



RÉPUBLIQUE
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Santé
publique
France

ILLUMINATE

ANNUAL
REPORT

2023

ACTING FOR THE
HEALTH OF ALL



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Towards an open, expert and innovative agency

One year after starting in your role, what do you think of your first year at Santé publique France?

— **Caroline Semaille:** Over the past year, I've worked hard to mobilise the team, and I'm proud of the fact that I've been able to work in the field, meeting with staff at head office and in each region. Santé publique France has a wealth of expertise in all regions of France, including overseas France, as well as in its support functions. My aim is to unite the teams around a shared ambition. This is now formalised in a new objectives and performance contract (COP) shared with our supervisory authority. The aim is to work collectively to build stronger, more effective public health, characterised by scientific rigour, openness and dialogue with society, all in close contact with the different populations, particularly the most vulnerable. We wanted this COP to be both ambitious and achievable, with indicators to measure our progress over time. It sets out our strategy according to three pillars that guide our day-to-day activities – innovate and advance knowledge, anticipate and guarantee a reactive response, embody an agency of expertise that works openly in close contact with the regions – plus a fourth area: an efficient and responsible agency. This fourth component, which must

“Mobilising the Santé publique France teams around all of their expertise remains my priority.”

Caroline Semaille / Managing Director

resonate through every article of the COP, includes key issues such as the agency's impact on the environment, ethics and well-being at work.

— **Sylvie Lemmet:** Yes, I welcome the introduction of performance indicators for the COP. These are tangible data we can use to communicate on the full extent of the agency's expertise in surveillance and prevention. In addition to this COP, the agency is finalising a roadmap that sets out its strategic priorities for addressing key public health issues, so that its teams can fully seize them. Team-building is also essential at the Board level. Convinced of the power of collective intelligence, I ensured that all members were able to express themselves as freely as possible and be listened to. The co-construction relationships established between the Board of Directors and senior management form the foundation for sound governance for the future.

What are your objectives in terms of openness, one of the agency's three pillars alongside expertise and innovation?

— **C.S.:** The aim is to diversify our spaces for dialogue, both with the general public and with organised civil society. On this issue, we have requested the support of the National Commission for Public Debate (CNDP) to consider ways of consulting with the public in order to, for example, understand how the data we produce is understood and what formats are most suitable, particularly in anticipation of the overhaul of Géodes, our platform for accessing open data. It is also a question of continuing our openness to other sectors, in a One Health approach to health, using innovative methods.

— **S.L.:** Being open to civil society is an essential focus for a national public health agency: its work and recommendations must be based on real life and it is through dialogue with citizens and stakeholders that the agency can provide relevant responses. The Board of Directors is very committed to this and welcomes the close



“After the time of 'doing' comes the time of 'making known'.”

Sylvie Lemmet / Chair of the Board of Directors

— **S.L.:** The Board of Directors is supporting this development. And because it is important that everyone at Santé publique France can contribute to innovation, we are delighted with the creation of the internal Innovation Lab, which brings forwards grassroots ideas.

In 2024 a key event is the hosting of the Olympic Games in Paris. In this context, what is Santé publique France's role?

— **C.S.:** In the summer of 2024, all our teams are working – both in Paris and in the other regions – on a reinforced surveillance system that has given us the opportunity to work with new partners such as the SAMU emergency medical services and the Fire Brigade. We are producing a daily health surveillance bulletin for the authorities and a weekly version for the wider public. During the 2024 Games, as throughout the year, Santé publique France is therefore fully engaged in all aspects of its role of surveillance and prevention.

relationships with partners selected for their additional expertise. More than 200 collaborations enrich the agency's activities each year in this way. They are essential for the co-construction of projects.

What direction will you take in terms of innovation?

— **C.S.:** For Santé publique France, innovation means thinking differently to continuously improve our survey methodologies, our surveillance systems, our means of anticipating crises, but also our internal processes. This mindset has already fuelled several projects such as detecting COVID-19 in wastewater to monitor the spread of the epidemic. One clear area for innovation is to seek and explore collecting data at source to limit the mobilisation of healthcare professionals, who are already in high demand. This is the purpose of the Orchidée project, which we recently submitted to the European Commission with a request to use hospital health data warehouses. Artificial intelligence is also a new area where the agency needs to find a position. It is obviously a question of assessing the risks associated with these technologies but also of identifying opportunities for our teams.

A leading agency

Serving the values of public health

- Public interest, while respecting the strict, shared and transparent rules of ethics and professional conduct.
- Proportionate universalism, taking into account regional and social inequalities in health in order to promote health for all, in all walks of life.
- Responsiveness to alert and intervene, and long-term involvement, as building good health is a lifelong endeavour.

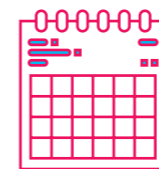
Improving and protecting population health

- Epidemiological observation and monitoring the state of population health using new data processing tools.
- Promoting health and reducing health risks.
- Developing prevention and health education, by deploying prevention and health promotion processes and promoting effective interventions.
- Monitoring health risks threatening populations, preparing for and responding to health threats, alerts and crises and issuing health alerts.

A work programme structured around 6 challenges

The agency's strategic directions include long-term public health priorities in the areas of protection against threats and improving health.

<p>Anticipating and responding to public health threats</p> 	<p>Social and territorial inequalities in health</p> 	<p>Burden of diseases and their determinants, effectiveness of interventions, and return on investment in prevention</p> 
<p>Environmental health, climate change and working environments</p> 	<p>Prevention strategy, social marketing, and population-based approach</p> 	<p>Digital technology in public health</p> 



8 years

2016: creation of the agency



1,273.12 million euros

of executed budget 2023



16 regional offices

positioned to support each regional health agency



590 agents

throughout France (+103 on secondment)



72%

women



39 trainees

and

30 apprentices

all disciplines



15 interns

per semester on average



28%

men



5,884 healthcare reservists

enrolled, of which 3,114 mobilised in 2023

The ecosystem of Santé publique France

Santé publique France operates in a vast network of institutional, scientific and associative partners – national agencies, research institutes, NGOs, etc. – to develop the collaborations necessary to successfully carry out its work at the territorial, national and international levels.



SUPERVISORY BODY:

Directorate General for Health (Direction générale de la santé) - Ministry of Health and Prevention (ministère en charge de la Santé et de la Prévention)

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.

- The Ministry of Health and Prevention (supervision of the agency) and the other ministries
- Regional health agencies (ARS, Agences régionales de santé)
- Prefectures, local authorities
- National and local elected representatives
- Public institutions
- Health agencies (ANSES, ANSM, ABM)
- Expert and scientific public agencies and institutions (HAS and HCSP)
- National Health Insurance Fund (CNAM, Caisse nationale de l'assurance maladie) (financing)
- Partners
- National public health network

EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL

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

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

TRAINING AND RESEARCH

All of the agency's actions are founded on scientific excellence. It draws on solid collaboration with research and academic partners in order to deepen knowledge and improve its reach, and to push forward mechanisms for surveillance, prevention and response to health crises.

- Academic partners
- Research institutes and organisations (INSERM, ARNS MIE)
- Learned societies
- Higher education and training (EHESP)
- Research community

STAKEHOLDERS

The agency's governance is based on a founding principle of openness to society. The agency works with the National Health Conference and facilitates dialogue in its various fields, including at the local level, as part of participative approaches with the audiences concerned.

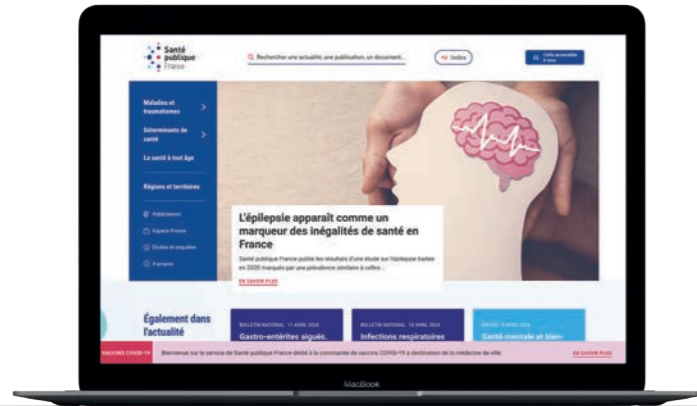
- National Health Conference (CNS)
- Regional Conference on Health and Independent Living (CRSA)
- Networks of associations
- Populations
- Trade unions
- Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)
- Professional stakeholders
- Prevention stakeholders

MEDIA

The agency shares its scientific results with the media. It explains its methods, the purpose of its surveillance systems and prevention messages, as well as the indicators it produces.

- Press, journalists
- Social media
- Influencers, KOLs

2023 in figures



4 major surveys in the general population per year (on average)

1.1 million visits to Géodes, more than 90 topics and 1,000 indicators available

More than 2,300 publications and 86 news items published on the homepage

7.5 million copies of communication materials for professionals and the general public

229 new agreements and decisions awarding grants signed by the agency

10 million visits to www.santepubliquefrance.fr

and 19,369,312 page views (+ 25 million for subsidiary brand sites)

214,568 responses provided

(calls, chats and questions/answers) by Santé publique France's 5 remote support schemes, and 18 million visits to their websites

74 surveillance systems



SOCIAL MEDIA

187,227 followers on LinkedIn

135,212 followers on X (formerly Twitter)

47,244 followers on Facebook



PRESS ACTIVITY

12 press conferences and 45 press releases issued

1,053 responses to press requests



PUBLICATIONS

42 reports and 14 summaries
10 study updates

1 Insights "Different perspectives on conducting research into intra-familial abuse of children and adolescents"

21 COVID-19 weekly reports, in French and English (last published end of May 2023)

26 issues of the BEH for 19,700 subscribers

3 issues of La Santé en Action for 22,500 digital subscribers and 5,047 paper subscribers

921 regional and 321 national epidemiological updates

12 ARI bulletins, in French and English (from the end of October 2023)

177 articles by Santé publique France agents published in peer-reviewed journals



PHARMACEUTICAL ESTABLISHMENT

296,500 pallets of health products managed in 2023

17 storage platforms in mainland France and 12 in overseas France

Approximately 1,000 transport orders to healthcare facilities, wholesalers/distributors and pharmaceutical depositories

Key events



Congress of the Société Française de Santé Publique (French Public Health Society)

At the “Public Health and Territory: Concepts to Action” conference, which took place in October 2023 in Saint-Étienne (Loire), Caroline Semaille, the agency’s managing director, recalled one of its fundamental missions: *“Producing and providing access to information that enables firm action in support of environments favourable to health, all across France. This is the tangible, day-to-day work we do at Santé publique France”*. In 2022, the Health Barometer celebrated its 30th anniversary. An exhibition about its history and perspectives was presented at the event.

With general practitioners

Two plenary sessions were co-organised by the agency during the French General Medicine Congress in March 2023 in Paris: one on the first 1,000 days of a child’s life and the role of the general practitioner during this period, and the other on antibiotic consumption.

Public health at the Collège de France

For the fourth consecutive year, Santé publique France supported the Collège de France’s Chair of Public Health. The nutrition-health topic tackled by Mathilde Touvier, INSERM Research Director and Principal Investigator of the NutriNet-Santé cohort, resonated with the agency’s work, which is particularly involved in the evaluation of national nutrition-health programmes (PNNS), the deployment of the Nutri-Score and the development of physical activity and a balanced diet.

Tobacco: 1st webinar with members of the WHO Framework Convention

The first webinar of the Knowledge Hub on tobacco control awareness took place on 1st June 2023 on the theme “Financing tobacco awareness programmes and actions: tools and best practices”. Accessible in French and English, it attracted 66 participants from a wide range of countries. This webinar follows the 2022 signing of a memorandum of understanding with the secretariat of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) for the creation and development of a Knowledge Hub.

The Santé Publique France 2023 annual meetings

The annual meetings of Santé Publique France were held on 20 and 21 June 2023. More than 1,800 people from the scientific community, civil society, decision-making bodies and public health bodies shared experiences and good practices for an environment that benefits the health of the public. Through two plenary sessions – one on children’s mental health and well-being, the other on complex public health systems – and eleven parallel sessions, the meetings reflected the agency’s strategic directions and its six major public health challenges.



A charter for effective and coordinated suicide prevention



Caroline Semaille, managing director of the agency, has signed a charter of shared values between the national suicide prevention number (3114) and the various non-profit hotlines, five of which are funded by Santé publique France. Its objective is to optimise the coordination between the various systems and to ensure better shared prevention. Presented ahead of World Suicide Prevention Day on 10 September, the charter represents a unified effort by the partners, based on common principles: empathy, confidentiality, non-judgement, caring availability and free services. The agreement was signed under the patronage of the Director General of Health.

A day dedicated to EpiGEH

70 employees from the regional health agencies (ARS), Santé publique France, ANSES, the DGS and three national reference centres took part in a discussion day on waterborne gastroenteritis epidemics (EpiGEH) at the Directorate General for Health (Direction générale de la santé) on 28 November 2023. Based on feedback and the use of data from the EpiGEH surveillance system, the discussions provided an opportunity to share the experience and knowledge acquired by the field teams.

Study on intrafamilial abuse

Santé publique France brought together research teams, authorities, data producers and users, as well as professionals working in the fields of health, justice and social services, to discuss work in public health and the epidemiology of abuse and propose avenues of action for the coming years. This seminar provided an initial assessment of the epidemiological knowledge available in France today.



Action to combat communicable diseases with the CNRs

Infectious disease monitoring is supported by 43 National Reference Centres (CNRs) coordinated by Santé publique France. The 10th day of the seminar brought together 147 participants at the agency’s premises on 19 October 2023. In particular, it was an opportunity to present the call for applications for the appointment of European reference laboratories and to anticipate the impact of the 2024 Olympic Games on the CNRs’ work. In October, another half-day event brought together the CNRs and the EMERGEN consortium, in order to consider how to increase genomic monitoring capacities in France.



