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e-Newsletter
Issue 6
February 2010

Welcome to the sixth ScotPHO e-Newsletter

In this e-Newsletter we feature some of the projects we've been working on over recent months and highlight other developments in public health intelligence in Scotland.

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

Scottish policies and strategies

This new resource provides a short index to Scottish Government policies and supporting information relevant to population health, and particularly to population health improvement. Its purpose is to provide a quick reference tool with links to relevant documents and web pages. Broad areas covered include:

- Social, economic and cultural context (health inequalities, socioeconomic inequalities, literacy);
- Health topics (alcohol, tobacco, drugs, food and healthy eating, mental health and wellbeing, oral health, physical activity, sexual health);
- Healthcare / conditions (cancer, heart disease and stroke, hepatitis C);
- Populations (early years, teenage transitions, communities, homeless, equality and diversity);

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. In the last [e-newsletter](#) we provided a summary of our recent work and an update on this is given below.

- Ongoing research into the 'Glasgow Effect' will see publication of a report in March summarising detailed analyses of health and deprivation in Glasgow, Liverpool and Manchester.
- An [evaluation](#) of the 2008 Health and Wellbeing profiles for Greater Glasgow and Clyde was published in December 2009.
- February will see publication of a report from work commissioned from St. Andrew's University investigating the impact of selective migration on widening inequalities in Glasgow.
- A new project to describe mental health and wellbeing in Greater Glasgow and Clyde started in December 2009.

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 Scotland

Adults

Survey questions have been developed to assess the perceived availability of escape facilities and attitudes to violence, two of the unoperationalised national adult mental health indicators. This work was carried out by the

- Settings (healthy environments, workplace, local government, education).

Prisoners

Prisoners in Scotland are predominately young, male, white and come from the more deprived areas of Scotland. They have multi-layered and complex health needs and are often in prison for a very short time. This creates huge challenges for detection, assessment and delivery of integrated care, both within prison and in the transition between prison and the community. This new website section provides the policy background and summarises what we know about the profile of prisoners, and their risk factor behaviours and health.

Scotland and European Health for All (HfA) Database 2009

We published an update to this popular ScotPHO resource at the end of October 2009. The database is available as either an on-line or downloadable off-line version, along with a briefing paper and short notes offering interpretation of the key findings for Scotland. The database comprises Scottish data added to the WHO's European Health for All Database. Data are presented in a user-friendly, graphical or tabular form, allowing time trend and international comparisons for:

- 600 health and health-related indicators, with Scottish data available for 490 of these,
- 1970 to 2007 where available,
- Scotland and the 53 Member States of the WHO European Region, including the UK, plus averages such as the EU.

NHS Smoking Cessation Service Statistics (Scotland) 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009

This short report presents information on quit attempts made with the help of NHS smoking cessation services, and 'self-reported' quits at one month after 'quit date', in Scotland, 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009 (**financial** year). It provides supplementary information to the annual monitoring report (**calendar** year) published on the ScotPHO website on 26th May 2009. It also allows the HEAT 6 target to be monitored on a financial year basis.

CHP profiles 2008 - interactive Excel tool

In June 2008 we published Health and Wellbeing Profiles for 30 of the community health partnership (CHP) areas in Scotland, comprising

Scottish Centre for Social Research and an [interim report](#) outlines the work to date to develop and test the draft questions, which have been piloted in the 2009 Scottish Social Attitudes Survey. The report will be updated in early 2010 with the findings from the piloting of the questions.

Children and young people

The project to develop national mental health indicators for children and young people is progressing well. A [literature review](#) on what children and young people think impacts on their mental health is now available. The review findings have informed the development of the framework for the indicators, along with current policy, the evidence-base and expert opinion. Work to validate the suitability of the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale (WEMWBS) for children aged 13-15 has been completed and a report on this work will be available soon. An [Update and consultation event](#) is being held at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall on Monday 1st March.

Scottish Health Survey

The Scottish Health Survey (SHeS) 2008 Annual Report was published on 29 September 2009, with supplementary webtables published on 24 November 2009 (see the SHeS [Reports & Publications](#) web page). The report on the Knowledge, Attitudes and Motivations (KAM) module (previously the Health Education Population Survey) is due to be published in March / April 2010.

The final SHeS 2008 dataset has now been lodged with the [UK Data Archive](#) and should be available soon. Users can also download supporting documentation such as user guides, variables list and interviewer documents.

Following the assessment by the UK Statistics Authority, the Scottish Health Survey was designated as National Statistics in September 2009. Their [assessment report](#) was published on 16 September 2009.

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

Scottish Public Health Network (ScotPHN)

The ScotPHN has a new website – <http://www.scotphn.net>. Please visit and register.

ScotPHN has recently completed the following projects:

61 indicators of health and wider determinants of health. Profiles for the 10 CHP areas in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde were published separately by the Glasgow Centre for Population Health.

We have now published an interactive Excel based tool that provides users with access to the full profiles data to allow further analysis. The tool includes a facility to generate spine graphs comprising all 61 profiles indicators for individual intermediate geography zones, as well as for CHPs and NHS boards. It also includes a facility to produce rank charts for each indicator comparing all intermediate geography zones within a CHP, all CHPs in Scotland or all NHS boards in Scotland.

