

in brief

Social Trends 39

Social Trends brings together a wide range of statistics on many aspects of contemporary UK society and how it has changed over the years. *Social Trends 39* was published on 15 April 2009 by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The underlying theme of this edition is households, families and children.

Key points from the health chapter include:

Immunisation

In 2006/07, 86 per cent of children in the UK were immunised against measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) by their second birthday. This was a slight rise from 84 per cent in 2001/02 but below the peak of 90 per cent in 1991/92. Concerns over the safety of the MMR vaccine led to the fall in the 1990s.

Cancer

The incidence of prostate cancer among men in England rose 51 per cent between 1996 and 2006, to 30,000 incidences. In 1998 prostate cancer overtook lung cancer as the most commonly diagnosed cancer among men.

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed form of cancer among women in England. Incidence increased by 21 per cent between 1996 and 2006 to 38,000. This increase is partly explained by increases and improvements in breast cancer screening services.

Smoking

Since 1974 there has been a substantial decline in the proportion of adults aged 16 and over in Great Britain who smoke cigarettes. In 1974 more than one-half (51 per cent) of men aged 16 and over and more than two-fifths (41 per cent) of women were smokers. By 2007 these proportions had more than halved to 22 per cent of men and 20 per cent of women.

Obesity

In recent years the proportion of the adult population in England who are obese has increased. Between 1997 and 2007 the proportion of men aged 16 and over who were classified as obese increased from 17 per cent to 24 per cent, while among women the proportion rose from 20 per cent to 24 per cent. In 2007, a further 41 per cent of men and 32 per cent of women were classified as overweight; overall, 65 per cent of men and 56 per cent of women were classified as either overweight or obese.

An increasing proportion of children are also overweight or obese. The number of two to 15 year old boys in England who were classified as overweight or obese increased from 26 per cent in 1997 to 31 per cent in 2007. For girls of the same age the corresponding figures were 26 per cent and 30 per cent.

Diet

Access to a healthy diet is partly linked to household income. In general, the higher the level of weekly household income, the more likely men and women are to meet the recommendation to eat five or more portions of fruit and vegetables per day. In England in 2007, 34 per cent of men and 36 per cent of women living in households in the top income quintile group consumed five or more portions of fruit and vegetables per day compared with 20 per cent of men and 25 per cent of women in the bottom quintile group.

Sexual health

There were 205 diagnosed cases of chlamydia per 100,000 men and a rate of 198 per 100,000 women in 2007 in the UK. This was the largest increase in the rate of new diagnoses of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) since 2000, when there were 104 cases of chlamydia per 100,000 men and 128 per 100,000 women.

The number of diagnoses of chlamydia among young people aged 16 to 24 doubled from 447 per 100,000 population in 1998 to 1,102 per 100,000 population in 2007. Chlamydia has been the most commonly diagnosed STI among young people since 2000.

The report is available on the Office for National Statistics website at: www.statistics.gov.uk/socialtrends39

Social Trends 39

Palgrave Macmillan, £52.00
ISBN 978-0-230-22050-8

Available by calling
01256 302611 or online at
www.palgrave.com/ons

Cancer survival in England

Figures for cancer survival in England, 2001–06, were published by ONS on 20 March 2009, on the ONS website. These data update those published in December 2008 for 2000–04. They have been produced in collaboration between the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the National Cancer Intelligence Centre, ONS.

The report presents one- and five-year survival for adults from 21 common cancers in patients resident in England, diagnosed during 2001–06 and followed up to the end of 2007. These cancers comprise over 90 per cent of all newly diagnosed cases.

These new data are also presented in comparison with data from patients diagnosed in 2000–04 and followed up in 2005. Survival rates for most of the 21 common cancers improved in England, but declined for bladder and Hodgkin's disease, over the period 2001–07 compared with 2000–05. The report is available on the Office for National Statistics website at: www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14007

Expenditure on Health Care in the UK 1997–2007

The UK spent £118 billion on health care in 2007, according to the latest data published by ONS on 29 April 2009. This includes public and private spending on health care, and is 8.4 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

ONS is able to publish these internationally comparable data for the first time since 2003, as a result of recent work by Health England (the national reference group for health and well-being in England).

The article is available on the Office for National Statistics website at:
www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/ukcemga/publications-home/publications/index.html

Centre for Health Analysis and Life Events

There has been a further reorganisation to ONS statistical directorates to that announced in *Health Statistics Quarterly* 39. The Centre for Health Analysis and Reporting now incorporates the work of the Life Events team and has been renamed the Centre for Health Analysis and Life Events (CHALE). It is managed by Tricia Dodd, reporting to Guy Goodwin as Executive Director for Population, Health and Regional Analysis.

Currently CHALE has staff in Newport, Titchfield and London (Myddelton Street). The existing relocation plans will be completed by the end of 2009, with all posts then in Newport and Titchfield.

Correction to data in Table 4.1

Minor corrections have been made to the data in Table 4.1 in this issue of *Health Statistics Quarterly*; some of the quarterly rates for September and December 2006 that appeared in editions 39 to 41 have been amended by very small amounts, ranging from 0.1 to 0.3 conceptions per 1,000 women in age group.

Recent and forthcoming ONS releases

Recent releases

26 March

Marriages, divorces and adoptions 2006 (FM2 no. 34)
www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=581

26 March

Population Trends No. 135 Spring 2009
www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=6303
 Print copies available from Palgrave Macmillan 01256 357893

31 March

Mortality statistics: childhood, infant and perinatal 2006 (DH3 no. 40)
www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=6305

31 March

National population projections by marital status, 2006-based
www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14491

15 April

Social Trends No. 39 2009 edition
www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=5748
 Print copies available from Palgrave Macmillan 01256 302611

23 April

Deaths registered in England and Wales by area of usual residence
www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15229

23 April

Key population and vital statistics 2007 (VS no. 34, PP1 no. 30)
www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=539

23 April

Population estimates by ethnic group (experimental), mid-2007
www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14238

30 April

Marital status estimates, mid-2002 to mid-2007 marital status estimates adjusted to include marriages abroad
www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15107

20 May

Migration quarterly report May 2009
www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15230

20 May

Quarterly population estimates (experimental), quarter 1 2009
www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=601

21 May

Birth summary tables, 2008
www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14408

Forthcoming releases

28 May

Quarterly conceptions to women under 18, quarter 1 2008
www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15055

24 June

Regional Trends No. 41 2009 edition
www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14356
 Print copies available from Palgrave Macmillan 01256 302611

25 June

Population Trends No. 136 Summer 2009
www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=6303
 Print copies available from Palgrave Macmillan 01256 357893

9 July

Annual Abstract of Statistics 2009 edition
www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=94
 Print copies available from Palgrave Macmillan 01256 302611

For further information, contact the ONS Customer Contact Centre 0845 601 3034, email info@statistics.gsi.gov.uk