Ethics at the centre of the debate

The seminar “Ethical issues and public health actions: protection against health risks and improvement of the health status of populations”, organised in November 2023, took place in an open, participatory and consensual approach. It mobilised the agency’s Ethics Committee, the regional ethical think tanks (ERER), the academic ethics bodies and the learned societies concerned, as well as the population through associations, citizen initiative groups, etc. Its objectives were, in particular, to strengthen the agency’s capacity to integrate and to handle ethical questions, to consolidate its interactions with national and regional ethics bodies and to prepare its contribution to the general assembly for ethics in public health.

International expertise



At the conference of the European Public Health Association

Santé publique France took part in several sessions of a conference organised by the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) on the topic "Our diet, our health, our planet: a sustainable future for humanity" from 8 to 11 November 2023, in Dublin. The agency contributed several oral presentations and several posters on the links between health and climate change, on mental health surveillance during a pandemic and on the impacts of the Nutri-Score algorithm update.

IANPHI: active participation in the subject committees

Santé publique France is an active member of the International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI) and hosts its secretariat. For the past two years, the agency has chaired the IANPHI committee on climate change and participated in the committee on social inequalities in health.

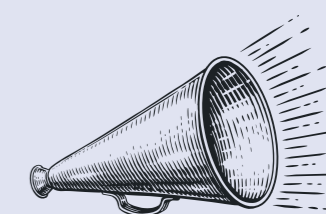


Monitoring chemical exposure: a major role in the European partnership (PARC)

The European Partnership for the Assessment of Risks from Chemicals, launched in 2022 for seven years, brings together nearly 200 scientific partners from 28 countries and European Union agencies. Coordinated by ANSES, it aims to support the development and implementation of a research programme and innovation activities related to the assessment of the risks associated with new-generation chemical substances. Santé publique France participates in the overall governance of the project and the coordination of the French hub while co-leading work package 4 with the German environmental agency (UBA) on surveillance of exposures to chemical substances. In October 2023, the annual meeting of this work package was held to prepare the work programme for the coming years. This event brought together around 130 people in person and 110 online participants.

Santé publique France at the 7th ministerial conference on the environment and health

The Agency participated in the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health organised by WHO Europe on 5 to 7 July 2023 in Budapest. Twenty years after the first Budapest Declaration, which marked the launch of the European Environment and Health Process between the WHO and Europe and the first national plan for environmental health (PNSE) in France, the aim of this conference was to assess progress and challenges in health and the environment midway through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Santé publique France outlined the essential role of public health institutes brought together within the International Association of National Public Health Institutes and hosted a session on the theme of "Translating evidence into climate policies and actions for health". Santé publique France chairs the IANPHI Climate Change and Public Health Committee.



ECDC: a productive meeting with director Andrea Ammon



After welcoming the Board of Directors of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) in June 2022, as part of the French Presidency of the European Union, Santé publique France invited Andrea Ammon, Director of the ECDC, to visit Santé publique France and meet the French stakeholders connected with the ECDC. This meeting was all the more important as it fell amid preparations for the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the development of integrated surveillance for acute respiratory infections (bronchiolitis, COVID, influenza), the implementation of the ECDC's strengthened mandate in the field of infectious disease prevention, preparation and response to health crises, and the establishment of the EU Health Task Force coordinated by ECDC. This visit was an opportunity to discuss the link between the activities of the Agency and those of the ECDC and to identify areas for which the ECDC's support would be useful.



Renewed collaboration agreement with the Institut national de santé publique du Québec (Quebec National Institute of Public Health)

Over more than two decades, Santé publique France and the Institut national de santé publique du Québec (INSPQ) have established close ties through successive collaboration agreements. A new agreement was signed with the Chief Executive Officer of INSPQ during a visit by Caroline Semaille, Managing Director of Santé publique France, in February 2023. This will strengthen our scientific collaborations in the fields of health prevention and promotion, the fight against social and territorial health inequalities, biomonitoring, climate change and public health ethics.

How do our children feel?



In 2022, Santé publique France launched the Enabee study to measure children's mental health and well-being. The initial results highlight several psychological disorders in 13% of children, although it is not possible to establish a link between these disorders and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Emotional trouble, oppositional disorder or attention deficit disorder with or without probable hyperactivity: 13% of children aged 6 to 11 years in primary school ⁽¹⁾ have a probable mental health disorder. This result comes from Enabee, an unprecedented national study on the well-being and mental health of school children aged 3 to 11 years in mainland France. This study, launched in July 2021, is one of the measures announced as part of the Convention on Mental Health and Psychiatry in late 2021, with young children being a priority area.

Combining information collected from parents, teachers and children, with the help of the Ministries of Health and National Education, as well as youth workers, this study is intended to be repeated regularly. By monitoring the evolution of indicators over time and assessing the impact of particular events (infectious, environmental, etc.) on the mental health and well-being of children, Enabee provides a solid foundation of scientific knowledge. The objective: to guide public health policies in the creation of environments conducive to the development of young people and to provide better responses to their problems.

“This study, which will be repeated on a regular basis, provides a solid foundation of knowledge.”

Among children aged 6 to 11, 5.6% have a probable emotional disorder, 6.6% have a probable oppositional disorder and 3.2% have a probable attention deficit disorder with or without hyperactivity. It also found that probable anxiety or depressive emotional disorders are more common in girls. Conversely, behavioural disorders (probable oppositional disorder and probable ADHD) are more common in boys. Furthermore, based on these initial indicators, we cannot form any conclusions on the impact of COVID-19 in spring 2022 on children's mental health. This is due to the lack of national French data on children aged 6 to 11 prior to the crisis.

13%
of children between the age of 6 and 11 have a probable mental health disorder

71/100
is the score for the level of well-being and quality of life related to the health declarations of children aged 6 to 11 years

More than **15,000** children, 15,000 teachers and 10,000 parents were surveyed in nearly 400 schools between 2 May and 31 July 2022 as part of the Enabee study



“The objective: to guide public health policies in the creation of environments conducive to the development of young people.”

After analysis of children attending nursery school, in 2024 Enabee is expected to focus on the factors associated with mental health and well-being and use of care. There is also a plan to roll this study out in overseas France.

(1) Children enrolled from CP to CM2, in public or private schools under contract in mainland France.

PREVENTION

Strengthening children's psychosocial skills

A key pillar of health promotion consists of ensuring that the younger generations develop their capacity to make informed and reasoned choices, their ability to live together and to better regulate their emotions by strengthening their psychosocial skills. Santé publique France has designed a document for decision-makers and field workers that presents the knowledge needed to understand what psychosocial skills are, along with their effects and the ways in which they can be developed. The agency also participated in the production of an educational kit for empathy sessions at school, which contributes to the national strategy for the development of psychosocial skills in children and adolescents. Finally, the agency supports the deployment of psychoeducational interventions such as the support programme for families parenting 6–11 year-olds (PSFP 6-11), which, as the agency's assessment has shown, is reducing hyperactivity and child behaviour disorders.

Ill-being among young people: prevention as a bulwark

Since the health crisis, young people's mental health has deteriorated.

This trend is being closely monitored by Santé publique France and is documented by the regional public health bulletins on suicidal behaviour and mental health bulletins, which are produced using data on emergency department visits from the OSCOUR® network and medical consultations carried out by GPs in the SOS Médecins network. The agency also draws on data from surveys such as the Health Barometer and the CoviPrev survey, which has been monitoring changes in the population's mental health since 2020.

Hospitalisations linked to suicide, depression, anxiety...

Since the autumn of 2020, there has been a continuous deterioration in indicators relating to emergency department visits for suicidal thoughts and actions and hospitalisations for attempted suicide⁽¹⁾. This is especially true for young people aged 10 to 24 years and of female gender. In 2021, the annual regional hospitalisation rate for suicide attempts among people aged 10 and over was 150 per 100,000 inhabitants in France⁽¹⁾. There has also been an increase in depressive episodes

among people aged 18 to 24, with 20.8% of young people affected in 2021, compared with 11.7% in 2017⁽²⁾. Furthermore, among 17-year-olds, 9.5% were affected by severe anxiety-depressive symptoms in 2022 compared with 4.5% in 2017⁽³⁾.

A stronger focus on young people

After encouraging young people to talk about their mental health issues with the "#JenParleà" ("ReachOut") hashtag campaign launched in 2021 and publicised again in 2022, Santé publique France spoke out on social media in autumn 2023. Short, educational and fun videos explain five behaviours conducive to better mental health (e.g. practising physical activity, getting enough sleep at regular times, taking time for leisure). At the end of each video, you are reminded that if you feel unwell, it's important to talk to a trusted person or a councillor from Fil Santé Jeunes, an anonymous and free service that offers a listening helpline 7 days a week⁽⁴⁾, a website providing information, a forum and a web chat.

COMMUNICATION

"#JenParleà" campaign success

First run from mid-June to mid-July 2021 by Santé publique France, the 2022 "J'en parle à" campaign was very well received by the adolescents it was aimed at. A survey on a representative sample of teenagers aged between 11 and 17 conducted after it was circulated found that 93% of them considered it useful. The campaign also improved the use of the Fil Santé Jeunes scheme. Throughout the campaign, this scheme saw a 54% increase in daily visits to the site and a 29% increase in daily chat messages regarding psychological difficulties. These results show that information and communication campaigns on mental health aimed at adolescents should be continued and improved.



21%
of 18-24 year-olds
were affected by
depression in 2021
compared with
11.7% in 2017

(1) Public health bulletins for mainland and overseas France (DROM) on suicidal behaviour.
(2) Health Barometer, 2017 and 2021.
(3) Escapad survey, 2017 and 2022, OFDT.
(4) By telephone on 0 800 235 236 (available 7 days a week, from 9 am to 11 pm).

SUICIDE PREVENTION

VigilanS, an effective scheme against the risk of re-attempts

Launched in 2015, the Vigilans scheme consists of maintaining links with people hospitalised after a suicide attempt with the aim of reducing the risk of re-attempts. Patients are contacted by one of the 32 Vigilans centres throughout the country, by telephone or post, between a few days and six months after their suicide attempt. Santé publique France was commissioned by the French Directorate General for Health to assess the effectiveness of this scheme over the period 2015 to 2017 in the first six territories that tested it (Nord-Pas-de-Calais, Bretagne, Haute et Basse-Normandie, Languedoc-Roussillon and Jura). The evaluation included 23,146 patients who had attempted suicide, half of whom were part of the Vigilans scheme and

— 38%
risk of repeated
suicide attempts
within twelve months
among Vigilans
patients



the other half who were not. In the first group, 3,214 repeated suicide attempts (emergency department visit or hospitalisation for a suicide attempt or death by suicide) were identified, compared with 5,014 for patients not involved in the scheme. These results show a 38% reduction in the risk of repeated suicide attempts among Vigilans patients during the twelve months following the initial attempt.

ABUSE

A seminar to make progress on the study of domestic abuse

In 2019, more than 40,000 complaints of domestic violence were recorded. To discuss work on public health and the epidemiology of abuse and to propose avenues for action, Santé publique France brought together researchers and prevention stakeholders at a dedicated seminar on 30 and 31 March 2023. Entitled "Perspectives on conducting research into intra-familial maltreatment of children and adolescents", this event highlighted the methodological, regulatory, legal and financial challenges encountered in the implementation of such studies. The proceedings of this seminar have been published in the "Insights" collection, available on the Santé publique France website.

PERINATAL AND EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMME

1,000 first days: as close as possible to young parents

Because it has been scientifically established that the period from pregnancy to the child's 2nd birthday – the period of the "first 1,000 days" – is decisive for his or her future development, Santé publique France is working on its "Perinatal and early childhood" prevention programme. It consists of a dedicated website (1000premiersjours.fr) to help young parents on subjects as varied as diet, sleep and baby crying, an awareness campaign ("Becoming a parent also means asking questions"), a partnership with WeMoms, a mobile application offering practical advice for mothers and future mothers, and videos by experts in partnership with M6, with a new season broadcast in 2023.



Are French people's health behaviours changing?



Smoking, alcohol consumption, vaccination practices, sexual behaviour, cancer screening, physical activity, nutrition... for more than 30 years, the repeated surveys conducted for the Santé publique France Health Barometer have helped to create a better understanding of the attitudes around health and the health behaviours of people living in France in order to develop legitimate and effective interventions.

Since 1992, the Santé publique France Health Barometers, a series of surveys representative of the population living in France, have enabled joint monitoring of risk perception and health behaviours. For example, it has been estimated that 30% of premature mortality can be attributed to individual behaviours, most notably smoking, alcohol consumption, diet or lack of exercise. *"The Santé publique France Health Barometer, by exploring such health behaviours and the perception of the risks associated with them, reveals the current health and social trends and thus provides essential data for the development and evaluation of public health policies"*, explains Yann Le Strat, head of the Data Support, Processing and Analysis Department. Since the beginning, more and more topics have been addressed (an increase from twelve in 2000 to around twenty since 2010).

"The Santé publique France Barometer provides essential data for the development and evaluation of public health policies."

The knowledge gained from the Santé publique France Health Barometer adds to or even clarifies data from other surveys or monitoring systems. These can be accessed by all actors involved in prevention, health education and health promotion (health professionals, social workers, researchers, speakers, teachers, etc.), policy makers, and the public. As a result, everyone has access to scientific information and tools to inform debate and reflection on the political actions taken and behaviours in the field of public health. In 2023, the Santé publique France Health Barometer surveys underwent a overhaul. The new version, which was launched in early 2024 (with results at the end of 2025), will now take place every two years. *"To continue producing reference data, this survey on French people's habits in relation to health was awarded a label of general interest and statistical quality by the Public Statistics Label Committee in 2023. In-depth changes were approved"*, explains Jean-Baptiste Richard, head of the surveys division.

Santé publique France Barometer survey 2024

15th

edition of the survey

80,000 people

aged 18 to 79 living in mainland France and in four overseas departments and regions (Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guiana and Réunion island) were invited to participate

The survey takes

40 minutes on average

250,000 people

have contributed by their responses to produce new scientific knowledge since 1992



The Santé publique France Health Barometer is now based on a multi-year programme following the topics addressed, some of which are recurrent, such as behaviour regarding tobacco, while others are episodic, such as behaviours concerning Lyme disease. The sample of people to be interviewed will be determined by random draw, which will be carried out by INSEE. *"This gives us access to postal and email addresses to inform the people in the sample of the survey. In addition, they will have the option of answering by telephone or internet, which should facilitate participation"*, emphasises Jean-Baptiste Richard.

