

## INJURY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION

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### Background

Injuries are the leading cause of death and disability among young people and one of the leading causes of death across all age groups. Globally, more than 5 million people die of injuries every year. It is estimated that for every death, injuries send 30 people to hospital, 300 others to emergency departments for outpatient treatment, and many more are treated for injury in the community. The magnitude of this public health problem led the WHO and the EU Council to declare violence and injury prevention as a key area for action. Overall in Ireland, injuries are the fourth leading cause of death and the first leading cause of death in young people with an estimated 1,500 deaths in Ireland. Yet, to date, there is a lack of concentrated national efforts that are multi-disciplinary in nature. Despite of the clear recommendation of the EU council and the WHO, Ireland still lacks research in the area, and policies, although in existence, are not being evaluated for their implementation and their effectiveness.

### Research Aims

The main aims of this activity are to increase knowledge around injury prevention and awareness of the importance of injury prevention and safety promotion.

### Methods

While to date there are gaps in surveillance data on injury, this activity aims to utilise existing sources of data. These include administrative data including mortality data and HIPE data, as well as data collected on injuries in the population including HBSC and SLAN data. The nature of the work allows for collaboration with other national partners in the HSE and in various hospitals to assist and make the most of data that has been collected, as well as international partners including WHO and UNICEF.

### Progress to Date

As this is an ongoing project that is unrelated to funding, it yields various collaborations and publications as well as other type of activities including participation in the WHO-VIP programme as a mentee. The WHO-VIP programme aims at building capacities and network. On each cycle, as small number of mentors and mentees are paired in order to assist the mentees in developing their skills as well as creating a network of current and past members of the programme. The network has met in the 10<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion.

### Dissemination

Molcho M. (2010). Injury and physical activity: bridging the risk of injury in physical activity. Key note address in the *Scientific conference on trauma in children in Israel*. June 1<sup>st</sup> 2010, Ramat Gan, Israel

Harel-Fisch Y., Walsh SD., Fogel-Grinvald H., Amitai G., Pickett W., Molcho M., Due P., Gaspar de Matos M., Craig W. & Members of the HBSC Violence and Injury Prevention Focus Group. (in press). Negative school perceptions and involvement in school bullying: A universal relationship across 40 countries. *Journal of Adolescence* (in press).

Molcho M, Kelly C, Nic Gabhainn S. (2010). Perceptions of local area as predictors of injury and physical activity among schoolchildren in Ireland. *Injury prevention*, 16( supp 1): A235.

Molcho M, Yafe E. (2010). School injury in Israel: findings from Magen David Adom. *Injury prevention*, 16( supp 1): A250.

Hasselberg M, Molcho M. (2010). WHO MENTOR VIP: Potential benefits of the programme. (Invited presentation). *10th World Conference on Injury prevention and Safety Promotion Injury prevention*, 21-12 September 2010. London UK.