# Predicting development and psychological treatment of common mental disorders in older adults

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Ageing population

**Population** 

Increased life

Increased

health care

use of

system

carers

expectancy

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Common mental disorders (CMD) in older adults Societal impact

Comorbidity & increased mortality Coronary heart



disease Cognitive decline & increased risk for dementia

Increased risk for suicide

(1, 2)

### Background

**Development of CMD** 

- \* Meta analyses of prospective studies into risk factors for CMD (3, 4), with limitations:
  - Short follow up (≤ 8 years years)
  - Age at baseline ≥ 50 years
  - No analyses on simultaneous presence of risk factors and possible cumulative or interacting effects.
- \* There may be other risk factors not studied before.

#### Psychological treatment for CMD

- \* Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT), established in 2008 as new system of primary care psychological therapy services.
- \* Historically, older people were underrepresented in the IAPT services (5, 6).
- \* Older people respond well to IAPT treatment, however, only effective for half of IAPT users and worst outcomes for those aged 70 and above (5, 6).
- \* Majority of research into treatment effectiveness focused on "younger old" with limited evidence for individuals over 70 (7).

**Physical** illness

**Previous** depression

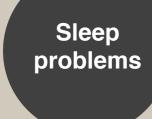
Lack of social support



**Risk factors** for CMD in older adults





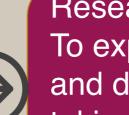


## Research aims & objectives

Aim: To investigate risk and protective factors for CMD in older adults and factors affecting engagement in and outcomes of psychological treatments

#### Research objective 1

To conduct a systematic literature review and meta analysis on predictors for development of CMD and treatment outcomes



Research objective 2 To explore risk factors and their combination and develop prediction models for CMD, taking a life-course approach in a nationally representative population based study.



Research objective 3 To investigate predictors for engagement in and outcome of treatment for IAPT service users



### Methods

#### Research objective 1 (Study 1)

Systematic literature review

Databases searched: PsycInfo, PubMed, Scopus, Web of Science

Search terms		
Common mental	Population	Treatment
disorders		
"Common mental	"Older	"Psychological therap*" OR
disorders" OR	adults" OR	"psychological treatment" IAPT OR
depress* OR	"Older	"Improving Access to psychological
dysthymi* OR MDD	people" OR	therapies" OR CBT OR "cognitive
OR "low mood" OR	elderly OR	behavioural therapy" OR "stepped
"mood disorder" OR	geriatric OR	care" OR "psychological
"affective disorder" OR	"age 65+"	intervention" OR "guided self-help"
Anxi* OR GAD OR	OR "later	OR "behavioural activation" OR
worr*OR phobia OR	life"	"group-based therapy" OR
panic OR Agoraphobia		psychotherapy OR counselling OR
OR "obsessive		EMDR OR "interpersonal therapy"
compulsive" OR OCD		OR "psychodynamic psychotherapy"
OR "social anxiety"		OR "family therapy" OR "systemic
OR "post-traumatic		therapy" OR "art therapy" OR "self-
stress" OR PTSD		help" OR "bibliotherapy"

#### Preliminary searches based on criteria above

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Database	Searched in	Results		
PsycINFO	Anywhere except full text	4,668		
PubMed	Title/Abstract	1,036		
Scopus	Title, Abstract, Keywords	9,004		
Web of Science	Topic	4,044		

Multi-level meta analysis (metafor package in R) to account for multiple effect sizes within studies and quantitively combine effect sizes from different studies.

#### Research objective 2 (Study 2)

#### Sample

MRC National Survey of Health and Development (NSHD), a prospective cohort study of 5,362 individuals born during March 1946.

#### Measurements

Dependent variable:

CMD symptom measures

Predictor variables:

- \* Psychosocial
- \* Socio-economic
- \* Behavioural \* Biomarkers
- Using a life course approach, develop prediction models for the development of CMD in later life.

### 1946: Age 0 1959-61: Age 13-15 Teacher-rated emotional symptoms 1991: Age 36 **Psychiatric Symptom** Frequency (PSE) 2000: Age 43 PSE 2008: Age 53 General Health (GHQ) 2000: Age 60-64 2000: Age 69 **GHQ**

A timeline of NSHD with CMD symptoms measures

#### Research objective 3 (Study 3 and 4)

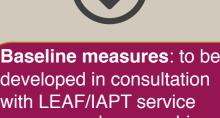
**Sample** 

Study 3: All referrals to the Health in Mind services in East Sussex between 2016 and 2019.

Study 4: IAPT service users (300+), 65 and over



**Measures** 



GAD-7 and functional status prior to treatment

Baseline measures: PHQ-9,

with LEAF/IAPT service users, e.g. demographic, psychosocial, socioeconomic factors, conducting surveys/interviews with IAPT service users



**Outcome measures:** Clinical outcomes post treatment:

- ❖ PHQ-9 change
- GAD-7 change
- Functional status (WSAS) change)

Reliable improvement, reliable deterioration. recovery rate, reliable recovery rate, service engagement levels (sessions attended, drop-out rates).

Identification of predictors of development of CMD in older and beneficial treatment outcomes

Protection and improvement of mental health in older adults and associated quality of life

## **Implications**

Reduced visits to medical and emergency services



Relieve burden on older people with CMD, their families and carers







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