

Notes for editors

Travellers

Traveller students were similar to other students in reporting excellent health and feeling very happy with their lives, but fewer Traveller students report high life satisfaction (71% vs. 82%). Traveller students were more likely to report risk behaviours, such as smoking (25% vs. 17%), cannabis use (21% vs. 12%) and drinking alcohol (32% vs. 18%). More Traveller students report skipping breakfast during the week (21% vs. 12%), that they were dieting (14% vs. 8%) and that they had experienced food poverty (28% vs. 19%). A greater proportion of them report infrequent exercise (16% vs. 7%). Traveller girls were more likely to report that they had been bullied in school (30% vs. 16%) but no differences were found in relation to involvement in bullying others, fighting, or in reporting a medically attended injury. Fewer Traveller students report positive school perceptions for example other students are less likely to accept them as they are (76% vs. 89%)

Immigrants

Fewer Immigrant students report feeling very happy with their lives at present (43% vs. 53%) or high life satisfaction (74% vs. 80%) compared to others. More immigrant girls report not having breakfast on any weekday (23% vs. 14%) and being on a diet (21% vs. 12%) compared to other girls but no other differences were evident. Fewer immigrant students report that they are physically active on a regular basis (50% vs. 57%). More Immigrant students report that they had been bullied in school (30% vs. 23%), however no differences were found in relation to bullying others, fighting, or in reporting a medically attended injury. Fewer immigrant students report that the students in their classes are kind and helpful (62% vs. 68%) and that other students accept them as they are (73% vs. 82%). Fewer immigrant girls report that children in their classes enjoy being together (70% vs. 76%). Fewer immigrant children report having three or more friends of same-sex (83% vs. 91%).

Disability and Chronic Illness

Fewer students with a disability or chronic illness report excellent health (26% vs. 36%). Fewer boys with a disability or chronic illness report feeling very happy with their lives (46% vs. 55%) or high life satisfaction (74% vs. 83%) compared to others. No differences were found between children with a disability or chronic illness in relation to substance use compared to others. More students with a disability or chronic illness report experiencing food poverty (19% vs. 15%) and being on a diet (15% vs. 11%). More students with a disability report that that were injured in the past 12 months (50% vs. 44%), that they had been bullied in school in the past couple of months (30% vs. 22%) and that they had been in a fight in the past 12 months (42% vs. 38%). Fewer students with a disability or chronic illness report that other students in their classes accept them as they are (77% vs. 82%).

These differences tend to be largest among students who report that they have a disability or chronic illness that affects their attendance and participation in school.

DEIS Schools

Fewer students in DEIS schools report excellent health (31% vs. 35%) or feeling very happy about their lives at present (54% vs. 49%). In addition, boys in these schools were more likely to report risk behaviours such as smoking (17% vs. 10%) and drinking alcohol (40% vs. 35%) compared to other boys. More students in DEIS schools report skipping breakfast on weekdays (18% vs. 12%). No differences were found in relation to physical activity. More girls in DEIS schools report that they bullied other students in the past couple of months (17% vs. 13%) and that they were in a fight at least once in the past 12 months (30% vs. 23%). Fewer boys in DEIS schools report that they like school (58% vs. 66%), that students in their classes enjoy being together (73% vs. 78%) and were/are kind and helpful (59% vs. 67%). Students in DEIS schools, however, were more likely to report that they spend three or more evenings a week with friend (70% vs. 56%).

The full report is available for download in English and Irish from

www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc

The HBSC Ireland study collects data by questionnaire from children in 5th class to 5th year across 215 schools in Ireland. This report is based on a nationally representative sample of 10,334 school children. Previous publications from HBSC Ireland are available from the website www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc.

HBSC Ireland is located in the Health Promotion Research Centre at the National University of Ireland, Galway. The HBSC Ireland team is led by Dr Saoirse Nic Gabhainn, Principal Investigator, Dr. Michal Molcho, Deputy Principal Investigator and Dr Colette Kelly, Survey Manager. HBSC Ireland is supported by the Health Promotion Policy Unit and the Office of the Minister for Children in the Department of Health and Children.