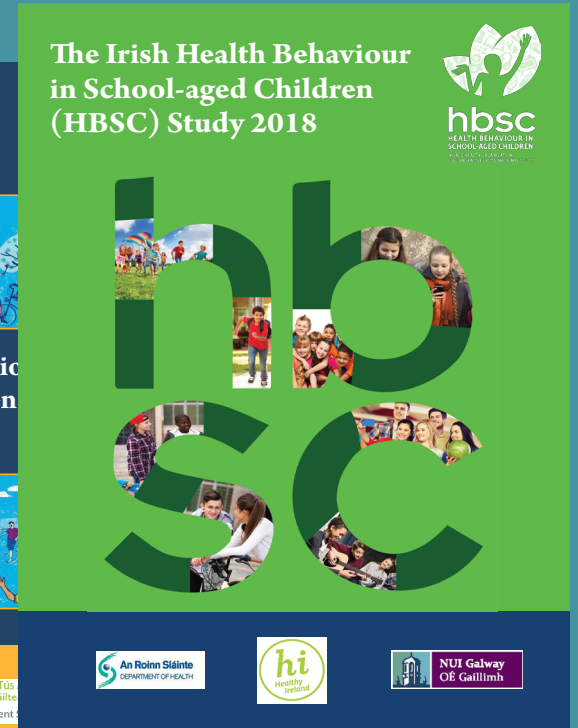
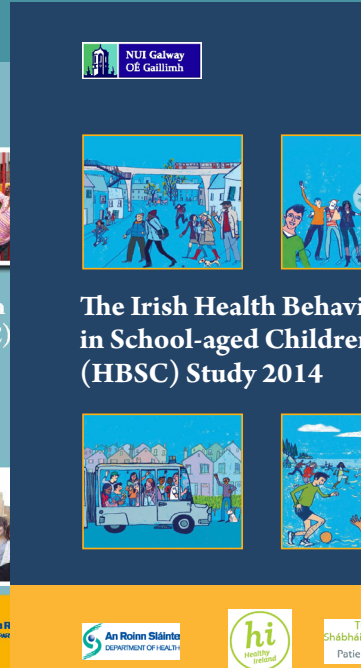
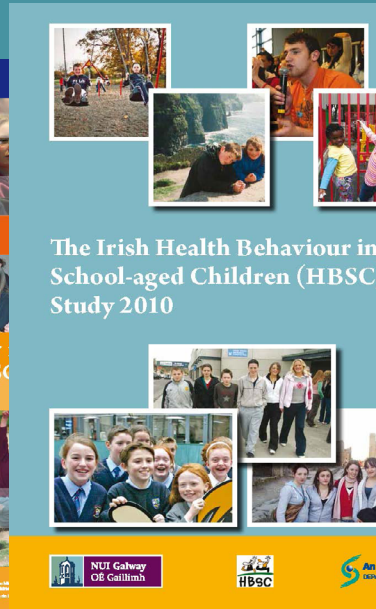
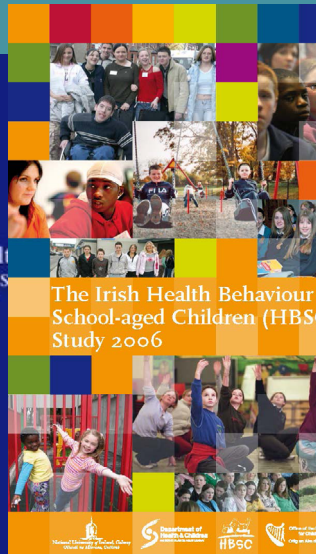
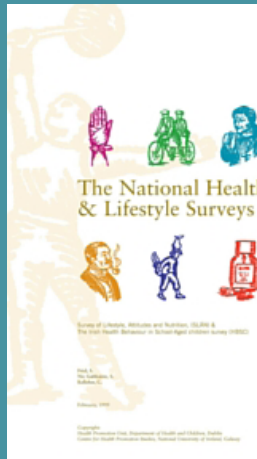




Trends in Health Behaviours, Health Outcomes and Contextual Factors between 1998-2018:

findings from the Irish Health Behaviour in School-aged Children Study

hbsc
HEALTH BEHAVIOUR IN
SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN
ÉIREANN/IRELAND



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

Trends in Health Behaviours, Health Outcomes and Contextual Factors between 1998-2018: Findings from the Irish Health Behaviour in School-aged Children Study

March 2021

Aoife Gavin, András Költő, Colette Kelly, Michal Molcho and Saoirse Nic Gabhainn

Health Promotion Research Centre
National University of Ireland Galway
www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health



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Mr. Paul Brosnan, Department of Health

Ms. Caitríona Connolly, Department of Health

Ms. Ashley Lowry, Department of Health

Dr. Fenton Howell, Department of Health

Ms. Sheona Gilsenan, Department of Health / Central Statistics Office

Dr. Fiona Mansergh, Department of Health

Mr. Liam McCormack, Department of Health

Dr. Áine McNamara, Health Service Executive

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The international co-ordinator is Dr. Jo Inchley of the University of Glasgow, Scotland, and the data bank manager is Professor Oddrun Samdal of the University of Bergen, Norway.



The 2018 HBSC survey was led by Principal Investigators in 44 countries and regions:

Albania (Gentiana Qirjako), Armenia (Sergey G. Sargsyan and Marina Melkumova), Austria (Rosemarie Felder-Puig), Azerbaijan (Jeyhun Mammadov and Gahraman Hagverdiyev), Belgium-Flemish (Bart de Clerq and Maxim Dierckens), Belgium-French (Katia Castleborn), Bulgaria (Lidiya Vasileva), Canada (William Pickett and Wendy Craig), Croatia (Ivana Pavic Simetin), Czechia (Michal Kalman), Denmark (Mette Rasmussen), England (Fiona Brooks and Ellen Klemra), Estonia (Katrin Aasvee and Leila Oja), Finland (Jorma Tynjälä), France (Emmanuelle Godeau), Germany (Matthias Richter), Greece (Anna Kokkevi), Greenland (Birgit Niclasen), Hungary (Ágnes Németh), Iceland (Arsael M. Arnarsson), Ireland (Saoirse Nic Gabhainn), Israel (Yossi Harel-Fisch), Italy (Franco Cavallo and Alessio Vieno), Latvia (Iveta Pudule), Lithuania (Apolinaras Zaborskis and Kastytis Smigelskas), Luxembourg (Helmut Willems, Bechara Ziade and Yolande Wagoner), Malta (Charmaine Gauci), Netherlands (Gonneke Stevens and Saskia van Dorsselaer), North Macedonia (Lina Kostorova Unkovska), Norway (Oddrun Samdal), Poland (Joanna Mazur and Agnieszka Malkowska-Szkutnick), Portugal (Margarida Gaspar De Matos), Republic of Moldova (Galina Lesco), Romania (Adriana Baban), Russian Federation (Anna Matochkina), Scotland (Jo Inchley), Slovakia (Andrea Madarasova Geckova), Slovenia (Helena Jericek), Spain (Carmen Moreno Rodriguez), Sweden (Petra Lofstedt), Switzerland (Marina Delgrande and Hervé Kuendig), Turkey (Oya Ercan), Ukraine (Olga Balakireva), Wales (Chris Roberts).

For more details see www.hbsc.org/.



As part of a number of initiatives to involve young people in the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) study, an art competition was held across HBSC countries and the winning entry from each country was included in the HBSC International Report, [‘Spotlight on adolescent health and well-being. Findings from the 2017/2018 Health Behaviour in School-aged Children \(HBSC\) survey in Europe and Canada.’](#)

The artwork featured here includes Irish entries to the HBSC international art competition.

The artists, aged 13-17, (from top left to bottom right) are: Cormac, Robyn, Dylan, Li, Caoimhe, Rebecca, Jade and Keith.

Congratulations to Caoimhe (age 13) whose artwork was included in the report.

FOREWORD



I am very pleased to launch the report *Trends in Health Behaviours, Health Outcomes and Contextual Factors between 1998-2018: Findings from the Irish Health Behaviour in School-aged Children Study*.

The Health Behaviour in School Aged Children (HBSC) Study is a well-established, internationally comparable, detailed study of children's health behaviours and provides us with essential information on the health of Irish children, both on a stand-alone basis and in comparison with children's health in other countries.

This is a pivotal time for health policy development. The publication of the Healthy Ireland Framework in 2013 was a landmark moment for health promotion in Ireland. The Framework set out a new vision for the Irish population in which everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential and where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility.

Since the publication of the Strategy in 2013, we have seen the publication and implementation of a number of key policies and strategies designed to address and support improvement in health behaviours monitored by the HBSC Study; *the National Obesity Policy and Action Plan, the National Physical Activity Plan, the National Sexual Health Strategy, Tobacco Free Ireland, and Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery - A Health Led Response to Drug and Alcohol Use in Ireland*.

The development of these policies was our response to the challenges of obesity, sedentary behaviour, tobacco, alcohol and drug misuse. Addressing these challenges is more important than ever in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic;

it is now clear that not only do these factors increase the risk of chronic disease, they also increase the risk of poor health outcomes from infectious diseases also.

This new report gives us a great opportunity to take stock of where we are in the implementation of these policies as they apply to children and young people. I am very happy to see a significant number of very positive trends, which is, at least in part, a testament to effective policy implementation and cultural change over 20-25 years. As with any report of this type, however, there are some findings that give rise to concern.

There is good news with regard to substance misuse, with significant decreases in the rates of smoking, alcohol and cannabis use compared with previous figures in 1998. The number of children eating fruit has increased; however, so too has the number of children who reported being on a diet. There has been almost no change in the number of children who reported participating in vigorous exercise four or more times a week. Reported sexual activity has dropped since 2010; however, so too has condom use among those who reported having sexual intercourse. It is difficult to draw firm conclusions from this, and further investigation will be necessary.

I am encouraged to see that there has been an increase in the number of children who reported liking school and also in the number who get involved in organising school events. The data showing a decrease in the number of children bullying others is to be welcomed also.

It is a concern that there has been a significant decrease in the number of children feeling happy about their life and a decrease in the numbers reporting high life satisfaction. Positive mental health is essential for our wellbeing and I would urge all young people who may be struggling in this difficult time to make use of the many online resources such as the yourmentalhealth.ie website and information line.



HBSC Ireland Trends 1998-2018

FOREWORD

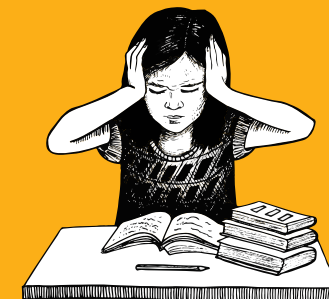
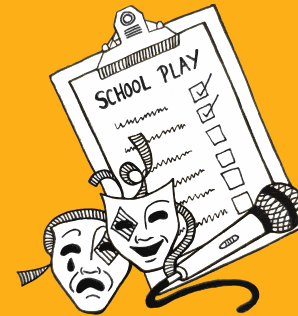
The information contained in this study will be of great importance for our future planning and policy decisions for improving the health of our children, particularly as we work to address any long - term impacts of COVID-19 on the wellbeing of children.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the staff of the Health Promotion Research Centre at the National University of Ireland, Galway, for their dedication and hard work in carrying out this study, and also to those in the World Health Organisation supporting the HBSC internationally.

Finally, last but very far from least, I would like to thank all of the students who participated, their parents, and the staff of the participating schools. This work is absolutely vital to monitoring progress regarding the effectiveness of national policy and is a key component in ensuring the best possible health outcomes for our children as they grow up.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Feighan'.

Frank Feighan, T.D.
Minister of State with responsibility for Public Health, Well Being and the National Drugs Strategy



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) trends report presents findings on indicators of children’s health and wellbeing between 1998 and 2018. The report is divided into three sections: health behaviours, health outcomes and the social contexts of children’s lives.

Health behaviours

This report presents encouraging trends in relation to both risk behaviours and positive health behaviours. There was an overall significant decrease in the proportion of children who report engaging in risky health behaviours such as smoking, drinking alcohol, and bullying others. There was also an overall positive trend in children reporting positive health behaviours such as fruit consumption, tooth brushing, and seat belt use. This report presents trends in sexual health behaviours for the first time.

Table i: Summary of trends in health risk behaviours

INDICATOR	SUMMARY
<i>Current smoker</i>	Between 1998 and 2018 there was a statistically significant decrease in the proportion of children who reported being current smokers (22.6% in 1998; 5.3% in 2018).
<i>Age of first cigarette</i>	Between 2002 and 2018 there was a statistically significant decrease in the proportion of young people aged 15-17 who had ever smoked that reported having smoked their first cigarette at age 13 or younger (61.0% in 2002; 32.1% in 2018).
<i>Ever been drunk</i>	Between 1998 and 2018 there was a statistically significant decrease in the proportion of children who reported having ever been drunk (33.0% in 1998; 19.0% in 2018).
<i>Age of first alcoholic drink</i>	Between 2002 and 2018 there was a statistically significant decrease in the proportion of young people aged 15-17 who had ever drunk alcohol that reported having their first alcoholic drink at age 13 or younger (42.1% in 2002; 16.4% in 2018).
<i>Cannabis use last 12 months</i>	Between 1998 and 2018 there was a statistically significant decrease in the proportion of children who reported cannabis use in the last 12 months (12.3% in 1998; 8.5% in 2018).
<i>Bullying others</i>	Between 1998 and 2018 there was a statistically significant decrease in the proportion of children who reported bullying others one or more times in the past couple of months (25.1% in 1998; 13.7% in 2018).
<i>Trying to lose weight</i>	Between 2002 and 2018 there was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of children who reported being on a diet or doing something else to lose weight (11.9% in 2002; 14.4% in 2018).



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

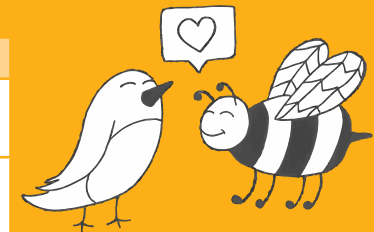
Table ii: Summary of trends in positive health behaviours

INDICATOR	SUMMARY
<i>Fruit consumption</i>	Between 2002 and 2018 there was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of children who reported eating fruit more than once a day (17.6% in 2002; 23.3% in 2018).
<i>Tooth brushing</i>	Between 1998 and 2018 there was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of children who reported they brush their teeth more than once a day (57.6% in 1998; 70.1% in 2018).
<i>Seatbelt use</i>	Between 1998 and 2018 there was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of children who reported always wearing a seatbelt when travelling by car (41.0% in 1998; 81.4% in 2018).
<i>Vigorous exercise</i>	Between 1998 and 2018 the proportion of children who reported participating in vigorous exercise four or more times a week remained stable (52.6% in 1998; 52.1% in 2018).



Table iii: Summary of trends in sexual health behaviours

INDICATOR	SUMMARY
<i>Having had sexual intercourse</i>	Between 2010 and 2018 there was a statistically significant decrease in the proportion of young people aged 15-17 who reported that they have ever had sex (25.5% in 2010; 22.0% in 2018).
<i>Condom use at last sexual intercourse</i>	Between 2010 and 2018 there was a statistically significant decrease in the proportion of young people aged 15-17 who reported that they used a condom at last intercourse (78.0% in 2010; 65.9% in 2018).



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Health outcomes

There were both positive and negative trends in health outcomes. There was a significant increase in having a headache at least weekly and feeling low at least weekly, both negative health outcomes. There was also a significant decrease in the proportion of children who reported feeling happy about

their life at present and in high life satisfaction, both positive health outcomes. However, there was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of children who reported their health was excellent.

Table iv: Summary of trends in physical health outcomes

INDICATOR	SUMMARY
<i>Headache</i>	Between 1998 and 2018 there was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of children who reported having a headache about every week or more frequently over the last six months (26.0% in 1998; 30.4% in 2018).
<i>Feeling low</i>	Between 1998 and 2018 there was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of children who reported feeling low about every week or more frequently over the last six months (23.0% in 1998; 34.3% in 2018).
<i>Medically attended injury</i>	Between 1998 and 2018 the proportion of children who reported being injured and requiring medical attention in the last 12 months remained stable (40.0% in 1998; 43.3% in 2018).



Table v: Summary of trends in positive health outcomes

INDICATOR	SUMMARY
<i>Self-rated health</i>	Between 2002 and 2018 there was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of children who reported their health as excellent (28.2% in 2002; 31.0% in 2018).
<i>Happy with life at present</i>	Between 1998 and 2018 there was a statistically significant decrease in the proportion of children who reported feeling very or quite happy about their life at present (88.1% in 1998; 87.6% in 2018).
<i>Life satisfaction</i>	Between 2002 and 2018 there was a statistically significant decrease in the proportion of children who reported high life satisfaction (76.0% in 2002; 72.8% in 2018).



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Social contexts of children's lives

Trends are reported for four social contexts of children's lives: family, school, peers and local area. There were both positive and negative trends in all four contexts. There was an increase in finding it easy to talk to their mother, easy to talk to their father, and easy to talk to friends, as well as in liking school, and

having good places to spend free time. However, there was also an increase in the proportion of children who reported feeling pressured by school work and a decrease in the proportion of children living with both parents, having three or more friends of the same sex, and always feeling safe in the area where they live.

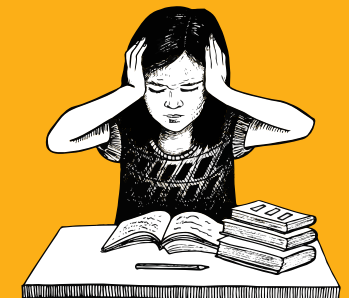
Table vi: Summary of trends in family context

INDICATOR	SUMMARY
<i>Communication with mother</i>	Between 1998 and 2018 there was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of children who reported finding it easy to talk to their mother about things that really bother them (73.0% in 1998; 84.0% in 2018).
<i>Communication with father</i>	Between 1998 and 2018 there was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of children who reported finding it easy to talk to their father about things that really bother them (47.4% in 1998; 71.5% in 2018).
<i>Living with both parents</i>	Between 1998 and 2018 there was a statistically significant decrease in the proportion of children who reported living with both their mother and father (90.8% in 1998; 73.2% in 2018).



