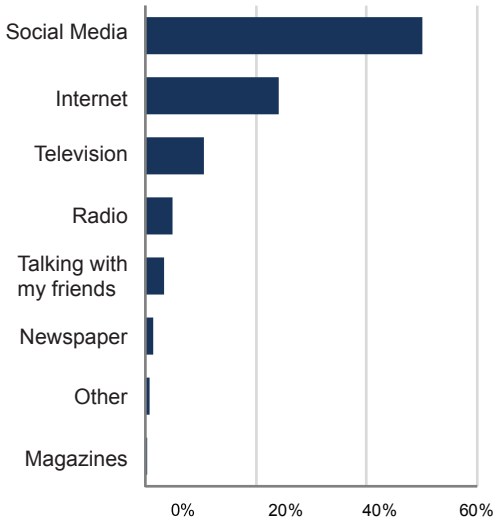
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh
Central Statistics Office

Census AtSchool

CensusAtSchool 2017
17th October 2018

Figure 1 Main source of news



Please note: This survey is voluntary. It is not part of a representative sampling process. Hence, the results of the survey are less reliable in providing inferences about the overall secondary school student population.

Social media is the main news source for Irish students

From an estimated 357,000 secondary school students, 2,253 (0.6%) students completed the Phase 17 questionnaire of the CensusAtSchool survey. It was available between September 2017 and August 2018. The Phase 17 questionnaire covered a variety of topics including:

- FIFA World Cup
- dietary habits/choices
- trust in the media
- student fitness.

Interesting findings from Phase 17 results:

- Half of students (50.2%) use social media as their main news source. Almost three in five females (56.2%) identified social media as the main source compared to two in four male students (40.7%). However, when asked to rank the level of trust in news sources, students ranked social media and magazines as being less trustworthy than other established media sources. *See Figure 1, 2 and 3.*
- Over a third of students (36.9%) ranked the reason "To have fun" as the main motivating reason to play sport. The least important reason was "To win". *See Figure 4.*
- Skill was the most popular physical ability selected by students. Over a quarter of males (26.6%) selected strength as the ability they would prefer compared to only one in ten (9.9%) of females. *See Figure 5.*
- Female students have a slightly lower average resting heart rate (68 beats per minute (bpm)) than males (71bpm). After a short burst of exercise, males displayed a greater percentage rise in their average bpm (51.7% increase) than females (38.0% increase). *See Figure 6.*
- Male students were more likely to know that the 2018 World Cup was in Russia than female students. Male students were also over two times more likely to correctly guess the winner of the World Cup as 14.4% of male students guessed correctly compared to only 6.3% of female students. *See Figure 7.*

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- The most popular food for female students was carbohydrates with 39.1% of females selecting it. The most popular food type for male students was protein with over half of male students (52.5%) selecting it. *See Figure 8a and 8b.*

- Over half of students (56.5%) reported that they did not eat crisps and one fifth of students (21.7%) did not have sweets. Two in five students (41%) reported having at least two portions of both fruit and vegetables usually. *See Figure 9.*

- Kylie Jenner was the most popular choice for all students when asked who they would like to live like for a day, selected by 6.6% of students. Gender differences are evident with 11.6% of female students choosing Kylie Jenner while 8.4% of male students choosing Cristiano Ronaldo. *See Table 1 and Figure 10a and 10b.*

Background information

CensusAtSchool is a non-profit making international project. It is funded by organisations interested in promoting good use of statistics, mathematics and data handling. Ireland became involved in CensusAtSchool in 2009. Four Irish bodies are collaborating in this project:

- the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST)

- the CSO

- Project Maths

- the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA).

The Irish website, www.censusatschool.ie, has been in place since 2009.

For more information, contact Helen McGrath at 021 453 5108.

