Annual Report 2017
Key messages

Evidence of improved patient safety:

Patient suicide down overall, and...
- in in-patient suicides
- following hospital discharge
- after non-adherence to treatment

but...
- slowing of longstanding downward trend in in-patient suicides: 39% down 2005-2010
- 10% down 2010-2015
- the first week post-discharge period remains a time of high risk

Vigilance in specific diagnostic groups

Eating disorders
- 2/3 ill for >5 years
- 7% contact with specialist services

Autism spectrum disorder

Self-harm
- more common than in other patients

Dementia
- 18 deaths per year
- 16% ill for < 1 year

rise likely to reflect increasing diagnoses
access to specialist support needed in these conditions

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Reducing suicide by overdose:

- safer prescribing of opiate & opiate-containing analgesics
- self-poisoning deaths per year
- opiates most frequent type of drug in fatal overdose
- however, figures have fallen in England, Scotland, Wales

Most patients convicted of homicide have a history of alcohol or drug misuse:

- 88-100% in UK countries

Risk from mental health patients is related to co-existing substance misuse

Alcohol & drug misuse:

- specialist substance misuse & mental health services to work together in risk management

Health and justice:

- concern over prison sentences for people with severe mental illness

Patients with schizophrenia convicted of homicide offence:

- Many are sent to prison rather than hospital
- Further understanding needed of sentencing decisions

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