

Short Report

HBSC Ireland: Self-reported health among children from the Travelling Community.

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Introduction:

Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) is a cross-national research study conducted in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (European Office). The study runs on a four-year cycle and in 2006 there were 41 participating countries across Europe and North America. HBSC collects data on key indicators of health, health attitudes and health behaviours, as well as the contexts of health for young people. The study is a school-based survey with information collected from students through self-completion questionnaires in classrooms. Further information on the International HBSC study can be found at www.hbsc.org.

The most recent HBSC Ireland dataset comprises 10,344 children from 5th class in primary school to 5th year in post-primary schools. The methods employed comply with the International HBSC protocol and are detailed in the first national report from the 2006 survey, which can be found at www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc. Also in 2006 a sister study, the HBSC Ireland Middle Childhood Survey was conducted using an amended version of the main HBSC questionnaire and an identical sampling procedure. In the Middle Childhood Survey children from 3rd and 4th class in primary schools, who were aged 8.0 years or older were invited to participate. Details of the methods employed can also be found in the first national report from the 2006 survey (available at www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc).

Children from the Travelling Community were identified in the HBSC Ireland surveys through self-report. All participants were asked to report if they were members of the Travelling Community, those who responded 'yes' to this question and whose parents were born in Ireland or the UK were coded as members of the Travelling Community. A total of 276

children were coded as members of the Travelling Community, 233 from the HBSC Ireland main survey and 43 from the HBSC Ireland Middle Childhood survey.

Focus:

This short report presents a brief analysis of the health and wellbeing of self-identified children from the Travelling Community aged 8.0-9.5 years and adolescents aged 13.5-15.5 years, from the HBSC Ireland Middle Childhood Survey and the main HBSC Ireland survey undertaken in 2006. Excluded from the analyses presented are those from social classes 1-4 based on their reports of parental occupation(s), and thus comprise those from social classes 5 and 6 and those for whom either no parental occupation was reported or the detail provided was not sufficient to allow social class coding to take place. In both surveys the following questions were used:

- 'Would you say your health is?' with response options 'excellent', 'good', 'fair' and 'poor'.
- 'How often do you brush your teeth?' with response options 'more than once a day', 'once a day', 'at least once a day but not daily', 'less than once a week' and 'never'.
- 'Have you ever smoked tobacco?' with response options 'yes' and 'no'.
- 'How often do you use a seatbelt when you sit in a car?' with response options 'always', 'often', 'sometimes', 'rarely or never', 'usually no seatbelt where I sit' and 'never travel by car'.
- 'Over the past 7 days, on how many days were you physically active for a total of at least 60 minutes per day?' with response options '0 days', '1 day', '2 days', '3 days', '4 days', '5 days', '6 days' and '7 days.'
- 'How many days a week do you usually eat fruit, vegetables or sweets?' with response options for each - 'never', 'less than once a week', 'once a week', '2-4 days a week', '5-6 days a week', 'once a day, everyday', 'every day, more than once'.

- ‘How many days a week do you usually drink coke or other soft drinks?’ with response options for each - ‘never’, ‘less than once a week’, ‘once a week’, ‘2-4 days a week’, ‘5-6 days a week’, ‘once a day, everyday’, ‘every day, more than once’.
- ‘Generally speaking, I feel safe in the area where I live?’ with response options ‘always’, ‘most of the time’, ‘sometimes’ and ‘rarely or never’.
- ‘At present, how many close male and female friends do you have?’ with response options for each - ‘none’, ‘one’, ‘two’ and ‘three or more’.