"Now carried out every two years, the barometer will make it possible to produce regional estimates for mainland and overseas France."

Another advantage is that this sampling will make it possible to produce regional estimates for mainland France and overseas France (excluding Mayotte). The Santé publique France Health Barometer launched in February 2024 used a mixture of the old and new methods on 15,000 respondents to analyse any differences in results linked to these changes.

Being well-informed is the best way to safeguard sexual health

After a one-off decline linked to the COVID-19 epidemic, screening activity for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) increased in 2022, returning to higher levels than in 2019.

An estimated 4,200 to 5,700 people discovered their positive HIV status in 2022. After a sharp drop in 2020, this number increased again but remains lower than in 2019. The disease's progression, however, varies depending on the population. While the number of HIV diagnoses decreased in men who have sex with men (MSM) born in France, it continued to increase in men born abroad, whether infected by heterosexual intercourse or by intercourse between men.

Launch of the 2023 "Relationship to sex" ("Rapport au sexe") survey

In partnership with ANRS|Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID), the agency launched the 4th edition of the "Relationship to sex" (ERAS) health, sexuality and prevention survey for men who have sex with men (MSM). The results of this survey will be used to assess changes in the uptake of diversified prevention among MSM and to adapt campaigns aimed at MSM who promote it. The 2023 edition, which followed the emergence of the Mpox virus in Europe in 2022, will also help our understanding of the effects this epidemic had on their health and sexuality.



With regard to bacterial STIs, there has been a sharp increase in diagnoses of *Chlamydia trachomatis*, gonococcal and syphilis infections. MSM account for the majority of cases.

A campaign on combined prevention

The most effective means to combat HIV and STIs is combined prevention: condoms, PrEP, PEP, TasP, vaccines, screening. To encourage the use of combined prevention, Santé publique France partnered with the Ministry of Health and Prevention to deploy the second part of the "Everyone has questions about sex" ("Tout le monde se pose des questions sur la sexualité"), a campaign dedicated to STIs and HIV, on World HIV Day. Publicised on the TV, online and on billboards, the campaign focuses on the most common questions about protection against STIs and promotes the free availability of certain prevention tools. To support actors on the ground, Santé publique France also made available brochures, posters and photo books, etc. This second campaign is a continuation of the campaign launched in spring 2023 to coincide with National Sexual Health Week, which focused not only on the prevention of STIs, but also on other public health issues such as unplanned pregnancies and sexual violence. The aim is to normalise questions related to sexuality and encourage all French people to make informed and responsible decisions via, in particular, the QuestionSexualite.fr website.

CANCER

Screening rates still insufficient

Santé publique France is responsible for evaluating national cancer screening programmes and publishes participation rates each year.

In 2021–2022, nearly 35% of the population were tested for colorectal cancer, a figure that is stable but remains below European standards. The lowest rates are observed in French Guiana, Corsica and Guadeloupe.

The national organised breast cancer screening programme recorded a participation rate of only 47.7% over the same period. In addition, 11% of the women in question had mammograms



outside the programme. Participation rates in overseas France are close to that of mainland France, with the exception of a lower rate in French Guiana.

HEPATITIS

Hepatitis B, C, delta: decrease in the number of positive tests

While screening rates for hepatitis B, C and delta increased in 2021, the rates of positive tests decreased. This overall decrease hides differences across France. Positive test rates are higher in mainland France than in overseas France. The highest rates for mainland France are observed in Île-de-France, and, for overseas France, in French Guiana for the hepatitis C virus and in Mayotte for hepatitis B.

The annual number of new beneficiaries of long-term care for chronic hepatitis C has

3,171 people have recently received ALD (long-term care) for chronic hepatitis C, i.e., a rate of 5 per 100,000 inhabitants

fallen sharply since 2017, in line with the decline in the number of patients initiating treatment.

These updated hepatitis B, C and delta surveillance data show progress being made in hepatitis B vaccination and hepatitis B and C screening. It should be noted that 91.2% of infants born in 2021 have received all three doses of hepatitis B vaccine.

ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE AND HEALTHCARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS

Strengthening actions to promote the proper use of antibiotics

After a continuous decrease in antibiotic prescriptions outside of hospitals over the last ten years and a particularly significant decrease in 2020, linked to the COVID-19 control measures, antibiotic prescriptions have increased for the second consecutive year. However, they remain at a level slightly lower than that observed in 2019. In 2022, 821.5 antibiotic prescriptions per 1,000 inhabitants were made during the year (excluding hospitalisation), an increase of 16.6% compared with 2021. This resurgence concerns all age groups, in particular children under the age of 15. For children aged 0–4 years, the number of prescriptions in 2022 was higher than in 2019. The resurgence of prescriptions was particularly significant among children at the end of 2022, linked to the epidemics of common winter infections. However, these rarely justify the prescription of antibiotics. This is why the agency re-ran the campaign "Antibiotics: good treatment starts with good use".

In healthcare establishments, the national prevalence survey of healthcare-associated infections and anti-infection treatments

showed that one in six patients hospitalised in healthcare establishments received at least one systematic antibiotic treatment in 2022, an increase of 7.5% between 2017 and 2022. These results encourage continued efforts to prevent healthcare-associated infections by targeting the most common infections and reinforcing the proper use of antibiotics.



National monitoring networks

Since 2018, Santé publique France has been leading the five national expert assignments on the prevention and surveillance of healthcare-associated infections, antibiotic resistance, and the proper use of antibiotics. During the first mandate, each assignment was carried out by one or more support centres for the prevention of healthcare-associated infections (CPias). Under the new mandate, the scope of action of the national assignments has expanded to include education on the proper use of antibiotics in close collaboration with the regional antibiotic centres (CRAtb). Their mandate was renewed in October 2023 for a period of five years.

No-Tobacco Month



Does it really work?

No-Tobacco Month promises not only to prevent a range of respiratory diseases and cancers by 2050 but, according to a report by the OECD, this social marketing campaign could also significantly reduce healthcare expenditure. These results encourage continued engagement in the fight against smoking.

Smoking in France, a mixed picture

In 2022, France still had nearly twelve million smokers. This is high when we know that tobacco remains the leading preventable cause of death. Social inequalities are still very marked, with a much higher prevalence of daily smoking when the level of education is lower, incomes are lower and among unemployed people. While nearly six out of ten daily smokers want to quit, according to data from the Santé publique France 2021 Health Barometer, cigarettes still weigh heavily on the health of French people, and also on the nation's budget, with €156 billion in expenditure allocated annually to the consequences of smoking. With the aim of continuing the fight against this blight and achieving the first tobacco-free generation by 2032, a new national tobacco control programme for 2023–2027 was launched in November 2023.



No-Tobacco Month, a success from the start

Since its launch in 2016, the No-Tobacco Month initiative, set up by the French Ministry of Health and Prevention and Santé publique France in partnership with the French national health insurance scheme, has attracted strong interest with more than 1.3 million registrations. In November 2023, the 8th edition was based on a scheme highlighting collective ambition and the importance of support in the withdrawal process. On-the-ground initiatives were launched to support smokers in their attempts to quit, including dedicated stands in shopping centres in each region. In addition, in 2023, the "Tabac Info Service" cessation support scheme, via the helpline number (39 89), recorded nearly 56,000 calls, including 48,600 calls for tobacco assessment and monitoring.

15,799
interviews conducted
by tobacco addiction
specialists

1,657
responses provided
to internet users

157,576
people registered

A scheme with high return on investment, according to the OECD

According to models created by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) as part of a study conducted with the support of Santé publique France, by 2050, the No-Tobacco Month campaign could prevent 241,000 cases of lower respiratory tract infection, 44,000 cases of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and 28,000 cases of cancer. No-Tobacco Month would also reduce healthcare expenditure by 94 million euros per year on average between 2023 and 2050 (at a cost of around 12 million euros per year over the period 2016–2021). That represents a saving on healthcare expenses due to smoking cessation of more than 7 euros for each euro invested in No-Tobacco Month. Its effect would also increase employment and labour productivity, with an estimated value of 85 million euros per year. These results are based on a microsimulation model developed by the OECD for strategic public health planning for non-communicable diseases.

**MORE THAN 7
euros**

**saved on healthcare
expenses due to
smoking cessation for
each euro invested in
No-Tobacco Month,
according to the OECD**

Alcohol, prevention campaigns that reach their target

For several years now, Santé publique France has been implementing a comprehensive strategy for reducing the risks associated with alcohol consumption. This strategy is based on analysis of the population's health behaviours and scientific knowledge of effective prevention tools. It targets specific populations, each via specific approaches, messages and campaigns.

For women of childbearing age and their friends and family, to prevent the risks associated with foetal alcohol consumption, the agency created multiple campaigns, particularly between 2015 and 2020, based on a single guideline: "Zero alcohol throughout pregnancy". This is now also part of the broader prevention strategy for the first 1,000 days of life.

For the adult population, low-risk consumption guidelines have been developed to limit the impact on health. These were the subject of an extensive information campaign that ran six times between 2019 and 2022, and for which the effectiveness has been demonstrated.

41,000 alcohol-related deaths and nearly 30,000 alcohol-related cancers

81% of 17-year-olds had experimented with alcohol in 2022

In 2021, 33% of men and 20% of women between the ages of 18 and 24 reported heavy episodic drinking at least once a month, i.e., drinking 6 or more glasses of alcohol in the same session.

Finally, for young adults, who consume periodically but in significant quantities in the context of parties, the developed strategy aims both to reduce consumption levels and the associated risks (alcohol-induced blackouts, road accidents, intentional or non-intentional injuries, unprotected sex, etc.). The messages disseminated by the agency are based on protective behaviours to regulate consumption that are seen among groups of friends of the younger generations. A first campaign entitled "Friends at night too" ("Amis aussi la nuit") was designed and broadcast between 2019 and 2022. In 2023, a new campaign, called "These are the basics" ("C'est la base"), continued this angle of prevention through eight pieces of advice, some of which mention social pressure. This campaign was tested prior to dissemination on a panel of young people who judged it non-moralising, not attributing guilt and adapted to the party context.

"Good health has nothing to do with alcohol"

In the middle of Dry January 2023, Santé publique France released its new campaign, "Good health has nothing to do with alcohol". The goal? Reducing alcohol consumption, preventing and reducing the associated risks, and offering help tools via the alcool-info-service.fr website. The film shows a series of social scenes where people drink toasts and wish each other "good health". The sequences are repeated and accelerated, creating a saturation effect that culminates in the final slogan: "Good health has nothing to do with alcohol". A way to highlight the paradox and make an impression.



FIGHT AGAINST ADDICTIVE BEHAVIOURS

CBD and nitrous oxide, unprecedented figures

The potential dangers linked to the use of CBD products and the increase in cases of serious poisoning linked to the use of nitrous oxide are of concern to health authorities. Following the 2022 Santé publique France Barometer, the agency published new data on CBD and nitrous oxide consumption levels in the French adult population and consumer profiles. In particular, it reveals that one in ten French people consumed CBD at least once during the year, reflecting the rapid spread of this product in the general population. It is among young adults, aged 18 to 34, that experimentation with and consumption of CBD was most frequent over the year. Young people mainly consume CBD by smoking it, as an alternative to a conventional "joint", while older people are more likely to consume it orally, which suggests use for "well-being" or even self-therapeutic purposes. As for

10% of French people consumed CBD at least once during the year

3% of 18-24 year olds consumed nitrous oxide during the year



nitrous oxide, while most French people (75%) aged 18 to 75 have already heard of it, less than 1% had consumed it during the year, all of whom were under 35 years old. Among adults aged 18 to 35, 2.8% had consumed it during the year. Poisoning due to recreational misuse of culinary nitrous oxide can have serious, long-lasting neurological consequences and lead to hospitalisation, especially among regular consumers.

DRUGS AND TRENDS IN ADDICTION

Cocaine, a sharp rise in emergency department visits

With the release of a report by the French Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Trends in Addiction (OFDT) on changes in cocaine supply and use in France between 2000 and 2022, Santé publique France published unprecedented data on the subject. The results highlight a sharp and continuous increase in emergency department visits (data from the OSCOUR® network of hospitals) between 2010 and 2022, regardless of the region. Over this period, 23,335 emergency department visits, mainly related to intoxication (65%), dependence (13%) or withdrawal (7.5%), were identified, mainly concerning men (75%) with a median age of 32 years. This represents, on average, 72 emergency department visits per week in 2022. These results are consistent with feedback from the Drogues Info Service prevention scheme, which deals with a constantly increasing number of requests. The number of calls, chats and Q&As about cocaine rose from

72 emergency department visits per week in 2022. In two years, the rate of emergency department visits has increased more than three-fold

75% of emergency department visits were by men with a median age of 32



2,133 to 6,447 between 2010 and 2022. The increase in intoxication could be explained in particular by the circulation of cocaine containing higher amounts of an active ingredient content over the last ten years, or by the emergence of new, more potent and toxic synthetic products that can be sold as cocaine. Certain uses such as consumption alongside alcohol can also increase the risk of intoxication.

Does remote working have an impact on health?



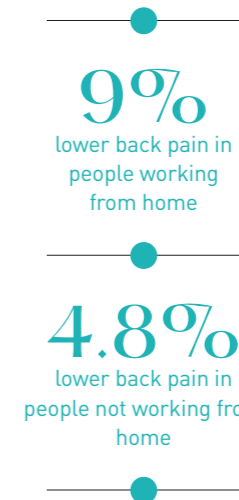
Since the COVID-19 pandemic, France's professional landscape and the way it is organised have changed profoundly. The increased use of remote working, while it can improve the work-life balance, is accompanied by an increased rate of lower back pain, particularly among people who are dissatisfied with working conditions and those with signs of depression.

