

MENTAL HEALTH IN THE WORKPLACE

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Mental Health?



Whether you call it wellbeing, emotional welfare or mental health, it's key to living a fulfilling life.

How you think and feel about yourself and your life affects how you behave and how well you cope when times are tough.

It affects your ability to make the most of the opportunities that come your way and play a full part in your family, workplace, community and among friends.

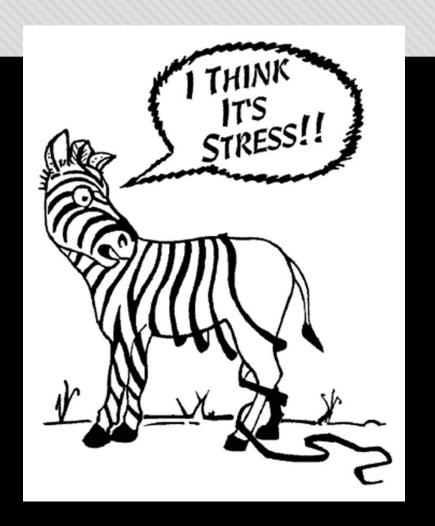
It's also closely linked with your physical health.



What is mental health?



Stress





Can we change?





Yes... we have to!









Similarly









We all have mental health It's a continuum

Mental health .. Wellbeing

...Emotional concerns

Mental health problems

...Mental IIIness



Mental Health problems?



O https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUA8oOd8cmg

Why talk about mental health / stress at work?



The scale of the problem

- O Over half of European workers report that stress is common in their workplace.
- O Stress is thought to contribute to about half of all lost working days, along with other psychosocial risks.
- O Around 4 in 10 workers think that stress is not handled well in their workplace.

1 in 2 Irish people would not want others to know if they had a mental health problem.

Employers and employees along with farmers & young males are most affected by stigma:

- O Least likely to be open or talk about their own & others; mental health some to the extent that it would prevent them from seeking help.
- O 57% believe that being open about a mental health problem at work would have a negative impact on job and career prospects, up from 48% in 2010.
- O 47% believe that being open about a mental health problem at work would have a negative effect on a person's relationship with colleagues, up from 36% in 2010.
- O 1 in 5 say they would be very comfortable working with someone with depression.
- O There is an increased belief that people with mental health problems have same right to a job as others, up from 72% in 2010 to 79%.

Stigma = Silence

Stigma stops people seeking help

Stigma makes the experience of being unwell much harder

Stigma has a social and human cost

Stigma is felt most acutely by groups at higher risk of suicide (18-24 yr old males)



Why talk about it?

O http://www.seechange.ie/new-video-tackling-those-old-mental-health-cliches/

You don't need to be an expert to start talking about mental health and stress, or have all the answers.

Sometimes the most helpful thing you can do is to let someone know that you are there for them and simply listen

- Talk, but listen too: Simply being there will mean a lot.
- Take your lead from the person.
- Avoid the clichés.
- Keep in touch.
- Don't just talk about mental health.



Start your conversation

Although you can't solve someone else's problems, knowing the basics about how to support someone can really help you – and them.

There is no simple way of knowing is someone has a mental health problem and sometimes you don't need to know.

It's more important to respond sensitively to someone who seems troubled than to find out whether or not they have a diagnosis.



Support a friend

Mental Health First Aid

Mental health first aid is the help provided to a person developing a mental health problem or in a mental health crisis.

The first aid is given until appropriate professional treatment is received or until the crisis resolves.



MHFA Course Content

- Mental health problems in Ireland
- Mental Health First Aid Action Plan
- Depression
- Anxiety problems
- Psychosis
- Substance use problems
- Mental health crises

Crisis Covered

- Suicidal thoughts or behaviors
- Non-suicidal self-injury
- Panic attack
- After a traumatic event
- Acute psychotic state
- Severe effects from alcohol or other drug use
- Aggressive behavior .

One U.S study.....