The following questions were only asked in the main HBSC Ireland survey:

- ‘How often do you usually have breakfast on weekdays (more than a glass of milk or fruit juice)?’ with response options ‘I never have breakfast during weekdays’, ‘one day’, ‘two days’, ‘three days’, ‘four days’ and ‘five days’.
- ‘How often do you usually have breakfast at the weekend (more than a glass of milk or fruit juice)?’ with response options ‘I never have breakfast during the weekend’, ‘I usually have breakfast on only one day of the weekend’ and ‘I usually have breakfast on both weekend days’.
- ‘How many days a week do you usually eat crisps, fish or chips/potatoes?’ with response options for each - ‘never’, ‘less than once a week’, ‘once a week’, ‘2-4 days a week’, ‘5-6 days a week’, ‘once a day, everyday’, ‘every day, more than once’.
- ‘About how many hours a day do you usually watch television (including videos and DVDs) in your free time at weekends and during the week?’ with response options for each - ‘none at all’, ‘about half an hour a day’, ‘about 1 hour a day’, ‘about 2 hours a day’, ‘about 3 hours a day’, ‘about 4 hours a day’, ‘about 5 hours a day’, ‘about 6 hours a day’ and ‘about 7 hours or more a day’.
- ‘About how many hours a day do you usually play games on a computer or games console (Playstation, Xbox, Gamecube etc.) in your free time at weekends and during the week?’ with response options for each - ‘none at all’, ‘about half an hour a day’,

‘about 1 hour a day’, ‘about 2 hours a day’, ‘about 3 hours a day’, ‘about 4 hours a day’, ‘about 5 hours a day’, ‘about 6 hours a day’ and ‘about 7 hours or more’.

- ‘At present how often do you drink anything alcoholic, such as beer, wine, spirits, alcopops, cider or any other alcoholic drink?’ with response options for each – ‘everyday’, ‘every week’, ‘every month’, ‘rarely’ and ‘never’.
- ‘How often do you talk to your friend(s) on the phone or send them text messages or have contact through the internet?’ with response options ‘rarely or never’, ‘1 or 2 days a week’, ‘3 or 4 days a week’, ‘5 or 6 days a week’ and ‘everyday’.

The following question was only asked in the HBSC Middle Childhood Survey:

- How often do you usually have breakfast (more than a glass of milk or fruit juice) per week? with response options ‘0 days’, ‘1 day’, ‘2 days’, ‘3 days’, ‘4 days’, ‘5 days’, ‘6 days’ and ‘7 days’.

Answers to these questions are presented below separately for the two surveys, and by age group and gender. *It is important to note that as the tables are restricted to those from the Travelling Community, from specific social class groups and two single age ranges, the numbers are very low and should be interpreted with caution.*

Findings from the Middle Childhood Survey:

Table 1: HBSC Ireland Middle Childhood Survey - sample size by age and gender

Age	Boy (n)	Girl (n)	Total (n)
8.00 – 9.42 years	6	4	10

Table 2: HBSC Ireland Middle Childhood Survey - would you say your health is?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	8.00 – 9.49 years		
Excellent	66.7	75.0	70.0
Good	33.3	25.0	30.0
Fair	-	-	-
Poor	-	-	-
Total n	6	4	10

Table 3: HBSC Ireland Middle Childhood Survey - how often do you brush your teeth?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	8.00 – 9.49 years		
More than once a day	66.7	100.0	80.0
Once a day	16.7	-	10.0
At least once a day but not daily	-	-	-
Less than once a week	-	-	-
Never	16.7	-	10.0
<i>Total n</i>	6	4	10

Table 4: HBSC Ireland Middle Childhood Survey - have you ever smoked tobacco?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	8.00 – 9.49 years		
Yes	20.0	-	11.1
No	80.0	100.0	88.9
<i>Total n</i>	5	4	9

Table 5: HBSC Ireland Middle Childhood Survey - how often do you use a seatbelt when you sit in a car?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	8.00 – 9.49 years		
Always	83.3	100.0	90.0
Often	-	-	-
Sometimes	-	-	-
Rarely or never	-	-	-
Usually no seatbelt where sit	-	-	-
Never travel by car	16.7	-	10.0
<i>Total n</i>	6	4	10

Table 6: HBSC Ireland Middle Childhood Survey - over the past 7 days, on how many days were you physically active for a total of at least 60 minutes per day?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	8.00 – 9.49 years		
0 days	-	-	-
1 day	-	-	-
2 days	16.7	-	11.1
3 days	-	-	-
4 days	16.7	-	11.1
5 days	16.7	33.3	22.2
6 days	-	-	-
7 days	50.0	66.7	55.6
<i>Total n</i>	6	3	9

