



***GROWING UP IN IRELAND***

**A SUMMARY GUIDE OF THE**

**COVID-19**

**WEB SURVEY FOR**

**COHORTS '08 AND '98**

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## 1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

This document provides a summary of the short web-based survey of the *Growing Up in Ireland* (GUI) '08 and '98 cohorts conducted in December 2020, as well as an overview of the Research and Anonymised Microdata Files from this supplementary phase of research. Information on experiences during this period are likely to be highly insightful in helping to understand outcomes for young people later in life.

*Growing Up in Ireland* - the National Longitudinal Study of Children – is the first project of its kind undertaken in Ireland. It is managed and overseen by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) and the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and is carried out by a group of researchers led by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and Trinity College Dublin (TCD). The study aims to explore the various positive and negative factors at play that contribute to the development of children living in Ireland. A two-cohort longitudinal design was undertaken, which began by examining the lives of 8,568 Children at 9 years of age (Cohort '98) and 11,134 Infants at 9 months (Cohort '08). As the study design is longitudinal in nature, respondents in both cohorts have been interviewed at intervals, marking different stages of their development. The Child Cohort '98 consists of young people born in 1997/1998. They and their parents/guardians were interviewed at 9, 13, 17 and 20 years of age so far. Infants included in Cohort '08 were born between December 2007 and June 2008. Parents/guardians of Cohort '08 were interviewed when the children were 9 months, 3 years, 5 years, 7/8 years (via postal survey) and again at 9 years of age. Data for these cohorts have also been collected from their school principals and teachers. The GUI Study Team is currently collecting data from Cohort '08 and their families (and school principals) now that they are 13 years old and transitioning between primary and secondary school.

This summary guide includes both cohorts and their experiences during the Covid-19 Pandemic. This project took place in Q4 of 2020, when Cohort '08 were 12/13 years old (87% were 12 years old with 13% having just turned 13, i.e. those born in December '07), and Cohort '98 were 22 years old (with 14% having turned 23 years of age by December 2020). This summary guide describes the background, design, instruments, and procedures used to gather data on the impact of Covid-19 on Cohort '08 and '98.

### 1.2 THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Early in 2020 the Covid-19 Pandemic reached Ireland, with the first positive case of the virus confirmed on 29th February. From 12th March 2020, the government began imposing restrictions to stem the spread of cases. All schools, colleges, childcare facilities, and cultural institutions were instructed to close. The government also recommended the cancellation of large gatherings which saw the postponement of sporting events and concerts as cases rose throughout the country. Further restrictions were put in place, and on March 27th, the government advised that all except essential service providers should stay at home, except for trips to the supermarket, accessing medical care or exercise within a 2-kilometre radius of home. Non-essential travel and meeting with people from

outside one's household were banned. The elderly and those with underlying health conditions were advised to cocoon. Although the number of new cases declined during the summer months (particularly in July), a resurgence in the autumn led to the adoption of high levels of restrictions ('Level 5') once again in October 2020 for a six-week period. Although schools and childcare remained open during this period, all but essential services were once again closed. Contact with other households for social purposes was strictly limited. At the time of this COVID-19 survey, the second set of national restrictions announced in October were being eased in the run-up to Christmas. This meant a gradual re-opening of non-essential shops and services from December 1st followed by the allowance of inter-county travel and limited household visits from December 18th. The survey did not capture the second period of school closures and restrictions that were implemented as a result of a significant resurgence of Covid-19 case numbers from January 2021.

For both cohorts, the entire period from March 2020 up until the time of the survey (December 2020) presented significant changes in economic, social and cultural activities. Individuals' responses to the threat of infection varied depending on their own vulnerability and that of their families and friends. From the perspective of the 12/13-year-olds, the period from March to June is particularly relevant, as this is the time when schools were closed. Although schools were open from September 2020, they and their families faced new challenges such as getting accustomed to a strict regime of physical distancing, hand hygiene, mask-wearing (depending on age) in the school context and catching up on learning after a long period of absence.

### 1.3 BACKGROUND

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) requested that the *Growing Up in Ireland* Study Team develop a survey capturing the experiences of the *Growing Up in Ireland* Cohorts during the pandemic in 2020 with a view to informing longitudinal analysis of the impact of variations in their experiences on young people's outcomes. The *Growing Up in Ireland* Steering Group and Research Ethics Committee reviewed the content of the questionnaires.

## 2 SAMPLE DESIGN

### 2.1 INTRODUCTION

This section provides an overview of the design adopted for the Covid-19 Survey. Given the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, and to make the most efficient use of *Growing Up in Ireland* resources, an online web survey was proposed. The web survey was hosted by the Central Statistics Office. The sample for the Covid-19 Survey was drawn from both *Growing Up in Ireland* Cohorts. It consisted of all of those who had participated in the first wave of the study and who were still eligible for contact. The only groups ineligible were those who were no longer living in Ireland (i.e. they were known to have emigrated), where the Young Person was deceased or where the respondent had definitively refused in an earlier wave. Sample sizes were generated based on numbers from the last wave of field work (i.e. Wave 4 for Cohort '98 and Wave 5 for Cohort '08) which removed any households who were deemed ineligible. Of the 8,500 Cohort '98 participants who took part in Wave 1 data collection, just under 7,000 were still eligible for contact. Among the Cohort '08 families, 11,134 took part in Wave 1, and approximately 8,600 were still eligible for contact at the time of the Covid-19 survey. Response rates were calculated based only on those for whom we had valid email addresses recorded.

### 2.2 RESPONSE RATES

The survey began on December 4th 2020 for Cohort '08 and December 11th for Cohort '98, and closed at the end of the month. 8,643 invitations were sent out to Cohort '08 households, which included an invitation for the Primary Caregiver and Young Person, and 6,810 invitations were sent to 22-year-olds. There was a 45% response rate among Primary Caregivers (n = 3,901), a 38% response rate among 12-year-olds (n = 3,301) and a 33% response rate among the 22-year cohort (n = 2,277). Some Cohort '08 households completed only one of the two surveys (Primary Caregiver or 12-year-old). For the purpose of the Covid-19 Key findings report issued, the analysis is based on all valid responses (that is, including the 12-year-old's responses even if their parent did not respond). As in earlier in-home interviews, response rates tended to be lower for those from less advantaged backgrounds (lower income, lower parental education and social class) and – among the 22-year-olds only – for males than females. The data were weighted prior to analysis to ensure that the results represent the populations in terms of these characteristics.

### 2.3 ATTRITION AND REWEIGHTING THE DATA

Non-response and inter-wave attrition are unavoidable in longitudinal surveys, and were exacerbated by the short data collection timeframe and web-based nature of the Covid-19 survey. These become a problem where they are systematically related to family or other characteristics or with Child/Young Person outcomes. It is important to understand the levels and correlates of attrition and non-response to inform re-weighting procedures that statistically adjust the data for systematic non-response or attrition prior to analysis.

For Cohort '08 a separate weight for the 3,901 Primary Caregivers ('CovidParentWt') and the 3,301 12/13-year-olds ('CovidChildWt') who completed the survey were calculated. One weight was

calculated for the 2,277 Cohort '98 22-year-olds ('covwt2'). The survey weight adjusts the internal structure of the sample in line with the population, summing to the actual number of cases, i.e. to 3,901 Primary Caregivers or 3,301 12/13-year-olds or 2,277 22-year-olds. Table 2.1 outlines the variables identified as being related to non-response and which were used to adjust for attrition and to generate the Covid-19 survey weights. Most of these characteristics were measured at the 9-year interview for Cohort '08 and the 17-year interview for Cohort '98, apart from those which would not change over time (such as Study Child/Young Adult gender and Primary Caregiver country of birth).

