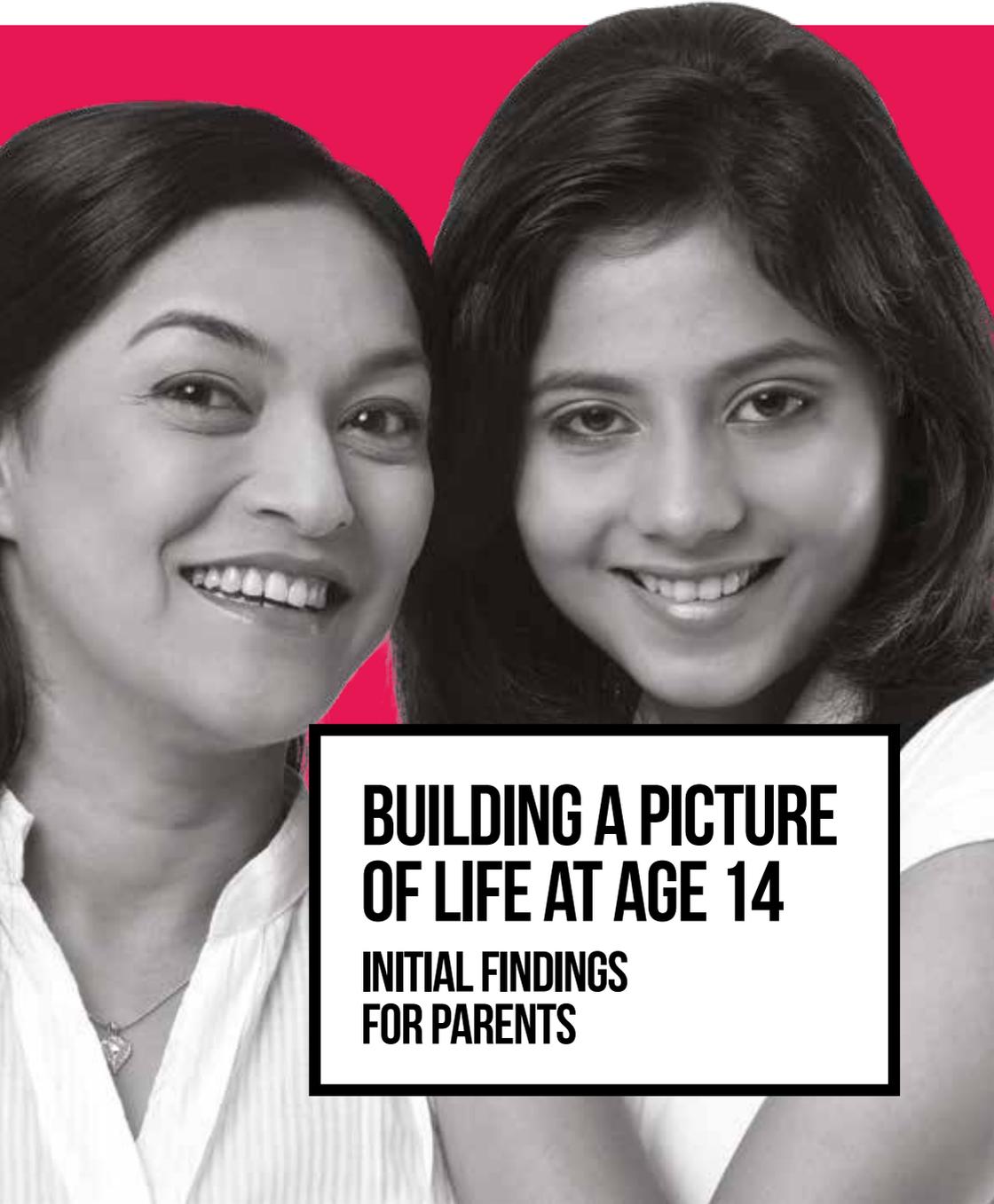


**CHILD OF THE  
NEW CENTURY** 



**BUILDING A PICTURE  
OF LIFE AT AGE 14**

**INITIAL FINDINGS  
FOR PARENTS**

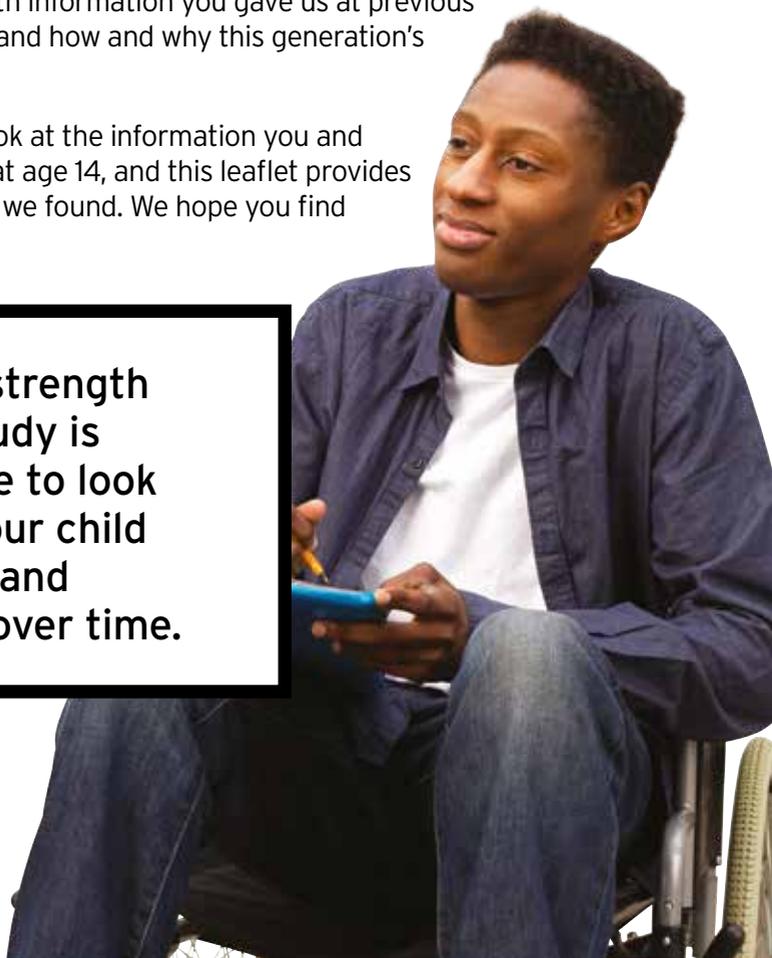
# WHAT WE FOUND AT THE AGE 14 SURVEY

Child of the New Century has been going for nearly 17 years now. The most recent survey took place in 2015 when study members were 14 years old. We spoke to over 11,700 families. Thank you very much for taking part.

Since visiting you, we've anonymised the information you gave us, so that researchers can look at what your child's life was like at age 14. They will also be able to put the information from the Age 14 Survey together with information you gave us at previous surveys, to understand how and why this generation's lives are changing.

We've had a first look at the information you and your child gave us at age 14, and this leaflet provides a snapshot of what we found. We hope you find it interesting.

**The real strength of this study is being able to look at how your child develops and changes over time.**



# VOCABULARY AT AGE 14

Language knowledge has previously been found to play a major role in young people's performance at school. Child of the New Century has discovered that young people's vocabulary at age 14 is greatly influenced by their parents'.

## WHAT WE ASKED

When we visited you when your child was 14, we asked you and your child to take similar vocabulary assessments. In this task you had to match up words that had the same or similar meaning.

## WHAT WE FOUND

The results of the vocabulary task showed there is a link between

the scores of parents and their children. Young people were more likely to do well in the word exercise if their parents had got high scores.

