



Bullying and Chronic Disease
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Overview of presentation

- Foundations of health
- Growing Up in Ireland cohort
- General health
- Prevalence of chronic illness
- Impact on chronic illness on daily life activities
- Prevalence of bullying
- Factors associated with bullying
- Chronic illness and bullying
- Implications



Foundations of health

- Shaped by
 - Biological
 - Psychological
 - Environmental
 - Social
 - Spiritual
- Health outcomes
 - Interaction of genetic & environmental influences
 - Begin in womb - perhaps earlier

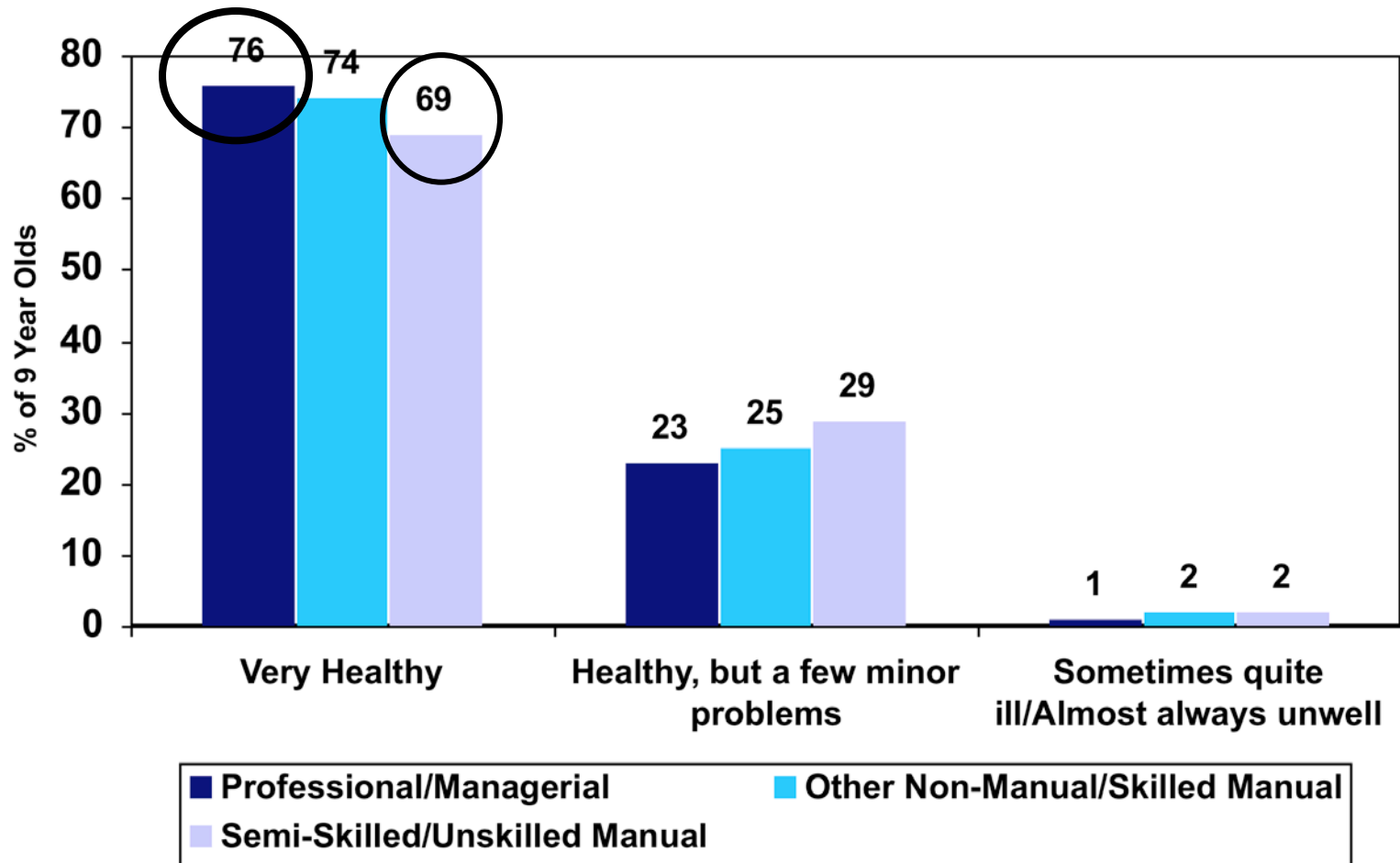


Growing Up in Ireland

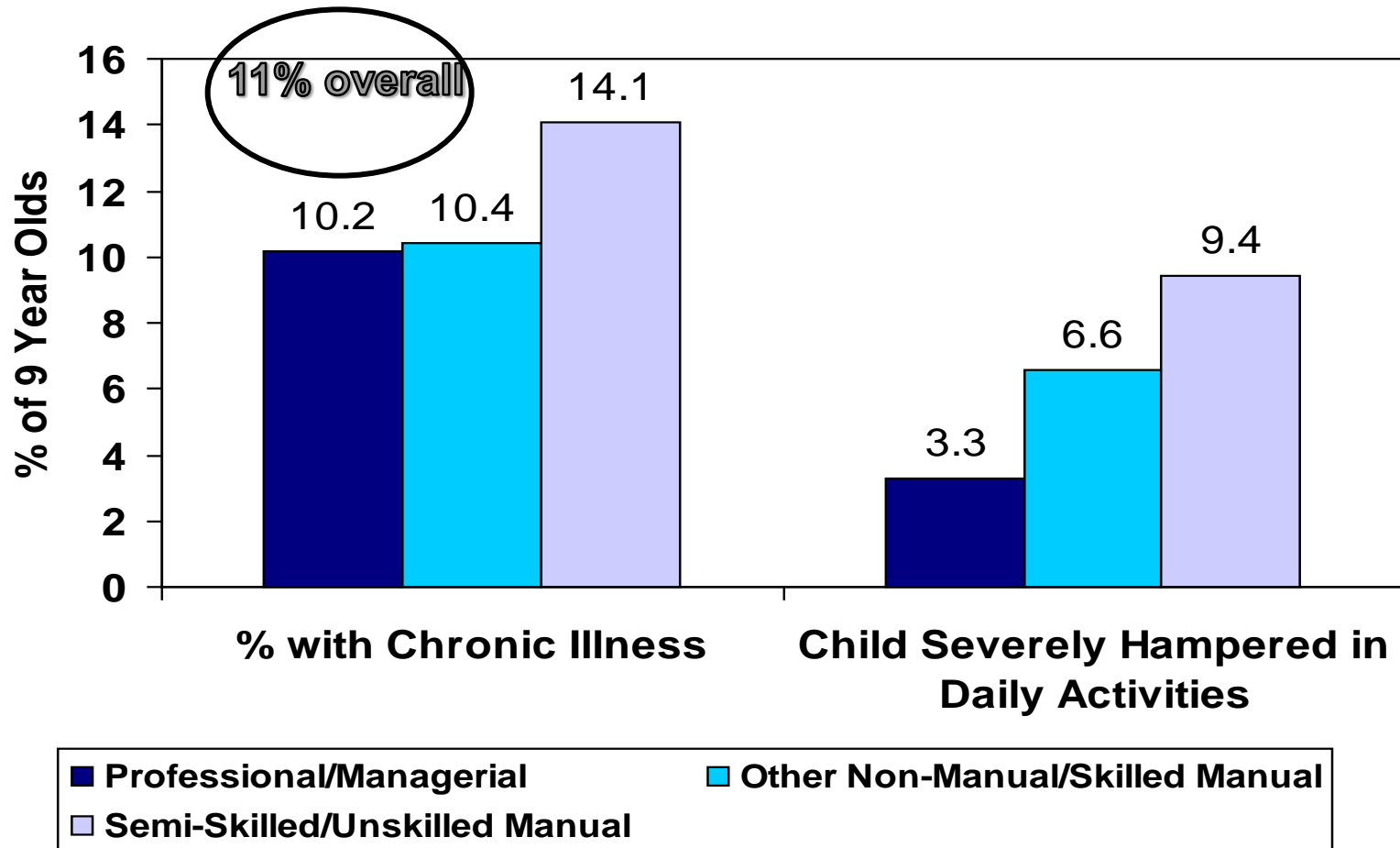
- National Longitudinal Study of Children
- Data of 8,568 nine-year old children, and their families
- Generated through the primary school system
- A representative sample of 910 schools participated; the sample of children and their families was randomly selected from within the schools



