



HEALTH CALENDAR 2007

AUGUSTⁱ



Births and Deaths

For the second month running, the level of births is expected to be at a peak. This level will continue throughout August.



Poor Health and Illness

Similar high levels are predicted for conditions that were already high in July. Thus, levels of chest pain are likely to continue to be high throughout the month and mental health illness is expected to be high for the majority of the month. However, near the end of August levels of mental health illness are likely to fall and are not expected to increase again to exceptionally high levels for the rest of the year.

With August being the second hottest month of the year (just behind July in terms of average temperatures) high levels of heat and sun-stroke are anticipated. It is predicted that the number of cases will be very high during the first half of August, but will then decline to more usual levels.



Injury and Violence

August is a major month for injury and violence. More injuries from road traffic accidents are expected in this month than any other month.

Occurrences of self-harm, which have been consistently high (although with fluctuations) for several months, are forecast to increase again in August to exceptionally high levels. These levels are likely to be maintained throughout the month. In addition, at the beginning of the month, the number of violent incidents is expected to enter a sustained peak – likely to be the longest prolonged period of raised levels in the year.

The number of falls amongst 5 to 14 year olds is expected to continue its very high summertime peak in August. Alongside this, at the beginning of the month, the number of falls amongst 15 to 34 year olds is likely to rise to very high levels again (comparable to the levels in April and May). This second rise during the calendar year should continue over the next couple of months.



Gastro-intestinal Infections

Gastro-intestinal infections are also likely to be high in August. Cases of Campylobacter, which should have been high since mid-May, will remain high throughout August, although below the June peak. Cases of Salmonella (forecast to be both high and on the rise since mid-June) are expected to reach their highest level of the year in August.

Around the end of the month, the numbers of Cryptosporidium infections (which have likely been increasing throughout the latter part of July) should rise to exceptionally high levels during August.

ⁱ Definitions and data sources for all conditions - www.nwpho.org.uk/healthcalendar/docs/about.pdf