



Growing Up in Ireland

-the National Longitudinal Study of Children

The Economic and Social Research Institute and Trinity College, Dublin

Child Cohort Presentation 01:

Sample Design and Weighting



The Sample of 9-year-old children

- 56,497 9-year-olds in population
- Random sample of 8,500 9-year-olds resident in Ireland
- Two stage, clustered sample design
- Random sample of Primary schools
- Random sample of children within school



The Sample of Schools

- 1,105 schools randomly selected from population of over 3,000
- 910 schools participated in the sample – 82.3% response rate
- Introductory letter and info sheets sent to principal
- Interviewer called to school
- List of all 9 year olds – if <40 all selected, if >40 random sample selected



Securing informed consent from families

- Information Sheets, Consent and Assent forms sent to families of selected children
- Multiple shots sent to the families
- Signed consent and assent before any work undertaken with the children
- Family response rate at school level was 57%
- Some differential response in terms of disadvantaged status of school, family social class of child, level of educational attainment of child's mother



Re-weighting the sample

- Differential response – higher ed, higher social class more likely to respond
- Data were re-weighted or statistically adjusted to account for any differences in structure of population and completed sample
- Statistical re-weighting is a standard procedure and should be carried out in respect of all sample surveys prior to analysis
- Minimum information loss algorithm used to generate the weighting scheme. System used in ESRI is called GROSS – similar to CALMAR and ADJUST. Iterative column marginal approach.