

## Request for proposals to repeat the Irish Contraception and Crisis Pregnancy (ICCP) Study

**Crisis Pregnancy Agency**

**Date of Issue:** 12th August 2009

### Tender Details

**Title:**

A repeat of the Irish Contraception and Crisis Pregnancy (ICCP II) survey of the general population

**Awarding Authority:**

The Crisis Pregnancy Agency

**Tender deadline Time and Date:**

1 p.m. Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2009. The Agency strictly enforces tender deadlines and in no circumstances will a tender be accepted after **1 p.m.** of the day in question. Tenders delivered late will be returned unopened. Incomplete tenders will be rejected.

**Submission of tenders:**

In a sealed envelope marked: "Tender for the Irish Contraception and Crisis Pregnancy (ICCP) Study II" to: Dr. Stephanie O'Keeffe, Research and Policy Manager.

**Opening of tenders (persons permitted):**

Dr Stephanie O'Keeffe, Research and Policy Manager  
Mary Smith, Research Officer  
Dr. Roisin Morris Coyle, Research Officer

Opening of tenders (2 p.m. Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2009, Crisis Pregnancy Agency, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor 89-94 Capel St. Dublin 1, Ireland)

**Time Limit:**

The contract will be for a period of 18 months, not exceeding 24 months

**Languages:**

English

**Pricing:**

All prices to be in Euro and to include VAT.

**Award criteria:**

The award will be based on the following criteria (not detailed in order of importance):

- Understanding of the main research questions, the literature in which they are embedded and how these are related to the stated objectives and deliverables of the research
- Understanding of the Irish context and socio-historical developments in the field of sexual health as well as recent developments

- Adequate clarity and delineation of the methodological approach (design, sampling, mode of survey administration, procedure, analysis and reporting) and the degree to which this meets the stated aims and objectives of the research
- Price and economic advantage: Is there a good link between stated aims, proposed methodology, research requirements, especially comparability requirements and associated costs?
- Awareness of the centrality of comparison between the first Irish Contraception and Crisis Pregnancy survey (herein referred to as ICCP I) and the repeat survey (referred to as ICCP II), reflected in the design and methodological approach
- Adequate clarity and delineation of the analytic approach to the survey itself and to comparing findings with the 2004 survey
- Demonstration of feasibility of research and capacity to deliver objectives through a) previous research contracts; b) publication records; c) demonstrable knowledge and proficiency in the field specific to the proposal
- Professional expertise of the applicants
- Track record of previous research and meeting objectives within timeframes.
- Timeframe

## **Background**

In 2003 the Crisis Pregnancy Agency commissioned a nationally representative survey to establish benchmarking indices for monitoring Agency initiatives. The report, the Irish Study of Contraception and Crisis Pregnancy (ICCP I) was published in 2004. The aim of this survey (n = 3,317) was to establish baseline data on key measures of importance to the Agency's work. Underpinning this commission was a need for the final output to be robust and conducive to replication and comparison over time. Fieldwork for the project was conducted in 2003. Findings from the report have been used consistently by the Agency to directly inform campaigns and initiatives to reduce the incidence of crisis pregnancy, to inform key stakeholders of the profile of crisis pregnancy in Ireland and to inform service and policy development in the area.

The Agency now requires data to enable it to assess the impact of its work since 2003 on key behavioural, attitudinal and knowledge measures used in the original study. A second round of data collection is required to establish the current picture of crisis pregnancy in Ireland and related issues. Furthermore, data that captures new phenomena and emerging trends is required to enable an assessment of changes over time and across age cohorts. This will facilitate the Agency's examination of the effectiveness of its work, to draw conclusions about what shapes behaviours over time and to reliably plan into the future. For these reasons, the Agency is commissioning ICCP II, a project to replicate and build upon ICCP 2004. It is envisaged that fieldwork for this new survey will commence in 2010, 7 years after the fieldwork for the original survey.

It is important for prospective tenderers to note the history and importance of the Irish Survey of Sexual Health and Relationships (ISSHR), published in 2006, to the proposed study. Following the publication of ICCP I, a more wide-ranging national survey of sexual knowledge, attitudes and behaviours was commissioned by the Department of Health and Children and the Crisis Pregnancy Agency, mirroring international surveys of this kind. ISSHR's broader remit included surveying sexual identity and practices, risk behaviours and unintended outcomes like STIs as well as issues surrounding crisis pregnancy and contraceptive behaviour. The findings from the ISSHR study are therefore very relevant to the proposed study and should be used as a reference by interested parties. ICCP I, with its narrower and more specific focus on crisis pregnancy and contraception, will however be the principal reference point for tenderers. ICCP I provided data capturing, for example, attitudes toward crisis pregnancy outcomes and lone parenting, awareness of crisis pregnancy services,

likelihood of disclosing a crisis pregnancy to others, and a range of issues not addressed in ISSHR. Details of where to access these reports are outlined below.

