

Public Health Bulletin

April 2025



Public Health Reports Digest

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Welcome to the latest Public Health Reports Digest compiled by NHS Fife Library & Knowledge Service which highlights recent publications and journal articles which we hope you find of interest.

This Current Awareness Bulletin (CAB) is part of a national programme of bulletins produced in partnership by NHS boards across Scotland. Every attempt has been made to include and acknowledge the author and publisher within all links. The information contained in these bulletins is for educational purposes only. We have endeavoured to ensure the information is up to date and correct and that creator and publisher information is given where relevant.

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In the Media, Recent Reports, and From the Journals

Items from the media, recently published reports and articles from the journals are listed alphabetically in topic order.

Alcohol	Environment	Obesity & Healthy Eating	Sexual Health
Cancer	Health & Social care	Older People	Smoking
Children & Young People	Health Inequalities	Pharmacy	Suicide & Self Harm
Covid -19	Health Protection	Physical Activity	Woman & Infant Health
Dental Health	Medical Conditions	Population Statistics	
Drugs	Mental Wellbeing	Public Health	

Public Health Bulletin – April 2025

Alcohol

N/A

Cancer

Covid -19

[COVID-19 vaccination information for professionals](#)

Public Health Scotland, 2 April 2025

Viral respiratory diseases (including influenza and COVID-19) in Scotland surveillance report

Public Health Scotland, 3 April 2025

“This weekly release by Public Health Scotland presents epidemiological information on respiratory infection activity, including COVID-19, across Scotland.”

Children & Young People

Childhood immunisation statistics Scotland, Quarter and year ending 31 December 2024

Public Health Scotland, 25 March 2025

“This release by Public Health Scotland (PHS) provides an annual and quarterly update of immunisation uptake rates for children in Scotland.”

Corporate Parenting Vision and Plan published

Public Health Scotland, 26 March 2025

“Public Health Scotland (PHS) has published its second Corporate Parenting and Vision Plan set to cover 2025 to 2028. This follows the implementation of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, which introduced new duties and responsibilities for Scottish public bodies defined as corporate parents.”

Invest in Childhood

David Woodhead, Centre For Mental Health, April 2025

“Mental health is a critical issue for babies, children and young people, and addressing mental ill health is essential for their overall wellbeing. The Government can help to create the conditions for them to thrive, with better mental health, improved life chances, and a brighter future. This report explores the available evidence about how government can use

its powers to boost children’s mental health, investing in what works, and stewarding its resources wisely.”

Children being left behind: deep poverty among families in Scotland

Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 28 April 2025

“80,000 children in Scotland live in a household in very deep poverty. That is around the population of children aged 16 or under in Edinburgh (NRS, 2024). This report explains why that is happening and how we can fix it.”

Early child development, Scotland 2023 to 2024

Public Health Scotland, 29 April 2025

“This release by Public Health Scotland (PHS) provides an update on children’s development as assessed during the 13-15 month, 27-30 month, and 4-5 year child health reviews. The latest information presented comes from reviews provided to children becoming eligible for review between April 2023 and March 2024.”

Child health pre-school review coverage, 2023 to 2024

Public Health Scotland, 29 April 2025

“This annual release by Public Health Scotland (PHS) provides statistics on the coverage of child health reviews offered to preschool children as part of the nationally agreed child health programme.”

Environment

The Art of Focus in a Distracted World: Week 3 - Tools and Techniques for Better Thinking

Leading to Change, 2025

Dental Health

Drugs

Health & Social Care

From Research to Reality

Rand Europe, Sonja Marjanovic, Zuzanna Marciniak-Nuqui et al. (2025)

“Research and innovation in the NHS as Key to enabling the 10-Year Plan. Full Report.”

Understanding the state of cyber security in adult social care

Ipsos & Institute of Public Care, March 2025

Workforce and patient safety: primary and community care co-ordination for people with long-term conditions

Health Services Safety Investigations body, 10 April 2025

“In June 2023 a series of investigations on the theme of ‘workforce and patient safety’ was launched by HSSIB’s predecessor organisation, the Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch. There are five investigations in the series which consider how working conditions in the NHS can be optimised to support patient safety, while maintaining and improving staff wellbeing.”

