



Higher than you think? Prevalence of learning disabilities amongst clients' attending Saint Mary's Sexual Assault Referral Centre

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Background

- 2% of people in the UK have a learning disability (Mencap, 2018)
- Rates of sexual assault are known to be greater in people with learning disabilities (PwLD) than those without but there is great disparity in the reported figures, this is due to inconsistencies in how:
 - o Learning disability is defined
 - o Sexual assault is defined
 - o The study population is sampled

Research Question

- What is the prevalence of learning disabilities amongst adult clients attending Saint Marys SARC for a forensic medical examination?
1. What are the demographics of clients' with learning disabilities as compared to clients without?
 2. Are there similarities/differences in the medical history of clients with learning disabilities as compared to clients without?
 3. Are there similarities/differences in the context of the sexual assault for clients with learning disabilities as compared to clients without?

Methods

All adult clients attending Saint Marys SARC over ten months (June 2017 - March 2018) completed the validated Learning Disability Screening Questionnaire (McKenzie & Paxon, 2006).

Results

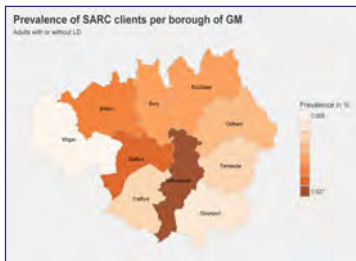
Included adult clients attending Saint Marys SARC over ten months (June 2017 - March 2018).

57 adults did not complete the LDSQ for various reasons:

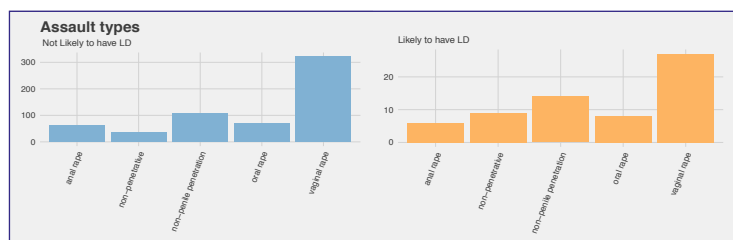
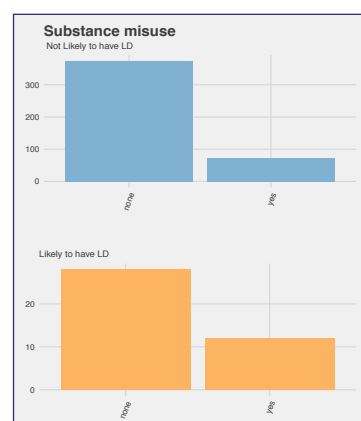
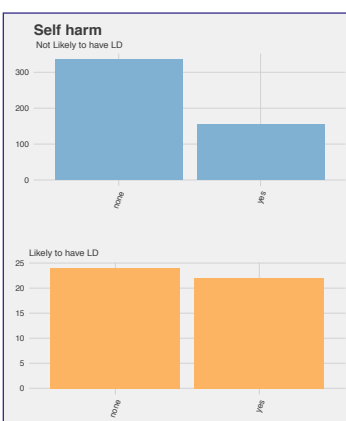
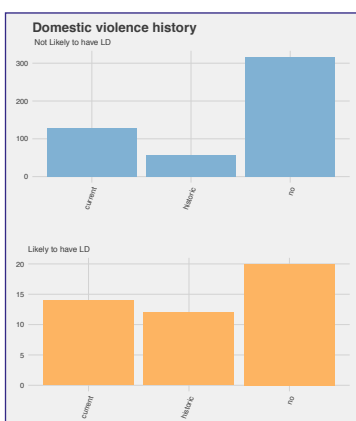
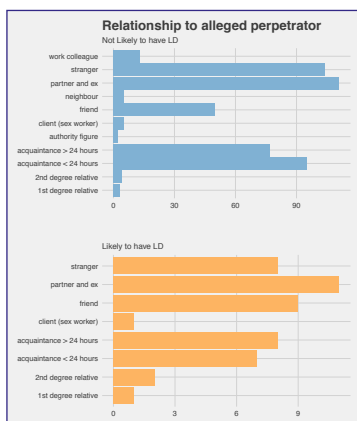
- Did not meet inclusion criteria e.g. had dementia or interpreter
- Professional judgement e.g. client too upset or tired
- Client declined

All eligible clients completed the validated Learning Disability Screening Questionnaire (McKenzie & Paxon, 2006).

That is a prevalence of 8.7% as compared to the national prevalence of 2%



Demographic characteristic	All clients		Clients without a learning disability		Clients with a learning disability		
	N=610	% of group	N=505	% of group	N=48	% of group	
Age (group)	18 - 25	327	53.7%	279	55.2%	25	52.0%
	26 - 35	176	28.5%	145	28.7%	12	25%
	36 - 55	97	15.9%	74	14.6%	10	20.8%
	55+	10	1.6%	7	1.3%	1	2.0%
Gender	Female	572	93.7%	474	93.8%	44	91.6%
	Male	38	6.2%	31	6.1%	4	8.3%
Ethnicity	White	527	86.3%	439	86.9%	44	91.6%
	British	83	13.7%	66	13.1%	4	8.3%
	Other						



Implications

This work allows:

- Definitive prevalence figure for people with learning disabilities that report acute sexual assault
- Comment on whether people with learning disabilities require tailored care that is suited to their needs