

How does KOREA compare on child well-being?

Compared to other OECD countries, Korea performs relatively well on many (though not all) measures of child well-being. For example, at home, children in Korea enjoy **disposable incomes** that are at least moderate by OECD standards and a risk of **relative income poverty** that is comparatively low (7.1%, compared to an OECD average of 13.4%). However, a relatively high share of 15-year-olds (10%) report failing to **talk to their parents before or after school** on the most recent day they attended school – perhaps a reflection of the long school days and working hours in Korea.

Korea often performs particularly well on measures of children's well-being in education and at school. For example, a comparatively high share of 15-year-olds say **they feel like they 'belong' at school** (80%, compared to an OECD average of 73%), and a relatively low share report being the **victim of bullying** at least a few times a month (12%, compared to an OECD average of 19%). Average scores on the OECD's **PISA reading and mathematics tests** are also high in comparison to many other OECD countries, and a very high share of 15-year-olds say they **expect to complete a university degree** (75%, versus

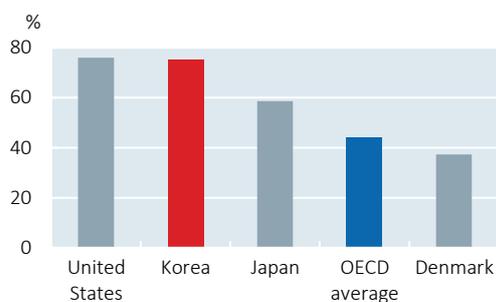
an average of 44%). Moreover, despite the highly competitive education system, only a moderate share of 15-year-olds in Korea report feeling **anxious about school tests** even when well-prepared (55%, the same as the OECD average). However, teenagers in Korea are less likely than their peers in most OECD countries to say they are **very satisfied** with their life as a whole, and are more likely to report being **not satisfied**. Only 19% of 15-year-olds in Korea report high levels of life satisfaction (compared to an OECD average of 34%), while 22% report low life satisfaction (versus an average of 12%).

How Korea compares to other OECD countries on 18 key measures

	● Top third	◆ Middle third	■ Bottom third
Home and family environment	Average disposable household income for children		
	Jobs and income		
	Children in relative income poverty		
Health and safety	Adolescents talking to their parents before or after school		
	Infant mortality		
	Low-weight births		
Education and school life	Adolescents skipping either breakfast or dinner		
	Adolescents regularly engaging in vigorous exercise		
	Adolescents with a desk and a quiet place to study at home		
Activities and life satisfaction	Adolescents with books for school work at home		
	Adolescents who feel anxious about school tests		
	Adolescents who expect to complete a university degree		
Subjective well-being	Adolescents who feel like they belong in school		
	Adolescents who report being the victims of bullying		
	Reading performance at age 15 (PISA)		
Other adolescent outcomes	Mathematics performance at age 15 (PISA)		
	Adolescents reporting high life satisfaction		
	Adolescents reporting low life satisfaction		
Adolescent fertility			

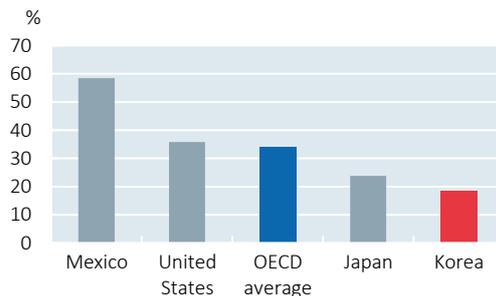
Note: Placement in top/middle/bottom third of OECD countries with available data on each measure. 'Top third' (green circle) always represents good relative performance with respect to child well-being, and 'bottom third' (red square) poor relative performance. For measures where a larger value is generally 'better' (e.g. 'adolescents reporting high life satisfaction'), 'top third' means the country is in the top third when countries are ranked largest to smallest value down. For measures where a smaller value is better (e.g. 'adolescents reporting low life satisfaction'), 'top third' means the country is in the top third when ranked smallest to largest.

15-year-olds who expect to complete a university degree, 2015



Note: % who expect to complete a qualification equivalent to ISCED 97 level 5B or ISCED 97 level 5A or 6
Source: OECD Child Well-Being Portal based on PISA 2015 Database

15-year-olds reporting high life satisfaction, 2015



Note: % who reported being very satisfied with their life as a whole
Source: OECD Child Well-Being Portal based on PISA 2015 Database

The **Child Well-Being Data Portal (CWBDP)** gathers data on child well-being and the settings in which children grow up. It provides information on children's home and family environment, their health and safety, their education and school life, their activities and their life satisfaction, and also links to information on public policies for children. Information covers children from 0 to 17 years of age, although some information is available only for specific ages. Where possible, information is provided for different age groups, from early childhood to adolescence. The data portal also provides a unique source of information on disparities in child well-being by gender, family status, household income level, and parental background.