



ARC East of England Improving the quality of data to address health inequalities

The availability of good quality data is important to monitor and address inequalities across integrated care systems

Data analysis to improve understanding of health gaps is an important exercise that contributes to an aspiration for fair and inclusive health. Good data is essential for understanding patterns and inequalities in health service provision and health outcomes and it is also necessary for informing and evaluating attempts to improve care or reduce inequality. Several policy reports in the UK have highlighted

the importance of improving the quality of data used for the identification and monitoring of health inequalities. This raises the question of how data quality can be improved and what is the evidence base around what has been shown to work?

What was the aim of the project?

This work was developed to identify evidence-based mechanism to improve

data quality and how we can implement some of the recommended actions.

What did we do?

We reviewed the literature to identify approaches taken to improve data quality. We then conducted an interview study to gather health professionals' views on effective ways to transition the identified actions into practice.

How did we involve people?

We have engaged with health professionals working in local health and care systems across the region. We will build on these links to enable co-production of a resource.

What has the impact been so far?

We have identified a variety of mechanisms that can be utilised to improve data quality. These tend to work across different points of the data-to-decision making pathway, such as using multidisciplinary groups to standardise data collection instruments and systems. Also, increasing awareness of the variety of mechanisms that could be employed and supporting their delivery can help improve data quality.

What next?

Our work has identified proven mechanisms to improve data quality and enabled a better understanding of issues faced by health professionals in implementing them. We are also building on what we learned from the interview study to develop and test a resource to aid increased adoption of the identified mechanisms. Current work involves scoping out our target audience and shaping the resource. The goal is to support improvements in the quality of health inequality data across health and care settings.

For more information about this project

Scan the QR code or contact the Principal investigator, Dr. Louise Lafortune (ll394@cam.ac.uk).



What is NIHR ARC East of England?

The National Institute for Health and Care Research Applied Research Collaboration (NIHR ARC) East of England is one of the 15 NIHR ARCs. We collaborate with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust and the Universities of Cambridge, East Anglia, Hertfordshire and Essex, along with other NHS Trusts, Local Authorities, Integrated Care Systems, patient-led organisations, charities, and industry partners.

Get in contact with NIHR ARC East of England

-  arc-ee.nihr.ac.uk
-  ARCOffice@cpft.nhs.uk
-  [@ARC_EoE](https://twitter.com/ARC_EoE)
-  [nihrclahrceoe](https://www.linkedin.com/company/nihrclahrceoe)
-  arc-ee.nihr.ac.uk/newsletter

