

2022 Annual report


LISTEN

UNDERSTAND

ACT



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The inside story...

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New driving force



Caroline Semaille (Chief Executive) and Sylvie Lemmet (Chair of the Board of Directors) share their views on the agency that they joined a few months ago as well as their joint ambitions.

1 How do you see Santé publique France and its central role in the French health system?

Caroline Semaille: Ever since it was created, Santé publique France has played a special role in the health ecosystem, which can be attributed to the sheer scale of its missions. Not only does the agency scrutinise and offer insights into the health of some 67 million French people; it also identifies the risks endangering their health as early as possible (infectious, environmental or related to the determinants of health, such as drinking and smoking). The agency also supports the French people by spearheading an array of preventive healthcare and health promotion initiatives as part of an approach targeting specific populations. For example, we provide them with a number of tools that are designed to improve their everyday health. One initiative that comes to mind is the system for offering parents a wealth of information about the first 1,000 days of a child's life. The agency also gives decision-makers access to necessary information, delivers expertise to other institutions (High Authority for Health and High Council for Public Health) and provides health data through the Géodes mapping system. In 2022, the Géodes portal notched up 3.5 million visitors and 11 million page views.

Finally, the agency assists the healthcare sectors by mobilising the Healthcare Reserve, France's emergency workforce with more than 60,000 registered volunteers, while managing the State's strategic stocks through its pharmaceutical establishment. To date, over 200,000 million COVID-19 vaccines have been distributed in France and overseas. In view of its missions and wide range of responsibilities, Santé publique France uses scientific data and expert insights to enlighten public decision-makers and citizens alike and thereby create a conducive environment for everyone's health. Since I joined the senior management team of this great agency in February 2023, I have been extremely proud to work alongside its 731 agents in leading the agency's missions.

The agency has continually engaged in dialogue with its stakeholders, which is essential for aligning our needs and actions.

Sylvie Lemmet,
Chair of the Board of Directors

Sylvie Lemmet: Santé publique France is the largest health agency in terms of its range of responsibilities and missions. Within the healthcare ecosystem, Santé publique France is a scientific agency focused on building the continuum of care, from knowledge through to action and from monitoring through to prevention. It informs decision-makers, provides expertise to other institutions and lends its support to the health system. It works closely with other health stakeholders, environmental professionals and researchers. Santé publique France also draws on the strength of regional networks, because surveillance, monitoring and prevention actions need to be carried out on the ground with the relevant stakeholders. As it straddles the dividing line between human health and environmental issues, the agency brings a new outlook and contributes to anticipating the challenges facing tomorrow's world, be that the links between health and the environment, health issues in France's overseas territories, mental health, obesity or the impact of inequality on health.

My career path within several international organisations and my experience in health and the environment will help me drive the agency's missions forward. These missions have an increasingly important role to play as environmental and health issues become ever more pressing and require an overarching approach. Speaking of the environment and health, the spate of heatwaves and extreme weather events experienced this summer offers a glimpse of the effects of climate change that all French communities can expect to see. In liaison with its partners, the agency needs to identify the specific consequences that these episodes will have on human health, bearing in mind that such events will become even more frequent and extreme as the planet warms, as well as the best ways to adapt to those changes. An in-depth understanding of pollution and how it affects organisms is another priority topic for which French people are expecting clear data that will enable decision-makers to act. Some types of pollution are specific to certain regions, such as mercury pollution which can be linked to gold mining activities. Once again, research is a prerequisite for taking appropriate action.

2 What do you think are the main strengths of Santé publique France?

C. S.: One of the agency's strengths is its wide range of skilled profiles and teams in every region of France, who draw on several surveillance systems, major surveys, prevention tools, social marketing solutions and remote assistance services (drug and smoking help-lines, etc.).

Its nationwide network comprises local response units hosted by the regional health agencies (agences régionales de santé, ARS). They form local networks that are capable of addressing and adapting to the needs of each community, especially in terms of monitoring and protecting the health of the local populations.

One of the agency's other strengths is its robust multi-source monitoring and surveillance system, which gave ample evidence of its performance during the health crisis. The key to maintaining efficiency is making sure that the system remains innovative and ensuring that our information systems are scalable and reliable. As such, the agency is going the extra mile to develop a master plan that meets these needs. Santé publique France and its partners managed to develop information systems in record time to tackle the health crisis; now we must capitalise on those systems to build sustainable, connected and interoperable systems. I also have tremendous confidence in our collective spirit and the capabilities of the Santé publique France team. That collective spirit is deeply entrenched in our regions and imbued with a great sense of responsibility and a high level of commitment. That is undoubtedly our greatest strength.

S. L.: One of Santé publique France's major strengths is its relationship with the stakeholders in our society. Our agency has continually engaged in dialogue with those stakeholders, which is essential for aligning our needs and actions. The agency also maintains ties with the different regions through its network of teams across France, which offer guidance and assistance to the regional health agencies in the fields of epidemiology and preventive healthcare. This outward-looking approach, which is another of the agency's strengths, is also reflected in the composition of the Board of Directors, which I have the honour of chairing.

The wide range of profiles within the Board of Directors speaks volumes about the agency's broad array of responsibilities and its strong ties with society. It includes representatives from eight ministries, four MPs, representatives of local elected officials, representatives from our institutional partners, a representative from the mandatory national health insurance schemes, healthcare professionals, associations and employee representatives.

The ability to assess and prevent the impact of climate change on human health is clearly a difficult but major challenge for the agency.

Caroline Semaille,
Chief Executive

3 What are the main challenges that the agency will be looking to address in the coming months?

C. S. : Various large-scale projects are already underway, particularly the major surveys whose results are key to shedding greater light on the health of French people. Those surveys include Albane, a biomonitoring survey that also assesses health and nutrition in liaison with the French national agency for food, environmental and occupational health and safety. Other examples are the ENABEE study into the well-being and mental health of children under the age of 11, the Kannari study into the exposure of the Caribbean population to chlordecone and other pollutants, and the Health Barometer repeat surveys conducted over the last 30 years that deliver real insights into behavioural changes in France. Every day, the teams are spurred into action as they strive to anticipate the different health threats, whether infectious or environmental. For example, due to the risk of an avian virus outbreak, Santé publique France is ramping up its surveillance of zoonotic influenza viruses in partnership with professionals in the animal world. Before the summer, the agency bolstered its heatwave alert system and prevention actions, and the high temperatures that swept the summer of 2023 show

that our efforts are well justified. The ability to assess and prevent the impact of climate change on human health is clearly a difficult but major challenge for the agency. By conducting surveys and rolling out surveillance schemes, I would like to improve the agency's knowledge and understanding of people's exposure to environmental, food and occupational issues and how they affect health, with the aim of supporting public policies and especially enhancing the

agency's prevention strategy. Prevention also involves promoting effective, evaluated and evidence-based interventions, whether or not they are led directly by the agency, and to this effect Santé publique France manages and hosts the French register of effective and promising interventions in preventive healthcare and health promotion. This is also true of schemes based on scientific

standards, such as the Nutri-Score nutrition label, which I would like to widely support by giving it greater visibility through a public campaign and strong institutional backing.

Finally, as a national public health agency, Santé publique France must champion a specific idea of prevention that pursues two complementary and systemic objectives. The first is to influence individual behaviour; the second is to provide decision-makers with a set of recommendations and decision support tools that help them to act on determinants as part of a collective approach (legislative or regulatory measures, urban development, etc.). The agency has the very ability necessary to address sensitive subjects such as mental health, sexual health and addictions. It is our responsibility to lead the way in these areas, because they represent public health issues, while creating the ideal conditions where everyone, whether individually or collectively, can take action. Therefore, the 2023 work programme features a number of ambitious targets at a time when various infectious diseases are emerging and France is in the run-up to hosting major events.

S. L. : One of the key projects facing the agency is paving the way for the next Objectives & Performance Contract, which will require the involvement of the Board of Directors. The previous Objectives & Performance Contract for 2018–2022 was extended by a year to allow the new Chief Executive and the new Board of Directors (renewed in September 2022) to focus on preparing the new contract. This will be one of our first tasks. The recent report on the agency delivered by France's Court of Auditors provides various recommendations about the agency's management. We will take that feedback on board while preparing the contract, along with the observations made by the agency's different advisory committees. I also know that the Board of Directors is attentive to ensuring that resource provision is aligned with the agency's missions, so that the agency and its employees have the necessary means to achieve the wide-ranging ambitions shared by the authorities, elected officials and stakeholder representatives, while also meeting the expectations voiced by society.

Finally, the Olympic Games in 2024 will see a huge influx of people pouring into the country from all over the world. It will be the largest event of its kind since the COVID-19 pandemic. Our role will involve anticipating the different types of scenarios as best we can and making sure that the agency is at action stations when it comes to monitoring and responding to any potential crises.

4 What are your main objectives as the new Chief Executive and new Chair of the Board of Directors?

C. S. : As I mentioned during the pre-appointment hearings before the French National Assembly and the Senate, I want to bring new driving force to the agency and I have set myself three priorities to achieve that aim. The first is to strengthen the agency's collective independent expertise and thereby assist public policy makers.

Santé publique France is a scientific agency whose expert assessment work supports public policies. From surveillance through to prevention, science forms the backbone of the agency's work and interventions. Santé publique France needs to continue harnessing its multidisciplinary and collective expertise, which applies to both the agency's robust internal expertise and its external expertise. The expert insights that it produces must be useful to public policies and capable of being translated into decisions and action on a national or regional level, whether in mainland or overseas France. Gaining an in-depth understanding of the different issues is key to delivering a sound and best-fit scientific response. My second priority is transforming Santé publique France into an open agency, which is a prerequisite for raising its profile and increasing its credibility. Openness means developing collaboration with partners whose areas of action lie at the borders of Santé publique France's own responsibilities. We also need to forge specific collaborative arrangements with research on issues of direct concern to the agency, including emerging diseases and modelling.

The aim is also to strengthen the agency's openness and dialogue with stakeholders and civil society, along with healthcare practitioners and professionals in the welfare sector. They play a vital role in prevention. We will leverage their skills to roll out the Minister's roadmap on prevention. We will also strive to play our part in disseminating authoritative scientific information tailored for different audiences. This is how we can tackle the spread of misinformation and fake news. Finally, the agency needs to keep the momentum going on both a European and international level. My third priority is turning Santé publique France into an agency that anticipates and breaks new ground. One example is the agency's ability to analyse early warning signals through multi-source systems and networking. It means developing qualitative approaches and it obviously involves analysing masses of health data in partnership with other institutions, particularly through the health data hub

and the green data hub. We also need to continue making hundreds of health indicators available as open data. Finally, as we emerge from the shadow cast by three years of the COVID-19 pandemic, I stand united with all the agents at Santé publique France in wanting to bring a strong and empowering impetus to an agency that offers expertise of the highest level and which is open to partnerships, stakeholders and innovation.

S. L. : I share those aims, since they dovetail with the ambition of reinforcing Santé publique France's ability to use scientific data and expert insights to enlighten public decision-makers and citizens alike and thereby foster a conducive environment for everyone's health. During my term of office, I would like to make this ambition the focal point of our work in an effort to ensure that, along with all the members of the Board of Directors, this attentive and constructive body provides support in the best interests of the agency, its employees and all French people. I hope that the expert insights provided by Santé publique France will prove to be a real help, obviously for decision-makers but also for citizens, who must be able to understand the results of the various public health studies and the actions that they can take at their own level, by using plain language and simple presentations of health determinants.

I would also like to see the agency expand and strengthen its international network, particularly in Europe, in a bid to accompany Europe's newly established HERA service (Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority) by promoting synergies.

We will also be attentive to the agency's employees, who went above and beyond the call of duty during the crisis, and I want to tell them that, as Chair of the Board, their voices will be shared and heard within the senior management team.

Finally, I hope that the Board of Directors will support the agency in its efforts to promote transparency, not only transparency in the data and expert opinions produced, but also budget transparency in light of the vast budgetary resources in play.

“My priority is turning Santé publique France into an agency that openly embraces partnerships, stakeholders and innovation.”

Caroline Semaille,
Chief Executive

“I would like to see the agency expand and strengthen its international network, particularly in Europe, and accompany Europe's new Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority.”

Sylvie Lemmet,
Chair of the Board
of Directors

An agency with with **scientific expertise**

Serving the values of public health

- Working for the general interest, which requires strict, shared and transparent rules of ethics and professional conduct.
- Using proportionate universalism, by taking account of regional and social inequalities in health with the goal of promoting health for everyone in all walks of life.
- Being responsive in delivering alerts and interventions, while ensuring long-term involvement to build good health throughout the course of life.

Improving and protecting the health of the wider population

- Epidemiological observations and monitoring the population's health status using new data processing tools.
- Monitoring health risks to populations.
- Issuing health alerts.
- Promoting health and reducing health risks.
- Developing preventive healthcare and health education by implementing schemes and promoting evidence-based interventions.
- Preparing for and responding to health threats, alerts and crises.

6 major challenges structure the agency's roadmap

The agency's strategic directions over the long term encompass the key challenges for public health, specifically in the areas of offering protection against threats and improving health. The operational roll-out of the strategic directions has been incorporated into the agency's work programme, which is built around six major challenges to ensure that the actions spearheaded are operationally aligned.

Public health threats anticipation, preparation and response



Social and regional inequalities in health



Burden of disease and its determinants, effectiveness of interventions, and return on investment in prevention



Environmental health, climate change and working environments

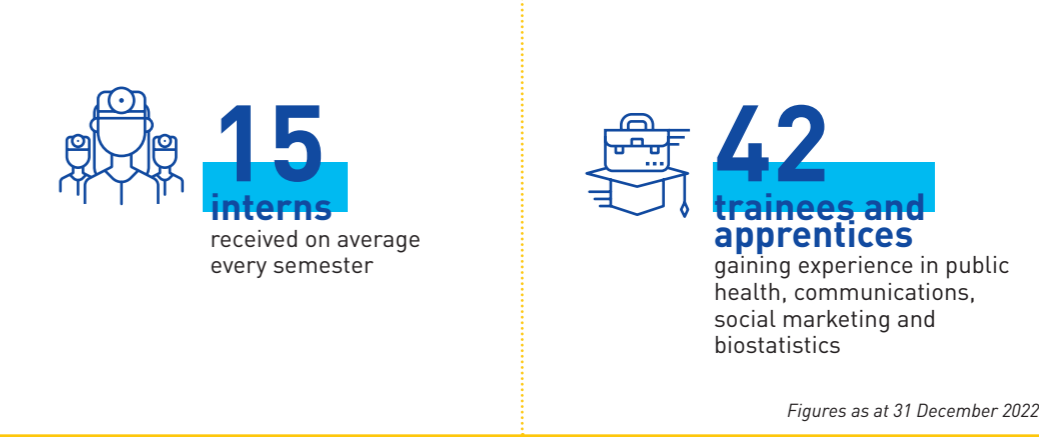
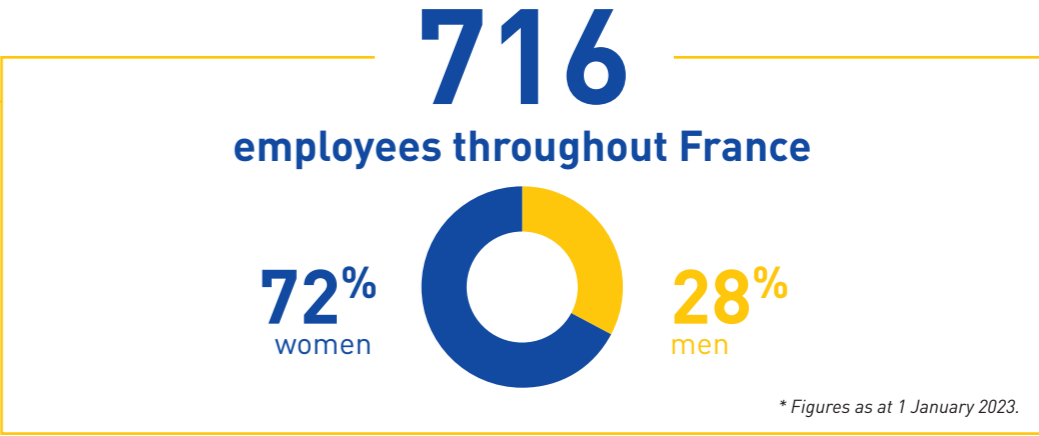


Social marketing, prevention strategy and population-based approach



Digital technology in public health





2022 in figures

Over **19 million** views of the InfoCovidFrance dashboard



Over **3.5 million** visits to the Géodes platform offering 800 health indicators across France in open data format

Over **16 million** visits to

www.santepubliquefrance.fr

and 36,802,607 page views



3,000 uploads and **150 news items** published on the homepage

1 million requests

(calls, chats and Q&A) handled by the **19 remote support systems** and **24 million visits** to their websites



Over **10.4 million** copies of communication materials distributed among professionals and the general public

SOCIAL MEDIA

146,553  **followers** on LinkedIn

133,570  **followers** on X (ex-Twitter)

56,603 followers on Facebook

PUBLICATIONS

- **45** reports and **22** summaries
- **35** situation reports
- **50** COVID-19 epidemiological updates (French) and **50** COVID-19 weekly reports (English)
- **26** issues of the *Bulletin épidémiologique hebdomadaire* sent to **20,078** subscribers
- **4** issues of *La Santé en action* sent to **22,664** subscribers
- **1,197** regional epidemiological updates
- **29** regional public health bulletins

PRESS ACTIVITY

42 press releases and 100 insight briefings organised

1,400 requests from the press

PREVENTION CAMPAIGNS*

- **Talk to someone** (mental health campaign for teenagers)
- **The right way for effective antibiotic treatment**
- **Getting teens moving is easier said than done. But encouraging them is so important.**
- **Betting is a big deal**
- **The key questions before becoming a parent**
- **Welcome to a cigarette-free life**
- **Campaign to encourage the most vulnerable groups to quit smoking**
- **No-smoking month**

* See more campaigns in the ACT section (p. 38).

he ecosystem of Santé publique France

Santé publique France can call on a vast network of partners from institutions, the scientific community and associations, including national agencies, research institutes and NGOs, with the goal of developing the partnerships needed to deliver its work locally, nationally and internationally.

