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## Research Interests

Kathryn Higgins is the Director of the Centre for Evidence and Social Innovation (CESI), and a professor of Social Science and Health in the school of Social Science Education and Social Work Queen's University Belfast. Kathryn is an experienced research leader having previously led the Institute for Child Care Research for ten years. Kathryn has an established research reputation in the areas of substance use and addictive behavior and also has been active in the field of programme evaluation/implementation science. She continues to lead the now 18-year longitudinal study, known as the Belfast Youth Development Study, which has acted as a focal point for collaborations with external partners and for new, policy led research. In a field that changes rapidly Kathryn has stayed at the forefront of emerging issues; for example, she was recently funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) to undertake research in the developing field of new psychoactive substances (legal highs). She has developed a cadre of work over the past ten years on Programme evaluation & implementation Science, evaluating interventions designed to improve child and adolescent development. These include RCTs of school- and community-based interventions. Her research programmes, publications and international conference contributions have examined the policy and evidence base for interventions including substance misuse, mental health, alcohol prevention and the mechanisms for implementing evidence based practice and policy more generally.

## Research output

### **New psychoactives within polydrug use trajectories—evidence from a mixed-method longitudinal study**

Higgins, K., O'Neill, N., O'Hara, L., Jordan, J-A., McCann, M., O'Neill, T., Clarke, M., O'Neill, F., Kelly, G. & Campbell, A., 27 Jan 2021, (Early online date) In: *Addiction*. 20 p.

### **Northern Ireland Alcohol and Drugs Alliance: Service users experience during lockdown**

Higgins, K., Kelly, G. & Campbell, A., 17 Nov 2020, Belfast. 17 p.

### **School bonding and ethos in trajectories of offending: Results from the Belfast Youth Development Study: Results from the Belfast Youth Development Study**

Higgins, K., Perra, O., Jordan, J-A., O'Neill, T. & McCann, M., 17 Feb 2020, (Early online date) In: *British Journal of Educational Psychology*.

### **Evidence for Public Health on novel psychoactive substances: a mixed method study**

Higgins, K., Campbell, A., O'Hara, L., O'Neill, T., Clarke, M., O'Neill, F., O'Neill, N. & Mc Cann, M., 14 Aug 2019, 14 ed. National Institute of Health Research Public Health Research Programme. 143 p.

### **Variations and Determinants of Novel Psychoactive Substance Use: Implications for Policy and Practice:**

Higgins, K., O'Neill, N., O'Hara, L., Jordan, J-A., McCann, M., O'Neill, T., Clarke, M., O'Neill, T. & Campbell, A., 12 Aug 2019, In: *Public Health Research*. 7, 14, p. 1 50 p., vol 7 issue 14.

### **Public Health Evidence on Novel Psychoactive Substances -**

Higgins, K., 18 Jun 2019.

### **Longitudinal Social Network Analysis of Peer, Family, and School Contextual Influences on Adolescent Drinking Frequency**

McCann, M., Jordan, J. A., Higgins, K. & Moore, L., 10 Jun 2019, (Early online date) In: *Journal of Adolescent Health*. 65, 3, p. 350-358 9 p.

### **The Use of Prescription Medication in Prisons in Northern Ireland**

Higgins, K., Kelly, G., O'Neill, N., O'Hara, L. & Campbell, A., Jun 2019, Queen's University Belfast. 49 p.

### **The longitudinal relationship of alcohol problems and depressive symptoms and the impact of externalising symptoms: findings from the Belfast Youth Developmental Study**

Homman, L. E., Perra, O., Higgins, K. & O'Neill, F., 22 Mar 2019, (Early online date) In: Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology. p. 1-11

### **A feasibility study of Barnardo's Pharos group work programme to build resilience in children affected by parental substance abuse.**

McLaughlin, A., Devlin, L., Mullan, C., McLaughlin, K., Macdonald, G., O'Neill, T., Higgins, K., Percy, A. & Hayes, D., 2019, p. 11-11. 1 p.

### **Evidence for public health on novel psychoactive substance use: a mixed-methods study**

Higgins, K., O'Neill, N., O'Hara, L., Campbell, A., O'Neill, T., O'Neill, F., Clarke, M. & McCann, M., Oct 2018, In: Public Health Research. 7, 14, 177 p.

### **Harmonising alcohol consumption, sales and related outcomes data across the UK & Ireland: An insurmountable barrier to policy evaluation?**

Jordan, J-A., McCann, M., Katikireddi, V. & Higgins, K., 23 Jul 2018, (Early online date) In: Drugs: Education, Prevention and Policy.

