

Bullying and Chronic Disease

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Overview of presentation

- Foundations of health
- Growing Up in Ireland cohort
- General health
- Prevalence of chronic illness
- Impact on chronic illness on daily life activities
- Prevalence of bullying
- Factors associated with bullying
- Chronic illness and bullying
- Implications



Foundations of health

- Shaped by
 - Biological
 - Psychological
 - Environmental
 - Social
 - Spiritual
- Health outcomes
 - Interaction of genetic & environmental influences
 - Begin in womb - perhaps earlier

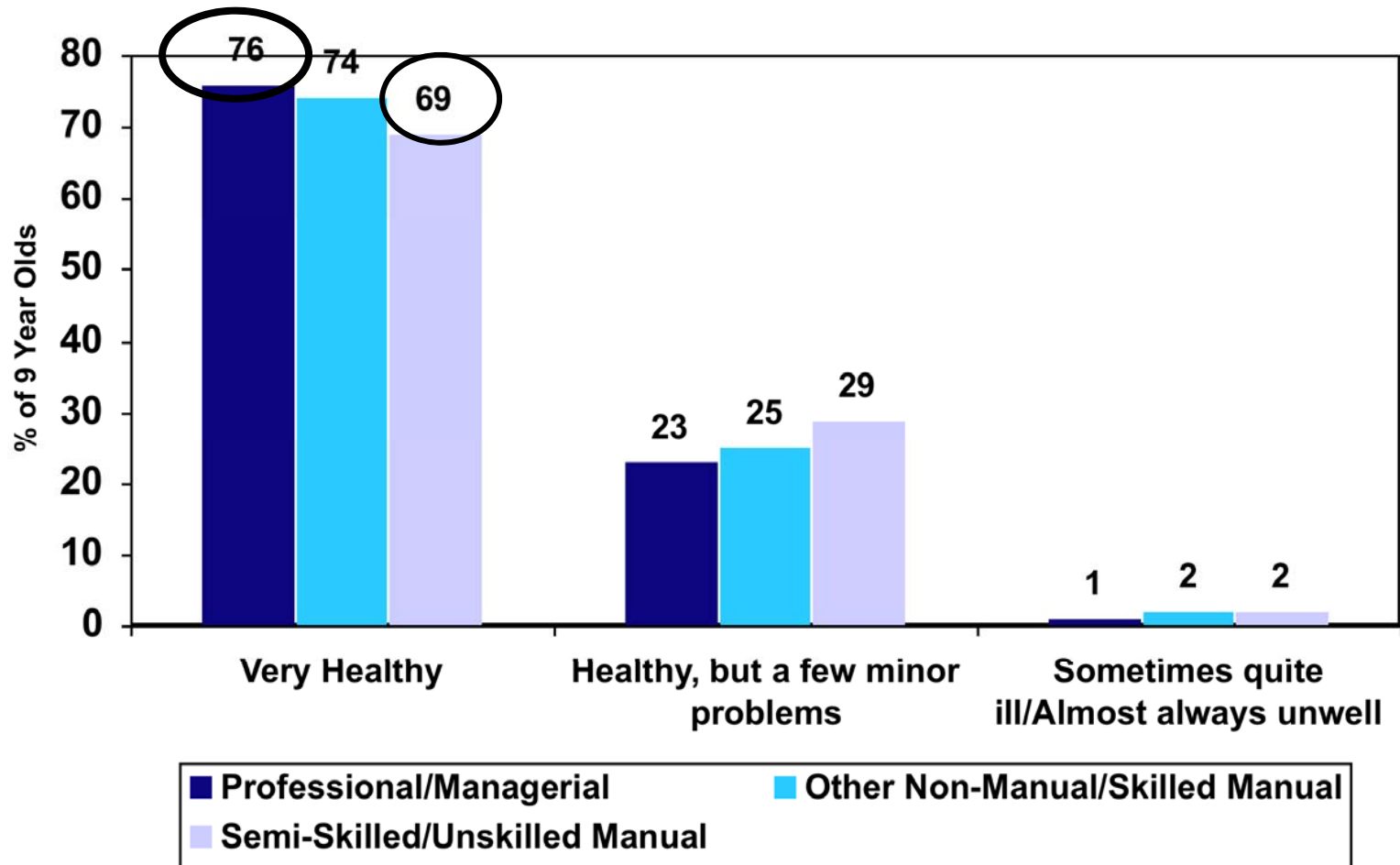


Growing Up in Ireland

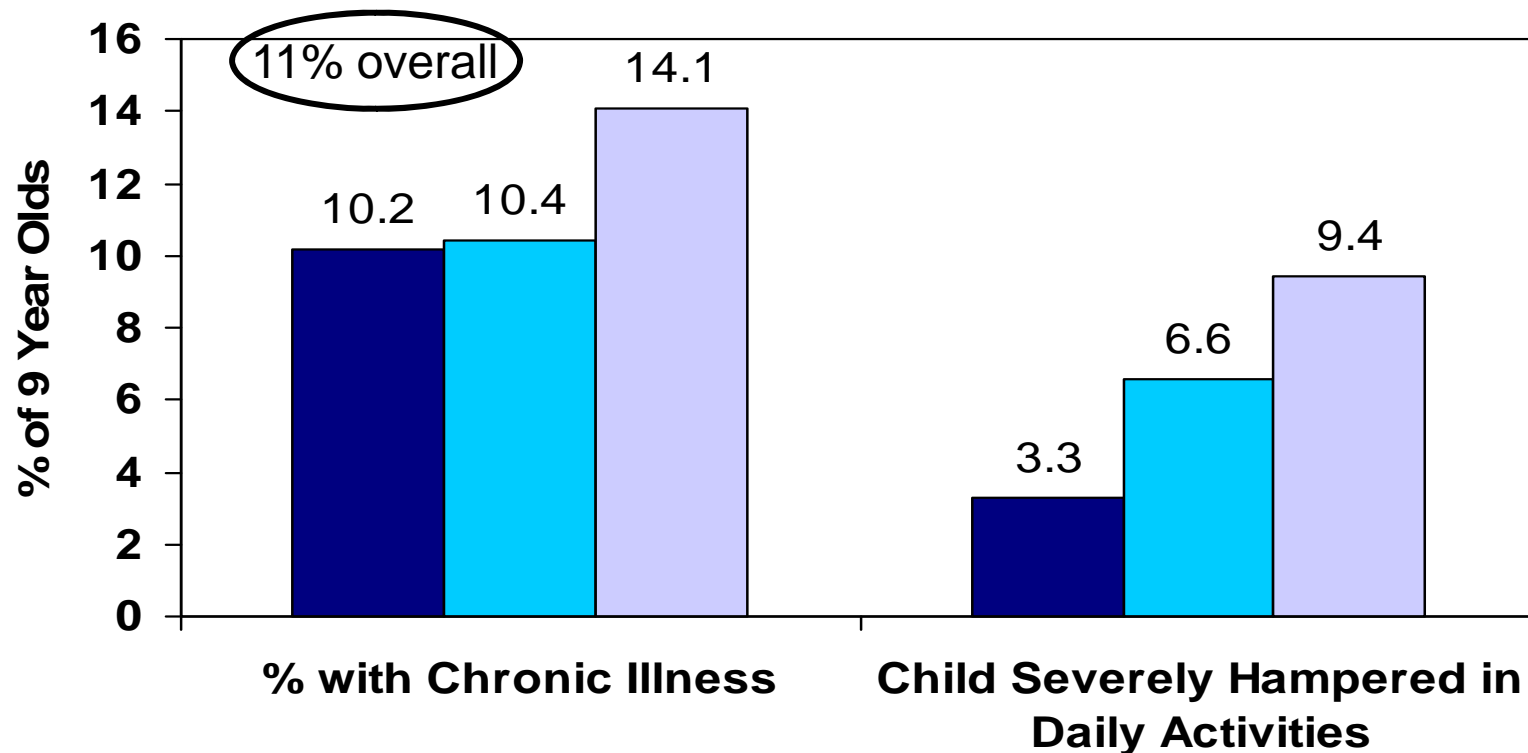
- National Longitudinal Study of Children
- Data of 8,570 nine-year old children, and their families
- Generated through the primary school system
- A representative sample of 910 schools participated; the sample of children and their families was randomly selected from within the schools



What do mothers think of their children's health?



