

STATE OF
THE NATION'S
CHILDREN



CHILDREN'S OUTCOMES

3



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Education Outcomes



Quality of Early Childhood Care and Education

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

- For the 2020/21 pre-school year there were 4,023 pre-school services under contract to deliver the ECCE Programme to 104,137 children. Of these pre-school services, 39.0% met the basic capitation status and 61.0% met the higher capitation status (see *Table 45 & Table 46*).
- For the 2020/21 pre-school year, 2,462 of the 4,023 services contracted to deliver the ECCE Programme met the higher capitation status. This represents a 20.3% increase in the number of services meeting higher capitation criteria since the pre-school year 2016/17 (see *Table 45*).

Table 1. Pre-school services under contract to deliver the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme that meet basic and higher capitation criteria (2016 - 2020)

	ECCE services	Basic capitation		Higher capitation	
	No.	No.	%	No.	%
2016/17	4,768	2,721	57.1	2,047	42.9
2017/18	4,246	1,902	44.8	2,344	55.2
2018/19	4,216	1,529	36.3	2,687	63.7
2019/20	4,478	1,600	36.0	2,878	64.0
2020/21	4,023	1,561	39.0	2,462	61.0

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

- The percentage of pre-school services meeting higher capitation status ranged from 49% in Dublin City to 87% in Carlow (see *Table 46*).



Table 2. Pre-school services under contract to deliver the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme that meet basic and higher capitation criteria, by administrative county (2020/21)

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

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



Primary School Attendance

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

- Over the period 2013 to 2018, the percentage of primary school children who were absent from school for 20 days or more increased from 10.4% to 12.1% (see *Table 47*).

Table 3. Percentage of primary children per school who were absent from school for 20 days or more in the school year (2013 - 2017)

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Primary School Children	10.4	11.1	12.3	11.8	12.1

Source: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency

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

Table 4. Average percentage* of primary children per school who were absent from school for 20 days or more in the school year, by selected school characteristics (2013 - 2017)

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Type of school					
Rural	6.4	7.0	7.7	7.5	7.9
Urban	13.1	14.0	15.4	14.5	15.0
Rural, not in School Support Programme	6.2	6.7	7.3	7.1	7.4
DEIS status					
Rural, in School Support Programme	7.9	8.5	9.7	9.4	9.9
Urban, not in School Support Programme	10.5	11.3	12.5	12.0	12.2
Urban, in School Support Programme Band 2	17.3	18.4	19.5	18.4	18.6
Urban, in School Support Programme Band 1	20.4	21.1	23.7	23.4	23.1

*This table uses schools-level data

Source: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency

- The average percentage of primary school children per school who were absent for 20 days or more ranged from 15.6% in Dublin to 6.8% in Monaghan



Table 5. Average percentage of primary children per school who were absent from school for 20 days or more in the school year, by county (2013 - 2017)

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
All Counties	8.9	10.4	11.4	10.9	11.3
County					
Carlow	10.0	11.7	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	10.4
Cork	8.4	9.3	10.5	10.9	10.8
Donegal	6.3	7.7	7.9	7.6	8
Dublin	12	15.2	16.5	15.6	15.6
Galway	8.5	9.5	11.4	10	10
Kerry	9.5	11.1	11.6	10.8	11.3
Kildare	9.7	10.7	11.7	11.2	12.1
Kilkenny	6	7.6	8.3	8.4	9.6
Laois	9.5	11.1	11.2	11.9	13
Leitrim	6.8	5.9	10.2	6.4	8.1
Limerick	10.9	12.5	13.8	13.1	11.6
Longford	10.3	14.8	12	12.6	13.7
Louth	10.5	11.9	13	12.9	12.7
Mayo	7.7	8.1	9.5	9	10.2
Meath	7.6	8.9	9.7	9.3	9.5
Monaghan	5.5	6.1	7	6.7	6.8
Offaly	9.2	10.6	11	10.8	12.2
Roscommon	7.7	9.1	9.1	8.9	9.3
Sligo	8	8.9	9.7	9.1	10
Tipperary	7.4	8.1	9.7	9.1	9.2
Waterford	8.7	9.1	11.1	11	10.4
Westmeath	8.8	11.1	11.8	11.7	12.2
Wexford	9.7	9.8	11	10.6	12
Wicklow	8.3	9.7	10.7	10.1	10.7

*This table uses schools-level data

Source: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency



Post-Primary School Attendance

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

- Over the period 2013 to 2018, the percentage of post-primary school children who were absent from school for 20 days or more declined from 15.4% to 14.6% (see Table 50).

Table 6. Percentage of post-primary children per school who were absent from school for 20 days or more in the school year (2013 - 2017)

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Post-Primary	15.4	16.2	14.9	14.7	14.6

Source: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency

- In the 2017/18 year, the average percentage of post-primary school children who were missing 20 days or more was highest in Vocational schools and Community and Comprehensive schools. This percentage was 12.9% in Non-DEIS schools and 23.6% in DEIS schools.

Table 7. Average percentage* of post-primary children per school who were absent from school for 20 days or more in the school year, by selected school characteristics (2013 - 2017)

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Type of school					
Secondary schools	13.5	14.1	13.1	12.6	12.7
Community and Comprehensive schools	18.1	19.3	17.7	17.8	18.7
Vocational schools	21.5	21.5	20.2	20.0	19.7
DEIS status					
DEIS School	5.3	25.3	23.4	22.8	23.6
Non-DEIS School	13.5	14.2	13.4	13.3	12.9

*This table uses schools-level data

Source: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency

- The average percentage of post-primary school children per school who were absent for 20 days or more ranged from 21.2% in Longford to 12.1% in Louth.



Table 8. Average percentage of post-primary children per school who were absent from school for 20 days or more in the school year, by county (2013 - 2017)

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
All Counties	16.7	17.3	16.1	15.8	15.8
County					
Carlow	15.2	17.5	14.6	16.4	15.6
Cavan	18.6	18.5	19.5	14.5	12.4
Clare	13.4	13.6	14.2	13.4	12.5
Cork	15.6	15.8	14.3	13.5	13.9
Donegal	18.1	20.3	17.1	22.0	18.2
Dublin	16.2	16.2	15.6	15.1	15.4
Galway	18.4	19.3	18.6	19.5	18.1
Kerry	18.0	17.9	16.4	14.9	16.2
Kildare	15.1	16.8	15.6	14.7	15.4
Kilkenny	15.3	15.3	15.2	17.5	14.4
Laois	19.8	22.6	19.0	15.9	17.7
Leitrim	19.4	18.4	14.6	20.2	17.5
Limerick	16.4	19.1	14.6	12.0	14.3
Longford	18.9	21.0	19.8	19.2	21.2
Louth	12.7	12.0	12.5	10.3	12.1
Mayo	20.9	20.2	17.9	18.4	19.8
Meath	12.4	16.1	13.8	13.5	13.8
Monaghan	16.2	15.3	18.1	15.7	18
Offaly	17.8	16.7	18.1	15.8	17.7
Roscommon	19.9	17.4	17.5	13.6	17.6
Sligo	18.5	17.8	18.9	18.1	19.1
Tipperary	15.8	16.8	15.4	15.9	13.6
Waterford	15.6	14.0	14.3	12.7	14.9
Westmeath	19.1	21.8	18.3	16.9	17.2
Wexford	22.4	23.9	19.6	20.4	20.6
Wicklow	16.2	17.1	16.3	19.6	17.3

*This table uses schools-level data

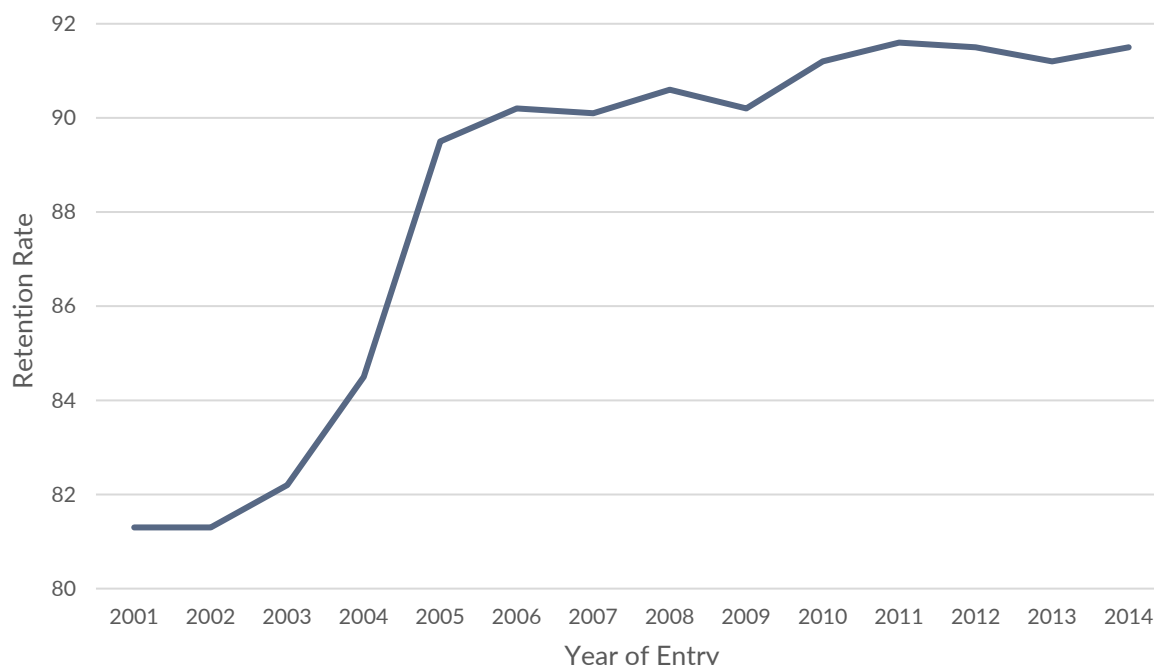
Source: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency



Leaving Certificate Retention Rates

Measure: The Leaving Certificate retention rate

Figure 1. Leaving Certificate retention rates for the 2001 - 2014 school entry cohorts



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

Source: Department of Education

- The Leaving Certificate retention rate for children entering secondary school in 2014 was 91.5% i.e. out of the 61,161 enrolled on 30 September 2014 in year one of the Junior Cycle, 55,992 either sat the Leaving Certificate or received a calculated grade by 2019 or 2020 (see *Table 53*).
- The retention rate for boys in the 2014 school entry cohort was 89.5%, compared to 93.6% for girls (see *Table 53*).
- On average, secondary schools had the highest retention rates (at 93.1%) when compared with community and comprehensive schools (91.0%) and vocational schools (88.9%) (see *Table 53*).
- For the 2014 school entry cohort, the retention rate was 84.8% in DEIS schools, compared to 93.4% for children in non-DEIS schools.
- Retention rates to the completion of the Leaving Certificate increased by 8.9 percentage points – from 81.3% in 2002 to 90.2% in 2009. A retention rate of between 92% and 91% was maintained between the 2009 and 2014 school entry cohorts (see *Figure 9*).
- Overall, the retention rate to completion of the Leaving Certificate for children for the 2014 entry cohort ranged from 93.7% in Kilkenny to 87.2% in Longford (see *Table 54*).

