

Identification of dropout predictors to a community-based physical activity programme that uses motivational interviewing

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SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

- A considerable challenge to the effectiveness of physical activity interventions is overcoming low adherence (for participants that remain in an intervention) and high dropout (participants that stop attending an intervention). This negatively impacts cost effectiveness of interventions, putting programmes at risk when sourcing new funding.
- The current study looks to address the lack of available evidence relating to the adherence and dropout of participants focusing specifically on MI interventions.
- Data collected during the first year of Let's Get Moving powered by ukactive was used to conduct binary logistic regression to help predict dropout based on key variables (age, sex, ethnicity, physical activity, disability or medical condition, and intervention pathway).
- This study identified three variables that significantly influenced the likelihood of dropout of a community-based physical activity programme within primary care that utilises MI techniques.
- Participants physically active at baseline and over the age of 60 were significantly less likely to dropout at 12-weeks. Participants with musculoskeletal disorders were significantly more likely to dropout.
- This is the first study to have examined the predictors of dropout for a PA programme that includes MI techniques.
- Practitioners, project deliverers, and project funders could use this information to target specific strategies to different age groups (especially younger than 60), and ensure deliverers are equipped to understand and support participants with conditions that could cause dropout, potentially overcoming a major limitation of physical activity based public health interventions. Effective interventions that increase physical activity and minimise dropout likely have greater potential to be a powerful tool to support the NHS and wider health care.

Identification of dropout predictors to a community-based physical activity programme that uses motivational interviewing

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SCIENTIFIC ABSTRACT

Background: Participant dropout reduces intervention effectiveness. Predicting dropout has been investigated for Exercise Referral Schemes, but not physical activity (PA) interventions with Motivational Interviewing (MI). **Methods:** Data from attendees (n=619) to a community-based PA programme utilising MI techniques were analysed using a chi-squared test to determine dropout and attendance group differences. Binary logistic regression investigated the likelihood of dropout before 12-weeks. **Results:** 44.7% of participants dropped out, with statistical ($P<0.05$) differences between groups for age, PA, and disability. Regression for each variable showed participants aged 61-70 years (OR=0.28, CI=0.09 to 0.79; $P=0.018$), >70 years (OR=0.30, CI=0.09 to 0.90; $P=0.036$), and high PA (OR=0.40, CI=0.20 to 0.75; $P=0.006$) reduced dropout likelihood. Endocrine system disorders (OR=4.24, CI=1.19 to 19.43; $P=0.036$) and musculoskeletal disorders (OR=3.14, CI=1.84 to 5.45; $P<0.001$) increased dropout likelihood. Significant variables were combined in a single regression model. Dropout significantly reduced for 61-70 year olds (OR=0.31, CI=0.10 to 0.90; $P=0.035$), and high PA (OR=0.39, CI=0.19 to 0.76; $P=0.008$). Musculoskeletal disorders increased dropout (OR=2.67, CI=1.53 to 4.75; $P<0.001$). **Conclusions:** Age, PA, and disability type significantly influence dropout at 12-weeks. These are the first results specific to MI based programmes indicating the inclusion of MI and highlighting the need for further research.

Key words: exercise; primary care; public health

INTRODUCTION

The physical activity (PA) levels of individuals increase through participation in an Exercise Referral Scheme (ERS)^{1,2}. ERSs increase the number of sedentary participants becoming moderately active³, and provide health benefits to specific populations⁴. However, the current level of evidence put forward by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) suggests ERSs have a marginal added effect compared to other methods of increasing PA⁵. NICE recommend alternative approaches to increase PA; one of which is brief advice⁵. Brief advice can be implemented in various formats, one being Motivational Interviewing (MI). MI provides an evidence based clinical approach that is used to deliver a range of benefits to patients, healthcare professionals, and organisations⁶. It is a client centred approach, using a direct method to increase, guide, elicit, and strengthen intrinsic motivation to change, explore, and resolve ambivalence^{7,8}.

In addition to increasing PA, MI in primary care can produce significant improvements in behaviour change and wider social support over a six-month period⁹, in addition to weight loss¹⁰. A recent systematic review and meta-analysis¹¹ reported a small effect for MI increasing PA levels for individuals with chronic health conditions, relative to comparison groups. O'Halloran et al.¹¹ suggested that adding MI to usual care can lead to modest improvements in PA. However, the studies within this systematic review did not report dropout or adherence. A substantial challenge to the effectiveness of exercise is overcoming low adherence and high dropout¹², which negatively impacts cost effectiveness, putting programmes at risk when sourcing new funding¹³. Adherence can be defined as a situation where participants who initially take part continue to take part¹³. The opposite is dropout (sometimes called non-attendance), where participants who initially take part but do not continue, removing themselves from the scheme.

