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## Welcome to the Winter edition of the quarterly NEPHO newsletter

This is the second edition of the newsletter. The first edition was well received and provided an invaluable resource for health professionals. In this edition we hope to bring you more current work being produced by the teams here at NEPHO, allowing you to quickly find the most relevant news, reports, events and current research that you're looking for.

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## Health Profiles

### [Regional Health Profile for the North East 2010](#)

This profile gives a picture of health in North East England and links to the Local Authority level profiles published in July 2010. It is designed to help local government and health services improve people's health and reduce health inequalities. Health Profiles are produced every year by the [Association of Public Health Observatories](#) (APHO). Visit the [Health Profiles website](#) to:

- see profiles for other areas
- use interactive maps
- find more detailed information

### National GP Practice Profiles 2010

The [APHO General Practice Profiles \(beta version\)](#) will be available for testing on the 26th of November 2010, with a view to launching a finalised version in early 2011. Please [email us](#) or call 0191 334 0400 if you are interested in participating in the testing phase of this tool.

The APHO General Practice Profiles will provide comparative information for benchmarking and reviewing variations at a General Practice level. It is intended to support primary care organisations to review clinical practice and service delivery.

The APHO General Practice Profiles contains over a hundred indicators. These are grouped into three broad types:

- Population and demography
- Prevalence and quality indicators from the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF)
- Activity and service use indicators from NHS Comparators

## Local Tobacco Control Profiles for England

The [Local Tobacco Control Profiles for England](#) were launched 27 October 2010.

These profiles provide a snapshot of the extent of tobacco use, tobacco related harm, and measures being taken to reduce this harm at a local level (LA and PCT). These profiles have been designed to help local government and health services to assess the effect of tobacco use on their local populations. They will inform commissioning and planning decisions to tackle tobacco use and improve the health of local communities.

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## Training at NEPHO

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NEPHO undertakes a range of training activities to support partners in the region and is an active partner in the [School of Public Health](#). We have recently had two public health trainees and two NHS management trainees undertaking successful placements at NEPHO, in addition to our Public Health Intelligence trainee who is a member of staff.

We have just completed our [annual introductory course for public health analysts](#) and contributed to teaching at Durham University as well as the continual professional development (CPD) sessions delivered through Public Health Intelligence North East ([PHINE](#)).

Some of our specialised teams such as National Drug Treatment Monitoring Service ([NDTMS](#)) and Regional Maternity Survey Office ([RMSO](#)) have major training roles with specific groups in their fields.

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## Latest activity from the NEPHO analytical team

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In October 2010 the [NEPHO analytical team micro-site](#) was launched. The analytical team at NEPHO is responsible for maintaining data sets, exploring new resources, monitoring health trends and drawing together different types of information to help improve health and reduce inequalities. The aim of the website is to share knowledge, experience, data and publications with the wider analytical community.

Within the [North of England Cancer Network](#) (NECN) lung cancer is the most common form of cancer. Surgery is the treatment of choice for non-small cell lung cancer patients, and offers the best chance of a cure. Resection rates are lower across North of England Cancer Network (NECN) than England and compare poorly to rates in other cancer networks. There is also a wide variation in resection rates within the NECN by Trust.

A new NEPHO paper has been published [Lung resection rates across the North of England Cancer Network](#). This paper highlights these variations as well as analysing stage at diagnosis, performance status and co-morbidities. The data are used to discuss whether this variation is a reflection of service provision and surgeon workload or an artefact of poor quality data.

The [North East Health Improvement Dashboard](#) now includes mental health indicators. These are measures of mental health prevalence in the North East region for all mental health problems including dementia and

depression. Prevalence for PCTs and Local Authorities (LAs) can be compared to other PCTs, LAs, and other averages in the North East or England.

We are now in receipt of monthly births data for the North East and a regional picture of the monthly birth statistics will be following soon, along with the annual national births data.

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## Handy APHO Tools for professionals and analysts

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### APHO Analytical Tools

[Lifestyle Survey Toolkit](#) from the South East Public Health Observatory. An electronic toolkit to assist users to conduct health and lifestyle surveys. It contains information on how to conduct a lifestyle survey, theory for those with little previous experience, and resource and question banks.

