

IPH Newsletter

Vol 7 Issue 1 – March 2013

Welcome to Public Health News in Ireland

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Healthy Ireland

Ireland's new public health strategy *Healthy Ireland - A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing* was launched by the Department of Health on 28 March. IPH welcomes the inclusive approach to this strategy and looks forward to playing its part in implementation by

- Working with the Department of Health and Department of Social Protection and a range of other partners to facilitate the development of Social Impact Assessments as a feature of future policy development and policy analysis;
- Contributing to the development of a Healthy Ireland Research Plan;
- Collaborating on the development of an Outcomes Framework, and as part of this process, helping to identify research networks and academic collaborators to contribute to this Framework;
- Examining models to support the provision of evaluation support and advice for smaller scale initiatives.

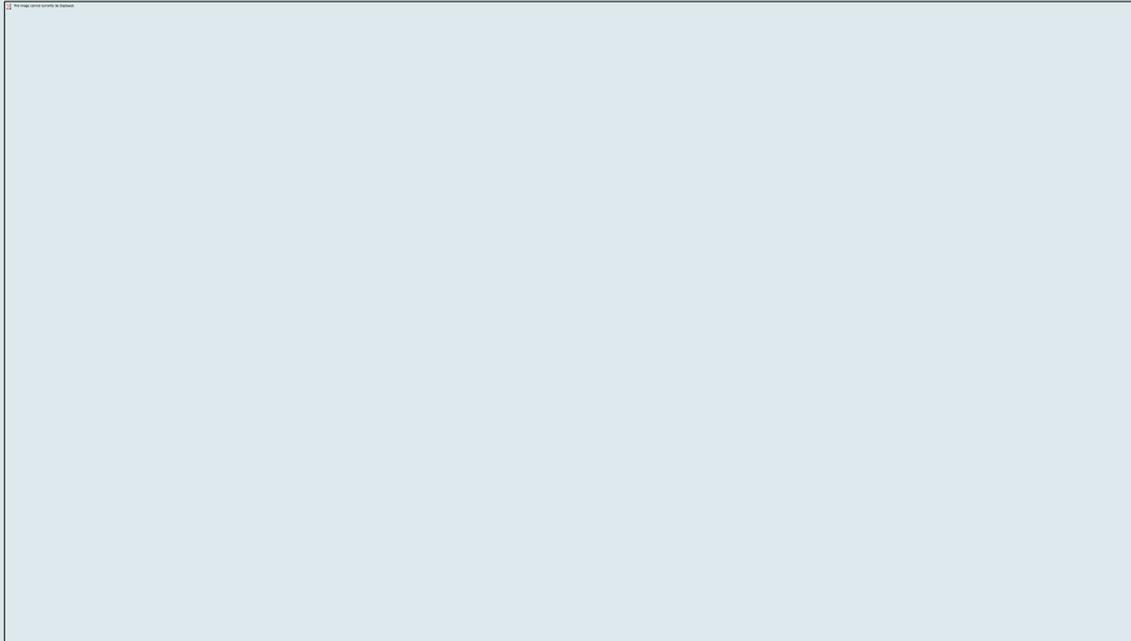
[Access IPH press release](#)

[Access *Healthy Ireland - A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing*](#)

Young men and suicide project - report launch

Promoting positive mental health among young men on the island of Ireland was the focus of the Men's Health Forum in Ireland 'Young men and suicide project'. A report on the project was launched by NI Health Minister Edwin Poots MLA in Belfast and Minister of State Kathleen Lynch TD in Dublin on 24 January. IPH coordinated the project which was jointly funded by the National Office for Suicide Prevention in the Republic of Ireland and the Public Health Agency in Northern Ireland.

[Access the executive summary and full report](#)



Northern Ireland Health Minister Edwin Poots MLA and speakers at the Belfast launch of the Young Men and Suicide Project Report

Dublin meeting of EU Health Ministers - child obesity and smokefree environments on agenda

Childhood obesity, smokefree environments, the impact of the economic crisis on health systems and discussions on patient safety formed part of an extensive agenda at a recent informal Meeting of European Health Ministers in Dublin. The event was part of the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union and hosted by ROI Health Minister, Dr James Reilly. NI Health Minister, Edwin Poots MLA, attended.

[Access further information](#)

Healthy Life Expectancy

IPH and the Centre for Ageing Research and Development in Ireland (CARDI) launched a report on health expectancy on 7 March. Delegates heard about policy context with respect to healthy ageing, in addition to the results and findings from the research. A post-launch workshop explored uncertainties in local health expectancy data and how they might affect healthy ageing policy development.

[Access 'Extra healthy years or just extra years. What can we know from the data we have on the island of Ireland?' and launch presentations](#)

Seanad Committee report on cancer prevention

The Seanad Public Consultation Committee published a report on 6 February on how changes in lifestyle can prevent nearly one third of cancers in Ireland. The report calls for joined up government policy and included recommendations on tackling smoking, obesity and alcohol misuse. Senators thanked IPH for their submission and presentation to the Committee in Spring 2012.

