



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



An Indicator Set for



BETTER OUTCOMES BRIGHTER FUTURES

The national policy framework for
children & young people
2014–2020

2021
UPDATE



An Indicator Set for



**BETTER
OUTCOMES
BRIGHTER
FUTURES**

The national policy framework for
children & young people
2014-2020

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REPORT AUTHORS

The development of the Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures indicator set has been undertaken by the Research and Evaluation Unit at the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY), in collaboration with the Centre for Effective Services (CES).

This report, the 2021 update of *An Indicator Set for Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures*, was produced by the Research and Evaluation Unit, DCEDIY.

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MINISTER'S FOREWORD

It is my privilege as Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) to launch the updates to the indicator set for Better Outcomes Brighter Futures (BOBF), the national policy framework for children and young people 2014-2020.

BOBF sets out the Government's agenda and its priorities in relation to children and young people up to the age of 24, and represents a whole-of-government effort to improve outcomes for children and young people across the five national outcomes: active and healthy; achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development; safe and protection from harm; economic security and opportunity; and connected, respected and contributing to their world.

This report updates the indicators for children and young people that are aligned with these five national outcomes. It identifies and combines data from a range of sources, including administrative, survey and census data - revealing the wealth of statistical information on children and young people available to us, while simultaneously highlighting areas that require further data collection, such as child poverty. The report tracks progress across BOBF outcomes and aims, and informs the prioritisation of policy objectives. In this way, the indicators allow us to measure progress in releasing the objectives of BOBF, and to identify the challenges that remain.

It is encouraging to note that there have been many improvements since the publication of the first BOBF indicator set in 2017. 30% of 11-17 year old children reported ever drinking alcohol in 2018, down from 48% in 2010, and the rate of binge drinking among reported by 15-24 year olds who drink decreased from 58% in 2015 to 31% in 2021. The percentage of children aged 11-17 who report smoking monthly or more frequently decreased from 12% in 2010 to 5% in 2018, and the percentage of 15-24 year olds who report being a current smoker decreased from 19% in 2015 to 15% in 2021. The percentage of early childhood care and education (ECCE) services meeting higher capitation criteria has increased from 46% in 2014 to 61% in 2020.

However, the report also highlights areas of concern which we need to understand and address. It shows that the percentage of 11-17 year olds engaging in optimum physical activity decreased from 24% in 2010 to 22% in 2018. The percentage of 15-24 year olds displaying optimal levels of mental health has decreased from 21% in 2015 to 12% in 2021, and the percentage with probable mental health problems has increased from 10% to 20% during this time. From 2010 to 2018, the percentage of 11-17 year olds who reported being bullied in school in the past couple of months increased from 24% to 31%.

This publication of this updated indicator set is very timely as it is being launched alongside the final BOBF Annual Report for 2020, and will inform the development of the successor Framework. I am pleased to say that work has already begun in my Department on the new Framework. As we develop this new Framework, we will look at data and indicators, particularly in relation to new and emerging priorities. We will align the new indicators with the outcomes and aims of our new policy in ensuring better service provision and outcomes for our children and young people.

Data updates for this Indicator Set have been provided by a number of government departments, agencies and research organisations, and without their ongoing participation, this report would not be possible. I would like to thank them for their contribution.

As Minister, I hope to see us achieve our goal of making Ireland one of the best places in the world in which to be a child. The BOBF indicator set makes that goal measurable. It means that we can track our progress and be held to account on it. While statistical indicators can never fully reflect the diversity of children and young people's experience, they are an important resource and help ensure that we keep the focus on tangible outcomes for all our children and young people.



Roderic O'Gorman, TD

MINISTER FOR CHILDREN, EQUALITY, DISABILITY, INTEGRATION AND YOUTH



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents an updated indicator set for Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures (BOBF). *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The national policy framework for children and young people 2014–2020* sets out the Government’s agenda and priorities in relation to children and young people up to the age of 24. The purpose of the indicator set is to track progress for children and young people aged 0–24 across the five national outcomes outlined in BOBF.

This indicators set was first published in 2017, alongside an accompanying methodology report in 2019. Since then, DCEDIY has also published more detailed data for specific subsets of the population of children and young people, including on young carers and young Travellers¹. Now that the original BOBF 2014–2020 timeframe has concluded, the purpose of this update is to provide the most recent available data for all BOBF indicators, and to highlight how these indicators have changed over the lifetime of BOBF.

While BOBF indicators will not explain how or whether a particular action or commitment in the policy framework has given rise to, or caused, a particular outcome, they are important because they:

- Help to track progress towards outcomes
- Assist in identifying trends
- Contribute to priority setting or resetting
- Inform policy formulation and service provision
- Provide for international comparisons, where possible.

The methodology used to develop the indicator set has involved a number of phases, including a literature review and compilation of a data inventory; the establishment of, and consultation, with an expert panel; a Delphi process; a review of consultations with children and young people; and bilateral consultations with experts and policy-makers in Government Departments and agencies. This methodology is set out in detail in the accompanying methodology report².

The indicator set covers 70 indicator areas, with between one and four indicators per area. In some cases, more than one indicator is required for an indicator area to ensure coverage of younger and older age groups. In some instances, it has not been possible to identify appropriate data indicators for indicator areas. In these cases, ‘placeholders’ are noted in the report.

¹ See the REU Statistics Programme’s *Statistical Spotlight Series* for more information <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/c2a87f-the-statistical-spotlight-series/>

² The report detailing the methodological process used to develop this indicator set is available here at <https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/27139/d3560c3e9d124bf28de10babf77b6c07.pdf#page=1>

For each indicator, data are presented (where available) for the closest time point to the establishment of BOBF in 2014 (referred to as “baseline”), for the closest time point to the publication of the first indicator set (referred to as “most recent as of 2017”), and for the closest time point to the publication of this updated indicator set (referred to as “most recent as of 2021”).

The indicator set represents a significant resource to support the policy framework and the work of Government Departments and others involved in the implementation of BOBF. It provides a broad picture of:

- How children and young people in Ireland are faring in terms of how active and healthy they are
- The extent to which they are achieving their full potential in learning and development
- How safe and protected they are from harm
- How economically secure they are
- How connected, respected and engaged they are in society.

Examples of some highlights of the indicator set are illustrated in Figure 1.

Outcome

1

Active and healthy

The rate of **binge drinking** among reported by young people aged 15-24 years has decreased, **from 58% in 2015 to 31% in 2021.**

The % of children aged 11-17 who report **smoking monthly** or more frequently decreased from **12% in 2010 to 5% in 2018.**

The total **number of deaths** among children and young people aged 0-24 years decreased from **545 in 2014 to 363 in 2020.** The total number of suicides also decreased over time, from **76 in 2014 to 51 in 2020.**

The rate of children and young people aged 5-24 presenting to hospital departments as a result of **self-harm** reduced from **264 per 100,000 in 2014 to 242 per 100,000 in 2019.**





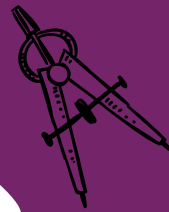
Outcome

2

Achieving full potential in learning and development

The % of early childhood care and education (ECCE) services

that meet higher capitation criteria increased from **46% in 2014 to 61% in 2020.**



abc



The Leaving Cert completion rate

increased from **90%** for the 2007 post-primary school entry cohort to **92%** for the 2014 cohort.



The % of new entrants to third level education

who did not enroll in their institution the following year decreased from **16% in 2012/2013 to 13% in 2016/2017.**



Outcome

3

Safe and
protected
from harm



The number of children
under 18 classified as

**“at ongoing risk
of significant
harm and in
need of a child
protection plan”**

**decreased from 1,354
in 2015 to 939 in 2020.**



The % of open cases

**awaiting the
allocation
of a social
worker**

**has decreased,
from 31% in 2014
to 20% in 2020.**



In 2018, **31% of children
aged 11-17 reported
being bullied**

**in school in the past
couple of months, and
13% reported
bullying
others.**



Outcome

4

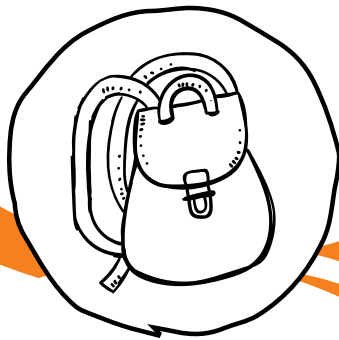
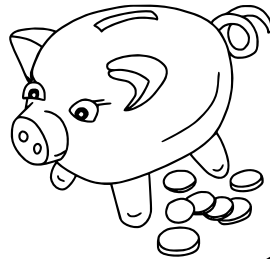
Economic security and opportunity



The % of 0-14 year olds and 15-24 year olds experiencing

consistent poverty

was **8% and 6% respectively** in 2020.



The % of children under 18

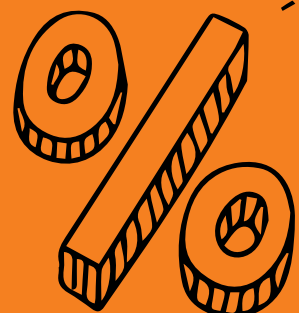
living in jobless households

decreased from 16% in 2014 to 11% in 2020.

The % of young people aged 18-24 with

lower secondary education or less

decreased from 7% in 2014 to 5% in 2020.



Outcome

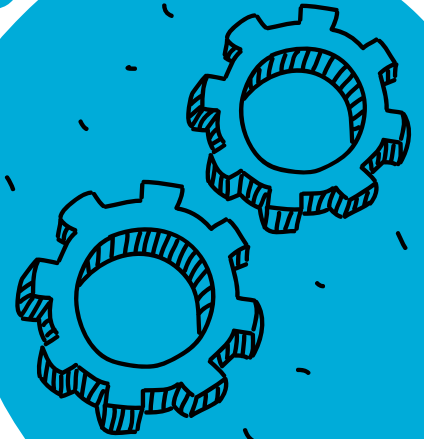
5

**Connected,
respected and
contributing to
their world**

From 2012 to 2018, the %
of 15 year olds who report

**spending time
just talking
with their
parents**

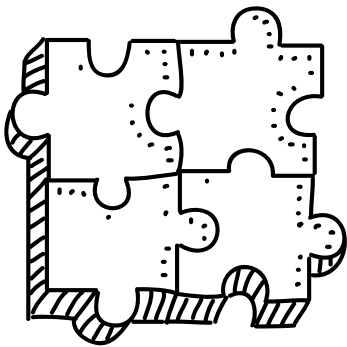
**increased from
68% to 70%.**



The % of 16-24 year olds
who report having

**high satisfaction
with their
personal
relationships**

**increased from 56%
to 58% between
2013 and 2018.**





INTRODUCTION

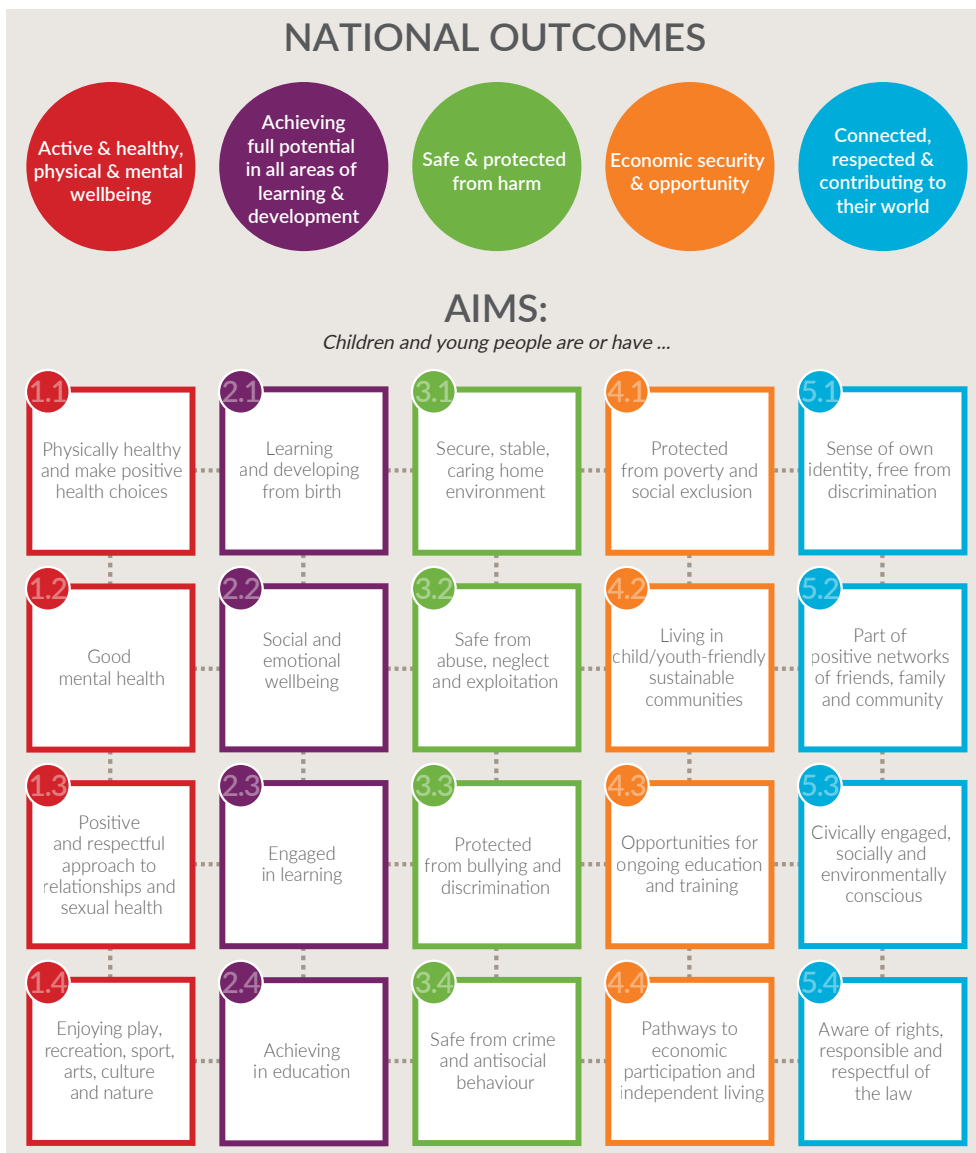
1.1. An indicator set for Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures

Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The national policy framework for children and young people 2014-2020 sets out the Government's agenda and priorities in relation to children and young people up to the age of 24.

Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures (BOBF) represents a whole-of-government effort to improve outcomes for children and young people and recognises the shared responsibility of achieving these results, and the importance of doing so within existing resources. It is rooted in the State's commitments under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

BOBF adopts an outcomes approach based on the five national outcomes for children and young people. The outcomes are that children and young people will: be active and healthy; achieve in all areas of learning and development; be safe and protected from harm; experience economic security and opportunity; and be connected, respected and contributing to their world. These outcomes are interconnected and reinforcing, and are supported in each case by four specific aims (see Figure 2).

Figure 2: National outcomes and aims



With a view to achieving a holistic picture of the lives of children and young people, the policy framework included a commitment to develop a set of indicators directly aligned with the outcomes and aims of BOBF³. Work on the development of the first indicator set was undertaken by the Research and Evaluation Unit of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY), in collaboration with the Centre for Effective Services (CES), and was published in 2017. It was followed by the publication of a methodology report detailing in full the methodological process used to develop the indicator set⁴.

Since 2017, the Research and Evaluation Unit has undertaken (where possible) further detailed reporting of data on each indicator by different subgroups in the population through the *State of The Nation's Children* (SONC) reports⁵ and the Statistical Spotlight series⁶. This includes, for example, indicator data that has been disaggregated by age, gender, social class or membership of the Traveller community. This disaggregation of the data helps to provide more information about variations in outcomes for different groups of children and young people.

The 2021 update of the BOBF indicator set presents the most recent data available for each of the BOBF indicators, as of 2021. Trends in the data can be observed by comparing the baseline data to the data from this most recent update.

1.2. Structure of the report

This report presents the set of indicators for children and young people developed for and aligned with *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The national policy framework for children and young people 2014–2020*. The aim of this indicator set is to track progress for children and young people aged 0–24 years across the five national outcomes outlined in BOBF.

This report is set out as follows:

Section 1 Introduction provides a short account of the national policy framework and the context for the development of the Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures indicator set, including an outline of the report structure.

Section 2 Overview of the BOBF indicator set provides an outline of the purpose of the set and the process undertaken to develop it. It also includes an overview of each indicator area and indicator by BOBF outcome and aim, an outline of the key features of the set, an overview of the presentation of the indicators and related data, as well as guidance on interpreting the information included in this report.

³ According to the BOBF national policy framework, p. 124, 'A comprehensive indicator set to support the measurement of the five national outcomes will be developed in 2014, building on the National Set of Child Well-being Indicators.'

⁴ To read the Methodology report, visit <https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/27139/d3560c3e9d124bf28de10babf77b6c07.pdf#page=1>

⁵ To read the latest update of the *State of the Nation's Children* (SONC) report, visit <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/1f703-state-of-the-nations-children/>

⁶ To read the Statistical Spotlight reports, visit <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/c2a87f-the-statistical-spotlight-series/>

Section 3 Key data on children and young people in Ireland presents key sociodemographic data on children and young people in Ireland. This section includes the most recently available demographic information about children and young people in Ireland to set a context for the indicators.

Section 4 Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures indicator set presents the BOBF indicator set. The indicators are presented under the outcomes and aims of BOBF. Aggregate or summary-level data on each indicator are provided for three time points (where possible). Change over time is captured in the change column, by comparing the baseline data with the most recent data (most recent as of 2021). Indicators and data presented in this section should be read with reference to, and in conjunction with, Section 2.5 and Section 5.

Section 5 Indicator definitions and data sources presents important details on each indicator and data source. It includes (for each indicator) the measure used, the data source, the frequency of data collection, the indicator's relevance to BOBF, and whether the indicator is included in the *State of the Nation's Children* report.

Appendix (UNCRC Articles mapped to the five national outcomes) highlights links between the five outcome areas and Articles in the UN Children's Rights Convention (UNCRC)⁷. While the indicator set has been developed specifically as a resource to support the BOBF policy framework, and is not a children's rights indicator set per se, links to the UNCRC highlight the important relationship between the indicators and the Convention.

⁷ The UNCRC recognises the specific rights and vulnerabilities of children and promotes greater protection of children around the world. It is a legally binding international agreement setting out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of every child, regardless of their race, religion or abilities. Ireland ratified the Convention in 1992.

The background is a solid green color with several large, overlapping, semi-transparent shapes in a lighter shade of green. These shapes are curved and organic, resembling stylized waves or abstract architectural forms. They are positioned in the upper and lower portions of the page, framing the central text.

OVERVIEW OF THE BOBF INDICATOR SET

2.1. What are indicators?

An indicator provides evidence that a certain condition exists or that certain results have or have not been achieved. In the context of public policy, indicators enable decision-makers to track progress towards the achievement of intended outputs, outcomes, goals, and objectives. Indicators can measure inputs, process, outputs, and outcomes. Effective indicators provide a sense of whether expected results are being achieved. However, they do not explain why results are or are not achieved, links between interventions and outcomes, or actions that should be taken to improve results. Indicators are best used to highlight trends or issues that need further exploration and explanation, rather than to determine success or failure.

2.2. The purpose of the BOBF indicator set

The purpose of the indicator set is to track progress for children and young people aged 0-24 across the five national outcomes outlined in BOBF. The indicators included in the BOBF indicator set are aligned with the five national outcomes for children and young people, and help to provide a signal of progress towards achieving these outcomes. While these indicators do not explain how or whether a particular action or commitment on the policy framework has given rise to, or caused, a particular outcome, they are important because they:

- Help track progress towards improving outcomes for children
- Assist in identifying changes and/or trends
- Contribute to priority setting or resetting
- Inform policy formulation and service provision
- Provide for international comparisons, where possible.

The indicator set represents a significant resource to support the policy framework and the work of Government Departments and others involved in the implementation of BOBF. It provides a broad picture of:

- How children and young people in Ireland are faring, in terms of how active and healthy they are
- The extent to which they are achieving their full potential in learning and development
- How safe and protected they are from harm
- How economically secure they are
- How connected, respected and engaged they are in society.

2.3. The process used to develop this indicator set

The process used to develop the indicator set adopted and built on the methodology used by the National Children's Office in 2005 to develop a set of child well-being indicators, which have been reported since then in the DCEDIY *State of the Nation's Children* (SONC) reports⁸.

While there are some common indicators between the SONC and BOBF indicator sets, there are also a number of key differences between the two sets. The BOBF set is designed to align to the five national outcomes of BOBF and has been developed specifically as a resource to support the ongoing implementation of BOBF and its constituent strategies⁹. The BOBF indicator set covers the age range 0–24 years. This is wider than SONC, which encompasses indicators on child well-being between 0 and 18 years. The BOBF indicator set includes and retains indicator areas (selected for inclusion in the set as part of the development process) where the identification of indicator data has not been possible (for further information, please see Section 2.4 on the use of 'placeholders'.) The methodology used to develop the BOBF set was also informed by the approaches undertaken more recently by the Department of Health (DoH) in developing an indicator set aligned to the Healthy and Positive Ageing Outcomes Initiative¹⁰; and the development of the Healthy Ireland indicator set¹¹.

The process of developing this indicator set has encompassed a number of phases, including:

- The data preparation phase, involving a review of literature and other indicator sets; the compilation of an indicator inventory; the identification of potential measures and data sources; and the grouping of indicators into indicator areas.
- The establishment and convening of an expert panel of academics and policy-makers in key areas to provide advice, guidance and feedback on each stage of the process¹².
- The development and application of selection criteria to help prioritise indicator areas from the inventory for inclusion in a Delphi process. Selection criteria focused on two main requirements: policy relevance and technical merit.

⁸ The *State of the Nation's Children* report is based on the National Set of Child Well-Being Indicators published in 2005.

⁹ Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures comprises three constituent strategies in the areas of participation, youth and early years. The National Youth Strategy (2015–2020) and the National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision Making (2015–2020) were published in 2015. The National Early Years Strategy *First 5: A Whole-of-Government Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families 2019–2028* was published in 2018.

¹⁰ A joint programme of work between the Department of Health, The Atlantic Philanthropies, the HSE's Health and Wellbeing Division, and Age Friendly Ireland, to monitor and promote older people's health and well-being in Ireland.

¹¹ Ireland's national framework for action to improve the health and well-being of the people of Ireland.

¹² The Expert Advisory Panel membership included: Professor Mark Morgan (St Patrick's College), Dr Áine McNamara (Health Service Executive), Professor Michael Rigby (Dublin City University), Dr Helen McAvoy (Institute of Public Health), Professor Trevor Spratt (Children's Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin), Professor James Williams (Economic and Social Research Institute and Principal Investigator of the Growing Up in Ireland Study), Dr Claire Hickey (Centre for Effective Services), Jim Walsh (Department of Social Protection), Dr Nicola Carr (Queen's University Belfast), Cormac Halpin (Central Statistics Office), and Professor Dymna Devine (University College Dublin).

- A Delphi process¹³, which involved a series of surveys of those involved in BOBF governance structures, as well as other experts working in areas relevant to the five BOBF outcome domains. The aim of the Delphi process was to help inform agreement on priority indicator areas.
- A review of findings from children and young people’s consultations undertaken in recent years by DCEDIY to help identify indicator areas important to children and young people, and to ensure that they were reflected in the final set.
- Bilateral meetings (face to face and by phone) with a range of Government Departments, agencies and experts to consult on indicator areas prioritised by the Delphi process and inform the identification of appropriate data measures for each indicator area¹⁴.
- The development of draft indicator set, drawing on the outcome of the Delphi process feedback from the Expert Advisory Panel and bilateral meetings and discussions with Government Departments and agencies.

2.4. An overview of the indicator set

The set of indicator areas and indicators aligned with BOBF were determined and agreed through the development process outlined in Section 2.3. The set includes over 100 indicators across 70 indicator areas, with one or more indicator per indicator area. These span the five BOBF outcomes, with four aims associated with each of these outcomes.

Table 1 provides an overview of the indicator areas included in the BOBF indicator set, organised according to the outcomes and aims of BOBF. All 70 indicator areas and related indicators are presented in a data table in Section 4.

Table 1: Indicator Set

Outcome	Aim	Indicator areas	
1. Active and healthy	Aim 1.1: Physically healthy and make positive health choices	1. Breastfeeding 2. Healthy weight 3. Immunisation uptake	4. Physical activity levels 5. Risky health behaviours 6. Mortality rate by cause and age
	Aim 1.2: Good mental health	7. Positive perceived mental health and well-being 8. Self-harm	9. Parental mental health 10. Access to child and adolescent mental health services
	Aim 1.3: Positive and respectful approach to relationships and sexual health	11. Early sexual activity 12. Teenage pregnancy 13. Knowledge about sexual health	
	Aim 1.4: Enjoying play, recreation, sport, arts, culture and nature	14. Participation in sport, leisure and recreational activities 15. Play	16. Screen time

¹³ The Delphi technique is a process for achieving consensus across a group of experts through a series of online surveys.

¹⁴ This included meetings and discussions with representatives from: the Department of Education; the Department of Health; the Department of Social Protection; the Ombudsman for Children’s Office; units within the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth; the Department of Justice; COSC (The National Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence); the National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS); Tusla; Health Service Executive (HSE); the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government; and the Educational Research Centre, St Patrick’s College.

Outcome	Aim	Indicator areas	
2. Achieving full potential in learning and development	Aim 2.1: Learning and developing from birth	17. Screening for growth and development 18. Quality of pre-school home learning environment	19. Access to speech and language therapy services 20. Achieving expected level of development in communication, language and literacy
	Aim 2.2: Social and emotional well-being	21. Positive self-perception 22. Social and emotional well-being, skills and behaviour	23. Coping with schoolwork load/exam stress
	Aim 2.3: Engaged in learning	24. School attendance 25. Quality of education services 26. Participation in early childhood care and education services	27. School retention (i.e. completion of Leaving Certificate) 28. Experience of transitions 29. School connectedness and enjoyment
	Aim 2.4: Achieving in education	30. Academic achievement in English literacy 31. Academic achievement in maths and science	32. Inequality in academic attainment
3. Safe and protected ^d from harm	Aim 3.1: Secure, stable, caring home environment	33. Households where parental drug abuse or harmful alcohol use occurs 34. Households where domestic violence occurs	35. Access to parent and family support services
	Aim 3.2: Safe from abuse, neglect and exploitation	36. Experience of abuse 37. Access to relevant services in cases of suspected abuse	38. Health and well-being of children and young people in care and aftercare
	Aim 3.3: Protected from bullying and discrimination	39. Experience of discrimination 40. Experience of being bullied	41. Experience of bullying others
	Aim 3.4: Safe from crime and antisocial behaviour	42. Crimes committed on children and young people 43. Levels of offending by children and young people	
4. Economic security and opportunity	Aim 4.1: Protected from poverty and social exclusion	44. Consistent poverty 45. Deprivation	46. Children and young people in jobless households 47. Impact of social welfare transfers on poverty
	Aim 4.2: Living in child/youth-friendly sustainable communities	48. Homelessness 49. Safe play and recreational spaces for children and young people	50. Perception of antisocial behaviour and crime 51. Inadequate housing condition
	Aim 4.3: Opportunities for ongoing education and training	52. Early leavers from education and training 53. Participation in further and higher education and training	54. Computer and Internet access
	Aim 4.4: Pathways to economic participation and independent living	55. Young people not in education, employment or training 56. Young people exiting unemployment	57. Youth employment
5. Connected, respected and contributing to their world	Aim 5.1: Sense of own identity, free from discrimination	58. Discrimination and stigmatisation 59. Experience of sense of freedom	60. Peer acceptance and respect
	Aim 5.2: Part of positive networks of friends, family and community	61. Having at least one caring and consistent adult to confide in 62. Positive parent and family relationships	63. Positive relationships with peers 64. Perceptions of being valued and respected
	Aim 5.3: Civically engaged, socially and environmentally conscious	65. Belief in being able to make a positive contribution to the world 66. Volunteering and altruism	67. 18–24 year-olds who vote in local, regional, national or European elections or referenda
	Aim 5.4: Aware of rights, responsible and respectful of the law	68. Children and young people's awareness of their rights 69. Respect for laws and the judicial process	70. Perception of fairness of the law

The BOBF indicator set has a number of key features:

The indicator set as a whole

While the BOBF framework facilitated the identification and selection of the indicator areas and indicators by outcome and aim, the indicator set should be considered as a whole. It is noted that several indicators sit equally well as an indicator in more than one outcome or aim.

