

**Institute of Public Health  
in Ireland**



**IPH Newsletter**

## Vol 6 Issue 3 - September 2012

### Welcome to Public Health News in Ireland

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#### **IPH Open Conference**

The response to the call for proposals for the IPH Open Conference was fantastic with 116 top quality abstracts being submitted. From these the top 24 with the most votes form the conference programme (available online). An excellent variety of public health topics will be discussed including: alcohol, children's issues, food initiatives, mental health, policy, traveller men's health – something of interest for everyone.

Please note: we have changed the venue to **The King's Hall, Balmoral, Belfast.**

[Access IPH Open Conference programme here](#)  
[Learn more about or register for IPH Conference here](#)



#### **IPH welcome new staff**

IPH is very pleased to introduce new staff members to our all-island team.

- Dr Noëlle Cotter  
Public Health Development Officer (Policy)
- Olga McDaid  
Public Health Development Officer (Policy)
- Dr Brendan O'Brien  
Consultant in Public Health
- Fiona O'Shea  
Knowledge Translation Officer
- Dr Joanna Purdy  
Public Health Development Officer (Policy)

#### **Fit and Well – Changing Lives 2012-2022**

The draft strategic framework for public health in Northern Ireland is currently under consultation.

It will build on Investing for Health, the first cross-cutting public health strategy, published by the Executive in 2002. Health Minister Edwin Poots emphasised the need for Fit and Well – Changing Lives to operate in tandem with other key government strategies aimed at addressing disadvantage and helping the vulnerable.

[Access the consultation here](#)

### **Spotlight on the Health Well – Chronic Conditions Update**

IPH estimates and forecasts the prevalence of a number of chronic conditions across the island of Ireland.

IPH recently updated figures for six chronic conditions using the SLAN 2007 in Republic of Ireland and the NIHSWB survey in Northern Ireland. With key partners, these new figures have been launched in a series of seminars across the island.

Most recently, new figures for musculoskeletal conditions and stroke were released.



[Access IPH Musculoskeletal Briefing \(September 2012\)](#)

[Access IPH Stroke Briefing \(September 2012\)](#)

[Read what people are saying about the Health Well](#)

### **Unequal at Birth - Research Briefing**

A research briefing based on IPH research on inequalities in the occurrence of low birth weight babies has been published. This forms one of a set of briefing documents based on research supported by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

[Access here](#)

[Access other briefings](#)



### **National Rare Disease Plan for Ireland - update**

IPH is working with the Department of Health to support the development of Ireland's first national rare disease plan. A consultation process, undertaken in collaboration with the Department and the HSE, comprising an event in Farmleigh together with an online consultation, concluded in July 2012. Work is currently underway to analyse the responses from the consultation process as well as early development of the plan.

[Access seminar report from Insights into Rare Diseases event here](#)

### **Ireland - Northern Ireland – National Cancer Institute Cancer Consortium**

IPH is a member of the public health and wellbeing/prevention/health promotion subgroup of this Consortium. The Consortium aims to enhance cooperation and partnership with a view to improving research and the effective translation of research findings. Consortium meetings are chaired by the National Cancer Control Programme and held via videoconference from the IPH offices in Dublin and Belfast.

[Access further information on the consortium](#)

**Did you know?**

The most recently available data estimates that the female lung cancer rate in deprived areas of Northern Ireland is 7.6% higher than the overall rate for Northern Ireland

[Click here for source](#)



**Northern Ireland Public Health Research Network (NIPHRN)**

IPH is pleased to host the NIPHRN website on the Health Well this Autumn. The Network is an initiative of the Centre of Excellence for Public Health (NI) and the HSC Research and Development Division.

[Register your interest in this exciting resource on the Health Well](#)

**Introducing IPH Open Access Research Alerts**

On the Health Well, you can search abstracts of research articles published in over 230 health-related Open Access (OA) journals. You can set up free personalised alerts (as an RSS feed or directly to your email account). Specify the keywords you are interested in and the OA journals you want to include.

[Start building alerts here](#)

**The Association for the Study of Obesity on the island of Ireland (ASOI) Inaugural Conference**

ASOI aims to develop an understanding of obesity by pursuing excellence in research and education, facilitating contact between individuals and organisations, and promoting action to prevent and treat obesity across the island.

The ASOI inaugural conference, held in Dublin on 6 September marked an excellent start for the new Association. The Association website is hosted on the IPH Obesity Hub where you can access the conference presentations and posters.

[Access the ASOI website, join and help build an active Association](#)

## Consultations

**Road Safety Authority Ireland – Road Safety Strategy 2013-2020**

The Road Safety Authority has responsibility for coordinating the development of the Republic of Ireland's Road Safety Strategy. There is a significant burden of injury, disability and mortality associated with road traffic collisions on the island of Ireland. IPH support the development of evidence-based strategies and actions which can maintain a transport system in which the safety of all road users is paramount.

[Access original consultation here](#)

[Access IPH response here](#)

### **Northern Ireland Assembly Private Members Bill – Introduction of 20mph speed restriction on smaller residential roads**

Conall McDevitt (SDLP MLA) launched a consultation regarding the introduction of 20mph speed restrictions in residential streets. IPH recognise the potential public health benefits of this proposal in terms of reduced injuries and fatalities in built up areas; more opportunities for walking and cycling (helping to tackle obesity and reduce the risk of diabetes, heart disease and stroke); greater social cohesion among communities and improved mental health; and reduced emissions that contribute to climate change, air and noise pollution.

[Access original consultation here](#)

[Access IPH response here](#)

### **DHSSPS and Food Standards Agency (NI) – Front of pack nutrition labelling**

From 2016, it will be mandatory for most pre-packed food to carry nutrition labelling. This consultation provided an opportunity to review the provision of additional nutrition labelling that is provided voluntarily on the front of packs. IPH believe helping consumers to make informed choices about their diet is an important aspect of tackling obesity.

[Access original consultation here](#)

[Access IPH response here](#)

### **Department of Health (UK) – Standardised packaging of tobacco products**

Enhanced tobacco control policies and programmes are an important component of any strategic approach to improving population health and tackling health inequalities. IPH believe the introduction of plain packaging has the potential to support the achievement of the goals set out in the Ten Year Tobacco Control Strategy for Northern Ireland (DHSSPS, 2012).

[Access original consultation here](#)

[Access IPH response here](#)

### **Department of Health (ROI) – Development of a National Strategy on Dementia**

The current prevalence of dementia and its associated economic and social burden presents a challenge for the configuration of dementia care services and this will become more urgent as the population ages. IPH support development of a comprehensive and holistic strategy and recommend that it includes prevention as well as optimal management at all stages of the disease. A social determinants of health approach that focuses on the prevention of disease and disability should form a strand of the strategy.

[Access original consultation here](#)

[Access IPH response here](#)

## **Contact us**

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