Admission to care homes for older people
A data linkage study of factors associated with entry to care

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The changing population

• Life expectancy has steadily increased
• Young people today can expect to live longer than ever before
• Greater numbers will live into very old age
  • BUT......Age isn’t everything!
• Greater proportion of childless people
• Change in living arrangements
  • Smaller families
  • Two generation households, extended family less common
• Economic upturns & downturns
• Cumulative experience of inequality and poverty
Future population health

- Social situation today  Health situation tomorrow
- Information about care home utilisation can
  - Give insight into the causes of current patterns
  - Provide clues as to ‘what works’
  - Forecast the direction of travel for social causes

- Health research as part of the toolkit for crafting policy
NILS linkages

Health Card Registration
Change of address - every six months
General registrar’s office
Deaths – at regular intervals
2001 Census forms
Age, sex, health, house tenure, living arrangements
Co-resident age, health
Additional linkages

Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority
Residential & Nursing homes
Land & Property Services
Rateable value of houses

Geo-referencing

Health & Social Care Trust Boundaries
Multiple Deprivation Measures
Delineation of Settlements
Settlements
LPS
Census Household

Urban/Rural
House value
Living arrangement

Census 2001

Health Card Register

Death records

Change of address 2007

Care home addresses

RQIA
The study cohort

All NILS members 65 + years not in care
51,619 individuals
Six year follow up from Census day
2,138 (4%) admitted

Cox proportional hazard regression
Time to admission as outcome
Right censored at time of death or end of 6 years
Several risk factors considered

All research carried out in a “secure setting”
Living arrangements

The importance of living with others versus living alone

Specific issues:
- Living with family versus non-family?
- One person, more than one person, many people?

Broader question – what sort of households provide support?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lives alone:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never married</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widowed</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separated</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lives with:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner &amp; Children</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner &amp; others</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siblings</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Housing tenure and value

Wealth = health

Wealth = greater purchasing power?

Wealth = more unpaid care?
Self reported health by house tenure and value

- Renting
- £75k or less
- £75k to £95k
- £95k to £120k
- £120k to £160k
- £160k or more

- Fairly/Not good health (% of group)
- LLTI (% of group)
Urban and rural areas

Different lifestyle and health experience

Difference in family support

Difference in community support
General Health by Area Type

- **Urban**
  - Not good: 20%
  - Fair: 60%
  - Good: 20%

- **Intermediate**
  - Not good: 20%
  - Fair: 60%
  - Good: 20%

- **Rural**
  - Not good: 20%
  - Fair: 60%
  - Good: 20%
Percentage in each living arrangement by area type

- Urban
- Intermediate
- Rural

Living arrangements:
- Unmarried
- Widowed
- Separated/Divorced
- Alone: Married
- Partner
- Partner & children
- Partner & others
- Siblings
- Children
- Others
Relative risk of admission

- Urban
- Intermediate
- Rural
- Urban
- Intermediate
- Rural
- Urban
- Intermediate
- Rural

Full: Males
Males
Females

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Findings & Implications

Living arrangements
Variation in support in the home more important than levels of support outside the home
Spouses more supportive than siblings
Living with children and spouse particularly supportive

Current trends in family structure suggests less supportive environments for future generations
Increase formal services or change household structures
Findings & Implications

House ownership and value
“We won’t pay with our homes”
Greater caring burden for less affluent groups, knock on consequences for carers’ employment and health
Financial crises - fewer deprived people (more often in poor health) will own their homes
Future house values may not recoup care costs

Funding sources other than housing:
will be popular
may well be necessary
Findings & Implications

Urban and rural areas
Different levels of health, different service needs
More supportive household structures in rural areas
  Different family cultures?
  More space in rural houses?
Less care home admission in rural areas
  Demand induced supply?
  Moves closer to home?
  Different deployment of formal home care?
Can the rural experience be copied in urban areas?
Thank you for listening

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