Figure 2 Main source of news by sex

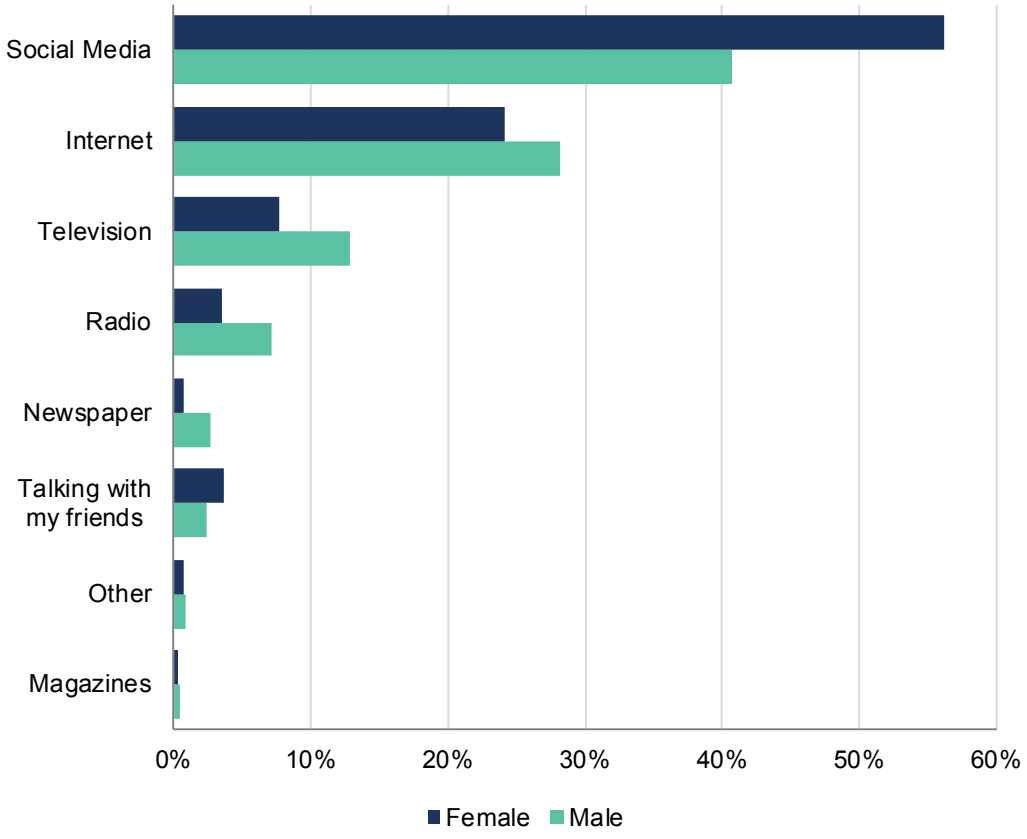


Figure 3 Students' trust in news sources

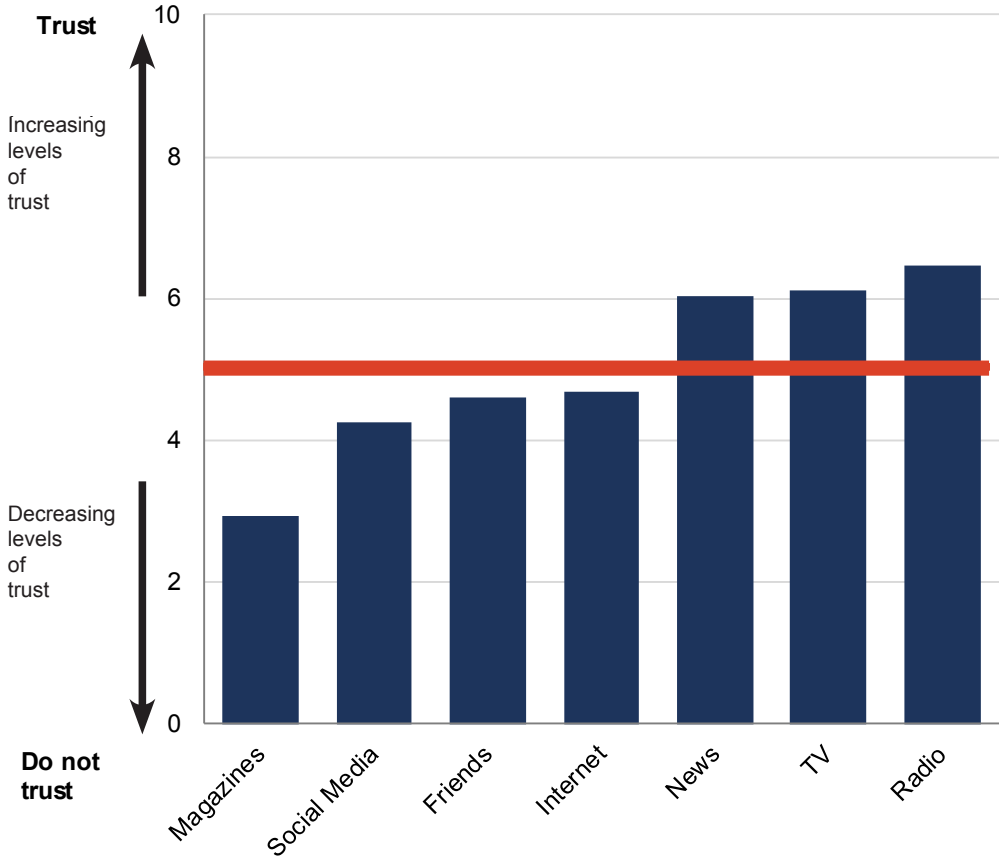