Table vii: Summary of trends in school context

INDICATOR	SUMMARY
<i>Liking school</i>	Between 2002 and 2018 there was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of children who reported liking school (68.1% in 2002; 71.5% in 2018).
<i>Organising school events</i>	Between 2002 and 2018 there was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of children who reported that students in their class(es) get involved in organising school events (55.6% in 2002; 56.4% in 2018).
<i>Pressured by school work</i>	Between 1998 and 2018 there was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of children who reported feeling pressured by school work (32.9% in 1998; 44.3% in 2018).



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

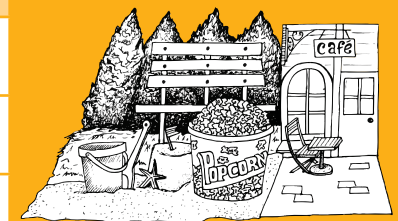
Table viii: Summary of trends in peer context

INDICATOR	SUMMARY
<i>Close friends of same sex</i>	Between 2002 and 2018 there was a statistically significant decrease in the proportion of children who reported having three or more friends of the same sex (89.3% in 2002; 88.7% in 2018).
<i>Evenings out with friends</i>	Between 1998 and 2018 there was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of children who reported spending four or more evenings per week out with friends (38.0% in 1998; 40.1% in 2018).
<i>Communication with friends of the same sex</i>	Between 1998 and 2018 there was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of children who reported finding it easy to talk to friends of the same sex about things that really bother them (79.7% in 1998; 82.5% in 2018).



Table iv: Summary of trends in local area context

INDICATOR	SUMMARY
<i>Feel safe in local area</i>	Between 2002 and 2018 there was a statistically significant decrease in the proportion of children who reported always feeling safe in the area where they live (52.8% in 2002; 50.5% in 2018).
<i>Good places to spend free time</i>	Between 2002 and 2018 there was a statistically significant increase in the proportion of children who reported that there are good places in the local area to spend their free time (45.1% in 2002; 63.5% in 2018).
<i>Help or favours from neighbours</i>	Between 2002 and 2018 there was a statistically significant decrease in the proportion of children who reported they could ask for help or a favour from neighbours (74.2% in 2002; 67.1% in 2018).





INTRODUCTION

HBSC is a cross-national research study with teams in countries across Europe and North America. It was adopted as a WHO Regional Office for Europe Collaborative study in 1983. The overall study aims to gain insight into and increase our understanding of young people’s health and wellbeing, health behaviours and their social context. HBSC serves a monitoring and knowledge-generating function, and one of the key objectives of HBSC is to inform policy and practice. The Irish HBSC surveys have been funded by the Department of Health (formerly Health and Children). The survey and analyses were carried out by the Health Promotion Research Centre, NUI Galway.

This report presents trends in the health and wellbeing of children in Ireland between 1998 and 2018. The Irish Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) study has been collecting data from school-aged children aged 10-17 since 1998. The most recent data collection took place in 2018 and was the sixth survey cycle of the study in Ireland. Previous surveys were undertaken in 1998, 2002, 2006, 2010, and 2014. To date, HBSC Ireland has collected data from 62,720 school-aged children aged 10-17 years across the Republic of Ireland. This report describes the self-reported health status of children in Ireland over time in relation to key indicators: health behaviours, health outcomes, and the social contexts of their lives. Each indicator is presented separately for girls and boys and where appropriate by age group and social class.

Internationally comparable trends data are also included. For each indicator for which international data are available, the overall relative ranking of children in Ireland is compared to the twenty-six countries and regions that participated in the international HBSC study between 1998 and 2018.

Analysing and presenting trends can provide valuable information for needs assessment, programme planning and evaluation, and for policy development actions. The model below (Figure 1) was used in conceptualising the framework and layout of this report.

Figure 1: Conceptualising children’s health and wellbeing



METHODOLOGY

Overview

Principal investigators from all participating countries and regions cooperate in relation to survey content, methodology and timing and an international protocol is developed. Strict adherence to the protocol is required for inclusion in the international database and this has been achieved for all six cycles of the Irish HBSC survey.

In Ireland, sampling was conducted to be representative of the proportion of children within eight geographical regions. The objective was to achieve a nationally representative sample of school-aged children and the procedures employed were consistent in all six Irish HBSC surveys: 1998, 2002, 2006, 2010, 2014, and 2018.

For each survey cycle, data from the most recent census were used to provide a picture of the population distribution across geographical regions. The sampling frame consisted of both primary and post-primary schools, lists of which were sourced from the Department of Education (formerly Education and Science/Education and Skills). A two-stage process identified study participants. Individual schools within regions were first randomly selected and subsequently class groups within schools were randomly selected for participation. In primary schools, only 5th and 6th class groups were included in the main HBSC study, while in post-primary schools all classes, with the exception of Leaving Certificate groups, were sampled. The Middle Childhood Study collects data from children in 3rd and 4th classes, though these children are not included in the current report.

School Principals were initially contacted by post and where positive responses were received, HBSC questionnaires in Irish or English were provided, along with blank envelopes to facilitate anonymity, parental consent forms, information sheets for teachers, and classroom information sheets. In order to maximise response rates, postal reminders were sent to schools and followed up with telephone calls from research staff at the Health Promotion Research Centre, NUI Galway. Data entry was conducted according to the international HBSC protocol.

METHODOLOGY

Table 1: Summary of methodological approach to data collection across the five HBSC Ireland surveys

	1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	2018
Ethics	Full ethical approval was granted by an ad-hoc committee convened by the Department of Health and Children	Full ethical approval was granted by the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland	Full ethical approval was granted by the NUI Galway Research Ethics Committee	Full ethical approval was granted by the NUI Galway Research Ethics Committee	Full ethical approval was granted by the NUI Galway Research Ethics Committee	Full ethical approval was granted by the NUI Galway Research Ethics Committee
Population (main HBSC study)	5th class (primary school) to first year post Junior cycle (post-primary school)	5th class (primary school) to first year post Junior cycle (post-primary school)	5th class (primary school) to 5th year (post-primary school)	5th class (primary school) to 5th year (post-primary school)	5th class (primary school) to 5th year (post-primary school)	5th class (primary school) to 5th year (post-primary school)
Sampling frame	Department of Education school lists	Department of Education school lists	Department of Education and Science school lists	Department of Education and Science school lists	Department of Education and Skills school lists	Department of Education and Skills school lists
Sample	Cluster sample of students in classrooms					
Stratification	Proportionate to the distribution of pupils across geographical regions					
Survey instrument	Self-completion questionnaire					
Delivery/reminders	Post delivery via Principals and teachers, letter and telephone reminders					
Return	Freepost addressed envelopes provided					
Response rate	72% of invited schools /89% of students	51% of invited schools /82% of students	63% of invited schools /83% of students	67% of invited schools /85% of students	59% of invited schools /84% of students	63% of invited schools /84% of students
Sample obtained	187 schools / 8,497 pupils	176 schools / 8,424 pupils	215 schools / 10,334 pupils	256 schools / 16,060 pupils	230 schools / 13,611 pupils	255 schools / 15,557 pupils
Data	Data were entered according to HBSC international protocol.					

METHODOLOGY

Social class

Social class is represented by SC 1-2, SC 3-4 and SC 5-6 corresponding to high, middle and low social class groups respectively. The categories used for social class are standard and determined by parental occupation. For this report, social class was determined by using the highest parental social class for each child. This is similar to the approach used by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) where social class of dependents under 15 years is determined by the highest social class in the household. Social class 1 represents professional occupations (e.g. solicitor, doctor), social class 2 represents managerial and technical occupations (e.g. nurse, teacher), social class 3 represents non-manual occupations (e.g. sales person, office clerk), social class 4 represents skilled-manual occupations (e.g. hairdresser, carpenter), social class 5 represents semi-skilled occupations (e.g. post deliverer, driver) and social class 6 represents unskilled occupations (e.g. cleaner, labourer). [Table 33](#) in the appendix describes the participants in the HBSC Ireland survey cycles by gender, age group and social class.

Analysis

Reporting trends

To report trends, the question wording and response options must have remained consistent across at least four of the five surveys. The indicators presented in this report had data available from either 1998-2018 or 2002-2018. Analysis was conducted using SPSS 26.0 (IBM Corp. Armonk, NY). Due to the cross-sectional nature of HBSC, it should be noted that the trends presented are not reporting change in the behaviour of individuals, but rather, a change of reported behaviour of different cohorts. Nevertheless it is possible to comment on changes by gender, age group and social class over time.

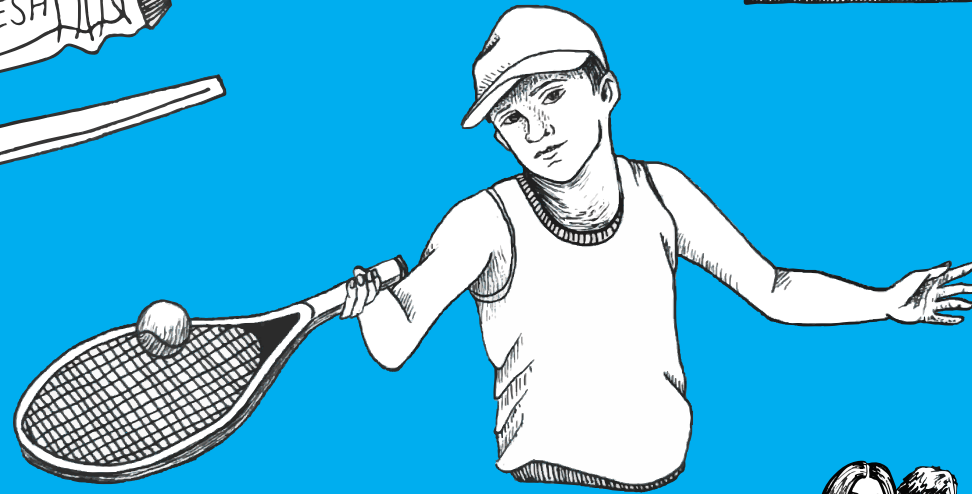
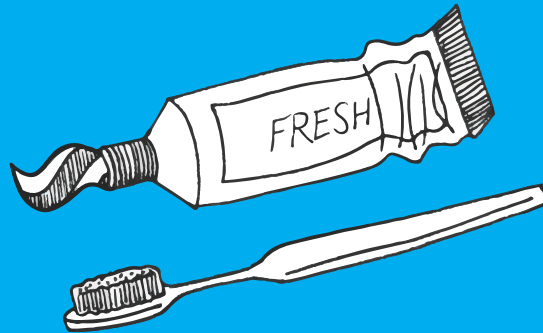
Statistical analysis

An overall weighted ([see technical note 1](#)) proportion for each indicator is presented over time by survey cycle. Weighted findings are also stratified by gender (girls, boys), age group (10-11 years, 12-14 years, 15-17 years) and social class (SC 1-2, SC 3-4, SC 5-6). Please [see technical note 2](#) and [Table 33](#) on the case base for analysis. To determine if the differences over time were statistically significant, binary logistic regression models were used and survey year treated as a continuous predictor variable. For each indicator, regression models were used to assess overall trends and trends by gender over time and this information is provided in the text. Trends analysis for each age and social class group was also conducted for girls and boys separately. A p-value <0.05 was considered statistically significant. In the tables, rows with statistically significant trends are indicated by arrows, where ↑ is for an increasing trend and ↓ is a decreasing trend. Relative changes since 1998 or 2002 of less than 25% are indicated by one arrow; changes between 25-49.9% are indicated by two arrows; changes between 50-74.9% are indicated by three arrows and changes greater than 75% are indicated by four arrows. No arrow appears when the trend analysis was not statistically significant.

International trends

This report contains information on the international ranking of Irish 15 year olds compared to 15 year olds from other countries. The twenty-six countries ([see technical note 3](#)) that participated in all five survey cycles from 1998-2018 were used to rank Irish 15 year olds. The country with the highest proportion ranks first and the country with the lowest proportion ranks last. The proportion of Irish 15 year olds reporting each indicator can also be compared to the average proportion across the 26 countries. [See technical note 9](#) about the countries included for the sexual health indicators. Where no internationally comparable data are available, this is noted in the text.

Health Behaviours



CURRENT SMOKER

Children were asked how often they smoke at present. The response ranged from 'I do not smoke' to 'every day'. Current smokers, defined as smoking monthly or more frequently, are presented here.

Findings

Between 1998 and 2018 there was a very large decrease in the percentage of girls and boys who reported being current smokers. This decrease is evident across all age and social class groups.

International ranking (15 year olds only)*

	Ireland %	HBSC 26 AVG %	HBSC 26 Rank
2018	10.1	15.4	18
2014	10.8	17.1	25
2010	17.2	23.8	23
2006	24.2	24.5	13
2002	26.5	31.4	20
1998	32.9	32.9	12

* See technical note 5

Figure 2: Percentage of 10-17 year olds who reported being a current smoker, overall and by gender from 1998-2018

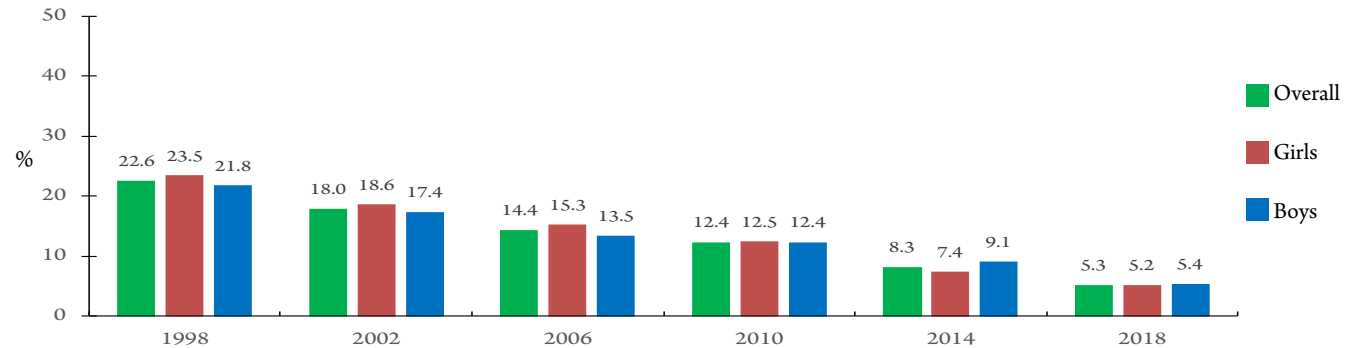


Table 2: Percentage of 10-17 year old girls and boys who reported being a current smoker, by age group and social class from 1998-2018

		1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	Trend
Girls	10 to 11	4.4	2.6	1.4	1.7	0.9	0.0	↓↓↓↓
	12 to 14	18.7	13.9	11.0	6.5	3.7	2.5	↓↓↓↓
	15 to 17	38.3	33.1	27.8	22.5	13.4	11.6	↓↓↓
Boys	10 to 11	8.7	4.8	3.8	2.7	2.3	0.7	↓↓↓↓
	12 to 14	19.6	13.3	10.4	7.9	5.2	3.1	↓↓↓↓
	15 to 17	31.1	29.0	22.8	20.4	15.4	11.4	↓↓↓
Girls	SC 1-2	23.2	15.3	14.3	11.0	6.0	4.1	↓↓↓↓
	SC 3-4	22.6	21.5	15.5	13.0	6.9	5.4	↓↓↓↓
	SC 5-6	24.7	20.9	15.2	14.1	9.1	6.4	↓↓↓
Boys	SC 1-2	21.7	16.6	11.1	9.9	8.6	4.5	↓↓↓↓
	SC 3-4	21.1	17.3	13.7	12.2	7.7	5.4	↓↓↓
	SC 5-6	20.5	18.4	12.1	12.0	7.7	7.0	↓↓↓

AGE OF FIRST CIGARETTE

Children were asked at what age they first smoked a cigarette (more than a puff). The response options ranged from 'never' to '16 years or older'. The percentage of 15-17 year olds who reported ever smoking and having smoked their first cigarette aged 11 or younger, 13 or younger and 15 or younger are presented here.

Findings

Between 2002 and 2018 there was a large decrease in the percentage of 15-17 year old girls who reported that they had first smoked tobacco at age 13 or younger, and a moderate decrease for boys. The decrease is evident across all social class groups.

International ranking

No internationally comparable data were available.



Figure 3: Age of first cigarette in 15-17 year olds who reported ever smoking, from 2002-2018

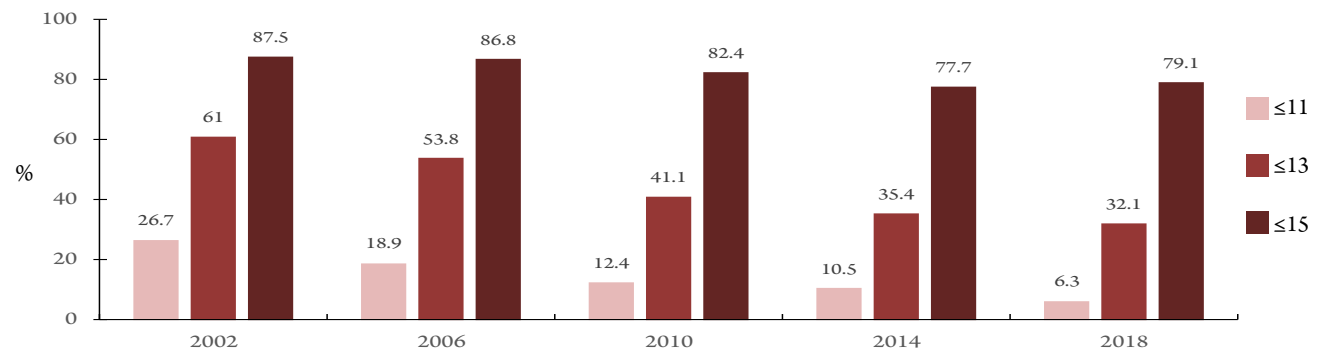


Table 3: Percentage of 15-17 year old girls and boys who ever smoked, by age of first cigarette and social class from 2002-2018

		2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	Trend
Girls	≤11	20.3	16.4	10.5	7.6	4.0	↓↓↓↓
	≤13	58.9	55.3	38.5	33.8	27.0	↓↓↓
	≤15	88.7	89.5	83.7	78.1	80.6	↓
Boys	≤11	33.0	21.6	14.2	13.2	8.6	↓↓↓
	≤13	62.9	52.1	43.7	36.9	37.3	↓↓
	≤15	86.3	83.9	81.1	77.2	77.6	↓
Girls*	SC 1-2	56.4	49.8	34.8	23.0	22.3	↓↓↓↓
	SC 3-4	62.8	55.9	37.7	37.6	33.0	↓↓
	SC 5-6	56.5	67.0	38.2	42.6	29.6	↓↓
Boys*	SC 1-2	63.4	47.6	36.7	31.8	41.3	↓↓
	SC 3-4	62.2	51.1	49.1	42.8	33.1	↓↓
	SC 5-6	64.8	61.0	43.2	32.3	54.5	↓

* Social class data is for 15-17 year olds who reported ever smoking and who reported that they tried their first cigarette at age ≤13

EVER BEEN DRUNK

Children were asked if they have ever had so much alcohol that they were really drunk. The response options ranged from 'never' to 'yes, more than 10 times'. The findings here present the percentage of children who reported having ever been drunk.

