

Measuring smoking prevalence in local populations

Supplementary Paper – Other potential sources of smoking-related data

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APHO *Technical Briefing 7: Measuring smoking prevalence in local populations*¹ lists many potential sources of local-level smoking prevalence data. This supplementary paper provides further sources of other types of smoking-related data that can add to the picture of smoking-related activity in a local population.

Smoking-related hospital admissions and mortality

A methodology has been devised to calculate local-level smoking-related hospital admissions² and smoking-related mortality, the latter indicator being included in the APHO Health Profiles.³

Prescribing data

PCT-level prescribing data, identifying the number and cost of prescriptions for Nicotine Replacement Therapy, are published quarterly in England.⁴ Similar data are published annually for NHS boards in Scotland⁵ and Wales.⁶

Smoking-related behaviour and attitudes towards smoking

Data on smoking-related behaviour (e.g. consumption, age started smoking, sources of tobacco etc.) are available from the General Household Survey/Integrated Household Survey,⁷ Scottish Health Survey,⁸ Welsh Health Survey⁹ and Health Survey for England.¹⁰ In Great Britain, the National Statistics Opinions Survey publishes annual data on attitudes towards the smoking ban, attitudes to passive smoking, and perceptions of risk etc.¹¹ Attitudes to the smoke-free legislation in Scotland were included in the evaluation of the Scottish legislation.¹²

Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services

Quarterly Statistical Bulletins are published in England, presenting PCT-level data on the number of people setting a quit date and the number who successfully quit at four-week follow-up from the monitoring of the NHS Stop Smoking Services. Comprehensive data are provided, including breakdowns by gender, age, ethnicity, pregnancy and socio-economic classification.¹³ These data form the basis of National Indicator 123, an indicator within the National Indicators,¹⁴ and Vital Signs Indicator VSB05.¹⁵ The data are service-based and people may access services in a different area from the one they live in – two public health observatories (NEPHO and LHO) are piloting the collation of individual-level post-coded data in order to assign service users to their PCT of residence, allowing more accurate calculation of residence-based estimates of smoking quitting.

Stop Smoking Wales also publish annual NHS Smoking Cessation Service monitoring data.¹⁶ An annual report is published in Scotland, presenting NHS board and community health partnership-level data on people using national smoking cessation services.¹⁷ Similar statistics to the English bulletins are available. These data are used to measure the Scottish Government local smoking cessation targets.¹⁸

Smoking Toolkit Study

Detailed information (although not at local level) on smoking prevalence and the process of smoking cessation is available from the Smoking Toolkit Study.¹⁹ The Smoking Toolkit Study is a monthly series of national surveys of the adult population in England, carried out to provide a better understanding of why people try to stop smoking and what enables them to succeed. It measures smoking habits and quit attempts (for example what prompted respondents to try to quit, what they used to try to quit and whether they are still not smoking), and included over 53,000 adults between November 2006 and March 2009.

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All links accessed 10 March 2010

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