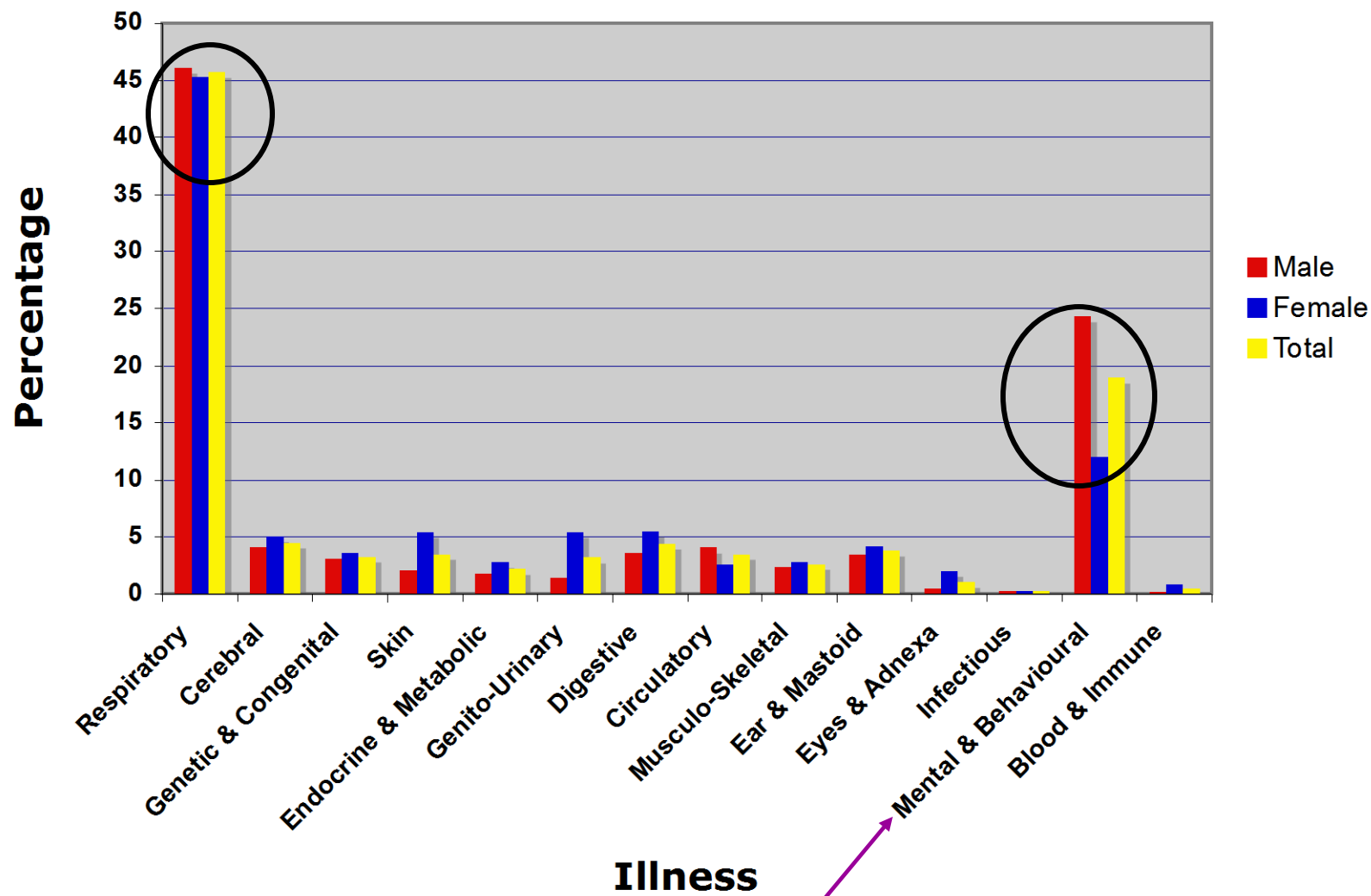
What do mothers think of their children's health?