Findings

Between 1998 and 2018 there was a moderate decrease in the percentage of girls who reported having ever been drunk, and there was a large decrease for boys. The decrease is most evident among younger children and across all social class groups.

International ranking (15 year olds only)

	Ireland %	HBSC 26 AVG %	HBSC 26 Rank
2018	26.9	36.3	20
2014	27.0	37.5	21
2010	42.1	49.2	17
2006	47.3	52.0	17
2002	46.9	54.4	21
1998	48.5	36.9	18

Figure 4: Percentage of 10-17 year olds who reported having ever been drunk, overall and by gender from 1998-2018

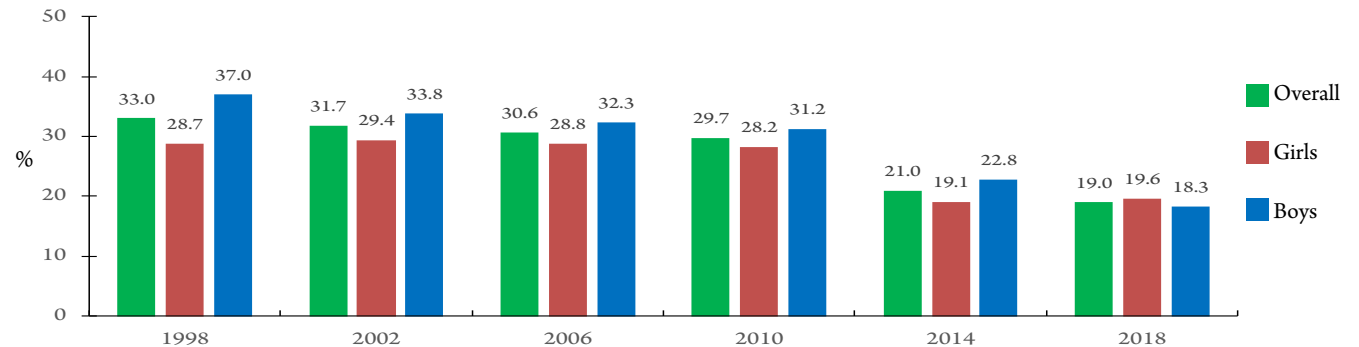


Table 4: Percentage of 10-17 year old girls and boys who reported having ever been drunk, by age group and social class from 1998-2018

		1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	Trend
Girls	10 to 11	5.3	3.5	1.5	3.0	1.0	0.4	↓↓↓↓
	12 to 14	18.2	17.5	16.7	14.5	6.7	6.1	↓↓↓
	15 to 17	51.1	56.1	56.8	51.4	38.4	40.8	↓↓
Boys	10 to 11	14.9	7.3	6.6	4.9	2.3	0.8	↓↓↓↓
	12 to 14	27.9	22.5	22.6	18.5	8.7	5.6	↓↓↓
	15 to 17	57.7	60.1	57.5	53.9	43.8	39.1	↓↓
Girls	SC 1-2	27.8	28.4	27.8	26.4	17.8	19.2	↓↓
	SC 3-4	29.0	30.7	30.6	27.4	19.3	19.7	↓↓
	SC 5-6	28.7	29.1	25.2	33.6	19.5	19.4	↓↓
Boys	SC 1-2	37.6	34.1	30.1	28.8	22.9	18.0	↓↓↓
	SC 3-4	37.0	32.3	31.3	30.9	21.3	17.1	↓↓↓
	SC 5-6	33.5	35.0	30.4	33.1	21.7	19.6	↓↓

AGE OF FIRST ALCOHOLIC DRINK

Children who ever had an alcoholic drink were asked how old they were the first time they had a drink. Those aged 15-17 years were classified into those that had their first alcoholic drink at or before age 11, at or before age 13 and at or before age 15.

Findings

Between 2002 and 2018 there was a large decrease in the percentage of 15-17 year old girls and boys who reported that they were 13 or younger when they had their first alcoholic drink. The decrease is evident across all social class groups.

International ranking

No internationally comparable data were available.



Figure 5: Age of first alcoholic drink in 15-17 year olds who reported ever having had an alcoholic drink, from 2002-2018

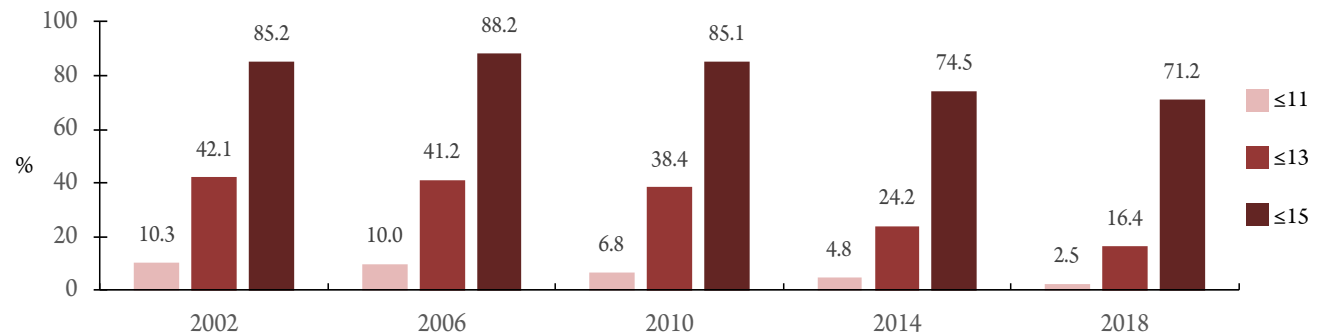


Table 5: Percentage of 15-17 year old girls and boys who ever had an alcoholic drink, by age of first drink and social class, from 2002-2018

		2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	Trend
Girls	≤11	5.7	7.7	4.1	3.6	1.5	↓↓↓
	≤13	34.1	39.3	33.7	22.5	14.3	↓↓↓
	≤15	82.9	87.9	84.0	74.7	73.1	↓
Boys	≤11	14.6	12.2	9.5	5.8	3.6	↓↓↓↓
	≤13	49.6	42.9	43.2	25.7	18.5	↓↓↓
	≤15	87.5	88.5	86.2	74.3	69.4	↓
Girls*	SC 1-2	32.2	38.5	31.5	17.9	14.1	↓↓↓
	SC 3-4	34.4	38.4	36.0	26.6	14.4	↓↓↓
	SC 5-6	37.4	43.1	33.9	22.4	11.0	↓↓↓
Boys*	SC 1-2	51.4	41.1	38.5	20.0	15.2	↓↓↓
	SC 3-4	45.7	43.8	46.0	28.9	20.1	↓↓↓
	SC 5-6	49.1	39.1	33.1	28.0	27.7	↓↓

*Social class data is for 15-17 year olds who reported ever having had an alcoholic drink and who reported that they tried their first alcoholic drink at age ≤13

CANNABIS USE IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

Children were asked if they have taken cannabis in the last 12 months. The response options ranged from 'never' to '40 times or more'. The findings here present the percentage of children who reported cannabis use in the last 12 months.

Findings

Between 1998 and 2018 there was a small decrease in the percentage of girls who reported cannabis use in the last 12 months, and a moderate decrease for boys. The decrease is most evident among younger children and children in higher social class groups.

International ranking

No new internationally comparable data were available.



Figure 6: Percentage of 10-17 year olds who reported cannabis use in the last 12 months, overall and by gender from 1998-2018

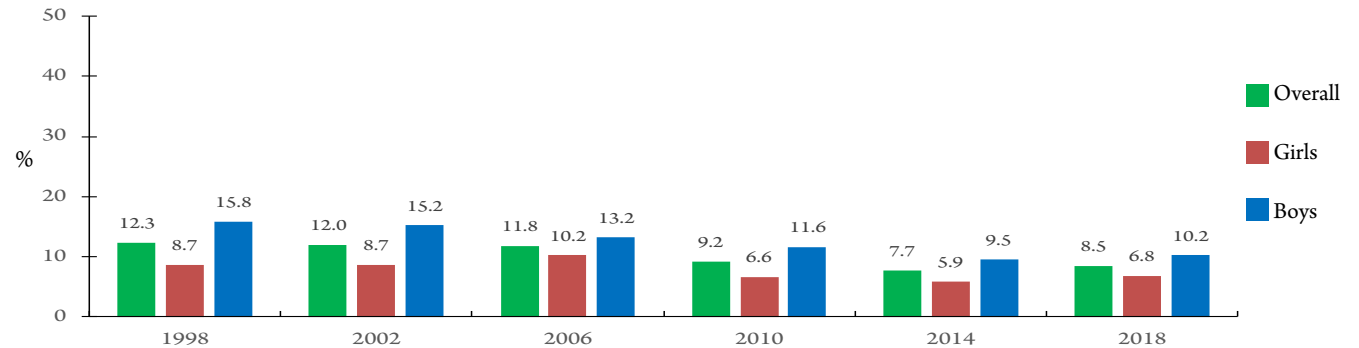


Table 6: Percentage of 10-17 year old girls and boys who reported cannabis use in the last 12 months, by age group and social class from 1998-2018

		1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	Trend
Girls	10 to 11	0.9	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.0	↓↓↓↓
	12 to 14	4.3	3.6	5.3	2.4	2.1	2.2	↓↓
	15 to 17	16.9	18.6	20.8	13.3	11.6	13.9	↓
Boys	10 to 11	3.5	1.1	1.9	1.1	0.2	0.6	↓↓↓↓
	12 to 14	10.7	6.4	8.2	5.8	2.9	2.6	↓↓↓↓
	15 to 17	27.1	31.8	25.0	21.5	19.0	21.9	↓
Girls	SC 1-2	9.1	7.6	9.5	5.6	5.1	6.6	↓↓
	SC 3-4	8.9	9.3	10.6	5.8	5.7	6.4	↓↓
	SC 5-6	7.1	9.6	8.9	10.3	6.2	7.2	-
Boys	SC 1-2	15.9	15.4	12.2	10.5	9.3	9.7	↓↓
	SC 3-4	15.2	14.4	12.4	10.8	9.1	9.1	↓↓
	SC 5-6	11.3	15.8	10.8	9.9	6.1	10.8	↓

BULLYING OTHERS

Children were asked how often they had taken part in bullying another person(s) at school in the past couple of months. The response options ranged from 'I have not bullied another student at school in the past couple of months' to 'several times a week'. The findings here present the percentage of children who reported they have bullied others once or more frequently in the past couple of months.

Findings

Between 1998 and 2018 there was a moderate decrease in the percentage of girls who reported bullying others one or more times in the past couple of months, and a large decrease for boys. The decreases are largest for boys under 15 years old, and boys in both the highest and lowest social class groups.

International ranking (15 year olds only)*

	Ireland %	HBSC 26 AVG %	HBSC 26 Rank
2018	14.8	19.9	16
2014	16.3	26.2	20
2010	25.2	34.2	19
2006	25.2	35.5	19
2002	22.6	36.8	22
1998	25.6	34.3	20

*See technical note 6

Figure 7: Percentage of 10-17 year olds who reported bullying others (once or more) in the past couple of months, overall and by gender from 1998-2018

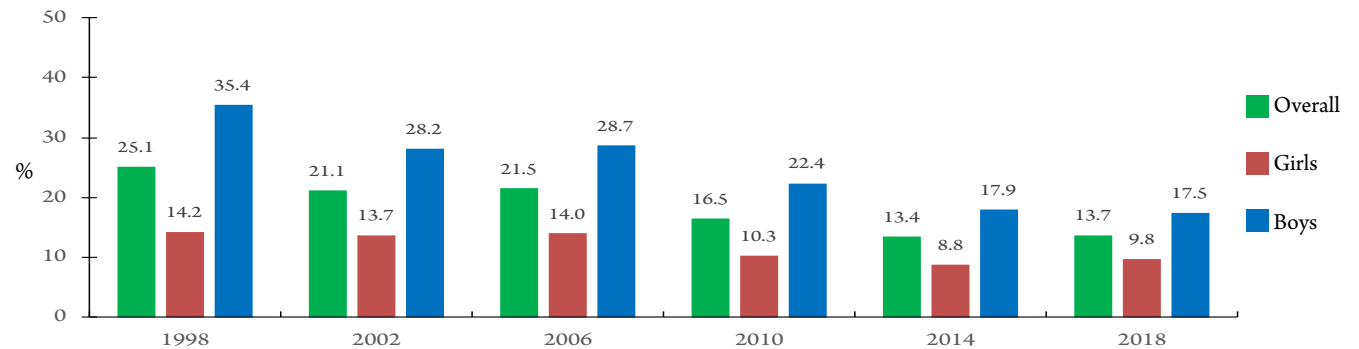


Table 7: Percentage of 10-17 year old girls and boys who reported bullying others (once or more) in the past couple of months, by age group and social class from 1998-2018

		1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	Trend
Girls	10 to 11	13.2	11.1	13.2	10.1	8.6	10.5	↓
	12 to 14	16.7	15.9	15.7	11.4	8.0	10.4	↓↓
	15 to 17	12.5	13.2	13.0	9.3	9.8	8.6	↓↓
Boys	10 to 11	33.1	20.5	22.7	16.8	12.1	15.7	↓↓↓
	12 to 14	33.5	30.5	29.3	21.9	15.7	15.7	↓↓↓
	15 to 17	38.4	30.8	31.9	24.9	22.0	20.6	↓↓
Girls	SC 1-2	13.9	12.9	12.7	9.4	8.0	8.3	↓↓
	SC 3-4	15.6	14.4	14.1	10.4	7.9	10.0	↓↓
	SC 5-6	13.6	13.6	14.9	9.6	12.0	12.0	-
Boys	SC 1-2	34.5	28.6	28.9	21.1	17.3	16.5	↓↓↓
	SC 3-4	34.4	27.9	27.8	21.3	16.2	17.8	↓↓
	SC 5-6	36.5	28.2	29.2	23.2	16.4	16.7	↓↓↓

TRYING TO LOSE WEIGHT

Children were asked whether they are on a diet or doing something else to lose weight at present. The response options were ‘no, my weight is fine’, ‘no, but I should lose some weight’, ‘no, I need to put on some weight’ and ‘yes’. The findings here present the percentage of children who reported being on a diet or doing something else to lose weight at present.

Findings

Between 2002 and 2018 there was a small increase in the percentage of girls who reported being on a diet or doing something else to lose weight at present, and a large increase for boys. The increase is most evident among older boys and boys across all social class groups, particularly those in the lowest social class group.

International ranking (15 year olds only)*

	Ireland %	HBSC 26 AVG %	HBSC 26 Rank
2018	15.5	17.8	9
2014	21.1	18.9	10
2010	14.1	15.9	19
2006	13.2	15.6	19
2002	16.7	14.9	10

*See technical note 7

Figure 8: Percentage of 10-17 year olds who reported being on a diet or doing something else to lose weight, overall and by gender from 2002-2014

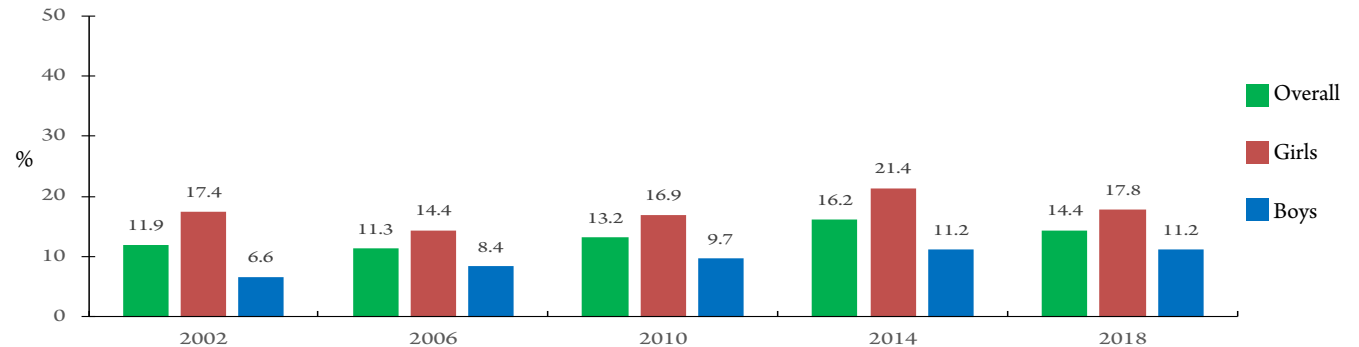


Table 8: Percentage of 10-17 year old girls and boys who reported being on a diet or doing something else to lose weight, by age group and social class from 2002-2014

		2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	Trend
Girls	10 to 11	7.0	8.0	10.2	11.8	10.9	↑↑↑
	12 to 14	16.9	13.1	15.2	19.4	15.3	↓
	15 to 17	24.1	19.5	20.9	27.0	22.9	-
Boys	10 to 11	7.5	8.0	9.0	8.0	10.6	↑↑
	12 to 14	6.4	8.3	9.8	10.7	10.9	↑↑↑
	15 to 17	6.2	8.7	9.9	12.8	11.7	↑↑↑↑
Girls	SC 1-2	18.0	15.0	16.5	20.1	17.0	-
	SC 3-4	17.8	14.0	17.5	22.5	18.0	↑
	SC 5-6	15.2	14.3	18.9	26.0	22.4	↑↑
Boys	SC 1-2	6.2	7.2	8.9	11.5	10.6	↑↑↑
	SC 3-4	6.7	10.0	11.1	11.6	11.6	↑↑↑
	SC 5-6	7.4	8.1	8.8	12.2	13.3	↑↑↑↑

FRUIT CONSUMPTION

Children were asked how often they eat fruit. The response options ranged from 'never' to 'every day, more than once'. The findings here present the percentage of children who reported eating fruit more than once a day.

