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Gwasanaeth Tystiolaeth
Evidence Service

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* Grey literature refers to both published and unpublished research material that's not available commercially i.e., not published in journals or indexed by bibliographic databases.

A picture of flood risk management. Auditor General for Wales. Cardiff: Audit Wales; 2022.

URL:

https://www.audit.wales/sites/default/files/publications/A_Picture_of_Flood_Risk_Management_English_0.pdf

This report looks at how flood risk management works in Wales and looks at the key challenges facing the sector. Our report also highlights important recommendations from recent reviews and is part of our ongoing work looking at how public bodies are responding to the challenges of climate change.

A whole systems approach to obesity prevention: a rapid synthesis of evidence to inform the Northern Ireland Obesity Prevention Strategy Project Board. Breslin, G; et al. Dublin: Institute of Public Health; 2023.

URL: <https://publichealth.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/WSA-approach-to-obesity-prevention-final.pdf>

This report presents considerations for policy on obesity prevention in Northern Ireland (NI). It presents a snapshot of what is known about using whole systems approaches (WSAs) in obesity prevention and considers how WSAs might be applied in the NI context.

Adult substance misuse treatment statistics 2021 to 2022: report. Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. London: HM Government; 2023.

URL: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/substance-misuse-treatment-for-adults-statistics-2021-to-2022/adult-substance-misuse-treatment-statistics-2021-to-2022-report>

Statistics on alcohol and drug misuse treatment for adults from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS).

Alcohol-specific deaths in the UK: registered in 2021. Breen, P; Butt, A. Newport: ONS; 2023.

URL:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/alcohol-specific-deaths-in-the-uk/2021-registrations/pdf>

Alcohol-specific deaths have risen sharply since the onset of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, with alcoholic liver disease the leading cause of these deaths. This rise is likely to be the result of increased alcohol consumption during the pandemic. Research has suggested that people who were already drinking at higher levels before the pandemic were the most likely to have increased their alcohol consumption during this period.

An introduction to an anti-racist Wales. Welsh Government. Cardiff: WG; 2023.

URL: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-06/an-introduction-to-an-anti-racist-wales.pdf>

In the draft Plan, the Welsh Government explained that they wanted a different kind of plan: one based on the lived experiences of ethnic minority communities, one that was partly designed by them, one that tackled the root causes of racism, in how we lead, manage and work with others to deliver public services.

Eliminating hepatitis (B and C) as a public health threat: actions for 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024. Welsh Government. Cardiff: WG ; 2023.

URL: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2023-01/WHC%20-%20Eliminating%20Hepatitis%20B%20and%20C%20as%20a%20public%20health%20concern%20in>

[%20Wales%20-%20Actions%20for%2022%20and%2023%2024.doc%20%28002%29.pdf](#)

The Welsh Government remains committed to eliminating hepatitis B and C as a public health threat by 2030 at the latest. The benefits of prevention and treatment to individuals are clear in terms of their longer term physical and mental health. Preventing onward transmission of the virus to other individuals results in wider societal benefits.

Employers and the cost of living. Taking action to support your employees. Bestwick, M; Woodruff, L. York: JRF; 2023.

URL: <https://www.jrf.org.uk/file/59489/download?token=dm9HI5mv&filetype=briefing>

In recent months, JRF has been speaking to employers who want to better support their employees about how they can play their part in addressing in-work poverty and the cost of living crisis. While action from Government is key, employers also have an essential role to play in supporting employees who are struggling to get by. The cost of living crisis has seriously exacerbated pressures on households, but many of these pressures are not new. While many working people are being pulled into hardship by spiralling costs, others were struggling to make ends meet even before the crisis hit. As we headed into the pandemic, in-work poverty was a growing concern, with too many people in work still struggling to get by due to factors including poor quality jobs and barriers to work, combined with an erosion in social security support, and high housing costs.

Health and Brexit: six years on. McCarey, M; et al. London: Nuffield Trust; 2022.

URL: <https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/files/2022-12/1671199514-health-and-brexit-web.pdf>

This project, supported by the Health Foundation, monitors the ongoing effects of that EU exit on the health care system in the UK and the people, goods and resources that it relies on. Having previously looked at the issues following the UK's fitful negotiation of exit and trade agreements with the European Union, this major 2022 update looks back to consider the impact of Brexit on health to date in total across three major areas: workforce, medicines, and the economy.

Healthy eating: applying All Our Health. Her Majesty's Government. London: HM Government; 2023.

URL: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/healthy-eating-applying-all-our-health/healthy-eating-applying-all-our-health>

This guide is part of All Our Health, a resource which helps health and care professionals and the wider public health workforce prevent ill health and promote wellbeing as part of their everyday work. The information in this module is aimed at the general population and will help frontline staff promote the benefits of a healthy, balanced diet. Individuals requiring weight management advice or those with special dietary requirements or medical needs should receive tailored advice from their doctor and/or a registered dietitian.

Independent health care and the NHS. Holmes, J. London: KF; 2023.

URL: <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-01/Independent%20health%20care%20and%20the%20NHS%20online%20version%202.pdf>

In this briefing, the author sets out some of the trends in public and private spending on independent sector health care providers. The author considers what factors may be driving these trends, look at the impact this has on household spending among different groups, and consider some of the implications for the public and the NHS.

