

STATE OF THE NATIONS CHILDREN: KEY FINDINGS 2020

Part I: Key Findings

- In 2019, there were 1,203,103 children living in Ireland. This accounted for 24.4% of the total population (see Table 1).
- In 2018, 301 children died in Ireland. This equated to an overall mortality rate of 2.51 per 10,000 (see Table 4).
- In 2016, 16.5% of children lived in a lone-parent household (see Table 9).
- In 2016, the mothers of 8.1% of children had either no formal education or primary education only; and 50.6% of children had a mother whose highest level of education was either a lower secondary or upper-secondary education (see Table 12).
- In 2016, there were 14,223 Traveller children in Ireland. This accounted for 1.2% of the total child population and 45.9% of the total Traveller population (see Table 15).
- In 2016, there were 79,536 foreign national children in Ireland. This accounted for 6.6% of the child population (see Table 17).
- In 2016, there were 75,963 children with a disability in Ireland. This accounted for 6.4% of the child population (see Table 20).
- In 2016, there were 6,108 children providing regular unpaid personal help for a friend or family member with a long-term illness, health problem or disability in Ireland. This accounted for 0.5% of the child population (see Table 22).

Part II: Key Findings

- In 2018, 83.3% of children aged 10-17 reported finding it easy to talk to their mother when something is really bothering them. This changed only marginally between 2014 and 2018 (see Table 24).
- In 2018, 67.9% of children aged 10-17 reported finding it easy to talk to their father when something is really bothering them. This decreased between 2014 and 2018 (see Table 27).
- In 2018, 69.6% of children aged 15 reported that their parents spend time just talking with them several times a week (see Table 30).
- In 2018, 51.9% of children aged 15 reported that their parents discuss with them how well they are doing at school several times a week (see Table 32).
- In 2018, 69.1% of children aged 15 reported that their parents eat a main meal with them several times a week.
- In 2018, 89.3% of children aged 10-17 reported having three or more friends of the same gender. This increased between 2014 and 2018 (see Table 36).
- In 2018, 71.7% of children aged 10-17 reported having a pet of their own or a pet in the family. This decreased between 2014 and 2018 (see Table 39).
- In 2018, 31.1% of children aged 10-17 reported having been bullied at school in the past couple of months. This increased between 2014 and 2018 (see Table 42).

Part III: Key Findings

- For the 2018/19 pre-school year, there were 4,216 pre-school services under contract to deliver the ECCE Programme to 116,116 children. Of these pre-school services, 36.3% met the basic capitation status and 63.7% met the higher capitation status (see Tables 45 & 46).
- Over the period 2013 to 2017, the percentage of primary school children who were absent from school for 20 days or more increased from 10.4% to 11.8% (see Table 47).
- Over the period 2013 to 2017, the percentage of post-primary school children who were absent from school for 20 days or more declined from 15.4% to 14.7% (see Table 50).
- The Leaving Certificate retention rate for children entering secondary school in 2011 was 91.6%, i.e. out of the 59,641 enrolled on 30 September 2011 in year one of the Junior Cycle, 54,631 sat the Leaving Certificate by 2016 or 2017 (see Figure 10).
- In 2018, 15 year-old children in Ireland achieved a mean score of 518.1 on the reading literacy scale (see Table 55).
- In 2018, 15 year-old children in Ireland achieved a mean score of 499.6 on the mathematics literacy scale (see Table 57).
- In 2018, 15 year-old children in Ireland achieved a mean score of 496.1 on the science literacy scale (see Table 59).
- In 2017, 5.9% of all babies born were in the low birth weight category (weighing less than 2,500 grams) (see Table 61).
- In 2017, 59.7% of infants were breastfed on discharge from hospital. This includes 48.3% who were breastfed exclusively and a further 11.4% who were fed using a combination of bottle and breastfeeding (see Table 63).

- In 2018, there were 150,686 hospital discharges of children (see Table 65).
- In 2018, there were 13,683 hospital discharges of children with a principal diagnosis of 'injury, poisoning, and certain other consequences of external causes' (see Table 67).
- In 2015, 77% of children were classified as being in the 'normal' weight category, according to the International Obesity Taskforce Standards. 16.9% were classified as either 'overweight' or 'obese' (see Table 69).
- In 2017, there were 8,809 children registered as having an intellectual disability (see Table 70).
- In 2017, there were 5,041 children registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability (see Table 72).
- In 2019 Q2, there were 15,401 child welfare and protection referrals to Tusla, the Child and Family Agency (see Table 74).
- In 2018, 32.6% of children aged 10-17 reported students at their school participate in making the school rules. This decreased between 2014 and 2018 (see Table 76).
- In 2018, 30.8% of children aged 15 reported that reading is one of their favourite hobbies (see Table 79).
- In 2018, 2.4% of children aged 10-17 reported smoking cigarettes every week. This decreased between 2014 and 2018 (see Table 81).
- In 2018, 89.4% of children aged 10-17 reported never having smoked cigarettes. This increased between 2014 and 2018 (see Table 84).
- In 2018, 6.9% of children aged 10-17 reported having been drunk at least once in the past 30 days. This decreased between 2014 and 2018 (see Table 87).
- In 2018, 69.4% of children aged 10-17 reported never having had an alcoholic drink. This increased between 2014 and 2018 (see Table 90).

- In 2018, 7.8% of children aged 10-17 reported having taken cannabis at least once in their lifetime. This decreased between 2014 and 2018 (see Table 93).
- In 2017, there were 211 births to mothers aged 10-17 (see Table 96).
- In 2018, 24.8% of children aged 15-17 reported having ever had sex. This decreased between 2014 and 2018 (see Table 98).
- In 2018 57.6% of children aged 10-17 reported feeling happy with the way they are. This changed only marginally between 2014 and 2018 (see Table 101).
- In 2018, 48.8% of children aged 10-17 reported being happy with their lives at present. This decreased between 2014 and 2018 (see Table 104).
- In 2018, there were 7 suicides by children aged 10-17 (see Table 107).
- In 2017, the rate (per 100,000) of children and young people aged 10-24 presenting at a hospital emergency department following self-harm was 384 (see Table 109).
- In 2018, 51.1% of children aged 10-17 reported being physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on more than four days per week. This changed only marginally between 2014 and 2018 (see Table 111).
- In 2018, 78.2% of children aged 10-17 reported eating breakfast on five or more days per week. This increased between 2014 and 2018 (see Table 114).
- In 2018, 6.5% of children aged 10-17 reported drinking soft drinks that contain sugar at least once a day. This decreased between 2014 and 2018 (see Table 117).

Part IV: Key Findings

- Public expenditure on educational institutions between primary and tertiary level decreased from 5.21% of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2013 to 3.58% in 2016 (see Figure 27).
- In 2018, 14% of the population were considered to be at risk of poverty (see Table 122).
- In 2018, 5.6% of the population experienced consistent poverty (see Table 123).
- In 2017, there were 42,911 households with children identified as being in need of social housing (see Table 124).
- In 2018, 90.2% of children aged 10-17 reported feeling safe in the area where they live. This increased between 2014 and 2018 (see Table 126).
- In 2018, 67.2% of children aged 10-17 reported that there are good places in their area to spend their free time. This increased between 2014 and 2018 (see Table 129).
- In 2016, 9,451 children aged 10-17 were referred to the Garda diversion programme. Some children were referred more than once and so the total number of referrals was 17,615 (see Table 132).
- In 2017, 87.3% of pregnant women attended for antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy (see Table 134).
- In 2017, 98.3% of newborns were visited by a public health nurse within 72 hours of discharge from hospital for the first time (see Table 135).
- In 2017, 92.8% of newborn children had their 7-9 month developmental check on time.

- In 2016, for children at twelve months of age, uptake rates among Local Health Offices (LHOs) for D₃, P₃, T₃, and Polio₃ ranged from 81% to 96% (see Table 138).
- In 2016, for children at 24 months of age, uptake rates among Local Health Offices (LHOs) for D₃, P₃, T₃, Polio₃, HepB₃, and Hib₃ ranged from 91% to 98% (see Table 139).
- As of December 2019, there were 6,861 children on an inpatient/day case (IPDC) waiting list and 81,316 children on an outpatient (OP) waiting list (see Tables 141 and 142).
- In 2018, there were 5,974 children in the care of Tusla, the Child and Family Agency (see Table 143).
- In 2018, there were 408 admissions of children to psychiatric hospitals/units and child and adolescent units (see Table 145).

Part I: Sociodemographics

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Child Population

Last Updated: 2020-03-09

Measure: The number of children

- In 2019, there were 1,203,103 children living in Ireland. This accounted for 24.4% of the total population.
- Of the total child population in 2019, 614,895 were male and 588,208 were female (see Table 1).

Table 1: Number of children under 18, by age and gender (2019)

	Male	Female	Total
Population under 18	614,895	588,208	1,203,103
All ages	2,438,006	2,483,490	4,921,496
Age			
Under 1 year	31,225	30,171	61,396
1 year	31,538	30,401	61,939
2 years	33,068	31,552	64,620
3 years	32,181	30,681	62,862
4 years	33,063	31,368	64,431
5 years	34,358	32,465	66,823
6 years	35,072	33,475	68,547
7 years	36,468	34,828	71,296
8 years	37,046	35,726	72,772
9 years	37,281	35,538	72,819
10 years	37,097	35,389	72,486
11 years	36,754	35,125	71,879
12 years	34,619	32,761	67,380
13 years	33,434	31,798	65,232
14 years	33,303	31,139	64,442
15 years	33,023	31,833	64,856
16 years	32,769	32,073	64,842
17 years	32,596	31,885	64,481

Source: Population and Migration Estimates (CSO)

- The percentage of the population under 18 decreased from 36.2% in 1981 to 24.4% in 2019 (see Table 2).
- Between 2016 and 2019 the number of children increased by 1.1%, from 1,190,502 to 1,203,103. In the 38 year period between 1981 and 2019, the number of children decreased by 3.5%, from 1,246,443 to 1,203,103.

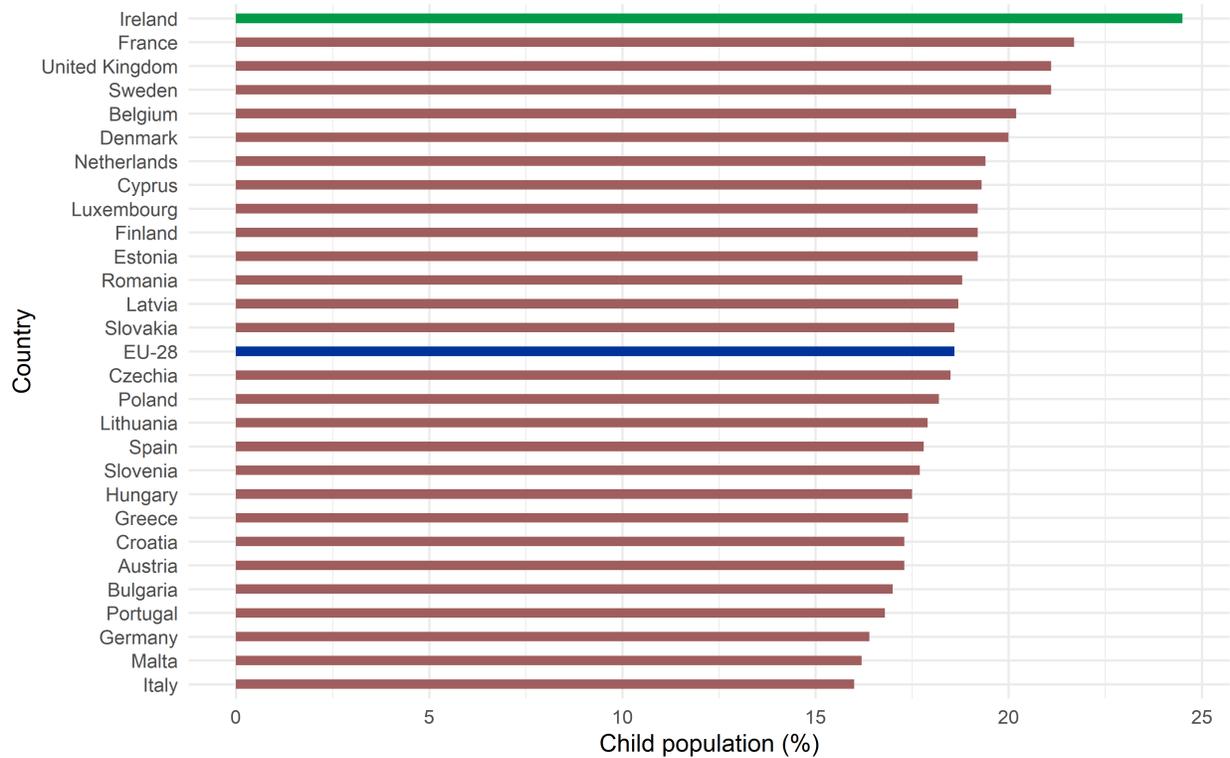
Table 2: Number of children and percentage of population under 18, by gender, selected years (1981-2019)

Year	Male	% of all males	Female	% of all females	Total	% of all ages
1981	638,768	36.9	607,675	35.5	1,246,443	36.2
1986	630,985	35.7	599,165	33.8	1,230,150	34.7
1991	587,655	33.5	557,738	31.5	1,145,393	32.5
1996	550,389	30.6	521,583	28.6	1,071,972	29.6
2002	519,483	26.7	493,548	25.0	1,013,031	25.9
2006	531,506	25.1	505,246	23.9	1,036,752	24.5
2011	586,050	25.8	558,463	24.2	1,144,513	25.0
2016	608,785	25.9	581,717	24.2	1,190,502	25.0
2017	609,316	25.7	583,593	24.1	1,192,909	24.9
2018	613,099	25.5	586,827	23.9	1,199,926	24.7
2019	614,895	25.2	588,208	23.7	1,203,103	24.4

Source: Census of the Population and Population and Migration Estimates (CSO)

- In 2019, Ireland had the highest estimated proportion of children in the European Union (24.5%). The EU-28 average was 18.6%.

Figure 1: Child population as a percentage of total population in EU-28 countries (2019)



Source: Eurostat

Table 3: Population in the EU-28, by country (January 2019)

	Total Population	0-4 years		5-9 years		10-14 years		15-17 years		% under 18
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
EU-28	513,471,676	13,118,501	12,463,582	13,845,766	13,141,833	13,949,702	13,228,376	8,161,836	7,709,802	18.6
Country										
Austria	8,858,775	224,072	211,061	216,360	203,926	217,140	206,133	132,591	124,675	17.3
Belgium	11,455,519	315,177	300,999	340,923	325,662	336,284	320,521	191,574	182,362	20.2
Bulgaria	7,000,039	167,547	158,178	176,901	167,766	172,140	162,313	95,486	89,414	17.0
Croatia	4,076,246	95,162	89,965	104,128	98,066	103,125	97,340	60,345	57,367	17.3
Cyprus	875,899	24,016	22,614	24,966	24,138	23,200	22,270	14,101	13,933	19.3
Czechia	10,649,800	290,695	276,477	292,895	279,079	284,120	269,794	144,869	137,192	18.5
Denmark	5,806,081	156,694	148,269	160,513	152,740	173,903	165,351	103,882	99,032	20.0
Estonia	1,324,820	36,506	34,229	37,955	36,221	37,358	35,154	18,881	18,141	19.2
Finland	5,517,919	137,057	130,629	158,005	151,005	156,182	149,356	89,910	85,947	19.2
France	67,012,883	1,908,282	1,833,425	2,106,605	2,015,946	2,138,896	2,044,716	1,281,610	1,217,562	21.7
Germany	83,019,213	2,014,097	1,912,300	1,882,175	1,780,063	1,904,430	1,797,750	1,192,241	1,114,372	16.4
Greece	10,724,599	239,732	226,944	271,053	256,980	278,937	263,429	168,327	156,338	17.4
Hungary	9,772,756	240,537	228,068	235,885	223,294	253,532	240,423	148,775	140,938	17.5
Ireland	4,904,240	160,964	154,463	180,638	172,765	173,776	165,152	98,617	94,627	24.5
Italy	60,359,546	1,216,600	1,151,086	1,400,494	1,322,302	1,478,693	1,393,040	885,237	831,682	16.0
Latvia	1,919,968	55,188	50,980	50,564	47,657	51,525	49,166	27,514	26,219	18.7
Lithuania	2,794,184	75,895	71,806	74,096	70,592	66,121	63,347	39,859	37,859	17.9
Luxembourg	613,894	16,661	15,931	17,075	16,280	16,801	15,859	9,939	9,333	19.2
Malta	493,559	12,177	11,330	11,710	11,090	10,997	10,200	6,508	6,184	16.2
Netherlands	17,282,163	443,658	422,404	470,233	447,209	489,531	466,784	316,536	301,400	19.4
Poland	37,972,812	985,865	933,153	1,023,244	968,936	985,833	936,760	544,190	516,879	18.2
Portugal	10,276,617	220,012	210,449	238,215	228,539	260,712	249,639	164,924	157,185	16.8
Romania	19,414,458	511,926	487,957	507,343	478,923	542,599	513,494	316,035	298,512	18.8
Slovakia	5,450,421	149,533	141,999	149,972	142,850	140,628	133,060	79,108	74,809	18.6
Slovenia	2,080,908	52,683	49,623	57,090	53,627	51,616	49,067	28,480	26,547	17.7
Spain	46,937,060	1,064,229	1,003,274	1,215,470	1,141,416	1,292,421	1,213,307	724,084	682,193	17.8
Sweden	10,230,185	311,036	293,462	318,534	300,939	306,645	289,113	173,951	161,699	21.1
United Kingdom	66,647,112	1,992,500	1,892,507	2,122,724	2,023,822	2,002,557	1,905,838	1,104,262	1,047,401	21.1

Source: Eurostat

Child Mortality

Measure: The number of deaths of children

- In 2018, 301 children died in Ireland. This equated to an overall mortality rate of 2.51 per 10,000.
- 63.5% of all child deaths occurred in the period of infancy (age less than one year) (see Table 4).

Table 4: Number and rate (per 10,000) of deaths of children, by age (2014-2018)

	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	No.	Rate								
Total	353	3.00	326	2.76	304	2.55	296	2.48	301	2.51
Age										
Under 1	224	33.29	225	34.33	208	32.58	188	30.41	187	30.65
1 - 4	40	1.44	32	1.17	29	1.08	31	1.19	27	1.05
5 - 9	31	0.91	20	0.57	12	0.34	27	0.75	19	0.53
10 - 14	27	0.87	18	0.57	22	0.69	18	0.56	35	1.05
15 - 17	31	1.74	31	1.71	33	1.79	32	1.72	33	1.73

Source: Vital Statistics (CSO)

- The mortality rate was higher for boys (2.61 per 10,000) than for girls (2.4 per 10,000). The mortality rates have consistently been higher for boys than girls over the period 2015-2018.

Table 5: Number and rate (per 10,000) of deaths of children, by gender (2015-2018)

	2015		2016		2017		2018	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Total	326	2.76	304	2.55	296	2.48	301	2.51
Sex								
Male	198	3.27	174	2.86	152	2.49	160	2.61
Female	128	2.21	130	2.23	144	2.47	141	2.40

Source: Vital Statistics (CSO)

- In 2018, the largest single cause of child deaths was certain conditions in the perinatal period, followed by congenital malformations.

Table 6: Number of deaths of children, by cause of death and age (2018)

	< 1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 17	0 - 17
Total	187	27	19	35	33	301
Main cause of death						
Malignant neoplasms	1	4	6	10	7	28
Certain conditions in the perinatal period	87	0	0	0	0	87
Congenital malformations	72	2	4	2	2	82
Sudden infant death syndrome	20	0	0	0	0	20
External causes of morbidity and mortality	0	7	2	6	9	24
Other causes of death	7	14	7	17	15	60

Source: Vital Statistics (CSO)

- In 2018, the infant mortality rate across the EU-28 ranged from 1.6 per 1,000 in Estonia to 6 per 1,000 in Romania (see Table 7). The infant mortality rate in Ireland was 2.9 per 1,000. This was below the EU-28 average of 3.5.
- In 2018, the child mortality rate across the EU-28 was higher for boys than for girls in all age groups except for the following: 0-4 years and 10-14 years (see Table 8). Child mortality rates were also substantially higher in the age group 0-4 years than for any other age-group.

Table 7: Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births in the EU-28), by country (1998, 2008 and 2018)

	1998	2008	2018
EU-28	6.5	4.2	3.5
Country			
Austria	4.9	3.7	2.7
Belgium	5.2	3.8	3.8
Bulgaria	14.4	8.6	5.8
Croatia	8.2	4.5	4.2
Cyprus	7.0	3.5	2.4
Czechia	5.2	2.8	2.6
Denmark	4.7	4.0	3.7
Estonia	9.4	5.0	1.6
Finland	4.2	2.6	2.1
France	4.8	3.8	3.8
Germany	4.7	3.5	3.2
Greece	6.7	2.7	3.5
Hungary	9.7	5.6	3.3
Ireland	5.9	3.4	2.9
Italy	5.1	3.1	2.8
Latvia	15.0	6.6	3.2
Lithuania	9.3	5.5	3.4
Luxembourg	5.0	1.8	4.3
Malta	7.3	8.5	5.6
Netherlands	5.2	3.8	3.5
Poland	9.5	5.6	3.8
Portugal	6.0	3.3	3.3
Romania	20.5	11.0	6.0
Slovakia	8.8	5.9	5.0
Slovenia	5.2	2.4	1.7
Spain	4.9	3.3	2.7
Sweden	3.5	2.5	2.0
United Kingdom	5.7	4.6	3.9

Source: Eurostat

Table 8: Rate (per 10,000) of deaths aged 0-17 years across selected countries in EU-28, by age and gender (2018)

	Total	0-4 years		5-9 years		10-14 years		15-17 years	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
EU-28	3.0	8.8	7.3	0.8	0.7	1.1	0.8	0.7	1.4
Country									
Austria	2.6	7.0	5.6	0.8	0.6	1.0	0.6	0.6	2.0
Belgium	3.0	9.2	7.5	0.9	0.7	1.1	0.6	0.7	1.2
Bulgaria	5.5	14.6	12.9	1.9	1.5	3.0	1.3	1.5	2.6
Croatia	3.6	12.7	6.9	1.2	0.6	1.2	0.9	0.6	1.8
Cyprus	2.3	6.7	3.1	0.8	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.2	0.0
Czechia	2.6	6.9	6.0	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.5	1.0	1.3
Denmark	2.8	9.5	7.3	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.4	0.6	0.9
Estonia	2.6	6.6	3.8	1.0	0.3	1.1	1.8	0.3	3.9
Finland	2.0	4.8	4.6	0.5	0.4	0.8	0.7	0.4	1.6
France	3.1	9.8	8.1	0.7	0.7	1.1	0.7	0.7	1.2
Germany	3.0	8.4	7.2	0.9	0.7	1.0	0.8	0.7	1.4
Greece	2.7	8.2	6.7	0.7	0.8	1.5	0.7	0.8	0.9
Hungary	2.9	8.7	7.5	0.6	0.6	1.0	0.5	0.6	1.5
Ireland	2.3	6.5	5.8	0.4	0.2	1.2	0.9	0.2	1.2
Italy	2.2	6.7	5.5	0.9	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.6	1.0
Latvia	3.4	7.3	6.5	1.9	1.0	2.2	1.1	1.0	1.5
Lithuania	3.7	9.0	6.8	1.1	0.9	1.8	1.9	0.9	2.5
Luxembourg	3.0	9.1	9.5	0.6	0.0	1.8	0.0	0.0	1.0
Malta	3.9	15.9	9.1	0.0	1.8	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.0
Netherlands	2.7	8.6	6.9	0.7	0.8	1.0	0.5	0.8	1.4
Poland	3.6	9.9	8.3	1.0	0.8	1.5	1.3	0.8	1.9
Portugal	2.8	8.7	7.7	0.7	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.4
Romania	5.7	16.8	13.8	1.6	1.3	2.3	1.7	1.3	2.4
Slovakia	4.7	13.2	10.7	1.1	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.5	2.5
Slovenia	2.0	5.1	3.8	0.5	0.9	1.2	0.4	0.9	1.9
Spain	2.1	6.3	5.3	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.6	1.2
Sweden	2.2	5.5	4.7	0.4	0.6	1.2	1.0	0.6	1.6
United Kingdom	3.1	8.9	7.5	0.7	0.7	1.1	0.7	0.7	1.5

Source: Eurostat

Figure 2 pending

Family Structure

Measure: The number of children living in a lone-parent household in Ireland

- In 2016, 16.5% of children lived in a lone-parent household.
- 19.5% of Traveller Children, 20.9% of foreign national children, and 24.4% of children with a disability lived in a lone-parent household (see Table 9).

Table 9: Number and percentage of children living in a lone-parent household, by population group (2016)

	2016	% of all children
All children	196,008	16.5
Population groups		
Traveller children	2,767	19.5
Foreign national children	16,623	20.9
Children with a disability and/or chronic illness	18,510	24.4

Source: Census of the Population (CSO)

- 20.5% of children aged 15 - 17 lived in a lone-parent household (see Table 10).
- The percentage of boys and girls living in a lone-parent household was broadly similar.

Table 10: Number and percentage of children living in a lone parent household, by age and gender (2016)

	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	% of all boys	No.	% of all girls	No.	% of all children
All children	100,172	16.5	95,836	16.5	196,008	16.5
Age						
0 - 4	22,273	13.1	21,362	13.2	43,635	13.2
5 - 9	28,113	15.5	26,962	15.5	55,075	15.5
10 - 14	30,402	18.6	29,115	18.7	59,517	18.6
15 - 17	19,384	20.6	18,397	20.5	37,781	20.5

Source: Census of the Population (CSO)

- The percentage of children living in a lone-parent household ranged from 8% in South Dublin to 32.1% in Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown (see Table 11).

Table 11: Number and percentage of children living in a lone-parent household, by administrative county (2016)

	Children living in a lone-parent household	Percentage of all children
State	196,008	16.5
Administrative County		
Carlow	2,497	16.8
Cavan	2,757	13.1
Clare	4,362	14.2
Cork City	5,520	25.6
Cork County	14,172	12.6
Donegal	7,092	16.9
Dublin City	25,499	25.8
Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown	15,340	32.1
Fingal	13,576	16.2
Galway City	3,144	20.3
Galway County	5,489	11.4
Kerry	5,317	15.4
Kildare	8,856	14.1
Kilkenny	3,676	14.2
Laois	3,831	15.8
Leitrim	1,043	12.7
Limerick	8,187	17.4
Longford	2,023	18.0
Louth	6,504	18.6
Mayo	4,515	14.1
Meath	7,257	12.7
Monaghan	2,302	13.9
Offaly	3,278	15.5
Roscommon	2,132	13.1
Sligo	2,539	15.9
South Dublin	6,029	8.0
Tipperary	6,708	16.5
Waterford	5,609	19.1
Westmeath	3,708	15.7
Wexford	7,215	18.4
Wicklow	5,831	15.3

Source: Census of the Population (CSO)

Maternal Education Level

Measure: The percentage of children whose mothers have attained primary, lower secondary, upper secondary, or third-level education

- In 2016, the mothers of 8.1% of children had either no formal education or primary education only, and 50.6% of children had a mother whose highest level of education was either a lower secondary or upper-secondary education.
- 36.2% of Traveller children had a mother who either had no formal education or primary education only.
- 39.3% of foreign national children had a mother who had a third-level degree or higher. The national average was 38.3%.

Table 12: Percentage of population groups and educational attainment of mother (2016)

Highest level of education attained by mother	All children	Traveller children	Foreign national children	Children with a disability
All education ceased and not ceased	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Primary (including no formal education)	8.1	36.2	8.2	9.4
Lower secondary	13.3	21.6	11.4	15.8
Upper secondary	37.3	23.6	37.1	38.7
Third-level degree or higher	38.3	12.9	39.3	33.3
Other/not stated	2.9	5.8	4.1	2.8

Source: Census of the Population (CSO)

- The percentage of children whose mother had a third level degree ranged from 32.7% for children aged 15-17 to 42.8% for children aged 0-4.

Table 13: Percentage of children, by age and educational attainment of mother (2016)

Highest level of education attained by mother	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-17	All children
All education ceased and not ceased	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Primary (including no formal education)	7.4	8.0	8.5	9.0	8.1
Lower secondary	11.4	12.8	14.5	16.0	13.3
Upper secondary	35.5	36.9	38.7	39.3	37.3
Third-level degree or higher	42.8	39.3	35.4	32.7	38.3
Other/not stated	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9

Source: Census of the Population (CSO)

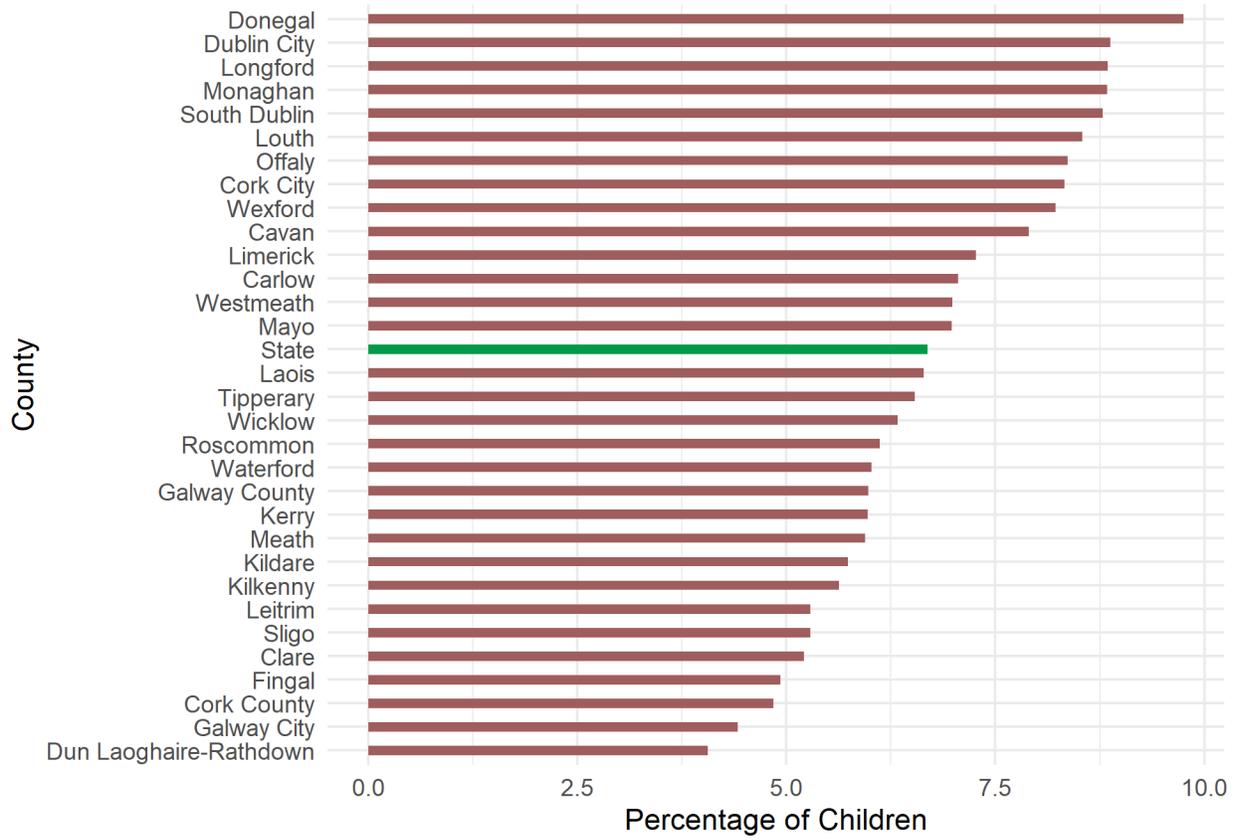
- The percentage of children whose mother had either no formal education or a primary education only ranged from 4.8% in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown to 11.6% in Donegal and Dublin City.

Table 14: Number of children, by county and educational attainment of mother (2016)

	Primary (including no formal education)	Lower secondary	Upper secondary	Third- level degree or higher	Other/not stated	All education ceased and not ceased
State	79,607	130,900	366,505	375,575	28,922	981,509
Administrative county						
Carlow	1,048	1,644	4,967	4,114	478	12,251
Cavan	1,661	2,489	7,138	5,971	588	17,847
Clare	1,595	3,113	10,042	10,194	683	25,627
Cork City	1,797	3,021	5,726	5,493	703	16,740
Cork County	5,448	11,552	37,526	39,423	2,451	96,400
Donegal	4,099	5,447	12,189	12,565	975	35,275
Dublin City	8,755	11,097	22,733	30,366	2,590	75,541
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	1,940	3,315	11,041	23,126	752	40,174
Fingal	4,119	7,583	24,917	27,158	2,258	66,035
Galway City	686	1,065	3,851	5,647	460	11,709
Galway County	2,877	4,435	15,333	17,883	910	41,438
Kerry	2,062	3,539	11,042	11,184	1,023	28,850
Kildare	3,607	6,593	19,736	20,958	1,530	52,424
Kilkenny	1,460	3,032	8,422	8,361	492	21,767
Laois	1,611	2,715	8,478	6,647	711	20,162
Leitrim	433	746	2,702	3,063	173	7,117
Limerick	3,424	5,716	14,499	13,707	1,143	38,489
Longford	992	1,240	3,666	2,970	424	9,292
Louth	2,992	4,666	10,603	9,094	771	28,126
Mayo	2,230	3,269	10,951	10,190	607	27,247
Meath	3,397	6,776	19,484	17,395	1,423	48,475
Monaghan	1,464	2,311	5,353	4,526	396	14,050
Offaly	1,767	2,888	6,989	5,416	634	17,694
Roscommon	997	1,503	5,560	5,535	358	13,953
Sligo	844	1,385	5,003	5,711	396	13,339
South Dublin	6,596	9,302	22,320	19,155	2,039	59,412
Tipperary	2,664	5,003	13,725	11,580	1,018	33,990
Waterford	1,766	3,419	9,255	8,761	690	23,891
Westmeath	1,648	2,606	7,613	6,761	720	19,348
Wexford	3,221	5,374	13,793	10,040	681	33,109
Wicklow	2,407	4,056	11,848	12,581	845	31,737

Source: Census of the Population (CSO)

Figure 3: Percentage of children whose mothers have no formal education or primary education only, by county (2016)



Source: Census of the Population (CSO)

Traveller Children

Measure: The number of Traveller children

- In 2016, there were 14,223 Traveller children in Ireland. This accounted for 1.2% of the total child population and 45.9% of the total Traveller population.
- There were 7,336 Traveller boys and 6,887 Traveller girls in Ireland in 2016 (see Table 15).

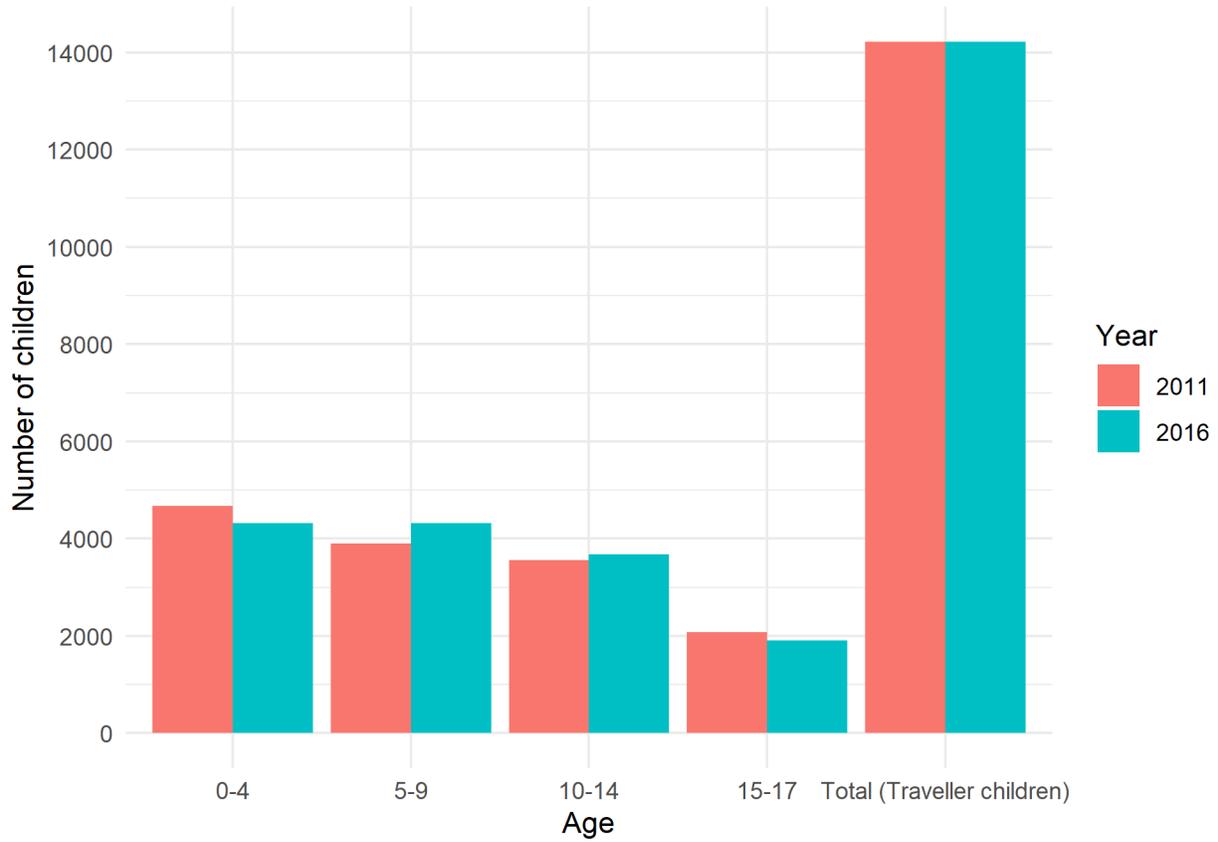
Table 15: Number of Traveller children, by age and gender (2016)

	Male	Female	Total
Total (Traveller population)	15,377	15,610	30,987
Total (Traveller children)	7,336	6,887	14,223
Age			
0-4	2,234	2,083	4,317
5-9	2,209	2,109	4,318
10-14	1,913	1,765	3,678
15-17	980	930	1,910

Source: Census of the Population (CSO)

- The number of Traveller children changed marginally, from 14,212 in 2011, to 14,223 in 2016 (see Figure 4).
- 30.4% of Traveller children were less than five years old (see Table 15).