Findings

Between 2002 and 2018 there was a moderate increase in the percentage of girls and boys who reported eating fruit more than once a day. The increase is most evident among younger children, girls across all social class groups and boys in the higher social class groups.

International ranking (15 year olds only)*

	Ireland %	HBSC 26 AVG %	HBSC 26 Rank
2018	22.1	17.1	3
2014	21.4	17.3	5
2010	17.2	16.5	10
2006	20.1	15.7	6
2002	15.9	14.4	6

* See technical note 8

Figure 9: Percentage of 10-17 year olds who reported eating fruit more than once a day, overall and by gender from 2002-2018

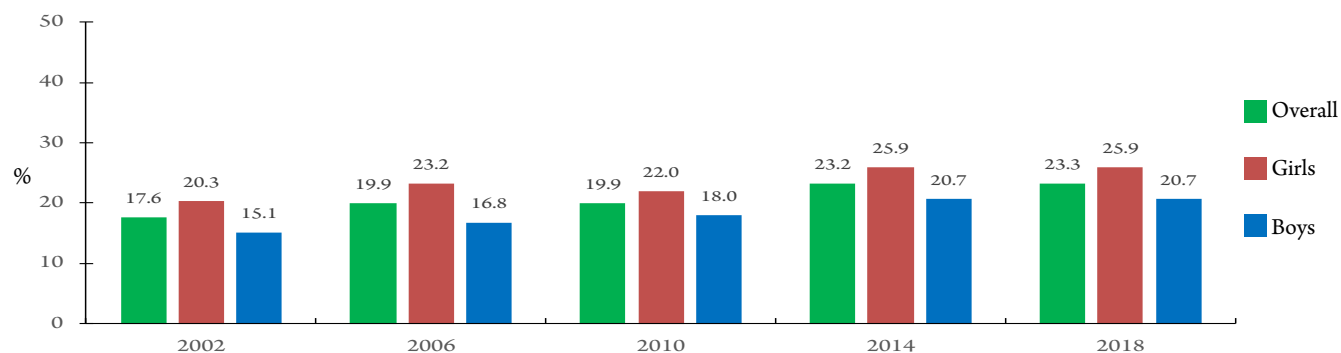


Table 9: Percentage of 10-17 year old girls and boys who reported eating fruit more than once a day, by age group and social class from 2002-2018

		2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	Trend
Girls	10 to 11	20.9	28.5	26.3	31.4	33.6	↑↑↑
	12 to 14	20.5	20.8	21.2	23.7	23.0	↑
	15 to 17	19.7	22.2	21.1	26.1	23.3	↑
Boys	10 to 11	18.1	19.5	21.9	27.2	29.0	↑↑↑
	12 to 14	16.2	16.8	17.5	21.3	19.7	↑
	15 to 17	12.2	15.2	17.1	17.9	15.6	↑↑
Girls	SC 1-2	22.5	27.0	26.1	32.0	29.7	↑↑
	SC 3-4	18.8	20.5	19.1	23.8	23.9	↑↑
	SC 5-6	15.3	21.1	16.0	17.0	21.5	↑↑
Boys	SC 1-2	15.4	18.6	21.6	26.0	25.4	↑↑↑
	SC 3-4	13.6	15.1	14.0	17.3	17.4	↑↑
	SC 5-6	15.3	18.4	15.0	17.1	14.3	-

TOOTH BRUSHING

Children were asked how often they brush their teeth. The response options ranged from 'never' to 'more than once a day'. The findings here present the percentage of children who reported brushing their teeth more than once a day.

Findings

Between 1998 and 2018 there was a small increase in the percentage of girls who reported they brush their teeth more than once a day, and a moderate increase for boys. The increase is evident across all age and social class groups.

International ranking (15 year olds only)*

	Ireland %	HBSC 26 AVG %	HBSC 26 Rank
2018	72.1	72.1	12
2014	72.8	70.3	11
2010	63.7	68.2	16
2006	62.7	67.1	17
1998	60.1	64.1	18

* See technical note 9

Figure 10: Percentage of 10-17 year olds who reported they brush their teeth more than once a day, overall and by gender from 1998-2018

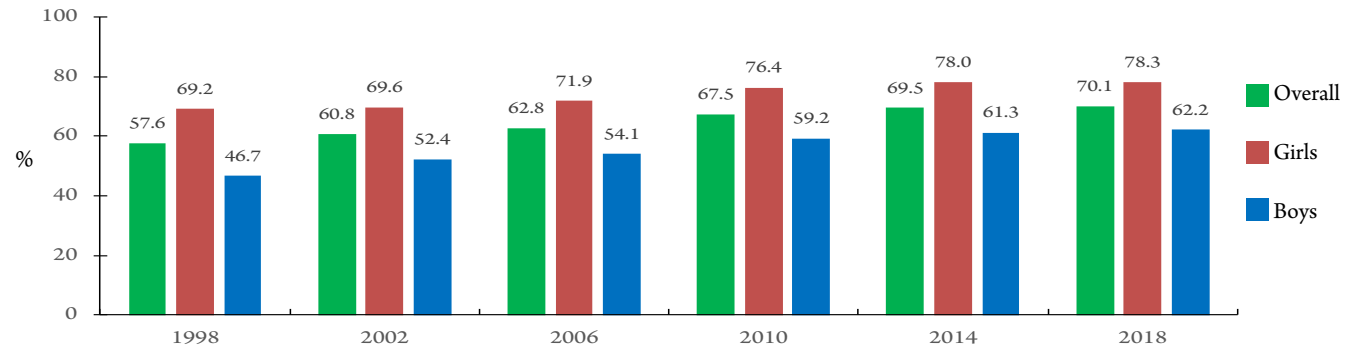


Table 10: Percentage of 10-17 year old girls and boys who reported they brush their teeth more than once a day, by age group and social class from 1998-2018

		1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	Trend
Girls	10 to 11	61.0	62.7	67.5	70.2	73.5	74.7	↑
	12 to 14	66.8	68.0	69.6	76.1	76.3	76.7	↑
	15 to 17	75.9	75.3	76.9	78.9	81.5	82.6	↑
Boys	10 to 11	46.5	54.4	56.1	64.3	67.2	65.2	↑↑
	12 to 14	46.1	50.3	52.0	57.5	59.5	59.1	↑↑
	15 to 17	47.2	53.1	54.9	59.1	61.2	63.1	↑↑
Girls	SC 1-2	69.9	71.6	75.1	77.3	80.9	81.6	↑
	SC 3-4	69.6	69.1	70.9	77.5	77.6	75.6	↑
	SC 5-6	66.9	63.1	71.0	72.3	72.3	76.2	↑
Boys	SC 1-2	50.7	55.2	57.9	61.4	64.6	66.3	↑↑
	SC 3-4	44.4	52.0	53.4	60.4	63.0	60.6	↑↑
	SC 5-6	44.7	47.6	50.8	54.5	54.3	55.6	↑

SEATBELT USE

Children were asked how often they use a seatbelt when they sit in a car. The response options were ‘rarely or never’, ‘sometimes’, ‘often’, ‘always’, ‘usually there is no seatbelt where I sit’ and ‘I never travel by car’. The findings here present the percentage of children who reported always wearing a seatbelt when travelling by car.

Findings

Between 1998 and 2018 there was a very large increase in the percentage of girls and boys who reported always wearing a seatbelt when travelling by car. The increase is evident across all age and social class groups.

International ranking

No internationally comparable data were available.



Figure 11: Percentage of 10-17 year olds who reported always wearing a seatbelt, overall and by gender from 1998-2018

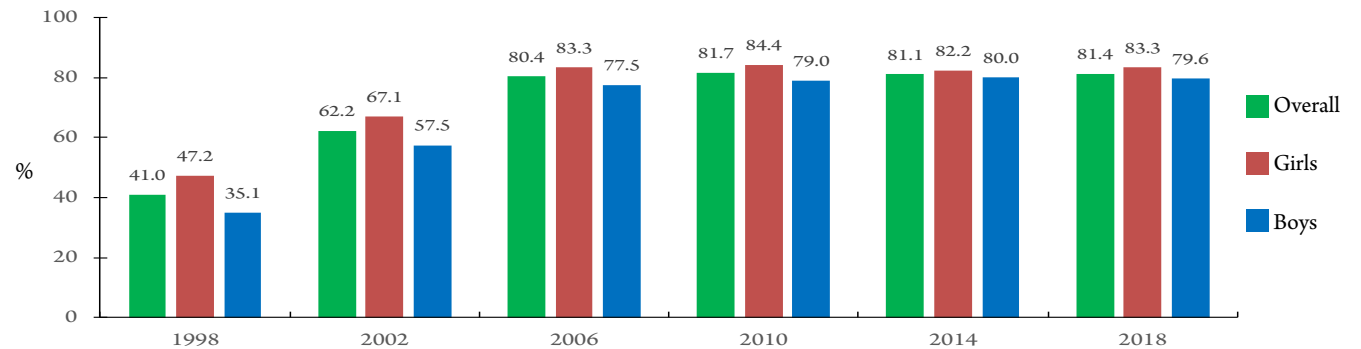


Table 11: Percentage of 10-17 year old girls and boys who reported always wearing a seatbelt, by age group and social class from 1998-20148

		1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	Trend
Girls	10 to 11	50.4	72.7	88.5	89.4	87.6	89.8	↑↑↑↑
	12 to 14	45.3	67.2	81.6	82.8	81.1	82.2	↑↑↑↑
	15 to 17	47.2	63.5	81.8	84.2	81.4	79.6	↑↑↑
Boys	10 to 11	37.5	63.5	85.4	81.6	86.2	87.8	↑↑↑↑
	12 to 14	35.9	56.7	76.3	76.9	80.1	77.9	↑↑↑↑
	15 to 17	33.1	54.5	73.8	80.4	77.8	75.3	↑↑↑↑
Girls	SC 1-2	48.2	66.7	82.8	84.8	83.7	84.6	↑↑↑↑
	SC 3-4	46.0	67.2	84.8	85.1	83.4	84.2	↑↑↑↑
	SC 5-6	46.4	68.2	83.5	81.0	80.9	81.0	↑↑↑
Boys	SC 1-2	36.8	57.6	76.1	79.1	80.4	81.4	↑↑↑↑
	SC 3-4	34.2	57.7	79.5	80.8	80.8	80.0	↑↑↑↑
	SC 5-6	31.3	57.7	79.7	75.9	84.6	76.5	↑↑↑↑

VIGOROUS EXERCISE

Children were asked how often they usually exercise in their free time so much that they get out of breath or sweat. The response options ranged from 'never' to 'every day'. The findings here present the percentage of children who reported vigorous exercise four or more times a week.

Findings

Between 1998 and 2018 there was a small increase in the percentage of girls who reported participating in vigorous exercise four or more times a week, and a small decrease among boys. The trends are inconsistent across age and social class groups.

International ranking (15 year olds only)*

	Ireland %	HBSC 26 AVG %	HBSC 26 Rank
2018	43.3	34.3	3
2014	44.2	37.5	3
2010	47.9	34.2	1
2006	47.8	33.6	2

*See technical note 10

Figure 12: Percentage of 10-17 year olds who reported participating in vigorous exercise four or more times per week, overall and by gender from 1998-2018

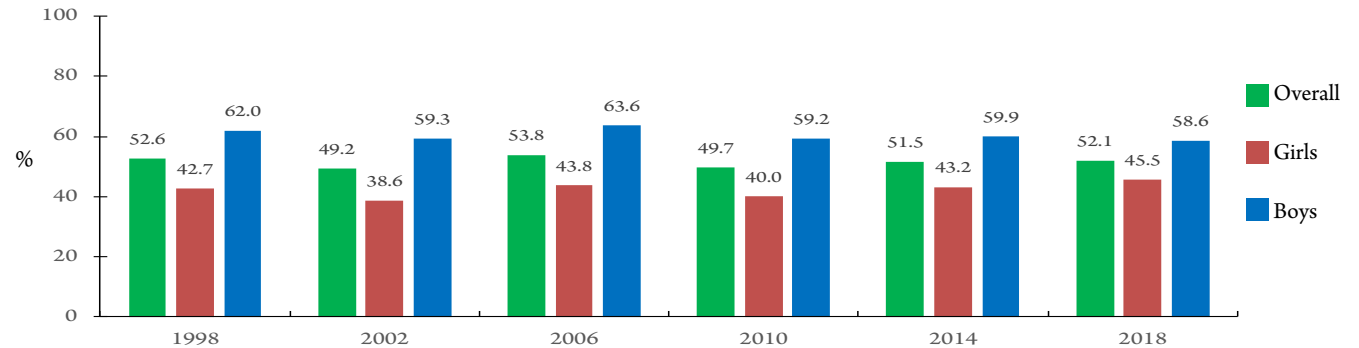


Table 12: Percentage of 10-17 year old girls and boys who reported participating in vigorous exercise four or more times per week, by age group and social class from 1998-2018

		1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	Trend
Girls	10 to 11	59.0	53.5	59.5	57.9	54.8	67.9	↑
	12 to 14	48.8	42.1	50.6	44.2	47.4	44.7	-
	15 to 17	28.0	26.2	27.8	29.3	34.7	29.5	↑
Boys	10 to 11	68.1	65.6	71.3	67.6	63.7	70.8	-
	12 to 14	66.2	63.7	67.3	63.4	62.6	57.2	↓
	15 to 17	54.7	51.6	55.0	51.8	55.8	50.4	-
Girls	SC 1-2	43.8	37.6	43.6	40.9	46.3	47.3	↑
	SC 3-4	42.2	39.6	43.3	39.3	43.5	45.4	↑
	SC 5-6	39.8	39.8	45.4	37.0	36.7	42.5	-
Boys	SC 1-2	64.0	61.0	64.6	61.1	61.8	60.8	-
	SC 3-4	63.0	59.4	63.0	58.6	59.7	57.7	↓
	SC 5-6	58.8	57.9	64.5	56.0	53.3	54.2	-

HAVING HAD SEXUAL INTERCOURSE

Young people aged 15 to 17 were asked about engaging in sexual intercourse. The findings here present the percentage of young people who reported that they have ever had sex.

Findings

Between 2010 and 2018 there was a small decrease in the percentage of 15-17 year old girls who reported having ever had sex, the trend was stable for boys. The decrease is evident among girls in the middle social class group.

International ranking (15 year olds only)*

	Ireland %	HBSC 35 AVG %	HBSC 35 Rank
2018	14.5	19	29
2014	16.7	20.6	27
2010	22.3	25.5	24

*See technical note 11

Figure 13: Percentage of 15-17 year olds who reported having ever had sexual intercourse, overall and by gender from 2010-2018

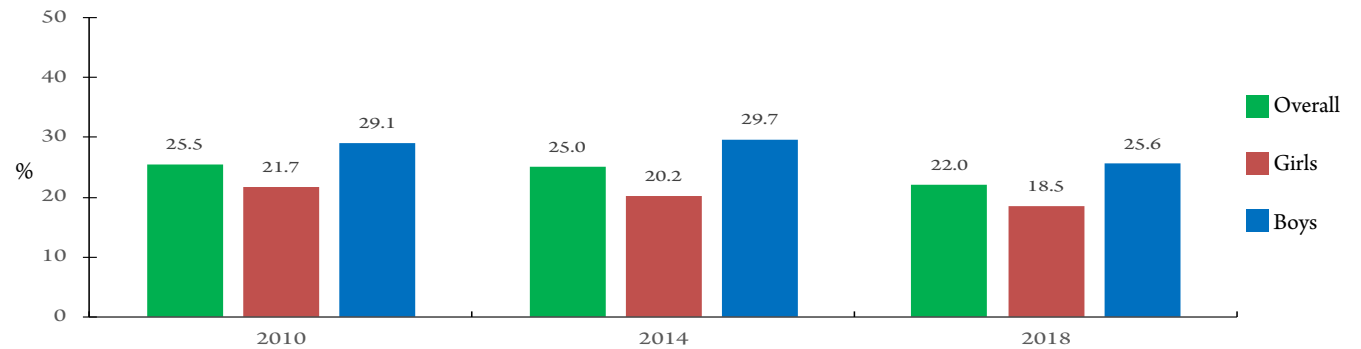


Table 13: Percentage of 15-17 year olds who reported having ever had sexual intercourse, by social class from 2010-2018

		2010	2014	2018	Trend
Girls	SC 1-2	20.2	20.9	18.9	-
	SC 3-4	25.3	19.5	16.8	↓ ↓
	SC 5-6	20.1	18.6	22.1	-
Boys	SC 1-2	26.0	29.5	25.1	-
	SC 3-4	30.7	30.9	28.0	-
	SC 5-6	29.9	24.6	26.5	-

CONDOM USE AT LAST SEXUAL INTERCOURSE

Young people aged 15 to 17 who had ever had sex were asked if they used a condom at last intercourse. The findings here present the percentage of young people who reported that they used a condom at last intercourse.

Findings

Between 2010 and 2018 there was a small decrease in the percentage of 15-17 year old girls and boys who reported that they used a condom at last intercourse.

