



Policy Research Unit in Health and
Social Care Systems and Commissioning

**Measuring unmet health care needs among the aged population with long-term health conditions in England:
A comparison of results from GP Practice Survey data and English Longitudinal Study of Ageing data**

Presented by:

Paul Boadu(Paul.Boadu@lshtm.ac.uk)

On behalf of the research team:

Paul Boadu, Shereen Hussein - Faculty of Public Health and Policy, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK

Yiu-Shing Lau, Matt Sutton - Health Organisation, Policy and Economics, University of Manchester, UK

Gintare Malisauskaite - Personal Social Services Research Unit, University of Kent, UK

Nadia Brookes - Centre for Health Services Studies, University of Kent, UK

6th July 2023 @ The HSR UK Conference



Funding acknowledgement and disclaimer

This research is funded by the Department of Health and Social Care via the Policy Research Programme. The views expressed are those of the researchers and not necessarily those of the Department of Health and Social Care.

Background and objective



- Prevalence of one or more long-term conditions increases with age (AgeUK, 2019)
- As in most developed countries, demographic change in England is in favour of ageing population (National Statistics, 2016)
- Suggesting the possibility of increase in the number of people living with complex care needs in the future
- Delay in accessing health care services could reduce the expected health benefits (Lau, Harrison and Sutton, 2020)
- Urgent need to design health care interventions to meet the current and future health and social care needs of ageing population.
- Both supply side – to ensure availability and access to care; and demand side – assisting the aged to realise their health conditions, aware of available care and support systems, and how to utilize them

Thus, insight into the level and distribution of unmet care needs of older adults is important to both general practitioners and policy makers.

Two main assessment approaches are used: Geriatric and patient oriented assessment (Hoogendijk et al, 2013; Stuck and Iliffe, 2011; Epstien and Street, 2011)

Objective:

To explore available national survey data to measure unmet health and social care needs among the population aged over 54 years in England with long term health conditions



Data: GP Patient Survey data (2018) – (n= 409,118), &
English Longitudinal Study of Ageing Data(Wave 8)(2018/2019) – (n=7,922)

