

Carer-reported health conditions among seven-year-old children in Northern Ireland in 2011

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Longstanding health conditions among children can be associated with reduced quality of life and poorer outcomes for children and their families.



Aims of study

- ▶ Generate population prevalence estimates of carer-reported health conditions among seven-year-old children in Northern Ireland
- ▶ Describe how national prevalence varies with important characteristics
- ▶ Describe how prevalence varies across 11 LGD's



Method (1)



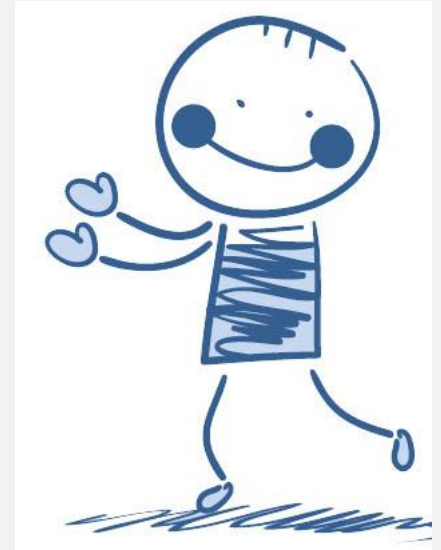
- ▷ Millennium Cohort Study, Sweep 4, children aged 7 years
- ▷ Information about children from their parents/carers:
 - *any* longstanding illness, disability or infirmity;
 - lifetime asthma, or asthma symptoms in the past 12 months;
 - lifetime eczema;
 - lifetime sight problems requiring treatment;
 - and lifetime hearing problems requiring treatment

Method (2)

