## **ABSTRACT**

This report explored the health status and health behaviours of specific groups of children living in Ireland who participated in the 2006 Irish Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children (HBSC) survey (www.hbsc.org). HBSC is a cross-national research study conducted in collaboration with the World Health Organisation Regional Office for Europe. The HBSC international survey runs on an academic 4-year cycle and in 2005/'06 there were 41 participating countries and regions. The overall study aims are to gain new insight and increase our understanding of young peoples' health and well-being, health behaviours and their social context.

Students from the Travelling Community, students from immigrant families, students with a disability or chronic illness and students in schools that are part of the Department of Education and Science's School Support Programme, under the Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools Action Plan, referred to as DEIS schools, are represented in this report. Students in each of these specific groups have been compared with a sub-group from the national sample matched for age, gender, social class and location.

This report documents both the differences and the similarities in self-reported health behaviour, outcomes and social context between these sub-groups, e.g. general health, risk behaviours, food and dietary behaviours, physical and sedentary behaviours, injuries and bullying and the social context of health. The report contains further details of the methods used, the specific groups investigated and the results obtained.

## **SOURCE**

Molcho, M., Kelly, C., Gavin, A. & Nic Gabhainn, S. (2008). Inequalities in Health among School-Aged Children in Ireland. Dublin:Department of Health and Children.

## **FUNDING**

This research has received funding from the Department of Health and Children (Health Promotion Policy Unit and Office of the Minister for Children).