



Knowledge and Library Services (KLS)

Impact stories

Title: A Digest commissioned by PHE COVID-19 Response Adult Social Care Team, and produced by KLS, informed DHSC policy and guidance on the prevention and control of COVID-19 in care homes

User testimonial:

“The Digest has proved invaluable as a means to provide timely evidence from emerging research to support the work of the PHE Covid-19 Response Adult Social Care Team in providing independent expert advice to senior DHSC civil servants in relevant policy and delivery areas, CMOs Office and MS(C)”. **Martyn Regan, Deputy SRO Adult Social Care, PHE**

Challenge:

Research outputs on the impact of COVID-19 on Adult Social Care have been increasing rapidly within challenging policy and epidemiological contexts. Emerging evidence has been consistently called for, including research prior to the usual processes of peer review and evaluation (pre-prints).

Solution:

An effective and comprehensive search process involving a weekly search and screen of evidence was designed by KLS in June 2020. This was coupled with a rapid editorial process to highlight emerging evidence that may be of particular importance for national policy in response to the impact of COVID-19 on the Adult Social Care Sector and vulnerable population groups.

Peer-Reviewed Articles			
Publication date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
23.04.2014	Risky alcohol consumption in older people before and during the COVID-19 pandemic in the United Kingdom	Journal of Substance Use / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT) was used to identify risky drinking in people aged between 55 and 74, in a sample of 366 people. One hundred and eighty-five people were referred before and one hundred and eighty-one people after lockdown in the UK. Compared with before lockdown, it was more likely for older people referred after lockdown to be female, have less severe cognitive impairment, and to show other features of alcohol-related harm such as morning drinking and feeling guilt or remorse over their drinking. These findings have implications for both access to services and service provision in community-dwelling older people who experience restrictions on their independence during a pandemic.
20.04.2021	Maximizing Efficiency of Telemedicine in the Skilled Nursing Facility During the Covid-19 Pandemic	Journal of the American Medical Directors Association / study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telemedicine has rapidly become a significant component of healthcare during the coronavirus 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic, and is particularly beneficial in delivering care to vulnerable populations in skilled nursing facilities (SNFs). To limit Covid-19 exposure, our team developed a quality improvement (QI) project to identify common telemedicine-related disruptions and their solutions, and created a streamlined protocol to maximize the efficiency of virtual rounding in the SNF.
20.04.2021	Variation in Care of Community and Nursing Home Residents Who Died of COVID-19 in Ontario, Canada	Journal of the American Medical Directors Association / study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We found that only a small portion of Ontario nursing home residents who died of COVID-19 were hospitalized prior to death (24%), and that there were substantial temporal variations, with hospitalizations reaching their lowest point in March-April 2020 (16%) which coincided with the peak of the 1st wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in the province. This is the first work that we are aware of to systematically document

Impact:

The PHE KLS Weekly Care Homes Evidence Digest has proved highly effective in helping the PHE Adult Social Care Team inform national policy e.g. the [DHSC Adult Care Winter Plan](#) and the [Report of the DHSC Adult Social Care Task Force](#). All editions of the Care Homes Digest are available on the KLS webpage [here](#).

Success factors:

It has proved helpful to have consistent input from an expert KLS review team in producing the Digest and a consistent approach from a small editorial team to regularly publish the Digest each week on time.

Lessons:

Reflect upon the success factors to maintain and build upon the highly positive impacts of the Digest.

Contact:

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