

SUMMARY OF MAIN FINDINGS

Notes:

- Percentage differences are presented for descriptive purposes only and may not reflect a statistically significant finding.
- Technical notes are provided in the main *State of the Nation's Children* report for each indicator presented. These technical notes should be referred to when interpreting the data since they provide details about the data source and identify key limitations arising.

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHICS					
Indicator	Measure	Description	Comparisons	Data Source	Year
Child population	The number of children under 18.	According to Population Estimates 2007, there were 1,056,947 children under the age of 18 in Ireland. This represents an increase of 20,913 since Census 2006.	Ireland has a higher percentage of children under 18 than any other EU Member State. 24.4% of the population in Ireland are under 18 years. This compares with an EU27 average of 19.4%.	Census of the Population; Population Estimates (CSO)	2007
Infant mortality	The number of deaths among infants.	According to Vital Statistics 2006, the death rate of infants (under 1 year) has dropped from 56 per 10,000 infants in 2002 to 39 per 10,000 infants in 2006.	Luxembourg has the lowest infant death rate (25 per 10,000 infants) and Romania has the highest infant death rate (139 per 10,000 infants).	Vital Statistics (CSO); Eurostat	2006
Child mortality	The proportion of deaths among children under 18.	According to Vital Statistics 2006, child mortality rates have fallen from 5.1 deaths per 10,000 children in 2002 to 3.8 deaths per 10,000 children in 2006.	The death rates are consistently higher for boys than for girls. In 2006, the death rate for boys was 4.4 per 10,000 compared to the death rate for girls of 3.1 per 10,000.	Vital Statistics (CSO); Eurostat	2006
Ethnicity	The percentage of children by ethnicity or cultural background.	According to Census 2006, 93.2% of children usually resident in the State are defined as having a 'White' background.	78.9% of those children with a 'White' background live in households that are owner-occupied. This falls to 46.8% of children from an 'Asian or Asian Irish' background and to 18.1% of those with a 'Black or Black Irish' background.	Census of the Population (CSO)	2006
Non-Irish national children	The number of non-Irish national children.	According to Census 2006, there were 62,800 non-Irish national children in Ireland. 28.3% of these children were living in Dublin.	The number of non-Irish national children has increased by 57.6%, from 39,838 in 2002 to 62,800 in 2006. Polish was the second most common nationality (8.2% of the total) after British and Northern Irish (31.9%).	Census of the Population (CSO)	2006
Family structure	The number and percentage of children under 18 who live in family household units with only one parent or primary care-giver resident.	According to Census 2006, 17.8% of children live with a lone parent or guardian.	One in 3 children (33.7%) in lone-parent families is resident in Dublin.	Census of the Population (CSO)	2006

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SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHICS <i>continued</i>					
Indicator	Measure	Description	Comparisons	Data Source	Year
Parental education level	The percentage of children under 18 whose mother has attained (a) primary, (b) lower secondary, (c) upper secondary or (d) third-level education.	According to Census 2006, 6.3% of children live in families where the mother has either no formal education or primary education only, while 30.6% of children live in families where the mother has a third-level degree or higher educational qualification.	A higher percentage of mothers with children aged 0-4 (38.7%) had a third-level degree or higher educational qualification when compared with mothers with children aged 15-17 (22.8%).	Census of the Population (CSO)	2006
Traveller children	The number of Traveller children.	According to Census 2006, there were 10,929 Traveller children in Ireland. This accounts for 1.1% of the total child population and 48.7% of the total Traveller population.	More Traveller children lived in Dublin and Galway than in any other county. The counties with the highest proportion of Travellers compared to the total population were Longford (3.2%) and Galway (2.8%).	Census of the Population (CSO)	2006
Separated children seeking asylum	The number of separated children seeking asylum.	In 2006, there were 569 separated children seeking asylum. Approximately one in 3 (34.6%) separated children seeking asylum were less than 10 years of age.	57.6% of separated children seeking asylum were re-united with their families.	Childcare Interim Dataset (HSE)	2006

