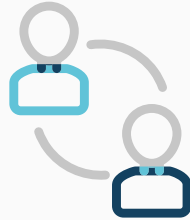


ELSIE NEWSLETTER

Exploring Loneliness and Social Isolation in Emerging adulthood

First session with our Research Advisory Group!



In May, we met with our youth Research Advisory Group (more on p. 2) who helped us progress our plans for our qualitative study.

Our aim for this session was to hear their thoughts on the relevance of the study for young adult groups, the questions we would like to ask participants, the best way to recruit a diverse group of young adults to take part, and any other ideas they had.

The involvement of young adults in the design stage of our study was so helpful to challenge our assumptions, identify issues, and come up with solutions to improve the study.

Check out some of the suggestions we have implemented below!

Rather than using the word "interview", which some young adults may find intimidating, we will use the term 'conversation' or 'discussion' about loneliness to describe the study in our recruitment materials (e.g., poster on social media).

We will provide a description about each member of the research team for participants to choose who to have a conversation with; this might also help us to recruit a diverse group of young adults to take part.

Young adults might prefer to discuss their views on loneliness in a group setting (i.e., focus groups) rather than an interview; we will offer both interviews and focus groups to increase the likelihood that we can include the views from a diverse group of young adults in the study.

Given that our aim is to better understand the meaning of loneliness from the perspective of young adults and that some young adults may not want to discuss their own experiences of loneliness, we will be clear in recruitment materials that participants do not need to have experienced loneliness or discuss their own experiences in order to contribute to this study.

Participants will be invited to allow anonymised transcripts to be archived in the Irish Qualitative Data Archive for use in future research. To facilitate informed consent, we will provide a brief example of how data will be anonymised to participants who request more information.

To ensure the project is accessible, we encourage potential participants to let us know if there are any particular accommodations a person needs to enable them to participate.

To thank participants for their time, all participants (interview, focus group, and online survey) can choose to be entered into a draw to win Apple AirPods. Interview and focus group participants will also be offered a €20 One4All voucher.

From the archives



Read a paper lead by Dr Páraic Ó' Súilleabháin on loneliness, living alone, and mortality in older adults.

[Click here!](#)

From the archives



Listen back to Dr Annette Burns from the Institute of Public Health discuss loneliness and the impact of Covid-19.

[Click here!](#)



Meet some members of our youth Research Advisory Group!

Ciarán Semahedi is on the Spunout.ie BAME and South West Action Panels, and a volunteer with Text50808.

Criodán Ó Murchú is a recipient of the Niamh Burke Renewable Energy Bursary and a Board Member of SpunOut.ie and Text50808.

 @criodanomurchu

Lorraine Kelleher is a marketing executive for a technology company and is studying part-time for a masters in UCC. She is a keen volunteer with Spunout.ie and Civil Defence Ireland.

Rebecca Adeyemo is currently studying in Maynooth and volunteers with the BAME and South-East Action Panels.

Ayrton Kelly is from Donegal and is on the Spunout.ie Dublin Action Panel. He recently completed postgraduate studies in UCD.

Have you got questions?



Email us at elsie@ul.ie

Next time...

Meet the other members of our research team!

