

# A picture of health in Scotland

Developments in survey content and analysis potential as part of the Scottish Health Survey

---

# Presentation outline

Two areas of focus in today's presentation:

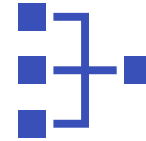
1



## Developing SHeS survey content:

- Listening to users: survey consultation
- Current and planned changes to survey content

2



## Data linkage for expanded analysis potential:

- Linked data analysis potential
- How to access linked data
- Future data linkage plans

---

## Brief overview of SHeS

- A national survey about the **health** and **lifestyles** of people in Scotland
- Commissioned by the **Scottish Government**
- In order to:

### Estimate

health condition prevalence

### Analyse

prevalence of certain risk factors

### Compare

regions and subgroups

### Monitor

trends in the population's health

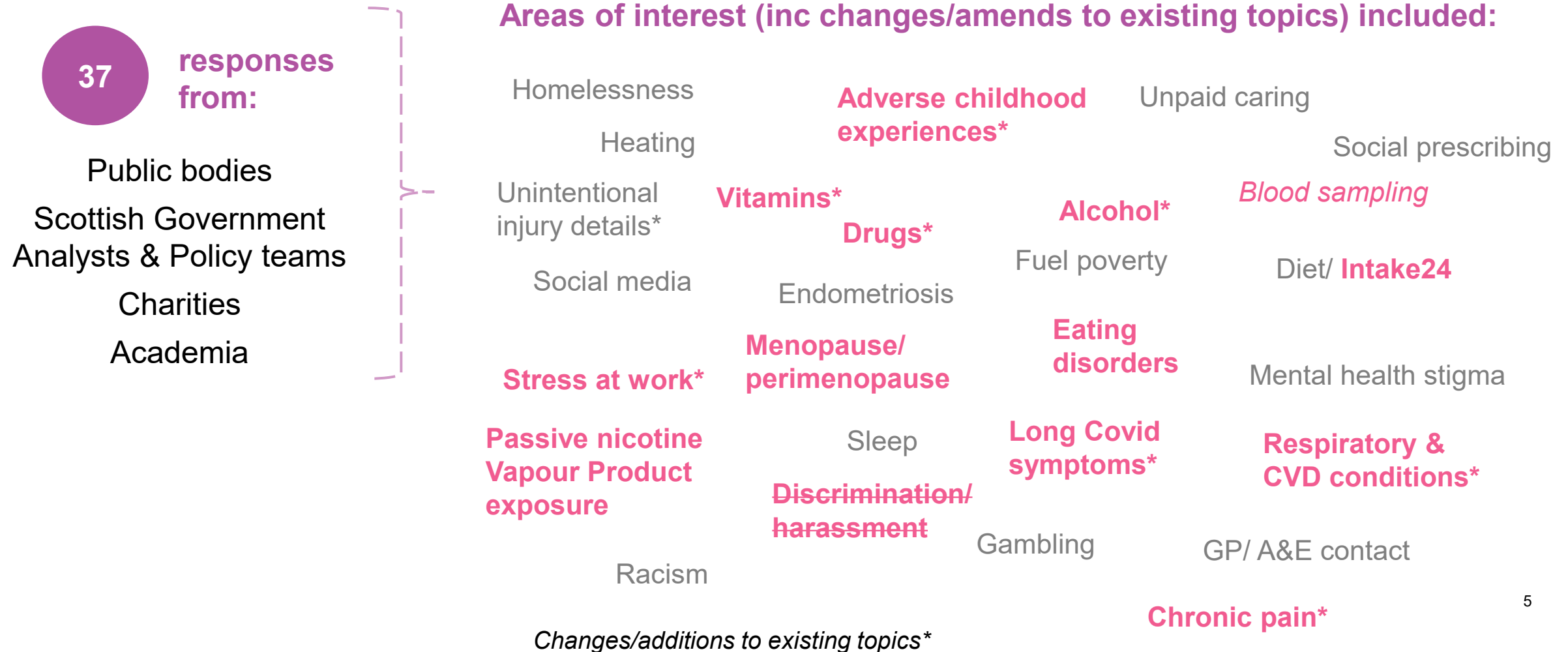


---

# Developing SHeS survey content



# User consultation on survey content



# Key content changes: 2024 & 2025

## 2024



Respiratory & CVD



Passive exposure to vapour



Intake24 dietary recall



Eating behaviours (disorders)



Menopause & perimenopause

## 2025



Adult physical activity



Adverse childhood experiences



Revised drug code list



Stress at work



Vitamins



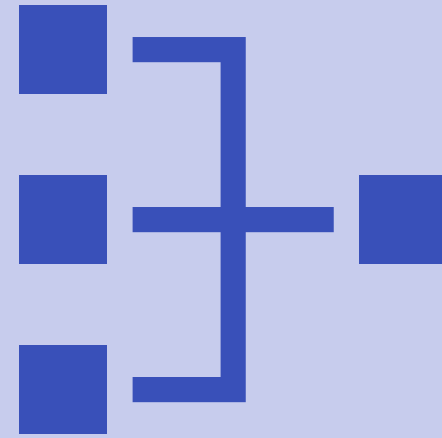
Alcohol



Discrimination & harassment

---

# Data linkage for expanded analysis potential



---

## Exciting new data analysis possibilities

Data from SHeS between 1998 and 2020 linked to health record data is now available (more years will be added)

Survey data including lifestyle behaviours, long-term conditions, mental wellbeing and more can now be linked to over c.1,300 linked data variables on topics including:



Hospital visits & length  
of stay



Diagnoses, treatments &  
hospital stays e.g. cancer,  
CVD & psychiatric episodes



Mortality and cause of  
death



Covid-19 positive test  
results & vaccinations

Analysis applications received to date:

- Improving survey-based alcohol consumption estimates for assessing the impact of Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP)
- Analysis of dietary and other lifestyle data in relation to health outcomes
- An investigation into colorectal cancer within Scotland.
- Gambling harms



---

# How to access linked data

1

Check suitability of proposed study/  
use with eDRIS (Electronic Data  
Research and Innovation Service) at  
Public Health Scotland (PHS)

2

Complete short application (assessed  
by the PHS Data Protection team)

Additional privacy panel application for  
any linked variables or SHeS  
variables not available as standard

**For more information, including full variable list search 'scottish health survey and health record data' or visit <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-health-survey-and-health-record-data/>**

---

# Questions



## For more information:

### Visit:

<https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-health-survey/>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-health-survey-and-health-record-data/>

<https://natcen.ac.uk/scottish-health-survey>

### Contact:

[scottishhealthsurvey@gov.scot](mailto:scottishhealthsurvey@gov.scot)

[scottishhealthsurvey@scotcen.org.uk](mailto:scottishhealthsurvey@scotcen.org.uk)

---