Health and Care of People with Learning Disabilities: 2017-18

Information on people with and without learning disabilities was collected from around half of GP practices in England between 2014-15 and 2017-18, to identify potential differences in treatment, health status, and outcomes of people with learning disabilities compared with the rest of the population.

47 per cent of patients registered in England were included in this publication, a decrease since 2014-15 (52 per cent).

Proportion of the general population with a diagnosed learning disability, by age and gender, 2017-18

There were no statistically significant changes in life expectancy at birth for patients with learning disabilities between 2014-15 and 2017-18.

Females with a learning disability had a life expectancy 18 years lower than females who did not have a learning disability (65 years compared to 83 years) in 2017-18.

Males with a learning disability had a life expectancy 14 years lower than males who did not have a learning disability (66 years compared to 80 years) in 2017-18.

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Health Promotion: Health Checks, BMI and Seasonal Influenza Immunisations

In 2017-18 there was a larger proportion of patients with a learning disability classified as obese (37.5 per cent) than those without a learning disability (29.9 per cent).

There was also a higher proportion of people with learning disabilities underweight (6.4 per cent) than those without a learning disability (4.9 per cent).

The proportion of people with learning disabilities receiving BMI checks increased to 61.5 per cent in 2017-18, from 58.3 per cent in 2014-15.

44.6 per cent of people with learning disabilities received a seasonal influenza immunisation in 2017-18, an increase from 40.8 per cent in 2014-15.

55.1 per cent of patients with a learning disability received an annual learning disability health check in 2017-18, an increase from 43.2 per cent in 2014-15.

51.2 per cent of females with a learning disability received a seasonal flu immunisation in 2017-18 which is a higher proportion than for males with a learning disability (40.7 per cent).

83.2 per cent of patients with a learning disability aged over 75 received a seasonal flu immunisation in 2017-18.
Health and Care of People with Learning Disabilities: 2017-18

Health Care: Palliative Care, Cancer Screening and Condition Prevalence

Proportion of patients with and without a learning disability receiving palliative care, 2014-15 to 2017-18

There was an increase in the proportion of patients with learning disabilities receiving palliative care from 0.5 per cent in 2014-15 to 0.8 per cent in 2017-18.

Proportion of patients with and without a learning disability receiving palliative care by age, 2017-18

There were more patients with learning disabilities receiving palliative care than patients without learning disabilities at all age bands.

Proportion of patients with and without a learning disability who have had cancer screening by type, 2017-18

In 2017-18, patients with learning disabilities had lower rates of cancer screening than patients without a learning disability.

The difference was most pronounced in cervical screening, with 31.2 per cent of patients with learning disabilities having a cervical screening compared to 73.2 per cent of those without a learning disability.

52.5 per cent of patients with learning disabilities received a breast cancer screening, compared to 68.0 per cent of those without a learning disability.

Although there was an increase in those patients with learning disabilities receiving colorectal cancer screening (from 68.6 per cent in 2014-15 to 77.8 in 2017-18), the rate was still significantly lower for those patients with learning disabilities (77.8 per cent) than those without (83.7 per cent).

The confidence intervals displayed in this publication show the range in which there can be 95 per cent confidence that the true mean of the population lies within the upper and lower limit. Where the confidence intervals for each year do not overlap the difference in the coverage between the two periods is considered statistically significant.

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