INSTITUTIONS

The agency is in constant contact with the authorities and partners from the national public health network to provide its expertise in support of decision-making and public health action.

- President of the Republic, Prime Minister, Ministries
- General councils, prefectures, local authorities
- National and local elected officials
- Regional health agencies (ARS)
- Public institutions
- Health agencies
- Scientific and expert agencies and institutes
- National health insurance fund (CNAM) (financing)
- Partners
- National public health network

EUROPE AND INTERNATIONAL

The agency contributes to international networks such as those of the World Health Organization (WHO). It sits on the bodies of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), oversees the International Association of Public Health Institutes (IANPHI) network and works closely with counterpart agencies. This enables the agency to improve its practices and promote French expertise.

- International organisations (WHO, etc.)
- European Commission
- European health authorities and agencies (ECDC, HERA, etc.)
- European and international associations (IANPHI, EuroHealthNet and IUHPE)
- National public health agencies in other countries
- Embassies and consulates

MEDIA

The agency shares its scientific results with the media. It explains its methods, the purpose of its surveillance systems and prevention messages, and makes its indicators available to the public.

- Press and journalists
- Social media
- Influencers and KOLs

TRAINING AND RESEARCH

Scientific excellence serves as the guiding light for all the agency's actions. It draws on solid collaborative ties with partners in research and academia to further knowledge, improve dissemination and optimise performance of the mechanisms for monitoring, preventing and responding to health crises.

- Partners in academia
- Research institutes and organisations
- Learned societies
- Higher education and training
- Research community

STAKEHOLDERS

The agency's governance structure is based on the founding principle of dialogue and openness to society. The agency is actively involved in the work of the National Health Conference (*Conférence nationale de santé*) and implements mechanisms to build dialogue in a range of fields, including efforts at the local level to help interested parties participate.

- National Health Conference (*Conférence nationale de santé - CNS*)
- Regional Conference on Health and Independent Living (*Conférence régionale de la santé et de l'autonomie*)
- Networks of associations
- Populations
- Trade unions
- Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
- Professional stakeholders
- Prevention stakeholders



DR GRÉGORY EMERY,
DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR HEALTH

"The pandemic has highlighted the importance of scientific expertise in all its aspects, from informing public decision-making to guiding professionals and raising public awareness. Our joint commitment, alongside Santé publique France, is to consolidate these achievements and scale up on the major public health issues addressed by the Government's priority policies. Firstly, prevention, which is one of the key strands of our health strategy for reducing the impact of chronic diseases: this prevention will find its place in many areas, with the introduction of prevention check-ups and national vaccination campaigns (against bronchiolitis, against the papillomavirus), but also in protection against addiction, mental health, which is now at the heart of our public policies, sexual health, and the impact of food and the environment on our health. In a completely different area, the prevention of infections, both community-acquired and healthcare-associated, and the fight against antibiotic resistance are also priorities. The COVID-19 crisis has reminded us of the close links between human, animal and environmental health. In this respect, I would like to mention some of the major initiatives taken by Santé publique France, such as the event 'Health as a lever for action on climate change', held in collaboration with the International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI). Our action would not be effective without strong and close collaboration with the health agencies to reinforce, in a coordinated way, the protection of the population and in particular of the most vulnerable groups. I would like to thank the men and women of Santé publique France for all the work they have done, and express my personal support for their commitment."

Key events

When the agency puts public health in the spotlight

The “Rencontres de Santé publique France” conferences in 2022

On 16 and 17 June 2022, Santé publique France brought together members of the scientific community, decision-makers, civil society and public health stakeholders during its annual conferences. The aim behind the event is to share feedback and best practices with a view to creating a beneficial environment for public health, particularly among the most vulnerable groups. Several topics were covered, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and especially its impact on mental health, the fallout from the war in Ukraine, and caring for a child during the first 1,000 days of life. In all, over 1,000 people attended the two plenary sessions and twelve breakout sessions.



Public health taught at the Collège de France

Santé publique France provided support to the public health chair at the Collège de France in 2022 for the third time. This role focuses on encouraging excellence in research and the highest level of intellectual debate on public health issues. As visiting professor for the 2022 edition, environmental epidemiologist Rémy Slama, Research Director at INSERM where he heads the Thematic Institute of Public Health and the environmental epidemiology team, taught about the relationships between human health and the environment. In 2023, Mathilde Touvier, INSERM Research Director and Principal Investigator of the NutriNet-Santé cohort, takes over from Rémy Slama to address the topic of nutrition and health.

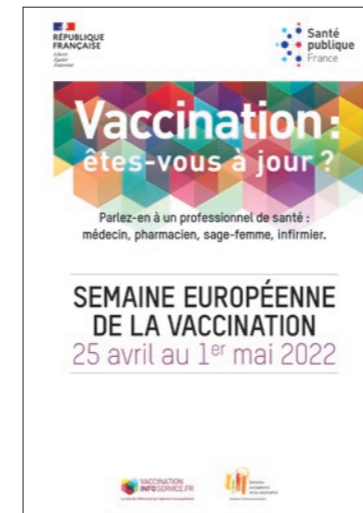
Mobilised against tuberculosis

To coincide with World Tuberculosis Day on 25 March, Santé publique France, the Directorate-General for Health and the National Reference Centre for Tuberculosis organised a hybrid event for the first time. Nearly 400 participants attended, including clinicians, biologists, nurses, social workers, patient management and surveillance professionals, and associations. The day featured several highlights, including a situation report on tuberculosis in France against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, and a presentation of the new missions pursued by the network of anti-tuberculosis centres.



Health as a driver for action on climate change

As part of the French Presidency of the European Union, Santé publique France and the International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI) held a virtual event on 8 April 2022 to discuss health as a driver for action on climate change. In particular, participants addressed the links between climate, biodiversity and health in public policies. This initiative was open to public health and environmental professionals, decision-makers, researchers and stakeholders, and reflected the strong ties between Santé publique France and IANPHI. Since 2007, Santé publique France has been an active member of IANPHI, hosting and providing the association's general secretariat.



European Immunization Week

European Immunization Week (EIW) is coordinated across the country every year by the French Ministry of Solidarity and Health, and Santé publique France. The event is managed on the ground by the regional health agencies (ARS). This year's EIW took place from 25 April to 1 May 2022. The initiative is an ideal opportunity to boost awareness that immunisation remains the most effective means for preventing certain serious infections and consequently represents major stakes in health protection for the wider population. The French Ministry of Health also publishes the new vaccination schedule, and Santé publique France includes data on national and regional vaccination coverage in its public health bulletin. For any vaccination-related questions, the vaccination-info-service.fr website provides factual, practical and scientific information on vaccinations at different stages in life.

Three major conferences in spring 2022

On 24, 25 and 26 March 2022, Santé publique France took part in the 15th General Medical Conference France organised by the CMG (French College of General Medicine) in Paris. At this event, the agency presented the resources and tools it is developing to assist doctors with their duties. On 31 March and 1 April, Santé publique France also attended the conferences organised by the ADELFI (Association of French-Language Epidemiologists) and EMOIS (Evaluation, Management, Organisation, Information and Health) in Dijon. The agency participated in the conference entitled “Epidemiological surveillance of the COVID-19 pandemic: building a multi-source system”. The third major event for the teams was the 36th National Conference on Occupational Medicine and Health (CNMST) held between 14 and 17 June in Strasbourg. Santé publique France led a conference on building health-friendly environments, as well as a workshop on approaches to health promotion in the workplace.



ENHANCED COOPERATION WITH INSERM

On 16 May 2022, Santé publique France and the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM) signed an agreement aimed at governing, strengthening and developing their collaboration for the next five years. Together, both organisations will direct their attention towards several priority themes, including emerging infectious diseases and modelling, environmental factors and health, nutrition, social inequality and perinatal health.



International expertise

The Agency's strategy, whether scientific or institutional, fits into a wider European and international framework. In the wake of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, this framework is undergoing significant changes that respond to the need to strengthen international health security and build a European health strategy. As such, Santé publique France is contributing to a range of studies and discussions led by European and international organisations (particularly WHO, ECDC and HERA) in close liaison with its counterparts abroad. Read on to review the significant events of 2022.



Annual Meeting of IANPHI

Santé publique France is an active member of the International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI), for which it provides and hosts general secretariat duties. From 29 November to 2 December 2022, IANPHI member countries met up in Stockholm to attend the association's annual meeting. The theme for 2022 was "Pandemics, conflicts, climate change: new roles and challenges for national public health institutes". During the event, IANPHI took the opportunity to release a statement on the role of institutes in supporting preparedness and response to emergencies that affect population health. This annual meeting was also marked by the presence of a sizeable WHO delegation following the memorandum of understanding signed in October 2022 on strengthening health emergency preparedness and response, and integrated disease surveillance (with the WHO Hub in Berlin for health intelligence and pandemic preparedness).



Santé publique France hosts the ECDC Management Board

As part of the French Presidency of the European Union, France hosted the Management Board of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) at the agency's headquarters in Saint-Maurice on 29 and 30 June 2022, in the presence of France's Director General for Health, Jérôme Salomon. Ever since the ECDC was created, the agency's Chief Executive has represented France on the ECDC's Management Board. Therefore, the event took place in Santé publique France's offices at the initiative of Geneviève Chêne, in conjunction with the Ministry of Health. This meeting was especially important, since the last face-to-face Management Board meeting was held in November 2019 in Stockholm, and the last Management Board meeting held in a EU Member State was 11 years ago.

France was keen to draw attention to the fact that politicians had concluded their negotiations on a set of texts relating to health security in Europe, including a revision of the mandates of the ECDC and the EMA (European Medicines Agency), the creation of the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA), and the new regulation on serious cross-

border threats to health. The Management Board's meeting covered several key topics relating to the ECDC's new mandate, the priorities for 2024, and potential collaborative arrangements between the ECDC and member states, including discussions about the future of the Centre and international health security.



AN UNPRECEDENTED MOU BETWEEN IANPHI AND WHO

During the World Health Summit on 16 October in Berlin, WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Ghebreyesu and the President of IANPHI signed a five-year memorandum of understanding. The signing ceremony was attended by Mike Ryan, Executive Director of WHO's Health Emergencies Programme, and two members of the IANPHI Executive Board, including Geneviève Chêne, who was then Chief Executive of Santé publique France. This MoU recognises IANPHI as an observer in WHO's governance bodies, meaning that public health has an opportunity to make its voice heard.

Participation in the Gastein European Health Forum

Forum in Gastein, which takes place every year in September. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) organised a session during which Geneviève Chêne, then Chief Executive of Santé publique France, spoke about why it is so important for these ethical issues to be taken into account by public health agencies involved in supporting the public decision-making process.

"Controlling a pandemic by controlling people? - ethical dilemmas during health emergencies" was the overriding theme at the European Health



LISTEN



• LISTEN •

Openness to stakeholders and civil society is enshrined as one of the founding principles of Santé publique France. Constant and sustained dialogue is instrumental in gaining a clearer view and understanding of the needs and expectations of the public, enhancing scientific work and building long-term trust.

Open and transparent dialogue with society

Santé publique France looks at the concept of openness to society in terms of the relationships linking science, public health and society. Inviting stakeholders and civil society to take part is vitally important in forging greater trust and improving the quality of the work led by the scientific community. They can participate in different ways in response to changes in expectations and practices, while incorporating multidisciplinary approaches.



This open-dialogue strategy follows the principles set out in the policy on openness to society, which was signed by organisations in health and environmental risk research, appraisal and assessment “to work alongside society in building a shared understanding of the complex issues in high-risk situations.”

This is reflected in the work carried out within stakeholder discussion forums, as well as within participatory initiatives involving citizens.

The activities performed as part of the open dialogue strategy aim to:

- implement work processes that are open to questioning and contributions from interested parties outside the agency;
- maintain processes for exchanging

information and promoting dialogue with civil-society stakeholders;

- enhance the robustness of the agency’s work;

- promote and/or share with partner organisations in France and Europe.

Santé publique France also benefits from the support and guidance of its four boards, namely the Board of Directors, the Scientific Advisory Board, the Ethics and Professional Conduct Committee, and the Steering and Dialogue Committee, which contribute their expertise and external view of the agency’s activities and work practices.

Board of Directors (BoD)

The Board consists of 28 members including national and local elected officials, as well as representatives of the State, institutional partners, civil society, the medical world and Santé publique France employees. They are appointed for a period of four years, and can be reappointed once.

The Board of Directors leads and supports the agency’s general policy and strategy. The Board provides its opinion on the agency’s main strategic directions, its work programme and the human and financial resources required to fulfil its missions.

The Board of Directors was renewed in 2022. One of the first tasks facing the Board is to establish the next Objectives and Performance Contract 2024–2028 with the Chief Executive and the agency’s professional divisions. This document will incorporate the recommendations issued by the Court of Auditors and the observations made by the various committees.

Scientific Advisory Board

Twenty-seven members, including thirteen international figures, were appointed on 9 April 2021 for a period of four years (reappointment possible) by decision of the Chair of the Board of Directors.

“The Scientific Advisory Board enhances the agency’s work with the collective intelligence of its international experts. Those members come from a wide range of countries, organisations and scientific backgrounds. Our meetings are an opportunity for Santé publique France managers and specialists to discuss immediate and future challenges with top-tier French scientists and colleagues from public health agencies and universities abroad. We also provide recommendations and reviews on specific scientific issues, depending on the agency’s needs.

In 2022, the Scientific Advisory Board created a series of sub-groups for discussing the agency’s activities in the following areas: environment and health, disease burden measurement, prevention strategy development, and social inequality in health. We also provided recommendations on the integrated surveillance of infectious diseases, cluster investigations, the resources required for statistical modelling, and public health research needs. In addition, we gave general recommendations on internal work processes, as well as on engagement and collaboration with other agencies and the public, in a bid to help the agency consolidate its strengths following the intense period of mobilisation associated with the pandemic.

We will continue supporting the agency with its scientific and operational programme, especially in such areas as improving emergency response capacity and strengthening data collection, analysis and interpretation performance. We will also pursue our efforts in promoting the agency’s essential research needs to assist with its work on improving health status and reducing social inequality in health in France.”



Prof. John Newton,
Chair of the Scientific
Advisory Board

Ethics and Professional Conduct Committee

Seven members were appointed on 17 March 2021 for a period of four years by decision of the Chair of the Board of Directors.

“The main role of the Ethics and Professional Conduct Committee is to respond to Santé publique France employees who require the committee’s input and feedback for assessing their projects or considering the broader issues involved. The committee also fulfills a more general role in supporting and fostering the development of an ethics-oriented culture within the agency.

