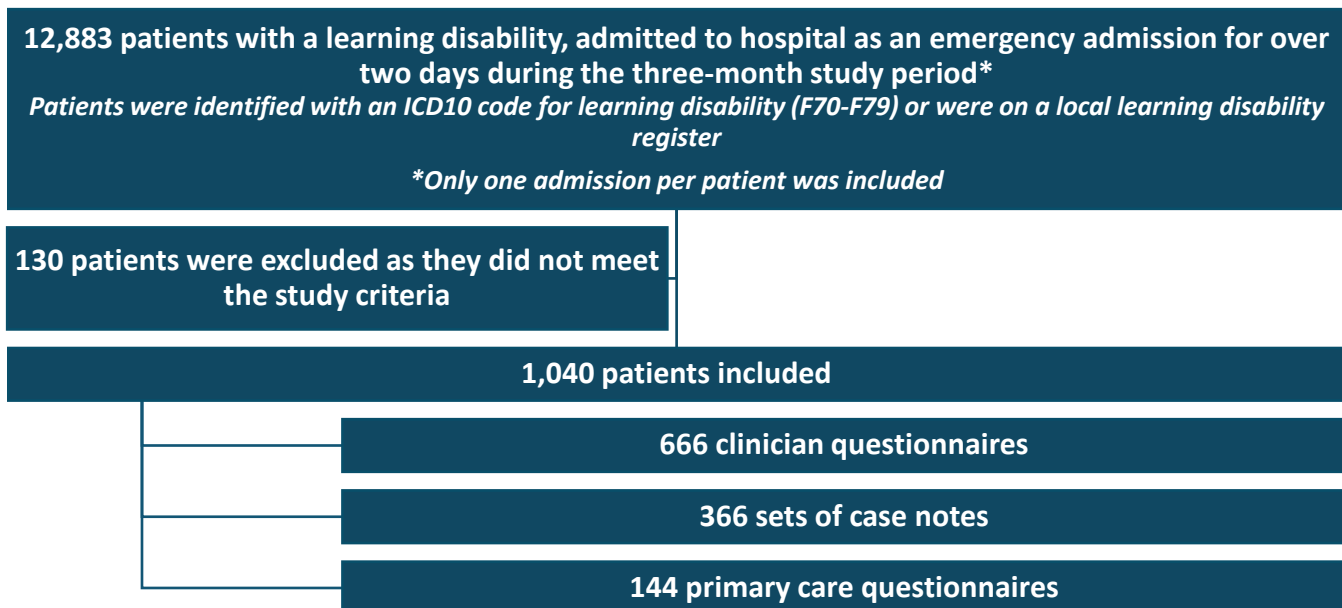


2 DATA RETURNED AND THE STUDY POPULATION

Data returns



Organisational data

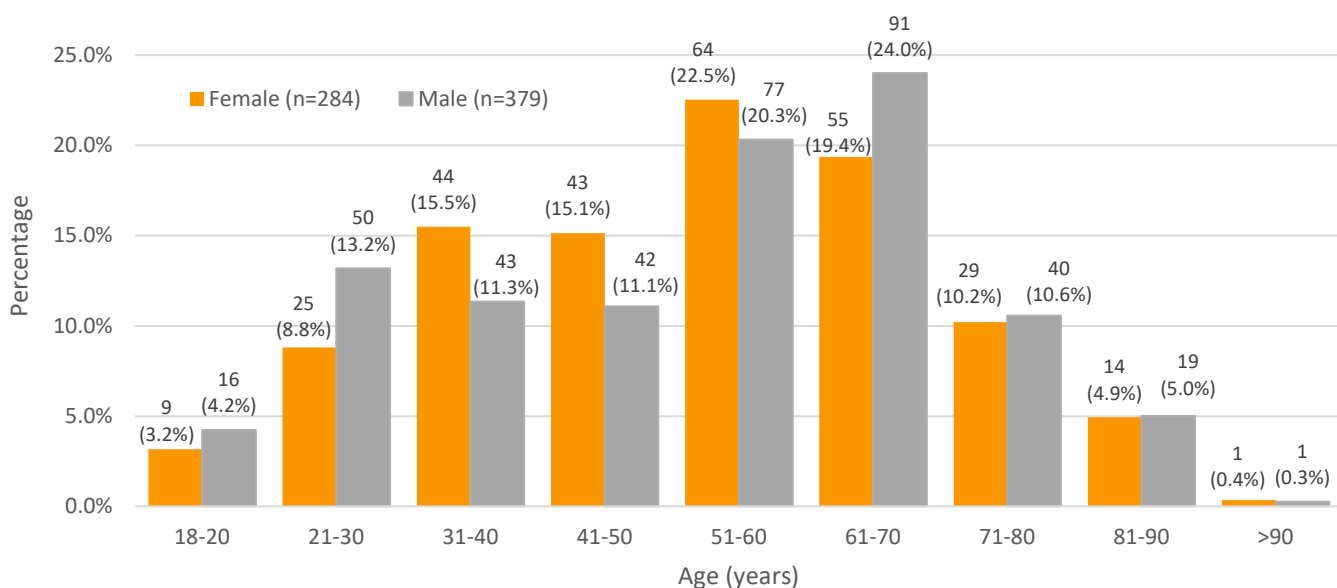
- Organisational questionnaire: 199 hospital questionnaires returned

Survey data

- Health and social care professional survey: 832 surveys returned
- Carer survey: 50 surveys returned
- Patient survey: 32 surveys returned

Study population demographics

The mean age of the study population was 53 years, with ages ranging from 18-92 years (F2.1).



