

SUMMARY OF 2020 IRELAND STUDY

Full GMMP report available [here](#) and the full five-nation UK/Ireland report available [here](#).

This summary is compiled by Dr Dawn Wheatley,
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July 2021



WHO MAKES THE NEWS?

WOMEN & THE IRISH MEDIA 



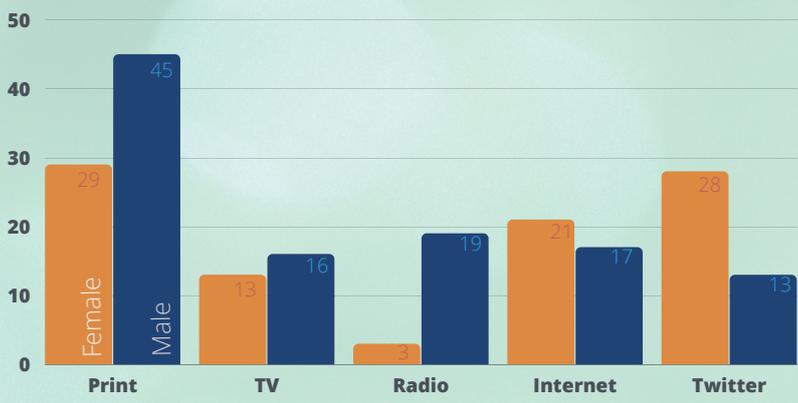
Global Media Monitoring Project

IRELAND RESULTS FROM THE GLOBAL MEDIA MONITORING PROJECT 2020

The GMMP is an international collaborative project which takes place every five years, since 1995. On one day, researchers around the world take a snapshot of media coverage in their country. In 2020, 114 countries participated, including Ireland. The full international GMMP findings, and the combined Ireland/UK report, is available on whomakesthenews.org

REPORTERS

46%
REPORTERS PRODUCING STORIES WERE WOMEN



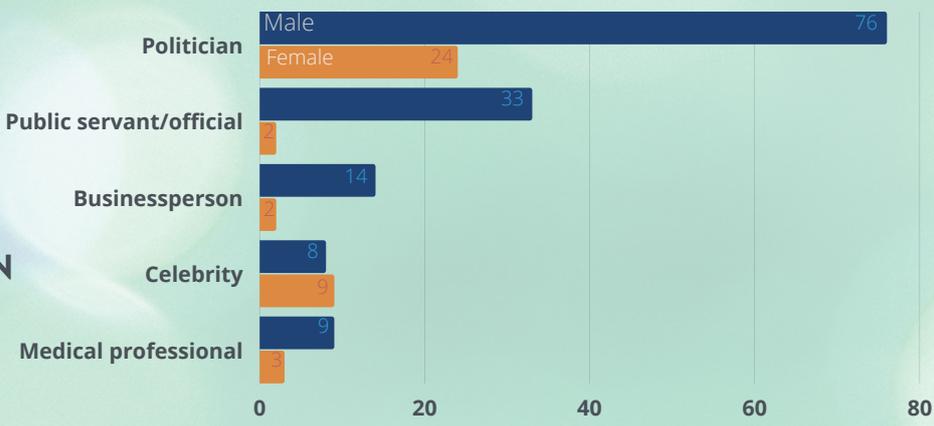
^ This chart shows the number of male/female reporters recorded across each format

39%
PRESENTERS HOSTING TV/RADIO NEWS WERE WOMEN



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

25%
SOURCES & SUBJECTS WERE WOMEN



^ This chart shows the number of times males/females from each of these categories appeared in the reports

47 PHOTOGRAPHS OF MEN APPEARED IN THE NEWSPAPER STORIES WE LOOKED AT, BUT ONLY 17 PICTURES OF WOMEN

“ OF THE PEOPLE DIRECTLY QUOTED, ONLY 24% WERE FEMALE ”



- 17%** OF SPOKESPERSONS WERE FEMALE
- 31%** OF EXPERTS/COMMENTATORS WERE FEMALE
- 2%** OF SOURCES/SUBJECTS WERE FROM A MINORITY ETHNIC GROUP

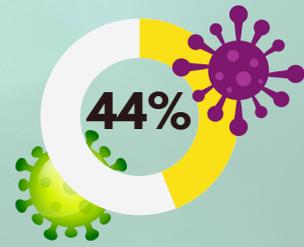
81% OF THE SOURCES AGED 50-64 FEATURED IN TV NEWS WERE MALE

GEM-I SCORE



-47.764

The GEM-Index (Gender Equality in News Media) varies between -100 (only men in the news) and +100 (only women in the news). **Zero (0) represents full gender equality** and even distribution of men and women for all six indicators: (1) all news subjects or sources ('people in the news'), (2) reporters, (3) news subjects or sources in economy and business news, (4) news subjects or sources in news about politics and government, (5) spokespersons and (6) experts. (See Djerf-Pierre & Edström, 2020 for info on the index)



44%
OF STORIES RELATED TO COVID-19

- UK: -44
- USA: -29
- SWE: -25
- NZ: -16
- SPAIN: -27
- S.AFRICA: -17
- PORT: -29
- DEN: -35
- FRA: -47
- CAN: -35

Research was carried out by a team in the School of Communications, Dublin City University, led by Dawn Wheatley as part of the Global Media Monitoring Project. The data gathered was a snapshot of the Irish news media on Tuesday September 29th 2020, the same date as 114 other countries.

