



Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme

Annual Report 2019



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Foreword

In 2019, the HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme (SHCPP) implemented a significant programme of work to progress the goals of the National Sexual Health Strategy (2015–2020).

Important initiatives were delivered in the area of HIV prevention, support and awareness. These included the commencement of a national HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) programme to prevent HIV for those at substantial risk of sexual acquisition of HIV, and the signing of the HIV Fast-Track Cities initiative by Cork, Dublin, Galway and Limerick.

A significant change to service delivery was introduced in the area of crisis pregnancy counselling with the commencement of the My Options service – a free phone-based service which has improved access to counselling and support for those experiencing a crisis pregnancy in Ireland.

We continued to focus on work to support the prevention of crisis pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) via our communication, information and education and training initiatives. These included the expansion of the national condom distribution service into third-level settings; and the roll-out of the new out-of-home and digital campaign 'Because', promoting the consistent use of condoms among young adults.

We also published our Sexual Health Promotion Training Strategy 2019–2029, which will guide our work in building the sexual health promotion capacity of parents and of professionals in health, education, community and youth work settings. In 2019, in line with this strategy, LGBT Ireland and SHCPP launched a new LGBT+ eLearning course on the online learning hub HSELand.

Research-informed practice is core to how the SHCPP operates and we were delighted to be involved in important research studies that will inform future practice in sexual health and wellbeing. This included working with the Health Protection Surveillance Centre and the Gay Health Network on the development and publication of the EMIS-2017 Ireland report, and the establishment of new research programmes with academic institutions relating to unplanned pregnancy and abortion care, and adolescent sexual behaviour.

We would like to acknowledge the really hard work and commitment of the SHCPP team in delivering this substantial programme of work in 2019. We would like to thank our HSE colleagues in health promotion and improvement and public health; and our statutory, clinical and NGO partners for their considerable contribution to our shared vision for sexual health and wellbeing in Ireland.

We would also like to thank the Strategy Implementation Group and the Communications Working Group for their continued guidance and support through the year.



Helen Deely
Interim Assistant National Director
Health and Wellbeing



Maeve O'Brien
Interim Programme Lead
Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme

Abbreviations

AkiDwa	Akina Dada Wa Africa
ACET	Aids Care Education and Training
ECDC	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
EMIS	European Men who have sex with men Internet Survey
ESRI	Economic and Social Research Institute
GOSHH	Gender Orientation Sexual Health HIV
GP	General Practitioner
HIQA	Health Information and Quality Authority
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
HP&I	Health Promotion and Improvement
HPSC	Health Protection Surveillance Centre
HPV	Human papillomavirus
HSE	Health Service Executive
HSELand	Online learning and development portal of the HSE
IAPAC	The International Association of Providers of AIDS Care
LGBT	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender
LGMA	Local Government Management Agency
gbMSM	Gay, bisexual and men who have sex with men (gbMSM)
NCCA	National Council for Curriculum and Assessment
NCDS	National Condom Distribution Service
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NSHS	National Sexual Health Strategy
PDST	Professional Development Services for Teachers
PLHIV	People Living with HIV/AIDS
PrEP	Pre-exposure prophylaxis
RSE	Relationships and Sexuality Education
SHCPP	Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme
SSSTDI	Society for the Study of Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Ireland
STI	Sexually transmitted infections
USI	Union of Students Ireland

Our Programme

Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme (SHCPP)

The SHCPP is one of several national Policy Priority Programmes in HSE Health and Wellbeing. SHCPP has responsibility for implementing the National Sexual Health Strategy (NSHS) 2015–2020.

The Programme Lead for the Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme reports to the Assistant National Director for Health and Wellbeing, who reports to the National Director for Strategic Planning and Transformation.

National Sexual Health Strategy 2015–2020

The NSHS is Ireland's first national framework for sexual health and wellbeing. Its vision is that everyone in Ireland should experience positive sexual health and wellbeing.

