



# Falls in Population w/ Intellectual Disability



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## Voluntary Sector

### Why did I choose this project? -

- Undertook M Sc in Primary Healthcare in RCSI 2005-2007
- Part of examination requirements to present research project
- Falls are a public health problem – general pop and ID pop
- Interested in falls in ID as many aspects of care in ID pop unresearched

### Who has helped me so far? –

1. REC DOC & REC RCSI
2. Administrator – forms
3. Supervisor
4. Staff



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## Quantitative



## What progress have I/we made so far?

- Literature review of falls
- Joined ProFANE - EC funded collaborative project
- Understanding of health as an asset and risk to health presented by falls
- Vital that definition of ' a fall ' is agreed
- Carried out Case Control Study – used SPSS & ANOVA

## What results have I/we achieved?

- Examined A/CI forms – fall event characteristics
- Identified fallers/recurrent fallers
- Looked at injury/fracture rates
- Identified 3 specific risk factors in this ID pop



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## What have I learned from doing this project? -

- define -**
- Purpose was to identify risk factors in the population
  - Results specific to the population ?
  - Risk factor identification should improve Q of care

## **measure – fall definition**

- analyse –**
- Time of day
  - Previous fall
  - Anti-epileptic medication

- improve -**
- Staff deployment/change routines
  - Primary prevention to prevent first fall
  - Is anti-epileptic use modifiable?

- control -**
- User friendly A/CI form
  - What is the purpose of the form?
  - Litigation or information gathering?



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**Project area -** Intellectually disabled residential population



### What are the next steps for this project?

- Dissemination of information to staff in centre and wider service
- Falls referral pathway – opportunistic and/or structured ?

### What are the next steps for me?

- > Publication of results?
- > Source funding to expand project
- > Undertake PhD