Health and Social Care Committee
Public Health (Wales) Bill

Summary of the Public Health (Wales) Bill Questionnaire

Background

This document provides a summary of responses received to the Public Health (Wales) Bill survey conducted by the Outreach team.

This survey was open for consultation and responses between 13 July 2015 and 04 September 2015.

Methodology

As part of the Health and Social Care Committee consultation on the Public Health (Wales) Bill the Outreach Team conducted a survey in both online and paper-based formats. Participants were asked a range of questions relating to banning the use of e-cigarettes in enclosed places, introducing an age restriction on intimate body piercings, provision of public toilets and community pharmacies.

One survey was created with the aim of targeting the general public as a whole.

The purpose of this survey was to capture people’s opinion of the Public Health (Wales) Bill. The statistical data outlined in this summary represent the views of those who responded, and not the general public as a whole. The statistical data does not reflect a representative sample of the public.

Awareness Raising

In order to promote awareness of the survey and attract participants the Outreach Team contacted a broad-range of organisations. Those contacted were able to raise awareness using a range of methods including – placing articles on websites; signposting on social media including Facebook and twitter; and emailing participants directly.

The surveys were also promoted by Assembly staff with relevant groups visiting the Senedd and receiving education visits, and during the Assembly’s presence at summer shows.
**Key Statistics**

766 Total number of survey responses received

**Geographical Summary of Responses**

Number of survey responses broken down by local authority area

*Total number of responses to this question: 559*

Blaenau Gwent: 4  
Bridgend: 26  
Caerphilly: 50  
Cardiff: 92  
Carmarthenshire: 38  
Ceredigion: 19  
Conwy: 33  
Denbighshire: 20  
Flintshire: 12  
Gwynedd: 39  
Isle of Anglesey: 10  
Merthyr Tydfil: 11  
Monmouthshire: 9  
Neath Port Talbot: 14  
Newport: 19  
Pembrokeshire: 18  
Powys: 36  
Rhondda Cynon Taf: 16  
Swansea: 46  
Torfaen: 7  
Vale of Glamorgan: 14  
Wrexham: 26
Summary of Responses

For information - further statistics on all of the survey questions can be found in Annex A (page 22 of this document). These additional statistics provide a demographic breakdown of the answers to these questions by respondents' age.

Tobacco and nicotine products

The Bill includes proposals to ban the use of nicotine inhaling devices, such as e-cigarettes, in indoor spaces like restaurants, pubs and at work. Shops will also have to join a register for retailers of tobacco and nicotine products. It will become illegal to "hand over" tobacco and e-cigarettes to anyone under the age of 18.

Question one - To what level do you agree that the use of e-cigarettes should be banned in indoor public spaces and work places in Wales, like what is currently in place for smoking tobacco?

Total number of responses to this question: 763

- Strongly agree: 27.65% (211)
- Agree: 15.20% (116)
- Disagree: 9.82% (75)
- Strongly disagree: 44.42% (339)
- Don’t know: 2.88% (22)
Question two – Do you think the use of e-cigarettes in smoke-free areas promotes or ‘normalises’ the appearance of smoking tobacco?

*Total number of responses to this question: 761*

- Yes: 35% (262)
- No: 60.3% (459)
- Don’t know: 5.2% (40)

![Pie chart showing responses to Question two]

Question three - Do you smoke cigarettes?

*Total number of responses to this question: 762*

- Yes: 5.77% (44)
- No: 90.68% (691)
- Socially: 3.5% (27)

![Pie chart showing responses to Question three]
Question 4a - Have you ever used e-cigarettes?

Total number of responses to this question: 759
- Yes: 49.1% (373)
- No: 49.4% (375)
- Socially: 1.5% (11)
Question 4b - If you answered yes to question 04a, why do you / did you use e-cigarettes?

Total number of responses to this question: 386
Total number of options chosen: 522

- To give up smoking: 57.27% (299)
- Peer pressure: 2.10% (11)
- For a new experience: 9.57% (50)
- To be able to use them in smoke-free areas: 9.19% (48)
- To reduce the amount I smoke: 13.21% (69)
- I have only ever used e-cigarettes: 2.10% (11)
- Other: 6.51% (34)
Question 4b Other – Comments

Total number of comments: 46

- Curiosity: 1
- As a hobby: 2
- Financial reasons: 2
- Reduce smell of tobacco in the home: 1
- Safer substitute / alternative to tobacco: 13
- Helped give up smoking after a prolonged period of time as a heavy tobacco smoker: 5
- For health reasons and to practice harm reduction: 7
- E-cigarettes taste nicer than tobacco: 2
- I was offered to try a particular flavour: 5
- E-cigarettes provide more variety: 1
- Experimented with e-cigarettes and accidentally gave up smoking / vaping altogether: 6
- To socialise: 1

Number of respondents
Question five – Some people have suggested that e-cigarettes appeal to young people, and could lead to more young people using them or encourage them to end up smoking tobacco products.