Chronic Illness and daily activities



Chronic illness and gender - 9 year old cohort





Definition of Bullying

- Bullying is a form of aggressive behaviour which is
 - intentional
 - recurrent
 - designed to inflict pain on or cause distress to another individual
- These actions may take a variety of forms; for example by physical contact, verbal abuse, exclusion or (electronically) via notes



What is already known?

- Childhood bullying is associated
 - with later adult anti-social behaviour
 - with limited opportunities to attain socially desired objectives
 - adverse effect on physical and emotional wellbeing
- Indicator of future sexual harassment, marital aggression, child abuse, and elder abuse
- May lead to a higher risk for self-aggressive behaviour
- It is well known that children and adolescents are bullied because of their race, ethnicity, religion or appearance



Mother interviewed

- ‘To your knowledge, has the Study child been a victim of bullying in the last year?’
- Then shown a prompt card:
 - Physical, verbal, electronic (phone messages/email), written notes, messages, exclusion



Child sensitive questionnaire

- “Thinking back over the last year would you say that you picked on someone (either a child or an adult)”
- “How did you pick on them”
- Thinking back over the last year would you say that anyone (child or adult) picked on you?
 - Prompts : “by showing, pushing, hitting, name calling, slagging (teasing), texting, emails, Bebo, leaving them out in chats, games or in other ways”.



Overall reported bullying experience in the past year (as a victim)

– For boys:

By primary caregiver: 23.1% (95% CI: 21.9%-24.4%)

By study child: 40.1% (95% CI: 38.7%-41.6%)

– For girls:

By primary caregiver: 24.0% (95% CI: 22.7%-25.3%)

By study child: 39.7% (95% CI: 38.2%-41.2%)



Impact of of bullying

Child was upset by bullying:

- A lot: boys: 35.6%; girls: 46.9%
- A little: boys: 50.2%; girls: 46.4%
- Not at all: boys: 14.2%; girls: 6.7%



Forms of bullying

Most common forms (child-reported):

**Boys: Verbally > physically > exclusion
>> via notes > electronically**

**Girls: Verbally > exclusion > physically
>> via notes > electronically**



Activity as a bully in the past year

Child reported picking on other children

– boys: 15.1% (95% CI: 14.0%-16.2%)

– girls: 11.8% (95% CI: 10.8%-11.8%)

Reported forms:

Boys: Verbally > physically > exclusion

Girls: Exclusion >> verbally >> physically



Bully only & bully-victims

Bully only children – picked on others in the past year

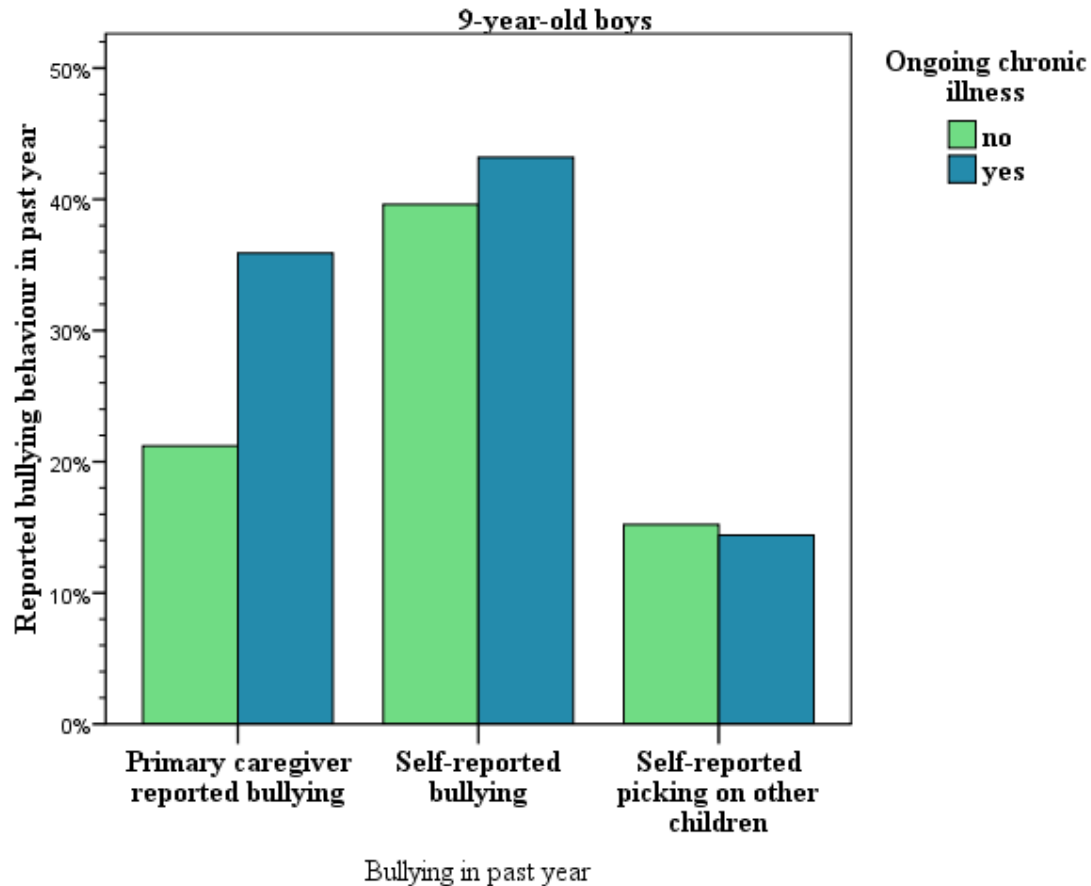
- Boys: 6.9% (95% CI: 5.9%-7.9%)
- Girls: 3.7% (95% CI: 3.0%-4.5%)

Bully victims - in the past year picked on others :

- Boys: 27.0% (95% CI: 24.9%-29.1%)
- Girls: 24.4% (95% CI: 22.3%-26.5%)

