

HOLISTIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT IN THE COMMUNITY:

Exploring concern severity and predictors of concern amongst cancer patients

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Background

'Improving the Cancer Journey' (ICJ) was launched in 2014 to support newly diagnosed patients with their concerns. ICJ is a community-based interdisciplinary cancer service based in Glasgow, Scotland. It is led by Glasgow City Council and commissioned and funded by the charity Macmillan Cancer Support. Other key partners include: NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, The Wheatley Housing Group, Cordia home services, Glasgow Life and Glasgow Social Work Services. It is the first cancer service of its kind in the UK. ICJ invites patients to have a 'holistic needs assessment' (HNA) - a structured assessment designed to identify an individual's concerns in order to help them. Once patients have identified and rated the severity of their concerns (with 10 being the most severe) action is taken to support them by constructing a care plan. The care plan usually takes the form of providing relevant information, signposting, or referral to various agencies located across health, social care and the third sector. This research was commissioned to evaluate the impact of ICJ at an individual, service and wider cultural level.

Method

The overarching aim was to establish if there was a significant difference between initial assessment of concern and follow-up scores. Secondary aim was to identify potential predictors of increased levels of concern at initial visit. The method was a pre- and post intervention observational cohort study.

Conclusions

There was a significant decrease in mean concern severity from initial assessment to review. This suggests ICJ is having a positive impact on supporting individuals with their concerns. Identifying predictors of concern severity can be used to inform service providers where particular individuals may require more intense or specialist support.

Results

Participants on average identified 5 concerns at their initial appointment. The top five concerns were: 'money or housing,' 'partner', 'children', 'worry/fear/anxiety' and 'work and education'. The average time between first and follow-up assessment was 158 days.

A multiple regression model was constructed with outcome variable 'mean concern severity' and predictors: sex, age, deprivation, cancer history, unemployment, breast cancer diagnosis, bowel cancer diagnosis, mental health problems, mobility problems, and caring responsibilities. The variables presented in table 1 had a positive beta (b) corresponding to an increase in initial concern severity.

The mean severity of all concerns at first assessment was 7.12 reducing to 3.83 at follow-up - a significant reduction of 3.31. (paired t(4454) = 64.68, P < 0.0001, 95% CI 3.21-3.41).