Public satisfaction with the NHS and social care in 2024 (BSA)

The King's Fund, 2 April 2025

"6 in 10 people (59%) said they were 'very' or 'quite' dissatisfied with the NHS in 2024, a sharp rise from 52% in 2023. This is the highest level of dissatisfaction with the health service since the British Social Attitudes (BSA) survey began in 1983."

Time Critical Medication QIP 2023 – 24

Royal College of Emergency Medicine, Quality improvement programme. April 2025

"Time-critical Medication (TCM) is scheduled medication that a patient is already on when they present to the ED. It is time-critical because delayed or missed maintenance doses can result in the exacerbation of symptoms or development of complications, leading to patient deterioration and increased mortality."

Health Inequalities

Unheard Voices

Understanding the challenges faced by black people living with HIV in primary care.

One Voice, National Aids Trust, 2025

Children being left behind: deep poverty among families in Scotland

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"80,000 children in Scotland live in a household in very deep poverty. That is around the population of children aged 16 or under in Edinburgh (NRS, 2024). This report explains why that is happening and how we can fix it."

Health Protection

Measles – a clear and continuing threat

Public Health Scotland, 25 April 2025

“It’s World Immunisation Week (24 - 30 April) and we’re celebrating another year of one of humanity’s greatest achievements. Over the last 50 years, essential vaccines have saved at least 154 million lives globally. That’s six lives every minute, every day, for five decades.”

Vaccines in pregnancy leaflet

Public Health Scotland, 24 April 2025

“A leaflet with information about the flu, RSV and whooping cough vaccines that are available during pregnancy.”

Medical Conditions

Unheard Voices

Understanding the challenges faced by black people living with HIV in primary care.

One Voice, National Aids Trust, 2025

Largest osteoarthritis genetic study uncovers pathways to new therapies and repurposed drugs

Science Daily, 28 April 2025

“Researchers have uncovered multiple new genes and genetic pathways that could lead to repurposing hundreds of existing drugs for osteoarthritis, the most common form of arthritis.”

Reference: Konstantinos Hatzikotoulas, Lorraine Southam, Lilja Stefansdottir, et al.

Translational genomics of osteoarthritis in 1,962,069 individuals. Nature, 2025; DOI: [10.1038/s41586-025-08771-z](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-025-08771-z)

Mental Wellbeing

Invest in Childhood

David Woodhead, Centre For Mental Health, April 2025

“Mental health is a critical issue for babies, children and young people, and addressing mental ill health is essential for their overall wellbeing. The Government can help to create the conditions for them to thrive, with better mental health, improved life chances, and a brighter future. This report explores the available evidence about how government can use its powers to boost children’s mental health, investing in what works, and stewarding its resources wisely.”

Mental health quality indicator profile

Public Health Scotland, 29 April 2025

“This release by Public Health Scotland (PHS) presents information on Mental Health Quality Indicators (MHQI) in support of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023 and Core Mental Health Standards.”

Obesity & Healthy Eating

Ultra-processed foods may be linked to early death

BBC News, 28 April 2025

“People who eat lots of ultra-processed foods (UPF) may be at greater risk of dying early, a study in eight countries including the UK and the US suggests. Processed meats, biscuits, fizzy drinks, ice cream and some breakfast cereals are examples of UPF, which are becoming increasingly common in diets worldwide.”

Nilson, Eduardo A.F. et al. (2025) **Premature Mortality Attributable to Ultraprocessed Food Consumption in 8 Countries**. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*

“The study aimed to (1) estimate the risk of all-cause mortality for ultraprocessed foods consumption and (2) estimate the attributable epidemiologic burden of ultraprocessed food consumption in 8 select countries.”