Figure 4 Motivating reasons for playing sport - ranked by importance

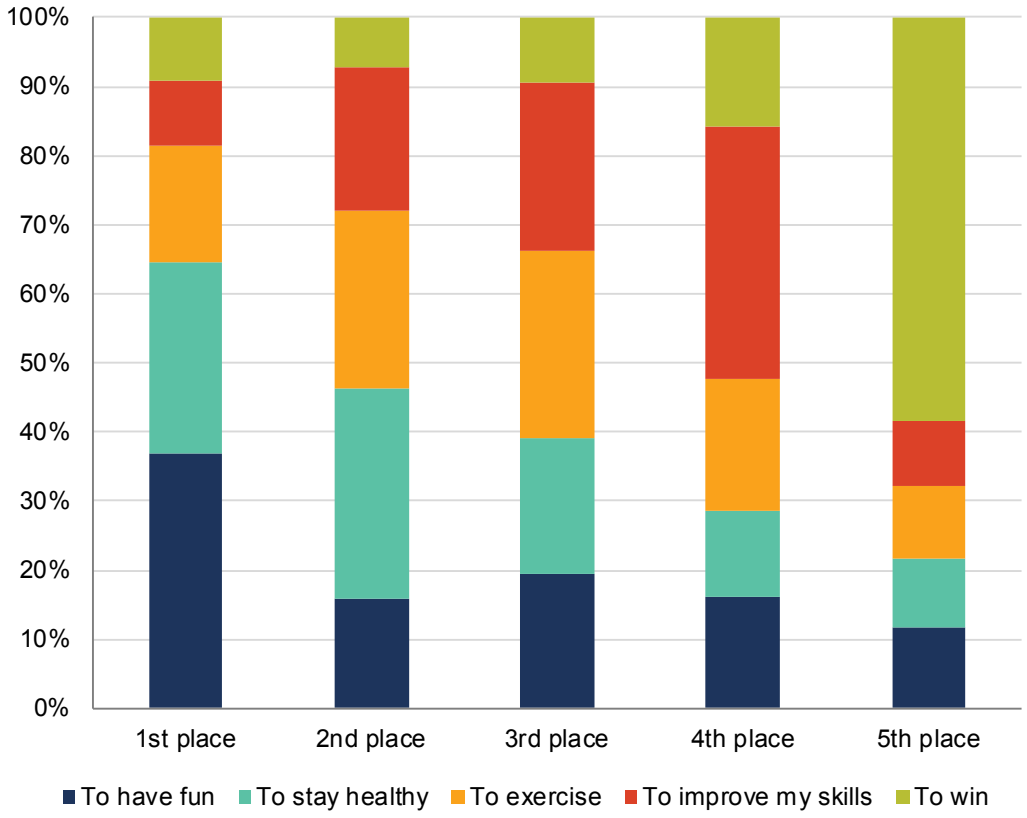


Figure 5 Which one of the following would you rather have?

