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Young Travellers in Ireland

Includes some data on Young Roma

Prepared by the Department of
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Report Summary

This report presents some key data on children and young people who are members of the Traveller community. A limited amount of data on children and young people who are members of the Roma community is also available as an Annex to the report. Data sources include the Central Statistics Office (CSO) 2011 and 2016 Censuses of Population, Pobal, The Department of Education and Skills (DES), The All Ireland Traveller Health Survey (AITHS) and the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children Survey (HBSC).

As per the Equal Status Act, 2000, the term “Traveller community” means the community of people who are commonly called Travellers and who are identified (both by themselves and others) as people with a shared history, culture and traditions including, historically, a nomadic way of life on the island of Ireland. However, since definitions can vary by source, this report will refer to members of the Traveller community as “Travellers”. Note that *how* Travellers are identified in each data source quoted may differ. See the glossary of terms for further information.

In line with the terminology used in *Better Outcomes Brighter Futures*¹, children are defined as individuals aged 17 or under. Young persons, or for the purpose of this report, ‘Young Travellers’ are defined as those between the ages of 18 and 24 (inclusive).

The data and analysis in this report should be interpreted with some caution as the data sources may underrepresent the number of Travellers. Users should also be aware that some of the data presented is based on small sample sizes which limits any potential conclusions that can be drawn about the wider population. It is also important to acknowledge the data involves individuals self-identifying as Travellers, which is, in all cases optional. Furthermore, the relatively small population size means that there is a greater chance of outliers being observed.²

¹ Better Outcomes Brighter Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People (2014-2020). Available online at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/775847-better-outcomes-brighter-futures/>

² An outlier is a data point that is significantly higher or lower than other observations



Population Overview

In 2016, there were 18,018 young Travellers in Ireland, representing 1.15% of the total population aged 0-24. This is a marginal percentage decrease from 2011 when there were 18,186 young Travellers who represented 1.18% of the total 0-24 population. Table 1 provides a detailed breakdown by age bracket.

Looking at the composition of the young Traveller population, Traveller children aged 0-4 and 5-9 were the largest groups, with 4,317 and 4,318 respectively. In 2011 there were 4,676 children aged 0 to 4 years and 3,905 aged 5 to 9 years. The number of 10 to 14-year-old Travellers increased between 2011 and 2016 while the totals for the 15 to 19 years and 20 to 24 years age groups decreased.

Table 1: Total population by ethnic and cultural background, total white Irish and total white Irish Travellers, classified by age group in 2011 and 2016

Ethnic or cultural background	Age	2011		2016	
		Total	As a % of all ethnic or cultural backgrounds	Total	As a % of all ethnic or cultural backgrounds
All ethnic or cultural backgrounds	0 - 4 years	354,602	-	330,012	-
	5 - 9 years	319,117	-	354,560	-
	10 - 14 years	300,273	-	317,764	-
	15 - 19 years	278,393	-	298,317	-
	20 - 24 years	287,078	-	263,988	-
	0-24 years	1,539,463	-	1,564,641	-
White Irish Traveller	0 - 4 years	4,676	1.32%	4,317	1.31%
	5 - 9 years	3,905	1.22%	4,318	1.22%
	10 - 14 years	3,554	1.18%	3,678	1.16%
	15 - 19 years	3,279	1.18%	3,074	1.03%
	20 - 24 years	2,772	0.97%	2,631	1.00%
	0-24 years	18,186	1.18%	18,018	1.15%

Source: Central Statistics Office Census of Population 2011/2016



Figure 1: Total numbers of White Irish Travellers classified by age group and sex, 2011 and 2016



Source: Central Statistics Office Census of Population 2011/2016

There were 9,202 males and 8,816 females aged 0-24 who identified as members of the Traveller community in 2016. This is a slight decrease from the 2011 figures of 9,228 and 8,958 for males and females aged 0-24 respectively.

Location

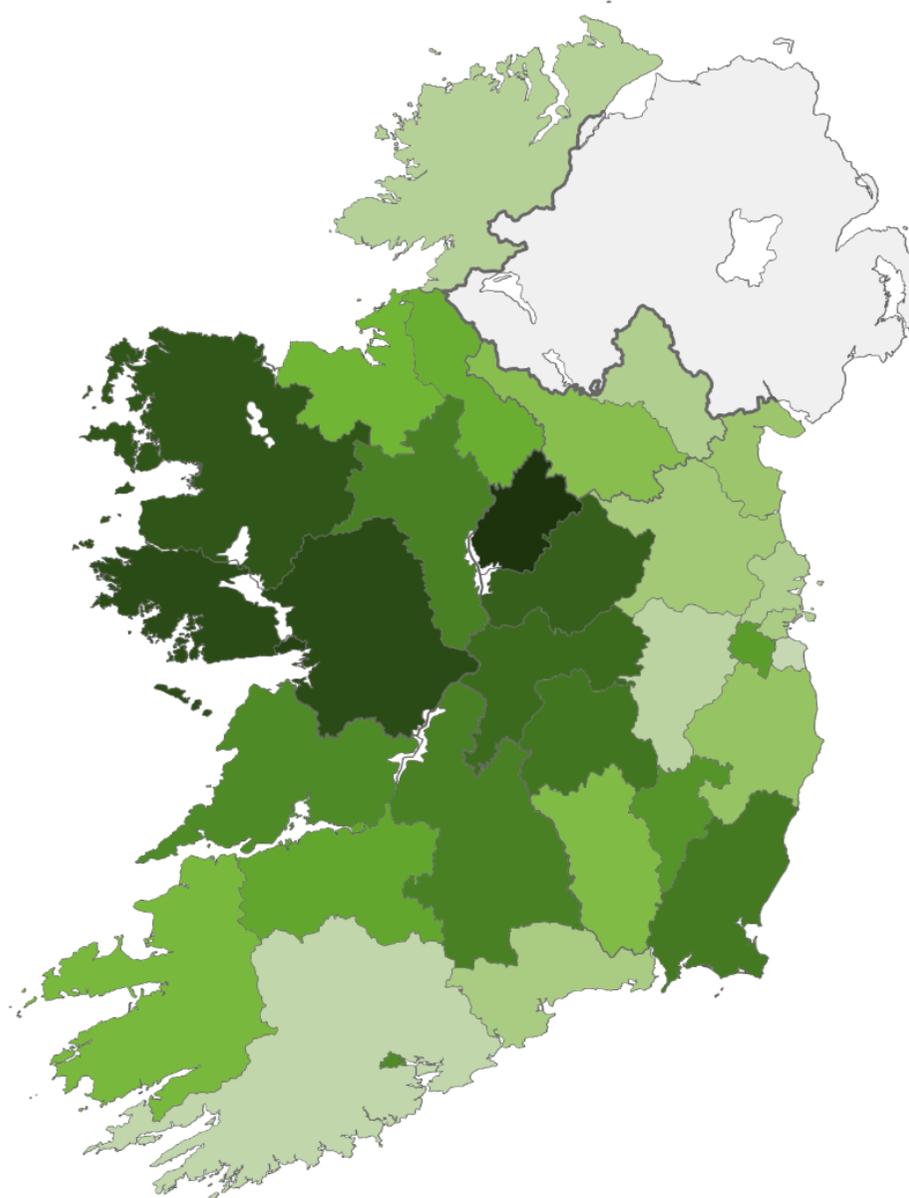
In 2016, Galway County was the administrative county with the highest number of young Travellers in Ireland with 1,541, followed closely by South Dublin, with 1,347. The administrative county with the lowest number of young Travellers in absolute terms was Leitrim with 121. The highest proportion of young Travellers were located in Longford, making up 4.61% of all 0-24 year olds. The figure for Galway City stood at 3.9% for 2016. Figure 2 and Table 2 provides an overview of the distribution of young Travellers by county.



Figure 2: Geographic Distribution Rate of Travellers aged 0-24 in 2016

Travellers as a % of all ethnic or cultural backgrounds

Longford	4.61
Galway City	3.90
Galway County	2.56
Mayo	1.99
Westmeath	1.96
Offaly	1.83
Laois	1.54
Wexford	1.51
Tipperary	1.50
Roscommon	1.50
Clare	1.49
Cork City	1.49
Carlow	1.48
South Dublin	1.38
Limerick City and County	1.36
Leitrim	1.19
Sligo	1.16
Kerry	1.12
Kilkenny	1.08
Cavan	1.02
Wicklow	0.91
Louth	0.88
Meath	0.79
Waterford City and County	0.78
Dublin City	0.77
Fingal	0.72
Monaghan	0.71
Donegal	0.62
Kildare	0.58
Cork County	0.52
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	0.35



Source: Central Statistics Office Census of Population



Table 2: Travellers aged 0-24 classified by location of residence in 2016

Location	Travellers aged 0-24 years	All ethnic or cultural backgrounds aged 0-24 years	Travellers as a % of all ethnic or cultural backgrounds
Carlow	288	19,457	1.48%
Cavan	270	26,448	1.02%
Clare	583	39,119	1.49%
Cork City	530	35,661	1.49%
Cork County	737	142,319	0.52%
Donegal	332	53,338	0.62%
Dublin City	1,156	150,855	0.77%
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	235	66,785	0.35%
Fingal	758	105,465	0.72%
Galway City	949	24,333	3.90%
Galway County	1,541	60,130	2.56%
Kerry	498	44,418	1.12%
Kildare	468	80,561	0.58%
Kilkenny	356	32,882	1.08%
Laois	468	30,472	1.54%
Leitrim	121	10,172	1.19%
Limerick City and County	876	64,204	1.36%
Longford	652	14,129	4.61%
Louth	395	44,920	0.88%
Mayo	812	40,739	1.99%
Meath	565	71,469	0.79%
Monaghan	150	21,053	0.71%
Offaly	497	27,125	1.83%
Roscommon	309	20,561	1.50%
Sligo	242	20,808	1.16%
South Dublin	1,347	97,519	1.38%
Tipperary	792	52,645	1.50%
Waterford City and County	298	38,200	0.78%
Westmeath	599	30,559	1.96%
Wexford	757	50,152	1.51%
Wicklow	437	48,143	0.91%
State	18,018	1,564,641	1.15%

Source: Central Statistics Office Census of Population 2016



Comparison with England and Wales: Gypsies and Irish Travellers aged 0-24

The Office for National Statistics (the UK's national statistical institute) recorded over 27,000 individuals of 'Gypsy or Irish Traveller' ethnicity aged 0-24 in England and Wales in the 2011 Census of Population. This represented 0.16% of the total population in this age bracket. As observed in Table 1, there were 18,186 young Travellers in Ireland as recorded by the 2011 Census of Population. By way of comparison, young Travellers represented 1.18% of the total population in this age bracket for the same year³.

Table 3: Population of Gypsies and Irish Travellers in England and Wales by sex and age group, 2011 Census of Population

Population					
Age category	Males	Females	Gypsy or Irish Traveller	All Ethnic Groups	Gypsy or Irish Traveller as a % total pop.
Age 0 to 4	3,084	2,988	6,072	3,496,750	0.17%
Age 5 to 7	1,680	1,680	3,360	1,927,039	0.17%
Age 8 to 9	1,109	1,000	2,109	1,208,672	0.17%
Age 10 to 14	2,891	2,811	5,702	3,258,677	0.17%
Age 15	597	542	1,139	687,994	0.17%
Age 16 to 17	1,166	1,095	2,261	1,391,235	0.16%
Age 18 to 19	940	907	1,847	1,460,156	0.13%
Age 20 to 24	2,319	2,392	4,711	3,807,245	0.12%
Age 0 to 24	13,786	13,415	27,201	17,237,768	0.16%

Source: Office for National Statistics, 2011 census

Comparison with Northern Ireland: Irish Travellers aged 0-24

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency recorded a total of 688 Irish Travellers aged between 0 and 24 in the 2011 Census of Population. This figure compares to almost 607,000 individuals within this age bracket overall. Irish Travellers aged 0-24 made up just 0.11% of all individuals in Northern Ireland within this age bracket.

³ Note: UK and Irish data is not directly comparable due to differences in classification. UK data is provided for information only.



