# SAMPLE DESIGN AND RESPONSE IN

# WAVE 1

# OF THE INFANT COHORT

# (AT 9 MONTHS)

# OF

# GROWING UP IN IRELAND

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

In this document we describe the methodology and sample design of the first wave of the nine-month cohort of **Growing Up in Ireland**. We begin in Section 2 with a discussion of the population under consideration, the sample design and the achieved response rates. Section 3 outlines the way in which the data were reweighted and grossed prior to analysis.

# 2. THE POPULATION, SAMPLING FRAME AND RESPONSE RATES

## 2.1 The Population of nine-month-olds

Although figures fluctuate from year to year there is currently an annual total of just over 70,000 births in Ireland. This figure has grown from 51,659 in 1989 to 70,620 in 2007[1]. Figure 2.1 shows that the total number of births fell somewhat in each year from 1989 to 1994 after which they showed an annual increase up to 2007, with minor annual dips in 1999 and 2005. From Figure 2.1 one can see that an important trend in the number and characteristics of births in Ireland over the last two decades has been the increasing number to mothers in a non-marital relationship (going from 6,522 in 1989 to 23,170 in 2007).

**Fig. 2.1: Trends in total births and births outside of marriage, 1989 to 2007.**
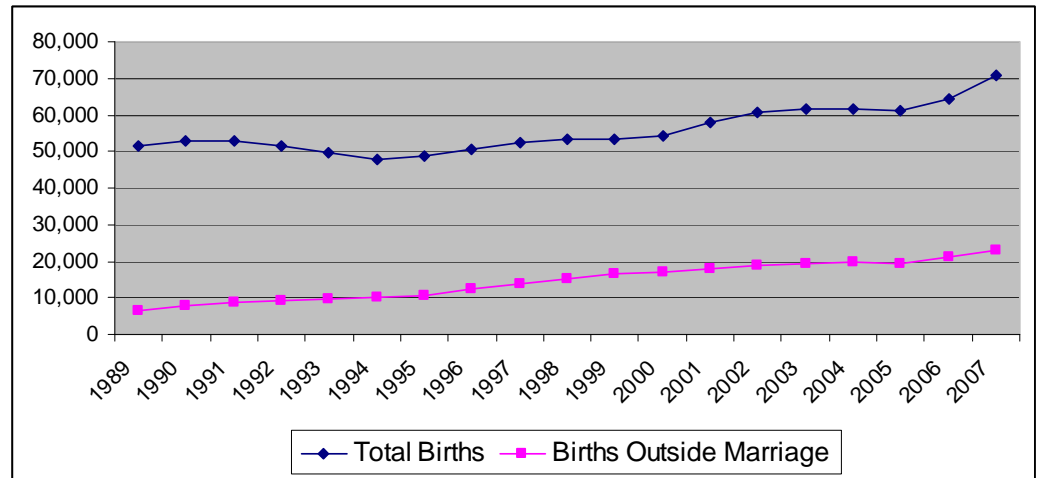


*Source: Vital Statistics, Central Statistics Office*

As shown in Figure 2.2 this represents almost a tripling of the percentage of births outside marriage, from 12.6 per cent in 1989 to 32.8 per cent in 2007[2].

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[1] See, for example, Central Statistics Office, Ireland website, data direct, at
http://www.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/Dialog/varval.asp?ma=VSA03&ti=Total+Births+and+Deaths+Registered+by+Year+and+Statistic&path=../Database/Eirestat/Births%20Deaths%20and%20Marriages/&lang=1
[2] This reflects marital status at time of birth. Many of the relationships in question subsequently mature into a married relationship.

**Fig. 2.2: Trends in percentage of total births outside marriage, 1989 to 2007**
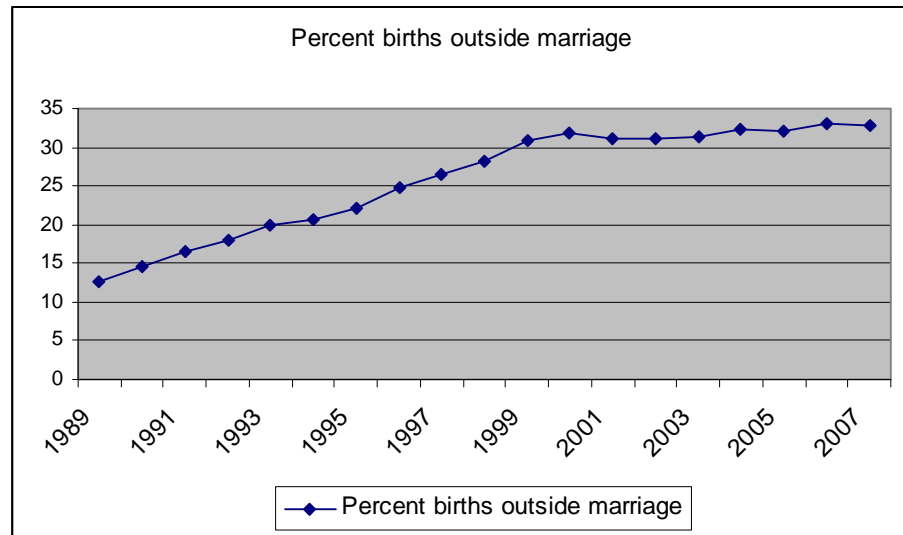