CHILDREN'S RELATIONSHIPS					
Indicator	Measure	Description	Comparisons	Data Source	Year
Relationship with mothers	The percentage of children aged 9-17 who report that they find it easy to talk with their mother when something is really bothering them.	In 2006, 78.0% of children reported that they find it easy to talk with their mother when something is really bothering them.	Using the ages of 11, 13 and 15 only to draw international comparisons with the 40 countries and regions that used this HBSC item, 79.5% of Irish children reported that they found it easy to talk with their mother when something was really bothering them. This is lower than the HBSC average of 81.5% and ranks Irish children 26th.	HBSC Survey	2006
Relationship with fathers	The percentage of children aged 9-17 who report that they find it easy to talk with their father when something is really bothering them.	In 2006, 59.8% of children reported that they find it easy to talk with their father when something is really bothering them.	Using the ages of 11, 13 and 15 only to draw international comparisons with the 40 countries and regions that used this HBSC item, 62.9% of Irish children reported that they found it easy to talk with their father when something was really bothering them. This is higher than the HBSC average of 61.7% and ranks Irish children 18th.	HBSC Survey	2006
Talking to parents	The percentage of children aged 15 who report that their parents spend time just talking with them more than once a week.	In 2006, 64.7% of children reported that their parents spend time just talking with them more than once a week.	Girls (73.4%) were more likely than boys (55.6%) to report that their parents spend time just talking with them more than once a week.	PISA Survey	2006

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CHILDREN'S RELATIONSHIPS <i>continued</i>					
Indicator	Measure	Description	Comparisons	Data Source	Year
Parental involvement in schooling	The percentage of children aged 15 who report that their parents discuss with them how well they are doing at school more than once a week.	In 2006, 48% of children reported that their parents discuss with them how well they are doing at school more than once a week.	Girls (51.6%) were somewhat more likely than boys (44.1%) to report that their parents discussed their progress at school with them more than once a week.	PISA Survey	2006
Eating a main meal together	The percentage of children aged 15 who report that their parents eat a main meal with them around a table more than once a week.	In 2006, 74.5% of children reported that their parents eat a main meal with them around a table more than once a week.	Children from the highest (78.2%) and medium (75.2%) social class categories were most likely to report that their parents eat a main meal with them around a table more than once a week, compared to children from the lowest social class category (70.7%).	PISA Survey	2006
Friendships	The percentage of children aged 9-17 who report to have 3 or more friends of the same gender.	In 2006, 89.5% of children reported to have 3 or more friends of the same gender.	Using the ages of 11, 13 and 15 only to draw international comparisons with the 41 countries and regions that used this HBSC item, 86.4% of Irish children reported having 3 or more friends of the same gender. This is higher than the HBSC average of 79% and ranks Irish children 7th.	HBSC Survey	2006
Pets and animals	The percentage of children aged 9-17 who report having a pet of their own or a pet in their family.	In 2006, 73.8% of children reported having a pet of their own or a pet in their family.	Children in the Mid-West region are more likely (80.2%) to report having a pet of their own or a pet in their family, while children in the Dublin region are least likely (62.8%) to report this.	HBSC Survey	2006
Bullying	The percentage of children aged 9-17 who report to have been bullied at school.	In 2006, 24.5% of children reported to have been bullied at school in the last couple of months.	Using the ages of 11, 13 and 15 only to draw international comparisons with the 39 countries and regions that used this HBSC item, 25.9% of Irish children reported to have been bullied at school in the last couple of months. This is lower than the HBSC average of 32% and ranks Irish children 26th.	HBSC Survey	2006

