined to explore trajectories of mental health care and benefit receipt and provide evidence that will help to inform both DWP policies and mental health care delivery.