

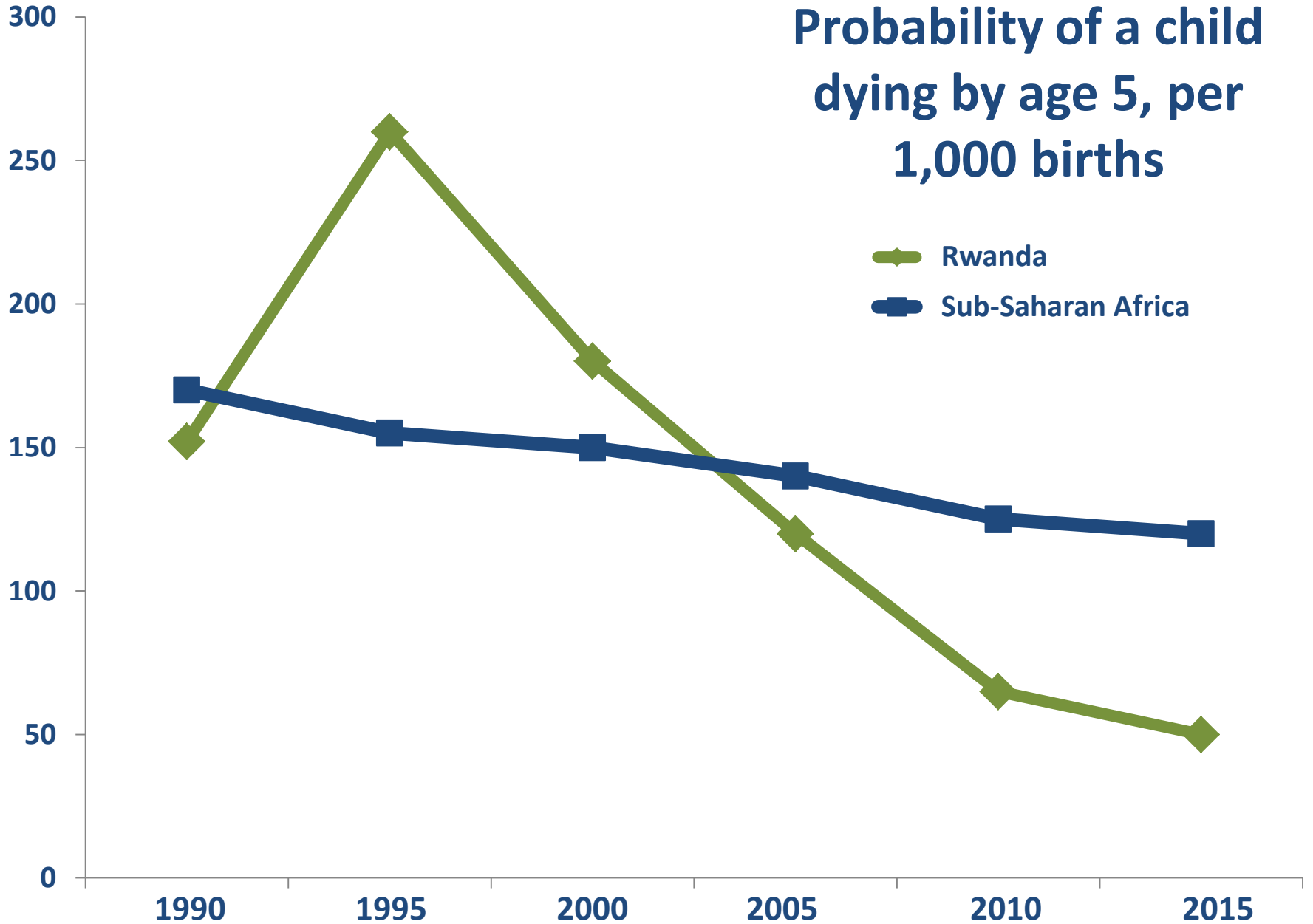
Ensuring evidence-based health policy

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BSc MBChB PhD MRCS MPH

IMO Annual Conference
1st April 2016



Probability of a child dying by age 5, per 1,000 births



Meanwhile in Ireland...

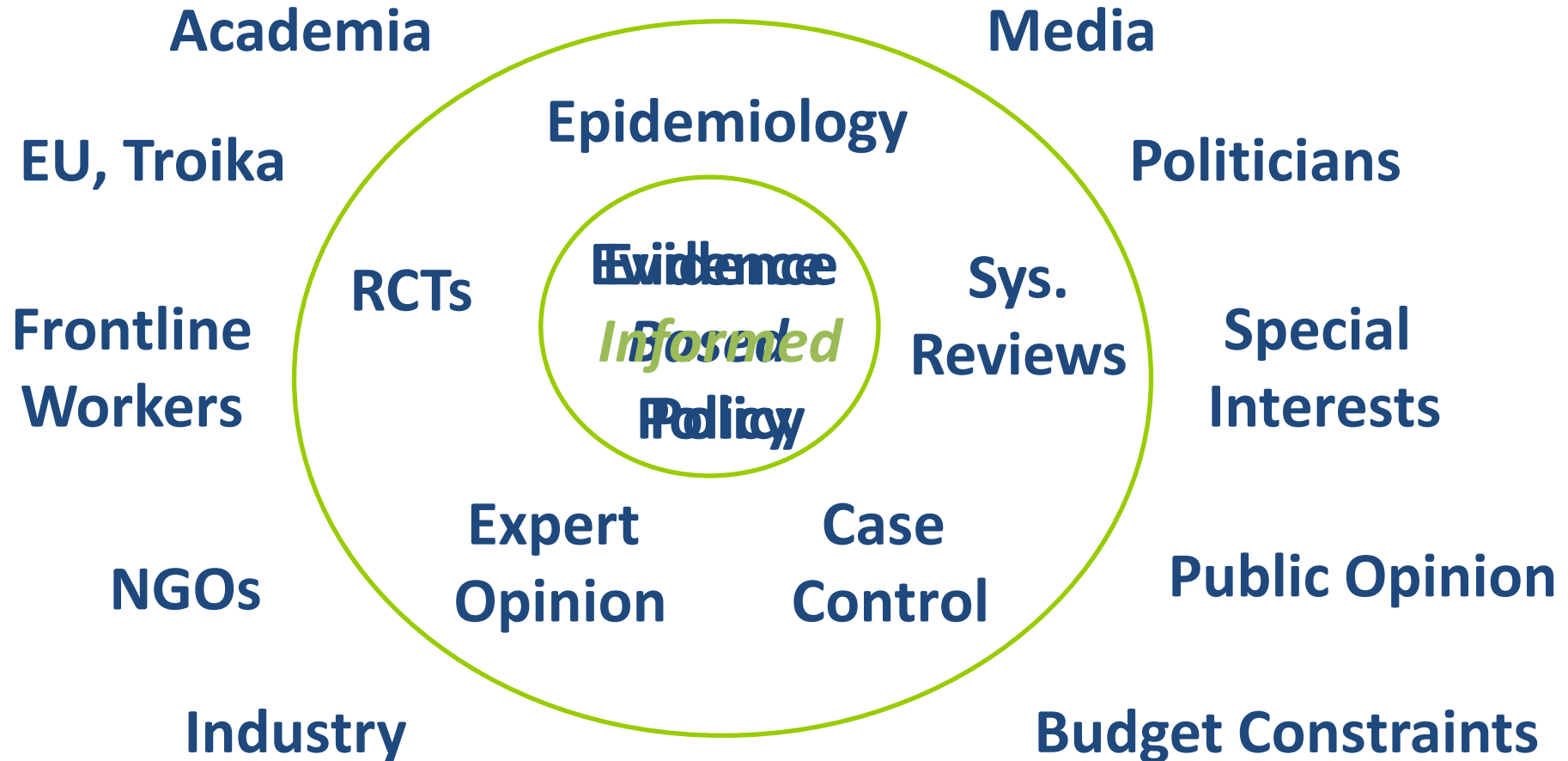
We don't have a single collective understanding of what we want from healthcare....

I think it is important that in the next Dáil, in the next Oireachtas, efforts are made to achieve a national discussion about the essential characteristics of the healthcare system

Outline

- **What is evidence informed policy?**
- **Why do we need it?**
- **How can we ensure that we get more of it?**

What is evidence informed policy?



Why do we need evidence informed policy?

**To act as a lever to move policymakers
beyond rhetoric**

Why do we need evidence informed policy?

“Primary care needs to become the central focus of the health system”

Why do we need evidence informed policy?

**87 specific commitments in health
section of 2011 Programme for
Government**

Just 17 achieved

Why do we need evidence informed policy?

