



Decent Food for All: What we are researching and why?

Orla Walsh

Public Health Development Officer

Institute of Public Health in Ireland

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Background:

- All-Ireland body established in 1999 to promote co-operation for public health on the island of Ireland
- Tackling inequalities in health is the focus for all our work
- Three interlocking strands of our work
 - strengthening public health intelligence
 - building public health capacity
 - developing and evaluating public health policy and programmes



All-island learnings from the Decent Food for All Programme

- Coordinated by IPH and funded by SafeFood
- Research runs throughout the lifetime of the programme (2003-2007)
- Aims to assess the effectiveness of DFfA in reducing food poverty within ADHAZ



Objectives of the research

- **Asses the overall effect of the DFfA Programme in the ADHAZ area.**
- **Identify aspects of the programme which increase food knowledge and reduce food poverty**
- **Identify aspects of the programme which can be applied across Ireland to strengthen policy development and community food poverty initiatives**



Research plan

- **Community based intervention study with programme and comparison area**
- **Pre intervention and post intervention measures conducted**
- **Incorporates a range of different methodologies to address different issues**



Key information sources

- Pre-intervention and post-intervention food basket studies
- Pre-intervention and post-intervention community surveys
- Ethnographic study of the culture of food



Food basket study

- **Aims:**
 - Describe the geographical distribution of shops in the area
 - Assess the availability and price of a basket of common food items in local shops
- **Methods:**
 - price and availability of 53 staple food items collected from 152 shops programme area

Community Survey

- **Aim:** To compare pre and post test measures of the indicators underpinning the key expected outcomes of the DFfA programme
- **Methods:**
 - Interviewer-administered structured questionnaire conducted by Social and Market Research
 - Includes questions about awareness of food-related activities, food safety and hygiene, food poverty issues, demand for healthy food, food purchasing patterns.



Ethnographic study of food culture

- **Aim:** To provide an in-depth understanding of the cultural aspects (or meanings) of food and food consumption
- **Methods:**
 - Focus group discussions
 - Participant observation
 - Content analysis of local media.



What's next

- Final evaluation reports
- A toolkit for programme development and evaluation of complex community interventions
- Repository of DFfA Resources
- Explore how to move this work forward in order to strengthen policy development and community food poverty initiatives on the island



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