Graphic & content designed by Dawn Wheatley, July 2021



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The Irish Times @IrishTimes · 1h
Paul Reid tells Oireachtas committee a difficult winter season and resurgence in Covid-19 is 'worst possible scenario'

TheJournal.ie @thejournal_ie · 1h
Supreme Court receives report into Seamus Woulfe's attendance at golf event



Drop in burglaries during lockdown
Crime Correspondent, Paul Reynolds, reports that there was a drop in burglaries between March and June, coinciding with the imposition of strict Covid 19 rest...
Clip · 4 Mins · 29 SEP 20

'Thousands face eviction' as mortgage breaks to end



The Irish Times @IrishTimes · 21m
Strong indications FG and FF will allow free vote, but SF to support Bill

'Insane' gathering of hundreds of students in Galway condemned

US election: Everything you need to know about Tuesday's presidential debate

6 mins ago
Taoiseach says he 'does not approve' of politicians taking up lobbying roles
Micheal Martin told the Dáil the Government had agreed that the Public... Minister would conduct a

'I didn't search for an image of McHugh skinny dipping'
MEP Ming says Twitter account had been hacked

48 mins ago
Boris Johnson apologises for local lockdown confusion

DERRY
Families of Bloody Sunday victims 'deeply disappointed' as decision not to prosecute 15 British soldiers is upheld

THE O RAHILLY
Council asked to inspect demolished former home of 1916 leader four weeks ago

SOME OF THE NEWS ON TUESDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2020

265 news reports and segments were coded from sections of:
Print: Irish Independent, Irish Times, Irish Daily Mail, Irish Sun, Irish Daily Mirror
Radio: Newstalk 10am bulletins, Today FM 9am bulletin, RTÉ News at One, The Hard Shoulder (Newstalk), The Last Word (Today FM)
TV: One O'Clock News (RTÉ One), News2Day (RTÉ Two), Six One News (RTÉ One), News at 8 (Virgin Media)
Twitter: Thejournal.ie, BreakingNews.ie, Independent.ie, Irish Times, RTÉ.
Websites: RTÉ, Irish Times, Irish Independent, Thejournal.ie, BreakingNews.ie
Coders: Dawn Wheatley, Mick Donohoe, Mollie Bland, Isabel Aust, Maria O'Brien

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BLATANT STEREOTYPE



- Large image from Ann Summers photoshoot on page 3 of Irish Daily Mirror. It is rare to see group of eight women on news pages, so unfortunate it is in this context.
- Although the photograph is racially diverse and has mix of body shapes, it reinforces sexualised narratives and **blatant stereotypes** around young women's bodies.
- Crucially, though, the issue is not with this photograph alone, but what surrounds it. The image appears in the midst of mostly "serious" male heads on the rest of the pages 2-5 in the newspaper: 7 other men are photographed (6 in suits) and just 1 other professional woman on those four pages.

GENDER BLIND



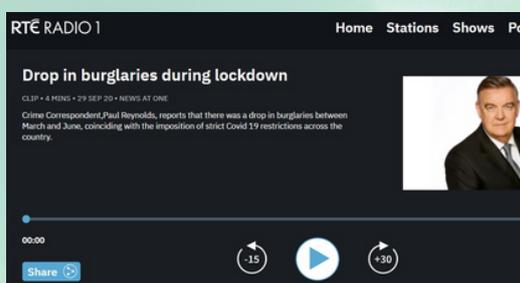
- News report on a new study that finds women who attend private hospitals are three times more likely than public patients to have elective Caesareans.
- One human source included: a male professor from UCD. By relying on a singular elite male source, the journalist misses an opportunity to include female narratives. Written by male journalist, this further limits the report to male voices, and overall the subject matter is stripped of women's perspective despite them being the focus, thus suggesting the story is **"gender blind"**.
- The professor's final comments are also noteworthy, "There is a big difference in the Caesarean rate ... [but] the issue is more complex than it is sometimes portrayed, and people should not apply simplistic, ideological arguments in relation to it." His opinion is a just one opinion, though. Rubbing ideological arguments can dismiss the socio-economic factors that weigh on expectant mothers in terms of access and advice.

SUBTLE STEREOTYPE



- TV segment part of "Covid-19: Road to Recovery" on RTÉ, based on three females: two women recovering from virus and one physiotherapist.
- The two patients are in domestic settings at home, talking about struggles like walking to the postbox. The other professional is in a caring/helping role.
- Again, context is key: these contributions are really valuable, but the tone of this piece is very different to the other Covid stories in the bulletin focusing on the primarily male political actors and health officials. This story, therefore, makes a more **subtle stereotype**, as it may reinforce the gentler/caring/homemaker/fragile stereotypical image of women, in contrast to the plentiful male decision-makers in the political arenas.

GENDER AWARE



- This radio segment on RTÉ radio looked at CSO figures showing a general decline in crimes reported during the initial Covid-19 lockdown (March-June 2020).
- It was covered in most outlets throughout the day but this RTÉ segment highlighted some female-focused data. Thefts, burglaries, robberies, and assaults were down overall, according to the CSO, but the reporter did highlight the increased attacks on women aged 30-44 and over 60. He also referenced increased Garda attention on domestic violence and elder abuse.
- Although it was a male presenter and male reporter, it demonstrated **gender-awareness** in highlighting the risks facing women in the home during Covid-19 lockdowns and drawing attention to a problem which could have been overlooked in this data. Most other outlets stuck with a positive narrative of "crime has fallen as people spend more time at home due to Covid-19".