SIHOS
[Social Inequalities and Hospitalisations in Switzerland]

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CHALLENGES

- How to provide adequate treatment & guidance through the health system for vulnerable groups
- Obtain database with sufficient cases of disadvantaged patients with specific chronic conditions
- Develop record linkage procedures for national health and social data
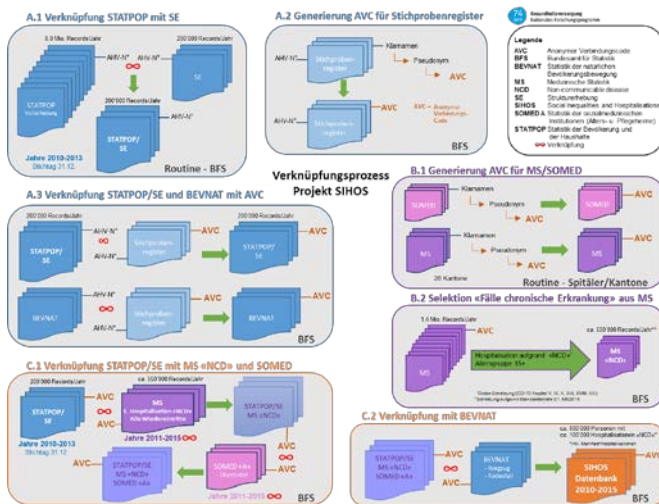
GOALS

- Analyze social gradients in use & outcome of inpatient health care for chronic diseases
- Identify which chronic diseases and which disadvantaged groups are concerned
- Analyse pathways into, within and out of inpatient health care

RESEARCH QUESTION AND APPROACHES

What is the impact of the social dimension on use & related outcomes of inpatient health care?

I RECORD LINKAGE OF EXISTING DATABASES

II RETROSPECTIVE COHORTS

Participants of the structural survey are followed for 1-2 years for hospital stays due to chronic conditions

Population Cohort

Calculation of hospital admission and readmission rates by SES and for disadvantaged groups

Inpatient Cohort

Multivariate regression models are developed to identify predictors of utilization & outcomes of inpatient health care

Chronic conditions	Primary predictors	Dependent variables	Covariates	Cluster variables
NCD's -Cardiovascular -Pulmonary -Musculosceletal	Low SES Vulnerable groups, e.g. -Elderly living alone -Single parents -Unemployed -First generation migrants -Disabled, economically inactive persons	Utilization -N° of admisssions -Length of stay -Heavy use Outcomes -Readmission within 30 days -Fatal outcome within 1 year -Time to readmission -Time to fatal outcome	Age Sex Institutional factors -Type of hospital -Accounting unit Length of stay Clinical characteristics -Comorbidity -Severity of case -Deterioring or amelioring progress	Hospital Time variables -Year of structural survey -Year of index hospitalisation -Year of rehospitalisation

III FOCUS GROUP INTERVIEWS

- Patients' and providers' perspective
- Put quantitative findings into context

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Evidence on social gradients in inpatient health care and on vulnerable groups concerned
- Insisghts into adequate health care and better guidance for disadvantaged populations with chronic diseases
- Basis for monitoring of the social dimension of inpatient health care

→ **Enhanced equity of the Swiss health care system**

Key References
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