In 2022, alongside dealing with cases submitted for an ethics review, committee members engaged in a series of strategic projects for the agency, such as the ‘Ethics and Public Health’ seminar, which aims

to raise awareness among agency employees of the ethical challenges in their practices. They also continued identifying and analysing the methods for carrying out ethical assessments of public health projects, programmes and activities, while providing assistance to the project group, which has started preparing a guide entitled ‘Benchmarks for ethical analysis’.

The committee will be renewed in 2024. In the upcoming year, we will pursue our ongoing activities and ensure a constructive handover of the committee to guarantee its development and long-term prospects.”



Grégory Aiguier,
Chair of the Ethics and Professional
Conduct Committee

Steering and Dialogue Committee

Nineteen members were appointed on 17 March 2021 for a four-year term (reappointment possible once) by decision of the Chair of the Board of Directors.

“The Steering and Dialogue Committee advises Santé publique France on all matters relating to consultation and dialogue with society. The topics addressed by the agency can all be defined by their significant level of complexity, which calls for a highly rigorous scientific approach. Those issues are also very sensitive, because they directly concern everyone’s health. Therefore, it is both necessary and extremely difficult to build dialogue with society, whether looking to drive home public health messages with greater effect or determining citizens’ expectations when it comes to the common good of public health. The committee keeps abreast of the agency’s activities and issues recommendations to improve social dialogue. Every year, it formulates an opinion on the agency’s programme with a focus on strengthening dialogue (seven recommendations issued in 2022). It responds to requests from Santé publique France professionals and forms working groups to explore and analyse given topics in greater detail.

For instance, a working group on the health ‘finish line’ was created in 2022 to come up with proposals for getting the agency’s public health messages across to all citizens, regardless of their level of knowledge on health issues. Several other working groups are currently being set up to address various topics, including: diet, exercise and obesity; environmental health communication with the public; health data and misinformation.

In addition, the committee has floated the idea of appointing ‘observers’ to keep tabs on the agency’s actions on the ground. Those observers can then provide public health professionals with their analysis (consolidated by the committee) of the feedback from the dialogue process during intervention situations. This proposal has garnered a certain amount of interest, especially among health and environment professionals. Finally, the committee is involved in the Ethics in Public Health seminar. The first sessions reveal a significant level of convergence between ethical issues and public health dialogue.”



Éric Vindimian,
Chair of the Steering
and Dialogue Committee

Promote participation and consultation

The health crisis brought the French people's expectations into sharper focus in terms of access to health data and democracy in healthcare. This is an opportunity for Santé publique France to share its work with local and national stakeholders in civil society, as well as with the wider population, while mobilising its resources to deploy innovative participatory tools and methods.

ENABEE: the first national study on child well-being

Data on the well-being of young children between the ages of 3 and 11 are currently unavailable or incomplete,

particularly in the aftermath of the COVID pandemic. This is why Santé publique France, supported by the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of National Education and stakeholders working with children and young people, launched ENABEE between May and June 2022. ENABEE is the first national study on the well-being of children aged between 3 and 11.

Santé publique France has involved health, education and family professionals in this project with a threefold objective: conducting the survey as effectively as possible; sharing findings and discussing recommendations that could arise from the survey; improving study processes with a view to renewing the survey at regular intervals.

For example, the process of designing the

study involved two governance bodies, the steering committee – which included a representative cross-section of civil society, particularly parents' associations and teacher representatives –, and the scientific committee, which comprised physicians and specialists in child development, epidemiologists, specialists in education and social sciences, and so on.

The conditions for carrying out the survey were subsequently developed and discussed with a consultation group made up of representatives from the fields of health, national education and the family. For the actual survey, which took place from May to June 2022, Santé publique France interviewed approximately 30,000 children (from nursery school age through to Year 6) who had been chosen at random from 600 schools in mainland France. This study will guide public authorities in implementing prevention strategies and creating environments where children can develop and thrive.



OSARIB: the observatory on the health of residents living near the planned storage facility in Bure

This unprecedented observatory, coordinated by Santé publique France and led by the regional health observatory for eastern France, was spawned by a participatory and multi-partnership approach aimed at addressing the concerns expressed by local residents living near the planned Cigéo deep storage facility for radioactive waste in Bure. OSARIB is designed to review every

aspect of the physical and psychological health of the people living both within and outside the facility's vicinity. It is based on the recommendations issued by a working group involving CLIS (Local Information and Oversight Committee), the regional health agency for eastern France, Santé publique France, IRSN (Institute for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety) and the Cigéo taskforce from the

Meuse Prefecture. This working group recommended setting up a permanent epidemiological surveillance and health intelligence system. OSARIB's results will be shared with residents, health professionals, associations, elected officials and other local interested parties. A committee has been created to act as an interface and organise participation and feedback for local stakeholders.

The inside story...

A participatory health study developed alongside local residents

Santé publique France has worked with local associations and residents living near the industrial facilities in Lacq, an area located in France's Pyrénées-Atlantiques region, in an effort to create a study that delivers the best response to the health concerns expressed by the local population*.

For 60 years, Lacq's industrial zone has been home to a major industrial complex occupied by several companies specialising in natural gas extraction activities, thiochemicals, fine chemicals and green chemicals. In 2015, the Directorate-General for Health contacted Santé publique France to assess the health impacts on the communities bordering the industrial zone and the feasibility of implementing an epidemiological surveillance system. In response, the local context and expectations were examined (report published in 2019), then two mortality and morbidity studies were performed (published in 2021). "But these traditional epidemiological tools were based on administrative medical data, so they failed to address all the concerns voiced by the local population. They were unable to take account of how residents perceived the different health problems," explains Sandrine Coquet, an epidemiology engineer at Santé publique France's regional office in Nouvelle-Aquitaine.

"That is why we decided to set up a participatory health study asking local residents directly to describe their health status and their perception of the local environment. Then we analysed the relationships between the two."

Citizen workshops

In the design and preparation phase, it was decided that the study should consider the nuisances and pollution experienced by the population located in the study area (odours, smoke, view of the industrial facilities, noise, etc.) and their potential effects (discomfort, occurrence of symptoms and health disorders, impaired health and quality of life, etc.). Five participatory workshops were organised between November 2021 and April 2022, so that residents could contribute to the survey questionnaire. This initiative provided a completely transparent way of involving the local population in producing a scientific study. "We benefitted from the knowledge and experience of the local inhabitants, and this process could encourage them to engage with the study and take part," stresses Sandrine Coquet.

The test phase took place during the first quarter of 2023 with around 100 people, and two further citizen workshops were organised in 2023 to prepare for the study's full-scale roll-out (2,000 people). In 2024, local associations and residents will again be invited to enrol in the workshops to discuss the findings and their implications.

* Study carried out with financial support from the Nouvelle-Aquitaine regional health agency as part of the Regional Health and Environment Plan.



Sandrine Coquet, epidemiologist, Santé publique France Nouvelle-Aquitaine

“Santé publique France has already taken steps to reach out to society, but this is the first time that a participatory health study has been developed with the local population's direct involvement.”

Open data for embracing new points of view

The COVID-19 crisis hammered home the importance of using a reactive, comprehensive and scalable epidemiological surveillance system, and of publishing indicators that can easily be accessed and understood by all interested parties. It also highlighted the need for large databases that can communicate with each other, as well as the need to share information with all decision-makers, professionals and the general public by routinely releasing information as open data.

“By promoting transparency, the open data model restores trust between the authorities and the public”

Interview with Yann Le Strat, Director of Data Support, Processing and Analysis at Santé publique France

What are the challenges and benefits with an open data approach?

Yann Le Strat: The open data model allows members of the public to improve their knowledge on diseases, exposure and risk factors. Providing detailed data for the areas where citizens actually live also secures greater acceptance of the different public health measures implemented. Above all, data transparency can restore trust between the public and the authorities. This is why one of the main challenges for Santé publique France is communicating on and providing access to the agency's data and health indicators. We need to make the public aware of the three tools available, i.e. the Géodes portal and the two COVID-19 tools (the data.gouv.fr website and the InfoCovidFrance dashboard), because they give a sense of authority to the indicators, as they are produced by

Santé publique France. Another challenge is education, and that explains why another priority is continually improving access to our indicators and how they are presented, as well as making sure they are easily understandable by the public.

What were the standout moments for open data in 2022? What are the priorities for 2023?

Y. L. S. : After two years that were mainly focused on tackling the COVID-19 crisis, we have gone back to working on our various indicators. We have updated some of the indicators, such as those on tobacco use, diabetes and organised screening for colorectal and breast cancer. We have also added new indicators, including those relating to the health impact of air pollution and data on the Mpox virus. In 2023, we are thinking long and hard about overhauling our open data sites with the aim of offering new data entry modes and dynamic, user-friendly dashboards.

How does the open data model tie into the strategy of greater openness to society?

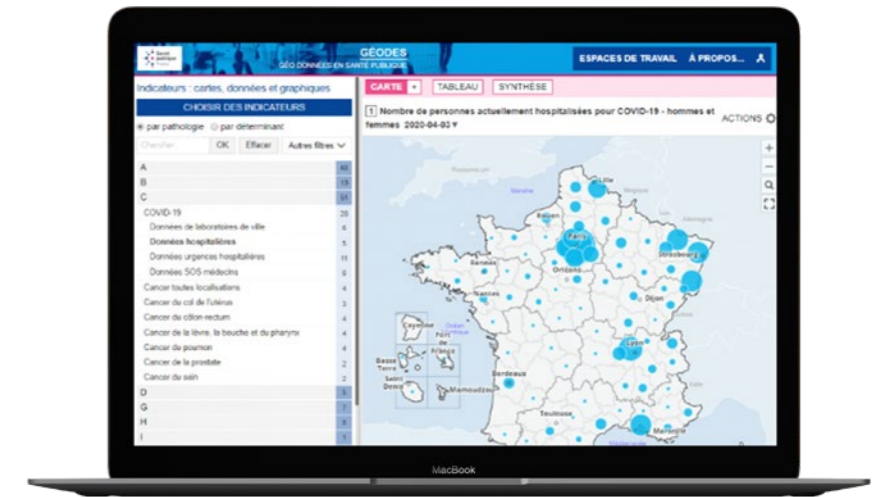
Y. L. S. : Open data deliver a perfect response to the two objectives set by the agency's Steering and Dialogue Committee, namely sharing available scientific knowledge and introducing greater transparency into our work. And as we witnessed during the COVID-19 epidemic, representatives from civil society were quick to use and transform our data into their own required formats to nurture the dialogue process. Providing data in an open format raises questions and encourages debate, while offering the means to enhance and sustain discussions using scientifically grounded data.

The Géodes platform celebrates its third anniversary

Launched in February 2019, the Géodes interactive mapping portal celebrated its third anniversary in 2022. Initially designed as a portal for public health professionals, many French people have bookmarked the site since its creation, especially to monitor trends in the COVID-19 epidemic. In 2022, nearly 2.3 million users visited the site. With close to 120 indicators relating to COVID-19, some of which were updated every day and were available for individual towns, villages and neighbourhoods, Géodes has shown that it can serve as a platform for informing the general public. Within the space of three years, the number of indicators has increased fivefold, from 200 indicators to nearly 1,000. Approximately 700 indicators relate to medical conditions, including neurological diseases, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, infectious diseases and mental health disorders (depressive and anxiety disorders). Around 300 indicators concern the determinants of

health, such as the consumption of tobacco, alcohol and antibiotics. Among these determinants, many perinatal indicators have recently been uploaded in relation to pregnancy (C-sections, preeclampsia, etc.) and new-borns

(premature birth, low birth weight, etc.). Another key development in 2022 was publishing indicators relating to the Mpox virus epidemic, night work and air pollution.



An open data agreement with France Assos Santé and the Health Data Hub

With 2.5 million items of data collected from over 5,000 people since 2020 as part of the Vivre-Covid19 study, France Assos Santé has signed a multi-party agreement with Santé publique France and the Health Data Hub. This is the first time that a group of associations has opened its data for use by a public operator. Through this agreement, France Assos Santé is looking to adopt and participate in the open science

movement, as well as sharing data and using data collectively, while respecting the rights of data subjects and ensuring the security of their data. This agreement will enable Santé publique France to fulfil one of the missions facing its Non-communicable Diseases and Trauma Division, i.e. documenting the state of health of people suffering from chronic diseases in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.



UNDER- STAND



UNDERSTAND

The work pursued by Santé publique France is based on up-to-date scientific knowledge on the health status of the wider population. The agency develops health surveillance programmes, conducts surveys and studies, and cooperates on national and international research projects. All these activities are performed closely alongside its partners and allow the agency to produce health indicators and adapt its health promotion actions accordingly, thereby contributing to the availability of reference information that can guide individual and collective decisions.

Continuous monitoring of the population's health

Several threats, including infectious diseases, continue to loom over the health of the French people. While still actively involved in tackling the COVID-19 crisis in 2022, Santé publique France monitors and also contributes to preventing sexually transmitted infections, and alerts the public to the risks of drowning.

COVID-19: continued monitoring of the epidemic and its consequences



Working in liaison with several partners, Santé publique France continually adapted its surveillance practices throughout 2022 in line with the progression of the COVID-19 epidemic, while observing its repercussions on the health, well-being and mortality of the population.

Santé publique France reports on the data generated by its surveillance activities and produces a daily epidemiological assessment. The report, which is sent to the crisis centre within the Ministry of Solidarity and Health, is used to update the InfoCovidFrance dashboard, which provides the public with key indicators for tracking the COVID-19 epidemic by region, department, gender and age group.

In 2022, the site racked up over 19,355,755 views, i.e. an average of 14,619 views per day. Every week, the regional teams produced regional risk analyses, using data from the department's authorities or local EPCI*, which were subsequently shared with the crisis centre during inter-ministerial meetings.

All daily data reports are available on the Géodes portal, and weekly indicators are presented in national and regional epidemiological updates. Data are also available in open format on the data.gouv.fr website and uploaded to the TousAntiCovid app.

Finally, Santé publique France has continually contributed its expertise across the country and in each region (via the regional offices) to its partners, including the regional health agencies, for monitoring the epidemiological indicators at different geographical scales (from national to sub-regional).

In addition, Santé publique France continues to take part in a number of studies, such as flash surveys, which are held at regular intervals to map SARS-CoV-2 variants in France. Another example is the CoviPrev survey, which has been used since 2020 to track trends in behaviour (hygiene practices, alcohol and tobacco consumption, diet and physical activity, etc.) and mental health. These surveys are designed to generate detailed information that can be used to

shape public policies as well as guide and fine-tune prevention solutions for greater effect.

To analyse the prevalence of the post-COVID-19 syndrome (also known as long COVID) and its impact on the use of healthcare services, quality of life and mental health, the agency launched the APCOVID-19 study in September 2022 among a sample group of 10,000 people. The first results will be published in 2023.

The impact on occupational health

In 2022, Santé publique France published the results of the COSET-COVID survey conducted among self-employed and agricultural workers to assess their health and employment status following the first lockdown in 2020. The findings show that the lockdown had a significant impact on their work activities, especially self-employed professionals in non-agricultural sectors. The lockdown

14,619
daily views
for the InfoCovidFrance page



period also had a major knock-on effect on their health and health behaviour, with a higher probability of developing anxiety or symptoms of depression when combined with certain occupational factors, such as unfavourable working conditions during the lockdown. After the first wave of the survey was carried out in 2020, Santé publique France launched a new wave in 2022 among the same group of respondents to assess the epidemic's impact on their employment and health status some two years after the initial lockdown. The results will be known in 2024.



Finally, in partnership with DREES (Directorate for Research, Studies, Evaluation and Statistics) and INSERM (CépiDc, Centre for Epidemiology on the Medical Causes of Death), Santé publique France published an analysis into the medical causes of death in France in

2020, which reveals that the COVID-19 epidemic was the third-greatest cause of death behind tumours and cardiovascular diseases.

* Public institution for inter-municipal cooperation.

Sexually transmitted infections, increased vigilance

On every 1 December, Santé publique France publishes surveillance data for HIV and bacterial sexually transmitted infections (STIs) to coincide with World AIDS Day. In 2021, HIV testing, which had fallen by 13% between 2019 and 2020 due to the COVID-19 epidemic, climbed again (+8% compared to 2020), but failed to return to 2019 levels. With 5,023 cases, the estimated number of new HIV diagnoses stabilised in 2021.



