Mortality Rates of Dementia and Associated Factors in Northern Ireland

Alan McMichael, Evi Zafeiridi, Bernadette McGuinness
Queen’s University, Belfast, United Kingdom

Background: Dementia is a term used to describe a broad group of conditions that affect the brain and causes a progressive cognitive decline in the ability to think, learn and remember. Understanding mortality rates (incidence of death) in dementia is essential for resource planning, public and economic policy and could provide valuable information to the individual with dementia, their carers and their medical team. Numerous factors such as male gender, living alone and in residential care and an increased number of medications have been shown to significantly increase mortality rates. However, we know very little about the mortality rates associated with dementia in Northern Ireland.

Methods: Using data from the Honest Broker Service, which holds information on approximately 13,000 people with dementia in Northern Ireland we aim to assess whether demographic characteristics such as gender, living alone, living in residential care and number of medications influence mortality rates.

Results: By conducting a retrospective analysis on national datasets we aim to identify several demographic characteristics which influence mortality rates in dementia.

Conclusion: These results have the potential to improve dementia services and provide valuable information to clinicians and the carers of people with dementia.