*Source:  Vital Statistics, Central Statistics Office*

Figure 2.3 shows that the average age of mothers at birth has shown an upward trend over the last 20 years, rising by 1.4 years from 29.6 years in 1989 to 31.0 years in 2005. The increase in age has also been somewhat greater among births outside marriage, with the average age of mothers rising by 3.5 years from 23.5 in 1989 to 27.0 years in 2005.

**Fig. 2.3: Average age of mother at birth, 1989 to 2007**
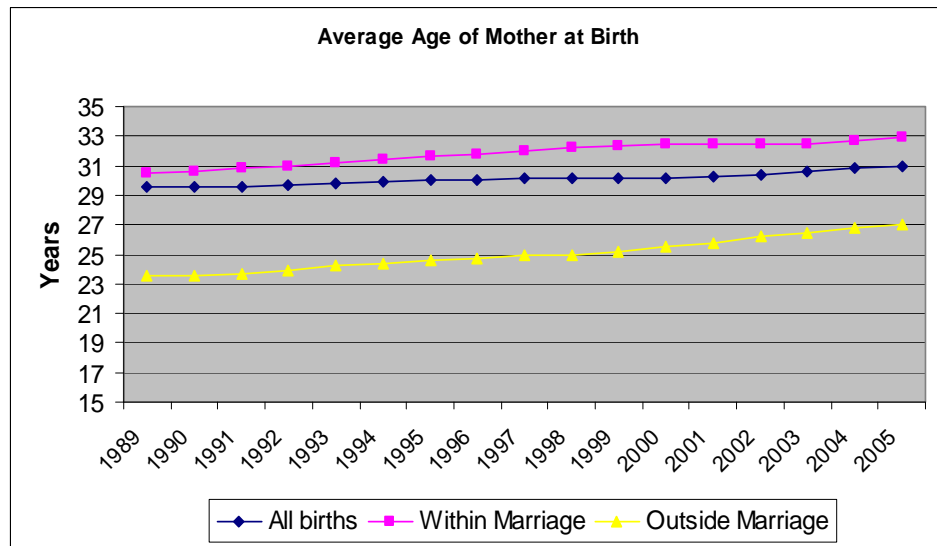


From Figure 2.4 one can see that although there is some fluctuation in the breakdown of births by gender the figures have remained relatively stable since the early 1960's with the gender split being 51.4 percent to 48.6 percent in favour of boys.

**Fig. 2.4: Trends in percentage of total births by gender, 1969 to 2007**
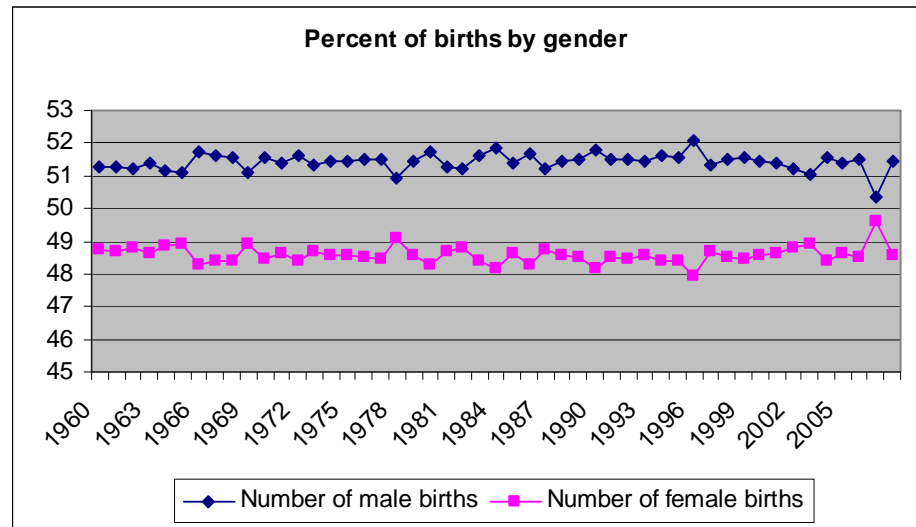


In implementing **Growing Up in Ireland** we completed surveys with the families of 11,134 infants in the relevant age category over the period September 2008 to end April 2009. These were selected from the approximate 41,000 births over the period 1st December 2007 to 30th June 2008. This completed sample of 11,134 represents approximately one-third of all births in the State over the field period.