CHILDREN'S OUTCOMES: EDUCATION					
Indicator	Measure	Description	Comparisons	Data Source	Year
Enrolment in early childhood care and education	The percentage of children under 13 in various early childhood care and education arrangements.	In 2005, the main type of childcare arrangement was by parent/guardian for pre-school children (59.7%) and primary school children (78.5%).	There has been no update of the Quarterly National Household Survey module since the previous <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report (2006).	Quarterly National Household Survey (QHNS)	2005
Attendance at school	The percentage of children who are absent from school for 20 days or more in the school year.	In 2005, 10.0% of primary school students were absent for 20 days or more in the school year. The percentage of primary school students with this level of absenteeism was, on average, lower in rural schools (7.8%) than in urban schools (14.9%). 18.8% of post-primary school students were absent for 20 days or more in the school year. The percentage of post-primary students with this level of absenteeism was lowest in secondary schools (15.1%) and highest in vocational schools (24.9%).	There has been no update of the National Educational Welfare Board statistics since the previous <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report (2006).	National Educational Welfare Board (NEWB) statistics	2005
Transfer to second-level education	The percentage of children leaving national school, by destination.	In 2006, 95.5% of children leaving national school were known to have progressed to another form of schooling, either at first or second level.	Boys are more likely than girls to leave national school and not attend any other school.	Department of Education and Science statistics	2006
Reading literacy	The mean scores of children aged 15 based on the OECD-PISA Reading Literacy Scale.	In 2006, children in Ireland achieved a mean score of 517.3 on the Reading Literacy Scale. This was higher than the OECD country mean of 492. Girls in Ireland achieved a higher mean score (534.0) than boys (500.2).	Irish children ranked 5th out of 29 OECD countries that took part in the PISA Survey. Children in higher social classes achieved higher mean scores than children in lower social classes.	PISA Survey	2006
Mathematics	The mean scores of children aged 15 based on the OECD-PISA Mathematics Literacy Scale.	In 2006, children in Ireland achieved a mean score of 501.5 on the Mathematics Literacy Scale. This was similar to the OECD country mean of 498. Boys in Ireland achieved a higher mean score (507.3) than girls (495.8).	Irish children ranked 16th out of 30 OECD countries that took part in the PISA Survey. Children in higher social classes achieved higher mean scores than children in lower social classes.	PISA Survey	2006
Science	The mean scores of children aged 15 based on the OECD-PISA Combined Scientific Literacy Scale.	In 2006, children in Ireland achieved a mean score of 508.3 on the Scientific Literacy Scale. This was marginally higher than the OECD country mean of 500.	Irish children ranked 14th out of 30 OECD countries that took part in the PISA Survey. Children in higher social classes achieved higher mean scores than children in lower social classes.	PISA Survey	2006

CHILDREN'S OUTCOMES: HEALTH					
Indicator	Measure	Description	Comparisons	Data Source	Year
Low birth weight	The percentage of babies born weighing less than 2,500 grams (live and still births).	In 2005, 5.3% of babies were born at low birth weight (weighing less than 2,500 grams).	On average, 7.3% of babies in the EU27 are born at low birth weight. This figure takes account of live births only. Using live births only, in 2005, 5.7% of Irish babies were born at low birth weight.	National Perinatal Reporting System (NPRS)	2005
Breastfeeding practice	The percentage of newborn babies who are (a) exclusively breastfed and (b) partially breastfed on discharge from hospital.	In 2005, the breastfeeding rate on discharge from hospital was 47.5%. 43.5% of babies were exclusively breastfed, while 3.7% were fed using a combination of bottle and breastfeeding.	A higher percentage of mothers in higher professional groups (70.9%) breastfed their babies. Although Ireland still compares unfavourably with other EU Member States, there has been an increase in the breastfeeding rate since 2001, when it was 41.3%, to 47.5% in 2005.	National Perinatal Reporting System (NPRS)	2005
Chronic health and hospitalisation	The principal conditions resulting in hospitalisation among children.	In 2007, there were 144,703 hospital discharges among children aged 0-17.	Of the 2007 hospital discharges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 21.7% (31,412) were aged less than 1 year; 29.5% (42,618) were in the age group 1-4; 19.5% (28,177) were in the age group 5-9; 15.8% (22,816) were in the age group 10-14; and 13.6% (19,680) were in the age group 15-17. ■ 42.1% (60,977) in total were accounted for by diseases of the respiratory (13.7%) and digestive systems (8.9%); injury and poisoning (10.4%); and certain infectious and parasitic diseases (9.1%). <p>The total number of hospital discharges among children aged 0-17 increased by 8,733 between 2003 and 2007.</p>	Hospital In-Patient Enquiry (HIPE) System (ESRI)	2007
Intellectual disability	The number and percentage of children under 18 registered as having an intellectual disability.	In 2007, the number of children under 18 registered as having an intellectual disability was 7,802.	36.8% of children registered as having an intellectual disability were identified as having a mild disability; 27.4% as having a moderate disability; 9.5% as having a severe disability; and 1.9% as having a profound disability. 13.7% (1,071) of children registered as having an intellectual disability were aged 0-4; 31.6% (2,468) were aged 5-9; 32.3% (2,519) were aged 10-14; and 22.4% (1,744) were aged 15-17.	National Intellectual Disability Database (NIDD) (approx. 95% national coverage)	2007