Figure 4: Number of Traveller Children, by age (2011 and 2016)



Source: Census of the Population (CSO)

- Overall 11.9 per 1,000 children were Travellers. Rates ranged from 3.7 per 1,000 children in Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown to 48.3 per 1,000 children in Galway City (see Table 16).

Table 16: Number and rate (per 1,000) of Traveller children, by administrative county (2016)

	Traveller children	All children	Rate
State	14,223	1,190,502	11.9
Administrative county			
Carlow	230	14,852	15.5
Cavan	227	21,023	10.8
Clare	485	30,625	15.8
Cork City	406	21,590	18.8
Cork County	564	112,425	5.0
Donegal	260	42,042	6.2
Dublin City	842	98,671	8.5
Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown	179	47,794	3.7
Fingal	602	83,615	7.2
Galway City	749	15,523	48.3
Galway County	1,205	48,084	25.1
Kerry	406	34,527	11.8
Kildare	390	62,914	6.2
Kilkenny	264	25,944	10.2
Laois	387	24,264	15.9
Leitrim	97	8,188	11.8
Limerick City and County	686	47,090	14.6
Longford	513	11,218	45.7
Louth	291	35,046	8.3
Mayo	638	31,968	20.0
Meath	454	57,134	7.9
Monaghan	112	16,564	6.8
Offaly	391	21,127	18.5
Roscommon	238	16,305	14.6
Sligo	202	15,961	12.7
South Dublin	1,093	75,106	14.6
Tipperary	649	40,764	15.9
Waterford City and County	253	29,347	8.6
Westmeath	468	23,584	19.8
Wexford	596	39,166	15.2
Wicklow	346	38,041	9.1

Source: Census of the Population (CSO)

Foreign National Children

Measure: The number of foreign national children

- In 2016, there were 79,536 foreign national children in Ireland. This accounted for 6.6% of the child population.
- There were 40,338 boys and 39,198 girls (see Table 17).

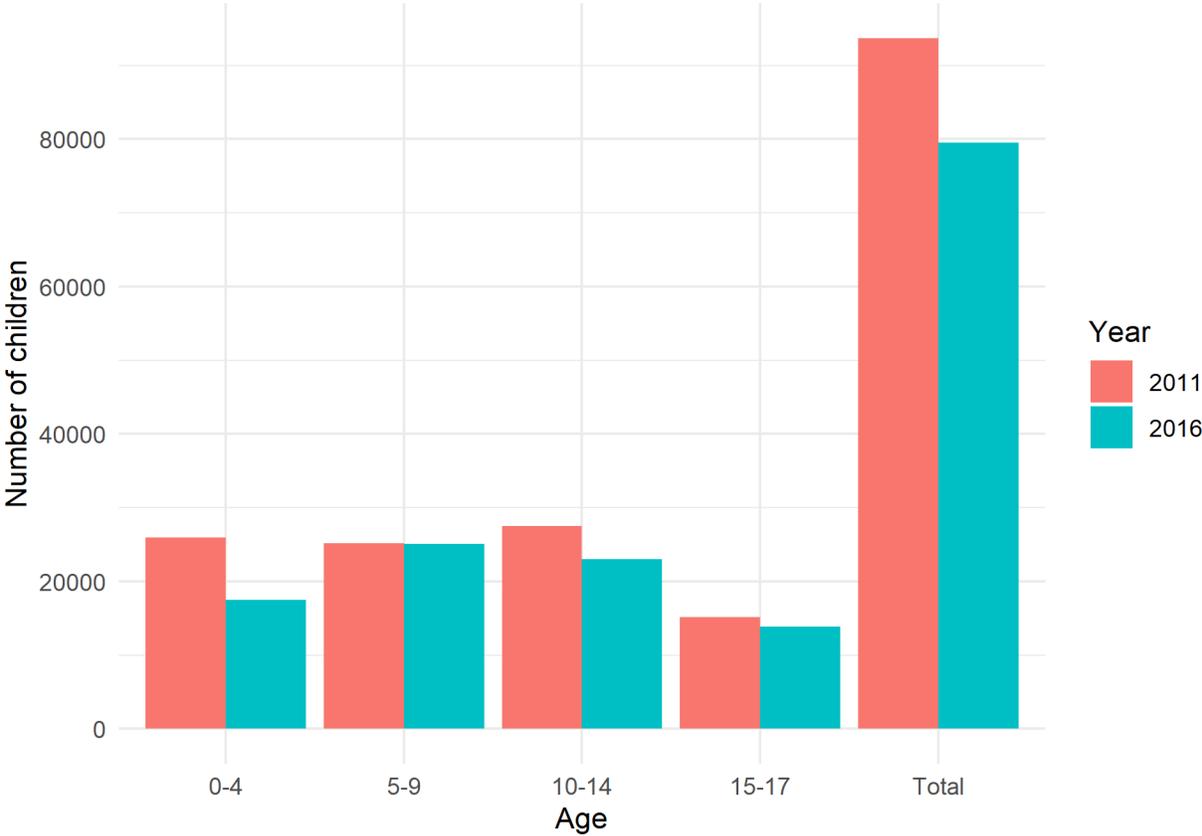
Table 17: Number of foreign national children, by age and gender (2016)

	Male	Female	Both sexes
Total	40,338	39,198	79,536
Age			
0-4	8,941	8,573	17,514
5-9	12,685	12,393	25,078
10-14	11,685	11,364	23,049
15-17	7,027	6,868	13,895

Source: Census of the Population (CSO)

- The number of foreign national children decreased by 15.1%, from 93,716 in 2011, to 79,536 in 2016 (see Figure 5).

Figure 5: Number of foreign national children, by age (2011 and 2016)



Source: Census of the Population (CSO)

Table 18: Number and rate (per 1,000) of foreign national children, by administrative-county (2016)

	Foreign national children	All children	Rate
Total	79,536	1,190,502	66.8
County			
Carlow	1,065	14,852	71.7
Cavan	1,801	21,023	85.7
Clare	1,577	30,625	51.5
Cork City	1,492	21,590	69.1
Cork County	6,593	112,425	58.6
Donegal	1,836	42,042	43.7
Dublin City	7,456	98,671	75.6
Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown	5,018	47,794	105.0
Fingal	7,693	83,615	92.0
Galway City	1,895	15,523	122.1
Galway County	2,460	48,084	51.2
Kerry	2,194	34,527	63.5
Kildare	3,982	62,914	63.3
Kilkenny	1,367	25,944	52.7
Laois	1,708	24,264	70.4
Leitrim	541	8,188	66.1
Limerick	3,109	47,090	66.0
Longford	1,168	11,218	104.1
Louth	2,479	35,046	70.7
Mayo	2,123	31,968	66.4
Meath	3,647	57,134	63.8
Monaghan	1,356	16,564	81.9
Offaly	1,248	21,127	59.1
Roscommon	1,127	16,305	69.1
Sligo	939	15,961	58.8
South Dublin	3,510	75,106	46.7
Tipperary	2,391	40,764	58.7
Waterford	1,767	29,347	60.2
Westmeath	1,901	23,584	80.6
Wexford	2,199	39,166	56.1
Wicklow	1,894	38,041	49.8

Source: Census of the Population (CSO)

- 29.2% of foreign national children reported their nationality as Polish (see Table 19). British or Northern Irish was the next most common nationality (11.4% of the total). Other nationalities with 5% or more of the total number of foreign children were: Lithuanian, Other EU-28, Other Asian, Romanian, African, Latvian.

Table 19: Number and percentage of foreign national children, by nationality (2016)

	No.	%
Total	79,536	100.0
Nationality		
Polish	23,254	29.2
UK	9,043	11.4
Lithuanian	7,210	9.1
Other EU-28	6,691	8.4
Other Asian	6,316	7.9
Romanian	5,113	6.4
African	4,246	5.3
Latvian	4,185	5.3
Other nationalities	2,214	2.8
American (US)	2,004	2.5
Indian	1,907	2.4
Other European	1,448	1.8
Spanish	1,348	1.7
French	1,070	1.3
German	1,067	1.3
Italian	1,025	1.3
Brazilian	817	1.0
Other American	578	0.7

Source: Census of the Population (CSO)

Children with a Disability

Measure: The number of children with a disability

- In 2016, there were 75,963 children with a disability in Ireland. This accounted for 6.4% of the child population.
- 61.9% of children with a disability were boys (see Table 20).

Table 20: Number of children with a disability, by age and gender (2016)

	Male	Female	Both sexes
Total	47,022	28,941	75,963
Age			
0 - 4	5,982	3,896	9,878
5 - 9	14,964	7,887	22,851
10 - 14	16,517	9,840	26,357
15 - 17	9,559	7,318	16,877

Source: Census of the Population (CSO)

- Geographically, rates of children with a disability per 1,000 population ranged from 48.3 per 1,000 in Monaghan to 81.3 per 1,000 in Cork City (see Table 21).

Table 21: Number and rate (per 1,000) of children with a disability, by administrative-county (2016)

	Children with a disability	All children	Rate
Total	75,963	1,190,502	63.8
County			
Carlow	1,038	14,852	69.9
Cavan	1,144	21,023	54.4
Clare	1,824	30,625	59.6
Cork City	1,755	21,590	81.3
Cork County	7,361	112,425	65.5
Donegal	2,660	42,042	63.3
Dublin City	6,660	98,671	67.5
Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown	2,765	47,794	57.9
Fingal	4,916	83,615	58.8
Galway City	979	15,523	63.1
Galway County	2,635	48,084	54.8
Kerry	2,271	34,527	65.8
Kildare	4,222	62,914	67.1
Kilkenny	1,533	25,944	59.1
Laois	1,618	24,264	66.7
Leitrim	493	8,188	60.2
Limerick	3,323	47,090	70.6
Longford	665	11,218	59.3
Louth	2,062	35,046	58.8
Mayo	1,725	31,968	54.0
Meath	3,361	57,134	58.8
Monaghan	800	16,564	48.3
Offaly	1,485	21,127	70.3
Roscommon	1,015	16,305	62.3
Sligo	994	15,961	62.3
South Dublin	5,102	75,106	67.9
Tipperary	2,706	40,764	66.4
Waterford	1,801	29,347	61.4
Westmeath	1,489	23,584	63.1
Wexford	2,847	39,166	72.7
Wicklow	2,714	38,041	71.3

Source: Census of the Population (CSO)

Children as Carers

Measure: The number of children who provide regular unpaid personal help for a friend or family member with a long-term illness, health problem or disability

- In 2016, there were 6,108 children providing regular unpaid personal help for a friend or family member with a long-term illness, health problem or disability in Ireland. This accounted for 0.5% of the child population.
- 26.8% of child carers were aged nine or under (see Table 22).

Table 22: Number of children who provide regular unpaid personal help for a friend or family member, by age and gender (2016)

	Male	Female	Both sexes
Total	2,972	3,136	6,108
Age			
0 - 4	335	352	687
5 - 9	459	489	948
10 - 14	1,081	1,084	2,165
15 - 17	1,097	1,211	2,308

Source: Census of the Population (CSO)

- Geographically, rates of child carers per 1,000 population ranged from 3.6 per 1,000 in Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown to 6.7 per 1,000 in Clare (see Table 23).

Table 23: Number and rate (per 1,000) of children who provide regular unpaid personal help for a friend or family, by administrative county (2016)

	Children as carers	All children	Rate
Total	6,108	1,190,502	5.1
County			
Carlow	74	14,852	5.0
Cavan	109	21,023	5.2
Clare	204	30,625	6.7
Cork City	131	21,590	6.1
Cork County	630	112,425	5.6
Donegal	255	42,042	6.1
Dublin City	512	98,671	5.2
Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown	173	47,794	3.6
Fingal	354	83,615	4.2
Galway City	76	15,523	4.9
Galway County	277	48,084	5.8
Kerry	221	34,527	6.4
Kildare	293	62,914	4.7
Kilkenny	152	25,944	5.9
Laois	136	24,264	5.6
Leitrim	42	8,188	5.1
Limerick	251	47,090	5.3
Longford	68	11,218	6.1
Louth	160	35,046	4.6
Mayo	185	31,968	5.8
Meath	246	57,134	4.3
Monaghan	99	16,564	6.0
Offaly	135	21,127	6.4
Roscommon	93	16,305	5.7
Sligo	96	15,961	6.0
South Dublin	315	75,106	4.2
Tipperary	210	40,764	5.2
Waterford	128	29,347	4.4
Westmeath	136	23,584	5.8
Wexford	173	39,166	4.4
Wicklow	174	38,041	4.6

Source: Census of the Population (CSO)

Part II: Children's Relationships

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Relationship with Mothers

Last Updated: 2020-03-10

Measure: The percentage of children aged 10-17 who report finding it easy to talk to their mother when something is really bothering them

- In 2018 83.3% of children aged 10-17 reported finding it easy to talk to their mother when something is really bothering them. This changed only marginally between 2014 and 2018.
- Among individual population groups, when compared to to all other children, Traveller children, immigrant children, and children with a disability and/or chronic illness were less likely to report finding it easy to talk to their mother when something is really bothering them (see Table 24).
- Immigrant children were the population group with the lowest percentage of children who reported finding it easy to talk to their mother when something is really bothering them (see Table 24).

Table 24: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported finding it easy to talk to their mother when something is really bothering them, by population groups

	2014	2018
All children	82.7	83.3
Traveller status		
Traveller children	78.8	84.6
All children except Traveller children	82.7	83.3
Immigrant status		
Immigrant children	80.3	78.3
All children except immigrant children	83.1	84.0
Disability and/or chronic illness status		
Children with a disability and/or chronic illness	81.4	80.6
All children except those with a disability and/or chronic illness	83.0	84.1

Source: HBSC Survey

- A lower percentage of females than males reported finding it easy to talk to their mother when something is really bothering them (see Table 25).
- On average, the percentage of children who reported finding it easy to talk to their mother when something is really bothering them decreased with age (see Table 25).
- The percentage of children who reported finding it easy to talk to their mother when something is really bothering them was lowest among social classes 5 - 6 (see Table 25).

Table 25: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported finding it easy to talk to their mother when something is really bothering them by age, gender, and social class

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	83.6	81.8	82.7	84.3	82.4	83.3
Age						
10 years	86.9	85.7	86.3	86.4	85.9	86.1
11 years	88.4	89.8	89.1	88.3	88.8	88.5
12 years	87.8	87.5	87.7	86.9	87.9	87.4
13 years	86.0	83.4	84.7	86.9	81.2	83.8
14 years	83.1	77.8	80.4	80.5	78.9	79.7
15 years	82.3	77.2	79.7	80.6	76.1	78.1
16 years	76.2	75.8	76.0	76.3	75.9	76.1
17 years	75.7	77.6	76.6	79.7	79.5	79.6
Social class						
SC 1 - 2	85.1	82.7	83.9	85.1	84.1	84.5
SC 3 - 4	83.6	81.5	82.5	84.4	81.8	83.1
SC 5 - 6	77.7	82.3	80.0	84.1	80.9	82.4

Source: HBSC Survey

- The percentage of children who reported finding it easy to talk to their mother when something is really bothering them ranged from 82.1% in the Mid-West region to 84.5% in the Mid-East region (see Table 26).

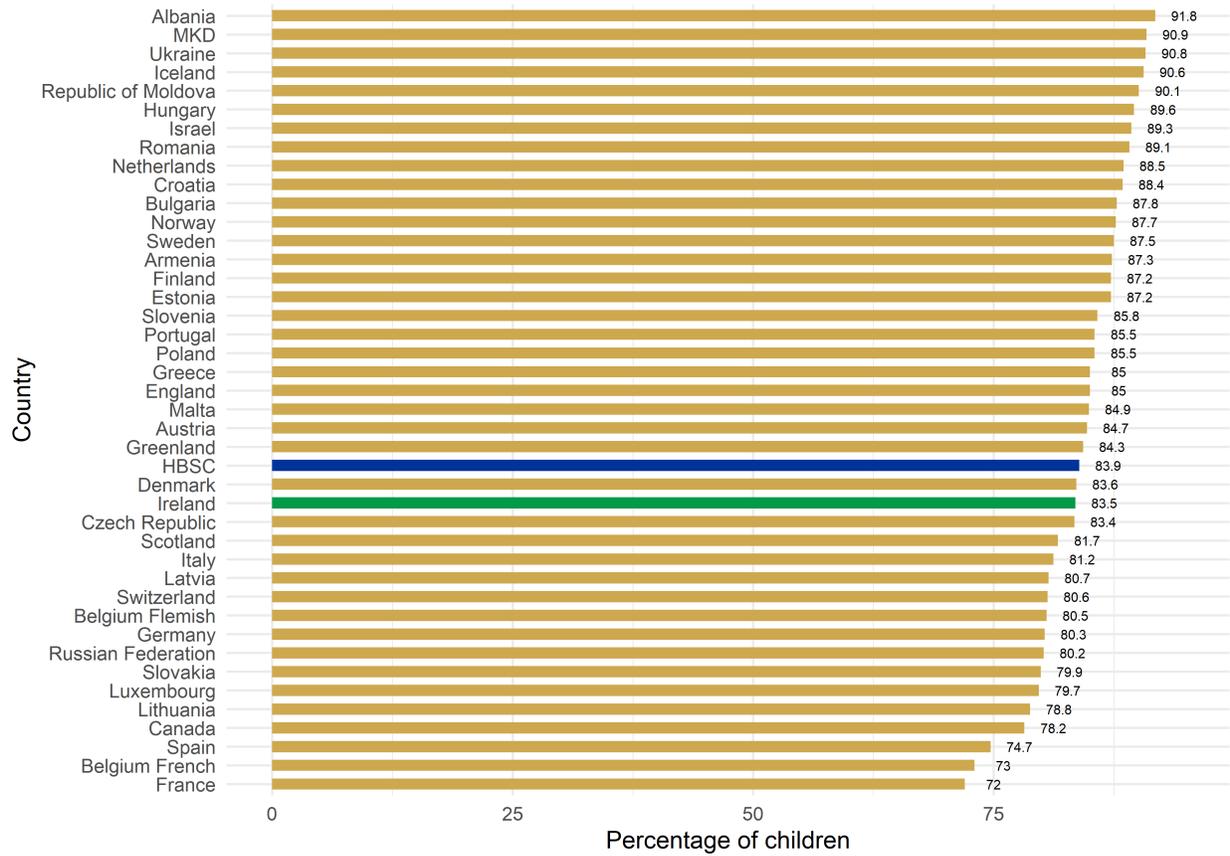
Table 26: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported finding it easy to talk to their mother when something is really bothering them by NUTS Region

	2014	2018
State	82.7	83.3
NUTS Region		
Border	83.0	84.3
Midland	82.5	82.9
West	83.3	82.2
Dublin	80.7	83.5
Mid-East	83.0	84.5
Mid-West	83.8	82.1
South-East	82.3	82.4
South-West	84.8	84.4

Source: HBSC Survey

- Across 41 countries, the average percentage of children who reported finding it easy to talk to their mother when something is really bothering them was 83.9% (see Figure 6). This ranged from 72% in France to 91.8% in Albania. The corresponding percentage in Ireland was 83.5%. This was below the international HBSC average. (Note: International comparisons are based on data from children aged 11, 13 and 15 only.)

Figure 6: Percentage of children aged 11, 13 and 15 who reported finding it easy to talk to their mother when something is really bothering them, by region (2018)



Source: HBSC Survey

Relationship with Fathers

Measure: The percentage of children aged 10-17 who report finding it easy to talk to their father when something is really bothering them

- In 2018, 67.9% of children aged 10-17 reported finding it easy to talk to their father when something is really bothering them. This decreased between 2014 and 2018.
- Among individual population groups, when compared to to all other children, immigrant children and children with a disability and/or chronic illness were less likely to report finding it easy to talk to their father when something is really bothering them (see Table 27).
- Immigrant children were the population group with the lowest percentage of children who reported finding it easy to talk to their father when something is really bothering them (see Table 27).

Table 27: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported finding it easy to talk to their father when something is really bothering them by population groups

	2014	2018
All children	70.2	67.9
Traveller status		
Traveller children	70.4	68.9
All children except Traveller children	70.2	67.8
Immigrant status		
Immigrant children	67.5	60.8
All children except immigrant children	70.7	68.7
Disability and/or chronic illness status		
Children with a disability and/or chronic illness	68.7	64.1
All children except those with a disability and/or chronic illness	70.6	68.9

Source: HBSC Survey

- A lower percentage of females than males reported finding it easy to talk to their father when something is really bothering them (see Table 28).
- On average, the percentage of children who reported finding it easy to talk to their father when something is really bothering them decreased with age (see Table 28).
- The percentage of children who reported finding it easy to talk to their father when something is really bothering them was lowest among social classes 5 - 6 (see Table 28).

Table 28: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported finding it easy to talk to their father when something is really bothering them by age, gender, and social class

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	75.7	64.4	70.2	72.5	63.5	67.9
Age						
10 years	80.2	72.8	76.6	78.7	76.5	77.6
11 years	82.7	74.8	78.9	79.7	72.3	76.3
12 years	83.6	69.5	77.4	75.4	68.0	71.7
13 years	78.2	66.0	72.0	74.2	61.0	67.1
14 years	73.5	59.3	66.3	67.8	54.4	60.5
15 years	71.5	57.3	64.3	64.7	52.0	57.6
16 years	66.1	56.8	61.6	60.9	52.2	56.2
17 years	67.8	58.2	63.6	58.6	52.9	55.7
Social class						
SC 1 - 2	76.8	65.6	71.1	75.1	66.9	70.7
SC 3 - 4	76.6	63.6	70.3	73.2	62.9	67.9
SC 5 - 6	72.4	62.0	67.2	66.2	59.0	62.4

Source: HBSC Survey

- The percentage of children who reported finding it easy to talk to their father when something is really bothering them ranged from 63.9% in the West region to 71% in the South-West region (see Table 29).

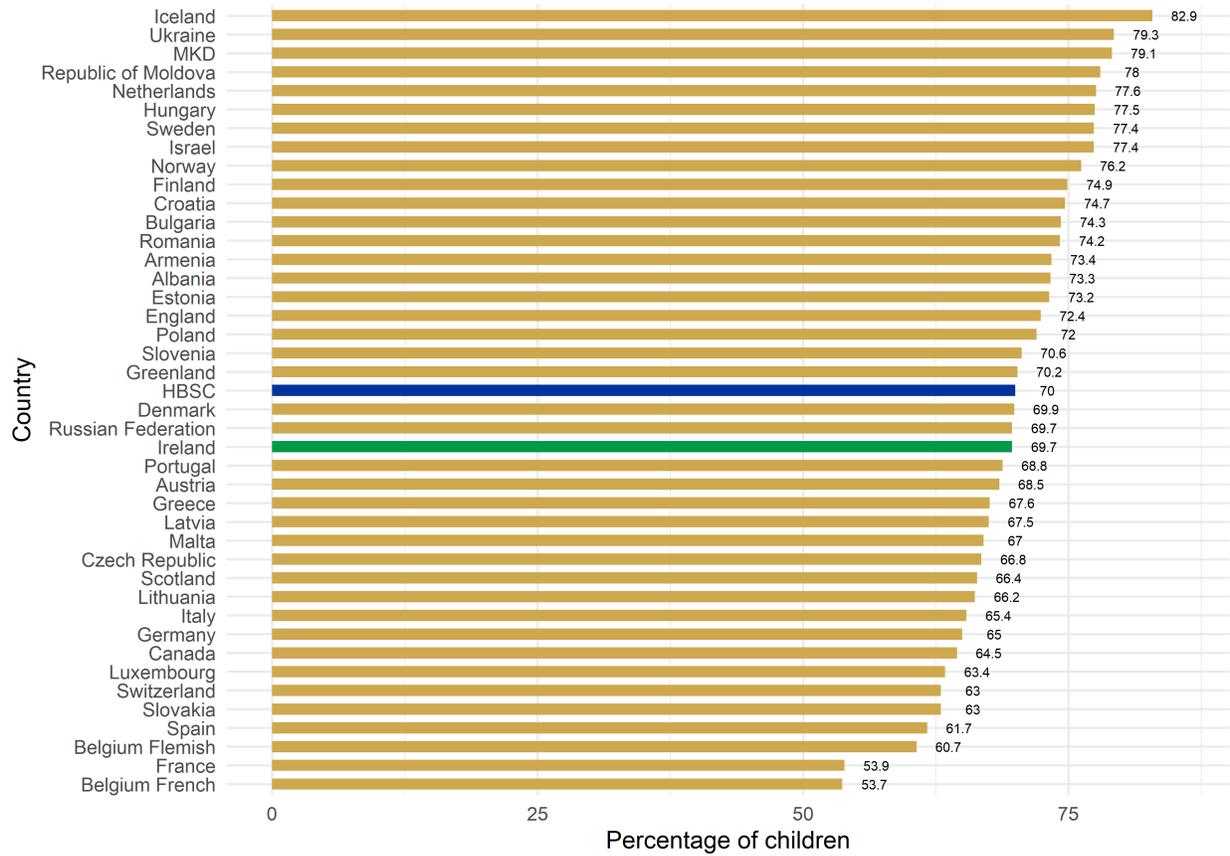
Table 29: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported finding it easy to talk to their father when something is really bothering them by NUTS Region

	2014	2018
State	70.2	67.9
NUTS Region		
Border	70.5	68.5
Midland	69.0	67.5
West	70.5	63.9
Dublin	67.9	70.7
Mid-East	71.4	70.3
Mid-West	73.7	64.0
South-East	70.1	65.3
South-West	71.0	71.0

Source: HBSC Survey

- Across 41 countries, the average percentage of children who reported finding it easy to talk to their father when something is really bothering them was 70% (see Figure 7). This ranged from 53.7% in Belgium (French) to 82.9% in Iceland. The corresponding percentage in Ireland was 69.7%. This was below the international HBSC average. (Note: international comparisons are based on data from children aged 11, 13 and 15 only.)

Figure 7: Percentage of children aged 11, 13 and 15 who reported finding it easy to talk to their father when something is really bothering them, by region (2018)



Source: HBSC Survey

Talking to Parents

Measure: The percentage of children aged 15 who report their parents spend time just talking with them several times a week

- In 2018, 69.6% of children aged 15 reported that their parents spend time just talking with them several times a week.
- 65.9% of immigrant children aged 15 reported that their parents spend time just talking with them several times a week, compared to 70.9% for non-immigrant children.

Table 30: Percentage of children aged 15 who reported that their parents spend time just talking with them several times a week, by population groups (2018)

	Mean score
All children	69.6
Immigrant status	
Immigrant children	65.9
Non-immigrant children	70.9

Source: OECD-Pisa Survey

- 78.5% of girls aged 15 reported that their parents spend time just talking with them several times a week, compared with 61% of boys.
- 73.7% of children in the high socio-economic status category reported that their parents spend time just talking with them several times a week. The corresponding figure for those belonging to the medium socio-economic status category was 70.2%, and for those in the low socio-economic status category, it was 65.7%.

Table 31: Percentage of children aged 15 who reported that their parents spend time just talking with them several times a week, by gender and social class, (2018)

	2009	2012	2015	2018
All children	59.8	67.9	73.4	69.6
Gender				
Male	48.9	58.5	65.5	61.0
Female	70.8	77.4	81.6	78.5
Social class				
High socio-economic status	63.0	71.3	75.2	73.7
Medium socio-economic status	60.2	66.9	72.1	70.2
Low socio-economic status	57.1	65.4	72.9	65.7

Source: OECD-Pisa Survey

Parental Involvement in Schooling

Measure: The percentage of children aged 15 who report their parents discuss with them how well they are doing at school several times a week

- In 2018, 51.9% of children aged 15 reported that their parents discuss with them how well they are doing at school several times a week.
- 57.4% of immigrant children aged 15 reported that their parents discuss with them how well they are doing at school several times a week, compared to 51.1% for non-immigrant children.

Table 32: Percentage of children aged 15 who reported that their parents discuss with them how well they are doing at school several times a week, by population groups (2018)

	Mean score
All children	51.9
Immigrant status	
Immigrant children	57.4
Non-immigrant children	51.1

Source: OECD-Pisa Survey

- 58.9% of girls aged 15 reported that their parents discuss with them how well they are doing at school several times a week, compared with 44.7% of boys.
- 55.1% of children in the high socio-economic status category reported that their parents discuss with them how well they are doing at school several times a week. The corresponding figure for those belonging to the medium socio-economic status category was 52.5%, and for those in the low socio-economic status category, it was 47.8%.

Table 33: Percentage of children aged 15 who reported that their parents discuss with them how well they are doing at school several times a week, by gender and social class (2018)

	2009	2012	2015	2018
All children	42.8	49.4	56.1	51.9
Gender				
Male	39.4	45.2	51.3	44.7
Female	46.3	53.6	61.1	58.9
Social class				
High socio-economic status	46.6	55.2	58.7	55.1
Medium socio-economic status	43.6	48.3	57.2	52.5
Low socio-economic status	37.9	44.6	52.6	47.8

Source: OECD-Pisa Survey

Eating a main meal together

Measure: The percentage of children aged 15 who report their parents eat a main meal with them several times a week

- In 2018, 69.1% of children aged 15 reported that their parents eat a main meal with them several times a week.
- 62.3% of immigrant children aged 15 reported that their parents eat a main meal with them several times a week, compared to 70.9% for non-immigrant students.

Table 34: Percentage of children aged 15 who reported that their parents eat a main meal with them several times a week, by population groups (2018)

	Mean score
All children	69.1
Immigrant status	
Immigrant children	62.3
Non-immigrant children	70.9

Source: OECD-Pisa Survey

- 72.7% of girls aged 15 reported that their parents eat a main meal with them several times a week, compared with 65.4% of boys.
- 76.6% of children in the high socio-economic status category reported that their parents eat a main meal with them several times a week. The corresponding figure for those belonging to the medium socio-economic status category was 68.9%, and for those in the low socio-economic status category, it was 61.4%.

Table 35: Percentage of children aged 15 who reported that their parents eat a main meal with them several times a week, by gender and social class, (2018)

	2009	2012	2015	2018
All children	72.4	73.2	76.0	69.1
Gender				
Male	70.1	71.8	74.8	65.4
Female	74.6	74.6	77.2	72.7
Social class				
High socio-economic status	77.1	79.2	81.0	76.6
Medium socio-economic status	73.6	72.9	75.9	68.9
Low socio-economic status	66.9	67.5	71.3	61.4

Source: OECD-Pisa Survey

Friendships

Measure: The percentage of children aged 10-17 who report having three or more friends of the same gender

- In 2018, 89.3% of children aged 10-17 reported having three or more friends of the same gender. This increased between 2014 and 2018.
- Among individual population groups, when compared to to all other children, Traveller children, immigrant children and children with a disability and/or chronic illness were less likely to report having three or more friends of the same gender (see Table 36).
- Immigrant children were the population group with the lowest percentage of children who reported having three or more friends of the same gender (see Table 36).

Table 36: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported having three or more friends of the same gender by population groups

	2014	2018
All children	88.0	89.3
Traveller status		
Traveller children	87.7	86.1
All children except Traveller children	88.0	89.4
Immigrant status		
Immigrant children	85.0	84.5
All children except immigrant children	88.5	90.0
Disability and/or chronic illness status		
Children with a disability and/or chronic illness	86.4	87.8
All children except those with a disability and/or chronic illness	88.4	89.8

Source: HBSC Survey

- A lower percentage of females than males reported having three or more friends of the same gender (see Table 37).
- On average, the percentage of children who reported having three or more friends of the same gender decreased with age (see Table 37).
- The percentage of children who reported having three or more friends of the same gender was lowest among social classes 5 - 6 (see Table 37).

Table 37: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported having three or more friends of the same gender by age, gender, and social class

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	88.0	87.9	88.0	89.4	89.3	89.3
Age						
10 years	88.5	89.4	88.9	90.8	88.4	89.6
11 years	91.1	90.9	91.0	93.0	91.8	92.4
12 years	90.8	90.3	90.6	93.5	93.1	93.3
13 years	91.2	88.5	89.8	91.4	91.3	91.4
14 years	87.5	88.9	88.2	85.4	90.4	88.1
15 years	85.9	85.2	85.6	86.9	87.3	87.2
16 years	86.5	85.3	85.9	80.0	83.4	81.8
17 years	80.5	83.7	81.9	86.2	86.5	86.3
Social class						
SC 1 - 2	88.7	88.7	88.7	90.8	90.6	90.7
SC 3 - 4	89.2	88.5	88.9	89.8	89.1	89.5
SC 5 - 6	86.9	87.2	87.0	86.7	88.1	87.5

Source: HBSC Survey

- The percentage of children who reported having three or more friends of the same gender ranged from 87.9% in the Border region to 90.7% in the West region (see Table 38).

Table 38: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported having three or more friends of the same gender by NUTS Region

	2014	2018
State	88.0	89.3
NUTS Region		
Border	87.2	87.9
Midland	87.7	88.2
West	88.0	90.7
Dublin	87.7	89.7
Mid-East	87.4	89.3
Mid-West	90.0	89.3
South-East	86.9	89.6
South-West	89.5	89.7

Source: HBSC Survey

Figure 8 pending

Pets and Animals

Measure: The percentage of children aged 10-17 who report having a pet of their own or a pet in the family

- In 2018, 71.7% of children aged 10-17 reported having a pet of their own or a pet in the family. This rate decreased between 2014 and 2018.
- When compared to to all other children, Traveller children were less likely to report having a pet of their own or a pet in the family (see Table 39).

Table 39: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported having a pet of their own or a pet in the family by population groups

	2014	2018
All children	74.6	71.7
Traveller status		
Traveller children	77.2	66.6
All children except Traveller children	74.5	71.9
Immigrant status		
Immigrant children	59.5	73.2
All children except immigrant children	77.3	59.7
Disability and/or chronic illness status		
Children with a disability and/or chronic illness	77.4	73.4
All children except those with a disability and/or chronic illness	73.8	71.3

Source: HBSC Survey

- A lower percentage of males than females reported having a pet of their own or a pet in the family (see Table 40).
- On average, the percentage of children who reported having a pet of their own or a pet in the family increased with age (see Table 40).
- The percentage of children who reported having a pet of their own or a pet in the family was lowest among social classes 1 - 2 (see Table 40).

Table 40: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported having a pet of their own or a pet in the family by age, gender, and social class

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	73.5	75.6	74.6	70.5	72.9	71.7
Age						
10 years	75.0	75.1	75.1	68.8	74.2	71.4
11 years	75.4	71.9	73.7	70.8	74.6	72.5
12 years	76.2	76.4	76.3	69.4	72.8	71.1
13 years	71.4	74.1	72.8	71.4	70.8	71.1
14 years	71.6	76.6	74.1	70.6	71.8	71.2
15 years	76.4	77.3	76.9	71.8	69.7	70.6
16 years	70.7	77.2	74.0	70.9	73.5	72.3
17 years	69.3	76.0	72.4	75.1	77.7	76.4
Social class						
SC 1 - 2	75.2	77.3	76.3	69.2	73.5	71.5
SC 3 - 4	75.2	75.0	75.1	71.6	74.1	72.8
SC 5 - 6	71.7	76.9	74.3	73.5	74.3	73.9

Source: HBSC Survey

- The percentage of children who reported having a pet of their own or a pet in the family ranged from 61.4% in the South-East region to 80.7% in the Mid-West region (see Table 41).

Table 41: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported having a pet of their own or a pet in the family by NUTS Region

	2014	2018
State	74.6	71.7
NUTS Region		
Border	75.5	76.5
Midland	78.6	74.3
West	78.5	78.7
Dublin	62.2	73.4
Mid-East	74.0	78.2
Mid-West	82.2	80.7
South-East	84.6	61.4
South-West	78.4	72.3

Source: HBSC Survey

Bullying

Measure: The percentage of children aged 10-17 who report having been bullied at school in the past couple of months

- In 2018, 31.1% of children aged 10-17 reported having been bullied at school in the past couple of months. This increased between 2014 and 2018.
- Among individual population groups, when compared to to all other children, Traveller children, immigrant children and children with a disability and/or chronic illness were more likely to report having been bullied at school in the past couple of months (see Table 42).
- Traveller children were the population group with the highest percentage of children who reported having been bullied at school in the past couple of months (see Table 42).

Table 42: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported having been bullied at school in the past couple of months by population groups

	2014	2018
All children	26.5	31.1
Traveller status		
Traveller children	32.8	42.0
All children except Traveller children	26.3	30.8
Immigrant status		
Immigrant children	31.1	36.4
All children except immigrant children	25.6	30.4
Disability and/or chronic illness status		
Children with a disability and/or chronic illness	31.9	38.9
All children except those with a disability and/or chronic illness	25.0	29.0

Source: HBSC Survey

- A lower percentage of males than females reported having been bullied at school in the past couple of months (see Table 43).
- On average, the percentage of children who reported having been bullied at school in the past couple of months decreased with age (see Table 43).
- The percentage of children who reported having been bullied at school in the past couple of months was highest among social classes 5 - 6 (see Table 43).