To achieve this vision, the strategy aims to 'improve sexual health and wellbeing and reduce negative sexual health outcomes by ensuring that everyone living in Ireland has access to high-quality sexual health information, education and services throughout their lives'.

This vision will be addressed through three goals:

**GOAL
1**

Sexual health promotion, education and prevention: Everyone living in Ireland will receive comprehensive and age-appropriate sexual health education and/or information and will have access to appropriate prevention and promotion services.

**GOAL
2**

Sexual health services: Equitable, accessible and high-quality sexual health services that are targeted and tailored to needs will be available to everyone.

**GOAL
3**

Sexual health intelligence: Robust and high-quality sexual health information will be generated to underpin policy, practice, service planning and strategic monitoring.

The Strategy recognises the diversity of sexual identities in Ireland and supports all expressions of sexual identity through positive health and wellbeing outcomes.

SHCPP convenes several groups to support its implementation of the NSHS:

Strategy Implementation Group

The Strategy Implementation Group provides strategic advice and direction to support the implementation of the strategy (see Appendix 1).

Communications Working Group

The Communications Working Group provides support and advice to SHCPP to coordinate communications activities between the Programme and non-statutory organisations. The group comprises statutory and non-statutory stakeholders (see Appendix 2).

The Team

SHCPP staff work across five main functions: Clinical Services, Education and Training, Communications and Information, Funding and Crisis Pregnancy Services, and Research and Policy.

Ms Helen Deely	Programme Lead (January to April 2019)
Ms Maeve O'Brien	Interim Programme Lead (April to December 2019); Research Manager (January to April 2019)
Vacant Post	Clinical Lead for Sexual Health
Ms Caroline Hurley	Project Manager
Ms Janice Donlon	Funding Manager
Ms Anita Ghafoor-Butt	Communications and Information Manager
Ms Moira Germaine	Education and Training Manager
Ms Sarah Tecklenborg	Research Manager (May to December 2019)
Ms Caoimhe McClafferty	Health Promotion and Improvement Officer (since December 2019)
Mr Owen Brennan	Research Assistant
Ms Patricia Wallace	Finance and HR Manager
Mr Ray Madden	Clerical Officer

Our Work

Clinical Services

The clinical team works on the clinical actions of the NSHS, which includes the development of clinical practice guidance, information and resources to support sexual health services in Ireland.

In 2019, we:

- Signed up to the HIV Fast-Track Cities Initiative. On 13 June 2019, Cork, Dublin, Galway and Limerick signed the *Paris Declaration*, committing to fast-track city-level responses to HIV, as part of a global partnership to end the HIV epidemic. The signing event was attended by Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, Minister for Health Simon Harris, Minister for Health Promotion Catherine Byrne, Dr José Zuniga President of the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC), the mayors or city authority representatives from Cork, Dublin, Galway and Limerick, and HIV NGO stakeholders. Funding of €450,000 was received to kick-start the initiative and SHCPP worked with city stakeholders on activities such as expanding community HIV testing and the development of a national HIV stigma campaign.



Signatories of the HIV Fast Track initiative pictured with Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, Minister for Health Simon Harris and Minister for Health Promotion Catherine Byrne.

- Commenced the national roll-out of a HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) programme to prevent HIV in populations at substantial risk of sexual acquisition of HIV. This followed a recommendation by the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA), informed by a Health Technology Assessment (HTA), which found that the successful implementation of a national PrEP programme in Ireland would be safe, effective and cost-saving; see <https://www.hiqa.ie/reports-and-publications/health-technology-assessment/hta-prep-programme>. PrEP became available in November 2019 through approved PrEP service providers that meet the National Standards for PrEP, and is free of charge to those at substantial risk of HIV who meet clinical eligibility. At the end of 2019, there were eight public and six private approved PrEP service providers in Ireland.

