

Short report

HBSC Ireland 2014: Description of the child developed 'Does your family play with you?' question asked in HBSC Ireland 2014 Study

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Introduction

The Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) study is a cross-national research study conducted in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) Regional Office for Europe and runs on a four-year cycle. In 2014, Ireland participated for the fifth time in the HBSC study (www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc). The overall aims of the HBSC study are to gain new insight into, and increase our understanding of young people's health and well-being, health behaviours and their social context. HBSC collects data on key indicators of health, health attitudes, and health behaviours, as well as the context of health for young people. The study is a school-based survey with information collected from students through self-completion questionnaires in classrooms. HBSC Ireland 2014 was funded by the Department of Health. Further information on the HBSC Ireland can be found at www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc or at www.hbsc.org, the International HBSC website.

The most recent HBSC Ireland study was conducted in 2014 and included 13,611 school children from 3rd class in primary school to 5th year in post-primary school. Overall, 42.2% boys and 57.8% girls participated. Collectively, 230 primary and post-primary schools across Ireland participated in this study. The methods employed comply with the International HBSC protocol and are detailed in the national report from the 2014 survey see <http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc/hbscireland/2014study/>.

Focus of this report

This short report focuses on the child developed question 'Does your family play with you?' asked in the Irish 2014 HBSC study. The findings are presented below in tables. Overall percentages are weighted and stratified findings are unweighted. The stratified findings are broken down by gender, age group, highest level of parent social class and immigrant status. Similar to our national report ([http://www.nuigalway.ie/media/healthpromotionresearchcentre/hbscdocs/nationalreports/HBSC2014-edit-\(LW\).pdf](http://www.nuigalway.ie/media/healthpromotionresearchcentre/hbscdocs/nationalreports/HBSC2014-edit-(LW).pdf)), the findings are presented separately for the main study (10-14 year olds in 5th class to 1st year) and for the middle childhood study (3rd and 4th class children).

The question analysed was:

The following child developed question was asked:

- 'Does your family play with you?' Response options were: (1) always, (2) often, (3) sometimes, (4) never.

Findings

Tables 1 to 5 present the percentage of 10-14 year olds reporting on whether their family plays with them, overall and by gender, age group, highest level of parent social class and immigrant status. Tables 6 to 9 present the percentage of 3rd and 4th class children reporting on whether their family plays with them, overall and by gender, highest level of parent social class and immigrant status.

MAIN STUDY

Table 1: Percentage of 10-14 year olds reporting on whether their family plays with them

	N (%)*
Always	376 (8.5)
Often	1159 (26.0)
Sometimes	2125 (48.1)
Never	766 (17.3)

*weighted percentages and unweighted Ns

Table 2: Percentage of 10-14 year olds reporting on whether their family plays with them, by gender

	Girls N (%)	Boys N (%)
Always	210 (8.2)	165 (8.9)
Often	678 (26.3)	481 (26.1)
Sometimes	1203 (46.7)	918 (49.7)
Never	483 (18.8)	282 (15.3)

Table 3: Percentage of 10-14 year olds reporting on whether their family plays with them, by age group

	10-11 years N (%)	12-14 years N (%)
Always	176 (11.8)	200 (6.8)
Often	444 (29.9)	715 (24.3)
Sometimes	700 (47.1)	1425 (48.4)
Never	165 (11.1)	601 (20.4)

Table 4: Percentage of 10-14 year olds reporting on whether their family plays with them, by highest parental social class

	SC 1-2 N (%)	SC 3-4 N (%)	SC 5-6 N (%)
Always	135 (7.8)	115 (7.2)	48 (10.4)
Often	502 (28.9)	402 (25.2)	115 (25.0)
Sometimes	848 (48.9)	800 (50.2)	207 (44.9)
Never	250 (14.4)	277 (17.4)	91 (19.7)

Table 5: Percentage of 10-14 year olds reporting on whether their family plays with them, by immigrant status

	Immigrant N (%)	All other children N (%)
Always	50 (7.0)	309 (8.7)
Often	160 (22.4)	961 (27.2)
Sometimes	357 (49.9)	1678 (47.4)
Never	149 (20.8)	589 (16.6)

MIDDLE CHILDHOOD STUDY

Table 6: Percentage of 3rd and 4th class children reporting on whether their family plays with them

	N (%)*
Always	312 (15.3)
Often	619 (28.5)
Sometimes	1041 (48.0)
Never	180 (8.2)

*weighted percentages and unweighted Ns

Table 7: Percentage of 3rd and 4th class children reporting on whether their family plays with them, by gender

	Girls N (%)	Boys N (%)
Always	176 (14.5)	135 (14.4)
Often	336 (27.8)	283 (30.1)
Sometimes	594 (49.0)	447 (47.6)
Never	105 (8.7)	75 (8.0)

Table 8: Percentage of 3rd and 4th class children reporting on whether their family plays with them, by highest parental social class

	SC 1-2 N (%)	SC 3-4 N (%)	SC 5-6 N (%)
Always	115 (14.0)	100 (12.9)	37 (17.4)
Often	264 (32.1)	229 (29.5)	50 (23.6)
Sometimes	388 (47.1)	384 (49.4)	107 (50.5)
Never	56 (6.8)	64 (8.2)	18 (8.5)

Table 9: Percentage of 3rd and 4th class children reporting on whether their family plays with them, by immigrant status

	Immigrant N (%)	All other children N (%)
Always	51 (17.7)	248 (14.1)
Often	63 (21.9)	539 (30.6)
Sometimes	136 (47.2)	846 (48.0)
Never	38 (13.2)	129 (7.3)

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