United States sees disproportionate increase in body mass index rates of more than 60

Science Daily, 28 April

“In the past 20 years, the average rate of obesity among adults in the United States has risen by approximately 30 percent, but the rate of those with the most severe forms of obesity, or those with a body mass index, or BMI, of more than 60 kg/m², increased by 210 percent.”

Reference: Michael Kachmar, Vance L Albaugh, Shengping Yang, et al. Disproportionate increase in BMI of ≥ 60 kg/m² in the USA. *The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology*, 2025; DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2213-8587\(25\)00069-5](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2213-8587(25)00069-5)

Older People

Workforce and patient safety: primary and community care co-ordination for people with long-term conditions

Health Services Safety Investigations body, 10 April 2025

“In June 2023 a series of investigations on the theme of ‘workforce and patient safety’ was launched by HSSIB’s predecessor organisation, the Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch. There are five investigations in the series which consider how working conditions in the NHS can be optimised to support patient safety, while maintaining and improving staff wellbeing.”

Pharmacy

N/A

Physical Activity

Embracing the outdoors and staying well in Spring

Public Health Scotland, 11 April 2025

“In our latest blog, Professor Dominic Mellor, Consultant in Veterinary Public Health at Public Health Scotland, shares some helpful advice to keep well while enjoying the outdoors in Scotland this Spring.”

Population Statistics

Why men are so unhealthy - and what can be done

BBC News, 6 April 2025

“This month the government in England will launch a consultation for its men's health strategy. The move is long overdue, experts say, with men much more likely to die prematurely than women. But why are they in such poor health – and what can be done about it?”

Accident and emergency

Public Health Scotland,

“This section focuses on statistics on accident and emergency (A&E) departments across Scotland. We also provide information about other urgent and unscheduled care services and pathways.”

Public Health

Acting now to add life to years, and years to life for Scotland’s future

Public Health Scotland, 20 March 2025

“Dr Fatim Lakha, Consultant in Public Health Medicine at Public Health Scotland (PHS), considers the future health landscape in Scotland by reflecting on recent findings from the Scottish Burden of Disease study and the detail new disease prevalence reports add to the long-term view. Reversing the trend is essential for a healthier, thriving population.”

A Healthcare Needs Assessment on Gambling Harm

Public Health Scotland, 22 April 2025

“Recognising the limitations of the current evidence, the national healthcare needs assessment (HCNA) report: estimates the prevalence of gambling harms in Scotland: maps service provision and demand for services.”

These men put off doctor's visits again and again. Then came a tipping point

BBC News, 21 April 2025

“It's well known that men go to the doctors less than women, and data backs this up.”

Sexual Health

N/A

Smoking

A Roadmap to a Smokefree Country

All Party Parliamentary Group on Smoking and Health, 2 April 2025

“The Labour Government’s bold mission to improve the nation’s health comes at a pivotal moment. Life expectancy in the UK has stalled, and healthy life expectancy has fallen, meaning people spend a greater proportion of their lives in poor health.² This is particularly true in areas of greater deprivation; healthy life expectancy in the North East is 7 years shorter for males and 6 years shorter for females than for those in the South East.”

Disposable vape use falling in UK ahead of ban

BBC News, 16 April 2025

“The percentage of people aged 16-24 who mainly use disposable vapes has dropped by nearly half in the last year from 63% to 35%, University College London (UCL) researchers say.”

Suicide & Self Harm

First Ofcom probe launched into suicide site exposed by BBC

BBC News, 9 April 2025

“A pro-suicide forum is under investigation by the UK’s online regulator - its first using new powers under the Online Safety Act. The forum, which Ofcom has not named, is understood to be a site BBC News has been investigating for the last three years, linking it to at least 50 deaths in the UK.”

Women's & Infant Health

More than 100,000 baby loss certificates have now been issued

GOV.UK, 8 April 2025

“More than 100,000 baby loss certificates have now been issued to parents who have lost a pregnancy, allowing them to formally recognise their loss.”

Early child development, Scotland 2023 to 2024

Public Health Scotland, 29 April 2025

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