**Table 9.** Leaving Certificate retention rates for the 2014 school entry cohort, by sex, school type and DEIS status

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

Source: Department of Education

Table 10. Leaving Certificate retention rates for the 2014 school entry cohort, by administrative county

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

Source: Department of Education



Achievement in Reading: OECD-PISA Reading Literacy Scale

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

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

Table 11. Mean score for children aged 15 based on the OECD-PISA Reading Literacy Scale, by population group (2018)

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

Source: OECD-Pisa survey

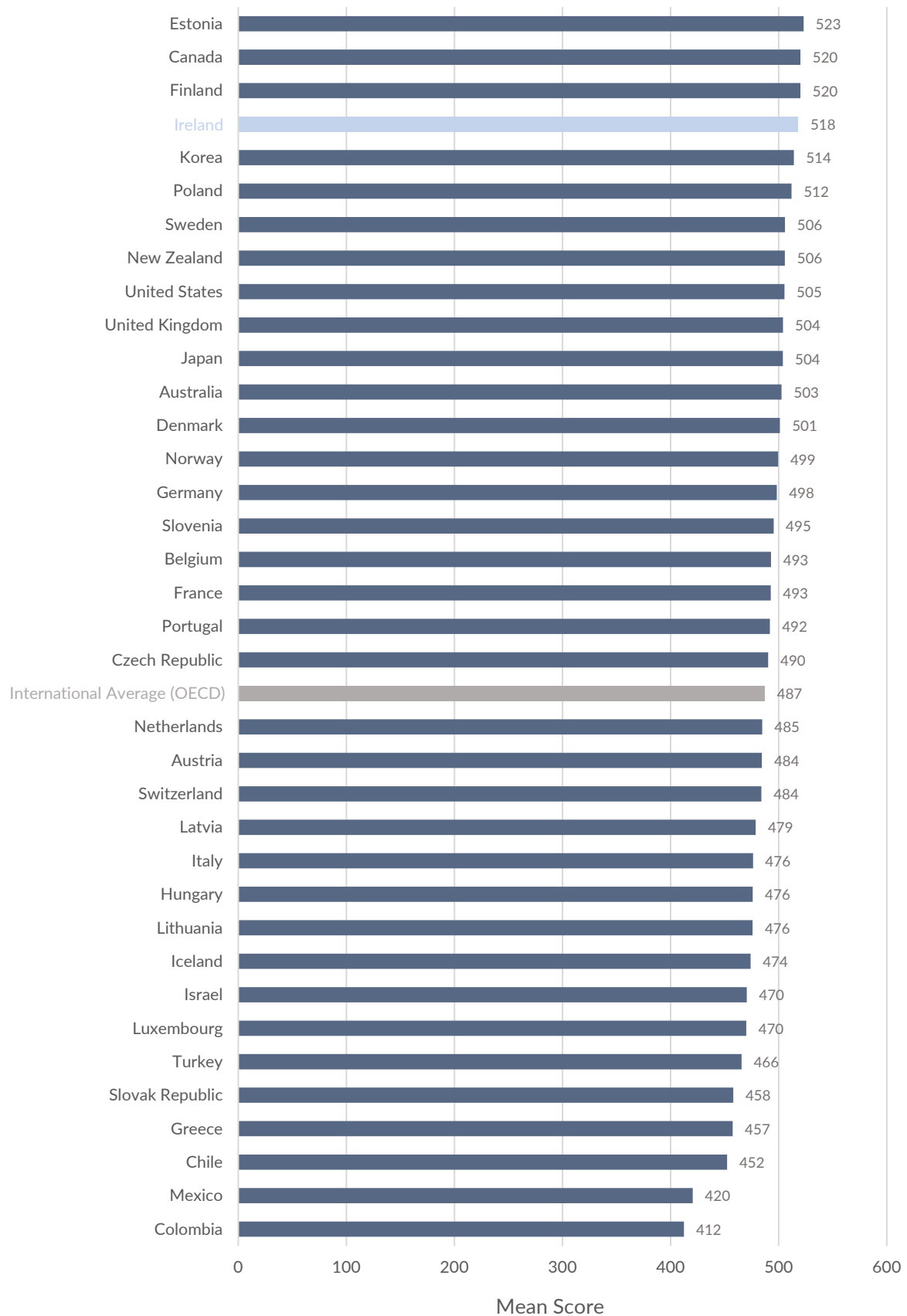
Table 12. Mean score for children aged 15 based on the OECD-PISA Reading Literacy Scale, by gender and socio-economic status (2009 - 2018)

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

Source: OECD-Pisa survey



Figure 2. Mean scores of children aged 15 based on the OECD-PISA Reading Literacy Scale, by OECD country (2018)



Source: OECD-Pisa survey



Achievement in Mathematics: OECD-PISA Mathematics Literacy Scale

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

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

Table 13. Mean score for children aged 15 based on the OECD-PISA Mathematics Literacy Scale, by population group (2018)

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

Source: OECD-Pisa survey

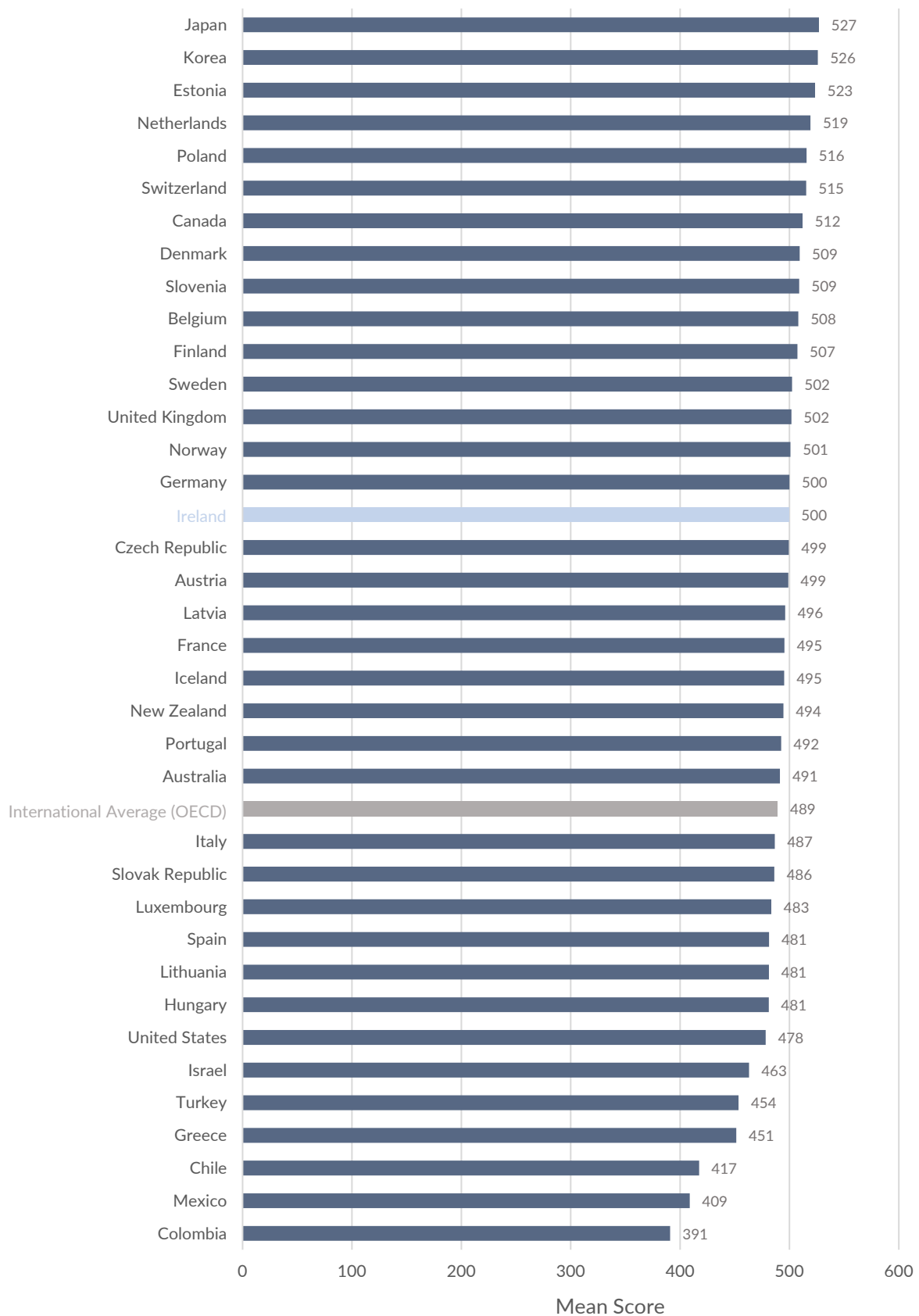
Table 14. Mean score for children aged 15 based on the OECD-PISA Mathematics Literacy Scale, by gender and socio-economic status (2009 - 2018)

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

Source: OECD-Pisa survey



Figure 3. Mean scores of children aged 15 based on the OECD-PISA Mathematics Literacy Scale, by OECD country (2018)



Source: OECD-Pisa survey



Achievement in Science: OECD-PISA Science Literacy Scale

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

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

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

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

Source: OECD-Pisa survey

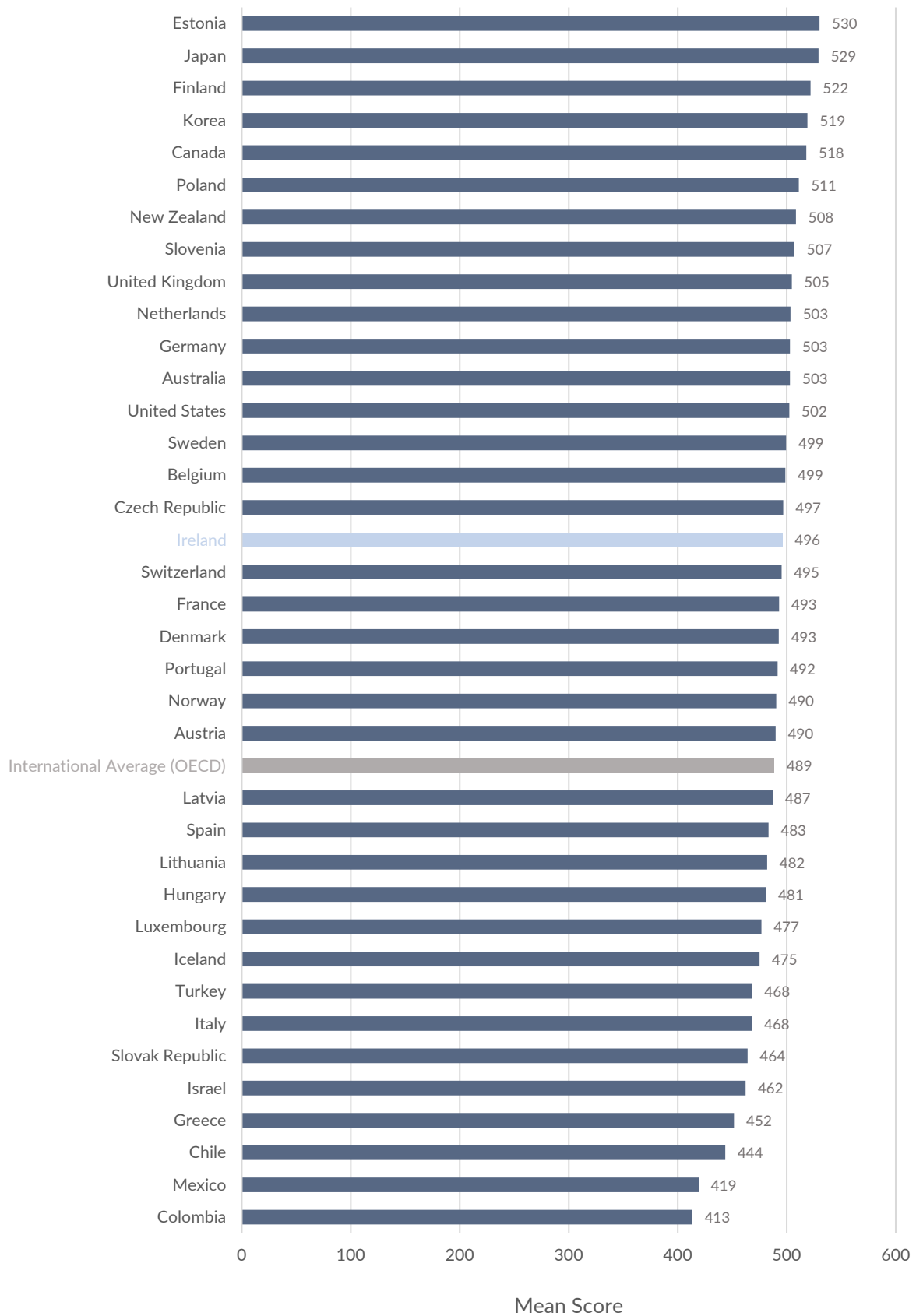
Table 16. Mean score for children aged 15 based on the OECD-PISA Science Literacy Scale, by gender and socio-economic status (2009 - 2018)