International ranking (15 year olds only)*

	Ireland %	HBSC 35 AVG %	HBSC 35 Rank
2018	61.4	60.2	25
2014	68.2	65.6	15
2010	76.9	69.1	21

*See technical notes 11 and 12

Figure 14: Percentage of 15-17 year olds who reported using a condom at last sexual intercourse, overall and by gender from 2010-2018 (of those who have ever had sexual intercourse)

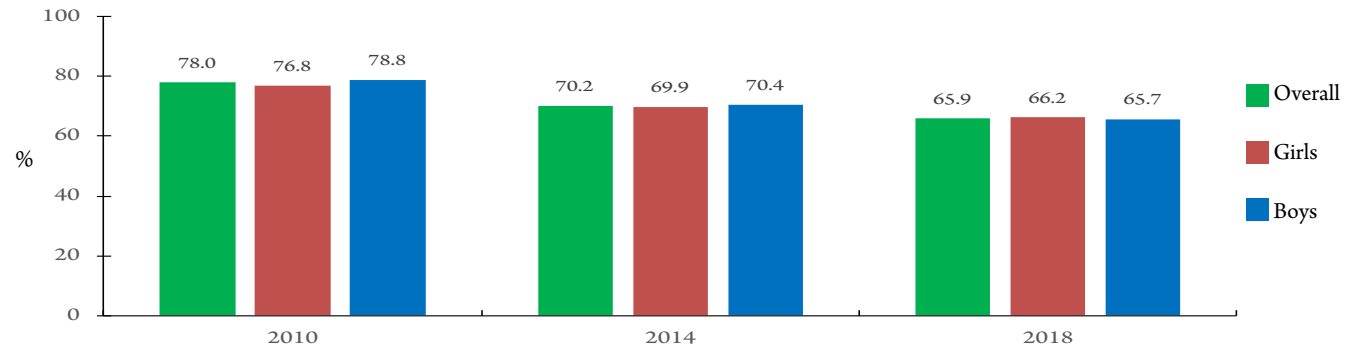


Table 14: Percentage of 15-17 year olds who reported using a condom at last sexual intercourse, by social class from 2010-2018 (of those who have ever had sexual intercourse)

		2010	2014	2018	Trend
Girls	SC 1-2	74.1	70.2	65.5	-
	SC 3-4	77.0	71.0	60.6	↓
	SC 5-6	77.1	63.9	69.3	-
Boys	SC 1-2	77.8	75.3	66.5	↓
	SC 3-4	79.7	63.7	68.0	↓
	SC 5-6	80.4	78.8	53.9	-

Health Outcomes



Children were asked how often they experienced headaches in the last six months. The response options ranged from 'rarely or never' to 'about every day'. The findings here present the percentage of children who reported experiencing headaches about every week or more frequently over the last six months.

Findings

Between 1998 and 2018 there was a small increase in the percentage of girls who reported having a headache about every week or more frequently over the last six months, the overall trend was stable for boys. However, there was a large increase for boys in the lowest social classes, and a moderate increase for girls in the lowest social classes. There was also a moderate increase for boys aged 15-17.

International ranking (15 year olds only)

	Ireland %	HBSC 26 AVG %	HBSC 26 Rank
2018	39.4	34.6	5
2014	37.9	35.5	8
2010	32.1	34.4	17
2006	29	32.8	18
2002	34.1	32.7	11
1998*	29.8	47.9	18

Figure 15: Percentage of 10-17 year olds who reported having a headache about every week or more frequently over last six months, overall and by gender from 1998-2018

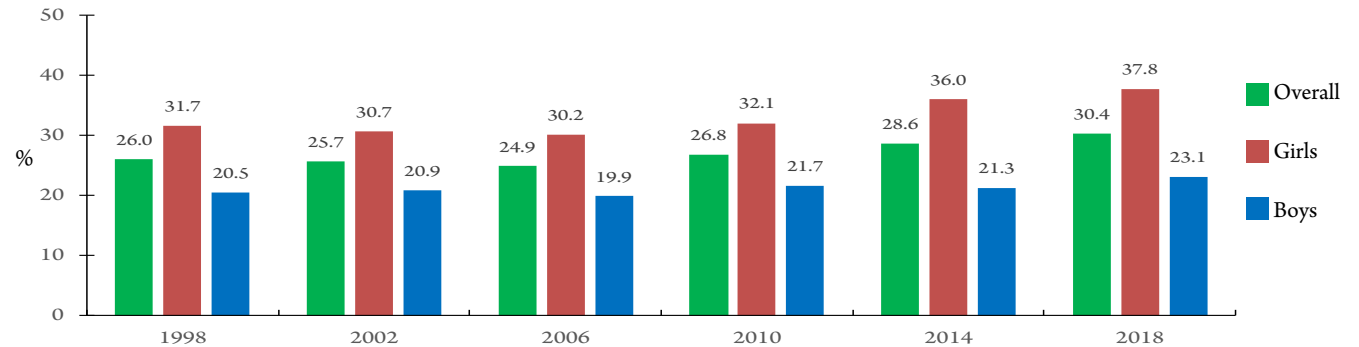


Table 15: Percentage of 10-17 year old girls and boys who reported having a headache about every week or more frequently over last six months, overall and by gender from 1998-2018

		1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	Trend
Girls	10 to 11	22.8	16.3	17.4	19.8	17.4	19.8	-
	12 to 14	29.6	28.2	27.8	29.9	31.1	35.0	↑
	15 to 17	38.5	41.6	40.4	38.8	47.7	47.8	↑
Boys	10 to 11	19.5	19.2	16.0	16.5	11.9	16.0	↓
	12 to 14	20.8	19.9	19.3	21.0	20.6	22.7	-
	15 to 17	20.9	22.7	23.0	24.2	25.1	26.5	↑↑
Girls	SC 1-2	31.9	30.9	30.4	29.0	33.2	37.4	↑
	SC 3-4	32.3	31.5	29.7	34.1	36.6	36.9	↑
	SC 5-6	28.8	27.9	28.8	34.9	38.3	37.1	↑↑
Boys	SC 1-2	20.7	21.1	18.6	20.2	21.2	20.7	-
	SC 3-4	21.2	20.5	20.5	20.3	20.8	23.3	-
	SC 5-6	15.7	20.5	20.7	26.2	20.7	26.1	↑↑↑

FEELING LOW

Children were asked how often they experienced feeling low in the last six months. The response options ranged from 'rarely or never' to 'about every day'. The findings here present the percentage of children who reported experiencing feeling low about every week or more frequently over the last six months.

Findings

Between 1998 and 2018 there was a large increase in the percentage of girls who reported feeling low about every week or more frequently over the last six months, and there was a moderate increase for boys. The increase is most evident among older children and children from lower social class groups.

International ranking (15 year olds only)*

	Ireland %	HBSC 26 AVG %	HBSC 26 Rank
2018	39.5	38.7	13
2014	38.3	35.3	9
2010	30.1	30.4	15
2006	29.5	32.3	17
2002	31.8	32.7	12
1998	25.3	42.5	21

* See technical note 13

Figure 16: Percentage of 10-17 year olds who reported feeling low about every week or more frequently over the last six months, overall and by gender from 1998-2018

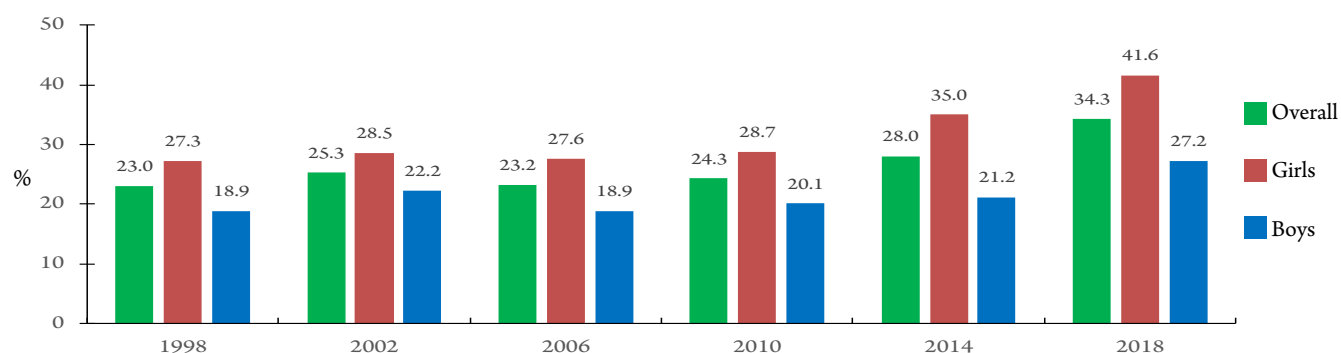


Table 16: Percentage of 10-17 year old girls and boys who reported feeling low about every week or more frequently over the last six months, overall and by gender from 1998-2018

		1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	Trend
Girls	10 to 11	18.7	15.8	14.1	17.1	16.1	19.4	-
	12 to 14	24.5	26.3	26.5	25.5	30.4	38.5	↑↑↑
	15 to 17	34.7	38.1	36.9	36.3	46.5	53.3	↑↑↑
Boys	10 to 11	17.5	19.4	13.3	14.9	10.1	18.2	-
	12 to 14	17.8	19.6	18.1	17.7	18.8	23.8	↑↑
	15 to 17	20.6	26.1	23.3	24.3	27.3	34.4	↑↑↑
Girls	SC 1-2	29.8	29.8	29.0	27.6	34.0	40.2	↑↑
	SC 3-4	25.0	27.9	26.2	27.3	33.7	41.7	↑↑↑
	SC 5-6	24.9	23.8	26.0	35.5	35.4	44.5	↑↑↑↑
Boys	SC 1-2	19.9	23.8	18.4	19.0	19.9	28.1	↑↑
	SC 3-4	19.1	19.5	19.1	19.0	21.5	25.9	↑↑
	SC 5-6	14.6	21.4	18.3	25.3	21.4	30.0	↑↑↑↑

TIMES INJURED

Children were asked how many times they had been injured and had to be treated by a doctor or nurse during the past 12 months. The response options ranged from 'I was not injured in the past 12 months' to '4 times or more'. The findings here present the percentage of children who reported having been injured once or more frequently and requiring medical attention.

Findings

Between 1998 and 2018 there was a small increase in the percentage of girls and boys who reported having been injured once or more and requiring medical attention. The increase is evident among older boys and girls in the highest social classes. There is a decrease among boys from the lower social classes.

International ranking (15 year olds only)*

	Ireland %	HBSC 26 AVG %	HBSC 26 Rank
2018	44.1	45.8	13
2014	40.3	43.9	19
2010	40.3	43.9	19
2006	42.2	42.7	15
2002	46.5	44.7	12

* See technical note 14

Figure 17: Percentage of 10-17 year olds who reported ever being injured and had to be treated by a doctor or nurse in the last 12 months, overall and by gender from 1998-2018

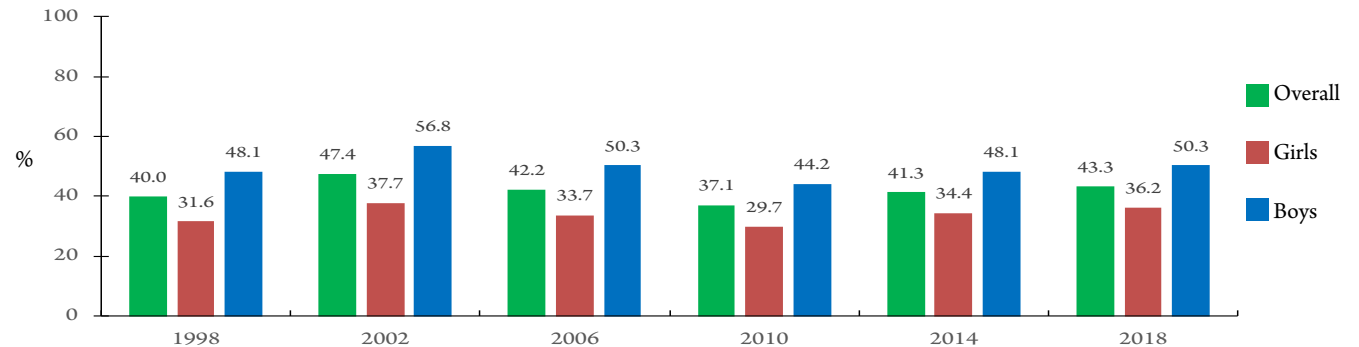


Table 17: Percentage of 10-17 year old girls and boys who reported ever being injured and had to be treated by a doctor or nurse in the last 12 months, by age group and social class from 1998-2018

		1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	Trend
Girls	10 to 11	32.6	38.1	32.4	25.8	31.4	35.2	-
	12 to 14	33.5	38.7	36.3	31.1	35.2	37.9	-
	15 to 17	29.2	36.5	32.0	29.6	34.6	35.0	-
Boys	10 to 11	42.4	56.7	45.1	42.8	40.6	46.0	-
	12 to 14	48.9	57.7	52.8	43.6	47.0	51.0	↑
	15 to 17	50.5	55.9	51.3	45.5	51.8	51.4	↑
Girls	SC 1-2	29.7	36.5	33.3	29.2	34.3	37.1	↑
	SC 3-4	34.4	39.0	32.6	30.1	35.5	36.1	-
	SC 5-6	30.8	40.0	37.0	28.7	31.7	33.1	-
Boys	SC 1-2	45.3	55.5	50.3	43.9	49.1	52.7	-
	SC 3-4	50.3	55.8	49.7	45.4	47.6	48.7	↓
	SC 5-6	48.3	62.8	50.3	42.3	44.5	47.6	↓

SELF-RATED HEALTH

Children were asked how they would describe their health. The response options were 'poor', 'fair', 'good' and 'excellent'. The findings here present the percentage of children who reported their health as excellent.

Findings

Between 2002 and 2018 there was a small increase in the percentage of girls who reported their health as excellent, the trend was stable for boys. The increase is most evident among younger children and those in the high and middle social classes.

International ranking (15 year olds only)*

	Ireland %	HBSC 26 AVG %	HBSC 26 Rank
2018	25.3	25.8	15
2014	29.2	29.1	14
2010	29.9	28.7	10
2006	28.5	28.3	13
2002	25	25.3	15

* See technical note 15

Figure 18: Percentage of 10-17 year olds who reported their health is excellent, overall and by gender from 2002-2018

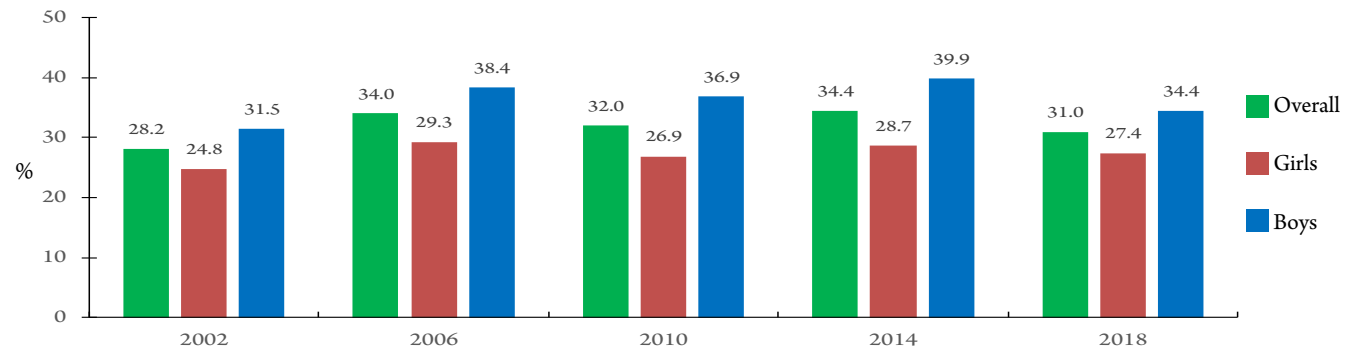


Table 18: Percentage of 10-17 year old girls and boys who reported their health is excellent, by age group and social class from 2002-2018

		2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	Trend
Girls	10 to 11	33.7	39.0	37.9	42.8	40.4	↑
	12 to 14	27.1	32.3	29.7	30.4	26.4	-
	15 to 17	17.2	20.3	19.9	21.8	19.0	-
Boys	10 to 11	33.2	43.0	40.2	45.2	40.8	↑
	12 to 14	32.6	38.8	38.4	41.0	34.0	-
	15 to 17	29.4	35.1	34.1	37.1	30.1	-
Girls	SC 1-2	25.5	32.5	28.9	31.8	29.8	↑
	SC 3-4	24.0	27.2	26.2	27.2	25.5	↑
	SC 5-6	23.0	28.4	20.8	23.4	24.8	-
Boys	SC 1-2	34.4	41.9	40.0	44.4	37.1	-
	SC 3-4	30.1	36.8	34.4	37.8	34.2	↑
	SC 5-6	30.8	39.9	32.8	38.8	25.4	-

HAPPY WITH LIFE AT PRESENT

Children were asked how they feel about their life at present. The response options ranged from 'not happy at all' to 'very happy'. The findings here present the percentage of children who reported feeling very or quite happy about their life at present.

Findings

Between 1998 and 2018 there was a small decrease in the percentage of girls who reported feeling happy with their life, and a small increase for boys. The direction of the trends across age and social class groups was inconsistent.

International ranking

No internationally comparable data were available.



