

Welsh Government

## Summary of Responses

## Welsh Health Survey Outputs

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## Introduction

A user consultation was conducted to seek views on Welsh Health Survey Outputs. The consultation ran from 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011 to 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011.

The Welsh Health Survey provides unique information about the health and health-related lifestyles of people living in Wales. It covers a range of health-related issues, including health status, lifestyle and health behaviours, and health service use. The 2010 annual report was published on September 13<sup>th</sup> 2011, along with a local authority bulletin and additional online tables and charts.

These outputs can be found here:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/health/health-survey/results/?lang=en>

The consultation sought feedback from users on outputs from the 2010 Welsh Health Survey, including on the need for hard copies of the annual report. The questions asked in the consultation are attached in the Annex.

The background document describing the consultation and the response form were available on the Welsh Government website. Respondents could complete an online response form, or alternatively a Word version of the form was available to complete either electronically or by hand. Emails were sent to a wide group of potential users of the Welsh Health Survey, inviting response to the consultation. The consultation was also promoted on various newsletters and on Twitter.

We would like to thank all those who took the time to respond to this consultation. The following section summarises the responses received.

## Summary and recommendations

There were 15 responses received to the consultation, nine using the online form and six using an electronic Word document. The number and percentage of responses by organisation type are listed in the table below.

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Number of responses</b>	<b>Percentage of responses</b>
Local Government	4	27%
NHS	3	20%
Academic	3	20%
Voluntary Sector	2	13%
Independent	2	13%
Member of the public	1	7%
Total responses	15	

The consultation responses showed that the Welsh Health Survey has a diverse range of users, who use the survey information for a wide range of purposes, such as for local service planning, health-related research and for monitoring inequalities.

Feedback on the survey outputs was positive, with most respondents stating that they found the survey outputs and additional online tables and charts very useful or useful. Useful suggestions were received on ways in which the outputs could be improved, which will be considered for future outputs.

Only two respondents that received hard copies of the annual report responded to the consultation. While both these respondents stated that they found a hard copy useful, responses from those who didn't receive hard copies were mixed. In light of these responses, and given the current climate of reduced public spending, it is unlikely we will print hard copies of the annual report in future.

## Results

Below is an overview of the responses received to the questions in the consultation.

### Question 6: Briefly describe how and why you use the Welsh Health Survey.

There were 14 responses received to this question. The examples provided by respondents included the following:

- For report writing and various health-related research;
- Use of WHS record-level data under confidentiality agreement to assist with detailed analysis;
- Used to inform health service planning in local authorities and health boards;
- Used to monitor health inequality;
- More specific examples included using the data to provide information on health service use, the health of older people, and smoking in Wales.

### Question 7: How useful have you found the annual report?

There were 13 responses to this question. Respondents were asked to rate usefulness on a scale of 1 (not very useful) to 5 (very useful).

	<b>Number of responses</b>	<b>Percentage of responses (not including non response)</b>	
1 (not very useful)	0		0%
	2	0	0%
	3	2	15%
	4	8	62%
5 (very useful)	3		23%
Did not respond	2		
Total	15		100%

Results show that 85 per cent of the respondents who answered this question found the annual report either very useful or useful.

**Question 8: How useful have you found the Local Authority/Local Health Board Report?**

There were 12 responses to this question. Respondents were asked to rate usefulness on a scale of 1 (not very useful) to 5 (very useful).

	<b>Number of responses</b>	<b>Percentage of responses (not including non response)</b>
1 (not very useful)	0	0%
2	0	0%
3	0	0%
4	5	42%
5 (very useful)	7	58%
Did not respond	3	
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100%</b>

Results show that all of the respondents who answered this question found the Local Authority report either very useful or useful.

**Question 9: We published additional online tables to supplement the Annual Report. How useful have you found these?**

There were 13 responses to this question. Respondents were asked to rate usefulness on a scale of 1 (not very useful) to 5 (very useful).

	<b>Number of responses</b>	<b>Percentage of responses (not including non response)</b>
1 (not very useful)	0	0%
2	0	0%
3	3	23%
4	3	23%
5 (very useful)	7	54%
Did not respond	2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100%</b>

The table shows that around three quarters of the respondents who answered this question found the online tables for the annual report either very useful or useful.

**Question 10: We also published additional online tables to supplement the Local Authority/Local Health Board report. How useful have you found these?**

There were 10 responses to this question. Respondents were asked to rate usefulness on a scale of 1 (not very useful) to 5 (very useful).

	<b>Number of responses</b>	<b>Percentage of responses (not including non response)</b>	
1 (not very useful)	0		0%
	2	0	0%
	3	0	0%
	4	3	30%
5 (very useful)		7	70%
Did not respond		5	
Total	15		100%

Results show that all of the respondents who answered this question found the Local Authority online tables either very useful or useful.

**Question 11: We published online charts for local authorities and local health boards. How useful have you found these?**

There were 12 responses to this question. Respondents were asked to rate usefulness on a scale of 1 (not very useful) to 5 (very useful).