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

Source: OECD-Pisa survey



Figure 4. Mean scores of children aged 15 based on the OECD-PISA Scientific Literacy Scale, by OECD country (2018)



Source: OECD-Pisa survey



Health Outcomes



Birth Weight

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

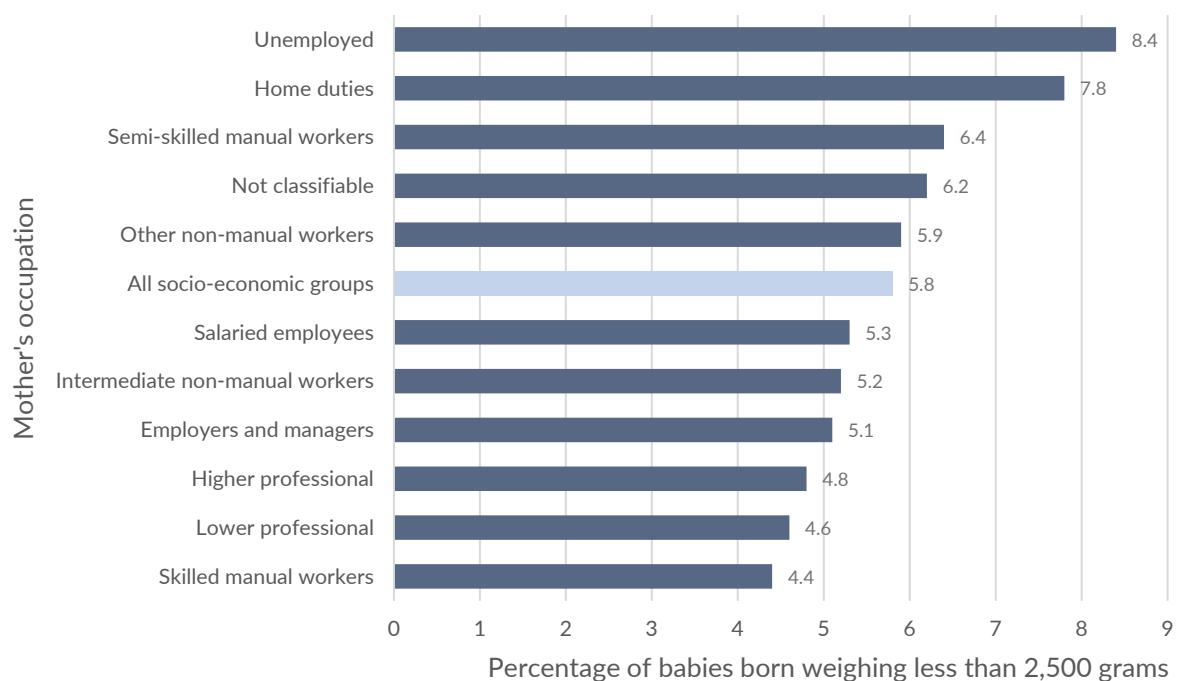
Table 17. Birth weight of babies, by year and gender (2018 - 2019)

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

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

- In 2019' 5.8% of all babies born were in the low birth weight category (weighing less than 2,500 grams) (see *Table 61*).
- Girls were more likely than boys to be born in the low birth weight category (6.1% and 5.5% respectively) (see *Table 61*).
- The percentage of babies born in the low birth weight category was highest among mother's who reported being unemployed (8.4%) (see *Figure 13*).

Figure 5. Percentage of babies born weighing less than 2,500 grams (live and still births), by occupation of mother (2019)



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



- Overall, 5.8% of babies born in 2019 were in the low birth weight category. This percentage ranged from 4.4% of all births in Monaghan to 7.3% of all births in Waterford (see Table 62).

Table 18. Percentage of babies born weighing less than 2,500 grams (live and still births), by year and mother's county of residence (2018 - 2019)

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

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



Breastfeeding

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

- In 2019, 60.7% of infants were breastfed on being discharged from hospital. This includes 45.5% who were breastfed exclusively and a further 15.2% who were fed using a combination of bottle and breastfeeding (see *Table 63*).
- The percentage of infants who were breastfed (either exclusive or combined) was higher among older mothers (see *Table 63*).
- The percentage of infants who were breastfed (either exclusive or combined) was highest among mothers in 'skilled manual workers' and 'higher professional' groups (81.8% and 80.4% respectively), when compared with mothers in the 'unemployed' group, among whom it was lowest (38.9%) (see *Figure 14*).

Table 19. Percentage of infants who are breastfed (exclusive or combined) on being discharged from hospital, by mother's age (2016 - 2019)

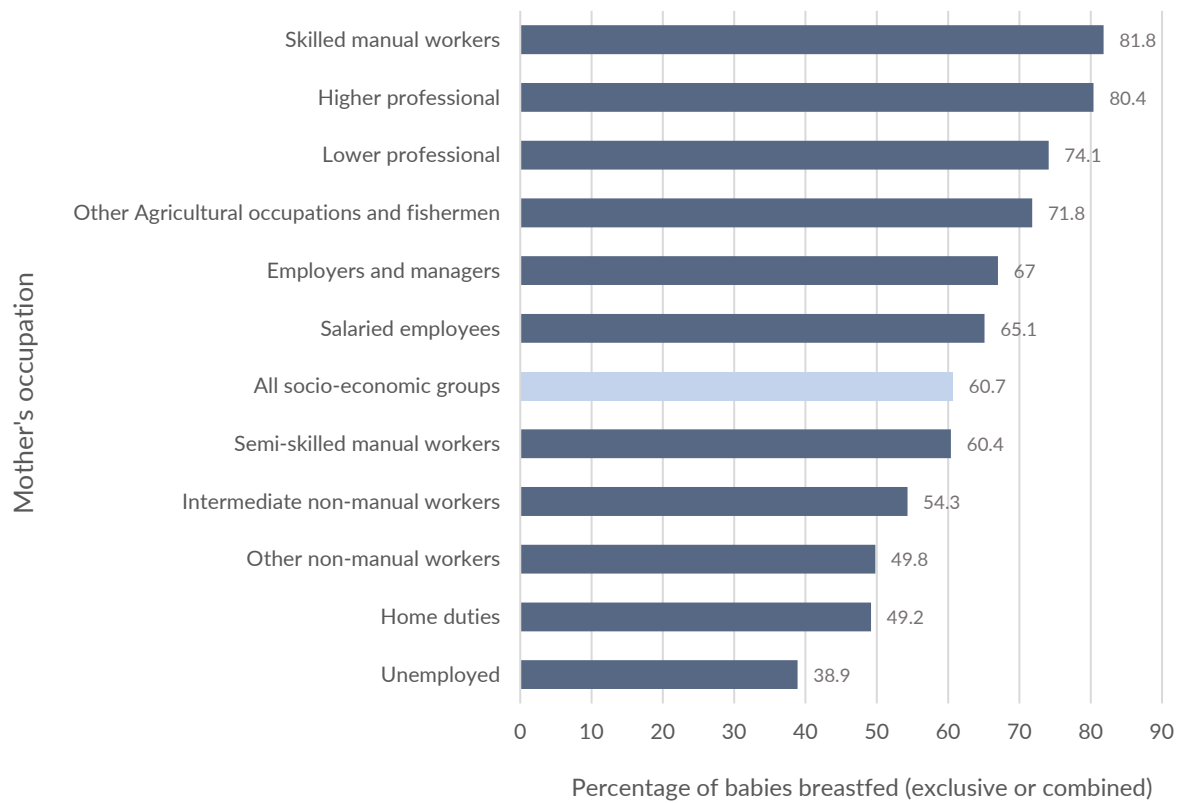
	2016			2017			2018			2019		
	excl.	comb.	tot.	excl.	comb.	tot.	excl.	comb.	tot.	excl.	comb.	tot.
Total	49.5	10.4	59.9	48.3	11.4	59.7	47.0	13.3	60.3	45.5	15.2	60.7
Age												
15 - 19	22.7	6.0	28.7	21.2	5.7	26.9	21.6	6.1	27.7	19.3	8.1	27.4
20 - 24	31.5	7.5	39.0	30.4	6.8	37.3	28.4	9.3	37.6	28.4	10.6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

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

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



Figure 6. Percentage of infants who are breastfed (either exclusive or combined) on being discharged from hospital, by occupation of mother (2019)



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



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

Table 20. Percentage of infants who are breastfed (exclusive or combined) on being discharged from hospital, by mother's county of residence (2019)

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

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



Health Conditions and Hospitalisation

Measure: The number of hospital discharges of children

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

Table 21. Number, percentage and rate (per 1,000) of hospital discharges of children, by age, gender, and principal diagnosis (2019 - 2020)

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

*Rates calculated using population estimates for the relevant years

Source: Hospital In-patient Enquiry, Healthcare Pricing Office



- Overall, there were 24.0 hospital discharges per 1,000 children in 2020. Rates ranged from 18 per 1,000 children in Monaghan to 37.5 per 1,000 in Mayo (see *Table 66*).

Table 22. Number and rate (per 1,000) of hospital discharges of children, by county of residence (2020)

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

*Rates calculated using county population at Census 2016

Source: Hospital In-patient Enquiry, Healthcare Pricing Office



Accidents, Injuries and Hospitalisation

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

- In 2020, there were 11,617 hospital discharges of children with a principal diagnosis of 'injury, poisoning, and certain other consequences of external causes' (see *Table 67*).
- Infants (under 1) and children aged 1 - 4 accounted for 31.3% of total hospital discharges of children with a principal diagnosis of 'injury, poisoning, and certain other consequences of external causes' (6.3% and 25.0% respectively) (see *Table 67*).
- Boys accounted for more than half of total hospital discharges of children with a principal diagnosis of 'injury, poisoning, and certain other consequences of external causes' (57.9%) (see *Table 67*).
- The most commonly reported principal diagnosis recorded was 'accidental falls' (39.1%) followed by 'other external causes of injury' (15.3%) and 'accidents caused by objects' (13.6%) (see *Table 67*).

Table 23. Number and percentage of hospital discharges of children with a principal diagnosis of injury, poisoning and certain other external consequences, by age, gender, and cause (2019 - 2020)

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

*Rates calculated using population estimates for the relevant years

Source: Hospital In-patient Enquiry, Healthcare Pricing Office



- Overall, there were 2.5 hospital discharges per 1,000 children with a principal diagnosis of 'injury, poisoning, and certain other consequences of external causes' in 2020. Rates ranged from 1.7 per 1,000 children in Leitrim to 3.8 per 1,000 in Carlow (see Table 68).

