

HBSC IRELAND

The Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) is a research study conducted by an international network of research teams¹ in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (Europe) and co-ordinated by Dr Joanna Inchley of the University of St Andrews. This factsheet is based on data collected in 2014 from 10,368 10-17 year olds in Ireland from randomly selected schools throughout the country.

Further information is available at:
<http://www.hbsc.org>
<http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc>



The HBSC Ireland Team, Health Promotion Research Centre, NUI Galway

Overall percentages for HBSC 2014 and HBSC 2010 in this factsheet have been weighted²

Summary

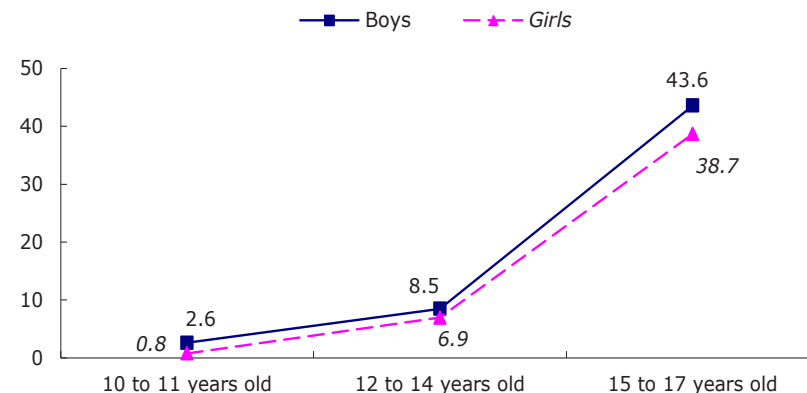
In this factsheet drunkenness refers to children who report having had so much alcohol that they were 'really drunk' once or more in their lifetime. The proportion of children who report drunkenness has decreased from 31.1% in 2010 to 21.2% in 2014. Fewer younger children report drunkenness than older children (1.5% of 10-11 year olds; 7.6% of 12-14 year olds; 40.7% of 15-17 year olds). The largest decrease in drunkenness since 2010 is among 15-17 year olds. Those who report living with both parents, those who find it easy to talk to their mother and to their father about things that really bother them, and those who report liking school are less likely to report drunkenness. Children who report spending four or more evenings out with friends per week and those who feel pressured by their schoolwork are more likely to report drunkenness. Social class is not associated with drunkenness.

Why this topic?

Alcohol is widely available and many schoolchildren experiment with alcohol³. Alcohol use is deeply embedded in Irish culture and a large proportion of Irish adults consume alcohol⁴. Risky drinking, which includes drunkenness is associated with adverse physical, psychological, and social consequences in adolescents⁵. These include injury, use of other substances, risky sexual behaviour and academic failure⁵.

Change 2010-2014

There has been a decrease in the proportion of children who report that they have ever been 'really drunk' from 31.1% in 2010 to 21.2% in 2014. This decrease is seen in boys (31.0% to 21.1%) and girls (27.6% to 18.6%). A divergence has emerged since 2010 in the proportion of 15-17 year old boys (54.8% to 43.6%) and girls (54.0% to 38.7%) who report drunkenness.

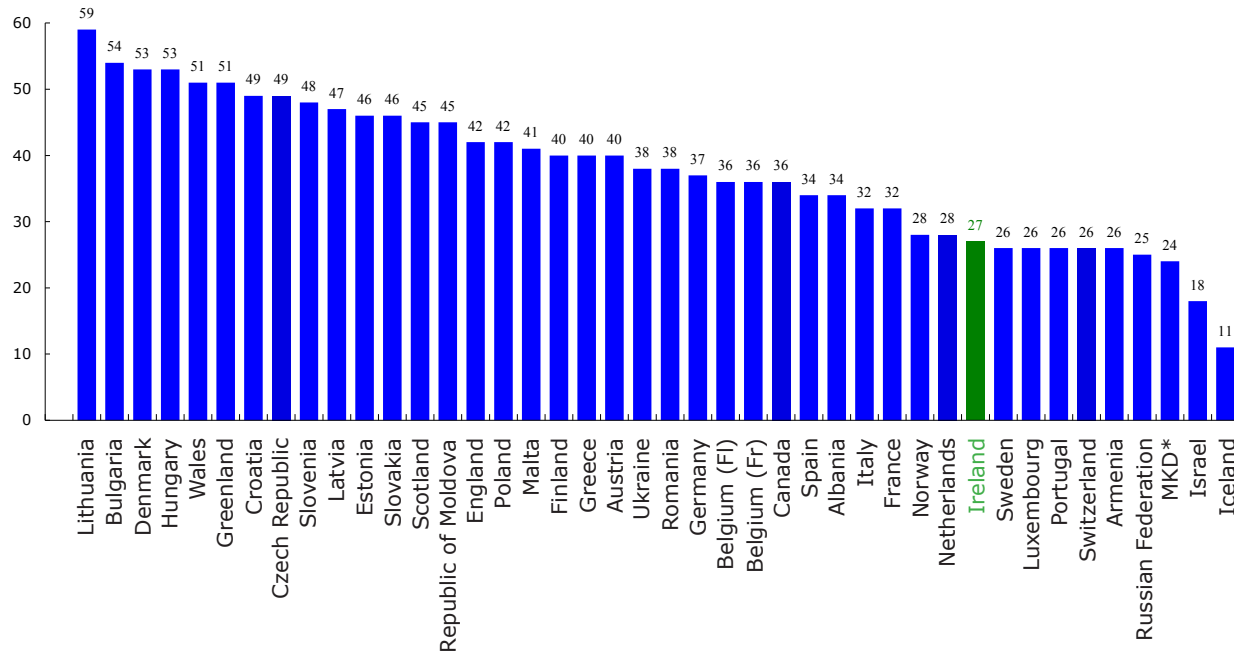


Percentage of children who have been 'really drunk', by age and gender

Drunkenness in context

- Children who live with both parents are less likely to report drunkenness (67.1% vs 78.4%) as are those who report that they find it easy to talk to their mother (85.1% vs 71.0%) and their father (71.3% vs 56.0%) about things that really bother them.
- Children who report spending four or more evenings out with friends per week are more likely to report drunkenness than those who do not (39.9% vs 31.3%).
- Children who report liking school are less likely to report drunkenness compared to those who do not (53.3% vs 77.6%), while those who report feeling pressured by their schoolwork are more likely to report drunkenness compared to those who do not (54.6% vs 40.1%)
- Social class is not associated with drunkenness.

...Drunkenness among schoolchildren in Ireland



Percentage of 15 year olds reporting having been 'really drunk', by country

*MKD - The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

International

Fifteen year old schoolchildren in Ireland (boys and girls together) are ranked 33rd among 42 countries in Europe and North America with 27.1% reporting that they have been 'really drunk'. The countries with the highest rates of drunkenness are Lithuania (58.9%) and Bulgaria (54.4%). Countries with the lowest rates are Iceland (11.2%) and Israel (18.5%). Overall 1.7% of 11 year olds in Ireland (rank 35th) and 5.8% of 13 year olds in Ireland (rank 37th) report having been 'really drunk'¹.

Implications

There has been a decrease in the proportion of 10-17 year old children reporting drunkenness since 2010. For 15 year olds, Ireland rank 33rd among 42 countries that took part in the study, with 27.1% reporting that they have been 'really drunk'. The data in this factsheet suggest that not

feeling pressured by schoolwork and reporting liking school may have a protective effect on reporting drunkenness whereas having poor communication with parent(s) is a risk factor for reporting drunkenness. Attention to these contextual factors in children's lives is warranted.

References

1. Inchley, J., Currie, D., Young, T., Samdal, O., Torsheim, T., Augustson, L., Mathison, F., Aleman-Diaz, A., Molcho, M., Weber, M. & Barnekow, V. (eds). (2016). *Growing up unequal: gender and socioeconomic differences in young people's health and well-being. Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) study: international report from the 2013/2014 survey*. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2016 (Health Policy for Children and Adolescents, No. 7).
2. Gavin, A., Keane, E., Callaghan, M., Molcho, M., Kelly, C. & Nic Gabhainn, S. (2015). *The Irish Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) Study 2014*. Dublin: Department of Health & Galway: Health Promotion Research Centre, National University of Ireland, Galway.
3. Fox, K. A., Kelly, C. & Molcho, M. (2015). *Alcohol Marketing and Young People's Drinking Behaviour in Ireland*. Dublin: Alcohol Action Ireland.
4. Healthy Ireland (2015). *Summary of Findings 2015*. Dublin: Department of Health.
5. Boden, J. M. & Fergusson, D. M. (2011). The short and long term consequences of adolescent alcohol use. *Young people and alcohol: impact, policy, prevention and treatment*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, pp32-46.

This factsheet was prepared by Mary Callaghan, Aoife Gavin, Eimear Keane, Catherine Perry, Larri Walker and Saoirse Nic Gabhainn.

HBSC Ireland is funded by the Department of Health.

We would like to thank all the children, teachers and schools who participated and acknowledge the contribution of our colleagues in the Health Promotion Research Centre, NUI Galway.

All factsheets and other HBSC publications and reports can be downloaded from our website: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc>

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