



North West  
Public Health  
Observatory

# Health E-News

**Welcome** to the August edition of the North West Public Health Observatory Health E-News bulletin.

We hope you find the updates and information about NWPHO contained in this bulletin useful. During the

current period of review and forthcoming changes to the public health system, if you require different intelligence to support your work, then please let us know and we will endeavour to be as responsive to your needs as possible.

## Falls on ice or snow soared this year in the North West



The Observatory recently completed a short study to examine the impact of the recent severely cold winter on hospital admissions across the region.

Using the most recent data from the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) dataset, key findings included that:

- Average winter temperatures have steadily dropped over the past four years and numbers of emergency hospital admissions for falls have gradually risen.
- The numbers of emergency hospital admissions in winter for transport accidents and

respiratory conditions have remained relatively similar over time.

- The number of emergency hospital admissions for falls involving ice and snow increased dramatically last winter compared to the previous three winters, from 149 in winter 2006/07 rising to 3,170 admissions during the winter of 2009/10, an increase of over twentyfold.
- The most common type of fractures sustained from falls resulting in emergency hospital admissions last winter were fractured femur, lower leg, forearm, and shoulder and upper arm.

- The burden of falls involving ice and snow is likely to be greater still if data showing the numbers of people who attend Accident & Emergency (but are not admitted to hospital), visit their GP or self-treat at home were included for analysis.

Copies of the report are being circulated to Directors of Public Health across the region, and the report is available to download online:

[http://www.nwph.net/nwpho/Publications/ice\\_snow\\_pub\\_Aug2010.pdf](http://www.nwph.net/nwpho/Publications/ice_snow_pub_Aug2010.pdf)



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# Creating healthier workplaces

The recent *Fair Society Healthy Lives* strategic review of health inequalities in England states that ensuring more people across the 'social gradient' are able to access 'good' jobs and improving the overall quality of jobs is a key method for tackling inequalities in health. Good jobs are those that include opportunities for personal development, flexible working, a degree of control, involvement in key decisions and a fair wage.

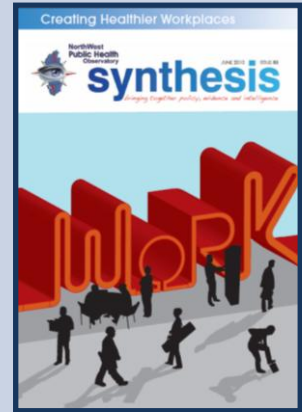
Against this backdrop, NWPHO's *Creating Healthier Workplaces* synthesis report presents evidence and intelligence showing the scale of ill health and key reasons for sickness absence among the working age population in the North West and nationally. The synthesis report outlines the minimum steps that employers should take to ensure that their staff are not harmed at work, such

as actively managing sickness absence and adopting the Health and Safety Executive *Management Standards for Tackling Workplace Stress*. The key factors in creating healthier workplaces, where there are lower levels of sickness absence, more motivated and productive staff, are also presented.

For details of the resources that are available relevant to creating healthier workplaces see the report: [www.nwph.net/nwpho/publications/synthesis8b2010.pdf](http://www.nwph.net/nwpho/publications/synthesis8b2010.pdf)

These include:

- a commitment at board level;
- worker involvement;
- effective line management;
- early intervention;
- multi-disciplinary support; and
- work-focused healthcare.



# Profiles reveal stark inequalities in the nation's health

The fifth set of annual health profiles are now available and help to highlight inequalities in health by identifying some of the key associated factors, such as smoking, GCSE achievement and childhood obesity. The collated summaries show that there are clear variations in health across the country.

Key findings include that:

- Life expectancy for men and women continues to increase.
- Early deaths from heart disease, stroke and cancer continue to fall.
- The highest rates of alcohol-related hospital admissions are found in urban areas of the North East and North West, including Liverpool, Newcastle and Middlesbrough.
- There are higher rates of malignant melanoma in the South West



and South East, including Plymouth, Weymouth and Portland, and Oxfordshire.

This vital information will support the Government's focus on prioritising public health prevention measures and empowering clinicians to make decisions at a local level.

The profiles reveal different health priorities for each area, demonstrated using a 'spine chart', showing how one area compares to all other areas in England, through a set of 32 health measures. Each area profile also includes a text summary highlighting priorities for the area, and interactive maps and charts with information about local people's health.

All the profile reports are available online through the Health Profiles website: [www.healthprofiles.info](http://www.healthprofiles.info)



# Autumn website launch

In the autumn NWPHO will be launching its new website, which includes a greatly improved user experience and suite of features.

feedback during the piloting phase in developing the new website. These comments were invaluable in further developing the site.

The Observatory would like to thank all those people who provided

## Nurturing child and maternal health

The Child and Maternal Health Observatory (ChiMat) is a national public health observatory established to provide wide-ranging, authoritative data, evidence and practice related to children's, young people's and maternal health. This specialist observatory is part of the Yorkshire and Humber Public Health Observatory (YHPHO).

ChiMat was established as a pilot project in October 2007, through collaboration between YHPHO, Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP) Children, Young People and Families Programme, the Information Centre for Health and Social Care and the Healthcare Commission, funded by the Department of Health (DH). It launched as the National Observatory for Child and Maternal Health in October 2008.