### **The Belfast Youth Development Study (BYDS): a prospective cohort study of the initiation, persistence and desistance of substance use from adolescence to adulthood in Northern Ireland**

Higgins, K., McLaughlin, A., Perra, O., McCartan, C., McCann, M., Percy, A. & Jordan, J-A., 23 May 2018, In: PLoS ONE. 13, 5, 18 p., e0195192.

### **Variants and determinants of Novel Psychoactive Substance (NPS) use Potential implications for Policy and Practice**

Higgins, K., 31 Oct 2017, National Institute of Health Research Public Health Research Programme. 300 p.

### **New Psychoactive Substances: preliminary findings from a mixed methods study**

Higgins, K., O'Neill, N., O'Hara, L., Jordan, J-A. & Campbell, A., 24 May 2017.

### **Participant Photography as a Research Tool: Ethical Issues and Practical Implementation**

O'Hara, L. & Higgins, K., 07 Apr 2017, In: Sociological Methods and Research. p. 1-31

### **Health and Social Care Workers Perceptions of Novel Psychoactive substances in Northern Ireland**

Campbell, A., O'Neill, N. & Higgins, K., Feb 2017, In: International Journal of Drug Policy. 40, p. 93-101

### **Keynote address Evidence Informed Practice in the Digital Era - what next?**

Higgins, K., 16 Nov 2016.

### **Mobile Phones and Contact Arrangements for Children Living in Care**

Kelly, G., Macdonald, G., Higgins, K. & Robinson, C., 13 Jul 2016, (Early online date) In: British Journal of Social Work. 47, 3, p. 1-18 18 p.

### **Cross-section and panel estimates of peer effects in early adolescent cannabis use: With a little help from my 'friends once removed'**

Moriarty, J., McVicar, D. & Higgins, K., 21 Jun 2016, (Early online date) In: Social Science and Medicine. 163, p. 37 29 p.

### **Assessing elements of a family approach to reduce adolescent drinking frequency: parent-adolescent relationship, knowledge management, and keeping secrets**

McCann, M., Perra, O., McLaughlin, A., McCartan, C. & Higgins, K., 06 Apr 2016, In: Addiction. 111, 5, p. 843-853

**Parental alcohol use and resilience in young people: A study of family, peer and school processes. Short report.**  
McLaughlin, A., O'Neill, T., McCartan, C., Percy, A., Perra, O., Higgins, K. & McCann, M., 08 Mar 2016, HSC R&D, Public Health Agency, Northern Ireland. 20 p.

**The Smartphones Study: Using a Smartphone Application to Collect Longitudinal Data**  
O'Hara, L., Higgins, K., Macdonald, G., McCann, M. & Moriarty, J., 2016.

**Adolescent alcohol use and school disengagement. Alcohol Insight Number 129.**  
O'Neill, T., McLaughlin, A., Higgins, K., McCartan, C., Murphy, S. & Gossrau-Breen, D., 02 Nov 2015, Alcohol Research UK. 5 p.

**Effects of peer network interactions on adolescent cannabis use**  
Moriarty, J. & Higgins, K., 2015, In: *Journal of Criminal Psychology*. 5, 2, p. 75-91 17 p.

**Miss School Miss Out film: <http://www.eani.org.uk/schools/miss-school-miss-out/>**  
Higgins, K., 2015

**Odyssey Parenting Your Teen: Bringing Together Research and Practice**  
O'Hara, L., Jaffa, P., Higgins, K., Macdonald, G., McCann, M., McLaughlin, K. & Moriarty, J., 19 Nov 2014.

**Mapping the field in evidence-informed policy and practice: international perspectives. Evidence & Policy: A Journal of Research and Practice, 10(4), 489-495.**  
Higgins, K., Canavan, J. & Coen, L., 01 Nov 2014, In: *Evidence and Policy*. 10, 4, p. 489-495 7 p.

**Mobile Phones and Contact Arrangements for Children Living in Care**  
MacDonald, G., Kelly, G., Robinson, C. & Higgins, K., Nov 2014, Queens University Belfast. 66 p.

**Response to the consultation on Delivering Social Change for Children and Young People**  
Kelly, G. & Higgins, K., Mar 2014.

**Meta-analysis on school level variables in a co-evolving network analyses of adolescent friendship and smoking behaviour**  
McAneney, H., Cochrane, G., Higgins, K., McCann, J. & Kee, F., 22 Feb 2014, p. 354. 1 p.

**Adolescent ecstasy use and depression: cause and effect, or two outcomes of home environment?**  
McCann, M., Higgins, K., Perra, O., McCartan, C. & McLaughlin, A., 2014, In: *European journal of public health*. 24, 5, p. 845-850 6 p.

