

Longitudinal Studies in Ireland



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- Little tradition of longitudinal studies in Ireland
- Two childhood cohort studies to date
 - Growing up in Ireland (GUI) study (2007)
 - Lifeways Cross-generational Cohort study (2001)
- Material for today's presentation provided directly from the Lifeway's team (UCD) & publically available material on the GUI website

Growing up in Ireland (GUI) Study



- *Growing Up in Ireland* is the national longitudinal study of children.
- Funded by the Department of Health & Children through the Office for the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs in association with the Department of Social and Family Affairs and the Central Statistics Office.
- Carried out by a consortium of researchers led by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and Trinity College Dublin.



Objectives of GUI



- To study the lives of children in Ireland
- To establish what is typical and normal as well as what is atypical and problematic
- To identify the key factors that most help or hinder children's development
- To establish the effects of early child experiences on later life
- To obtain children's views and opinions on their lives
- Policy focus - to provide evidence base for the creation of effective and responsive policies and services for children and families

Two GUI Cohort Studies



- **Infant Cohort:** families of 11,100 nine-month-old infants, initially interviewed at nine months (2008-2009) and currently being interviewed at three years of age.
- **Child Cohort:** 8,500 children interviewed at nine years and (in latter half of 2011) 13-years.
- Conducted in-depth qualitative interview with 120 households from both cohorts
- All data will be deposited in data archives as a national resource

Infant GUI Cohort – 9 months



- 11,100 families and their children participated in first round
- The sample was randomly selected from the Child Benefit Register
- 65% response rate of all families approached
- Face-to face interviews administered by an interviewer in the infant's home
- Primary and Secondary caregivers were interviewed in person
- Information was recorded on a postal basis from: other regular caregivers (8 hours+ per week) & non-resident parents

Information in Wave 1



- Socio-demographic information
 - Pregnancy & birth
 - Infant health
 - Infants' routines & developmental status
 - Childcare
 - Parenting & support
 - Neighbourhood environment
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- First report available: “*Growing Up in Ireland: The Infants and their Families*” (2010) – Williams, J., et al.

Child GUI Cohort – 9 years



- Sample was generated through the Primary school system – 910 schools participated.
 - 8,500 children were recruited through these schools
- School response rate was 82% & family response rate was 57%
- In the school:
 - Principal interviewed
 - Teacher interviewed – about him/herself + child
 - Academic assessment tests in vocabulary and maths (Drumcondra tests)
 - Piers-Harris self-concept scale
- In the home:
 - Child
 - Primary and Secondary Caregivers - Parent(s) / guardian(s)
- *By post:*
 - Other regular care giver (8 hours+ per week)
 - Non resident parent

Information in Wave 1



- Family structures
 - Parenting
 - Child Health – status & healthcare utilisation
 - Social emotional & behavioural wellbeing
 - Education – school and home settings
 - Peer relationships
 - Activities
 - Neighbourhoods and communities
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- First report available: “*Growing Up in Ireland: The Lives of Nine Year Olds*” (2009) – Williams, J., et al.

GUI Information & Data



- Data available at <http://www.ucd.ie/issda/>
 - 9 year old cohort (wave 1) currently available
 - 9 month old cohort (wave 1) available this year
- Information on the study, incl. questionnaires, reports etc.
 - <http://www.growingup.ie/>

Lifeways Cross-Generational Cohort Study



- One of the first longitudinal birth cohorts in Ireland: Began 2001
- Conducted by UCD & NUIG & funded by the Irish Health Research Board
- **Aims:**
 - To determine health status, diet and lifestyle of the mother, father, index child and grandparents and to establish patterns and links across generations,
 - To examine how socio-economic factors, particularly means-tested free primary care, influences health during the first five years of a new-born's life,
 - To document primary care utilisation patterns across the social spectrum and across generations,
 - To examine risk factors for cardiovascular disease in Ireland.
- Cohort of three generations rare in longitudinal study design

LIFEWAYS COHORT STUDY DESIGN



- **Sample:**
 - 1124 mothers-to-be recruited during their first ante-natal visit
 - Two hospitals: Galway (west) and Dublin (east)
 - Recruited between October 2001 & January 2003
 - 1094 babies born and available for follow-up
 - 358 fathers and 1177 grandparents also participating
- **Methodology**
 - Self-completion questionnaire, hospital and birth records, parent-held child records, adults held records, physical examination of grandparents (subset).

		Mother	Child	Father	Grandparents
2001-2003	Recruitment Q'aire, all adults	1124	NA	358	1177
	Birth of baby, hospital linkage data	1082	1094 12 twin pairs	NA	NA
	Recruitment Examination, grandparents only				958 : 332 MGM, 198 MGF, 192 PGM, 127 PGF
	Parent-held record, year 1	NA	307	NA	NA
	HSE Immunisation records	NA	749	NA	NA
2005	GP follow-up note survey, child aged 3	705	703	188	729
2007-2008	Home follow-up, child aged between 4-6 years	669 84 questionnaire only, 541 BMI & WC, 44 not measured	585 height, weight, BMI and WC	567 questionnaire completed for partner 81 BMI and WC	NA
	Dietary assessment year 5, sub-sample only	NA	NA	NA	138
	GRO recorded death 2010	NA	NA	NA	85

FURTHER FOLLOW-UP



- Expanded mortality follow-up for all grandparents
- Follow-up for inter-current events with General Practitioners of all family members
- Anthropometric measurement and collection of blood and tissue samples for genotyping and assessment of metabolic risk factors in children aged 7 to 8 years.

AREAS OF RESEARCH



- Relationship of body mass index and height over three generations
- Maternal diet during pregnancy and offspring adiposity
- Maternal diet in pregnancy and risk of asthma in children
- Maternal body mass index and infant birthweight
- CVD risk profile of grandparents and grandchild's birthweight
- Factors which explain social inequalities that influence birth outcomes
- Occupational predictors of birth outcomes.
- Predictors of MMR vaccine uptake
- Determinants of primary vaccinations
- Accuracy of parent-held records for immunisations
- Predictors of mother-reported health status of child
- Predictors of self-rated health of mothers during pregnancy

- More information:

<http://www.ucd.ie/phpps/research/clinicalepidemiologygroup/lifewayscrossgenerationcohortstudy/>

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