

**This bulletin brings together the latest public health and social care news, publications and information with direct links to full content. For more documents and previous issues of the Bulletin, go to**

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## Cancer/Stroke/Cardiovascular

### Committee takes decision on the future of stroke services (14/02/19)

A joint committee of clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) has approved plans to create three hyperacute stroke units (HASUs) in Kent and Medway, at Maidstone Hospital, the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford and Darent Valley Hospital in Dartford.

Three other sites – Tunbridge Wells Hospital, Medway Hospital and the Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, Hospital in Thanet – would lose stroke services. The CCGs argue the overall service will improve and ultimately save lives, with a better 24/7 service.

The review of stroke services in the region began in 2014. The preferred option of services in Dartford, Ashford and Maidstone was announced last September. However, it was criticised for the long travel times some residents would face to reach a unit – close to an hour for those living in parts of Thanet – and for leaving some of the most deprived areas without a unit. The decision may now be subject to judicial review.

Transforming health and social care in Kent and Medway [Stroke review documents](#) and [news release](#)

### Health matters: preventing cardiovascular disease (14/02/19)

Too many people are still living with undetected and poorly managed atrial fibrillation (AF), high blood pressure (BP) and raised cholesterol. Working with partners, Public Health England (PHE) and NHS England have agreed ambitions which

seek to address the A, B and C of secondary prevention and reduce the health inequalities associated with cardiovascular disease (CVD) over the next 10 years as part of the NHS Long Term Plan.

This is the [latest edition](#) of Health matters, other public health issues covered may be viewed in the [collection](#) which also includes case studies.

[News release](#)

[Infographics](#)

## Health Matters: CVD case studies (14/02/19)

Public Health England has published the following case studies as part of the latest edition of Health Matters on the subject of cardiovascular disease (CVD) prevention:

[High blood pressure quality improvement in Cheshire and Merseyside](#)

[Blood pressure outside of general practice](#)

[Virtual clinics to improve BP in poorly controlled patients in Lambeth CCG](#)

[Pharmacist-led virtual clinics to optimise anticoagulation in atrial fibrillation \(AF\)](#)

[Identifying familial hypercholesterolaemia \(FH\) in primary care, Medway CCG](#)

The [Health Matters collection](#) brings together facts, resources and information on major public health issues for public health professionals, local authorities and CCG commissioners.

## Trends in survival after a diagnosis of heart failure in the United Kingdom 2000-2017 (14/02/19)

This population-based cohort study set out to report reliable estimates of short term and long-term survival rates for people with a diagnosis of heart failure and to assess trends over time by year of diagnosis, hospital admission, and socioeconomic group.

The researchers conclude that survival after a diagnosis of heart failure has shown only modest improvement in the 21st century and lags behind other serious conditions, such as cancer. New strategies to achieve timely diagnosis and treatment initiation in primary care for all socioeconomic groups should be a priority for future research and policy.

The results of the study have been published in the [British Medical Journal \(BMJ\)](#). (open access article).

[British Heart Foundation](#)

## National Lung Cancer Audit: Clinical Outcome Publication Report 2018 (14/02/19)

This is the fifth report on the individual activity of surgeons and their contribution to lung cancer care. The data relate to patients diagnosed with lung cancer who underwent surgery during the period between 1 January and 31 December 2016.

It includes information on the proportion of patients who survive at 30 days, 90 days and 1 year after their operation for each unit, and the proportion of patients who were readmitted within 90 days of hospital discharge.

The [report](#) is available to download from the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP).

## National Prostate Cancer Audit: Annual Report 2018 (14/02/19)

There are over 40,000 new diagnoses of prostate cancer every year in the UK and over 11,000 men die because of the disease. This makes prostate cancer the second most common cause of cancer-related death for men in the UK.

This report presents results for men diagnosed with prostate cancer between 1st April 2016 and 31st March 2017 in England and Wales. It reports on specific diagnostic, staging and treatment information as well as core performance indicators.

The [report](#) is available to download from the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP).

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## Children/Young People/Families

### Children of Alcoholics Week: Young people create a book for parents who struggle with alcohol use (11/02/19)

There are an estimated 920,000 children (under 18s) living with one or two alcohol-dependent parents in the UK today. [Children of Alcoholics Week](#), led in the UK by the [National Association for the Children of Alcoholics \(NACOA\)](#), aims to raise awareness of these children and let them know support is available.

The [Community Hidden Harm Awareness Team \(CHHAT\)](#) is a project of The Children's Society East, working with young carers across Essex aged 8-19 years who are affected by parental substance use (also known as Hidden Harm).