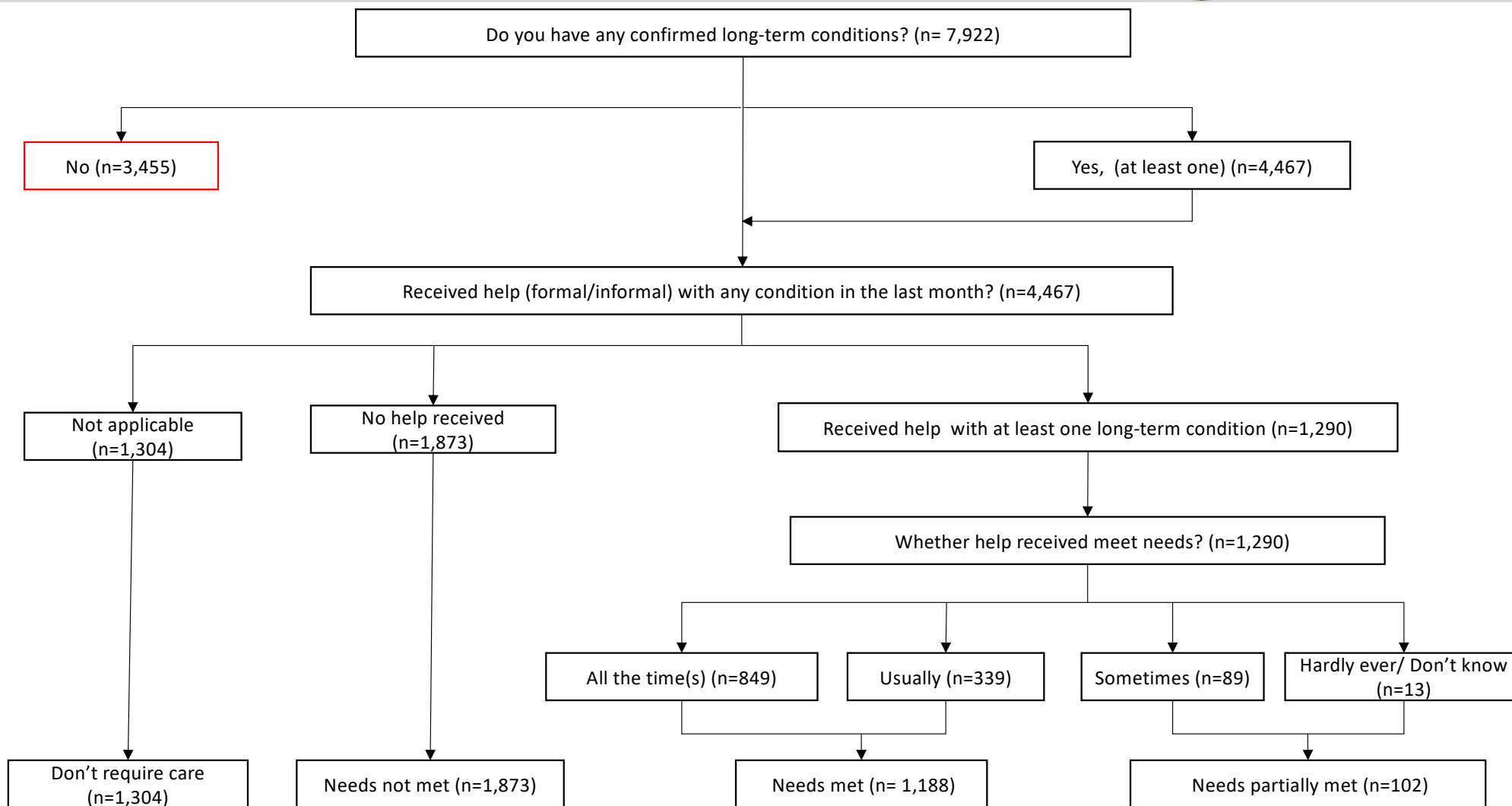
Age range: 55 years and over

Seven (7) Long-term health conditions commonly measured in both data: Alzheimer's, Angina, Arthritis, Asthma, Cancer, Diabetes and Stroke

Health and social care needs classification:

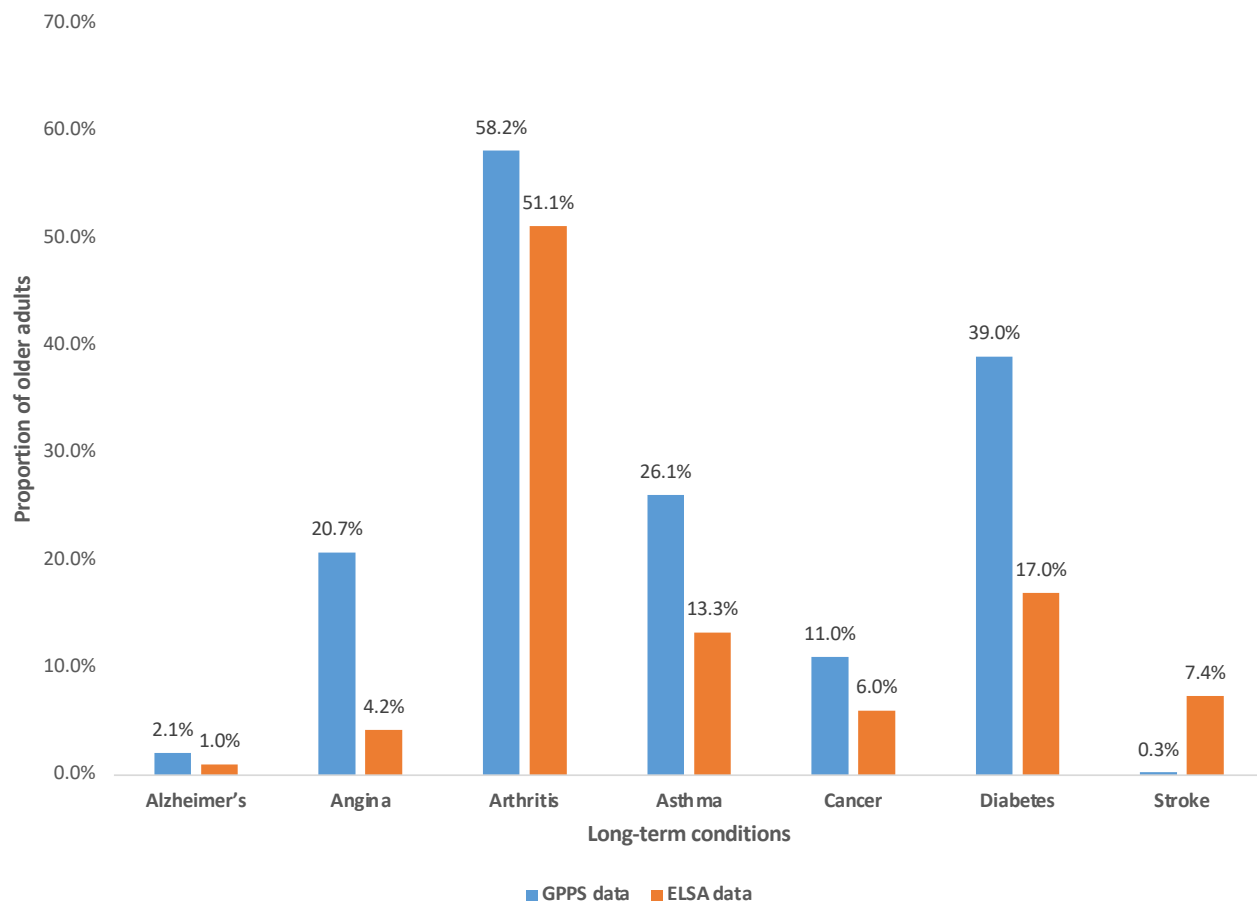
- i) Don't require care
- ii) Needs are met
- iii) Needs partially met
- iv) Needs not met

