Interim Needs Indicators for Community Health Services

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This report was commissioned by the Department of Health from the Personal Social Services Research Unit at the University of Kent at Canterbury, in collaboration with Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Health Authority.

The aim is to consider ways of allocating resources to health authorities for expenditure on community care, using indicators of need which have a demonstrable and quantifiable link with needs and costs.

As reliable prevalence figures for many of the diseases treated in the community are not available, this involved the estimation of age weightings and an examination of the relationships between population characteristics and disease, and between population characteristics and the use of health care resources. Three methods were used: literature based approach, a small area study and an analysis of survey data. The views of community care experts are also reported.

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