

## How your participation is informing research and policy in Ireland

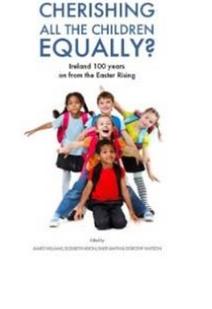
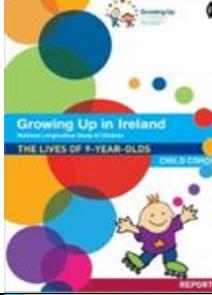
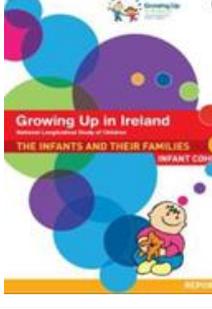
The information from ***Growing Up in Ireland*** is proving to be a hugely important resource for those interested in outcomes for children, adolescents and families generally. Many reports and research papers have already been published in addition to 'Key Findings' short summaries.

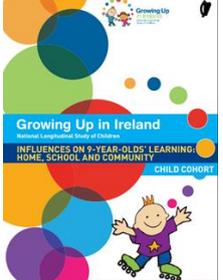
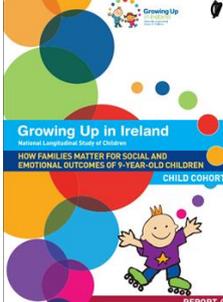
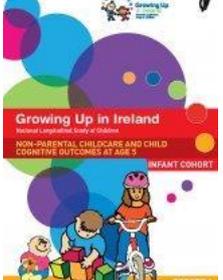


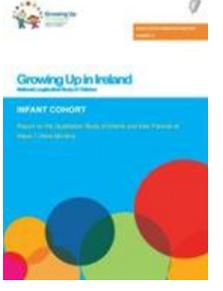
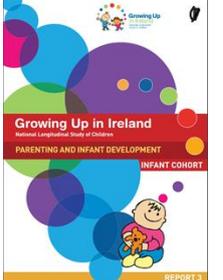
**Some interesting points that emerged from the interviews with families at 9 months, 3 years and 13 years were:**

- The average infant weighed 3.47 Kgs at birth, though children from more disadvantaged families were generally a little bit lighter. Just over 5% of infants were low birth-weight (less than 2.5Kgs). The risk of having a low birth weight baby was over 1.5 times greater for mothers who had smoked in pregnancy.
- By international standards Ireland has very low breastfeeding rates. A total of 49 per cent of new-borns were being breastfed when they left hospital. Mothers who were not born in Ireland were much more likely to breastfeed – 83 per cent of mothers who were not born in Ireland breastfed, compared to 48 per cent of Irish-born mothers.
- About a quarter of all children were overweight or obese by 3 years of age. Levels were highest among children from the most socially disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Although the overall health of 3-year-olds was very good, the parents of almost 16 per cent reported that their child had some form of longstanding illness. Respiratory illnesses such as asthma were reported to be the most common type (reported by 6 per cent of parents of 3-year-olds) followed by eczema or skin allergies (4 per cent).
- Consistently throughout the study we have found that one-parent families are most disadvantaged in terms of their income and living conditions as well as outcomes for their children, regardless of how disadvantage is measured.
- Half of children were registered in school in the year in which they started and 80% were registered in only one school. Earlier registration and registration in more than one school were more common among more advantaged families.
- In general, children adjusted well to school and were reported by their parents to have settled in well.
- The vast majority of parents whose child had started school in the September before they were interviewed at 5 years of age had availed of the Free Pre-school Year Scheme. 25% of parents who had availed of the scheme said they wouldn't have been able to send their child to preschool had it not been for the scheme.

These and other results from previous phases of ***Growing Up in Ireland*** are available on our website ([www.growingup.ie](http://www.growingup.ie)). On the next few pages we list some of the major reports that have been commissioned by Government departments or other agencies using the ***Growing Up in Ireland*** data - most are available online.