NO CANCER SERVICES
NO VOTES



Devins criticises cancer strategy

Msgr. McDevine
The Bishop of Down and Connor has criticised the cancer strategy for Sligo, saying it is 'inadequate' and 'does not meet the needs of the people of Sligo'.

The Bishop said that the strategy 'does not take account of the needs of the people of Sligo' and that it is 'inadequate'.

Sligo Weekender
All your news and sport in FULL COLOUR

Short Breaks
FANCY A BREAK? Check out our FREE 24 page summer breaks supplement

CHRISTY HITS GILLOOLY! See pages 8 & 9

Dr Reilly reneges on promise

RIP CANCER SERVICES



ST JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL
Sligo's Regional Centre
071 916 2649

- St Joseph's Hospital is your local private hospital.
- We provide a comprehensive range of planned elective surgical and scope procedures under local or general anaesthetic.
- Our hospital is internationally accredited by the Joint Commission International (JCI) which measures:

Your local, private and internationally accredited people!

National Evidence
Future Projections
International Evidence



National Cancer Forum

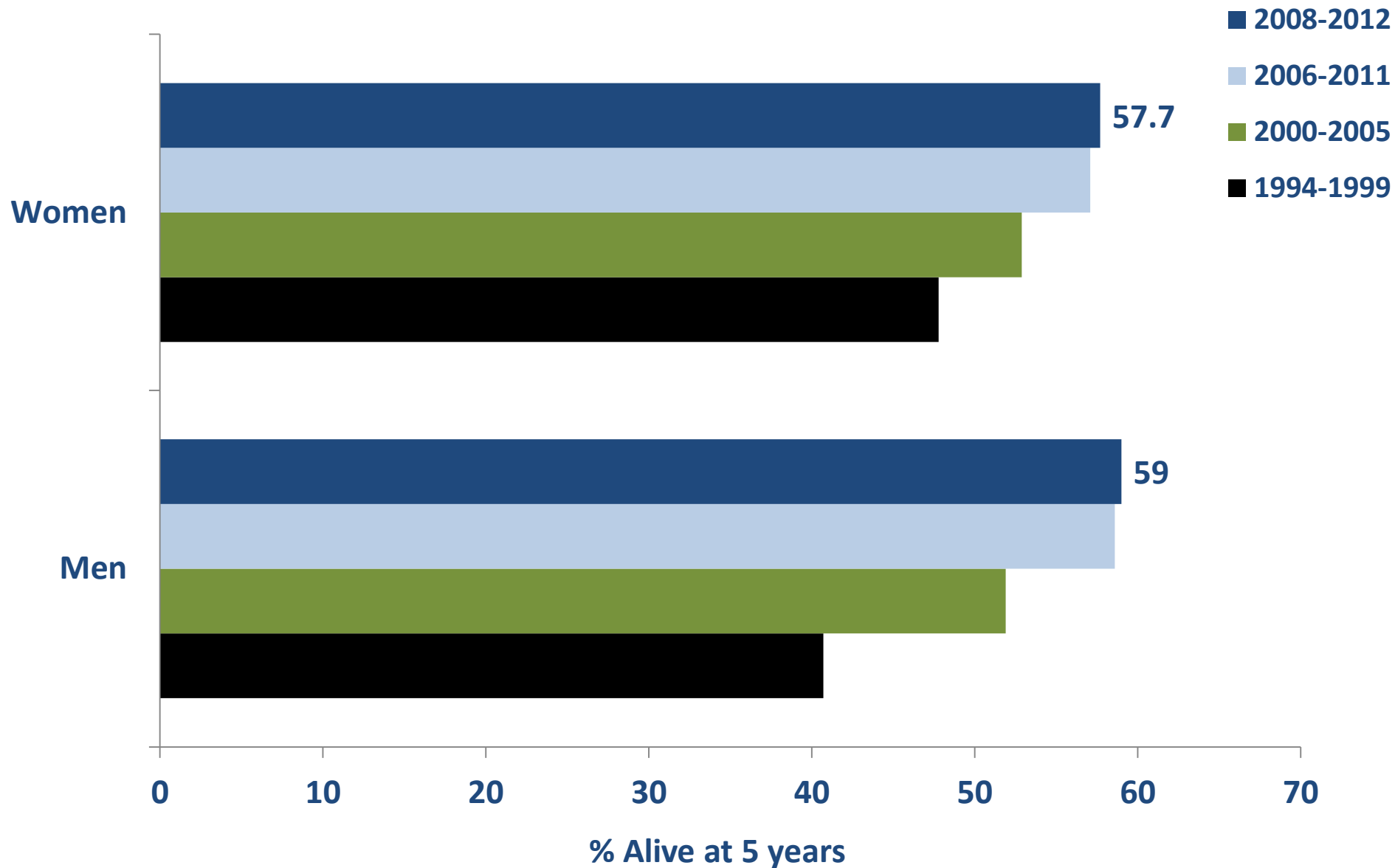


National Cancer Strategy



National Cancer Control Programme

Why do we need evidence informed policy?



Why do we need evidence informed policy?

2. Because resources are scarce and tough decisions have to be made

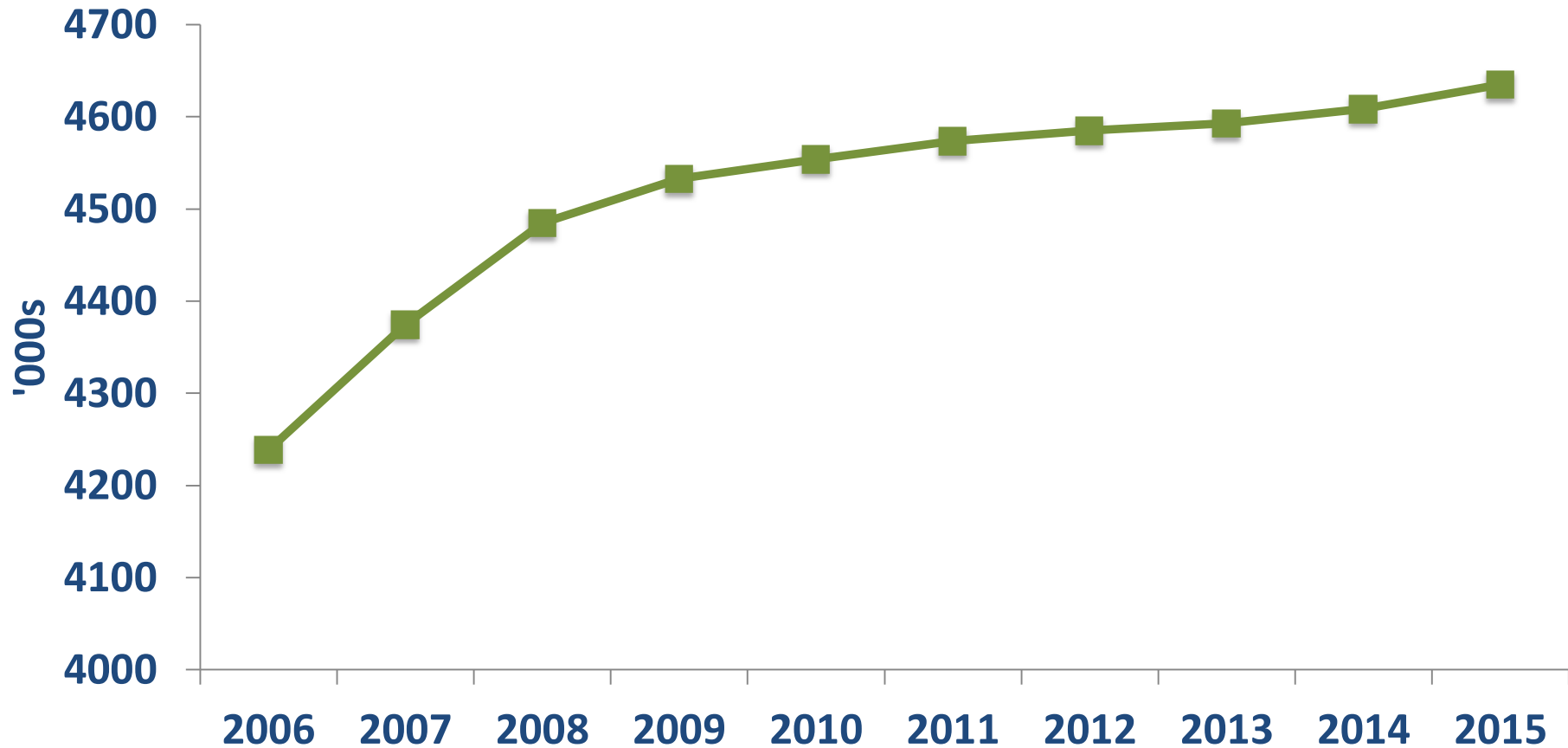
Why do we need evidence informed policy?

