



An Roinn Sláinte  
Department of Health

# HEALTHY IRELAND: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

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# HEALTHY IRELAND – A FRAMEWORK FOR IMPROVED HEALTH AND WELLBEING

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## Vision

*A Healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility*

## Goals

*Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life*

*Reduce health inequalities*

*Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing*

*Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland*



## Framework of Actions

**Theme 1**  
*Governance  
and Policy*

**Theme 2**  
*Partnership and  
Cross-Sectoral  
Work*

**Theme 3**  
*Empowering  
People and  
Communities*

**Theme 4**  
*Health and  
Health Reform*

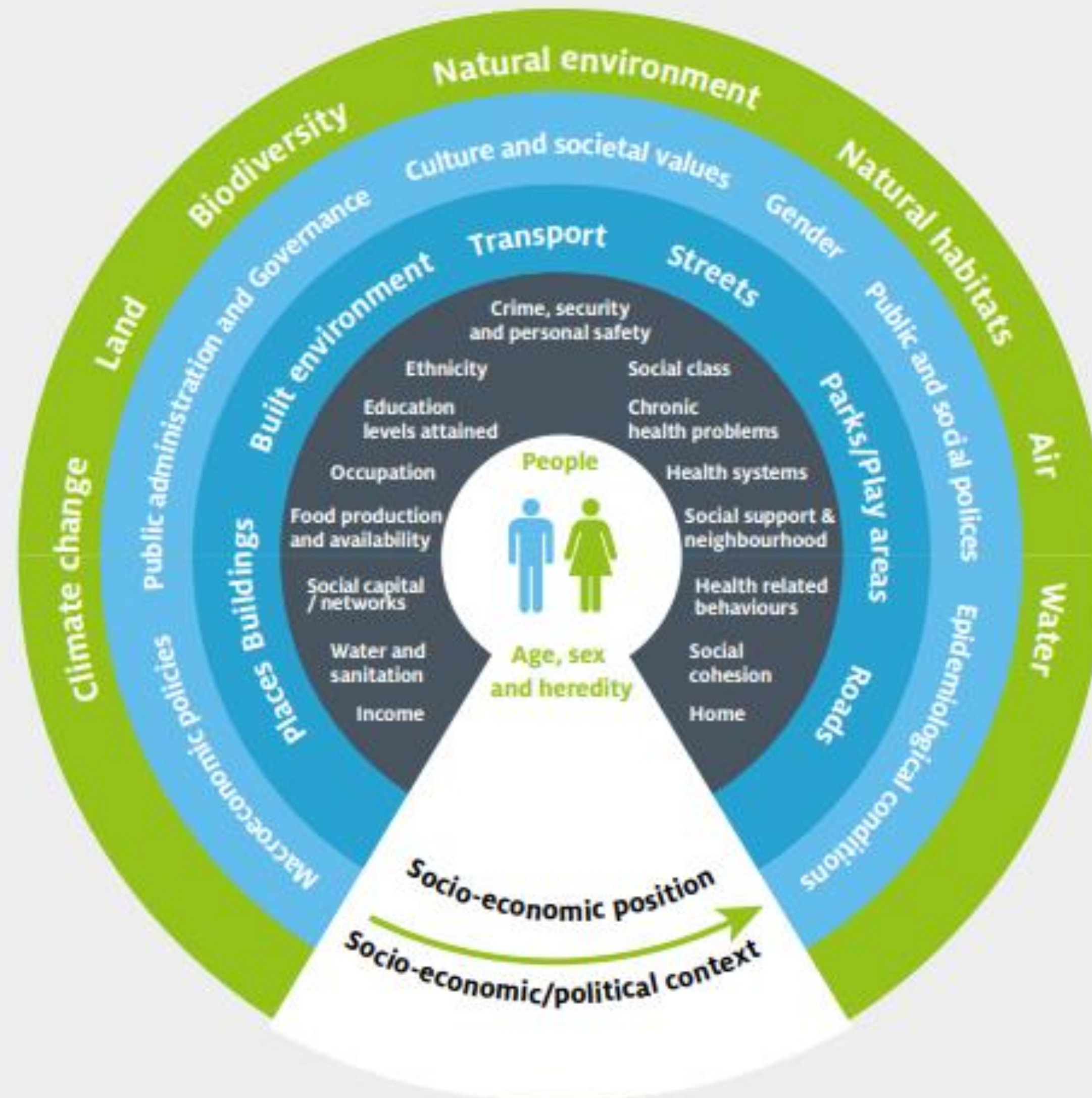
**Theme 5**  
*Research and  
Evidence*

**Theme 6**  
*Monitoring,  
Reporting and  
Evaluation*



# Determinants of Health

(Adapted from Dalglish and Whitehead, 1991 and Grant and Barton, 2006)





