



**An
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Central
Statistics
Office



Growing Up in Ireland

Growing Up in Ireland - Design principles for a child cohort study

UNECE/UNICEF Expert Meeting on Statistics on Children

4 March 2024

Bridget Hearne



Overview

- Growing up in Ireland - background
- Role of the CSO
- Official statistics & administrative data
- GUI & administrative data
- Cohort 24 – questionnaire design
- Future work plans





Growing Up in Ireland

- National longitudinal study – childhood through to adulthood
- Established to provide an evidence base for policy and services for children
- 2007-2022 carried out by research consortium under contract to Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY)
- Government decision 2019 – move GUI to CSO
 - Embed GUI in the official statistical system
- Jan 2023 – new model - partnership between CSO and DCEDIY
 - CSO GUI Survey – data collection and analysis
 - DCEDIY GUI Study – stakeholder consultation, identify research needs, promote use





GUI Cohorts

- Cohort 98
 - Born in 1998, survey began when they were 9 years old
 - Now 25 years old – latest survey is currently in the field
- Cohort 08
 - Born in 2008, survey began when they were 9 months old
 - Last surveyed at 13 – during Covid
 - Next survey at age 17 – 2025
- Cohort 24
 - Born in 2024 – data collection begins in September





The Role of the CSO

- National Statistical Office
- Statistics Act 1993
 - Mandate for data collection
 - Co-ordinating role for official statistics compiled by public authorities
 - Realise the potential of administrative data for statistical purposes



Official statistics & Administrative data



- CSO data protocol provides for the linkage of data sets, including administrative data provided the proposed data matching:
 - Complies, in full, with data protection legislation
 - Is undertaken solely for statistical purposes as defined in the Statistics Act, 1993
 - *the collection, compilation, extraction and dissemination for statistical purposes of information relating to economic, social and general activities and conditions in the State*
 - Is approved in advance by the Director General of the CSO





GUI & Administrative Data

- Use of admin data was central to decision to move GUI to CSO
 - Enhance existing analysis
 - Reduce respondent burden
 - Allow inter-wave analysis
 - Track pathways over time
- Admin data gives additional insights into, e.g. progression to employment, income levels between survey waves.
- GUI enables further exploration of phenomena observed in admin data



GUI & Administrative Data



- Current
 - Sampling frames
 - Education – CAO data linked with GUI
- Planned
 - Reduce primary data collection in & enhance longitudinal analysis
 - Interactions with public services
 - Information on public service settings and quality
 - Education and employment pathways
 - Geo-coding
 - Match to neighbourhood characteristics
 - Proximity analysis



Cohort 24 - Questionnaire Design



- Stakeholder engagement
- Longitudinal consistency
- International longitudinal studies
- Meta data reviews
- Administrative data



Future Work Plans



Year	Age at interview
	Cohort '24
2024	1
2025	
2026	3
2027	
2028	5
2029	
2030	7





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