



**Welcome** to the December edition of the NWPHO Health E-News bulletin.

Staff at the Observatory would like to send you our best wishes for the festive season.

We hope you find the updates and information about NWPHO contained in this bulletin useful. If you have any further comments or suggestions for future features then please get in touch or visit our website at: [www.nwpho.org.uk](http://www.nwpho.org.uk)

## Fourth set of Local Alcohol Profiles for England (LAPE) released during national Alcohol Awareness Week 2009

The fourth annual publication of Local Alcohol Profiles for England (LAPE) was released in October to coincide with Alcohol Awareness Week.

The profiles contain 23 alcohol-related indicators for every local authority (LA) and primary care trust (PCT) in England to measure the impact of alcohol on local communities. Included is the Government's National Alcohol Indicator (NI39) – hospital admissions for alcohol-related harm.

Key findings from the profiles are that, compared with figures in last year's LAPE:

- The numbers of people being admitted to hospital in 2007/08 due to alcohol rose by 6% to 561,642 individuals (an increase of 31,641 people).
- Deaths in 2005-2007 from chronic liver disease increased by 2.8% for men to 10,928 individuals and by 2.4% for women to 6,293 individuals.
- The latest figures for the National Alcohol Indicator (NI39) show that there were 863,257 admissions to hospital for alcohol-related harm in England in 2007/08, an 8% increase from the previous year or an additional 176 alcohol related admissions every day.
- Claims for Incapacity Benefit (IB)/ Severe Disablement Allowance due to alcoholism rose by 2.6% to 42,000 in November 2008, while deaths from transport

accidents attributable to alcohol in 2005-2007 fell by 2%, or a decrease of 59 deaths from the previous year.

- The LAs with the highest levels of alcohol-related harm overall are in the North West, while those LAs with the lowest levels are mainly in the south of England.

The updated profiles have so far generated lots of positive feedback and they have also stimulated a lot of debate locally, regionally and nationally.

All LAPE data is available at LA or PCT level: [www.nwph.net/alcohol/lape](http://www.nwph.net/alcohol/lape)

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## Survey reveals good oral health for five year old children in England

Recent statistics published by the new NHS Dental Epidemiology Programme (DEP) for England provide a snapshot of the oral health of five-year-old children. The *NHS DEP for England; Oral Health Survey of five-year-old children, 2007/2008* report reveals that 69% of five-year old children are free of obvious dental decay (i.e. have no decayed, missing [due to decay] or filled teeth).

The survey included the examination of nearly 140,000 five-year-old children from state schools across 147 of the 152 primary care trust areas of England during the 2007/08 academic year.

This is the first survey of this type where parents of children were required to give consent and therefore bias resulting from non-response cannot be ruled out. As a result, direct comparisons with previous surveys should not be made.

Key findings include:

- Three out of ten (31%) five-year-olds in England have obvious dental decay.
- Those children affected by decay have on average between three and four teeth which are either filled, extracted or have obvious lesions.
- Levels of decay vary regionally, with more children in the northern regions having experienced decay than those in southern and eastern regions.
- Five-year-old children in England have an average of 1.11 decayed, missing or filled teeth (d<sup>3</sup>mft). At strategic health authority level the highest average d<sup>3</sup>mft is seen in the North West (1.52), closely followed by Yorkshire and the Humber (1.51).
- Decayed teeth make up the largest component of the d<sup>3</sup>mft value. On average, five-year-old



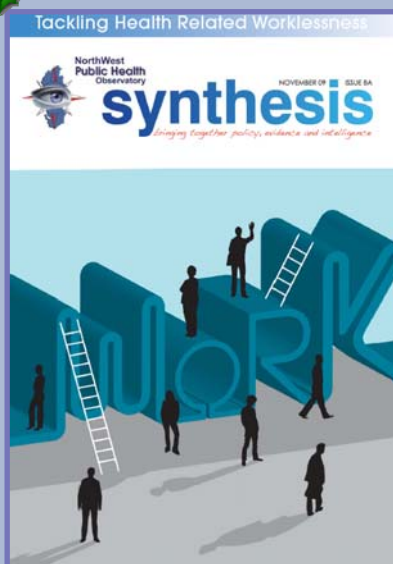
children in England have 0.87 decayed teeth.

- The highest average number of decayed teeth was seen in the North West (1.21), over twice as high as that in South East Coast (0.52).

The NHS DEP has been developed by the Dental Observatory and staff at NWPHO in conjunction with the Department of Health and other key stakeholders (for details see [www.nwph.net/dentalhealth](http://www.nwph.net/dentalhealth)).

The programme includes a series of nationally coordinated surveys of child oral health. It is anticipated that the information produced from the surveys will be utilised by the NHS in developing local, regional and national strategies to improve the oral health of children.

## Tackling Health Related Worklessness



The importance of 'good' work for improving health and wellbeing is well documented. However, the Observatory's recently released *Tackling Health Related Worklessness* synthesis report shows that one in eleven of the region's working age population are currently out of work because of an illness or disability and are claiming IB.

