

Bridging the Gap: Integrating Equity-Informed Approaches for Traveller Health

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An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scagthástála
National Screening Service

#choosescreening

By the end of the Workshop, you will be able to...

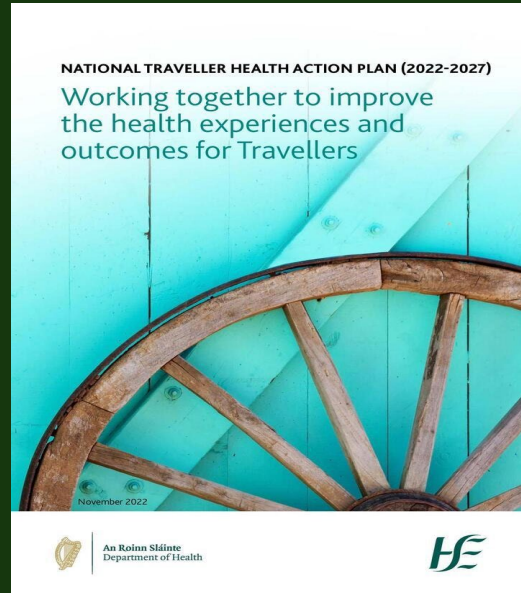
- (1) Analyse through a case study how the social determinants of health contribute to health inequalities experienced by Travellers.
- (2) Through a blend of expert input and collaborative dialogue, Pavee Point and the National Screening Service will demonstrate how co-production and lived experience can transform service delivery.
- (3) Encourage you to audit your own professional biases and service models, moving from theory to the practical integration of equity-informed, transferable skills across diverse healthcare contexts.

Overview of Traveller Health Disparities

- Travellers exp. poorer health outcomes , ↑ rates of mortality and morbidity; disproportionate rates of chronic disease
- SDoH key to understanding well-documented Traveller health inequalities
- Racism and discrimination exists and has an impact on equality of access, participation and outcomes for Travellers in health
 - EU FRA report Travellers' exp. discrimination in accessing health services in Irl. (11%; 2019; and 39%; 2024)
- Average age of death for Traveller 58.5 years vs. 78.6 years White Irish (CSO, 2023)
- Cancer one of the main causes of death for Travellers (similar to gen pop.) but at disproportionate levels
- Gaps in ethnically disaggregated data → difficult to monitor accurately access, participation and outcomes



Traveller Health Infrastructure & the Role of TCHWs



Case Study: Patrick's Story

Identify the specific non-clinical, social determinants of health that are contributing to Patrick's poor diabetes management.

The consultant framed compliance as an individual choice ("It is up to you"). What structural barriers limit Patrick's ability to engage with the health service?

NSS, NCCP and Pavee Point partnership: 2022 - 2025

Approaches that advance health equity through policy change, health system practice, community leadership, co-production, and the integration of lived experience in the design and delivery of services and interventions

Aim: To provide Diabetic RetinaScreen (DRS) information, cancer prevention, early detection and screening information to the Traveller population (men and women) in Finglas and Blanchardstown, Dublin. To assess barriers to the uptake of these services by working with the Traveller Community Health Workers (TCHWs) and provide access to services for those who wanted to participate.

Level of community members engagement: Peer health worker training using co-design materials and content, patient navigation, reducing structural barriers, reduce administrative barriers, outreach, cultural and literacy sensitive, small media.

Multi-component: Training of TCHWs, outreach into communities, registering people of eligible screening age, providing education, patient navigation services.

Intervention's implementation: Educational sessions were provided to TCHWs. This education was low literacy and visual while being culturally sensitive. These sessions were co-designed with TCHWs in advance of training commencing. They conducted outreach into their own communities provided support, information and resources on prevention, early detection and screening. Post-outreach focus groups were held with TCHWs to elicit how they delivered the information, barriers they came across and how confident they were with the information. Co-produced infographics were developed as feedback mechanisms for the TCHWs who have literacy challenges.

Results: TCHWs reported good outreach into communities and use of the information with multiple people. A number of people participated in bowel, breast, cervical and diabetic retina screening as a result of the interventions. A number of barriers were addressed including literacy issues, postal difficulties and fear of the screening process.

Bowel Cancer






Bleeding when you pass a bowel motion

Weight loss when you haven't been trying to lose weight

Change in bowel habit: diarrhoea or constipation

Feeling that you need to pass a bowel motion even when you know your bowel is empty

Know the signs. Contact your doctor as soon as possible

nccp National Cancer Control Programme

Bowel Screening:

How to use the home test kit.




1800 45 45 55

BowelScreen home test instructions

16K views · 7y ago







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Know the signs Find Breast Cancer Early

nccp
National Cancer Control Programme

1 in 7 women in Ireland will develop breast cancer in their lifetime. It is most common in women over 50 years of age, but it can happen in younger women too. Treatment options and survival rates are better than ever – especially when breast cancer is found early.

Call your GP TODAY if you notice any of the following



A new lump that you can feel in either of your breasts.



A change in the size, shape or feel of one or both breasts or armpits, e.g. a new area of thickened tissue or lumpiness in either breast or armpit that was not there before.



Skin changes on your breast such as puckering or dimpling (the skin may look like orange peel).



An abscess (infected boil) in your breast – this may appear as a red, tender area on your breast.



