

IPH Newsletter

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Welcome to Public Health News in Ireland

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Public health and the 2009 European Elections

The 2009 European Elections provide an opportunity to influence health at local and European Government level. Elected European representatives are in a position to be strong advocates for improving public health. IPH has produced a short manifesto identifying five areas of action for MEPs and political parties.

1. Tackling health inequalities
2. Coordinated action on priority public health conditions
3. Health impact assessments of all EU policies
4. Strengthening information to help decision-making
5. Supporting a public health strategy for Europe



[Access the IPH manifesto](#)

Obesity-related prevention

IPH is involved in a number of efforts to tackle obesity including auditing obesity-related interventions and programmes in the Northern Investing for Health Partnership (NifHP) area in Northern Ireland in partnership with the University of Ulster and Queen's University Belfast. This is the first phase of a planned all-Ireland audit.

Inter-sectoral group on obesity in the Republic of Ireland

The Inter-sectoral group published its Report on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the National Task Force in April. The report highlighted examples of good practice but noted a need for greater understanding of current activities and the importance of sharing details of successful, and unsuccessful work. A priority is to carry out a more systematic audit and evaluation of obesity-related activities. This will be done by the Obesity Knowledge Hub being established within IPH as a joint initiative with the HRB Centre for Health and Diet Research (UCC/UCD), and the Centre of Excellence for Public Health (NI) at QUB. Lessons from the NifHP project described above will provide valuable guidance.

Access the National Task Force Report http://www.dohc.ie/publications/report_ntfo.html

HIA Forums: progressing HIA

The HIA Forum provides an opportunity for those with an interest in Health Impact Assessment (HIA) to meet, share experiences, hear about new developments and consider how to progress HIA. 'HIA: a tool to support healthier communities' was the theme of the first of two recent meetings. Recent meetings focussed on HIA in the planning system and how the HIA Screening Tool will be incorporated into the amended Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines on preparing Environmental Impact Statements. Forthcoming tools and resources from the WHO Healthy Cities HIA Sub-network were highlighted.

All presentations from the sessions may be found at <http://www.publichealth.ie/ireland/hiaforum>

IPH leads mini-symposium on healthy public policy

IPH recently coordinated a mini-symposium and contributed a guest editorial and article on HIA for the journal, Public Health. Articles reflected on HIA and its contribution to healthy public policy, human rights and improved decision-making in environmental areas. The mini-symposium evolved from the 8th International HIA conference 'Healthy Public Policy – is Health Impact Assessment the Cornerstone' hosted by IPH.

Access further information

<http://www.publichealth.ie/news/healthimpactassessmentcontributingtohealthypublicpolicy>

Community participation in primary care

IPH is contributing to a Working Group on Community Participation in Primary Health Care. The group is providing advice to a joint Health Services Executive (HSE)/ Combat Poverty Agency project funding 19 local initiatives to develop approaches to community involvement in primary care in disadvantaged communities. This work has been developed as part of the implementation of the National Strategy for Service Involvement in the Irish Health Service 2008-2013.

Child health

International evidence is increasingly emphasising improving child health is a critical success factor in tackling health inequalities at population level. IPH is currently involved in a number of initiatives relating to child health including:

- submission to the Office of the Minister for Children consultation on a National Data Strategy on Children's Lives: 29 April
- submission to consultative process for 3-year old cohort of Growing Up in Ireland - the National Longitudinal Study of Children in Ireland: 22 May
- presenting to the Health Promotion Summer Conference entitled 'Closing the gap in child and adolescent health: the settings approach': 11/12 June
- development of work relating to inequalities and child health with the HSE Population Health Children and Young People's team.

Resources

HIA resources

IPH has developed a suite of health impact reviews in the areas of education, employment, transport and the built environment. 'Sources of information' reports have been developed to supplement each review. Each report provides links to organisations who have conducted extensive work in each of the areas.

View the suite of health impact reviews and sources of information

<http://www.publichealth.ie/ireland/hiaresources>

Events

'The Spirit Level: why more equal societies almost always do better' - 3 June, Belfast and 4 June, Dublin.

IPH is hosting two seminars with authors Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett to discuss their new book *The Spirit Level* which highlights that more unequal societies are bad for almost everyone - rich as well as poor. This ground-breaking book, based on thirty years research, opens up a major new approach to improving our health, quality of life and environmental sustainability

Wednesday 3 June, 5.00 – 6.30pm, Farset International, 466 Springfield Road, Belfast
Thursday 4 June, 5.00 – 6.30pm, Alexander Hotel, Fenian Street, Dublin 2



As places are limited they will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Please reply to sharon.brennan@publichealth.ie to attend the Belfast event or aisling.oconnor@publichealth.ie to attend the Dublin event.

European Association for Health Information and Libraries conference (EAHIL 2009) – 2-5 June

A paper on the All-Ireland electronic Health Library (AleHL) will be presented at the European Association for Health Information and Libraries conference (EAHIL 2009) in Dublin, outlining how AleHL can support more effective knowledge translation and identifying the challenges posed and lessons learned.

Access conference information <http://www.eahil2009.ie/>

Health modelling for better policy – 2 July

The next Health Analysts' Special Interest Group (HASIG) seminar will take place in University College Cork and will focus on health modelling for better policy. Access further information about this seminar <http://www.inispho.org/events/healthmodellingforbetterpolicy> or contact Lorraine Fahy lorraine.fahy@publichealth.ie.

Access presentations from the previous HASIG seminar 'Aspects of area level data: pros and cons' <http://www.inispho.org/events/inisphoseminarusingdataatdifferentgeographicallevelsproscons>

Injury Prevention Conference – 24-25 September

The 2nd Injury Prevention Conference for the UK and Ireland will be held in Cardiff. The conference is organised by the Injury Observatory for Britain and Ireland (IOBI), and will focus on the prevention of injuries to children and young adults resulting from accidents, violence and self harm.

Book a place or submit an abstract (deadline 31 May)
http://www.injuryobservatory.net/2nd_injury_conference.html

10th International HIA conference – 14-16 October

'HIA on the move' is the theme for the 10th International HIA conference which will be held in Rotterdam.

Access information on the conference and other HIA events
<http://www.publichealth.ie/eventsandresources/hiaevents>

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