Table 43: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported having been bullied at school in the past couple of months by age, gender, and social class

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	25.2	27.7	26.5	30.8	31.3	31.1
Age						
10 years	34.1	36.0	35.0	33.7	35.9	34.8
11 years	22.6	28.1	25.3	30.6	29.7	30.2
12 years	21.4	28.1	24.5	27.1	28.4	27.7
13 years	26.2	30.1	28.2	31.2	33.0	32.1
14 years	26.7	26.1	26.4	29.9	34.1	32.2
15 years	24.5	27.2	25.9	31.0	28.1	29.3
16 years	24.6	24.2	24.4	30.4	30.3	30.4
17 years	19.9	17.3	18.8	27.9	20.4	24.0
Social class						
SC 1 - 2	23.3	25.1	24.2	29.6	28.4	28.9
SC 3 - 4	26.2	28.2	27.2	30.5	34.1	32.3
SC 5 - 6	27.9	31.9	29.9	33.7	34.9	34.3

Source: HBSC Survey

- The percentage of children who reported having been bullied at school in the past couple of months ranged from 29% in the Border region to 34.4% in the Mid-West region (see Table 44).

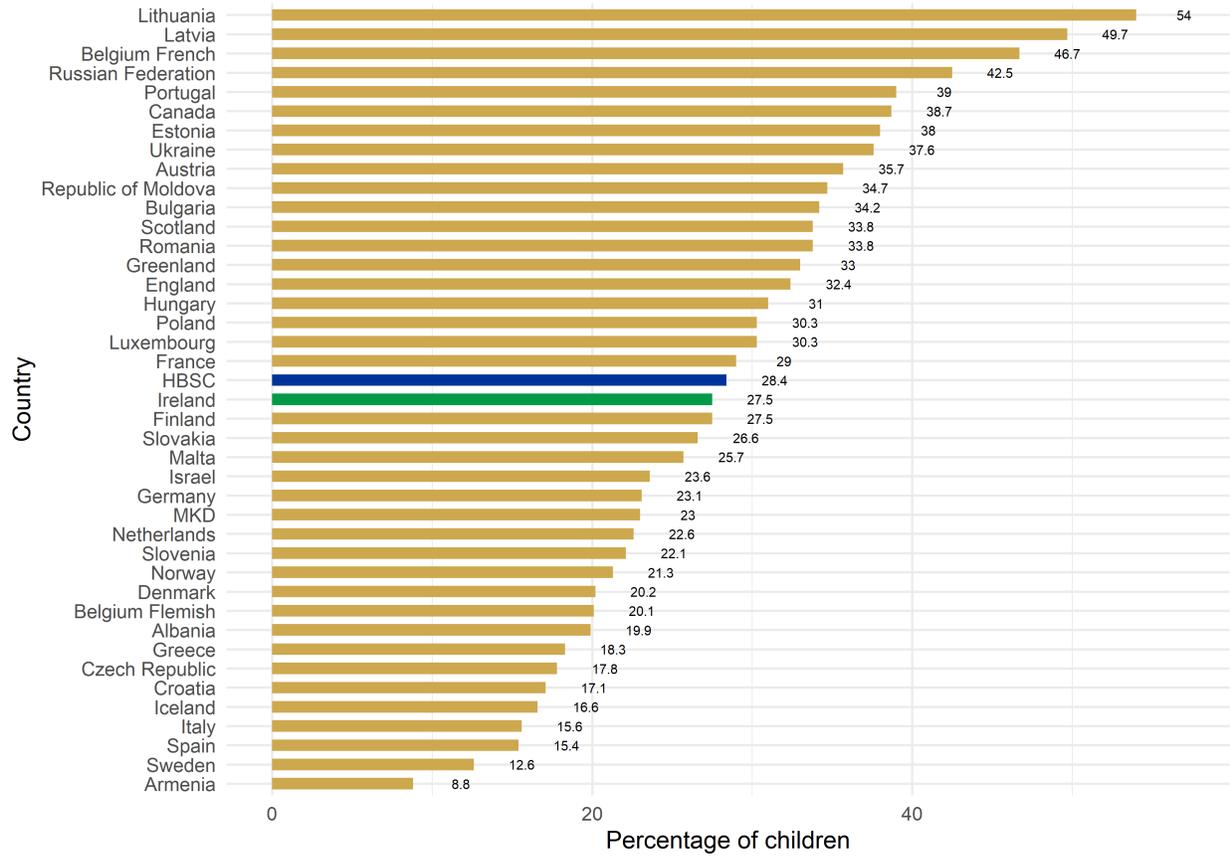
Table 44: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported having been bullied at school in the past couple of months by NUTS Region

	2014	2018
State	26.5	31.1
NUTS Region		
Border	28.1	29.0
Midland	29.2	30.2
West	25.2	31.9
Dublin	27.5	32.3
Mid-East	23.7	30.6
Mid-West	24.5	34.4
South-East	27.5	30.5
South-West	25.4	31.7

Source: HBSC Survey

- Across 40 countries, the average percentage of children who reported having been bullied at school in the past couple of months was 28.4% (see Figure 9). This ranged from 8.8% in Armenia to 54% in Lithuania. The corresponding percentage in Ireland was 27.5%. This was below the international HBSC average. (Note: International comparisons are based on data from children aged 11, 13 and 15 only.)

Figure 9: Percentage of children aged 11, 13 and 15 who reported having been bullied at school in the past couple of months, by region (2018)



Source: HBSC Survey

Part III: Children's Outcomes

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Education Outcomes

Quality of Early Childhood Care and Education

Last Updated: 2020-05-06

Measure: The percentage of pre-school services contracted to deliver the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme that meet basic and higher capitation criteria

- For the 2018/19 pre-school year there were 4,216 pre-school services under contract to deliver the ECCE Programme to 116,116 children. Of these pre-school services 36.3% met the basic capitation status and 63.7% met the higher capitation status (see Tables 45 & 46).
- For the 2018/19 pre-school year, 2,687 of the 4,216 services contracted to deliver the ECCE Programme met the higher capitation status. This represents a 31.3% increase in the number of services meeting higher capitation criteria since the pre-school year 2016/17 (see Table 45).

Table 45: Pre-school services under contract to deliver the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme that meet basic and higher capitation criteria (2016 - 2019)

	ECCE services		Basic capitation		Higher capitation	
	No.	No.	%	No.	%	
2016/17	4,768	2,721	57.1	2,047	42.9	
2017/18	4,246	1,902	44.8	2,344	55.2	
2018/19	4,216	1,529	36.3	2,687	63.7	

Source: Department of Children and Youth Affairs

- The percentage of pre-school services meeting higher capitation status ranged from 51.2% in Dublin City to 92% in Carlow (see Table 46).

Table 46: Pre-school services under contract to deliver the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme that meet basic and higher capitation criteria, by administrative county (2018/19)

	Children	ECCE services	Basic capitation		Higher capitation	
	No.	No.	No.	%	No.	%
Total	116,116	4,216	1,529	36.3	2,687	63.7
Administrative County						
Carlow	1,376	50	4	8.0	46	92.0
Cavan	2,039	63	17	27.0	46	73.0
Clare	2,675	130	59	45.4	71	54.6
Cork City	2,684	78	20	25.6	58	74.4
Cork County	11,722	363	117	32.2	246	67.8
Donegal	3,523	136	53	39.0	83	61.0
Dublin City	9,545	387	189	48.8	198	51.2
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	4,768	180	62	34.4	118	65.6
Fingal	8,397	308	136	44.2	172	55.8
South Dublin	6,852	234	92	39.3	142	60.7
Galway City	1,433	60	23	38.3	37	61.7
Galway County	4,948	195	66	33.8	129	66.2
Kerry	3,308	125	42	33.6	83	66.4
Kildare	6,348	195	69	35.4	126	64.6
Kilkenny	2,328	94	27	28.7	67	71.3
Laois	2,428	77	25	32.5	52	67.5
Leitrim	759	31	12	38.7	19	61.3
Limerick	4,705	173	49	28.3	124	71.7
Longford	880	33	7	21.2	26	78.8
Louth	3,167	116	55	47.4	61	52.6
Mayo	2,965	124	37	29.8	87	70.2
Meath	5,863	193	85	44.0	108	56.0
Monaghan	1,366	60	16	26.7	44	73.3
Offaly	2,031	68	25	36.8	43	63.2
Roscommon	1,551	54	13	24.1	41	75.9
Sligo	1,443	65	27	41.5	38	58.5
Tipperary	3,834	160	52	32.5	108	67.5
Waterford	2,660	89	26	29.2	63	70.8
Westmeath	2,679	80	30	37.5	50	62.5
Wexford	4,004	135	42	31.1	93	68.9
Wicklow	3,806	160	52	32.5	108	67.5

Source: Department of Children and Youth Affairs

Primary School Attendance

Measure: The percentage of primary school children who are absent from school for 20 days or more in the school year

- Over the period 2013 to 2017, the percentage of primary school children who were absent from school for 20 days or more increased from 10.4% to 11.8% (see Table 47).

Table 47: Percentage of primary children per school who were absent from school for 20 days or more in the school year (2013 - 2017)

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Primary School Children	10.4	11.1	12.3	11.8

Source: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency

- The average percentage of primary school children who were absent from school for 20 days or more in the school year was highest in urban schools (14.5%).
- The average percentage of school children who were absent from school for 20 days or more in the school year was highest in schools characterised as Urban, in School Support Programme Band 1 (23.4%).

Table 48: Average percentage* of primary children per school who were absent from school for 20 days or more in the school year, by selected school characteristics (2013 - 2017)

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Type of school				
Rural	6.4	7.0	7.7	7.5
Urban	13.1	14.0	15.4	14.5
Rural, not in School Support Programme	6.2	6.7	7.3	7.1
DEIS status				
Rural, in School Support Programme	7.9	8.5	9.7	9.4
Urban, not in School Support Programme	10.5	11.3	12.5	12.0
Urban, in School Support Programme Band 2	17.3	18.4	19.5	18.4
Urban, in School Support Programme Band 1	20.4	21.1	23.7	23.4

*This table uses schools-level data

Source: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency

- The average percentage of primary school children per school who were absent for 20 days or more ranged from 15.6% in Dublin to 6.4% in Leitrim.

Table 49: Average percentage of primary children per school who were absent from school for 20 days or more in the school year, by county (2013 - 2017)

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
All Counties	8.9	10.4	11.4	10.9
County				
Carlow	10.0	11.7	13.3	11.3
Dublin	12.0	15.2	16.5	15.6
Kildare	9.7	10.7	11.7	11.2
Kilkenny	6.0	7.6	8.3	8.4
Laois	9.5	11.1	11.2	11.9
Longford	10.3	14.8	12.0	12.6
Louth	10.5	11.9	13.0	12.9
Meath	7.6	8.9	9.7	9.3
Offaly	9.2	10.6	11.0	10.8
Westmeath	8.8	11.1	11.8	11.7
Wexford	9.7	9.8	11.0	10.6
Wicklow	8.3	9.7	10.7	10.1
Clare	8.2	9.3	10.6	10.0
Cork	8.4	9.3	10.5	10.9
Kerry	9.5	11.1	11.6	10.8
Limerick	10.9	12.5	13.8	13.1
Tipperary	7.4	8.1	9.7	9.1
Waterford	8.7	9.1	11.1	11.0
Galway	8.5	9.5	11.4	10.0
Leitrim	6.8	5.9	10.2	6.4
Mayo	7.7	8.1	9.5	9.0
Roscommon	7.7	9.1	9.1	8.9
Sligo	8.0	8.9	9.7	9.1
Cavan	8.2	9.3	9.1	9.3
Donegal	6.3	7.7	7.9	7.6
Monaghan	5.5	6.1	7.0	6.7

*This table uses schools-level data

Source: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency

Post-Primary School Attendance

Measure: The percentage of post-primary school children who are absent from school for 20 days or more in the school year

- Over the period 2013 to 2017, the percentage of post-primary school children who were absent from school for 20 days or more declined from 15.4% to 14.7% (see Table 50).

Table 50: Percentage of post-primary children per school who were absent from school for 20 days or more in the school year (2013 - 2017)

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Post-Primary	15.4	16.2	14.9	14.7

Source: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency

- In the 2016/17 year, the average percentage of post-primary school children who were missing 20 days or more was highest in Vocational schools and Community and Comprehensive schools. This percentage was 13.3% in Non-DEIS schools and 22.8% in DEIS schools.

Table 51: Average percentage* of post-primary children per school who were absent from school for 20 days or more in the school year, by selected school characteristics (2013 - 2017)

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Type of school				
Secondary schools	13.5	14.1	13.1	12.6
Community and Comprehensive schools	18.1	19.3	17.7	17.8
Vocational schools	21.5	21.5	20.2	20.0
DEIS status				
DEIS School	25.3	25.3	23.4	22.8
Non-DEIS School	13.5	14.2	13.4	13.3

*This table uses schools-level data

Source: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency

- The average percentage of post-primary school children per school who were absent for 20 days or more ranged from 22% in Donegal to 10.3% in Louth.

Table 52: Average percentage of post-primary children per school who were absent from school for 20 days or more in the school year, by county (2013 - 2017)

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
All Counties	16.7	17.3	16.1	15.8
County				
Carlow	15.2	17.5	14.6	16.4
Cavan	18.6	18.5	19.5	14.5
Clare	13.4	13.6	14.2	13.4
Cork	15.6	15.8	14.3	13.5
Donegal	18.1	20.3	17.1	22.0
Dublin	16.2	16.2	15.6	15.1
Galway	18.4	19.3	18.6	19.5
Kerry	18.0	17.9	16.4	14.9
Kildare	15.1	16.8	15.6	14.7
Kilkenny	15.3	15.3	15.2	17.5
Laois	19.8	22.6	19.0	15.9
Leitrim	19.4	18.4	14.6	20.2
Limerick	16.4	19.1	14.6	12.0
Longford	18.9	21.0	19.8	19.2
Louth	12.7	12.0	12.5	10.3
Mayo	20.9	20.2	17.9	18.4
Meath	12.4	16.1	13.8	13.5
Monaghan	16.2	15.3	18.1	15.7
Offaly	17.8	16.7	18.1	15.8
Roscommon	19.9	17.4	17.5	13.6
Sligo	18.5	17.8	18.9	18.1
Tipperary	15.8	16.8	15.4	15.9
Waterford	15.6	14.0	14.3	12.7
Westmeath	19.1	21.8	18.3	16.9
Wexford	22.4	23.9	19.6	20.4
Wicklow	16.2	17.1	16.3	19.6

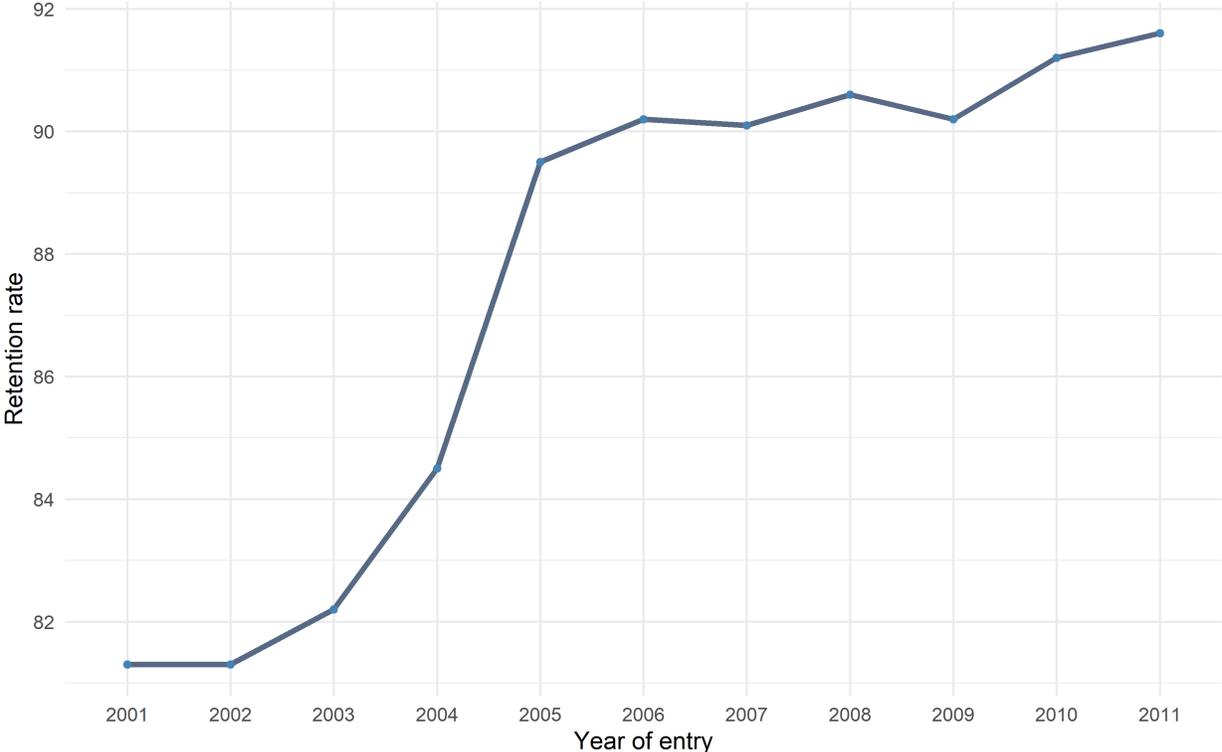
*This table uses schools-level data

Source: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency

Leaving Certificate Retention Rates

Measure: The Leaving Certificate retention rate

Figure 10: Leaving Certificate retention rates for the 2002 - 2012 school entry cohorts



Note break in series from 2005: See datasource for further information.
 Source: Department of Education and Science

- The Leaving Certificate retention rate for children entering secondary school in 2012 was 91.5% i.e. out of the 58,859 enrolled on 30 September 2012 in year one of the Junior Cycle, 53,856 sat the Leaving Certificate by 2017 or 2018 (see Figure 10).
- The retention rate for boys in the 2012 school entry cohort was 89.9%, compared to 93.1% for girls (see Table 53).
- On average, secondary schools had the highest retention rates (at 93.2%) when compared with community and comprehensive schools (90.7%) and vocational schools (88.5%) (see Table 53).
- For the 2012 school entry cohort, the retention rate was 84.7% in DEIS schools, compared to 93.4% for children in non-DEIS schools.
- Retention rates to the completion of the Leaving Certificate increased by 8.9 percentage points - from 81.3% in 2002 to 90.2% in 2009. A retention rate of between 92% and 91% was maintained between the 2009 and 2012 school entry cohorts (see Figure 10).
- Overall, the retention rate to completion of the Leaving Certificate for children for the 2012 entry cohort ranged from 93.8% in Kerry to 86.9% in Longford (see Table 54).

Table 53: Leaving Certificate retention rates for the 2012 school entry cohort, by sex, school type and DEIS status

	No. in cohort	Retention rate (%)
Total	58,859	91.5
Sex		
Male	29,985	89.9
Female	28,874	93.1
School type		
Secondary schools	32,800	93.2
Vocational schools	16,156	88.5
Community and Comprehensive schools	9,903	90.7
DEIS status		
DEIS schools	12,797	84.7
Non-DEIS schools	46,062	93.4

Source: Department of Education and Science

Table 54: Leaving Certificate retention rates for the 2012 school entry cohort, by administrative county

	No. in cohort	Retention rate (%)
Total	58,859	91.5
Administrative County		
Carlow	887	87.9
Cavan	876	90.8
Clare	1,495	92.6
Cork	6,503	92.1
Donegal	2,234	91.7
Dublin	14,523	90.1
Galway	3,221	92.2
Kerry	1,863	93.8
Kildare	3,066	91.3
Kilkenny	1,192	92.6
Laois	930	91.7
Leitrim	487	92.2
Limerick	2,599	92.1
Longford	633	86.9
Louth	1,921	91.1
Mayo	1,751	93.5
Meath	2,405	93.4
Monaghan	831	90.7
Offaly	1,004	90.1
Roscommon	582	91.1
Sligo	775	93.5
Tipperary	2,297	92.8
Waterford	1,447	93.2
Westmeath	1,446	92.0
Wexford	2,086	92.0
Wicklow	1,805	89.8

Source: Department of Education and Science

Achievement in Reading: OECD-PISA Reading Literacy Scale

Measure: The mean scores of children based on the OECD-PISA reading Literacy Scale

- In 2018, 15 year-old children in Ireland achieved a mean score of 518.1 on the reading literacy scale (see Table 55).
- Immigrant children scored 508.5 on the reading literacy scale, compared to a score of 522.1 for non-immigrant students.
- Girls scored 529.6 on the reading literacy scale, compared with 506.4 for boys.
- The mean reading literacy score of children in the 'high' socio-economic status category was 551.8. The score for those in the 'medium' socio-economic status category was 517.5, and the score for those in the 'low' socio-economic status category was 487.9.

Table 55: Mean score for children aged 15 based on the OECD-PISA Reading Literacy Scale, by population group (2018)

	Mean score
All children	518.1
Immigrant status	
Immigrant children	508.5
All children except immigrant children	522.1

Source: OECD-Pisa survey

Table 56: Mean score for children aged 15 based on the OECD-PISA Reading Literacy Scale, by gender and socio-economic status (2009 - 2018)

	2009	2012	2015	2018
All children	495.6	523.2	520.8	518.1
Gender				
Male	476.3	509.2	515.0	506.4
Female	515.4	537.7	526.9	529.6
Social class				
High social economic status	535.5	562.3	555.6	551.8
Medium social economic status	497.9	523.3	520.5	517.5
Low social economic status	459.5	485.9	488.0	487.9

Source: OECD-Pisa survey

Figure 11 pending

Achievement in Mathematics: OECD-PISA Mathematics Literacy Scale

Measure: The mean scores of children based on the OECD-PISA mathematics Literacy Scale

- In 2018, 15 year-old children in Ireland achieved a mean score of 499.6 on the mathematics literacy scale (see Table 57).
- Immigrant children scored 496.4 on the mathematics literacy scale, compared to a score of 501.9 for non-immigrant students.
- Girls scored 496.7 on the mathematics literacy scale, compared with 502.6 for boys.
- The mean mathematics literacy score of children in the 'high' socio-economic status category was 530. The score for those in the 'medium' socio-economic status category was 498.5, and the score for those in the 'low' socio-economic status category was 472.3.

Table 57: Mean score for children aged 15 based on the OECD-PISA Mathematics Literacy Scale, by population group (2018)

	Mean score
All children	499.6
Immigrant status	
Immigrant children	496.4
All children except immigrant children	501.9

Source: OECD-Pisa survey

Table 58: Mean score for children aged 15 based on the OECD-PISA Mathematics Literacy Scale, by gender and socio-economic status (2009 - 2018)

	2009	2012	2015	2018
All children	487.1	501.5	503.7	499.6
Gender				
Male	490.9	509.0	511.6	502.6
Female	483.3	493.7	495.4	496.7
Social class				
High social economic status	523.4	538.9	537.7	530.0
Medium social economic status	490.1	501.3	502.4	498.5
Low social economic status	452.3	465.5	471.5	472.3

Source: OECD-Pisa survey

Figure 12 pending

Achievement in Science: OECD-PISA Science Literacy Scale

Measure: The mean scores of children based on the OECD-PISA science Literacy Scale

- In 2018, 15 year-old children in Ireland achieved a mean score of 496.1 on the science literacy scale (see Table 59).
- Immigrant children scored 497.8 on the science literacy scale, compared to a score of 498.1 for non-immigrant students.
- Girls scored 496.9 on the science literacy scale, compared with 495.4 for boys.
- The mean science literacy score of children in the 'high' socio-economic status category was 529.3. The score for those in the 'medium' socio-economic status category was 495.7, and the score for those in the 'low' socio-economic status category was 465.9.

Table 59: Mean score for children aged 15 based on the OECD-PISA Science Literacy Scale, by population group (2018)

	Mean score
All children	496.1
Immigrant status	
Immigrant children	497.8
All children except immigrant children	498.1

Source: OECD-Pisa survey

Table 60: Mean score for children aged 15 based on the OECD-PISA Science Literacy Scale, by gender and socio-economic status (2009 - 2018)

	2009	2012	2015	2018
All children	508.0	522.0	502.6	496.1
Gender				
Male	506.6	523.9	507.7	495.4
Female	509.4	520.0	497.2	496.9
Social class				
High social economic status	545.7	562.4	538.5	529.3
Medium social economic status	512.8	522.3	501.8	495.7
Low social economic status	471.0	483.0	468.3	465.9

Source: OECD-Pisa survey

Figure 13 pending

Health Outcomes

Birth Weight

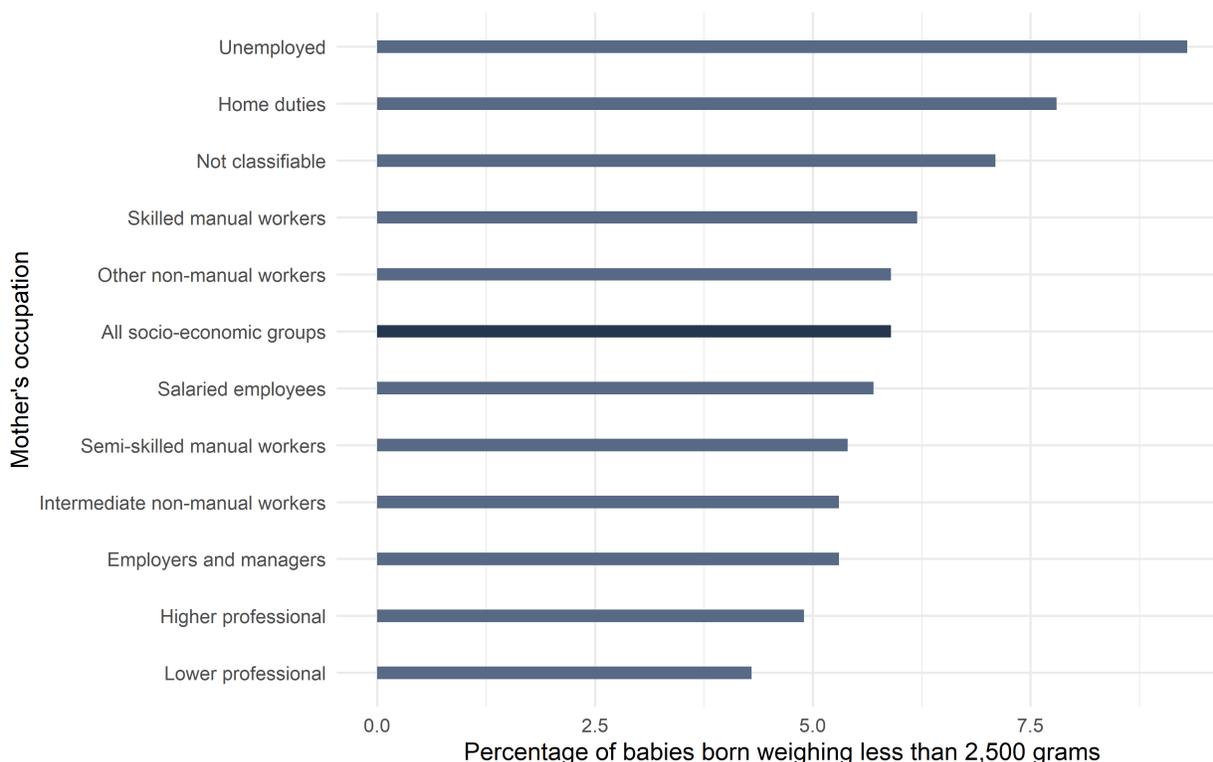
Measure: The percentage of babies born weighing less than 2,500 grams (live and still births)

	2016			2017		
	Low weight (%)	Healthy weight (%)	High weight (%)	Low weight (%)	Healthy weight (%)	High weight (%)
Total	5.9	79.1	15.0	5.9	79.3	14.8
Gender						
Male	5.5	76.1	18.5	5.3	76.4	18.3
Female	6.3	82.4	11.3	6.5	82.4	11.1

Source: National Perinatal Reporting System (NPRS), Healthcare Pricing Office

- In 2017 5.9% of all babies born were in the low birth weight category (weighing less than 2,500 grams) (see Table 61).
- Girls were more likely than boys to be born in the low birth weight category (6.5% and 5.3% respectively) (see Table 61).
- The percentage of babies born in the low birth weight category was highest among mother’s who reported being unemployed (9.3%) (see Figure 14).

Figure 14: Percentage of babies born weighing less than 2,500 grams (live and still births), by occupation of mother (2017)



Source: National Perinatal Reporting System (NPRS), Healthcare Pricing Office

- Overall, 5.9% of babies born in 2017 were in the low birth weight category. This percentage ranged from 4% of all births in Roscommon to 8.6% of all births in Offaly (see Table 62).

Table 62: Percentage of babies born weighing less than 2,500 grams (live and still births), by year and mother's county of residence (2016 - 2017)

	2016	2017
Total	5.9	5.9
County		
Carlow	3.6	5.3
Cavan	6.9	5.5
Clare	4.9	6.0
Cork	6.0	5.8
Donegal	5.1	4.7
Dublin City	5.9	6.5
Dublin County	5.0	5.3
Galway	5.5	5.7
Kerry	6.0	5.7
Kildare	5.6	5.9
Kilkenny	5.7	5.2
Laois	6.8	8.4
Leitrim	5.7	4.7
Limerick	7.2	5.4
Longford	7.1	5.5
Louth	7.7	6.4
Mayo	5.3	5.8
Meath	5.8	5.3
Monaghan	5.7	4.4
Offaly	5.6	8.6
Roscommon	7.3	4.0
Sligo	6.4	5.2
Tipperary	6.1	5.5
Waterford	6.0	6.5
Westmeath	6.0	6.4
Wexford	5.7	5.0
Wicklow	5.5	5.9

Source: National Perinatal Reporting System (NPRS), Healthcare Pricing Office

Breastfeeding

Measure: The percentage of infants who are (a) exclusively breastfed and (b) who are partially breastfed on discharge from hospital

- In 2017, 59.7% of infants were breastfed on discharge from hospital. This includes 48.3% who were breastfed exclusively and a further 11.4% who were fed using a combination of bottle and breastfeeding (see Table 63).
- The percentage of infants who were breastfed (either exclusive or combined) was higher among older mothers (see Table 63).
- The percentage of infants who were breastfed (either exclusive or combined) was highest among mothers in 'higher professional' and 'skilled manual workers' groups (78.3% and 74.4% respectively), when compared with mothers in the 'unemployed' group, among whom it was lowest (37.6%) (see Figure 15).

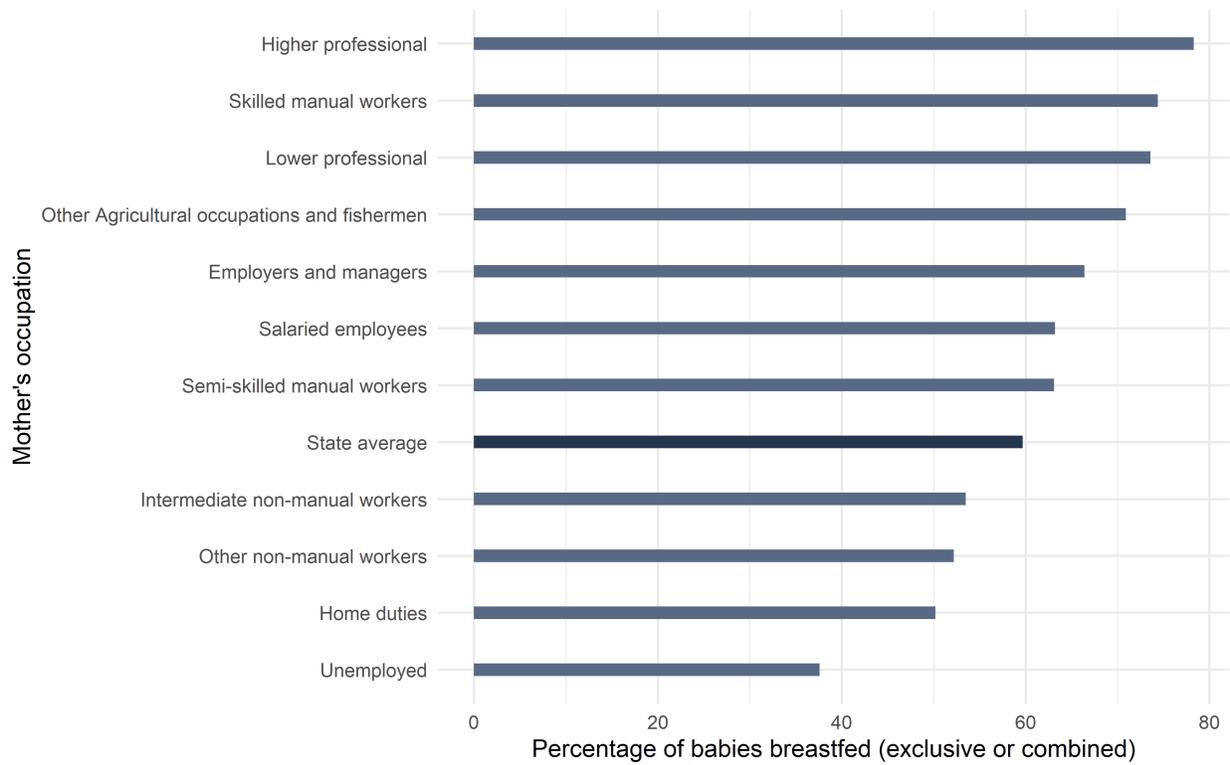
Table 63: Percentage of infants who are breastfed (exclusive or combined) on discharge from hospital, by mother's age (2014 - 2017)

	2014			2015			2016			2017		
	excl.	comb.	tot.									
Total	46.3	10.6	56.9	47.7	10.3	58.0	49.5	10.4	59.9	48.3	11.4	59.7
Age												
15 - 19	18.7	5.0	23.7	21.5	4.9	26.4	22.7	6.0	28.7	21.2	5.7	26.9
20 - 24	29.4	7.6	37.0	29.7	7.1	36.8	31.5	7.5	39.0	30.4	6.8	37.3
25 - 29	42.2	10.0	52.2	41.2	9.6	50.8	42.9	9.6	52.5	41.3	10.6	52.0
30 - 34	50.5	11.0	61.5	52.2	10.7	62.9	53.1	10.8	63.9	52.2	11.7	64.0
35 - 39	50.8	11.1	61.9	53.1	10.8	63.9	54.8	10.7	65.5	53.4	12.4	65.8
40 - 44	46.8	13.5	60.3	49.4	12.9	62.3	53.0	13.4	66.3	51.5	13.9	65.3
≥45	45.8	21.3	67.1	45.7	15.4	61.1	49.1	18.4	67.6	45.6	20.4	66.0

*Categories where percentages are based on fewer than 100 births (i.e. 'under 15 years' and 'age not stated') have been omitted from this table

Source: National Perinatal Reporting System (NPRS), Healthcare Pricing Office

Figure 15: Percentage of infants who are breastfed (either exclusive or combined) on discharge from hospital, by occupation of mother.



Source: National Perinatal Reporting System (NPRS), Healthcare Pricing Office

- Geographically, breastfeeding on discharge ranged from 70.3% in Dublin County to 44.9% in Limerick (see Table 64).

Table 64: Percentage of infants who are breastfed (exclusive or combined) on discharge from hospital, by mother's county of residence (2017)

	Exclusive	Combined	Total
Total	48.3	11.4	59.7
County			
Carlow	49.3	4.3	53.6
Cavan	42.1	8.6	50.7
Clare	40.0	12.2	52.3
Cork	63.2	2.2	65.4
Donegal	40.0	8.4	48.3
Dublin City	50.2	16.3	66.6
Dublin County	53.6	16.6	70.3
Galway	42.3	19.0	61.3
Kerry	57.7	4.0	61.8
Kildare	44.5	17.6	62.1
Kilkenny	62.0	1.5	63.5
Laois	52.4	7.6	60.0
Leitrim	45.2	13.6	58.7
Limerick	35.1	9.8	44.9
Longford	47.5	5.1	52.7
Louth	35.2	11.8	47.0
Mayo	39.9	16.9	56.9
Meath	47.0	12.0	59.0
Monaghan	40.2	8.5	48.6
Offaly	45.0	6.5	51.5
Roscommon	40.4	11.8	52.2
Sligo	43.4	12.9	56.2
Tipperary	36.7	8.7	45.4
Waterford	57.6	2.2	59.8
Westmeath	53.6	5.8	59.4
Wexford	42.4	8.9	51.3
Wicklow	47.8	15.3	63.1

Source: National Perinatal Reporting System (NPRS), Healthcare Pricing Office

Health Conditions and Hospitalisation

Measure: The number of hospital discharges of children

- In 2018 there were 150,686 hospital discharges of children (see Table 65).
- Infants (under 1) and children aged 1 - 4 accounted for 44.8% of total hospital discharges of children (20.3% and 24.5% respectively) (see Table 65).
- Boys accounted for more than half of total hospital discharges of children (54.7%) (see Table 65).
- The most commonly reported principal diagnosis recorded was 'diseases of the respiratory system' (12.8%) followed by 'injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes' (9.1%) (see Table 65).

