

# Health Promotion Research Centre Annual Report

October 2006 - December 2007



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## i. Foreword

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This report from the Health Promotion Research Centre (HPRC) at the National University of Ireland, Galway covers a range of research activity carried out from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2006 to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007. Over this period, the HPRC was successful in being awarded newly funded research projects amounting to €976,689 in total income. This report provides an overview of the work of the HPRC, including the 30 commissioned projects, the publication of 44 peer reviewed publications and reports, and 56 presentations at conferences and workshops. The Centre continues to expand its profile as an active contributor to national and international health promotion research. Through its multidisciplinary research programme the HPRC strives to support the development of best practice and policy in promoting health and does so through working in collaboration with regional, national and international partner agencies.

Research activities include the following:

- The generation of original health promotion research including large-scale studies such as the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) study and the Survey of Lifestyles, Attitudes and Nutrition (SLÁN-O7). The Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) study, which is a cross-national research study conducted in collaboration with the WHO Regional Office for Europe, surveyed over 10,000 Irish school children in 2006. The national report on the findings was published in August 2007 and the international report is due to be launched in 2008. The HPRC in conjunction with our Consortium partners are working on the Survey of Lifestyles, Attitudes and Nutrition (SLÁN-O7) on behalf of the Department of Health and Children. This survey monitors the health behaviours and attitudes of a representative sample of 10,000 adults in the Republic of Ireland. Data collection was completed in 2007 and the first report of results will be published in April 2008. The HPRC is also the co-ordinating centre for the Development Education and Research Network at NUI, Galway, which is an inter-disciplinary, cross-faculty group established with funding from Development Corporation Ireland, to promote global development education and research in third level institutes.
- Development of methodological approaches to health promotion research including participatory research processes and innovative qualitative methods with children and young people.
- Evaluation of health promotion strategies and interventions including the National Drugs Awareness Campaign, the National Youth Health Programme Quality Mark, the 'Choose Safety' health promotion programme for schools, the MindOut mental health promotion programme in out-of-schools settings and implementation of Zippy's Friends emotional literacy programme in primary schools.
- Health promotion policy focused studies including research on safer motherhood policies and programmes in Zambia, health impact assessment of traffic and transport, development of a health poverty index, quality of life for older people, development of a data strategy for children in Ireland, development of workplace health promotion e-learning materials, internet-based health promotion materials, and the development of evidence-based policy and practice recommendations in the prevention of HIV/AIDS, obesity and mental health promotion.

The HPRC has established strong collaborative links with research groups and statutory and voluntary agencies nationally and internationally. In particular, the Centre continues its international collaboration through work on specific initiatives with the World Health Organisation, the International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE), and the European Commission. Ireland participates as one of 10 countries in benchmarking progress on the Bangkok Charter on Health Promotion (WHO, 2005) and through this process we are collaborating on the development of a set of international benchmarks and indicators to assess country level progress in meeting the commitments of the Charter. The Centre also participates in the WHO Regional Office for Europe HBSC Forum on social cohesion and mental well-being.

As IUHPE Global Vice-President for Capacity Building, Education and Training (2007-2010), I work closely with international colleagues and organisations in the development of two core areas that are prioritised for action; i) workforce development in countries with identified capacity needs and the ii) the development of health promotion competencies, professional standards and accreditation at European and international level. The HPRC will have an important role to play in supporting research in these areas.

We are fortunate at the HPRC to have an experienced team of project leaders, researchers and administrative staff who bring their skills and expertise to a range of empirical research, policy and review studies in health promotion. The scope and breadth of research activity in this report is testimony to the productivity of the Centre and the dedication and creativity of our staff.

I wish to acknowledge the support of all our research partners and funders, and the members of the HPRC Advisory Board, who provide us with strategic advice on the Centre's activities and its future development.

We look forward to working with all our colleagues and partners in the years ahead.

*Margaret M. Barry*  
*Director of the Health Promotion Research Centre*



## ii. Introduction



### a. Health Promotion at NUI, Galway

The Department of Health Promotion in NUI, Galway hosts the Health Promotion Research Centre. The foundation chair in Health Promotion and the dedicated academic unit were both established in 1990 with support from the Department of Health as part of a revised national structure for health promotion in Ireland. The academic department was set up to provide training, education and research in health promotion in support of national developments.

Currently the Department is one of the largest and most successful in Europe, with eleven academic staff and three administrators. We welcome students from Ireland and abroad to our taught programmes and as doctoral students. The flagship programme of the Department is the Higher Diploma / Masters in Health Promotion which is offered full time in Galway and part-time in both Dublin and Galway. We also offer a Higher Diploma / Masters in Health Services Research and partner with the Faculty of Law and the Departments of Physics and Industrial Engineering to offer the MSc in Occupational Health & Safety and Ergonomics and the Higher Diploma in Occupational Health & Safety and Hygiene. In addition we offer the Certificate and Diploma in Social Care, with a degree programme to be launched in 2008.

The Department also contributes substantially to the undergraduate medical programme in the areas of Understanding Health and Illness in Society and the teaching of Health Promotion and Public Health. Health Promotion is also relevant to a range of other programmes across the University and the Department offers service teaching on Masters programmes in Family Support, Social Work and Health Psychology, Primary Care, the BSc in Health and Safety Systems, the new BA connect programme in Childhood Studies and the BA in Social Care. Further details are available at [www.nuigalway.ie/hpr](http://www.nuigalway.ie/hpr).



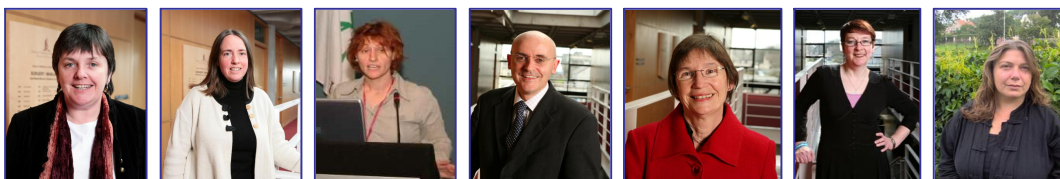
## b. The Health Promotion Research Centre

As the only dedicated health promotion research centre in Ireland, the HPRC has played an important role over the past 17 years in providing the research and knowledge base for the development of national policy, programme planning, implementation and evaluation. The aim of the Centre is to *build health promotion capacity through the generation and application of health promotion research into practice and policy*. The HPRC has worked in close collaboration with policymakers practitioners and international partners in documenting the changing population health needs and developing and evaluating health promotion policies and strategies in line with best international practice. The strategic role of the Centre in supporting national capacity building and informing best practice and policy places the Centre in a unique position.

In addition to this applied focus, theoretical and methodological developments in health promotion research are disseminated through scholarly publications and collaboration with leading research partners in Europe and globally. The Centre works in partnership with both knowledge producers and knowledge users in the international health promotion community. HPRC has an active multidisciplinary research programme of work and is supported by an experienced team of 30, including 13 core academic and administrative staff and 17 contract researchers. HPRC staff have expertise in both quantitative and qualitative research and employ experimental, survey, participative, review and evaluation research methods as appropriate to specific projects.

The Centre has dedicated administrative staff and associated accommodation as well as a clear management structure comprising its Director, Internal Steering Committee and Advisory Board comprised of national and international experts in the field. Staff of the Centre also contribute to educational programmes in Health Promotion and the supervision of Doctoral and Masters research dissertations.

### iii. Staff Profiles



#### a. Academic Staff

Staff Member	Title & Qualifications	Research Expertise
<p><b>Professor Margaret M. Barry</b></p> <p>Professor of Health Promotion and Public Health and Head of Department</p>	<p><b>Director and Project Leader</b></p> <p>MA, PhD, APsSI</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental health promotion</li> <li>• Evidence-based practice &amp; evaluation research in health promotion.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Dr Claire Connolly</b></p> <p>Lecturer in Health Promotion</p>	<p><b>Researcher</b></p> <p>MB, Bch BAO, FFARCSI, MA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breastfeeding &amp; childhood immunisation</li> <li>• Communication skills of health professionals</li> <li>• Experience of hospitalisation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Dr Margaret Hodgins</b></p> <p>Lecturer in Health Promotion</p>	<p><b>Project Leader</b></p> <p>BA, MA, PhD, Reg. Psychology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The health promoting university</li> <li>• Workplace health promotion</li> <li>• Healthy ageing.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ms Victoria Hogan</b></p> <p>Lecturer in Health Promotion (Occupational Health)</p>	<p><b>Researcher</b></p> <p>BA, MSc, CMIOSH, RSP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupational stress</li> <li>• Work life integration</li> <li>• Occupational health psychology</li> <li>• Quality of working life.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ms Verna McKenna</b></p> <p>Lecturer in Health Promotion</p>	<p><b>Researcher</b></p> <p>BA, MA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence based policy &amp; practice</li> <li>• Implementation guidance for health promotion</li> <li>• Health service access &amp; health inequalities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Dr Michal Molcho</b></p> <p>Lecturer in Health Promotion</p>	<p><b>Project Leader</b></p> <p>BA, MA, PhD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adolescents' health</li> <li>• Social inequalities</li> <li>• Youth violent behaviour</li> <li>• Injury prevention.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Dr Saoirse Nic Gabhainn</b></p> <p>Senior Lecturer in Health Promotion</p>	<p><b>Deputy Director and Project Leader</b></p> <p>BA, MA, PhD, C.Psychol, AFBPsS, C. Sci.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health &amp; health behaviour in childhood and adolescence</li> <li>• Methodologies for health promotion.</li> </ul>

<b>Ms Geraldine Nolan</b> Lecturer in Health Promotion (part-time)	<b>Project Leader</b> BSc, MSc, Dip (Nut & Dietetics)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective nutrition interventions</li> <li>• Best practice for eating disorder services</li> <li>• Nutrition needs of asylum seekers.</li> </ul>
<b>Dr Diarmuid O'Donovan</b> Senior Lecturer in Social and Preventive Medicine (part-time)	<b>Project Leader</b> MD, MSc, MFPHM, DCH, DTM&H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health inequalities &amp; health policy</li> <li>• Communicable disease control &amp; environmental health</li> <li>• STIs &amp; HIV/AIDS</li> <li>• Health &amp; human rights.</li> </ul>
<b>Dr Lisa Pursell</b> Lecturer in Health Promotion	<b>Researcher</b> BSc, PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health impact assessments</li> <li>• Inequalities in Health.</li> </ul>
<b>Dr Jane Sixsmith</b> Lecturer in Health Promotion	<b>Project Leader</b> RGN, HV, BSc, MA, PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health &amp; the media</li> <li>• Qualitative methodologies for health</li> <li>• Health services research.</li> </ul>

## b. Administrative Staff

Staff Member	Title & Qualifications	Research Expertise
<b>Dr Vivienne Batt</b>	<b>Research Administrator</b> BA, PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women's counselling provision</li> <li>• Infant feeding practices &amp; policies.</li> </ul>
<b>Ms Christina Costello</b>	<b>Research Secretary</b>	

## c. Researchers

Staff Member	Title & Qualifications	Research Expertise
<b>Ms Barbara Battel-Kirk</b>	<b>Researcher</b> BSc, MSc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competencies &amp; professional standards</li> <li>• Evaluation</li> <li>• Community development &amp; health.</li> </ul>
<b>Mr Reamonn Canavan</b>	<b>Researcher</b> BSc, MA, P Grad Dip	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental Health Promotion</li> <li>• Positive Psychology</li> <li>• Recovery &amp; Mental Health.</li> </ul>
<b>Ms Aleisha Clarke</b>	<b>Researcher</b> BEd, MEd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child &amp; adolescent mental health</li> <li>• Schools mental health promotion</li> <li>• Suicide prevention.</li> </ul>
<b>Ms Therese Costello</b>	<b>Researcher</b> RGN, BSc, MA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population Health</li> <li>• Workplace Health Promotion.</li> </ul>
<b>Ms Maureen D'Eath</b>	<b>Researcher</b> BA, LLB, MA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health inequalities</li> <li>• Health needs assessments</li> <li>• Disability.</li> </ul>



<b>Ms Priscilla Doyle</b>	<b>Researcher</b> BA, MA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people &amp; health</li> <li>• Nutrition, obesity &amp; physical activity</li> <li>• Media &amp; health.</li> </ul>
<b>Ms Marie Galvin</b>	<b>Researcher</b> BA, HDip (Ed), MA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social, personal and health education</li> <li>• Work life balance</li> <li>• Equality issues.</li> </ul>
<b>Ms Aoife Gavin</b>	<b>Researcher</b> BA, MA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adolescent health</li> <li>• Risk behaviours</li> <li>• Substance use among adolescents.</li> </ul>
<b>Ms Carol Healy</b>	<b>Researcher</b> BA, MSc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mainstreaming development education</li> <li>• Participation of ethnic minorities</li> <li>• Development aid.</li> </ul>
<b>Dr Noreen Kearns</b>	<b>Senior Researcher</b> PhD, DBS, BSocSc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health Impact Assessment</li> <li>• Health inequality, inequity &amp; poverty</li> <li>• Organisational culture</li> <li>• Health services management.</li> </ul>
<b>Dr Colette Kelly</b>	<b>Senior Researcher</b> BSc, MSc, PhD, RPHNutr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health &amp; health behaviour in childhood &amp; adolescence</li> <li>• Pre-school nutrition &amp; health</li> <li>• Public health nutrition.</li> </ul>
<b>Dr Mary Manandhar</b>	<b>Senior Researcher</b> MA, MSc, DLSHTM, PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maternal &amp; child health and nutrition</li> <li>• Ethnographic research</li> <li>• Social determinates of health.</li> </ul>
<b>Ms Siobhan O'Higgins</b>	<b>PhD Student &amp; Researcher</b> BA, MA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children, young people &amp; health</li> <li>• Sexual &amp; mental health promotion</li> <li>• Social networks.</li> </ul>
<b>Dr Carlos Felipe Revollo Fernandez</b>	<b>Senior Researcher</b> PhD, MSc, MA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Politics and Governance</li> <li>• Environment and sustainability</li> <li>• Globalisation.</li> </ul>
<b>Dr Dhammica Rowel</b>	<b>Researcher</b> MBBS, MA, MSc, MD(Com Med)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental health promotion</li> <li>• Postpartum mental illnesses</li> <li>• Adolescent health.</li> </ul>
<b>Mr Eric Van Lente</b>	<b>Researcher</b> BE, MA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School-based health promotion/social &amp; emotional learning</li> <li>• Mental health promotion &amp; theory.</li> </ul>
<b>Ms Akke Vellinga</b>	<b>Senior Researcher</b> BSc, MSc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Epidemiology &amp; environmental epidemiology</li> <li>• Statistical Modelling &amp; Cohort Studies</li> <li>• Vaccine &amp; preventable diseases.</li> </ul>