Table 4: Population of Irish Travellers in Northern Ireland by sex and age group, 2011 Census of Population

Age category	Population			All Usual Residents	Irish Traveller as a % all usual residents
	Irish Traveller		Total		
	Males	Females	Total		
Age 0 to 4	83	80	163	124,382	0.13%
Age 5 to 7	57	48	105	67,662	0.16%
Age 8 to 9	34	29	63	43,625	0.14%
Age 10 to 11	30	24	54	45,453	0.12%
Age 12 to 15	60	56	116	98,201	0.12%
Age 16 to 17	19	23	42	51,440	0.08%
Age 18 to 19	22	16	38	50,181	0.08%
Age 20 to 24	59	48	107	126,013	0.08%
Age 0 to 24	364	324	688	606,957	0.11%

Source: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, 2011 Census of Population

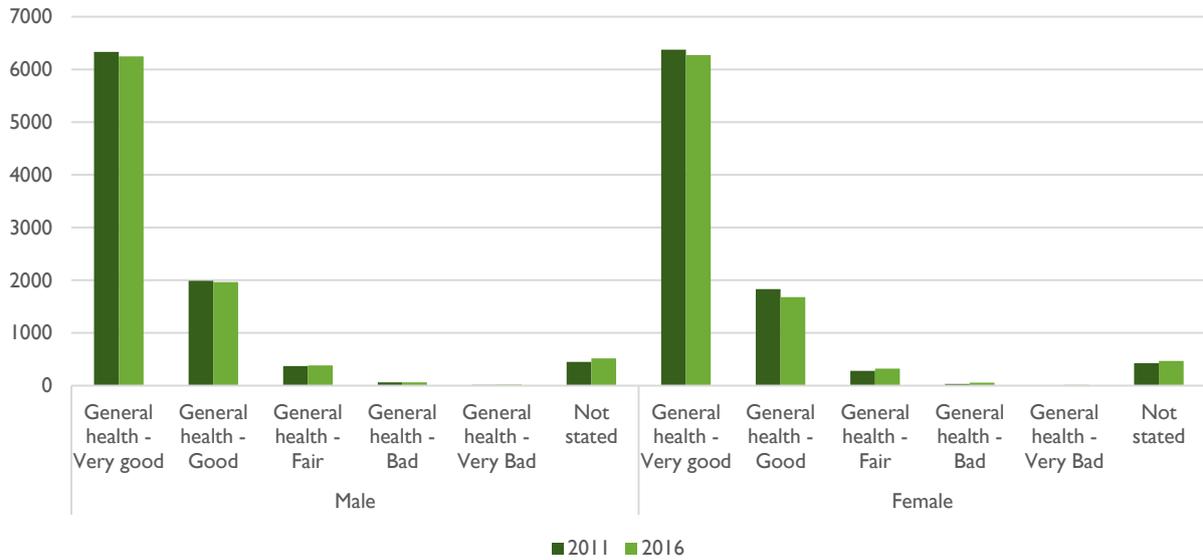
Health status

Between 2011 and 2016, the numbers of Travellers aged 0 to 14 years who reported they were in 'Very good' health increased from 8,833 to 9,009.⁴ In the same period, the numbers of Travellers aged 15 to 24 who reported they were in 'Very good' health decreased from 3,876 to 3,509. Overall, there was no substantial change to the proportion of young Travellers in 'Very good' health from 2011 to 2016 (69.9% in 2011, compared to 69.5% in 2016). By way of a comparison, Table 5 presents the health status of Travellers and general population aged 0 to 24 as a percentage of each population total.

⁴ This change is mostly attributable to a population increase. In 2011, 72.8% of Travellers aged 0-14 reported that they were in 'very good' health. This increased to 73.2% in 2016



Figure 3: Travellers aged 0-24 classified by health status and sex, 2011 and 2016



Source: Central Statistics Office Census of Population 2011/2016

Table 5: Travellers and general population aged 0 to 24 years health status as a proportion of total Traveller population and total population, 2011 and 2016

Health status	2011		2016	
	% of total Traveller population	% of total population	% of total Traveller population	As % of total population
General health - Very good	69.9%	80.9%	69.5%	80.3%
General health - Good	21%	14.5%	20.2%	14%
General health - Fair	3.6%	1.5%	3.9%	1.7%
General health - Bad	0.5%	0.2%	0.7%	0.2%
General health - Very Bad	0.1%	0.05%	0.2%	0.05%
Not stated	4.8%	2.9%	5.5%	3.8%

Source: Central Statistics Office Census of Population 2011/2016

Sexual Activity

The Health Behaviour In School-aged Children (HBSC) study found that in 2014, 26.9% of children aged 15-17 reported that they have had sex. At 54.8%, the figure for Traveller children is more than double that of all children.



Table 6: Percentage of children aged 15-17 who reported having ever had sex, 2014

Ethnicity	%
Traveller children	54.8
All other children (excluding Travellers)	26.5
<i>All children</i>	26.9

Source: HBSC Survey, 2014

Numbers of Births

Table 7 presents the average numbers of children born to White Irish Traveller females and all White Irish females aged 15-19 and 20-24 in 2016. In both age groups Irish Traveller females gave birth on average to nearly twice as many children as all White Irish Females.

Table 7: Females aged 15 years and over by average number of children born, 2016

	White Irish Traveller females		All White Irish females	
	15 - 19 years	20 - 24 years	15 - 19 years	20 - 24 years
Number of women (Number)	1,520	1,339	122,443	102,626
Avg. number of children born (Number)	0.9	1.8	0.4	1.1

Source: Central Statistics Office Census of Population 2016

In both Census years 2011 and 2016, most Traveller women aged 15-19 had not yet given birth. In 2016, 106 women within this age category had between one and three children. Regarding the 20-24 age bracket, for the 2016 year, 577 of 1,339 women were recorded as having no children (with 89 not stating the numbers of children they had). 647 (or roughly 48% of those within this age bracket) had between one and three children in 2016, compared with 733 (or 51%) in 2011. In both years, only relatively small numbers of Travellers aged 20-24 had more than three children.



Table 8: Female Travellers aged 15-24 by numbers of children born, 2011 and 2016

Numbers of children born alive	Census year			
	2011		2016	
	15 - 19 years	20 - 24 years	15 - 19 years	20 - 24 years
Total persons	1,604	1,426	1,520	1,339
0	1,249	593	1,218	577
1	114	351	91	299
2	19	287	14	256
3	4	95	1	92
4	0	21	0	21
5	0	5	0	3
6	0	1	0	1
7	0	0	0	0
8	0	0	0	0
9 or more	0	0	0	1
Not stated	218	73	196	89

Source: Central Statistics Office Census of Population 2011/2016

Infant mortality

The infant mortality rate among the Traveller community has decreased slightly, compared to the rest of the population, over the last number of decades. As observed in Table 9, which utilises data from the All Ireland Traveller Health Study (2010), there was an average mortality rate of 18.1 per 1,000 infant Travellers and 7.4 general infant population mortalities per 1,000 live births in 1987. By 2008, the Traveller infant mortality per 1,000 live births had decreased to 14.1, compared to the decline in general population infant mortality to 3.9. While positive progress has been made overall in relation to infant mortality rates in Ireland, it is evident that there still exists a notable disparity between Travellers and the general population in this regard. More recent data was not available.

Table 9: Traveller and general population infant mortality per 1,000 live births, 1987 and 2008

	1987	2008
Traveller infant Mortality per 1,000 live births	18.1	14.1
General population infant mortality per 1,000 live births	7.4	3.9

Source: University College Dublin (2010) Our Geels: All Ireland Traveller Health Study



Smoking, Cannabis Use and Drunkenness

As observed within the 2014 HBSC survey, Traveller children aged 10-17 were more than twice as likely to report that they smoked cigarettes every week, at 11.6% compared to 5.2% of all other children. Similarly, the study also found that Traveller children within this age bracket were more likely to report having been drunk at least once in the past 30 days (16.8% of Traveller children compared to 10% of all other children). More than 18% of Traveller children reported having taken cannabis at least once in their lifetime. This compares to 8.7% of all other children in this age group.

Table 10: Smoking, cannabis use and drunkenness- data from the HBSC survey, 2014 and 2018

% of children aged 10-17 who reported smoking cigarettes every week	
Traveller children	11.6
All other children (excluding Travellers)	5.2
<i>All children</i>	5.3
% of children aged 10-17 who reported having been drunk at least once in the past 30 days	
Traveller children	16.8
All other children (excluding Travellers)	10
<i>All children</i>	10
% of children aged 10-17 who reported having taken cannabis at least once in their lifetime	
Traveller children	18.2
All other children (excluding Travellers)	8.7
<i>All children</i>	8.8

Source: HBSC Survey, 2014 and 2018

Disability

In 2011, there were 1,858 Travellers aged 0-24 with a disability. This can be broken down into 1,132 males and 726 females. This total figure increased slightly to the 2016 Census figure of 2,006 Travellers aged 0-24 with a disability. In 2016, the figures for males and females were 1,184 and 822 respectively. This data is presented in Figure 4.

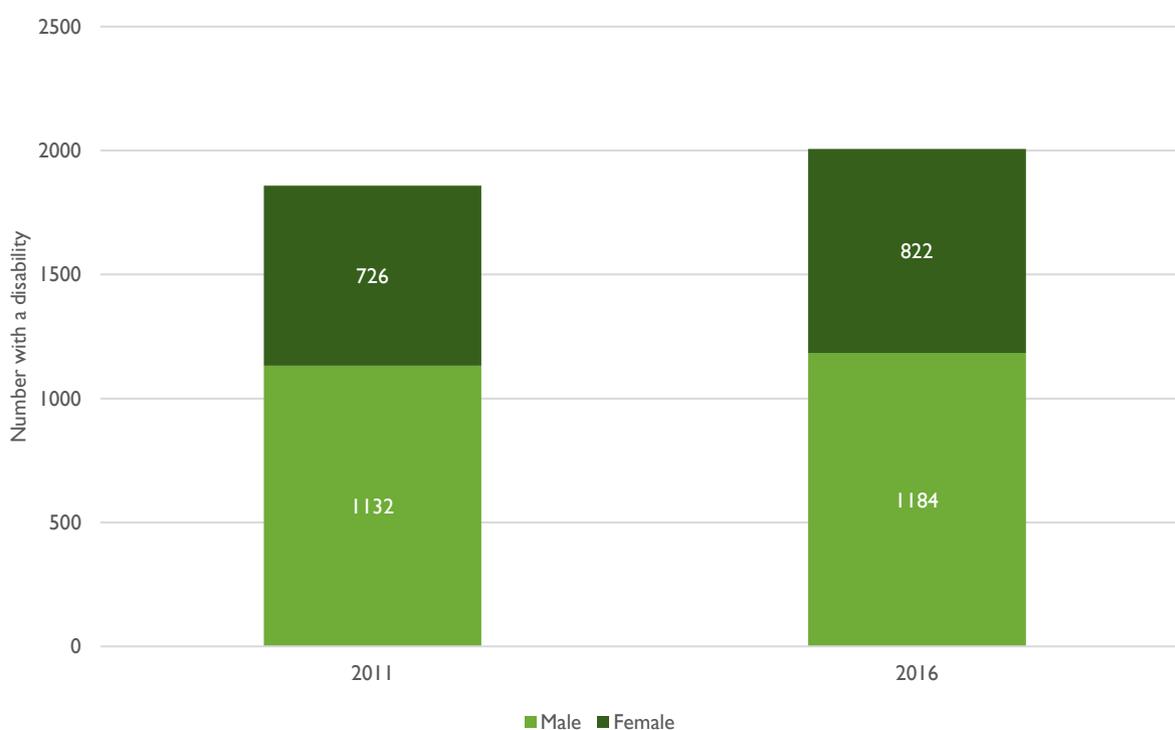
Table 11 shows that in 2016 6.7% of male Travellers aged 0-4 had a disability, compared to 5.4% of female Travellers within the same age bracket. For both males and females, the proportion with a disability increased with age. For example, in the



same year 17.8% of male Travellers aged 20-24 were classified as having a disability; with a comparably high figure of 15.7% for females of the same age.⁵

When considering the disability type, the 2011 Census recorded the most common disability among Travellers aged 0-24 as 'difficulty in learning, remembering or concentrating' (814 cases), followed by 'other disability, including chronic illness' (650 cases). In the 2016 Census, these two disabilities retained their position with regards prevalence across the young Traveller community (at 926 and 627 instances respectively); however the number of recorded instances of various other disabilities also increased between 2011 and 2016, such as 'an intellectual disability' (increasing from 392 to 546 cases), 'a psychological or emotional condition' (increasing from 308 to 490 cases) and 'Difficulty in dressing, bathing or getting around inside the home' (increasing from 315 to 442 cases). In fact, it is worth noting that not only has the number of individuals living with a disability increased across the period, but also the actual numbers of disabilities recorded (from 4,604 disabilities in 2011 to 5,564 in 2016).