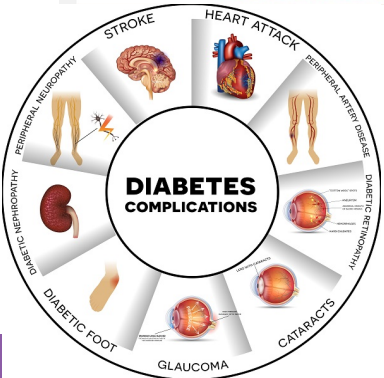
Bloodstained or watery discharge from either of your nipples.



A rash or eczema on or around your nipple.

**Don't be scared Don't delay
Call your GP today**

Visit www.hse.ie/cancerearlydetection for more information



Call your GP TODAY if you notice any of the following



Vaginal bleeding or spotting between your normal periods or after the menopause



Vaginal bleeding, spotting or pain during or after sex



Abnormal vaginal discharge (may be bloodstained or smell unpleasant)



Unexplained pain in your lower tummy or your lower back



A change in your bowel or bladder habit, e.g. constipation, peeing or pooing more often than usual, or blood in your pee



Unexplained pain or swelling in one or both legs

**Don't be scared Don't delay
Call your GP today**

Visit www.hse.ie/cancerearlydetection for more information

Bowel Cancer

Know the signs. Get diagnosed quickly






Extremely tired

Breathlessness

Lump in your tummy

Pain in your tummy or back passage

Know the signs. Contact your doctor as soon as possible

nccp National Cancer Control Programme



BowelScreen

An Clár Náisiúnta Scríbhneoireachta Poblaithe
The National Bowel Screening Programme



Having a Colonoscopy A Photo Story




BreastCheck

The National Breast Screening Programme

Going for a Mammogram A Photo Story

BreastCheck
The National Breast Screening Programme

Cervical cancer

What you need to know



Pave Point
The National Cervical Screening Programme

Marie Keating
FOUNDATION



About Screening for Diabetic Eye Disease



easy read

This is an Easy to Read information leaflet about the Diabetic RetinaScreen programme.

THINK TYPE 1 DIABETES? THINK TEST

1 IRISH CHILDHOOD DIABETES NATIONAL REGISTER

T THIRST INCREASED

E ENERGY REDUCED

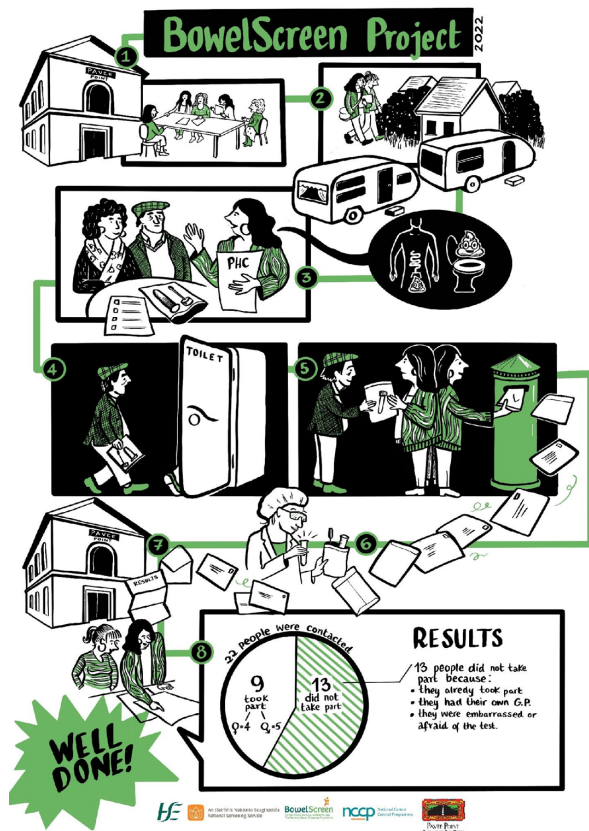
S SUDDEN WEIGHT CHANGE

T TOILET TRIPS INCREASED

Designed by final year Advertising and Marketing Communications students at TU Dublin



Examples of NSS, NCCP and PP resources/visuals



Co-produced infographics developed as feedback mechanisms for the Traveller Community Health Workers who have literacy challenges.

- [Travellers harness tradition of storytelling to create cancer prevention message for their community](#)
- [Pavee Point and the National Screening Service highlight the importance of eye screening on International Traveller and Roma Day](#)
- [Improving equity in diabetic eye screening: Partnership project with Pavee Point supports Travellers to protect eyesight](#)
- EUCanScreen website: [Storytelling and screening: Ireland's inclusive work with Traveller communities to make cancer screening more accessible](#)

Reflections and your experience

Have you ever done this kind of partnership or co-design with an under-served community?

What do you think are the barriers and/or enablers to undertaking this kind of work (co-production and partnership) with under-served communities in the HSE?

Bridging the Gap in My Practice:

What is one equity-informed change that you could make to your practice or approach to your work that reflects the learnings from today?

Having participated in our Workshop, you will have...

- (1) Analysed how the social determinants of health contribute to health inequalities experienced by Travellers through a case study.
- (2) Appraised the Pavee Point, NSS and NCCP partnership project and how co-production and lived experience can transform service delivery. Shared your reflections and your experiences of working in design and delivery of services and interventions with an under-served community.
- (3) Audited your own professional biases and service models, moving from theory to the practical integration of equity-informed, transferable skills across diverse healthcare contexts.



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