Influenza (flu) vaccination programme deployment 'mop up' 2022 to 2023. Welsh Government. Cardiff: WG; 2022.

URL: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-12/influenza-flu-vaccination-programme-deployment-mop-up-2022-2023.pdf>

Welsh health circular on influenza. Influenza (flu) vaccination is one of the most effective public health interventions to protect people against infection and reduce pressure on health and social care services over the busy winter period.

Leave no one behind. The state of health and health inequalities in Scotland. Finch, D; Wilson, H; Bibby, J. London: Health Foundation ; 2023.

URL:

https://www.health.org.uk/sites/default/files/upload/publications/2023/HF_Health_Scotland_WEB.pdf

This report provides a picture of past and present health and inequalities to inform future efforts to improve both. It draws on perceptions of the barriers to progress from relevant stakeholders and concludes by considering how Scotland can build on strong policy intent to reduce stubbornly high inequalities and close the gap in health outcomes.

Mental health act statistics, annual figures, 2021-22. Office for National Statistics. Newport: ONS; 2023.

URL: <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/mental-health-act-statistics-annual-figures/2021-22-annual-figures#>

This publication contains the official statistics about uses of the Mental Health Act ('the Act') in England during 2021-22.

Mental health of children and young people in England 2022 - wave 3 follow up to the 2017 survey. Office for National Statistics. Newport: ONS; 2022.

URL: <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/mental-health-of-children-and-young-people-in-england/2022-follow-up-to-the-2017-survey#>

This report presents findings from the third (wave 3) in a series of follow up reports to the 2017 Mental Health of Children and Young People (MHCYP) survey, conducted in 2022. The sample includes 2,866 of the children and young people who took part in the MHCYP 2017 survey. The mental health of children and young people aged 7 to 24 years living in England in 2022 is examined, as well as their household circumstances, and their experiences of education, employment and services and of life in their families and communities. Comparisons are made with 2017, 2020 (wave 1) and 2021 (wave 2), where possible, to monitor changes over time.

Our strategy for 2023–25. Working to build a healthier UK. Health Foundation. London: Health Foundation; 2023.

URL: <https://www.health.org.uk/publications/our-strategy-for-2023-25>

The Health Foundation is an independent charitable organisation working to build a healthier UK. We are uniquely placed to address the challenging context and make a real difference to health and care for the long term. Over our 2023–25 strategic period, we will build on our achievements so far, drawing on our strengths, experience, partnerships and resources to make change happen. By valuing our health as an asset, investing in health and care services and focusing on the wider factors that shape our health and drive inequalities, we can build a healthier nation.

They are ambitious about the impact we can have over the next 3 years. Over this strategic period, three core priorities will guide our work:

- improving people's health and reducing inequalities.
- supporting radical innovation and improvement in health and care services.
- providing evidence and analysis to improve health and care policy.

Smoke without fire. A new vision for vaping policy in the UK. Dawson, A; Smith, J. London: Demos; 2022.

URL: <https://demos.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/final-juul-wp.pdf>

In 2019, the Government set out a laudable goal. By 2030, their stated ambition is for England to be entirely smoke-free.

Smoking remains the leading preventable cause of illness and premature death in the UK, and is a primary driver of health inequality in England. However, in 2023, we are on a course to miss this target, with the recent Khan review on smoke free policies predicting that, on our current trajectory, around 7% of the UK – over 4.8 million people – will still smoke in 2030. The Government's target is 5%.

UK Poverty 2023. The essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK. Joseph Rowntree Foundation. York: JRF ; 2023.

URL: https://www.jrf.org.uk/system/files/uk_poverty_2023_-_the_essential_guide_to_understanding_poverty_in_the_uk_0.pdf

This is the second issue of our new-style UK Poverty report, which looks at trends in poverty across many important characteristics and impacts. We know poverty at any stage in life can lead to negative impacts, so it is critical to scrutinise the data thoroughly to work out who is worst affected, determine how trends are changing over time and see what the future prospects are likely to be.

Vacchi-nation. A case study in health and prosperity. Poku-Amanfo, E; Thomas, C. London: IPPR; 2022.

URL: https://www.ippr.org/files/2022-12/1671397505_vacchi-nation-2022.pdf

Vaccines have supported significant health gains in the last hundred years. Today, it's estimated that immunisations prevent between 3.5 and 5 million deaths a year (WHO 2021). Moreover, as a preventative intervention, vaccines also provide benefit in the form of increased health system capacity (Brassel et al 2022). The literature shows that health systems function more efficiently when vaccine programmes for vaccine-preventable diseases are properly funded (ibid). Despite this, our analysis shows that progress on reducing mortality and morbidity from infectious diseases has stalled in the last decade – after steady progress between 1995 and 2010 (Figure 1.1). This is despite prevalence of infectious diseases reducing during this period (Global Burden of Disease 2020).

Weekly national Influenza and COVID-19 surveillance report. Week 4 report (up to week 3 data) 26 January 2023. UK Health Security Agency. London: HM Government. 2023.

URL:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1131971/Weekly_Flu_and_COVID-19_report_w4.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 3 (between 16 January and 22 January 2023) and for some indicators daily data up to 24 January 2023.