[Disease Prevalence models](#) The health needs of a population derive in part from the prevalence of diseases, i.e. the numbers of people suffering from different types of illness. A robust and well-researched Disease Prevalence Model (DPM), can help commissioners to identify and address those needs.

A collection of all the tools available at the Association of Public Health Observatories can be found here: [All APHO Tools](#).

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## SHAPE Release site upgrade

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[The Strategic Health Asset Planning and Evaluation](#) (SHAPE) application is about to launch an upgrade to the site that has been in development over the last few months. The new site has a better user interface and has an enhanced mapping facility that will enable users to develop map images for a wide range of data.

The site is intended to be much easier to navigate around and the mapping facility is much faster than the current application. Data content will migrate from the previous version of the site to the new version on a phased basis over the next couple of months. Existing users are encouraged to re-visit the site and become familiar with its contents. The SHAPE team feel sure that the new site will encourage more frequent visits for a wider range of uses.

In an effort to raise awareness of the SHAPE application within the Primary Care community SHAPE will be attending two national conferences run by the [National Association of Primary Care](#) NAPC in October and NHS Alliance in November 2010. To register for SHAPE please email the [SHAPE Helpdesk](#).

The SHAPE team have also set up a Twitter account [SHAPE on Twitter](#) to help users keep in touch with both the SHAPE team and other users. Please sign up if this might be of value to you.

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## Public Health Intelligence North East (PHINE)

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Public Health North East carried out a public consultation on a draft charter for [A Good Death](#) and surveyed public and professional awareness of death, dying and bereavement between October and December 2009. This was a unique opportunity to find out about north easterner's attitudes, behaviours and wishes through a detailed on-line survey and on-street interviews. More than 2,500 public and professional responses were received. A range of face to face interviews with dying people, carers, voluntary organisations, and health and social care professionals were carried out, as well as focus groups with people aged 18-25 and 55+.

The consultation demonstrated strong support for the charter from all sectors. It reinforced plans for implementation and embedding of the charter in all end of life services, and the development of a compassionate community approach to a good death. Further details about the consultation, the [updated charter](#), and how it is being implemented are available online. A full report on the consultation findings will also be available from mid-November.

[PHINE](#) has launched its new homepage developed to make the website easier to use and the information easier to find. The website now includes a new feature, 'PHINE TV'. which allows us to present information in video clip formats. This is a method of data visualisation which allows information to be presented to audiences in a more digestible format and we hope the other members of the PHINE network will contribute to this feature.

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## The Child and Maternal Health Observatory (ChiMat)

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[The Child and Maternal Health Observatory](#) (ChiMat) is a national resource providing wide ranging, authoritative data, evidence and practice relating to children's, young people's and maternal health. The ultimate aim of ChiMat is to increase capacity within organisations to effectively use knowledge, information and tools to make evidence based decisions to improve service delivery.

ChiMat online offers a suite of tools to assist in planning and decision making, as well as a knowledge hub with access to key research, evidence and guidance. You can also subscribe to a weekly ChiMat e-bulletin to keep fully informed.

ChiMat offers support and training via a network of local experts Helene Brechin was recently appointed as the ChiMat Specialist for the North East. Helene is based at the Regional Maternity Survey Office in Newcastle and would be happy to explain more about ChiMat and how it can help your organisation. Helene can be contacted on 0191 2331658.

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## Regional Maternity Survey Office (RMSO)

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The [Regional Maternity Survey Office](#) has been granted part of the Department of Health's £30 million Children's Palliative Care Initiative to carry out an audit of the care of children with cerebral palsy in the North East of England and North Cumbria.

The grant of £36,800 will look at the domains of pain, hip and spine management, neuroimaging and the engagement of children and young people in decisions about their treatment.

Though the project will be managed by the RMSO, much of the work will be carried out by three specialist registrars, Catie Hiley, Raj Balu and Tanja Braun with support from enthusiastic regional paediatrician and physiotherapists.

