

Postscript

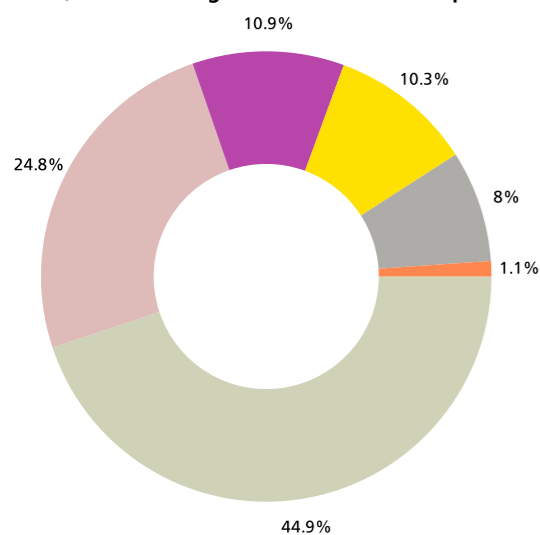
Public health research NIHR

Public health research funded by the Department of Health

Under the leadership of Dame Sally C. Davies, the Department of Health (Research and Development Directorate) funds public health research through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the Policy Research Programme. Since the NIHR was established in 2006, funding for research activity relating to public health has undergone a step change with the introduction of a number of new funding streams designed to increase the evidence for public health practice. Public health evaluation and research are critical in enabling public health practice to develop in the future and address key challenges and opportunities.

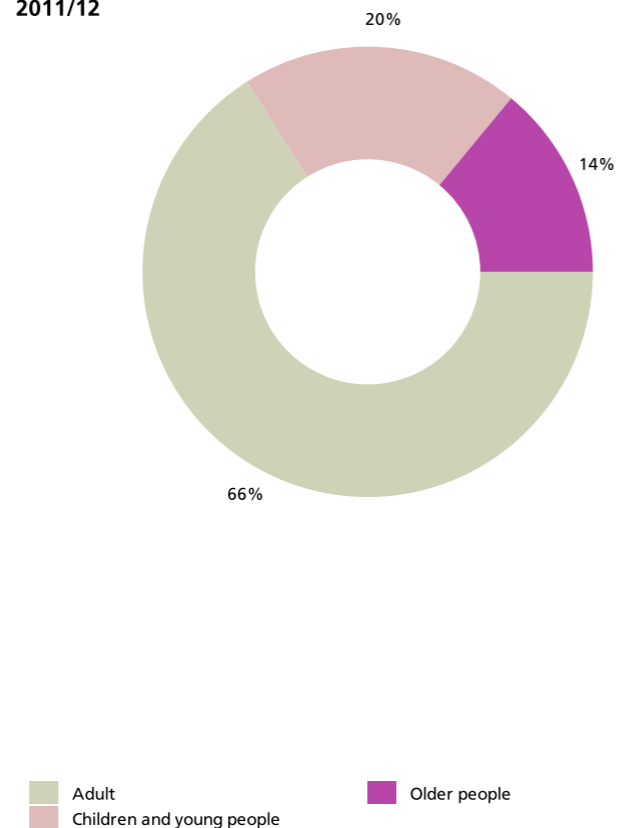
DH Policy Research Programme (PRP) The PRP commissions high quality, research-based evidence to meet DH Ministers' and policymakers' needs with respect to public health. The PRP commissions both project-based research and programmes of work at twelve Policy Research Units at universities across the UK. Examples of Policy Research Units include the Public Health Research Consortium, established in 2005, and the Policy Research Unit on Behaviour and Health, established in 2011.

Proportion of public health research activity, by UKCRC Research Activity Codes, for NIHR Programmes and fellowships – 2011/12



Source: NIHR coordinating centres, activity included: HS&DR, HTA, PHR, PGfAR, RfPB, School for Primary Care Research, School for Social Care Research and fellowships.

Proportion of public health research activity, by stage in life-course, for NIHR Programmes, Schools and fellowships, 2011/12



Source: NIHR coordinating centres, activity included: HS&DR, HTA, PHR, PGfAR, RfPB and fellowships. Adult was the default option when unspecified.

The Centre for Health Protection Research (CHPR)

provided the Health Protection Agency with £10.5 million in 2011/12 to conduct health protection research in the areas of infectious diseases, immunisation, environmental hazards and emergency preparedness.

