Data Sources for PPN Community Wellbeing

Introduction

Influencing policy to create the vision outlined in the consultation process requires the gathering of evidence to identify the current position and therefore the changes which need to be made to move towards the overall vision.

Various arms of Government publish a wide range of statistics, which are accessible and can be used. Some are at National level, some regional, some county, and some down to small areas of 100 houses. This document aims to identify some of these sources which can then be used by PPNs and Linkage Groups in specific areas to develop policy proposals.

It is worth mentioning that most Local Authorities have a statistical unit or a statistical hub which gathers much of the data from national reports and surveys and selects the elements relevant to a particular City/County. In addition, LA documents such as City/County development plans, local economic and community plans, local development strategies contain a lot of data which can be used. LAs may also gather information which is not published. A data request to the relevant section is always useful.

We have tried to group the data sources under the main wellbeing themes, but there are obvious overlaps. This is not intended to be a fully comprehensive listing, but just to identify some of the data which is available.

The websites www.socialjustice.ie and www.ien.ie have comprehensive information on all aspects of social, economic and environmental policy.

Data currency

It is important that data used are as current as possible. Check how old the data used is (documents produced before 2017 are likely to be using Census 2011 data which is obviously not current. In addition, particular care should be taken with labour market figures given their extreme volatility in the past decade. But, if you cannot find relevant data, ask the Local Authority and if it is still not available, then the PPN can propose collecting that data as their initial policy input.

Demographic Data

The Central Statistics Office produces the analysis of the Census. The latest taken on April 2016 gives detailed demographic information broken down by county and towns. They give general reports followed by a detailed breakdown of information via statbank https://www.cso.ie/en/census/census2016reports/. An example of using statbank is given in Appendix 1.

Local Authority Budget

Details of each Local Authority Budget are on the relevant website. An overview of the budgets for different LAs is available on www.localauthorityfinances.com.

Participation, Democracy and Good Governance

VOTING

Electoral turnout rates by constituency available at http://www.housing.gov.ie/search/archived/current/category/local-government/type/publications?query=election+result

Interesting sectoral analysis available at https://adriankavanaghelections.org/. He has a very good piece on turnout by small area in Dublin.

Local election results are given on each LA website and pulled together at https://adriankavanaghelections.org/2014/05/29/official-local-elections-2014-results-from-for-city-and-county-council-websites/

VOLUNTEERING

Central Statistics Office report including the number of volunteers per City/County https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/q-vwb/qnhsvolunteeringandwellbeingq32013/

Information is also available from local Volunteer centres and Volunteer Ireland. https://www.volunteer.ie/resources/

PPNs own database

Non Profit Organisations

Benefacts claims to list all not for profit organisations in the country with details of their directors, accounts etc http://www.benefacts.ie

Lobbying: All formal lobbying activity involving national and local politicians and senior civil servants and local authority staff is logged on the lobbying register www.lobbying.ie.

Charities regulator www.charitiesregulator.ie lists all charities, but takes its data on individual charities from Benefacts.

LOCAL AUTHORITY PARTICIPATION IN CONSULTATIONS, etc

Available via PPN reps and LAs via feedback etc. Also often available on the LA website as an appendix to a final report.

Health (physical & mental)

Every City/County should now have a Healthy Ireland Plan devised via HSE and LA under the LCDC. This plan should contain the current vital statistics on health within the City/County.

The Local Sports Partnership websites have information on various activities and resources in each City/County, including for leisure and accessible sports.

Blueways around the country promoting water based activity can be found on http://www.bluewaysireland.org/ and some of the main greenways are listed on https://www.osi.ie/blog/irelands-greenways-and-trails/

Information on community gardens and growing is available at http://cgireland.org/ and https://giy.ie/

Hospitals / health services etc are listed on the HSE website www.hse.ie arranged into community health areas (CHO). Primary Care services are listed at https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/2/primarycare/

Daily Trolley Count is available at http://137.191.241.85/ed/ (link from bottom of the homepage)

There is a lack of statistics on mental health at local level, thus it may be necessary to gather data from local community or voluntary providers as well as the HSE. There are research reports for some regions covering a variety of topics on the National Suicide Research Foundation website https://www.nsrf.ie/

While not directly a health issue, data on people with a disability in every City/County and small area are available from the Census Disability module.

