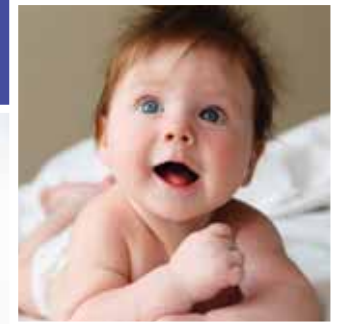




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# Health of Children and Young People in Wales



This document is supported by:

- Individual profiles for the 22 local authorities
- A technical guide
- Data files
- PowerPoint files

These are available at:

[www.publichealthwalesobservatory.wales.nhs.uk/childprofile](http://www.publichealthwalesobservatory.wales.nhs.uk/childprofile)



### **Project team (analysis and writing)**

**Tracy Price** (project manager), **Jo Arthur**,  
**Anna Childs**, **Ruth Davies** (project support),  
**Rhys Gibbon**, **Dee Hickey**, **Rhian Hughes**,  
**Sian Price**, **Holly Walsh**, **Margaret Webber**

### **Project board**

**Ciarán Humphreys** (chair), **Siobhan Jones**,  
**Nathan Lester**

### **Contact details**

Public Health Wales Observatory  
Building 1, PO Box 108, St David's Park,  
Job's Well Road, Carmarthen, SA31 3WY  
Email:  
[publichealthwalesobservatory@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:publichealthwalesobservatory@wales.nhs.uk)

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# Foreword

Childhood is a special time. It is a time to learn, discover, play, explore and experiment. A time when the foundations for adulthood are laid, gaining confidence to seize life's opportunities and resilience to weather life's storms. It is also a time of vulnerability, where special safeguards and care are needed. Fundamental to a healthy and happy childhood are strong and loving families within communities served by high quality public services, including education, health and social services.

This report draws together welcome information on our children and young people, showing that most are healthy and satisfied with life. However, it also shows that Wales has particular challenges. Over one in five children live in poverty, with relatively high proportions of children living in lone parent families. Almost half of children are not breastfed at birth in Wales. Many children and young people are providing unpaid care within the home, a higher proportion than in any English region, and some of these for a high proportion of the week. Many of the challenges facing communities and families in Wales lead to patterns of behaviours and their consequences including smoking, alcohol misuse and obesity.

We now know that investing in early years and childhood pays dividends; this is described in detail within *Fair society healthy lives, the Marmot review*. Investing in childhood is a focus in Wales, highlighted in *Building a brighter future: early years and childcare plan* and the *Tackling poverty action plan*. In implementing the plan, Welsh Government has committed to maintaining investment in early years to ensure that our children get the best start in life. The investment in our children needs to start at the earliest time, even before conception as highlighted in the *Maternity strategy*, for a healthy environment for our children, free from toxins such as those found in tobacco. Our approach needs to be universal, but with a focus and drive to support those most in need.

Fundamental to this is continuing to work to prevent poverty and mitigate the impact of poverty; improving skills, and narrowing the education gaps. By supporting families, communities and individual children, we can improve the lives of children.

I welcome this report, and invite agencies and individuals with an interest in the welfare of our children to consider the findings and the further action that can be taken at local and national level; action for children, families and communities to build a happier, healthier and fairer Wales.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mansel Aylward".

Professor Sir Mansel Aylward CB Chair, Public Health Wales

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# Glossary of abbreviations

ADBE	Annual District Birth Extract
ADDE	Annual District Death Extract
BMI	Body mass index
BTEC	Business and Technology Education Council
CAEDS	Community Adult Eating Disorders Services
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CARIS	Congenital Anomaly Register & Information Service for Wales
CDH	Congenital diaphragmatic hernia
CDSC	Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre
CertHE	Certificate of Higher Education
CI	Confidence interval
CMP	Child Measurement Programme
CNS	Central nervous system
COVER	Coverage of Vaccination Evaluation Rapidly
CPD	Continuing professional development
CTC	Child Tax Credit
DH	Department of Health
DipHE	Diploma of Higher Education
DMFT	Decayed, missing and filled teeth
DWP	Department of Work and Pensions
EASR	European age-standardised rate
EDDS	Emergency Department Dataset
EUROCAT	European Surveillance of Congenital Anomalies

FAS	Family Affluence Scale
GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education
GUM	Genito Urinary Medicine
HBSC	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children
HESA	Higher Education Statistics Agency
HLHS	Hypoplastic left heart syndrome
HMRC	Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
HNC	Higher National Certificate
HND	Higher National Diploma
HPV	Human papillomavirus
ICD10	International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision
IS	Income Support
JSA	Jobseekers Allowance
LE	Life expectancy
LEA	Local education authority
LLTI	Limiting long term illness
LSOA	Lower super output area
MMR	Measles, mumps, rubella
MSOA	Middle super output area
MYE	Mid-year population estimate
NBHSW	Newborn Hearing Screening Wales
NCCHD	National Community Child Health Database
NEET	Not in education, employment or training
NHS	National Health Service
NICE	National Institute for Health and Health Care Excellence
NWIS	NHS Wales Informatics Service
NVQ	National Vocational Qualification
ONS	Office for National Statistics

PEDW	Patient Episode Database for Wales
PHW	Public Health Wales
PHMF	Public Health Mortality File
PLASC	Pupil Level Annual School Census
QOF	Quality and outcomes framework
SCIE	Social Care Institute of Excellence
SEN	Special educational needs
SGOs	Special Guardianship Orders
SHHAPT	Sexual Health and HIV Activity Property Type
SIDS	Sudden infant death syndrome
STATS19	STATS19 road accident dataset
STI	Sexually transmitted infection
SWS	Sexual health in Wales Surveillance scheme
TAPVC	Total anomalous pulmonary venus connection
TFR	Total fertility rate
USOA	Upper super output area
VPDP	Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme
VS	Vital statistics
WCISU	Welsh Cancer Intelligence and Surveillance Unit
WDS	Welsh Demographic Service
WG	Welsh Government
WHC	Welsh Health Circular
WHO	World Health Organization
WHS	Welsh Health Survey
WIMD	Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation
WISR	Welsh Initiative for Stillbirth Reduction
WNDSM	Welsh National Database for Substance Misuse
WOHIU	Welsh Oral Health Information Unit
WTC	Working Tax Credits