## d. Doctoral Students

<b>Name of PhD student:</b>	<b>Name of Supervisor</b>	<b>Proposed Title</b>
<b>Mr Brendan Dineen</b>	Dr Diarmuid O'Donovan	Identification of prevalence, causes and the need for eye care services.
<b>Mr Declan Flanagan</b>	Dr Michal Molcho	Fun and Games and Health; a mixed methods study measuring the impact of government health initiatives and recommendations in the North West of Ireland.
<b>Ms Victoria Hogan</b>	Dr Margaret Hodgins	An analysis of work life balance and occupational stressors within the Irish University system.
<b>Ms Jacky Jones</b>	Professor Margaret Barry	Health Promotion Partnerships: An analysis of the factors that contribute to successful partnership functioning.
<b>Ms Patricia McSharry</b>	Dr Margaret Hodgins	The effects of a physical activity intervention programme on a group of undergraduate students' short and long term knowledge and behaviours with regard to physical activity.
<b>Ms Mary O'Hara</b>	Dr Margaret Hodgins	Quality of Life Issues: Juvenile idiopathic arthritis and young people in Ireland.
<b>Ms Siobhan O'Higgins</b>	Dr Saoirse Nic Gabhainn	Why do young people wear condoms?: an exploration of positive sexual health behaviours using participative methodologies to create a workable resource for schools.
<b>Name of MD student:</b>	<b>Name of Supervisor</b>	<b>Proposed Title</b>
<b>Dr Breda Smyth</b>	Dr Diarmuid O'Donovan	Mortality Inequalities in Ireland

## e. Community Contribution to Research

In addition to research activities within the Centre and the University, staff contribute to both national and international health promotion research through management, committee and editorial board membership, as listed below:

### International

- Advisory Board of the European Task Force on Health Promoting Psychiatric Hospitals (Member)
- Board of the Clifford Beers International Centre for Mental Health Promotion (Member)
- Board of the International Union for Health Promotion and Education (Member)
- Board of the European Malaria Vaccine Initiative (Member)
- International Steering Group for the WHO Collaborating Centre for Mental Health Promotion, Prevention and Policy at STAKES, Finland (Member)
- IUHPE (Global Vice President for Capacity Building, Education and Training)
- IUHPE/EURO Sub-Committee on Training and Accreditation in Health Promotion (Chair)
- L'Association pour le développement d'HBSC, France (Member)
- NHS Scotland Mental Health Improvement – Independent Review Panel (Member)
- The Scientific Development Group of the International WHO-HBSC network (Member)
- WHO Global Support Group for Strategic Partnerships for Health and the New Public Health (Member)
- WHO technical implementation group on benchmarking progress on the Bangkok Charter (Member)

### National/Regional

- Advisory Board of the National Office for Suicide Prevention, Ireland (Member)
- Advisory group to the National Youth Health Programme (Chair)
- Board of the Association for Health Promotion, Ireland (Member)
- Board of Management of Aids West (Member)
- Child Health Research Forum (Member)
- Council of the Public Health Alliance Ireland (Member)
- Education and Examination Committee, Faculty of Public Health Medicine of Ireland (Member)
- Expert Advisory Committee of the Tallaght Child Development Initiative (Member)

- HRB research awards panel – population health, epidemiology and health services (Member)
- Irish Forum for Global Health (Chair)
- Medical Committee of the Irish Cancer Society (Member)
- National Children’s Advisory Council (Member)
- National Children’s Research Advisory Board (Member)
- National Expert Group on Mental Health - sub-group on Mental Health Promotion (Member)
- Research Advisory Committee for KIDSCREEN Ireland (Member)
- Research Advisory Committee for SLAN 2007 (Chair)
- Research Advisory Committee for the feasibility of height and weight measurement in primary school children (Member)
- Scholarship awarding committee of the Office of the Minister for Children (Member)
- Scientific and Policy Advisory Committee of the National Longitudinal Study of Children (Member)
- Technical Advisory Group: Taoiseach’s Initiative on HIV/AIDS and other Global Communicable Diseases (Member)
- Voluntary Management Committee Westside Community Development Project (Member)

#### **Editorial Boards**

- International Journal of Mental Health (Member)
- Journal of Mental Health Promotion (Member)
- Journal of Public Mental Health Promotion (Member)
- Open Epidemiology Journal (Member)
- Proceedings of the Nutrition Society (Deputy Editor)
- Promotion & Education (Member)

## iv. Research Activities



### Research Areas

Within the Health Promotion Research Centre four research clusters have been formed around key health promotion settings, topics and population groups based on staff expertise, areas of interest and commissioned work.

#### a. POPULATION HEALTH RESEARCH

This strand of research explores the patterns of health related behaviour, attitudes, beliefs and knowledge among members of the public and sub-groups within the population.

#### b. PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION

The Centre has been involved in both developing and evaluating a range of health promotion intervention studies carried out in collaboration with practitioners, policymakers and local communities.

#### c. HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH

The Centre has conducted a range of studies examining health services provision, with a particular focus on equity of access.

#### d. POLICY RESEARCH

Policy research includes studies which provide evidence for policy-makers to develop and implement public policy which improves the health of the population.

## a. Population Health Research

- HEALTH BEHAVIOUR IN SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN (HBSC): A WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION COLLABORATIVE CROSS-NATIONAL STUDY
- SURVEY OF LIFESTYLES, ATTITUDES AND NUTRITION 2007 (SLÁN07)
- GALWAY HEALTHY CITY - MAPPING GALWAY'S HEALTH PROFILE
- TRANSLATING THE HEALTH BEHAVIOUR OF SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN (HBSC) STUDY INTO POLICY AND PRACTICE
- MARKETING OF FOODSTUFFS IN POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN IRELAND
- PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH PROCESSES (PRP)

**HEALTH BEHAVIOUR IN SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN (HBSC): A WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION COLLABORATIVE CROSS-NATIONAL STUDY**

<b>Principal Investigator:</b>	Dr Saoirse Nic Gabhainn
<b>Researchers:</b>	Dr Colette Kelly, Dr Michal Molcho, Ms Aoife Gavin, Ms Siobhan O'Higgins, Ms Marie Galvin and Ms Pauline Clerkin
<b>Funder:</b>	Health Promotion Policy Unit and Office of the Minister for Children, Department of Health and Children

**Background**

Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) is a cross-national research study conducted in collaboration with the WHO Regional Office for Europe. The HBSC international survey runs on an academic 4-year cycle and in 2005/6 there were 41 participating countries and regions ([www.hbsc.org](http://www.hbsc.org)). Cross-nationally, HBSC collects information on the key indicators of health, health attitudes and health behaviour, as well as the context of health for young people.

**Research Aims**

The overall study aims are to gain new insight into, and increase our understanding of young people's health and well-being, health behaviours and their social context.

**Methods**

HBSC is a school-based survey with data collected through self-completion questionnaires administered by teachers in the classroom. The HBSC survey instrument is a standard questionnaire developed by the international research network. A nationally representative sample of primary and post-primary schools from the Republic of Ireland was selected. Individual schools were randomly selected and subsequently, class groups within schools were randomly selected for participation.

**Results/Progress to Date**

Overall, 215 schools took part in the HBSC survey, giving a final response rate of 63%. This is reflected in a total *n* of 10,334. Data entry is complete and the first national report was launched in August 2007. Data analysis for the second report is complete and will be launched in the Spring 2008. The international report is due for launch in the Summer 2008. Other reports in progress include a Great Britain and Ireland report and contribution to the 2008 State of the Nation's Children report. Factsheets will also be launched throughout 2008/09.

**Key Reports & Publications**

Nic Gabhainn, S., Kelly, C. & Molcho, M. (2007). *The Irish Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) study 2006*. Dublin: Department of Health and Children.

A full list of HBSC Ireland publications can be found at [http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc/publications\\_reports.html](http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc/publications_reports.html)



*Minister Pat 'the cope' Gallaher & Dr Saoirse Nic Gabhainn*

## SURVEY OF LIFESTYLES, ATTITUDES AND NUTRITION 2007 (SLÁN07)

**Principal Investigator:** Professor Margaret Barry and Dr Michal Molcho  
**Researchers:** Mr Eric Van Lente  
**Funder:** Department of Health and Children

### Background and Research Aims

SLÁN07 monitors the health behaviours and attitudes of a representative sample of 10,000 adults in the Republic of Ireland. It is a joint study between four Consortium partners who were awarded a national contract to complete the Survey of Lifestyles, Attitudes and Nutrition (SLÁN07, formerly SLÁN06) on behalf of the Department of Health and Children. The four partners are: The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI), The Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), University College Cork (UCC) and The National University of Ireland Galway (NUIG). This survey is the third in a series of national health surveys which also includes SLÁN98 and SLÁN02.



### Methods

SLÁN07 involves face-to-face interviews with 10,000+ adults aged 18 years or over interviewed at home addresses in addition to two studies on subsets of this sample: a study on body size in younger adults (aged 18-44 years) and a study involving physical examination and blood and urine sampling in adults aged 45 years and over.

Results of these studies will be published in a number of reports, including the main SLÁN07 report as well as a number of sub-reports which will examine the following issues in greater detail:

- Nutrition, health behaviour and physical examination findings
- Patterns of social and mental health and community participation
- Comparisons of health behaviour and related profiles between population surveys in the Republic and Northern Ireland
- Policy implications of the major health behaviour profiles.

The research team at the HPRC is specifically responsible for the mental health, injuries, and family/social network/neighbours sections of the SLÁN07 report, but it has also contributed to the report's overall content and design. The HPRC is also responsible for the mental health/community participation detailed sub-report.

### Progress to Date

Data collection for the main survey was completed in mid 2007 and preliminary data analysis began in late 2007. The main survey involved 10,364 respondents (62% response rate) with 967 younger adults in the body-size sub-study and 1,250 adults aged 45+ in the physical examination sub-study.

The first report (SLÁN07) is nearing completion and is due to be launched on April, 2008. Work has begun on the mental health sub-report which will be published in October 2008.



### Key Reports and Publications

Morgan, K. McGee, H., Watson, D., Perry, I., Barry, M., Shelley, E., Harrington, J., Molcho, M., Layte, R., Tully, N., van Lente, E., Ward, M., Lutomski, J., Conroy, R., Brugha, R. (forthcoming, 2008) *SLÁN 2007 Survey of Lifestyle, Attitudes & Nutrition in Ireland*. Dublin: Department of Health and Children.

Reports will be available at this website: <http://www.slan07.ie/>



## GALWAY HEALTHY CITY - MAPPING GALWAY'S HEALTH PROFILE

<b>Principal Investigators:</b>	Professor Margaret Barry and Dr Michal Molcho
<b>Researchers:</b>	Ms Aoife Gavin and Mr Graham Brennan
<b>Funder:</b>	Health Promotion Services, Health Service Executive Western Area (HSE-West)

### **Background**

In 2006 Galway City joined the WHO Healthy Cities Project. One of the initial steps to be taken when joining the project is to conduct a survey profiling the health of the city's residents.

### **Research Aims**

The aim of the project is to map the health profile of Galway City residents. The study focuses on perceptions of services in the local area, participation in local activities, general health and health behaviours.

### **Methods**

The study surveyed a representative sample of 587 adults (18 years and over) residing in Galway at the time of data collection through a self administered questionnaire. The sample was drawn from the GeoDirectory list of addresses. The questionnaire for the study was developed by the HSE Galway Healthy City research group. Data was collected using a drop-off and pick-up method. The study accommodated for literacy and language difficulties through offering face-to-face interview if required.

### **Progress to Date**

Data collection has been completed. Analysis of quantitative and open-ended questions is complete. The draft report is under review.

### **Key Reports & Publications**

None to date.



## TRANSLATING THE HEALTH BEHAVIOUR OF SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN (HBSC) STUDY INTO POLICY AND PRACTICE

<b>Principal Investigator:</b>	Dr. Saoirse Nic Gabhainn
<b>Researchers:</b>	Dr. Michal Molcho, Dr. Colette Kelly and Ms. Aoife Gavin
<b>Funder:</b>	Health Research Board & Health Promotion Policy Unit, Department of Health and Children

### Background

Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) is a cross-national research study conducted in collaboration with WHO Regional Office for Europe. One of the aims of the HBSC is to inform policy makers on issues relating to youth health.

### Research Aims

Through a series of policy and methodological sub-studies, the aim of this project is to investigate patterns and associations of child health behaviours in the 2002 survey and disseminate the resulting findings to both national and international stakeholders. In addition to contributing to scientific knowledge, this project aims to inform future policy and practice in children's health and well-being.

### Results

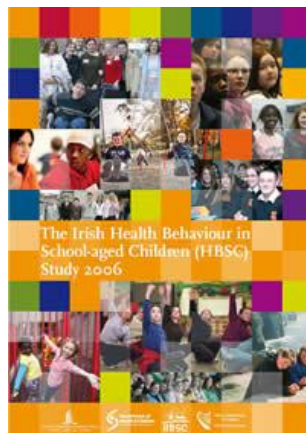
Collaborative relationships with national and international partners have facilitated our work addressing the key aims and objective of this project. Research questions and activities that have been addressed include the following: Adolescent positive health and well-being; Cluster randomisation and design effects in the HBSC data set; Communication and relationships: resources and risks; Development and distribution of policy briefing factsheets; Food poverty among Irish children; Measurement of social and material deprivation; Prevalence of missing data in self-reported height and weight; Seasonality in HBSC survey data; Smoking initiation and cessation among Irish children; Young people's perspectives on their environment; Food behaviour: consumption, dieting and obesity. Aside from the development of policy briefing factsheets and short reports, peer reviewed papers have been published. This project has demonstrated that the successful translation of research findings into policy and practice requires a multi-faceted approach with dedicated funding and resources.

### Key Reports & Publications

Molcho M., Nic Gabhainn S. & Kelleher, C. (2007). Assessing the use of the Family Affluence scale among Irish School Children. *Irish Medical Journal*, 100(8), 37-39

Molcho M., Nic Gabhainn S. & Kelleher, C. (2007). Interpersonal relationships as predictors of positive health among Irish youth: The more the merrier. *Irish Medical Journal*, 100(8), 33-36.

A full list of publications from translating the HBSC into policy and practice can be found at [http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc/publications\\_reports.html](http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc/publications_reports.html)



## MARKETING OF FOODSTUFFS IN POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN IRELAND

**Principal Investigators:** Dr Colette Kelly and Dr Saoirse Nic Gabhainn  
**Researchers:** Ms Marie Galvin and Ms Pauline Clerkin  
**Funder:** Irish Heart Foundation

### Background

Currently it is estimated that more than 300,000 children are overweight or obese in Ireland and that rates are probably rising at a rate of 10,000 per year (Department of Health & Children, 2005). Environmental factors such as a more sedentary lifestyle and the ready availability of energy dense foods are the most likely underlying factors in the increasing prevalence of obesity. The influence of food marketing on the prevalence of childhood obesity is one environmental factor that has received attention recently.

Food marketing occurs through many media, including television, magazines, radio, cinema, mobile phones and outdoor advertising. There are also a range of settings through which children are exposed to food marketing. The school environment is one such avenue but the extent of in-school marketing in post primary schools in Ireland is unknown. Moreover, the different types of marketing employed, including sponsorship, branding, token collection and other promotional strategies are not clear.

### Research Aims

The aim of this project was to identify the level and type of marketing of foodstuffs in post primary schools in the Republic of Ireland.

### Methods

A 40 item self-completion questionnaire was designed in consultation with the Irish Heart Foundation and was piloted. Post primary schools were recruited via a letter to Principals and follow-up phone calls where necessary. Questionnaires were completed anonymously and were returned in prepaid envelopes for data entry and analysis at the HPRC, NUI, Galway.