Where (ii) and (iii) are two forms of unmet needs for health and social care



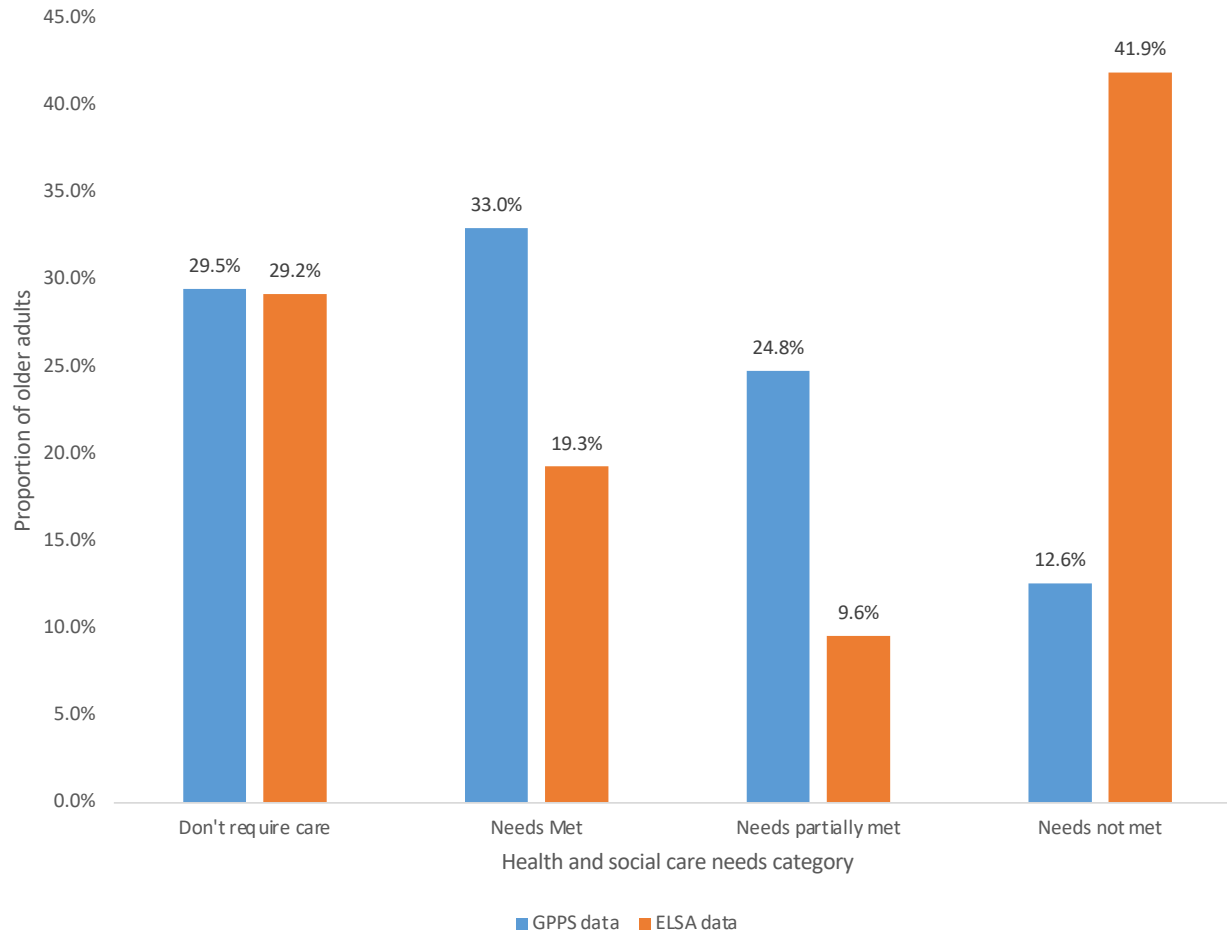
Note: Sample size based on ELSA data(wave 8); Node in red met the exclusion criteria