This exciting project is part of the reinvigoration of the [North of England Collaborative Cerebral Palsy Survey](#) (NECCPS) by the new survey chair, Dr Karen Horridge, who is a consultant paediatrician with a special interest in neurodisability.

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## National Library for Public Health

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2010 Annual Evidence Update (Note: not live until the 29th of November 2010) - [Sexual Health: HIV/AIDS - Behaviour change in high-risk populations](#).

To coincide with World Aids Day on 1st December, the National Library for Public Health will be publishing the 2010 Annual Evidence Update on HIV/AIDS - Behaviour change in high-risk populations.

This update will identify and contextualise all high-level evidence and guidelines published in the last 12 months on behaviour change in high-risk populations including ethnic minorities, gay men, injecting drug users, young people, commercial sex workers, and other populations. The Library has teamed up with experts in the field of sexual health to evaluate the evidence.

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## Obesity - changes in children's body mass index

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The [National Obesity Observatory](#) (NOO) has published its latest report: [National Child Measurement Programme](#) (NCMP): Changes in children's body mass index between 2006 and 2009.

The report provides a detailed analysis of the National Child Measurement Programme data for all North East Primary Care Trusts and Local Authorities in England. The analyses examine the prevalence of underweight, overweight, obesity and extreme obesity across the country, as well as changes in prevalence and participation over the last three years. Issues around data quality are also reported, in addition to an examination of the correlations between obesity, ethnicity and deprivation.

Forthcoming obesity publications from NEPHO include a regional audit of obesity prescribing, in addition to the publication of findings from the annual obesity service audit.

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## The NDTMS contract is continued for a further 2 years

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[NDTMS](#) contract to be continued for a further two years to continue monitoring of drug and alcohol treatment at the Observatory.

Support for the NDTMS is shown by the agreement for new fields to be incorporated from April 2011 and its expanding relevance to other government departments such as the Dept Works & Pension and Dept for Education. In addition, the embedding of an outcomes measure in 2007 has provided us with vital information about the effectiveness of treatment at a time when difficult funding decisions are being made.

The National Treatment Agency has published their [Annual Report for 2009-2010](#) Statistics from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS).

[More statistical information about drug and alcohol treatment can be found here](#)

Anyone who is involved in analysing NDTMS data from a commissioning and treatment planning perspective, is welcome to join our NDTMS Data Managers/Analyst Forum on the NEPHO website; please contact [Michelle Cook](#) for instructions on how to do so.

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## Learning Disabilities Observatory

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New [GP data up to March 2010 on the prevalence of learning disabilities in England](#), on the [Learning Disabilities Observatory](#) website.

And you can find the Observatory's review of the coverage of [annual GP health checks](#), for people with learning disabilities, along with our systematic review of their effectiveness.

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# Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) on Cataract Surgery in the North East a 2010 update

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Cataract is a clouding of the lens of the eye which results in the loss of visual function. Patients with cataract commonly complain of blurring of vision, being dazzled by bright lights, reduced colour appreciation, and occasionally double vision. Overall, 30% of persons aged 65 and over, are likely to have at least one eye with a visually impairing cataract.

Our upcoming publication: Cataract Surgery in the North East is an update of the [2004 NEPHO Occasional Paper](#) by the same name. It provides a revision of the earlier Hospital Episode Statistics data in a format appropriate to current thinking, allowing commissioners and providers to benchmark their own performance with other similar organisations in the North East and England. Data is presented over time, and relative to resident population, and includes various analyses including operative procedures, waiting times, day cases and emergency re-admissions.

The update will also be available via the [Papers](#) section of the NEPHO website.

If you require a HES request then please get in touch with [Rebecca Lee](#).

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## Latest activity in the IT team

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### New look for NEPHO website

We've given our [website a new look](#) and a new front page to give more prominence to data and news, and make it easier for you to find what you're looking for.

We're constantly working to help you get more from our website, so please do [contact us](#) if you have any feedback on our web provision.

### School of Public Health North East

Our IT team is working with the School of Public Health North East to bring them a new website, highlighting the work they do across the region.

### Other news

[Dashboard developments](#) - Users can now download CSV files for any graph.