Table 24. Number and rate (per 1,000) of hospital discharges of children with a principal diagnosis of injury, poisoning and certain other external consequences, by county of residence (2020)

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

*Rates calculated using county population at Census 2016

Source: Hospital In-patient Enquiry, Healthcare Pricing Office



Nutritional Outcomes

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

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

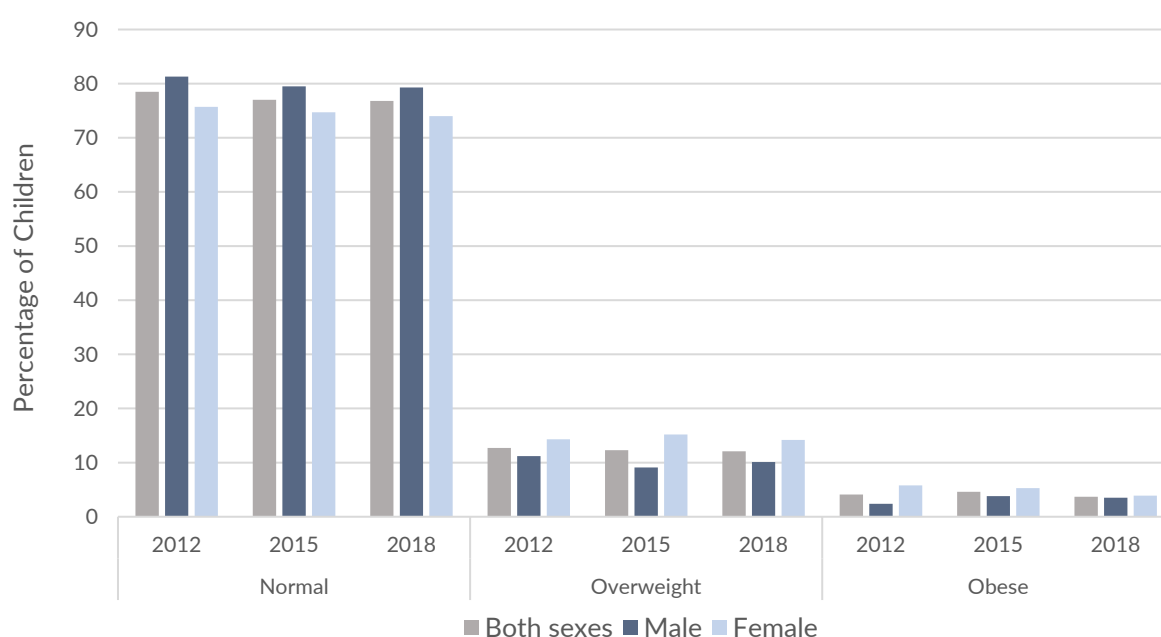
Table 25. Percentage of children aged seven years in BMI categories: normal, overweight and obese, by gender (2012 - 2018)

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

Source: Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative

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

Figure 7. Percentage of children aged seven years in BMI categories: normal, overweight and obese, by gender (2012 - 2018)



Source: Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative



Intellectual Disability

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

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

Table 26. Children under 18 years registered as having an intellectual disability, by age, gender, and severity of disability (2017 - 2020)

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

*Rates calculated using population estimates for the relevant years

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

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

Source: National Ability Support System



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

Table 27. Number and rate per 1,000 of children registered as having an intellectual disability, by county (2020)

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

*Rates calculated using county population at Census 2016

Source: National Intellectual Disability Database



Physical and Sensory Disability

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

- In 2020, there were 2,805 children registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability (see *Table 72*).
- Overall, 2.34 per 1,000 children were registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability in 2020 (see *Table 72*).
- 24% of children registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability were aged 0-4 years; 30% were aged 5-9 years; 34% were aged 10-14 years; the remaining 12% were aged 15-17 years (see *Table 72*).
- 62% of children registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability were boys and 38% were girls. This equates to a rate of 2.8 per 1,000 boys and 1.8 per 1,000 girls (see *Table 72*).
- 37.4% of children who were registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability were registered as having multiple disabilities in 2017. In 2020, 87% were registered as having either a physical disability or a neurological disability (58% and 29% respectively) (see *Table 72*).
- The number of children registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability increased over the four-year period 2017 to 2020 (see *Table 72*).

Table 28. Children under 18 years registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability, by age, gender, and type of disability (2017 - 2020)

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

*Rates calculated using population estimates for the relevant years

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

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

Source: National Physical and Sensory Disability Database



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

Table 29. Number and rate per 1,000 of children registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability, by county (2020)

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

*Rates calculated using county population at Census 2016

Source: National Physical and Sensory Disability Database



Child Welfare and Protection

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

- In 2020 Q4, there were 14,654 child welfare and protection referrals to Tusla, the Child and Family Agency (see *Table 74*).
- 58.2% of these referrals related to welfare concerns (see *Table 74*).
- Overall, there was a 11.4% increase across the period between 2019 Q3 and 2020 Q4 (see *Table 74*).

Table 30. Number, percentage and rate per 1,000 of child welfare and protection referrals to Tusla, by type of referral (2019 Q2 – 2020 Q3)

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

*Rates calculated using population estimates for the relevant years

Source: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency



Table 31. Number and rate per 1,000 of child welfare and protection referrals to Tusla, by administrative area (2020 Q1 – 2020 Q3)

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

Note: Totals include referrals with no specific type

*Rates calculated using regional populations at Census of Population 2016

Source: Tusla, the Child and Family Agency

- There were 14.6 referrals per 1,000 children in 2020 Q4. Rates ranged from 7.9 per 1,000 in Dublin South East/Wicklow to 23.1 per 1,000 in Dublin City North (see *Table 75*).



Social, Emotional and Behavioural Outcomes



Participation in Decision-Making

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

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

Table 32. Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported students at their school participate in making the school rules by population groups

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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


Table 33. Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported students at their school participate in making the school rules by age, gender, and social class

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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

Table 34. Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported students at their school participate in making the school rules by NUTS Region

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

Source: HBSC Survey



Reading as a Leisure Activity

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

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

Table 35. Percentage of children aged 15 who reported that reading is one of their favourite hobbies, by population groups (2018)

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

Source: OECD-Pisa Survey

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

Table 36. Percentage of children aged 15 who reported that reading is one of their favourite hobbies, by gender and social class (2018)

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

Source: OECD-Pisa Survey



Smoking cigarettes: Weekly Smoking

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

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

Table 37. Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported smoking cigarettes every week by population groups

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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


Table 38. Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported smoking cigarettes every week by age, gender, and social class

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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

Table 39. Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported smoking cigarettes every week by NUTS Region

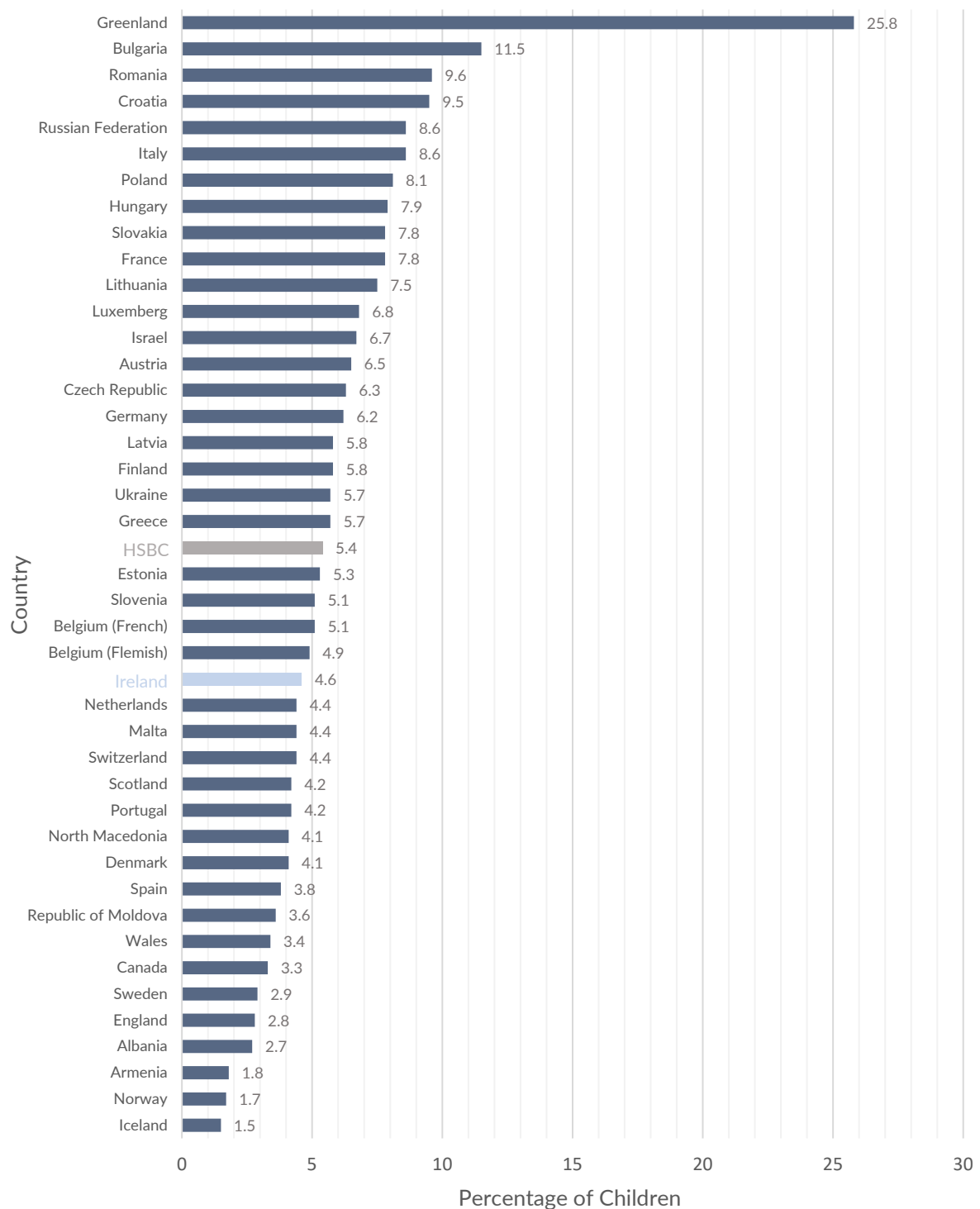
	2014	2018
State	5.3	2.4
NUTS Region		
Border	6.5	2.6
Midland	5.7	2.9
West	4.5	3.0
Dublin	5.6	2.5
Mid-East	5.2	2.6
Mid-West	3.7	3.1
South-East	5.1	2.0
South-West	5.2	2.2

Source: HBSC Survey



- Across 41 countries, the average percentage of children who reported smoking cigarettes every week was 5.4% (see *Figure 16*). This ranged from 1.5% in Iceland to 25.8% in Greenland. The corresponding percentage in Ireland was 4.6%. This was below the international HBSC average. (Note: International comparisons are based on data from children aged 11, 13 and 15 only.)

Figure 8. Percentage of children aged 11, 13 and 15 who reported smoking cigarettes every week, by country (2014)



Note: This indicator was last collected internationally in 2014.

Source: HBSC Survey



Smoking cigarettes: Never Smoking

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

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

Table 40. Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported never having smoked cigarettes by population groups

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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


Table 41. Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported never having smoked cigarettes by age, gender, and social class

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

Source: HBSC Survey

- The percentage of children who reported never having smoked cigarettes ranged from 85.0% in the South-East to 91.4% in the Mid-East (see *Table 86*).