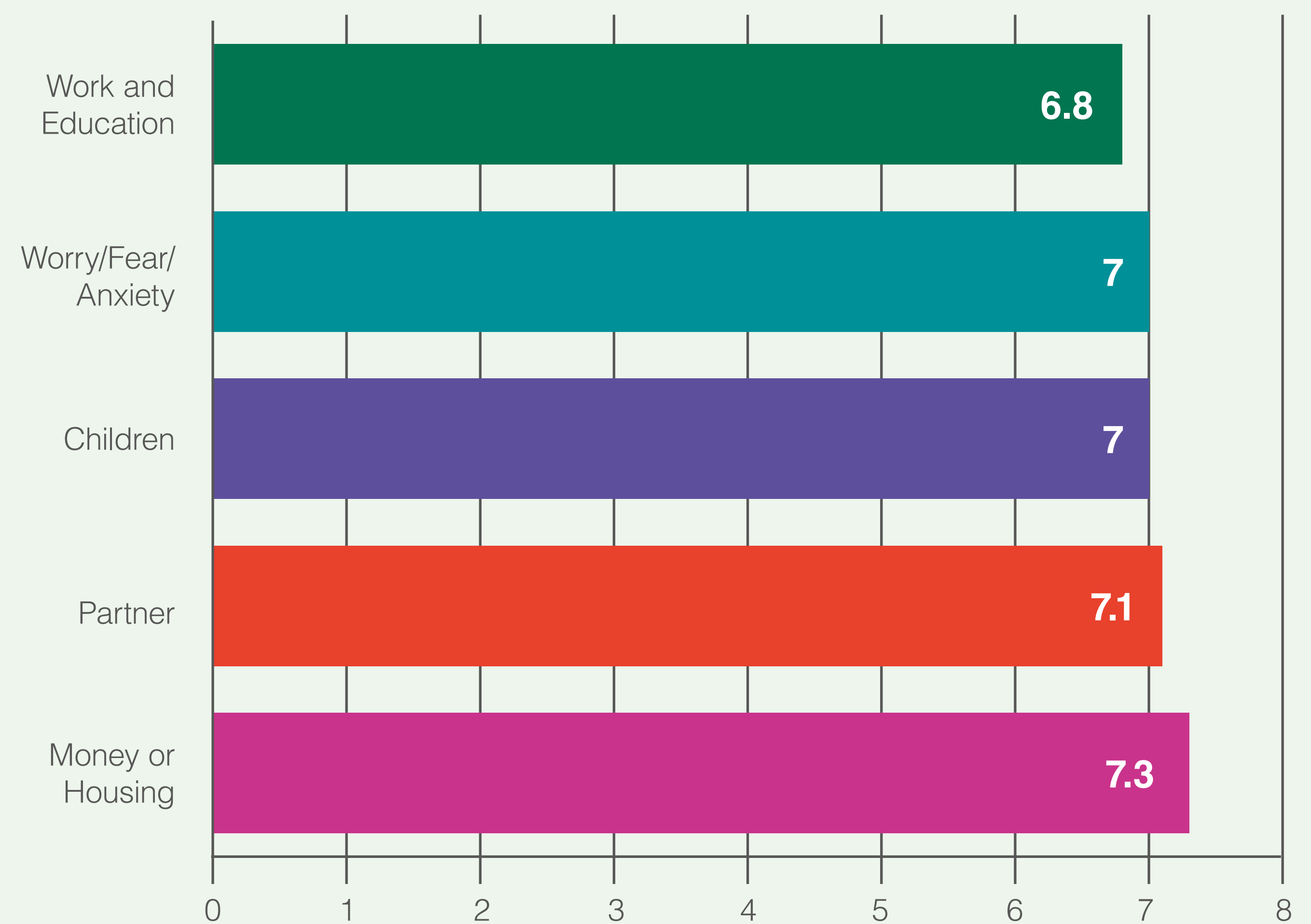
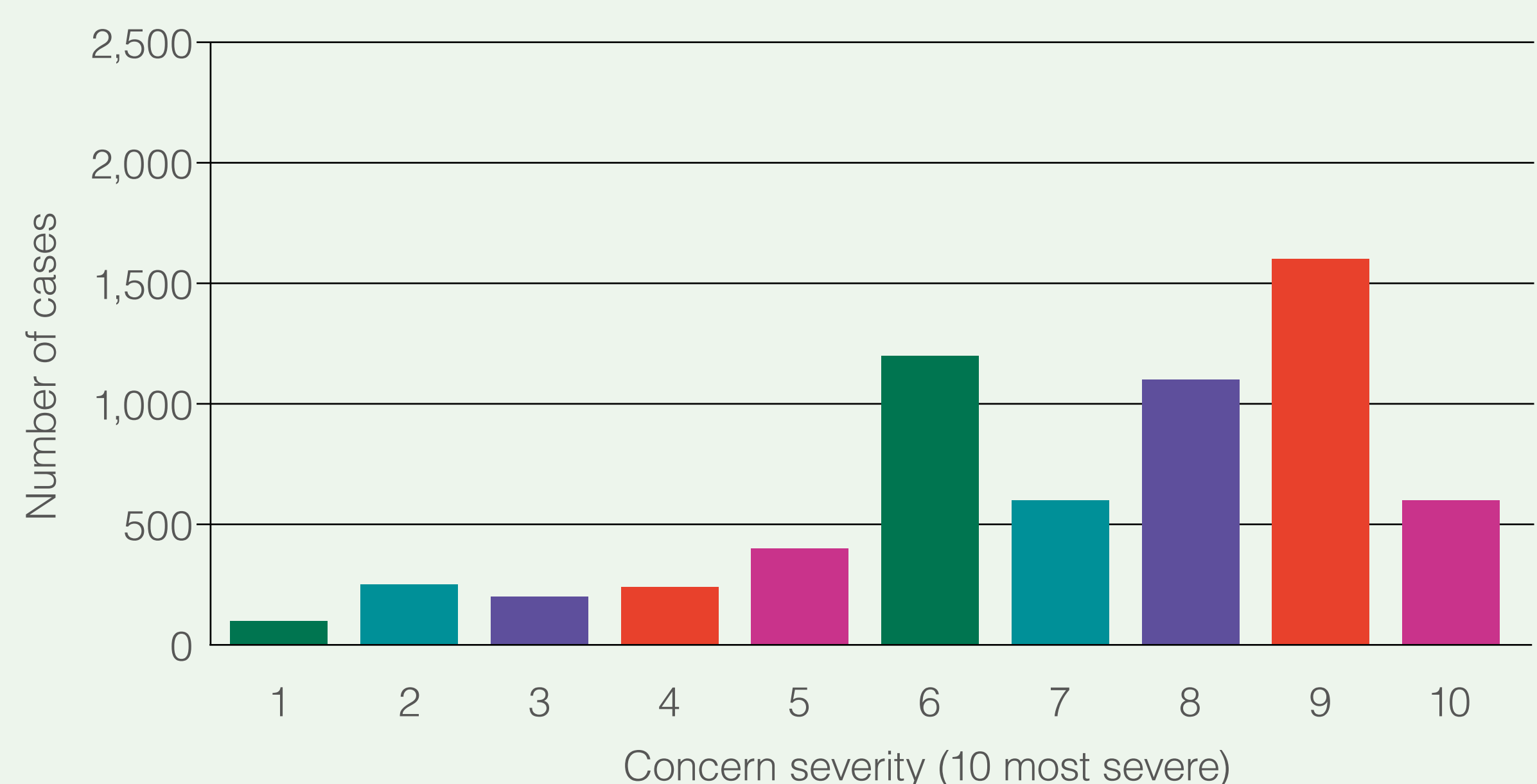


Table 1 – predictors of concern severity

Variable	b	SE	95% CI	P
Mobility problems	0.33	0.12	0.10-0.56	0.0044
Unemployment	0.36	0.14	0.083-0.65	0.011
Cancer history	0.45	0.14	0.18-0.72	0.00099
Mental health problems	0.24	0.16	-0.062-0.55	0.12
Caring responsibilities	0.20	0.15	-0.098-0.49	0.19

Initial appointment



Review

