

Short Report:

HBSC Ireland 2014: Self-reported height in 8 to 18 years old schoolchildren in Ireland based on the 2014 data from the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) study

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Introduction

The Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) study is a cross-national research study conducted in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) Regional Office for Europe and runs on a four-year cycle. In 2014, Ireland participated for the fifth time in the HBSC study (www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc). The overall aims of the HBSC study are to gain new insight into, and increase our understanding of young people's health and well-being, health behaviours and their social context. HBSC collects data on key indicators of health, health attitudes, and health behaviours, as well as the context of health for young people. The study is a school-based survey with information collected from students through self-completion questionnaires in classrooms. HBSC Ireland 2014 was funded by the Department of Health, Government of Ireland. Further information on the HBSC Ireland can be found at www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc or at www.hbsc.org, the International HBSC website.

The most recent HBSC Ireland study was conducted in 2014 and included 13,611 school children from 3rd class in primary school to 5th year in post-primary school. Overall, 42.2% boys and 57.8% girls participated. Collectively, 230 primary and post-primary schools across Ireland participated in this study. The methods employed comply with the International HBSC protocol and are detailed in the national report from the 2014 survey (see <http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc>).

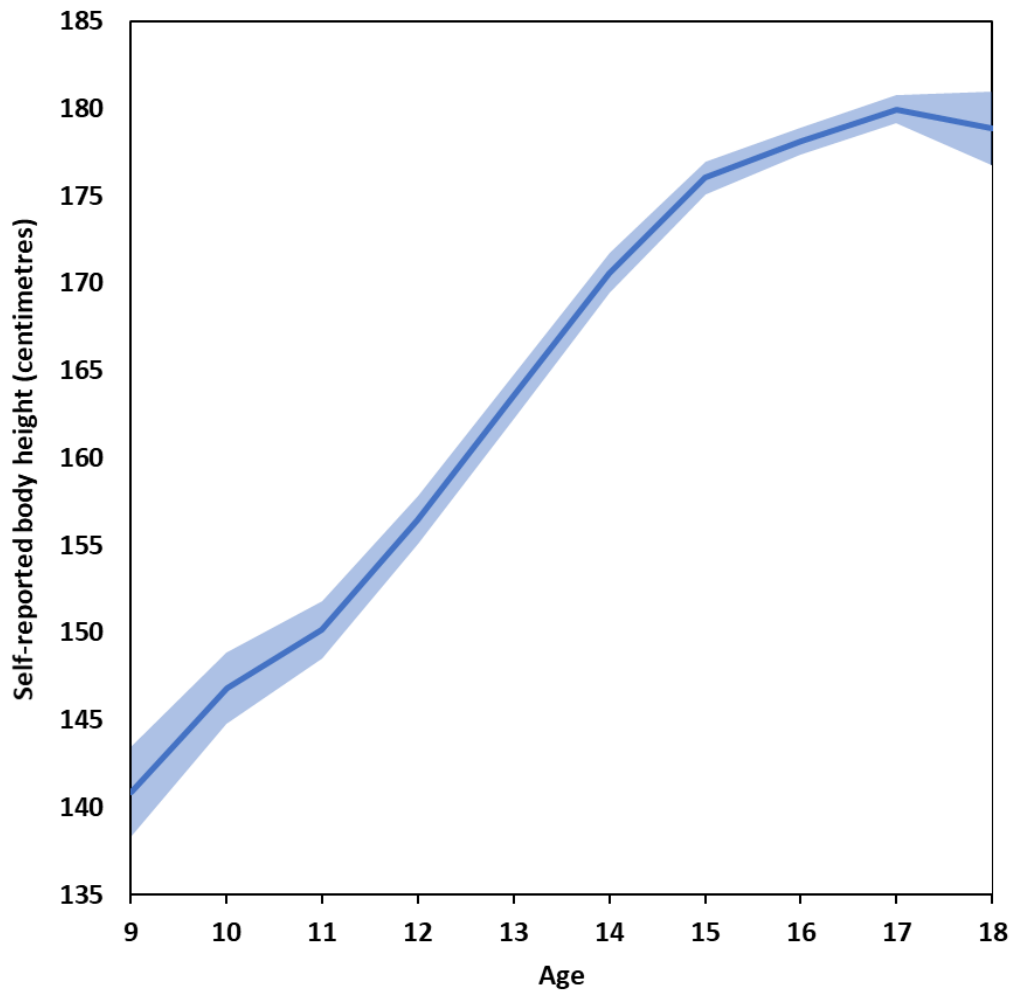
Focus of this report

This short report describes self-reported height data from the 2014 HBSC survey. It is important that the findings presented here are treated with caution, as many children misreport or not report at all their body height or weight due to not knowing these or being confused about the measurements. We have excluded children from this analysis who were under 8 years, did not report their gender, or did report a height lower than 100 or higher than 200 centimetres. The figures below are based on responses from 2681 boys and 3418 girls.