ScotPHO are aware there is considerable interest in examining local variations in the profiles indicators. We believe this is best done with the benefit of knowledge of local factors that may affect indicator results and in conjunction with other local data sources.

We are now beginning work on the 2010 Community Health and Wellbeing Profiles to be published towards the end of this year. For further information on the 2010 profiles project, please email andrew.gasiorowski@nhs.net.

Dimensions of diversity: Population differences and health improvement opportunities

This report provides a concise overview of basic information about 13 characteristics or groups of the population of Scotland, linking users to sources of further information. It covers: age, asylum seekers and refugees, carers, disability, ethnicity, language, literacy, migrants, poverty, prisoners, religion and belief, sex and gender, and sexual orientation. There are some data for all population groups, but while much information is robust, much is unsatisfactory, being based on broad estimates, out of date or requiring generalisation to Scotland from the rest of the UK or beyond. The most important, recurring, theme for health improvement is the damage done to mental health and wellbeing by the pervasive and insidious effects of personal prejudice, collective discrimination and structural exclusion.

ScotPHO website topic focus

Whereas life expectancy (LE) is an estimate of how many years a person might be expected to live, healthy life expectancy (HLE) is an estimate of how many years they might live in 'good' health. LE and HLE at birth in Scotland have both improved over recent years. However, the gap

- [Mental Health Patient Pathways for Prisoners](#).
- [HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment Needs Assessment](#).

Other current projects include:

- [Care Needs for those Experiencing CFS/ME](#) – The comments received from the national consultation on the health care needs assessment are currently being reviewed and it is expected that the report will be available by summer 2010.
- [Type 2 Diabetes Needs Assessment](#) – The report of the needs assessment will be available for stakeholder review in February 2010. It is expected that the final report will be published in March 2010.

Proposals for new projects are being developed:

- The levels of need for residential education provision in young people and specifically the mental health support needs of looked after young people.
- Arthritis.

If you would like to be involved, please contact ScotPHN.

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

Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics

The Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics website was last updated on the 26th November 2009 to include the latest data on first-time mothers, low weight live births and mothers who smoke. Information on delayed discharges at local authority and NHS board level was also made available for the first time. The next update to the site will be on Thursday 25th February 2010 and will include updated data on childhood obesity, hospital admissions and GP practice data.

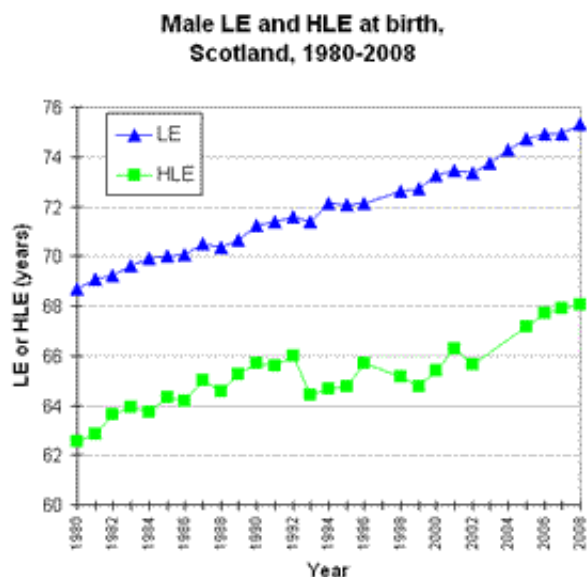
Scottish Observatory for Work & Health

The Scottish Observatory for Work & Health (SOW&H) was established in July 2008 and has funding for three years.

Aims

- To observe and understand those receiving benefit for health-related worklessness.
- To understand the relationships between health and worklessness in a Scottish context.

between them (the years expected to be spent in 'not good' health during the average lifetime) has also tended to increase, particularly for males (see graph below).



LE and HLE are both worse in Scotland than in the UK as a whole; and Scotland has one of the lowest LEs in Western Europe. The website shows that HLE in Scotland varies markedly between males and females and among different geographical and deprivation groups.

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.
- Maternal and infant nutrition epidemiological briefing.

Website sections:

- Chronic liver disease - to be published 23rd February 2010.

Other resources:

- Health inequalities intervention tool

Programme of work

- Produce real time reports on the stock incapacity benefit (IB), on flow and off flow populations for a variety of geographies. This data will be broken down by sex, age, reason on IB (including mental health) and length of time of IB.
- Investigate the destinations of those coming off IB.
- Present the IB figures in the context of number of jobs available and change in employment rate.
- Monitor substantive changes in the benefit system (e.g. the move towards employment and support allowance).
- Develop research on health consequences of worklessness.
- Develop research evaluating effectiveness of interventions to return people to work.

Research team

Dr Judith Brown, Joel Smith, Dr David Webster, James Arnott, Professor Ivan Turok, Dr Ewan Macdonald, Professor Richard Mitchell.

Funders

The Glasgow Centre for Population Health, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, NHS Lanarkshire, Scottish Centre for Healthy Working Lives and the Scottish Government Health Directorates.

Please contact Judith Brown (j.brown@clinmed.gla.ac.uk) for more details on the SOW&H.