Santé publique France also registered an increase in screening rates for three bacterial STIs, namely chlamydia, gonorrhoea and syphilis, which exceeded the rate seen in 2019. Some of these infections, which are often asymptomatic, can lead to serious complications, such as reduced fertility, if they are not detected and treated in time. To build an effective prevention campaign, Santé publique France unveiled a national study among the general population in November 2022, called PrévIST. This study was conducted in partnership with INSERM, the National Reference Centre for Bacterial STIs and the National Reference Centre for Papillomaviruses. It will help estimate the prevalence of several bacterial STIs and human papillomaviruses, and examine the risk factors associated with those infections.

Drowning: prevention is still vital



In 2021, the 9th edition of the Drowning Accidents survey (from 1 June to 30 September) identified 1,480 accidental drownings, of which 27% resulted in death. The incident rate was higher among young people and the elderly, with 22% of accidental drownings among children under the age of 6, and 26% among people aged 65 and over. Fatalities were more common among the over 65s. Most drowning accidents can be avoided. Therefore, implementing preventive actions specifically tailored to each age group and the circumstances surrounding the accident is still high on the public health priority list.

Food alerts: a race against time



In 2022, a spate of serious food infections affected around 50 people (mainly children), resulting in two fatalities. As soon as the alert was issued, Santé publique France and its partners sprang into action to identify the cause and take measures to stop the contamination in its tracks.

Early February 2022, Santé publique France (working in partnership with the CNR⁽¹⁾ for *E. coli*) identified an unusual number of reports of children being admitted for haemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS). This serious but rare disease in children is mainly caused by an infection with *E. coli* bacterial toxins.

A five-week investigation

The alarm was raised and followed by an intense five-week epidemiological investigation conducted by Santé publique France alongside the organisations responsible for performing microbiological analyses in patients and

food (CNR and LNR⁽²⁾), carrying out food traceability surveys and implementing containment measures (MUS-DGAL⁽³⁾, UA-DGCCRF⁽⁴⁾ and DGS⁽⁵⁾).

Parents of the affected children were interviewed to determine whether exposure to the same source (environmental, food, etc.) could be tied to the infections. They also examined data from the loyalty cards used by the families when food shopping. The initial series of investigations identified several leads, such as minced beef, a fast food chain, and salads. The MUS and the UA followed up all the leads, but failed to identify a source.

After examining the parents' completed questionnaires and scrutinising the data from dozens of loyalty cards, Santé publique France made a breakthrough in early March upon identifying that the families concerned frequently bought frozen pizzas by the same brand and in the same range. Santé publique France

immediately launched a new series of investigations with the families. An analysis of the pizzas revealed that they were contaminated with the same strains of *E. coli* that had caused the infections. Measures were consequently taken on 18 March to recall and withdraw the pizzas in this range.

New knowledge

Together with extensive media coverage (radio, television, social media and written press) and over 10,000 point-of-sale inspections by the DGCCRF (Directorate-General for Competition, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control), these measures quickly brought an end to the epidemic and prevented any further cases from occurring. At least 59 people were infected during the outbreak, the vast majority of whom were children and teenagers, with 50 children contracting HUS.

Frozen raw-dough pizzas were an unexpected source for the outbreak, since the oven cooking temperature should be hot enough to eliminate any bacteria. These investigations have enabled the relevant parties to document new knowledge about this particular risk. Such information is essential for improving risk management practices for companies manufacturing raw flour-based products, and raising greater awareness among consumers.

(1) French National Reference Centre (Centre national de référence) for E. coli (Institut Pasteur, Paris) and the partner National Reference Centre for E. coli (Robert Debré University Hospital, AP-HP, Paris).

(2) National Reference Laboratory (Laboratoire national de référence) for E. coli, including STEC, VetAgro Sup.

(3) Health Emergency Task Force - Directorate-General for Food (Mission des urgences sanitaires - Direction générale de l'alimentation).

(4) Alert Task Force - Directorate General for Competition, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control (Unité d'alerte - Direction générale de la concurrence, de la consommation et de la répression des fraudes).

(5) Directorate-General for Health (Direction générale de la santé).

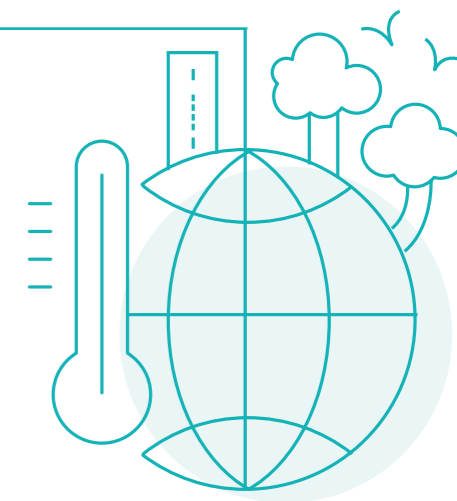
Promoting a health-friendly environment

While environmental factors are thought to account for 15% of deaths every year in Europe, Santé publique France is working to improve knowledge about these factors and their repercussions on health. Quantifying and assessing the risks associated with climate change, biodiversity loss and exposure to chemicals, and appealing for health-friendly environments, are all high on the list of public health priorities.

Would the French adapt to the climate?

Did the rate of temperature-attributable deaths change between 1970 and 2015? This is the question that the Santé publique France study entitled "Trends in the temperature-mortality relationship in France since 1970" intends to answer. This multi-centre study was conducted for 18 areas of metropolitan France from 1970 to 2015. The results were published in February 2022 and reveal a number of findings. Firstly, they suggest that the risks relating to high temperatures have fallen since the 1970s. They tend to show

that the population has acclimatised to heat, probably due to an improvement in social, economic and medical conditions. Although the risks associated with extremely hot weather have decreased, heatwaves are growing in regularity, which consequently leads to a higher impact on the mortality rate. For Santé publique France, these results underline the importance of continuing efforts to reduce the impact of high temperatures on mortality, and of taking action to mitigate climate change and avoid the worst-case scenarios.



25 years of monitoring the impacts of air pollution on health

By 2022, the Santé publique France Air and Health Surveillance Programme (PSAS) had been running for 25 years. As part of this programme, the agency monitors and characterises the short and long-term health effects of air pollution, carries out quantitative health impact assessments, and teaches local stakeholders and communities how to conduct these studies. In 2022, Santé publique France released the results (as open data) of the latest quantitative

assessment into the mortality impact of the population's long-term exposure to fine particulate matter and NO₂, on both a regional and departmental level. Every year, nearly 40,000 deaths can be attributed to the exposure of people aged 30 and above to fine particulate matter (PM2.5). Air pollution has recognised effects on health and remains one of the leading causes of death in France.



Heat in the city: providing people with better protection

Since shielding inhabitants against the adverse health effects of heatwaves mainly relies on local stakeholders and especially the authorities, Santé publique France published a report in June 2022 that offers an overview of measures for adapting to urban heat and protecting schoolchildren, the homeless and the vulnerable.

A few hundred authorities responded to the survey. One of the findings to emerge was that although registers of vulnerable people allow local services to monitor their health and social well-being or provide advice and assistance, such registers lack the necessary resources and fall short in targeting the most vulnerable groups. In some municipalities, various improvements and changes have been made to the schools, and most have procedures in place for informing about risks associated with heat and ways to keep children safe. As for homeless people, little action is taken

to provide temporary accommodation during the summer or a map of the different drinking water points. The results of the survey can be used to identify opportunities for providing the population with greater protection if a heatwave strikes. Santé publique France considers it necessary to assess and gather feedback on the relevance and operational performance of the municipalities' vulnerable people registers, to examine the prospect of updating those registers or adopting other systems, and to improve how vulnerable people are targeted and supported. There is also an apparent need for better training and coordination among those working directly with vulnerable people, schoolchildren or the homeless. Finally, the report highlights the benefits of urban development projects aimed at minimising the effects of heat, such as green city schemes, which must expand and continue.

Urban planning dedicated to health

The March 2022 issue of *La Santé en action* presents a summary of the knowledge on urban planning practices aimed at improving health in France and abroad, before examining the topic in greater detail. Around 20 researchers and field professionals, as well as WHO, took part in this issue, which is also available in English.



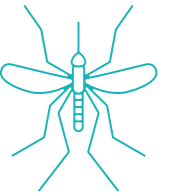
Summer 2022, a heatwave with considerable health consequences

As part of its annual surveillance scheme (1 June–15 September), implemented in line with the Heatwave and Health Alert System in close collaboration with Météo France, Santé publique France produced a report on the 2022 summer period. The summer was marked by three intense heatwaves that concerned 78% of the population in mainland France, making it the second hottest summer on record since 1900. This episode had a particularly strong effect in the departments placed on red alert and ultimately resulted in 2,816 excess deaths, including more than 2,200 excess deaths among the over-75s. Throughout the summer monitoring period, there were an estimated 10,420 excess deaths across mainland France. Part of the summer excess mortality rate

can probably be attributed to the population's exposure to high temperatures that fell short of the heatwave threshold. Finally, more than 20,000 people sought medical care, which doubled the number of visits to emergency departments and tripled the number of calls to SOS Médecins.

The areas bordering the Atlantic coast and the Occitania, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes regions were hit especially hard. Specific regional reports were published in the regions suffering from sweltering temperatures. Santé publique France stresses that a reinforced strategy is required to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change, on both a national and regional level.

Arboviruses: seasonal surveillance for improved protection



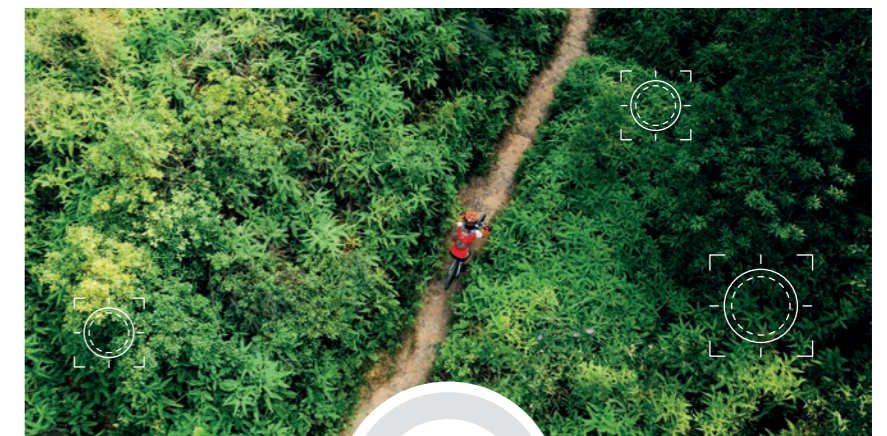
From May to December 2022, operating through its regional offices, Santé publique France once again coordinated the special annual surveillance scheme for several seasonal diseases known as "arboviruses", which include chikungunya, dengue and zika. The epidemiology of these diseases has been significantly affected by climate change and, more generally, by global changes (urban sprawl, population growth, etc.).

For example, between 1 May 2022 and 9 December 2022, there were 272 imported dengue cases, 22 imported chikungunya cases and three imported zika cases. This surveillance scheme is essential for the regional health agencies to launch their vector control operations, which aim to prevent the outbreak from spreading across the country and even developing into an epidemic. At the same time, Santé publique France reminded that arbovirus cases must be reported, while offering advice on how to avoid getting bitten by mosquitoes carrying these diseases.

2022 was marked by a surge in the number of indigenous dengue cases, with nine identified outbreaks for a total of 65 cases. These cases were spread across Occitania, the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region and Southern Corsica, and outbreaks were reported in previously unscathed departments, including Corsica, Pyrénées-Orientales, Hautes-Pyrénées and Haute-Garonne. The Alpes-Maritimes department was most affected with two episodes, one of which included

35 reported cases of dengue, representing the largest ever outbreak in Europe. In the Île-de-France region, *Aedes albopictus* (Asian tiger mosquito) formed colonies in municipalities across all eight departments in Île-de-France. Special efforts were made with the regional health agency in 2022 to educate clinicians about arboviruses and the need

to test and report identified cases. The annual arbovirus surveillance scheme relies on the obligatory declaration of cases. Every week, the agency publishes the number of cases diagnosed across the country. Specific regional updates are also published in those regions where the Asian tiger mosquito is established.



HEIGHTENED MONITORING IN FRANCE'S OVERSEAS DEPARTMENTS AND REGIONS

Due to their close proximity and exchanges with certain countries where infectious diseases are endemic, and the presence of vectors carrying some of these diseases, arbovirus epidemics are a common occurrence in France's overseas departments and regions, meaning that anticipation and coordinated efforts with the relevant stakeholders are key for dealing with outbreaks. As part of its missions, Santé publique France is actively involved in the affected regions, leading networks of local public healthcare providers (sentinel physicians, laboratories, emergency physicians, infectious disease physicians, ICU physicians and pharmacists). Dengue fever has been spreading unabated across Réunion Island since 2017. The virus circulates in endemo-epidemic fashion in the Caribbean. An upsurge in dengue cases was reported in December 2022 in Guadeloupe. The surveillance scheme established by Santé publique France is capable of detecting new cases of arbovirus in French Guiana (Oropouche and Mayaro fevers) and Mayotte (Rift Valley fever) and of analysing the risk of those viruses spreading to other areas.

272
imported cases
of dengue in 2022

65
indigenous cases
of dengue in 2022



PestiRiv: a clearer understanding of exposure to pesticides



Are people living near vineyards at greater or lower exposure to pesticides than those living far from any cropland? To find out, Santé publique France is conducting the PestiRiv study in collaboration with ANSES*. The field research for the survey was completed in 2022.

The PestiRiv study is unprecedented in more ways than one. It is the first nationwide study aimed at assessing pesticide exposure levels in people living near vineyards and those living far from any cropland. PestiRiv also breaks new ground in terms of the exposure sources taken into account and the wide range of jointly collected samples (ambient air, indoor air, dust, urine, hair, homegrown fruit and vegetables). The results of this study will help identify the sources that contribute most to exposure (air, food, domestic uses or professional activities) and thereby limit the consequences. The fieldwork phase of the PestiRiv study took place from October 2021 to September 2022, which covered the period when vines are most frequently treated as well as the period when treatment is less frequent. The challenge involves monitoring changes in potential pesticide exposure according to the season.

A total of 1,946 adults and 742 children took part in the study, which resulted in

3,484 urine samples, 1,890 hair samples, 789 dust samples and 333 indoor air samples. These samples will be analysed to measure exposure to pesticides both in the environment and the human body. Participants also answered questionnaires to provide details about their habits and lifestyles that may contribute to their exposure to pesticides. In addition, surveys were conducted to describe the agricultural activities in the study areas and the types of treatment carried out during the fieldwork phase. The study also considers the weather conditions that may influence how the products applied to the vines are dispersed. The statistical analysis process aimed at meeting the study's objectives will begin once the results of the environmental and biological measurements have been validated and once the exposure indicators have been created after examining the answers to the questionnaires and the agricultural context. Therefore, the analyses should start at the end of 2023. The study's findings are expected to be published by the end of 2024.

* French National Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety.

Major environmental health challenges in France's overseas departments and regions

France's overseas departments and regions have not been spared from environmental health issues, such as exposure to lead in every region, mercury in French Guiana, sargassum and chlordecone in the Caribbean, and access to drinking water in Mayotte. The agency is rolling out its chlordecone programme in Martinique and Guadeloupe. This programme is part of the government's anti-chlordecone plan in its health, food and environmental strategy.

It includes a new survey on residents' exposure to chlordecone and other pollutants of interest (Kannari 2): the results are expected in 2025. In terms of prevention, Santé publique France is also responsible for assessing the Jafa programmes (family gardens) as well as issuing food consumption recommendations.

800,000
hectares
dedicated to wine production in mainland France, i.e. approximately:

3%
of the total useful agricultural area of France⁽¹⁾ but close to

14%
of total expenditure on plant protection products in agriculture⁽²⁾

(1) 2010 Agricultural census and 2019 Vineyard Register.
(2) Agreste 2012.

The inside story... A French hub of stakeholders focused on improving the process for assessing chemical risks on a European scale

In keeping with the European Partnership for the Assessment of Risks from Chemicals (PARC), Santé publique France coordinates the activities of the French hub, the dialogue body that brings together all of France's interested parties.

Launched in May 2022 in France during the French Presidency of the European Union, PARC involves close to 200 scientific partners from 28 countries and EU institutions. A key objective of PARC is to develop a next-generation chemical risk assessment to protect human health and the environment, while establishing a European centre of excellence for research and innovation in this particular field. As a joint signatory of the consortium agreement and the coordinator of Work Package 4 – a working group focused on assessing exposure to chemical substances in humans and the environment, and developing innovative methods for assessing human and environmental exposure – Santé publique France is also responsible for coordinating the French hub of the PARC project. "Each country has a national hub for coordinating exchanges with all the stakeholders and helping to develop synergies with national initiatives,"

explains Clémence Fillol, Unit Manager within the Environmental and Occupational Health Division of Santé publique France.

