

Information sheet for 20-year-olds

As part of the Growing Up in Ireland study, we are interviewing the same sample of young people every few years to see how they are developing as they grow older. We first interviewed you for the study when you were 9 years old. We visited families again when the children taking part were 13 years and 17-18 years of age. Now that you are in your early 20s, we would like to interview you again. We would like to see how you are getting on and to build on the great help you have already given us. Even if you missed some of the other visits when you were younger, you can rejoin the study now. However, as before, it is entirely your choice whether or not you take part.

Your participation counts

Studies like these help us to understand how young people like you are growing up in Ireland today. This research is influencing policies that can improve the future for all young adults and families in Ireland. We hope that you can support us in our work and we would like to thank you, in advance, for your help.

Who is running the study?

Growing Up in Ireland is funded by the Government, with a contribution from The Atlantic Philanthropies. It is being carried out by a group of independent researchers led by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and Trinity College Dublin.

If you take part, you will be entered into a prize draw

All young adults who complete the main questionnaire will be entered into a draw of participants. The draw will take place when all the interviews have been completed and you will have the chance to win

- one of four 32GB tablet computers, or
- one of ten 'One-for-all' vouchers, each worth €50.

What does taking part in this interview involve?

An interviewer will contact your household in the next week or so to arrange to interview you and one of your parents (usually the parent who completed the main interview at the last visit). Even if you are no longer living with them, we will interview your parent at their own address. If you are still living there, we will interview you there too.

If you no longer live there, the interviewer will ask for an address where they can contact you. If you provided mobile or email details at the last interview, we may use these to contact you to schedule an interview. The interviewer will ask you some questions in a face-to-face survey. They will also give you some more questions, which might be considered more sensitive or private, to fill out on your own.

The interviewer will ask you parent or parents to complete an interview about their current health, work, household, and their relationship with you.

How do we deal with issues of confidentiality?

We treat all the information you give us in strictest confidence. We can only use it for research purposes. No-one in Government or any government agency or department will be able to associate your information with you or your family.

The study is being carried out under the Statistics Act (1993). It ensures complete confidentiality of your information.

However, if an interviewer sees something or is told something outside the answers given to the survey questions, which causes them or the people running the study to have serious concerns for the welfare of a child or other vulnerable person, they may have to tell someone who can help.

We will use an ID number on your questionnaire. This helps us to make sure that we keep your information anonymous. We store a file with the anonymous information on a computer. We do this to make the information available to researchers (through the Irish Social Science Data Archive). See more about this on www.growingup.ie.

If you decide not to take part in the study, it will not affect any health, educational or social care which you or your family receive from the State.

What kind of questions will the interviewer ask you?

This interview will be similar to the last one. We will be asking questions on:

- what you are doing or plan to do in terms of work or education
- how you like to spend your free time
- your health
- what you think about various current affairs
- how you get on with parents and any 'significant other' in your life.

The questions are straightforward, though some are quite detailed. Some will address sensitive issues like:

- your mental well-being
- your income
- sexual experiences including pregnancy
- family life.

We would also like to take some measurements like your height, weight, blood pressure and waist size. The interviewer will explain more about these and will help you if you have any concerns or questions about the questionnaire. If you don't want to answer any question(s) or have a measurement taken, you don't have to.

Following up in a few years' time

We may wish to visit you again in a few years' time for a further interview. This has not been decided yet.

Who are the interviewers?

The interviewer who will call to your home is from the ESRI. Each interviewer carries a photo ID card. They have been trained for the study and were vetted by An Garda Síochána. They are not allowed to be alone with any child at any time during their visit to your home.

You can check the identity of your interviewer or let us know if you were unhappy with the way the interview was conducted by calling Freephone 1800 200 434.

Where can you find out more information?

- **Phone:** Freephone 1800 200 434 or 01-863 2000
- **Online:** Email us at growingup@esri.ie or visit www.growingup.ie
- **Write:** *Growing Up in Ireland*, ESRI, Whitaker Square, Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin 2