Figure 19: Percentage of 10-17 year olds who reported feeling happy about their lives at present, overall and by gender from 1998-2018

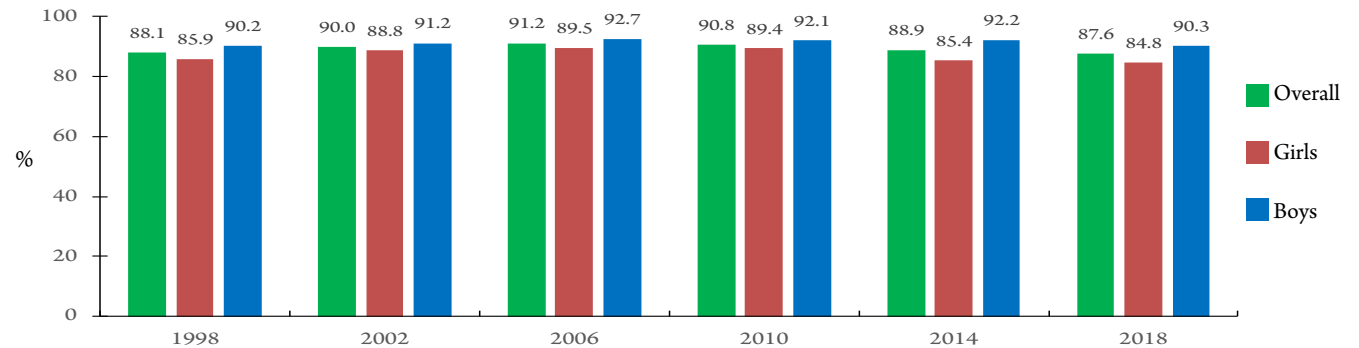


Table 19: Percentage of 10-17 year old girls and boys who reported feeling happy about their lives at present, by age group and social class from 1998-2018

		1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	Trend
Girls	10 to 11	93.6	95.9	96.1	94.0	94.4	94.7	↑
	12 to 14	86.8	89.1	90.2	90.8	86.7	85.1	↓
	15 to 17	80.7	84.2	84.7	86.3	80.8	77.4	↓
Boys	10 to 11	92.6	92.8	95.2	94.6	95.1	94.6	↑
	12 to 14	92.2	91.8	92.5	92.9	93.4	90.8	↓
	15 to 17	87.0	89.8	91.5	90.4	90.0	86.6	↓
Girls	SC 1-2	85.6	89.1	89.6	90.7	86.4	85.9	↑
	SC 3-4	86.7	88.8	89.9	89.8	86.8	85.0	↓
	SC 5-6	86.1	89.7	91.4	86.4	82.4	83.7	↓
Boys	SC 1-2	89.8	92.2	94.2	92.9	93.6	90.4	↑
	SC 3-4	90.3	92.5	93.2	93.1	92.2	91.3	↑
	SC 5-6	93.1	89.2	91.0	90.8	90.5	89.4	↓

LIFE SATISFACTION

Children were asked to rate their life satisfaction on a scale from '0' (the worst possible life) to '10' (the best possible life). The findings here present the percentage of children who reported high life satisfaction (a score of 7 or more).

Findings

Between 2002 and 2018 there was a small decrease in the percentage of girls who reported high life satisfaction, the trend was stable for boys. The decrease is most evident among older children and girls from lower social class groups.

International ranking (15 year olds only)*

	Ireland %	HBSC 26 AVG %	HBSC 26 Rank
2018	66.4	71.4	22
2014	68.3	70.3	17
2010	69.2	72.3	21
2006	70.5	71.4	13
2002	70.2	69.3	11

* See technical note 16

Figure 20: Percentage of 10-17 year olds who reported high life satisfaction, overall and by gender from 2002-2018

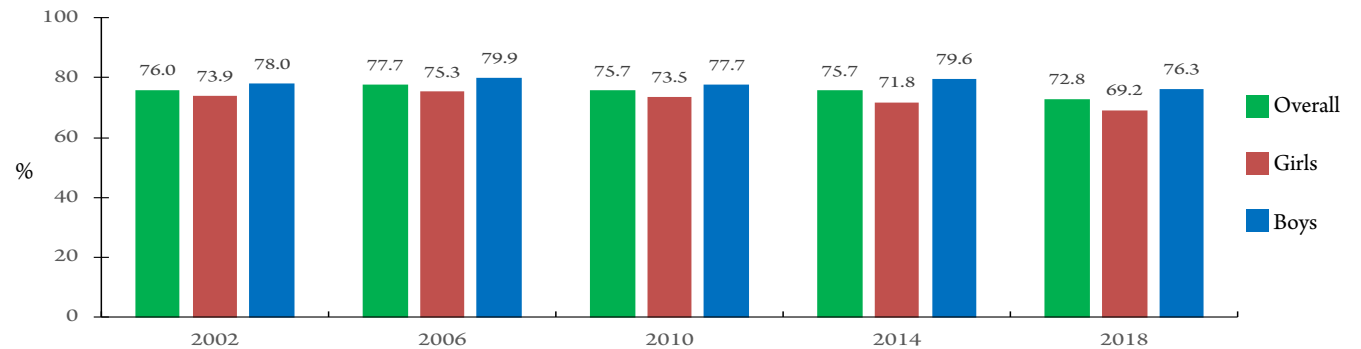
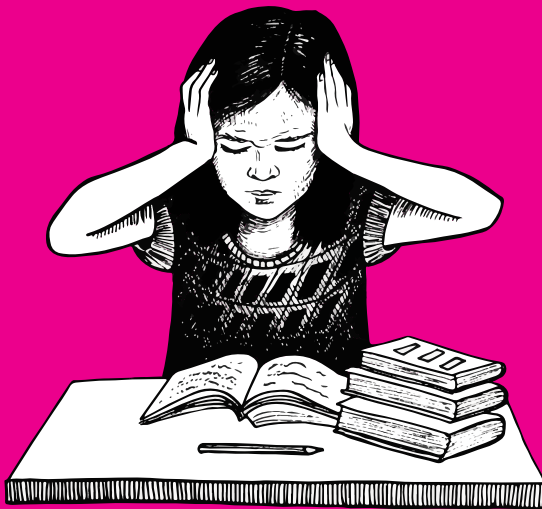
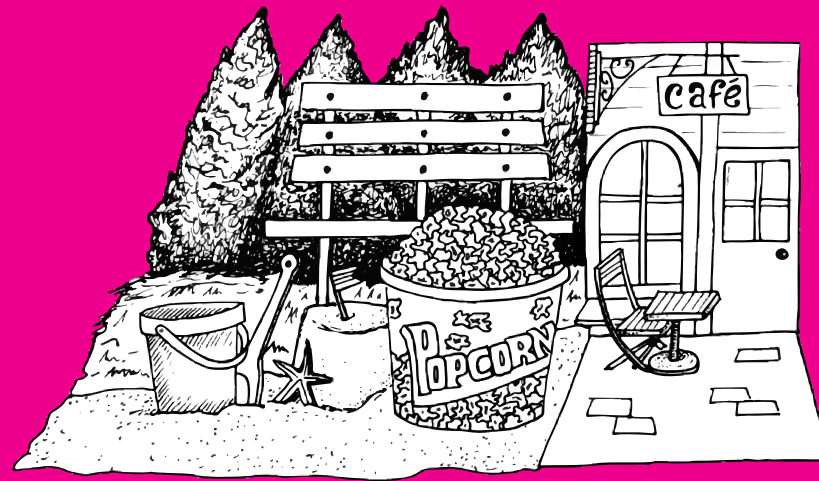
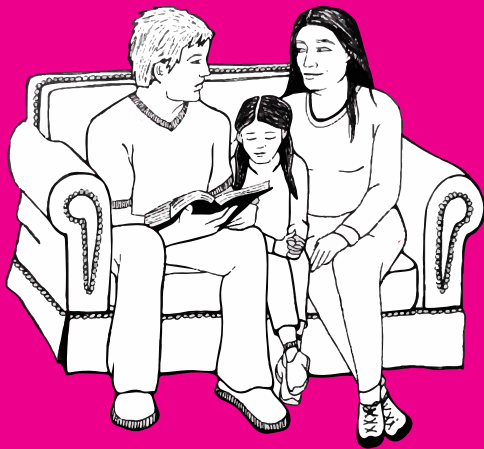


Table 20: Percentage of 10-17 year old girls and boys who reported high life satisfaction, by age group and social class from 2002-2018

		2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	Trend
Girls	10 to 11	87.5	88.1	85.6	87.7	87.2	-
	12 to 14	75.5	77.7	76.2	75.9	72.4	↓
	15 to 17	64.1	64.9	66.3	61.8	58.9	↓
Boys	10 to 11	82.6	88.2	83.7	88.8	86.3	-
	12 to 14	79.9	81.1	81.0	83.1	79.5	-
	15 to 17	73.4	73.6	72.2	72.9	68.9	↓
Girls	SC 1-2	75.0	76.3	77.0	75.3	72.8	-
	SC 3-4	73.6	75.3	72.9	72.2	68.4	↓
	SC 5-6	73.9	77.7	68.1	65.3	64.4	↓
Boys	SC 1-2	78.9	81.8	79.8	82.4	77.5	-
	SC 3-4	78.9	80.6	78.2	80.8	77.1	-
	SC 5-6	76.5	77.6	72.9	75.6	72.4	-

Social Contexts of Children's Lives



COMMUNICATION WITH MOTHER

Children were asked how easy it is to talk to their mother about things that really bother them. The response options ranged from 'very difficult' to 'very easy'. The findings here present the percentage of children who reported it is easy or very easy to talk to their mother.

Findings

Between 1998 and 2018 there was a small increase in the percentage of girls and boys who reported finding it easy to talk to their mother about things that really bother them. The increase was evident across all age and social class groups for girls and boys.

International ranking (15 year olds only)*

	Ireland %	HBSC 26 AVG %	HBSC 26 Rank
2018	79.6	77.3	9
2014	78.3	77.4	15
2010	75.6	76.2	17
2006	74.1	76.2	19
2002	73.5	76.1	17
1998	67.5	71.8	23

* See technical note 17

Figure 21: Percentage of 10-17 year olds who reported finding it easy to talk to their mother about things that really bother them, overall and by gender from 1998-2018

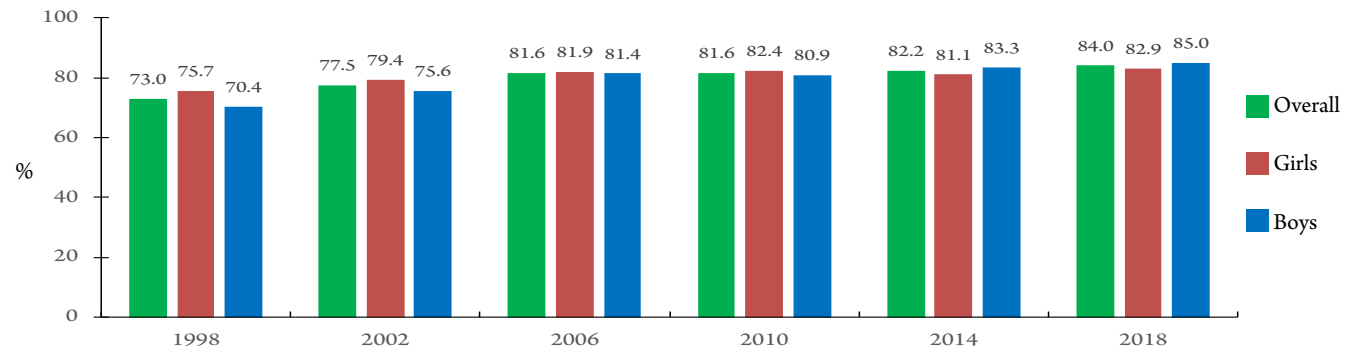


Table 21: Percentage of 10-17 year old girls and boys who reported finding it easy to talk to their mother about things that really bother them, by age group and social class from 1998-2018

		1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	Trend
Girls	10 to 11	84.3	88.8	92.2	89.2	88.8	89.3	↑
	12 to 14	79.3	81.5	84.9	84.9	82.7	84.0	↑
	15 to 17	67.6	72.1	72.6	77.7	76.8	77.2	↑
Boys	10 to 11	78.2	84.6	89.6	89.0	90.5	88.5	↑
	12 to 14	74.3	76.7	83.0	83.2	85.7	86.5	↑
	15 to 17	62.4	69.3	74.7	75.7	78.5	81.0	↑ ↑
Girls	SC 1-2	75.4	78.3	81.8	83.4	81.8	84.2	↑
	SC 3-4	76.6	80.9	82.0	83.4	81.3	82.3	↑
	SC 5-6	75.1	78.0	82.8	79.4	81.2	81.2	↑
Boys	SC 1-2	71.0	73.4	80.5	79.8	84.7	84.8	↑
	SC 3-4	69.6	77.6	82.6	81.9	83.4	85.6	↑
	SC 5-6	70.4	79.9	81.1	79.7	77.1	84.1	↑

COMMUNICATION WITH FATHER

Children were asked how easy it is to talk to their father about things that really bother them. The response options ranged from 'very difficult' to 'very easy'. The findings here present the percentage of children who reported it is easy or very easy to talk to their father.

Findings

Between 1998 and 2018 there was a large increase in the percentage of girls who reported finding it easy to talk to their father about things that really bother them, there was a moderate increase for boys. The increase is most evident among older children and girls in all social class groups.

International ranking (15 year olds only)*

	Ireland %	HBSC 26 AVG %	HBSC 26 Rank
2018	66.6	61.7	8
2014	62.5	61.8	14
2010	62.6	58.2	6
2006	58.9	56.6	8
2002	48.1	54.3	20
1998	40.2	54.2	25

* See technical note 18

Figure 21: Percentage of 10-17 year olds who reported finding it easy to talk to their father about things that really bother them, overall and by gender from 1998-2018

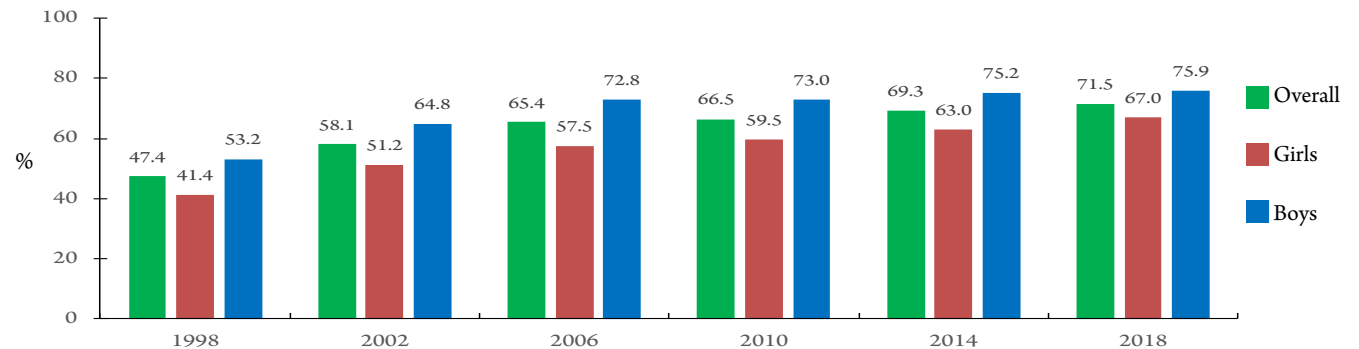


Table 21: Percentage of 10-17 year old girls and boys who reported finding it easy to talk to their father about things that really bother them, by age group and social class from 1998-2018

		1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	Trend
Girls	10 to 11	54.2	64.5	72.0	69.2	73.5	77.3	↑ ↑
	12 to 14	44.0	51.1	59.7	61.4	64.7	67.0	↑ ↑ ↑
	15 to 17	31.7	43.3	46.4	54.1	57.3	59.0	↑ ↑ ↑ ↑
Boys	10 to 11	66.6	78.9	84.1	81.7	84.7	82.8	↑
	12 to 14	57.6	66.1	76.0	77.3	78.5	78.0	↑ ↑
	15 to 17	41.6	55.2	62.5	65.5	68.6	68.1	↑ ↑ ↑
Girls	SC 1-2	40.9	51.3	58.6	61.4	64.4	68.6	↑ ↑ ↑
	SC 3-4	42.7	52.4	55.8	58.8	62.5	65.4	↑ ↑ ↑
	SC 5-6	41.3	46.5	56.9	55.8	58.9	67.2	↑ ↑ ↑
Boys	SC 1-2	50.7	64.1	71.6	73.4	76.1	75.8	↑ ↑
	SC 3-4	54.2	64.4	72.7	73.3	76.3	76.0	↑ ↑
	SC 5-6	54.4	66.4	74.6	72.8	71.2	72.5	↑ ↑

LIVE WITH BOTH PARENTS

Children were asked who lives in the home where they live all or most of the time. The findings here present the percentage of children who reported that their mother and father live in the main home.

Findings

Between 1998 and 2018 there was a small decrease in the percentage of girls and boys who reported living with both their mother and father. The decrease is most evident for children in the lowest social class groups.

International ranking

No internationally comparable data were available.



Figure 23: Percentage of 10-17 year olds who reported living with their mother and father, overall and by gender from 1998-2018

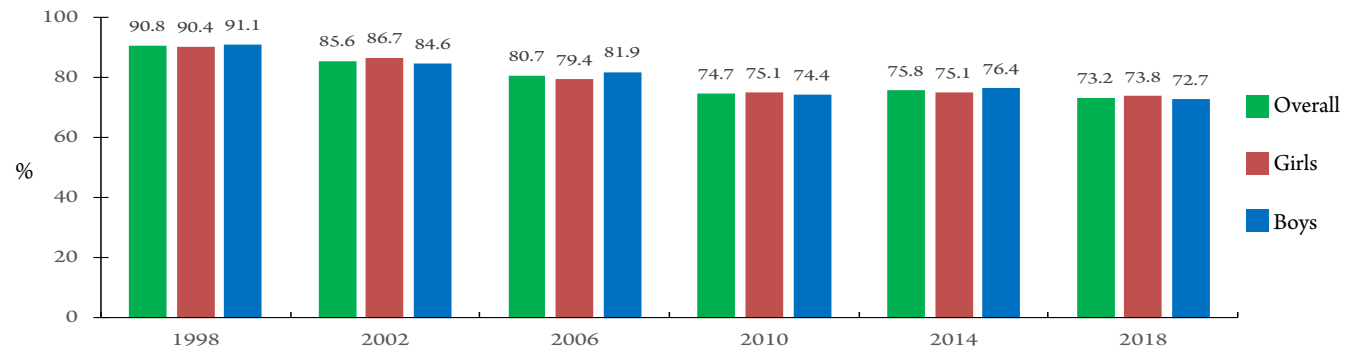


Table 23: Percentage of 10-17 year old girls and boys who reported living with their mother and father, by age group and social class from 1998-2014

		1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	Trend
Girls	10 to 11	91.6	86.6	81.3	75.1	74.2	78.0	↓
	12 to 14	90.6	87.3	80.2	75.2	75.8	73.3	↓
	15 to 17	89.6	86.2	77.4	75.0	74.8	72.6	↓
Boys	10 to 11	91.6	85.5	83.8	76.2	82.2	73.6	↓
	12 to 14	91.6	84.8	81.7	74.7	74.8	74.0	↓
	15 to 17	90.3	83.9	81.0	73.4	76.0	70.9	↓
Girls	SC 1-2	90.6	89.7	84.8	83.6	83.2	81.5	↓
	SC 3-4	91.9	87.5	81.3	74.0	75.5	75.5	↓
	SC 5-6	90.5	84.1	73.1	69.1	64.5	66.2	↓ ↓
Boys	SC 1-2	94.5	89.5	87.0	82.1	84.1	81.7	↓
	SC 3-4	91.1	85.7	82.9	79.0	77.7	76.0	↓
	SC 5-6	90.0	77.9	78.2	72.4	69.3	64.0	↓ ↓

LIKING SCHOOL

Children were asked how they feel about school at present. The response options ranged from 'I don't like it at all' to 'I like it a lot'. The findings here present the percentage of children who reported liking school a lot or a bit.

