

An Indicator Set for Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures – FAQ's

What is the BOBF indicator set?

The BOBF indicator set is a set of indicators for children and young people developed for and aligned with *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The national policy framework for children and young people*.

What is the purpose of the BOBF indicator set?

The purpose of the indicator set is to track progress for children and young people aged 0–24 across the five national outcomes outlined in BOBF. The five national outcomes are that children and young people are:

1. Active and healthy.
2. Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development.
3. Safe and protected from harm.
4. Economic security and opportunity.
5. Connected, respected and contributing.

The indicators included in the BOBF indicator set are aligned with these outcomes, and help to provide a signal of progress towards them. While the indicators do not explain how or whether a particular action or commitment on the policy framework has given rise to, or caused, a particular outcome, they are important because they can help track progress towards improving outcomes for children and young people, assist in identifying changes and/or trends, contribute to priority setting or resetting, inform policy formulation and service provision, and provide for international comparisons, where possible.

How many indicators are included in the set?

There are 70 indicator areas and over 100 indicators in the BOBF indicator set. The high number of indicators was influenced by the wide age range for BOBF spanning 0–24 years; the breadth of policy areas covered under the outcomes and aims of BOBF; and the inclusion of a mix of indicator types.

How can the BOBF indicator set be used?

The BOBF set is designed to align to the five national outcomes of BOBF and has been developed specifically as a resource to support the ongoing implementation of BOBF and its constituent strategies. The full set of indicators reflects a broad picture of children and young people's lives to enable tracking of progress across BOBF outcomes and aims. Indicators and related indicator data serve to signal whether expected progress is being achieved, as well as support the monitoring of progress across a range of activities, outputs and outcomes identified as important to BOBF and to lives of children and young people. They also help the identification of key issues and questions for further exploration and explanation.

This set can be used as resource for all those with policy agendas relating to the lives of children and young people. Indicators can be aligned with or help inform existing strategies or strategies in development. Certain indicators can also be aligned with other indicator sets with a particular focus on certain policy areas, age groups or subgroups of the population. In addition, indicator data can be used as a population benchmark against the same measure where it is used in targeted surveys aimed at minority or disadvantaged subgroups.

The inclusion of 'placeholders' serves to identify some important data gaps across key priority indicator areas identified by policy makers, stakeholders and experts through the indicator development process. It also presents the opportunity to pursue the need for further data development in these areas. DCYA encourage other relevant organisations to support us to address these data gaps where the opportunity arises in the context of your own data development processes.

How was the BOBF indicator set developed?

The process of developing this indicator set has encompassed a number of phases, including a literature review and compilation of a data inventory, the establishment of and consultation with an Expert Panel, a Delphi process, a review of consultations with children and young people, and bilateral consultations with experts and policy makers in Government departments and agencies.

A summary outline of the methodology used to develop this indicator set is outlined in section 2.3 of the BOBF indicator report. A methodology report that will detail and describe the methodological process used to develop this indicator set will be published later in 2017.

Content of the report on the BOBF indicator set

The report presents the indicator set for Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures (BOBF) and includes summary level data for each indicator (where available).

The report also includes detailed information on indicator definitions and data sources, highlights where indicators are relevant to the BOBF framework, reports on the frequency of data collection, and notes whether the indicator is included in the State of the Nation's Children report.

In addition, the report contains contextual and demographic data on the population of children and young people, as well as for particular subgroups. Links between the BOBF outcomes and the articles of the UN Children's Rights Convention UNCRC are also explored in the Appendix section.

Where can I find more data or further information on indicators and data source?

The report identifies and combines data from a range of sources, including administrative, survey and census data. Further data or information on data sources may be accessed through the relevant data providers or their websites.

DCYA plans to undertake further detailed reporting of data on each indicator by different subgroups in the population (where possible) for publication in electronic format. This includes, for example, indicator data reported by age, gender, social class or membership of the Traveller community. This disaggregation of the data will provide more information about variations in outcomes for different groups of children and young people.

For further information on the report or future planned outputs

Please e-mail: dcyareasearch@dcya.gov.ie