Figure 4: Travellers aged 0-24 with a disability classified by sex, 2011 and 2016



Source: Central Statistics Office Census of Population 2011/2016

⁵ It is important to note that this data is census data and is therefore self-reported



Table 11: Percentage of Travellers aged 0-24 with a disability by sex and age bracket, 2011 and 2016

	Age	2011	2016
Male	0 - 4 years	6.7	6.7
	5 - 9 years	10.9	12.6
	10 - 14 years	14.3	13.9
	15 - 19 years	15.1	16.6
	20 - 24 years	17.5	17.8
Female	0 - 4 years	4	5.4
	5 - 9 years	7.8	7.1
	10 - 14 years	9.3	10
	15 - 19 years	10.1	11.3
	20 - 24 years	11.2	15.7

Source: Central Statistics Office Census of Population 2011/2016



Table 12: Travellers aged 0-24 classified by disability type and age group, 2011 and 2016

	2011			2016		
	0 - 14 years	15 - 24 years	0-24 years	0 - 14 years	15 - 24 years	0-24 years
Total persons	12,135	6,051	18,186	12,313	5,705	18,018
Total persons with a disability	1,045	811	1,856	1,132	870	2,002
Total disabilities	2,534	2,070	4,604	3,087	2,477	5,564
Disability by type						
Blindness or a serious vision impairment	101	67	168	123	75	198
Deafness or a serious hearing impairment	106	89	195	138	76	214
A condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities	195	173	368	230	206	436
An intellectual disability	223	169	392	304	242	546
Difficulty in learning, remembering or concentrating	434	380	814	529	397	926
Psychological or emotional condition	129	179	308	180	310	490
Other disability, including chronic illness	415	235	650	387	240	627
Difficulty in dressing, bathing or getting around inside the home	209	106	315	310	132	442
Difficulty in going outside home alone	235	172	407	307	234	541
Difficulty in working or attending school/college	210	279	489	241	311	552
Difficulty in participating in other activities	277	221	498	338	254	592

Source: Central Statistics Office Census of Population 2011/2016



Mortality

The latest available data on Traveller mortality rates relate to the 2008 UCD Traveller Health Study.⁶ The mortality rate for male Travellers aged below 1 per 1,000 population stood at 16.33 in 2008, compared to 5.24 per 1,000 of the general population. For female Travellers within the same age category, mortality rates were recorded at 9.78 per 1,000, which compares to 4.23 per thousand within the general population.

Similarly, stark differences for Travellers in comparison to the general population also persist within the 15-24 age bracket. As observed in table 13, mortality rates for both males and females are notably higher for Travellers; at 2.23 and 1.06 per 1,000 respectively (compared to 0.83 and 0.22 for males and females within the general population).

Table 13: Young Traveller and general population mortality rates per 1,000 of Traveller population, total population and classified by age, 2008

Age Group (years)	Male		Female	
	Traveller population	General population	Traveller population	General population
Less than 1	16.33	5.24	9.78	4.23
1-4	0	0.21	0	0.15
5-14	0.4	0.19	0.22	0.07
15-24	2.23	0.83	1.06	0.22

Source: University College Dublin (2010) Our Geels: All Ireland Traveller Health Study

Household composition

In 2011, there were 3,192 married Traveller couples with children of any age. This was by far the most common family structure among Traveller families with children. Of these families, 2,066 or just under two thirds, included a youngest child within the 0-5 year age bracket. The figures for 2016 are comparable, with 3,362 married Traveller couples with children of any age. Similarly, 2,015 of these had a youngest

⁶ This study arose from a recommendation in the Department of Health and Children's National Traveller Health Strategy: 2002-2005 (Department of Health and Children, 2002) and was a once off study.



child between the ages of 0 and 5. In both census years, one parent families with children and cohabiting couples with children were notably less common.

Of all private households containing Traveller families with children, over 60% (60.9%) were 3, 4 or 5 person households in 2016.⁷ A further 23.5% of these households with children were 6 or 7 person households; with some households with children containing 8 persons or more. As previously noted, when considering such private households by family unit type, most were either married couples with children or one parent mothers with children as per the 2016 Census of Population. Table 15 shows numbers of private households containing Irish Travellers by composition of private household and persons per household in 2016. For comparison, Table 16 presents data on all private households by composition of private household and persons per Household for the same period.

Table 14: Traveller families with children/young adults disaggregated by type of family unit and age group of youngest child/young person, 2011 and 2016

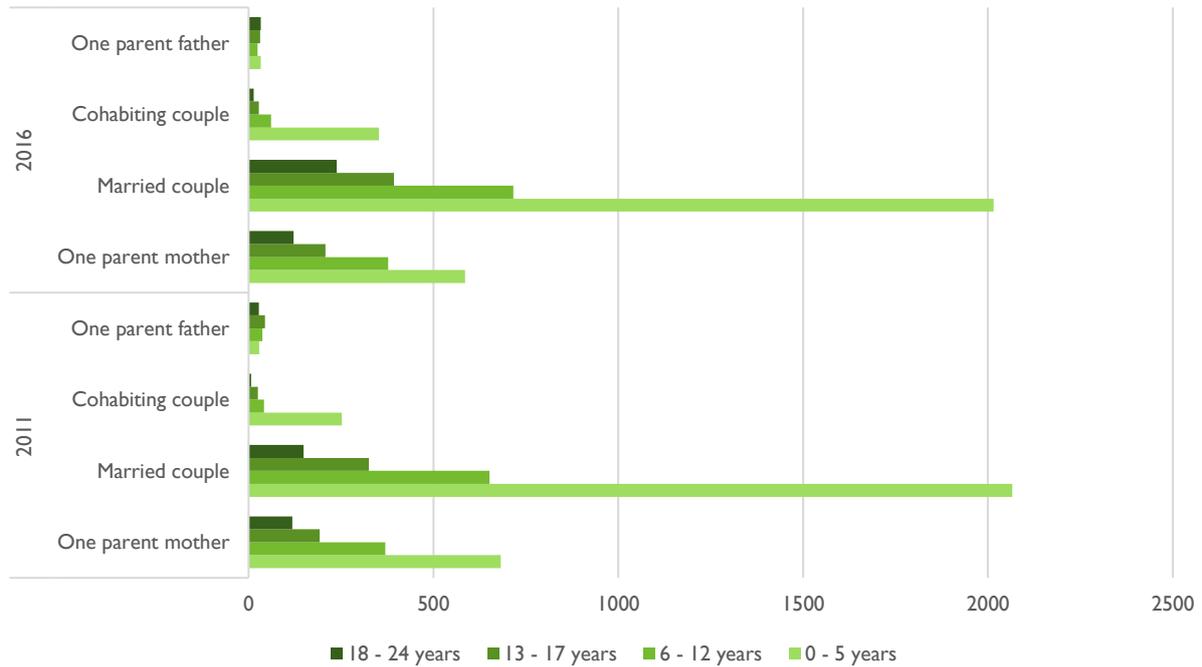
Census Year	Family Unit Type	0 - 5 years	6 - 12 years	13 - 17 years	18 - 24 years	All Ages
2011	One Parent mother with children of any age	682	370	192	118	1,362
	Married Couple With children of any age	2,066	652	325	149	3,192
	Cohabiting couple with children of any age	252	42	25	7	326
	One Parent Father with children of any age	29	37	44	28	138
	Total	3,029	1,101	586	302	5,018
2016	One Parent mother with children of any age	586	378	208	122	1,294
	Married Couple With children of any age	2,015	716	393	238	3,362
	Cohabiting couple with children of any age	352	61	28	14	455
	One Parent Father with children of any age	33	24	31	33	121
	Total	2,986	1,179	660	407	5,232

Source: Central Statistics Office Census of Population 2011/2016

⁷ This compares with approximately 80% of households with children in the general population that are 3,4 or 5 person households.



Figure 5: Traveller families with children/young adults of any age disaggregated by type of family unit and age group of youngest child/young person, 2011 and 2016



Source: Central Statistics Office Census of Population 2011/2016

Table 15: Private households containing Irish Travellers by composition of private household and persons per Household, 2016

Persons per household	Married couple with children	Cohabiting couple with children	One parent mother with children	One parent father with children	Married couple with children and other persons	Cohabiting couple with children and other persons	One parent mother with children and other persons	One parent father with children and other persons
2	0	0	324	60	0	0	0	0
3	612	153	334	19	0	0	63	8
4	774	208	253	19	56	13	54	16
5	702	129	150	14	73	12	39	4
6	609	73	78	6	94	7	20	3
7	367	58	37	4	55	6	14	1
8	201	25	9	1	37	10	10	1
9	111	5	7	1	16	2	4	2
10	56	5	2	0	15	2	1	1
11	21	2	1	0	2	0	0	0
12 or more	23	0	0	0	6	0	2	0
Total	3,476	658	1,195	124	354	52	207	36

Source: Central Statistics Office Census of Population 2016



Table 16: Private households in the general population by composition of private household and persons per Household, 2016

Persons per household	Married couple with children	Cohabiting couple with children	One parent mother with children	One parent father with children	Married couple with children and other persons	Cohabiting couple with children and other persons	One parent mother with children and other persons	One parent father with children and other persons
2	0	0	81,334	16,073	0	0	0	0
3	164,900	30,252	46,178	6,052	0	0	9,285	1,891
4	205,603	24,910	17,964	1,922	8,494	2,065	5,029	980
5	113,303	9,633	5,677	519	9,955	1,599	1,876	372
6	35,232	2,899	1,477	124	6,066	665	671	118
7	7,633	888	393	27	2,160	205	220	33
8	2,020	278	117	8	744	80	69	9
9 or more	996	119	49	6	372	43	56	10
Total	529687	68979	153189	24731	27791	4657	17206	3413

Source: Central Statistics Office Census of Population 2016

Table 17: Travellers and General Population by composition of private household

	Married couple with children	Cohabiting couple with children	One parent mother with children	One parent father with children	Married couple with children and other persons	One parent mother with children and other persons
Travellers as % of all travellers	53.5%	10.6%	19.4%	2.0%	5.2%	3.3%
General pop.as a % general pop.	63.7%	8.3%	18.5%	3.0%	3.3%	2.1%

Source: Central Statistics Office Census of Population 2016



Table 18: Travellers and General Population by persons per private household

	2 person household	3 person household	4 person household	5 person household	6 person household	7 person household	8 person household
Travellers as % of all travellers	6.3%	19.4%	22.4%	18.1%	14.4%	8.8%	4.6%
General pop.as a % general pop.	11.7%	30.9%	31.8%	17.0%	5.6%	1.4%	0.4%

Source: Central Statistics Office Census of Population 2016

Accommodation Type

Most Travellers with children in 2016 resided in a semi-detached house (1,580 households), a detached house (1,172 households), or a terraced house (1,086 households). Much smaller numbers were living in any type of flat or apartment (289 overall), or in a caravan, mobile or other temporary structure (587 households).