A transdisciplinary network

With these aims in mind, Santé publique France, in collaboration with ANSES (French National Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety), launched a call to any organisations, federations, associations, manufacturers or stakeholders in public policy related to chemical risks and exposure to chemicals to express their interest and engage in this collaborative project. As a result, the hub now includes five ministries (Higher Education, Research and Innovation; Health and Prevention; Labour, Employment and Inclusion; Agriculture and Food; and Ecological Transition), 15 institutions (including Santé publique France and ANSES) and 18 external stakeholders (including EDF, Renault, France Chimie and France Nature Environnement). "The first series of discussions between members of the French hub paved the way to a policy that sets out the procedures for organising and conducting the hub's work," explains Clémence Fillol.

Two meetings have already been held, bearing in mind that three to four meetings will be staged every year with thematic workshops on topics identified by all hub members: "In particular, we will review European and French regulations on chemicals," says Clémence Fillol.



Clémence Fillol,
Head of the Exposure Surveillance team at Santé publique France

“This transdisciplinary network will enable us to define our research and innovation priorities.”

Occupational health: intelligence gathering and concerted actions

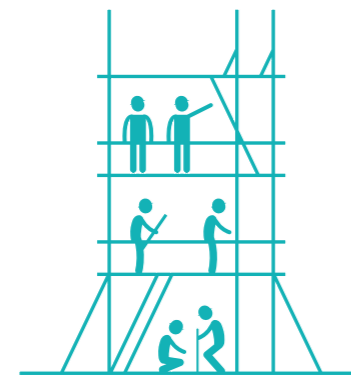
Occupational health and safety is an important focus area for Santé publique France. It forms an integral part of the agency's "Environmental health, climate change and work environment" programme. This vast programme takes a cross-cutting and overarching approach to the risks relating to climate change and the impacts caused by chemicals, as well as different approaches for each type of living environment (such as work environments, urban environments and agricultural environments).

The aims of Santé publique France's work:

- Help improve knowledge of occupational risks (monitor and identify the occupational determinants of health) for better prevention.
- Develop surveillance systems to establish indicators relating to workers' health by targeting sectors of interest.
- Develop general surveillance systems in conjunction with the Directorate-General for Labour, such as the occupational diseases system, which uses data from prevention and occupational health services, or targeted surveillance on diseases with a known significant burden, including respiratory diseases, cancer, musculoskeletal disorders and psychosocial risks.
- Manage two cohorts of workers affiliated with the MSA scheme (agricultural social security fund) and self-employed professionals, each comprising 40,000 individuals, for the purpose of monitoring their health.
- Developing actions to promote public health in the workplace.

Santé publique France, the Directorate-General for Health and the Directorate-General for Labour are collaborating on a long-term

work programme, which defines the priorities for monitoring and tracking workers' health with the global objective of preventing occupational risks, improving working conditions, and protecting and promoting health in the workplace. The agency is also in close contact with CNAM (French National Health Insurance Fund), INRS, MSA and the French Society of Occupational Health.



Surveillance of occupational diseases

In 2004, Santé publique France implemented a surveillance system for occupational diseases in partnership with the occupational health inspectorate and the regional health observatories in the participating regions.

In each region, a network of voluntary occupational physicians and their teams report all occupational diseases identified during medical examinations over a period of two consecutive weeks, twice a year, known as the "Occupational Disease Fortnights". New data were published in 2022, which helped paint a clearer picture of occupational diseases across the country. That information can be used to guide and fine-tune prevention policies on a national and regional level. For example, musculoskeletal disorders and psychological distress are the two conditions most commonly reported as occupational diseases. All the results are published on the agency's website.



MSDs under the microscope

Santé publique France specifically monitors musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) caused or aggravated by work, which can sometimes lead to daily pain. The objective is to gain a clearer understanding of these disorders, which represent the leading cause of compensated occupational illnesses (86% of all occupational illnesses recognised by the general social security system in 2021), and improve prevention practices.

In 2022, the agency published two major studies carried out alongside the Ester team from the University of Angers – INSERM-IRSET. The first study focuses on the trends in MSD risk factors among construction workers and public works employees between 2010 and 2017 (Sumer study). The study's findings encourage efforts to be directed towards the sectors with the greatest need for prevention, particularly the highway and railway engineering industry (construction of roads, motorways, bridges and tunnels) and the floor and wall coverings sector, as well as small construction firms.

The second study takes an in-depth look

at MSDs in the human health and social work sector. The results of this study encourage occupational prevention officers to concentrate their efforts on limiting the impact of biomechanical constraints, especially for employees working in such sub-sectors as social housing for the elderly or physically disabled, and nursing homes. As for preventing psychosocial risks, priority should be given to the nursing home and residential care sub-sectors, as well as specialist physicians and hospital workers.

MSDs represent **86%** of occupational diseases recognised by the general social security system in 2021

An expert committee on environmental and occupational health



In 2021, Santé publique France was determined to create a committee of scientific experts from a broad array of backgrounds to support the agency in delivering its public health measures to address environmental and occupational health issues. Due to the level of scientific uncertainty surrounding these particular issues and growing expectations among stakeholders and citizens, the agency was looking to enrich its recommendations with insights from independent and top-tier scientific experts from all relevant disciplines. The committee is tasked with producing interpretations, opinions and recommendations for protecting the health of people exposed to harmful environmental or occupational conditions. The committee complies with the Health Assessment Charter, which sets out the principles for impartiality, transparency, diversity and the adversarial principle as defined in Article L. 1452-1 of the French Public Health Code. Work was carried out early 2022 to define the committee's roadmap, and the call for applications was published in the summer of 2022. The 15-strong committee has since been formed and starts work in 2023.

Promoting workplace health

To encourage and empower employers to put greater focus on their employees' health, Santé publique France launched the "Employers for Health" platform in May 2022 (see p. 53). The platform is designed to address all themes relating to addictions and all health promotion and illness prevention topics (diet, physical activity, mental health, etc.). To coincide with the 36th National Conference on Occupational Medicine and Health held in Strasbourg in June 2022, the agency led a conference on building health-friendly environments, as well as a workshop on the approach to promoting workplace health.

Perinatal health: two major studies

Because the first 1,000 days of a child's life (from pregnancy to the age of two) play such a fundamental role in the health of the adult that they will become, Santé publique France carries out various studies to further knowledge on this particular subject. The agency also supports mother and child care services working to improve everyday life for families.



15,000 mothers completed the 2021 national perinatal survey

Santé publique France took part in the 6th edition (2021) of the national perinatal survey led by INSERM and jointly coordinated by the Directorate-General for Health, the Directorate-General for Healthcare Provision and the Directorate for Research, Studies, Evaluation and Statistics. The survey has been carried out every five years over the last 30 years and offers a reliable source of up-to-date information for perinatal professionals. It also helps with guiding prevention policies and assessing medical practices. Testimonials were collected from around 15,000 women (including more than 3,000 in France's overseas departments and regions) just after giving birth in the maternity ward and then two months after giving birth. Women were asked about their health and their child's health, as well as about their socio-demographic profile, the conditions surrounding childbirth, their return home, and so on. Several indicators reveal an improvement in women's health and preventive healthcare measures during pregnancy, although progress still needs to be made in certain areas (preventing neural tube defects by taking folic acid, advice on limiting the transmission of cytomegalovirus, etc.).

Unprecedented data have also been obtained on women's mental health. For example, there was a rise in the number of women who consulted a health professional due to psychological difficulties during their pregnancy (8.9% in 2021 compared to 6.4% in 2016). The data also reveal that 16.7% of women suffer from postpartum depression,

although there is no way to determine whether this is linked to the mental health decline in the general population caused by the pandemic. The 2021 national perinatal survey was

also rolled out in France's overseas departments and territories with a helping hand from the regional health agencies. The data were analysed in 2022, and the results will be published in 2023.

Perinatal health in France: a picture of social and regional inequality

The surveillance report published in 2022 on perinatal health in France contains a set of key indicators on perinatal epidemiology. Based on a multi-source analysis, it provides an unprecedented description of perinatal health for the period from 2010 to 2019 (2014 to 2019 for Mayotte). Although the indicators tend to show a high and stable level of care in France, the detailed analysis carried out by Santé publique France reveals mixed results when it comes to perinatal health in France, especially in France's overseas departments and

regions, where the indicators are generally less favourable than those for mainland France. Showing that the different regions are subject to such major inequalities will help guide public policies, especially as part of the strategy for the first 1,000 days. This report calls for action to step up preventive perinatal healthcare and promote perinatal health with the aim of delivering better support to mothers and families throughout pregnancy, while improving access to rights and care, especially in certain regions.

SUPPORTING MOTHER AND CHILD CARE SERVICES

In addition to its active involvement in studies and actions for promoting perinatal health, Santé publique France supported and drew attention to the evidence-based interventions carried out within the mother and child care services by organising a dedicated national seminar on 24 November 2022. The seminar was attended by the local early-childhood professionals who had rolled out the PANJO programme (promoting health and attachment of new-borns and their young parents) with the goal of strengthening mother and child care services. Santé publique France also took part in the documentary produced by Rebecca Fitoussi, entitled "Maternity: the great leap", which emphasises the key role that mother and child care services play in promoting perinatal health.

Advancing in age, in continued good health



At the end of November 2022, Santé publique France published a report on the health issues associated with ageing. It provides a summary of the available knowledge, especially on the development of chronic diseases, so that action can be taken to address the factors that are conducive to healthy ageing.

Although France boasts one of the highest life expectancy rates in Europe, it only reaches 11th place in the disability-free life expectancy rankings. The report by Santé publique France also points out that population ageing alone will inflate the frequency of various chronic diseases.

Worrying health patterns among 40 to 64-year-olds

In the 40–64 age bracket in France, many indicators relating to the occurrence of chronic diseases and disabilities in later

life paint a worrying picture. 25% of French people aged between 45 and 54 suffer from hypertension, and management of high blood pressure has deteriorated, especially in women. Furthermore, 10% of 40 to 54-year-olds have prediabetes. Several types of high-risk behaviour have been reported in this category of the population, with 20% exceeding safe alcohol limits, 25 to 30% smoking daily and 30 to 50% failing to engage in sufficient physical exercise. The occurrence of disabilities in later life is especially pronounced in people in lower socio-economic categories.

Early action for healthy ageing

This trend in the prevalence of mid-life risk factors may be alarming, but the results of observational studies show how a combination of protective health behaviours can have a beneficial effect on ageing. The findings serve as a strong



incentive to implement an effective preventive health policy well before people reach the later stages of life. It needs to provide a number of holistic preventive health actions that are capable of addressing several different factors for all sections of the public, starting at the age of 40 and continuing throughout the rest of their lives.

Breast, cervical and colorectal cancer, screening is still lagging behind

Because cancer is the leading cause of death in men and the second cause of death in women in France, it represents a major burden. As such, the agency is coordinating epidemiological surveillance activities with Francim (French Network of Cancer Registries), the National Cancer Institute and Hospices Civils de Lyon, while promoting prevention.

As part of its missions, Santé publique France evaluates the country's screening programme organised on a national, regional and departmental level. Early detection is key to reducing the number of deaths caused by breast, cervical and colorectal cancer. Even though screening coverage for these types of cancer is rising, the rate remains far below the level recommended by the European Union (EU).

For instance, 35% of the population were screened for colorectal cancer in 2020–2021, which is up 4.5 points on 2018–2019, but that rate should reach 45% according to the EU's guidelines. Just over half of the women involved were screened for breast cancer, and 59% were tested for cervical cancer.



Diabetes: initial results of the Entred 3 study

In the third edition of the Entred study that was launched in 2019 among 13,000 people with diabetes in mainland France and France's overseas departments and regions, Santé publique France offers a wealth of indicators on the frequency, severity and development of diabetes in France. The initial results of this third edition provide more accurate data on patients with type 1 diabetes (T1D). On average, people with T1D are aged 47, where 57% are men and 55.6% have been diagnosed with diabetes for more than 20 years. Their socio-economic category is higher than that for people with type 2 diabetes.



ACT

Through its evidence-based prevention actions and its efforts to gain an in-depth understanding of each person's values and constraints, Santé publique France strives to bring about positive change in the French people's behaviour towards health, just like it supports the healthcare system through the Healthcare Reserve emergency workforce and helps manage strategic stocks of healthcare products. Its role as a public health agency is to provide the knowledge and tools that each individual and society as a whole can use to take action for improved health.

Winter epidemics: heightened prevention



The end of 2022 was hit by a surge in three viruses, namely COVID-19, influenza and bronchiolitis. This unusual epidemiological situation has prompted action to reinforce the corresponding surveillance and prevention systems.

While winters are typically a hotbed for various respiratory viruses, the end of 2022 saw a triple epidemic of COVID-19, influenza and bronchiolitis. True to its mission of ensuring surveillance, promoting vigilance and issuing alerts during seasonal epidemics, Santé publique France once again analysed the surveillance data on winter viruses collected from its partner networks. Surveillance activities began in October 2022 and ended mid-April 2023 in mainland France. In particular, these activities allowed the agency to detect the start of these epidemics early and thereby anticipate, monitor and estimate their impact on the community and healthcare facilities in conjunction with the regional health agencies. The data were analysed and then published every week in national epidemiological bulletins and regional epidemiological updates.

After two years with a low incidence rate, invasive meningococcal infections surged late 2022 and peaked in December 2022, which was earlier than the seasonal peak



usually seen at the beginning of the year. Several hyperendemic situations in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and an epidemic in the Grand-Est region were detected, requiring local vaccination campaigns.

Inform all sections of society

In addition to processing and disseminating these data, Santé publique France strengthened its information and prevention system. To raise awareness among the general public, especially vulnerable groups and parents of young children, of the simple actions that can help reduce the risk of infection, the agency distributed several brochures that took account of the different constraints and levels of health literacy among the population, such as "Your child and bronchiolitis" and "The easy-read guide to understanding the flu". Santé publique France has also designed several tools for healthcare professionals, such as the "Winter illnesses" poster that was translated into several languages, and the brochure entitled "Vaccination against rotavirus – Practice guidelines".



INFLUENZA: INSUFFICIENT VACCINE COVERAGE

Vaccination remains the best line of defence against serious forms of influenza. On 28 February 2022, it was estimated that only 52.6%* of people at risk had been vaccinated against influenza in France. Among the 65+ age group, the vaccination coverage rate climbs to 56.8%, but only reaches 34.3% among the under-65s at risk of severe influenza. These data show that the vaccination coverage rate is higher than the estimated figure for the 2019–2020 season, but lower than the estimated figure for the 2020–2021 season (55.8%, with 59.9% among the over-65s and 38.7% among the under-65s at risk of severe influenza). The level of vaccination coverage against influenza is still too low in France and is far from the 75% coverage target advocated by WHO for people at risk.

* Source: Inter-scheme consumption data mart, a database derived from the SNDS National Health Data System.

Monkeypox: a specific system to contain the epidemic

In early May 2022, cases of monkeypox (Mpox) started being reported in Europe and around the world. In France, infections with these viruses are constantly monitored as part of the mandatory reporting system. In response to the alerts issued by the European authorities, Santé publique France stepped up its virus surveillance measures. Information and prevention messages were sent to healthcare professionals and the most affected populations, who were targeted via digital media and by communication materials in social/festive venues.

Monkeypox, also known as "Mpox" and "MPV", is a disease caused by a virus that is most often transmitted to humans by rodents in the forest areas of Central and West Africa, and then from human to human through close contact. Since May 2022, cases have been diagnosed in Europe involving people that have not been to Africa.

A notifiable disease

With the objective of better describing and preventing the spread of the disease in France, Santé publique France has updated the list of notifiable orthopoxviruses. The surveillance system relies on doctors and biologists (private and hospital physicians) sending the relevant data to the public health inspectors and their employees in the regional health agencies, and subsequently to the epidemiologists at Santé publique France. This information is essential for implementing case investigations and better describing the modes of transmission with the aim of proposing preventive measures tailored to the populations at greatest risk.

Monitor, but also inform and prevent...