[Access IPH briefing paper and a transcript of all presentations to the Committee](#)

NI Assembly Health Committee – Review of health inequalities

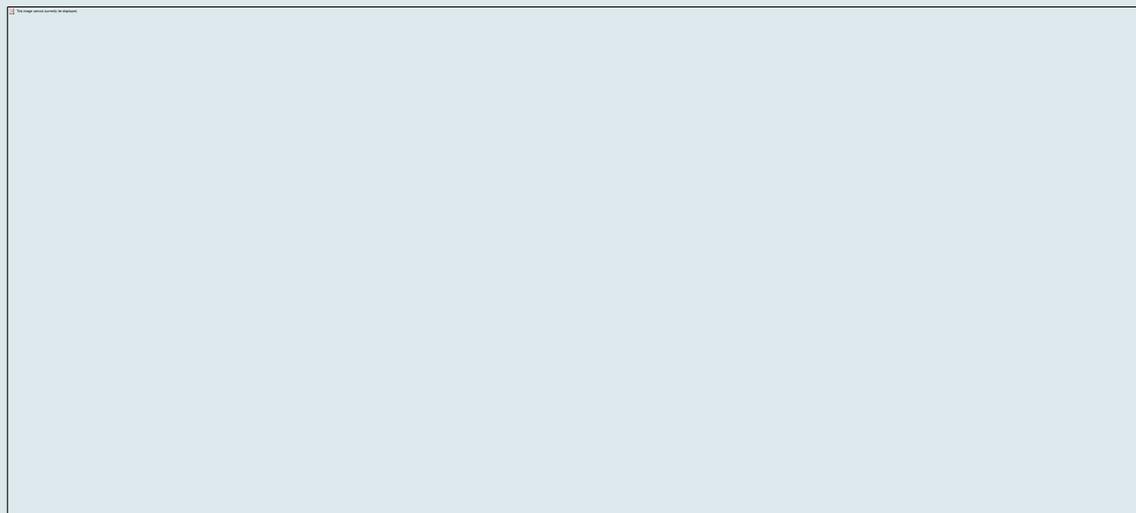
In January the NI Assembly Health Committee reported on how health inequalities are being tackled in other regions and what lessons could be learnt and applied locally. The Committee's report and recommendations will be considered in finalising the new Northern Ireland public health strategy. IPH presented to the Committee on 2 October 2012 and provided a briefing on the role of health inequalities in early years.

[Access IPH Briefing Paper on Health Inequalities provided to the NI Assembly Health Committee and the NI Assembly Health Committee Review of Health Inequalities Report](#)

Food, fat and fiscal measures to prevent CVD and Obesity – focus of Irish Heart Foundation event

The Irish Heart Foundation event addressed key dietary and physical activity goals required to reduce the prevalence of CVD and suggested policies to support individual behavioural changes and create a healthier environment. Dr Noelle Cotter outlined key findings from a Health Impact Assessment on sugar sweetened drinks undertaken by IPH on behalf of the Department of Health (DoH). Dr Mike Rayner, British Heart Foundation Health Promotion Research Group, Department of Public Health, University of Oxford gave a short overview of Diet and CVD prevention in Europe. Professor Jorgen Dejgård Jensen, Institute of Food and Resource Economics, University of Copenhagen spoke of Denmark's experience on food taxes and subsidies. Dr Micheál Collins, Nevin Institute for Economic Research discussed Irish research on food taxation.

[Access further information](#)



(L-R) Dr John Devlin (DOH), Mr Owen Metcalfe (IPH), Dr Noelle Cotter (IPH), Mr Barry Dempsey (IHF), Dr Mike Rayner (University of Oxford), Dr Micheál Collins (Nevin Institute for Economic Research), Maureen Mulvihill (IHF), Professor David Madden (University College Dublin)

Professor Jørgen Dejgård Jensen (University of Copenhagen)

North South Alcohol Forum

At the request of Chief Medical Officers in both jurisdictions, IPH is facilitating the development of a North South Alcohol Forum which held an inaugural meeting in February. As well as supporting cross-border cooperation, learning and information exchange, a joint all-island paper on the issue of alcohol availability is currently being developed.

For more details contact helen.mcavoy@publichealth.ie

Fuel poverty news

IPH continues to develop work on fuel poverty and health. Presentations from the health session chaired by IPH at the European Fuel Poverty Conference in Dublin on 11 March can be sourced [here](#). IPH has been invited to contribute to an International Energy Agency roundtable on health and wellbeing impacts of energy efficiency in Copenhagen in April.