53 countries in WHO European region:

**Ireland experienced the greatest drop in
health spending from 2007-12**

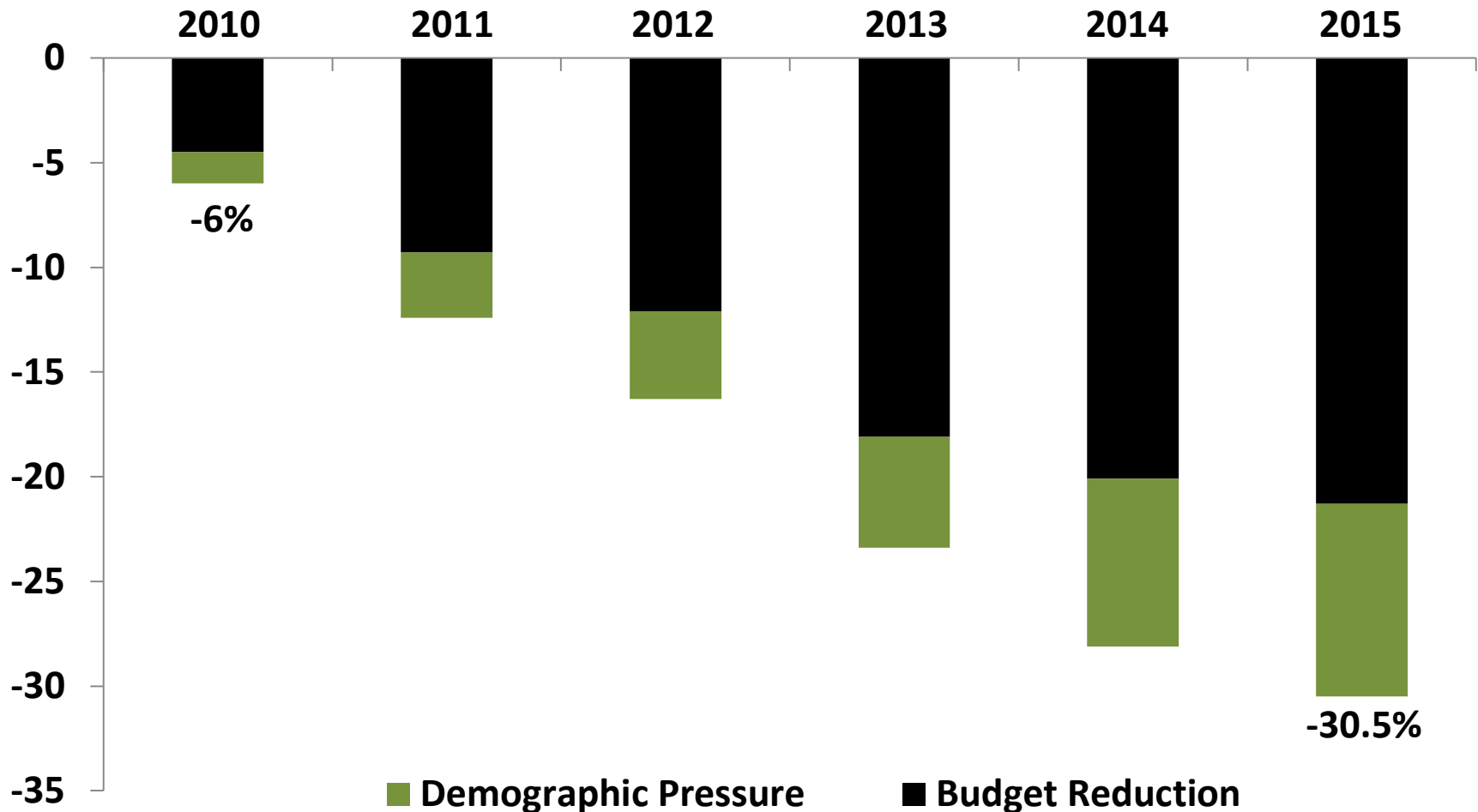
Why do we need evidence informed policy?

9.3% increase in population in 10 yrs



Why do we need evidence informed policy?

Health spend down 30% in just 6 years

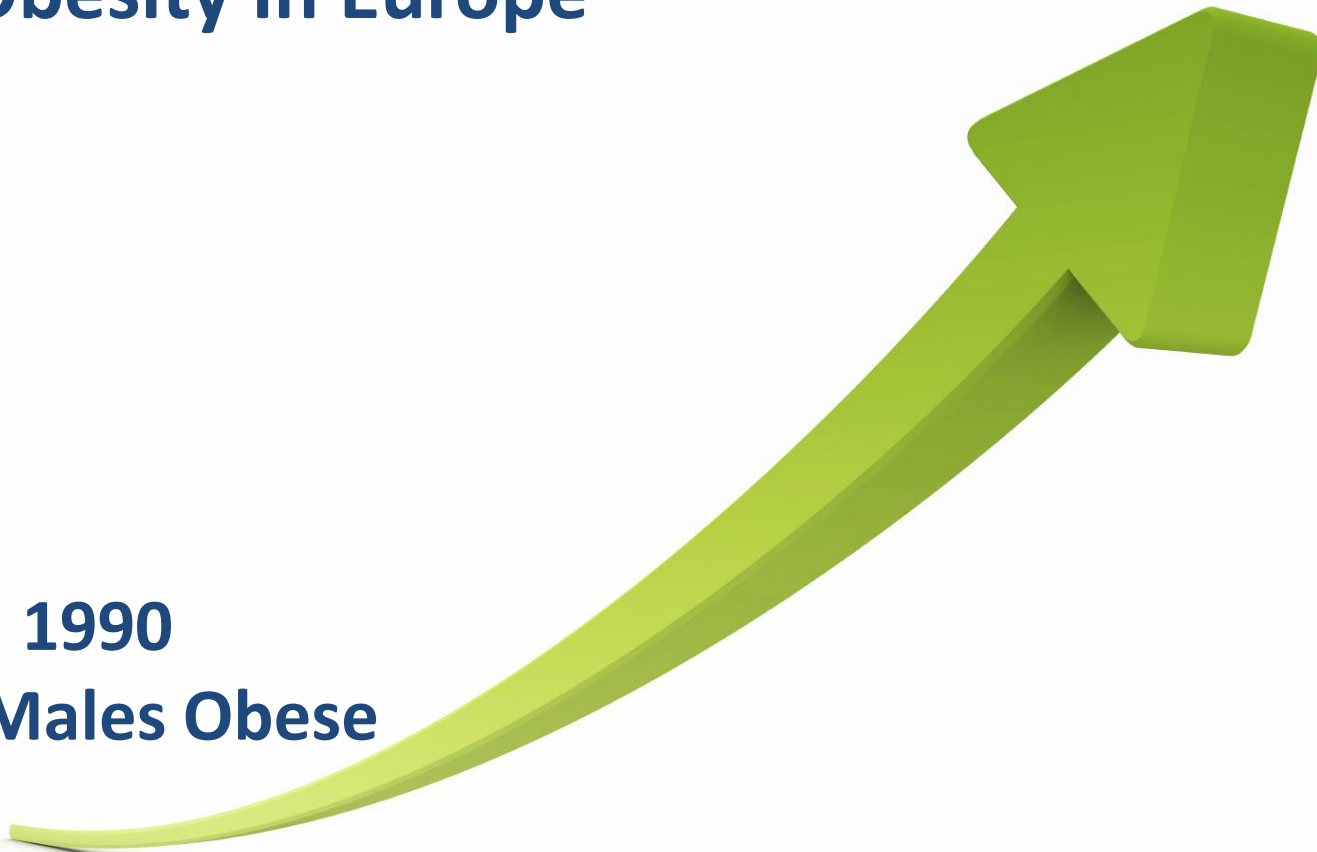


Why do we need evidence informed policy?

