



# Piloting Questions Developed by Post-Primary School Children for Inclusion in the 2014 Health Behaviour in School-aged Children Study

Daniels, N.,<sup>1</sup>  
 Burke, L.,<sup>1</sup>  
 O'Donnell, A.,<sup>2</sup>  
 McGovern, O.,<sup>2</sup>  
 Molloy, A.,<sup>1</sup>  
 Kelly, C.,<sup>1</sup>  
 Nic Gabhainn, S.<sup>1</sup>  
 Health Promotion  
 Research Centre,  
 National University  
 of Ireland Galway<sup>1</sup>  
 Citizen Participation  
 Unit, Department  
 of Children and  
 Youth Affairs<sup>2</sup>

## INTRODUCTION

A partnership between the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) research team and the Citizen Engagement Unit of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs worked with groups of young people to develop their ideas on what is important to report about young lives and how to ask young people about these issues. This abstract outlines the piloting process for these new questionnaire items.

## OBJECTIVE

The aim of the HBSC study is to gain new insight into and increase our understanding of young peoples' health and well-being, health behaviours and their social context.

## METHODOLOGY

Students from three post-primary schools participated in the pilot (n=154). In total 20 questions were piloted and students were asked to indicate how appropriate, how easy to understand and how fair each questions was. Students were also asked to underline any words or questions they did not understand. This was followed by a class discussion.

## RESULTS

Fourteen of the twenty questions piloted were excluded from use in the questionnaire. Making decisions on which items to exclude was complex with a range of different sources of input (student responses, student comments, etc.). The reasons for excluding the questions are highlighted in Table 1 below.

## CONCLUSIONS

Six new questions will be included in the 2014 HBSC questionnaire for post-primary school children; (1) 'Are you comfortable talking about your sexuality?' (2) 'Do you feel comfortable being yourself with your friends?' (3) 'At what age should young people be allowed to work?' (4) The voting age is 18. 'What age do you think it should be?' (5) 'Are you self confident?' (6) 'Do you feel social networking sites are safe?'

Including young people in the HBSC research process has, thus far, proved very valuable. Young people have clearly demonstrated the ability to participate in and provide new perspectives to such research projects.

**Table 1- Reasons for Excluding Questions**

Question	Did not understand words or phrases	Question unclear or vague	Responding skewed	Not appropriate	Not fair
What is your attitude towards LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) community?	✓				
Do you feel that every sexuality is accepted in your country?	✓	✓			
How do people influence your interests?		✓			
Which gender has more freedom/ Do boys or girls have more freedom?	✓			✓	✓
Do you judge others because they are different?		✓	✓		
Do you think young people should be judged (by adults) on past mistakes?		✓	✓		
Are you open about your mental health?	✓			✓	
Do you often talk about your mental health in class/school?	✓			✓	
Would you feel comfortable talking to friends about your mental health?	✓			✓	
Why do you use social media?		✓			
Does your sexuality effect your mental health?	✓				✓
Have you ever stood up for the person being bullied?				✓	
How would you deal with being bullied?				✓	
Do you have someone to talk to if you are being bullied?			✓	✓	