## Health Status







- ### Preventative Measures
- Breast Cancer Screening Rate
  - Cervical Cancer Screening Rate
  - Measles Mumps and Rubella (MMR) Immunisation Rate
  - Meningitis C Immunisation Rate

- ### Lifestyle and Behaviour Risks
- Overweight and Obesity
  - Physical Activity Levels
  - Current Smoking Rate
  - Harmful Use of Alcohol
  - Breastfeeding Rates
  - Condom use (young people)
  - Screen time (young people)

## Health Outcomes





- ### Mortality and Morbidity
- Healthy Life Years
  - Premature Non-Communicable Disease Mortality
  - Cancer Incidence

- ### Wellbeing Factors
- Self-Perceived Health
  - Positive Mental Health
  - Probable Mental Health Problem
  - Moderate and Severe Depression (age 50+)
  - Social and Cultural Participation (age 50+)
  - Safety and Security (age 50+)
  - Feeling Safe (young people)

## Social Determinants





- ### Environmental Factors
- Air Quality Index
  - Water Quality
  - Radon

- ### Socio-Economic Factors
- Long-term unemployment
  - Jobless Households
  - Education: Retention
  - Education: Attainment
  - Literacy and Numeracy
  - Consistent Poverty Rate
  - Inequality of Income



## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ON HEALTH

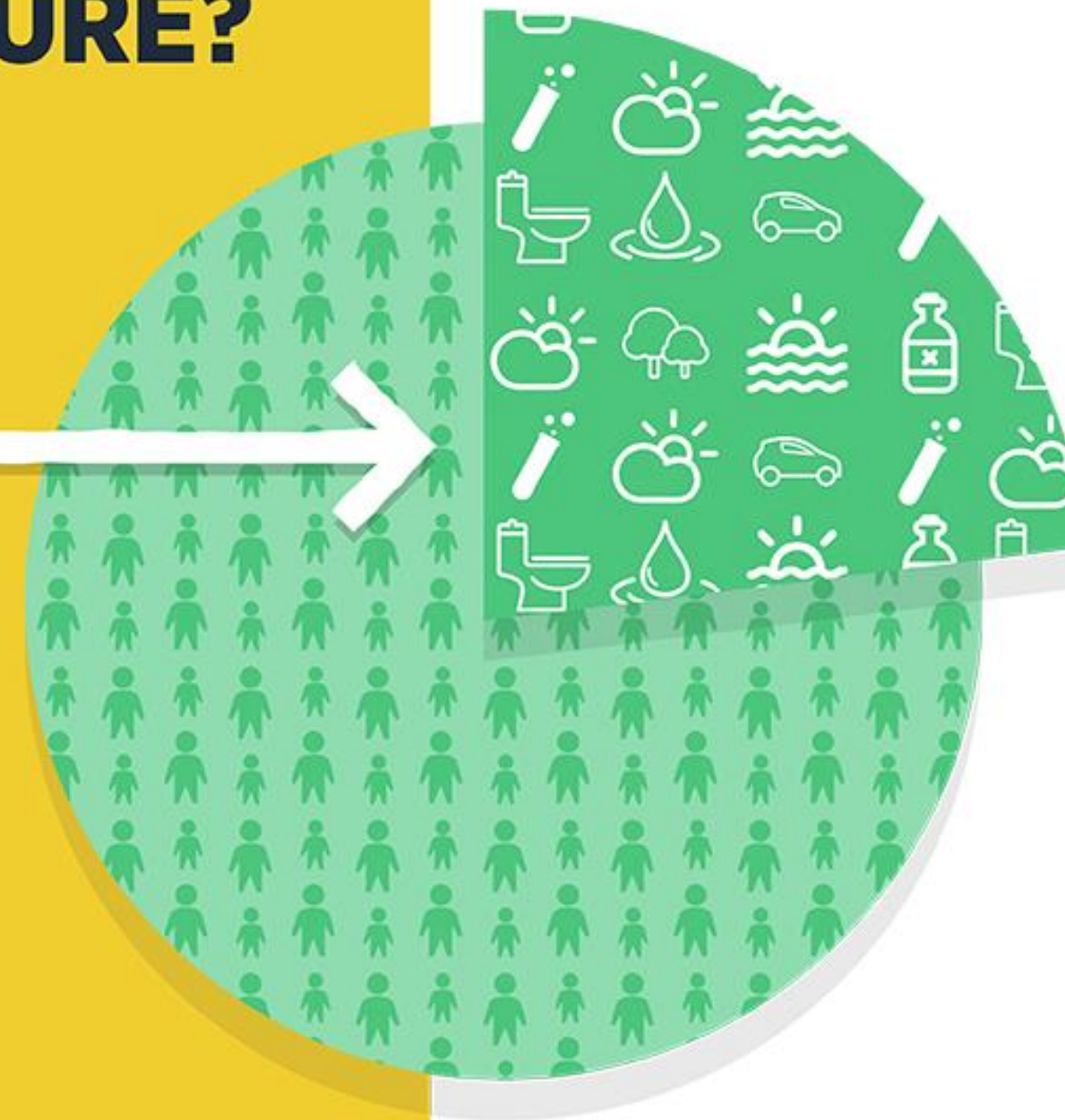
# WHAT IS THE BIG PICTURE?

