All-Ireland Traveller Health Study
2007 – 2010

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Study Rationale

- Policy
- Ethnicity
- Equity of Health Status
- Outcomes
Social Determinants of Health

The main determinants of health

Source: Dahlgren and Whitehead, 1991
Our Team

Principal Investigator Team:
Professor Cecily Kelleher (UCD)
Dr. Anthony Staines (UCD)
Professor Leslie Daly (UCD)
Dr. Ronnie Moore (UCD)

Co-Investigators
Dr. Mary Rose Sweeney (UCD)
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Ms. Brigid Quirke (UCD)
Ms. Jean Kilroe (UCD)

Project Director
Dr. Mary Rose Sweeney (UCD)

Assistant Director
Ms. Brigid Quirke (UCD)
Relevant Research Experience

**Leslie Daly & Peadar Kirke** – Traveller’s Health Status study (1986)


Traveller attitudes, knowledge, and behaviors in relation to oral health and perceptions of the availability, accessibility and acceptability of the dental services. (Taylor-Dillon, Friel, Sixsmith and **Kelleher**, 2000)

Traveller women’s experiences of maternity and child health services. (Hodgkins, McMahon and **Kelleher**, 2001)

**Brigid Quirke** – Assistant Director Pavee Point past 10 years

**Anthony Staines/Mary Rose Sweeney** – Large health services cross-border study (2003-2007)
Technical Steering Group

- Dr Philip Crowley – DoH&C (Chair)
- Ms. Olive McGovern – DoH&C
- Dr Evelyn Mahon – Trinity College Dublin
- Ms. Leonie O’Neill - HSE
- Professor Cecily Kelleher – UCD
- Ms. Ronnie Fay – Pavee Point
- Ms. Rosaleen McDonagh – Irish Traveller Movement
- Mr. Seamus Camplisson – Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Northern Ireland
Pyramids of the Traveller and settled population from the Census 2006

Irish Population Pyramid by Age and Sex (Source: CSO Census 2006)

Traveller Population Pyramid by Age and Sex (Source: CSO Census 2006)

Population Science
Overview of our proposal

Steering Committee

Project Management

Sub-study 1 – Census (n=40000)
- From census population, randomly generate respondents

Sub-study 2 - Vital Statistics Study
- Retrospective reporting of all deaths in previous 12 month period verified by GRO
- Patient held record reporting all pregnancies known at time of census and for 12 month period prospectively – verified by PHN

Sub-study 3(i) Health Service Utilisation Surveys (n=2020)
- Health Status Surveys
- From HSU/HS group, randomly generate 200 respondents

Sub-study 3(ii) – Quantitative service providers study (CATI) (n=500)
- From qualitative group, randomly generate 100 respondents

Sub-study 4(i) – Review of Services
- Dual role of PHN

Sub-study 4(ii)
- Traveller semi-structured interviews/focus groups (n=200)

Sub-study 4(iii) Service Provider semi-structured interview/focus group (n=100)

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Study Principles

• Equality, human rights, social inclusion,
• Respect for Travellers values, beliefs, culture and perceptions.
• Training and resourcing to ensure that Travellers and Traveller organisations build their capacity to participate fully in all stages of the study.
• Stakeholder input throughout
Links to Northern Ireland

- Utilise existing infrastructure of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Travellers and Traveller organisations and a range of experienced health providers and researchers
- Establish a Northern Ireland Regional Traveller Health Network including representatives from these areas to act as a feedback link
- Employment of a part-time field co-ordinator in Northern Ireland who has knowledge and expertise in relation to Travellers health
Our Census Proposal

**OBJECTIVE:** Provide population estimates broken down by sex, age, region, nature of accommodation, access to facilities and services.

**METHODOLOGY** De nova census Spring 2008 building on existing audit data.

- Conducted by Traveller peer researchers – to maximise participation and buy-in.
- Every household to complete a standard census questionnaire.
- Will also record homeless & institutionalised Travellers.