Two studies^{14,15} predicted the likelihood of ERS dropout, reporting variables that show opposing effects that impact on participant dropout. The medical condition or reason for referral highlighted that certain conditions increase the likelihood of dropout, however not all conditions do. Younger participants are more likely to dropout, as are smokers, and those who take part in less PA. Whereas, a lack of motivation and lack of childcare barriers decrease the likelihood of dropout. As there are only two studies that predict dropout for ERS, further research is warranted. The data reported to date provides vital and interesting findings that could provide the key to help reduce participant drop out.

The current study looks to address the lack of available literature relating to the adherence and dropout of participants focusing specifically on MI interventions. However, there have been several ERS studies^{2,14–19} that looked to predict those that adhere or dropout of schemes. By definition MI is a collaborative, person-centred approach that guides and strengthens personal motivation to change⁸. This interaction, that is not part of traditional ERSs, may be a key mechanism to support individuals and thus reduce dropout. The aim of this study is to explore the predictors of dropout within a community-based PA programme that utilises MI techniques. This will further understanding of the effectiveness of such interventions, as well as advance academic literature on dropout and adherence to PA interventions.

METHODS

Population

Data was collated from 619 participants who attended the first year (June 2015 – May 2016) of a community based PA programme (Let's Get Moving [LGM]) that utilises MI techniques, delivered across the county of Essex, United Kingdom. Participants were invited to take part in the programme if their GP

records stated they were aged 18-74 years, and had a body mass index (BMI) between 28-35kg.m⁻². All participants attended an initial appointment with a Community Exercise Professional where a MI took place. Each MI session lasted for 30 minutes and consisted of two phases. Phase one was to enhance intrinsic motivation for change, and phase two aimed to strengthen change⁷. At the end of the appointment one of two pathways were followed depending on the pathway assigned to their GP surgery; (1) a standard MI pathway, and (2), a Social Action (SA) group pathway. The standard MI pathway involved the signposting of suitable local activities. Participants then returned for a 12-week MI appointment. There was no contact between appointments. Those within the SA group pathway met weekly for 12-weeks in groups up to 25 with the Community Exercise Professional in local community centres. These weekly sessions involved learning about and discussing a range of topics that help lead a healthy lifestyle, including regular PA, confidence, weight management, and having fun with friends and family. Participants did not take part in any PA during these sessions. Participants then returned for a 12-week MI appointment.

Data were collected at initial appointments with attendance of follow up determined from their 12-week appointment record. Community Exercise Professionals working within GP surgeries, conducted baseline and 12-week appointments, recording relevant data. Each Community Exercise Professional was trained in MI techniques, safeguarding procedures and guidelines, and technical training ensuring data was collected and reported accurately.

All participants provided written informed consent and ethical approval for this research was obtained from the Ethics Committee at St Mary's University, Twickenham. Further ethical approval from the London – Hampstead Research Ethics

Committee was obtained for the LGM programme.

Measures

Baseline demographic data were collected from participants who attended the first year of the LGM programme. This included sex, age, ethnicity, and disability or medical condition. Baseline self-reported PA levels were collected using the short-form International Physical Activity Questionnaire (IPAQ). The IPAQ is valid (criterion validity Spearman's coefficient of 0.40 for total PA), reliable (Test-retest Spearman's reliability coefficient of 0.69 for all PA intensities), and an international standard developed and evaluated as an instrument for self-report, population-level research²⁰. Further, the IPAQ represents the most feasible approach for this population²¹, allowing for comparison between programmes and a collation of findings. Attendance at the 12-week follow up appointment was determined by the completion of the IPAQ at this time point, if no IPAQ data was collected a participant was deemed to have dropped out. By dropping out participants left the intervention which meant they no longer attended the weekly SA group sessions or did not receive a follow up MI session.