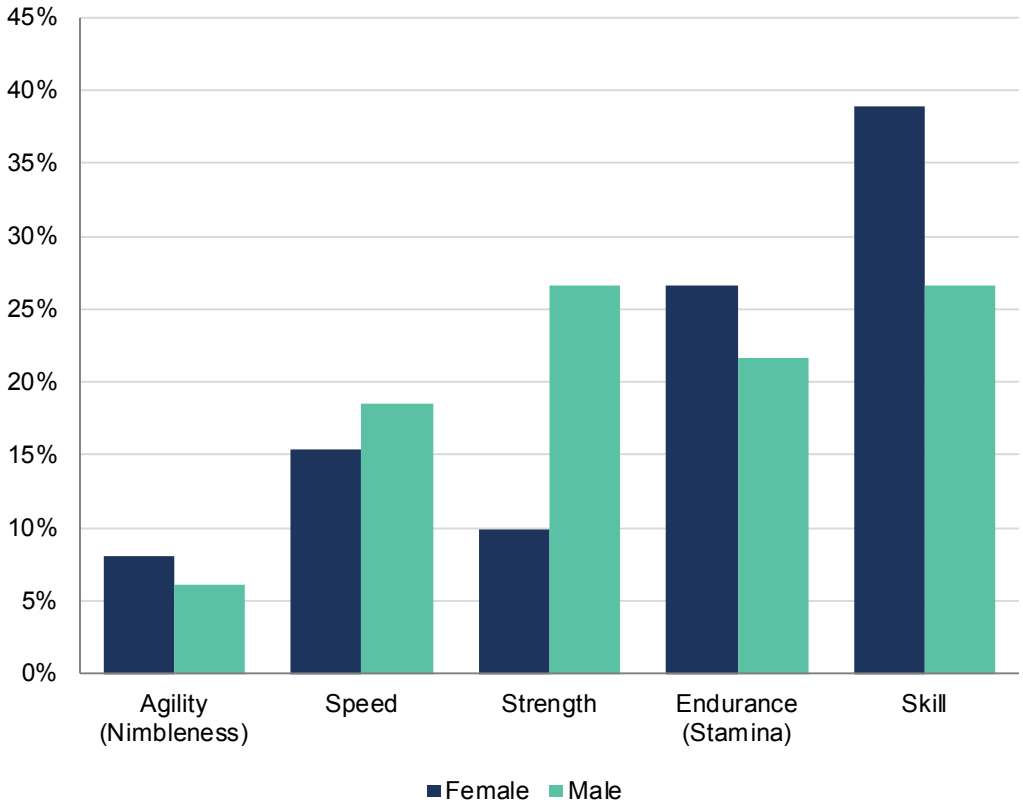


Figure 6 Average student heart rate before and after exercise

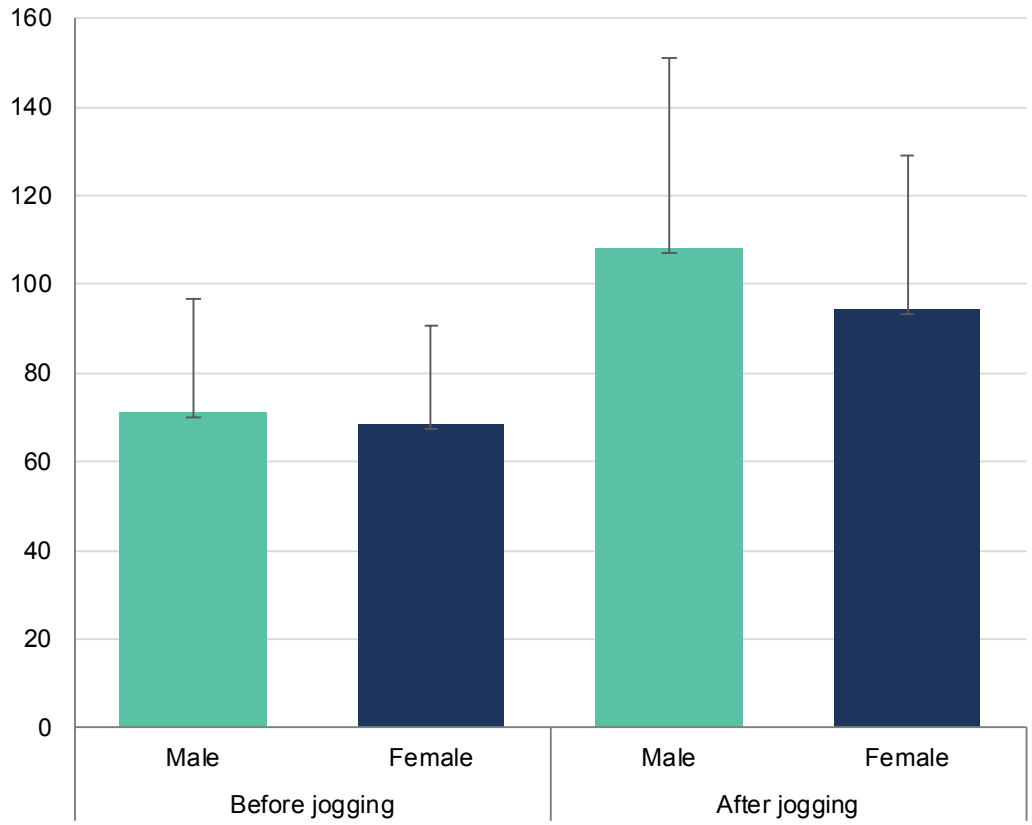


Figure 7 Correct response to World Cup questions by sex

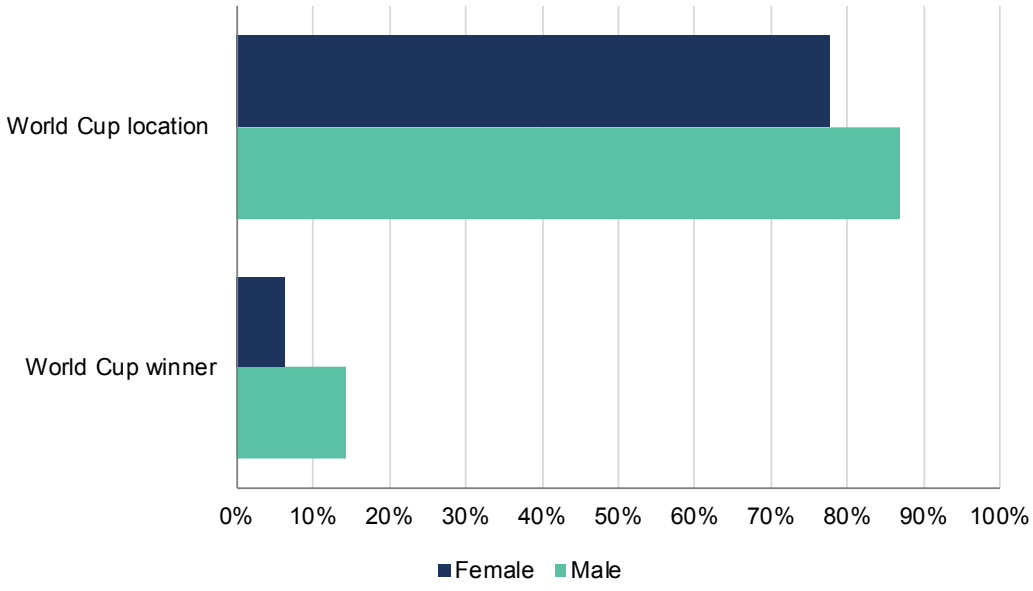


Figure 8a What is your favourite food type?