Table 42. Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported never having smoked cigarettes by NUTS Region

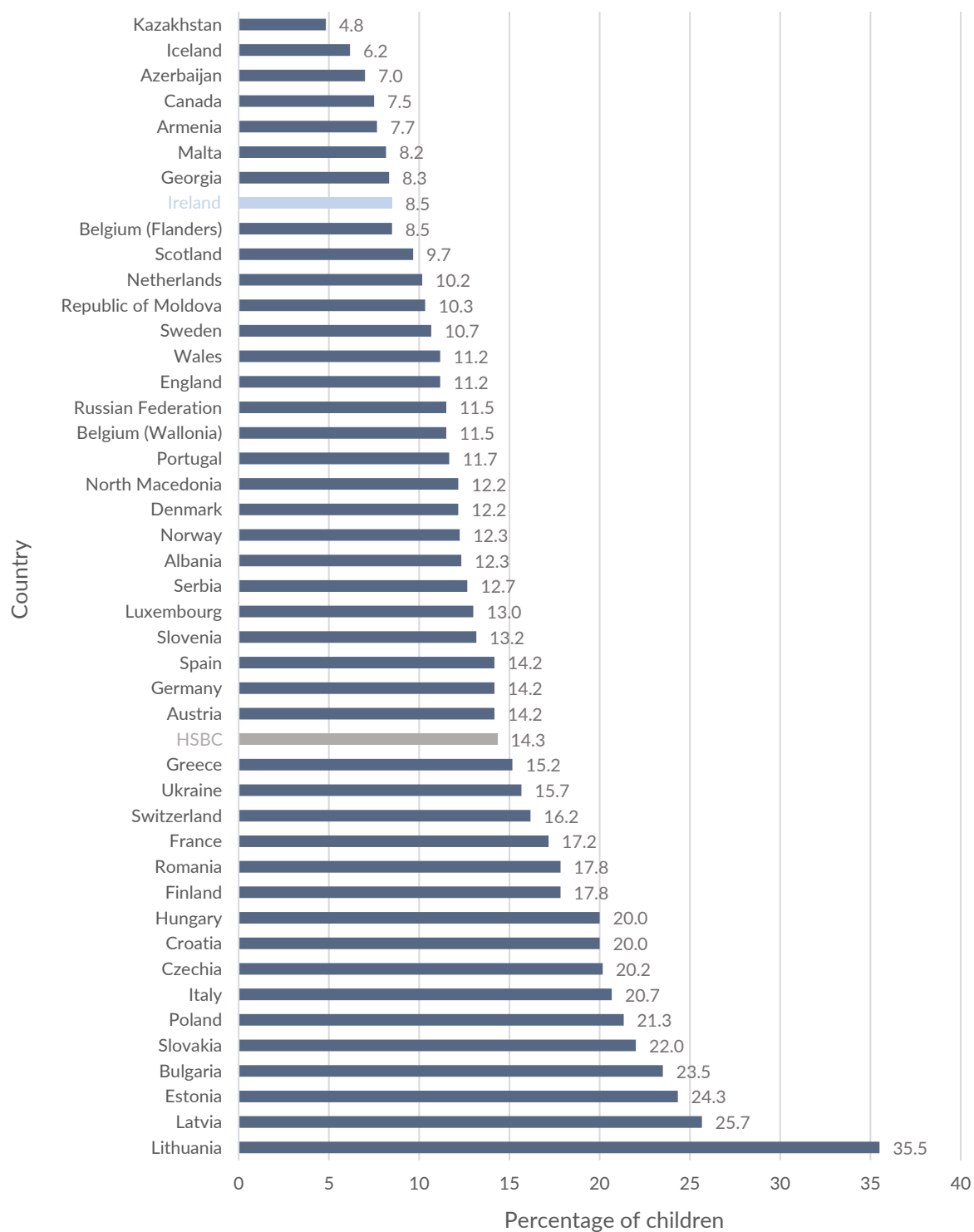
	2014	2018
State	84.2	89.4
NUTS Region		
Border	83.0	89.8
Midland	83.1	88.4
West	84.6	89.3
Dublin	83.7	90.5
Mid-East	84.4	91.4
Mid-West	88.5	88.4
South-East	83.1	85.0
South-West	84.8	87.0

Source: HBSC Survey



- Across 45 countries, the average percentage of children who reported never having smoked cigarettes was 85.6% (see *Figure 17*). This ranged from 64.5% in Lithuania to 95.2% in Kazakhstan. The corresponding percentage in Ireland was 91.5%. This was above the international HBSC average. (Note: International comparisons are based on data from children aged 11, 13 and 15 only.)

Figure 9. Percentage of children aged 11, 13 and 15 who reported 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 of children who reported having been drunk at least once in the past 30 days (see *Table 87*).

Table 43. Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported having been drunk at least once in the past 30 days by population groups

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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



Table 44. Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported having been drunk at least once in the past 30 days by age, gender, and social class

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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

Table 45. Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported having been drunk at least once in the past 30 days by NUTS Region

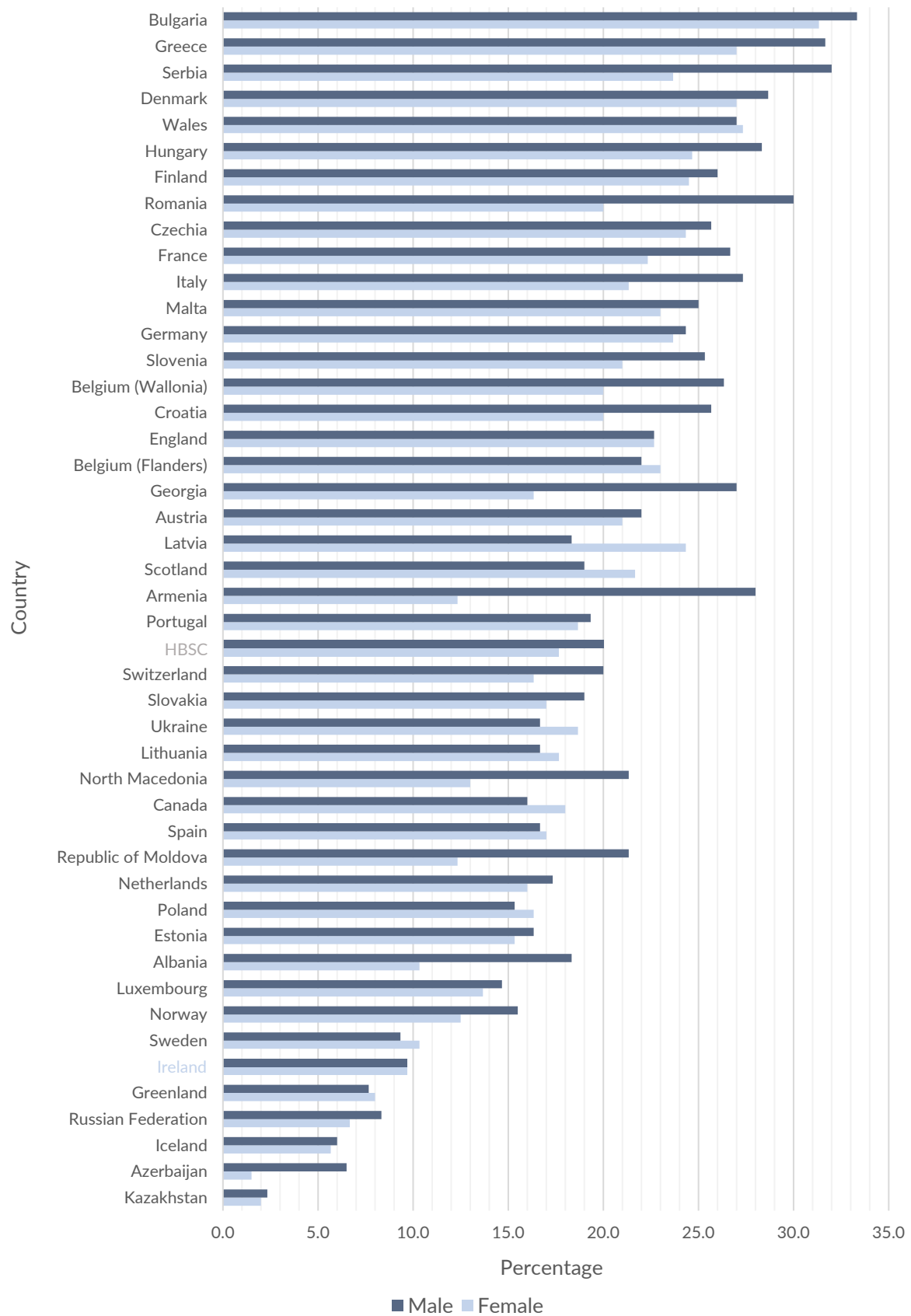
	2014	2018
State	10.0	6.9
NUTS Region		
Border	12.1	8.5
Midland	7.2	5.9
West	9.5	5.7
Dublin	11.4	7.1
Mid-East	8.9	5.1
Mid-West	11.3	6.3
South-East	10.5	9.0
South-West	7.3	9.3

Source: HBSC Survey

- Across 45 countries, the average percentage of children who reported having drunk alcohol at least once in the past 30 days was 20.0% for boys and 17.7% for girls (see *Figure 18*). This ranged from 2.3% and 2.0%, respectively, in Kazakhstan, to 33.3% and 31.3%, respectively, in Bulgaria. The corresponding percentage in Ireland was 9.7% for both boys and girls. This was below the international HBSC average. (Note: International comparisons are based on data from children aged 11, 13 and 15 only.)



Figure 10. Percentage of children aged 11, 13, and 15 who reported having drunk alcohol in the last 30 days, by country (2018)



Source: HBSC Survey



Alcohol Use: Never Drinking

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

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

Table 46. Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported never having had an alcoholic drink by population groups

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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


Table 47. Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported never having had an alcoholic drink by age, gender, and social class

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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

Table 48. Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported never having had an alcoholic drink by NUTS Region

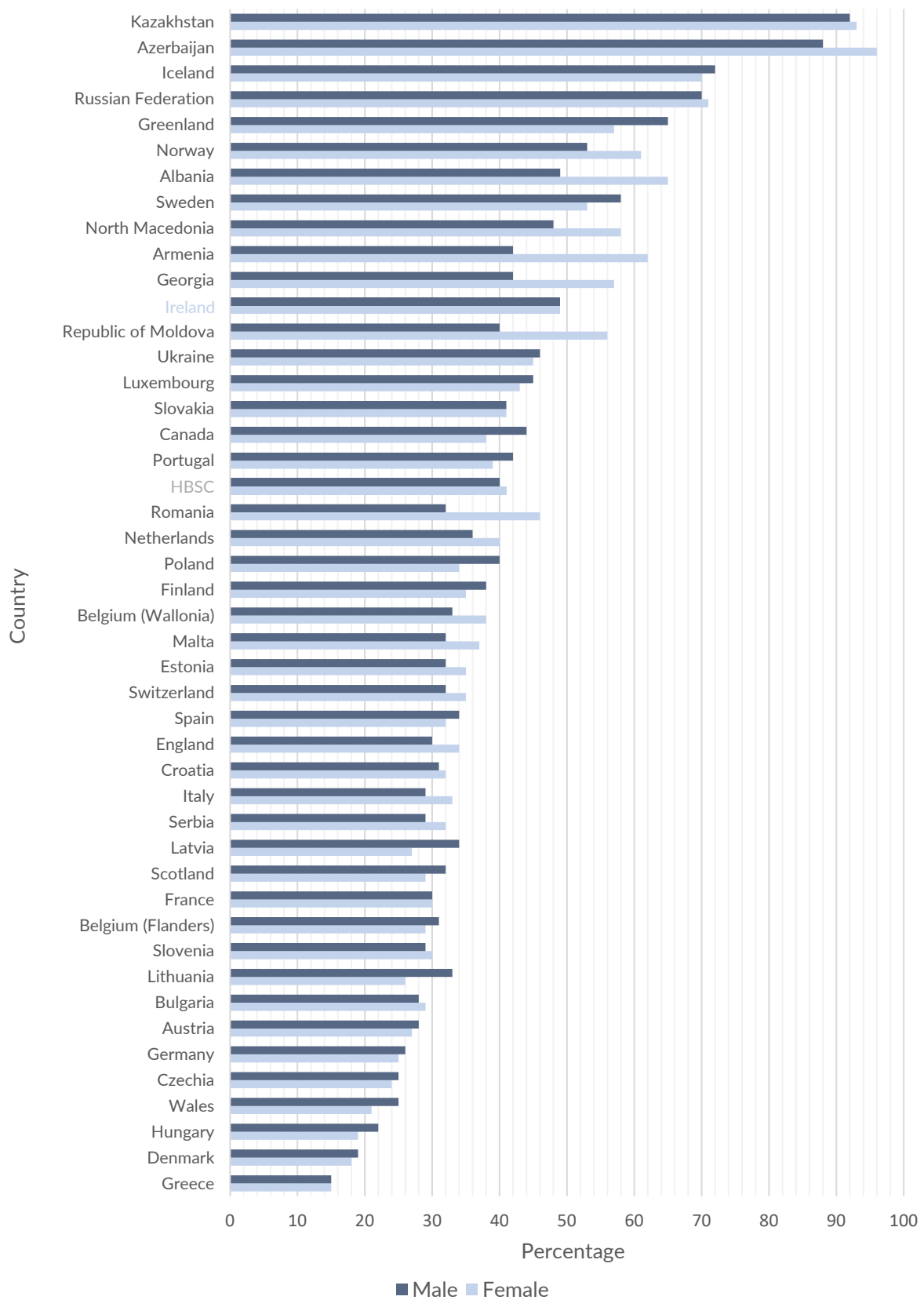
	2014	2018
State	58.4	69.4
NUTS Region		
Border	59.3	67.6
Midland	54.9	67.0
West	58.4	66.9
Dublin	57.8	70.4
Mid-East	57.9	66.8
Mid-West	59.5	61.2
South-East	54.0	70.9
South-West	63.5	75.1

Source: HBSC Survey

- Across 45 countries, the average percentage of children who reported never having had an alcoholic drink was 41.0% for girls and 40.0% for boys (see *Figure 19*). This ranged from 15% for both girls and boys in Greece, to 93.0% and 92.0% for girls and boys, respectively, in Kazakhstan. The corresponding percentage in Ireland was 49% for both boys and girls. This was above the international HBSC average. (Note: International comparisons are based on data from children aged 11, 13 and 15 only.)



Figure 11. Percentage of children aged 15 who reported never having had an alcoholic drink, by country (2018)



Source: HBSC Survey



Cannabis Use

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

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

Table 49. Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported having taken cannabis at least once in their lifetime by population groups

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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


Table 50. Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported having taken cannabis at least once in their lifetime by age, gender, and social class

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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

Table 51. Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported having taken cannabis at least once in their lifetime by NUTS Region

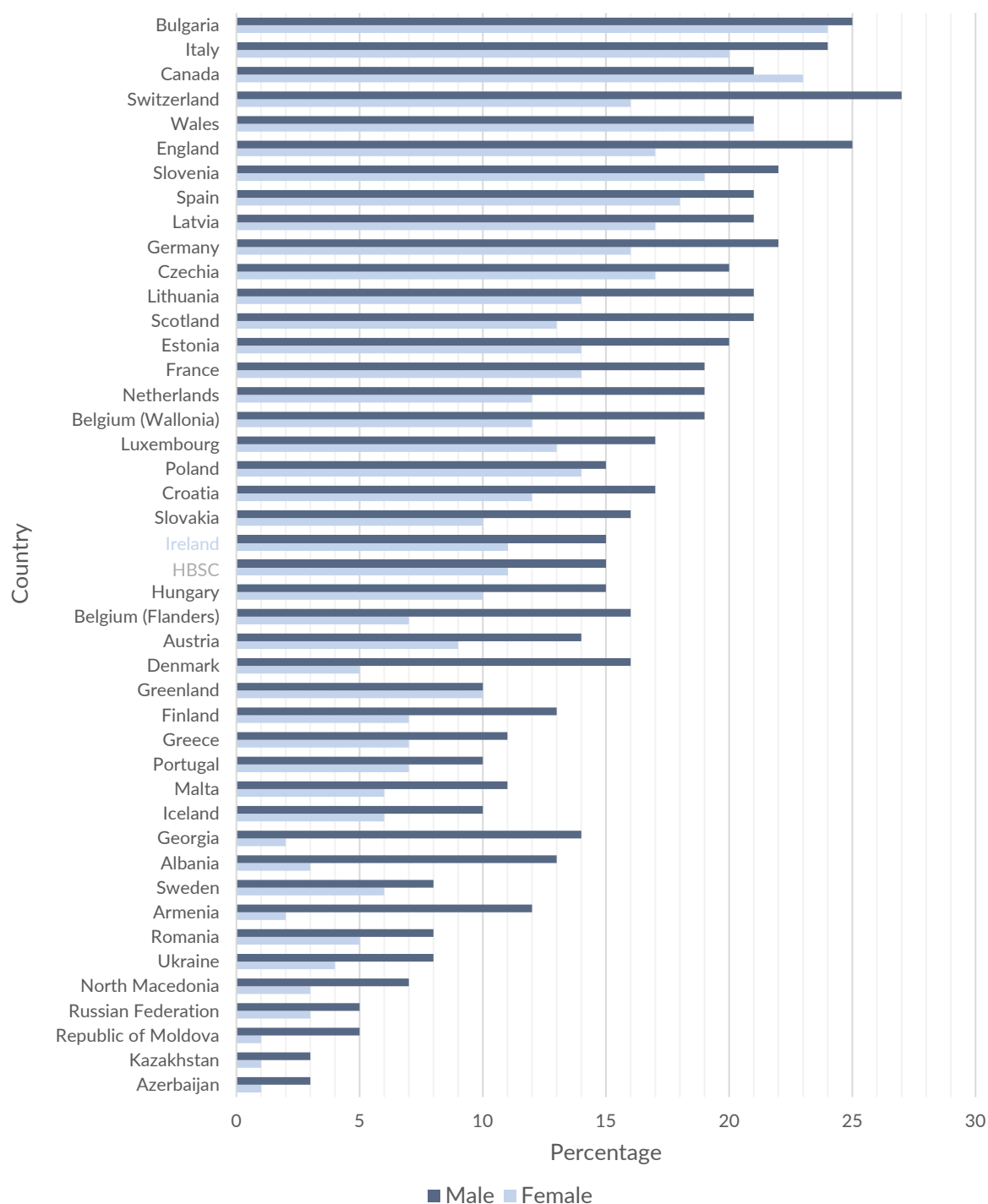
	2014	2018
State	8.8	7.8
NUTS Region		
Border	8.9	7.2
Midland	8.8	7.3
West	5.9	6.1
Dublin	11.2	8.8
Mid-East	10.5	7.2
Mid-West	6.7	6.1
South-East	8.8	11.3
South-West	6.5	8.4

Source: HBSC Survey



- Across 45 countries, the average percentage of children who reported having taken cannabis at least once in their lifetime was 15.0% for boys and 11.0% for girls (see Figure 20). This ranged from 3% and 1%, respectively, in Azerbaijan, to 25% and 24%, respectively, in Bulgaria. The corresponding percentage in Ireland was 15% for boys and 11% for girls. This was above the international HBSC average. (Note: International comparisons are based on data from children aged 11, 13 and 15 only.)

Figure 12. Percentage of children aged 15 who reported having ever used cannabis, by country (2018)



Source: HBSC Survey



Sexual Health and Behaviour: Teen Births

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

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

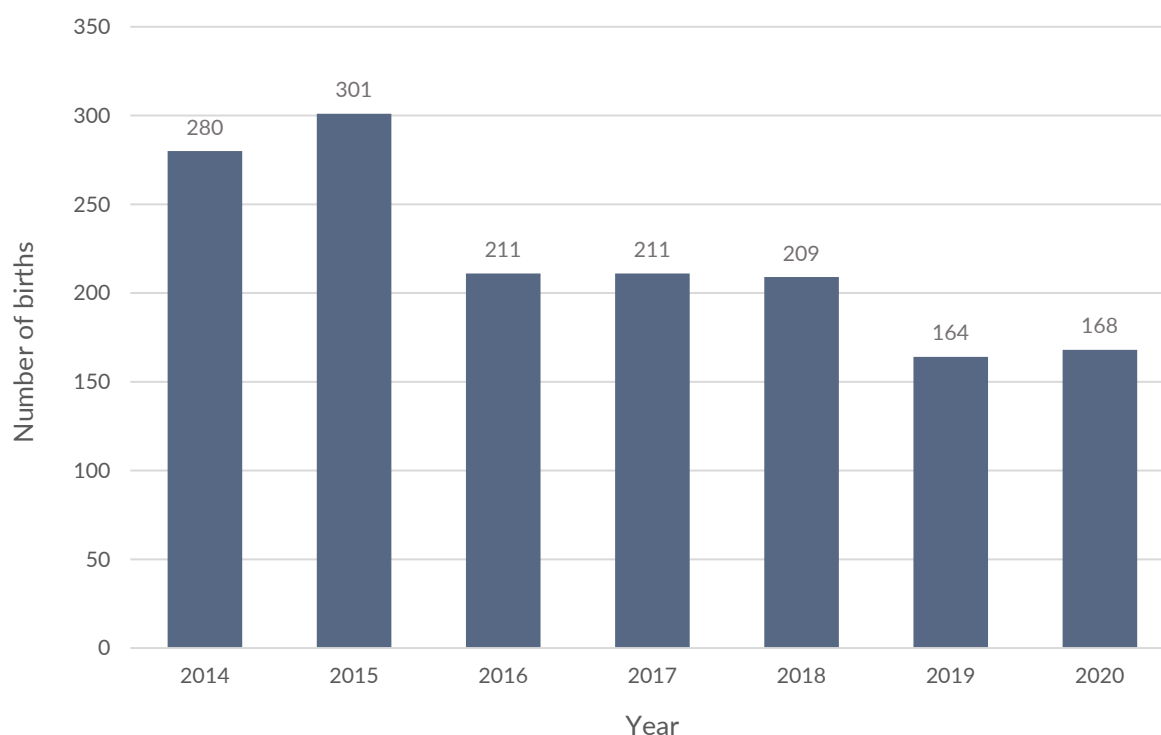
Table 52. Number and rate of births (per 1,000 of female population), by mother's age (2017 - 2020)

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

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

Source: Vital Statistics (CSO)

Figure 13. Number of births to mothers aged 10-17 (2014-2020)



Source: Vital Statistics (CSO)



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

Table 53. Number and rate (per 1,000) of births to mothers aged 10-17, by county (2019)

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

Source: Vital Statistics (CSO)



Sexual Health and Behaviour: Sexual Activity

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

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

Table 54. Percentage of children aged 15-17 who reported having ever had sex by population groups

	2014	2018
All children	26.8	24.8
Traveller status		
Traveller children	54.7	57.1
All children except Traveller children	26.4	24.5
Immigrant status		
Immigrant children	29.1	26.2
All children except immigrant children	26.4	24.2
Disability and/or chronic illness status		
Children with a disability and/or chronic illness	30.3	28.8
All children except those with a disability and/or chronic illness	25.9	24.0

Source: HBSC Survey

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


Table 55. Percentage of children aged 15-17 who reported having ever had sex by age, gender, and social class

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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

Table 56. Percentage of children aged 15-17 who reported having ever had sex by NUTS Region

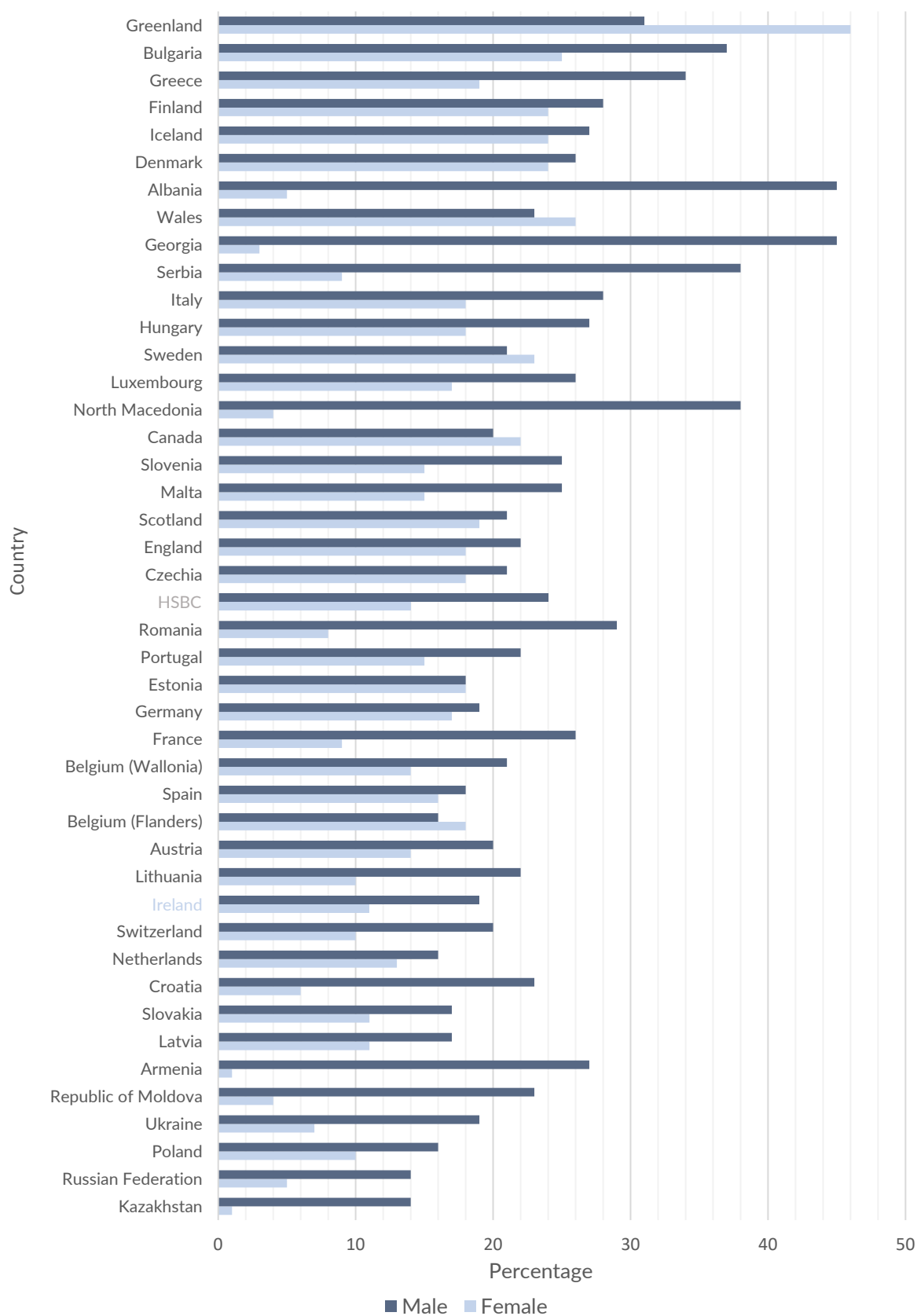
	2014	2018
State	26.8	24.8
NUTS Region		
Border	26.9	26.4
Midland	23.9	27.8
West	24.1	25.9
Dublin	33.1	21.7
Mid-East	25.0	24.9
Mid-West	24.5	19.6
South-East	31.8	30.0
South-West	18.4	32.8

Source: HBSC Survey

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



Figure 14. Percentage of children aged 15 who reported having had sexual intercourse, by country (2018)



Source: HBSC Survey



Self-Esteem

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

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

Table 57. Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported feeling happy with the way they are by population groups

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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



Table 58. Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported feeling happy with the way they are by age, gender, and social class

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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

Table 59. Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported feeling happy with the way they are by NUTS Region

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

Source: HBSC Survey



Self-Reported Happiness

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

- In 2018, 88.2% of children aged 10-17 reported being happy with their lives at present. This decreased slightly between 2014 and 2018 (see *Table 104*).
- Among individual population groups, when compared to all other children, immigrant children and children with a disability and/or chronic illness were less likely to report being happy with their lives at present (see *Table 104*).
- Children with a disability and/or chronic illness were the population group with the lowest percentage of children who reported being happy with their lives at present (see *Table 104*).

Table 60. Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported being happy with their lives at present by population groups

	2014	2018
All children	89.7	88.2
Traveller status		
Traveller children	89.2	88.6
All children except Traveller children	89.7	88.2
Immigrant status		
Immigrant children	88.1	84.8
All children except immigrant children	90.0	88.6
Disability and/or chronic illness status		
Children with a disability and/or chronic illness	87.1	83.5
All children except those with a disability and/or chronic illness	90.4	89.4

Source: HBSC Survey

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


Table 61. Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported being happy with their lives at present by age, gender, and social class

	2014			2018		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
All ages	92.6	86.8	89.7	91.1	85.6	88.2
Age						
10 years	94.8	95.2	95.0	95.6	95.9	95.8
11 years	95.0	95.2	95.1	94.3	93.7	94
12 years	96.0	92.5	94.4	93.1	91.9	92.5
13 years	92.2	86.4	89.2	91.9	85.7	88.6
14 years	91.9	82.2	87.0	88.3	78.3	82.8
15 years	90.1	79.6	84.7	86.1	77.8	81.3
16 years	89.4	81.7	85.7	86.5	77.6	81.6
17 years	91.0	81.8	86.9	89.4	80.9	85
Social class						
SC 1 - 2	94.0	87.5	90.7	91.2	86.3	88.5
SC 3 - 4	93.0	88.2	90.7	91.5	85	88.2
SC 5 - 6	90.2	84.3	87.3	89.6	83.9	86.5

Source: HBSC Survey

- The percentage of children who reported being happy with their lives at present ranged from 85.2% in Dublin to 90.5% in the Mid-East (see *Table 106*).

Table 62. Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported being happy with their lives at present by NUTS Region

	2014	2018
State	89.7	88.2
NUTS Region		
Border	90.4	89.0
Midland	89.7	87.9
West	90.5	88.6
Dublin	88.7	85.2
Mid-East	90.0	90.5
Mid-West	89.5	89.4
South-East	88.7	89.3
South-West	91.1	89.3

Source: HBSC Survey



Child and Youth Suicide

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

- In 2020, there were 12 suicides by children aged 10-17 (see *Table 107*).
- Over the seven-year period 2014 to 2020, the number and rate (per 100,000) of suicides by children aged 10-17 was consistently higher among boys (see *Table 107*).

Table 63. Number and rate (per 100,000) of suicides, by age and gender (2014 - 2020)

Year	15-17 years				18-24 years				0-24 years	
	Males		Females		Males		Females		Both sexes	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
2014	8	8.7	2	2.3	60	30.5	10	5.2	80	5.1
2015	13	14.0	1	1.1	33	16.6	9	4.7	56	3.6
2016	10	10.6	2	2.2	34	17.1	6	3.1	52	3.3
2017	8	8.4	5	5.5	26	12.8	9	4.6	48	3.0
2018	4	4.1	3	3.2	27	12.8	13	6.4	47	2.9
2019	9	9.1	6	6.3	33	15.3	10	4.8	58	3.6
2020	7	7.1	5	5.2	28	13.0	11	5.3	51	3.1

Note: 2020 figures are provisional

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

Source: Vital Statistics (CSO)

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

Table 64. Suicides as a percentage of total deaths of children aged 10-17 (2015 - 2020)

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

Note: 2020 figures are provisional

Source: Vital Statistics (CSO)



Self Harm

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

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

Table 65. Rate (per 100,000) of children aged 10-24 who presented at a hospital emergency department following self-harm, by gender, (2010 - 2019)

Year	Male				Female				Total			
	10 - 14	15 - 19	20 - 24	10 - 24	10 - 14	15 - 19	20 - 24	10 - 24	10 - 14	15 - 19	20 - 24	10 - 24
2010	33	442	627	334	108	638	545	404	69	538	585	369
2011	35	430	568	338	98	586	534	406	65	507	551	371
2012	40	368	533	303	119	617	520	409	79	490	527	356
2013	34	345	510	282	144	619	529	416	88	478	519	347
2014	49	381	544	305	160	678	534	442	104	524	538	372
2015	45	364	553	297	178	718	570	470	110	535	561	381
2016	53	377	516	294	160	760	583	483	106	563	549	386
2017	60	357	505	292	174	758	496	481	115	553	500	384
2018	73	377	543	320	196	766	544	496	133	568	543	406
2019	71	386	485	304	210	726	536	484	139	554	510	392

Source: National Suicide Research Foundation

Table 66. 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

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



Physical Activity

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

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

Table 67. Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported being physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on more than four days per week by population groups

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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



Table 68. Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported being physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on more than four days per week by age, gender, and social class

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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

Table 69. Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported being physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on more than four days per week by NUTS Region

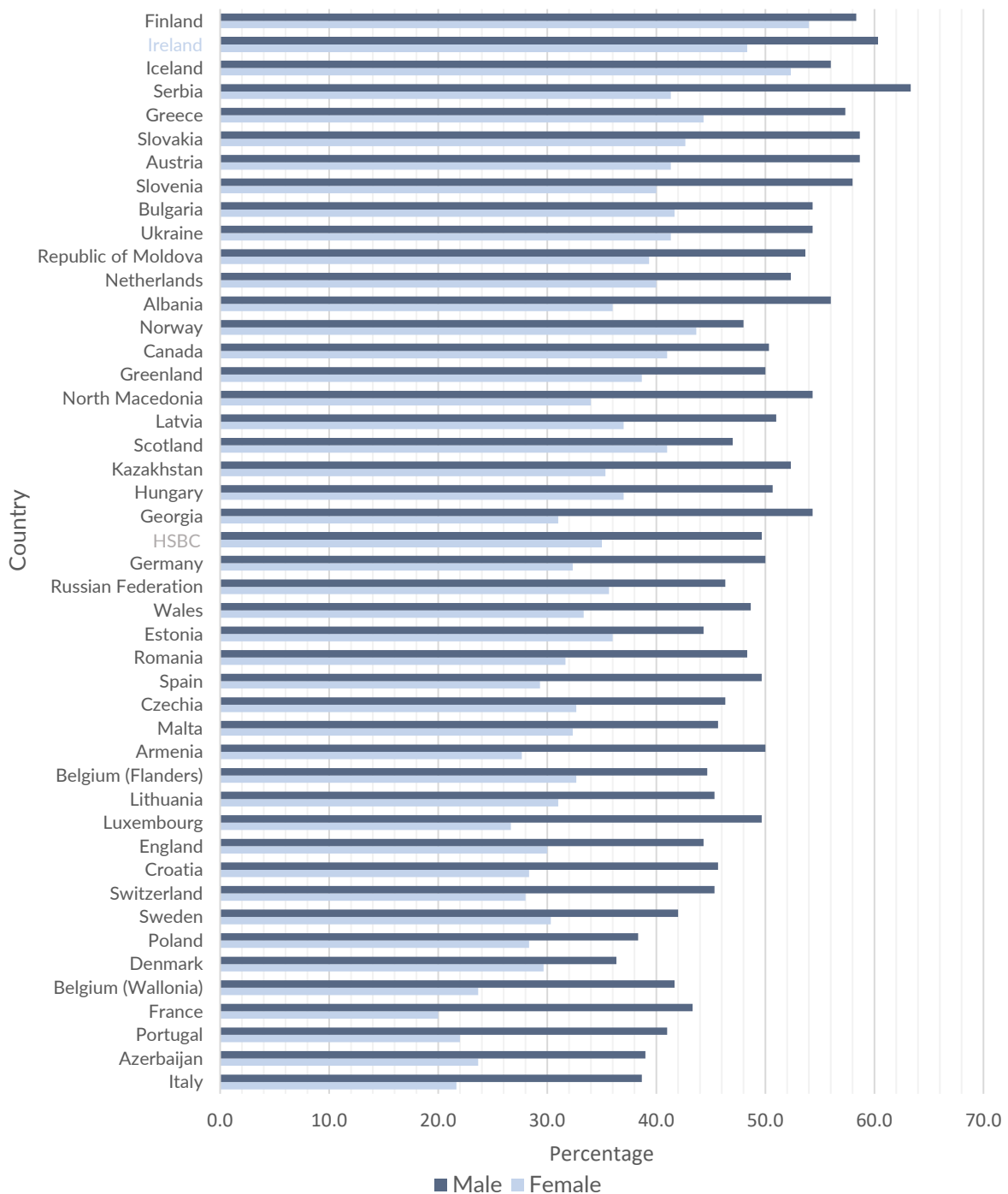
	2014	2018
State	52.0	51.1
NUTS Region		
Border	48.6	46.5
Midland	47.7	48.0
West	53.3	57.2
Dublin	53.2	51.0
Mid-East	52.5	50.5
Mid-West	52.8	53.7
South-East	52.1	50.6
South-West	53.5	50.1

Source: HBSC Survey



- Across 45 countries, the average percentage of children who reported exercising four times or more per week outside of school hours was 49.7% for boys and 35.0% for girls (see Figure 23). This ranged from 38.7% and 21.7%, respectively, in Italy, to 58.3% and 54.0%, respectively, in Finland. The corresponding percentage in Ireland was 60.3% for boys and 48.3% for girls. This was above the international HBSC average. (Note: International comparisons are based on data from children aged 11, 13 and 15 only.)