### Results

A total of 331 questionnaires were returned of the 741 that were distributed, yielding a response rate of 44.7%. The response rate from the various types of post-primary schools (secondary, vocational, community & comprehensive) was representative of the proportion of such schools in the country. Data entry and both quantitative and qualitative analyses are complete and a report was submitted to the Irish Heart Foundation in December 2006. The report was launched in March 2007.

### Key Reports & Publications

Mulvihill, M., Kelly, C., Nic Gabhainn, S., Morrissey, J., Kelly, Y. & Clerkin, P. (2007). An investigation of the extent of commercial sponsorship in post-primary schools in the Republic of Ireland. Paper presented at the *19th IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion and Health Education*, Vancouver, June 2007.

Kelly, C., Clerkin, P., Galvin, M. & Nic Gabhainn, S. (2006). *Marketing of Foodstuffs in Post-Primary Schools in Ireland*. Dublin: Irish Heart Foundation.  
[http://www.irishheart.ie/iopen24/pub/healthpromotionreports/ihf\\_report\\_marketing\\_of\\_foodstuffs\\_post\\_primary\\_2007.pdf](http://www.irishheart.ie/iopen24/pub/healthpromotionreports/ihf_report_marketing_of_foodstuffs_post_primary_2007.pdf)

### PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH PROCESSES (PRP)

**Principal Investigators:** Dr Saoirse Nic Gabhainn and Dr Jane Sixsmith  
**Researcher:** Ms Siobhan O'Higgins  
**Funder:** Office for Minister of Children, HSE West

#### **Background**

The engagement of research participants in the process of research is a challenging yet rewarding approach to knowledge generation. Within the Health Promotion Research Centre in NUI, Galway, we have been working on the development of research protocols that are designed to facilitate that engagement.

#### **Research Aims**

To explore and develop participation throughout the research process

#### **Methods**

Health promotion research is developing with the integration and application of the tenets of health promotion applied through the research process. The approach explicitly concerns power within the research cycle and the goal that research can be in itself health promoting. In this way the active meaningful participation of people is sought in a way that, at the very least, is not disempowering. We have been exploring through research practices the active participation of children specifically in the research process.

#### **Results**

This methodology was first developed in relation to explicating children's understanding of well-being for the National Children's Office and has since been developed further through validation studies and further application of these Participatory Research Processes. Our experience to date of including children as participants in data collection and analysis has demonstrated children's constructive, sophisticated contribution to the research process producing rich data presented in creative constructions of often complex abstract concepts. We plan to explore and develop this approach through further application.

#### **Key Reports & Publications**

Nic Gabhainn, S. Sixsmith, J., Delaney, E., Moore, M., Inchley, J., O'Higgins, S. (2007). Health Promoting School Indicators: schematic models from students. *Health Education*, 107(6), 494-510.

Sixsmith, J., Nic Gabhainn, S., Fleming, C., O'Higgins, S. (2007). Children's, Parents' and Teachers' Perceptions of Child Well-being. *Health Education*, 107(6), 511-523.

Further information on this research programme is available at [www.nuigalway.ie/health\\_promotion/research/participatoryresearch.html](http://www.nuigalway.ie/health_promotion/research/participatoryresearch.html)

## b. Programme Development and Evaluation

- IMPLEMENTATION OF SPHE AT POST-PRIMARY SCHOOL LEVEL: A CASE STUDY APPROACH
- A PROCESS EVALUATION OF THE NATIONAL DRUG AWARENESS CAMPAIGN
- EVALUATION OF *ZIPPY'S FRIENDS*, AN EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN IN PRIMARY SCHOOL
- EVALUATION OF THE 'CHOOSE SAFETY' HEALTH PROMOTION PROGRAMME
- EVALUATION OF THE MINDOUT PROGRAMME IN AN OUT-OF-SCHOOLS SETTING
- HEALTHY TOGETHER
- CAPACITY FOR DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION
- SCOPING RESEARCH FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNET-BASED HEALTH PROMOTION MATERIALS
- EVALUATION OF THE BALLYFERMOT HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

## IMPLEMENTATION OF SPHE AT POST-PRIMARY SCHOOL LEVEL: A CASE STUDY APPROACH

**Principal Investigator:** Dr Saoirse Nic Gabhainn and Professor Margaret Barry  
**Researcher:** Siobhan O'Higgins, Marie Galvin & Catriona Kennedy  
**Funder:** SPHE Management Team

### Background and Research Aims:

The Department of Education and Science approved the Junior Cycle Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) syllabus in 2000. SPHE was designed to match with and facilitate the educational principles that underpin the Junior Certificate and all post-primary schools were advised that SPHE must form part of the core curriculum of Junior Certificate. The SPHE support service takes the form of a partnership between the Departments of Education and Science and Health and Children and the Regional Health Boards (now HSE).

Data collected so far on SPHE have been provided by members of the SPHE support services, teachers in receipt of SPHE training, SPHE teachers in school, non-SPHE teachers and Principals. Two of the key stakeholders in the SPHE process have not been involved: students and parents. , and it is timely that these two sets of voices are given the opportunity to contribute their opinions. It is timely to explore the perspectives of parents and students as separate groups of stakeholders. However, in the context of the school as a setting for working, learning and living, is that all educational stakeholders, involved in each individual school, have the opportunity to participate in the production of a holistic picture of their school.

### Methods

The case study approach employed mixed methodologies, including interviews, questionnaires and participatory methods of data collection. These methods elicited a rich variety of opinions from students, teachers, parents and SPHE Support Services staff on their perceptions of SPHE at present and their aspirations for its future. The focus for exploration concentrated on five main themes:

1. Teacher and parent perceptions of the quality of SPHE provision as well as student, teacher and parent perceptions of the value of SPHE provision
2. Perceived contribution of SPHE to the educational experience, health attitudes and behaviours of students from the student, teacher and parent perspectives,
3. Stakeholders' perceptions of how SPHE is supported in their school, through inclusion in planning processes and the structures, policies and roles that promote SPHE implementation in the school; perceptions of teachers of their own competence and confidence in teaching SPHE; the extent to which SPHE complements the work of other school personnel.
4. Parental expectations of SPHE for Junior Cycle students and perceptions of schools' consultation with parents, teachers and students in relation to SPHE as well as how schools create links with community, Support Services and outside agencies to support SPHE.
5. Perceptions of how SPHE can be built on in Transition Year and Senior Cycle.

### Progress to Date

All schools were successfully recruited and data collection took place during the school year 2005/6. Data analysis and integration have also been completed and recommendations drawn up. The draft report has been agreed by the SPHE management committee, and the interdepartmental steering committee.

### Key Publications and Reports

Publication of the SPHE Implementation reports is expected in Spring 2008.

## A PROCESS EVALUATION OF THE NATIONAL DRUG AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

<b>Principal Investigators:</b>	Dr Jane Sixsmith and Dr Saoirse Nic Gabhainn
<b>Researchers:</b>	Ms Pauline Clerkin, Dr Evelyn Stevens, Mr Michael Keogh, Ms Maureen D'Eath and Ms Siobhan O'Higgins
<b>Funder:</b>	National Advisory Committee on Drugs

### **Background**

The National Drugs Strategy 2001-2008 (Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation, 2001) aims to “*significantly reduce the harm caused to individuals and society by the misuse of drugs*” (p8) through the four “*pillars*” of supply reduction, prevention, treatment and research. A key objective cited in relation to prevention is to create a greater awareness of the dangers and prevalence of drug misuse through the specified action (p38) of a mass media campaign. A National Awareness Campaign was launched in May 2003 and ended in December 2005 with the aim of highlighting the facts about drug misuse and increasing awareness of current drug problems facing society.

### **Research Aims**

The aim of this research is to make explicit the process of development of the National Drugs Awareness Campaign.

### **Methods**

This process evaluation was carried out using a qualitative approach with a total of 94 semi-structured interviews undertaken with key stakeholders at five points of time over the three year dissemination period of the campaign. Documentary data relating to campaign development was also gathered, collated and used to inform the results.

### **Results**

Overall, substantial learning has been gained by participants as a result of their involvement with the development and execution of this mass media campaign. The importance of planning and management emerged as paramount, with effective and timely communication mechanisms as key factors. Other learnings include the necessity for adequate funding from the outset, centrality of time-frames, time commitments, engaging with appropriate and skilled expertise and embracing the principles of participatory decision-making. The development of inter-agency protocols to guide the principles and practice inherent to collaborative working should be considered in any future campaigns of this nature. Such protocols should include agreement of project aims and objectives and issues of time, money, decision making procedures, roles and responsibilities should be set out, as should contingency plans that can be referred to as required over the time-span of the campaign.

### **Key Reports & Publications**

Full report available at:

[http://www.nacd.ie/publications/prevention\\_nacdevaluation.html](http://www.nacd.ie/publications/prevention_nacdevaluation.html)



## EVALUATION OF ZIPPY'S FRIENDS, AN EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN IN PRIMARY SCHOOL

<b>Principal Investigator:</b>	Professor Margaret Barry
<b>Researcher:</b>	Ms. Aleisha Clarke
<b>Funder:</b>	HSE Population Health, Health Promotion Directorate

### Background

*Zippy's Friends* is a universal school based programme for children in first and second class. It has been developed specifically to help all young children, with different abilities and backgrounds to expand their range of effective coping skills. Throughout the programme the emphasis is very much on encouraging the children to explore, helping them to find their own solutions and expand their range of coping strategies, so that they have more options from which to choose and can learn to master effective means of coping with difficulties. The heart of the programme is a set of six stories about a group of children and a stick insect called Zippy. Over the course of 24 weeks, the stories track what happens to Zippy and his friends, confronting issues that are familiar to young children: friendship, communication, feeling lonely, bullying, dealing with change and loss, and making a new start. *Zippy's Friends* is implemented by the class teachers, all of whom have received a two-day training workshop about the programme. The programme which has produced positive results, has been implemented and evaluated in a number of countries including Denmark, Lithuania, the United Kingdom and Norway.

### Research Aims

The specific aims of this study are to:

- (i) determine if an international emotional literacy programme for young children can be successfully implemented in an Irish setting
- (ii) determine the impact of the programme on the children who participate when compared with children in a control group who will not participate.

### Methods

The research evaluation will employ a randomised controlled design, with assessments before, during, after, and twelve months post implementation of the programme. The schools that are taking part in the study have been randomly chosen from the list of designated disadvantaged schools in the Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim and Galway City region. Some 800 first class children from 43 schools have been enrolled. Of the 43 schools, 12 schools were randomly assigned to a waiting list. Of the 30 intervention schools, 15 schools have been asked to implement the programme in its entirety while the other 15 schools have been asked to use the programme selectively as a resource.

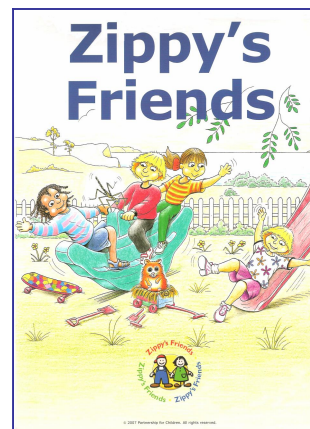
The programme is being evaluated by the teachers, children and parents in order to assess the impact, process, outcomes of the programme. A series of structured questionnaires and the qualitative draw-and-write technique are being used to determine the impact of the programme post-intervention and at twelve follow-up. An in-depth analysis of the process of implementation will be conducted throughout the study in order to determine the key predictors of change and the necessary conditions for bringing about such change. Weekly questionnaires, focus group interviews, child-centered workshops and an ethos questionnaire will be used in the evaluation of the implementation process.

### Progress to Date

To date, all base-line data have been collected and the programme has commenced.

### Key Reports and Publications

An interim report will be published in August, 2008.





## EVALUATION OF THE 'CHOOSE SAFETY' HEALTH PROMOTION PROGRAMME

<b>Principal Investigator:</b>	Dr Margaret Hodgins
<b>Researchers:</b>	Ms Vicky Hogan and Ms Marie Galvin
<b>Funder:</b>	Health and Safety Authority

### Background

'Choose Safety' is a school-based health promotion programme that is targeted at young people on the brink of employment. The higher vulnerability of young workers in respect of occupational accidents may be linked to risk-taking in adolescence generally, and therefore their perspective on an educational programme is critical to an evaluation. This project is based on a comprehensive evaluation model which includes impact, process and outcome indicators.

### Research Aims

To conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the Health and Safety Authority 'Choose Safety' module.

### Methods

Questionnaires were administered to students in five designated locations prior to undertaking the 'Choose Safety' module and on completion of the module. The pre-course questionnaire was issued to 2331 students assessing safety knowledge, attitudes and beliefs based on specific topics addressed in the educational material, in addition to demographic and work-related questions.

The post-course version of the questionnaire contained additional questions intended to assess student perspectives on perceived usefulness of the structure and content and perceived efficiency of the administration of the module material. A control group, involving a small number of schools not participating in the 'Choose Safety' programme, also received questionnaires for comparison at a later stage with those completed the course.

All teachers of the course received a questionnaire to be completed by them at the end of the delivery of the module, with questions addressing the perceived usefulness of the structure and content of the course material and the efficiency of the administration of the programme. In order to explore, in greater depth, levels of satisfaction and acceptability of methods, materials and process elements, several open-ended questions were included.

Class discussions will be undertaken in five schools with students who have completed the course, to gain further insights into their perceptions, attitudes and expectations of the module.

A focus group will be held with five area co-ordinators co-opted by the Health and Safety Authority to contact, inform and assist schools in implementing the programme. Their perspective of structures and administration of the module material will be explored as well as identification of supports that may be required to maximise implementation and uptake of the module.

### Progress to Date

All pre-intervention data has been entered and preliminary descriptive statistics have been compiled. A response rate of 75% (class groups) has been achieved. Post-intervention student questionnaires and questionnaires to teachers have been sent out. Focus group and class discussions are currently being planned.

### Key Reports and Publications

None to date.

## EVALUATION OF THE MINDOUT PROGRAMME IN AN OUT-OF-SCHOOLS SETTING

<b>Principal Investigator:</b>	Professor Margaret Barry
<b>Researchers:</b>	Ms Aleisha Clarke, Mr Reamonn Canavan, Ms Siobhan O'Higgins
<b>Funder:</b>	Health Promotion Services and Mental Health Services, Health Service Executive Western Area (HSE-West)

### Background and Research Aims

This project is concerned with evaluating the pilot delivery of the MindOut mental health promotion programme in selected Youthreach centres in the HSE West region. The Youthreach *MindOut* programme aims to provide an opportunity for early school leavers to promote their own mental health and acquire skills in dealing with stress, emotions, relationships and being a support to others. The programme also aims to raise awareness of the range of sources of help available within the local community.