To what level do you agree with this?

Total number of responses to this question: 762

- Strongly agree: **16.14% (123)**
- Agree: **20.73% (158)**
- Disagree: **14.43 % (110)**
- Strongly disagree: **40.15% (306)**
- Don’t know: **8.53% (65)**
Question five – additional comments

Total number of additional comments: 518

- No evidence to support that e-cigarettes are a gateway to tobacco products (108)
- Young people may believe that vaping is healthy (82)
- Smoking tobacco / vaping should not be encouraged in any way (51)
- E-cigarettes can become a bad habit (43)
- Young people will always want to experiment (37)
- E-cigarettes appeal to young people like any trend (34)
- There should be greater parental responsibility (29)
- E-cigarettes don't appeal to young people as they're not "restricted" in the same way as tobacco (25)
- Young people are more likely to experiment with tobacco products (23)
- Young people are unlikely to replace their e-cigarette habit with tobacco products (22)
- E-cigarettes are a safer alternative to tobacco products (19)
- Cannot compare tobacco products and e-cigarettes (16)
- E-cigarettes are a gateway out of smoking tobacco (15)
- Better enforcement of age restriction to purchase e-cigarettes and vaping products (9)
Special procedures

Special procedures are tattooing, body piercing, acupuncture and electrolysis.

This Bill includes a proposal to create a compulsory licensing system for people who carry out special procedures in Wales. The places where these special procedures are carried out will also need to be approved to make sure they are clean, safe and legal for the public who use them.

**Question six - Do you agree that a licensing system should be created for people who practise these special procedures to make sure the public get the best and safest treatment?**

*Total number of responses to this question: 694*

- Yes: **75.07% (521)**
- No: **10.23% (71)**
- Don’t know: **14.69% (102)**
Question seven - Do you agree with the types of special procedures included in the Bill?

Total number of responses to this question: 687

- Yes – the Bill covers the correct special procedures: 43.95% (302)
- No – the Bill should cover fewer special procedures: 12.80% (88)
- More special procedures should be included in the Bill: 7.27% (50)
- Don’t know: 35.95% (247)
Question seven – additional comments

Total number of additional comments: 89

- Provided the special procedures outlined improve public health they should be included: 4
- Any procedure that carries the risk of infection through piercing the skin should be included: 26
- Hygiene rating system should be used instead of licensing: 11
- System in place works well but system of inspection should be improved: 11
- Financial cost of imposing the licensing system on businesses should be considered: 7
- The Bill should include all cosmetic treatments: 4
- The Bill should include alternative medicine: 1
- The Bill should include branding: 1
- The Bill should include hair salons: 2
- The Bill should include sunbeds: 2
- The Bill should include fillers: 5
- The Bill should include botox: 11
- The Bill should include teeth whitening: 3
- The Bill should include chemical peels: 2
- The Bill should include waxing: 2
- The Bill should include eyebrow / eyelash dyeing: 2
- The Bill should include extreme body modifications: 2
- The Bill should include laser procedures: 1
- Acupuncture should be exempt: 1
- The Bill should include sunbeds: 2
- The Bill should include hair salons: 2
- The Bill should include chemical peels: 2
- The Bill should include waxing: 2
- The Bill should include eyebrow / eyelash dyeing: 2
- The Bill should include extreme body modifications: 2
- The Bill should include laser procedures: 1
- Acupuncture should be exempt: 1

Number of respondents
**Intimate piercings**

Nipple and genital piercings are examples of intimate piercings.

The Bill includes a proposal to ban intimate body piercings for anyone under the age of 16 in Wales.

**Question eight - Do you believe an age restriction is needed for intimate body piercings? Please explain your answer.**

*Total number of responses to this question: 689*

- Yes: 79.5% (548)
- No: 8.6% (59)
- Don’t know: 11.9% (82)
**Question eight – additional comments**

*Total number of additional comments: 199*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Number of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age restriction should be 18 or older</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age restriction should be 25 or older</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age restriction should be 21 or older</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age restriction should be 16 or older</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A risk of harming the body whilst it is still developing / interfering with sexual and reproductive health</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents should have to give consent if young person is under 18</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The risk of being judged</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young people may not understand the health risks associated with such procedures</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young people are mature enough to make their own decision</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The risk of regret as an adult is high</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The concern here is sexual as opposed to physical, as such procedures carry a risk of abuse</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community pharmacies

A community pharmacy can also be known as a chemist.