Environment & Sustainability

General Information

- The Environmental Protection Agency: www.epa.ie
- Environment Pillar: https://environmentalpillar.ie/
- Irish Environmental Network and member organisations: https://ien.ie/ and https://greennews.ie/
- Social Justice Ireland publishes a chapter on Environment and Sustainability in its annual Socio-Economic Review at www.socialjustice.ie and put "Environment and Sustainability" in the search bar

Biodiversity / Areas of Conservation

Natural Heritage Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are listed on the National Parks and Wildlife Service site https://www.npws.ie/ along with the National Biodiversity Action Plan, species management plans, invasive species information and links to relevant EU Directives. The National Biodiversity Data centre has general biodiversity information together with relevant plans and strategies, national indicators etc. https://www.biodiversityireland.ie/. The National Biodiversity Maps is a national portal compiling biodiversity data from multiple sources. https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/

Each LA should have a biodiversity action plan. In some cases, this is part of an overall heritage plan. City/County Development Plans lists Tree Protection Orders for individual specimen trees.

Water and Water Conservation

The EPA publishes annual reports on general water quality in lakes rivers and seas, wastewater discharged from treatment plants, etc. http://www.epa.ie/water/

The Local Authorities Water and Communities Office (LAWCO) has useful information re River Basin management with regions based on catchment boundaries http://watersandcommunities.ie/ Their slogan is "Healthy Waters supporting Vibrant Communities". Some relevant scientific studies are to be found on https://www.catchments.ie/category/science/ . A further resource is https://www.fisheriesireland.ie/ .

Waste disposal

The EPA publishes annual reports on waste production, disposal, recycling etc at http://www.epa.ie/waste/ . Local Authorities have Waste Management plans and Litter Management Plans, which should contain information about volumes and types of waste produced.

Energy production and Conservation and CO2 emissions

Sustainable Energy Ireland has alternative energy information https://www.seai.ie/. EPA has CO2 emissions data. However, there is little information at local level apart from what is in the Local Authorities renewable energy policies.

Social & Community Development

Census data gives information on the social composition of each area, including Housing and Homelessness, Age Profile, Family types, Commuting patterns, Settlement sizes etc. https://www.cso.ie/en/census/census2016reports/

Local Development Companies, Local Authorities and LCDCs who are delivering the SICAP programme (Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme), have detailed information on people and communities experiencing disadvantage within their catchment areas.

Official information about social housing provision is available from each Local Authority, in the reports of Rebuilding Ireland www.rebuildingireland.ie. Analysis of the figures can be sourced at www.socialjustice.ie putting "housing" into the search box.

Pobal has produced maps which include some State funded social and community services across Ireland, transport infrastructure, childcare facilities, demographics and deprivation. These can be accessed at Pobalmaps (https://maps.pobal.ie/)

Public Transport information can be accessed at https://locallink.ie/, and www.nationaltransport.ie The results of a National Household travel survey carried out in 2017 are expected in late 2018. The Census Profile 7 commuting in Ireland may also be useful.

Each PPN has a database of locally based community, voluntary, social inclusion and environmental organisations which can be used to identify the types of community development activity in the city/county

Local Authorities and/or HSE and/or ETB and/or Tusla often produce a directory of locally based community services and supports or have information on their websites.

Safety and security information can be gathered via the local Joint Policing Committee, Community Alert groups, CSO crime rate statistics.

Values, Culture & Meaning

This is the most difficult area for "hard" statistics, as it is very much about local and individual situations, as well as local societal norms and practices. This is particularly relevant in the Values and Meaning area. However some data is available on culture and on population diversity.

Census reports Profiles 7 (migration and Diversity) 8 (Irish Travellers, Ethnicity and Religion) and 10 (Irish Language), give small area data on diversity.

Data on some artistic activities is available on the Arts Council website www.artscouncil.ie.

Analysis of the Local Authority Budget and grant spends may give information on spending on festivals (which generally celebrate local culture), community arts events, theatre, exhibitions, art centres, music, library services etc.

PPNs may have information within their databases on groups involved in the activities and programmes above and also historical societies, graveyard maintenance groups, local drama, creative writing and other art classes etc.

Some City/County based information is available at https://creative.ireland.ie/en/network Data on a variety of cultural events can be found on the Local Authority website, and via the City/County Arts Officer.

Heritage information is available from the LA website and City/County Heritage Officer, and within the City/County Heritage plan.

Mapping information on heritage sites can be found at https://heritagemaps.ie/WebApps/HeritageMaps/index.html which lists a wide range of both built, natural and wildlife heritage. www.archaeology.ie also lists and maps archaeological sites and monuments right across the country, collecting data on a City/County basis. The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage has a survey of buildings and gardens at http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/.