The research aims of this study are:

- to examine the feasibility of implementing a mental health promotion programme in Youthreach centres
- to measure the effectiveness of the programme in improving the adolescents' knowledge and awareness of mental health issues and their coping skills
- to assess the adolescents' attitudes towards the programme
- to measure the impact of the training programme on the Youthreach tutors
- to assess the attitudes of the tutors towards the content and structure of the programme and the overall effect of the programme on the adolescents and themselves
- to examine the process of delivery and the perceived gains from each session

### Methods

The study is being conducted in Youthreach centres in the Galway, Mayo and Roscommon region. A quasi-experimental design is being employed with a combination of qualitative and quantitative research methods at both pre and post intervention. The evaluation consists of six distinct components:

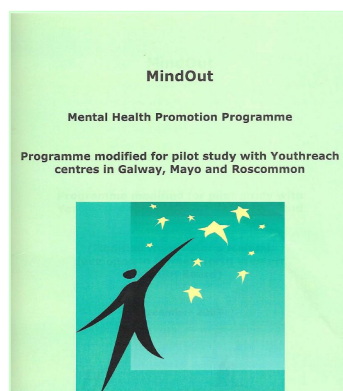
1. Trainees: Pre- and Post-Intervention Workshops: The impact of the programme on the trainees' knowledge and awareness of mental health issues and their coping skills is assessed by a combination of questionnaires and qualitative activities
2. Trainees: Weekly Review Questionnaire
3. Trainees: Post-Intervention Activity Workshop
4. Tutors: Ethos Questionnaire
5. Tutors: Weekly Questionnaires on Programme Implementation
6. Tutors: Post-Intervention Focus Group Review Session

### Progress to Date

The second phase of the ten session programme is now being implemented in the centres. Pre intervention workshops have been conducted with the trainees and the data from these have been analysed and an interim report produced. The weekly review questionnaires by the trainees and tutors are ongoing. The evaluation is due to be completed in May 2008, at which time a final report will be produced.

### Key Reports & Publications

None to date.



## HEALTHY TOGETHER

<b>Principal Investigator:</b>	Dr Margaret Hodgins
<b>Researcher:</b>	Ms Barbara Battel-Kirk
<b>Funder:</b>	Leonardo da Vinci Programme, EU Commission

### Background

The context for this project is the workplace health and safety needs of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), and in particular the specific challenges of working with SMEs highlighted in Luxembourg Declaration (1997). It is apparent that SMEs employ more than 66% of Europe's working population, yet have higher rates of occupational injuries. There is a need to train personnel who work in and with SMEs in health improvement.

Three countries are involved in this collaborative project: Iceland, Italy and Ireland. Across the three countries there are six Partners:

- OSH and Public Health institution AOSH (Iceland)
- Public Health Institute (Iceland)
- University of Reykjavik (Iceland)
- University of Perugia (Italy)
- The HSE West Health Promotion Department (Ireland)
- NUI, Galway, Health Promotion Department (Ireland)  
*also in collaboration - Roscommon County Enterprise Board (Ireland)*

### Research Aims

The overall aim of the project is to create an e-learning course in order to promote workplace health in small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in rural communities.

The e-learning course will focus on making use of local resources and services. In the e-learning course participants will learn about risk assessment, and the planning, implementation and evaluation of a WHP programme. The programme is intended for Those employed in SMEs with a responsibility for health and safety; managers, union representatives, and personnel officers, whom, ideally, have been educated to primary degree level.

### Methods

The principal methods include:

- (1) a needs assessment in each country
- (2) course/material development, and
- (3) evaluation of the pilot programme.

### Progress to Date

The needs assessment has been completed and course development is underway. The programme will be piloted in 3 countries in April 2008.

### Key Reports & Publications

None to date.



### CAPACITY FOR DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

<b>Principal Investigators:</b>	Dr Diarmuid O'Donovan and Dr Su-ming Khoo, Dept. of Political Science and Sociology, NUI, Galway
<b>Researcher:</b>	Ms Carol Healy
<b>Funder:</b>	Irish Aid

#### **Background**

Irish Aid has identified the Third Level Sector as a strategic priority sector for Development Education at a time when development education is moving "from the margins to the mainstream". The inclusion of the higher education sector has the potential to expand the meanings and practices of development education very significantly.

The Development Education and Research Network (DERN), NUI, Galway, has undertaken this research to describe and assess the capacity for Development Education in NUI, Galway. A thematic approach was proposed to provide a common focus, and to link diverse initiatives across Faculties, Departments and Research Centres within NUI, Galway.

#### **Research Aims**

To describe and assess the capacity for Development Education in NUI, Galway.

#### **Methods**

Data was collected on the Development Education related activities of staff and students through interviews and an online survey. Thematic data was collected to gain an idea of interest and capacity across three practice areas: Teaching/Studying, Research and Activism.

This data provided the basis for a strategic, capacity-building programme proposal for 2006-2009: "*Mainstreaming development education at Third Level – a capacity building programme through civic engagement and professional education*". This was submitted in January, 2006 and granted funding in July 2006.

#### **Results**

This study suggested that there are three major challenges for the integration of the Third Level sector into Development Education:

- How to define Development Education in a way that is relevant to the teaching, research and public intellectual role of Third Level institutions
- How to bridge the gap between Development Education and Development Studies
- How to link the local and the global in Development Education.

The study identified some key starting points for a longer-term capacity programme which could address these challenges. These are:

- Building the links with third level teaching and research programmes
- Developing the relevance of development education to professional education
- Linking with the civic engagement agenda.
- Developing development education and research clusters around BOTH interdisciplinary/thematic and disciplinary strengths.

#### **Key Reports & Publications**

The final report was submitted August, 2007.

## SCOPING RESEARCH FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNET-BASED HEALTH PROMOTION MATERIALS

<b>Principal Investigator:</b>	Dr Jane Sixsmith ( <i>in collaboration with Ms Cindy Dring, Health Promotion Officer, NUI, Galway</i> )
<b>Researcher:</b>	Ms Priscilla Doyle
<b>Funder:</b>	Health Service Executive

### **Background**

Third level institutions are not only centres of academic achievement but are also places where students develop personally and socially. The provision of easily accessed, up-to-date, accurate and relevant information about health issues and available services is crucial to better support students, and to foster a health-promoting environment on campus. In recent months, representatives from the health services of University College Cork, Trinity College Dublin, and NUI, Galway have met to discuss ways of sharing student-oriented computer-based health resources. These discussions have highlighted the need for both local or institution-specific, and general information. This could be achieved through web based health information provision.

### **Research Aims**

The study aim is to explore the feasibility of the development of internet based health promotion materials in relation to alcohol use for third level students across third level institutions.

### **Methods**

There are three methodological components to the study:

#### *1. Review*

Desk - based scoping research will be undertaken which will include:

- a) Identifying, gathering, collating and reviewing literature pertaining to health promotion information provision, particularly alcohol related, that are disseminated through the internet/web to the target group of 3<sup>rd</sup> level students
- b) Identifying and reviewing internet based health promotion initiatives with particular reference to young people and alcohol.

#### *2. Universities Perspectives*

The second stage is to assess the feasibility of the project from the universities perspectives. This will be undertaken through semi-structured interviews with key university personnel working in university management, administration and specifically in the areas of computer services and health services.

#### *3. Student Perspectives*

The third stage is to determine the acceptability of such an approach to students and to gauge their willingness to utilise such a resource. Focus groups will be used as the method of data collection. A total of six focus groups will be carried out, two per institution with a maximum of 10 participants per group.

### **Progress to Date**

Funding is secured and a researcher has been appointed.

### **Key Reports & Publications**

None to date.

## EVALUATION OF THE BALLYFERMOT HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

**Principal Investigator:** Dr Diarmuid O'Donovan  
**Researchers:** Dr Noreen Kearns and Dr Lisa Pursell  
**Funder:** URBAN Ballyfermot Ltd., EU URBAN II Initiative

### Background

The Ballyfermot HIA was commissioned by the Department of Public Health at the former Eastern Regional Health Authority (ERHA). This evaluation project sought to examine the process, impact and outcomes of the Ballyfermot HIA of traffic and transport and represented the final phase of the Ballyfermot HIA. A Ballyfermot HIA Evaluation Committee was set up in November 2006 to oversee the evaluation process.

### Research Aims

To conduct process, impact and outcome evaluations of the Ballyfermot HIA of traffic and transport.

### Methods

Qualitative methodologies were used to explore perceptions and experiences of the HIA including semi-structured interviews and/or focus groups.

### Results

A draft report was submitted to the Ballyfermot HIA evaluation committee in April 2007 and a final report in June 2007. This project is now completed.

### Key Reports & Publications

Kearns, N. & Pursell, L. (2007). *Evaluation of the health impact assessment of traffic and transport in Ballyfermot*. Health Promotion Research Centre, NUI, Galway.

Kearns, N. and Pursell, L. (2007). Reflections on the Evaluation of the HIA on Traffic and Transport in Ballyfermot. Paper presented at the *8th HIA International Conference*, Dublin, October 2007.



## c. Health Service Research

- INTEGRATING SAFER MOTHERHOOD
- HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH: THE CHANGING ECONOMIC BURDEN OF OBESITY RELATED HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS ILLNESS IN IRELAND
- FEASIBILITY STUDY OF DEVELOPING AN IRISH HEALTH POVERTY INDEX
- DEVELOPMENT OF BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR TREATMENT OF EATING DISORDERS
- DEVELOPMENT OF BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR DELIVERY OF NUTRITION SERVICES TO ETHNIC MINORITY CLIENTS.
- EVALUATION OF THE HEALTH QUALITY MARK
- EXPLORATION OF RISK COMMUNICATION IN RELATION TO CRYPTOSPORIDIUM CONTAMINATION OF THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

### INTEGRATING SAFER MOTHERHOOD

<b>Principal Investigator:</b>	Dr Diarmuid O'Donovan
<b>Researchers:</b>	Dr Mary Manandhar Dr Margaret Maimbolwa (University of Zambia), Mr Elson Muulu (Kasama School of Nursing) and Mary Mwenge Mulenga (Kasama)
<b>Funder:</b>	The Advisory Board for Irish Aid

#### Background and Research Aims

This operational research project aimed to review and analyse if, and how, safe motherhood policies and programmes in Zambia consider the socio-cultural and gender contexts of health beliefs and health care seeking behaviours to prevent maternal deaths, and the extent to which these were linked to other priority health issues that impact on maternal survival (particularly HIV and AIDS, Mother-to-Child transmission of HIV, malaria, tuberculosis, family planning).

#### Methods

Beginning in March 2005, the project had several components:

- Comprehensive document review and analysis, including policy analysis
- Participatory ethnographic research (PEER) interviews on community perspectives
- Qualitative research on provincial programming perspective among government and non-governmental stakeholders in Kasama, Northern Province
- Inter-sectoral dialogue and exchange for alliance-building and advocacy
- Dissemination and discussion workshops, presentations and publications.

#### Progress to Date

All components of the project have been completed successfully. At community level, 14 semi-literate women, from Bemba and Bisa tribes, were trained to collect data. All 126 interviews were transcribed, translated and analysed. At provincial programming level, 18 key informants were interviewed and their transcript data analysed. To strengthen advocacy efforts, an inter-sectoral process of discussion, exchange and alliance-building was also catalysed, although this functioned better at provincial level than at central level. A policy analysis highlighted gaps and weaknesses in national responses to the gender and social determinants of maternal survival. Two dissemination and discussion workshops were held in Kasama and in Lusaka in 2006, hosted by the government of Zambia and attended by high ranking officials, including the Minister of Health. These events saw lively debate across all sectors on issues highlighted by the research, and a series of recommendations for follow-up and action were agreed on a number of levels (community, provincial, national, donor). The final report was sent to the funder in December 2007.

#### Key Reports and Publications

A series of presentations in Ireland and in the African region took place in 2007, and into 2008. A descriptive report on the project was submitted for inclusion in the Development Journal of Irish Aid, to be published in 2008. All reports, publications and presentations, as well as related key documents on the research theme, will soon be available on the project website: [www.nuigalway.ie/safemotherhood](http://www.nuigalway.ie/safemotherhood).

#### Acknowledgements

The considerable support of personnel in the Irish Aid offices in Lusaka and Kasama and the Provincial Health Office (Ministry of Health) in Kasama is gratefully acknowledged. Associate partners: The Women's Health Council; K. Mona Moore, Washington DC, USA; Dr. Anne Byrne, Dept. of Sociology, NUI, Galway Ireland; Options Consultancy, UK.



**HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH: THE CHANGING ECONOMIC BURDEN OF OBESITY  
RELATED HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS ILLNESS IN IRELAND**

**Principal Investigator:** Dr Diarmuid O'Donovan  
**Researcher:** Ms Akke Vellinga  
**Funder:** HSE West

**Background**

Obesity is the cause of other chronic diseases, psychological problems, obesity shortens the lifespan and puts strain on health systems. The risk associated with childhood obesity in particular, which will accelerate the development of adult morbidity and mortality, has been identified as an emerging public health problem.

**Methods**

To estimate the length of stay and associated hospital costs for obesity related illnesses a cost of illness study was set up. All discharges from all acute hospitals in the Republic of Ireland from 1997 to 2004 with a principal or secondary diagnostic code for obesity for all children from 6 to 18 years of age and for adults were collected.

**Results**

The discharge frequency of obesity related conditions increased from 1.14% in 1997 to 1.49% in 2004 for adults and from 0.81% to 1.37% for children. The relative length of stay (number of days in care for obesity related conditions per 1000 days of hospital care given) increased from 1.47 in 1997 to 4.16 in 2004 for children and from 3.68 in 1997 to 6.74 in 2004 for adults.

Based on the 2001 figures for cost per inpatient bed day, the annual hospital cost was calculated to be 4.4 Euromillion in 1997, increasing to 13.3 Euromillion in 2004. At a 20% variable hospital cost the cost ranges from 0.9 Euromillion in 1997 to 2.7 Euromillion in 2004; a 200% increase.

**Results**

The annual increase in the proportion of hospital discharges related to obesity is alarming. This increase is related to a significant increase in economic costs. This paper emphasises the need for action at an early stage of life. Health promotion and primary prevention of obesity should be high on the political agenda.

**Key Reports & Publications**

Vellinga, A., De La Harpe, D. & O'Donovan D. (forthcoming) The changing economic burden of obesity related hospital admissions illness in Ireland. Accepted for publication in *BMC Health Services Research*.

## FEASIBILITY STUDY OF DEVELOPING AN IRISH HEALTH POVERTY INDEX

**Principal Investigator:** Dr Diarmuid O'Donovan  
**Researchers:** Dr Lisa Pursell and Dr Noreen Kearns  
**Funder:** HSE West

### Background and Research Aims

The aim of this study was to develop policy oriented systems for the monitoring of equity in health and its determinants. This study explored, developed and refined research methodologies to examine the following issues:

- The development of a conceptual framework for monitoring equity in health and healthcare in Ireland
- The requirements for health equity audit in the west of Ireland.

### Methods

The project was linked with the Health Poverty Index Working Group convened by the Institute of Public Health in Ireland. It comprised of a:

- Literature review
- Review of indicator sets used in monitoring health equity in other countries to assess applicability in Ireland
- Review of policy relevant to these indicators.

### Results

**Monitoring Systems:** An extensive literature search was undertaken to review the approaches, conceptual and theoretical basis of systems for monitoring and measuring health equity in other countries.

**Indicator Sets:** Indicator sets were examined and evaluated with respect to a range of criteria including accessibility, validity, timeliness, measurability, and relevance to current issues in the community and to policy context in Ireland.

Common criteria for each measure were considered in terms of their Irish policy context. For each component measure this involved:

1. Reviewing of relevant current Irish strategies
2. An outline of specific relevant policy targets
3. A detailed description of the relevant policy context.