Table 19: Traveller households with children/young people disaggregated by Type of Private Accommodation and age-group of youngest child/young person, 2016

Private Accommodation Type	0 - 5 years	6 - 12 years	13 - 17 years	18 - 24 years	All Ages
Detached house	563	327	179	103	1,172
Semi-detached house	887	361	198	134	1,580
Terraced house	529	280	181	96	1,086
Flat/apartment in a purpose-built block	178	38	19	20	255
Flat/apartment in a converted house or commercial building	<30	6	<6	<6	34
Bed-sit	<6	0	<6	<6	<6
Caravan, mobile or other temporary structure	425	84	47	31	587
All Households	2,782	1,143	649	406	4,980
Not stated	169	47	24	22	262

Source: Central Statistics Office Census of Population 2016



Homeless Persons

Data from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government sourced from housing authorities' monthly figures show the total number of homeless families that are members of the Traveller community accessing emergency accommodation. Distinguishing Travellers from the total number of homeless individuals is not a regular feature of their monthly report, however a count of Traveller families was requested most recently in November 2016 and May 2017.⁸

As per Table 20, November 2016 saw 1,205 families with dependent children accessing emergency accommodation. Of these families, 11 percent (132 families) identified as members of the Traveller community. Most of these families were located in the Dublin region (74 families). The figures for May 2017 remain relatively unchanged, with a total of 1,312 families accessing emergency accommodation during this period. 131 of these families identified as Travellers; 76 of whom were Dublin-based. For additional context, there were 339 and 361 Traveller dependents availing of emergency accommodation for the November 2016 and May 2017 periods respectively. Table 21 provides a more detailed breakdown of dependents by region.

⁸ Note: Where an individual presents themselves to a housing authority as homeless, they can identify as a Traveller but it is not mandatory, meaning the data as presented may not provide an accurate reflection of Traveller homelessness.

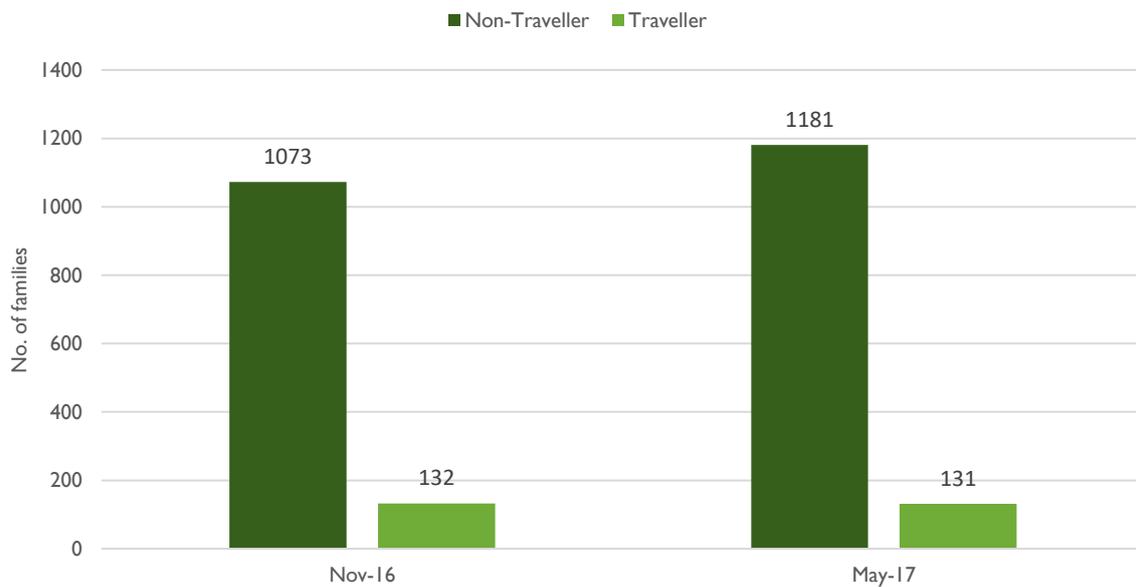


Table 20: Number of families with dependent children in emergency accommodation, November 2016 and May 2017

	Nov-16			May-17		
	Non-Traveller	Traveller	Total	Non-Traveller	Traveller	Total
Dublin	949	74	1,023	1,023	76	1,099
Mid East	10	17	27	10	11	21
Midland	16	6	22	14	12	26
Mid West	27	6	33	48	5	53
North East	7	11	18	12	6	18
North West	1	0	1	1	1	2
South East	15	6	21	9	7	16
South West	39	1	40	55	3	58
West	9	11	20	9	10	19
Total	1,073	132	1,205	1,181	131	1,312

Source: Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government

Figure 6: Number of families with dependent children in emergency accommodation



Source: Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government



Table 21: Number of dependants in emergency accommodation, November 2016 and May 2017

		Dublin	Mid East	Midland	Mid West	North East	North West	South East	South West	West	Total
Nov-16	Non-Traveller	1,909	39	34	58	19	1	27	101	21	2,209
	Traveller	201	36	16	21	16	0	12	3	34	339
	Total	2,110	75	50	79	35	1	39	104	55	2,548
May-17	Non-Traveller	2,043	26	29	92	34	4	15	143	30	2,416
	Traveller	223	37	25	10	10	3	17	7	29	361
	Total	2,266	63	54	102	44	7	32	150	59	2,777

Source: Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government

Mother's education Level

Overall the levels of Traveller mothers' education increased with the age of their youngest child's. In 2016, 71% of Travellers mothers whose youngest child was 18 – 24 had no formal or primary education, 11.8% had lower secondary and 2.2% had upper secondary. This compares to 48.2%, 28.3% and 12.6% respectively for Traveller mothers whose youngest child was 0 – 5. A further 2.3% had third level and above. A similar pattern can be seen in 2011. This data is presented in Table 22.



Table 22: Traveller mother’s classified by highest level of education attained and age of youngest child, 2011 and 2016

Census Year	Highest level of education attained	Age group of youngest child			
		0 - 5	6-12	13-17	18-24
2011	No formal/Primary	1,748	742	383	209
	Lower secondary	693	149	62	16
	Upper secondary	253	60	24	10
	Third level non degree	18	8	<6	<6
	Third level degree	12	14	<6	<6
	Postgraduate	<6	0	0	<6
	Not stated	228	62	46	18
	Total	2,956	1,035	521	256
2016	No formal/Primary	1,416	701	422	259
	Lower secondary	832	194	66	43
	Upper secondary	371	77	35	8
	Third level non degree	35	19	<10	<6
	Third level degree	22	10	<15	<6
	Postgraduate	11	6	<6	<6
	Not stated	250	104	55	45
	Total	2,937	1,111	597	365

Source: Central Statistics Office Census of Population 2011/2016

Education – Early Years

As per the 2017/2018 Pobal Early Years Sector Profile, there were an estimated 202,633 children enrolled across Early Years services. Of these, the number of children identifying as Traveller children was estimated at 3,080.⁹ In 2017/2018, Travellers made up 1.3% of all children attending an Early Years service.¹⁰ The total of services with any Traveller children attending rose from 611 to 642 between 2016/2017 and 2017/2018, representing 16% of all services in both years. This data is presented in Table 23.

⁹ There were 2,633 Traveller children attending the services surveyed. 88% of all services responded to the survey, so extrapolating to 100% yields 3,080. Numbers are reported by the services when completing the survey. Services are asked to report the aggregate Number of Children from the Traveller Community and from the Roma Community.

¹⁰ Data is gathered at service level and presently cannot be further broken down by DCYA funding programme



Table 23: A profile of Traveller children in early years services, 2015/2016 - 2017/2018

Preschool Year	Numbers of Traveller children attending	Travellers as a % of all children attending ELC services	Number of services with any Traveller children attending	% of services with any Traveller children attending
2015/16	1,899	1.1%	480	14%
2016/17	2,399	1.5%	611	16%
2017/18	2,633	1.3%	642	16%

Source: Pobal Early Years Sector Profile

Primary level education

Table 24 presents data on the number of pupils in mainstream primary national schools who are members of the Traveller Community. Data is provided covering academic years 2011/2012 to 2018/2019. Traveller pupils totalled 7,884 in 2018/2019 and represented 1.4% of all mainstream pupils. This is a minor decline from 2017/2018 when there were 7,908 Traveller pupils, representing 1.5% of all mainstream pupils. Overall, the proportion of pupils decreased between 2011/2012 and 2018/2019 by 0.2%, however there have been some differences in how the data was collected over that period. No appreciable differences exist between genders in the numbers of Travellers attending school for either academic year.

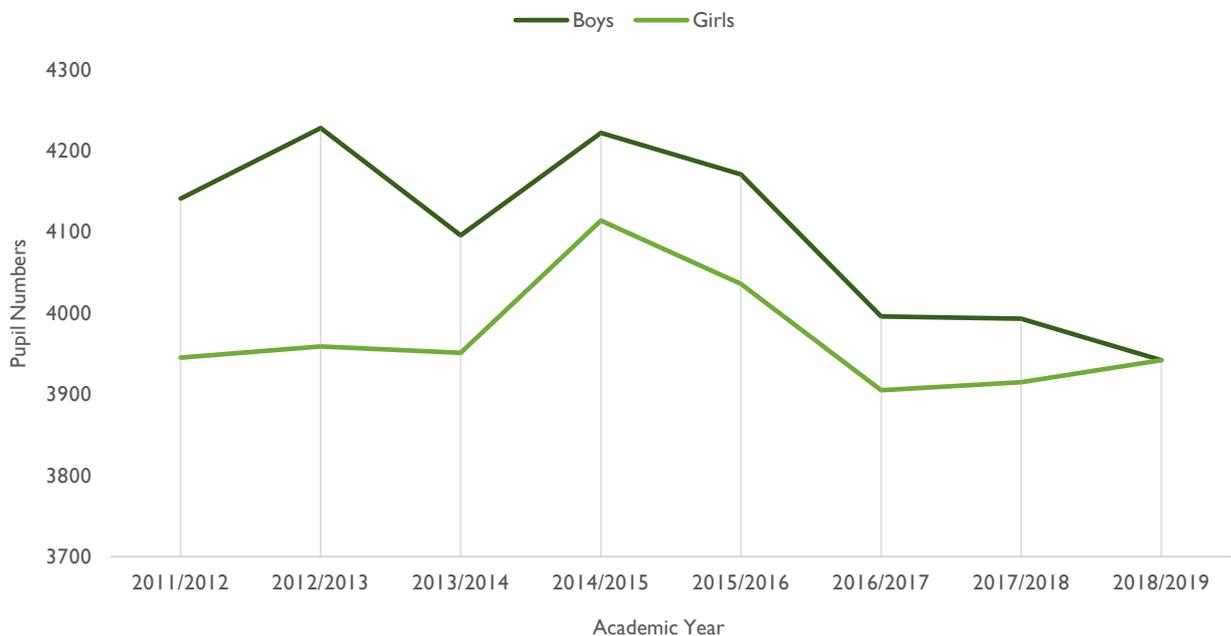


Table 24: Number of pupils in mainstream primary national schools who are members of the Traveller Community, 2011/2012 - 2018/2019

Academic Year	Mainstream Pupils	Of which Who are Members of the Traveller Community	Boys	Girls	Pupils who are Members of the Traveller Community as a percentage of all mainstream pupils
2011/2012	506,216	8,086	4,141	3,945	1.6
2012/2013	515,676	8,187	4,228	3,959	1.6
2013/2014	525,141	8,047	4,096	3,951	1.5
2014/2015	532,931	8,336	4,222	4,114	1.6
2015/2016	540,955	8,207	4,171	4,036	1.5
2016/2017 ¹¹	545,364	7,901 ¹²	3,996	3,905	1.4
2017/2018	563,459	7,908	3,993	3,915	1.5
2018/2019	553,319	7,884	3,942	3,942	1.4

Source: Department of Education and Skills

Figure 7: Number of Pupils in Mainstream National Schools who are Members of the Traveller Community Classified by Sex, 2011/2012 - 2018/2019



Source: Department of Education and Skills

¹¹ From 2016/2017 onwards the information is collected on an individualised basis on the Primary Online Database (POD) leading to a break in the series

¹² From 2016/2017 onwards information on ethnic or cultural background, including traveller ethnicity, is being collected on an individual basis and requires an explicit parental consent. 156,861 pupils declined to provide data on ethnicity, some of whom may have previously been recorded as Irish Travellers.