Local Sports Partnerships have information on sporting activities within an area and should also have a directory of sports clubs and sports facilities.

Work, Economy & Resources

Employment and unemployment

The national employment and unemployment figures are gathered via a quarterly survey https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/labourmarket/labourforcesurvey/ . These data are only published on a regional basis however. At local level them main sources of data are the live register and the census. However, neither are directly comparable with the national figures. The live register measures people who are receiving a jobseeker's payment, some of these people are working part time, and it excludes people who may consider themselves to be unemployed and are either receiving a different payment (e.g. disability or one parent family) or do not meet a means test, or who are adult dependants of a person receiving a payment. The Census data is more complete but is obviously very quickly goes out of date. Social Justice Ireland publishes a regular www.socialjustice.ie and put "Employment Monitor" in the search bar.

However, the Live register is published monthly and offers a breakdown by Social Protection Office. The statbank data can be found at https://www.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/statire/SelectVarVal/Define.asp?Maintable=LRM07&PLanguage=0

Employment and Enterprise

In terms of enterprise supports, the reports on the regional jobs strategies at https://dbei.gov.ie/en/Publications/ give some regional information. Other sources include Local Development Companies, Local Enterprise Offices (LEO) within the Local Authority etc.

Local Employment numbers and sectors of employment are sourced mainly from Census 2016. However, given the rapid rise in employment across the country, these figures are fast going out of date, but may serve to identify useful trends.

The Teagasc Annual Farm Survey gives important information about farming and farm incomes.

Education

Information about Primary and Second level schools is available on www.education.ie.

The Census Education module gives detail of the educational achievement level of all people broken down by Electoral division.

The Education and Training Board in each area should publish information on lifelong learning and adult and continuing education opportunities. The amount and quality of information varies with each ETB.

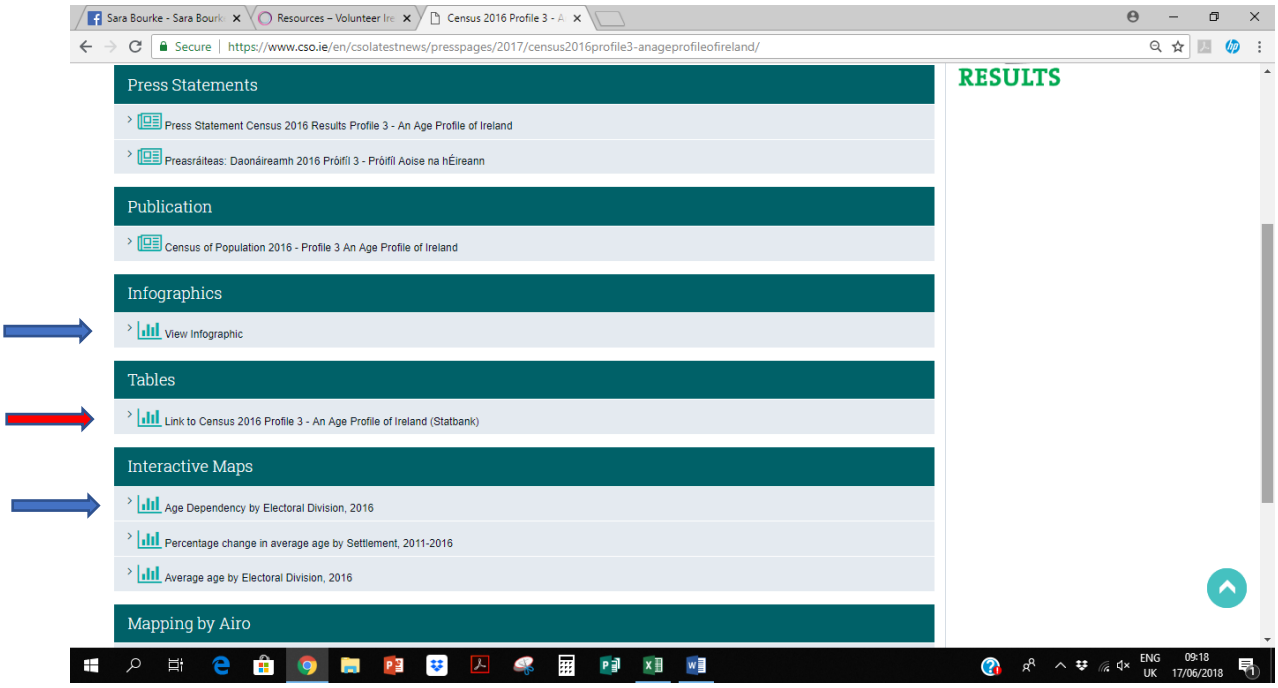
The Qualifax database of courses lists all courses available in a particular area, which are nationally advertised. www.qualifax.ie

APPENDIX 1 Using Statbank

Example – Wicklow young people age statistics –

Step 1: Go to general census reports page https://www.cso.ie/en/census/census2016reports/ and highlight the report which contains the data you need.

