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NORTH WEST PUBLIC HEALTH OBSERVATORY (NWPHO)

Centre for Public Health, Liverpool John Moores University

The NWPHO fulfils a regional public health information and intelligence function supporting the work of public health professionals, local authorities and providers of healthcare and other services relevant to health of the North West population. As an integrated part of public health intelligence in the Centre for Public Health and the North West region, the NWPHO is also a member of a national network of other public health observatories across England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland (the APHO*). Our lead areas for the APHO are alcohol, substance use, violence, dental health and working with the health protection agency.



< Public Health Intelligence



- NWPHO is a designated Department of Health 'safe-haven' for sensitive data items and holds 10-year datasets of hospital episode, mortality and birth statistics as well as a range of geographic and geodemographic classifications. From these we produce an annual small area dataset, used to monitor local trends, health inequalities and regional progress towards national health inequalities targets.
- We produce bespoke reports using a wide range of health-related datasets and carry out novel analyses and dissemination of new methods for health intelligence; in particular focussing on small area health measures and determining new and innovative ways to illustrate health patterns and investigate health inequalities.
- As a specialist analytical service, we conduct bespoke and routine analyses for partners and customers and use our detailed knowledge of the local and regional situation for added value. We also provide training, support and advice on methods such as Health Equity Audit, Lifestyle Surveys and Health Scrutiny.

Regular Reports >

- We produce bi-monthly synthesis reports that draw together intelligence, policy and evidence on a range of topics such as conducting Lifestyle Surveys and Violence as a health issue; our next report will focus on Social Marketing.
- Where possible, we link these reports with the production of technical documents produced in conjunction with the APHO and contribute to a series of national 'Regional Indications' reports produced for the Chief Medical Officer for England.
- NWPHO also produces a series of monthly reports, which focus on a particular routine national dataset each issue; for example documenting patterns of Hospital Admissions in the North West over recent years by type of admission; 'Frequent Fliers'; diabetes prevalence compared with primary care registers.



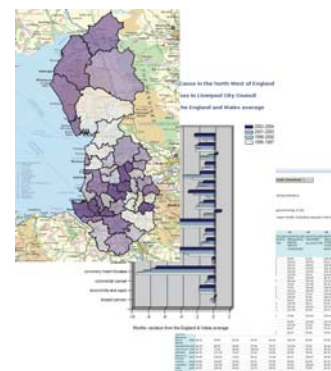
< Local Health Profiles



- From the health indicators within our annual small area health dataset, we have created an online Health Profiler - just enter a postcode from any area in the North West and obtain a profile of that local community.
- Working with other teams in the Centre for Public Health, we have produced a range of alcohol indicators for the very first ever alcohol related health profile for Local Authorities in the North West region and across all of England.
- With all other PHOs in the country*, we have undertaken to produce the first set of national Community Health Profiles as outlined as a key role of Observatories in the Government white paper 'Choosing Health'.

Online Data Tools >

- We aim to make all our public health intelligence, datasets and methodologies available and accessible via a range of interactive web-based tools. Included with these are links to a range of national and international public health tools for access to wider datasets.
- NWPHO online tools are linked with the production of reports and publications but allow users to access the data in a way that suits them: for example via tables, interactive maps, textual profiles or flexible charts.
- On behalf of our public health partners across the region, we have developed an integrated public health website, where a range of agencies, public health networks and regional taskforces make their work plans, membership, events, publications and best practice available to the wider public health community.
- As part of our technical developments, we are constantly enhancing the ability of our users to search across a range of public health resources; this now includes an interoperable website search of the other UK Public Health Observatories.



* Association of Public Health Observatories