Table 7: HBSC Ireland Middle Childhood Survey - how often do you usually have breakfast (more than a glass of milk or fruit juice) per week?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	8.00 – 9.49 years		
0 days	-	-	
1 day	-	-	
2 days	-	25.0	10.0
3 days	16.7	-	10.0
4 days	-	-	
5 days	16.7	-	10.0
6 days	-	-	
7 days	66.7	75.0	70.0
<i>Total n</i>	6	4	10

Table 8: HBSC Ireland Middle Childhood Survey - how many days a week do you usually eat fruit?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	8.00 – 9.49 years		
Never	-	-	
Less than once a week	-	-	
Once a week	-	50.0	28.6
2-4 days a week	33.3	-	14.3
5-6 days a week	33.3	-	14.3
Once a day, everyday	33.3	50.0	42.9
Every day, more than once	-	-	
<i>Total n</i>	3	4	7

Table 9: HBSC Ireland Middle Childhood Survey - how many days a week do you usually eat vegetables?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	8.00 – 9.49 years		
Never	-	-	-
Less than once a week	-	-	-
Once a week	100.0	-	50.0
2-4 days a week	-	-	-
5-6 days a week	-	50.0	25.0
Once a day, everyday	-	50.0	25.0
Every day, more than once	2	2	4

Table 10: HBSC Ireland Middle Childhood Survey - how many days a week do you usually eat sweets (candy and chocolate)?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	8.00 – 9.49 years		
Never	-	-	-
Less than once a week	50.0	-	33.3
Once a week	-	100.0	33.3
2-4 days a week	50.0	-	33.3
5-6 days a week	-	-	-
Once a day, everyday	-	-	-
Every day, more than once	-	-	-
<i>Total n</i>	2	1	3

Table 11: HBSC Ireland Middle Childhood Survey - how many days a week do you usually drink coke or other soft drinks that contain sugar?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	8.00 – 9.49 years		
Never	-	-	-
Less than once a week	33.3	100.0	50.0
Once a week	-	-	-
2-4 days a week	-	-	-
5-6 days a week	-	-	-
Once a day, everyday	33.3	-	25.0
Every day, more than once	33.3	-	25.0
<i>Total n</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>

Table 12: HBSC Ireland Middle Childhood Survey - generally speaking, I feel safe in the area where I live?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	8.00 – 9.49 years		
Always	50.0	100.0	70.0
Most of the time	33.3	-	20.0
Sometimes	-	-	-
Rarely or never	16.7	-	10.0
<i>Total n</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>10</i>

Table 13: HBSC Ireland Middle Childhood Survey - at present, how many close male friends do you have?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	8.00 – 9.49 years		
None	16.7	-	11.1
One	16.7	-	11.1
Two	-	33.3	11.1
Three or more	66.7	66.7	66.7
<i>Total n</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>9</i>

Table 14: HBSC Ireland Middle Childhood Survey - at present, how many close female friends do you have?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	8.00 – 9.49 years		
None	-	-	-
One	20.0	-	11.1
Two	-	-	-
Three or more	80.0	100.0	88.9
<i>Total n</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>9</i>

Findings from the Main HBSC Ireland Survey:

Table 15: HBSC Ireland Main Survey - sample size by age and gender.

Age	Boy (n)	Girl (n)	Total (n)
13.5 – 15.5 years	34	19	53

Table 16: HBSC Ireland Main Survey - would you say your health is?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	13.5 – 15.49 years		
Excellent	38.2	10.5	28.3
Good	44.1	57.9	49.1
Fair	14.7	15.8	15.1
Poor	2.9	15.8	7.5
Total n	34	19	53

Table 17: HBSC Ireland Main Survey – how often do you brush your teeth?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	13.5 – 15.49 years		
More than once a day	57.6	57.9	57.7
Once a day	12.1	31.6	19.2
At least once a day but not daily	12.1	5.3	9.6
Less than once a week	3.0	-	1.9
Never	15.2	5.3	11.5
Total n	33	19	52

