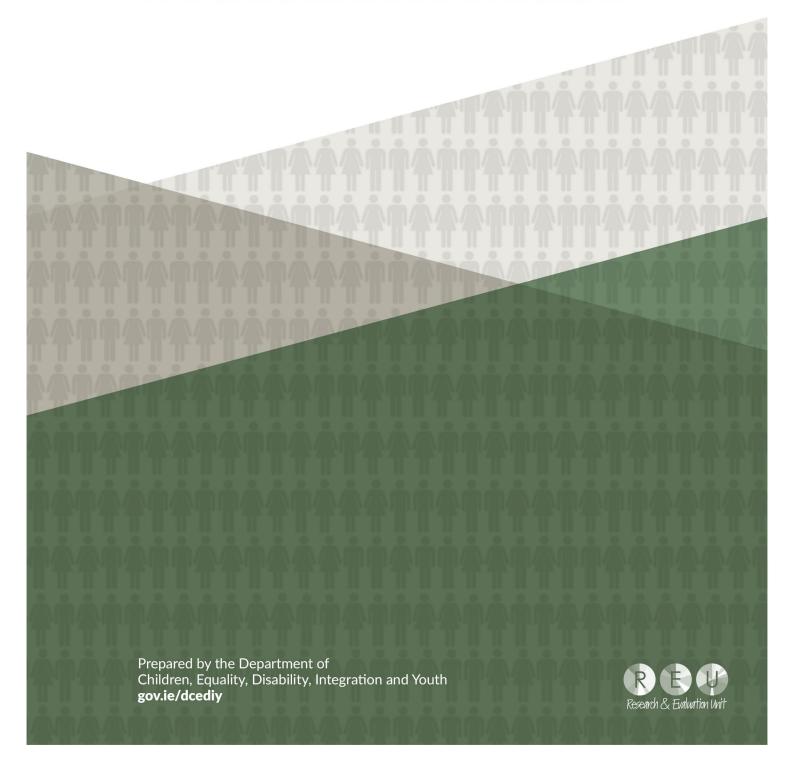




# **Experiences and Perceptions of Discrimination in Ireland**



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### 1. Introduction

This Statistical Spotlight collates available data on discrimination in Ireland. Data are presented on reported experiences of discrimination by respondents, as well as on perceptions and attitudes regarding discrimination. The first part of the Spotlight focuses on the experience of discrimination reported by persons aged 18 years and over. The second part focuses on the experience of discrimination reported by children aged 12-17 years. The third part of the Spotlight focuses specifically on the experience of discrimination by Travellers and Roma and describes data from two major surveys: the National Traveller Community Survey and a survey of six European countries conducted by the European Fundamental Rights Agency. The final part of the report moves from findings on the experience of discrimination to findings on attitudes and perceptions regarding discrimination in Irish society. This includes data from national and European surveys, with findings on perceptions of discrimination in society generally as well as the treatment of specific groups.

Presenting data on experiences of discrimination and on perceptions of discrimination in society can help to identify if there is a gap between reports of people's lived experiences of discrimination and wider perceptions of discrimination in society. Identifying variation in experiences of discrimination among different subgroups, such as by gender, nationality, race, disability status, sexual orientation, religion, membership of the Traveller community, and social class, can help to identify whether or not certain population subgroups are more likely to experience discrimination. This evidence can support the development of effective strategies<sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> and policies to fight discrimination and promote equality.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> An inter-departmental network, jointly chaired by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, has been established to implement equality budgeting across Government Departments. The collection of equality data is key to this process. Similarly, the Anti-Racism Committee has also recommended to Government that a process be undertaken to collect ethnic data on a systematic basis.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy, the National Strategy for Women and Girls and the National Migrant Integration Strategy are all due to be reviewed in 2022.



Irish equality legislation (Equal Status Acts 2000-2015 and Employment Equality Acts 1998-2015) defines discrimination as 'treating one person in a less favourable way than another person'<sup>3</sup>. The legislation lists nine grounds for discrimination:

- Gender
- Civil status
- Family status
- Sexual orientation
- Religion
- Age
- Disability
- Race
- Membership of the Traveller Community.

A tenth ground, in receipt of a Housing Assistance Payment, applies in the provision of accommodation.

In this Spotlight, data are presented on the experience of discrimination from:

- the Central Statistics Office's (CSO) module on equality from the General Household Survey, which was previously part of the Quarterly National Household Survey;
- the World Health Organization Health Behaviours in School-Aged Children survey, conducted by National University of Ireland, Galway;
- Growing Up in Ireland (GUI) The Lives of 17/18-Year-Olds;
- the Community Foundation of Ireland's National Traveller Community Survey 2017;
- the Fundamental Rights Agency Survey of Roma and Travellers in Six Countries; and
- summary data are presented on cases referred to the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) under the Equal Status Acts and Employment Equality Acts.

Data are presented on perceptions and attitudes regarding discrimination from:

- the European Social Survey 2018;
- the Eurobarometer 493 Survey on Discrimination; and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/employment/equality in work/equality in the workplace.html



• the National Disability Authority's National Survey of Public Attitudes to Disability in Ireland.

The statistics are reported to one decimal point in the figures and tables. In the text, statistics are rounded to the nearest whole number except where the number is less than 5, in which case the statistic is reported to one decimal point.



## 2. Experience of discrimination among persons aged 18 years and over

## 2.1 General Household Survey and Quarterly National Household Survey

The data in this section come from the module on equality and discrimination in the General Household Survey (GHS), conducted by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) in 2019 and from previous modules of the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) conducted in 2003, 2010 and 2014.<sup>4</sup>

It should be noted that an additional category of discrimination was included in the 2019 GHS – discrimination experienced 'In contact with An Garda Síochána'. This category of discrimination was not included in the previous QNHS surveys.

At the end of the section, data are presented from the WRC Annual Report 2020 on referrals made by the WRC under the *Equal Status Acts* 2000-2015, as well as complaints made to the WRC under the *Employment Equality Act* 1998-2011.

#### 2.1.1 Population Overview

In 2019, 17% of adults (aged 18 and over) living in Ireland reported having experienced some form of discrimination in the previous two years, compared to 12% in 2014, 2010, and 2004 (See Figure 2.1). Experiences of work-related discrimination were reported by 9% of adults in 2019, compared to 6% in 2014 and 2010. This category includes respondents who reported that they had experienced discrimination either 'in the workplace' or 'looking for work'.

Experiences of discrimination when accessing services were reported by 12% in 2019, compared to 7% in 2014 and 2010. Persons in this category reported feeling discriminated against in at least one of the following areas: 'In places like shops, pubs or restaurants', 'Using the services of banks, insurance companies or financial institutions', 'Education', 'Obtaining housing or accommodation', 'Accessing health services', 'Using transport services', 'Accessing public services' or 'in contact with An

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The Labour Force Survey (LFS) has now replaced the QNHS. With this change, surveys previously carried out as modules of the QNHS, are now carried out for the most part in the General Household Survey (GHS). The sample size reduced from 14,868 in the 2014 equality and discrimination module QNHS to 3,971 in the 2019 GHS.



Garda Síochána<sup>'5</sup>. The CSO note that the inclusion of this additional category, as well as an increase in knowledge of rights, may have contributed to the increase in discrimination reported in the 2019 survey.<sup>6</sup>

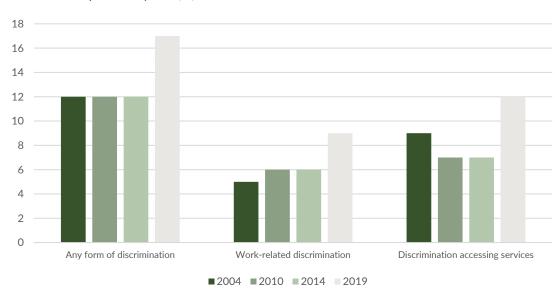


Figure 2.1 All persons aged 18 years and over classified by type of discrimination experienced in the past two years (%)

Source: CSO Quarterly National Household Survey 2004, 2010, 2014, and CSO General Household Survey 2019

#### 2.1.2 Frequency of Discrimination

Adults who reported that they had experienced any form of discrimination in the previous two years were asked how frequently this discrimination had occurred, with response items of 'just once', 'on a few occasions', or 'more regularly'. In 2019, discrimination 'in contact with An Garda Síochána' was the most likely type of discrimination to be reported as occurring 'more regularly' (than on a few occasions), with 29% of those who experienced this form of discrimination reporting that they experienced it 'more regularly'. Discrimination concerning education was the least likely type of discrimination to be reported as being experienced 'more regularly' (than on a few occasions), 11% of people who experienced this form of discrimination reported that they experienced it 'more regularly'.

The areas in which discrimination was most likely to be reported as being experienced 'just once' (in the previous two years) was in 'accessing healthcare' and 'in contact

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 5}$  Category added in the 2019 survey

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/ed/equalityanddiscrimination2019/



with An Garda Síochána' (41% and 38% respectively). Between the 2014 and 2019 surveys, fewer people reported experiencing discrimination 'in the workplace' 'more regularly' (than on a few occasions). In 2019, one-quarter (26%) of those who reported experiencing this type of discrimination reported that they experienced it 'more regularly', compared to 31% in 2014. See Table 2.1.

Table 2.1 Persons who experienced discrimination by type and frequency of discrimination (%)

		2014			2019	
	Just once	On a few occasions	More regularly	Just once	On a few occasions	More regularly
In the workplace*	22	48	31	25	49	26
In shops, pubs, or restaurants	20	59	21	22	57	21
Financial institutions	39	47	14	37	50	13
Education*	32	59	9	28	60	11
Obtaining housing*	23	58	18	26	55	19
Accessing healthcare*	40	43	16	41	44	16
Using transport services	31	47	22	31	51	18
Accessing public services	28	48	24	30	46	24
In contact with An Garda Síochána	**	**	**	38	33	29

<sup>\*</sup>percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding

Source: CSO QNHS 2014, CSO GHS 2019

Table 2.2 shows the variation by social background in reports of having experienced any form of discrimination in the previous two years. Respondents were asked their sexual orientation in the 2019 GHS, this was not asked in the earlier QNHS surveys, making it possible to compare experiences of discrimination by sexual orientation. In the 2019 survey, persons identifying as LGBTI+ were the most likely (33%) to report

<sup>\*\*</sup>category included in 2019



that they had experienced discrimination in the previous two years, almost double the level among non-LGBTI+ persons (17%).

Unemployed adults reported the highest level of discrimination on average, ranging from 22% in 2010 to 30% in 2019. This was approximately twice the level of discrimination reported by individuals 'in employment', ranging from 11% in 2010 to 17% in 2019. Non-Irish citizens consistently reported higher levels of discrimination than Irish citizens; in 2019 27% of non-Irish citizens reported that they had experienced discrimination, compared with 16% of Irish citizens.

**Table 2.2** Percentage of adults who reported experiencing some form of discrimination in the previous two years, by socio-demographic background variables

	Q4 2010	Q3 2014	Q1 2019 <sup>1</sup>	Q1 2019 <sup>2</sup>
State	11.7	11.8	17.7	17
Region				
Border, Midland and Western	11.7	11.3	21	19.6
Southern and Eastern	11.7	12	14.2	13.8
Sex				
Male	11.5	11	16.6	15.8
Female	11.8	12.6	18.8	18.3
Age group				
18-24	13.4	13.2	23.9	22.3
25-44	13.4	13.1	20.5	19.5
45-64	11.9	12.7	15	14.5
65+	5.3	6.1	11.2	10.5
Principal Economic Status				
At work	10.6	10.8	17.1	16.3
Unemployed	22	23.5	30.2	29.8
Student	13.3	13.5	21.9	20.2
Home duties	9.9	9.9	14.1	14.9
Retired	5.7	7.1	12.4	11.4
Others	18.3	17.6	24.1	23.3
Nationality				
Irish	10.5	11.1	16.3	15.5
Non-Irish	20.5	17	26.7	25.7



	Q4 2010	Q3 2014	Q1 2019 <sup>1</sup>	Q1 2019 <sup>2</sup>
Disability				
Yes	14.1	16.4	24.1	23.8
No	11.5	11.1	16.7	16.1
Religion				
Catholic	10.6	10.9	14	13.3
Others	17.9	15.6	28.5	27.4
Ethnicity				
White ethnic backgrounds	11.1	11.2	17	16.3
Other ethnic backgrounds	28.9	27.8	33.1	32.6
Highest education level attaine	ed			
Primary or below	8	9.8	12.5	12
Lower secondary	12	12.1	13.2	13.1
Higher secondary	10.7	11.2	16.2	14.6
Post leaving cert	14.7	13.6	20.2	20
Third level	12.7	12.3	20.8	20
Not stated	15.4	11.4	17.8	17.7

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Includes reports of discrimination 'in contact with An Garda Síochána'.

Source: CSO Quarterly National Household Survey 2004, 2010, 2014, CSO General Household Survey 2019

#### 2.1.3 Perceived Grounds for Discrimination

The equality module in the GHS asked adults who reported that they had experienced discrimination in the previous years the perceived ground for the discrimination. The response options corresponded to the nine grounds for discrimination under the Equal Status Act: 'gender', 'civil or marital status', 'sexual orientation', 'religion', 'age', 'disability', 'race' (including skin colour, ethnic group, nationality), and 'membership of the Traveller community'. Receipt of a housing assistance payment, the tenth ground that the Act covers, was not included in the survey. The survey included an 'other' option for participants who reported experiencing discrimination for some other reason.

Among adults who reported that they had experienced discrimination in the previous two years, 'age' was the most commonly reported ground (34%). 'Race' was the second most commonly perceived ground for discrimination, reported by 22% of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Excludes discrimination 'in contact with An Garda Síochána'



those who had experienced discrimination. This was more common among men (28%) than women (16%). Almost one-fifth (19%) of respondents reported that they had experienced discrimination on the ground of 'gender', which was more common among women (29%) than men (8%). See Table 2.3.