The Bill will need local health boards in Wales to look at the need for pharmacies/chemists in their areas, and that any decisions relating to community pharmacies/chemists are based on the needs of local communities.

Question nine - You can get extra healthcare services through your local pharmacy/chemist. These services include emergency contraception, flu vaccination, advice on how to give up smoking, and needle / syringe exchange.

Did you know about the range of extra healthcare services that community pharmacies/chemists can provide?

Total number of responses to this question: 662

- Yes: 61.32% (406)
- No: 27.79% (184)
- Don’t know: 10.87% (72)
Question 10 - Have you ever used these services in your community pharmacy/chemist?

*Total number of responses to this question: 661*

- Yes: 28.4% (188)
- No: 62.6% (413)
- Not sure: 9.0% (60)

Question 11 - Would you be more likely to use these types of services if you could get them at your local community pharmacy/chemist instead of through your GP?

*Total number of responses to this question: 661*

- Yes: 53.70% (355)
- No: 18.30% (121)
- Not sure: 27.98% (185)
Public toilets

The Bill includes a proposal that local authorities will have to plan how they will meet the needs of people living in the community using public toilet facilities. However, the Bill will not make local authorities actually provide toilet facilities in local communities.

Question 12 - Do you think this proposal will help to make toilet facilities better for people living in local communities?

Total number of responses to this question: 653

- Yes: 36.5% (238)
- No: 30.1% (197)
- Don't know: 33.4% (218)
Partnerships with local establishments (for example: pubs, cafes) could help with provision

Toilet facilities should be provided in all towns and cities

The provision of public toilets should not be outsourced to third parties

Local authorities should not charge local communities to use public toilet facilities

Attention should be paid to public toilet facilities in rural areas

A review of public toilet provision should be need / demand led

Local authorities should consider adopting gender neutral public toilet facilities

Local authorities should do more to maintain and improve their current public toilet facilities

Local authorities do not have the funds to provide for public toilet facilities

The duty on local authorities should be to provide public toilet facilities, not on planning to meet community needs

Local authorities should do more to maintain and improve their current public toilet facilities

Local authorities should consider adopting gender neutral public toilet facilities

Attention should be paid to public toilet facilities in rural areas

A review of public toilet provision should be need / demand led

Local authorities should not charge local communities to use public toilet facilities

Local authorities do not have the funds to provide for public toilet facilities

The duty on local authorities should be to provide public toilet facilities, not on planning to meet community needs

The provision of public toilets should not be outsourced to third parties

Toilet facilities should be provided in all towns and cities

Partnerships with local establishments (for example: pubs, cafes) could help with provision

Total number of additional comments: 170
Final comments

Question 13 - Are there any other areas of public health which you think should be included in the Bill to help improve the health of people in Wales?

Total number of comments: 164

- Improve services for mental health: 10 comments
- Improved GP training: 1 comment
- Compulsory vaccinations for babies, children and young people: 1 comment
- Improved hospital standards: 3 comments
- Ban tanning salons: 2 comments
- Ensure safe staff levels: 2 comments
- Improved sexual health and contraceptive services: 5 comments
- Improved public toilet provision: 5 comments
- Introduce prescription payments: 4 comments
- Improved access to health policies: 2 comments
- Improved bariatric services: 2 comments
- Protecting day centres: 1 comment
- Blue badges should be issued by qualified health professionals: 1 comment
- Better maternity and baby care in North Wales: 2 comments
- Welsh Government need to take a harm reduction approach to e-cigarettes / removal of provisions relating to e-cigarettes: 48 comments
- Improve co-working between local authorities and local health boards: 12 comments
- Alcohol and substance misuse: 2 comments
- Ensure funding is available for all treatments: 5 comments
- Improve rural health services: 8 comments
- Improving education on all aspects of health: 5 comments
- Banning of smoking / vaping in all their forms in public places: 3 comments
- Waiting times for specialist services: 3 comments
- Obesity: 18 comments
- Protecting the provision of community pharmacies: 2 comments
- Protecting and promoting all NHS services: 7 comments
- Access to GPs: 10 comments

Number of respondents
Question 14 – What is your age?

Total number of responses to this question: 666

- 11 – 13: 4.35% (29)
- 14 – 17: 10.21% (68)
- 18 – 24: 7.35% (49)
- 25 – 44: 32.13% (214)
- 45 – 59: 27.17% (181)
- 60 – 64: 9.15% (61)
- 65 or over: 8.70% (58)
- Prefer not to say: 0.90% (6)

Question 15 – What is your gender?

