

STATE OF THE NATION'S CHILDREN



2021



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
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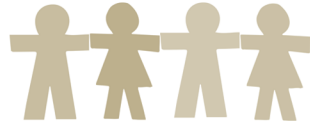
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Introduction

Welcome to Ireland's *State of the Nation's Children*. This web report provides up-to-date data on children in Ireland and aims to:

- Chart the well-being of children in Ireland.
- Track changes over time.
- Benchmark progress in Ireland relative to other countries.
- Highlight policy issues arising.

This data was last updated on 2021-12-17.

State of the Nation's Children was introduced in 2006, and was an outcome of the publication of the *National Set of Child Well-Being Indicators* a year earlier. It was subsequently published on a biennial basis, compiling data from numerous domestic and international sources in pdf and hardcopy format. All previous publications of the report are available on the DCEDIY website.

DCEDIY has now transformed and modernised the delivery of the report by moving to a web version, with links provided to the underlying data tables, in the CSO's PxStat. This new format has many benefits for users, including that users always have access to the most up to date version of the data and have access to previous data and additional analysis of the data not reported on in the report. In line with the Government's Open Data Initiative the data is available in an open, machine-readable format.

State of the Nation's Children is produced by the Research and Evaluation Unit of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. The data is housed in PxStat courtesy of the Central Statistics Office.

The report is presented in four sections, as follows:

Part 1: Sociodemographics

This section provides information on the child population, child mortality, family structure, parental education level, Traveller children, foreign national children, children with a disability and children as carers. Data are largely drawn from Vital Statistics (Central Statistics Office) and the Census of the Population.

Part 2: Children's relationships

This section provides information on children's relationships with their parents and peers, including, for example, levels of reported bullying and children's friendships. Data are drawn



from Health Behaviour of School-aged Children (HBSC) surveys and also from Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) surveys.

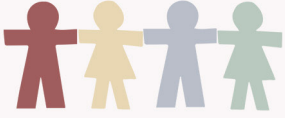
Part 3: Children's outcomes

This section provides information on children's health outcomes, educational outcomes, and social, emotional and behavioural outcomes, including, for example, smoking, alcohol and cannabis use, births to teenage girls, health conditions and hospitalisation, educational attainment and self-reported happiness. Data are drawn from, among others, the Health Behaviour of School aged Children (HBSC) surveys, the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) surveys, the National Ability Supports System Database (formerly the National Intellectual Disability Database and the National Physical and Sensory Disability Database) and the National Perinatal Reporting System.

Part 4: Formal and informal supports

This section provides information on a range of supports, both formal and informal, including school, housing and community supports, as well as antenatal care, immunisation and other health supports. Data are drawn from, among others, the European Union Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC), Health Behaviour of School-aged Children (HBSC) surveys, National Perinatal Reporting System, Vital Statistics (Central Statistics Office), Triennial Assessment of Housing Needs, and Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) surveys

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SOCIODEMOGRAPHICS





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Key Findings

- In 2021, there were 1,191,125 children living in Ireland. This accounted for 23.8% of the total population (see Table 1).
- In 2019, 284 children died in Ireland. This equated to an overall mortality rate of 2.36 per 10,000 (see Table 4).
- In 2016, 16.5% of children lived in a lone-parent household (see Table 9).
- In 2016, 8.1% of children had a mother with 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).



Child Population

Measure: The number of children

- In 2021, there were 1,191,125 children living in Ireland. This accounted for 23.8% of the total.
- Of the total child population in 2021, 609,361 were male and 581,764 were female (see *Table 1*).

Table 1. Number of children under 18, by age and gender (2021)

	Male	Female	Total
Population under 18	609,361	581,764	1,191,125
All ages	2,481,122	2,530,338	5,011,460
Age			
Under 1 year	28,453	27,030	55,483
1 year	29,921	28,544	58,465
2 years	31,300	30,276	61,576
3 years	31,609	30,559	62,168
4 years	33,144	31,717	64,861
5 years	32,265	30,799	63,064
6 years	33,162	31,492	64,654
7 years	34,404	32,560	66,964
8 years	35,204	33,604	68,808
9 years	36,541	34,962	71,503
10 years	37,104	35,807	72,911
11 years	37,350	35,639	72,989
12 years	37,159	35,468	72,627
13 years	36,777	35,241	72,018
14 years	34,617	32,848	67,465
15 years	33,635	31,899	65,534
16 years	33,476	31,248	64,724
17 years	33,240	32,071	65,311

Source: Population and Migration Estimates (CSO)

- The percentage of the population under 18 decreased from 36.2% in 1981 to 23.8% in 2021 (see *Table 2*).
- Between 2016 and 2021 the number of children increased by 0.05%, from 1,190,502 to 1,191,125. In the 40 year period between 1981 and 2021, the number of children decreased by 4.4%, from 1,246,443 to 1,191,125.



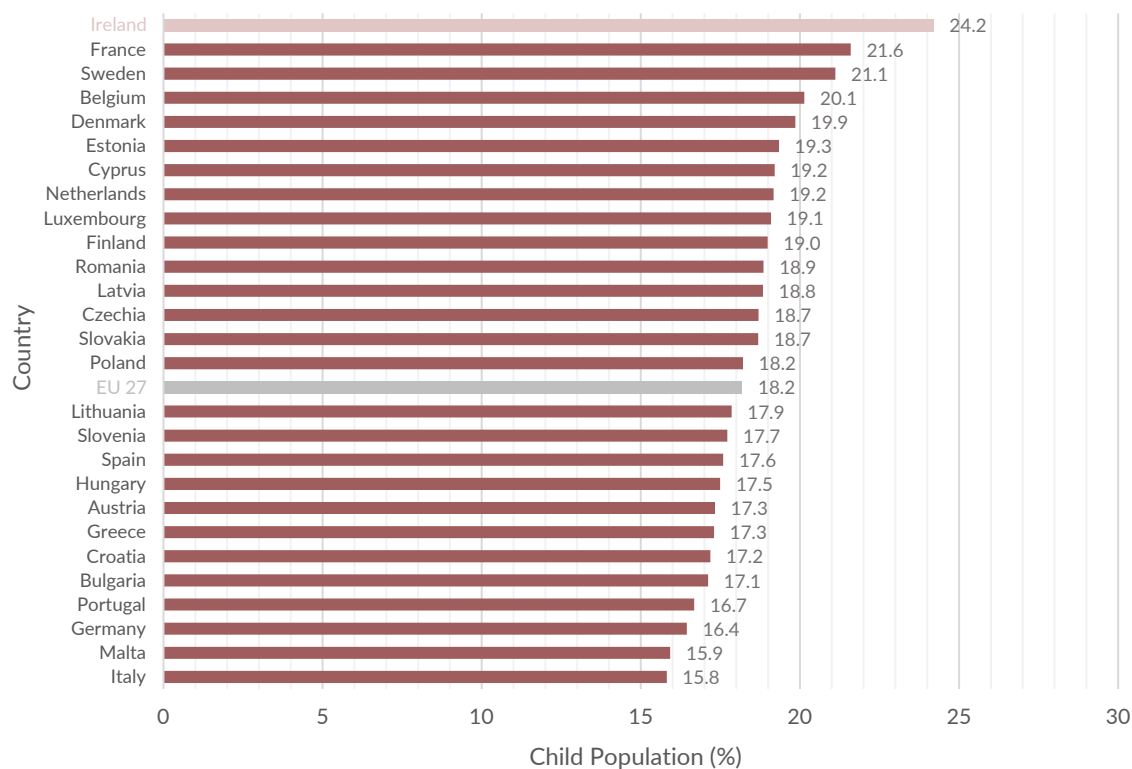
Table 2. Number of children and percentage of population under 18, by gender, selected years (1981-2021)

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
2020	613,698	24.9	585,651	23.3	1,199,349	24.1
2021	609,361	24.6	581,764	23.0	1,191,125	23.8

Source: Census of the Population and Population and Migration Estimates

- In 2020, Ireland had the highest estimated proportion of children in the European Union (24.2%). The EU-27 average was 18.2%.

Figure 1. Child population as a percentage of total population in EU-27 countries (2020)



Source: Eurostat

**Table 3. Population in the EU-27, by country (January 2020)**

	Population	0-4 years		5-9 years		10-14 years		15-17 years		% Under 18
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
EU-27	447,319,916	11,021,847	10,473,726	11,619,349	11,024,484	12,057,711	11,424,928	7,070,356	6,675,567	18.2
Country										
Austria	8,901,064	224,096	211,739	219,209	206,018	216,381	205,617	133,523	126,038	17.3
Belgium	11,522,440	311,179	298,228	339,826	324,512	342,132	326,237	194,161	183,969	20.1
Bulgaria	6,951,482	164,739	155,768	174,560	164,973	175,851	166,367	96,674	90,748	17.1
Croatia	4,058,165	93,644	88,764	101,479	95,195	103,814	98,575	59,554	56,300	17.2
Cyprus	888,005	24,129	23,073	25,018	23,857	23,581	22,726	14,176	13,993	19.2
Czechia	10,693,939	291,529	277,294	288,812	274,583	295,961	282,023	148,748	140,515	18.7
Denmark	5,822,763	158,286	149,602	157,127	149,474	173,744	164,885	103,978	99,042	19.9
Estonia	1,328,976	36,777	34,458	37,266	35,512	38,406	36,283	19,469	18,873	19.3
Finland	5,525,292	130,884	125,040	156,654	149,633	157,712	151,113	91,141	86,880	19.0
France	67,320,216	1,883,945	1,809,042	2,101,046	2,017,948	2,161,932	2,064,858	1,282,622	1,218,775	21.6
Germany	83,166,711	2,031,709	1,929,667	1,914,843	1,812,127	1,905,151	1,797,762	1,178,731	1,107,912	16.4
Greece	10,718,565	237,156	224,799	263,054	248,904	284,787	268,819	170,811	156,048	17.3
Hungary	9,769,526	240,580	227,657	234,270	221,892	255,000	241,937	147,704	140,008	17.5
Ireland	4,964,440	159,099	152,382	177,061	169,101	178,651	169,771	99,683	95,887	24.2
Italy	59,641,488	1,163,198	1,101,340	1,352,240	1,275,716	1,460,449	1,374,611	879,084	826,521	15.8
Latvia	1,907,675	53,490	49,570	51,481	48,146	52,312	50,189	27,925	26,344	18.8
Lithuania	2,794,090	74,862	70,728	74,046	70,466	67,809	64,833	39,030	37,047	17.9
Luxembourg	626,108	16,773	16,209	17,450	16,544	17,038	16,063	10,126	9,336	19.1
Malta	514,564	12,370	11,558	12,116	11,228	11,354	10,532	6,565	6,225	15.9
Netherlands	17,407,585	441,495	419,977	466,869	444,554	488,350	464,854	312,891	298,255	19.2
Poland	37,958,138	987,004	934,493	998,455	943,839	1,023,942	974,338	539,406	511,760	18.2
Portugal	10,295,909	222,777	213,425	232,942	222,901	257,758	247,182	163,495	156,570	16.7
Romania	19,328,838	514,834	487,687	496,093	470,181	546,196	516,387	316,126	297,115	18.9
Slovakia	5,457,873	150,913	143,215	148,213	141,848	143,751	135,780	80,129	76,127	18.7
Slovenia	2,095,861	51,930	48,857	56,818	53,441	53,892	50,864	28,595	26,998	17.7
Spain	47,332,614	1,034,882	977,003	1,201,416	1,128,792	1,308,405	1,226,655	747,634	700,969	17.6
Sweden	10,327,589	309,567	292,151	320,985	303,099	313,352	295,667	178,375	167,312	21.1

Source: Eurostat



Child Mortality

Measure: The number of deaths of children

- In 2019, 284 children died in Ireland. This equated to an overall mortality rate of 2.36 per 10,000 children.
- 58.8% 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 (2014-2019)

	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Total	353	3.00	326	2.76	304	2.55	296	2.48	301	2.51	284	2.36
Age												
Under 1	224	33.29	225	34.33	208	32.58	188	30.41	187	30.65	167	27.29
1 - 4	40	1.44	32	1.17	29	1.08	31	1.19	27	1.05	27	1.06
5 - 9	31	0.91	20	0.57	12	0.34	27	0.75	19	0.53	31	0.88
10 - 14	27	0.87	18	0.57	22	0.69	18	0.56	35	1.05	23	0.67
15 - 17	31	1.74	31	1.71	33	1.79	32	1.72	33	1.73	36	1.85

Source: Vital Statistics (CSO)

- The mortality rate was higher for boys (2.76 per 10,000) than for girls (1.94). The mortality rates have consistently been higher for boys than girls over the period 2015-2019.

Table 5. Number and rate (per 10,000) of deaths of children, by gender (2015-2019)

	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Total	326	2.76	304	2.55	296	2.48	301	2.51	284	2.36
Sex										
Male	198	3.27	174	2.86	152	2.49	160	2.61	170	2.76
Female	128	2.21	130	2.23	144	2.47	141	2.40	114	1.94

Source: Vital Statistics (CSO)

- In 2019, the largest single cause of child deaths was congenital malformations, followed by certain conditions in the perinatal period.



Table 6. Number of deaths of children, by cause of death and age (2019)

	< 1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 -14	15 -17	0 - 17
Total	167	27	31	23	36	284
Main cause of death						
Malignant neoplasms	1	3	10	5	7	26
Certain conditions in the perinatal period	77	1	0	0	0	78
Congenital malformations	68	6	8	4	1	87
Sudden infant death syndrome	12	2	0	0	0	14
External causes of morbidity and mortality	0	5	1	5	14	25
Other causes of death	9	10	12	9	14	54

Source: Vital Statistics (CSO)

- In 2019, the infant mortality rate across the EU-27 ranged from 1.6 per 1,000 in Estonia to 6.7 per 1,000 in Malta (see Table 7). The infant mortality rate in Ireland was 2.8 per 1,000. This was below the EU-27 average of 3.4.
- In 2019, the child mortality rate across the EU-27 was higher for boys than for girls in all age-groups (see Table 8). Child mortality rates were also substantially higher in the age group 0-4 years than for any other age-group.

Figure 2. Child mortality by gender and cause of death (2020)



Source: Vital Statistics (CSO)


Table 7. Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births in the EU-27), by country (1999, 2009 and 2019)

	1999	2009	2019
EU-27	6.2	4.2	3.4
Country			
Austria	4.4	3.8	2.9
Belgium	4.9	3.5	3.7
Bulgaria	14.6	9	5.6
Croatia	7.7	5.3	4
Cyprus	6	3.3	2.6
Czechia	4.6	2.9	2.6
Denmark	4.2	3.1	3
Estonia	9.6	3.6	1.6
Finland	3.6	2.6	2.1
France	4.4	3.9	3.8
Germany	4.5	3.5	3.2
Greece	6.2	3.1	3.7
Hungary	8.4	5.1	3.6
Ireland	5.9	3.3	2.8
Italy	4.9	3.2	2.4
Latvia	11.3	7.6	3.4
Lithuania	8.7	5.6	3.3
Luxembourg	4.7	2.5	4.7
Malta	7.5	5.5	6.7
Netherlands	5.2	3.8	3.6
Poland	8.9	5.6	3.8
Portugal	5.6	3.6	2.8
Romania	18.6	10.1	5.8
Slovakia	8.3	5.7	5.1
Slovenia	4.5	2.4	2.1
Spain	4.5	3.2	2.6
Sweden	3.4	2.5	2.1

Source: Eurostat



Table 8. Rate (per 10,000) of deaths aged 0-17 years across selected countries in EU-27, by age and gender (2019)

	0-4 years		5-9 years		10-14 years		15-17 years		
	Total	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
EU-27	2.5	7.2	6.0	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.7	2.1	1.2
Country									
Austria	2.9	8.0	6.4	0.9	0.5	1.1	0.8	3.2	1.1
Belgium	2.9	8.8	7.1	0.7	0.6	1.0	0.7	2.2	1.4
Bulgaria	5.0	13.3	12.3	1.3	1.6	2.1	1.8	5.2	1.8
Croatia	3.2	9.5	7.9	0.4	0.7	1.4	1.4	3.5	0.9
Cyprus	3.2	8.7	5.3	0.8	1.2	2.2	2.2	3.5	0.7
Czechia	2.7	6.8	5.5	1.0	0.9	1.3	0.9	2.8	1.6
Denmark	2.5	7.8	5.8	0.6	0.8	0.9	0.6	2.1	1.2
Estonia	2.3	6.0	2.6	1.6	1.7	1.1	0.9	2.6	1.7
Finland	2.0	5.1	3.8	0.6	0.3	0.8	1.3	3.0	2.3
France	3.1	10.3	7.9	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.7	2.4	1.4
Germany	2.9	8.2	6.8	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.8	2.1	1.2
Greece	2.8	8.2	8.2	0.7	0.5	0.9	0.8	2.3	1.5
Hungary	3.3	9.5	7.6	1.4	0.9	1.4	1.0	2.5	1.1
Ireland	2.3	6.3	5.6	1.2	0.5	1.0	0.2	2.1	1.3
Italy	1.9	5.7	4.7	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.6	2.2	0.9
Latvia	3.4	7.4	7.3	0.0	0.6	1.6	2.0	5.1	3.4
Lithuania	3.3	7.9	5.8	1.2	1.6	1.7	0.8	5.3	2.1
Luxembourg	3.2	14.4	5.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	1.1
Malta	5.5	12.3	18.5	1.7	0.9	0.9	2.9	0.0	1.6
Netherlands	2.8	8.9	7.6	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.6	1.8	1.5
Poland	3.4	9.0	8.2	0.9	0.9	1.2	1.0	3.3	1.7
Portugal	2.6	7.6	6.7	1.0	0.4	1.0	1.0	1.9	1.3
Romania	5.4	15.2	12.9	1.9	1.2	1.9	1.6	4.3	2.7
Slovakia	4.6	13.4	11.1	1.1	1.1	1.8	1.1	2.9	2.4
Slovenia	2.1	5.7	3.8	1.2	0.9	1.0	0.4	1.8	1.1
Spain	2.0	6.2	5.1	0.6	0.5	0.9	0.7	1.7	1.0
Sweden	2.0	5.0	4.7	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.7	2.2	1.2

Source: Eurostat



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 Dún 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
Dún 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, 8.1% of children had a mother with either no formal education or primary education only; 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.

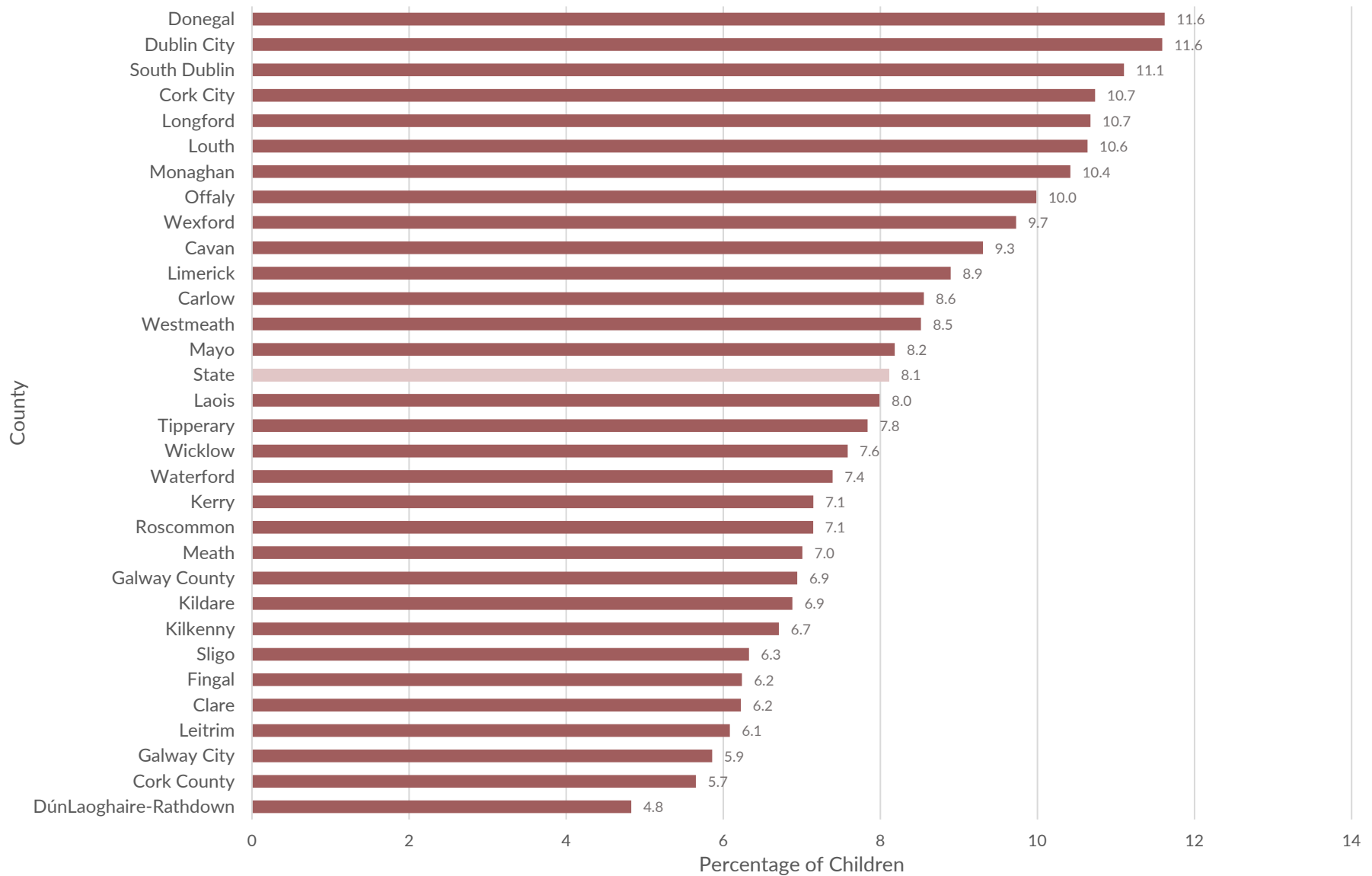
**Table 14.** Number of children, by county and educational attainment of mother (2016)

	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*).

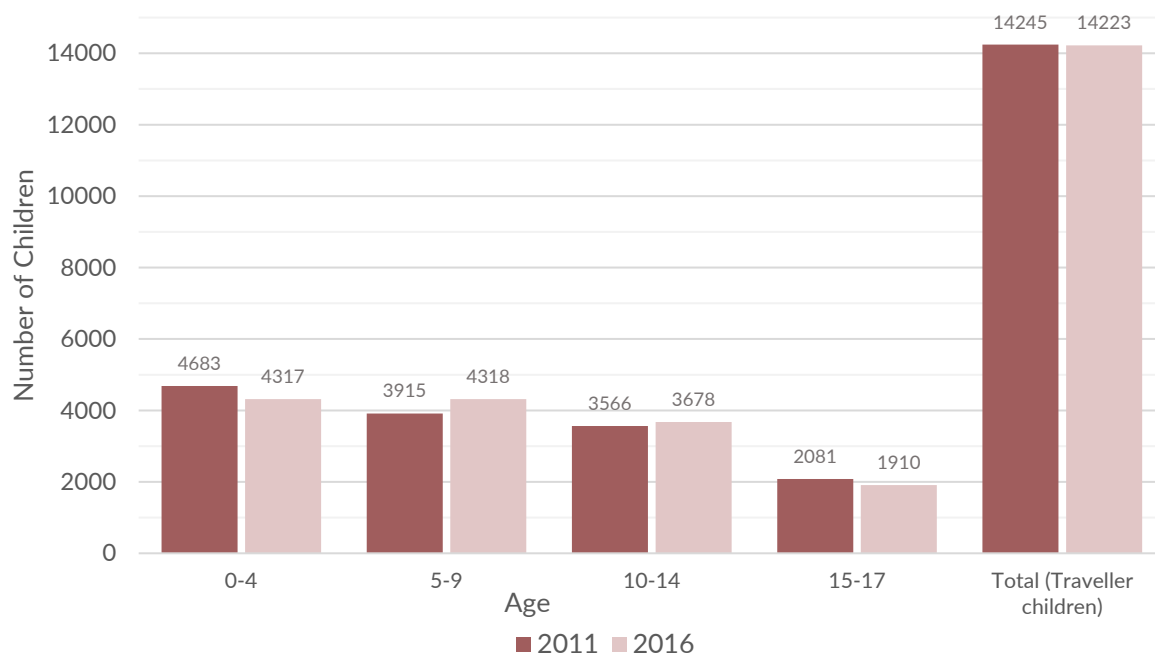
Table 15. Number of Traveller children, by age and gender (2016)

	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 Dún 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
Dún 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*).

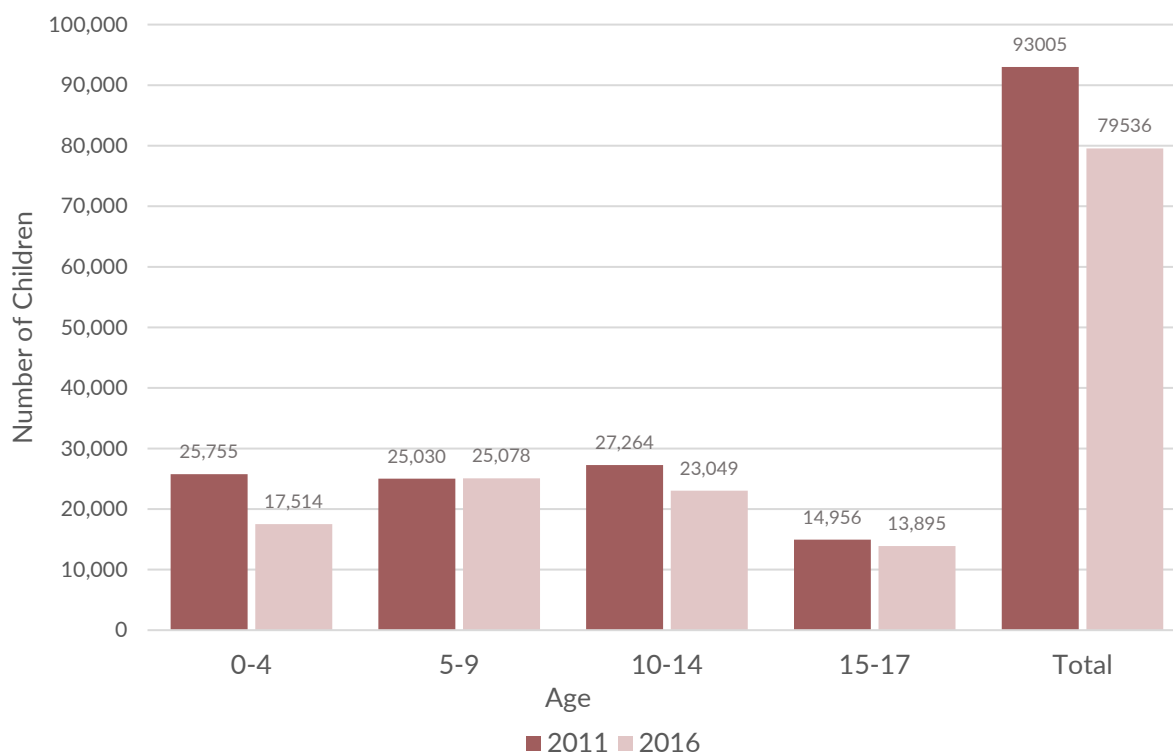
Table 17. Number of foreign national children, by age and gender (2016)

	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
Dún 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/nationality groups with 5% or more of the total number of foreign children were: Lithuanian, Other EU-27, 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-27	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 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
Dún 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 Dún 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
Dún 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)

STATE OF
THE NATION'S
CHILDREN



CHILDREN'S RELATIONSHIPS

2





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 (see Table 34).
- 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).



