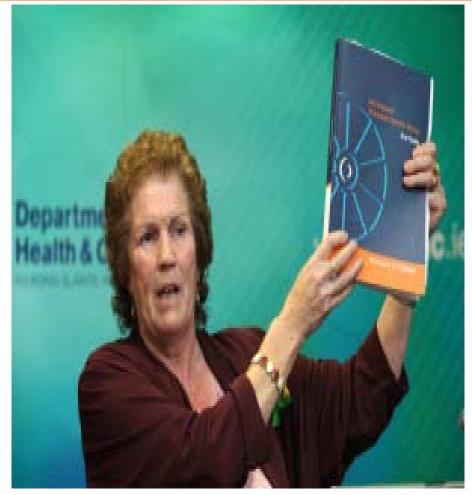


# The Traveller community

# Our Geels – Traveller Health Study



- ∞ 40,129 Travellers
- ∞ 1% of total population
- ∞ 63% > 25 years of age
- no Male life expectancy 61
- Suicide rates 6 times higher
- ∞ 70% of all deaths

www.pavee.ie/ourgeels

## NDTRS Stats 2009

- ∞ 66% increase between 2007 & 2009
- 🔊 2009 figure: 269
- ∞ 4 in every 5 clients were male

Main problem substances reported:

- 1) Alcohol
- 2) Opiates
- 3) Cocaine

79% reported never injecting

#### **Good Practice Guidelines**

Grounded Theory Research

Development of guidelines from services nationwide consistently engaging with Travellers

no one interviews

now to high threshold services

18 Traveller service users interviewed

## **Challenges to Inclusion**

Travellers are, *'under-represented as* clients of drug treatment, education and prevention services and face barriers to accessing them'.

2006 NACD Report

Causes:

1) Stigma & Embarrassment

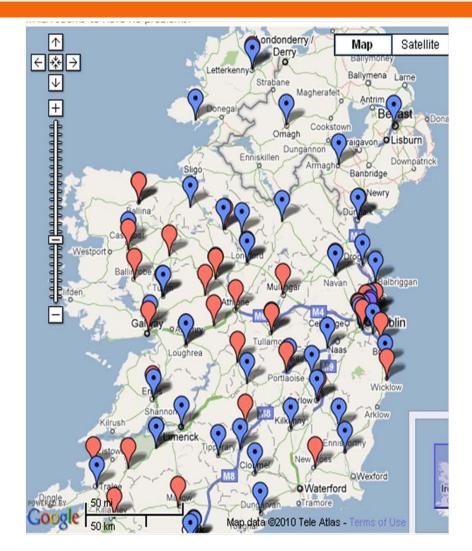
Solution 2) Lack of awareness of existing services

S) Limited formal education

# **Practical Steps to Inclusion**

#### 50 1) Increase awareness of your service

- Link with existing services
- 40+ Traveller primary health care programmes
- Assertive Outreach
- Pavee Point Drugs Network



## **Practical Steps to Inclusion**

#### so 2) Implement a Social Inclusion Policy

- Service User Charter
- QuADS Progression Routes Initiative

#### so 3) Promote Cultural Sensitivity & Awareness

- Importance of key-working relationships
  - Trust building
  - Levels of engagement
- Reading & writing difficulties
- The need for confidentiality

### Service user statements

'I didn't know what other help I could get. I'd never heard of treatment centres.'

*...if someone can't read and write, they'll read and write everything for you'.* 

'You're confident like, everything is confidential. If I seen anyone coming in that I knew, I could go up to the room'.

'I didn't tell them I was a Traveller at first, do you know what I mean, then when I seen other Travellers coming in I wasn't afraid to say it.'

## **Practical Steps to Inclusion**

At the next level of inclusion:

so 4) Actively promote Traveller participation

- Linking with established networks to source Traveller rep
- Provide on-going support and guidance

so 5) Need to bring Traveller issues to Task Forces

- NERDTF initiative
- Coffee mornings in local Traveller projects
- Assertive outreach in conjunction with Pavee Point



#### Best response is collaborative working



PAVEE POINT TRAVELLERS CENTRE Drugs Programme

Pavee Point Travellers Centre

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www.pavee.ie/drugs