The HIQA Health Technology Assessment highlighted that a 'significant investment in STI services is required for a national PrEP programme to ensure a safe, sustainable and equitable service'. Annual funding of €5.4m was secured for the national PrEP programme, which covers both funding for PrEP medication and for staff resources for public services. The resource requirement for public services was informed by a commissioned piece of work, undertaken by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, to assess the readiness of public STI services for the implementation of HIV PrEP to national standards and to determine the resources required for implementation; see https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/professionals/research/research-reports/assessing-the-preparedness-of-public-sti-clinics-for-hiv-prep-implementation_final.pdf.

- Completed, in collaboration with the HIV PrEP Working Group, guidance for service providers and information for service users, prior to commencement of the programme. This included:
 - o National Standards for the Delivery and Management of HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP).
 - o Clinical Management Guidance for Individuals Taking HIV PrEP within the Context of a Combination HIV (and STI) Prevention Approach in Ireland.
 - o PrEP patient information leaflets in English, Portuguese, Spanish, French and Polish.

Get PrEP



sexualwellbeing.ie  

Information for service providers www.sexualwellbeing.ie/preproviders

PrEP webpage for service users www.sexualwellbeing.ie/prep

List of approved PrEP services www.sexualwellbeing.ie/getprep

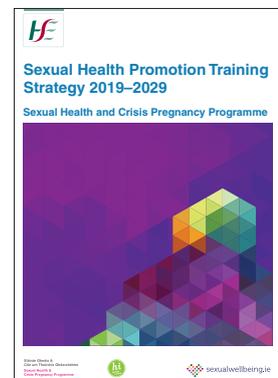
- Established the Sexual Health Advisors Association of Ireland. The network is led by a core group of dedicated Sexual Health Advisors (SHA) in Ireland and membership is open to all those working in an SHA capacity or with an interest in SHA. The network is under the governance of the Society for the Study of Sexually Transmitted Infections in Ireland (SSSTDI) and is an all-Ireland network.
- Facilitated 20 nurses to attend an online Sexual Health Advisor training course run by Staffordshire University. Participants include nurses working in a sexual health capacity in public STI/HIV services, student health services, prison and addiction services and primary care.
- Facilitated the continuation of the HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccine programme for at-risk populations through public STI and HIV services, in line with National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) recommendations. In 2019, a further 2,753 men who have sex with men (MSM) and 625 men and women living with HIV commenced the HPV vaccine course.

Education and Training

The Education and Training function continued to work towards enabling parents, teachers and youth workers to address the sexual health education and information needs of children and young people. The function also continued to support professionals in promoting the sexual health of a diverse range of population groups including the general population, older people, people with disabilities, migrants and ethnic minorities.

In 2019, we:

- Launched the Sexual Health Promotion Training Strategy 2019-2029. This Strategy addresses the NSHS's recommendations in relation to the training of parents and professionals.
- Launched the new LGBT+ eLearning course through the HSEland programme 'LGBT+ Awareness and Inclusion Training: the basics'. This module was developed by LGBT Ireland and the SHCPP in consultation with a working group comprised of relevant non-government organisations. The training is designed to help all staff within the HSE to develop an understanding of how they might make simple changes to their everyday practice to provide an enhanced service to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. The training is also available to partner organisations which have access to HSEland. Click here for more information <https://www.hseland.ie>



We supported the initiation of a National University of Ireland Galway (NUIG) research study investigating the enablers and barriers to the module's roll-out within the HSE.



Pictured with Mr Paul Reid, HSE Director General are representatives from SHCPP, HSE LGBT+ Allies, HSEland and LGBT Ireland.

- Established and facilitated a group of third-level stakeholders to explore how to support the integration of sexual health promotion in the core curricula of relevant undergraduate courses. The outcome will inform future commissioning decisions with regard to this issue.
- Delivered 12 Foundation Programme in Sexual Health Promotion courses in nine locations throughout the country, in collaboration with our Health Promotion and Improvement (HP&I) and NGO colleagues. We facilitated the training of 185 professionals to enable them to integrate sexual health into their core work.