In 2017, four young people who received support from CHHAT decided to come together and create a short [book](#). Their hope is that 'this book will help parents understand how we feel when they are drinking and that it will help them realise the effect that their drinking has on our relationship'.

[Children's Society blog](#)  
[Children and Young People Now](#)

### Engaging with young people: councillor workbook (15/02/19)

A local councillor represents everyone living in their ward. Across the UK nearly two in 10 people are under 16. Having a good experience growing up gives children a much better chance of making a positive transition to adulthood and reaching their potential. By listening to and acting on their concerns and supporting them to shape their community, a local councillor can strengthen the future of that community.

This [workbook](#), published by the Local Government Association, provides some signposting and ideas around the engagement of young people.

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## Communities and Local Government

### Kent County Council budget 2019/2020 (14/02/19)

Each year the council decides how much it can spend on services for Kent residents and businesses during the next financial year. Funding for services comes from various sources in addition to council tax, including grants from central government. About a third of the council's budget is made up of money received from council tax.

The meeting to decide the budget for 2019/2020 took place this week. Documents for the meeting may be read [here](#) or the proceedings viewed [here](#).

BBC News [reports](#) that a council tax rise of 4.99% has been approved. This consist of a 2.99% rise in general expenditure, the largest increase permitted before a referendum is required, and 2% ring-fenced for Adult Social Care and Health, which makes up almost half the entire council expenditure.

## Funding of local authorities' children's services inquiry (11/02/19)

The Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee of the House of Commons held the first session of its [inquiry](#) into funding of local authorities' children's services this week with a wide-ranging evidence session featuring academics and children's charities.

The [session](#) examined the pressures on local authorities' children's services, including the causes of increasing demand for child protection services. It investigated variations in spending levels across local authorities and the effectiveness of different strategies for addressing need, in particular the impact of early intervention. The Committee also examined the role of private and third sector providers in providing children's services and the quality of care and outcomes.

The [British Association of Social Workers \(BASW\)](#) is encouraging take up of the associated [survey](#).

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## Disabilities

### Learning disability and autism training for health and care staff: Consultation

13 February to 12 April 2019

The government wants to know how to ensure that health and social care staff have the right training to understand the needs of people with a learning disability and autistic people and make reasonable adjustments to support them.

The Department of Health and Social Care launched [consultation documents](#) and wishes to obtain views on the subject.

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## Drugs/Alcohol

### Independent review of drugs: terms of reference (11/02/19)

The Home Secretary Sajid Javid has appointed [Professor Dame Carol Black](#) to lead a major review that will look into the ways in which drugs are fuelling serious violence. First announced in the Home Secretary's conference speech in October, the initial stage of the wide-ranging review will look at who drug users are, what they are taking and how often to build the most in-depth and comprehensive picture of this issue to date.

The review, which will build on existing government strategies to combat drugs, serious violence and serious and organised crime, will examine the harms that drugs cause and the best ways to prevent drug-taking. It will also examine the drivers behind recent trends such as the increased recreational use of Class A drugs by young adults.

The changing drugs market is identified in the government's [Serious Violence Strategy](#), published in June 2018, as one of the main drivers of the recent increase in violent crime.

[Terms of reference](#)

[News release](#)

### Alcohol-related violent crime 2018 (12/02/19)

The latest figures from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) 2019 indicate victims of crime believed the perpetrator(s) to be under the influence of alcohol in 39% of 561,000 violent incidents (218,790) for the year 2017/18.

[Alcohol Policy UK](#) examines the evidence for a fall in the figures since 2013/14. Consumption of alcohol has declined, but the complex picture behind the overall trend includes extensive changes in definitions and recording of crime.

**See also**

**Children/Young People/Families**

**Maternity/Infants**

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## Education

**See Hearing/Sight**

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## Environment/Transport/Housing

### **UK100 Clean Air Summit (14/02/19)**

[UK100](#) is a network for UK local authorities focused on climate and clean energy policy. The network leaders have pledged to secure the future for their communities by shifting to 100% clean energy by 2050.

Leaders including the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, Mayor of the Liverpool City Region, Steve Rotherham, Mayor of the West of England, Tim Bowles, and Mayor of the Sheffield City Region, Dan Jarvis, are due to discuss their concerns on air quality directly with the Environment Secretary, Michael Gove, and the Health Secretary, Matthew Hancock, at the UK100 Clean Air Summit.

They are expected to say the government must prioritise action to reduce road transport emissions, provide appropriately resourced new powers to tackle other sources of pollution including from buildings, construction and maritime sources.

