

**Press information**

November 2004

**SMOKING PREVALENCE AND DEATHS DATA FOR SHEFFIELD**

New figures published today by the NHS Health Development Agency indicate the estimated current prevalence of smokers and the number of deaths attributable to smoking in Sheffield and South Yorkshire.

The data reveals the significant extent to which smoking is a contributable factor to deaths in the region, with 33% of all deaths in South Yorkshire attributable to smoking, which is higher in men (39% compared with 27% in women). Lung cancer, respiratory disease and heart disease are identified as the main killers attributable to smoking.

According to the report, an average of 32% of people in South Yorkshire smoke, which is the second highest health authority area in England. The figure is higher in some parts of Sheffield, with North Sheffield having a current smoking prevalence of 38%, while South West Sheffield has a prevalence of 24%.

Health managers in Sheffield welcome the new data; speaking on behalf of the Smoke Free Sheffield initiative Simon Gilby, Chief Executive of Sheffield West Primary Care Trust commented: "This data endorses local information we have, which shows that smoking is a real epidemic and people are dying unnecessarily."

"This is why Smoke Free Sheffield is such an important initiative. We want local businesses and organisations to play their part in saving people's lives by working in partnership with us to create smoke-free premises, thereby protecting the health of their employees, customers and visitors."

He added: "Smokers are in the minority, but have a significant impact on their surrounding communities. We offer support to smokers in the process of giving up through our Stop Smoking Service. In addition, the steps that we are taking to encourage people to become more physically active and eat more healthily are helping the people of Sheffield to have longer, healthier lives."

The Sheffield NHS Stop Smoking Service provides professional support for people wanting to give up smoking. For free, confidential support contact freephone

**For further information contact Charlotte Murray on 0114 221 0378 or email [pr@divacreative.com](mailto:pr@divacreative.com)**

0800 068 4490. Employers who are interested in establishing smoke-free workplaces can get help from the Sheffield Smoke-Free Coordinator by phoning Sheffield West PCT on 0114 226 4600.

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