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## Bwletin Ymwybyddiaeth Gyfredol Ionawr 2024

Cynhyrchir y bwletin ymwybyddiaeth cyfredol hwn gan dîm Gwasanaeth Tystiolaeth Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru. Mae'r ffocws ar lenyddiaeth lwyd\* a dewisir eitemau o chwilio gwefannau amrywiaeth o sefydliadau yn y DU, detholiad o ffynonellau Ewropeaidd a Sefydliad Iechyd y Byd. Y nod yw tynnu sylw at ddogfennau a gwybodaeth allweddol sydd newydd eu cyhoeddi sy'n berthnasol i iechyd y cyhoedd. Dylid anfon ymholiadau am y bwletin hwn at: [evidence.service@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:evidence.service@wales.nhs.uk)

Nid yw cynnwys eitemau yn y bwletin hwn yn gymeradwyaeth.

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\* Mae llenyddiaeth lwyd yn cyfeirio at ddeunydd ymchwil cyhoeddedig a heb ei gyhoeddi nad yw ar gael yn fasnachol, h.y. heb ei gyhoeddi mewn cyfnodolion neu wedi'i fynegeo gan gronfeydd data llyfryddol.

**A formal evaluation of the impact of interventions aimed at vaccine uptake and vaccine confidence by black, asian and minority ethnic (BAME) health and care professional networks.** Faculty of Public Health. London: FPH ; 2024.

URL: <https://www.fph.org.uk/media/po1josr1/vaccine-uptake-final-2.pdf>

This report outlines research overseen by the Faculty of Public Health, funded by Public Health England, and delivered by the University of Hertfordshire. It explores how voluntary health networks supported vaccine uptake in the community and how this support was received.

**An evaluation of patient-initiated follow-up (PIFU) outpatient services in the English NHS.** Sherlaw-Johnson, C; et al. London: Nuffield Trust; 2024.

URL: <https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/2024-01/NIHR%20RSET%20-%20Evaluation%20of%20PIFU%20for%20outpatient%20services%20-%20full%20results.pdf>

Millions of people use hospital services as an outpatient, with numbers of appointments rising rapidly over recent years. Patient-initiated follow-up (PIFU) is a relatively new initiative in the English NHS, and the NIHR RSET team has conducted a mixed-methods evaluation as the process develops to understand how it's working and what impact it's having on health care systems and the staff and patients involved.

**Beyond the average. Making fairer decisions for public health.** University of York. York: University of York; 2024.

URL: <https://www.york.ac.uk/media/healthsciences/documents/Beyond-the-average-making-fairer-decisions-for-public-health.pdf>

In an age of social division fuelled by rising inequality, and in the light of widespread commitments from governments to tackle these inequalities, the need to develop new tools to measure the equity impacts of health and social policy interventions has never been more urgent. This requires new methods for measuring different impacts of interventions for different population groups, and the development of a robust and transparent ethical framework for deciding which equity measures to use.

**Chapare virus. A rapid review.** UK Health Security Agency. London: UKHSA; 2024.

URL: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a1389f3308d200131bf46/epidemiology-of-Chapare-virus-rapid-review.pdf>

The purpose of this rapid review was to identify and summarise evidence relating to the epidemiology of Chapare haemorrhagic fever (caused by Chapare virus). All studies summarising outbreaks of haemorrhagic fever caused by Chapare virus in any geographic location were eligible for inclusion. Studies reporting unspecified haemorrhagic fevers occurring in Bolivia were also eligible for inclusion as long as Chapare virus could have been the cause.

**Child Poverty Strategy for Wales 2024.** Welsh Government. Cardiff: WG; 2024.

URL: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2024-01/child-poverty-strategy-for-wales-2024.pdf>

The strategy sets the direction for Welsh Government actions to tackle child poverty over the next decade or more and to meet our ambitions for children and young people in Wales, no matter what their circumstances or background. It also provides a framework to maximise the levers we have at our disposal to make our contribution to eradicating child poverty. The strategy seeks to ensure stronger integration across our national policies, programmes and action plans and to support collaboration at the regional and local levels. This will deliver our ambition to achieve greater equity of experience and outcome for all children and young people.

**Community pharmacy: delivering substance misuse services.** Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. London: HM Government ; 2024.

URL: [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community\\_misuse\\_services\\_community\\_pharmacy\\_delivering\\_substance\\_misuse\\_services](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community_misuse_services_community_pharmacy_delivering_substance_misuse_services)

This guidance is for community pharmacists and pharmacy teams. The guidance outlines good practice for services delivered by community pharmacies in England to people who use and misuse, or are dependent on, drugs and alcohol (mostly abbreviated in this document to drug and alcohol use).

**Ending Child Poverty: why and how. An essential guide for anyone concerned about ending child poverty.** Stewart, K; et al. London: CPAG; 2024.

URL: [https://issuu.com/cpagscotland/docs/ending\\_child\\_poverty\\_2023](https://issuu.com/cpagscotland/docs/ending_child_poverty_2023)

In this comprehensive guide the authors set out the evidence of the extent of child poverty and its impact on children. They explore how our social security system can help families on low incomes, and learn from what other countries have done to tackle child poverty. They then detail the priorities for action: the steps the government must take to help reduce child poverty. The book finishes by imagining a society without child poverty, and the opportunities that would unleash for all our children.

