



MIDAS Programme: Real world pain outcomes and experiences of care

Newsletter

May 2026

Welcome to the Newsletter from MIDAS project where we share news and updates on project outputs and impacts since the official completion of project funding in September 2025.

New findings and engagement with scientific communities

Analysis of MIDAS-Pop data by PhD student Mubharak Abdullateef provides new insights on whether individual or area-level measurements of social determinants of health perform better at predicting chronic pain. The findings were presented at the British Society for Rheumatology's annual conference in April 2026. They add to arguments for better measurement of individual social risk factors in routine health data registry and electronic health records.



Our findings showing the increase in the prevalence of pain in the adult population between 2016/2017 and

2022/2023 have now been published in *Public Health*.

Our updated mapping of neighbourhood-level pain prevalence has been submitted for peer-reviewed publication.

From Research to Real-world Impact



We're gearing up for an exciting new chapter for MIDAS-GP. Work is now underway to bring our dashboards directly into GP practices and Integrated Care Boards (ICB) at scale, opening the door for far broader real-world impact.

To make this happen, Prof Jonathan Hill and his team are collaborating with VUIT on fresh, intuitive visualisations, and partnering with John Jeans of The Benchmarking Network and 33N, the team behind the NHS Clear programme, to understand stakeholder needs and gauge GP appetite for rollout.

The goal is simple but ambitious: to make the MIDAS-GP methodology and dashboards sustainably available to practices across the country, while continuing the academic and public-good mission that has shaped the project from the start.



The team delivered an invited presentation on MIDAS to Health Data Research UK Midlands conference in November 2025.



Tackling Inequalities in MSK Health

Prof Ross Wilkie is leading a new project to understand and reduce widening inequalities in musculoskeletal (MSK) health. Recent MIDAS data found that the rise in chronic and high-impact chronic pain was greatest in the most deprived communities.

Despite long-recognised links between MSK health, deprivation and ethnicity, we still know too little about why these inequalities occur.

MSK UP builds directly on MIDAS's innovative community-based approach, which gathered face-to-face data from people living in the most deprived 20% of areas and from ethnically diverse backgrounds, groups typically missing from traditional surveys. The new work will deepen understanding, strengthen community engagement, and help identify what could genuinely reduce inequalities in MSK health.

Sharing our learning on stakeholder involvement

A multidisciplinary community of practice (CoP) and an active Patient Advisory Group (PAG) were essential ingredients in MIDAS. In her keynote lecture 'Beyond the dataset' to the Physiotherapy Research Society in April 2026, Prof Kay Stevenson shared learning from our MIDAS CoP.

Our PAG features in [Arthritis UK's case studies on public involvement](#), and MIDAS featured as a case study in the [development of a new national toolkit to improve pathways to implementation for public engagement](#).

Remember you can read the full MIDAS Final Report at <https://www.keele.ac.uk/midas/>

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Visit www.nuffieldfoundation.org and <https://www.arthritis-uk.org/>.

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