

Wider Study:

The Census is only one part of Our Geels. There are several other parts to this big study that will happen over the next 3 years.

Some Traveller women who are expecting a baby will be asked to take part in a study of the children born in the coming year and they will be followed up for a year to see how they get along and to identify health issues which may need to be addressed. Other Travellers will be asked to take part in discussion groups about their experience of using health services. Health service providers will also get a chance to take part in this Study and they will provide information about the services they provide and what they think needs to happen to improve Travellers health.



Further Information:

For more information about Our Geels please contact your local Traveller organisation, Primary Health Care Project, training centre or public health nurse. They can let you know who the Study coordinator in your area is. If you have access to the internet you can also get information on: www.pavee.ie/ourgeels

Pavee Point Travellers Centre
46, North Great Charles Street, Dublin 1,
T: 01 878 0255 E: ourgeels.aihs@pavee.ie
www.paveepoint.ie

UCD School of Population and Health Science
Woodview House, University College Dublin
Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland,
T: 01 716 3472 E: brigid.quirke@ucd.ie
www.ucd.ie/phps/research/trav.htm

HSE, Social Inclusion Office of the CEO
Mill Lane, Palmerstown, Dublin 20.
E: leonie.oneill@hse.ie

Or your Local Health Office in the HSE.

Your local Study Team/coordinator is:



PAVEE POINT
TRAVELLERS CENTRE

Our Geels

All Ireland
Traveller
Health Study
2007-2010



For, With and By Travellers
October 14th Census Day



October 14th 2008

October 14th 2008 will be a very important date for every Traveller in Ireland. It marks the day when the Census for the All Ireland Traveller Health Study-Our Geels-begins. Every Traveller in Ireland, who self-identifies as an Irish Traveller, will be given the opportunity to take part in the first detailed study into Travellers health for over 20 years. The Census is the first step in a Study where all Travellers will have a say in what concerns them about their health and well being.



Your Choice:

You have the choice as to whether you wish to take part or not but you are encouraged to do so. Participation in Our Geels is voluntary but it is better that everybody takes part and gives the information to the questions asked. Any information collected during the Census will be kept strictly confidential. It will not be linked with Social Welfare benefits, Medical Card entitlement or the Tax office.

What the Census is:

Between October 14th and the end of November you will be visited by a Traveller Community Health Worker either in your home or at a location nearby that suits you. You will be asked to reply to questions about your family; your standard of accommodation; what services such as water, toilets, electricity and bin services etc. that you have. Your experience of health services such as getting your medical card; getting a doctor to register you; how you feel you are treated in hospitals etc. You will also be asked questions about your education background and about your experience of discrimination.

“ The information for the study will be collected by Travellers going out and talking to Travellers in their own homes. We are Travellers who are trained Community Health Workers from Traveller organisations in local areas and Travellers will trust us to do this work. ”

Mary Brigid Collins, Community Health Worker



The questionnaire has been tested out with lots of Travellers from throughout the country so the questions you are asked should be straight forward and understandable. You don't have to know how to read and write to answer them. Laptop computers will be used to collect the information. If you can read and write you just read the question on the screen and select/indicate the answer you want to give. If you cannot read, the computer can read the question out for you to listen to and it will also show you an image that will help you understand the question and again select/indicate the answer and the Traveller Peer Researcher will enter your response.



Why Take Part in Our Geels?

The information gathered will be used by Travellers, Traveller organisations and the health authorities to work together to make sure that Travellers health status is improved. The information collected will be used to see if there are new health problems emerging that need to be dealt with. For example if the Study shows that drug misuse is a growing problem within the Traveller community then that means that new services or funding to deal with these issues can be provided by the government.