**3rd Highest Rate of
Obesity In Europe**

**2015
1/4 Males Obese**

**1990
1/10 Males Obese**



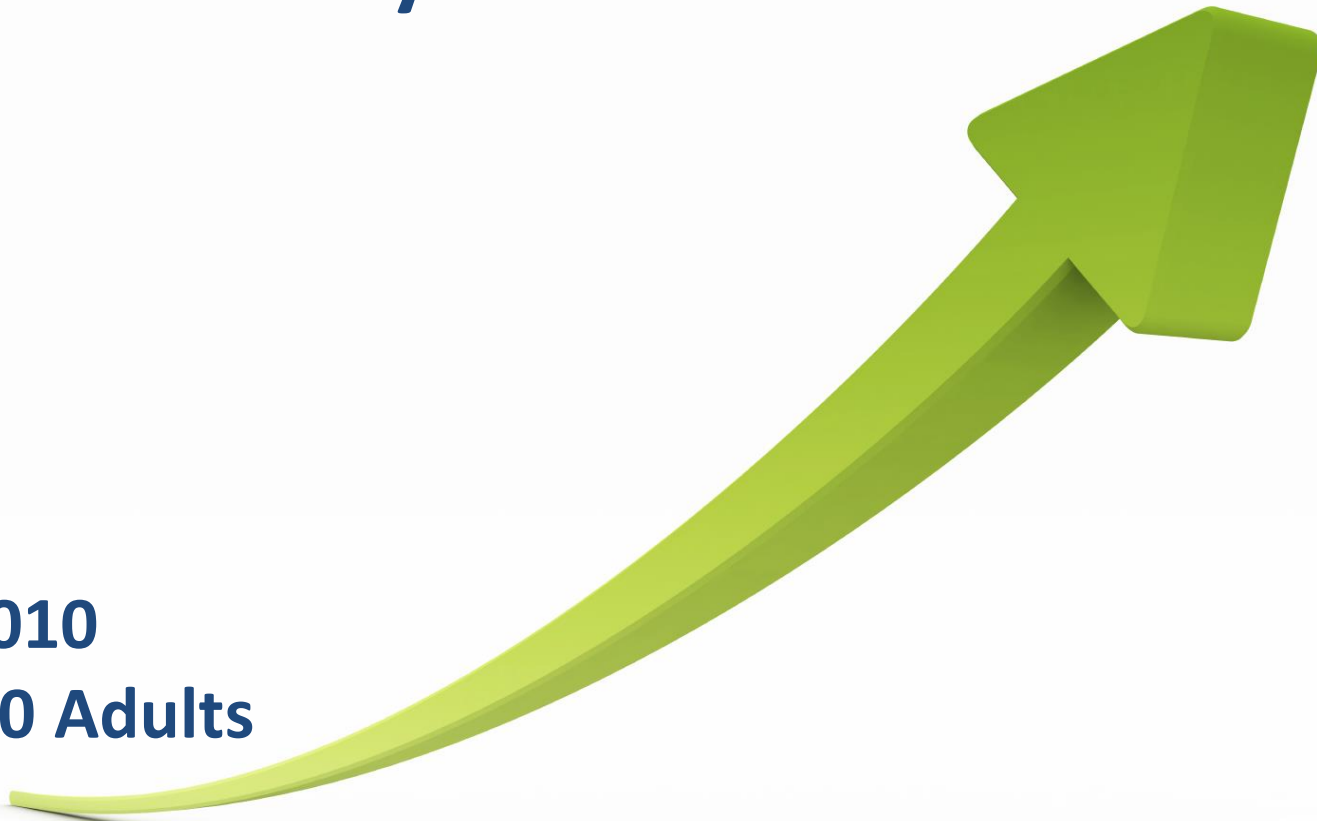
Why do we need evidence informed policy?

**28% increase in Diabetes
in 10 yrs**

**2020
136,000**

2010

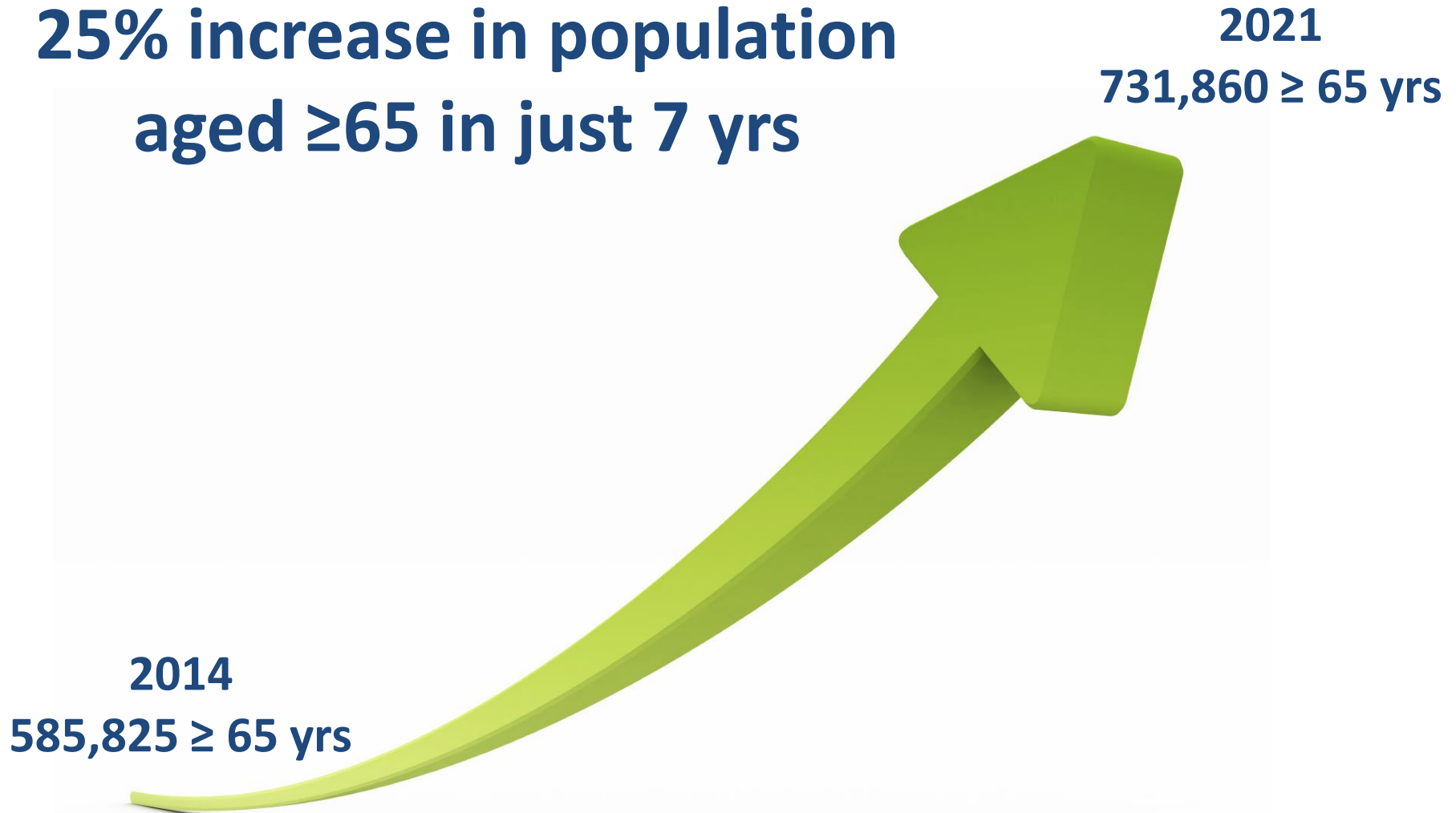
106,000 Adults



Year	Number of Adults
2010	106,000
2020	136,000

Why do we need evidence informed policy?