Table 1: Mean self-reported height for boys, by age

Age	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval for Mean		Minimum	Maximum
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound		
9	142	140.88	15.48	1.30	138.31	143.44	100.00	200.00
10	183	146.83	14.02	1.04	144.78	148.88	100.00	200.00
11	206	150.19	11.92	0.83	148.55	151.83	104.14	190.00
12	251	156.46	11.01	0.69	155.09	157.83	104.14	190.00
13	302	163.53	11.13	0.64	162.27	164.79	129.54	200.00
14	377	170.60	11.08	0.57	169.48	171.72	121.92	198.12
15	415	176.03	9.60	0.47	175.11	176.96	101.60	200.00
16	464	178.12	8.62	0.40	177.34	178.91	121.92	200.00
17	297	179.95	7.04	0.41	179.15	180.76	149.86	198.12
18	44	178.87	6.92	1.04	176.77	180.97	167.00	193.04
Total	2681	167.03	16.33	0.32	166.41	167.65	100.00	200.00

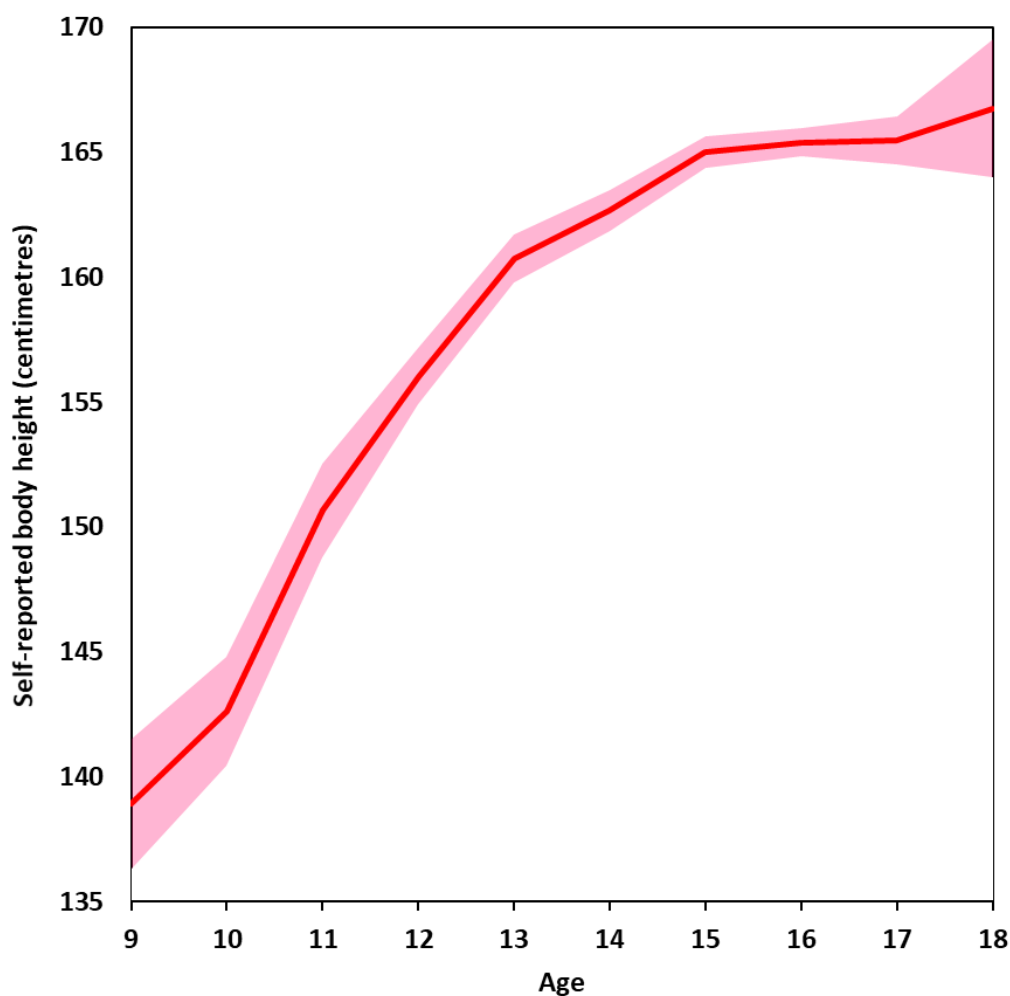
Figure 1: Mean self-reported height for boys, by age



Note. The blue line indicates mean body height for boys of the given age. The light blue area marks 95% confidence interval.

Table 2: Mean self-reported height for girls, by age

Age	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval for Mean		Minimum	Maximum
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound		
9	98	138.93	12.95	1.31	136.34	141.53	101.60	190.00
10	197	142.64	15.46	1.10	140.47	144.82	100.00	200.00
11	228	150.66	14.25	0.94	148.80	152.52	104.14	200.00
12	290	156.03	9.83	0.58	154.90	157.17	121.92	193.04
13	440	160.74	10.26	0.49	159.78	161.70	107.00	196.00
14	488	162.66	9.07	0.41	161.86	163.47	121.92	193.04
15	641	164.99	8.30	0.33	164.35	165.64	106.68	185.42
16	635	165.40	7.36	0.29	164.82	165.97	142.24	187.96
17	361	165.47	9.14	0.48	164.52	166.42	108.00	193.04
18	40	166.74	8.62	1.36	163.99	169.50	154.94	195.58
Total	3418	160.51	12.24	0.21	160.10	160.92	100.00	200.00

Figure 2: Mean self-reported height for girls, by age

Note. The red line indicates mean body height for girls of the given age. The pink area marks 95% confidence interval.

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