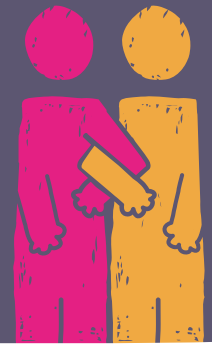




Mental Health Reform

# MENTAL HEALTH AND COVID-19: The Opportunity to Resource, Rebuild, and Reform Ireland's Mental Health System



AS PER OUR POLICY BRIEF

## MENTAL HEALTH MUST BE PLACED AT THE CENTRE OF ALL COVID-19 RECOVERY



Resource

### High quality services demand high levels of investment

We need investment in leadership and resources. In 2021, mental health expenditure remains at **5.1%** of the health budget. Sláintecare recommends **10%**, while other European States spend between **10-13%**.



Rebuild

### Ensure timely access to mental health services and supports

Build community mental health services to ensure the mental health needs of the people of Ireland are met. Reduce risk factors for poor mental health in crucial areas such as income, employment and housing.



Reform

### Deliver legislation that protects mental health and human rights

Publish the draft legislation to update the Mental Health Act, 2001 and repeal Part V of the Emergency Measures in the Public Interest (Covid-19) Act 2020. These actions will support planning for mental health services and restore confidence that legislation protects human rights and safeguards public health.

FACTS:

**80%**



of Irish people agreed or strongly agreed that **“mental health services require additional resources to deal with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health.”**

*(COVID-19 Psychological Research Consortium)*

**92%**

of our members agreed that **“mental health services need more resources to deal with the mental health impact of COVID-19.”**  
*(Mental Health Reform)*