Results(1)- Spread of long-term conditions



- Overall, fairly similar spread of long-term conditions in both data set
- Arthritis, Diabetes, Asthma,
- Differences: Angina was forth in GPPS data, but Stroke was forth in ELSA data

Results (2)-Distribution by health and social care needs classification



Similarities:

- The proportion that don't require care match

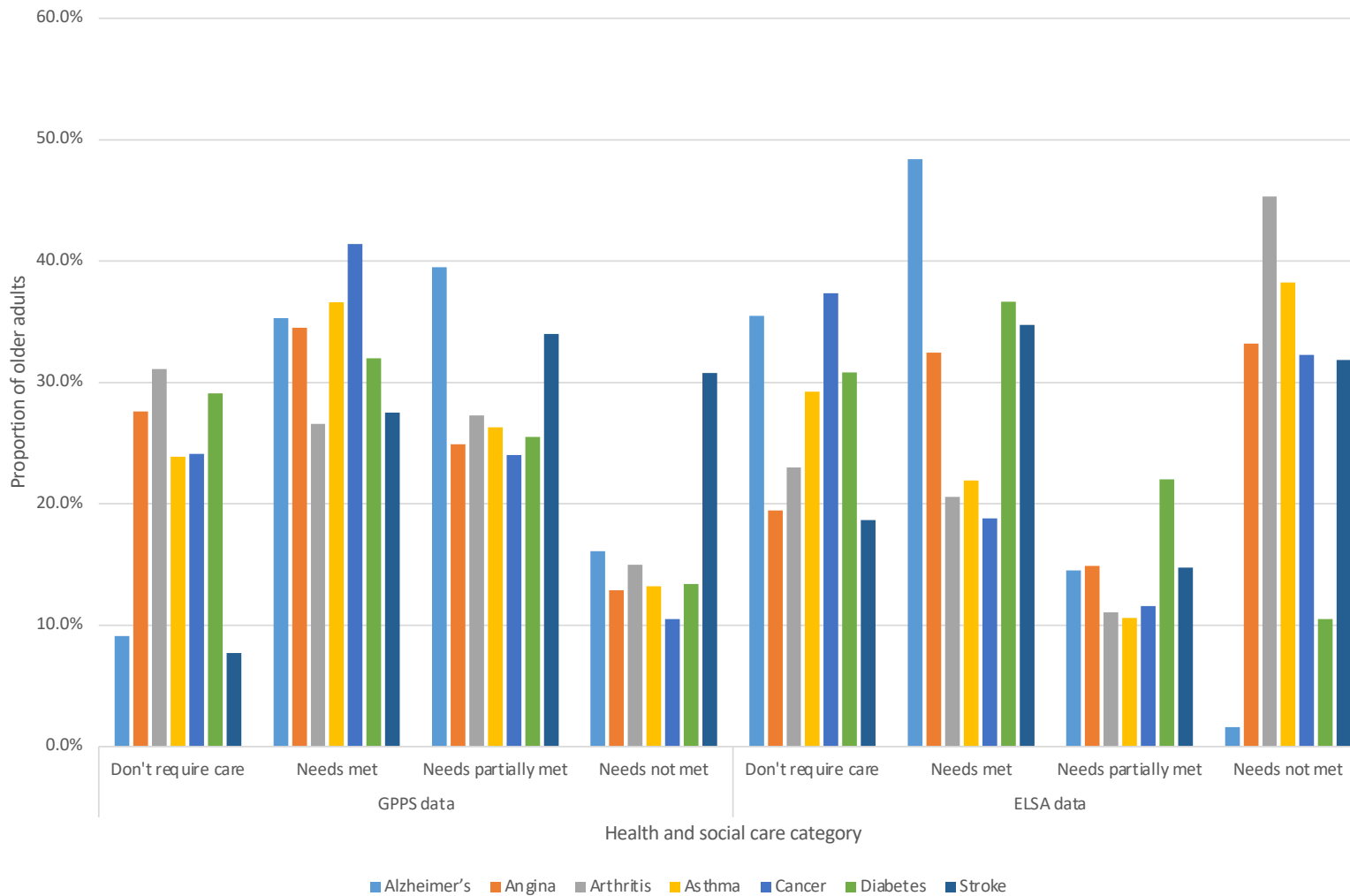
Differences:

