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Evidence Service

Current Awareness Bulletin July 2023

This current awareness bulletin is produced by the Evidence Service team at Public Health Wales. The focus is on grey literature* and items are selected from searching the websites of a range of UK organizations, a selection of European sources and the World Health Organization. The aim is to highlight newly published key documents and information relevant to public health. Enquiries about this bulletin should be sent to: evidence.service@wales.nhs.uk

Inclusion of items in this bulletin is not an endorsement.

* Grey literature refers to both published and unpublished research material that's not available commercially i.e., not published in journals or indexed by bibliographic databases.

Adult social care in England statistics: background quality and methodology. Department of Health and Social Care. London: HM Government; 2023.

URL: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-social-care-in-england-statistics-background-quality-and-methodology/adult-social-care-in-england-statistics-background-quality-and-methodology>

These statistics currently cover full course COVID-19 vaccinations in social care settings for staff and residents, visiting in care homes, COVID-19 related absence rates in care homes and domiciliary care settings.

Artificial intelligence: Development, risks, and regulation. Tobin, J. London: House of Lords; 2023.

URL: <https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/artificial-intelligence-development-risks-and-regulation/>

Artificial intelligence (AI) is developing at a rapid pace. From generative language models like ChatGPT to advances in medical screening technology, policymakers and the developers of the technology alike believe that it could deliver fundamental change across almost every area of our lives. Such change is not without risk. Debate is ongoing on how best to regulate these innovative technologies and differences of approach have already emerged internationally as countries across the world examine how best to adapt.

Bromazolam Cocaine. MDMB-4en-PINACA. Annual Report April 2022 - March 2023. Public Health Wales. Cardiff: Public Health Wales NHS Trust; 2023.

URL: <https://phw.nhs.wales/publications/publications1/the-wedinos-annual-report-2022-23/>

This report shows benzodiazepines remain the most commonly identified group of psychoactive substances submitted, with a total of 18 identified. WEDINOS analysis again highlights concerns of substance substitution within the UK drug market. Over the past year, Bromazolam was the most commonly identified benzodiazepine, and most often purchased with the belief that it was Diazepam. Because Bromazolam is more potent than Diazepam, this creates enhanced risk of harm and overdose as individual consumers are not aware of dose, time of onset of effects, duration of effects or contraindications with other substances

Coronavirus timeline: the response in Wales. Senedd Research. Cardiff: WG; 2023.

URL: <https://research.senedd.wales/media/tbjpqbia/coronavirus-timeline-18-07-23.pdf>

This document highlights key developments in Wales in response to coronavirus (COVID-19).

Delivering effective environment and health actions: a compendium of concepts, approaches and tools for the WHO European Region. World Health Organization. Copenhagen: WHO; 2023.

URL: <https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1515585/retrieve>

This compendium was developed as background for the Seventh Ministerial Conference for Environment and Health, "Accelerating action for healthier people, a thriving planet, a sustainable future" (Budapest, Hungary, 5–7 July, 2023). Its purpose is to catalyse and support national and subnational activities for environment and health. It recognizes that identifying and delivering an appropriate blend of environment and health policies and programmes for the 21st century presents a significant challenge for national and subnational authorities and agencies, but that it can be facilitated by drawing selectively on a suite of resources. The compendium succinctly describes these resources – a mix of concepts/frameworks, approaches, and tools – some of which are already widely used in environment and health, while others have yet to be developed and/or effectively deployed.

Guidelines for managing patients on the suspected cancer pathway. Welsh Government. Cardiff: WG ; 2023.

URL: https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2023-07/guidelines_for-managing_patients_on-the-suspected-cancer-pathway.pdf

This Welsh Health Circular provides guidelines relating to the management of patients on a suspected cancer pathway and the reporting of performance against the cancer target.

Health in 2040: projected patterns of illness in England. Watt, T. London: Health Foundation; 2023.

URL: <https://www.health.org.uk/publications/health-in-2040>

This report examines patterns of ill health change with the growing and ageing population. They look at how these impacts on health care services and the future levels of illness in England's population over the next 20 years.

How coronavirus disease has changed the environment and health landscape: a policy brief. World Health Organization. Geneva: WHO; 2023.

URL: <https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1515746/retrieve>

Despite robust structures and protocols to deliver the environment and health agenda in countries across Europe and implicit understanding that an infectious pandemic was possible, coronavirus disease (COVID-19), when it hit, was a massive shock. Few operating in the environment and health discipline, at any level, could have anticipated the full range of challenges to the environment, health and equity as the deadly virus circulated and society adopted unprecedented measures to manage and control it. A vast volume of academic and grey literature continues to accrue, with analysis and reflection on what occurred, what can be learnt and the implications for future preparedness. The declaration by WHO on 5 May 2023 that COVID-19 is no longer a public health emergency of international concern and the sobering reality that nearly 2 250 000 people in the WHO European Region died from the disease must engender a period of meaningful reflection and also sustained action. The aim of this policy brief is to support the necessary reflection and action by distilling the impacts of the pandemic on the many domains of environment and health and summarizing the evidence that its roots lie in disregard for events at the interface of human, animal and environmental health.