**25% increase in population
aged ≥ 65 in just 7 yrs**

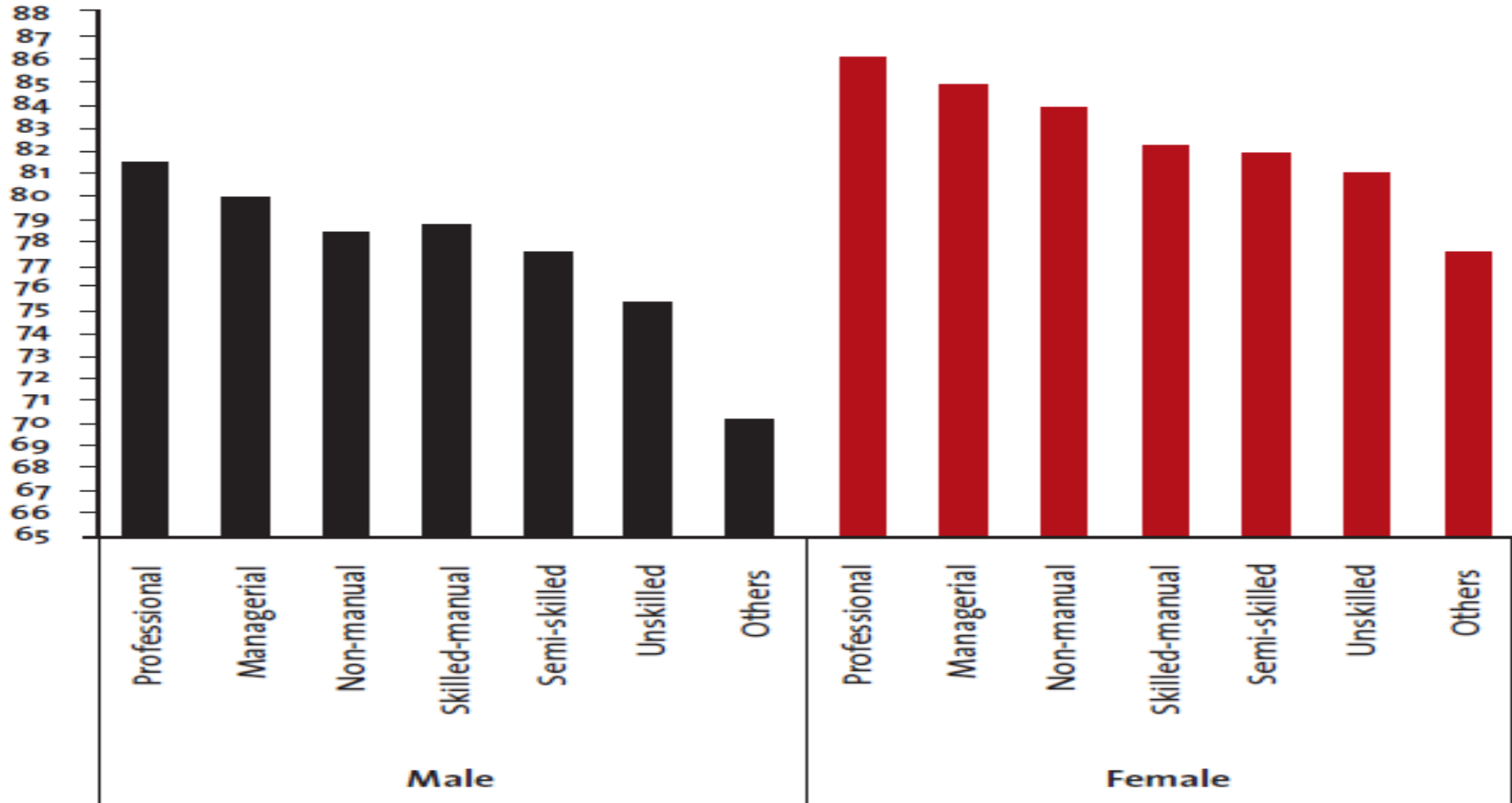


Why do we need evidence informed policy?

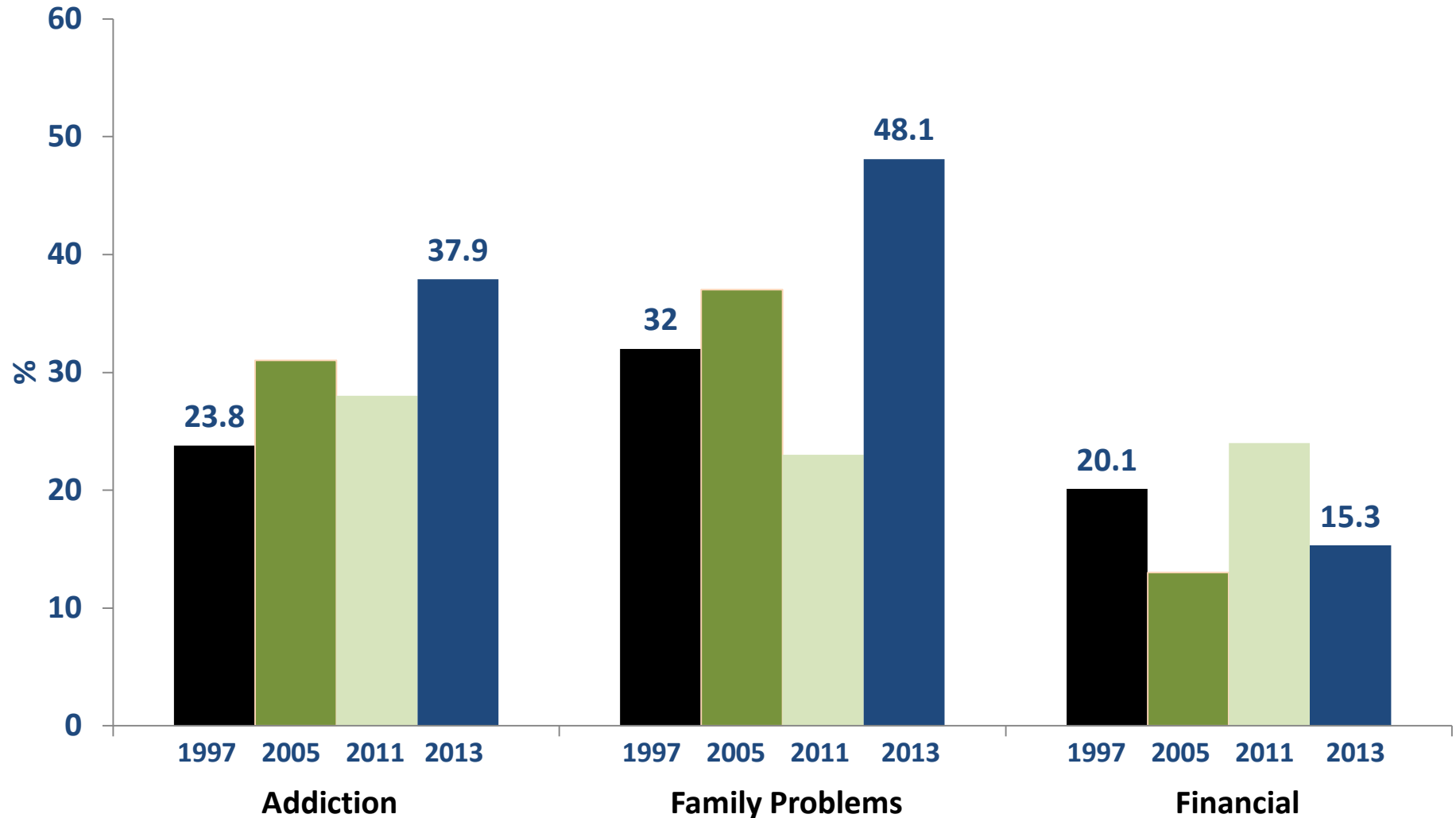
3. Because health is not just about the health service

Why do we need evidence informed policy?

6yr difference in life expectancy across social class



Why do we need evidence informed policy?



Causes of Homelessness in Ireland

Why do we need evidence informed policy?

- 1. A lever to move beyond rhetoric**
- 2. Decisions have to be made**
- 3. Health is not just about the health services**

How can we ensure that we get evidence informed policymaking?