A study conducted by Santé publique France analysed the complex links between teleworking conditions, depressive symptoms and the onset of lower back pain. Lower back pain in the workplace is the leading cause of osteoarticular disease. It is defined as pain located between the thoracolumbar hinge and the lower gluteal fold.

“Remote working increases psychosocial risks, such as social isolation, that influence the onset and progression of lower back pain.”

The objective of the study was to identify effective levers of action to reduce the health impacts of remote or hybrid work. This involved surveying a panel from the CoviPrev study that tracks changes in health, including mental health, and the adoption of protective measures against COVID-19 during lockdown and post-lockdown periods. Specific question blocks have been added to some waves of CoviPrev concerning, for example, lower back pain and remote working. The study looked at nearly 500 workers who had no lower back pain at the start of the third lockdown (which lasted from 3 April to 2 May 2021) and who were working from home at least one day a week. Several variables were taken into account, such as remote working conditions (equipment and number of days), level of satisfaction with these, symptoms of depression, gender, age and body size.

The results of the study showed that the weekly proportion of remote working has an impact on the occurrence of lower back pain. Prevalence ranges from 9% for full-time remote working to 5% for part-time remote working (hybrid work).



Furthermore, the presence of signs of depression was also significantly and positively associated with the onset of lower back pain during the third lockdown.

These results improve understanding of the chain of determinants of the onset of lower back pain in remote working situations. However, with remote working now a long-term aspect of working life, this research must continue.

PREVENTION

Drivers for action to reduce lower back pain among remote workers

- Encourage employers, together with occupational health services, to take measures to reduce the negative impact of new working conditions, drawing on resources such as Anact-Aract, INRS, Carsat, MSA, etc.
- Provide equipment suitable for use at home (furniture, screen with adjustable height, etc.).
- Distribute ergonomic recommendations for the layout of workstations.
- Monitor the extent of remote working implemented and encourage regular breaks to facilitate movement and avoid long time periods in a seated position.
- Combine these ergonomic and organisational interventions with multidimensional approaches involving all stakeholders.

OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES

Musculoskeletal disorders and mental distress on the rise

The surveillance of work-related diseases (WRD), illnesses related to work but not recognised as an occupational disease by social security schemes, is managed by Santé publique France in collaboration with the Occupational Health Inspectorate. It is the only system for monitoring work-related diseases. In 2023, Santé publique France published new results that explore work-related diseases between 2012 and 2018 and their evolution over twelve consecutive years, as well as a specific analysis of the organisational, relational and ethical exposure factors associated with these diseases.

Women more affected than men

Overall, a sharp increase in the rate of reported work-related diseases was observed between 2016 and 2018. The main work-related diseases reported are musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) and psychological distress. Men are more affected than women in both cases.

The results show an increase in the prevalence of MSDs since 2015. There is also an increase with age, regardless of year and gender. A social gradient has been observed, the prevalence being highest among workers and lowest among

WRDs increased by **1.4** in men and **1.5** in women

1,375 occupational doctors participated in the WRD scheme over the period 2012-2018

52% This is the proportion of WRDs linked to psychological suffering among women in 2018

managers. More than 80% of the factors involved are biomechanical in nature (repetitive movements, posture, hard labour). Psychological distress gradually increased between 2007 and 2018. It is observed particularly in women aged 35 to 44 years and men aged 45 to 54 years. There is an inverted social gradient, with managers being more affected than workers. However, these figures should be treated with some caution, due to possible under-reporting among workers. Organisational, relational and ethical factors account for 99% of those involved, and nearly half of them are related to the functional organisation of work (excessive or inadequate workload, changes in organisation, malfunctions in hierarchical structure, lack of recognition, lack of resources).

Under-reporting of occupational diseases

For illnesses that feature on the list of occupational diseases, a large majority are not declared as such, mainly due to the employee's lack of knowledge of the procedure prior to consulting the occupational doctor and insufficient diagnostic assessments. As a result, approximately 75% of the MSDs that could qualify as an occupational disease were not declared as such. Psychological distress does not feature on any occupational disease list. By improving knowledge of the situations at risk, this surveillance helps to establish priorities for prevention. It shows the importance of providing more information to workers, of strengthening and targeting prevention actions to improve working conditions and reduce exposure, particularly among workers identified as the most at risk.



RESPIRATORY DISEASES

Asthma: a negative impact on careers

Asthma is a common chronic respiratory disease which affects approximately 6 to 9% of adults in France. Asthma has significant consequences on individuals' professional careers: sick leave, loss of employment, redeployment to positions with no exposure, etc. As part of its mission to monitor respiratory diseases caused by living and working environments, Santé publique France is studying the consequences of chronic diseases on employment. In this respect, the agency, in collaboration with INSERM research teams, studied the correlation between asthma and career path based on inclusion data from the 2013-2014 Constances cohort.

The study involved 33,996 people, 52.3% of whom were women. The prevalence of existing asthma is 8.4% in men and 10.3% in women. When asthma was estimated by a symptom score, significant associations were observed with the indicators of the professional trajectory studied (duration of employment, number of roles, part-time roles, periods of interruption due to



6-9% of adults suffer from asthma in France (8.4% in men and 10.3% in women)

unemployment and health, employment status), both in men and in women. When asthma was defined dichotomously, these associations were more pronounced in women. These results, covering a large number of workers and taking into account individual factors such as tobacco, highlight the adverse impact of asthma on workers' career paths.

Close collaboration with the General Directorate for Labour

Santé publique France, the General Directorate for Health (DGS) and the General Directorate for Labour (DGT) are collaborating on a multi-year work programme. It sets priorities for monitoring and surveillance in the field of workers' health from a global perspective of preventing occupational risks and improving working conditions,

and for preventing and promoting health in the workplace. The surveillance scheme for work-related diseases, in particular, was developed as part of this collaboration (see opposite).

Why should physical activity be encouraged?



Physical activity is a major determinant health, whether the population is afflicted by illness or not. It contributes to the improvement of health and it helps people who are unwell to cope better with treatments. In the context of the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games, the promotion of physical activity was declared as a National Cause for 2024.

Interview with François Beck, Director of the Prevention and Health Promotion Department, and Michel Vernay, Director of the Non-Communicable Diseases and Trauma Department.

What do we know today about the health benefits of physical activity?

— **Michel Vernay:** The beneficial effects associated with physical activity (PA) in preventing and managing diseases have been demonstrated by numerous studies. In particular, it prevents cardiovascular diseases such as myocardial infarction and stroke, metabolic diseases such as diabetes, and certain cancers (particularly breast, colon, bladder and kidney cancers). It is important in the fight against overweight and obesity and improves sleep, reduces anxiety disorders and depression and reduces the risk of neurodegenerative disease. Its beneficial effects are also well demonstrated in the management of several chronic diseases and it also limits the consequences of these diseases. PA is considered a non-drug therapy in its own right in diseases such as hypertension or osteoarticular conditions.

— **François Beck:** It is important to note that physical activity can be of varying intensity and is not limited to sports. It includes several areas such as everyday life (housekeeping, DIY, commuting). This also means that it can be adapted to all ages and forms of disability: initiatives on adapted physical activity are therefore increasingly numerous, in particular through the development of sports and health centres across the country. Given its impact on morbidity and mortality, the promotion of physical activity aimed at the entire population and combined with a balanced diet has clearly become a public health issue.

Does physical activity help to combat sedentary lifestyles?

— **Michel Vernay:** Sedentary behaviours are now widely recognised as major risk factors for health but also as a preventable cause of mortality. And it's important to know that you can have a sufficient level of activity and be sedentary. It is therefore also necessary to combat sedentary lifestyles.



— **François Beck:** Indeed, a high level of activity is required to compensate for six to seven hours of remaining sedentary per day, which is the case for people who are sedentary due to their occupations. In 2023, we conducted a literature review on the solutions that can be implemented in the professional environment to reduce and interrupt sedentariness in the context of office work, such as adapting furniture, holding short standing meetings, etc. With adolescents, we are continuing to roll out the ICAPS programme in secondary schools, which aims to reduce on average the screen time of students by 20 minutes per day and increase their physical activity by one hour per week.

A campaign to get teens moving

“Getting teens moving is not easy. But encouraging them is important”: this prevention campaign ran in the autumn of 2022 and was re-run in the autumn of 2023. The objective: promoting physical activity in young people and reducing their sedentary levels. Among children aged 6–17 years, only 50.7% of boys and 33.3% of girls achieve the WHO recommendation of at least 60 minutes of moderate to high intensity physical activity per day. This level of activity improves young people’s cardiorespiratory, muscle, metabolic and bone health, and helps them maintain a healthy weight.



Promoting healthier food choices

The Nutri-Score algorithm has evolved. The objective was to improve its effectiveness in classifying food and drink in line with the main dietary recommendations of European countries using the Nutri-Score algorithm and to help consumers compare the nutritional composition of food and drink. Nutri-Score encourages healthier choices, in combination with nutritional policies aimed at preventing chronic diseases and combating obesity.

How can we improve uptake of prevention measures



against winter viruses?

Justified by the unprecedented circulation of three viruses at the same time (COVID-19, bronchiolitis and influenza) in the winter of 2022–2023, the latest wave of the CoviPrev survey revealed a reduced application of barrier measures and insufficient vaccination intentions among the population. This observation reaffirms the importance of information on virus prevention.

Launched in March 2020 among adults living in France, the CoviPrev survey aimed to monitor changes in behaviour (knowledge and adoption of barrier measures, compliance with lockdown, perception of illness, etc.) and mental health (well-being, sleep disorders, depression, etc.) in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey then continued past the pandemic, with new sections added over time.

A step back from barrier measures

Carried out between 11 and 18 September 2023, the latest wave of the CoviPrev survey, launched at the time of a resurgence in COVID-19 cases, revealed in particular insufficient adherence to barrier measures. Indeed, while 60% of respondents say they are willing to continue complying or to comply more often with barrier measures if a COVID-19 epidemic were to return, only half of these respondents say the same for other epidemics such as influenza (25%) or another winter disease (22%). Moreover, for 54% of respondents, having symptoms of illness (fever or cough) is an incentive to wear a mask in the winter, whereas only 15% of participants report wearing a mask routinely in the presence of vulnerable people and 14% on public transport. As these results underline the importance of reminding people about barrier measures to limit the circulation of winter viruses, Santé publique France rolled out a campaign developed with the Assurance Maladie (national health insurance fund), which ran in October 2023 on television, radio and online.

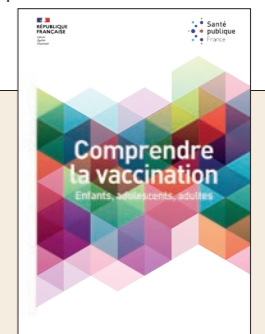
For **54%** of respondents, having symptoms of illness (fever or cough) is an incentive to wear a mask in winter

51.5% of people at risk of severe influenza were vaccinated during the 2022–2023 season



Vaccines, an underused prevention tool

In terms of vaccination, the CoviPrev survey shows that 49% of participants at risk of severe forms of influenza want to receive influenza and COVID-19 vaccination. Nevertheless, 24% of them said they did not want to take either of the two vaccines in September 2023, a proportion which remained stable compared to the previous year (22%). In addition to barrier measures, Assurance Maladie and Santé publique France reiterated the importance of vaccination by launching a major campaign on 29 October 2023. The promotional tagline was “You don’t have to choose: get boosters for flu and COVID-19”. The challenge: setting up dual influenza and COVID-19 vaccination as a new habit, an essential winter protective measure for priority populations.



New tools to promote vaccination

During of the European Vaccination Week from 24 to 30 April 2023, Santé publique France published national vaccine uptake data and 2022 national and regional vaccine coverage. The Agency has also made numerous tools available to promote vaccination among the public and healthcare professionals. These include the new edition of the simplified 2023 vaccination calendar, a vaccination postcard translated into several languages and the vaccination calendar poster, the adolescent-adult vaccination booklet, the “Understanding vaccination” brochure, educational videos, expert videos, etc.

Covid-19: surveillance continues

Although the end of the health emergency was declared on 1st January 2023, surveillance is continuing. As a result, following the co-circulation of several respiratory viruses (COVID-19, RSV bronchiolitis and influenza) during the winter of 2022–2023, Santé publique France implemented “integrated” surveillance of acute respiratory infections (ARIs) for the 2023–2024 season. This includes the three viruses in the same weekly reporting format and relies on a wide network of partners. The indicators produced should make it possible to monitor ARIs in a categorised and specific way and to better estimate their burden and impact on the healthcare system.

The agency also implemented a wastewater monitoring system to detect the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, and to monitor its circulation regardless of the rates of use of human screening tests. A weekly sample is taken from twelve wastewater treatment plants, which are distributed across all regions of mainland France (excluding Corsica) and selected based on population and territorial representativeness criteria.

In addition, to monitor the genomic evolution of the virus, the EMERGEN consortium, coordinated by Santé publique France and ANRS|Emerging infectious diseases (MIE), is developing and adapting its surveillance. In 2023, it refocused its



LONG COVID SURVEY

4% is the prevalence of post-COVID-19 conditions (WHO definition) in France in 2022 (corresponding to 2.06 million people). Prevalence was higher among women (10.2%), those seeking employment (14.9%) and those who were hospitalised for COVID-19 (18.6%)

21% of people reporting a post-COVID-19 condition were infected during the Delta variant wave and 53.2% during the Omicron variant waves

sequencing activity around the French National Reference Centre (CNR) for Respiratory Infection Viruses – which was renewed in 2023 for five years – in close collaboration with the collecting medical biology laboratories and with the support of the hospital laboratories of the ANRS|MIE network.

Finally, while the acute phase of the COVID-19 epidemic has passed, Santé publique France has focused on the prevalence of long COVID. In 2023, the agency presented the first results of a study that shows, in particular, that two million people had a post-COVID-19 condition by the end of 2022, i.e., 4% of the general adult population, with a higher prevalence among women, the unemployed and those hospitalised for COVID-19. Because it has a strong or very strong impact on the daily activity of 30% of those affected and represents a burden on the healthcare system, long COVID is still being monitored.