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has [announced](#) the doubling of a 'scrap for cash' fund to help both micro-business owners and low-income Londoners scrap older, more polluting vehicles in favour of cleaner vehicles and greener forms of transport to help clean up the city's toxic air.

[Air Quality News](#)

### **State of Rural Services Report 2018 (11/02/19)**

This report published by [Rural England CIC](#) presents the most recent evidence regarding the provision of services to residents and businesses in rural England.

It covers 8 service areas, which are: Local buses and community transport, Broadband and mobile connectivity, Public library services, Hospitals, Public health services, Young people's services, Shops and online shopping and Personal advice services.

The report lays bare the difficult situation facing those in rural areas – covering 17 per cent of England's population overall. Nearly a quarter of the rural population is aged 65 or over, with this group particularly vulnerable to underinvestment in healthcare, and declining high streets. Yet they face increasing access barriers to getting around as rural transport provision is axed by local authorities struggling with budgetary constraints.

According to the research, less public funding is directed towards rural residents than in urban areas, despite the higher cost of providing essential services such as social care, education and public transport in rural parts. For example, local authority expenditure on public transport is significantly higher in predominantly urban areas with 63 per cent more spent on bus subsidies, and 348 per cent more spent on discretionary concessionary fares.

[Rural Services Network](#)

see also Local Government Association on [public transport funding gap](#)

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## Health Care

### **CQC: East Kent Hospitals (13/02/19)**

In October 2018 the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspected children's services at [William Harvey Hospital](#), Ashford, and [Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Hospital](#), Margate. These services include the children's ward at each hospital, the emergency departments and operating theatres. In its report, the CQC rated children's services 'good' for caring, but the overall rating for children's services in the two hospitals is 'inadequate'.

The hospitals are part of [East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust](#) and since the inspection it has begun an intensive 12-month improvement programme. The Trust has taken action to ensure hospital services are safe and responsive to the needs of children and young people. These actions include:

- Increasing staffing levels for children's services
- Implementing a new, daily safety checklist across all hospital areas caring for children and young people
- Re-training staff.

[EKHUFT news release](#)

### **Managing common infections: guidance for primary care (08/02/19)**

Public Health England and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) publish guidance for managing common infections, including upper and lower respiratory, and urinary tract infections.

This [updated guidance](#) is to help GPs and healthcare staff to treat infections and use antibiotics responsibly.

[NICE article](#)

**See also Legislation/Crime/Prisons**

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## Health Protection/Emergencies

### **Moving the Needle: Promoting vaccination uptake across the life course (08/02/19)**

[Moving the Needle](#), a new report from the Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH), looks at the importance of vaccination through childhood, working-age adulthood, and later life, and explores the barriers to uptake at different stages of the life course.

RSPH calls for negative misconceptions of vaccines to be tackled: with increased efforts to limit health misinformation online and via social media, the press having responsibility enforced to share factual information, and education improved especially in the PSHE curriculum.

Alongside this access to vaccinations should be improved by their availability in a more diverse range of locations, including at high-street pop-ups, gyms and workplaces, utilising the wider public health workforce.

[News release](#)

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## Hearing/Sight

### Deaf children fall behind at school, says charity (13/02/19)

Deaf children in England are falling behind their classmates from primary school through to GCSE, analysis by the [National Deaf Children's Society](#) shows.

Only 30.6% achieve a GCSE strong pass - Grade 5 or above - in both English and maths, compared with 48.3% of children with no special educational needs. And 57% fail to reach expected levels in reading, writing and maths in standard attainment tests (sats) at the end of primary, compared with 26% of children with no SEN.

The analysis of government data suggests the average Attainment 8 score (how well pupils do across eight core subjects) for deaf children was 39.2 - but for those with no SEN, the average was 49.8.

[Local Government Association](#)  
[Children and Young People Now](#)

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## Information/Evidence/Research/Ethics

### NHS Performance Statistics: December 2018 to January 2019 (14/02/19)

This [release](#) from NHS England aims to provide users with an overview of NHS performance statistics in key areas: urgent and emergency care, planned care, cancer, and mental health.

Nuffield Trust and Health Foundation through [Quality Watch](#) offer analysis of the combined performance data.

The [King's Fund](#) notes that compared to previous years there has been less talk of a 'winter crisis', which may be due to a mild winter and low levels of flu and norovirus. However, in January 2019 just 84 per cent of patients were seen by A&E units within the four-hour target, the lowest level since this data was first collected.

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## Legislation/Crime/Prisons

### Hospital admissions for youths assaulted with sharp objects up almost 60% (09/02/19)



[NHS England](#) reports that teenagers accounted for more than 1,000 admissions to hospital as a result of assaults with a knife or sharp object last year.

