Healthy Ageing in Scotland (HAGIS)

David Bell & Elaine Douglas

Overview

1. Updates

2. Current & Future Plans

HAGIS Covid Fear Study: Dec 2020 – Nov 2022

- Development of COVID-19 Fear Instrument
- Mixed-methods Survey (online/telephone/postal)

Access to Data

- UK Data Service
- Harmonized data to be uploaded to Gateway to Global Aging Data Enclave

British & Irish Longitudinal Studies (BILS) Conference hosted by HAGIS in Nov 2022

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Health Concerns and Service Engagement in Older Adults in Scotland

On 28 June 2022, the Scottish Parliament passed the Coronavirus (Recovery and Reform) (Scotland) Act 2022 to help Scotland recover from the pandemic and ensure greater resilience against future public health threats. The Act supports the Scottish Government's Covid Recovery Strategy and the updated Covid Strategic Framework, which reflect a shift in emphasis away from legislation and towards people and organisations, as Scotland looks towards broader aspects of recovery.

By informing policymakers and practitioners of our findings from the Healthy Ageing in Scotland (HAGIS) study, we can support Scotland in its recovery from the pandemic. Our research contrasts older people's concerns relating to access to health services and a range of other public settings.

As the National Health Service and other public services work to address a backlog caused by the impacts of pandemic, our findings have implications for health service confidence that older people will attend appointments when invited and are not put off by fears of contracting COVID-19.

Key findings

- Older people still worry most about dementia (29%) and cancer (30%) above other health conditions, including COVID-19 (5%).
- How often people worry about cancer may have increased from pre- to post-COVID-19 (based on English pre-Covid data): in 2016, 5% of survey respondents worried often or very often about getting cancer compared to our finding of 13%.
- Older people living in Scotland are concerned about being able to access GP and NHS services: 33% reflected they were very/extremely worried about access during the pandemic and 23% remain so when considering the year ahead.
- Worry about catching COVID-19 did not prevent older adults from attempting to engage with health services during the pandemic. Access to health services was largely considered to be due to service provider issues, such as cancelled or rescheduled appointments, or no availability of appointments.
- Individual level concerns over COVID-19 were not indicated as a common reason for cancelled appointments:
  - Only 4% of those who experienced cancellations and delays from health services indicated this was a result of their own fear of getting COVID-19.
  - 55% were 'not worried at all' about physically going into a
- Older people living in Scotland are confident that they will be attending their GP or another healthcare setting such as their Figure A).
  - 63-78% are 'completely' or 'fairly' confident of being safe surgery with only 2-6% 'not confident at all'.
  - However, 23-28% are 'not confident at all' attending a cro

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HAGIS Wave I & HCAP

Administrative Data

- Screen sample with NHS Central Register to include households with at least one person aged 50+
- Optimises fieldwork
- Enables analyses of non-response to include individual-level characteristics (e.g. age, area, health conditions)

Linkage to surveys

- Secondary care: hospital stay, in-patients, day cases
- Prescriptions
- 2022 Census
- Primary Care: GP Data
- Labs/Testing

Scottish Population
Aged 50+

Screened Sample
Aged 50+

Participants
Aged 50+
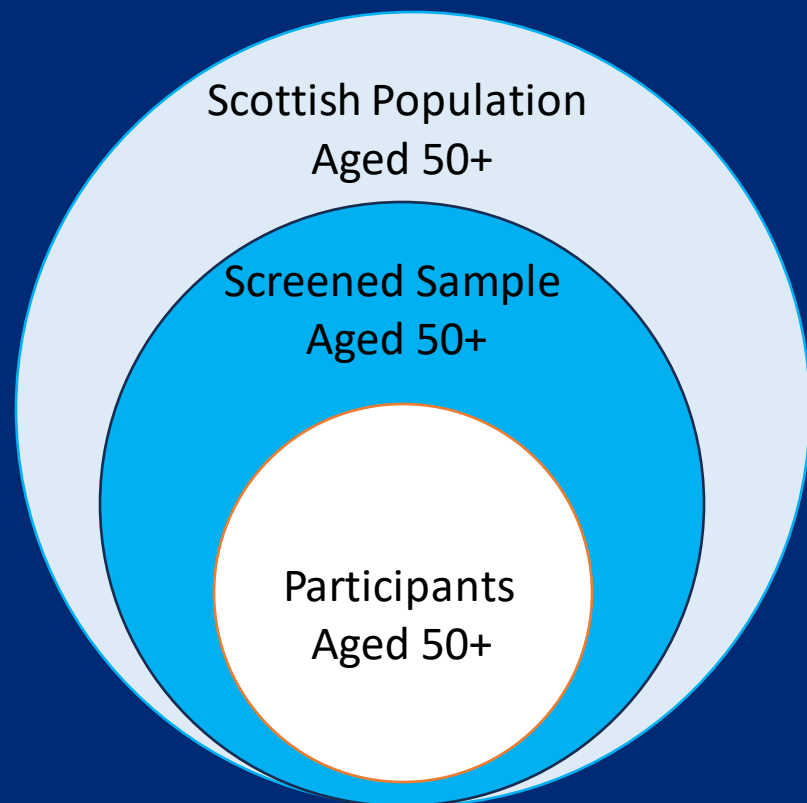
Environmental Data in Scotland

- PM2.5 (Fine Particle Matter) from different emission sources: Source SEPA)

- Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2): Source SEPA

- Ozone (O3): Source SEPA

- Extreme Temperatures: Met Office

- Access to natural spaces (green and blue space)

- Features of infrastructure

- SEPA's role in air quality | Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

- UK climate maps and data - Met Office

Mapping Scotland's Environment

Scotland's environment
Gateway to everything you need to know about Scotland's environment

HAGIS
Healthy Ageing In Scotland

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Thank You for Listening

David Bell: d.n.f.bell@stir.ac.uk
Elaine Douglas: elaine.douglas@stir.ac.uk