Table 18: HBSC Ireland Main Survey – have you ever smoked tobacco?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	13.5 – 15.49 years		
Yes	52.9	57.9	54.7
No	47.1	42.1	45.3
Total n	34	19	53

Table 19: HBSC Ireland Main Survey - at present how often do you drink anything alcoholic, such as beer (Guinness, Lager)?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	13.5 – 15.49 years		
Every day	6.5	5.6	6.1
Every week	16.1	22.2	18.4
Every month	12.9	-	8.2
Rarely	19.4	11.1	16.3
Never	45.2	61.1	51.0
Total n	31	18	49

Table 20: HBSC Ireland Main Survey - at present how often do you drink anything alcoholic, such as wine?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	13.5 – 15.49 years		
Every day	7.4	-	4.5
Every week	-	-	-
Every month	-	11.8	4.5
Rarely	25.9	23.5	25.0
Never	66.7	64.7	65.9
<i>Total n</i>	27	17	44

Table 21: HBSC Ireland Main Survey - at present how often do you drink anything alcoholic, such as spirits/liquor (vodka, whiskey, shots, brandy)?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	13.5 – 15.49 years		
Every day	3.4	5.3	4.2
Every week	17.2	15.8	16.7
Every month	10.3	10.5	10.4
Rarely	24.1	15.8	20.8
Never	44.8	52.6	47.9
<i>Total n</i>	29	19	48

Table 22: HBSC Ireland Main Survey - at present how often do you drink anything alcoholic, such as alcopops (Bacardi Breezer, Smirnoff Ice)?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	13.5 – 15.49 years		
Every day	3.3	-	2.0
Every week	16.7	15.8	16.3
Every month	10.0	15.8	12.2
Rarely	26.7	26.3	26.5
Never	43.3	42.1	42.9
<i>Total n</i>	30	19	49

Table 23: HBSC Ireland Main Survey - at present how often do you drink cider?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	13.5 – 15.49 years		
Every day	13.8	5.6	10.6
Every week	10.3	16.7	12.8
Every month	17.2	5.6	12.8
Rarely	13.8	16.7	14.9
Never	44.8	55.6	48.9
<i>Total n</i>	29	18	47

Table 24: HBSC Ireland Main Survey - at present how often do you drink any drink that contains alcohol?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	13.5 – 15.49 years		
Every day	7.4	5.9	6.8
Every week	14.8	17.6	15.9
Every month	3.7	-	2.3
Rarely	22.2	23.5	22.7
Never	51.9	52.9	52.3
<i>Total n</i>	27	17	44

Table 25: HBSC Ireland Main Survey - how often do you use a seatbelt when you sit in a car?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	13.5 – 15.49 years		
Always	75.8	47.1	66.0
Often	3.0	-	2.0
Sometimes	9.1	17.6	12.0
Rarely or never	6.1	23.5	12.0
Usually no seatbelt where sit	3.0	-	2.0
Never travel by car	3.0	11.8	6.0
<i>Total n</i>	33	17	50

Table 26: HBSC Ireland Main Survey - over the past 7 days, how many days were you physically active for a total of at least 60 minutes per day?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	13.5 – 15.49 years		
0 days	18.8	11.8	16.3
1 day	3.1	11.8	6.1
2 days	-	23.5	8.2
3 days	6.3	11.8	8.2
4 days	15.6	5.9	12.2
5 days	21.9	23.5	22.4
6 days	6.3	5.9	6.1
7 days	28.1	5.9	20.4
<i>Total n</i>	32	17	49

Table 27: HBSC Ireland Main Survey - about how many hours a day do you usually watch television (including videos and DVDs) in your free time? (Weekdays)

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	13.5 – 15.49 years		
None at all	7.1	7.7	7.3
About half an hour a day	3.6	-	2.4
About 1 hour a day	14.3	7.7	12.2
About 2 hours a day	21.4	38.5	26.8
About 3 hours a day	21.4	30.8	24.4
About 4 hours a day	7.1	-	4.9
About 5 hours a day	7.1	15.4	9.8
About 6 hours a day	3.6	-	2.4
About 7 hours or more a day	14.3	-	9.8
<i>Total n</i>	28	13	41