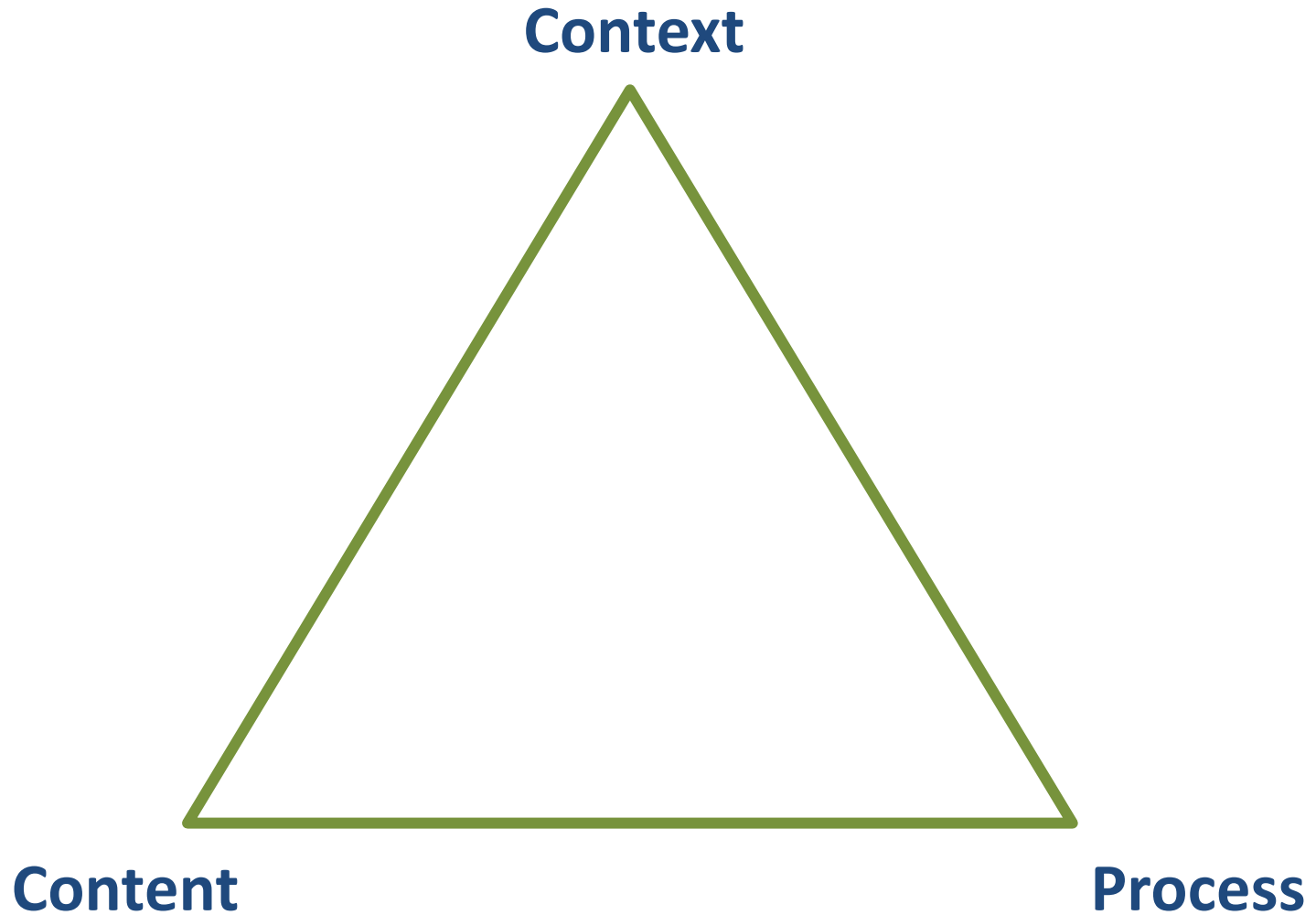
Context, Content, Process

Bridge the gap between people

Change our mindset

Evaluate

Context, Content, Process

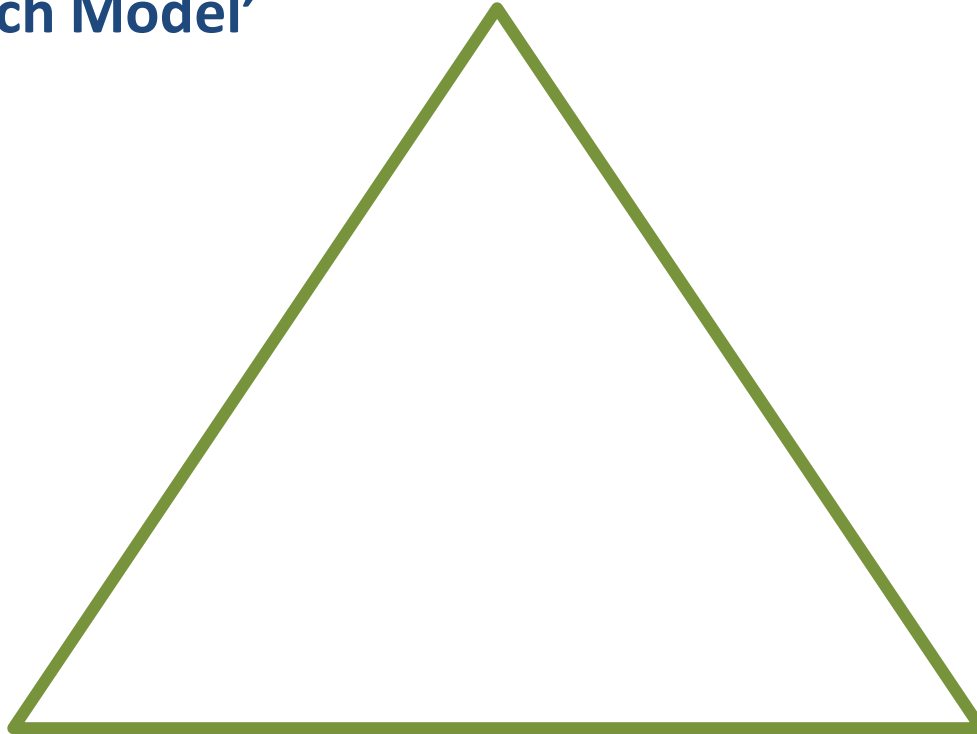


Context, Content, Process

“the first time in Irish history when a government committed to end the two-tier system of access to healthcare”

**First Proposed 2009
Economic Upheaval
Based on 'Dutch Model'**

Context



Content

**Not costed
No specifics**

Process

5 year timeframe

Context, Content, Process

“the costs of the Government’s original model of UHI outweigh the benefits”

Context, Content, Process

Public Access Defibrillation

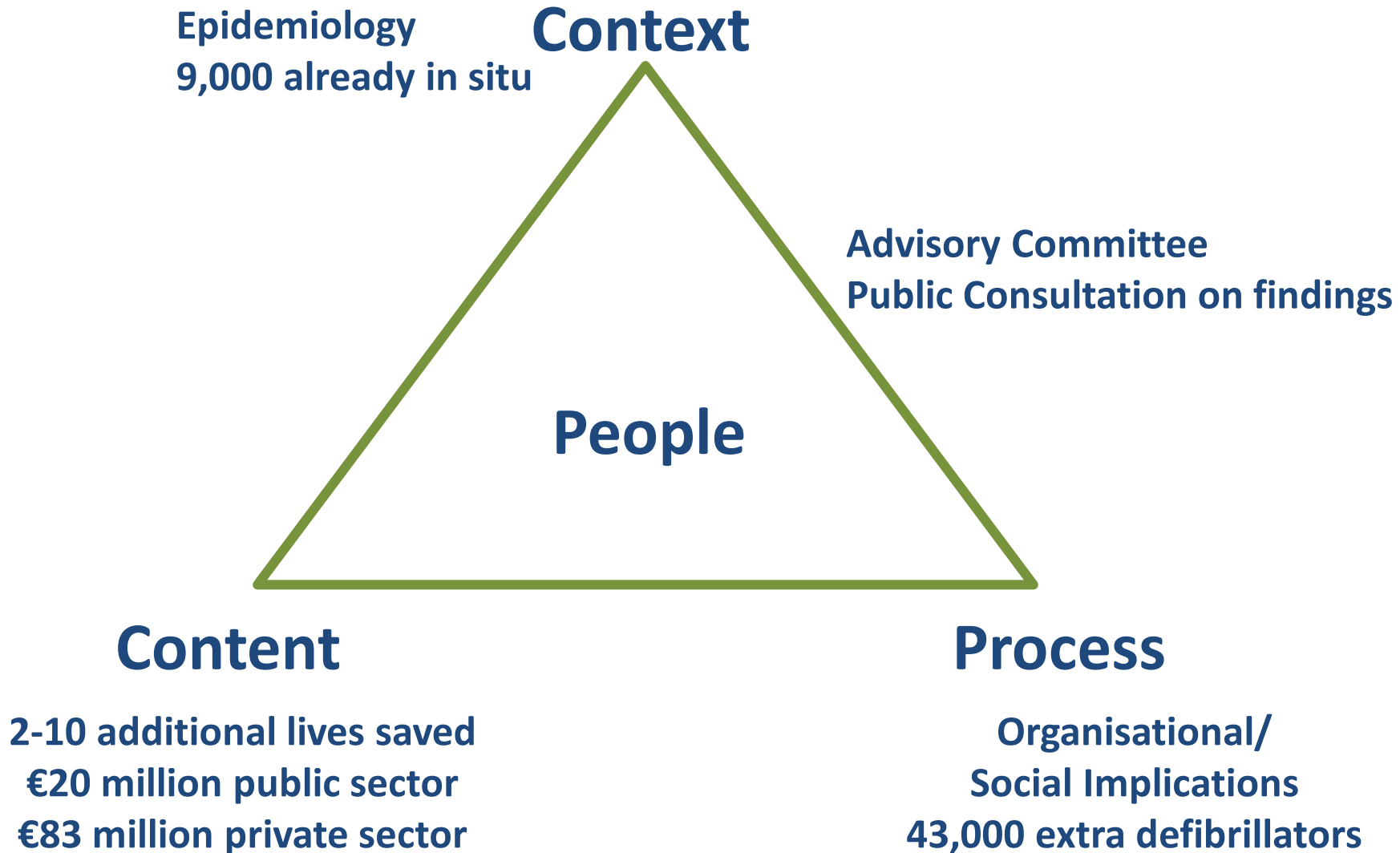
First Proposed May 2013



“This is a non-contentious Bill. It is a no-brainer”

“Senator Quinn has done us a service...The process need not be delayed”

Context, Content, Process



How can we ensure that we get evidence informed policymaking?