Data Management

All data were recorded and securely stored using Lumeon (1.90.18.dev, Lumeon, London, UK) before being anonymously exported for analysis. Data collection used predetermined categories meaning data input errors (e.g. a misspelling of female) were minimised, although all data were checked for obvious errors. For disability, where a response was missing it was considered to indicate that a participant had no known disability or medical condition. Disabilities were collected in 16 predetermined categories used as part of the LGM reporting, with an additional category added for those with multiple conditions. Ethnicity was collected and categorised into five ethnic

groups in accordance with the Office of National Statistics guidance measuring equality²². IPAQ analysis and categorisation was conducted in accordance with published guidelines, with the IPAQ recommended categories of 'low', 'moderate', and 'high' PA²³.

Statistical analysis

All data analysis was conducted using R version 3.4.3 (<https://cran.r-project.org/>). Chi-squared (χ^2) analysis was conducted to determine any differences in age, sex, ethnicity, PA, disability or medical condition, and pathway between the dropout group and attendance group. Binary logistic regression was used to investigate the ability of the following independent variables measured at baseline to predict dropout before 12-weeks; sex, age, PA level, disability or medical condition, and pathway. Multiple regression models were used for each independent variable to determine which had a significant effect on dropout before 12-weeks. Each significant variable was then combined into a single regression model to determine which of these influences dropout before 12-weeks. Likelihood ratio tests, McFadden R^2 , Cox and Snell R^2 , and Nagelkerke R^2 , and Wald test were used to investigate the models overall fit, variance, and statistical significance of the single regression model.

RESULTS

Descriptive analysis

A total of 619 participants attended an initial MI appointment with 277 (44.7%) dropping out before the 12-week point. Overall, 41.6% of males and 47.0% of females dropped out (Table 1), with a non-statistically significant difference between the dropout and attendance groups ($\chi^2_{(1)} = 1.52$, $P=0.217$) for sex.

Between those who dropped out and attended, age was significantly different ($\chi^2_{(5)} = 33.74$, $P<0.001$). The lower age groups, specifically those under 30 and

between 31-40, saw the largest percentage drop out, 62.5% and 61.1% respectively. More than half of Black or Black British participants (54.8%) and Asian or Asian British participants (57.1%) dropped out. The lowest number of dropouts came from

the White or White British participants (n=203; 42.1%) (Table 1). However, there was no significant difference in ethnicity between dropout and attendance groups ($\chi^2_{(4)} = 6.39$, $P=0.172$).

Table 1. Baseline and 12-week descriptive analysis including the percentage of dropouts and chi-squared results between the dropout and attendance group for each variable.

	Baseline (n=619)		12-weeks: dropout (n=277)		12-weeks: attended (n=342)		Overall % dropout
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Sex							
Male	245	39.6%	102	36.8%	143	41.8%	41.6%
Female	370	59.8%	174	62.8%	196	57.3%	47.0%
Not stated	4	0.6%	1	0.4%	3	0.9%	25.0%
							$\chi^2_{(1)} = 1.52$ $P=0.217$
Age							
Under 30	16	2.6%	10	3.6%	6	1.8%	62.5%
31-40	72	11.6%	44	15.9%	28	8.2%	61.1%
41-50	109	17.6%	63	22.7%	46	13.5%	57.8%
51-60	167	27.0%	77	27.8%	90	26.3%	46.1%
61-70	180	29.1%	57	20.6%	123	36.0%	31.7%
Over 70	72	11.6%	24	8.7%	48	14.0%	33.3%
Not stated	3	0.5%	2	0.7%	1	0.3%	66.7%
							$\chi^2_{(5)} = 33.74$ $P<0.001^*$
Ethnicity							
White or White British	482	77.9%	203	73.3%	279	81.6%	42.1%
Black or Black British	62	10.0%	34	12.3%	28	8.2%	54.8%
Asian or Asian British	28	4.5%	16	5.8%	12	3.5%	57.1%
Mixed	7	1.1%	3	1.1%	4	1.2%	42.9%
Other	1	0.2%	0	0.0%	1	0.3%	0.0%
Not stated	39	6.3%	21	7.6%	18	5.3%	53.8%
							$\chi^2_{(4)} = 6.39$ $P=0.172$
PA							
Low	322	52.0%	145	52.3%	177	51.8%	45.0%
Moderate	235	38.0%	118	42.6%	117	34.2%	50.2%
High	53	8.6%	13	4.7%	40	11.7%	24.5%
Not stated	9	1.5%	1	0.4%	8	2.3%	11.1%
							$\chi^2_{(2)} = 11.53$ $P=0.003^*$