**Table 2.1 Variables used to calculate Covid-19 survey weights for Cohort '08 and Cohort '98**

Cohort '08	Cohort '98
Age of Primary Caregiver at birth of the Study Child	Educational attainment of Primary Caregiver
Educational attainment of Primary Caregiver	Family structure
Family structure	Family income quintile
Primary Caregiver marital status (cohabiting or married)	Family social class
Family income quintile	Work Status of Primary and Secondary Caregivers
Family social class	Young Adult gender
Work Status of Primary and Secondary Caregivers	Drumcondra reading test score at 9
Where the Primary Caregiver was born (4 categories)	
Housing tenure (owner, Local Authority/Approved Housing Body renter, private renter, other)	
Household region (Dublin, BMW, elsewhere)	
Primary Caregiver smoking (smokes daily)	
Primary Caregiver risk of depression (based on CESD)	
Study Child gender	
Whether the Study Child was ever breastfed	
Health / longstanding condition of Study Child in Wave 1	

The tables outlined in Appendix B compared the distribution of the unweighted completed sample to the weighted Wave 1 sample (excluding ineligible who had moved abroad or deceased). For Cohort '08, the population being weighted to refers to the number of 12/13-year-olds who were resident in

Ireland at 9 months of age and who continue to be resident in the country when they are 12/13 years old, accounting for those who no longer live in Ireland or who have deceased since 9 months of age. For Cohort '98, it is the number of 22-year-olds who were resident in Ireland at 9 years of age, and continue to be resident at 22 years old, accounting for those who no longer live in Ireland or who have deceased since 9 years of age.

Among both the Cohort '08 Primary Caregiver and Young Person samples, there was an under-representation of younger mothers, those in less advantaged circumstances (lower levels of education, income, lower social class and families where the parents are not in employment), one-parent families, renters of social housing (rented from the local authorities or Approved Housing Bodies), where the Study Child was never breastfed and where the Primary Caregiver smoked daily.

Among the Cohort '98 Young Adults, there was an under-representation of those in less advantaged circumstances (i.e. where their PCG had lower levels of education, income, lower social class and families where the parents are not in employment), one-parent families and those with lower Drumcondra reading test scores at age 9. There was also a significant under-representation of males compared to females among the Cohort '98 sample.

The construction of the survey weight for the Covid-19 survey data consists in carrying forward the weight from the previous wave of interviews – the 9-year interview for Cohort '08 and the 20-year interview for Cohort '98 (which control for initial non-response and attrition up to that wave) and adjusting it for attrition between that wave and the Covid-19 survey. The weights were truncated to avoid giving undue influence on results to individual cases (or a small number of cases) and to avoid excessively large sampling variances. The distribution of the child and family characteristics in the completed samples when these weights are applied are within one half of a percentage point of the population distribution for all of the characteristics examined.

The Study Team used the GROSS software, as in previous rounds of *Growing Up in Ireland*. This has been used extensively by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) since 1996<sup>1</sup>. GROSS uses a minimum information-loss algorithm to fit a sample distribution of characteristics to population 'control totals'. An iterative procedure is used, allowing marginals of characteristics that are associated with one another to be fitted simultaneously.

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<sup>1</sup> (SEE, FOR EXAMPLE, GOMULKA, J., 1992. "GROSSING-UP REVISITED", IN R. HANCOCK AND H. SUTHERLAND (EDS.), MICROSIMULATION MODELS FOR PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS: NEW FRONTIERS, STICERD, OCCASIONAL PAPER 17, LSE. GOMULKA, J., 1994. "GROSSING UP: A NOTE ON CALCULATING HOUSEHOLD WEIGHTS FROM FAMILY COMPOSITION").

### 3 INSTRUMENT DEVELOPMENT & PILOTING

#### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter gives a brief outline of the consultative process of instrument development for the Covid-19 survey. The short web-based surveys were conducted with the assistance of the Central Statistics Office. The web-based mode of data collection facilitated data collection that was concise and meaningful within a short period of time. The emphasis remained on collecting factual information on the impact on employment, income, schooling and physical activity, as well as subjective indicators of stress and emotional well-being. Both cohorts were included, with data collected from the young adults of Cohort '98 who were 22/23 years old, and the Primary Caregivers and 12/13-year-olds of Cohort '08.

#### 3.2 INSTRUMENT DEVELOPMENT

Given the shorter questionnaires possible with the web survey mode and the shorter time period available to develop and field the Covid-19 Survey, the consultative process was less extensive than it would typically be for a full wave of *Growing Up in Ireland*. Nevertheless, the following process outlines the various stakeholders involved in establishing the content of the surveys:

- The *Growing Up in Ireland* Steering Group were provided with a list of potential topics for inclusion in September 2020. They provided feedback on content and, insofar as feasible, the feedback was taken into account in designing the questionnaire. The draft questionnaires were then reviewed by the Steering Group and by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) Research and Evaluation Unit in October 2020. Comments received from both groups were taken into account in revising the questionnaires.
- The questionnaires were also reviewed by the *Growing Up in Ireland* Study Team Management Group and comments received in October 2020.
- A Working Group to plan for the operationalisation of the web surveys was established in September 2020, comprising of representatives from the Research and Evaluation Unit of the DCEDIY, the Central Statistics Office and the *Growing Up in Ireland* Study Team. The working group remit was to guide the development of the content and operation of the survey.
- The proposed questionnaires and protocols were reviewed by the independent *Growing Up in Ireland* Research Ethics Committee in October 2020.

#### 3.3 PILOTING THE INSTRUMENTS

The timing of survey did not allow for a separate pilot phase of the Covid-19 survey; however, the development of the protocols and instrumentation for the fieldwork built on earlier work in *Growing Up in Ireland*. In particular, it drew on the instruments and protocols used in the pilot work with Cohort '08 in July/August 2020 (in preparation for main fieldwork with this cohort at age 13 in 2021) which was conducted using a combination of web and telephone surveys. The pilot survey contained a number of items put to both parents and young people on their experiences during the pandemic. The items focused on the Young Person's experience of learning while the schools were closed; changes in their levels of contact with friends and participation in activities; the impact of the pandemic on the

work and incomes of parents and their experiences of balancing work and family during the restrictions. The results of the pilot were assessed with a view to discovering items that captured variation in the experiences of young people and their families during the pandemic.

## 4 SURVEY INSTRUMENTS

### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

This section provides a general overview of the instruments used in the Covid-19 survey. Invitations with links to online questionnaires were sent out to Primary Caregivers included in Cohort '08 and Young Adults themselves in Cohort '98 via email. The link provided in emails to participants could be opened on a desktop computer, laptop, iPad/tablet or smartphone for ease of access. Questions included in the survey instruments focussed on collecting factual information on the impact of the pandemic on employment, income, schooling, and physical activity as well as subjective information on emotional well-being.

### 4.2 COHORT '08 PRIMARY CAREGIVER QUESTIONNAIRE

The Cohort '08 Primary Caregiver questionnaire contained questions on the following topics:

- Home and family life
- Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on employment
- Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on income
- The home learning environment for the Study Child
- Physical activity levels
- Other activities
- Feelings

### 4.3 COHORT '08 12/13-YEAR-OLD QUESTIONNAIRE

The Cohort '08 12/13-year-old questionnaire contained questions on the following topics:

- Activities and time at home during Covid-19 restrictions
- School and education since September 2020
- Relationships with family
- Hobbies and activities
- Feelings

### 4.4 COHORT '98 22-YEAR-OLD QUESTIONNAIRE

The Cohort '98 22-year-old questionnaire contained questions on the following topics:

- What they were doing before the pandemic
- Effect of the pandemic on employment or working situation
- Effect of the pandemic on education
- Income and living arrangements
- Social support
- Activities now compared to before the pandemic
- Other effects of the pandemic
- Feelings

## 5 FIELDWORK AND IMPLEMENTATION

### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter briefly outlines the fieldwork procedures for the Covid-19 Survey. This includes the training and vetting of fieldworkers, protocols for making initial contact with a household to obtain the required email addresses, tracing methods, and incident reporting procedures.