The number of indicator areas and indicators

There are 70 indicator areas and over 100 indicators in the BOBF indicator set. A number of factors had a bearing on the high number of indicators included in this set: the wide age range for BOBF spanning 0–24 years; the breadth of policy areas covered under the outcomes and aims of BOBF; and the inclusion of a mix of indicator types (ranging from more objective and clearly defined indicators, such as mortality, to more subjective measures capturing the views of children and young people, such as life satisfaction).

The use of placeholders

Where it has not been possible to identify appropriate indicator data for an indicator area, a range of markers known as ‘placeholders’, are included in the indicator set. The inclusion of placeholders ensures that areas which were identified as important in the indicator development process, but for which it was difficult to identify available data, were not omitted from the set. The inclusion of placeholders identifies data gaps and highlights the need for further data development in these areas. Reporting on the indicators into the future will encompass a regular review of data, so that new data supporting the inclusion of new indicators can be incorporated into the set over time, either to improve existing indicators or replace placeholders.

Until suitable data sources to support the selection and inclusion of indicators in certain indicator areas are identified or become available, placeholders will include most relevant available data (where possible), for example, data from once-off, infrequent or longitudinal surveys, such as data from ad hoc modules run by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) or from Growing Up in Ireland (GUI) surveys. In the case of some placeholders, it has not been possible to identify any relevant data source. Where placeholder data has become available, this has been included in the 2021 update¹⁵. There are three types of placeholders in this report, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Types of placeholders

Placeholder type	Description
Type 1	Placeholders for which there are no data
Type 2	Placeholders for which there are useful regular data, but more appropriate or relevant data may be in development
Type 3	Placeholders for which there are useful data from once-off, infrequent or longitudinal surveys, such as special modules in the QNHS or GUI, the national longitudinal study of children in Ireland

¹⁵ This is particularly relevant to the 2018 HBSC data, which was used to update a number of placeholder indicators in Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world.

The use of Growing Up in Ireland data

Growing Up in Ireland – the National Longitudinal Study of Children in Ireland focuses on developmental trajectories of the same children over time rather than on trends in the child population. For this reason, Growing Up in Ireland (GUI) is not the most suitable data source for inclusion in an indicator set.

In addition to providing data for placeholders, as shown in Table 2, analysis of GUI data can provide critical insights into the factors associated with particular outcomes for children and young people. More detailed analysis can be undertaken, using GUI data, to support interpretation and explanation and thus contribute to a better understanding of why there may be changes in certain indicators over time.

2.5. The presentation of the indicator set and related data

The BOBF indicator set represents a significant resource to support the implementation of the policy framework. The contextual sociodemographic data presented in Section 3 set out a range of key statistics for the population of children and young people in Ireland aged 0–24, drawn from Census of Population data and other sources of demographic data. Section 4 presents the Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures indicator set. It also reports data (where available) for each indicator at aggregate or summary level. It includes data for three time points (where possible): the most recently available data for each indicator (“Most recent as of 2021”); the most recently available data for each indicator at the time of the first indicator set update (“Most recent as of 2017”); and the most recently available data for each indicator at the time of the establishment of BOBF in 2014 (“Baseline”)¹⁶. The BOBF indicator set is presented under each BOBF outcome and aim. For each indicator, the following information is presented:

1. A summary definition of each indicator
2. The age range to which the indicator corresponds
3. Data for the most recent period available at the time of the establishment of BOBF in 2014 (Baseline)
4. Data for the most recent period available at the time of the first indicator set update (Most recent as of 2017)
5. Data for the most recent period available (Most recent as of 2021)
6. Change in the data between the baseline and the most recently available period is represented in a simple graphical format, and is categorised as detailed in Table 3.

¹⁶ Baseline data are presented for each indicator at an aggregate level for 2014, or most recently available, to coincide with the establishment of BOBF in 2014. Data prior to 2014 are included only where 2014 data are not available or where 2014 data are the most recent data available. In these cases, data from an earlier point are presented as the baseline (e.g. data from the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) study were only available for 2010 and 2014 when the first BOBF Indicator Set was published). 2015 data are included in a small number of instances where no data are available prior to 2015.

Table 3: Change in the data between the baseline and the most recently available period

Change	Meaning	
↑	Data increasing	By 1% or more
↓	Data decreasing	By 1% or more
≈	Data show broadly constant or no significant movement/relatively static	No change/less than 1% change
N/A (not applicable)	Insufficient data available to determine a change	Only one data point available, or data points are not strictly comparable over time

Indicators and summary data presented in Section 4 should be read in conjunction with the detailed information on each indicator and associated data sources presented in Section 5, and with reference to the points outlined below. Further consideration and analysis of each indicator and past data trends are required to determine if change is meaningful. Readers should note the following points when interpreting the data:

Table 4: Reading the indicator data - some considerations

- This report provides aggregate figures for the indicators. Data are not broken down by gender, socioeconomic status, geographic location, etc. Aggregated data may mask important differences between subgroups. For example, in some cases data are reported for a broad age group (e.g. 0–24 years). Data and changes over time in data may mask important differences between ages. Disaggregated data will be reported where possible online.
- Changes over time are indicated in the ‘Change’ column, where data have changed by 1% or more over the period shown. Changes indicated in the ‘Change’ column refer only to differences between the baseline data and most recent data. Further consideration and analysis of each indicator and past data trends are required to consider if, and the extent to which, change is meaningful.
- Data for the indicators presented are collected at different intervals. Thus, data presented under ‘Baseline’ and ‘Most recent’ columns include data from different years and spanning different time intervals. For example, some data are collected annually and other data every five years. Therefore, changes in the data reflect change over different years and across different periods, depending on the frequency of data collection.
- In some cases, data are expressed as absolute numbers rather than as percentages of the population or relevant subsamples. Changes in numbers should be considered in the context of the underlying population change, with particular attention being paid to changes over longer periods, where there may be larger changes in the underlying population. Change has been applied to the values presented in the indicator, regardless of whether the indicator is in absolute numbers terms or in percentage terms.

- The data supporting this indicator set have been provided by a range of data providers and come from a variety of data sources. Each data provider has verified the accuracy of the data in this report. Criteria for selecting the data for the indicators included the requirement for frequently collected, transparent and internationally comparable data, where possible. It is noted that quality assurance of the data beyond that undertaken by the data provider was not part of the process in the development of this indicator set.
- Indicators serve as a signal as to whether expected results are being achieved. They enable decision-makers to assess progress towards the achievement of desired outcomes. However, they do not answer questions about why and how results are achieved, or actions that should be taken to improve results. Indicators are best used to point to results that need further exploration and explanation, rather than as definitive assessments of success or failure.

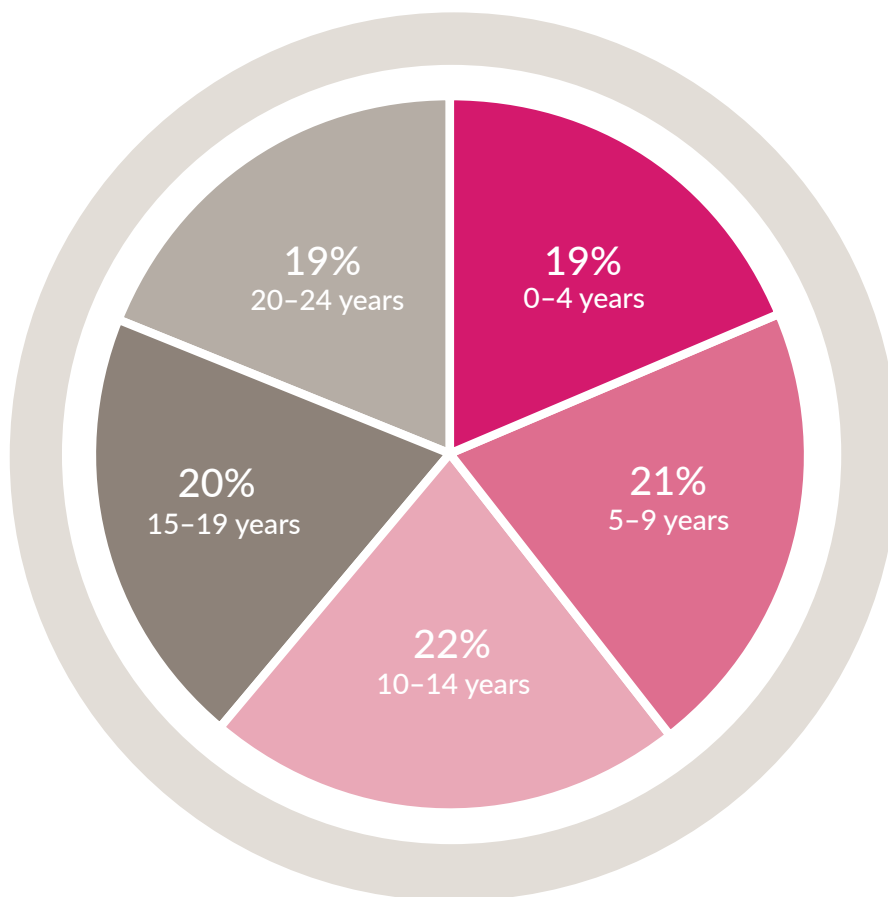


**KEY DATA ON
CHILDREN AND YOUNG
PEOPLE IN IRELAND**

The contextual sociodemographic data presented in this section set out a range of key statistics for the population of children and young people in Ireland aged 0–24, drawing in the main from Census of Population data, which was last held in 2016¹⁷. Changes in the data are based on differences (of 1% or more) between the baseline data (data published at the closest time point to the establishment of BOBF in 2014) and the most recent data available, as of 2021. In cases where no new data has been published since the first indicator set was published in 2017, the “most recent as of 2021” section will be left blank.

In 2021, it is estimated that there were 1,631,113 children and young people aged 24 and under living in Ireland¹⁸. This represented a third of the total population. Of these, 51% were male and 49% were female.

Figure 3: 2021 population estimates by age group



¹⁷ While the Census data remains the most recent source of population data in 2021, other key socio-demographic data have been updated where possible.

¹⁸ CSO *Population Estimates 2021*, see <https://data.cso.ie/table/PEA11>. Please note that percentages do not add to 100% due to rounding.

Table 5: Children and young people in Ireland – key data

Indicator area	Age range	Baseline year	Most recent as of 2017	Most recent as of 2021	Change ¹⁹
Demographic data – Census of Population/Population Estimates²⁰					
Population Of which, the (i) number and (ii) percentage of the population in that age group ²¹ that are	0–24 years	1,559,840	1,583,004	1,631,113	↑
	0–14 years	979,590	1,006,552	995,556	↑
	0–17 years	1,148,687	1,190,502	1,191,125	↑
	15–24 years	580,250	576,452	635,557	↑
	18–24 years	411,153	392,502	439,988	↑
		2011	2016	2021	
Members of the Traveller community	0–24 years	(i) 18,018	(i) 18,186		≈
		(ii) 1.2%	(ii) 1.1%		≈
		2011	2016		
Non-Irish nationals	0–14 years	(i) 78,569	(i) 65,641		↓
		(ii) 8.0%	(ii) 6.5%		↓
		2011	2016		
	15–24 years	(i) 68,187	(i) 62,048		↓
		(ii) 11.8%	(ii) 10.8%		↓
		2011	2016		
Disabled or have long- lasting conditions or difficulties ²²	0–24 years	(i) 97,571	(i) 112,551		↑
		(ii) 6.3%	(ii) 7.1%		≈
		2011	2016		
Children and young persons as carers ²³	0–17 years	(i) 6,449	(i) 6,108		↓
		(ii) 0.6%	(ii) 0.5%		≈
		2011	2016		
	18–24 years	(i) 7,784	(i) 7,039		↓
		(ii) 1.9%	(ii) 1.8%		≈
		2011	2016		

↑ Data increasing

↓ Data decreasing

≈ Data show broadly constant or no significant movement/relatively static

N/A Insufficient data available to determine a change/data not strictly comparable over time

Each indicator should be read in conjunction with sections 5 (indicator definitions and data sources) and 2.5 (the presentation of the indicator set and related data section).

¹⁹ Note that the changes are based on the differences between the baseline data and the most recent time point. For example, the number of persons aged 0–24 years with a disability increased by more than 1% between the 2011 and 2016 Censuses of Population. However, as the population aged 0–24 years also increased between 2011 and 2016, the number of persons with a disability as a percentage of all persons aged 0–24 years increased by less than 1%.

²⁰ 2011 and 2016 data from CSO Census of Population 2011 and 2016, 2021 data from CSO Population Estimates Table PEA11: <https://data.cso.ie/table/PEA11>

²¹ Data are presented as the percentage of the population in certain age groups where actual Census of Population figures exist and not for periods in between.

²² This data is available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by age group, sex, and administrative county. For more information, visit <https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA27>

²³ People providing regular unpaid personal help for a friend or family member with a long-term illness, health problem or disability. This data is available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by age group, sex, and administrative county. For more information, visit <https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA28>



Indicator area	Age range	Baseline year	Most recent as of 2017	Most recent as of 2021	Change
Living in a one-parent household ²⁴	0-17 years	(i) 202,444 (ii) 17.6% 2011	(i) 196,008 (ii) 16.5% 2016		↓ ↓
Other key demographic data					
Enrolment of full-time students ²⁵	(i) First level	(i) 544,696	(i) 558,314	(i) 561,411	↑
	(ii) Second level (excludes PLC)	(ii) 372,296	(ii) 352,257	(ii) 379,184	↑
	(iii) Post Leaving Certificate Programme (PLC)	(iii) 33,089	(iii) 31,969	(iii) 25,819	↓
	(iv) Third level	(iv) 173,286 2014/2015	(iv) 180,610 2016/2017	(iv) 196,005 2020/2021	↑
In care ²⁶ In receipt of aftercare services ²⁷	0-17 years	6,463 2014 q4	6,258 2016 q4	5,882 2020 q4	↓
	18-23 years	1,685 2014 q4	1,880 2016 q4	2,943 2020 q4	↑
Registered on National Intellectual Disability Database (NIDD) ²⁸	0-19 years	10,160 End 2014	10,236 End 2015	6,228 End 2020	↓
Registered on the National Physical and Sensory Disability Database (NPSDD) ²⁹	0-24 years	6,128 End 2014	4,315 End 2015	3,256 End 2020	↓

↑ Data increasing

↓ Data decreasing

≈ Data show broadly constant or no significant movement/relatively static

N/A Insufficient data available to determine a change/data not strictly comparable over time

Each indicator should be read in conjunction with sections 5 (indicator definitions and data sources) and 2.5 (the presentation of the indicator set and related data section).

²⁴ Percentages calculated as a percentage of all children aged 0-17 years living in private households.

²⁵ Department of Education (DE) Key Statistics 2018/2019 and 2019/2020. Refers to enrolments in institutions aided by the Department only. Third level data provided by the Higher Education Authority (HEA) and refer to full time enrolments only.

²⁶ Tusla Integrated Performance and Activity Report, Q4 2014; Q4 2016 and Q4 2020.

²⁷ Tusla Integrated Performance and Activity Report, Q4 2014; Q4 2016 and Q4 2020. The Child and Family Agency provides leaving and aftercare services for young people, which are responsive and relevant to each young person's circumstances under Section 45 of the Childcare Act 1991. All young people who have had a care history with the agency are entitled to an aftercare service. Services are provided based on assessment of need, age, and the length of time the young person was in care.

²⁸ National Ability Supports System: Annual Report 2020. The National Intellectual Disability Database (NIDD) and National Physical and Sensory Disability Database (NPSDD) were replaced by the National Ability Supports System (NASS) in 2019.

²⁹ National Ability Supports System: Annual Report 2020. The National Intellectual Disability Database (NIDD) and National Physical and Sensory Disability Database (NPSDD) were replaced by the National Ability Supports System (NASS) in 2019.

Indicator area	Age range	Baseline year	Most recent as of 2017	Most recent as of 2021	Change
Prevalence of special education needs among nine year-olds ³⁰	Nine year-olds	25% ³¹ 2011			N/A
Separated children seeking asylum placed in care ³²	(i) Referrals	(i) 97	(i) 126	(i) 80	↓
	(ii) Placed in care	(ii) 86 2014	(ii) 82 2016	(ii) 51 2020	↓
Applications for refugee status from unaccompanied minors ³³	0-17 years				
	(i) number (ii) % of total number of applications received in that year	(i) 30 (ii) 2% 2014	(i) 33 (ii) 1% 2015	(i) 30 (ii) 2% 2020	≈ ≈
Residents in direct provision ³⁴	24 years and under	1,584 Dec 2015	1,596 Dec 2016	2,655 Dec 2020	↑

↑ Data increasing

↓ Data decreasing

≈ Data show broadly constant or no significant movement/relatively static

N/A Insufficient data available to determine a change/data not strictly comparable over time

Each indicator should be read in conjunction with sections 5 (indicator definitions and data sources) and 2.5 (the presentation of the indicator set and related data section).

³⁰ See Banks and McCoy (2011) *A Study on the Prevalence of Special Educational Needs*. National Council for Education, Research Report No. 9.

³¹ It is not possible to replicate this figure after 2011 as the categories of disability/special educational needs used in the Growing up in Ireland (GUI) survey have changed over time.

³² Tusla *Review of Adequacy Reports, 2014-2020*.

³³ Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner (ORAC), *Annual Report – 2015*. 2020 data provided by the DCEDIY.

³⁴ *Reception and Integration Agency Department of Justice and Equality Annual Report 2015*. 2020 data provided by the DCEDIY.

**BETTER OUTCOMES,
BRIGHTER FUTURES
INDICATOR SET**

This section presents the BOBF indicator set in its entirety. Changes in the data are based on differences (of 1% or more) between the baseline data (data published at the closest time point to the establishment of BOBF in 2014) and the most recent data available, as of 2021. Please note that the second column of the following outcome tables provides a short description of each indicator. The full definition of each indicator is available in Section 5.

Outcome 1: Active and healthy

Indicator area	Indicator	Age range	Baseline	Most recent as of 2017	Most recent as of 2021	Change ³⁵
Aim 1.1: Physically healthy and make positive health choices						
1. Breastfeeding	(i) Breastfeeding (exclusively) on discharge	Infants	(i) 46.3% 2014	(i) 47.7% 2015	(i) 45.9% 2019	≈
	(ii) Breastfeeding at three months		(ii) 35.5% 2015	(ii) 38.8% 2016	(ii) 42.3% 2019	↑
2. Healthy weight	Low birthweight	Infants	5.6% 2014	5.7% 2015	5.6% 2019	≈
	Overweight and obesity (children)	First class (7 years)	16.8% 2012	16.9% 2015	15.8% 2020	↓
	Overweight and obesity (young people)	15-24 years	29.0% 2015	29.0% 2015	28.0% 2019	↓
3. Immunisation uptake	(i) Meningitis C immunisation rate	<24 months	(i) 88.0%	(i) 87.0%	(i) 85.8% ³⁶	N/A
	(ii) MMR immunisation rate		(ii) 93.0% 2014	(ii) 92.0% 2016	(ii) 91.8% 2020	↓
4. Physical activity levels	Optimum physical activity (children)	11-17 years	23.7% 2010	23.1% 2014	22.1% 2018	↓
	Optimum physical activity (young people)	15-24 years	46% 2015	46% 2015	61.0% ³⁷ 2019	N/A

↑ Data increasing

↓ Data decreasing

≈ Data show broadly constant or no significant movement/relatively static

N/A Insufficient data available to determine a change/data not strictly comparable over time

Each indicator should be read in conjunction with sections 5 (indicator definitions and data sources) and 2.5 (the presentation of the indicator set and related data section).

³⁵ Note that the changes are based on the differences between the baseline data and the most recent time point.

³⁶ In July 2015 the Meningitis C immunisation schedule changed from three doses (MenC3) at four, six and 13 months to two doses (MenC2) at four and 13 months. The 2020 data cited here reports on MenC2 uptake by 24 months, therefore the data are not strictly comparable over time.

³⁷ In 2015, the International Physical Activity Questionnaire (IPAQ) was used to measure optimum physical activity, however, in 2019 a different measure of optimum physical activity was used, based on the National Physical Activity Guidelines. The data are therefore not strictly comparable over time.

Indicator area	Indicator	Age range	Baseline	Most recent as of 2017	Most recent as of 2021	Change
5. Risky health behaviours	Smoking monthly or more frequently (children)	11–17 years	12.3% 2010	8.3% 2014	5.4% 2018	↓
	Ever used alcohol (children)	11–17 years	48.3% 2010	37.3% 2014	30.4% 2018	↓
	Cannabis use in last year (children)	11–17 years	9.0% 2010	7.9% 2014	6.9% 2018	↓
	Ever used illicit drugs other than cannabis or hashish (children)	15, 16 years	14.6% 2011	16.6% 2015	5.7% 2019	↓
	Ever used new psychoactive drugs (children)	15, 16 years	7.0% 2015	7.0% 2015	4.7% 2019	↓
	Current smokers (young people)	15–24 years	19.0% 2015	20.0% 2016	15.0% 2019	↓
	Binge drinking (young people) ³⁸	15–24 years	58.0% 2015	54.0% 2016	31.0% 2018	↓
	Any illegal drug (including cannabis use) (i) ever used (ii) used in last year	15–24 years	(i) 27.3% (ii) 15.1% 2010/11	(i) 28.6% (ii) 18.7% 2014/15	(i) 26.7% (ii) 18.5% 2019/20	↓ ↑
6. Mortality rate by cause and age	Perinatal mortality	Pregnancy, delivery and up to seven completed days after birth	6.3 per 1,000 2013	6.2 per 1,000 2014	5.7 per 1,000 2018/19	↓
	Mortality by cause ³⁹ (i) total (ii) by suicide	0–24 years	(i) 545 2014 (ii) 76 2014	(i) 438 2016 (ii) 70 2016	(i) 363 2020 (ii) 51 2020	↓ ↓

↑ Data increasing

↓ Data decreasing

≈ Data show broadly constant or no significant movement/relatively static

N/A Insufficient data available to determine a change/data not strictly comparable over time

Each indicator should be read in conjunction with sections 5 (indicator definitions and data sources) and 2.5 (the presentation of the indicator set and related data section).

³⁸ Percentages refer to the rate of binge drinking among young people who drink, rather than among all young people.

³⁹ 2020 data are based on deaths registered and are therefore provisional and subject to change.



Indicator area	Indicator	Age range	Baseline	Most recent as of 2017	Most recent as of 2021	Change
Aim 1.2: Good mental health						
7. Positive perceived mental health and well-being	Percentage displaying optimal levels of mental health (young people)	15-24 years	21% 2015	16% 2016	12% 2021	↓
	High life satisfaction (children)	11-17 years	75.4% 2010	74.5% 2015	70.9% 2018	↓
8. Self-harm	Self-harm per 100,000	5-24 years	264 per 100,000 2014	269 per 100,000 2015	242 per 100,000 2019	↓
9. Parental mental health	Placeholder Type 3 ⁴⁰ – Parental mental health GUI, whether child's mother has ever been treated by medical professional for clinical depression, anxiety or nerves	(2008 Cohort) 9 months - 9 years of age	12.7% 2008-2009	23.4% 2013	14.3% 2017-2018 ⁴¹	↑
		(1998 Cohort) 9 years - 17/18 years of age	13.8% 2007	19.9% 2011-2012	13.2% 2015-2016 ⁴²	↓
10. Access to mental health services	Received an assessment for mental health services (children and adolescents) within three months	≤18 years	67.0% 2014	67.0% 2015	74.6% ⁴³ 2021	N/A
Aim 1.3: Positive and respectful approach to relationships and sexual health						
11. Early sexual activity	Sexual activity – ever had sex (adolescents)	15-17 years	27.2% 2010	26.8% 2014	20.2% 2018	↓
12. Teenage pregnancy	Births to teenagers	<18 years	278 2014	211 2016	168 2020	↓

↑ Data increasing

↓ Data decreasing

≈ Data show broadly constant or no significant movement/relatively static

N/A Insufficient data available to determine a change/data not strictly comparable over time

Each indicator should be read in conjunction with sections 5 (indicator definitions and data sources) and 2.5 (the presentation of the indicator set and related data section).

⁴⁰ Refer to data source. Data presented for this indicator are taken from the Growing up in Ireland survey, and represent the same group of children as they grow and develop.

⁴¹ The question wording relates to the child's mother being treated since the last interview (i.e. since the child was 5 years of age).

⁴² The question wording relates to the child's mother being treated since the last interview (i.e. since the child was 13 years of age).

⁴³ National data on the percentage of children who received an assessment for mental health services within three months was not available in 2021. 2021 data refer to the percentage of referrals/re-referrals who were offered an appointment and seen by a Child and Adolescent Community Mental Health team within 12 weeks, as of March 2021. The data are therefore not strictly comparable over time.

Indicator area	Indicator	Age range	Baseline	Most recent as of 2017	Most recent as of 2021	Change
13. Knowledge about sexual health	Condom use – most recent occasion (adolescents)	15–17 years	79.5% 2010	71.6% 2014	69.0% 2018	↓
	Condom use – most recent occasion (young people)	17–24 years	66% 2015	61% ⁴⁴ 2016		↓
	(i) Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) (excludes HIV)	15–24 years	(i) 4,521	(i) 4,721	(i) 4,517 ⁴⁵	≈
	(ii) HIV diagnoses (where sexually transmitted)		(ii) 35 2014	(ii) 26 2016	(ii) 27 2020	↓
Aim 1.4: Enjoying play, recreation, sport, arts, culture and nature						
14. Participation in sport, leisure and recreational activities	Engage in hobbies weekly or more frequently	11–13 years	93.7% ⁴⁶ 2014			N/A
	Sports participation in the past week (young people)	16–19 years	75.9% 2013	77.9% 2015	76.1% 2019	≈
		20–24 years	65.6% 2013	61.8% 2015	64.9% 2019	≈
15. Play	Play with family (children)	11–13 years	35.5% 2014	35.5% 2014	41.3% 2018	↑
16. Screen time	High daily Internet use (more than six hours per day)	15 years	3.4% 2012	13.6% 2015	20.1% 2018	↑

↑ Data increasing

↓ Data decreasing

≈ Data show broadly constant or no significant movement/relatively static

N/A Insufficient data available to determine a change/data not strictly comparable over time

Each indicator should be read in conjunction with sections 5 (indicator definitions and data sources) and 2.5 (the presentation of the indicator set and related data section).

⁴⁴ This question has not been asked in the Healthy Ireland Survey since 2016.

⁴⁵ STIs included in these data are Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea, Syphilis, Herpes simplex (genital), Lymphogranuloma venereum and Trichomoniasis.

⁴⁶ Data on hobbies among children and young people was not collected by the HBSC in 2018.

Key findings

- The percentage of 11-17 year olds engaging in optimum physical activity decreased from 24% in 2010 to 22% in 2018.
- 30% of 11-17 year old children reported ever drinking alcohol in 2018, down from 48% in 2010. The rate of binge drinking among reported by young people aged 15-24 years also decreased, from 58% in 2015 to 31% in 2021.
- The percentage of children aged 11-17 who report smoking monthly or more frequently decreased from 12% in 2010 to 5% in 2018. The percentage of young people aged 15-24 who report being a current smoker decreased from 19% in 2015 to 15% in 2021.
- The total number of deaths among children and young people aged 0-24 years decreased from 545 in 2014 to 363 in 2020. The total number of suicides also decreased over time, from 76 in 2014 to 51 in 2020.
- The rate of children and young people aged 5-24 presenting to hospital departments as a result of self-harm reduced from 264 per 100,000 in 2014 to 242 per 100,000 in 2019.

Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in learning and development

Indicator area	Indicator	Age range	Baseline	Most recent as of 2017	Most recent as of 2021	Change ⁴⁷
Aim 2.1: Learning and developing from birth						
17. Screening for growth and development	Developmental screening at 10 months ⁴⁸	Infants up to 10 months	92.1% 2015	93.3% 2016	92.2% 2019	≈
18. Quality of pre-school home-learning environment	Pre-school learning activity at home (i) numeracy activities (ii) literacy activities	Pre-primary school/pre-first class in primary school	(i) 66%	(i) 60%	(i) 53%	↓
			(ii) 50% 2011	(ii) 57% 2015	(ii) 58% 2019	↑
19. Access to speech and language therapy services	Waiting more than 52 weeks for speech and language therapy (i) assessment (number waiting and percentage of all waiting) (ii) treatment (number waiting and percentage of all waiting)	0-17	(i) 313 2.3%	(i) 308 2.8%	(i) 728 6.4%	↑ ↑
			(ii) 1,082 12.7% July 2016	(ii) 397 5.2% April 2017	(ii) 889 11.8% July 2019	↓ ↓
20. Achieving expected level of development in communication, language and literacy	Placeholder Type 1					N/A

↑ Data increasing

↓ Data decreasing

≈ Data show broadly constant or no significant movement/relatively static

N/A Insufficient data available to determine a change/data not strictly comparable over time

Each indicator should be read in conjunction with sections 5 (indicator definitions and data sources) and 2.5 (the presentation of the indicator set and related data section).