## **Research Aims**

The aims of this research include:

- The collection of reliable nationally representative data that will build on baseline data collected through ICCP I
- To analyse ICCP II data in its own right and in tandem with data from ICCP I to provide comprehensive information on the incidence of crisis pregnancy in Ireland; the profile of women who experience crisis pregnancy and their use of crisis pregnancy supports and services; and to track changes in trends in these and related areas since ICCP I in 2003/2004
- To comprehensively inform the current status of knowledge, attitudes and behaviours relating to the use of contraception and contraceptive services in Ireland as well as any changes in trends in these areas since ICCP I in 2003/2004
- To identify new areas/issues relating to fertility control, crisis pregnancy and related service-seeking. Areas of particular interest include crisis pregnancy as it relates to non-Irish national women and the relevance of the internet and web-based services to the area of contraception and crisis pregnancy. Other areas of interest will be discussed with the successful tenderer.
- To provide a robust and up to date analysis and discussion of trends and emerging areas in crisis pregnancy and crisis pregnancy services and supports to inform future public policy development
- To provide a robust and up to date analysis and discussion of trends and emerging areas in contraception and contraceptive service use to inform future public policy development

## **Research Objectives**

The objectives of this research are as follows:

1. To provide reliable, robust and representative statistical data contributing to a valid national picture of the following:
  - Attitudes, knowledge and experiences of sexual risk-taking, and crisis pregnancy
  - Choices considered by those experiencing crisis pregnancy and factors contributing to the choices made
  - Attitudes, knowledge and experience of crisis pregnancy and crisis pregnancy supports and services
  - Attitudes, knowledge and experience of contraception and contraceptive services
  - Attitudes, knowledge and experience of crisis pregnancy and sexual health knowledge, attitudes and behaviours among non-Irish national women (see methodology section for further details)
2. To provide a comprehensive analysis of the data, complemented by an equally comprehensive discussion to inform current knowledge of trends in crisis pregnancy and contraceptive use
3. To identify new and emerging trends in crisis pregnancy and contraceptive use in Ireland
4. To examine variations (similarities and differences), within the sample and across time, in relation to crisis pregnancy and sexual knowledge, attitudes and behaviours;

- to assess the impact of demographic and socio-economic variables as they relate to crisis pregnancy and sexual knowledge, attitudes and behaviours
5. To explore all of the above in the context of the theoretical and empirical literature and to discuss the implications of the findings for sexual health policy and practice in Ireland
  6. To compare findings and trends with international data and discuss the relevance of this information for future policy and practice development

Applicants are advised to refer to the Irish Contraception and Crisis Pregnancy (ICCP) Study: A Survey of the General Population (Rundle et al, 2004). Available at: <http://www.crisispregnancy.ie/pub/Repseven.pdf>

Applicants are also advised of the relevance of the ISSHR report and related sub-reports, <http://www.crisispregnancy.ie/pub/ISSHR%20Main%20Report.pdf> and other research reports published by the Agency and available for download from the Agency's web site <http://www.crisispregnancy.ie/research3.php>.

## **Methodology**

Tenderers are required to describe in detail their project plan, to clearly outline how they propose to design and conduct the study; and how they propose to gather, manage and analyse the data so as to meet the aims and objectives of this research study.

The research methodology should ensure that data from ICCP II will be compatible with data from ICCP I. The compatibility of the two data sets must allow for robust comparative analysis and the tracking of reliable trends over time. As such, it is recommended that the age bands used in ICCP II be the same as those used in ICCP I.

The ICCP I telephone sampling methodology requires reappraisal and adaptation in light of rapid technological advances in communications systems and the resulting changes in telephone use among the population of interest, particularly the increased use of mobile phones and texting. The Agency will consider all advice within proposals with respect to sampling and data collection procedures. Irrespective of the methodology proposed by tenderers, it is incumbent upon all applicants to outline succinctly the rationale for the methodology proposed, including the sampling strategy and the implications for comparative analysis with the earlier ICCP study. The feasibility of the methodology should be investigated by means of a pilot study. This should include tests of the main research protocol in order to establish the viability of both the survey tool and the proposed method of data collection.