### 5.2 INTERVIEWER BRIEFING VIA WEBINAR

Fourteen interviewers were employed to work on the Covid-19 Survey. They had all worked on the pilot (via web and telephone survey) for Cohort '08 at 13 which took place in July and August of 2020. In the Covid-19 Survey, the interviewer role was to telephone the respondents for whom we did not have email addresses and obtain an email address so that details of the survey and a link could be sent to them. Once the survey had commenced, the interviewers made telephone calls to certain 'hard to reach' respondents to encourage them to participate. In general, the 'hard to reach' respondents tend to be those from less advantaged backgrounds (in terms of social class, education and income) and those who had not participated in an earlier wave.

As strict Covid-19 restrictions on contact and travel were in place at the scheduled time for training, it was conducted online, using Microsoft Teams. Members of the GUI Study Team presented information using Microsoft PowerPoint and were available to answer any questions or queries that interviewers had after each session. All presentations were recorded and made available to the interviewers. Topics covered in the one day training included, an overview of the planned Covid-19 Survey, using the equipment (laptops, telephones and headsets), field support, contacting respondents, recording email addresses in the Blaise programme, making and recording reminder calls and securely transferring the data to the GUI server.

### 5.3 VETTING

All *Growing Up in Ireland* interviewers were vetted by An Garda Síochána (which includes providing proof of identity – usually passport and/or driver's licence) and were required to provide two references which were verbally checked on the phone by the ESRI. Before working on the Covid-19 Survey, these interviewers were also appointed as Officers of Statistics by the Central Statistics Office. A valid Health Self-Declaration Form was already on file for these interviewers – they were requested to let the ESRI know of any relevant updates to their health. Interviewers were also requested to submit a Declaration of Double Employment to facilitate compliance with working time regulations.

### 5.4 INTERVIEWER COLLECTION OF EMAIL ADDRESSES

Email addresses were needed for the Primary Caregivers of Cohort '08 and the 22-year-olds themselves of Cohort '98 in order to invite them to participate in the web survey. Since the 20-year interview, the Young Person (rather than their Primary Caregiver) has been regarded as the main respondent. In the case of Cohort '08, while the 12/13-year-old is the main person of interest, we need to access them through their parent or guardian. Some email addresses were already available,

as these had been collected in earlier waves, particularly for Cohort '98, to facilitate contact if the respondent changed address.

Just under 7,000 young adults in Cohort '98 were still eligible for contact, and of these, email addresses for just over 1,900 were required. There were approximately 8,600 families eligible for contact in Cohort '08 with email addresses available for approximately half of the Primary Caregivers. From previous waves of data collection, telephone numbers were available for virtually all sample households. One contact via SMS message was made with each of the respondents for whom email addresses were needed. The SMS message indicated that the Study Team wished to contact them by email about a survey on their experiences during the Covid-19 pandemic and asked them to send their email address (including their telephone number for identification) to the *Growing Up in Ireland* Study Team to a dedicated email address which was set up for the purpose of this phase of the study. Approximately 15% of those contacted returned an email address. This left about 5,000 email addresses to be obtained through interviewer telephone calls. Interviewers were given a list of households and telephone numbers and asked to call the family to record their email address. They gave a short explanation of the study and told the family we would be back in touch soon. Of 3,725 Cohort '08 allocations, 3,428 (92%) were contacted by interviewers and 2,563 (69%) email addresses were recorded. For Cohort '98, 1,109 were allocated to interviewers, 1,098 (99%) were contacted and 591 (54%) emails were recorded. In total, email records were obtained for 8,643 households from Cohort '08 and for 6,810 Young Adults from Cohort '98.

## 5.5 CONTACTING RESPONDENTS

Usually, in *Growing Up in Ireland* in-home fieldwork, an introductory letter and information sheets are posted to families in advance and interviewers also bring hard copies of the information sheets and the consent/assent forms (to be signed by the respondents) with them on their first visit to the household. A different procedure was adopted for the Covid-19 Survey. The Cohort '98 young adults and the Cohort '08 Primary Caregivers of the 12/13-year-olds were contacted by email and provided with links to the Information Sheet, which were available on a dedicated area of the *Growing Up in Ireland* website. The Information Sheets are provided in Appendix A. The email to the respondents included:

- Summary information about the survey: the purpose, mode of data collection, the funders, who is involved in running the project and that participation is voluntary
- A note that we would like them (and their 12/13-year-old for Cohort '08) to complete an online questionnaire
- A link to a more detailed information sheet on the *Growing Up in Ireland* website
- The link to the web survey and their unique ID code

### 5.5.1 CONTACTING “HARD TO REACH FAMILIES”/REMINDERS

From the second week of fieldwork, reminders were sent out to Primary Caregivers in Cohort '08 and the Young Adults in Cohort '98 where a response had not been received. Two email and two text reminders were sent to the Primary Caregivers in Cohort '08. The first reminder was by email and then

alternately between text and email. Each reminder included the survey link and individual ID number. Only one email and one text reminder were sent to the 22-year-olds due to the short time frame for data collection. Timing (in terms of day of the week and time of the day) of issuing reminders was staggered to maximise the response rates from participants. In addition, a few days after the first email, interviewers followed up with 'hard to reach' participants by telephone to encourage their participation. 'Hard to reach' groups are those who are from less advantaged backgrounds in terms of parental education, family social class and income category. These were identified based on responses given in earlier waves of the survey in which they participated. To maximise responses from 'hard to reach' groups, interviewers completed the questionnaire online via telephone interview with a very small number of adult respondents (Primary Caregivers and Young Adults) who indicated difficulty in accessing the web survey. Interviews were not completed over the phone with the 12/13-year-olds.

### 5.5.2 SURVEY LINKS AND ID CODES

As mentioned previously, respondents were sent the link to the Covid-19 survey along with their unique survey ID codes through email. Survey ID codes were assigned to ensure anonymity of the respondents and were different to their unique ID code used to match their data across waves. No names or addresses were recorded in the surveys. All survey ID codes were five characters in length comprising of two letters and three numbers. The Cohort '08 Primary Caregiver was sent two survey ID codes, one for their own survey and one for their Young Person. It was essential that the survey ID codes were entered correctly so that the responses provided by each participant could be linked to their other *Growing Up in Ireland* data for statistical purposes.

As respondents were required to enter their own survey ID codes at the beginning of the survey, the *Growing Up in Ireland* study team tried to minimise potential mistakes by keeping the formats simple and for Cohort '08, by linking each Young Person ID with their Primary Caregiver's ID. The survey IDs were linked by changing only the first letter of the Young Person ID. For example, if a Primary Caregiver had an ID code of FCD12, the Young Person ID would be GCD12. Similarly, if there were twins or triplets in the household the first letter of their ID codes would be the next letter of the alphabet (i.e. HCD12 and JCD12). Confusing characters like Is, Os, and zeroes were not used. Backup identifiers such as date of birth and gender were checked against the survey ID codes by the *Growing Up in Ireland* data team. Mismatches were corrected where possible to minimise the loss of data.

### 5.5.3 INFORMED CONSENT

Before Covid-19, informed consent was received by interviewers calling out to homes in person where they would present paper versions of the participant information sheets and participants would sign the consent forms with the interviewer present. They would also look for assent from the Young Person where they were under 18 years old. This was not possible with the Covid-19 web survey. Instead, participants were directed towards the *Growing Up in Ireland* website where they could read the participant information sheets and the *Growing Up in Ireland* privacy statement. In addition, the start of the web survey outlined the main purpose of the survey and asked participants to confirm that they had read the participant information sheets on the *Growing Up in Ireland* website and if they agree to take part in the survey. For Cohort '08, the study team did not contact the Young Person

directly; instead all contact was made through the Primary Caregiver. The study information was sent to the Primary Caregiver and if they were happy for their child to take part, they could forward the information to them. The Young Person was similarly required to tick the box to say whether or not they agreed to participate in the survey. If any participant clicked 'No, I do not wish to take part in this Covid-19 survey', the survey would close. Participants were informed that they did not have to answer a question if they did not want to and that they could drop out of the study at any time even after submitting their responses.