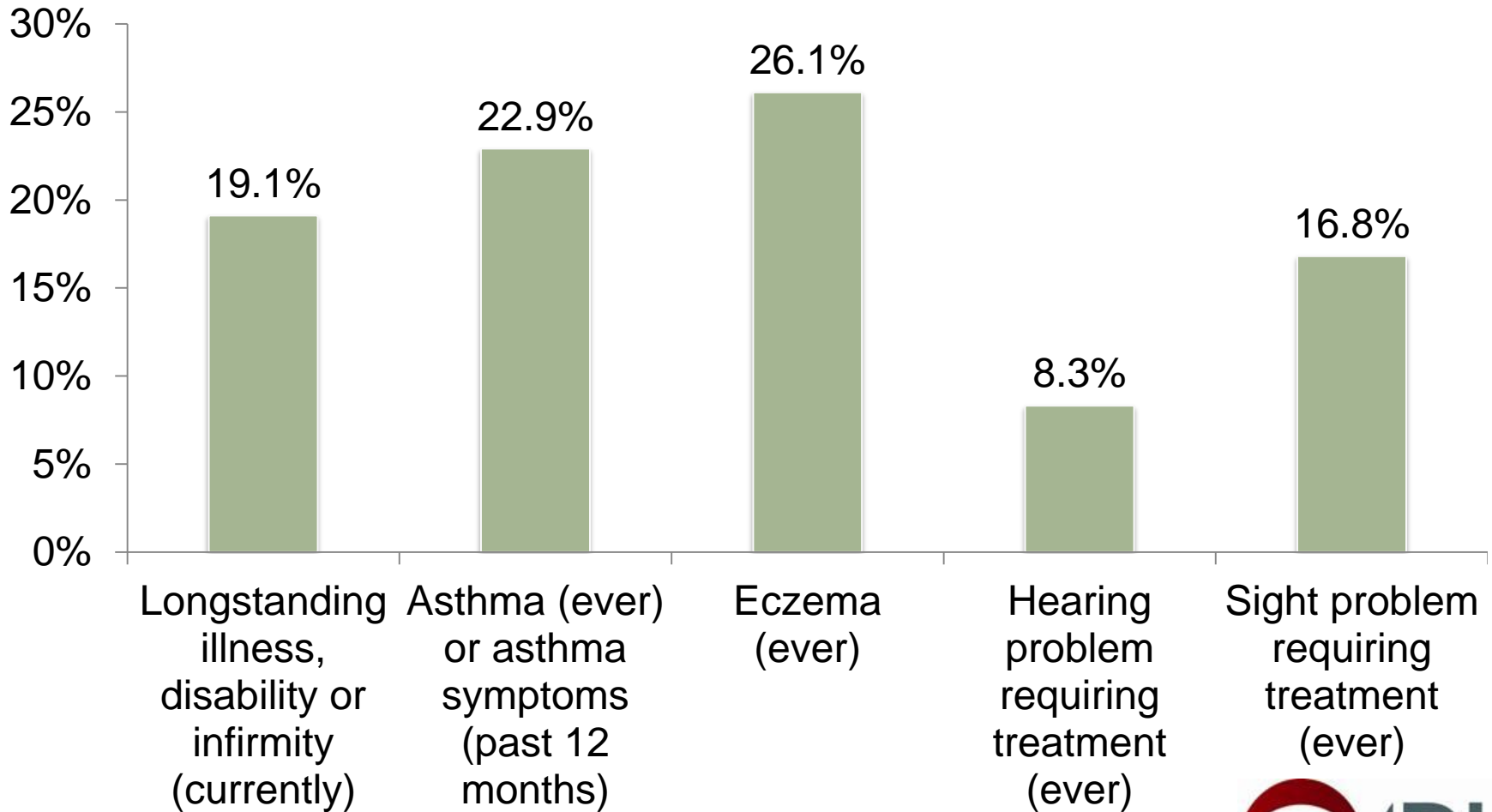


- ▶ Estimate national prevalence: per cent estimate from MCS survey applied to NI Census 2011
- ▶ Describe how national prevalence varies with important characteristics (risk factors):
 - Identified an initial set of characteristics/risk factors in MCS
 - Explored the roles of these risk factors
 - Analyses were weighted to the estimated population of seven-year-olds living in Northern Ireland in 2011

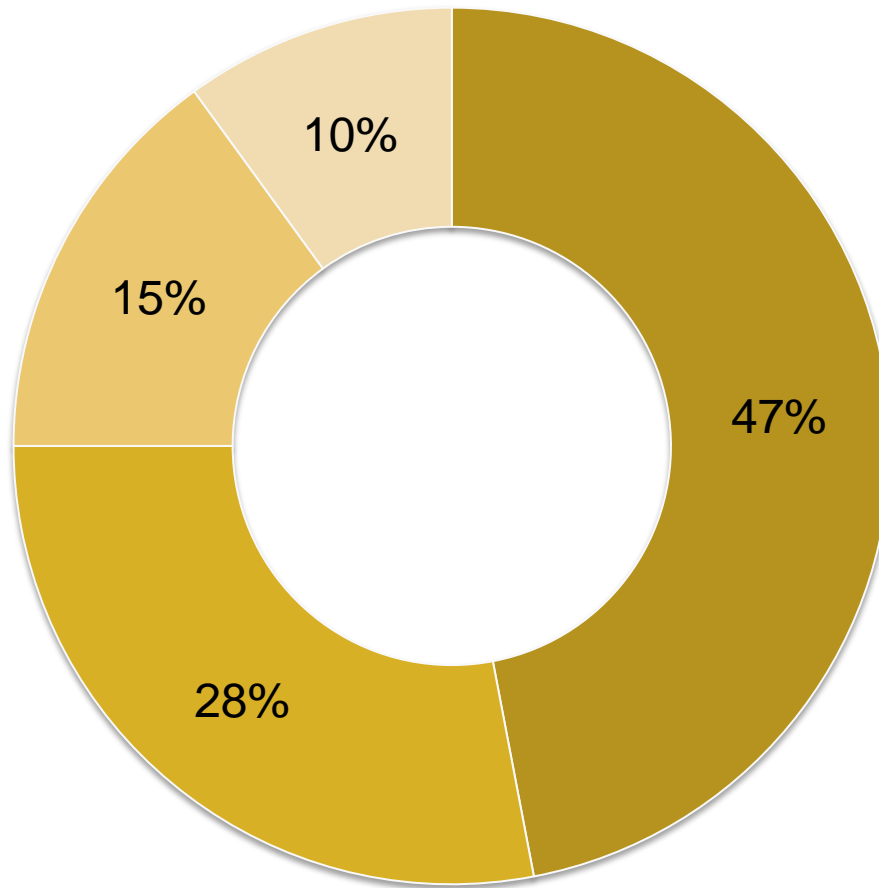
Findings



Percent of 7-year-olds in NI with these conditions

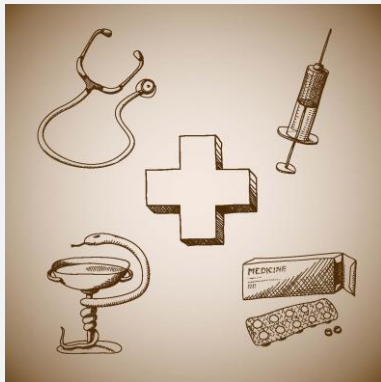


Looking at conditions together



- No conditions
- One condition
- Two conditions
- Three or more conditions

Burden of these serious health conditions unequally distributed across seven-year-old population



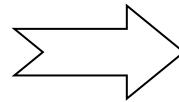
Risks acculumate...



