



# Measuring childhood developmental outcomes in an Irish context: Building an index of standardised measures

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# On a journey towards better informed policy and service planning

## Atlantic's Children and Youth (CY) Programme in Ireland and Northern Ireland

**c.2002 - 2018**

Extended period of investment to:

1. Promote prevention and early intervention (PEI) as a cost-effective approach to policy and practice
2. Increase the use of evidence based programmes



**Key areas:**

First three years of life; key life transitions; children's learning; supporting parents and professionals working with children, young people and families; Better interagency working; Community consultation and engagement (Rochford, 2014)



€127 million  
invested by AP in

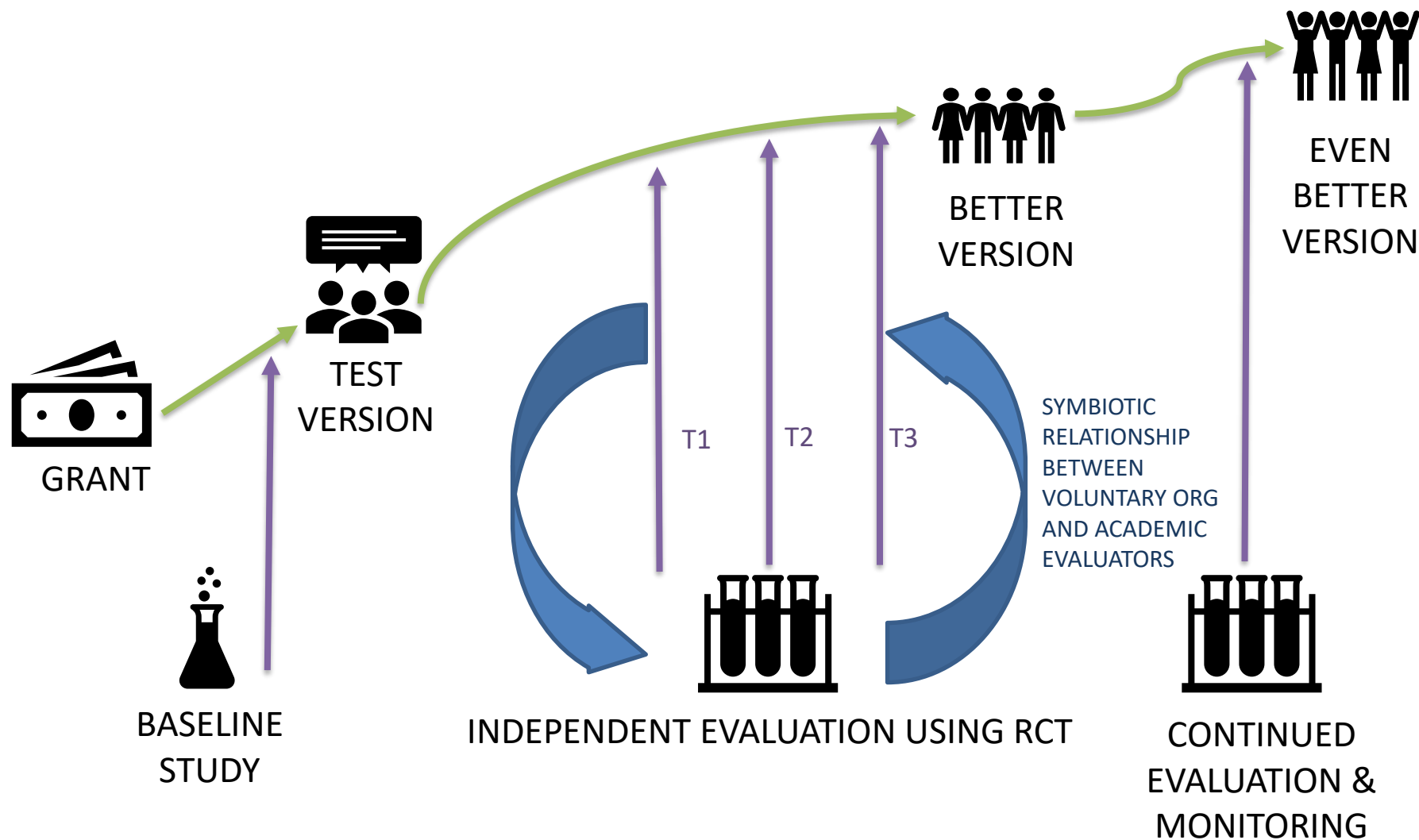


30  
partner agencies and community groups  
running



52  
PEI services and programmes PEI services and  
programmes \*figure higher by 2018 (Rochford et al, 2014)

# The prevention and early intervention (PEI) approach taken



# In terms of the data some parallels between PEI-RI and GUI

	PEI Research Initiative	Growing Up in Ireland
<b>Objective</b>	Independently evaluate PEI programmes for Irish children and young people	Track development of two nationally representative cohorts of Irish children and young people
<b>Focus</b>	Child and family demographics and outcome measures	Child and family demographics and outcome measures
<b>Fieldwork</b>	2004 – 2018	2006 - present
<b>Location</b>	Various, all island	Various locations, ROI
<b>Methods</b>	RCT, quasi-experimental, qualitative	Longitudinal
<b>Data type</b>	Statistical and textual (transcripts)	Statistical and textual (transcripts)
<b>Stand. measures used</b>	Yes e.g. ASQ; PSS; CES-D; Pianta scales; SDQ and many more	Yes e.g. ASQ; PSS; CES-D; Pianta scales; SDQ and many more
<b>Archived data</b>	13 quant collections, 1 qual collection from PFL	'98 cohort Waves 1 – 3 plus qual baseline '08 cohort Waves 1 – 5 plus qual baseline

# Tensions in this evaluation model

## The evaluator

- Wants access to a population
- Wants to gather as much data as possible given this opportunity
- Priority is to produce scientific research (and publication)

## The voluntary organisation

- Wants 'gold standard' research (orientated to RCT)
- Wants to gather only as much as required from respondent
- Priority is to adhere to the requirement for evaluation, or to find out what needs improvement

# Data preservation: PEI Research Initiative

2016 - 2018

”

"The term 'legacy data' is used to reflect the exceptional value of this collection of data which captures a key period in the development and expansion of PEI services across the island...