## 5.6 INCIDENTS/CHILD PROTECTION PROTOCOLS

Procedures relating to child protection in *Growing Up in Ireland* are informed by the Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (Department of Children and Youth Affairs, 2017). This, in particular, relates to ensuring that best practice is implemented in recognising and responding to potential abuse of children and young people. The Study Team developed and updated its Child Safeguarding Statement, in consultation with the Child Safeguarding Statement Compliance Unit in Tusla, the Child and Family Agency. This was a written statement that specified the relevant work being carried out by the *Growing Up in Ireland* Study Team and interviewers and the measures taken to ensure, as far as practicable, that a child engaging with the organisation would be safe from harm. It included a risk assessment detailing the procedures in place to manage potential risks to a child's safety. All interviewers, as well as other staff working on *Growing Up in Ireland*, were security vetted by An Garda Síochána (the Irish Police Service). Interviewers were instructed to report to the Study Team and complete an incident report form for all events or observations which caused them concern during the course of their work, especially in regard to the protection of children or other vulnerable persons. Interviewers were provided with an out-of-hours phone number to contact the Fieldwork Manager if they had serious concerns. Any reports or incidents which had a Child Welfare or Child Protection dimension were collated by the Study Team's Designated Liaison Person. All reports were considered in line with Children First Guidance by a standing committee made up of the Designated Liaison Person, the Survey and Data Manager, the Principal Investigator and a psychologist from the Study Team. The standing committee decided on the necessary actions for each potential child welfare/protection issue that arose during the course of the study. Where necessary, external consultation was made with appropriate advisors, including Social Workers from Tusla (the Child and Family Agency). If there was reason to be concerned for the welfare of a child, a referral was made to Tusla.

## 6 STRUCTURE AND CONTENT OF THE DATA FILE

### 6.1 INTRODUCTION

This section outlines the structure of the Research Microdata File (RMF) and Anonymised Microdata File (AMF) and provides a brief explanation of how the two data files differ in content. The data files are almost identical apart from a few variables. An overview is given of variable naming and ordering conventions, the reweighting process and details regarding the scaled measures used in the study. Finally, this section will include the coding and editing process as outlined below.

### 6.2 RESEARCH (RMF) AND ANONYMISED (AMF) MICRODATA FILES

Two data files are available for researchers: the Research Microdata File (RMF) and Anonymised Microdata File (AMF). The AMF is a publicly available anonymised dataset, while the RMF is a more detailed dataset, access to which is subject to appointment as an Officer of Statistics by the Central Statistics Office. Accordingly, some potentially disclosive variables which appear on the RMF have been removed from the AMF. Other variables have had their values banded into larger groups so that frequencies with low cell counts are not visible. In some instances, this was achieved by either bottom or top coding (or both) of outlying cases. In others, continuous scores were grouped into categories. Information particularly likely to be sensitive in nature (such as the mental health scales, mentioned in further detail below) have been removed from the AMF. The user should therefore note that not every question from the questionnaires is included in the data file, particularly in the case of the AMF. There were concerns that respondents may have misinterpreted question YA12b on the Cohort '98 survey as all answered 'no'. Consequently, this variable was deleted from both the AMF and RMF. A list of variables included in each data file is available via the accompanying summary data dictionary.

### 6.3 STRUCTURE OF THE DATA FILE

Both the Research Microdata File (RMF) and Anonymised Microdata File (AMF) are presented as a flat rectangular data file. The case-base is the Study Child (Cohort '08) or Young Adult (Cohort '98). For Cohort '08 the 12/13-year-old's data and their Primary Caregiver's data are matched together on the one data file.

### 6.4 VARIABLE NAMING

Variables included in the Young Person (Cohort '08) survey are prefixed with YP before each question number, while variables for the Young Adult (Cohort '98) survey are prefixed with YA. For the Primary Caregiver questionnaire, variables remain numbered as Q followed by the question number.

### 6.5 VARIABLE ORDER

In the Cohort '08 data file, the first variables include the weighting factors and whether or not the Young Person and the Primary Caregiver completed the survey. Following these, the Primary Caregiver variables appear, followed by the Young Person variables. Derived variables appear at the end of the data file. In the Cohort '98 data file, the household ID and weighting variables appear first, followed by the Young Adult variables and finally the derived variables.

## 6.6 THE PRIMARY CAREGIVER (COHORT '08)

For Cohort '08, the Primary Caregiver was self-identified within the home as the person who provided most care to the Study Child and who knew most about him/her. In most cases, this was the child's mother. The variable PCGstatcovid was added to the Cohort '08 AMF and RMF which flags if the Primary Caregiver completing the Covid-19 survey was also the Primary Caregiver at the previous wave or if they were previously the Secondary Caregiver.

## 6.7 WEIGHTING VARIABLES

In line with best practice in sample surveys, the data have been reweighted or statistically adjusted to ensure that the sample is representative of the population from which it has been drawn. By doing this, one ensures that the structure of the completed sample is in line with the structure of the population along key socio-demographic and other dimensions. The Cohort '08 data file contains two weighting variables, CovidParentWt, which was calculated based on a sample of 3,901 Primary Caregivers, and CovidChildWt, calculated based on a sample of 3,301 Young Person responses. The Cohort '98 data file contains the weighting variable covwt2, which was calculated based on a sample of 2,277 22-year-olds.

## 6.8 MATCHING DATA TO PREVIOUS WAVES

Covid-19 survey data can be matched to previous waves of data for both cohorts by using the household's unique identifier variable. Each household has a unique identification code, which is the same at all waves to enable matching of the data files where necessary. The sequence of identification codes runs from 300 to 1,113,400 and is indicated by the variable 'ID'. This matching will allow for analysis of the extent to which patterns vary by socio-demographic factors and by prior experiences more broadly.

## 6.9 SCALED MEASURES USED IN THE STUDY

### 6.9.1 CENTRE FOR EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDIES DEPRESSION SCALE (CES-D) (MELCHIOR, HUBA, BROWN & REBACK, 1993)

These eight questions provide a short self-report screening instrument for depression in the general population and was included in both the Primary Caregiver (pcg\_cesd\_total) and 22-year (YA\_cesd\_total) surveys. For both respondents, a total score was obtained which is a sum of the raw scores. Also included in the file are two variables (YA\_depression and pcg\_depression) which categorise respondents into 'depressed' or 'not depressed' based on the recommended scale cut-offs.

### 6.9.2 MENTAL HEALTH INVENTORY SCALE – 5 (BERWICK, MURPHY, GOLDMAN, WARE, BARSKY & WEINSTEIN, 1991)

This 5-item scale was used as a proxy indicator to identify the prevalence of 12/13-year-olds at risk of having a mental health disorder. Total scores for each item were calculated and then transformed to a 0 – 100-point scale. No clinically validated cut-point for the MHI-5 exists. However, a cut-point of 60 which was previously proposed by van Leeuwen et al. (2012) and Kelly et al. (2008) was deemed the most suitable for use amongst this cohort of 12/13 year olds. This cut-point of 60 has been applied in the *Growing Up in Ireland* COVID-19 Key Findings report as a proxy indicator of the prevalence of

mental health disorders. However, only the total scores are included in the AMF and RMF to allow researchers to apply their own cut-points.

### **6.10 CODING & EDITING**

Each of the Covid-19 surveys consisted of closed answer questions. In terms of editing the data, regular checks were carried out on the data as they were returned from the field. Inconsistencies were reviewed and managed by the data team.

### **6.11 MISSING DATA**

Missing data arose in two ways. Firstly, respondents may have chosen to not answer an entire element of the interview. For example, a respondent may choose to not answer an entire questionnaire, i.e. if a Primary Caregiver completed their questionnaire but the Young Person decided against completing the questionnaire. Every variable with an uncompleted questionnaire shows as a system-missing value in the data file. The other type of missing data is individual variables within an otherwise complete interview. Respondents were given the option of choosing to skip over any individual question that they did not want to complete, or they may have part-completed an interview but dropped out before the end of the interview, or they might simply have not known the answer to the question. This type of missing data shows as user-defined missing value in the data file and is labelled as 'not answered'. It is not possible from the data file to distinguish between a missing value that is a 'refusal' to answer rather than a 'don't know'.

