

***Policy News – Edition 5***  
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**1. Tackling risky alcohol use amongst schoolchildren**

In a study published this month the drinking habits of over 10,000 children suggests new ways to control alcohol bingeing in British youths. The research published by the Centre for Public Health (Liverpool John Moores University) and Trading Standards North West examines three types of risky drinking behaviour in 15 and 16 years olds: binge drinking, frequent drinking and drinking in public places.

[http://www.cph.org.uk/cph\\_pubs/reports/SM/Alcohol\\_NWteenagers.pdf](http://www.cph.org.uk/cph_pubs/reports/SM/Alcohol_NWteenagers.pdf)

*Forwarded by Michela Morleo, press lead, Centre for Public Health, JMU*

**2. More people treated as general bed numbers decrease**

Improved care for patients means less beds are needed, says NHS Chief Executive

<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=229087&NewsAreaID=2&NavigatedFromDepartment=False>

**3. Cancer Care is improving**

National Cancer Director announces better access to NICE approved cancer drugs.

<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=228453&NewsAreaID=2&NavigatedFromDepartment=False>

**4. Tackling kids' tooth decay in deprived areas.**

Government launches joint initiative with Colgate.

<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=227081&NewsAreaID=2&NavigatedFromDepartment=False>

**5. In the news...**

**Concern over pandemic flu plans**

Doctors have expressed concerns about the government's plans for a flu pandemic.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/5381430.stm>

**Binge drinking - the Benedictine connection**

A sleepy community of Benedictine monks in south Devon is the latest, and perhaps most unlikely, target in the battle against binge drinking.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/5381360.stm>

**Children “order alcohol on phone”**

Children as young as 12 buy alcohol by ordering it over the phone with takeaways, a government adviser says.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/5382576.stm>

Articles forwarded from ChaMPs health network:

**Drinking fat.** Half of UK children "drink" almost five litres of cooking oil every year as a result of their pack-a-day crisp habit, experts warn.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/5367822.stm>

**Junk food mums.** The women passing food through railings have been labelled 'junk-food mums' and are accused of leading a backlash against Jamie Oliver's healthy school dinners campaign. But is the story really that simple?

<http://society.guardian.co.uk/health/story/0,,1876644,00.html>

**Milk snub.** Food watchdogs have rejected claims that expensive organic milk is any healthier than its conventional equivalent.

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/news/news.html?in\\_article\\_id=406155&in\\_page\\_id=1770](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/news/news.html?in_article_id=406155&in_page_id=1770)

**Jail drugs kits.** Prisoners will be given personal drug-taking kits under a controversial new scheme to tackle the spread of HIV and hepatitis C in British jails.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,8122-2367765,00.html>

**'Hidden' COPD.** Four out of five adults with a long-term lung disease do not know they have the condition despite it being potentially fatal, according to Cancer Research UK.

<http://society.guardian.co.uk/health/news/0,,1877445,00.html>

**Teen advice.** Sports centres and youth clubs are to offer teenagers health advice and information, as part of a pilot programme to get more adolescents interested in their own health.

<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=223809&NewsAreaID=2&NavigatedFromDepartment=False>

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