[Access the Fuel Poverty Hub](#)

[Follow @FuelPovertyHub on twitter](#)

European Joint Action on Chronic Disease

IPH and the Health Service Executive have applied to participate in Work Package 4 of the European Joint Action on Chronic Disease. This joint action aims to develop a European platform supporting evidence-based policy-making on chronic disease prevention. If approved, the project will commence in 2014.

[Access further information](#)

New contributions to the Health Well and Obesity Hubs

The Centre for Physical Activity and Health Research at the University of Limerick is the latest partner on the IPH Health Well. All research projects and interventions from the Centre are searchable on the Health Well and Obesity Hub. Further details will soon be available on the [Health Well Physical Activity and Nutrition Intervention \(PANI\) Tool](#). For more information about the Centre for Physical Activity and Health Research, please contact Ciaran.MacDonncha@ul.ie.

[Access the Centre for Physical Activity and Health Research \(CPAHR\)](#)

[Access the Health Well Website](#)

[Access the Obesity Hub](#)

Obesity Hub - new interventions from the National Obesity Observatory

Interventions from the National Obesity Observatory (NOO) in England have been added to the Obesity Hub. Further details of these NOO interventions are also available on the Physical Activity and Nutrition Tool. This will broaden the geographical scope of the [PANI Tool](#) to include interventions from the UK.

For more information contact fiona.oshea@publichealth.ie

[Access the National Obesity Observatory \(NOO\)](#)

[Access the Physical Activity and Nutrition Intervention Tool](#)

Did you know?

An Active Travel Bill is currently being considered by the National Assembly for Wales. The Bill

could require local authorities to continuously improve facilities and routes for pedestrians and cyclists.

[Access IPH Briefing here](#)

Consultations

In 2012, IPH developed 21 consultation responses as part of our commitment to contribute to a Health in All Policies approach on the island. We respond to consultations undertaken by health departments and agencies and consultations by sectors where we identify a clear public health concern.

[Keep updated on policies currently open for consultation North and South](#)
[View all IPH consultation responses](#)

Health and Social Care Board (Northern Ireland) – Transforming your care consultation

The 'Transforming Your Care (TYC)' consultation related to proposals for change in delivery of Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland in the context of the TYC report published in December 2011. IPH recommends the role of health services in tackling health inequalities be consolidated as part of reforms in health service planning, provision and monitoring and synergies with the new public health strategy be developed to meet joint goals on improving population health and tackling inequalities. A post-consultation report was published on 18 March 2013.

[Access IPH response](#)
[Access original consultation and post-consultation report](#)

Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister – Towards a childcare strategy consultation

The NI Programme for Government 2011-15 commits the Executive to “publish and implement a Childcare Strategy with key actions to provide integrated and affordable childcare.” IPH endorse the need for good quality, accessible and affordable childcare. Enabling parents to remain in or return to work, education or training is central to tackling poverty and unemployment in Northern Ireland.

[Access the IPH response](#)
[Access the original consultation](#)

UK Statistics Authority – Consultation on assessment of reported road casualties statistics

The UK Statistics Authority consulted on re-assessing reported road casualties statistics produced by the Department for Transport for England, Scotland and Wales. IPH recommended statistics for Northern Ireland be made directly comparable with, and reported alongside, statistics for Great Britain. Tackling inequalities in injury fatalities is a key component of public health policy and practice.

[Access the IPH response](#)
[Access the original consultation](#)

Events

What determines the food choices we make? Lessons from health economics and life stories perspectives – 24 April 2013, 1.30 – 4.00pm, Royal Irish Academy, 19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2

A key challenge for those working to improve the diet of those living in Northern Ireland and in the Republic of Ireland, is to understand what underpins food choice. IPH, the HRB Centre for Health and Diet Research and the Centre of Excellence for Public Health (Northern Ireland) are jointly hosting a workshop to look at these challenges and explore individual food choices from two quite different perspectives.

[Access further information and registration details](#)

Public Health Annual Scientific Conference. 12 June 2013, Riddell Hall, Stranmillis, Belfast.

Older People will be the theme of the second Public Health Annual Scientific Conference. It will focus on how public health innovations, research and practice are meeting the needs of older people. The Conference will be hosted by the Public Health Agency and other partners.

[Access further information](#)

Making the Difference: Public Health Nursing Contribution to Primary Health Care - 3rd International Public Health Nursing Conference - 25-27 August 2013, National University of Ireland, Galway

The IPHN 2013 Conference will address the contribution and difference Public Health Nursing makes to the health of populations around the world. The conference will present evidence-based research from several countries that will be of interest to policy-makers, nationally and internationally, in the wake of health reforms.

[Access further information and registrations details](#)

IPH Open Conference – 10 October 2013, Dublin.

Following the successful IPH Open Conference in Belfast in October 2012 we are delighted to announce the 2nd IPH Open Conference will take place in Dublin. Further information will follow at a later date. [In the meantime revisit some of the presentations from the 2012 event](#)

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