Total number of responses to this question: 632

- Male: 53.00% (335)
- Female: 42.24% (267)
- Prefer not to say: 4.74% (30)
- Genderless: 0.16% (1)
Question 16 – In which local authority area do you live?

Total number of responses to this question: 559

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Authority Area</th>
<th>Number of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wrexham</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vale of Glamorgan</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torfaen</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swansea</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhondda Cynon Taf</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powys</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pembrokeshire</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newport</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neath Port Talbot</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monmouthshire</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merthyr Tydfil</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isle of Anglesey</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gwynedd</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flintshire</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denbighshire</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conwy</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceredigion</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carmarthenshire</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiff</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caerphilly</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridgend</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blaenau Gwent</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annex A
Demographic breakdown by age

This section of the survey results provides a short breakdown of all answers to the survey questions. The comparison is made between respondents under the age of 18 (11 – 17 year olds) and all respondents over 18 years of age.

Tobacco and nicotine products

The Bill includes proposals to ban the use of nicotine inhaling devices, such as e-cigarettes, in indoor spaces like restaurants, pubs and at work. Shops will also have to join a register for retailers of tobacco and nicotine products. It will become illegal to “hand over” tobacco and e-cigarettes to anyone under the age of 18.

Question one - To what level do you agree that the use of e-cigarettes should be banned in indoor public spaces and work places in Wales, like what is currently in place for smoking tobacco?

11 – 17 year olds

Total number of responses to this question: 97

- Strongly agree: 37.11% (36)
- Agree: 28.87% (28)
- Disagree: 16.49% (16)
- Strongly disagree: 8.25% (8)
- Don’t know: 9.28% (9)
18 years old and over

Total number of responses to this question: 563

- Strongly agree: **28.29% (159)**
- Agree: **13.35% (75)**
- Disagree: **8.72% (49)**
- Strongly disagree: **47.69% (268)**
- Don’t know: **1.96% (11)**
Question two – Do you think the use of e-cigarettes in smoke-free areas promotes or ‘normalises’ the appearance of smoking tobacco?

**11 – 17 year olds**

Total number of responses to this question: 97

- Yes: 48.45% (47)
- No: 34.02% (33)
- Don’t know: 17.53% (17)

**18 years old and over**

Total number of responses to this question: 560

- Yes: 35.18% (197)
- No: 62.32% (349)
- Don’t know: 2.52% (14)
Question three - Do you smoke cigarettes?

**11 – 17 year olds**

*Total number of responses to this question: 96*
- Yes: 6.25% (6)
- No: 87.50% (84)
- Socially: 6.25% (6)

**18 years old and over**

*Total number of responses to this question: 561*
- Yes: 5.53% (31)
- No: 91.62% (514)
- Socially: 2.85% (16)
Question 4a - Have you ever used e-cigarettes?

11 – 17 year olds

Total number of responses to this question: 97

- Yes: 27.84% (27)
- No: 69.07% (67)
- Socially: 3.09% (3)

18 years old and over

Total number of responses to this question: 557

- Yes: 49.55% (276)
- No: 49.55% (276)
- Socially: 0.89% (5)
Question 4b - If you answered yes to question 04a, why do you / did you use e-cigarettes?

11 – 17 year olds

Total number of responses to this question: 30
Total number of options chosen: 39

- To give up smoking: 15.38% (6)
- Peer pressure: 12.82% (5)
- For a new experience: 35.90% (14)
- To be able to use them in smoke-free areas: 5.13% (2)
- To reduce the amount I smoke: 5.13% (2)
- I have only ever used e-cigarettes: 12.82% (5)
- Other: 12.82% (5)
18 years old and over

Total number of responses to this question: 284
Total number of options chosen: 373

- To give up smoking: 62.2% (232)
- Peer pressure: 1.07% (4)
- For a new experience: 6.97% (26)
- To be able to use them in smoke-free areas: 9.11% (34)
- To reduce the amount I smoke: 13.67% (51)
- I have only ever used e-cigarettes: 0.80% (3)
- Other: 6.17% (23)
Some people have suggested that e-cigarettes appeal to young people, and could lead to more young people using them or encourage them to end up smoking tobacco products.

To what level do you agree with this?

