

Building capacity

Examples of work between IPH and the HSE in the Republic of Ireland and the PHA in Northern Ireland include the HSE/Combat Poverty Agency initiative on Community Participation in Primary Care, and the PHA's work on poverty and health and smoking and pregnancy. We continue to offer training and support for those involved in Health Impact Assessment and health intelligence and lead part of the work of DETERMINE, an EU initiative to stimulate action on the social and economic determinants of health inequities.

Highlighting differences in health and wellbeing across the island

The all-island population health observatory in IPH published over sixty health and wellbeing indicators for every council (RoI) and every local government district (NI). Local pictures of health highlighted surprising findings such as large differences in life expectancy and preventive activity.

Further information on IPH work can be found on our website at www.publichealth.ie

IPH promotes cross border and all island cooperation for public health by:

-  providing public health information and surveillance
-  advising on policy
-  building capacity to strengthen the voice of public health

Contact details:

5th Floor
Bishop's Square
Redmond's Hill
Dublin 2

Forestview
Purdy's Lane
Belfast
BT8 7ZX

Tel: +353 (1) 478 6300 Tel: +44 (0)28 9064 8494
Fax: +353 (1) 478 6319 Fax: +44 (0)28 9064 6604

The Institute of Public Health in Ireland

Highlights

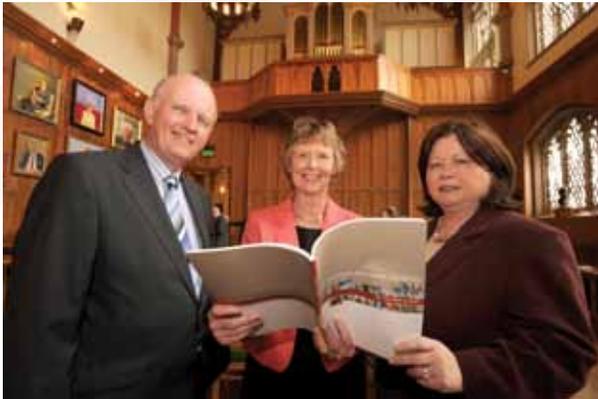
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info@publichealth.ie
www.publichealth.ie



Celebrating 10 years of North South working

The report *Towards healthier societies – IPH: the first 10 years* was welcomed by the Taoiseach and the First and Deputy First Ministers, who congratulated IPH on its pioneering work. Health Ministers Mary Harney and Michael McGimpsey noted the achievements of IPH in developing work which supported public health in both jurisdictions and welcomed its focus on health inequalities and building links between research and policy.



Tackling obesity

IPH's work, in partnership with the UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health (NI) and the HRB's Centre for Health and Diet Research includes an all-Ireland Obesity Hub to support implementation and strategic development of obesity strategies, North and South. IPH initiated and facilitated a roundtable meeting for the NI Assembly Health Committee and obesity researchers.

Social Determinants of Health

The joint IPH/Combat Poverty Agency report *Tackling health inequalities – an all-Ireland approach to social determinants* highlighted key Irish facts and called for action. Chair of the World Health Organization Commission on Social Determinants of Health Sir Michael Marmot praised the report, "The more countries that follow the Irish example, and produce and act on their reports, the more real a global movement on social determinants of health will be".

Health impacts of education: a review

Strong links between education level and health were highlighted in a comprehensive IPH review, jointly launched by the Department of Education for NI and the Department of Education and Science in RoI. Key findings demonstrated how people with lower levels of education are more likely to die at a younger age, and have poorer health throughout life.



Linking research and policy

IPH is part of two new developments the UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health (NI) led by Queen's University Belfast, and the HRB Centre for Health and Diet Research led by University College Cork which link public health research to public policy and practice on obesity, diet and health inequalities. These aims are also central to a new award from the Department of Employment and Learning in Northern Ireland, Strengthening the all-Ireland Research Base.



Fuel poverty and health

IPH work includes directing new research, influencing policy and strengthening strategic alliances and networks such as an informal North South research group on fuel poverty and health. IPH contributed to the Energy Affordability Strategy in RoI. An Update on Fuel Poverty and Health will be released in December 2009.