Disability							
Asthma	17	2.7%	8	2.9%	9	2.6%	47.1%
Autoimmune disorders	3	0.5%	1	0.4%	2	0.6%	33.3%
Cancer	10	1.6%	2	0.7%	8	2.3%	20.0%
Cardiovascular system disorders	25	4.0%	13	4.7%	12	3.5%	52.0%
Diabetes	2	0.3%	2	0.7%	0	0.0%	100.0%
Digestive system disorder	2	0.3%	0	0.0%	2	0.6%	0.0%
Endocrine system disorders	11	1.8%	8	2.9%	3	0.9%	72.7%
High blood pressure	28	4.5%	12	4.3%	16	4.7%	42.9%
Learning disability	6	1.0%	3	1.1%	3	0.9%	50.0%
Mental health condition	15	2.4%	5	1.8%	10	2.9%	33.3%
Multiple	149	24.1%	66	23.8%	83	24.3%	44.3%
Musculoskeletal disorders	75	12.1%	50	18.0%	25	7.3%	66.7%
Neurological disorders	3	0.5%	0	0.0%	3	0.9%	0.0%
None	262	42.3%	102	36.8%	160	46.8%	38.9%
Other	2	0.3%	1	0.4%	1	0.3%	50.0%
Respiratory disorders	3	0.5%	0	0.0%	3	0.9%	0.0%
Sensory Impairment	6	1.0%	4	1.4%	2	0.6%	66.7%
							$\chi^2_{(16)} = 35.89$ $P=0.003^*$
Pathway							
MI	451	72.9%	212	76.5%	239	69.9%	47.0%
SA group	168	27.1%	65	23.5%	103	30.1%	38.7%
							$\chi^2_{(1)} = 3.10$ $P=0.079$

* indicated χ^2 statistically significant difference between the dropout and attendance group ($\alpha=0.05$).

Half (50.2%) of participants who self-reported being moderately active at baseline dropped out, with a slightly smaller percentage of low active participants dropping out (45.0%) (Table 1). PA level was statistically significant between the dropout and attendance group ($\chi^2_{(2)} = 11.53$, $P=0.003$).

Disability or medical condition was statistically significant between the dropout and attendance group ($\chi^2_{(16)} = 35.892$, $P=0.003$). Just over a third (38.6%) of participants without a disability or medical condition dropped out, whereas 44.3% of participants who had multiple disabilities or medical conditions (Table 1).

More participants on the MI pathway dropped out at 12-weeks (47.0%), compared to 38.7% of participants on the

SA pathway (Table 1), however this difference was not significantly different ($\chi^2_{(1)} = 3.10$, $P=0.079$).

Indicators for PA Intervention Dropout

Regression models analysed each independent variable in isolation and can be seen in Table 2. Sex and ethnicity were not found to be statistically significant predictors of dropout at 12-weeks. Age was found to be a significant predictor of dropout, with the two oldest age ranges demonstrating a statistically significant contribution to the model, with odds that reduce the likelihood of 12-week dropout (61-70 years (OR=0.28, CI=0.09 to 0.79; $P=0.018$); over 70 years (OR=0.30, CI=0.09 to 0.90; $P=0.036$)). Those participants who reported high PA at

baseline were significantly less likely to dropout at 12-weeks (OR=0.40, CI=0.20 to 0.75; $P=0.006$). Two disabilities or medical conditions were statistically significant predictors of dropout at 12-weeks. Participants with endocrine system disorders (OR=4.18, CI=1.18 to 19.43; $P=0.037$) were the most likely to dropout at

12-weeks followed by those with musculoskeletal disorders (OR=3.14, CI=1.84 to 5.45; $P<0.001$). The pathway was not found to be a statistically significant predictor of dropout at 12-weeks.

Table 2. Results for each individual binary logistic regression model ($\alpha = 0.05$).

