A new study has examined the relationship between the duration of untreated psychosis (DUP) and socioeconomic inequalities. DUP is broadly defined as the time between the onset of psychotic symptoms and the first treatment. It is an important measure of access to care since a longer DUP is linked to poorer outcomes. Socioeconomic factors such as unemployment, but also reduced social networks and less family involvement in the help-seeking process, may contribute to a longer DUP.

The study investigated whether the distribution of DUP for patients experiencing a first episode of psychosis in England, varied with socioeconomic factors.

Results revealed significant inequalities in DUP regarding the level of socioeconomic deprivation and unemployment. Patients living in more deprived neighbourhoods faced around a month longer DUP than patients from the least deprived neighbourhoods. Unemployment was associated with a 40 day longer DUP. The paper suggests policies to improve equitable access to care.

The graph shows the effect of deprivation (left) and unemployment (right) on DUP. It shows that the difference in DUP between more and less deprived patients increased as DUP increased.

In contrast, at any length of DUP, unemployed patients were facing a longer DUP compared to employed ones.

Further details: www.york.ac.uk/che/publications

Professor Alan Maynard, founder of CHE

We are very sorry about the recent loss of an inspirational friend and colleague, Alan Maynard who passed away on 2 February 2018. The founder of CHE, a massive influence in the national and international world of health economics and policy, and quite simply, a lovely and genuine person, he will be missed greatly by all of us.

Obituary and tributes page link www.york.ac.uk/che/publications
**War and Peace: the health and health system consequences of conflict in Colombia**

Project Team: Rodrigo Moreno-Serra, Noemi Kreif, Andrew Mirelman, Alex Rollinger, Marc Suhrcke (CHE), Oscar Bernal, German Casas, Amy Ritterbusch (Universidad de los Andes, Colombia), Nina Caspersen (Politics, University of York), Bayard Roberts (LSHTM)

The goal of the War and Peace project, a 30-month research programme funded through the Joint Health Systems Research Initiative (MRC/ESRC/DFID/Wellcome Trust) that will start this April, is to examine the impacts of long-term internal conflict for population health, the health system and post-conflict health policymaking. We will achieve this through an in-depth study of the experience of conflict and peace agreement in Colombia. Since 1958 an estimated 220,000 people have died in Colombia due to the civil conflict and more than six million (13% of the population) have been forcibly displaced. A peace accord between the largest rebel group and the government was agreed in December 2016 and has ended hostilities, creating a unique window of opportunity to conduct research of immediate policy relevance.

Through quantitative and qualitative methods, this project will provide much needed evidence on issues such as the consequences of conflict for health service organisation and delivery, as well as the post-conflict health needs of often overlooked populations including internally displaced families. Our work programme is built on comprehensive stakeholder engagement, including a partnership with the Colombian Ministry of Health. The conclusions drawn from our analyses will support evidence-based health policy recommendations for Colombia and other conflict-affected countries.

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**Scoping review on social care economic evaluation methods**

Project team: Helen Weatherly, Rita Faria, Mark Sculpher (CHE), Bernard Van den Berg (University of Groningen), Peter O’Neill, Kay Nolan (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence), Julie Glanville, Jaana Isojarvi, Erin Baragula, Mary Edwards (York Health Economics Consortium).

Methods of economic evaluations to inform decisions about health care interventions are recognised internationally. Approaches to social care economic evaluation are substantially less well developed. NICE is the first organisation worldwide to develop a methods “reference case” for the economic evaluation of social care interventions. NICE commissioned the research to review relevant methods for the economic evaluation of social care interventions, the methods challenges faced and ongoing methods research in the area.

By undertaking a systematic review of the published literature and a survey of experts, we extracted data on key requirements for economic evaluation: the perspective of the analysis, the interventions compared, the evidence used on costs and effects, opportunity cost, uncertainty, and equity. Thirty social care economic evaluations were identified and experts provided feedback on the findings. We concluded that methods guidance for the economic evaluation of social care interventions needs to reflect what is feasible given the available evidence and what is appropriate for social care. A more developed evidence base is required, and this should include undertaking primary studies where the evidence is not sufficient. Studies based on decision models and secondary evidence should be used where there is sufficient evidence available to do so.

Further details, see CHE Research Paper 150
The many faces of precision medicine

Written by Andrea Manca

Precision medicine (also referred to as personalised or person-centred medicine) is rapidly becoming one of the most debated topics on the public and private health agenda worldwide. The idea is to move away from the traditional ‘one size fits all’ approach to medicine and recognise that population health can be improved by tailoring healthcare interventions to account for those individuals’ characteristics that affect health outcomes. Factors that need be taken into account to inform clinical and health policy decisions include the disease susceptibility of an individual, their disease diagnostic and/or prognostic information, preferences, values and also information on how they are responding to treatment.