	<p><b>Arts and Cultural Participation among Children and Young People: Insights from the Growing Up in Ireland Study</b> <i>Emer Smyth, 2016</i></p> <p>This report shows that Irish children who participate in artistic and cultural activities cope better with schoolwork and have more positive attitudes towards school later on than those who are less engaged in these types of activities. The study examines how 9-year-olds who frequently read and attend classes in music, dance or drama have more confidence to cope with schoolwork by age 13. They are also happier, have reduced anxiety, better academic skills and fewer socio-emotional difficulties.</p> <p>Commissioned by: The Arts Council</p> <p>Further information: <a href="http://www.esri.ie/pubs/BKMNEXT323.pdf">http://www.esri.ie/pubs/BKMNEXT323.pdf</a></p>
	<p><b>Cherishing all the children equally? Ireland 100 years on from the Easter Rising</b> <i>James Williams, Elizabeth Nixon, Emer Smyth and Dorothy Watson (Eds.), 2016</i></p> <p>This book examines the extent to which all children can participate fully and equally in contemporary Irish society. It asks whether or not we cherish all our children equally in modern Ireland (as aspired to in the Proclamation of Independence of 1916), regardless of their family circumstances, health or ethnic background.</p> <p>Further information: <a href="http://www.esri.ie/publications/cherishing-all-the-children-equally-children-in-ireland-100-years-on-from-the-easter-rising/">http://www.esri.ie/publications/cherishing-all-the-children-equally-children-in-ireland-100-years-on-from-the-easter-rising/</a></p>
	<p><b>Growing Up in Ireland: The Lives of 9-Year-Olds</b> <i>James Williams et al., 2009</i></p> <p>This report covers a wide a range of issues, which are as follows: nine-year-olds and their families; family and parenting; children's health and development; children's use of healthcare; the social, emotional and behavioural well-being of nine-year-olds; children's education; peer relationships; children's activities; children's neighbourhoods and community.</p> <p>Commissioned by: Department of Children and Youth Affairs</p> <p>Further information: <a href="https://www.growingup.ie/pubs/BKMNEXT154.pdf">https://www.growingup.ie/pubs/BKMNEXT154.pdf</a></p>
	<p><b>Growing Up in Ireland: The Infants and Their Families</b> <i>James Williams, Sheila Greene, Sinéad McNally, Aisling Murray and Amanda Quail, 2010</i></p> <p>This report covers many topics which can be broadly summarised as follows: characteristics of infants and their families; pregnancy and birth; infant health; infants' routines and developmental status; childcare; parenting and support; and mother's employment status and the neighbourhood environment.</p> <p>Commissioned by: Department of Children and Youth Affairs</p> <p>Further information: <a href="https://www.growingup.ie/pubs/BKMNEXT179.pdf">https://www.growingup.ie/pubs/BKMNEXT179.pdf</a></p>
	<p><b>Growing Up in Ireland: Maternal Health Behaviours and Child Growth in Infancy</b> <i>Richard Layte and Cathal McCrory, 2015</i></p> <p>This report explores maternal behaviour during pregnancy, such as smoking and drinking behaviours, along with breastfeeding, and factors influencing child birth-weight and growth in early infancy.</p> <p>Commissioned by: Department of Children and Youth Affairs</p> <p>Further information: <a href="https://www.growingup.ie/pubs/BKMNEXT286.pdf">https://www.growingup.ie/pubs/BKMNEXT286.pdf</a></p>
	<p><b>Growing Up in Ireland: The Findings of the Qualitative Study with the 9-year-olds and their Parents</b> <i>Elaine Harris, Erika Doyle, and Sheila Greene, 2011</i></p> <p>This report gives a more in-depth view into various areas of 9-year-olds lives and parents experiences of parenting a 9-year-old child.</p> <p>Commissioned by: Department of Children and Youth Affairs</p> <p>Further information: <a href="https://www.growingup.ie/pubs/BKMNEXT315.pdf">https://www.growingup.ie/pubs/BKMNEXT315.pdf</a></p>