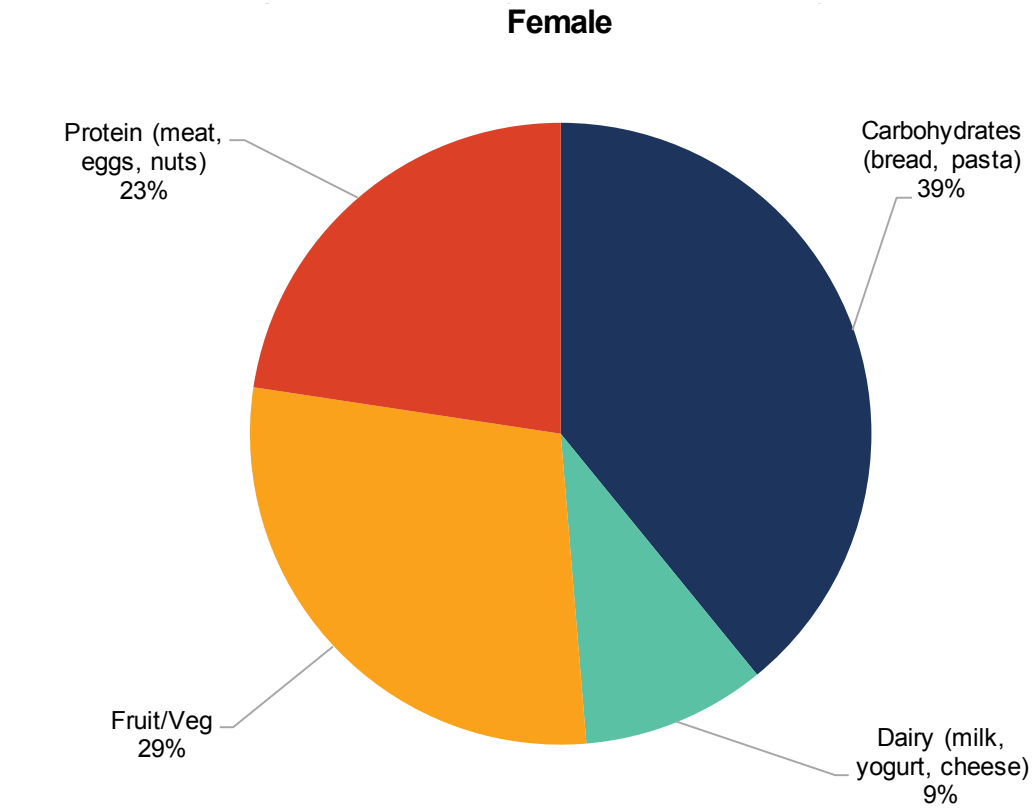


Figure 8b What is your favourite food type?

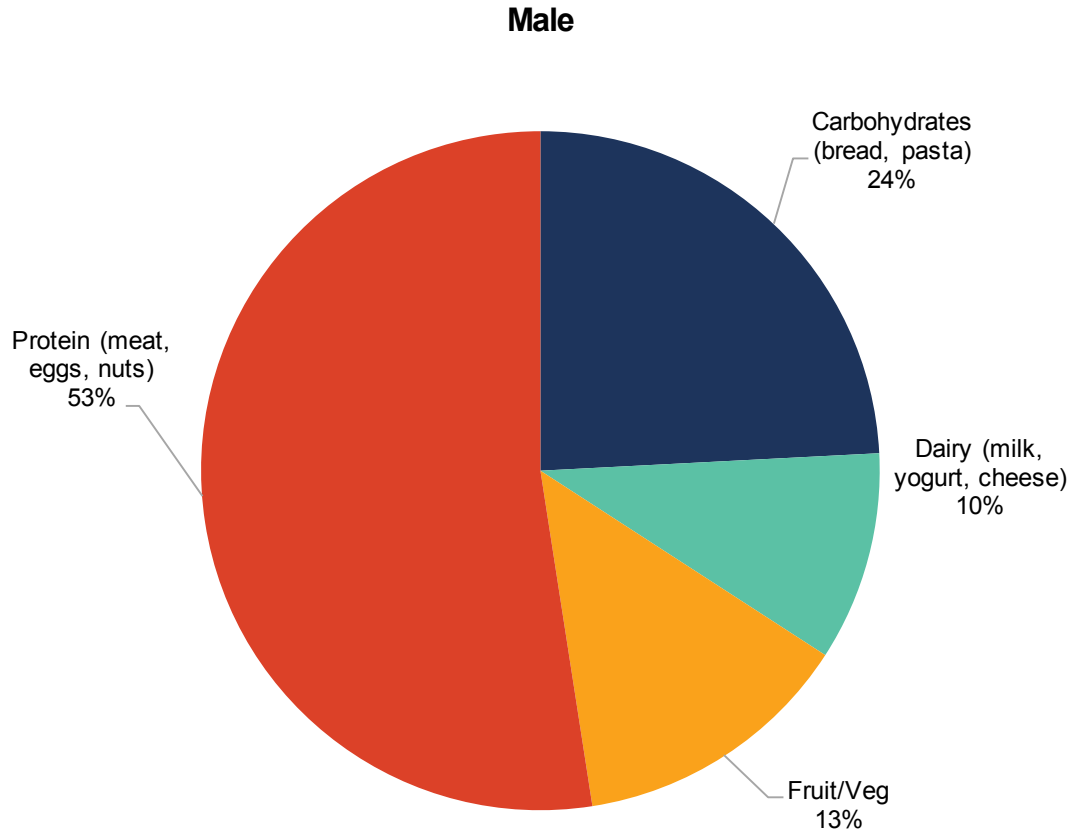


Figure 9 How many portions do you eat per day?

