



Scottish Public Health Network and Observatory

- Who we are
- What we do
- Who we link with

ScotPHN

ScotPHN Scottish Public Health Network

We aim to undertake prioritised national pieces of work focused on health improvement and health services; to facilitate information exchange between all those working in public health, link with other networks and share learning; to create effective communication amongst professionals and the public to allow efficient co-ordination of public health activity. We provide a network in which the Scottish Directors of Public Health (SDsPH) and public health departments can work effectively to inform and influence policy development and implementation across Scotland.

Projects include needs assessment, and patient pathway or action resource development. ScotPHN draws on the resource available at local level (public health departments, community health partnerships, local authorities, academia) to undertake projects as lead authors or project group members.

ScotPHN facilitates communication through events, website forums and, prompted by the emergency response to H1N1 influenza, mutual aid support to NHS Boards. ScotPHN links with other networks, notably it is a stakeholder body within the Health Protection Network and the North of Scotland Public Health Network. And it supports public health groups through secretariat provision, including a Cross Party Group on Obesity.

ScotPHN is accountable to and supports the SDsPH. A multi-disciplinary and multi-organisational Executive Board provides guidance and governance. ScotPHN is hosted by NHS Health Scotland; the team is headed by a lead consultant and includes a co-ordinator, researcher and administrator.

We link with ScotPHO on ScotPHN projects and update them on current issues for NHS Boards.

Some key public health organisations

Community Planning Partnerships are a key forum for local health improvement. They include local authorities, NHS Boards, voluntary sector, and other public bodies.

General Register Office for Scotland provides core demographic data: population and household estimates and projections, births and deaths. It runs the decennial Census.

Glasgow Centre for Population Health is a resource to generate insights and evidence, propose new ways forward, and provide leadership for action on health and inequality.

Health Protection Scotland is the national surveillance and co-ordinating centre for responding to communicable diseases and the health problems associated with environmental hazards.

Information Services Division is the national organisation for health information and statistics.

NHS Boards' public health departments provide the local drive and impetus for improving health, undertake local health protection and advise on health service quality and development. Community Health Partnerships provide health care and health improvement.

NHS Education for Scotland designs, commissions, quality assures and, where appropriate, provides education for NHS Scotland staff.

NHS Health Scotland is the national agency for improving population health. It covers every aspect of health improvement, from gathering evidence to planning, delivery and evaluation.

NHS Quality Improvement Scotland helps NHS Boards improve patient care by providing advice, guidance and setting standards; supporting implementation and improvement; and assessing performance. It hosts the Scottish Health Council, Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network, Scottish Patient Safety Forum and Scottish Medicines Consortium.

Scottish Government sets the policy and direction for public health in Scotland.

ScotPHO

Scottish Public Health Observatory

We aim to provide a clear picture of the health of the Scottish population and factors that affect it. We communicate this on our website, which is regularly updated, and through a variety of one-off reports. We also contribute to improved collection and use of routine data on health, risk factors and behaviours, and wider determinants.

Examples include: the ScotPHO website; work on indicators for Single Outcome Agreements; measurement of alcohol consumption in surveys; addressing inequalities through HEAT targets; information on smoking cessation services; community health profiles; and developing a health inequalities planning tool.

The Scottish Public Health Observatory collaboration is led by NHS Health Scotland and ISD Scotland, and includes the General Register Office for Scotland, Glasgow Centre for Population Health and Health Protection Scotland. It works closely with the Scottish Government's Health Analytical Services Division, Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics and others involved in public health intelligence in Scotland and beyond.

We link to users of local and national health information through the Public Health Information Network for Scotland (PHINS), which can be joined through the website.

The main focus of our work is to support health improvement planning and policy decision-making. We link with ScotPHN to promote best use of public health information.

ScotPHN website guide

Our website provides information on our projects and related discussion forums. It links to other public health networks and organisations. It contains resources useful to public health practitioners.

Projects

- Scottish Obesity Action Resource
- Mental health patient pathway for prisoners

Needs assessment:

- Neurosurgery
- HIV treatment and care services
- ME-CFS services
- Type 2 diabetes

Discussion forums

- On project areas

Resources

- Local health intelligence
- Scottish Needs Assessment Programme
- Migrant Health Action Resource
- Cross-party Group on Obesity

Networks

- Public health networks in Scotland

News

- Updates of local and national interest

Events

- Past and present

Methodology

- How ScotPHN works and how to join

Governance

- Executive Board
- Terms of reference

ScotPHO website guide

The ScotPHO website provides summary data and statistics, background information, interpretation, policy notes, commentaries on data sources, references and links to further information on a wide range of topics.

Behaviour

- Alcohol
- Diet and nutrition
- Drugs
- Multiple risk factors
- Physical activity
- Sexual health
- Tobacco use

Clinical risk factors

- High blood pressure
- High cholesterol
- Obesity

Health, wellbeing and disease

- Allergic conditions
- Asthma
- Cancer
- Coronary heart disease
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Diabetes
- Disability
- Epilepsy
- Hepatitis C
- Immunisations
- Infections
- Injuries
- Liver disease
(from December 09)
- Mental health
- Multiple sclerosis
- Oral health
- Stroke
- Suicide

Comparative health

- Community health profiles
- Health inequalities
- International comparisons

Life circumstances

- Community and individual wellbeing
- Crime
- Deprivation
- Education
- Income and economy
- Physical environment
- Social environment

Population dynamics

- Amenable mortality
- Deaths
- Healthy life expectancy
- Migration
- Population estimates and forecasts
- Pregnancy and births

Population groups

- Ethnic minorities
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual
- Prisoners

Publications

- e-newsletters
- Reports and papers
- Coming soon

Resources

- Methodology
- News alerts
- Overview of key data sources
- PHINS
- Scottish policies and strategies
- Website evaluation