**11 – 17 year olds**

*Total number of responses to this question 97*
- Strongly agree: **26.80% (26)**
- Agree: **31.96% (31)**
- Disagree: **14.43% (14)**
- Strongly disagree: **3.09% (3)**
- Don’t know: **23.71% (8)**

**18 years old and over**

*Total number of responses to this question: 560*
- Strongly agree: **16.07% (90)**
- Agree: **19.82% (111)**
- Disagree: **13.57% (76)**
- Strongly disagree: **43.75% (245)**
- Don’t know: **6.78% (38)**
Special procedures

Special procedures are tattooing, body piercing, acupuncture and electrolysis.

This Bill includes a proposal to create a compulsory licensing system for people who carry out special procedures in Wales. The places where these special procedures are carried out will also need to be approved to make sure they are clean, safe and legal for the public who use them.

Question six - Do you agree that a licensing system should be created for people who practise these special procedures to make sure the public get the best and safest treatment?

11 – 17 year olds

Total number of responses to this question: 96
- Yes: 77.08% (74)
- No: 3.12% (3)
- Don’t know: 16.67% (16)

18 years old and over

Total number of responses to this question: 537
- Yes: 77.09% (414)
- No: 10.43% (56)
- Don’t know: 12.48% (67)
Question seven - Do you agree with the types of special procedures included in the Bill?

11 – 17 year olds

Total number of responses to this question: 97

- Yes – the Bill covers the correct special procedures: 49.48% (48)
- No – the Bill should cover fewer special procedures: 6.18% (6)
- More special procedures should be included in the Bill: 7.22% (7)
- Don’t know: 37.11% (36)

18 years old and over

Total number of responses to this question: 531

- Yes – the Bill covers the correct special procedures: 43.69% (232)
- No – the Bill should cover fewer special procedures: 13.37% (71)
- More special procedures should be included in the Bill: 7.72% (41)
- Don’t know: 35.22% (187)
Intimate piercings

Nipple and genital piercings are examples of intimate piercings.

The Bill includes a proposal to ban intimate body piercings for anyone under the age of 16 in Wales.

Question eight - Do you believe an age restriction is needed for intimate body piercings?

### 11 – 17 year olds

Total number of responses to this question: 97
- Yes: 73.2% (71)
- No: 14.43% (14)
- Don't know: 12.37% (12)

### 18 years old and over

Total number of responses to this question: 537
- Yes: 82.12% (441)
- No: 6.89% (37)
- Don't know: 10.99% (59)
Community pharmacies

A community pharmacy can also be known as a chemist.

The Bill will need local health boards in Wales to look at the need for pharmacies/chemists in their areas, and that any decisions relating to community pharmacies/chemists are based on the needs of local communities.

You can get extra healthcare services through your local pharmacy/chemist. These services include emergency contraception, flu vaccination, and advice on how to give up smoking, and needle/syringe exchange.

Question nine - Did you know about the range of extra healthcare services that community pharmacies/chemists can provide?

11 – 17 year olds

Total number of responses to this question: 96

- Yes: 53.13% (51)
- No: 27.08% (28)
- Don’t know: 19.79% (19)
18 years old and over

Total number of responses to this question: 535

- Yes: 63.74% (341)
- No: 28.22% (151)
- Don’t know: 8.04% (43)
Question 10 - Have you ever used these services in your community pharmacy/chemist?

11 – 17 year olds

Total number of responses to this question: 96
- Yes: 30.21% (29)
- No: 50.00% (48)
- Not sure: 19.79% (19)

18 years old and over

Total number of responses to this question: 536
- Yes: 28.17% (151)
- No: 66.04% (354)
- Not sure: 5.78% (31)
Question 11 - Would you be more likely to use these types of services if you could get them at your local community pharmacy/chemist instead of through your GP?

11 – 17 year olds

Total number of responses to this question: 96

- Yes: 38.54% (37)
- No: 28.13% (27)
- Don’t know: 33.33% (32)

18 years old and over

Total number of responses to this question: 536

- Yes: 57.46% (308)
- No: 16.79% (90)
- Don’t know: 25.75% (138)
Public toilets

The Bill includes a proposal that local authorities will have to plan how they will meet the needs of people living in the community using public toilet facilities. However, the Bill will not make local authorities actually provide toilet facilities in local communities.

Question 12 - Do you think this proposal will help to make toilet facilities better for people living in local communities? Please leave any comments in the box below.

11 – 17 year olds

*Total number of responses to this question: 96*

- Yes: 55.21% (53)
- No: 15.63% (15)
- Don’t know: 29.17% (28)

18 years old and over

*Total number of responses to this question: 530*

- Yes: 33.02% (175)
- No: 33.02% (175)
- Don’t know: 33.96% (180)