In addition to disseminating information messages and issuing alerts to



healthcare professionals, as soon as the epidemic struck, Santé publique France was able to quickly and effectively send information to the populations most exposed to the virus using its "Sexosafe" scheme targeting MSM (men who have sex with men). Santé publique France provides content on the sexosafe.fr website that is openly available to everyone for understanding the disease, recognising its symptoms and learning how to prevent it. Information on how to identify the symptoms and screen for the disease was promoted late May 2022 by running a digital campaign (on social media, community websites and dating apps) and a poster campaign, as well as handing out posters, flyers and advice

sheets on the ground (social venues frequently visited by MSM and pride parades). In an effort to encourage people to get vaccinated, a further campaign was carried out on the radio, social media and on the ground in response to advice on preventive vaccinations issued by the French National Health Authority (Haute Autorité de santé).

Since July 2022, the agency has also been subsidising a hotline service to answer questions about monkeypox. The "Monkeypox info service" helpline is run by SIS Association and can be contacted using the toll-free number (0801 90 80 69).

...and make vaccines available

The Pharmaceutical Establishment also played a decisive role in managing the monkeypox outbreak by distributing vaccines (JYNNEOS and IMVANEX) to healthcare facilities and walk-in vaccination centres as soon as the first cases started appearing in May 2022. Vaccines are still distributed, but in lower numbers. The Pharmaceutical Establishment was also one of the first in Europe to import a curative treatment for positive cases of smallpox (TPOXX). 180,000 vaccines (since Q2 2022) and 200 curative treatments have been distributed.

Other infectious disease alerts: active surveillance

In addition to monkeypox, other infectious diseases were specifically monitored during 2022. Following a report from the UK authorities in April 2022, a specific reporting system was set up in France for potential cases of acute hepatitis in children until 1 October 2022. Mid-November, paediatricians in clinics and ICU wards also notified Santé publique France and the regional health agencies of a higher-than-normal number of

paediatric cases involving streptococcal infections (invasive group A), mainly in children under the age of 10. Some cases proved to be fatal. Santé publique France responded by setting up an active surveillance process to reinforce the existing system, provide a more in-depth epidemiological assessment of the situation and characterise the severe forms requiring intensive care treatment.

Two essential public actions to tackle health emergencies

Anticipation is one of the most important keywords when it comes to public health action. The agency needs to prepare for and therefore anticipate an adequate and swift response, whether faced with a simple health emergency or an unprecedented situation. To achieve these aims, Santé publique France relies on its Alerts & Crisis Division, which coordinates the agency's response to such emergencies and manages the State's strategic stock of healthcare products and the workforce of healthcare reservists.



Healthcare Reserve

The Healthcare Reserve of Santé publique France is a community of voluntary healthcare professionals (doctors, caregivers, lab technicians, radiology technicians, etc.) that can be called on by the State to respond to exceptional health situations. Requests are submitted by the regional health agencies, which assess needs together with healthcare facilities. Once the Ministry of Health has given the green

light, the Healthcare Reserve issues the alert and organises the teams. To meet the needs of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, a partnership agreement was signed in December 2022 to set up an international task force within the Healthcare Reserve.



The Healthcare Reserve in figures (2022):

66,423
registered reservists
and 1,568 reservists called into action

151
alerts issued

3,217
mobilisations

44,397
person-days

Pharmaceutical Establishment

Provision for a Pharmaceutical Establishment to protect the population against serious health threats is stipulated in France's Public Health Code. The Pharmaceutical Establishment is vested with a national mission under the supervision of the Ministry of Health. It manages the State's "strategic stocks" with the purpose of defending the population against serious health threats. It purchases and maintains a strategic and readily available stock of health products that may be needed by the population in the event of an exceptional health

situation. It is responsible for ensuring that those products are available at all times, whatever the circumstances. As part of preparing the emergency response systems, the team responsible for coordinating the Pharmaceutical Establishment is actively involved in developing the crisis response plans, including ORSEC (civil security response organisation plan), NRBC (nuclear, radiological, biological and chemical plan) and ORSAN (organisation of the health system response in exceptional health situations).



The Ministry for Foreign Affairs may call on the Pharmaceutical Establishment to provide assistance during international humanitarian operations. Ties were strengthened within an agreement signed in December 2022.

Ground-level action for the overseas territories

Santé publique France's remit involves rolling out all actions implemented in mainland France in the overseas territories as well, whether in terms of monitoring, improving knowledge, evaluating and guiding public policies, or deploying preventive actions. Santé publique France's overseas teams provide support to local decision-makers by coordinating, analysing and interpreting surveillance data, participating in locally organised crisis meetings, and providing regular feedback through various media.

Bespoke surveys reflecting the local situation



The main surveys performed in mainland France, such as the national perinatal survey, the Entred survey on diabetes and the Albane survey on health, biomonitoring, food and nutrition, are often subsequently carried out in France's overseas territories after they have been adapted to the local populations. This also applies to the Health Barometer, which was carried out in Saint-Pierre and Miquelon for the first time in 2020 and adapted to Mayotte according to a plan tailored to the local communities and supplemented with biological samples. For example, the "Unono wa Maore" study launched in 2018 is the first of its kind in Mayotte to create a snapshot of the health of Mayotte's general population while estimating the vaccination coverage rate for children under the age of two. The results were published in May 2022 and provide particular insight into the prevalence of certain chronic diseases in Mayotte. The key findings include a very high prevalence of diabetes (particularly in women), a high prevalence of high blood pressure (even in young people), and a

combination of overweight, obesity and malnutrition among the population. For the first time in Mayotte, this study helped gauge the degree of food insecurity, which affects nearly one in two people over the age of 15. In addition, the prevalence rate of the hepatitis B antigen is ten times higher than in mainland France, and a high proportion 15 to 29-year-olds are not immunised, meaning that hepatitis B must be a public health priority in Mayotte. Similarly, the results of Santé publique France's first Health Barometer in Saint Pierre and Miquelon in 2020, which was eagerly anticipated by the local population, were published in November 2022. This survey allowed the agency to obtain information that had never been collected before. In particular, it revealed that the prevalence rate of smoking, alcoholism, mental health problems and diabetes is much higher than in mainland France. The published results will be an effective tool for helping define public health policies at the local level.

Mayotte: vaccine catch-up campaign



The Healthcare Reserve is taking part in preparing a large-scale vaccine catch-up campaign in schools across Mayotte. In November 2022, a trial was carried out involving nine healthcare reservists deployed in one secondary school and two primary schools. Following the trial, the reservists produced a report to organise the campaign's roll-out in 2023. A guide has been drafted for participating professionals, which offers a detailed description of the care pathway for schoolchildren. Over 1,000 students have already been vaccinated through this initial mission.

Chlordecone: update on the latest scientific progress

Santé publique France took part in the "Chlordecone Meetings 2022" event that was organised as part of the fourth Chlordecone Plan by the prefects, the regional health agencies in Guadeloupe and Martinique, the CPSN (National Scientific Advisory Board) and CLoReCA (Local Coordination for Research into Chlordecone in the Caribbean). The event included a symposium entitled "Chlordecone, knowledge for action" that reviewed the latest scientific advances and their on-the-ground applications. Chlordecone was extensively used as an insecticide from 1973 to 1993. The compound permanently contaminated soil and water, and still affects crops and livestock farming today. Santé publique France relies on its teams and biomonitoring experts to liaise with the regional health agencies, ANSES and INSERM in conducting studies to identify high-risk populations, pinpoint sources of exposure and support prevention policies that tackle this complex issue. In 2023, the agency is launching the Kannari 2 survey, whose results will pave the way for a number of recommendations on how to limit the sources of exposure.

Antibiotics: a new campaign for appropriate use

Even though antibiotic consumption has been falling steadily in cities over the past ten years, France is still the fourth largest consumer of antibiotics in Europe behind Greece, Romania and Bulgaria. This situation prompted Santé publique France to launch a new campaign in 2022 to raise awareness among the general public and healthcare professionals alike.

After antibiotic prescriptions plummeted in 2020 following the series of measures aimed at managing the COVID-19 epidemic, 2021 saw a rise in common winter infections, medical consultations and antibiotic prescriptions, especially during the last quarter (see box). High levels of use can lead to antibiotic resistance in bacteria, with the risk of treatment becoming ineffective. At the same time, these drugs are still plagued by a number of misconceptions. While antibiotics only work on bacteria, 77% of French people believe that they are effective against acute bronchitis, over 65% for bronchiolitis, 55% for viral colds and 53% for flu, all of which are viral.

“The right way for effective antibiotic treatment”

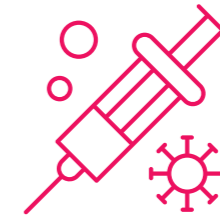
As part of the 2022–2025 national strategy to prevent infections and antimicrobial resistance in human health, Santé publique France partnered with Assurance Maladie to launch a campaign in September 2022 called “The right way for effective antibiotic treatment”. Two films pointed out that antibiotics are only effective against bacterial infections and should only be taken on medical advice. The message was disseminated through posters displayed in the waiting rooms of healthcare professionals, radio ads and influencers’ social media posts.



ANTIBIOTIC CONSUMPTION: STAY ALERT

Every year to coincide with European Antibiotic Awareness Day on 18 November and Global Antimicrobial Awareness Week on 18–24 November, Santé publique France and its partners publish annual data on antibiotic use and antimicrobial resistance in human, animal and environmental health in France, as well as action areas for the future as part of a “One Health” strategy. This summary revealed that antibiotic consumption and antibiotic resistance are improving in relation to 2019, although some areas still need watching closely. For example, in 2021, there were 704.6 prescriptions per 1,000 inhabitants, i.e. an increase of 6% compared to 2020, but still below 2019 levels. The most significant change in prescriptions has been observed in children between the ages of 0 and 4, where the number of prescriptions returned to 2019 levels, i.e. before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Removing barriers to COVID-19 vaccinations



To promote access to vaccinations for people living in precarious conditions, Santé publique France set up an initiative to mobilise and share knowledge, called MobCo. The PréVac study was carried out in direct relation to this initiative, and its findings helped estimate these people’s access to the primary vaccination course while identifying the associated factors.

Difficulty in accessing health services, fear of side effects that would make life on the street even harder, language barriers, lack of appropriate information and fear of being identified and deported are just some of the obstacles preventing people living in precarious situations from getting vaccinated, even though they are the most exposed to COVID-19.

To define the appropriate strategies and course of action, Santé publique France set up a process for mobilising and sharing knowledge (MobCo). It involved more than 120 researchers, field workers and decision-makers, and helped determine which strategies should be deployed. These strategies need to promote a vaccination pathway that is capable of “bringing in” these groups and “reaching out” to them in their home territory. In particular, they must harness the relationships of trust between the field workers and the populations concerned (see box).

Accommodation, a strategic determinant of health

This programme for mobilising knowledge culminated in a partnership with Epicentre/MSF to design the PréVac study, which helped the interested parties estimate the level of access to primary vaccination and identify the associated factors. PréVac is the first study of its kind in Europe: 3,800 people living on the streets, in squats or slums, in accommodation centres or workers’



hostels in Paris and Marseille were interviewed. The results highlight the critical role played by accommodation: the primary vaccination rate was twice as high among people living in workers’ hostels, accommodation centres and hotels for asylum seekers as among those living at permanent sites for travellers, slums, squats or on the street. The PréVac study also highlighted the need to combine both vaccination strategies, i.e. “Bring in” and “Reach out”. Although 54.9% of vaccinations were administered in walk-in vaccination centres, nearly 20% of people were vaccinated through the more specific “Reach out” schemes. This initiative has tripled the likelihood of administering the vaccine to travellers, people living on the street, or those who recently arrived in France.

Putting the approach into action

To facilitate discussion about COVID-19 vaccination with people living in precarious conditions, Santé publique France rolled out a set of educational resources as part of the MobCo scheme (including a newsletter). These resources have been developed as a series of questions and answers with the goal of fulfilling the knowledge needs of social workers, healthcare mediators, healthcare professionals and front-line volunteers dealing with the most vulnerable people. This jointly designed system is updated every month to reflect feedback from field workers and the latest knowledge.

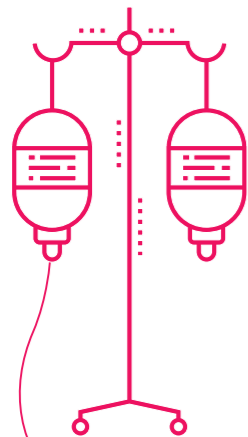
Bilingual healthcare booklets for Ukrainian refugees



In its advisory of 23 March 2022, the French High Council for Public Health emphasised the care that must be taken for providing treatment to Ukrainian refugees and maintaining their rights, as well as the importance of arranging a “health appointment” within 4 months of arrival in the country. In April 2022, Santé publique France provided several healthcare booklets for refugees. Available in both Ukrainian and Russian, these guides contain general information about the French health system, how to access care and exercise their rights, as well as information about prevention

and various health conditions. Amidst the COVID-19 epidemic, several theme-based booklets focused on preventive measures, providing information on the tests and vaccinations available in France to adults and children. These media are used to foster dialogue with refugees living in precarious conditions and provide them with accessible and practical information. They improve mutual understanding during the discussions that refugees may have with doctors, social workers or any other consulted health professionals.

Blood donation: changes to the eligibility criteria



In January 2022, the Ministry of Solidarity and Health announced that changes had been made to the eligibility criteria for donating blood, including the decision to remove the abstinence requirement for MSM donors as from 16 March 2022. France became one of the first countries in the world to eliminate any notion of sexual orientation in the selection criteria for blood donors, while maintaining extremely high levels of transfusion safety.

The epidemiological surveillance activities coordinated by Santé publique France can be used to estimate the prevalence and incidence rates of blood-borne infections (HIV, hepatitis B and C, HTLV and syphilis) and the risk of donations being infected. To coincide with World Blood Donor Day in June 2022, the agency published an update to its surveillance data for the period 2019–2021. Overall, some 8.5 million donations were collected, and the rate of infected donations decreased between 1992–94 and 2019–21. The reasons for this trend include a reinforced selection process for blood donors, improved screening tests, changes in the epidemiology of these infections and greater knowledge among infected people of their own status. Epidemiological surveillance will help measure the impact of subjecting MSM to the same eligibility criteria as other donors (no more than one partner in the 4 months preceding the donation).



The inside story...

Health mediation for traveller communities

Santé publique France collaborated with social centres working with travellers in Charente to document cases of lead poisoning in children and identify the associated risk factors.

Everything began in 2015 when a case of lead poisoning was discovered among traveller children in Charente. This case alerted the associations working with these groups and the Nouvelle-Aquitaine regional health agency, which launched a study between 2017 and 2019. The aim was to identify and describe the cases of lead poisoning and identify the risk factors for exposure to lead. Consequently, Santé publique France was asked to get involved. The agency developed the study methodology in collaboration with the regional health agency and two social centres in Charente (one in Angoulême and the other in the rural area of Confolens). In addition to answering a face-to-face questionnaire, the individuals (adults and children) participating in the survey gave a blood sample, including

a test to measure their blood lead levels. The regional health agency also carried out environmental surveys of their living areas, complete with water, soil and dust analyses. “Several obstacles had to be overcome when conducting what was both a qualitative and quantitative survey,” explains Lisbeth Spanjers from the Le Chemin du Hérisson social centre. “Firstly, respondents were mistrustful and worried about being stigmatised due to questions concerning their lifestyles, but also fearful of seeing their children taken away if lead poisoning was discovered during the blood tests.” To gain their trust, the work carried out with the associations on the ground was decisive. Involving someone who represented the medical authority also lent a greater sense of credibility to the initiative.



Prevention actions with the families
The analyses performed by Santé publique France showed that 100 children aged between 24 months and 17 years had lead in their blood, and that 40 of those children had a blood lead level above the intervention threshold of 50 µg/L. Children who were directly involved in such activities as scrapping cars, burning materials or handling scrap metal were most at risk. Following these results, preventive actions were implemented. Solutions need to be found with the families through discussions that can lead to greater awareness. This initiative shows the importance of strengthening schemes to detect lead poisoning in all traveller communities and will be implemented across the country by Fnasat - *Gens du voyage* (federation of traveller outreach associations).

“Treatment from general practitioners is an important factor. Publishing a scientific study in the weekly epidemiological bulletin can engage them with the issue.”

Lisbeth Spanjers,
Le Chemin du Hérisson social centre

Changing behaviour for better health

Educating the general public about the risk factors that are likely to affect their health is a priority, so Santé publique France conducted several major prevention campaigns in 2022. These evidence-based campaigns involved a whole array of tools and techniques, including digital tools and fieldwork wherever applicable.