Table 65: Number, percentage and rate (per 1,000) of hospital discharges of children, by age, gender, and principal diagnosis (2017 - 2018)

	2017			2018		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
Total	148,486	100.0	124.5	150,686	100.0	125.6
Age						
Under 1 year	29,917	20.1	480.4	30,524	20.3	474.7
1 - 4	37,805	25.5	145.0	36,915	24.5	143.2
5 - 9	32,244	21.7	89.8	32,921	21.8	92.3
10 - 14	27,579	18.6	85.3	28,777	19.1	86.5
15 - 17	20,941	14.1	112.7	21,549	14.3	112.7
Gender						
Male	67,208	45.3	110.3	82,498	54.7	134.6
Female	81,278	54.7	139.3	68,188	45.3	116.2
Principal diagnosis						
Diseases of the respiratory system	18,069	12.2	15.1	19,300	12.8	16.1
Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	13,658	9.2	11.4	13,683	9.1	11.4
Diseases of the digestive system	13,090	8.8	11.0	13,206	8.8	11.0
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases	10,247	6.9	8.6	8,892	5.9	7.4
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	9,792	6.6	8.2	10,125	6.7	8.4
Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	8,365	5.6	7.0	8,116	5.4	6.8
Diseases of the genitourinary system	6,795	4.6	5.7	6,624	4.4	5.5
Neoplasms	6,474	4.4	5.4	7,092	4.7	5.9
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	5,008	3.4	4.2	5,222	3.5	4.4
Diseases of the ear and mastoid process	4,180	2.8	3.5	4,063	2.7	3.4
All other conditions and reasons for admission	52,808	35.6	44.3	54,363	36.1	45.3

*Rates calculated using population estimates for the relevant years

Source: Hospital In-patient Enquiry, Healthcare Pricing Office

- Overall, there were 126.6 hospital discharges per 1,000 children in 2018. Rates ranged from 97.5 per 1,000 children in Wicklow to 193.8 per 1,000 in Mayo (see Table 66).

Table 66: Number and rate (per 1,000) of hospital discharges of children, by county of residence (2018)

	No.	Rate
State	150,686	126.6
County		
Carlow	2,136	143.8
Cavan	2,439	116.0
Clare	3,196	104.4
Cork	14,342	107.0
Donegal	8,020	190.8
Dublin	35,365	137.4
Galway	9,390	147.6
Kerry	4,536	131.4
Kildare	6,870	109.2
Kilkenny	2,861	110.3
Laois	3,775	155.6
Leitrim	882	107.7
Limerick	5,990	127.2
Longford	1,852	165.1
Louth	4,217	120.3
Mayo	6,195	193.8
Meath	6,229	109.0
Monaghan	1,844	111.3
Offaly	3,116	147.5
Roscommon	2,254	138.2
Sligo	2,726	170.8
Tipperary	5,148	126.3
Waterford	3,707	126.3
Westmeath	3,914	166.0
Wexford	5,296	135.2
Wicklow	3,708	97.5

*Rates calculated using county population at Census 2016

Source: Hospital In-patient Enquiry, Healthcare Pricing Office

Accidents, Injuries and Hospitalisation

Measure: The number of hospital discharges of children with a principal diagnosis of 'injury, poisoning, and certain other consequences of external causes'

- In 2018 there were 13,683 hospital discharges of children with a principal diagnosis of 'injury, poisoning, and certain other consequences of external causes' (see Table 67).
- Infants (under 1) and children aged 1 - 4 accounted for 32.8% of total hospital discharges of children with a principal diagnosis of 'injury, poisoning, and certain other consequences of external causes' (6.7% and 26.1% respectively) (see Table 67).
- Boys accounted for more than half of total hospital discharges of children with a principal diagnosis of 'injury, poisoning, and certain other consequences of external causes' (60.2%) (see Table 67).
- The most commonly reported principal diagnosis recorded was 'accidental falls' (39.9%) followed by 'accidents caused by objects' (15.5%) (see Table 67).

Table 67: Number and percentage of hospital discharges of children with a principal diagnosis of injury, poisoning and certain other external consequences, by age, gender, and cause (2017 - 2018)

	2017			2018		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
Total	13,658	100.0	11.4	13,683	100.0	11.4
Age						
Under 1 year	836	6.1	13.4	918	6.7	14.3
1 - 4	3,569	26.1	13.7	3,573	26.1	13.9
5 - 9	3,622	26.5	10.1	3,609	26.4	10.1
10 - 14	3,241	23.7	10.0	3,185	23.3	9.6
15 - 17	2,390	17.5	12.9	2,398	17.5	12.5
Gender						
Male	8,153	59.7	13.4	8,232	60.2	13.4
Female	5,505	40.3	9.4	5,451	39.8	9.3
Principal diagnosis						
Accidental falls	5,571	40.8	4.7	5,457	39.9	4.5
Accidents caused by objects	2,124	15.6	1.8	2,123	15.5	1.8
Transport accidents	899	6.6	0.8	963	7.0	0.8
Drowning, submersion, other accidental threats to breathing and foreign bodies	666	4.9	0.6	657	4.8	0.5
Intentional self-harm	531	3.9	0.4	520	3.8	0.4
Accident, not otherwise specified	508	3.7	0.4	494	3.6	0.4
Accidental poisoning	336	2.5	0.3	390	2.9	0.3
Assault	224	1.6	0.2	241	1.8	0.2
Contact with heat or hot substances	211	1.5	0.2	192	1.4	0.2
Event of undetermined intent	69	0.5	0.1	75	0.5	0.1
Exposure to smoke, fire and flames	51	0.4	0.0	21	0.2	0.0
Other external causes of injury	2,423	17.7	2.0	2,535	18.5	2.1
External cause not reported	45	0.3	0.0	15	0.1	0.0

*Rates calculated using population estimates for the relevant years

Source: Hospital In-patient Enquiry, Healthcare Pricing Office

- Overall, there were 11.5 hospital discharges per 1,000 children with a principal diagnosis of ‘injury, poisoning, and certain other consequences of external causes’ in 2018. Rates ranged from 8.4 per 1,000 children in Leitrim to 14.3 per 1,000 in Sligo (see Table 68).

Table 68: Number and rate (per 1,000) of hospital discharges of children with a principal diagnosis of injury, poisoning and certain other external consequences, by county of residence (2018)

	No.	Rate
State	13,683	11.5
County		
Carlow	197	13.3
Cavan	243	11.6
Clare	303	9.9
Cork	1,447	10.8
Donegal	498	11.8
Dublin	3,376	13.1
Galway	763	12.0
Kerry	383	11.1
Kildare	669	10.6
Kilkenny	291	11.2
Laois	312	12.9
Leitrim	69	8.4
Limerick	561	11.9
Longford	147	13.1
Louth	406	11.6
Mayo	357	11.2
Meath	634	11.1
Monaghan	180	10.9
Offaly	252	11.9
Roscommon	156	9.6
Sligo	228	14.3
Tipperary	532	13.1
Waterford	321	10.9
Westmeath	336	14.2
Wexford	475	12.1
Wicklow	430	11.3

*Rates calculated using county population at Census 2016

Source: Hospital In-patient Enquiry, Healthcare Pricing Office

Nutritional Outcomes

Measure: The percentage of children aged seven years in Body Mass Index (BMI) categories: normal, overweight and obese

- In 2015 77% of children were classified as being in the 'normal' weight category according to the International Obesity Taskforce Standards. 16.9% were classified as either 'overweight' or 'obese' (see Table 69).
- 79.5% of boys were classified as being in the 'normal' weight category, compared to 74.7% of girls. 12.9% of boys and 20.5% of girls were classified as being either 'overweight' or 'obese', respectively (see Table 69).

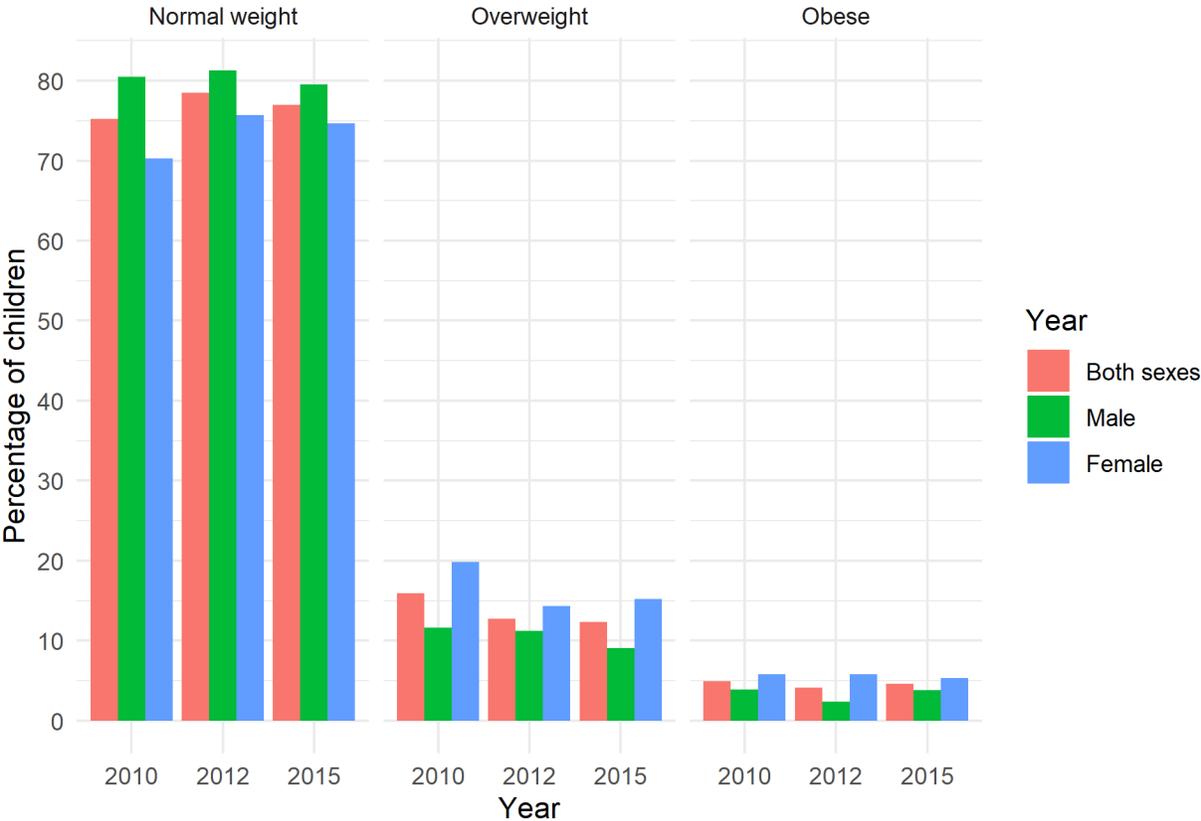
Table 69: Percentage of children aged seven years in BMI categories: normal, overweight and obese, by gender (2010 - 2015)

	2010			2012			2015		
	Normal	O\Weight	Obese	Normal	O\Weight	Obese	Normal	O\Weight	Obese
Both sexes	75.2	15.9	4.9	78.5	12.7	4.1	77.0	12.3	4.6
Male	80.5	11.6	3.9	81.3	11.2	2.4	79.5	9.1	3.8
Female	70.3	19.8	5.8	75.7	14.3	5.8	74.7	15.2	5.3

Source: Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative

- The percentage of children aged seven years classified in the 'normal' weight category increased, from 75.2% in 2010 to 77% in 2015.

Figure 16: Percentage of children aged seven years in BMI categories: normal, overweight and obese, by gender.



Source: Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative

Intellectual Disability

Measure: The number of children registered as having an intellectual disability

- In 2017, there were 8,809 children registered as having an intellectual disability (see Table 70).
- Overall 7.4 per 1,000 children were registered as having an intellectual disability in 2017 (see Table 70).
- 8.7% of children registered as having an intellectual disability were aged 0-4 years; 32.6% were aged 5-9 years; 35.5% were aged 10-14 years; the remaining 23.2% were aged 15-17 years (see Table 70).
- 67.4% of children registered as having an intellectual disability were boys and 32.6% were girls. This equates to a rate of 4.9 per 1,000 boys and 9.7 per 1,000 girls (see Table 70).
- 31.3% of children who were registered as having an intellectual disability were registered as having a moderate disability. 30.9% were registered as having a mild disability (see Table 70).
- The number of children registered as having an intellectual disability decreased over the four-year period 2014 to 2017.

Table 70: Children under 18 years registered as having an intellectual disability, by age, gender, and severity of disability (2014 - 2017)

	2014	2015	2016			2017		
	No.	No.	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
0 - 17	8,989	9,066	8,918	100.0	7.5	8,809	100.0	7.4
Age								
0 - 4	1,118	1,080	911	10.2	2.7	768	8.7	2.4
5 - 9	2,825	2,936	2,919	32.7	8.2	2,869	32.6	8.0
10 - 14	3,058	3,045	3,090	34.6	9.7	3,124	35.5	9.7
15 - 17	1,988	2,005	1,998	22.4	10.9	2,048	23.2	11.0
Gender								
Male	5,905	6,037	5,977	67.0	9.8	5,936	67.4	9.7
Female	3,084	3,029	2,941	33.0	5.1	2,873	32.6	4.9
Severity								
Mild	2,991	2,929	2,694	30.2	2.3	2,720	30.9	2.3
Moderate	2,828	2,828	2,739	30.7	2.3	2,760	31.3	2.3
Severe	865	867	809	9.1	0.7	812	9.2	0.7
Profound	147	143	142	1.6	0.1	143	1.6	0.1
Not verified	2,158	2,299	2,324	26.1	2.0	2,374	26.9	2.0

*Rates calculated using population estimates for the relevant years

Source: National Intellectual Disability Database

- In 2017 rates (per 1,000 children in county in 2016) of those registered as having an intellectual disability ranged from 3.8 per 1,000 in Longford to 12.6 per 1,000 in Mayo (see Table 71).

Table 71: Number and rate per 1,000 of children registered as having an intellectual disability, by county (2017)

	No. of children	Rate
Total	8,809	7.4
County		
Carlow	129	8.7
Cavan	195	9.3
Clare	142	4.6
Cork	884	6.6
Donegal	316	7.5
Dublin	2,045	7.9
Galway	486	7.6
Kerry	284	8.2
Kildare	396	6.3
Kilkenny	151	5.8
Laois	99	4.1
Leitrim	40	4.9
Limerick	552	11.7
Longford	43	3.8
Louth	396	11.3
Mayo	403	12.6
Meath	540	9.5
Monaghan	112	6.8
Offaly	83	3.9
Roscommon	165	10.1
Sligo	167	10.5
Tipperary	256	6.3
Waterford	299	10.2
Westmeath	116	4.9
Wexford	271	6.9
Wicklow	239	6.3

*Rates calculated using county population at Census 2016

Source: National Intellectual Disability Database

Physical and Sensory Disability

Measure: The number of children registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability

- In 2017, there were 5,041 children registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability (see Table 72).
- Overall 4.2 per 1,000 children were registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability in 2015 (see Table 72).
- 3.7% of children registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability were aged 0-4 years; 25.4% were aged 5-9 years; 40.7% were aged 10-14 years; the remaining 30.2% were aged 15-17 years (see Table 72).
- 63% of children registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability were boys and 37% were girls. This equates to a rate of 5.2 per 1,000 boys and 3.2 per 1,000 girls (see Table 72).
- 37.4% of children who were registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability were registered as having multiple disabilities. 39.4% were registered as having either a physical disability or a neurological disability (19.8% and 19.6% respectively) (see Table 72).
- The number of children registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability decreased over the four-year period 2014 to 2017 (see Table 72).

Table 72: Children under 18 years registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability, by age, gender, and type of disability (2014 - 2017)

	2014		2015		2016			2017		
	No.	No.	No.	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	
0 - 17	6,522	6,230	5,606	100.0		4.7	5,041	100.0	4.2	
Age										
0 - 4	480	402	234	4.2		0.7	184	3.7	0.6	
5 - 9	1,817	1,714	1,510	26.9		4.2	1,281	25.4	3.6	
10 - 14	2,570	2,401	2,280	40.7		7.1	2,054	40.7	6.4	
15 - 17	1,655	1,713	1,582	28.2		8.6	1,522	30.2	8.2	
Gender										
Male	4,068	3,890	3,504	62.5		5.8	3,174	63.0	5.2	
Female	2,454	2,340	2,102	37.5		3.6	1,867	37.0	3.2	
Type of disability										
Physical disability	1,328	1,240	1,171	20.9		1.0	998	19.8	0.8	
Neurological disability	1,212	1,090	1,099	19.6		0.9	989	19.6	0.8	
Hearing loss/deafness disability	157	138	160	2.9		0.1	136	2.7	0.1	
Visual disability	177	164	128	2.3		0.1	112	2.2	0.1	
Speech and language disability	1,364	1,354	1,006	17.9		0.8	921	18.3	0.8	
Multiple disabilities	2,284	2,244	2,042	36.4		1.7	1,885	37.4	1.6	

*Rates calculated using population estimates for the relevant years

Source: National Physical and Sensory Disability Database

- In 2017 rates (per 1,000 children in county in 2016) of those registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability ranged from 1.1 per 1,000 in Clare to 11.6 per 1,000 in Meath (see Table 73).

Table 73: Number and rate per 1,000 of children registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability, by county (2017)

	No. of children	Rate
Total	5,041	4.2
County		
Carlow	106	7.1
Cavan	131	6.2
Clare	33	1.1
Cork	357	2.7
Donegal	123	2.9
Dublin	754	2.9
Galway	237	3.7
Kerry	59	1.7
Kildare	200	3.2
Kilkenny	159	6.1
Laois	43	1.8
Leitrim	17	2.1
Limerick	134	2.8
Longford	69	6.2
Louth	138	3.9
Mayo	331	10.4
Meath	662	11.6
Monaghan	62	3.7
Offaly	56	2.7
Roscommon	176	10.8
Sligo	40	2.5
Tipperary	435	10.7
Waterford	186	6.3
Westmeath	186	7.9
Wexford	187	4.8
Wicklow	160	4.2

*Rates calculated using county population at Census 2016

Source: National Physical and Sensory Disability Database

Child Welfare and Protection

Measure: The number of child welfare and protection referrals to Tusla, the Child and Family Agency

- In 2019Q3 there were 13,149 child welfare and protection referrals to Tusla, the Child and Family Agency (see Table 74).
- 58.2% of these referrals related to welfare concerns (see Table 74).
- Between 2018Q2 and 2019Q3 there was on average a -1% quarter-to-quarter decrease in the number of referrals. Overall, there was a 6.6% decrease across the period (see Table 74).

Table 74: Number, percentage and rate per 1,000 of child welfare and protection referrals to Tusla, by type of referral (2018Q2 - 2019Q3)

Type of referral	2018Q2	2018Q3	2018Q4	2019Q1	2019Q2	2019Q3		
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	%	Rate
Total	14,074	13,626	13,823	15,388	15,401	13,149	100.0	10.9
Type of referral								
Welfare issues	7,575	7,544	7,109	7,775	8,560	7,651	58.2	6.4
Physical abuse	1,646	1,195	1,630	1,742	1,715	1,422	10.8	1.2
Emotional abuse	2,594	2,643	2,996	3,649	2,850	2,143	16.3	1.8
Sexual abuse	865	970	929	1,029	1,107	912	6.9	0.8
Neglect	1,394	1,274	1,159	1,193	1,169	1,021	7.8	0.8

*Rates calculated using population estimates for the relevant years

Source: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency

Table 75: Number and rate per 1,000 of child welfare and protection referrals to Tusla, by administrative area (2019Q1 - 2019Q3)

	2019Q1		2019Q2		2019Q3	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
All Tusla regions	15,388	12.9	15,401	12.9	13,149	11.0
Tusla Dublin North East	3,891	14.1	3,752	13.6	2,875	10.4
Cavan/Monaghan	571	15.7	491	13.5	485	13.3
Dublin North	1,403	13.9	1,531	15.2	1,116	11.1
Dublin City North	953	21.2	789	17.6	899	20.0
Louth Meath	964	10.4	941	10.1	375	4.0
Tusla Dublin Mid Leinster	4,280	12.6	4,108	12.1	3,172	9.3
Dublin South Central	730	11.1	671	10.2	294	4.5
Dublin South East/ Wicklow	640	7.4	587	6.8	551	6.3
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	1,042	9.6	1,095	10.1	833	7.7
Midlands	1,868	23.3	1,755	21.9	1,494	18.6
Tusla South	4,210	14.0	4,227	14.1	4,051	13.5
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	1,049	16.6	1,007	16.0	1,037	16.5
Cork	1,826	13.6	1,877	14.0	1,871	14.0
Kerry	398	11.5	416	12.0	237	6.9
Waterford/Wexford	937	13.7	927	13.5	906	13.2
Tusla West	3,007	11.0	3,314	12.1	3,051	11.1
Donegal	294	6.9	450	10.5	343	8.0
Galway/Roscommon	805	10.1	898	11.2	878	11.0
Mayo	310	9.7	348	10.9	354	11.1
Midwest	1,258	13.1	1,249	13.0	1,174	12.2
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	340	14.4	369	15.7	302	12.8

*Rates calculated using regional populations at Census of Population 2016

Source: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency

- There were 11 referrals per 1,000 children in 2019Q3. Rates ranged from 4 per 1,000 in Louth Meath to 20 per 1,000 in Dublin City North (see Table 75).

Social, Emotional and Behavioural Outcomes

Participation in Decision-Making

Measure: The percentage of children aged 10-17 who report students at their school participate in making the school rules

- In 2018 32.6% of children aged 10-17 reported students at their school participate in making the school rules. This decreased between 2014 and 2018 (see Table 76).
- Among individual population groups, when compared to all other children, children with a disability and/or chronic illness were less likely to report students at their school participate in making the school rules (see Table 76).

Table 76: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported students at their school participate in making the school rules by population groups

	2014	2018
All children	35.5	32.6
Traveller status		
Traveller children	47.7	40.0
All children except Traveller children	35.2	32.4
Immigrant status		
Immigrant children	31.2	33.2
All children except immigrant children	36.2	28.3
Disability and/or chronic illness status		
Children with a disability and/or chronic illness	35.3	31.1
All children except those with a disability and/or chronic illness	35.5	33.1

Source: HBSC Survey

- A lower percentage of males than females reported students at their school participate in making the school rules (see Table 77).
- On average, the percentage of children who reported students at their school participate in making the school rules decreased with age (see Table 77).
- The percentage of children who reported students at their school participate in making the school rules was lowest among social classes 1 - 2 (see Table 77).

Table 77: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported students at their school participate in making the school rules by age, gender, and social class

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	36.0	34.9	35.5	31.9	33.4	32.6
Age						
10 years	49.6	53.3	51.4	45.6	48.7	47.1
11 years	55.3	55.4	55.3	39.9	46.5	43.0
12 years	46.2	49.9	47.9	35.2	43.2	39.2
13 years	39.2	37.5	38.3	30.0	33.4	31.8
14 years	28.5	29.3	28.9	23.8	23.1	23.4
15 years	24.6	17.3	20.9	18.9	16.2	17.4
16 years	20.3	19.3	19.8	15.2	14.8	15.0
17 years	21.0	15.3	18.5	12.5	14.4	13.5
Social class						
SC 1 - 2	34.9	32.9	33.9	30.5	32.1	31.4
SC 3 - 4	36.3	35.3	35.8	32.7	32.6	32.6
SC 5 - 6	35.6	41.3	38.4	33.6	35.3	34.5

Source: HBSC Survey

- The percentage of children who reported students at their school participate in making the school rules ranged from 28.1% in Border to 37% in South-West (see Table 78).

Table 78: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported students at their school participate in making the school rules by NUTS Region

	2014	2018
State	35.5	32.6
NUTS Region		
Border	33.4	28.1
Midland	33.0	30.9
West	32.9	31.0
Dublin	36.7	32.6
Mid-East	37.6	31.6
Mid-West	33.2	31.3
South-East	37.3	33.5
South-West	36.2	37.0

Source: HBSC Survey

Reading as a Leisure Activity

Measure: The percentage of children aged 15 who report that reading is one of their favourite hobbies

- In 2018, 30.8% of children aged 15 reported that reading is one of their favourite hobbies (see Table 79).
- 40.2% of immigrant children aged 15 reported that reading is one of their favourite hobbies, compared to 28.8% for non-immigrant students.

Table 79: Percentage of children aged 15 who reported that reading is one of their favourite hobbies, by population groups (2018)

	%
All children	30.8
Immigrant status	
Immigrant children	40.2
All children except immigrant children	28.8

Source: OECD-Pisa Survey

- 47.3% of girls aged 15 reported that reading is one of their favourite hobbies, compared with 30% of boys.
- 46.3% of children in the 'high' socio-economic status category reported that reading is one of their favourite hobbies. The corresponding figure for those in the 'medium' socio-economic status category was 37.6%, and for those in the 'low' socio-economic class category, it was 31.6% (see Table 80).

Table 80: Percentage of children aged 15 who reported that reading is one of their favourite hobbies, by gender and social class (2018)

	2006	2009	2012	2018
All children	42.6	31.7	38.6	30.8
Gender				
Male	32.7	23.4	30.0	22.1
Female	52.0	40.2	47.3	39.3
Social class				
High social economic status	50.0	39.2	46.3	38.5
Medium social economic status	41.8	31.7	37.6	28.6
Low social economic status	36.5	25.3	31.6	25.2

Source: OECD-Pisa Survey

Smoking cigarettes: Weekly Smoking

Measure: The percentage of children aged 10-17 who report smoking cigarettes every week

- In 2018 2.4% of children aged 10-17 reported smoking cigarettes every week. This decreased between 2014 and 2018 (see Table 81).
- Among individual population groups, when compared to all other children, Traveller children and immigrant children were more likely to report smoking cigarettes every week (see Table 81).
- Traveller children were the population group with the highest percentage of children who reported smoking cigarettes every week (see Table 81).

Table 81: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported smoking cigarettes every week by population groups

	2014	2018
All children	5.3	2.4
Traveller status		
Traveller children	11.4	9.1
All children except Traveller children	5.2	2.2
Immigrant status		
Immigrant children	5.2	4.2
All children except immigrant children	5.3	2.2
Disability and/or chronic illness status		
Children with a disability and/or chronic illness	6.9	3.1
All children except those with a disability and/or chronic illness	4.9	2.2

Source: HBSC Survey

- A lower percentage of females than males reported smoking cigarettes every week (see Table 82).
- On average, the percentage of children who reported smoking cigarettes every week increased with age (see Table 82).
- The percentage of children who reported smoking cigarettes every week was highest among social classes 5 - 6 (see Table 82).

Table 82: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported smoking cigarettes every week by age, gender, and social class

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	6.0	4.5	5.3	2.6	2.3	2.4
Age						
10 years	0.5	0.4	0.4	2.8	2.3	0.3
11 years	1.8	0.9	1.3	3.6	2.3	0.4
12 years	2.6	1.8	2.3	3.1	3.0	0.5
13 years	4.3	2.0	3.1	3.0	2.1	1.1
14 years	4.5	4.0	4.3	2.7	2.5	2.9
15 years	8.4	7.5	7.9	3.2	3.0	5.5
16 years	13.7	10.0	11.9	1.9	2.0	8.2
17 years	14.3	11.7	13.2	2.2	2.2	7.7
Social class						
SC 1 - 2	4.8	3.1	4.0	1.9	1.4	1.6
SC 3 - 4	5.2	4.2	4.7	2.4	2.3	2.3
SC 5 - 6	6.1	6.2	6.1	3.8	3.0	3.4

Source: HBSC Survey

- The percentage of children who reported smoking cigarettes every week ranged from 2% in South-East to 3.1% in Mid-West (see Table 83).

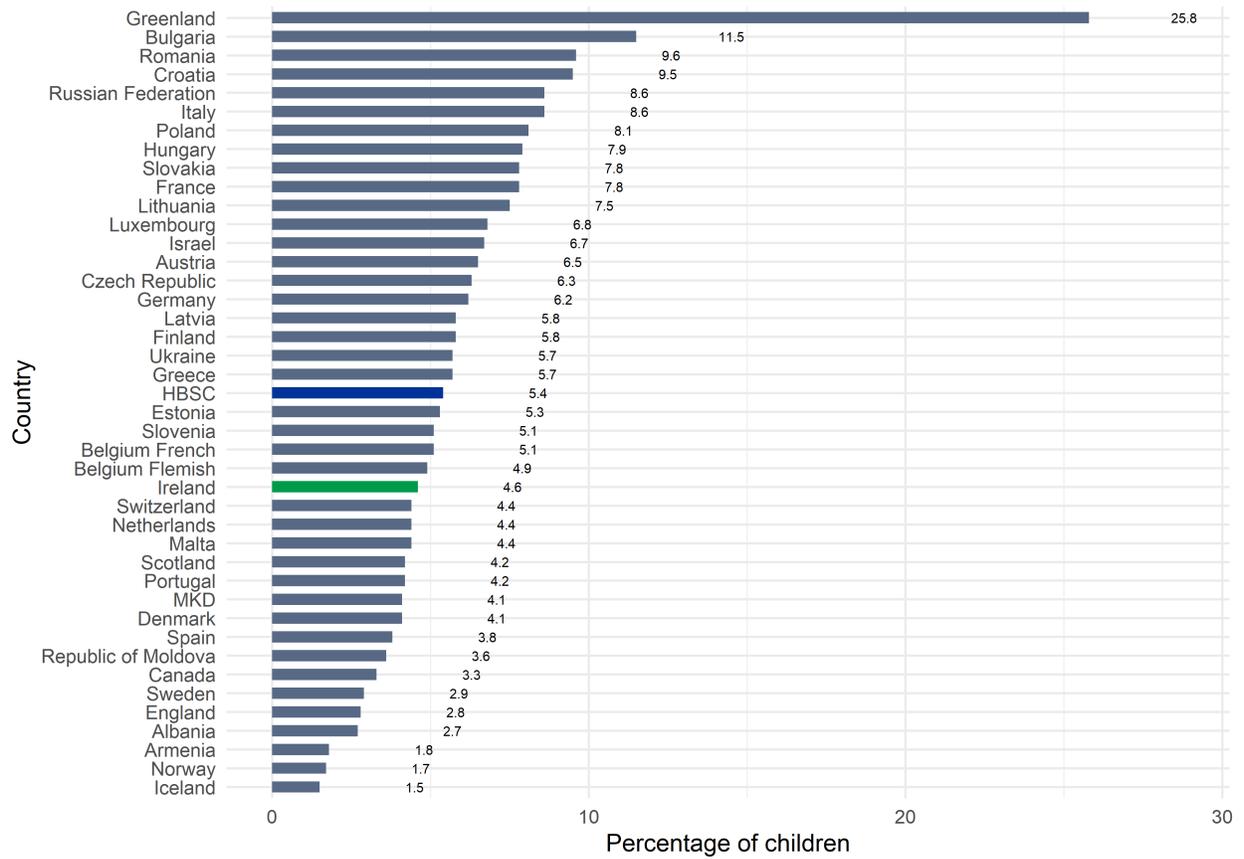
Table 83: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported smoking cigarettes every week by NUTS Region

	2014	2018
State	5.3	2.4
NUTS Region		
Border	6.5	2.6
Midland	5.7	2.9
West	4.5	3.0
Dublin	5.6	2.5
Mid-East	5.2	2.6
Mid-West	3.7	3.1
South-East	5.1	2.0
South-West	5.2	2.2

Source: HBSC Survey

- Across 41 countries, the average percentage of children who reported smoking cigarettes every week was 5.4% (see Figure 17). This ranged from 1.5% in Iceland to 25.8% in Greenland. The corresponding percentage in Ireland was 4.6%. This was below the international HBSC average. (Note: International comparisons are based on data from children aged 11, 13 and 15 only.)

Figure 17: Percentage of children aged 11, 13 and 15 who reported smoking cigarettes every week, by country (2014)



Source: HBSC Survey

Smoking cigarettes: Never Smoking

Measure: The percentage of children aged 10-17 who report never having smoked cigarettes

- In 2018 89.4% of children aged 10-17 reported never having smoked cigarettes. This increased between 2014 and 2018 (see Table 84).
- Among individual population groups, when compared to all other children, Traveller children and immigrant children and children with a disability and/or chronic illness were less likely to report never having smoked cigarettes (see Table 84).
- Immigrant children were the population group with the lowest percentage of children who reported never having smoked cigarettes (see Table 84).

Table 84: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported never having smoked cigarettes by population groups

	2014	2018
All children	84.2	89.4
Traveller status		
Traveller children	75.1	84.5
All children except Traveller children	84.4	89.5
Immigrant status		
Immigrant children	83.0	84.2
All children except immigrant children	84.5	90.1
Disability and/or chronic illness status		
Children with a disability and/or chronic illness	82.1	86.1
All children except those with a disability and/or chronic illness	84.8	90.2

Source: HBSC Survey

- A lower percentage of females than males reported never having smoked cigarettes (see Table 85).
- On average, the percentage of children who reported never having smoked cigarettes decreased with age (see Table 85).
- The percentage of children who reported never having smoked cigarettes was lowest among social classes 5 - 6 (see Table 85).

Table 85: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported never having smoked cigarettes by age, gender, and social class

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	83.7	84.8	84.2	89.5	89.3	89.4
Age						
10 years	94.7	96.2	95.5	100.0	100.0	100.0
11 years	95.8	98.5	97.1	98.4	99.7	99.0
12 years	95.2	96.6	95.8	98.0	98.9	98.4
13 years	90.8	93.7	92.3	94.4	96.0	95.3
14 years	85.5	86.5	86.0	91.0	89.6	90.3
15 years	77.6	81.0	79.3	83.0	81.8	82.3
16 years	70.7	66.8	68.8	74.2	73.6	73.8
17 years	67.4	63.9	65.8	66.1	68.2	67.2
Social class						
SC 1 - 2	83.3	86.8	85.1	89.7	89.5	89.6
SC 3 - 4	86.2	85.1	85.7	90.0	89.8	89.9
SC 5 - 6	84.4	81.1	82.8	87.7	88.4	88.0

Source: HBSC Survey

- The percentage of children who reported never having smoked cigarettes ranged from 85% in South-East to 91.4% in Mid-East (see Table 86).

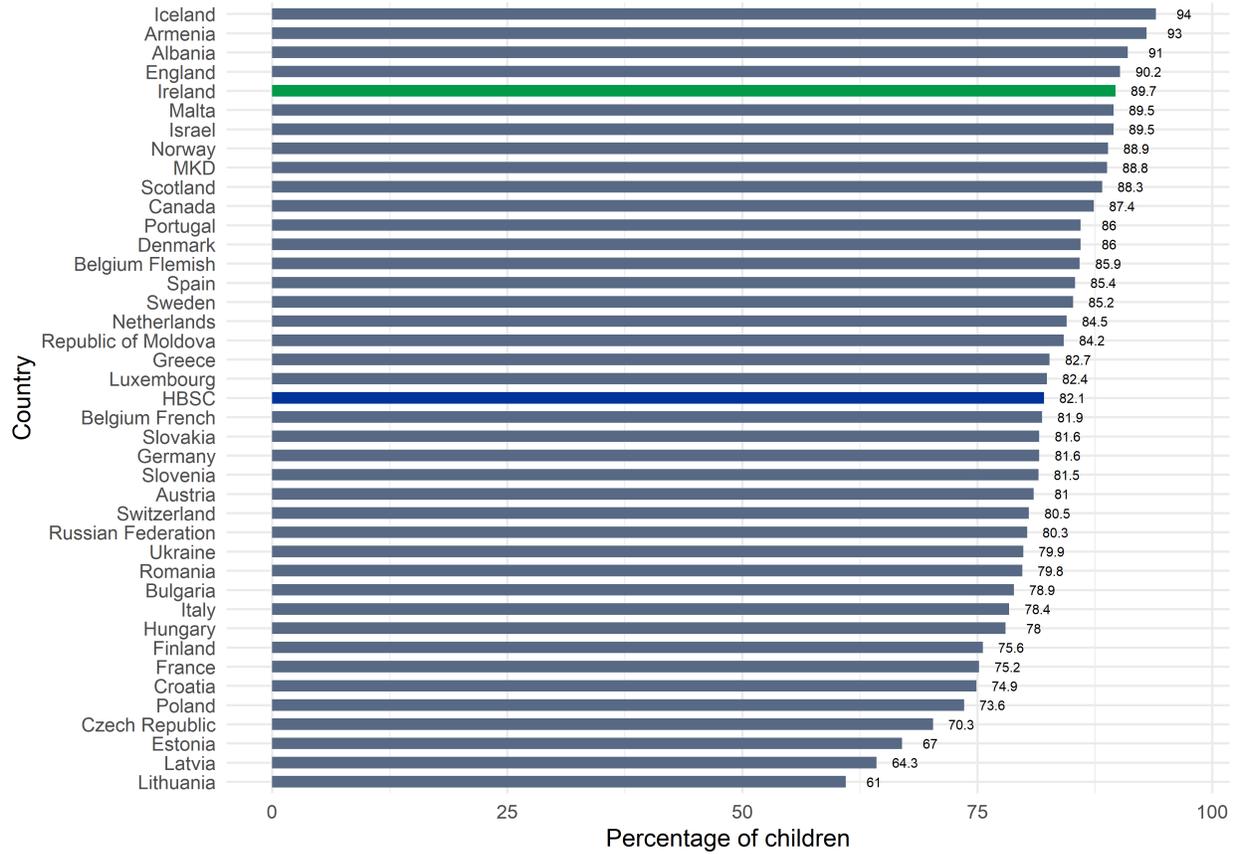
Table 86: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported never having smoked cigarettes by NUTS Region

	2014	2018
State	84.2	89.4
NUTS Region		
Border	83.0	89.8
Midland	83.1	88.4
West	84.6	89.3
Dublin	83.7	90.5
Mid-East	84.4	91.4
Mid-West	88.5	88.4
South-East	83.1	85.0
South-West	84.8	87.0

Source: HBSC Survey

- Across 40 countries, the average percentage of children who reported never having smoked cigarettes was 82.1% (see Figure 18). This ranged from 61% in Lithuania to 94% in Iceland. The corresponding percentage in Ireland was 89.7%. This was above the international HBSC average. (Note: International comparisons are based on data from children aged 11, 13 and 15 only.)

