

Significant Public Health developments in the UK today

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Aim

To discover more about how the UK's public health developments are improving the health of the nation in the 21st century.

Objectives

- Discuss the 3 P's of public health.
- Apply these concepts to the achievements of the 21st century.
- Compare how the health of the nation is now compared to the 20th century.
- Evaluate how the NHS can make a difference.

What is Public Health ?



“All organised measures to prevent disease, promote health, and prolong life among the population” RCN (2024)

“The science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health” Faculty of Public Health (2024)

The 3 P's



Promotion
Protection
Prevention



What do we mean by SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS?

SIGNIFICANT:

Outstanding

Remarkable

Noteworthy

DEVELOPMENTS:

Growth

Expansion

Occurrences

Evolution

Top 5 Public Health Achievements of the 21st Century (RSPH, 2023)

1. **Smoking ban:** July 2007 it became law to stop smoking in enclosed public spaces. 2015, smoking banned in private cars with under 18s in them. Smoking remains the leading cause of preventable deaths. Moving towards Smoke Free Wales 2030!
2. **Soft drinks levy:** In 2018, as part of the government's childhood obesity plan. The soft drinks industry have reduced sugar in their drinks to avoid charges.
3. **The marmot Review, 2010:** The more deprived area, the shorter life expectancy, child poverty has increased, and housing crisis and rise in homelessness. Established a political imperative to tackle inequalities.
4. **Sure start children's centres:** (2000-2010) Focus on closing the achievement gap for children from deprived areas.
5. **Minimum unit pricing, Scotland.**

What do you think?? What other developments are there??



More developments

- Vaccinations: HPV; Covid; MMR; Childhood Flu; pneumonia; shingles.
- Screening programmes: Antenatal; Newborn hearing screening; Cervical; Breast Test Wales; Bowel Screening Wales; Aortic Aneurysm Screening.
- Traffic light labeling on prepacked food.
- Scores on the Doors, food hygiene ratings.
- Drug safety testing at festivals.
- Decriminalisation of abortion in NI.

Some figures to support the work Public Health does:

- Around 13% of adults in Wales are smokers. (WG, 2022) This is down from approx 22.5% in 2011. (ONS, 2023)
- Cervical cancer and HPV vaccines, CC is the 14th most common cancer in females in the UK. HPV is detected in 99% of cervical cancer. HPV offered to all school girls in year 8 since 2008, and all boys since 2019, GOV.UK (2023).
- The bowel cancer survival rates have more than doubled in the last 50 years in the UK. The screening programme began in 2006, (Cancer research UK.)

What can you take away from this lecture?

We have come a long way from the founding of the NHS in 1948, and the mass vaccination programmes in 1958.

BUT... Are we doing enough?

What do you think?



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