**Ending Homelessness Outcomes Framework.** Welsh Government. Cardiff: WG; 2024.

URL: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2024-01/ending-homelessness-outcomes-framework.pdf>

The Ending Homelessness Outcomes Framework (EHOF) provides a clear strategic direction for preventing and ending homelessness in Wales by identifying the desired long-term outcomes and progress towards achieving these outcomes over time.

**Ethics and governance of artificial intelligence for health: Guidance on large multi-modal models.** World Health Organization. Geneva: WHO; 2024.

URL: <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/375579/9789240084759-eng.pdf?sequence=1>

Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to the capability of algorithms integrated into systems and tools to learn from data so that they can perform automated tasks without explicit programming of every step by a human. Generative AI is a category of AI techniques in which algorithms are trained on data sets that can be used to generate new content, such as text, images or video. This guidance addresses one type of generative AI, large multi-modal models (LMMs), which can accept one or more type of data input and generate diverse outputs that are not limited to the type of data fed into the algorithm. It has been predicted that LMMs will have wide use and application in health care, scientific research, public health and drug development. LMMs are also known as "general-purpose foundation models", although it is not yet proven whether LMMs can accomplish a wide range of tasks and purposes.

**Healthy places, prosperous lives.** Poku-Amanfo, E; O'Halloran, J; Thomas, C. London: IPPR; 2024.

URL: [https://ippr-org.files.svdcdn.com/production/Downloads/Healthy\\_places\\_prosperous\\_lives\\_Jan24.pdf](https://ippr-org.files.svdcdn.com/production/Downloads/Healthy_places_prosperous_lives_Jan24.pdf)

A stark divide in health and wealth across the UK is leaving many sicker and poorer than their neighbours, according to the third interim report for the cross-party IPPR Commission on Health and Prosperity. People living in the most deprived local authorities in England are nearly one and a half times more likely to experience economic inactivity and are twice as likely to be in poor health than those in the least deprived. IPPR recommend a new network of good health zones across the country.

**Individual Placement and Support - Alcohol and Drug study: main findings.** Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. London: HM Government ; 2024.

URL: [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/helping\\_people\\_in\\_alcohol\\_and\\_drug\\_treatment\\_services\\_into\\_work/individual\\_placement\\_and\\_support\\_alcohol\\_and\\_drug\\_study\\_main\\_findings--2](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/helping_people_in_alcohol_and_drug_treatment_services_into_work/individual_placement_and_support_alcohol_and_drug_study_main_findings--2)

This is the first study of Individual Placement and Support (IPS) for adults in treatment for alcohol and drug dependence. It found that IPS helped more participants achieve employment in the open job market than standard employment support. There was evidence that IPS was effective in helping people with alcohol dependence and 'other drug' dependence find a job, but not for people with opioid dependence. Finding work in the 18 months of the study follow-up was the study's primary outcome measure.

**Life expectancy for local areas in England, Northern Ireland and Wales: between 2001 to 2003 and 2020 to 2022. Subnational trends in period life expectancy at birth and other age groups at regional and local authority levels in selected constituent countries.** Office for National Statistics. London: ONS; 2024.

URL:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandlifeexpectancies/bulletins/lifeexpectancyforlocalareasoftheuk/between2001to2003and2020to2022/pdf>

This bulletin updates the sub-national period life expectancy time series with periods 2019 to 2021 and 2020 to 2022. The commentary refers to life expectancy at birth unless otherwise stated. Life expectancy at other ages, and the time series, can be found in the accompanying datasets. National life tables - life expectancy in the UK: 2020 to 2022 bulletin provides further information for countries in the UK. Among constituent countries of the UK included in this release, life expectancy between 2020 and 2022 was highest in England (78.9 years for males, 82.8 years for females) and lowest in Wales (77.9 years for males, 81.8 years for females).

**Managing false information in health emergencies: an operational toolkit.** World Health Organization. Geneva: WHO; 2024.

URL: <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/375783/WHO-EURO-2024-8271-48043-71198-eng.pdf?sequence=1>

The proposed toolkit provides procedures for the detection and handling of false information, following a five-step process involving signal detection, verification, risk assessment, response design and outreach. A valuable resource for authorities and other stakeholders, this toolkit helps facilitate active infodemic management, promoting accurate information dissemination and informed public health decisions.

**National flu and COVID-19 surveillance reports: 2023 to 2024 season.** UK Health Security Agency. London: UKHSA; 2024.

URL: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65b252771702b1000dcb12bd/Weekly-flu-and-COVID-19-surveillance-report-week-4.pdf>

This report summarises the information from the surveillance systems which are used to monitor COVID-19 (caused by SARS-CoV-2), influenza, and diseases caused by 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 15 January and 21 January 2024).

