

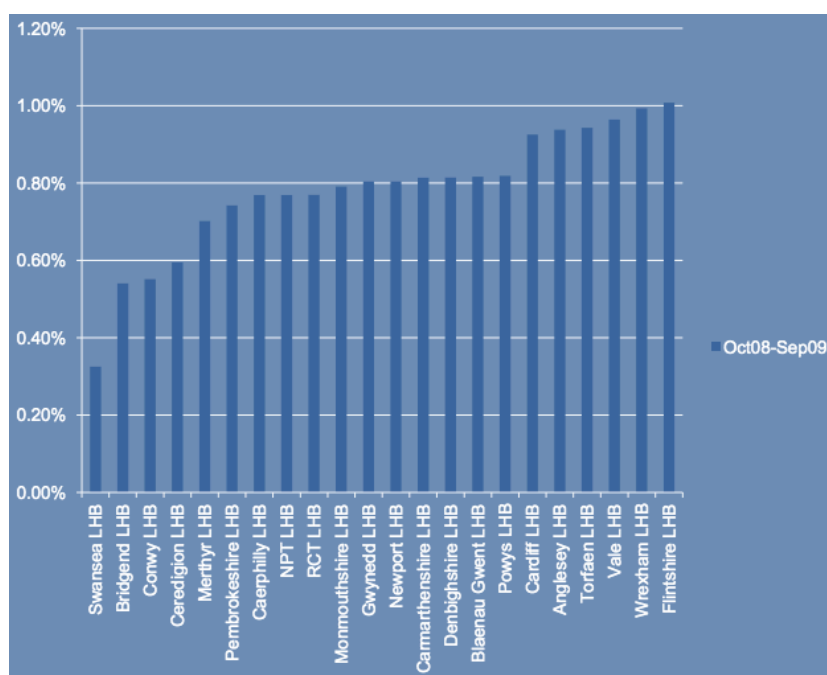
NHS  
Prescribing  
data

- All community dispensed prescriptions in Wales are processed by an NHS body called Health Solutions Wales (HSW).
- HSW then provides the NHS Wales Business Services Centre with information to reimburse dispensing contractors (Chemists, Appliance contractors and GP's) for the costs of the drugs they dispense
- The data gives an accurate picture of the items dispensed in each LHB and is used by the NHS to track and monitor prescribing activity

This data  
shows:

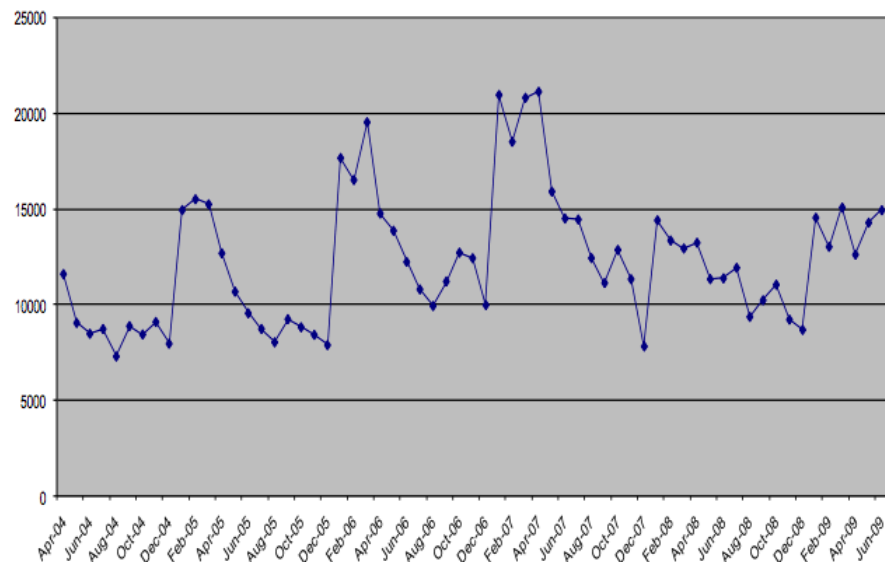
- The total spend on smoking cessation medicines in 2008-2009 was £3,883,084 out of a total of £502,045,246 spent on prescription medicines in Wales
- For all Local Authorities except Flintshire (1%) the spend on smoking cessation medicines is less than 1% of total spend on medicines.
- The most frequently prescribed smoking cessation medicines were Champix and Nicotine Replacement Therapies<sup>1</sup>

Graph showing the percentage spend on smoking cessation medicines for October 2008 – September 2009 by Local Authority<sup>2</sup>



- The total spend on hospital admissions due to smoking in 2007 was £236 million which represents 22% of total in-patient expenditure<sup>3</sup>.
- Smoking cost NHS Wales an estimated £386 million in 2007/08
- If smoking prevalence was reduced by 50% then the total cost to the NHS would equal £193 million<sup>4</sup>.

Graph showing Smoking cessation items dispensed in Wales April 2004 – June 2009<sup>5</sup>



Smokers are accessing their GP for prescriptions more during the traditional quit seasons: January/ March/ September.

<sup>1</sup>All data is accessed from Public Access Websites NHS Prescribing Database <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/prescribing/presinfo/prescribingdata/prescribingdata.htm>

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<sup>3</sup>Phillips, C. and Bloodworth, A. (2009). The cost of smoking to the NHS in Wales. ASH Wales and BHF

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