Chronic Illness and daily activities



■ Professional/Managerial
 ■ Other Non-Manual/Skilled Manual
■ Semi-Skilled/Unskilled Manual



Definition of Bullying

- Bullying is a form of aggressive behaviour which is
 - intentional
 - recurrent
 - designed to inflict pain on or cause distress to another individual
- These actions may take a variety of forms; for example by physical contact, verbal abuse, exclusion or (electronically) via notes



What is already known?

- Childhood bullying is associated
 - with later adult anti-social behaviour
 - with limited opportunities to attain socially desired objectives
 - adverse effect on physical and emotional wellbeing
- Indicator of future sexual harassment, marital aggression, child abuse, and elder abuse
- May lead to a higher risk for self-aggressive behaviour
- It is well known that children and adolescents are bullied because of their race, ethnicity, religion or appearance



Overall reported bullying experience as a victim in the past year

- For boys:

By primary caregiver: 23.1% (95% CI: 21.9%-24.4%)

By study child: 40.1% (95% CI: 38.7%-41.6%)

- For girls:

By primary caregiver: 24.0% (95% CI: 22.7%-25.3%)

By study child: 39.7% (95% CI: 38.2%-41.2%)



Overall forms of bullying and perception

Child was upset by bullying:

- A lot: boys: 35.6%; girls: 46.9%
- A little: boys: 50.2%; girls: 46.4%
- Not at all: boys: 14.2%; girls: 6.7%

Most common forms of bullying (child-reported form if bullying was reported at all):

Boys: Verbally > physically > exclusion >> via notes > electronically

Girls: Verbally > exclusion > physically >> via notes > electronically



Overall bullying experience as a bully in the past year

Child reported picking on other children

– boys: 15.1% (95% CI: 14.0%-16.2%)

– girls: 11.8% (95% CI: 10.8%-11.8%)

Reported forms:

Boys: Verbally > physically > exclusion

Girls: Exclusion >> verbally >> physically



Bully only & bully-victims – overall study

Bully only children – picked on others in the past year

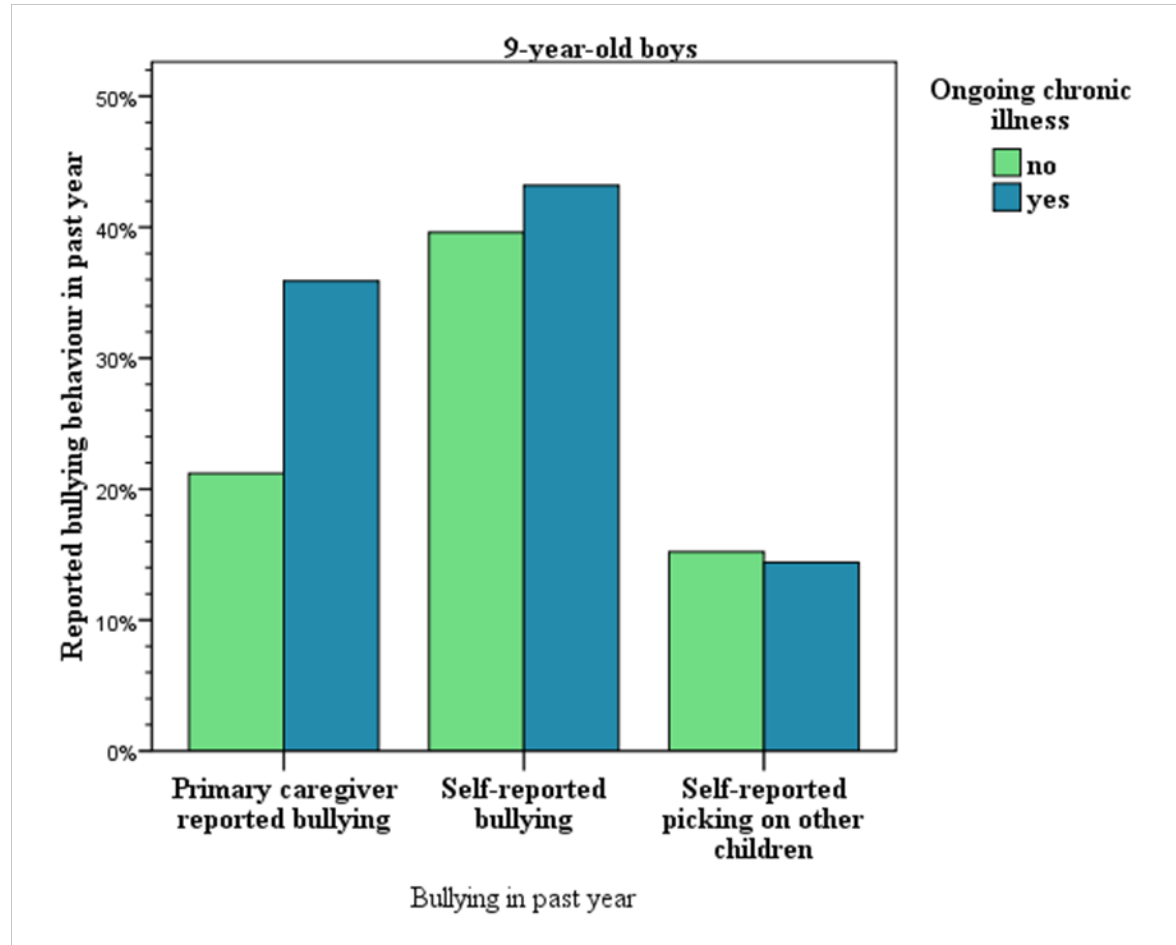
- Boys: 6.9% (95% CI: 5.9%-7.9%)
- Girls: 3.7% (95% CI: 3.0%-4.5%)