SURVEYS

The impact of the pandemic on workers

In early 2023, Santé publique France published a summary of the results of three surveys carried out in 2020: CoviPrev, the Coset-Covid survey and the survey on changes in working conditions and the consumption of psychoactive substances during periods of epidemic. All show the negative impact of the pandemic and the organisational changes in work structures on the mental health of workers. Among the notable results: 30.5% of employed workers reported anxiety symptoms in March 2020, compared with 15.9% at the end of June 2020.



New strategies for bronchiolitis

Santé publique France is responsible for monitoring cases of bronchiolitis, a highly contagious disease that mainly affects infants. In 2023, the Agency published its annual report for the winter of 2022–2023. This season’s epidemic was characterised by very high intensity: nearly twice the average values of the reference epidemics. This is evidenced by the large number of emergency department visits and hospital admissions post-emergency department visits for bronchiolitis for patients under 2 years of age. “The winter of 2022–2023 was marked by the co-circulation of three viruses – bronchiolitis, influenza and COVID-19,” explains Sophie Vaux, epidemiologist and programme coordinator on vaccine coverage surveillance at Santé publique France. “With regard to bronchiolitis, we observed an early onset of the epidemic (early October 2022) which was intense and lasted for 16 weeks. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, seasonal epidemics of bronchiolitis have been very disrupted.” Faced with the particularly difficult situation in winter 2022–2023, which affected an already very busy hospital system, Santé publique France has adapted its surveillance strategy for winter 2023–2024. A pilot regionalised programme for monitoring severe cases of bronchiolitis in children under 2 years of age was initiated thanks to the involvement of voluntary paediatric intensive care units.

73,262 emergency department visits [OSCOUR®] for bronchiolitis

26,104 hospitalisations post-emergency department visit for bronchiolitis [OSCOUR®]

10,801 SOS Médecins consultations for bronchiolitis

A new preventive treatment

In terms of prevention, Santé publique France continued to issue reminders of barrier measures – the same as those widely disseminated during the COVID-19 pandemic – essential to prevent the spread of the epidemic. Ahead of the 2023–2024 winter season, a preventive treatment against bronchiolitis, the monoclonal antibody nirsevimab (Beyfortus®), which was granted marketing authorisation in late 2022, was available in France from September 2023. Designed to prevent respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) bronchiolitis in infants, this immunisation campaign demanded strong implication from the pharmaceutical establishment of Santé publique France, which notably purchased and distributed more than 200,000 doses. To assess the effectiveness of this treatment, the agency undertook significant analytical work, which is still ongoing in 2024. Via its regional offices, Santé publique France relied on the network of voluntary paediatric intensive care services in hospitals that was set up during the 2023–2024 season to administer a questionnaire. This provided data on cases of bronchiolitis leading to the hospitalisation of children in intensive care. In collaboration with the modelling teams of the Institut Pasteur, Santé publique France is also working on developing a model that would be able to predict RSV epidemics and estimate the number of hospitalisations post-emergency department visit avoided thanks to nirsevimab.

Strategic stock management of health products

Santé publique France’s pharmaceutical establishment department manages the strategic stock of medicinal products and health products on behalf of the State. Its role is to acquire, store and organise, as may be relevant, the distribution of the necessary products as stipulated in the national health threat response plans (article L. 1413-4 of the French Public Health Code). These stocks are distributed throughout the country according to a master storage and distribution plan with the aim of both ensuring stock security and proposing adapted national distribution.

Risk factors associated with chronic diseases



Do French people really understand?

While the French say they are well informed about the risk factors associated with chronic diseases, their perception is generally not based on any scientific knowledge. People tend to distance themselves from individual risk based on their own behaviour. The proof with the results of the 2021 Cancer Barometer.

Every five years, the French National Cancer Institute, in partnership with Santé publique France, produces the Cancer Barometer. This tool for managing public health policies grasps the attitudes and behaviours of French people in relation to cancer, in a context where nearly half of cancers could be avoided. The aim is to improve prevention and fight against inequalities.

Misconceptions persist

Data for this 4th edition were collected in 2021 from 5,000 people aged 15 to 85. Overall, the French respondents reported feeling well-informed about cancers. Yet their perception of preventable risk factors was not based on scientific knowledge. For example, the link between psychological factors and cancer was often cited. But there is no scientific evidence to support this belief.

The results also show that individuals feel some distance from individual risk based on their own behaviour. For tobacco, the leading preventable risk factor for cancer, one in two smokers places at least one of the danger thresholds (number of cigarettes smoked per day or number of years of smoking) above their own consumption. A similar tendency is observed for alcohol, the second preventable risk factor for cancer: people who consume it cite it less readily as a risk factor than those who are abstinent.

Finally, the conventional wisdom that cancer is hereditary persists, especially in people who have not completed secondary school education. Faced with these findings, it seems crucial for the agency to step up health awareness and education initiatives among the general public. Improving French people's understanding of the avoidable risk factors of chronic diseases, particularly cancer, requires a continuous information and prevention approach based on solid scientific data.

Behaviours and perceptions of French people regarding cancer

68%

of French people feel they are well-informed about cancer

93%

of French people say they have a good level of knowledge about tobacco, the most significant risk factor, sun exposure (80.5%) and alcohol (76.4%)

75%

of people feel uninformed about the risks of cancer related to certain infections (such as HPV), 50.4% for those related to sun beds and 44% for risks related to food

56%

of French people cite television as their main source of information, but healthcare professionals are identified as the most reliable sources

A change in method

To refine the data collected, the Cancer Barometer has undergone significant changes. The perception of risk factors was analysed using a dual approach: for the first time through an open-ended question, and as before through a proposed list of proven and unproven risk factors.

New questions on other subjects such as ultraviolet light, nutrition, vaccination, lung cancer screening, and e-cigarettes, provide unprecedented data on the knowledge and behaviour of French people regarding each of these items.

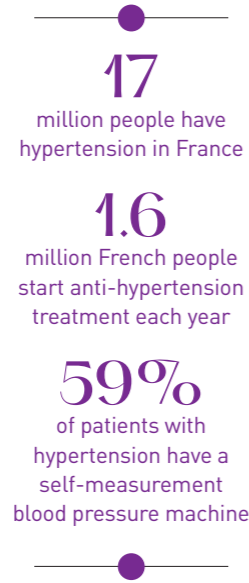
INSIGHT

from Michel Vernay, Non-communicable Diseases and Trauma Department

"The Cancer Barometer on knowledge, perceptions and lifestyle habits helps us to better understand the beliefs and representations of the population regarding cancer and thus to better manage prevention and health promotion actions. On skin cancers, for example, it appears that some misconceptions are tenacious. In 2021, nearly one in five French people still believe that exposure to artificial UV in a sun bed is less harmful than exposure to natural UV, and nearly a quarter of French people mistakenly believe that exposure to UV before holidays would prepare their skin to protect themselves from the sun. Only a quarter of French people say they know how long they need to be exposed to the sun in order to have enough vitamin D. Among them, only 15% know the WHO recommendation that the skin, face and hands be exposed to the sun in summer for less than 15 minutes a day to have enough vitamin D. Others, and more men than women, tend to overestimate this time and potentially take more risks."

Hypertension, both a chronic disease and risk factor

In France, 17 million people suffer from hypertension, including more than six million who are not aware of their condition. On World Hypertension Day on 17 May 2023, Santé publique France provided an overview of the latest French data and recalled the preventive measures that can limit the risk of onset of the disease or complications in patients already with the condition. Hypertension is the most common chronic disease in France and one of the main causes of cardiovascular, renal or cognitive complications, due to the frequent absence of symptoms. However, regular measurement of blood pressure (at least once a year) favours early detection of the disease and therefore better management of the condition. Despite the proven benefits, indicators for prevalence, screening and control have not improved since 2006, unlike in many other countries.



High prevalence in overseas France
Overseas France has the highest prevalence of hypertension, particularly among women, and particularly in Martinique (31.5%) and Guadeloupe (29.39%). The proportion of patients treated with an anti-hypertension medication among adults reporting to have hypertension exceeds 80%, as in mainland France. In contrast, between 65 and 73% of adults with hypertension report having received advice to change their lifestyle, compared with 58.5% in mainland France. In French Guiana, 51.5% of patients with hypertension have a self-measurement device at home, compared to 53.8% in Réunion island and more than 70% in Guadeloupe and Martinique. As complications of hypertension are more frequent in overseas France, prevention via nutrition must be intensified, particularly among women.

Importance of adopting healthy behaviours

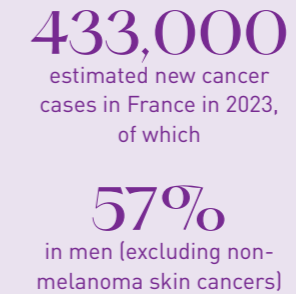
From an early age, healthy behaviours limit the risk of hypertension. This involves a balanced diet rich in fruit and vegetables, limited consumption of salt and alcohol, regular physical activity and even weight control. Measuring blood pressure regularly (at least once a year) is also an important preventive measure, as it favours the early detection of disease.



INCIDENCE OF CANCER

Cancers: increasing survival rates for common types

In partnership with the French National Cancer Institute, the Francim network of cancer registries and the biostatistics-bioinformatics department of the Hospices Civils de Lyon, Santé publique France regularly publishes estimates of cancer incidence, mortality and survival in France. The latest study was published in 2023 and focused on data observed between 1990 and 2018. The objective: to estimate the incidence of the 19 most common cancers (excluding skin cancers other than melanoma) and that of all cancers in mainland France for 2023, and to update the analysis of changes since 1990. In 2023, the total number of new cancer cases (433,000 – excluding skin cancers other than melanoma) doubled compared to 1990, mainly due to the growing population and the ageing of the population but also to lifestyles. In men, prostate cancer



remains the most common, followed by lung cancer (the deadliest) and colorectal cancer. In women, breast cancer (the deadliest) remains the most common, followed by colorectal and lung cancers. The increase in smoking among women is the cause of the sharp increase in lung cancer among women. This epidemiological surveillance, by regularly updating key indicators, contributes to guiding, monitoring and evaluating public health policies in the field of cancer control.

NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASES

An increase in new cases of Parkinsons disease

In 2023, Santé publique France published new data on the frequency of Parkinson's disease, which supplement the 2015 estimates and present the annual evolution up to 2020. All of this data is available as open data on Géodes and the Dataviz application, promoting research and prevention against this slow-progressing neurodegenerative disease. It reveals in particular that nearly 26,000 new cases were

diagnosed in 2020 and that just under 180,000 people received treatment in France, with a certain degree of variation across the country.

A disease that continues to progress

The number of cases and new cases increases, with new cases occurring continuously in people aged between 45 and 80 years, before reaching a peak between 85 and 89 years, and then decreases. Cases are higher in men, regardless of age, and lower over the age of 85. Of all patients, 15% are under 65 years of age. The increase over time has already been described in previous data (2010 to 2015) and was expected given the ageing of the population.

Moderate impact of the COVID-19 epidemic

There was a 21% increase in the proportion of patients who died in 2020 compared to 2019. This higher mortality could be linked to the COVID-19 pandemic. The decrease in incidence of the disease observed in 2020 (-4.7% compared to 2019) can be explained by lower use of healthcare.



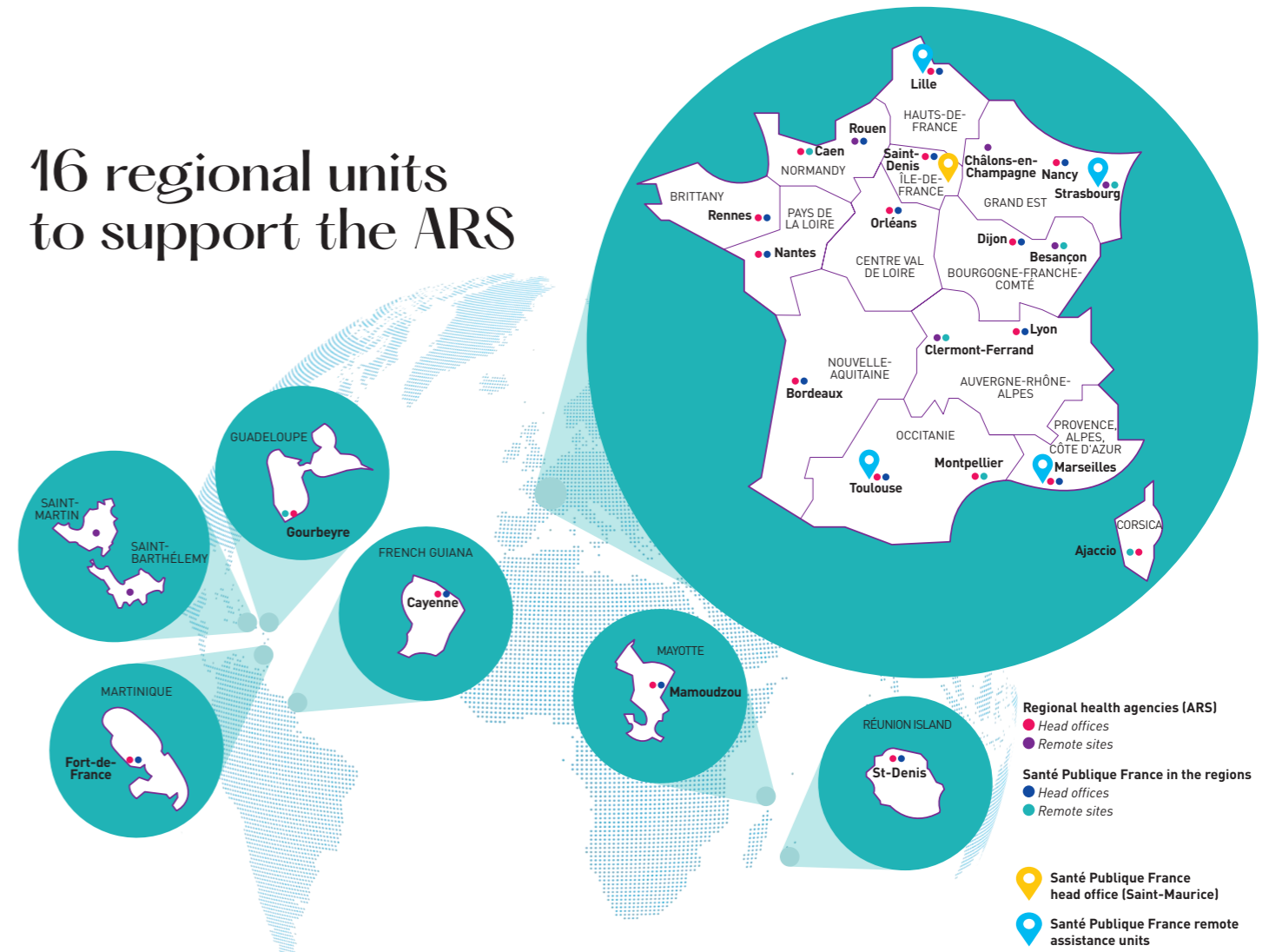
How can we work across France



as close as possible to the people?

