PU5063 Report Discussion

This discussion document accompanies the PDF Report “[title]”.

# Target Audience and Key Message

The target audience of the report is employers in Scotland. Adopting the perspective of employers, a trend is evident in the estimated percentage of the population prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression [or and] psychosis. Small or regional employers looking at a single council area or health board may see the increase over the last ten years as subtle and presenting too weak a case for increasing their allocation of support resources. However, the estimated percentage has increased year on year [in every council area and every health board] over the last ten years of available data. Thus, the national data offers a much stronger case for increasing the allocation of support resources and this is the key message of the report. Employers operating in single regions should review their data against not just the regional but also the national picture, and employers operating across multiple areas may want to ensure that their monitoring is standardised across branches so any need for targeted resources is identified early.

Why is this important and how can data science help address it?Scotland’s labour market is [size, spread, industries] and contributes [GDP, tax, whatever]. Employers typically provide various resources to their permanent staff, including health support, and within that, mental health resources. This is important because [days are lost to sick leave per year in Scotland, costing whatever in output, £, lost worktime] and [mental health impact on wider life]. The percentage of small businesses, multinationals, single region etc is…

Employers typically only have access to their own HR (and other) data, constraining the size of their dataset and limiting their ability to differentiate statistically significant changes from randomness. The availability of anonymised, aggregated data at regional and national levels allows for individual employers to review their data against a much larger dataset. However, this doesn’t mean that they have the resources to do this, including time and competence. Data science and data scientists can help them with this, particularly by publishing their methods, code and findings in publicly accessible ways.

# Data used to produce this visualisation

Inc data limitations

The data used to produce the visualisation is from the Scottish Public Health Observatory (PHO). It is the last ten years of available data on the estimated percentage of the population prescribed medication for anxiety, depression or psychosis. The data is reported at both council area and health board level. [any missing data].

The limitations of this data are that it is estimated only and the PHO does not include the method by which estimates were derived.

# Strengths and limitations of the approach used for the visualisation

The **short paper** should be written in any text editor of your choice (e.g. MS Word). This should be exported as a pdf to submit to MyAberdeen. In the paper, you should address the following points:

* Who is your target audience, and what is the key message you are aiming to get across?
* Why is the healthcare problem you have chosen important, and how can data science help to address it?
* What data did you use to produce your visualisation? What are the data limitations?
* What are the strengths and limitations of the approach you took for your visualisation?