Table 25: Number of mainstream primary pupils who are members of the Traveller Community classified by age and standard, 2018/2019

Age	Junior Infants	Senior Infants	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	Total
4	248								248
5	638	236							874
6	75	618	272						965
7	2	90	622	322					1,036
8		3	84	618	316				1,021
9			3	83	631	306			1,023
10				1	90	629	318		1,038
11					2	73	598	322	995
12						5	72	538	615
13 and over							4	65	69
Grand Total	963	947	981	1,024	1,039	1,013	992	925	7,884

Source: Department of Education and Skills

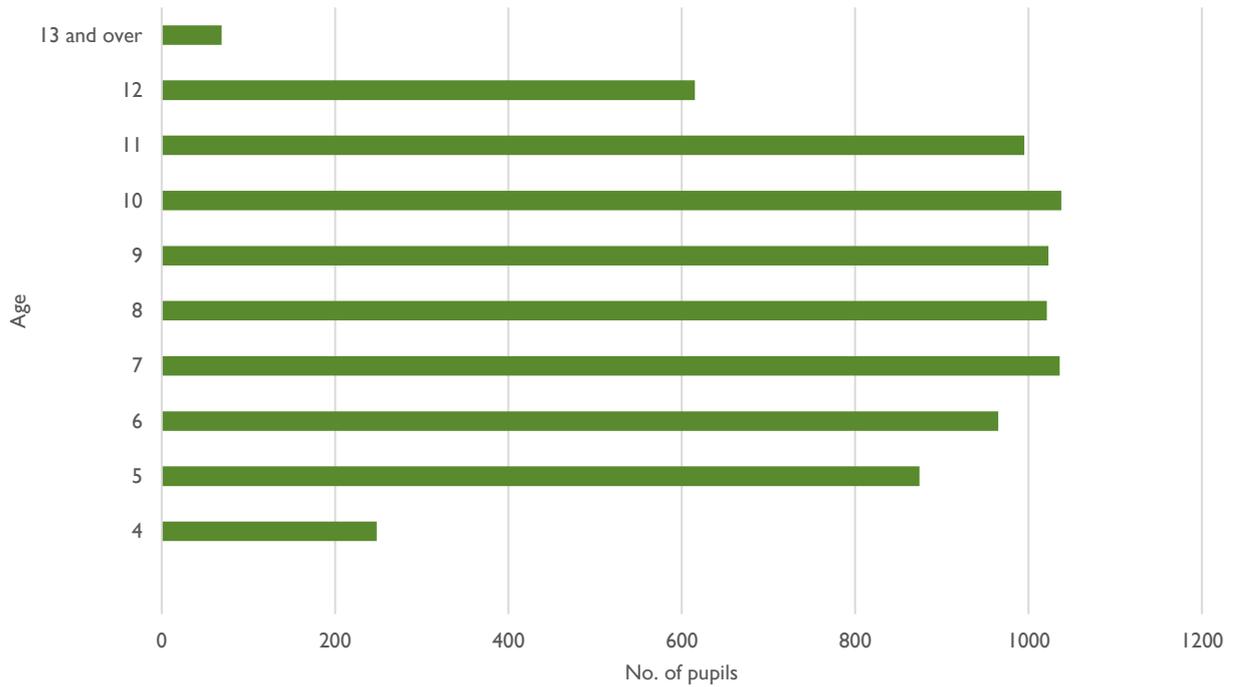
Table 26: Number of mainstream primary pupils classified by age and standard, 2018/2019

Age	Junior Infants	Senior Infants	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	Total
4 and under	13,988								13,988
5	51,884	15,129							67,013
6	1,177	51,097	17,781						70,055
7	9	1,204	49,354	21,113					71,680
8		15	1,132	48,725	22,366				72,238
9			18	1,057	47,464	23,568			72,107
10				19	1,000	46,776	24,446		72,241
11					19	1,006	44,868	23,825	69,718
12						22	962	42,183	43,167
13							21	1,076	1,097
14 and over								15	15
Grand Total	67,058	67,445	68,285	70,914	70,849	71,372	70,297	67,084	553,304

Source: Department of Education and Skills



Figure 8: Numbers of mainstream pupils who are members of the Traveller community classified by age, 2018/2019

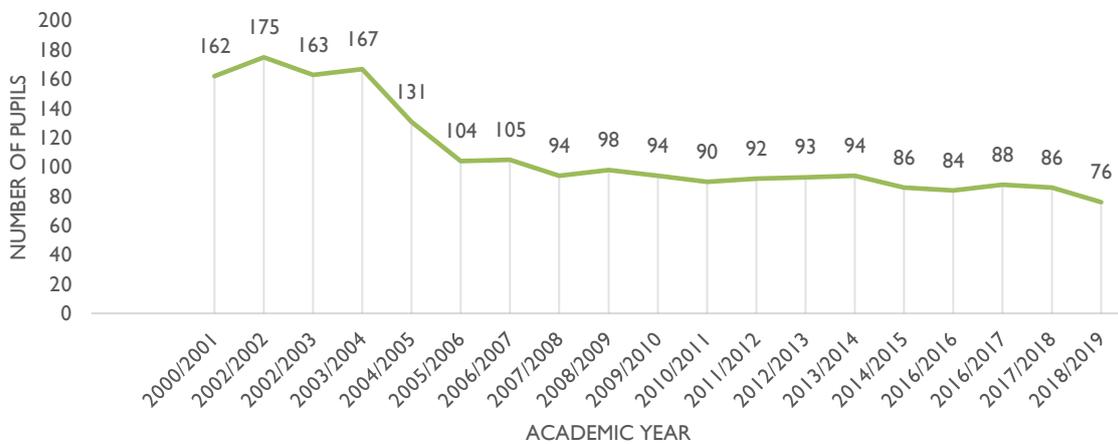


Source: Department of Education and Skills

Traveller-Only Schools

Figure 9 shows the numbers of pupils in separate schools for members of the Traveller Community since 2000/2001. As observed in the table, in 2018/2019 there were 76 pupils enrolled in Traveller-only schools when there were two such schools.

Figure 9: Numbers of pupils in separate schools for members of the Traveller Community, 2000/01 - 2017/18



Source: Department of Education and Skills



Primary DEIS Schools and Traveller Pupil Supports

As observed in Table 27, the total numbers of pupils enrolled in DEIS¹³ schools has steadily increased from 94,907 in the 2011/2012 academic year, to 108,943 in 2018/2019. Similarly, the numbers of pupils in DEIS schools receiving Traveller support has increased over the same period.¹⁴ As of 2018/2019, Traveller students made up approximately 4% of all pupils enrolled in DEIS schools. This figure compares with just 1% of Traveller pupils as a percentage of all students in non-DEIS schools.

Table 27: Pupils in receipt of Traveller support by DEIS school status, 2011/12 - 2018/19

Academic Year	All Students in DEIS schools	Of which in Receipt of Traveller Support	Traveller Students as a Percentage of All Students	All Students in non-DEIS schools	Of which in Receipt of Traveller Support	Traveller Students as a Percentage of All Students
2011/2012	94,907	4,091	4.3	411,309	3,995	1.0
2012/2013	96,105	4,183	4.4	419,571	4,004	1.0
2013/2014	98,002	4,178	4.3	427,139	3,869	0.9
2014/2015	98,870	4,300	4.3	434,061	4,036	0.9
2015/2016	100,828	4,359	4.3	440,127	3,848	0.9
2016/2017	102,384	4,239	4.1	442,980	3,662	0.8
2017/2018	108,406	4,352	4.0	441,273	3,556	1.0
2018/2019	108,943	4,353	4.0	444,376	3,531	1.0

Source: Department of Education and Skills

Figure 10 presents Department of Education and Skills data on the numbers of Traveller pupils by DEIS status of a school for the academic years 2011/2012 to 2018/2019. The number of pupils receiving Traveller Support in non-DEIS schools increased slightly from 3,995 in 2011/2012, to 4,036 in 2014/2015. This figure has notably decreased in recent years, to 3,531 for the 2018/2019 academic year.

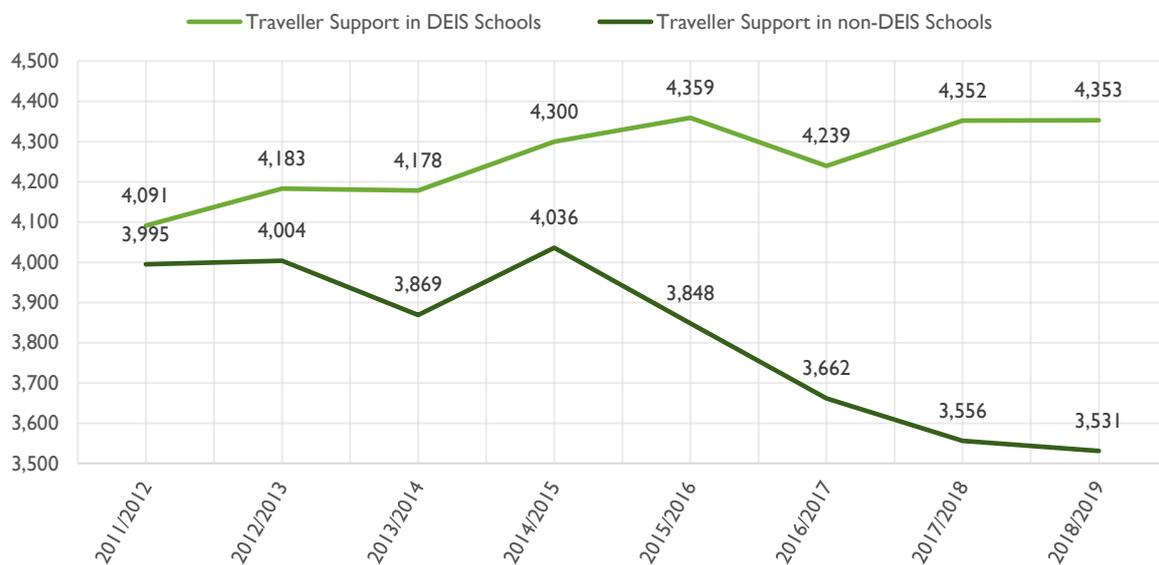
¹³ As noted by the Department of Education and skills: “*Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) the Action Plan for Educational Inclusion, was launched in May 2005 and remains the Department of Education and Skills policy instrument to address educational disadvantage. The action plan focuses on addressing and prioritising the educational needs of children and young people from disadvantaged communities, from pre-school through second-level education (3 to 18 years).*”

¹⁴ For additional information on DEIS and supports available, see: <https://www.education.ie/en/schools-colleges/services/deis-delivering-equality-of-opportunity-in-schools/>



Conversely, Traveller Support has been increasing in DEIS schools over the past number of years, reaching a high of 4,353 in 2018/2019.