NIHR Schools – School for Public Health Research

(launched in 2012) has a budget of £20 million over five years, and is a partnership between eight leading academic centres in applied public health research in England. The School will place an emphasis on what works practically, can be applied across the country and better meets the needs of policy makers, practitioners and the public.

NIHR Schools – Schools for Primary Care Research and Social Care Research

(launched in 2006 and 2009) are also funded to improve the evidence base and undertake high quality research for primary care and social care practice.

NIHR Programme

The Public Health Research programme (launched in 2008) funds evaluation of non-NHS public health interventions intended to improve the health of the public and reduce inequalities in health. It provides knowledge on the benefits, costs, acceptability and wider impacts of interventions. Funding is up to £10 million a year.

The Health Services and Delivery Research programme

(established in 2012) includes funding research into public health and preventive services to lead to improvements in health and services, with over 30 projects active in 2011/12 relevant to public health.

The Health Technology Assessment programme

(launched in 1993) funds the evaluation of public health interventions delivered by the NHS. It includes the **Disease Prevention Panel** (launched in 2005) which funds a portfolio of research into the value of health technologies designed to promote health, prevent disease and reduce health inequalities.

Programme Grants for Applied Research

(launched in 2006) funds leading researchers with up to £2 million. In public health, researchers are working in areas such as promotion of health and prevention of ill health.

Research for Patient Benefit (launched in 2006) allocates up to £25 million a year to support projects in the NHS addressing issues of importance related to health services and public health. Research includes studying the provision and use of services, evaluating interventions and examining delivery.

NIHR Faculty

The NIHR supports a range of research training fellowships across all stages of a research career. Over 50 of the fellowships active in 2011/12 were relevant to public health, at a cost of over £6 million.

NIHR Infrastructure

Biomedical Research Units (BRU) and Centres (BRC) bring together leading academics and clinicians to undertake translational clinical research in priority areas of high disease burden and clinical need. The first round of BRCs and BRUs were launched in 2007 for five years; the second round of eleven BRCs and twenty BRUs, with funding of up to £800 million over five years, began operating on 1 April 2012. Many of the research themes within BRCs and BRUs are relevant to public health, including BRUs focussing on nutrition, lifestyle and physical activity.

Collaborations for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRCs)

(launched in 2008) receive total funding of £82 million, including for research on obesity, housing and health, maternal health services and reducing health inequalities.

NIHR Collaborations

National Prevention Research Initiative is a consortium of sixteen funders to fund research into the development and implementation of successful, cost-effective interventions that reduce people's risk of developing disease.

UKCRC Public Health Research Centres of Excellence

are collaborations between eight UK public health research funders. The five centres aim to build academic capacity, increase infrastructure and promote multi-disciplinary working in public health research.

UKCRC Translational Infection Research Initiative

is funded by seven research funders. Four Consortium Grants have been awarded to public health related research programmes at the University of Oxford, Imperial College London, University of Cambridge and St George's, University of London.

Case studies

Case Study 1

Policy Research Unit on Behaviour and Health – 'Altering choice architecture to change population behaviour to improve health outcomes: a conceptual and empirical review'. This is a scoping review mapping literature on physical activity, alcohol and tobacco related behaviours, categorising interventions focusing on product properties, placement, proximity and availability.

Case Study 2

School for Social Care Research – The Bristol TARA project (Dr Emma Williamson, University of Bristol). A longitudinal study following homeless women over an 18 month period to establish their service use and need, and how housing, social care and health services can work together more effectively to meet those needs.

Case Study 3

Health Services and Delivery Research programme – Multi-site implementation of a promising innovation in low income communities: support for childbearing women (Professor Spiby, University of Nottingham). This study will evaluate the impact of trained volunteer doula support provided to a woman during pregnancy, labour and the period after birth, particularly in low income communities.

Case Study 4

Health Technology Assessment programme – A peer-support weight management programme to supplement brief advice in general practice for obese adults from deprived communities (Dr Hayden McRobbie, Wolfson Institute of Preventive Medicine, Barts and The London). This trial has been designed to establish whether the programme maintains its effects long term, and whether it helps people more than current best-practice GP advice.

Case Study 5

Research for Patient Benefit – Hands up for Max! Hand Hygiene study in Primary Schools (Professor Campbell, University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust). This is a cluster randomised controlled trial to test the effectiveness of an educational intervention to promote hand washing in reducing absenteeism in primary schools.