	<p><b>Growing Up in Ireland: Overweight and Obesity among 9-year-olds</b>  <i>Richard Layte, and Cathal McCrory, 2011</i></p> <p>This report details all factors surrounding to and contributing to overweight and obesity in 9-year-olds, including levels, trends and social class inequalities; diet and physical activity, local area effects; perceptions of child overweight and obesity and its association with child self-concept and psychological adjustment.</p> <p>Commissioned by: Department of Children and Youth Affairs  Further information: <a href="https://www.growingup.ie/pubs/BKMNEXT211.pdf">https://www.growingup.ie/pubs/BKMNEXT211.pdf</a></p>
	<p><b>Growing Up in Ireland: Influences on 9-year-olds' Learning: Home, School and Community</b>  <i>Selina McCoy, Amanda Quail, and Emer Smyth, 2012</i></p> <p>This report covers factors influencing children's learning, in which analysis on out-of-school activities feature prominently, which include social background, gender, neighbourhood factors, school factors, and academic performance.</p> <p>Commissioned by: Department of Children and Youth Affairs  Further information: <a href="https://www.growingup.ie/pubs/BKMNEXT204.pdf">https://www.growingup.ie/pubs/BKMNEXT204.pdf</a></p>
	<p><b>Growing Up in Ireland: How Families Matter for Social and Emotional Outcomes of 9-year-old Children.</b> <i>Elizabeth Nixon, 2012</i></p> <p>This report covers the impact of families on children's socio-emotional well-being, which includes an analysis on how children are faring socially and emotionally, parenting processes and children's social and emotional outcomes, parent's characteristics, parenting processes, family structure, and socio-economic status.</p> <p>Commissioned by: Department of Children and Youth Affairs  Further information: <a href="https://www.growingup.ie/pubs/BKMNEXT316.pdf">https://www.growingup.ie/pubs/BKMNEXT316.pdf</a></p>
	<p><b>Growing Up in Ireland: Non-Parental Childcare and Child Cognitive Outcomes at Age 5</b>  <i>Frances McGinnity, Helen Russell and Aisling Murray, 2015</i></p> <p>This report looked at whether different categories of childcare at aged 3 years affected children's cognitive outcomes at age 5 years controlling for a range of other family and child characteristics such as language spoken in the home and whether the 5-year-old had started formal schooling.</p> <p>Commissioned by: Department of Children and Youth Affairs  Further information: <a href="https://www.growingup.ie/pubs/BKMNEXT300.pdf">https://www.growingup.ie/pubs/BKMNEXT300.pdf</a></p>
	<p><b>Growing Up in Ireland: Dynamics of Child Economic Vulnerability and Socio-Emotional Development: An Analysis of the First Two Waves of the Growing Up in Ireland Study</b>  <i>Dorothy Watson, Bertrand Maître, Christopher T. Whelan, and James Williams, 2014</i></p> <p>Using the data from the infant and child cohorts, this report explores the effect that the recession has had on family economic vulnerability, the risk factors for economic vulnerability, and subsequent association with children's socio-emotional development.</p> <p>Commissioned by: Department of Children and Youth Affairs  Further information: <a href="https://www.growingup.ie/pubs/BKMNEXT284.pdf">https://www.growingup.ie/pubs/BKMNEXT284.pdf</a></p>
	<p><b>Disproportionality in special education: identifying children with emotional behavioural difficulties in Irish primary schools</b>  <i>Joanne Banks, Michael Shevlin and Selina McCoy, 2012</i></p> <p>This report looks at children from disadvantaged backgrounds and those attending schools designated as socio-economically disadvantaged and their likelihood of having a special educational need of a non-normative type such as emotional behavioural difficulty (EBD).</p> <p>Commissioned by: Department of Children and Youth Affairs  Further information: <a href="http://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ968745">http://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ968745</a></p>