- Higher proportion with unmet needs in ELSA data compared to GPPS data
- Higher proportion with care needs met in GPPS data compared to ELSA data

FUNDED BY

NIHR | National Institute
for Health Research

Results(3)- Distribution of long-term conditions by needs classification and data sources



Needs not met (top 3 conditions):

- GPPS data:** Stroke, Alzheimer's, Angina with the least been cancer patients
- ELSA data :** Arthritis, Asthma, Angina, with the least been those with Alzheimer's
- The proportion with long-term conditions and needs partially met were higher in all cases in GPPS data compared to ELSA data
- Fairly spread across age groups from the two data sets but mixed results in terms of gender, ethnic origin, and region

- The study found a mix of similar and different results in the distribution of unmet health and social care needs, long-term health conditions, and demographic characteristics from the two major nationally representative survey datasets
- These results might be the outcome of differences in survey objectives, the kind of questions asked and the order in which the questions were asked in the two major surveys.
- Given the importance of robust measurement of unmet health care needs to policy concerns, it is recommended that future major UK surveys factor in this objective and harmonise survey questions.

Some references

- AgeUK (2019). Later life in the United Kingdom 2019. Available online: chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.ageuk.org.uk/globalassets/age-uk/documents/reports-and-publications/later_life_uk_factsheet.pdf. Accessed on 04/06/2023.
- Office for National Statistics (2019). National population projections: 2016-Based. Available online: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/nationalpopulationprojections2016basedstatisticalbulletin>. Accessed 04/06/2023.
- Lau YS, Harrison M, Sutton M. Association Between Symptom Duration and Patient-Reported Outcomes Before and After Hip Replacement Surgery. *Arthritis Care Res (Hoboken)*. 2020 Mar;72(3):423-431. doi: 10.1002/acr.23838. PMID: 30681287.
- Hoogendijk, E. O., Afilalo, J., Ensrud, K. E., Kowal, P., Onder, G., & Fried, L. P. (2019). Frailty: implications for clinical practice and public health. *Lancet (London, England)*, 394(10206), 1365–1375. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(19\)31786-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(19)31786-6).
- Stuck, A. E., & Iliffe, S. (2011). Comprehensive geriatric assessment for older adults. *BMJ (Clinical research ed.)*, 343, d6799. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.d6799>.
- Epstein, R. M., & Street, R. L., Jr (2011). The values and value of patient-centered care. *Annals of family medicine*, 9(2), 100–103. <https://doi.org/10.1370/afm.1239>.



Policy Research Unit in Health and
Social Care Systems and Commissioning

Thank you

Paul Boadu (Paul.Boadu@lshtm.ac.uk)

www.prucomm.ac.uk

LONDON
SCHOOL of
HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE



FUNDED BY

NIHR

National Institute
for Health Research