Figure 18: Percentage of children aged 11, 13 and 15 who reported never having smoked cigarettes, by country (2014)



Source: HBSC Survey

Alcohol Use: Drunkenness

Measure: The percentage of children aged 10-17 who report having been drunk at least once in the past 30 days

- In 2018 6.9% of children aged 10-17 reported having been drunk at least once in the past 30 days. This decreased between 2014 and 2018 (see Table 87).
- Among individual population groups, when compared to all other children, Traveller children and children with a disability and/or chronic illness were more likely to report having been drunk at least once in the past 30 days (see Table 87).
- Traveller children were the population group with the highest percentage of children who reported having been drunk at least once in the past 30 days (see Table 87).

Table 87: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported having been drunk at least once in the past 30 days by population groups

	2014	2018
All children	10.0	6.9
Traveller status		
Traveller children	16.8	12.9
All children except Traveller children	9.9	6.8
Immigrant status		
Immigrant children	8.9	7.2
All children except immigrant children	10.2	6.8
Disability and/or chronic illness status		
Children with a disability and/or chronic illness	11.6	8.4
All children except those with a disability and/or chronic illness	9.6	6.5

Source: HBSC Survey

- A lower percentage of males than females reported having been drunk at least once in the past 30 days (see Table 88).
- On average, the percentage of children who reported having been drunk at least once in the past 30 days increased with age (see Table 88).
- The percentage of children who reported having been drunk at least once in the past 30 days was highest among social classes 5 - 6 (see Table 88).

Table 88: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported having been drunk at least once in the past 30 days by age, gender, and social class

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	10.5	9.6	10.0	6.9	6.9	6.9
Age						
10 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
11 years	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.0
12 years	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.0
13 years	1.7	1.4	1.5	1.9	1.4	1.7
14 years	5.7	6.0	5.8	4.2	4.3	4.2
15 years	11.6	10.4	11.0	10.1	10.4	10.3
16 years	25.9	22.2	24.1	19.4	19.0	19.2
17 years	32.2	36.3	34.0	32.3	29.0	30.6
Social class						
SC 1 - 2	10.7	9.0	9.8	7.2	6.6	6.8
SC 3 - 4	9.3	9.4	9.3	5.7	7.3	6.6
SC 5 - 6	7.8	10.0	8.9	7.7	7.2	7.4

Source: HBSC Survey

- The percentage of children who reported having been drunk at least once in the past 30 days ranged from 5.1% in Mid-East to 9.3% in South-West (see Table 89).

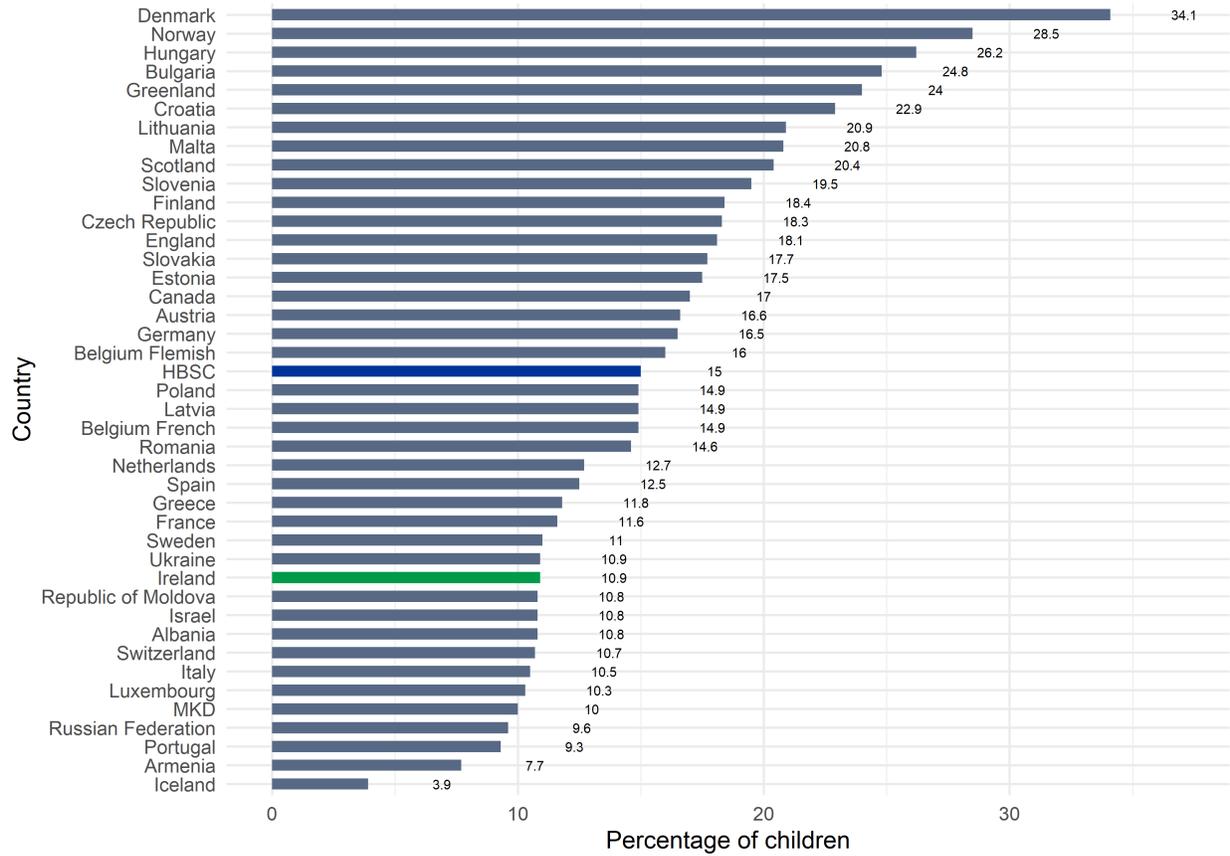
Table 89: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported having been drunk at least once in the past 30 days by NUTS Region

	2014	2018
State	10.0	6.9
NUTS Region		
Border	12.1	8.5
Midland	7.2	5.9
West	9.5	5.7
Dublin	11.4	7.1
Mid-East	8.9	5.1
Mid-West	11.3	6.3
South-East	10.5	9.0
South-West	7.3	9.3

Source: HBSC Survey

- Across 41 countries, the average percentage of children who reported having been drunk at least once in the past 30 days was 15% (see Figure 19). This ranged from 3.9% in Iceland to 34.1% in Denmark. The corresponding percentage in Ireland was 10.9%. This was below the international HBSC average. (Note: International comparisons are based on data from children aged 11, 13 and 15 only.)

Figure 19: Percentage of children aged 11, 13, and 15 who reported having been drunk at least once in the past 30 days, by country (2014)



Source: HBSC Survey

Alcohol Use: Never Drinking

Measure: The percentage of children aged 10-17 who report never having had an alcoholic drink

- In 2018 69.4% of children aged 10-17 reported never having had an alcoholic drink. This increased between 2014 and 2018 (see Table 90).
- Among individual population groups, when compared to all other children, immigrant children and children with a disability and/or chronic illness were less likely to report never having had an alcoholic drink (see Table 90).
- Immigrant children were the population group with the lowest percentage of children who reported never having had an alcoholic drink (see Table 90).

Table 90: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported never having had an alcoholic drink by population groups

	2014	2018
All children	58.4	69.4
Traveller status		
Traveller children	60.4	74.7
All children except Traveller children	58.4	69.3
Immigrant status		
Immigrant children	56.6	63.9
All children except immigrant children	58.7	70.3
Disability and/or chronic illness status		
Children with a disability and/or chronic illness	54.6	64.1
All children except those with a disability and/or chronic illness	59.3	70.8

Source: HBSC Survey

- A lower percentage of males than females reported never having had an alcoholic drink (see Table 91).
- On average, the percentage of children who reported never having had an alcoholic drink decreased with age (see Table 91).
- The percentage of children who reported never having had an alcoholic drink was lowest among social classes 1 - 2 (see Table 91).

Table 91: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported never having had an alcoholic drink by age, gender, and social class

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	55.8	61.0	58.4	69.1	69.8	69.4
Age						
10 years	88.0	93.4	90.8	92.8	98.9	95.8
11 years	80.4	90.2	85.4	90.4	96.9	93.5
12 years	82.2	87.9	84.8	88.9	93.9	91.4
13 years	72.4	79.6	76.1	83.0	85.9	84.6
14 years	58.5	64.8	61.7	69.3	69.6	69.5
15 years	42.9	46.1	44.5	50.3	51.2	50.8
16 years	27.9	29.9	28.9	31.7	30.9	31.3
17 years	17.7	14.9	16.5	22.9	16.4	19.5
Social class						
SC 1 - 2	53.6	61.7	57.8	68.0	69.1	68.6
SC 3 - 4	58.2	61.8	59.9	69.3	69.9	69.6
SC 5 - 6	56.2	59.5	57.8	68.8	70.5	69.7

Source: HBSC Survey

- The percentage of children who reported never having had an alcoholic drink ranged from 61.2% in Mid-West to 75.1% in South-West (see Table 92).

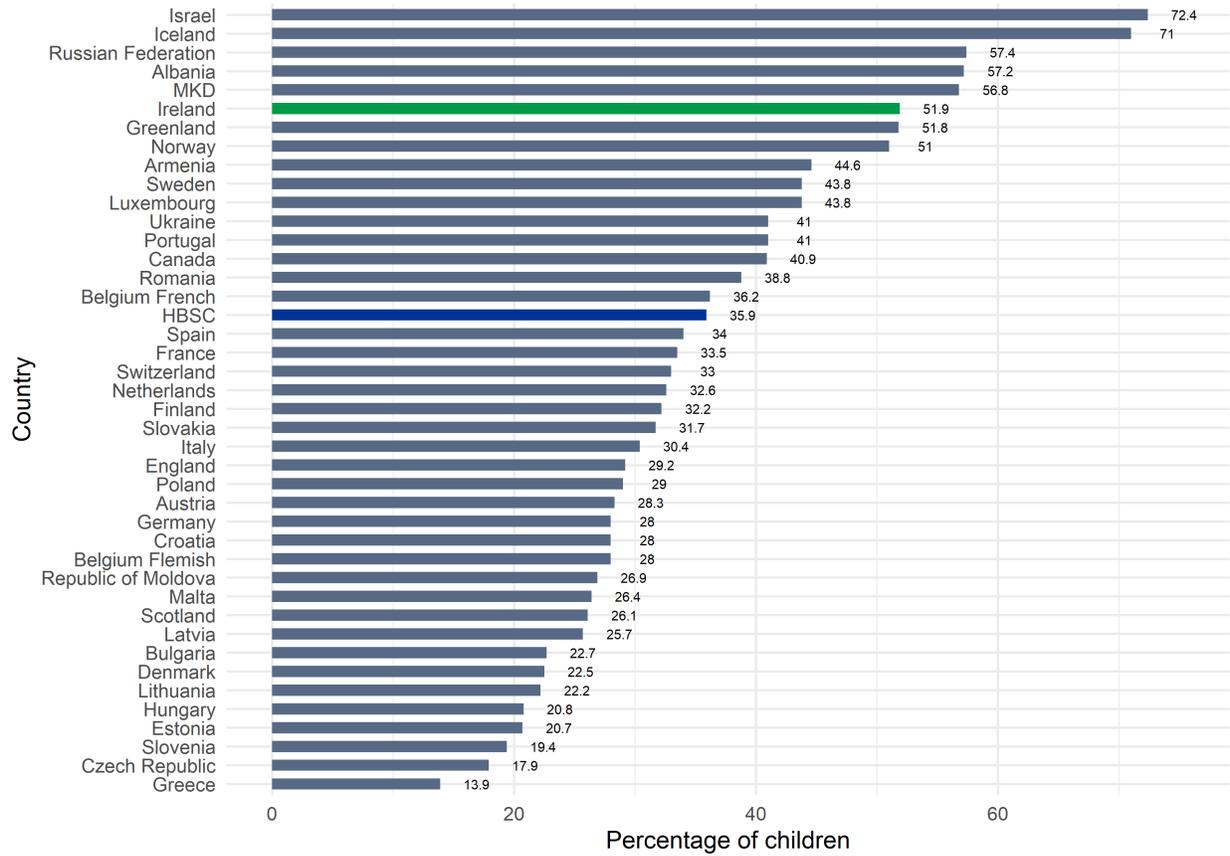
Table 92: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported never having had an alcoholic drink by NUTS Region

	2014	2018
State	58.4	69.4
NUTS Region		
Border	59.3	67.6
Midland	54.9	67.0
West	58.4	66.9
Dublin	57.8	70.4
Mid-East	57.9	66.8
Mid-West	59.5	61.2
South-East	54.0	70.9
South-West	63.5	75.1

Source: HBSC Survey

- Across 41 countries, the average percentage of children who reported never having had an alcoholic drink was 35.9% (see Figure 20). This ranged from 13.9% in Greece to 72.4% in Israel. The corresponding percentage in Ireland was 51.9%. This was above the international HBSC average. (Note: International comparisons are based on data from children aged 11, 13 and 15 only.)

Figure 20: Percentage of children aged 11, 13, and 15 who reported never having had an alcoholic drink, by country (2014)



Source: HBSC Survey

Cannabis Use

Measure: The percentage of children aged 10-17 who report having taken cannabis at least once in their lifetime

- In 2018 7.8% of children aged 10-17 reported having taken cannabis at least once in their lifetime. This decreased between 2014 and 2018 (see Table 93).
- Among individual population groups, when compared to all other children, Traveller children and immigrant children and children with a disability and/or chronic illness were more likely to report having taken cannabis at least once in their lifetime (see Table 93).
- Traveller children were the population group with the highest percentage of children who reported having taken cannabis at least once in their lifetime (see Table 93).

Table 93: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported having taken cannabis at least once in their lifetime by population groups

	2014	2018
All children	8.8	7.8
Traveller status		
Traveller children	18.2	12.0
All children except Traveller children	8.6	7.7
Immigrant status		
Immigrant children	10.9	12.0
All children except immigrant children	8.4	7.1
Disability and/or chronic illness status		
Children with a disability and/or chronic illness	10.1	10.0
All children except those with a disability and/or chronic illness	8.5	7.2

Source: HBSC Survey

- A lower percentage of females than males reported having taken cannabis at least once in their lifetime (see Table 94).
- On average, the percentage of children who reported having taken cannabis at least once in their lifetime increased with age (see Table 94).
- The percentage of children who reported having taken cannabis at least once in their lifetime was highest among social classes 1 - 2 (see Table 94).

Table 94: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported having taken cannabis at least once in their lifetime by age, gender, and social class

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	10.7	6.9	8.8	8.9	6.7	7.8
Age						
10 years	0.7	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
11 years	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.0	0.2
12 years	1.8	0.3	1.1	0.5	0.6	0.6
13 years	3.6	2.5	3.0	2.8	1.2	1.9
14 years	5.9	4.5	5.2	7.0	5.2	6.0
15 years	14.1	8.2	11.1	15.7	11.2	13.2
16 years	23.4	15.5	19.6	25.0	18.5	21.5
17 years	28.5	21.9	25.5	32.6	23.4	27.9
Social class						
SC 1 - 2	10.1	5.7	7.8	9.1	6.8	7.8
SC 3 - 4	10.3	6.4	8.4	7.5	6.0	6.7
SC 5 - 6	7.7	7.7	7.7	9.4	6.0	7.5

Source: HBSC Survey

- The percentage of children who reported having taken cannabis at least once in their lifetime ranged from 6.1% in West and Mid-West to 11.3% in South-East (see Table 95).

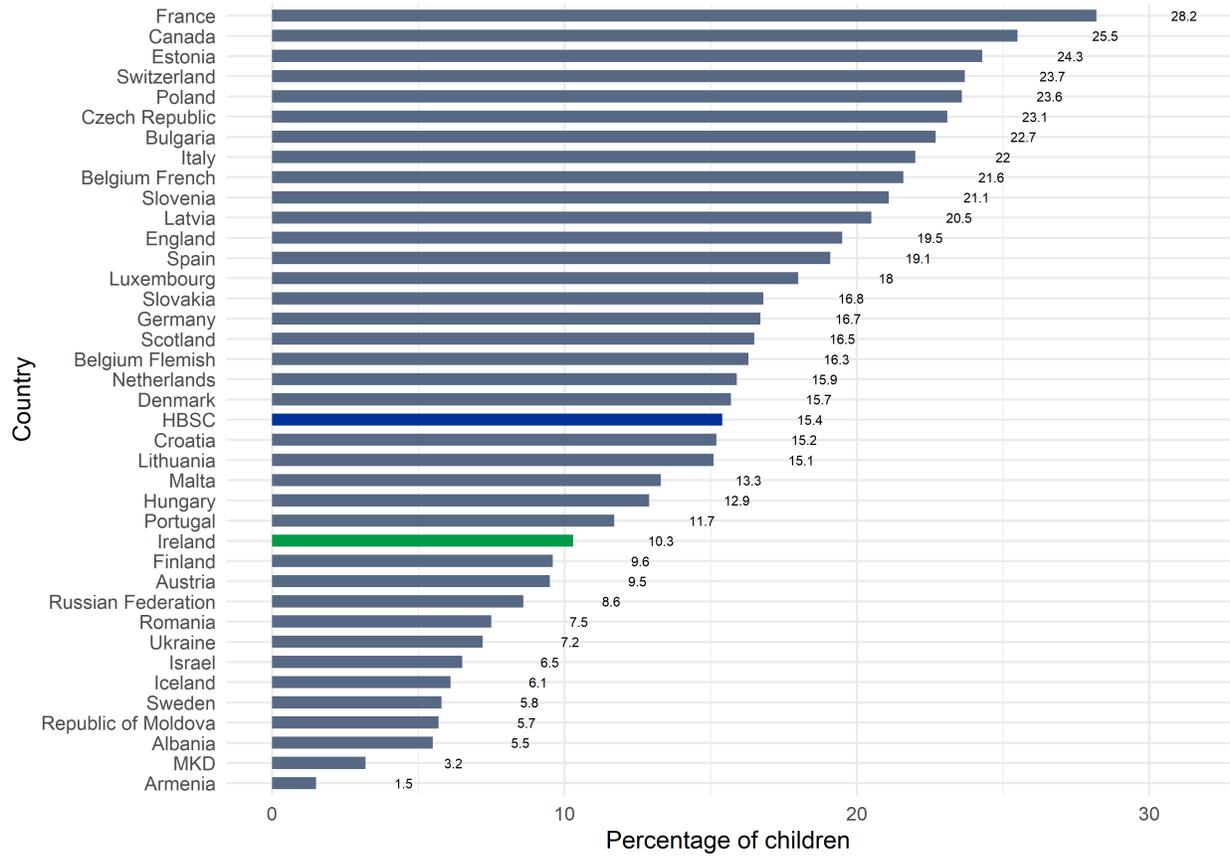
Table 95: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported having taken cannabis at least once in their lifetime by NUTS Region

	2014	2018
State	8.8	7.8
NUTS Region		
Border	8.9	7.2
Midland	8.8	7.3
West	5.9	6.1
Dublin	11.2	8.8
Mid-East	10.5	7.2
Mid-West	6.7	6.1
South-East	8.8	11.3
South-West	6.5	8.4

Source: HBSC Survey

- Across 38 countries, the average percentage of children who reported having taken cannabis at least once in their lifetime was 15.4% (see Figure 21). This ranged from 1.5% in Armenia to 28.2% in France. The corresponding percentage in Ireland was 10.3%. This was below the international HBSC average. (Note: International comparisons are based on data from children aged 11, 13 and 15 only.)

Figure 21: Percentage of children aged 11, 13 and 15 who reported having taken cannabis at least once in their lifetime, by country (2014)



Source: HBSC Survey

Sexual Health and Behaviour: Teen Births

Measure: The number of births to mothers aged 10-17

- In 2017 there were 211 births to mothers aged 10-17 (see Table 96).
- Over the five-year period 2013 to 2017 the number of births to mothers aged 10-17 decreased by 24.6% (see Table 96).

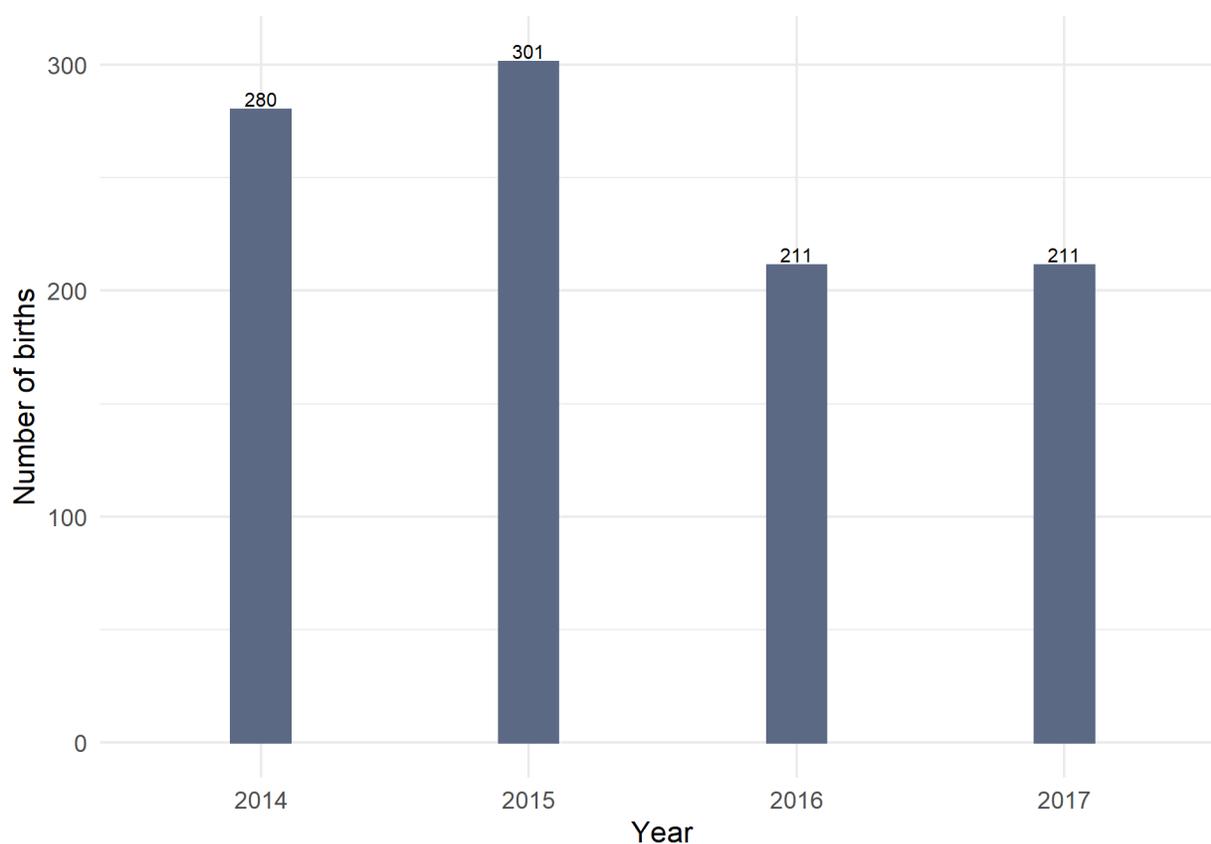
Table 96: Number and rate of births (per 1,000 of female population), by mother's age (2014 - 2017)

	2014		2015		2016		2017	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
All ages	67,462	29	65,909	28	63,839	27	62,053	26
Age								
15 - 17	280	3	301	3	211	2	211	2
18 - 24	6,989	36	6,618	35	6,105	31	5,973	31
25+	60,190	38	58,990	37	57,523	35	55,869	34

The number of births to mothers aged 15-17 includes a small number to mothers aged 10-14

Source: Vital Statistics (CSO)

Figure 22: Number of births to mothers aged 10-17 (2014-2017)



Source: Vital Statistics (CSO)

- Overall 3.4 per 1,000 births were to mothers aged 10-17 in 2017 (see Table 97). This rate was highest in Co. Longford, at 10.8, and lowest in Leitrim, which had no births to 10-17 year olds in 2017.

Table 97: Number and rate (per 1,000) of births to mothers aged 10-17, by county (2017)

	No. of births to 10-17 year olds	No. of births to all ages	Rate of births to 10-17 year olds
Total	211	62,053	3.4
County			
Carlow	2	766	2.6
Cavan	6	1,081	5.6
Clare	4	1,430	2.8
Cork	16	6,844	2.3
Donegal	8	1,864	4.3
Dublin	69	18,194	3.8
Galway	3	3,328	0.9
Kerry	2	1,626	1.2
Kildare	16	3,182	5.0
Kilkenny	1	1,183	0.8
Laois	9	1,207	7.5
Leitrim	0	408	0.0
Limerick	10	2,573	3.9
Longford	6	558	10.8
Louth	9	1,738	5.2
Mayo	1	1,542	0.6
Meath	5	2,752	1.8
Monaghan	2	801	2.5
Offaly	5	990	5.1
Roscommon	3	772	3.9
Sligo	1	737	1.4
Tipperary	6	2,035	2.9
Waterford	3	1,406	2.1
Westmeath	4	1,234	3.2
Wexford	11	1,911	5.8
Wicklow	9	1,891	4.8

Source: Vital Statistics (CSO)

Sexual Health and Behaviour: Sexual Activity

Measure: The percentage of children aged 15-17 who report having ever had sex

- In 2018 24.8% of children aged 15-17 reported having ever had sex. This decreased between 2014 and 2018 (see Table 98).
- Among individual population groups, when compared to all other children, Traveller children and immigrant children and children with a disability and/or chronic illness were more likely to report having ever had sex (see Table 98).
- Traveller children were the population group with the highest percentage of children who reported having ever had sex (see Table 98).

Table 98: Percentage of children aged 15-17 who reported having ever had sex by population groups

	2014	2018
All children	26.8	24.8
Traveller status		
Traveller children	54.7	57.1
All children except Traveller children	26.4	24.5
Immigrant status		
Immigrant children	29.1	57.1
All children except immigrant children	26.4	26.2
Disability and/or chronic illness status		
Children with a disability and/or chronic illness	30.3	28.8
All children except those with a disability and/or chronic illness	25.9	24.0

Source: HBSC Survey

- A lower percentage of females than males reported having ever had sex (see Table 99).
- Children aged 17 years were most likely to report having ever had sex and children aged 15 years were least likely (see Table 99).
- The percentage of children who reported having ever had sex was highest among social classes 5 - 6 (see Table 99).

Table 99: Percentage of children aged 15-17 who reported having ever had sex by age, gender, and social class

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	32.2	21.3	26.8	29.3	21.0	24.8
Age						
15 years	25.9	13.6	19.6	23.1	12.3	16.9
16 years	34.9	21.6	28.3	30.7	26.1	28.2
17 years	37.9	36.1	37.1	38.6	33.0	35.7
Social class						
SC 1 - 2	26.4	18.4	22.3	26.7	17.9	21.8
SC 3 - 4	31.1	20.9	26.0	30.3	22.9	26.3
SC 5 - 6	34.3	27.0	30.9	31.6	26.3	28.6

Source: HBSC Survey

- The percentage of children who reported having ever had sex ranged from 19.6% in Mid-West to 32.8% in South-West (see Table 100).

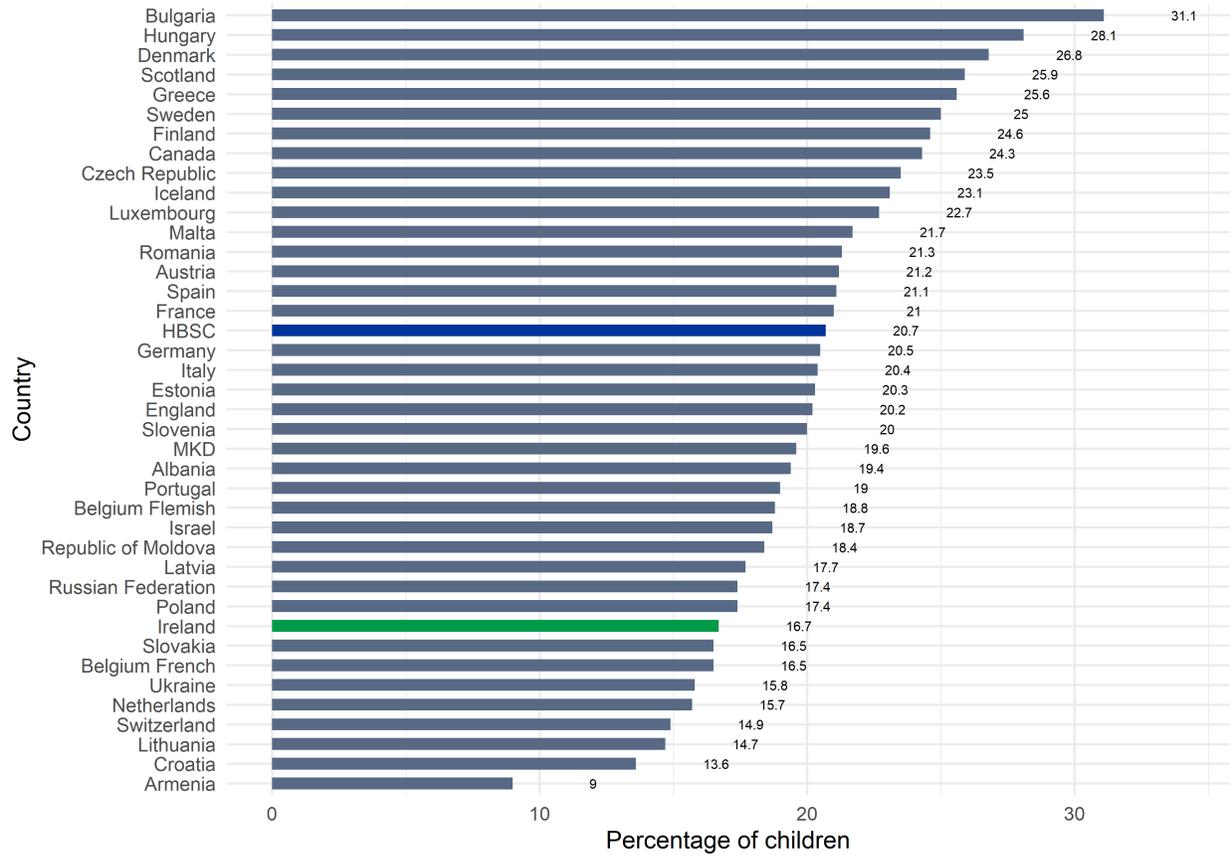
Table 100: Percentage of children aged 15-17 who reported having ever had sex by NUTS Region

	2014	2018
State	26.8	24.8
NUTS Region		
Border	26.9	26.4
Midland	23.9	27.8
West	24.1	25.9
Dublin	33.1	21.7
Mid-East	25.0	24.9
Mid-West	24.5	19.6
South-East	31.8	30.0
South-West	18.4	32.8

Source: HBSC Survey

- Across 39 countries, the average percentage of children who reported having ever had sex was 20.7% (see Figure 23). This ranged from 9% in Armenia to 31.1% in Bulgaria. The corresponding percentage in Ireland was 16.7%. This was below the international HBSC average. (Note: International comparisons are based on data from children aged 11, 13 and 15 only.)

Figure 23: Percentage of children aged 11, 13, and 15 who reported having ever had sex, by country (2014)



Source: HBSC Survey

Self-Esteem

Measure: The percentage of children aged 10-17 who report feeling happy with the way they are

- In 2018 57.6% of children aged 10-17 reported feeling happy with the way they are. This changed only marginally between 2014 and 2018 (see Table 101).
- Among individual population groups, when compared to all other children, immigrant children and children with a disability and/or chronic illness were less likely to report feeling happy with the way they are (see Table 101).
- Children with a disability and/or chronic illness were the population group with the lowest percentage of children who reported feeling happy with the way they are (see Table 101).

Table 101: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported feeling happy with the way they are by population groups

	2014	2018
All children	57.5	57.6
Traveller status		
Traveller children	62.4	63.0
All children except Traveller children	57.4	57.5
Immigrant status		
Immigrant children	56.1	52.2
All children except immigrant children	57.7	58.3
Disability and/or chronic illness status		
Children with a disability and/or chronic illness	53.6	51.1
All children except those with a disability and/or chronic illness	58.5	59.4

Source: HBSC Survey

- A lower percentage of females than males reported feeling happy with the way they are (see Table 102).
- On average, the percentage of children who reported feeling happy with the way they are decreased with age (see Table 102).
- The percentage of children who reported feeling happy with the way they are was lowest among social classes 3 - 4 (see Table 102).

Table 102: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported feeling happy with the way they are by age, gender, and social class

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	64.2	50.5	57.5	62.9	52.7	57.6
Age						
10 years	77.6	76.7	77.2	71.2	75.8	73.5
11 years	75.0	74.4	74.7	72.8	69.7	71.4
12 years	71.3	66.8	69.3	68.8	60.8	64.7
13 years	63.4	48.9	55.9	60.2	47.5	53.4
14 years	64.3	41.2	52.6	56.5	38.2	46.7
15 years	54.8	30.2	42.1	51.5	32.5	40.9
16 years	52.8	32.2	42.8	49.7	32.7	40.5
17 years	51.5	32.7	43.2	47.6	28.7	37.9
Social class						
SC 1 - 2	65.1	51.4	58.1	63.6	54.5	58.7
SC 3 - 4	66.5	50.6	58.6	62.4	51.0	56.6
SC 5 - 6	64.1	47.6	55.9	63.3	51.1	56.9

Source: HBSC Survey

- The percentage of children who reported feeling happy with the way they are ranged from 52.8% in West to 61.9% in Dublin (see Table 103).

Table 103: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported feeling happy with the way they are by NUTS Region

	2014	2018
State	57.5	57.6
NUTS Region		
Border	57.2	57.4
Midland	56.0	59.6
West	57.6	52.8
Dublin	55.5	61.9
Mid-East	59.5	61.6
Mid-West	59.4	55.2
South-East	56.4	55.0
South-West	59.6	58.0

Source: HBSC Survey

Self-Reported Happiness

Measure: The percentage of children aged 10-17 who report being happy with their lives at present

- In 2018 48.8% of children aged 10-17 reported being happy with their lives at present. This decreased between 2014 and 2018 (see Table 104).
- Among individual population groups, when compared to all other children, immigrant children and children with a disability and/or chronic illness were less likely to report being happy with their lives at present (see Table 104).
- Immigrant children were the population group with the lowest percentage of children who reported being happy with their lives at present (see Table 104).

Table 104: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported being happy with their lives at present by population groups

	2014	2018
All children	89.7	48.8
Traveller status		
Traveller children	89.2	58.1
All children except Traveller children	89.7	48.5
Immigrant status		
Immigrant children	88.1	41.4
All children except immigrant children	90.0	49.7
Disability and/or chronic illness status		
Children with a disability and/or chronic illness	87.1	43.7
All children except those with a disability and/or chronic illness	90.4	50.2

Source: HBSC Survey

- A lower percentage of females than males reported being happy with their lives at present (see Table 105).
- On average, the percentage of children who reported being happy with their lives at present decreased with age (see Table 105).
- The percentage of children who reported being happy with their lives at present was lowest among social classes 5 - 6 (see Table 105).

Table 105: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported being happy with their lives at present by age, gender, and social class

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	92.6	86.8	89.7	51.8	46.0	48.8
Age						
10 years	94.8	95.2	95.0	66.2	68.9	67.5
11 years	95.0	95.2	95.1	62.7	60.8	61.8
12 years	96.0	92.5	94.4	58.7	54.7	56.6
13 years	92.2	86.4	89.2	48.4	43.4	45.7
14 years	91.9	82.2	87.0	40.4	29.1	34.3
15 years	90.1	79.6	84.7	35.3	25.2	29.6
16 years	89.4	81.7	85.7	35.5	25.4	30.1
17 years	91.0	81.8	86.9	29.9	26.0	27.9
Social class						
SC 1 - 2	94.0	87.5	90.7	51.9	47.3	49.4
SC 3 - 4	93.0	88.2	90.7	52.4	46.4	49.4
SC 5 - 6	90.2	84.3	87.3	51.2	44.4	47.6

Source: HBSC Survey

- The percentage of children who reported being happy with their lives at present ranged from 45.8% in Midland to 53.8% in Dublin (see Table 106).

Table 106: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported being happy with their lives at present by NUTS Region

	2014	2018
State	89.7	48.8
NUTS Region		
Border	90.4	48.3
Midland	89.7	45.8
West	90.5	46.7
Dublin	88.7	53.8
Mid-East	90.0	52.9
Mid-West	89.5	47.4
South-East	88.7	46.2
South-West	91.1	49.8

Source: HBSC Survey

Child and Youth Suicide

Measure: The number of suicides by children aged 10-17

- In 2018 there were 7 suicides by children aged 10-17 (see Table 107).
- Over the five-year period 2014 to 2018 the number and rate (per 100,000) of suicides by children aged 10-17 was consistently higher among boys (see Table 107).