Findings

Between 2002 and 2018 there was a small increase in the percentage of boys who reported liking school, the trend was stable for girls. The increase is most evident for boys across all age and social class groups.

International ranking (15 year olds only)

	Ireland %	HBSC 26 AVG %	HBSC 26 Rank
2018	58.1	63.5	19
2014	63.5	68.9	22
2010	59.8	68.6	23
2006	60.8	66.4	19
2002	63.4	62.5	11

Figure 24: Percentage of 10-17 year olds who reported liking school, overall and by gender from 2002-2018

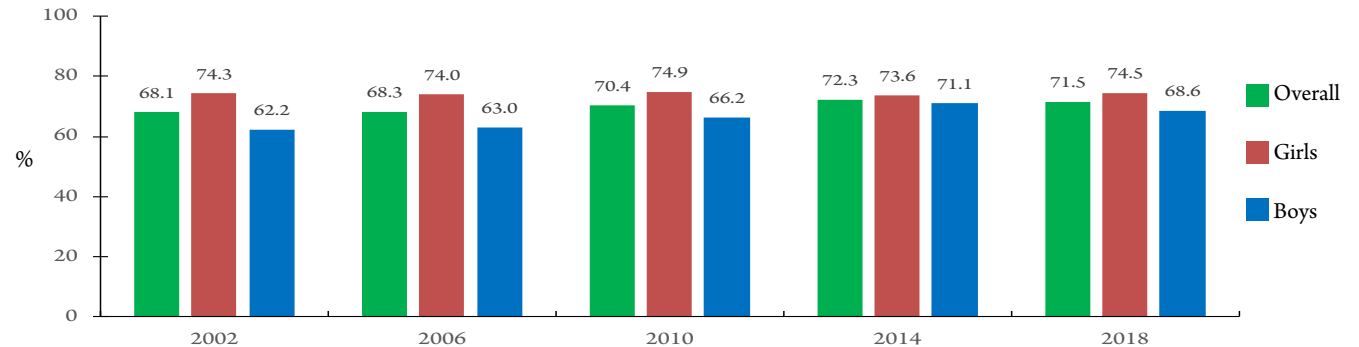


Table 24: Percentage of 10-17 year old girls and boys who reported liking school, by age group and social class from 2002-2018

		2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	Trend
Girls	10 to 11	81.4	81.9	81.0	87.4	88.0	↑
	12 to 14	75.5	76.1	78.3	75.9	75.3	-
	15 to 17	68.9	67.0	69.1	66.1	64.1	↓
Boys	10 to 11	65.4	66.9	68.8	78.9	75.6	↑
	12 to 14	65.2	66.5	68.1	74.7	70.9	↑
	15 to 17	57.5	57.1	63.3	64.9	61.0	↑
Girls	SC 1-2	76.2	77.3	77.6	76.7	77.4	↑
	SC 3-4	74.1	72.5	75.0	72.8	72.6	-
	SC 5-6	71.2	72.5	67.8	69.9	72.5	-
Boys	SC 1-2	64.5	65.9	70.2	74.5	71.6	↑
	SC 3-4	59.6	61.9	66.2	71.4	67.6	↑
	SC 5-6	63.8	61.9	61.2	69.3	64.0	↑

ORGANISING SCHOOL EVENTS

Children were asked if students in their class(es) get involved in organising school events. The response options ranged from 'strongly disagree' to 'strongly agree'. The findings here present the percentage of children who reported that they agree or strongly agree.

Findings

Between 2002 and 2018 there was a small increase in the percentage of boys who reported that students in their class(es) get involved in organising school events, the trend was stable for girls. The increase is most evident among older boys and boys in higher social class groups.

International ranking

No internationally comparable data were available.



Figure 25: Percentage of 10-17 year olds who reported that students in their class(es) get involved in organising school events, overall and by gender from 2002-2018

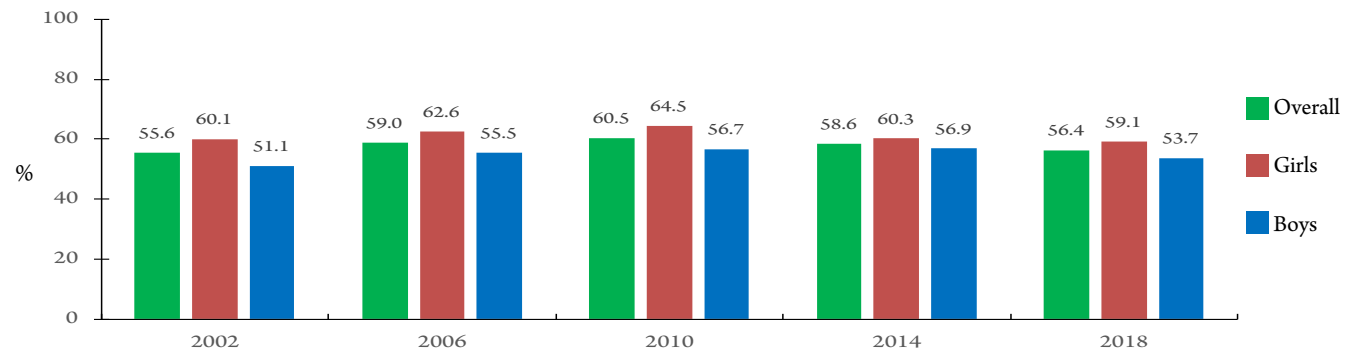


Table 25: Percentage of 10-17 year old girls and boys who reported that students in their class(es) get involved in organising school events, by age group and social class from 2002-2018

		2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	Trend
Girls	10 to 11	68.7	70.6	65.3	73.7	70.1	-
	12 to 14	57.6	60.6	63.5	58.7	58.5	-
	15 to 17	57.3	59.7	65.4	57.3	55.3	↓
Boys	10 to 11	61.3	67.3	65.3	74.7	65.4	-
	12 to 14	51.7	56.2	56.9	58.0	54.5	-
	15 to 17	44.4	47.4	53.5	50.0	48.0	↑
Girls	SC 1-2	57.7	61.8	64.1	60.9	57.8	-
	SC 3-4	60.8	61.7	64.3	59.1	59.5	-
	SC 5-6	65.3	64.5	63.4	60.4	60.5	-
Boys	SC 1-2	48.7	53.4	55.6	54.8	53.4	↑
	SC 3-4	51.5	56.2	56.9	57.8	52.6	-
	SC 5-6	56.0	56.5	57.8	59.2	56.8	-

PRESSURED BY SCHOOL WORK

Children were asked how pressured they feel by the school work they have to do. The response options ranged from 'not at all' to 'a lot'. The findings here present the percentage of children who reported feeling some or a lot of pressure from school work.

Findings

Between 1998 and 2018 there was a moderate increase in the percentage of girls and boys who reported feeling pressured by schoolwork. The increase is most evident among older children and those in lower and middle social class groups.

International ranking (15 year olds only)*

	Ireland %	HBSC 26 AVG %	HBSC 26 Rank
2018	58.8	47	8
2014	59.3	44.5	4
2010	50.3	42.6	10
2006	53.4	43.6	7
2002	46.3	43.9	13
1998	42.7	38.6	11

* See technical note 19

Figure 26: Percentage of 10-17 year olds who reported feeling pressured by school work, overall and by gender from 1998-2018

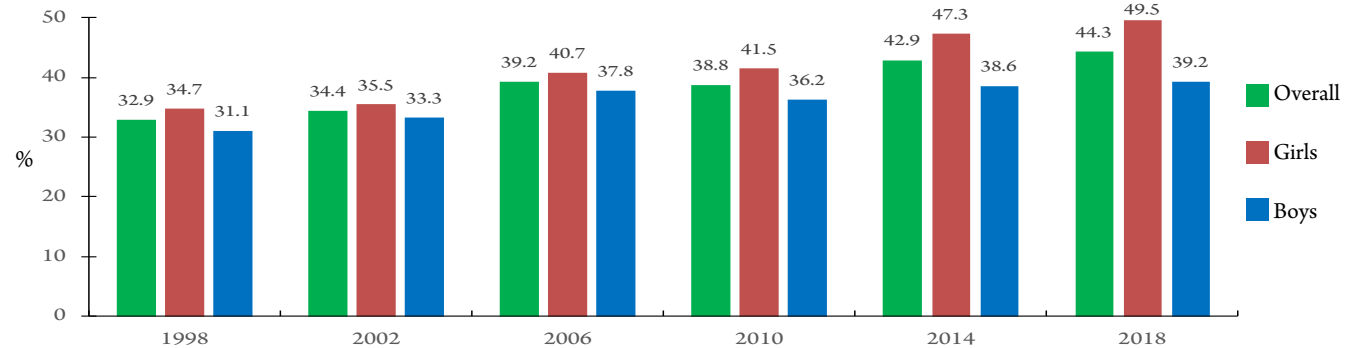


Table 26: Percentage of 10-17 year old girls and boys who reported feeling pressured by school work, by age group and social class from 1998-2018

		1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	Trend
Girls	10 to 11	18.3	18.8	18.2	24.0	21.7	20.9	↑
	12 to 14	32.4	36.8	40.9	38.5	41.9	46.4	↑ ↑
	15 to 17	46.0	44.4	54.6	51.0	62.3	64.1	↑ ↑
Boys	10 to 11	23.4	30.2	24.3	24.8	23.1	23.8	-
	12 to 14	30.1	31.9	39.4	34.6	34.6	38.7	↑ ↑
	15 to 17	36.2	36.6	44.7	41.9	47.8	46.0	↑ ↑
Girls	SC 1-2	35.5	36.2	42.6	42.5	49.6	50.1	↑ ↑
	SC 3-4	32.5	34.9	40.4	40.5	45.6	49.4	↑ ↑ ↑
	SC 5-6	34.7	34.2	35.8	40.4	40.8	48.5	↑ ↑
Boys	SC 1-2	32.6	33.9	39.2	34.9	39.1	38.4	↑
	SC 3-4	29.7	31.9	36.6	35.1	36.5	38.9	↑ ↑
	SC 5-6	29.1	32.8	34.5	42.1	39.9	43.5	↑ ↑

CLOSE FRIENDS OF THE SAME SEX

Children were asked how many close male and female friends they have at present. The response options ranged from 'none' to 'three or more'. The findings here present the percentage who reported having three or more friends of the same sex.

Findings

Between 2002 and 2018 there was a small decrease in the percentage of girls who reported having three or more close friends of the same sex, the trend was stable for boys. The decrease is most evident among older girls and girls in the middle social class groups.

International ranking

No internationally comparable data were available.

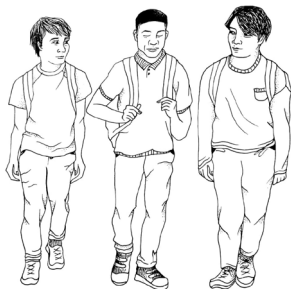


Figure 27: Percentage of 10-17 year olds who reported having three or more friends of the same sex at present, overall and by gender from 2002-2018

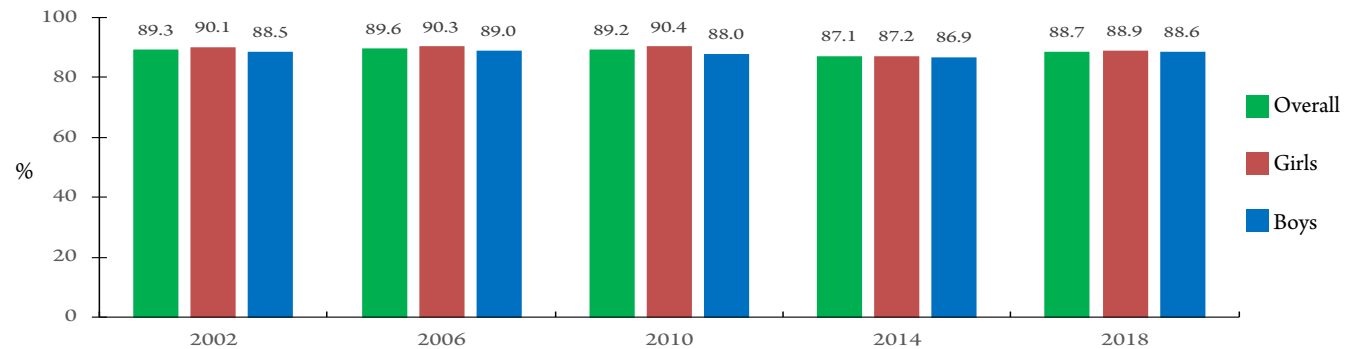


Table 27: Percentage of 10-17 year old girls and boys who reported having three or more friends of the same sex at present, by age group and social class from 2002-2018

		2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	Trend
Girls	10 to 11	89.6	90.2	86.5	90.5	90.0	-
	12 to 14	91.2	90.8	91.2	88.7	91.1	-
	15 to 17	89.5	89.8	91.0	84.5	85.8	↓
Boys	10 to 11	89.1	89.3	86.8	88.8	92.2	↑
	12 to 14	89.7	89.7	90.0	88.9	90.3	-
	15 to 17	87.2	88.3	86.4	84.2	84.1	↓
Girls	SC 1-2	90.8	90.7	91.3	88.1	90.3	-
	SC 3-4	90.2	90.5	89.8	87.9	88.5	↓
	SC 5-6	87.7	91.0	90.1	86.5	87.5	-
Boys	SC 1-2	87.9	89.4	89.2	87.6	90.0	-
	SC 3-4	89.9	89.1	88.6	88.5	89.8	-
	SC 5-6	88.7	91.2	86.2	86.6	84.4	-

EVENINGS OUT WITH FRIENDS

Children were asked how many evenings per week they usually spend out with friends. The response options ranged from '0 evenings' to '7 evenings'. The findings here present the percentage of children who reported spending four or more evenings per week out with friends.

Findings

Between 1998 and 2018 there was a small increase in the percentage of girls who reported spending four or more evenings per week out with friends, and a small decrease for boys. The increase is most evident among girls aged 12-14 and girls in the highest social class group. The decrease is most evident among younger boys and boys in the lower and middle social class groups.

International ranking

No internationally comparable data were available.



Figure 28: Percentage of 10-17 year olds who reported spending four or more evenings per week out with friends, overall and by gender from 1998-2018

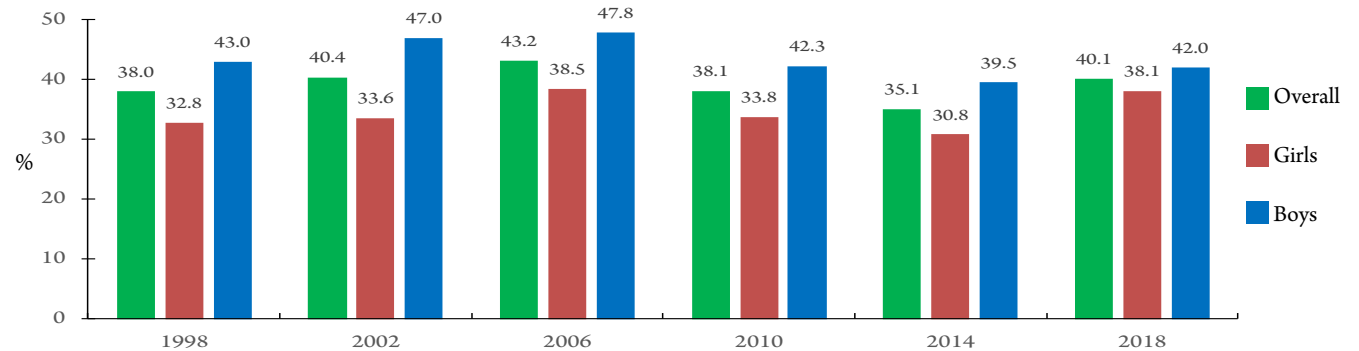


Table 28: Percentage of 10-17 year old girls and boys who reported spending four or more evenings per week out with friends, by age group and social class from 1998-2018

		1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	Trend
Girls	10 to 11	38.0	35.0	41.0	44.5	41.7	38.4	-
	12 to 14	34.9	35.3	41.0	35.7	33.3	39.9	↑
	15 to 17	27.9	31.1	34.5	28.1	24.2	36.3	-
Boys	10 to 11	44.7	46.0	50.8	43.3	39.8	39.0	↓
	12 to 14	46.0	50.8	49.4	44.6	43.4	43.5	↓
	15 to 17	39.3	44.1	44.4	39.5	35.3	42.7	-
Girls	SC 1-2	23.2	26.9	28.4	26.8	22.6	36.1	↑↑↑
	SC 3-4	38.5	37.4	41.9	37.3	33.7	39.7	-
	SC 5-6	38.8	41.3	47.0	43.1	40.5	37.8	-
Boys	SC 1-2	32.9	42.2	37.3	36.9	29.6	39.2	-
	SC 3-4	49.4	49.2	52.8	45.3	43.5	44.8	↓
	SC 5-6	47.1	54.3	53.7	45.8	44.8	43.6	↓

COMMUNICATION WITH FRIENDS OF THE SAME SEX

Children were asked how easy it is to talk to friends of the same sex about things that really bother them. The response options ranged from 'very difficult' to 'very easy'. The findings here present the percentage of children who reported it is easy or very easy to talk to friends of the same sex.

Findings

Between 1998 and 2018 there was a small decrease in the percentage of girls who reported finding it easy to talk to friends of the same sex about things that really bother them, and there was a small increase for boys. The increase for boys is evident in all age groups and the higher social class groups. The decrease for girls is evident in the eldest age group and the middle social class group.