Figure 10: Mainstream Traveller Pupils by DEIS Status of School, 2011 - 2018



Source: Department of Education and Skills

Table 28: Total post- primary¹⁵ students in receipt of support for being member of the Traveller Community, 2009/2010 - 2018/2019

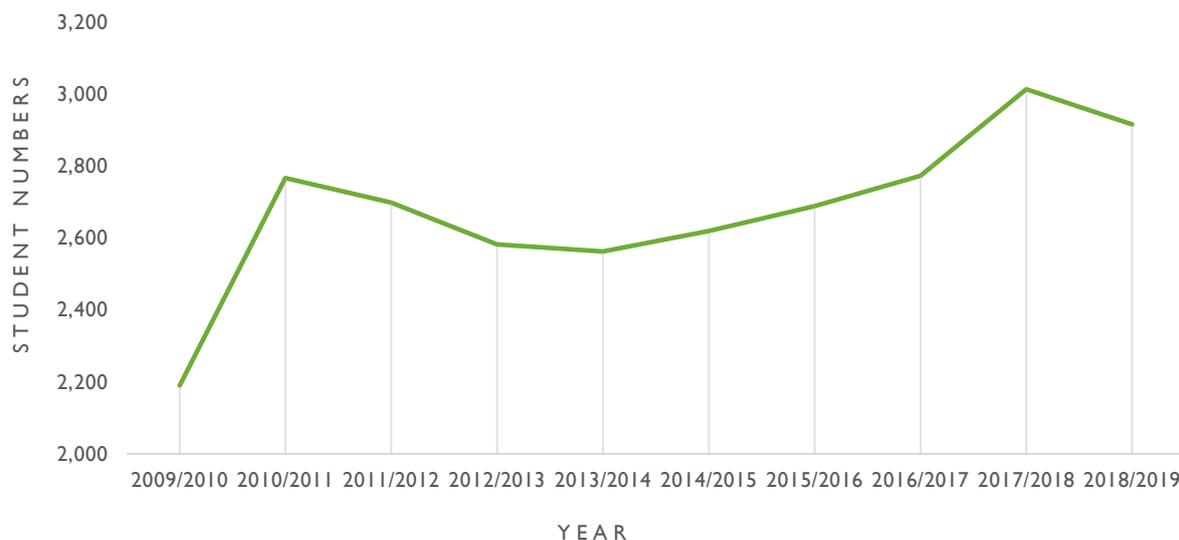
Academic Year	Total Pupils	of which in Receipt of Traveller Support	Girls	Boys	In Receipt of Traveller Support as a Percentage of All Students
2009/2010	313,439	2,190	1,133	1,057	0.7
2010/2011	318,770	2,767	1,476	1,291	0.9
2011/2012	323,795	2,699	1,427	1,272	0.8
2012/2013	328,571	2,582	1,377	1,205	0.8
2013/2014	334,412	2,563	1,369	1,194	0.8
2014/2015	340,451	2,620	1,412	1,208	0.8
2015/2016	346,701	2,689	1,413	1,276	0.8
2016/2017	352,404	2,773	1,466	1,307	0.8
2017/2018	357,408	3,014	1,624	1,390	0.8
2018/2019	362,899	2,916	1,558	1,358	0.8

Source: Department of Education and Skills

¹⁵ Excludes PLC students



Figure 11: Total post-primary students in receipt of Traveller supports by academic year



Source: Department of Education and Skills

Table 29: Total post-primary students in receipt of support for members of the Traveller Community classified by programme followed, 2009/2010 - 2016/2017

Academic Year	Junior Cert/JCSP*/ Junior Cycle	Transition Year	Leaving Cert (includes LC repeats)	Leaving Cert Vocational Programme	Leaving Cert Applied	Total Leaving Cert	Total
2009/2010	1,734	51	140	96	169	405	2,190
2010/2011	2,054	86	202	169	256	627	2,767
2011/2012	1,898	102	259	175	265	699	2,699
2012/2013	1,801	59	307	149	266	722	2,582
2013/2014	1,772	93	282	154	262	698	2,563
2014/2015	1,829	108	252	182	249	683	2,620
2015/2016	1,790	119	302	178	300	780	2,689
2016/2017	1,932	114	303	155	269	727	2,773
2017/2018	2,140	142	300	174	258	732	3,014
2018/2019	2,084	128	307	158	239	704	2,916

Source: Department of Education and Skills
 *See background notes for definition

More than 2,000 students in Junior Cycle received Traveller Supports for the 2018/2019 academic year. This figure compares to just 704 at Leaving Certificate level receiving supports for the same period. In recent years, there have been a significantly greater number of individuals availing of Traveller Supports in Junior Cycle, compared to Leaving Certificate/Senior Cycle. This may be reflective of the fact that fewer young Travellers progress to Senior Cycle study.

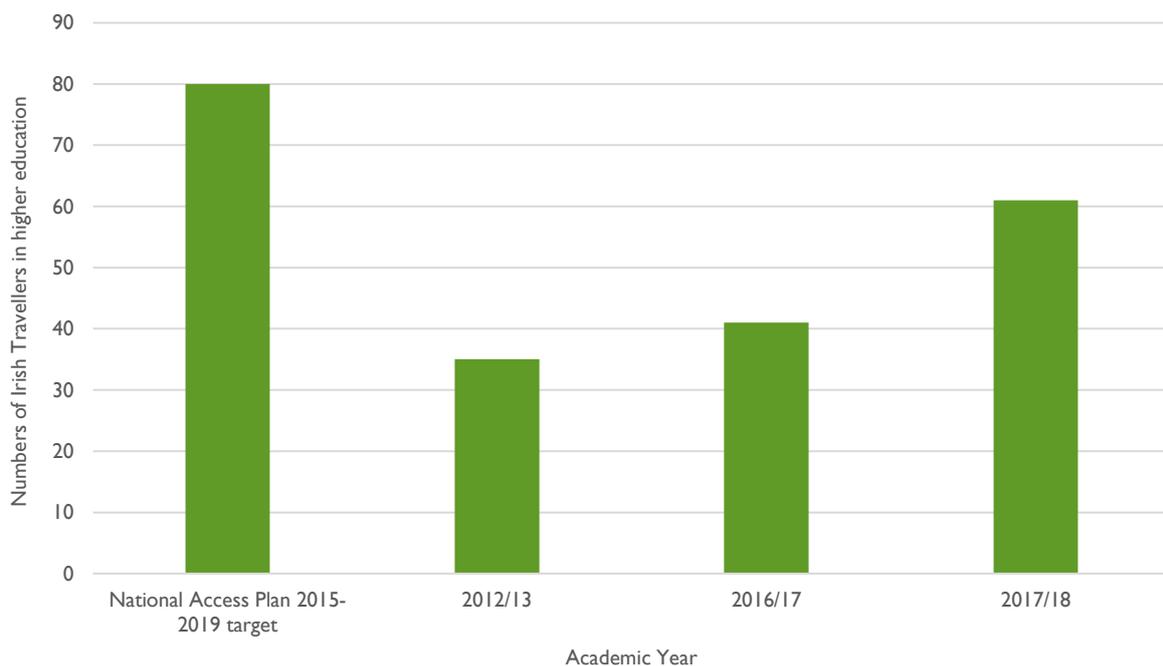


Higher Education

From 2010/11 until 2016/17, students that chose to identify as Irish Travellers consistently made up just 0.1% of new entrants to the first year of a university-level programme. This figure has increased to 0.2% for the 2017/18 academic year. Similarly, since 2014/15 Irish Travellers have made up 0.2% of new entrants to Institutes of Technology. In respect of new entrants to all institutions, Irish Travellers made up just 0.2% of all new entrants.

The *National Plan for Equity of Access to Higher Education 2015-2019* prescribes a target of 80 Irish Travellers as new entrants in higher education per year.¹⁶ Numbers have increased in recent years, but progress still needs to be made to achieve this target.

Figure 12: Numbers of Irish Travellers in higher education, 2012/13 and 2016/17- 2017/18



Source: Higher Education Authority Equal Access Survey

¹⁶ Full-time and part-time new entrants. It is noted within the report that a numerical, rather than a percentage target is proposed given the very small number of Irish Travellers accessing higher education each year.



Table 30: Irish Travellers and Irish as a proportion of all full-time entrants to year I of a programme, 2010/2011-2017/2018

Year	Universities		Institutes of Technology		All Institutions	
	Irish Traveller	Irish	Irish Traveller	Irish	Irish Traveller	Irish
2010/11	0.1%	91.3%	0.1%	89.6%	0.1%	93%*
2011/12	0.1%	92.9%	0.1%	87.9%	0.1%	90.9%
2012/13	0.1%	92.0%	0.1%	88.0%	0.1%	90.5%
2013/14	0.1%	86.7%	0.1%	86.5%	0.1%	86.6%
2014/15	0.1%	89.0%	0.2%	85.9%	0.2%	87.9%
2015/16	0.1%	88.5%	0.2%	85.8%	0.1%	87.5%
2016/17	0.1%	87.8%	0.2%	83.8%	0.1%	86.6%
2017/18	0.2%	85.8%	0.2%	83.2%	0.2%	84.9%

Source: Higher Education Authority Key Facts and Figures
 * Defined as 'National Profile' in 2010/2011

Overall Educational Attainment

Overall, the educational attainment level of Irish Travellers increased between 2011 and 2016. For both 15-19 year olds and 20-24 year olds the proportion of young Travellers whose highest level of education was primary or below decreased and the proportion whose highest level was lower secondary or upper secondary increased. The increase in the proportion of 20-24 year olds with upper secondary was particularly notable increasing from 13.3% to 20.4% over the period. Table 31 shows the numbers of Irish Travellers aged 15 years to 24 years by highest level of education completed, with data provided for the 2011 and 2016 Census years.



Table 31: Irish Travellers aged 15 years to 24 years by highest level of education completed, 2011 and 2016

		2011	2016
15 - 19 years	Primary (incl. no formal education)	507	375
	Lower secondary	568	553
	Upper secondary	149	182
	Third level non-degree	7	5
	Third level degree or higher	1	0
	Not stated	106	99
	<i>Total</i>	<i>1,338</i>	<i>1,214</i>
20 - 24 years	Primary (incl. no formal education)	907	573
	Lower secondary	711	723
	Upper secondary	273	392
	Third level non-degree	15	27
	Third level degree or higher	8	12
	Not stated	138	196
	<i>Total</i>	<i>2,052</i>	<i>1,923</i>

Source: Central Statistics Office Census of Population 2011 and 2016

Reading as a leisure activity

The PISA survey (2012) reported that 38.6% of all children at age 15 reported reading as one of their favourite hobbies. By comparison, just below 27% of Traveller children reported same.

Table 32: Percentage of children aged 15 who report that reading is one of their favourite hobbies

Ethnicity	%
Traveller children	26.8
All other children (excluding Travellers)	38.9
<i>All children</i>	<i>38.6</i>

Source: PISA survey, 2012



Means of travel

In both 2011 and 2016, the most common means of travel for Traveller children at school aged between 5 and 12 years was as a passenger in a motor car. Significant numbers also travelled on foot across both census years. These findings mirror those of the general population aged 5-12 for 2011 and 2016; with most children travelling either as passengers in cars or on foot. Table 33 presents Census data on young Travellers by means of travel for 2016.

In 2016, Traveller students at school or college aged between 13 and 18 were most likely to travel either as motor vehicle passengers or on foot. While this is also true for the general population within this age category, Travellers were much less likely to travel by bus, minibus or coach, or via train, DART or Luas.

Table 33: Means of Travel by age bracket, 2016- totals

	Children at school aged between 5 and 12 years		Students at school or college aged between 13 and 18 years	
	Irish Travellers	General Pop.	Irish Travellers	General Pop.
All means of travel	6,361	546,916	2,753	350,168
On foot	1,591	128,218	809	74,111
Bicycle	51	7,326	61	7,282
Bus, minibus or coach	373	56,145	355	99,573
Train, DART or LUAS	6	701	3	5,649
Motorcycle or scooter	0	0	0	160
Motor car: Driver	0	0	21	5,039
Motor car: Passenger	3,646	327,039	1,174	146,755
Van	46	912	29	605
Other, incl. lorry	6	154	2	90
Not stated	642	26,119	299	10,697

Source: Central Statistics Office Census of Population 2016



Table 34: Means of Travel by age bracket, 2016- % totals

	Children at school aged between 5 and 12 years		Students at school or college aged between 13 and 18 years	
	Irish Travellers	General Pop.	Irish Travellers	General Pop.
On foot	25.0%	23.4%	29.4%	21.2%
Bicycle	0.8%	1.3%	2.2%	2.1%
Bus, minibus or coach	5.9%	10.3%	12.9%	28.4%
Train, DART or LUAS	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	1.6%
Motorcycle or scooter	0%	0%	0%	0%
Motor car: Driver	0%	0%	0.8%	1.4%
Motor car: Passenger	57.3%	59.8%	42.6%	41.9%
Van	0.7%	0.2%	1.1%	0.2%
Other, incl. lorry	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
Not stated	10.1%	4.8%	10.9%	3.1%

Source: Central Statistics Office Census of Population 2016

Marital Status

Table 35 presents the marital status of white Irish Travellers, as well as those from all ethnic or cultural backgrounds, aged 15-24 as per the 2016 Census of Population. Most notably, almost 23% of Travellers within this age bracket were married, compared to just 1.2% of 15-24 year olds from all ethnic or cultural backgrounds. Young Travellers were consequentially less likely to identify as single (75.7% compared to 98.7%), but were more likely to be separated, divorced or widowed (at 1.6% overall versus 0.1%).

