

Public Health Bulletin

July 2026



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 – July 2026

Alcohol

Digital Intoxication: Online Alcohol Marketing Explained

Institute of Alcohol Studies

Cancer

Cancer mortality, Annual update to 2024 planned revision

Public Health Scotland, 14th July 2026

“This planned revision by Public Health Scotland (PHS) provides information on deaths from cancer in Scotland, including registrations up to the 31 December 2024.”

Children & Young People

Fuel us don't fool us

Bite Back, 2026

“At the turn of the year, the Government introduced new restrictions on junk food advertising online and on TV before 9pm to help protect children and young people. But our latest research reveals that some of the UK’s biggest food chains also reach young people through their own social media channels which don't fall under the regulations.”

Growing up in an online world

Faculty of Public Health, June 2026

Environment

What would it take to climate-proof health and social care?

King’s Fund, 26th June 2026

“The title of the government’s 10 Year Health Plan, ‘Fit for the future’, raises an obvious question about the sort of future we will be living in a decade or more from now. Last month, an important report from the Climate Change Committee gave us some partial answers to that question.”

Dental Health

N/A

Drugs

National report highlights progress and next steps for MAT Standards

Public Health Scotland, 7th July 2026

“This report marks the end of the national mission for drug deaths and brings together progress across the five-year MAT programme. It assesses implementation of the 10 MAT standards across all 30 Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADPs) in Scotland, using process, numerical and experiential evidence.”

Rapid Action Drug Alerts and Response (RADAR) quarterly report

Public Health Scotland, 28th July 2026

“The objective of this report is to monitor drug-related harms, service usage and toxicology data, in order to provide an early warning of emerging drug trends and identify actions to reduce and prevent drug harms and deaths.”

Health & Social Care

Seizing a rare opportunity: scaling ambient voice technology in the NHS

King’s Fund, 23rd July 2026

“Ambient voice technology (AVT) has been met with initial enthusiasm from staff across the NHS and social care. Leaders piloting AVT have emphasised that staff are excited to try a technology that could improve working conditions and patient care by reducing documentation burden and cognitive load.”

Public Health Scotland Publishes Data on New GP Walk-in Centres

Public Health Scotland, 28th July 2026

“Public Health Scotland (PHS) has begun publishing monthly activity across Scotland's new GP walk-in centres today, supporting the national pilot programme to improve access to urgent primary care.”

Health Inequalities

Equity for Every Baby: Tackling inequalities in neonatal care linked to ethnicity and socioeconomic deprivation

Bliss,

“This report presents a comprehensive picture, showing the unacceptable and shameful truth that inequities related to socioeconomic disadvantage and minoritised ethnicity are present throughout every step of a baby’s journey to, and through, neonatal care.”

Health Protection

N/A

Medical Conditions

Novel life-saving liver procedure recommended, potentially enabling hundreds more transplants

Nice, 8th July 2028

“A procedure that keeps donor livers supplied with oxygen inside the body before removal has been recommended for NHS use and could help more people on the transplant waiting list.”

'Life-changing' MS drug to help people walk now on NHS in England

BBC News, 23rd July 2026

“The first drug to help people with multiple sclerosis walk is being made available on the NHS in England. Fampridine boosts nerve signals to make it easier for some people to move and live independently.”

More young women in their 20s are getting type 2 diabetes

BBC News, 22nd July 2026

“England is seeing a "worrying increase" in young women in their 20s developing type 2 diabetes, experts at Imperial College London have warned. The rise has largely occurred since the Covid pandemic and is closely linked to increasing obesity levels, according to an analysis of NHS data from 2011 to 2024, external.”

Mental Wellbeing

Green Social Prescribing Practitioner Guidance

Thrive

“This document takes a focus on mental health referrals. While the foundational principles apply across all cohorts, it draws upon prior work that explores GSP in relation to mental health, including the cross-Government GSP Programme, and the reality that social prescribing cohorts almost always include people living with mental health difficulties.”

Obesity & Healthy Eating

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Bite Back, 2026

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Older People

Delivering care for people with dementia – why data matters

King's Fund, 23rd June 2026

"There are important opportunities for improving dementia care – through the Casey Commission on adult social care reform, the development of modern service frameworks and moves towards population-based strategic commissioning."

Pharmacy

N/A

Physical Activity

N/A

Population Statistics

N/A

Public Health

Public Health Scotland responds to UK COVID-19 Inquiry Module 5 report

Public Health, 14th July 2026

“Public Health Scotland (PHS) notes the publication of the Module 5 report from the UK COVID-19 Inquiry, which considered the procurement of healthcare related equipment and supplies. We remain committed to learning from the findings and applying these lessons to strengthen Scotland’s public health response.”

Scottish Public Health Observatory quarterly update

Public Health Scotland, 28th July 2026

“This release by Public Health Scotland (PHS) provides the Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO) quarterly update on a number of topic areas. Of these topics, Diabetes pages contain new data.”

Sexual Health

Sexually transmitted infections in Scotland 2016 to 2025

Public Health Scotland, 7th July 2026

“The report includes data on testing and laboratory confirmed diagnoses of chlamydia, gonorrhoea, and Mycoplasma genitalium infection extracted from the Electronic Communication of Surveillance in Scotland System (ECOSS) and the National Sexual Health (NaSH) system.”

Teenage pregnancies Year of conception, ending 31 December 2024

Public Health Scotland, 28th July 2026

“The teenage pregnancy rate in Scotland decreased slightly from 25.8 per 1,000 women in 2023 to 25.6 in 2024. This is equivalent to 3,833 teenage pregnancies in 2024.”

Smoking

N/A

Suicide & Self Harm

N/A

Women's & Infant Health

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