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e-Newsletter
Issue 5
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Welcome to the fifth ScotPHO e-Newsletter

In this e-Newsletter we feature some of the projects we've been working on this year, highlight other developments in public health intelligence in Scotland and list some forthcoming events and conferences that may be of interest to you.

If you have any comments or questions about the e-Newsletter or the ScotPHO collaboration, please email us at scotpho@nhs.net.

If you have difficulty reading this e-Newsletter as an email, then please view it as a [web page](#).

New on the ScotPHO website

Click on the headlines below for more details

Alcohol attributable mortality and morbidity

Alcohol is linked to many disease conditions and is one of the major risk factors for burden of disease in established market economies. The aim of this study was to calculate alcohol population attributable fractions for Scotland, using the best possible estimates based on the current evidence available in the epidemiological literature and specific estimates of population drinking in Scotland. These were then applied to mortality and morbidity data to estimate more fully the burden of alcohol attributable harm in Scotland.

Are people in Scotland becoming more active?

Other developments in public health intelligence in Scotland

Click on the headlines below for more details

Glasgow Centre for Population Health

The 'Observatory Function' of the GCPH is involved in a range of projects relevant to public health intelligence. A summary of recent work is provided below.

- An active travel work programme, including detailed analyses of travel use in Glasgow and the Clyde Valley.
- International comparative work, including the 2nd phase of comparisons of health in European post-industrial regions and developing the [Miniature Cities](#) project to include a number of partners in UK and European cities.
- Contributing to work piloting an inequalities framework in three Equally Well test sites, as well as an equalities review of the breastfeeding HEAT target.
- Continued research into the 'Glasgow Effect', with detailed analyses of health and deprivation in Glasgow, Liverpool and Manchester.
- Looking at the impact of the credit crunch for the Director of Public Health's report for Greater Glasgow and Clyde.
- Research commissioned from St. Andrew's University investigating the impact of selective migration on widening inequalities in Glasgow.
- New projects include descriptive analyses of: income, poverty, employment and worklessness in Glasgow; mental health; and social capital indicators in the city.

If you have any questions or comments about the work of the GCPH Observatory Function please email David Walsh (david.walsh@drs.glasgow.gov.uk) or Bruce Whyte (bruce.whyte@drs.glasgow.gov.uk).

Mental health indicators for

This report provides an assessment of long-term trends in physical activity amongst adults aged 16-64 in Scotland. Combining data from three Scottish Health Surveys (1995, 1998 and 2003) and ten Health Education Population Surveys (spanning 1996 to 2006), regression analysis is used to examine whether there has been any change in the proportion meeting the recommendations for physical activity between 1995 and 2006. The report also describes inequalities in compliance with the recommendations by gender, age and deprivation. It concludes with recommendations for future survey-based monitoring of physical activity in Scotland.

NHS Smoking Cessation Service Statistics (Scotland) 2008

This report presents information on clients attempting to quit smoking with the help of NHS smoking cessation services, and quit outcomes, during the 2008 calendar year. Included also are comparisons with data for the previous year. The primary source of the data is the National Smoking Cessation Database, managed by ISD Scotland.

Scotland's mental health and its context: adults 2009

This report provides the first systematic assessment of mental health and its contextual factors for adults in Scotland. It analyses 45 indicators from the previously established national adult mental health indicator set. These cover both the state of mental health (positive mental health and mental health problems) and its context (including individual, community and structural factors). Where possible, the report provides an analysis of time trends over the last decade and equalities analysis by age, gender and either area-based deprivation or individual socio-economic status. A free-standing four page summary is also available.

Asthma

Each year around 5% of the Scottish population consult their GP because of asthma. This new website section includes a guide to useful data sources from both primary and secondary care relevant to asthma in Scotland. It also includes NHS board data, links to international comparisons and a guide to relevant policy documents.

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)

Scotland

Adults

As already noted in this e-newsletter, the report [Scotland's mental health and its context: adults 2009](#) has now been published. Please contact Martin Taulbut (martin.taulbut@health.scot.nhs.uk) if you have any questions / comments about this report.

Children

Work is progressing on the children and young people's mental health indicators. A [briefing paper](#) outlining current thinking, progress and the background to the work is available. A literature review on what children and young people think impacts on their mental health will be available soon and will feed into on-going discussions around the indicators framework. Work to assess the evidence-base for the framework and indicators has now begun.

Data is currently being analysed in the work to assess the suitability of the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale (WEMWBS) for children aged 13 to 15. A [project update](#) providing background information, progress to date and some preliminary very early findings is available and the report from the project will be available in November.