The report includes a summary of key regional and national policies designed to ensure that more working age adults are in employment. It also presents relevant evidence such as details of the key barriers to working among the long-term unemployed. Of particular focus are individuals with mental health conditions as these make up the majority of IB

claimants. Also included are details of types of interventions that can help individuals who are out of work to move into employment.

A copy of the report is available to download (see [www.nwpho.org.uk](http://www.nwpho.org.uk)) and hard copies can be ordered from the publications order form linked from the front page of the website.

This is part one of two reports; the second of which will examine the health of the working age population who are already in work. This will focus on sickness absence, health promotion at work and early intervention for when employees become ill. This second report is due for release in Spring 2010.

## PHOs celebrate their 10<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2010

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2010, all Public Health Observatories (PHOs) will be celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. An event to mark the celebrations will be held at Central Hall Westminster in London.

The keynote speaker on the day will be the Chief Medical Officer for England.

Look out for further details.



### Coming soon...

**Alcohol Bulletin Series:** NWPHO will publish a series of alcohol segmentation reports in January 2010. These provide details of alcohol-related attitudes and concerns, alcohol consumption and related hospital admissions by geodemographic segmentation systems (for example, Health ACORN, Mosaic, People and Places, and Office for National Statistics Area). These reports will provide evidence to help identify those groups most at risk from alcohol-related harms and to develop targeted interventions.

**Cancer Inequalities report:** This joint report, produced by NWPHO in conjunction with the North West Cancer Intelligence Service (NWCIS), is due for release in February 2010 alongside an overview report of cancer in the North West and the three cancer networks produced by the NWCIS.

**NWPHO Stakeholder Survey:** Stakeholders across the region recently took part in an online survey to review the NWPHO as an organisation and its work. Findings will be made available online from 2010 and will be used to inform the development of the NWPHO's strategy and business plan.

**Online Local Smoking Profile Tool:** Produced by NWPHO, in partnership with Smoke Free North West, this tool includes data for every LA, PCT and North West sub-region for around 24 indicators initially. These cover mortality and morbidity measures and indicators for lung cancer or respiratory disease by gender. The tool is anticipated to be available in January 2010.

**North West Regional Health Profile 2009:** This profile will be published for the end of January 2010. It will include information across a range of indicators and will also feature commentary from the Regional Director of Public Health.

**Regional Mental Wellbeing survey report:** In 2009, nearly 18,500 adults across the region were surveyed in response to a growing need to understand more about the positive mental wellbeing of people in the region. The report will contain a detailed breakdown of findings by wellbeing level, gender, age, deprivation level and ethnicity. The report of findings is expected for release towards the end of January 2010.

**Synthesis report 8b:** NWPHO's second report on the health and wellbeing of the working age population is due for release in March 2010 and will focus upon health in the workplace.

### Data updates...

**Life Expectancy Data by Cause tool:** This tool is now updated with the most recent statistics. A revised interface for the tool is also expected to be available in the first quarter of 2010. For further information please visit [www.nwpho.org.uk/life-expectancy](http://www.nwpho.org.uk/life-expectancy)

**National Indicator (NI) 39:** updated alcohol-related admissions data from the DH were released on LAPE in December. The updates include finalised 2008/09 data and quarterly trends data from 2007/08 Quarter 1 to 2009/10 Quarter 1 at Government Office Region, Strategic Health Authority, PCT and LA level. Quarterly updates in 2010 are planned for release around February, May, August and November. Data and background documents are available from [www.nwph.net/alcohol/lape/nationalindicator.htm](http://www.nwph.net/alcohol/lape/nationalindicator.htm)

**North West Health Profiler tool:** NWPHO are currently updating the tool with more recent Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) and mortality data. This will be made available in January 2010. The amount of information available for download has also been increased. For further information please visit [www.nwph.net/healthprofiler](http://www.nwph.net/healthprofiler)

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

**Disease Prevalence Modelling - full report:** Produced by York University to look at the APHO disease prevalence models, on behalf of *Informing Healthier Choices*. See [www.apho.org.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=83194](http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=83194)

#### Lifestyle Questions - Web Tool:

This is a product developed in partnership with other regional PHOs. It provides guidance and example questions for lifestyle surveys on key public health topic areas. See [www.lifestylesurvey.org.uk](http://www.lifestylesurvey.org.uk)

**Spend and Outcome Tool (SPOT) and factsheet:** This tool, commissioned from APHO by the DH, helps commissioners to link health outcomes and expenditure, as explicit in two of the World Class Commissioning competencies. Led by Yorkshire and Humber PHO, there is a tool and factsheet available for every PCT across the whole of England. See [www.yhpho.org/resource/view.aspx?RID=49488](http://www.yhpho.org/resource/view.aspx?RID=49488)

## 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 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)