But also alludes to the fact that this data was created at a point in time when it was not yet common practice in Irish social research to consider archiving during research planning, and implies a transfer of the data from an older system of data storage with high risk of data loss, to a future-proofed system of archival storage and dissemination" (Geraghty, 2018).

# Knowledge preservation: PEI Research Initiative

**2019 - 2020**

“... a cultural shift has become apparent in organisations delivering human services, whereby outcomes for users have received primacy of importance... a shift in emphasis from measuring what is done to the effect of what is done”(Spratt et al, 2018)

Supporting this culture shift requires

“... technical assistance supports to help shape service redesign efforts within statutory services” (from the ‘potential next steps the CY programme’ identified by Paulsell and Pickens Jewell’s evaluation of the CY investment, 2011)

# The index of measures

- Information on standardised measures
- Includes commonly used measures and one-offs which tend to be very specific
- Practical – what does it take to actually use the measure
- Impartial – this is not an assessment of the measure
- The Irish context – tool must have been used by at least one PEI evaluation study to be included.



# Layer 1: Essential information per measure

## NAME OF FIELD

Title

Acronym

Creator

Description

Domain

Permission to use

Respondent

Number of items

Training / qualification required to administer measure

More information / Access this measure

Example of Irish programmes that use this measure in evaluation

Compare available data from Ireland/Northern Ireland

# Layer 2: Detailed information per measure

## NAME OF FIELD

Publication date of measure

Coverage: Age range / Unit of measurement

References

Subscale

Related

Versions of measure

Administration

Validity and reliability

Publisher

Copyright

Identifier

# Potential audiences

Two ways in to the index:

1. Tell me more about [measure]
2. Help me find a measure for [subject]

See search engine



Title

Acronym

Subject

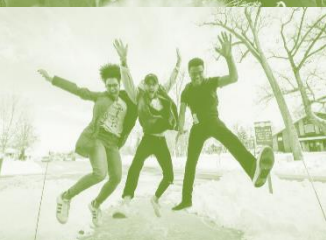
- Development and functioning
- Social-emotional development
- Development and functioning
- Depressive symptoms
- General mental health assessment  
(just an example, list can be as longer...)

Target population

- 0 - 3 years of age (pre-school)
- 4 - 12 years of age (primary school aged)
- 13 - 17 years of age (adolescent)
- 18 years or older (adult)
- Parent
- Teacher
- Staff

Permission

- Only show me free measures



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**Thank you**

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# References

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