Reported discrimination due to 'civil or marital status' or 'disability' was less common, with no more than 5% reporting that they had experienced discrimination on these grounds.

It is important to note that reported discrimination on the different grounds is affected by the prevalence of that form of discrimination as well as by the size of the population affected. A lower percentage of discrimination reported on the grounds of a minority grouping (e.g. disability, sexual orientation) may therefore still reflect a high prevalence of perceived discrimination among that group.

**Table 2.3** Percentage of adults who reported that they had experienced discrimination in the previous two years, by perceived grounds for discrimination and gender

Ground for discrimination	Male	Female	All persons
Gender	7.8	29.1	18.6
Civil or marital status	5.6	4.4	5.0
Family status	9.0	14.1	11.7
Age	34.2	34.1	34.1
Disability	4.8	5.0	4.9
Race/Skin Colour/Ethnic Group/Nationality	28.4	16.0	21.9
Sexual orientation	9.5	8.8	9.1
Other <sup>1</sup>	32.9	31.7	32.2

<sup>1</sup>Includes 'religion', 'membership of the Traveller community' and 'other'

Source: CSO, General Household Survey 2019

#### 2.1.4 Work-Related Discrimination

As illustrated earlier (Figure 2.1), in 2019, 9% of adults reported experiencing work-related discrimination in the previous two years (either *in the workplace*, *looking for work*, or both). In total, 6% reported experiencing discrimination in the workplace and 4.8% reported experiencing discrimination when looking for work. See Table 2.4. People with a non-white ethnicity, LGBTI+ adults, and people who did not have Irish



nationality were the most likely to report experiencing discrimination 'in the workplace' (17%, 11%, and 9% respectively).

Unemployed adults were the most likely to report that they had experienced discrimination when 'looking for work' (20%), followed by people with a non-white ethnicity (11%), who did not have Irish nationality (8%) or whose religion was other than Roman Catholic (8%).

**Table 2.4** Percentage of persons who reported experiencing discrimination in the workplace, and when looking for work, by demographic background

		In the workplace	Looking for work
	Total	6	4.8
Dogion	Border, Midland, and Western	7.4	5.1
Region	Eastern and Southern	4.4	4.5
Sex	Male	4.6	4.8
Sex	Female	7.3	4.9
	At work	7.2	4.2
Principal Economic Status	Unemployed	7.8	20.1
Status	Student	5	3.6
Nationality	Irish	5.3	4.2
Nationality	Non-Irish	9.4	8.2
Disability	Yes	8.1	5.8
Disability	No	5.7	4.7
Delicion	Roman Catholic	4.8	3.5
Religion	Other	9.1	8.4
Ethariain.	White	5.4	4.5
Ethnicity	Other	17.1	10.6
Sexual orientation	LGBTI+	10.9	8.1
Sexual orientation	Non-LGBTI+	5.8	4.7
	Primary or below	2.2	3.4
	Lower secondary	2.5	4.5
Educational	Higher secondary	4.5	3.4
attainment	Post Leaving Certificate	8.8	5.3
	Tertiary	8.2	6

Source: CSO GHS 2019



Of those in employment who reported experiencing discrimination in the workplace, the most common form of discrimination cited was 'bullying or harassment' (33%). One-fifth of individuals reported that they experienced discrimination in the workplace related to 'working conditions', or 'promotion' (19% each), and 13% experienced discrimination related to 'pay'. A sizeable minority of people could not ascribe their experience of discrimination to any of the options listed, with 14% reporting that they experienced some 'other' discrimination. See Figure 2.2.

By gender, among those who reported experiencing discrimination in the workplace, women were more likely than men to report that they had experienced 'bullying or harassment' (34% vs 30%). Men were more likely to report experiencing discrimination related to 'promotion' (22% vs 17%), and in relation to 'losing their job/being made redundant' (4% vs 1%).

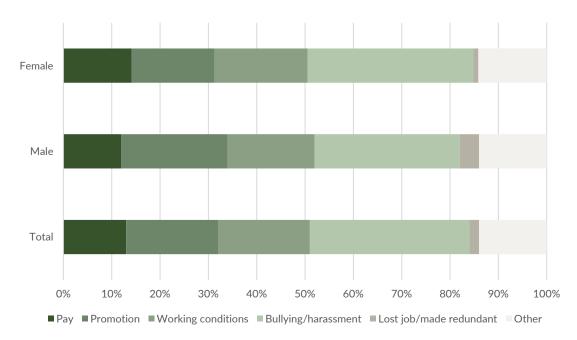


Figure 2.2 Perceived focus of workplace discrimination, by gender

Source: CSO GHS 2019

#### 2.1.5 Complaints made to Workplace Relations Commission

Persons who experience discrimination in the workplace are entitled to make a complaint to the WRC.<sup>7</sup> The annual report of the WRC includes summary data on

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Complaints must cite a ground for the discrimination under the Equal Status Acts 2000-2015 or under the Employment Equality Acts 1998-2015. See Background Notes.



complaints made to the WRC under the Equal Status Acts and the Employment Equality Acts.

In 2020, 452 complaints were made to the WRC under the Equal Status Acts 2000-2015, Of these 20% were made on the ground of 'disability', 17% were made on the ground of 'race', and 14% were made on the ground of being in 'receipt of a Housing Assistance Payment'. The 452 complaints received in 2020 represented a decrease of 58% when compared to the number of complaints received in 2016 at 1,088. Despite the decrease there were large increases in the number of complaints received on the grounds of 'sexual orientation' (200%), 'age' (138%) and 'gender' (125%). There were also marked decreases in the number of complaints received under the grounds of 'membership of the Traveller Community' and 'race'. See Table 2.5.

**Table 2.5** Number of complaints received by the WRC from 2016 to 2020 under the Equal Status Acts 2000-2015, by grounds

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	% of total (2020)	Difference (2016/20)
Age	13	46	62	62	31	6.9%	138%
Civil Status	12	18	22	5	23	5.1%	92%
Disability	75	57	90	73	91	20.1%	21%
Family Status	15	28	33	24	23	5.1%	53%
Gender	20	101	116	89	45	10%	125%
Member of Traveller Community	416	408	124	97	51	11.3%	-88%
Race	462	363	292	159	76	16.8%	-84%
Religion	25	20	19	36	30	6.6%	20%
Sexual orientation	7	9	6	12	21	4.6%	200%
In Receipt of Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	43	36	104	91	61	13.5%	42%
Total	1,088	1,113	868	648	452	100%	-58%

Source: Workplace Relations Commission Annual Reports 2016 -2020

In 2020, the WRC received 1,260 complaints under the Employment Equality Acts, 36% more than were received during 2016. The largest categories of complaints made under the Employment Equality Acts in 2020 were 'disability' (23%), followed



by 'gender' (22%), 'race' (17%), and 'age' (16%). There were increases in complaints made under all categories in the period from 2016 to 2020, the largest of which were complaints made under the category of 'civil status' and 'age'. See Table 2.6.

**Table 2.6** Number of complaints received by the WRC from 2016 to 2020 under the Equal Status Acts 2000-2015, by grounds

Grounds	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	% of total (2020)	% difference 2016/2020
Age	127	161	714	452	206	16.3%	62%
Civil Status	24	52	36	78	39	3.1%	63%
Disability	209	204	292	329	290	23%	39%
Family Status	153	114	154	184	187	14.8%	22%
Gender	219	353	318	431	278	22.1%	27%
Member of Traveller Community	5	7	6	2	6	0.5%	20%
Race	154	189	213	183	210	16.7%	27%
Religion	17	9	31	50	19	1.5%	12%
Sexual Orientation	21	24	28	24	25	2%	19%
Total	929	1,113	1,792	1733	1260	100%	36%

Source: Workplace Relations Commission Annual Reports 2016 -2020

#### 2.1.6 Discrimination in Accessing Services

Moving to discrimination when accessing services, in 2019, 12% of adults reported experiencing discrimination in the previous two years when accessing services. This included people who reported experiencing discrimination in at least one of the following areas: 'in places like shops, pubs or restaurants', 'Using the services of banks, insurance companies or financial institutions', 'Education', 'Obtaining housing or accommodation', 'Accessing health services', 'Using transport services', 'Accessing public services' and 'in contact with An Garda Síochána'. This was an increase when compared to 2014 and 2010 when 12% and 7% of adults respectively reported experiencing discrimination when accessing services, note however that changes to the question asked may have contributed to this increase (see background notes). See Table 2.7. People with a non-white ethnicity were the most likely to report experiencing discrimination in 'accessing services' in 2019 (23%), as well as in 2014 and 2010 (20%; 19%). In 2019, other groups who were more likely to report experiencing discrimination when 'accessing services' were people aged 18-24 (19%),



those with a non-Roman Catholic religion (19%), those whose Principal Economic Status was 'other' (18%), the unemployed (17%) and students (17%).

**Table 2.7** Percentage of adults who reported experiencing discrimination when accessing services, by selected socio-demographic background variables

	2010	2014	2019
Total	7	7	11.8
Nationality			
Irish	7	7	10.8
Non-Irish	12	11	17.4
Sex			
Male	10.7	10.3	11.9
Female	11.1	11.1	11.7
Age group			
18-24	9	10	19.1
25-44	8	8	13.5
45-64	7	7	8.5
65+	5	6	7.9
Principal Economic Status			
At work	6	6	10.3
Unemployed	10	11	17.4
Student	10	10	17
Home duties	8	8	12.8
Retired	5	6	9
Other	16	15	17.8
Religion			
Roman Catholic	7	7	9.1
Other	11	10	19.2
Ethnicity			
White	7	7	11.3
Other, including mixed background	19	20	23.1
Educational attainment			
Lower secondary	7	8	9.6
Higher secondary	7	7	11.8
Post Leaving Certificate	8	8	13.6
Third level	8	6	11.8

**Source:** CSO GHS 2019, QNHS 2010, 2014 2010, 2014; 2019



#### 2.1.7 Knowledge of rights and action taken

In 2019, among those who reported experiencing discrimination in the previous two years, one-third (32%) reported that they understood their rights under Irish equality law 'a lot'. Most (56%) reported that they understood their rights 'a little' and 12% reported that they had 'no understanding' of their rights. In 2014, around one-quarter (27%) reported that they had a 'good understanding' of their rights, 53% reported that they understood their rights 'a little', and 21% reported that they had 'no understanding' (not illustrated).

The groups who were most likely to report that they understood their rights 'a lot' were those who had attained a third level education (46%), those aged between 45 and 64 years (40%), and women (40%). The least likely groups to report that they understood their rights 'a lot' were those whose highest level of educational attainment was higher secondary education (14%), those aged between 18 and 24 years (19%), and men (24%). See Table 2.8.

**Table 2.8** Percentage of persons aged 18 years and over who experienced discrimination classified by knowledge of their rights under Irish equality legislation, 2019

	Knowledge of rights						
	No understanding	Understand a little	Understand a lot				
Total	11.5	56.3	32.3				
Nationality							
Irish	9.5	56.9	33.6				
Non-Irish	18.1	54	27.9				
Age group							
18-24	15.1	66.4	18.6				
25-44	12.6	54.5	32.9				
45-64	6.8	52.9	40.3				
65+	14.7	57.8	27.5				
Sex							
Male	13.4	62.7	23.9				
Female	9.7	50.5	39.8				



Religion							
Roman Catholic	10.5	61.2	28.3				
Other	12.8	49.3	37.9				
Ethnicity							
White	11.4	55.6	33				
Other, including mixed background	12.4	63.2	24.4				
Educational attainment							
Lower secondary	12.3	59.2	28.4				
Higher secondary	10.2	75.5	14.3				
Post Leaving Certificate	9.3	55.6	35.2				
Third level	10.4	43.3	46.3				

Source: CSO GHS 2019

Adults who reported experiencing discrimination in the previous two years were asked what action they took on foot of this, if any. Around one-in-five (21%) took 'verbal action', 10% took 'written action', 3% made an 'official complaint or legal action', and 1.7% 'contacted An Garda Síochána'. The majority (70%) reported that they took 'no action'.

Those aged between 18 and 24 years were most likely to take 'no action' (84%). Those who identified as LGBTI+ were the least likely to take 'no action' (55%), but of those who identified as LGBTI+ that did take action 40% took 'verbal action' compared to an overall average of 21%. Those aged between 25 and 44 years were the most likely to take 'written action' (14%), compared to an overall average of 10%. Three per cent reported taking an 'official complaint or legal action', which was highest among those whose Principal Economic Status was 'other' (6%). Overall, less than 2% (1.7%) reported that they 'contacted An Garda Síochána', this was highest among those whose Principal Economic Status was 'other' (2.9%). See Table 2.9.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Neither at work, unemployed, student, home duties or retired



**Table 2.9** Percentage of persons who reported that they experienced discrimination in the previous two years, by action taken

			Action taken		
	Verbal action	Written action	Official complaint or legal action	Contacted An Garda Síochána	No action
Total	21.3	10.2	3	1.7	70.4
Nationality					
Irish	21.8	11.1	3.6	1.9	69.4
Non-Irish	19.9	7	1.1	1.2	73.7
Age group					
18-24	13.7	2.2	2.2	0.7	84.2
25-44	22.1	13.6	3.4	1.9	66.9
45-64	25.3	10.6	3.2	2.4	65.8
65+	17.8	5.1	1.1	0	79.3
Sex					
Male	14.2	10.6	3.5	2.7	75.8
Female	27.6	9.8	2.5	0.8	65.6
Religion					
Roman Catholic	20.9	9.4	2.6	1	72
Other	21.9	11.2	3.5	2.7	68.1
Sexual orientation					
LGBTI+	39.9	3.2	1.6	0	55.3
Non-LGBTI+	20.1	10.6	3.1	1.8	71.4
Principal Economic Stat	us				
At work	22.5	13.2	3.5	2.4	67.6
Unemployed	12.2	7.9	3.3	1.3	75.8
Student	22.9	8.3	1.2	0	75.5
Home duties	20.9	0.0	2.4	0	76.7
Retired	19.6	5.4	0	0.5	78.7
Other	23.4	6.7	5.5	2.9	61.4

Source: CSO GHS 2019

Adults who reported experiencing discrimination in the previous two years and who took 'no action' on foot of this discrimination, were more likely to report having 'no understanding' of their rights under the equality legislation. Those who reported that



they understood their rights 'a lot' were more likely to report taking 'verbal action' (27% vs 21% total) or 'written action' (13% vs 10% total). See Figure 2.3.