Relationship with Mothers

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 all other children, Traveller children and 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	86.3
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 Mid-West to 84.5% in Mid-East (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

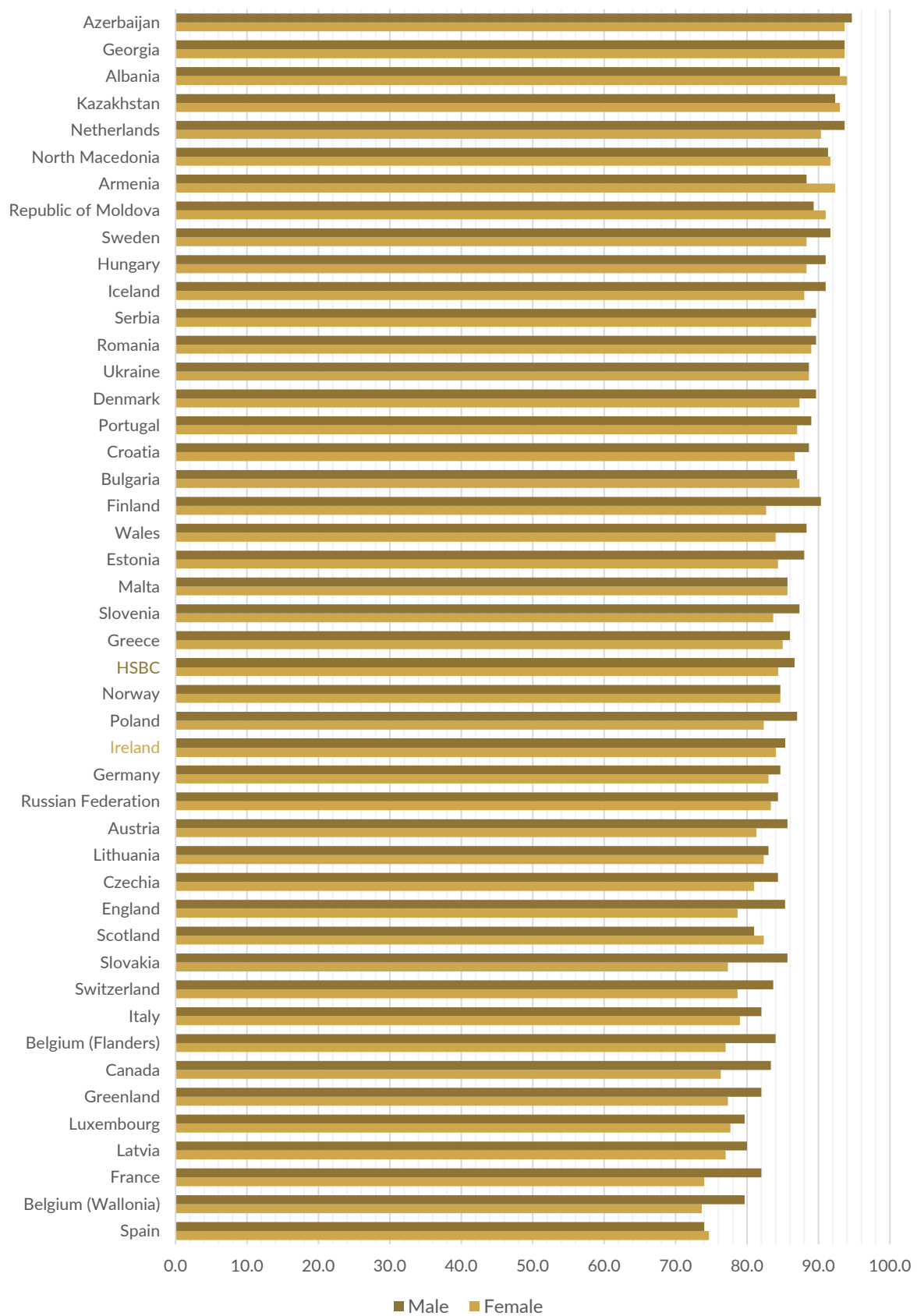
	2014	2018
State	82.7	83.3
NUTS Region		
Border	83.0	84.3
Midland	82.5	82.9
West	83.3	82.2
Dublin	80.7	83.5
Mid-East	83.0	84.5
Mid-West	83.8	82.1
South-East	82.3	82.4
South-West	84.8	84.4

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 mothers, by country (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 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 to 71% in the South-West (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

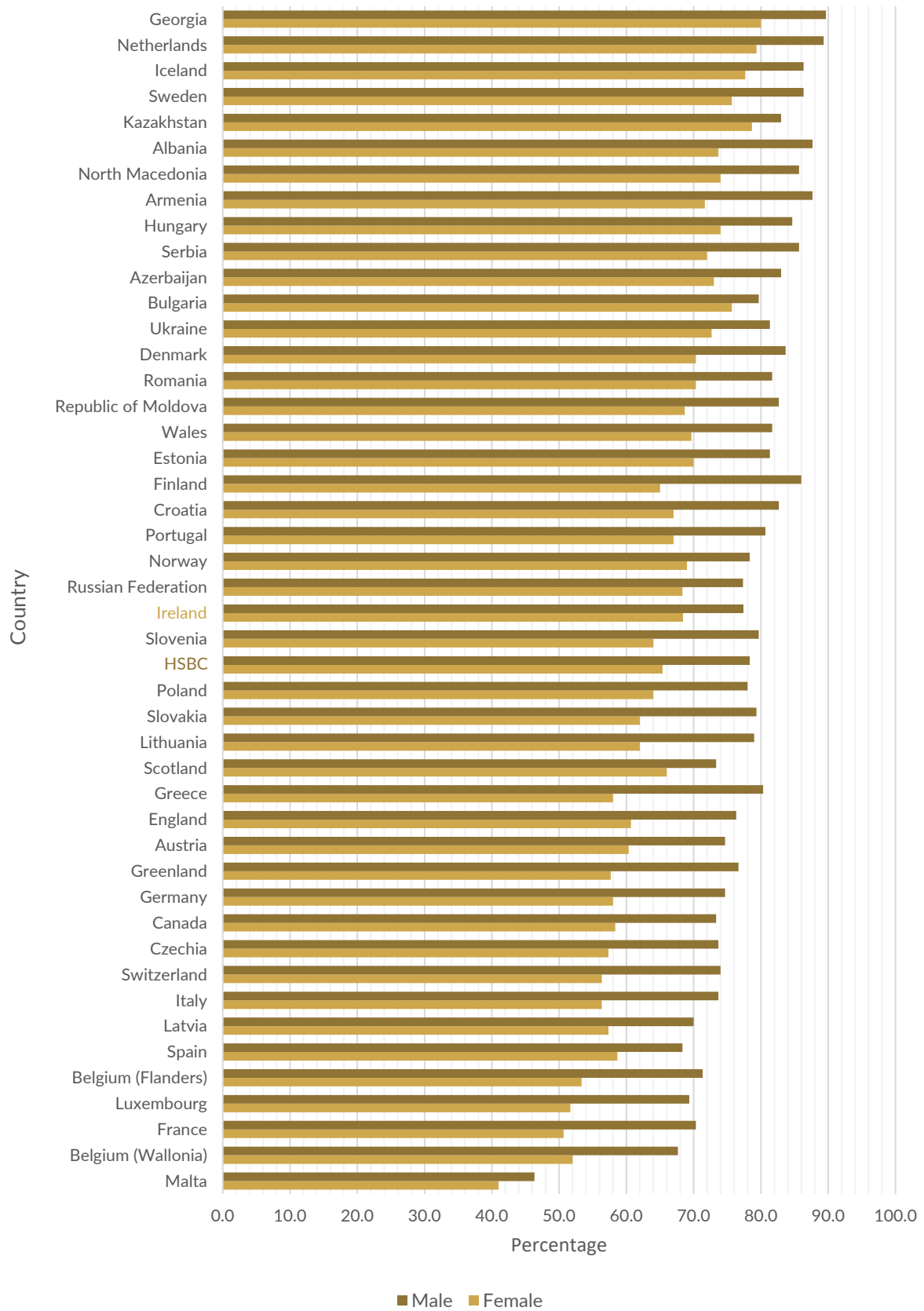
	2014	2018
State	70.2	67.9
NUTS Region		
Border	70.5	68.5
Midland	69.0	67.5
West	70.5	63.9
Dublin	67.9	70.7
Mid-East	71.4	70.3
Mid-West	73.7	64.0
South-East	70.1	65.3
South-West	71.0	71.0

Source: HBSC Survey

- Across 45 countries, the average percentage of children who reported finding it easy to talk to their father when something is really bothering them was 78.3% for boys and 65.3% for girls (see Figure 7). This ranged from 46.3% and 41.0%, respectively, in Malta to 89.7% and 80.0%, respectively, in Georgia. The corresponding percentage in Ireland was 77.3% for boys and 68.3% for girls. This was above 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 fathers, by country (2018)



Source: HBSO 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 social economic status	63.0	71.3	75.2	73.7
Medium social economic status	60.2	66.9	72.1	70.2
Low social 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 social economic status	46.6	55.2	58.7	55.1
Medium social economic status	43.6	48.3	57.2	52.5
Low social 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 social economic status	71.1	79.2	81.0	76.6
Medium social economic status	73.6	72.9	75.9	68.9
Low social 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 all other children, Traveller children and 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 (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



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 decreased between 2014 and 2018.
- Among individual population groups, when compared to all other children, Traveller children were less likely to report having a pet of their own or a pet in the family (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 to 80.7% in the Mid-West (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 all other children, Traveller children and 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 (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

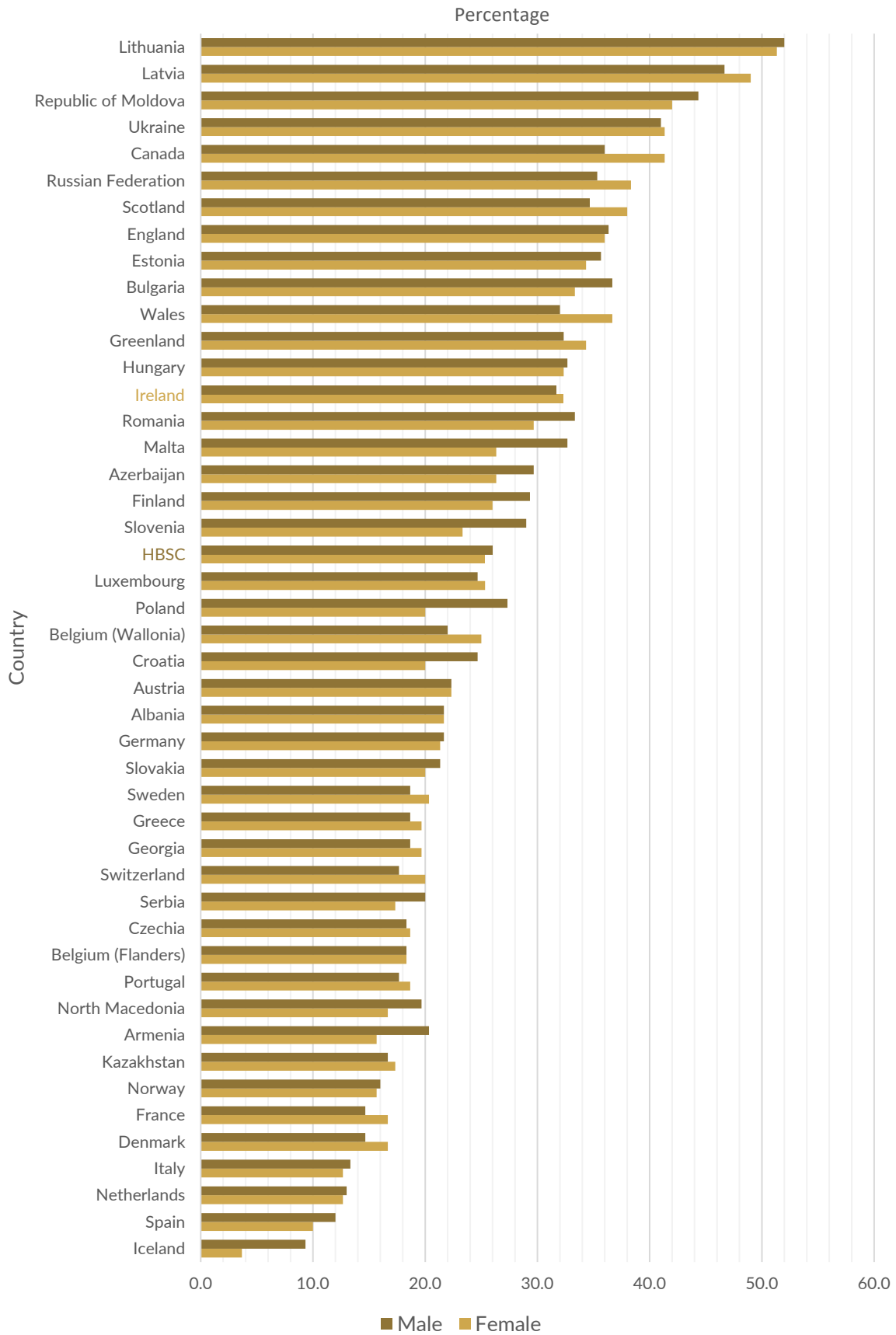
	2014	2018
State	26.5	31.1
NUTS Region		
Border	28.1	29.0
Midland	29.2	30.2
West	25.2	31.9
Dublin	27.5	32.3
Mid-East	23.7	30.6
Mid-West	24.5	34.4
South-East	27.5	30.5
South-West	25.4	31.7

Source: HBSC Survey

- Across 45 countries, the average percentage of children who reported having been bullied at school in the past couple of months was 26.0% for boys and 25.3% for girls (see Figure 8). This ranged from 9.3% and 3.7%, respectively, in Iceland, to 52.0% and 51.3%, respectively, in Lithuania. The corresponding percentage in Ireland was 31.7% for boys and 32.3% for girls. This was above the international HBSC average. (Note: International comparisons are based on data from children aged 11, 13 and 15 only.)

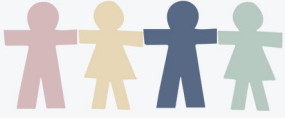


Figure 8. Percentage of children aged 11, 13 and 15 who reported having been bullied at least once or twice at school in the previous couple of months, by country (2018)



Source: HBSC Survey

STATE OF
THE NATION'S
CHILDREN



CHILDREN'S OUTCOMES

3





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Key Findings

- For the 2020/21 pre-school year there were 4,023 pre-school services under contract to deliver the ECCE Programme to 104,137 children. Of these pre-school services 39% met the basic capitation status and 61% met the higher capitation status (see Table 45 & Table 46).
- Over the period 2013 to 2018, the percentage of primary school children who were absent from school for 20 days or more increased from 10.4% to 12.1% (see Table 47).
- Over the period 2013 to 2018, the percentage of post-primary school children who were absent from school for 20 days or more declined from 15.4% to 14.6% (see Table 50).
- The Leaving Certificate retention rate for children entering secondary school in 2014 was 91.5% i.e. out of the 61,161 enrolled on 30 September 2014 in year one of the Junior Cycle, 55,992 sat the Leaving Certificate by 2019, or sat the Leaving Certificate or received a calculated grade in 2020 (see Figure 9).
- 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 2019, 5.8% of all babies born were in the low birth weight category (weighing less than 2,500 grams) (see Table 61).
- In 2019, 60.7% of infants were breastfed on being discharged from hospital. This includes 45.5% who were breastfed exclusively and a further 15.2% who were fed using a combination of bottle and breastfeeding (see Table 63).



- In 2020, there were **109,777** hospital discharges of children (see Table 65).
- In 2020, there were **11,617** hospital discharges of children with a principal diagnosis of 'injury, poisoning, and certain other consequences of external causes' (see Table 67).
- In 2018, **76.8%** of children were classified as being in the 'normal' weight category according to the International Obesity Taskforce Standards. **15.8%** were classified as either 'overweight' or 'obese' (see Table 69).
- In 2020, there were **5,205** children registered as having an intellectual disability (see Table 70).
- In 2020, there were **2,805** children registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability (see Table 72).
- In 2020 Q4, there were **14,654** 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 2020, there were 168 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, 88.2% of children aged 10-17 reported being happy with their lives at present. This decreased between 2014 and 2018 (see Table 104).
- In 2020, there were 12 suicides by children aged 10-17 (see Table 107).
- In 2019, the rate (per 100,000) of children and young people aged 10-24 presenting at a hospital emergency department following self-harm was 392 (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).



Education Outcomes



Quality of Early Childhood Care and Education

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 2020/21 pre-school year there were 4,023 pre-school services under contract to deliver the ECCE Programme to 104,137 children. Of these pre-school services, 39.0% met the basic capitation status and 61.0% met the higher capitation status (see *Table 45 & Table 46*).
- For the 2020/21 pre-school year, 2,462 of the 4,023 services contracted to deliver the ECCE Programme met the higher capitation status. This represents a 20.3% 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 - 2020)

	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
2019/20	4,478		1,600	36.0	2,878	64.0
2020/21	4,023		1,561	39.0	2,462	61.0

Source: Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration, and Youth

- The percentage of pre-school services meeting higher capitation status ranged from 49% in Dublin City to 87% 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 (2020/21)

	Children ECCE services		Basic capitation		Higher capitation	
	No.	No.	No.	%	No.	%
Total	104,137	4,023	1,561	39	2,462	61
Administrative County						
Carlow	1,174	46	6	13	40	87
Cavan	1,956	64	16	25	48	75
Clare	2,568	122	55	45	67	55
Cork City	2,498	82	20	24	62	76
Cork County	10,084	352	117	33	235	67
Donegal	3,496	138	64	46	74	54
Dublin City	8,715	370	190	51	180	49
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	4,346	167	63	38	104	62
Fingal	7,458	279	125	45	154	55
South Dublin	6,093	209	89	43	120	57
Galway County	5,925	254	116	46	138	54
Kerry	3,089	123	45	37	78	64
Kildare	5,684	180	59	33	121	67
Kilkenny	2,098	91	29	32	62	68
Laois	2,132	74	27	36	47	64
Leitrim	724	30	12	40	18	60
Limerick	4,190	167	67	40	100	60
Longford	882	33	10	30	23	70
Louth	2,805	108	55	51	53	49
Mayo	2,755	123	50	41	73	59
Meath	5,311	180	60	33	120	67
Monaghan	1,378	56	18	32	38	68
Offaly	1,759	62	26	42	36	58
Roscommon	1,274	54	18	33	36	67
Sligo	1,360	69	29	42	40	58
Tipperary	3,486	154	58	38	96	62
Waterford	2,428	88	28	32	60	68
Westmeath	2,281	73	33	45	40	55
Wexford	3,400	127	36	28	91	72
Wicklow	3,498	148	40	27	108	73

Source: Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration, and Youth



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 2018, the percentage of primary school children who were absent from school for 20 days or more increased from 10.4% to 12.1% (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	2017/18
Primary School Children	10.4	11.1	12.3	11.8	12.1

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 2017/18 school year was highest in urban schools (15%).
- The average percentage of school children who were absent from school for 20 days or more in the 2017/18 school year was highest in schools characterised as Urban, in School Support Programme Band 1 (23.1%).

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	2017/18
Type of school					
Rural	6.4	7.0	7.7	7.5	7.9
Urban	13.1	14.0	15.4	14.5	15.0
Rural, not in School Support Programme	6.2	6.7	7.3	7.1	7.4
DEIS status					
Rural, in School Support Programme	7.9	8.5	9.7	9.4	9.9
Urban, not in School Support Programme	10.5	11.3	12.5	12.0	12.2
Urban, in School Support Programme Band 2	17.3	18.4	19.5	18.4	18.6
Urban, in School Support Programme Band 1	20.4	21.1	23.7	23.4	23.1

*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 6.8% in Monaghan



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	2017/18
All Counties	8.9	10.4	11.4	10.9	11.3
County					
Carlow	10.0	11.711	13.3	11.311	13.8
Cavan	8.2	9.3	9.1	9.3	9.8
Clare	8.2	9.3	10.6	10	10.4
Cork	8.4	9.3	10.5	10.9	10.8
Donegal	6.3	7.7	7.9	7.6	8
Dublin	12	15.2	16.5	15.6	15.6
Galway	8.5	9.5	11.4	10	10
Kerry	9.5	11.1	11.6	10.8	11.3
Kildare	9.7	10.7	11.7	11.2	12.1
Kilkenny	6	7.6	8.3	8.4	9.6
Laois	9.5	11.1	11.2	11.9	13
Leitrim	6.8	5.9	10.2	6.4	8.1
Limerick	10.9	12.5	13.8	13.1	11.6
Longford	10.3	14.8	12	12.6	13.7
Louth	10.5	11.9	13	12.9	12.7
Mayo	7.7	8.1	9.5	9	10.2
Meath	7.6	8.9	9.7	9.3	9.5
Monaghan	5.5	6.1	7	6.7	6.8
Offaly	9.2	10.6	11	10.8	12.2
Roscommon	7.7	9.1	9.1	8.9	9.3
Sligo	8	8.9	9.7	9.1	10
Tipperary	7.4	8.1	9.7	9.1	9.2
Waterford	8.7	9.1	11.1	11	10.4
Westmeath	8.8	11.1	11.8	11.7	12.2
Wexford	9.7	9.8	11	10.6	12
Wicklow	8.3	9.7	10.7	10.1	10.7

*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 2018, the percentage of post-primary school children who were absent from school for 20 days or more declined from 15.4% to 14.6% (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	2017/18
Post-Primary	15.4	16.2	14.9	14.7	14.6

Source: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency

- In the 2017/18 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 12.9% in Non-DEIS schools and 23.6% 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	2017/18
Type of school					
Secondary schools	13.5	14.1	13.1	12.6	12.7
Community and Comprehensive schools	18.1	19.3	17.7	17.8	18.7
Vocational schools	21.5	21.5	20.2	20.0	19.7
DEIS status					
DEIS School	5.3	25.3	23.4	22.8	23.6
Non-DEIS School	13.5	14.2	13.4	13.3	12.9

*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 21.2% in Longford to 12.1% 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	2017/18
All Counties	16.7	17.3	16.1	15.8	15.8
County					
Carlow	15.2	17.5	14.6	16.4	15.6
Cavan	18.6	18.5	19.5	14.5	12.4
Clare	13.4	13.6	14.2	13.4	12.5
Cork	15.6	15.8	14.3	13.5	13.9
Donegal	18.1	20.3	17.1	22.0	18.2
Dublin	16.2	16.2	15.6	15.1	15.4
Galway	18.4	19.3	18.6	19.5	18.1
Kerry	18.0	17.9	16.4	14.9	16.2
Kildare	15.1	16.8	15.6	14.7	15.4
Kilkenny	15.3	15.3	15.2	17.5	14.4
Laois	19.8	22.6	19.0	15.9	17.7
Leitrim	19.4	18.4	14.6	20.2	17.5
Limerick	16.4	19.1	14.6	12.0	14.3
Longford	18.9	21.0	19.8	19.2	21.2
Louth	12.7	12.0	12.5	10.3	12.1
Mayo	20.9	20.2	17.9	18.4	19.8
Meath	12.4	16.1	13.8	13.5	13.8
Monaghan	16.2	15.3	18.1	15.7	18
Offaly	17.8	16.7	18.1	15.8	17.7
Roscommon	19.9	17.4	17.5	13.6	17.6
Sligo	18.5	17.8	18.9	18.1	19.1
Tipperary	15.8	16.8	15.4	15.9	13.6
Waterford	15.6	14.0	14.3	12.7	14.9
Westmeath	19.1	21.8	18.3	16.9	17.2
Wexford	22.4	23.9	19.6	20.4	20.6
Wicklow	16.2	17.1	16.3	19.6	17.3

*This table uses schools-level data

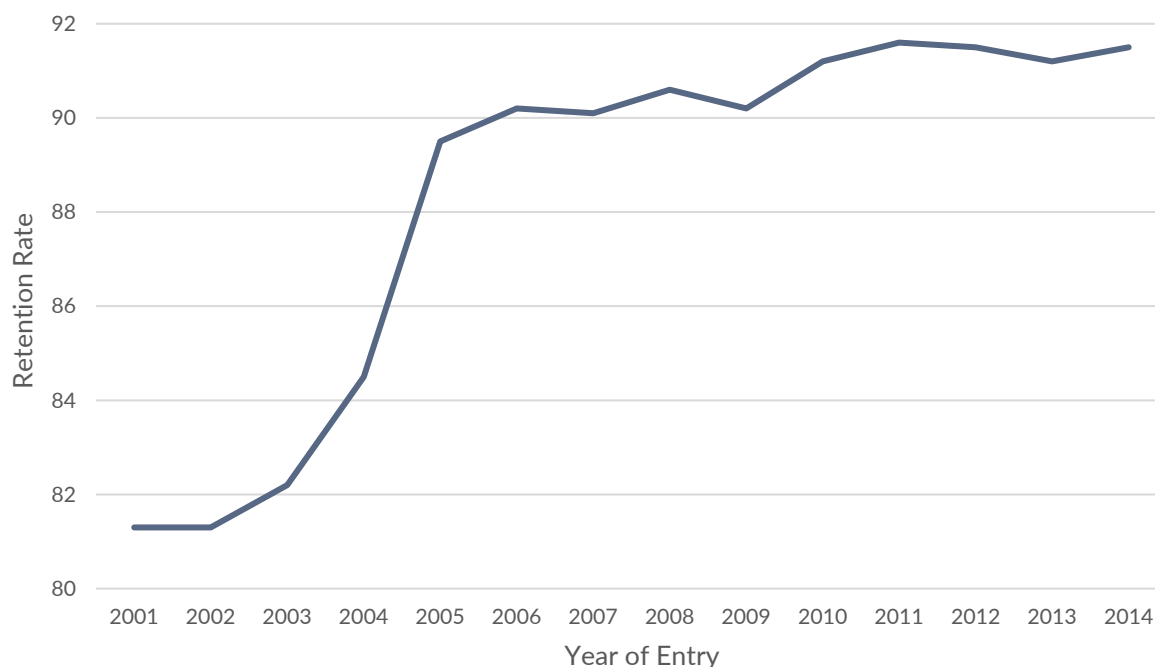
Source: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency



Leaving Certificate Retention Rates

Measure: The Leaving Certificate retention rate

Figure 9. Leaving Certificate retention rates for the 2001 - 2014 school entry cohorts



Note break in series from 2005: See data source for further information.

