

Improving Diabetic Retinopathy Screening in individuals with Severe Mental Illness

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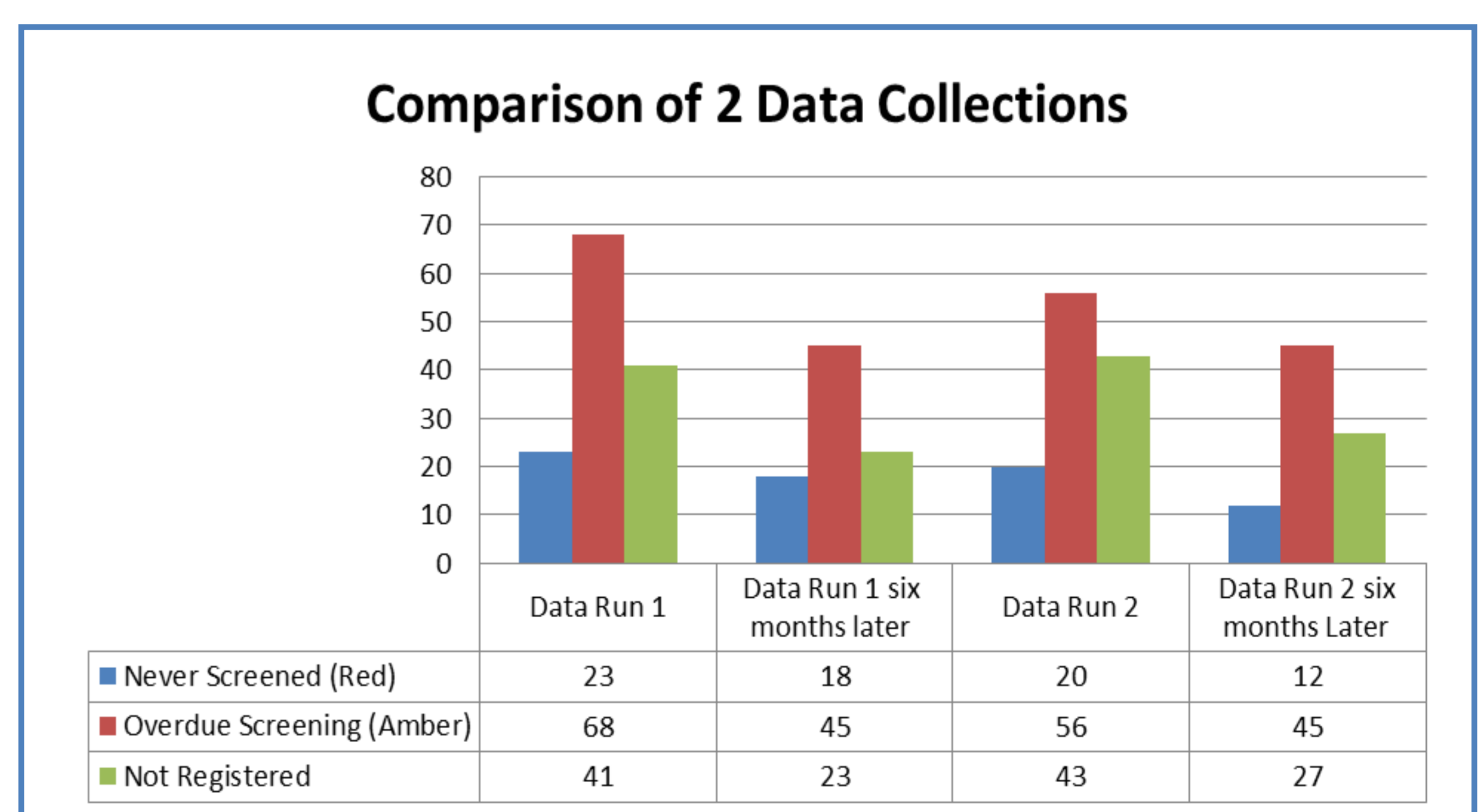
Design: A collaborative data sharing project between two NHS Trusts, working together to identify ways of improving attendance and access to screening for patients with Severe Mental Illness (SMI).

Purpose: The goals were to increase the attendance rate of diabetic retinal screening in those diagnosed with SMI by increasing the number of patients who receive a screening invite within this cohort. Another aim was to encourage earlier treatment intervention to prolong quality of sight in this population group, as well as to identify any possible barriers to accessing annual diabetic retinal screening.

Methods: A list of patients with both SMI and diabetes was identified which was then categorised and analysed. Interventions were made to ensure all appropriate patients were registered and offered screening. The data was analysed initially before interventions were attempted, with a second analysis performed six months later to assess the effectiveness of these effort.

Results: Screening attendance rates in this cohort increased by 31% (28/91) by the end of data run 1 and 25% (19/76) by the end of data run 2. A significant number of these patients (17% and 18% respectively in each data run) who were screened, required onward referral to hospital eye services. If a patient was not previously registered to the Diabetic Eye Screening Programme, the six month review of data showed an increase in registration from 35% for the first data collection to 86% in the second.

Analysis of each data set domain	Number of individuals identified (Data Run 1)	Number of individuals identified (Data Run 2)
Total Number after deductions (Deceased, Out of Area or Not yet diabetic)	320	282
Total Never Screened	23	20
Total Overdue Screening	68	56
Total Screened in last 12 months	153	130
Total Not Registered	41	43
Total No Action Needed (Already known to specialist clinics within in-care Ophthalmology)	35	33



Conclusion: These results highlighted how information sharing and collaborative working between services have the potential to improve long term patient health outcomes, by increasing the number of those eligible individuals with SMI registered for diabetic retinopathy screening. This improves attendance and thereby, long term eye health outcomes. The project has shown the potential for future data sharing collaborations between NHS providers, as well as highlighting the need for further improvement, development and investment to target inequalities and improve access for all.