Admissions for all injuries caused by an assault with knife or other sharp objects have gone up by almost a third since 2012-13, from 3,849 to 4,986 last year. However, admissions involving youngsters aged between 10 and 19 increased nearly twice as fast, with 656 hospital admissions in 2012-13 up to 1,012 last year – a rise of around 55%.

Doctors warned that high street sales of knives are helping to fuel the rise in stabbings and called on retailers to do more to stem the tide of available weapons. One of England's top trauma surgeons revealed that in one London trust alone, two people a day are admitted to hospital with a stabbing injury, having a devastating effect on families and placing avoidable pressure on NHS staff.

NHS Digital: [Admissions for assault by a sharp object 2012 to 2018](#)

ONS: [Crime in England and Wales: year ending September 2018](#)

ONS: [The nature of violent crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2018](#)

**See also**

**[Mental Health and Wellbeing](#)**

**[Safeguarding](#)**

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## Maternity/Infants

### Healthy beginnings: applying All Our Health (14/02/19)

Public Health England has published an update of this [guidance](#) to help healthcare professionals provide early intervention for children and reduce long term health and social costs.

All Our Health sets out to improve outcomes for children by addressing the child as an individual within the context of his or her family, community and the wider system in which children and families live. The first 1001 days (from conception to age 2) are recognised as a crucial period during which the foundations for future health and wellbeing are built.

### Smoking and drinking during pregnancy (12/02/19)

Participants interviewed for a study by researchers at [Cardiff University](#) reported negative reactions directed towards them when they smoked or drank small amounts of alcohol in public during pregnancy, resulting in them smoking and drinking at home instead.

This study aimed to gain a detailed understanding of health behaviours during pregnancy from the subjective accounts of pregnant women living in deprived areas of the UK and claiming means tested benefits. The paper highlights a range of barriers to remaining abstinent from smoking and alcohol during pregnancy, and for breastfeeding.

The results of the study have been published in [BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth](#) (open access article). A more detailed exploration of the smoking data is published in [Women and Birth](#) (open access at present).

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## Mental Health and Wellbeing



## **Modernising the Mental Health Act – update of the final report from the independent review (14/02/19)**

The Independent Review of the Mental Health Act 1983, published in December 2018, set out recommendations for government on how the Act and associated practice needs to change.

The [update](#) consists of corrections to Annex A and B of the final document [Modernising the Mental Health Act: increasing choice, reducing compulsion](#), and the addition of supporting documents to the review.

**See also Safeguarding**

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## **Older People**

### **Raising the bar on strength and balance: The importance of community-based provision (12/02/19)**

Exercise programmes designed to boost the muscle strength and balance of people at risk of falls and injury – such as resistance training, aerobics classes and yoga groups – are not being prioritised by the NHS and local authority commissioners.

A new [report](#) by the Centre for Ageing Better and the University of Manchester's Healthy Ageing Research Group shows a need for sustained, targeted funding for community-based programmes, with affordable, accessible and proven options available for everyone.

The report presents the models of delivery, issues, barriers and innovative solutions. It focuses on community-based strength and balance programmes targeting all older adults and includes evidence-based programmes to reduce falls.

The authors argue that NHS falls rehabilitation services often do not have the funding or ability to themselves provide strength and balance programmes for more than a few hours over just 6-8 weeks, much less than the 50+ hours over six months needed to make a difference to a person's ability to do everyday activities.

[News release](#)

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## **Pharmacy/Prescribing**

**See Health Care**

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## **Public Health/Health Promotion**

**Public health skills and knowledge framework: tools and guidance (08/02/19)**

Public Health England publishes [tools and guidance](#) to support colleagues using the Public Health Skills and Knowledge Framework (PHSKF). These will support individual workers and teams, employers, and education providers to assist colleagues in personal, career, or workforce development.

In this update [PHSKF: sub-functions explained](#) and [PHSKF: a tool for line managers](#) have been added.

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## Safeguarding

### Mental Capacity (Amendment) Bill [HL] 2017-19 (12/02/19)

This [bill](#) sets out to amend the Mental Capacity Act 2005 in relation to procedures in accordance with which a person may be deprived of liberty where the person lacks capacity to consent, and for connected purposes.

It started in the House of Lords (HL), the report stage and 3rd reading took place in the House of Commons on 12 February, and it will next return to the House of Lords on 26 February for consideration of Commons amendments.