Postscript

Abbreviations and links to data resources

£PW	Pounds per week
95%CI	95% Confidence Interval
AML	Acute Myeloid Leukemia
APHO	Association of Public Health Observatories
APS	Annual Population Survey
BINOCAR	British Isles Network of Congenital Anomaly Registers
BME	Black and Minority Ethnic
BRC	Biomedical research centre
CBVT	Cerebrovascular diseases
CF	Cystic fibrosis
CHD	Coronary heart disease
Chimat	Child and Maternal Health Observatory
CHS	Child Health System
CHT	congenital hypothyroidism
CKD	Chronic kidney disease
CMACE	Centre for Maternal and Child Enquiries
COPD	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
CSO	Chief Scientific Officer
CVD	Cardiovascular disease
CVI	Certificate of vision impairment
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DECC	Department of Energy and Climate Change
DEXA Scan	Dual energy X-ray absorptiometry scan
DFLE	Disability Free Life Expectancy
DFT	Department for Transport
DH	Department of Health
DMTF	Decayed, missing or filled tooth
DWP	Department of Work and Pensions
E.Coli	Escherichia coli
EMPHO	East Midlands Public Health Observatory
ERPHO	Eastern Region Public Health Observatory
EU	European Union
EU-04-07 countries	European Union members since 2004
EU-15 countries	European Union members before 2004
EWDI	Excess Winter Death Survey
FSM	Free school meals
GB	Great Britain
GBD study	Global Burden of Disease Study

GCSE	General certificate in secondary education
GI	Gastrointestinal
GPRD	General Practice Research Database
GUM	Genitourinary medicine
GUMAMM	Genitourinary Medicine Access Monthly Monitoring
GUMCAD	Genitourinary Medicine Clinic Activity Dataset
HES	Hospital Episode Statistics
HESA	Higher Education Statistics Agency
HM Government	Her Majesty's Government
HO	Home Office
HPA	Health Protection Agency
HPV	Human papillomavirus
HSCIC	Health and Social Care Information Centre
HSE	Health Survey for England
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
ICD10	Tenth revision of the International Classification of Diseases
IMD	Index of Multiple Deprivation
IPMR	Integrated performance measures monitoring
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
LE	Life expectancy
LHO	London Health Observatory
LRTI	Lower respiratory tract infections
MCADD	Medium-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency
MDR TB	Multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis
MMR vaccine	Measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MRI	Magnetic resonance imaging
MRSA	Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus
MSM	Men who have sex with men
NCIN	National Cancer Intelligence Network
NDA	National Diabetes Audit
NDSCR	National Down Syndrome Cytogenetic Register
NEET	Not in education, employment, or training
NEPHO	North East Public Health Observatory
NHL	Non-Hodgkin lymphoma
NHS DEP for England	NHS Dental Epidemiology Programme for England

NIHR	National Institute for Health Research
NMSC	Non-melanoma skin cancers
NOIDs	Notifications of Infectious Diseases
NOO	National Obesity Observatory
NWPHO	North West Public Health Observatory
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PCT	Primary Care Trust
PHO	Public Health Observatory
PKU	Phenylketonuria
PSA	Prostate-specific antigen
PYLL	Potential Years of Life Lost
QOF	Quality Outcomes Framework
RCGP	Royal College of General Practitioners
RCOphth	The Royal College of Ophthalmologists
RNIB	Royal National Institute of Blind People
RRT	Renal replacement therapy
SCD	Sickle cell disease
SEPHO	South West Public Health Observatory

SII	Slope Index of Inequality
STI	Sexually transmitted disease
SWPHO	South West Public Health Observatory
TB	Tuberculosis
TDO	The Dental Observatory
UK	United Kingdom
UKACR	United Kingdom Association of Cancer Registries
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
URTI	Upper respiratory tract infections
USA	United States of America
WEMWBS	Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale
WHO	World Health Organisation
WMPHO	West Midlands Public Health Observatory
XDR TB	Extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis

Evidence and intelligence resources

1 Health intelligence resources

1.1 The NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care

The NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care www.ic.nhs.uk is the main provider of data and information for the NHS. The indicator portal <https://indicators.ic.nhs.uk/webview/> provides a range of health and social care indicators, including

■ Compendium of Population Health Indicators

A wide-ranging collection of over 1,000 indicators designed to provide a comprehensive overview of population health at a national, regional and local level. These indicators were previously available on the Clinical and Health Outcomes Knowledge Base website (also known as NCHOD).

■ GP Practice data

This is a collection of practice level data and is designed to improve healthcare and support patients in making better, informed choices about the practice they choose to register with.

