Where children die; a regional analysis of Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) data

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Child Death Review Process

- change in the safeguarding children process
- mandatory in England since April 2008
- every local authority has one

- submit an annual report to Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)
- review all deaths of children and young people <18 years
- primary function is to identify if a child’s death was ‘modifiable’

- aim reduce risk of future child deaths
- provide reliable dataset from which information can be extracted about a wide range of factors relating to the child’s death (not routinely analysed)
Yorkshire and Humber Region

5.3 million -> 1.1 million

16 Local Authorities
16 District General Hospitals
2 Tertiary Centers

14 CDOP’s

4 Children’s Hospices
Methods

Retrospective cohort study

• 14 CDOPs: 2013-2016
• All data anonymised
  • Year of death
  • Age (<18 year olds)
  • Gender
  • Ethnicity
  • Home suburb
  • Place of death (POD)
  • Category of death
  • Expected / Unexpected

• Descriptive analysis using SPSS

1221 deaths

Expected death definition:
Expected to have occurred at least 24 hours prior to death
Results

- Average mortality rate of **3.5 deaths per 10,000 population** (407 deaths in the dataset)

- Major causes of death: (around 60% of dataset combined)
  - Perinatal/neonatal events + Chromosomal/genetic/congenital anomalies

- Expected deaths accounted for **64% of all child deaths**
Results - cause

Child Death Causes

- 1 = LLC
- 2 = All other causes

28%  72%
Results - POD

Place of death for expected deaths (excl. neonates)

- Hospital: 78%
- Home: 13%
- Hospice: 9%
Limitations

• Differences in terminology of expected/unexpected deaths

• Statistical analysis difficult due to categorical nature of data

• Missing data

• Exclusion of neonates from place of death data

• Doesn’t account for preference for place of death (POD)
Conclusions

• Dataset can inform service delivery and development

• Place of Death:
  - Hospital remains POD for most children
  - More children in Y&H die in the hospice than national figures suggest
  - Oncology patients are most likely to die at home
  - POD affected by ethnicity

• FUTURE research questions....is POD affected by....
  - Distance from home address to hospice?
  - Community nursing provision?
  - Socioeconomic status?