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PHE Bulletin, Public Health England's regular update, provides news and information on PHE and the public health landscape for all those concerned with the public's health. For more information see our website: www.gov.uk/phe

Public health news

England has the potential to have the lowest disease burden in the world

A new PHE-led study [published in The Lancet](#) has, for the first time, ranked the diseases and risk factors that cause death and disability in England, and compared England and its regions with other high-income countries. It found that between 1990 and 2013, life expectancy in England increased by 5.4 years; one of the biggest increases compared with the other high-income countries. The study, 'Changes in health in England, with analysis by English regions and areas of deprivation, 1990–2013: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2013', also reveals the nation's potential to have the lowest total disease burden in the world. For more information see PHE's [blog](#) and [press release](#).

e-cigarettes around 95% less harmful than tobacco estimates landmark review

PHE has published an [expert independent evidence review](#) of the latest evidence on e-cigarettes. Key findings of the review include:

- while not completely risk free, based on current evidence e-cigarette use is around 95% less harmful than smoking, with no evidence of harm to bystanders
- e-cigarettes are now the most popular quitting aid in England and evidence indicates they can be effective in helping people to stop smoking
- there is as yet no evidence that e-cigarettes are acting as a gateway into smoking for children and non-smokers

The review, commissioned by PHE and led by Professor Ann McNeill (King's College London) and Professor Peter Hajek (Queen Mary University of London), suggests that e-cigarettes may be contributing to falling smoking rates among adults and young people. To accompany the review, PHE published a paper on the [implications of the evidence for policy and practice](#). PHE has subsequently published a joint statement, [e-cigarettes: an emerging public health consensus](#), with other UK public health, health and tobacco control organisations. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

Health matters: a new resource to aid local public health professionals

PHE's 'Health matters', launched earlier this month, is the first of a planned series of resources for public health professionals. It is designed to support colleagues across the public health and healthcare system with local and national level data, policy and programme expertise and campaigning and social marketing resources. The pilot first issue, [Health matters: smoking and quitting in England](#), is on tobacco. For more information see PHE's [blog](#).

Cancers are being diagnosed earlier in England

A new PHE report shows the proportion of cancers diagnosed as a result of emergency presentation at hospital has decreased. These results are from the updated [Routes to Diagnosis data](#), covering patients diagnosed with cancer from 2006 to 2013, with 2011-2013 being published for the first time. In 2006 almost 25% of cancers, one in four, were diagnosed as an emergency. In 2013 this figure had fallen to 20%, or one in five. PHE's Be Clear on Cancer campaigns aim to help spot symptoms in some cancers early. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

Tackling unwarranted variation in healthcare across the NHS

PHE, NHS England and NHS Right Care have launched the third and biggest NHS Atlas of Variation in Healthcare to help commissioners, service providers and health professionals deliver the best healthcare. Some variation is expected, often linked to levels of illness or patient-preference, but much is 'unwarranted'. The NHS Atlas of Variation in Healthcare 2015 identifies where opportunities to address unwarranted variation exist. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

JSNA resources for alcohol, drugs and tobacco

PHE has published the latest joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA) support pack covering young people's substance misuse and adult alcohol, drug and tobacco use. The [pack](#) will help local areas develop JSNAs and local joint health and wellbeing strategies that effectively address public health issues relating to alcohol, drug and tobacco use. It includes bespoke data for every local authority.

New oral health survey of children in special schools

Children in special support schools have slightly lower levels of tooth decay than children in mainstream schools but are more likely to have their teeth extracted, according to a [new survey](#) published last week by PHE. The first national survey of oral health in special schools also shows that those who experienced decay have more teeth affected and their oral hygiene is poorer. The survey is broken down by region. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

Update on progress towards a new national palliative care data collection; improvements in end of life care co-ordination

PHE's National End of Life Care Intelligence Network has published a [statement](#) to update specialist palliative care service providers, commissioners, clinicians, patients and the public about progress towards implementation of a new data collection from adult specialist palliative care services in England. The Health and Social Care Information Centre has published a revised information standard [Palliative Care Co-ordination: core content](#) previously called 'End of Life Care Co-ordination: core content'. For more information see PHE's [news story](#).