	<b>Number of responses</b>	<b>Percentage of responses (not including non response)</b>	
1 (not very useful)	0		0%
	2	1	8%
	3	0	0%
	4	6	50%
5 (very useful)		5	42%
Did not respond		3	
Total	15		100%

Almost all of the respondents who answered this question found the online charts either very useful or useful.

**Question 12: Please provide further details on how you think the above outputs could be improved.**

There were nine responses received to this question. The examples provided by respondents included the following:

- Include hyperlinks which link directly to outputs instead of using the standard Welsh Government Statistics website address;
- Provide more detail on how the survey results link with health policy;
- Provide further analysis of smokers in Wales;
- Consider collecting data for children at local authority level;
- Consider presenting the online charts in an interactive spreadsheet with drop down lists to select indicators, and include a Wales line on the charts.



**Question 13: Did you receive a hard copy of the Annual Report?**

	<b>Number of responses</b>	<b>Percentage of responses (not including non response)</b>
Yes	2	14%
No	12	86%
Did not respond	1	
Total	15	100%

Only two respondents had received a hard copy of the Annual Report. Both these respondents stated that they found having a hard copy useful or very useful.

**Question 14: How useful are hard copies of the Annual Report to you?**

There were 10 responses to this question. Respondents were asked to rate usefulness on a scale of 1 (not very useful) to 5 (very useful).

	<b>Number of responses</b>	<b>Percentage of responses (not including non response)</b>
1 (not very useful)	2	20%
2	1	10%
3	2	20%
4	3	30%
5 (very useful)	2	20%
Did not respond	5	
Total	15	100%

The table shows that there were a range of answers for this question. Half of respondents who answered this question stated that they felt a hard copy would be useful or very useful. However around a third of respondents stated that a hard copy would not be so useful. The question below provides more information about respondents' use of hard copies.

**Question 15: Please provide more information below on your use of hard copies.**

Five responses were received to this question, even though only two of the respondents had received a hard copy of the report. Examples of uses included:

- To share with group coordinators to develop their knowledge base;
- To deposit in the Health Board's library of resources and make available to Health Board Members;
- Used when compiling reports and evidence based documents;
- One respondent acknowledged that although they occasionally refer to hard copies, the easy availability of online information is becoming their preference, especially when looking to use the data in Excel or paste into an e-mail.

**Question 16: From time to time we publish ad-hoc Welsh Health Survey reports, e.g. a Statistical Bulletin on mental health and wellbeing. How useful do you find these?**

There were 12 responses to this question. Respondents were asked to rate usefulness on a scale of 1 (not very useful) to 5 (very useful).

	<b>Number of responses</b>	<b>Percentage of responses (not including non response)</b>
1 (not very useful)	0	0%
2	1	8%
3	4	33%
4	5	42%
5 (very useful)	2	17%
Did not respond	3	
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100%</b>

More than half the respondents who answered this question found the ad-hoc Welsh Health Survey outputs either useful or very useful.

**Question 17: If you have any other suggestions on how Welsh Health Survey outputs can be further improved, or if you would like to suggest topics for ad-hoc reports, please provide details below.**

There were nine responses to this question. The suggestions provided by respondents included the following:

- Ensuring that wherever possible, variables are comparable with other UK health surveys;
- One respondent acknowledged the high response rates of the survey and how this increased their confidence in the survey results;
- One respondent mentioned the length of the Annual Report, and how this can sometimes be difficult to navigate;
- Suggestions for more specific analysis included more data on smoking, further analysis on obesity, and information on older people and their alcohol consumption.

## Annex – List of questions asked

Here is a list of all the questions asked in the consultation.

1. Name:

2. E-mail:

3. Organisation Name:

4. Organisation type:

Central Government

Local Government

NHS

Academic

Other

If 'Other', please provide details: .....

5. Do you wish to be identified as the author of your response?

Yes

No

6. Briefly describe how and why you use the Welsh Health Survey.

7. How useful have you found the Annual Report?

Not very useful

1

2

3

4

5

Very useful

8. How useful have you found the Local Authority/Local Health Board Report?

Not very useful

1

2

3

4

5

Very useful

9. We published additional online tables to supplement the Annual Report. How useful have you found these?

Not very useful

1

2

3

4

5

Very useful

10. We also published additional online tables to supplement the Local Authority/Local Health Board report. How useful have you found these?

Not very useful

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Very useful

11. We published online charts for local authorities and local health boards. How useful have you found these?

Not very useful

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Very useful

12. Please provide further details on how you think the above outputs could be improved.

13. Did you receive a hard copy of the Annual Report?

- Yes
- No

14. How useful are hard copies of the Annual Report to you?

Not very useful

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Very useful

15. Please provide more information below on your use of hard copies.

16. From time to time we publish ad-hoc Welsh Health Survey reports, e.g. a Statistical Bulletin on mental health and wellbeing. How useful do you find these?

Not very useful

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Very useful

17. If you have any other suggestions on how Welsh Health Survey outputs can be further improved, or if you would like to suggest topics for ad-hoc reports, please provide details below.