Santé Publique France covers the entire French territory through its 16 regional offices, positioned to support each of the regional health agencies (ARS). Each regional office delivers regional monitoring, surveillance and alert operations, and supports prevention and health promotion initiatives.

16 regional units to support the ARS



Insights from Didier Che, Regions Department

Addressing local health issues.”

The regional offices fulfill public health missions by contributing in particular to the implementation of surveillance and major surveys at the regional level. We also address local health issues. In the regions, we set up one-off and very specific studies at the request of the regional health agencies and to answer the questions of the

populations. Most often, these are environmental health studies. Examples include the epidemiological study on the health and quality of life of residents of the Lacq industrial area, north-west of Pau, and the Prior study on residents of the Orbier valley, in the Aude region, on their perception of the risk associated with pollution from former mining sites. Other studies, such as Kannari 2, have significant reach. The aim is to study the evolution of the exposure of Caribbean populations to chlordecone and other pollutants. The surveillance of infectious diseases is also an important focus of the regional

offices, which must implement national surveillance within their areas. Take, for example, the surveillance of acute respiratory syndromes, where regional offices are the link with local partners, including intensive care units. They ensure the reporting and quality of information in conjunction with the Infectious Diseases Department. Discussions on professional practices for the surveillance of arboviruses, which bring together members of the regional offices and relevant specialist departments, make it possible to structure and standardise the tools used to perform investigations, surveillance or studies.

Careful monitoring of vector-borne diseases in all regions

Each year, the seasonal coordinated enhanced surveillance of chikungunya, dengue and Zika cases is active from 1 May to 30 November. It complements the annual surveillance based on mandatory reporting. These viral diseases, transmitted by mosquitoes, are mostly tropical but can be transmitted in Europe and mainland France by the *Aedes albopictus* mosquito (also called tiger mosquito), which is now present in most regions of France.

46 cases of native dengue fever in mainland France in 2023

During this enhanced surveillance period, the agency identified more than 2,000 cases of imported dengue and nine native transmission outbreaks representing 46 cases in mainland France. The outbreaks were in the regions of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Occitanie and Île-de-France. Faced with the increase in dengue fever cases in the French West Indies, Martinique and Guadeloupe entered the epidemic phase on 17 August 2023. Imported cases of chikungunya and Zika have also been identified in mainland France. In addition, Nouvelle-Aquitaine has identified more than 30 indigenous human cases of West Nile virus. Until now, human infections with West Nile virus have only been found in France in the Mediterranean region.

A decrease in tick-borne diseases

Another vector-borne disease, the most common to date, is Lyme borreliosis, transmitted by ticks. In 2022, it is estimated that nearly 34,000 cases were diagnosed in general medicine, i.e., an incidence of 51 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in France. Lyme borreliosis is present throughout France, but is unevenly distributed. The eastern and central regions have the highest incidence rates, while the western and south-eastern Mediterranean regions have the lowest rates per capita.

More than
2,000
cases of imported
dengue and
9 outbreaks
of native transmission
in 2023

34,000
cases of Lyme
borreliosis diagnosed
in 2022, an incidence
rate of
51 cases per
100,000
inhabitants



Santé publique France also published a report on the first two years of monitoring through the compulsory declaration of tick-borne encephalitis cases. Seventy-one cases were reported between May 2021 and May 2023, of which 86% were "indigenous" infections (61 cases). Haute-Savoie is the region that reported the most cases over these two years and the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region is now a major area of virus circulation. Furthermore, following the detection of the Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus in ticks of the genus *Hyalomma* collected from cattle reared in the Pyrénées-Orientales, Santé publique France and its partners analysed the risks for the population using a "One health" approach. In humans, it is generally limited to influenza-like illness with digestive issues. In some cases, however, it may worsen and result in a haemorrhagic syndrome.

Zoonotic diseases closely monitored

In the current context of the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses in Europe and France, Santé publique France has set up a reinforced surveillance protocol for avian influenza (SAGA protocol). The aim is to detect early any case of transmission of these viruses to humans, by taking respiratory samples from people exposed to a confirmed outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza, including when these people are asymptomatic ("active" monitoring). In addition, as part of the surveillance of diseases transmissible from animals to humans, leptospirosis became a notifiable disease in 2023.

Diabetes, a health priority in Réunion Island

Due to its high prevalence, high frequencies of risk factors and associated complications, diabetes is a regional health priority in Réunion Island. The Réunion Nutrition and Diabetes Program (PRND) was implemented over the 2020–2023 period. The 2021 Santé publique France Health Barometer shows that the prevalence of diabetes on the island is 13.6%. Since complications of diabetes are common, nutritional prevention actions must continue to reduce risk factors and the impact of social inequalities. The results of the 2021 Health Barometer in overseas France will help guide public policies, and in particular the updating of the PRND in 2024. As highlighted in a November 2023 issue of the *BEH* dedicated to diabetes in overseas France, the prevalence of known diabetes is very high throughout the overseas departments and regions, at around 12% in the French West Indies and French Guiana.



To these percentages, the proportion of people (3 to 4%) who declared themselves non-diabetic, but who said that a doctor told them they had "mild diabetes" or "onset of diabetes, but not too severe", should be added.

A pilot health mediation project in Marseille

The "13 en santé" ("Healthy 13") project aims to improve access to cancer screening and vaccination among vulnerable populations in seven districts of Marseille. It offers a comprehensive range of health mediation interventions, individual and collective, combining "go to", "bring to" and "do with" actions, in close partnership with the healthcare offering and the make-up of the community in the relevant neighbourhoods. The first assessment of the interventions is encouraging with well-identified operators, very positive qualitative feedback from mediators, relay partners and the population.

Better understanding perinatal health in overseas France

Carried out for the first time in 2021, the National Perinatal Survey – Overseas France (ENP-Drom) is a study co-sponsored by Santé publique France and the regional health agencies. Its initial results, which complement those obtained for mainland France, concern Martinique, Guadeloupe and Réunion Island. Overall, health indicators and risk factors are less favourable during

pregnancy and childbirth than in mainland France, in a context of greater insecurity. This survey is also the first to describe the mental health of mothers in a representative manner. Women in overseas France feel more sad or depressed during pregnancy than in mainland France. Other indicators show behaviours that are more favourable to the health of the mother and child. The proportion of women reporting tobacco consumption in the 3rd trimester of pregnancy ranges from 3.9% to 8.7% in overseas France, compared with 12.2% in mainland France. In addition, breastfeeding is more widely practiced there. As part of the First 1,000 Days strategy, the ENP-Drom produces perinatal indicators that will contribute to changing public policies and clinical practices in overseas France.



Does climate change have an impact



on health?

While the effects of climate change on the environment and the economy have been documented, Santé publique France is striving to increase knowledge of its repercussions on health. These consequences can already be seen, are measurable and are now the subject of prevention programmes.

Insight by Sébastien Denys, Environmental and Occupational Health Department, Harold Noël, Infectious Diseases Department, and Michel Vernay, Non-communicable Diseases and Trauma Department.

Why is climate change a public health priority?

— **Sébastien Denys:** Climate change is changing our environment significantly and this is not without consequences for human health. Rising summer temperatures and heatwaves lead to excess mortality, while floods and climate shifts impair mental health. Additionally, wildfires affect already vulnerable people. Furthermore, protecting health can also be a driver for action in the face of climate change. By promoting sustainable transport, we can reduce pollution while encouraging physical activity, which is useful in the prevention of certain diseases.

— **Harold Noël:** Climate change also increases the likelihood of seeing emerging infectious diseases. These are mainly viruses, parasites and bacteria from the animal world that come into contact with human populations increasingly easily. Higher temperatures are associated with an increased frequency of leptospirosis, for example, a disease that is transmitted by contact with urine from rats carrying this infection and which joined the list of notifiable diseases on 24 August 2023. The development of arbovirus emergences (chikungunya, dengue and Zika) transmitted by tiger mosquitoes in mainland France is also linked to climate change, with the periods conducive to their transmission becoming longer. These emerging infectious diseases must be closely monitored because they can cause explosive epidemics such as dengue fever that have been ongoing in the French West Indies and French Guiana since 2023.

— **Michel Vernay:** Climate change also influences many risk factors for a number of chronic diseases, and is therefore likely to influence multimorbidity (concomitant occurrence of at least two chronic diseases, cardio-metabolic, osteoarticular, mental conditions, etc.), which is itself associated with functional decline, a reduction in quality of life, greater consumption of healthcare resources and excess mortality. People who are multimorbid and, at older ages, frail, are also more vulnerable to environmental (heatwave, frost, etc.) or infectious (flu, COVID-19, but also emerging infectious diseases) stresses. Finally, the impact of climate change on risk factors (particularly social) and chronic diseases is expected to be accompanied by an increase in social and territorial health inequalities, as some populations or territories may be affected more than others.

What are your priority issues?

— **S.D.:** We are studying and monitoring the health effects of air pollution, indoor air quality and heat. We are also interested in urban heat islands, which represent an additional risk to the population. Santé publique France is conducting an advocacy campaign to promote the integration of health issues into regional planning on these topics. This is being done nationally and internationally, because we also run a dedicated committee within the International Association of National Institutes of Public Health (IANPHI). The agency also highlighted the need to work in a network in order to convince decision-makers at the Environment and Health ministerial meeting organised in Budapest by WHO Europe in July 2023. Finally, we have created a committee of 15 multidisciplinary scientific experts to support our recommendations with independent high-level expertise.

— **H.N.:** Our role is to help ensure that emerging infectious diseases are recognised, diagnosed, managed and that they are the subject of measures designed to contain them such as mosquito control for dengue fever in mainland France. We monitor the occurrence and impact of known diseases (arboviruses, tick-borne diseases, etc.) via a number of tools: mandatory declaration of diseases, the network of French National Reference Centres, data on emergency department visits, SOS Médecins consultations, etc. To detect new or less obvious phenomena, we monitor events taking place abroad, in particular by observing data from the European Centre for the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases.

— **M.V.:** We provide epidemiological monitoring of indicators of chronic diseases, multimorbidity and frailty at national and subnational levels, and characterise the populations most at risk. Providing estimates of the prevalence of frailty among populations at fine geographical levels helps to better identify territories which are particularly exposed to these risks and to better prepare the response to threats.

Beyond monitoring, how do you work to prevent epidemics?

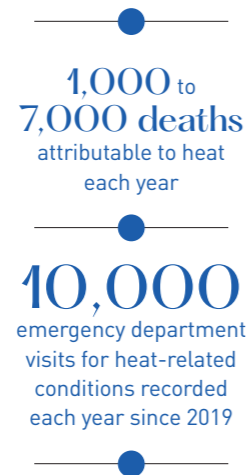
— **H.N.:** With regard to arboviruses, every year we approach healthcare providers to remind them of the risk of transmission. We also support the regional health agencies with prevention plans. The aim is to encourage them to report patients so that we can investigate and break the chains of transmission. On 25 May, we also organised the first awareness day on tick-related vector-borne diseases to discuss, prevent and recognise Lyme borreliosis.

Heatwaves and high heat: what is the impact on mortality?

In June 2023, Santé publique France published a report on the impact of heat on mortality in mainland France. The study recorded nearly 33,000 heat-related deaths between 2014 and 2022, including 23,000 deaths involving people over the age of 75. Among these deaths, 28% occur during heatwaves. This evaluation highlights the fact that the impact of heat is not limited to the most extreme periods.

SACS: the Heat Warning System

In 2023, as every year, Santé publique France implemented near-real-time health surveillance, from 1 June to 15 September. The aim was to monitor a number of parameters, such as the frequency of emergency department visits and the reasons for consultation (hypothermia, dehydration, etc.). The objective: to anticipate heatwaves and take appropriate measures quickly. In 2023, the agency consolidated its surveillance system with the production of an epidemiological



Sources: Estimate of the fraction of mortality attributable to heat in mainland France, Santé publique France, May 2023.

update 15 days after the end of each heatwave episode, providing estimates for excess mortality as quickly as possible.

Practical advice

In addition to the existing emergency system activated in the event of a heatwave, Santé publique France rolled out a new prevention scheme from 15 May, with messages broadcast on radio, TV and on social networks aimed in particular at parents of young children and the elderly. It is intended to reinforce behaviours which help people protect themselves from heat in everyday life and not only during heatwaves, in a context where climate change is causing more frequent, earlier and longer-lasting heatwaves.

AIR POLLUTION

173 measures implemented by local authorities

Santé publique France is the coordinator of the Air and Health surveillance programme, which brings together national and regional partners to assess the impact of air pollution on health. As such, the agency participated in the CEPEM project to characterise pollution episodes and assess the implemented measures, launched in 2018, funded by ADEME and coordinated by INSERM. For this project, the agency identified the actions taken by local leaders to reduce emissions, particularly in the area of transport.

