Public health on a treadmill of inequality?

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RoI life expectancy gap at age 20

Men

Least deprived: 58.7
Most deprived: 54.6
Professional: 62.0
Unskilled: 55.8
Third level: 61.3
Primary: 53.3

Women

Least deprived: 62.8
Most deprived: 60.2
Professional: 66.2
Unskilled: 61.2
Third level: 65.2
Primary: 59.5

CSO 2010
Relative inequality increases with age

RoI life expectancy of professionals as % of lower SES

CSO 2010
NI mortality inequality over time

NI standard mortality gap between most and least deprived

DHSSPS 2012
Multimorbidity

Risk of mid and low SES aged 65+ having 2+ chronic diseases compared with high SES

Savva et al 2011
NI inequalities on range of variables

All-Ireland health and lifestyle factors aged 65+ by area of deprivation

McNulty et al (2014)
Why do inequalities persist?

1. Strategies in NI & RoI do not focus on health inequalities?
2. Insufficient priority given to delivery at top level?
3. Practice is inadequate or poorly targeted?

Or...looking at the root causes
We haven’t done enough about inequality in wider society. Health services are running fast to stay still. This argument is being expressed by an ever wider group of people – church leaders, economists, academics, international bodies, as well as today’s hosts (IPH).
Academics

‘The Spirit Level’ thesis:
...life expectancy, social mobility and educational attainment are lower and physical and mental illness higher in societies with highly unequal income distributions than in those with a greater degree of equality – inequality was a more potent factor than overall low income

- Wilkinson and Pickett (2009)
International bodies

WHO:
1. improve daily living conditions
2. tackle the inequitable distribution of power, money and resources
3. measure and assess the problem and assess the impact of action.

- Marmot, CSDH (2010)
... redistribution appears generally benign in terms of its impact on growth; only in extreme cases is there some evidence that it may have direct negative effects on growth. Thus redistribution — including the growth effects of the resulting lower inequality — is on average pro-growth.

- Ostry et al (2014)

What about Ireland?
RoI incomes, all ages 2006-2012 (€)

RoI net disposable equivalised weekly income by decile (€)

CSO: SILC
RoI impact of recession, all ages (%)
## Income of poorest quintile, all ages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2012</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Employee income</strong></td>
<td>33.96</td>
<td>14.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Employer's social insurance contributions</strong></td>
<td>2.43</td>
<td>0.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash benefits or losses from self-employment</strong></td>
<td>19.09</td>
<td>9.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other direct income</strong></td>
<td>9.19</td>
<td>2.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total direct income</strong></td>
<td>64.67</td>
<td>27.67</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Unemployment benefits</strong></td>
<td>26.92</td>
<td>38.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Old-age benefits</strong></td>
<td>11.25</td>
<td>7.78</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Family/children related allowances</strong></td>
<td>45.20</td>
<td>27.98</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Housing allowances</strong></td>
<td>3.72</td>
<td>6.24</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Other social transfers</strong></td>
<td>22.78</td>
<td>14.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total social transfers</strong></td>
<td>109.86</td>
<td>95.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gross income</strong></td>
<td>174.53</td>
<td>123.27</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tax on income and social contributions</strong></td>
<td>3.40</td>
<td>2.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Employer's social insurance contributions</strong></td>
<td>2.43</td>
<td>0.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regular inter-household cash transfers paid</strong></td>
<td>3.28</td>
<td>1.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total tax and social contributions</strong></td>
<td>9.11</td>
<td>4.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net disposable income</strong></td>
<td>165.42</td>
<td>118.55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CSO, SILC**

**-€ 46.87**

**-28.30%**
NI weekly pay gap

NI gross weekly pay of full-time employees 1997-2013

NISRA: ASHE
NI hourly pay gap

NISRA: ASHE
NI Low pay and Minimum Wage

NI low pay and the National Minimum Wage (£ per week)

10th
20th
NMW

NISRA: ASHE
Running hard to stay still?
References

Ostry, J; Berg, A; Tsangarides, C; Berg (2014). Redistribution, Inequality, and Growth. Washington: IMF Research Department

Thank you. More info from paul@cardi.ie