September 2008

This is the Public Health Library’s monthly journal scanning bulletin.

We scan the journals received in the library for articles of public health interest, and these are summarised under the topic areas below. For a full list of our journal holdings, or to get hold of any of the articles listed below, please email david.nicholls@thpct.nhs.uk.

Subjects covered:
Alcohol and Drugs, Child Health, Climate Change, Ethnicity and Diversity, Health Inequalities, Health Management, Long term conditions, Mental Health, Obesity, Physical Activity, Public Health, Screening, Sexual Health, Smoking

Scroll down to view citations and short abstracts. Articles are listed alphabetically by subject, then journal title.

Alcohol and Drugs
Kuntsche E et al, “Alcohol outlet density, perceived availability and adolescent alcohol use: a multilevel structural equation model”
Perceived availability is commonly associated with adolescent alcohol use. Little is known about the factors which shape this perceived availability. This study investigates whether perceived alcohol availability is related to the characteristics of the adolescents’ social environment and the per capita outlet density in the community and whether adolescent alcohol use is related to perceived availability, social environment characteristics and outlet density.

Child Health
Avis M & Chaudhury S, “Ethnic minority participation in an East Midlands Sure Start”
Community Practitioner, August 2008, 81 (8), p.28-31
This paper draws on evidence from a local Sure Start evaluation of low participation rates among ethnic minority families. It reflects national concerns regarding the low use of children’s services among ethnic minority families.

Climate Change
Guillebaud J, “Population growth and climate change”
Universal access to family planning should be the priority.

Ethnicity and Diversity
Cassidy J, “Free for all?”
The UK government is due to issue guidance on treatment for foreign nationals later this year. But doctors say they should concentrate on giving appropriate health care and not worry about policing the UK borders.

Maffia C, “Health in the age of migration: migration and health in the EU”
Community Practitioner, August 2008, 81 (8), p.32-35
Migration is a growing phenomenon throughout the world, including in the UK and elsewhere in the EU.
This massive movement of peoples has implications for the health of individuals and groups, and therefore for healthcare professionals. This paper attempts to provide a brief overview of a vast, highly complex and fascinating subject.

Santry C, “Minority staff get worse deal on jobs, pay and grievances”
Health Service Journal, 7 August 2008, p.4-5
Regional study reveals NHS organisations failing on race equality duties.

Health Inequalities

Taylor S & Marandi A, “Social determinants of health and design of health programmes for the poor”
Provides examples of how health programme designs that take social, economic, political, cultural and environmental factors into account can improve health equity, especially among the poor.

Mackareth C, “Social networks and health inequalities: evidence for working with disadvantaged groups”
Community Practitioner, August 2008, 81 (8), p.23-26
This paper examines the growing body of research that identifies links between poverty and ill health, and the evidence that social factors do affect health.

Green J & Edwards P, “The limitations of targeting to address inequalities in health: a case study of road traffic injury prevention from the UK”
So-called ‘Third Way’ responses to inequalities in health have encouraged the ‘targeting’ of evidence-based interventions at those communities at high risk in order to improve health outcomes. This study suggests that ‘taking deprivation into account’ by targeting is unlikely to be a fruitful route for addressing inequalities in health.

Health Management

Griffith R, “Duty of confidence: sharing information”
Deciding when personal information about a patient can be disclosed is often a function that healthcare managers are required to undertake. It requires them to consider whether the general duty to maintain patient confidences has been tipped in favour of disclosure.

Nicholson D, “Devolved power flows through Darzi’s vision”
The next stage review’s warm reception was testament to the staff and patient engagement that informed it. Now, says the NHS chief executive, that local ownership will energise its implementation.

Freeman B & Chapman S, Gone viral? Heard the buzz? A guide for public health practitioners and researchers on how Web 2.0 can subvert advertising restrictions and spread health information”
Many nations have banned or curtailed advertising of potentially harmful products to protect public health, particularly in the area of chronic disease control. The growth in Internet-based marketing techniques is subverting these advertising regulations. There is a vast untapped potential for health practitioners and researchers to exploit these same media for health promotion.

Long term conditions

Jennings C, “Lipid modification: implementing the latest guidance”
Discusses the implications of new guidance on managing cardiovascular risk and describes tools the health professional can use to explain risk to patients.

Mental Health

McIntosh K, “Under the radar”
Health Service Journal, 7 August 2008, p.20-21
Language barriers and stereotyping mean the mental health needs of black and minority ethnic older people are going unseen by commissioners.

Obesity

Bleich S, “editorial: Public perception of overweight”
British Medical Journal, 2 August 2008, 337 (7664), p.243-244
Mismatch between self-perceived and self-reported weight has important implications for public health programmes

Bleich S, “Changing perceptions of weight in Great Britain: comparison of two population surveys”
Comparison of data on self-perceived weight from population surveys in 1999 and 2007.

Osika W & Montgomery S, “Physical control and coordination in childhood and adult obesity: longitudinal birth cohort study”
Aims to identify whether measures of childhood physical control and coordination as makers of neurological function are associated with obesity in adults.

Lobstein T, “Obesity in children”
Obesity in children may not predict obesity in adults, but monitoring is essential.

Funatogawa I et al, “Do overweight children necessarily make overweight adults? Repeated cross sectional annual nationwide survey of Japanese girls and women over nearly six decades”
Aims to compare growth of body mass index from children to adolescents, and then to young adults, in Japanese girls and women in birth cohorts born from 1930-1999.

Crump H, “Campaigners urge Johnson to legislate against obesity”
Health Service Journal, 31 July 2008, p.8
As health secretary unveils plans for national movement, public health bodies urge the government to back up their rhetoric with legislation.

Physical Activity

Nusselder W et al, “The relation between non-occupational physical activity and years lived with and without disability”
Using the GLOBE study and the Longitudinal Study of Aging, the effects of non-occupational physical activity were assessed on the number of years lived with and without disability between age 50 and 80 years.

Public Health

Cameron E at al, “Health and well-being: questioning the use of health concepts in public health policy and practice”
In this paper the authors explore the need for a greater conceptual clarity in relation to health, using the term ‘well-being’ as an exemplar.

Rapport F et al, “‘Getting involved means making a difference?’ Insider views on the impact of a ‘health living’ community intervention”
This paper reports on the focus groups with Project Steering Group members that examined the impact of the Health Living Approach intervention in West Wales from the perspective of those involved in the study’s implementation.
Screening

Hill B, “Identifying sickle cell and thalassaemia”
Describes how the NHS Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Screening Programme links antenatal and newborn screening to allow prompt recognition of these blood disorders.

Sexual Health

Kirby D, “editorial: Communication between parents and children about sex”
British Medical Journal, 2 August 2008, 337 (7664), p.244-245
Author argues that communication could be improved by programmes in the workplace.

Kirby D, “Evaluation of Talking Parents, Healthy Teens, a new worksite based parenting programme to promote parent-adolescent communication about sexual health: randomised controlled trial”
569 parents completed baseline surveys at work, gave permission for confidential surveys to be posted to their adolescent children and were randomised to intervention or control groups. Parents and adolescents completed follow-up surveys at one week, three months and nine months after the programme.

Ainsworth S, “The price of love”
With sexual transmitted infections on the rise in young people and chlaydia now the UK’s most common STI, this article discusses a stubbornly persistent problem.

Smoking

Shepherd S, “No smoking please, we’re British”
Health Service Journal, 24 July 2008, p.20-23
One year into the smoking ban in England it is still too early to predict its long-term effects on public health but there are reasons to be cheerful.