DELIVERED 12
'FOUNDATION
PROGRAMME IN
SEXUAL HEALTH
PROMOTION'
COURSES IN
NINE LOCATIONS
THROUGHOUT
THE COUNTRY



Foundation Programme for Sexual Health Promotion delivery in 2019.

- Collaborated with the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA), Health Promotion and Improvement (CHO1) and Donegal's Library and Youth Services to make a range of relationship and sexuality books available to parents, children and young people in every library across the country through the 'Healthy Ireland (HI) at your library' scheme. This involved sourcing, reviewing and recommending suitable books for parents and children, from early years to young adulthood, for consideration by the LGMA's internal selection process. Following agreement on the collection, SHCPP developed the booklet 'Making the "Big Talk" Many Small Talks' to signpost parents and carers to the books and other sources of support. The booklet will be published in 2020 in both Irish and English and will be available in all libraries and through healthpromotion.ie.
- In partnership with the Professional Development Service for Teachers, we supported teachers to pilot the first set of new Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) activities with their students. These activities will be included in a new 'Social, Personal and Health Education' (SPHE) resource for schools, which is being developed by the HSE's Programme Manager for Education. The resource will support the delivery of the Junior Cycle SPHE Short Course.

- In partnership with Health Promotion and Improvement (CHO4), we established an advisory group of statutory partners (National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA), Department of Education and Skills Inspectorate, Professional Development Services for Teachers (PDST)) and NGO partners (National Parents Council – Primary, Sexual Health Centre Cork, BeLonG To) to update the contents of the Busy Bodies; the puberty and adolescence booklet for children.
- In partnership with Tusla, we developed further content for their online learning tool to enable social workers, social care workers and foster parents to address the sexual health and sexual education needs of children in care.
- Funded and collaborated with the Sexual Health Centre Cork and BeLonG to publish the ‘In the Know’ Programme in manual format to support the delivery of the programme to young gay men in the youthwork setting.
- Provided funding to:
 - o The National Parents Council – Primary to deliver the ‘Parenting: Supporting Your Child to Build Healthy Friendships and Relationships’ programme to 578 parents.
 - o The Irish Family Planning Association to deliver the eight-week ‘Speakeasy’ training programme to 167 parents.
 - o The National Youth Council of Ireland to deliver training workshops in relation to sexual health policy development and pornography to 88 participants from the youth work sector.
 - o Foróige to deliver the ‘REAL U training for trainers’ programme to 226 participants from the youth work sector.

Communications and Information

The Communications and Information function provides communication support to the SHCPP Programme's functions and works in partnership with the HSE Communications Division to deliver sexual health campaigns, communications and information projects.

In 2019, we:

- Launched the roll-out of the National Condom Distribution Service (NCDS) at third level, with Minister for Health Simon Harris, in Trinity College.



Pictured at the launch of the NCDS at third level institutions is Minister for Health Simon Harris with representatives from SHCPP, Trinity College Dublin and the Union of Students Ireland.

The NCDS is a central point for distributing free condoms and lubricant to services working directly with people who may be at increased risk of negative sexual health outcomes. The service facilitates statutory organisations and NGOs to promote condom use. In 2019 730,439 condoms and 444,489 lubricant sachets were distributed. For more information on the services working with the NCDS see <https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/for-professionals/national-condom-distribution-service/>

2019 NCDS distribution breakdown

2019	Condoms	Lubricant sachets
Statutory Services	145,850	94,380
NGOs	327,630	218,830
Third Level	247,659	122,059
Other	9,300	9,220
Total	730,439	444,489

- Worked with the HSE Communications Programme and Campaigns team to launch a new campaign, 'Because', promoting condom use and good sexual health. The campaign is aimed at young adults (aged 18–30), who are at increased risk of an unplanned pregnancy and acquiring sexually transmitted infections (STIs). The campaign objectives were to build awareness about the risk of acquiring an STI, emphasise the role of condoms in minimising this risk, and signpost people to sexualwellbeing.ie for further information about sexual health and wellbeing. The campaign appeared across multiple channels. Posters appeared in colleges and social venues across the country, and digital posters were placed in high-footfall areas. Videos were placed across YouTube, Facebook and Instagram, and digital display ads ran across platforms.

