

Health Information and Research Directorate

Structure, Functions and Responsibilities

The Directorate is broadly divided into two sections dealing with health status and health care activity.

The Department of Health Information and Research is responsible for the management of national health data sets on mortality, cancer, congenital anomalies, cerebral palsy, organ transplant, obstetrics, dementia, rare diseases, hospitals information system and accidents and injuries as well as for a number of other databases on health service activity.

The directorate is also responsible for carrying out Health Interview Surveys. The First National Health Interview Survey was done in 2002. The European Health Interview Survey was carried out in 2008, 2015, 2020.

An administration office supports the above sections.

The Department of Health Information and Research provides high quality epidemiological information and indicators on the health of the population and health services through research, collation and analysis of data. Health information is made available for policy and decision making, for the public in general, interested institutions and others requiring such information. Research initiatives are developed and assistance provided to the Chief Medical Officer by contributing the necessary evidence for the formulation of policy and strategy in the area of public health and health services for both existing and proposed programmes.

The responsibilities of the DHIR are as indicated hereunder:

- gathering, analysing and dissemination of health information;
- conducting epidemiological surveys and maintaining disease registers;
- maintaining and developing the range of services and products that the department produces, ranging from reports to requests for customised information, accurately and in a timely manner;
- co-ordinating and preparing reports, identifying issues, problems, unmet needs and service gaps, and also recommends initiatives, reviews of policies, and amendments to procedures and programmes as required;
- developing the infrastructure needed for the provision of non-expenditure data for the System of Health Accounts;
- promoting and carrying out research;
- communicating relevant results and reports from the above initiatives to stakeholders and the public

General Description of the Categories of Documents Held

Statistical reports which constitute data pertaining to the under mentioned registries:

- Hospital Statistics
- Injuries
- Births
- Birth defects
- Cancers
- Deaths
- Transplants
- Parliamentary Questions
- Customised health data
- Standardised Operations Procedures

Description of all manuals and similar types of documents which contain policies, principles or rules or guidelines in accordance with which decisions or recommendations are made in respect of members of the Public:

DHIR policy for data requests does not fall under FOI Act Standard Operations Procedures.

Standard Operations Procedures.

Contact Details of the FOI Office of the Department of Health, Health Information and Research Directorate

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