Revised guide for anyone bereaved by suicide

A revised support guide, [Help is at Hand](#), provides people affected by suicide with both emotional and practical support. Individuals who have been bereaved by suicide have been the principal authors of the guide, which is produced by PHE and the [National Suicide Prevention Alliance](#). The most recent official figures reveal 6,233 suicides of people aged 15 and over were registered in the UK in 2013. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

Government invests £350 million to create world-class public health laboratories in Harlow

The Chancellor has announced £350m for the relocation of the majority of PHE's work at Porton to the ex-GlaxoSmithKline site at Harlow. This is an initial decision on the outline business case that PHE submitted in July 2014, which had the proposal to create an Integrated Science Hub at Harlow as the preferred option. A decision on PHE's Colindale and Whitechapel facilities with other PHE headquarters functions will be made as part of the Spending Review, due to be completed before Christmas. For more information see PHE and HM Treasury's joint [news story](#).

Final flu vaccine effectiveness data published

The child flu vaccine (fluenz) used in last year's flu season provided good protection against circulating strains of influenza B according to a PHE study published in Eurosurveillance. For those aged under 18 years, effectiveness of the vaccine against influenza A was 35% and effectiveness of the vaccine against influenza B was 100%. For more information see PHE's [news story](#).

NHS England announce £5 million plan to improve staff health and wellbeing

NHS England has announced a new £5 million initiative to improve the health and wellbeing of 1.3m health service staff. Co-designed with PHE, the plan includes better access to occupational health, encouraging more physical activity and healthier food options. For more information see NHS England [news article](#).

Recovering alcohol and drug users leading service planning

PHE has launched [Service user involvement](#), a new guide showing the benefits of involving recovering alcohol and drug users in the design and development of their own, and others treatment and recovery. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

New resource to prevent linked suicides in local areas

PHE has published a new resource to help local organisations prevent linked suicides in their areas, often referred to as 'suicide clusters'. The [Identifying and responding to suicide clusters resource](#) supports local authorities in their reaction to unexpectedly high numbers of suicides occurring at a particular time, or place, or both. For more information see [PHE's news story](#).

PHE to work on international project with Pakistan

The Department for International Development has agreed to fund a £1.85m project for PHE to work with the government of Pakistan and multiple partners in Pakistan, on the development of a national integrated system of infectious disease surveillance and response. This will assist Pakistan to become compliant with the WHO International Health Regulations. The 18 month programme will involve setting up a PHE team based both in Pakistan and the UK, working alongside locally employed staff.

Poisons Information Service annual report

The National Poisons Information Service, the advisory service for frontline clinicians, has published its [annual report](#) for 2014/15. It shows how different elements of the service work together and provides examples of NPIS activity and the value of data collected by the NPIS units.

New whooping cough figures prompt call for pregnant women to get immunised

PHE is calling for pregnant women to take up the whooping cough (pertussis) vaccine in order to protect themselves and their babies from this serious disease. New [surveillance figures](#) confirm that whooping cough activity remains at raised levels in England. The data also show that confirmed cases of whooping cough in babies under three months of age remain low, indicating that the vaccination programme is protecting young babies from birth. [Whooping cough coverage](#) in pregnant women averaged 56% in England in the year to March 2015. For more information see PHE's [press release](#).

PHE resources support local action on health inequalities

PHE has commissioned and published [four papers](#) produced by the University College London Institute of Health Equity that include evidence and examples of practical action that can be taken at a local level to reduce health inequalities. PHE has also published a series of written and visual stories as part of its [National Conversation on health inequalities](#), illustrating people's lived experiences of health inequalities. For more information see PHE's [news story](#).