Other things that were associated with doing better in the word exercise included speaking a second language, having books at home and independent reading for pleasure.



# LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Your children are at an important crossroads in their lives as they decide what they'd like to do in the future.

Findings from the Child of the New Century Age 14 Survey have helped us understand your children's expectations of going to university and their future career aspirations.

## WHAT WE ASKED

When we last saw your family, we talked to your child about what they wanted to do in the future. We asked them, on a scale of 0-100, how likely it was that they would go to university. We also asked them what job they wanted to have when they were older.

## WHAT WE FOUND: UNIVERSITY EXPECTATIONS

Expectations of attending university were high among your children's generation. The majority thought they had a 60% or higher chance of studying at university. Only a few thought their chances of going to university were less than 40%.

Overall, girls seemed more confident about their prospects of going to university than boys. Just over 14% of girls said they were 100% sure they'd continue

their studies at university, compared to nearly 10% of boys who reported the same level of certainty.

## WHAT WE FOUND: CAREER ASPIRATIONS

When it comes to future jobs, girls and boys aspire to different careers. The most popular dream jobs for boys were sportsman, software developer, and an engineer. The top choices for girls were to be a medical professional, a secondary school teacher, or an actor.

These findings suggest that girls and boys are drawn to careers that are dominated by their own gender.

## THE FUTURE

We can't wait to see what the future holds for you and your family when we visit for the Age 17 Survey.

