

IPH Newsletter

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Welcome to Public Health News in Ireland

Inside this issue

- [Spotlight on the Health Well – Chronic Conditions Hub](#)
- [National Rare Disease Plan for Ireland](#)
- [IPH Public Health Open Conference – 11 October 2012](#)
- [Curbing cancer through lifestyle change](#)
- [Increases in numbers living with hypertension and chronic breathing problems expected](#)
- [Cycling – North and South in tandem](#)
- [IPH presents preliminary data on the prevalence of musculoskeletal conditions](#)
- [Preventing childhood injuries: How does Ireland compare to other European countries?](#)
- [Crossing Bridges – health in all policies](#)
- [Enthusiastic response to Open Access Training Course in Dublin](#)
- [Updated indicators will help improve health in local communities](#)
- [Northern Ireland Public Health Research Network \(NIPHRN\)](#)
- [Consultations](#)
- [Events](#)

Spotlight on the Health Well – Chronic Conditions Hub

Chronic health conditions are a major public health challenge. They are responsible for significant mortality, reduced quality of life, and cost to the health and social care system and the economy. The Chronic Conditions Hub brings together information on these important conditions and includes accessible collections of resources. The Hub also includes IPH data that systematically estimates and forecasts the prevalence of a number of chronic conditions including hypertension and chronic airflow obstruction.

[Access Chronic Conditions Hub](#)

National Rare Disease Plan for Ireland



Minister Reilly with National Rare Disease Plan for Ireland Steering Group

IPH and the Department of Health in the Republic of Ireland jointly organised a Consultation Day on a National Rare Disease Plan for Ireland launched by Minister for Health James Reilly on Monday 11 June.

An online consultation is now available on the HSE Have Your Say website until 13 July. We encourage people with a rare disease, and their carers, to submit their views. The input of clinicians, health care personnel, researchers and others whose work is related to rare diseases is also sought.

[Access and input to the consultation here](#)

IPH Public Health Open Conference – 11 October 2012

Public health is greatly influenced by policy and actions in many sectors. IPH is hosting the first Public Health Open Conference to provide a platform for people from all sectors (statutory, academia, community and voluntary) to present on an area of interest to a wide audience. Please have a look at our conference website. Proposals from all sectors are welcome. The conference will take place in Queen's University Belfast on Thursday 11 October 2012.

[Access further information and register here](#)

Curbing cancer through lifestyle change

IPH presented to the Seanad Public Consultation Committee (19 June) on the topic 'Changes in lifestyle can prevent approximately one third of cancers. How does Government and Society respond to this challenge?'. Between 2010 and 2020 the total number of cancers in Ireland is projected to increase by 40% for women and by just over 50% for men (National Cancer Registry). A focus is needed on developing social, economic and built environments that support healthy choices. IPH presented further evidence on two recommendations made in our consultation response regarding active travel and the proposed advertising restrictions of foods high in fat, salt and sugar on Irish television channels.

[Access further information on the Seanad consultation here](#)

[Access IPH written response here](#)

Increases in numbers living with hypertension and chronic breathing problems expected

IPH published new research suggesting increases in the number of people living across the island of Ireland with these conditions. By 2020 the number of adults in ROI with Chronic Airflow Obstruction (CAO) is expected to rise to almost 101,000 (2.8%) a 23% increase in ten years. CAO is expected to rise to almost 40,000 (2.7%) a 19% increase in ten years in NI.

[Access IPH Chronic Airflow Obstruction Briefing here](#)

By 2020 the number of adults in NI with clinically diagnosed hypertension (high blood pressure) is expected to rise to almost 366,000 (24.8%) a 15% increase in ten years. In ROI the number of adults 45+ with hypertension is expected to rise to more than 1,220,000 (63.1%) a 28% increase in ten years.

[Access IPH Hypertension Briefing here](#)

Cycling – North and South in tandem

National Bike Week took place in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland from 16–24 June. A variety of events have taken place to highlight the health benefits of cycling across Ireland in June and included the Co-operation Ireland Maracycle with cyclists riding from Belfast to Dublin and back. IPH presented a paper on the health benefits of cycling at the 'Gender and Cycling conference which took place in Trinity College Dublin on 22 June.

[Access the IPH presentation here](#)

IPH presents preliminary data on the prevalence of musculoskeletal conditions



Minister Edwin Poots with speakers at the Northern Ireland Pain Summit

The Pain Alliance of Northern Ireland hosted a conference on chronic pain in Northern Ireland on 15 May. IPH presented preliminary data on the prevalence of musculoskeletal conditions as part of our work in estimating and forecasting the population prevalence of chronic health conditions.