■ Local Basket of Inequalities Indicators (LBOI)

This collection of 60 indicators helps organisations to measure health and other factors which influence health inequalities such as unemployment, poverty, crime and education.

■ NHS Outcomes Framework

The NHS Outcomes Framework indicators will be used by the Secretary of State to hold the NHS Commissioning Board to account.

■ Social Care

The first figures for the new Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF). They include data for 14 measures which are designed to enable users to compare the effectiveness of care delivered by councils responsible for adult social care services.

1.2 The English Public Health Observatories

The English Public Health Observatories <http://www.apho.org.uk/> provide a range of public health data and intelligence. A new Public Health England portal to public health evidence and intelligence will be launched in 2013.

The wealth of resources produced by the observatories can be found at: <http://www.apho.org.uk/default.aspx?RID=39403>.

1.2.1 English health profiling products, atlases, scorecards and tools

- **Health Profiles for English Local Authorities**
These annual profiles comprising 37 indicators, provide a snapshot of health in each upper and lower tier local authority in England. They provide summary health information to support local authority elected members and community partners to plan for health improvement. The information is presented as a four page document and there is also an interactive atlas. These have been produced since 2006. See www.healthprofiles.info.
- **Local Health**
This provides a range of health indicators at the level of Middle Super Output Areas, wards (these are estimated), and local authorities. The indicators are drawn from the small areas indicators for Joint Strategic Needs Assessment <http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/view.aspx?RID=87735>. They are displayed as interactive maps and reports. It is possible to combine areas to create a user-defined geography. It allows the user to compare any selected area to the England average for a range of indicators. See www.localhealth.org.uk
- **2012 Cardiovascular Disease Profiles for England**
<http://www.sepho.org.uk/CVDprofiles.aspx>
- **Community Mental Health Profiles**
<http://www.nepho.org.uk/cmhp/>
- **End of Life Care Local Authority Profiles 2012**
http://www.endoflifecare-intelligence.org.uk/end_of_life_care_profiles/default.aspx
- **Excess Winter Deaths**
<http://www.wmpo.org.uk/excesswinterdeathsinEnglandatlas/>
- **Health inequality indicators for local authorities and primary care organizations**
<http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/view.aspx?RID=110504>
- **Local Alcohol Profiles for England (LAPE)**
<http://www.lape.org.uk/>
- **Local Authority Child Health Profiles 2012**
<http://www.chimat.org.uk/profiles>
- **Local Tobacco Control Profiles**
http://www.lho.org.uk/lho_topics/analytic_tools/tobaccocontrolprofiles.aspx
- **National General Practice Profiles**
<http://www.apho.org.uk/pracprof/>
- **Sexual Health Balanced Scorecard 2012 update**
http://www.apho.org.uk/default.aspx?QN=SBS_DEFAULT

- **Teenage Pregnancy Atlases, Forecasts and other Resources**
<http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/view.aspx?RID=116350>
- **Spend and Outcomes Factsheets and Tool**
<http://www.yhpho.org.uk/default.aspx?RID=49488>
- **Disease Prevalence Estimates**
<http://www.apho.org.uk/diseaseprevalencemodels>

1.2.2 Topic-based collections

- **Child and Maternal Health Observatory (ChiMat)**
The national Child and Maternal Health Observatory (ChiMat) provides information and intelligence to improve decision making for high quality, cost effective services. It supports policy makers, commissioners, managers, regulators, and other health stakeholders working on children's, young people's and maternal health. <http://www.chimat.org.uk/>
- **Diabetes Health Intelligence**
Diabetes Health Intelligence is run by Yorkshire and the Humber Public Health Observatory to provide timely, quality assured national diabetes health intelligence working in partnership with a number of organisations. <http://www.yhpho.org.uk/default.aspx?RID=8467>

The PHO also provides the National Diabetes Information Service (NDIS). NDIS is a partnership of leading diabetes organisations, funded by NHS Diabetes, which provides free access for the NHS to a comprehensive suite of diabetes information products, datasets and tools, through a single web portal www.diabetes-ndis.org.
- **End of Life Care Intelligence Network**
The National End of Life Care Intelligence Network (NEoLCIN) aims to improve the collection and analysis of information related to the quality, volume and costs of care provided by the NHS, social services and the third sector, to adults approaching the end of life. This intelligence will help drive improvements in the quality and productivity of services. The network is part of the National End of Life Care Programme. <http://www.endoflifecare-intelligence.org.uk/home.aspx>
- **Improving Health and Lives: Learning Disability Observatory**
The Improving Health and Lives Learning Disabilities Observatory keeps watch on the health of people with learning disabilities and the health care they receive. It provides a range of tools, resources and reports. <http://www.improvinghealthandlives.org.uk/>