Table 28: HBSC Ireland Main Survey - about how many hours a day do you usually watch television (including videos and DVDs) in your free time? (Weekends)

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	13.5 – 15.49 years		
None at all	-	7.1	2.7
About half an hour a day	13.0	7.1	10.8
About 1 hour a day	8.7	7.1	8.1
About 2 hours a day	13.0	7.1	10.8
About 3 hours a day	21.7	35.7	27.0
About 4 hours a day	17.4	14.3	16.2
About 5 hours a day	8.7	21.4	13.5
About 6 hours a day	-	-	-
About 7 hours or more a day	17.4	-	10.8
<i>Total n</i>	23	14	37

Table 29: HBSC Ireland Main Survey - about how many hours a day do you usually play games on a computer or games console (Playstation, Xbox) in your free time? (Weekdays)

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	13.5 – 15.49 years		
None at all	18.5	69.2	35.0
About half an hour a day	14.8	7.7	12.5
About 1 hour a day	29.6	-	20.0
About 2 hours a day	7.4	7.7	7.5
About 3 hours a day	11.1	15.4	12.5
About 4 hours a day	7.4	-	5.0
About 5 hours a day	-	-	-
About 6 hours a day	-	-	-
About 7 hours or more a day	11.1	-	7.5
<i>Total n</i>	27	13	40

Table 30: HBSC Ireland Main Survey - about how many hours a day do you usually play games on a computer or games console (Playstation, Xbox, Gamecube etc.) in your free time? (Weekends)

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	13.5 – 15.49 years		
None at all	8.7	53.8	25.0
About half an hour a day	17.4	-	11.1
About 1 hour a day	34.8	30.8	33.3
About 2 hours a day	13.0	7.7	11.1
About 3 hours a day	13.0	7.7	11.1
About 4 hours a day	4.3	-	2.8
About 5 hours a day	4.3	-	2.8
About 6 hours a day	-	-	-
About 7 hours or more a day	4.3	-	2.8
<i>Total n</i>	23	13	36

Table 31: HBSC Ireland Main Survey - how often do you usually have breakfast (more than a glass of milk or fruit juice)? (weekdays)

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	13.5 – 15.49 years		
I never have breakfast during weekdays	9.4	42.1	21.6
One day	9.4	-	5.9
Two days	3.1	15.8	7.8
Three days	-	-	-
Four days	9.4	5.3	7.8
Five days	68.8	36.8	56.9
<i>Total n</i>	32	19	51

Table 32: HBSC Ireland Main Survey - how often do you usually have breakfast (more than a glass of milk or fruit juice)? (weekend)

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	13.5 – 15.49 years		
I never have breakfast during the weekend	9.4	25.0	14.6
I usually have breakfast on only one day of the weekend	15.6	25.0	18.8
I usually have breakfast on both weekend days	75.0	50.0	66.7
<i>Total n</i>	32	16	48

Table 33: HBSC Ireland Main Survey - how many days a week do you usually eat fruit?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	13.5 – 15.49 years		
Never	21.2	16.7	19.6
Less than once a week	12.1	5.6	9.8
Once a week	3.0	16.7	7.8
2-4 days a week	42.4	22.2	35.3
5-6 days a week	3.0	11.1	5.9
Once a day, everyday	9.1	5.6	7.8
Every day, more than once	9.1	22.2	13.7
<i>Total n</i>	33	18	51

Table 34: HBSC Ireland Main Survey - how many days a week do you usually eat vegetables?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	13.5 – 15.49 years		
Never	10.3	16.7	12.8
Less than once a week	3.4	11.1	6.4
Once a week	6.9	5.6	6.4
2-4 days a week	41.4	16.7	31.9
5-6 days a week	20.7	22.2	21.3
Once a day, everyday	10.3	11.1	10.6
Every day, more than once	6.9	16.7	10.6
<i>Total n</i>	29	18	47