FACT:

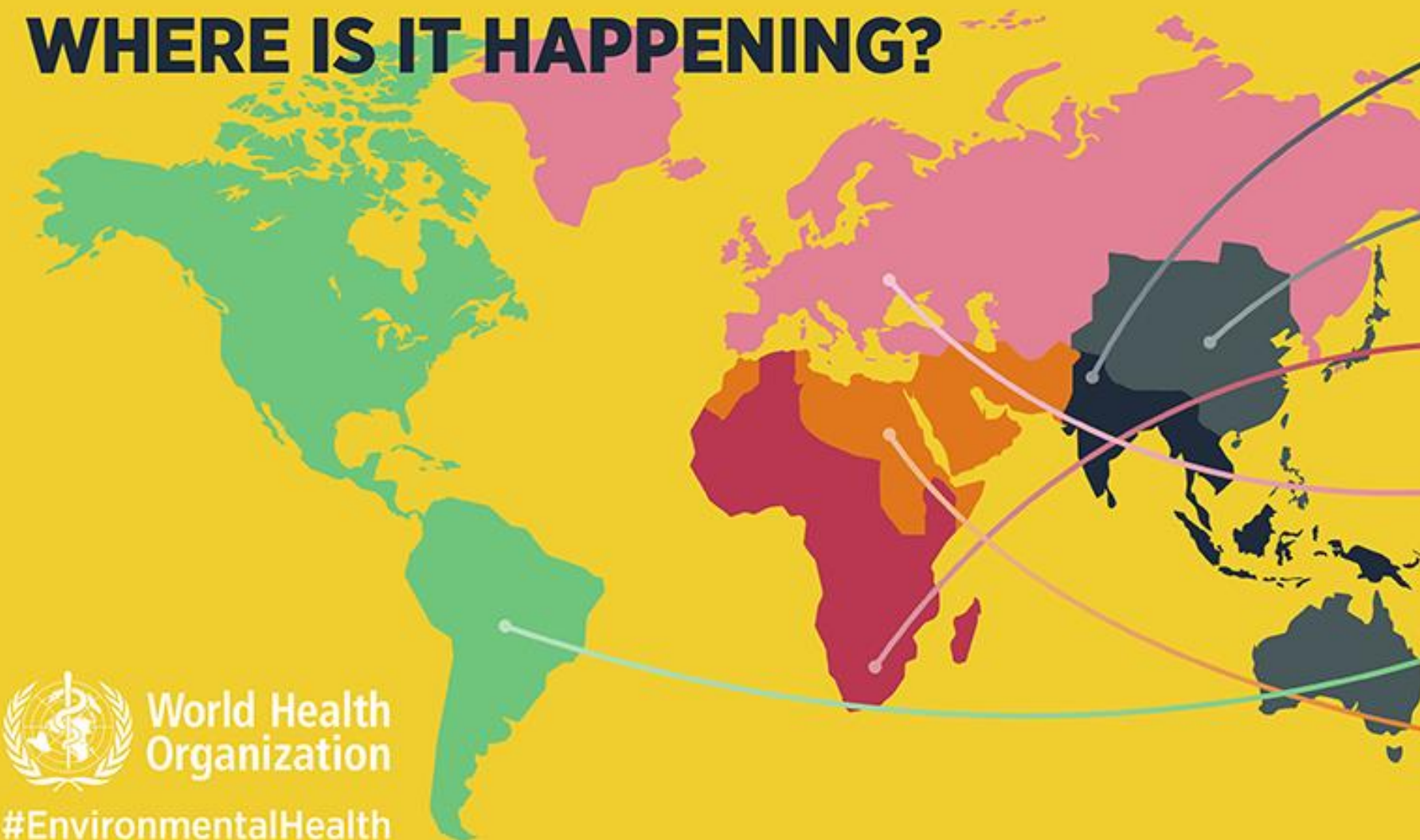
**24%** of all

global deaths are linked  
to the environment. (2016)

That's roughly **13.7 million deaths** a year.



