

MEN'S HEALTH IN IRELAND

A REPORT FROM THE MEN'S HEALTH FORUM IN IRELAND

JANUARY 2004

Prepared by Rachel McEvoy and Noel Richardson

A Note from the Men's Health Forum in Ireland

A men's health issue is a disease or condition unique to men, more prevalent in men, more serious among men, for which risk factors are different for men or for which different interventions are required for men (Fletcher 1996: p1).

Established in 2002, the Men's Health Forum in Ireland works on an all Ireland basis to enhance the health of men. The Forum recognises the right of all men to good health regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, race, culture, religious or political affiliations.

The Men's Health Forum in Ireland aims to promote and enhance all aspects of the health and well being of men and boys. Men have:

- The right to the best possible health, irrespective of social, cultural, political or ethnic differences;
- The right to gender-specific information and education initiatives on how to keep themselves healthy;
- The right to equity of access to available, affordable and gender-sensitive services for all men;
- The right to have men's issues recognised and properly addressed, in a way that is not at the expense of women's or children's health, but seen as beneficial to all and to society as a whole;
- The right to call for greater emphasis on a partnership approach in developing future strategies or initiatives on men's health, that includes consultation between policy makers, health-care providers, statutory and voluntary groups working on behalf of men, employers and men themselves.

Men's Health Forum in Ireland Committee

Colin Fowler
Fergal Fox
Sé Franklin
Alan George
Barry McGale
Owen Metcalfe
Noel Richardson
Mary Sheehan

A report on Men's Health in Ireland

Published by MHFI Press

©Men's Health Forum in Ireland 2004

Reproduction authorised for non-commercial purposes provided the source is acknowledged.

ISBN 0-9546786-0-5

For further copies of this document please visit our website at www.mhfi.org

The Men's Health Forum in Ireland can be contacted at:

Men's Health Forum in Ireland
c/o The Men's Project
Parents Advice Centre
Franklin House
12 Brunswick Street
Belfast
BT2 7GE
+442890310891

www.mhfi.org

CONTENTS

List of Abbreviations	2
List of Figures	3
List of Tables	4
Technical Notes	5
Introduction	6
Executive Summary	7
Chapter 1 Mortality	9
Chapter 2 Life Expectancy	21
Chapter 3 Morbidity	25
Chapter 4 Risk Behaviours	29
Chapter 5 Health Seeking Behaviour	49
Chapter 6 Conclusion and Recommendations	53
References	58
Glossary of Terms	64