



Department of Children and Youth Affairs

Inventory of Data Sources on Children's Lives

A41 Post-Primary Pupil Database

Data owner	Department of Education and Skills (www.education.ie)
Brief description	The Post-Primary Pupil Database is currently the only national archive of student enrolment at post-primary schools. Individual and personal data on each student enrolled in each recognised post-primary school are collected by the Department of Education and Skills.
Primary function of data	<p>Data used to inform annual allocation of teaching posts and funding by the Department of Education and Skills. Data also used to track pupil retention.</p> <p>Teaching posts and funding are allocated each year by the Department based on the numbers of recognised students enrolled in each post-primary school on 30th September in the previous year. Each post-primary school is obliged to provide individualised data on each student to the Department (referred to as the October Returns).</p>
Key classificatory variables	PPSN; ID Other; Sex; DOB; County; Geog Sub County; Geog Other; Nationality
Themes/domains	Education; Demographics
Unit of observation	Individual post-primary student
Start date of data collection	1991. Since 1991, the Department of Education and Skills has retained all individual data on students collected via the October Returns.
Frequency of data collection	Annually, on 30th September each year.
Data format	Individualised data are returned to the Department of Education and Skills using students' PPSNs as a unique identifier. The Department aggregates individual data in order to meet statistical, policy and research functions.
Method of data collection	Data are transferred to the Department of Education and Skills electronically via the ESINET network system and stored in the Post-Primary Pupil Database.
Access/further information	<p>Department of Education and Skills: www.education.ie</p> <p>Publications available at: http://www.education.ie/en/Publications</p>