

Improving the Cancer Journey

Addressing Cancer Inequality in North Central and North East London, and Mid and South Essex

by Emeka Enechukwu

Acknowledgement: Dr. Sarah Houston and the entire team at UCL Partners

Background





Improving the Cancer Journeys Learning Programme is a long-term partnership between UCLPartners and Macmillan to implement and generate an evidence base around best practice in holistic support in our region. This includes developing ways to improve the access of cancer patients to practical, emotional and physical support so they can stay in treatment.

Purpose of Project

Understanding the needs of patients using data will enable development of interventions that can support them to stay in treatment. By identifying which groups of patients have struggled in receiving appropriate support in the past, we can develop interventions which serve all groups and address inequalities.

The Evaluation and Insights team at UCLPartners uses **mixed-methods approaches** in obtaining insights for its projects. This involves quantitative and qualitative approaches. **I analysed survey responses from cancer patients** using Tableau, highlighting the needs of different patient groups.

Analysis process:

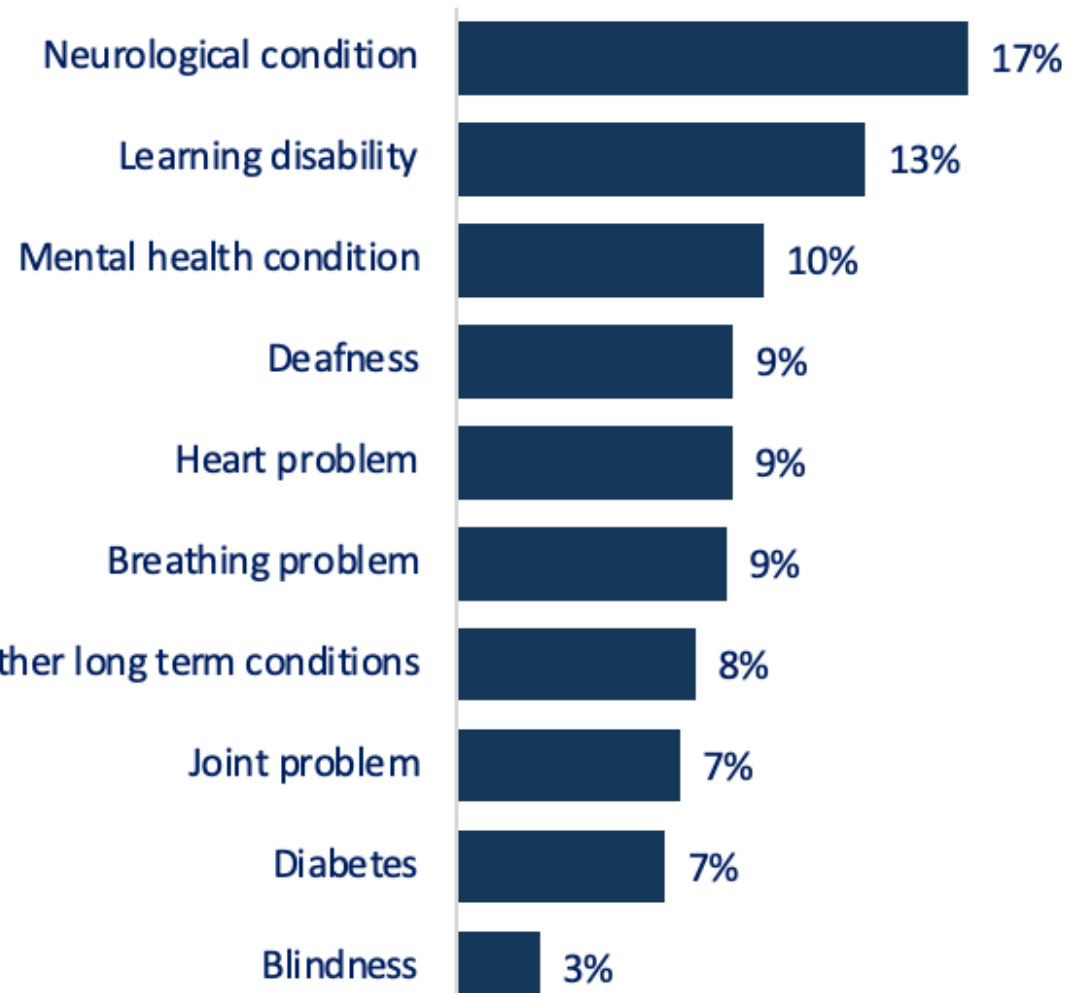
-  Assessment of the dataset
-  Analysis demographic and socioeconomic factors
-  Analysis of concerns domains
-  Collaborate with team and made adjustments

Example of findings from my analysis*

Q: How easy has it been for patients to contact main contact person?

- Surprisingly, 8% of people living in the most deprived Quintile (IMD 1) find it difficult to access their main contact person during care, against 11% of those in least deprived area (IMD 5).
- More females find it difficult to contact their main person for support than men.
- 9% of patients aged 16-54 years are unable to reach their contacts against 7% of those 54 years and older.
- Most of these patients who found support difficult to access had thyroid cancers (18%), followed by prostate (13%) and breast (10%).
- Cancer patients who also have a neurological condition were the most affected. 17% of them have difficulty accessing their contact person.

North Central London Cancer Alliance | National Cancer Patient Experience Survey (NCPES) 2023



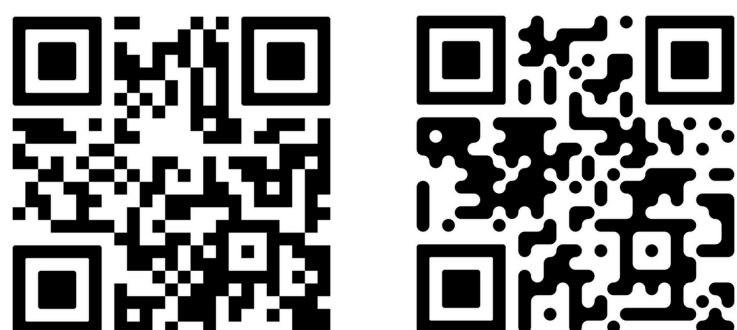
% of Cancer Patients with Comorbidities that had difficulty accessing main contact

National Cancer Patient Experience Survey (NCPES) 2023

Why is it important?

Barriers faced by patients in accessing support can cause patients to withdraw from treatment. These can make the condition of patients worsen, and make subsequent treatment more complex and less effective. UCLPartners employs a mixed-methods approach to identify these barriers to holistic support and develop appropriate interventions to enhance access for them.

For more information, scan QR codes to contact Emeka



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