**2.2 A Population Frame for nine-month-olds**

The aim was to interview the families of a random sample of 11,000 nine-month old children. As with all sample design strategies, the first issue was the identification of an appropriate sampling frame. The ideal frame for any statistical survey is an up–to–date and fully comprehensive listing of all elements of the relevant population in question. Each element of the population should appear once and once only – there should be no omissions and no duplication. In addition, the frame should not include any invalid elements (in this case, children who are outside the age range). The Child Benefit Register was identified as coming very close to such a frame.

Child Benefit is paid each month in respect of all children under the age of 16 years. It is normally paid to the child's mother or stepmother. If the child is not living with the mother / stepmother it may be paid to the father / stepfather who is living with and supporting the child. If the child is not living with or being maintained by the parent(s) then the payment is made to the person who is caring for the child. The benefit may be made by direct payment (to an account in a financial institution) or by a book of payable orders, which are cashed at a Post Office of the parent/guardian's choice. Everyone who is claiming child benefit must have a Personal Public Service Number (PPSN). Child Benefit must be claimed within 6 months of the child being born or in the 6 months after the child becoming a member of the family or within 6 months of the family coming to reside in Ireland.

Because it is a payments database it must be current and fully up-to-date. The Department of Social Protection (formerly Department of Social and Family Affairs) which maintains the database and carries out periodic postal checks of recipients with follow-up checks to non-contacts from the postal checks.

It is clear that there is a compelling financial reason for all parents/guardians of children within the State to ensure that their child(ren) is/are registered. From this perspective it is obviously the case that omissions of valid elements of the population in question would, in all likelihood, be extremely rare.  Similarly, from the Department's perspective duplication is clearly undesirable and, given the nature of the information held on the database, can generally be checked and eliminated.

A validation exercise[3] was completed by the Study Team to compare the Child Benefit Records and Vital Statistics based on detailed figures provided from both the Child Benefit Register and Vital Statistics for three quarters in 2004/2005[4].  The exercise indicated that the figures from Vital Statistics and the Child Benefit Register were highly consistent over the period included in the reconciliation exercise, with an aggregate discrepancy of the order of 3 per cent of the population, representing an absolute difference of 1,411 children – 45,585 from Vital Statistics and 44,174 from Child Benefit.

On balance, there is every reason to believe that the Child Benefit register is possibly unique among administrative databases in the extent to which it possesses all of the desirable characteristics necessary for use as a sampling frame, especially for the infant cohort. It contains a comprehensive up-to-date listing of eligible members of the relevant population; has a wide range of relevant characteristic variables and is already in an electronic form which can be technically accessed with relative ease.

## 2.3 The Sampling Period and Sample Design

There was a total of 41,185 infants registered on the Child Benefit Register as having been born between 1st December 2007 and 30th June 2008. Children for inclusion in the Study were sampled over this seven month reference period, with a view to carrying out fieldwork when they were 9 months of age, between September 2008 and March / April 2009. The sample was selected on a payee systematic basis, pre-stratifying by marital status, county of residence and nationality of payee as well as number of children in the claim - all variables which were available from the information recorded on the Register.  A simple systematic selection procedure based on a random start and constant sampling fraction was used.

The samples for each of the seven months of fieldwork were selected independently from each relevant tranche of the Child Benefit Register.  Fieldwork for each of the seven birth months stretched over two months – depending on the child's date of birth within the birth month.  For example, a child born on 1st December 2007 was within age scope from 1st to 30th September 2008.  A child born on 25th December 2007 was not within age scope until 26th September and his / her family was eligible for interview from 26th September 2008 until 25th October 2008.  Accordingly, each birth group (month) straddled two months of fieldwork, depending on day of birth within month.  The reference dates of birth for each of the seven field groups were as follows:

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[3] See *Note on Sampling the 9-month cohort in the National longitudinal Study of Children,* (NLSCI/M006/090606), submitted to Project Team, 9th June 2006.
[4] Q4 2004, Q1 and Q2 2005.

Group 1 – born 1$^{st}$ – 31$^{st}$ December 2007 – interviewed September/October 2008
Group 2 – born 1$^{st}$ – 31$^{st}$ January 2008 – interviewed October/November 2008
Group 3 – born 1$^{st}$– 29$^{th}$ February 2008 – interviewed November/December 2008
Group 4 – born 1$^{st}$ – 31$^{st}$ March 2008 – interviewed December 2008/January 2009
Group 5 – born 1$^{st}$ – 30$^{th}$ April 2008 – interviewed January / February 2009.
Group 6 – born 1$^{st}$ – 31$^{st}$ May 2008 – interviewed February / March 2009
Group 7 – born 1$^{st}$ – 30$^{th}$ June 2008 – interviewed March/ April 2009

Table 2.1 summarises the structure of the Child Benefit Register according to marital status of recipient, broad region of nationality and age of recipient on birth of child.