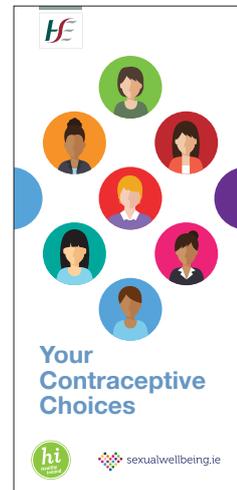


- Worked with the HSE Communications Programme and Campaigns team to launch the My Options service, a new HSE unplanned pregnancy support service provided by the SHCPP.



- Translated the MyOptions leaflet into 13 languages. To order copies of this resource click here www.healthpromotion.ie

- Developed and disseminated the 'Your Contraceptive Choices' leaflet, which sets out all of the contraception options available. This resource is available in maternity hospitals, GP surgeries and community organisations. Click here to download a copy of this leaflet <https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/sexual-health/contraception>



- Held 38 outreach events targeting young people aged 18–30 to promote consistent and correct use of contraception. The outreach team held an event in partnership with the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) to mark Sexual Health Awareness and Guidance (SHAG) Week in February and continued with festival and concert appearances during the summer and nightclub/pub engagements in the autumn and winter of 2019.

- Worked in partnership with Cairdre to translate sexual health information into four community languages. Click here for more information <https://healthconnect.ie/find-a-service/sexual-health-services-overview/>

- Continued to advertise our STI and contraceptive resources in 1,250 GP locations including busy multiple GP practices in Dublin, Kildare, Cork, Limerick, Galway and Cavan. The My Options campaign message was displayed on digital screens across 30+ healthcare locations in the waiting-room network.

Website Figures 2019



Information Dissemination (healthpromotion.ie)



STI leaflet:
50,337



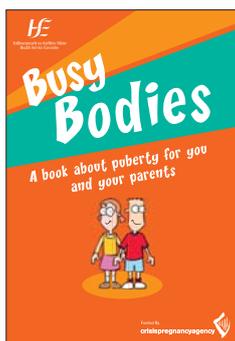
Your Contraceptive
Choices leaflet:
59,203



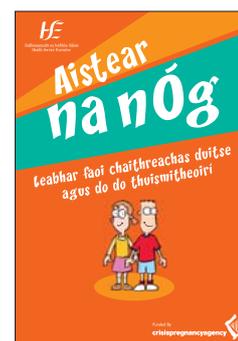
Emergency
Contraceptive leaflet:
6,359



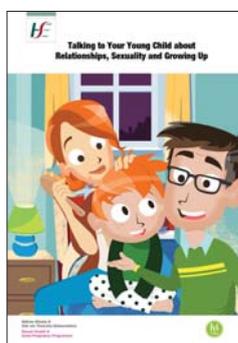
My Options
including all
language options:
12,912



Busy Bodies
booklet
English:
44,362



Busy Bodies
booklet
Irish:
1,300



Talking to Your Young
Child about
Relationships, Sexuality
and Growing Up: English:
38,048



Ag Labairt le do Pháiste
Óg faoi Chaidrimh,
Gnéasacht agus Fás
Aníos: Irish
947

Clinical Information Resources Distributed

1,271	Antiretroviral Therapy: English	17,326	HIV PrEP: English
137	Antiretroviral Therapy: French	3,408	HPV leaflet MSM
3,189	Antiretroviral Therapy: Portuguese	75	HPV poster MSM
179	Antiretroviral Therapy: Spanish	1,290	HPV Vaccine information for PLHIV
		49	HPV Vaccine poster for PLHIV

Information Distributed through GP Surgeries

37,000	Guide to STIs brochure	My Options Helpline digital screen: displayed nationwide in 1,200+ healthcare locations
25,000	My Options brochure	
15,000	Your Contraceptive Choices	

Public and Media Relations

- Several press releases and statements were issued relating to service provision, RSE and key statistics. We responded to regular media enquiries in conjunction with the HSE Press Office.

