

Abstract

Title: A study of two tobacco free campuses in Ireland.

Researcher: Vincent Crossan

Supervisor: Dr. Joe Barry

Aim: The aim of the research is to determine to what extent both campuses are tobacco free and to establish what can be done to improve implementation of hospital smoke free campuses.

Background: One of the primary objectives of Tobacco Free Campus outlined in the HSE Tobacco Free Campus Policy document is “to protect people’s health and reduce smoking prevalence, all HSE campuses will become tobacco free by 2015”. The Irish Government has also set a target of smoking prevalence of 5% by 2025 for the general population of Ireland.

Methods: The researcher used a qualitative research design. This consisted of an observational audit on both campuses using a template to record the number of instances of smoking by staff, visitors and staff. The researcher conducted two focus groups with the health promotion committees of both hospitals using both structured questions and unstructured open ended question. A framework analysis was used to analyse the interview data.

Results: A total number of 211 people were observed smoking at both hospitals over the three dates. Of these 50% were visitors, 41% were patients and 9% were staff. 67% were female and 33% were male. Some of the themes that emerged from the framework analysis were: a lack of resources available, poor uptake by staff in Brief Cessation Training and the difficulty encountered by staff in approaching smokers. The themes were all grouped under headings relating to the areas that could improve them: Political Leadership, HSE, Local Hospital and The Smoker.

Conclusions: The conclusion from the observation audit was that both campuses were not tobacco free. The results of the focus groups show that there is no one solution to the issues affecting implementation. A lack of resources was highlighted as a key obstacle to implementing tobacco free campuses but there also needs to be an improvement in communication, leadership and local culture to bring about real change.

Recommendations: Political Leadership: a whole of Government approach to health promotion; HSE: incentives to promote tobacco cessation and time off to staff to attend training; Local Hospitals: focus on training and request for more funding from HSE for dedicated health promotion staff and Self: respect hospital rules and avail of quit support.

Key terms: Hospital Tobacco Free Campus, Health Promotion, Smoking Cessation, Tobacco Addiction.

Word Count: 16,956