

Prevalence of learning disabilities amongst clients' attending St. Marys Sexual Assault Referral Centre: Preliminary findings

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Background

- Although it is agreed that rates of sexual assault are greater in people with learning disabilities (LD) than without, there is great disparity in the reported figures
- Previous St Mary's Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) audit found people with LD (identified by self-report) received less follow-up care

Research Question

What is the prevalence of learning disabilities amongst acute clients attending St Marys SARC for a forensic medical examination (FME)?

Sub Questions:

1. What are the demographics of clients' with LD as compared to clients without?
2. What is the comparability of the uptake of SARC follow-up services for clients with LD as compared to clients without?

Quantitative Methods

Participant Inclusion Criteria

- English speaking clients
- Aged 18 years old +
- Attended St Mary's SARC for a FME

Learning Disability Screening Questionnaire (LDSQ)

- McKenzie and Paxon, 2006
- Validated 7 item screen for likelihood of a learning disability
- Quick and simple to administer in clinical setting
- Employed since Dec 2016 (12 months for data collection)

Preliminary Findings

- LDSQ was administered with 98 adults over the first two months of study

- The current sample size is too small to run statistical tests for differences
- Descriptive statistics are reported in Table 1
- Unable to present analyses on the uptake of SARC follow-on services for PwLD compared to without, as no follow-up data currently.

Table 1: Demographics of clients identified as likely to have a learning disability (n=11)

Gender	
Male	2
Female	9
Age	
18-27	4
28-37	4
38-47	1
48-57	1
58-67	1
Region	
Greater Manchester	9
Cheshire	2
Ethnicity	
White British	11
Other	0
Number of alleged perpetrators	
1	10
2	1
3+	0
Met on social media	
Yes	0
No	11
Assault type*	
Penile vaginal	6
Penile anal	4
Penile oral	3
Sexual touching	1
Unknown	1
Referral type	
Police	11
Self	0

*Three cases where more than one assault type reported

Implications

This work will allow:

- Definitive prevalence figure for people with LD that disclose acute sexual assault.
- Comment on level of follow-up care given to PWLD as compared to those without.

Likely to have a learning disability?