**Exploring Appropriate Feedback Mechanisms:** Consultations were undertaken with INIsPHO at the Institute of Public Health in Ireland concerning routes of access to information and potential feedback mechanisms at a National level for health equity monitoring tools. A manual setting out information regarding the accessibility of data for indicators of eHPI and the NI H&SCMS within the RoI was compiled in collaboration with the Institute of Public Health in Ireland.

### Key Reports & Publications

Pursell, L., Kearns, N. & O'Donovan, D. (2006). *Local inequality indicators for the health and well-being of Ireland: A review of the data issues and policy context for selected data indicator sets. Final Report.* Health Promotion Research Centre, NUI, Galway and Institute of Public Health in Ireland.

Pursell, L., Kearns, N., O'Donovan, D., Balanda, K. & Graham, A. (2007). Developing an all-Ireland suite of local health inequality indicators: a review of data and policy issues associated with two indicator sets. Paper presented to the *Faculty of Public Health Medicine Summer Meeting*, Dublin, May 2007.

## DEVELOPMENT OF BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR TREATMENT OF EATING DISORDERS

**Principal Investigator:** Ms Geraldine Nolan & Professor Margaret Barry  
**Researcher:** Dr Dhammica Rowel  
**Funder :** Community Nutrition & Dietetic Service HSE West.

### Background and Research Aims

Part of the plan of the HSE west is to develop a dedicated eating disorder service in each of its administrative areas. Specifically it is planned to focus on the development of primary and community care multidisciplinary teams, in which the Dietitian will have a role. In addressing future planning of nutrition services for clients with eating disorders the Community Nutrition and Dietetic Service has identified the need for the development of best practice guidelines. A request was made to the HPRC to develop patient-centred, best practice guidelines for Dietitians working in a Specialist Unit, and also as part of the primary care team.

### Methods

A comprehensive review was carried out to search for guidelines and best practice in the treatment of eating disorders. A number of different evidence sources such as MEDLINE, EMBASE, PsycINFO, CINAHL-OVID interface, Cochrane database and CDC recommendations were reviewed for Anorexia Nervosa, Bulimia Nervosa, Binge eating Disorders and atypical eating disorders.

A number of strategic documents from The U.K., USA, Australia, and New Zealand in relation to the management of eating disorders were reviewed and taken into consideration in the development of the guidelines.

Face to face interviews were carried out with General Practitioners to assess current practices with respect to treatment of eating disorders.

Dietitians working with clients with eating disorders were also interviewed to assess any existing protocols and policies.

### Progress to Date

A report has been prepared and presented to the Community Nutrition & Dietetic Service. It is due to be launched in April 2008.

### Key Reports & Publications

Rowell, D., Nolan, G., O'Donnell, M. (2007) *Eating Disorders: Best Practice Guidelines for Dietitians*, Draft report. HPRC, NUI, Galway.

**DEVELOPMENT OF BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR DELIVERY OF NUTRITION SERVICES TO ETHNIC MINORITY CLIENTS.**

**Principal Investigator:** Ms Geraldine Nolan & Professor Margaret Barry  
**Researcher:** Dr Dhammica Rowel  
**Funder :** Community Nutrition & Dietetic Service HSE West.

**Background and Research Aims**

The socio cultural milieu of Ireland is fast changing. Increasing numbers of different ethnic groups from different parts of the world are migrating to Ireland. Many members of ethnic minority groups follow the traditional dietary practices associated with their cultural background and religious beliefs. At present in the medical and allied health professional fields, there is little information on the nutritional habits of ethnic minority groups who have come to live in Ireland. In addressing future planning of nutrition services for these groups the Community Nutrition and Dietetic Service has identified the need for the development of best practice guidelines. Before recommending dietary or lifestyle changes the health professional must have a clear understanding of the person's dietary habits within the context of his/her culture. A request was made to the HPRC to develop patient-centred, best practice guidelines for Dietitians working with ethnic minority groups. Specific issues to be addressed were the effects of dietary habits of different ethnic groups, cultural and religious issues. In addition it was requested that a resource manual would be prepared to provide practical guidelines with respect to staple food and nutrient composition for each subgroup.

**Methods**

A review was carried out of the dietary habits of different ethnic groups in Ireland. The influence of culture and religion on diet was examined, and traditional methods of food preparation were also reviewed. Health status of ethnic communities was studied, specifically nutrition related diseases.

**Progress to Date**

A report has been prepared and presented to the Community Nutrition and Dietetic service. This will be launched in May 2008. In addition, a nutrition manual has been prepared for use by Dietitians in clinical practice. This includes a glossary of foods consumed by different ethnic groups, and a description of different cooking methods. It also includes foods consumed at special celebrations and religious holidays.

**Key Reports & Publications**

Rowell, D., Nolan, G., O'Donnell, M. (2007) *Nutrition Care for Non National/ Ethnic Minority Clients*, Draft report. HPRC, NUI, Galway.

## EVALUATION OF THE HEALTH QUALITY MARK

<b>Principal Investigator:</b>	Dr Margaret Hodgins
<b>Researchers:</b>	Ms Therese Costello and Dr Claire Connolly
<b>Funder:</b>	The National Youth Health Programme

### Background and Research Aims

The National Youth Health Programme has developed the Health Quality Mark as a Health Promotion initiative with a view to enhancing best practice and a high standard of quality in all aspects of Health Promotion in youth organisations. It takes the form of an award conferred on organisations that satisfy agreed quality criteria. An educational programme for personnel in the organisation is embedded into the initiative, as a number of the criteria are met through participation in the programme. The aim was to conduct an in-depth evaluation of the Health Quality Mark taking into consideration the process, impact and outcomes of the award.

### Methods

This evaluation focused on process and impact measures, and included outcome measures where possible. Particular attention was paid to how participants received the programme, and what factors supported or impeded their involvement and implementation of it. Impact measures focused on changes in understanding of and attitudes toward health promotion. Semi-structured telephone interviews were held with 46 persons; 22 people from organisations who had completed the Health Quality Mark, 15 from organisations still in the process and 9 strategic personnel.

### Results

The impact of the intervention was overwhelmingly positive. With regard to young people attending the organisations the HQ Mark was seen to positively impact in a number of ways; instilling a sense of pride, affording them greater opportunities to discuss health-related topics, increasing confidence and involvement in planning. For staff and volunteers positive outcomes included the provision training opportunities and more generally, fostering a greater awareness of youth health issues.

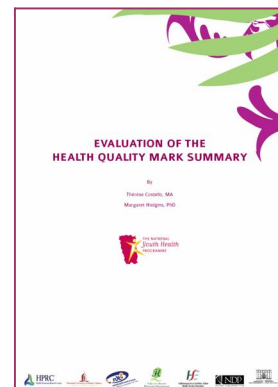
It was at the level of the organisation that impacts were most impressive. Staff were familiarised with the process of information gathering, and the award was perceived to give organisations an advantage when applying for grants. It was seen to improve the organisation's image within the community and with parents, providing visible evidence of their efforts in respect of health and quality. It was also described as helping staff to work together, and to work with management. The way in which the programme facilitated all involved to take on board the holistic view of health was also relevant here. This finding confirmed the success of the initiative as an organisational-level intervention.

The process of implementing the HQ Mark for youth organisations was broadly positive, and appears to bring health beyond specific disease-focused topics. The most negative aspect of the process was clearly the amount of work, in particular the paperwork, associated with assembling the portfolio of evidence for each level of the award. Having a target of an award to work toward is described as motivating, and a positive project. In this case, the evidence is strong that this initiative is having a positive impact, that the process is acceptable to participants and that in essence, health promotion principles are upheld.

### Key Reports & Publications

Costello, T. & Hodgins, M. (2008). *Evaluation of the Health Quality Mark, Executive Summary*, Dublin: National Youth Health Programme.

Costello, T. & Hodgins, M. (2008). *Evaluation of the Health Quality Mark*, Dublin: National Youth Health Programme.



**EXPLORATION OF RISK COMMUNICATION IN RELATION TO CRYPTOSPORIDIUM  
CONTAMINATION OF THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY**

**Principal Investigator:** Dr Jane Sixsmith  
**Funder:** HSE West

**Background**

The contamination of the public water supply in Galway city and county with cryptosporidium provides an opportunity to examine the process of risk communication from the experts to the public via the mass media. Through exploration of the process of information transfer the effectiveness with which the authorities and print media communicate risk to the public associated with a specific health threat can be illuminated.

**Research Aims**

The study aim is to illuminate the processes of risk communication from official sources to public interpretation via newspaper reporting of a specific health threat.

**Methods**

A qualitative approach to the exploration of risk communication is appropriate due to the nature of the dissemination of information as a process and the importance of context to the communication process.

**Data Collection:**

1. Identification, gathering and collation of public announcements from the HSE and Council in relation to water contamination from the initial to the end of the notice.
2. Identification, gathering and collation of newspaper reporting in local and national press in relation to the contamination of the public water supply.
3. Semi structured face to face interviews with a purposively selected sample of 24 adults living in Galway city. Interviews focused on participant's interpretation of risk from the contamination of the water supply.

**Progress to Date**

1. Announcements from the HSE West and council in relation to water contamination have been identified and gathered.
2. All newspaper coverage has been identified and gathered from national and local press.

**Key Reports & Publications**

None to date.

## d. Policy Research

- DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION RESEARCH NETWORK (DERN)
- BEST PRACTICE IN PROMOTING MENTAL HEALTH IN SOCIALLY MARGINALISED PEOPLE IN EUROPE (PROMO)
- DEVELOPMENT OF A DATA STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN IN IRELAND
- INVESTIGATING FOOD POVERTY IN IRISH SCHOOLCHILDREN
- REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICE IN HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND EDUCATION
- OBESITY PREVENTION – GETTING HEALTH PROMOTION EVIDENCE INTO PRACTICE
- TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION IN HEALTH PROMOTION IN EUROPE INCLUDING PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND COMPETENCIES
- THE EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROMOTION AND MENTAL DISORDER PREVENTION: PHASE 2 OF THE IMPLEMENTING MENTAL HEALTH PROMOTION ACTION (IMPHA) PROJECT

### DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION RESEARCH NETWORK (DERN)

<b>Principal Investigators:</b>	Dr Su-ming Khoo, Dept. of Political Science and Sociology, NUI, Galway and Dr Diarmuid O'Donovan
<b>Researcher:</b>	Ms. Carol Healy
<b>Funder:</b>	Irish Aid and Community Knowledge Initiative, NUI, Galway

#### **Background and Research Aims**

DERN is an interdisciplinary, cross-faculty network, established in 2005. The programmes key aims are to mainstream development education within existing degree pathways, develop research capability and enhance professional and technical expertise relevant to development education and to build a Development Education agenda into civic engagement on campus and beyond.

#### **Methods**

A capacity-building approach was taken to developing the DERN network itself and to the delivery of development education and the building of research capacity and civic engagement. This involves working with the diverse existing interests and needs of the network members for course material and course development, as well as identifying new opportunities for members to develop their research and respond to new research funding opportunities by working together as a research consortium.

#### **Progress to Date**

DERN has placed a strategic importance in networking, and as such has expanded its network base to the wider community, and formed connections with other third level institutions and a member of the Irish Development Education Association (IDEA) and is represented on its executive committee. Through these connections, DERN aims to develop its development education resources, and promote linkages between research, education and activism. The DERN website [www.nuigalway.ie/dern](http://www.nuigalway.ie/dern) and mailing list are useful mechanisms for sharing information on research funding opportunities and development education events both inside and outside the university.

“Development’s Futures”, the biennial Irish Aid funded Third Level Development Education Conference was in NUI, Galway in November 2007 was organised by DERN. Other activities have included a photo journalism exhibition on the theme of Women and Work in the developing world, a masterclass on the journalism of conscience with journalist P. Sainath, and a series of seven “Dialogues across Disciplines” seminars. It has also facilitated members to attend various development related conferences and workshops including the Seminar on Education for Sustainable Development in the Cultivate Centre and Media Moves conference organised by the Galway One World Centre, Spun Out and Media Forum.

Opportunities have been identified and set up to introduce development education content into existing and new teaching modules in the following disciplines: Philosophy, Sociology and Politics, Nursing, Community Development, Social Work and Human Rights, and further developments are under discussion.

A Research Fellow was recruited in December 2007 to carry out research on culture and identity in development education and a Fellow in 2008 with special responsibility for critical methodology and European dimensions will follow.

#### **Key Reports & Publications**

Khoo, S. (2006). Development Education Citizenship and civic engagement at third level and beyond in the Republic of Ireland. *Policy and Practice*, 3, 26-39.

Coate, K., Healy, C. and Khoo, S. (2007) Development Education and Development Research—Contradictory or Complementary? *Policy and Practice Issue 5*, Autumn 2007, pp 5-19.



## **BEST PRACTICE IN PROMOTING MENTAL HEALTH IN SOCIALLY MARGINALISED PEOPLE IN EUROPE (PROMO)**

**Principal Investigator:** Professor Margaret Barry  
**Funder:** European Commission

### **Background and Research Aims**

Promoting mental health and preventing mental ill health among the increasing groups of socially marginalised people is a major challenge to European societies. There are various policies and services to achieve this in member states, but information on what constitutes best practice is fragmented and consistent guidelines do not exist. PROMO brings together a multidisciplinary consortium of experts from 14 diverse member states (covering more than 85% of the total EU population) to consolidate the knowledge in the field, and identify best practice. The general objectives of the research are:

1. To improve mental health and prevent mental-ill health of citizens in Member States, especially among individuals experiencing social marginalisation due to one or more of the six following factors: (1) unemployment, (2) homelessness, (3) substance misuse, (4) street prostitution, (5) having a refugee, illegal immigrant or asylum/seeking status, and (6) being a member of an ethnic minority group;
2. To contribute to policy research into inter-sectoral practices to promote mental health and prevent mental-ill health among those who are socially marginalised;
3. To contribute to development of evidence-based policies promoting mental health and preventing mental-ill health of the socially marginalised;
4. To develop implementation guidelines and best practice recommendations on promoting mental health and preventing mental illness among the socially marginalised across Member States.

### **Methods**

1. A review of policies and legislations related to promoting mental health and preventing mental ill health among socially marginalised individuals;
2. To develop tools to assess programmes and systems of services in the participating states that aim at promoting mental health in the socially marginalised through describing services in terms of their organisational characteristics, type of clients, components of care, and funding arrangements, and how these services interconnect to form systems; the assessment will refer to the distinction between the three levels of health care suggested by the WHO.
3. To define the best inter-sectoral practice to promote mental health and prevent mental ill health among the socially marginalised, identify barriers to implementing it, and suggest ways to overcome the barriers.
4. To disseminate the finding widely among all relevant stakeholder groups.
5. To formulate policy recommendations based on best inter-sectoral practice.

### **Progress to Date**

An initial meeting of the PROMO consortium took place in London in September, 2007. To date a short report has been produced reviewing relevant policies and legislation on promoting mental health and preventing mental ill-health among socially marginalised people in Ireland. Criteria for the selection of two geographic areas in Dublin for inclusion in the assessment of services have been identified. National and Dublin city figures on the key population groups have been collated and a detailed list of national service contacts has been collected. The assessment tool for services and systems of services across member states is in development.

### **Key Reports & Publications**

O'Sullivan, M. and Barry, M.M (2007). *PROMO: Identification and Review of Policies and Legislation in Ireland*. Unpublished report. HPRC, NUI, Galway.