17-month survey

This survey, conducted over 17 months by multiple actors in the public and non-profit sectors (devolved State administration, local authorities, public inter-municipal cooperation institutions, associations, etc.), identified no fewer than 173 actions being taken throughout France. The players in question will now

be able to make use of this catalogue of conclusive actions with a view to duplicating them. This study also showed that most areas were committed to the issue of changing the transport landscape with more or less ambitious objectives of increasing the volume of sustainable and public transport. The agency also observed that large-scale projects were mostly carried out by local authorities with the active participation of elected officials, but also that the success of the measures and their social acceptance depended in particular on anticipating their social and economic impact.



ENDOCRINE DISRUPTORS

What is the best surveillance strategy for the future?



As part of its health-environment programme and the national strategy on endocrine disruptors (SNPE), Santé publique France has been monitoring the links between endocrine disruptors and reproductive health since 2015. In 2021, the agency launched the PEPS'PE study, based on a broad consultation of experts and stakeholders in order to prioritise the health effects of endocrine disruptors (EDs) and identify health events to be included in current surveillance. Of the 59 health effects suspected of being attributable to ED exposure and proposed in the study, 21 are assessed as a priority to be monitored. These are effects on reproductive health (early puberty, infertility, decreased fertility, etc.), metabolic effects

(overweight, obesity, type 2 diabetes, etc.), neurodevelopment disorders in children, cancers and asthma. Santé publique France therefore plans to analyse the feasibility of monitoring these effects which are classified as a priority. In addition, the agency is developing a new "integrated" surveillance strategy. The latter will rely on the production of robust indicators from several data sources [National Health Data System (SNDS), cohorts, etc.], as well as on the articulation of different methodologies and tools in addition to spatiotemporal analysis to measure, analyse and interpret the impact of endocrine disruptors on human health.

A geographical approach to pesticide exposure

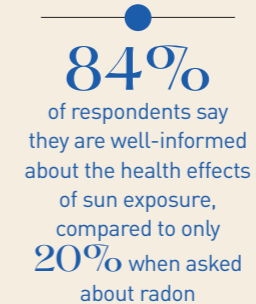
On 28 June 2022, Santé publique France organised a scientific seminar on data and geographical approaches intended to estimate the environmental and occupational exposures to pesticides of the population of France. The summary of this day, published in 2023 and available on the agency's website, details more broadly the issues and challenges posed by using geographical information to characterise the link between the environment and the health of populations.

ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

Pesticides, pollution, sun, etc.: how French people perceive these risks



In October 2023, Santé publique France published a second set of results from a study on the level of knowledge about and perception of environmental risks for the health of French people, based on the Santé publique France 2021 Health Barometer. The objective: to better identify the population's information needs and to help guide prevention and promotion strategies in the field of health and the environment. In particular, the results show that how well-informed people feel varies depending on the environmental topic addressed. Thus, nine out of ten people identify outdoor air pollution, heavy metals, polluted soil, pesticides and extreme weather events as posing a "high" to "quite high" risk to health. Fewer of them



identified noise (71%), invasive plants (66%) and radon (59%) as a "high" to "quite high" risk. This study also highlights the importance of going beyond information on risks alone and optimising awareness and education on best practices to protect oneself. This is done through the professional environment or appropriate regulatory tools.

Source: Sense of information and perception of environmental risks – second section, Santé publique France, October 2023.

How to act quickly in case of



exceptional health situations?

Santé publique France coordinates the Healthcare Reserve, made up of nearly 5,800 volunteer health professionals engaged each year, all professions combined, and the pharmaceutical establishment, which manages the State's strategic stock of health products. In the event of a health emergency, the agency is thus able to mobilise material and human resources within very short deadlines to strengthen the existing structures via its Alert and Crisis Coordination Division.

At the start of 2023, an unprecedented drought in Mayotte led the water resource monitoring committee to implement water restriction measures early. This situation has exposed the Mahoran population to increased health risks. These conditions also increase the risk of diseases such as rotavirus gastroenteritis or typhoid fever and hepatitis A outbreaks. Endemic to the region, these diseases are transmitted through direct contact with or consumption of contaminated food and water.

A comprehensive monitoring system
Faced with this emergency situation, Santé publique France deployed an enhanced surveillance system. This strategy included monitoring emergency department visits and deaths at the Mamoudzou Hospital Centre (CHM), active monitoring via the network of pharmacists and sentinel physicians, and molecular monitoring in close collaboration with the CHM laboratory. The surveillance of serious cases in intensive care and notifiable diseases rounded out this system, as did the monitoring within primary and secondary school infirmaries.

“The pharmaceutical establishment played a crucial role in the supply of essential vaccines.”

One major innovation has been in “community-based” monitoring, targeting the most vulnerable people where they live, with the support of associations, the regional health agencies (ARS) and the emergency medical services (SAMU), for those with limited access to healthcare and water. In addition, wastewater surveillance was set up by the Mayotte ARS with the support of the General Directorate for

Health (DGS) and Eau de Paris, as well as with the technical support of the National Reference Centres for Vibrions and for Cholera and Associated Enteroviruses to detect, respectively, choleric vibrios and polioviruses in the Mayotte wastewater surveillance system.

The Healthcare Reserve and pharmaceutical establishment mobilised

To prevent the health crisis from escalating, Santé publique France stepped up its response with an unprecedented deployment of the Healthcare Reserve. In July 2023, fourteen health technicians and engineers joined the ARS teams to optimise water analysis and management. In support, an epidemiologist and a public health nurse strengthened the capacity for local expertise. In an active fight against typhoid, 28 healthcare professionals have been hired for a targeted vaccination campaign. Finally, more than 230 healthcare reservists were assigned



to the perinatal department of the CHM from March, and emergency services were reinforced by 57 specialists from May. The pharmaceutical establishment also played a crucial role in managing the health crisis, providing vital expertise for the supply of hydroalcoholic solutions, sending freezers to increase vaccine storage capacities, and defining supply strategies for essential vaccines to protect against potential outbreaks of typhoid, hepatitis A, cholera and poliomyelitis.

The importance of prevention

In terms of prevention, the Mayotte ARS, in conjunction with the regional office of Santé publique France, informed the population (radio and television spots, communications on social networks and their website) and regularly updated the information available to keep up with changes in health recommendations in the face of water scarcity. All of these actions and collaborations highlight the importance of coordination and responsiveness in preventing health crises.



Major events

Strengthened health surveillance systems

Given the large number of fans gathered for the Rugby World Cup from 8 September to 28 October 2023, Santé publique France strengthened its surveillance system to detect any unusual event that could have an impact on health early and limit health risks.

Detecting the risks inherent in large gatherings

Overall, health surveillance and epidemiological monitoring routinely carried out by the Santé publique France teams seek to detect early health indicators that may lead to alerts, validate them and contribute to the implementation of prevention or control measures. Risks identified ahead of the Rugby World Cup include the spread of diseases with the potential of becoming an epidemic or the risk of trauma due to crowd movement; the occurrence of collective food poisoning linked to temporary catering structures; the risk of dehydration linked to a heatwave; or the potential occurrence of malicious actions targeting the event. The health surveillance strategy therefore consisted of capitalising on existing systems, with daily reporting on a large number of indicators, but also raising awareness among reporting health professionals about biological surveillance of infectious diseases, surveillance of notifiable diseases and syndromic surveillance of emergency department visits via the



SURSAUD® system (based on data from the OSCOUR® network of hospitals and the SOS Médecins network of general practitioners). In addition to routine analyses, the data from the SURSAUD® system was the subject of a specific analysis on the risks associated with large gatherings at the end of each match (on D+1 and D+2), at the regional and national levels.

Good feedback

"The Rugby World Cup was an opportunity for the agency to test the enhanced surveillance protocol devised in advance of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games", explains Marie Hamsany, project leader for major events. During the event, only one major health alert was reported: a cluster of botulism cases in a Bordeaux restaurant, on the sidelines of a World Cup match in the city. *"The collaborations we have set up to collect unprecedented data, for example with the Paris Fire Brigade or the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control on international surveillance, are actions that will be renewed at the time of the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games,"* she adds.

And in the future?

From 26 July to 8 September 2024, France will welcome 15 million spectators from all over the world, at the same place and at the same time, for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. *"For Santé publique France, the challenge will consist of maintaining heightened surveillance over a long period of time",* Marie Hamsany emphasised. At the same time, the agency, together with the Ministry of Labour, Health and Solidarity, is also mobilising in the field of prevention, in particular by renewing communication campaigns for the risks associated with extreme heat, with certain tools translated for a multilingual audience, and by offering prevention messages on other risks amplified by this type of gathering.

FIOs

Increased vigilance in the face of foodborne infections

In 2022, with nearly 2,000 cases, the number of foodborne illness outbreaks (FIOs) reported was the highest recorded in France since the implementation of surveillance in 1987. As in previous years, the most frequently confirmed pathogen was *Salmonella*, responsible for 42% of FIOs. In 2022, the health authorities were informed of five serious cases of listeriosis in France, four of which were in pregnant women who had preterm deliveries. Investigations have shown that the people in the reported cases had consumed plant-based products (cheese alternatives) with almond and cashew milk. In January 2023, the company in question withdrew and recalled all the products manufactured.

Nearly
33,000
heat-related deaths
between 2014 and 2022
in France

Only **12%** of French
people consider
themselves fragile
or very fragile during
a heatwave

Similarly, in September 2023, fifteen suspected cases of botulism were identified, including ten people hospitalised and one deceased. All the victims, from different countries, had attended the same bar/restaurant in Bordeaux. The offending foods were jars of sardines in oil made at home by the restaurant owner. Investigations continued to search for anyone likely to have consumed these sardines and Santé publique France was in contact with the national public health agencies of the other countries concerned in this matter.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT

The Healthcare Reserve, a fast-growing operation

Comprising volunteer healthcare professionals who can be called upon at any time by the State, the Healthcare Reserve, coordinated by Santé publique France, provides support during exceptional health situations. In 2023 alone, 3,114 healthcare reservists were called upon, mainly in overseas France, for 329 assignments, i.e., almost eight times more than before 2020, for a budget of €6.3 million.

Whether they are doctors, nurses, pharmacists, nursing assistants, health engineers or even laboratory technicians, the healthcare reservists have a variety of profiles and are ready to intervene in an emergency, wherever the need arises. They provide crucial support to the provision of care and medico-social services in the event of an exceptional health situation, facilitate repatriation or evacuation operations in the event of political disturbances or natural disasters, provide backup for telephone platforms, contribute to prevention and management at mass gatherings, and offer expertise and coordination.

"I would like to commend the commitment and dedication of all the agents who make up the Healthcare Reserve Division and who work 24/7 to serve the mobilised healthcare reservists."

Catherine Lemorton, Head of the Healthcare Reserve



Interventions in France and abroad

In 2023, the Healthcare Reserve was particularly active in French Guiana and Mayotte, responding to a shortage of drinking water and its consequences (see p. 49). Internationally, the Healthcare Reserve was also called upon, notably at the end of November, at the time of

the armed conflict in the Middle East. *"In less than 24 hours, at the request of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, around 20 healthcare reservists were mobilised and sent to the Le Dixmude helicopter carrier, for the care of Palestinian mothers and children near the Gaza Strip,"* explains Catherine Lemorton. In total, 80 healthcare reservists took turns on board the Dixmude for eight weeks, facing extreme conditions. *"Within the Healthcare Reserve Division, stress management was constant,"* she says. This commitment is part of a partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which led to the creation of an international taskforce which involved healthcare reservists in assignments initiated or managed by the Ministry's crisis centre after receiving appropriate training.

Organisational chart*

Board of Directors
Sylvie LEMMET

Scientific Advisory Board
John NEWTON

Ethics and Professional Conduct Committee
Grégory AIGUIER

Steering and Dialogue Committee
Éric VINDIMIAN

Quality Control, Risk Management and Legal Office

Scientific and International Department
Director/Anne-Catherine VISO
Deputy Director/Grégoire DELEFORTERIE

Communication and Dialogue with Society Department
Director/Peggy GOÉZMANN-MAGD
Deputy Director/Vanessa LEMOINE

Alert and Crisis Department
Director/Loïc GROSSE
Deputy Director/André DE CAFFARELLI

Pharmaceutical Establishment Healthcare Reserve

Executive Management

Managing Director/Caroline SEMAILLE
Deputy Managing Director/Marie-Anne JACQUET
Scientific Director/Laetitia HUIART
Chief of Staff/Alima MARIE-MALIKITÉ

Human Resources Department
Director/Éric AMAUDRY
Deputy Director/Claude PINAULT DESCOMBES

Information Systems Department
Director/Adel ARFAOUI
Deputy Director/Cédric BARBIEUX

Purchasing and Control of Expenditures Department
Director/Angélique MORIN-LANDAIS
Deputy Director/Annelyne TAN

Accounting Office
Accountant/Virginie DUBOIS

Coordination

Regions Department
Director/Didier CHE
Deputy Director/Ami YAMADA

Infectious Diseases Department
Director/Bruno COIGNARD
Deputy Director/Harold NOËL

Non-communicable Diseases and Trauma Department
Director/Michel VERNAY
Deputy Director/Anne MOULIN

Prevention and Health Promotion Department
Director/François BECK
Deputy Directors/Claudine TANGUY - Pierre ARWIDSON

Support and Dissemination to the Public Department
Director/Karine GROUARD
Deputy Director/Virginie RÉGINAULT

Environmental and Occupational Health Department
Director/Sébastien DENYS
Deputy Director/Mélina LE BARBIER

Data Support, Processing and Analysis Department
Director/Yann LE STRAT
Deputy Director/Céline CASERIO-SCHÖNEMANN

* As at 01/07/2024.

Our governance bodies

The agency's governance is based on a founding principle of openness and dialogue which guarantee collective expertise and transparency. It is organised around four boards.



The Scientific Advisory Board

The Scientific Advisory Board is composed of 27 members responsible for overseeing the quality and cohesion of the agency's scientific policy. The members are appointed at the proposal of the Managing Director for a mandate of 4 years, which may be renewed by decision of the Chair of the Board of Directors, following the latter's approval of the list of members.