- **Kidney diseases and services**
The East Midlands Public Health Observatory (EMPHO) produces information resources on kidney disease, giving useful resources and links both from Public Health Observatories and other sources. This is a joint work programme with NHS Kidney Care. <http://www.empho.org.uk/Themes/renal/renal1.aspx>
- **National Obesity Observatory**
The National Obesity Observatory provides a single point of contact for wide-ranging authoritative information on data, evaluation and evidence related to weight status and its determinants. NOO works closely with a wide range of organisations and provides support to policy makers and practitioners involved in obesity and related issues. www.noo.org.uk

1.3 National Cancer Intelligence Network

The NCIN provides a range of information for the general public or those with a particular interest in cancer or cancer services. They are free to access and each tool provides instructions on its use and details of the data included. These can be found at http://www.ncin.org.uk/cancer_information_tools/default.aspx (accessed 17th October 2012).

■ Cancer e-Atlas

The aim of the Cancer e-Atlas is to provide the public, health care professionals, commissioners and health service managers with basic information on incidence, mortality and survival for the main types of cancers in males and females.

■ GP Practice Cancer Profiles

The GP Practice Profiles bring together a range of outcomes and process information relevant to cancer in primary care. They provide readily available and comparative information for benchmarking and reviewing variations at a general practice level. GP Practice Profiles are currently available only to authorised users via the Cancer Commissioning Toolkit.

■ Cancer Mortality Profiles

The mortality profiles are interactive spreadsheets showing trends in cancer mortality rates in England for under 75 year olds by different levels of geography. This tool has been developed to support the monitoring, commissioning and planning of local cancer services. Produced by the South West Public Health Observatory on behalf of the National Cancer Action Team and National Cancer Intelligence Network.

■ Prevalence e-Atlas

The Prevalence e-Atlas is an interactive tool which uses maps, charts and data tables to display cancer prevalence data by cancer network for the UK. The data displayed are those published in the NCIN report One, Five and Ten-year Cancer Prevalence.

1.4 QIPP RightCare NHS Atlas of Variation in Healthcare series

The NHS Atlas of Variation series <http://www.rightcare.nhs.uk/index.php/nhs-atlas/> (accessed 17th October 2012) supports the search for unexplained variations, the identification and attention to unwarranted variation, helping clinicians to understand what is going on in their area and where to focus attention to improve the care they provide. The first NHS Atlas of Variation was published in November 2010. In December 2011 a second and expanded version of the Atlas, consisting of 71 maps, was published.

Work is now underway to develop a series of themed atlases focusing on specific conditions or populations in more depth. The first themed atlases include:

- Children and Young People
- Diabetes
- Kidney Disease
- Respiratory Disease

2 Evidence-based public health and health care resources

2.1 NICE Pathways

An online tool which provides access, topic by topic, to the range of guidance from NICE, including quality standards, technology appraisals, clinical and public health guidance and NICE implementation tools. This enables users to explore, in increasing detail, up-to-date NICE recommendations and advice <http://pathways.nice.org.uk/>

2.2 NHS Evidence

<http://www.evidence.nhs.uk/> NHS Evidence provides free access to public health, clinical and non-clinical information. Information includes evidence, guidance and government policy. There is a collection of resources on public health topics. NHS staff who have an Athens account can also get free access to paid for journals.

2.3 Cochrane Library

Cochrane Reviews are systematic reviews of primary research in human health care and health policy, and are internationally recognised as the highest standard in evidence-based health care. They investigate the effects of interventions for prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. They also assess the accuracy of a diagnostic test for a given condition in a specific patient group and setting. They are published online in The Cochrane Library <http://www.cochrane.org/cochrane-reviews/about-cochrane-library>

Postscript

Acknowledgments

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- South West Cancer Intelligence Service
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- Lung Cancer SSCRG - Chair, Michael Lind
- Skin Cancer SSCRG - Chair, Julia Newton Bishop
- Breast Cancer SSCRG - Chair, Martin Lee
- Gynaecological Cancers SSCRG - Chair, Andy Nordin
- Urological Cancers SSCRG - Chair, Roger Kockelbergh
- Haematological Cancers SSCRG - Chair Robin Ireland

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