## DEVELOPMENT OF A DATA STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN IN IRELAND

<b>Principal Investigator:</b>	Dr Saoirse Nic Gabhainn
<b>Researchers:</b>	Dr Colette Kelly, Ms Aoife Gavin and Ms Pauline Clerkin
<b>Funder:</b>	Atlantic Philanthropies

### Background

Within the recent partnership agreement “Towards 2016”, there is an explicit commitment to the development of a data strategy on areas of children’s lives. The Office of the Minister for Children (OMC) is responsible for the development of this strategy that will set out a vision, goals, principles and actions to support the collection, compilation and dissemination of data and will facilitate the availability of good quality, easily accessible, internationally comparable information about children in Ireland. HPRC is involved in two steps towards building the evidence base for the development of the overarching data strategy on children’s lives in Ireland; a background review of the literature and a case study analysis of data structures and processes in use in other countries.

### Research Aims

The overall aim of the literature review is to provide background material to inform the development of the National Data strategy on Children’s Lives. The objectives are to provide: an overview of operational and technical issues arising at each stage of the data cycle, an analysis of key policy issues arising in the Irish context, an overview of national and international frameworks and models around data quality and an overview of documented models of good practice taking place internationally around children’s data.

The aim of the collective case study analysis is to understand how data structures and processes influence the utilisation of data on children’s lives. The case itself, or the phenomenon of interest, is: *“how structures and processes for the development, collection, analysis, and dissemination of data contributes to the availability, accessibility, quality and utilisation of material by key stakeholders”*.

### Methods

A search of the main databases will retrieve national and international peer-reviewed articles. Grey literature will also be sought, and requests for documentation from relevant national and international agencies are also anticipated. The Research Division of the OMC will provide information relating to the legal and policy issues arising in the Irish context.

Countries with data systems available for use by stakeholders will be identified and will be included where they meet the criteria of having national data on at least one component of: children’s outcomes, relationships or services, or links between these, and, where the data is available for use by a key stakeholder (e.g. policy-maker, service provider or planner). Once identified, written material on the data system and interviews with key personnel will be requested.

### Progress to Date

Six potential case studies (England, Canada, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Ireland) have been identified. The literature review will commence in January 2008.

### Key Reports & Publications

None to date.

## INVESTIGATING FOOD POVERTY IN IRISH SCHOOLCHILDREN

<b>Principal Investigator:</b>	Dr Michal Molcho and Dr Saoirse Nic Gabhainn
<b>Researchers:</b>	Ms Aoife Gavin and Dr Colette Kelly
<b>Funder:</b>	Millennium Fund and Health Promotion Policy Unit, Department of Health and Children

### Background

Health inequalities in children and adults are well documented but until the last decade or so, inequalities in adolescent's health received little attention with most research pointing to a level of health equality, rather than inequality, in these age groups. The lack of association between socio-economic status (SES) and health in adolescents could be due to the difficulty of measuring SES in young people and the lack of appropriate, self report measures for SES or indeed for poverty. This difficulty has led to the development of proxy measures for SES and poverty in various youth surveys, including the Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children (HBSC) study. As part of the 2002 HBSC survey a question was developed within the research network in order to identify those children who experience food poverty, or hunger. The HBSC 2002 data suggest that food poverty was relatively frequent in children in Europe and North America with figures for children reporting on food poverty varying from 5% in Portugal to 27% in Italy, with 15% of Irish schoolchildren reporting so. Further findings in Ireland implied that food poverty is equally distributed in all social classes. Key research questions remain unanswered in relation to the meaning of food poverty to children, the etiology of food poverty and the associations between food poverty and other health outcomes.

### Research Aims

This research programme aims to further understand the nature of food poverty among children in Ireland and how that is similar or different to food poverty among children in other countries. This includes the continued exploration of Irish data on this issue, the development of a specific qualitative study with younger children to include consideration of family based hunger, the development of cross-national analyses of existing data, and a new quantitative study to investigate both the HBSC and Canadian food poverty questions in the Irish context. The programme findings will be used to advocate on behalf of hungry children in Ireland and used to inform the development of the HBSC questionnaire towards the 2010 survey.

### Methods

This programme currently involves the re-analysis of existing data and two new studies; the first is an interview study with children aged 9-10 and the second is a self-completion questionnaire to compare Irish and Canadian approaches to food poverty among post-primary school students.

### Progress to Date

To date, we have completed analyses on a number of sub-hypotheses and secured funding for the two new studies, which are to commence in 2008.

### Key Reports & Publications

Molcho, M., Walsh, K. & Nic Gabhainn, S. (2006) *Food poverty among Irish schoolchildren*. HBSC Ireland Research Factsheet No. 13. Galway: Health Promotion Research Centre, NUI, Galway.

Molcho M., Nic Gabhainn, S., Kelly, C., Friel, S. & Kelleher, C. (2007). Food poverty among Irish adolescents. *Public Health Nutrition*, 10(4), 364-370.



## REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICE IN HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND EDUCATION

**Principal Investigator:** Professor Margaret Barry  
**Researcher:** Ms Siobhán O'Higgins  
**Funder:** Department of Health and Children

### Background and Research Aims

The National AIDS Strategy Sub-Committee on Education and Prevention proposed a strategic review of the evidence of best practice in HIV/AIDS prevention in order to inform the development of a new set of recommendations to guide progress over the next five years. The Health Promotion Research Centre undertook to conduct the review of the literature on evidence-based policy and practice.

### Methods

A systematic approach was adopted in providing an up to date review of the available scientific evidence and distilling the key findings in consultation with the Sub-Committee and key stakeholders. This was carried out in the following stages:

Stage 1: The following sources and electronic databases were consulted to review current evidence concerning best practice and policy on HIV/AIDS prevention and education:

- The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effectiveness; the Guide to Community Preventive Services; NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination
- Evidence Briefings on HIV/AIDS prevention produced by the former Health Development Agency, now incorporated as part of the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) in the UK
- UNAIDS and WHO Sexual and Reproductive Health databases
- Medline 1966-2006 using the search terms: HIV, AIDS, interventions, prevention, legislation, programmes, education
- The websites of relevant international and national organisations, state or NGOs and their publications and guidelines on best practice.
- Strategy documents from relevant countries were also reviewed.

Stage 2: The findings from the review of evidence were examined in relation to their relevance to the Irish situation. A position paper was drafted which reflected the key elements of best practice arising out of the evidence review. This draft position paper was presented to the Education and Prevention Sub-Committee members for discussion.

Stage 3: Consultation with a wider national group of stakeholders was undertaken to consider the recommendations arising from the position paper.

Stage 4: Based upon the position paper and the consultation process new recommendations for action over a five year time frame were proposed in consultation with the Sub-Committee. The Review of International Best Practice in HIV & AIDS Prevention and Education report is awaiting its final formatting by the sub-committee.

### Key Reports & Publications

O'Higgins, S. & Barry, M.M. (2007). *Review of International Best Practice in HIV/AIDS Prevention and Education*. Report to the Department of Health & Children.

## OBESITY PREVENTION – GETTING HEALTH PROMOTION EVIDENCE INTO PRACTICE

<b>Principal Investigator:</b>	Professor Margaret Barry
<b>Researchers:</b>	Ms Verna McKenna and Dr Dhammica Rowel
<b>Funder:</b>	HSE Population Health, Health Promotion

### Background and Research Aims

The aim of this pilot project is to develop stage one *Implementation Guidance* for effective health promotion practice in the Irish context in the area of obesity prevention. This pilot project is intended to inform the development of guidelines for the formal identification, adoption and dissemination of practitioner informed models of best practice in health promotion in Ireland.

The specific project objectives are:

- To review existing *Evidence Briefings* in the area of obesity prevention produced by NICE.
- To identify models of best health promotion practice, in addressing obesity based on these materials
- To review current health promotion practice in obesity prevention in Ireland as identified by the National Taskforce on Obesity
- To benchmark these activities against best evidence.
- Use the European Quality Instrument for Health Promotion (EQUIHP) tool to benchmark three current health promotion initiatives (as selected by the Obesity Task Force).
- To identify gaps in current practice
- To make recommendation for getting the research evidence into practice taking into account the realities of current services, resources and organisational constraints.
- To develop a protocol for the development of *Implementation Guidance* materials (stage one) in health promotion in the context of the Irish population health service in consultation with the Obesity Task Force.

### Methods

This pilot project employs documentary analysis to review current evidence in the area of obesity prevention. Similarly, documented health promotion practices in this area that has been identified by the National Taskforce on Obesity are reviewed. The research also collates any additional documentation as required (such as evaluation reports). The EQUIHP tool is used to benchmark case studies of health promotion initiatives. Following the overall benchmarking activity, recommendations are fed back to the Obesity Taskforce through its chairperson for consultation. Comments by the Taskforce in relation to possible barriers to the *Implementation Guidance* were addressed at this point. A final report on *Implementation Guidance* is drawn up.

The project involved four key actions across two separate phases. In phase one a comprehensive review of the evidence, including the identification of models of best practice, took place alongside the collection and collation of data on current service provision in the Irish context. In phase two a benchmarking exercise was undertaken, using the EQUIHP tool, to measure current provision against guidelines of best practice. Consultation took place with the National HSE Working Group on Obesity throughout the process. A final report was produced.

### Key Reports & Publications

McKenna, V., Rowel, D. & Barry, M.M. (2007) *Obesity Prevention: Getting Health Promotion Evidence into Practice*. Unpublished Report, HPRC, NUI, Galway.

## TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION IN HEALTH PROMOTION IN EUROPE INCLUDING PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND COMPETENCIES

<b>Principal Investigator:</b>	Professor Margaret Barry
<b>Researchers:</b>	Dr Arantxa Santa-Maria Morales and Ms Barbara Battel-Kirk
<b>Funder:</b>	International Union for Health Promotion & Education (IUHPE)

### Background and Research Aims

To support the ongoing work of the IUHPE EURO Sub-Committee on Training & Accreditation in Health Promotion, which is chaired by Professor Margaret Barry, two studies were undertaken at NUI, Galway: 1) a Delphi study on identifying core competencies in Health Promotion from a European perspective and 2) a scoping study on training and accreditation in health promotion across the European region.

The project is currently working with eight pilot country partners (England, Estonia, Finland, Israel, Ireland, Italy, Norway and Spain) to further the development of national and IUHPE action plans on implementing a competency-based accreditation system in Europe.

### Progress to Date

A scoping study on training and accreditation in health promotion across the European region was completed in 2005/6 in order to provide information on the following matters:

- 1) the level of provision of specialist training in health promotion across the European region
- 2) the extent of ongoing work at national/regional level across countries on professional competencies and/or professional standards
- 3) the extent and nature of accreditation and licensing/ registration systems in operation across countries
- 4) the existence of professional pathways in health promotion within countries.

An e-mail survey of experts in health promotion from across the policy, practice and academic sectors in each country of the European region was conducted by Dr Arantxa Santa-Maria Morales. Data on country contacts in each of these areas was extracted from the HP-Source database and supplemented where needed to compile the list of potential respondents. The data from the questionnaires were collected and collated and a report on the findings from the study was prepared and presented to the IUHPE/EURO Committee at its regional meeting in Budapest in October, 2006.

A proposal to establish an IUHPE/EURO pan-European Accreditation System in Health Promotion was also prepared and presented to the Committee. Building on existing international and European literature, a review is being undertaken of the frameworks and core competencies that have been identified to date. Using the Delphi technique, an expert panel will be convened to arrive at a consensus concerning the core competencies that should underpin the development of Health Promotion in Europe and provide a framework for competency standards. A meeting of the pilot country partners takes place in Brussels in March 2008 to further progress the pilot implementation phase.

### Publications

Morales, A. S-M. and Barry. M.M. (2007). *Scoping study on accreditation and professional standards in health promotion*. Report prepared on behalf of the IUHPE/EURO Sub-Committee on Training and Accreditation in Europe including Professional Standards and Competencies. IUHPE Research Report Series ([www.iuhpe.org](http://www.iuhpe.org)).

**THE EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROMOTION AND MENTAL DISORDER PREVENTION: PHASE 2 OF THE IMPLEMENTING MENTAL HEALTH PROMOTION ACTION (IMPHA) PROJECT**

**Principal Investigator:** Professor Margaret Barry  
**Funder:** European Commission

**Background and Research Aims**

The European Network for Mental Health Promotion and Mental Disorder Prevention consists of expert partners in 30 European countries, together with seven international networks who share the aim of supporting the development and implementation of mental health promotion and mental disorder prevention action across Europe. The second phase of the project commenced in September 2005.

The aim of this project is to develop a comprehensive strategy to tackle prevention and promotion in mental health, developing an integrated approach to information, intervention, training, policy, advocacy and implementation, combining the support for policy priority-setting with the dissemination of tools and evidence-based knowledge.

**Progress to Date**

Work to date has focused on profiling the infrastructure for mental health promotion and prevention across the European member states. To develop mental health, and infrastructures that support implementation, it is important to have available baseline information on existing initiatives and policies at the country level. Such an overview aims to facilitate priority identification and agenda setting.

The report on the Country Stories provides a description of the resources, policies, and programmes available for mental health promotion and mental disorder prevention in EU Member States. The process of assessing the situation across the European Union Member States was undertaken by collecting information within each country using a structured questionnaire. Country level investigators convened a country coalition of key stakeholders in the area in order to complete this exercise.

IMHPA, in collaboration with MINDFUL, organised a training course for mental health promotion and mental disorder prevention programme development and implementation in Barcelona IN April, 2007, and was attended by 29 European participants. An exploratory meeting with Health Impact Assessment experts was organised and took place in June for the MHIA work package lead by Maria Joao Heitor dos Santos. The meeting aimed to identify available tools for HIA and/or MHIA in order to develop this work. The meeting was very productive and followed by a great deal of activity and knowledge exchange. In addition, an economic model for mental health promotion and prevention of mental disorders work package is being developed by Dr David McDauid, in collaboration with the MHEEN Network (Mental Health Economics Network). Finally, In support of the forthcoming European Commission Strategy on Mental Health, and building on the WHO Declaration and Action Plan for Mental Health, a major conference, *Joining Forces across Europe for Prevention and Promotion in Mental Health* was held in Barcelona on the 13-15 September, 2007.

**Key Reports & Publications**

*Mental Health Promotion and Mental Disorder Prevention across European Member States: A Collection of Country Stories.* (2005). European Communities.

(<http://www.imhpa.net>>[www.imhpa.net](http://www.imhpa.net)).

For more detailed information, the reader is referred to all the country stories in the report and to the infrastructures database in HP-Source:

<http://www.hp-source.net/dataoutput.html?module=imhpa>



## v. Dissemination



The Health Promotion Research Centre hosts a range of meetings, conferences and seminars which aim to advance multidisciplinary collaboration for health and to further the translation of health promotion research into policy and practice. An important aspect of our work is ensuring that our research activity and findings are disseminated through reports, peer review publications and conference presentations. Centre activities have also been widely reported in the popular media.