90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 Verbal action Written action Official complaint or Contacted An Garda No action taken legal action Síochána ■ No understanding ■ Understand a little ■ Understand a lot

**Figure 2.3** Percentage of persons who reported experiencing discrimination in the previous two years, by action taken and knowledge of rights under Equality legislation (%)

Source: CSO GHS 2019

#### 2.1.8 Effect of Discrimination

In 2019 persons who reported that they experienced some form of discrimination in the previous two years were asked what effect the discrimination had on their lives. Persons who experienced discrimination in 'obtaining housing' were most likely to report that this had a 'very serious effect' on their lives (18%), followed by discrimination 'in education' or 'in contact with An Garda Síochána' (17% each 'very serious effect'). Among people who reported that they experienced discrimination 'looking for work' or 'in accessing healthcare', almost one-third (31% each) reported that this had a 'serious effect' on their lives. Reports of discrimination experienced 'in shops, pubs, or restaurants' was the most likely type of discrimination to be reported as having 'little or no effect'.

Comparing 2014 and 2019, obtaining housing showed the biggest increase in people reporting that this category of discrimination has a 'serious/very serious effect' on their lives (37% in 2014, 46% in 2019). See Table 2.10.



**Table 2.10** Percentage of persons aged 18 years and over who reported that they experienced discrimination in the previous two years, by type of discrimination and effect of the discrimination on their lives

Year		2014				2019			
Effect	Little or no effect	Some effect	Serious effect	Very serious effect	Little or no effect	Some effect	Serious effect	Very serious effect	
In the workplace	16	43	25	16	16	41	29	13	
Looking for work	22	46	24	8	21	40	31	8	
In shops, pubs, or restaurants	39	38	17	5	40	36	21	4	
Banks, insurance companies, or other financial institutions	29	42	17	12	22	42	25	11	
Education	24	35	24	16	21	37	26	17	
Obtaining housing	20	43	23	14	21	33	28	18	
Accessing health services	15	37	32	16	18	36	31	14	
Using transport services	31	50	13	6	[29]	[51]	[11]	[9]	
Accessing public services	11	47	29	13	[9]	[42]	[40]	[9]	
In contact with An Garda Síochána	*	*	*	*	8	45	29	17	

 $\label{thm:continuous} \mbox{Figure in parentheses} \ [] \ \mbox{are based on smaller numbers and are subject to a wider margin of error.}$ 

Source: CSO GHS 2019 and QNHS 2014

<sup>\*</sup>category not included in 2014 survey



## 3. Experience of Discrimination among children (ages 12-17 years)

### 3.1 Health Behaviours in School-Aged Children study

The Irish Health Behaviours In School-Aged Children (HBSC) study conducted in 2018, included data on experiences of being treated unfairly reported by children aged 12-14 years and 15-17 years. Children who reported being treated unfairly were asked what they thought this unfair treatment was due to ('age', 'gender', 'race', 'disability', 'place of birth', 'sexual orientation', 'religion', or 'membership of the Traveller community').

Nearly half (47%) of children reported that they had ever experienced unfair treatment against on the basis of their 'age', with 10% reporting that they experienced age-based discrimination 'often'/'very often'. Almost four-in-ten (39%) reported ever being discriminated against on the basis of 'gender', and one-quarter (26%) reported ever experiencing discrimination based on 'place of birth'. A smaller but sizeable minority (14%) reported that they had ever experienced discrimination based on 'race' (14%), 'religion' (12%), 'sexual orientation' (11%), or 'disability' (10%). Around 3% of children reported ever being discriminated against on the basis of 'membership of the Traveller community'. See Table 3.1.

**Table 3.1** Experiences of discrimination among children aged 12-17 years by the perceived basis for this unfair treatment

	Never % (n)	Hardly ever % (n)	Sometimes % (n)	Often % (n)	Very often % (n)	Total
Age	52.7% (3173)	19.3% (1160)	18.5% (1113)	7.1% (425)	2.5% (153)	6024
Gender	61.1% (3685)	19.0% (1146)	13.7% (825)	4.2% (254)	2.1% (124)	6034
Place of Birth	74.1% (4471)	13.9% (841)	7.9% (477)	2.2% (135)	1.8% (108)	6032
Race	85.8% (5159)	6.1% (365)	4.7% (281)	1.8% (111)	1.6% (99)	6015
Religion	87.7% (5277)	6.2% (373)	3.7% (225)	1.1% (68)	1.3% (77)	6020
Sexual Orientation	89.0% (5350)	4.7% (283)	3.6% (214)	1.3% (79)	1.4% (85)	6011
Disability	90.3% (5415)	4.3% (256)	3.5% (208)	0.9% (55)	1.0% (61)	5995
Membership of the Traveling Community	96.8% (5716)	1.3% (75)	0.9% (51)	0.4% (21)	0.7% (41)	5904

Source: HBSC 2018 Kolto et al (2021) https://doi.org/10.13025/YDPB-CQ72



#### 3.1.1 Perceived discrimination based on age

On average, 47% of children reported ever being discriminated against on the basis of their 'age'. Girls (59%) were more likely than boys (34%) to report ever being discriminated against on the basis of 'age'. A subsequent analysis showed that this effect was significant (Kolto et al., 2021). Half (50%) of children aged 15-17 years reported ever being discriminated against on the basis of 'age'. A lower proportion (43%) of children aged 12-14 years reported ever being discriminated against due to 'age'. See Table 3.2.

**Table 3.2** Rates of perceived discrimination on the basis of age across sociodemographic groups in the overall sample

		Never % (n)	Hardly ever % (n)	Sometimes % (n)	Often % (n)	Very often % (n)
All		52.7% (3173)	19.3% (1160)	18.5% (1113)	7.1% (425)	2.5% (153)
Age	12-14	56.8% (1248)	18.8% (412)	16.1% (354)	5.9% (130)	2.4% (53)
group	15-17	50.3% (1925)	19.5% (748)	19.8% (759)	7.7% (295)	2.6% (100)
C	Boy	66.0% (1802)	16.5% (451)	11.7% (320)	4.2% (114)	1.6% (44)
Gender	Girl	41.5% (1356)	21.6% (704)	24.2% (789)	9.5% (309)	3.2% (106)
	1-2	51.2% (1499)	20.5% (599)	19.1% (559)	7.2% (211)	2.0% (60)
Social class	2-3	53.9% (983)	18.1% (331)	18.0% (329)	7.4% (135)	2.6% (47)
	4-5	53.7% (297)	19.7% (109)	18.1% (100)	5.2%(29)	3.3% (18)

 $\textbf{Note:} \ \mathsf{Sample} \ \mathsf{sizes} \ \mathsf{across} \ \mathsf{sociodemographic} \ \mathsf{groups} \ \mathsf{may} \ \mathsf{differ} \ \mathsf{due} \ \mathsf{to} \ \mathsf{missing} \ \mathsf{responses}.$ 

**Source:** HBSC 2018 Kolto et al (2021) https://doi.org/10.13025/YDPB-CQ72

Researchers at NUI Galway carried out a data matching exercise to compare the responses of minority and non-minority peers, who were matched by 'age', 'gender', and 'social class'. Almost two-thirds (63%) of sexual minority children reported ever being discriminated against on the basis of 'age', compared to 49% of non-minority children. A further analysis showed that this was as a significant association but the effect size <sup>10</sup> was small. Half (50%) of children with a disability reported ever experiencing 'age' based discrimination, compared to 46% of children without a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Includes children who reported their sexual orientation as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and other.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Effect size measures the magnitude of the experimental effect, i.e. the magnitude of the difference between two variables. The larger the effect size the stronger the relationship between the two variables.



disability. The NUIG analysis (Kolto et al., 2021) showed that there was a significant association between 'age' based discrimination and disability status, but the effect size was negligible. See Table 3.3.

**Table 3.3** Rates of perceived discrimination on the basis of age across sociodemographic groups in the matched sub-samples

		Never % (n)	Hardly ever % (n)	Sometimes % (n)	Often % (n)	Very often % (n)
Sexual	Sexual minority	37.3% (194)	22.3% (116)	22.9% (119)	11.5% (60)	6.0% (31)
minority	Non-minority	51.5% (268)	20.0% (104)	15.0% (78)	10.6% (55)	2.9% (15)
D: 1.00	Disability	50.1% (656)	17.9% (234)	19.6% (256)	8.6% (113)	3.8% (50)
Disability	No disability	54.4% (712)	18.8% (246)	17.4% (228)	7.0% (91)	2.4% (32)
luanoi avant	Non-immigrant	54.5% (454)	19.6% (163)	16.4% (137)	6.6% (55)	2.9% (24)
Immigrant	Immigrant	54.0% (450)	20.0% (167)	17.5% (146)	6.2% (52)	2.2% (18)
Tuo vellou	Traveller	51.3% (59)	20.9% (24)	15.7% (18)	6.1% (7)	6.1% (7)
Traveller	Non-Traveller	61.7% (71)	18.3% (21)	11.3% (13)	6.1% (7)	2.6% (3)

Note: Sample sizes across sociodemographic groups may differ due to missing responses.

Source: HBSC 2018 Kolto et al (2021) https://doi.org/10.13025/YDPB-CQ72

#### 3.1.2 Perceived discrimination based on gender

On average, 39% of the children in HBSC reported ever being discriminated against on the basis of 'gender'. Over half (55%) of girls and one-in-five (20%) boys reported ever experiencing discrimination due to 'gender'. Girls were three times more likely than boys to report that they experienced 'gender' based discrimination either 'often' or 'very often' (9% vs 3%). Older children (15-17 years) were more likely than 12-14 year olds to report that had ever been discriminated due to 'gender' (42% vs 35%). A subsequent analysis showed that discrimination on the basis of 'gender' was not significantly associated with social class, meaning that children from different social class backgrounds reported similar levels of gender-based discrimination (Kolto et al., 2021). See Table 3.4.



**Table 3.4** Rates of perceived discrimination on the basis of gender across sociodemographic groups in the overall sample

		Never % (n)	Hardly ever % (n)	Sometimes % (n)	Often % (n)	Very often % (n)
All		61.1% (3685)	19.0% (1146)	13.7% (825)	4.2% (254)	2.1% (124)
Vac akorin	12-14	65.5% (1441)	17.4% (383)	11.1% (245)	4.1% (91)	1.8% (39)
Age group	15-17	58.5% (2244)	19.9% (763)	15.1% (580)	4.3% (163)	2.2% (85)
Candan	Boy	80.0% (2191)	11.7% (321)	5.5% (152)	1.6% (43)	1.2% (32)
Gender	Girl	45.2% (1477)	25.2% (822)	20.5% (669)	6.4% (210)	2.7% (89)
	1-2	58.9% (1728)	20.5% (602)	14.5% (426)	4.2% (124)	1.8% (54)
Social class	2-3	62.5% (1144)	17.7% (324)	13.1% (239)	4.5% (82)	2.2% (40)
	4-5	63.3% (348)	18.9% (104)	11.8% (65)	3.5% (19)	2.5% (14)

**Note:** Sample sizes across sociodemographic groups may differ due to missing responses.

Source: HBSC 2018 Kolto et al (2021) https://doi.org/10.13025/YDPB-CQ72

Over half (58%) of sexual minority children reported ever being discriminated against due to 'gender', compared to 46% among non-minority children. A subsequent analysis showed that this association was significant, but the effect size was small (Kolto et al., 2021). Children with disabilities and chronic conditions and immigrant children were also significantly more likely to report discrimination on the basis of 'gender' than their non-minority counterparts, but the effect sizes were negligible. Discrimination on the basis of 'gender' was not significantly associated with Traveller status, i.e. Travellers and non-Travellers reported similar levels of gender-based discrimination. See Table 3.5.

**Table 3.5** Rates of perceived discrimination on the basis of gender across sociodemographic groups in the matched sub-samples

		Never % (n)	Hardly ever % (n)	Sometimes % (n)	Often % (n)	Very often % (n)
Sexual	Sexual minority	42.1% (219)	22.3% (116)	21.7% (113)	8.7% (45)	5.2% (27)
minority	Non-minority	54.0% (281)	23.7% (123)	15.6% (81)	3.7% (19)	3.1% (16)
	Disability	57.5% (754)	19.1% (251)	14.2% (186)	6.3% (82)	3.0% (39)
Disability	No disability	63.3% (830)	17.9% (235)	13.6% (178)	3.4% (44)	1.9% (25)
	Immigrant	63.4% (531)	18.6% (156)	10.9% (91)	5.1% (43)	1.9% (16)
Immigrant	Non-immigrant	61.1% (511)	19.5% (163)	14.9% (125)	3.5% (29)	1.1% (9)
T "	Traveller	57.3% (67)	19.7% (23)	14.5% (17)	3.4% (4)	5.1% (6)
Traveller	Non-Traveller	65.8% (77)	19.7% (23)	10.3% (12)	2.6% (3)	1.7% (2)

Note: Sample sizes across sociodemographic groups may differ due to missing responses.

Source: HBSC 2018 Kolto et al (2021) https://doi.org/10.13025/YDPB-CQ72



#### 3.1.3 Perceived discrimination based on place of birth

Overall, 26% of children in the HBSC Ireland study reported ever being discriminated against on the basis of 'place of birth of self, parent or grandparent'.

A further analysis of this showed that age group was not significantly associated with perceived discrimination based on 'place of birth' (i.e. there were similar levels of perceived discrimination on the basis of place of birth across all age groups). There were however some differences with gender and social class - slightly more boys than girls reported ever being discriminated on this basis, but a deeper analysis of this showed that the effect size was negligible. Similarly, children from lower social class groups were more likely to report discrimination than their peers from higher social classes, but again the effect size was negligible. See Table 3.6.

**Table 3.6** Rates of perceived discrimination on the basis of place of birth of self, parent or grandparent across sociodemographic groups in the overall sample

		Never % (n)	Hardly ever % (n)	Sometimes % (n)	Often % (n)	Very often % (n)
All		74.1% (4471)	13.9% (841)	7.9% (477)	2.2% (135)	1.8% (108)
^	12-14	74.7% (1639)	13.5% (296)	7.9% (174)	2.2% (49)	1.7% (37)
Age group	15-17	73.8% (2832)	14.2% (545)	7.9% (303)	2.2% (86)	1.9% (71)
C 1	Boy	72.3% (1980)	14.9% (408)	8.3% (226)	2.7% (75)	1.8% (50)
Gender	Girl	75.8% (2475)	13.1% (428)	7.5% (246)	1.8% (59)	1.7% (56)
	1-2	76.5% (2244)	12.9% (379)	7.3% (214)	2.1% (61)	1.2% (36)
Social class	2-3	73.6% (1341)	14.7% (268)	7.7% (140)	2.3% (42)	1.6% (30)
	4-5	69.2% (382)	15.2% (84)	9.4% (52)	3.1% (17)	3.1% (17)

Note: Sample sizes across sociodemographic groups may differ due to missing responses.

 $\textbf{Source:} \ \mathsf{HBSC} \ \mathsf{Kolto} \ \mathsf{et} \ \mathsf{al} \ (2021) \ \mathsf{https://doi.org/10.13025/YDPB-CQ72}$ 

Looking at perceived discrimination on the basis of 'place of birth' and sexual minority, sexual minority children were more likely to report discrimination on the basis of birthplace than their non-minority peers, 32% had ever experienced this versus 24% among non-minority children. A further analysis showed that the effect size was small. Immigrant children were more likely than their non-immigrant peers to report ever being discriminated on the basis of 'place of birth of self, parent or



grandparent' (52% among immigrant children, 16% among non-immigrant children). Further analysis showed that the effect size was medium. Birthplace discrimination was not significantly associated with having a disability or chronic condition, or being a member of the Traveller community. This means that children with and without a disability reported similar levels of discrimination, as did Traveller and non-Traveller children. See Table 3.7.

**Table 3.7** Rates of perceived discrimination on the basis of place of birth of self, parent or grandparent across sociodemographic groups in the matched sub-samples

		Never % (n)	Hardly ever % (n)	Sometimes % (n)	Often % (n)	Very often % (n)
Sexual minority	Sexual minority	67.6% (352)	17.3% (90)	10.0% (52)	3.3% (17)	1.9% (10)
Sexual Illinority	Non-minority	76.4% (398)	12.5% (65)	7.5% (39)	1.3% (7)	2.3% (12)
Disability	Disability	71.4% (938)	14.9% (196)	8.7% (114)	2.7% (35)	2.3% (30)
Disability	No disability	75.0% (985)	14.2% (187)	6.9% (91)	2.1% (27)	1.8% (23)
luonoi avant	Immigrant	47.8% (400)	25.4% (213)	18.2% (152)	5.1% (43)	3.5% (29)
Immigrant	Non-immigrant	83.8% (701)	11.8% (99)	3.0% (25)	0.5% (4)	1.0% (8)
- "	Traveller	57.4% (66)	20.0% (23)	14.8% (17)	3.5% (4)	4.3% (5)
Traveller	Non-Traveller	74.8% (86)	11.3% (13)	9.6% (11)	1.7% (2)	2.6% (3)

Note: Sample sizes across sociodemographic groups may differ due to missing responses.

**Source:** HBSC 2018 Kolto et al (2021) https://doi.org/10.13025/YDPB-CQ72

#### 3.1.4 Perceived discrimination based on race

In total, 14% of children reported ever being discriminated against on the basis of 'race'. A further analysis showed that age group, gender and social class were not significantly associated with perceived discrimination on the basis of the respondent's 'race'. In other words, younger and older children reported similar levels of discrimination, as did boys and girls, and children from different social classes. See Table 3.8.



**Table 3.8** Rates of perceived discrimination on the basis of race across sociodemographic groups in the overall sample

		Never % (n)	Hardly ever % (n)	Sometimes % (n)	Often % (n)	Very often % (n)
All		85.8% (5159)	6.1% (365)	4.7% (281)	1.8% (111)	1.6% (99)
Vac akorio	12-14	84.8% (1857)	6.6% (144)	5.1% (112)	1.8% (39)	1.7% (38)
Age group	15-17	86.3% (3302)	5.8% (221)	4.4% (169)	1.9% (72)	1.6% (61)
Gender	Boy	85.4% (2330)	6.3% (173)	4.7% (127)	1.8% (48)	1.8% (49)
Gender	Girl	86.1% (2806)	5.8% (189)	4.7% (153)	1.9% (63)	1.5% (48)
	1-2	87.0% (2550)	5.6% (163)	4.7% (137)	1.5% (45)	1.2% (35)
Social class	2-3	87.3% (1593)	5.6% (103)	3.3% (60)	1.9% (35)	1.8% (33)
	4-5	85.8% (470)	6.0% (33)	4.9% (27)	1.5% (8)	1.8% (10)

Note: Sample sizes across sociodemographic groups may differ due to missing responses.

Source: HBSC Kolto et al (2021) https://doi.org/10.13025/YDPB-CQ72

Children identifying as a sexual minority, and those living with disability or chronic condition did not report significantly different rates of discrimination on the basis of 'race' than their matched non-minority peers. Immigrant children were more likely than non-immigrant children however to report ever experiencing discrimination on the basis of 'race' (33% vs 7%). A further analysis showed that discrimination on the basis of 'race' was significantly associated with immigrant status. Traveller children (38%) were also more likely than non-Travellers (14%) to report ever being discriminated against on the basis of 'race'. Being a member of the Traveller community was significant associated with experiencing race-based discrimination and the effect size was small. See Table 3.9.

**Table 3.9** Rates of perceived discrimination on the basis of race across sociodemographic groups in the matched sub-samples

		Never % (n)	Hardly ever % (n)	Sometimes % (n)	Often % (n)	Very often % (n)
Sexual	Sexual minority	81.0% (421)	6.3% (33)	6.5% (34)	3.5% (18)	2.7% (14)
minority	Non-minority	85.2% (443)	6.0% (31)	5.6% (29)	1.5% (8)	1.7% (9)
Disability	Disability	84.6% (1099)	6.4% (83)	4.8% (63)	1.8% (23)	2.4% (31)
	No disability	86.6% (1125)	6.0% (78)	4.0% (52)	2.0% (26)	1.4% (18)
Immigrant	Immigrant	66.7% (555)	14.3% (119)	12.1% (101)	3.4% (28)	3.5% (29)
	Non-immigrant	93.1% (775)	3.6% (30)	2.0% (17)	0.5% (4)	0.7% (6)
Traveller	Traveller	61.9% (70)	15.9% (18)	8.0% (9)	4.4% (5)	9.7% (11)
	Non-Traveller	85.8% (97)	5.3% (6)	5.3% (6)	2.7% (3)	0.9% (1)

Note: Sample sizes across sociodemographic groups may differ due to missing responses.

Source: HBSC 2018 Kolto et al (2021) https://doi.org/10.13025/YDPB-CQ72



#### 3.1.5 Perceived discrimination based on religion

Overall, 12% of children reported ever being discriminated against on the basis of 'religion'. A further analysis showed that perceived discrimination on the basis of 'religion' was not significantly associated with age group, gender or social class. In other words, younger and older children reported similar levels of discrimination, as did boys and girls, and children from different social class backgrounds. See Table 3.10.

**Table 3.10** Rates of perceived discrimination on the basis of religion across sociodemographic groups in the overall sample

		Never % (n)	Hardly ever % (n)	Sometimes % (n)	Often % (n)	Very often % (n)
All		87.7% (5277)	6.2% (373)	3.7% (225)	1.1% (68)	1.3% (77)
A = 0 = 0 = 0 = 0	12-14	88.1% (1933)	6.1% (133)	3.4% (74)	1.3% (29)	1.2% (26)
Age group	15-17	87.4% (3344)	6.3% (240)	3.9% (151)	1.0% (39)	1.3% (51)
Gender	Boy	88.0% (2400)	5.9% (162)	3.6% (98)	1.0% (27)	1.5% (40)
	Girl	87.4% (2853)	6.4% (208)	3.9% (127)	1.3% (41)	1.1% (35)
Social class	1-2	87.7% (2569)	6.6% (194)	3.6% (106)	1.2% (36)	0.8% (23)
	2-3	89.3% (1626)	5.4% (98)	3.4% (61)	0.9% (16)	1.0% (19)
	4-5	88.2% (486)	6.5% (36)	2.9% (16)	1.1% (6)	1.3% (7)

**Note:** Sample sizes across sociodemographic groups may differ due to missing responses.

Source: HBSC 2018 Kolto et al (2021) https://doi.org/10.13025/YDPB-CQ72

Further analysis showed that sexual minority status was significantly associated with discrimination on the basis of 'religion' with a small effect size: 20% of sexual minority children reported ever being discriminated against due to religion, compared to 12% of non-minority children. Immigrant children were twice as likely as non-immigrant to be discriminated against on the basis of 'religion'; 21% of immigrant children reported that they had ever experienced this compared to 10% on non-immigrant children. Further analysis showed that this association was significant, with a small effect size. Discrimination on the basis of 'religion' was not significantly associated with having a disability or chronic condition, or Traveller status – children with and without a disability and Traveller and non-Traveller children reported similar levels of discrimination. See Table 3.11.



**Table 3.11** Rates of perceived discrimination on the basis of religion across sociodemographic groups in the matched sub-samples

		Never % (n)	Hardly ever % (n)	Sometimes % (n)	Often % (n)	Very often % (n)
Sexual minority	Sexual minority	79.8% (414)	10.0% (52)	6.2% (32)	2.1% (11)	1.9% (10)
Sexual Illillority	Non-minority	87.7% (455)	5.2% (27)	4.2% (22)	1.0% (5)	1.9% (10)
Dischility	Disability	84.9% (1106)	7.2% (94)	4.4% (57)	1.6% (21)	1.9% (25)
Disability	No disability	88.4% (1152)	5.4% (71)	4.1% (53)	0.9% (12)	1.2% (15)
1	Immigrant	78.9% (658)	9.7% (81)	7.1% (59)	2.3% (19)	2.0% (17)
Immigrant	Non-immigrant	90.3% (753)	5.6% (47)	2.5% (21)	0.7% (6)	0.8% (7)
Travallar	Traveller	81.0% (94)	6.9% (8)	4.3% (5)	1.7% (2)	6.0% (7)
Traveller	Non-Traveller	88.8% (103)	3.4% (4)	6.0% (7)	0.9% (1)	0.9% (1)

**Note:** Sample sizes across sociodemographic groups may differ due to missing responses.

**Source:** HBSC 2018 Kolto et al (2021) https://doi.org/10.13025/YDPB-CQ72

#### 3.1.6 Perceived discrimination based on sexual orientation

Overall, 11% of children reported ever being discriminated against on the basis of 'sexual orientation'. Ten per cent of boys and 12% of girls reported that ever been discriminated against due to 'sexual orientation', and a further analysis showed that this association was significant but the effect size was negligible. No significant association was found between discrimination on the basis of 'sexual orientation' and age group or social class, i.e., similar levels of discrimination were reported by younger and older children, and by children from different social class backgrounds. See Table 3.12.

**Table 3.12** Rates of perceived discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation across sociodemographic groups in the overall sample

		Never Hardly ever % (n) % (n)		Sometimes % (n)	Often % (n)	Very often % (n)
All		89.0% (5350)	4.7% (283)	3.6% (214)	1.3% (79)	1.4% (85)
A = 0 = max = m	12-14	88.2% (1929)	5.0% (109)	3.9% (86)	1.4% (30)	1.5% (32)
Age group	15-17	89.4% (3421)	4.5% (174)	3.3% (128)	1.3% (49)	1.4% (53)
C	Boy	90.5% (2471)	3.8% (103)	2.8% (77)	1.2% (32)	1.7% (46)
Gender	Girl	87.9% (2859)	5.5% (178)	4.1% (134)	1.4% (46)	1.1% (35)
Social class	1-2	90.3% (2643)	4.4% (129)	3.3% (97)	1.1% (33)	0.9% (25)
	2-3	88.6% (1610)	4.9% (89)	3.3% (60)	1.4% (26)	1.8% (33)
	4-5	89.6% (493)	4.2% (23)	3.5% (19)	0.7% (4)	2.0% (11)

Note: Sample sizes across sociodemographic groups may differ due to missing responses.

**Source:** HBSC 2018 Kolto et al (2021) https://doi.org/10.13025/YDPB-CQ72



Sexual minority status was significantly associated with discrimination on the basis of 'sexual orientation'. Sexual minority children were eight times as likely as non-minority children to report ever being discriminated against due to 'sexual orientation' (56% vs 7%). Almost one-fifth (17%) of sexual minority children reported being discriminated against due to 'sexual orientation' either 'often' or 'very often', which was 2% among non-minority children. Traveller children were also more likely to report discrimination due to 'sexual orientation' than non-Traveller children (27% vs 9% ever experienced this), with a small effect size. Further analysis showed that immigrant children were significantly more likely than non-immigrants to be discriminated against on the basis of 'sexual orientation', but the effect was negligible. Discrimination on the basis of 'sexual orientation' was not significantly associated with having a disability or chronic condition, similar levels of discrimination were reported by children with and without a disability. See Table 3.13.

**Table 3.13** Rates of perceived discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation across sociodemographic groups in the matched sub-samples

		Never % (n)	Hardly ever % (n)	Sometimes % (n)	Often % (n)	Very often % (n)
Sexual minority	Sexual minority	44.0% (231)	18.3% (96)	20.4% (107)	8.8% (46)	8.6% (45)
Sexual Illillority	Non-minority	92.8% (487)	3.6% (19)	1.5% (8)	1.0% (5)	1.1% (6)
DiLilia.	Disability	86.0% (1120)	5.7% (74)	4.5% (58)	1.7% (22)	2.2% (28)
Disability	No disability	89.7% (1168)	4.6% (60)	3.1% (41)	1.3% (17)	1.2% (16)
Immigrant	Immigrant	86.7% (723)	4.9% (41)	3.6% (30)	2.5% (21)	2.3% (19)
	Non-immigrant	91.0% (759)	4.8% (40)	2.2% (18)	1.1% (9)	1.0% (8)
Traveller	Traveller	73.0% (84)	8.7% (10)	7.8% (9)	2.6% (3)	7.8% (9)
	Non-Traveller	91.3% (105)	3.5% (4)	2.6% (3)	1.7% (2)	0.9% (1)

**Note:** Sample sizes across sociodemographic groups may differ due to missing responses.

Source: HBSC 2018 Kolto et al (2021) https://doi.org/10.13025/YDPB-CQ72

#### 3.1.7 Perceived discrimination based on disability

Overall, 10% of children reported ever being discriminated against on the basis of 'disability'. More boys than girls reported ever being discriminated on this basis (11% vs 9%), but further analysis showed that the effect size was negligible. Discrimination on the basis of 'disability' was not significantly associated with age group or social class, with similar levels of discrimination reported by younger and older children, and by children from different social class backgrounds. See Table 3.14.



**Table 3.14** Rates of perceived discrimination on the basis of disability across sociodemographic groups in the overall sample

		Never % (n)	Hardly ever % (n)	Sometimes % (n)	Often % (n)	Very often % (n)
All		90.3% (5415)	4.3% (256)	3.5% (208)	0.9% (55)	1.0% (61)
A = 0 = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = =	12-14	90.0% (1968)	4.3% (95)	3.6% (79)	1.0% (22)	1.1% (23)
Age group	15-17	90.5% (3447)	4.2% (161)	3.4% (129)	0.9% (33)	1.0% (38)
C	Boy	89.2% (2427)	5.0% (135)	3.7% (101)	0.9% (24)	1.2% (33)
Gender	Girl	91.3% (2964)	3.7% (120)	3.2% (105)	1.0% (31)	0.8% (26)
	1-2	91.8% (2860)	3.8% (112)	2.9% (84)	0.8% (22)	0.8% (22)
Social class	2-3	90.5% (1643)	4.2% (76)	3.6% (66)	0.8% (15)	0.9% (16)
	4-5	88.5% (486)	4.6% (25)	4.2% (23)	0.9% (5)	1.8% (10)

**Note:** Sample sizes across sociodemographic groups may differ due to missing responses.

Source: HBSC 2018 Kolto et al (2021) https://doi.org/10.13025/YDPB-CQ72

Children with disabilities or chronic conditions were significantly more likely to report ever being discriminated against on the basis of 'disability' than children without a disability (18% vs 7%). Further analysis showed that the effect size was small. Children from the Traveller community were significantly more likely than their non-Traveller counterparts to be discriminated against based on 'disability': Traveller children were almost four times as likely to report ever being discriminated against due to 'disability' than non-Traveller children (23% vs 6%). Further analysis showed that effect size was small. Discrimination on the basis of 'disability' was not significantly associated with sexual orientation or immigrant status, i.e., similar levels of discrimination were reported among these subgroups. See Table 3.15.

**Table 3.15** Rates of perceived discrimination on the basis of disability across sociodemographic groups in the matched sub-samples

		Never % (n)	Hardly ever % (n)	Sometimes % (n)	Often % (n)	Very often % (n)
Sexual minority	Sexual minority	86.5% (442)	4.9% (25)	5.1% (26)	2.0% (10)	1.6% (8)
Sexual Illillority	Non-minority	91.2% (466)	4.5% (23)	2.2% (11)	0.8% (4)	1.4% (7)
B: 130	Disability	81.7% (1057)	7.0% (90)	6.9% (89)	2.5% (32)	1.9% (25)
Disability	No disability	93.2% (1205)	2.9% (38)	2.8% (36)	0.6% (8)	0.5% (6)
luana i ava a t	Immigrant	89.1% (735)	4.5% (37)	4.0% (33)	1.2% (10)	1.2% (10)
Immigrant	Non-immigrant	92.0% (759)	3.8% (31)	2.7% (22)	0.7% (6)	0.8% (7)
T	Traveller	77.0% (87)	9.7% (11)	4.4% (5)	1.8% (2)	7.1% (8)
Traveller	Non-Traveller	93.8% (106)	1.8% (2)	3.5% (4)	0.0% (0)	0.9% (1)

 $\textbf{Note:} \ \mathsf{Sample} \ \mathsf{sizes} \ \mathsf{across} \ \mathsf{sociodemographic} \ \mathsf{groups} \ \mathsf{may} \ \mathsf{differ} \ \mathsf{due} \ \mathsf{to} \ \mathsf{missing} \ \mathsf{responses}.$ 

**Source:** HBSC 2018 Kolto et al (2021) https://doi.org/10.13025/YDPB-CQ72



#### 3.1.8 Perceived discrimination based on membership of the Traveller community

Overall, 3.2% of children reported ever being discriminated against on the basis of 'membership of the Traveller community'. The prevalence of this form of discrimination is likely affected by Travellers being a small proportion of the overall sample. Boys were more likely to be discriminated on this basis: 4% had ever experienced discrimination due to 'Traveller status' compared to 2% of girls, but further analysis showed that the effect size was negligible. No significant association was found between discrimination based on 'Traveller status' and age group or social class, i.e. older and younger children and children from different social class backgrounds reported similar levels of discrimination. See Table 3.16.

**Table 3.16** Rates of perceived discrimination on the basis of membership of the Traveller community across sociodemographic groups in the overall sample

		Never % (n)	Hardly ever % (n)	Sometimes % (n)	Often % (n)	Very often % (n)
All		96.8% (5716)	1.3% (75)	0.9% (51)	0.4% (21)	0.7% (41)
Λ	12-14	96.1% (2508)	1.8% (38)	0.9% (19)	0.3% (7)	0.9% (19)
Age group	15-17	97.2% (3658)	1.0% (37)	0.9% (32)	0.4% (14)	0.6% (22)
C	Boy	96.0% (2586)	1.6% (43)	1.0% (27)	0.4% (11)	1.0% (26)
Gender	Girl	97.6% (3107)	0.9% (29)	0.8% (24)	0.3% (9)	0.4% (13)
	1-2	98.0% (2803)	1.0% (28)	0.6% (17)	0.2% (5)	0.3% (8)
Social class	2-3	97.1% (1736)	1.4% (25)	0.7% (12)	0.3% (5)	0.5% (9)
	4-5	96.9% (529)	1.1% (6)	0.9% (5)	0.0% (0)	1.1% (6)

Note: Sample sizes across sociodemographic groups may differ due to missing responses.

**Source:** HBSC 2018 Kolto et al (2021) https://doi.org/10.13025/YDPB-CQ72

Traveller children were almost four times more likely than non-Travellers to report ever being discriminated against due to 'Traveller status' (23% vs 6%), with 9% of Traveller children reporting that they experienced discrimination on this basis either often or very often. Further analysis showed that this association was significant, with a large effect size. Being discriminated against on the basis of 'Traveller status' was not significantly associated sexual orientation, migrant status or having a disability. I.e., members of these subgroups reported similar levels of discrimination on the basis of 'Traveller status'. See Table 3.17.



Table 3.17 Rates of perceived discrimination on the basis of membership of the Traveller	
community across sociodemographic groups in the matched sub-samples	

		Never % (n)	Hardly ever % (n)	Sometimes % (n)	Often % (n)	Very often % (n)
Carried main a with .	Sexual minority	86.5% (442)	4.9% (25)	5.1% (26)	2.0% (10)	1.6% (8)
Sexual minority	Non-minority	91.2% (466)	4.5% (23)	2.2% (11)	0.8% (4)	1.4% (7)
Disability	Disability	81.7% (1057)	7.0% (90)	6.9% (89)	2.5% (32)	1.9% (25)
	No disability	93.2% (1205)	2.9% (38)	2.8% (36)	0.6% (8)	0.5% (6)
Lacarianant	Immigrant	89.1% (735)	4.5% (37)	4.0% (33)	1.2% (10)	1.2% (10)
Immigrant	Non-immigrant	92.0% (759)	3.8% (31)	2.7% (22)	0.7% (6)	0.8% (7)
Tuescalles	Traveller	77.0% (87)	9.7% (11)	4.4% (5)	1.8% (2)	7.1% (8)
Traveller	Non-Traveller	93.8% (106)	1.8% (2)	3.5% (4)	0.0% (0)	0.9% (1)

Note: Sample sizes across sociodemographic groups may differ due to missing responses.

Source: HBSC 2018 Kolto et al (2021) https://doi.org/10.13025/YDPB-CQ72

### 3.2 Growing Up in Ireland

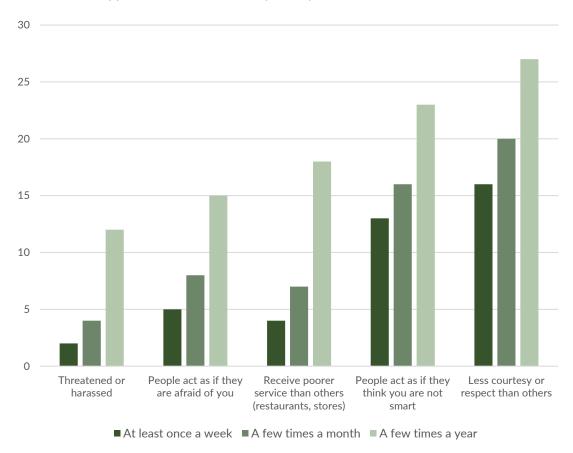
In 2015/16 the Growing Up in Ireland (GUI) study<sup>11</sup> collected data on the experience of discrimination from 17/18-year-olds. Respondents were asked about how often 'unfair treatment' happened to them in their day-to-day life.

The most common form of unfair treatment reported was 'being shown less courtesy or respect than others', with 63% of 17/18-year-olds reporting that they experienced this form of unfair treatment 'a few times a year' or more often. Over half (52%) of young people reported that they experienced people acting 'as if they think you are not smart' 'a few times a year' or more often. Around three-in-ten reported receiving 'poorer service than others in restaurants and stores' 'a few times a year' or more often (29%), and people acting 'as if they are afraid' of them at least 'a few times a year' (28%).

While being 'threatened or harassed' was reported less commonly, almost one-in-five (18%) reported experiencing this form of mistreatment 'a few times a year' or more often. See Figure 3.1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> This data was collected in the third wave of GUI from Cohort '98, comprising 6,000 17/18-year-olds who were previously interviewed through the study at ages 9 and 13.





**Figure 3.1** Percentage of 17/18 year-olds reporting how often different forms of unfair treatment have happened to them in their day-to-day life

Source: McNamara et al (2020)<sup>12</sup>

Of those who reported experiencing any form of unfair treatment at least 'a few times a year', the most common reason reported for unfair treatment was 'age' (49%), followed by 'gender' (31%), with 'physical appearance other than height or weight' being the third most common reason (28%).

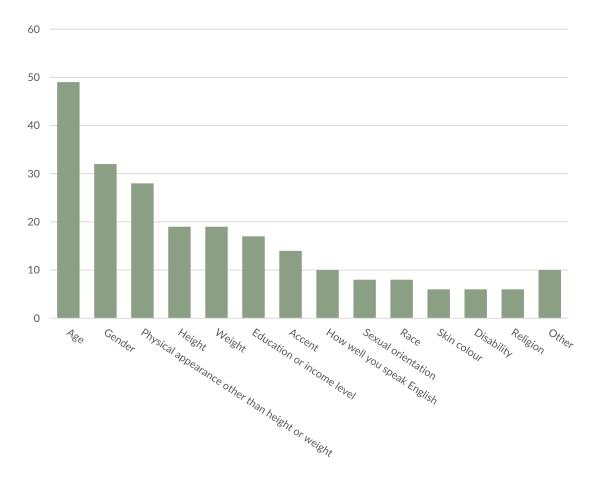
'Sexual orientation' (8%), 'race' (8%), 'skin colour' (6%), 'disability' (6%), and 'religion' (6%) were the least common reasons reported for unfair treatment. See Figure 3.2. Of all the reasons listed, only sexual orientation, race, skin colour, disability, and religion are listed as grounds for discrimination under the Equal Status Act.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> McNamara, E., Murphy, D., Murray, A., Smyth, E., & Watson, D. (2020) *Growing Up in Ireland The Lives of 17/18-year-olds* Available at: https://www.growingup.ie/pubs/GUI-lives-of-17-18-year-olds-web-ready.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2000/act/8/enacted/en/html



**Figure 3.2** Perceived reasons for unfair treatment reported by 17/18-year-olds who had reported experiencing any form of unfair treatment (%)



Source: McNamara et al (2020)



### 4. Experience of discrimination among the Traveller Community and Roma

### **4.1 National Traveller Community Survey**

The National Traveller Community Survey asked Travellers in 2017 whether they had 'ever' experienced discrimination from a range of sources, and whether they had experienced this 'in the past year'. Overall, 90% of Travellers reported that they had 'ever' experienced discrimination, with 77% reporting that they had experienced discrimination 'in the past year'. See Figure 4.1. The wording of the question did not ask whether this discrimination was due to being a Traveller.

90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
Ever In the past year

**Figure 4.1** Percentage of Travellers who reported that they had experienced discrimination, ever or in the past year

Source: National Traveller Community Survey 2017

The most commonly reported sources of discrimination were discrimination by

- 'Gardaí' (70% ever, 48% in the past year)
- 'pub staff' (53% ever, 36% in the past year)
- 'hotel staff' (51% ever, 23% in the past year)
- and 'shop staff' (45% ever, 33% in the past year).



One-third (33%) of Travellers reported having 'ever' experienced discrimination from 'employers when looking for work', including 13% in the 'past year'. See Figure 4.2.

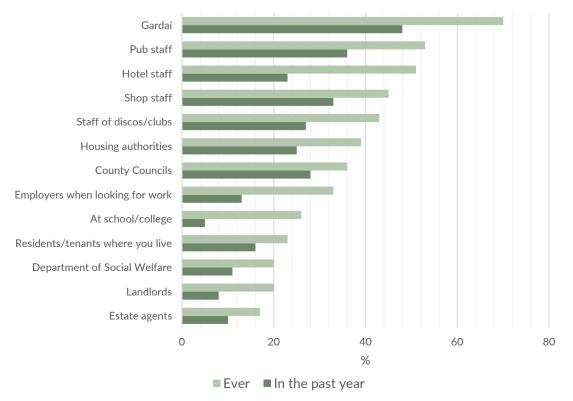


Figure 4.2 Sources of discrimination reported by members of the Traveller community

Source: National Traveller Community Survey 2017

# 4.2 International Data on the Experience of Discrimination in the previous 12 months by Roma and Travellers

A Survey of Roma and Travellers in six countries,14 including Ireland, was conducted by the European Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) in 2018/19. The survey, which did not include Roma living in Ireland, covered respondents aged 16 years and over on topics covering discrimination, harassment, education, employment, health, poverty, and access to housing.

#### 4.2.1 Experience of discrimination in the previous 12 months

When asked whether they had experienced discrimination in the previous 12 months because of being Roma or Traveller, almost half (45%) of respondents reported that

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Ireland (IE), Belgium (BE), France (RF), the Netherlands (NL), Sweden (SE), and the United Kingdom (UK)



they had. Roma living in the Netherlands (76%) and Travellers living in Ireland (65%) were the most likely to report experiencing discrimination in the previous 12 months. Travellers (19%) and Roma (21%) living in Belgium reported the lowest levels of discrimination. See Table 4.1.

**Table 4.1** Overall discrimination because of being Roma or Traveller in the previous 12 months, by survey group (%)

Survey group	%
UK Gypsies <sup>15</sup> and Travellers	42
Sweden Roma and Travellers	50
Netherlands Travellers and Sinti <sup>16</sup>	40
Netherlands Roma	76
Ireland Travellers	65
France Travellers	35
Belgium Travellers	19
Belgium Roma	21
Total	45

Source: FRA Survey of Roma and Travellers 2018/19

#### 4.2.2 Experience of hate-motivated harassment or physical attacks

Respondents were asked if they had experienced harassment because of their Roma or Traveller background; almost half (44%) reported experiencing at least one form of 'hate-motivated harassment' because of being Roma or Traveller in the previous 12 months. This was highest among Roma living in the Netherlands (82%). Among Travellers living in Ireland, over half (52%) reported experiencing hate-motivated harassment in the previous 12 months (52%).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> English or Romany Gypsies are descended from Romany migrants in the 16th century and have been established in the United Kingdom for many generations. Their main language is English. Romany Gypsies live in both caravans and bricks-and-mortar housing.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Sinti in the Netherlands traditionally engaged in nomadic work. According to the FRA Survey, Sinti live almost exclusively in mobile homes (98 %), 94 % in permanent halting sites and 4 % in temporary or unofficial halting sites.



Respondents were also asked if somebody had physically attacked them and if they believed that this happened because of being Roma or Traveller, in the previous 12 months. Overall, 7% reported that they experienced 'hate-motivated physical attacks' in the previous 12 months. This ranged from less than 2% for Travellers and Roma living in Belgium to 13% of Roma living in The Netherlands and 12% Roma and Travellers living in Sweden. This compares to 7% of Travellers living in Ireland. See Table 4.2.

**Table 4.2** Prevalence of harassment and physical attacks in the previous 12 months due to being Roma or Traveller, by survey group (%)

	Hate-motivated harassment	Hate-motivated physical attacks
Belgium Roma	16	2*
Belgium Travellers	13	2*
France Travellers	35	5
Ireland Travellers	52	7
Netherlands Roma	83	13
Netherlands Travellers and Sinti	43	4*
Sweden Roma and Travellers	55	12
UK Gypsies and Travellers	43	5
Total	44	7

<sup>\*</sup> Results based on a small number of responses are statistically less reliable. Therefore, results based on 20–49 unweighted observations in a group total or based on cells with fewer than 20 unweighted observations are asterisked.

Source: FRA Survey of Roma and Travellers 2018/19

#### 4.2.3 Experience of being stopped by the Police due to being Roma or Traveller

One-fifth (19%) of Roma/Travellers reported being stopped by the police in the 12 months before the survey, of whom 58% reported that they thought the most recent stop occurred because of their ethnic or immigrant background. Roma living in the Netherlands were the most likely to report being stopped by the police due to being Roma or Traveller (26%). This compares to 14% of Travellers living in Ireland. See Table 4.3



**Table 4.3** Percentage of people who were stopped by the Police in the previous 12 months due to being Roma or Traveller, by survey group

	Stopped, with ethnic profiling	Stopped, no profiling	Not stopped
Belgium Roma	5	16	79
Belgium Travellers	10*	11*	80
France Travellers	8	8	84
Ireland Travellers	14	10	75
Netherlands Roma	26	3*	71
Netherlands Travellers and Sinti	6	7	87
Sweden Roma and Travellers	15	6	78
UK Gypsies and Travellers	8	3*	90
Total	11	8	81

<sup>\*</sup> Results based on a small number of responses are statistically less reliable. Therefore, results based on 20–49 unweighted observations in a group total or based on cells with fewer than 20 unweighted observations are asterisked.

**Source:** FRA Survey of Roma and Travellers 2018/19

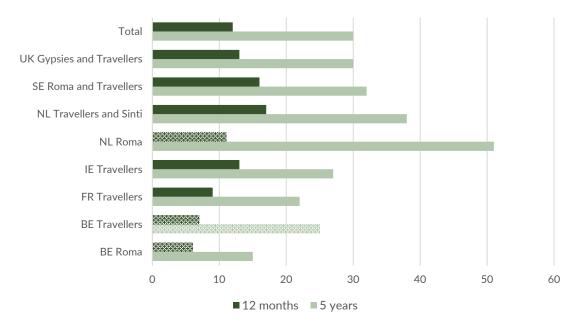
#### 4.2.4 Experience of discrimination by school authorities (as a parent or a student)

On average, 12% of Roma and Travellers reported that they felt discriminated against because of being Roma or Traveller when 'in contact with school authorities either as a parent or as a student' in the previous 12 months. This increased to 30% when asked whether this had occurred in the previous five years.

Roma living in the Netherlands were the most likely to have felt discriminated against by school authorities in the previous five years (51%). Travellers and Sinti living in the Netherlands were the most likely to have felt discriminated against by school authorities in the previous 12 months. Among Travellers living in Ireland, 13% felt discriminated against by school authorities in the previous 12 months, increasing to 27% over the previous five years. See Figure 4.3.



**Figure 4.3** Respondents who felt discriminated against when in contact with school authorities either as a parent or as a student, in the previous 12 months and previous five years, by survey group (%)



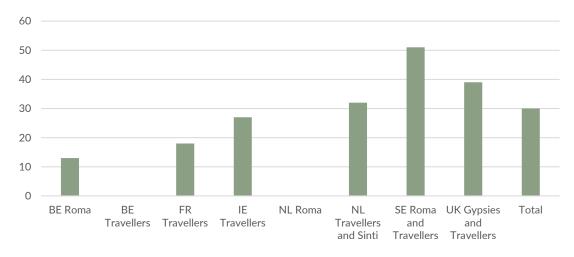
The bars with a patterned fill represent results based on 20–49 unweighted observations in a group total or based on cells with fewer than 20 unweighted observations. These results are statistically less reliable.

Source: FRA Survey of Roma and Travellers 2018/19

#### 4.2.5 Experience of harassment by children at school (parent-report)

Overall, 30% of parents reported their children experienced 'harassment in school' because of their Roma or Traveller background. This was reported by half (51%) of Roma or Traveller parents living in Sweden, and by around one-quarter (27%) of Traveller parents living in Ireland. See Figure 4.4.

**Figure 4.4** Parent-report of whether their children experienced harassment in school due to being Roma or Traveller in the previous 12 months, by survey group (%)

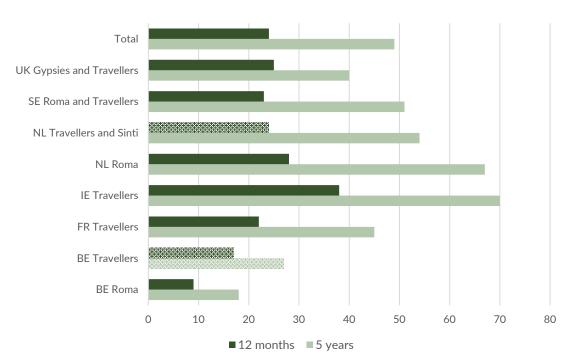


Results for BE Travellers and NL Roma represented fewer than 20 unweighted responses and were not published. **Source:** FRA Survey of Roma and Travellers 2018/19



#### 4.2.6 Experience of discrimination when looking for work

One-quarter of Traveller/Roma (24%) reported experiencing discrimination in the previous 12 months 'when looking for work', which increased to half (49%) over the previous five years. When compared across all countries, Travellers living in Ireland reported the highest level of discrimination 'when looking for work', both within the previous 12 months at 38% and in the previous five years at 70%. See Figure 4.5.



**Figure 4.5** Respondents who reported experiencing discrimination when looking for work in the previous 12 months and five years, by survey group (%)

The bars with a patterned fill represent results based on 20–49 unweighted observations in a group total or based on cells with fewer than 20 unweighted observations. These results are statistically less reliable.

Source: FRA Survey of Roma and Travellers 2018/19

#### 4.2.7 Experience of discrimination when accessing health services

Almost two-thirds (63%) of Roma living in The Netherlands reported experiencing discrimination when 'accessing health services' in the previous five years, including 31% who reported that they experienced this in the previous 12 months. Around one-fifth (21%) of Travellers living in Ireland reported experiencing discrimination in the previous five years when 'accessing health services', with 11% reporting that they experienced this in the previous 12 months. See Figure 4.6.



UK Gypsies and Travellers
SE Roma and Travellers
NL Travellers and Sinti

NL Roma
IE Travellers
FR Travellers
BE Travellers

D 10 20 30 40 50 60 70

**Figure 4.6** Prevalence of experiencing discrimination when accessing health services in the previous 12 months or five years, by survey group (%)

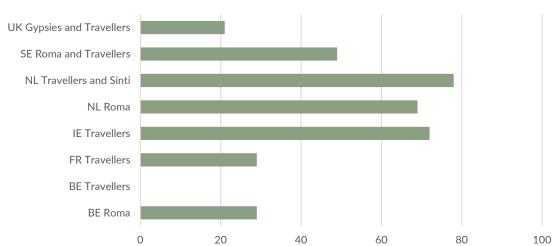
The bars with a patterned fill represent results based on 20–49 unweighted observations in a group total or based on cells with fewer than 20 unweighted observations. These results are statistically less reliable.

■ 12 months ■ 5 years

Source: FRA Survey of Roma and Travellers 2018/19

#### 4.2.8 Experience of discrimination when accessing housing

Reported discrimination when 'accessing housing' was highest among Travellers and Sinti living in the Netherlands (78%), Travellers living in Ireland (72%), and Roma living in The Netherlands (69%). Reports of discrimination when 'accessing housing' were less common for the other groups, but was still reported by between a fifth and half of respondents (21% among Gypsies and Travellers living in the UK, 49% among Roma and Travellers living in Sweden). See Figure 4.7.



**Figure 4.7** Reported discrimination when trying to rent or buy houses in the previous five years, by survey group (%)

 $Results \ for \ BE \ Travellers \ represented \ fewer \ than \ 20 \ unweighted \ responses \ and \ were \ not \ published.$ 

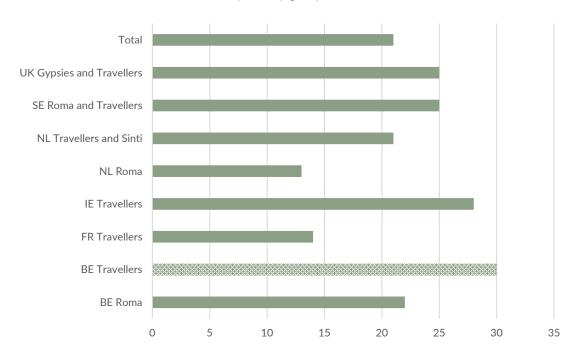
Source: FRA Survey of Roma and Travellers 2018/19



#### 4.2.9 Reporting or filing a complaint regarding discrimination

Roma and Travellers who reported that they had experienced discrimination in the previous five years due to being Roma or Traveller were asked a follow-up question on whether they had 'reported or filed a complaint' about the most recent incident of discrimination that they experienced. In total, one-fifth (21%) reported making a complaint about the most recent incident of discrimination they had experienced. The highest levels of reporting were among Travellers living in Belgium (30%) and Travellers living in Ireland (28%). Roma living in The Netherlands were the least likely to report making a complaint about the last incident of discrimination they had experienced (13%). See Figure 4.8.

**Figure 4.8** Percentage of respondents who experienced discrimination in the previous five years due to being Roma or Traveller and who made a complaint about the most recent incident of discrimination, by survey group



Bars with a patterned fill represent results based on 20–49 unweighted observations in a group total or based on cells with fewer than 20 unweighted observations. These results are statistically less reliable.

Source: FRA Survey of Roma and Travellers 2018/19



### 5. Attitudes towards discrimination in society

This section moves from presenting findings on the experience of discrimination, to findings on attitudes regarding discrimination and unfair treatment in society. It draws on international data from the European Social Survey, conducted in 2018, and questions on discrimination from the Eurobarometer survey conducted in 2019. It also includes findings from the National Disability Authority's 2017 National Survey of Public Attitudes to Disability.

### **5.1 European Social Survey**

The European Social Survey on Discrimination in the EU was conducted in 2018, in 30 European countries. Respondents were presented with statements about fair treatment and asked to rate to what extent each statement applied in their country.

#### 5.1.1 Fair chance in seeking employment

Respondents to the European Social Survey were asked to rate the statement 'everyone in the country has a fair chance to get the job they seek'. Less than 2% (1.9%) of respondents in Ireland gave a rating of 0 ('does not apply at all'), and 3% gave the highest rating of 10 ('applies completely'). Respondents in Ireland and across the survey most commonly gave a rating between 4 and 6 (44% in Ireland, 43% survey average). Around one-third (34%) of respondents in Ireland gave a rating between 7 and 9, i.e., they generally agreed that 'everyone in the country has a fair chance to get the job they seek'. See Table 5.1.

**Table 5.1** Percentage of responses to the statement: 'everyone in the country has a fair chance to get the job they seek', Ireland and survey average

Response items	% of responses (Ireland)	% of responses (survey average)
0 (Does not apply at all)	1.9	6.8
1-3	17.2	22.9
4-6	44.2	42.9
7-9	33.6	24.1
10 (Applies completely)	3	3.3
Total	100	100

Source: European Social Survey 2018



#### 5.1.2 Fair chance in education

Respondents to the European Social Survey were asked to rate the statement 'everyone in the country has a fair chance to achieve the level of education they seek'. Less than 2% (1.7%) of respondents in Ireland gave a rating of 0 ('does not apply at all'), and 7% gave a rating of 10 ('applies completely'). Respondents in Ireland and across the survey most commonly gave a rating between 7 and 9 (45% in Ireland, 39% survey average), i.e. respondents typically agreed that 'everyone in the country has a fair chance to achieve the education they seek'. See Table 5.2.

**Table 5.2** Percentage of responses to the statement: 'everyone in the country has a fair chance to achieve the education they seek', Ireland and survey average

Response items	% of responses (Ireland)	% of responses (survey average)
0 (Does not apply at all)	1.7	3.1
1-3	13.2	13.1
4-6	33.4	33.7
7-9	44.8	38.8
10 (Applies completely)	7	11.2
Total	100	100

Source: European Social Survey 2018

#### **5.1.3** Attitudes towards recruitment decisions

Respondents in the European Social Survey were asked to rate to what extent a person's gender influences recruitment decisions in their country. In Ireland, over one-quarter (28%) of respondents felt that a person's gender would have either 'quite a lot of influence' or 'a great deal of influence' on recruitment decisions, similar to the survey average of 30%. In Ireland, one-third (32%) of respondents reported that a person's gender would have 'not much or no influence' on recruitment decisions, compared to a survey average of 27%. See Table 5.3.



**Table 5.3** Extent to which respondents felt that a person's gender would influence recruitment decisions in their country, Ireland and survey average (%)

Response items	% of responses (Ireland)	% of responses (survey average)
Not much or no influence	32.3	27.4
Some influence	39.3	42.5
Quite a lot of influence	18.2	22.7
A great deal of influence	10.2	7.4
Total	100	100

Source: European Social Survey 2018

Respondents were also asked to rate to what extent a person having an immigrant background influences decisions to recruit in their country. In Ireland, over one-quarter (27%) of respondents felt that a person having an immigrant background would have either 'quite a lot of influence' or 'a great deal of influence' on recruitment decisions. One-third (33%) of respondents reported that this would have 'not much or no influence', compared to a survey average of 25%. See Table 5.4.

**Table 5.4** Extent to which respondents felt that a person having an immigrant background would influence recruitment decisions in their country, Ireland and survey average (%)

Response items	% of responses (Ireland)	% of responses (survey average)
Not much or no influence	32.6	25.4
Some influence	40.4	38.2
Quite a lot of influence	17.1	24.3
A great deal of influence	10	12
Total	100	100

Source: European Social Survey 2018

#### 5.1.4 Attitudes towards treating people equally

Respondents in the European Social Survey were asked to rate to what extent the statement 'it is important that people are treated equally and have equal opportunities' corresponded to them. In Ireland, 74% of respondents reported that this was either 'very much like me' or 'like me'. Less than 4% (3.5%) of respondents reported that this was 'not like me' or 'not like me at all'. Across the survey, 69%



reported that the statement was either 'very much like me' or 'like me'. Around 4% (4.3%) reported that it was 'not like me' or 'not like me at all'. See Table 5.5.

**Table 5.5** Extent to which respondents felt that the statement 'it is important that people are treated equally and have equal opportunities' was like them, Ireland and survey average (%)

Response items	% of responses (Ireland)	% of responses (Survey average)	
Very much like me	33.4	28.1	
Like me	40.9	40.8	
Somewhat like me	14.6	19.2	
A little like me	7.7	7.7	
Not like me	2.7	3.4	
Not like me at all	0.8	0.9	
Total	100	100	

Source: European Social Survey 2018

### 5.2 Eurobarometer 493 - Survey on Discrimination

The European Commission Eurobarometer (493) – Survey on Discrimination in the European Union was conducted in 2019 and included findings on perceptions and attitudes to discrimination.

#### 5.2.1 Perception of and attitude towards discrimination

Respondents to the 2019 Eurobarometer survey on discrimination were asked how widespread or rare they thought discrimination was against different groups in their country. Respondents in Ireland and across the EU reported that discrimination due to 'being Roma' was the most widespread type of discrimination in their own country (61% widespread EU-28; 65% widespread Ireland). This was followed by 'skin colour' (59%; 56% widespread) and 'ethnic origin' (59%; 54% widespread). Respondents in Ireland and across the EU-28 reported that discrimination based on 'being a man or a woman' was the rarest type of discrimination, with the majority of respondents reporting that this was 'rare' in their country (59% rare EU-28, 62% rare Ireland). See Table 5.6.



Table 5.6 Perceptions of the prevalence of different types of discrimination in own country (%)

		Widespread	Rare	Non- existent	Don't know
Being Roma	EU-28	61	29	2	8
	Ireland	65	24	1	10
Ethnic origin	EU-28	59	35	1	5
	Ireland	54	41	1	4
Skin colour	EU-28	59	36	1	4
	Ireland	56	40	1	3
Sexual orientation	EU-28	53	40	1	6
	Ireland	48	44	2	6
Being transgender	EU-28	48	35	3	14
	Ireland	50	36	2	12
Religion or beliefs	EU-28	47	48	1	4
	Ireland	42	52	1	5
Disability	EU-28	44	51	1	4
	Ireland	41	52	2	5
Being perceived as too old or too young	EU-28	40	54	2	4
	Ireland	37	57	1	5
Being intersex	EU-28	39	39	3	19
	Ireland	39	38	4	19
Being a man or a woman	EU-28	35	59	2	4
	Ireland	32	62	2	4

Source: Eurobarometer number 493, 2019

#### 5.2.2 Support for LGBTI+ Relationships and Equal Rights

Respondents in the 2019 Eurobarometer survey were asked whether they agreed with statements in support of LGBTI+ relationships and equal rights. Across the EU-28, most respondents agreed (76%) that 'gay, lesbian and bisexual people should have the same rights as heterosexual people', with the majority reporting that they 'totally agree' (51%). Twenty per cent of respondents disagreed with this statement and a further 4% 'didn't know'. In Ireland 83% agreed that 'gay, lesbian and bisexual people should have the same rights as heterosexual people' and 10% disagreed.



A similar proportion of respondents agreed with the statement 'there is nothing wrong in a sexual relationship between two persons of the same sex' (72% among EU-28, 80% among Irish respondents). Slightly fewer agreed (69% EU-28, 79% Ireland) that 'same sex marriages should be allowed throughout Europe', with one-quarter (26%) of EU-28 respondents and 13% of Irish respondents stating that they disagreed with this. See Table 5.7.

**Table 5.7** Proportion of respondents who agreed or disagreed with statements in support of LGBTI+ relationships and equal rights (%)

		Totally agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Totally disagree	Don't know
Gay, lesbian and bisexual people should have the same rights as heterosexual people	EU-28	51	25	11	9	4
	Ireland	53	30	6	4	7
There is nothing wrong in a sexual relationship between two persons of the same sex	EU-28	47	25	13	11	4
	Ireland	49	31	8	6	6
Same sex marriages should be allowed throughout Europe	EU-28	45	24	13	13	5
	Ireland	49	30	7	6	8

Source: Eurobarometer number 493, 2019

#### 5.2.3 Effectiveness of efforts to fight discrimination

Respondents in the 2019 Eurobarometer survey on discrimination were asked how effective they thought efforts to fight discrimination in their country were. Response items were 'effective', 'moderately effective', 'not effective' and 'don't know'. Further to these response items, 3% of respondents spontaneously reported that 'no efforts are made'. In total, one-quarter (26%) reported that efforts are 'effective', around one-third (36%) reported that efforts are 'moderately effective'. A further 28% reported that efforts made are 'not effective' and 7% reported that they 'didn't know'.

In Ireland, a higher proportion reported that efforts made to fight discrimination are 'effective' (36%), and 37% felt that they are 'moderately effective'. See Figure 5.1.



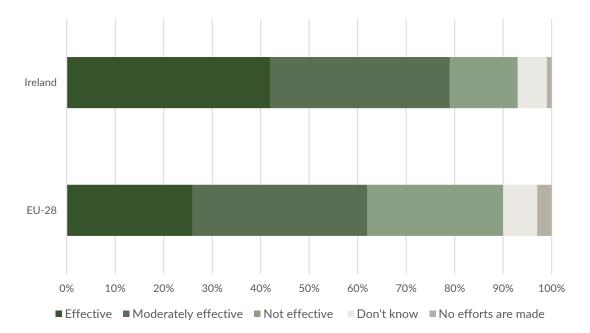


Figure 5.1 Perceptions of the effectiveness of efforts to fight discrimination in own country (%)

Source: Eurobarometer number 493, 2019

#### **5.3 National Survey of Public Attitudes to Disability**

The National Disability Authority's National Survey of Public Attitudes to Disability in Ireland was last conducted in 2017. The survey included questions on attitudes towards people with disabilities as well as level of comfort working with or living near certain groups.

In 2017, 50% of respondents 'disagreed' or 'strongly disagreed' with the statement 'people with disabilities are not treated fairly in Irish society' (36% disagree; 14% strongly disagree), i.e. they felt that people with disabilities are treated fairly in Irish society. Around one-third of respondents (35%) 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that people with disabilities are not treated fairly in Irish society (29% agree; 6% strongly agree). The proportion (50%) who 'disagreed' or 'strongly disagreed' with this statement (i.e. who felt that people with disabilities are treated fairly in Irish society) was higher than the corresponding figure in the 2011 survey, when 34% 'disagreed/strongly disagreed'. See Figure 5.2.

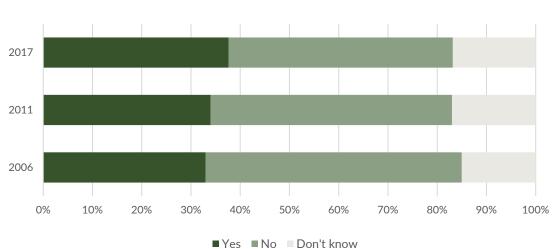


2017 2011 2006 80% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 90% 100% 0% ■ Strongly disagree ■ Strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Neither agree nor disagree Disagree

Figure 5.2 "People with disabilities are treated fairly in Irish society"

Source: National Survey of Public Attitudes to Disability in Ireland 2017

When asked 'do you think people with disabilities receive equal opportunities in terms of education', the modal (i.e. most common) response reported by respondents was 'no' (46%) in 2017. 'No' was the modal response in the 2011 and 2006 survey as well, however, the proportion who reported 'no' was lower in the 2017 survey (46%, compared to 49% in 2011 and 52% in 2006). During each of the surveys, a sizeable minority of respondents reported that they did not know whether people with disabilities receive equal opportunities in terms of education (15-17%). In the 2017 survey, 38% of respondents reported that people with disabilities receive equal educational opportunities, which was higher than in the earlier surveys, but remained a minority response. See Figure 5.3.

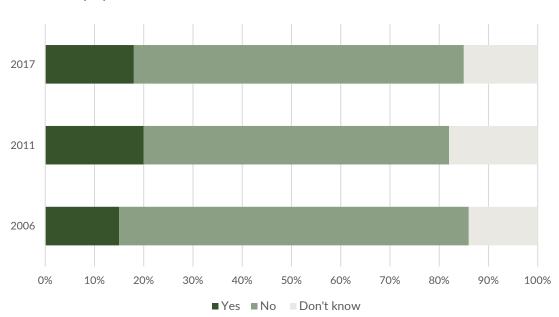


**Figure 5.3** "Do you think people with disabilities receive equal opportunities in terms of education?"

Source: National Survey of Public Attitudes to Disability in Ireland 2017



When asked whether they thought 'people with disabilities receive equal opportunities in terms of employment', two-thirds (67%) of respondents in 2017 reported that they thought they did not. Less than one-fifth (18%) reported that people with disabilities do receive equal opportunities, while 15% reported that they did not know. Overall, the responses to this question were relatively stable over time, with one-fifth or less reporting that 'people with disabilities receive equal opportunities in terms of employment' in the 2006, 2011, and 2017 survey. See Figure 5.4.