Sex	OR	95% CI		<i>P</i>
		2.5%	97.5%	
Female	1.00	(ref)		
Male	0.80	0.58	1.11	0.188
Age				
Under 30	1.00	(ref)		
31-40	0.94	0.29	2.83	0.918
41-50	0.82	0.26	2.38	0.722
51-60	0.51	0.17	1.45	0.216
61-70	0.28	0.09	0.79	0.018 *
Over 70	0.30	0.09	0.90	0.036 *
Ethnicity				
White or White British	1.00	(ref)		
Black or Black British	1.67	0.98	2.86	0.059
Asian or Asian British	1.83	0.85	4.04	0.123
Mixed	1.03	0.20	4.72	0.969
Other	1.76×10^{-06}	NA	$4.33 \times 10^{+41}$	0.980
PA				
Low	1.00	(ref)		
Moderate	1.23	0.88	1.73	0.227
High	0.40	0.20	0.75	0.006 **
Disability				
None	1.00	(ref)		
Asthma	1.39	0.52	3.76	0.508
Autoimmune disorders	0.78	0.04	8.29	0.843
Cancer	0.39	0.06	1.60	0.242
Cardiovascular system disorders	1.70	0.74	3.92	0.207
Diabetes	$9.03 \times 10^{+6}$	6.22×10^{-64}	NA	0.988
Digestive system disorder	2.72×10^{-7}	NA	$3.95 \times 10^{+63}$	0.988
Endocrine system disorders	4.18	1.18	19.43	0.037 *
High blood pressure	1.18	0.52	2.58	0.686
Learning disability	1.57	0.29	8.62	0.586
Mental health condition	0.78	0.24	2.27	0.666
Multiple	1.25	0.83	1.88	0.288
Musculoskeletal disorders	3.14	1.84	5.45	<0.001 ***

Neurological disorders	0.00	NA	1.10 x10 ⁺⁴¹	0.986
Other	1.57	0.06	39.96	0.751
Respiratory disorders	2.72 x10 ⁻⁰⁷	NA	1.10 x10 ⁺⁴¹	0.986
Sensory Impairment	3.14	0.60	22.93	0.191

Pathway

MI	1.00	(ref)		
SA group	0.71	0.49	1.02	0.065

* $P < 0.05$; ** $P < 0.01$; *** $P < 0.001$

Significant variable model

The single regression model containing only the statistically significant independent variables from each individual model can be seen in Table 3. Age, PA level, and disabilities or medical conditions each significantly influence the dropout at 12-weeks. Participants aged 61-70 years had a reduced likelihood of dropping out

(OR=0.31, CI=0.10 to 0.90; $P=0.035$). Similar results were found for participants who reported high PA at baseline (OR=0.39, CI=0.19 to 0.76; $P=0.008$). Musculoskeletal disorders were statistically significant predictors of dropout at 12-weeks (OR=2.67, CI=1.53 to 4.75; $P < 0.001$).

Table 3. Binary logistic regression results for the model containing only the statistically significant independent variables from each individual model.

	OR	95% CI		P	
		2.5%	97.5%		
(Intercept)	1.20	0.43	3.630	0.738	
31-40	0.88	0.27	2.75	0.833	
41-50	0.93	0.29	2.75	0.894	
51-60	0.61	0.19	1.76	0.365	
61-70	0.31	0.10	0.90	0.035	*
Over 70	0.35	0.10	1.07	0.071	
Moderate PA	1.19	0.83	1.71	0.332	
High PA	0.39	0.19	0.76	0.008	**
Asthma	1.21	0.43	3.37	0.720	
Autoimmune disorders	1.07	0.05	12.13	0.957	
Cancer	0.39	0.06	1.65	0.248	
Cardiovascular system disorders	1.60	0.68	3.80	0.284	
Diabetes	4.46 x10 ⁺⁰⁶	3.37 x10 ⁻⁶⁴	NA	0.988	
Digestive system disorder	0.00	NA	3.61 x10 ⁺⁶³	0.989	
Endocrine system disorders	4.02	1.07	19.38	0.051	
High blood pressure	1.38	0.59	3.17	0.447	
Learning disability	1.33	0.23	7.52	0.736	
Mental health condition	1.01	0.30	3.04	0.980	
Multiple	1.38	0.90	2.12	0.142	
Musculoskeletal disorders	2.67	1.53	4.75	<0.001	***
Neurological disorders	0.00	NA	3.75 x10 ⁺⁴⁰	0.985	

Other	1.26	0.05	32.53	0.871
Respiratory disorders	0.00	NA	1.44 x10 ⁺⁴¹	0.986
Sensory Impairment	2.80	0.51	21.16	0.252

* $P < 0.05$; ** $P < 0.01$; *** $P < 0.001$

DISCUSSION

Main findings of the study

This study explored predictors of dropout within a community-based PA programme that utilises MI techniques. Age, PA, and disability or medical condition significantly impacted participant dropout. This study reveals, for the multiple logistic regression models for each independent variable in isolation, those over 61 years of age are significant less likely to dropout, as are highly active participants. Participants with musculoskeletal disorders and endocrine system disorders have a significantly increased likelihood of dropout. Combining these significant variables into a single model demonstrated that participants aged between 61 and 70 years, and highly active participants are less likely to dropout. Participants suffering with musculoskeletal disorders were statistically significant predictors of dropout before the 12-week point.