### a. Publications

- Barry, M. M. (2007). Generic principles of effective mental health promotion. *International Journal of Mental Health Promotion*, 9(2), 4-16.
- Barry, M. M., Patel, V., Jané-Llopis, E., Raeburn, J. & Mittlemark, M. (2007). Strengthening the evidence base for mental health promotion. In D. C. McQueen & C. M. Jones (Eds.) *Global Perspectives on Health Promotion*. New York: Springer, 67-86.
- Barry, M.M. & Jenkins, R. (2007). *Implementing Mental Health Promotion*. Churchill Livingstone, Elsevier: Oxford.
- Barry, M.M. (2007). Building capacity for effective implementation of mental health promotion. Guest editorial in the *Australian e-Journal for the Advancement of Mental Health (AeJAMH)*, 6(2), 1-9.
- Barry, M.M. (2007). Researching the Implementation of Community Mental Health Promotion Programmes. *Health Promotion Journal of Australia*, 18(3), 240-246.
- Connolly, C. & Cronin, M. (2007). Exploring the use of experiential learning workshops and reflective practice for developing professional practice among postgraduate health promotion students. *Health Education Journal*, 66(3) September, 286-303.
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- Costello, T. & Hodgins, M. (2008). *Evaluation of the Health Quality Mark, Executive Summary*, Dublin: National Youth Health Programme.
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- Hogan, M. & Hogan, V. (2007). Work-life integration. *The Irish Psychologist*, 22(10), 246-254.
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- Molcho, M., Harel, Y. & Lache, Y.O. (2006). Alcohol and drug use among Israeli adolescents. In I. Kandell, J. Merrick & L. Sher (Eds.) *Adolescents and alcohol*, pp. 71-84, London and Tel Aviv: Freund Publishing House.
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- Nic Gabhainn, S., O'Higgins, S., Galvin, M. & Barry, M. (2007). *The Implementation of Social Personal and Health Education in Ireland*. Report to the Inter-Departmental Steering Committee, Dublin.
- Nic Gabhainn, S., Molcho, M., Gallois, A. & Kelly, C. (2007). *Bullying and Disability among Irish Schoolchildren*. Short report to the National Disability Authority, Ireland.
- Nic Gabhainn, S., Sixsmith, J., O'Higgins, S., Delaney, E-N., Moore, M. & Inchley, J. (2007). Health promoting school indicators: the development of schematic models by children. *Health Education*, 107(6), 494-510.
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## b. Presentations

- Barry, M.M. Implementation essentials and evaluation in mental health promotion. Plenary address: From Evidence to Implementation. *Joining Forces Across Europe for Prevention and Promotion in Mental Health*. Barcelona, September, 2007.
- Barry, M.M. The Determinants of Health: Where we Live Matters. Plenary address: *Maximising the Potential of Galway City for All*. Galway Healthy Cities Project. Galway, September, 2007.
- Barry, M.M. Implementing Mental Health Promotion with Children and Families. Plenary address: *Community Practitioners' and Health Visitors Annual Professional Conference. Shaping the Future*. Torquay, October/November, 2007.
- Barry, M.M. (2007). A European perspective on training and accreditation in health promotion. Development of a unified system of accreditation for professional preparation in health promotion and education symposium. Paper presented at the *19th IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion and Health Education*, Vancouver, Canada, June 2007.
- Barry, M.M. (2007). Bringing the evidence to life: Connecting and evidence and practice for the promotion of mental health. *Roundtable discussion with policymakers, researchers and practitioners*, McCaughey Centre, University of Melbourne, Australia, March 2007.
- Barry, M.M. (2007). Building an effective infrastructure for mental health promotion at the national level. Paper presented at *No Health Without Mental Health: Community approaches to mental health promotion symposium*, Vancouver, Canada, April 2007.

- Barry, M.M. (2007). Construct of mental health: what does it mean to be mentally healthy? Keynote address at *Kindling the Flame: Promoting Mental Health and Well-being Conference*, Perth, Australia, February 2007.
- Barry, M.M. (2007). Evidence of effectiveness in mental health promotion Paper presented at the *Victorian Health Promotion Foundation Public Forum*, Melbourne Australia, February 2007.
- Barry, M.M. (2007). Identifying competencies for health promotion: A european perspective. Identifying Competencies for Health Promotion Symposium. Paper presented at the *19th IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion and Health Education*, Vancouver, Canada, June 2007.
- Barry, M.M. (2007). Implementing effective mental health promotion. Keynote presentation at the *Public Mental Health Leadership Programme*, National Institute of Mental Health England (NIMHE) & Department of Health, Manchester and London UK, July 2007.
- Barry, M.M. (2007). Implementing mental health promotion. Keynote address to *public seminar at WHO Collaborating Centre for Mental Health Promotion, Prevention and Policy*, STAKES, Finland, March 2007.
- Barry, M.M. (2007). Mental health promotion in schools: Evidence of effectiveness. Paper presented at *Boosting the Sparks: INTERCAMHS-SPA workshop on school based mental health promotion*, Perth, Australia, February 2007.
- Barry, M.M. (2007). Mental health promotion: concepts, evidence and practice. Keynote address at *Psychology, Health and Medicine: the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Division of Health Psychology, Psychological Society of Ireland*, Maynooth, Ireland, April 2007.
- Barry, M.M., Aringazina, A., Lewis, Y., Maraguri, N. & Kanshana, S. (2007). Follow up to the 6th Global Conference on Health Promotion country experience in implementing the key recommendations. Paper presented at the *19th IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion and Health Education*, Vancouver, Canada, June 2007.
- Barry, M.M., Jané-Llopis, E. & Raeburn, J. (2007). Mental Health Promotion Panel, Dialogue and Debates session. Panel contribution at the *19th IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion and Health Education*, Vancouver, Canada, June 2007.
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- Costello, T., Hodgins, M., & Connolly, C. (2007). Evaluation of the Specialist Certificate in Health Promotion (Oral Health). Dental Health Foundation, Ireland and Health Promotion Research Centre, NUI, Galway, June 2007. Paper presented to *Health Promotion Summer Conference, 'Building Capacity for Evidence-based Health Promotion*, Galway, June 2007.
- Due, P., Nic Gabhainn, S., Rasmussen, M. & Currie, C. (2007). An overview of HBSC knowledge relevant to the WHO/HBSC forum on social contexts for mental health. Paper presented to the *Annual Scientific Meeting of the WHO/HBSC Study*, Jyväskylä, June 2007.

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- Godeau, E., Vignes, C., Nic Gabhainn, S. & Arnaud, C. (2007). Intervention and research into attitudes and social representations of disability in secondary schools in Toulouse. Paper presented to the *19<sup>th</sup> IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion and Health Education Health Promotion Comes of Age: Research, Policy & Practice for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, Vancouver, Canada, June 2007.
- Hodgins, M., Millar, M., & Barry, M. (2007). Traveller Women's Perceptions of Illness and Health Inequalities. Paper presented at the *19<sup>th</sup> IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion and Health Education: Health Promotion Comes of Age: Research, Policy & Practice for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, Vancouver, Canada, June 2007.
- Kelly, C., Nic Gabhainn, S., Batt, V. & Fallon, M. (2006). From science to policy: Experience of the Breastfeeding in Ireland Strategic Action Plan. Poster presented to the *Nutrition Society Winter meeting: Nutrition in early life - new horizons in a new century*, Cambridge, December 2006. *Proceedings of the Nutrition Society*, Vol 65, 121A.
- Kearns, N. & Pursell, L. (2007). Reflections on the Evaluation of the HIA on Traffic and Transport in Ballyfermot. Paper presented at the *8<sup>th</sup> HIA International Conference*, Dublin, October 2007.
- Maimbolwa, M., Manandhar, M. & O'Donovan, D, (2007). National policies and the socio-cultural and gender contexts of maternal survival. Paper presented at the *National Discussion and Dissemination Forum for AIMS (Aiming for Maternal Survival) Zambia research project*, Lusaka, Zambia. June 2007.
- Maimbolwa, M., Manandhar, M., Muulu, E., Mulenga, M. & O'Donovan, D, (2007). Understanding the socio-cultural and gender contexts of maternal survival in Mumbi Mukulu, Northern Province. Paper presented at the *Fourth National Health Research Conference: Translating research into action: providing evidence for policy and quality service delivery*, Lusaka, Zambia, January 2007.
- Maimbolwa, M., Manandhar, M., Muulu, E., Mulenga, M., & O'Donovan, D, (2007). Social research to inform policy and programming aimed at improving maternal survival in Zambia. Paper presented at the *Africa Midwives Research Network 6<sup>th</sup> Biennial Scientific Conference*, Nairobi, Kenya, November 2007.
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- Manandhar, M., Devkota, S., Simpson, H. & Pathak, L.R. (2006). We either give birth well or we die: understanding and addressing the socio-cultural context of obstetric emergencies in rural west Nepal. Poster presentation at *Forum 10: Global Forum for Health Research*, Cairo, Egypt, October 2006.
- Manandhar, M., Maimbolwa, M., Muulu, E., Mulenga, M. & O'Donovan, D. (2007). The role of inter-sectoral debate around contextual research in strengthening advocacy and action for maternal survival in Zambia. Paper presented at *Irish Aid/Department of Foreign Affairs Development Futures Conference*, Galway, November 2007.
- Molcho, M., Nic Gabhainn, S. & Kelly, C. (2007). Food poverty and risk for injuries in adolescence. Paper presented at the *19<sup>th</sup> IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion and Health Education*, Vancouver, June 2007.
- Molcho, M., Kelly, C. & Nic Gabhainn, S. (2007). Alcohol in adolescence: findings from the 2006 Irish HBSC study. Paper Presented to the *National Assembly of the National Youth Council of Ireland*, Dublin, November 2007.
- Molcho, M., Kelly, C. & Nic Gabhainn, S. (2007). Bullying and Disability: findings from the 2006 Irish HBSC study. Paper Presented to the *National Disability Authority Research Conference*, Dublin, November 2007.
- Molcho, M., Nic Gabhainn, S. & Kelly, C. (2007). Socio-economic status, family affluence and parental occupation - can they predict adolescents' health? Paper presented to the *Annual Conference of the Sociological Association of Ireland*, Limerick, May 2007.
- Molcho, M., Nic Gabhainn, S. & Kelly, C. (2007). Trends in smoking behaviours in Irish adolescents. Paper presented at the *19<sup>th</sup> IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion and Health Education*, Vancouver, June 2007.
- Molcho, M., Nic Gabhainn, S., Godeau, E. & Ross, J. (2007). Age of smoking initiation, risk behaviour and ill-health among youth. Poster presented at the *National Conference on Tobacco or Health*, Minneapolis, MN., October 2007.
- Molcho, M., Nic Gabhainn, S., Godeau, E. & Ross, J. (2007). Youth smoking in Ireland: before and after the smoking ban. Poster presented at the *National Conference on Tobacco or Health*, Minneapolis, MN., October 2007.
- Mulenga, M., Muulu, E., Manandhar, M., Maimbolwa, M. & O'Donovan D. (2007). Community perspectives on the socio-cultural and gender contexts of maternal survival in Mumbi Mukulu, Northern Province. Paper presented at the *National Discussion and Dissemination Forum for AIMS (Aiming for Maternal Survival) Zambia* research project, Lusaka, Zambia, June 2007.
- Mulvihill, M., Kelly, C., Nic Gabhainn, S., Morrissey, J., Kelly, Y. & Clerkin, P. (2007). An Investigation of the Extent of Commercial Sponsorship in Post-Primary Schools in the Republic of Ireland. Paper presented to the *19<sup>th</sup> IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion and Health Education: Health Promotion Comes of Age: Research, Policy & Practice for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, Vancouver, June 2007.
- Nic Gabhainn, S., Molcho, M. & Kelly, C. (2007). Face to Face and Electronic Communication with peers in adolescence: associations with risk behaviours and well-being. Paper presented to the *19<sup>th</sup> IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion and Health Education*, Vancouver, June 2007.

- Nic Gabhainn, S. & Sixsmith, J. (2007). Perspectives on children's understanding of well-being: similarities and differences in the perspectives of children, parents and teachers. Seminar to the *Federative Research Institute (126)*, *Faculte de Medicin, Universite Paul Sabateir de Toulouse*, June 2007.
- Nic Gabhainn, S. & Sixsmith, J. (2007). Photographing well-being. Paper presented to the *National Institute of Medical Research (Epidemiology and Public Health)*, Toulouse, France, May 2007.
- Nic Gabhainn, S. (2007). Child hunger: an economic or a social determinant of health? Paper presented to the *Division of Statistics, Epidemiology and Prevention Research, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)*, NIH, Bethesda, Maryland, October, 2007.
- Nic Gabhainn, S., Batt, V. & Gavin, B. (2006). Supporting third level students: diversity requires flexibility. Poster presented at the *Annual Conference of the Psychological Society of Ireland*, Galway, November 2006.
- Nic Gabhainn, S., Molcho, M., Walsh, K. & Kelly, C. (2007). Can electronic communication between peers help to overcome the risks of time spent with peers? Paper presented to the *National Institute of Medical Research (Epidemiology and Public Health)*, Toulouse, France, May 2007.
- Nic Gabhainn, S., Morgan, A. & Smith, B. (2007). Using HBSC data to explore factors relating to social cohesion and mental wellbeing among adolescents. Paper presented to the case-study workshop for the *WHO/HBSC Forum on Social Cohesion for Mental Health*, Grand Canaries, March 2007.
- Nic Gabhainn, S., Sixsmith, J., O'Higgins, S., Delaney, E. & Moore, M. (2007). Indicators of success for health in schools: the development of schematic models by children. Paper presented to the *National Institute of Medical Research (Epidemiology and Public Health)*, Toulouse, France, May 2007.
- Nic Gabhainn, S., Walsh, K., Molcho, M. & Kelleher, C. (2006). Face to face communication in adolescence: associations with risk behaviours and well-being. Poster presented at the *Annual Conference of the Psychological Society of Ireland*, Galway, November 2006.
- Pursell, L. (2007). Health Impact Assessment: Its uses in planning and decision making to improve health and well-being. Paper presented to the *HIA Seminar*, Galway, June 2007.
- Pursell, L., Kearns, N., O'Donovan, D., Balanda, K. & Graham, A. (2007). Developing an all-Ireland suite of local health inequality indicators: a review of data and policy issues associated with two indicator sets. Paper presented to the *Faculty of Public Health Medicine Summer Meeting*, Dublin, May 2007.
- Richter, M., Andersen, A., Boyce, W., Nic Gabhainn, S. & Zambon, A. (2006). The role of behavioural factors in explaining socio-economic differences in adolescent health. Paper presented at *L'Association Belge de Sante Publique: Health Inequalities*, Ecole de Sante Publique, UCL, Brussels, December 2006.
- Rowel, D., Meade, K. & Barry, M.M. 'Getting it Together': Youth Led Emotional Well-being Project. Presentation at parallel session. *Joining Forces Across Europe for Prevention and Promotion in Mental Health*. Barcelona, September, 2007.
- Sixsmith, J. & Nic Gabhainn, S. (2007). Anti-smoking media outcomes in Ireland: Defensive avoidance and fear? Poster presented at the *National Conference on Tobacco or Health*, Minneapolis, MN., October 2007.

Sixsmith, J. & Nic Gabhainn, S. (2007). Fear Appeals a policy context. Paper presented at the 19<sup>th</sup> IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion and Health Education, Vancouver, Canada, June 2007.

Sixsmith, J. & Nic Gabhainn, S. (2007). Power through process: an exploration. Poster presented to the the 19<sup>th</sup> IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion and Health Education, Vancouver, June 2007.

