

13th October 2016

Well-being of Future Generations Act: National Indicator Projections

Nathan Lester

Introduction

- Why we did this work
- What has been produced
- What it's for
- What it links with
- Method
- Limitations
- Demonstration



Why we did this work

- Well-Being of Future Generations Act (WBFG):
 - Well-being assessments predictions of future trends
- Traditionally reports and analysis have focused on the current position and past trends
- Discussions with Directors of Public Health
- Want to provide better support to a focus on the future
- Created to support the PSBs in focusing on the future during the development of local well-being assessments and plans



What has been produced

- Interactive web-based tool
- Past trends and projections
- WBFG indicators:
 - Low birth weight
 - Healthy life expectancy
 - Healthy lifestyle:
 - Smoking
 - Overweight or obese
 - Five-a-day

What it's for

- Explore past trends and projections for important public health indicators
- To provide a view of what might happen if current trends persist
- A focus for action to avoid unfavourable trends
- Highlight areas or population groups that deviate from the national picture
- NOT an accurate forecast for use in detailed long-term planning
- An inspiration for action



What it links with

- WBFG national indicators
- Public Health Outcomes Framework
- The prevention agenda: aligns with many areas highlighted in 'Making a difference' report



Making a Difference:

Investing in Sustainable Health and Well-being for the People of Wales





Method

Aim: to project a set of conditions and behaviours for each LA/HB and Wales to provide information on possible trajectories for the health of their population.

- Extrapolated projection method
- Assumes patterns which existed in the past will continue into the future
- Can fall short when creating medium and long term forecasts
- Longer term forecast: greater uncertainty; adaptive change



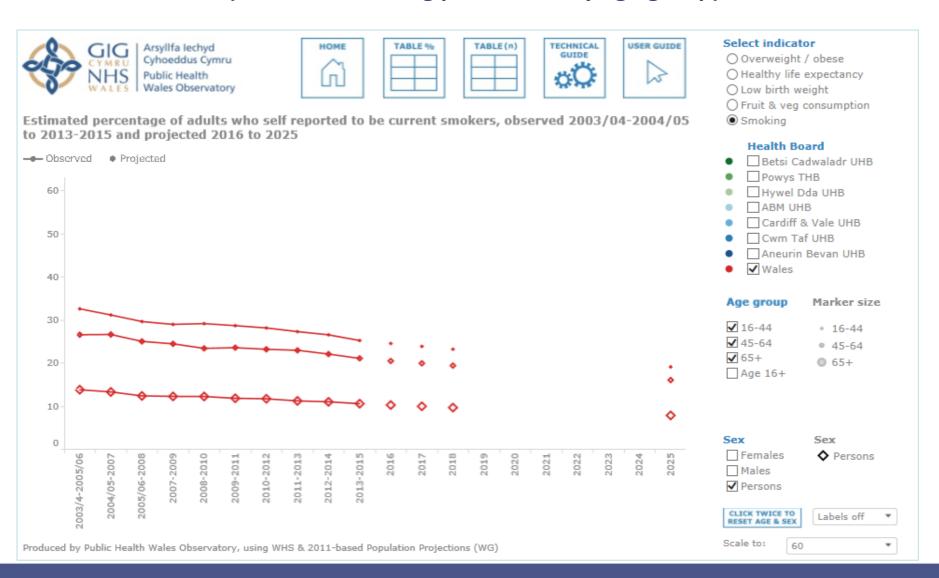
Limitations

- No consensus on best method, no guarantee of accuracy
- Results across different tools should not be compared
- Our method: projection period 1/3 the historic data period
 - projection period 3 years with cautious extrapolation to 10 years
- Many factors affect future prevalence, we only account for population
- Projections: not facts for planning purposes; indicative of the direction of travel if nothing changes
- "All models are wrong, but some are useful" George EP Box, Empirical Model-Building and Response Surfaces (1987)
- "Prophesy is a good line of business, but it is full of risks" Mark
 Twain, Following the Equator (1897)



Example chart

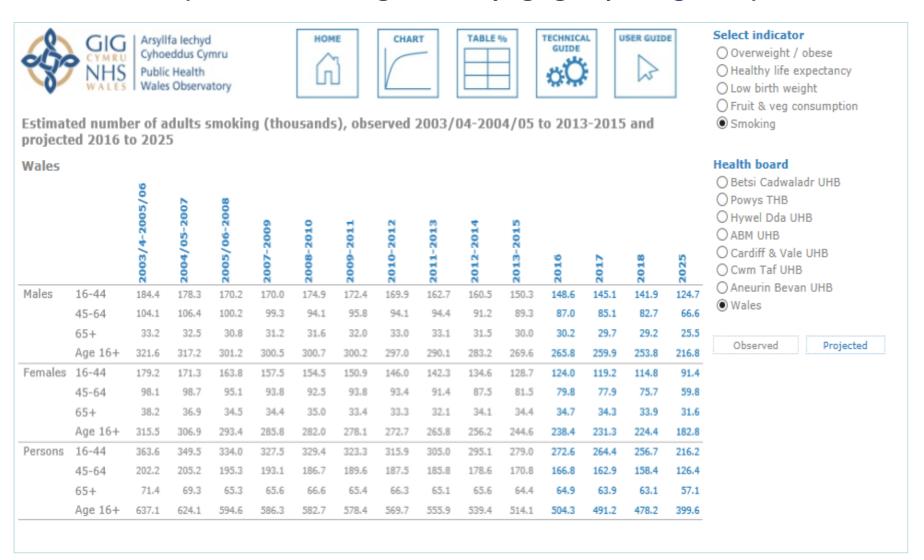
(all Wales smoking prevalence by age group)





Example table

(all Wales smoking counts by age group and gender)



Health Board projections tool:

https://public.tableau.com/views/Projectionstest/Home&:tabs=no

Local authority version due for publication early November