What is already known on this topic

Current understanding of adherence and dropout prediction is limited to ERSs, with more research published on adherence prediction^{2,16–19} than dropout^{14,15}. The current findings demonstrate a lower percentage of drop outs (44.7%) when compared to previous ERS literature (51%¹³, 80%²⁴, and 88%³), although these studies only report adherence (with the opposite reported here as dropout). The inclusion of MI appointments for all participants, supporting motivation to change, may have contributed to the lower dropout reported. The understanding of the needs and motivations of each participant ensure appropriate activities are signposted or support is provided. Nevertheless, a higher percentage of drop outs was found in

this study compared to a specific MI intervention targeted at cardiac rehabilitation patients which reported dropout at 36%²⁵. Findings from the current study further support the ERS literature that has identified sex as not being a significant predictor, but increasing age does decrease dropout^{14,15}. Self-reported PA is similar to previous findings in that the more active participants are less likely to dropout, however low active participants do not dropout¹⁵.

What this study adds

This is the first study to identify these predictors for a specific MI based intervention that looks to increase PA levels. The predictors identified demonstrate dropout likelihood within a new area, and they are also comparable to previous ERS research^{14,15}. The dropout percentage result suggest that by utilising a brief intervention, as suggested by NICE⁵, dropout can be reduced by at least 6.3% compared to the lowest ERS dropout reported by Pavey et al.¹³.

The current study is the first to report dropout prediction for ethnicity and disability or medical condition. Results indicate that ethnicity is not a significant predictor of dropout, whereas participants with musculoskeletal disorders were 2.7 times more likely to dropout, a significant effect. These two variables have however been reported in adherence literature, with both ethnicity¹⁶ and disability significantly influencing the adherence^{16–18}. However, for disability, the conditions differed across the studies meaning any link is difficult to identify.

These findings will help to refine and improve the service offered to ensure additional support is in place for those most at risk of dropout to improve retention. This research also has wider implications on the

future development and commissioning of services to support inactive individuals due to the greater understanding of what is required. This can be used to inform policy makers and commissioners when deciding on services for specific areas or demographics.

Limitations of this study

Although the use of the IPAQ to collect self-reported PA levels is valid and reliable²⁰ there is no valid and reliable measure to collect disability or medical condition through self-report. Participants may be inaccurate, not knowing or misreporting their condition. Accessing accurate medical records would alleviate this. However, this solution may not be feasible in practice. A further limitation, and common issue within real-world data collection, is the missing data or incorrect entry of data²⁶, although this was minimised due to the standardised data collection fields.

Conclusion

This study identified three variables that significantly influenced the likelihood of dropout of a community-based PA programme within primary care that utilises MI techniques; PA level, age, and disability or medical condition. The first study of its kind, it determined the predictors of dropout for a PA programme that includes MI techniques. The findings build upon and advance ERS research, increasing the understanding of how dropout can be reduced.

This study had a lower dropout percentage overall compared to previous ERSs^{3,13,24} highlighting how providing a brief MI session can support individuals make motivated decisions around behaviour change. Overcoming low adherence is key to the success of PA interventions¹², offering preventative provision through the benefits associated with PA.

Practitioners, project deliverers, and project funders will use this information to

ensure specific strategies are incorporated for different age groups (especially younger than 60), and ensure deliverers are equipped to understand and support participants with conditions that could cause dropout, overcoming a major limitation of PA based public health interventions. Effective interventions that increase PA and minimise dropout can be a powerful tool to support the NHS and wider health care.

Therefore, additional research into the dropout of PA initiatives that incorporate MI techniques is warranted to explore further and advance the knowledge within this field. If this is to happen for MI specific interventions, or even ERSs, then consistent data reporting should be followed. Determining the most appropriate format for each variable may prove difficult due to the limitations discussed but the increase in consistency will ultimately create more accurate and deeper understanding of the research findings.

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