How effective and cost-effective are interventions to support children and young people who have been exposed to domestic violence or abuse: a rapid review. Bangor University. Bangor: Bangor University; 2023.

URL: <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2023.05.10.23289781v1>

The aim of this rapid review was to find the evidence on effective interventions (and any relevant cost-effectiveness evidence) focusing on reducing the harms for children and young people who have been exposed to DVA.

How the public views the NHS at 75. Buzelli, L; et al. London: Health Foundation; 2023.

URL: <https://www.health.org.uk/news-and-comment/charts-and-infographics/how-the-public-views-the-nhs-at-75>

As the NHS marks its 75th anniversary, the founding principles of the health service – that care would be free at point of delivery, available to all and funded from tax – are largely the same. But how care is delivered and how the system is organised have changed significantly since 1948. This anniversary presents a moment to reflect on how far the NHS has come and to look to the future. Recent years have seen the NHS face unparalleled challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic followed a decade of austerity, driving waiting lists to new heights and exacerbating longstanding workforce shortages. Amid record low public satisfaction and unprecedented industrial action, the health service is in crisis. So what does the public think about the NHS now and the challenges that lie ahead?

Monthly mortality analysis, England and Wales: June 2023. Office for National Statistics. London: ONS; 2023.

URL: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/monthlymortalityanalysisenglandandwales/june2023/pdf>

Provisional death registration data for England and Wales, broken down by sex, age and country. Includes deaths due to coronavirus (COVID-19) and leading causes of death.

Most adults report making some changes to their lifestyle for environmental reasons. Office for National Statistics. London: ONS ; 2023.

URL:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/articles/mostadultsreportmakingso mechangestotheirlifestyleforenvironmentalreasons/2023 -07-05>

The UK Measures of National Well-being track progress on a range of factors affecting people's lives. New measures reflect people's pro-environmental behaviours and level of satisfaction with the UK health system.

National Influenza and COVID-19 surveillance report Week 29 report (up to week 28 data) 20 July 2023. UK Health Security Agency. London: HM Government; 2023.

URL:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1173054/Weekly_Flu_and_COVID-19_report_w29-5.pdf

This report summarises the information from the surveillance systems which are used to monitor coronavirus (COVID-19), influenza, and other seasonal respiratory viruses in England. References to COVID-19 represent the disease name and SARS-CoV-2 represent the virus name. The report is based on data from week 28 (between 10 July and 16 July 2023) and for some indicators daily data up to 18 July 2023.

NHS dentistry. Ninth Report of Session 2022–23. Health and Social Care Committee. London: House of Commons; 2023.

URL: <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/40901/documents/199172/default/>

The report stated: 'Fundamental reform of the dental contract is essential and must be urgently implemented, not only to address the crisis of access in the short-term, but to ensure a more sustainable, equitable and prevention-focussed system for the future. A new recovery plan for NHS dental services has also been promised by ministers, according to the report, but this is yet to be published. This follows the release of the [NHS Long Term Workforce Plan](#), which will increase training places for dentists by 40% by 2031/32. Recommendations from the committee include urgent changes to the dental contract, the commission of a dental workforce survey, and incentives to attract and retain dentists within the NHS. These could be the reintroduction of NHS commitment payments, incentive payments for audit and peer review and the introduction of late career retention payments.

Preparing for climate change. Weston, T. London: UK Parliament; 2023.

URL: <https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/preparing-for-climate-change/>

Climate change is expected to have significant impacts across a range of domestic policy areas. Both the government and independent climate change committee, agree on the adaption efforts to mitigate related risks. This summer the government is due to publish the latest edition of its five yearly national adaptation programme. This will detail how it plans to go about addressing climate risks and comes 15 years after the Climate Change Act 2008 became law.

Prevention, integration and implementation: healthcare leaders' views on the major conditions strategy. Lowe, R; Mahmood, H. London: NHS Confederation; 2023.

URL: <https://www.nhsconfed.org/publications/prevention-integration-and-implementation>

The major conditions strategy is a national framework being developed by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID). It will focus on six major groups of conditions: cancers; cardiovascular diseases, including stroke and diabetes; chronic respiratory diseases; dementia; mental ill health; and musculoskeletal disorders. It will cover the whole care pathway from prevention to treatment, including the role of innovation to improve outcomes. Take forward the Levelling Up health mission to narrow the gap in healthy life expectancy by 2030, and increase healthy life expectancy by 2035. Alleviate pressure on the health system and reduce ill-health related labour market inactivity.

Reaping the rewards: Cultivating a fair transition for farming. Massey-Chase, B; et al. London: IPPR ; 2023.

