

SCIENCE NEWS

IN NUMBERS

10 YRS

A 10-year study of more than half a million people confirmed that the measles vaccine does not increase the risk of autism.

It is the largest study ever of the issue and adds further to the evidence against a link between autism and the vaccine.

Researchers looked at a Danish population registry of 657,461 children, some who were vaccinated with the mumps, measles, and rubella (MMR) vaccine and some who were not.

After over a decade of follow-up,

6,517

were diagnosed with autism. There was no increased risk of autism in children who had the MMR vaccine and no evidence that it triggered autism in susceptible children.



No link between vaccine and autism

UK avoidable deaths

23%

A total of 23% of all deaths (141,313 out of 607,172) in the UK in 2017 were avoidable, of which



60% were among men.

With 224.7 in every 100,000 deaths being preventable in 2017, this was significantly less than the 228.7 the year before.

Since 2014, the largest changes in avoidable mortality rates were for injuries, which rose by 37% in Northern Ireland, and respiratory disease, which increased by 19% in Wales.

92.7 Cancer remained the leading cause of avoidable death in 2017 and was responsible for 92.7 in every 100,000 fatalities in the UK.

130,000



The NHS has been told to stop using pagers for communication by 2021.

The health service still uses about 130,000 pagers – 10% of the total still in use globally.

They cost the NHS about £6.6m a year.

Health Secretary Matt Hancock said “email and mobile phones” are a “more secure, quicker and cheaper way to communicate”.



Sanitary products

Two in five UK hospital trusts and health boards did not give sanitary products to patients who needed them, or did so only in emergencies.

NHS England said hospitals providing free sanitary products will now be mandated in the contract for 2019-20.