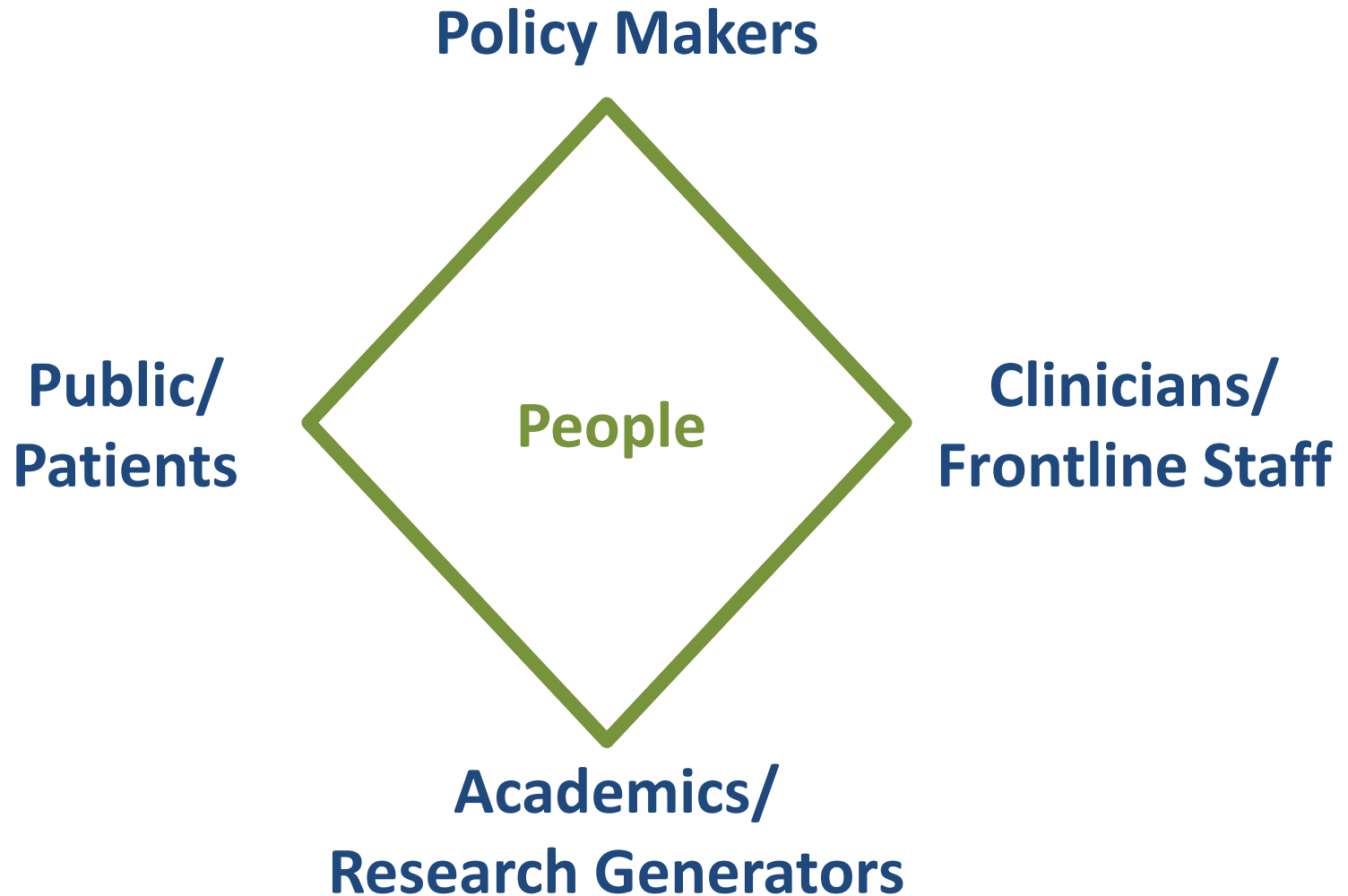
Context, Content, Process

Bridge the gap between people

Change our mindset

Evaluate

Bridge the Gap Between People



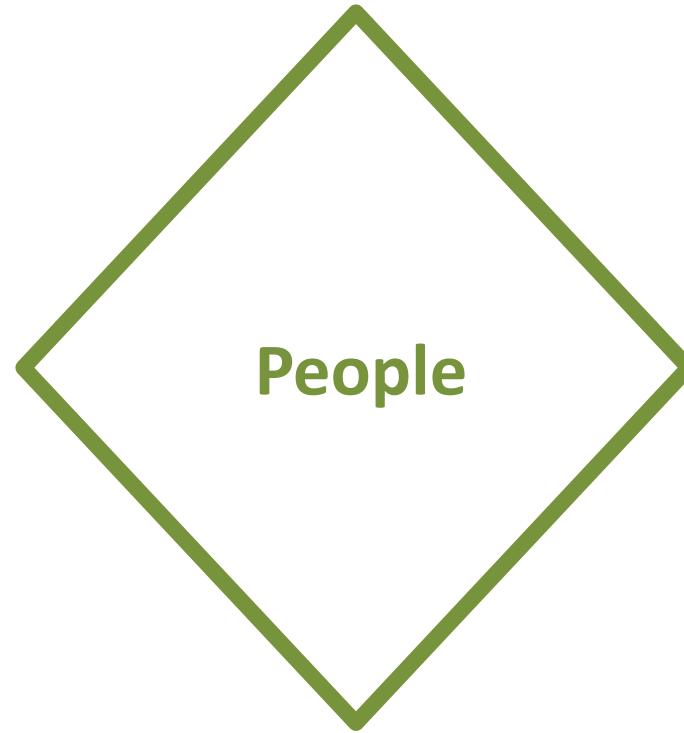
Bridge the Gap Between People

Policy Makers

Goals

Time

Evidence



**Academics/
Research Generators**

Bridge the Gap Between People

Clinicians / Frontline Staff

Best placed to

educate

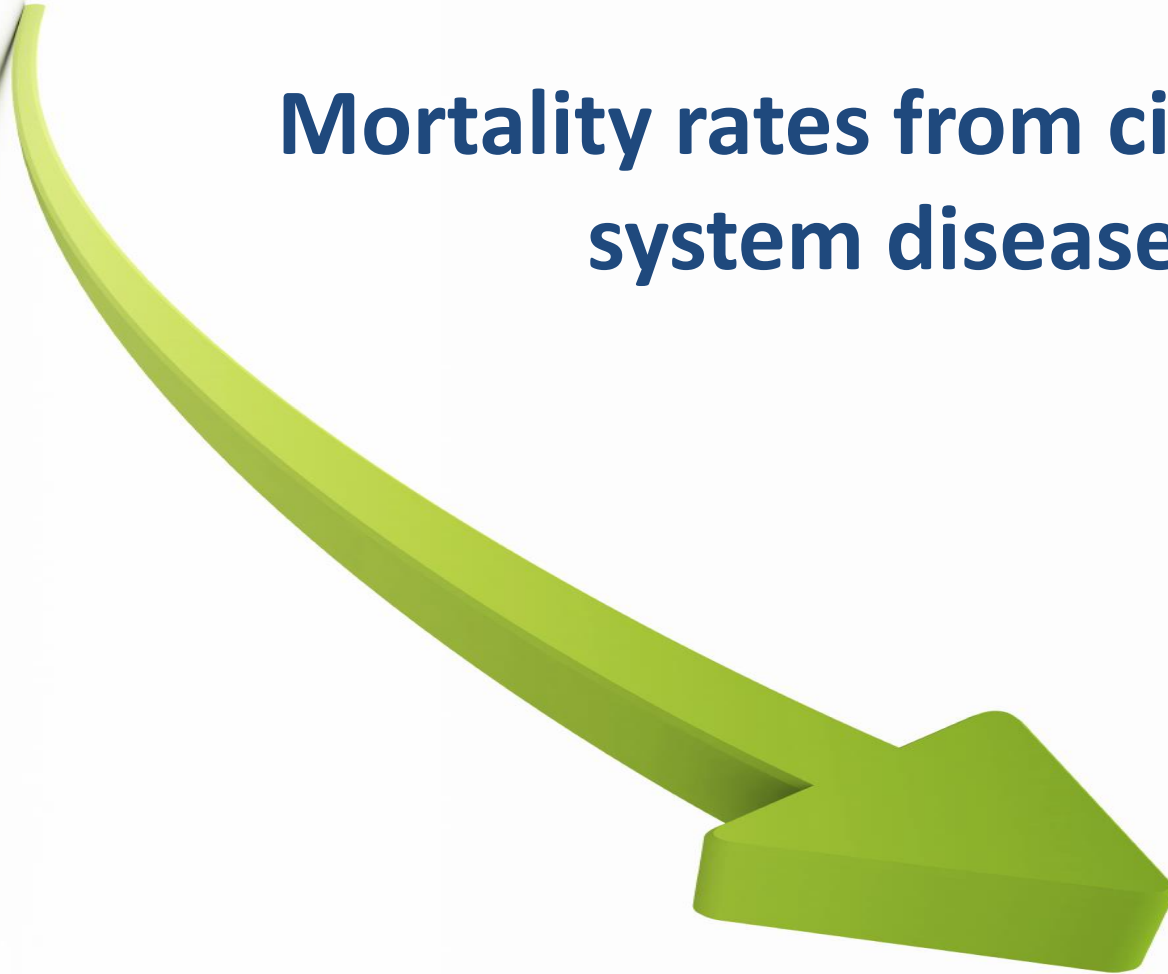
alter the public narrative

identify the problems

identify the solutions

Bridge the Gap Between People

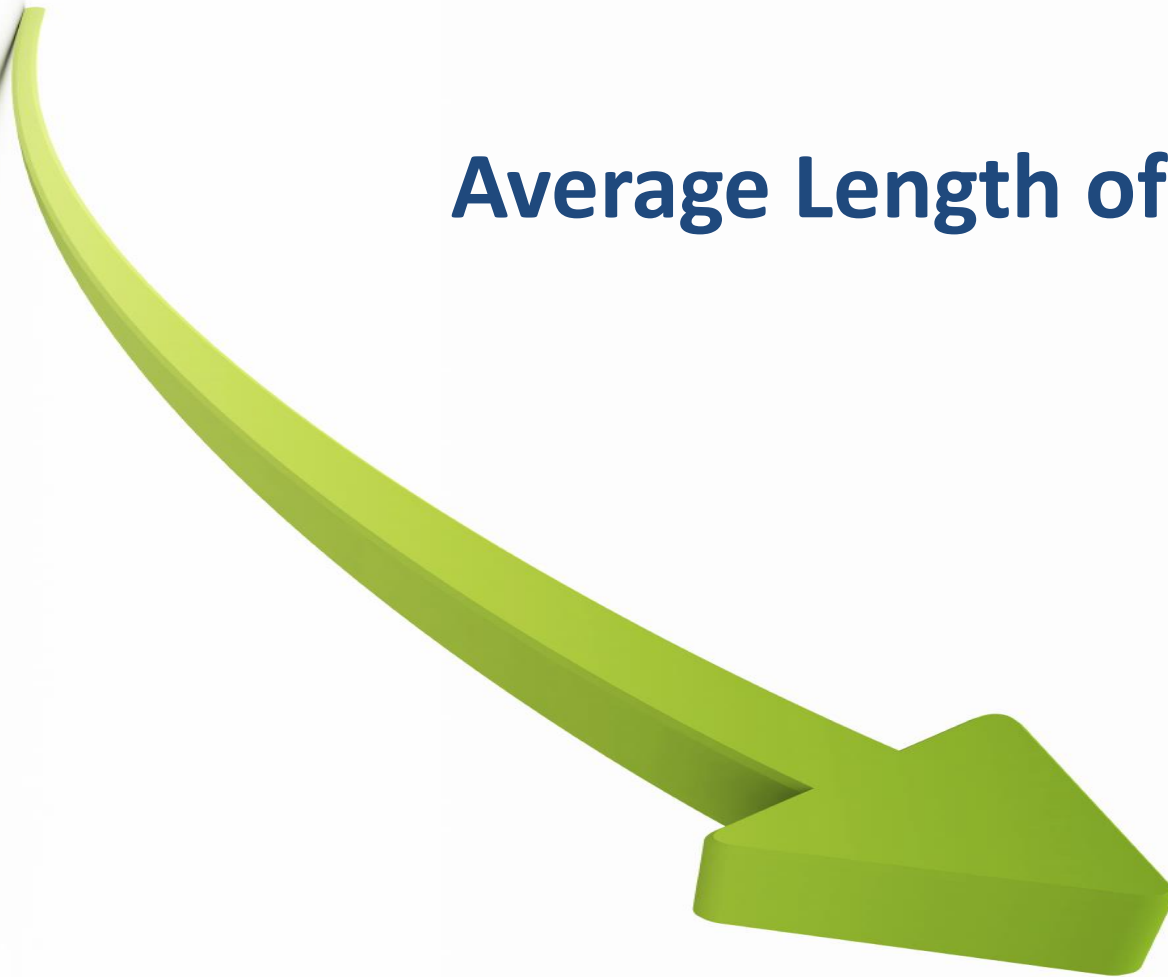
**Mortality rates from circulatory
system diseases**



32% Decrease in 10 years

Bridge the Gap Between People

Average Length of Stay



14% Decrease in 10 years

Bridge the Gap Between People

76% Increase in 10 yrs

Surgical Day Cases



Bridge the Gap Between People

“Clinicians should step up and shape the debate, not wait to be handed a possibly misguided reform as a fait accompli”

Bridge the Gap Between People

Complete disconnect

Just 7% of staff answered survey in 2014

Bridge the Gap Between People

The Public

...people have the right and duty to participate individually and collectively in the planning and implementation of their health care