O Study provides preliminary evidence that MHFA training has **positive** effects:

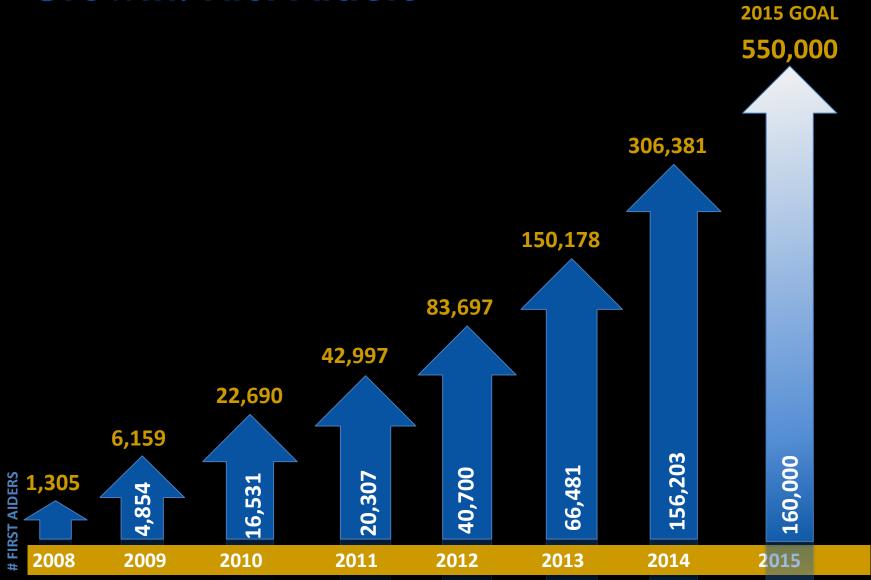
<u>Immediate positive effects:</u>

- O changing trainees' attitudes and beliefs about MH
- O improving knowledge
- O Increasing **recognition** of mental health problems
- O Increasing self-confidence

Longer term positive effects:

- O Perceived behavioral change at 3- and 6-months
- O At 3 months 57% and 6 months 56% participants reported identifying mental health problems in others
- O At 3 months 62% and at 6 months 59% reported taking a action to reach out to someone in distress.

Growth: First Aiders



Internationally....



Has spread internationally with current MHFA programs in over 20 other countries:

Canada, China, Denmark, England, Finland, Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan, Malta, Nepal, New Zealand, Nth Ireland, Pakistan, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, Sweden, USA and Wales.

What's going on?

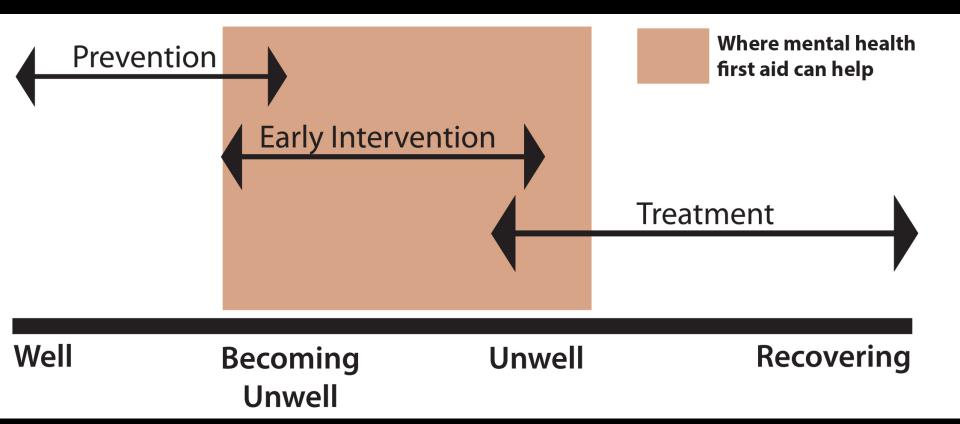
Wellness programmes

Management programmes

Occupational health 'case management'

Suicide Awareness

What if you could improve people's own mental health while providing them with the skills to help others....that's what mental health first aid does







Corporate Solution



Corporate responsibility

Knowledge

Concern

Attitude

Stigma

Corporate Solution

Human performance

Absence Management

Colleagues



Resilience Corporate responsibility

Knowledge

Concern

Attitude

Application

Stigma

Values

Corporate Wellness culture Communication

Total wellness

Actions

Comprehension

Human performance

Early help

AbsenceConfidence Management

Corporate athlete

Relationships

Physical health

Colleagues

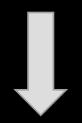
International evidence shows.....

Confidence in providing help

Likelihood of advising people to seek professional help

Concordance with health professionals in beliefs about treatments

Participants' own mental health



Social distance (stigmatising attitudes)



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