

Ireland

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Snapshot

Area

The Republic of Ireland is a small country (70,273 km²) at the Western edge of Europe. Northern Ireland is part of the same landmass but is part of the United Kingdom.

Population

4,588,252 (Census, 2011)

Official Language

The official languages of the Republic of Ireland are Irish (Gaeilge) and English.

Ethnic Groups

Irish 87.4%, other white 7.5%, Asian 1.3%, black 1.1%, mixed 1.1%, unspecified 1.6% (2006 census)

Median Age

34.8 years (2011 census)

Children under 5

325,000 (Census, 2011 est.)

Sources

Census 2011 Highlights

<http://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/census/documents/census2011pdr/Census%202011%20Highlights%20Part%201%20web%2072dpi.pdf>



“We music therapists have as our therapeutic agent a universal means of human contact, communication, and expression - music. The potential is unbounded.”
– Edith H. Boxill

Demographics

Music therapy has not yet achieved state recognition in Ireland. Therefore it is not possible to give an exact number for music therapists working in Ireland. The representative body for creative arts therapists in Ireland, IACAT, is working to improve the status of music therapy within the Irish health system and representations have been made to the government to emphasize the value of music therapy as an early childhood intervention. Ireland has one masters-level music therapy course at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at the University of Limerick, from which 8 to 10 music therapists graduate each year.

Background Information

In Ireland, music therapists providing services for young children under 5 work most on a sessional or on private basis. Funding for music therapy programs is usually provided by schools or facilities directly or through charitable contributions. Music therapists in this country have worked with early intervention services, mainstream and special schools, children’s hospitals, facilities for asylum seekers and parent-infant programs. Young children with additional needs such as physical

and intellectual disabilities, emotional-behavioral disturbances or medical needs have participated in music therapy interventions to promote communication, social, emotional and physical well-being and development.

Common Approaches

Music therapists educated in Ireland are trained in an eclectic approach. There are also Nordoff-Robbins and psychodynamic music therapists working in the country. Depending on the developmental or clinical needs of the child and the nature of sessions (i.e., individual or group), a music therapist will naturally vary the methods and techniques he or she uses. Children receiving care in certain hospitals have had access to both music therapy and music in health programs. Parent-infant interventions have been carried out based on the “Sing and Grow” model (see <http://www.singandgrow.org.uk/index.html>).

Prominent Publications

Ireland. Oireachtas. Joint Committee on Arts, Sport, Tourism, Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (2006). An taonú tuarascáil déag: Teiripe cheoil a mhíniú – Eleventh report: Defining music therapy. Retrieved from http://www.oireachtas.ie/documents/committees29thdail/jcastrag/reports/Music_Therapy.pdf

Kelly, K. (2011). Supporting attachment in vulnerable families through an early intervention school-based group music therapy program. In J. Edwards (Ed.), *Music therapy and parent-infant bonding* (pp. 101-114). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

About the Author



Jason Noone, MA divides his time between working with children and adults with developmental disabilities and lecturing on the M.A. Music Therapy Training Program at University of Limerick in Ireland.

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