NHS Sustainable Development Unit (SDU) Survey
Topline Results, December 2011

Technical details

- This document includes data from surveys conducted on behalf of the NHS Sustainable Development Unit investigating public attitudes towards sustainability in the NHS.
- Data are based on 1,101 interviews with respondents in England aged 15+.
- The interviews were conducted over two waves of the Ipsos MORI Capibus (a weekly, face-to-face, in-home omnibus survey). The first wave took place between 11 November and 17 November and the second between 25 November and 5 December.
- Data are weighted to reflect the population profiles of people in England aged 15+.
- Where results do not sum to 100, this may be due to multiple responses, computer rounding or the exclusion of don't knows/not stated.
- Results are based on all respondents unless otherwise stated.
- An asterisk (*) represents a value of less than half of one percent, but not zero.

Results

One definition of a sustainable lifestyle is to use the planet's resources in a way that minimises the negative impact on the wellbeing of others and on the environment, both now and in the future.

Thinking about sustainability

QSD01. **Which of these best describes how you feel about living a sustainable lifestyle? Please read out the letter that applies.**

	%
I'm not interested in living a sustainable lifestyle	6
I could do somewhat more to live sustainably	40
I could do a lot more to live sustainably	22
I do all I can to live sustainably	28
Don't know	3

The NHS could become more sustainable by doing things such as; making sure that unused lights are switched off, that the buildings are not kept too hot, and that patients can receive more of their treatment or care closer to home.

QSD02. **How important do you think it is, if at all, for the NHS to work in a more sustainable way?**

	%
Very important	58
Fairly important	34
Not very important	5
Not at all important	2
Don't know	2

QSD03. **To what extent do you feel the NHS should make sustainability a part of the way it does its work in the future?**
Please give your answer on a scale of one to ten where ten means that sustainability should be the NHS' top priority and one means it should not be a priority at all.

	%
1 = Not a priority at all	1
2	2
3	2
4	4
5	13
6	12
7	19
8	21
9	5
10 = top priority	19
Don't know	2

QSD04. **Which, if any, of the following statements is closest to your view?**

	%
The NHS should not act in any more sustainable a way than they do now	3
The NHS should only act in a more sustainable way where this would save money	34
The NHS should act in a more sustainable way even where this would not save or cost money	23
The NHS should act in a more sustainable way even where this would cost a small amount	24
The NHS should act in a more sustainable way even where this would cost a significant amount	9
Don't know	6
None of these	1

The NHS is already making some changes to make it more sustainable. I am going to read out some of these changes.

QSD05. **Please tell me to what extent each of these, in your opinion, will make the experiences of patients get better or worse, or will they stay the same?**

		Get a lot better	Get a little better	Stay about the same	Get a little worse	Get a lot worse	Don't know
		%	%	%	%	%	%
1	Using teleconference services such as video or telephone or internet communications. This would mean that patients could talk to their doctor or other health professionals from or close to their home	24	36	19	10	4	7
2	Locating services closer to people's homes (where suitable) so that they do not always have to travel to hospital	34	39	18	3	1	5
3	Using video communications to allow senior doctors to assist qualified doctors' work. This would allow patients to have surgery at their local hospital rather than having to travel to a specialist centre	26	36	18	9	3	7
4	Making it easier for patients and staff to cycle or walk to NHS services (where this is appropriate)	18	34	32	6	2	7
5	Improving NHS buildings (such as hospitals and GP surgeries) so that the energy to heat, cool, ventilate and light the buildings is used more effectively	30	42	22	2	*	4
6	Hospitals serving patients more locally-sourced, seasonal and fresh food	38	37	17	2	*	5

There are a number of things that patients and the public could do to help the NHS to become more sustainable.

QSD06. **If you were using an NHS service, how likely or unlikely would you be to …?**

		Very likely	Fairly likely	Neither likely nor unlikely	Fairly unlikely	Very unlikely	Don't know
		%	%	%	%	%	
1	Inform staff if you notice that lights have been left on without any apparent reason	14	22	17	28	17	2
2	Inform staff if you notice that NHS resources (such as energy, packaging and equipment) have been wasted	12	26	18	24	17	3
3	Use public transport when travelling to NHS services	20	20	13	19	26	2
4	Accept re-issued medicines that have been returned by other patients because they were not used and after they have been checked for safety	25	27	13	13	19	3

QSD14 **Which of the following services, if any, have you personally used in the last year or so?**

Base: All respondents (1,096)

	%
Visited an NHS GP	65
Attended an NHS hospital as an outpatient	29
Visited a Pharmacist/ Chemist for medical advice	29
Visited an accident and emergency (A&E) department	16
Been an inpatient at an NHS hospital	14
Used NHS Direct (the NHS telephone help service)	10
Used a walk-in clinic	10
Used the NHS Choices website	4
Used social care services	2
Don't know	*
Refused	*
None of these	19

QSD15 **Do you personally, members of your family, or any of your friends work for the NHS in any capacity?**

Base: All respondents (1,096)

	%
Yes – me personally	6
Yes – members of my family	17
Yes – friends	10
No	69
Don't know	*