**The Smartphones Study**  
Moriarty, J., O'Hara, L., McCann, M., Yerima, S., Sezer, S., Higgins, K., McAneney, H., Perra, O., Ell, P., Tully, M. & Macdonald, G., 2014.

**"Parenting Ur Teen" Supporting the Parents of Adolescents**  
O'Hara, L., Higgins, K., Macdonald, G., McCann, M., McLaughlin, K. & Moriarty, J., Dec 2013, (Unpublished) *Children's Research Network for Ireland and Northern Ireland Conference*.

**The Belfast Youth Development Study video**  
Higgins, K., 01 Jun 2013

**The Belfast Youth Development Study video: ([www.QUB.ac.uk/BYDS](http://www.QUB.ac.uk/BYDS)).**  
Higgins, K., 2013

### **The Influence of Parental Monitoring and School Environment on Adolescent Alcohol Use**

McCann, M., Higgins, K., Perra, O. & McLaughlin, A., 2013, *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health*. Supplement ed. journal, Vol. 6. p. A65-A66 1 p. PP42

### **Social Networks and Adolescent Smoking: The Gender Difference**

Cochrane, G., McAnaney, H., Mercken, L., Higgins, K., McCann, J. & Kee, F., 24 Apr 2012.

### **Keynote address + Conference Organiser (2012) 'Use of evidence in times of austerity'. Challenges & Opportunities**

Cavan, Ireland April 2012 QUB/NUI Galway

Higgins, K., Apr 2012.

### **School-related predictors of smoking, drinking and drug use: Evidence from the Belfast Youth Development Study**

Perra, O., Fletcher, A., Bonell, C., Higgins, K. & McCrystal, P., Apr 2012, In: *Journal of Adolescence*. 35, 2, p. 315-324 10 p.

### **An exploration of sexual health competencies in young people in Northern Ireland**

Dunne, L., Higgins, K., McCann, M., Macdonald, G. & Wilson, J., 2012.

### **Parenting Ur Teen: A Randomised Trial of Implementation and Effectiveness**

Higgins, K., Macdonald, G., McLaughlin, K., O'Hara, L., McCann, M. & Moriarty, J., 2012, Queens University Belfast.

### **Peer Effects in Adolescent Cannabis Use: It's the Friends, Stupid**

Moriarty, J., McVicar, D. & Higgins, K., 2012, (Melbourne Institute Working Paper Series; vol. 27, no. 12).

### **Selection, de selection and influence : three processes in the dynamics of adolescent social networks of alcohol and tobacco use**

Higgins, K., 2012, In: *Journal of Research On Adolescence*. 1

### **Facing the Child Welfare and Mental Health Interface Challenges**

Higgins, K., Oct 2011, *PART*. Dill, K. (ed.). Scholars Press, p. 1-20 20 p.

### **Dynamics of smoking in adolescence and influence of social networks**

Cochrane, G. C., McAnaney, H., McCann, J., Higgins, K. & Kee, F., Aug 2011, p. A41-A41. 1 p.

### **Alcohol and the affluence paradox: A secondary analysis exploring the health disparities surrounding adolescent alcohol use and alcohol related harm in adulthood**

Higgins, K., Perra, O., McCann, M., McCartan, C. & McLaughlin, A., May 2011, Alcohol Research UK.

### **Invited Key note (2010) Evidence informed Practice 'Facing the Child Welfare and mental health interface –focus on drug and alcohol use 'University of Toronto 2010/PART**

Higgins, K., 15 May 2010.

### **Parenting Ur Teen: Stage One Process Evaluation Interim Report**

Higgins, K., O'Hara, L. & Macdonald, G., 2010, (Unpublished) Queens University Belfast.

### **Confirmatory factor analysis of the adolescent self-report strengths and difficulties questionnaire**

Percy, A., McCrystal, P. & Higgins, K., 2008, In: *EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT*. 24, 1, p. 43-48 6 p.

### **Substance Use among Young People Living in Residential State Care**

McCrystal, P., Percy, A. & Higgins, K., 2008, In: *Child Care in Practice*. 14, 2, p. 181-192 12 p.

**Keynote address Closing the Loop - Connecting Child Care Research Policy and Practice + Organiser**  
Higgins, K., 01 Dec 2007.

**School exclusion drug use and antisocial behaviour at 15/16 years: Implications for youth transitions**  
McCrystal, P., Percy, A. & Higgins, K., 01 Dec 2007, In: Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies. 2, 3, p. 181-190 10 p.