## c. Media Coverage

### Newspaper and Magazine Articles

- 8% try drugs before age 13. (2007, November 23). *Irish Examiner*,
- Alarm at extent of school-age drinking. (2007, August 23). *Herald AM*, p1.
- Breaking out in your first sweat. (2007, January 9). *Irish Times Health Supplement*, p2.
- Brindley, M. (2007, November 8). Binge-drinking smokers who overeat. *Western Mail*, p5.
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#### **Reports of HPRC research were covered by the following broadcast media**

##### National Television

RTE1 Television (6pm and 9pm news)

RTE2 Television (News)

TV3 (News)

##### National Radio

RTE Radio 1 (Morning Ireland, Drivetime, News at One, News Bulletins)

2FM (News Bulletins)

Today FM (the Last Word with Matt Cooper, News Bulletins)

Radio na Gaeltachta (Nuacht)

Newstalk 106 (the Orla Barry show, News Bulletins)

Spin FM (News Bulletins)

##### Local/regional Radio

Life 9/5, Limerick

Galway Bay FM, Galway

Midlands 103, Westmeath

103FM, Cork

Q102FM, Dublin

Waterford FM, Waterford

Beat 102-103, Waterford

Shannonside Radio, Longford

South East Radio, Wexford

Mid West Radio, Mayo

## d. Health Promotion Conference 2007

One of the Centre's largest dissemination events is the Annual Health Promotion Conference which is organised in conjunction with the Population Health Directorate of the Health Services Executive and the Health Promotion Policy Unit, Department of Health and Children. This conference serves as a national platform for the dissemination and integration of theory, research, policy and practice. Themes addressed include; evidence-based health promotion practice; nutrition; social capital; mental health promotion; health inequalities; re-orienting health services and population health. The theme for our 2007 conference was '*Building Capacity for Evidence-based Health Promotion*'. The conference programme appears below.



From left to right: Professor Eamon O'Shea, Professor Margaret Barry, NUI, Galway; Mr Michael Scanlon, Secretary General of the Department of Health & Children; Ms Janine Hale, Public Health & Health Professions Department, Wales; Professor Martin Knapp, London School of Economics, UK.

### HEALTH PROMOTION CONFERENCE PROGRAMME - BUILDING CAPACITY FOR EVIDENCE-BASED

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2007

10.00am Venue: Arts Millennium Building, NUI, Galway.  
Registration and Coffee

11.00am Welcome and Opening Address:  
Venue: Máirtín Ó'Tnúthail Theatre  
Professor Gerard Loftus, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health

Sciences, NUI, Galway  
 Professor Margaret Barry, Department of Health Promotion, NUI, Galway

11.30am Plenary Session: Getting Health Promotion Evidence into Policy and Practice  
 Venue: Máirtín Ó'Tnúthail Theatre

*"Using Evidence in Health Promotion Policy and Practice"*  
 Dr. Viv Speller, Health Development Consultant, UK.

*"Building the "evidence" through evaluation and critical reflection: engaging in a participatory practice of knowledge development in a non-participatory world"*

Professor Jane Springett, Director of the Institute for Health, Liverpool John Moores University.

Chair: Ms. Catherine Murphy, Population Health Directorate, Health Services Executive

1.00pm Venue: Arts Millennium Building, NUI, Galway. Lunch

2.15pm Plenary Session: Capacity Building for Health Promotion  
 Venue: Máirtín Ó'Tnúthail Theatre

*"Capacity Building for Health Promotion: Bridging Theory and Practice"*  
 Dr Stephan Van Den Broucke, Public Health Executive Agency, European Commission, Luxembourg

Chair: Mr Brian Mullen, Health Promotion Policy Unit, Department of Health and Children

3.15 pm Workshops (Tea & Coffee will be available in the foyer of the building throughout the workshops)

1. Workshop session facilitated by Dr Viv Speller with practitioners on showcasing and discussing aspects of evidence-based practice locally each HSE region to nominate a participant.

Chair: Brian Neeson, Health Promotion, HSE  
 Venue: AM107

2. Workshop by Professor Jane Springett on participatory evaluation methods in health promotion

Chair: Ms Bidy O' Neill, Health Promotion, HSE  
 Venue AM108

5.00pm Close

5.30 - 7.30pm Venue: College Bar, NUI, Galway. Drinks reception and barbecue.  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2007

9.30am Venue: Arts Millennium Building, NUI, Galway.  
 Symposium: Making the Economic Case for Promoting Health  
 Venue : Máirtín Ó'Tnúthail Theatre

*"How can economics inform prevention and promotion initiatives in mental health?"*

Professor Martin Knapp, Director of the Personal Social Services Research Unit at the London School of Economics and Professor of Health Economics and Director of the Centre for the Economics of Mental Health at the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London.

*"Moving from evaluation into economic evaluation: a health economics guide for programmes to improve health and well-being"*

Ms. Janine Hale, Principal Research Officer (Health Economics), Public Health & Health Professions Department, Wales.

Discussant: Professor Eamon O'Shea, Professor of Health Economics, NUI, Galway.

Chair: Mr. Michael Scanlan, Secretary General of the Department of Health and Children

- 11.00am Coffee
- 11.30am Open Communications: Parallel sessions  
Chairs :
- Session 1 - Ms Norma Cronin, Irish Cancer Society  
Venue: Máirtín Ó'Tnúthail Theatre (AM150)
- Session 2 - Mr Robbie Breen, Department of Health and Children  
Venue: Siobhan McKenna Theatre (AM214)
- 1.00pm Closing Session – Panel Discussion  
Venue: Máirtín Ó'Tnúthail Theatre (AM150)
- 1.30pm Lunch Venue: Arts Millennium Building, NUI, Galway.



From left to right: Dr Viv Speller, Health Development Consultant, UK; Dr Stephan Van Den Broucke, PHEA, EC, Luxembourg; Professor Jane Springett, John Moores University, UK; Dr Margaret Hodgins, NUI, Galway.



## vi. Research Grants & Donations



Project Title	Funder	Principal Investigator	Total Grant	Project Dates
AIDS/HIV Consultancy	Irish Aid	D. O'Donovan	€16,500	1/1/06-31/3/08
Best Practice in Promotion Mental Health (PROMO)	Public Health Executive Agency, EC	M. Barry	€82,612	1/9/07-31/8/10
Capacity for Development Education	CELT, NUI, Galway	D. O'Donovan	€15,000	1/6/05-22/1/08
Capacity for Development Education	Irish Aid	D. O'Donovan	€20,000	1/6/05-22/1/08
Development Education Research Network/DERN	Irish Aid	D. O'Donovan, S. Ming-Khoo	€330,000	1/6/06-30/6/09
Development of a Data Strategy for Children in Ireland	Atlantic Philanthropies	S. Nic Gabhainn	€49,259	30/11/07-1/12/08
Equity in Health	Health Service Executive	D. O'Donovan	€105,741	1/7/06-31/12/07
Equity in Health	Geographical Information Systems (GIS)	D. O'Donovan, M. Barry	€100,000	1/4/04-31/12/07
Equity in Health	Health Service Executive	D. O'Donovan, M. Barry	€70,000	1/4/04-31/12/07
European Network for Mental Health Promotion (IMHPA Phase 2)	Implementing Mental Health Promotion Action (IMPHA)	M. Barry	€1,684	20/11/06-31/4/08
Evaluation of the Ballyfermot HIA	Eastern Regional Health Authority	D. O'Donovan	€12,000	1/9/06-1/12/07
Evaluation of the Choose Safety Health Promotion Programme	Health & Safety Authority	M. Hodgins	€42,471	10/10/07-0/10/08
Evaluation of the Health Quality Mark	National Youth Health Programme	M. Hodgins	€13,966	16/4/07-14/3/08
Evaluation of the Mind Out Programme	Health Service Executive West	M. Barry	€50,000	1/10/07-31/08/08
Evaluation of Zippy's Friends	Health Service Executive West	M. Barry	€66,240	1/11/07-28/2/09
Exploration of Risk Communication with Cryptosporidium Contamination	Health Service Executive	J. Sixsmith	€13,754	30/1/08-30/6/08
Feasibility Study of Developing an Irish Health Poverty Index	Institute of Public Health in Ireland	D. O'Donovan	€17,275	24/6/06-30/6/09
Foodstuffs Marketing	Irish Heart	S. Nic Gabhainn	€13,707	1/5/06-31/12/07

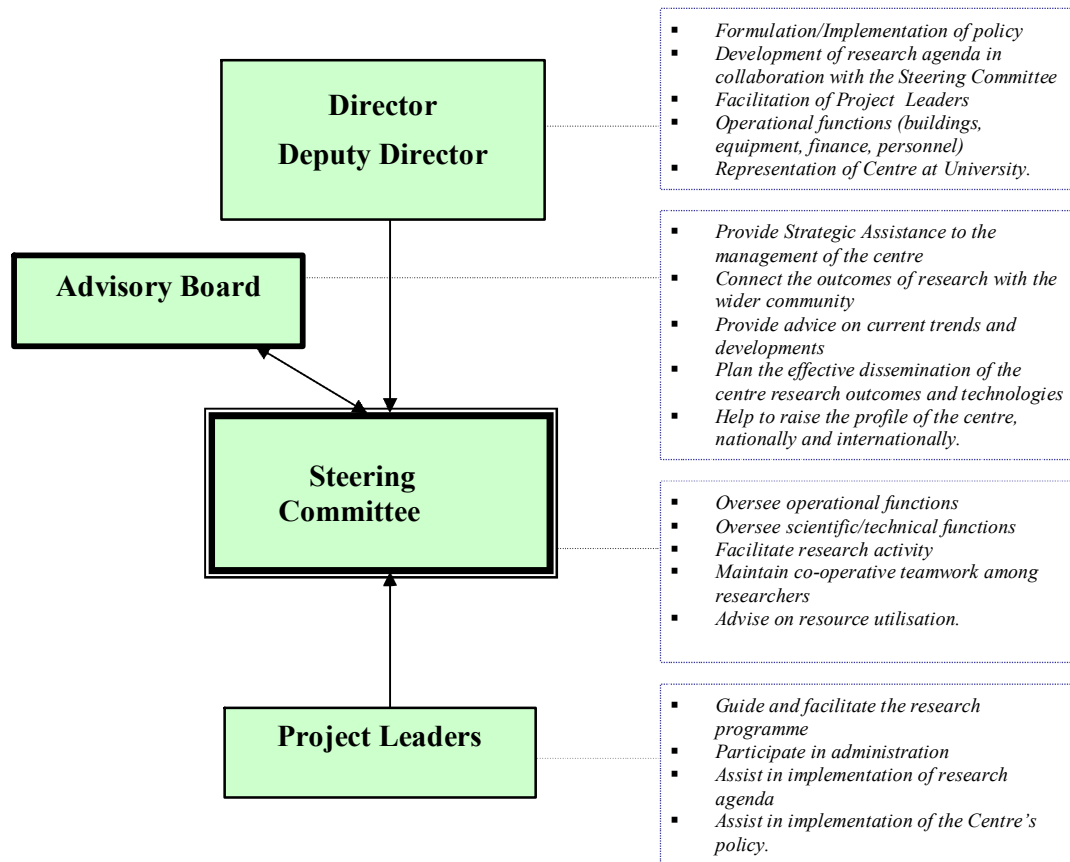
	Foundation	C. Kelly		
Galway Healthy Cities	Health Service Executive West	M. Barry, M. Molcho	€28,476	1/9/07-31/3/08
Health Behaviour in School Age Children (Ireland)	Department of Health & Children	S. Nic Gabhainn	€671,275	1/4/06-31/12/09
Health Services Activities (1)	Health Service Executive	D. O'Donovan	€150,000	5/1/05-28/6/08
Health Services Activities (2)	Health Service Executive	D. O'Donovan	€150,000	1/1/06-24/9/08
Healthy Together	Leonardo da Vinci	M. Hodgins	€39,035	16/10-/06-5/10/08
Integrating Safer Motherhood	Irish Aid	D. O'Donovan, M. Manandhar	€336,078	23/12/04-31/3/08
Methods of Milk Expression in Lactating Women	<i>PHD SCHOLARSHIP G. BECKER</i> , Health Research Board	M. Barry	€67,711	1/12/05-30/11/08
Middle Childhood	Office of the Minister for Children	S. Nic Gabhainn	€40,000	1/4/06-31/12/09
Nutrition & Dietetic Service	Health Service Executive West	G. Nolan M. Barry	€60,000	1/2/07-30/4/08
Obesity Prevention Review	Health Service Executive Population Health, Health Promotion	M. Barry	€10,000	22/12/05-31/6/07
Participatory Research Processes	Office of the Minister for Children	S. Nic Gabhainn, J. Sixsmith	€10,000	1/2/06-31/7/07
PhD Fellowship S. O'Higgins	Office of the Minister for Children	S. O'Higgins S. Nic Gabhainn	€62,100	1/10/07-30/9/10
Process Evaluation of the National Drug Awareness Mass Media Campaign	National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD)	J. Sixsmith, S. Nic Gabhainn	€72,000	1/1/0/3-26/11/07
Review of International Best Practice in AIDS/HIV Prevention	Health Promotion Policy Unit	M. Barry	€14,099	31/12/06-26/11/07
Scoping Research – Internet Based HP Materials	Health Service Executive with Student Services, NUI, Galway	J. Sixsmith, With C. Dring	€31,121	1/1/08-30/9/08
SLAN07	Department of Health and Children	M. Barry, M. Molcho	€56,103	1/11/06-30/9/09
SPHE Evaluation	Departments of Health and Children and Education and Science	S. Nic Gabhainn, M. Barry	€83,054	2/5/05-19/12/07
Training & Accreditation in Europe	International Union of Health Promotion & Education (IUHPE)	M. Barry	€4800	1/1/06-31/12/07
Translating Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC)	Health Research Board	S. Nic Gabhainn	€109,692	1/10/04-18/7/07

## vii. Governance

### a. Management Structure Health Promotion Research Centre

The generic management structure for research centres and units recommended by NUI, Galway has been adopted by the Health Promotion Research Centre. This consists of the establishment of an internal Steering Committee and an Advisory Board (see diagram below). The Steering Committee is comprised of a Director of the Centre, a Deputy Director, a team of Project Leaders, an Administrative Director and Secretary.

The Advisory Group consists of representatives from Health Promotion practice, policy and research at national and international level (Advisory Group members external to the HPRC are listed below).





## b. External Members of the International Advisory Board

- Dr Desmond O'Byrne, (retired) Department of Chronic Diseases and Health Promotion (NMH/CHP) WHO Headquarters Geneva, Switzerland.
- Professor Candace Currie, Child and Adolescent Health Research Unit, University of Edinburgh, Scotland (until October 2007)
- Professor Maurice Mittlemark, University of Bergen, Norway (from October 2007)
- Mr. Brian Mullen, Principal Officer, Health Promotion Policy Unit, Department of Health and Children, Dublin.
- Ms. Catherine Murphy, Assistant National Director Population Health, Health Services Executive
- Professor Gerry Loftus, Dean of the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, National University of Ireland, Galway
- Professor Kevin Barry, Dean of the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies, National University of Ireland, Galway
- Dr. Maura Hiney, Research Office, National University of Ireland, Galway (until July 2007)
- Ms Martha Shaughnessy, Research Office, National University of Ireland, Galway (from August 2007).