International ranking

No internationally comparable data were available.



Figure 29: Percentage of 10-17 year olds who reported finding it easy to talk to friends of the same sex about things that really bother them, overall and by gender from 1998-2018

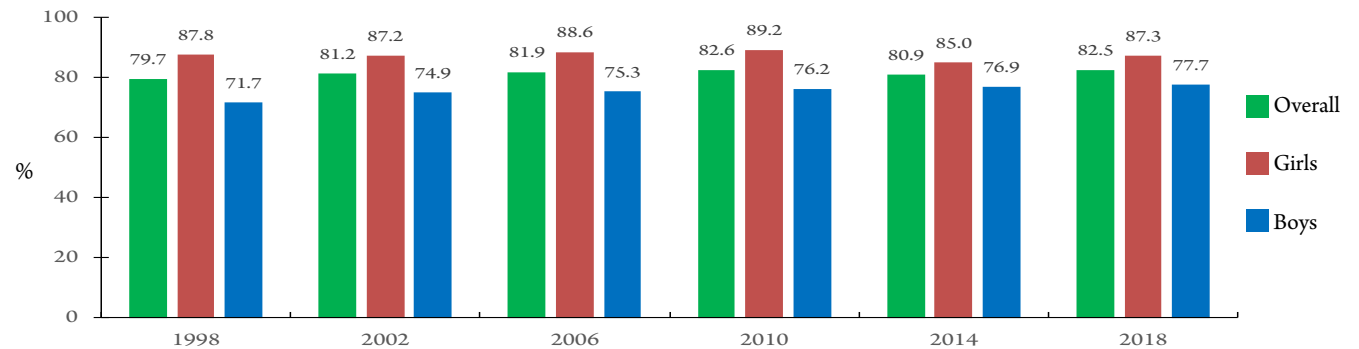


Table 29: Percentage of 10-17 year old girls and boys who reported finding it easy to talk to friends of the same sex about things that really bother them, by age group and social class from 1998-2018

		1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	Trend
Girls	10 to 11	78.1	83.4	86.7	81.7	81.8	83.8	-
	12 to 14	87.8	86.8	90.0	90.1	85.7	88.2	-
	15 to 17	92.8	89.6	88.2	90.8	85.3	87.7	↓
Boys	10 to 11	66.2	76.2	74.0	72.1	78.8	76.1	↑
	12 to 14	73.8	74.5	77.2	76.3	78.2	78.1	↑
	15 to 17	72.5	74.7	74.3	77.4	75.1	77.9	↑
Girls	SC 1-2	86.8	86.7	87.5	90.2	85.2	87.9	-
	SC 3-4	89.0	89.1	89.2	88.8	85.9	87.6	↓
	SC 5-6	88.5	84.2	89.2	89.6	85.2	87.7	-
Boys	SC 1-2	72.6	73.6	74.5	75.1	75.9	78.0	↑
	SC 3-4	72.5	77.8	76.7	77.7	79.4	77.3	↑
	SC 5-6	68.3	76.0	74.0	75.7	74.0	74.7	-

FEEL SAFE IN LOCAL AREA

Children were asked if they generally feel safe in the area where they live. The response options ranged from 'rarely or never' to 'always'. The findings here present the percentage of children who reported always feeling safe in the area where they live.

Findings

Between 2002 and 2018 there was a small decrease in the percentage of girls who reported always feeling safe in the area where they live, the trend was stable for boys. The decrease is most evident among older girls and girls in lower social class groups.

International ranking

No internationally comparable data were available.

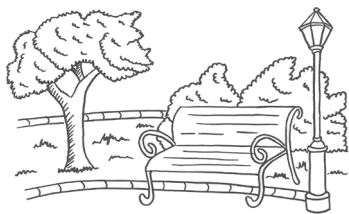


Figure 30: Percentage of 10-17 year olds who reported always feeling safe in the area where they live, overall and by gender from 2002-2018

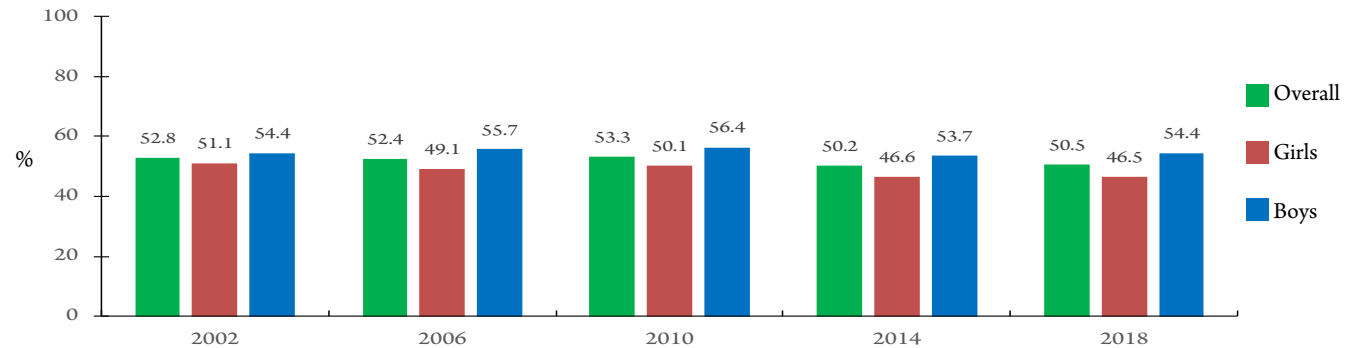


Table 30: Percentage of 10-17 year old girls and boys who reported always feeling safe in the area where they live, by age group and social class from 2002-2018

		2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	Trend
Girls	10 to 11	57.3	55.4	59.2	57.6	60.1	-
	12 to 14	50.5	51.4	53.6	49.8	48.0	↓
	15 to 17	48.0	42.9	43.2	39.3	39.7	↓
Boys	10 to 11	58.1	55.8	60.7	58.8	62.4	↑
	12 to 14	53.2	56.1	57.9	54.9	53.1	-
	15 to 17	53.1	55.3	53.3	50.6	52.3	-
Girls	SC 1-2	50.5	50.0	51.9	50.6	48.9	-
	SC 3-4	52.3	48.8	48.7	43.9	45.4	↓
	SC 5-6	49.2	50.0	48.4	40.7	42.4	↓
Boys	SC 1-2	55.6	59.5	58.6	57.7	58.5	-
	SC 3-4	54.3	53.7	55.1	53.5	50.8	-
	SC 5-6	54.0	52.2	54.0	47.1	50.6	-

GOOD PLACES TO SPEND FREE TIME

Children were asked if there are good places in the local area to spend their free time. The response options ranged from 'strongly disagree' to 'strongly agree'. The findings here present the percentage of children who reported that they agree or strongly agree.

Findings

Between 2002 and 2018 there was a moderate increase in the percentage of girls and boys who reported that there are good places in the local area to spend their free time. The increase is evident across all age and social class groups.

International ranking

No internationally comparable data were available.

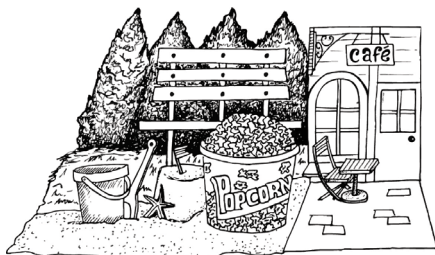


Figure 31: Percentage of 10-17 year olds who reported that there are good places in the local area to spend their free time, overall and by gender from 2002-2018

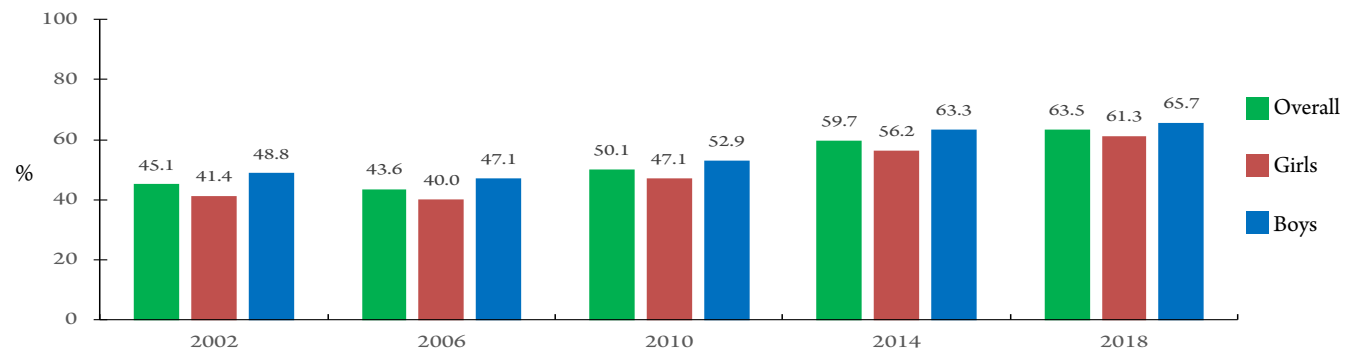


Table 31: Percentage of 10-17 year old girls and boys who reported that there are good places in the local area to spend their free time, by age group and social class from 2002-2018

		2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	Trend
Girls	10 to 11	58.3	53.7	61.5	73.3	78.1	↑↑
	12 to 14	42.8	42.6	53.5	62.5	66.2	↑↑↑
	15 to 17	29.9	29.0	35.6	43.7	49.9	↑↑↑
Boys	10 to 11	61.5	56.1	66.0	75.0	79.3	↑↑
	12 to 14	53.6	50.8	57.1	69.6	69.6	↑↑
	15 to 17	36.5	37.7	43.9	52.8	55.7	↑↑↑
Girls	SC 1-2	38.5	38.0	46.0	54.8	62.4	↑↑↑
	SC 3-4	43.2	38.5	47.7	56.8	58.8	↑↑
	SC 5-6	45.9	43.9	43.8	57.1	61.3	↑↑
Boys	SC 1-2	50.6	45.2	52.2	61.8	66.0	↑↑
	SC 3-4	49.2	46.6	52.6	63.2	63.7	↑↑
	SC 5-6	45.2	51.4	53.8	63.9	64.6	↑↑

HELP OR FAVOURS FROM NEIGHBOURS

Children were asked if they could ask for help or a favour from neighbours. The response options ranged from 'strongly disagree' to 'strongly agree'. The findings here present the percentage of children who reported that they agree or strongly agree that they could ask for help or a favour from neighbours.

Findings

Between 2002 and 2018 there was a small decrease in the percentage of girls and boys who reported that they could ask for help or a favour from neighbours. The decrease is evident across all age and social class groups.

International ranking

No internationally comparable data were available.

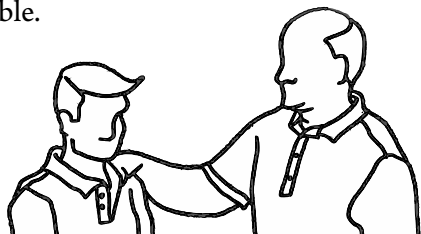


Figure 32: Percentage of 10-17 year olds who reported they could ask for help or a favour from neighbours, overall and by gender from 2002-2018

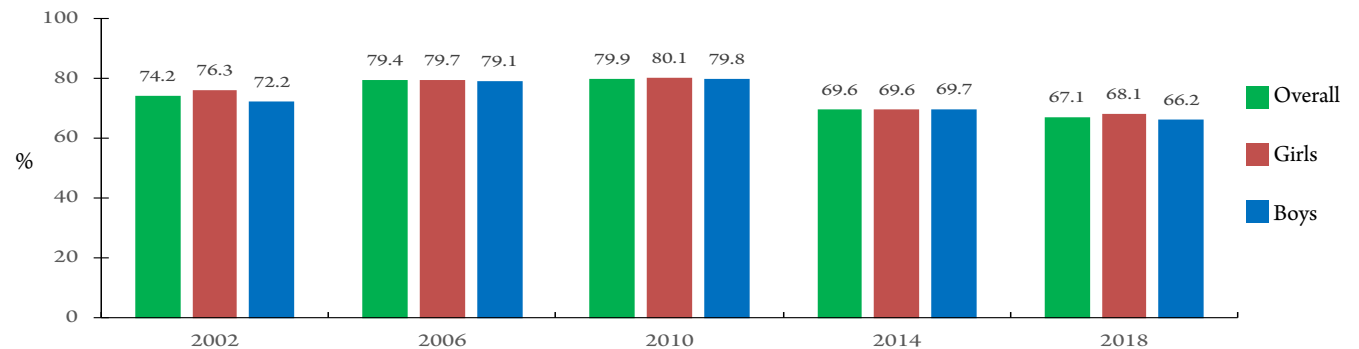


Table 32: Percentage of 10-17 year old girls and boys who reported they could ask for help or a favour from neighbours, by age group and social class from 2002-2018

		2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	Trend
Girls	10 to 11	79.3	85.6	83.8	78.4	78.8	↓
	12 to 14	75.8	80.4	81.9	71.6	69.5	↓
	15 to 17	74.9	75.4	77.0	64.4	62.6	↓
Boys	10 to 11	77.4	86.5	83.1	75.9	70.9	↓
	12 to 14	72.1	79.6	80.3	71.2	67.3	↓
	15 to 17	68.9	73.9	77.9	66.0	63.0	↓
Girls	SC 1-2	75.7	80.3	81.7	71.0	69.5	↓
	SC 3-4	77.4	80.3	80.3	70.0	67.9	↓
	SC 5-6	77.7	77.9	76.6	69.3	68.8	↓
Boys	SC 1-2	72.8	81.5	81.9	71.5	67.4	↓
	SC 3-4	73.8	78.4	80.4	71.9	67.3	↓
	SC 5-6	71.7	82.7	78.2	66.9	65.6	↓

Table 33: Description of the Irish HBSC surveys between 1998-2018 by gender, age group and social class (unweighted numbers, weighted percentages)

		1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	2018
	N*	8,461	8,363	10,215	12,512	10,368	13,452
		n (%)					
Gender	Girls	4,300 (48.7)	4,762 (48.7)	4,990 (48.7)	6,002 (48.6)	6,067 (49.1)	6,941 (49.3)
	Boys	4,125 (51.3)	3,588 (51.3)	5,214 (51.3)	6,406 (51.4)	4,276 (50.9)	6,469 (50.7)
Age group	10-11	1,641 (22.8)	1,306 (24.0)	1,371 (24.3)	1,613 (15.3)	1,555 (14.7)	3,663 (26.8)
	12-14	4,215 (36.6)	3,931 (36.7)	4,845 (37.2)	6,088 (43.0)	4,777 (43.2)	5,884 (37.0)
	15-17	2,472 (40.6)	2,985 (39.4)	3,934 (38.5)	4,499 (41.7)	4,036 (42.1)	3,905 (36.2)
Social class	SC 1-2	3,399 (44.8)	3,690 (48.8)	3,936 (42.7)	5,485 (53.8)	4,288 (49.3)	6,312 (53.3)
	SC 3-4	2,857 (37.2)	2,920 (37.8)	3,781 (43.0)	3,748 (36.0)	3,349 (39.1)	4,166 (35.9)
	SC 5-6	1,374 (18.0)	1,003 (13.4)	1,256 (14.3)	1,066 (10.2)	1,008 (11.6)	1,287 (10.8)

*of those aged 10-17 years

1. The data presented in this report have been weighted for all six survey cycles. The data were probability weighted prior to analysis to account for any gender imbalances within survey cycles. The sample weights were constructed using appropriate census data (i.e. the nearest previous census to each survey cycle) and accounted for using gender, age group and region. The weights were constructed as $W=1/P$, where W can be interpreted as the inverse selection probability. All analyses within the report were conducted on weighted data.
2. Due to variations in missing data by variable and over time, the case base varies within each survey cycle for results stratified by gender, age group and social class.
3. The 26 countries with comparable international data are: Austria, Belgium (Flemish-speaking region), Belgium (French-speaking region), Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Greenland, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland and Wales. Comparing Ireland to these 26 countries is comparable with the approach taken in previous Irish HBSC trends reports. 2013 report: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbhc/documents/hbhc-trends2013.pdf> 2017 report: [http://www.nuigalway.ie/media/healthpromotion-researchcentre/hbhcdocs/nationalreports/HBSC-Trends-Report-2017-\(web\).pdf](http://www.nuigalway.ie/media/healthpromotion-researchcentre/hbhcdocs/nationalreports/HBSC-Trends-Report-2017-(web).pdf)
4. The study protocol which details the methodological procedures applied across countries can be found at: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLS-dyT4GdRKMETrhqGCQ80GqB0QEAAesDtrqwq5ZvMq42cdGk9g/view-form?c=0&w=1>
5. Current smoker: No data for England in 1998. Due to a change in the mandatory question only 18 countries are included in the 2018 HBSC AVG% and HBSC rank: Austria, Belgium (Flemish-speaking region), Belgium (French-speaking region), Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Greenland, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Scotland, Switzerland, Wales.
6. Bullying others: No data for Israel in 2006; No data for Greenland or Switzerland in 2014.
7. On a diet: No data for Hungary in 2002.
8. Fruit consumption: No data for Israel in 2018.
9. Tooth brushing: No data available in 2002.
10. Vigorous exercise: No data for Belgium (French-speaking region) in 2014. There were no internationally comparative data for 1998 or 2002.
11. Had sex and condom use: There are 35 countries that included these questions across 2010, 2014 and 2018. These include: Armenia, Austria, Belgium (Flemish-speaking region), Belgium (French-speaking region), Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Scotland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, Wales.
12. Condom use: There has been a change in the way in the question was asked. Evidence on comparability can be found at: <https://bmcpublihealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-018-5217-z>. Young people were also asked whether they used the contraceptive pill, or any other contraceptive method, at last intercourse.
13. Feeling low: No data for Finland in 2014.
14. Times injured: No data for Israel in 2018.
15. Self-rated health: No data for France in 2002
16. Life satisfaction: No data for Belgium (French-speaking region) in 2002 or 2006; No data for Greece in 2002.
17. Communication with mother: No data for Greenland in 2006.
18. Communication with father: No data for Greenland in 2006.
19. Pressured by school work: No data for Lithuania in 1998; No data for Greenland in 2014.