**Table 2.1: Structure of Child Benefit Register for children born 1$^{st}$ December 2007 to 30$^{th}$ June 2008.**

| Marital Status | Per cent | Broad Region of Nationality of Mother | Per cent | Age of Mother | Per cent |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cohabiting | 6.6 | Ireland | 75.0 | less than 20 | 1.0 |
| Deserted | 0.2 | Britain | 3.6 | 20 – 24 | 9.3 |
| Divorced/ Legally sep | 0.8 | Other Western Europe | 7.5 | 25 – 29 | 19.1 |
| Married | 65.2 | Eastern Europe | 4.2 | 30 – 35 | 39.6 |
| Separated | 0.9 | Africa | 3.1 | 36 – 39 | 21.9 |
| Single | 25.7 | Pacific | 1.2 | 40 – 44 | 8.6 |
| Unknown | 0.4 | Middle East | 0.2 | 45 + | 0.5 |
| Widowed | 0.1 | N America | 0.5 | | |
| | | South America | 0.4 | | |
| | | Indian Subcontinent | 1.4 | Average age all | 32.3 years |
| | | Austral/New Zealand | 0.2 | Average age married | 34.1 years |
| | | China | 0.8 | Average age single | 28.1 years |
| | | Other | 2.0 | | |
| | | | | | |

The table confirms that just over one-third of births are to non-marital households. The Child Benefit figures indicate 34.8 per cent in 2008 compared with a 2005/2006 figure of 32.8 per cent as outlined in Figure 2.2 above. Some of this difference may be attributable to definitional differences in marital status categories used by Child Benefit and Vital Statistics. There is some ambiguity on how certain non-marital categories were assigned to Vital Statistics (notably widowed, separated, legally separated and divorced – some co-habitees may also be legally married, others may be single etc).

A further important point of note from the table is the relatively high percentage of infants within age range who are born to non-nationals. One can see that a total of 75.0 per cent of infants on the Child Benefit Register are classified as 'Irish'. The figures in the table clearly indicate that a very high percentage of children aged 9 months are in non-national families. This is a relatively new phenomenon in Ireland and reflects substantial growth in the number of non-nationals resident in the country since the signing of the Accession State Treaty in May 2004. A very large proportion of non-nationals are East European. The increased numbers of non-national families has clear implications in terms of questionnaire implementation and the need for foreign language versions of instruments and translators. Both trends (i.e. increases in the number of relevant children to non-marital families and also to non-nationals) were accounted for in sample design, as they were identified as having substantial impacts on recruitment and participation rates.

In the Pilot and Dress Rehearsal phases of the 9-month cohort lower response rates were encountered among families in which the marital status of the Study Child's guardian[5] was other than "married". For example, Table 2.2 outlines response rates in the Dress Rehearsal classified according to marital status – the latter as recorded on the Child Benefit Register rather than in the course of the survey itself.

**Table 2.2:  Response rates in Dress Rehearsal of *Growing Up,* May 2008**

| Marital Status of Benefit Recipient | Per cent successfully participating |
|---|---|
| Cohabiting | 59.1 |
| Divorced / Deserted | 40.0 |
| Legally sep | 25.0 |
| Married | 69.2 |
| Single (incl. widowed) | 54.5 |

In light of the lower participation rates in some of the smaller (subgroups of the population in question the non-marital subgroups were slightly over-sampled to ensure that there was an adequate absolute number of respondents for analysis in each of these highly policy relevant subgroups. Table 2.3 summarises the percentage breakdown of the aggregate population of relevant births over the seven field months in question along with the *target* sample according to marital status of Benefit recipient from the Child Benefit Register. This illustrates the extent of over-sampling in non-married categories and under-sampling (to the extent of 6.1 percentage points) in the married category.

**Table 2.3: Comparison of Population and Target Sample breakdowns,**
***Growing Up,* main phase, infant quantitative study.**

| Marital Status of Benefit Recipient | Population | Target Sample |
|---|---|---|
|  | Per cent | |
| Cohabiting | 6.6 | 7.7 |
| Deserted | 0.2 | 0.4 |
| Divorced / Legally sep | 0.8 | 1.4 |

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[5] i.e. the payee on the Child Benefit Register

| Married | 65.2 | 59.1 |
|---|---|---|
| Separated | 0.9 | 1.6 |
| Single | 25.7 | 29.0 |
| Unknown | 0.4 | 0.8 |
| Widowed | 0.1 | 0.2 |

Similarly, with a view to ensuring that non-national infants and their families were represented in adequate numbers in the effective sample a separate supplementary sample of non-national children was selected in the course of sampling. This was selected as an independent sub-sample (after selection of the main sample) and was included to address the higher non-participation among non-national families. The higher non-recruitment of non-nationals was linked to contact difficulties and language problems. Families classified as non-national on the Child Benefit Register appear to have been residentially more mobile with lower contact rates that their indigenous counterparts. This higher level of residential mobility was reflected in a slightly higher incidence of outcome codes such as 'Non-contact despite repeated call-backs' and 'Moved, no forwarding address'. The inclusion of the supplementary sample of 700 non-national families in the overall sample ensured that the absolute number of non-national respondents in the completed sample for analysis was representative of the population.

