



# Meeting of the Health Analysts' Special Interest Group

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2008  
IPH Offices, Forestview, Belfast.





# Programme

Welcome and introductions

Lorraine Fahy, Research Analyst, INIsPHO@IPH

Dr. Tracy Power, Senior Principal Statistician,  
Information & Analysis Directorate,  
Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety,  
Northern Ireland

Future direction for the Health Analysts' SIG

Post-seminar event

Movie screening: "And the Band Played On"





# Health Analysts' Special Interest Group

- Part of the All-Ireland CHAIN
- Aim to support health analysts
  - share in your expertise and experience through a network of colleagues across CHAIN
  - professional development
  - make a more effective contribution to the health intelligence function





## CHAIN (Contact, Help, Advice and Information Network)

- an online network for people working in health and social care
- multi-professional and cross organisational
- based around specific areas of interest
- simple and informal way of contacting each other to exchange ideas and share knowledge
- Health Intelligence subgroup of CHAIN





# Health Analysts' Special Interest Group

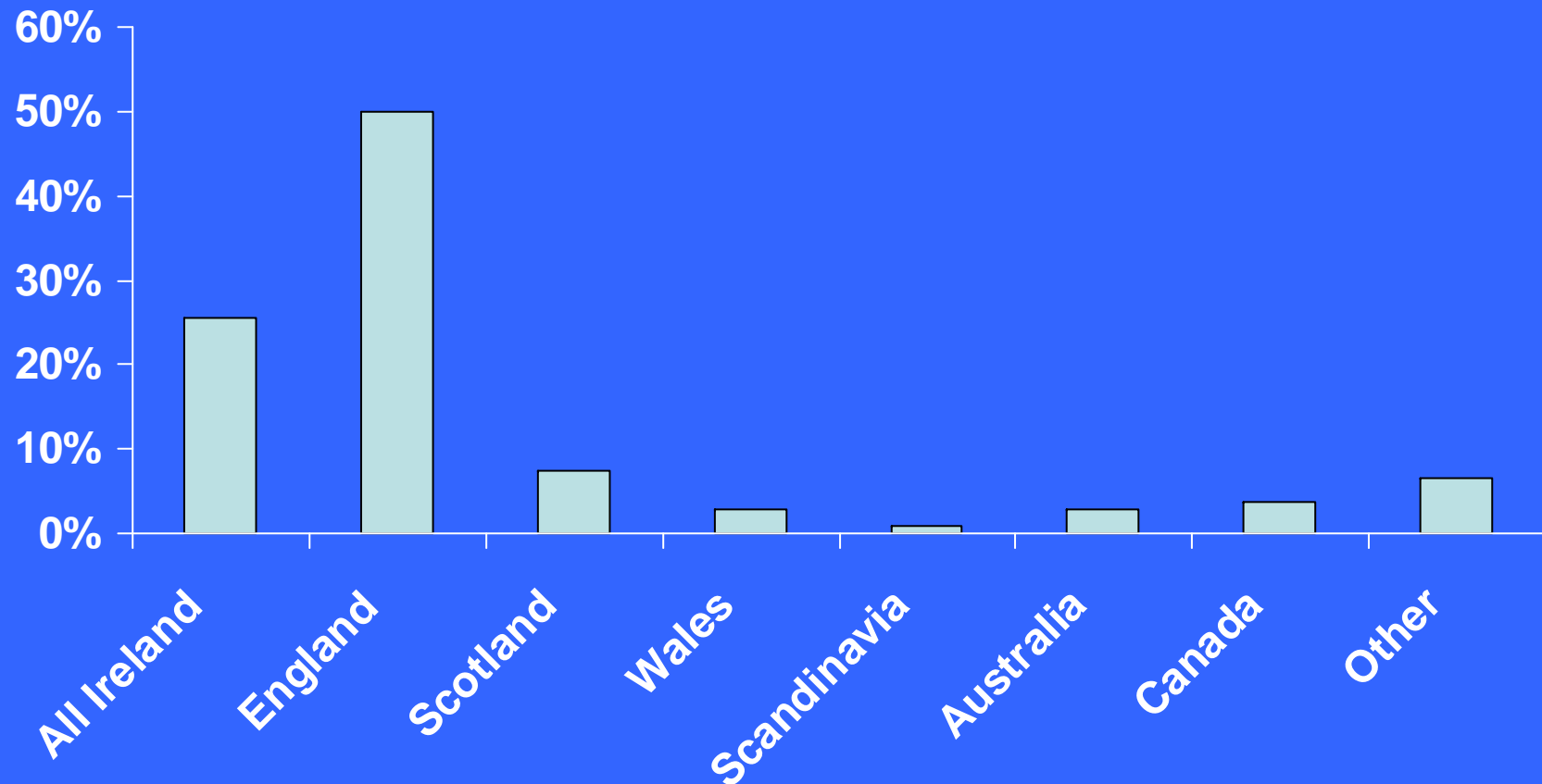
## Membership

- Lorraine Fahy (INIsPHO@IPH) – facilitator
- Currently 106 members (as of 21<sup>st</sup> April)
- Join through CHAIN website

[http://chain.ulcc.ac.uk/chain/join\\_chain1.html](http://chain.ulcc.ac.uk/chain/join_chain1.html)



# Current Membership



# Feedback from members

- Data accuracy and validation
- Timely data
- Competing demands
  - different requirements at different times  
hence lack of familiarity with tools as have to “relearn”
- Keep skills and techniques up to date
- Dealing with variable data quality in the face of changing requirements



# Feedback from members

- Closer co-operation between technical health intelligence specialist and other public health practitioners to help ask good questions and find valid answers
- A place to network and share ideas
- Sharing/collaborating on pieces of work
- Access to online tools, resources and training courses





# Planned activities

- Secure extranet
  - Members details
  - Repository of online statistical materials and tools
  - Discussion groups
- AIHI 2008 meeting
- Connect to CHAIN





# Future activities for the Health Analysts' SIG



# Possible activities

- Holding events on topics of shared interest
- Promoting the profile of the profession and support its members' development
- Supporting access to online analytical materials & courses
- Providing other day-to-day support and advice