Table 107: Number and rate (per 100,000) of suicides, by age and gender (2014 - 2018)

Year	15-17 years				18-24 years				0-24 years	
	Males		Females		Males		Females		Both sexes	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
2014	8	8.7	2	2.3	60	30.5	10	5.2	80	5.1
2015	13	14.0	1	1.1	33	16.6	9	4.7	56	3.6
2016	10	10.6	2	2.2	34	17.1	6	3.1	52	3.3
2017	8	8.4	5	5.5	26	12.8	9	4.6	48	3.0
2018	4	4.1	3	3.2	27	12.8	13	6.4	47	2.9

The number of suicides aged 15-17 includes a small number of children aged 10-14

Source: Vital Statistics (CSO)

- Overall suicide accounted for 15.6% of deaths of children aged 10-17 in 2018.

Table 108: suicides as a percentage of total deaths of children aged 10-17 (2015 - 2018)

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total	17.2	17.1	16.2	15.6
Sex				
Male	23.2	25.3	22.4	19.4
Female	7.8	6.2	9.7	11.3

Source: Vital Statistics (CSO)

Self Harm

Measure: The number of children aged 10-24 who presented at a hospital emergency department

- In 2017 the rate (per 100,000) of children and young people aged 10-24 presenting at a hospital emergency department following self-harm was 384 (see Table 109).
- The rate per 100,000 for girls was 481 and the rate per 100,000 for boys was 292.
- In 2017 the highest rate (per 100,000) of presentation to an emergency department following self-harm was among girls aged 10 - 14 years .

Table 109: Rate (per 100,000) of children aged 10-24 who presented at a hospital emergency department following self harm, by gender, (2010 - 2017)

Year	Male			Female				Total				
	10 - 14	15 - 19	20 - 24	10 - 24	10 - 14	15 - 19	20 - 24	10 - 24	10 - 14	15 - 19	20 - 24	10 - 24
2010	33	442	627	334	108	638	545	404	69	538	585	369
2011	35	430	568	338	98	586	534	406	65	507	551	371
2012	40	368	533	303	1	132	596	410	21	253	565	356
2013	34	345	510	282	144	619	529	416	88	478	519	347
2014	49	381	544	305	160	678	534	442	104	524	538	372
2015	45	364	553	297	178	718	570	470	110	535	561	381
2016	53	377	516	294	160	760	583	483	106	563	549	386
2017	60	357	505	292	174	758	496	481	115	553	500	384

Source: National Suicide Research Foundation

Table 110 pending

Physical Activity

Measure: The percentage of children aged 10-17 who report being physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on more than four days per week

- In 2018 51.1% of children aged 10-17 reported being physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on more than four days per week. This changed only marginally between 2014 and 2018 (see Table 111).
- Among individual population groups, when compared to all other children, immigrant children and children with a disability and/or chronic illness were less likely to report being physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on more than four days per week (see Table 111).
- Immigrant children were the population group with the lowest percentage of children who reported being physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on more than four days per week (see Table 111).

Table 111: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported being physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on more than four days per week by population groups

	2014	2018
All children	52.0	51.1
Traveller status		
Traveller children	60.1	53.9
All children except Traveller children	51.9	51.0
Immigrant status		
Immigrant children	47.9	43.4
All children except immigrant children	52.8	52.2
Disability and/or chronic illness status		
Children with a disability and/or chronic illness	51.2	47.8
All children except those with a disability and/or chronic illness	52.3	52.0

Source: HBSC Survey

- A lower percentage of females than males reported being physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on more than four days per week (see Table 112).
- On average, the percentage of children who reported being physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on more than four days per week decreased with age (see Table 112).
- The percentage of children who reported being physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on more than four days per week was lowest among social classes 5 - 6 (see Table 112).

Table 112: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported being physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on more than four days per week by age, gender, and social class

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	60.2	43.5	52.0	58.1	44.8	51.1
Age						
10 years	63.4	56.7	59.9	72.7	61.5	67.1
11 years	73.1	65.4	69.2	75.4	67.9	71.9
12 years	75.2	60.9	68.8	67.5	60.9	64.1
13 years	64.3	47.8	55.9	58.9	49.0	53.6
14 years	58.3	39.7	48.9	51.0	36.4	43.2
15 years	54.8	31.8	43.1	46.7	30.4	37.6
16 years	49.3	30.6	40.2	48.3	29.3	38.1
17 years	46.0	29.1	38.5	42.2	25.6	33.8
Social class						
SC 1 - 2	61.3	43.9	52.3	60.1	46.9	53.0
SC 3 - 4	60.3	44.3	52.4	57.7	42.6	50.0
SC 5 - 6	57.9	43.1	50.5	53.6	41.4	47.0

Source: HBSC Survey

- The percentage of children who reported being physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on more than four days per week ranged from 46.5% in Border to 57.2% in West (see Table 113).

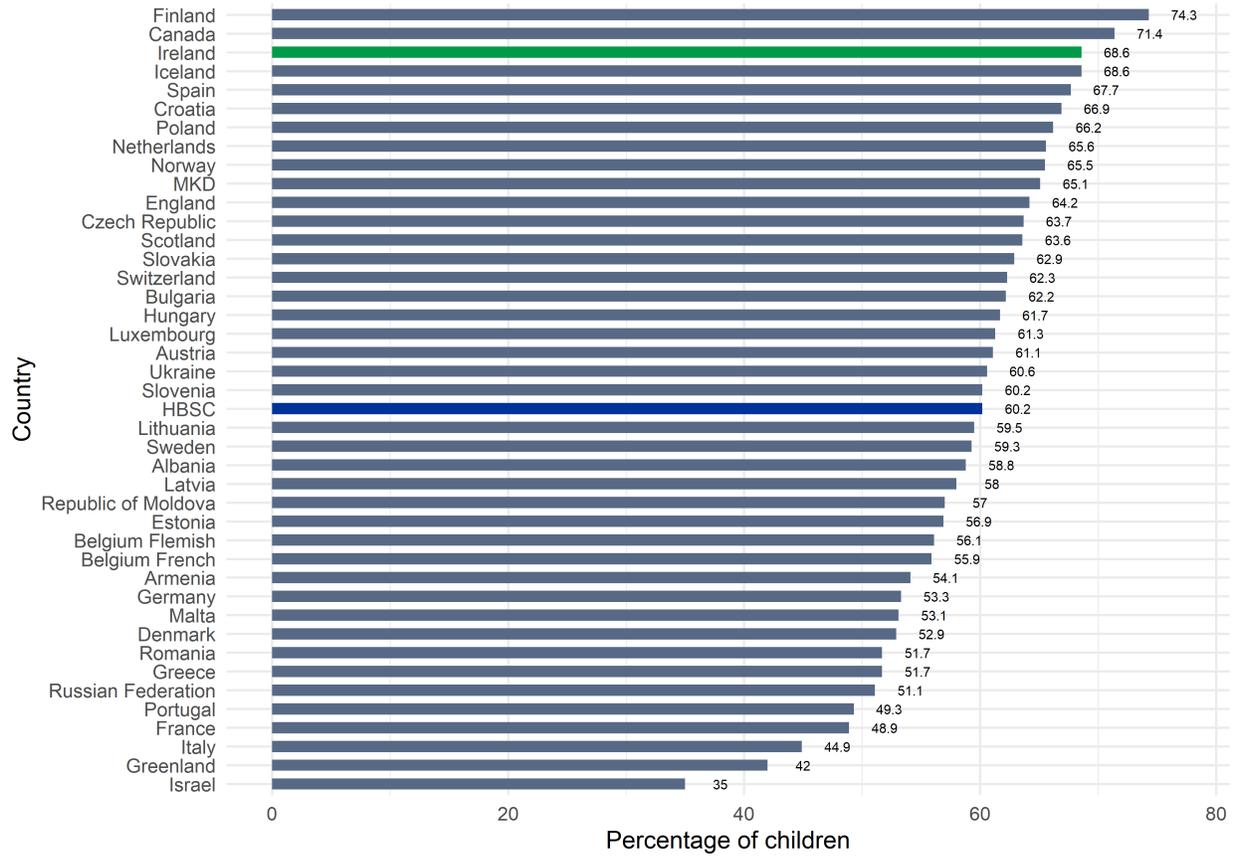
Table 113: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported being physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on more than four days per week by NUTS Region

	2014	2018
State	52.0	51.1
NUTS Region		
Border	48.6	46.5
Midland	47.7	48.0
West	53.3	57.2
Dublin	53.2	51.0
Mid-East	52.5	50.5
Mid-West	52.8	53.7
South-East	52.1	50.6
South-West	53.5	50.1

Source: HBSC Survey

- Across 41 countries, the average percentage of children who reported being physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on more than four days per week was 60.2% (see Figure 24). This ranged from 35% in Israel to 74.3% in Finland. The corresponding percentage in Ireland was 68.6%. This was above the international HBSC average. (Note: International comparisons are based on data from children aged 11, 13 and 15 only.)

Figure 24: Percentage of children aged 11, 13 and 15 who reported being physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on more than four days per week, by country (2014)



Source: HBSC Survey

Nutrition: Breakfast Consumption

Measure: The percentage of children aged 10-17 who report eating breakfast on five or more days per week

- In 2018 78.2% of children aged 10-17 reported eating breakfast on five or more days per week. This increased between 2014 and 2018 (see Table 114).
- Among individual population groups, when compared to all other children, Traveller children and immigrant children and children with a disability and/or chronic illness were less likely to report eating breakfast on five or more days per week (see Table 114).
- Traveller children were the population group with the lowest percentage of children who reported eating breakfast on five or more days per week (see Table 114).

Table 114: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported eating breakfast on five or more days per week by population groups

	2014	2018
All children	76.7	78.2
Traveller status		
Traveller children	65.3	72.5
All children except Traveller children	76.9	78.3
Immigrant status		
Immigrant children	74.4	74.7
All children except immigrant children	77.2	78.7
Disability and/or chronic illness status		
Children with a disability and/or chronic illness	75.0	76.4
All children except those with a disability and/or chronic illness	77.2	78.6

Source: HBSC Survey

- A lower percentage of females than males reported eating breakfast on five or more days per week (see Table 115).
- On average, the percentage of children who reported eating breakfast on five or more days per week decreased with age (see Table 115).
- The percentage of children who reported eating breakfast on five or more days per week was lowest among social classes 5 - 6 (see Table 115).

Table 115: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported eating breakfast on five or more days per week by age, gender, and social class

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	79.6	73.7	76.7	81.8	74.8	78.2
Age						
10 years	92.1	84.9	88.3	86.6	88.4	87.5
11 years	85.2	86.0	85.6	90.1	88.9	89.6
12 years	84.1	77.5	81.1	86.1	83.0	84.5
13 years	77.6	73.1	75.3	81.9	74.9	78.2
14 years	78.9	70.6	74.7	79.1	70.2	74.4
15 years	79.5	68.0	73.6	77.1	66.5	71.2
16 years	74.7	71.3	73.0	74.2	66.4	70.0
17 years	75.2	69.9	72.8	77.3	68.2	72.7
Social class						
SC 1 - 2	83.6	79.1	81.3	86.4	79.1	82.5
SC 3 - 4	81.8	72.8	77.3	81.0	74.7	77.7
SC 5 - 6	75.9	68.6	72.3	72.1	68.2	70.0

Source: HBSC Survey

- The percentage of children who reported eating breakfast on five or more days per week ranged from 75.6% in South-East to 82% in Dublin (see Table 116).

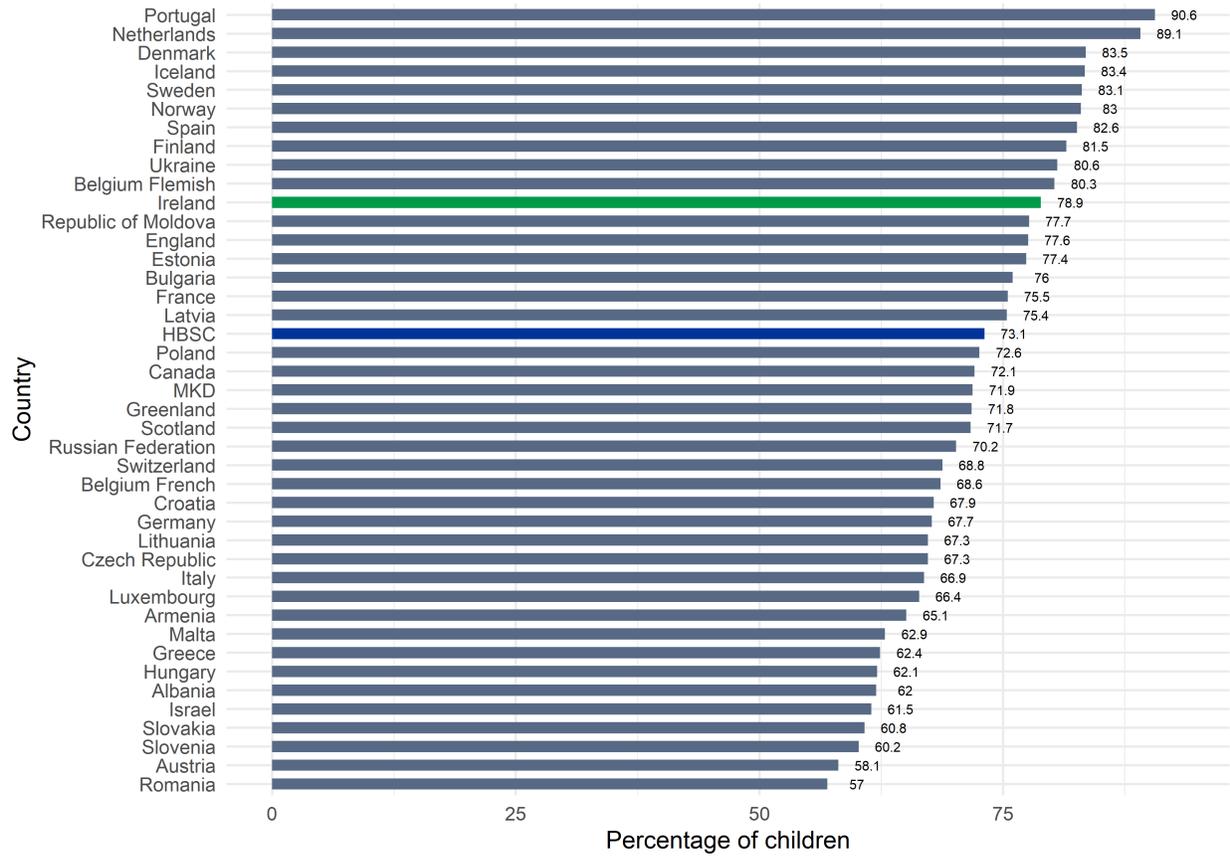
Table 116: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported eating breakfast on five or more days per week by NUTS Region

	2014	2018
State	76.7	78.2
NUTS Region		
Border	76.9	77.5
Midland	76.8	76.5
West	81.1	79.0
Dublin	73.5	82.0
Mid-East	77.9	81.3
Mid-West	76.8	76.9
South-East	74.8	75.6
South-West	79.7	79.2

Source: HBSC Survey

- Across 41 countries, the average percentage of children who reported eating breakfast on five or more days per week was 73.1% (see Figure 25). This ranged from 57% in Romania to 90.6% in Portugal. The corresponding percentage in Ireland was 78.9%. This was above the international HBSC average. (Note: International comparisons are based on data from children aged 11, 13 and 15 only.)

Figure 25: Percentage of children aged 11, 13 and 15 who reported eating breakfast on five or more days per week, by country (2014)



Source: HBSC Survey

Nutrition: Soft Drinks

Measure: The percentage of children aged 10-17 who report drinking soft drinks that contain sugar at least once a day

- In 2018 6.5% of children aged 10-17 reported drinking soft drinks that contain sugar at least once a day. This decreased between 2014 and 2018 (see Table 117).
- Among individual population groups, when compared to all other children, Traveller children and children with a disability and/or chronic illness were more likely to report drinking soft drinks that contain sugar at least once a day (see Table 117).
- Traveller children were the population group with the highest percentage of children who reported drinking soft drinks that contain sugar at least once a day (see Table 117).

Table 117: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported drinking soft drinks that contain sugar at least once a day by population groups

	2014	2018
All children	12.6	6.5
Traveller status		
Traveller children	23.5	16.5
All children except Traveller children	12.4	6.2
Immigrant status		
Immigrant children	10.6	7.0
All children except immigrant children	12.9	6.4
Disability and/or chronic illness status		
Children with a disability and/or chronic illness	12.9	7.2
All children except those with a disability and/or chronic illness	12.5	6.2

Source: HBSC Survey

- A lower percentage of females than males reported drinking soft drinks that contain sugar at least once a day (see Table 118).
- Children aged 14 years were most likely to report drinking soft drinks that contain sugar at least once a day and children aged 11 years were least likely (see Table 118).
- The percentage of children who reported drinking soft drinks that contain sugar at least once a day was highest among social classes 5 - 6 (see Table 118).

Table 118: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported drinking soft drinks that contain sugar at least once a day by age, gender, and social class

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	13.8	11.3	12.6	7.1	5.9	6.5
Age						
10 years	11.6	9.4	10.5	5.9	4.3	5.1
11 years	6.1	9.2	7.6	4.8	4.0	4.4
12 years	8.7	12.7	10.5	5.2	6.2	5.7
13 years	16.0	10.4	13.1	6.9	6.5	6.7
14 years	18.3	12.5	15.4	10.9	7.4	9.0
15 years	18.1	13.3	15.7	8.3	6.0	7.0
16 years	16.3	12.0	14.2	9.1	7.6	8.3
17 years	14.2	10.6	12.6	6.3	3.9	5.1
Social class						
SC 1 - 2	8.5	6.4	7.4	4.3	3.1	3.7
SC 3 - 4	14.1	12.0	13.1	7.1	6.5	6.8
SC 5 - 6	16.2	17.9	17.0	10.2	9.9	10.0

Source: HBSC Survey

- The percentage of children who reported drinking soft drinks that contain sugar at least once a day ranged from 4.4% in Midland to 9% in Mid-East (see Table 119).

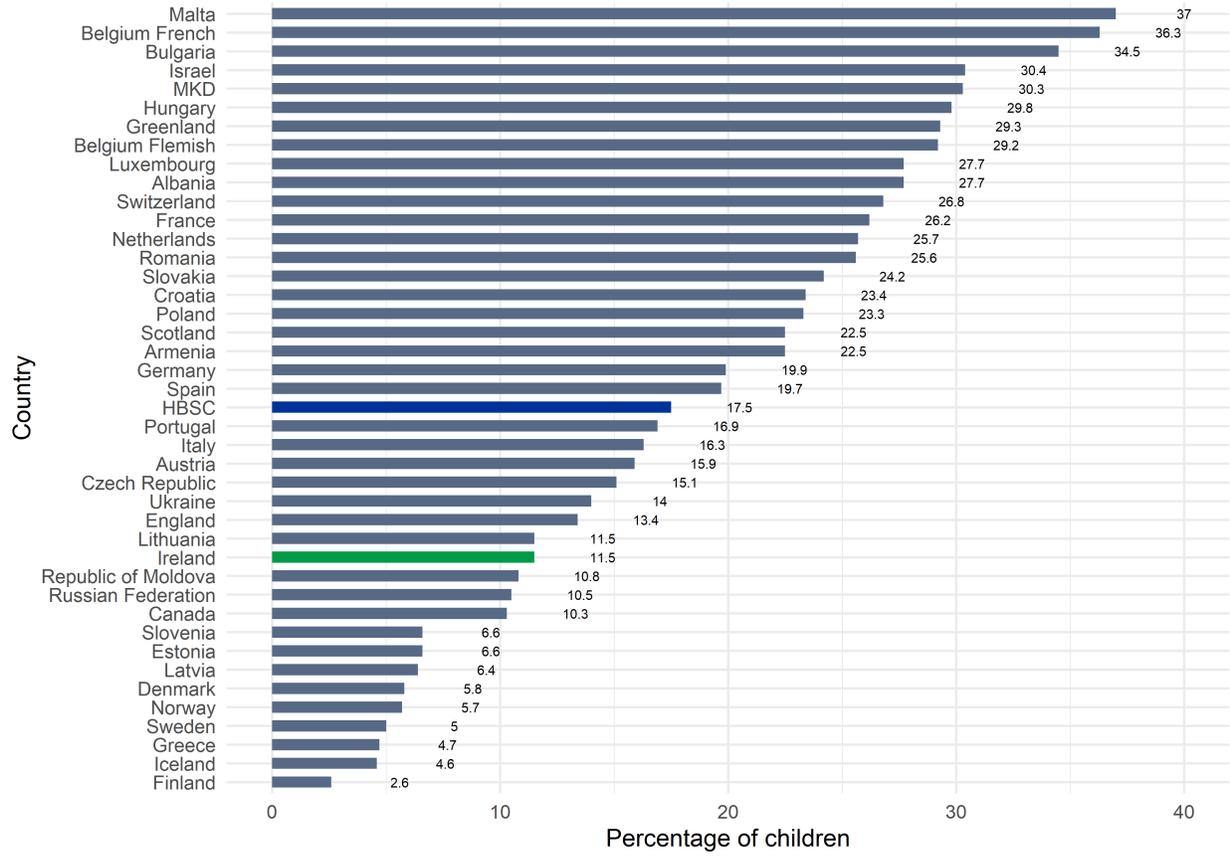
Table 119: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported drinking soft drinks that contain sugar at least once a day by NUTS Region

	2014	2018
State	12.6	6.5
NUTS Region		
Border	11.4	5.1
Midland	9.0	4.4
West	8.4	5.7
Dublin	16.8	6.7
Mid-East	11.8	9.0
Mid-West	11.2	7.0
South-East	14.6	8.3
South-West	10.6	5.1

Source: HBSC Survey

- Across 41 countries, the average percentage of children who reported drinking soft drinks that contain sugar at least once a day was 17.5% (see Figure 26). This ranged from 2.6% in Finland to 37% in Malta. The corresponding percentage in Ireland was 11.5%. This was below the international HBSC average. (Note: International comparisons are based on data from children aged 11, 13 and 15 only.)

Figure 26: Percentage of children aged 11, 13 and 15 who reported drinking soft drinks that contain sugar at least once a day, by country (2014)



Source: HBSC Survey

Part IV: Formal and Informal Supports

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Public Expenditure on education

Last Updated: 2020-03-06

Measure: Public Expenditure on education*

*Public expenditure on educational institutions between primary and tertiary levels

- Public expenditure on educational institutions between primary and tertiary level decreased from 5.21% of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2013 to 3.58% in 2016 (see Figure 27).

Figure 27: Public Expenditure on educational institutions between primary and tertiary level in Ireland



Source: Eurostat

- In 2016, expenditure on educational institutions as a percentage of GDP ranged from 2.27% in Romania to 5.85% in Sweden. In 2015, the most recent year for which data is available, the EU-27 average expenditure was 4.26%.

Table 120: Public expenditure on educational institutions between primary and tertiary levels, as a percentage of GDP in the EU-27 (2013-2016)

	2013	2014	2015	2016
EU-27	4.45	4.42	4.26	NA
Country				
Austria	5.03	4.93	4.95	4.90
Belgium	5.85	5.79	5.72	5.71
Bulgaria	3.04	3.17	2.97	2.91
Croatia	NA	NA	NA	NA
Cyprus	5.79	5.78	5.82	5.68
Czechia	3.41	3.28	3.27	3.06
Denmark	7.15	7.49	NA	NA
Estonia	4.50	4.20	4.22	4.13
Finland	6.04	6.05	5.99	5.79
France	4.81	4.82	4.77	4.75
Germany	4.18	4.13	4.05	4.00
Greece	3.32	3.35	3.41	NA
Hungary	3.33	3.59	3.48	3.69
Ireland	5.21	4.82	3.70	3.58
Italy	3.71	3.62	3.62	3.39
Latvia	4.08	4.44	4.52	3.92
Lithuania	13.76	3.86	3.55	3.26
Luxembourg	NA	3.43	3.32	3.12
Malta	5.17	4.67	4.53	4.40
Netherlands	5.20	5.15	5.05	5.12
Poland	4.36	4.30	4.21	4.00
Portugal	4.79	4.60	4.40	4.30
Romania	2.37	2.42	2.38	2.27
Slovakia	3.57	3.60	4.09	3.39
Slovenia	4.52	4.33	4.08	3.99
Spain	3.70	3.67	3.68	3.62
Sweden	5.88	5.84	5.76	5.85
United Kingdom	5.59	5.64	5.42	5.20

NA = not available

Source: Eurostat

Table 121 pending

At Risk of Poverty

Measure: The percentage of children at risk of poverty (i.e. living in households with an equivalised household disposable income below the 60% median)

- In 2018 14% of the population were considered to be at risk of poverty (see Table 122).
- Children had a higher risk of being poor than did the population as a whole. 15.9% of children were at risk of being in poverty.
- The highest 'at risk of poverty' rate for children occurred among those aged 12-17. 20.2% of children in this age group were at risk of poverty in 2018. This compares with a rate of 17% for those aged 6-11 and a rate of 8.9% for those aged 0-5.
- For households in 2018, those comprising 1 adult, with children under 18 years were most likely to be at risk of poverty, with a rate of 24.4%. This compares to a rate of 15.4% for households comprising 2 adults with 3+ children under 18, with 9.7% of households comprising 2 adults with 1-2 children under 18 being at risk of poverty.

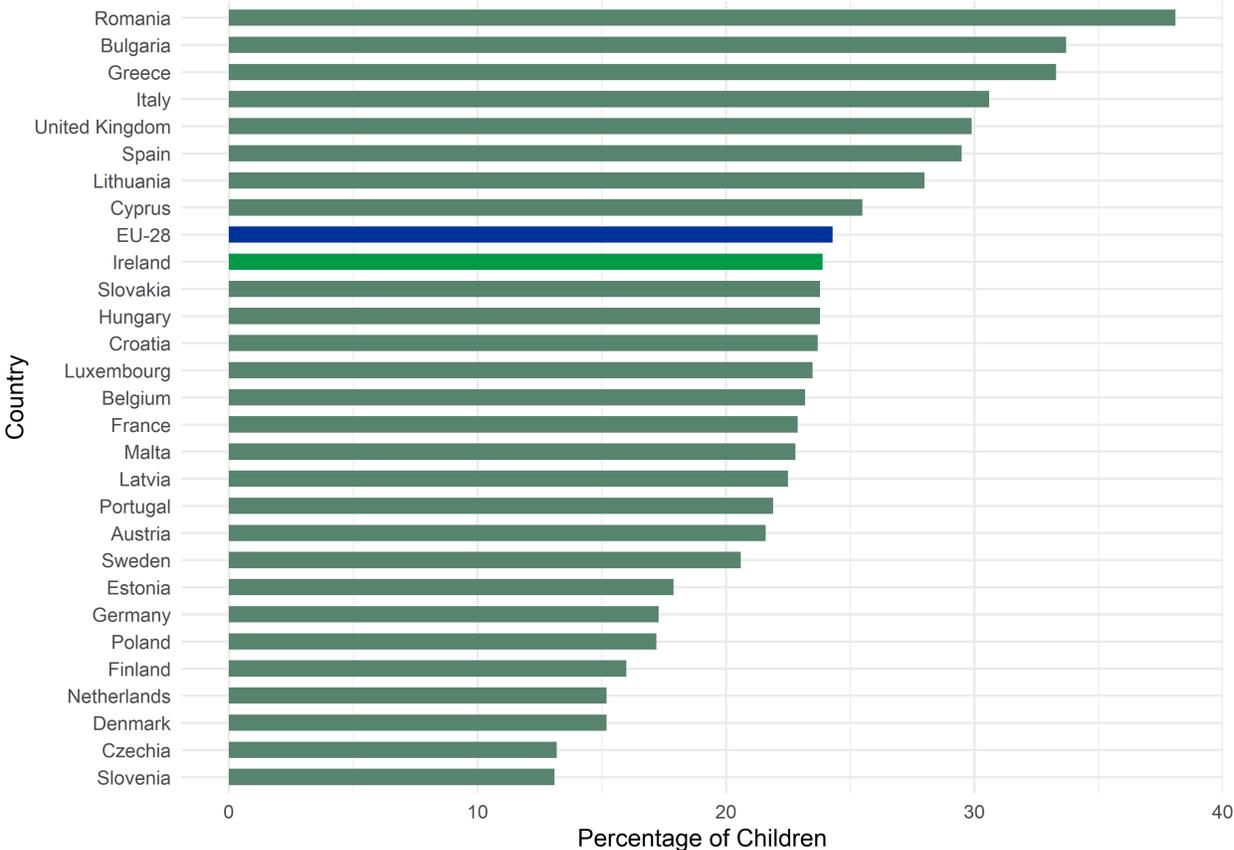
Table 122: Percentage of population at risk of poverty, by age and household composition (2015-2018)

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total (population all ages)	16.3	16.2	15.7	14.0
Total (population aged 0-17)	18.4	19.1	18.4	15.9
Age				
0-5	14.4	15.7	11.9	8.9
6-11	16.1	16.3	18.9	17.0
12-17	24.6	24.9	23.3	20.2
Household composition				
1 adult, with children under 18 years	33.9	39.4	39.9	24.4
2 adults with 1-2 children under 18	13.2	10.7	8.8	9.7
2 adults with 3+ children under 18	18.0	19.4	17.3	15.4
Other households with children under 18 years	20.6	22.4	21.7	14.8
Households without children	14.5	14.0	14.2	14.4

Source: CSO, SILC

- In 2019 the percentage of children at risk of poverty or social exclusion across the EU-28 ranged from 13.1 in Slovenia to 38.1 in Romania. The percentage of children at risk of poverty in Ireland was 23.9. This was in line with the EU-28 average of 24.3 (see Figure 28).

Figure 28: Percentage of children at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU-28, by country (2018)



Source: Eurostat

Consistent Poverty

Measure: The percentage of children experiencing consistent poverty (i.e. living in households with an equivalised household disposable income below the 60% median who experienced at least two forms of enforced deprivation)

- In 2018 5.6% of the population experienced consistent poverty (see Table 123).
- Children were more likely to experience consistent poverty than the population as a whole. 7.7% of children experienced consistent poverty, compared with 5.6% of the population as a whole (see Table 123).
- The highest consistent poverty rate for children occurred among those aged 6-11. 9% of children in this age group experienced consistent poverty in 2018. This compares with a rate of 8.8% for those aged 12-17 and a rate of 4.8% for those aged 0-5 (see Table 123).
- For households in 2018, those comprising 1 adult, with children under 18 years were most likely to experience consistent poverty, with a rate of 16.1%. This compares to a rate of 10.2% for households comprising 2 adults with 3+ children under 18, with 4.2% of households comprising 2 adults with 1-2 children under 18 experiencing consistent poverty (see Table 123).

Table 123: Percentage of population experiencing consistent poverty, by age and household composition (2015-2018)

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total (population all ages)	8.5	8.2	6.7	5.6
Total (population aged 0-17)	10.9	10.9	8.8	7.7
Age				
0-5	7.8	8.3	6.4	4.8
6-11	9.7	10.0	8.2	9.0
12-17	15.2	14.4	11.2	8.8
Household composition				
1 adult, with children under 18 years	23.9	23.2	20.7	16.1
2 adults with 1-2 children under 18	6.9	6.7	4.1	4.2
2 adults with 3+ children under 18	10.6	9.1	9.2	10.2
Other households with children under 18 years	13.1	14.3	8.1	6.1
Households without children	5.7	5.0	5.3	4.6

Source: CSO, SILC

Availability of Housing for Families with Children

Measure: The number of households with children identified as being in need of social housing

- In 2017, there were 42,911 households with children identified as being in need of social housing.
- 47.9% (20,550) of households with children identified as being in need of social housing were households with one child; 32.9% (14,101) were households with two children; 12.5% (5,354) were households with three children; and the remaining 6.7% (2,906) were households with four or more children (see Table 124).
- The number of households with children identified as being in need of social housing increased by 55% between 2008 and 2017.

Table 124: Number and percentage of households with children identified as being in need of social-housing, by number of children and year

	2008	2011	2013	2016		2017	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	%	No.	%
Total	27,704	43,578	44,875	46,294	100.0	42,911	100.0
No. of children							
1 child	15,369	24,819	23,566	22,204	48.0	20,550	47.9
2 children	7,479	11,792	13,403	15,194	32.8	14,101	32.9
3 children	2,924	4,434	4,923	5,737	12.4	5,354	12.5
4 children	1,210	1,677	1,938	2,115	4.6	1,950	4.5
5 or more children	722	856	1,045	1,044	2.3	956	2.2

Source: The Housing Agency

- In 2017, 61% (25,963) of households with children identified as being in need of social housing were one-parent households, 39% (16,681) were two-parent households, and the remaining 0.6% (267) were multi-adult households (see Table 125).
- 43.3% (18,599) of households with children identified as being in need of social housing were in Co. Dublin (see Table 125).

Table 125: Number and percentage of households with children identified as being in need of social-housing, by household structure and county (2017)

	Single with child/children	Couple with child/children	Multi-adult households with children	All households with child/children	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	%
Total	25,963	16,681	267	42,911	100.0
County					
Carlow	220	139	2	361	0.8
Cavan	177	179	3	359	0.8
Clare	544	343	16	903	2.1
Cork	2,610	1,770	28	4,408	10.3
Donegal	246	123	1	370	0.9
Dublin	11,708	6,786	105	18,599	43.3
Galway	1,069	874	7	1,950	4.5
Kerry	852	601	10	1,463	3.4
Kildare	1,394	1,195	9	2,598	6.1
Kilkenny	303	197	3	503	1.2
Laois	449	327	7	783	1.8
Leitrim	57	67	0	124	0.3
Limerick	795	478	9	1,282	3.0
Longford	162	159	2	323	0.8
Louth	596	419	1	1,016	2.4
Mayo	313	215	9	537	1.3
Meath	812	583	27	1,422	3.3
Monaghan	133	69	2	204	0.5
Offaly	248	210	1	459	1.1
Roscommon	119	122	0	241	0.6
Sligo	124	58	0	182	0.4
Tipperary	394	175	0	569	1.3
Waterford	441	194	9	644	1.5
Westmeath	422	368	2	792	1.8
Wexford	872	494	4	1,370	3.2
Wicklow	903	536	10	1,449	3.4

Source: The Housing Agency

Community Characteristics

Measure: The percentage of children aged 10-17 who report feeling safe in the area where they live

- In 2014 89.2% of children aged 10-17 reported feeling safe in the area where they live. This decreased between 2010 and 2014.
- Among individual population groups, when compared to all other children, Traveller children immigrant children and children with a disability and/or chronic illness were less likely to report feeling safe in the area where they live (see Table 126).
- Traveller children were the population group with the lowest percentage of children who reported feeling safe in the area where they live (see Table 126).

Table 126: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported feeling safe in the area where they live by population groups

	2010	2014
All children	90.8	89.2
Traveller status		
Traveller children	81.2	83.0
All children except Traveller children	91.0	89.4
Immigrant status		
immigrant children	87.8	86.3
All children except immigrant children	91.1	89.8
Disability and/or chronic illness status		
Children with a disability and/or chronic illness	87.7	86.0
All children except those with a disability and/or chronic illness	91.6	90.1

Source: HBSC Survey

- A lower percentage of females than males reported feeling safe in the area where they live (see Table 127).
- On average, the percentage of children who reported feeling safe in the area where they live decreased with age (see Table 127).
- The percentage of children who reported feeling safe in the area where they live was lowest among social classes 5 - 6 (see Table 127).

Table 127: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported feeling safe in the area where they live by age, gender, and social class

	2010			2014		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	91.4	90.2	90.8	89.6	88.9	89.2
Age						
10 years	89.9	92.6	91.2	90.5	89.9	90.2
11 years	91.6	90.4	91.0	93.2	92.6	92.9
12 years	93.5	90.1	91.7	92.1	90.2	91.2
13 years	92.2	91.0	91.6	88.4	90.1	89.3
14 years	90.7	90.0	90.4	88.6	88.1	88.3
15 years	90.0	87.6	88.8	88.8	85.3	87.0
16 years	92.4	90.9	91.6	86.4	88.8	87.6
17 years	92.8	89.3	91.1	88.3	85.6	87.1
Social class						
SC 1 - 2	94.1	93.0	93.5	93.6	92.0	92.8
SC 3 - 4	91.0	89.7	90.4	88.7	88.2	88.5
SC 5 - 6	88.9	88.2	88.5	86.1	85.1	85.6

Source: HBSC Survey

- The percentage of children who reported feeling safe in the area where they live ranged from 81.7% in Dublin to 94.2% in the West region (see Table 128).

Table 128: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported feeling safe in the area where they live by NUTS Region

	2010	2014
State	90.8	89.2
NUTS Region		
Border	91.8	92.2
Midland	92.2	91.2
West	96.2	94.2
Dublin	85.3	81.7
Mid-East	88.6	88.6
Mid-West	90.2	92.5
South-East	93.9	90.3
South-West	94.0	92.8

Source: HBSC Survey

Environment and Places

Measure: The percentage of children aged 10-17 who report that there are good places in their area to spend their free time

- In 2014 61.5% of children aged 10-17 reported that there are good places in their area to spend their free time. This increased between 2010 and 2014.
- Among individual population groups, when compared to all other children, children with a disability and/or chronic illness were less likely to report that there are good places in their area to spend their free time (see Table 129).