Mental health: encourage dialogue and develop long-term communication

From 10 January to 13 June 2022, Santé publique France disseminated the second part of its #TalkToSomeone (#JenParleA) campaign for teenagers.

The campaign encouraged them to open up about their mental health problems (feeling stressed, anxious, angry, sad or depressed) and speak to someone that they could trust, or a professional by calling the Fil Santé Jeunes helpline.

The campaign was based on four videos containing “#TalkToSomeone Stories” and a 15-second “Challenge This or That” video streamed on social media (Snapchat and TikTok), five “Vox pop” videos published by PureBreak (Webedia Group) and a major poster campaign targeting the areas where teenagers live and socialise in mainland France and France’s overseas departments and regions. Six different posters were shown at 30,599 distribution points: 11,015 schools (secondary schools, general colleges and vocational colleges), 16,885 sports centres (clubs and associations) and 3,578 city youth centres (CIDJ and MJC). Posters could also be ordered from the Santé publique France website.

Finally, while implementing the measures advocated by the symposium on mental health and psychiatry, which was held in September 2021, Santé publique France drafted its first functional communication programme in 2022 to cover the 2023–2027 period and launched its first public procurement contract to recruit a communication agency specialising in mental health.

#TalkToSomeone campaign Part 2

#TalkToSomeone Stories

Challenge This or That

Vox pop videos

Posters

Tackling the lack of physical exercise: challenging teens (and their parents)!

“Getting teens moving is easier said than done. But encouraging them is so important”. This was the message that was disseminated at the start of the 2022–2023 school year with a campaign designed by Santé publique France, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Prevention, the Ministry of Sports and the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and the Paris 2024 organising committee. The objective was to promote physical activity and prevent young people from leading overly sedentary lifestyles. Physical activity can help ward off many types of chronic diseases (cardiovascular diseases, cancer, overweight, etc.), so it should be encouraged among young people who tend to abandon exercise when they reach secondary school age. To tackle this issue, Santé publique France rolled out an awareness campaign featuring a number of highlights. The first part of the campaign sought to encourage parents to get teenagers more active on a daily basis through a film broadcast on television, the web and in cinemas, as well as a test to help them assess their teenage

children’s level of activity and a dedicated web page on the manger-bouger.fr website containing tips and advice. The second part of this campaign was aimed directly at teenagers. Every day on the @EnModeDeter Snapchat account, teens could check out a fun physical activity challenge that they could try alone or with friends. Every week, a popular teen celebrity also launched the “challenge of the week” on Snapchat and TikTok, a fun way of encouraging young people to push their boundaries.

Only **50.7%** of boys and **33.3%** of girls do at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity per day, as recommended by WHO.

Source: Étude de santé sur l’environnement, la biosurveillance, l’activité physique et la nutrition (Esteban 2014-2016), February 2020.



Excerpt from the film released in September 2022.

Recommendations on mangerbouger.fr

The website offers examples and tips for engaging in physical activity, and a personalised menu generator (the “Menu Factory”). A dedicated space is also available to professionals.

Identify and list effective prevention actions

When it comes to preventive healthcare, Santé publique France is committed to building a tool that provides a list of all the effective or promising interventions. An evaluation committee has been set up to support this certification process based on internationally shared scientific criteria. Interventions are classed by level of evidence. The “Register” of evidence-based interventions is on its way.

Developing psychosocial skills

Developing psychosocial skills as way of improving health has been studied by the scientific community and is recommended in many of INSERM’s collective assessments. An interministerial instruction published on 19 August 2022 presents the national multi-sector strategy on psychosocial skills in children and young people. The instruction is primarily focused on defining a framework for the next 15 years that can be shared by every sector, including the various steps and resources that need mobilising, so that the generation of 2037 can grow in an environment that continually supports the development of psychosocial skills. Santé publique France is highly involved in this process. A reference framework was published in February 2022, as well as a review of the latest scientific and theoretical knowledge in October 2022.

Helping the most vulnerable to quit smoking



Whereas the number of daily smokers stagnated at around 12 million between 2019 and 2020 in France, the percentage of smokers among the third of the population with the lowest incomes climbed over this period. That is why Santé publique France, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and the National Health Insurance scheme, conducted a campaign from 14 February to 13 March 2022 to urge people to kick the habit, especially those in the most vulnerable socio-economical groups. By disseminating real-life testimonials to highlight the many different solutions for quitting smoking, the campaign aimed to break down and overcome the fears associated with kicking the habit and encourage smokers to get help. It used a number of key strategies for reaching out to the people concerned, including real-life situations, filmed testimonials, and local multi-channel communication (digital videos, social media, posters, special TV/radio ads, etc.). In addition to its institutional partners, Santé publique France has created a partnership with the JIM (*Journal International de Médecine*) and other organisations with the ability to spread messages to job seekers, vulnerable people, people with disabilities, and so on.

No-Smoking Month, an essential event!

Building on the 7th edition of the No-Smoking Month (*Mois sans tabac*) event in November 2022, Santé publique France, in partnership with Radio France and France Télévisions, created an entertainment programme that was high on music, humour and solidarity.

Entitled “*Breathe, an evening for No-Smoking Month*”, the programme starred a number of celebrities and was broadcast on 18 November on the TV channel France 3 and then streamed regionally across the France Bleu radio network. This new edition of

No-Smoking Month proved to be a tremendous success throughout the country with 162,012 people registering on the dedicated website, which allows users to order a No-Smoking Month kit for quitting smoking and offers a wealth of tips and advice.



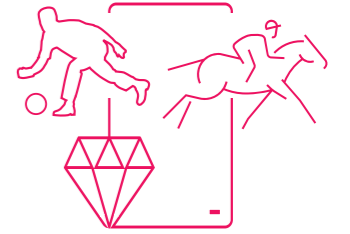
TOBACCO CONTROL: A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNED WITH THE SECRETARIAT OF THE WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION

Santé publique France and the Secretariat of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control signed a memorandum of understanding in July 2022 that symbolises France’s commitment to tackle smoking by creating the first WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on education, communication, training and public awareness. The Knowledge Hub platform is the first to offer bilingual French and English content. Santé publique France, under the supervision of the Ministry of Health, delivers its expertise to the 182 Parties of the FCTC to promote the initiative of sharing knowledge and skills with all member states.

Sports betting: first prevention campaign

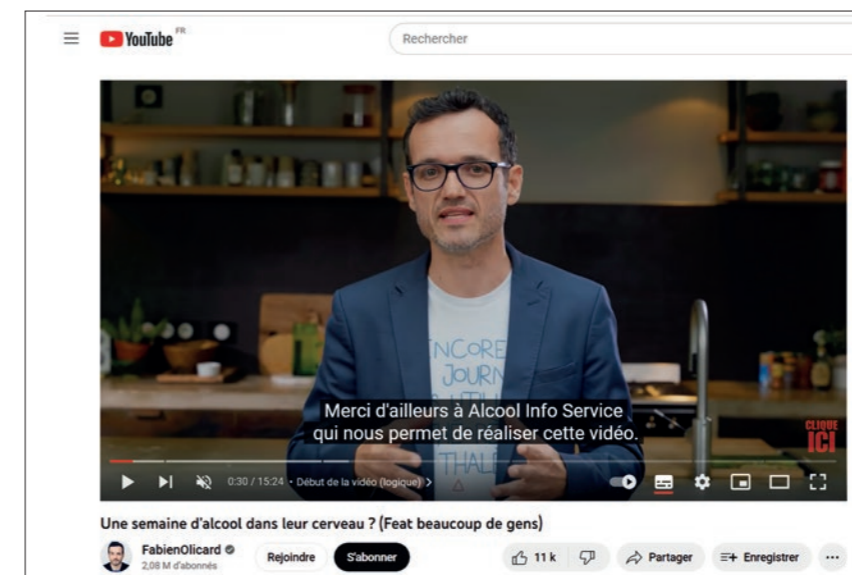
In October–November 2022, just a few weeks before the Football World Cup, Santé publique France launched an unprecedented campaign to warn of the risks associated with sports betting. In France, people who bet on sports are far from a minority. Sports betting is actually the second most popular form of gambling after the national lottery. However, the risk of excessive gambling is five to six times higher for sports betting than for the lottery. In fact, 15 out of 100 sports bettors are at risk of falling into a problematic habit

that can have serious consequences, such as over-indebtedness, anxiety disorders, smoking, excessive use of drugs or alcohol, family problems, social isolation and even attempted suicide. Through a discussion programme hosted by Fred Testot and featuring an addictions specialist and a sports commentator, which was broadcast in the form of videos and audio testimonials, Santé publique France’s “Betting is a big deal” campaign endeavoured to debunk the misconceptions about sports betting and offer a clearer look at its mechanisms



and consequences. The ambition was to alert gamblers along with their friends and families to the risks involved and direct them towards the Joueurs Info Service helpline.

Four videos to de-normalise alcohol consumption



With nearly one in two French people thinking in 2017* that offering or drinking alcohol “was one of the normal rules of social etiquette”, Santé publique France rebroadcast a series of short videos in 2022 to strip away the idea that drinking alcohol is normal. Launched for the first time in November 2021, in partnership

with influencer Fabien Olicard, this campaign invites people to question and assess their own consumption habits, while addressing the issues of social pressure and the automatic reflexes behind certain types of consumption.

*Source: Health Barometer 2017.



Award-winning campaigns in 2022

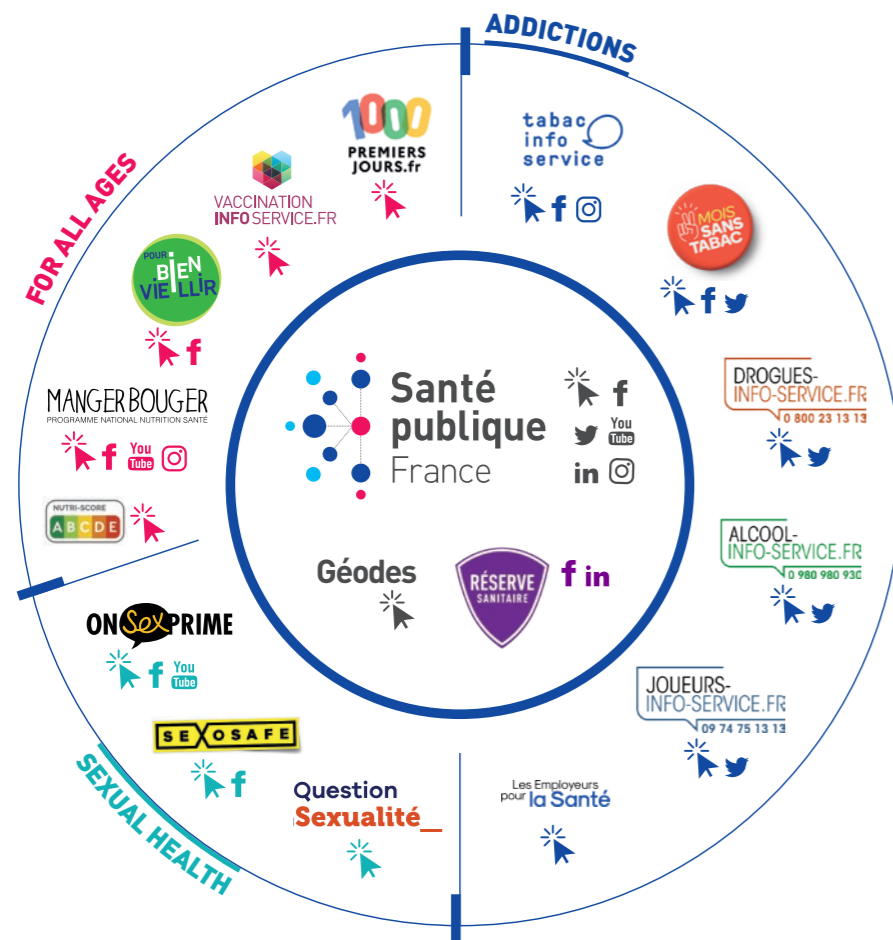
In all, 14 awards were given out at the Effie, Grands Prix Stratégies and Top/Com ceremonies in recognition of the following initiatives:

- The campaign raising awareness of mental health in teenagers and adults
- The campaign fighting the discrimination and violence faced by the LGBT+ community
- The campaign entitled “Getting teens moving is easier said than done. But encouraging them is so important.”
- The 2nd edition of the “Quick recipes” campaign

Give everyone the means to take action

Since 2003, Santé publique France has been managing part of the health helpline services, which are still known locally as remote preventive healthcare and assistance services (*prévention et aide à distance en santé*, PADS), since they feature a combination of helplines and websites. These services play a highly important role in preventive healthcare since they represent a direct line of contact with the French people. In 2022, Santé publique France financed 19 helpline services (Alcool Info Service for alcohol, Tabac Info Service for smoking, Drogues Info Service for drugs, Fil Santé Jeunes for teenagers, SIDA Info Service for AIDS, etc.). The PADS services are responsible for counselling, informing, guiding, advising and supporting. These services are incorporated into the prevention programmes that run alongside the country's national public health plans and are tied into media campaigns covering the same topics.

Our tools for preventive healthcare



800,000 requests (calls, chats, etc.) handled by the 14 schemes subsidised by Santé publique France and over 8.6 million visits to the websites

41,274 calls handled at level 1 by Tabac Info Service and 59,706 interviews with a tobacco addiction specialist in 2022

152,682 requests (calls, chats, etc.) handled by the drugs, cannabis, alcohol and gamblers schemes

15,480,260 visits to the Drogues Info Service, Alcool Info Service, Joueurs Info Service, and Tabac Info Service websites

Nutri-Score, for healthy food choices

In May 2022, Santé publique France published the results of the first study aimed at assessing the representations and use of the Nutri-Score rating system among teenagers, who both recommend and buy food products. Conducted in October 2021 among 1,201 young people aged 11 to 17 living in mainland France, the survey shows that 97% of the teenagers surveyed had

already seen or heard about the nutrition labelling system, of whom two thirds spontaneously replied that it provided information about the composition and nutritional quality of the product. These good results, which mirror the trends seen among adults, are encouraging for rolling out the logo in the institutional and corporate catering sectors, as specified in the country's 4th National

Nutrition Health Programme (2019–2023). Since the rating system was launched in France in 2017, 1,101 companies have chosen to display it on their products, and several countries have decided to recommend its use, including Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Spain, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. In July 2022, the authorities in all the countries involved adopted a series of proposals issued by an independent international scientific committee to upgrade the Nutri-Score algorithm for solid foods. This move will make the system even more effective for classifying products in line with food recommendations and guiding consumers towards healthy food choices.



Employers take action to improve health

Since people spend a significant amount of their time at work, the workplace is the ideal venue for developing preventive healthcare and health promotion actions. As a result, Santé publique France launched the "Employers for Health" platform in May 2022. This new system supports organisations (public, private and non-profit) and provides them with appropriate tools (posters, leaflets and videos) for guiding them and implementing a preventive healthcare and health promotion policy

within their organisation at their own pace. The first concerns the topic of stopping smoking, but other types of health-friendly behaviour will be spotlighted, such as physical activity and balanced diets.



The Montpellier Regional Cancer Institute (ICM) is committed to lobbying for smoking-free workplaces through a series of on-the-ground actions, such as consultations to help stop smoking, training and education.

