

Asthma Education Programme Traveller Community



20th Annual Health Promotion
Conference 2016

HEALTH PROMOTION CONFERENCE

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Asthma Society of Ireland

The Asthma Society of Ireland's (ASI) Mission is to save lives and improve the lives of people with asthma.

- Health Promotion Department
- Advocacy and Campaigns
- Research
- Fundraising

Fighting asthma with every breath



The Evidence

- 470,000 people in Ireland have asthma (CSO, 2008).
- The economic burden of asthma in Ireland estimated €500m per year (ASI, 2014)
- The Travelling community are 2-4 times more likely to have asthma v. gen population (DOH, 2010)
- Access to healthcare in Travelling community is very poor (McCabe & Keyes, 2005)
- Peer education approach is a well recognised method of training in health promotion.



What we wanted to do

- Engage with disadvantaged communities
- Reduce the prevalence of asthma symptoms in disadvantaged communities.
- Improve asthma control in disadvantaged communities.
- Improve self efficacy in the management of peoples asthma in disadvantaged communities.



How we achieved this

- In 2014, ASI and Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre, with the support of the HSE social inclusion developed and piloted a culturally appropriate asthma education programme for Traveller healthcare workers using a peer education approach.
- Traveller Health care workers;
 - Members of the Traveller Community,
 - Employed by the Health Services Executive
 - 12 hours work per week



Findings

Formal evaluation carried out by Trinity College Dublin (Brady & Keogh, 2014) :

- Overwhelming positive response to the programme
- Generally participants felt confidence in their ability to teach other Healthcare workers about what they had learnt.
- This approach to training in asthma education is suitable for use with other marginalised groups subject to local commitment and cultural adaptation.



Implementation of Programme

- ASI in conjunction with the HSE social inclusion implemented the programme to all Traveller Health Units in Ireland over a 12 month period
- Effective partnerships established with all Primary healthcare for Traveller Projects across Ireland.



Key Aims of the Programme

- Improve the understanding and awareness of asthma among the Traveller community.
- Equip Traveller healthcare workers with the skills and information to train others in the community on key asthma management messages.
- Empower members of the Traveller community to reengage with health care professionals for better access to services.





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“Very worthwhile training. Clear and very well catered for the people in the group that have literacy challenges”
(Coordinator, Limerick)

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Progress to date

- 187 Traveller Healthcare workers and Traveller health unit coordinators have been certified.
- Feedback to date has been very positive – With huge commitment to implementation of the programme in communities.
- Refreshers 1 year post training
- Sustainability - addressed following the pilot programme – vastly improved.





“I enjoyed the practical work with inhaler technique and facilitators worked well with community health workers. It was excellent training and really literacy friendly”

(Healthcare worker feedback, Castlebar 2016)

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References

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Thank you

Any Questions

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**ASTHMA
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Asthma Adviceline

Monday - Friday

09:00-17:00

1890445464

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