Office for National Statistics
Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

Geographical Risk for Loneliness:
8th May 2018

Jazz Grimsley - Data Science Campus, Office For National Statistics

URBAN FUTURE   SOCIETY   SUSTAINABILITY   THE EVOLVING ECONOMY   UK IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT

Requirements

- Generate a **geographical** measure of loneliness **risks** in the UK to understand the **trigger points**

- Combine risk factors to generate a risk factor for each sub population

- Show risks of subpopulations
    - Teens
    - Young Adults
    - Middle aged people
    - Elderly

RISK'S

This Fact Sheet identifies the key 'trigger' or risk factors that can cause loneliness and social isolation in older age. These factors can be used to help to identify those likely to be at risk or experiencing loneliness in a community.

Based on the research that has been conducted about loneliness and isolation amongst older people we know that there are an array of risk factors or triggers, including:

Personal circumstances:
- Living alone[1]
- Being single, divorced, never married[2]
- Living on a low income[3]
- Living in residential care[4]

Transitions:
- Bereavement[5]
- Becoming a carer or giving up caring[6]
- Retirement[7]

Personal characteristics:
- Aged 75 plus[8]
- From an ethnic minority community[9]
- Being gay or lesbian[10]

Health and disability:
- Poor health[11]
- Immobility[12]
- Cognitive impairment[13]
- Sensory impairment[14]
- Dual sensory impairment[15]

Geography i.e. living in an area:
- With high levels of material deprivation[16]
- In which crime is an issue[17]

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea has produced on on-line tool to help identify isolated older people based on key triggers, based on research conducted in the borough:

http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/healthandsocialcare/peoplefirst/triggertoolpages.aspx.

(See Case study: Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Older Persons' Partnership Board).

References:

1   Cann P and Joplin K. Safeguarding the Convoy – a call to action from the Campaign to End Loneliness, Age UK Oxfordshire (2011)

http://campaigntoendloneliness.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2011/07/safeguarding-the-convey_-_a-call-to-action-from-the-campaign-to-end-loneliness.pdf

2   Scharf T, Phillipson C, Kingston P, Smith AE. Growing Older in Socially Deprived Areas: social exclusion in later life. Help the Aged (2002)

http://www.ageuk.org.uk/documents/en-gb/for-professionals/communities-and-inclusion/id2255_a_growing_older_in_socially_deprived_areas_social_exclusion_in_later_life_2002_pro.pdf?dtrk=true

3   Cann P and Joplin K. Safeguarding the Convoy – a call to action from the Campaign to End Loneliness, Age UK Oxfordshire (2011)

http://campaigntoendloneliness.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2011/07/safeguarding-the-convey_-_a-call-to-action-from-the-campaign-to-end-loneliness.pdf

4   The Residents and Relatives Association (R&RA), Together but alone: Isolated older people in care (2010)

http://www.vai.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/R-RA-TOGETHER-BUT-ALONE-REPORT.pdf

5   Cann P and Joplin K. Safeguarding the Convoy – a call to action from the Campaign to End Loneliness, Age UK Oxfordshire (2011)

http://campaigntoendloneliness.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2011/07/safeguarding-the-convey_-_a-call-to-action-from-the-campaign-to-end-loneliness.pdf

Childhood risk
- Immigrant or first generation
- In care
- Abuse
- Low socio economic group
- Child carers

+other factors

❑ Weighting variables together to generate a cumulative risk model for subpopulations across the UK

❑ Investigate the use of outcome measures to adjust weights

Possible data sources Risk

Traditional data sources

- Community life survey
- Census data
    - Number of people per household (living alone
    - Single parents)
    - Age of arrival in the UK
    - Births to non UK born Mothers
- HHFCE - Income to rent ratio
- Official Labour market statistics
    - Employment / carer status