Scottish Health Survey

The Scottish Health Survey (SHeS) 2008 Annual Report will be published on 29 September 2009. A [table](#) summarising how the results will be reported for the different topics covered in the survey is now available. The report on the Knowledge, Attitudes and Motivations (KAM) module (previously the Health Education Population Survey) will be published by NHS Health Scotland towards the end of the year.

The final SHeS 2008 dataset will be available from the UK Data Archive around January 2010, including supporting documentation such as user guides, variables list and interviewer documents.

The Scottish Health Survey was recently assessed by the UK Statistics Authority against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics with a view to determining whether the statistics should be designated as National Statistics. Their report is due to be published in mid-September 2009.

For any Scottish Health Survey queries please email the SHeS Team at ScottishHealthSurvey@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Scottish Public Health

accounts for rising numbers of hospital admissions in Scotland and as many as two thirds of cases are undiagnosed. This new website section includes a guide to useful data sources from both primary and secondary care relevant to COPD in Scotland. Deprivation and NHS board data are presented and there is a summary of relevant smoking data. Sources of international comparisons are also discussed.

Injuries

This new website section presents summary data and statistics on injuries in Scotland, including:

- Population based information on injury trends and variation among adults.
- Emergency hospital admissions data on unintentional injuries for both adults and children.
- Trends in injury-related mortality among adults and children.
- Information on assaults and homicides, road traffic accidents and workplace injuries among adults.
- Links to UK and international comparisons.

This website section was recently updated to include the latest (2008) mortality information from the General Register Office for Scotland. Scotland's suicide rate is higher than in other parts of the UK and varies considerably across both NHS board and local authority areas, and by age, deprivation group and gender.

ScotPHO website topic focus

Methodology

This web page provides links to short reports and excel tools on methodological topics of relevance to public health analysts. This includes a series of technical briefings from the UK Association of Public Health Observatories (APHO) covering the following topics:

- Commonly used public health statistics and their confidence intervals.
- Statistical process control methods in public health intelligence.
- The Good Indicators Guide: Understanding how to use and choose indicators.
- Target setting in a multi-agency environment.

Watch out for three further APHO technical briefings due to be published before the end of this year.

- Using small area data in public health intelligence.
- Measuring smoking prevalence in local

Network (ScotPHN)

Several ScotPHN projects are currently nearing completion and reports will be available soon. The report of the health care needs assessment of treatment and care services for people living with HIV will be published in conjunction with the HIV Action Plan in the near future. The report of the health care needs assessment of ME-CFS services is out for national consultation, with the closing date for comments the 9 September 2009. The report of the needs assessment on type 2 diabetes will be out for stakeholder review in the autumn.

Proposals for new projects are being developed. A project investigating the levels of need for residential education provision in young people, and specifically the mental health support needs of looked after young people, will be undertaken as a priority. If you would like to be involved, please contact ScotPHN (scotphn@health.scot.nhs.uk).

ScotPHN is developing a new website to be launched at the Faculty of Public Health annual Scottish conference (12-13 November 2009). It will include up-to-date information on projects, discussion forums and other resources of interest to those working in public health. Currently, reports and information on ScotPHN's work can be found at www.healthscotland.com/scotphn.

For further information on ScotPHN, please contact Ann Conacher, ScotPHN Co-ordinator (0141 354 2979 / scotphn@health.scot.nhs.uk).

Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics

The most recent update to the health information on SNS included information on breast feeding and teenage pregnancies. The next health update is planned for November and will include the latest information on first-time mothers, low weight live births and mothers who smoke.

Forthcoming events

Click on the headlines below for further information on each event

Public Health Information Network for Scotland (PHINS) annual seminar

Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, Friday 4 September 2009

*** This seminar is now fully booked. ***

- populations.
- Statistical techniques for interpreting health inequalities.

Coming soon on the ScotPHO website

We hope to add the following resources to the ScotPHO website over the coming months, so please check our [home page](#) regularly to see what's new on the website.

Reports:

- HEPS: 12-year behaviour change trends.
- Multiple risk factors.
- Population diversity and health improvement opportunities.

Website sections:

- Liver disease.
- Prison health.
- Scottish policies and strategies.

Other resources:

- Health profiles 2008 - small area spine graphs and rank charts.
- Health inequalities intervention tool.
- Scotland and European Health for All Database update.

UK Association of Cancer Registries (UKACR) annual conference

Airth Castle Hotel, Falkirk, 9-10 September 2009

Association of Community Health Partnerships annual conference

Crutherland House Hotel, East Kilbride, 10-11 September 2009

Faculty of Public Health annual Scottish conference

Peebles Hydro Hotel, 12-13 November 2009

UK Public Health Association Annual Forum

Bournemouth, 24-25 March 2010