Table 129: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported that there are good places in their area to spend their free time by population groups

	2010	2014
All children	52.9	61.5
Traveller status		
Traveller children	64.1	73.4
All children except Traveller children	52.7	61.3
Immigrant status		
immigrant children	58.6	64.8
All children except immigrant children	52.4	60.9
Disability and/or chronic illness status		
Children with a disability and/or chronic illness	53.2	58.3
All children except those with a disability and/or chronic illness	52.9	62.3

Source: HBSC Survey

- A lower percentage of females than males reported that there are good places in their area to spend their free time (see Table 130).
- On average, the percentage of children who reported that there are good places in their area to spend their free time decreased with age (see Table 130).
- The percentage of children who reported that there are good places in their area to spend their free time was lowest among social classes 1 - 2 (see Table 130).

Table 130: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported that there are good places in their area to spend their free time by age, gender, and social class

	2010			2014		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	55.4	50.4	52.9	64.4	58.4	61.5
Age						
10 years	70.9	71.9	71.4	71.8	73.2	72.5
11 years	66.8	61.0	64.1	74.3	73.4	73.9
12 years	62.7	66.0	64.4	71.2	72.4	71.7
13 years	58.4	51.4	54.9	68.6	62.2	65.3
14 years	51.7	44.9	48.5	69.1	54.2	61.5
15 years	46.3	37.4	42.0	56.0	45.2	50.4
16 years	41.2	36.5	38.8	51.0	42.5	46.8
17 years	43.0	29.0	36.2	50.1	42.5	46.7
Social class						
SC 1 - 2	54.0	48.5	51.2	62.9	56.8	59.8
SC 3 - 4	55.7	51.2	53.5	64.8	58.9	61.9
SC 5 - 6	56.1	47.8	52.0	65.3	60.3	62.8

Source: HBSC Survey

- The percentage of children who reported that there are good places in their area to spend their free time ranged from 53.9% in the South-West region to 77.3% in Dublin (see Table 131).

Table 131: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported that there are good places in their area to spend their free time by NUTS Region

	2010	2014
State	52.9	61.5
NUTS Region		
Border	50.9	57.2
Midland	46.4	59.7
West	47.0	55.1
Dublin	68.2	77.3
Mid-East	50.4	59.6
Mid-West	47.7	54.9
South-East	45.2	55.7
South-West	50.0	53.9

Source: HBSC Survey

Garda Diversion Programme Referrals

Measure: The number of children aged 10-17 referred to the Garda Diversion Programme

Table 132a: Number, percentage, and rate (per 1,000) of children aged 10-17 referred to the Garda Diversion programme, by age and gender (2014-2016)

	2014			2015			2016		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
Total: children referred	9,991	100.0	20.5	9,807	100.0	19.8	9,451	100.0	18.8
Sex									
Female	2,504	25.1	10.5	2,475	25.2	10.2	2,478	26.2	10.1
Male	7,487	74.9	29.9	7,332	74.8	28.9	6,973	73.8	27.1
Age									
10 - 14	2,468	24.7	8.0	2,582	26.3	8.2	2,498	26.4	7.8
15 - 17	7,523	75.3	42.1	7,225	73.7	39.9	6,953	73.6	37.8

*Rates based on population estimates for the relevant year

Source: The Garda Diversion Programme

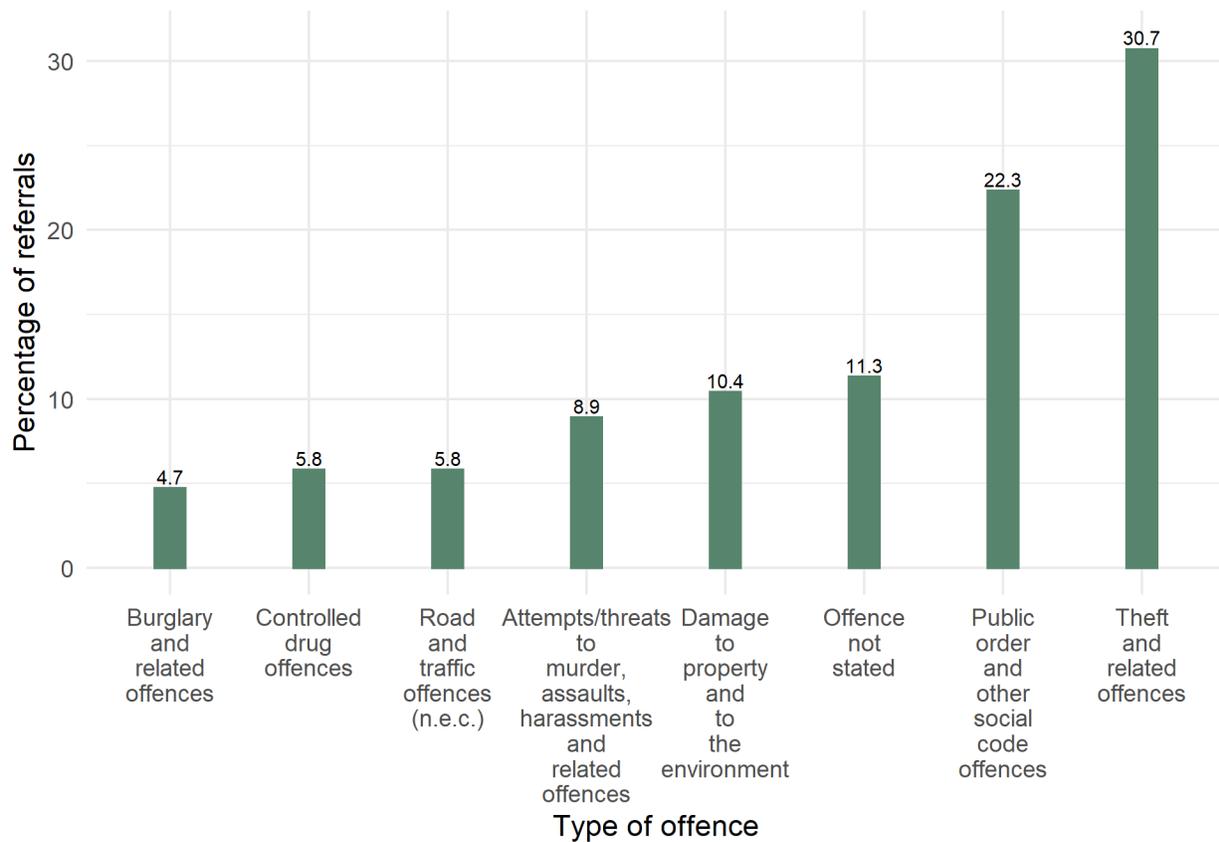
Table 132b: Number and percentage of referrals to the Garda Diversion programme, by outcome (2015-2016)

	2015		2016	
	No.	%	No.	%
Total: Incidents referred	19,513	100.0	17,615	100.0
Outcome				
Formal	3,474	17.8	3,614	20.5
Informal	6,145	31.5	6,251	35.5
No further action	756	3.9	661	3.8
Pending	2,225	11.4	1,823	10.3
Not suitable	6,913	35.4	5,266	29.9

Source: The Garda Diversion Programme

- In 2016, 9451 children aged 10-17 were referred to the Garda diversion programme. Some children were referred more than once and so the total number of referrals were 17,615.
- 73.6% of those referred were aged 15-17 years (see Table 132a).
- The rate per 1,000 of referrals among boys (27.1) was 2.7 times higher than the rate of referrals among girls 10.1 (see Table 132a).
- Theft and related offences was the single highest cause of referrals to the Garda Diversion Programme, representing 30.7% of all referrals (see Figure 29).
- Over the period 2013 to 2016, the number of children referred to the Garda Diversion programme decreased by 3.8%.

Figure 29: Referrals to the Garda diversion Programme, by type of offence (2016)



Source: The Garda Diversion Programme

- The rate of children referred to the Garda Diversion Programme ranged from 160.3 in the D.M.R. North Central region to 6.6 in the D.M.R. Northern region.
- The rate of referrals ranged from 244.2 in the D.M.R. North Central region to 18.9 in Kildare.

Table 133: Number and rate (per 1,000) of children aged 10-17 referred/referrals to the Garda diversion programme, by region and division (2016)

	Children referred		All referrals		Average number of referrals per child
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	
State	9,451	18.8	17,615	35.0	1.9
Eastern Region	1,193	13.2	2,314	24.2	1.8
Kildare	269	11.7	501	18.9	1.6
Laois/Offaly	257	14.3	446	24.0	1.7
Meath	250	11.2	546	23.4	2.1
Westmeath	179	15.9	354	32.5	2.0
Wicklow	238	15.6	467	28.8	1.9
Dublin Region	3,043	23.6	5,944	48.2	2.0
D.M.R. Eastern	349	14.9	650	34.6	2.3
D.M.R. Northern	598	6.6	1,110	31.6	4.8
D.M.R. North Central	664	160.3	1,085	244.2	1.5
D.M.R. Southern	469	7.0	977	41.4	6.0
D.M.R. South Central	289	94.7	761	112.7	1.2
D.M.R. Western	683	25.6	1,361	39.3	1.5
Northern Region	1,054	15.9	1,906	31.4	2.0
Cavan/Monaghan	280	16.0	534	33.5	2.1
Donegal	328	15.6	484	25.7	1.6
Louth	298	19.2	647	42.0	2.2
Sligo/Leitrim	148	11.6	241	22.9	2.0
South Eastern Region	1,078	16.2	2,052	31.1	1.9
Kilkenny/Carlow	268	15.3	531	30.6	2.0
Tipperary	249	14.9	542	30.4	2.0
Waterford	320	21.5	556	40.8	1.9
Wexford	241	14.1	423	24.6	1.7
Southern Region	1,924	27.0	3,509	49.1	1.8
Cork City	628	23.5	1,026	41.9	1.8
Cork North	284	18.8	515	29.7	1.6
Cork West	181	13.9	286	19.4	1.4
Kerry	338	20.6	522	35.0	1.7
Limerick	493	24.3	1,160	54.8	2.3
Western Region	1,159	13.4	1,889	21.9	1.6
Clare	321	24.9	532	41.9	1.7
Galway	488	17.7	791	29.3	1.7
Mayo	176	12.6	289	20.0	1.6
Roscommon/Longford	174	16.0	277	24.9	1.6

*Rates based on regional and divisional populations at Census 2016

D.M.R.: Dublin Metropolitan Region

Source: The Garda Diversion Programme

Antenatal Care

Measure: The percentage of pregnant women attending for antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy

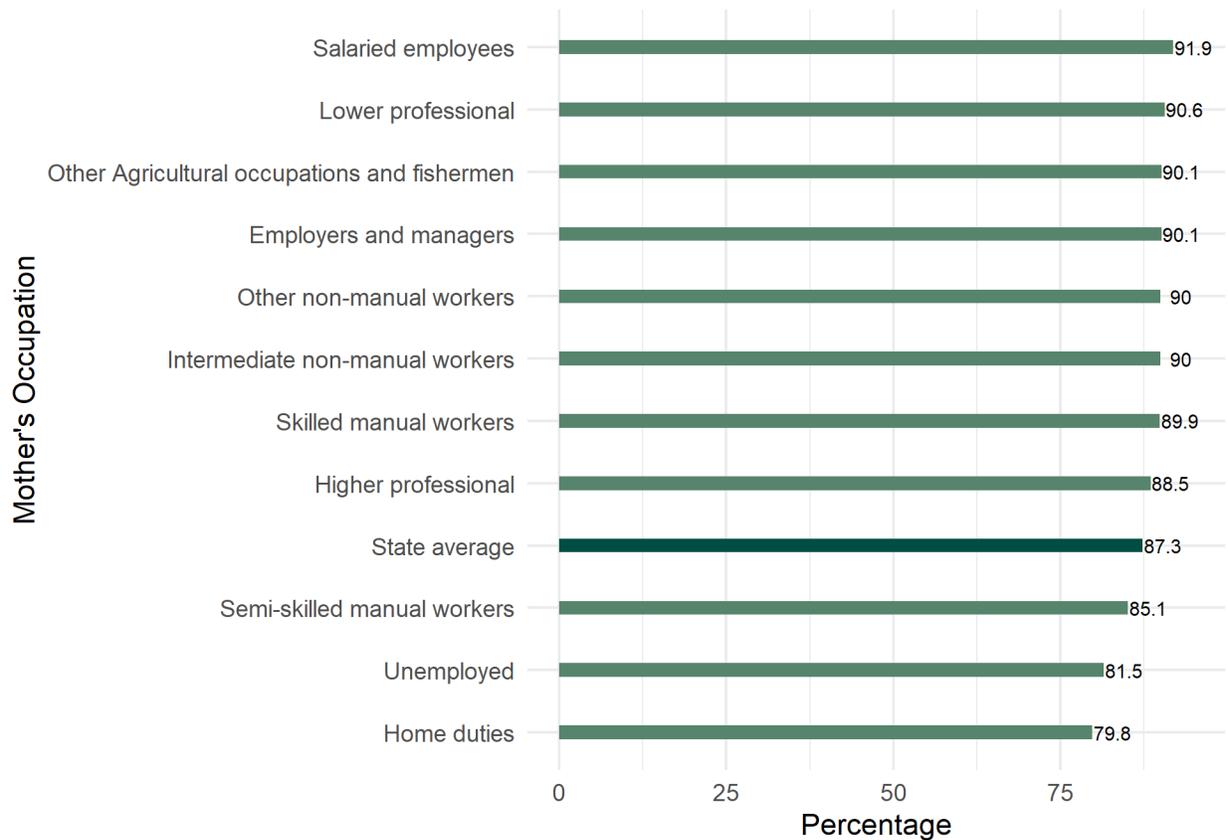
- In 2017, 87.3% of pregnant women attended for antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy.
- The percentage of women attending for antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy increased from 86.2% in 2013 to 87.3% in 2017.
- In 2017 antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy was lowest among pregnant women aged 15 - 19 years (75.9%) (see Table 134).
- Women who were primarily on home duties or unemployed had the lowest attendance at antenatal visits in the first trimester of pregnancy (79.8% and 81.5% respectively) (see Figure 30).

Table 134: Percentage of pregnant women attending for antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy, by mother's age (2013-2017)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total	86.2	86.0	88.0	89.3	87.3
Age					
15 - 19 years	73.4	71.7	77.0	76.8	75.9
20 - 24 years	81.4	80.8	83.0	82.9	80.1
25 - 29 years	85.8	85.0	87.2	88.3	86.0
30 - 34 years	88.0	87.9	89.5	90.9	89.0
35 - 39 years	86.9	87.2	89.2	90.6	88.9
40 - 44 years	86.1	84.0	87.3	89.1	86.1
45 years and over	81.7	79.5	83.9	85.2	84.1

Source: Healthcare Pricing Office

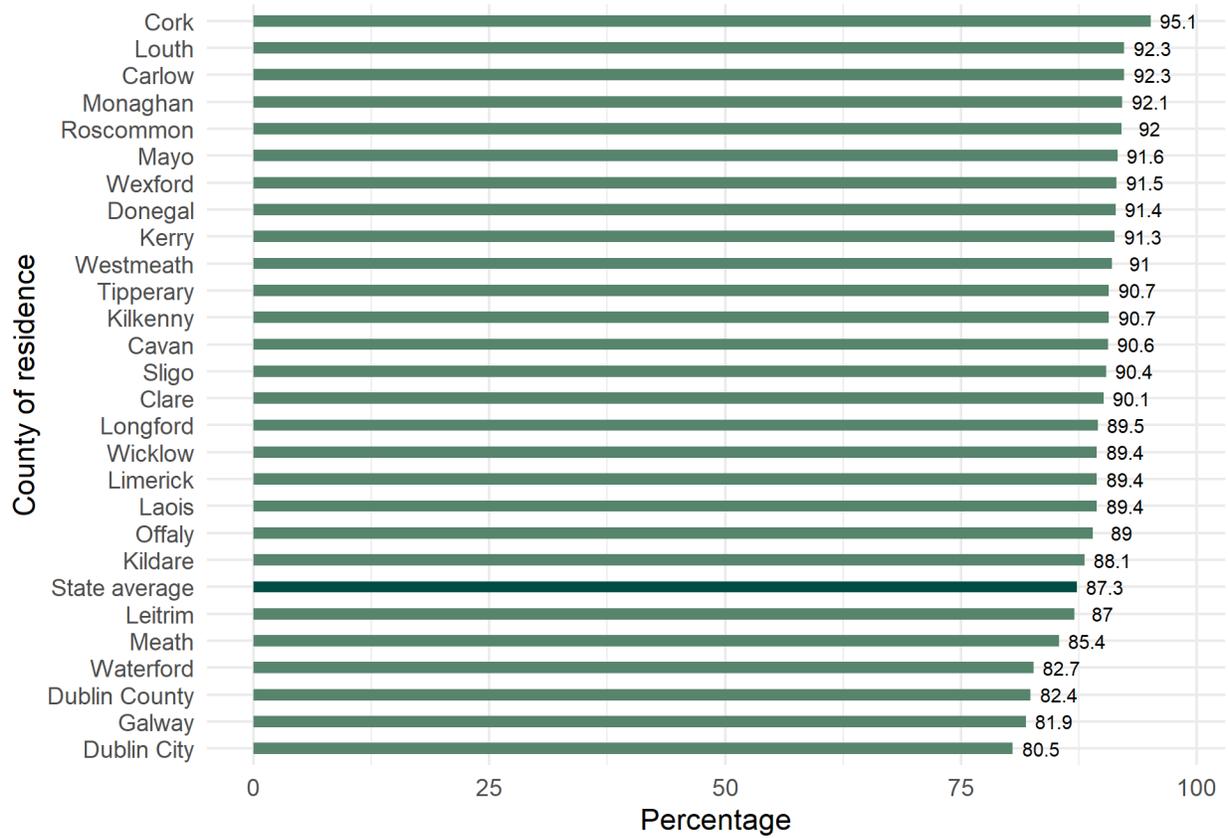
Figure 30: Percentage of pregnant women attending for antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy, by occupation of mother (2017)



Source: Healthcare Pricing Office

- The percentage of women attending for antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy ranged from 80.5% in Dublin City to 95.1% in Cork (see Figure 31).

Figure 31: Percentage of pregnant women attending for antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy, by mother's county of residence (2017)



Source: Healthcare Pricing Office

Public Health Nurse Visit

Measure: The percentage of newborns visited by a public health nurse within 72 hours of discharge from hospital for the first time

- In 2017, 98.3% of newborns were visited by a public health nurse within 72-hours of discharge from hospital for the first time.
- In 2017, the percentage of newborns visited by a public health nurse for the first time within 72 hours of discharge from hospital ranged from 86.6% in Dún Laoghaire to 100% in 8 Local Health Office Areas (see Table 135).

Table 135: Percentage of newborns visited by a public health nurse within 72 hours of discharge from hospital for the first time, by Local Health Office (LHO), (2015-2017)

	2015	2016	2017
Total	97.5	97.7	98.3
Local Health Office			
Cavan/Monaghan	94.9	92.9	97.2
Donegal	97.0	97.0	97.7
Sligo/Leitrim	99.9	100.0	99.3
Galway	99.3	99.7	99.2
Mayo	99.7	98.8	98.2
Roscommon	100.0	99.6	99.7
Clare	95.3	96.9	96.8
Limerick	94.2	96.5	95.2
North Tipperary/East Limerick	93.1	97.3	95.6
Kerry	100.2	100.1	100.0
North Cork	99.4	99.9	99.7
North Lee	98.8	98.8	99.4
South Lee	99.8	100.3	100.0
West Cork	100.0	99.8	99.7
Carlow/Kilkenny	99.7	99.2	101.3
South Tipperary	101.3	101.7	98.8
Waterford	101.4	102.0	99.9
Wexford	100.7	99.5	99.3
Dublin South East	98.2	101.1	102.7
Dún Laoghaire	92.5	95.4	86.6
Wicklow	100.0	98.6	99.9
Dublin South City	100.0	100.0	100.0
Dublin South West	100.0	92.4	99.5
Dublin West	90.5	90.6	97.3
Kildare/West Wicklow	100.0	100.0	100.0
Laois/Offaly	100.0	99.9	100.0
Longford/Westmeath	98.9	100.0	106.0
Louth	99.5	99.2	98.7
Meath	88.1	92.2	92.4
Dublin North	97.7	95.2	97.2
Dublin North Central	96.7	99.3	98.4
Dublin North West	94.6	95.3	97.1

*Numbers greater than 100% are due to newborn babies being present in one area for the first 24/48 hours after birth and then moving to another area within 72 hours of birth
Source: Healthcare Pricing Office

Developmental Health Screening

Measure: The percentage of infants reaching 10 months who have had their 7-9 month developmental check on time (i.e. before reaching 10 months of age)

- In 2017, 92.8% of newborn children had their 7-9 month developmental check on time.
- In 2017, the percentage of newborns who had their 7-9 month developmental check on time ranged from 74.8% in Clare to 98.1% in Meath (see Table 136).

Table 136: Percentage of children who have had their developmental health screening before reaching 10 months of age, by Local Health Office (LHO) (2015-2017)

	2015	2016	2017
Total	93.7	93.4	92.8
Local Health Office			
Cavan/Monaghan	98.3	96.1	91.1
Donegal	95.3	94.0	93.0
Sligo/Leitrim	94.9	94.0	90.1
Galway	95.8	95.0	93.1
Mayo	97.9	95.2	97.4
Roscommon	96.6	89.8	91.7
Clare	89.5	76.3	74.8
Limerick	91.8	86.1	87.9
North Tipperary/East Limerick	91.8	87.8	91.0
Kerry	96.1	95.5	96.0
North Cork	93.5	94.9	95.4
North Lee	93.2	90.7	91.1
South Lee	94.2	94.2	93.3
West Cork	98.7	99.4	95.7
Carlow/Kilkenny	95.6	96.0	93.3
South Tipperary	96.4	94.2	95.9
Waterford	91.2	93.1	91.0
Wexford	94.8	97.2	95.0
Dublin South East	88.1	94.2	90.5
Dún Laoghaire	91.5	92.8	95.1
Wicklow	92.8	96.0	87.4
Dublin South City	88.3	92.4	87.0
Dublin South West	88.3	94.5	94.4
Dublin West	94.9	97.3	97.6
Kildare/West Wicklow	93.6	90.6	93.8
Laois/Offaly	91.1	96.3	96.2
Longford/Westmeath	95.1	96.9	96.3
Louth	87.7	89.4	77.2
Meath	96.6	95.7	98.1
Dublin North	95.9	95.5	95.1
Dublin North Central	94.9	93.7	95.5
Dublin North West	95.4	90.6	94.1

Source: Healthcare Pricing Office

Childhood Immunisation

Measure: The percentage uptake of the recommended doses of vaccines among children at 12 months and 24 months of age

*Tables in this section should be read alongside detailed notes for the relevant year, available at the website of the Health Protection Surveillance Centre

Table 137: Immunisation uptake rates, by age, vaccine type, and year

	2013	2014	2015	2016
At 12 months				
BCG	86	87	86	20
D ₃	91	92	91	91
Hib ₃	91	92	91	91
HepB ₃	91	92	91	91
MenC ₃	91	92	90	89
PCV ₂	91	92	92	91
Polio ₃	91	92	91	91
T ₃	91	92	91	91
P ₃	91	92	91	91
At 24 months				
D ₃	96	96	95	95
Hib ₃	95	96	95	95
HepB ₃	95	95	95	95
PCV _b	93	93	93	93
MMR ₁	93	93	93	92
Hib _b	90	92	91	91
MenC ₃	87	88	88	87
Polio ₃	96	96	95	95
T ₃	96	96	95	95
MenC _b	90	91	90	89
PCV ₃	91	92	92	91
P ₃	96	96	95	95

Source: Health Protection Surveillance Centre

- In 2016, for children at twelve months of age, uptake rates among Local Health Offices (LHOs) for D₃, P₃, T₃, and Polio₃ ranged from 81% to 96%.
- Uptake rates among LHOs for MenC₂ and PCV₂ ranged from 77% to 97%.
- The target uptake of 95% was reached or exceeded in Roscommon and Longford/Westmeath for D₃, P₃, T₃, Polio₃, Hib₃, HepB₃, MenC₂, and PCV₂.

Table 138: Immunisation uptake rates (%) at 12 months, by Local Health Office (LHO) area (2016)

	BCG	D ₃ , P ₃ , T ₃ , Polio ₃	Hib ₃	HepB ₃	MenC ₃	PCV ₂
All Local Health Offices	20	91	91	91	89	91
Cavan/Monaghan	NA	92	92	92	93	95
Donegal	28	92	92	91	87	92
Sligo/Leitrim	31	96	95	95	93	95
Galway	1	94	94	94	93	94
Mayo	23	93	93	93	92	93
Roscommon	3	95	95	95	95	96
Clare	25	93	93	93	91	93
Limerick	25	89	89	89	86	89
North Tipperary/East Limerick	27	91	91	91	88	91
North Cork	27	90	90	90	87	87
North Lee	26	91	91	91	87	88
South Lee	26	91	91	91	87	88
West Cork	26	81	81	81	77	78
Kerry	23	92	92	92	86	87
Carlow/Kilkenny	23	91	91	91	87	90
South Tipperary	27	93	93	93	92	93
Waterford	27	91	91	91	90	89
Wexford	24	92	92	92	93	92
Dublin South East	16	92	92	92	90	92
Dún Laoghaire	18	92	92	92	88	92
Wicklow	18	89	89	89	82	88
Dublin South City	17	91	91	91	86	91
Dublin South West	24	93	93	93	92	93
Dublin West	6	90	90	90	90	91
Kildare/West Wicklow	19	93	93	93	90	93
Laois/Offaly	24	94	94	94	95	94
Longford/Westmeath	20	96	96	96	97	96
Louth	NA	90	90	90	90	92
Meath	NA	90	90	90	90	93
Dublin North	8	88	88	88	84	88
Dublin North Central	24	88	88	88	84	88
Dublin North West	22	89	89	89	85	89

NA = not available

Source: Health Protection Surveillance Centre

- In 2016, for children at 24 months of age, uptake rates among Local Health Offices (LHOs) for D₃, P₃, T₃, Polio₃, HepB₃, and Hib₃ ranged from 91% to 98%.
- Uptake rates for MMR₁ ranged from 88% to 96%.
- Uptake rates for PCV₃ ranged from 86% to 98%.
- Uptake rates for PCV_b ranged from 89% to 96%.
- Uptake rates for MenC₃ ranged from 82% to 96%.
- Uptake rates for MenC_b ranged from 84% to 96%.
- The target uptake of 95% was exceeded in Galway and Roscommon for all vaccines for which data are available.

Table 139: Immunisation uptake rates (%) at 24 months, by Local Health Office (LHO) area (2016)

	D ₃ , P ₃ , T ₃ , Polio ₃	Hib ₃	HepB ₃	PCV _b	MMR ₁	Hib _b	MenC ₃	MenC _b	PCV ₃
All Local Health Offices	95	95	95	93	92	91	87	89	91
Cavan/Monaghan	97	97	97	94	94	91	89	90	93
Donegal	95	95	93	92	90	90	83	89	87
Sligo/Leitrim	97	97	97	96	96	96	87	96	90
Galway	97	97	97	NA	96	95	95	NA	96
Mayo	97	97	97	NA	93	91	91	NA	98
Roscommon	98	98	98	NA	96	96	96	NA	97
Clare	95	95	95	93	93	94	90	93	91
Limerick	93	93	93	91	91	90	87	90	90
North Tipperary/East Limerick	95	95	94	94	93	88	85	88	92
North Cork	96	96	96	92	93	92	88	90	91
North Lee	95	95	95	92	91	89	86	88	91
South Lee	95	95	95	92	91	89	86	88	91
West Cork	92	92	92	89	90	89	84	86	88
Kerry	96	96	96	93	93	91	88	90	92
Carlow/Kilkenny	95	95	95	94	94	93	87	90	92
South Tipperary	97	97	96	95	95	95	88	92	94
Waterford	94	94	93	92	92	92	86	89	90
Wexford	96	96	96	95	94	95	89	93	93
Dublin South East	95	95	95	93	93	92	90	91	92
Dún Laoghaire	95	95	95	93	93	92	90	92	92
Wicklow	94	94	94	92	90	86	82	85	89
Dublin South City	95	95	95	91	91	89	86	89	89
Dublin South West	97	97	97	96	96	95	89	94	92
Dublin West	95	95	95	92	91	86	83	86	89
Kildare/West Wicklow	95	95	95	93	93	92	89	92	92
Laois/Offaly	97	97	97	95	96	97	90	92	93
Longford/Westmeath	97	97	97	95	96	97	91	94	95
Louth	94	94	94	91	90	87	83	86	89
Meath	95	95	95	91	91	89	86	88	90
Dublin North	91	91	91	89	89	86	84	86	88
Dublin North Central	91	91	91	89	88	84	90	84	86
Dublin North West	94	94	94	91	90	87	84	87	89

NA = not available

Source: Health Protection Surveillance Centre

- In 2016, uptake rates across the EU-28 for D₃, P₃, and T₃ ranged from 85% in Austria to 99 in Cyprus and Greece and Hungary and Luxembourg and Portugal.
- Uptake rates across the EU-28 for Polio₃ ranged from 85 in Austria to 99 in Greece and Hungary and Luxembourg and Portugal.
- Uptake rates across the EU-28 for the first dose of measles containing vaccine ranged from 87% in to 99% in Hungary and Luxembourg and Portugal.

Table 140: Immunisation uptake rates among children of relevant age, by vaccine type and EU-28 country (2016)

Country	D ₃ , P ₃ , and T ₃	Polio ₃	Measles-containing vaccine
Austria	85	85	94
Belgium	98	98	96
Bulgaria	92	92	93
Croatia	93	94	93
Cyprus	99	97	90
Czechia	96	94	96
Denmark	97	97	95
Estonia	92	92	87
Finland	91	91	96
France	96	96	90
Germany	93	93	97
Greece	99	99	97
Hungary	99	99	99
Ireland	94	94	92
Italy	95	95	93
Latvia	96	96	98
Lithuania	92	92	92
Luxembourg	99	99	99
Malta	97	97	96
Netherlands	93	93	93
Poland	95	87	93
Portugal	99	99	99
Romania	86	86	90
Slovakia	96	96	96
Slovenia	93	93	93
Spain	93	93	97
Sweden	97	97	97
United Kingdom	94	94	92

Source: World Health Organization

Accessibility of Basic Health Services

Measure: The number of children on hospital waiting lists

- As of December 2019, there were 6,861 children on an inpatient/day case (IPDC) waiting list and 81,316 children on an outpatient (OP) waiting list.
- Of those children on an IPDC waiting list, 9.2% were waiting between 12 and 18 months, and a further 9.1% were waiting 18 months or more. The corresponding percentages for children on OP waiting lists were 12.8% and 20.5%, respectively (see Tables 141 and 142).
- The number of children on an IPDC waiting list decreased by 20.5% between 2016 and 2019. Over the same period, the number of children on an OP waiting list increased by 12.1% (see Tables 141 and 142).

Table 141: Number and percentage of children on inpatient/day case (IPDC) waiting lists, by waiting time (2016-2019)

	2016		2017		2018		2019	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	8,630	100.0	7,798	100.0	6,324	100.0	6,861	100.0
Waiting Time								
Less than three months	3,028	35.1	2,534	32.5	2,510	39.7	2,723	39.7
3-6 months	1,866	21.6	1,584	20.3	1,244	19.7	1,482	21.6
6-9 months	1,418	16.4	1,201	15.4	840	13.3	862	12.6
9-12 months	933	10.8	881	11.3	502	7.9	535	7.8
12-15 months	804	9.3	586	7.5	347	5.5	434	6.3
15-18 months	419	4.9	405	5.2	245	3.9	200	2.9
18 months or more	162	1.9	607	7.8	636	10.1	625	9.1

Source: National Treatment Purchase Fund

Table 142: Number and percentage of children on outpatient (OP) waiting lists, by waiting time (2016-2019)

	2016		2017		2018		2019	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	72,520	100.0	82,570	100.0	83,559	100.0	81,316	100.0
Waiting Time								
Less than three months	23,044	31.8	22,555	27.3	23,387	28.0	22,451	27.6
3-6 months	14,492	20.0	14,070	17.0	13,310	15.9	13,133	16.2
6-9 months	12,103	16.7	11,454	13.9	10,999	13.2	10,952	13.5
9-12 months	8,733	12.0	8,881	10.8	7,324	8.8	7,655	9.4
12-15 months	5,489	7.6	6,617	8.0	5,953	7.1	5,966	7.3
15-18 months	3,748	5.2	5,267	6.4	4,665	5.6	4,471	5.5
18 months or more	4,911	6.8	13,726	16.6	17,921	21.4	16,688	20.5

Source: National Treatment Purchase Fund

Children and Young People in Care

Measure: The number of children who are in the care of Tusla, the Child and Family Agency

- In 2018, there were 5,974 children in the care of Tusla, the Child and Family Agency.
- The number of children in the care of Tusla decreased by 4.67% between 2016 and 2018 (see Table 143).
- Overall 5.5 per 1,000 children were in care in 2018 (see Table 143).
- More children (66.2%) were in general foster care in 2018 than in any other type of placement (see Table 143).
- A greater proportion (51.2%) of those in care were male (see Table 143).

Table 143: Number, percentage, and rate per 1,000 of children in the care of Tusla, by age, gender, and type of placement (2016 - 2018)

	2016			2017			2018		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
Total	6,267	100.0	5.3	6,116	100.0	5.1	5,974	100.0	5.5
Age									
0 - 4	926	14.8	2.8	896	14.7	2.8	820	13.7	2.6
5 - 9	1,654	26.4	4.7	1,661	27.2	4.6	1,634	27.4	4.6
10 - 14	2,124	33.9	6.7	2,031	33.2	6.3	1,997	33.4	6.0
15 - 17	1,563	24.9	8.5	1,528	25.0	8.2	1,523	25.5	8.0
Gender									
Male	3,274	52.2	5.4	3,164	51.7	5.2	3,061	51.2	5.0
Female	2,993	47.8	5.2	2,952	48.3	5.1	2,913	48.8	5.0
Type of placement									
General foster care	4,111	65.6	3.5	4,023	65.8	3.4	3,957	66.2	3.3
Relative foster care	1,715	27.4	1.4	1,667	27.3	1.4	1,594	26.7	1.3
Residential foster care	319	5.1	0.3	323	5.3	0.3	346	5.8	0.3
Other care placements	122	1.9	0.1	103	1.7	0.1	77	1.3	0.1

Source: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency

- Rates ranged across administrative areas, from 3.1 per 1,000 in Dublin South East/Wicklow, to 11.3 per 1,000 in Dublin City North (see Table 144).

Table 144: Number and rate (per 1,000) of children in the care of Tusla (2016 - 2018)

	2016		2017		2018	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
All Tusla regions	6,267	5.3	6,116	5.1	5,974	5.0
Tusla Dublin North East	1,487	5.4	1,451	5.3	1,391	5.1
Cavan/Monaghan	152	4.2	157	4.3	156	4.3
Dublin North	326	3.2	330	3.3	322	3.2
Dublin City North	612	13.6	566	12.6	507	11.3
Louth Meath	397	4.3	398	4.3	406	4.4
Tusla Dublin Mid Leinster	1,506	4.4	1,468	4.3	1,413	4.1
Dublin South Central	387	5.9	374	5.7	361	5.5
Dublin South East/Wicklow	287	3.3	285	3.3	273	3.1
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	435	4.0	421	3.9	400	3.7
Midlands	397	5.0	388	4.8	379	4.7
Tusla South	1,810	6.0	1,746	5.8	1,731	5.8
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	373	5.9	377	6.0	347	5.5
Cork	858	6.4	805	6.0	781	5.8
Kerry	152	4.4	151	4.4	164	4.7
Waterford/Wexford	427	6.2	413	6.0	439	6.4
Tusla West	1,464	5.3	1,451	5.3	1,439	5.2
Donegal	216	5.0	200	4.7	214	5.0
Galway/Roscommon	414	5.2	417	5.2	398	5.0
Mayo	134	4.2	130	4.1	124	3.9
Midwest	597	6.2	596	6.2	595	6.2
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	103	4.4	108	4.6	108	4.6

Source: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency

Mental Health Referrals

Measure: The number of admissions to psychiatric hospitals/units and child and adolescent units

- In 2018 there were 408 admissions of children to psychiatric hospitals/units and child and adolescent units.
- Overall, 34 per 100,000 children were admitted to psychiatric/units and child and adolescent units in 2018 (see Table 145).
- 84.1% of children admitted to psychiatric hospitals/units and child and adolescent units in 2018 were aged 15-17 (see Table 145).
- 37.3% of children admitted to psychiatric hospitals/units and child and adolescent units were male and the remaining 62.7% were female (see Table 145).
- Among children, 'depressive disorders' (31.9%) followed by 'neuroses' (23.5%) were the most common reason for admission to hospitals/units and child and adolescent units (see Table 145).