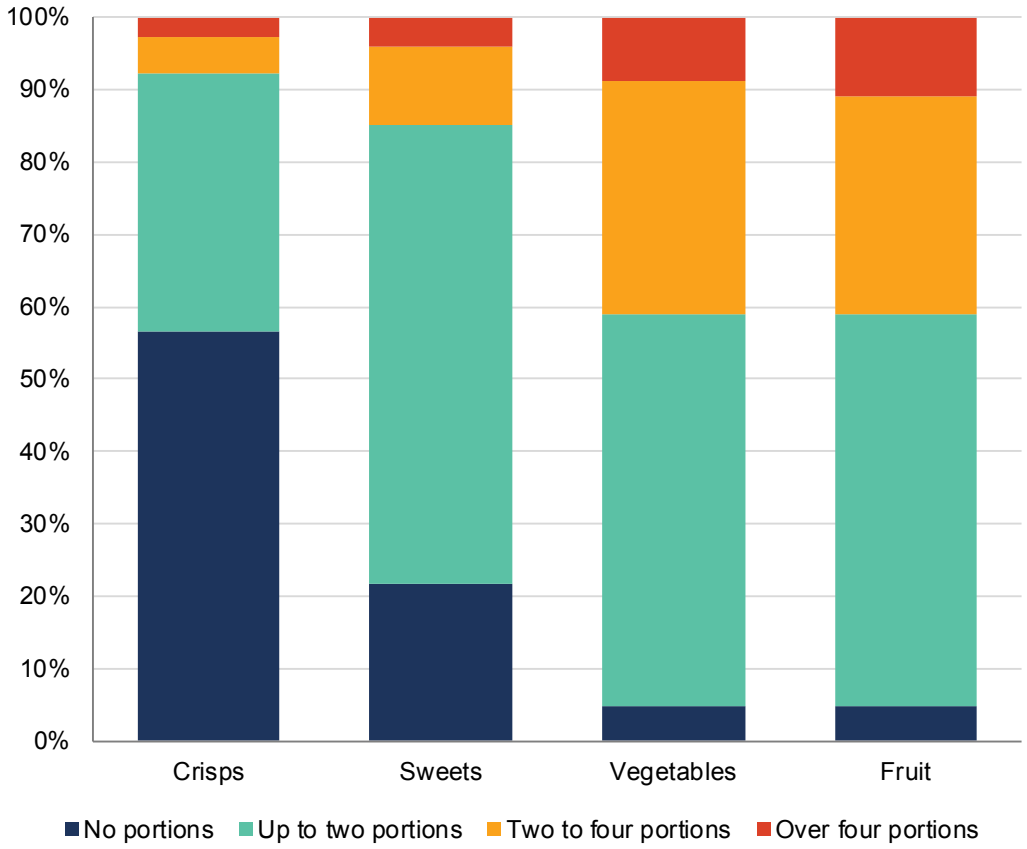


Table 1 Who would you like to live like for a day?

Person chosen by student	*% of students*
Kylie Jenner	6.6%
Beyoncé	5.6%
Ronaldo	5.1%
Selena Gomez	3.5%
Bill Gates	2.9%
Kim Kardashian	2.7%
Lionel Messi	2.2%
Conor Mcgregor	2.1%
Ariana Grande	2.0%
Rhianna	1.8%
Donald Trump	1.7%

Figure 10a Who would you like to live like for a day?