Data briefing on use of neurology outpatients services

PHE's Neurology Intelligence Network has produced a [data briefing](#) on the use of adult neurology outpatient services in England and the proximity of the services provided to those with the need. It shows a 15-fold variation in rate of attended new consultant neurology diagnostic appointments across England. A new [profile](#) on neurology services has also been added.

Analysis of emergency hospital admissions of people with dementia

PHE's Dementia Intelligence Network's [document and dataset](#) on the reasons why people with dementia are admitted to a general hospital in an emergency shows that that 20% of admissions of people with dementia were potentially preventable and 16% of all emergency admissions of people with dementia related to injuries.

People news

Dr Diane Ashiru-Oredope, PHE's Pharmacist Lead for the Antimicrobial Resistance Programme in Public Health Strategy, has been awarded the prestigious national award of Public Health Pharmacist of the Year by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

Recent PHE blogs

[A life changing opportunity- putting prevention at the heart of mental health](#)

by Kevin Fenton (4 September)

[Health in changing climate](#)

by Paul Cosford (4 September)

[Involving recovering alcohol and drug users in the delivery and design of treatment and recovery](#)

by Rosanna O'Connor (7 September)

[Getting active, having fun](#)

by Justin Varney (9 September)

[Looking forward to PHE's conference](#)

by Kevin Fenton (10 September)

[Dementia carers- Susan's story](#)

by Charles Alessi (11 September)

[Let's work together to preserve our antibiotics](#)

By Diane Ashiru-Oredope, 14th September

[The burden of disease and what it means in England](#)

by John Newton (15 September)

[GBD compare: A new data tool for professionals](#)

Blog editor (15 September)

[Health Matters- a new resource for professionals](#)

by John Newton and Kevin Fenton (15 September)

[Health Matters- your local tobacco control toolkit](#)

by Rosanna O'Connor (15 September)

[Health Matters- the role of dental teams in smoking cessation](#)

by Jenny Godson and Julia Csikar (15 September)

[Day one at the PHE conference](#)

Blog editor (16 September)

[Addressing health inequalities at local level](#)

by Anne Marie Connolly (16 September)

[The route to earlier diagnosis](#)

by Julia Verne (16 September)

[Variations in healthcare- how we can begin to tackle them](#)

by John Newton (16 September)

[E-Cigarettes- a public health response](#)

by Kevin Fenton (16 September)

[Relationships, consent and university](#)

by Justin Varney (21 September)

[Helping local areas address public health issues relating to alcohol, drug and tobacco use](#)

by Rosanna O'Connor (23 September)

[Our health in a changing climate- the future is bright if it is sustainable](#)

by David Pencheon (24 September)

News from other organisations

Dental guide for commissioners published

Working collaboratively with PHE and Health Education England, NHS England has published a series of [dental guides](#) for commissioners to help address the need for greater national level standardisation in the commissioning of dental care as well as providing clarity and consistency around the dental services the NHS provides. They have been produced by the dental profession and commissioners overseen by the Chief Dental Officer for England.

Events

Third PHE annual conference

Presentation abstracts and PDFs of posters from the third PHE annual conference, held earlier this month at the University of Warwick, can now be found on the [conference website](#). Links to videos of the [keynote presentations](#) can also be accessed and more video links of conference presentations will be available shortly.

PHE Board's next open meeting

The next open meeting of the [PHE Board](#) will take place on at 10.30am on 25 November in Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UG. Meeting [details](#) are available online.

PHE National Cardiovascular Health Intelligence Network masterclasses

PHE's National Cardiovascular Health Intelligence Network is running a series of masterclasses to look at what local data is available across the cardiovascular family of diseases. The events are being delivered in partnership with NHS England's Strategic Clinical Networks. The next masterclasses are in [High Wycombe on 8 October](#) and in [Southampton on 5 November](#). Further details are at www.ncvin.org.uk.

Second Annual NHS Health Check Awards

The second annual NHS Health Check awards will take place on 6 November 2015 in Nottingham. The awards will celebrate innovative ways providers and healthcare teams have implemented the NHS Health Check in their region. For details see the Heart UK [website](#).