Ethics and Professional Conduct Committee

The Ethics and Professional Conduct Committee consists of 7 members. They supervise compliance with the rules of ethics and professional conduct that apply to the agency, its staff, and its occasional contributors. Its members are appointed for a period of 4 years by decision of the Chair of the Board of Directors.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is composed of 33 members (of which 9 represent the State) responsible for giving a verdict on the agency's main strategic orientations, its work programme and the human and financial resources required to conduct its missions. The term of office of the members of the Board is valid for 4 years and renewable once.

The Steering and Dialogue Committee

The Steering and Dialogue Committee, consisting of 10 to 20 members, is responsible for describing society's expectations and questions in terms of public health. Its members are appointed for a period of 4 years, renewable once, by decision of the Chair of the Board of Directors.

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.

46 referrals, including:

- 26 referrals from the General Directorate for Health (DGS)
- 8 referrals from the Ministry of Health
- 5 referrals from the regional health agencies (ARS)
- 5 referrals from other bodies or institutions
- 2 referrals from the agency's Board of Directors

tobacco – June

- Information mission on European consumer protection – July
- Flash information mission on infant mortality – September
- Opinion presented on behalf of the Committee on Sustainable Development and Spatial Planning on the 2024 Finance Bill (No. 1680), Volume IX, Territorial Cohesion – October
- Government mission on perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances – October
- Information mission on women and sport – November
- Bill to ban single-use electronic vaping devices – November

1 hearing by the Central Office for Combatting Environmental and Public Health Damage (OCLAESP) – Court of Justice of the Republic (CJR) on crisis management – June

8 contributions, including:

3 contributions for IGAS

- Sexual Health Report – February
- Food Education Report – October
- Health-environment report on the work of the IGAS – October

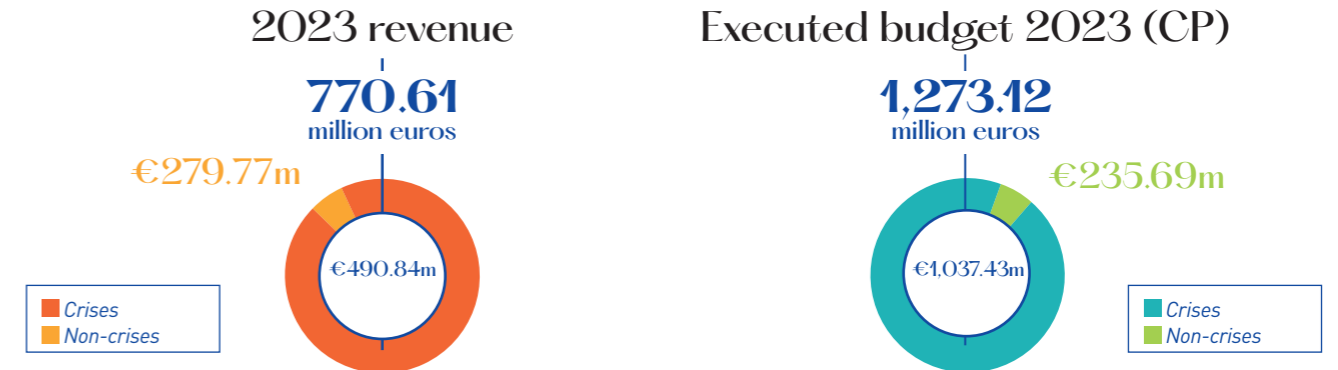
5 contributions for the Court of Auditors

- AIDS Info Service report – June
- Perinatal policy observation report – September
- Support survey for people with age-related disabilities – September
- Survey on the protection of the health of vulnerable people in the face of heat waves – October
- Obesity prevention and management control – November

27 hearings of Santé publique France experts led to 16 publications of HSCP opinions

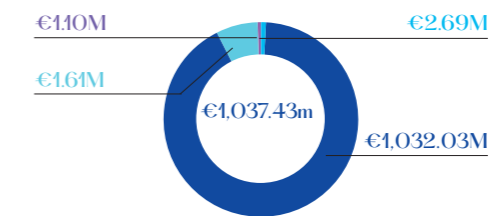
- Health messages to be distributed in the event of episodes of ambient air pollution
- Biological screening of blood donors for treated syphilis
- Risk of transmission of *Strongyloides stercoralis* from elements and products derived from the human body
- Prevention of viral respiratory infections
- Q fever outbreak in Vaucluse: safety of products derived from the human body
- Update of the HCSP opinion of 23 July 2020 on tick-borne encephalitis (TBE)
- What to do in relation to a case of group A streptococcal infection
- Mandatory transmission of individual data to the health authority
- Opportunity for a vaccination campaign in Mayotte (shortage of drinking water)
- 2023 health recommendations for travellers
- List of countries at risk of transmission of the West Nile virus (WNV) for human bodily products, 2023 season
- Safety of products and elements derived from the human body with regard to the hepatitis E virus
- Roll-out of prevention appointments
- National health strategy: contribution of the French High Council for Public Health (2023)
- Safety of human bodily products following a case of West Nile virus infection outside the seasonal alert period
- Health and environment seminar: fifteen years of public policies – changes in public perception of environmental risks/ information and training actions

Budget

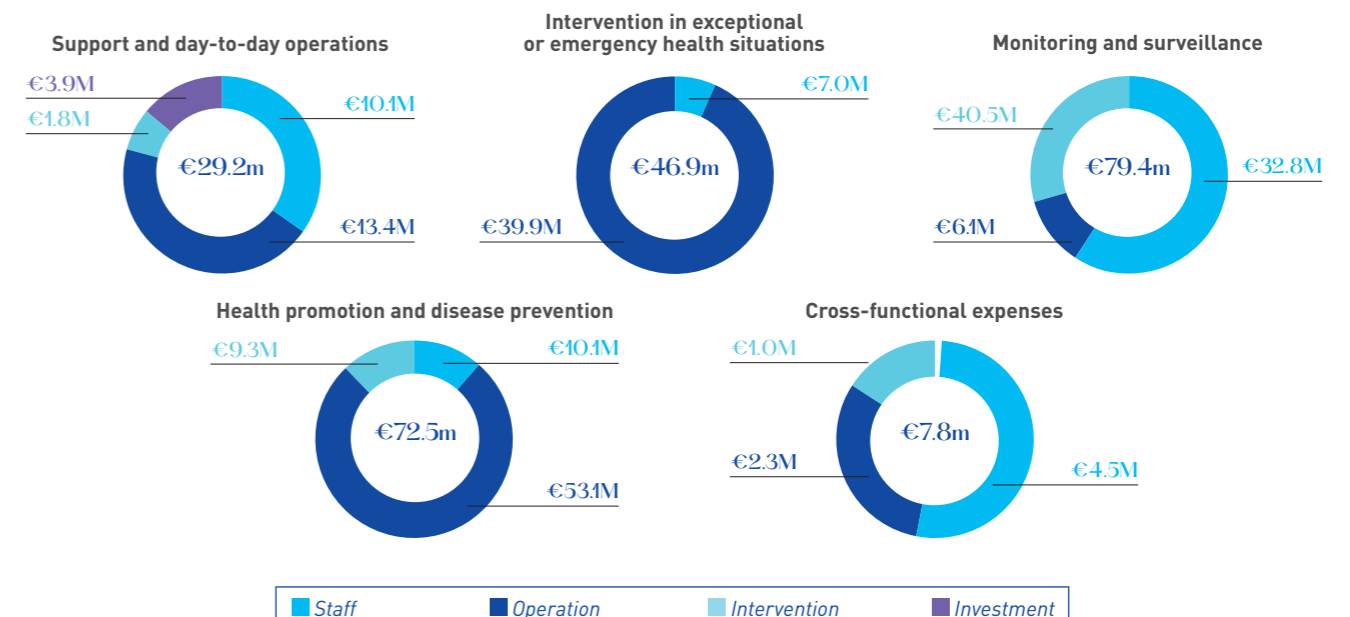


In 2023, to prepare for and ensure crisis management and pursue its other public health missions, the agency committed €449.23 million and paid €1,273.12 million in expenses. It benefited from €770.61 million in revenue mainly from public health insurance. In addition, operating expenses related to training amounted to €727k.

Breakdown of crisis management expenditure by budget allocation (CP)



Breakdown of non-crisis management expenditure by budget allocation and destination (CP)



Publications

La Santé en action

La Santé en action is a journal published by Santé publique France on disease prevention, health education and health promotion. It is intended for education, health and social care professionals.



No. 464 June 2023
Consent, ethics, care and health

The concept of consent can be defined as "an act by which someone gives a decision, initiated by someone else, the personal support necessary to carry it out". At all stages of their lives, individuals can give their consent and decide what they want. This report analyses the conditions that professionals in all fields – healthcare but also education and social – must meet.



No. 463 March 2023
Prevention and health promotion among 40–55 year olds: what are the challenges for practice?

Middle age, i.e., 40–55 years, is a pivotal period for prevention and health promotion in the population. A pivotal time, but one that is rarely capitalised on because it is not identified as a turning point in maintaining health. The other life stages are much better marked: early childhood, adolescence, young adults, then advancing age, the elderly. This special issue presents the state of scientific knowledge on the health determinants and status of 40–55 year olds.



No. 462 December 2022
Adapted physical activity: promoting the health of populations

Physical activity is beneficial for the overall health – physical and mental – of the entire population. The most recent international scientific research has confirmed that this also applies for people living with disease.

Free subscription on the Santé publique France website.

Focus on weekly knowledge-sharing meetings

Each year, the agency supports its scientific staff and partners in developing the skills useful for carrying out their expert missions in the service of public health action. It favours a pedagogical approach 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]-Institute for the Development of Applied Epidemiology [IDEA], Institute of Public Health Epidemiology and Development [ISPED]].

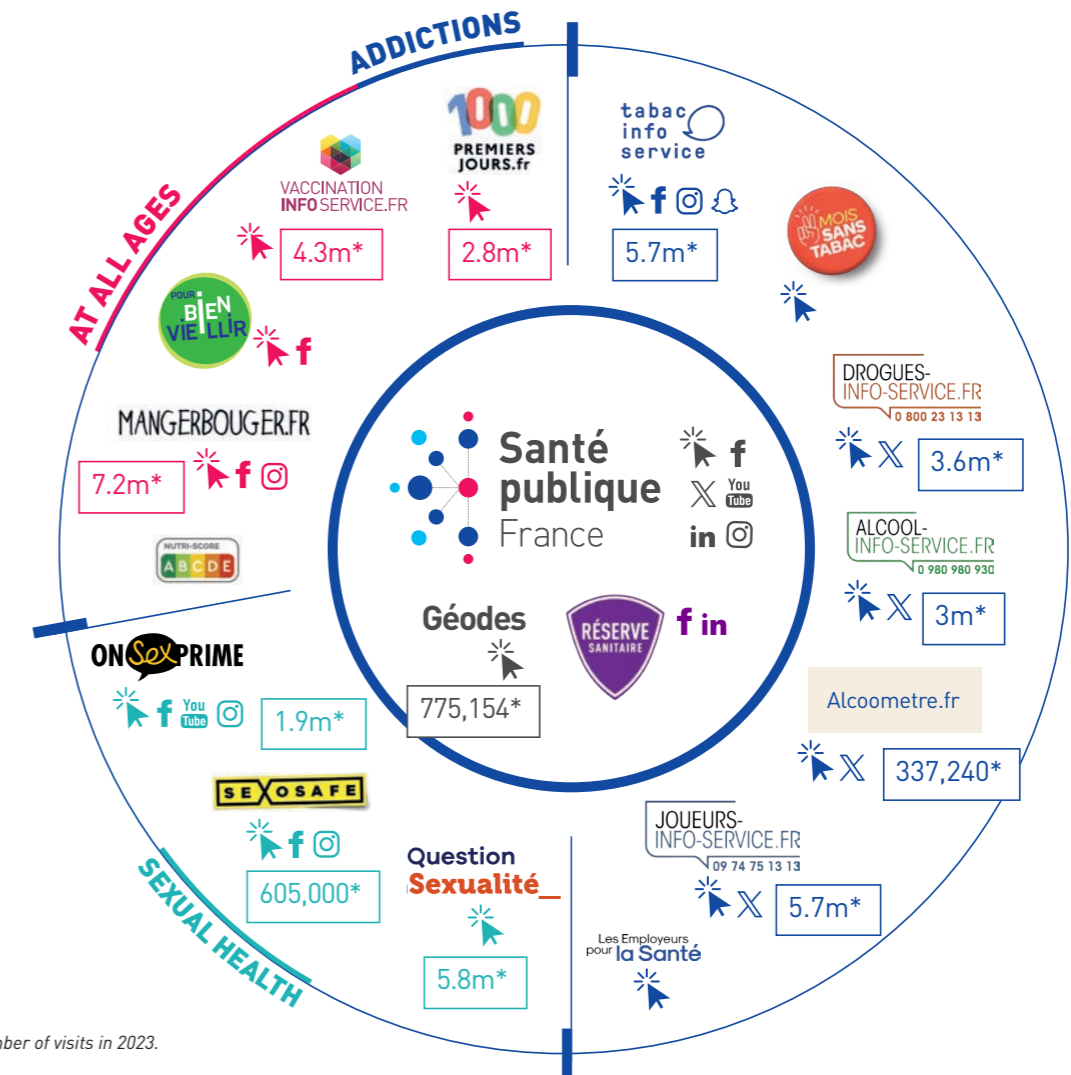
Article of the month

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

Bulletin épidémiologique hebdomadaire (BEH)

The BEH is a peer-reviewed journal produced by Santé Publique France, which publishes articles submitted by a wide range of public health stakeholders. It is open access and free online. In 2023, 26 issues of the BEH were published, including 13 classic and 13 special editions.

Our prevention tools



* Number of visits in 2023.

58,878
conversations with a tobacco addiction counsellors and 5,475 responses provided to internet users

150,215
responses (calls, chats, etc.) processed by the Drugs, Cannabis, Alcohol and Gamblers Info Service

18,081,980
visits to the Drugs Info Service, the Alcohol Info Service and its alcoholmeter, the Gamblers Info Service, and the Tobacco Info Service websites

36.2 million
website visits

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