ChiMat's objectives are:

- To support a co-ordinated national approach to the development and delivery of child and maternal health intelligence.
- To enable easy access to high quality, up to date information and knowledge to support timely health service decision making.
- To provide a single gateway and signposting service to a wide range of evidence, reliable health intelligence, expertise and support.

ChiMat works with a range of stakeholders, including children's and maternity leads, commissioners, service improvement leads and performance managers in health or local government roles, government regulatory bodies and government departments, clinicians and health professionals.



Each region employs a local specialist with knowledge of the regional agenda and relevant priorities. Lynn Deacon is the North West local specialist for ChiMat and said:

"I started working in this new, full-time post in April. Through my role I support the Strategic Health Authority (SHA) and other key stakeholders with their child and maternal health information needs."

## Using peer review evidence and information



In June, NWPHO staff and stakeholders participated in a two day peer review to help evaluate the Observatory's strengths and areas for improvement across three key themes: i) Vision Strategy and Leadership; ii) Making it Happen; and iii) Managing People and Resources. The review team, who acted as 'critical friends', included four staff from other PHOs along with a representative from the Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government (IDeA) who have developed extensive experience of conducting peer reviews across local authorities (LAs).

The review identified a number of key strengths across NWPHO and a number of areas for consideration. The report on the findings from the peer review is due late summer and will be used to inform NWPHO's business plan and work programme over the coming year.

## Observatory staff move into new premises

In early July, NWPHO and the rest of the staff from the Centre for Public Health moved into Liverpool John Moores University, Henry Cotton Campus building (third floor).

The new address for NWPHO is listed on the front of this e-bulletin.



## News from the Association of Public Health Observatories (APHO) and other PHOs...

**Technical Briefing 7: Measuring smoking prevalence in local populations.** This briefing provides an overview of potentially useful sources of local-level smoking data, option appraisals for local-level surveillance of smoking and pointers to help local organisations meet their local smoking prevalence information needs:

[www.apho.org.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=87192](http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=87192)

**APHO Diabetes Prevalence Model.** This model provides estimates of total diabetes prevalence (diagnosed and undiagnosed) for people aged 16 years and over in England. Estimates are provided for the years 2009, 2010, 2015, 2020, 2025 and 2030 across England's, Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs) and PCTs. Full details are available online, including a Frequently Asked Questions section and a detailed Technical Document which includes further information about the methods used in the model:

[www.yhpho.org.uk/default.aspx?RID=81090](http://www.yhpho.org.uk/default.aspx?RID=81090)

**Heartsavers: Cost savings from a reduction of emergency admissions for myocardial infarction following smoke-free legislation in England.** This new report from London PHO shows major NHS savings in England since the introduction of smoke-free legislation. For example, an estimated £8.4 million has been saved nationally in emergency hospital care for heart attacks in the first year since the introduction of the new legislation:

[www.lho.org.uk/viewResource.aspx?id=16171](http://www.lho.org.uk/viewResource.aspx?id=16171)

**Learning Disabilities Observatory Launched.**

The Improving Health and Lives Learning Disabilities Observatory launched on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2010. It can be found at [www.improvinghealthandlives.org.uk](http://www.improvinghealthandlives.org.uk) or [www.ihal.org.uk](http://www.ihal.org.uk)

## Coming soon...

**North West Mental Wellbeing.** Following on from the reporting of the results of the regional Mental Wellbeing Survey a variety of further analyses are being undertaken over the coming months to add insight to the data. These will include:

- the factors supporting resilient communities;
- variations in wellbeing by ethnic group;
- links between cannabis usage and low mental wellbeing; and
- cluster analysis to show similar groups in terms of wellbeing and other factors.

**Inequalities in Cancer Incidence and Mortality in the North West.** For many cancers, incidence is associated with socioeconomic status, and much of this variation can be explained by differences in the prevalence of several behavioural risk factors such as smoking, alcohol, poor diet or physical activity. In this report developed in partnership with the North West Cancer Intelligence Service (NWCIS), NWPHO present cancer incidence and mortality rates for the North West population classified by quintiles of the 2007 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), and by two geodemographic classifications: People and Places, and the ONS Classification of Lower Super Output Areas.

**Road Traffic Incidents and Casualties in the North West.** This report reveals the impact of road traffic incidents in the North West by drawing together all relevant data sources for the population as a whole, and for children. Included in the report are local level data for incidents, casualties, ambulance call outs, A&E admissions, hospital admissions and mortality.

## Data updates...

**National Indicator (NI) 39 alcohol-related hospital admissions:** 2009/10 Quarter 3 NI39 data from the DH was published 3<sup>rd</sup> June at Government Office Region, SHA, PCT and local authority level. Further DH quarterly updates are planned for the end of August and the end of November 2010. Data and background documents are available from:

[www.nwph.net/alcohol/lape/nationalindicator.htm](http://www.nwph.net/alcohol/lape/nationalindicator.htm)

## About the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO)

NWPHO fulfils a regional public health information and intelligence function supporting the work of public health professionals, local authorities and providers of healthcare and further services relevant to the health of the North West population. The Observatory is also a member of the Association of Public Health Observatories (APHO). NWPHO's lead areas for APHO are alcohol, substance use, violence, dental health and working with the Health Protection Agency.

See the NWPHO website for full access to our reports and data tools: [www.nwpho.org.uk](http://www.nwpho.org.uk)