⁴⁷ Note that the changes are based on the differences between the baseline data and the most recent time point.

⁴⁸ From March 2020, this metric will be reported as the percentage of children reaching 12 months within the reporting period who have had their child development health screening on time or before reaching 12 months of age. A complete dataset for 2020 is not available due to the redeployment of public health nurses to other services during the Covid-19 pandemic.



Indicator area	Indicator	Age range	Baseline	Most recent as of 2017	Most recent as of 2021	Change
Aim 2.2: Social and emotional well-being						
21. Positive self-perception	Happy with the way they are	11-17 years	56.4% 2010	54.4% 2014	52.0% 2018	↓
	Body image: think they are: (i) too fat (ii) too thin	11-17 years	(i) 28.4% (ii) 12.5% 2010	(i) 28.5% (ii) 12.8% 2014	(i) 28.7% (ii) 13.4% 2018	≈ ↑
22. Social and emotional well-being, skills and behaviour	Very happy with life at present	11-17 years	50.2% 2010	46.9% 2014	42.3% 2018	↓
	Placeholder Type 3 - Early Social and emotional well-being, skills and behavior Average scores on the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)	(2008 Cohort) 5 years - 9 years of age	7.98 2013	7.98 2013	7.66 2017-2018	↓
		(1998 Cohort) 9 years -17/18 years of age	8.0 2007	7.1 2011-2012	6.92 2015-2016	↓
	Proportion with probable mental health problems	15-24 years	10% 2015	12% 2016	20% 2021	↑
23. Coping with schoolwork load/exam stress	Schoolwork pressure	11- 17 years	39.2% 2010	43.5% 2014	43.3% 2018	↑
	Exam stress	15- 17 years			43.1% 2018	N/A

↑ Data increasing

↓ Data decreasing

≈ Data show broadly constant or no significant movement/relatively static

N/A Insufficient data available to determine a change/data not strictly comparable over time

Each indicator should be read in conjunction with sections 5 (indicator definitions and data sources) and 2.5 (the presentation of the indicator set and related data section).

Indicator area	Indicator	Age range	Baseline	Most recent as of 2017	Most recent as of 2021	Change
Aim 2.3: Engaged in learning						
24. School attendance	Absent from school 20 days or more (primary)	Primary pupils	10.4% 2013/2014	11.1% 2014/2015	12.1% 2017/2018	↑
	Percentage of student days lost – primary	Primary pupils	5.4% 2013/2014	5.6% 2014/2015	5.8% 2017/2018	↑
	Absent from school 20 days or more (post-primary)	Post-primary students	15.4% 2013/2014	16.2% 2014/2015	14.6% 2017/2018	↓
	Percentage of student days lost – post-primary	Post-primary students	7.5% 2013/2014	7.7% 2014/2015	7.4% 2017/2018	≈
25. Quality of education services	Average class size (primary school)	Primary pupils	24.9 2014/2015	24.7 2016/2017	23.3 2020/2021	↓
	Percentage of early childhood care and education (ECCE) services that meet higher capitation criteria	N/A	46% 2014	48% 2016	61% 2020	↑
26. Participation in early childhood care and education services	Participation in pre-primary education ⁴⁹	3 years	46% 2013	46% 2014	98% 2018	↑
		4 years	57% (in primary 37%) 2013	56% (in primary 36%) 2014	79% (in primary 24%) 2018	↑
		5 years	3% (in primary 99%) 2013	3% (in primary 98%) 2014	5% (in primary 100%) 2018	↑
27. School retention (i.e. completion of Leaving Certificate)	Leaving Certificate retention rates	School-leaving age	90.1% 2007 entry cohort	90.2% 2009 entry cohort	91.5% ⁵⁰ 2014 entry cohort	↑

↑ Data increasing

↓ Data decreasing

≈ Data show broadly constant or no significant movement/relatively static

N/A Insufficient data available to determine a change/data not strictly comparable over time

Each indicator should be read in conjunction with sections 5 (indicator definitions and data sources) and 2.5 (the presentation of the indicator set and related data section).

⁴⁹ Percentages calculated using CSO population estimates. These estimates are based on the 2016 Census, and are subject to revision following Census 2022.

⁵⁰ 91.5% of the 2014 entry cohort received either a calculated grade in 2020 or sat the Leaving Certificate examination in 2019 or 2020, due to the impact of Covid-19 on the Leaving Certificate examinations.



Indicator area	Indicator	Age range	Baseline	Most recent as of 2017	Most recent as of 2021	Change
28. Experience of transitions	Placeholder Type 3 ⁵¹ – Positive transitions (i) Did not complain about school (transition to primary school) – mother’s perception	(i) 5 years	(i) 73.3% ⁵² 2013			N/A
	(ii) Percentage who agree or strongly agree to settling into secondary school – mother’s/child’s perception	(ii) 13 years	(ii) 93.5%/89.9% ⁵³ 2011-2012			N/A
29. School connectedness and enjoyment	Like being in school	10 years	74% 2011	79% 2015	75% 2019	≈
	Feel like they belong at school	15 years	79.7% 2012	73.3% 2015	66.7% 2018	↓
	Feel like an outsider at school	15 years	9.1% 2012	16.7% 2015	22.0% 2018	↑
Aim 2.4: Achieving in education						
30. Academic achievement in English literacy	The percentage of second class and sixth class students performing at Level 3 or above in the National Assessments of English Reading (literacy levels primary)					
	(i) second class	(i) 7-9 years	(i) 35% 2009	(i) 45.5% 2014 ⁵⁴		↑
	(ii) sixth class	(ii) 11-13 years	(ii) 35% 2009	(ii) 43.9% 2014 ⁵⁴		↑
	The mean scores of students on the OECD-PISA Reading Literacy Scale (reading literacy levels post-primary)	15 years	523 2012	521 2015	518 2018	≈

↑ Data increasing

↓ Data decreasing

≈ Data show broadly constant or no significant movement/relatively static

N/A Insufficient data available to determine a change/data not strictly comparable over time

Each indicator should be read in conjunction with sections 5 (indicator definitions and data sources) and 2.5 (the presentation of the indicator set and related data section).

⁵¹ Data presented for GUI represent the same group of children as they grow and develop over time.

⁵² Updated information on the transition to primary-level education is no longer available from the GUI study, as both cohorts have already transitioned to primary school.

⁵³ GUI data on the transition to second-level education will not be available until after the fieldwork with Cohort '08 at 13 years of age.

⁵⁴ No new data has been made available since 2014 as the ninth NAMER, which had been due to take place in 2020, was postponed to May 2021 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Indicator area	Indicator	Age range	Baseline	Most recent as of 2017	Most recent as of 2021	Change
31. Academic achievement in maths and science	The percentage of second class and sixth class students performing at Level 3 or above in the National Assessments of Maths (numeracy levels primary)					
	(i) second class (ii) sixth class	(i) 7-9 years (ii) 11-13 years	(i) 35% (ii) 35% 2009	(i) 47.2% (ii) 42.1% 2014 ⁵⁵		↑ ↑
	The mean scores of students on the OECD-PISA Mathematics Literacy Scale (mathematical literacy levels post-primary)	15 years	501 2012	504 2015	500 2018	≈
	The mean scores of students on the OECD-PISA Scientific Literacy Scale (scientific literacy levels post-primary)	15 years	522 2012	503 2015	496 2018	↓
32. Inequality in academic attainment	Placeholder Type 2 – School completers progressing directly to:					
	(a) further education from (i) DEIS schools (ii) non-DEIS schools	School completers	(a) (i) 37.3% (ii) 23.5% 2015	(a) (i) 36.9% (ii) 23.7%	(a) (i) 33.4% (ii) 21.8% 2019	↓ ↓
	(b) higher education from (i) DEIS schools (ii) non-DEIS schools		(b) (i) 42.1% (ii) 70.0% 2015	(b) (i) 41.8% (ii) 69.1% 2016	(b) (i) 46.7% (ii) 71.3% 2020	↑ ↑
	Placeholder Type 2 – Non- progression rates of new entrants to third level	New entrants to third level	16% 2012/2013	15% 2014/2015	13% 2016/2017	↓

↑ Data increasing

↓ Data decreasing

≈ Data show broadly constant or no significant movement/relatively static

N/A Insufficient data available to determine a change/data not strictly comparable over time

Each indicator should be read in conjunction with sections 5 (indicator definitions and data sources) and 2.5 (the presentation of the indicator set and related data section).

⁵⁵ No new data has been made available since 2014 as the ninth NAMER, which had been due to take place in 2020, was postponed to May 2021 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key findings

- The percentage of early childhood care and education (ECCE) services that meet higher capitation criteria increased from 46% in 2014 to 61% in 2020.
- The average class size in primary school reduced from 24.9 pupils in 2014/2015 to 23.3 pupils in 2020/2021.
- The Leaving Cert retention (completion) rate increased from 90% for the 2007 post-primary school entry cohort to 92% for the 2014 cohort.
- The percentage of secondary school completers progressing directly to further education decreased between 2015 and 2019, from 37% to 33% for students in DEIS schools, and from 24% to 22% for students in non-DEIS schools. However, the percentage of students progressing directly to higher education increased between 2015 and 2020, from 42% to 47% for students in DEIS schools, and from 70% to 71% for students in non-DEIS schools.
- The non-progression rates of new entrants to third level education (percentage of new entrants who did not enroll in their institution the following year) decreased from 16% in 2012/2013 to 13% in 2016/2017.

Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm

Indicator area	Indicator	Age range	Baseline	Recent	Most recent as of 2021	Change ⁵⁶
Aim: 3.1: Secure, stable, caring home environment						
33. Households where parental drug abuse or harmful alcohol use occurs	(i) Number of children whose parent has been treated for problem drug use	0-17 years			(i) 7,088	N/A
	(ii) Number of children whose parent has been treated for problem alcohol use				(ii) 4,588 2020 ⁵⁷	
34. Households where domestic violence occurs	Placeholder Type 2 – Children receiving domestic violence services	0-18 years	3,424 2013	3,383 2015	2,572 2018	↓
35. Access to parent and family support services	Receiving family support services	(i) Children	(i) 20,141 2014	(i) 24,217 2016	(i) 17,516 2020	↓ ↑
		(ii) Families	(ii) 15,192	(ii) 16,806		
Aim 3.2: Safe from abuse, neglect and exploitation						
36. Experience of abuse	At risk of harm ⁵⁹	0-17 years	1,354 2015		939 2020	↓
37. Access to relevant services in suspected cases of abuse	In need of a social worker: (i) open cases (ii) percentage of open cases awaiting the allocation of a social worker	0-17 years	(i) 27,967 2014	(i) 25,034 2016	(i) 21,143 2020	↓ ↓
			(ii) 30.5%	(ii) 21.6%		

↑ Data increasing

↓ Data decreasing

≈ Data show broadly constant or no significant movement/relatively static

N/A Insufficient data available to determine a change/data not strictly comparable over time

Each indicator should be read in conjunction with sections 5 (indicator definitions and data sources) and 2.5 (the presentation of the indicator set and related data section).

⁵⁶ Note that the changes are based on the differences between the baseline data and the most recent time point.

⁵⁷ A parent may access services from more than one provider in a calendar year, it is not possible to control of possible duplication due to the absence of a unique health identifier.

⁵⁸ Since 2017, Tusla is no longer reporting on the number of families in receipt of family support services.

⁵⁹ Children and young people who are considered to be at ongoing risk of significant harm from abuse, including neglect, and still living with their parent are listed as “active” on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS). The CPNS is a secure national record held by Tusla, Child and Family Agency. The decision to list a child or young person is made at a child protection conference attended by involved professionals and parents/carers.

Indicator area	Indicator	Age range	Baseline	Recent	Most recent as of 2021	Change
38. Health and well-being of children and young people in receipt of an aftercare support	Young people in receipt of aftercare in full-time education	18-22 years	58% 2014	58% 2016	75% 2020	↑
	Three or more care placement moves in a year	0-17 years	2.1% 2015	2.7% 2016	3.0% 2020	↑
	Placement type (i) foster care (ii) residential (iii) other	0-17 years	(i) 93% (ii) 5% (iii) 2% 2014	(i) 93% (ii) 5% (iii) 2% 2016	(i) 92% (ii) 6% (iii) 2% 2020	↓ ↑ ≈
Aim 3.3: Protected from bullying and discrimination						
39. Experience of discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, age, civil/ family status, sexual orientation, membership of the Traveller community, religion, or disability status	Placeholder Type 3 - Experience of discrimination (young people)	18-24 years	13% 2010	13% 2015	22% ⁶⁰ 2019	↑
	Experience of discrimination (children)	12-17 years			11.1% 2018	N/A
40. Experience of being bullied	Being bullied in school in past couple of months	11-17 years	23.9% 2010	25.1% 2014	31.1% 2018	↑
41. Experience of bullying others	Bullying others in school in past couple of months	11-17 years	16.8% 2010	13.4% 2014	12.7% 2018	↓

↑ Data increasing

↓ Data decreasing

≈ Data show broadly constant or no significant movement/relatively static

N/A Insufficient data available to determine a change/data not strictly comparable over time

Each indicator should be read in conjunction with sections 5 (indicator definitions and data sources) and 2.5 (the presentation of the indicator set and related data section).

⁶⁰ The 2019 equality survey included an additional category of discrimination: discrimination experienced 'In contact with An Garda Síochána'. However, the figure shown in this report (22%) excludes the category of discrimination experienced in contact with An Garda Síochána. Note that while previous special modules on equality were carried out by the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS), the QNHS has been replaced by the Labour Force Survey (LFS) since the last equality survey in 2014. This change has affected sample size.

Indicator area	Indicator	Age range	Baseline	Recent	Most recent as of 2021	Change
Aim 3.4: Safe from crime and antisocial behaviour						
42. Crimes committed on children and young people	Placeholder Type 3 – Percentage of households with children and young people aged 24 and under that were victims of crime	0-24 years	8.1% 2010	7.6% 2015	4.5% ⁶¹ 2019	N/A
43. Levels of offending by children and young people	Referrals to Garda Youth Diversion Programme	<18 years	9,991 2014	9,807 2015	9,842 2019	↓
	(a) In juvenile detention	10-17 years	(a)	(a)	(a) ⁶²	
	(i) Children Detention Schools		(i) 106	(i) 139	(i) 122	N/A
	(ii) Irish Prison service		(ii) 109	(ii) 40	(ii) 0	N/A
	(b) on Young Persons Probation		(b) 242 2014	(b) 210 2016	(b) 275 2019	↑

↑ Data increasing

↓ Data decreasing

≈ Data show broadly constant or no significant movement/relatively static

N/A Insufficient data available to determine a change/data not strictly comparable over time

Each indicator should be read in conjunction with sections 5 (indicator definitions and data sources) and 2.5 (the presentation of the indicator set and related data section).

⁶¹ Prior to 2019, the Crime and Victimization survey asked respondents about their experiences with a range of crimes in the previous 12 months, including theft of vehicles and bicycles. However, 2019 version of the Crime and Victimization survey only asked households whether they had been a victim of a burglary or vandalism (including attempted burglary or vandalism) in the past 12 months. Therefore, survey results from 2019 are not strictly comparable with those before 2019.

⁶² In April 2017, with the amalgamation of the Oberstown Children Detention Campus, St. Patrick's Institution (an Irish penal facility for 16 to 21 year old males) was decommissioned. Since then, all children/young people under the age of 18 years are now detained in Oberstown Children Detention Campus, and no children/young people have been in the Irish Prison Service. The 2019 figure given for part (a) section (i) is the total number of children/young people, male and female, who were detained in the State on the Oberstown Campus in 2019.

Key findings

- The number of children under 18 classified as “at ongoing risk of significant harm and in need of a child protection plan” decreased from 1,354 in 2015 to 939 in 2020.
- The percentage of open cases awaiting the allocation of a social worker has decreased, from 31% in 2014 to 20% in 2020.
- From 2010 to 2018, the percentage of children aged 11-17 who reported being bullied in school in the past couple of months increased from 24% to 31%. During this same period of time, the percentage who reported bullying others in the past couple of months reduced from 17% to 13%.

Outcome 4: Economic security and opportunity

Indicator area	Indicator	Age range	Baseline	Most recent as of 2017	Most recent as of 2021	Change ⁶³
Aim 4.1: Protected from poverty and social exclusion						
44. Consistent poverty ⁶⁴	Consistent poverty	0–14 years	10.5% 2014	9.8% 2015	7.5% 2020	N/A
		15–24 years	13.4% 2014	15.7% 2015	6.4% 2020	N/A
45. Deprivation ⁶⁵	Deprivation	0–14 years	35.5% 2014	31.1% 2015	19.9% 2020	N/A
		15–24 years	34.3% 2014	31.0% 2015	19.4% 2020	N/A
46. Children and young people in jobless households	Jobless households	0–17 years	16.2% 2014	13.3% 2016	10.6% 2020	↓
47. Impact of social welfare transfers on poverty ⁶⁶	Impact of social transfers in reducing the at-risk of poverty rate	0–14 years	57.9% 2014	58.9% 2015	60.8% 2019	↑
		15–24 years	42.4% 2014	41.6% 2015	55.6% 2019	↑
Aim 4.2: Living in child/youth-friendly sustainable communities						
48. Homelessness	Homelessness (children)	0–17 years	880 2014	2,505 2016	2,193 2021	↑
	Homelessness (young people)	18–24 years	477 2014	765 2016	733 2021	↑
49. Safe play and recreational spaces for children and young people	Places to spend free time	11–17 years	50.1% 2010	59.7% 2014	61.0% 2018	↑
50. Perception of antisocial behaviour and crime	Feeling safe	11–17 years	90.8% 2010	89.1% 2014	86.1% 2018	↓

↑ Data increasing

↓ Data decreasing

≈ Data show broadly constant or no significant movement/relatively static

N/A Insufficient data available to determine a change/data not strictly comparable over time

Each indicator should be read in conjunction with sections 5 (indicator definitions and data sources) and 2.5 (the presentation of the indicator set and related data section).

⁶³ Note that the changes are based on the differences between the baseline data and the most recent time point.

⁶⁴ SILC data for 2012–2016 was revised and re-weighted in 2018, so updated estimates for 2014 and 2015 data are provided here. Due to methodological changes in 2021, the 2020 data cannot be compared to previous years. For more information, see <https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-silc/surveyonincomeandlivingconditionssilc2020/backgroundnotes/>

⁶⁵ SILC data for 2012–2016 was revised and re-weighted in 2018, so updated estimates for 2014 and 2015 data are provided here. Due to methodological changes in 2021, the 2020 data cannot be compared to previous years. For more information, see <https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-silc/surveyonincomeandlivingconditionssilc2020/backgroundnotes/>

⁶⁶ SILC data for 2012–2016 was revised and re-weighted in 2018, so updated estimates for 2014 and 2015 data are provided here.



Indicator area	Indicator	Age range	Baseline	Most recent as of 2017	Most recent as of 2021	Change
51. Inadequate housing condition ⁶⁷	Inadequate housing condition (children)	0-17 years	14.9% 2014	14.8% 2015	13.8% 2019	↓
	Inadequate housing condition (young people)	18-24 years	17.5% 2014	16.6% 2015	13.5% 2019	↓
Aim 4.3: Opportunities for ongoing education and training						
52. Early leavers from education and training	Lower secondary education or equivalent at most	18-24 years	6.6% 2014	5.9% 2016	4.9% 2020	↓
53. Participation in further and higher education and training	See indicator 32 at Aim 2.4					
54. Computer and internet access	Internet access at home – Percentage of households with dependent children who had Internet access	0-24	92% 2014	96% 2016	98% 2020	↑
Aim 4.4: Pathways to economic participation and independent living						
55. Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET)	Not in employment, education or training	15-24 years	15.3% 2014	12.6% 2016	12.0% 2020	↓
56. Young people exiting unemployment	Exiting unemployment	18-24 years	60,600 2014	55,200 2015	36,637 2020	↓
57. Youth employment	Unemployment	20-24 years	23.8% Q2 2014	12.0% Q1 2017	13.9% ⁶⁸ Q2 2020	↓
	Percentage of employed with temporary contracts	15-24 years	28.7% 2010	27.4% 2016	34.9% 2020	↑

↑ Data increasing

↓ Data decreasing

≈ Data show broadly constant or no significant movement/relatively static

N/A Insufficient data available to determine a change/data not strictly comparable over time

Each indicator should be read in conjunction with sections 5 (indicator definitions and data sources) and 2.5 (the presentation of the indicator set and related data section).

⁶⁷ SILC data for 2012-2016 was revised and re-weighted in 2018, so updated estimates for 2014 and 2015 data are provided here. From 2021, this is no longer a core variable for EU-SILC and has been moved to a module where it is due to be collected every 3 years rather than annually.

⁶⁸ The Central Statistics Office (CSO) is obliged to follow standard definitions and methodology when calculating official estimates of labour market participation from the Labour Force Survey. The q2 2020 unemployment figure presented is calculated following these standard definitions and methodology and does not account for the impact of COVID-19. See [“Information Note - Implications of COVID-19 on the Labour Force Survey”](#) for more information.

Key findings

- The percentage of 0-14 year olds and 15-24 year olds experiencing consistent poverty was 8% and 6% respectively in 2020.
- The percentage of 0-14 year olds and 15-24 year olds experiencing deprivation was 20% and 19% respectively in 2020.
- The percentage of children under 18 living in jobless households decreased from 16% in 2014 to 11% in 2020.
- The percentage of young people aged 18-24 with lower secondary education or less decreased from 7% in 2014 to 5% in 2020.

Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world

Indicator area	Indicator	Age range	Baseline	Most recent as of 2017	Most recent as of 2021	Change ⁶⁹
Aim 5.1: Sense of own identity, free from discrimination						
58. Discrimination & stigmatisation	See indicator 39 under Aim 3.3					
59. Experience of sense of freedom	Sense of freedom	10-17 years			72.9% ⁷⁰ 2018	N/A
60. Peer acceptance and respect	Feeling comfortable with friends	15 years	68.9% 2014			N/A
		10-17 years			65.5% 2018	N/A
Aim 5.2: Part of positive networks of friends, family and community						
61. Having at least one caring and consistent adult in whom children and young people can confide	Placeholder Type 3 – Percentage who would talk about a problem to:	9 years	(i) 89.9% (ii) 61.2% (iii) 28.5% (iv) 28.9% (v) 7.3% 2007		(i) 94.7% (ii) 77.9% (iii) 54.6% (iv) 44.2% (v) 48.0% 2017/1871	↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑
	Placeholder Type 3 – Someone to rely on in case of need	16-24 years	98.6% 2013		(i) 85.3% ⁷² (ii) 96.8% ⁷³ 2018	N/A
62. Positive parent and family relationships	Spend time just talking with parents	15 years	67.9% 2012	73.4% 2015	69.9% 2018	↑
63. Positive relationships with peers	High level of support from peers	10-17 years	55.0% 2014		54.0% 2018	≈
	Placeholder Type 3 – High satisfaction with their personal relationships	16-24 years	56.4% 2013		57.9% 2018	↑

↑ Data increasing ↓ Data decreasing ≈ Data show broadly constant or no significant movement/relatively static

N/A Insufficient data available to determine a change/data not strictly comparable over time

Each indicator should be read in conjunction with sections 5 (indicator definitions and data sources) and 2.5 (the presentation of the indicator set and related data section).

⁶⁹ Note that the changes are based on the differences between the baseline data and the most recent time point.

⁷⁰ This question was included as part of the 2018 HBSC study.

⁷¹ 2007 data was collected from the 1998 Growing up in Ireland cohort, and 2017/2018 data was collected from the 2008 cohort.

⁷² In 2018, the question was split into two: one question on access to material help, and one question on access to non-material help. This data refers to the percentage of 16-24 year olds with access to material help.

⁷³ In 2018, the question was split into two: one question on access to material help, and one question on access to non-material help. This data refers to the percentage of 16-24 year olds with access to non-material help.

Indicator area	Indicator	Age range	Baseline	Most recent as of 2017	Most recent as of 2021	Change
64. Valued and respected	Perceptions of being valued and respected	10–17 years			78.1% ⁷⁴ 2018	N/A
Aim 5.3: Civically engaged, socially and environmentally conscious						
65. Positive contribution	Belief in being able to make a positive contribution to the world	10-17 years			64.2% ⁷⁵ 2018	N/A
66. Volunteering and altruism	Placeholder Type 3 – Volunteering (young people)	15–24 years	16.8% ⁷⁶ 2013			N/A
	Volunteering (children)	10-17 years			66.8% ⁷⁷ 2018	N/A
67. 18-24 year-olds who vote in local, regional, national or European elections or referenda	Placeholder Type 3 – Percentage of young persons who voted in previous general election	18–24 years	62% ⁷⁸ 2011			N/A
Aim 5.4: Aware of rights, responsible and respectful of the law						
68. Children and young people's awareness of their rights	Awareness of rights (children)	10-17 years			70.4% ⁷⁹ 2018	N/A
	Awareness of rights (young people)	18-24 years			84.0% ⁸⁰ 2018	N/A
69. Respect for laws and the judicial process	Placeholder Type 1					N/A
70. Perception of fairness of the law	Placeholder Type 3 – Trust in the legal system (young people)	16-24 years	4.9 out of 10 2013 ⁸¹			N/A

↑ Data increasing

↓ Data decreasing

≈ Data show broadly constant or no significant movement/relatively static

N/A Insufficient data available to determine a change/data not strictly comparable over time

Each indicator should be read in conjunction with sections 5 (indicator definitions and data sources) and 2.5 (the presentation of the indicator set and related data section).

⁷⁴ This question was included as part of the 2018 HBSC study.

⁷⁵ This question was included as part of the 2018 HBSC study.

⁷⁶ The CSO special module on Volunteering has not been repeated since 2013.

⁷⁷ This question was included as part of the 2018 HBSC study, and refers to the percentage of children who volunteer “a lot” or “very much”.

⁷⁸ The CSO special module on Voter Participation has not been repeated since 2013.

⁷⁹ This question was included as part of the 2018 HBSC study, and refers to the percentage of children who know their rights “a lot” or “very much”.

⁸⁰ Data were sourced from the CSO's 2019 module on equality, and refers to the percentage of young people who had a “little understanding” or a “good understanding” of their rights.

⁸¹ This question was not included as part of the 2018 EU SILC ad hoc module on wellbeing, therefore no new data is available after 2013.

Key findings

- The percentage of 9 year olds who could talk to someone about a problem increased between 2007 and 2017/2018, from 90% to 95% for talking to their mother; 61% to 78% for talking to their father; 29% to 55% for talking to their teacher; 29% to 44% for talking to a friend; and 7% to 48% for talking to a grandparent.
- From 2012 to 2018, the percentage of 15 year olds who report spending time just talking with their parents increased from 68% to 70%.
- The percentage of 16-24 year olds who report having high satisfaction with their personal relationships increased from 56% to 58% between 2013 and 2018.

The background is a solid green color with several overlapping, semi-transparent geometric shapes in a lighter shade of green. These shapes include a large trapezoid on the left, a smaller trapezoid on the right, and a large circle at the bottom right. The text is centered in the middle of the page.

INDICATOR DEFINITIONS AND DATA SOURCES

This section provides details on each of the indicators included in the BOBF indicator set, including information on the measure used, the data source, the frequency of data collection and the indicator’s relevance to BOBF.

Outcome 1: Active and healthy

Aim 1.1: Physically healthy and make positive health choices

1. Breastfeeding	
Indicators: (i) Percentage of babies who were breastfed exclusively on discharge (ii) Breastfeeding rate at Public Health Nurse (PHN) visit at three months	
Sources	National Perinatal Statistics Reports and Health Service Executive Performance Reports
Information on source	<p>The National Perinatal Reporting System (NPRS) is the principal source of data on perinatal events (referring to the time before and after birth). The information collected includes data on pregnancy outcomes (with particular reference to perinatal mortality and important aspects of perinatal care), and descriptive social and biological characteristics of mothers giving birth. Annual reports are published on the Healthcare Pricing Office (HPO) website: www.hpo.ie</p> <p>The Health Service Executive (HSE) Performance Reports provide an overall analysis of key performance data from divisions in the HSE, including Mental Health, Social Care, Primary Care, and Health and Wellbeing, as well as Finance and HR. The data reported are based on key performance indicators outlined in the current National Service Plan. For more information, see the Management Data reports at http://hse.ie/eng/services/publications/performance-reports/</p> <p>Data on breastfeeding is available on the CSO’s PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, age group of mother, mother’s county of residence, and mother’s occupation. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA02</p>
Information on indicator	<p>Data are recorded at the time of discharge from hospital or by a midwife attending a domiciliary birth and categorised as exclusive or partial breastfeeding. Breastfeeding exclusively refers to instances where the infant has received only breast milk from his or her mother, or expressed breast milk, and no other liquids or solids with the exception of drops or syrups consisting of vitamins, mineral supplements or medicines. Domiciliary births are included in the data, along with births in maternity units. The data also includes situations where a baby receives formula milk during the hospital stay but was exclusively breastfed on discharge.</p> <p>At the three months development check, Public Health Nurses (PHNs) document breastfeeding rates (exclusive and non-exclusive) in their records.</p>
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises the benefits to children of improving breastfeeding rates among mothers and commits to raise breastfeeding and vaccination rates in line with international norms (pp. 52 and 58).
Age range	Infants
Frequency of reporting	Annually
Included in <i>State of the Nation’s Children</i> report	Yes

2. Healthy weight	
Indicator: Percentage of total live births classified as low birthweight (less than 2,500 grams)	
Source	National Perinatal Statistics Report
Information on source	<p>The National Perinatal Reporting System (NPRS) is the principal source of data on perinatal events (referring to the time before and after birth). The information collected includes data on pregnancy outcomes (with particular reference to perinatal mortality and important aspects of perinatal care), and descriptive social and biological characteristics of mothers giving birth. Annual reports are published on the Healthcare Pricing Office (HPO) website: www.hpo.ie</p> <p>The Central Statistics Office (CSO) publishes the annual Vital Statistics Yearly Summary, including data on births, marriages and deaths in Ireland. Every birth, marriage and death occurring in Ireland must be registered with the General Register Office. The details of these death registrations are compiled into statistical reports by the CSO, acting on behalf of the Minister for Social Protection. The data presented in this report are based on the date of registration of the death. Data based on year of occurrence are also published by the CSO. For more information, see http://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/birthsdeathsandmarriages/</p> <p>Data on infant birthweight are available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, sex of infant, mother's county of residence, and mother's occupation. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA01</p>
Information on indicator	The World Health Organization (WHO) defines low birthweight as less than 2,500 grams. Low birthweight is classified regardless of gestational age.
Relevance to BOBF	Although low birthweight is not specifically referenced in BOBF, it is associated with a range of outcomes, including child development.
Age range	Infants
Frequency of reporting	Annually
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	Yes
Indicator: Percentage of children overweight or obese	
Source	The Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative
Information on source	<p>The World Health Organization (WHO) Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI) is an international collaborative study involving 35 countries. In Ireland, the COSI survey is funded by the Health Service Executive (HSE) and conducted by the National Nutrition Surveillance Centre (NNSC) at University College Dublin. For more information, see http://www.ucd.ie/nnscc/currentresearch/childhoodobesitysurveillanceinitiative/ and https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/healthwellbeing/our-priority-programmes/health/childhood-obesity-surveillance-initiativecosi/</p> <p>Data on the body mass index of children is available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, sex, and body mass index category. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA33</p>
Information on indicator	COSI classifies the age- and sex-specific Body Mass Index (BMI) cut-off points of the International Obesity Task Force. These cut-off points correspond to the adult cut-off points of 25–29 for overweight and 30 or more for obesity. BMI is a measure of a person's body fat calculated by dividing weight in kilograms by height in meters squared.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises obesity as a significant challenge and has a particular focus on disrupting the emergence of poor outcomes, such as diet-related non-communicable diseases arising from childhood overweight and obesity (p. xii).
Age range	First class pupils (mostly seven year-olds, but also includes some six year-olds)
Frequency of reporting	Every three years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	Yes

Indicator: Percentage of young people overweight or obese	
Source	Healthy Ireland Survey
Information on source	Healthy Ireland is the national framework for action to improve health and well-being of people living in Ireland. The Healthy Ireland Survey (HIS) is an annual face-to-face survey with individuals aged 15 and over, and commenced in 2015. The survey covers a wide variety of health topics. Reports on the HIS can be accessed here: https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/231c02-healthy-ireland-survey-wave/
Information on indicator	The HIS classifies overweight as a Body Mass Index (BMI) of between 25 and 29 inclusive, and obesity as a BMI of 30 or more.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises obesity as a significant challenge and has a particular focus on disrupting the emergence of poor outcomes such as diet-related non-communicable diseases arising from childhood overweight and obesity (p. xii).
Age range	15-24 years
Frequency of reporting	Annually
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

3. Immunisation uptake

Indicator:

(i) Percentage of children at 24 months who have had the final dose of meningitis C (MenC) vaccine

(ii) Percentage of children who have had the first dose of measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine

Source	Health Protection Surveillance Centre
Information on source	<p>The Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) is Ireland's specialist agency for the surveillance of communicable diseases. Each Health Service Executive (HSE) area provides the HPSC with quarterly immunisation uptake data for their area and for each of the Local Health Offices (LHOs) in their area. The HPSC collates these data to produce the statistics for immunisation uptake. Reports are available here: http://www.hpsc.ie/Publications/</p> <p>Data on immunisation uptake rates are available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, age of infant, vaccine type, and local health office. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA40</p>
Information on indicator	<p>Until July 2015, this indicator reported on the uptake of the third dose of meningitis C (MenC3) by 24 months of age. Since then, the MenC immunisation schedule changed from three doses at four, six and 13 months to two doses at four and 13 months. This indicator now reports on the uptake of the second dose of meningitis C by 24 months of age.</p> <p>This indicator reports on the uptake of one dose of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine by 24 months.</p>
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government commits to raise vaccination rates in line with international norms (p. 58).
Age range	Up to 24 months old
Frequency of reporting	Quarterly
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	Yes

4. Physical activity levels	
Indicator: Percentage of 15–24 year-olds meeting the national physical activity guidelines (at least 30 minutes a day of moderate activity 5 days a week or 150 minutes per week)	
Source	Healthy Ireland Survey (HIS)
Information on source	Healthy Ireland is the national framework for action to improve health and well-being of people living in Ireland. The Healthy Ireland Survey (HIS) is an annual face-to-face survey with individuals aged 15 and over and commenced in 2015. The survey covers a wide variety of health topics. Reports on the HIS can be accessed here: https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/231c02-healthy-ireland-survey-wave/
Information on indicator	<p>In 2015, the short form of the International Physical Activity Questionnaire (IPAQ) was used to measure physical activity, which classified physical activity into 'low', 'moderate', and 'high' categories. Various interpretations of IPAQ can be used, but for the purposes of HIS, those categorised as 'high' were considered to meet minimum physical activity requirements.</p> <p>In 2019 a different measure of optimum physical activity was used, based on the National Physical Activity Guidelines. These guidelines recommend that adults should have at least 30 minutes a day of moderate activity on 5 days a week (or 150 minutes a week).</p>
Relevance to BOBF	The Government commits to complete and implement the National Physical Activity Plan; support the full implementation of the schools' Physical Education Programme; and encourage the Active Schools Flag Initiative (p. 58). BOBF notes that the Government recognises the value of strong social networks developed through involvement in youth, sporting and cultural activities in providing stability in times of transition, which are particularly important for vulnerable young people (pp. 35 and 53).
Age range	15–24 years
Frequency of reporting	Annually (commenced in 2015)
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No
Indicator: Percentage who report meeting the national physical activity guidelines for children (at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity (MVPA) daily)	
Source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children
Information on source	<p>Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) is a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborative cross-national study. It asks children and young people aged 11–17 about their health and well-being, social environments and health behaviours within their social context – home, school, and with family and friends. It is a school-based survey, with data collected through self-completion questionnaires administered by teachers in the classroom every four years. The HBSC Ireland team is based at the Health Promotion Research Centre, National University of Ireland, Galway. The latest Ireland reports are available at http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbhc/ and the international reports are available at www.hbhc.org</p> <p>Data on physical activity are available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, sex, age, social class, population group and region. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA09</p>
Information on indicator	Young people are asked to report the number of days over the past week in which they were physically active for a total of at least 60 minutes. Moderate to vigorous physical activity (MPVA) is defined as any activity that increases the heart rate and makes the person out of breath for some of the time.
Relevance to BOBF	The Government commits to complete and implement the National Physical Activity Plan; support the full implementation of the schools' Physical Education Programme; and encourage the Active Schools Flag Initiative (p. 58). BOBF notes that the Government recognises the value of strong social networks developed through involvement in youth, sporting and cultural activities in providing stability in times of transition, which are particularly important for vulnerable young people (pp. 35 and 53).
Age range	11–17 years
Frequency of reporting	Every four years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

5. Risky health behaviours	
Indicator: Percentage of children who report smoking tobacco monthly or more frequently	
Source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children
Information on source	<p>Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) is a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborative cross-national study. It asks children and young people aged 11–17 about their health and well-being, social environments and health behaviours within their social context – home, school, and with family and friends. It is a school-based survey, with data collected through self-completion questionnaires administered by teachers in the classroom every four years. The HBSC Ireland team is based at the Health Promotion Research Centre, National University of Ireland, Galway. The latest Ireland reports are available at http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbhc/ and the international reports are available at www.hbhc.org</p> <p>Data on smoking are available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, sex, age, social class, population group and region. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA08</p>
Information on indicator	Participants are asked the following question: 'How often do you smoke tobacco at present?' The response options are: 'Every day', 'At least once a week, but not every day', 'Less than once a week' and 'I do not smoke'. Participants who say 'less than once a week' are interpreted as smoking at least once a month. Responses were recoded into: 'Smoking monthly or more frequently', 'No' and 'Yes'.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government commits to address the high rate of premature and risky alcohol consumption, use of illicit drugs and the incidence of smoking among young people through a combination of legislative, regulatory and policy mechanisms (p. 57).
Age range	11–17 years
Frequency of reporting	Every four years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No
Indicator: Percentage of children who report that they have ever had an alcoholic drink	
Source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children
Information on source	<p>Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) is a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborative cross-national study. It asks children and young people aged 11–17 about their health and well-being, social environments and health behaviours within their social context – home, school, and with family and friends. It is a school-based survey, with data collected through self-completion questionnaires administered by teachers in the classroom every four years. The HBSC Ireland team is based at the Health Promotion Research Centre, National University of Ireland, Galway. The latest Ireland reports are available at http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbhc/ and the international reports are available at www.hbhc.org</p> <p>Data on alcohol consumption are available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, sex, age, social class, population group and region. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA08</p>
Information on indicator	<p>The figures presented for 2010 and 2014 come from a question where participants were presented with a list of alcoholic drinks and asked how often they drank any of them. The list comprised beer (Guinness, lager), wine, spirits/liquor (vodka, whiskey, shots, brandy), alcopops (Bacardi Breezer, Smirnoff Ice), cider (Bulmers, Scrumpy) and any other drink that contains alcohol. Those who reported that they had never drunk any of these are reported here as having never had an alcoholic drink. Participants were asked: 'On how many days (if any) have you drunk alcohol in your lifetime?' Response options were: 'Never', '1–2 days', '3–5 days', '6–9 days', '10–19 days', '20–29 days' and '30 days (or more)'. Responses were recoded into: 'Ever had an alcoholic drink', 'No' and 'Yes'. In 2014 a new question (referred to in comments) was also asked of participants: 'On how many days (if any) have you drunk alcohol in your lifetime?' Response options were: 'Never', '1–2 days', '3–5 days', '6–9 days', '10–19 days', '20–29 days' and '30 days (or more)'. Responses were recoded into: 'Ever had an alcoholic drink', 'No' and 'Yes'.</p>

Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government commits to address the high rate of premature and risky alcohol consumption, use of illicit drugs and the incidence of smoking among young people through a combination of legislative, regulatory and policy mechanisms (p. 57).
Age range	11–17 years
Frequency of reporting	Every four years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	Yes
Indicator: Percentage of children who report using cannabis in the last 12 months	
Source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children
Information on source	<p>Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children (HBSC) is a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborative cross-national study. It asks children and young people aged 11–17 about their health and well-being, social environments and health behaviours within their social context – home, school, and with family and friends. It is a school-based survey, with data collected through self-completion questionnaires administered by teachers in the classroom every four years. The HBSC Ireland team is based at the Health Promotion Research Centre, National University of Ireland, Galway. The latest Ireland reports are available at http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc/ and the international reports are available at www.hbsc.org</p> <p>Data on cannabis use are available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, sex, age, social class, population group and region. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA08</p>
Information on indicator	Participants are asked: 'Have you ever taken cannabis (hashish, grass, pot) in the last 12 months?' Response options are: 'Never', '1–2 days', '3–5 days', '6–9 days', '10–19 days', '20–29 days' and '30 days (or more)'. Responses were recoded into: 'Cannabis use last 12 months', 'No' and 'Yes'.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government commits to address the high rate of premature and risky alcohol consumption, use of illicit drugs and the incidence of smoking among young people through a combination of legislative, regulatory and policy mechanisms (p. 57).
Age range	11–17 years
Frequency of reporting	Every four years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No
Indicator: Percentage of children who have ever used illicit drugs on at least one occasion	
Source	European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD)
Information on source	The main purpose of the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD) project is to collect comparable data on substance use among students of the same age in as many European countries as possible. Data are collected via school surveys among students turning 16 during the year of the data collection, following a common methodology across participating countries. A handbook describing methodology and reporting procedures facilitates the collection of comprehensive and comparable data. ESPAD surveys have been performed every fourth year since 1995. The ESPAD reports are available on the project website: http://www.espad.org/reports-documents
Information on indicator	Participants are asked to indicate if they have used illicit drugs other than cannabis or hashish on at least one occasion. This refers to the use of illicit substances, such as ecstasy, cocaine, heroin, amphetamines, methamphetamines, crack, magic mushrooms, LSD, anabolic steroids, and Gamma Hydroxybutyrate (GHB). The 2015 question also included inhalants, and pills with alcohol, on this list. Hence, the data in the two years reported are not strictly comparable.

Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government commits to address the high rate of premature and risky alcohol consumption, use of illicit drugs and the incidence of smoking among young people through a combination of legislative, regulatory and policy mechanisms (p. 57).
Age range	15-16 years
Frequency of reporting	Every four years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

Indicator: Percentage of children who have ever used new psychoactive substances on at least one occasion

Source	European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD)
Information on source	The main purpose of the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD) project is to collect comparable data on substance use among students of the same age in as many European countries as possible. Data are collected via school surveys among students turning 16 during the year of the data collection, following a common methodology across participating countries. A handbook describing methodology and reporting procedures facilitates the collection of comprehensive and comparable data. ESPAD surveys have been performed every fourth year since 1995. The ESPAD reports are available on the project website: http://www.espad.org/reports-documents
Information on indicator	ESPAD defines new psychoactive substances (NPS) as 'substances that imitate the effects of illicit drugs such as cannabis or ecstasy and are sometimes called 'legal highs', 'ethnobotanicals' or 'research chemicals' and can come in different forms (herbal mixtures, powders, crystals or tablets). Participants are asked how often they had used NPS in their life, with the response categories ranging from '0' to '40 or more'. Prevalence of any use of NPS relates to use on at least one occasion. NPS are those which imitate the effects of illicit drugs, sometimes called 'legal highs'.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government commits to address the high rate of premature and risky alcohol consumption, use of illicit drugs and the incidence of smoking among young people through a combination of legislative, regulatory and policy mechanisms (p. 57).
Age range	15-16 years
Frequency of reporting	Every four years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

Indicator: Percentage of young people who smoke daily or occasionally (i.e. current smokers)

Source	Healthy Ireland Survey
Information on source	Healthy Ireland is the national framework for action to improve health and well-being of people living in Ireland. The Healthy Ireland Survey (HIS) is an annual face-to-face survey with individuals aged 15 and over and commenced in 2015. The survey covers a wide variety of health topics. Reports on the HIS can be accessed here: https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/231c02-healthy-ireland-survey-wave/
Information on indicator	Smoking prevalence as measured by Healthy Ireland includes both daily and occasional smokers.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government commits to address the high rate of premature and risky alcohol consumption, use of illicit drugs and the incidence of smoking among young people through a combination of legislative, regulatory and policy mechanisms (p. 57).
Age range	15-24 years
Frequency of reporting	Annually
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

Indicator: Prevalence of heavy episodic drinking (percentage of young people who report drinking six or more standard drinks in a single session)	
Source	Healthy Ireland Survey
Information on source	Healthy Ireland is the national framework for action to improve health and well-being of people living in Ireland. The Healthy Ireland Survey (HIS) is an annual face-to-face survey with individuals aged 15 and over and commenced in 2015. The survey covers a wide variety of health topics. Reports on the HIS can be accessed here: https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/231c02-healthy-ireland-survey-wave/
Information on indicator	The HIS defines heavy episodic drinking as drinking six or more standard drinks in a single drinking occasion. This is the definition used for the Government's policy approach to alcohol. It is also a World Health Organization indicator and a European Core Health Indicator.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government commits to address the high rate of premature and risky alcohol consumption, use of illicit drugs and the incidence of smoking among young people through a combination of legislative, regulatory and policy mechanisms (p. 57).
Age range	15-24 years
Frequency of reporting	Annually
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No
Indicator: Percentage of young persons with (i) last year prevalence and/or (ii) lifetime prevalence of any illegal drug	
Source	National Advisory Committee on Drugs and Alcohol – Drug Prevalence Survey
Information on source	The National Advisory Committee on Drugs and Alcohol – drugs prevalence survey was commissioned by the National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD) in Ireland and the Public Health Information and Research Branch (PHIRB) within the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) in Northern Ireland. The main focus of the survey was to obtain prevalence rates for key illegal drugs, such as cannabis, ecstasy, cocaine and heroin on a lifetime (ever used), last year (recent use), and previous month (current use) basis. Similar prevalence questions were also asked of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs (e.g. tranquillisers). Attitudinal and demographic information was also sought from respondents. The fifth National Drug and Alcohol Survey was conducted by the Health Research Board (HRB) in 2019/2020. For more information, see https://www.hrb.ie/publications/
Information on indicator	Prevalence rates for 'any illegal drugs' refers to the reported use of one or more of the following: amphetamines, cannabis, cocaine powder, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, poppers or solvents. Any illegal drug refers to cannabis, ecstasy, cocaine powder, magic mushrooms, amphetamines, poppers, LSD, new psychoactive substances, mephedrone, solvents, crack, heroin. New psychoactive substances were included in this category for 2014/2015 following the Criminal Justice (Psychoactive Substances) Act 2010, hence the data for the two years reported are not strictly comparable. Lifetime prevalence refers to the percentage of the sample that reported ever having used the named drug at the time they were surveyed. People who record lifetime prevalence may or may not be currently using the drug. Nor should lifetime prevalence be interpreted as meaning they have necessarily used a drug over a long period, or that they will use the drug in the future.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government commits to address the high rate of premature and risky alcohol consumption, use of illicit drugs and the incidence of smoking among young people through a combination of legislative, regulatory and policy mechanisms (p. 57).
Age range	15-24
Frequency of reporting	Every four years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

6. Mortality rate by cause and age	
Indicator: Perinatal mortality rate	
Source	National Perinatal Reporting System and the National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre
Information on source	<p>The National Perinatal Reporting System (NPRS) is the principal source of data on perinatal events (referring to the time before and after birth). The information collected includes data on pregnancy outcomes (with particular reference to perinatal mortality and important aspects of perinatal care), and descriptive social and biological characteristics of mothers giving birth. Annual reports are published on the Healthcare Pricing Office (HPO) website: www.hpo.ie</p> <p>The National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre (NPEC) collaborates with Irish maternity services, with the goal of translating clinical audit data and epidemiological evidence into improved maternity care for families in Ireland. NPEC evaluates and publishes nationally representative perinatal mortality and severe maternal morbidity data on an annual basis. For more information, visit https://www.ucc.ie/en/npec/</p>
Information on indicator	The Perinatal Mortality Rate (PMR) is calculated as follows: number of stillbirths and early neonatal deaths x 1,000/total number of live births and stillbirths. Rates are calculated on total live births and stillbirths (weighing >=500g). The Adjusted Perinatal Mortality Rate (Adjusted PMR) excludes all stillbirths and deaths due to congenital anomalies.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF commits to strengthen prenatal and antenatal supports around the mother (p. 58).
Age range	Pregnancy, delivery and up to seven completed days after birth
Frequency of reporting	Annually
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No
Indicator: Deaths by cause and age (including suicide)	
Source	Central Statistics Office - Vital Statistics
Information on source	<p>The Central Statistics Office (CSO) publishes the annual Vital Statistics Yearly Summary, including data on births, marriages and deaths in Ireland. Every birth, marriage and death occurring in Ireland must be registered with the General Register Office. The details of these death registrations are compiled into statistical reports by the CSO, acting on behalf of the Minister for Social Protection. The data presented in this report are based on the date of registration of the death. Data based on year of occurrence are also published by the CSO. For more information, see http://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/birthsdeathsandmarriages/</p> <p>Data on deaths of children are available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, sex, age group, and cause of death. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA23 and https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA36</p>
Information on indicator	Every death occurring in Ireland is registered with the General Register Office and the details of these death registrations are reported on by the CSO, including information on cause of death. 2020 data are based on deaths registered and are therefore provisional and subject to change.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF recognises that the incidence of self-harm and suicide among children and young people is of significant concern. The Government commits to a number of actions including implementing 'A Vision for Change' – the national strategy for mental health services in Ireland – and ensuring equity of access to child and adolescent mental health services (pp. 57–58). Also referenced is the general commitment that children be healthy and active.
Age range	0–24 years
Frequency of reporting	Quarterly
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	Yes

Aim 1.2: Good mental health

7. Positive mental health and well-being	
Indicator: Optimal levels of positive mental health, based on Energy and Vitality Index (EVI)	
Source	Healthy Ireland Survey
Information on source	Healthy Ireland is the national framework for action to improve health and well-being of people living in Ireland. The Healthy Ireland Survey (HIS) is an annual face-to-face survey with individuals aged 15 and over and commenced in 2015. The survey covers a wide variety of health topics. Reports on the HIS can be accessed here: https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/231c02-healthy-ireland-survey-wave/
Information on indicator	The HIS collects data on mental health using the Energy and Vitality Index (EVI). Respondents indicate on a six-point scale from 'all of the time' to 'none of the time' the extent to which they felt 'full of life', 'calm and peaceful', have 'lots of energy' and have been a 'happy person' in the previous four weeks. The index comes from the RAND 36-Item Short Form Survey (SF-36), a widely used health-related quality of life survey instrument. The indicator refers to the percentage with an EVI score equal to or over one standard deviation of the mean.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that children and young people need support to build and develop protective factors, such as emotional resilience, having a sense of self-esteem, as well as an ability to address risk factors such as tackling bullying (p. 54).
Age range	15–24 years
Frequency of reporting	Annually
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No
Indicator: Percentage of children who report high life satisfaction	
Source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children
Information on source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) is a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborative cross-national study. It asks children and young people aged 11–17 about their health and well-being, social environments and health behaviours within their social context – home, school, and with family and friends. It is a school-based survey, with data collected through self-completion questionnaires administered by teachers in the classroom every four years. The HBSC Ireland team is based at the Health Promotion Research Centre, National University of Ireland, Galway. The latest Ireland reports are available at http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbhc/ and the international reports are available at www.hbhc.org
Information on indicator	Life satisfaction is considered a useful indicator of subjective well-being and a global assessment of one's life. It is suggested here as a placeholder indicator for positive mental health, although it is acknowledged that it is likely to encompass more than mental health. The HBSC team is currently examining other possible measures with a view to having a more explicit and robust measure of mental health for HBSC 2018; and this may provide an improved indicator to replace the current placeholder. Young people are asked to rate their life satisfaction using a visual scale called the Cantril ladder. This scale has 11 points (0–10); the top of the ladder (10) indicates the best possible life and the bottom (0), the worst. Scores are coded into 'Low life satisfaction' (0–6) and 'High life satisfaction' (7–10).
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that children and young people need support to build and develop protective factors, such as emotional resilience, having a sense of self-esteem, as well as an ability to address risk factors such as tackling bullying (p. 54).
Age range	11–17 years
Frequency of reporting	Every four years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	Yes

8. Self-harm	
Indicator: Rate of self-harm among children and young people	
Source	National Self-Harm Registry
Information on source	<p>The National Self-Harm Registry Ireland is a national system of population monitoring for the occurrence of self-harm. The Registry collects data based on persons presenting to hospital emergency departments as a result of an episode of self-harm. This is defined by the Registry as an act with non-fatal outcome in which an individual deliberately initiates a non-habitual behaviour, that without intervention from others will cause self-harm, or deliberately ingests a substance in excess of the prescribed or generally recognised therapeutic dosage, and which is aimed at realising changes that the person desires via the actual or expected physical consequences. For more information, see http://www.nsr.ie/statistics/3063-2/ and https://www.nsr.ie/publications/reports/</p> <p>Data on self-harm are available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, sex, age group, and county/HSE region. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA11 and https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA15</p>
Information on indicator	<p>The rate of self-harm is based on persons presenting to hospital emergency departments as a result of self-harm. Self-harm rates are calculated based on the number of persons resident in the relevant area who have engaged in self-harm, irrespective of whether they were treated in that area or elsewhere. Crude and age-specific rates per 100,000 population are calculated by dividing the number of persons who have engaged in self-harm (n) by the relevant population figure (p) and multiplying the result by 100,000, i.e. $(n/p) \times 100,000$.</p>
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government commits to implementing 'A Vision for Change' as it relates to children and young people, in particular to improving access to early intervention youth mental health services and coordination of service supports, with a focus on improving mental health literacy and reducing incidents of self-harm and suicide (p. 57).
Age range	0-24 years
Frequency of reporting	Monthly and published yearly
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	Yes

9. Parental mental health	
Indicator: Placeholder Type 3 - Whether child's mother has ever been treated by medical professional for clinical depression, anxiety or nerves	
Source	Growing Up in Ireland
Information on source	<p>Growing Up in Ireland is the national longitudinal study of children in Ireland mainly funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and being carried out by a team of researchers at the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and Trinity College Dublin. The study was established in 2006 and follows the progress of two groups of children: 8,000 nine year-olds (child cohort) and 10,000 nine month-olds (infant cohort). For more information, see http://www.esri.ie/growing-up-in-ireland/</p>
Information on indicator	<p>The indicator presents the percentage of mothers of the children in the GUI study who have ever been treated by a medical professional for clinical depression, anxiety or nerves. The question wording relates to the child's mother being treated since the last interview.</p>
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises the need to support parents of young children early on, to ensure the establishment of quality parent-child relationships. This includes supporting parents with their own mental health (p. 66).
Age range	2008 cohort : age 9 months - 9 years 1998 cohort: age 9 years - 17/18 years
Frequency of reporting	Ad hoc
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

10. Access to mental health services	
Indicator: Percentage waiting less than three months to be seen by Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)	
Source	Health Service Executive Performance Reports
Information on source	The Health Service Executive (HSE) Performance Reports provide an overall analysis of key performance data from divisions in the HSE, including Mental Health, Social Care, Primary Care, and Health and Wellbeing, as well as Finance and HR. The data reported are based on key performance indicators outlined in the current National Service Plan. For more information, see http://hse.ie/eng/services/publications/performance-reports/
Information on indicator	<p>Wait time refers to the number of weeks/months from the point at which the referral (including re-referred cases) is received by a member of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Community Mental Health Team to the day the assessment takes place.</p> <p>National data on the percentage of children who received an assessment for mental health services within three months was not available in 2021. 2021 data refer to the percentage of referrals/re-referrals who were offered an appointment and seen by a Child and Adolescent Community Mental Health team within 12 weeks, as of March 2021. Therefore, the 2014 and 2021 data are not strictly comparable.</p>
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that having early diagnosis and access to support services in a timely manner is of critical importance. Services need to be integrated around the needs of the child or young person, and transitions between child and adult services need strengthening (p. 54).
Age range	0–18 years
Frequency of reporting	Monthly
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

Aim 1.3: Positive and respectful approach to relationships and sexual health

11. Early sexual activity	
Indicator: Percentage who report having ever had sex	
Source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children
Information on source	<p>Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) is a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborative cross-national study. It asks children and young people aged 11–17 about their health and well-being, social environments and health behaviours within their social context – home, school, and with family and friends. It is a school-based survey, with data collected through self-completion questionnaires administered by teachers in the classroom every four years. The HBSC Ireland team is based at the Health Promotion Research Centre, National University of Ireland, Galway. The latest Ireland reports are available at http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbhc/ and the international reports are available at www.hbhc.org</p> <p>Data on sexual activity are available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, sex, age, social class, population group and region. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA08</p>
Information on indicator	Young people aged 15–17 years old are asked: 'Have you ever had sexual intercourse?' Response options are: 'No' and 'Yes'.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government commits to complete and implement a National Sexual Health Strategy as a strategic framework for the sexual health and well-being of the population, ensuring access for young people to age-appropriate information and services about relationships and sexual health (p. 58).
Age range	15–17 years
Frequency of reporting	Every four years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	Yes

12. Teenage pregnancy	
Indicator: Number of births registered to mothers aged 17 and under	
Source	Central Statistics Office – Vital Statistics
Information on source	<p>The Central Statistics Office (CSO) publishes the annual Vital Statistics Yearly Summary including data on births, marriages and deaths in Ireland. Every birth, marriage and death occurring in Ireland must be registered with the General Register Office. The details of these death registrations are compiled into statistical reports by the CSO, acting on behalf of the Minister for Social Protection. The data presented in this report are based on the date of registration of the birth. Data based on year of occurrence is also published by the CSO. For more information, see http://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/birthsdeathsandmarriages/</p> <p>Data on births to teenagers and young people are available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, age group, and county. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA35</p>
Information on indicator	Data refer to all live births in Ireland to mothers aged 17 and under.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that some young people become parents and such 'teen parents' may need additional supports to access education, employment and housing, and to support their own parenting (p. 27).
Age range	0–17 years
Frequency of reporting	Monthly
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	Yes

13. Knowledge about sexual health	
Indicator: Percentage who have ever had sex and report using a condom	
Source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children
Information on source	<p>Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) is a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborative cross-national study. It asks children and young people aged 11–17 about their health and well-being, social environments and health behaviours within their social context – home, school, and with family and friends. It is a school-based survey, with data collected through self-completion questionnaires administered by teachers in the classroom every four years. The HBSC Ireland team is based at the Health Promotion Research Centre, National University of Ireland, Galway. The latest Ireland reports are available at http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc/ and the international reports are available at www.hbsc.org</p> <p>Data on condom use are available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, sex, age, social class, population group and region. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA08</p>
Information on indicator	Participants who indicate that they had ever had sexual intercourse are subsequently asked the following question: 'The last time you had sexual intercourse, did you or your partner use a condom?' Response options are: 'No', 'Yes' and 'Don't know'. In 2010 the response options were 'I have never had sexual intercourse', 'Yes' and 'No'. Hence, there is slight variation in the question between the two time points.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government commits to complete and implement a National Sexual Health Strategy as a strategic framework for the sexual health and well-being of the population, ensuring access for young people to age-appropriate information and services about relationships and sexual health (p. 58).
Age range	15–17 years
Frequency of reporting	Every four years

Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No
Indicator: Percentage reporting condom usage on most recent occasion of sex	
Source	Healthy Ireland Survey
Information on source	Healthy Ireland is the national framework for action to improve health and well-being of people living in Ireland. The Healthy Ireland Survey (HIS) is an annual face-to-face survey with individuals aged 15 and over and commenced in 2015. The survey covers a wide variety of health topics. Reports on the HIS can be accessed here: https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/231c02-healthy-ireland-survey-wave/
Information on indicator	Respondents aged 17 and over complete a questionnaire on issues relating to sexual health, including condom use. This question has not been asked since 2016.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government commits to complete and implement a National Sexual Health Strategy as a strategic framework for the sexual health and well-being of the population, ensuring access for young people to age-appropriate information and services about relationships and sexual health (p. 58).
Age range	17–24 years
Frequency of reporting	Annually
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No
Indicator: (i) Number of sexually transmitted infection notifications and (ii) HIV diagnoses (where sexually transmitted)	
Source	Health Protection Surveillance Centre
Information on source	Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting (CIDR) is an information system developed to manage the surveillance and control of notifiable infectious diseases in Ireland. CIDR is a shared national information system for the CIDR partners (the former health boards, the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC), the Food Safety Authority of Ireland, the Food Safety Promotion Board and the Department of Health). All information in the CIDR is held in a single shared national information repository. Data are published in weekly, six monthly and annual reports by the HPSC. For more information, see https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/sexuallytransmittedinfections/publications/stireports/stiweeklyreports/
Information on indicator	This indicator captures the number of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) notified via the CIDR, including: chancroid, chlamydia trachomatis, gonorrhoea, lymphogranuloma inguinale, herpes simplex virus (genital), lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV), syphilis and trichomoniasis. This indicator also captures the annual number of new HIV diagnoses (where sexually transmitted) notified to CIDR.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government commits to complete and implement a National Sexual Health Strategy as a strategic framework for the sexual health and well-being of the population, ensuring access for young people to age-appropriate information and services about relationships and sexual health (p. 58).
Age range	15–24 years
Frequency of reporting	Weekly, six-monthly, annually
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

Indicator: Percentage who report feeling comfortable talking about their sexuality	
Source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children
Information on source	<p>Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) is a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborative cross-national study. It asks children and young people aged 11–17 about their health and well-being, social environments and health behaviours within their social context – home, school, and with family and friends. It is a school-based survey, with data collected through self-completion questionnaires administered by teachers in the classroom every four years. The HBSC Ireland team is based at the Health Promotion Research Centre, National University of Ireland, Galway. The latest Ireland reports are available at http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbhc/ and the international reports are available at www.hbhc.org</p> <p>Data on comfort talking about sexuality are available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, sex, age, social class, population group and region. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA08</p>
Information on indicator	Participants are asked the question: 'Are you comfortable talking about your sexuality?' Response options are: 'No', 'Yes' and 'Don't know'. This item was developed by children as part of the DCEDIY consultation with Comhairle na nÓg and is only asked in the Irish survey. The question was first introduced in 2014.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that all children and young people need to be supported in addressing issues that impact on sexual well-being, such as stigma, homophobia, gender, ability/disability, mental health, alcohol and drugs (p. 55).
Age range	15–17 years
Frequency of reporting	Every four years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

Aim 1.4: Enjoying play, recreation, sport, arts, culture and nature

14. Participation in sport, leisure and recreational activities	
Indicator: Percentage who report they engage in their hobbies weekly or more frequently	
Source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children
Information on source	<p>Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) is a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborative cross-national study. It asks children and young people aged 11–17 about their health and well-being, social environments and health behaviours within their social context – home, school, and with family and friends. It is a school-based survey, with data collected through self-completion questionnaires administered by teachers in the classroom every four years. The HBSC Ireland team is based at the Health Promotion Research Centre, National University of Ireland, Galway. The latest Ireland reports are available at http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbhc/ and the international reports are available at www.hbhc.org</p> <p>Data on hobbies is available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, sex, age, social class, population group and region. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA16</p>
Information on indicator	Participants are asked how frequently they engaged in hobbies. The question was first introduced in 2014, but has not been asked since.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that play, sports and recreation are an immensely important part of the lives of children and young people, and are highly valued by them (p. 56).
Age range	11–13 years
Frequency of reporting	Every four years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

Indicator: Percentage participating in sport in the past seven days	
Source	Irish Sports Monitor
Information on source	The Irish Sports Monitor (ISM) provides information on active participation in sport and recreational walking, club membership, volunteering and attendance at sporting events, as well as information about walking and cycling for transport. For more information, see https://www.sportireland.ie/about-us/publications/annual-reports/annual-reports
Information on indicator	Survey respondents are asked about their participation in all activities (excluding walking) 'Undertaken for exercise, recreation or sport', including 'Personal exercise, such as swimming, dancing or jogging, as well as all forms of sporting activity, indoor or outdoor, whether undertaken in an organised setting or casually with family or friends'. It does not set any minimum threshold on the level of exertion required in order for a particular activity to be considered a sport; however, this is measured separately for each activity. The survey asks respondents about their activity over the past seven days and interviews are spread over the course of a 12-month period, in order to account for seasonal variations in sports participation.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that play, sports and recreation are an immensely important part of the lives of children and young people, and are highly valued by them (p. 56).
Age range	16–24 years
Frequency of reporting	Every two years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

15. Play

Indicator: Percentage of children who report that their family plays with them always or often

Source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children
Information on source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) is a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborative cross-national study. It asks children and young people aged 11–17 about their health and well-being, social environments and health behaviours within their social context – home, school, and with family and friends. It is a school-based survey, with data collected through self-completion questionnaires administered by teachers in the classroom every four years. The HBSC Ireland team is based at the Health Promotion Research Centre, National University of Ireland, Galway. The latest Ireland reports are available at http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbhc/ and the international reports are available at www.hbhc.org Data on play are available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, sex, age, population group, social class, and region. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA07
Information on indicator	Participants are asked: 'Does your family play with you?' Response options are: 'Always', 'Often', 'Sometimes' and 'Never'. Responses were recoded into: 'Always/Often' and 'Sometimes/Never'. The question was first introduced in 2014.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that play, sports and recreation are an immensely important part of the lives of children and young people, and are highly valued by them (p. 56).
Age range	11–13 years
Frequency of reporting	Every four years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No



16. Screen time	
Indicator: Percentage of students using the Internet for more than six hours per day outside of school, during school days	
Source	Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)
Information on source	The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a project of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) that aims to measure how well students, at age 15, are prepared to meet the challenges they may encounter in future life, including education. PISA takes place every three years and assesses student skills and knowledge in the three domains of reading literacy, mathematics and science. In Ireland, PISA is managed by the Educational Research Centre (ERC) on behalf of the Department of Education. The assessments in schools are administered by external test administrators, comprising inspectors from the Department and representatives of the ERC. National reports and publications are available at http://www.erc.ie/pisa/ and international reports and publications are available at http://www.oecd.org/pisa/aboutpisa/
Information on indicator	Participants are asked: 'During a typical weekday how long do you use the Internet outside of school?'
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises the increasing prominence of technology in children's and young people's lives and its role in forming and maintaining friendships (p. 102). It also recognises the importance of opportunities to be active and live healthy lives (p. 53).
Age range	15 year olds
Frequency of reporting	Every three years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in learning and development

Aim 2.1: Learning and developing from birth

17. Screening for growth and development	
Indicator: Percentage of children reaching 10 months who have had their developmental exam before 10 months	
Source	Health Service Executive
Information on source	<p>The Health Service Executive (HSE) Performance Reports provide an overall analysis of key performance data from Divisions in the HSE, including Mental Health, Social Care, Primary Care, and Health and Wellbeing, as well as Finance and HR. The data reported are based on key performance indicators outlined in the current National Service Plan. For more information, see http://hse.ie/eng/services/publications/performance-reports/</p> <p>Data on developmental checks are available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year and local health office. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA38</p>
Information on indicator	<p>This is a key performance indicator collected and reported on monthly by the HSE. It measures the percentage of children reaching 10 months within the reporting period who have had their Child Development Health Screening (7–9-month developmental check) on time. This screening is performed by Public Health Nurses (PHNs).</p> <p>From March 2020 onwards, this Metric will be reported as the percentage of children reaching 12 months within the reporting period who have had their child development health screening (9–11 month developmental check) on time or before reaching 12 months of age.</p>
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises the crucial role of the PHN and General Practitioner (GP) in providing primary care and supporting parents to ensure that their children are healthy and developing appropriately, including through immunisation programmes and health and development screening (p. 51).
Age range	Infants up to 10 months (12 months from March 2020 onwards)
Frequency of reporting	Monthly
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	Yes

18. Quality of pre-school home learning environment	
Indicator: Percentage of children whose parents reported often engaging in literacy and numeracy activities with them before they started school (e.g. singing songs, reading books, playing with blocks)	
Source	Trends in International Maths and Science Study (TIMSS) and Progress in Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS)
Information on source	<p>Trends in International Maths and Science Study (TIMSS) is an international assessment of mathematics and science with fourth class (primary school) and second year (secondary school) students, conducted every four years since 1995. Progress in Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) is an international study of fourth class pupils' reading literacy, conducted every five years since 2001. Ireland first took part in PIRLS in 2011 and in TIMSS in 1995. PIRLS and TIMSS are projects of the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA), an independent, international cooperative of research institutions and government research agencies. In Ireland, the Educational Research Centre (ERC) manages the implementation of TIMSS on behalf of the Department of Education. For more information, see http://www.erc.ie/studies/timss/ and http://www.erc.ie/studies/pirls/</p>
Information on indicator	<p>Parents rate the frequency with which they engaged in a variety of literacy and numeracy activities with their child before he/she started school. Activities included reading books, talking about daily activities, playing with a number of toys, and playing with building blocks or construction toys. Parents are categorised as engaging in early literacy and numeracy activities 'often' on the basis of their averaged engagement across these activities. The 2011 data refer to activities before the child started primary school, whereas the 2015 data refer to before the child started first class in primary school, so the data points are not strictly comparable.</p>

Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that a supportive home learning environment is positively associated with children's early achievements and well-being, and influences social mobility (p. 27).
Age range	2011 prior to starting primary school/2015 prior to starting first class
Frequency of reporting	TIMSS every four years and PIRLS every five years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

19. Access to speech and language therapy

Indicator: 0-17 year olds on speech and language therapy waiting lists - number and percentage on lists for (i) assessment or (ii) treatment for more than 52 weeks

Source	Health Service Executive Performance Reports
Information on source	The Health Service Executive (HSE) Performance Reports provide an overall analysis of key performance data from Divisions in the HSE, including Mental Health, Social Care, Primary Care, and Health and Wellbeing, as well as Finance and HR. The data reported are based on key performance indicators outlined in the current National Service Plan. For more information, see http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/Publications/performance-reports/
Information on indicator	This indicator is a key HSE Performance Indicator on the percentage of people waiting for speech and language therapy assessment and/or treatment for more than 52 weeks. Data are collected and reported at aggregate level for all age groups in monthly HSE performance reports. Clients aged 18 years and over are excluded. Data included are recorded for July 2016 and April 2017. Data for the 0-17 year-old age group have only been available since July 2016.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that early intervention initiatives aim to address the early indicators of developing problems and to support a trajectory to more positive outcomes (p. 29).
Age range	0-17 years
Frequency of reporting	Monthly. However, data for the 0-17 age group are only available from July 2016 onwards.
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

20. Achieving expected level of development in communication, language and literacy

Indicator: Placeholder Type 1

Source	
Information on source	
Information on indicator	
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that early intervention initiatives aim to address the early indicators of developing problems and to support a trajectory to more positive outcomes (p. 29).
Age range	
Frequency of reporting	
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	

Aim 2.2: Social and emotional well-being

21. Positive self-perception	
Indicator: Percentage who report feeling happy with the way they are	
Source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children
Information on source	<p>Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) is a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborative cross-national study. It asks children and young people aged 11–17 about their health and well-being, social environments and health behaviours within their social context – home, school, and with family and friends. It is a school-based survey, with data collected through self-completion questionnaires administered by teachers in the classroom every four years. The HBSC Ireland team is based at the Health Promotion Research Centre, National University of Ireland, Galway. The latest Ireland reports are available at http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbhc/ and the international reports are available at www.hbhc.org</p> <p>Data on positive self-perception are available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, sex, age, social class, population group and region. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA16</p>
Information on indicator	Participants are asked: 'Thinking about the last week, have you been happy with the way you are?' Response options are: 'Never', 'Seldom', 'Quite often', 'Very often' and 'Always'. Responses were recoded into: 'Happy with the way you are', 'Yes' (including 'Very often' and 'Always') and 'No' (including 'Never', 'Seldom' and 'Quite often').
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF recognises that good mental health is the most important aspect of children and young people's social and cognitive development (pp. 53–54).
Age range	11–17 years
Frequency of reporting	Every four years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	Yes
Indicator: Percentage who think they are either (i) too fat or (ii) too thin	
Source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children
Information on source	<p>Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) is a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborative cross-national study. It asks children and young people aged 11–17 about their health and well-being, social environments and health behaviours within their social context – home, school, and with family and friends. It is a school-based survey, with data collected through self-completion questionnaires administered by teachers in the classroom every four years. The HBSC Ireland team is based at the Health Promotion Research Centre, National University of Ireland, Galway. The latest Ireland reports are available at http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbhc/ and the international reports are available at www.hbhc.org</p> <p>Data on body image are available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, sex, age, social class, population group and region. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA16</p>
Information on indicator	Young people are asked about how they perceive their body. Response options range from much too thin to much too fat.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that young people, especially young girls, are particularly vulnerable to negative self-image and media pressure surrounding body image. It is therefore important to promote safe and healthy body image and self-worth (p. 54). Body image also emerged as a key theme in Government consultations with children and young people to help inform policy.
Age range	11–17 years
Frequency of collection	Every four years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

22. Social and emotional well-being, skills and behaviour	
Indicator: Percentage who report being very happy with their lives at present	
Source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children
Information on source	<p>Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children (HBSC) is a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborative cross-national study. It asks children and young people aged 11–17 about their health and well-being, social environments and health behaviours within their social context – home, school, and with family and friends. It is a school-based survey, with data collected through self-completion questionnaires administered by teachers in the classroom every four years. The HBSC Ireland team is based at the Health Promotion Research Centre, National University of Ireland, Galway. The latest Ireland reports are available at http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc/ and the international reports are available at www.hbsc.org</p> <p>Data on happiness with life are available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, sex, age, social class, population group and region. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA16</p>
Information on indicator	Participants are asked: 'In general how do you feel about your life at present?' The response options are: 'I feel very happy', 'I feel quite happy', 'I don't feel very happy' and 'I'm not happy at all'. Responses were recoded into: 'Very happy' and 'Not happy'. This is a national item, asked only in Ireland.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF recognises that good mental health is the most important aspect of children and young people's social and cognitive development (pp. 53–54).
Age range	11–17 years
Frequency of reporting	Every four years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	Yes
Indicator: Placeholder Type 3 - Average Score on the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)	
Source	Growing Up in Ireland
Information on source	<p>Growing Up in Ireland is the national longitudinal study of children in Ireland mainly funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and being carried out by a team of researchers at the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and Trinity College Dublin. The study was established in 2006 and follows the progress of two groups of children: 8,000 nine year-olds (child cohort) and 10,000 nine month-olds (infant cohort). For more information, see http://www.esri.ie/growing-up-in-ireland/</p>
Information on indicator	<p>The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) assesses behavioural and emotional adjustment and comprises five subscales: prosocial, emotional difficulties, conduct difficulties, hyperactivity, peer problems. A total difficulties score is obtained by summing scores across the four deficit-focused scales (i.e. all except the prosocial behaviour scale), giving a score between 0 and 40. The SDQ is psychometrically well validated with good internal consistency and reliability. It has a robust factor structure and produces scores that are stable over time. Lower scores indicate lower levels of socioemotional difficulties. An average score in excess of 14 (reflecting the threshold for the top decile of the distribution) could be taken as a non-clinical indication of a child being in a potentially problematic zone at 9 and 13 years. The SDQ is best used to investigate changes over time at the level of the individual child or to examine underlying characteristics and processes associated with high scores.</p>
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF recognises that good mental health is the most important aspect of children and young people's social and cognitive development (pp. 53–54).
Age range	2008 cohort : age 5 years - 9 years 1998 cohort: age 9 years - 17/18 years
Frequency of reporting	Ad hoc
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

Indicator: Percentage with probable mental health problem on the Mental Health Index 5 (MHI-5)	
Source	Healthy Ireland Survey
Information on source	Healthy Ireland is the national framework for action to improve health and well-being of people living in Ireland. The Healthy Ireland Survey (HIS) is an annual face-to-face survey with individuals aged 15 and over, and commenced in 2015. The survey covers a wide variety of health topics. Reports on the HIS can be accessed here: https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/231c02-healthy-ireland-survey-wave/
Information on indicator	The Mental Health Index 5 (MHI-5) is used to collect data on mental health. Respondents indicate the extent to which they have experienced indicators of more negative aspects of mental health such as being 'a very nervous person', feeling 'downhearted and blue', 'worn out', 'tired' and 'so down in the dumps that nothing could cheer you up'. The index comes from the RAND 36-Item Short Form Survey (SF-36), a widely used health-related quality of life survey instrument. Total scores range from 0–100, where lower scores are indicative of greater psychological distress. Respondents with scores falling at or below 56 are categorised as having a 'probable mental health problem' (PMHP).
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that there is a myriad of factors that can impact on a child or young person's mental health, both positively and negatively. Children and young people need support to build and develop protective factors, such as emotional resilience, having a sense of self-esteem, good social networks and participation in community, as well as an ability to address risk factors such as tackling bullying (p. 54).
Age range	15–24 years
Frequency of reporting	Annually
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

23. Coping with school workload/exam stress

Indicator: Percentage who feel pressurised by schoolwork

Source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children
Information on source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) is a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborative cross-national study. It asks children and young people aged 11–17 about their health and well-being, social environments and health behaviours within their social context – home, school, and with family and friends. It is a school-based survey, with data collected through self-completion questionnaires administered by teachers in the classroom every four years. The HBSC Ireland team is based at the Health Promotion Research Centre, National University of Ireland, Galway. The latest Ireland reports are available at http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbhc/ and the international reports are available at www.hbhc.org Data on schoolwork pressure are available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, sex, age, population group, social class, and region. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA07
Information on indicator	Participants are asked: 'How pressured do you feel by the schoolwork you have to do?' Response options are: 'Not at all', 'A little', 'Some' and 'A lot'. Responses were recoded into: 'Yes' (including 'Some' and 'A lot') and 'No' (including 'Not at all' and 'A little') and this indicator captures the proportion coded as 'Yes'.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises the importance of engaging and inspiring children and young people in learning early on, and for schools to instill a love of learning, to achieve good educational outcomes (p. 67).
Age range	11–17 years
Frequency of reporting	Every four years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

Indicator: Exam stress	
Source	Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)
Information on source	The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a project of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) that aims to measure how well students, at age 15, are prepared to meet the challenges they may encounter in future life, including education. PISA takes place every three years and assesses student skills and knowledge in the three domains of reading literacy, mathematics and science. In Ireland, PISA is managed by the Educational Research Centre (ERC) on behalf of the Department of Education. The assessments in schools are administered by external test administrators, comprising inspectors from the Department and representatives of the ERC. National reports and publications are available at http://www.erc.ie/studies/pisa/ and international reports and publications are available at http://www.oecd.org/pisa/aboutpisa/
Information on indicator	This indicator was developed for PISA 2018. Participants were asked: "I feel nervous and stressed when thinking about or doing exams and tests". Those who answered "often" or "always" were categorised as experiencing exam stress.
Relevance to BOBF	Exam stress is not specifically referenced in BOBF, but emerged as a key theme in consultations held with children and young people to help them inform the development of Government policy. Exam stress and heavy study workloads were identified as contributing to sedentary and unhealthy lifestyles.
Age range	15-17 years
Frequency of reporting	Every three years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

Aim 2.3: Engaged in learning

24. School attendance (e.g. absenteeism, suspensions, expulsions)	
Indicator: Percentage of primary school children who are absent from school for 20 days or more in the school year and percentage of student days lost for primary schools (non-attendance)	
Source	Tusla School Attendance Data
Information on source	Each recognised school in the State is obliged to submit an Annual Attendance Report (AAR) to the Educational Welfare Services within Tusla, the Child and Family Agency, on the levels of attendance at the end of each academic year. For more information, see https://www.tusla.ie/services/educational-welfare-services/publications/research-and-statistics/ Data on absenteeism are available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, county, DEIS status, type of school, and school location. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA29 and https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA42
Information on indicator	The number of students who are absent 20 days or more is calculated based on school attendance data collated and analysed by Tusla. Students who are absent for 20 days or more are referred to Educational Welfare Services. The percentage of student days lost is expressed as a percentage of N student/days, the maximum attendance that is possible.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that how children perform at school is a key determinant of their future success: education is a proven route out of poverty and is vital to improving children's life chances (p. 67).
Age range	4-12 years
Frequency of reporting	Annually
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	Yes (percentage of primary school children who are absent from school for 20 days or more in the school year)

Indicator: Percentage of post-primary school children who are absent from school for 20 days or more in the school year and percentage of student days lost for post-primary schools (non-attendance)	
Source	Tusla School Attendance Data
Information on source	Each recognised school in the State is obliged to submit an Annual Attendance Report (AAR) to the Educational Welfare Services within Tusla, the Child and Family Agency, on the levels of attendance at the end of each academic year. For more information, see https://www.tusla.ie/services/educational-welfare-services/publications/research-and-statistics/ Data on absenteeism are available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, county, DEIS status, type of school, and school location. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA31 and https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA29
Information on indicator	The number of students who are absent 20 days or more is calculated based on school attendance data collated and analysed by Tusla. Students who are absent for 20 days or more are referred to Educational Welfare Services. The percentage of student days lost is expressed as a percentage of N student/days, the maximum attendance that is possible.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that how children perform at school is a key determinant of their future success: education is a proven route out of poverty and is vital to improving children's life chances (p. 67).
Age range	12–18 years
Frequency of reporting	Annually
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	Yes (percentage of post-primary school children who are absent from school for 20 days or more in the school year)

25. Quality of education services

Indicator: Average class size in primary schools

Source	Department of Education
Information on source	The Department of Education produces data on average class size on an annual basis. These data are also provided to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) for inclusion in their annual publication <i>Education at a Glance</i> , which covers indicators on the structure, finances and performance of education systems in over 35 OECD countries and a number of partner countries. For more information, see http://www.oecd.org/education/skills-beyond-school/education-at-a-glance-19991487.htm The data published by the Department can be found here https://www.education.ie/en/publications/statistics/key-statistics/
Information on indicator	The figure is calculated by dividing the number of students enrolled in mainstream classes by the number of classes.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that how children perform at school is a key determinant of their future success. The current Programme for Government notes a commitment to 'reduce primary school class size' (Department of the Taoiseach, 2016, p. 87)
Age range	4–12 years
Frequency of reporting	Annually
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

Indicator: Percentage of pre-school services delivering the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme that meet higher capitation criteria	
Source	Pobal
Information on source	<p>For the last 18 years, Pobal, in collaboration with Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, has been publishing a report on the state of the early years sector in Ireland, called the "Annual Early Years Sector Profile Report". The report, based on the survey completed by Early Learning and Care and School Aged Childcare providers in Ireland, provides insights into childcare numbers, fees, staff qualifications and other aspects of early years sector. For more information, see https://www.pobal.ie/research-analysis/early-years/</p> <p>Data on the capitation status of pre-school services are available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, capitation status, and administrative county. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA22</p>
Information on indicator	<p>Pre-school services are contracted by the State to provide the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme on the basis of meeting a number of criteria, including staff qualification.</p> <p>The indicator is calculated as the number of services in receipt of higher capitation as a percentage of the total number of services with an ECCE contract for the academic year. A higher capitation rate is available to pre-school services on a session-by-session basis. This is awarded where the pre-school leader who delivers the ECCE Programme meets the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holds a DCEDIY Early Years Recognised Qualification deemed to meet the contract requirement for ECCE Room Leader (Higher Capitation) • Has three years' paid work experience in the sector. <p>In addition, all pre-school assistants in the service must hold a relevant major award in childcare or early education (minimum Level 5 or equivalent). Services must also ensure that they have enough appropriately qualified staff present for each ECCE session they are submitting for higher capitation.</p>
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that the early foundations for academic achievement are laid by quality care and education access in the early years (p. 68 and p. 70).
Age range	Three to five and a half years
Frequency of reporting	Annually
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	Yes

26. Participation in early childhood care and education services

Indicator: Percentage of 3–5 year-olds participating in formal early care and education services

Source	OECD Education at a Glance
Information on source	<p>The OECD Education at a Glance Indicators provide data on the structure, finances and performance of education systems in over 35 OECD countries and a number of partner countries. For more information, see https://www.oecd.org/education/education-at-a-glance/</p> <p>Country profiles for Ireland and key facts are published by the Department of Education and can be found here: https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation/department-of-education/?referrer=http://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Statistics/International-Statistical-Reports/</p>
Information on indicator	<p>Early childhood education, or pre-primary education, is defined by the OECD as the initial stage of organised instruction, designed primarily to introduce very young children to a school-like environment. Enrolment rates are based on the total number of enrolments as a proportion of the population, regardless of whether students are full time or part time. Figures for specific ages may sum to more than 100% due to rounding and to differences in timing of the enrolment data versus the single year of age population estimates. Data on participation do not encompass any information on the quality of provision. These data cover children in Early Start programmes, ECCE schemes and Community Childcare Subvention programmes. The data refer to State-supported programmes and do not include children who are in early education services that are exclusively funded by their parents/guardians.</p>
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises the value of quality early childhood care and education in supporting children's early cognitive, social and emotional development, capacities that are critical for effective learning, and enable inequalities to be addressed early on to ensure that children are ready for school (p. 66).
Age range	3–5 years

Frequency of reporting	Annually
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

27. School retention

Indicator: Retention rates to Leaving Certificate of pupils in second-level schools

Source	The Department of Education - Retention Rates of Pupils in Second-Level Schools
Information on source	The Department of Education collates and reports on data from school-based returns. Data on retention rates are based on a detailed analysis of the records held in the Department's Post-Primary Pupils Database (P-POD) for the cohort of entrants to the first year of the Junior Cycle in a particular year. For more information, see https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Statistics/retention/
Information on indicator	For a given entry cohort, the rate of retention at second level refers to the percentage of entrants to the Junior Cycle in a given year who completed second level with a Leaving Certificate. Rates are adjusted for emigration and transfer to non-aided second-level schools, but not for transfer to other destinations (e.g. Youthreach). The year refers to year of entry to first year of the Junior Cycle. The 2009 entry cohort refers to pupils who sat their Leaving Certificate in 2015 or 2016. The 2007 entry cohort refers to pupils who sat their Leaving Certificate in 2013 or 2014.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government commits to implement strategies to improve school engagement and reduce incidences of suspensions and expulsions and early school-leaving (p. 69).
Age range	School-leaving age
Frequency of reporting	Annually
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	Yes

28. Experience of transitions

Indicator: Placeholder Type 3 – Experience of transitions

Source	Growing Up in Ireland
Information on source	Growing Up in Ireland is the national longitudinal study of children in Ireland mainly funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and being carried out by a team of researchers at the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and Trinity College Dublin. The study was established in 2006 and follows the progress of two groups of children: 8,000 nine year-olds (child cohort) and 10,000 nine month-olds (infant cohort). For more information, see http://www.esri.ie/growing-up-in-ireland/
Information on indicator	The indicator presents data on the mother's perception of the five year-old's transition to primary school, and on both the mother and child's perception of the 13 year-old's transition to post-primary school. Updated information on the transition to primary-level education is no longer available from the GUI study, as both cohorts have already transitioned to primary school. Information on the transition to second-level education will not be available until after the fieldwork with Cohort '08 at 13 years of age.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF commits to researching and adopting strategies to strengthen transitions through the educational system (into primary, from primary to second level, from second level into higher or further education, employment or, in the case of early school-leavers, to Youthreach), including ensuring coherency of curriculum approach, school connections and promoting in-school practices such as the adoption of peer-to-peer support programmes (p. 71).
Age range	5 years, 13 years
Frequency of reporting	Ad hoc
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

29. School connectedness and enjoyment	
Indicator: Percentage who report liking being in school	
Source	Trends in International Maths and Science Study (TIMSS) and Progress in Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS)
Information on source	Trends in International Maths and Science Study (TIMSS) and Progress in Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) is an international assessment of mathematics and science with fourth class (primary school) and second year (secondary school) students, conducted every four years since 1995. PIRLS is an international study of fourth class pupils' reading literacy, conducted every five years since 2001. Ireland first took part in PIRLS in 2011 and in TIMSS in 1995. PIRLS and TIMSS are projects of the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA), an independent, international cooperative of research institutions and government research agencies. In Ireland, the Educational Research Centre (ERC) manages the implementation of TIMSS on behalf of the Department of Education. For more information, see http://www.erc.ie/studies/timss/ and http://www.erc.ie/studies/pirls/
Information on indicator	Participants indicated the extent to which they liked being in school with the following response options: 'Agree a lot', 'Agree a little', 'Disagree a little', 'Disagree a lot'. This indicator reflects the percentage of participants who agreed 'a lot' or 'a little' that they liked being in school.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises the importance for a child or young person to have a sense of belonging within school and the community, and the fact that schools and youth organisations play an invaluable role in building inclusion, supporting them to feel part of their community and creating stability in their lives (p. 68).
Age range	10 year-olds
Frequency of reporting	TIMSS every four years and PIRLS every five years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No
Indicator: Percentage who agree/strongly agree that they feel like they belong at school	
Source	Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)
Information on source	The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a project of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) that aims to measure how well students, at age 15, are prepared to meet the challenges they may encounter in future life, including education. PISA takes place every three years and assesses student skills and knowledge in the three domains of reading literacy, mathematics and science. In Ireland, PISA is managed by the Educational Research Centre (ERC) on behalf of the Department of Education. The assessments in schools are administered by external test administrators, comprising inspectors from the Department and representatives of the ERC. National reports and publications are available at https://www.erc.ie/pisa/ and international reports and publications are available at http://www.oecd.org/pisa/aboutpisa/
Information on indicator	In PISA, sense of belonging to school is assessed by asking students to indicate their levels of agreement with six statements. A mix of positively worded and negatively worded statements is included. Two statements are selected for inclusion: 'I feel like I belong at school' and 'I feel like an outsider (or left out of things) at school'.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises the importance for a child or young person to have a sense of belonging within school and the community, and the fact that schools, and youth organisations, play an invaluable role in building inclusion, supporting them to feel part of their community and creating stability in their lives (p. 68).
Age range	15 year-olds
Frequency of reporting	Every three years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

Indicator: Percentage of 15 year-olds who feel like an outsider at school	
Source	Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)
Information on source	The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a project of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) that aims to measure how well students, at age 15, are prepared to meet the challenges they may encounter in future life, including education. PISA takes place every three years and assesses student skills and knowledge in the three domains of reading literacy, mathematics and science. In Ireland, PISA is managed by the Educational Research Centre (ERC) on behalf of the Department of Education. The assessments in schools are administered by external test administrators, comprising inspectors from the Department and representatives of the ERC. National reports and publications are available at https://www.erc.ie/pisa/ ; international reports and publications are available at http://www.oecd.org/pisa/aboutpisa/
Information on indicator	In PISA, sense of belonging to school is assessed by asking students to indicate their levels of agreement with six statements. A mix of positively worded and negatively worded statements is included. Two statements are selected for inclusion: 'I feel like I belong at school' and 'I feel like an outsider (or left out of things) at school'.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises the importance for a child or young person to have a sense of belonging within school and the community, and the fact that schools, and youth organisations, play an invaluable role in building inclusion, supporting them to feel part of their community and creating stability in their lives (p. 68).
Age range	15 year-olds
Frequency of reporting	Every three years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

Aim 2.4: Achieving in education

30. Academic achievement in English literacy

Indicator: Percentage of second class and sixth class students performing at English Literacy Level 3 or above in the National Assessments of English Reading and Mathematics

Source	National Assessments of English Reading and Mathematics
Information on source	The National Assessments of English Reading and Mathematics are conducted by the Educational Research Centre (ERC) and administered by class teachers to representative samples of over 8,000 pupils in second and sixth classes in 150 primary schools. The assessments are implemented in schools, under the supervision of inspectors of the Department of Education. Reports can be found here: http://www.erc.ie/studies/namer
Information on indicator	<p>For each class assessed (i.e. second class and sixth class), children are assigned to reading proficiency levels (below 1; 1; 2; 3 and 4). The National Strategy to Improve Literacy and Numeracy³² sets a target of increasing the percentage of primary children performing at Levels 3–4 by at least 10 percentage points for both second and sixth classes between 2011 and 2020. This indicator provides feedback on the progress that has been achieved in reaching this target. The year 2009 was the first national assessment in the current series. The percentages at each level were set at both grade levels (second and sixth); these were 35% at or above Level 3. In subsequent years, these percentages vary, based on how pupils performed, as the cut-off points are the same from assessment to assessment. For each domain at each grade level, the same underlying scale is used (performance in 2014 was projected onto the 2009 scale using item response theory (IRT) modelling).</p> <p>No new data has been made available since 2014 as the ninth NAMER, which had been due to take place in 2020, was postponed to May 2021 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that developing good literacy and numeracy skills, including digital literacy skills, among all children and young people is fundamental to the life chances of each individual and essential to the quality and equity of society. Improving literacy and numeracy standards is an urgent national priority (p. 68).

Age range	7-9 years and 11-13 years
Frequency of reporting	Every five years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

Indicator: The mean scores of 15 year-old students on the OECD-PISA Reading Literacy Scale

Source	Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)
Information on source	<p>The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a project of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) that aims to measure how well students, at age 15, are prepared to meet the challenges they may encounter in future life, including education. PISA takes place every three years and assesses student skills and knowledge in the three domains of reading literacy, mathematics and science. In Ireland, PISA is managed by the Educational Research Centre (ERC) on behalf of the Department of Education. The assessments in schools are administered by external test administrators, comprising inspectors from the Department and representatives of the ERC. National reports and publications are available at http://www.erc.ie/pisa/ and international reports and publications are available at http://www.oecd.org/pisa/aboutpisa/</p> <p>Data on PISA Survey scores are available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, sex, social class, and immigrant status. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA32</p>
Information on indicator	<p>Rather than assessing mastery of curricular content, PISA assesses 'real-life literacy' skills. This entails the assessment of knowledge and skills that students may need for effective participation in society. Students are required to exhibit competence in locating information, understanding (representing literal meaning and generating inferences), and to evaluate and reflect on texts, including an assessment of quality and credibility, and detecting and handling conflict. Student performance in PISA is reported in terms of statistics such as mean scores and measures of distributions of achievement, which allow for comparisons against other countries and subgroups. Please note: the OECD averages for 2012, 2015 and 2018 were 496, 493 and 487, respectively.</p>
Relevance to BOBF	<p>BOBF notes that the Government recognises that developing good literacy and numeracy skills, including digital literacy skills, among all children and young people is fundamental to the life chances of each individual and essential to the quality and equity of society. Improving literacy and numeracy standards is an urgent national priority (p. 68).</p>
Age range	15 year-olds
Frequency of reporting	Every three years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	Yes

31. Academic achievement in maths and science
Indicator: The percentage of second class and sixth class students performing at Maths Level 3 or above in the National Assessments of English Reading and Mathematics

Source	National Assessments of English Reading and Mathematics
Information on source	<p>The National Assessments of English Reading and Mathematics are conducted by the Educational Research Centre (ERC) and administered by class teachers to representative samples of over 8,000 pupils in second and sixth classes in 150 primary schools. The assessments are implemented in schools, under the supervision of inspectors of the Department of Education. Reports can be found here: http://www.erc.ie/studies/namer</p>

Information on indicator	<p>For each class assessed (i.e. second class and sixth class), children are assigned to mathematic proficiency levels (below 1; 1; 2; 3 and 4). The National Strategy to Improve Literacy and Numeracy³³ sets a target of increasing the percentage of primary children performing at Levels 3–4 by at least 10 percentage points at both second and sixth classes between 2011 and 2020. The indicator provides feedback on the progress that has been achieved in reaching this target. 2009 was the first national assessment in the current series. The percentages at each level were set at both grade levels (second and sixth); these were 35% at or above Level 3. In subsequent years, these percentages vary, based on how pupils performed, as the cut-off points are the same from assessment to assessment. For each domain at each grade level, the same underlying scale is used (performance in 2014 was projected onto the 2009 scale using item response theory (IRT) modelling).</p> <p>No new data has been made available since 2014 as the ninth NAMER, which had been due to take place in 2020, was postponed to May 2021 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that developing good literacy and numeracy skills, including digital literacy skills, among all children and young people is fundamental to the life chances of each individual and essential to the quality and equity of society. Improving literacy and numeracy standards is an urgent national priority (p. 68).
Age range	7–9 years and 11–13 years
Frequency of reporting	Every five years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No
Indicator: The mean scores of 15 year-old students on the OECD-PISA Mathematics Literacy Scale	
Source	Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)
Information on source	<p>The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a project of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) that aims to measure how well students, at age 15, are prepared to meet the challenges they may encounter in future life, including education. PISA takes place every three years and assesses student skills and knowledge in the three domains of reading literacy, mathematics and science. In Ireland, PISA is managed by the Educational Research Centre (ERC) on behalf of the Department of Education. The assessments in schools are administered by external test administrators, comprising inspectors from the Department and representatives of the ERC. National reports and publications are available at http://www.erc.ie/pisa/ and international reports and publications are available at http://www.oecd.org/pisa/aboutpisa/</p> <p>Data on PISA Survey scores are available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, sex, social class, and immigrant status. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA32</p>
Information on indicator	The PISA mathematical literacy scale assesses the capacities of students to analyse, reason and communicate ideas effectively as they pose, formulate, solve and interpret mathematical problems in a variety of situations. Student performance in PISA is reported in terms of statistics such as mean scores and measures of distributions of achievement, which allow for comparisons against other countries and subgroups. Please note: the OECD averages for 2012, 2015 and 2018 were 494, 490 and 489, respectively.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that developing good literacy and numeracy skills, including digital literacy skills, among all children and young people is fundamental to the life chances of each individual and essential to the quality and equity of society. Improving literacy and numeracy standards is an urgent national priority (p. 68).
Age range	15 years old
Frequency of reporting	Every three years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	Yes

Indicator: The mean scores of students on the OECD–PISA Scientific Literacy Scale	
Source	Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)
Information on source	<p>The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a project of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) that aims to measure how well students, at age 15, are prepared to meet the challenges they may encounter in future life, including education. PISA takes place every three years and assesses student skills and knowledge in the three domains of reading literacy, mathematics and science. In Ireland, PISA is managed by the Educational Research Centre (ERC) on behalf of the Department of Education. The assessments in schools are administered by external test administrators, comprising inspectors from the Department and representatives of the ERC. National reports and publications are available at http://www.erc.ie/studies/pisa/ and international reports and publications are available at http://www.oecd.org/pisa/aboutpisa/</p> <p>Data on PISA Survey scores are available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, sex, social class, and immigrant status. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA32</p>
Information on indicator	<p>The PISA scientific literacy assessment items required students to explain phenomena scientifically, evaluate and design scientific enquiry, and to interpret data and evidence scientifically. Student performance in PISA is reported in terms of statistics such as mean scores and measures of distributions of achievement, which allow for comparisons against other countries and subgroups. Please note: the OECD averages for 2012, 2015 and 2018 were 501, 493 and 489, respectively.</p>
Relevance to BOBF	<p>BOBF notes that the Government recognises that developing good literacy and numeracy skills, including digital literacy skills, among all children and young people is fundamental to the life chances of each individual and essential to the quality and equity of society. Improving literacy and numeracy standards is an urgent national priority (p. 68).</p>
Age range	15 years
Frequency of reporting	Every three years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	Yes

32. Inequality in academic attainment

Indicator: Placeholder Type 2 – Percentage of students enrolled in DEIS and non-DEIS schools progressing to third-level education

Source	Department of Education Statistical Reports
Information on source	<p>The original source of data for this indicator (as presented in the first publication of the BOBF indicator report) was the School Completers – What Next? report by the Department of Education, which tracked school-leavers a year after they leave school. The data source has been changed to a more frequently available data source, as reported in the Department of Education Indicators for Ireland reports. For more information, see https://www.education.ie/en/publications/statistics/key-statistics/</p>
Information on indicator	<p>The transition rate from post-primary to higher education in a given year is a measure of the percentage of pupils from the previous five academic years who ultimately entered higher education in that year.</p> <p>The transition rate from post-primary to further education and training in a given year is a measure of the percentage of pupils from the previous five academic years who ultimately entered further education and training in that year.</p>
Relevance to BOBF	<p>BOBF notes that the Government recognises the importance of supporting young people on low incomes to access and remain in third-level education (p. 92).</p>
Age range	School-leaving age
Frequency of reporting	Ad hoc
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

Indicator: Placeholder Type 2 – Non-progression rates of new entrants to third level	
Source	A Study of Progression in Irish Higher Education
Information on source	The Higher Education Authority examines successful participation and progression in Irish higher education institutions through reports called A Study on Progression in Higher Education. These reports outline the findings of an analysis of a cohort of full-time first-year undergraduate new entrants from 1 March of one year to 1 March of the next year in their enrolled institution. The main analysis of the report draws from data returned by HEA-funded institutions to the Student Record System (SRS) and examines the issue of non-progression across a range of fields of study, National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) levels (6-8), and institutions.
Information on indicator	The indicator presents the percentage of all full-time first-year undergraduate cohort new entrants who were not enrolled the following year. Students who repeated a year, or who changed course or programme type within their original institution, were identifiable and are grouped with those deemed to be still present. For the purposes of the report, only student data pertaining to full-time undergraduates (NFQ levels 6–8) were analysed. Data refer to non-progression rates among full-time new entrants to HEA-funded institutions only.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises the importance of supporting young people on low incomes to access and remain in third-level education (p. 92).
Age range	0–24 years
Frequency of reporting	Annually
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm

Aim 3.1: Secure, stable, caring home environment

33. Households where parental drug abuse or harmful alcohol use occurs	
Indicator: Parental drug abuse or harmful alcohol use	
Source	National Drug Treatment Reporting System
Information on source	The NDTRS is the national epidemiological surveillance database that records and reports on treated problem drug and alcohol use in Ireland. Established in 1990, the NDTRS is maintained by the National Health Information Systems (NHIS) of the Health Research Board (HRB) on behalf of the Department of Health. For more information, see: https://www.hrb.ie/data-collections-evidence/alcohol-and-drug-treatment/
Information on indicator	<p>This indicator reports on the number of children aged under 18 that has a parent enter treatment that year for (i) problem drug use and (ii) problem alcohol use.</p> <p>Treatment for problem alcohol and drug use in Ireland is provided by statutory and non-statutory services, including residential centres, community-based addiction services, general practices and prison services. For the purpose of the NDTRS, treatment is broadly defined as 'any activity which aims to ameliorate the psychological, medical or social state of individuals who seek help for their substance misuse problems'. Clients who attend needle-exchange services are not included in this reporting system. Drug and alcohol treatment options include one or more of the following: medication (detoxification, methadone reduction, substitution programmes and psychiatric treatment), brief intervention, counselling, group therapy, family therapy, psychotherapy, complementary therapy, and/or life-skills training.</p> <p>For each NDTRS case, the total number of children is recorded along with a breakdown of the child's age categories and living circumstances. Each case refers to an episode of treatment received by a parent with at least one child under the age of 18, not an individual parent. Because of this, it is possible that the same parent will appear more than once in the database (for example where a parent receives treatment at more than one centre or at the same centre more than once in a calendar year), and therefore some children may be counted more than once. It is also important to note that that parent cases are excluded from the analysis where either the number or age of the child is unknown.</p>
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises the importance of supporting parents to provide a safe and secure, stable and caring home environment for their children (p. 77).
Age range	0-17 years
Frequency of reporting	Annually
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No
34. Households where domestic violence occurs	
Indicator: Placeholder Type 2 – Number of children who receive direct support and/or accommodation from a domestic violence service each year	
Source	SAFE Ireland
Information on source	SAFE Ireland is a national social change agency working on domestic violence in Ireland, and works in close collaboration with 40 frontline domestic violence services across communities in Ireland. SAFE Ireland collates administrative data on domestic violence service statistics annually. For more information, see the Domestic Abuse Services National Statistics at https://www.safeireland.ie/policy-publications/

Information on indicator	SAFE Ireland collates administrative data on the number of children receiving direct support and/or accommodation from domestic violence service statistics annually. Data are based on administrative data compiled by SAFE Ireland. An Garda Síochána is currently working to improve the quality of data collected on domestic violence. It is anticipated that Tusla, the statutory body with responsibility for domestic, sexual and gender-based violence services, will have data on this later in 2017.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises the importance of supporting parents to provide a safe and secure, stable and caring home environment for their children (p. 77). It also commits to introducing consolidated and reformed domestic violence legislation to address all aspects of domestic violence, threatened violence and intimidation, in a manner that provides protection to victims (p. 81).
Age range	0–18 year-olds
Frequency of reporting	Annually
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

35. Access to parent and family support services

Indicator: Number of children and families in receipt of family support services

Source	Tusla, the Child and Family Agency
Information on source	Tusla, the Child and Family Agency is the dedicated State agency responsible for improving well-being and outcomes for children. Tusla produces quarterly integrated performance and activity reports providing updates on Tusla services. These reports are structured around key performance and activity measures included in its annual Business Plan. It also produces an annual report on the adequacy of its child care and family support services. For more information and links to the reports, visit the Tusla Performance and Activity Reporting Site at https://www.tusla.ie/data-figures/2021-performance-data/
Information on indicator	<p>Until 2017, Tusla recorded the number of both children and families in receipt of family support services. Family support is a style of work and a wide range of activities that strengthens positive informal social networks through community-based programmes and services. The main focus of these services is on early intervention, with the aim to promote and protect the health, well-being and rights of all children, young people and their families. At the same time, particular attention is given to those who are vulnerable or at risk.</p> <p>Since 2017, Tusla is no longer reporting on the number of families in receipt of family support services, but continues to report on the number of children in receipt of these services.</p>
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises the importance of supporting parents to provide a safe and secure, stable and caring home environment for their children (p. 77). Data are estimates and not strictly comparable across time points. Please refer to data source. Family support is a style of work and a wide range of activities that strengthens positive informal social networks through community-based programmes and services. The main focus of these services is on early intervention, with the aim to promote and protect the health, well-being and rights of all children, young people and their families. At the same time, particular attention is given to those who are vulnerable or at risk.
Age range	N/A
Frequency of reporting	Monthly
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

Aim 3.2: Safe from abuse, neglect and exploitation

36. Abuse	
Indicator: Total number of children at the end of the reporting period currently listed as ACTIVE (i.e. at ongoing risk of significant harm) on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)	
Source	Tusla, the Child and Family Agency
Information on source	Tusla, the Child and Family Agency is the dedicated State agency responsible for improving well-being and outcomes for children. Tusla produces quarterly integrated performance and activity reports providing updates on Tusla services. These reports are structured around key performance and activity measures included in its annual Business Plan. It also produces an annual report on the adequacy of its child care and family support services. For more information and links to the reports, visit the Tusla Performance and Activity Reporting Site at https://www.tusla.ie/data-figures/2021-performance-data/
Information on indicator	The Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) records the number of children who are the subject of a child protection plan, agreed at a child protection conference.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that all forms of neglect, abuse, exploitation of or violence towards a child are unacceptable, and that the State has a duty to act to protect and support the child (p. 78).
Age range	0–17 years
Frequency of reporting	Quarterly
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

37. Access to relevant services in suspected cases of abuse	
Indicator: (i) Number of open cases and (ii) percentage of open cases of children awaiting the allocation of a social worker	
Source	Tusla, the Child and Family Agency
Information on source	Tusla, the Child and Family Agency is the dedicated State agency responsible for improving well-being and outcomes for children. Tusla produces quarterly integrated performance and activity reports providing updates on Tusla services. These reports are structured around key performance and activity measures included in its annual Business Plan. It also produces an annual report on the adequacy of its child care and family support services. For more information and links to the reports, see http://www.tusla.ie/publications
Information on indicator	The number of open cases refers to instances where Tusla has identified an individual child as being in need of a social work service. Tusla also reports on the percentage of open cases allocated and awaiting allocation to a social worker.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that all forms of neglect, abuse, exploitation of or violence towards a child are unacceptable, and that the State has a duty to act to protect and support the child (p. 78).
Age range	0–17 years
Frequency of reporting	Quarterly
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

38. Health and well-being of children and young people in care and aftercare	
Indicator: Percentage of young people in receipt of aftercare in full-time education	
Source	Tusla, the Child and Family Agency
Information on source	Tusla, the Child and Family Agency is the dedicated State agency responsible for improving well-being and outcomes for children. Tusla produces quarterly integrated performance and activity reports providing updates on Tusla services. These reports are structured around key performance and activity measures included in its annual Business Plan. It also produces an annual report on the adequacy of its child care and family support services. For more information and links to the reports, see http://www.tusla.ie/publications
Information on indicator	All young people who have had a care history with the agency are entitled to an aftercare support. The amount provided is based on assessment of need, age and length of time the young person was in care. Data reported include all those who availed of support for full-time education up to and including 22 years of age. Data on those in training are not yet collected. The wording of this metric prior to 2015 may have resulted in persons aged 23 also being included in some instances; thus, data may not be strictly comparable across years. Tusla currently reports data on those in education, but not those in training.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government commits to ensure that all young people leaving care, detention or residential disability settings are adequately prepared, and supported to negotiate the system and transition to stable independent living, further education, training or employment (p. 94).
Age range	18–22 years
Frequency of reporting	Quarterly
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No
Indicator: Percentage of children in care on their third or more care placement within 12 months	
Source	Tusla, the Child and Family Agency
Information on source	Tusla, the Child and Family Agency is the dedicated State agency responsible for improving well-being and outcomes for children. Tusla produces quarterly integrated performance and activity reports providing updates on Tusla services. These reports are structured around key performance and activity measures included in its annual Business Plan. It also produces an annual report on the adequacy of its child care and family support services. For more information and links to the reports, see http://www.tusla.ie/publications
Information on indicator	The number of children in care in their third or more placement within the previous 12 months is used as a proxy for placement stability. In 2016, of all children in foster care, 27% were in relative foster care and 66% were in general foster care.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that continuity and stability in family relationships strongly contribute to an individual's well-being and social stability, and are especially powerful for children (p. 77).
Age range	0–18 years
Frequency of reporting	Annually
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

Indicator: Percentage of children in care in (i) foster care; (ii) residential care, and (iii) other	
Source	Tusla, the Child and Family Agency
Information on source	<p>Tusla, the Child and Family Agency, is the dedicated State agency responsible for improving well-being and outcomes for children.</p> <p>Tusla produces Review of Adequacy reports on an annual basis, which present data and information on Tusla's child protection and welfare services, children in the care of Tusla, and children referred to family and community support services. It is submitted in fulfilment of the requirement for an annual report on the adequacy of child care and family support services available (Section 8 Child Care Act 1991). The data in the report are drawn from the activity and performance metric data collated on a routine basis by the Agency. For more information, visit https://www.tusla.ie/publications/review-of-adequacy-reports/</p> <p>Data on children in the care of Tusla are available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, sex, age group, type of placement, and Tusla region and area. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA20</p>
Information on indicator	Foster care is the primary source of alternative care in Ireland, with the vast majority of children in the care of the state living with foster carers. Children and young people who cannot remain within their own family setting and for whom foster care is not suitable or has irretrievably broken down are placed in residential care. Residential care can be provided by a statutory, voluntary or private provider. A very small number are placed in "other" settings including supported lodgings, disability units, drug/alcohol rehabilitation centres, detention centres, or at home under a care order.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that the majority of children in care are in stable, caring placements with caring foster families or in residential homes.
Age range	0-17
Frequency of reporting	Annually
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	Yes

Aim 3.3: Protected from bullying and discrimination

39. Experience of discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, age, civil/family status, sexual orientation, membership of the Traveller community, religion, or disability status

Indicator: Placeholder Type 3 – Percentage of 18–24 year-olds who experienced discrimination

Source	Central Statistics Office – Quarterly National Household Survey/Labour Force Survey Special Module on Equality
Information on source	<p>A questionnaire on equality was included in the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) in the three months from July to September 2014 (Quarter 3). The questionnaire referred to discrimination experienced in the two years previous to that time. An equality module was also included on the QNHS in the fourth quarter of 2010 and 2004. However, it should be noted that in 2009 the QNHS moved from seasonal to calendar quarters. Therefore, the 2004 survey was conducted from September to November.</p> <p>The Labour Force Survey (LFS) has replaced the QNHS since the last special module on equality in 2014, so all surveys previously carried out as modules of the QNHS are now carried out for the most part in the General Household Survey (GHS). This change has affected sample size. For more information, see https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/ed/equalityanddiscrimination2019/ and https://data.cso.ie/table/EQQ03</p>

Information on indicator	<p>The special module on equality included in the QNHS/LFS asked about respondents' experience of discrimination in the previous two years, based on the nine grounds defined in Irish equality legislation. The term discrimination refers to this legal definition only. The 2010 data refer to the fourth quarter, the 2014 data refer to the third quarter, and the 2019 data refer to the first quarter.</p> <p>The 2019 survey included an additional category of discrimination: discrimination experienced 'In contact with An Garda Síochána'. However, the figure shown in this report (22%) excludes the category of discrimination experienced in contact with An Garda Síochána.</p>
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that all forms of bullying and discrimination are unacceptable and must be challenged in schools, youth organisations, communities, at work or online, and the State has a duty to ensure that its laws, policies and practices do not discriminate (p. 79).
Age range	18–24 years
Frequency of reporting	Ad-hoc module – conducted in 2004, 2010, 2014 and 2019
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No
Indicator: Percentage of 0–17 year-olds who experienced discrimination	
Source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children
Information on source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) is a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborative cross-national study. It asks children and young people aged 11–17 about their health and well-being, social environments and health behaviours within their social context – home, school, and with family and friends. It is a school-based survey, with data collected through self-completion questionnaires administered by teachers in the classroom every four years. The HBSC Ireland team is based at the Health Promotion Research Centre, National University of Ireland, Galway. The latest Ireland reports are available at http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc/ and the international reports are available at www.hbsc.org
Information on indicator	<p>Participants are asked the question: "How often have you been treated unfairly or negatively (i) because of where you, your parents or grandparents were born?; (ii) because you are a boy or girl; (iii) because of your age; (iv) because of your disability; (v) because of your race; (vi) because of your sexual orientation; (vii) because of your religion; (viii) because you are a member of the Traveller community; (ix) because of some other reason". Response options are "Never"; "Hardly ever"; "Sometimes"; "Often"; and "Very often". Those who answered "Sometimes"; "Often"; and "Very often" were categorised as experiencing discrimination.</p> <p>These questions were asked for the first time in 2018.</p>
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that all forms of bullying and discrimination are unacceptable and must be challenged in schools, youth organisations, communities, at work or online, and the State has a duty to ensure that its laws, policies and practices do not discriminate (p. 79).
Age range	12–17 years
Frequency of reporting	Every four years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

40. Experience of being bullied

Indicator: Percentage of 11-17 year-olds who reported being bullied in school in the past couple of months

Source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children
Information on source	<p>Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) is a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborative cross-national study. It asks children and young people aged 11-17 about their health and well-being, social environments and health behaviours within their social context - home, school, and with family and friends. It is a school-based survey, with data collected through self-completion questionnaires administered by teachers in the classroom every four years. The HBSC Ireland team is based at the Health Promotion Research Centre, National University of Ireland, Galway. The latest Ireland reports are available at http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc/ and the international reports are available at www.hbsc.org</p> <p>Data on bullying are available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, sex, age, population group, social class, and region. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA07</p>
Information on indicator	Participants are asked the question: 'How often have you been bullied at school in the past couple of months?' Responses options are: 'I have not been bullied at school in the past couple of months', 'It has only happened once or twice', 'Two or three times a month', 'About once a week' and 'Several times a week'. Responses were recoded into: 'No' and 'Yes'.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that bullying is a behavioural problem that affects the lives of thousands of school children and their families. The humiliation, fear, frustration, social isolation and loss of self-esteem which children experience when bullied results in absenteeism from school, poor or deteriorating schoolwork, personality changes, illness, depression and sometimes suicide (p. 79).
Age range	11-17 years
Frequency of reporting	Every four years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	Yes

41. Experience of bullying others

Indicator: Percentage of 11-17 year-olds who report bullying others in school in the past couple of months

Source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children
Information on source	<p>Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) is a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborative cross-national study. It asks children and young people aged 11-17 about their health and well-being, social environments and health behaviours within their social context - home, school, and with family and friends. It is a school-based survey, with data collected through self-completion questionnaires administered by teachers in the classroom every four years. The HBSC Ireland team is based at the Health Promotion Research Centre, National University of Ireland, Galway. The latest Ireland reports are available at http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc/ and the international reports are available at www.hbsc.org</p> <p>Data on bullying are available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, sex, age, population group, social class, and region. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA07</p>
Information on indicator	Participants are asked the question: 'How often have you taken part in bullying another student(s) at school in the past couple of months?' Response options are: 'I have not bullied another student(s) at school in the past couple of months', 'It has only happened once or twice', 'Two or three times a month', 'About once a week' and 'Several times a week'. Responses were recoded into: 'No' and 'Yes'.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises the need to support children and young people perpetrating bullying behaviour and to understand the impact of their behaviour and change their ways (p. 79).
Age range	11-17 years
Frequency of reporting	Every four years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

Aim 3.4: Safe from crime and antisocial behaviour

42. Crimes committed on children and young people	
Indicator: Placeholder Type 3 – Households with children aged 24 and under classified by whether they experienced crime	
Source	Central Statistics Office – Crime and Victimization survey
Information on source	<p>The Crime and Victimization Survey is a household survey about crime in Ireland. The purpose of the Crime and Victimization survey is to provide an alternative, but complementary, measure of crime to crime incidents recorded by An Garda Síochána, as well as to measure people’s perceptions about and reactions to crime. The survey is also conducted by national statistical institutes across Europe and data are centrally processed by Eurostat.</p> <p>Until 2019, the survey was conducted as part of the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS), a quarterly survey of 26,000 households conducted by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) in Ireland. However, the 2019 version of the Crime and Victimization survey was part of the Health and Crime Survey, conducted via the General Household Survey (GHS) during 2019. For more information, see https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/crimeandjustice/crimeandvictimisation/</p>
Information on indicator	The Crime and Victimization module included in the QNHS asked respondents about their experiences with a range of crimes in the previous 12 months, including theft of vehicles and bicycles. However, 2019 version of the Crime and Victimization survey only asked households whether they had been a victim of a burglary or vandalism (including attempted burglary or vandalism) in the past 12 months. Therefore, survey results from 2019 are not strictly comparable with those before 2019.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that children and young people should feel safe within their community and be protected and diverted from being drawn into antisocial and criminal activity (p. 79).
Age range	N/A
Frequency of reporting	Ad hoc
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No
43. Levels of offending by children and young people	
Indicator: Number of individual children referred to the Garda Youth Diversion Programme	
Source	Irish Youth Justice Service
Information on source	<p>The Irish Youth Justice Service (IYJS) is responsible for leading and driving reform in the youth justice area. It collects and publishes data on Garda Youth Diversion Projects, Young Person’s Probation, Anti-Social Behaviour Orders, juvenile crime, and children in detention. For more information, see http://iyjs.ie/en/IYJS/Pages/Publications</p> <p>Data on referrals to the Garda Diversion Programme are available on the CSO’s PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, sex, age, type of offence, outcome, and Garda region and division. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA13</p>
Information on indicator	When a child (under 18 years of age) is responsible for a crime, they are either prosecuted or referred to the Garda Youth Diversion Programme. Following referral, children are assessed by a Juvenile Liaison Officer (JLO) and a decision is made as to whether they receive an informal caution, a formal caution, a restorative caution, no further action, or are deemed unsuitable for the diversion programme. This indicator on the number referred to the programme provides the best estimate of offending by children.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises the success of Garda Youth Diversion Projects in diverting ‘at risk’ young people from crime and a criminal record and re-engaging them with a belief in their own potential (p. 80).
Age range	Under 18 years of age
Frequency of reporting	Annually
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	Yes

Indicator: (i) Number in juvenile detention and (ii) number on Young Persons Probation	
Source	The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) and The Probation Service
Information on source	<p>The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) has responsibility for leading and driving reform in the area of youth justice. The Department aims to improve the delivery of youth justice services and reduce youth offending. This challenge is met by focusing on diversion and rehabilitation involving greater use of community-based interventions and the promotion of initiatives to deal with young people who offend. Providing a safe and secure environment for detained children and supporting their early reintegration back into the community is also a key function.</p> <p>Political responsibility for the Prison System in Ireland is vested in the Minister for Justice and Equality. The Irish Prison Service operates as an executive agency within the Department of Justice and Equality. The Irish Prison Service is committed to providing safe and secure custody, dignity of care and rehabilitation to prisoners for safer communities.</p> <p>The Probation Service is an agency within the Department of Justice and Equality. It plays an important role in helping to reduce the level of crime and to increase public safety by working with offenders to help change their behaviour and make good the harm done by crime. It is the lead agency in the assessment and management of offenders in the community.</p>
Information on indicator	<p>(ii) This indicator includes the number of young people committed following a remand period and the number of young people remanded not followed by a committal order in a given year. Individuals may be counted more than once. In April 2017, with the amalgamation of the Oberstown Children Detention Campus, St. Patrick's Institution (an Irish penal facility for 16- to 21-year-old males) was decommissioned. Since then, all children/young people under the age of 18 years are now detained in Oberstown Children Detention Campus, and no children/young people have been in the Irish Prison Service.</p> <p>This indicator conveys the number of young people who have committed an offence and are in receipt of Young Person's Probation services.</p>
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government commits to complete the reforms of the Children Detention Schools, monitoring outcomes for children in and post-detention, and ensuring that a robust independent inspection, complaints and investigation system operates within the Children Detention Schools (p. 82).
Age range	10-17 years
Frequency of reporting	Annually
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

Outcome 4: Economic security and opportunity

Aim 4.1: Protected from poverty and social exclusion

44. Consistent poverty rate	
Indicator: Children and young people in consistent poverty (i.e. a combined income and deprivation measure)	
Source	Central Statistics Office – Survey on Income and Living Conditions
Information on source	The Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) is a household survey conducted by the Central Statistics Office (CSO). It covers a broad range of issues in relation to income and living conditions. It is the official source of data on household and individual income and provides a number of key national poverty indicators. For more information, see http://www.cso.ie/en/silc/
Information on indicator	<p>This is a measure of poverty that takes account of the household's living standards as well as the household size, composition and total income. Persons are regarded as being in consistent poverty if their income is below 60% of the median income (i.e. at-risk-of-poverty) and they are deprived of at least 2 out of the 11 items on the basic deprivation list because they could not afford them (i.e. not by choice).</p> <p>Due to methodological changes in 2021, the 2020 SILC data cannot be compared to previous years. For more information, see https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-silc/surveyonincomeandlivingconditionssilc2020/backgroundnotes/</p>
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that poverty, substandard housing and social exclusion have a significant impact on a person's life outcomes, and efforts must be made to reduce the arising inequalities (p. 87). It commits to set a national child-specific social target to lift over 70,000 children out of consistent poverty by 2020 – a reduction of at least two-thirds of the 2011 level (p. 93).
Age range	0–17 years (children) 15–24 years (young people)
Frequency of reporting	Annually
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	Yes
45. Deprivation	
Indicator: Children and young people experiencing deprivation	
Source	Central Statistics Office – Survey on Income and Living Conditions
Information on source	The Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) is a household survey conducted by the Central Statistics Office (CSO). It covers a broad range of issues in relation to income and living conditions. It is the official source of data on household and individual income and provides a number of key national poverty indicators. For more information, see http://www.cso.ie/en/silc/
Information on indicator	<p>People are regarded as experiencing basic deprivation if they live in a household deprived of 2 or more of the 11 basic deprivation items because they could not afford them (i.e. not by choice).</p> <p>Due to methodological changes in 2021, the 2020 SILC data cannot be compared to previous years. For more information, see https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-silc/surveyonincomeandlivingconditionssilc2020/backgroundnotes/</p>
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that poverty, substandard housing and social exclusion have a significant impact on a person's life outcomes, and efforts must be made to reduce the arising inequalities (p. 87).
Age range	0–17 years (children) 15–24 years (young people)
Frequency of reporting	Annually
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

46. Children and young people in jobless households

Indicator: Percentage of children living in jobless households i.e. where no member of the household is working

Source	Central Statistics Office – Labour Force Survey/Quarterly National Household Survey
Information on source	The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a quarterly survey of 26,000 households conducted by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) in Ireland. The survey is also conducted by national statistical institutes across Europe and data are centrally processed by Eurostat. It is designed to produce quarterly labour force estimates that include measures of employment and unemployment. Special modules on different social topics are also conducted each quarter. The LFS replaced the QNHS in Ireland in January 2017. For more information, see http://www.cso.ie/en/methods/labourmarket/labourforcesurvey/aboutthelabourforcesurvey/ and http://www.cso.ie/en/qnhs/
Information on indicator	The indicator is calculated as the percentage of persons aged 0-17 who are living in households where no one is in employment. This includes joblessness due to illness, disability or low work intensity.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that poverty, substandard housing and social exclusion have a significant impact on a person's life outcomes, and efforts must be made to reduce the arising inequalities (p. 87).
Age range	0-17 years
Frequency of reporting	Annually
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

47. Indicator area: Impact of social welfare transfers on poverty

Indicator: The impact of social transfers in reducing the at-risk-of-poverty rate in percentage terms (excluding pensions)

Source	Central Statistics Office – Survey on Income and Living Conditions
Information on source	The Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) is a household survey conducted by the Central Statistics Office (CSO). It covers a broad range of issues in relation to income and living conditions. It is the official source of data on household and individual income and provides a number of key national poverty indicators. For more information, see http://www.cso.ie/en/silc/
Information on indicator	The impact of social transfers within income is measured by the percentage reduction, in relative terms, in the at-risk-of-poverty rate as a result of social transfers (excluding occupational pensions). This indicates the poverty reduction effect of social transfers. Social transfers include unemployment and old-age benefit, children or family-related allowances, housing allowances and other social transfers such as sickness or disability benefits.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that poverty, substandard housing and social exclusion have a significant impact on a person's life outcomes, and efforts must be made to reduce the arising inequalities (p. 87).
Age range	0-17 years
Frequency of reporting	Annually
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

Aim 4.2: Living in child/youth-friendly sustainable communities

48. Homelessness	
Indicator: Number of children in families in emergency accommodation	
Source	Pathway Accommodation and Support System (PASS)
Information on source	The Pathway Accommodation and Support System (PASS) is an online system that generates official homelessness data. It captures details of individuals in State-funded emergency accommodation and arrangements overseen by local authorities. It does not include data on individuals in domestic violence refuges or direct provision. As it refers to children in families, it does not include children living out of the family home. The system provides 'real-time' information on homeless presentation and bed occupancy. For more information, see http://www.housing.gov.ie/housing/homelessness/other/homelessness-data
Information on indicator	The data produced capture details of children in families in State-funded emergency accommodation – arrangements that are overseen by local authorities. It does not include data on individuals in domestic violence refuges or direct provision. As it refers to children in families, it does not include children living out of the family home. Data, which refer to December of each year, also refer to numbers in emergency accommodation.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises the lifelong negative consequences for a child if his or her family is homeless, or in substandard or unstable housing or accommodation, and the need for affordable, good-quality housing for all children and young people (p. 91).
Age range	0–17 years
Frequency of reporting	Monthly
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No
Indicator: Number of 18–24 year-olds in emergency accommodation	
Source	Pathway Accommodation and Support System (PASS)
Information on source	The Pathway Accommodation and Support System (PASS) is an online system that generates official homelessness data. It captures details of individuals in State-funded emergency accommodation – arrangements that are overseen by local authorities. It does not include data on individuals in domestic violence refuges or direct provision. As it refers to children in families, it does not include children living out of the family home. The system provides 'real-time' information on homeless presentation and bed occupancy. For more information, see http://www.housing.gov.ie/housing/homelessness/other/homelessness-data
Information on indicator	The data produced capture details of individuals in State-funded emergency accommodation – arrangements that are overseen by local authorities. The information does not include data on individuals in domestic violence refuges or direct provision.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises the lifelong negative consequences for a child if his or her family is homeless, or in substandard or unstable housing or accommodation, and the need for affordable, good-quality housing for all children and young people (p. 91).
Age range	18–24 years
Frequency of reporting	Monthly
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

49. Safe play and recreational spaces for children and young people

Indicator: The percentage of children who report that there are good places in their area to spend their free time

Source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children
Information on source	<p>Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) is a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborative cross-national study. It asks children and young people aged 11–17 about their health and well-being, social environments and health behaviours within their social context – home, school, and with family and friends. It is a school-based survey, with data collected through self-completion questionnaires administered by teachers in the classroom every four years. The HBSC Ireland team is based at the Health Promotion Research Centre, National University of Ireland, Galway. The latest Ireland reports are available at http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc/ and the international reports are available at www.hbsc.org</p> <p>Data on recreational spaces for children are available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, sex, age, social class, population group and region. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA12</p>
Information on indicator	Participants are asked if there are good places to spend their free time (e.g. leisure centre, parks, shops). Response options are: 'Strongly agree', 'Agree', 'Neither agree nor disagree', 'Disagree' and 'Strongly disagree'. Responses were recoded into: 'Agree', 'Neither agree nor disagree' and 'Disagree'. This item is only asked in Ireland. The indicator refers to those who agreed.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that every child should be able to live and grow up in a safe, healthy, sustainable and child-friendly environment that supports his or her developmental and learning needs (p. 91).
Age range	11–17 years
Frequency of reporting	Every four years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	Yes

50. Perception of antisocial behaviour and crime

Indicator: Percentage who report that they feel safe (always or most of the time) in the area where they live

Source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children
Information on source	<p>Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) is a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborative cross-national study. It asks children and young people aged 11–17 about their health and well-being, social environments and health behaviours within their social context – home, school, and with family and friends. It is a school-based survey, with data collected through self-completion questionnaires administered by teachers in the classroom every four years. The HBSC Ireland team is based at the Health Promotion Research Centre, National University of Ireland, Galway. The latest Ireland reports are available at http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc/ and the international reports are available at www.hbsc.org</p> <p>Data on feeling safe are available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, sex, age, social class, population group and region. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA12</p>
Information on indicator	Participants are asked to reply to the statement: 'Generally speaking, I feel safe in the area where I live'. Response options are: 'Always', 'Most of the time', 'Sometimes' and 'Rarely or never'. Responses were recoded into: 'No' (which included 'Sometimes' and 'Rarely') and 'Yes'. This item is only asked in Ireland.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that every child should be able to live and grow up in a safe, healthy, sustainable and child-friendly environment that supports his or her developmental and learning needs (p. 91).
Age range	11–17 years
Frequency of reporting	Every four years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	Yes

51. Inadequate housing condition	
Indicator: Percentage of population aged 0-17 years living in a dwelling with a leaking roof, damp walls, floors or foundation, or rot in window frames or floor	
Source	EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions
Information on source	The EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions, abbreviated as EU-SILC, is the reference source for comparative statistics on income distribution and social inclusion in the European Union (EU). It is used for policy monitoring within the open method of coordination (OMC). The reference population in EU-SILC includes all private households and their current members residing in the territory of the countries at the time of data collection. For more information, see https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/income-and-living-conditions/overview
Information on indicator	Inadequate housing condition is assessed by the percentage of the total population living in a dwelling with a leaking roof, damp walls, floors or foundation, or rot in window frames or floor.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises the lifelong negative consequences for a child if his or her family is homeless or in substandard or unstable housing or accommodation, and the need for affordable, good-quality housing for all children and young people (p. 91).
Age range	0–17 years
Frequency of reporting	Collected annually pre-2021, reported on a request basis. From 2021, this is no longer a core variable for EU-SILC and has been moved to a module where it is due to be collected every 3 three years rather than annually.
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No
Indicator: Percentage of population aged 18–24 years living in a dwelling with a leaking roof, damp walls, floors or foundation, or rot in window frames or floor	
Source	EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions
Information on source	The EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions, abbreviated as EU-SILC, is the reference source for comparative statistics on income distribution and social inclusion in the European Union (EU). It is used for policy monitoring within the open method of coordination (OMC). The reference population in EU-SILC includes all private households and their current members residing in the territory of the countries at the time of data collection. For more information, see https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/income-and-living-conditions/overview
Information on indicator	Inadequate housing condition is assessed by the percentage of the total population living in a dwelling with a leaking roof, damp walls, floors or foundation, or rot in window frames or floor.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises the lifelong negative consequences for a child if his or her family is homeless or in substandard or unstable housing or accommodation, and the need for affordable, good-quality housing for all children and young people (p. 91).
Age range	18-24
Frequency of reporting	Collected annually pre-2021, reported on a request basis. From 2021, this is no longer a core variable for EU-SILC and has been moved to a module where it is due to be collected every 3 three years rather than annually.
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

Aim 4.3: Opportunities for ongoing education and training

52. Early leavers from education and training	
Indicator: Percentage of 18–24 year-olds with at most lower secondary education, and not in further education or training	
Source	EU Labour Force Survey
Information on source	The European Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS) is a large household sample survey providing quarterly results on labour participation of people aged 15 and over, as well as on persons outside the labour force. In Ireland, the data are collated by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) through the quarterly Labour Force Survey (LFS). For more information, see https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/lfs and https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/labourmarket/labourforcesurvey/lfs/
Information on indicator	Early leavers from education and training denotes the percentage of the population aged 18–24 having attained, at most, lower secondary education and not involved in further education or training. The indicator refers to the percentage of young people with, at most, lower secondary education who have not received any education or training (formal nor non-formal) in the four weeks preceding the survey.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that there is a strong correlation between educational attainment, employment and future earnings (p. 91).
Age range	18–24 years
Frequency of reporting	Quarterly
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No
53. Progression/equity of access to tertiary education	
Indicator: Percentage of students enrolled in DEIS and non-DEIS schools progressing to third-level education (see Indicator 32)	
Source	Department of Education Statistical Reports
Information on source	School Completers – What Next? was the first in a series of annual reports by the Department of Education, which track school-leavers a year after they leave school. Following publication of the National Statistics Board report titled The Irish Statistics System: The Way Forward and Joined Up Government Needs Joined Up Data in December 2011, the Department took the initiative to explore the potential of data matching to fill current data gaps. The tracking was carried out using data matching and was also supplemented with estimations for other destinations for which individualised data were not available. The data is now available in the Department's annual Education Indicators for Ireland publications. As of 2021, data on transitions to higher education are reported on in the Department's Education Indicators for Ireland reports. For more information, see https://www.education.ie/en/publications/statistics/key-statistics/
Information on indicator	Data on progression to further and higher education are based on an analysis of students on the Post-Primary Pupils Database who were enrolled in post-primary schools. The focus is those pupils who were enrolled in post-primary schools in a particular academic year, but were not enrolled in one of these schools one year later. These pupils, using a unique personal identifier, are tracked to other data sources that are available. Data exclude non-HEA third-level institutions and further education programmes other than the Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) programme.
BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises the importance of supporting young people on low incomes to access and remain in third-level education (p. 92).
Age range	School-leaving age
Frequency of reporting	Annual
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

Indicator: Placeholder Type 2 – Non-progression rates of new entrants to third level	
Source	A Study of Progression in Irish Higher Education
Information on source	These reports by the Higher Education Authority examine successful participation and progression in Irish higher education institutions. These quantitative studies report the findings of an analysis of a cohort of full-time first-year undergraduate new entrants from one year to the next in their enrolled institution. The main analysis of the report draws from data returned by HEA-funded institutions to the Student Record System (SRS) and examines the issue of non-progression across a range of fields of study, National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) levels (6-8), and institutions.
Information on indicator	The indicator presents the percentage of all full-time first-year undergraduate cohort new entrants who were not enrolled the following year. Students who repeated a year, or who changed course or programme type within their original institution, were identifiable and are grouped with those deemed to be still present. For the purposes of the report, only student data pertaining to full-time undergraduates (NFQ levels 6–8) were analysed. Data refer to non-progression rates among full-time new entrants to HEA-funded institutions only.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises the importance of supporting young people on low incomes to access and remain in third-level education (p. 92).
Age range	0–24 years
Frequency of reporting	Annual
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

54. Computer and Internet access

Indicator: Percentage of households with dependent children with access to the Internet at home

Source	Central Statistics Office – Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Household Survey
Information source	The annual ICT Household Survey contributes to the EU requirement under Regulation (EC) No. 808/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 concerning Community statistics on the information society (OJ L143, 30.04.2004, p. 49). The ICT Household Survey used to be conducted as one of the special module subjects that make up the ad-hoc module surveys appended onto the main QNHS Labour Force Survey. However, in 2020, the ICT Household survey was carried out using the Labour Force Survey (LFS). For more information, see https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/information-society/ictusagebyhouseholds/
Information on indicator	Households represent all private households with at least one occupant aged 16–74. There must be a desktop or portable computer permanently in the home in order to be considered as having access to the Internet at home.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises the prominent role of technology in children's and young people's lives (p. 102).
Age range	0–24 years
Frequency of reporting	Annually
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

Aim 4.4: Pathways to economic participation and independent living

55. Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET)	
Indicator: Young people neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET)	
Source	EU Labour Force Survey
Information on source	The European Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS) is a large household sample survey providing quarterly results on labour participation of people aged 15 and over, as well as on persons outside the labour force. In Ireland, the data are collated by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) through the quarterly Labour Force Survey (LFS). For more information, see https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/lfs and https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/labourmarket/labourforcesurvey/lfs/
Information on indicator	The indicator on young people neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET) corresponds to the percentage of the population of a given age group and sex not employed and not involved in further education or training (formal nor non-formal) in the four weeks preceding the survey. A note of caution is that the NEET indicator includes subgroups who may not be actively seeking work, education or training due to caring responsibilities or a disability.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that unemployment, in particular long-term unemployment, has a negative impact on young people, not only in terms of economic independence but also on their self-confidence and mental health (p. 92). It commits to develop and implement an action plan to support youth employment (p. 94).
Age range	15-24 years
Frequency of reporting	Quarterly
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No
56. Young people exiting unemployment	
Indicator: Number of young people exiting unemployment to take up employment, education or training	
Source	Department of Social Protection
Information on source	The Department of Social Protection (DSP) began collecting existing administrative data on young people exiting unemployment for EU reporting purposes. Exits are flow data of individuals claiming on the live register at the end of the month but not the next, averaged monthly and then added together to produce an end of year total. Exits are categorised as entering into employment, education and traineeships. Those who became inactive (e.g. moved to another social welfare payment that is not subject to activation) and who went to unknown destinations are also recorded. Those that remained on the Live Register but simply left the age band are not included.
Information on indicator	The DSP collects administrative data on the number of young people exiting unemployment and their destinations, including employment, education or training. Exits are flow data averaged monthly and then added together to produce an end of year total.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that unemployment, in particular long-term unemployment, has a negative impact on young people, not only in terms of economic independence but also on their self-confidence and mental health (p. 92). It commits to develop and implement an action plan to support youth employment (p. 94).
Age range	18-24 years
Frequency of reporting	Annually
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

57. Youth employment	
Indicator: Unemployment rate among 15–24 year-olds in the labour force	
Source	Central Statistics Office – Labour Force Survey/Quarterly National Household Survey
Information on source	The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a quarterly survey of 26,000 households conducted by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) in Ireland. The survey is also conducted by national statistical institutes across Europe and data are centrally processed by Eurostat. It is designed to produce quarterly labour force estimates that include measures of employment and unemployment. Special modules on different social topics are also conducted each quarter. The LFS replaced the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) in Ireland in January 2017. For more information, see http://www.cso.ie/en/methods/labourmarket/labourforcesurvey/aboutthelabourforcesurvey/ and http://www.cso.ie/en/qnhs/
Information on indicator	Estimates on monthly unemployment rates are calculated based on data in the Live Register, which is used to disaggregate the LFS/QNHS unemployment data into a monthly series. To correct for seasonal patterns, data are seasonally adjusted. The the 2014 data refer to the second quarter, the 2017 data refer to the first quarter, and the 2020 data refer to the second quarter. It is important to note that the 2020 data was collected during the COVID-19 crisis, and that separate COVID-adjusted data was compiled to capture the impacts of the COVID-19 situation on labour force participation. For further information see the LFS COVID-19 information note https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/in/lfs/informationnote-implicationsofcovid-19onthelabourforcesurvey-quarter22020update/
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that unemployment, in particular long-term unemployment, has a negative impact on young people, not only in terms of economic independence but also on their self-confidence and mental health (p. 92). It commits to develop and implement an action plan to support youth employment, including the EU Youth Guarantee, and having regard to the development of the Comprehensive Employment Strategy for People with Disabilities and how it applies to those young people under 25 years of age (p. 94).
Age range	20–24 years
Frequency of reporting	Monthly and quarterly
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No
Indicator: Percentage of employed 15–24 year-olds with temporary contracts	
Source	EU Labour Force Survey
Information on source	The European Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS) is a large household sample survey providing quarterly results on labour participation of people aged 15 and over, as well as on persons outside the labour force. In Ireland, the data are collated by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) through the quarterly Labour Force Survey (LFS). For more information, see https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/lfs and https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/labourmarket/labourforcesurveylfs/
Information on indicator	In the EU LFS, a job is defined as temporary if employer and employee agree that its end is determined by objective conditions such as a specific date, the completion of a task or the return of another employee who has been temporarily replaced (usually stated in a work contract of limited duration).
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that young people want to work and secure employment, to pursue a career and contribute to society. It purports that the best guarantee of economic security is a well-paid, secure job (p. 92).
Age range	15–24 years
Frequency of reporting	Quarterly
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world