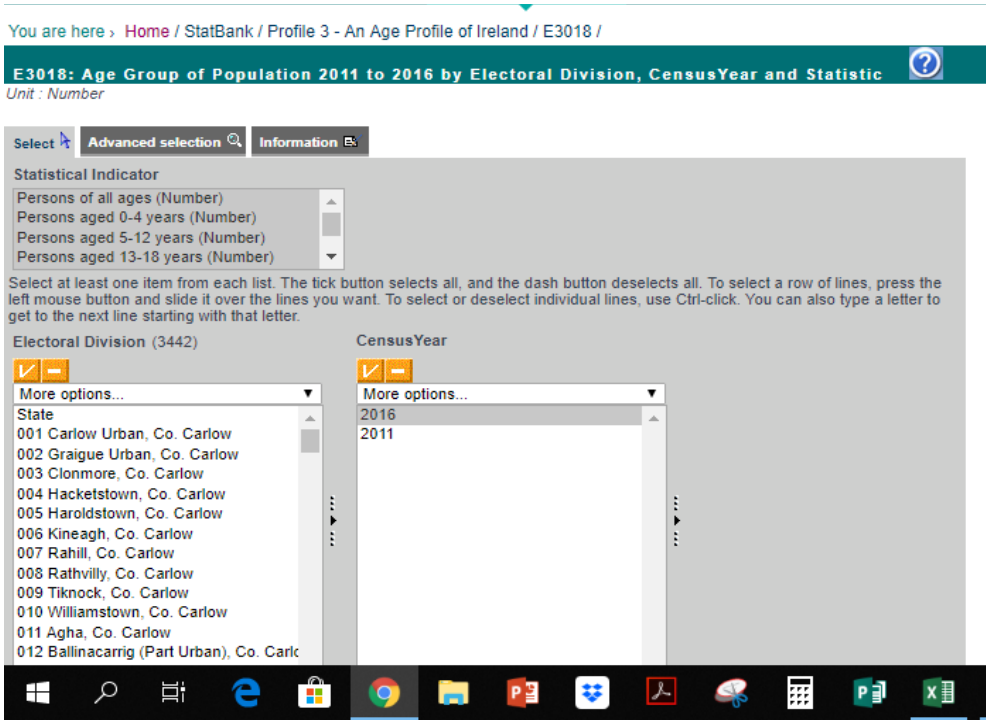
Step 2: Click into the report. This may give you the option to view the data on an interactive map or info graphic.