Bully victims - in the past year picked on others :

- Boys: 27.0% (95% CI: 24.9%-29.1%)
- Girls: 24.4% (95% CI: 22.3%-26.5%)

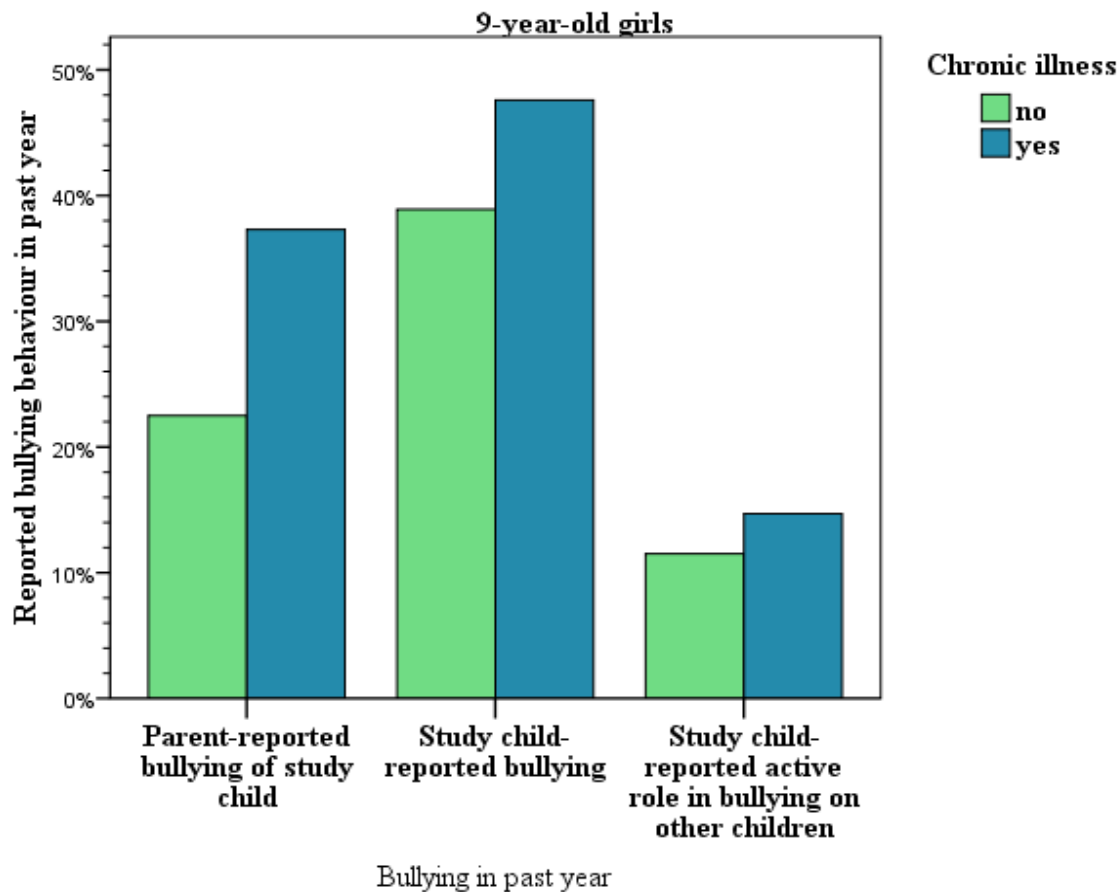


Chronic disease, being bullied & bullying others- boys



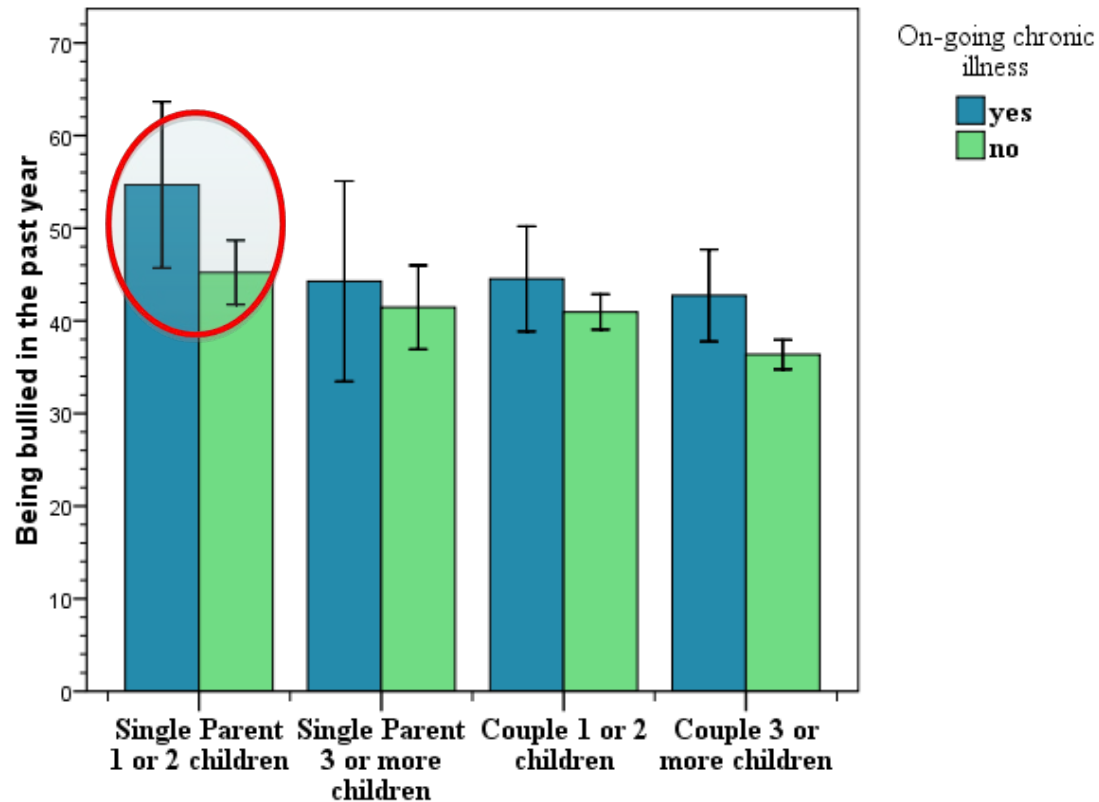


Chronic disease and being bullied & bullying others - girls

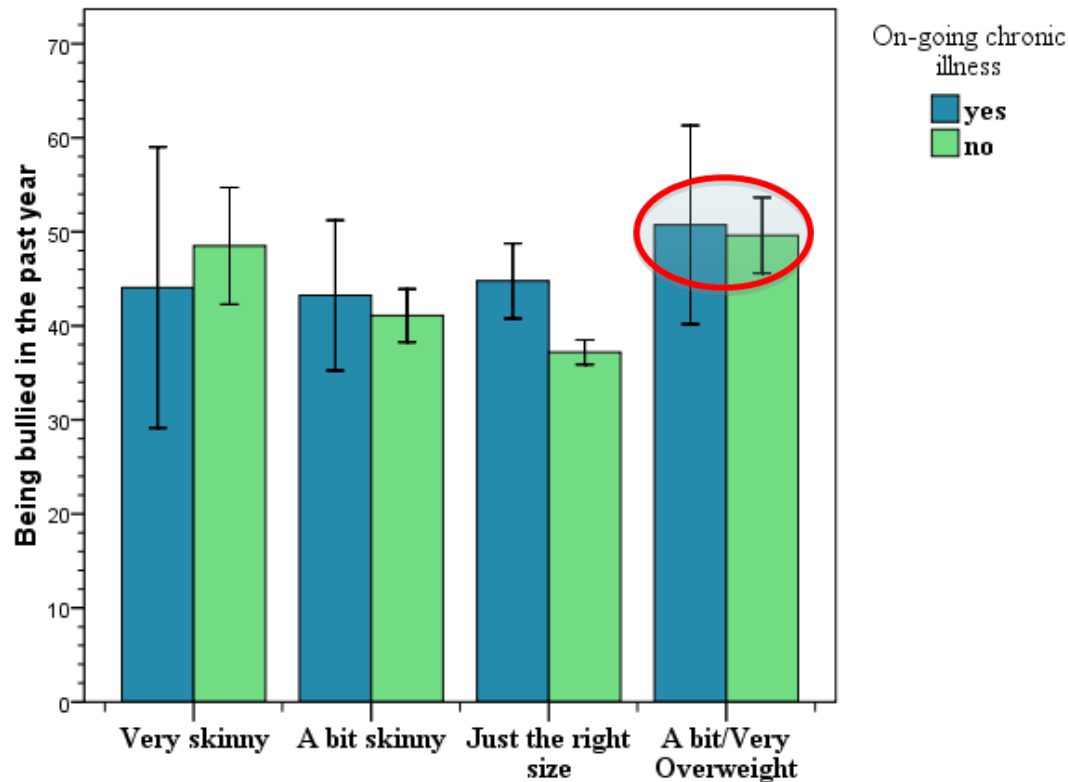




Family composition & bullying



Bullying & weight





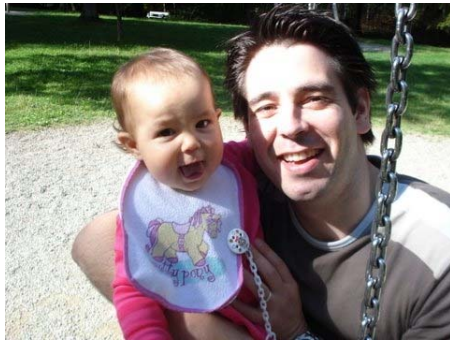
Implications

- For teachers:
 - Child with chronic illness may be a victim or a bully-victim
- For clinicians:
 - Needs to become part of the clinical history of children with chronic illnesses
- For Health Policy:
 - NGOs, education & health need to incorporate it into training days & advice
- For primary caregivers:
 - Is common, teachers & doctors may ask about it



Summary

- The most common forms of bullying were verbal, physical and social (in terms of exclusion).
- Exclusion as a form of bullying is more common in girls.
- Girls are more upset by bullying than boys.
- Bullying is significantly associated with an ongoing chronic illness in nine year old children.
- The awareness of bullying is higher in primary caregivers when an ongoing chronic illness is present.



Growing Up in Ireland

Research Conference 2010