## WHERE IS IT HAPPENING?



**4.1 million**  
in South-East Asia Region

**3.6 million**  
in Western Pacific Region

**2.5 million**  
in Africa Region

**1.4 million**  
in European Region

**1.1 million**  
in the Region of the Americas

**984 000**  
in Eastern Mediterranean Region

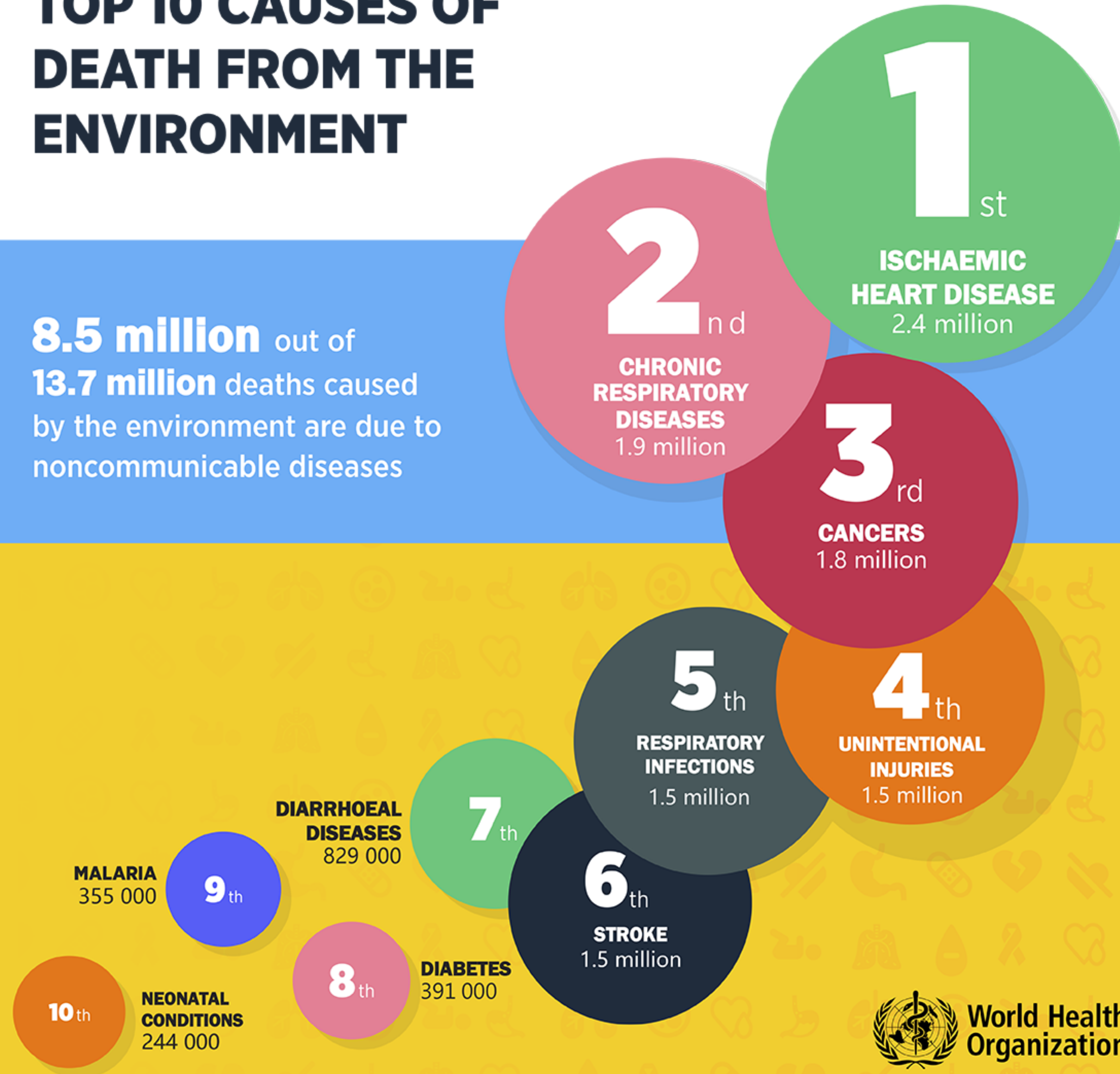




# TOP 10 CAUSES OF DEATH FROM THE ENVIRONMENT



**8.5 million** out of **13.7 million** deaths caused by the environment are due to noncommunicable diseases



World Health Organization

#EnvironmentalHealth



# WE CAN IMPROVE OUR ENVIRONMENT TO IMPROVE OUR HEALTH

These WIN-WIN  
strategies are  
fundamental  
to achieving the



World Health  
Organization

#EnvironmentalHealth



**1.** Apply low **carbon strategies** in energy generation, housing and the industry.



**2.** Use more active and **public transportation**.



**3.** Introduce **clean fuels** for cooking, heating and lighting and clean technologies.



**4.** Reduce **occupational exposures** and improve working conditions.



**5.** Increase **access to safe water** and adequate sanitation and promote hand washing.



**6.** Change **consumption patterns** to lower the use of harmful chemicals, minimize waste production and save energy.



**7.** Implement interventions that can increase **sun protective behaviour**.



**8.** Pass **smoking bans** to reduce exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke.



**9.** Always use a **health in all policies** approach to create healthier environments and prevent disease.

Let's all work towards a healthier  
environment for our health.







# Healthy Ireland Fund

The Healthy Ireland Fund stimulates and supports innovative, cross-sectoral, evidence-based projects, programmes and initiatives that drive the implementation of key national policies

## Round 1 – 2017/18 Results:

- Almost one million citizens directly benefited
- 22 Healthy County plans involving 504 organisations were created
- 382 Actions delivered at local level across Ireland
- 2,456 organisations worked in partnership to implement actions
- 1,156 events organised



