An Roinn Leanaí
agus Gnóthaí Óige
**Department of
Children and Youth Affairs**

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Growing Up in Ireland

The national longitudinal study of children

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Bridging the Gap between Research & Policy

Growing Up in Ireland Annual Conference
8th November 2018

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Overview

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- Reflections on the use of research in policy

  Supporting evidence into policy – DCYA, GUI

- GUI data usage

- Closing remarks

Bridging the gap between research and policy

Knowledge translation is not linear

‣ Right information

‣ Right people

‣ Right time

‣ Right format

Barriers to the use of evidence

Supply side

"I wish my research would change the world"

▸ Not easily accessible

▸ Not in the right format

▸ Not the right information

Barriers to the use of evidence

▸ Demand-side

"I wish I had evidence to support my decision"

▸ Accessibility / Limited research skills / capacity

▸ No time / opportunity

▸ Clarity/relevance/ reliability of findings

▸ Cost

And of course….

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…..Timing is everything

Bridging the gap

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- How to we make research output accessible?
- How do we ensure the research / evidence produced is what's needed? asked for? expected?
- How can support skills and capacity to engage with research and data?
- How can ensure research output/evidence is hitting the policy cycle at the right time?

Bridging the gap

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- Intensive up-front support at the proposal/project specification stage
- More doing / in-house research & evaluation
- Collaborative Projects
- Advisory support and review
- Identifying data needs and developing statistical support
- Supporting internal capacity building
- Statistical spotlight, guidance notes, briefings
- Planning early in the business cycle

Growing Up in Ireland: Supporting Use

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- Governance structures; DCYA, CSO, IYJS, DES, DoH, DEASP, Tusla,
- Mixed outputs: key findings, descriptive reports, thematic reports, technical report
- Awareness building: GUI Annual conference, targets and bespoke sessions/presentations
- Capacity building: GUI data workshops, GUI PhD Scholarships
- Working to better exploit opportunities for data linkage, engaging with CSO
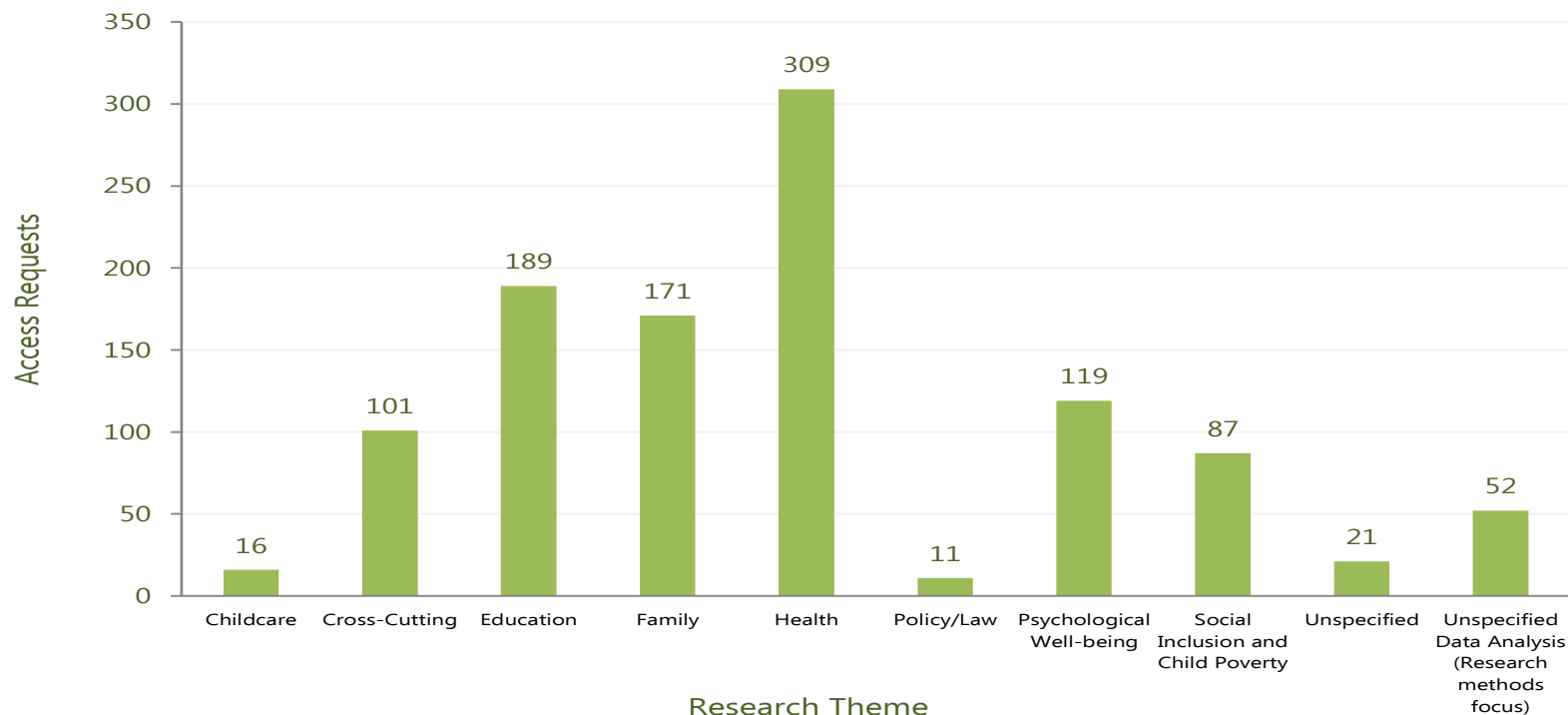
Use of GUI

▸ Strategies; Data gaps; Policy questions explored; and......increasingly now more opportunity for longitudinal research

▸ Since 2010, over 1000 project requests
RoI: UCD (193); TCD (180); ESRI (145); UCC (79); NUIM (64)
Other: QUB (26), Oxford (7), Liepzig (4), UCL (4), UU(4)
43 Institutions: Europe (26); America (16); RoW (1)

Use of GUI

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Figure 1: AMF & RMF access requests by research theme, 2010-2018

Closing Remarks

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- GUI – National Data Resource

- Breadth and depth of data

- Supports available for users

- How might GUI data support your research or/and policy questions?

Questions

- To what current policy issues might GUI data/research contribute?
- What is your experience of using GUI to help inform your approach?
- What outputs, events etc. would help you engage with GUI data/research?
- Are there initiatives that might be informed through analysis of GUI data?

- How have you engaged with policy makers about your research?
- What policy-relevant research would you love to start if you had funding?
- How can GUI improve understanding of persistent child inequalities?
- What would facilitate collaboration in use of GUI data and findings? (for both)

Policymakers

Researchers