Source: Department of Education

- The Leaving Certificate retention rate for children entering secondary school in 2014 was 91.5% i.e. out of the 61,161 enrolled on 30 September 2014 in year one of the Junior Cycle, 55,992 either sat the Leaving Certificate or received a calculated grade by 2019 or 2020 (see *Table 53*).
- The retention rate for boys in the 2014 school entry cohort was 89.5%, compared to 93.6% for girls (see *Table 53*).
- On average, secondary schools had the highest retention rates (at 93.1%) when compared with community and comprehensive schools (91.0%) and vocational schools (88.9%) (see *Table 53*).
- For the 2014 school entry cohort, the retention rate was 84.8% 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 2014 school entry cohorts (see *Figure 9*).
- Overall, the retention rate to completion of the Leaving Certificate for children for the 2014 entry cohort ranged from 93.7% in Kilkenny to 87.2% in Longford (see *Table 54*).


Table 53. Leaving Certificate retention rates for the 2014 school entry cohort, by sex, school type and DEIS status

	No. in cohort	Retention rate (%)
Total	61,161	91.5
Sex		
Male	31,056	89.5
Female	30,105	93.6
School type		
Secondary schools	33,167	93.1
Vocational schools	17,681	88.9
Community and Comprehensive schools	10,313	91.0
DEIS status		
DEIS schools	13,039	84.8
Non-DEIS schools	48,122	93.4

Source: Department of Education

Table 54. Leaving Certificate retention rates for the 2014 school entry cohort, by administrative county

	No. in cohort	Retention rate (%)
Total	61,161	91.5
Administrative County		
Carlow	934	87.5
Cavan	881	88.9
Clare	1,513	92.0
Cork	4,868	93.4
Donegal	2,318	91.5
Dublin	15,186	90.9
Galway	2,347	91.1
Kerry	1,864	92.4
Kildare	3,262	92.2
Kilkenny	1,294	93.7
Laois	987	90.4
Leitrim	474	93.2
Limerick	2,581	93.6
Longford	712	87.2
Louth	2,070	91.4
Mayo	1,695	92.9
Meath	2,687	92.7
Monaghan	826	90.6
Offaly	1,100	90.6
Roscommon	607	93.6
Sligo	786	92.9
Tipperary	2,292	92.3
Waterford	1,526	92.7
Westmeath	1,469	91.5
Wexford	2,154	90.7
Wicklow	1,821	91.0

Source: Department of Education



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

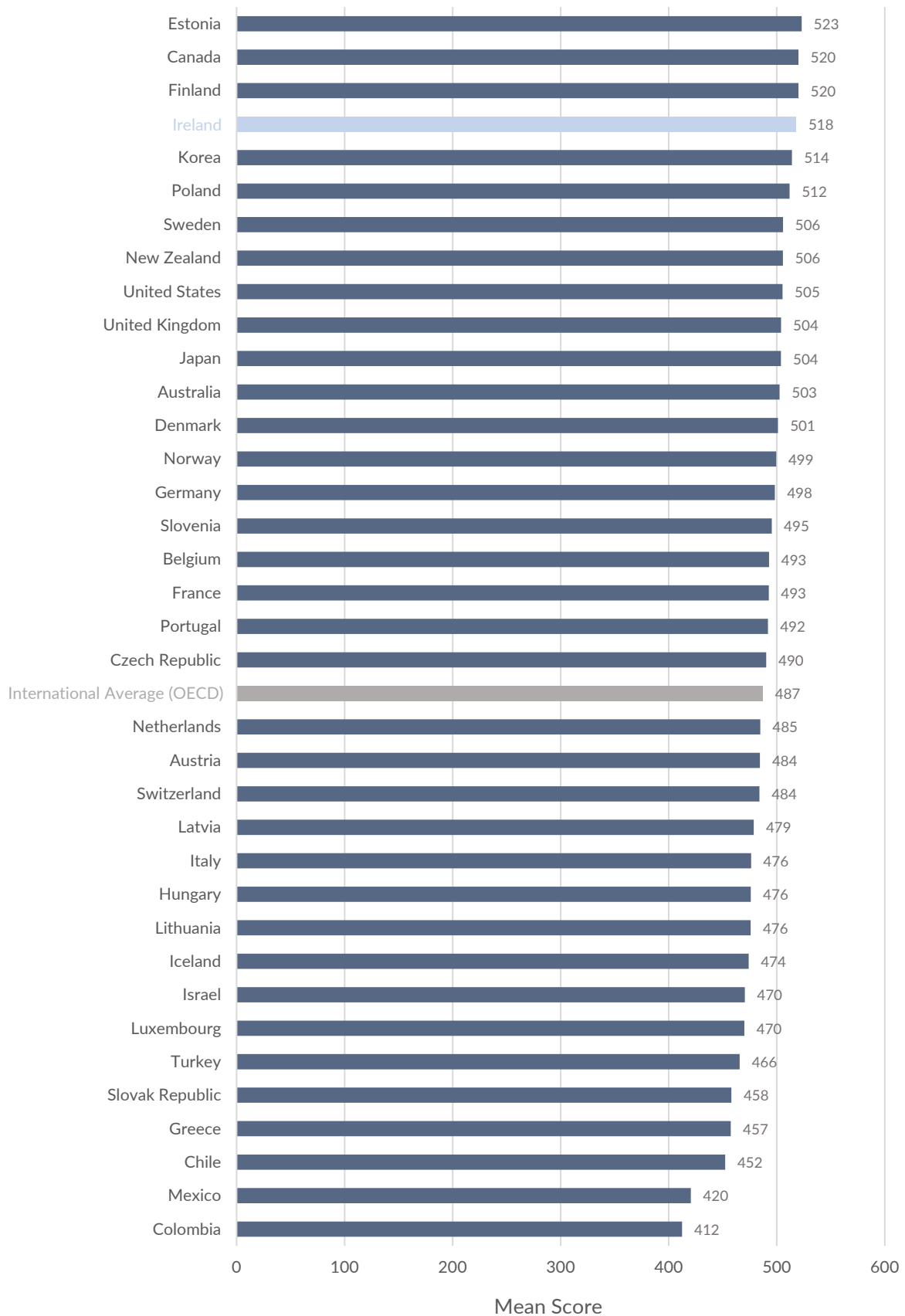
Table 56. Mean score for children aged 15 based on the OECD-PISA Reading Literacy Scale, by gender and socio-economic status (2009 - 2018)

	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 10. Mean scores of children aged 15 based on the OECD-PISA Reading Literacy Scale, by OECD country (2018)



Source: OECD-Pisa survey



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

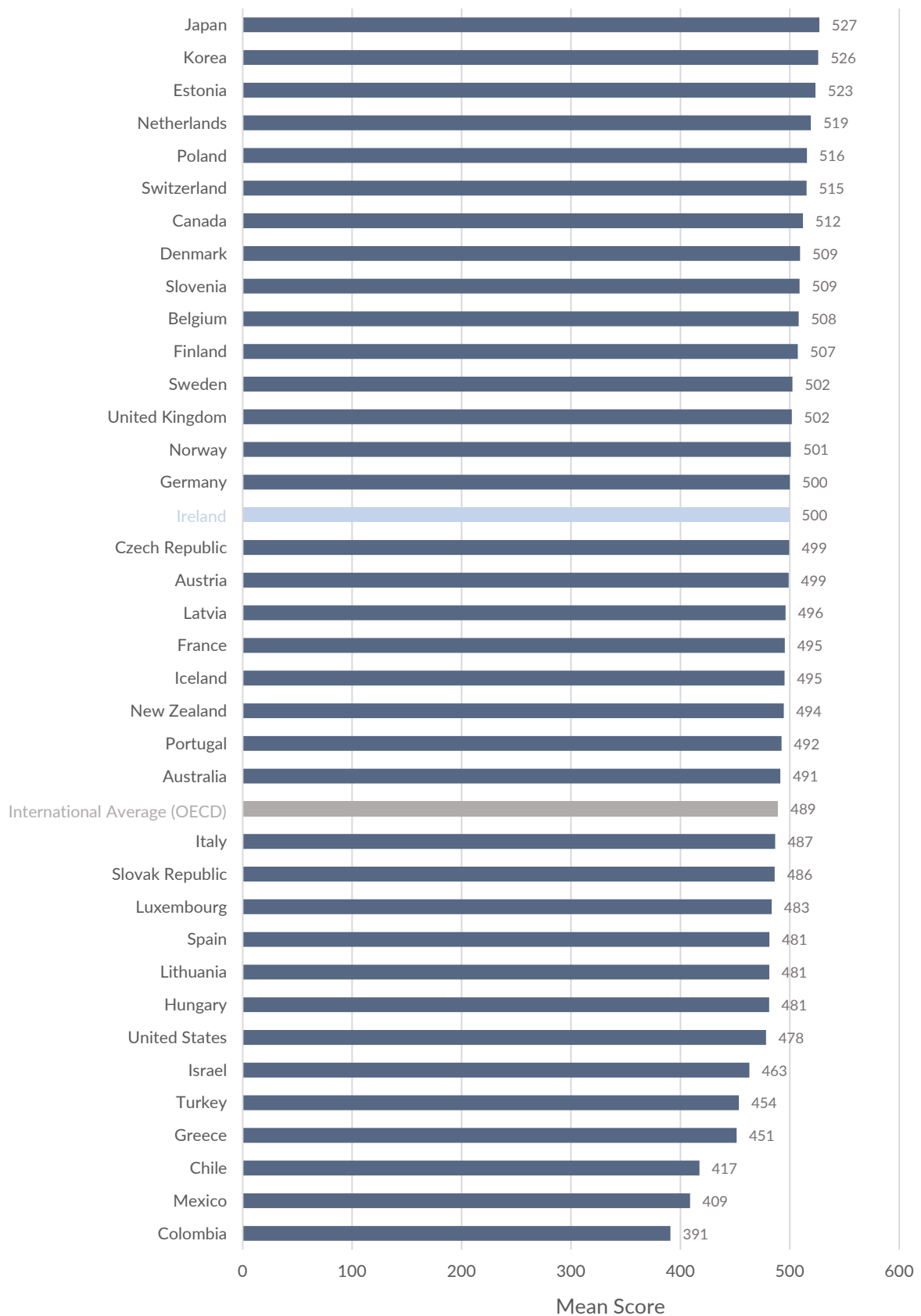
Table 58. Mean score for children aged 15 based on the OECD-PISA Mathematics Literacy Scale, by gender and socio-economic status (2009 - 2018)

	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 11. Mean scores of children aged 15 based on the OECD-PISA Mathematics Literacy Scale, by OECD country (2018)



Source: OECD-Pisa survey



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

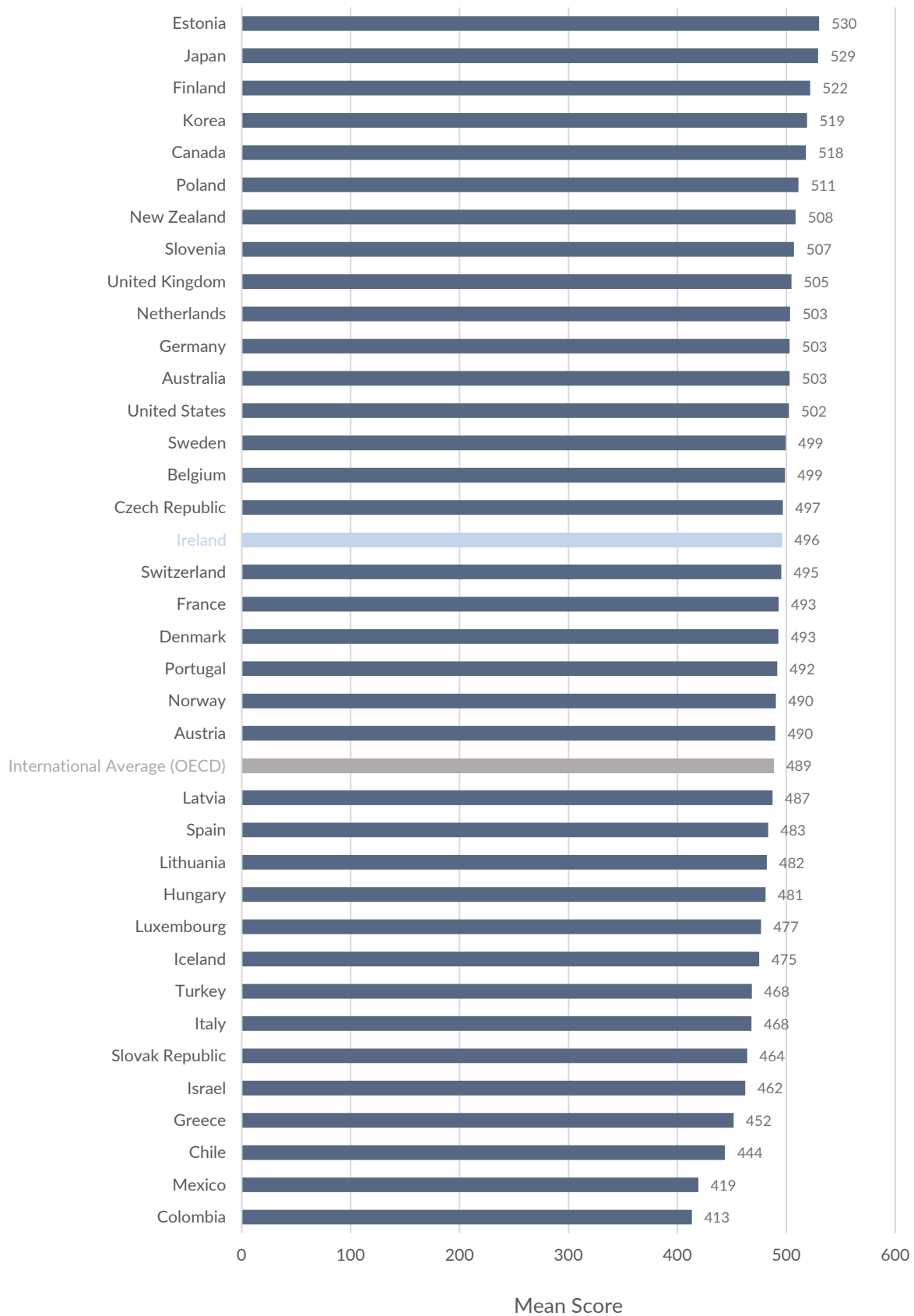
Table 60. Mean score for children aged 15 based on the OECD-PISA Science Literacy Scale, by gender and socio-economic status (2009 - 2018)

	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 12. Mean scores of children aged 15 based on the OECD-PISA Scientific Literacy Scale, by OECD country (2018)



Source: OECD-Pisa survey



Health Outcomes



Birth Weight

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

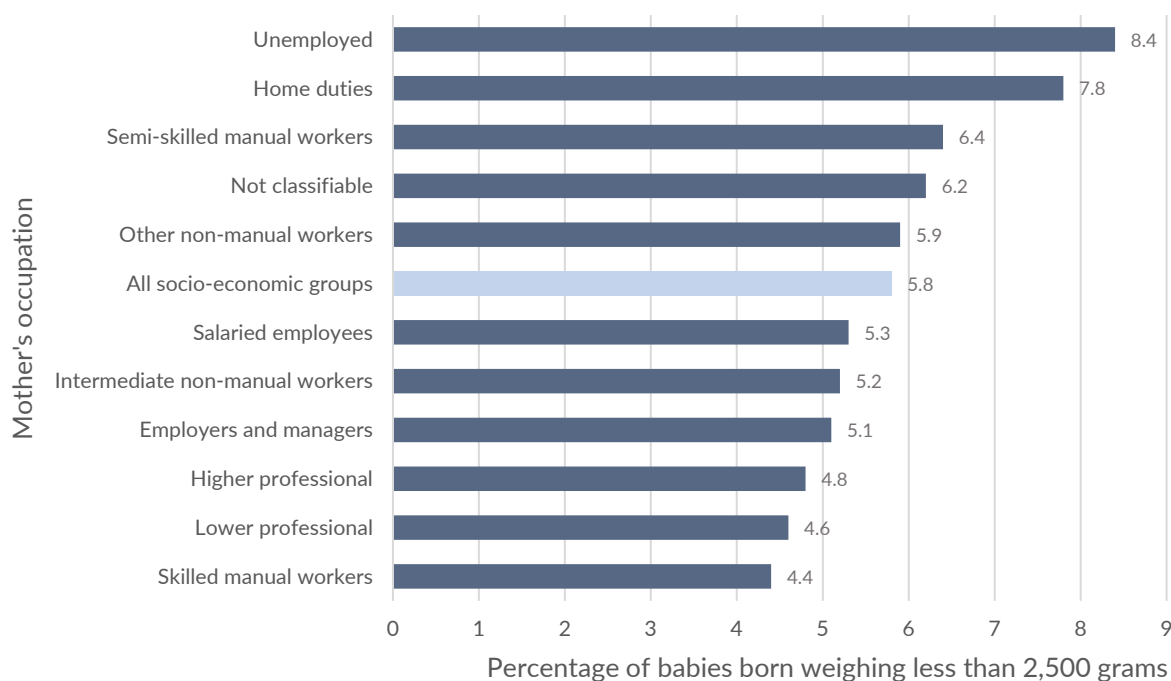
Table 61. Birth weight of babies, by year and gender (2018 - 2019)

	2018			2019		
	Low weight (%)	Healthy weight (%)	High weight (%)	Low weight (%)	Healthy weight (%)	High weight (%)
Total	6.0	79.5	14.5	5.8	79.6	14.6
Gender						
Male	5.5	76.7	17.7	5.5	76.8	17.7
Female	6.4	82.4	11.1	6.1	82.5	11.3

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

- In 2019' 5.8% 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 (6.1% and 5.5% respectively) (see *Table 61*).
- The percentage of babies born in the low birth weight category was highest among mother's who reported being unemployed (8.4%) (see *Figure 13*).

Figure 13. Percentage of babies born weighing less than 2,500 grams (live and still births), by occupation of mother (2019)



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



- Overall, 5.8% of babies born in 2019 were in the low birth weight category. This percentage ranged from 4.4% of all births in Monaghan to 7.3% of all births in Waterford (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 (2018 - 2019)

	2018	2019
Total	5.9	5.8
County		
Carlow	6.1	6.2
Cavan	5.7	7.2
Clare	7.0	6.6
Cork	6.0	6.0
Donegal	5.6	6.2
Dublin City	6.5	5.9
Dublin County	5.8	5.2
Galway	4.5	4.9
Kerry	6.1	4.9
Kildare	6.0	5.7
Kilkenny	5.0	4.5
Laois	5.7	6.8
Leitrim	5.5	6.0
Limerick	6.1	6.9
Longford	5.3	6.7
Louth	8.1	6.1
Mayo	3.8	5.5
Meath	5.0	6.0
Monaghan	6.0	4.4
Offaly	8.4	6.6
Roscommon	5.0	5.2
Sligo	5.5	4.6
Tipperary	6.2	5.8
Waterford	6.4	7.3
Westmeath	6.0	6.0
Wexford	5.7	4.8
Wicklow	4.8	5.4

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 being discharged from hospital

- In 2019, 60.7% of infants were breastfed on being discharged from hospital. This includes 45.5% who were breastfed exclusively and a further 15.2% 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 'skilled manual workers' and 'higher professional' groups (81.8% and 80.4% respectively), when compared with mothers in the 'unemployed' group, among whom it was lowest (38.9%) (see *Figure 14*).

Table 63. Percentage of infants who are breastfed (exclusive or combined) on being discharged from hospital, by mother's age (2016 - 2019)

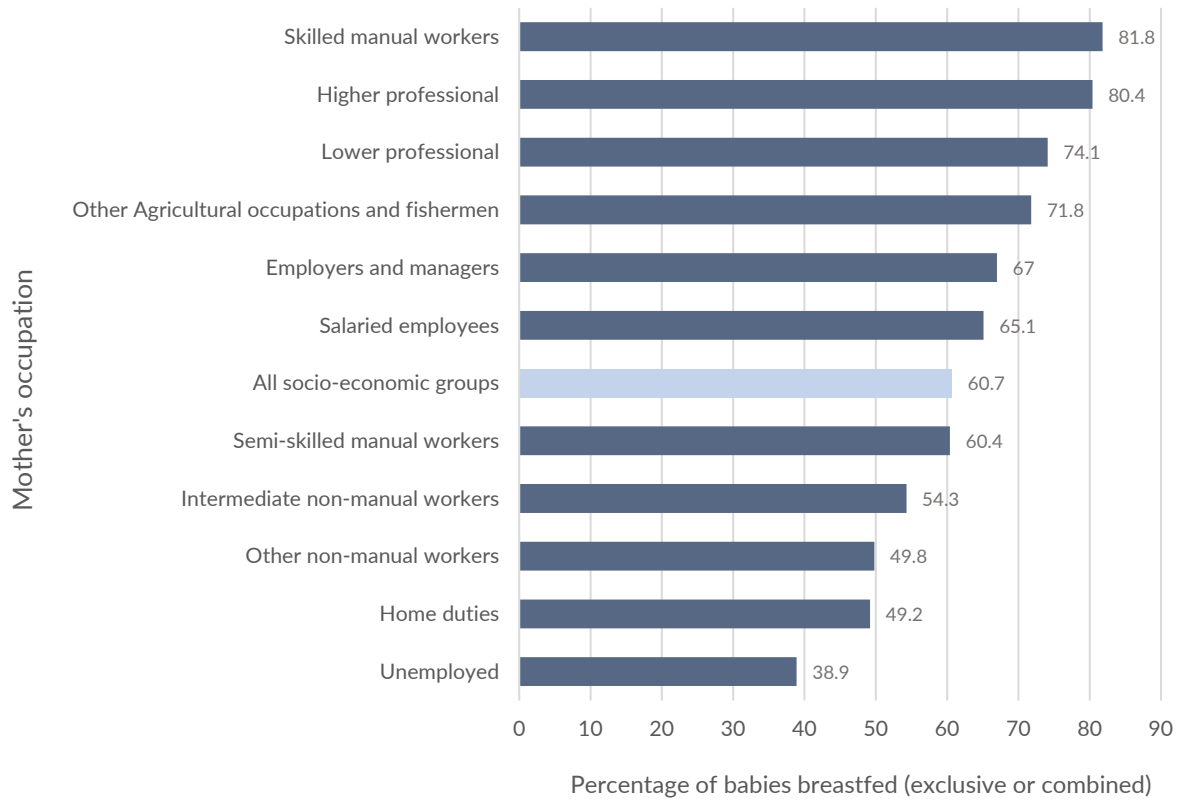
	2016			2017			2018			2019		
	excl.	comb.	tot.	excl.	comb.	tot.	excl.	comb.	tot.	excl.	comb.	tot.
Total	49.5	10.4	59.9	48.3	11.4	59.7	47.0	13.3	60.3	45.5	15.2	60.7
Age												
15 - 19	22.7	6.0	28.7	21.2	5.7	26.9	21.6	6.1	27.7	19.3	8.1	27.4
20 - 24	31.5	7.5	39.0	30.4	6.8	37.3	28.4	9.3	37.6	28.4	10.6	39.0
25 - 29	42.9	9.6	52.5	41.3	10.6	52.0	38.9	12.4	51.3	37.8	13.9	51.7
30 - 34	53.1	10.8	63.9	52.2	11.7	64.0	50.3	13.7	64.0	48.3	15.4	63.7
35 - 39	54.8	10.7	65.5	53.4	12.4	65.8	53.4	13.9	67.3	51.5	16.2	67.7
40 - 44	53.0	13.4	66.3	51.5	13.9	65.3	49.8	16.2	65.9	48.2	18.6	66.8
≥45	49.1	18.4	67.6	45.6	20.4	66.0	39.0	21.9	61.0	35.7	25.8	61.5

*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 14. Percentage of infants who are breastfed (either exclusive or combined) on being discharged from hospital, by occupation of mother (2019)



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



- Geographically, breastfeeding on being discharged from hospital ranged from 71.3% in Dublin County to 44.3% in Donegal (see *Table 64*).