<https://www.employeurspourlasante.fr/>

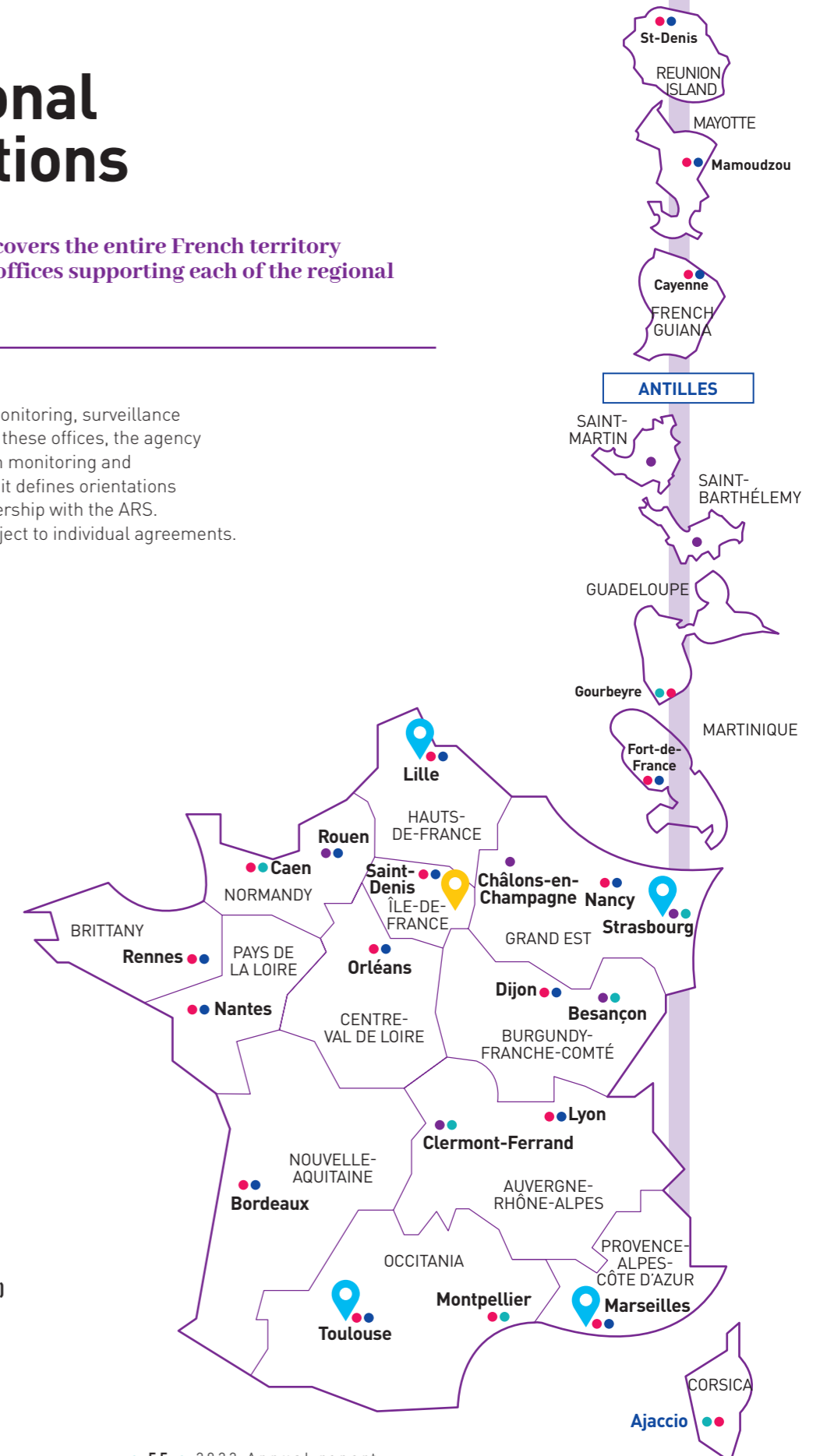
GOVERNANCE ORGANISATION

Our regional organisations

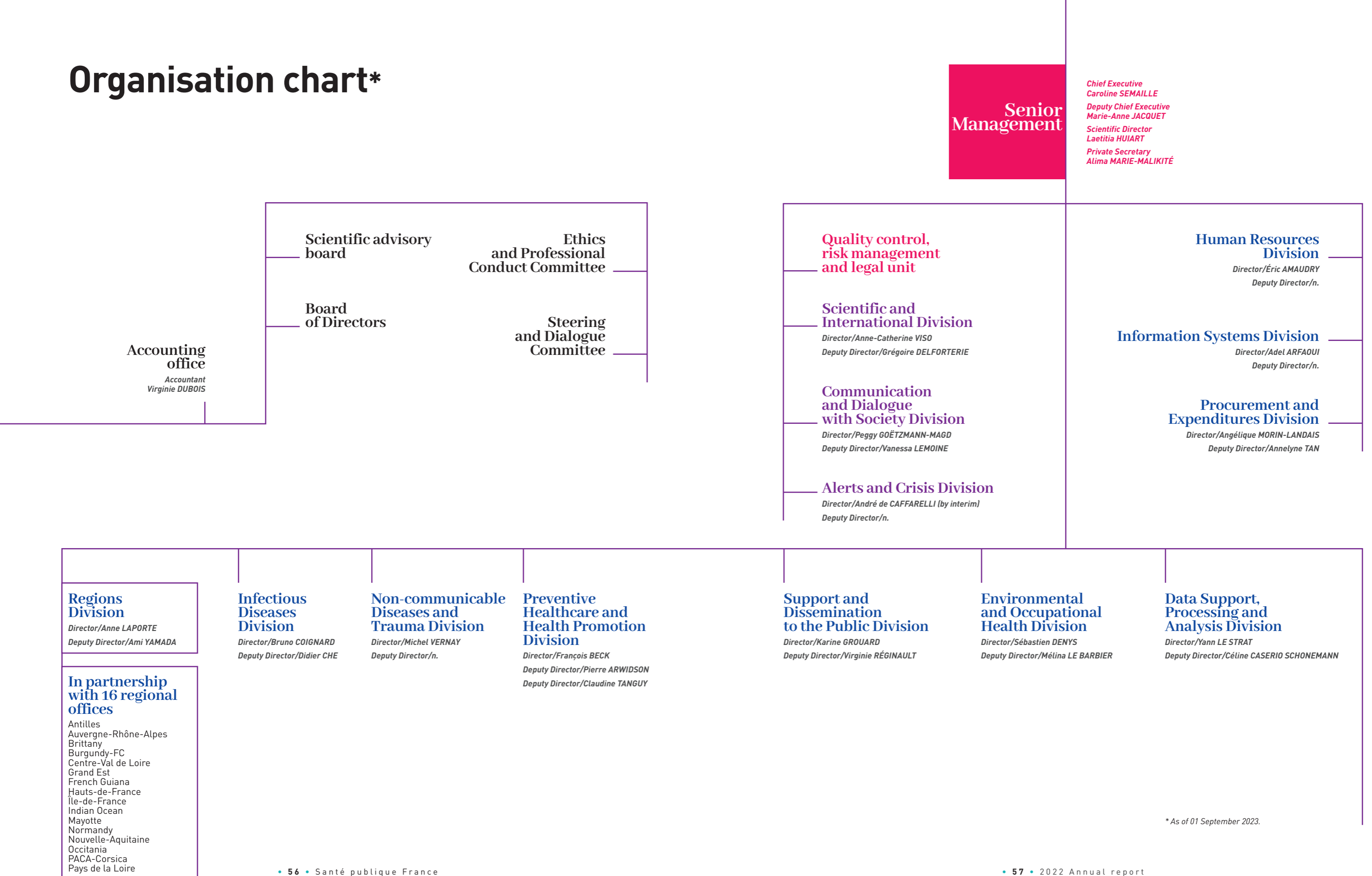
Santé Publique France covers the entire French territory through its 16 regional offices supporting each of the regional health agencies (ARS).

Each regional office delivers monitoring, surveillance and alert operations. Through these offices, the agency coordinates the national health monitoring and surveillance system, for which it defines orientations and oversees actions, in partnership with the ARS. These partnerships are all subject to individual agreements.

- Regional health agencies (ARS)**
 - Head offices
 - Remote sites
- Santé Publique France in the regions**
 - Head offices
 - Remote sites
- 📍 Santé Publique France head office (Saint-Maurice)
- 📍 Santé Publique France remote assistance units



Organisation chart*



* As of 01 September 2023.

Referrals and hearings: informing public decisions

Santé publique France produces independent scientific expertise for the benefit of population health. This knowledge and these expert opinions are made available to the competent authorities to inform health policies and to protect and promote health.

50 referrals, including:

- 22 referrals from the General Directorate for Health
- 2 referrals from the Ministry of Health
- 13 referrals from the regional health agencies (ARS)
- 7 referrals from other bodies or institutions

26 hearings, including:

Hearings by the French National Assembly and the Senate

- Obesity – January
- Alignment of the vaccination pass with progression of the COVID-19 epidemic – February
- Monkeypox update – July
- Prevention, health security and healthcare provision policies – September
- “Le fonds de concours” support funds – Participation in various prevention, health security and healthcare provision policies – September
- OPECST Chlordecone – October
- OPECST ultra-processed food products – November
- Proposed law to introduce a ban on advertising for sports betting – November
- Presentation by the Court of Auditors to the Senate Social Affairs Committee of its investigation into Santé publique France – December
- Fact-finding mission on women’s mental health – December

Hearings by the Court of Auditors

- Interview at the start of the Santé publique France inspection – March
- Contact tracing – April
- Global review of our public risk management system – May
- Interview with the Pharmaceutical Establishment – May

Hearings by the General Inspectorate for Social Affairs

- Strengthening human resources in times of crisis – January
- Strengthening human resources in times of crisis – May
- Organisation of the preventive healthcare and care facilities for sexual health – August

Publications

La Santé en action

La Santé en action is a journal published by Santé publique France covering prevention, education and health promotion. It is designed for professionals working in education, health and social care.



March 2022, no. 459 (English version published in December)

Urban development tends to escape recognition as a determinant of population health, but it plays a vitally important role in the quality of life, well-being and therefore the overall health of every individual. Four experts on health-friendly urban planning coordinated this key report: Anne Roué Le Gall, Mathilde Pascal, Nina Lemaire and Thierno Diallo. This issue presents a summary of the knowledge on urban planning



practices aimed at improving health in France and abroad. Around 20 researchers and field professionals took part in this issue, with a contribution from the World Health Organisation (WHO), which has made an urgent observation – poorly planned urban development is a killer. The report also provides proposals. This issue of *La Santé en action* has been translated into English. This is the first English-language version of this magazine.



June 2022, no. 460

Health mediation is a new profession in the healthcare sector... mediators improve access to care for patients and access to preventive healthcare for the entire population. Widening health inequalities caused by the COVID-19 pandemic – and the ensuing economic crisis – are now putting the spotlight on these mediators and their ability to act as an interface between vulnerable people and the health system.



September 2022, no. 461

Some 30 experts and professionals on the ground reviewed the latest knowledge on the mental health of the population and analysed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. They have made a number of recommendations for action. This special issue raises questions about ethics as well as social and territorial inequality in health.

Article of the month

Santé publique France publishes more than 200 scientific articles per year in general or specialised journals. Every month, one article is highlighted and all the articles published in French and English international journals are identified.

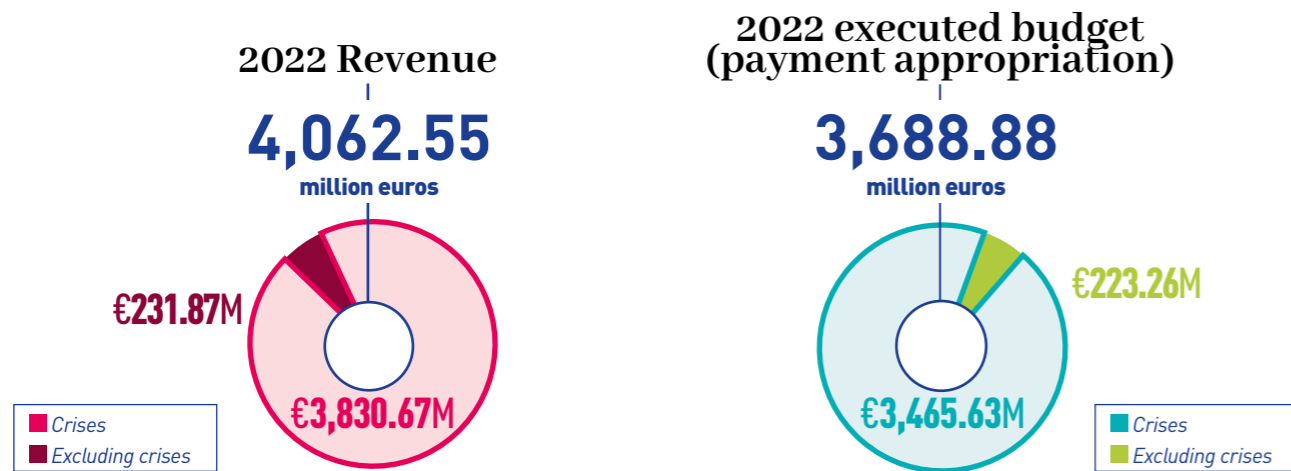
Bulletin épidémiologique hebdomadaire

The *BEH* is a peer-reviewed journal edited by Santé publique France. It publishes articles submitted by a wide range of public health stakeholders. The journal is fully open access and publication is free of charge for authors. In 2022, 26 issues were published: 16 classic, 6 thematic, 1 regulatory and 3 in the COVID-19 series. The articles for the special series dedicated to the COVID-19 pandemic were produced following an accelerated publication process and regularly programmed into the *BEH* publication schedule.

A closer look at the knowledge-sharing meetings

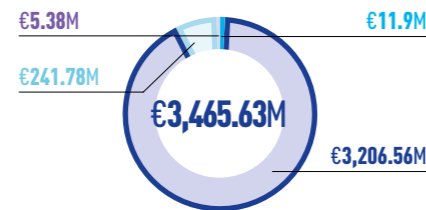
Every year, the agency supports its scientific staff and partners in developing relevant skills so that they can continue drawing on their expertise to drive public health action forward. The teaching approach it favours is based on training through practice, peer learning, and the exchange of knowledge and experience between professionals. In particular, Santé publique France contributes to increasing the professionalism and coordination of the network of public health partners by providing its expertise and field experience to partners in initial and ongoing training [School of Higher Studies in Public Health [EHESP, *École des hautes études en santé publique*], Institute for the Development of Applied Epidemiology [IDEA], ISPED].

Budget

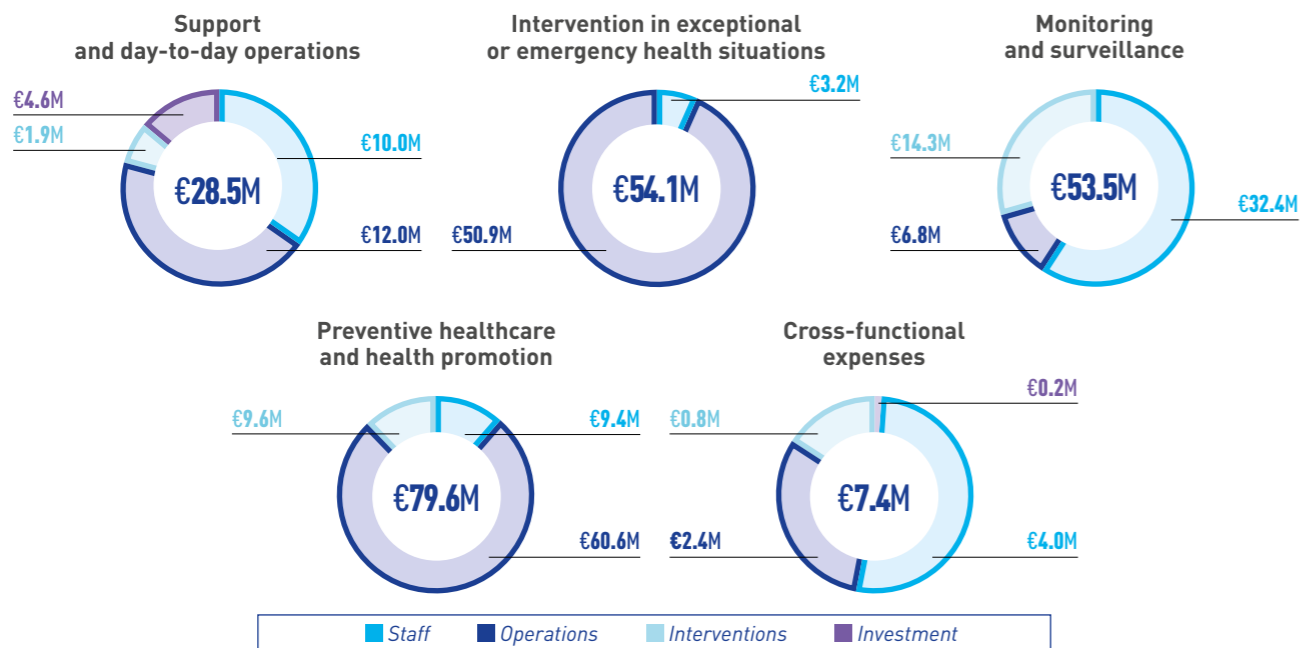


In 2022, to manage the COVID-19 crisis and pursue its other public health missions, the agency committed €884.4 million and paid €3,688.9 million in expenses. It received €4,062.55 million in revenue, mainly from health insurance.

Breakdown in crisis management expenditure by budget (payment appropriation)



Breakdown in non-crisis expenditure by budget and destination (payment appropriation)



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