

CAF/17/11 - Morbidity and Mortality among people experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage: a cohort study using cross-sectoral data linkage

People affected by homelessness, imprisonment, drug addiction or severe mental illness tend to have very poor health, and are at high risk of dying early. Despite increasing evidence that these experiences are often closely linked, most previous research has looked at each in isolation. As a result, we know very little about how the combination of these factors – known as ‘severe and multiple disadvantage’ (SMD) affects health.

This study will investigate the health of people with SMD by bringing together existing databases from health, social care, and prison services in a secure and confidential way. It will provide the first comprehensive picture of what conditions cause ill-health and death with people with SMD, addressing key research priorities identified by the affected population, policymakers and healthcare professionals. Using these results, we can improve the services provided for this vulnerable population and provide tailored interventions to better meet their needs.