	<p><b>Growing Up in Ireland: Mothers' Return to Work and Childcare Choices for Infants in Ireland</b>  <i>Frances McGinnity, Aisling Murray and Sinéad McNally, 2013</i></p> <p>This report covers the factors influencing the care of very young children, maternal care and return to paid work, use and hours of childcare, childcare settings and childcare choice, and childcare type and infant health.</p> <p>Commissioned by: Department of Children and Youth Affairs  Further information: <a href="https://www.growingup.ie/pubs/BKMNEXT238.pdf">https://www.growingup.ie/pubs/BKMNEXT238.pdf</a></p>
	<p><b>Growing Up in Ireland: Report on the Qualitative Study of Infants and their Parents at Wave 1 (Nine Months)</b>  <i>Brian Merriman, Sheila Greene, Erika Doyle, and Rory McDaid, 2013</i></p> <p>This report explores in-depth the experiences of new parenthood, covering topics such as transition to parenthood, birth and experience of health services, infants' routines and developmental status, parent-child relationships, childcare, and sources of support.</p> <p>Commissioned by: Department of Children and Youth Affairs  Further information: <a href="https://www.growingup.ie/pubs/BKMNEXT319.pdf">https://www.growingup.ie/pubs/BKMNEXT319.pdf</a></p>
	<p><b>Growing Up in Ireland: Parenting and Infant Development</b>  <i>Elizabeth Nixon, Lorraine Swords, and Aisling Murray, 2013</i></p> <p>This report is tailored specifically to look at family structure, income variations, parental stress, sensitivity and infant developmental outcomes.</p> <p>Commissioned by: Department of Children and Youth Affairs  Further information: <a href="https://www.growingup.ie/pubs/BKMNEXT244.pdf">https://www.growingup.ie/pubs/BKMNEXT244.pdf</a></p>
	<p><b>The Primary Classroom: Insights from the Growing Up in Ireland Study</b>  <i>Selina McCoy, Emer Smyth, and Joanne Banks, 2012</i></p> <p>This report looks at the implementation of the Primary Curriculum in the classroom with important implications for the Department of Education and Skills Literacy and Numeracy for Life strategy.</p> <p>Commissioned by: National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA).  Further information: <a href="http://www.esri.ie/pubs/BKMNEXT205.pdf">http://www.esri.ie/pubs/BKMNEXT205.pdf</a></p>
	<p><b>Annual Monitoring Report on Integration 2013, Ch 6. The Second Generation: Children of Immigrants (at 3) and Their Families</b>  <i>Frances McGinnity, Emma Quinn, Gillian Kingston, and Philip O'Connell, 2014</i></p> <p>This report explores migrant 3-year-olds' family structure and place of parent's origin, care arrangements, mother's employment, financial difficulties in the family, child's health and diet.</p> <p>Commissioned by: The Integration Centre  Further information: <a href="http://emn.ie/files/p_201407030442242013_AnnualMonitoringIntegration.pdf">http://emn.ie/files/p_201407030442242013_AnnualMonitoringIntegration.pdf</a></p>
	<p><b>Watch them Grow: Unmarried-cohabitant and Solo parenthood in Ireland An Analysis of the Growing Up in Ireland infant cohort data Waves 1 and 2</b>  <i>Owen Corrigan, 2014</i></p> <p>This report explores and compares the experiences of married, unmarried cohabiting, and lone parents, across health and social support indicators, explores the effects of unintended pregnancy on mother and child outcomes, and looks specifically at father's experiences of parenting.</p> <p>Commissioned by: Treoir, funded by the HSE Crisis Pregnancy Programme  Further information: <a href="http://www.treoir.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/watch-them-grow-final-report-2014.pdf">http://www.treoir.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/watch-them-grow-final-report-2014.pdf</a></p>