



# Growing Up in Ireland

## Research Needs for Cohort '98 at Wave 5: Age 25

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14<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Research  
Conference  
2022

# Introduction

- Report aims to inform the survey for the next wave of Growing Up in Ireland Cohort '98 at age 25
- History of GUI Cohort '98
  - Previously interviewed at age 9, 13, 17/18 and 20 (in 2018)
  - Now substantial dataset on development from middle childhood to early adulthood
  - Main domains of health, socio-emotional well-being, education, and (latterly) civic and economic participation
- Special short COVID online survey Dec 2020 (then age 22 years)
- Next wave will be carried out directly by DCEDIY and CSO in 2023

# Age 25 vs Age 20

- A majority will have **transitioned to the labour market**
  - Starting on a career pathway versus stop-gap job
- Expect more to be in a long-term **relationship** and to have become parents themselves
- **Greater independence** from parents (economic and otherwise)
  - But some may now in turn be providing financial support to their family of origin
  - More may be still living at home compared to earlier cohorts
- **Friends** will remain important but dynamics/individuals affected by geographical and career moves
- But how will the **COVID-19 pandemic** have affected these transitions and aspirations?

# Consultation Process



Online survey of academic  
and policy stakeholders



Roundtable workshop with  
stakeholders



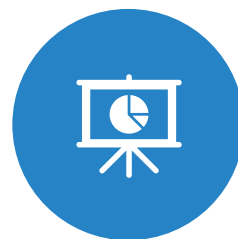
Focus groups with young  
adults



Overview of content from  
comparable studies



Literature review



Overview of policy  
landscape

# Topics for Age 25



# Criteria for Inclusion

- ‘Topic’ drivers and ‘structural’ considerations
- Captures a key domain of interest at age 25?
- Policy relevant?
- Age/stage appropriate?
- Longitudinal consistency / comparability with other studies?
- Captures diversity of experience?
- Realistic to measure as part of GUI?
- Balanced against the **need to avoid overburdening** participant

- **Health and well-being**
  - *Healthy Ireland 2013-2025*
  - *Sharing the Vision: A Mental Health Policy for Everyone*
  - *National Strategy for Women and Girls 2017-2020*
- **Post-school education**
  - *The National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030*
  - *Future FET, Transforming Learning: The National Further Education and Training (FET) Strategy 2020-2024*
  - *Action Plan for Apprenticeship 2021-2025*
- **Economic participation**
  - *National Development Plan 2018-2027*
  - *Pathways to Work 2016-2020*
  - *Roadmap for Social Inclusion*
- ***Housing for All – A New Housing Plan for Ireland***
- ***The Climate Action Plan 2019 to Tackle Climate Breakdown***

# Spotlight for Today on...

- Pathways from education to labour market
- Housing & demographics
- Mental/emotional health
- Relationships
- COVID-19

## **Report also covers:**

- Concerns & aspirations
- Civic/cultural engagement
- Physical health
- Methodological issues



## **Context:**

- Employment levels: 69% for 20-24YOs, 84% for 25-34YOs (CSO, 2021)

## **Items on employment/event history:**

- Retain many questions from age 20
- New questions on remote working, reflections on career pathway, unemployment (reasons for, efforts to find employment)

## **Items on education:**

- Detail on course completed/ongoing
- Satisfaction with choices

*“You might end up leaving university with a PhD degree but... because you don’t know people you might end up not getting it [a job].”*

# Housing & Demographics

## Context:

- During the COVID-19 survey (Dec 2020), 72% of 22YOs lived at home

## Items:

- Longitudinal consistency in SES measures from previous waves (e.g. financial strain)
- New questions on shared living arrangements (e.g. having space/privacy, sharing chores, expenses), cost (e.g. availing of HAP), time/distance from family home

*"... you will find us... doing three or four jobs to try to pay rent."*

*"In my age group, moving out is just impossible."*

# Mental Well-being

## Context:

- 48% of 22-year-olds were in the 'low mood' category in the GUI COVID survey (up from 27% at age 20)

## Items:

- Longitudinal consistency in several measures such as CES-D, life satisfaction, self-esteem
- New items on changes in outlook post-pandemic
  - Scientific and policy advisors keen to capture growth from the experience
- Ubiquity of social media

*"When do you get to disconnect? Like it can be work and stuff, but even your friends, when do you find time for yourself?"*

# Relationships

## Context:

- Pregnancy/parenthood asked about at 20, but fewer than 5% had a child or were pregnant

## Items:

- 'Being a parent' module consistent with items asked of Cohort '08 at 9 months
  - Other studies such as ALSPAC follow children of original cohort
- More information on 'significant other'
- Continue items on relationship with parents although parent's own interview discontinued

*"I know that at 25 people are looking at settling down with their long-term partners, and wedding bells are ringing – it's about that age."*

## Context:

- 1.5 million infections to date in Ireland
- In the GUI COVID survey, nearly half of 22-year-olds employed pre-pandemic had experienced job loss/temporary lay-off

## Items on physical health:

- Prevalence/diagnosis, effect, support, vaccine

## Items on concerns & aspirations:

- How do you think the pandemic affected your physical health, mental health, relationships, career path, general outlook in life
- Optimism about the future; social isolation scale

*“Your hopes changed, your aspirations changed, your priorities – suddenly it was ‘stay home, stay safe’.”*

# Potential Innovations for Age 25

- Data linkage possibilities
- Short emigrant follow-up survey
- Options for cognitive testing
- Enhanced accessibility and relevance for participants with an intellectual disability
- Booster samples
- Bio-markers

# Next Steps

- DCEDIY and CSO have agreed a questionnaire
- CSO to commence piloting shortly
- Interviews with 25-year-olds only (no parent or spouse)
- Main data collection in 2023

# Acknowledgments

- Academic and policy-maker stakeholders from around Ireland
- Young adult focus group participants; kindly organised by the National Youth Council
- Colleagues in the ESRI and TCD especially Helen Russell, Barra Roantree and Seamus McGuinness
- Colleagues in DCEDIY
- Growing Up in Ireland participants