**Figure 5.4** "Do you think people with disabilities receive equal opportunities in terms of employment?"

Source: National Survey of Public Attitudes to Disability in Ireland 2017

The National Survey of Public Attitudes to Disability also asked respondents to rate their level of comfort if the following groups of people were their work colleagues. This included people with different types of disability, LGBTI+ people, people from minority ethnic backgrounds, migrant workers, and members of the Travelling community. Respondents were asked to rate their level of comfort on a scale from 0-10 where 0 = 'totally uncomfortable' and 10 = 'totally comfortable'.

Respondents reported the highest mean comfort scores if 'people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender' were their work colleagues (mean score 9.1) and the lowest mean comfort scores if 'members of the Travelling community' were their



work colleagues (mean score 8.1). Respondents reported higher mean comfort scores if 'people with a physical disability' were their work colleagues (mean score 8.9) than 'people with mental health difficulties' (mean score 8.2). See Figure 5.5.

People who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender People with physical disabilities People from black and minority ethnic backgrounds Migrant workers People with hearing and vision difficulties People with intellectual difficulties People with autism People with mental health difficulties Members of the Travelling community 5 7 9 0 2 3 8 10 1

**Figure 5.5** Mean comfort scores among respondents who were asked to indicate their level of comfort if the following people were their work colleagues

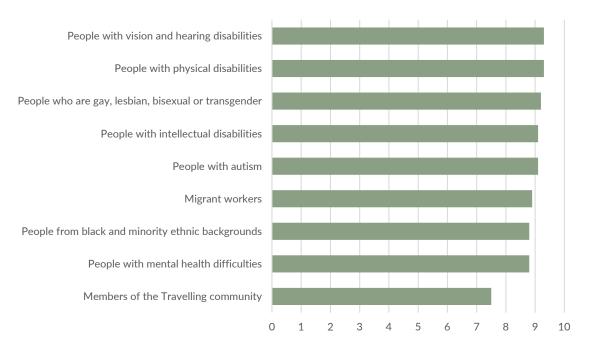
Source: National Survey of Public Attitudes to Disability in Ireland 2017

Respondents to the National Survey of Public Attitudes to Disability were asked to rate their level of comfort if the following groups of people were living in their neighbourhood. This included people with different types of disability, LGBTI+ people, people from minority ethnic backgrounds, migrant workers, and members of the Travelling community. Respondents were asked to rate their level of comfort on a scale from 0-10 where 0 = 'totally uncomfortable' and 10 = 'totally comfortable'.

Respondents reported the highest mean comfort scores if 'people with vision and hearing difficulties' were living in their neighbourhood (mean score 9.3). Respondents reported the lowest mean comfort scores if 'members of the Travelling community' were living in their neighbourhood (mean score 7.5). Among groups of people with different types of disability, respondents reported the lowest mean comfort scores if people 'with mental health difficulties' were living in their neighbourhood (mean score 8.8). See Figure 5.6.



**Figure 5.6** Levels of comfort expressed with people with different types of disability living in the same neighbourhood



Source: National Survey of Public Attitudes to Disability in Ireland 2017



### 6.Summary

Across successive CSO surveys (QNHS and GHS) from 2004 to 2019, 12-18% of adults reported experiencing some form of discrimination in the previous two years, most commonly when accessing services. The unemployed, people with disabilities, non-Catholics, non-Irish, and young adults had a higher likelihood of experiencing some form of discrimination in the previous two years. Of adults who had experienced some form of discrimination, only one-third reported that they understood their rights under the equality legislation 'a lot'. A majority (70%) of adults who had experienced discrimination took 'no action'. In the HBSC study of children aged 12-17 years, children most commonly reported receiving unfair treatment due to 'age'. Certain groups such as girls, children with a disability, immigrant children, and Traveller children were more likely to experience unfair treatment on specific grounds than the general population, e.g. gender, disability status, place of birth. In the National Traveller Community Survey, a majority of Travellers reported ever experiencing discrimination by the Gardaí, pub staff, and hotel staff – although lower proportions reported that they had experienced this in the past year. In the Survey of Roma and Travellers in Six Countries, Travellers living in Ireland were more likely than the survey average to have experienced discrimination due to being Roma/Traveller in the previous 12 months. A slightly higher proportion of respondents in Ireland than across the European Social Survey reported that everyone in the country has a fair chance to achieve the job or education they seek. However, a majority of respondents in Ireland also reported that discrimination due to ethnic origin, skin colour or being Roma was 'widespread'. In the National Survey of Public Attitudes to Disability, a majority also reported that people with disabilities in Ireland do not have equal opportunities in terms of education or employment. Respondents in Ireland were more likely than the average across the European Union Eurobarometer survey to agree with statements (c. 80% or higher) in support of LGBTI+ relationships and equal rights.

## Nicola Tickner James Shaw

Research & Evaluation Unit | March 2022





### **Background Notes**

This is the seventh publication in the Statistical Spotlight series. A statistical spotlight is a short publication focused on a different topic, gathering together available statistical data highlighting trends or patterns in the data. These are intended to be short, statistical-based publications bringing together available information for interested users. The publications include some commentary detailing (where relevant) trends and comparisons as appropriate (e.g. comparisons between sex, region, age group etc.).

The primary purpose is to gather together the most relevant data, highlight those most recent, and draw attention to the most evident features or trends. Therefore, although it could serve as the basis for such further research, none of the information contained therein should in and of itself be used to ascribe cause and effect between any two variables. In any case, much of the data considered in the Spotlight is insufficiently detailed to give anything other than to give a high-level snapshot of the experience of discrimination in Ireland.



### **Sources**

#### **CSO Module on Equality**

https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/surveys/qnhsmoduleonequality/

https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/ed/equalityanddiscrimination2019/

#### Health Behaviour in School Aged Children (HBSC) Study

http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc/hbscireland/2018study

Kolto, A., Gavin, A., Kelly, C., Molcho, M and NicGabhainn, S. (2021) Perceived discrimination in minority and matched non-minority adolescents in Ireland, Galway: HBSC Ireland.

#### Growing Up in Ireland (GUI) Lives of 17/18 Year-Olds Report

https://www.growingup.ie/pubs/GUI-lives-of-17-18-year-olds-web-ready.pdf

#### **National Traveller Community Survey**

https://exchangehouse.ie/userfiles/file/reports/research/National Traveller Community\_Survey\_2017\_07.pdf

#### Survey of Roma and Travellers (FRA) in Six Countries

https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2020/roma-travellers-survey

#### **European Social Survey 2018**

https://www.europeansocialsurvey.org/data/download.html?r=9

#### **Eurobarometer 493 Survey on Discrimination**

https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2251

#### National Survey of Public Attitudes to Disability

http://nda.ie/publications/attitudes/public-attitudes-to-disability-in-ireland-surveys/public-attitudes-to-disability-survey-pdf.pdf

#### **CSO General Household Survey**

The CSO's General Household Survey (GHS) is a national survey that place takes place three or four times each year and is part of an EU-wide programme. Each survey usually has a specific theme. In the first quarter of 2019 the survey measured the levels of equality and discrimination experienced in Irish society. The 2019 equality module formed part of the General Household Survey unlike the previous modules which formed part of the QNHS. This change reduced the sample size from



to 24,000 to 3,971. An Garda Síochana was introduced for reported areas of discrimination in accessing services in this survey, which may have contributed to the increase in reports of discrimination when accessing services in 2019.

#### **CSO Quarterly National Household Survey**

The CSO's Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) was a nationally representative random sample of private households in Ireland. The QNHS was replaced by the General Household Survey in 2017. The 2004, 2010 and 2014 equality module of the QNHS was completed by over 24,000 respondents, all aged 18 years and over. Respondents were asked about the experience of discrimination across nine social situations or domains. Two of these were work-related and the remaining seven related to accessing services.

#### **Equality Legislation**

The Equal Status Acts 2000-2015 prohibit discrimination in the provision of goods and services, the provision of accommodation and access to education, on any of the nine grounds described earlier.

The Employment Equality Acts 1998-2015 prohibit discrimination in work-related areas such as pay, vocational training, access to employment, work experience and promotion. Cases involving harassment and victimisation at work are also covered by the Acts.

#### **Eurobarometer number 493 Survey on Discrimination**

This survey was conducted by Kantar in 2019 on behalf of the European Commission, and includes findings on people's perceptions, attitudes and opinions of discrimination based on ethnic origin, skin colour, sexual orientation, gender, age, disability, religion, and beliefs. Over 27,000 respondents were interviewed face-to-face at home from the then-28 EU member states. It shows that overall, compared to 2015, fewer EU respondents now perceive discrimination as being widespread in their country. However, results still vary widely, depending on the group being discriminated against and also from country to country.

#### **European Social Survey**

The European Social Survey was conducted in 2018 and included over 40,000 approved interviews with respondents in 30 European countries. Respondents were asked about their perceptions and attitudes towards fair treatment and equal opportunities in their country, and were asked to rate to what extent each statement applied in their country on a scale from 0-10, where 0 = 'does not apply at all' and 10 = 'applies completely'.



#### Growing Up in Ireland (GUI) Lives of 17/18 Year-Olds Report

Growing up in Ireland is the national longitudinal study of children and young people. It follows two groups of young people born in 1998 (Cohort '98) and 2008 (Cohort 2008). Full waves of data collection were completed on Cohort '98 at ages 9, 13, 17/18, 20 and completed a COVID web survey at age 22. Full waves of data collection were completed on Cohort '08 and their families at ages 9 months, 3 years, 5 years and 9 years. Fieldwork is currently taking place for this Cohort at age 13. A special COVID-19 web survey was conducted in December 2020 on Cohort '98 at age 22 and Cohort '08 at age 12. Cohort '98 Wave 3 of GUI included questions which explores the experiences of discrimination of participants. Participants were asked: "in your day-to-day life how often have any of the following things happened to you?"

- 1. You are treated with less courtesy or respect than other people.
- 2. You receive poorer service than other people at restaurants or stores.
- 3. People act as if they think you are not smart.
- 4. People act as if they are afraid of you.
- 5. You are threatened or harassed.

The response options were 'never', 'less than once a year', 'a few times a year', 'a few times a month', and 'at least once a week'.

Participants were also asked a follow-up question that asked 'what do you think is the main reason for these experiences?'

#### Health Behaviour in School Aged Children (HBSC) Study

The HBSC study is a WHO collaborative cross-national survey that monitors the health behaviours, health outcomes and social environments of school-aged children (aged 9-18) every four years. It is conducted in 50 countries and regions in Europe and North America every four years. The data are collected in schools through self-complete questionnaires administered in the classroom. In the report of the 2018 Ireland study, information was collected on the experiences of discrimination from the young people surveyed who were over 12 years of age.

HBSC findings presented in the Statistical Spotlight are based on a report prepared by Andras Kolto and colleagues from the HBSC Ireland team and National University of Ireland Galway. The report used a case control matching technique to compare the rates of perceived discrimination in minority and non-minority children.

#### **National Traveller Community Survey**

The 2017 National Traveller Community Survey was the first of its kind since 2000, and explores the views of Travellers throughout Ireland in areas such as health,



identity, accommodation, employment, culture, and education, among others. Included are questions which gather the feelings and experiences of discrimination among members of the Traveller community.

The Survey was conducted by Behaviour & Attitudes for The National Traveller Data Steering Group and The Community Foundation for Ireland. 481 Travellers were interviewed for the survey out a total national population of 9,997 Travellers, equating to a sample size of 5% of the national population of Travellers.

#### **Survey of Roma and Travellers in Six Countries**

The Survey of Roma and Travellers conducted by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights in 2018/19. The survey included interviews with almost 4,700 Roma and Travellers, living in Belgium (BE), France (FR), Ireland (IE), the Netherlands (NL), Sweden (SE) and the United Kingdom (UK). The following groups were included in the survey: Travellers (UK, Ireland, Sweden, Netherlands, France, Belgium), Roma (Sweden, Netherlands, Belgium), Sinti (Netherlands), and Gypsies (UK). The survey did not cover Roma living in Ireland.

Sinti in the Netherlands traditionally engaged in nomadic work. According to the FRA Survey, Sinti live almost exclusively in mobile homes (98%), 94% in permanent halting sites and 4% in temporary or unofficial halting sites.

English or Romany Gypsies are descended from Romany migrants in the 16th century and have been established in the United Kingdom for many generations. Their main language is English. Romani words are incorporated into conversations, and they may refer to this quasi-dialect as Romani, but, overall, Romani in its pure form is not widely spoken. Romany Gypsies live in both caravans and bricks-and-mortar housing. The survey targeted only those living in halting sites.

Respondents to the FRA survey were asked whether they had experienced different forms of discrimination in the previous 12 months and whether they thought this was because they were Roma or Traveller. Examples included: being stopped, search or questioned by the Police; whether they had experienced discrimination in contact with school authorities; when looking for work; when accessing health services; when trying to rent or buy houses (previous five years); and whether their children had experienced harassment in school.



### **Previous Statistical Spotlights in the series**



Statistical Spotlight #1

### Young Carers in Ireland

Publication Date April 2018



Statistical Spotlight #2

### Family and Household Structure in Ireland

Publication Date August 2018



Statistical Spotlight #3

# Striking a Balance: The Reconciliation of Work and Family Life

Publication Date December 2019



Statistical Spotlight #4

### Young Travellers in Ireland

Publication Date April 2020



Statistical Spotlight #5

### Profile of Parents in Ireland

Publication Date May 2021



Statistical Spotlight #6

### Gender Norms in Ireland

Publication Date December 2021

