

EVALUATING A WEB TOOL FOR IDENTIFYING MENTAL HEALTH CATCHMENT AREAS

MARGARET GALLAGHER, RICHARD DUFFY, ALLYS GUERANDEL

Background

Public mental health services are divided into “catchment areas” based on the patient’s address, each affiliated with a “community mental health team”

Identifying catchment areas can be an inefficient and cumbersome process causing excess burden on services.

It is an established barrier to reducing waiting times for patients and impacts negatively on patient care.

A web application was developed to remedy this issue.

Aims

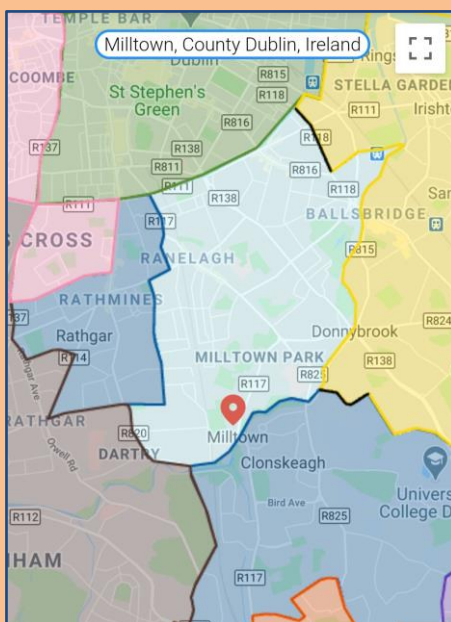
Evaluating a web map tool which was designed to address the problem of catchment area identification for mental health patients for care referral purposes.

Objectives

Evaluation of the web tool using qualitative methods. Qualitative data was collected in the form of both structured and unstructured feedback from participants after using the tool during their normal working day for a four-week period.

Methods

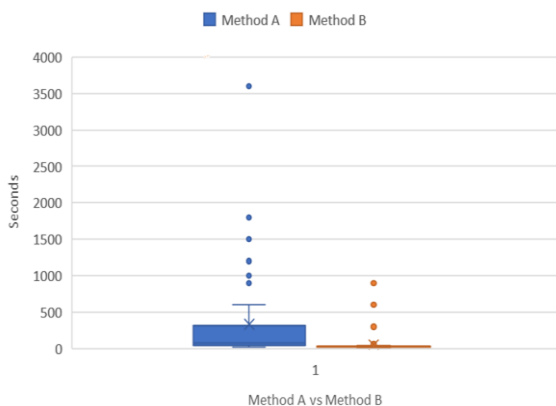
- Mixed methods study which collected both qualitative and quantitative data.
- The target population - NCHDs and specialist nurses) working in ED
- Qualitative- two-page survey with structured (Likert) and unstructured feedback
- Quantitative- participants time themselves using old interventions (Method A) & new intervention (Method B) for each episode where identification of a catchment area required



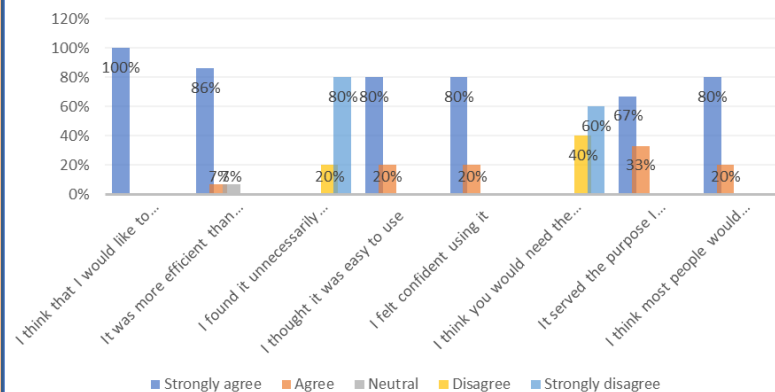
Results

- Quantitative- statistically significant difference Method A vs Method- $p < 0.005$
- Moderate effect size when all episodes ($n=114$) were accounted for (effect size= 0.549 (95% CI 0.351:0.745)).
- Range Method A- 18-3600 seconds. Range Method B- 10- 900
- Structured & unstructured responses indicated that the users were satisfied with the tool, preferred it to other methods available and found it easy to use.

Distribution of Data



Likert Scale Results



References: domain found at: <https://catchment-areas-map.azurewebsites.net/Home/Maps>

Acknowledgements: Mr. Shane Forbes, NDTP, Dr. Raju Bangaru, Dr. Mary Cosgrave, Dr. Cathy Rogers, Dr. Larkin Feeny

Ethical Approval: TCD school of medicine, SVUH and CH09 ethics committees.