

# Growing Up in Ireland, its impact to date

'As Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, I have been impressed by the significant contribution which the Growing Up in Ireland data has made to policy development and to decision making across the entire remit of my Department. Growing Up in Ireland also provides Government with a way to measure the impact that policies and services are having on children and young people and assess where we need to make changes to improve outcomes.'

**Roderic O'Gorman**

*Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth*

'In addition to the research we have directly engaged with and published that draw on Growing up in Ireland, other studies that have been carried out have shone a light on areas of relevance to our work. The Covid-19 special survey showed how young people's participation in structured cultural activities was particularly impacted by Covid-19 restrictions. While we had no role in commissioning or publishing that particular report, as policy makers, it is helpful to be able to access this information. From the Covid-19 special survey, we see that children in the lowest income groups in particular participated less than usual in organised cultural activities.'

**Arts Council**

'As the state's first Minister for Children and Youth Affairs I was a strong supporter of the Growing Up in Ireland (GUI) study having launched the first results of the programme in 2013. This data driven study assisted me as Minister in shaping better and more informed socio-economic policy decisions for the benefit of all our society. GUI studies and research were signposts for important emerging issues such as childhood obesity that needed to be addressed by government and society.'

**Frances Fitzgerald**

*Member of the European Parliament*

'The Growing Up in Ireland study is unique in its kind in Ireland, and, as such, it has been a hugely important resource for my PhD on the educational achievement of Irish children with a migration background and the potentially equalising role of preschool.'

**Stefanie Sprong**

*Researcher, Department of Sociology, Trinity College Dublin and winner of the 2021 GUI Conference Award for Best Presentation with a Public Policy Focus*

'Growing Up in Ireland plays a really important part in ensuring that, as policy makers, we make the right choices for children. It gives us access to reliable data and insights based on the life experiences of children and young people over a long period of time. GUI data therefore deepens our understanding of what influences educational outcomes, and it has produced a rich source of information that has informed, and will continue to inform policy making in the education sector. A review of career guidance provision in Ireland was recently informed by data from Growing Up in Ireland. This is just one example of its usage.'

**Bernie McNally,**

*Secretary General,  
Department of Education*

'We are looking forward to using GUI data to provide evidence to both policy makers and practitioners that will enable them to identify patterns in substance use among children and young adults and design evidence-based and targeted interventions in the most appropriate settings.'

**Brian Galvin**

*Health Research Board*

'The civil service is committed to producing policy that is based on evidence; and the recently published national research and innovation strategy prioritises maximising the impact of research and innovation on the economy, society and the environment. Growing Up in Ireland is an exemplary project which has met these objectives and will continue to contribute to a data rich policy framework in the future.'

**Kevin McCarthy,**

*Secretary General,  
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth*

'Families matter for child wellbeing and by comparing the GUI study to international child cohort studies, we see the resilient nature of the Irish family.'

**Dr Carmel Hannan**

*Department of Sociology at the University of Limerick*