[Access the presentation here](#)

Preventing childhood injuries: How does Ireland compare to other European countries?

Child injury is the leading cause of death for children and adolescents aged 5-19 years in Europe. IPH participated in the European TACTICS (Tools to Address Childhood Trauma, Injury and Children's Safety) project to evaluate the level of safety provided to children and adolescents in

each country. The project scores countries on their level of adoption, implementation and enforcement of proven strategies and policies.

[Access the findings here](#)

Crossing Bridges – health in all policies

Crossing Bridges is an 18 month EU project that built on the, 'Closing the Gap' (2004-2007) and 'DETERMINE' (2007-2010) projects. It complements the 'Joint Action on Health Inequalities' (2011-2014) project to advance the implementation of Health in All Policies (HiAP) approaches in EU Member States. It showcased evidence led methods and built capacities as part of the overall mission to improve health equity within and between states. The project focused on transport/planning and education. IPH was a work package leader and compiled a report for the education strand in partnership with North West Health (UK) Brussels Office.

[Access the final reports here](#)

Enthusiastic response to Open Access Training Course in Dublin

The Open Access (OA) movement provides access to scientific outputs in publications that are freely available and fosters the adoption of open access publication models. The NECOBELAC Project held a one day Train the Trainer course in Dublin on 9 May. The course 'Scholarly Outputs in Public Health: How to Write, Disseminate and Access Open Access Scientific Information' will be followed by a series of webinars.

[Access the presentations](#)
[Access more information](#)

Updated indicators on health in local communities

Thirty indicators have been updated on the Community Profiles Tool. Latest data has been drawn from the Republic of Ireland Census 2011, incapacity benefits data from the Department for Social Development Northern Ireland, and cervical screening uptake rates from the National Cancer Screening Service. The indicators appear across a number of themes including mental health, fuel poverty and demographic & socio-economic conditions.

[Access the Community Profile tool here](#)

Northern Ireland Public Health Research Network (NIPHRN)

NIPHRN was launched in March 2012 and aims to extend the public health evidence base, increase the quantity and quality of research and increase engagement between individuals interested in public health research in Northern Ireland. The Network will operate by establishing Research Development Groups (RDGs) to focus on developing specific research protocols to attract external funding in relation to a new policy/intervention or a natural experiment in the field of public health. IPH will host the NIPHRN website which includes a searchable research register, resources for RDGs and relevant funding opportunities.

For further information contact Dr Eimear Barrett Eimear.Barrett@qub.ac.uk

Consultations

Department for Social Development (DSD) – Regulations to prohibit or restrict irresponsible promotions of alcohol in Northern Ireland, May 2012

IPH welcomes the consultation and supports the Department's proposals to restrict promotions that involve the supply of unlimited amounts of intoxicating liquor for a fixed charge. Irresponsible

alcohol promotions can contribute to the burden of physical and mental ill-health, accidental and non-accidental injury and other harms associated with excessive alcohol consumption.

[Access original consultation here](#)

[Access IPH response here](#)

Department of Health – Your health is your wealth: health and wellbeing framework 2012-2020, June 2012

The Department is developing a Health and Wellbeing policy to improve the health of the population and reduce health inequalities by addressing causes of preventable illnesses. The Policy Framework is at an advanced stage with a number of background analytical documents prepared and published on the Department website to allow views to be incorporated into final drafts.

[Access IPH response here](#)

[Access September IPH response in the first consultation phase](#)

[Access original consultation here](#)

Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI): General and Children's Commercial Communications Codes, June 2012

IPH submitted their views on the Draft BAI General and Commercial Communications Code. IPH previously submitted views to the BAI in the first phase of consultation (Oct 2011). The final code will regulate the advertising of food and non-alcoholic beverages that are high in fat, salt or sugar on Irish television channels. The submission sets out approaches to appropriate scheduling and content restrictions as well as to possible exemptions.

[Access original consultation here](#)

[Access October IPH response in the first consultation phase](#)

[Access IPH response \(June 2012\)](#)

Events

New estimates and forecasts of the number of people with Coronary Heart Disease – 26 June 2012

Chronic conditions are responsible for substantial premature mortality, reduced quality of life, costs to the health and social care system across the island. IPH has estimated and forecasted the prevalence of a number of chronic conditions on the island of Ireland and are launching these in a series of six seminars. The first two seminars focused on hypertension and chronic airflow obstruction.

The next seminar will take place in Queen's University Belfast

[Access further information and register here](#)

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