F2.1 Age (years) and sex of the study population; $n=666$, $mean=53$, $median=56$, $mode=58$

Clinician questionnaire data

The study population had a slightly higher proportion of White British or White other compared with [National Census](#) data (89.2% versus 81.7%), although the ethnicity of 59/666 patients was unknown (T2.1).^[7] There are concerns that people with a learning disability from ethnic minority populations may not be identified or diagnosed, and this finding may support these concerns.^[8]

T2.1 Ethnicity	Study population		National Census 2021
	Number of patients	%	%
White British/White - other	520	89.2	81.7
Asian/Asian British (Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Chinese, other Asian)	30	5.1	9.3
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	18	3.1	4.0
Other	9	1.5	2.1
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups	6	1.0	2.9
Subtotal	583		
Unknown	59		
Not recorded	24		
Total	666		

Clinician questionnaire data

Just under half of patients in the study lived in their own homes prior to admission (288/643; 44.8%) (T2.2), of which 146/288 (50.7%) were living with parents or family and 109/288 (37.8%) lived alone.

T2.2 Usual place of residence	Number of patients	%
Own home	288	44.8
Supported living	154	24.0
Residential home	90	14.0
Nursing home	88	13.7
Other	21	3.3
Homeless	2	<1
Subtotal	643	
Unknown	23	
Total	666	

Clinician questionnaire data

Most patients were receiving either full-time (279/492; 56.7%) or part-time social care support (117/492, 23.8%) (T2.3).

T2.3 Patients were receiving social support/care	Number of patients	%
Yes - full-time care	279	56.7
Yes - part-time care	117	23.8
No	96	19.5
Subtotal	492	
Unknown	174	
Total	666	

Clinician questionnaire data

There were 342/565 (60.5%) patients who had a physical disability, which was most commonly reported as a physical impairment 249/342 (72.8%) although sensory impairments were also common (T2.4 and T2.5). It is important to note that the presence or absence of a physical disability could not be recorded for 101/666 (15.2%) of the study population.

T2.4 The patient had a physical disability	Number of patients	%
Yes	342	60.5
No	223	39.5
Subtotal	565	
Not recorded	101	
Total	666	

Clinician questionnaire data

T2.5 Physical disabilities the patient had	Number of patients	%	% of total population
Physical impairment	249	72.8	44.1
Speech impairment	132	38.6	23.4
Visual impairment	67	19.6	11.9
Hearing impairment	39	11.4	6.9
Other	53	15.5	9.4
Total	342		565

Clinician questionnaire data. Answers may be multiple

Only 41/631 (6.5%) patients had no pre-existing comorbidities, while 197/631 (31.2%) had a single comorbidity and 396/631 (62.8%) had multimorbidity (unknown in 35). The most common comorbidities in this group of patients were neurological (291/631; 46.1%) and cardiovascular (161/631; 25.5%) conditions (T2.6). The rates of declared vision and hearing impairment are likely to be underestimates from research evidence in audiology and ophthalmology.^[9]

T2.6 Comorbidities of the study population	Number of patients	%
Neurological condition	291	46.1
Cardiovascular condition	161	25.5
Respiratory condition	145	23.0
Endocrinological condition	143	22.7
Mental health condition	142	22.5
Musculoskeletal condition	115	18.2
Gastrointestinal condition	110	17.4
Renal condition	82	13.0
Obesity	48	7.6
Cancer	37	5.9
None of the above	41	6.5
Other	138	21.9
Total	631	

Clinician questionnaire data. Answers may be multiple

Most patients in the study were taking medications prior to admission to hospital (595/622; 95.7%) (unknown in 44), with 177/551 (32.1%) patients prescribed ten or more medications (T2.7). In 210/361 (58.2%) patients, these were psychotropic medications (unknown in five).

T2.7 Number of medications prescribed prior to admission	Number of patients	%
1	26	4.7
2-5	165	29.9
6-9	183	33.2
10+	177	32.1
Subtotal	551	
Unknown	44	
Total	595	

Clinician questionnaire data

There were 68/361 (18.8%) patients who were receiving antipsychotic medication which was slightly higher than levels previously reported in 2022/23, indicating that 14.4% of patients with a learning disability were prescribed antipsychotics.^[10] The number of patients on antidepressants (61/361; 16.9%) was lower than in national data, which identified 22% of people with a learning disability on antidepressant medication.^[10] These differences may be partly because this patient cohort presented with acute illness but would warrant further investigation as the prescribing of psychotropic medication was higher than in the general population overall.^[11]

Most patients were admitted via the emergency department (536/653; 82.1%), or via their GP (77/653; 11.8%) (T2.8).

T2.8 Mode of admission	Number of patients	%
Emergency department	536	82.1
GP referral	77	11.8
Outpatient clinic	15	2.3
Urgent care centre	12	1.8
Out-of-hours service	10	1.5
Inter-hospital transfer	8	1.2
Transfer	7	1.1
Other	46	7.0
Subtotal	653	
Unknown	13	
Total	666	

Clinician questionnaire data. Answers may be multiple