Table 145: Number, percentage and rate (per 100,000) of admissions to psychiatric hospitals/units and child and adolescent units by age, gender, and diagnosis (2014-2018)

	2014	2015	2016	2017			2018		
	No.	No.	No.	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
Total	436	503	506	441	100.0	37.0	408	100.0	34.0
Age									
0 - 4	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
5 - 9	0	1	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
10 - 14	76	95	109	84	19.0	26.0	65	15.9	19.5
15 - 17	360	407	396	357	81.0	192.1	343	84.1	179.4
Gender									
Male	146	200	181	178	40.4	29.2	152	37.3	24.8
Female	290	303	325	263	59.6	45.1	256	62.7	43.6
Diagnosis									
Alcoholic disorders	1	1	2	2	0.5	0.2	0	0.0	0.0
Depressive disorders	153	163	176	139	31.5	11.7	130	31.9	10.8
Drug dependence	18	15	14	15	3.4	1.3	7	1.7	0.6
Mania	29	25	16	22	5.0	1.8	18	4.4	1.5
Mental handicap	1	1	0	2	0.5	0.2	1	0.2	0.1
Neuroses	107	126	113	107	24.3	9.0	96	23.5	8.0
Organic psychoses	2	5	16	4	0.9	0.3	1	0.2	0.1
Other psychoses	36	39	68	44	10.0	3.7	43	10.5	3.6
Personality disorders	26	35	33	17	3.9	1.4	17	4.2	1.4
Schizophrenia	14	18	15	15	3.4	1.3	13	3.2	1.1
Unspecified	49	75	53	74	16.8	6.2	82	20.1	6.8

Source: Health Research Board

- The rate of admission of children to psychiatric hospitals/units and child and adolescent units was highest in Kerry (81.1 admissions per 100,000 children) and lowest in Leitrim (0 admissions per 100,000 children) (see Table 146).

Table 146: Number and rate (per 100,000) of admissions to psychiatric hospitals/units and child and adolescent units, by county of residence (2018)

	No. of children	Rate
State	408	34.3
County		
Carlow	4	26.9
Cavan	5	23.8
Clare	10	32.7
Cork	35	26.1
Donegal	6	14.3
Dublin	107	41.6
Galway	13	20.4
Kerry	28	81.1
Kildare	26	41.3
Kilkenny	8	30.8
Laois	9	37.1
Leitrim	0	0.0
Limerick	9	19.1
Longford	7	62.4
Louth	13	37.1
Mayo	2	6.3
Meath	27	47.3
Monaghan	5	30.2
Offaly	15	71.0
Roscommon	2	12.3
Sligo	2	12.5
Tipperary	27	66.2
Waterford	17	57.9
Westmeath	9	38.2
Wexford	7	17.9
Wicklow	13	34.2

*Rates based on county populations at Census 2016

Source: Health Research Board

APPENDIX 1: MAIN DATA SOURCES, DEFINITIONS AND TECHNICAL NOTES

Census of the Population and Population Estimates: Central Statistics Office

The Census of the Population is conducted by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) every five years. The following indicators, which draw on data from this source, define children as 'all population under 18 years of age' when the data were collected. Figures are based on either the de facto population i.e. the total of all persons present within the boundaries of the state on the night of Sunday, 24 April 2016, or the usually resident population :

1. Number of children (de facto)
2. Number of children living in a lone-parent household (usual residence and present)
3. Percentage of children whose mothers have attained (a) primary, (b) lower secondary, (c) upper secondary or (d) third-level education (usual residence and present)
4. Number of Traveller children (de facto)
5. Number of foreign national children (usual residence and present)
6. Number of children with a disability (de facto)
7. Number of children who provide regular unpaid personal help for a friend or family member with a long-term illness, health problem or disability (de facto).

Parental education level data refer to the highest educational attainment of the mother rather than the head of household. All information supplied is for those whose full-time education has ceased. Where no mother is present, the highest educational attainment of the father is used instead. The figures are based on responses to Question 25 of the 2016 Census, which distinguishes between the following main categories:

1. No formal education or just primary education: NFQ Levels 1 or 2 (FETAC Level 1 or 2 Cert. or equivalent).
2. Lower secondary education: NFQ Level 3 (Junior/Inter/Group Cert., FETAC Level 3 Cert., FAS Introductory Skills, NCVA Foundation Cert. or equivalent).
3. Upper secondary: NFQ Levels 4, 5 or 6 (Leaving Cert. (including Applied and Vocational programmes) or equivalent), Technical or Vocational (FETAC Level 4/5 Cert., NCVA Level 1/2, FAS Specific Skills, Teagasc Cert. in Agriculture, CERT Craft Cert. or equivalent), Advanced Certificate/Completed Apprenticeship (FETAC Advanced Cert., NCVA Level 3, FAS National Craft Cert., Teagasc Farming Cert., CERT Professional Cookery Cert. or equivalent).
4. Third level: NFQ Levels 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 (Higher Certificate, Ordinary Bachelor's Degree or National Diploma, Honours Bachelor's Degree/Professional qualification or both, Postgraduate Diploma or Degree, Doctorate (PhD) or higher).

A person is classified as a Traveller in the 2016 Census if the answer is 'Irish Traveller' to Question 11: '*What is your ethnic or cultural background?*'

A person is identified as a foreign national in the 2016 Census if the answer is not 'Irish' to Question 10: '*What is your nationality?*'

A person is defined as having a disability in the 2016 Census if they answer 'Yes' to any of the options in Question 16 or Question 17.

- Question 16: '*Do you have any of the following long-lasting conditions or difficulties?*'

- (a) Blindness or a serious vision impairment.
 - (b) Deafness or a serious hearing impairment.
 - (c) A difficulty with basic physical activities, such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying.
 - (d) An intellectual disability.
 - (e) A difficulty with learning, remembering or concentrating.
 - (f) A psychological or emotional condition.
 - (g) A difficulty with pain, breathing or any other chronic illness or condition.
- Question 17: *'If Yes to any of the conditions specified in Question 16, do you have any difficulty in doing any of the following?'*
 - (a) Dressing, bathing or getting around inside the home.
 - (b) Going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor's surgery.
 - (c) Working at a job or business or attending school or college.
 - (d) Participating in other activities, for example, leisure or using transport.

Calculation of annual population estimates

The annual population estimates for mid-April are calculated by trending forwards the previous Census of Population data. For example, the base population data for estimating the April 2017 figure was the number of males and females in each region by single year of age and nationality as established by the 2016 Census. From this base, each person was aged by one year, births for the period were added and deaths were subtracted. The estimated number of immigrants was then added and the number of emigrants was subtracted. Allowance was also made for estimated inter-regional migration in arriving at the final 2017 figures. No estimates are made for the population of children in counties for intercensal years. In this publication, "Rates per county" calculations for years subsequent to 2016 continue to use the 2016 Census of Population county figures.

Centralised Information System for Infectious Diseases: World Health Organization

The Centralised Information System for Infectious Diseases (CISID) is compiled by the World Health Organization (WHO) European Region. The following indicator draws on data from the CISID:

- The percentage uptake of the recommended doses of vaccines among children at (a) 12 months and (b) 24 months of age.

Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Database: Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Database was an administrative data source managed by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs that was established in 2010 to administer the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme. The database was transferred in 2014 to the Programmes Implementation Platform (PIP). The following indicator draws on data from this source:

- Percentage of pre-school services under contract to deliver the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme that meet basic and higher capitation criteria.

The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme offers every child in the eligible age cohort up to 15 hours per week of free early childhood care and education provision for 38 weeks per year. From September 2016 children were eligible to avail of ECCE once they had turned three (and were not more than four years and eight months), and can continue in free pre-school until they start primary school (once the child is not older than five years and six months at the end of the relevant pre-school year). Children are able to enrol in ECCE at three different points in the year - September, January and April. Pre-school services may enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with the State to provide the ECCE Programme on the basis of meeting a number of criteria, including qualifications of staff. Two capitation rates are available:

The **basic capitation rate** requires the following qualification profile: Pre-school Leaders must hold certification for a major award in childcare/early education at a minimum of Level 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications of Ireland (NFQ) or an equivalent nationally recognised qualification or a higher award in the childcare/early education field. A standard rate of €64.50 per registered child per week for 38 weeks is applicable.

The **higher capitation rate** is awarded based on the following criteria: A higher capitation fee, equivalent to €75 per week for 38 weeks, will be payable to ECCE sessions where the Pre-school Leader for that session holds a Bachelor's degree in childcare/ early education (minimum of Level 7 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) or equivalent) and have three years' experience working in the sector, and where all Pre-school Assistants hold a relevant major award in childcare/early education at Level 5 on the NFQ or its equivalent.

Education Statistics Database: Department of Education and Skills

The following indicators draw on data from the Department of Education and Skills:

- Leaving Certificate retention rates.
- Public expenditure on education.

Leaving Certificate retention rates are drawn from the school-based returns collated by the Department of Education and Skills. Rates are adjusted for emigration and transfer to non-aided second-level schools, but not for transfer to other destinations (e.g. Youthreach). From 2005 onwards, an updated methodology was employed to calculate adjusted rates, so these rates are not completely comparable to those for previous cohorts.

Non-capital **public expenditure on education** includes direct public expenditure on educational institutions, public subsidies to other private entities for education matters and public subsidies to households, such as scholarships and loans to students for tuition fees and student living costs. The expenditure has been deflated to real prices by using the National Accounts series for net expenditure by Central and Local Government on

current goods and services at base year 2013. Public expenditure on education as used for the international comparison includes both current and capital expenditure. In the mid-1990s, undergraduate tuition fees were abolished in Ireland. Educational institutions are defined as entities that provide instructional services to individuals or education-related services to individuals and other educational institutions. Data on total public expenditure on education are expressed as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP). GDP is the central aggregate of National Accounts. It represents the total value added (output) in the production of goods and services in the country. National public expenditure as a percentage of GDP is calculated using figures in national currency both for public expenditure and for GDP. European averages are weighted and therefore take into account the relative proportion of the student population or the education expenditure of the considered countries. They are calculated taking into account all relevant countries for which data are available. They are considered of sufficient quality if countries with available data exceed 70% of the population or of the GDP of the European aggregate. Please note: 'Public expenditure on educational institutions between primary and tertiary level' as outlined in this report does not include expenditure on pre-primary education and is not comparable to 'public expenditure on education' which was reported in previous editions of State of the Nation's Children, as this included all levels of education.

European Union Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC): Central Statistics Office

The European Union Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) is conducted in Ireland by the Central Statistics Office. The EU-SILC collects information on poverty, deprivation and social exclusion. The following indicators draw on data from this source:

- **At risk of poverty:** The percentage of individuals (children in the case of this report) living in households with an equivalised household disposable income below 60% of the median equivalised household disposable income.
- **Consistent poverty:** The percentage of individuals (children in the case of this report) living in households with an equivalised household disposable income below 60% of the median equivalised household disposable income who experienced at least two forms of enforced deprivation.

There are two definitions of income and 'at risk of poverty' used in the measures shown in this report. These include national, (i.e. 'CSO, SILC'), and EU, (i.e. 'EU-SILC') measures. The key difference between the national and EU definition of income is that the national definition includes the value of goods produced for own consumption and non-cash employee income (i.e. benefit-in-kind/BIK), while the EU definition does not. The calculation of national and EU 'at risk of poverty' measures also involves the use of different equivalence scales. The purpose of an equivalence scale is to account for the size and composition of different income units (households) and thus allows for a more accurate comparison between households.

The national equivalence scale used to obtain the equivalised household size attributes a weight of 1.0 to the first adult in a household, 0.66 to each subsequent adult (aged 14+ living in the household) and 0.33 to each child aged less than 14 years. For EU 'at risk of poverty' rates, the equivalised disposable income for each person is calculated as the total net income figure divided by the equivalised household size according to the modified OECD scale (which gives a weight of 1.0 to the first adult, 0.5 to other persons aged 14 or over who are living in the household and 0.3 to each child aged less than 14 years). In the tables/graphs shown in this report, tables with national data only use the national income definition and equivalence scale to calculate the 'risk of poverty' rate, while tables showing EU comparisons use the corresponding EU definitions. The indicators shown in this report refer to income after social transfers are included. In 2018, the 'at risk of poverty' threshold for an individual was €13,723.*

'Consistent poverty' is a measure designed to examine the extent to which persons at risk of poverty may be excluded and marginalised from participating in activities that are considered the norm for other people in society. To this end, a set of basic deprivation indicators (listed below) has been agreed. Persons in consistent

poverty are defined as persons who are at risk of poverty (national measure) and who live in households deprived, through inability to afford them, of two or more of the following basic deprivation items:

- Two pairs of strong shoes.
- A warm waterproof overcoat.
- Buy new (not second-hand) clothes.
- Eat a meal with meat, chicken, fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day.
- Have a roast joint or its equivalent once a week.
- Had to go without heating during the last year through lack of money.
- Keep the home adequately warm.
- Buy presents for family or friends at least once a year.
- Replace any worn-out furniture.
- Have family or friends for a drink or meal once a month.
- Have a morning, afternoon or evening out in the last fortnight for entertainment.

Note: However, all data presented in Tables 122 and 123 of *State of the Nation's Children: Ireland* are based on individuals (not households).

Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) Survey: Health Promotion Research Centre

The Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) Survey is conducted in Ireland by the Health Promotion Research Centre every four years. This comprises self-report, self-completion questionnaires completed by children in schools. The following indicators draw on data from this source:

- Percentage of children aged 10-17 who report that they find it easy to talk to their mother when something is really bothering them*
- Percentage of children aged 10-17 who report that they find it easy to talk to their father when something is really bothering them*
- Percentage of children aged 10-17 who report having three or more friends of the same gender*
- Percentage of children aged 10-17 who report having a pet of their own or a pet in their family*
- Percentage of children aged 10-17 who report having been bullied in school (in the past couple of months)*
- Percentage of children aged 10-17 who report that students at their school participate in making the school rules*
- Percentage of children aged 10-17 who report smoking cigarettes every week*
- Percentage of children aged 10-17 who report never smoking cigarettes
- Percentage of children aged 10-17 who report who report having been drunk at least once in the past 30 days
- Percentage of children aged 10-17 who report never having had an alcoholic drink
- Percentage of children aged 10-17 who report having taken cannabis at least once in their lifetime

- Percentage of children aged 15-17 who report having ever had sex
- Percentage of children aged 10-17 who report feeling happy with the way they are*
- Percentage of children aged 10-17 who report being happy with their lives at present*
- Percentage of children aged 10-17 who report being physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on more than four days per week
- Percentage of children aged 10-17 who report that they eat breakfast five or more days per week
- Percentage of children aged 10-17 who report drinking soft drinks that contain sugar at least once a day*
- Percentage of children aged 10-17 who report feeling safe in the area where they live*
- Percentage of children aged 10-17 who report that there are good places in their area to spend their free time*

Indicators marked with an asterisk (*) include data on children aged nine. These indicators use data collected separately in a Middle Childhood Study. These children are not included in the core HBSC sample. Therefore, these data have been excluded from overall percentages and from analyses by population group, social class and geographic location.

Data are subject to potential bias in relation to self-presentation and memory. They may also suffer from social desirability bias. The overall percentages for HBSC 2014 presented in this report have been weighted. The data were probability weighted prior to analysis to account for a gender imbalance which arose due to response variations during data collection in 2014. The sample weights were constructed using census data and accounted for using gender, age group and region. The weights were constructed as $W=1/P$. W can be interpreted as the inverse selection probability.

Social class is classified into one of the following social class groups (introduced in 1996 by the CSO), which are defined on the basis of occupation:

Social Class I: Professional Social Class II: Managerial Social Class III: Non-manual Social Class IV: Skilled manual Social Class V: Semi-skilled Social Class VI: Unskilled

The method to categorise social class for HBSC 2014 is different to that used in previous survey cycles. The highest social class in the household was used. In previous survey cycles, social class was categorised using the father's social class (or the mother's social class where the father's social class was not available or was missing data). Social class is missing for some records. This should be taken into account when comparing classifications by social class to overall totals.

NUTS is an acronym for the EU Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics. This classification was legally established by EU Regulation No. 1059/2003 on 29 May 2003. The eight Regional Authorities (NUTS 3 regions) were established under the Local Government Act 1991. In Ireland, it is classified hierarchically as Level 1 - Ireland; Level 2 - Regions; and Level 3 - Regional Authorities (see Appendix 2).

Children are identified as Traveller children if they answered 'Yes' to the question '*Are you a member of the Travelling community?*'

Children are identified as having a disability and/or chronic illness if they answered 'Yes' to the question '*Do you have a long-term illness, disability, or a medical condition (like diabetes, asthma, allergy or cerebral palsy) that has been diagnosed by a doctor?*'

Children are identified as immigrants if both their parents were born outside of Ireland.

- The overall percentages for HBSC 2010 data presented in this new version of the SONC report have been weighted and therefore results may differ to those previously published in earlier editions of SONC.
- The 2014 data previously published in the 2016 edition of SONC in tables 111, 112 and 113 referred to "Percentage of Children who reported being physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on four or

more days per week." This has been amended to "Percentage of Children who reported being physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on more than four days per week." in line with the data presented for earlier years.

Hospital In-Patient Enquiry: Healthcare Pricing Office

The Hospital In-Patient Enquiry (HIPE) scheme, established in 1971, is a health information system designed to collect clinical and administrative data on discharges from, and deaths in, acute hospitals in Ireland. Since the 1st of January 2014, the Healthcare Pricing Office (HPO) within the Health Service Executive has overseen the administration and management of this scheme. Between 1990 and 2013 HIPE was managed by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) on behalf of the Department of Health and the Health Service Executive. The following indicators draw on data from this source:

- The number of hospital discharges among children
- The number of hospital discharges among children with a principal diagnosis of injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes.

HIPE data for 1994-2004 were classified using ICD-9-CM. All HIPE discharges from 2005 have been coded using ICD-10-AM (the Australian Modification of ICD-10, incorporating the Australian Classification of Health Interventions) specifically the ICD-10-AM 4th edition from 2005-2008, 6th edition from 2009 to 2014 and the 8th edition from 2015 onwards, which includes significant changes in the classification of diagnoses and procedures. This means that it is not possible to directly compare the data published for 2009-2013 in this report with previously reported data for 1994-2004

The principal diagnosis is defined as 'The diagnosis established after study to be chiefly responsible for occasioning an episode of admitted patient care, an episode of residential care or an attendance at the health care establishment, as represented by a code' (METeOR: 391326) (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2012). [Extracted from NCCC eBook, July 2013, General Standards for Diseases]

Care must be taken not to use hospitalisation rates as a proxy for incidence or prevalence of ill-health in children. Rates are based on episodes of care, such that an individual case will be counted separately in the statistics for each admission to hospital. In addition, hospital data will reflect changes in treatment protocols as well as issues of access to care.

HIPE has covered close to 100% of the discharges from publicly funded acute hospitals in recent years. Please see www.hpo.ie for further information on the HIPE System.

Immunisation Uptake Statistics: Health Protection Surveillance Centre

National data on immunisation uptake in children at 12 and 24 months of age are collated by the Health Protection Surveillance Centre using data provided by the HSE Regions on a quarterly basis. There is no national database on childhood immunisations. The following indicator draws on data from this source:

- BCG - one dose of BCG vaccine
- D3 - three doses of vaccine against diphtheria
- HepB3- three doses of vaccine against hepatitis B
- Hib3 - three doses of vaccine against Haemophilus influenzae type b

- Hibb - one booster dose of vaccine against Haemophilus influenzae type b on or after 12 months of age
- MenC2 - two doses of vaccine against meningococcal group C
- MenC3 - three doses of vaccine against meningococcal group C
- MenCb - one dose of vaccine against meningococcal group C on or after 12 months of age
- MMR1 - one dose of vaccine against measles, mumps and rubella
- P3 - three doses of vaccine against pertussis
- PCV2 - two doses of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine
- PCV3 - three doses of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine
- PCVb - one dose of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine on or after 12 months of age
- Polio3 - three doses of vaccine against polio
- T3 - three doses of vaccine against tetanus

Since 18 September 2006, a Hib booster (Hibb) was recommended. This followed the national Hib campaign from November 2005 to May 2006 among children aged less than four years. Since 1 September 2008, the childhood immunisation schedule outlined in the table below has been implemented for children born on or after 1 July 2008. Compared with the previous schedule, the changes to the primary schedule for children born on or after 1 July 2008 include:

- Introduction of a hepatitis B vaccine (as part of a 6-in-1 vaccine) given at two, four and six months of age
- Introduction of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine given at two, six and twelve months of age
- Change in timing of meningococcal serogroup C conjugate vaccination, now given at four, six and thirteen months of age
- Change in timing of the Haemophilus influenzae type b booster vaccination, now given at thirteen months of age.

All immunisation uptake statistics in this report should only be read alongside caveats to data which is contained in in Annual reports published on the website of the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (www.hpsc.ie).

National Intellectual Disability Database: Health Research Board

The National Intellectual Disability Database (NIDD) is an administrative data source managed by the Health Research Board. The NIDD was established in 1995 to provide a comprehensive and accurate information base for decision-making in relation to the planning, funding and management of services for people with an intellectual disability.

- The number of children aged under 18 years registered as having an intellectual disability.

The nature of service provision in the intellectual disability area in Ireland ensures that an almost complete capture of data on all individuals with a moderate, severe or profound intellectual disability is possible and expected. Inclusion of individuals with a mild level of intellectual disability is sought if they are in special classes or in special schools for children with intellectual disabilities, attending an intellectual disability service in the case of adults, or if it is considered likely that they will require any of these services within the next five years. Participation in the database is voluntary. For the reasons stated above, the NIDD may not include all people living in Ireland who have an intellectual disability.

NOTE The NIDD and NPSDD (see below) have been replaced with an new integrated system called NASS (National Ability Supports System) which went live in January 2019. The first NASS dataset for reporting purposes will be for the year 2019 and it will not be available until 2020.

National Perinatal Reporting System: Health Pricing Office

The National Perinatal Reporting System (NPRS) was established in the 1980s and was managed by the Department of Health. From 1999 to 2013, the Economic and Social Research Institute was contracted by the Department of Health and the Health Service Executive to oversee the collection, processing, management and reporting of data submitted to the NPRS. The system has been managed by the Healthcare Pricing Office (www.hpo.ie) since January 2014. The NPRS is an administrative, clinical and demographic data source and provides details of national statistics on perinatal events (live births, still births and early neonatal deaths). The information collected includes data on pregnancy outcomes, with particular reference to perinatal mortality and important aspects of perinatal care. In addition, descriptive social and biological characteristics of mothers giving birth and their babies are recorded.

The following indicators draw on data from this source:

- The percentage of babies born weighing less than 2,500 grams (live and still births)
- The percentage of infants who are breastfed (exclusive or combined) on discharge from hospital
- The percentage of pregnant women attending for antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy. Note: first trimester = 0-14 completed weeks; second trimester = 15-27 completed weeks; third trimester = 28 weeks or more.

NOTE

- The collection of data on the variable 'timing of first antenatal contact' attempts to capture important information on Irish women's first contact with the healthcare services during pregnancy. This variable acts as an indicator of the length of antenatal care each mother has received and can be examined with birth, still birth and mortality rates. The completion of this indicator at present, however, may not provide an accurate estimation of this information. Although 81.6% of total births were recorded as receiving combined antenatal care in 2015, the date of the first visit to the doctor was recorded as 'not known' for 34.9% of these births. As a result of the absence of these data, the timing of first contact with health professionals within this category will reflect the date of the first hospital visit, even though this is likely to have been later than the first doctor visit.
- Data for 2015 are the data collected via part 3 of the Birth Notification Form (BNF01) for the National Perinatal Reporting System for births occurring in 2015.
- Calculation on data on all variables has been provided for all years 2011-2015. Revised data as provided in October 2016.
- Tipperary North Riding and Tipperary South Riding have been combined for County Tipperary

National Physical and Sensory Disability Database: Health Research Board

The National Physical and Sensory Disability Database (NPSDD) is an administrative data source managed by the Health Research Board. The NPSDD was established in 2000 to provide a comprehensive and accurate information base for decision-making in relation to the planning, funding and management of services for people with a physical and/or sensory disability. Data collection began in 2004. For an individual to be eligible to register on the NPSDD, he/ she must meet all five registration criteria (see below). Information is collected from people with a physical and/or sensory disability who are receiving or who need a specialised health or personal social service, and/or who are receiving a specialised hospital service currently or within the next five years, and who:

- Have a persistent physical or sensory disability arising from disease, disorder or trauma
- In the case of dual disability, have a predominant disability that is physical, sensory or speech/language
- Are less than 66 years of age
- Are receiving, or require, a specialised health or personal social service, and/or are receiving a specialised hospital service, which is related to their disability
- Have consented to being included on the database.

Therefore, the NPSDD may not include all people living in Ireland who have a physical and/or sensory disability.

The following indicator draws on data from the NPSDD:

- The number of children registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability.

NOTE The NIDD (see above) and NPSDD have been replaced with an new integrated system called NASS (National Ability Supports System) which went live in January 2019. The first NASS dataset for reporting purposes will be for the year 2019 and it will not be available until 2020.

National Psychiatric In-Patient Reporting System: Health Research Board

The National Psychiatric In-Patient Reporting System (NPIRS) is an administrative data source managed by the Health Research Board. The data collected for the NPIRS include demographic data relating to each patient (such as gender, date of birth, marital status, address from which admitted and socioeconomic group), together with clinical and diagnostic information (such as date of admission/discharge, legal category, order of admission, diagnosis on admission and discharge in accordance with ICD-10, the World Health Organization International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision and reason for discharge).

The following indicator draws on data from the NPIRS:

- Number and percentage of admissions to psychiatric hospitals/units and child and adolescent units among children.

National Self-Harm Registry Ireland: National Suicide Research Foundation

The National Self-Harm Registry Ireland is a national system of population monitoring for the occurrence of hospital-treated self-harm. The Registry is operated by the National Suicide Research Foundation and is funded by the HSE's National Office for Suicide Prevention. Data for the Registry are recorded by independently trained data registration officers, who register self-harm presentations to all of the country's hospital emergency departments. They follow standard operating procedures and apply standardised inclusion/exclusion criteria in line with an internationally recognised definition of self-harm. The Registry's Annual Reports are available at www.nsrif.ie. Some individuals make more than one self-harm presentation to hospital. But the figures presented relate to the number of individuals annually rather than the total number of presentations. Population estimates data were used in the calculation for the rates for 2012-2017. HSE regional level population estimates are not available for intercensal years, and therefore Census 2016 population data were used in the calculation of the regional-level rates for 2017.

Outturn of Quarterly Performance Indicator Returns: Health Service Executive

The Outturn of Quarterly Performance Indicator Returns is collated by the Health Service Executive (HSE). The following indicators draw on data from this source:

- The percentage of newborn babies visited by a public health nurse within 48/72* hours of discharge from hospital for the first time.
- The percentage of children reaching 10 months who have had their 7-9 Month Developmental Check on time (i.e. before reaching 10 months of age).

*In 2015, HSE collected data on the percentage of newborn babies visited by a public health nurse within 72 hours of discharge from hospital for the first time.

Patient Treatment Register: National Treatment Purchase Fund

The Patient Treatment Register (PTR) is an administrative data source managed by the National Treatment Purchase Fund. This register of patients on inpatient/day case (surgical and medical) and outpatient waiting lists in Ireland has been operational since September 2005* and now includes information from 45 hospitals (see below). Not all of the 45 hospitals on the PTR treat paediatric patients. The following indicator draws on data from the PTR:

- Number of children on IPDC hospital waiting lists in September of each year.
- Number of children on OP hospital waiting lists in September of each year.

*OP waiting list commenced March 2013

Hospitals contributing to PTR:

Bantry General Hospital; Beaumont Hospital; Cappagh National Orthopaedic Hospital; Cavan General Hospital; CHI at Crumlin; CHI at Tallaght; CHI at Temple St; Connolly Hospital Blanchardstown; Cork University Hospital; Cork University Maternity Hospital; Croom Orthopaedic Hospital; Ennis Hospital; Galway University Hospitals; Letterkenny University Hospital; Lourdes Orthopaedic Hospital Kilcreene; Louth County Hospital; Mallow General Hospital; Mater Misericordiae University Hospital; Mayo University Hospital; Mercy University Hospital; Merlin Park Hospital Galway; Midland Regional Hospital Mullingar; Midland Regional Hospital Portlaoise; Midland Regional Hospital Tullamore; Monaghan Hospital; Naas General Hospital; Nenagh Hospital; Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda; Our Lady's Hospital Navan; Portiuncula University Hospital; Roscommon University Hospital; Rotunda Hospital; Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital; Sligo University Hospital; South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital; South Tipperary General Hospital; St. Columcille's Hospital; St. James's Hospital; St. John's Hospital Limerick; St. Luke's General Hospital Kilkenny; St. Michael's Hospital; St. Vincent's University Hospital; Tallaght University Hospital; University Hospital Kerry; University Hospital Limerick; University Hospital Waterford; Wexford General Hospital;

Notes:

Kilcreene OP waiting list included with St. Luke's General Hospital Kilkenny. The Rotunda Hospital Dublin provides OP data only.

Primary and Post-Primary Pupil Annual School Attendance Reports: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency

National data on school attendance are drawn from annual attendance reports based on returns submitted by individual schools at primary and post-primary level under Section 21(6) of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000 and collated by Tusla, the Child and Family Agency. The following indicator draws on data from this source:

- Percentage of children who are absent from (a) primary school and (b) post-primary school for 20 days or more in the school year

Response rates, and further information on data for the relevant years can be found on the Tusla Website

Data in Tables 47 and 50 use student-level data. In contrast, for Tables 48, 49, 51 and 52, the school is the unit of analysis.

Programme of International Student Assessment (PISA) Survey: Educational Research Centre

The Programme of International Student Assessment (PISA) Survey is conducted in Ireland by the Educational Research Centre every three years. In addition to achievement tests, it employs self-report, self-completion questionnaires, which are completed by participating children in their schools. The following indicators draw on data from this source:

- Percentage of children aged 15 who report that their parents spend time just talking with them several times a week.
- Percentage of children aged 15 who report that their parents discuss with them how well they are doing at school more than once a week.
- Percentage of children aged 15 who report that their parents eat a main meal with them around a table more than once a week.

In 2015, PISA was administered on computer for the first time in most participating countries, including Ireland. In 2015, science literacy was the major assessment domain in PISA, meaning that it was comprehensively assessed, using a large number of test items. Reading literacy and mathematics literacy were minor assessment domains. The following indicators draw on data from this source:

- Mean score for children aged 15 based on the OECD-PISA Reading Literacy Scale
- Mean score for children aged 15 based on the OECD-PISA Mathematics Literacy Scale
- Mean score for children aged 15 based on the OECD-PISA Science Literacy Scale

The OECD 'mean score' refers to the OECD 'country average', i.e. it is the average of the country means and not of all the OECD students pooled together.

The measure of the social class status is based on the PISA ESCS (economic, social and cultural status) index, which was divided into thirds.

Children are identified as immigrants based on the questions that ask about the country in which they and their parents were born. The variable IMMIG in the OECD database is based on responses to these questions. For the analyses reported here, it was recoded into two categories: (1) first- and second-generation immigrant children; and (2) other (i.e. native) children. Children with missing responses for either their own country of birth or those of both parents were assigned a missing value on IMMIG. In PISA 2015, the identification of

children as 'Traveller children' was not included. In PISA 2015, reading as a leisure activity was not included as an indicator.

Annual Report of the Committee Appointed to Monitor the Effectiveness of the Diversion Programme: An Garda Síochána

The Annual Report of the Committee Appointed to Monitor the Effectiveness of the Diversion Programme is published by An Garda Síochána. The following indicator draws on data from this source:

- Number of children aged 10-17 referred/referrals to the Garda Diversion Programme.

Review of Adequacy Reports: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency

The data used to calculate the number of children in care for any given year for the Review of Adequacy and historically used to populate the State of the Nation's Children report are extracted from Tusla Q4 Addendum Return, which replaced the Department of Health and Children Child Care Interim Dataset and these data are returned from March of the following year onwards and have gone through a rigorous validation process. The previous State of the Nation's Children report was based on data from the HSE and its 32 LHO areas. Tusla, the Child and Family Agency report on 17 Administrative Areas. The following indicator draws on data from this source:

- The number of children in the care of Tusla, the Child and Family Agency.

Data for the Review of Adequacy Report are also extracted from the Child Care Quarterly PI (performance indicator) Metrics. A breakdown of the number of referrals of child protection (abuse reports) for 2012 was unavailable due to the transition within the HSE Local Health Offices from the Child Care Interim Dataset reporting, which was deemed not suitable in its current format, to a new collection process called the Quarter 4 Addendum Return. As part of a process of transition, a review of the dataset metrics took place and an agreement was formulated to incorporate any of the dataset metrics that could be collected quarterly as part of the PI suite of metrics. The review formed the opinion that it was appropriate to report on the abuse referrals quarterly (in arrears) as part of the PI suite of metrics. Due to the timing of the change for 2012, it was not possible to collect the breakdown of abuse types for 2012; however, a process was put in place to return to collecting abuse referrals by type format for 2013, which has occurred successfully. The previous State of the Nation's Children report was based on data from the HSE and its 32 LHO areas. Tusla, the Child and Family Agency reports on 17 Administrative Areas. The following indicator draws on data from this source:

- The number of child welfare and protection reports to Tusla, the Child and Family Agency.

Summary of Social Housing Assessments: Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government

Under section 21 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009, the Minister may, from time to time,

direct housing authorities to prepare a summary of the social housing assessments carried out in their administrative area. This summary replaces the triennial (every three years) statutory summaries of need which were carried out under Section 9 of the Housing Act 1988.

The following indicator draws on data from this source:

- The number of households with children identified as being in need of social housing.

The 2013 summary was the first to be carried out under the new assessment regime commenced by the Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011. In light of the statutory changes introduced in 2011, the methodology used to collect the 2013 data differs substantially from that used in previous years and therefore the 2013 figures are not directly comparable to previous years. The methodologies used to collect the 2008 and 2011 data also differed. These differences limit comparisons between the years. 2013 and 2016 are the only two years that are directly comparable in terms of the data collected. In preparing the 2013 assessment, Local Authorities reviewed their waiting lists to confirm that those on the list were still seeking and in need of social housing. Data represent net need for social housing support, meaning households that have been assessed as being qualified for support (i.e. deemed eligible and in need of support) and whose housing need has not been met. These figures are net of duplicate applications (i.e. applicants who have applied to more than one Local Authority), those households appearing on multiple lists in different authorities, and households already in receipt of Social Housing Support, e.g. those in RAS, in receipt of HAP, or those that have applied for a transfer. The 2013 figures on the breakdown of households with children in Templemore, Co Tipperary are unavailable. Due to this omission, percentages are calculated on the basis of 89,744 households on the waiting list for social housing, as opposed to the complete figure of 89,872 households.

Vital Statistics: Central Statistics Office

Vital statistics relating to births, deaths and marriages are compiled by the Central Statistics Office on an annual basis. The following indicators draw on data from this source:

- Number of deaths of children.
- Number of births to mothers aged 10-17.
- Number of suicides by children aged 10-17.

Deaths are coded according to the 10th Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death. Stillborn babies are excluded from infant mortality figures, which refer to deaths of children aged less than one year. The CSO reports quarterly on births, deaths and marriages registered during a three-month period. They also produce annual summary reports of births, deaths and marriages registered during the reference year. Differences in Ireland's 2017 infant mortality rates as presented in Tables 4 and 7 are due to differences in the numbers of deaths registered and numbers of deaths occurring in a given year. Not all deaths registered in a particular year will have occurred in that year. For example, a death occurring at the end of one year might not be registered until the beginning of the next year. There can be a delay of some months between occurrence and registration in the case of a death where an inquest is required. To account for this, the CSO also publishes an annual report of births and deaths that occurred during a particular year.

Births to mothers aged 10-17 years include a small number of births to mothers aged 10-14 years. The denominator used to calculate the birth rate of mothers aged 10-17 is based on the population age group 15-17 years (rather than 10-17 years). Births relate to registered live births and exclude stillborn babies.

Suicides by children aged 10-17 years include a small number of suicides by children aged 10-14 years. The denominator used to calculate the suicide rate of children aged 10-17 is based on the population age group 15-17 years (rather than 10-17 years). Data for the most recent year (in this case 2017) are provisional.

WHO European Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative: National Nutrition Surveillance Centre

The WHO European Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative is conducted in Ireland by the National Nutrition Surveillance Centre. This survey collects the weight, height and waist circumference of primary school children aged 7.0-7.9 years. The following indicator draws on data from this source:

- The percentage of children aged seven in BMI categories: normal, overweight and obese.

Height is recorded to the last 0.1cm, weight recorded to the last 0.1kg and waist circumference to the last mm. Training in standardised measurement techniques and standard equipment is provided to qualified nutritionists who carry out the fieldwork.

Data are drawn from the report: Heinen MM, Murrin C, Daly L, O'Brien J, Heavey P, Kilroe J, O'Brien M, Scully H, Mulhern LM, Lynam A, Hayes C, O'Dwyer U, Eldin N and Kelleher CC [2014]. *The Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI) in the Republic of Ireland: Findings from 2008, 2010 and 2012*. Dublin: Health Service Executive.

APPENDIX 2: NUTS CLASSIFICATIONS

NUTS is an acronym for the EU Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics. This classification was legally established by EU Regulation No. 1059/2003 on 29 May 2003. The eight Regional Authorities for Ireland (NUTS 3 Regions), which were established under the Local Government Act 1991, are set out below:

NUTS2 Code	NUTS 2 Name	NUTS3 Code	NUTS 3 Name	County
IE04	Northern & Western	IE041	Border	Donegal
				Sligo
				Leitrim
				Cavan
		IE042	West	Monaghan
				Galway
IE05	Southern	IE051	Mid-west	Mayo
				Roscommon
				Clare
		IE052	South East	Tipperary
				Limerick
				Waterford
				Kilkenny
		IE053	South-West	Carlow
				Wexford
				Cork
IE06	Eastern & Midland	IE061	Dublin	Dublin
		IE062	Mid-East	Kerry
				Wicklow
				Kildare
				Meath
		IE063	Midlands	Louth
				Longford
				Westmeath
Offaly				
				Laois