

The mental health aspect of adult health assessments for prospective carers

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OBJECTIVES

To evaluate the mental health and lifestyle detail provided, in adult health (AH) forms, by prospective adoptive and foster carers and their GPs to aid the development of a quality standard.

INTRODUCTION

- Health information must be collected on prospective carers as looked after children often have considerable needs and carers must, therefore, have robust physical and mental health to meet these demands (1)
- It is essential that anything that may put a child at risk is known (2)
- Despite the importance of AH forms in safeguarding vulnerable children there is currently no quality standard

METHODS

- This study used a sample of 139 CoramBAAF AH forms from Cardiff and Vale's database from 2018-2023
- Analysis focused on comparison between the mental health and lifestyle details provided by the applicant and their GP and how these were referenced in the medical adviser's summary

RESULTS

- The number of applicants reporting mental health problems was 60% compared to 65% reported by GPs
- In 32% of cases the mental health detail provided by applicants and GPs varied significantly
- In 24% of cases GPs provided significantly more mental health detail than applicants
- Relevant mental health detail was referenced in the medical adviser's summary for 93% of applicants

REFERENCES

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Figure 1: % of mental health problems - applicant reported

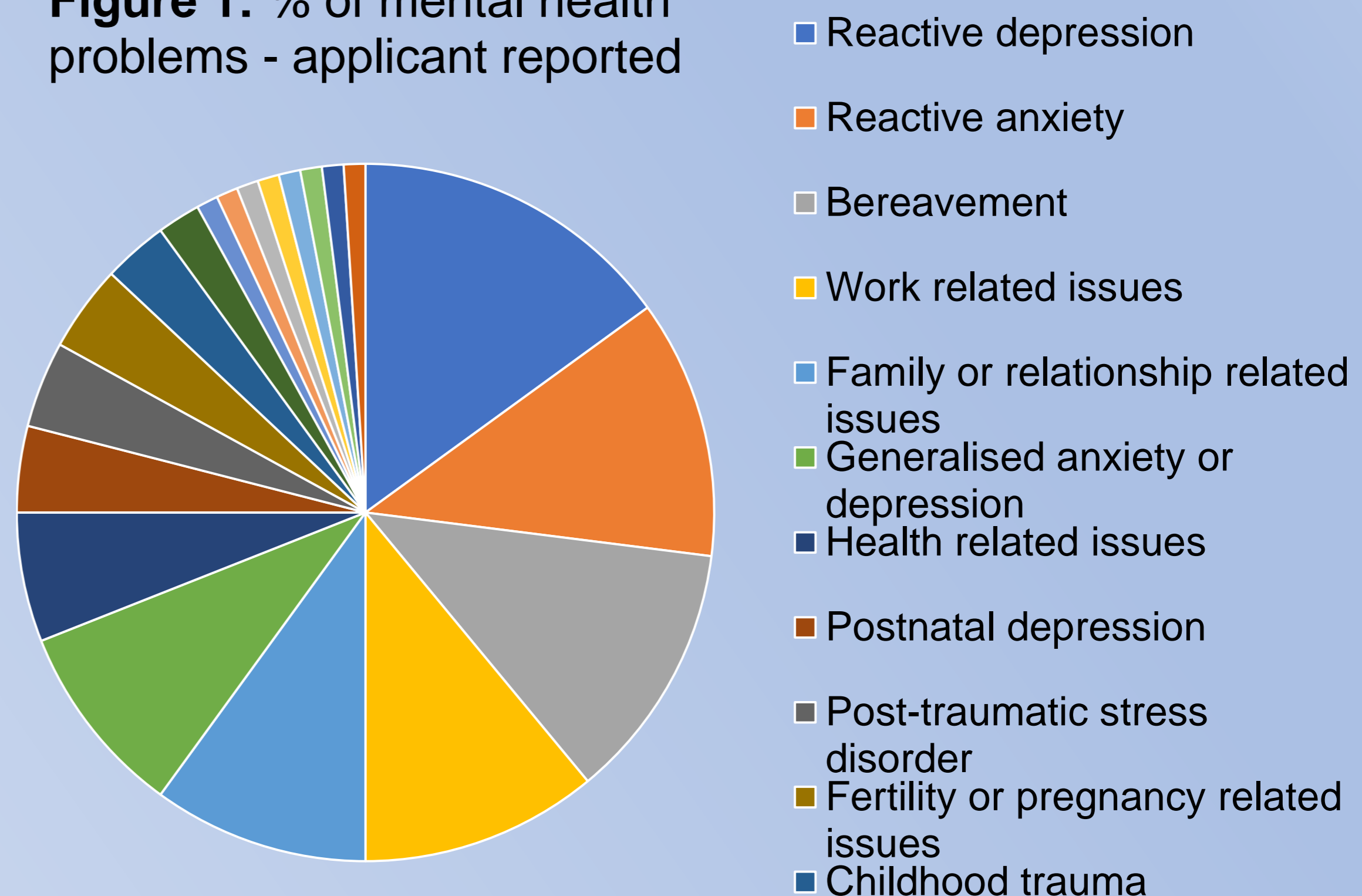
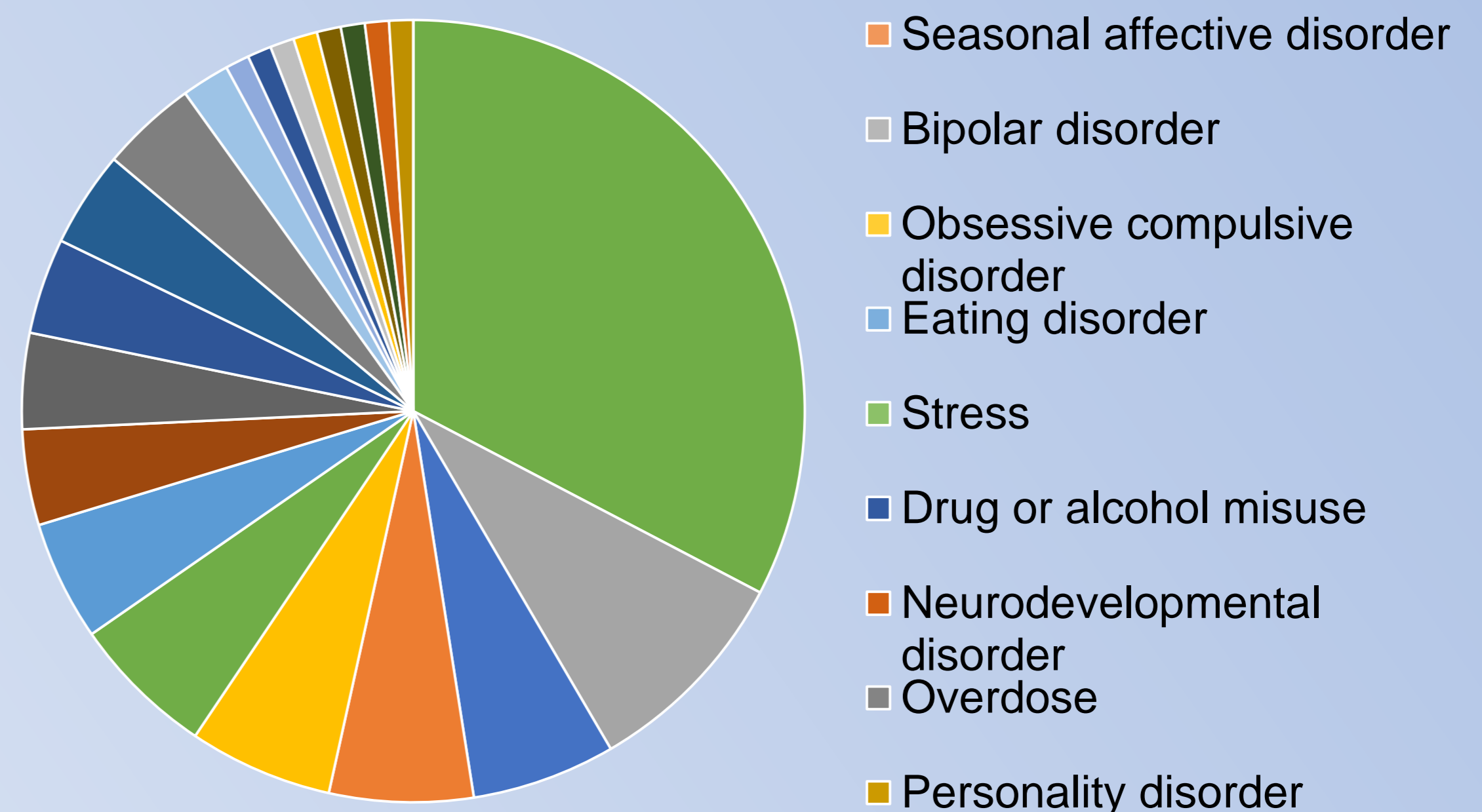


Figure 2: % of mental health problems - GP reported



CONCLUSION

- The number of mental health problems reported by applicants was similar to the number reported by GPs
- However, the level of detail was often inconsistent with GPs mostly providing greater detail
- These findings provide key information that could aid in the development of a quality standard for AH assessments such that they are as comprehensive and accurate as possible

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