# YOUR CHILDREN ARE GETTING HEALTHIER

Childhood obesity is a growing issue and the Government has proposed an action plan to tackle this by introducing several changes, including a soft drinks tax and making school food healthier.

Findings from Child of the New Century have shown that between the ages of 11 and 14 obesity rates have stopped rising.



## WHAT WE ASKED

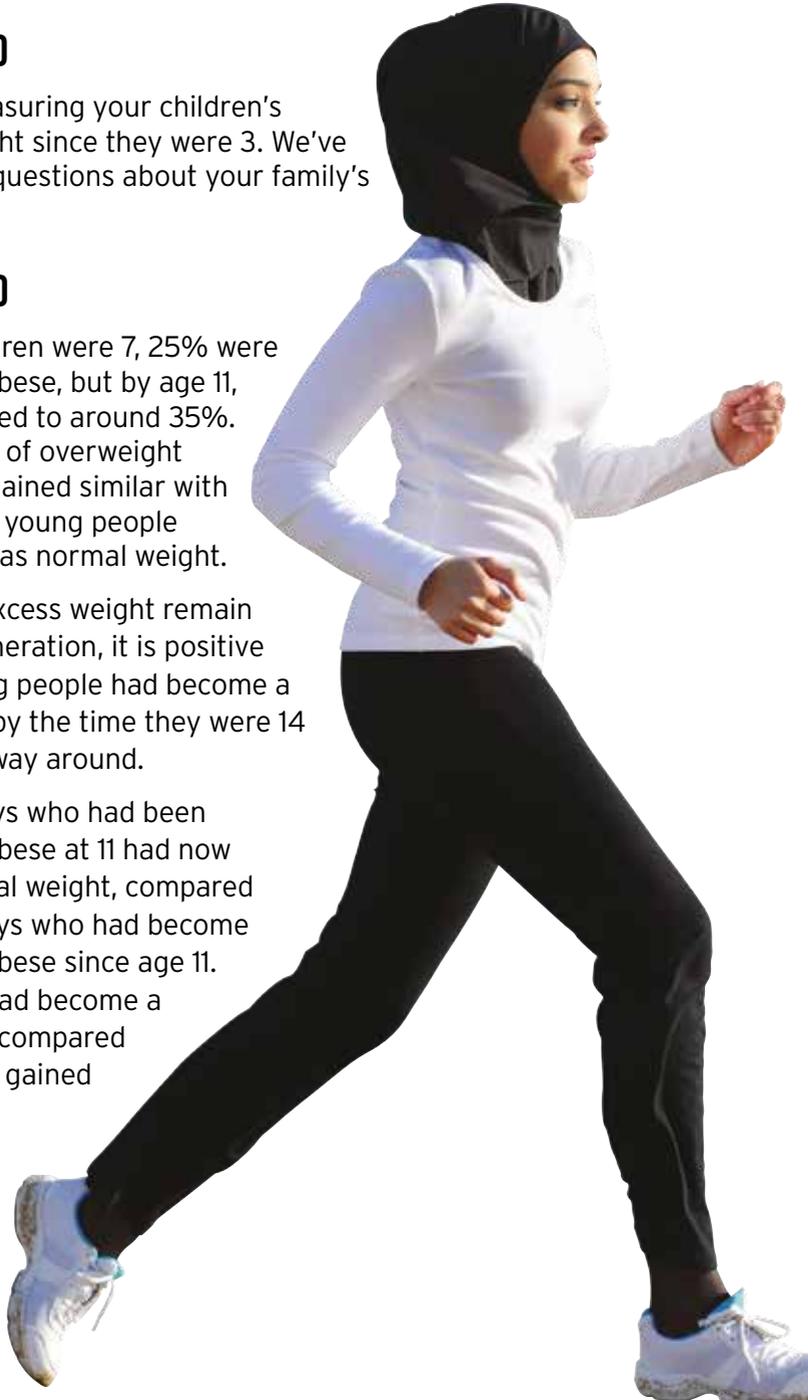
We've been measuring your children's height and weight since they were 3. We've also asked you questions about your family's background.

## WHAT WE FOUND

When your children were 7, 25% were overweight or obese, but by age 11, this had increased to around 35%. At age 14, levels of overweight and obesity remained similar with just over 6 in 10 young people being classified as normal weight.

While rates of excess weight remain high for this generation, it is positive that more young people had become a healthy weight by the time they were 14 than the other way around.

A quarter of boys who had been overweight or obese at 11 had now become a normal weight, compared to one in ten boys who had become overweight or obese since age 11. For girls, 20% had become a healthy weight, compared to 15% who had gained excess weight.



## **KEEP IN TOUCH!**

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