## 2.4 Response Rates

Table 2.4 below outlines the response rates obtained during the main phase of fieldwork. Three response rates are presented.

**Column A** presents the gross rate based on all sample allocated to the field staff.

**Column B** presents rates excluding cases where there was no valid address i.e. target respondents who were either (i) affirmatively identified by the interviewer as having moved from the address provided or (ii) target respondents in respect of whom the address provided was identified as being invalid, not locatable, derelict, demolished or vacant. On the basis that there was no valid address for the target respondents in question it would have been impossible for the interviewer to have located them. It also excludes households where the interviewer was informed that the target infant was deceased at the time of interview.

**Column C** present the response rates based on valid contacts made by the interviewer. The rates in Column C differ from those presented in Column B by the exclusion of target respondents who were classified as 'No contact, despite repeated call backs'. It should be noted that there is very little substantive difference between target respondents in the 'Moved, no forwarding address' category and those included in 'No contact, despite repeated call backs'. The only difference may be that the latter group was affirmatively identified by the interviewer as having moved (with no forwarding address), the former had not.

From the figures we can see that the valid address response rate (Column B) was 64.3 per cent with a refusal rate of 22.0 per cent. When we exclude out 'No contact, despite call backs' we get a valid contact response rate (Column C) of 70.2 per cent.

**Table 2.4: Response Rates**

| | A - Gross Response | B - Valid Address Response | C - Valid Contact Repons e |
|---|---|---|---|
| | % | % | % |
| Completed | 58.2 | 64.3 | 70.2 |
| Unavailable to participate within fieldwork dates | 3.1 | 3.4 | 3.8 |
| Refused* | 19.9 | 22.0 | 24.1 |
| Partially completed - will not complete | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.8 |
| Unable to participate due to language | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.7 |
| Other | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| *Total valid contact* | | | *100.0* |
| No contact, despite call backs | 7.6 | 8.5 | |
| *Total valid address* | | *100.0* | |
| Moved no forwarding address | 7.4 | | |
| Invalid address, could not locate/vacant/derelict | 2.1 | | |
| Child deceased | 0.1 | | |
| *Total* | *100.0* | | |

* includes 15 cases where the interview was completely but respondent subsequently withdrew from the study

# 3. REWEIGHTING THE DATA

All sample survey data should be re-weighted or statistically adjusted prior to analysis to ensure that the structure of the completed sample along key dimensions is in line with the population from which it has been selected. By statistically re-weighting the data one can compensate for any imbalances in the structure of the recruited sample as compared with the population of interest. These imbalances may arise from a number of sources – usually the population frame being used, the sample design or differential response patterns within subgroups of the population under study.

The sample weights for the first phase of the nine-month cohort of **Growing Up in Ireland** were constructed by adjusting the distribution of the sample to known population figures. The population distributions were derived from two sources. The first source was from tabulations which were prepared by the Central Statistics Office on the number and characteristics of children (aged less than one year old) and their families from the 2006 Census of Population[6]. The 2006 Census of Population provided the most up-to-date figures on the distribution of children in the country. The second source was the Child Benefit Register from which the sample was drawn. The 73,662 children registered on the Child Benefit Register as being born in the calendar year 2008 were taken as the population to which the sample was statistically weighted and grossed in statistically re-adjusting the sample.

The system used for generating the sample weights was based on a minimum information loss algorithm which ensured that the distribution of cases in the completed sample matched a set of control totals for the population. It is based on an iterative approach to the fitting of column marginals from the completed sample to those of the population as a whole. The program used for generating the weights is known as GROSS. It was developed for the ESRI in 1996[7] and has been used on all survey work carried out by the Institute since that time. The anonymised microdata file contains a weighting factor (**WGT_9MTH**) and also a grossing factor (**GROSS_9MTH**). The latter calibrates to the population total of 73,662 children aged less than one year who were on the Child Benefit Register in the calendar year 2008. The weighting factor incorporates the structural adjustment of the completed sample to the structure of the population, whilst maintaining the total completed sample size (number of cases) at 11,134. Both **GROSS_9MTH** and **WGT_9MTH** provide the user with the same structural breakdown of the data. The latter can, of course, be used in significance testing.

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[6] The Study Team gratefully acknowledges the very substantial work undertaken by the CSO in the preparation of the detailed tabulations in question.
[7] This was developed by Johanna Gomulka from the London School of Economics.
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 Totals." University of Cambridge, Department of Economics, Microsimulation Unit Research Note MU/RN/4, March 1994.