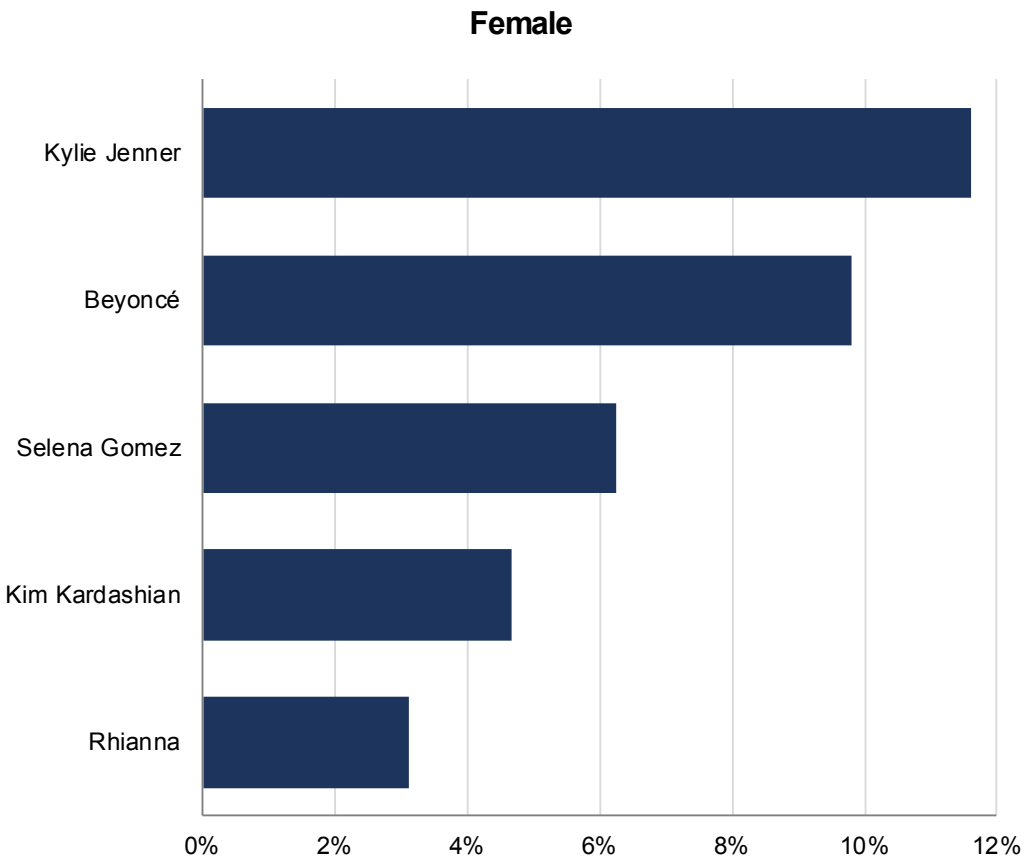
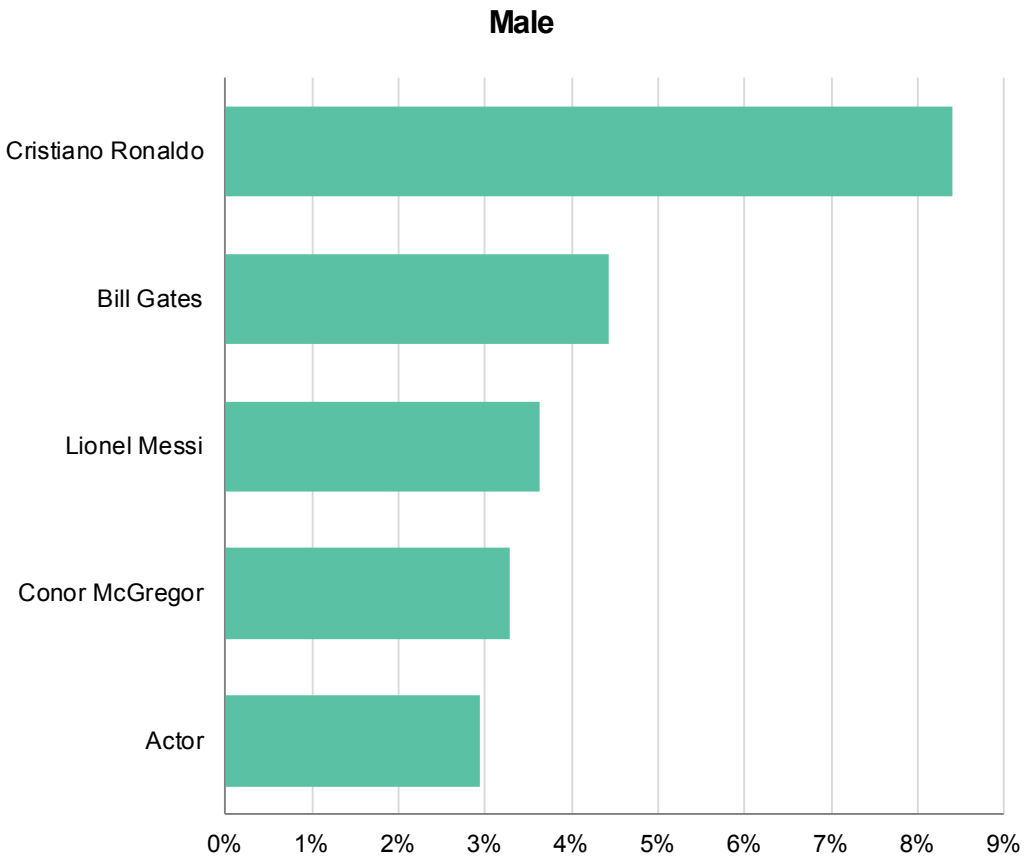


Figure 10b Who would you like to live like for a day?



Background Notes

About CensusAtSchools

The Royal Statistical Centre for Statistical Education (RSSCSE) started the CensusAtSchool project in 2000 in conjunction with the Office of National Statistics (ONS) in the UK. The project, originally a one-off, was linked to the UK population census of 2001. It has now developed into a dynamic, on-going and exciting initiative running in a number of countries.