Aim 5.1: Sense of own identity, free from discrimination

58. Discrimination and stigmatisation	
Indicator: Placeholder Type 3 – Percentage of 18–24 year-olds who experienced discrimination (See Indicator 39)	
Source	Central Statistics Office – Quarterly National Household Survey/Labour Force Survey Special Module on Equality
Information on source	<p>A questionnaire on equality was included in the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) in the three months from July to September 2014 (Quarter 3). The questionnaire referred to discrimination experienced in the two years previous to that time. An equality module was also included on the QNHS in the fourth quarter of 2010 and 2004. However, it should be noted that in 2009 the QNHS moved from seasonal to calendar quarters. Therefore, the 2004 survey was conducted from September to November.</p> <p>The Labour Force Survey (LFS) has replaced the QNHS since the last special module on equality in 2014, so all surveys previously carried out as modules of the QNHS are now carried out for the most part in the General Household Survey (GHS). This change has affected sample size. For more information, see https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/ed/equalityanddiscrimination2019/ and https://data.cso.ie/table/EQQ03</p>
Information on indicator	<p>The special module on equality asked about respondents' experience of discrimination in the previous two years, based on the nine grounds defined in Irish equality legislation. The term discrimination refers to this legal definition only. The 2010 data refer to the fourth quarter, the 2014 data refer to the third quarter, and the 2019 data refer to the first quarter.</p> <p>While experience of discrimination increased in Q1 2019, care should be taken in interpreting this increase. There are a number of factors that may have contributed to this increase including an additional category of discrimination included in Q1 2019, discrimination experienced 'In contact with An Garda Síochána'.</p>
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that all forms of bullying and discrimination are unacceptable and must be challenged in schools, youth organisations, communities, at work or online, and the State has a duty to ensure that its laws, policies and practices do not discriminate (p. 79).
Age range	18–24 years
Frequency of reporting	Ad-hoc module – carried out in 2004, 2010, 2014 and 2019
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No
59. Experience of sense of freedom	
Indicator: Sense of freedom	
Source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children
Information on source	<p>Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) is a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborative cross-national study. It asks children and young people aged 11–17 about their health and well-being, social environments and health behaviours within their social context – home, school, and with family and friends. It is a school-based survey, with data collected through self-completion questionnaires administered by teachers in the classroom every four years. The HBSC Ireland team is based at the Health Promotion Research Centre, National University of Ireland, Galway. The latest Ireland reports are available at http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbhc/ and the international reports are available at www.hbhc.org</p>

Information on indicator	Participants are asked the question: "In general, do you feel you have freedom in your life?" Response options are "Not at all"; "Sometimes"; "A lot/often"; and "Very much". Those who answered "A lot/often"; and "Very much" were categorised as experiencing a sense of freedom. This question was asked for the first time in 2018.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises the importance of children and young people being supported to know and develop their own identity, having opportunities to explore life and build diverse experiences.
Age range	10-17 years
Frequency of reporting	Every four years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

60. Peer acceptance and respect

Indicator: The percentage of boys and girls who report always feeling comfortable being themselves while with friends

Source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children
Information on source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) is a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborative cross-national study. It asks children and young people aged 11–17 about their health and well-being, social environments and health behaviours within their social context – home, school, and with family and friends. It is a school-based survey, with data collected through self-completion questionnaires administered by teachers in the classroom every four years. The HBSC Ireland team is based at the Health Promotion Research Centre, National University of Ireland, Galway. The latest Ireland reports are available at http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbhc/ and the international reports are available at www.hbhc.org Data on peer acceptance are available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, sex, age, social class, population group and region. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA16
Information on indicator	Participants are asked: 'Do you feel comfortable being yourself while with your friends?' Response options are: 'Always', 'Often', 'Sometimes' and 'Never'. Responses were recoded into: 'Always feeling comfortable being themselves', 'Yes' and 'No'. This is a national item, developed by children as part of the DCEDIY consultation with Comhairle na nÓg. The question was first introduced in 2014.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that friendships are essential for the psychological, emotional and social development of children and young people. They allow them to learn how to relate to others and about reciprocity, social standing and power (p. 101).
Age range	2014 data report on 15 year-olds, 2018 data report on 10–17 year-olds
Frequency of reporting	Every four years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

Aim 5.2: Part of positive networks of friends, family and community

61. Having at least one caring and consistent adult in whom children and young people can confide	
Indicator: Placeholder Type 3 – Percentage of nine year-olds who report they have a caring and consistent adult to confide in	
Source	Growing Up in Ireland
Information on source	Growing Up in Ireland is the national longitudinal study of children in Ireland mainly funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and carried out by a team of researchers at the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and Trinity College Dublin. The study was established in 2006 and follows the progress of two groups of children: 8,000 nine year-olds (child cohort) and 10,000 nine month-olds (infant cohort). For more information, see http://www.esri.ie/growing-up-in-ireland/
Information on indicator	Respondents are asked: 'If you had a problem who would you talk to about it?' and given a list of people to select from (multiple answers are allowed). The full list is Mum, Dad, Mum's Partner, Dad's Partner, Teacher, Friends, Grandparent, Aunt/Uncle, Sibling, Cousin, Other Relative. 2007 data was collected from the 1998 (child) cohort, and 2017/2018 data was collected from the 2008 (infant) cohort.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises the importance of having 'one good adult' in a young person's life, and that children and young people need positive role models and positive relationships with older adults. This is particularly important for children and young people in care (p. 54).
Age range	Nine year-olds
Frequency of reporting	Ad hoc
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No
Indicator: Placeholder Type 3 – Percentage of 16–24 year-olds who report they have someone to rely on in case of need	
Source	EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions Ad-hoc Module
Information on source	The EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions, abbreviated as EU-SILC, is the reference source for comparative statistics on income distribution and social inclusion in the European Union (EU). It is used for policy monitoring within the open method of coordination (OMC). The reference population in EU-SILC includes all private households and their current members residing in the territory of the countries at the time of data collection. For more information, see https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/income-and-living-conditions/overview
Information on indicator	The 2013 EU SILC ad hoc module on wellbeing reported on the availability of social support refers to one's potential to ask for help (any kind of help: moral, material or financial) from any relatives, friends or neighbours, whether the person needs it or not. Only relatives and friends (or neighbours) who do not live in the same household are considered. In the 2018, this question was changed to two separate questions on access to material and non-material help. For material help, respondents were asked "Do you feel that if you needed material help (e.g. money, loan or an object) you could receive it from relatives, friends, neighbours or other persons that you know?". For non-material help, respondents were asked "Do you feel that if you needed non-material help (e.g. somebody to talk to, help with doing something or collecting something) you could receive it from relatives, friends, neighbours or other persons that you know?" For more information, see https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/income-and-living-conditions/data/ad-hoc-modules and https://data.cso.ie/table/WBA11
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that children and young people need support to build and develop protective factors, such as emotional resilience, having a sense of self-esteem, good social networks and participation in community, as well as an ability to address risk factors, such as tackling bullying (p. 54).
Age range	16–24 years
Frequency of reporting	Ad hoc
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

62. Positive parent and family relationships	
Indicator: The percentage of children aged 15 who report that their parents spend time just talking with them several times a week	
Source	Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)
Information on source	<p>The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a project of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) that aims to measure how well students, at age 15, are prepared to meet the challenges they may encounter in future life, including education. PISA takes place every three years and assesses student skills and knowledge in the three domains of reading literacy, mathematics and science. In Ireland, PISA is managed by the Educational Research Centre (ERC) on behalf of the Department of Education. The assessments in schools are administered by external test administrators, comprising inspectors from the Department and representatives of the ERC. National reports and publications are available at https://www.erc.ie/pisa/ and international reports and publications are available at http://www.oecd.org/pisa/aboutpisa/</p> <p>Data on children's relationships with parents are available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, sex, social class, and immigrant status. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA39</p>
Information on indicator	Participating children are asked via a self-reported questionnaire to indicate how frequently their parents spend time just talking with them.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that parents are the foundation for good child outcomes and have significant influence, particularly in the early years of children's lives (p. 27).
Age range	15 year-olds
Frequency of reporting	Every three years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	Yes

63. Positive relationships with peers	
Indicator: The percentage of children who report feeling high levels of support from peers	
Source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children
Information on source	<p>Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) is a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborative cross-national study. It asks children and young people aged 11–17 about their health and well-being, social environments and health behaviours within their social context – home, school, and with family and friends. It is a school-based survey, with data collected through self-completion questionnaires administered by teachers in the classroom every four years. The HBSC Ireland team is based at the Health Promotion Research Centre, National University of Ireland, Galway. The latest Ireland reports are available at http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbhc/ and the international reports are available at www.hbhc.org</p> <p>Data on peer support are available on the CSO's PxStat website and can be further disaggregated by year, sex, age, social class, population group and region. For more information, visit https://data.cso.ie/table/SCA16</p>
Information on indicator	Peer support is measured using the Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS). Young people are asked if they perceive that their friends really try to help them, that they can count on them when things go wrong, if they have friends with whom they can share their sorrows and joys, and if they can talk to them about their problems. Response options range from 1 ('Very strongly disagree') to 7 ('Very strongly agree'). Those whose answers fell in the 6-7 range were counted as feeling high levels of support from peers. The question was first introduced in 2014.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that during adolescence, young people learn how to form safe and healthy relationships with friends, parents, teachers and romantic partners. Peers, in particular, play a big role in identity formation, but relationships with caring adults (including parents, teachers, youth workers, mentors or coaches) are also important for adolescent development (p. 55).
Age range	10–17 years
Frequency of reporting	Every four years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

Indicator: Placeholder Type 3 – Percentage of 16–24 year-olds reporting high satisfaction with their personal relationships	
Source	EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) Ad-hoc Module
Information on source	The EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions, abbreviated as EU-SILC, is the reference source for comparative statistics on income distribution and social inclusion in the European Union (EU). It is used for policy monitoring within the open method of coordination (OMC). The reference population in EU-SILC includes all private households and their current members residing in the territory of the countries at the time of data collection. For more information, see http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Glossary:EU_statistics_on_income_and_living_conditions_(EU-SILC)
Information on indicator	Respondents are asked to rate their satisfaction with their personal relationships. Personal relationships cover all possible relationships with, for example, relatives, friends, or colleagues from work. Respondents are asked to make a broad, reflective appraisal of all areas of their personal relationships in a particular point in time. The question asked focuses on how people are feeling 'these days' rather than specifying a longer or shorter time period. The intent is not to obtain the current emotional state of the respondent, but to receive a reflective judgement on their level of satisfaction.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that during adolescence, young people learn how to form safe and healthy relationships with friends, parents, teachers and romantic partners. Peers, in particular, play a big role in identity formation, but relationships with caring adults (including parents, teachers, youth workers, mentors or coaches) are also important for adolescent development (p. 55).
Age range	16–24 years
Frequency of reporting	Ad hoc
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

64. Perceptions of being valued and respected

Indicator: Valued and respected

Source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children
Information on source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) is a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborative cross-national study. It asks children and young people aged 11–17 about their health and well-being, social environments and health behaviours within their social context – home, school, and with family and friends. It is a school-based survey, with data collected through self-completion questionnaires administered by teachers in the classroom every four years. The HBSC Ireland team is based at the Health Promotion Research Centre, National University of Ireland, Galway. The latest Ireland reports are available at http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc/ and the international reports are available at www.hbsc.org
Information on indicator	Participants are asked the question: "In general, do you feel you are valued and respected as a person?" Response options are "Not at all"; "Sometimes"; "A lot/often"; and "Very much". Those who answered "A lot/often"; and "Very much" were categorised as feeling valued and respected. This question was asked for the first time in 2018.
Relevance to BOBF	
Age range	10-17 years
Frequency of reporting	Every four years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

Aim 5.3: Civically engaged, socially and environmentally conscious

65. Belief in being able to make a positive contribution to the world	
Indicator: Positive contribution	
Source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children
Information on source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) is a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborative cross-national study. It asks children and young people aged 11–17 about their health and well-being, social environments and health behaviours within their social context – home, school, and with family and friends. It is a school-based survey, with data collected through self-completion questionnaires administered by teachers in the classroom every four years. The HBSC Ireland team is based at the Health Promotion Research Centre, National University of Ireland, Galway. The latest Ireland reports are available at http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbhc/ and the international reports are available at www.hbhc.org
Information on indicator	Participants are asked the question: “In general, do you feel that you make a positive contribution to the world?” Response options are “Not at all”; “Sometimes”; “A lot/often”; and “Very much”. Those who answered “A lot/often”; and “Very much” were categorised as feeling that they make a positive contribution to the world. This question was asked for the first time in 2018.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that young people need opportunities to engage in meaningful civic discourse which contributes to policy-making. This requires effective ways to draw on children’s views, locally, nationally and internationally. The success of policies needs to be tested in terms of what children and young people think and experience (p. 102).
Age range	10-17 years
Frequency of reporting	Every four years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No
66. Volunteering and altruism	
Indicator: Placeholder Type 3 – Percentage of persons aged 15–24 years who volunteered, and number of hours volunteered	
Source	Central Statistics Office – Quarterly National Household Survey, special module on Volunteering
Information on source	A module on volunteering and a separate pilot module on subjective well-being were included in the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) in the three months from July to September 2013 (Quarter 3). This module has not been repeated since 2013. The QNHS began in September 1997, replacing the annual April Labour Force Survey (LFS). The purpose of the survey is the production of quarterly labour force estimates and occasional reports on special social topics. The survey meets the requirements of Council Regulation (EC) No. 577/98, adopted in March 1998, which requires the introduction of quarterly labour force surveys in EU member states.
Information on indicator	The definition of volunteering used is ‘unpaid non-compulsory work, that is, time individuals give without pay to activities performed either through an organisation or directly for others outside their own home’. Each respondent is asked to list up to 10 different types of volunteering activity in which they were involved over the previous four weeks. The hours were calculated per volunteering occupation and then aggregated to reflect all the volunteering hours which each respondent spent volunteering over the previous four-week period. These hours are annualised using a multiplier of 13. No adjustment is made for any seasonal effects.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that all children and young people need and deserve the chance to make a difference – in their families, schools, communities, nation and world. This occurs through exposure to models of caring behaviour, awareness of the needs of others, a sense of personal responsibility to contribute to the larger society and opportunities for volunteering, leadership and service (p. 102).
Age range	15–24 years
Frequency of reporting	Once-off data collection
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

Indicator: Percentage of children aged 10-17 who reported taking part in volunteer work	
Information on source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) is a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborative cross-national study. It asks children and young people aged 11–17 about their health and well-being, social environments and health behaviours within their social context – home, school, and with family and friends. It is a school-based survey, with data collected through self-completion questionnaires administered by teachers in the classroom every four years. The HBSC Ireland team is based at the Health Promotion Research Centre, National University of Ireland, Galway. The latest Ireland reports are available at http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc/ and the international reports are available at www.hbsc.org
Information on indicator	Participants are asked the question: “In general, do you take part in volunteer work?” Response options are “Not at all”; “Sometimes”; “A lot/often”; and “Very much”. Those who answered “Sometimes”, “A lot/often”; and “Very much” were categorised as taking part in volunteer work. This question was asked for the first time in 2018.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that all children and young people need and deserve the chance to make a difference – in their families, schools, communities, nation and world. This occurs through exposure to models of caring behaviour, awareness of the needs of others, a sense of personal responsibility to contribute to the larger society and opportunities for volunteering, leadership and service (p. 102).
Age range	10-17 years
Frequency of reporting	Every four years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

67. 18–24 year-olds who vote in local, regional, national or European elections or referenda

Indicator: Placeholder Type 3 – Self-reported voting turnout of 18–24 year-olds in 2011 General Election

Source	Central Statistics Office Quarterly National Household Survey, Special Module on Voter Participation
Information on source	A module on the topic of voter participation and abstention in the 2011 general election was included in the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) in the second quarter (April to June) of 2011. This module has not been repeated since 2011. The QNHS began in September 1997, replacing the annual April Labour Force Survey (LFS). The purpose of the survey is the production of quarterly labour force estimates and occasional reports on special social topics. The survey meets the requirements of Council Regulation (EC) No. 577/98, adopted in March 1998, which requires the introduction of quarterly labour force surveys in EU member states.
Information on indicator	The question asked was ‘Did you vote in the most recent general election?’
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that young people need opportunities to engage in meaningful civic discourse that contributes to policy-making (p. 102).
Age range	18–24 years
Frequency of reporting	Ad hoc (was previously asked in 2002)
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

Aim 5.4: Aware of rights, responsible and respectful of the law

68. Children and young people's awareness of their rights	
Indicator: Awareness of rights (children)	
Source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children
Information on source	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) is a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborative cross-national study. It asks children and young people aged 11–17 about their health and well-being, social environments and health behaviours within their social context – home, school, and with family and friends. It is a school-based survey, with data collected through self-completion questionnaires administered by teachers in the classroom every four years. The HBSC Ireland team is based at the Health Promotion Research Centre, National University of Ireland, Galway. The latest Ireland reports are available at http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc/ and the international reports are available at www.hbsc.org
Information on indicator	HBSC participants were asked the question: "In general, do you know your rights as a young person??" Response options are "Not at all"; "Sometimes"; "A lot/often"; and "Very much". Those who answered "A lot/often"; and "Very much" were categorised as being aware of their rights. This question was asked for the first time in 2018.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that the State has an obligation to protect and promote children's rights, and to ensure the fulfilment of those rights. A child or young person must be made aware of his or her rights and there must be mechanisms through which they can affirm those rights (p. 103).
Age range	10–17 years
Frequency of reporting	Every four years
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No
Indicator: Awareness of rights (young people)	
Source	Central Statistics Office – Quarterly National Household Survey/Labour Force Survey Special Module on Equality
Information on source	The Labour Force Survey (LFS) has replaced the QNHS since the last special module on equality in 2014, so all surveys previously carried out as modules of the QNHS are now carried out for the most part in the General Household Survey (GHS). For more information, see https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/ed/equalityanddiscrimination2019/ and https://data.cso.ie/table/EQQ38
Information on indicator	The special module on equality included in the LFS asked about respondents' understanding of their rights under Irish equality law. Respondents that answered "A good understanding" or "A little understanding" were included in the figure for this indicator.
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that the State has an obligation to protect and promote children's rights, and to ensure the fulfilment of those rights. A child or young person must be made aware of his or her rights and there must be mechanisms through which they can affirm those rights (p. 103).
Age range	18-24 years
Frequency of reporting	Ad hoc
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

69. Respect for laws and the judicial process	
Indicator: Placeholder Type 1	
Source	
Information on indicator	
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government recognises that some young people's behaviour leads to their involvement in the youth justice system and that targeted supports are needed (p. 103).
Age range	
Frequency of reporting	
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	

70. Perception of fairness of the law	
Indicator: Placeholder Type 3 – Average rating of young people's trust in the legal system	
Source	EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions Ad-hoc Module
Information on source	The EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions, abbreviated as EU-SILC, is the reference source for comparative statistics on income distribution and social inclusion in the European Union (EU). It is used for policy monitoring within the open method of coordination (OMC). The reference population in EU-SILC includes all private households and their current members residing in the territory of the countries at the time of data collection. For more information, see https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/income-and-living-conditions/overview
Information on indicator	Participants are asked to rate their trust in the legal system on a scale of 0 to 10 (0 means 'No trust at all' and 10 means 'Complete trust'). The term legal system refers to the entire system for interpreting and enforcing the laws, and not to a specific legal entity within the country. This question was not included in the 2018 EU-SILC module, so no new data is available after 2013. For more information, see https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/income-and-living-conditions/data/ad-hoc-modules
Relevance to BOBF	BOBF notes that the Government commits to work with children and young people to help them contribute to their own community and safety, ensuring a positive relationship between An Garda Síochána, children and young people (p. 105).
Age range	16-24 years
Frequency of reporting	Ad hoc
Included in <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report	No

**APPENDIX: UNCRC
ARTICLES MAPPED TO
THE FIVE NATIONAL
OUTCOMES**

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) sets out the human rights of all individuals – children, young people, adults and older people. Flowing from the Universal Declaration, nine treaties have been developed to focus on specific themes – the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is one of these treaties: others focus on women, disability and racism. The UNCRC is a legally binding international agreement setting out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of every child, regardless of his or her race, religion or abilities. Ireland ratified the Convention in 1992. The Articles of the UNCRC are informed and underpinned by the General Comments of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and its Concluding Observations in Respect of Ireland.

The UNCRC expresses the rights of the Universal Declaration in child-specific language; provides additional protections to children given their particular vulnerability; and takes into account that the fulfilment of their rights is often dependent on the actions of others, such as parents. The UNCRC defines ‘a child’ as anyone under the age of 18 years. There is no equivalent UN Convention on ‘Youth’. Consequently, BOBF has adopted the UNCRC as its guide, but, where relevant, draws from the UDHR. It should be noted that the UNCRC is legally binding under international law, and Ireland has an obligation under international law to respect, protect and fulfil children’s rights under the UNCRC. The UDHR is a Declaration, which means that it is not legally binding.

Article 5 of the UNCRC recognises that Parties shall respect the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents to provide appropriate direction and guidance in the exercise by the child of rights recognised in the present Convention, in a manner consistent with the evolving capacity of the child. This also applies, where applicable, to members of the extended family or community (as provided for by local custom), legal guardians, or other persons legally responsible for the child. However, Article 4 notes that the State is the key duty-bearer with regard to realising the rights of children set out under the UNCRC. It is important to note the indivisible, interdependent and interrelated nature of children’s rights under the UNCRC.

The UNCRC Articles mapped against the five national BOBF outcomes are presented in Table 7. The aim of mapping the Articles against the BOBF outcomes is to assist policy-makers in informing the prioritisation of objectives and to support due consideration of children’s rights under the UNCRC.

The UNCRC Articles are listed as follows:^{81, 82}

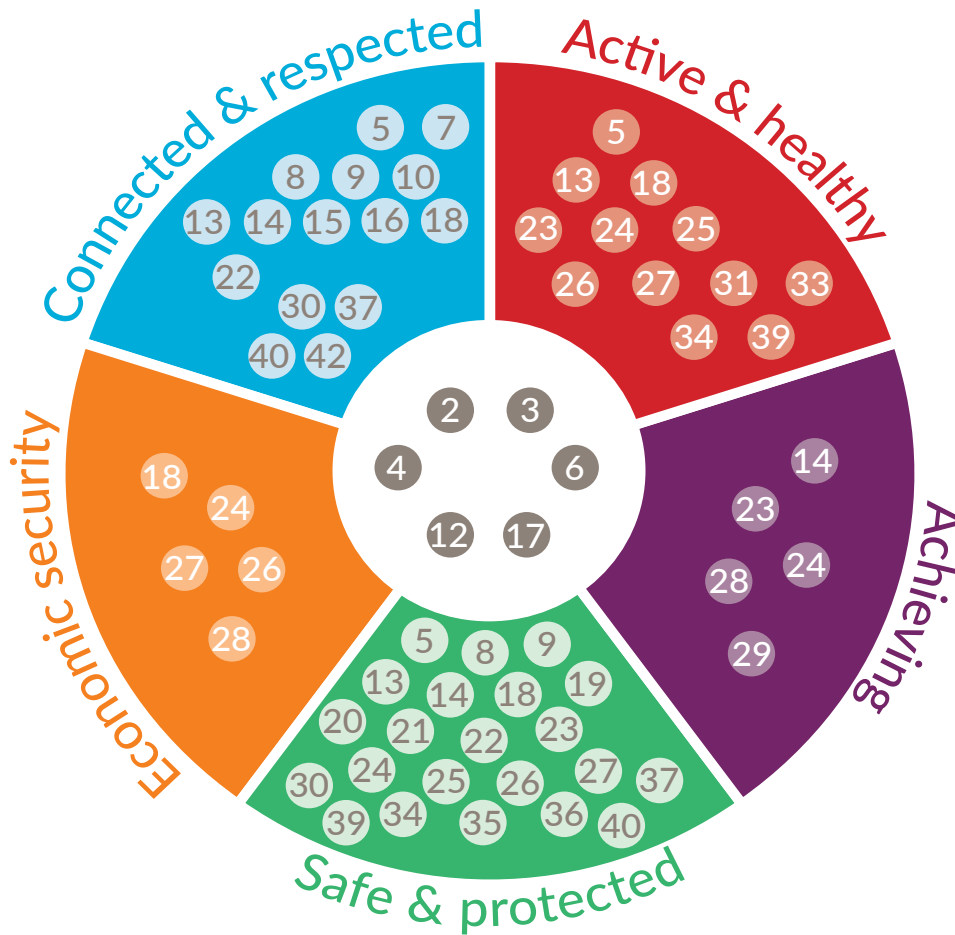
⁸¹ The status of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a Declaration and therefore not legally binding. By contrast, the UN Convention of Human Rights of the Child is binding under international law.

⁸² Articles 42 to 54 relate to the monitoring and implementation of the UNCRC and are not directly related to this indicator set.

Table 6: UNCRC Articles 1–41

<p>Article 1: Definition of a child Article 2: Non-discrimination Article 3: Best interests of the child Article 4: Implementation of rights Article 5: Parental guidance and the child's evolving capacities Article 6: Survival and development Article 7: Name and nationality Article 8: Preservation of identity Article 9: Separation from parents Article 10: Family reunification Article 11: Illicit transfer and non-return Article 12: The child's opinion Article 13: Freedom of expression Article 14: Freedom of thought, conscience and religion Article 15: Freedom of association Article 16: Protection of privacy Article 17: Access to appropriate information Article 18: Parental responsibilities Article 19: Protection from abuse and neglect Article 20: Protection of children without families</p>	<p>Article 21: Adoption Article 22: Refugee children Article 23: Children with a disability Article 24: Health and health services Article 25: Periodic review of placement Article 26: Social security Article 27: Standard of living Article 28: Education Article 29: Aims of education Article 30: Children of minorities or indigenous peoples Article 31: Leisure, recreation and cultural activities Article 32: Child labour Article 33: Drug abuse Article 34: Sexual exploitation Article 35: Sale, trafficking and abduction Article 36: Other forms of exploitation Article 37: Torture and deprivation of liberty Article 38: Armed conflicts Article 39: Rehabilitative care Article 40: Administration of juvenile justice Article 41: Respect for existing standards</p>
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Figure 4: UNCRC Articles mapped to the five national outcomes⁸³



The following Articles did not map directly onto the five national outcomes:

- Article 1: Definition of a child (this did not map directly, as the indicator set also covers those aged 18 and over)
- Article 11: Illicit transfer and non-return
- Article 32: Child labour
- Article 38: Armed conflicts
- Article 41: Respect for existing standards refers to specific actions. Article 41 refers to specific actions by State Parties not covered by the indicator set.

However, these actions do not conflict with the aims, objectives or content of the indicator set.

⁸³ The Articles represented in the centre of Figure 4 are applicable to all five outcomes. The Articles represented in each of the outcomes may be represented in more than one outcome, but not all five.

The UNCRC Articles can be grouped or clustered as follows:

- General measures of implementation (Article 4)
- General principles (Articles 2, 3, 6 and 12)
- Civil rights and freedoms (Articles 7, 8 and 13–17)
- Violence against children (Articles 19, 24, 28, 34, 37 and 39)
- Family environment and alternative care (Articles 5, 9–11, 18, 20–21, 25 and 27)
- Disability, basic health and welfare (Articles 6, 18, 23–24, 26–27 and 33)
- Education, leisure and cultural activities (Articles 28–31)
- Special protection measures (Articles 22, 30, 32–33, 35–37, 38–40).

The groupings of UNCRC Articles mapped against the five national BOBF outcomes are presented in Figure 5.⁸⁴

Figure 5: Clusters of UNCRC Articles mapped to the five national outcomes



⁸⁴ The clusters of Articles represented in the centre of Figure 5 are applicable to all of the five outcomes. The clusters of Articles represented in each of the outcomes may be represented in more than one outcome, but not all five.



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