It is important that proposals consider statistical and related issues and provide a strong basis for the number of participants required. The Agency anticipates a sample size of approximately 3,500 respondents. An element of over-sampling of non-Irish national women aged between 18 and 34 years (n=approximately 500) will be required to facilitate a robust comparison between this group and female Irish nationals in the same age group. This is a requirement of the Agency in order to investigate patterns of crisis pregnancy in this particularly under researched sub-set of the population. The Agency is open to suggestions from interested parties in how best to approach this requirement. The final sample will be a nationwide representative sample of approximately 3,000 men and women aged 18 – 45 years and in addition will include a booster sample of approximately 500 non-Irish national women aged 18 – 34 years. It is critical that proposals outline methods or strategies that will be undertaken to ensure high response rates and representativeness.

It is anticipated that the questionnaire developed for this survey will contain a sub-set of the most important items from the ICCP I survey. The questionnaire for ICCP I is available at: <http://www.crisispregnancy.ie/pub/ICCPQuestionnaire%5b1%5d.pdf>

### **Expected outputs**

Appropriate liaison and contact structures will be put in place to ensure successful steering of the research. The required outputs include:

- 1) Research completed within agreed timeframe
- 2) Regular progress updates to be provided to steering group at designated meeting times
- 3) One interim report
- 4) Production of at least one draft final report on which contractors provide feedback to the researchers
- 5) Production of a final research report that the contractors can publish if appropriate. Key points of relevance to practice and / or policy should be outlined at the end of the report. (The contractors will provide guidelines on the production 'style' of the report after the contract is awarded)
- 6) Production of a summary research report which provides an overall summary of the main research findings (this may be used for wider dissemination)
- 7) PowerPoint presentation of findings to contractors
- 8) Lodging of survey dataset with a respected national data archive facility

### **Application details**

The tenderers are required to provide a detailed plan of how the survey is to be conducted. This should include the following:

- 1) How this survey will be designed, survey preparation procedures (including the pilot study), training issues, any limitations of this design and how these will be addressed. Please note that irrespective of the data collection method proposed by tenderers, it is incumbent upon all applicants to have a clear rationale underpinning methodological decisions
- 2) Details of the sampling frame (including over-sampling requirements); how participants will be sampled; response rate; age ranges and issues emanating from this decision; any geographical considerations; monitoring procedures; follow-up procedures and verification procedures
- 3) Issues to be considered in the relation to any suggested modifications to the original ICCP questionnaire; issues of reliability, validity and scientific rigour
- 4) The range, depth and type of multivariate analysis that will be performed on the data
- 5) Ethical considerations and ethical clearance procedures
- 6) An outline of research skills necessary to carry out the proposed research and to demonstrate that the proposers possess these skills. If staff training is required, details should be included in the tender bid

- 7) The tenderers timetable for the survey, and commitment to meeting deadlines agreed with the contractors
- 8) An overall project plan with vulnerable areas identified and contingency plans to deal with these vulnerabilities outlined
- 9) A detailed breakdown of the budget with VAT detailed separately as appropriate

In addition, the following information is required:

- 10) Full company/organisation name, address, contact name, phone/fax number(s), email and registered company number if applicable
- 11) Please attach **brief** curriculum vitae for the members of staff who will be engaged in the management and provision of service under this appointment
- 10) Fee structure by category of work
- 11) Name and address of the organisation's bankers. Please provide a bank reference stating the financial standing of the organisation
- 12) Name and address of the organisation's accountants
- 13) Tax clearance number and expiry date are also required. The successful tenderer will be required to produce a valid up to date Tax Clearance Certificate issued by the revenue Commissioners; in the event of a non resident tenderer, a statement as to their suitability on tax grounds issued by the Revenue Commissioners of the Republic of Ireland will be required
- 14) The contracting authority reserves the right not to enter into any contractual arrangement, but any contract awarded shall be considered as a contract made in Ireland and according to Irish Law and subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Irish courts
- 15) A statement that the service provider is not excluded from participating in the contract as provided for in Article 29 - 32 of EU Directive 92/50
- 16) Insurance cover details as follows is required:- Professional Indemnity, Employers Liability, Public Liability
- 17) Experience: Tenderers are required to submit **three** appropriate client references for contracts undertaken within the past 12-24 months. Preferably these should be contacts in institutions within the public sector/health/education sector. These may be contacted for the purpose of taking references and the bidder should ensure the contacts' agreement to such an approach
- 18) Details of any other relevant information the tenderer(s) consider appropriate

### **Support and steering**

The successful tenderers will liaise with a research steering group appointed to oversee the successful conduct and completion of the study

*Further information can be obtained from Dr. Stephanie O'Keeffe, Research and Policy Manager at email [sokeeffe@crisispregnancy.ie](mailto:sokeeffe@crisispregnancy.ie)*