Mental health is increasingly thought of as one of the top public health concerns, especially among younger people.
Cancer, mental health and dementia are the public’s top concerns

Which, if any, public health issues are you concerned about? (unprompted)

Answers 11% and above:

- Cancer: 32%
- Mental health: 23%
- Dementia: 17%
- Obesity: 16%
- Diabetes: 15%
- Heart disease: 12%
- Illnesses related to ageing*: 11%

Change over time**:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>2014-17</th>
<th>2016-17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td>-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental health</td>
<td>+8</td>
<td>+3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dementia</td>
<td>-6</td>
<td>-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity</td>
<td>-3</td>
<td>-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart disease</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td>-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illnesses related to ageing*</td>
<td>-5</td>
<td>-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Base: All participants (2017: 1,709, 2016: 1,640, 2015: 1,631, 2014: 1,625). *Please note that in 2014 this code was worded ‘age-related illnesses’. A number of the answer codes shown have been abbreviated; refer to topline results for full wording. **Percentage point difference.

Source: Ipsos MORI / PHE Public Opinion Survey

Ipsos Public Affairs
And concerns about mental health have grown significantly over the last year

Please tell me which, if any, of the following public health issues are you most concerned about these days? (prompted – up to three answers)

Answers 14% and above:

- **Cancer**: 41%
- **Mental health**: 32%
- **Dementia**: 26%
- **Obesity**: 16%
- **Heart disease**: 15%
- **Illnesses related to ageing***: 15%
- **Diabetes**: 14%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Issue</th>
<th>2014-17</th>
<th>2016-17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td></td>
<td>+2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental health</td>
<td>+16</td>
<td>+11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dementia</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>+2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obesity</td>
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<td>+1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart disease</td>
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<td>-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Illnesses related to ageing*</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td>+1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>+3</td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Base: All participants (2017: 1,709, 2016: 1,640, 2015: 1,631, 2014: 1,625). *Please note that in 2014 this code was worded ‘age-related illnesses’. A number of the answer codes shown have been abbreviated; refer to topline results for full wording. **Percentage point difference.

Source: Ipsos MORI / PHE Public Opinion Survey
Mental health is a particular concern among younger age groups

Please tell me which, if any, of the following public health issues are you most concerned about these days? (prompted)

% mentions for mental health

- 65+: 21%
- 45-64: 31%
- 25-44: 36%
- 15-24: 40%

All participants: 15-24 (267); 25-44 (469); 45-64 (501); 65+ (472), 2017

Source: Ipsos MORI / PHE Public Opinion Survey 2017
Mental health is the public’s second highest spending priority
Priority for public is funding for mental health services, second only to urgent & emergency care

If the Government were to devote more funding to health and care services, which three, if any, of the following do you think it should prioritise in terms of spending?

- Urgent and emergency care such as A&E and ambulance services: 68%
- Mental health services: 58%
- Community and social care services, such as supporting people with day-to-day needs like washing and dressing: 40%
- Children's services: 40%
- Primary care, including general practice and pharmacy: 33%
- Routine planned surgery, for example hip, knee and cataract operations: 24%
- Public health initiatives to prevent more people from becoming unhealthy and ill: 23%
- None of these: 3%

Base: 917 English adults 18+, interviewed between 26 – 29 April 2018

Source: Ipsos MORI / NHS Providers 2018
And they have some concerns about the quality of mental health services
Opinion remains divided on whether mental health services are as much of a priority for government as other NHS services

Please tell me whether on the whole you agree or disagree with each of the following statements...
Mental health services are as much of a priority for government as other NHS services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Winter 2016</th>
<th></th>
<th>Winter 2015</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
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<td>52%</td>
<td>37%</td>
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<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know/Not stated</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Base: Adults aged 16+ in England (c. 1,000 per wave)

Source: Ipsos MORI / DH Perceptions of the NHS Tracker
And two-thirds think waiting times for mental health treatment are too long, though many don’t know

Please tell me whether on the whole you agree or disagree with each of the following statements...
NHS waiting times for mental health treatment and care are too long

Winter 2016
- 37% Strongly agree
- 64% Tend to agree
- 27% Tend to disagree
- 5% Strongly disagree
- 31% Don’t know/Not stated

Winter 2015
- 34% Strongly agree
- 59% Tend to agree
- 25% Tend to disagree
- 6% Strongly disagree
- 34% Don’t know/Not stated

Base: Adults aged 16+ in England (c. 1,000 per wave)

Source: Ipsos MORI / DH Perceptions of the NHS Tracker