Young Traveller females aged 15-24 were more likely to be married than their male counterparts, at 24.6% compared with 20.7% in 2016. They were also more likely to be separated or divorced, at 2.1% (versus 0.9%), or widowed.



Table 35: Marital status (age 15-24), 2016

Marital Status		Totals		% All marital status	
		White Irish Traveller	All ethnic or cultural backgrounds	White Irish Traveller	All ethnic or cultural backgrounds
Both sexes	Single	4,320	554,743	75.7%	98.7%
	Married (incl. same-sex civil partnership)	1,292	6,860	22.6%	1.2%
	Separated or Divorced	86	470	1.5%	0.1%
	Widowed	7	232	0.1%	0.0%
Male	Single	2,231	284,311	78.4%	99.0%
	Married (incl. same-sex civil partnership)	588	2,477	20.7%	0.9%
	Separated or Divorced	26	186	0.9%	0.1%
	Widowed	1	108	0.0%	0.0%
Female	Single	2,089	270,432	73.1%	98.3%
	Married (incl. same-sex civil partnership)	704	4,383	24.6%	1.6%
	Separated or Divorced	60	284	2.1%	0.1%
	Widowed	6	124	0.2%	0.0%

Source: Central Statistics Office Census of Population 2011/2016

Young People in Detention

Oberstown Children’s Detention Campus produce ‘snapshot’ reports of the key characteristics of young people in detention. Table 36 presents the data for the first quarters of 2017 to 2019 broken down by ethnicity. Overall, there were 16, 20 and 14 Irish Travellers in detention for the 2017, 2018 and 2019 periods respectively. The majority of children in detention (71%) in Q1 2019 were of Irish ethnicity. Irish Travellers accounted for 19% of children in detention for the same period. This compares just over 1% of the population aged 12 to 18.



Table 36: A snapshot of young people in detention by ethnicity, 2017- 2019

Year		Ethnicity					Total
		Irish	Irish Travellers	EU Nationals	African	Mixed Ethnicity/ Other	
2017 (Q1)	Number	46	16	4	2	1	69
	%Total	67%	23%	6%	3%	1%	100%
2018 (Q1)	Number	65	20	5	2	0	92
	%Total	71%	22%	5%	2%	0%	100%
2019 (Q1)	Number	53	14	4	3	1	75
	%Total	71%	19%	5%	4%	1%	100%

Source: Key characteristics of young people in detention: A snapshot, Oberstown Children Detention Campus

Young Carers

In 2016, there were 208 young Travellers aged 0-24 providing unpaid personal help for people with a long-term illness or disability. For the purposes of this Spotlight, these individuals will be referred to as ‘Young Carers’¹⁷. This figure may be broken down to 84 males and 126 females. By way of comparison, there were a total of 13,147 carers aged 0-24 in 2016 in Ireland overall. The male/female split was 6,202 to 6,945.

Tables 37 and 38 focus on the proportion of Travellers aged 0-24 acting as Young Carers. As observed in Table 38, almost 4% of Travellers aged 20-24 were acting as unpaid carers in 2016. This compares to just 2% of the total 20-24 age bracket. When solely focusing on females aged 20-24, 5% of Travellers are carers, compared to 2.16% of the general population within this age bracket.

¹⁷ The CSO defines a carer as an individual providing unpaid assistance to another.



Table 37: Young Traveller carers and Young Carers classified by age group, 2016

	Age bracket	Young Traveller carers	Total Young Carers
Both sexes	0 - 9 years	41	1,635
	10 - 14 years	21	2,165
	15 - 19 years	43	4,228
	20 - 24 years	103	5,119
Male	0 - 9 years	21	794
	10 - 14 years	6	1,081
	15 - 19 years	19	2,012
	20 - 24 years	36	2,315
Female	0 - 9 years	20	841
	10 - 14 years	15	1,084
	15 - 19 years	24	2,216
	20 - 24 years	67	2,804

Source: Central Statistics Office Census of Population 2016

Table 38: Young Traveller carers and Young Carers aged 0 to 24 years as a proportion of the total Traveller population and general population, 2016

	Age bracket	Young Traveller carers as a % of Travellers	Total Young Carers a % of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds
Both sexes	0 - 9 years	0.47%	0.24%
	10 - 14 years	0.57%	0.68%
	15 - 19 years	1.40%	1.42%
	20 - 24 years	3.91%	1.94%
Male	0 - 9 years	0.47%	0.23%
	10 - 14 years	0.31%	0.67%
	15 - 19 years	1.22%	1.31%
	20 - 24 years	2.79%	1.73%
Female	0 - 9 years	0.48%	0.25%
	10 - 14 years	0.85%	0.70%
	15 - 19 years	1.58%	1.53%
	20 - 24 years	5.00%	2.16%

Source: Central Statistics Office Census of Population 2016



Economic Status

As observed in Table 39, the total labour force participation rate for Travellers aged 0-24 decreased from just over 58% in 2011 to almost 56% as recorded in the 2016 Census of Population. Labour force participation was notably higher for males in both years. For example, labour force participation for males was at 61% in 2016, compared to 50.8% for females over the same period.

Table 39: Labour force participation rate for Travellers and General population (aged 15-24), 2011 and 2016

Participation rate	2011		2016	
	Travellers	General Population	Travellers	General Population
Labour force participation rate - Total (% rate)	58.1	36.6	55.9	32.5
Labour force participation rate - Male (% rate)	63.5	38.8	61	34.5
Labour force participation rate - Female (% rate)	52.7	34.4	50.8	30.4

Source: Central Statistics Office Census of Population 2011/2016

Table 40 provides further insight into the employment status of young Travellers. Of the noted 2016 population of 5,718, the population not in the labour force was 2,522 individuals. Furthermore, 2,207 were recorded as seeking their first regular job. Also worth noting is the 8.8% of 15-24 year olds that were unemployed having lost or given up their previous job. There were no clear differences in trends regarding employment status and sex.



Table 40: Numbers of Irish Travellers and General Population (aged 15-24) by employment status

Sex	Description	2011		2016	
		Travellers	General Population	Travellers	General Population
Both sexes	Population aged 15 years and over	6,066	580,250	5,718	576,452
	Employer or own account worker	19	3,473	22	3,156
	Employee	320	126,068	460	135,682
	Assisting relative	14	745	2	537
	Unemployed having lost or given up previous job	557	60,596	505	31,252
	Looking for first regular job	2,612	21,557	2,207	16,776
	Population not in labour force	2,544	n/a	2,522	n/a
	Student or pupil	n/a	351,209	n/a	374,788
	Looking after home/family	n/a	9,104	n/a	5,977
	Retired	n/a	380	n/a	536
	Unable to work due to permanent sickness or disability	n/a	5,099	n/a	5,773
	Other economic status	n/a	2,019	n/a	1,975
Male	Population aged 15 years and over (Number)	3,030	290,898	2,852	292,492
	Employer or own account worker	18	2,441	20	2,254
	Employee	159	59,598	260	70,825
	Assisting relative	9	476	2	364
	Unemployed having lost or given up previous job	328	37,716	296	17,765
	Looking for first regular job	1,409	12,724	1,163	9,801
	Population not in labour force	1,107	n/a	1,111	n/a
	Student or pupil	n/a	172,887	n/a	186,018
	Looking after home/family	n/a	482	n/a	417
	Retired	n/a	212	n/a	313
	Unable to work due to permanent sickness or disability	n/a	3,107	n/a	3,471
	Other economic status	n/a	1,255	n/a	1,264
Female	Population aged 15 years and over (Number)	3,036	289,352	2,866	283,960
	Employer or own account worker	1	1,032	2	902
	Employee	161	66,470	200	64,857
	Assisting relative	5	269	0	173
	Unemployed having lost or given up previous job	229	22,880	209	13,487
	Looking for first regular job	1,203	8,833	1,044	6,975
	Population not in labour force	1,437	n/a	1,411	n/a
	Student or pupil	n/a	178,322	n/a	188,770
	Looking after home/family	n/a	8,622	n/a	5,560
	Retired	n/a	168	n/a	223
	Unable to work due to permanent sickness or disability	n/a	1,992	n/a	2,302
	Other economic status	n/a	764	n/a	711

Source: Central Statistics Office Census of Population 2011/2016



Conclusion

This Spotlight presents data on children and young people who are members of the Traveller community, on topics such as health, housing, education and economic status. Overall, there were more than 18,000 young Travellers in Ireland, making up 1.15% of the total population aged 0-24 in 2016. There were more than 8,600 under 10 years of age, almost 6,700 under 20 and 2,600 aged 20-24.

In the 2016 Census of Population, most young Travellers reported that they were in 'good' or 'very good' health; however the proportion of young Travellers reporting this health status was still below that of all 0-24 year olds in Ireland.

Furthermore, young Travellers were more likely to report having a disability. Not only are they more likely to report having a disability, but young Travellers are more likely to act as Young Carers, with 208 young Travellers aged 0-24 providing unpaid personal help for people with a long-term illness or disability in 2016. Specifically, almost 4% of Young Travellers aged 20-24 were carers, compared to under 2% of the general population within this age bracket.

In respect of housing, the majority of Traveller households containing children were 3, 4 or 5-person households. However almost 1 in 3 Traveller households containing children were occupied by 6 people or more.

16% of Early Learning and Care services reported that they had Traveller children in attendance, and Travellers make up 1.5% of all mainstream pupils attending primary school. However, just 0.2% of all new entrants to third level programmes are young Travellers.

Young Travellers were significantly more likely to be married. As observed from the 2016 Census of Population, approximately 23% of young Travellers aged between 15 and 24 were married, which compares to just 1.2% of the general population within this age category.



Appendix: Roma Communities in Ireland

At present, only a limited amount of data focusing on young people in Roma communities in Ireland exists. It is for this reason that this discussion is presented as an additional appendix, rather than being placed within the primary Spotlight discussion. Data presented within this appendix has been sourced from the Department of Education and Skills, Pobal Early Years Sector Profile reports, and the 2018 Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre and Department of Justice and Equality report entitled *Roma in Ireland: A National Needs Assessment*.

Household composition

As per the Roma National Needs Assessment, 52.3% of households surveyed had two children or fewer. 30% of households contained three or four children; with almost 18% of the sample containing five or more children.

Table (i): Number of Roma children as a percent of households¹⁸

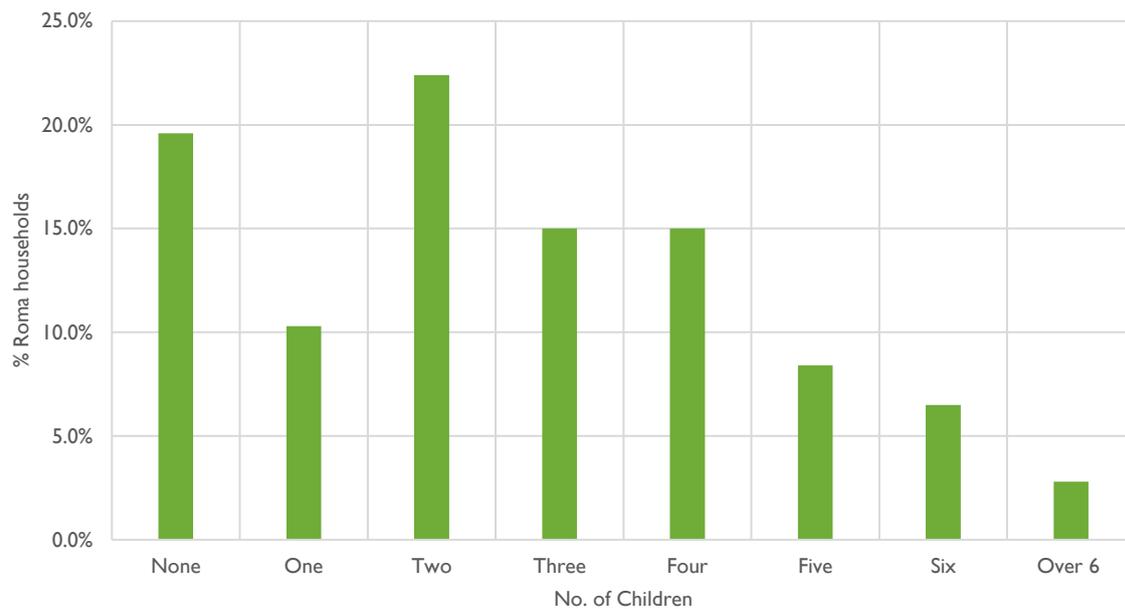
Number of children	% of Roma households
0	19.6%
1	10.3%
2	22.4%
3	15%
4	15%
5	8.4%
6	6.5%
7+	2.8%

Source: Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre and Department of Justice and Equality (2018) *Roma in Ireland: A National Needs Assessment*

¹⁸ n= 107



Figure (i): Number of Roma children as a percent of households



Source: Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre and Department of Justice and Equality (2018) Roma in Ireland: A National Needs Assessment

Early Years

As per the Pobal Early Years Sector Profile, there were 475 Roma children recorded as attending an early years' service during the 2015/16 preschool year.¹⁹

Subsequent publications recorded 853 and 688 Roma children for the 2016/17 and 2017/18 preschool years respectively.