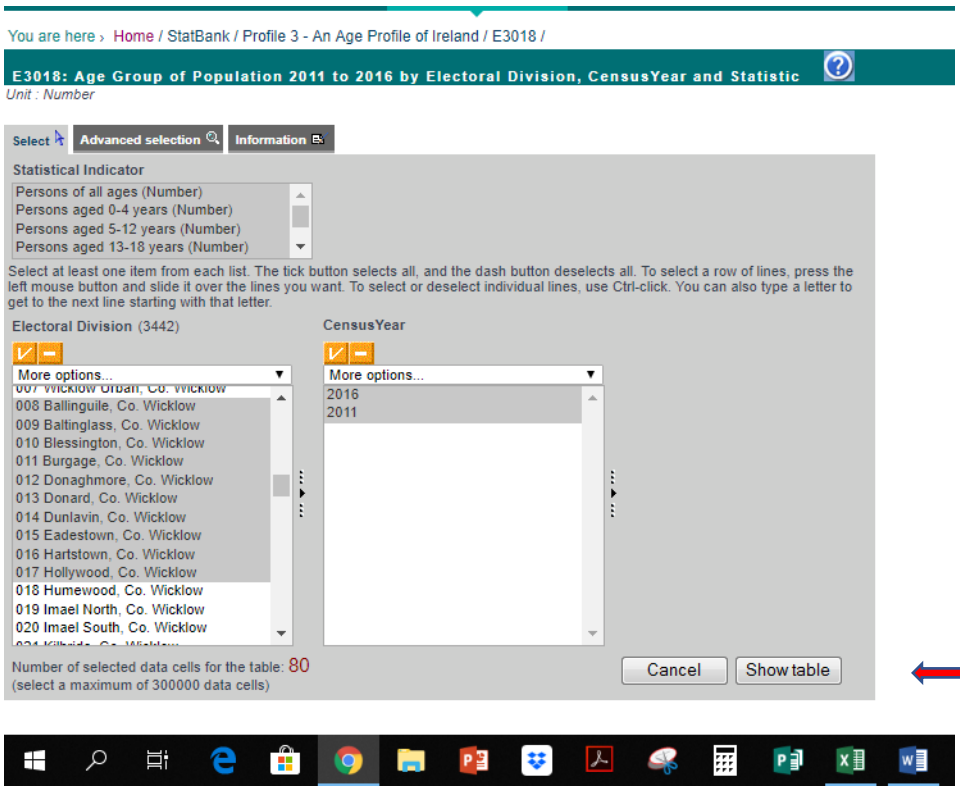
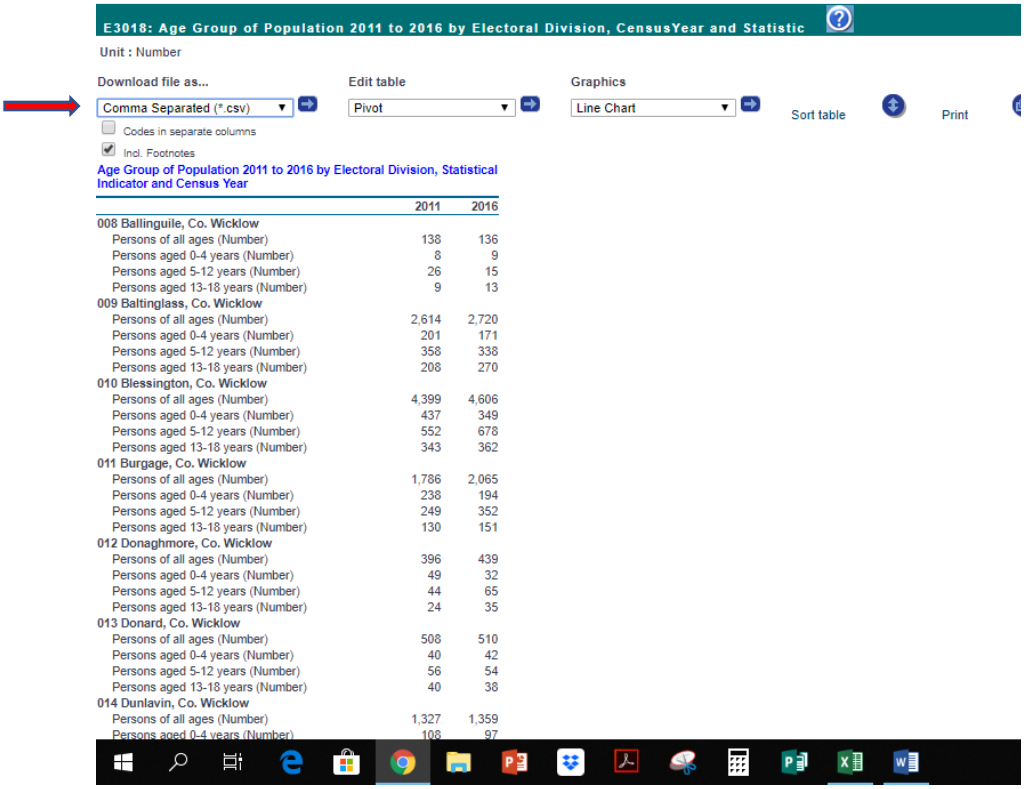
Step 3: Enter statbank (red arrow). This gives a list of the available tables for this topic, scroll down to find the one you want. By Electoral Division will enable you to work to Municipal District level.

Step 4: Using Statbank. The statbank screen allows you to select certain parameters relevant to your area and query and allows you to download detailed data to Excel for further analysis. If the data you want does not seem to be here, go back and try another question.

In this case we want the age profile of people in the electoral divisions of Wicklow that comprise the Baltinglass MD. You must scroll through the various options and use CTRL/Click to select your options of choice.



In this case – first pick the age groups you want to see, then the electoral areas and which census years are of interest and click Show table



You will then be shown the table of the data you have selected. That can then be downloaded to Excel for further manipulation.