Table 64. Percentage of infants who are breastfed (exclusive or combined) on being discharged from hospital, by mother's county of residence (2019)

	Exclusive	Combined	Total
Total	45.7	15.3	61.0
County			
Carlow	46.9	7.5	54.4
Cavan	39.5	14.1	53.5
Clare	37.6	17.8	55.4
Cork	64.0	2.0	66.0
Donegal	31.9	12.4	44.3
Dublin City	43.6	21.8	65.4
Dublin County	48.2	23.1	71.3
Galway	41.1	20.7	61.9
Kerry	59.8	5.1	64.9
Kildare	42.9	21.8	64.7
Kilkenny	60.6	2.7	63.3
Laois	54.6	6.6	61.3
Leitrim	38.6	14.0	52.5
Limerick	35.6	16.6	52.2
Longford	44.6	6.9	51.6
Louth	30.7	20.0	50.6
Mayo	41.5	15.3	56.8
Meath	42.4	19.9	62.2
Monaghan	36.6	13.7	50.3
Offaly	41.8	7.6	49.4
Roscommon	41.0	15.8	56.8
Sligo	38.9	18.1	56.9
Tipperary	40.1	11.3	51.4
Waterford	55.0	3.7	58.6
Westmeath	48.9	9.9	58.8
Wexford	43.8	11.1	54.9
Wicklow	44.7	17.9	62.6

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



Health Conditions and Hospitalisation

Measure: The number of hospital discharges of children

- In 2020, there were 109,777 hospital discharges of children (see *Table 65*).
- Infants (under 1) and children aged 1 - 4 accounted for 42.0% of total hospital discharges of children (21.3% and 20.7% respectively) (see *Table 65*).
- Boys accounted for more than half of total hospital discharges of children (54.4%) (see *Table 65*).
- The most commonly reported principal diagnosis recorded was 'Injury, poisoning and certain other external causes' (10.6%) followed by 'diseases of the digestive system' (9.6%) (see *Table 65*).

Table 65. Number, percentage and rate (per 1,000) of hospital discharges of children, by age, gender, and principal diagnosis (2019 - 2020)

	2019			2020		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
Total	146,398	100	121.7	109,777	100	91.5
Age						
Under 1 year	28,962	19.8	473.4	23,416	21.3	401.3
1 - 4	35,114	24.0	138.1	22,708	20.7	90.4
5 - 9	31,039	21.2	88.1	22,227	20.2	64.6
10 - 14	29,601	20.2	86.7	24,186	22.0	69.1
15 - 17	21,682	14.8	111.7	17,240	15.7	88.1
Gender						
Male	79,657	54.4	129.5	59,731	54.4	97.3
Female	66,741	45.6	113.5	50,046	45.6	85.5
Principal diagnosis						
Diseases of the respiratory system	19,324	13.2	16.1	8,515	7.8	7.1
Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	13,257	9.1	11.0	11,617	10.6	9.7
Diseases of the digestive system	13,352	9.1	11.1	10,560	9.6	8.8
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases	8,312	5.7	6.9	3,929	3.6	3.3
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	9,745	6.7	8.1	9,799	8.9	8.2
Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	7,605	5.2	6.3	6,121	5.6	5.1
Diseases of the genitourinary system	6,207	4.2	5.2	5,251	4.8	4.4
Neoplasms	6,921	4.7	5.8	6,131	5.6	5.1
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	4,996	3.4	4.2	3,243	3.0	2.7
Diseases of the ear and mastoid process	3,811	2.6	3.2	2,270	2.1	1.9
All other conditions and reasons for admission	52,868	36.1	43.9	42,341	38.6	35.3

*Rates calculated using population estimates for the relevant years

Source: Hospital In-patient Enquiry, Healthcare Pricing Office



- Overall, there were 24.0 hospital discharges per 1,000 children in 2020. Rates ranged from 18 per 1,000 children in Monaghan to 37.5 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 (2020)

	No.	Rate
State	109,324	24.0
County		
Carlow	1,600	28.1
Cavan	1,660	21.8
Clare	2,320	19.5
Cork	11,846	28.4
Donegal	5,283	33.2
Dublin	26,387	19.6
Galway	6,464	36.0
Kerry	3,228	21.9
Kildare	4,823	21.7
Kilkenny	2,286	23.0
Laois	2,267	26.8
Leitrim	640	20.0
Limerick	4,393	22.5
Longford	1,114	27.3
Louth	2,977	23.1
Mayo	4,899	37.5
Meath	4,369	22.4
Monaghan	1,107	18.0
Offaly	2,010	25.8
Roscommon	1,899	29.4
Sligo	1,858	28.4
Tipperary	3,987	25.0
Waterford	2,484	21.4
Westmeath	2,463	27.7
Wexford	4,047	27.0
Wicklow	2,913	20.5

*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 2020, there were 11,617 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 31.3% of total hospital discharges of children with a principal diagnosis of 'injury, poisoning, and certain other consequences of external causes' (6.3% and 25.0% 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' (57.9%) (see Table 67).
- The most commonly reported principal diagnosis recorded was 'accidental falls' (39.1%) followed by 'other external causes of injury' (15.3%) and 'accidents caused by objects' (13.6%) (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 (2019 - 2020)

	2019			2020		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
Total	13,257	100	11.0	11,617	100	9.7
Age						
Under 1 year	837	6.3	13.7	730	6.3	12.5
1 - 4	3,391	25.6	13.3	2,902	25.0	11.6
5 - 9	3,371	25.4	9.6	2,948	25.4	8.6
10 - 14	3,355	25.3	9.8	2,932	25.2	8.4
15 - 17	2,303	17.4	11.9	2,105	18.1	10.8
Gender						
Male	7,812	58.9	12.7	6,724	57.9	11.0
Female	5,445	41.1	9.3	4,893	42.1	8.4
Principal diagnosis						
Accidental falls	5,403	40.8	4.5	4,543	39.1	3.8
Accidents caused by objects	2,055	15.5	1.7	1,585	13.6	1.3
Transport accidents	957	7.2	0.8	1,148	9.9	1.0
Drowning, submersion, other accidental threats to breathing and foreign bodies	672	5.1	0.6	624	5.4	0.5
Intentional self-harm	535	4.0	0.4	757	6.5	0.6
Accident, not otherwise specified	467	3.5	0.4	419	3.6	0.3
Accidental poisoning	333	2.5	0.3	384	3.3	0.3
Assault	190	1.4	0.2	128	1.1	0.1
Contact with heat or hot substances	207	1.6	0.2	176	1.5	0.1
Event of undetermined intent	56	0.4	0.0	45	0.4	0.0
Exposure to smoke, fire and flames	25	0.2	0.0	NA	NA	NA
Other external causes of injury	2,349	17.7	2.0	1,773	15.3	1.5
External cause not reported	8	0.1	0.0	NA	NA	NA

*Rates calculated using population estimates for the relevant years

Source: Hospital In-patient Enquiry, Healthcare Pricing Office



- Overall, there were 2.5 hospital discharges per 1,000 children with a principal diagnosis of 'injury, poisoning, and certain other consequences of external causes' in 2020. Rates ranged from 1.7 per 1,000 children in Leitrim to 3.8 per 1,000 in Carlow (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 (2020)

	No.	Rate
State	11,571	2.5
County		
Carlow	214	3.8
Cavan	183	2.4
Clare	261	2.2
Cork	1172	2.8
Donegal	396	2.5
Dublin	2,855	2.1
Galway	607	3.4
Kerry	342	2.3
Kildare	540	2.4
Kilkenny	282	2.8
Laois	284	3.4
Leitrim	53	1.7
Limerick	549	2.8
Longford	139	3.4
Louth	314	2.4
Mayo	300	2.3
Meath	510	2.6
Monaghan	137	2.2
Offaly	278	3.6
Roscommon	168	2.6
Sligo	159	2.4
Tipperary	446	2.8
Waterford	309	2.7
Westmeath	288	3.2
Wexford	424	2.8
Wicklow	361	2.5

*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 2018, 76.8% of children were classified as being in the 'normal' weight category according to the International Obesity Taskforce Standards. 15.8% were classified as either 'overweight' or 'obese' (see *Table 69*).
- 79.3% of boys were classified as being in the 'normal' weight category, compared to 74.0% of girls. 13.6% of boys and 18.1% of girls were classified as being either 'overweight' or 'obese', respectively (see *Table 69*).

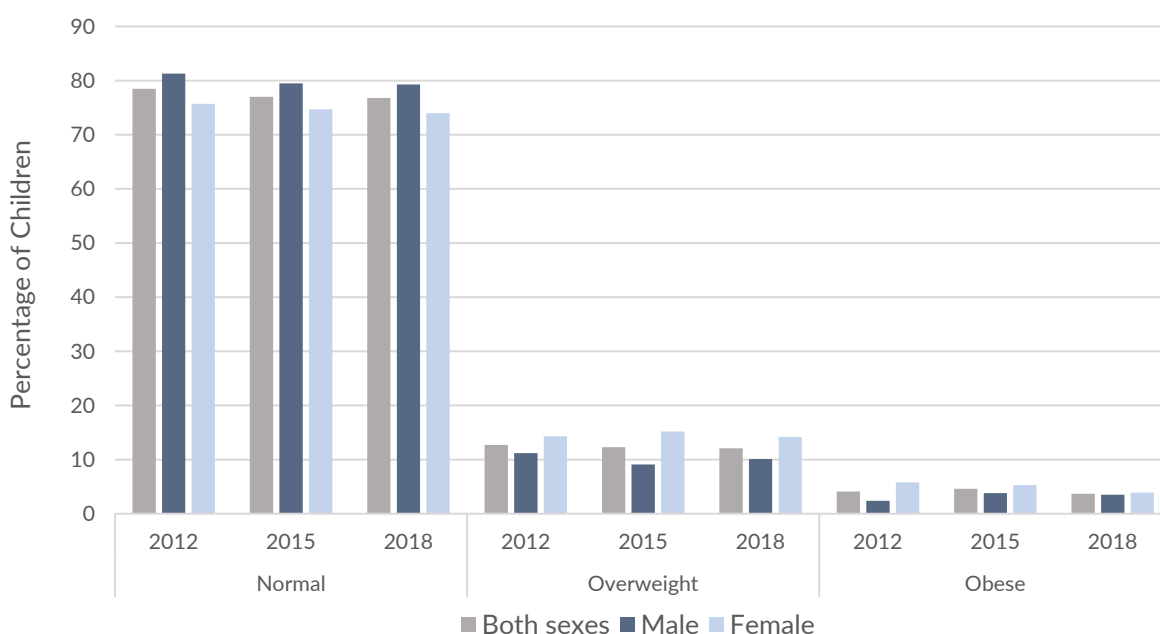
Table 69. Percentage of children aged seven years in BMI categories: normal, overweight and obese, by gender (2012 - 2018)

	2012			2015			2018		
	Normal	Overweight	Obese	Normal	Overweight	Obese	Normal	Overweight	Obese
Gender									
Both	78.5	12.7	4.1	77.0	12.3	4.6	76.8	12.1	3.7
Male	81.3	11.2	2.4	79.5	9.1	3.8	79.3	10.1	3.5
Female	75.7	14.3	5.8	74.7	15.2	5.3	74.0	14.2	3.9

Source: Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative

- The percentage of children aged seven years classified in the 'normal' weight category decreased, from 78.5% in 2012 to 76.8% in 2018.

Figure 15. Percentage of children aged seven years in BMI categories: normal, overweight and obese, by gender (2012 - 2018)



Source: Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative



Intellectual Disability

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

- In 2020, there were 5,205 children registered as having an intellectual disability (see *Table 70*).
- Overall 4.34 per 1,000 children were registered as having an intellectual disability in 2020 (see *Table 70*).
- 11.0% of children registered as having an intellectual disability were aged 0-4 years; 25.5% were aged 5-9 years; 39.4% were aged 10-14 years; the remaining 24.2% were aged 15-17 years (see *Table 70*).
- 65.2% of children registered as having an intellectual disability were boys and 34.8% were girls. This equates to a rate of 5.5 per 1,000 boys and 3.1 per 1,000 girls (see *Table 70*).
- 33.1% of children who were registered as having an intellectual disability were registered as having a moderate disability. 27.0% 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 2017 to 2020.

Table 70. Children under 18 years registered as having an intellectual disability, by age, gender, and severity of disability (2017 - 2020)

	2017			2019			2020		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
0 - 17	8,809	100	7.4	4,204	100	3.5	5,205	100	4.34
Age									
0 - 4	768	8.7	2.4	419	10.0	1.3	571	11.0	1.8
5 - 9	2,869	32.6	8.0	1,131	26.9	3.2	1,327	25.5	3.9
10 - 14	3,124	35.5	9.7	1,697	40.4	5.0	2,049	39.4	5.9
15 - 17	2,048	23.2	11.0	957	22.8	4.9	1,258	24.2	6.4
Gender									
Male	5,936	67.4	9.7	2,758	65.6		3,392	65.2	
Female	2,873	32.6	4.9	1,446	34.4	4.5	1,813	34.8	5.5
Severity									
Mild	2,720	30.9	2.3	1,002	23.8	2.5	1,405	27.0	3.1
Moderate	2,760	31.3	2.3	1,459	34.7		1,722	33.1	
Severe	812	9.2	0.7	397	9.4	0.8	488	9.4	1.2
Profound	143	1.6	0.1	81	1.9	1.2	91	1.7	1.4
Not verified	2,374	26.9	2.0	1,159	27.6	0.3	1,353	26.0	0.4

*Rates calculated using population estimates for the relevant years

Note: Data unavailable for 2018. Changes to reporting in 2019

Further details can be found in the technical notes in Appendix 1

Source: National Ability Support System



- In 2020, rates (per 1,000 children in county in 2016) of those registered as having an intellectual disability ranged from 0.5 per 1,000 in Kilkenny and Offaly to 11.8 per 1,000 in Sligo (see *Table 71*).

Table 71. Number and rate per 1,000 of children registered as having an intellectual disability, by county (2020)

	No. of children	Rate
Total	5,205	4.5
County		
Carlow	60	4.0
Cavan	22	1.0
Clare	66	2.2
Cork	852	7.6
Donegal	266	6.3
Dublin	1,693	5.5
Galway	178	3.7
Kerry	106	3.1
Kildare	325	5.2
Kilkenny	13	0.5
Laois	22	0.9
Leitrim	55	6.7
Limerick	113	2.4
Longford	20	1.8
Louth	175	5.0
Mayo	258	8.1
Meath	261	4.6
Monaghan	45	2.7
Offaly	11	0.5
Roscommon	19	1.2
Sligo	188	11.8
Tipperary	128	3.1
Waterford	52	1.8
Westmeath	44	1.9
Wexford	60	1.5
Wicklow	165	4.3

*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 2020, there were 2,805 children registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability (see *Table 72*).
- Overall, 2.34 per 1,000 children were registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability in 2020 (see *Table 72*).
- 24% of children registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability were aged 0-4 years; 30% were aged 5-9 years; 34% were aged 10-14 years; the remaining 12% were aged 15-17 years (see *Table 72*).
- 62% of children registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability were boys and 38% were girls. This equates to a rate of 2.8 per 1,000 boys and 1.8 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 in 2017. In 2020, 87% were registered as having either a physical disability or a neurological disability (58% and 29% respectively) (see *Table 72*).
- The number of children registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability increased over the four-year period 2017 to 2020 (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 (2017 - 2020)

	2017			2019			2020		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
0 - 17	5,041	100.0	4.2	695	100.0	0.6	2,805	100.0	2.3
Age									
0 - 4	184	3.7	0.6	200	29	0.6	666	24	2.2
5 - 9	1,281	25.4	3.6	205	29	0.6	855	30	2.5
10 - 14	2,054	40.7	6.4	214	31	0.6	956	34	2.7
15 - 17	1,522	30.2	8.2	76	11	0.4	328	12	1.7
Gender									
Male	3,174	63.0	5.2	415	60	0.7	1,727	62	2.8
Female	1,867	37.0	3.2	280	40	0.5	1,078	38	1.8
Type of disability									
Physical disability	998	19.8	0.8	360	52	0.3	1,627	58	1.4
Neurological disability	989	19.6	0.8	216	31	0.2	811	29	0.
Hearing loss/deafness disability	136	2.7	0.1	12	2	0.0	17	1	0.0
Visual disability	112	2.2	0.1	61	9	0.1	210	7	0.2
Speech and language disability	921	18.3	0.8	45	6	0.04	135	5	0.11
Multiple disabilities	1,885	37.4	1.6	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

*Rates calculated using population estimates for the relevant years

Note: Data unavailable for 2018. Changes to reporting in 2019.

Further details can be found in the technical notes in Appendix 1

Source: National Physical and Sensory Disability Database



- In 2020 rates (per 1,000 children in county in 2016) of those registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability ranged from 0.4 per 1,000 in Laois to 7.6 per 1,000 in Galway (see *Table 73*).

Table 73. Number and rate per 1,000 of children registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability, by county (2020)

	No. of children	Rate
Total	2,805	2.34
County		
Carlow	31	2.1
Cavan	41	2.0
Clare	22	0.7
Cork	89	0.8
Donegal	90	2.1
Dublin	863	2.8
Galway	367	7.6
Kerry	23	0.7
Kildare	194	3.1
Kilkenny	49	1.9
Laois	9	0.4
Leitrim	32	3.9
Limerick	57	1.2
Longford	6	0.5
Louth	48	1.4
Mayo	173	5.4
Meath	227	4.0
Monaghan	43	2.6
Offaly	22	1.0
Roscommon	43	2.6
Sligo	48	3.0
Tipperary	57	1.4
Waterford	139	4.7
Westmeath	19	0.8
Wexford	83	2.1
Wicklow	26	0.7

*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 2020 Q4, there were 14,654 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*).
- Overall, there was a 14% increase across the period between 2019 Q4 and 2020 Q4 (see *Table 74*).

Table 74. Number, percentage and rate per 1,000 of child welfare and protection referrals to Tusla, by type of referral (2019 Q3 – 2020 Q4)

	2019 Q3	2019 Q4	2020 Q1	2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4		
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	%	Rate
Total	13,149	12,623	12,778	11,284	14,358	14,654	100.0	12.2
Type of referral								
Welfare issues	7,651	7,148	7,387	6,686	8,422	8,529	58.2	7.1
Physical abuse	1,422	1,609	1,479	852	1,372	1,808	12.3	1.5
Emotional abuse	2,143	2,080	2,108	2,239	2,674	2,525	17.2	2.1
Sexual abuse	912	861	887	694	1,000	1,072	7.3	0.9
Neglect	1,021	925	917	813	890	720	4.9	0.6

*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 (2020 Q1 – 2020 Q3)

	2020 Q2		2020 Q3		2020 Q4	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
All Tusla regions	16,736	14.0	17,749	14.8	17,485	14.6
Tusla Dublin North East	4,056	14.7	4,491	16.3	4,541	16.5
Cavan/Monaghan	413	11.3	547	15.0	521	14.3
Dublin North	1,401	13.9	1,695	16.8	1,720	17.1
Dublin City North	1,104	24.6	1,065	23.7	1,036	23.1
Louth Meath	1,138	12.2	1,184	12.7	1,264	13.6
Tusla Dublin Mid Leinster	5,398	15.8	5,380	15.8	5,323	15.6
Dublin South Central	1,301	19.8	1,358	20.7	1,363	20.8
Dublin South East/ Wicklow	817	9.4	811	9.3	686	7.9
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	1,644	15.2	1,667	15.4	1,668	15.4
Midlands	1,636	20.4	1,544	19.3	1,606	20.0
Tusla South	4,020	13.4	4,651	15.5	4,432	14.8
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	924	14.7	1,009	16.0	1,009	16.0
Cork	1,604	12.0	1,668	12.4	1,670	12.5
Kerry	413	12.0	529	15.3	488	14.1
Waterford/Wexford	1,079	15.7	1,445	21.1	1,265	18.5
Tusla West	3,262	11.9	3,227	11.8	3,189	11.6
Donegal	410	9.6	490	11.4	436	10.2
Galway/Roscommon	1,009	12.6	807	10.1	889	11.1
Mayo	311	9.7	385	12.0	399	12.5
Midwest	1,243	12.9	1,210	12.6	1,152	12.0
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	289	12.3	335	14.2	313	13.3

Note: Totals include referrals with no specific type

*Rates calculated using regional populations at Census of Population 2016

Source: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency

- There were 14.6 referrals per 1,000 children in 2020 Q4. Rates ranged from 7.9 per 1,000 in Dublin South East/Wicklow to 23.1 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 that 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 that students at their school participate in making the school rules (see *Table 77*).
- On average, the percentage of children who reported that students at their school participate in making the school rules decreased with age (see *Table 77*).
- The percentage of children who reported that 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 that students at their school participate in making the school rules ranged from 28.1% in the Border region to 37% in the 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 the South-East to 3.1% in the Mid-West (see *Table 83*).

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

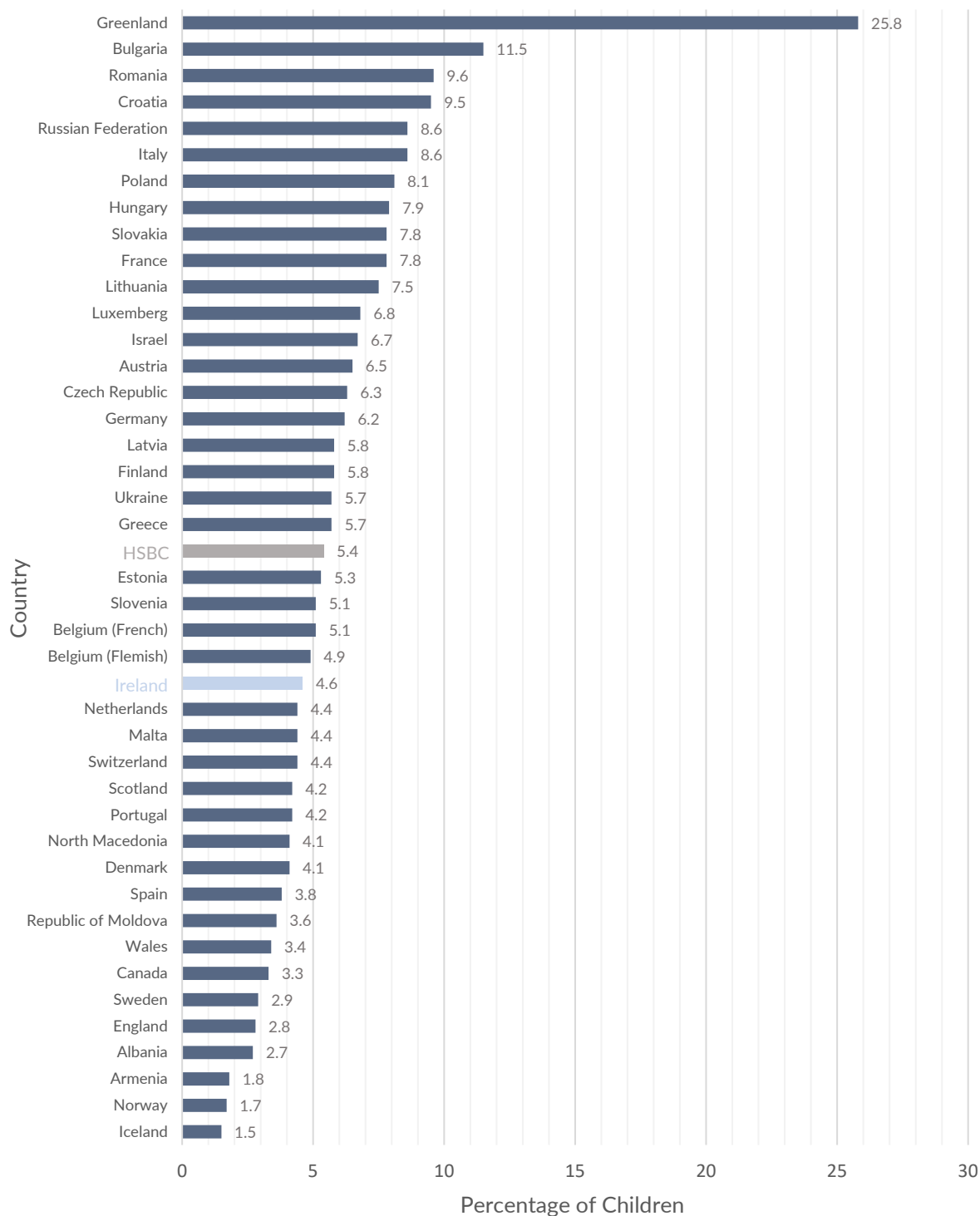
	2014	2018
State	5.3	2.4
NUTS Region		
Border	6.5	2.6
Midland	5.7	2.9
West	4.5	3.0
Dublin	5.6	2.5
Mid-East	5.2	2.6
Mid-West	3.7	3.1
South-East	5.1	2.0
South-West	5.2	2.2

Source: HBSC Survey



- Across 41 countries, the average percentage of children who reported smoking cigarettes every week was 5.4% (see *Figure 16*). 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 16. Percentage of children aged 11, 13 and 15 who reported smoking cigarettes every week, by country (2014)



Note: This indicator was last collected internationally in 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 85.0% in the South-East to 91.4% in the Mid-East (see *Table 86*).

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

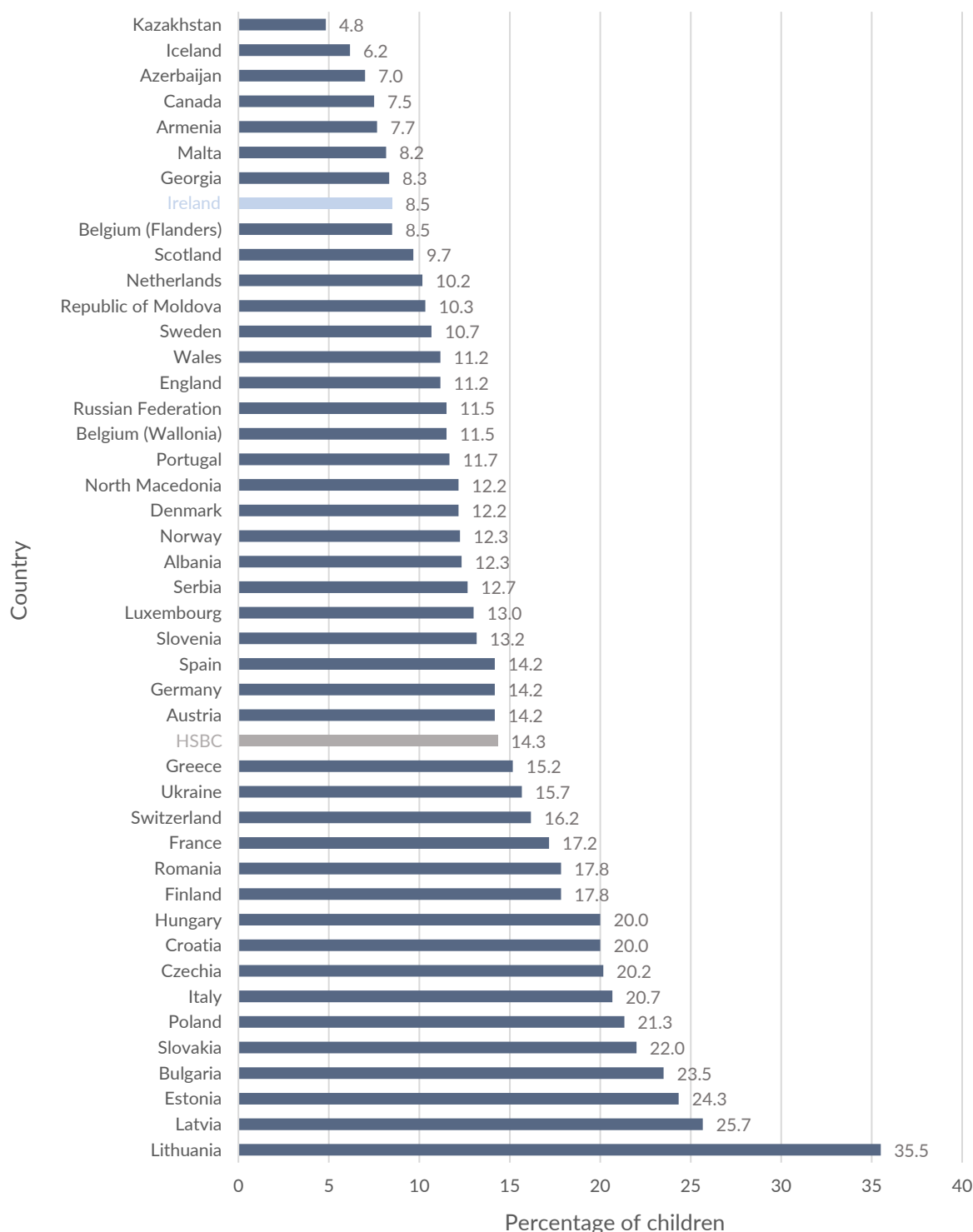
	2014	2018
State	84.2	89.4
NUTS Region		
Border	83.0	89.8
Midland	83.1	88.4
West	84.6	89.3
Dublin	83.7	90.5
Mid-East	84.4	91.4
Mid-West	88.5	88.4
South-East	83.1	85.0
South-West	84.8	87.0

Source: HBSC Survey



- Across 45 countries, the average percentage of children who reported never having smoked cigarettes was 85.6% (see *Figure 17*). This ranged from 64.5% in Lithuania to 95.2% in Kazakhstan. The corresponding percentage in Ireland was 91.5%. This was above the international HBS 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 never having smoked cigarettes, by country (2018)



Source: HBS 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

- The same percentage of females and males 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 the Mid-East to 9.3% in the 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

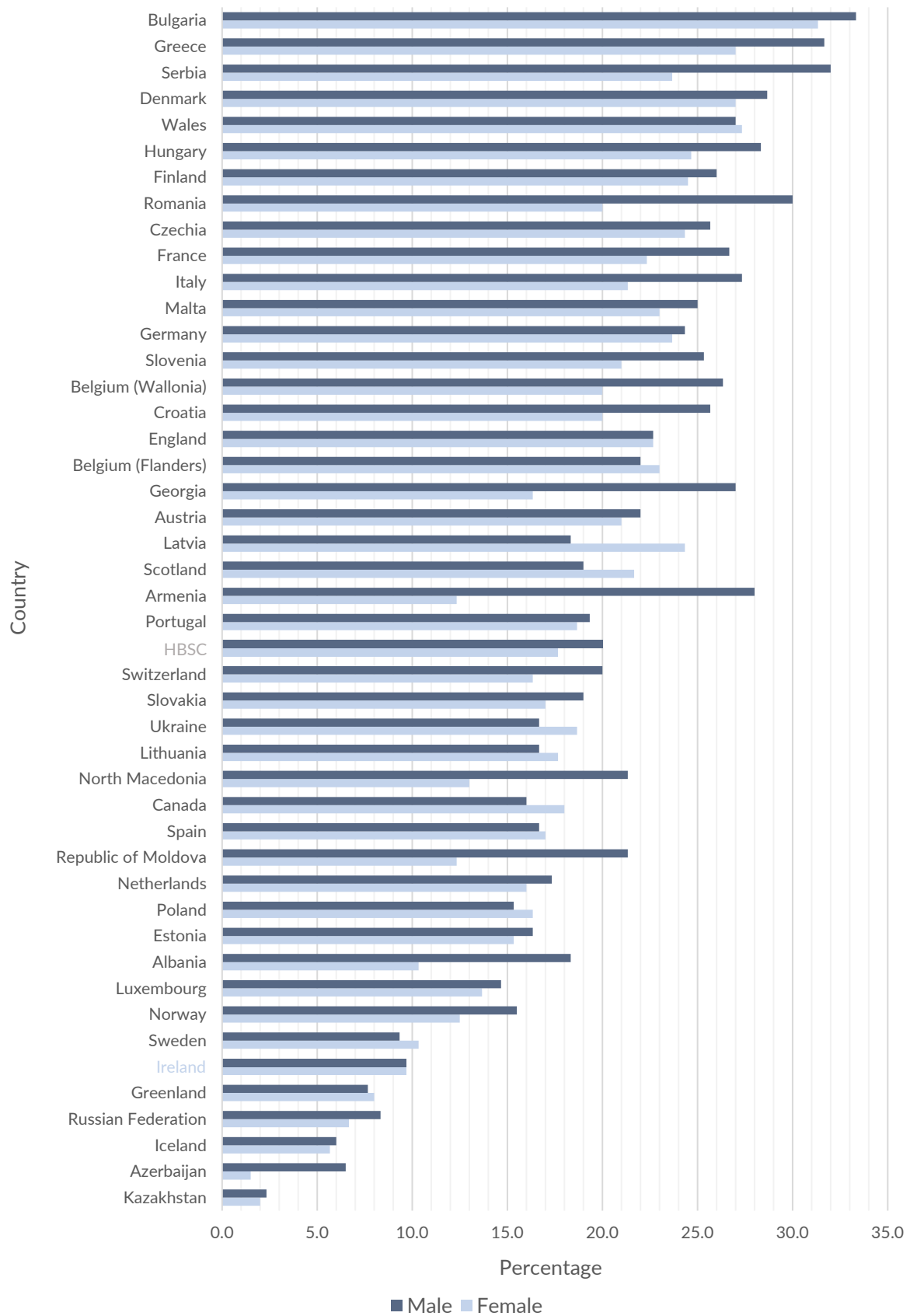
	2014	2018
State	10.0	6.9
NUTS Region		
Border	12.1	8.5
Midland	7.2	5.9
West	9.5	5.7
Dublin	11.4	7.1
Mid-East	8.9	5.1
Mid-West	11.3	6.3
South-East	10.5	9.0
South-West	7.3	9.3

Source: HBSC Survey

- Across 45 countries, the average percentage of children who reported having drunk alcohol at least once in the past 30 days was 20.0% for boys and 17.7% for girls (see *Figure 18*). This ranged from 2.3% and 2.0%, respectively, in Kazakhstan, to 33.3% and 31.3%, respectively, in Bulgaria. The corresponding percentage in Ireland was 9.7% for both boys and girls. This was below 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 having drunk alcohol in the last 30 days, by country (2018)



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 the Mid-West to 75.1% in the South-West (see *Table 92*).

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

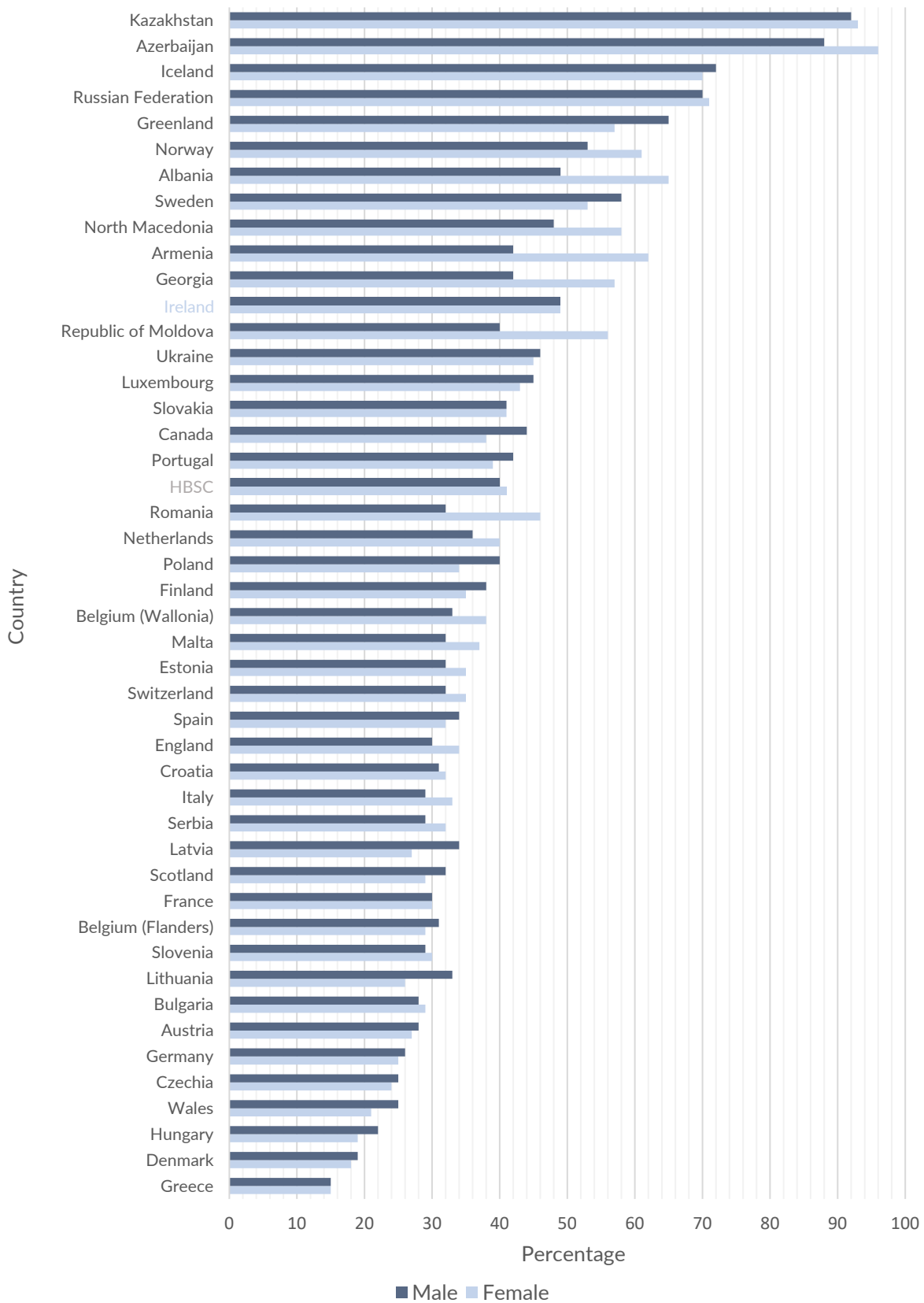
	2014	2018
State	58.4	69.4
NUTS Region		
Border	59.3	67.6
Midland	54.9	67.0
West	58.4	66.9
Dublin	57.8	70.4
Mid-East	57.9	66.8
Mid-West	59.5	61.2
South-East	54.0	70.9
South-West	63.5	75.1

Source: HBSC Survey

- Across 45 countries, the average percentage of children who reported never having had an alcoholic drink was 41.0% for girls and 40.0% for boys (see *Figure 19*). This ranged from 15% for both girls and boys in Greece, to 93.0% and 92.0% for girls and boys, respectively, in Kazakhstan. The corresponding percentage in Ireland was 49% for both boys and girls. This was above 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 15 who reported never having had an alcoholic drink, by country (2018)



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 the West and Mid-West to 11.3% in the 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

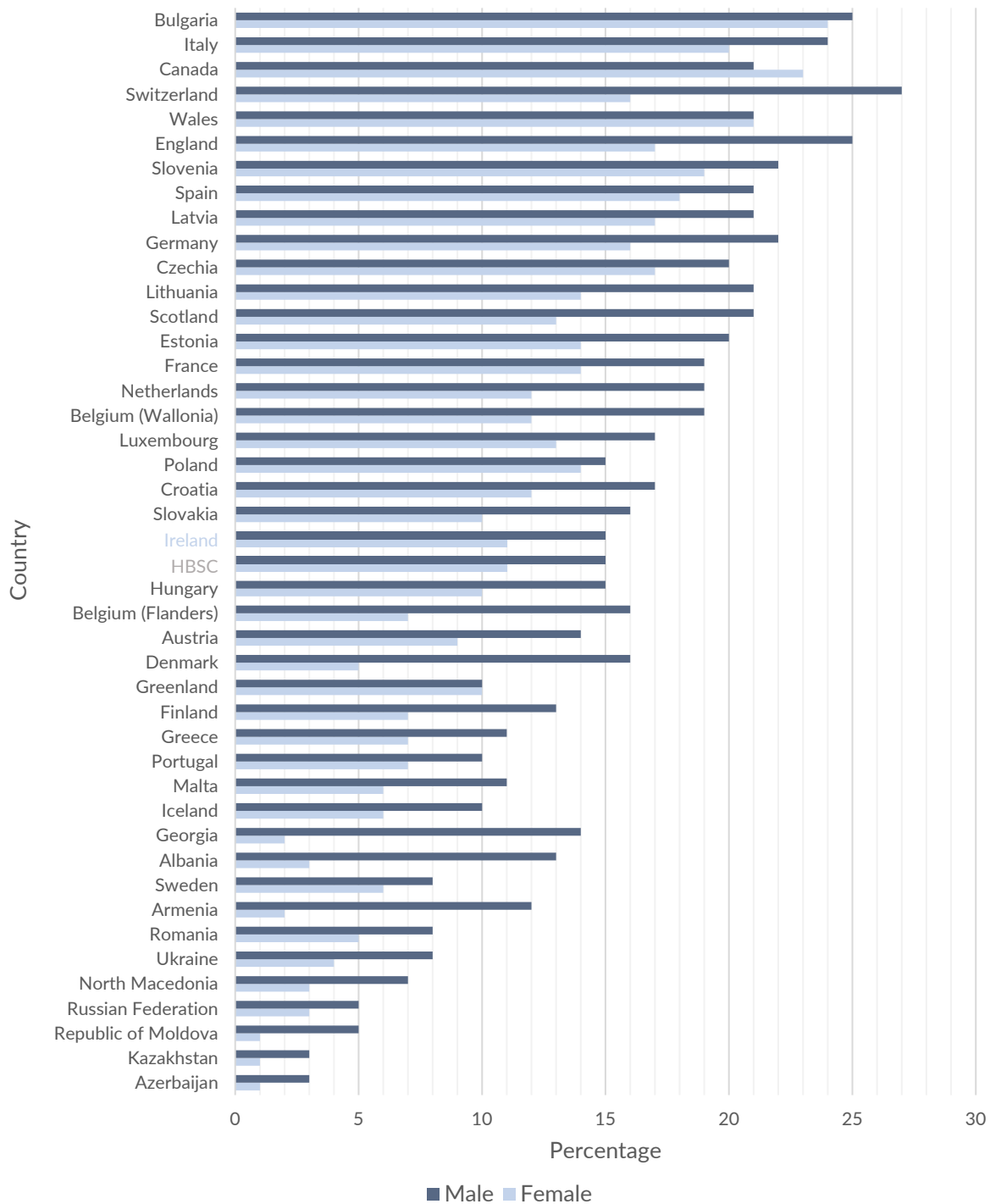
	2014	2018
State	8.8	7.8
NUTS Region		
Border	8.9	7.2
Midland	8.8	7.3
West	5.9	6.1
Dublin	11.2	8.8
Mid-East	10.5	7.2
Mid-West	6.7	6.1
South-East	8.8	11.3
South-West	6.5	8.4

Source: HBSC Survey



- Across 45 countries, the average percentage of children who reported having taken cannabis at least once in their lifetime was 15.0% for boys and 11.0% for girls (see Figure 20). This ranged from 3% and 1%, respectively, in Azerbaijan, to 25% and 24%, respectively, in Bulgaria. The corresponding percentage in Ireland was 15% for boys and 11% for girls. 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 15 who reported having ever used cannabis, by country (2018)



Source: HBSC Survey



Sexual Health and Behaviour: Teen Births

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

- In 2020, there were 168 births to mothers aged 10-17 (see *Table 96*).
- Over the four-year period 2017 to 2020 the number of births to mothers aged 10-17 decreased by 20.4% (see *Table 96*).

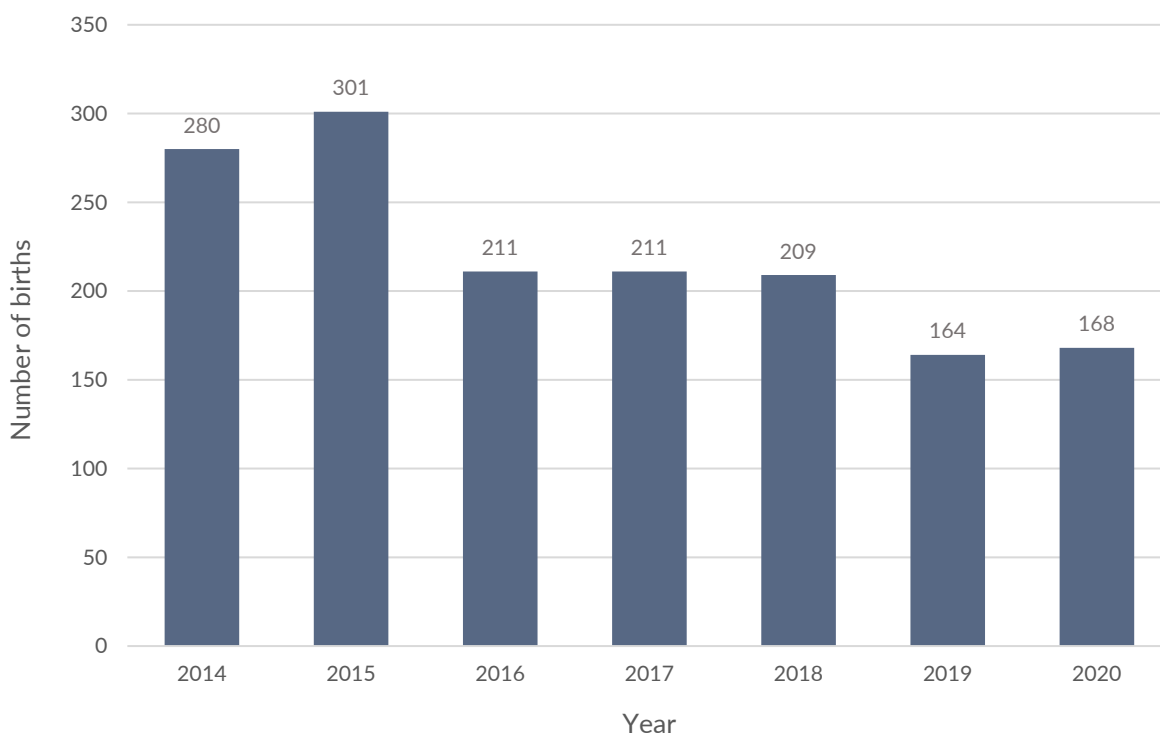
Table 96. Number and rate of births (per 1,000 of female population), by mother's age (2017 - 2020)

	2017		2018		2019		2020	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
All ages	62,053	26	61,022	25	59,294	24	55,959	22
Age								
15 - 17	211	2	209	2	164	2	168	2
18 - 24	5,973	31	5,817	29	5,378	26	4,872	23
25+	55,869	34	54,996	33	53,752	32	50,919	30

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

Source: Vital Statistics (CSO)

Figure 21. Number of births to mothers aged 10-17 (2014-2020)



Source: Vital Statistics (CSO)



- Overall 2.8 per 1,000 births were to mothers aged 10-17 in 2017 (see *Table 97*). This rate was highest in Co. Waterford, at 8.4, and lowest in Leitrim and Wicklow, which had no births to 10-17 year olds in 2019.

Table 97. Number and rate (per 1,000) of births to mothers aged 10-17, by county (2019)

	No. of births to 10-17 year olds	No. of births to all ages	Rate of births to 10-17 year olds
Total	168	59,294	2.8
County			
Carlow	5	749	6.7
Cavan/Donegal/Monaghan	4	3,530	1.1
Clare	5	1,327	3.8
Cork	17	5,220	3.3
Dublin	53	10,692	5.0
Galway	5	2,343	2.1
Kerry	8	1,541	5.2
Kildare	6	3,012	2.0
Kilkenny	3	1,091	2.7
Laois	6	1,104	5.4
Leitrim	0	426	0.0
Limerick	7	1,588	4.4
Longford/Westmeath	3	1,726	1.7
Louth	8	1,655	4.8
Mayo/Roscommon/Sligo	4	3,074	1.3
Meath	4	2,721	1.5
Offaly	4	929	4.3
Tipperary	6	1,846	3.3
Waterford	6	716	8.4
Wexford	10	1,805	5.5
Wicklow	0	1,749	0.0

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	26.2
All children except immigrant children	26.4	24.2
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 the Mid-West to 32.8% in the South-West (see *Table 100*).

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

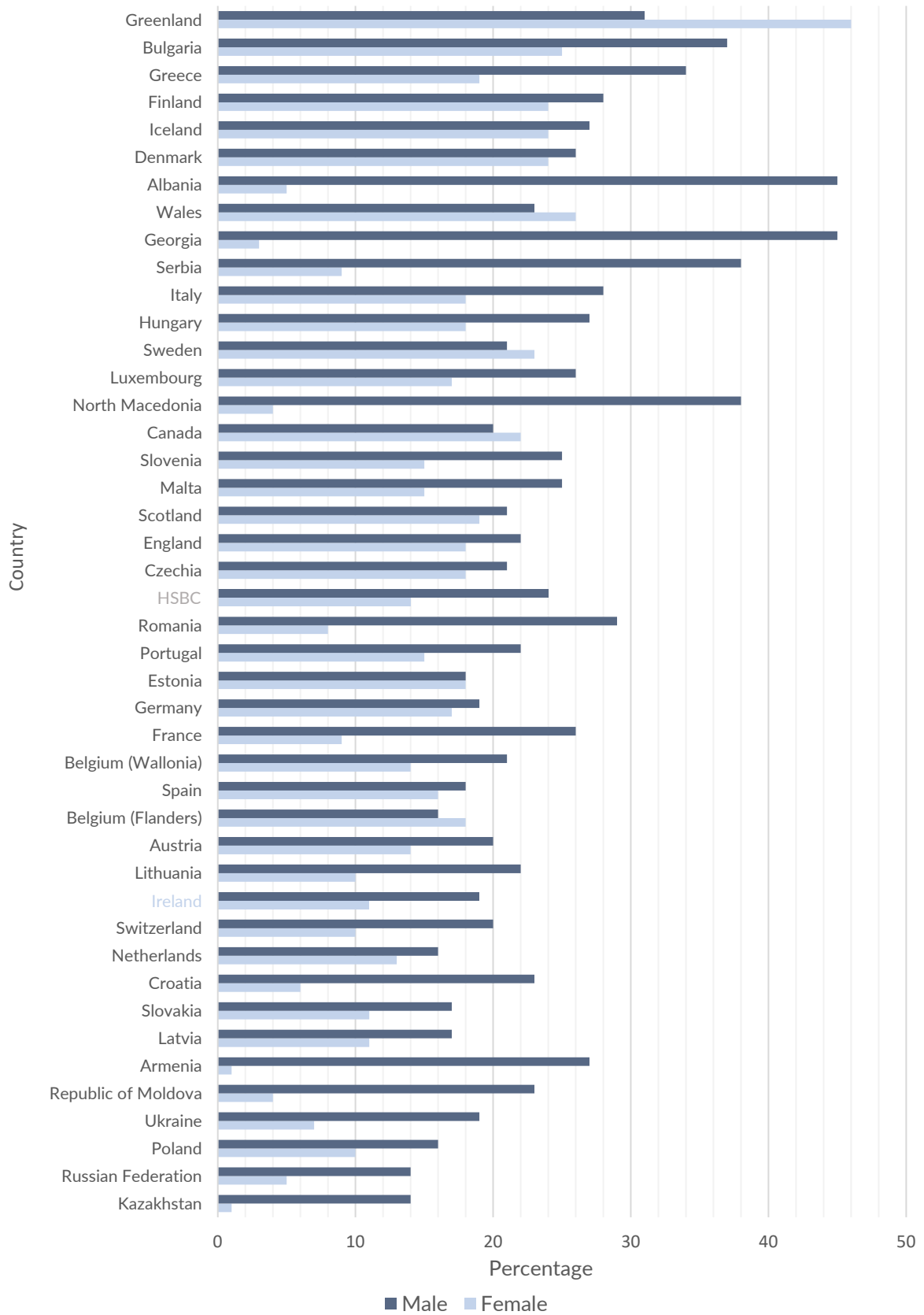
	2014	2018
State	26.8	24.8
NUTS Region		
Border	26.9	26.4
Midland	23.9	27.8
West	24.1	25.9
Dublin	33.1	21.7
Mid-East	25.0	24.9
Mid-West	24.5	19.6
South-East	31.8	30.0
South-West	18.4	32.8

Source: HBSC Survey

- Across 45 countries, the average percentage of children who reported having ever had sex was 24% for boys and 14% for girls (see *Figure 22*). This ranged from 14% and 1%, respectively, in Kazakhstan, to 31% and 46% respectively, in Greenland. The corresponding percentage in Ireland was 19% for boys and 11% for girls. This was below the international HBSC average. (Note: International comparisons are based on data from children aged 15 only.)



Figure 22. Percentage of children aged 15 who reported having had sexual intercourse, by country (2018)



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 the 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, 88.2% of children aged 10-17 reported being happy with their lives at present. This decreased slightly 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*).
- Children with a disability and/or chronic illness 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	88.2
Traveller status		
Traveller children	89.2	88.6
All children except Traveller children	89.7	88.2
Immigrant status		
Immigrant children	88.1	84.8
All children except immigrant children	90.0	88.6
Disability and/or chronic illness status		
Children with a disability and/or chronic illness	87.1	83.5
All children except those with a disability and/or chronic illness	90.4	89.4

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	91.1	85.6	88.2
Age						
10 years	94.8	95.2	95.0	95.6	95.9	95.8
11 years	95.0	95.2	95.1	94.3	93.7	94
12 years	96.0	92.5	94.4	93.1	91.9	92.5
13 years	92.2	86.4	89.2	91.9	85.7	88.6
14 years	91.9	82.2	87.0	88.3	78.3	82.8
15 years	90.1	79.6	84.7	86.1	77.8	81.3
16 years	89.4	81.7	85.7	86.5	77.6	81.6
17 years	91.0	81.8	86.9	89.4	80.9	85
Social class						
SC 1 - 2	94.0	87.5	90.7	91.2	86.3	88.5
SC 3 - 4	93.0	88.2	90.7	91.5	85	88.2
SC 5 - 6	90.2	84.3	87.3	89.6	83.9	86.5

Source: HBSC Survey

- The percentage of children who reported being happy with their lives at present ranged from 85.2% in Dublin to 90.5% in the Mid-East (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	88.2
NUTS Region		
Border	90.4	89.0
Midland	89.7	87.9
West	90.5	88.6
Dublin	88.7	85.2
Mid-East	90.0	90.5
Mid-West	89.5	89.4
South-East	88.7	89.3
South-West	91.1	89.3

Source: HBSC Survey



Child and Youth Suicide

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

- In 2020, there were 12 suicides by children aged 10-17 (see *Table 107*).
- Over the seven-year period 2014 to 2020, 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 - 2020)

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
2019	9	9.1	6	6.3	33	15.3	10	4.8	58	3.6
2020	7	7.1	5	5.2	28	13.0	11	5.3	51	3.1

Note: 2020 figures are provisional

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

Source: Vital Statistics (CSO)

- Overall, suicide accounted for 24.5% of deaths of children aged 10-17 in 2020.

Table 108. Suicides as a percentage of total deaths of children aged 10-17 (2015 - 2020)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	28.6	21.8	26.0	10.3	25.4	24.5
Sex						
Male	32.5	23.3	25.0	9.1	21.4	20.6
Female	11.1	8.7	27.8	13.6	35.3	33.3

Note: 2020 figures are provisional

Source: Vital Statistics (CSO)



Self Harm

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

- In 2019, the rate (per 100,000) of children and young people aged 10-24 presenting at a hospital emergency department following self-harm was 392 (see *Table 109*).
- The rate per 100,000 for girls was 484 and the rate per 100,000 for boys was 304.
- In 2019 the highest rate (per 100,000) of presentation to an emergency department following self-harm was among girls aged 15 – 19 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 - 2019)

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	119	617	520	409	79	490	527	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
2018	73	377	543	320	196	766	544	496	133	568	543	406
2019	71	386	485	304	210	726	536	484	139	554	510	392

Source: National Suicide Research Foundation

Table 110. Rate (per 100,000) of children aged 10-24 who presented at a hospital emergency department following self-harm, by HSE Region (2019)

HSE Region	10 - 14	15 - 19	20 - 24	10 - 24
Dublin Mid-Leinster	123	575	463	389
Dublin North East	204	580	493	419
South	147	563	622	429
West	113	552	560	394

Source: National Suicide Research Foundation

- Dublin North East had the highest rate (per 100,000) of children and young people aged 10-14 (204) and 15-19 (580) presenting at a hospital emergency department following self-harm.
- The South region had the highest rate of young people aged 20-24 (622) presenting at a hospital emergency department following self-harm and had the highest rates overall in the 10-24 age group (429).



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 the Border region to 57.2% in the 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

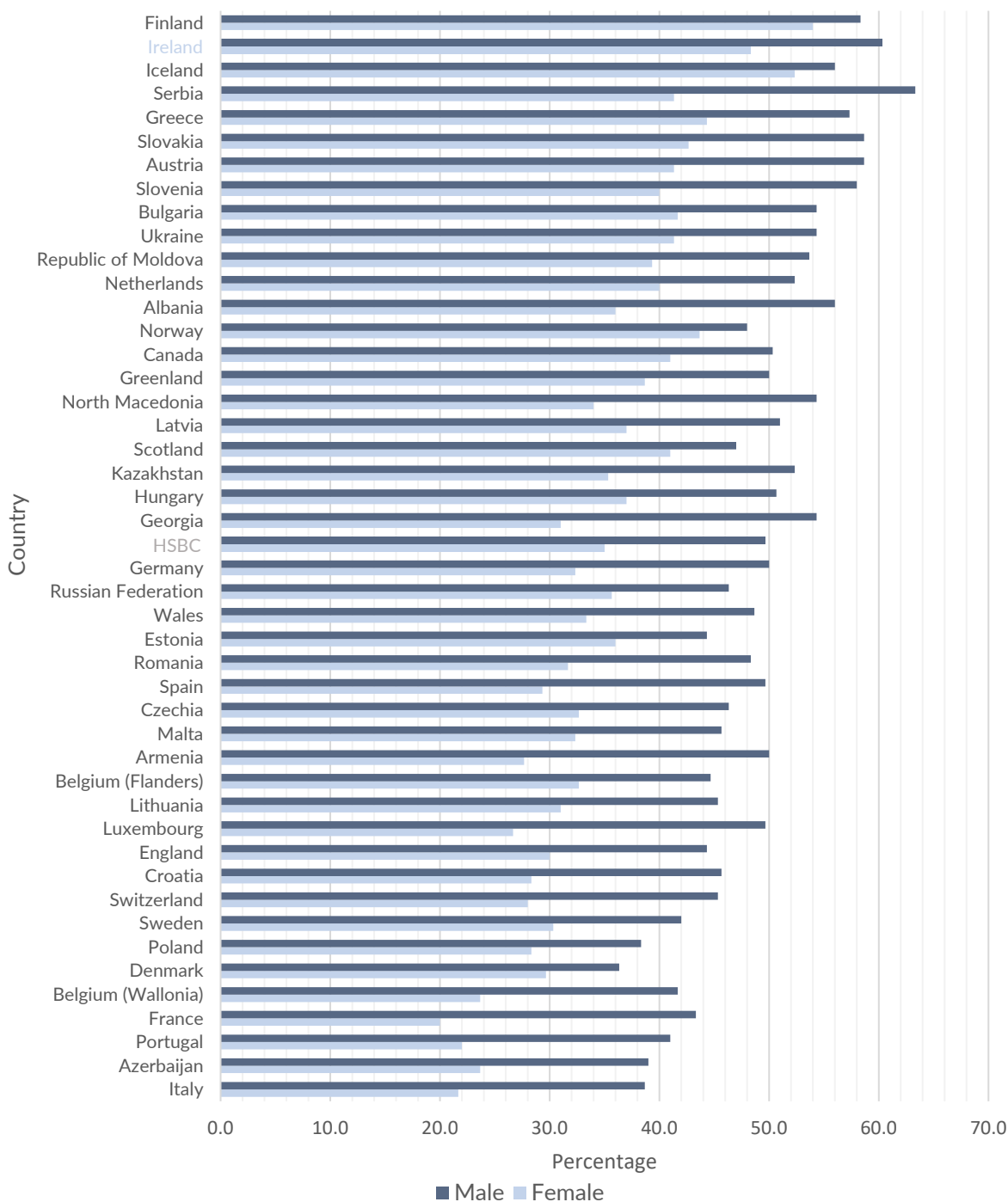
	2014	2018
State	52.0	51.1
NUTS Region		
Border	48.6	46.5
Midland	47.7	48.0
West	53.3	57.2
Dublin	53.2	51.0
Mid-East	52.5	50.5
Mid-West	52.8	53.7
South-East	52.1	50.6
South-West	53.5	50.1

Source: HBSC Survey



- Across 45 countries, the average percentage of children who reported exercising four times or more per week outside of school hours was 49.7% for boys and 35.0% for girls (see Figure 23). This ranged from 38.7% and 21.7%, respectively, in Italy, to 58.3% and 54.0%, respectively, in Finland. The corresponding percentage in Ireland was 60.3% for boys and 48.3% for girls. This was above 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 exercising four times or more a week (outside school hours), by country (2018)



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 the 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

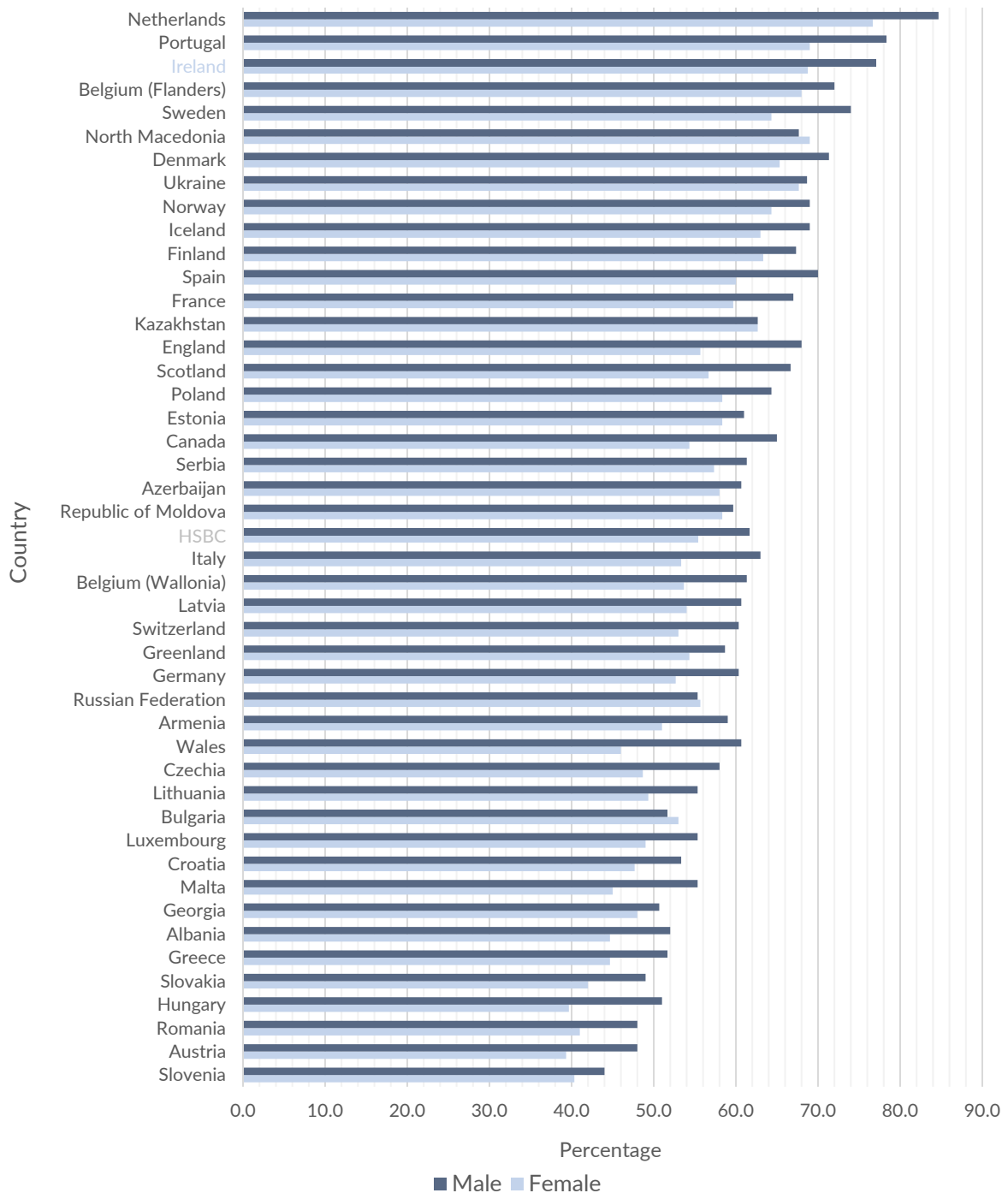
	2014	2018
State	76.7	78.2
NUTS Region		
Border	76.9	77.5
Midland	76.8	76.5
West	81.1	79.0
Dublin	73.5	82.0
Mid-East	77.9	81.3
Mid-West	76.8	76.9
South-East	74.8	75.6
South-West	79.7	79.2

Source: HBSC Survey



- Across 45 countries, the average percentage of children who reported eating breakfast on five or more days per week was 61.7% for boys and 55.3% for girls (see Figure 24). This ranged from 44.0% and 40.3%, respectively, in Slovenia, to 84.7% and 76.7%, respectively, in the Netherlands. The corresponding percentage in Ireland was 77.0% for boys and 68.7% for girls. This was above the international HBS 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 eating breakfast every weekday, by country (2018)



Source: HBS 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 the Midland region to 9% in the 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

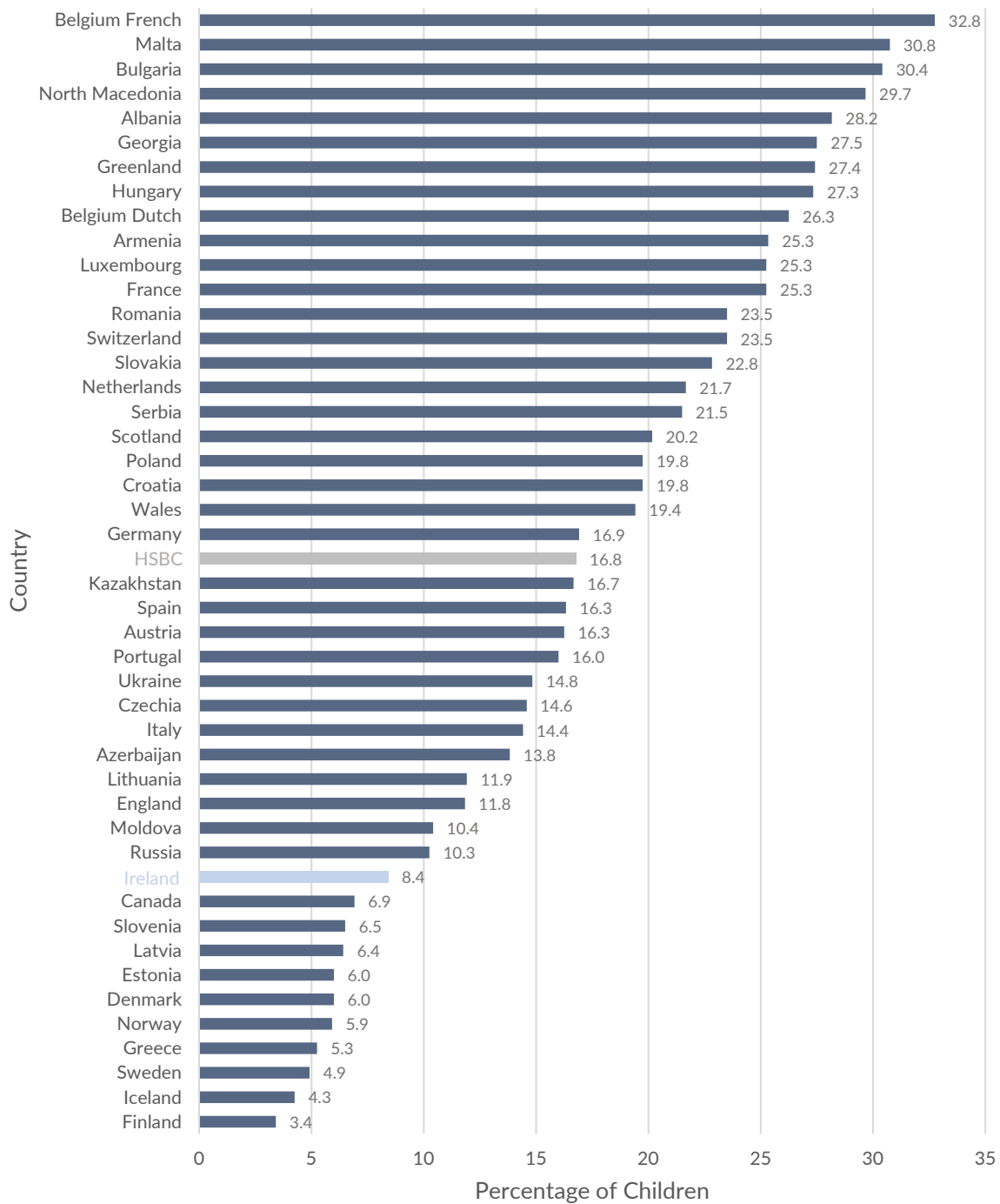
	2014	2018
State	12.6	6.5
NUTS Region		
Border	11.4	5.1
Midland	9.0	4.4
West	8.4	5.7
Dublin	16.8	6.7
Mid-East	11.8	9.0
Mid-West	11.2	7.0
South-East	14.6	8.3
South-West	10.6	5.1

Source: HBSC Survey



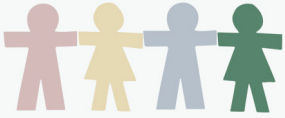
- Across 45 countries, the average percentage of children who reported drinking soft drinks that contain sugar at least once a day was 16.7% (see *Figure 25*). This ranged from 3.4% in Finland to 32.7% in Belgium (French). The corresponding percentage in Ireland was 8.4%. This was below the international 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 drinking soft drinks at least once a day, by country (2018)



Source: HBSC Survey

STATE OF
THE NATION'S
CHILDREN



FORMAL AND INFORMAL SUPPORTS

4





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Key Findings

- **Public expenditure on educational institutions between primary and tertiary level decreased from 5.21% of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2013 to 3.23% in 2018 (see Figure 26).**
- **In 2020, 13.2% of the population were considered to be at risk of poverty (see Table 122).**
- **In 2020, 5.0% of the population experienced consistent poverty (see Table 123).**
- **In 2020, there were 24,646 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 2019, 9,842 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 18,567 (see Table 132).**
- **In 2019, 88.3% of pregnant women attended antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy (see Table 135).**
- **In 2020, 97% of newborns were visited by a public health nurse within 72 hours of discharge from hospital for the first time (see Table 136).**



- In 2020, 51.4% of newborn children had their developmental health screening before reaching 12 months of age (see Table 137).
- In 2020, for children at twelve months of age, uptake rates among Local Health Offices (LHOs) for D₃, P₃, T₃, and Polio₃ ranged from 61% to 96% (see Table 139).
- In 2020, for children at 24 months of age, uptake rates among Local Health Offices (LHOs) for D₃, P₃, T₃, Polio₃, HepB₃, and Hib₃ ranged from 87% to 97% (see Table 140).
- As of December 2020, there were 7,551 children on an inpatient/day case (IPDC) waiting list and 80,801 children on an outpatient (OP) waiting list (see Table 142 and Table 143).
- In 2020, there were 5,818 children in the care of Tusla, the Child and Family Agency (see Table 144).
- In 2020, there were 486 admissions of children to psychiatric hospitals/units and child and adolescent units (see Table 146).

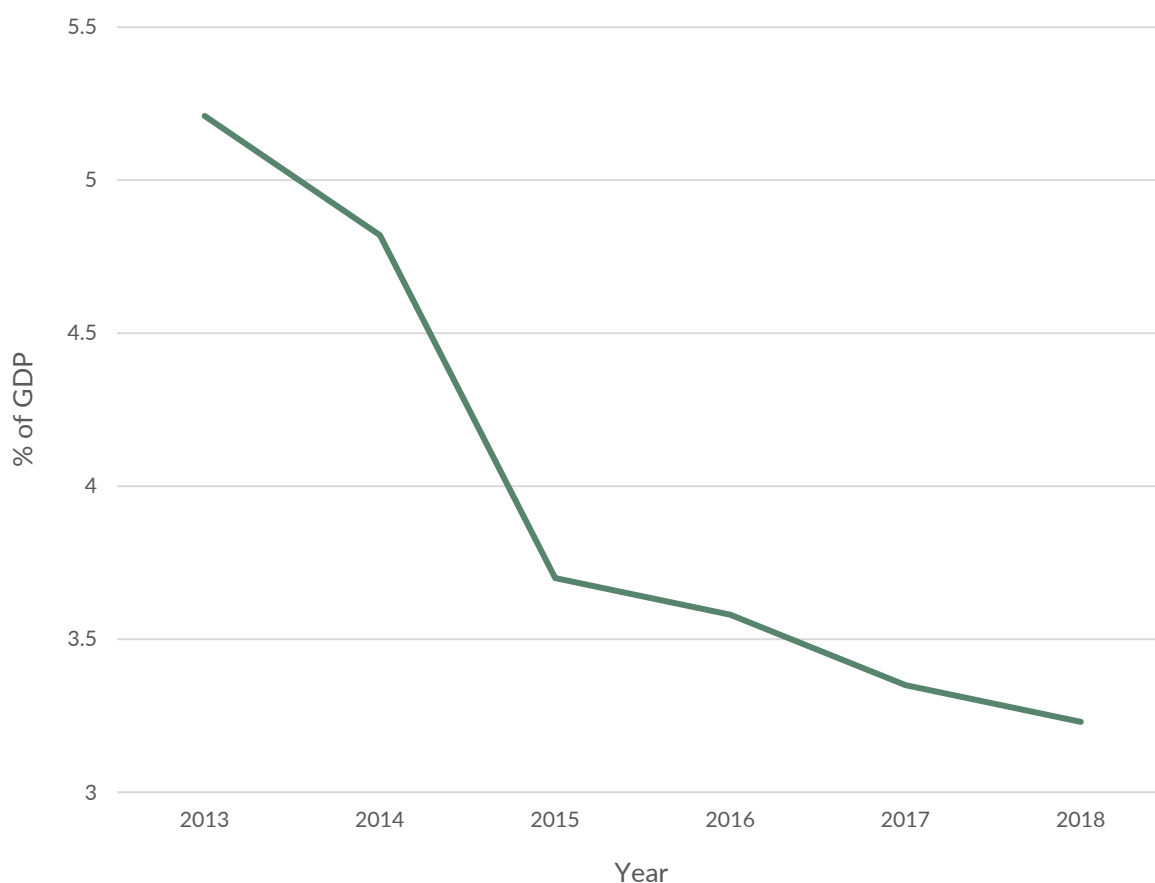


Public Expenditure on education

Measure: Public Expenditure on education¹

- Public expenditure on educational institutions at primary, secondary, and tertiary level decreased from 5.21% of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2013 to 3.23% in 2018 (see Figure 26).

Figure 26. Public Expenditure on educational institutions at primary, secondary, and tertiary level in Ireland



Source: Eurostat

- In 2018, expenditure on educational institutions as a percentage of GDP ranged from 2.49% in Romania to 5.96% in Sweden. In 2017, the most recent year for which data is available, the EU-27 average expenditure was 4.19%.

¹ Public expenditure on educational institutions between primary and tertiary levels



Table 120. Public expenditure on educational institutions between primary and tertiary levels, as a percentage of GDP in the EU-27 and UK (2015-2018)

	2015	2016	2017	2018
EU-27	4.26	NA	4.19	NA
Country				
Austria	4.95	4.90	4.75	4.62
Belgium	5.72	5.71	5.61	5.6
Bulgaria	2.97	2.91	3.16	3.14
Croatia	NA	3.31	3.37	3.41
Cyprus	5.82	5.68	5.44	5.18
Czechia	3.27	3.06	3.23	3.67
Denmark	NA	6.20	5.88	5.79
Estonia	4.22	4.13	3.92	4.17
Finland	5.99	5.79	5.34	5.19
France	4.77	4.75	4.76	4.73
Germany	4.05	4.00	4.01	4.07
Greece	3.41	NA	3.16	3.33
Hungary	3.48	3.69	3.49	3.39
Ireland	3.70	3.58	3.35	3.23
Italy	3.62	3.39	3.56	3.78
Latvia	4.52	3.92	3.57	3.49
Lithuania	3.55	3.26	3.05	3.04
Luxembourg	3.32	3.12	3.09	3.16
Malta	4.53	4.40	3.98	4.29
Netherlands	5.05	5.12	4.83	5.01
Poland	4.21	4.00	3.9	3.92
Portugal	4.40	4.30	4.5	4.23
Romania	2.38	2.27	2.38	2.49
Slovakia	4.09	3.39	3.4	3.42
Slovenia	4.08	3.99	3.97	4.12
Spain	3.68	3.62	3.62	3.58
Sweden	5.76	5.85	5.84	5.96
United Kingdom	5.42	5.20	5.14	4.94

NA = not available

Source: Eurostat


Table 121. Real current public expenditure on education, by educational level (2006 – 2018)

Year	€ per student at constant 2019 prices			€m (at constant 2019 prices)
	Educational level			Real current public expenditure
	First	Second	Third	
2006	5,229	7,390	9,610	7,666
2007	5,796	8,430	10,329	7,997
2008	6,455	9,343	11,160	8,242
2009	6,684	9,417	10,565	8,530
2010	6,058	8,406	9,339	8,479
2011	6,134	8,468	8,797	8,388
2012	6,133	8,543	8,323	8,185
2013	5,959	7,837	7,702	8,286
2014	5,755	7,777	7,245	8,166
2015	5,973	7,835	6,999	8,451
2016	5,906	7,771	6,774	8,451
2017	6,342	8,208	7,092	8,703
2018	6,788	8,797	7,252	9,192

Source: Department of Education

- Real current public expenditure on Education was €9,192,000,000 in 2018.
- In 2018, expenditure per student was highest for second level education (€8,797), followed by third level (€7,252), then first level (€6,788).
- Expenditure on education increased by 19.9% between 2006 and 2018.



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 2020, 13.2% 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. 16.9% of children were at risk of being in poverty.
- The highest 'at risk of poverty' rate for children occurred among those aged 12-17. 22.6% of children in this age group were at risk of poverty in 2020. This compares with a rate of 16.4% for those aged 6-11 and a rate of 11.6% for those aged 0-5.
- For households in 2020, those comprising 1 adult, with children under 18 years were most likely to be at risk of poverty, with a rate of 31.8%. This compares to a rate of 16.8% for households comprising 2 adults with 3+ children under 18, with 9.3% 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 (2016-2020)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total (population all ages)	16.2	15.7	14.0	12.8	13.2
Total (population aged 0-17)	19.1	18.4	15.9	15.3	16.9
Age					
0-5	15.7	11.9	8.9	10.7	11.6
6-11	16.3	18.9	17.0	15.0	16.4
12-17	24.9	23.3	20.2	19.1	22.6
Household composition					
1 adult, with children under 18 years	39.4	39.9	24.4	29.7	31.8
2 adults with 1-2 children under 18	10.7	8.8	9.7	11.5	9.3
2 adults with 3+ children under 18	19.4	17.3	15.4	13.8	16.8
Other households with children under 18 years	22.4	21.7	14.8	12.3	18.8
Households without children	14.0	14.2	14.4	11.2	10.4

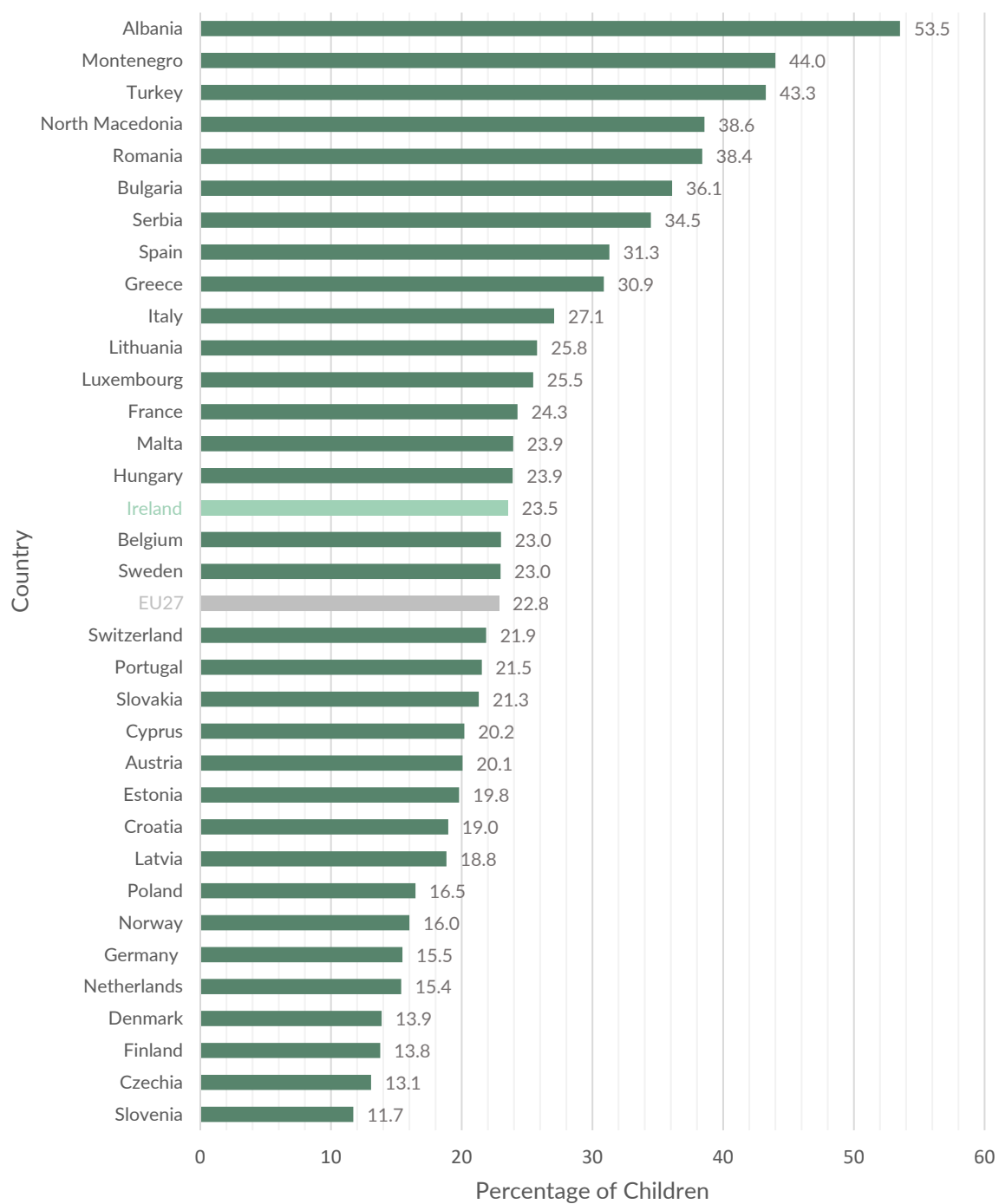
Note: There was a break in SILC time series data in 2020 due to new EU regulation. 2020 data not comparable to previous years.

Source: CSO, SILC

- In 2019, the percentage of children at risk of poverty or social exclusion across the EU-27 ranged from 11.7% in Slovenia to 53.5% in Albania. The percentage of children at risk of poverty in Ireland was 23.5%. This was in line with the EU-27 average of 22.8% (see *Figure 27*)



Figure 27. Percentage of children at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU-27, by country (2019)



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 2020, 5.0% of the population experienced consistent poverty (see *Table 123*).
- Children were more likely to experience consistent poverty than the population as a whole. 8.0% of children experienced consistent poverty, compared with 5.0% of the population as a whole (see *Table 123*).
- The highest consistent poverty rate for children occurred among those aged 12-17. 10.9% of children in this age group experienced consistent poverty in 2020. This compares with a rate of 7.6% for those aged 6-11 and a rate of 5.3% for those aged 0-5 (see *Table 123*).
- For households in 2020, those comprising 1 adult, with children under 18 years were most likely to experience consistent poverty, with a rate of 21.6%. This compares to a rate of 7.0% for households comprising 2 adults with 3+ children under 18, with 2.7% 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 (2017-2020)

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total (population all ages)	6.7	5.6	5.5	5.0
Total (population aged 0-17)	8.8	7.7	8.1	8.0
Age				
0-5	6.4	4.8	5.9	5.3
6-11	8.2	9.0	9.7	7.6
12-17	11.2	8.8	8.3	10.9
Household composition				
1 adult, with children under 18 years	20.7	16.1	17.1	21.6
2 adults with 1-2 children under 18	4.1	4.2	5.8	2.7
2 adults with 3+ children under 18	9.2	10.2	7.9	7.0
Other households with children under 18 years	8.1	6.1	4.2	8.1
Households without children	5.3	4.6	3.5	2.9

Note: There was a break in SILC time series data in 2020 due to new EU regulation. 2020 data not comparable to previous years.

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 2020, there were 24,646 households with children identified as being in need of social housing.
- 51.7% (12,732) of households with children identified as being in need of social housing were households with one child; 30.5% (7,523) were households with two children; 11.6% (2,860) were households with three children; and the remaining 6.2% (1,531) were households with four or more children (see *Table 124*).
- The number of households with children identified as being in need of social housing decreased by 46.7% between 2016 and 2020.

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

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020		
	No.	No.	No.	No.	%	No.	%
Total	46,294	42,911	35,100	31,087	100.0	24,646	100.0
No. of children							
1 child	22,204	20,550	16,741	15,467	49.8	12,732	51.7
2 children	15,194	14,101	11,369	9,800	31.5	7,523	30.5
3 children	5,737	5,354	4,548	3,792	12.2	2,860	11.6
4 children	2,115	1,950	1,627	1,376	4.4	1,035	4.2
5 or more children	1,044	956	815	652	2.1	496	2.0

Source: The Housing Agency

- In 2020, 67.3% (16,596) of households with children identified as being in need of social housing were one-parent households, 32.3% (7,965) were two-parent households, and the remaining 0.34% (85) were multi-adult households (see *Table 125*).
- 43.8% (10,800) 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 (2020)

	Single with child/children	Couple with child/children	Multi-adult households with children	All households with child/children	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	%
Total	16,596	7,965	85	24,646	100.0
County					
Carlow	163	71	0	234	0.9
Cavan	184	87	2	273	1.1
Clare	307	104	6	417	1.7
Cork	1,796	811	6	2,613	10.6
Donegal	272	79	2	353	1.4
Dublin	7,262	3,506	32	10,800	43.8
Galway	569	358	3	930	3.8
Kerry	496	287	6	789	3.2
Kildare	704	473	6	1,183	4.8
Kilkenny	232	100	3	335	1.4
Laois	211	99	0	310	1.3
Leitrim	34	23	0	57	0.2
Limerick	596	240	4	840	3.4
Longford	146	95	0	241	1.0
Louth	357	120	2	479	1.9
Mayo	205	116	4	325	1.3
Meath	458	261	1	720	2.9
Monaghan	105	37	0	142	0.6
Offaly	150	84	0	234	0.9
Roscommon	54	36	0	90	0.4
Sligo	125	32	0	157	0.6
Tipperary	378	129	1	508	2.1
Waterford	332	110	2	444	1.8
Westmeath	214	125	0	339	1.4
Wexford	573	239	3	815	3.3
Wicklow	673	343	2	1,018	4.1

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 2018, 90.2% of children aged 10-17 reported feeling safe in the area where they live. This increased marginally between 2014 and 2018.
- 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 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

	2014	2018
All children	89.2	90.2
Traveller status		
Traveller children	83.0	82.9
All children except Traveller children	89.4	90.4
Immigrant status		
immigrant children	86.3	88.3
All children except immigrant children	89.8	90.5
Disability and/or chronic illness status		
Children with a disability and/or chronic illness	86.0	87.5
All children except those with a disability and/or chronic illness	90.1	91.0

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

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	89.6	88.9	89.2	91.1	89.4	90.2
Age						
10 years	90.5	89.9	90.2	92.3	92.9	92.6
11 years	93.2	92.6	92.9	92.7	92.3	92.5
12 years	92.1	90.2	91.2	92	92.8	92.4
13 years	88.4	90.1	89.3	91.4	86.8	88.9
14 years	88.6	88.1	88.3	88.7	86.3	87.4
15 years	88.8	85.3	87.0	88	86	86.9
16 years	86.4	88.8	87.6	90.4	85.5	87.8
17 years	88.3	85.6	87.1	90.1	88.7	89.4
Social class						
SC 1 - 2	93.6	92.0	92.8	93.9	92.5	93.1
SC 3 - 4	88.7	88.2	88.5	89.5	87.7	88.6
SC 5 - 6	86.1	85.1	85.6	89.4	84.6	86.8

Source: HBSC Survey

- The percentage of children who reported feeling safe in the area where they live ranged from 84.4% in the South-East to 94.5% in the Border 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

	2014	2018
State	89.2	90.2
NUTS Region		
Border	92.2	94.5
Midland	91.2	90.4
West	94.2	91.3
Dublin	81.7	94.2
Mid-East	88.6	94.4
Mid-West	92.5	92.2
South-East	90.3	84.4
South-West	92.8	89.8

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 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.
- 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

	2014	2018
All children	61.5	67.2
Traveller status		
Traveller children	73.4	74.0
All children except Traveller children	61.3	67.0
Immigrant status		
immigrant children	64.8	69.1
All children except immigrant children	60.9	66.9
Disability and/or chronic illness status		
Children with a disability and/or chronic illness	58.3	64.9
All children except those with a disability and/or chronic illness	62.3	67.8

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 3 - 4 (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

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	64.4	58.4	61.5	69.1	65.4	67.2
Age						
10 years	71.8	73.2	72.5	78.0	77.4	77.7
11 years	74.3	73.4	73.9	78.7	76.9	77.9
12 years	71.2	72.4	71.7	74.3	71.2	72.7
13 years	68.6	62.2	65.3	70.7	67.9	69.2
14 years	69.1	54.2	61.5	61.8	58.1	59.8
15 years	56.0	45.2	50.4	55.8	54.4	55
16 years	51.0	42.5	46.8	52.6	47.2	49.7
17 years	50.1	42.5	46.7	51.2	43.3	47.2
Social class						
SC 1 - 2	62.9	56.8	59.8	69.2	65.9	67.4
SC 3 - 4	64.8	58.9	61.9	67.9	63.2	65.5
SC 5 - 6	65.3	60.3	62.8	68.4	66.7	67.5

Source: HBSC Survey

- The percentage of children who reported that there are good places in their area to spend their free time ranged from 58.3% in the Border region to 78.1% in the South-East (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

	2014	2018
State	61.5	67.2
NUTS Region		
Border	57.2	58.3
Midland	59.7	65.7
West	55.1	60.5
Dublin	77.3	63.5
Mid-East	59.6	63.6
Mid-West	54.9	59.9
South-East	55.7	78.1
South-West	53.9	65.9

Source: HBSC Survey



Garda Diversion Programme Referrals

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

Table 132. Number, percentage, and rate (per 1,000) of children aged 10-17 referred to the Garda Diversion programme, by age and gender (2017-2019)

	2017			2018			2019		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
Total: children referred	10,607	100	20.9	8,561	100	16.5	9,842	100	18.5
Sex									
Male	7,743	73	29.8	6,108	71	23.0	7,086	72	26.0
Female	2,864	27	11.5	2,453	29	9.7	2,756	28	10.6
Age									
10 - 14	3,182	30	9.9	2,311	27	7.0	2,953	30	8.7
15 - 17	7,425	70	40.0	6,250	73	33.0	6,889	70	35.7

*Rates based on population estimates for the relevant year

Source: The Garda Diversion Programme

Table 133. Number and percentage of referrals of children aged 10-17 to the Garda Diversion programme, by outcome (2018-2019)

	2018		2019	
	No.	%	No.	%
Total: Incidents referred	16,491	100.0	18,567	100.0
Outcome				
Formal	3,361	20.4	4,046	21.8
Informal	5,891	35.7	6,960	37.5
No further action	824	5.0	231	1.2
Pending	72	0.4	125	0.7
Not suitable	5,149	31.2	6,062	32.6
Other	1,194	7.2	1,143	6.2

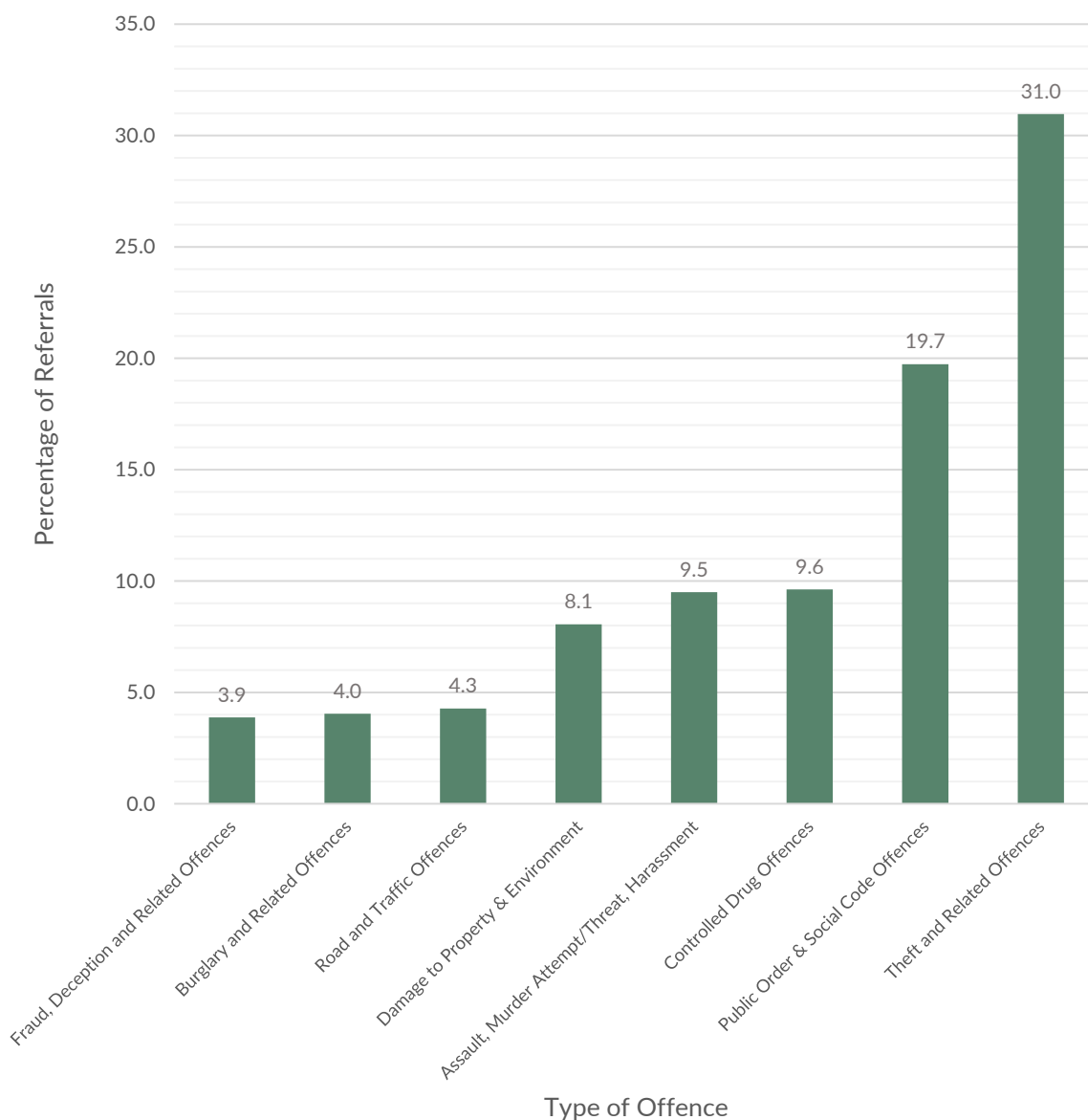
Source: The Garda Diversion Programme

- In 2019, 9,842 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 18,567.
- 70.0% of those referred were aged 15-17 years (see Table 132).
- The rate per 1,000 of referrals among boys (26) was nearly 2.5 times higher than the rate of referrals among girls 10.6 (see Table 132).



- Theft and related offences was the single highest cause of referrals to the Garda Diversion Programme, representing 31% of all referrals (see Figure 28).
- Over the period 2017 to 2019, the number of children referred to the Garda Diversion programme decreased by 7.2%.

Figure 28. Referrals to the Garda diversion Programme, by type of offence (2019)



Source: The Garda Diversion Programme

- The rate of children referred to the Garda Diversion Programme ranged from 46.8 in D.M.R. North Central to 12.0 in Meath.
- The rate of referrals ranged from 226.6 in D.M.R. North Central to 17.5 in Cork West.



Table 134. Number and rate (per 1,000) of children aged 10-17 referred/referrals to the Garda diversion programme, by region and division (2019)

	Children referred		All referrals		Average number of referrals per child
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	
State	9,842	19.6	18,567	36.9	1.9
Dublin Region	3,127	25.4	6,472	52.5	2.1
D.M.R. Eastern	322	17.1	883	47.0	2.7
D.M.R. North Central	208	46.8	1,007	226.6	4.8
D.M.R. Northern	867	24.7	1,387	39.5	1.6
D.M.R. South Central	183	27.1	689	102.1	3.8
D.M.R. Southern	646	27.4	1,040	44.1	1.6
D.M.R. Western	901	26.0	1,466	42.3	1.6
Eastern Region	2,158	15.0	4,404	30.7	2.0
Kildare	359	13.6	650	24.6	1.8
Kilkenny/Carlow	277	16.0	517	29.8	1.9
Laois/Offaly	279	15.0	710	38.1	2.5
Meath	280	12.0	601	25.8	2.1
Waterford	323	23.7	606	44.4	1.9
Westmeath	169	15.5	446	40.9	2.6
Wexford	215	12.5	398	23.2	1.9
Wicklow	256	15.8	476	29.4	1.9
North Western Region	2,049	18.1	3,653	32.3	1.8
Cavan/Monaghan	318	19.9	608	38.1	1.9
Donegal	399	21.2	740	39.3	1.9
Galway	473	17.5	796	29.5	1.7
Louth	306	19.9	570	37.0	1.9
Mayo	206	14.2	313	21.6	1.5
Roscommon/Longford	171	15.4	285	25.6	1.7
Sligo/Leitrim	176	16.7	341	32.4	1.9
Southern Region	2,359	19.2	4,031	32.7	1.7
Clare	206	16.2	338	26.6	1.6
Cork City	665	27.2	1,198	49.0	1.8
Cork North	308	17.8	523	30.2	1.7
Cork West	181	12.3	258	17.5	1.4
Kerry	270	18.1	444	29.8	1.6
Limerick	427	20.2	776	36.6	1.8
Tipperary	302	16.9	494	27.7	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 antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy

- In 2019, 88.3% of pregnant women attended antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy. (see *Table 135*)
- The percentage of women attending antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy increased from 88.0% in 2015 to 88.3% in 2019.
- In 2019, antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy was lowest among pregnant women aged 15- 19 years (75.8%) (see *Table 135*).
- Women who were unemployed or primarily on home duties had the lowest attendance at antenatal visits in the first trimester of pregnancy (77.3% and 81.7% respectively) (see *Figure 29*).

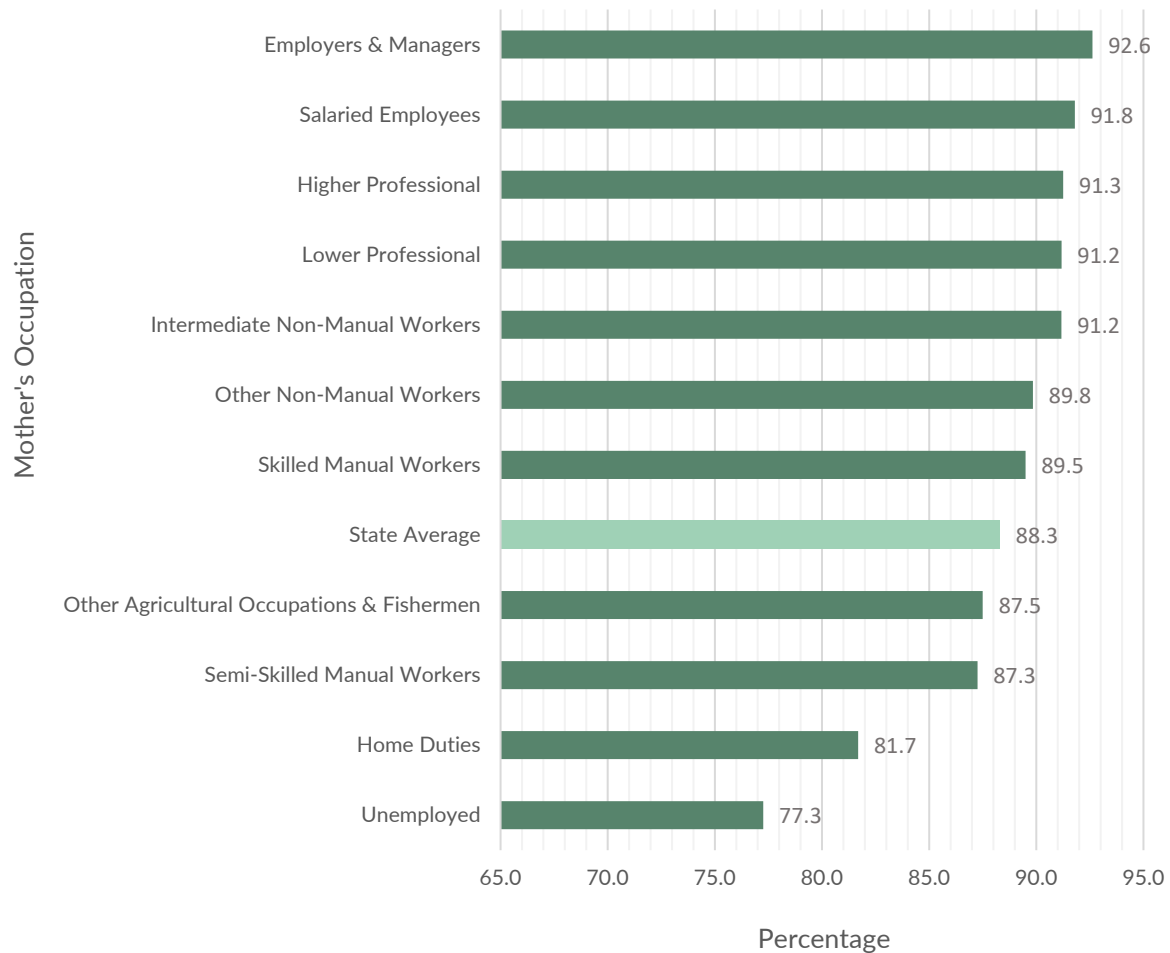
Table 135. Percentage of pregnant women attending antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy, by mother's age (2015-2019)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	88.0	89.3	87.3	82.0	88.3
Age					
15 - 19 years	77.0	76.8	75.9	67.9	75.8
20 - 24 years	83.0	82.9	80.1	77.3	81.3
25 - 29 years	87.2	88.3	86.0	80.3	86.2
30 - 34 years	89.5	90.9	89.0	83.6	89.9
35 - 39 years	89.2	90.6	88.9	83.2	89.9
40 - 44 years	87.3	89.1	86.1	82.3	88.8
45 years and over	83.9	85.2	84.1	77.4	87.7

Source: Healthcare Pricing Office



Figure 29. Percentage of pregnant women attending antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy, by occupation of mother (2019)

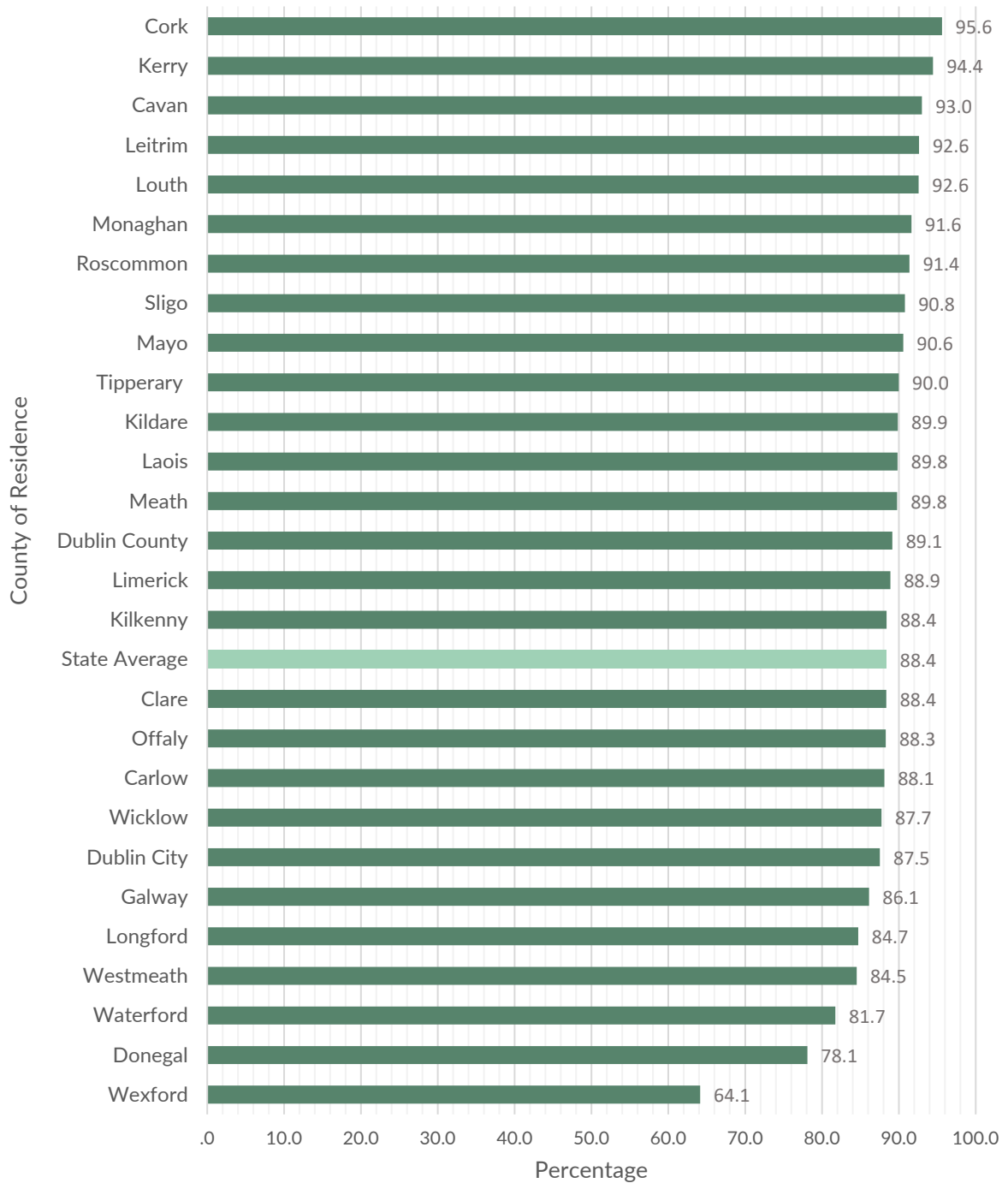


Source: Healthcare Pricing Office

- The percentage of women attending antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy ranged from 64.1% in Wexford to 95.6% in Cork (see Figure 30).



Figure 30. Percentage of pregnant women attending antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy, by mother's county of residence (2019)



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 2020, 97.0% of newborns were visited by a public health nurse within 72-hours of discharge from hospital for the first time.
- In 2020, the percentage of newborns visited by a public health nurse for the first time within 72 hours of discharge from hospital ranged from 66.6% in Dublin North to 100% in 12 Local Health Office Areas (see *Table 136*).

Table 136. 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), (2018-2020)

	2018	2019	2020
Total	97.4	98.6	97.0
Local Health Office			
Cavan/Monaghan	92.6	95.6	94.8
Donegal	99.8	100.0	100.0
Sligo/Leitrim	94.6	99.9	99.9
Galway	99.5	99.8	99.0
Mayo	98.3	99.5	99.2
Roscommon	99.6	99.7	98.0
Clare	97.2	97.3	100.0
Limerick	98.6	99.3	100.0
North Tipperary/East Limerick	98.7	99.9	100.0
Kerry	99.4	100.0	99.9
North Cork	99.8	99.6	99.7
North Lee	99.4	100.0	100.0
South Lee	100.0	99.8	98.3
West Cork	99.4	99.3	98.6
Carlow/Kilkenny	98.9	97.2	97.0
South Tipperary	100.0	99.6	99.6
Waterford	99.0	99.5	100.0
Wexford	97.5	99.9	98.5
Dublin South East	99.1	98.6	NA
Dún Laoghaire	80.7	90.2	100.0
Wicklow	98.0	98.8	NA
Dublin South City	100.0	100.0	100.0
Dublin South West	97.2	95.2	89.2
Dublin West	97.1	99.3	100.0
Kildare/West Wicklow	100.0	100.0	100.0
Laois/Offaly	100.0	100.0	100.0
Longford/Westmeath	99.4	97.7	100.0
Louth	98.5	96.5	94.8
Meath	92.2	93.2	89.5
Dublin North	96.1	96.6	66.6
Dublin North Central	91.0	99.1	95.3
Dublin North West	92.0	97.2	95.0

*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 who have had their 9 - 11 month developmental check on time (i.e. before reaching 12 months of age)²

- In 2020, 51.4% of newborn children had their 9 - 11 month developmental check on time.
- In 2020, the percentage of newborns who had their 9 - 11 month developmental check on time ranged from 11.1% in Roscommon to 93.1% in Carlow/Kilkenny (see *Table 137*).

Table 137. Percentage of children who have had their developmental health screening before reaching 12 months of age, by Local Health Office (LHO) (2020)

	2020
Total	51.4
Local Health Office	
Cavan/Monaghan	63.4
Donegal	69.5
Sligo/Leitrim	63.6
Galway	38.1
Mayo	51.8
Roscommon	11.1
Clare	65.9
Limerick	20.3
North Tipperary/East Limerick	36.7
Kerry	59.9
North Cork	81.4
North Lee	56.6
South Lee	59.8
West Cork	71.7
Carlow/Kilkenny	93.1
South Tipperary	43.2
Waterford	35.3
Wexford	28.4
Dublin South East	18.6
Dún Laoghaire	44.7
Wicklow	31.8
Dublin South City	49.4
Dublin South West	64.7
Dublin West	72.1
Kildare/West Wicklow	62.2
Laois/Offaly	40.4
Longford/Westmeath	39.1
Louth	36.1
Meath	76.1
Dublin North	72.6
Dublin North Central	21.8
Dublin North West	66.1

Source: Healthcare Pricing Office

² This measure was changed in 2020 from 7- 9 month developmental check by 10 months to 9 - 11 month developmental check by 12 months. Data in previous editions of SONC is therefore not comparable.



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 138. Immunisation uptake rates (%), by age, vaccine type, and year

	2017	2018	2019	2020
At 12 months				
D ₃	90	89	90	88
Hib ₃	90	89	90	88
HepB ₃	90	89	90	88
MenC ₁	93	89	90	88
PCV ₂	90	89	90	88
Polio ₃	90	89	90	88
T ₃	90	89	90	88
P ₃	90	89	90	88
At 24 months				
D ₃	95	94	94	94
Hib ₃	95	94	94	94
HepB ₃	95	94	94	94
PCV _b	92	91	88	88
MMR ₁	92	92	91	92
Hib _b	90	90	90	90
MenC ₂	NA	87	86	86
Polio ₃	95	94	94	94
T ₃	95	94	94	94
MenC _b	88	88	89	89
PCV ₃	91	90	86	87
P ₃	95	94	94	94

Source: Health Protection Surveillance Centre

- In 2020, for children at twelve months of age, uptake rates among Local Health Offices (LHOs) for D₃, P₃, T₃, and Polio₃ ranged from 61% to 96%.
- Uptake rates among LHOs for MenC₁ and PCV₂ ranged from 61% to 96%.
- The target uptake of 95% was reached or exceeded in Roscommon, Laois/Offaly, and Longford/Westmeath for D₃, P₃, T₃, Polio₃, Hib₃, HepB₃, MenC₁, and PCV₂.


Table 139. Immunisation uptake rates (%) at 12 months, by Local Health Office (LHO) area (2020)

	D ₃ , P ₃ , T ₃ , Polio ₃	Hib ₃	HepB ₃	MenC ₁	PCV ₂
All Local Health Offices	88	88	88	88	88
Cavan/Monaghan	87	87	87	88	87
Donegal	85	85	85	84	85
Sligo/Leitrim	91	91	91	91	92
Galway	93	93	93	93	93
Mayo	94	94	94	94	96
Roscommon	96	96	96	96	96
Clare	94	94	94	93	93
Limerick	90	90	90	90	90
North Tipperary/East Limerick	92	92	92	92	92
North Cork	90	90	90	90	90
North Lee	90	90	90	91	90
South Lee	90	90	90	91	90
West Cork	78	78	78	77	78
Kerry	89	89	89	90	89
Carlow/Kilkenny	90	90	90	90	91
South Tipperary	92	92	92	92	92
Waterford	90	90	90	90	89
Wexford	92	92	92	92	92
Dublin South East	92	92	92	92	91
Wicklow	85	85	85	84	85
Dublin South City	90	90	90	90	90
Dublin South West	88	88	88	88	88
Dublin West	86	86	86	86	86
Kildare/West Wicklow	91	91	91	91	91
Laois/Offaly	95	95	95	95	95
Longford/Westmeath	96	96	96	96	96
Louth	86	86	86	86	86
Meath	85	85	85	85	85
Dublin North	86	86	86	61	86
Dublin North Central	83	83	83	83	82
Dublin North West	61	61	61	86	61

NA = not available

Source: Health Protection Surveillance Centre

- In 2020, for children at 24 months of age, uptake rates among Local Health Offices (LHOs) for D₃, P₃, T₃, Polio₃, HepB₃, and Hib₃ ranged from 87% to 97%.
- Uptake rates for MMR₁ ranged from 85% to 96%.
- Uptake rates for PCV₃ ranged from 78% to 97%.
- Uptake rates for PCV_b ranged from 80% to 96%.
- Uptake rates for MenC₂ ranged from 77% to 91%.
- Uptake rates for MenC_b ranged from 82% to 95%.
- The target uptake of 95% was not reached for all vaccines for which data are available for a particular LHO


Table 140. Immunisation uptake rates (%) at 24 months, by Local Health Office (LHO) area (2020)

	D ₃ , P ₃ , T ₃ , Polio ₃	Hib ₃	HepB ₃	PCV _b	MMR ₁	Hib _b	MenC ₂	MenC _b	PCV ₃
All Local Health Offices	94	94	94	88	92	90		89	87
Cavan/Monaghan	95	95	95	84	92	88	84	88	84
Donegal	91	91	91	82	85	83	77	83	78
Sligo/Leitrim	94	94	94	89	92	89	85	89	89
Galway	95	95	95	90	94	92	NA	91	95
Mayo	95	95	95	94	93	93	NA	90	96
Roscommon	95	95	95	96	94	93	NA	90	97
Clare	95	95	95	91	92	92	88	91	88
Limerick	95	95	95	92	93	94	89	93	89
North Tipperary/East Limerick	94	94	94	92	93	93	89	93	88
North Cork	96	96	96	91	95	92	86	91	89
North Lee	96	96	96	90	93	92	87	91	88
South Lee	96	96	96	90	93	92	87	91	88
West Cork	92	92	92	85	90	88	81	86	80
Kerry	94	94	94	88	92	90	85	89	84
Carlow/Kilkenny	94	94	94	88	93	88	85	89	86
South Tipperary	96	96	95	91	94	92	88	92	89
Waterford	91	91	91	86	91	87	82	86	84
Wexford	94	94	94	90	93	90	87	90	88
Dublin South	95	95	95	90	92	91	NA	91	89
Dublin South East	95	95	95	93	94	94	NA	94	92
Wicklow	87	87	87	81	85	83	NA	84	80
Dublin South City	95	95	95	90	93	90	NA	91	88
Dublin South West	94	94	94	86	92	88	NA	87	84
Dublin West	97	97	97	88	95	89	NA	90	86
Kildare/West Wicklow	96	96	96	91	94	93	NA	92	89
Laois/Offaly	97	97	97	94	96	96	91	94	91
Longford/Westmeath	97	97	97	94	96	95	91	95	93
Louth	92	92	92	80	86	83	81	82	80
Meath	93	93	93	83	90	86	83	86	83
Dublin North West	93	93	93	85	90	86	NA	86	83
Dublin North Central	93	93	93	84	89	85	NA	85	81
Dublin North	91	91	91	82	87	82	NA	83	81

NA = not available

Source: Health Protection Surveillance Centre

- In 2020, uptake rates across the EU-28 for D₃, P₃, and T₃ ranged from 85% in Austria to 99% in Latvia, Greece, Hungary, Luxembourg and Portugal.
- Uptake rates across the EU-28 for Polio₃ ranged from 85% in Austria to 99% in Greece, Hungary, Luxembourg, Portugal and Latvia.
- Uptake rates across the EU-28 for the first dose of measles containing vaccine ranged from 80% in Poland to 99% in Hungary, Luxembourg, Portugal and Latvia.



Table 141. Immunisation uptake rates among children of relevant age, by vaccine type and EU-28 country (2020)

Country	D ₃ , P ₃ , and T ₃	Polio ₃	Measles-containing vaccine
Austria	85	85	94
Belgium	97	98	96
Bulgaria	91	91	88
Croatia	94	94	91
Cyprus	96	96	86
Czechia	97	97	94
Denmark	97	97	94
Estonia	91	91	91
Finland	91	91	96
France	96	96	90
Germany	93	92	97
Greece	99	99	97
Hungary	99	99	99
Ireland	94	94	92
Italy	96	94	92
Latvia	99	99	99
Lithuania	92	91	90
Luxembourg	99	99	99
Malta	98	98	95
Netherlands	94	94	94
Poland	90	91	80
Portugal	99	99	99
Romania	87	87	87
Slovakia	97	97	96
Slovenia	95	95	94
Spain	98	98	98
Sweden	97	97	97
United Kingdom	93	93	91

Source: World Health Organization



Accessibility of Basic Health Services

Measure: The number of children on hospital waiting lists

- As of December 2020, there were 7,551 children on an inpatient/day case (IPDC) waiting list and 80,801 children on an outpatient (OP) waiting list.
- Of those children on an IPDC waiting list, 18.6% were waiting between 12 and 18 months, and a further 12.5% were waiting 18 months or more. The corresponding percentages for children on OP waiting lists were 15.7% and 29.6%, respectively (see *Table 142* and *Table 143*).
- The number of children on an IPDC waiting list decreased by 3.2% between 2017 and 2020. Over the same period, the number of children on an OP waiting list decreased by 2.1% (see *Table 142* and *Table 143*).

Table 142. Number and percentage of children on inpatient/day case (IPDC) waiting lists, by waiting time (2017-2020)

	2017		2018		2019		2020	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	7,798	100.0	6,324	100.0	6,861	100.0	7,551	100.0
Waiting Time								
Less than three months	2,534	32.5	2,510	39.7	2,723	39.7	2,219	29.4
3-6 months	1,584	20.3	1,244	19.7	1,482	21.6	1,257	16.6
6-9 months	1,201	15.4	840	13.3	862	12.6	485	6.4
9-12 months	881	11.3	502	7.9	535	7.8	1,238	16.4
12-15 months	586	7.5	347	5.5	434	6.3	885	11.7
15-18 months	405	5.2	245	3.9	200	2.9	520	6.9
18 months or more	607	7.8	636	10.1	625	9.1	947	12.5

Source: National Treatment Purchase Fund

Table 143. Number and percentage of children on outpatient (OP) waiting lists, by waiting time (2017-2020)

	2017		2018		2019		2020	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	82,570	100.0	83,559	100.0	81,316	100.0	80,801	100.0
Waiting Time								
Less than three months	22,555	27.3	23,387	28.0	22,451	27.6	18,894	23.4
3-6 months	14,070	17.0	13,310	15.9	13,133	16.2	10,196	12.6
6-9 months	11,454	13.9	10,999	13.2	10,952	13.5	5,661	7.0
9-12 months	8,881	10.8	7,324	8.8	7,655	9.4	9,424	11.7
12-15 months	6,617	8.0	5,953	7.1	5,966	7.3	7,129	8.8
15-18 months	5,267	6.4	4,665	5.6	4,471	5.5	5,601	6.9
18 months or more	13,726	16.6	17,921	21.4	16,688	20.5	23,896	29.6

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 December 2020, there were 5,818 children in the care of Tusla, the Child and Family Agency.
- The number of children in the care of Tusla decreased by 2.6% between 2018 and 2020 (see *Table 144*).
- Overall 4.9 per 1,000 children were in care in 2020 (see *Table 144*).
- More children (65.7%) were in general foster care in 2020 than in any other type of placement (see *Table 144*).
- A greater proportion (51.3%) of those in care were male (see *Table 144*).

Table 144. Number, percentage, and rate per 1,000 of children in the care of Tusla, by age, gender, and type of placement (2018 - 2020)

	2018			2019			2020		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
Total	5,974	100.0	5.5	5,951	100.0	5.0	5,818	100.0	4.9
Age									
0 - 4	820	13.7	2.6	795	13.4	2.5	742	12.8	2.4
5 - 9	1,634	27.4	4.6	1,625	27.3	4.6	1,587	27.3	4.6
10 - 14	1,997	33.4	6.0	2,022	34.0	6.0	2,020	34.7	5.8
15 - 17	1,523	25.5	8.0	1,509	25.4	7.8	1,469	25.2	7.5
Gender									
Male	3,061	51.2	5.0	2,943	49.5	4.8	2,982	51.3	4.9
Female	2,913	48.8	5.0	2,861	48.1	4.9	2,836	48.7	4.8
Type of placement									
General foster care	3,957	66.2	3.3	3,924	66.0	3.3	3,822	65.7	3.2
Relative foster care	1,594	26.7	1.3	1,558	26.2	1.3	1,516	26.1	1.3
Residential foster care	346	5.8	0.3	363	6.1	0.3	371	6.4	0.3
Other care placements	77	1.3	0.1	106	1.8	0.1	91	1.6	0.1

Source: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency

- Rates ranged across administrative areas, from 2.7 per 1,000 in Dublin South East/Wicklow, to 10.8 per 1,000 in Dublin City North (see *Table 145*).

**Table 145.** Number and rate (per 1,000) of children in the care of Tusla (2018 - 2020)

	2018		2019		2020	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
All Tusla regions	5,974	5.0	5,951	5.0	5,818	4.9
Tusla Dublin North East	1,391	5.1	1,380	5.0	1,377	5.0
Cavan/Monaghan	156	4.3	157	4.3	154	4.2
Dublin North	322	3.2	330	3.3	340	3.4
Dublin City North	507	11.3	488	10.9	486	10.8
Louth Meath	406	4.4	405	4.4	397	4.3
Tusla Dublin Mid Leinster	1,413	4.1	1,423	4.2	1,334	3.9
Dublin South Central	361	5.5	369	5.6	362	5.5
Dublin South East/ Wicklow	273	3.1	261	3.0	231	2.7
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	400	3.7	422	3.9	402	3.7
Midlands	379	4.7	371	4.6	339	4.2
Tusla South	1,731	5.8	1,731	5.8	1,682	5.6
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	347	5.5	344	5.5	328	5.2
Cork	781	5.8	781	5.8	772	5.8
Kerry	164	4.7	166	4.8	153	4.4
Waterford/Wexford	439	6.4	440	6.4	429	6.3
Tusla West	1,439	5.2	1,417	5.2	1,425	5.2
Donegal	214	5.0	210	4.9	220	5.1
Galway/Roscommon	398	5.0	366	4.6	378	4.7
Mayo	124	3.9	131	4.1	130	4.1
Midwest	595	6.2	599	6.2	582	6.0
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	108	4.6	111	4.7	115	4.9

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 2020, there were 486 admissions of children to psychiatric hospitals/units and child and adolescent units.
- Overall, 40.4 per 100,000 children were admitted to psychiatric/units and child and adolescent units in 2020 (see *Table 146*).
- 76.7% of children admitted to psychiatric hospitals/units and child and adolescent units in 2020 were aged 15-17 (see *Table 146*).
- 28% of children admitted to psychiatric hospitals/units and child and adolescent units were male and the remaining 72% were female (see *Table 146*).
- Among children, 'depressive disorders' (33.7%) followed by 'neuroses' (30.5%) were the most common reason for admission to hospitals/units and child and adolescent units (see *Table 146*).

Table 146. Number, percentage and rate (per 100,000) of admissions to psychiatric hospitals/units and child and adolescent units by age, gender, and diagnosis (2016-2020)

	2016	2017	2018	2019		2020			
	No.	No.	No.	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
Total	506	441	408	497	100	41.3	486	100.0	40.4
Age									
0 - 4	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
5 - 9	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
10 - 14	109	84	65	84	16.9	24.6	113	23.3	32.3
15 - 17	396	357	343	413	83.1	212.7	373	76.7	190.6
Gender									
Male	181	178	152	175	35.2	28.5	136	28.0	22.2
Female	325	263	256	322	64.8	54.7	350	72.0	59.8
Diagnosis									
Alcoholic disorders	2	2	0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
Depressive disorders	176	139	130	179	36.0	14.9	164	33.7	13.7
Drug dependence	14	15	7	15	3.0	1.2	7	1.4	0.6
Mania	16	22	18	16	3.2	1.3	25	5.1	2.1
Mental handicap	0	2	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
Neuroses	113	107	96	126	25.4	10.5	148	30.5	12.3
Organic psychoses	16	4	1	6	1.2	0.5	7	1.4	0.6
Other psychoses	68	44	43	57	11.5	4.7	42	8.6	3.5
Personality disorders	33	17	17	42	8.5	3.5	26	5.3	2.2
Schizophrenia	15	15	13	14	2.8	1.2	8	1.6	0.7
Unspecified	53	74	82	42	8.5	3.5	59	12.1	4.9

Source: Health Research Board



- The rate of admission of children to psychiatric hospitals/units and child and adolescent units was highest in Westmeath (110.2 admissions per 100,000 children) and lowest in Monaghan (0 admissions per 100,000 children) (see *Table 147*).

Table 147. Number and rate (per 100,000) of admissions to psychiatric hospitals/units and child and adolescent units, by county of residence (2020)

	No. of children	Rate
State	486	40.4
County		
Carlow	<5	20.2
Cavan	16	76.1
Clare	10	32.7
Cork	33	29.4
Donegal	10	23.8
Dublin	190	62.3
Galway	15	31.2
Kerry	24	69.5
Kildare	29	46.1
Kilkenny	<5	7.7
Laois	6	24.7
Leitrim	6	73.3
Limerick	10	21.2
Longford	<5	35.7
Louth	11	31.4
Mayo	8	25.0
Meath	11	19.3
Monaghan	0	0.0
Offaly	10	47.3
Roscommon	<5	18.4
Sligo	6	37.6
Tipperary	15	36.8
Waterford	8	27.3
Westmeath	26	110.2
Wexford	9	23.0
Wicklow	21	55.2

*Rates based on county populations at Census 2016

Source: Health Research Board

STATE OF
THE NATION'S
CHILDREN



APPENDICES





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, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Database was an administrative data source managed by the Department of Children Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth 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.

Note: *Table 121* was not included in the 2020 edition of SONC.

Education Statistics Database: Department of Education

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

- 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. 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.

'**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.

Changes were introduced in the 2020 SILC survey and therefore 2020 represents a break in series for the survey. These changes include changes to income definition, private household definition, income reference period, collection and processing methods and weighting and calibration methods. For further information see

<https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/in/silc/informationnote-breakintimeseriessilc2020/>

Note: However, all data presented in Table 122 and Table 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.

Note: *Table 137* The large decrease in this metric between 2019 and 2020 is a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.



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:

- 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
- Hib_b - 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
- MenC_b - 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
- PCV_b - 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 (Hib_b) 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.



Age	Children born before 1 July 2008	Children born on or after 1 July 2008	
Birth	BCG	BCG	
2 Months	DTaP/Hib/IPV + MenC	DTaP/Hib/IPV/HepB + PCV	
4 Months	DTaP/Hib/IPV + MenC	DTaP/Hib/IPV/HepB + MenC	
6 Months	DTaP/Hib/IPV + MenC	DTaP/Hib/IPV/HepB + PCV + MenC	
12 Months	MMR + Hib	MMR + PCV	
13 Months	-	MenC + Hib	
Please see www.immunisation.ie for complete information on the Irish childhood immunisation schedule and the immunisation guidelines for Ireland.			
KEY:			
BCG	Bacillus Calmette-Guerin vaccine	IPV	Inactive Polio Virus vaccine
DTaP	Diphtheria, Tetanus and acellular Pertussis vaccine	MMR	Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccine
Hib	<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b vaccine	MenC	Meningococcal group C vaccine
HepB	Hepatitis B vaccine	PCV	Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine

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 Ability Support System: Health Research Board

The National Ability Support System (NASS) is an administrative data source managed by the Health Research Board. NASS is a national database that records information about disability-funded services that are received or required as a result of an intellectual disability, developmental delay, physical, sensory, neurological, learning, autism spectrum or speech/language disability. Mental health as a type of disability is also recorded on NASS where an individual is in receipt of a disability-funded service. The purpose of NASS is to gather information to aid the planning, development and organisation of disability funded services. NASS began collecting data in September 2019 following several years of development and consultation with the Health Service Executive (HSE), Department of Health (DoH) and disability service providers. NASS replaces two disability databases - the National Intellectual Disability Database (NIDD) and the National Physical and Sensory Disability Database (NPSDD). The NIDD and NPSDD were decommissioned in January 2018.

The following indicators draw on data from this source:

- Children and young people having an intellectual disability



National Intellectual Disability Database: Health Research Board

The National Intellectual Disability Database (NIDD) was 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 a new integrated system called NASS (National Ability Supports System, see above) which went live in January 2019.

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 a new integrated system called NASS (National Ability Supports System) which went live in January 2019.

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 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.

Note: Table 110 was missing from the 2020 edition of SONC.

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 12 months who have had their 9-11 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;

Note:

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 Síochana

The Annual Report of the Committee Appointed to Monitor the Effectiveness of the Diversion Programme is published by An Garda Síochana. 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, Local Government, and Heritage

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 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: EU Country Classifications



EU-27

The EU-27 countries are: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

EU-28

The EU-28 (including the United Kingdom), and the EU-27 (excluding the United Kingdom) are used in different sections of SONC according to the most recently available data.



Appendix 3: 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
				Mayo
IE05	Southern	IE051	Mid-West	Roscommon
				Clare
				Tipperary
		IE052	South East	Limerick
				Waterford
				Kilkenny
				Carlow
IE053	South-West	Wexford		
		Cork		
IE06	Eastern & Midland	IE061	Dublin	Kerry
		IE062	Mid-East	Dublin
				Wicklow
				Kildare
				Meath
		IE063	Midlands	Louth
				Longford
				Westmeath
Offaly				
				Laois

STATE OF THE NATION'S CHILDREN



An Roinn Leanáí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth