

## HBSC IRELAND

The Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) is a research study conducted by an international network of research teams<sup>1</sup> in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (Europe) and co-ordinated by Professor Candace Currie of the University of St Andrews. This factsheet is based on data collected in 2010 from 12,661 10-17 year olds in Ireland from randomly selected schools throughout the country.

Further information is available at:  
<http://www.hbsc.org>  
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**hbsc**  
HEALTH BEHAVIOUR IN  
SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN



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**Summary**

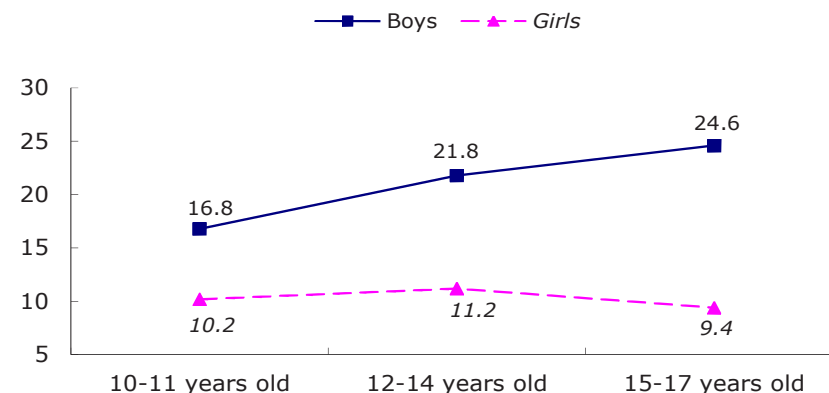
HBSC Ireland 2010 has found that 16.5% of schoolchildren in Ireland report having bullied others at school (22.3% of boys and 10.4% of girls), representing a decrease since 2006 (22.0%). The percentage of boys that have bullied others is highest among 15-17 year olds (24.6%). The percentage of girls bullying others is highest among 12-14 year olds (11.2%). Children who have bullied others are less likely to live with both parents, find it easy to talk to their parents or best friend or like school. They are more likely to spend four or more evenings out with friends and feel pressured by schoolwork than those who do not report bullying others. Bullying others in this factsheet refers to children who have reported taking part in bullying another student(s) at school once or more in the past couple of months.

**Why this topic?**

Bullying in schools is a serious problem and may take many forms including physical, verbal, social or through technology<sup>2, 3</sup>. Children who reported that they bullied others have been found to have lower self-esteem and greater feelings of inadequacy in terms of intellect, school status, popularity, happiness and satisfaction than children who did not bully others<sup>4, 5</sup>. Children who report bullying others have often been victims of bullying themselves<sup>5</sup>.

**Change 2006-2010**

Overall the percentage of children who report having bullied others has decreased from 22.0% in 2006 to 16.5% in 2010. Bullying others is more common among boys (22.3%) than girls (10.4%). There has been a decrease in the percentage of 12-14 year olds (22.5% to 16.6%) and the percentage of 15-17 year olds (23.1% to 17.4%) who report bullying others.

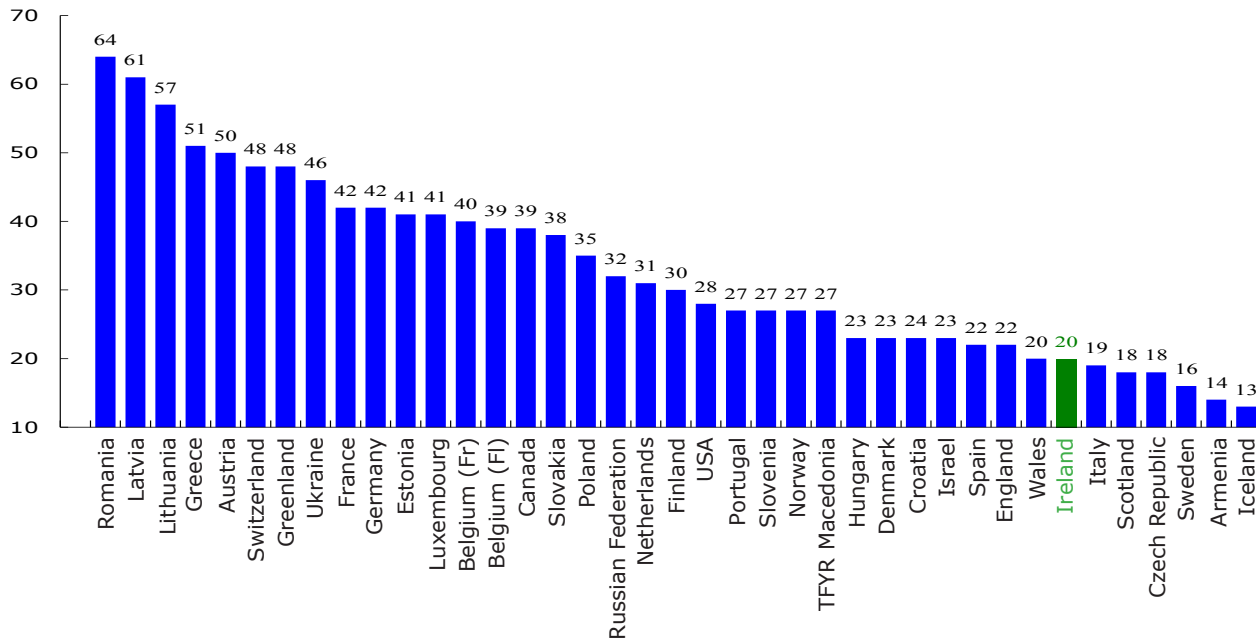


*Percentage of children who have bullied others, by age and gender*

**Bullying others in context**

- Children who have bullied others are less likely to live with both parents than those who have not (70.7% vs. 76.3%).
- Children who have bullied others are less likely to find it easy to talk to their mother (73.1% vs. 83.4%), father (59.9% vs. 67.7%) and best friend (85.7% vs. 88.7%) than those who have not.
- Children who have bullied others are less likely to like school (58.2% vs. 73.5%) than those who have not.
- Children who have bullied others are more likely to feel pressured by schoolwork (43.5% vs. 37.8%) and spend more than four evenings per week with friends (46.4% vs. 37.2%) than those who have not.
- Bullying others is not associated with social class.

## ...Bullying others among schoolchildren in Ireland



Percentage of 15 year old children reporting they have bullied others, by country

### International

Fifteen year old schoolchildren in Ireland (boys and girls together) are ranked 33rd among 39 countries in Europe and North America, with 20.2% reporting having bullied others. Overall 15.7% of 11 year olds in Ireland (rank 31st) and 16.1% of 13 year olds in Ireland (rank 36th) report having bullied others once or more in the past couple of months.

### Implications

The percentage of young people in Ireland that report having bullied others has decreased since 2006. This figure is low in comparison to other European and North American countries. The data presented here suggest that having good communication with parents and friends is associated with lower prevalence of bullying. In addition, bullying others appears to be associated with

negative school perceptions. Further attention needs to be focused on researching the reasons behind bullying and the role of external factors such as the neighbourhood and home environment on bullying behaviour.

### References

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

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