The child was the unit used in the weighting system. The characteristics of their family were assigned to each child in the sample. A total of 11 main characteristics of the infant and his/her family were used in the generation of the weights, as outlined and defined in Table 2.5 below. Variable domains 1 to 8 were derived from specially prepared tabulations from the Census of Population 2006. The final three variable domains (9 to 11) were derived from the Child Benefit Register.

**Table 2.5: Main variables used in statistically adjusting the 9-month cohort.**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. | **Family Structure** – 12 categories based on lone or two parent family combined with the number of persons (not children) in the family unit. This gives a classification based on cohabiting couple, married couple and lone parent families along with the number of persons in their famiy. |
| 2. | **Mother's Age** – five categories of mother's age, ranging from '25years or less' to '41 years or more'. |
| 3. | **Mother's Principal Economic Status (PES)** – five categories of mother's work situation, ranging from 'working for payment or profit' to 'looking after the home'. |
| 4. | **Father's Principal Economic Status (PES)** – six categories of father's work situation, ranging from 'working for payment or profit' to 'father not resident'. |
| 5. | **Family's Social Class** – seven categories of family's social class ranging from 'professional workers' to 'family validly has no class code'. Mother and father's social class were derived from current or most recent occupation (if currently unemployed or retired). A category was included for those who validly do not have a social class classification because they have never worked outside the home. When the Social Class of Father and Mother have been assigned, family social class is then based on the higher of the two. This is a standard way to assign collective family social class and is referred to as the 'dominance' criterion. |
| 6. | **Mother's Education** – 13 categories of mother's highest level of educational attainment ranging from 'no formal education' to 'doctorate'. |
| 7. | **Household tenure** – five categories of the household's tenure of their accommodation, ranging from 'owner occupier, with or without a loan' to 'occupied free of rent'. |
| 8. | **Region / Child's gender** – 16 categories summarising the geographical location of the child, with separate categories for boys and girls. The region categories range from 'border' to 'west'. |
| 9. | **Mother's Marital Status** – eight categories of mother's marital status at the time of the birth of the child, ranging from 'cohabiting' to 'widowed'. |
| 10. | **Mother's Nationality** - 13 categories of the mother's nationality, ranging from 'Ireland' to 'other'. |
| 11. | **Mother's Residency Status** – nine categories of mother's residency status, ranging from 'other' to 'work permit holder'. |

Table 2.6 shows the breakdown of the population, the unweighted sample and the weighted sample by each of the variables used in the statistical re-weighting. Column B gives a percentage breakdown of the population of infants according to each of the eleven family characteristics in the table. For example, 7.7 per cent of infants aged less than one year were in families with a cohabiting couple with 3 persons; 4.6 per cent in families with a cohabiting couple with 4 persons and so on.

Column D presents the comparable breakdown for the unweighted sample. Comparison of Columns D and A gives an indication of the extent to which the statistically unadjusted or unweighted sample represents the population. In general, one can see that the unweighted sample is very representative. As one would expect it is underrepresented in terms of lone parents (who are characteristically more difficult to access and recruit into sample surveys) and mothers in lower educational categories (again as one would expect in surveys of this sort). Overall, however the sample is very well balanced relative to the population across the domains outlined in the table.

Column E in the table provides a breakdown of the weighted or statistically adjusted sample. A comparison of this Column with Column B shows that the weighting procedure has adjusted the sample to make it virtually identical with the structure of the population in respect of all 99 variables in the re-weighting scheme.

**Table 2.6: Breakdown of (i) population of nine-month-olds, (ii) unweighted sample and (ii) weighted sample according to child and family characteristics**