For media releases, please visit: <https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/about/media/press-releases>

- Articles were published in health-related publications such as the HSE's Health Matters magazine. Please click here to view full articles:
<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/healthmatters/magarchive>

Sexual Health News

- Two editions of Sexual Health News (SHN) were issued in 2019 in partnership with Health Promotion and Improvement (CHO5) and 500 print copies were distributed to approximately 2,000 health professionals and 245 health services nationally. The SHN covers a wide variety of issues including contraception use, crisis pregnancy and sexual health information. The newsletter is available to download or to order free. For the full newsletter, please visit <https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/for-professionals/supports/sexualhealth-newsletter/hshesnissue9web.pdf>

Funding and Crisis Pregnancy Services

The Programme manages the funding arrangements for over 35 statutory organisations and NGOs that are financed to provide crisis pregnancy counselling, parenting support, and sexual health promotion training.

In 2019, we:

- Commenced operation of the My Options helpline, which delivers support and information to those with an unplanned pregnancy. The helpline is staffed by experienced counsellors and operational from Monday to Friday 9am–9pm and Saturday 10am–2pm. A 24/7 nursing helpline is also available to anyone who has undergone a termination. In 2019 there were 13,214 calls to My Options and 2,793 calls to the nursing helpline. We launched a webchat service on the My Options website providing information and support to anyone with an unplanned pregnancy. The webchat service commenced on 27 May 2019, and 534 webchats took place in 2019.
- Continued to provide funding to 11 services to deliver free and accessible face-to-face crisis pregnancy and post-abortion counselling.
- Supported services through the provision of funding directly to service providers to assist with ongoing training, continuing professional development (CPD) and supervision (internal and external) for those providing crisis pregnancy counselling and related services.
- Funded a number of crisis pregnancy counselling services for the provision of additional support to those who have experienced a crisis pregnancy and are parenting.
- Provided funding to Maynooth University to deliver master classes on topics relevant to crisis pregnancy; 115 participants attended the courses. Please click here for more information <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/news-events/series-masterclasses-supporting-unplanned-pregnancy-spring-2019>



- Supported both One Family's and Treoir's national information services for one-parent families and unmarried parents. These services handled over 5,000 queries to their information channels in addition to providing face-to-face and outreach information support. We also supported the delivery of One Family's adult education training service, which provides, among other services, training and parent mentoring programmes.
- The SHCPP provided support to development and update Treoir's Information Pack for Unmarried Parents. Information packs were disseminated to healthcare professionals and unmarried parents. The packs contain information on issues such as the rights and obligations of cohabiting parents, guardianship, access, custody and shared parenting. The pack also includes information on other legal and financial matters of relevance to unmarried parents, as well as sections on education and training opportunities and useful contacts for individuals and health professionals who may need additional support or information.
- Provided funding to the Limerick City Slickers programme – a parenting support group for young parents residing in Limerick City and its immediate environs who are socially excluded or at risk of social exclusion, targeting those at risk of a second or subsequent crisis pregnancy. This programme is delivered by Limerick Social Service Council in conjunction with the Teen Parents Support Programme.
- Provided funding to AkiDwA to deliver information sessions on reproductive health to women seeking asylum and living in accommodation centres in Ireland. A total of 276 women from 26 accommodation centres attended the training in 2019. A pilot programme of sexual health information sessions for men commenced in 2019 and a total of 239 men from ten accommodation centres attended these sessions.
- Provided training and support to the funded crisis pregnancy counselling services on topics related to the new Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2018 and quality improvement topics.
- Provided funding to NGO partners (HIV Ireland, ACET, Sexual Health Centre, GOSHH, Sexual Health West) to provide community HIV testing in Dublin, Cork, Galway and Limerick.
- Provided funding to support the establishment of the MPOWER outreach programme under HIV Ireland, for gbMSM, in line with the programme logic model. A monitoring and evaluation framework is under development.