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CHILDREN'S OUTCOMES: HEALTH <i>continued</i>					
Indicator	Measure	Description	Comparisons	Data Source	Year
Physical and/or sensory disability	The number and percentage of children under 18 registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability.	In 2007, the number of children registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability was 8,373.	62.3% (5,213) of children under 18 registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability were boys and 37.7% (3,160) were girls. 8.3% (697) of children under 18 registered as having a physical and/or sensory disability were aged 0-4; 36.8% (3,081) were aged 5-9; 38.1% (3,189) were aged 10-14; and 16.8% (1,406) were aged 15-17.	National Physical and Sensory Disability Database (NPSDD) (approx. 65% national coverage)	2007
Abuse and neglect	The number of children who had an initial assessment for child welfare and protection concerns.	In 2006, the number of children who, following a report to the Social Work Department in the Health Service Executive (HSE), had an initial assessment for a child welfare and protection concern was 12,520. This equates to an overall rate of 120.8 children per 10,000.	The highest number of reported cases that went to initial assessment for child welfare and protection concerns was for welfare cases (6,221) and the lowest number was for cases of emotional abuse (1,100).	Childcare Interim Dataset (HSE)	2006

CHILDREN'S OUTCOMES: SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIOURAL					
Indicator	Measure	Description	Comparisons	Data Source	Year
Participation in making the school rules	The percentage of children aged 9-17 who report students at their school participate in making the school rules.	In 2006, 22.5% of children reported that students at their school participate in making the school rules.	Using the ages of 11, 13 and 15 only to draw international comparisons with the 7 countries and regions that used this HBSC item, 24.9% of Irish children reported that students at their school participate in making the school rules. This is lower than the HBSC average of 33.8% and ranks Irish children 7th (last).	HBSC Survey	2006
Reading as a leisure activity	The percentage of children aged 15 who report that reading is one of their favourite hobbies.	In 2006, 42.6% of children reported that reading was one of their favourite hobbies.	Girls (52%) were more likely than boys (32.7%) to report that reading was one of their favourite hobbies.	PISA Survey	2006
Daily smoking	The percentage of children aged 9-17 who report smoking cigarettes every day.	In 2006, 8.5% of children reported smoking cigarettes every day. This was higher among older children (15.6% of 15-17 year-olds).	Using the ages of 11, 13 and 15 only to draw international comparisons with the 40 countries and regions that used this HBSC item, 6.5% of Irish children reported smoking cigarettes every day. This is higher than the HBSC average of 5.8% and ranks Irish children 17th.	HBSC Survey	2006

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CHILDREN'S OUTCOMES: SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIOURAL <i>continued</i>					
Indicator	Measure	Description	Comparisons	Data Source	Year
Weekly smoking	The percentage of children aged 9-17 who report smoking cigarettes every week.	In 2006, 11.7% of children reported smoking cigarettes every week. This was higher among older children (20.1% of 15-17 year-olds).	Using the ages of 11, 13 and 15 only to draw international comparisons with the 40 countries and regions that used this HBSC item, 9.2% of Irish children reported smoking cigarettes every week. This is higher than the HBSC average of 8.1% and ranks Irish children 17th.	HBSC Survey	2006
Alcohol use	The percentage of children aged 10-17 who report having been drunk at least once in the last 30 days.	In 2006, 20.4% of children reported that they had been drunk at least once in the last 30 days.	Using the ages of 11, 13, and 15 only to draw international comparisons with the 9 countries and regions that used this HBSC item, 28.7% of Irish children reported that they had been drunk at least once in the last 30 days. This is lower than the HBSC average of 34.9% and ranks Irish children 8th.	HBSC Survey	2006
Drug use	The proportion of children aged 10-17 who report having taken cannabis at least once in their lifetime.	In 2006, 15.7% of children aged 10-17 reported that they had used cannabis at least once in their lifetime.	Using the age of 15 only to draw international comparisons with the 39 countries and regions that used this HBSC item, 23.5% of Irish children reported that they had used cannabis at least once in their lifetime. This is higher than the HBSC average of 18% and ranks Irish children 12th.	HBSC Survey	2006
Sexual health and behaviour	The number of births to girls aged 15-17.	In 2006, the number of babies born to girls aged under 18 was 577 (this number includes a small number of births to girls aged 10-14).	There has been a constant decrease from 2002, when the number of babies born to girls under 18 was 779.	Vital Statistics; Population Estimates (CSO)	2006
Self-esteem	The percentage of children aged 9-17 who report feeling happy 'always' or 'very often' with the way they are.	In 2006, 58.2% of children reported feeling happy 'always' or 'very often' with the way they are.	The percentage of children who reported that they feel happy 'always' or 'very often' with the way they are was higher among boys (62.9%, compared to 53.1% of girls) and younger children (74.8% of 9-year-olds, compared to 49.3% of 15-17 year-olds).	HBSC Survey	2006
Self-reported happiness	The percentage of children aged 9-17 who report being happy with their lives at present.	In 2006, 90.8% of children reported that they were happy with their lives at present.	The percentage of children who reported being happy with their lives at present was higher among younger children (95% of 9-year-olds, compared to 88.5% of 15-17 year-olds).	HBSC Survey	2006
Youth suicide	The number and rate per 100,000 of suicide among children aged 10-17.	In 2006, there were 14 suicides among children under the age of 18. Youth suicide accounted for 14.7% of all deaths in the 10-17 age group.	The suicide rate for boys aged 10-17 was 11 per 100,000. This was over twice the rate for girls (5 per 100,000).	Vital Statistics (CSO)	2006

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CHILDREN'S OUTCOMES: SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIOURAL <i>continued</i>					
Indicator	Measure	Description	Comparisons	Data Source	Year
Physical activity	The percentage of children aged 9-17 who report being physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on more than 2 days per week.	In 2006, 90.4% of children reported that they were physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on more than 2 days per week.	Boys (93.6%) were more likely than girls (87%) to report that they were physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on more than 2 days per week. Using the ages of 11, 13 and 15 only to draw international comparisons with the 41 countries and regions that used this HBSC item, 92.6% of Irish children reported that they were physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on more than 2 days per week. This is higher than the HBSC average of 87.3% and ranks Irish children 3rd.	HBSC Survey	2006
Physical activity	The percentage of children aged 9-17 who report being physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on more than 4 days per week.	In 2006, 54.8% of children reported that they were physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on more than 4 days per week.	Boys (63.4%) were more likely than girls (45.9%) to report that they were physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on more than 4 days per week. Using the ages of 11, 13 and 15 only to draw international comparisons with the 41 countries and regions that used this HBSC item, 59.2% of Irish children reported that they were physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on more than 4 days per week. This is higher than the HBSC average of 42.6% and ranks Irish children 1st.	HBSC Survey	2006
Youth homelessness	The number and rate per 100,000 children who appeared to the Health Service Executive (HSE) to be homeless.	In 2006, the total number of children who appeared to the HSE to be homeless was 449. This equates to an overall rate of youth homelessness of 43.3 children per 100,000.	32.1% (144) of children who appeared to the HSE to be homeless were in HSE South; 30.3% (136) were in HSE Dublin North-East; 24.1% (108) were in HSE Dublin Mid-Leinster; and the remaining 13.6% (61) were in HSE West. 55% (247) of children who appeared to the HSE to be homeless were aged 16-17; 27.8% (125) were aged 14-15; 8% (36) were aged 12-13; and the remaining 9.1% (41) were less than 12 years-old.	Childcare Interim Dataset (HSE)	2006

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CHILDREN'S OUTCOMES: SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIOURAL <i>continued</i>					
Indicator	Measure	Description	Comparisons	Data Source	Year
Nutritional habits	The percentage of children aged 9-17 who report eating breakfast on 5 or more days per week.	In 2006, 76% of children reported eating breakfast on 5 or more days per week.	Boys (79.1%) were more likely than girls (72.9%) to report eating breakfast on 5 or more days per week. Using the ages of 11, 13 and 15 only to draw international comparisons with the 39 countries and regions that used this HBSC item, 78.2% of Irish children reported eating breakfast on 5 or more days per week. This is higher than the HBSC average of 72.2% and ranks Irish children 14th.	HBSC Survey	2006

FORMAL AND INFORMAL SUPPORTS					
Indicator	Measure	Description	Comparisons	Data Source	Year
Public expenditure on education for children and young people	Public expenditure on education.	Public expenditure on education in Ireland decreased from 5.3% of GDP in 1996 to 4.8% of GDP in 2005. In terms of GNI, this represented a slight decrease, from a level of 5.8% in 1996 to 5.6% in 2005.	Real non-capital public expenditure per student in Ireland increased by 105% for first-level and by 86% for second-level over the period 1997-2006 when measured in constant 2006 prices.	Department of Education and Science; Eurostat	2005
Consistent poverty	The percentage of children living in households with a household income below the national 60% median, equivalised using the national equivalence scale, and experiencing basic deprivation.	In 2006, 10.3% of children under 18 experienced consistent poverty.	The consistent poverty rate of children under 18 living in households comprising a single adult with children was 33.9%.	EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC)	2006
'At risk of poverty'	The percentage of children living in households with a household income below the national 60% median, equivalised using the national equivalence scale.	In 2006, 22.3% of children under 18 were considered to be 'at risk of poverty'.	The percentage of children under 18 at risk of poverty in Ireland (22%) was higher than the EU25 average (19%).	EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC)	2006
Availability of housing for families with children	The number of children in families on a local authority housing waiting list.	22,335 households with children were identified as being in need of social housing in the 2005 assessment of housing needs. 61.4% of family households in need of social housing were households with one child, while 5.7% of households included 4 or more children.	There has been no update of the Triennial Assessment of Housing Need since the previous <i>State of the Nation's Children</i> report (2006).	Triennial Assessment of Housing Needs	2005

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FORMAL AND INFORMAL SUPPORTS <i>continued</i>					
Indicator	Measure	Description	Comparisons	Data Source	Year
Perceived safety in the community	The percentage of children aged 9-17 who report feeling safe in the area where they live.	In 2006, 90.4% of children reported that they felt safe in the area where they live.	Using the ages of 11, 13 and 15 only to draw international comparisons with the 8 countries and regions that used this HBSC item, 91.2% of Irish children reported that they felt safe in the area where they live. This is higher than the HBSC average of 89.5% and ranks Irish children 3rd.	HBSC Survey	2006
Environment and places	The percentage of children aged 9-17 who report there are good places in their area to spend their free time.	In 2006, 42.2% of children reported that there were good places in their area to spend their free time.	Boys (45.4%) were more likely than girls (39%) to report that there were good places in their area to spend their free time. Using the ages of 11, 13 and 15 only to draw international comparisons with the 7 countries and regions that used this HBSC item, 45.7% of Irish children reported that there were good places in their area to spend their free time. This is lower than the HBSC average of 64.3% and ranks Irish children 7th (last).	HBSC Survey	2006
Referrals to the Garda Juvenile Diversion Programme	The number of children referred to the Garda Juvenile Diversion Programme.	In 2007, a total of 21,861 children aged 10-17 were referred to the Garda Juvenile Diversion Programme. There were 27,767 referrals in total. (Some of these children were referred more than once.)	18.9% of children referred to the Garda Juvenile Diversion Programme were female. Alcohol-related offences were the single highest cause of referrals to the Garda Juvenile Diversion Programme, representing 19.9% of all referrals.	An Garda Síochána	2007
Antenatal care	The distribution of timing of first antenatal visit by trimester for all women delivering live or stillborn babies.	In 2005, 72.3% of women presented for antenatal care in the 1st trimester, 19.9% in the 2nd trimester and 3.9% in the 3rd trimester.	Antenatal visits in the 1st trimester are lowest among the lower socio-economic groups, such as the 'unemployed' (59.5%). Women who are primarily engaged in 'home duties' also have one of the lowest proportions of antenatal visits in the 1st trimester (65.5%).	National Perinatal Reporting System (NPRS)	2005
Childhood immunisation	The percentage uptake of D3/P3/T3/HIB3/Polio3 and Meningococcal C3 vaccinations at (a) 12 months and (b) 24 months of age; and the percentage uptake of MMR1 vaccinations at 24 months of age.	In 2007, the overall level of uptake of immunisation was about 87% for children aged 12 months and 92% for children aged 24 months.	Immunisation rates have increased consistently year on year. However, Ireland continues to have one of the lowest immunisation rates in the EU.	Immunisation Uptake Statistics (Health Protection Surveillance Centre, HSE)	2007

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FORMAL AND INFORMAL SUPPORTS <i>continued</i>					
Indicator	Measure	Description	Comparisons	Data Source	Year
Accessibility of basic health services for children	The number of children on hospital waiting lists.	In April 2008, 2,537 children were known to be on a hospital waiting list for treatment. 39% of the 2,537 children awaiting treatment were on the hospital list for 3-6 months; 42% for 6-12 months; and 19% for 1 year or more.	Of the 2,537 children who were known to be on a hospital waiting list awaiting treatment, 85% were awaiting surgical treatment and 15% were awaiting medical treatment.	Patient Treatment Register (PTR) (information from 43 hospitals nationwide, compared to 19 hospitals in 2006)	2008
Children and young people in care	The number of children who are in the care of the Health Service Executive (HSE).	In 2006, the number of children in the care of the HSE was 5,247. This equates to an overall rate of 50.6 children per 10,000.	87.6% of all children in the care of the HSE lived in foster family homes. 21.7% of children were in care for less than one year.	Childcare Interim Dataset (HSE)	2006
Mental health referrals	The number of admissions to psychiatric hospitals among children.	In 2006, there were 398 admissions to hospital for psychiatric care among children.	The number of admissions to psychiatric hospitals was higher for boys (54.8%) than for girls (45.2%). Children aged 15-17 accounted for 83.7% of admissions to psychiatric hospitals.	National Psychiatric In-Patient Reporting System (NPIRS) (Health Research Board)	2006
Screening for growth and development	The percentage of mothers of newborn children visited by a Public Health Nurse within 48 hours of discharge from hospital.	In 2007, 72.1% of infants were visited by a Public Health Nurse (PHN) within 48 hours of discharge from hospital.	The percentage of newborn babies visited by a PHN within 48 hours of discharge from hospital varied across HSE Regions, ranging from 57.5% in HSE Dublin North-East to 85% in HSE West.	National Health Services Performance Indicators (HSE)	2007

