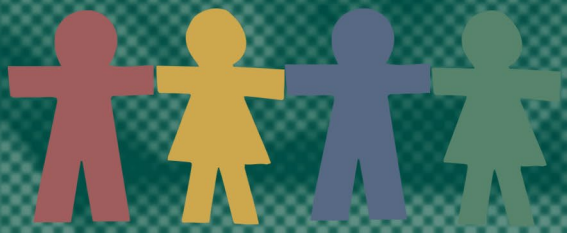
DATA + ANALYTICS

STATE OF THE NATION'S CHILDREN 2022



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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 the 16th December 2022.

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.

Since 2020, DCEDIY has 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 Data and Analytics 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 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 and the Census of the Population (Central Statistics Office).

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, education 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), Summary of Social Housing Assessments (The Housing Agency), and Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) surveys.

STATE OF THE NATION'S CHILDREN

1. SOCIODEMOGRAPHICS

Contents

Key findings

- In 2022, it is estimated that there were 1,201,618 children living in Ireland. This accounted for 23.6% of the total population (see Table 1).
- In 2020, 278 children died in Ireland. This equated to an overall mortality rate of 2.32 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 2022, it is estimated that there were 1,201,618 children living in Ireland. This accounted for 23.6% of the total.
- Of the total child population in 2022, it is estimated that 614,835 were male and 586,783 were female (see *Table 1*).

Table 1. Number of children, by age and gender (2022)

	Male	Female	Both sexes
Population under 18	614,835	586,783	1,201,618
All ages	2,517,525	2,582,704	5,100,229
Age			
Under 1 year	31,281	29,746	61,027
1 year	28,834	27,341	56,175
2 years	30,279	28,866	59,145
3 years	31,718	30,612	62,330
4 years	32,056	30,977	63,033
5 years	33,576	32,083	65,659
6 years	32,780	31,226	64,006
7 years	33,683	31,967	65,650
8 years	34,924	32,996	67,920
9 years	35,674	34,033	69,707
10 years	37,023	35,362	72,385
11 years	37,540	36,186	73,726
12 years	37,798	36,033	73,831
13 years	37,582	35,910	73,492
14 years	37,234	35,634	72,868
15 years	34,993	33,466	68,459
16 years	33,968	32,513	66,481
17 years	33,892	31,832	65,724

Source: Population and Migration Estimates (CSO)

- The percentage of the population under 18 decreased from 34.7% in 1986 to an estimated 23.6% in 2022 (see *Table 2*).
- Between 2016 and 2022, it is estimated that the number of children increased by 0.93%, from 1,190,502 to 1,201,618. In the 36 year period between 1986 and 2022, it is estimated that the number of children decreased by 2.3%, from 1,230,150 to 1,201,618.

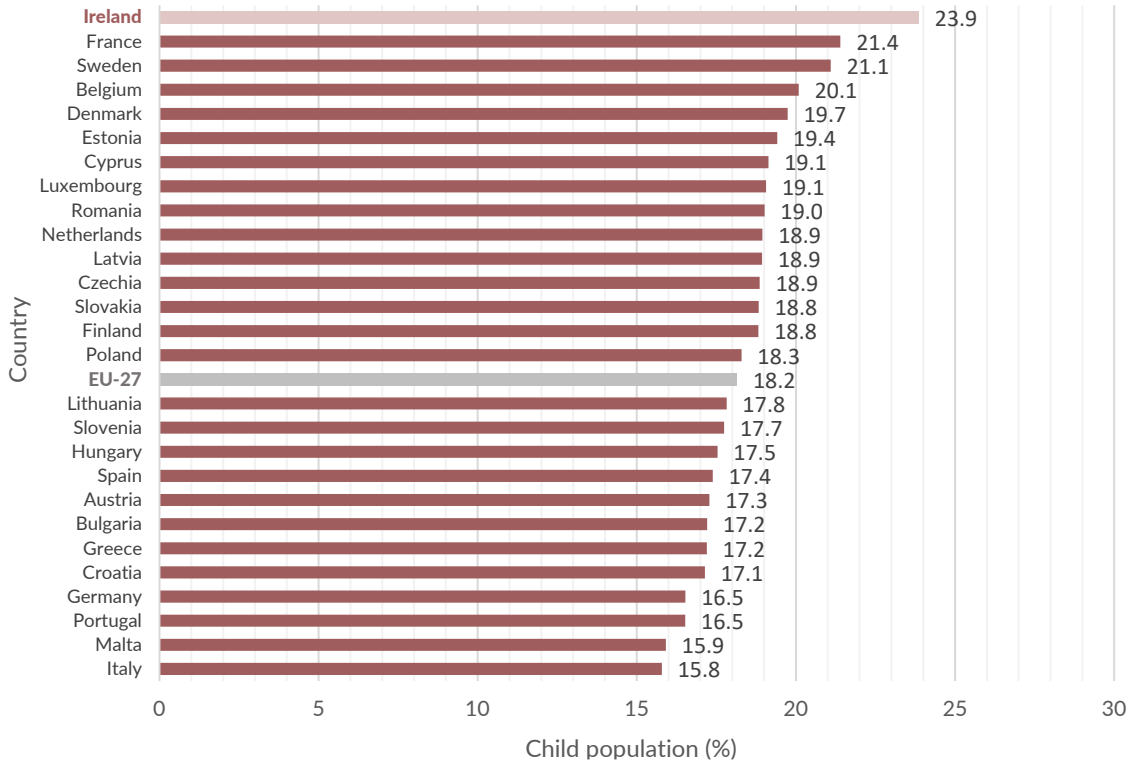
Table 2. Number and percentage of population under 18, by gender (1986–2022)

	Male	% of all males	Female	% of all females	Total	% of all ages
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	607,984	25.9	580,503	24.3	1,188,487	25.1
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
2022	614,835	24.4	586,783	22.7	1,201,618	23.6

Source: Census of the Population and Population and Migration Estimates

- In 2021, Ireland had the highest estimated proportion of children in the European Union (23.9%). The EU-27 average was 18.2%.

Figure 1. Child population as a percentage of total population, by EU-27 country (2021)



Source: Eurostat

Table 3. Number of children, by age and EU-27 country (2021)

		Under 5 years		5–9 years		10–14 years		15–17 years		
	Population	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	% under 18
EU-27	447,207,489	10,885,103	10,345,114	11,520,215	10,921,218	12,154,270	11,517,315	7,117,248	6,720,772	18.2
Country										
Austria	8,932,664	222,842	210,913	220,987	207,313	217,206	206,227	132,829	125,569	17.3
Belgium	11,554,767	306,517	293,728	335,723	320,633	347,250	331,586	198,390	187,385	20.1
Bulgaria	6,916,548	161,441	152,929	173,538	163,752	178,487	168,867	98,457	93,075	17.2
Croatia	4,036,355	93,094	88,456	98,610	92,382	103,861	98,484	60,104	56,858	17.1
Cyprus	896,007	24,397	23,215	25,158	23,494	24,346	23,093	13,966	13,807	19.1
Czechia	10,701,777	290,444	276,818	285,498	271,459	304,995	290,527	153,545	145,323	18.9
Denmark	5,840,045	159,224	150,626	153,879	146,481	173,946	164,628	104,263	99,948	19.7
Estonia	1,330,068	36,215	34,106	36,619	34,872	39,317	37,342	20,366	19,390	19.4
Finland	5,533,793	126,209	120,783	153,934	147,016	160,031	152,888	92,238	88,427	18.8
France	67,656,682	1,846,782	1,771,709	2,075,993	1,989,397	2,186,725	2,085,962	1,293,439	1,226,859	21.4
Germany	83,155,031	2,036,084	1,933,054	1,944,171	1,839,397	1,916,110	1,808,984	1,167,030	1,099,114	16.5
Greece	10,678,632	232,962	221,004	256,724	242,916	286,211	270,919	170,141	156,071	17.2
Hungary	9,730,772	241,553	228,350	235,461	222,548	250,542	238,779	148,954	140,498	17.5
Ireland	**5,006,324**	**155,762**	**149,311**	**173,176**	**164,974**	**182,865**	**174,327**	**99,535**	**94,840**	**23.9**
Italy	59,236,213	1,138,845	1,077,665	1,326,061	1,252,279	1,463,873	1,377,822	884,683	829,885	15.8
Latvia	1,893,223	50,997	47,398	53,160	49,792	52,031	49,600	28,621	26,935	18.9
Lithuania	2,795,680	72,172	67,980	75,000	71,291	69,503	66,422	38,880	37,070	17.8
Luxembourg	634,730	16,900	16,355	17,641	16,618	17,291	16,590	10,274	9,325	19.1
Malta	516,100	12,184	11,317	12,348	11,434	11,403	10,626	6,549	6,269	15.9
Netherlands	17,475,415	439,516	418,110	461,357	438,470	488,746	465,532	307,008	292,483	18.9
Poland	37,840,001	978,526	926,796	979,042	925,737	1,049,403	997,556	546,430	518,964	18.3
Portugal	10,298,252	222,839	213,195	227,582	217,124	255,492	246,396	162,926	156,133	16.5
Romania	19,201,662	521,481	493,753	491,575	465,014	542,113	513,007	321,904	302,484	19.0
Slovakia	5,459,781	151,050	143,932	148,703	141,292	145,175	138,142	82,175	77,704	18.8
Slovenia	2,108,977	51,230	48,119	56,155	52,767	56,285	53,175	29,019	27,460	17.7
Spain	47,398,695	989,957	936,296	1,182,657	1,111,874	1,310,725	1,227,805	764,384	718,429	17.4
Sweden	10,379,295	305,880	289,196	319,463	300,892	320,338	302,029	181,138	170,467	21.1

Source: Eurostat

Child mortality

Measure: The number of deaths of children

- In 2020, 278 children died in Ireland. This equated to an overall mortality rate of 2.32 per 10,000 children.
- 64.0% 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 (2016–2020)

	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Total	304	2.56	296	2.48	301	2.51	284	2.36	278	2.32
Age										
Under 1 year	208	33.44	188	29.40	187	30.39	167	27.20	178	30.51
1–4 years	29	1.08	31	1.19	27	1.05	27	1.06	25	1.00
5–9 years	12	0.34	27	0.75	19	0.53	31	0.88	22	0.64
10–14 years	22	0.69	18	0.56	35	1.05	23	0.67	23	0.66
15–17 years	33	1.80	32	1.72	33	1.73	36	1.85	30	1.53

Source: Vital Statistics (CSO)

- The mortality rate was higher for boys (2.51 per 10,000) than for girls (2.12). The mortality rates have consistently been higher for boys than girls over the period 2016–2020.

Table 5. Number and rate (per 10,000) of deaths of children, by gender (2016–2020)

	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Total	304	2.56	296	2.48	301	2.51	284	2.36	278	2.32
Sex										
Male	174	2.86	152	2.49	160	2.61	170	2.76	154	2.51
Female	130	2.24	144	2.47	141	2.40	114	1.94	124	2.12

Source: Vital Statistics (CSO)

- In 2020, the largest single cause of child deaths was congenital malformations, followed by certain conditions in the perinatal period.

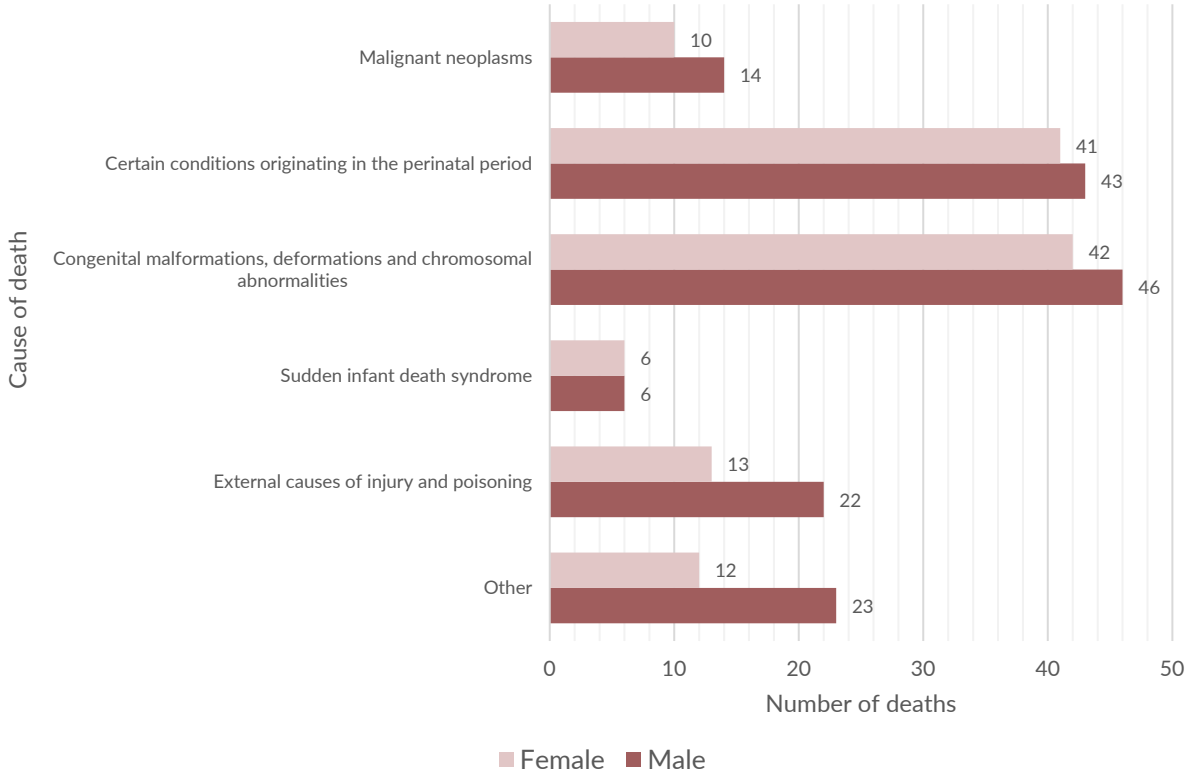
Table 6. Number of deaths of children, by cause of death and age (2020)

	< 1	1–4	5–9	10–14	15–17	< 18
Total	178	25	22	23	30	278
Main cause of death						
Malignant neoplasms	3	6	5	4	6	24
Certain conditions in the perinatal period	84	0	0	0	0	84
Congenital malformations	73	7	4	1	3	88
Sudden infant death syndrome	12	0	0	0	0	12
External causes of injury and poisoning	1	3	5	9	17	35
Other causes of death	5	9	8	9	4	35

Source: Vital Statistics (CSO)

- In 2020, the infant mortality rate across the EU-27 ranged from 1.4 per 1,000 in Estonia to 5.6 per 1,000 in Romania (see *Table 7*). The infant mortality rate in Ireland was 3.0 per 1,000. This was below the EU-27 average of 3.3.
- In 2020, the child mortality rate in the EU-27 was higher for boys than for girls in all age groups (see *Table 8*). Child mortality rates were also substantially higher for children under 5 years than for any other age group.

Figure 2. Number of deaths of children, by gender and cause of death (2020)



Source: Vital Statistics (CSO)

Table 7. Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births), by EU-27 country (1990–2020)

	1990	2000	2010	2020
EU-27	10.7	6.0	4.0	3.3
Country				
Austria	7.8	4.8	3.9	3.1
Belgium	8.0	4.8	3.6	3.3
Bulgaria	14.8	13.3	9.4	5.1
Croatia	10.7	7.4	4.4	4.0
Cyprus	12.9	5.6	3.2	2.1
Czechia	10.8	4.1	2.7	2.3
Denmark	7.5	5.3	3.4	3.2
Estonia	12.3	8.4	3.3	1.4
Finland	5.6	3.8	2.3	1.8
France	7.3	4.5	3.6	3.6
Germany	7.0	4.4	3.4	3.1
Greece	9.7	5.9	3.8	3.2
Hungary	14.8	9.2	5.3	3.4
Ireland	**8.2**	**6.2**	**3.6**	**3.0**
Italy	8.1	4.3	3.0	2.4
Latvia	13.7	10.3	5.6	3.5
Lithuania	10.2	8.6	5.0	2.8
Luxembourg	7.3	5.1	3.4	4.5
Malta	9.1	5.2	5.6	3.9
Netherlands	7.1	5.1	3.8	3.8
Poland	19.4	8.1	5.0	3.6
Portugal	10.9	5.5	2.5	2.4
Romania	26.9	18.6	9.8	5.6
Slovakia	12.0	8.6	5.7	5.1
Slovenia	8.4	4.9	2.5	2.2
Spain	7.6	4.4	3.2	2.6
Sweden	6.0	3.4	2.5	2.4

Source: Eurostat

Table 8. Rate (per 10,000) of deaths of children, by age, gender, and EU-27 country (2020)

		Under 5 years		5–9 years		10–14 years		15–17 years	
	Total	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
EU-27	2.6	7.8	6.4	0.8	0.6	1.0	0.7	2.3	1.3
Country									
Austria	2.8	7.5	6.4	0.8	0.5	1.2	0.6	3.4	1.3
Belgium	2.5	7.2	6.6	0.9	0.5	0.8	1.1	1.4	1.6
Bulgaria	4.3	11.9	10.3	1.5	0.6	1.9	1.8	4.2	1.8
Croatia	3.3	10.3	7.7	0.6	1.1	0.9	0.8	3.7	1.8
Cyprus	1.9	5.8	4.6	1.2	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.7	0.0
Czechia	2.2	6.4	4.2	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.8	2.2	1.7
Denmark	2.5	8.0	5.6	1.0	0.4	1.0	0.6	1.8	1.3
Estonia	2.0	4.4	3.0	1.1	0.8	1.0	1.0	3.1	2.6
Finland	1.9	4.9	3.2	0.6	0.2	0.8	0.7	3.8	2.4
France	2.8	9.0	7.3	0.8	0.5	1.0	0.7	2.3	1.0
Germany	2.6	7.3	6.4	0.8	0.5	0.8	0.6	2.0	1.0
Greece	2.3	7.8	5.8	0.9	0.3	0.8	0.4	1.5	1.6
Hungary	2.9	9.0	6.8	1.1	0.6	0.9	0.5	3.0	0.9
Ireland	**2.1**	**6.1**	**5.8**	**1.0**	**0.3**	**0.7**	**0.4**	**1.6**	**1.2**
Italy	1.8	5.4	4.4	0.6	0.5	0.9	0.6	1.7	1.0
Latvia	3.3	8.6	6.4	1.4	0.8	1.3	1.1	5.4	1.8
Lithuania	2.9	6.4	5.1	2.4	0.4	1.0	1.0	4.6	2.6
Luxembourg	3.1	8.3	8.9	1.7	0.6	0.0	0.0	1.0	4.0
Malta	2.9	7.3	8.1	1.7	0.0	1.8	0.9	0.0	1.5
Netherlands	2.8	9.2	7.3	0.6	0.5	1.0	0.8	1.7	1.2
Poland	3.0	8.5	6.5	0.9	0.6	1.0	1.0	3.3	1.6
Portugal	2.2	6.1	5.4	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.8	2.1	1.4
Romania	4.9	13.7	12.1	1.7	1.2	2.2	1.2	4.2	1.9
Slovakia	4.5	12.9	10.1	1.6	1.0	1.3	1.0	4.4	2.4
Slovenia	1.7	5.4	3.7	0.4	0.9	0.7	0.4	1.4	0.7
Spain	1.8	5.8	4.5	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.6	1.4	1.1
Sweden	2.1	5.9	4.4	0.6	0.4	1.1	0.6	2.8	1.1

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)

	No.	% of all children
All children	196,008	16.5
Population group		
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						
Under 5 years	22,273	13.1	21,362	13.2	43,635	13.2
5–9 years	28,113	15.5	26,962	15.5	55,075	15.5
10–14 years	30,402	18.6	29,115	18.7	59,517	18.6
15–17 years	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 8.0% 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)

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

Table 12. Percentage of children, by population group and educational attainment of mother (2016)

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

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 4 and under.

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

	0–4	5–9	10–14	15–17	All children
Highest level of education attained by mother					
Primary or 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)

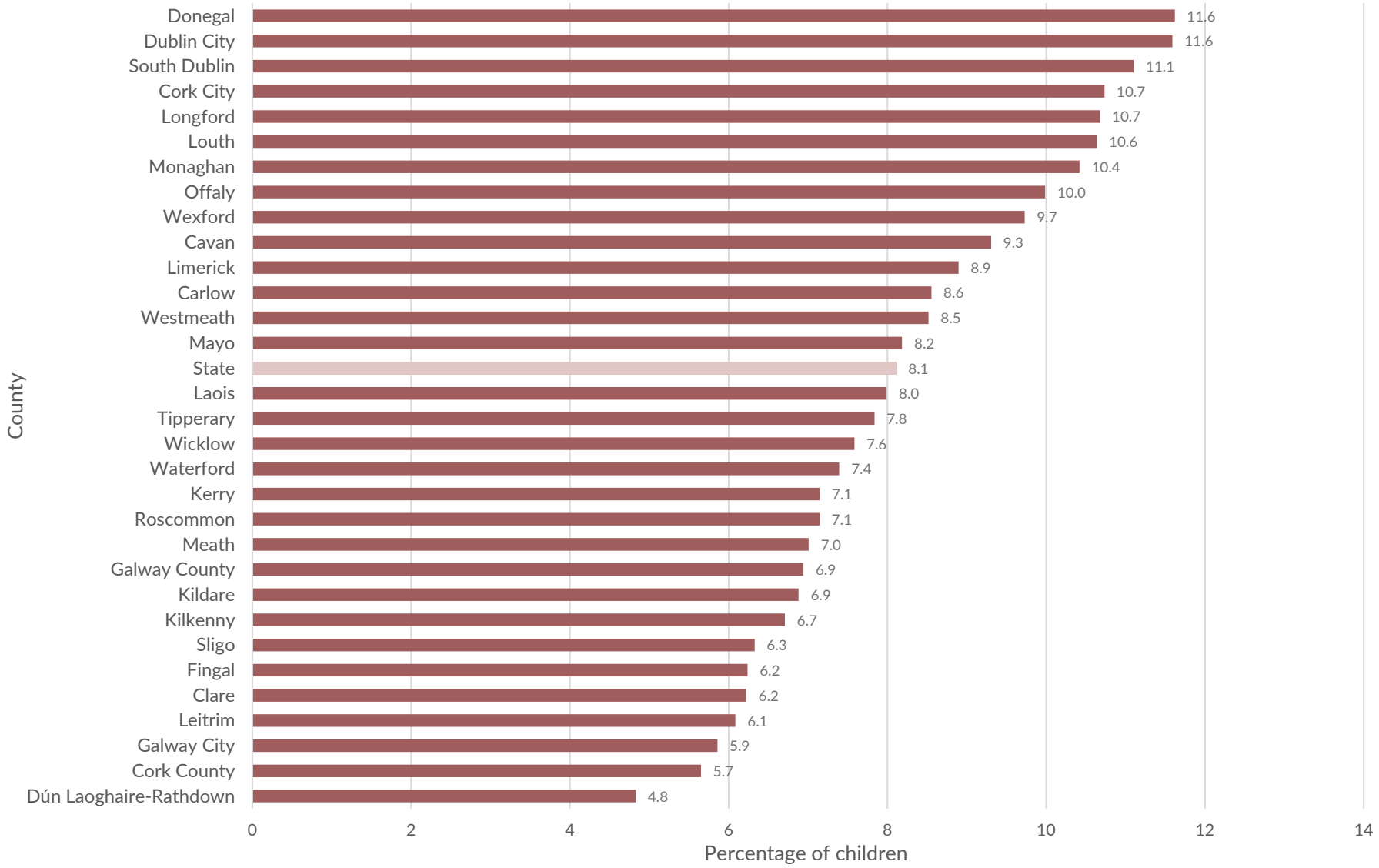
- The percentage of children whose mother had either no formal education or a primary education only ranged from 4.8% in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown to 11.6% in Donegal and Dublin City.

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

	Primary or no formal education	Lower secondary	Upper secondary	Third-level degree or higher	Other/not stated	Total
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*).

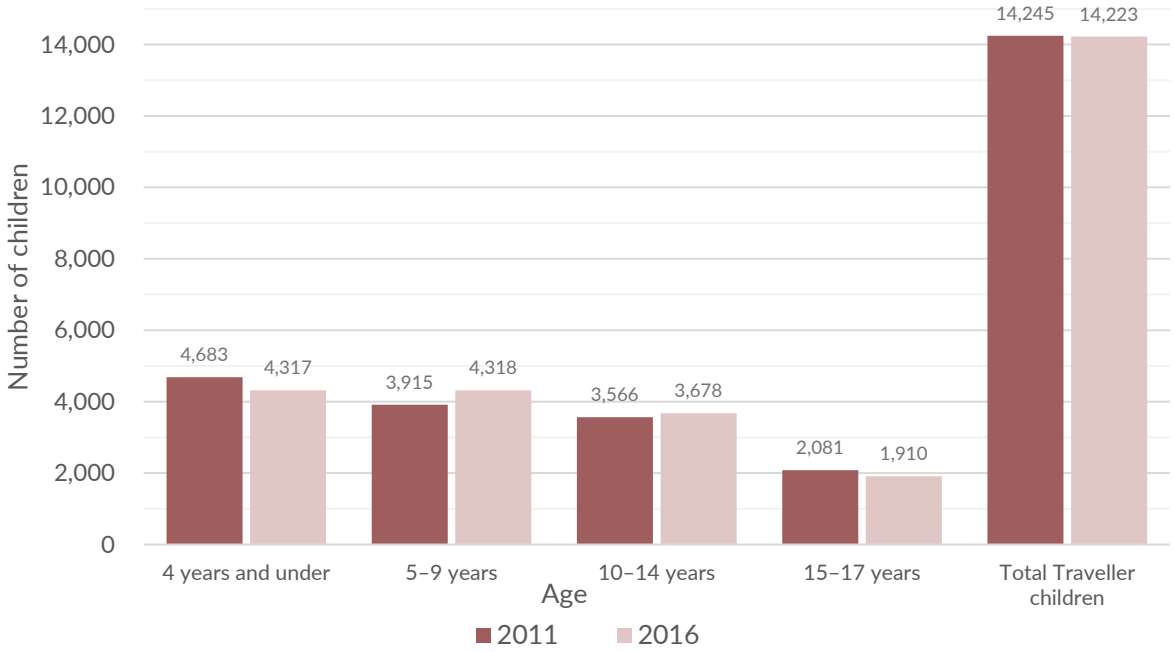
Table 15. Number of Traveller children, by age and gender (2016)

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

Source: Census of the Population (CSO)

- The number of Traveller children changed marginally, from 14,245 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 (2011–2016)



Source: Census of the Population (CSO)

- Overall 11.9 children per 1,000 were Travellers. Rates ranged from 3.7 per 1,000 in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown to 48.3 per 1,000 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	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	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*).

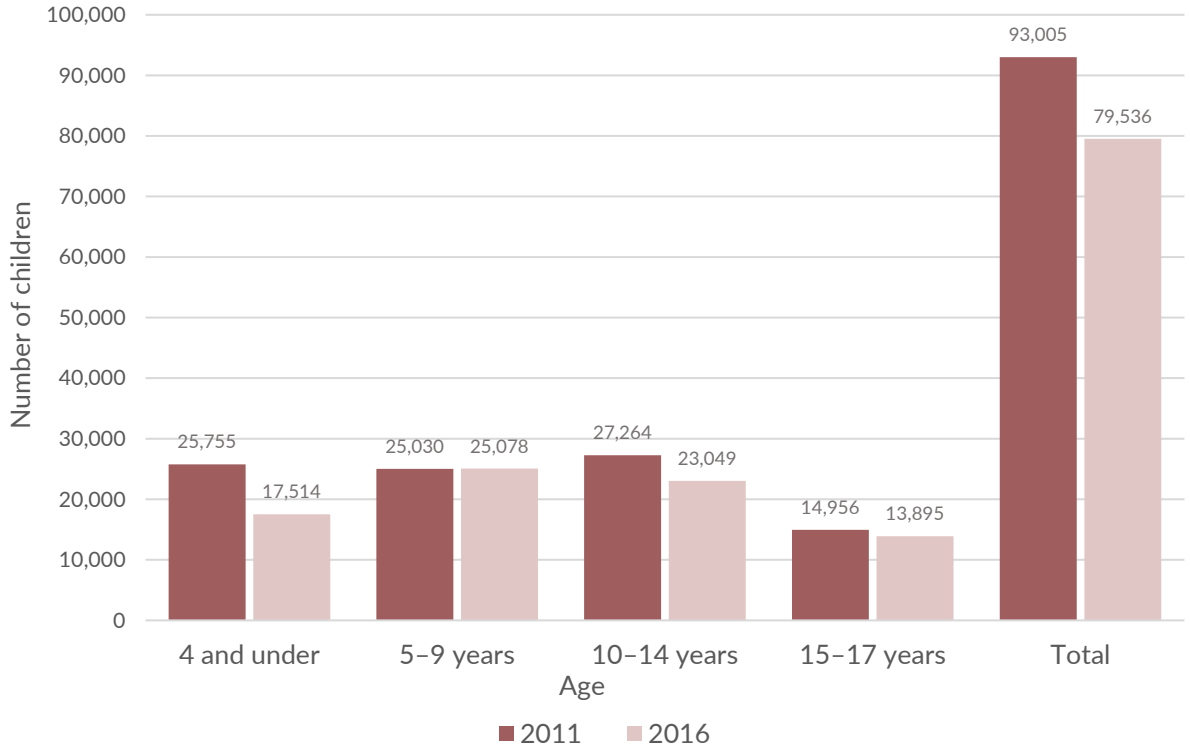
Table 17. Number of foreign national children, by age and gender (2016)

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

Source: Census of the Population (CSO)

- The number of foreign national children decreased by 15.1%, from 93,005 in 2011, to 79,536 in 2016 (see *Figure 5*).

Figure 5. Number of foreign national children, by age (2011–2016)



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
Administrative 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, and 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			
Under 5 years	5,982	3,896	9,878
5–9 years	14,964	7,887	22,851
10–14 years	16,517	9,840	26,357
15–17 years	9,559	7,318	16,877

Source: Census of the Population (CSO)

- Geographically, rates of children with disability 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
Administrative 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			
Under 5 years	335	352	687
5–9 years	459	489	948
10–14 years	1,081	1,084	2,165
15–17 years	1,097	1,211	2,308

Source: Census of the Population (CSO)

- Geographically, rates of child carers 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
Administrative 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

Contents

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, 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 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 group (2014–2018)

	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 the low social class group (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)

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All children	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						
High	85.1	82.7	83.9	85.1	84.1	84.5
Middle	83.6	81.5	82.5	84.4	81.8	83.1
Low	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*).

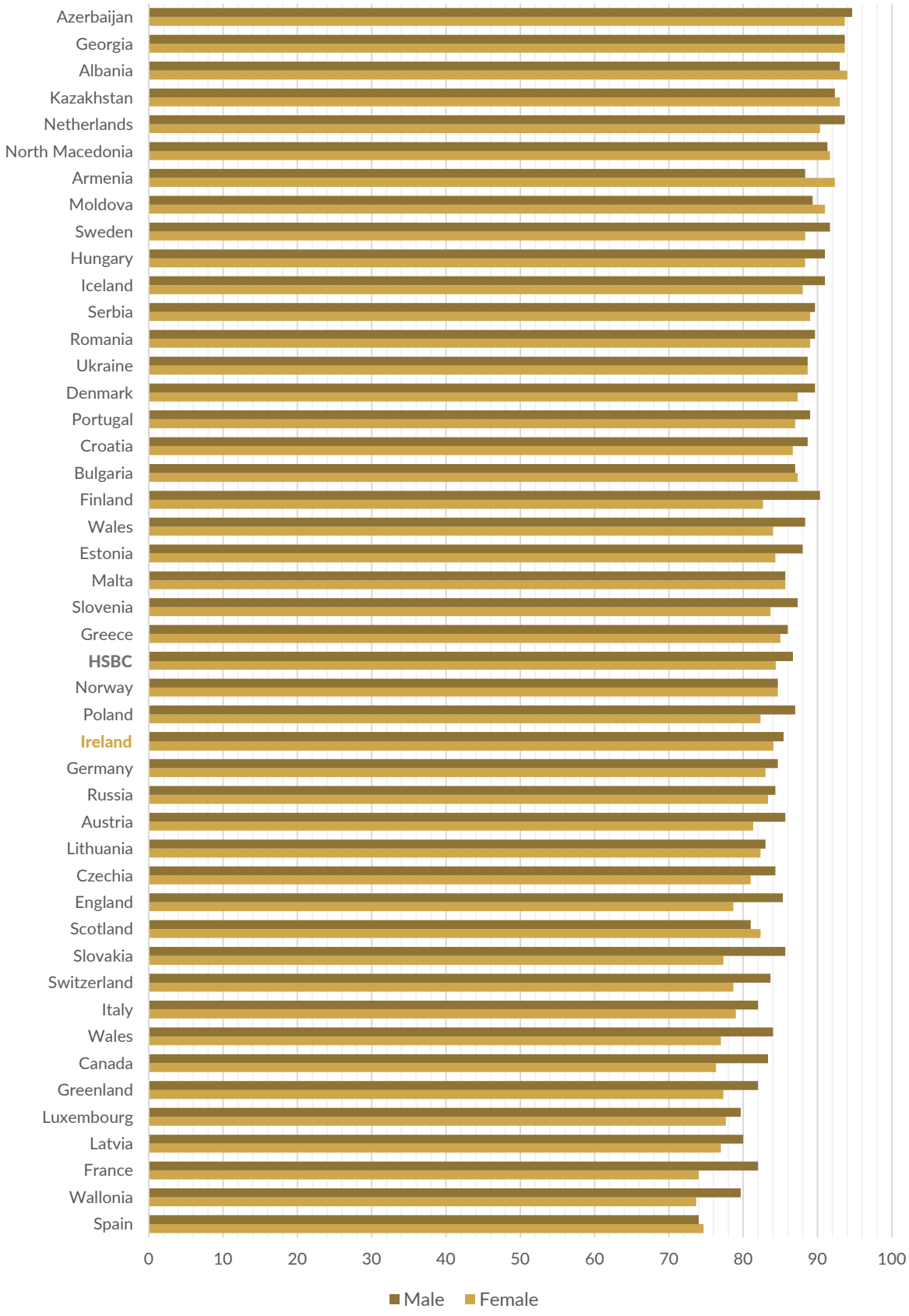
Table 26. Percentage of children aged 10–17 who reported finding it easy to talk to their mother when something is really bothering them, by NUTS region (2014–2018)

	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 45 countries/regions, 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.

Figure 6. Percentage of children aged 11, 13, and 15 who reported finding it easy to talk to their mother, 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 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 group (2014–2018)

	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 the low social class group (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)

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All children	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						
High	76.8	65.6	71.1	75.1	66.9	70.7
Middle	76.6	63.6	70.3	73.2	62.9	67.9
Low	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*).

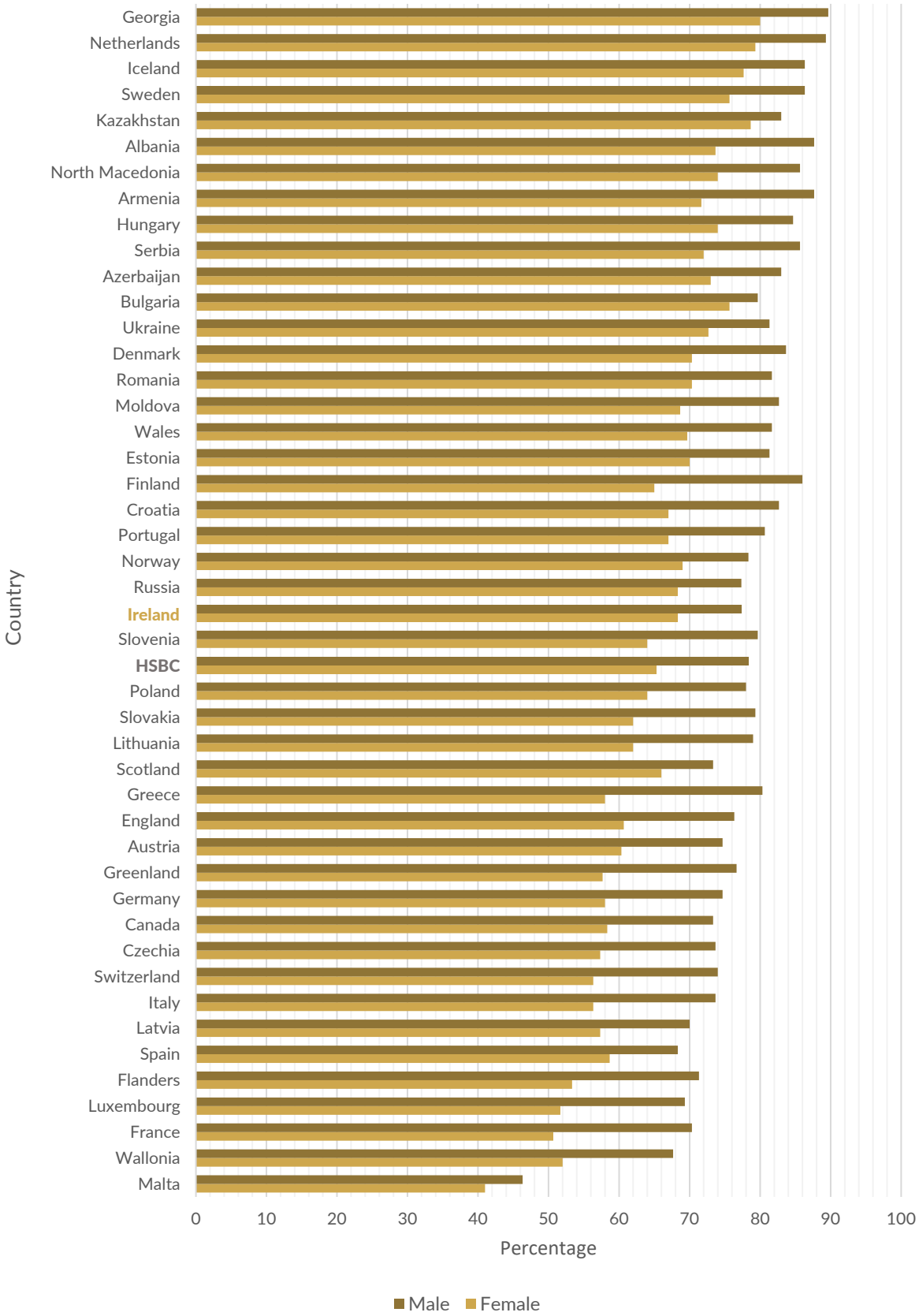
Table 29. Percentage of children aged 10–17 who reported finding it easy to talk to their father when something is really bothering them, by NUTS region (2014–2018)

	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/regions, 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.

Figure 7. Percentage of children aged 11, 13, and 15 who reported finding it easy to talk to their father, by country (2018)



Source: HBSC Survey

Talking to parents

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

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

Table 30. Percentage of children aged 15 who reported that their parents spend time just talking with them several times a week, by population group (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	63.0	71.3	75.2	73.7
Medium	60.2	66.9	72.1	70.2
Low	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 group (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	46.6	55.2	58.7	55.1
Medium	43.6	48.3	57.2	52.5
Low	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 group (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	77.1	79.2	81.0	76.6
Medium	73.6	72.9	75.9	68.9
Low	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, 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 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 group (2014–2018)

	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 the low social class group (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)

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All children	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						
High	88.7	88.7	88.7	90.8	90.6	90.7
Middle	89.2	88.5	88.9	89.8	89.1	89.5
Low	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)

	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 (see *Table 39*).

Table 39. Percentage of children aged 10–17 who reported having a pet of their own or a pet in the family, by population group (2014–2018)

	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 the high social class group (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)

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All children	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						
High	75.2	77.3	76.3	69.2	73.5	71.5
Middle	75.2	75.0	75.1	71.6	74.1	72.8
Low	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)

	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 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 group (2014–2018)

	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 the low social class group (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)

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All children	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						
High	23.3	25.1	24.2	29.6	28.4	28.9
Middle	26.2	28.2	27.2	30.5	34.1	32.3
Low	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*).

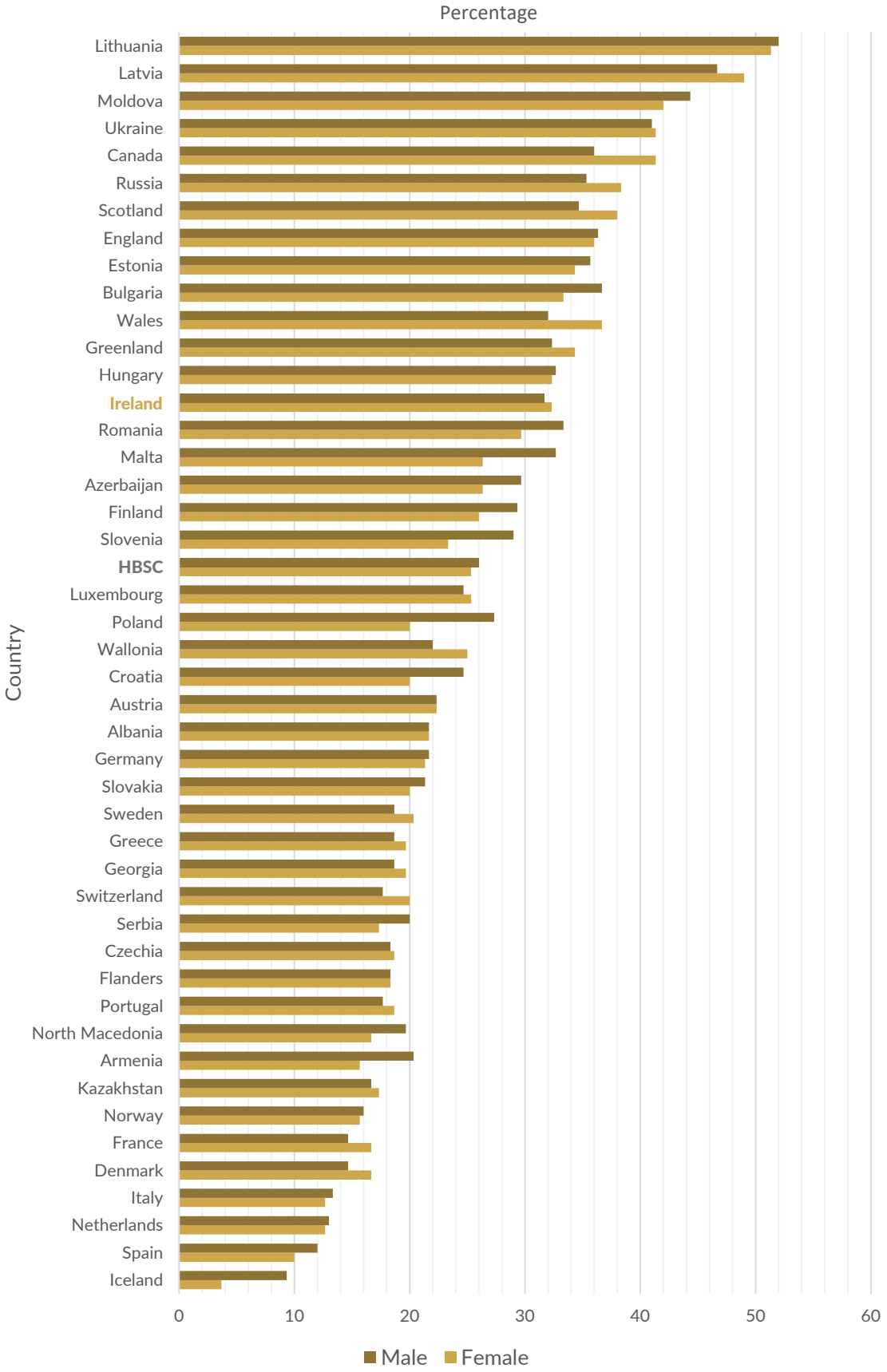
Table 44. Percentage of children aged 10–17 who reported having been bullied at school in the past couple of months, by NUTS region (2014–2018)

	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/regions, 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.

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

Contents

Key findings

- For the 2021/22 pre-school year there were 3,973 pre-school services under contract to deliver the ECCE Programme to 107,778 children. Of these pre-school services, 34.8% met the basic capitation status and 65.2% met the higher capitation status (see Table 45 and Table 46).
- Over the period 2013 to 2017, the percentage of primary school children who were absent from school for 20 days or more increased from 10.4% to 12.1% (see Table 47).
- Over the period 2013 to 2017, the percentage of post-primary school children who were absent from school for 20 days or more declined from 15.4% to 14.6% (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 2020, 5.8% of all babies born were in the low birth weight category (weighing less than 2,500 grams) (see Table 61).
- In 2020, 61.3% of infants were breastfed on being discharged from hospital. This includes 44.2% who were breastfed exclusively and a further 17.1% who were fed using a combination of bottle and breastfeeding (see Table 63).
- In 2021, there were 119,642 hospital discharges of children (see Table 65).

- In 2021, there were 12,241 hospital discharges of children with a principal diagnosis of "injury, poisoning, and certain other consequences of external causes" (see Table 67).
- In 2018, 76.9% of first class children were classified as being in the "normal" weight category according to the International Obesity Taskforce Standards. 15.5% were classified as either "overweight" or "obese" (see Table 69).
- In 2021, there were 4,490 children registered as having an intellectual disability (see Table 70).
- In 2021, there were 2,973 children registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability (see Table 72).
- In 2021 Q4, there were 19,580 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 181 births to mothers aged 10–17, down from 211 in 2017 (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 13 suicides by children aged 10–17, the same figure as in 2013 (see Table 107).
- In 2020, the rate (per 100,000) of children and young people aged 10–24 presenting at a hospital emergency department following self-harm was 375 (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 2021/22 pre-school year there were 3,973 pre-school services under contract to deliver the ECCE Programme to 107,778 children. Of these pre-school services, 34.8% met the basic capitation status and 65.2% met the higher capitation status[1] (see *Table 45* and *Table 46*).
- For the 2021/22 pre-school year, 2,590 of the 3,973 services contracted to deliver the ECCE Programme met the higher capitation status. This represents a 26.5% increase in the number of services meeting higher capitation criteria since the pre-school year 2016/17 (see *Table 45*).

Table 45. Number and percentage of pre-school services under contract to deliver the Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (ECCE) that meet basic and higher capitation criteria (2016–2021)

	ECCE services	Basic capitation		Higher capitation	
	No.	No.	%	No.	%
2016/17	4,284	2,237	52.2	2,047	47.8
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	35.7	2,878	64.3
2020/21	4,023	1,561	38.8	2,462	61.2
2021/22	3,973	1,383	34.8	2,590	65.2

Source: Pobal

- The percentage of pre-school services meeting the higher capitation status ranged from 50.0% in Louth to 88.9% in Carlow (see *Table 46*).

[1] See technical notes in Appendix 1 for details

Table 46. Number and percentage of 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 (2021)

	Children	ECCE services	Basic capitation		Higher capitation	
	No.	No.	No.	%	No.	%
Total	107,778	3,973	1,383	34.8	2,590	65.2
Administrative county						
Carlow	1,302	45	5	11.1	40	88.9
Cavan	1,971	66	19	28.8	47	71.2
Clare	2,704	125	49	39.2	76	60.8
Cork City	10,249	344	95	27.6	249	72.4
Cork County	2,526	82	17	20.7	65	79.3
Donegal	3,694	141	64	45.4	77	54.6
Dublin City	9,182	363	162	44.6	201	55.4
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	4,437	167	59	35.3	108	64.7
Fingal	7,582	269	107	39.8	162	60.2
South Dublin	6,222	203	80	39.4	123	60.6
Galway County	6,163	252	111	44.0	141	56.0
Kerry	3,170	121	42	34.7	79	65.3
Kildare	5,880	175	52	29.7	123	70.3
Kilkenny	2,136	85	21	24.7	64	75.3
Laois	2,234	78	27	34.6	51	65.4
Leitrim	730	30	9	30.0	21	70.0
Limerick	4,438	164	60	36.6	104	63.4
Longford	956	33	10	30.3	23	69.7
Louth	2,970	108	54	50.0	54	50.0
Mayo	2,849	120	43	35.8	77	64.2
Meath	5,408	176	49	27.8	127	72.2
Monaghan	1,545	60	10	16.7	50	83.3
Offaly	1,778	61	24	39.3	37	60.7
Roscommon	1,303	53	15	28.3	38	71.7
Sligo	1,554	66	22	33.3	44	66.7
Tipperary	3,726	155	55	35.5	100	64.5
Waterford	2,571	90	32	35.6	58	64.4
Westmeath	2,345	75	31	41.3	44	58.7
Wexford	3,558	124	22	17.7	102	82.3
Wicklow	3,499	142	37	26.1	105	73.9

Source: Pobal

Primary school attendance

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

- Over the period 2013 to 2017, the percentage of primary school children who were absent from school for 20 days or more increased from 10.4% to 12.1% (see *Table 47*).

Table 47. Percentage of primary school children 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[2] (23.1%).

Table 48. Average percentage of primary school 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
DEIS status					
Rural, not in School Support Programme	6.2	6.7	7.3	7.1	7.4
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.

[2] See here for details of the DEIS programme

Table 49. Average percentage of primary school 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	11.7	13.3	11.3	13.8
Cavan	8.2	9.3	9.1	9.3	9.8
Clare	8.2	9.3	10.6	10.0	10.4
Cork	8.4	9.3	10.5	10.9	10.8
Donegal	6.3	7.7	7.9	7.6	8.0
Dublin	12.0	15.2	16.5	15.6	15.6
Galway	8.5	9.5	11.4	10.0	10.0
Kerry	9.5	11.1	11.6	10.8	11.3
Kildare	9.7	10.7	11.7	11.2	12.1
Kilkenny	6.0	7.6	8.3	8.4	9.6
Laois	9.5	11.1	11.2	11.9	13.0
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	12.0	12.6	13.7
Louth	10.5	11.9	13.0	12.9	12.7
Mayo	7.7	8.1	9.5	9.0	10.2
Meath	7.6	8.9	9.7	9.3	9.5
Monaghan	5.5	6.1	7.0	6.7	6.8
Offaly	9.2	10.6	11.0	10.8	12.2
Roscommon	7.7	9.1	9.1	8.9	9.3
Sligo	8.0	8.9	9.7	9.1	10.0
Tipperary	7.4	8.1	9.7	9.1	9.2
Waterford	8.7	9.1	11.1	11.0	10.4
Westmeath	8.8	11.1	11.8	11.7	12.2
Wexford	9.7	9.8	11.0	10.6	12.0
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 2017, 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 school children 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 school children	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 for 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 school 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 schools	5.3	25.3	23.4	22.8	23.6
Non-DEIS schools	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 school 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	18.0
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

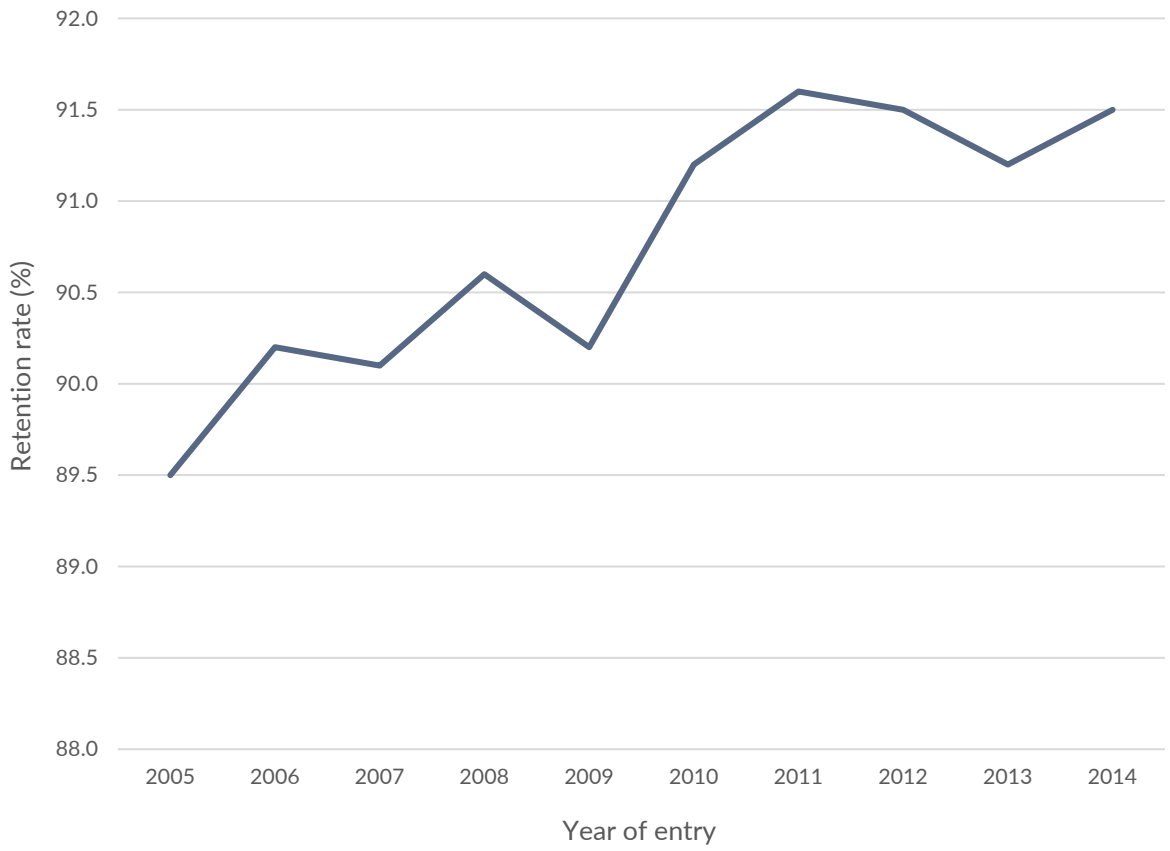
* This table uses schools-level data

Source: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency

Leaving Certificate retention rates

Measure: The Leaving Certificate retention rate

Figure 9. Leaving Certificate retention rate (2005–2014 school entry cohorts)



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*).
- Leaving Certificate retention rates increased from 89.5% in 2005 to 91.5% in 2014 (see *Figure 9*).
- 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.
- Overall, the Leaving Cert retention rate for children in the 2014 entry cohort ranged from 93.7% in Kilkenny to 87.2% in Longford (see *Table 54*).

Table 53. Leaving Certificate retention rate, by gender, school type, and DEIS status (2014 school entry cohort)

	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 rate, by county (2014 school entry cohort)

	No. in cohort	Retention rate (%)
Total	61,161	91.5
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 of 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

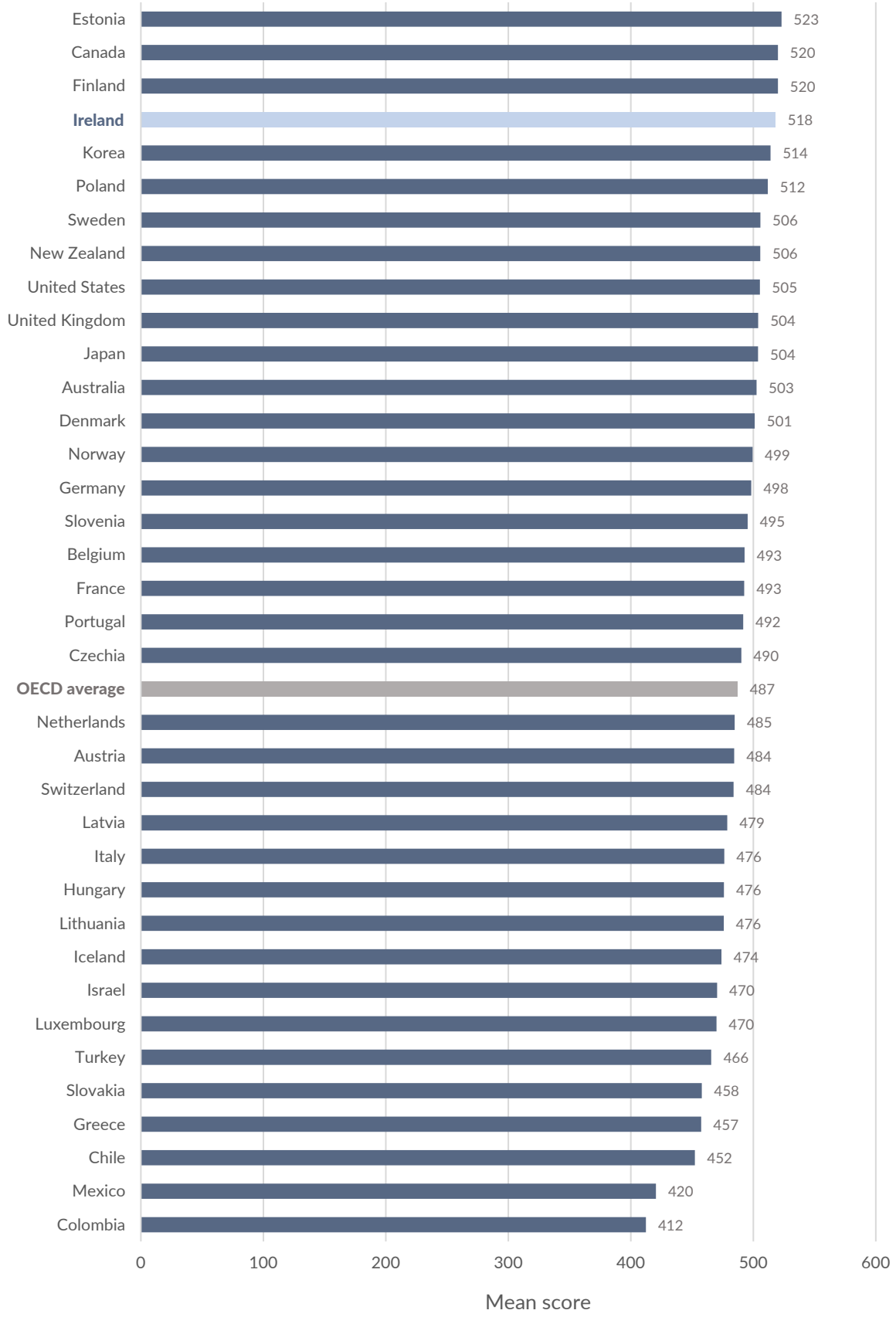
Source: OECD-Pisa survey

Table 56. Mean score of 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	535.5	562.3	555.6	551.8
Medium	497.9	523.3	520.5	517.5
Low	459.5	485.9	488.0	487.9

Source: OECD-Pisa survey

Figure 10. Mean score 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 of 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

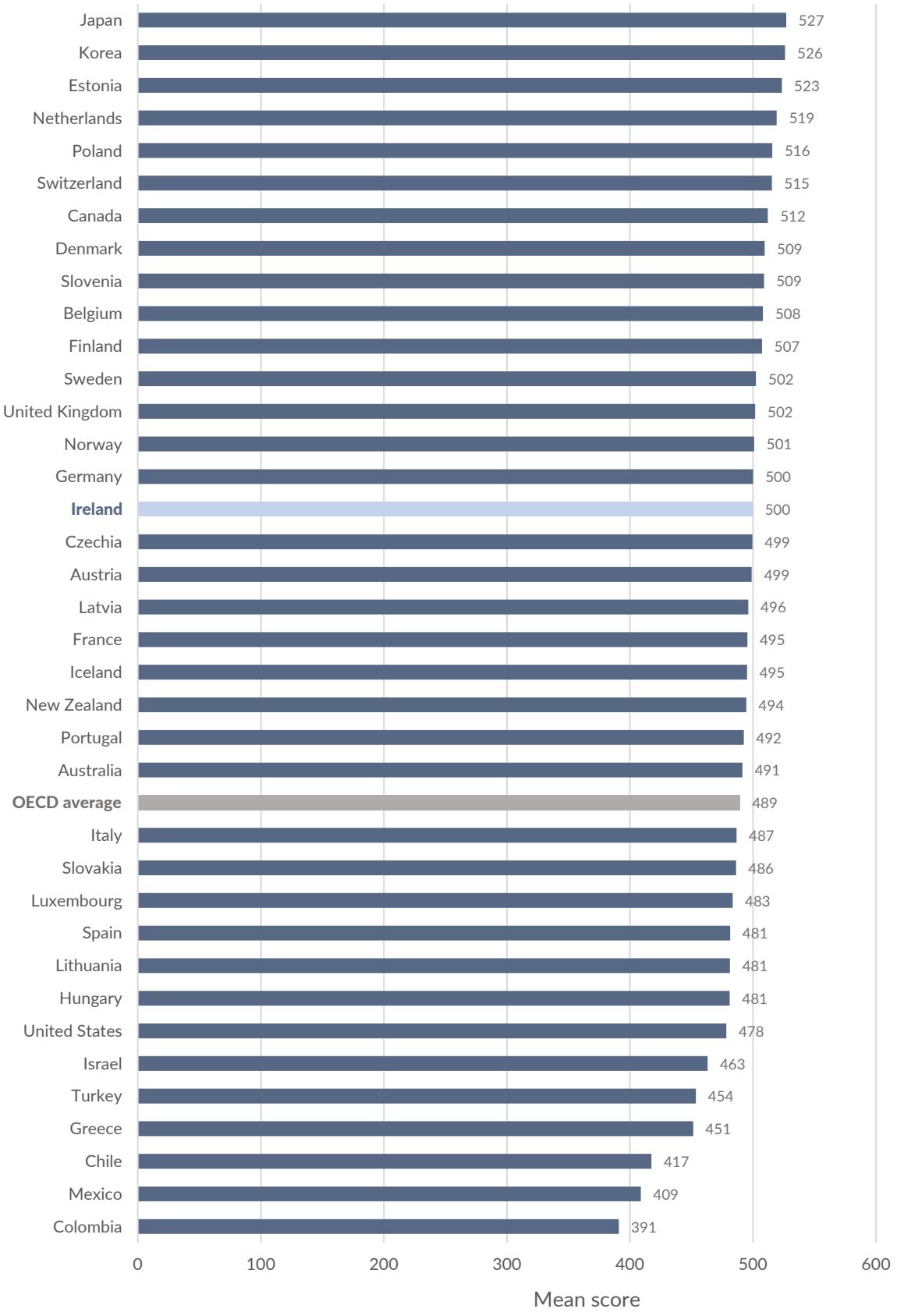
Source: OECD-Pisa survey

Table 58. Mean score of 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	523.4	538.9	537.7	530.0
Medium	490.1	501.3	502.4	498.5
Low	452.3	465.5	471.5	472.3

Source: OECD-Pisa survey

Figure 11. Mean score 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 of 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

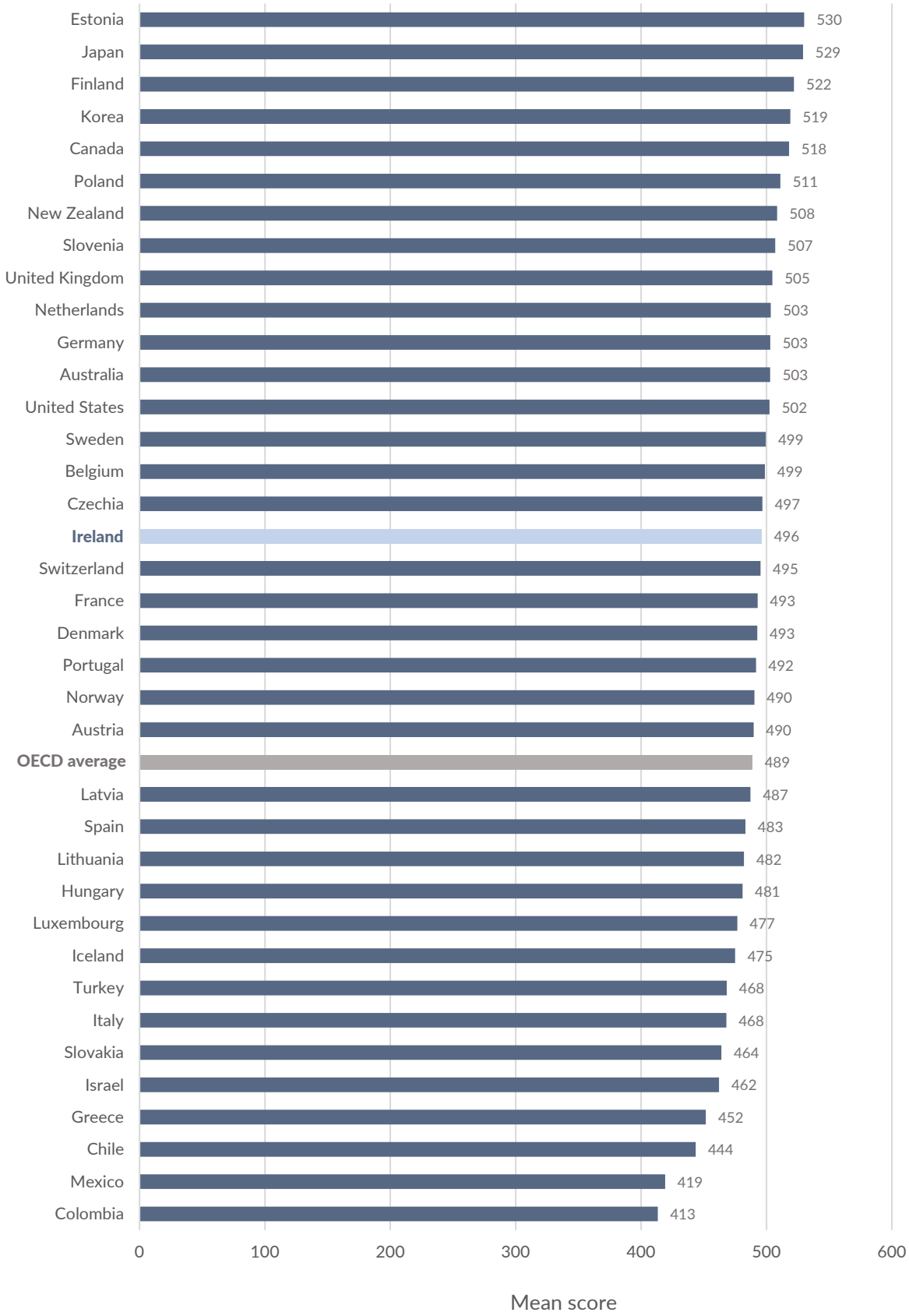
Source: OECD-Pisa survey

Table 60. Mean score of 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	545.7	562.4	538.5	529.3
Medium	512.8	522.3	501.8	495.7
Low	471.0	483.0	468.3	465.9

Source: OECD-Pisa survey

Figure 12. Mean score 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)

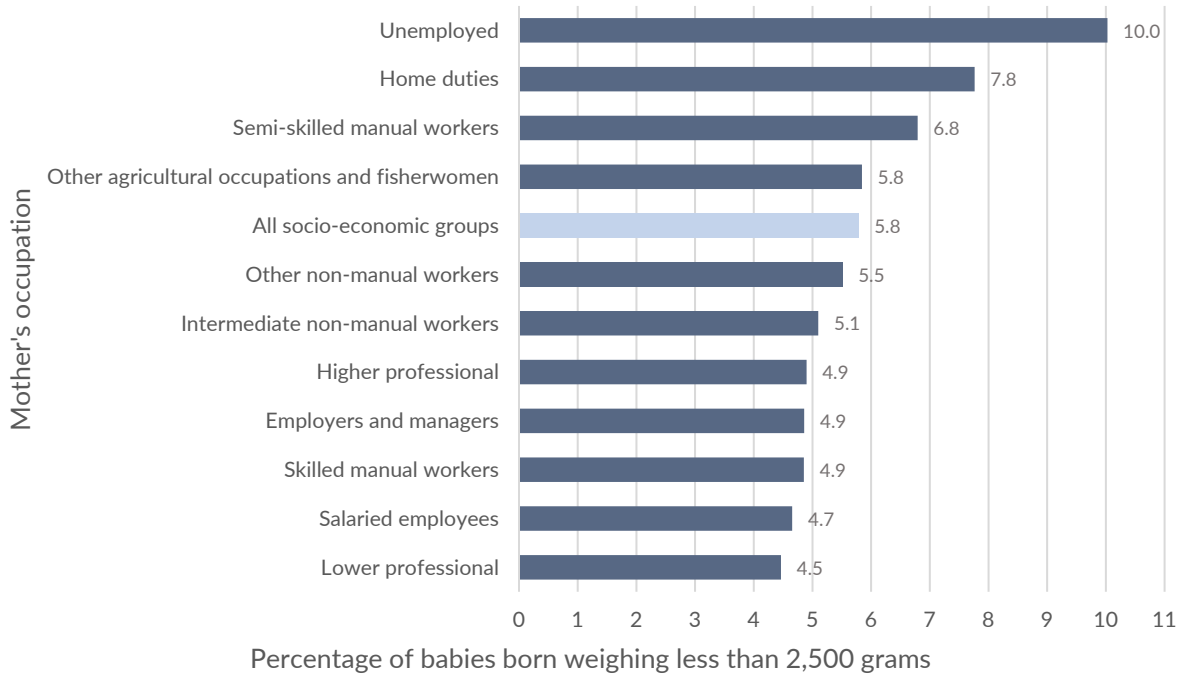
Table 61. Percentage of babies born in birth weight categories (live and still births), by gender (2018–2020)

	2018			2019			2020		
	Low weight	Healthy weight	High weight	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	5.8	79.7	14.6
Gender									
Male	5.5	76.7	17.7	5.5	76.8	17.7	5.1	77.1	17.8
Female	6.4	82.4	11.1	6.1	82.5	11.3	6.5	82.4	11.1

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

- In 2020, 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 (6.5% and 5.1% respectively) (see *Table 61*).
- The percentage of babies born in the low birth weight category was highest among mothers who reported being unemployed (10.0%) (see *Figure 13*).

Figure 13. Percentage of babies born weighing less than 2,500 grams (live and still births), by occupation of mother (2020)



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

- Overall, 5.8% of babies born in 2020 were in the low birth weight category. This percentage ranged from 4.5% of all births in Leitrim to 8.2% of all births in Longford (see *Table 62*).

Table 62. Percentage of babies born weighing less than 2,500 grams (live and still births), by mother's county of residence (2018–2020)

	2018	2019	2020
Total	6.0	5.8	5.8
Mother's county of residence			
Carlow	6.1	6.2	5.2
Cavan	5.7	7.2	5.2
Clare	7.0	6.6	6.4
Cork	6.0	6.0	5.7
Donegal	5.6	6.2	5.9
Dublin City	6.5	5.9	6.0
Dublin County	5.8	5.2	5.3
Galway	4.5	4.9	4.6
Kerry	6.1	4.9	5.8
Kildare	6.0	5.7	5.3
Kilkenny	5.0	4.5	4.9
Laois	5.7	6.8	6.9
Leitrim	5.5	6.0	4.5
Limerick	6.1	6.9	7.0
Longford	5.3	6.7	8.2
Louth	8.1	6.1	7.1
Mayo	3.8	5.5	5.0
Meath	5.0	6.0	4.9
Monaghan	6.0	4.4	5.4
Offaly	8.4	6.6	5.7
Roscommon	5.0	5.2	5.6
Sligo	5.5	4.6	6.7
Tipperary	6.2	5.8	6.0
Waterford	6.4	7.3	6.3
Westmeath	6.0	6.0	5.6
Wexford	5.7	4.8	5.7
Wicklow	4.8	5.4	5.5

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

Breastfeeding

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

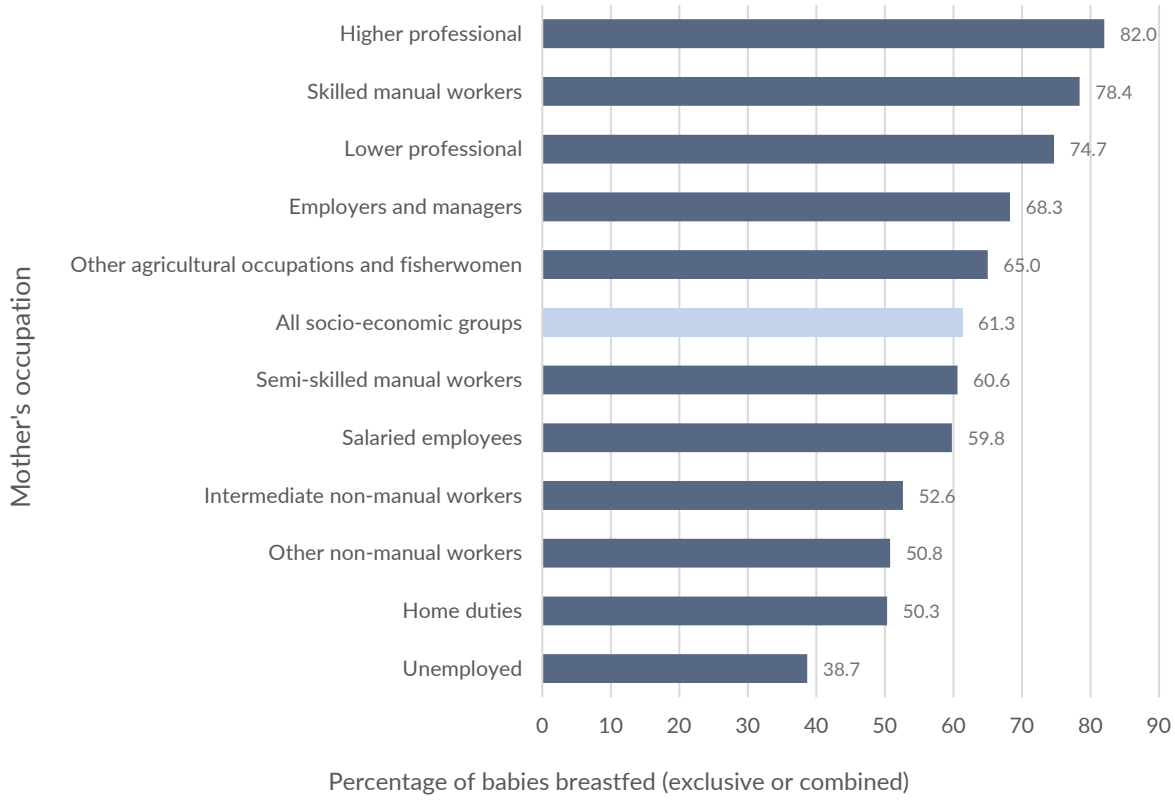
- In 2020, 61.3% of infants were breastfed on being discharged from hospital. This includes 44.2% who were breastfed exclusively and a further 17.1% who were fed using a combination of bottle and breastfeeding (see *Table 63*).
- The percentage of infants who were breastfed (either exclusive or combined) was higher among older mothers (see *Table 63*).
- The percentage of infants who were breastfed (either exclusive or combined) was highest among mothers in "higher professional" and "skilled manual workers" groups (82.0% and 78.4% respectively), when compared with mothers in the "unemployed" group, among whom it was lowest (38.7%) (see *Figure 14*).

Table 63. Percentage of infants who are breastfed (exclusive and combined) on being discharged from hospital, by mother's age (2018–2020)

	2018			2019			2020		
	Excl.	Comb.	Total	Excl.	Comb.	Total	Excl.	Comb.	Total
Total	47.0	13.3	60.3	45.5	15.2	60.7	44.2	17.1	61.3
Mother's age									
15–19 years	21.6	6.1	27.7	19.3	8.1	27.4	18.9	8.0	26.9
20–24 years	28.4	9.3	37.6	28.4	10.6	39.0	25.7	11.5	37.2
25–29 years	38.9	12.4	51.3	37.8	13.9	51.7	36.0	15.5	51.5
30–34 years	50.3	13.7	64.0	48.3	15.4	63.7	47.0	17.7	64.7
35–39 years	53.4	13.9	67.3	51.5	16.2	67.7	50.4	17.8	68.2
40–44 years	49.8	16.2	65.9	48.2	18.6	66.8	48.1	21.3	69.5
45 years and over	39.0	21.9	61.0	35.7	25.8	61.5	35.1	29.8	64.9

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 (2020)



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

- Geographically, breastfeeding on being discharged from hospital ranged from 70.7% in Dublin County to 46.8% in Donegal (see *Table 64*).

Table 64. Percentage of infants who are breastfed (exclusive and combined) on being discharged from hospital, by mother's county of residence (2020)

	Exclusive	Combined	Total
Total	44.2	17.1	61.3
Mother's county of residence			
Carlow	48.9	7.8	56.6
Cavan	36.6	16.7	53.3
Clare	38.2	18.8	56.9
Cork	62.7	2.7	65.4
Donegal	33.9	12.9	46.8
Dublin City	40.5	25.5	66.0
Dublin County	44.8	25.9	70.7
Galway	42.3	21.1	63.4
Kerry	58.7	4.7	63.4
Kildare	41.0	25.4	66.4
Kilkenny	61.9	1.2	63.1
Laois	53.9	7.2	61.1
Leitrim	33.2	21.3	54.5
Limerick	31.6	16.4	48.1
Longford	49.1	8.1	57.1
Louth	28.9	21.3	50.3
Mayo	44.6	15.1	59.6
Meath	40.5	22.4	62.9
Monaghan	34.0	14.0	48.0
Offaly	44.2	8.7	52.9
Roscommon	38.5	17.2	55.6
Sligo	33.6	28.5	62.1
Tipperary	37.8	10.9	48.7
Waterford	54.9	3.1	58.0
Westmeath	51.2	10.3	61.5
Wexford	41.5	12.0	53.5
Wicklow	43.4	19.8	63.2

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

Health conditions and hospitalisation

Measure: The number of hospital discharges of children

- In 2021, there were 119,642 hospital discharges of children (see *Table 65*).
- Children aged under 1 year and 1–4 years together accounted for 43.2% of total hospital discharges of children (21.2% and 22.0% respectively) (see *Table 65*).
- Boys accounted for more than half of total hospital discharges of children (53.8%) (see *Table 65*).
- The most commonly reported principal diagnosis recorded was "injury, poisoning and certain other external causes" (10.2%) followed by "diseases of the digestive system" (9.8%) (see *Table 65*).

Table 65. Number, percentage and rate (per 1,000) of hospital discharges of children, by age, gender, and principal diagnosis (2020–2021)

	2020			2021		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
Total	109,777	100.0	91.5	119,642	100.0	100.4
Age						
Under 1 year	23,416	21.3	401.3	25,356	21.2	457.0
1–4 years	22,708	20.7	90.4	26,333	22.0	106.6
5–9 years	22,227	20.2	64.6	22,390	18.7	66.8
10–14 years	24,186	22.0	69.1	26,833	22.4	75.0
15–17 years	17,240	15.7	88.1	18,730	15.7	95.8
Gender						
Male	59,731	54.4	97.3	64,422	53.8	105.7
Female	50,046	45.6	85.5	55,220	46.2	94.9
Principal diagnosis						
Diseases of the respiratory system	8,515	7.8	7.1	11,338	9.5	9.5
Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	11,617	10.6	9.7	12,241	10.2	10.3
Diseases of the digestive system	10,560	9.6	8.8	11,755	9.8	9.9
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases	3,929	3.6	3.3	5,077	4.2	4.3
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	9,799	8.9	8.2	9,790	8.2	8.2
Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	6,121	5.6	5.1	6,448	5.4	5.4
Diseases of the genitourinary system	5,251	4.8	4.4	5,428	4.5	4.6
Neoplasms	6,131	5.6	5.1	5,983	5.0	5.0
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	3,243	3.0	2.7	3,605	3.0	3.0
Diseases of the ear and mastoid process	2,270	2.1	1.9	1,991	1.7	1.7
All other conditions and reasons for admission	42,341	38.6	35.3	45,986	38.4	38.6

Rates calculated using population estimates for the relevant years

Source: Hospital In-patient Enquiry, Healthcare Pricing Office

- Overall, there were 100.1 hospital discharges of children residing in Ireland per 1,000 total children in 2021. Rates ranged from 79.4 per 1,000 in Monaghan to 205.6 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 (2021)

	No.	Rate
State	119,223	100.1
County of residence		
Carlow	1,572	105.8
Cavan	1,980	94.2
Clare	2,547	83.2
Cork	11,943	89.1
Donegal	6,779	161.2
Dublin	28,355	92.9
Galway	6,983	109.8
Kerry	3,534	102.4
Kildare	5,295	84.2
Kilkenny	2,373	91.5
Laois	2,548	105.0
Leitrim	701	85.6
Limerick	4,662	99.0
Longford	1,176	104.8
Louth	3,360	95.9
Mayo	6,573	205.6
Meath	4,777	83.6
Monaghan	1,316	79.4
Offaly	1,977	93.6
Roscommon	2,037	124.9
Sligo	1,918	120.2
Tipperary	4,524	111.0
Waterford	2,630	89.6
Westmeath	2,414	102.4
Wexford	4,010	102.4
Wicklow	3,239	85.1

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 2021, there were 12,241 hospital discharges of children with a principal diagnosis of "injury, poisoning, and certain other consequences of external causes" (see *Table 67*).
- Children aged under 1 year and 1–4 years together accounted for 28.4% of total hospital discharges of children with a principal diagnosis of "injury, poisoning, and certain other consequences of external causes" (5.7% and 22.7% 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" (56.8%) (see *Table 67*).
- The most commonly reported cause recorded was "accidental falls" (38.5%) followed by "other external causes of injury" (16.2%) and "accidents caused by objects" (14.5%) (see *Table 67*).

Table 67. Number, percentage, and rate (per 1000) of hospital discharges of children with a principal diagnosis of "injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes", by age, gender, and cause (2020–2021)

	2020			2021		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
Total	11,617	100.0	9.7	12,241	100.0	10.3
Age						
Under 1 year	730	6.3	12.5	695	5.7	12.5
1–4 years	2,902	25.0	11.6	2,782	22.7	11.3
5–9 years	2,948	25.4	8.6	2,946	24.1	8.8
10–14 years	2,932	25.2	8.4	3,464	28.3	9.7
15–17 years	2,105	18.1	10.8	2,354	19.2	12.0
Gender						
Male	6,724	57.9	11.0	6,956	56.8	11.4
Female	4,893	42.1	8.4	5,285	43.2	9.1
Cause						
Accidental falls	4,543	39.1	3.8	4,717	38.5	4.0
Accidents caused by objects	1,585	13.6	1.3	1,776	14.5	1.5
Transport accidents	1,148	9.9	1.0	1,031	8.4	0.9
Drowning, submersion, other accidental threats to breathing and foreign bodies	624	5.4	0.5	601	4.9	0.5
Intentional self-harm	757	6.5	0.6	975	8.0	0.8
Accident, not otherwise specified	419	3.6	0.3	479	3.9	0.4
Accidental poisoning	384	3.3	0.3	329	2.7	0.3
Assault	128	1.1	0.1	133	1.1	0.1
Contact with heat or hot substances	176	1.5	0.1	135	1.1	0.1
Event of undetermined intent	45	0.4	0.0	63	0.5	0.1
Exposure to smoke, fire and flames	34	0.3	0.0	14	0.1	0.0
Other external causes of injury	1,770	15.2	1.5	1,985	16.2	1.7
External cause not reported	< 5	NA	NA	< 5	NA	NA

Source: Hospital In-patient Enquiry, Healthcare Pricing Office

- Overall, there were 10.2 hospital discharges of children residing in Ireland with a principal diagnosis of "injury, poisoning, and certain other consequences of external causes" per 1,000 total children in 2021. Rates ranged from 8.4 per 1,000 in Longford to 15.0 per 1,000 in Laois (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 consequences of external causes", by county of residence (2021)

	No.	Rate
State	12,198	10.2
County of residence		
Carlow	219	14.7
Cavan	231	11.0
Clare	259	8.5
Cork	1,167	8.7
Donegal	568	13.5
Dublin	2,969	9.7
Galway	634	10.0
Kerry	349	10.1
Kildare	556	8.8
Kilkenny	277	10.7
Laois	363	15.0
Leitrim	75	9.2
Limerick	451	9.6
Longford	94	8.4
Louth	397	11.3
Mayo	366	11.4
Meath	518	9.1
Monaghan	158	9.5
Offaly	244	11.5
Roscommon	183	11.2
Sligo	191	12.0
Tipperary	470	11.5
Waterford	307	10.5
Westmeath	253	10.7
Wexford	479	12.2
Wicklow	420	11.0

Rates calculated using county population at Census 2016

Source: Hospital In-patient Enquiry, Healthcare Pricing Office

Nutritional outcomes

Measure: The percentage of first class children in Body Mass Index (BMI) categories "normal", "overweight", and "obese"

- In 2018, 76.9% of first class children were classified as being in the "normal" weight category according to the International Obesity Taskforce Standards. 15.5% 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 74.3% of girls. 13.5% of boys and 17.7% of girls were classified as being either "overweight" or "obese" (see *Table 69*).

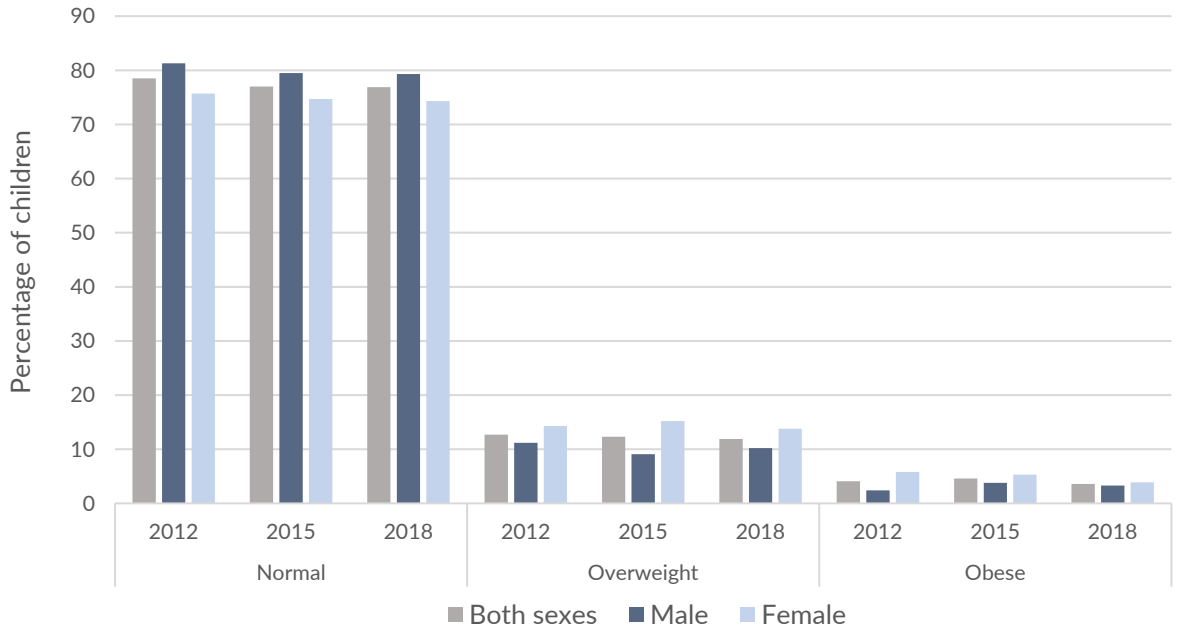
Table 69. Percentage of first class children in BMI categories "normal", "overweight", and "obese", by gender (2012–2018)

	2012			2015			2018		
	Normal	Overweight	Obese	Normal	Overweight	Obese	Normal	Overweight	Obese
Total	78.5	12.7	4.1	77.0	12.3	4.6	76.9	11.9	3.6
Gender									
Male	81.3	11.2	2.4	79.5	9.1	3.8	79.3	10.2	3.3
Female	75.7	14.3	5.8	74.7	15.2	5.3	74.3	13.8	3.9

Source: Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative

- The percentage of first class children classified in the "normal" weight category decreased, from 78.5% in 2012 to 76.9% in 2018.

Figure 15. Percentage of first class children 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

Note: Data for 2020 and 2021 is incomplete and should be interpreted with caution.

- In 2021, there were 4,490 children registered as having an intellectual disability (see *Table 70*).
- Overall 3.8 children per 1,000 were registered as having an intellectual disability in 2021 (see *Table 70*).
- 7.3% of children registered as having an intellectual disability were aged 4 years and under, 23.6% were aged 5–9 years, 42.5% were aged 10–14 years, and the remaining 26.6% were aged 15–17 years (see *Table 70*).
- 65.1% of children registered as having an intellectual disability were boys and 34.9% were girls. This equates to a rate of 2.5 per 1,000 for boys and 1.3 per 1,000 for girls (see *Table 70*).
- 35.4% of children who were registered as having an intellectual disability were registered as having a moderate disability. 26.0% were registered as having a mild disability (see *Table 70*).

Table 70. Number, percentage, and rate (per 1,000) of children registered as having an intellectual disability, by age, gender, and severity of disability (2017–2021)

	2017			2020			2021		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
Total	8,809	100.0	7.4	5,205	100.0	4.3	4,490	100.0	3.8
Age									
Under 5 years	768	8.7	2.4	571	11.0	1.8	328	7.3	1.1
5–9 years	2,869	32.6	8.0	1,327	25.5	3.9	1,058	23.6	3.2
10–14 years	3,124	35.5	9.7	2,049	39.4	5.9	1,910	42.5	5.3
15–17 years	2,048	23.2	11.0	1,258	24.2	6.4	1,194	26.6	6.1
Gender									
Male	5,936	67.4	9.7	3,392	65.2	5.5	2,923	65.1	4.8
Female	2,873	32.6	4.9	1,813	34.8	3.1	1,567	34.9	2.7
Severity									
Borderline	NA	NA	NA	123	2.4	0.1	80	1.8	0.1
Mild	2,720	30.9	2.3	1,405	27.0	1.2	1,166	26.0	1.0
Moderate	2,760	31.3	2.3	1,722	33.1	1.4	1,588	35.4	1.3
Severe	812	9.2	0.7	488	9.4	0.4	463	10.3	0.4
Profound	143	1.6	0.1	91	1.7	0.1	77	1.7	0.1
Not verified	2,374	26.9	2.0	1,353	26.0	1.1	1,115	24.8	0.9

Rates calculated using population estimates for the relevant years

Notes: Changes to reporting in 2020 (see technical notes in Appendix 1). Data incomplete for 2020 and 2021

Source: National Intellectual Disability System (2017), National Ability Support System (2020, 2021)

- In 2021, rates of those registered as having an intellectual disability ranged from 0.9 per 1,000 in Kilkenny and Offaly to 10.5 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 (2021)

	No. of children	Rate
Total	4,490	3.8
County		
Carlow	67	4.5
Cavan	87	4.1
Clare	52	1.7
Cork	331	2.5
Donegal	228	5.4
Dublin	1,405	4.6
Galway	228	3.6
Kerry	101	2.9
Kildare	293	4.7
Kilkenny	24	0.9
Laois	26	1.1
Leitrim	43	5.3
Limerick	99	2.1
Longford	19	1.7
Louth	232	6.6
Mayo	232	7.3
Meath	216	3.8
Monaghan	60	3.6
Offaly	19	0.9
Roscommon	145	8.9
Sligo	168	10.5
Tipperary	110	2.7
Waterford	48	1.6
Westmeath	47	2.0
Wexford	169	4.3
Wicklow	37	1.0

Rates calculated using county population at Census 2016

Note: Data incomplete for 2021

Source: National Ability Support System

Physical and sensory disability

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

Note: Data for 2020 and 2021 is incomplete and should be interpreted with caution.

- In 2021, there were 2,973 children registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability (see *Table 72*).
- Overall, 2.5 children per 1,000 were registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability in 2021 (see *Table 72*).
- 17.5% of children registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability were aged 4 years and under, 30.6% were aged 5–9 years, 38.1% were aged 10–14 years, and the remaining 13.8% were aged 15–17 years (see *Table 72*).
- 60.3% of children registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability were boys and 39.7% were girls. This equates to a rate of 1.5 per 1,000 for boys and 1.0 per 1,000 for girls (see *Table 72*).
- In 2021, 79.0% of children who were registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability were registered as having either a physical disability or a neurological disability (51.6% and 27.4% respectively) (see *Table 72*).

Table 72. Number, percentage, and rate (per 1,000) of children registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability, by age, gender, and type of disability (2017–2021)

	2017			2020			2021		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
Total	5,041	100.0	4.2	2,805	100.0	2.3	2,973	100.0	2.5
Age									
Under 5 years	184	3.7	0.6	666	23.7	2.2	519	17.5	1.7
5–9 years	1,281	25.4	3.6	855	30.5	2.5	910	30.6	2.7
10–14 years	2,054	40.7	6.4	956	34.1	2.7	1,134	38.1	3.2
15–17 years	1,522	30.2	8.2	328	11.7	1.7	410	13.8	2.1
Gender									
Male	3,174	63.0	5.2	1,727	61.6	2.8	1,794	60.3	2.9
Female	1,867	37.0	3.2	1,078	38.4	1.8	1,179	39.7	2.0
Type of disability									
Physical	998	19.8	0.8	1,627	58.0	1.4	1,533	51.6	1.3
Neurological	989	19.6	0.8	811	28.9	0.7	815	27.4	0.7
Hearing loss/deafness	136	2.7	0.1	17	0.6	0.0	75	2.5	0.1
Visual	112	2.2	0.1	210	7.5	0.2	399	13.4	0.3
Speech/language	921	18.3	0.8	135	4.8	0.1	149	5.0	0.1
Deafblindness	NA	NA	NA	0	0.0	0.0	2	0.1	0.0
Multiple disabilities	1,885	37.4	1.6	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Rates calculated using population estimates for the relevant years

Notes: Changes to reporting in 2020 (see technical notes in Appendix 1). Data incomplete for 2020 and 2021

Source: National Physical and Sensory Disability Database (2017), National Ability Support System (2020, 2021)

- In 2021 rates of those registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability ranged from 0.7 per 1,000 in Laois, Kerry, and Wicklow, to 5.9 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 (2021)

	No. of children	Rate
Total	2,973	2.5
County		
Carlow	26	1.8
Cavan	75	3.6
Clare	23	0.8
Cork	88	0.7
Donegal	109	2.6
Dublin	856	2.8
Galway	378	5.9
Kerry	25	0.7
Kildare	187	3.0
Kilkenny	42	1.6
Laois	24	1.0
Leitrim	26	3.2
Limerick	63	1.3
Longford	10	0.9
Louth	81	2.3
Mayo	176	5.5
Meath	279	4.9
Monaghan	30	1.8
Offaly	29	1.4
Roscommon	60	3.7
Sligo	46	2.9
Tipperary	52	1.3
Waterford	134	4.6
Westmeath	39	1.7
Wexford	88	2.2
Wicklow	27	0.7

Rates calculated using county population at Census 2016

Note: Data incomplete for 2021

Source: National Ability Support System

Child welfare and protection

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

- In 2021 Q4, there were 19,580 child welfare and protection referrals to Tusla, the Child and Family Agency (see *Table 74*).
- 53.5% of these referrals related to welfare concerns (see *Table 74*).
- Overall, there was a 12.0% increase across the period between 2020 Q4 and 2021 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 (2016 Q4 – 2021 Q4)

	2016 Q4	2017 Q4	2018 Q4	2019 Q4	2020 Q4	2021 Q4		
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	%	Rate
Total	12,097	13,365	13,823	12,623	17,485	19,580	100.0	16.4
Type of referral								
Welfare issues	7,184	8,051	7,109	7,148	8,529	10,483	53.5	8.8
Physical abuse	1,241	1,336	1,630	1,609	1,808	1,878	9.6	1.6
Emotional abuse	1,692	2,051	2,996	2,080	2,525	2,959	15.1	2.5
Sexual abuse	796	708	929	861	1,072	1,159	5.9	1.0
Neglect	1,184	1,219	1,159	925	720	1,006	5.1	0.8
Not recorded	NA	NA	NA	NA	2,831	2,095	10.7	1.8

Rates calculated using population estimates for the relevant years

Note: Starting in 2020, the number of referrals also includes cases not requiring a social work response (type "Not recorded")

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 (2019 Q4–2021 Q4)

	2019 Q4		2020 Q4		2021 Q4	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
All Tusla regions	12,623	10.6	17,485	14.7	19,580	16.4
Tusla Dublin North East	2,814	10.2	4,541	16.5	5,009	18.2
Cavan/Monaghan	423	11.6	521	14.3	619	17.0
Dublin North	1,115	11.1	1,720	17.1	1,845	18.3
Dublin North City	848	18.9	1,036	23.1	1,244	27.7
Louth/Meath	428	4.6	1,264	13.6	1,301	14.0
Tusla Dublin Mid Leinster	3,364	9.9	5,323	15.6	5,961	17.5
Dublin South Central	388	5.9	1,363	20.8	1,259	19.2
Dublin South East/ Wicklow	516	5.9	686	7.9	842	9.7
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	911	8.4	1,668	15.4	1,944	18.0
Midlands	1,549	19.3	1,606	20.0	1,916	23.9
Tusla South	3,333	11.1	4,432	14.8	4,698	15.7
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	688	10.9	1,009	16.0	1,036	16.4
Cork	1,713	12.8	1,670	12.5	1,725	12.9
Kerry	198	5.7	488	14.1	505	14.6
Waterford/Wexford	734	10.7	1,265	18.5	1,432	20.9
Tusla West	3,112	11.3	3,189	11.6	3,912	14.2
Donegal	237	5.5	436	10.2	463	10.8
Galway/Roscommon	986	12.3	889	11.1	1,039	13.0
Mayo	350	10.9	399	12.5	429	13.4
Mid West	1,250	13.0	1,152	12.0	1,570	16.3
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	289	12.3	313	13.3	411	17.4

Rates calculated using regional populations at Census of Population 2016

Note: Starting in 2020, the number of referrals also includes cases not requiring a social work response (type "Not recorded")

Source: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency

- There were 16.4 referrals per 1,000 children in 2021 Q4. Rates ranged from 9.7 per 1,000 in Dublin South East/Wicklow to 27.7 per 1,000 in Dublin North City (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 that students at their school participate in making the school rules, by population group (2014–2018)

	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 the high social class group (see *Table 77*).

Table 77. Percentage of children aged 10–17 who reported that students at their school participate in making the school rules, by age, gender, and social class (2014–2018)

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All children	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						
High	34.9	32.9	33.9	30.5	32.1	31.4
Middle	36.3	35.3	35.8	32.7	32.6	32.6
Low	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 that students at their school participate in making the school rules, by NUTS region (2014–2018)

	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 group (2018)

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

Source: OECD-Pisa Survey

- 39.3% of girls aged 15 reported that reading is one of their favourite hobbies, compared with 30% of boys.
- 38.5% 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 28.6%, and for those in the low socio-economic class category, it was 25.2% (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	50.0	39.2	46.3	38.5
Medium	41.8	31.7	37.6	28.6
Low	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 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 group (2014–2018)

	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 the low social class group (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)

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All children	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						
High	4.8	3.1	4.0	1.9	1.4	1.6
Middle	5.2	4.2	4.7	2.4	2.3	2.3
Low	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 2.0% in the South-East to 3.1% in the Mid-West (see *Table 83*).

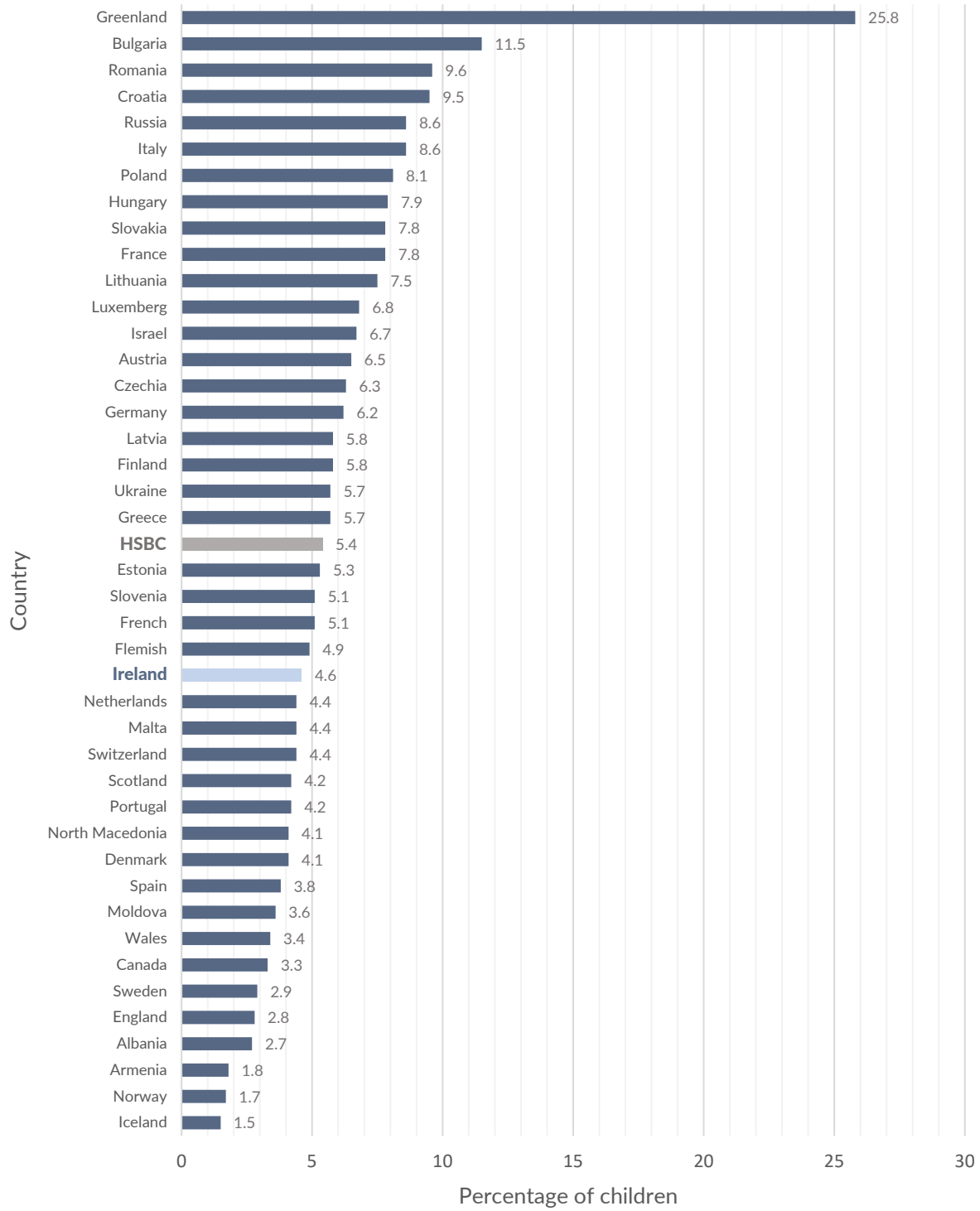
Table 83. Percentage of children aged 10–17 who reported smoking cigarettes every week, by NUTS region (2014–2018)

	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 45 countries/regions, 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.

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, 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 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 group (2014–2018)

	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 the low social class group (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)

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All children	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						
High	83.3	86.8	85.1	89.7	89.5	89.6
Middle	86.2	85.1	85.7	90.0	89.8	89.9
Low	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*).

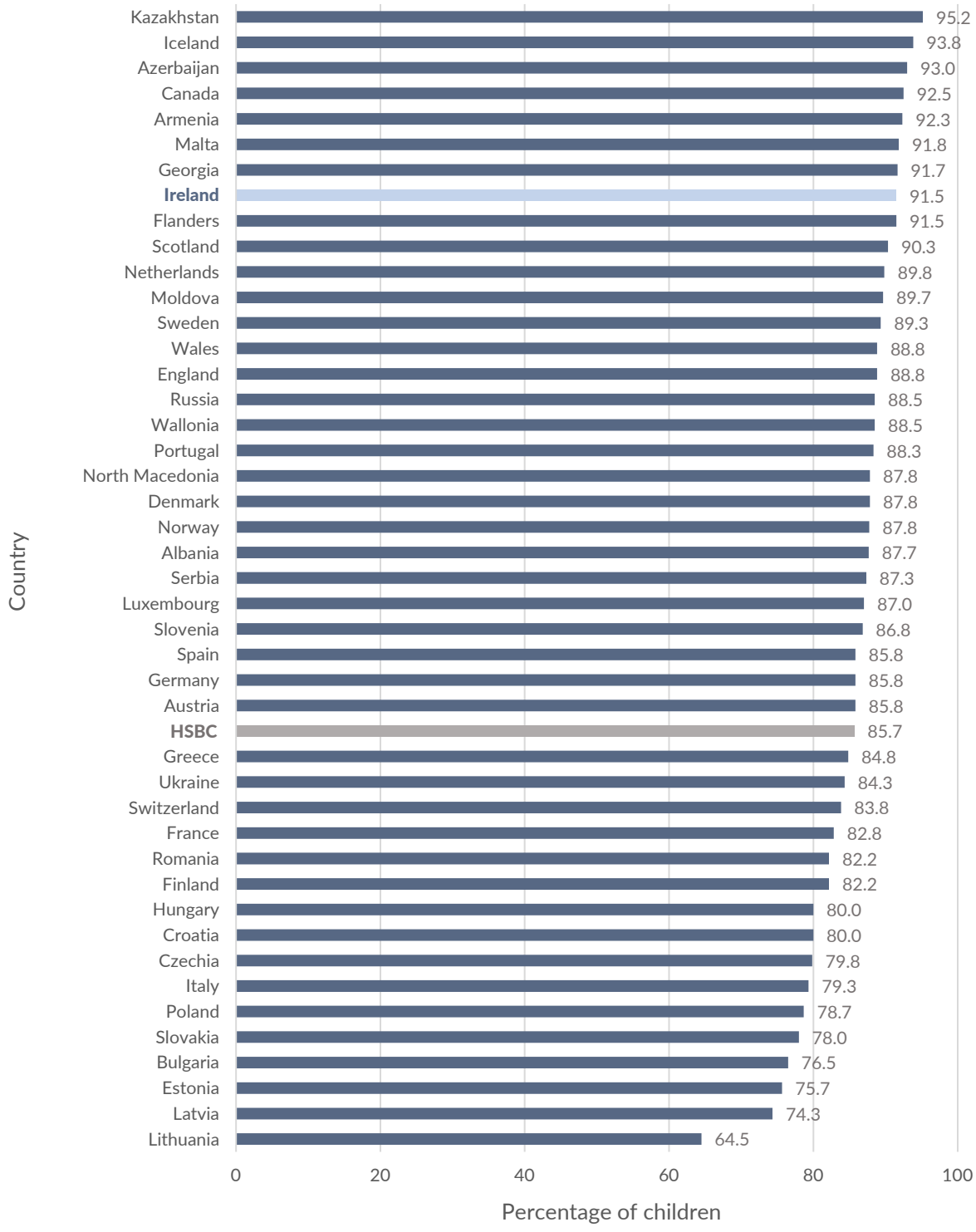
Table 86. Percentage of children aged 10–17 who reported never having smoked cigarettes, by NUTS region (2014–2018)

	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/regions, 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 HBSC average.

Figure 17. Percentage of children aged 11, 13, and 15 who reported never having smoked cigarettes, by country (2018)



Source: HBSC Survey

Alcohol use: Drunkenness

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

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

	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 the low social class group (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)

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All children	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						
High	10.7	9.0	9.8	7.2	6.6	6.8
Middle	9.3	9.4	9.3	5.7	7.3	6.6
Low	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*).

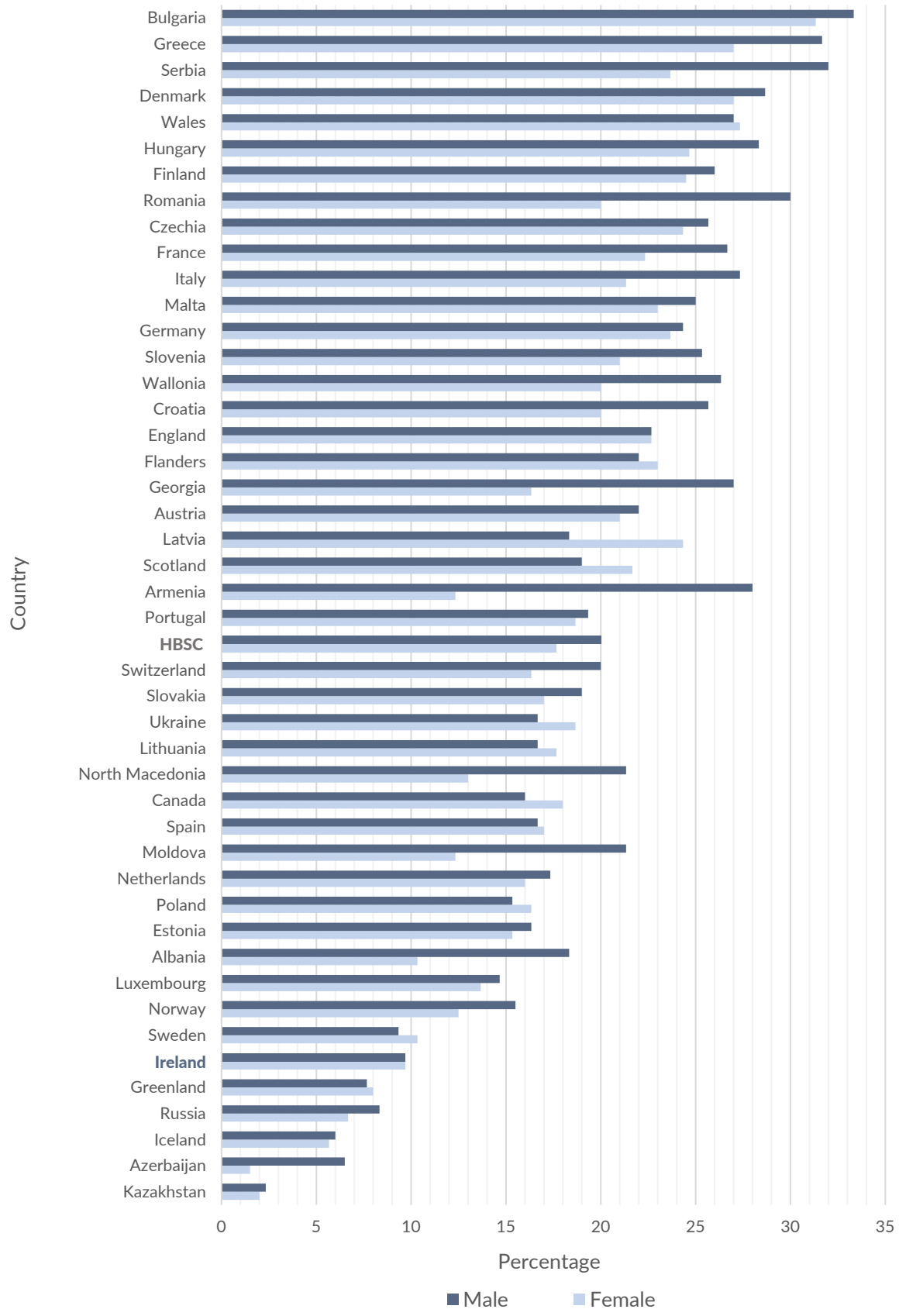
Table 89. Percentage of children aged 10–17 who reported having been drunk at least once in the past 30 days, by NUTS region (2014–2018)

	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/regions, 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.

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 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 group (2014–2018)

	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 the high social class group (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)

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All children	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						
High	53.6	61.7	57.8	68.0	69.1	68.6
Middle	58.2	61.8	59.9	69.3	69.9	69.6
Low	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*).

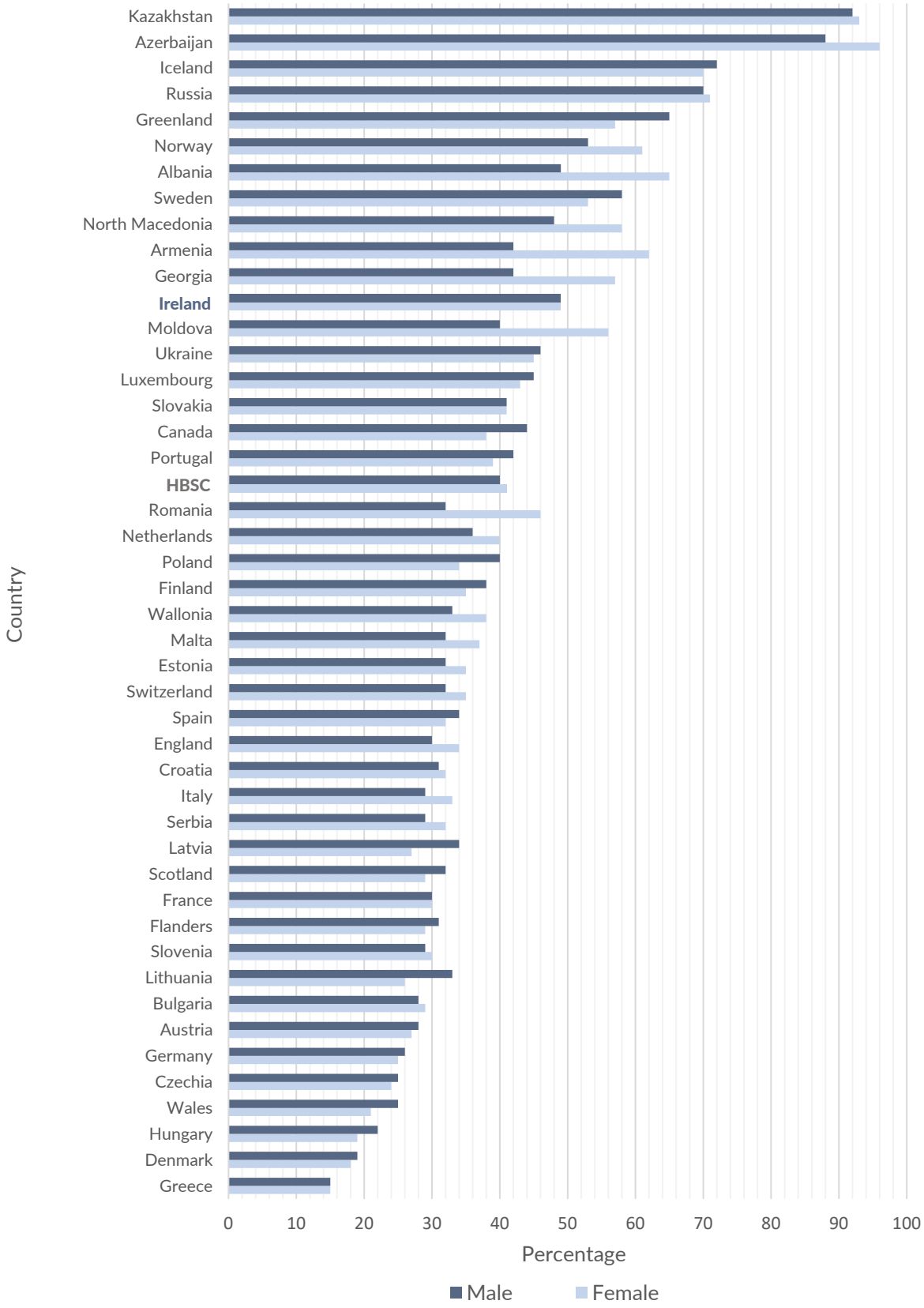
Table 92. Percentage of children aged 10–17 who reported never having had an alcoholic drink, by NUTS region (2014–2018)

	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/regions, 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.

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, 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 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 group (2014–2018)

	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 the high social class group (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)

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All children	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						
High	10.1	5.7	7.8	9.1	6.8	7.8
Middle	10.3	6.4	8.4	7.5	6.0	6.7
Low	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*).

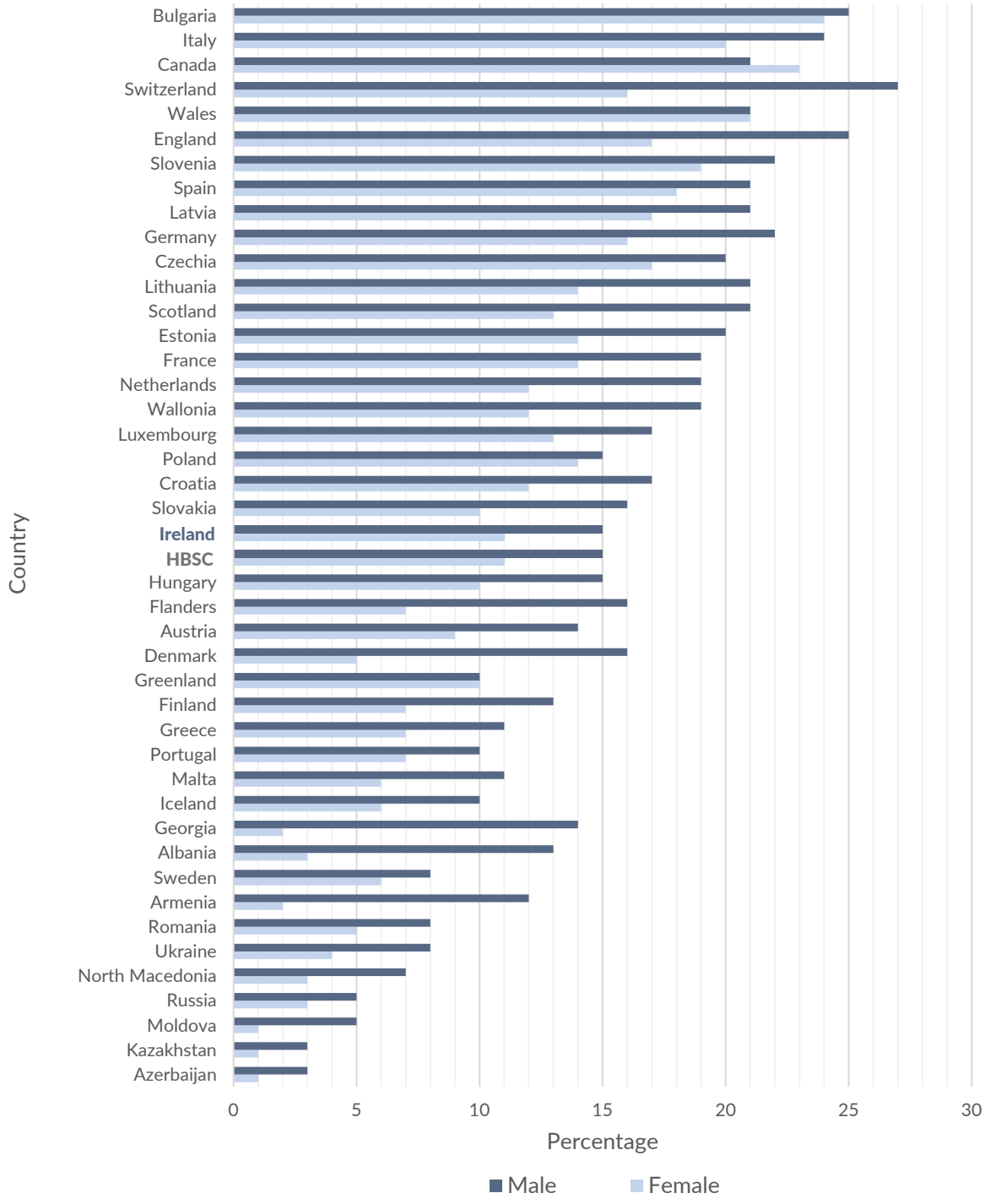
Table 95. Percentage of children aged 10–17 who reported having taken cannabis at least once in their lifetime, by NUTS region (2014–2018)

	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/regions, 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.

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

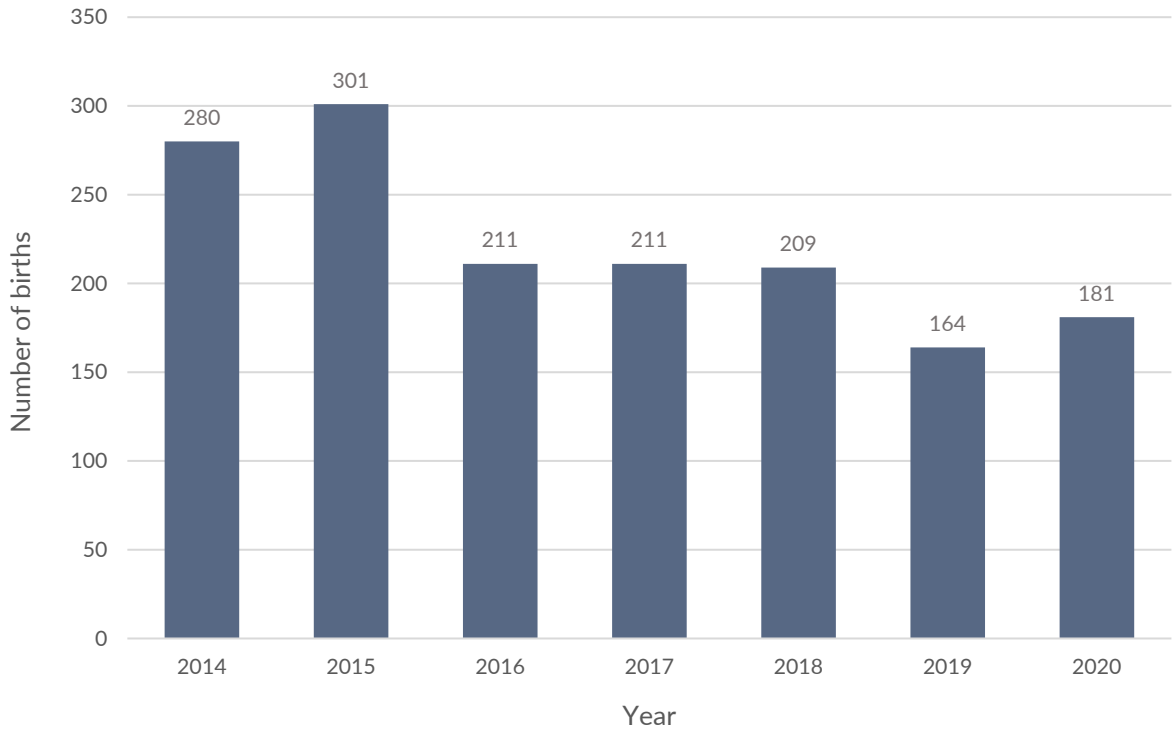
- In 2020, there were 181 births to mothers aged 10–17 (see *Table 96*).
- Over the four-year period 2017 to 2020 the number of births to mothers aged 10–17 decreased by 14.2% (see *Table 96*).

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	25.6	61,022	24.9	59,294	23.9	56,812	22.6
Mother's age								
10–17 years	211	2.3	209	2.2	164	1.7	181	1.9
18–24 years	5,973	30.5	5,817	28.7	5,378	25.8	4,989	23.2
25 years and over	55,869	34.0	54,996	33.1	53,752	31.9	51,642	30.2

Source: Vital Statistics (CSO)

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



Source: Vital Statistics (CSO)

- Overall 3.2 births per 1,000 were to mothers aged 10–17 in 2020 (see *Table 97*). This rate was highest in Carlow, at 6.7, and lowest in Leitrim, which had no births to 10–17 year olds in 2020.

Table 97. Number and rate (per 1,000) of births to mothers aged 10–17, by county (2020)

	No. of births to 10–17 year olds	No. of births to all ages	Rate of births to 10–17 year olds
Total	181	56,812	3.2
County			
Carlow	5	745	6.7
Cavan/Monaghan	3	1,778	1.7
Clare	6	1,295	4.6
Cork	12	6,417	1.9
Donegal	9	1,715	5.2
Dublin	56	16,623	3.4
Galway	3	2,951	1.0
Kerry	4	1,497	2.7
Kildare	10	2,997	3.3
Kilkenny	3	1,016	3.0
Laois/Offaly	5	1,852	2.7
Leitrim	0	381	0.0
Limerick	11	2,364	4.7
Longford	3	529	5.7
Louth	9	1,587	5.7
Mayo	3	1,374	2.2
Meath	6	2,498	2.4
Roscommon/Sligo	4	1,470	2.7
Tipperary	6	1,789	3.4
Waterford	3	1,351	2.2
Westmeath	6	1,171	5.1
Wexford	10	1,704	5.9
Wicklow	4	1,661	2.4

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, 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 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 group (2014–2018)

	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 the low social class group (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)

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All children	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						
High	26.4	18.4	22.3	26.7	17.9	21.8
Middle	31.1	20.9	26.0	30.3	22.9	26.3
Low	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*).

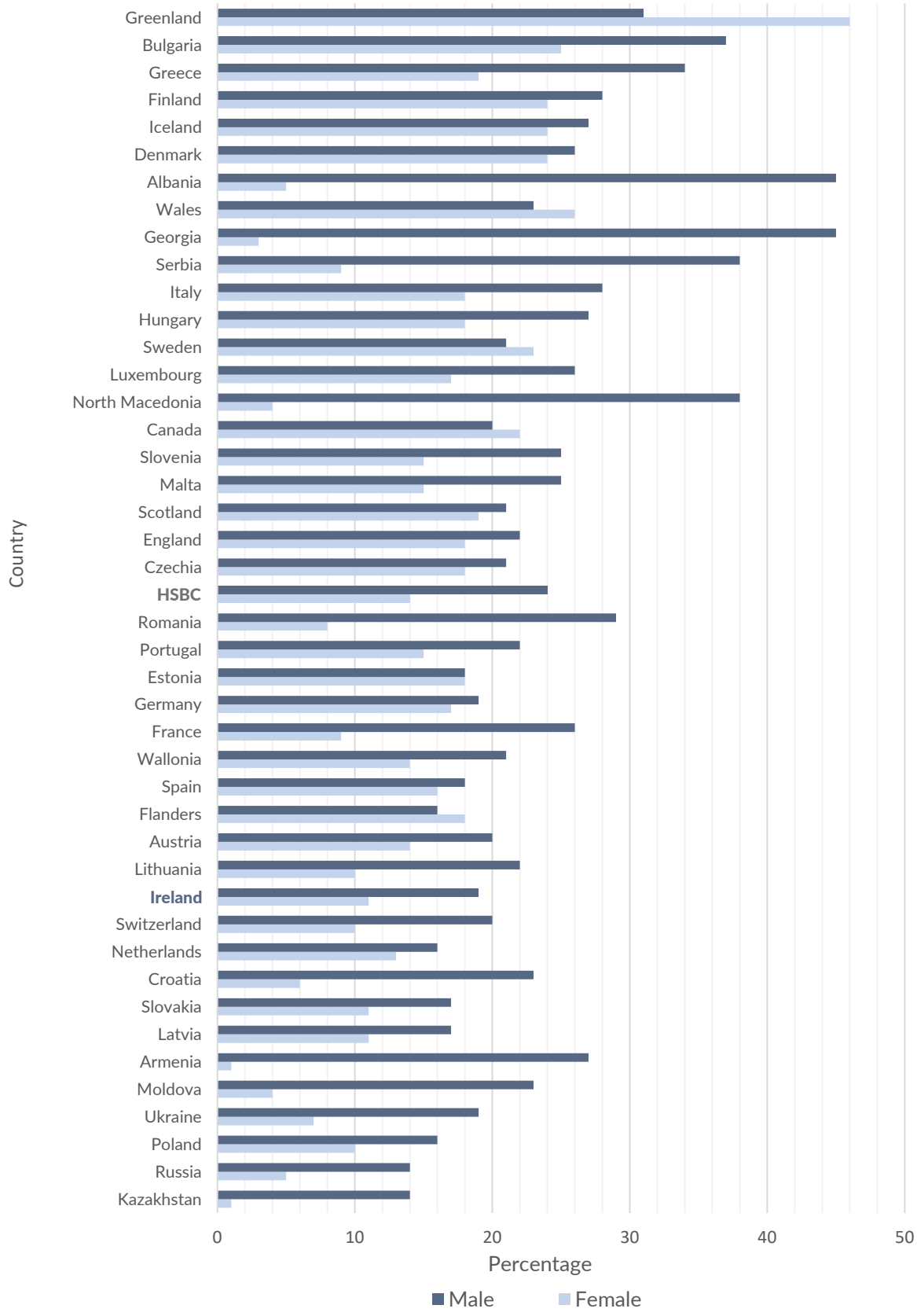
Table 100. Percentage of children aged 15–17 who reported having ever had sex, by NUTS region (2014–2018)

	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/regions, 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.

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 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 group (2014–2018)

	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 the middle social class group (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)

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All children	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						
High	65.1	51.4	58.1	63.6	54.5	58.7
Middle	66.5	50.6	58.6	62.4	51.0	56.6
Low	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)

	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 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 group (2014–2018)

	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 the low social class group (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)

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All children	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	94.0
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	85.0
Social class						
High	94.0	87.5	90.7	91.2	86.3	88.5
Middle	93.0	88.2	90.7	91.5	85.0	88.2
Low	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)

	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 13 suicides by children aged 10–17 (see *Table 107*).
- Over the eight year period from 2013 to 2020, the number and rate (per 100,000) of suicides by children aged 10–17 was typically higher among boys (see *Table 107*).

Table 107. Number and rate (per 100,000) of suicides, by age and gender (2013–2020)

	10–17 years				18–24 years					
	Male		Female		Male		Female		10–24 years	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
2013	10	4.1	3	1.3	41	20.8	7	3.6	61	7.0
2014	12	4.8	4	1.7	66	33.5	10	5.2	92	10.5
2015	14	5.5	1	0.4	33	16.6	10	5.2	58	6.5
2016	9	3.5	12	4.9	54	27.1	9	4.7	84	9.4
2017	12	4.6	7	2.8	39	19.2	14	7.2	72	7.9
2018	3	1.1	3	1.2	44	20.8	22	10.8	72	7.7
2019	13	4.8	7	2.7	43	20.0	14	6.7	77	8.0
2020	5	1.8	8	3.0	42	19.0	10	4.7	65	6.6

Note: 2020 figures are provisional

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, by gender (2013–2020)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	22.0	27.6	30.6	29.2	38.0	8.8	33.9	24.5
Sex								
Male	25.6	28.6	35.0	21.4	37.5	7.3	31.0	15.2
Female	15.0	25.0	11.1	40.0	38.9	11.1	41.2	40.0

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 2020, the rate of children and young people aged 10–24 presenting at a hospital emergency department following self-harm was 375 per 100,000 (see *Table 109*).
- The rate for girls was 493 per 100,000 and the rate for boys was 261 per 100,000.
- In 2020 the highest rate 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 and age (2011–2020)

	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
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
2020	71	316	422	261	234	779	485	493	151	544	453	375

Note: 2020 rates have been estimated due to missing data from one hospital

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)

	10–14	15–19	20–24	10–24
HSE region				
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

- In 2019, 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 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 group (2014–2018)

	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 the low social class group (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)

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All children	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						
High	61.3	43.9	52.3	60.1	46.9	53.0
Middle	60.3	44.3	52.4	57.7	42.6	50.0
Low	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*).

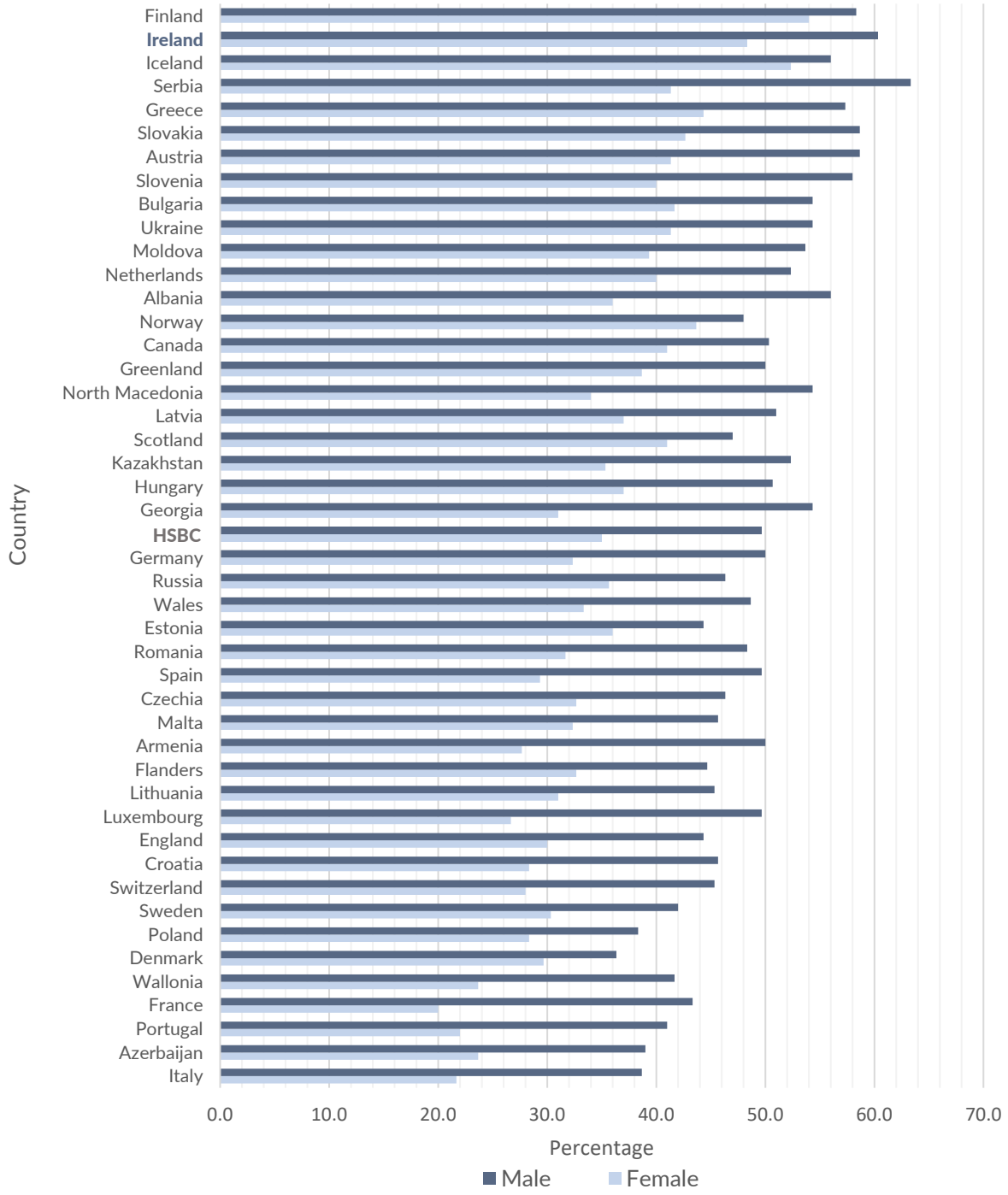
Table 113. Percentage of children aged 10–17 who reported being physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on more than four days per week, by NUTS region (2014–2018)

	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/regions, 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.

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, 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 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 group (2014–2018)

	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 the low social class group (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)

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All children	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						
High	83.6	79.1	81.3	86.4	79.1	82.5
Middle	81.8	72.8	77.3	81.0	74.7	77.7
Low	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 82.0% in Dublin (see *Table 116*).

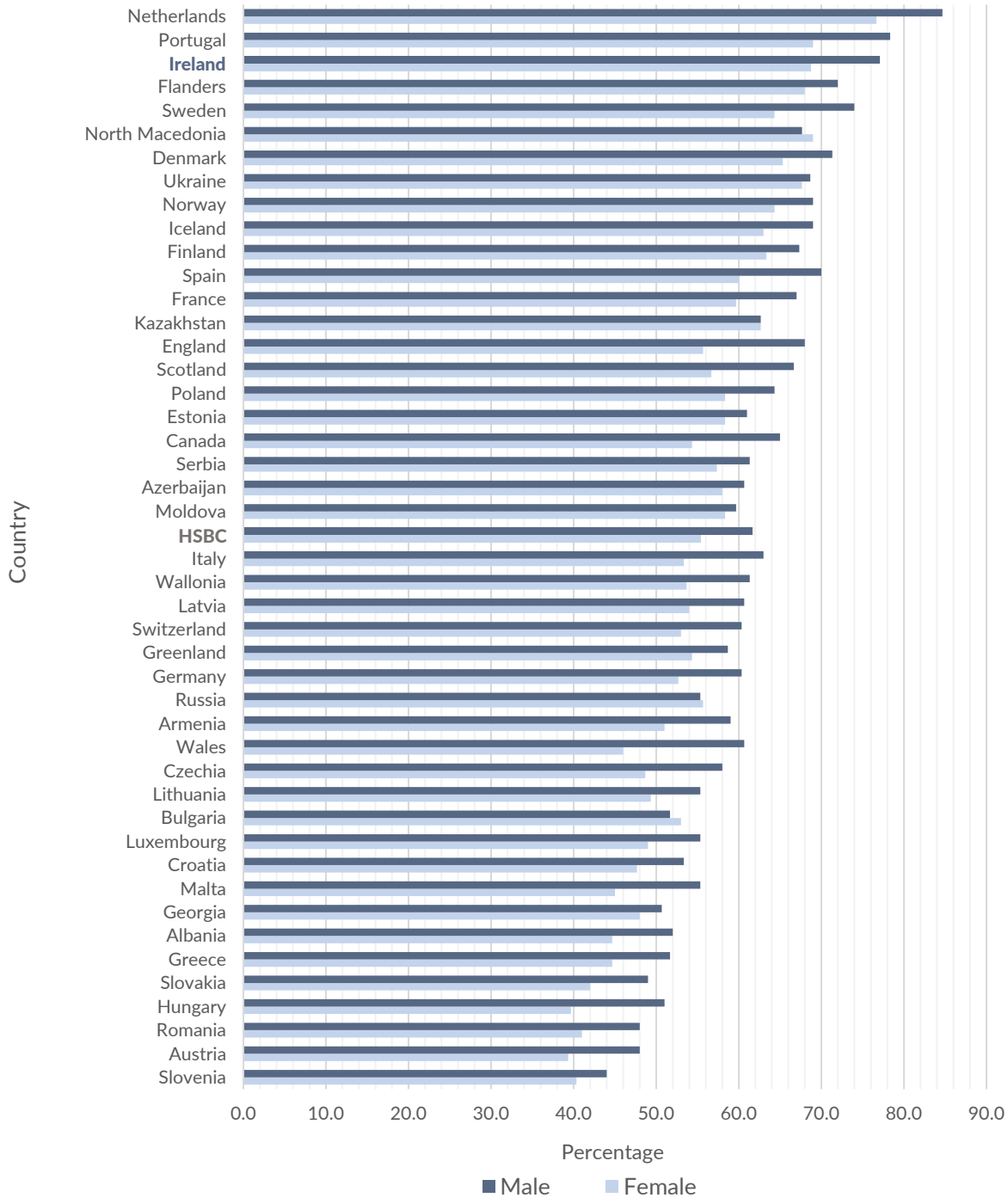
Table 116. Percentage of children aged 10–17 who reported eating breakfast on five or more days per week, by NUTS region (2014–2018)

	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/regions, 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 HBSC average.

Figure 24. Percentage of children aged 11, 13, and 15 who reported eating breakfast every weekday, by country (2018)



Source: HBSC Survey

Nutrition: Soft drinks

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

- In 2018, 6.5% of children aged 10–17 reported drinking soft drinks that contain sugar at least once a day. This decreased between 2014 and 2018 (see *Table 117*).
- Among individual population groups, when compared to all other children, Traveller children, immigrant 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 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 group (2014–2018)

	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 the low social class group (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)

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All children	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						
High	8.5	6.4	7.4	4.3	3.1	3.7
Middle	14.1	12.0	13.1	7.1	6.5	6.8
Low	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*).

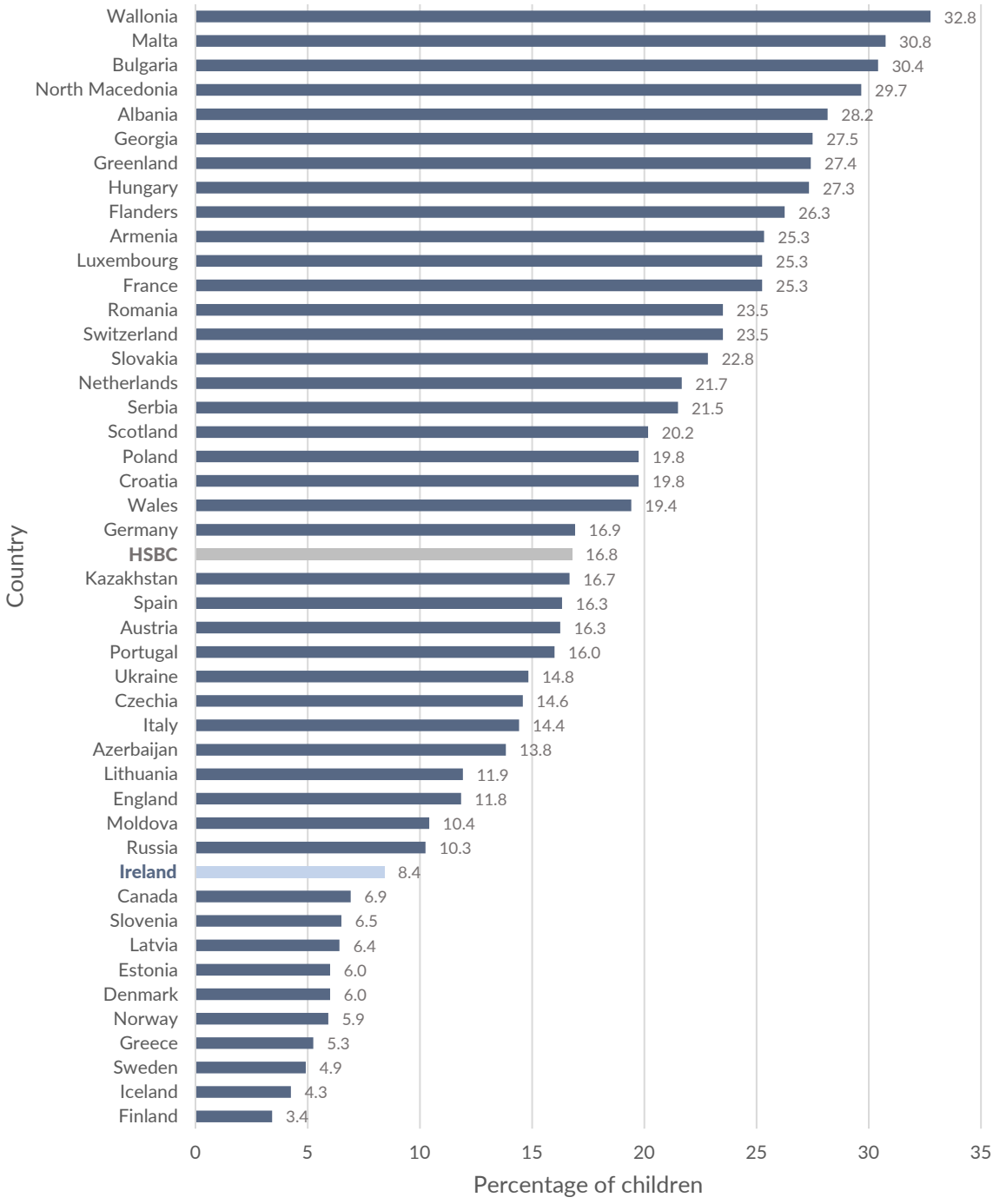
Table 119. Percentage of children aged 10–17 who reported drinking soft drinks that contain sugar at least once a day, by NUTS region (2014–2018)

	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/regions, 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 Wallonia. The corresponding percentage in Ireland was 8.4%. This was below the international HBSC average.

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

4 FORMAL AND INFORMAL SUPPORTS

Contents

Key findings

- Public expenditure on educational institutions between primary and tertiary level decreased from 5.21% of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2013 to 3.13% in 2019 (see Figure 26), although real public expenditure increased from €8,286,000,000 in 2013 to €9,192,000,000 in 2018 (see Table 121).
- In 2021, 13.6% of children were considered to be at risk of poverty, down from 18.4% in 2017 (see Table 122).
- In 2021, 5.2% of children experienced consistent poverty, down from 8.8% in 2017 (see Table 123).
- In 2021, there were 21,932 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 2020, 8,169 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 16,301 (see Table 132).
- In 2020, 90.9% of pregnant women attended antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy (see Table 135).
- In 2021, 97.8% of newborns were visited by a public health nurse within 72 hours of discharge from hospital for the first time (see Table 136).

- In 2021, 59.8% of newborn children had their developmental health screening before reaching 12 months of age (see Table 137).

- In 2021, for children at 12 months of age, uptake rates among Local Health Offices (LHOs) for D_3, P_3, T_3, and $Polio_3$ ranged from 65.2% to 94.9% (see Table 139).

- In 2021, for children at 24 months of age, uptake rates among Local Health Offices (LHOs) for D_3, P_3, T_3, $Polio_3$, $HepB_3$, and Hib_3 ranged from 87.3% to 97.0% (see Table 140).

- As of December 2021, there were 7,944 children on an inpatient/day case (IPDC) waiting list and 83,377 children on an outpatient (OP) waiting list (see Table 142 and Table 143).

- In 2021, there were 5,777 children in the care of Tusla, the Child and Family Agency (see Table 144).

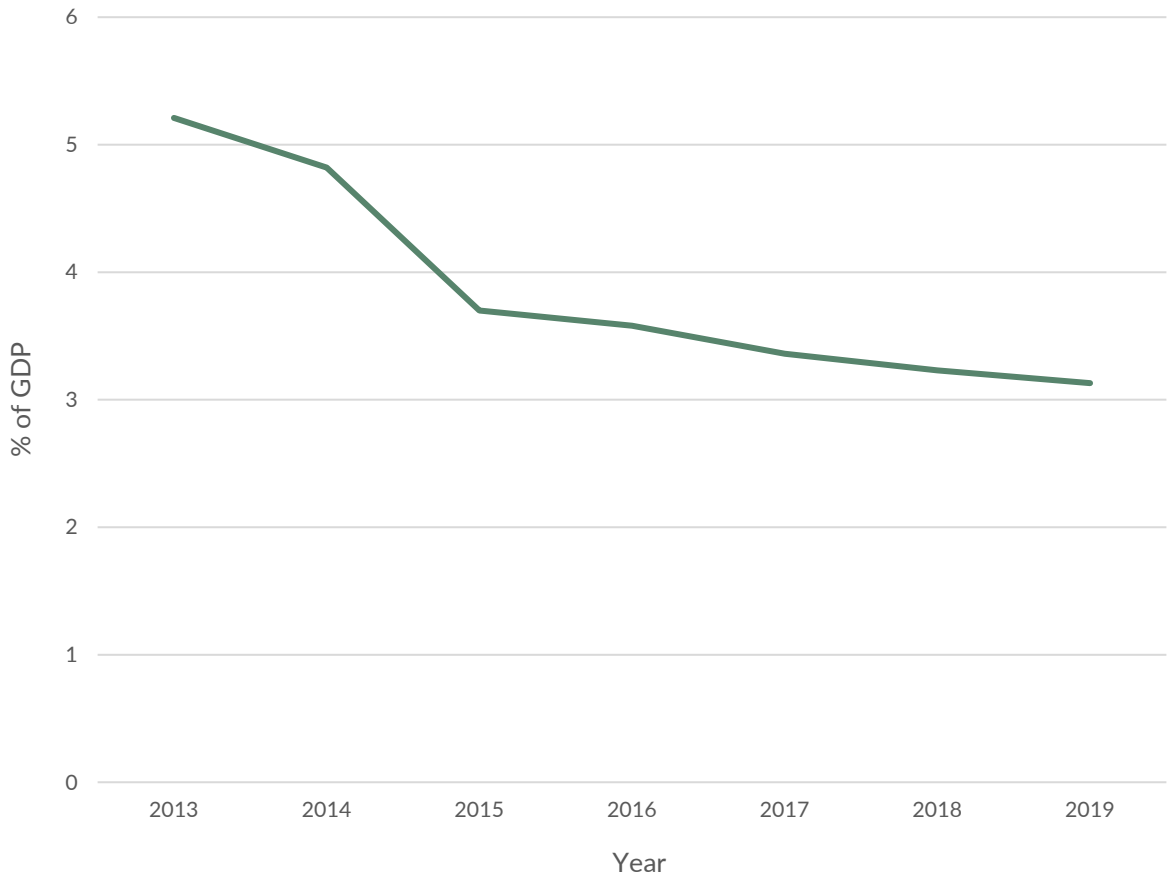
- In 2021, there were 509 admissions of children to psychiatric hospitals/units and child and adolescent units (see Table 146).

Public expenditure on education

Measure: Public expenditure on education

- Public expenditure on educational institutions at primary, secondary, and tertiary level decreased from 5.21% of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2013 to 3.13% in 2019 (see *Figure 26*).

Figure 26. Public expenditure on educational institutions at primary, secondary, and tertiary level (2013–2019)



Source: Eurostat

- In 2019, expenditure on educational institutions as a percentage of GDP ranged from 2.78% in Romania to 5.94% in Sweden. The EU-27 average expenditure in the EU-27 was 4.25%.

Table 120. Public expenditure on educational institutions between primary and tertiary levels as a percentage of GDP, by EU-27 country and UK (2015–2019)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
EU-27	4.27	NA	4.22	4.25	4.25
Country					
Austria	4.94	4.88	4.75	4.62	4.35
Belgium	5.73	5.64	5.62	5.60	5.57
Bulgaria	2.97	2.91	3.16	3.14	3.27
Croatia	NA	3.31	NA	NA	3.35
Cyprus	5.82	5.68	5.44	5.18	4.96
Czechia	3.27	3.06	3.24	3.68	3.92
Denmark	NA	6.53	6.17	6.06	5.92
Estonia	4.22	4.13	3.93	4.16	4.17
Finland	5.98	5.79	5.34	5.19	5.29
France	4.78	4.73	4.75	4.72	4.68
Germany	4.05	4.04	4.02	4.08	4.14
Greece	3.41	NA	3.16	3.34	3.32
Hungary	3.48	3.69	3.48	3.39	3.23
Ireland	**3.70**	**3.58**	**3.36**	**3.23**	**3.13**
Italy	3.62	3.37	3.57	3.77	3.62
Latvia	4.53	3.92	3.57	3.49	3.61
Lithuania	3.55	3.26	3.05	3.03	3.10
Luxembourg	3.33	3.12	3.09	2.99	3.20
Malta	4.52	4.39	3.98	4.29	4.22
Netherlands	5.05	5.13	4.83	5.01	4.81
Poland	4.20	4.00	3.89	3.91	3.94
Portugal	4.40	4.30	4.50	4.23	4.27
Romania	2.38	2.28	2.38	2.49	2.78
Slovakia	4.09	3.38	3.41	3.43	NA
Slovenia	4.08	3.99	3.97	4.12	4.10
Spain	3.69	3.64	3.62	3.59	3.65
Sweden	5.76	5.85	5.85	5.96	5.94
United Kingdom	5.42	5.20	5.14	4.94	5.00

NA = not available

Source: Eurostat

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

	Expenditure per student (€ at constant 2019 prices) by educational level			Real current expenditure (€m at constant 2019 prices)
	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 2021, 11.6% 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. 13.6% of children were at risk of being in poverty.
- The highest "at risk of poverty" rate for children occurred among those aged 12–17. 18.5% of children in this age group were at risk of poverty in 2021. This compares with a rate of 13.3% for those aged 6–11 and a rate of 8.4% for those aged 5 and under.
- For households in 2021, those comprising 1 adult with children under 18 were most likely to be at risk of poverty, with a rate of 22.8%. This contrasts with a rate of 17.3% for households comprising 2 adults with 3+ children under 18, and with 7.0% 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 (2017–2021)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
All ages	15.7	14.0	12.8	13.2	11.6
Population under 18	18.4	15.9	15.3	16.4	13.6
Age					
Under 6 years	11.9	8.9	10.7	11.6	8.4
6–11 years	18.9	17.0	15.0	16.0	13.3
12–17 years	23.3	20.2	19.1	21.4	18.5
Household composition					
1 adult with children under 18	39.9	33.5	29.7	31.0	22.8
2 adults with 1–2 children under 18	8.8	8.4	11.5	8.2	7.0
2 adults with 3+ children under 18	17.3	16.3	13.8	16.6	17.3
Other households with children under 18	21.7	14.5	12.3	19.1	11.9
Households without children	14.2	13.6	11.2	11.1	11.4

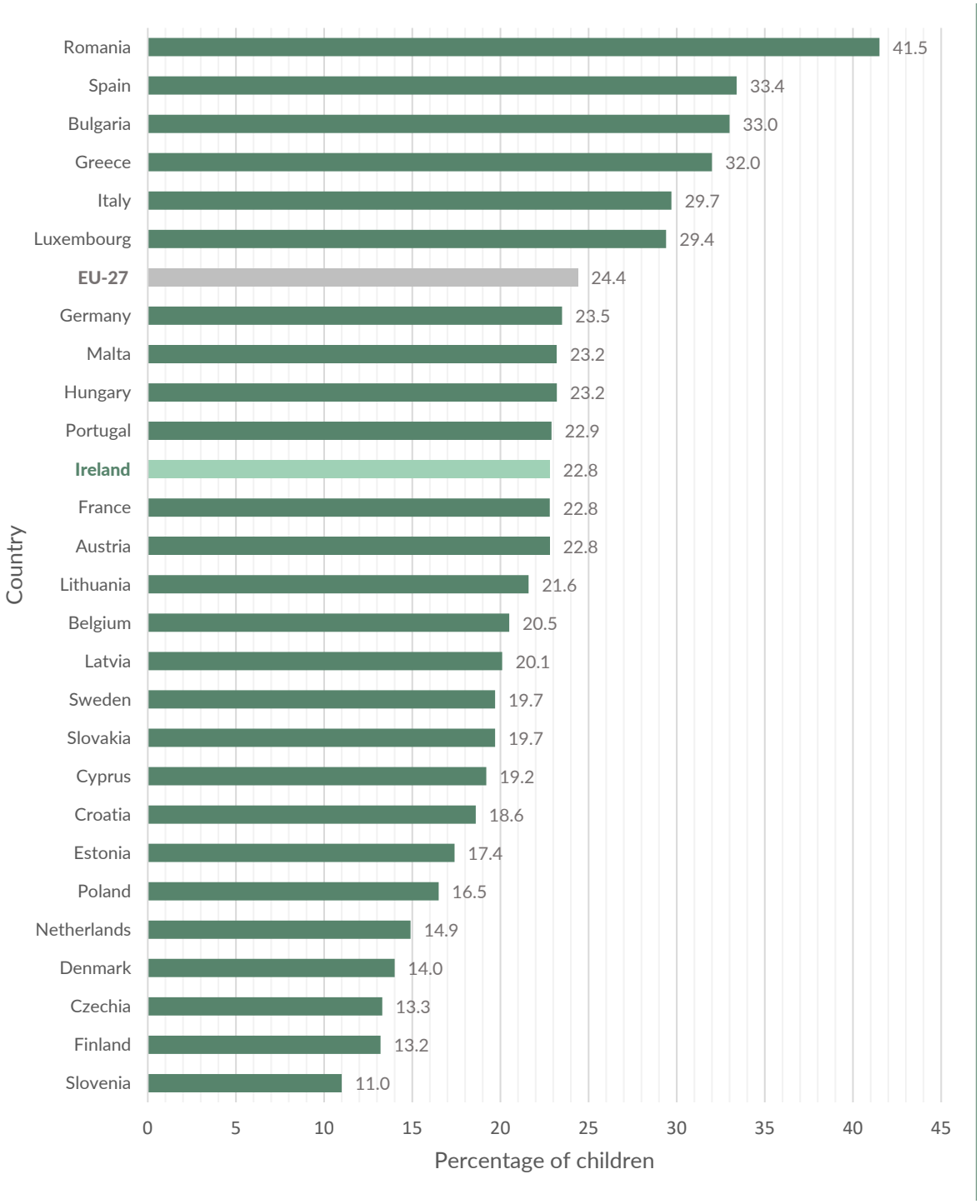
Note: Break in series in 2020 (see technical notes in Appendix 1)

Source: CSO, SILC

- In 2021, the percentage of children at risk of poverty or social exclusion[3] across the EU-27 ranged from 11.0% in Slovenia to 41.5% in Romania. The corresponding percentage for Ireland was 22.8%. This was in line with the EU-27 average of 24.4% (see *Figure 27*).

[3] See technical notes in Appendix 1 for details

Figure 27. Percentage of children at risk of poverty or social exclusion, by EU-27 country (2021)



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 2021, 4.0% of the population experienced consistent poverty (see *Table 123*).
- Children were more likely to experience consistent poverty than the population as a whole. 5.2% of children experienced consistent poverty, compared with 4.0% of the population as a whole (see *Table 123*).
- The highest consistent poverty rate for children occurred among those aged 12–17. 6.4% of children in this age group experienced consistent poverty in 2021. This compares with a rate of 6.2% for those aged 6–11 and a rate of 2.8% for those aged 5 and under (see *Table 123*).
- For households in 2021, those comprising 1 adult with children under 18 were most likely to experience consistent poverty, with a rate of 13.1%. This contrasts to a rate of 5.7% for households comprising 2 adults with 3+ children under 18, and with 3.1% 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 (2017–2021)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
All ages	6.7	5.6	5.5	4.7	4.0
Population under 18	8.8	7.7	8.1	7.2	5.2
Age					
Under 6 years	6.4	4.8	5.9	4.9	2.8
6–11 years	8.2	9.0	9.7	7.0	6.2
12–17 years	11.2	8.8	8.3	9.7	6.4
Household composition					
1 adult with children under 18	20.7	19.2	17.1	19.3	13.1
2 adults with 1–2 children under 18	4.1	3.7	5.8	2.0	3.1
2 adults with 3+ children under 18	9.2	9.1	7.9	6.6	5.7
Other households with children under 18	8.1	3.8	4.2	7.9	1.9
Households without children	5.3	4.6	3.5	2.9	3.7

Note: Break in series in 2020 (see technical notes in Appendix 1)
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 2021, there were 21,932 households with children identified as being in need of social housing.
- 52.9% (11,594) of households with children identified as being in need of social housing were households with one child, 29.9% (6,568) were households with two children, 11.4% (2,495) were households with three children, and the remaining 5.8% (1,275) 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 52.6% between 2016 and 2021.

Table 124. Number and percentage of households with children identified as being in need of social housing, by number of children (2016–2021)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020		2021	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	%	No.	%
Total	46,294	42,911	34,628	30,420	24,646	100.0	21,932	100.0
No. of children								
1 child	22,204	20,550	16,567	15,178	12,732	51.7	11,594	52.9
2 children	15,194	14,101	11,228	9,578	7,523	30.5	6,568	29.9
3 children	5,737	5,354	4,460	3,691	2,860	11.6	2,495	11.4
4 children	2,115	1,950	1,584	1,341	1,035	4.2	838	3.8
5 or more children	1,044	956	789	632	496	2.0	437	2.0

Source: The Housing Agency

- In 2021, 62.3% (13,658) of households with children identified as being in need of social housing were one-parent households, 26.9% (5,908) were two-parent households, and the remaining 10.8% (2,366) were multi-adult households (see *Table 125*).
- 44.3% (9,718) 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 (2021)

	Single with children	Couple with children	Multi-adult households with children	All households with children	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	%
Total	13,658	5,908	2,366	21,932	100.0
County					
Carlow	141	53	13	207	0.9
Cavan	106	50	18	174	0.8
Clare	243	86	51	380	1.7
Cork	1,639	707	221	2,567	11.7
Donegal	197	69	17	283	1.3
Dublin	5,921	2,655	1,142	9,718	44.3
Galway	488	298	90	876	4.0
Kerry	405	206	94	705	3.2
Kildare	617	328	127	1,072	4.9
Kilkenny	158	57	23	238	1.1
Laois	147	68	23	238	1.1
Leitrim	25	18	5	48	0.2
Limerick	526	151	87	764	3.5
Longford	67	35	14	116	0.5
Louth	343	99	36	478	2.2
Mayo	164	67	45	276	1.3
Meath	374	170	56	600	2.7
Monaghan	76	24	19	119	0.5
Offaly	138	62	18	218	1.0
Roscommon	37	26	11	74	0.3
Sligo	107	26	9	142	0.6
Tipperary	307	97	35	439	2.0
Waterford	297	80	26	403	1.8
Westmeath	181	85	37	303	1.4
Wexford	395	138	45	578	2.6
Wicklow	559	253	104	916	4.2

Note: Household composition variable changed in 2021, data not comparable with previous years

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, 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 group (2014–2018)

	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 the low social class group (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)

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All children	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	92.0	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	88.0	86.0	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						
High	93.6	92.0	92.8	93.9	92.5	93.1
Middle	88.7	88.2	88.5	89.5	87.7	88.6
Low	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)

	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 group (2014–2018)

	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 the middle social class group (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)

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All children	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						
High	62.9	56.8	59.8	69.2	65.9	67.4
Middle	64.8	58.9	61.9	67.9	63.2	65.5
Low	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)

	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

- In 2020, 8,169 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 16,301 (see *Table 132* and *Table 133*).
- 72% of those referred were aged 15–17 years (see *Table 132*).
- The rate per 1,000 of referrals among boys (22.8) was over three times higher than the rate of referrals among girls (6.7) (see *Table 132*).

Table 132. Number, percentage, and rate (per 1,000) of children aged 10–17 referred to the Garda Diversion Programme, by age and gender (2018–2020)

	2018			2019			2020		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
Total children	8,561	100	16.3	9,842	100	18.4	8,169	100	15.0
Sex									
Male	6,108	71	22.8	7,086	72	25.9	6,372	78	22.8
Female	2,453	29	9.6	2,756	28	10.5	1,797	22	6.7
Age									
10–14 years	2,311	27	6.9	2,953	30	8.6	2,287	28	6.5
15–17 years	6,250	73	32.7	6,889	70	35.5	5,882	72	30.1

Rates based on population estimates for the relevant years

Source: The Garda Diversion Programme

- 59.1% of referrals were deemed suitable for admission to the Garda Diversion Programme and received either a formal or informal caution.

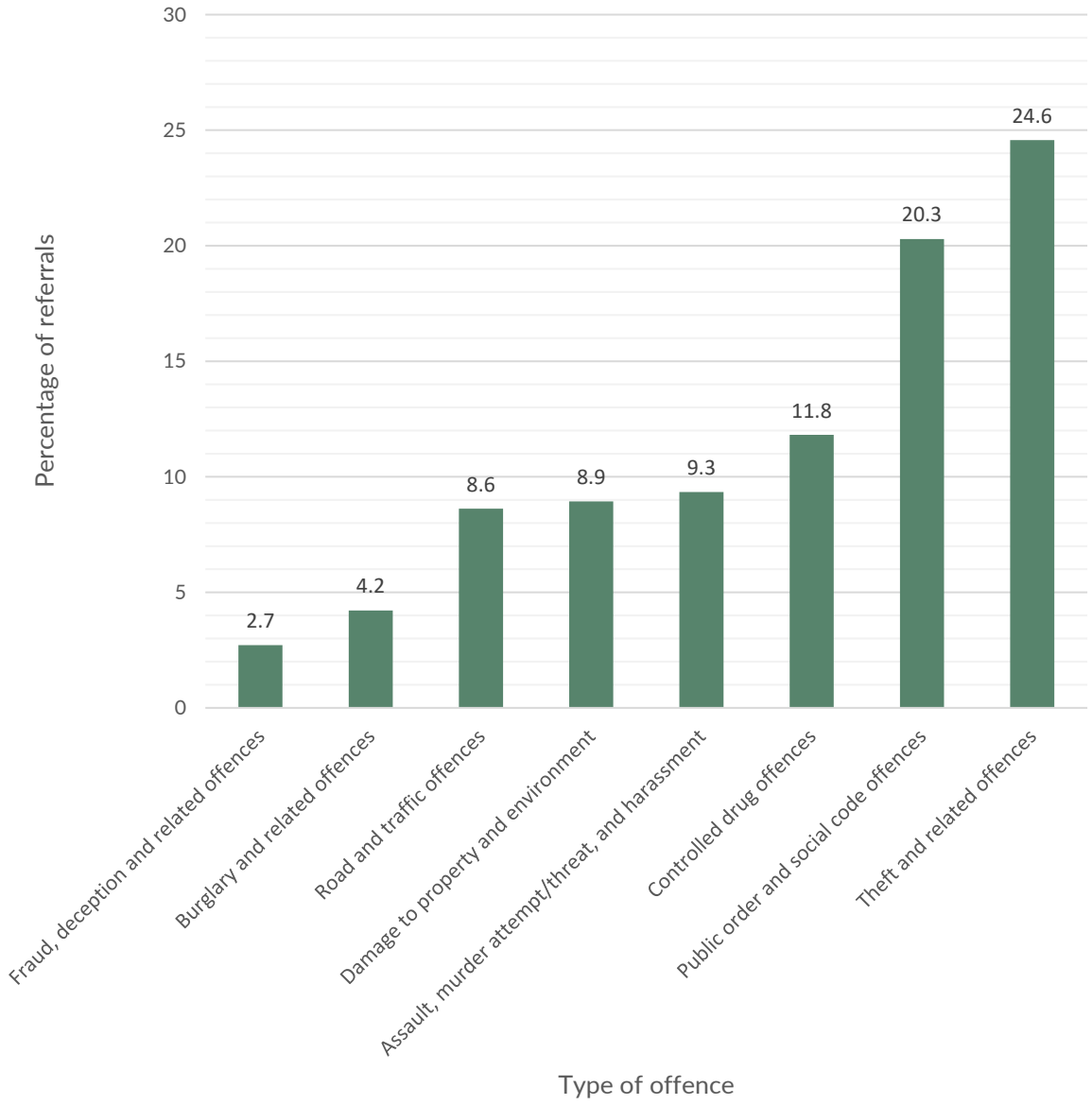
Table 133. Number and percentage of referrals of children aged 10–17 to the Garda Diversion Programme, by outcome (2018–2020)

	2018		2019		2020	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total referrals	16,491	100.0	18,567	100.0	16,301	100.0
Outcome						
Formal caution	3,433	20.8	4,171	22.5	4,448	27.3
Informal caution	5,891	35.7	6,960	37.5	5,178	31.8
Not suitable	5,149	31.2	6,062	32.6	5,629	34.5
No further action	824	5.0	231	1.2	NA	NA
Other outcome	1,194	7.2	1,143	6.2	1,046	6.4

Source: The Garda Diversion Programme

- "Theft and related offences" was the single highest cause of referrals to the Garda Diversion Programme, representing 24.6% of all referrals (see *Figure 28*).
- Over the period 2018 to 2020, the number of children referred to the Garda Diversion Programme decreased by 4.6%.

Figure 28. Percentage of referrals to the Garda Diversion Programme, by type of offence (2020)



Source: The Garda Diversion Programme

- The rate of children referred to the Garda Diversion Programme per 1,000 children ranged from 38.9 in D.M.R. North Central to 9.4 in Cork West.
- The rate of referrals per 1,000 children ranged from 115.0 in D.M.R. North Central to 16.0 in Wexford.

Table 134. Number and rate (per 1,000) of children aged 10–17 referred and all referrals to the Garda Diversion Programme, by region and division (2020)

	Children referred		All referrals		Average number of referrals per child
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	
State	8,101	16.1	16,218	32.2	2.0
Dublin Region	2,771	22.5	6,097	49.4	2.2
D.M.R. Eastern	299	15.9	663	35.3	2.2
D.M.R. North Central	173	38.9	511	115.0	3.0
D.M.R. Northern	766	21.8	1,572	44.8	2.1
D.M.R. South Central	167	24.7	404	59.9	2.4
D.M.R. Southern	550	23.3	1,338	56.7	2.4
D.M.R. Western	816	23.6	1,609	46.4	2.0
Eastern Region	1,923	13.4	3,774	26.3	2.0
Kildare	364	13.8	649	24.5	1.8
Kilkenny/Carlow	231	13.3	422	24.3	1.8
Laois/Offaly	239	12.8	486	26.1	2.0
Meath	242	10.4	628	26.9	2.6
Waterford	303	22.2	597	43.8	2.0
Westmeath	154	14.1	368	33.7	2.4
Wexford	192	11.2	275	16.0	1.4
Wicklow	198	12.2	349	21.5	1.8
North Western Region	1,552	13.7	2,930	25.9	1.9
Cavan/Monaghan	215	13.5	540	33.8	2.5
Donegal	258	13.7	498	26.5	1.9
Galway	346	12.8	565	21.0	1.6
Louth	261	17.0	565	36.7	2.2
Mayo	182	12.6	242	16.7	1.3
Roscommon/Longford	160	14.4	311	28.0	1.9
Sligo/Leitrim	130	12.3	209	19.8	1.6
Southern Region	1,855	15.1	3,417	27.7	1.8
Clare	158	12.4	233	18.3	1.5
Cork City	471	19.3	1,032	42.2	2.2
Cork North	270	15.6	452	26.1	1.7
Cork West	139	9.4	256	17.3	1.8
Kerry	220	14.8	406	27.2	1.8
Limerick	381	18.0	694	32.8	1.8
Tipperary	216	12.1	344	19.3	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

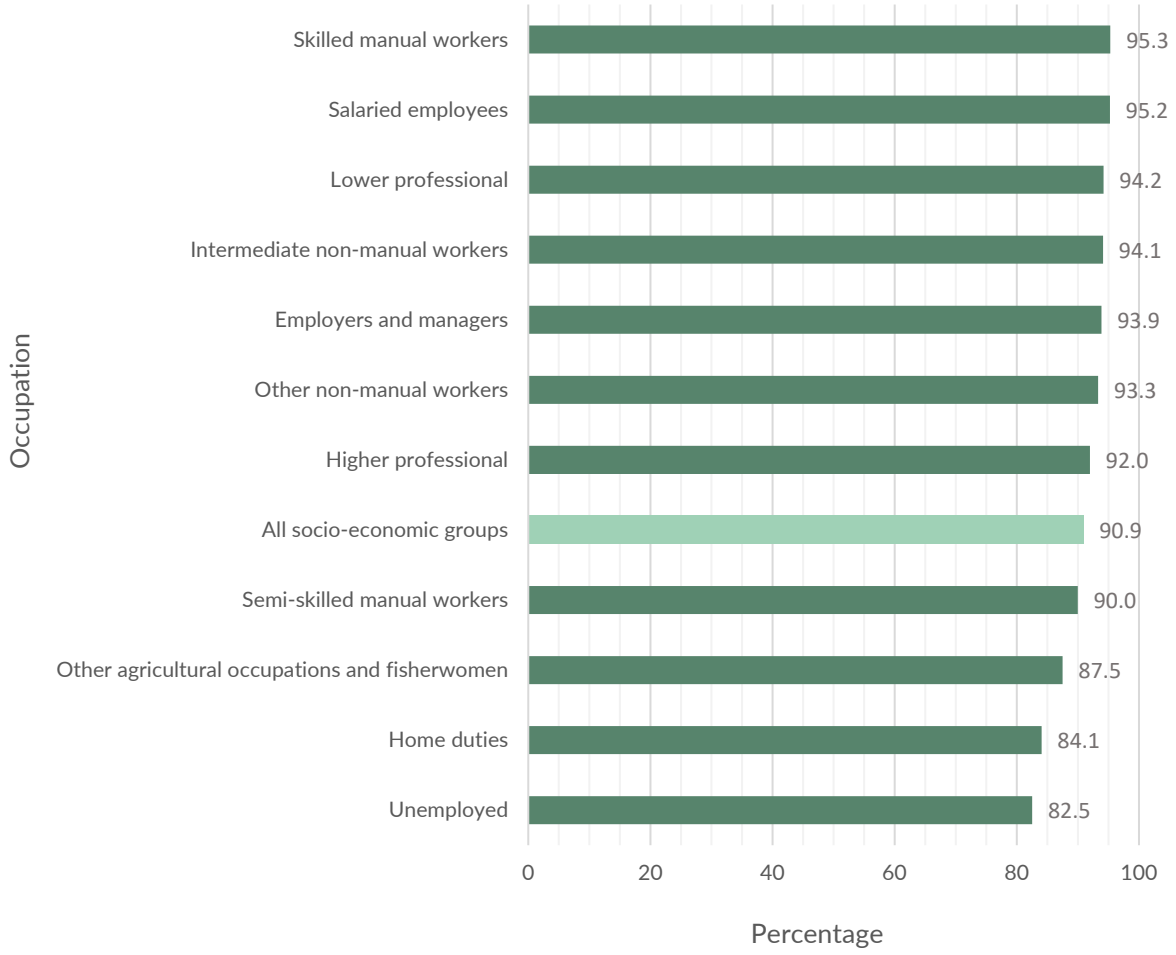
- In 2020, 90.9% of pregnant women attended antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy (see *Table 135*).
- The percentage of women attending antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy increased from 88.0% in 2015 to 90.9% in 2020.
- In 2020, antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy was lowest among pregnant women aged 15–19 years (75.5%) (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 (82.5% and 84.1% respectively) (see *Figure 29*).

Table 135. Percentage of pregnant women attending antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy, by age (2015–2020)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	88.0	89.3	87.3	82.0	88.3	90.9
Age						
15–19 years	77.0	76.8	75.9	67.9	75.8	75.5
20–24 years	83.0	82.9	80.1	77.3	81.3	84.1
25–29 years	87.2	88.3	86.0	80.3	86.2	89.3
30–34 years	89.5	90.9	89.0	83.6	89.9	92.6
35–39 years	89.2	90.6	88.9	83.2	89.9	92.4
40–44 years	87.3	89.1	86.1	82.3	88.8	90.7
45 years and over	83.9	85.2	84.1	77.4	87.7	88.3

Source: Healthcare Pricing Office

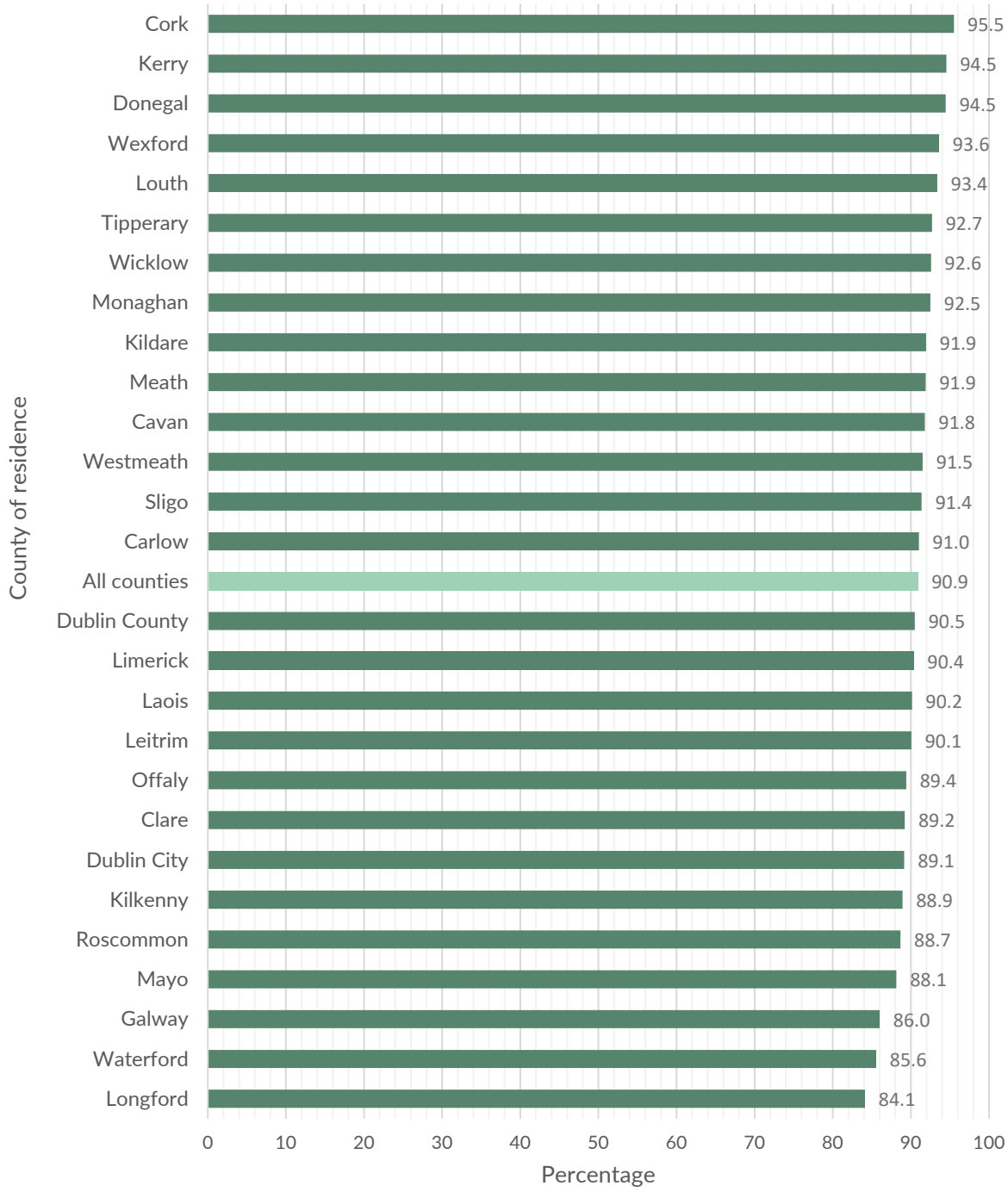
Figure 29. Percentage of pregnant women attending antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy, by occupation (2020)



Source: Healthcare Pricing Office

- The percentage of women attending antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy ranged from 84.1% in Longford to 95.5% in Cork (see *Figure 30*).

Figure 30. Percentage of pregnant women attending antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy, by county of residence (2020)



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 2021, 97.8% of newborns were visited by a public health nurse within 72 hours of discharge from hospital for the first time.
- In 2021, the percentage of newborns visited by a public health nurse for the first time within 72 hours of discharge from hospital ranged from 81.8% in Cavan/Monaghan to 100.0% or over in 11 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 (2018–2021)

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	97.3	98.6	96.3	97.8
Local Health Office				
Cavan/Monaghan	92.7	95.6	94.8	81.8
Donegal	99.8	100.0	100.0	99.8
Sligo/Leitrim	94.2	99.9	99.9	100.0
Galway	99.5	99.8	99.0	99.0
Mayo	98.3	99.5	99.2	99.0
Roscommon	99.5	99.7	98.0	99.0
Clare	97.4	97.3	100.0	99.9
Limerick	98.6	102.8	104.0	98.3
North Tipperary/East Limerick	98.7	103.2	103.5	99.3
Kerry	102.7	100.0	99.9	100.0
North Cork	99.8	99.6	99.7	99.9
North Lee	100.7	101.1	100.5	100.9
South Lee	100.0	99.8	98.3	98.8
West Cork	99.5	99.3	98.6	100.5
Carlow/Kilkenny	100.5	97.2	97.0	95.7
South Tipperary	100.0	99.6	99.6	99.7
Waterford	99.0	99.5	100.0	100.0
Wexford	97.4	99.9	98.5	100.0
Dublin South East	100.6	98.8	NA	94.1
Dún Laoghaire	81.1	90.5	100.0	97.2
Wicklow	98.0	99.2	NA	96.6
Dublin South City	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Dublin South West	97.3	95.1	89.2	97.8
Dublin West	97.1	99.2	100.0	102.0
Kildare/West Wicklow	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Laois/Offaly	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Longford/Westmeath	99.4	97.7	100.0	99.4
Louth	98.4	96.5	94.8	93.6
Meath	92.3	93.3	89.5	89.7
Dublin North	96.0	96.6	66.6	97.8
Dublin North Central	93.2	99.1	95.3	98.2
Dublin North West	92.1	97.8	95.0	100.0

Note: 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)

Note: In 2021, this measure was changed from 7–9 month developmental check by 10 months to 9–11 month developmental check by 12 months.

- In 2021, 59.8% of newborn children had their 9–11 month developmental check on time.
- In 2021, the percentage of newborns who had their 9–11 month developmental check on time ranged from 12.1% in Dublin South East to 94.4% 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 (2021)

	2021
Total	59.8
Local Health Office	
Cavan/Monaghan	NA
Donegal	71.4
Sligo/Leitrim	34.1
Galway	41.0
Mayo	60.8
Roscommon	46.2
Clare	86.4
Limerick	45.5
North Tipperary/East Limerick	62.1
Kerry	69.2
North Cork	90.3
North Lee	89.5
South Lee	92.5
West Cork	91.1
Carlow/Kilkenny	94.4
South Tipperary	78.5
Waterford	24.8
Wexford	19.2
Dublin South East	12.1
Dún Laoghaire	18.3
Wicklow	53.4
Dublin South City	60.4
Dublin South West	75.9
Dublin West	76.2
Kildare/West Wicklow	74.5
Laois/Offaly	36.1
Longford/Westmeath	58.9
Louth	65.0
Meath	80.1
Dublin North	56.9
Dublin North Central	40.1
Dublin North West	65.8

Source: Healthcare Pricing Office

Childhood immunisation

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

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

- In 2021, uptake rates of each of the vaccines D_3, Hib_3, and $HepB_3$ were 87% at 12 months and 93—94% at 24 months, down from 90% at 12 months and 95% at 24 months in 2017.

Table 138. Immunisation uptake rates (%), by age and vaccine type (2017–2021)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
At 12 months					
D_3	90	89	90	88	87
Hib_3	90	89	90	88	87
$HepB_3$	90	89	90	88	87
$MenC_1$	93	89	90	88	87
PCV_2	90	89	90	88	87
$Polio_3$	90	89	90	88	87
T_3	90	89	90	88	87
P_3	90	89	90	88	87
At 24 months					
D_3	95	94	94	94	94
Hib_3	95	94	94	94	93
$HepB_3$	95	94	94	94	93
PCV_b	92	91	88	88	87
MMR_1	92	92	91	92	90
Hib_b	90	90	90	89	88
$MenC_2$	87	87	86	86	85
$Polio_3$	95	94	94	94	94
T_3	95	94	94	94	94
$MenC_b$	88	88	89	89	88
PCV_3	91	90	86	87	85
P_3	95	94	94	94	94

Source: Health Protection Surveillance Centre

- In 2021, for children at 12 months of age, uptake rates among Local Health Offices (LHOs) for D_3, P_3, T_3, and $Polio_3$ ranged from 65% to 95%.
- Uptake rates among LHOs for $MenC_1$ and PCV_2 ranged from 65% to 95%.

Table 139. Immunisation uptake rates (%) at 12 months, by vaccine type and Local Health Office (2021)

	D_3, P_3, T_3, $Polio_3$	Hib_3	$HepB_3$	$MenC_1$	PCV_2
State	87	87	87	87	87
Local Health Office					
Cavan/Monaghan	88	88	88	88	88
Donegal	85	85	85	84	85
Sligo/Leitrim	91	91	91	90	90
Galway	91	91	91	91	92
Mayo	92	92	92	92	92
Roscommon	95	95	95	94	95
Clare	91	91	91	91	91
Limerick	83	83	83	83	83
North Tipperary/East Limerick	89	89	89	89	89
North Cork	91	91	91	92	92
North Lee	91	91	91	91	91
South Lee	91	91	91	91	91
West Cork	85	85	85	85	84
Kerry	89	89	89	90	89
Carlow/Kilkenny	88	88	88	88	88
South Tipperary	93	93	93	93	93
Waterford	88	88	88	88	86
Wexford	92	92	92	92	91
Dublin South	88	88	88	88	88
Dublin South East	91	91	91	91	91
Wicklow	85	85	85	85	85
Dublin South City	88	88	88	88	88
Dublin South West	89	89	89	89	89
Dublin West	82	82	82	82	82
Kildare/West Wicklow	88	88	88	88	88
Laois/Offaly	93	93	93	93	93
Longford/Westmeath	93	94	94	94	94
Louth	84	84	84	83	84
Meath	79	79	79	79	79
Dublin North West	83	83	83	83	83
Dublin North Central	82	82	82	83	83
Dublin North	65	65	65	65	65

Source: Health Protection Surveillance Centre

- In 2021, for children at 24 months of age, uptake rates among Local Health Offices (LHOs) for D_3, P_3, T_3, $Polio_3$, $HepB_3$, and Hib_3 ranged from 87% to 97%.
- Uptake rates for MMR_1 ranged from 82% to 96%.
- Uptake rates for PCV_3 ranged from 76% to 98%.
- Uptake rates for PCV_b ranged from 79% to 97%.
- Uptake rates for $MenC_2$ ranged from 76% to 91%.
- Uptake rates for $MenC_b$ ranged from 81% to 95%.

Table 140. Immunisation uptake rates (%) at 24 months, by vaccine type and Local Health Office (2021)

	D_3, P_3, T_3, $Polio_3$	Hib_3	$HepB_3$	PCV_b	MMR_1	Hib_b	$MenC_2$	$MenC_b$	PCV_3
State	94	93	93	87	90	88	85	88	85
Local Health Office									
Cavan/Monaghan	93	93	93	83	89	89	83	87	83
Donegal	90	90	89	80	82	81	76	81	76
Sligo/Leitrim	93	93	93	85	90	85	82	85	85
Galway	96	96	96	92	95	93	NA	92	94
Mayo	96	96	96	93	93	91	87	90	95
Roscommon	96	96	96	97	94	94	85	92	98
Clare	95	95	95	91	92	91	88	91	88
Limerick	93	93	93	86	90	88	85	88	84
North Tipperary/East Limerick	93	93	93	91	91	92	88	92	88
North Cork	96	96	96	91	93	93	87	91	88
North Lee	96	96	96	92	93	93	89	92	90
South Lee	96	96	96	92	93	93	89	92	90
West Cork	92	92	92	88	90	90	84	88	85
Kerry	95	95	95	92	93	93	90	92	90
Carlow/Kilkenny	92	92	92	84	90	85	80	85	83
South Tipperary	96	96	96	91	93	91	88	91	89
Waterford	91	91	91	88	90	88	85	88	85
Wexford	95	95	95	88	92	89	85	88	86
Dublin South	94	94	94	88	93	89	NA	89	87
Dublin South East	94	94	94	91	93	92	NA	92	90
Wicklow	87	87	87	82	85	83	NA	83	81
Dublin South City	94	94	94	86	90	87	NA	87	85
Dublin South West	93	93	93	84	89	87	NA	86	82
Dublin West	91	91	91	80	85	81	NA	81	77
Kildare/West Wicklow	95	95	95	88	92	89	NA	89	86
Laois/Offaly	97	97	97	94	96	96	90	94	91
Longford/Westmeath	97	97	97	94	96	95	91	95	92
Louth	93	93	93	80	86	84	80	83	80
Meath	92	92	92	79	86	82	79	81	79
Dublin North West	92	92	92	86	89	88	NA	87	83
Dublin North Central	91	91	91	85	88	87	NA	87	82
Dublin North	90	90	90	80	87	82	NA	81	79

NA = not available

Source: Health Protection Surveillance Centre

- In 2021, uptake rates across the EU-28 for D_3, P_3, and T_3 ranged from 85% in Austria to 99% in Greece, Hungary, Luxembourg, Malta, and Portugal.
- Uptake rates across the EU-28 for $Polio_3$ ranged from 85% in Austria to 99% in Greece, Hungary, Luxembourg, Malta, and Portugal.
- Uptake rates across the EU-28 for the first dose of measles-containing vaccine ranged from 80% in Poland to 99% in Hungary and Luxembourg.

Table 141. Immunisation uptake rates (%) among children of relevant age, by vaccine type and EU-28 country (2021)

	D_3, P_3, and T_3	$Polio_3$	Measles-containing vaccine
Country			
Austria	85	85	95
Belgium	98	98	96
Bulgaria	89	89	89
Croatia	92	92	89
Cyprus	96	96	86
Czechia	94	94	97
Denmark	97	97	95
Estonia	90	89	89
Finland	89	89	93
France	96	96	92
Germany	91	91	97
Greece	99	99	97
Hungary	99	99	99
Ireland	**94**	**94**	**90**
Italy	94	94	92
Latvia	94	94	97
Lithuania	90	90	88
Luxembourg	99	99	99
Malta	99	99	90
Netherlands	95	95	93
Poland	90	91	80
Portugal	99	99	98
Romania	86	86	86
Slovakia	97	97	95
Slovenia	86	86	95
Spain	92	92	95
Sweden	98	98	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 2021, there were 7,944 children on an inpatient/day case (IPDC) waiting list and 83,377 children on an outpatient (OP) waiting list.
- Of those children on an IPDC waiting list, 11.1% were waiting between 12 and 18 months, and a further 16.7% were waiting 18 months or more. The corresponding percentages for children on OP waiting lists were 10.7% and 29.4%, respectively (see *Table 142* and *Table 143*).
- The number of children on an IPDC waiting list increased by 25.6% between 2018 and 2021. Over the same period, the number of children on an OP waiting list decreased by 0.2% (see *Table 142* and *Table 143*).

Table 142. Number and percentage of children on inpatient/day case waiting lists, by waiting time (2018–2021)

	2018		2019		2020		2021	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	6,324	100.0	6,861	100.0	7,551	100.0	7,944	100.0
Waiting time								
Less than three months	2,510	39.7	2,723	39.7	2,219	29.4	2,809	35.4
3–6 months	1,244	19.7	1,482	21.6	1,257	16.6	1,466	18.5
6–9 months	840	13.3	862	12.6	485	6.4	837	10.5
9–12 months	502	7.9	535	7.8	1,238	16.4	629	7.9
12–15 months	347	5.5	434	6.3	885	11.7	530	6.7
15–18 months	245	3.9	200	2.9	520	6.9	349	4.4
18 months or more	636	10.1	625	9.1	947	12.5	1,324	16.7

Source: National Treatment Purchase Fund

Table 143. Number and percentage of children on outpatient waiting lists, by waiting time (2018–2021)

	2018		2019		2020		2021	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	83,559	100.0	81,316	100.0	80,801	100.0	83,377	100.0
Waiting time								
Less than three months	23,387	28.0	22,451	27.6	18,894	23.4	21,648	26.0
3–6 months	13,310	15.9	13,133	16.2	10,196	12.6	13,861	16.6
6–9 months	10,999	13.2	10,952	13.5	5,661	7.0	8,779	10.5
9–12 months	7,324	8.8	7,655	9.4	9,424	11.7	5,700	6.8
12–15 months	5,953	7.1	5,966	7.3	7,129	8.8	5,497	6.6
15–18 months	4,665	5.6	4,471	5.5	5,601	6.9	3,408	4.1
18 months or more	17,921	21.4	16,688	20.5	23,896	29.6	24,484	29.4

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 2021, there were 5,777 children in the care of Tusla, the Child and Family Agency.
- The number of children in the care of Tusla decreased by 2.9% between 2019 and 2021 (see *Table 144*).
- Overall 4.9 children per 1,000 were in care in 2021 (see *Table 144*).
- More children (65.1%) were in general foster care in 2021 than in any other type of placement (see *Table 144*).
- A greater proportion (51.2%) 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 (2019–2021)

	2019			2020			2021		
	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
Total	5,951	100.0	4.9	5,818	100.0	4.9	5,777	100.0	4.9
Age									
Under 5 years	795	13.4	2.5	742	12.8	2.4	712	12.3	2.4
5–9 years	1,625	27.3	4.6	1,587	27.3	4.6	1,557	27.0	4.6
10–14 years	2,022	34.0	5.9	2,020	34.7	5.8	2,063	35.7	5.8
15–17 years	1,509	25.4	7.8	1,469	25.2	7.5	1,445	25.0	7.4
Gender									
Male	3,090	51.9	5.0	2,982	51.3	4.9	2,958	51.2	4.9
Female	2,861	48.1	4.9	2,836	48.7	4.8	2,819	48.8	4.8
Type of placement									
General foster care	3,924	65.9	3.3	3,822	65.7	3.2	3,760	65.1	3.2
Relative foster care	1,558	26.2	1.3	1,516	26.1	1.3	1,502	26.0	1.3
Residential care	377	6.3	0.3	389	6.7	0.3	408	7.1	0.3
Other care placements	92	1.5	0.1	91	1.6	0.1	107	1.9	0.1

Rates based on population estimates for the relevant years

Source: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency

- Rates ranged across administrative areas, from 2.4 per 1,000 in Dublin South East/Wicklow, to 10.5 per 1,000 in Dublin North City (see *Table 145*).

Table 145. Number and rate (per 1,000) of children in the care of Tusla, by administrative area (2019–2021)

	2019		2020		2021	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
All Tusla regions	5,951	5.0	5,818	4.9	5,777	4.9
Tusla Dublin North East	1,380	5.0	1,377	5.0	1,392	5.1
Cavan/Monaghan	157	4.3	154	4.2	153	4.2
Dublin North	330	3.3	340	3.4	351	3.5
Dublin North City	488	10.9	486	10.8	470	10.5
Louth Meath	405	4.4	397	4.3	418	4.5
Tusla Dublin Mid Leinster	1,423	4.2	1,334	3.9	1,340	3.9
Dublin South Central	369	5.6	362	5.5	365	5.6
Dublin South East/Wicklow	261	3.0	231	2.7	212	2.4
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	422	3.9	402	3.7	429	4.0
Midlands	371	4.6	339	4.2	334	4.2
Tusla South	1,731	5.8	1,682	5.6	1,646	5.5
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	344	5.5	328	5.2	325	5.2
Cork	781	5.8	772	5.8	749	5.6
Kerry	166	4.8	153	4.4	159	4.6
Waterford/Wexford	440	6.4	429	6.3	413	6.0
Tusla West	1,417	5.2	1,425	5.2	1,399	5.1
Donegal	210	4.9	220	5.1	226	5.3
Galway/Roscommon	366	4.6	378	4.7	370	4.6
Mayo	131	4.1	130	4.1	144	4.5
Midwest	599	6.2	582	6.0	550	5.7
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	111	4.7	115	4.9	109	4.6

Rates based on regional populations at Census 2016

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 2021, there were 509 admissions of children to psychiatric hospitals/units and child and adolescent units.
- Overall, 42.7 per 100,000 children were admitted to psychiatric/units and child and adolescent units in 2021 (see *Table 146*).
- 80.6% of children admitted to psychiatric hospitals/units and child and adolescent units in 2021 were aged 15–17 (see *Table 146*).
- 28.1% of children admitted to psychiatric hospitals/units and child and adolescent units were male and the remaining 71.9% were female (see *Table 146*).
- Among children, "neuroses" (33.0%) followed by "depressive disorders" (31.0%) 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 (2017–2021)

	2017	2018	2019	2020			2021		
	No.	No.	No.	No.	%	Rate	No.	%	Rate
Total	441	408	497	486	100.0	40.5	509	100.0	42.7
Age									
Under 5 years	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
5–9 years	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
10–14 years	84	65	84	113	23.3	32.3	99	19.4	27.7
15–17 years	357	343	413	373	76.7	190.6	410	80.6	209.6
Gender									
Male	178	152	175	136	28.0	22.2	143	28.1	23.5
Female	263	256	322	350	72.0	59.8	366	71.9	62.9
Diagnosis									
Alcoholic disorders	2	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
Depressive disorders	139	130	179	164	33.7	13.7	158	31.0	13.3
Drug dependence	15	7	15	7	1.4	0.6	13	2.6	1.1
Mania	22	18	16	25	5.1	2.1	26	5.1	2.2
Mental handicap	2	1	0	0	0.0	0.0	1	0.2	0.1
Neuroses	107	96	126	148	30.5	12.3	168	33.0	14.1
Organic psychoses	4	1	6	7	1.4	0.6	6	1.2	0.5
Other psychoses	44	43	57	42	8.6	3.5	50	9.8	4.2
Personality disorders	17	17	42	26	5.3	2.2	50	9.8	4.2
Schizophrenia	15	13	14	8	1.6	0.7	15	2.9	1.3
Unspecified	74	82	42	59	12.1	4.9	22	4.3	1.8

Rates based on population estimates for the relevant years

Source: Health Research Board

- The rate of admission of children to psychiatric hospitals/units and child and adolescent units was highest in Longford, with 71.3 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 (2021)

	No. of children	Rate
State	509	42.7
County of residence		
Carlow	< 5	NA
Cavan	7	33.3
Clare	5	16.3
Cork	28	20.9
Donegal	12	28.5
Dublin	197	64.6
Galway	29	45.6
Kerry	16	46.3
Kildare	44	69.9
Kilkenny	7	27.0
Laois	5	20.6
Leitrim	5	61.1
Limerick	18	38.2
Longford	8	71.3
Louth	17	48.5
Mayo	9	28.2
Meath	16	28.0
Monaghan	5	30.2
Offaly	8	37.9
Roscommon	< 5	NA
Sligo	< 5	NA
Tipperary	14	34.3
Waterford	9	30.7
Westmeath	7	29.7
Wexford	9	23.0
Wicklow	26	68.3

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:

- Number of children (de facto)
- Number of children living in a lone-parent household (usual residence and present)
- Percentage of children whose mothers have attained (a) primary, (b) lower secondary, (c) upper secondary or (d) third-level education (usual residence and present)
- Number of Traveller children (de facto)
- Number of foreign national children (usual residence and present)
- Number of children with a disability (de facto)
- 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.

Programmes Implementation Platform: Pobal

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), managed by Pobal. 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, basic and higher.

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. For the 2021/22 programme year, a standard rate of €69 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 €80.25 per week for 38 weeks for the 2021/22 programme year, will be payable to ECCE sessions where the Pre-school Leader for that session holds a Bachelor's degree in childcare/early education (minimum of Level 7 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) or equivalent) and have three years' experience working in the sector, and where all Pre-school Assistants hold a relevant major award in childcare/early education at Level 5 on the NFQ or its equivalent.

Education Statistics Database: Department of Education

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.

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.

Note: Changes were introduced in the 2020 SILC survey which result in a break in the series. 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.

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 determined by inclusion in the following social class groups (introduced in 1996 by the CSO), which are defined on the basis of occupation:

- High: Social Class I (Professional) and Social Class II (Managerial),
- Middle: Social Class III (Non-manual) and Social Class IV (Skilled manual),
- Low: Social Class V (Semi-skilled) and 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 of their parents were born outside of Ireland.

Notes:

- The overall percentages in the data for 2010 were weighted and therefore results may differ to earlier years.
- The data for 2014 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.
- International comparisons are based on data from children aged 11, 13, and 15 only.

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 these reports with previously reported data for 1994–2004.

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

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

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

Immunisation Uptake Statistics: Health Protection Surveillance Centre

National data on immunisation uptake in children at 12 and 24 months of age are collated by the Health Protection Surveillance Centre using data provided by the HSE Regions on a quarterly basis. There is no national database on childhood immunisations. All immunisation uptake statistics in this report should only be read alongside caveats to data which is contained in the annual reports published on the website of the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (www.hpsc.ie). The following indicator draws on data from this source:

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

The vaccines included are:

- D_3 — three doses of vaccine against diphtheria
- $HepB_3$ — three doses of vaccine against hepatitis B
- Hib_3 — 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
- $MenC_1$ — one dose of vaccine against meningococcal group C
- $MenC_2$ — 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
- MMR_1 — one dose of vaccine against measles, mumps and rubella
- P_3 — three doses of vaccine against pertussis
- PCV_2 — two doses of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine
- PCV_3 — three doses of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine
- PCV_b — one dose of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine on or after 12 months of age
- $Polio_3$ — three doses of vaccine against polio
- T_3 — 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

KEY:

BCG	Bacillus Calmette-Guerin vaccine	IPV	Inactive Polio Virus vaccine
DTaP	Diptheria, Tetanus and acellular Pertussis vaccine	MMR	Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccine
Hib	*Haemophilus influenza* type B vaccine	MenC	Meningococcal group C vaccine
HepB	Hepatitus B vaccine	PCV	Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine

Please see www.immunisation.ie for complete information on the Irish childhood immunisation schedule and the immunisation guidelines for Ireland

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:

- The number of children aged under 18 years registered as having an intellectual disability
- The number of children aged under 18 years registered as having a physical and/or sensory 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 following indicator draws on data from this source:

- 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) was 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. The following indicator draws on data from this source:

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

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.

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 (a) exclusively breastfed and (b) partially breastfed on being discharged from hospital
- The percentage of pregnant women attending antenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy.

The birthweight categories are defined as: Low: < 2,500 g; Healthy: 2,500 g–3,999 g; High: ≥ 4,000 g.

The trimesters are defined as: First: ≤ 14 weeks; Second: 15–27 weeks; Third: ≥ 28 weeks.

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 87.1% of total births were recorded as receiving combined antenatal care in 2020, the date of the first visit to the doctor was recorded as "not known" for 26.9% 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.

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 in- dependently 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. Note that although some individuals make more than one self-harm presentation to hospital, the figures presented relate to the number of individuals annually rather than the total number of presentations.

The Registry's Annual Reports are available at www.nsrf.ie.

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 hours of discharge from hospital for the first time
- The percentage of children who have had their 9–11 month developmental check on time (i.e. before reaching 12 months of age).

Notes:

- The indicator "The percentage of newborn babies visited by a public health nurse within 48 hours of discharge from hospital for the first time" was changed from "The percentage of newborn babies visited by a public health nurse within 48 hours of discharge from hospital for the first time" in 2016
- The indicator "The percentage of children who have had their 9–11 month developmental check on time (i.e. before reaching 12 months of age)" was changed from "The percentage of children reaching 12 months who have had their 7–9 month developmental check on time (i.e. before reaching 10 months of age)" in 2020.

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

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 can be found on the Tusla Website.

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 average" 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.

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 and total 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. Starting in 2020, the number of referrals also includes cases not requiring a social work response following screening. The counting of all reports of concern provides a more accurate account of activity and demand on child protection and welfare services. 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.

Prior to 2021, the household composition variable resulted in some anomalies, with most multi-adult households having been classified as single adult households (with and without children) and as couple households. The variable has been changed in 2021 to correct for this.

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. 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. 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. 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 first class children (aged 6—7 years). The following indicator draws on data from this source:

- The percentage of first class children in BMI categories "normal", "overweight", and "obese".

Height is recorded to the last 0.1 cm, weight recorded to the last 0.1 kg 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.

Appendix 2: EU country classifications

EU-27

The EU-27 countries are: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, 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
				Monaghan
		IE042	West	Galway
				Mayo
				Roscommon
IE05	Southern	IE051	Mid-West	Clare
				Tipperary
				Limerick
		IE052	South East	Waterford
				Kilkenny
				Carlow
				Wexford
		IE053	South-West	Cork
				Kerry
IE06	Eastern & Midland	IE061	Dublin	Dublin
		IE062	Mid-East	Wicklow
				Kildare
				Meath
				Louth
		IE063	Midlands	Longford
				Westmeath
				Offaly
				Laois

STATE OF THE NATION'S CHILDREN

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