**Frequent Cannabis Use Among 14/15 Year Olds in Northern Ireland**  
McCrystal, P., Higgins, K. & Percy, A., 17 Apr 2007, In: Drug and Alcohol Dependence. 88(1), 1, p. 19-27 9 p.

**Drug use amongst young people attending emotional and behavioural difficulty units during adolescence: A longitudinal analysis**  
McCrystal, P., Percy, A. & Higgins, K., Mar 2007, In: Emotional & Behavioural Difficulties. 12(1), 1, p. 49-68 20 p.

**Exclusion and Marginalisation in Adolescence: The Experience of School Exclusion on Drug Use and Antisocial Behaviour**  
McCrystal, P., Higgins, K. & Percy, A., Feb 2007, In: Journal of Youth Studies. 10(1), 1, p. 35-54 20 p.

**The Cost of Drug Use in Adolescence: Young People, Money and Substance Abuse.**  
McCrystal, P., Percy, A. & Higgins, K., Feb 2007, In: Drugs: Education, Prevention and Policy. 14(1), 1, p. 19-28 10 p.

**Substance use behaviors of young people with a moderate learning disability: A longitudinal analysis**  
McCrystal, P., Percy, A. & Higgins, K., 01 Jan 2007, In: American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse. 33, 1, p. 155-161 7 p.

**Substance Use Behaviours of Young People with A Moderate Learning Disability: A longitudinal analysis**  
McCrystal, P., Percy, A. & Higgins, K., Jan 2007, In: American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse. 33, p. 155-162 8 p.

**School exclusion, drug use and delinquency in adolescence**  
McCrystal, P., Higgins, K. & Percy, A., Oct 2006, In: Journal of Adolescence. 29(5), 5, p. 829-836 8 p.

**Drug use amongst 12 and 13 year olds attending emotional and behavioural difficulties units in Belfast**  
McCrystal, P., Higgins, K. & Percy, A., Sep 2005, In: Emotional & Behavioural Difficulties. 10, 3, p. 203-218 16 p.

**Adolescent Substance abuse among young people excluded from school in Belfast**  
McCrystal, P., Higgins, K., Percy, A. & Thornton, M., Apr 2005, In: Drugs: Education, Prevention and Policy. 12 (2), 2, p. 101-112 12 p.

**Substance abuse among 12 and 13-year-old young people in belfast at high risk of developing problem drug use**  
McCrystal, P., Higgins, K. & Percy, A., 01 Jan 2005, In: Child Care in Practice. 11, 3, p. 313-321 9 p.

**The impact of paramilitary violence against a heroin-user community in Northern Ireland: A qualitative analysis**  
Higgins, K. & Kilpatrick, R., Jan 2005, In: International Journal of Drug Policy. 16(5), 5, p. 334-342 9 p.

**Substance abuse among 12 and 13 year olds at high risk of developing problem drug use**  
McCrystal, P., Higgins, K. & Percy, A., 2005, In: Child Care in Practice. 11, p. 313-321 9 p.

**Belfast Youth Development Study: Technical Report 2004**  
McCrystal, P., Higgins, K. & Percy, A., Sep 2004, Institute of Child Care Research : ICCR.

**Secular Trends in Substance Use: The Conflict and Young People in Northern Ireland**  
Higgins, K., Percy, A. & McCrystal, P., Sep 2004, In: Journal of Social Issues. 60 (3), 3, p. 485-506 22 p.

**Belfast Youth Development Study: Research Update for Schools Issue 4**

McCrystal, P., Higgins, K. & Percy, A., 2004, Institute of Child Care Research, QUB : ICCR.

**Belfast Youth Development Study: Research Update for Schools Issue 3**

Percy, A., McCrystal, P. & Higgins, K., 2003, Institute of Child Care Research, QUB : ICCR.

**Belfast Youth Development Study: Technical Report 2002**

McCrystal, P., Percy, A., Higgins, K. & Thornton, M., 2003, Institute of Child Care Research, QUB : ICCR.

**Belfast Youth Development Study: Technical Report 2003**

Percy, A., McCrystal, P. & Higgins, K., 2003, Institute of Child Care Research, QUB : ICCR.

**Emerging patterns of adolescent drug use: The Belfast Youth Development Study 2000-2002**

McCrystal, P., Higgins, K., Percy, A. & Thornton, M., 2003, In: Child Care in Practice. 9, p. 73-83 11 p.

**United Kingdom**

Higgins, K. & Haw, S., Nov 2002, *HIV and AIDS: A Global View*. McElrath, K. (ed.). Greenwood, p. 235-252 18 p.

**Belfast Youth Development Study: The High Risk Booster Sample**

McCrystal, P., Percy, A., Higgins, K. & Thornton, M., 2002, Institute of Child Care Research, QUB : ICCR.

**Youth Development Study: Main Report**

Percy, A., McCrystal, P. & Higgins, K., 2002, Institute of Child Care Research, QUB : ICCR.

**Youth development Study: Research Update for Schools Issue 2**

McCrystal, P., Percy, A. & Higgins, K., 2002, Institute of Child Care Research, QUB : ICCR.

**Youth Development Study: Technical Report 2001**

Percy, A., Higgins, K. & McCrystal, P., 2002, Institute of Child Care Research, QUB : ICCR.

**Youth Development Study: Research Update for Schools Issue 1**

Percy, A., McCrystal, P. & Higgins, K., Sep 2001, Institute for Child Care Research, QUB : ICCR.

**Measuring social exclusion: a lifespan approach**

McCrystal, P., Percy, A. & Higgins, K., 2001, In: Radical Statistics. 76, p. 3-14 12 p.

**The trouble with peace the cease-fires and their impact on drug use among youth in Northern Ireland**

Higgins, K. & McElrath, K., Sep 2000, In: Youth and Society. 32, 1, p. 29-59 31 p.

**The trouble with peace: The ceasefires and their impact on drug use among youth in Northern Ireland**

Higgins, K. & McElrath, K., 2000, In: Youth and Society. p. 29-59

**Does Ulster still say no? Drugs, politics and propaganda in Northern Ireland**

McEvoy, K., McElrath, K. & Higgins, K., Dec 1998, In: Journal of Drug Issues. 28, 1, p. 127-154 28 p.

**A comparison of the prevalence of HIV infection and injecting risk behaviour in urban and rural samples in Scotland**

Haw, S. & Higgins, K., 01 Jan 1998, In: Addiction. 93, 6, p. 855-863 9 p.

**Evidence of continuing risk of HIV transmission among injecting drug users from Dundee**

Haw, S. J., Higgins, K. M., Bell, D., Johnston, B. B. & Richardson, A. M., 01 Jan 1996, In: Scottish Medical Journal. 41, 1, p. 3-4 2 p.

## Awards

## Projects

**R2158CHC: Adolescent alcohol use and school disengagement: investigating alcohol use patterns in adolescence and pathways to being NEET (Not in Employment Education or Training)**

O'Neill, T., Higgins, K., McCartan, C. & McLaughlin, A.  
02/10/2014 → 31/03/2016

**R4378CHC: Child care research forum**

Higgins, K.  
01/08/2005 → ...

**R4484CHC: Cochrane Developmental, Psychosocial & Learning Problems Group**

Higgins, K.  
01/08/2008 → ...

**R9232CHC: Glasgow/Belfast Collaboration - Social network research and social network intervention development**

Higgins, K.  
23/02/2016 → ...

**R4747CHC: Harmonising alcohol-related outcomes**

Higgins, K.  
18/02/2016 → 31/03/2018

**R3337CHC: Offending Behaviour amongst Young People in NI: A Study of Neighbourhood, Family, School and Peer Processes**

Higgins, K., McCann, M., McCartan, C., McLaughlin, A. & Perra, O.  
01/08/2011 → 30/09/2015

**R4604CHC: Parental Alcohol Use and Resilience**

McLaughlin, A., Higgins, K., Percy, A. & Perra, O.  
01/08/2012 → ...

**R4748CHC: Parenting Northern Ireland 'Odyssey: Parenting your teen': A Pilot Non-Randomised Trial**

Higgins, K.  
18/02/2016 → ...

**R4795SES: Prescription Drug Use in Prison**

Higgins, K.  
28/03/2017 → ...

**R4749CHC: Promoting resilience in children and young people affected by parental substance misuse (PSM): a feasibility study of the Pharos group work programme**

McLaughlin, A., Hayes, D., Higgins, K., Macdonald, G., McLaughlin, K., O'Neill, T. & Percy, A.  
18/02/2016 → 30/11/2016

**R4829SES: Tracing the longitudinal Belfast Youth and Development Study Cohort**

Higgins, K.  
06/09/2018 → 31/12/2019

**R1328CHC: Using smartphone applications to enhance longitudinal survey methods**

Macdonald, G., Ell, P. S., Higgins, K., McCann, M., Miller, R., Sezer, S. & Tully, M.

01/08/2012 → 30/11/2014

**R4731CHC: Variation and Determinants of Novel Psychoactive Substance (NPS) use**  
Higgins, K., Campbell, A., Clarke, M., O'Hara, L., O'Neill, T., O'Neill, N. & O'Neill, F.  
18/09/2015 → ...