Prevalence of asthma / asthma symptoms:

12.8%

- Girls
- Carer did not have a condition
- Mother did not smoke during pregnancy



43.8%

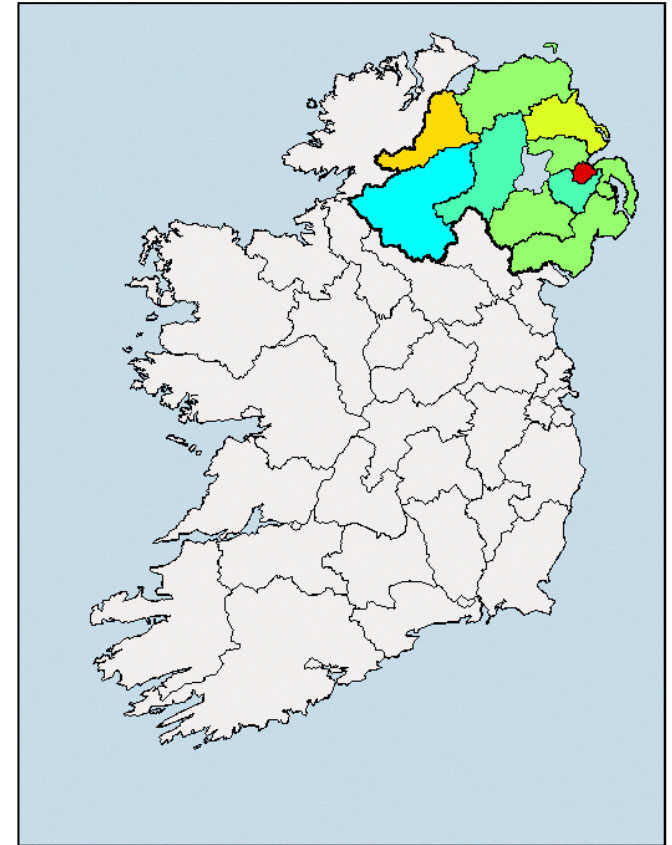
- Boys
- Carer has a condition
- Mother smoked during pregnancy

Findings: Subnational prevalence %

Variation of prevalence of asthma / asthma symptoms across LGD's due to variation in characteristics:

- Child's sex
- Primary carer with longstanding illness
- Smoking during pregnancy

Differences in prevalence % not statistically significant



Limitations

- sample size
- attrition over time
- representativeness
- additional weight adjustment
- unavailability of some data at sub-national level

Conclusion

- Inequalities in health evident at this early age
- Understanding the characteristics of these young children and their families can help us to develop policies and plan services and interventions to support these children and their families.

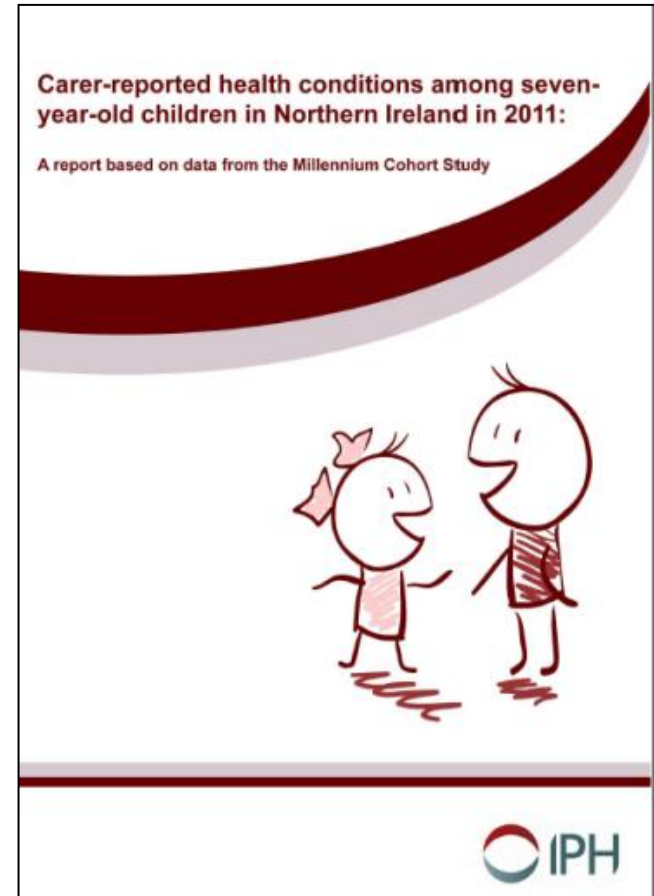


CHRONIC CONDITIONS HUB

Part of the Health Well

- Main report and infographic
- Detailed data tables
- Childhood themes in IPH Community Profiles Tool

<http://chronicconditions.thehealthwell.info>



Thanks!

Any questions?

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