Table 35: HBSC Ireland Main Survey - how many days a week do you usually eat sweets (candy or chocolate)?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	13.5 – 15.49 years		
Never	7.1	5.9	6.7
Less than once a week	7.1	-	4.4
Once a week	14.3	5.9	11.1
2-4 days a week	21.4	11.8	17.8
5-6 days a week	10.7	5.9	8.9
Once a day, everyday	14.3	11.8	13.3
Every day, more than once	25.0	58.8	37.8
<i>Total n</i>	28	17	45

Table 36: HBSC Ireland Main Survey - how many days a week do you usually drink coke or other soft drinks that contain sugar?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	13.5 – 15.49 years		
Never	3.6	11.1	6.5
Less than once a week	7.1	16.7	10.9
Once a week	10.7	5.6	8.7
2-4 days a week	28.6	16.7	23.9
5-6 days a week	14.3	11.1	13.0
Once a day, everyday	10.7	16.7	13.0
Every day, more than once	25.0	22.2	23.9
<i>Total n</i>	28	18	46

Table 37: HBSC Ireland Main Survey - how many days a week do you usually eat crisps?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	13.5 – 15.49 years		
Never	15.6	5.3	11.8
Less than once a week	12.5	5.3	9.8
Once a week	15.6	10.5	13.7
2-4 days a week	28.1	21.1	25.5
5-6 days a week	15.6	5.3	11.8
Once a day, everyday	3.1	10.5	5.9
Every day, more than once	9.4	42.1	21.6
<i>Total n</i>	32	19	51

Table 38: HBSC Ireland Main Survey - how many days a week do you usually eat chips/fried potatoes?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	13.5 – 15.49 years		
Never	7.1	5.9	6.7
Less than once a week	7.1	23.5	13.3
Once a week	28.6	17.6	24.4
2-4 days a week	25.0	29.4	26.7
5-6 days a week	14.3	5.9	11.1
Once a day, everyday	3.6	-	2.2
Every day, more than once	14.3	17.6	15.6
<i>Total n</i>	28	17	45

Table 39: HBSC Ireland Main Survey - how many days a week do you usually eat Fish?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	13.5 – 15.49 years		
Never	35.5	42.1	38.0
Less than once a week	19.4	10.5	16.0
Once a week	19.4	26.3	22.0
2-4 days a week	19.4	10.5	16.0
5-6 days a week	3.2	-	2.0
Once a day, everyday	3.2	5.3	4.0
Every day, more than once	-	5.3	2.0
<i>Total n</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>50</i>

Table 40: HBSC Ireland Main Survey – generally speaking, I feel safe in the area where I live?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	13.5 – 15.49 years		
Always	50.0	43.8	47.9
Most of the time	28.1	37.5	31.3
Sometimes	9.4	12.5	10.4
Rarely or never	12.5	6.3	10.4
<i>Total n</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>48</i>

Table 41: HBSC Ireland Main Survey – at present, how many close male friends do you have?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	13.5 – 15.49 years		
None	6.7	18.8	10.9
One	3.3	6.3	4.3
Two	6.7	6.3	6.5
Three or more	83.3	68.8	78.3
<i>Total n</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>46</i>

Table 42: HBSC Ireland Main Survey - at present, how many close female friends do you have?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	13.5 – 15.49 years		
None	6.9	6.3	6.7
One	-	6.3	2.2
Two	13.8	12.5	13.3
Three or more	79.3	75.0	77.8
<i>Total n</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>45</i>

Table 43: HBSC Ireland Main Survey - how often do you talk to your friend(s) on the phone or send them text messages or have contact through the Internet?

2006	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Total (%)
Age	13.5 – 15.49 years		
Rarely or never	22.6	7.1	17.8
1 or 2 days a week	25.8	7.1	20.0
3 or 4 days a week	3.2	14.3	6.7
5 or 6 days a week	12.9	14.3	13.3
Everyday	35.5	57.1	42.2
<i>Total n</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>45</i>

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