| Characteristic Variable | (i) Population | | (ii) Unweighted Sample | | (iii) Weighted Sample |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | No of Children | % of Children | No of Children | % of Children | % of Children |
| | A | B | C | D | E |
| **1. Family Structure** | | | | | |
| Cohabiting couple with children,  3 Persons | 5,701 | 7.7 | 1,014 | 9.1 | 7.9 |
| Cohabiting couple with children, 4 persons | 3,378 | 4.6 | 674 | 6.1 | 4.7 |
| Cohabiting couple with children,  5 persons | 1,181 | 1.6 | 301 | 2.7 | 1.6 |
| Cohabiting couple with children,  6 persons | 410 | 0.6 | 122 | 1.1 | 0.6 |
| Cohabiting couple with children,  7 persons | 198 | 0.3 | 84 | 0.8 | 0.3 |
| Husband and wife with children,   3 Persons | 16,552 | 22.5 | 2,396 | 21.5 | 22.7 |
| Husband and wife with children,   4 persons | 18,021 | 24.5 | 2,673 | 24.0 | 24.7 |
| Husband and wife with children,   5 persons | 10,942 | 14.9 | 1,570 | 14.1 | 15.1 |
| Husband and wife with children,   6 persons | 3,933 | 5.3 | 665 | 6.0 | 5.4 |
| Husband and wife with children,   7 persons | 1,706 | 2.3 | 277 | 2.5 | 2.4 |
| Lone parent with children  2 or 3 or 4 persons | 10,686 | 14.5 | 969 | 8.7 | 13.4 |
| Lone parent with children  5 or 6 or 7 persons | 953 | 1.3 | 389 | 3.5 | 1.3 |
| **2. Mother's Age** | | | | | |
| Mother, 25 yrs or less | 11,629 | 15.8 | 1,598 | 14.4 | 15.2 |
| Mother, 26-30 years | 17,320 | 23.5 | 2,678 | 24.1 | 23.6 |
| Mother, 31-35 yrs | 26,619 | 36.1 | 3,961 | 35.6 | 36.4 |
| Mother, 36-40 yrs | 15,036 | 20.4 | 2,448 | 22.0 | 20.6 |
| Mother, 41yrs or more | 3,058 | 4.2 | 449 | 4.0 | 4.2 |