The Minister of State for Care Caroline Dinanage has written to the Voluntary Organisations Disability Group (VODG) about the Mental Capacity (Amendment) Bill. The [letter](#) explains some of the safeguards present in the Liberty Protection Safeguards model and the amendments brought forward at the report stage of the bill in the House of Commons to strengthen the proposals.

It sets out the department's intentions for the Code of Practice and invites the Voluntary Organisations Disability Group and other organisations to be included in its production.

[Community Care](#)

[Community Care 2](#)

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## Screening

### NHS screening programmes: KPI reports 2018 to 2019 (13/02/19)

The key performance indicators (KPIs) are used to measure how the NHS screening programmes are performing, and aim to give a high-level overview of programme quality.

The files published each quarter are:

- the antenatal and newborn (ANNB) KPI data tables
- the young person and adult (YPA) KPI data tables
- an accompanying data report.

Public Health England has published the [data](#) for quarter 2 of 2018, July to September.

### Surveillance Study of Women Aged 35–39 at Increased Familial Risk of Breast Cancer (11/02/19)

A new trial, led by Professor Gareth Evans, and funded by [Breast Cancer Now](#), looked at whether screening women aged 35-39 with a family history of breast cancer could pick up tumours earlier.

Currently women in England who are aged from 50 to their 71st birthday and registered with a GP are automatically invited for screening every 3 years, as part of the NHS breast screening programme.

The study found that when tumours were picked up through early screening, most were smaller in size, and were less likely to have spread to lymph nodes, compared to women who had not been screened. Further research is to fully understand the risks and benefits of screening this younger and vulnerable group.

The results of the trial are published today in [The Lancet's online journal EClinicalMedicine](#) (open access article).

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## Smoking/Tobacco Control

### **CLear local tobacco control assessment (13/02/19)**

Public Health England publishes guidance for local authorities, public health bodies and the NHS on using 'deep dive' self-assessment tools to improve their tobacco control work.

This [update](#) consist of the addition of Illicit Tobacco deep dive tool and the CLear improvement model self-assessment tool moving to version 2.1.

**See also Maternity/Infants**

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## Social Care/Welfare

### **Welfare safety net: evidence on debt, hunger and homelessness (13/02/19)**

This week the Work and Pensions Committee of the House of Commons [questioned](#) a broad group of representing the charity and public sectors on their responses to the threefold problem of debt, hunger and homelessness. This is after Amber Rudd, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, [acknowledged](#) the link between Universal Credit and increasing food bank use in the House of Commons.

Sumi Rabindrakumar, Head of Policy and Research, of [The Trussell Trust](#) foodbank was one of the representatives appearing before the committee.

[Amber Rudd sets out fresh approach to Universal Credit](#), January 2019

Trussell Trust: [The next stage of Universal Credit report](#), October 2018

### **Strengths-based social work: practice framework and handbook (12/02/19)**

The Department of Health and Social Care has developed guidance, [framework and handbook](#), to support social workers and social care professionals in applying a strengths-based approach to their work with adults, and how it fits in with the law.

This follows a [report](#) on strengths-based social work practice with adults published in January 2017.

**See also**

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## Workforce Development

### Topol Review: Preparing the healthcare workforce to deliver the digital future (11/02/19)

In 2017 Health Education England (HEE) published [Facing the Facts, Shaping the Future – a draft health and care Workforce Strategy for England to 2027](#).

The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care commissioned The [Topol Review: Preparing the healthcare workforce to deliver the digital future](#), as part of the strategy.

The Topol Review, led by cardiologist, geneticist, and digital medicine researcher Dr Eric Topol and produced by HEE, explores how to prepare the healthcare workforce, through education and training, to deliver the digital future.

The Topol Review is now published, and it makes recommendations that will enable NHS staff to make the most of innovative technologies. The recommendations support the aims of the NHS Long-Term Plan, and the workforce implementation plan.

The [review](#) is also accompanied by FAQs, Highlights (an interactive presentation) and two films.

### Every day is different campaign: what it means to care (12/02/19)

The Department of Health and Social Care has [launched](#) a new national recruitment campaign to help fill the 110,000 vacancies in the adult social care sector.

The [‘Every Day Is Different’](#) campaign will show how rewarding social care careers can be – 96% of care professionals feel their work makes a difference to people’s lives. It will also highlight the opportunities for progression and professional development.

People who work in the sector could be supporting the elderly or people with a physical disability, autism, dementia or a mental health condition. Over 1.45 million people work in the sector at the moment. It is predicted an additional 650,000 workers will be needed by 2035 to keep up with the rising numbers of people aged 65 and over.

See also [Skills for Care](#)

**See also**

**Disabilities**

**Public Health/ Health Promotion**

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