## 7 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The same legal and ethical protocols that govern all waves of *Growing Up in Ireland* are relevant to the Covid-19 Survey.

Four pieces of legislation are of particular relevance for this Study:

- the Statistics Act, 1993 - provides a strong legal basis for the protection of all information collected in *Growing Up in Ireland* against unlawful disclosure;
- the Children First Act 2015 - designed to raise awareness of child abuse and neglect and to ensure an appropriate response to it;
- the Data Protection Acts 1988, 2003, 2018 – clarify the rights of persons with respect to personal data that is processed concerning them; the DCEDIY and CSO are joint Data Controllers for the survey;
- the Data Protection Act 2018 (Section 36(2)) (Health Research) Regulations 2018 – provides for additional safeguards when processing data of a sensitive nature (such as health data).

Apart from the legal issues related to data protection and confidentiality, there are several ethical principles that are applied in the conduct of *Growing Up in Ireland*, in line with best practice in research. For brevity, the principles are listed here.

- Informed consent – providing information on the purpose of the study, the type of information gathered and what will be involved for participants
- Reporting concerns regarding risks to children – a protocol for reporting any incidents and for handling these appropriately.
- Confidentiality of information provided – also a legal requirement under the Statistics Act
- Avoidance of harm (including embarrassment/distress)
- Instruments and protocols reviewed by an independent Research Ethics Committee.

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## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX A: PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEETS

COVID-19 Survey: Information Sheet for Cohort '08 Primary Caregiver

#### MAIN POINTS

- We are contacting you because you and your 12/13-year-old have taken part in the ***Growing Up in Ireland*** (GUI) study for several years. [More]
- ***Growing Up in Ireland*** is funded by the government and carried out by a group of researchers led by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and Trinity College Dublin. The Central Statistics Office is hosting the online survey. [More]
- ***Growing Up in Ireland*** aims to improve our understanding of all aspects of the lives of children and young people and their development to inform policy to provide better supports and services for them. [More]
- We are now asking for your help to understand the experiences of young people and their families during the Covid-19 pandemic. We are asking you to complete a short (about ten minutes) online survey. We are also asking for your consent to your 12/13-year-old taking part. The link to the survey and the ID code you need to begin it are in the email we sent you. [More]
- Information collected in the online survey is covered by the Statistics Act, 1993. It is used only to produce statistical analysis and is treated in the strictest confidence. However, if you tell us something outside the answers given to the direct survey questions which causes us to have serious concerns for the welfare of a child, or other vulnerable person, we may have to tell someone who could help. [More]
- You can decide to take part in the survey. You can also decide to change your mind and withdraw from the survey at any time – even after you have completed the survey. If there is any question you do not wish to answer, you do not have to do so. You may request access to the information about you on the questionnaires which you complete. You will not have access to any information provided by your 12/13-year-old. [More]
- The questions on your survey will cover your experiences during the Covid-19 pandemic. Your 12/13-year-old will be asked about their own experiences. [More]
- To ask a question or find more information, please click here

#### DETAILED INFORMATION

##### 1. Why are we contacting you?

You and your 12/13-year-old was one of more than 11,000 children and their families who first took part in the ***Growing Up in Ireland*** (GUI) survey when the children were nine months of age in 2008/09. ***Growing Up in Ireland*** follows the progress of these children over time. This information will improve our understanding of all aspects of the lives and needs of children, young people and their families so as to design better supports and services for them.

We would like you and your 12/13-year-old to complete a short online survey on your experiences during the Covid-19 pandemic.

## 2. Who is running the study?

**Growing Up in Ireland** is funded by Government through the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY). It is overseen and managed by the DCEDIY in association with the Central Statistics Office (CSO). The study is being carried out by a group of independent researchers led by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and Trinity College Dublin.

## 3. What is the purpose of the study?

**Growing Up in Ireland** aims to improve our understanding of all aspects of the lives of children and young people and their development. It will build a bank of information about the lives of children in Ireland today and into the future which will help Government to make good decisions about issues relating to children and young people.

## 4. What does taking part involve?

This phase of **Growing Up in Ireland** will involve a short online survey for you and your 12/13-year old. The online survey is being hosted by the Central Statistics Office. It will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. You have received an invitation to take part by email. The email contains a link to your own survey and your child's survey. You will need the ID code (also provided in the email) in order to begin the survey. A separate ID code is provided for your 12/13-year-old.

If you don't complete your survey an interviewer might phone you to see if you received the link and if you have any questions. Interviewers are Garda Vetted and appointed as Officers of Statistics.

Because the **Growing Up in Ireland** study looks at children's development over time, you and your child may be asked to participate in a follow-up study in the future. You will have an opportunity at that stage to decide whether or not to participate. Taking part in the Covid-19 Survey does not oblige you to take part in the future.

## 5. How we deal with issues of confidentiality

Information in the GUI survey is collected under section 24 of the Statistics Act (1993). This Act provides a legislative basis for the compilation and dissemination of official statistics by the Central Statistics Office. It ensures that the information you provide can only be used for statistical purposes. Your personal details – such as name, address, telephone and email address – will remain strictly confidential and will not be disclosed to anyone outside of the GUI Study. Reports based on the information collected by GUI will not include any information that would identify you or your family.

However, if you tell us something outside the answers given to the direct survey questions which causes us to have serious concerns for the welfare of a child, or other vulnerable person, we may have to tell someone who could help.

In order to make the best use of the information you provide, the Central Statistics Office, operating under the strictest controlled procedures in line with the Statistics Act and the General Data Protection

Regulation (GDPR), may match your data to other types of information. This would only be done for statistical research purposes and the results of the analysis will not in any way allow you or your family to be identified.

For more information see [www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/csodatapolicies/informationfordataprovers](http://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/csodatapolicies/informationfordataprovers)

## **6. What are my rights if I take part?**

You are not obliged to take part in this survey and you can choose to skip over a question or withdraw your participation from the study at any time, though it would greatly help us if you do participate and answer all the questions. If you decide not to take part, it will in no way affect any health, educational or social care which you or your family will receive from the State.

You may request access to the information about you on the questionnaires which you complete.

The answers to the survey questions can be used only for statistical research purposes.

The information given by your 12/13-year-old in answer to the questions on the survey will not be seen by anyone else in your family – not even you will have access to it. You will not be given any feedback on your 12/13-year-old's responses to their survey questions, no matter what they are.

The study's Respondent Privacy Statement is available [here](#).

## **7. What kind of questions will my family be asked?**

The questions will cover your experiences since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic: your household situation with regard to work, how easy or difficult it is for you to make ends meet, changes in childcare responsibilities when the schools were closed, changes in your social and leisure activities, your 12/13-year-old's experience with school and learning and how you have been feeling lately.

Your 12/13-year-old will be asked about their own experience of learning while the schools were closed, how they are settling back into school since September, how they spend their time, changes in their activities since the pandemic started and relationships with family and friends, how they have been feeling lately and how they feel about next year.

You and your 12/13-year-old can choose to skip over a question or withdraw your participation from the study at any time.

- Your participation will play a major role in the success of ***Growing Up in Ireland***.
- We hope that you can support us with this important work, and we would like to thank you, in advance, for your help.

