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Short Report

HBSC Ireland: child well-being in South County Dublin.

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Introduction

Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) is a cross-national research study conducted in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (European Office). The study runs on a four-year cycle and in 2006 there were 41 participating countries across Europe and North America. HBSC collects data on key indicators of health, health attitudes and health behaviours, as well as the contexts of health for young people. The study is a school-based survey with information collected from students through self-completion questionnaires in classrooms. Further information on the International HBSC study can be found at www.hbsc.org.

The most recent HBSC Ireland dataset comprises 10,344 children from 5th class in primary school to 5th year in post-primary schools. The methods employed comply with the International HBSC protocol and are detailed in the first national report from the 2006 survey, which can be found at www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc.

Focus:

This short report presents a brief analysis of the national well-being indicators for children in the South Dublin County Council area. These analyses were matched with randomly selected children of the same age-groups in the rest of Dublin and rest of Ireland and are broken down by gender. The following indicators are included:

- Children who report: having been bullied at school; having three or more friends of the same gender; that there are good places in their area to spend their free time; finding it easy or very easy to talk to their mother; finding it easy or very easy to talk

to their father; that students participate in making the school rules; being physically active at least 2 hours per week; being physically active more than 4 hours per week; being happy with their life at present; eating breakfast five times per week; smoking every day; smoking every week.

Findings

Overall, seven schools in the South Dublin County Council area took part in the study, four of which were primary and three post-primary schools. There were 249 boys and 192 girls giving a sample size of 441; this group was compared to randomly selected matched groups for the rest of Dublin and the rest of Ireland. These are presented in the following tables.

Table 1: Percentage of children who report having been bullied at school

Bullied	Rest of Ireland (%)	Rest of Dublin (%)	SDCC (%)
Boys	26.7	24.8	24.9
Girls	20.4	20.3	24.3
<i>Total</i>	24.0	22.8	24.6

Table 2: Percentage of children who report having three or more friends of the same gender

≥3 same gender friends	Rest of Ireland (%)	Rest of Dublin (%)	SDCC (%)
Boys	90.3	88.1	86.6
Girls	91.5	86.6	88.9
<i>Total</i>	90.9	87.4	87.8

Table 3: Percentage of children who report that there are good places in their area to spend their free time

Good places to spend free time	Rest of Ireland (%)	Rest of Dublin (%)	SDCC (%)
Boys	47.9	59.7	59.1
Girls	33.2	50.8	55.9
<i>Total</i>	41.4	55.7	57.8

Table 4: Percentage of children who report finding it easy or very easy to talk to their mother

Ease talking to mother	Rest of Ireland (%)	Rest of Dublin (%)	SDCC (%)
Boys	78.3	79.2	71.6
Girls	73.7	78.3	82.0
<i>Total</i>	76.2	78.8	76.3

Table 5: Percentage of children who report finding it easy or very easy to talk to their father

Ease talking to father	Rest of Ireland (%)	Rest of Dublin (%)	SDCC (%)
Boys	69.1	68.6	66.4
Girls	47.3	55.6	48.1
<i>Total</i>	59.7	63.0	58.2

Table 6: Percentage of children who report that students participate in making the school rules

Participate in making school rules	Rest of Ireland (%)	Rest of Dublin (%)	SDCC (%)
Boys	22.6	24.4	19.8
Girls	20.0	27.1	26.7
<i>Total</i>	21.5	25.6	22.8

Table 7: Percentage of children who report being physically active at least 2 hours per week

Exercise at least 2 hours per week	Rest of Ireland (%)	Rest of Dublin (%)	SDCC (%)
Boys	61.3	66.1	57.2
Girls	47.0	42.1	37.5
<i>Total</i>	55.0	55.1	48.3

Table 8: Percentage of children who report being physically active more than 4 hours per week

Exercise >4 hours per week	Rest of Ireland (%)	Rest of Dublin (%)	SDCC (%)
Boys	31.1	31.7	31.6
Girls	23.5	18.6	18.2
<i>Total</i>	27.8	25.7	25.6

Table 9: Percentage of children who report being happy with their life at present

Happy with life	Rest of Ireland (%)	Rest of Dublin (%)	SDCC (%)
Boys	48.2	55.2	52.1
Girls	48.4	47.9	45.5
<i>Total</i>	48.3	52.0	49.3

Table 10: Percentage of children who report eating breakfast five times per week

Breakfast 5 times per week	Rest of Ireland (%)	Rest of Dublin (%)	SDCC (%)
Boys	74.3	69.4	67.9
Girls	65.8	60.0	61.1
<i>Total</i>	70.6	65.3	64.8

Table 11: Percentage of children who report smoking every day

Smoke daily	Rest of Ireland (%)	Rest of Dublin (%)	SDCC (%)
Boys	7.7	10.6	8.1
Girls	9.6	10.4	10.2
<i>Total</i>	8.5	10.5	9.0

Table 12: Percentage of children who report smoking every week

Smoking weekly	Rest of Ireland (%)	Rest of Dublin (%)	SDCC (%)
Boys	4.0	2.0	2.8
Girls	2.7	3.3	4.3
<i>Total</i>	3.4	2.6	3.5

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