| 3. Mother's Prinicpal Economic Status (PES) | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mother, Working for payment or profit | 41,151 | 55.9 | 6,381 | 57.3 | 56.1 |
| Mother, Looking for first regular job or unemployed | 4,592 | 6.2 | 365 | 3.3 | 5.5 |
| Mother, Student or pupil | 1,124 | 1.5 | 227 | 2.0 | 1.6 |
| Mother, Looking after home/family | 24,617 | 33.4 | 4,042 | 36.3 | 35.8 |
| Mother, other PES | 2,178 | 3.0 | 119 | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| 4.Father's Principal Economic Status (PES) | | | | | |
| Father, Working for payment or profit | 55,875 | 75.9 | 8,500 | 76.3 | 76.8 |
| Father, Looking for first regular job or unemployed | 3,829 | 5.2 | 885 | 7.9 | 5.3 |
| Father, Student or pupil | 449 | 0.6 | 84 | 0.8 | 0.6 |
| Father, Looking after home/family | 905 | 1.2 | 75 | 0.7 | 1.2 |
| Father, Other PES | 1,482 | 2.0 | 232 | 2.1 | 1.3 |
| Father, Other [Lone mothers - father not resident] | 11,121 | 15.1 | 1,358 | 12.2 | 14.8 |
| 5.Family's Social Class | | | | | |
| Family, Professional workers | 9,498 | 12.9 | 2,036 | 18.3 | 13.1 |
| Family, Managerial and technical | 25,612 | 34.8 | 3,394 | 30.5 | 34.9 |
| Family, Non-manual | 13,606 | 18.5 | 1,843 | 16.6 | 18.2 |
| Family, Skilled manual | 11,115 | 15.1 | 1,580 | 14.2 | 15.1 |
| Family, Semi-skilled | 5,711 | 7.8 | 828 | 7.4 | 7.6 |
| Family, Unskilled | 1,592 | 2.2 | 191 | 1.7 | 2.1 |
| Family, Family validly has no class code | 6,528 | 8.9 | 1,262 | 11.3 | 9.0 |
| 6. Mother's Education | | | | | |
| Mother, No Formal Education | 142 | 0.2 | 37 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| Mother, Primary Education | 2,647 | 3.6 | 244 | 2.2 | 3.4 |
| Mother, Lower Secondary | 10,677 | 14.5 | 1,023 | 9.2 | 14.0 |
| Mother, Leaving Cert. | 18,686 | 25.4 | 2,142 | 19.2 | 25.3 |
| Mother, Technical or Vocational | 2,931 | 4.0 | 989 | 8.9 | 4.1 |
| Mother, Technical Vocational and Leaving Cert. | 2,943 | 4.0 | 509 | 4.6 | 4.1 |
| Mother, Non-degree | 14,469 | 19.6 | 2,159 | 19.4 | 19.9 |
| Mother, Primary degree | 6,208 | 8.4 | 1,516 | 13.6 | 8.6 |
| Mother, Professional qualification (degree status) | 2,424 | 3.3 | 448 | 4.0 | 3.3 |
| Mother, Both degree and professional qualification | 4,052 | 5.5 | 570 | 5.1 | 5.6 |
| Mother, Post-graduate certificate or diploma | 4,994 | 6.8 | 640 | 5.7 | 6.9 |
| Mother, Post-graduate degree | 3,080 | 4.2 | 768 | 6.9 | 4.2 |
| Mother, Doctorate (Ph.D) | 409 | 0.6 | 89 | 0.8 | 0.6 |
| 7. Household tenure | | | | | |
| Owner occupied with or without loan | 52,979 | 71.9 | 7,427 | 66.7 | 72.5 |
| Being purchased from a Local Authority | 888 | 1.2 | 48 | 0.4 | 1.0 |
| Rented from a Local Authority | 6,274 | 8.5 | 763 | 6.9 | 8.2 |
| Rented from a Voluntary Body or private market | 12,683 | 17.2 | 2,695 | 24.2 | 17.2 |
| Occupied free of rent | 839 | 1.1 | 201 | 1.8 | 1.1 |
| 8. Region / Child's gender | | | | | |
| Border - boys | 4,355 | 5.9 | 614 | 5.5 | 5.9 |
| Dublin - boys | 10,021 | 13.6 | 1,328 | 11.9 | 13.6 |
| Mid-East - boys | 4,917 | 6.7 | 784 | 7.0 | 6.7 |
| Midland - boys | 2,386 | 3.2 | 382 | 3.4 | 3.2 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mid-West - boys | 3,177 | 4.3 | 597 | 5.4 | 4.4 |
| South-East - boys | 4,158 | 5.6 | 589 | 5.3 | 5.6 |
| South-West - boys | 5,180 | 7.0 | 810 | 7.3 | 7.1 |
| West - boys | 3,538 | 4.8 | 575 | 5.2 | 4.9 |
| Border - girls | 3,970 | 5.4 | 589 | 5.3 | 5.3 |
| Dublin - girls | 9,603 | 13.0 | 1,279 | 11.5 | 12.8 |
| Mid-East - girls | 4,787 | 6.5 | 737 | 6.6 | 6.5 |
| Midland - girls | 2,207 | 3.0 | 355 | 3.2 | 3.0 |
| Mid-West - girls | 2,973 | 4.0 | 534 | 4.8 | 4.1 |
| South-East - girls | 3,920 | 5.3 | 580 | 5.2 | 5.3 |
| South-West - girls | 5,104 | 6.9 | 833 | 7.5 | 7.0 |
| West - girls | 3,365 | 4.6 | 548 | 4.9 | 4.6 |
| **9. Mother's Marital Status** | | | | | |
| Mother, Cohabiting | 5,161 | 7.0 | 706 | 6.3 | 6.9 |
| Mother, Deserted | 148 | 0.2 | 19 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Mother, Divorced | 546 | 0.7 | 104 | 0.9 | 0.7 |
| Mother, Married | 48,932 | 66.4 | 7,556 | 67.9 | 66.6 |
| Mother, Seperated | 789 | 1.1 | 90 | 0.8 | 1.1 |
| Mother, Single | 17,673 | 24.0 | 2,593 | 23.3 | 24.0 |
| Mother, Unkown | 285 | 0.4 | 53 | 0.5 | 0.4 |
| Mother, Widowed | 128 | 0.2 | 13 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| **10. Mother's Nationality** | | | | | |
| Mother, Ireland | 55,029 | 74.7 | 8,156 | 73.3 | 74.5 |
| Mother, Britain | 2,653 | 3.6 | 429 | 3.9 | 3.7 |
| Mother, Western Europe | 5,604 | 7.6 | 920 | 8.3 | 7.7 |
| Mother, Eastern Europe | 3,113 | 4.2 | 492 | 4.4 | 4.3 |
| Mother, Africa | 2,196 | 3.0 | 366 | 3.3 | 3.0 |
| Mother, Pacific | 836 | 1.1 | 126 | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| Mother, Middle East | 120 | 0.2 | 22 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Mother, North America | 348 | 0.5 | 64 | 0.6 | 0.5 |
| Mother, South America | 229 | 0.3 | 51 | 0.5 | 0.3 |
| Mother, India | 1,203 | 1.6 | 160 | 1.4 | 1.6 |
| Mother, Australia New Zealand | 146 | 0.2 | 31 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| Mother, China | 425 | 0.6 | 98 | 0.9 | 0.6 |
| Mother, Other | 1,760 | 2.4 | 219 | 2.0 | 2.4 |
| **11. Mother's Residency Status** | | | | | |
| Mother, Other | 3,146 | 4.3 | 530 | 4.8 | 4.3 |
| Mother, Asylum Seeker | 1,059 | 1.4 | 191 | 1.7 | 1.5 |
| Mother, EU - Other | 180 | 0.2 | 26 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Mother, EU National | 3,816 | 5.2 | 537 | 4.8 | 5.2 |
| Mother, EU Resident | 6,727 | 9.1 | 1,131 | 10.2 | 9.2 |
| Mother, Irish National | 51,863 | 70.4 | 7,601 | 68.3 | 70.2 |
| Mother, Residency Granted | 2,885 | 3.9 | 443 | 4.0 | 3.9 |
| Mother, Unverified | 2,981 | 4.0 | 506 | 4.5 | 4.1 |
| Mother, Work Permit holder | 1,005 | 1.4 | 169 | 1.5 | 1.4 |