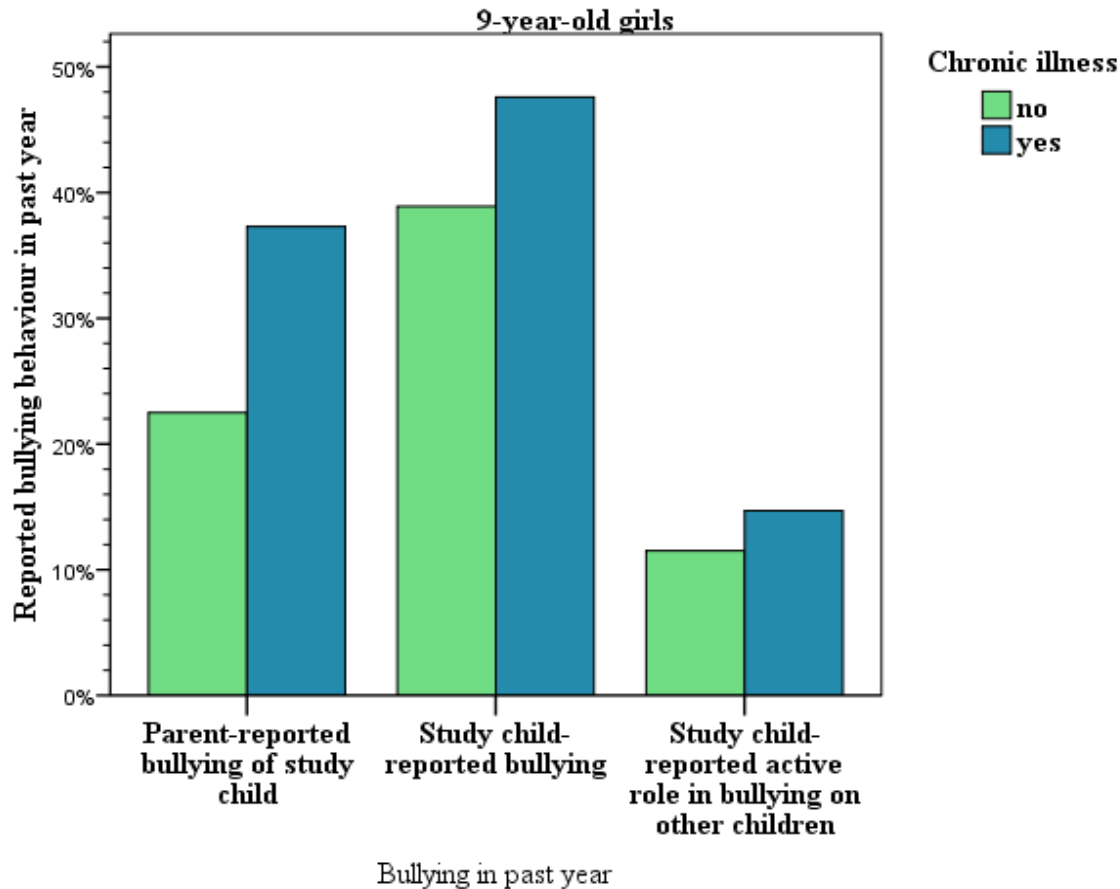


Chronic disease, being bullied & bullying others - boys



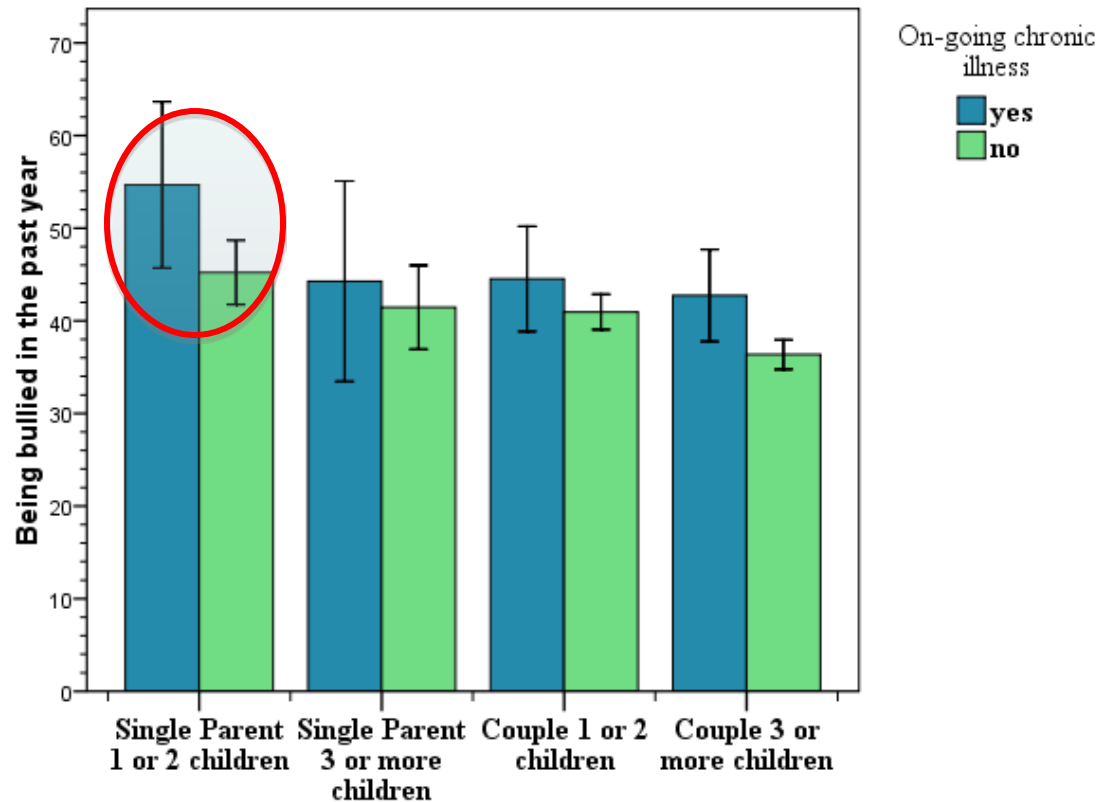


Chronic disease and being bullied & bullying others - girls

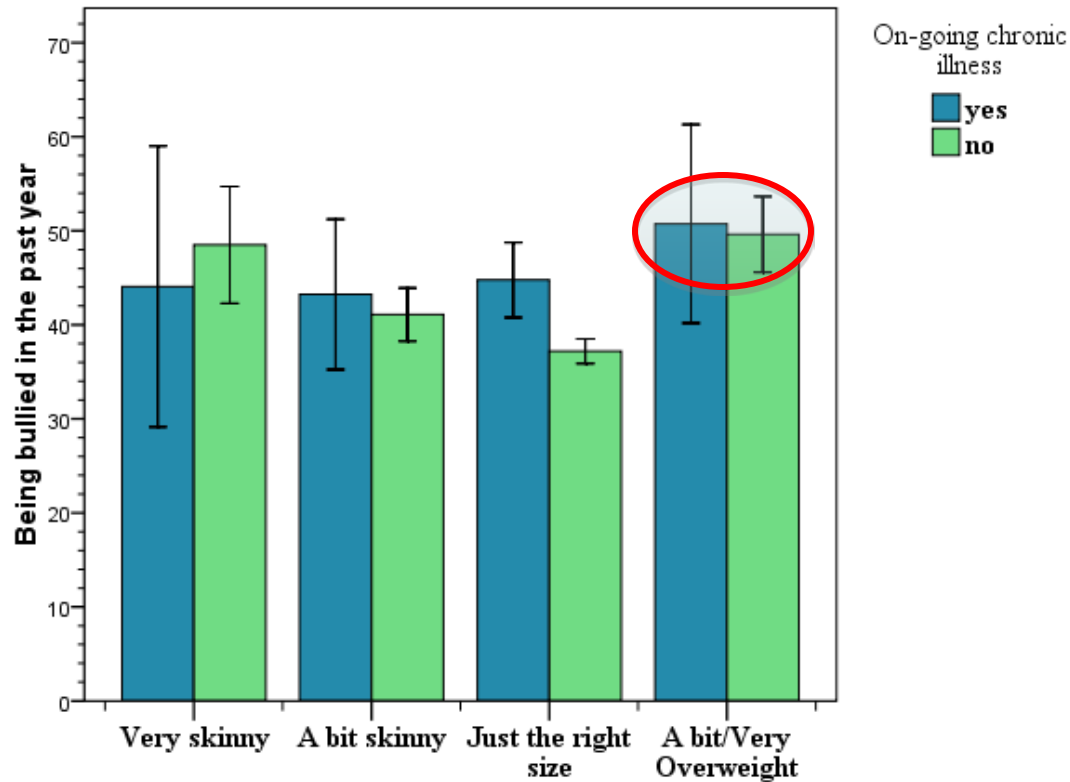




Family composition & bullying



Bullying & weight





Implications

- For teachers:
 - Child with chronic illness may be a victim or a bully-victim
- For clinicians:
 - Needs to become part of the clinical history of children with chronic illnesses
- For Health Policy:
 - NGOs, education & health need to incorporate it into training days & advice
- For parents:
 - Is common, teachers & doctors may ask about it?



Summary

- The most common forms of bullying were verbal, physical and social (in terms of exclusion).
- Exclusion as a form of bullying is more common in girls.
- Girls are more upset by bullying than boys.
- Bullying is significantly associated with an ongoing chronic illness in nine year old children.
- The awareness of bullying is higher in primary caregivers when an ongoing chronic illness is present.



Acknowledgements

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For more information: www.growingup.ie

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