**Prevention in health and social care: healthy places.** UK Parliament. London: UK Parliament; 2024.

URL: <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/42948/documents/213571/default/>

The Health and Social Care Committee has announced ten themes to be examined in its major new inquiry into preventing ill-health. The subjects, ranging from early years and childhood to alcohol and gambling, were chosen after MPs received more than 600 submissions from researchers and organisations involved in preventative healthcare. The inquiry will examine social and environmental factors, for example what living in a healthy place should look like, from housing and indoor air pollution to the number of fast-food shops. Access to sexual and reproductive health services, how to promote good mental health, sleep and addressing poor diet are among other areas to be considered.

**Programming document 2021 –2024: Towards recovery and resilience. Work programme 2024.** Eurofound. Dublin: Eurofound ; 2024.

URL: <https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2024-01/ef23035en.pdf>

This programming document describes Eurofound's planned work over the programming period 2021–2024. It sets out the policy and institutional context for the programme, outlines the multiannual programme for the four-year period and sets out the work programme for 2024. The framing of the 2024 work programme is set in the context of the upcoming European elections, war in Ukraine, renewed Middle East conflict and rising cost of living across the European Union, as well as the mega-drivers of structural change in Europe related to demography, technology, globalisation and climate change. Against this background, Eurofound will focus on issues where it can draw on its core expertise in the areas of working conditions, industrial relations, employment and living conditions, to support its stakeholders, by providing evidence that can assist their policy action.

**Research exploring the experience of social care practitioners in relation to extreme temperatures.** Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. London: HM Government.

URL: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hot-weather-and-health-exploring-extreme-heat-in-adult-social-care/research-exploring-the-experience-of-social-care-practitioners-in-relation-to-extreme-temperatures>

This research explores the experience of social care practitioners, employed by Care Quality Commission (CQC) registered providers to provide domiciliary care and care in care homes, in relation to extreme temperatures.

**SIREN study. Providing vital research into COVID-19 immunity and vaccine effectiveness nationally..** UK Health Security Agency. London: UKHSA; 2024.

URL: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/siren-study>

The SARS-CoV-2 immunity and reinfection evaluation (SIREN) study is a unique, large-scale partnership with NHS healthcare workers providing an agile response to an evolving pandemic. It is one of the [national core studies](#) established in response to COVID-19 and a National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) urgent priority study, and continues to provide vital research into immunity and vaccine effectiveness. The SIREN study was established early in the pandemic with participants undergoing regular testing for up to 2 years. Analysis of these testing samples helps the UK to evaluate the immune response to COVID-19, build understanding of the protection offered by vaccines and provide insight into COVID-19 reinfections.

**Smoke-free Wales delivery plan: annual report 2022 to 2023.** Welsh Government. Cardiff: WG ; 2024.

URL: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2024-01/smoke-free-wales-delivery-plan-annual-report-2022-to-2023.pdf>

Towards a Smoke-free Wales is the first of the delivery plans and covers the period July 2022 – March 2024. The delivery plan focuses on the actions that support the further denormalisation of smoking and making smoke-free the norm in Wales, promotion of best practice and integration of tobacco control across the whole system.

**The government's support for biomass.** National Audit Office. London: NAO; 2024.

URL: <https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Report-the-governments-support-for-biomass.pdf>

The purpose of this report is to support Parliament's understanding of the conditions in which the government considers biomass as a sustainable, low-carbon alternative to fossil fuels.

The report examines:

- The current role of biomass in generating heat and power, and the responsibilities in government for biomass.
- The government schemes currently in place to support the deployment of biomass, how much they have cost, and how the government makes sure scheme participants meet sustainability criteria.
- The main features of DESNZ's Biomass Strategy.

**UK Poverty 2024.** Cebula, C; et al. York: JRF; 2024.

URL: <https://www.jrf.org.uk/pdf/15211>

This report looks across a range of data sources and published insights to build up a comprehensive picture of the current state of poverty across the United Kingdom (UK). We know poverty can lead to negative impacts at all stages of life, so it is critical to look closely at the available information to work out who is worst affected, determine how levels have changed over time and see what the future prospects are likely to be.

**WHO benchmarks for strengthening health emergency capacities.** World Health Organization. Geneva: WHO ; 2024.

URL: [https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/375815/9789240086760\\_eng.pdf?sequence=1](https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/375815/9789240086760_eng.pdf?sequence=1)

Benchmarking is a strategic process often used by businesses and institutes to standardize performance in relation to the best practices of their sector. The World Health Organization (WHO) and partners have developed a tool with a list of benchmarks and corresponding suggested actions that can be applied to implement the International Health Regulations 2005 (IHR) and strengthen health emergency prevention, preparedness, response and resilience capacities.

**Young people's substance misuse treatment statistics 2022 to 2023: report.** Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. London: HM Government; 2024.

URL: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/substance-misuse-treatment-for-young-people-2022-to-2023/young-peoples-substance-misuse-treatment-statistics-2022-to-2023-report#background-and-policy-context>

Healthcare professionals can use these statistics to understand: the availability and effectiveness of alcohol and drug treatment services for young people (under 18 years old) in England; trends in drug and alcohol use among young people receiving treatment; and the profile of young people accessing alcohol and drug treatment services. The report and accompanying tables contain treatment data from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.