

Short report

HBSC Ireland 2014: Tobacco Use among 15 to 17 year olds

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Introduction

The Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) study is a cross-national research study conducted in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) Regional Office for Europe and runs on a four-year cycle. In 2014, Ireland participated for the fifth time in the HBSC study (www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc). The overall aims of the HBSC study are to gain new insight into, and increase our understanding of young people's health and well-being, health behaviours and their social context. HBSC collects data on key indicators of health, health attitudes, and health behaviours, as well as the context of health for young people. The study is a school-based survey with information collected from students through self-completion questionnaires in classrooms. HBSC Ireland 2014 was funded by the Department of Health. Further information on the HBSC Ireland can be found at www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc or at www.hbsc.org, the International HBSC website.

The most recent HBSC Ireland study was conducted in 2014 and included 13,611 school children from 3rd class in primary school to 5th year in post-primary school. Overall, 42.2% boys and 57.8% girls participated. Collectively, 230 primary and post-primary schools across Ireland participated in this study. The methods employed comply with the International HBSC protocol and are detailed in the national report from the 2014 survey see http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc/hbsc_2014.html.

Focus of this report

This short report provides a descriptive analysis of the 2014 HBSC survey data in regards to tobacco use. The analysis presented below for the 2014 data consists of 1,608 children born in 1998 aged 15 years old (39.8% boys; 60.2% girls) and 3,982 children aged 15 to 17 years old (40.4% boys; 59.6% girls). The analysis is presented by gender and social class. Where overall percentages are included these are weighted to take into account the gender imbalance.

The questions analysed were:

- On how many days (if any) have you smoked cigarettes in your lifetime? Response options: never; 1-2 days; 3-5 days; 6-9 days; 10-19 days; 20-29 days and 30 days (or more). This variable was dichotomised to represent ever smoked and never smoked.
- How often do you smoke at present? Response options: every day; at least once a week, but not every day; less than once a week and I do not smoke. This variable was dichotomised to represent currently smoking and not currently smoking.

The findings are presented below in tables. Findings are broken down by gender and social class. Findings are presented for 15 year olds first and then 15 to 17 year olds.

EVER SMOKED

Table 1: Ever smoked cigarettes, by gender and social class, 15 year olds

	Yes	No
Overall		
Unweighted	26.0	74.0
Weighted	26.2	73.8
Gender		
Boys	25.9	74.1
Girls	25.8	74.2
Social Class		
SC1-2	22.4	77.6
SC3-4	28.7	71.3
SC5-6	27.0	73.0

Table 2: Ever smoked cigarettes, by social class and gender, 15 year olds

	Boys	Girls
SC1-2	22.8	22.0
SC3-4	28.4	28.7
SC5-6	28.6	25.6

Table 3: Ever smoked cigarettes, by gender and social class, 15 to 17 year olds

	Yes	No
Overall		
Unweighted	27.2	72.8
Weighted	27.5	72.5
Gender		
Boys	27.0	73.0
Girls	27.3	72.7
Social Class		
SC1-2	24.7	75.3
SC3-4	27.2	72.8
SC5-6	31.3	68.7

Table 4: Ever smoked cigarettes, by social class and gender, 15 to 17 year olds

	Boys	Girls
SC1-2	26.4	23.6
SC3-4	25.9	28.0
SC5-6	26.8	34.8

CURRENTLY SMOKING

Table 5: Currently smoking, by gender and social class, 15 year olds

	Yes	No
Overall		
Unweighted	13.1	86.9
Weighted	13.5	86.5
Gender		
Boys	13.3	86.7
Girls	12.8	87.2
Social Class		
SC1-2	10.7	89.3
SC3-4	12.6	87.4
SC5-6	13.3	86.7

Table 6: Currently smoking, by social class and gender, 15 year olds

	Boys	Girls
SC1-2	12.1	9.8
SC3-4	11.6	13.2
SC5-6	12.5	13.9

Table 7: Currently smoking, by gender and social class, 15 to 17 year olds

	Yes	No
Overall		
Unweighted	13.8	86.2
Weighted	14.4	85.6
Gender		
Boys	14.6	85.4
Girls	13.2	86.8
Social Class		
SC1-2	11.6	88.4
SC3-4	13.1	86.9
SC5-6	14.7	85.3

Table 8: Currently smoking, by social class and gender, 15 to 17 year olds

	Boys	Girls
SC1-2	13.6	10.3
SC3-4	13.2	13.1
SC5-6	12.3	16.5

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