



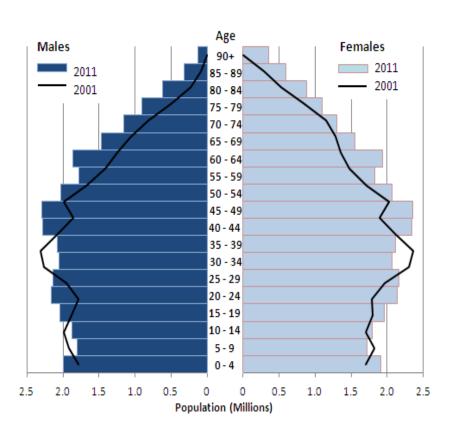


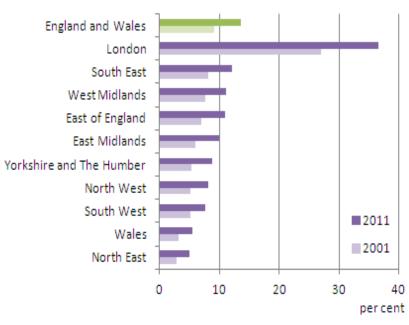
# How can GPs better target the general population and those with a longstanding illness/disability for physical activity and sport participation counselling?

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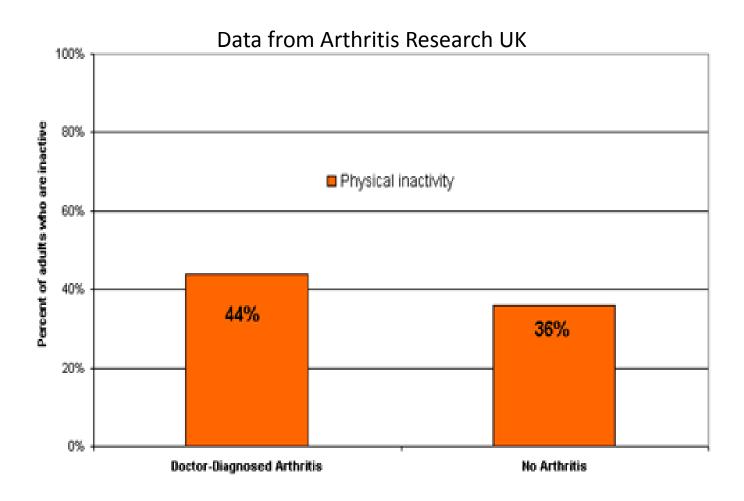
# Aging UK Population + % with a disability: 2001 v 2011





## Sport/Physical Activity Levels

Not being physically active (physical INACTIVITY) is more common in adults who have arthritis than in those who don't.



### Introduction

Reduced sport + physical activity levels



Health inequalities

- ~70% population r/w by GP/yr
- Participation in physical activity and sport - factors:
  - Social
  - Cultural
  - Environmental
- 1<sup>st</sup> NI & UK study



### AIM

- Identify levels of sport participation
- The correlates of sport participation
- General population + those with a long standing illness or disability within the NI adult population



### Methods

- Continuous Household Survey: 2007-11
  - 13,683 adults
  - 3550 (26%) long-standing illness/disability
  - participation in sport at least once in the last year
- Groupings:
  - Full study population
  - Longstanding illness/disability
  - No long-term health problems
- Independent predictor variables
- Chi-squared; Uni-variate (p<0.1); Multi-variate (p<0.05) analyses

### Results

- Long-term illness v gen pop:
  - Female, older, single, deprived
  - Household access to a car
  - Unemployed
  - Benefits
  - Lower educational attainment
  - Less likely participate in sport
  - Less likely to be sport club member
  - Less internet access



### Sport correlates - Full study population

- Being male + <56yo</li>
- Having a household car/van
- Higher educational qualifications
- Employed
- Living in urban area
- Health in last yr 'good'/'fairly good'
- Non-smoker
- Internet access
- Sports club membership
- Not having a long-term limiting illness/disability



# Long-term illness/disability – sport correlates

- Differences with full study population:
  - Single
  - Having some qualifications v none
  - Socio-economic deprivation
- Smoking + internet access – no influence



### Discussion

- 26% long-term illness or disability
  - lower than other areas of the UK
- Living in urban locations
  - positively correlate with sport participation
  - Government/councils: access to infra-structure?
  - Relevance to GPs

### Discussion

- People with a long-term illness/disability
  - less access to internet
  - not members of sports organisations
- GPs should target those with a long-term illness or disability and:
  - Married/Co-habiting
  - Socio-economically deprived
  - Female
  - Older age (>55yo)
  - Health 'not good' in previous year
  - Unemployed
  - Living in a rural location

### Strengths & Limitations

#### Strengths:

- Used existing data representative of NI + UK
- Self-completed questionnaires
- Respondents blinded to the focus of this study

#### • Limitations:

- Variation in interpretation of questions
- May be other relevant variables
- Adult data
- No external validation
- Cross-sectional study

### Conclusions

- Correlates of sport participation multi-factorial
- Correlates different for general population + long-term illness/disability
- GP focus in those with a disability/long-term illness:
  - older females
  - married/co-habiting
  - socio-economically deprived
  - living in rural areas
  - no personal internet access
  - health 'not good' in past year