Figure 15. Percentage of children aged 11, 13 and 15 who reported exercising four times or more a week (outside school hours), by country (2018)



Source: HBSC Survey



Nutrition: Breakfast Consumption

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

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

Table 70. Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported eating breakfast on five or more days per week by population groups

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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


Table 71. Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported eating breakfast on five or more days per week by age, gender, and social class

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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

Table 72. Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported eating breakfast on five or more days per week by NUTS Region

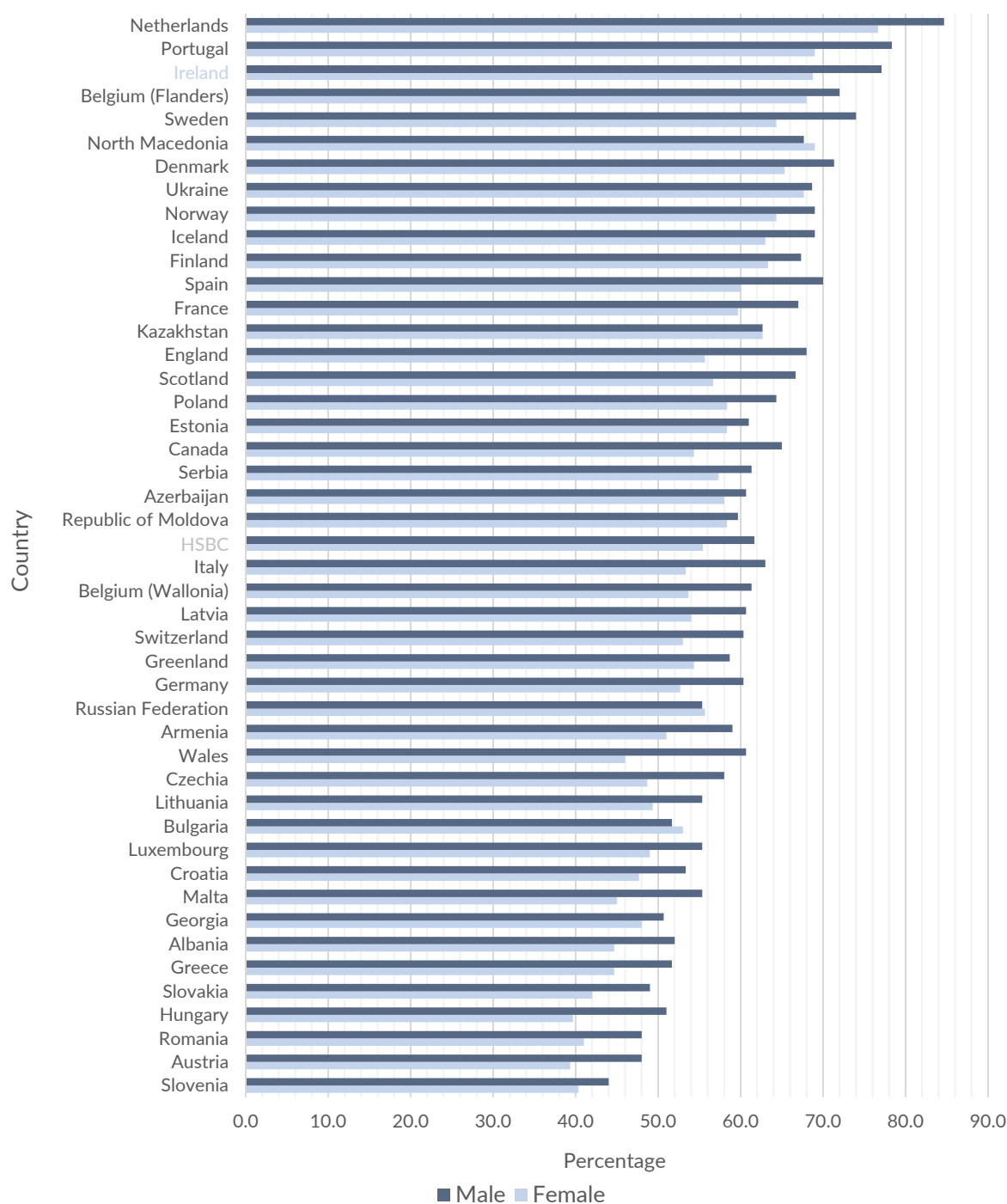
	2014	2018
State	76.7	78.2
NUTS Region		
Border	76.9	77.5
Midland	76.8	76.5
West	81.1	79.0
Dublin	73.5	82.0
Mid-East	77.9	81.3
Mid-West	76.8	76.9
South-East	74.8	75.6
South-West	79.7	79.2

Source: HBSC Survey



- Across 45 countries, the average percentage of children who reported eating breakfast on five or more days per week was 61.7% for boys and 55.3% for girls (see Figure 24). This ranged from 44.0% and 40.3%, respectively, in Slovenia, to 84.7% and 76.7%, respectively, in the Netherlands. The corresponding percentage in Ireland was 77.0% for boys and 68.7% for girls. This was above the international HBSC average. (Note: International comparisons are based on data from children aged 11, 13 and 15 only.)

Figure 16. Percentage of children aged 11, 13 and 15 who reported 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 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 73. Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported drinking soft drinks that contain sugar at least once a day by population groups

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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


Table 74. Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported drinking soft drinks that contain sugar at least once a day by age, gender, and social class

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

Source: HBSC Survey

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

Table 75. Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported drinking soft drinks that contain sugar at least once a day by NUTS Region

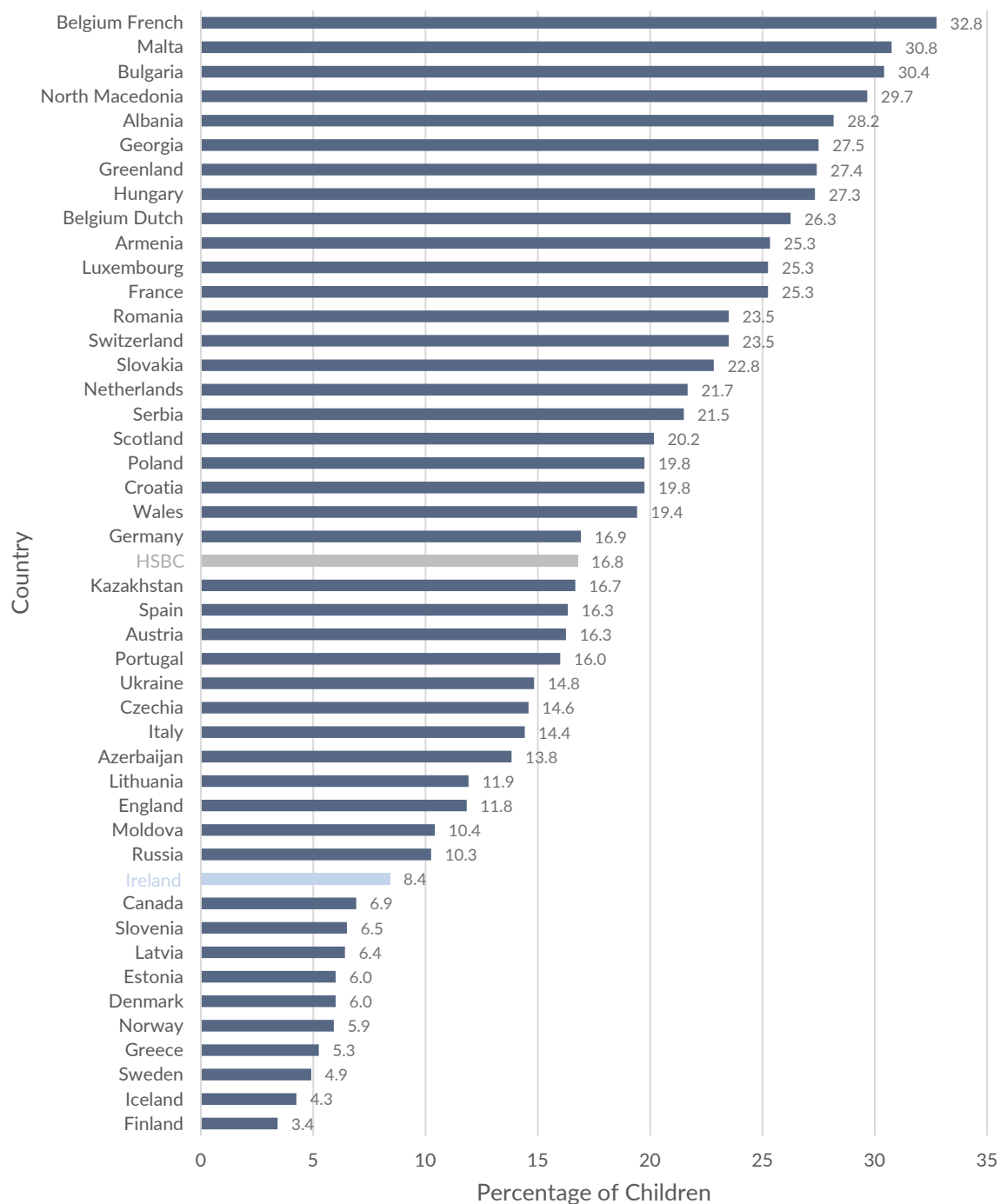
	2014	2018
State	12.6	6.5
NUTS Region		
Border	11.4	5.1
Midland	9.0	4.4
West	8.4	5.7
Dublin	16.8	6.7
Mid-East	11.8	9.0
Mid-West	11.2	7.0
South-East	14.6	8.3
South-West	10.6	5.1

Source: HBSC Survey



- Across 45 countries, the average percentage of children who reported drinking soft drinks that contain sugar at least once a day was 16.7% (see *Figure 25*). This ranged from 3.4% in Finland to 32.7% in Belgium (French). The corresponding percentage in Ireland was 8.4%. This was below the international HBS average. (Note: International comparisons are based on data from children aged 11, 13 and 15 only.)

Figure 17. Percentage of children aged 11, 13 and 15 who reported drinking soft drinks at least once a day, by country (2018)



Source: HBS Survey

STATE OF THE NATION'S CHILDREN



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
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