



Useful Statistics for Projects

Below you will find 24 facts and figures relating to a variety of issues Barnardos is concerned about. Some of these may be very useful for CSPE and Transition Year projects. Please refer to our website www.barnardos.ie for most recent updated figures.

- 1 in 3 children from disadvantaged areas leave school with severe literacy difficulties; a figure that has remained largely unchanged since 1980.
- 1 in 5 children in Ireland leave secondary school without completing the Leaving Certificate: just 66% of students from unskilled manual backgrounds complete the Leaving Cert compared to over 90% of students from professional backgrounds.
- Just 30% of students from semi- and unskilled manual backgrounds progress to Higher Education, impacting on their labour market opportunities and helping to perpetuate cycles of low educational attainment in further generations.
- Early school leavers are 3 to 4 times more likely to be unemployed than their more educated peers.
- The majority of Irish prisoners have never sat a State exam with over half having left school before the age of 15.
- Early school leavers are more likely to report poorer health, long term illness, experience anxiety or depression and are 4.5 times more likely to be in receipt of a medical card.
- In 2009, 8.7% of children (aged 0-17) continued to live in consistent poverty. This amounts to 91,954 children. This was an increase on a consistent child poverty rate of 6.3% in 2008 and compares with a rate of 1.3% among persons aged 65-74 and 0.9% among persons aged 75 or over.
- Consistent poverty means that these children are living in households with incomes below 60% of the national median income and experiencing deprivation based on the agreed 11 deprivation indicators. This can mean going 24 hours without a substantial meal or being cold because parents are unable to afford to heat the home.
- Consistent poverty means lacking two or more items from the following list:
 1. Two pairs of strong shoes
 2. A warm waterproof overcoat
 3. Buy new not second-hand clothes
 4. Eat meals with meat, chicken, fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day
 5. Have a roast joint or its equivalent once a week
 6. Had to go without heating during the last year through lack of money
 7. Keep the home adequately warm
 8. Buy presents for family or friends at least once a year
 9. Replace any worn out furniture
 10. Have family or friends for a drink or meal once a month
 11. Have a morning, afternoon or evening out in the last fortnight, for entertainment



- In 2009 children accounted for 41.9% of the all those living in consistent poverty.
- The clear relationship between education levels and poverty rates are shown by the fact that, in 2009, a consistent poverty rate of 7.8% was recorded for persons with a highest education level of lower secondary, falling to 3.3% for people with post leaving cert and 0.8% where the person had a third level degree or above.
- In 2009, almost one quarter of households were in arrears on one or more of the following items: utility bills, rent or mortgage payments, hire purchase agreements or other loans/bills. This compares with a rate of just over 10% in 2008.
- Children continued to be the age-group most at risk of poverty in 2009 with an at risk of poverty rate of 18.6%.
- To live in poverty in 2010 means, among other things, to live on a weekly income of €224 for the single person; €298 for the lone parent with one child; and €521 for two parents with two children.
- In 2009, more than 11% of households had to go into debt to meet ordinary living expenses. This figure was up from just over 9% in 2008.
- April 2010, there were 5,700 children in care of the HSE.
- In 2008, there were 5,347 children in the care of the HSE. Of these, 4,742 children were in foster care and 381 were in residential care. 1,940 children in care were in care for 5 years or more and 1,236 were in care for less than one year.
- In 2008, 34% of children in residential care and 36% of children in foster care did not have an individual care plan.
- The most predominant reasons children were admitted to Care were the categories of Parent Unable to Cope/ Family Difficulty re Housing/Finance, Neglect of Child, Family Member Abusing Drugs/Alcohol, Child with Emotional/Behavioural problems and Physical Abuse of Child.
- There were 2,164 confirmed incidents of child abuse reported to HSE in 2008, this was an increase from 1,978 in 2007 and 1,797 in 2006.
- 80% of children are abused by someone known to them – abusers can often be fathers, mothers, male relatives or family friends or those in authority (i.e. teacher, coach, priest, etc)
- Over 3,500 crimes against children on average are being reported to gardaí every year, but less than a fifth of these are resulting in a court prosecution, and just one in ten of all cases have ended in a conviction to date.
- One in three women and one in four men reported some level of sexual abuse in childhood.
- Most sexual abuse in childhood and adolescence occurred in the prepubescent period, with two-thirds (67%) of abused girls and 62% of abused boys having experienced abuse by twelve years of age.