In 2015/16, 197 (or 6%) early years services had Roma children in attendance. This figure increased to 285 (or 8%) services the following year with 276 services having Roma children in attendance during the 2017/18 preschool year.

¹⁹ Services are asked to report the aggregate Number of Children from the Traveller Community and from the Roma Community.



Table (ii): Numbers of Roma children in early years services, 2015/16- 2017/18

Preschool Year	Numbers of Roma children attending	Number of services with any Roma children attending	% of services with any Roma children attending
2015/16	475	197	6%
2016/17	853	285	8%
2017/18	688	276	7%

Source: Pobal Early Years Sector Profile

Table (iii): Roma children in early years services by organisation type and location, 2017/18

	Community	Private	Urban	Rural	All
Number of services with any children attending	91	185	241	35	276
% of services with any children attending	9%	6%	9%	3%	7%
Number of children attending	225	463	611	77	688
% of children attending as a % of all Roma children	33%	67%	89%	11%	100%

Source: Pobal Early Years Sector Profile 2017/18

Primary Education

Table (iv) shows that the numbers of Roma children attending mainstream classes has increased across the 2016 to 2018 period; with almost 1,700 Roma pupils enrolled by 2018. The numbers attending special classes or schools, although relatively small, have also increased for the same period, bringing the total number enrolled to 1,736 for the 2018 academic year.



Table (iv): Numbers of Roma children attending mainstream classes, special classes or enrolled in special schools, 2016- 2018

Academic Year (Enrolment)	Mainstream Classes	Special Classes	Special Schools	Total
2016	1,375	21	6	1,402
2017	1,553	20	13	1,586
2018	1,690	25	21	1,736

Source: Department of Education and Skills



Background Notes

This is the fourth publication in the *Statistical Spotlight* series. A statistical spotlight is a short publication focused on a different topic in each *Spotlight*, gathering together available statistical data highlighting trends or patterns in the data. These are intended to be short, statistical-based publications bringing together available information for interested users. The publications include some commentary detailing (where relevant) trends and comparisons as appropriate (e.g. comparisons between sex, region, age group etc.).

The primary purpose is to gather together the most relevant data and draw attention to the most evident features or trends. Therefore, although it could serve as the basis for such further research, none of the information contained therein should in and of itself be used to ascribe cause and effect between any two variables. In any case, much of the data we considered is not sufficiently detailed to give anything other than to give a very high-level snapshot of the lives of children and young people within Traveller and Roma communities in Ireland.



Glossary

Administrative County: As per the CSO:

‘In census reports the country is divided into 31 administrative counties/cities. The Local Government Reform Act 2014 Section 9 provided for the amalgamation of the city and county councils in Limerick and Waterford, and North Tipperary and South Tipperary County Councils.

There are now 26 administrative counties including the five administrative counties of Cork County, Galway County, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin. There are 5 city/city and county areas namely Cork City, Limerick City and County, Waterford City and County, Dublin City and Galway City’.

DEIS Schools: As noted by the Department of Education and skills:

‘Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) the Action Plan for Educational Inclusion, was launched in May 2005 and remains the Department of Education and Skills policy instrument to address educational disadvantage. The action plan focuses on addressing and prioritising the educational needs of children and young people from disadvantaged communities, from pre-school through second-level education (3 to 18 years).’

Department of Education and Skills- Primary Online Database: The Primary Online Database (POD) is an individualised database of pupils enrolled in primary schools which are recognised by the Department. Parents are asked an optional questions on Ethnicity which is based, but not identical to on the Census of Population question on Ethnicity. Irish Traveller is one of the response categories.

Department of Education and Skills- Post-Primary Online Database: The Post Primary Online Database (P-POD) is an individualised database of pupils enrolled in post primary schools, which are recognised by the Department. In earlier years Schools were asked to indicate the number of students that required additional travellers support. Since 2009, parents/students are asked an optional questions on Ethnicity which is based, but not identical to on the Census of Population question on Ethnicity. Irish Traveller is one of the response categories.



Infant Mortality Rate: The number of deaths under the age of 1 year in babies who were born alive per 1,000 live births

JCSP: The Junior Certificate School Programme is a national programme sponsored by the Department of Education and Skills and the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment. It aims to provide a curriculum framework that assists schools and teachers in making the Junior Certificate more accessible to those young people who may leave school without formal qualifications.

LCA: Refers to the Leaving Certificate Applied. As noted by the Department for Education and Skills:

‘The Leaving Certificate Applied is a distinct, self-contained Leaving Certificate programme. It is designed for those students who do not wish to proceed directly to third level education or for those whose needs, aspirations and aptitudes are not adequately catered for by the other two Leaving Certificate programmes.’

LCVP: Refers to the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme. As noted by the Department for Education and Skills: ‘The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme is an intervention within the Leaving Certificate (Established).’ The LCVP aims to: ‘foster in students a spirit of enterprise and initiative and to develop their interpersonal, vocational and technological skills.’

Mortality: Data on mortality has been sourced from *Our Geels: All Ireland Traveller Health Study* (2010). The report notes that: ‘The mortality study was based on a retrospective identification of all Irish Traveller deaths that occurred on the island of Ireland during a 1-year period between 15th October, 2007 and 14th October, 2008’.

Special Schools: The Department of Education and Skills (DES) provides for the education of children with special education needs through a number of support mechanisms depending on the child’s assessed disability.

In general, educational provision for children with special needs is made:

- In special schools;
- In special classes attached to ordinary schools;
- In integrated settings in mainstream classes.



Definition of Travellers: Below is a list of the different terms used in the data sources to describe members of the Traveller community:

All Ireland Traveller Health Survey - “Travellers”

The ‘Traveller Community’ is defined as per the Equal Status Act (2002):

‘Traveller community means the community of people who are commonly called Travellers and who are identified (both by themselves and others) as people with a shared history, culture and traditions, including historically, a nomadic way of life on the island of Ireland’.

CSO - “Irish Traveller”

Respondents self-identify based on question 11 from Census 2016: ‘What is your ethnic or cultural background?’ Respondents are given 7 prescribed choices (including ‘Irish Traveller’), or have the option to answer ‘other’, and describe their ethnicity/cultural background as appropriate

Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) Survey: Health Promotion Research Centre – “Traveller”

The Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) Survey is conducted in Ireland by the Health Promotion Research Centre on a quadrennial basis. This comprises self-report, self-completion questionnaires completed by children in schools.

The HBSC Ireland questionnaire asks about traveller status using the following question;

Are you a member of the Travelling community?

Response options; Yes or No

Higher Education Authority - “Irish Traveller”

Data used is from the HEA Equal Access Survey. This is a voluntary survey which collects information on the social, economic and ethnic background of new students who enter higher education for the first time. The HEA notes:



'To help progress the goal of equal access to higher education for all, information is gathered on the disability, ethnicity (including members of the Irish Traveller community) and lone parenthood status of new entrants to higher education'

Respondents are presented with an optional question on Ethnicity of which 'Traveller' is one of the response categories.

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency – “Irish Traveller”

Respondents self-identify based on question 16 from Census 2011: 'What is your ethnic group?' Respondents are given 9 prescribed choices (including 'Irish Traveller'), or have the option to answer 'Mixed ethnic group', or 'Any other ethnic group' and describe their ethnicity/cultural background as appropriate.

Office for National Statistics – “Gypsy or Irish Traveller”

Respondents self-identify based on question 16 from Census 2011: 'What is your ethnic group?' Respondents are given 5 main groups to choose from, with each containing a number of subgroups. Respondents also have the option to answer 'other', and describe their ethnicity as appropriate.

Programme of International Student Assessment (PISA) Survey: Educational Research Centre – “Traveller children”

The Programme of International Student Assessment (PISA) Survey is conducted in Ireland by the Educational Research Centre on a triennial basis. In addition to achievement tests, it employs self-report, self-completion questionnaires, which are completed by participating children in their schools. *Note: in PISA 2015, the identification of children as 'Traveller children' was not included.*

Pobal Early Years Sector Profiles - “Traveller/ Member of the Traveller community”

Services are asked to report the aggregate Number of Children from the Traveller Community and from the Roma Community.

Traveller Support: Traveller children can access certain learning supports if an educational need is identified. The Department of Education and Skill's Post-Primary Pupil Database contains information on whether an application has been made for a pupil for Traveller Support. Additional teaching hours are provided for children who



are members of the Traveller community. Written consent is required by school authorities before they can include this in their returns to the Department of Education and Skills. Note that this was first sought as part of the Post Primary Pupil Database data collection in 2009/2010 so the data may be under-represented.

Young carers: The definition of young carers is all persons aged 24 and under who answered yes to the following question (question 22 on the 2016 census of population form):

‘Do you provide regular unpaid personal help for a friend or family member with a long term illness, health problem or disability?’

Note: The person receiving regular unpaid personal help does not necessarily have to be living in the same household as the person providing the help.

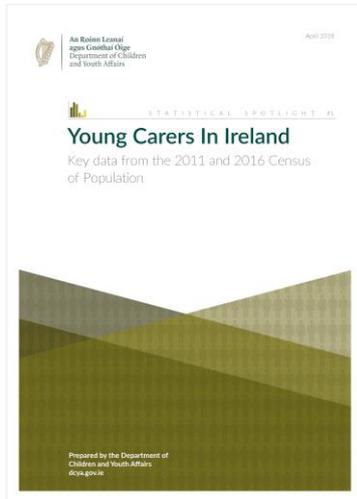


Sources

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Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government:	https://www.housing.gov.ie/statistics
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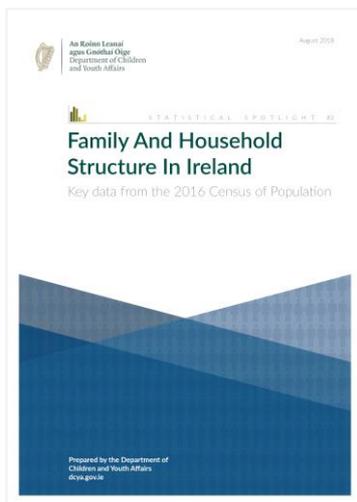
Previous Statistical Spotlights in the Series



Statistical Spotlight #1

Young Carers in Ireland

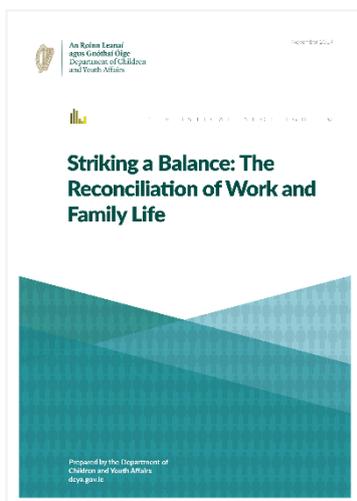
Publication Date
April 2018



Statistical Spotlight #2

Family and Household Structure in Ireland

Publication Date
August 2018



Statistical Spotlight #3

Striking a Balance: The Reconciliation of Work and Family Life

Publication Date
December 2019