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Summary

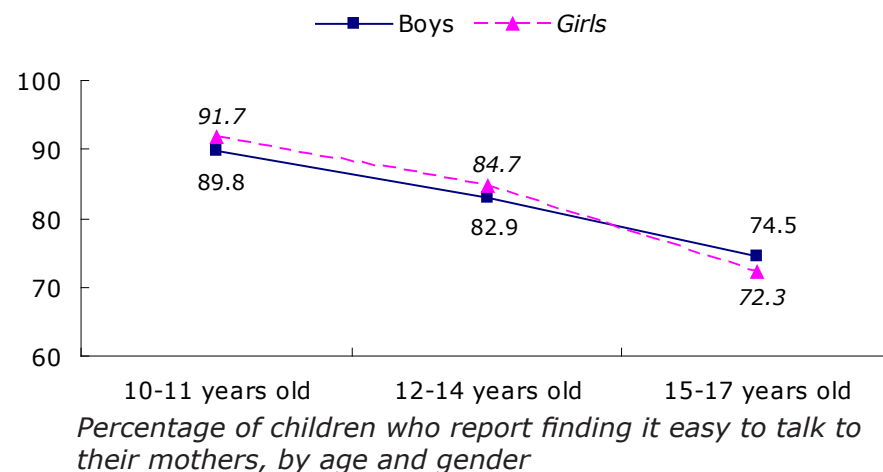
HBSC Ireland 2006 has found that 80.7% of schoolchildren in Ireland report finding it easy or very easy to talk to their mother (80.2% of boys and 81.2% of girls) which represents an increase since 1998 (72.9%). The percentage of children who find it easy to talk to their mother is lower among older children; 89.8% of boys and 91.7% of girls aged 10-11 years, and 74.5% of boys and 72.3% of girls aged 15-17 years. Children who find it easy to talk to their mother are less likely to: have been drunk, report frequent emotional and physical symptoms, have sustained an injury, smoke or have bullied others. They are more likely to: report excellent health, feel happy about their lives and exercise four or more times a week. Relationship with mothers in this factsheet refers to children who report finding it easy or very easy to talk to their mother about things that really bother them.

Why this topic?

Both mothers and fathers have a crucial influence on family's well-being; this covers both parent-parent relationships and parent-child relationships². Research shows that a warm and loving relationship with parents correlates with better psychological welfare and self-esteem^{3,4} and fewer behavioural problems⁵.

Trends 2002-2006

Overall the percentage of children who report that they find it easy or very easy to talk to their mother has increased from 75.6% in 2002 to 80.7% in 2006. This increase is seen across all age groups and genders, with the exception of girls aged 15-17 years, for whom figures remain stable at 72.3% vs. 71.2% in 2002.



Relationships with mothers in context

- Children who find it easy to talk to their mother are less likely to report emotional (27.8% vs. 46.4%) and physical symptoms (29.6% vs. 47.1%) than those who do not.
- Children who find it easy to talk to their mother are more likely to report excellent health (36.2% vs. 22.4%), feel happy about their lives (55.6% vs. 27.2%) and exercise more than four times a week (54.9% vs. 45.4%) than those who do not.
- Children who find it easy to talk to their mother are less likely to report having been drunk (28.0% vs. 48.0%), currently smoking (12.2% vs. 24.1%), and having been injured (41.2% vs. 46.3%) than those who do not.
- Children who find it easy to talk to their mother are less likely to report having bullied others (19.9% vs. 27.9%) than those who do not.
- Ease of talking to mother is not associated with social class.

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 Professor Candace Currie of the University of Edinburgh. In 2006 HBSC Ireland surveyed 10,334 schoolchildren in Ireland from randomly selected schools throughout the country.

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



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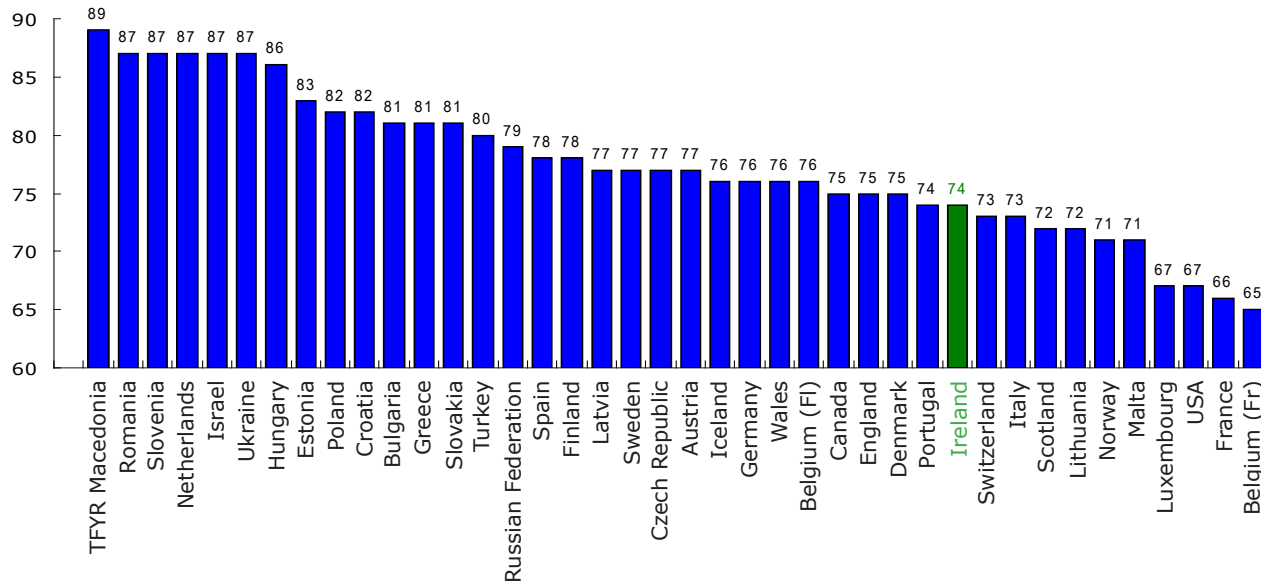


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agus Ghníohai Óige



Department of
Health & Children
AN ROINN SLÁNTE AGUS LEANAÍ

...Relationship with mothers among schoolchildren in Ireland



Percentage of 15 year old children reporting they find it easy to talk their mothers, by country

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

Contact us at: hbsc@nuigalway.ie

International

Fifteen year old schoolchildren in Ireland (boys and girls together) are ranked 30th among 40 countries in Europe and North America with 74% reporting that they find it easy to talk to their mothers. Overall 91% of 11 year olds in Ireland (ranked 18th) and 83% of 13 year olds in Ireland (ranked 21st) report that they find it easy or very easy to talk to their mother about things that really bother them.

Implications

The overall percentage of young people in Ireland who report finding it easy to talk to their mother has increased since 2002. In comparison to other countries in Europe and North America Ireland ranks relatively low for 15 year olds and mid-range for younger children. These findings

indicate that strong relationships with mothers are associated with higher levels of happiness and excellent health, however they also highlight that older children find it more difficult to talk to their mothers. This pattern needs further investigation to find out whether it is a progressive decline that continues into adulthood only. Future emphasis needs to be placed on assisting parents to develop and maintain relationships with their children. Attention also needs to be focused on children who have poor relationships with their mothers.

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