Bridge the Gap Between People

The Public

How can we expect the public to take responsibility for their health if they do not feel involved in the policy process which decides what is & is not in their best interests?

How can we ensure that we get evidence informed policymaking?

Context, Content, Process

Bridge the gap between people

Change our mindset

Evaluate

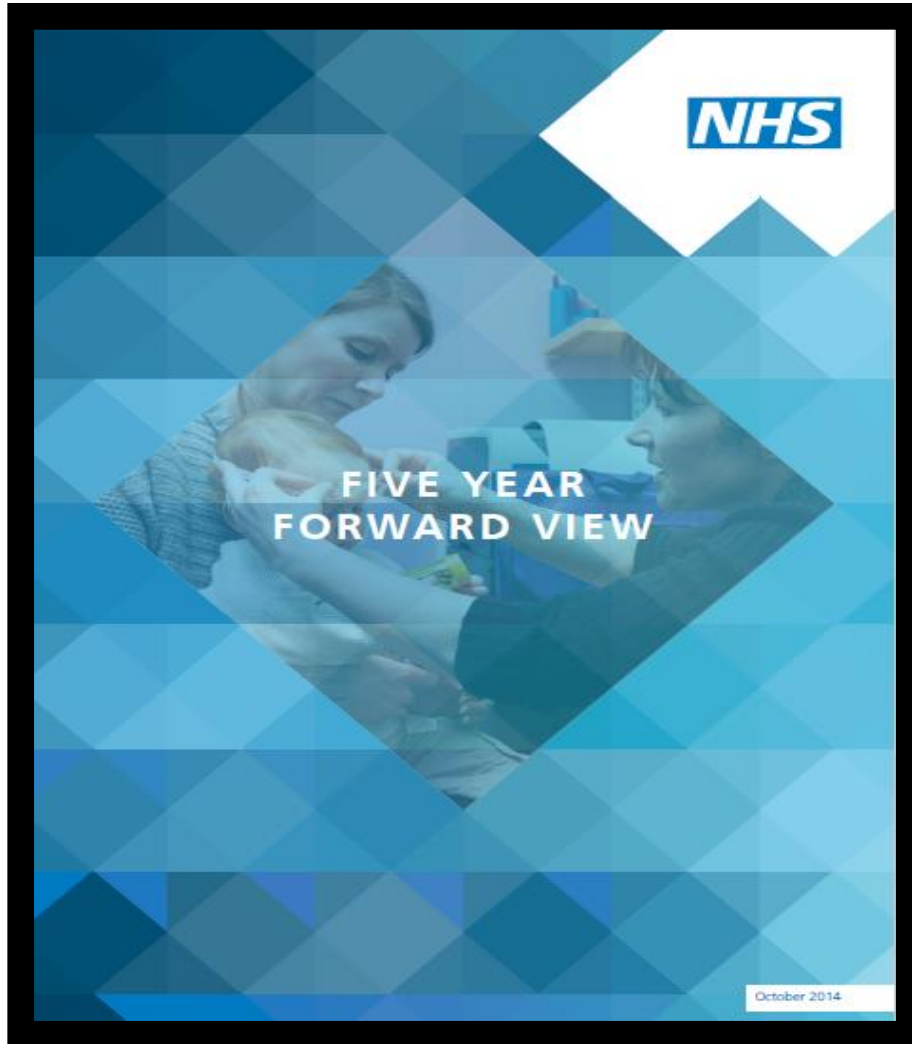
Change our Mindset

Be honest – these are complex problems

Focus on the future

Not what but how?

Change our Mindset



Focused minds

Facilitated a conversation

How can we ensure that we get evidence informed policymaking?

Context, Content, Process

Bridge the gap between people

Change our mindset

Evaluate

Evaluate

**<0.5% of all public health research in UK
focuses on outcomes**

An explicit evaluation plan for every policy

Summary

Evidence must be at the core of decision making

Emphasis on knowledge translation

Timely, independent, transparent

Bridge the gap between people

Focus on context, content and process

Conclusion

“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced”

Thank You

Questions?

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