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Unravelling the Complexity of Homelessness: Investigating Reasons and Risk Factors for Chronic Homelessness

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Objectives

Homelessness is a complex and pressing issue affecting individuals and communities worldwide, including Northern Ireland. Understanding its root causes and associated risk factors is crucial for effective interventions. This study aims to identify primary contributors to homelessness and explore risk factors linked to chronic homelessness in Northern Ireland.

Methods

Utilising a cross sectional cohort study we used multiple datasets within SAIL; General Practice, Inpatient, Outpatient and Office of National Statistics to develop our case finding algorithm based on the coding nomenclatures and timing within these datasets. The results of this algorithm were then tested against two patient data sets: The UK MS Register (n=836), consisting of mostly self confirmed disease and a clinical cohort from South West Wales (n=713).

Results

Through our comprehensive analysis of using linked administrative datasets, we anticipate unveiling significant insights into the prevalence and persistence of chronic homelessness in Northern Ireland. By employing descriptive analyses, we will uncover nuanced patterns and trends, shedding light on the multifaceted dynamics of homelessness within the region. Moreover, our examination aims to identify key factors contributing to the persistence of chronic homelessness, providing crucial insights for developing targeted interventions and support systems. The outcomes of this analysis will not only contribute to a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding homelessness but also serve as a foundation for evidence-based policymaking and community initiatives aimed at alleviating homelessness in Northern Ireland.

Conclusion

This study has the potential to increase our understanding about the characteristics, needs and outcomes of the homeless population in Northern Ireland. It is possible that the results may contribute to facilitating further cross-departmental integration and commitment to addressing vulnerable homeless households with complex needs.