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Consultations with Travellers

QUANTITATIVE STUDIES
Health Status & Health Service Utilisation

OBJECTIVE: To obtain information on health status and factors affecting it and to obtain information on service utilisation and factors affecting it.

METHODOLOGY: Collect data at the time of the census visit. Quota sampling of 125 males and 125 females in each age group 1-4, 5-9, 10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-44, 45-59 and 60 +.
Will include mobile and non-mobile Traveller groups

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Our Vital Statistics Proposal

MORTALITY STUDY
OBJECTIVE: Measure health status by examining mortality rates and life expectancy
METHODOLOGY: Reporting by PHNs and Travellers (at census visit) of all Traveller deaths in the year previous to the study verified by GRO. Include homeless and institutionalised

BIRTH COHORT STUDY
OBJECTIVE: provide information on birth and child health outcomes
METHODOLOGY: 1 year prospective reporting by Travellers (Patient held record) and PHNs
Compare data with longitudinal study of children already underway

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Consultation with Service Providers

QUANTITATIVE STUDIES

Review of Services
OBJECTIVE: Examine the health services currently available to Travellers.

METHODOLOGY: Build on data already collected by HSE, DHSS, Pavee Point and others, we will use a snowball and case study techniques.

Service Providers Study
OBJECTIVE: To examine perceptions and attitudes of providers towards Travellers’ health needs.

METHODOLOGY: Generate sampling frame from “review” respondents above (n=500) CATI.

QUALITATIVE STUDY

OBJECTIVE: Examine perceptions of providers towards Travellers’ health needs.

METHODOLOGY: Discussion groups/FotoChat.
Consultations with Travellers

QUALITATIVE STUDIES:
OBJECTIVES: To explore perceptions of Travellers to their own health, social and health services, needs and determinants.

METHODOLOGY:
Generated from census population (up to 200 interviews across locations). Collected by Traveller peer researchers.
Will utilise FotoChat, case studies with families, and mapping

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Comparative Analysis

We will compare all data collected in this proposal with other studies as appropriate, e.g.

- SLAN
- Lifeways,
- Longitudinal Study of Children in Ireland
- National Consumer Study
- National Vital Statistics
- Original Travellers’ Study
Existing structures and mechanisms

- Technical Steering Group
- National Traveller Health Advisory Committee
- National working group on Travellers and Ethnic minority health
- Regional Traveller Health Units
- National Network for Nurses
- Regional Nurses networks
- National Traveller Health Network
- Regional Traveller Health Networks
- Traveller Organisations North and South
- Regional Traveller Forum in the North of Ireland
- Primary Health Care for Travellers Projects
Milestones for the All-Ireland Traveller Health Study

- July 2007 - Contract signed
- July 2007 - Ethical approval
- September 2007 - Operational Protocols

Sub-study 1: Census & Sub-Study 3(I) quantitative Study (Travellers)

- April 2008 - Survey completed
- December 2008 - First Census Report
- March 2008 - First Quantitative Report (Health Status)
- May 2009 - Second Quantitative Report (Health Utilisation)
- December 2009 - Final Census Report
Milestones for the All-Ireland Traveller Health Study

Sub-Study 2: Vital Statistics
January 2010 – Baseline Cohort Report
April 2010 – Mortality Report
June 2010 – Follow-up Cohort Report

Sub Study 3: (ii) Quantitative Study (Service Providers)
June 2009 – Progress Report
June 2010 – Follow-up Cohort Report
Milestones for the All-Ireland Traveller Health Study

**Sub-Study 4(I) Review of Services**
June 2009 – Progress Report
March 2010 - Final Sub-Study 4 (I) Report

**Sub-Study 4(ii) & (iii) Qualitative Study (Travellers and Service Providers)**
November 2008 – Fieldwork completed (Travellers)
August 2009 – Fieldwork completed (Service providers)
June 2010 – Reports Completed; Final Report Submitted
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