Research and Policy

The Research and Policy function commissions research and evaluation studies, monitors trends related to crisis pregnancy and sexual health, and disseminates and implements research findings to inform policy and improve practice.

In 2019, we:

- Funded and supported the Health Protection Surveillance Centre, in partnership with the Gay Health Network, to analyse the Irish dataset from the EMIS-2017 study, an international online behavioural surveillance survey designed to generate data useful for planning HIV and STI prevention and care programmes¹. The report for Ireland and the community reports were launched in October by Catherine Byrne T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Health with responsibility for Health Promotion and the National Drugs Strategy.



Pictured with Minister of State at the Department of Health with responsibility for Health Promotion and the National Drugs Strategy are the EMIS-2017 report authors and representatives from the EMIS-2017 steering group.

Please see here for full report:

<https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/professionals/research/research-reports/emis-final.pdf>

Please see here for community reports:

<http://gayhealthnetwork.ie/research/>

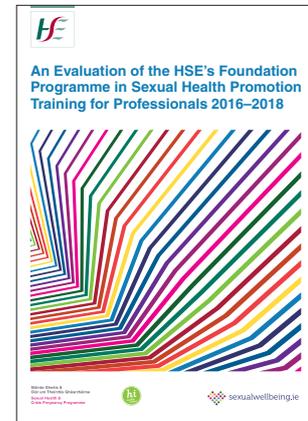


¹ EMIS-2017 was co-ordinated by Sigma Research at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) in association with the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) in Berlin.

- Published an evaluation of the HSE Foundation Programme in Sexual Health Promotion. The report is based on data collected from 194 participants who attended one of 14 training courses held at 11 different locations across Ireland. The evaluation found that the training programme had a positive impact on participants by increasing their comfort and confidence to deliver sexual health promotion (SHP) to those they work with. The findings also indicated that additional support may be required to support participants to use their increased knowledge and skills in practice in their work settings.

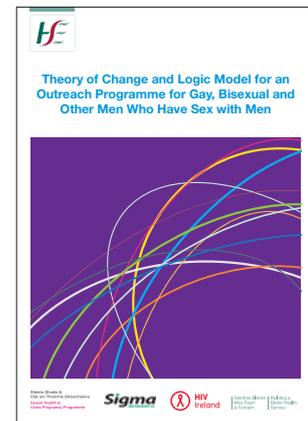
For the full report, please visit:

<https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/for-professionals/research/research-reports/foundation-programme-final.pdf>



- Published a logic model and theory of change for HIV Ireland's MPOWER outreach programme for gbMSM. The development of the logic model was commissioned to support future service delivery and service improvement, which was a key recommendation from the 2018 evaluation of the outreach programme.

Please see: <https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/for-professionals/research/research-reports/msm%20outreach%20logic%20model.pdf>



- Commissioned a large-scale qualitative research study into women's experiences of abortion and unplanned pregnancy support services since the implementation on the Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2018 on 1 January 2019. The study aims to generate an in-depth understanding of the experiences of women who have accessed unplanned pregnancy support services and abortion care services, and will include data from key informants involved in service delivery. Dr Catherine Conlon from the School of Social Work and Social Policy in Trinity College Dublin was the successful tenderer. The study was formally initiated in October 2019.
- Commissioned a scoping study to inform the development of a general population survey of sexual health knowledge, attitudes and behaviours. The scoping study aims to provide an overview of key considerations required to commission such a study, including clarity on key priority topic areas for measurement and best practice methodologies and operational procedures. Dr Caroline Kelleher from the Department of Psychology in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland was the successful tenderer and the study was initiated in November 2019.