## 8. Where can I find out more information?

If you have any questions or would like more information:

- Email: [gui@esri.ie](mailto:gui@esri.ie)
- Website: Visit [growingup.ie](http://growingup.ie)
- Social Media: To find out about what researchers have found out so far please follow us on social media:
- Instagram: [@growing\\_up\\_in\\_ireland](https://www.instagram.com/growing_up_in_ireland)
- Twitter: [@GrowingUpIre](https://twitter.com/GrowingUpIre)
- For general information about Covid-19 or the restrictions in place, visit [this link](#)
- For other support services, please visit [this link](#)
- [Back to top](#)

## COVID-19 SURVEY: INFORMATION SHEET FOR COHORT '08 12/13-YEAR-OLD

### MAIN POINTS:

- You might remember an interviewer from ***Growing Up in Ireland*** coming to speak to you and your family when you were about 9 years old. Now we would like you to complete a short survey on your experiences since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. If your parent or guardian is happy for you to take part, they will let you know how to do this [More]
- ***Growing Up in Ireland*** is an important government study that returns to the same young people to interview them every few years. This gives us a really complete picture of what life is like for them [More]
- The aim of ***Growing Up in Ireland*** is to improve our understanding of the lives of children and young people so as to provide better supports and services for them [More]
- All the young people of your age taking part in ***Growing Up in Ireland*** were chosen at random in 2008 when they were 9-months old [More]
- Your answers to the Covid-19 Survey will let us know the effect the Covid-19 pandemic and restrictions are having on you and your friends [More]
- All the information you give us in answer to the questions on the ***Growing Up in Ireland*** survey will be treated as strictly confidential and private. It will be used only for statistical research purposes [More]
- However, if you tell us something outside of the direct answers to the survey questions that leads us to be seriously concerned for your welfare, or that of another child or vulnerable person, we may have to tell someone who could help.
- You can decide to take part in the survey. You can also decide to change your mind and withdraw from the survey at any time – even after you have completed the survey. If there is any question you do not wish to answer, you do not have to do so [More]
- The participation of young people like you plays a major role in the success of ***Growing Up in Ireland***. This is your chance to let researchers and the government know what life is like for you.
- To ask a question or find more information, please click here.

### DETAILED INFORMATION

#### 1. Why are we contacting you?

You may remember that when you were younger an interviewer from ***Growing Up in Ireland*** called to your home to ask you some questions about what your life was like. The interviewer also spoke to your parents about what life as a parent is like.

Now we'd like to invite you to take part in a NEW ONLINE SURVEY about the Covid-19 pandemic. We want to find out what effect it has had on you and your family and friends. We've sent a link to the survey to your parent/guardian's email address. If they are happy for you to complete the survey, they will pass the link on to you. Simply click the link, fill in your answers and click Submit at the end. It'll take less than 10 minutes.

Your parent (or whoever looks after you) will also complete a survey, about themselves and you.

## 2. What's *Growing Up in Ireland* all about?

*Growing Up in Ireland* is a very important Government survey that aims to find out what life is like for children *Growing Up in Ireland*. We are a team of researchers called the *Growing Up in Ireland* Study Team, and we are carrying out the *Growing Up in Ireland* survey for the Government.

In 2008 11,000 infants were chosen at random to be part of *Growing Up in Ireland* – and you are one of them. Since then we have collected information about you at different ages. Returning to the same young people to interview them every few years gives us a really complete picture of what life is like for them.

## 3. Why does the Government need to find out about young people?

*Growing Up in Ireland* is a really important survey. It collects information that will help the Government to understand children's lives better. This information will also help Government to make good decisions about things that affect children and young people and things that will help improve their lives.

## 4. Why was I chosen?

All the young people taking part in *Growing Up in Ireland* were chosen at random in 2008 when they were 9-months old. This was the best way to make sure we included children from different kinds of families and from different parts of the country. This gives us a good picture of what it is like to be growing up in every part of Ireland.

## 5. What does *Growing Up in Ireland* tell us?

The survey gives us lots of information about the lives of children and young people. For instance, it gives us information about your health, your interests and activities, your education, and your relationships with your family and friends. Your answers to this Covid-19 Survey will also let us know the effect the Covid-19 lockdown is having on you and your friends.

## 6. Will this information be private?

All the information you give us in answer to the questions on the *Growing Up in Ireland* survey will be treated as strictly confidential and private. Nobody outside the GUI Study will be able to see your answers. Your answers to the survey questions are completely confidential under a law referred to as the Statistics Act (1993). Your name and other personal details will never appear in any reports from the survey. The answers you give in the survey can only be used for statistical research purposes.

There is one exception: if you tell us something outside of the direct answers to the survey questions that leads us to be seriously concerned for your welfare, or that of another child or vulnerable person, we may have to tell someone who could help.

In order to make the best use of your answers to the questions, this information may be matched to other types of information. This would only be done under strictly controlled procedures. The information

could only be used for statistical research purposes and will not in any way allow you or your family to be identified.

#### **7. What are my rights if I take part?**

You can decide to take part in the survey. You can also decide to change your mind and withdraw from the survey at any time – even after you have completed the survey. If there is any question do not wish to answer, you do not have to do so.

You may request access to the information about you on the questionnaires which you complete.

You can find more information about your rights here.

#### **8. Your participation counts!**

Taking part in *Growing Up in Ireland* is voluntary. The participation of young people like you plays a major role in its success. It is only by carrying out research like this that we can understand what it is like to be a young person in Ireland today and how Government can help make life better.

We hope that you will be able to help us in our work and we would like to thank you for your time completing our questionnaires.

#### **9. Where can I find out more information?**

- Email: [gui@esri.ie](mailto:gui@esri.ie)
- Website: Visit [growingup.ie](http://growingup.ie)
- For general information about Covid-19 or the restrictions in place, visit this link
- For other support services, please visit this link

## COVID-19 SURVEY: INFORMATION SHEET FOR COHORT '98 YOUNG ADULTS

### MAIN POINTS

- We are contacting you because you have taken part in the **Growing Up in Ireland** (GUI) study for a number of years since you were 9 years old. [More]
- **Growing Up in Ireland** is funded by the government and carried out by a group of researchers led by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and Trinity College Dublin. The Central Statistics Office is hosting the online survey. [More]
- **Growing Up in Ireland** aims to improve our understanding of all aspects of the lives of children and young people and their development to inform policy to provide better supports and services for them. [More]
- We are now asking for your help to understand the experiences of young adults during the Covid-19 pandemic. We are asking you to complete a short (about 10 minutes) online survey. The link to the survey and the ID code you need to begin it are in the email we sent you. [More]
- Information collected in the online survey is covered by the Statistics Act, 1993. It is used only to produce statistical analysis and is treated in the strictest confidence. However, if you tell us something outside the answers given to the direct survey questions which causes us to have serious concerns for the welfare of a child, or other vulnerable person, we may have to tell someone who could help. [More]
- You can decide to take part in the survey. You can also decide to change your mind and withdraw from the survey at any time – even after you have completed the survey. If there is any question do not wish to answer, you do not have to do so. You may request access to the information about you on the questionnaires which you complete. [More]
- The questions on your survey will cover your experiences during the Covid-19 pandemic. [More]
- To ask a question or find more information, please click here

### DETAILED INFORMATION

#### 1. Why are we contacting you?

You were one of more than 8,000 children and young people who first took part in the **Growing Up in Ireland** (GUI) survey when you were 9 years old in 2007/08. **Growing Up in Ireland** follows the progress of these children and young people over time. This information will improve our understanding of all aspects of the lives and needs of children, young people and their families so as to design better supports and services for them.

We would like you to complete a short online survey on your experiences during the Covid-19 pandemic. The survey will help us understand out what effect the pandemic and associated restrictions it has had on you and your family and friends.

#### 2. Who is running the study?

**Growing Up in Ireland** is funded by Government through the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY). It is overseen and managed by the Department in association with the

Central Statistics Office (CSO). The study is being carried out by a group of independent researchers led by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and Trinity College Dublin (TCD). The CSO is hosting the online survey.

### 3. What is the purpose of the study?

***Growing Up in Ireland*** aims to improve our understanding of all aspects of the lives of children and young people and their development. This information will help government to make good decisions about issues relating to children and young people.

### 4. What does taking part involve?

This phase of ***Growing Up in Ireland*** will involve a short online survey for you to complete. The online survey is being hosted by the Central Statistics Office. It will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. You have received an invitation to take part by email. The email contains a link to your survey and an ID code. You will need the ID code in order to begin the survey.

If you don't complete your survey, an interviewer might phone you to see if you received the link and if you have any questions. Interviewers are Garda Vetted and appointed as Officers of Statistics.

Because the ***Growing Up in Ireland*** study looks at the development of children and young people over time, you may be asked to participate in a follow-up study in the future. You will have an opportunity at that stage to decide whether or not you wish to participate. Taking part in the Covid-19 Survey does not oblige you to take part in the future.

### 5. How we deal with issues of confidentiality

Information in the ***Growing Up in Ireland*** survey is collected under Section 24 of the Statistics Act (1993). This Act provides a legislative basis for the compilation and dissemination of official statistics by the Central Statistics Office. It ensures that the information you provide can only be used for statistical purposes. Your personal details – such as your name, address, telephone number and email address – will remain strictly confidential and will not be disclosed to anyone outside of the ***Growing Up in Ireland*** Study. Reports based on the survey will not include any information that would identify you.

However, if you tell us something outside the answers given to the direct survey questions which causes them to have serious concerns for the welfare of a child, or other vulnerable person, they may have to tell someone who could help.

In order to make the best use of the information you provide, the Central Statistics Office, operating under the strictest controlled procedures in line with the Statistics Act and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), may match your data to other types of information. This would only be done for statistical research purposes and the results of the analysis will not in any way allow you or your family to be identified.

For more information see [www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/csodatapolicies/informationfordataprovers](http://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/csodatapolicies/informationfordataprovers)

## 6. What are my rights if I take part?

You are not obliged to take part in this survey and you can choose to skip over a question or withdraw your participation from the study at any time, though it would greatly help us if you do participate and answer all the questions. If you decide not to take part, it will in no way affect any health or educational benefit or social care which you or your family will receive from the State.

You may request access to the information about you on the questionnaires which you complete.

The answers to the survey questions can be used only for statistical research purposes. The information given by you in answer to the questions on the survey will not be seen by anyone else. The study's Respondent Privacy Statement is available [here](#).

## 7. What kind of questions will I be asked?

The questions will cover your experiences since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic: your situation with regard to work or education, how you have been feeling lately, how easy or difficult it is for you to meet your needs, changes in your social and leisure activities and, where relevant, your experiences of employment and education.

You can choose to skip over a question or withdraw your participation from the study at any time.

- Your participation will play a major role in the success of *Growing Up in Ireland*.
- We hope that you can support us with this important work, and we would like to thank you, in advance, for your help.

## 8. Where can I find out more information?

- Email: [gui@esri.ie](mailto:gui@esri.ie)
- Website: Visit [growingup.ie](http://growingup.ie)
- Social Media: To find out about what researchers have found out so far please follow us on social media:
  - Instagram: [@growing\\_up\\_in\\_ireland](https://www.instagram.com/growing_up_in_ireland)
  - Twitter: [@GrowingUpIre](https://twitter.com/GrowingUpIre)
- For general information about Covid-19 or the restrictions in place, visit [this link](#)
- For other support services, please visit [this link](#)

## APPENDIX B

### POPULATION, UNWEIGHTED SAMPLE AND WEIGHTED SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION OF CHARACTERISTICS COHORT '08, COVID-19 SURVEY PARENTS (N=3,901)

		Population total	Unweighted		Weight carried forward		Covid weight	
		A. %	B. %	C = B-A	D. %	E. (D-A)	F. %	G. (F-A)
<b>Mother's age at child's birth</b>	Under 25	18%	8%	-10%	12%	-6%	16%	-2%
	25-29	23%	20%	-3%	21%	-2%	24%	0%
	30-34	34%	39%	5%	38%	4%	35%	1%
	35-39	21%	27%	6%	23%	3%	21%	1%
	40+	4%	6%	1%	6%	1%	4%	0%
<b>PCG education (9 or prev)</b>	Primary	3%	0%	-2%	1%	-2%	2%	-1%
	Lower 2 <sup>nd</sup> level	12%	4%	-9%	7%	-5%	11%	-1%
	Upper Sec/Voc	36%	25%	-11%	32%	-4%	36%	0%
	Cert/Dip	21%	22%	1%	22%	1%	21%	1%
	Degree	28%	49%	21%	37%	9%	29%	1%
<b>Family type (9 or prev)</b>	One-parent, 1 ch.	7%	3%	-3%	5%	-2%	6%	-1%
	One-parent, 2+	11%	5%	-6%	6%	-5%	9%	-2%
	Two-parent, 1-2	41%	44%	3%	45%	5%	42%	1%
	Two-parent, 3+	42%	47%	6%	43%	1%	43%	1%
<b>Cohabiting at 9 or prev</b>	Cohabiting	12%	10%	-2%	10%	-2%	12%	0%
<b>Income quintile (equivalised) (9 or prev)</b>	Lowest	23%	12%	-10%	15%	-8%	21%	-2%
	2nd	21%	16%	-5%	18%	-3%	21%	0%
	Middle	19%	20%	1%	21%	1%	20%	1%
	4th	18%	25%	6%	23%	5%	19%	1%
	Highest	17%	26%	9%	23%	6%	18%	1%
	Missing	1%	0%	-1%	1%	-1%	1%	0%
<b>Social class (9 or prev)</b>	Professional	12%	22%	10%	16%	4%	13%	0%
	Man'g./tech	34%	41%	8%	41%	7%	35%	1%
	Oth non-man.	19%	16%	-4%	18%	-2%	19%	0%
	Skilled	16%	12%	-5%	14%	-3%	16%	0%
	Semi-skilled	11%	7%	-4%	8%	-3%	11%	0%
	Unskilled	2%	1%	-1%	2%	-1%	2%	0%
	Unknown	5%	1%	-4%	2%	-4%	4%	-2%
<b>PCG work (9 or prev)</b>	Work FT	42%	54%	12%	50%	7%	44%	1%
	Work PT	16%	17%	0%	17%	0%	17%	0%
	Not Work	41%	29%	-12%	34%	-8%	40%	-2%
<b>SCG work (9 or prev)</b>	Work	73%	86%	12%	82%	9%	76%	2%
	Not work	9%	6%	-3%	6%	-3%	9%	0%
	Not present	18%	9%	-9%	12%	-6%	16%	-2%
<b>Where PCG born (w1)</b>	Ireland	80%	79%	0%	81%	1%	80%	0%
	NI, UK	6%	6%	0%	6%	0%	6%	0%
	Other EU	7%	8%	1%	6%	0%	7%	0%
	Non-EU	7%	7%	-1%	6%	-1%	7%	0%
<b>Housing tenure</b>	Owner	71%	82%	12%	81%	10%	72%	2%
	Social renter	13%	6%	-7%	7%	-6%	12%	-1%

<b>Region</b>	Private renter	14%	11%	-4%	11%	-4%	14%	0%
	Other	2%	2%	0%	1%	0%	2%	0%
	Dublin	26%	23%	-2%	27%	1%	25%	0%
	BMW	28%	26%	-2%	26%	-2%	27%	0%
	Elsewhere	46%	50%	4%	47%	1%	47%	1%
<b>PCG smoked</b>	Smoke daily	18%	9%	-9%	12%	-6%	17%	-1%
<b>PCG depression</b>	Depressed	12%	8%	-4%	9%	-3%	11%	-1%
<b>Study Child Gender</b>	Male	51%	50%	-1%	51%	0%	52%	0%
	Female	49%	50%	1%	49%	0%	48%	0%
<b>Breastfeeding</b>	Ever breastfed	50%	65%	15%	57%	7%	52%	1%
<b>Study Child health at 9 months</b>	Has 1 of 16 cond.	24%	26%	2%	27%	2%	24%	0%
	No cond, some problems	9%	9%	0%	9%	0%	9%	0%
	No cond, no prob	67%	65%	-2%	65%	-2%	67%	0%

**POPULATION, UNWEIGHTED SAMPLE AND WEIGHTED SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION OF CHARACTERISTICS COHORT '08, COVID-19 SURVEY 12-YEAR-OLDS (N=3,301)**