Possible data sources Risk

Amenities

- Proximity to Sports Centres
- Transport Links
- Playgroups
- Registered childcares
- Number of libraries
- Number of pubs/ restaurants
- Social media data traffic
    - Support groups by region (mumsnet, meetups)
    - Local Facebook social groups (by age and group type)
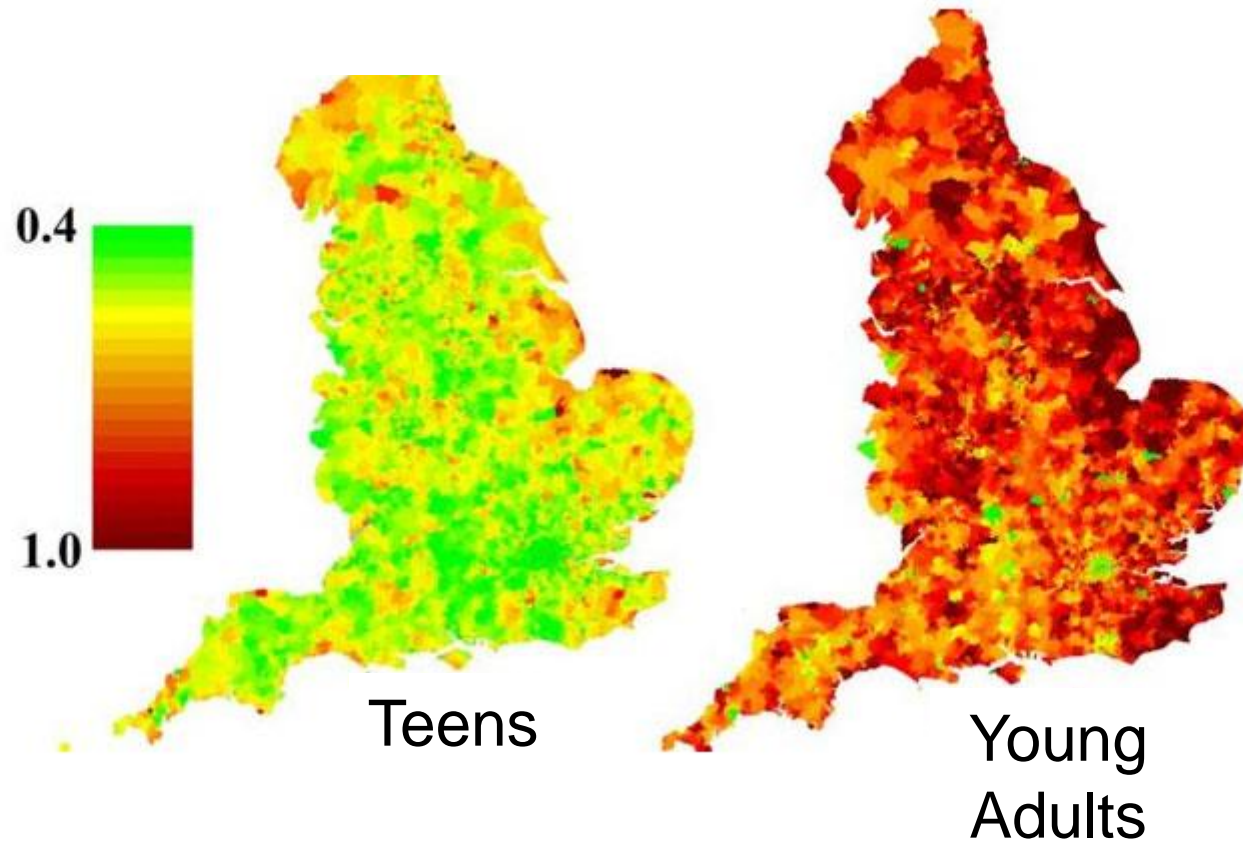
Possible data sources Risk

Geography

- Population density
- Pollution
- Weather
- Public green space (Sceanicness index? [Warwick])

Possible data sources Outcome

- Existing ONS measures of Loneliness
- Depression, high blood pressure, Antibiotic prescriptions, and other loneliness related diseases (Health Data)
- Divorce Rates
- Causes of death (age/ Loneliness related diseases)
- Sickness absence totals

Map risks- Could provide breakdown of why risk is high or low within a region?

Teens

Young Adults

Open Data Sources- Available for Download

Transport data: https://data.gov.uk/dataset/141f53ae-b285-4e10-a214-6dfe4004ad14/transport-accessibility-data

Air quality data : https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/data/pcm-data

Library addresses: https://data.gov.uk/dataset/de509172-9bf3-4e2b-bea3-518dc70217cb/uk-public-libraries-contacts

Community center number and size: https://data.gov.uk/dataset/1e09e836-6fdd-47ef-a64f-d9cc64bab761/community-centres

Cause of death: filtered data available at
https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?mode=construct&version=0&dataset=161

Divorce and age:
https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?mode=construct&version=0&dataset=167

labor market statistics: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/submit.asp?menuopt=201&subcomp=

population density by postcode: Data available for easy download at:
https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/postcode_headcounts_and_household_estimates

Cares allowance use split by working age or elderly by region
UK:https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/submit.asp?menuopt=201&subcomp=

prescription data by GP practice : downloaded, available at

https://data.gov.uk/dataset/176ae264-2484-4afe-a297-d51798eb8228/gp-practice-prescribing-data-presentation-level

Places of worship:

https://data.gov.uk/dataset/143fdbae-daae-45b1-b970-061dcaaf109f/places-of-worship

Pubs:

http://www.math.uwaterloo.ca/tsp/road/uk24727_tour.html

http://www.math.uwaterloo.ca/tsp/uk/data.html

survey data containing loneliness questions:

Community life survey 16/17 – age 16+ but now online approx. 10,000 sample size -
https://discover.ukdataservice.ac.uk/catalogue/?sn=8294&type=Data%20catalogue

ELSA (8 waves. 1998-2017) – age 50+ -
https://discover.ukdataservice.ac.uk/catalogue/?sn=5050&type=Data%20catalogue

Clubs

Facebook data on groups

Meetups data

Migration within UK:

https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/migrationwithintheuk

https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/migrationwithintheuk/datasets/internalmigrationbyoriginanddestinationlocalauthoritiessexandsingleyearofagedetailedestimatesdataset

Type of households (single parent- Living alone etc):

https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/families/datasets/familiesandhouseholdsfamiliesandhouseholds

Lots of other great data to consider on people population and community:
https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity