

## Part III: Children's Outcomes

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# Education Outcomes

# Quality of Early Childhood Care and Education

Last Updated: 2020-05-06

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

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

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

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

Source: Department of Children and Youth Affairs

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

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

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

Source: Department of Children and Youth Affairs

# Primary School Attendance

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

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

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

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

Source: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency

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

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

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

\*This table uses schools-level data

Source: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency

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

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

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

\*This table uses schools-level data

Source: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency



# Post-Primary School Attendance

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

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

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

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

Source: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency

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

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

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

\*This table uses schools-level data

Source: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency

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

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

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

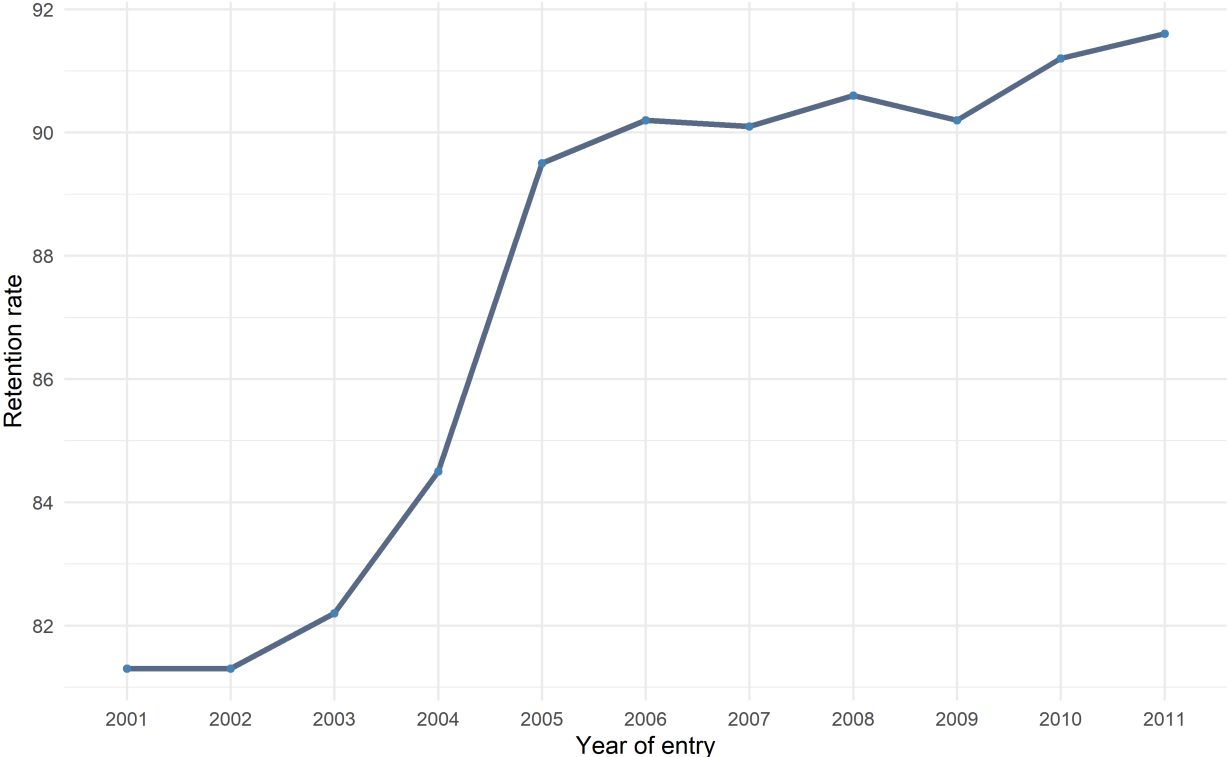
\*This table uses schools-level data

Source: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency

# Leaving Certificate Retention Rates

Measure: The Leaving Certificate retention rate

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



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

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

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

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

Source: Department of Education and Science

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

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

Source: Department of Education and Science

# Achievement in Reading: OECD-PISA Reading Literacy Scale

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

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

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

	Mean score
All children	518.1
<b>Immigrant status</b>	
Immigrant children	508.5
All children except immigrant children	522.1

Source: OECD-Pisa survey

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

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

Source: OECD-Pisa survey

Figure 11 pending

# Achievement in Mathematics: OECD-PISA Mathematics Literacy Scale

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

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

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

	Mean score
All children	499.6
<b>Immigrant status</b>	
Immigrant children	496.4
All children except immigrant children	501.9

Source: OECD-Pisa survey

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

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

Source: OECD-Pisa survey

Figure 12 pending

# Achievement in Science: OECD-PISA Science Literacy Scale

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

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

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

	Mean score
All children	496.1
<b>Immigrant status</b>	
Immigrant children	497.8
All children except immigrant children	498.1

Source: OECD-Pisa survey

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

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

Source: OECD-Pisa survey

Figure 13 pending

# Health Outcomes



# Birth Weight

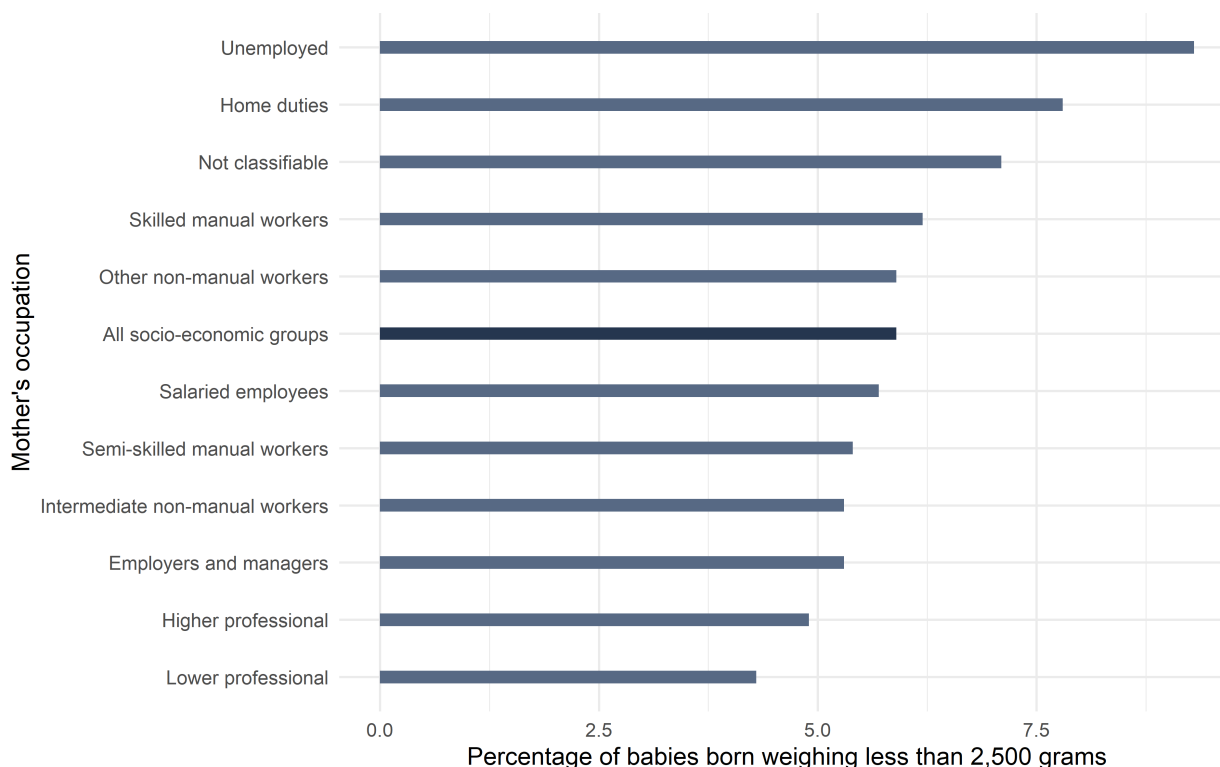
Measure: The percentage of babies born weighing less than 2,500 grams (live and still births)

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

# Breastfeeding

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

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

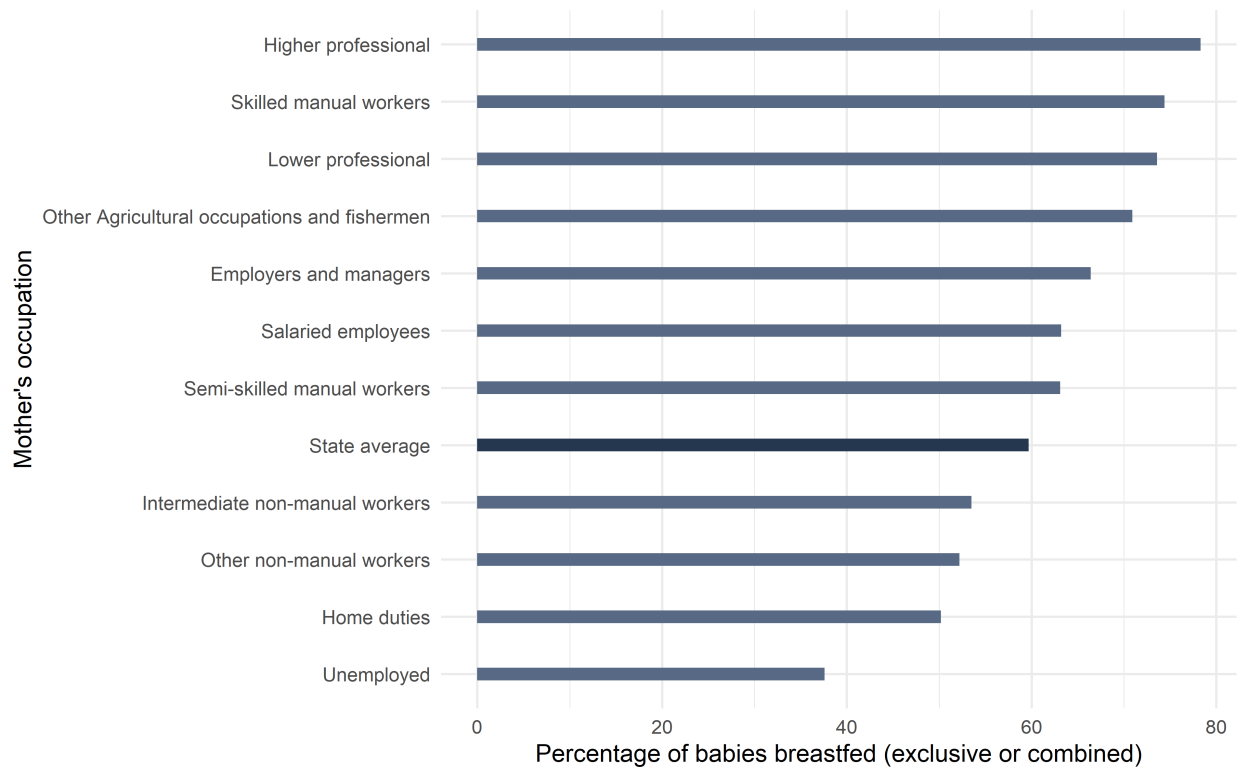
**Table 63: Percentage of infants who are breastfed (exclusive or combined) on discharge from hospital, by mother's age (2014 - 2017)**

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

# Health Conditions and Hospitalisation

## Measure: The number of hospital discharges of children

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

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

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

\*Rates calculated using population estimates for the relevant years

Source: Hospital In-patient Enquiry, Healthcare Pricing Office

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

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

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

\*Rates calculated using county population at Census 2016

Source: Hospital In-patient Enquiry, Healthcare Pricing Office

# Accidents, Injuries and Hospitalisation

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

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

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

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

\*Rates calculated using population estimates for the relevant years

Source: Hospital In-patient Enquiry, Healthcare Pricing Office



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

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

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

\*Rates calculated using county population at Census 2016

Source: Hospital In-patient Enquiry, Healthcare Pricing Office

# Nutritional Outcomes

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

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

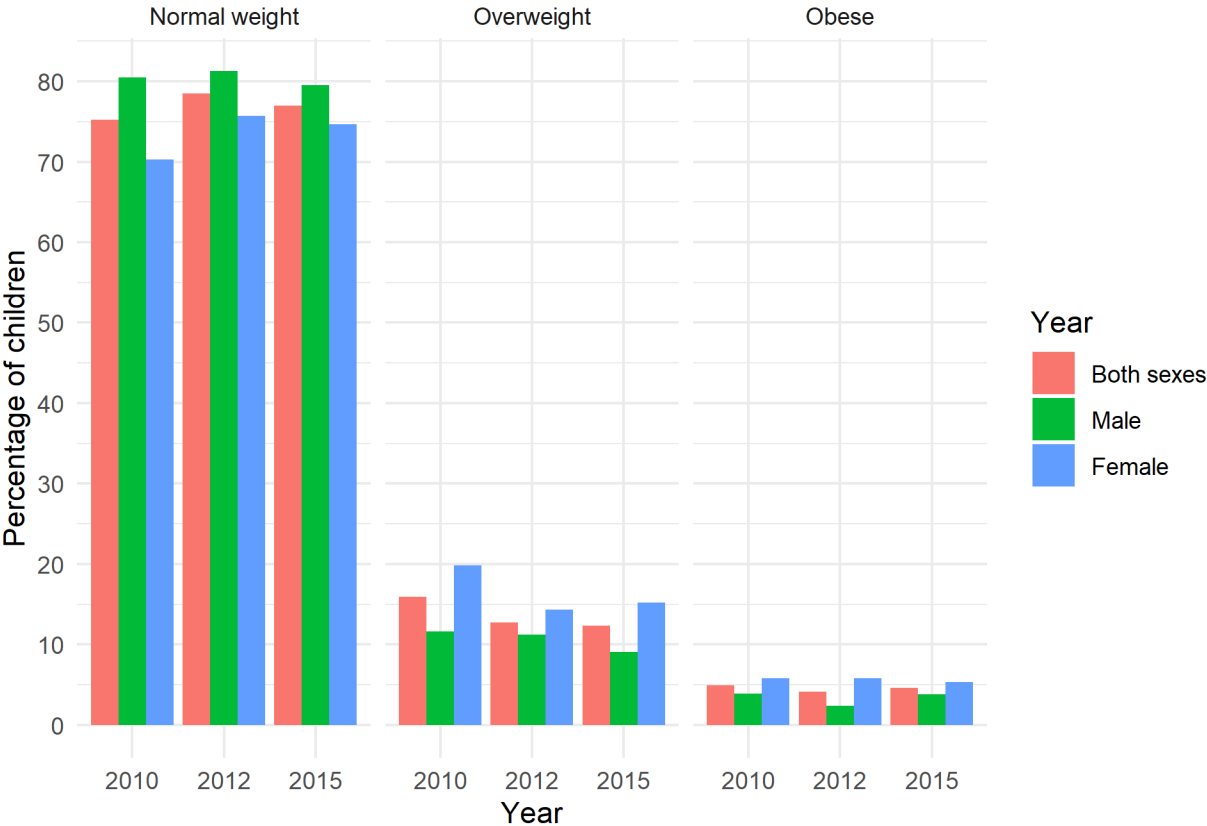
**Table 69: Percentage of children aged seven years in BMI categories: normal, overweight and obese, by gender (2010 - 2015)**

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

Source: Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative

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

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



Source: Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative

# Intellectual Disability

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

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

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

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

\*Rates calculated using population estimates for the relevant years

Source: National Intellectual Disability Database

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

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

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

\*Rates calculated using county population at Census 2016

Source: National Intellectual Disability Database

# Physical and Sensory Disability

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

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

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

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

\*Rates calculated using population estimates for the relevant years

Source: National Physical and Sensory Disability Database

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

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

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

\*Rates calculated using county population at Census 2016

Source: National Physical and Sensory Disability Database

# Child Welfare and Protection

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

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

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

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

\*Rates calculated using population estimates for the relevant years

Source: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency

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

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

\*Rates calculated using regional populations at Census of Population 2016

Source: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency

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



# **Social, Emotional and Behavioural Outcomes**

# Participation in Decision-Making

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

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

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

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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

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

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	36.0	34.9	35.5	31.9	33.4	32.6
<b>Age</b>						
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
<b>Social class</b>						
SC 1 - 2	34.9	32.9	33.9	30.5	32.1	31.4
SC 3 - 4	36.3	35.3	35.8	32.7	32.6	32.6
SC 5 - 6	35.6	41.3	38.4	33.6	35.3	34.5

Source: HBSC Survey

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

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

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

Source: HBSC Survey

# Reading as a Leisure Activity

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

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

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

	%
All children	30.8
<b>Immigrant status</b>	
Immigrant children	40.2
All children except immigrant children	28.8

Source: OECD-Pisa Survey

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

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

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

Source: OECD-Pisa Survey

# Smoking cigarettes: Weekly Smoking

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

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

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

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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

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

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	6.0	4.5	5.3	2.6	2.3	2.4
<b>Age</b>						
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
<b>Social class</b>						
SC 1 - 2	4.8	3.1	4.0	1.9	1.4	1.6
SC 3 - 4	5.2	4.2	4.7	2.4	2.3	2.3
SC 5 - 6	6.1	6.2	6.1	3.8	3.0	3.4

Source: HBSC Survey

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

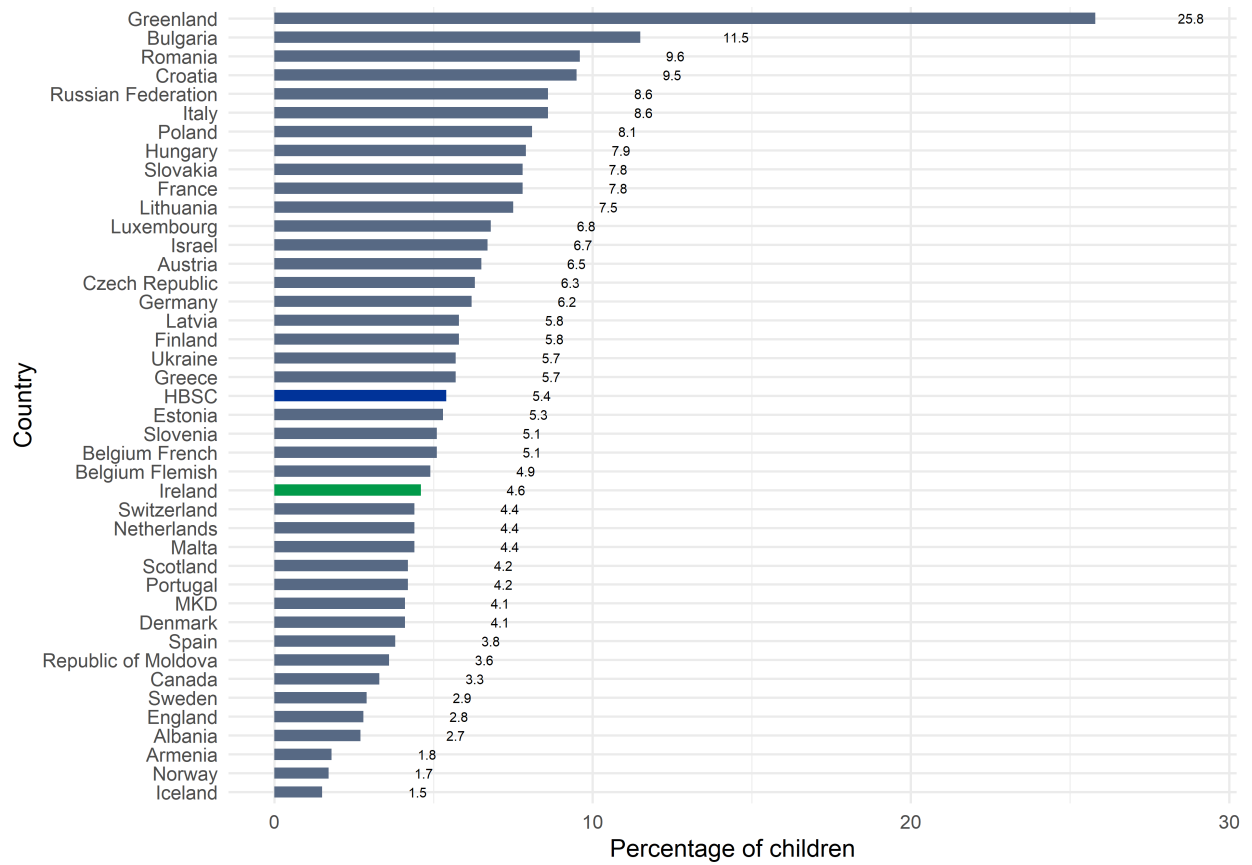
**Table 83: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported smoking cigarettes every week by NUTS Region**

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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

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



Source: HBSC Survey

# Smoking cigarettes: Never Smoking

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

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

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

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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



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

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	83.7	84.8	84.2	89.5	89.3	89.4
<b>Age</b>						
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
<b>Social class</b>						
SC 1 - 2	83.3	86.8	85.1	89.7	89.5	89.6
SC 3 - 4	86.2	85.1	85.7	90.0	89.8	89.9
SC 5 - 6	84.4	81.1	82.8	87.7	88.4	88.0

Source: HBSC Survey

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

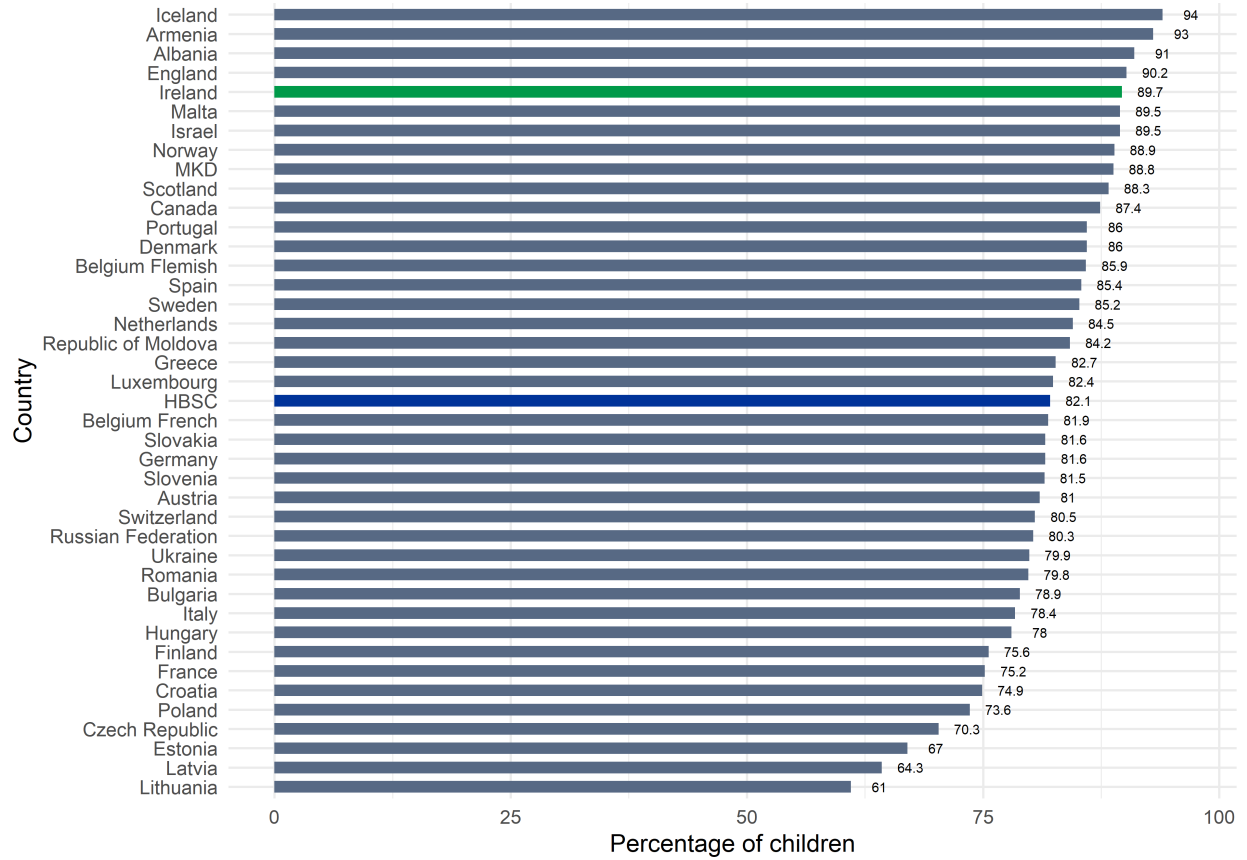
**Table 86: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported never having smoked cigarettes by NUTS Region**

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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

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



Source: HBSC Survey

# Alcohol Use: Drunkenness

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

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

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

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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

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

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	10.5	9.6	10.0	6.9	6.9	6.9
<b>Age</b>						
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
<b>Social class</b>						
SC 1 - 2	10.7	9.0	9.8	7.2	6.6	6.8
SC 3 - 4	9.3	9.4	9.3	5.7	7.3	6.6
SC 5 - 6	7.8	10.0	8.9	7.7	7.2	7.4

Source: HBSC Survey

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

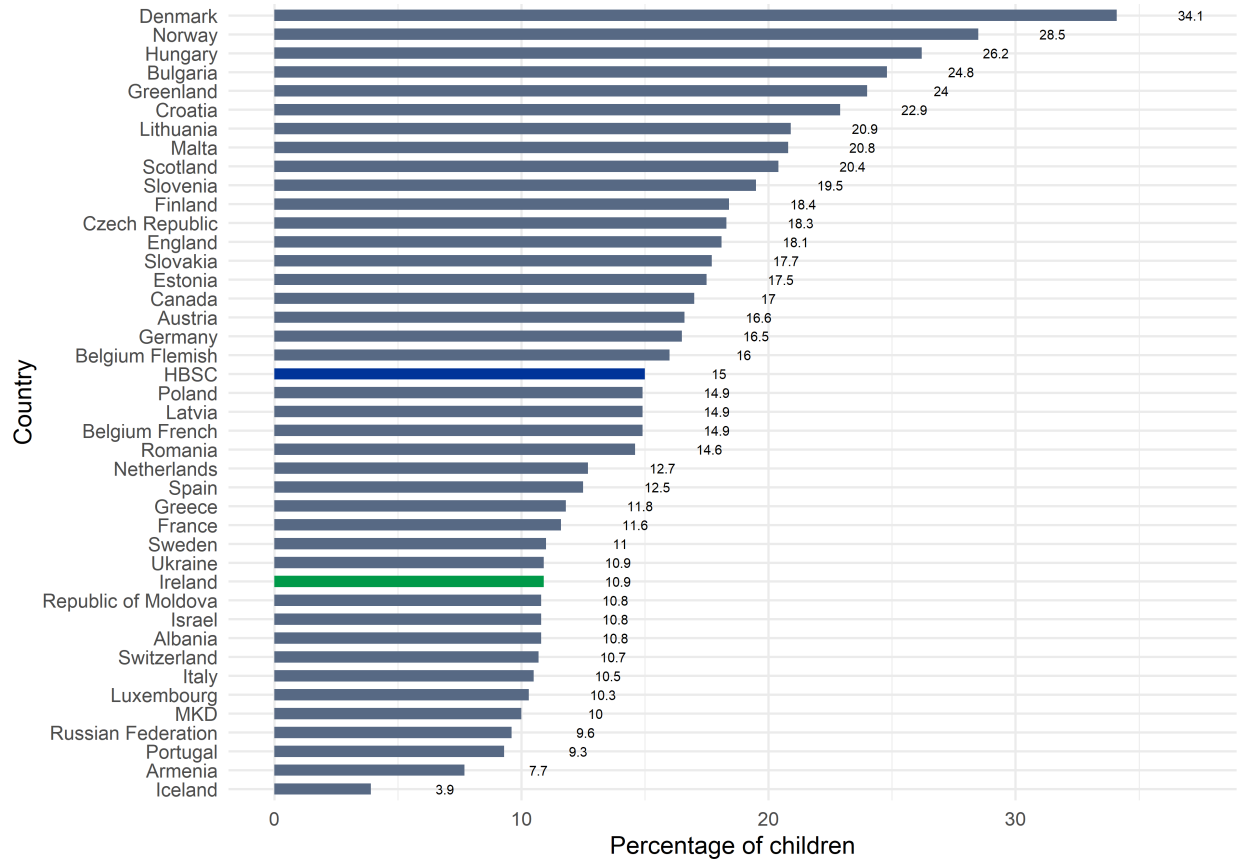
**Table 89: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported having been drunk at least once in the past 30 days by NUTS Region**

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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

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



Source: HBSC Survey

# Alcohol Use: Never Drinking

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

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

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

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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

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

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	55.8	61.0	58.4	69.1	69.8	69.4
<b>Age</b>						
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
<b>Social class</b>						
SC 1 - 2	53.6	61.7	57.8	68.0	69.1	68.6
SC 3 - 4	58.2	61.8	59.9	69.3	69.9	69.6
SC 5 - 6	56.2	59.5	57.8	68.8	70.5	69.7

Source: HBSC Survey

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

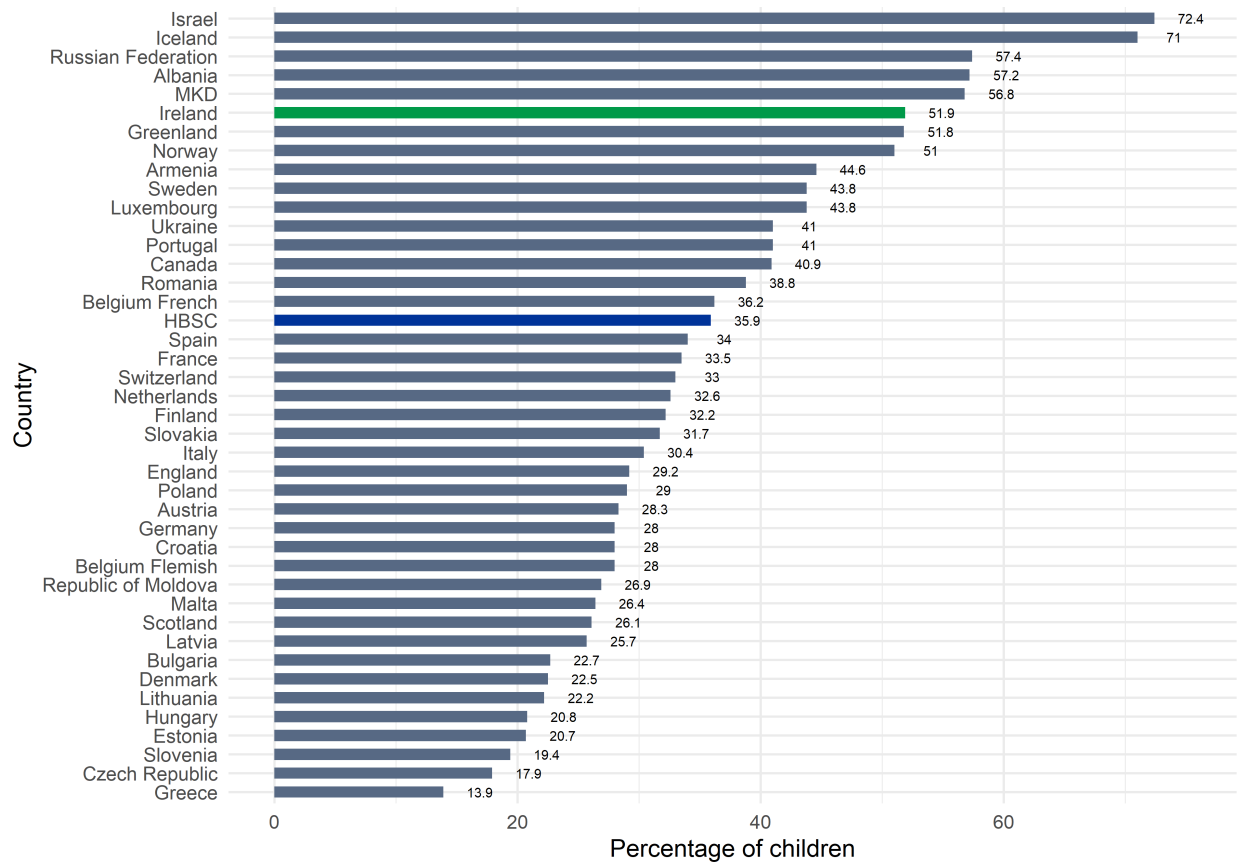
**Table 92: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported never having had an alcoholic drink by NUTS Region**

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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

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



Source: HBSC Survey



# Cannabis Use

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

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

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

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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

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

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	10.7	6.9	8.8	8.9	6.7	7.8
<b>Age</b>						
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
<b>Social class</b>						
SC 1 - 2	10.1	5.7	7.8	9.1	6.8	7.8
SC 3 - 4	10.3	6.4	8.4	7.5	6.0	6.7
SC 5 - 6	7.7	7.7	7.7	9.4	6.0	7.5

Source: HBSC Survey

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

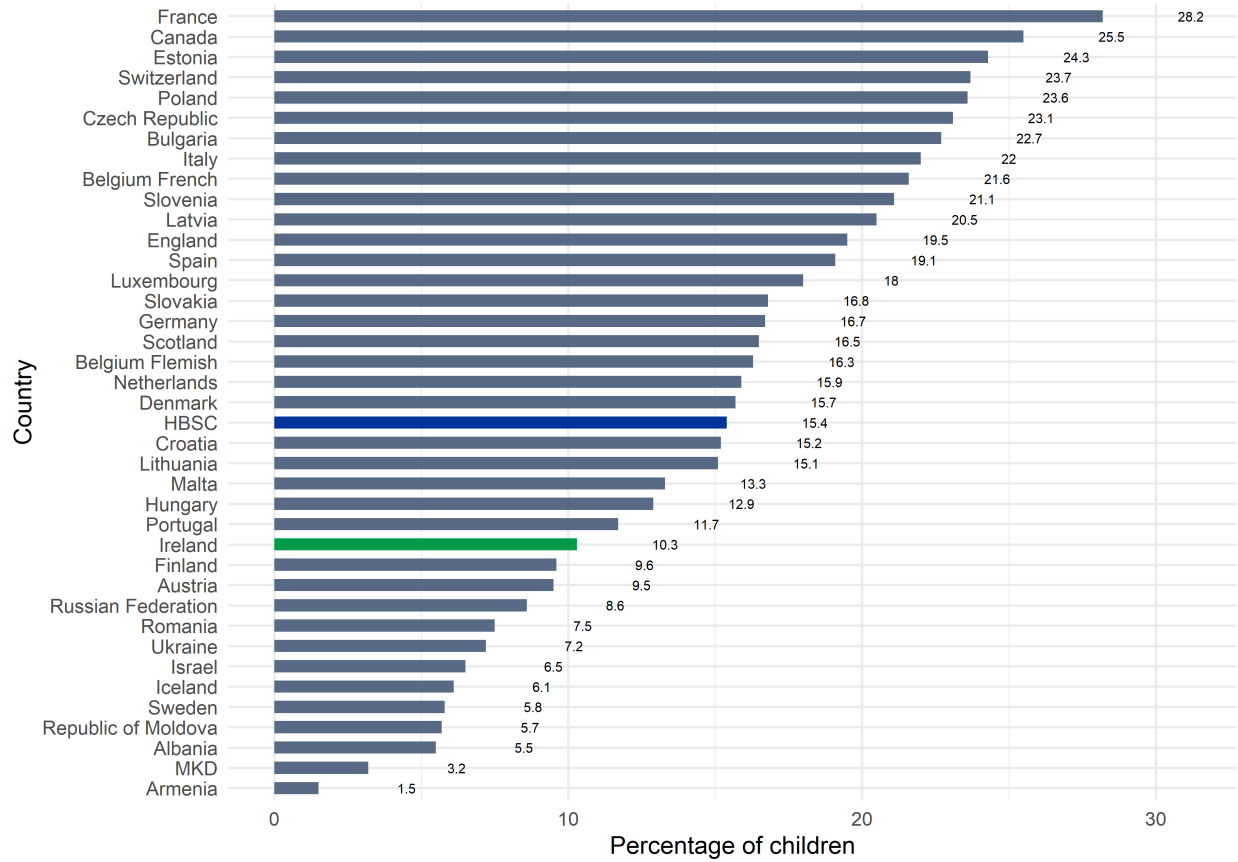
**Table 95: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported having taken cannabis at least once in their lifetime by NUTS Region**

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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

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



Source: HBSC Survey

# Sexual Health and Behaviour: Teen Births

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

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

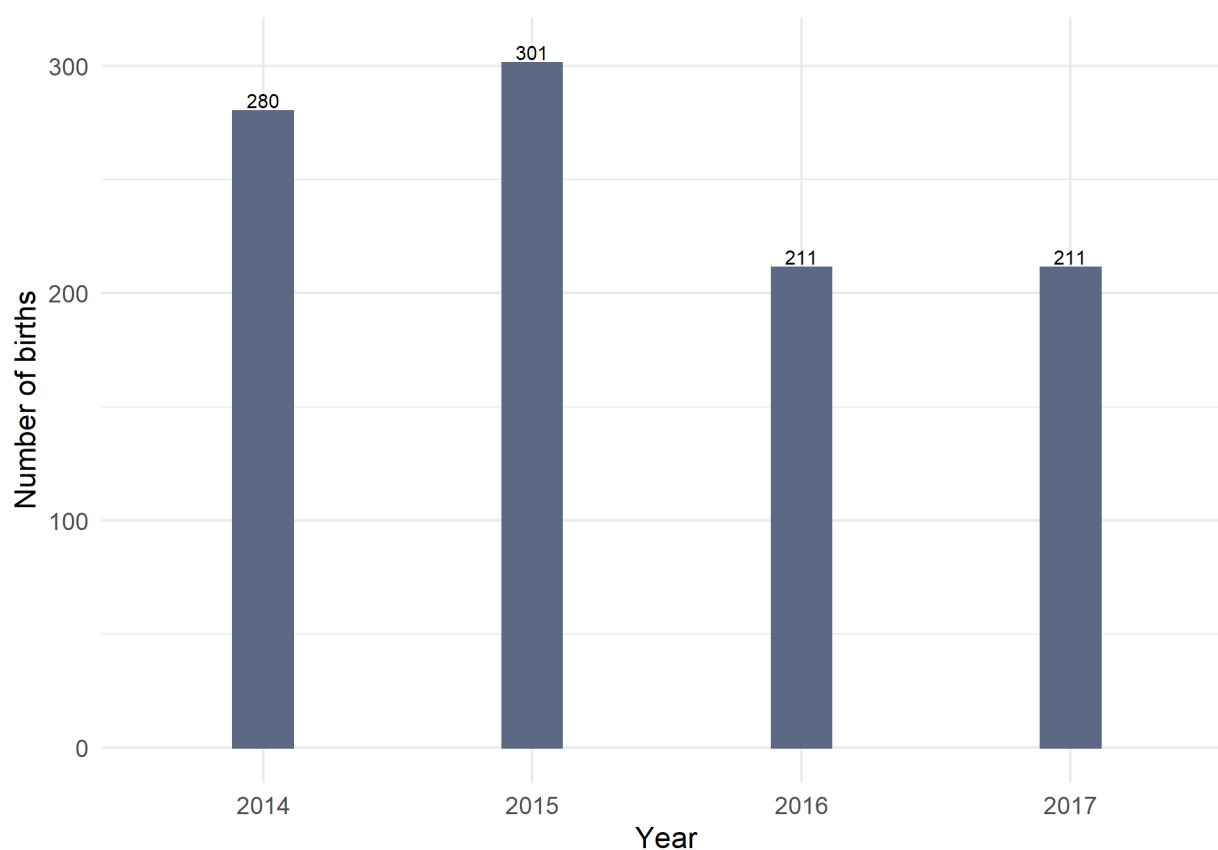
**Table 96: Number and rate of births (per 1,000 of female population), by mother's age (2014 - 2017)**

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

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

Source: Vital Statistics (CSO)

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



Source: Vital Statistics (CSO)

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

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

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

Source: Vital Statistics (CSO)

# Sexual Health and Behaviour: Sexual Activity

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

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

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

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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

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

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	32.2	21.3	26.8	29.3	21.0	24.8
<b>Age</b>						
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
<b>Social class</b>						
SC 1 - 2	26.4	18.4	22.3	26.7	17.9	21.8
SC 3 - 4	31.1	20.9	26.0	30.3	22.9	26.3
SC 5 - 6	34.3	27.0	30.9	31.6	26.3	28.6

Source: HBSC Survey

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

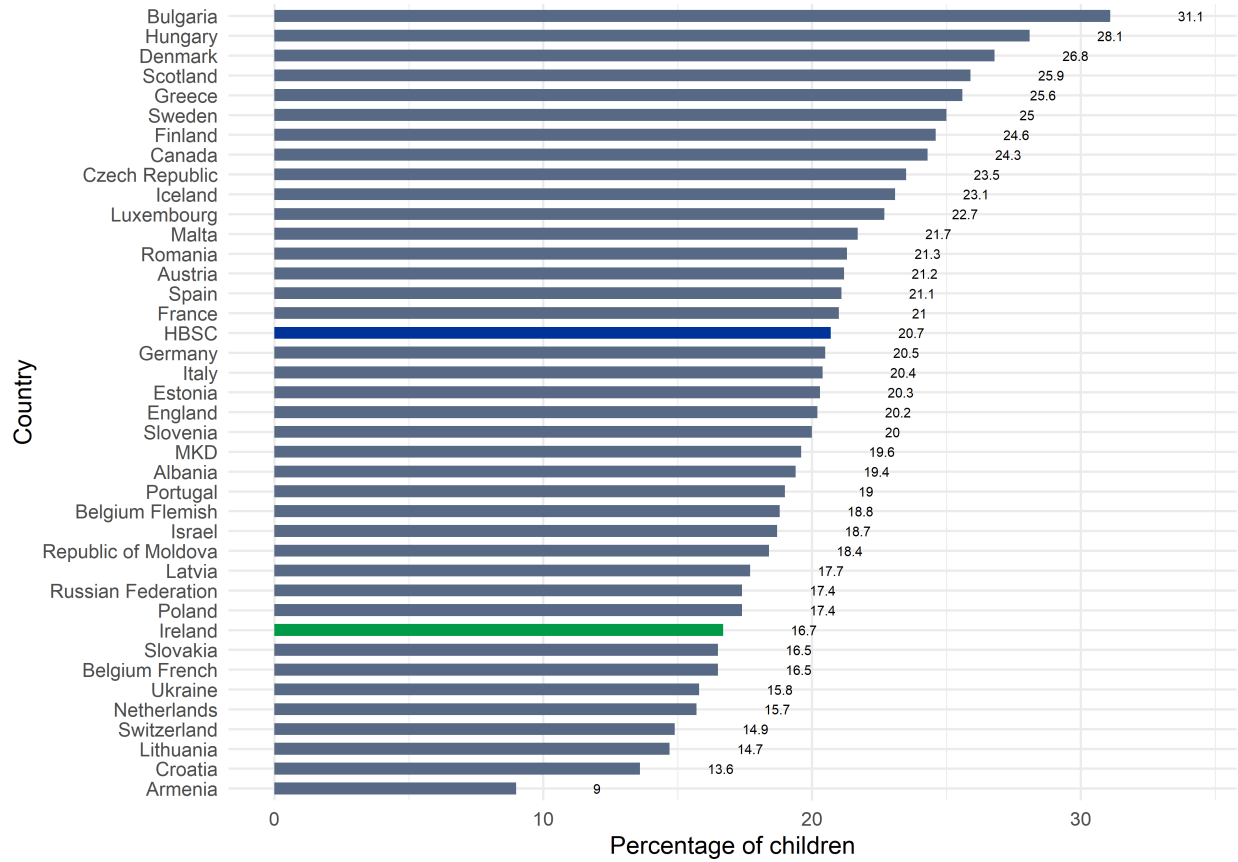
**Table 100: Percentage of children aged 15-17 who reported having ever had sex by NUTS Region**

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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

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



Source: HBSC Survey



# Self-Esteem

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

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

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

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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

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

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	64.2	50.5	57.5	62.9	52.7	57.6
<b>Age</b>						
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
<b>Social class</b>						
SC 1 - 2	65.1	51.4	58.1	63.6	54.5	58.7
SC 3 - 4	66.5	50.6	58.6	62.4	51.0	56.6
SC 5 - 6	64.1	47.6	55.9	63.3	51.1	56.9

Source: HBSC Survey

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

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

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

Source: HBSC Survey

# Self-Reported Happiness

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

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

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

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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

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

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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

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

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

Source: HBSC Survey

# Child and Youth Suicide

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

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

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

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

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

Source: Vital Statistics (CSO)

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

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

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

Source: Vital Statistics (CSO)

# Self Harm

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

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

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

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

Source: National Suicide Research Foundation

Table 110 pending

# Physical Activity

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

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

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

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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

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

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	60.2	43.5	52.0	58.1	44.8	51.1
<b>Age</b>						
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
<b>Social class</b>						
SC 1 - 2	61.3	43.9	52.3	60.1	46.9	53.0
SC 3 - 4	60.3	44.3	52.4	57.7	42.6	50.0
SC 5 - 6	57.9	43.1	50.5	53.6	41.4	47.0

Source: HBSC Survey

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

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

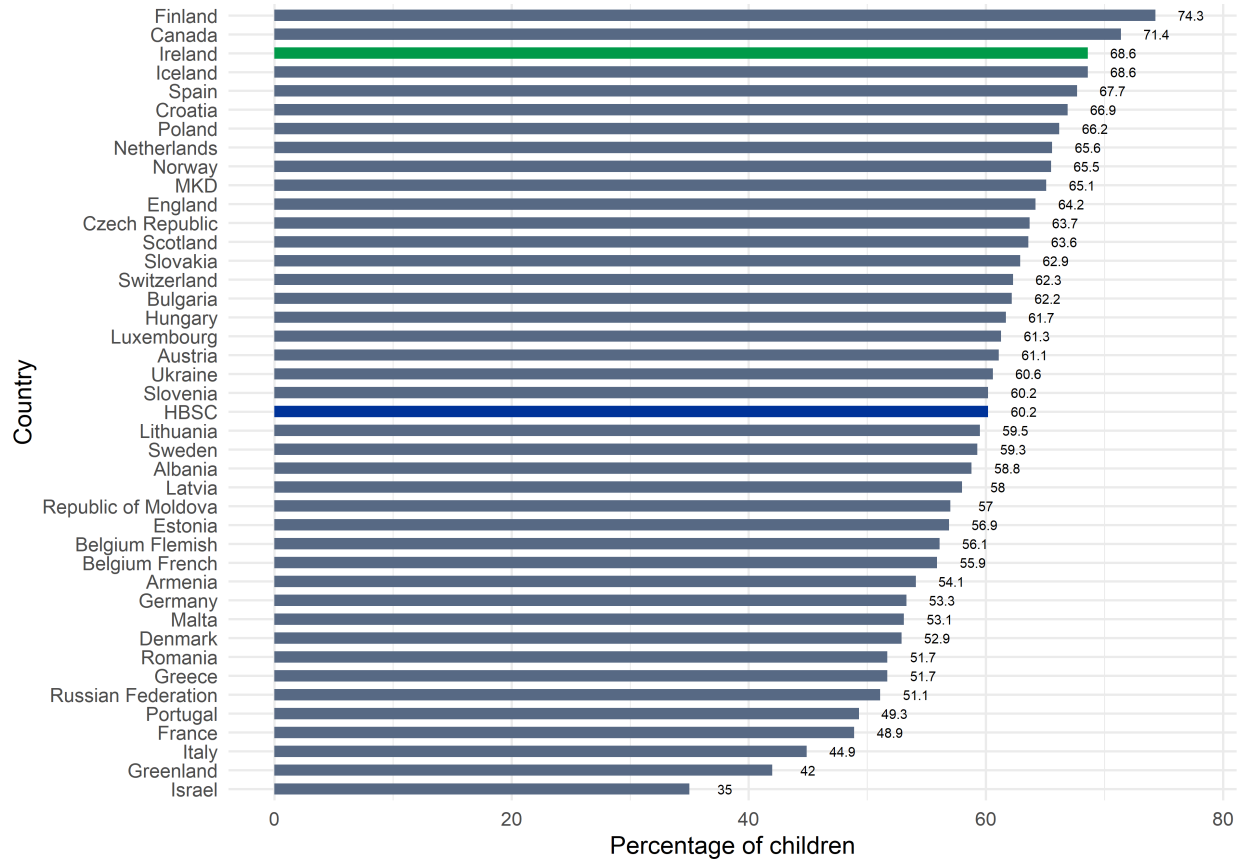
	2014	2018
State	52.0	51.1
<b>NUTS Region</b>		
Border	48.6	46.5
Midland	47.7	48.0
West	53.3	57.2
Dublin	53.2	51.0
Mid-East	52.5	50.5
Mid-West	52.8	53.7
South-East	52.1	50.6
South-West	53.5	50.1

Source: HBSC Survey

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



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



Source: HBSC Survey

# Nutrition: Breakfast Consumption

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

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

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

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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

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

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	79.6	73.7	76.7	81.8	74.8	78.2
<b>Age</b>						
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
<b>Social class</b>						
SC 1 - 2	83.6	79.1	81.3	86.4	79.1	82.5
SC 3 - 4	81.8	72.8	77.3	81.0	74.7	77.7
SC 5 - 6	75.9	68.6	72.3	72.1	68.2	70.0

Source: HBSC Survey

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

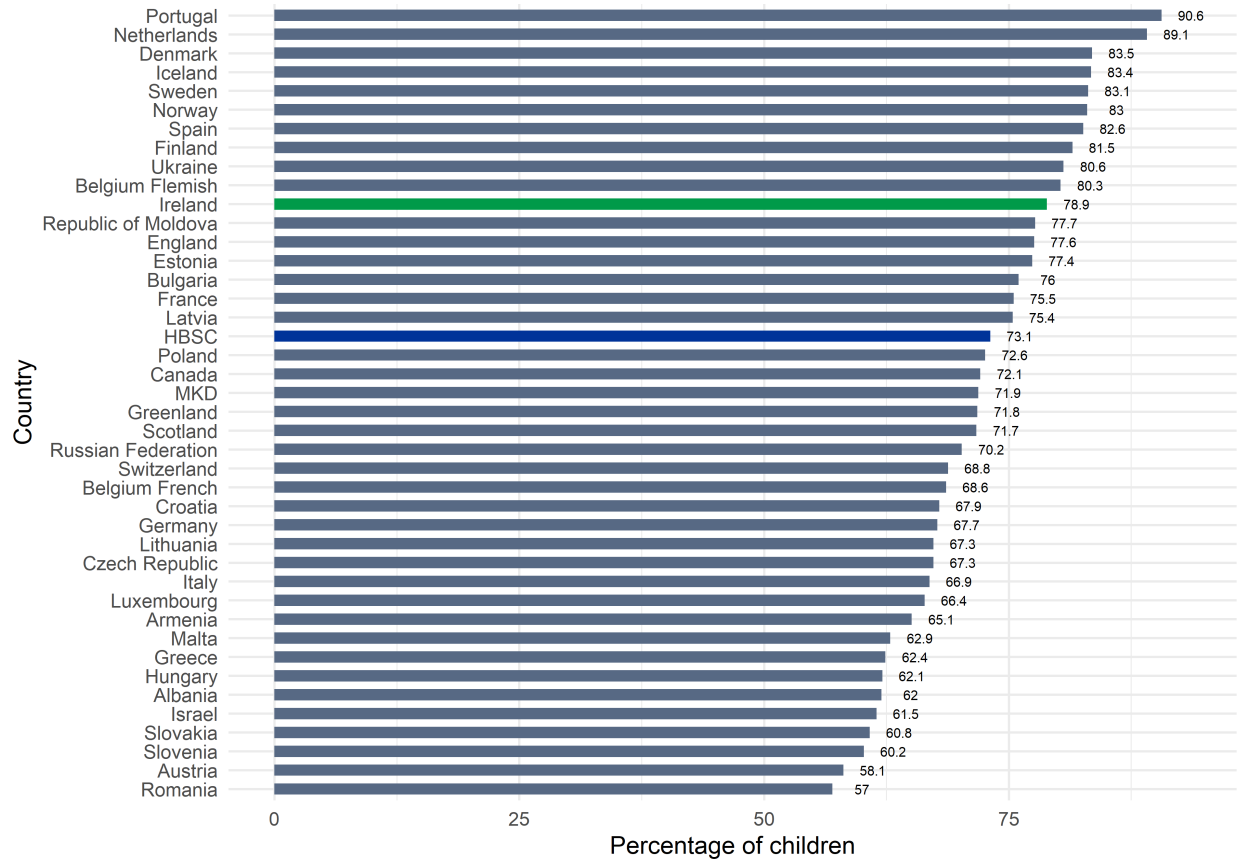
**Table 116: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported eating breakfast on five or more days per week by NUTS Region**

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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

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



Source: HBSC Survey

# Nutrition: Soft Drinks

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

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

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

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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

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

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	13.8	11.3	12.6	7.1	5.9	6.5
<b>Age</b>						
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
<b>Social class</b>						
SC 1 - 2	8.5	6.4	7.4	4.3	3.1	3.7
SC 3 - 4	14.1	12.0	13.1	7.1	6.5	6.8
SC 5 - 6	16.2	17.9	17.0	10.2	9.9	10.0

Source: HBSC Survey

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

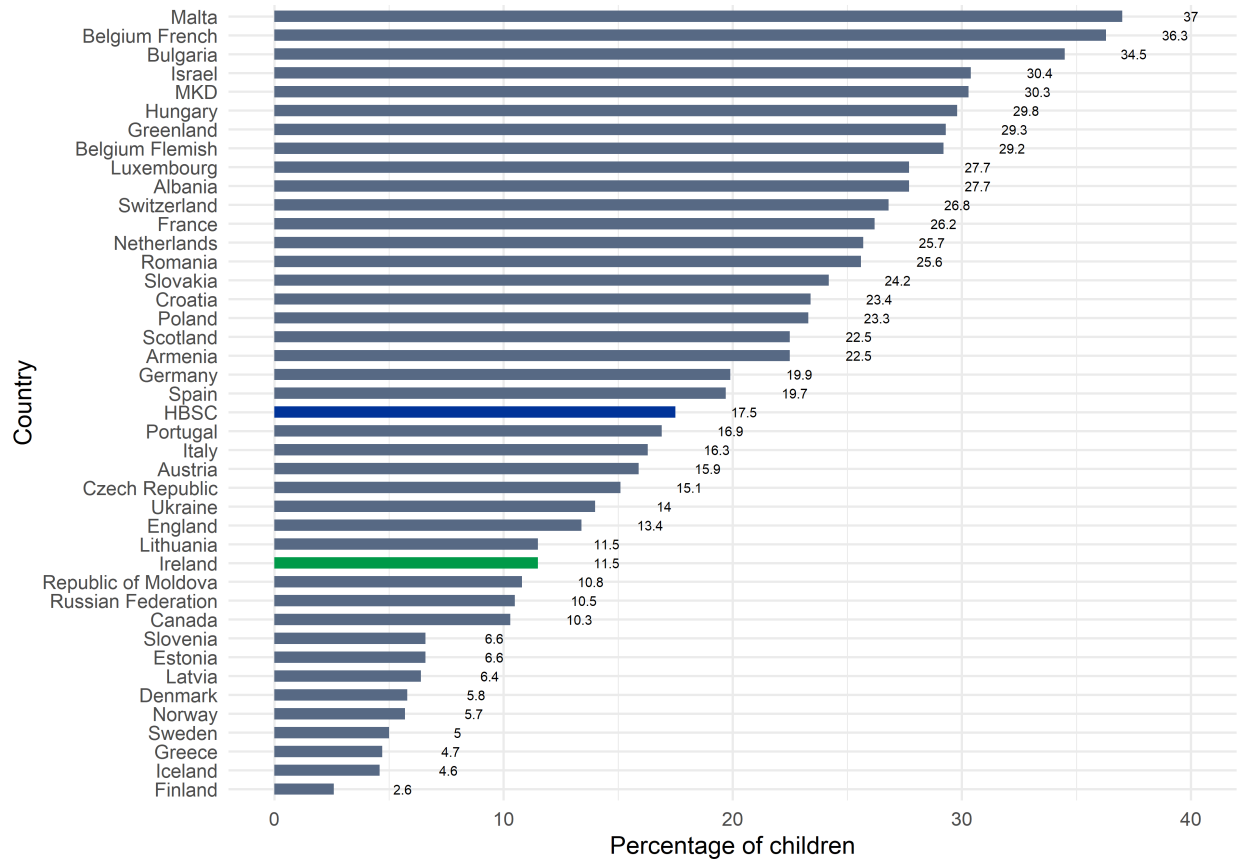
**Table 119: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported drinking soft drinks that contain sugar at least once a day by NUTS Region**

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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

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



Source: HBSC Survey