Further information can be found here:

USA	http://ww2.amstat.org/censusatschool/index.cfm
Canada	http://www.censusatschool.ca/
New Zealand	http://new.censusatschool.org.nz/explore/
UK	http://www.censusatschool.com/
Japan	http://census.ism.ac.jp/cas/

Sample

2,253 secondary school attendees from 103 secondary schools completed the Phase 17 questionnaire of the CensusAtSchool survey between September 2017 and August 2018. Because the survey is not part of a representative sampling process, the results of the survey are less reliable in providing inferences about the overall secondary school student population.

Questionnaire

The CensusAtSchool Phase 17 questionnaire and more results from the survey can be found on the CensusAtSchool website at http://www.censusatschool.ie/en/take-part/questionnaires

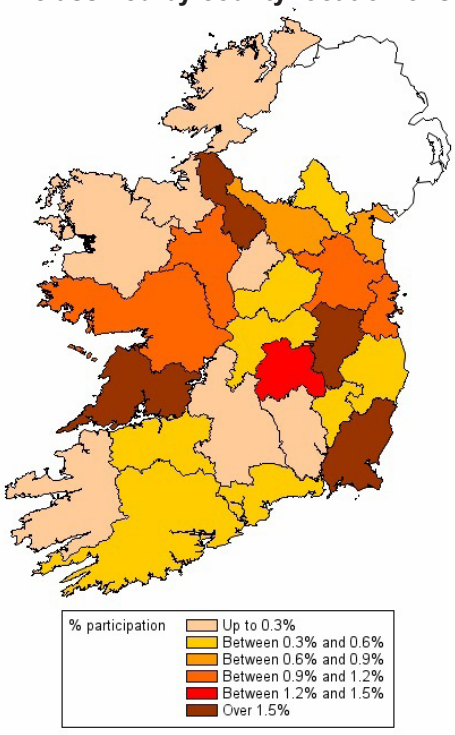
A data tool for examining international CensusAtSchool data can be found:

http://new.censusatschool.org.nz/explore/

It can be further explored using the facilities inbuilt in the inZight site operated by Statistics New Zealand.

https://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~wild/iNZight/index.php

Map 1. Student participation in CensusAtSchool Phase 17 questionnaire classified by county location of school



Note: The map only includes survey responses when the roll number on the questionnaire response matched a school roll number provided by the Department of Education and Skills.

CensusAtSchool 2017/2018 Questionnaire

1. Are you:

☐ Female ☐ Male

2. a) Please state your present age in completed years.

_____ years

2. b) What year are you in at school?

_____ Year e.g. 5th Year

3. In what county do you live?

4. In what country were you born?

5. What is the Eircode of your school?
(Click here for Eircode finder)

6. Which one of the following would you rather have?

☐ Agility (Nimbleness)
☐ Endurance (Stamina)
☐ Speed
☐ Skill
☐ Strength

7. What is your…
(Answer to nearest tenth of a cm)

Height (without shoes) .....cm
Span of the hand you write with .....cm
Vertical reach .....cm
Length of right foot .....cm
Circumference of right wrist .....cm

8. a) What is your resting pulse rate?

_____ beats per minute

8. b) Jog on the spot for 30 seconds and record your pulse rate again.

_____ beats per minute

9. In a normal week, how many days do you eat meat?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

10. What is your favourite food type?
(Click here for food pyramid)

☐ Fruit/Veg
☐ Carbohydrates (bread, pasta)
☐ Dairy (milk, yogurt, cheese)
☐ Protein (meat, eggs, nuts)

11. How many (handfuls) portions of the following do you regularly eat per day?

_____ portions of fruit
_____ portions of vegetables
_____ portions of sweets
_____ portions of crisps

12. How many millilitres of water do you drink in a normal day? *(1,000 ml is a litre)*

_____ ml

13. a) In what country is the 2018 FIFA World Cup taking place?

13. b) In what month will the 2018 FIFA World Cup commence?

13. c) What country do you predict will win the 2018 FIFA World Cup?

14. a) How many hours per week do you spend watching sport?

_____ hours per week

14. b) How many hours per week do you spend playing sport?

_____ hours per week

14. c) Rank the main motivating reasons for you to play sport.
(1 being most important and 5 least important to you)

_____ To have fun
_____ To improve my skills
_____ To win
_____ To stay healthy
_____ To exercise

15. a) In what year did Irish women first vote in a general election?

15. b) In what year was the first Irish female cabinet member appointed?

15. c) In what year was the second Irish female cabinet member appointed?

16. What is the main way you keep up with the news/media? *(Select **one** only)*

☐ Newspaper
☐ Television
☐ Magazines
☐ Social Media
☐ Internet
☐ Radio
☐ Talking with my friends
☐ Not interested in news
☐ Other
(*please specify*) .....

17. Mark on the scale how much you trust each of the following:

	Do Not Trust	*Trust*
Newspaper		
Television		
Magazines		
Social Media		
Internet		
Radio		
Talking with friends		

18. If you could choose to live like anyone for a day who would it be?