This approach to decision making in healthcare has many supporters among the industry, patients’ organisations, healthcare professionals, academics, funders and politicians. Devoting energies and resources to pursuing (and hopefully realising) the promises of precision medicine seems to be a win-win strategy for a number of stakeholders.

CHE’s contributions in this area include a number of multidisciplinary collaborative research initiatives aimed at developing and applying high quality and rigorous methods to produce research findings of national and international policy relevance.

Details about our research programme, current projects and relevant publications can be found here.

Presentations and staff news

CHE said farewell to Frances Sharp who retired at the end of December 2017 after working 32 years for CHE. Frances’s roles included Publications manager in CHE and Editorial assistant for Health Economics since it began in 1992.

Between October and February, a large number of CHE staff gave presentations or held research meetings at various national and international events. These included the launch events for two of our new global health economics research projects, held in Washington DC (Marc Suhrcke, Rodrigo Moreno-Serra, Noemi Kreif, Andrew Mirelman, Paul Revill, Alex Rollinger) and in Malawi (Paul Revill, Alex Rollinger, Martin Chalkley, Mark Sculpher). Staff gave presentations in conferences and events in a number of countries including New Mexico (Mike Drummond), Australia (Mark Sculpher), Germany (Noemi Kreif, Nils Gutacker, Anika Reichert), USA (Susan Griffin), Uganda, Kenya (Paul Revill, Simon Walker), Italy (Helen Weatherly), Japan, Lebanon (Andrew Mirelman), India (Jessica Ochalek, Karl Claxton, James Lomas, Sumit Mazumdar, Miqdad Asaria) Malaysia (Mike Drummond) Brazil (Rodrigo Moreno-Serra) as well as at many UK based events including Bristol (Adriana Castelli), London (Jemimah Ride, Ana Duarte, Susan Griffin, Anika Reichert, Noemi Kreif, Andrew Mirelman, Adriana Castelli, Hugh Gravelle, Dan Liu, Francesco Longo, Peter C Smith), Glasgow (Mark Sculpher, Marta Soares, Claire Rothery, Beth Woods, Rita Faria, Rodrigo Moreno-Serra, Marc Suhrcke), York (Idaira Rodriguez Santana, Martin Chalkley, Maria Goddard, Mark Sculpher) Nottingham (Andrea Manca) and Birmingham (Mark Sculpher).

For further details please visit our website for news events and presentations.

New funding

Locally priced services

Martin Chalkley, Rowena Jacobs, Adriana Castelli, Maria Jose Aragon, Irena Sanchez, Idaira Rodriguez Santana
Funder:NHS England via ESHCRU
01/07/2017 - 31/12 /2018
Mental health outcomes in London:
Clinical engagement with HONOS (Health of the Nation Outcomes Scales)
Rowena Jacobs, Jemimah Ride
Funder:NHS London Clinical Networks, Healthy London Partnerships
01/10/2017-31/03/2018

Does commuting affect health & well being?

Nigel Rice
Funder: ESRC
01/08/2017 -31/01/2019
Implementation of COPD case finding and self-management action plans in low and middle income countries

Andrew Mirelman, Marta Soares
Funder: MRC
19/07/2017 - 18/07/2020
Extension to economic analysis of REALITY (Reduction of EARly mortality in HIV-infected adults and children starting antiretroviral therapy)

Simon Walker, Mark Schulpfer, Paul, Revill, Ed Cox
Funder: MRC CTU
01/10/2017 -31/05/2018
Evaluation of South Africa’s excise tax on sugar-sweetened beverages

Marc Suhrcke, Andrew Mirelman
Funder: IRDC
01/11/2017 -31/12/2018
Yorkshire lung cancer screening

Mark Schulpfer, Seb Hinde
Funder: YCR
01/07/2017 - 30/06/2024
Development of a new paradigm in differentiated care for HIV patients

Paul Revill, Simon Walker
Funder: MRC
23/06/2017 - 23/10/2018
General Practitioners and Emergency Department (GPED)

Nils Gutacker, Dan Liu
Funder:NHR HS&DR
1/06/2017 - 31/05/2020

Details about our research programme, current projects and relevant publications can be found here.


These and other CHE publications here: https://www.york.ac.uk/che

Latest CHE research papers


151 Spatial competition and quality: evidence from the English family doctor market. Hugh Graavel, Dan Liu, Carol Proper, Rita Santos.

Free to download here: www.york.ac.uk/che