URL: <https://www.ippr.org/files/2023 -07/reaping -the-rewards -july23.pdf>

IPPR's new report, Reaping the rewards: Cultivating a fair transition to farming, which looked at the impacts of the climate and nature crises on farmers, the wider challenges faced by the farming community, and how farmers can, through a fair transition, be supported to help address the climate and nature crises, provide affordable food, and earn a decent livelihood.

Recommended package of interventions for HIV, viral hepatitis and STI prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care for people in prisons and other closed settings. World Health Organization. Geneva: WHO; 2023.

URL: <https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1516651/retrieve>

In 2022, WHO published the *Consolidated guidelines on HIV, viral hepatitis and STI prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care for key populations*. These guidelines outline a public health response to HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) for 5 key populations (men who have sex with men, sex workers, people in prisons and other closed settings, people who inject drugs and trans and gender diverse people). In this policy brief, we give an update on those parts of the guidelines which are relevant for people in prisons and other closed settings.

Safe care at home review. HM Government. London: HM Government; 2023.

URL: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1162498/Safe_Care_at_Home_Review_.pdf

Joint review led by the Home Office and DHSC into the protections and support for adults abused, or at risk of abuse, in their own home by people providing their care.

Sexual health in Wales: sexually transmitted infections, emergency and long-acting reversible contraception provision and termination of pregnancy. Health Protection Division, Public Health Wales. Cardiff: Public Health Wales NHS Trust; 2023.

URL: <https://phw.nhs.wales/publications/publications1/sexual-health-annual-report-2023/>

This report provides an epidemiological overview of key sexual health infections and interventions, including sexually transmitted infections (STIs), emergency and long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) provision and termination of pregnancy in Wales up to the end of 2022. The report is aimed at policy makers, health service clinicians and planners, commissioners, criminal justice and third sector agencies and academia.

Taking action to protect children from the harmful impact of food marketing. A child rights-based approach. World Health Organization. WHO; 2023.

URL: <https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1515345/retrieve>

This joint UNICEF and WHO publication aims to guide governments and partners through the steps to introduce policies to protect children from the harmful impact of food marketing. Structured into three parts, the first part describes the impact of food marketing on children and identifies the main developments and challenges in the marketing landscape observed in the past decade. Part 2 outlines why a child rights-based approach can and should be used by governments to restrict food marketing. Part 3 identifies how governments can take action to restrict food marketing and is organized by the main stages in a policy cycle: policy preparation, policy development, implementation (including enforcement and monitoring for compliance), and monitoring and evaluation for policy impact. This publication expands on previous guidance and outlines steps to strengthen the government's position against legal challenges, it outlines oppositional tactics and common arguments used against policies and provides counterarguments based on a child rights-based approach and the available scientific evidence.

The caring penalty. Thompson, S; Jitendra, A; Woodruff, L. JRF; 2023.

URL: <https://www.jrf.org.uk/file/60037/download?token=KeBF9ybg&filetype=full-report>

This report sheds light on the carer pay penalty, looking at its magnitude, causes, and distribution, as well as its evolution over time. It looks at how existing policies mitigate the penalty and considers the potential for new policies to go further.

The practice of collaborative leadership: Across health and care services. Walsh, N; de Sarandy, S. London: KF ; 2023.

URL: https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-07/The_practice_of_collaborative_leadership.pdf

The King's Fund's latest [report](#), The practice of collaborative leadership: across health and care services, shares insights and evidence about how to collaborate well to build a stronger collaborative ethos across health and care services.

UKHSA Strategic Plan 2023 to 2026. UK Health Security Agency. London: HM Government; 2023.

URL:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1173309/UKHSA_3_year_strategy_2.pdf

The strategy sets out UKHSA's ambitions to be ready to respond to all hazards to health improve health outcomes through vaccines. Reduce the impact of infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance. To protect health from threats in the environment and improve action on public health through data and insight.

Understanding public perceptions and attitudes to the NHS. NHS Confederation. London: NHS Confederation; 2023.

URL: <https://www.nhsconfed.org/system/files/2023-07/NHS-Confederation-Ipsos-survey-on-public-attitudes-towards-the-NHS.pdf>

New poll finds enduring public support for the NHS alongside a call for government action to support social care.

Welsh Government annual report 2023. Welsh Government. Cardiff: WG; 2023.

URL: <https://www.gov.wales/welsh-government-annual-report-2023>

The report is structured around our 10 well-being objectives. The main body of the report highlights key achievements and actions taken towards meeting them. The accompanying annex sets out progress towards the full range of Cabinet commitments detailed under these objectives in the Programme for Government.

What is the forecasted prevalence and incidence of long-term conditions in Wales: a rapid evidence map. Edwards, D; et al. Cardiff: Health and Care Research Wales Evidence Centre; 2023.

URL: <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2023.06.23.23291814v1.full.pdf>

This rapid evidence map reports forecasted prevalence and incidence data across a range of long-term conditions in Wales to support planning about how best to organise and finance care for the increasing population with long-term conditions over the next 10 years.