

HIPS/24/56 - Understanding Patterns Of Health And Social Care Use In Scotland: Epidemiological And Health Economic Analyses Of Linked Social Care And Health Data

Scotland's social and health care systems face severe strain, with many people not getting the care they need. A key issue is the lack of integrated data, which hinders a unified approach to understanding the changing health needs of social care users over time. We will combine several sources of social care and health data and develop methods for analysing them.

This allows us to answer questions like:

- 1) How often are different types of social care used by patients with different health conditions? How does this vary by age, sex, socioeconomic circumstances and geography?
- 2) Can social care data help predict who is admitted to hospital?
- 3) What are the health and social care costs of different health conditions?

Our study will enhance social care data utilisation, enabling equitable and effective social and health care planning in Scotland, while shaping a forward-looking research agenda for social and health care.