		Population total	Unweighted		Weight carried forward		Covid weight	
		A. %	B. %	C = B-A	D. %	E. (D-A)	F. %	G. (F-A)
<b>Mother's age at child's birth</b>	Under 25	18%	8%	-10%	15%	-3%	17%	-1%
	25-29	23%	20%	-3%	23%	0%	23%	0%
	30-34	34%	39%	5%	35%	1%	34%	1%
	35-39	21%	27%	6%	22%	1%	21%	0%
	40+	4%	6%	1%	5%	0%	4%	0%
<b>PCG education (9 or prev)</b>	Primary	3%	0%	-2%	2%	-1%	2%	-1%
	Lower 2 <sup>nd</sup> level	12%	3%	-9%	10%	-3%	11%	-1%
	Upper Sec/Voc	36%	25%	-11%	36%	0%	37%	0%
	Cert/Dip	21%	22%	2%	23%	2%	21%	1%
	Degree	28%	49%	20%	30%	2%	29%	1%
<b>Family type (9 or prev)</b>	One-parent, 1 ch	7%	3%	-3%	6%	0%	6%	0%
	One-parent, 2+	11%	5%	-7%	8%	-3%	10%	-2%
	Two-parent, 1-2	41%	44%	3%	42%	1%	41%	1%
	Two-parent, 3+	42%	48%	7%	44%	2%	43%	1%
<b>Cohabiting at 9 or prev</b>	Cohabiting	12%	10%	-2%	11%	0%	12%	0%
<b>Income quintile (equivalised) (9 or prev)</b>	Lowest	23%	13%	-10%	21%	-2%	21%	-1%
	2nd	21%	16%	-5%	21%	-1%	21%	-1%
	Middle	19%	21%	2%	21%	1%	20%	1%
	4th	18%	24%	6%	19%	1%	19%	1%
	Highest	17%	25%	8%	17%	0%	18%	1%
	Missing	1%	0%	-1%	1%	0%	1%	0%
<b>Social class (9 or prev)</b>	Professional	12%	23%	11%	13%	1%	13%	0%
	Man'g./tech	34%	40%	7%	34%	1%	34%	1%
	Oth non-man.	19%	15%	-4%	19%	0%	19%	0%
	Skilled	16%	12%	-4%	18%	1%	17%	0%
	Semi-skilled	11%	7%	-3%	11%	0%	11%	0%
	Unskilled	2%	1%	-1%	2%	0%	2%	0%

	Unknown	5%	1%	-4%	3%	-2%	4%	-2%
<b>PCG work (9 or prev)</b>	Work FT	42%	53%	10%	43%	0%	43%	1%
	Work PT	16%	17%	0%	17%	0%	17%	0%
	Not Work	41%	30%	-11%	40%	-1%	40%	-1%
<b>SCG work (9 or prev)</b>	Work	73%	86%	12%	76%	3%	75%	2%
	Not work	9%	6%	-2%	9%	0%	9%	0%
	Not present	18%	8%	-10%	15%	-3%	16%	-2%
<b>Where PCG born (w1)</b>	Ireland	80%	78%	-2%	79%	-1%	80%	0%
	NI, UK	6%	6%	0%	6%	0%	6%	0%
	Other EU	7%	8%	1%	8%	1%	7%	0%
	Non-EU	7%	7%	0%	8%	1%	7%	0%
<b>Housing tenure</b>	Owner	71%	83%	12%	73%	3%	72%	2%
	Social renter	13%	6%	-8%	11%	-2%	12%	-1%
	Private renter	14%	11%	-4%	14%	0%	14%	0%
<b>Region</b>	Other	2%	1%	0%	2%	0%	2%	0%
	Dublin	26%	24%	-2%	25%	0%	25%	0%
	BMW	28%	27%	-1%	28%	0%	28%	0%
	Elsewhere	46%	50%	3%	47%	0%	47%	0%
<b>PCG smoked</b>	Smoke daily	18%	9%	-9%	15%	-3%	17%	-1%
<b>PCG depression</b>	Depressed	12%	7%	-4%	10%	-2%	11%	-1%
<b>Study Child Gender</b>	Male	51%	49%	-3%	51%	-1%	52%	0%
	Female	49%	51%	3%	49%	1%	49%	0%
<b>Breastfeeding</b>	Ever breastfed	50%	67%	16%	54%	4%	52%	1%
<b>Study Child health at 9 months</b>	Has 1 of 16 cond.	24%	25%	1%	22%	-2%	24%	0%
	No cond, some problems	9%	10%	1%	10%	1%	9%	0%
	No cond, no prob	67%	65%	-2%	68%	1%	67%	0%

**POPULATION, UNWEIGHTED SAMPLE AND WEIGHTED SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION OF CHARACTERISTICS COHORT '98, COVID-19 SURVEY (N=2,277)**

		Population total	Unweighted		Weight carried forward		Covid weight	
		A. %	B. %	C = B-A	D. %	E. (D-A)	F. %	G. (F-A)
<b>PCG education (17 or latest)</b>	Primary	6%	2%	-4%	6%	-1%	6%	-1%
	Lower 2 <sup>nd</sup> level	20%	12%	-8%	23%	3%	20%	0%
	Upper Sec/Voc	41%	35%	-6%	39%	-2%	41%	0%
	Cert/Dip	16%	23%	7%	17%	1%	16%	0%
	Degree	17%	28%	11%	16%	-1%	17%	0%
<b>Family type (17 or latest)</b>	One-parent	23%	13%	-10%	20%	-3%	22%	-1%
	Two-parent	77%	87%	10%	80%	3%	78%	1%
<b>N children at age 9</b>	1-2	44%	41%	-2%	43%	0%	44%	0%
	3	31%	36%	5%	34%	3%	31%	0%
	4+	25%	22%	-3%	23%	-2%	25%	0%
<b>Income quintiles (equivalised) (17 or latest)</b>	Lowest	23%	14%	-9%	22%	-1%	22%	-1%
	2nd	21%	17%	-4%	22%	1%	21%	0%
	Middle	19%	19%	0%	19%	0%	19%	0%
	4th	18%	22%	4%	17%	-1%	19%	0%
	Highest	17%	27%	10%	17%	0%	17%	1%
	Missing	2%	1%	-1%	2%	0%	2%	0%
<b>Social class (17 or latest)</b>	Professional	8%	16%	8%	9%	1%	8%	0%
	Man'g./tech	31%	38%	7%	30%	-1%	31%	1%
	Oth non-man.	22%	21%	0%	21%	0%	22%	0%
	Skilled	16%	12%	-4%	18%	1%	16%	0%
	Semi-skilled	14%	10%	-4%	15%	1%	14%	0%
	Unskilled	3%	1%	-1%	3%	0%	3%	0%
	Unknown	7%	2%	-5%	5%	-2%	5%	-2%
<b>PCG work (17 or latest)</b>	Work FT	40%	49%	8%	39%	-2%	41%	1%
	Work PT	19%	18%	-1%	19%	0%	19%	0%
	Not Work	41%	34%	-7%	43%	2%	40%	-1%
<b>SCG work (17 or latest)</b>	Work	66%	81%	14%	69%	2%	68%	2%
	Not work	10%	6%	-4%	11%	1%	10%	0%
	Not present	23%	13%	-10%	20%	-3%	22%	-1%
<b>Young Adult Gender</b>	Male	51%	36%	-15%	39%	-12%	50%	-1%
	Female	49%	64%	15%	61%	12%	50%	1%
<b>Drumcondra reading test score at age 9</b>	Lowest	22%	14%	-8%	20%	-1%	21%	0%
	2nd	21%	16%	-5%	19%	-2%	20%	-1%
	Middle	19%	19%	-1%	20%	1%	19%	0%
	4th	18%	22%	4%	18%	0%	18%	0%
	Highest	17%	28%	11%	19%	2%	18%	1%
	Missing	3%	2%	-1%	3%	0%	3%	0%