- Completed and published annual report on the activities of the National Condom Distribution Service for 2018. This report provides information on services that ordered from the NCDS, to whom they provided condoms, and how they distributed condoms. Please visit: <https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/for-professionals/research/research-reports/ncds-2018-final.pdf>
- Established joint research programme with the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) to investigate Health and Wellbeing in Adolescence. Using Growing Up in Ireland data, this research programme aims to build on existing research relating to health, education and social inclusion of children and young people. The research programme will consist of key research themes including sexual health.
- Oversaw two SHCPP/Irish Research Council-administered COALESCE award research studies which were funded due to their potential contribution to supporting the implementation of the National Sexual Health Strategy 2015–2020. These include research on teacher professional development for RSE and an ethnographic analysis of gay male sexual worlds.
- Managed the evaluation of sexual health communications for 2019. The results revealed a growing awareness of and engagement with these campaigns and that they are generally well received by their target audiences.
- Supported the development of quality standard guidelines for sexual health promotion (SHP) training for professionals through the completion of a literature review on best practice. These guidelines are being developed to support the implementation of the Sexual Health Promotion Training Strategy 2019–2029 and standardise SHP training delivered to professionals and others working with key audiences.
- Linked with the Departments of Health in the UK and in the Netherlands about the number of women travelling from Ireland to these countries for an abortion in 2018, and with an online provider of abortion pills about the number of women from Ireland using their service, and published the data. See <https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/about/media/press-releases/2018-decrease-abortion-stats.pdf>



Appendices

Appendix 1: Members of the Sexual Health Strategy Implementation Group

Ms Helen Deely	Programme Lead SHCPP (January to April 2019)
Ms Maeve O'Brien	Research Manager/Interim Programme Lead SHCPP (January to April 2019; April to December 2019)
Ms Caroline Hurley	Project Manager, SHCPP
Dr Fionnuala Cooney	Specialist in Public Health Medicine
Dr Derval Igoe	Specialist in Public Health Medicine
Dr David Hanlon	National Clinical Advisor and Group Lead, HSE Primary Care
Ms Carmel Beirne	General Manager, Hospital Groups (Stood down in May)
Mr Niall Mulligan	Director, HIV Ireland (Stood down in June)
Dr Mary Short	Director of Women's Health, Irish College of General Practitioners
Mr Damien Nee	Service User Representative
Ms Marie Cregan	Service User Representative
Ms Aoife O'Sullivan	HSE Senior Communications Manager
Mr Ronan Kielt	Department of Education and Skills

Appendix 2: Members of the Sexual Health Communications Working Group

Ms Helen Deely	Programme Lead SHCPP
Ms Anita Ghafoor-Butt	Communication and Information Manager, SHCPP
Ms Aoibheann Ni Shuilleabháin	HSE Campaigns Manager HSE
Ms Aoife O’Sullivan	HSE Senior Communications Manager
Mr Martin Davoren	Director, Sexual Health Centre, Cork
Ms Catherine Kennedy	Representative Sexual Health Centre, Cork
Ms Susan Donlon	Representative HIV Ireland
Ms Sinead Keane	Representative BeLonG To
Ms Roisin O’Donovan	Representative Union of Students in Ireland
Ms Siobhan Silke	Representative Irish Family Planning Association
Mr Adam Shanley	Representative Gay Health Network
Dr Keith Ian Quintyne	Specialist in Public Health Medicine, HSE North East
Mr Joe McDonagh	Chief Executive, AIDS West
Mr Alysander Preston	Chairperson, PositiveNow
Mr Cillian Flynn	Representative, GOSHH (Gender, Orientation, Sexual Health and HIV)
Ms Kiki Martire	Representative, SpunOut
Ms Siobhan O’Dea	Manager, Gay Men’s Health Service