# Healthy Ireland Fund Actions – Examples:



- RIAI Town and Village Toolkit – Galway County Council
- Promotion of Active Transport – Transport and Mobility Forum Cork
- Food – Community Gardens & Outdoor Park Drinking Water Fountains
- Biodiversity - Baggot Estate native Wildflower/Biodiversity Garden (Limerick)
- Outdoor Play (Mayo)
- Healthy Cities and Counties

# Healthy Cities and Counties of Ireland Network



"Health is created and lived by people within the settings of their everyday life; where they learn, work, play, and love." - *The Ottawa Charter, 1986.*

A Healthy City aims to:

- to create a health-supportive environment,
- to achieve a good quality of life,
- to provide basic sanitation and hygiene needs,
- to supply access to health care.





# Healthy Cities and Counties of Ireland Network

- 21 Counties are members of the National Network
- Requires – Political Commitment, Infrastructure, and a Clear Plan of Action
- Health and Non-Health SDGs are at the core of the objectives of the Network and members
- Training and resourcing at local level is required to realise further multi-sectoral activity
- New development strategy for the Network is under development

# Warmth and wellbeing scheme



Aim - The Warmth and Wellbeing Scheme aims to improve the living conditions of vulnerable people living with chronic respiratory conditions.

Partnership –

1. Department of Communications Climate Action and Energy Action (lead);
2. Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland;
3. Health Services Executive (CHO7); and the
4. Department of Health





# Warmth and wellbeing scheme

Met multiple objectives – policy alignment:

1. Warmer and healthier home environment for people experiencing Fuel Poverty with existing conditions
2. SEAI - creating a cleaner energy future for Ireland
3. HSE - a healthier Ireland with a high quality health service valued by all
4. DECCA - Energy Efficiency & Affordability - improve the energy efficiency of our economy and society to help make our energy supply more secure, competitive and sustainable



# Thank You

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